



# OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 2  
April 21, 2022  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	2022 Restoration Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Approve the 2022 Restoration Work Plan	

<b>STAFF:</b>	Lizzy Stone, Natural Resource Project Manager
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Lisa Anderl
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. 2022 Restoration Maps

## SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

City staff reports to the Trust board each year on planned forest restoration activities in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. Restoration activities are performed by professional contractors, volunteers, seasonal crew members, and Natural Resources staff. Restoration work is guided by the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan and the 10-Year Update to the Open Space Vegetation Management Plan.

### 2022 RESTORATION WORK PLAN

#### Professional Contractors

In 2022, professional contractor work is scheduled in the NE and SE quadrants of Pioneer Park. Work will include the launch of comprehensive weed removal efforts as outlined in the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan (see maps in Exhibit 1), as well as maintenance and watering of recently installed plants in the NE quadrant. Contracts were awarded for these projects in early April and work is slated to begin in early May and continue through the fall.

- Comprehensive weed removal** is scheduled in approximately 3.4 acres of the NE quadrant (PP1003a) and 4.9 acres in the SE quadrant (PP0902a1 and PP0902a2). The specifications for this work include ground ivy and herbaceous weed removal, ivy rings, and invasive tree treatment, which progresses many of the restoration metrics set out in the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan. Even still, this is notably behind the benchmarks outlined in the Plan, which calls for 15.5 acres of ground ivy and herbaceous weed removal in 2021 and 15.5 additional acres in 2022. The significant increase in contracting costs and the increasing complexity of the work required as invasive weeds take hold in these sites have made these benchmarks, originally set in 2015, untenable with the current budget.

- **Watering of new plantings** is slated for one site in Pioneer Park’s NE quadrant (PP1004a). These plants were installed in 2021 over the nearly 4 acre restoration area.
- **Planting maintenance** is scheduled for the same 4 acre zone in Pioneer Park NE (PP1004a). As part of this work, weeds will be cleared in a 4 foot diameter circle around each plant installed in 2021. These plants will also be mulched and inventoried to determine survival rates.

**CONTRACTOR WORK SUMMARY**

Site	Area ID	Project Area (acres)	Restoration Task
Pioneer Park NE	PP1004a	4.0	Water Plantings
Pioneer Park NE	PP1004a	4.0	Planting maintenance
Pioneer Park NE	PP1003a	4.4	Comprehensive Invasive Removal
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902a1	2.6	Comprehensive Invasive Removal
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902a2	2.3	Comprehensive Invasive Removal

Natural Resources Crew

During the 2022 field season, the Natural Resources crew will continue to monitor and treat noxious weed populations on all Trust properties. Noxious weed species slated for monitoring, removal and/or treatment include spotted jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and knotweed (*Polygonum spp.*) in the SE quadrant located within PP1002. Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) will also be treated along private property boundaries within the NW and SE quadrants. Bordering neighbors will be informed of encroaching yellow archangel infestations and notified when treatments occur. Shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) infestations identified in 2020 will continue to be monitored, though they seem to have responded well to treatment and can be managed with manual methods.

The seasonal crew is currently working on establishing ivy rings along the Ravine Trail in the southeast edge of Pioneer Park NE and will continue this work throughout the spring and early summer. They will conduct planting maintenance in select areas of PP1004c in the NE quadrant, as well as ivy rings and invasive tree treatment in the SE quadrant zones PP0904a3 and PP1001. In addition, planting maintenance will be done around the two small plantings installed in 2020 in the NW quadrant at the NW trailhead and at the junction of the Woodpecker and Dogwood trails.

A 2021 pilot project to deter parking along the northern section of 84<sup>th</sup> Ave SE (western edge of NW quadrant) resulted in general support from the community and Trust board to move forward with the project. As a next step in this project, the seasonal crew will assist Parks staff in reclaiming the current compacted parking areas along 84<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and installing more permanent parking barriers.

The Natural Resources Crew will also be available to respond to restoration related issues and tasks as they arise throughout the field season.

#### Volunteer Stewardship

Due to programmatic changes and increased costs for volunteer management with our partners, the City has opted to hire a seasonal volunteer coordinator that will host regular, small volunteer events throughout the island, including on Trust properties. This coordinator will also work to build up the community of regular volunteers and reinvigorate the forest steward program that trains and supports volunteers in stewarding parks on their own. This new seasonal staff member will start in mid-May and work until mid-November.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the 2022 Restoration Work Plan.