

# City of Mercer Island

## OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD

Thursday · July 18 · 2019  
Regular Meeting Agenda

6:00 pm Call to Order & Roll Call

6:05 pm Minutes of May 16, 2019 Meeting

6:10 pm Public Appearances

6:15 pm Regular Business

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Annual herbicide report                            | Alaine Sommargren (10 min) |
| 2. Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation Commission | Alaine Sommargren (10 min) |
| 3. Quadrant Reports                                   | Trustees (5 min)           |
| 4. Election of Officers                               | Rory Westberg (10 min)     |
| 5. Next meeting: <b>September 19</b>                  | Chair (5 min)              |

7:00 pm Adjournment (estimated)

### BOARD MEMBERS

Rory Westberg, *Chair*  
Marie Bender, *Vice Chair*  
Thomas Hildebrandt, *Secretary*  
David Wisenteiner, *Council Liaison*  
Carol Lynn Berseth  
Craig Olson  
Geraldine Poor

### STAFF

Paul West, *Parks Planning Manager*  
Alaine Sommargren, *Interim Parks Operations Manager*





# OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES May 16, 2019

## Call To Order:

Chair Westberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

## Roll Call:

Chair Rory Westberg, Secretary Thomas Hildebrandt, Council Liaison David Wisenteiner, Trustee Carol Lynn Berseth, and Trustee Craig Olson were present. Vice Chair Marie Bender and Trustee Geraldine Poor were absent.

Staff present were Paul West, Parks Planning Manager; Alaine Sommargren, Interim Parks Operations Manager; Andrew Prince, Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist; and Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist.

## Minutes:

Trustee Olson motioned and Trustee Berseth seconded to: Approve the March minutes.

**Motion passed: 5-0.**

## Public Appearances:

Peter Struck submitted public comments via email, attached.

## Regular Business:

### (I) Restoration Work Plan

Natural Resources Specialist Frappier presented the 2019 Restoration Work Plan. She provided an overview of forest restoration activities planned for each quadrant outlining which projects would be done by professional contractors, the in-house seasonal crew, and volunteers. Focus of work in 2019 will be planting maintenance and watering of the new planting site in the northeast quadrant, long-term maintenance on existing comprehensive restoration sites throughout the park, as well as canopy protection measures such as ivy rings and invasive tree treatment.

#### Action Taken:

Trustee Berseth moved and Trustee Olson seconded to approve the 2019 Restoration Work Plan.

**Motion passed 5-0**

### (II) Summer Trail Work Plan

Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist Prince presented the 2019 Trails Work Plan. Work this year will focus on moving water off trails. He provided an overview of primary projects including resurfacing the fire station trail, improving and widening the Ravine Trail in the NE quadrant, and building a small length of fence along the Bridge Trail. This area has steep slopes and is heavily degraded due to dogs using as an access point into the watercourse.

#### Action Taken:

Trustee Hildebrandt moved and Trustee Berseth seconded to approve the 2019 Trails Work Plan.

**Motion passed 5-0**

(III) Off-leash dog update

Parks Planning Manager West provided an update on dog owner education efforts and off-leash dog activity. Overall, he reported that things are going well, which tells us our education efforts are paying off. Parks and Recreation is planning two more voice control classes this summer. Trustees inquired whether we are seeing an increase in impacts. Natural Resources Specialist Frappier described two areas of concern: (1) the middle of the northwest quadrant where dogs have been running through and digging up an area. Staff have observed a decline in understory vegetation and increase in bare soil. Staff installed temporary fencing and educational signs and (2) along the slope adjacent to the Bridge Trail where Trails Specialist Prince will be installing a fence to inhibit dog traffic.

(IV) Work Plan/ Meeting changes

Interim Parks Operations Manager Sommargren reported on changes to upcoming meetings. Interim City Manager Jessi Bon would like to schedule a joint meeting of the new Parks and Recreation Commission and the Open Space Conservancy Trust in September. This will likely serve as a kick-off meeting for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The meeting will likely be held at the Mercer Island Community and Events Center. Due to this meeting change, the Eagle Scout recognition will be moved to the July meeting.

(V) Quadrant Reports

**NW Quadrant:** Trustee Berseth and Trustee Bender

Trustee Hildebrandt noted that the fence installed by the Eagle Scout in April looks very good. He suggested adding some hardware cloth on the lower section to keep dogs from entering the area. Trustee Hildebrandt also contacted an Eagle Scout candidate, Joe Lemaster, to restore the Hatheway Bench in July and August.

**NE Quadrant:** Chair Westberg and Trustee Poor

Trustee Olson observed that the guard rail on East Mercer Way came down again, likely due to a traffic accident.

**SE Quadrant:** Trustee Hildebrandt and Trustee Olson

Trustee Hildebrandt reported that the lower end of the perimeter trail is starting to erode due to moisture and horse activity. He would like to see this added to the Trails Work Plan.

(VI) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2019. Elections of new officers will be held at this meeting.

**Adjournment:** 6:40 pm

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Rory Westberg, Chair

Attest:

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Kim Frappier, Scribe

**Open Space Conservancy Trust**  
**Public Appearance by Peter Struck**

**May 16, 2019**

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Good Evening, my name is Peter Struck residing at 9130 SE 54<sup>th</sup> Street.

Over a year ago, Robin Russell and I, on behalf of thousands of Mercer Island residents, introduced the idea of placing Mercerdale Park, and other parkland and open spaces, under the jurisdiction of the Open Space Conservancy Trust. We were appreciative that the Board did place this issue on its workplan for 2018, although decided not to act on it.

At your last meeting on March 21st there was some additional information provided about deed restrictions, etc. The minutes state that the Trust board recognizes that this is an important project.

As we have gone about talking with the community on this issue there is a continued, and growing, ground swell of support for protecting our public open spaces and parkland. With the recent budget cuts that fell heavily on the parks & rec operations, this issue has even more urgency. If we do not act, we leave the Island's most valuable community asset at risk.

At this time, we want to apprise you that this issue will have a higher profile in the community dialogue going forward.

We hope that the Trust board, as a group and/or as individual community members, will show support to safeguard our public lands at the appropriate time.

Thank You.



**CITY OF MERCER ISLAND  
OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD  
STAFF REPORT**

**Action Item No. 1**

**July 18, 2019**

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Description:	2019 Herbicide Use Protocol Report
Exhibits:	1. 2018 Herbicide application map 2. 2019 Monitoring and planned herbicide treatment map

## **BACKGROUND**

In May 2010, the Open Space Conservancy Trust adopted an Herbicide Use Protocol which prescribes the situations in which herbicide may be used on Trust properties. The Herbicide Use Protocol was updated in September 2016 to reflect changes in best management practices for invasive tree treatments. The protocol requires City staff to report to the Trust annually on the recent use and planned uses of herbicides for the coming year.

## **2018 REPORT**

Beginning in 2010, the City's Natural Resources crew treated yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) in six patches in the northwest and southeast quadrants of Pioneer Park. These first treatments were very successful and eliminated approximately 90-95% of the infestation. The crew has continued to survey these sites each summer for remnant plants and treat them when found. Yellow archangel continues to be an issue along private property boundaries in the NW and SE quadrants, though the density of patches is greatly reduced.

In 2018, the crew monitored and logged yellow archangel populations along the north boundary of the NW quadrant. The crew treated plants within a 650 square foot area, but the population is very sparse. Most of the plants were found along the social trails between the park boundary and the NW Perimeter Trail. The crew also monitored the population in the NE Quadrant growing around the manhole and a small population downstream. No plants were observed here in 2018. In the SE Quadrant, yellow archangel was documented in two areas along the southern property boundary. One occurrence only consisted of two small plants. The second occurrence consisted of sparse plants within a 500 square foot area. The crew treated all plants in late July and early August with the following formulation: 2.5% percent Roundup Custom and 2% AgriDex adjuvant. This aquatic-approved formulation reduces harm to amphibians. Exhibit 1 shows the extent of the yellow archangel monitoring area, within which spot treatments were performed in 2018.

Several stems of knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.) were first documented in the southeast quadrant of Pioneer Park in spring 2013. The population was monitored throughout the spring and treated in early July 2018 with an approved formulation of glyphosate. There were numerous small plants growing

among native understory shrubs such as dull Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*) and salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), requiring careful herbicide application.

The Natural Resources crew also treated invasive trees on the north side of the SE quadrant, between the perimeter trail and SE 68<sup>th</sup> St, as part of a larger invasive plant removal project. The crew used a combination of EZ-Ject Copperhead shells and a cut-paint glyphosate application to treat English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), European mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*), and European hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

Within Engstrom Open Space, the Natural Resources crew performed a foliar herbicide application to approximately 900 square feet of bindweed plants (*Convolvulus arvensis* and *Calystegia sepium*) that have grown within the 2016 planting along the north trail. In addition, the crew treated English holly and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) growing along the trail through the open space.

Professional contractors conducted invasive tree treatment in PP0903 of the NE quadrant as part of a larger invasive removal maintenance effort. See Exhibit 1 for a map of all monitored and treated areas.

## **2019 PLAN**

In summer 2019, the Natural Resources crew will continue to monitor yellow archangel along the north boundary of NW and NE quadrants as well as the southern boundary of the SE quadrant. Herbicide treatment will be performed in late July, as needed. In addition, the knotweed patch in the SE quadrant will also be monitored and treated in mid-July.

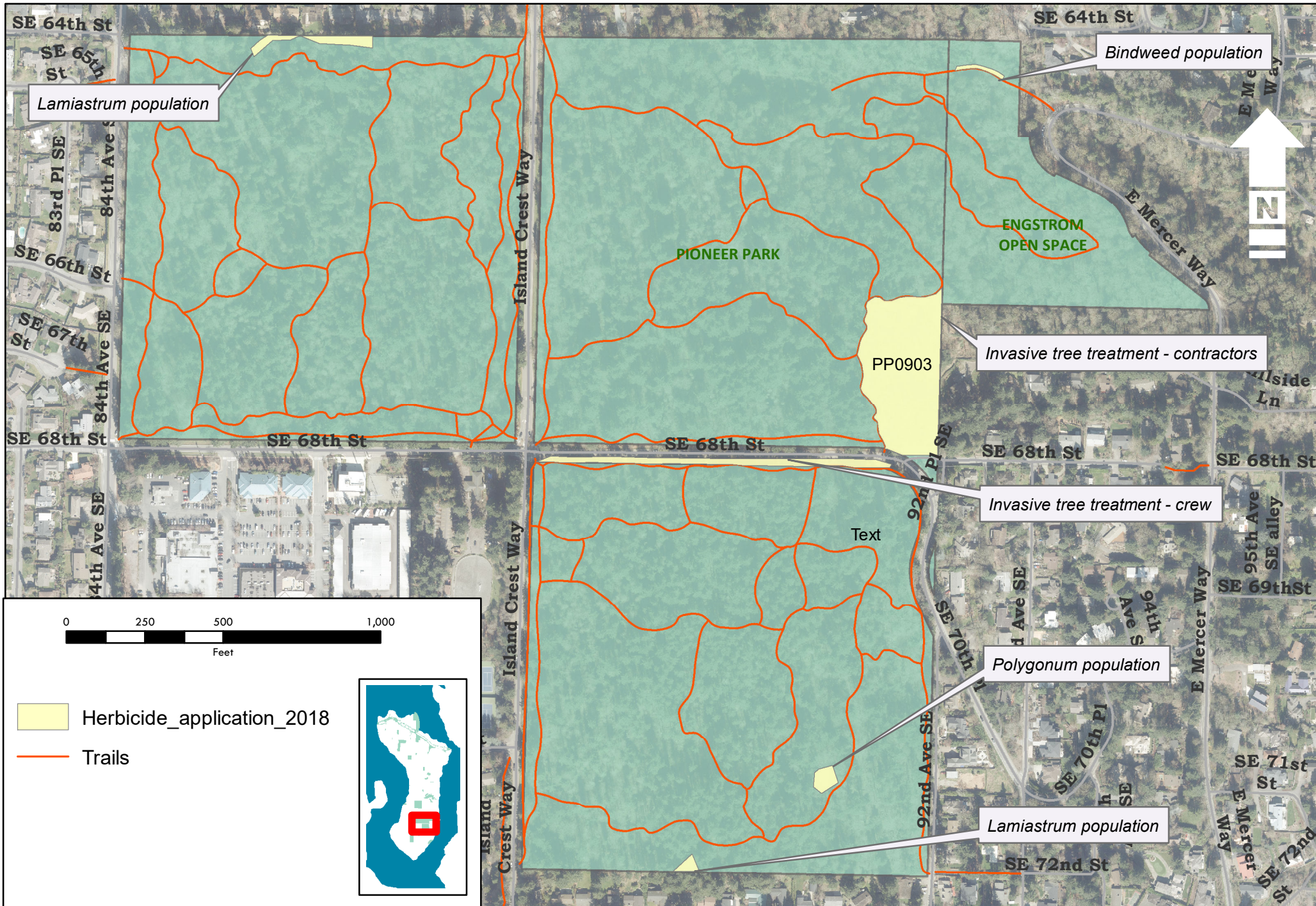
Contractors are slated to conduct invasive tree treatment in the following area units: PP1003 (a, b, and c), PP1004a, PP1901, and PP1902. Additionally, invasive tree treatment will be conducted as part of invasive removal maintenance projects in Pioneer Park PP0729 and PP1903 as well as Engstrom Open Space EN1001a.

Natural Resources staff continue to record locations of all noxious weed species that are treated with herbicide for long-term tracking and management planning. Exhibit 2 provides an overview of planned herbicide treatments through 2019.



# Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space

## Exhibit 1 - 2018 Herbicide Application





# Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space

## Exhibit 2 - 2019 Monitoring & Planned Treatment Areas

