



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 4
April 21, 2022
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2022 Trails Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2022 Trails Work Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
STAFF:	Andrew Prince, Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Lisa Anderl	
EXHIBITS:	1. Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2022 Trails Work Plan	

SUMMARY

During the winter and spring, staff evaluate the condition of trails throughout Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space and create a draft work plan to address issues that impact the use and sustainability of the trails. Typically, City staff report to the Trust Board on planned trail maintenance and construction activities on Trust properties in spring or early summer. Several minor trail improvements on the work plan are already in progress.

2021 TRAIL WORK SUMMARY

In 2021 staff was able to make up some ground that was lost in 2020 due to short staffing and pandemic stay-home-stay-safe orders. Major trail resurfacing was undertaken in SE quadrant with approximately 1,400 linear feet of trail resurfaced. Approximately 160 tons of gravel were used, and 350 hours of staff time were required to complete the project. Additionally, substantial corrective pruning was done on beaked hazelnut in all quadrants as well as minor repairs to the ravine trail in SE. New non-skid material was added to the boardwalk in Engstrom.

2022 TRAIL WORK PLAN SUMMARY

In April 2022, the City hired two Natural resources seasonal staff to help with trail and restoration work in MI parks and open space, including trail repairs and maintenance projects in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. This is a smaller seasonal staff than typical due to lack of qualified applicants and may affect the amount of work we are able to accomplish. Additionally, the Natural Resources team has a large trail construction project in Luther Burbank Park that will affect the amount of work accomplished in Pioneer Park.

The following projects are likely to be completed in 2022. Several of these projects are already underway or have been completed.

- Ravine trail repairs
- SE Quadrant water bar maintenance
- Bike team volunteer event

See Exhibit 1 for the scope and timeline for each project.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2022 Trails Work Plan.

Exhibit 1: Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2022 Trails Work Plan

NORTHWEST QUADRANT

Muddy Trail Patching

The below photo shows trail widening caused by walkers trying to avoid stepping in the mud. The Northwest quadrant is particularly susceptible to this problem as there is very little topography to turn water off of the trail. Currently we have one volunteer event scheduled for May 5th with the MI Mountain Bike Club to address these issues. Hopefully we will be able to add more events like this with the onboarding of the new position of Volunteer coordinator. Parks staff may also address problem areas as time allows.



NORTHEAST QUADRANT AND ENGSTROM OS

Ravine Trail Repairs

The highest section of the Ravine Trail, which overlooks Engstrom Open Space, is actively eroding and in need of repairs. Steep cross slopes make this trail extremely difficult to maintain. Trail surface regrading has been ongoing and work will continue as time allows.



(Above) Before and after re-treading. (Below) Rotten stair needing replacement.



SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

Water Bar Cleaning and Replacement

Parks Natural Resources staff have been clearing water bars in the SE Quadrant as well as replacing rotten water bars.

Retreading short sections of trail in the SE quadrant is also underway.



Further Discussion: Adding/rerouting trail in Pioneer Park

In previous OSCT meeting there was some discussion on the topic of adding more trail to pioneer park

- More trail does not necessarily equal better trail system
- Difficult terrain features and current trail layout have high maintenance requirements
- Hard to accomplish much without major re-design
- Is a better layout possible? Yes, discovery and planning is a major project, construction an even bigger project

