

Pioneer Park & Engstrom Open Space

Restoration and Trails Work Plan 2026

Open Space Conservancy Trust
City of Mercer Island



Overview of restoration approach

- Comprehensive weed removal includes:
 - removal of ivy from around trees (ivy rings)
 - invasive tree removal and treatment
 - ground ivy and herbaceous weed removal.
- Three (3) years of comprehensive weed removal, then
- Maintenance every 4-5 years after
- Planting trees and shrubs in understory and canopy gaps
 - Replacing aging canopy
 - Aiding forest regeneration



Photo by Abhinav Sunil.

Summary of 2025 Restoration and Trails Work

- Year 1 Removal in 5.5 acres.
- Year 2 Removal in 13 acres.
- Year 3 Removal in 10.5 acres.
- Weed Removal Maintenance 8.8 acres.
- Planting maintenance & watering of previous year's plants.
- Continue with mulching and planting grass strips along Island Crest Way.
- Graveled, brushed, cleared trails.
- Hosted 21 volunteer events and 13 educational events including 328 volunteers for 644 hours.



Photo by Taylor Comodo.

2026 Restoration and Trails Work Plan



- Year 1 Removal in 8.7 acres.
- Year 2 Removal in 5.5 acres.
- Year 3 Removal in 13 acres.
- Ivy Rings on 2.5 acres.
- Invasive Tree Treatment on 4.7 acres.
- Planting maintenance & watering of previous year's plants.
- Volunteer weed removal and planting.
- Gravel, brush, clear trails.
- Maintain trail culverts and water flow infrastructure.
- Replace rotten stairs, retaining walls, and turnpike infrastructure.

Pioneer Park NW- 2026

CONTRACTOR WORK

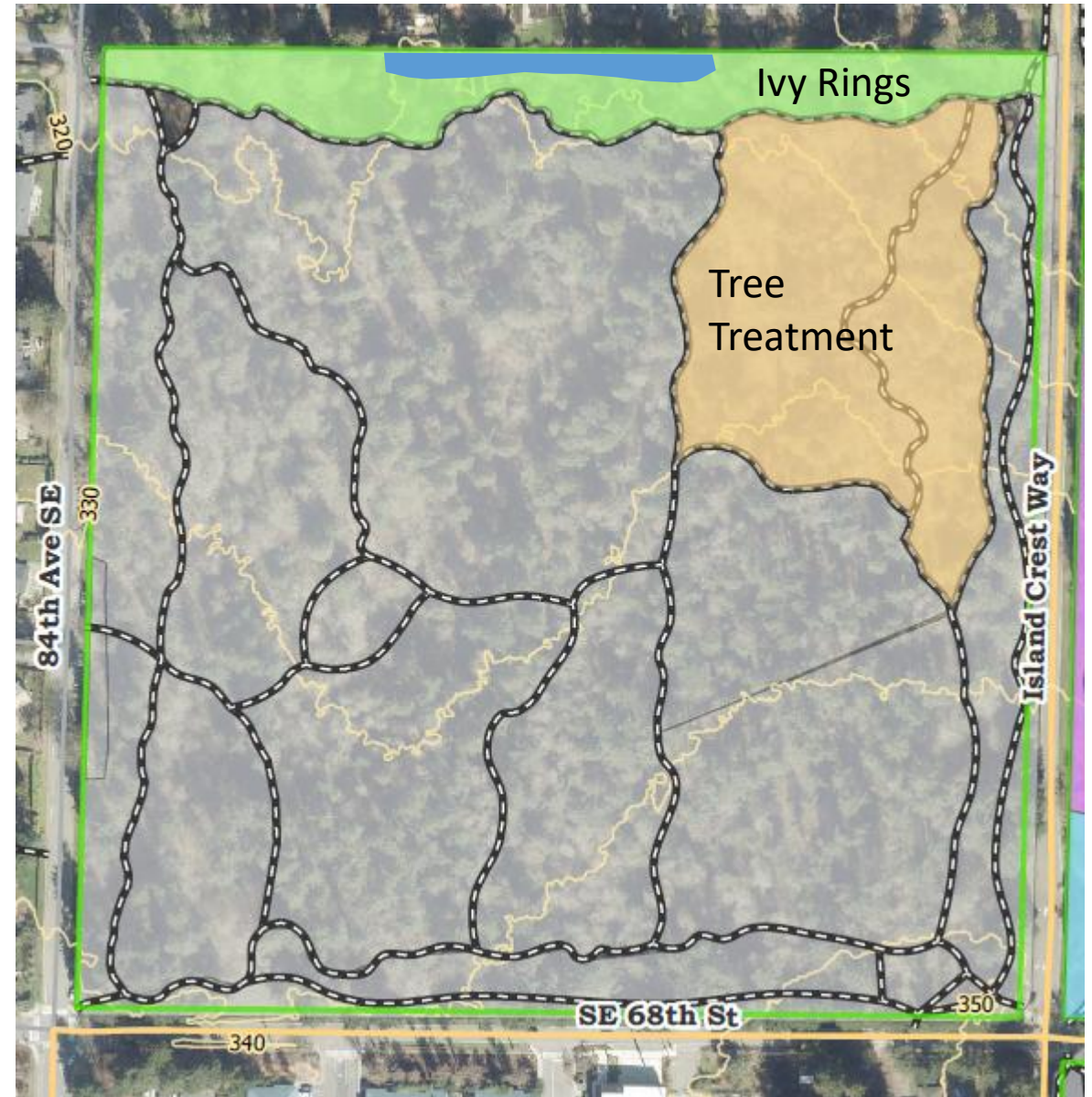
- Ivy rings on 2.5 acres (green).
- Weedy tree treatment on 4.7 acres (yellow).

NATURAL RESOURCES CREW

- Yellow archangel monitoring and management (blue).
- Continued maintenance of 84th Ave planting strip.

VOLUNTEERS

- Ivy and blackberry removal.



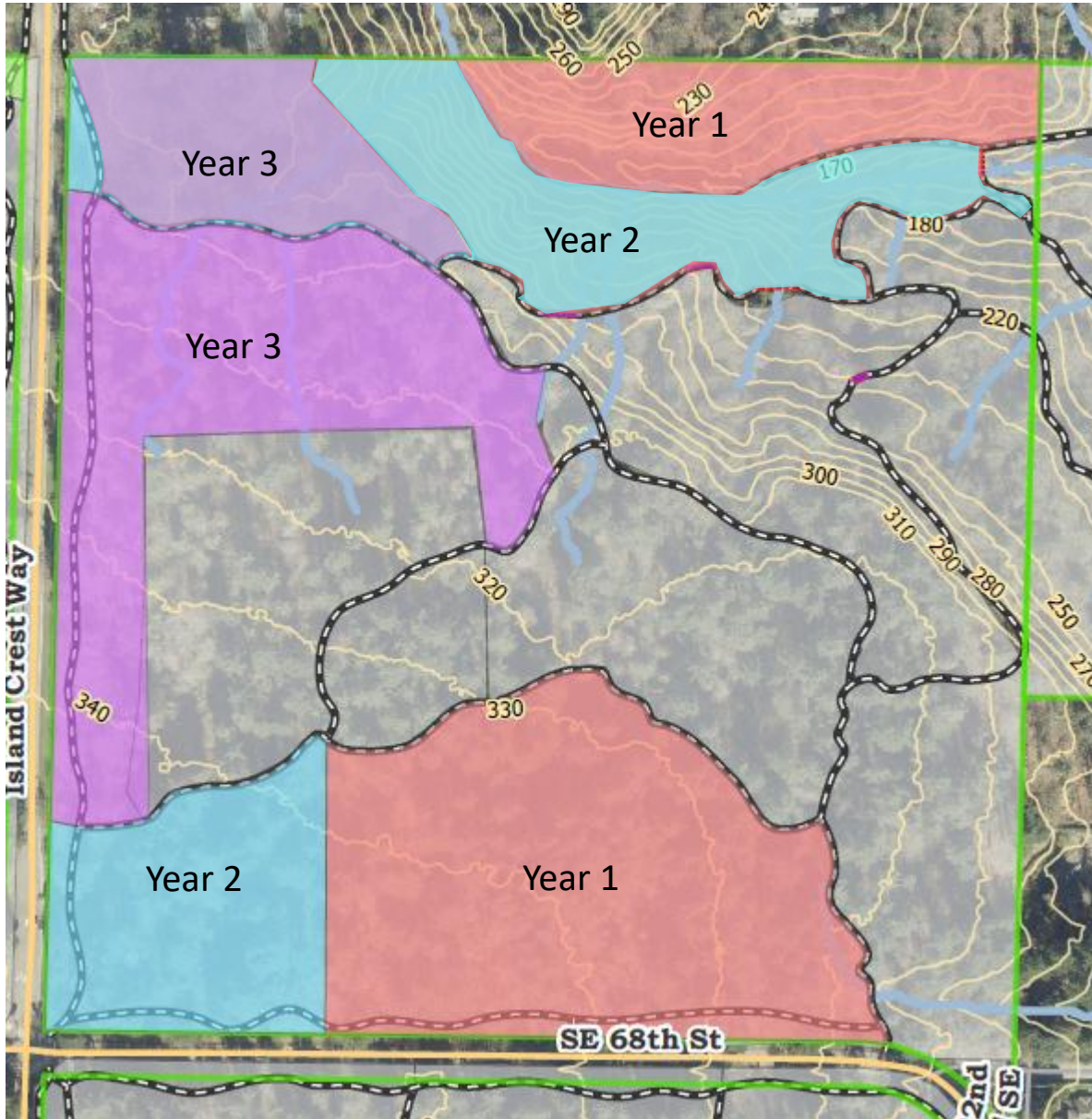
Pioneer Park NE- 2026

CONTRACTOR WORK

- Year 1 weed removal on 8.7 acres (red).
- Year 2 weed removal on 5.5 acres (blue).
- Year 3 weed removal on 7.6 acres (purple).
- Planting maintenance and watering along west perimeter.

NATURAL RESOURCES CREW

- Noxious weed monitoring throughout park.



Pioneer Park SE- 2026

CONTRACTOR WORK

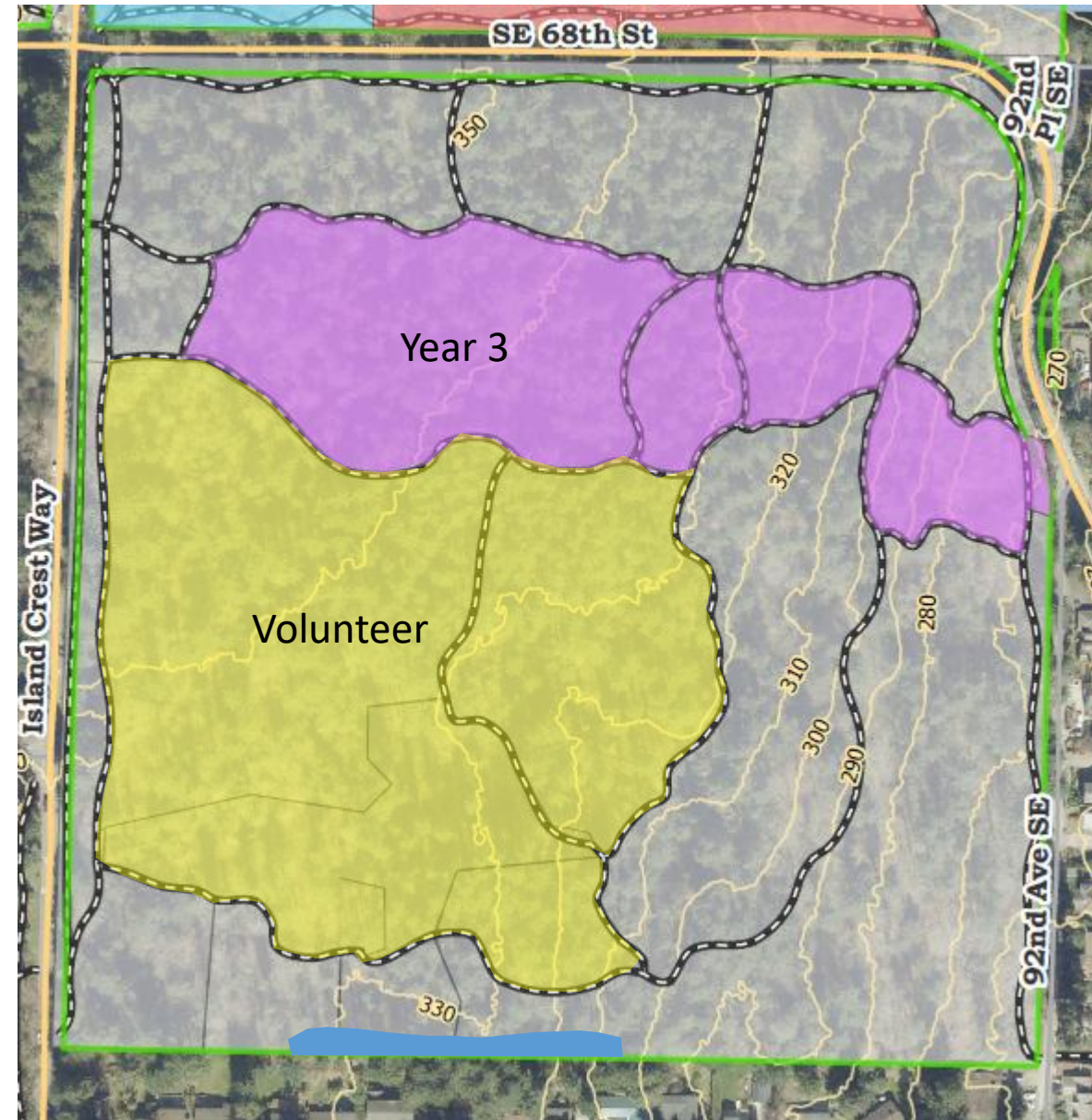
- Year 3 weed removal on 5.4 acres (purple).

NATURAL RESOURCES CREW

- Noxious weed monitoring throughout park.
- Archangel monitoring and management (blue)
- Planting Maintenance and watering along perimeter.

VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP

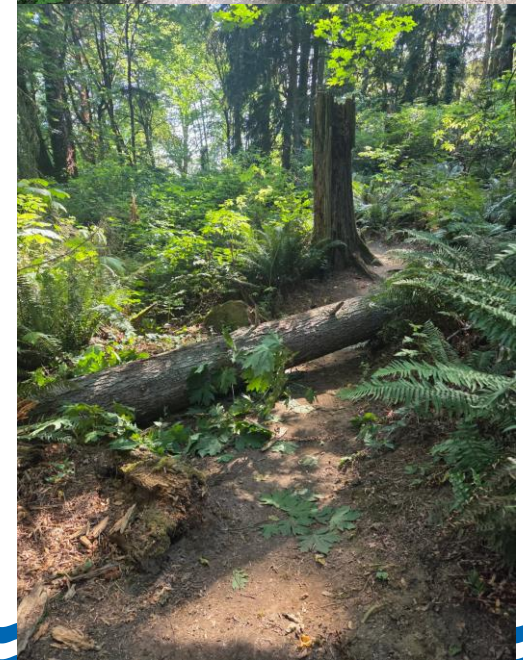
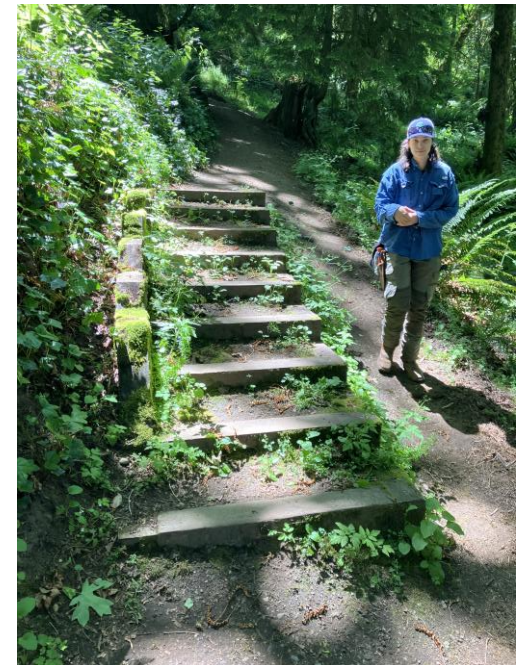
- Initial weed removal and ivy rings (yellow)



2026 Trails Work Plan

All Trails:

- Brush trails
- Blow leaves
- Remove fallen logs or branches, as needed



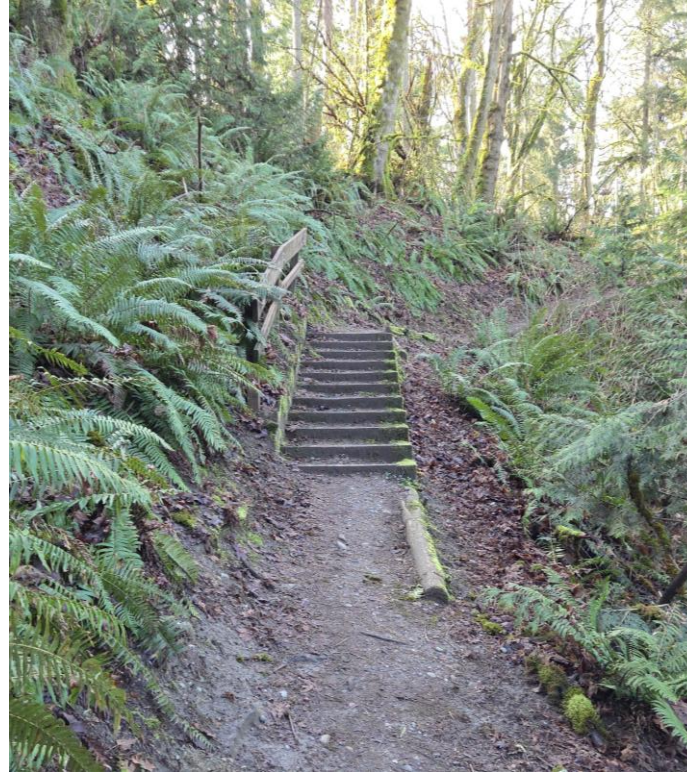
Engstrom Open Space

- Repair and consider extending floating board walk
- Replace broken slat fencing



Pioneer Park NE

- Replace 6 rotten stair treads
- Re-build log retaining wall
- Replace rotten turnpikes and back fill with gravel
- Add non-skid surfacing to boardwalk



Pioneer Park SE and NW

Pioneer Park SE

- Clear water bars
- Continue patching muddy sections

Pioneer Park NW

- Address drainage issues by building drain dips into the trail



Hours of Work Required to Complete Comprehensive Weed Removal

- Year 1 Comprehensive Weed removal: 80-300 hours per acre
- Year 2 Comprehensive Weed Removal: 60-110 hours per acre
- Year 3 Comprehensive Weed Removal/ Weed Removal Maintenance: 50-80 hours per acre

