



City Council Committee Meeting Agenda

Parks and Trails Advisory Committee

This meeting will be conducted in person at Stanwood City Hall with an option for participants to join by telephone or online as well.

Connection information will be posted on the City Website

<https://www.stanwoodwa.org>

Monday, March 18, 2022 3:00 PM

1. Call to Order & Roll Call
2. Citizen Comments
3. Approval of March 2022 Meeting Minutes
4. Heritage Park Planting Plan
5. Ovenell Park – Critical Areas Review Findings
6. Parks and Recreation Feasibility Study Implementation Update
7. Park/Trail Updates
 - Hamilton – Project Status
 - Church Creek Park – Sewer Project, Park Projects
 - Port Susan Trail – Design Status

Zoom Information:

Parks and Trails Advisory Committee

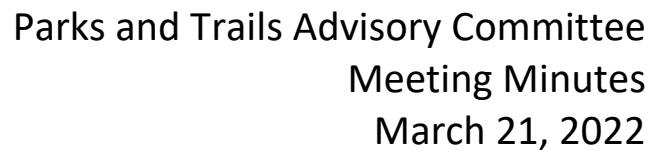
Please click this URL to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85751722998?pwd=T25lVXpSMnFXZDZGZEpHQVF6eStSdz09>

Webinar ID: 857 5172 2998

Passcode: 304123

Telephone: (253) 215-8782



Call to Order: 3:10 pm

Roll Call

Present: Cathy Wooten
Matt Withers
Gordy Holmes
Lisa Bruce
Rick Hawkins
Katelyn Durfee

Staff Present:
Carly Ruacho
Patricia Love

Absent: Dave Hall

Also known to be present: Doug Shafer, Steve Shepro, Judy Williams, Peter Kamb

Citizen Comments: None

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of March 21, 2022 meeting were voted on and approved unanimously as presented.

Remote vs. In-Person Meetings

Since COVID-19 restrictions have recently been loosened by the State, there is now an option to have in-person meetings with a hybrid option for those who would like to continue to attend remotely. The Committee voted and the majority consensus was to begin in-person meetings starting with the April 18th, 2022 meeting with the hybrid option available to those choosing or unable to attend.

Heritage Park/Church Creek Park Pickleball Court

The Committee was presented with a schematic level proposal and corresponding budget for constructing two pickleball courts in the vicinity of the dog park/skate park at Heritage Park. The construction of the pickleball courts at Heritage Park would be instead of any dedicated pickleball courts being located at Church Creek Park as previously discussed. The Committee was unanimously supportive of the Heritage Park location rather than Church Creek Park. There will still be a combined basketball/pickleball court at Church Creek Park as originally proposed.





Parks and Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2022

The Committee discussed moving the budget for pickleball courts from Church Creek Park to Heritage Park. Rick Hawkins made a motion, seconded by Cathy Wooten, to move the budgeted funds for pickleball courts from Church Creek Park to Heritage Park. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of moving the budget funds. A second motion was made by Cathy Wooten and seconded by Gordy Holmes to request that the City Council add an additional \$16,800.00 to the Heritage Park budget for fencing around the pickleball courts. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Council to add funds to the budget for fencing. The Committee also discussed the desire to add wind screening to fencing around the courts could help reduce wind. It was also discussed that the pickleball community could potentially assist in obtaining benches for the courts.

Adopted Budget:

2022 Church Creek Park Capital Projects									
Budget:	\$	444,000							
Task:				Budget Estimate	Description				
Pickleball / Multipurpose Sports Court				\$ 130,000	Design & Build 1 Court				
Tree Thinning: Entrance & 72nd Avenue				\$ 10,000	Tree Trimming and Thinning				
Trail Improvements / Interpretive Signs				\$ 30,000	Brush Removal and Signs				
Ballfield Renovation				\$ 130,000	Design & Possible Reconstruction				
Flag Pole Landscaping and Renovation				\$ 10,000	Tree Removal by Arborist / Volunteer Planting Event				
Renovate or Replace Picnic Shelter				\$ 100,000	Design and Replacement with New Tables				
Parking Lot Repair Analysis				\$ 30,000	Analysis / Possible Design				
			Total:	\$ 440,000					

Optional Budget:

2022 Church Creek Park Capital Projects									
Budget:	\$	444,000							
Task:				Budget Estimate	Description				
Pickleball / Multipurpose Sports Court				\$ 130,000	Design & Build 1 Court				
Tree Thinning: Entrance & 72nd Avenue				\$ 115,000	Tree Trimming and Thinning				
Trail Improvements / Interpretive Signs				\$ 30,000	Brush Removal and Signs				
Ballfield Renovation				\$ 30,000	Design & Possible Reconstruction				
Flag Pole Landscaping and Renovation				\$ 15,000	Tree Removal by Arborist / Volunteer Planting Event				
Renovate or Replace Picnic Shelter				\$ 35,000	Design and Replacement with New Tables				
Parking Lot Repair Analysis				\$ -	Analysis / Possible Design				
			Total:	\$ 355,000					
				\$ (89,000)	To Heritage Park for Pickleball				



Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes March 21, 2022

Other topics related to Heritage Park discussed were:

- Larger trees added to Heritage Park could act as a wind break. Little League baseball teams could potentially hold a fundraiser to help add these trees.
- Restrooms need attention at Heritage Park from Public Works. Carly will talk with Trevor in Public Works to check on the restrooms.
- A port-a-let would be convenient near the point of entry to the baseball fields. When athletes leave the field to use the restrooms, they are no longer in sight of their coach. This could be a safety issue.

Parks & Recreation Feasibility Study Implementation Update

On March 10, 2022 the City Council heard recommendations for a Parks Team from the Parks & Trails Advisory Committee, The Economic Development Board, the Advisory Committee, and the Community Development Committee. The Council is in support of moving to Service Level 1, which is to create a Parks Team. The Council asked the City to evaluate options for moving to Service Level 2 in the 2023/2024 budget cycle. A formal action is expected at the next Council meeting on March 24, 2022. If approved, Service Level 1 will be implemented in the next few weeks. More discussion on Service Level 2 will occur through a mid-year report and budget discussions at future Council Meetings.

Park/Trail Updates

- Heritage – Tree removal by PUD will take place in the next few weeks. Replacement trees will be planted this Fall. There will also be 40 trees added to the parking lot.
- Hamilton – The environmental report is almost ready to be issued for comments. The goal is to begin permitting this year with construction starting next year.
- Church Creek Park – Tree removal to begin soon.
- Port Susan Trail – The design contract went to City Council on February 24, 2022. They approved the contract for getting the trail to 100% design, which will get it ready for bid and construction will begin next year.
- Ovenell Park – The environmental study will be updated. City Council will discuss next steps on the vision for the park at the March 24, 2022 Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.



**CITY OF STANWOOD
PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE: April 18, 2022
SUBJECT: March PTAC Agenda Topics
FROM: Carly Ruacho, Senior Planner

Item 4 - Heritage Park Planting Plan

Eighty-eight (88) new trees will be planted at Heritage Park to replace trees removed for a new power transmission line. The planting areas include frontage along 276th Street NW, the parking area, a connecting walkway through the center of the park, and an open area at the south end of the park. The 10 species of trees are a range of sizes and forms that will provide shade, visual screening, bird and pollinator habitat, and a wind break. The trees are expected to increase the appeal of the park and its enjoyment by visitors.

A row of Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra*) on the northern edge of Heritage Park in Stanwood, Washington is planned for removal by Snohomish PUD for clearance of a new power transmission line. The poplar trees bring aesthetic appeal to the park and also provide some benefits, such as shade and wildlife habitat. Snohomish PUD offered to replace the trees with 88 new trees for the park. Dedicated areas for new planting are:

- 44 trees on the 276th Street NW frontage,
- 28 trees in the parking area swales, and
- 16 trees in other areas of the park identified by the City.

Each of these areas has specific goals for what the trees will achieve. The areas also have physical limitations to successful tree establishment and growth, such as soil condition. Trees selected for this project will need to meet the goals and environmental conditions of each target area.

Goals and Limitations

The five target areas are grouped into zones shown on the attached Tree Planting Site Plan. They match the areas Snohomish PUD offered to plant new trees. The number of trees proposed for planting in each area may differ slightly due to spatial constraints for the anticipated size of the trees when they reach maturity.



Zone 1

The section consists of the frontage on 276th Street NW west of the parking area entrance (Photo 1). This is where the poplars are growing and will be removed. The area is approximately 12 feet wide between the street and parking area. Trees here will provide a visual break between the street and the park. Attractive trees with flowers or fall leaf color are desired. Overhead powerlines will need clearance from the tops of the trees. These trees should reach a maximum of 35 feet tall at maturity or respond well to maintenance pruning. The soils are relatively poorly draining. Trees will be in a row of a single species at evenly spaced planting intervals of approximately 25 feet.

Zone 2

This section continues along 276th Street NW on the east side of the parking area entrance. It is approximately 450 feet long and 12 feet wide. The goals and limitations for growing trees are the same as Zone 1. A different tree species planted in this zone will add complexity, diversity, and interest to the line of trees.

Zone 3

The parking area at the north end of the park has four swales running between parking spaces. The swales function primarily as drainage for stormwater runoff. Turf is currently growing in each swale, which are about 8 feet wide and 110 to 150 feet long. Trees growing in the swales will shade parked vehicles and add variation in color and form to the flat landscape. A row of trees could also be planted at the eastern edge of the parking area for additional shade. Soil in the swales will be saturated during winter (Photo 2) and trees planted here will need to tolerate wet soils. Species with brittle wood that could result in large branches failing over parked vehicles should be avoided. Planting different tree species in groups with uneven spacing along the swales will add to the visual interest of the area.

Zone 4

A concrete footpath connecting the parking area to the ball fields currently has several small flowering plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) trees growing on either side (Photo 3). There is more space to grow larger trees along the path. Their canopy would form an arch over the path and offer shade and a welcoming

entry to the ball fields in spring and summer. The soils are poorly draining. Large trees of the same species on either side of the walkway would be appropriate for this zone.

Zone 5

Visitors to the park have commented about the strong prevailing winds from the south. This area south of the ball fields and north of the school is open (Photo 4) and could be suitable for a wind break running east to west. There is abundant space to grow a row of larger trees next to a row of smaller trees. A combination of tree heights will be more effective for slowing or diverting strong winds.

Tree Species Selection

Numerous options are available for tree species to plant in the region. Suggested species for Heritage Park are mostly non-native trees that may be better suited to the built environment or offer other advantages. A list of suggested species and their attributes for each zone are listed in the attached Tree Planting Table.

HERITAGE PARK Stanwood, Washington



TREE PLANTING TABLE

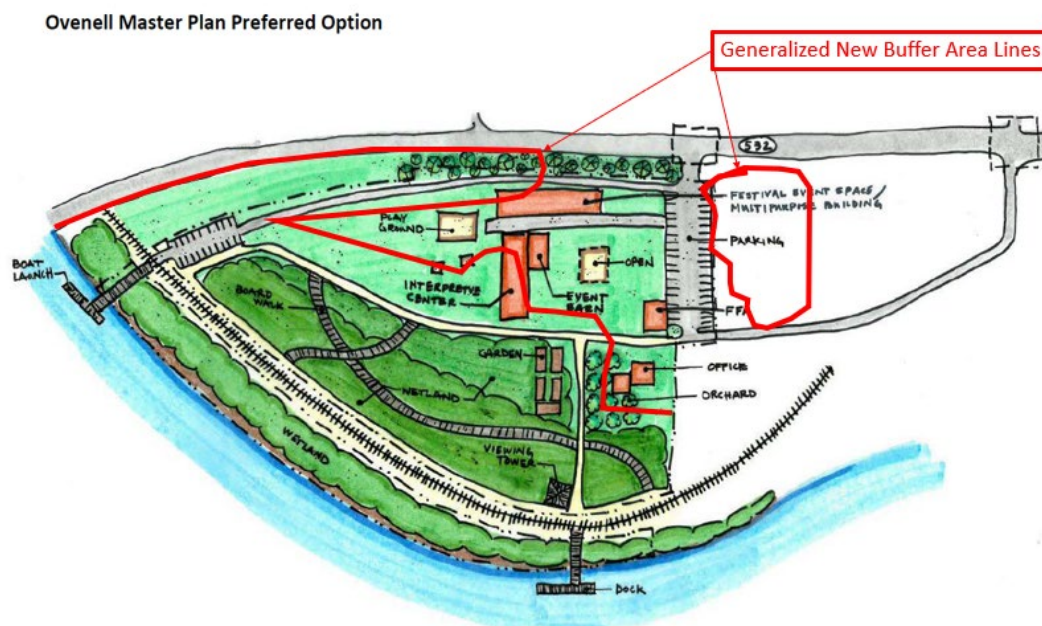
Prepared for City of Stanwood

Prepared by M. Becker and J. Barborinas

March 24, 2022

Zone	Function	Tree Species	Botanical Name	Height	Spread	Features	Quantity	Spacing
1	Park Boundary	Golden Raindrops Flowering crabapple	<i>Malus transitoria</i> 'Schmidtcutleaf'	25	25	Fall Foliage	22	25
2	Park Boundary	Persian Spire Parrotia	<i>Parrotia persica</i> 'JL Columnar'	25	15	Fall Foliage	22	30
3	Parking Swales	Lindsey's Skyward Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> 'Lindsey's Skyward'	20	8	Fall Foliage	6	12
		Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	60	60	Shade, Wildlife	5	25
		Tupelo Tower Sourgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> 'Tupelo Tower'	60	25	Fall Foliage, Wildlife	7	20
		Katsura tree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	50	40	Foliage, Shade	7	20
4	Ball Field Walk	Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> 'Espresso-JFS' or 'TrueNorth'	70	45	Flowers, Shade	9	30
5	Wind Break	Exclamation London Plane	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> 'Exclamation'	60	45	Bark, Shade	3	50
		Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	60	60	Shade, Wildlife	4	50
		True North Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> 'TrueNorth'	60	45	Flowers, Shade	3	50

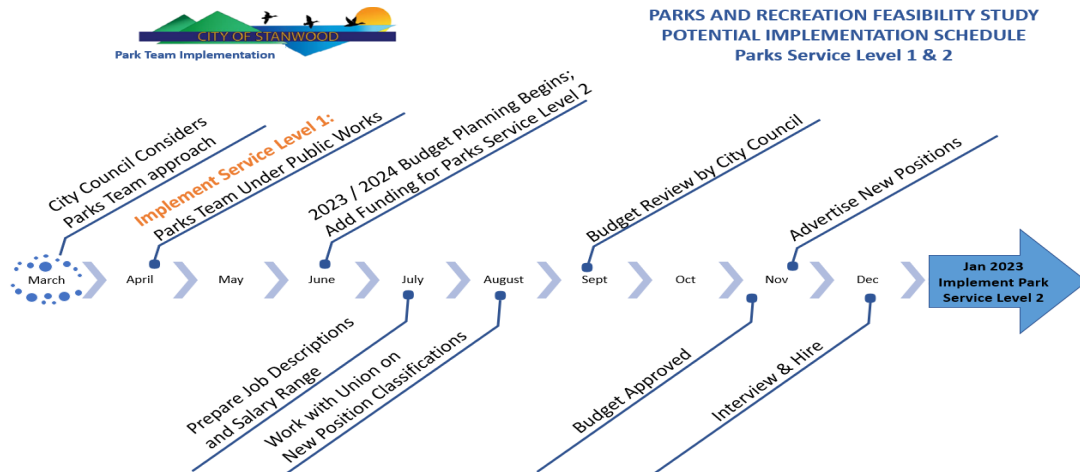
Item 5 - Ovenell Park – Critical Areas Review Findings



Item 6 - Parks and Recreation Feasibility Study Implementation Update

Service Level 1: Parks Team

Move the current half time Senior Planner to Public Works for better communication with the Parks Team. A Parks email and phone number will be set up creating a direct link between the public and parks. This is the first step in creating a parks division within Public Works.





Urban Forestry Services

BARTLETT CONSULTING

Divisions of The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company

Tree Planting Plan

Title: Heritage Park PUD Tree Replacement

Prepared for: City of Stanwood
Attn: Carly Ruacho
Community Development Department
10220 270th Street NW
Stanwood, WA 98292

Project site: 276th Street NW
Stanwood, WA 98292

Prepared by: Urban Forestry Services | Bartlett Consulting
Miles Becker, Consultant
ISA Certified Arborist® #PN-7808A
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

Prepared by: Jim Barborinas, Senior Consultant

Date: March 24, 2022

Contents:

- Summary**
- Introduction**
- Goals and Limitations**
- Observations**
- Tree Planting Selection**
- Planting and Establishment**
- Attachments:**
 - Tree Planting Site Plan*
 - Tree Planting Table*
 - Tree Planting Detail*

Summary

Eighty-eight (88) new trees will be planted at Heritage Park to replace trees removed for a new power transmission line. The planting areas include frontage along 276th Street NW, the parking area, a connecting walkway through the center of the park, and an open area at the south end of the park. The 10 species of trees are a range of sizes and forms that will provide shade, visual screening, bird and pollinator habitat, and a wind break. The trees are expected to increase the appeal of the park and its enjoyment by visitors.

Introduction

A row of Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra*) on the northern edge of Heritage Park in Stanwood, Washington is planned for removal by Snohomish PUD for clearance of a new power transmission line. The poplar trees bring aesthetic appeal to the park and also provide some benefits, such as shade and wildlife habitat. Snohomish PUD offered to replace the trees with 88 new trees for the park. Dedicated areas for new planting are:

- 44 trees on the 276th Street NW frontage,
- 28 trees in the parking area swales, and
- 16 trees in other areas of the park identified by the City.

Each of these areas has specific goals for what the trees will achieve. The areas also have physical limitations to successful tree establishment and growth, such as soil condition. Trees selected for this project will need to meet the goals and environmental conditions of each target area.

Carly Ruacho, Senior Planner for City of Stanwood, contacted our office in February 2022 to request assistance with a tree planting plan. We met on-site February 24, 2022 to discuss the project goals and tree planting opportunities. The purpose of this report is to identify suitable tree species to plant and provide recommendations for installation and successful establishment.

Goals and Limitations

The five target areas are grouped into zones shown on the attached *Tree Planting Site Plan*. They match the areas Snohomish PUD offered to plant new trees. The number of trees proposed for planting in each area may differ slightly due to spatial constraints for the anticipated size of the trees when they reach maturity.

Photo 1. The row of Lombardy poplar will be removed and replaced with a row of attractive trees with shorter height potential. The view is looking east.



Zone 1

The section consists of the frontage on 276th Street NW west of the parking area entrance (Photo 1). This is where the poplars are growing and will be removed. The area is approximately 12 feet wide between the street and parking area. Trees here will provide a visual break between the street and the park. Attractive trees with flowers or fall leaf color are desired. Overhead powerlines will need clearance from the tops of the trees. These trees should reach a maximum of 35 feet tall at maturity or respond well to maintenance pruning. The soils are relatively poorly draining. Trees will be in a row of a single species at evenly spaced planting intervals of approximately 25 feet.

Zone 2

This section continues along 276th Street NW on the east side of the parking area entrance. It is approximately 450 feet long and 12 feet wide. The goals and limitations for growing trees are the same as Zone 1. A different tree species planted in this zone will add complexity, diversity, and interest to the line of trees.

Zone 3

The parking area at the north end of the park has four swales running between parking spaces. The swales function primarily as drainage for stormwater runoff. Turf is currently growing in each swale, which are about 8 feet wide and 110 to 150 feet long. Trees growing in the swales will shade parked vehicles and add variation in color and form to the flat landscape. A row of trees could also be planted at the eastern edge of the parking area for additional shade. Soil in the swales will be saturated during winter (Photo 2) and trees planted here will need to tolerate wet soils. Species with brittle wood that could result in large branches failing over parked vehicles should be avoided. Planting different tree species in groups with uneven spacing along the swales will add to the visual interest of the area.

Zone 4

A concrete footpath connecting the parking area to the ball fields currently has several small flowering plum (*Prunus cerasifera*) trees growing on either side (Photo 3). There is more space to grow larger trees along the path. Their canopy

Photo 2. A swale in the parking area that has standing water in winter. The narrow planting strips will need to have the trees planted on one side to allow drainage in the center. The view is looking north.



would form an arch over the path and offer shade and a welcoming entry to the ball fields in spring and summer. The soils are poorly draining. Large trees of the same species on either side of the walkway would be appropriate for this zone.

Photo 3. The pathway from the parking area to the ball fields has space for a row of large trees on either side. The view is looking south.



Zone 5

Visitors to the park have commented about the strong prevailing winds from the south. This area south of the ball fields and north of the school is open (Photo 4) and could be suitable for a wind break running east to west. There is abundant space to grow a row of larger trees next to

Photo 4. The open area south of the ball fields receives high winds. There is space for larger trees to form an attractive wind break. The view is looking east.



a row of smaller trees. A combination of tree heights will be more effective for slowing or diverting strong winds.

Tree Species Selection

Numerous options are available for tree species to plant in the region. Suggested species for Heritage Park are mostly non-native trees that may be better suited to the built environment or offer other advantages. A list of suggested species and their attributes for each zone are listed in the attached *Tree Planting Table*.

Planting and Establishment

Site Preparation

The high water table and saturated soil conditions are going to be the greatest challenges to growing trees at Heritage Park. Prolonged wet soil conditions are harmful to root health and promote the potential for disease and rot. To improve conditions for tree root development:

- Plant the trees slightly above the existing grade for positive drainage away from the base of the trunks and root flare. This is especially true for the crab apple trees recommended for planting in Zone 1.
- Trees planted in the parking area swales should be on the side of the swale to avoid root submersion in water moving through the low point.
- Manage summer irrigation to allow the upper foot or more of soil to become dry between applications. This is very important for soil management. The resulting shrink and swell cycle will naturally maintain soil structure and aeration, and root growth will penetrate deeper into the soil profile. Soil that is kept constantly moist all year will lose valuable pore/air space; root growth will be shallow and weaker, and disease fungi will thrive. Temporary wilt of some shrubs will be less harmful to overall plant and soil health than over-irrigation.
- Use a coarse textured mulch such as composted arborist wood chips or a medium mulch. This type of mulch will help retain soil moisture (so less frequent irrigation is needed). This type of mulch will help retain good soil structure as it slowly decomposes and releases organic matter. Bark and fine textured mulch do not provide this same level of benefit. Mulch will not be suitable for the parking area swales due to the potential for clogging the drainage system.
- Any other measures that can be taken to improve drainage will lessen the potential for root rot.

Planting

New trees can be planted into the existing soil. These recommendations are intended for use with nursery trees in grow bags. Implementing the following planting details is advised to achieve optimal results:

- Follow the planting specifications shown in the attached *Tree Planting Detail*.

- Loosen the soil adjacent to the hole dug for the root ball to a minimum depth of 24-inches.
- Remove the grow bag or burlap covering the root ball and loosen the soil at the edge of the root ball. Prune any circling or girdling roots back to the first curve so that all roots are aligned radially outward like spokes on a wheel.
- Plant directly into existing soil. Do not mix in any compost.
- After planting, top dress with 2-inches of compost to cover the disturbed soil and the outer half of the root ball.
- Check to make sure the entirety of the root ball is thoroughly moistened after planting.
- For trees less than 5 feet from asphalt or hardscapes, such as the trees planted in parking swales in Zone 3, install a root barrier at the edge of the planting strip. Root barriers discourage young roots from entering directly under the asphalt and causing uplift as they grow in diameter. Root barriers can be a thin sheet of impermeable material, either plastic or metal sheeting. The top edge of the barrier should be an inch or two below grade and at least 18 inches deep.

Establishment

Watering and Pruning are the two primary tree care needs in the first two years after planting. The amount of water needed depends partly on soil condition, temperatures, and precipitation. As stated in the Site Preparations section above, the trees should be irrigated to ensure that the entire root ball is saturated, yet has time to completely dry out between successive watering. General watering recommendations are to:

- Water thoroughly at planting, twice per week for the first month, and then one time per week for the rest of the dry season. Water a minimum of once a month during the second summer, typically from May through September.
- Plant between October and February when trees are dormant and temperatures are lower.

The branching structure on young trees typically needs to be managed for strong unions and a desirable form at maturity. Pruning correctly lightly early on can save work and avoid wounding the tree in the future. Pruning best management practices and guidelines are beyond the scope of this planting plan. No pruning should be necessary at the time of planting. Corrective pruning and training should start the first year after planting and be repeated every three years until the major scaffolding branches are established.



MAP SYMBOL KEY:

 PLANTING ZONE

 NEW TREE PLANTING

Base Image Source: Google Earth 8/15/2020

HERITAGE PARK
Stanwood, Washington



Urban Forestry Services
BARTLETT CONSULTING
Divisions of The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company

TREE PLANTING TABLE

Prepared for City of Stanwood

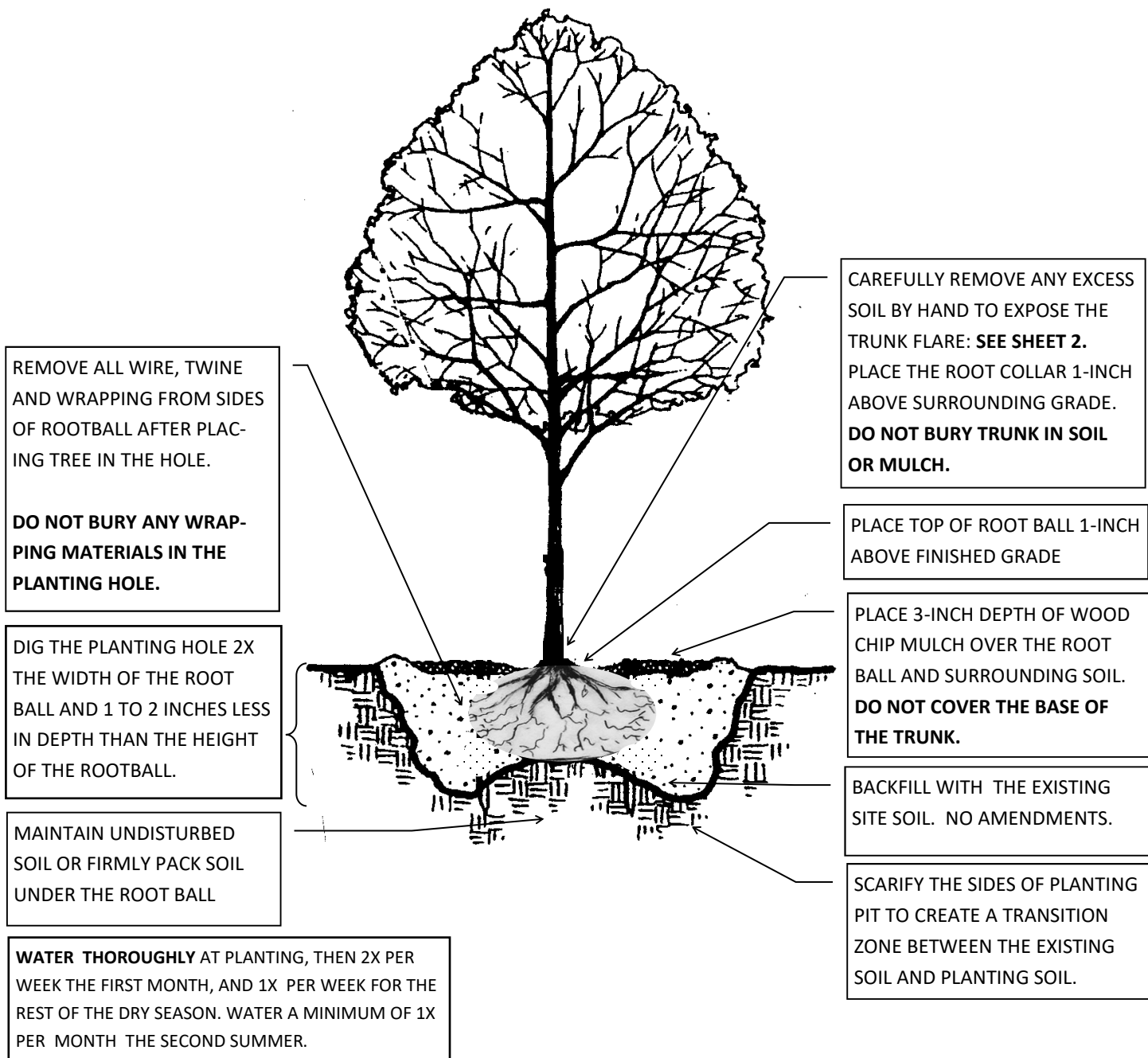
Prepared by M.Becker and J. Barborinas

March 24, 2022

Zone	Function	Tree Species	Botanical Name	Height	Spread	Features	Quantity	Spacing
1	Park Boundary	Golden Raindrops Flowering crabapple	<i>Malus transitoria</i> 'Schmidtcutleaf'	25	25	Fall Foliage	22	25
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3	Parking Swales	Lindsey's Skyward Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> 'Lindsey's Skyward'	20	8	Fall Foliage	6	12
		Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	60	60	Shade, Wildlife	5	25
		Tupelo Tower Sourgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> 'Tupelo Tower'	60	25	Fall Foliage, Wildlife	7	20
		Katsura tree	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	50	40	Foliage, Shade	7	20
4	Ball Field Walk	Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> 'Espresso-JFS' or 'TrueNorth'	70	45	Flowers, Shade	9	30
5	Wind Break	Exclamation London Plane	<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> 'Exclamation'	60	45	Bark, Shade	3	50
		Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	60	60	Shade, Wildlife	4	50
		True North Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> 'TrueNorth'	60	45	Flowers, Shade	3	50

TREE PLANTING DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE



Urban Forestry Services

BARTLETT CONSULTING

Divisions of The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company

15119 McLean Road
Mount Vernon, WA. 98273

Office: 360-399-1377

Fax: 360-428-1822

www.urbanforestryservices.com

SHEET TITLE:

TREE PLANTING DETAIL

DATE: **AUGUST 2021**

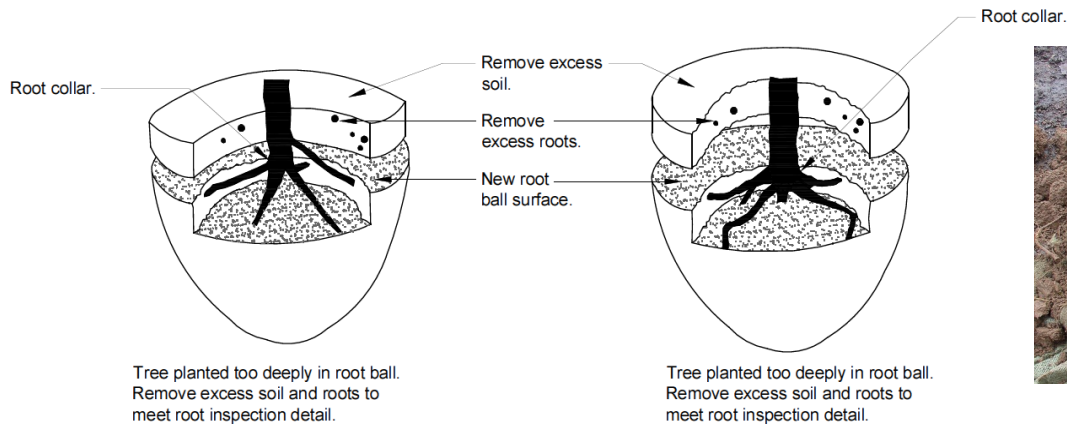
PREPARED BY: **CHRISTINA PFEIFFER**

SHEET #: **1 OF 2**

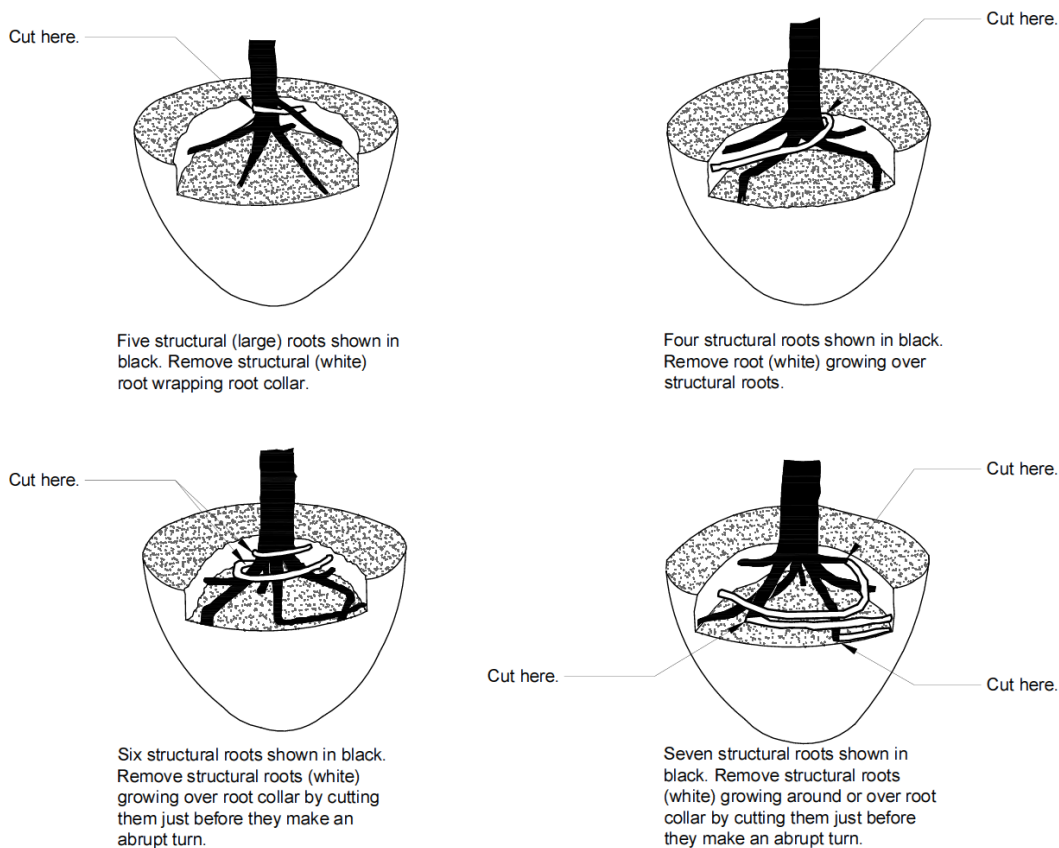
BALLED & BURLAP ROOTBALL PREPARATION DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE

1. Remove any excess soil and roots laying over the root collar:



2. Remove any circling or defective roots:



Urban Forestry Services

BARTLETT CONSULTING

Divisions of The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company

15119 McLean Road
Mount Vernon, WA. 98273

Office: 360-399-1377

Fax: 360-428-1822

www.urbanforestryervices.com

SHEET TITLE:

TREE PLANTING DETAIL: B&B ROOT BALL PREPARATION

DATE: **AUGUST 2021**

PREPARED BY: **CHRISTINA PFEIFFER**

ROOT BALL DIAGRAMS BY: The Urban Tree Foundation.

SHEET #: **2 OF 2**



To: Ms. Patricia Love, City of Stanwood

From: William Kidder, Project Biologist III
Chris Soncarty, Managing Senior

Date: March 16, 2022

Re: Proposed Ovenell Park Site Critical Areas Study 2022 Update

Enclosure: Figure 1. Proposed Ovenell Park Wetlands

This memorandum documents our current assessment of observed critical areas present on the proposed Ovenell Park site in the City of Stanwood, WA. Confluence biologists visited the site on March 2, 2022 to perform a critical areas investigation of the site. Confluence determined wetlands in accordance with the methods and parameters defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Wetland Delineation Manual (Corps 1987) and the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region Regional Supplement (Corps 2010).

Confluence confirmed the results of the prior Critical Areas Study Ovenell Site dated July 26, 2016, prepared by Confluence for the City of Stanwood. Site conditions west and south of the drainage ditch bisecting the center of the property from approximately east to northwest continue to be dominated by wetlands on both sides of the railroad tracks. These areas are listed as Wetland A and Wetland B in the 2016 Report and in the attached Figure 1.

It should be noted that the east half of Wetland A, between the railroad tracks and the drainage ditch is a wetland mosaic, with small pockets of upland hummocks interspersed within the wetland. While these upland hummocks may provide some feasible options that could be incorporated to provide park amenities by the landscape architect during project design development, delineating these upland hummocks within the wetlands may also prove challenging. Close coordination between the landscape architect and the wetland delineator is highly recommended if incorporating upland hummocks into a project design is of interest. Wetland A and to a lesser extent Wetland B have restoration or enhancement potential to offset direct wetland impacts that may result elsewhere on the Ovenell site.

The east-west drainage ditch through the center of the property and the ditch along the State Route 532 Stillaguamish River bridge approach fill prism remain present on-site and drain to the previously documented tide gate at the northwest corner of the property.

Confluence identified two additional small wetlands on the Ovenell site mapped as upland in 2016. These wetlands are identified as Wetland C and Wetland D on Figure 1. Both wetlands are Category IV palustrine emergent wetlands situated in very shallow depressions amongst the original structures and driveways that contained standing water during the 2022 wetland investigation. Wetland C is an approximately 2,500 square feet immediate west of the remaining dairy barn with pooling water that cannot infiltrate through the dense clay loam soils and does not drain across the adjacent higher elevation concrete surfaces. Wetland D is approximately 11,000 square feet with surface saturation over dense clay loam soils located at the northeast corner of the Ovenell site, adjacent to the self-storage facility. Site conditions during the 2016 wetland delineation were dry. The delineators in 2016 were relying on hydrology indicators in lieu of the direct observation of wetland hydrology during the growing season. In April 2016, there were nine days of rain (five days of precipitation prior to the delineation on April 21), compared to a monthly average of 12 days of rain in April. In 2022, the two days in March prior to the delineation were raining and the last three days of February saw significant rainfall. During the 2022 wetland delineation, the Ovenell site had sufficient hydrology present throughout the study area to directly observe the depth and extent of surface water, soil saturation, and the shallow groundwater table to better identify and define the extent of wetland hydrology.

Minor adjustments to the Wetland A and Wetland B buffer widths are proposed by the 2022 wetland investigation. Wetlands A and B are located within the 200-foot shoreline jurisdiction and receive their buffers in accordance with the City's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) wetland buffer dimensions. The Wetland A buffer would decrease from 50 feet to 40 feet in accordance with the current SMP. Based on Confluence's interpretation of the current SMP wetland buffer table, the (category II estuarine wetland) Wetland B buffer would decrease from 135 feet to 110 feet based on a calculated moderate habitat score.

The City updated their fish and wildlife habitat conservation area (FWHCA) code since the 2016 investigation. Stream buffer dimensions appear to have changed. Ditches A and B were defined as Type 2 waters and received 150-foot buffers in the 2016 Report. During the 2022 investigation, the waters met the Type F or Type 3 water. Based on Confluence's interpretation of the current FWHCA code, the ditches receive a 100-foot stream buffer.

Site development in and around wetlands, surface waters, and regulatory buffers must typically follow the mitigation hierarchy of avoidance and minimization of impacts as priorities. Unavoidable impacts to wetlands will require permitting at the federal, state, and local levels and will trigger compensatory mitigation for lost wetland area and functions. Wetland A and to a lesser extent Wetland B contain degraded wetland habitat conditions. Both wetlands could provide restoration or enhancement potential to offset any direct wetland impacts that may

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result from development of the proposed Ovenell Park. If the City chose to maximize the Ovenell site use north of the driveway by filling Wetland C and/or Wetland D, there is a surplus of habitat enhancement potential in Wetland A and to a lesser extent Wetland B on the Ovenell site.

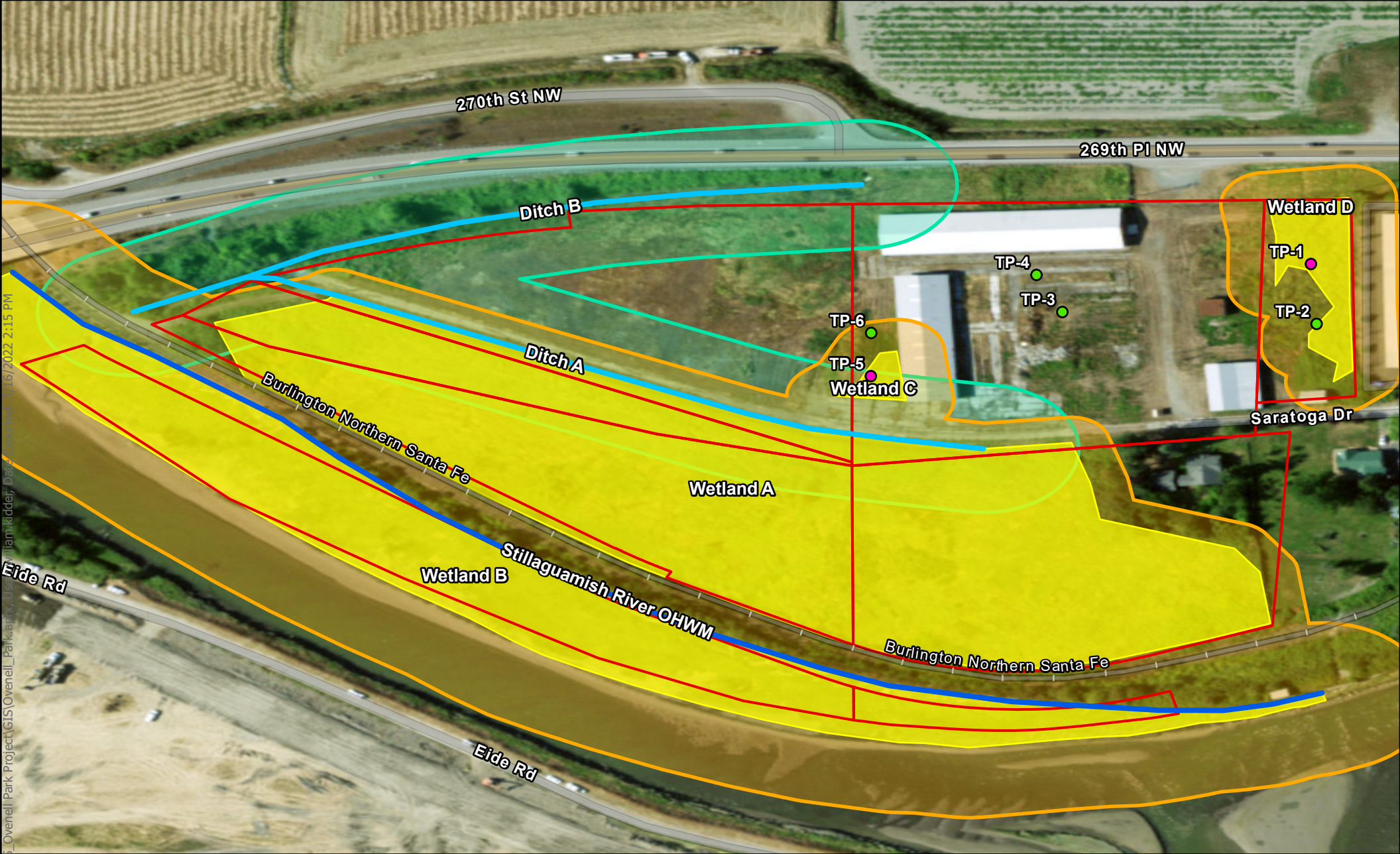


Figure 1. Proposed Ovenell Park Wetlands



- Ovenell Parcels
- Wetlands
- Wetland Buffers

- Sample Plots
- Upland
 - Wetland

- Water Type
- Type S
 - Type F

- Ditch Buffers



0 100 200
Feet