

City of Mercer Island

OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD

Thursday · July 19 · 2018
Regular Meeting Agenda

6:00 pm Call to Order & Roll Call

6:05 pm Minutes of March 15, 2018 and May 17, 2018 Meetings

6:10 pm Welcome to new Trustee, Carol Lynn Berseth

6:15 pm Public Appearances

6:20 pm Regular Business

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. FHS data collection progress | Alaine Sommargren (10 min) |
| 2. Summer 2018 Trail Work Plan | Alaine Sommargren (10 min) |
| 3. Social trail inventory | Alaine Sommargren (10 min) |
| 4. Annual Herbicide Use Report | Kim Frappier (10 min) |
| 5. Off-leash dog status report | Paul West (10 min) |
| 6. Quadrant reports | Trustees (5 min) |
| 7. Annual Election of Officers | Rory Westberg (10 min) |
| 8. Next Meeting: September 19, 2018 | Chair (5 min) |

7:30 pm Adjournment (estimated)

BOARD MEMBERS

Rory Westberg, *Chair*
Thomas Hildebrandt, *Secretary*
Bruce Bassett, *Council Liaison*
Marie Bender
Carol Lynn Berseth
Craig Olson
Geraldine Poor

STAFF

Paul West, *Parks Operations Superintendent*
Alaine Sommargren, *Natural Resources Manager*
Kim Frappier, *Natural Resources Specialist*





OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 15, 2018

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, Trustee Geraldine Poor, Trustee Marie Bender, and Trustee Craig Olson. Vice Chair Robin Christy and Council Liaison David Wisenteiner were absent.

Staff present were Paul West, Park Operations Superintendent, Alaine Sommargren, Natural Resources Manager, and Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist.

Minutes:

Secretary Hildebrandt moved and Trustee Olson seconded to:

Adopt the minutes of the January 18, 2018 meeting with noted corrections. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Appearances:

There were no public appearances.

Regular Business:

(I) 2018 Restoration Work Plan

Natural Resources Specialist Frappier presented the 2018 Restoration Work Plan for Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. She provided an overview, including maps of the locations and tasks to be performed by professional contractors, EarthCorps volunteers, and the Natural Resources seasonal crew.

(II) OSCT Bylaws Review

Trustees inquired into why the quorum is five for the OSCT Board instead of four as it is for other boards and commissions in the City. Staff explained that the five-person quorum was established in the ordinance that created the Trust. Trustees asked how often meetings are cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Trustees discussed the timing of the election of officers. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren explained that the elections are held after the Mayor completes the board appointments, so the timing of officer elections is based on this. Section F2 of the bylaws states that elections should take place after the first regular meeting after July 1st.

Trustees also reviewed what the by-laws mandate regarding the number and timing of meetings. The by-laws call for meeting once per quarter, whereas the ordinance states "meetings will be held at least semi-annually with other special meetings occurring as needed." Trustees noted that the quarterly meetings fulfill the mandate in the ordinance and are not in conflict with it.

Trustees discussed the need to refine the language in Section 2G regarding notification of attendance at meetings. Trustees suggested the language be amended as follows: "Any trustee who fails to attend two consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without notifying the chairperson in advance, will be deemed to

have forfeited his/her position as trustee.”

Trustees discussed section 3E regarding meeting materials distribution. Chair Westberg inquired whether Trustees would prefer more time to review the agenda packet prior to the meetings. No change was suggested for this section. Trustees also discussed whether any changes need to be made to the job description for the Board position.

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren stated that any changes to the by-laws need to be publicly posted for 2 weeks. She will confirm this with the City Clerk, but instructed that the board could move to approve the changes at this time.

Secretary Hildebrandt moved and Trustee Poor seconded to:
Accept the amendment to section 2G as discussed. Motion passed 5-0.

(III) Forest Health Survey Data Collection

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren provided an overview of the methods to be used to collect data for the 10-year monitoring of the Pioneer Park Forest Health Survey. This included an overview of plot size and placement and specific vegetation data to be collected. She reviewed the project timeline including the hiring of two research assistants, data synthesis, and analysis. Data will be collected in July and August 2018. Natural Resources staff will provide a preliminary overview of the data at the September 2018 meeting. Data analysis will take place November through February with a full report to the OSCT in early 2019.

(IV) Leap for Green

Chair Westberg reviewed the details for the Leap for Green sustainability fair to be held on Saturday 4/14 from 10 AM to 2 PM. The OSCT will again host a booth. Secretary Hildebrandt, Trustee Bender, Trustee Poor, and Trustee Christy have volunteered to work at the event.

(V) Quadrant Reports

SE Quadrant – Secretary Hildebrandt asked why the two large trees that were cut down were not snagged to leave for wildlife nor the debris left on site. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren explained that this is normally the policy for large woody debris and that there must have been a miscommunication with Puget Sound Energy, who removed the trees.

NE Quadrant – no report.

NW Quadrant – Trustees raised concern over some larger blackberry thickets in the EarthCorps designated area. Staff reported that EarthCorps plans to tackle these areas in the next year.

Trustees also raised a concern regarding social trails leading from private homes into the park and would like to see this discouraged. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren noted that this is worthy of a larger conversation and will add this to the agenda for the July 2018 meeting.

(VI) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2018.

Adjournment: 7:07 pm

Rory Westberg, Chair

Attest:

Kim Frappier, Scribe



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAY 17, 2018

Call To Order:

Chair Westberg called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Roll Call:

Chair Rory Westberg, Council Liaison Bruce Bassett, Trustee Geraldine Poor, Trustee Marie Bender, Trustee Craig Olson and Vice Chair Robin Christy. Secretary Thomas Hildebrandt was absent.

Staff present were Paul West, Park Operations Superintendent, Alaine Sommargren, Natural Resources Manager, and Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist.

Minutes:

Minutes for the March 2018 meeting will be reviewed and adopted at the next board meeting scheduled for July 19, 2018.

Public Appearances:

Ira Appelman, 9039 East Shorewood Drive

Mr. Appelman served on the Open Space Conservancy Trust (OSCT) Board in the past. He presented minutes from the April 4, 2002 meeting which references a proposal to add other properties into the Trust. He spoke in favor of adding other parks and open space properties to the OSCT and stated that the Trust Ordinance makes it clear that the intent of the Council in creating the ordinance was to add more properties to the Trust and would like to see the Board follow the intent of the Ordinance.

Patrick Daugherty, 4135 Boulevard Place

Mr. Daugherty read a statement provided by Peter Struck which provides feedback on the City staff report and speaks in favor of adding other parks to the Trust. He stated that the current Comprehensive and Parks plans do not do an adequate job of protecting open spaces and asks the Trust Board to reject the "no action" recommendation outlined by City staff. The statement is included with these minutes.

Jackie Dunbar, 7116 82nd Avenue SE

Ms. Dunbar spoke in support of adding other park properties to the OSCT, noted that Mercerdale Park is under assault from development, and stands in opposition to the proposed art center. She noted that adults and children need parks and open spaces for their physical and mental health and to have places to play. She would like to see Mercerdale Park protected for future generations.

Gail Parrish, 3774 77th Avenue SE

Mrs. Parrish referenced the Olmstead writings about park development in Seattle, 1903. She spoke in favor of adding Mercerdale Park to the OSCT and requested that the Board recommend to City Council that other park properties be added to the Trust as well.

Mark Coen, 77th Avenue SE

Mr. Coen spoke about the mental health benefits of access to green space including a reduction of anxiety, depression, and ADD symptoms. He stated that city government locally and regionally has not been adequately protecting the natural environment or making good choices to address problems such as development, tree preservation, and transportation. He spoke in favor of protecting parks and open spaces through the Trust.

Daniel Thompson, 7265 North Mercer Way

Mr. Thompson has been a resident since 1970 and used to work at Luther Burbank Park when he was in high school. He spoke in support of the proposal to add parks to the Trust and asked the Board to make this recommendation to City Council.

Roberta Lewandowski, 4748 86th Ave SE

Mr. Lewandowski has been a Mercer Island resident for 40 years and wants to see stronger protections for our public lands. She provided her statement in writing to the Board and spoke in support of the OSCT Board expanding its property holdings and mission.

Tess Ritcey, 7073 93rd Avenue SE

Ms. Ritcey is a senior at Mercer Island High School. She shared her reflections on outdoor activities she did as a child and the importance of access to nature. She spoke in favor of having the OSCT Board protect and maintain all parks and open space.

Gary Robinson, 6026 E. Mercer Way

Mr. Robinson spoke in favor of putting city parks into the Trust to protect them from future development. He is concerned that parks have become a political issue and would like to see all Mercer Island parks and open spaces put into the Trust so that City Council and the community no longer has to worry about them.

Executive Session:

Chair Westberg called the executive session at 7:33 PM. The executive session was held to discuss with legal counsel pending or potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The executive session concluded at 7:54 PM

In attendance: City Attorney Kari Sand, Chair Rory Westberg, Council Liaison Bruce Bassett, Trustee Geraldine Poor, Trustee Marie Bender, Trustee Craig Olson, Vice Chair Robin Christy as well as staff members Paul West, Alaine Sommargren, and Kim Frappier.

Regular Business:

(I) Concerned Citizens of Mercer Island Parks (CCMIP) Request to Add Properties to Trust

Superintendent Paul West provided a summary of the request made by Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks (CCMIP) that the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board recommend to City Council that Mercerdale Park and other parks and open spaces be placed in the Trust. Superintendent West stated that staff recommends that the Board take no action on this request. He explained that developed parks (as defined in the Parks and Recreation Plan) such as Mercerdale Park are not "open space" and therefore ineligible to be Trust properties.

Superintendent West provided examples of the other forested open spaces that would qualify under the OSCT mission (SE 53rd Open Space, Gallagher Hill Open Space etc.). It is the City's opinion that these properties are already heavily invested in to maintain their ecological function and protected by existing documents including the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Parks and Recreation Plan and the budget. Each of these planning and policy documents aim to preserve open space. In addition, other park properties have deed restrictions that protect them from development. He added that if the City council wanted to explore putting additional protections on other properties, there are other mechanisms to do so including conservation easements.

Discussion

Trustees agreed that adding developed parks, like Mercedale Park, to the Open Space Conservancy Trust does not fall within the mission of the Trust. All expressed support for protecting open space and their commitment to conservation and restoration of our natural areas. Trustees requested additional information on the cost and impacts to adding other open spaces to the Trust as it exists now.

Chair Westberg read a statement from Secretary Hildebrandt who was unable to attend the meeting. His statement is included in these minutes.

Chair Westberg summarized that all park properties cannot be added to the Trust in its current form. Chair Westberg asked if any Trustees would like to take further action on this. Trustees expressed interest in further discussion on how open space properties are managed collectively and understand how the work for Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space fit with the overall management strategy lead by the Parks and Recreation department.

Superintendent West explained that Parks and Recreation Natural Resources staff manage extensive restoration work in our open spaces. This work is governed by the Open Space Vegetation Plan, which was initially adopted in 2004 and updated in 2015. Pioneer Park's higher level of management, which is mandated by the Trust, is built into the 2015 Open Space Vegetation Plan 10-year Evaluation and Update. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren added that all City open space properties, including Pioneer Park, were included in the Open Space Vegetation Plan 10-year Evaluation and Update. Quantitative data analysis was used to develop the plan update.

Trustees agreed that additional Board education would benefit this discussion. Superintendent West requested that staff prepare a report that explains the level of service Pioneer Park receives compared to other open spaces and the overall management strategy of the open spaces collectively.

Board Direction: Trustees decided not to act on the proposal made by CCMIP to add all park properties to the Open Space Conservancy Trust. The Trust Board members would like more information about management of other open space properties and further discuss the question of adding other open space properties to the Trust.

(II) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2018.

Adjournment: 8:43 pm

Rory Westberg, Chair

Attest:

Kim Frappier, Scribe

Open Space Conservancy Trust - Minutes Thursday, April 04, 2002

[View Agenda](#)

Submitted by
Ira Appelman

Public comment
May 17, 2018

Attendance

Open Space Trust Board members present

Marquerite Sutherland, Chairperson, Ira Appelman, Bill Duvall, Gail Magnuson, Jim Owens, Jim Pearman

Staff

Pete Mayer, Director, Mercer Island Parks and Recreation

Paul West, Park Arborist

Stephanie Cangle, Administrative Assistant

Transfer of Additional Properties Staff displayed a map showing the locations of open space properties. The Board was also provided with a handout showing a list of open space properties. Trustee Appelman expressed concern that the Trust Board has only Pioneer Park in its Trust and in his opinion the Trust Board should be looking to ask City Council to place other properties in the Trust such as Mercerdale Hillside, Gallagher Hill, S E 53rd and maybe a couple of smaller ones. He suggests later considering the western portion of Island Crest Park. He stated that the City Council decides if property will be placed into the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board's care.

Trustee Duvall questioned the reason for making such a resolution at this time.

Trustee Appelman said he has been suggesting this action for two years. He reminded the Board that past Board member Bryan Cairns thought the Trust Board should wait until the master plan was finished to show more credibility to the City Council.

Trustee Duvall questioned if it would be more appropriate to make such a request after the master plan is implemented and the forest management plan is finished and approved.

Trustee Appelman stated that he thinks the matter of placing the properties into the Trust is a technical matter. It would be done by staff and he thinks, based on what past Chairman Tove Lund said previously, that it would not be a large encumbrance of staff time.

Chairman Sutherland thinks it is a good idea to ensure that someone is watching over the open space properties that belong to the public, but she said that the City Manager will also have to evaluate if moving properties to the Trust means more staff time. She suggested talking to some individual council members and the mayor to ascertain their viewpoint on such a proposal, to see if there is any support for this.

Trustee Pearman said that this type of proposal would be discussed at length if brought to the City Council. He asked what ultimately would be accomplished by this? What would be changed in the way things are occurring now by moving the properties under the Trust Board's umbrella?

Trustee Appelman replied that someone would be taking care of the properties and this is suppose to be an all-Island Trust Board not just a south end Trust Board. It's difficult to attract members from other areas of the Island because the Board is viewed as a Board concerned only with properties at the south end.

In his opinion there is pressure all over the Island on what to do with these open space properties.

Trustee Pearman commented that at the inception of the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board, there was the assumption that other properties would go in the Trust. When someone is watching over these properties he makes the assumption that staff and resources and monies are needed. It is a budgetary issue.

Trustee Appelman said that business has already come before City Council regarding the property at 53rd and putting a trail there, as well as the issue of ivy growing up on trees all over the Island.

Trustee Pearman suggested talking to Director Mayer regarding the budgetary commitments by the City staff before going to City Council. He questioned adding more work to the Trust Board's current task list. He reminded the Trust Board that the acquisition of Luther Burbank would present a substantial list of tasks for the City staff.

Chairman Sutherland and Trustees Owens, Magnuson, and Duvall agreed that the Trust Board has enough to do right now and the proposal to have other open space properties transferred to the Trust should be brought up at a later time.

A motion was made by Trustee Appelman that the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board request that City Council transfer open space properties, specifically, Mercerdale Hillside Park, Gallagher Hill, and SE 53rd, to the Trust. The motion died for lack of a second.

**A Public Comment on the City's Staff Report
To Add Parks and Open Spaces to the Open Space Conservancy Trust**

May 17, 2018

City Staff Says Maintain Status Quo

In response to a request by The Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks (“CCMIP”) proposal to create a higher threshold of protection and to better defend our open spaces and parks from unwanted intrusions, the City staff issued a recommendation of “no action” or preserve the status quo (“Report”).

Overall, the Report focuses on ~~Open Space Conservancy issues, but fails~~ ~~on various technical issues, but fails~~ to adequately respond to, and some may say disregards, the policy issue that the citizens of Mercer Island want greater protection of their parks!

Indeed, the Report’s narrative conveniently ignores a number of recent initiatives by both the City and private developers to develop parks and open spaces against the wishes of its citizens. The City Council recognized this fact in its Draft 2018 Planning Session Discussion topics where Parks – Protection was included.

As we outline below, the City’s rationale is insufficient to dismiss the proposal and we strongly urge the Trust Board, as the public representatives of the community, to ask City staff how the open spaces and parks could be better protected, instead of dismissing this important issue out of hand. Let’s see an actual plan so one can reasonably assess the costs and benefits before voting to say “NO”!

Developed Parks and Open Spaces should be placed on a continuum of public assets to be managed

The Report goes to great length to expound upon how developed parks and open spaces should be treated as separate and distinct entities. However, both are placed under the same City management structure, and while they may have different operational needs, the protections afforded by this unique trust structure can clearly have benefits for both.

Overcoming the Legal Impediments is Easy

The Report states that the *existing* Trust documents do not allow developed park properties to be received into the Trust. While legal experts may disagree with that interpretation, the most prudent approach is either to amend the existing trust or to establish a second trust. There are pros and cons to either approach, and we will not take the time here to debate that issue. Suffice it to say, there are multiple avenues to pursue that can easily overcome the perceived legal issues.

The need for additional protection is quite compelling

The Report, whether intended or not, seeks to trivialize the work of the existing Trust board by implying their oversight work is not really needed or is redundant to staff work. With this line of reasoning, then adding more properties just creates additional busy work and other seemingly trivial tasks for City staff. Indeed, this line of thinking brought to its logical conclusion would suggest that citizen input is not needed or is unwarranted. For this reason alone, we would strongly suggest greater protection is needed.

On a policy level, the Report, by coming its conclusion of “no action,” misses the whole point of why the Mercer Island community is asking for additional protection for its parks and open spaces. The community has witnessed a number of attempts over the years, of both City-led and private developers, to reduce the amount of green space. Just recently (April 2018), one of our Councilmembers commented that regional authorities were suggesting that parks and open spaces may be ideal locations for local governments to site affordable housing. Indeed, it’s not difficult to imagine the City suggesting that one of our “under-used” open spaces, say Gallagher Hill or SE 53rd, would be ideal for such development!

Each of these attacks on the City’s most valuable physical asset has both financial and social costs to the community. Financial in the sense it does cost taxpayer dollars to either support or oppose such efforts. For example, the City’s resources devoted to the MICA proposal probably runs into the tens of thousands of dollars. Similarly, on the social front, as we have seen with the MICA in Mercedale Park fiasco, it divides a community and makes it harder for the City to move forward on other important matters.

Thus, the request by CCMIP wishes to create better protection and make the community more livable, and ensure green spaces for the generations of Islanders to come.

Existing mechanisms are inadequate

The Report states that the City’s Comprehensive Plan (“Plan”) is put in place to protect the community. Yet, when convenient for the City, it has either disregarded the Plan, or fudged interpretations to meet its objectives. The most recent example of this is the May, 2018 proposal to modify the Plan to allow a linear park near the Tully’s location to be re-zoned.

Similarly, the Parks and Recreation Plan (“PROS”) is cited as a roadmap, and thus a protection. However, we have all witnessed changes to various City plans that happen very quickly. In addition, whether a property is or is not in the Trust should not affect the PROS.

Just like the Pioneer Park situation in the early ‘90’s that moved the citizens and City government to create the Trust, this Board now has an opportunity to cement its own legacy by moving forward to afford similar protections to other open spaces and parks.

Thus, as stated above, we believe the arguments presented in the Report are insufficient to dismiss the proposal and strongly urge the Trust Board to ask City staff how this proposal can be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Russell and Peter Struck

On behalf of the Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks

Subject: Mercerdale Park and MICA

From: peppertoesh1@yahoo.com

To: peppertoesh1@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018, 4:09:49 PM PDT

Good evening,

One week ago, I attended an extremely informative presentation on the foresight, which John Charles Olmsted and his brother, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., had created for the developing City of Seattle. The Olmsted Brothers landscaping firm, developed numerous parks, grounds and private gardens in the Pacific Northwest.

I quote from some of the writings of the Olmsted Brothers.

"All agree that parks not only add to the beauty of a city and to the pleasure of living in it, but are exceedingly important factors in developing the healthfulness and business prosperity of its' residents." (1903.)

"Park commissioners should consider themselves as trustees for the presentation of the people's parks...not...as trustees of some vacant land...for any...public building." (1910.)

The vision the Olmsted Brothers had for Mercer Island, was never to develop the Island, but for it to retain its' wildlife and its' natural beauty.

We urge the Board to seriously consider the Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks (CCMIP) proposal before you tonight, that seeks to provide all parks and open spaces with protections similar to what Pioneer Park has.

WE are the stewards of this gem in the lake. Our parks and open spaces on the Island, have not been protected as these should have been. We ask the Board to recommend to the Mercer Island City Council to step up to the plate and include Mercerdale Park and all other parks and open spaces on the Island, in the Open Space Conservancy Trust, where these belong.

Thank you.

3744-77 AVE SE
(MERCERDALE.)

Gail D Spangenberg-Parrish

May 17, 2018

TO: Open Space Conservancy Trust

FR: Roberta Lewandowski, Mercer Island Resident of 40 years

Thank you for allowing public input before making your decision to expand your mission to protect all our parks.

I urge you to begin the process of mission expansion to include all the major and favorite parks on Mercer Island. Although the City has done a good job of caring for its parks, and, I'm told, has actually added park land in the last 10 years or so, it seems that any undeveloped land in City ownership is at risk of loss to development. No matter how good the cause, it's just too hard to obtain vacant land in our rapidly urbanizing little town to risk losing any, no matter the use.

Sadly, the risks to park and open space lands are appearing regionally, and nationally. Locally, one of King County's south end cities recently sold a small golf course without much discussion with its citizens about the wisdom, or alternate uses. Seattle gave up a public gathering area for the Chihully Museum, which, no matter how wonderful for those who can pay the hefty fees, does not provide any public use (unlike the Museum of Pop Culture, which at least has some free exhibits.) Nationally, I read of citizens from the east coast, mid west and the west opposing museums and other developments proposed for waterfront and other park lands. And, it hasn't been very long since local governments were putting sewer facilities and freeways in park lands, as in the Arboretum, and Puget Sound shore lands. Thankfully, federal funds can no longer be used for such projects, due to public resistance.

Here on Mercer Island, we have seen several proposals, seriously considered, for public buildings and parking lots in our larger open spaces (e.g. golf course, City Hall, fire station, MICA, Park and Ride). The City also recently disposed of a street-end property without any general public discussion of potential uses with the broader public.

All of this history convinces me that we need stronger protection for our public lands. Yes, the City Council is dedicated to benefit the city, but with so many issues commanding their attention, I think we really need a group like yours, which can be expanded to include a mission of preserving all our public lands, and committed to engaging the public in full discussions of any changes of use.

Thanks for your consideration.

Hi my name is Tess Ritcey and I am a senior at Mercer Island High School, and part of the Civics class. I am passionate about the health of others and the environment, which is why I feel there is a problem going on in Mercer Island. As we look at society now, we see young children spending most of their time indoors on their electronics, instead of spending time with nature. When I was growing up, I spent most of my time outdoors and at the parks on Mercer Island. Some of my favorite memories include going to Luther Burbank Park with a Parks and Rec summer camp or letterboxing in pioneer park with my three close friends. A study from The Guardian said, that on average children play outside for 4 hours a week compared to 8.2 hours a week when their parents were children. This is a problem because kids today will not get to use their imagination and experience their story with nature.

As the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board your mission is to protect and maintain the open space properties on Mercer Island. I hope you keep with this goal and also support Earth Core and Parks and Recreation.

These two organizations support parks and allow them to stay beautiful for people of all ages to enjoy. Lastly, on June 19 the city council is making their final decision about putting the levy lift on the November ballot. This

levy lift will increase property tax by 1%. I strongly encourage this board to be in favor of this levy lift and vote for it to be on the ballot. If this levy lift is not put on the ballot, the city of Mercer Island will need to take money from other places, including the parks. As a community, we cannot afford to have our beautiful parks get destroyed because it is the one place where kids can get away from technology and experience their imagination. Thank you for your time, and for listening to my concern. Let's get kids outside and keep the parks on Mercer Island beautiful.

WELCOME CAROL LYNN BERSETH!

Carol Lynn Berseth was appointed to the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board on June 5, 2018 by the Mercer Island City Council. Dr. Berseth serves in Position No. 2.

Dr. Berseth is a recently retired executive physician who designed global clinical trials for an international nutritional company. She served as a Parks Commissioner for four years in Olmsted County in Minnesota, where she worked at the Mayo Clinic.

She has participated in community gardening in Minnesota, Texas, Indiana, and has earned her own P-Patch plot on Mercer Island! Dr. Berseth's son and his family also live on Mercer Island, and she enjoys participating in activities with them on the island. She is active in a sorority chapter at UW and plays guitar.

Dr. Berseth has lived on Mercer Island for three years and is looking forward to this opportunity to serve in the community.



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

Action Item No. 2

July 19, 2018

Description:	Summer 2018 Trail Work Plan
Exhibits:	Pioneer Park and Engstrom OS Summer 2018 Trails Work Plan

BACKGROUND

City staff typically report to the Trust board on planned trail maintenance activities in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space each spring. During the summer, the City employs a seasonal crew that can take on specific projects. These projects are sub-projects of the Open Space Vegetation CIP to maintain Master Plan improvements.

PROCESS

Trustees may choose to approve the work plan as proposed or modify.

SUMMARY

Trail projects that are planned or have already been completed in the 2018 season include:

- continued trail resurfacing to repair mud puddles as time and staffing levels allow
- building passive structures such as knicks, grade dips and water bars to move water off of trails, with a focus on the Horse Trail in NW quadrant
- filling dips and slumps in the Ravine Trail

It is expected that all proposed items can be completed by December 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Pioneer Park and Engstrom OS Summer 2018 Trails Work Plan.

Exhibit 1: Pioneer Park and Engstrom OS Summer 2018 Trails Work Plan

NORTHWEST QUADRANT

Completed in 2017: Small sections of trail resurfaced to mitigate muddy spots.

Planned or completed in 2018: Two volunteer events, organized in partnership with Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, resurfaced sections of trail in the interior of the Woodpecker Trail (photo right).

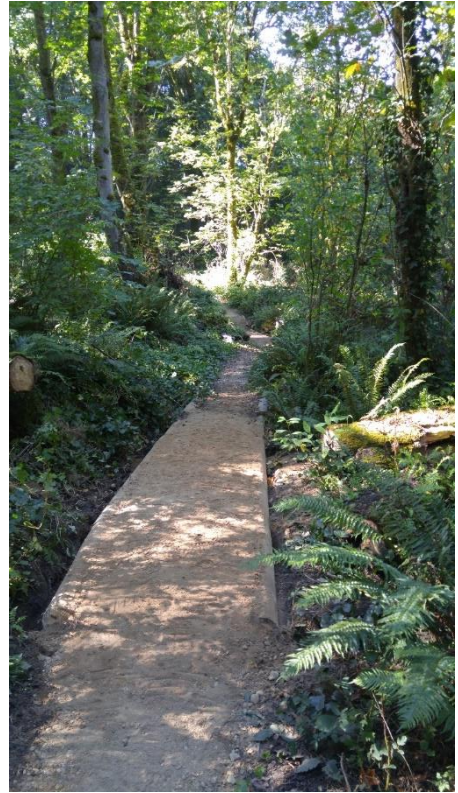


Natural Resources staff spent a week regrading and building new drainage structures on the Horse Trail in the NW quadrant (photos below).



NORTHEAST QUADRANT AND ENGSTROM OPEN SPACE

Completed in 2017: The Natural Resources Crew continued making improvements to the turnpike in the Engstrom Loop Trail (photo right).



Planned or completed in 2018:

Soil movement on the Ravine Trail over the last couple years has caused an increasingly uneven trail surface. Several yards of gravel were hauled in by Natural Resources staff to fill this and other low spots in the trail. Minor repairs to the retaining wall were made (before and after photos below).



SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

Completed in 2017: Many of the water bars throughout the quadrant were cleaned or rebuilt.

Planned or completed for 2018: Regular maintenance.

TRAIL REHABILITATION

In January 2018, Parks staff rented a Harley rake to test its usefulness in rehabilitating worn trails. A Harley rake attaches to a small tractor and digs and re-levels surfaces. This equipment worked well to re-level several trails in Luther Burbank Park. If budget allows in late summer 2018, staff will use a Harley rake on select trails within Pioneer Park that require extensive work.





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

Action Item No. 4

July 19, 2018

Description:	2018 Herbicide Use Protocol Report
Exhibits:	1. 2017 Herbicide application map 2. 2018 Monitoring and planned herbicide application 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.

2017 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 all three quadrants, though the density of patches is greatly reduced.

In 2017, the crew monitored and logged the yellow archangel population along the north boundary of the NW quadrant. The crew continues to find trace plants within a 300 square foot area, though it has decreased in density. They also monitored the population in the NE Quadrant growing around the manhole and a small population downstream. This population is smaller than the original footprint, but still present along the stream. In the SE Quadrant, yellow archangel was documented along the southern property boundary where it grows mixed with ivy along the fence line. The crew treated all populations in late July and early August with the following formulation: 2.5% percent Roundup Custom and 2% AgriDex adjuvant. This formulation reduces harm to amphibians and aquatics. Exhibit 1 shows the extent of the yellow archangel patches, within which spot treatments were performed in 2017.

Several stems of knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.) were first documented in the southeast quadrant of Pioneer Park in spring 2013. The Natural Resource crew returned to the site in mid-August 2017 to find only one live stem appropriate for herbicide treatment. There was evidence that many small

plants had already senesced due to drought stress, which did not allow for treatment. Early senescence has been a trend with this particular population, so the plan moving forward will be to treat earlier in the season.

The crew also continued to treat invasive trees with EZ-Ject Copperhead shells including English laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), Portugal laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*), bird cherry (*Prunus avium*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and European mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) in various locations throughout the SE Quadrant in May 2017.

2018 Plan

In summer 2018, the Natural Resources crew will evaluate 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 mid to late July, as needed.

The knotweed population located in the SE quadrant 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 *Mahonia nervosa* (dull Oregon grape) and *Gaultheria shallon* (salal), requiring careful herbicide application. In addition to knotweed and yellow archangel, a small population of *Iris pseudocaurus* (yellow flag iris) was documented in the northwest corner of the quadrant along Island Crest Way. This was treated in the spring by the crew using a 'glove-wipe' method with an approved aquatic glyphosate formulation.

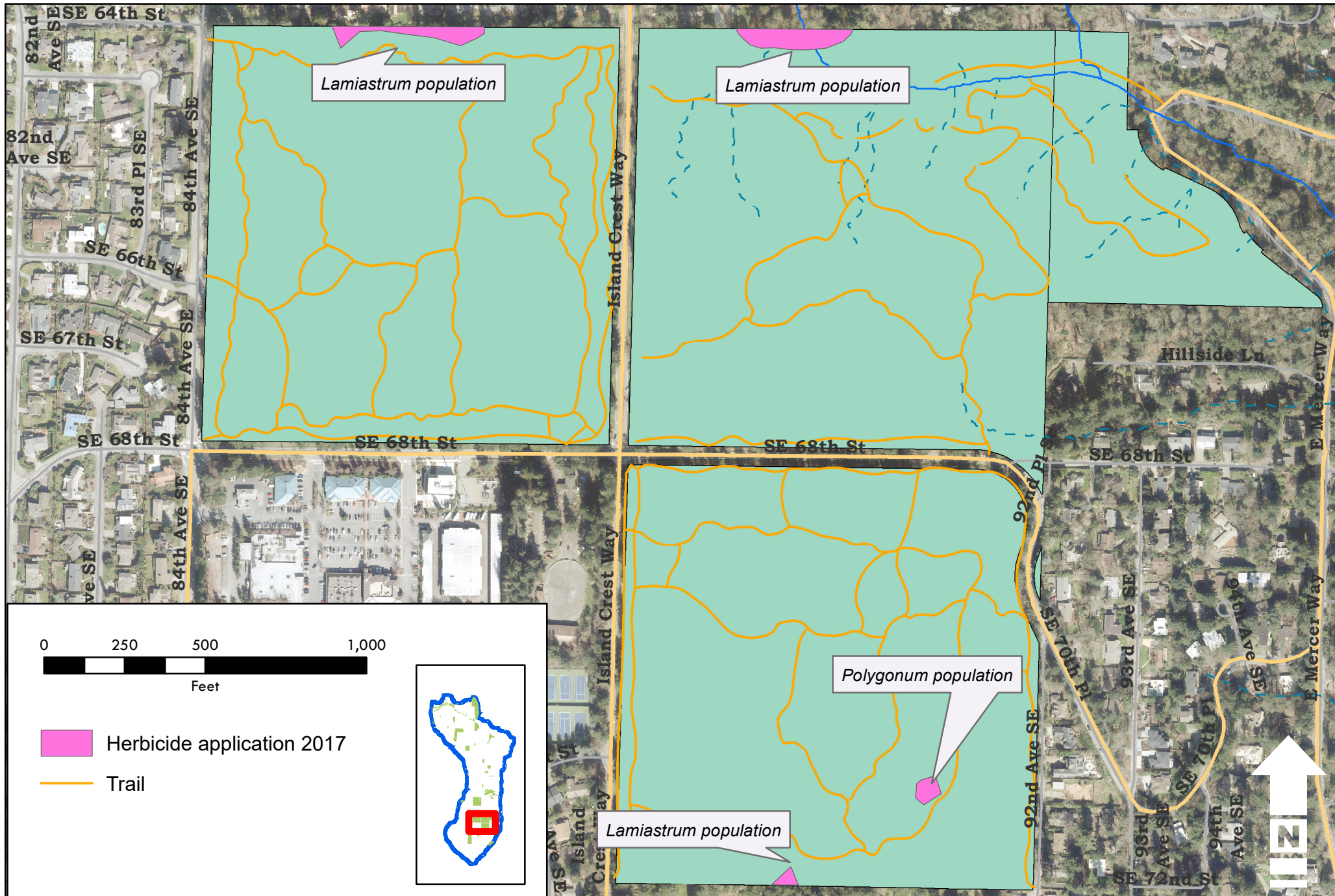
Contractors are slated to conduct invasive tree treatment in the NE quadrant within area unit PP0903 (Exhibit 2). In addition, the crew will be doing a sweep for invasive trees along the PSE powerline corridor along SE 68th Street, as part of the comprehensive weed removal planned along this buffer. Trees will be treated using a combination of EZ-Ject Copperhead shells and the cut/paint method using 100% aquatic glyphosate as outlined in the 2016 update to the Herbicide Use Protocol.

Within Engstrom Open Space, the Natural Resources crew will be performing a foliar herbicide application to bindweed species (*Convolvulus arvensis* and *Calystegia sepium*) that have grown within the 2016 planting along the north trail. Bindweed has been spreading and choking out young trees and will be treated in July using an aquatic approved glyphosate formulation.

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 2018.

Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space

Exhibit 1 - 2017 Herbicide Application



Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space
Exhibit 2 - 2018 Planned Monitoring and Herbicide Application

