



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6150  
September 20, 2022  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6150: Engstrom Open Space Title Transfer to Open Space Conservancy Trust	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Adopt Resolution No. 1631 authorizing the transfer in trust of the title to Engstrom Open Space to the Open Space Conservancy Trust.	
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Manager	
<b>STAFF:</b>	Bio Park, City Attorney Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director	
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Lisa Anderl	
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Resolution No. 1631	
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a	

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda bill is to approve transfer of the Engstrom Open Space to the Open Space Conservancy Trust:

- The City transferred title to the Pioneer Park property to the Open Space Conservancy Trust in 1998.
- The City Council transferred the management and governance of Engstrom Open Space, which is functionally part of the same forest ecosystem as Pioneer Park, to the Trust in 2010.
- Staff recommend that the title for Engstrom Open Space be transferred to the Trust as well.

**BACKGROUND**

The Open Space Conservancy Trust (“Trust”) was established by [Ordinance No. B-93](#) in 1992 to receive, hold, protect, maintain, and preserve open space properties that are transferred to the Trust by the City Council. In June 1998, the City transferred the title for the three parcels that make up Pioneer Park to the Trust. Since that time, the Trust has managed Pioneer Park in coordination with the City, overseeing multiple studies of the park’s vegetation and health, ecological restoration planning and implementation, policy development, and programs and events located in the park.

The City acquired several parcels that abut Pioneer Park’s northeast quadrant in 2002 and 2006, collectively named the Engstrom Open Space. A significant gift to the City from the Quarles’ family, the property was

permanently dedicated for parks and recreation purposes. In November 2010, at the Trust's recommendation, the City Council transferred management and governance of the Engstrom Open Space to the Trust ([Resolution 1429](#)). Title to the Enstrom Open Space, however, was not transferred. Since this transfer, the property has been managed in accordance with the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan and the 2008 Forest Health Plan Engstrom Open Space.

## **ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

As adjoining properties, Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space are functionally parts of the same ecosystem, sharing habitat, ecological processes, and natural resources that exist without regard to the boundary line between them. These open spaces have been managed following the same levels of services, restoration plan, and policy guidelines since 2010. Transferring the title for the Engstrom Open Space properties to the Trust will create parity between the two properties and allow the Open Space Conservancy Trust to hold this property to the same protection and preservation standards as Pioneer Park.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Should the City Council authorize the transfer of the title to the Trust, staff will prepare and execute all legal documentation to complete the transfer.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Adopt Resolution No. 1631 authorizing the transfer of the title to Engstrom Open Space to the Open Space Conservancy Trust.