



# University Park and Sinton Pond Open Space Management Plans

*Community Workshop  
December 8, 2015*

# Opening and Project Background

- Introductions – City staff and consulting team
- Background – Why are these plans needed?



# Opening and Project Background

## Definitions

- Master Plan vs. Management Plan
- TOPS Ordinance/restrictions
- Conservation easement/restrictions



# Opening and Project Background

## Project Givens

- City is responsible for management; all elements of the plans must conform with rules and regulations
- Subject to requirements of TOPS Ordinance
- Respect terms of existing easements and conservation easement
- Implementation will occur as funding allows
- Public encouraged to develop the plans; all voices are equal
- Recommended plans require Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approval

*See handout for specific language*

# Opening and Project Background

## Public Involvement Process Steps

November 4, 2105

Step #1: Identify issues: learn about existing conditions on the properties and identify Task Force issues and concerns



December 8, 2015

Step #2: Refine issues: discuss and evaluate possible management approaches

**We are here**



January 2016

Step #3: Draft Management Plans available for review

# Community Workshop

## Tonight's Agenda

1. Opening and background
2. What we've learned so far
3. Preliminary management strategies
4. Questions and feedback to strategies
5. Wrap-up/Next Steps



# Community Workshop

## Meeting Ground Rules

- ✓ Say what you think
- ✓ Make sure that everyone has an equal chance to voice his or her perspective
- ✓ Listen carefully and with respect to the opinions and beliefs of others
- ✓ Please hold questions until the end of the presentation

# Community Workshop

## What we've learned *so far*

*Based on:*

- Interviews with stakeholders
- On-site technical analysis of existing conditions
- Task Force review of and additions to the preliminary issues list

# University Park Open Space Management Plan



# Community Workshop

## What we've learned *so far*

Management issue categories:

- ✓ Vegetation
- ✓ Wildlife
- ✓ Visitor Use



# Preliminary Management Recommendations

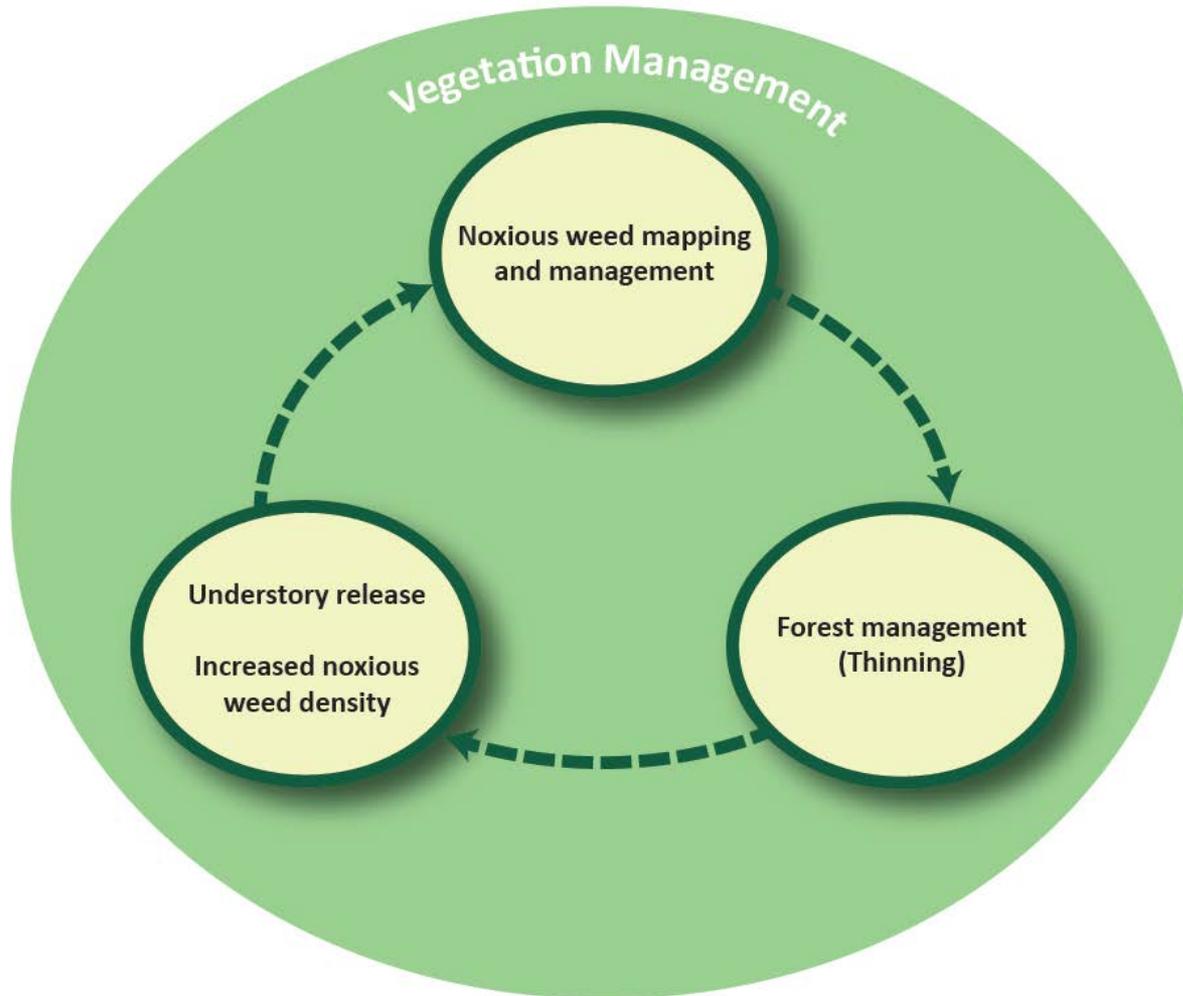
## Natural Resources - Vegetation

### Noxious Weed Management

- Complete annual inventory and mapping
- Complete a noxious weed management plan
- Conduct immediate removal of Russian olive
- Focus immediate weed management on disturbance vectors
  - Trail, trailhead, and roads
  - Integrate practices to minimize new infestations
- Integrate management practices with other site activities
  - Trail maintenance
  - Forest health management

# Preliminary Management Recommendations

## Natural Resources - Vegetation

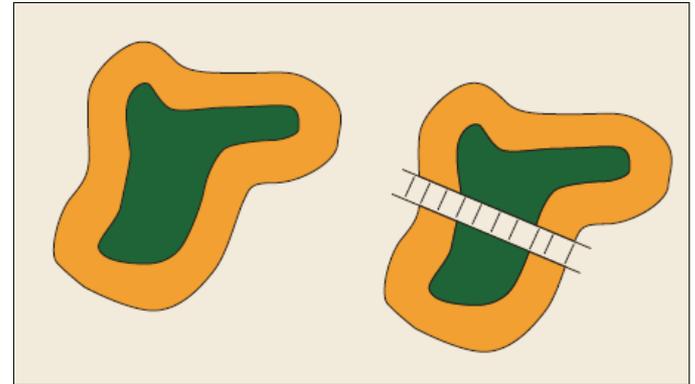


# Preliminary Management Recommendations

## Natural Resources - Wildlife

### Wildlife Habitat Protection

- Avoid disturbance/tree removal during songbird breeding season
- Affirm and enforce existing off-leash dog regulations
- Close and manage social trails to reduce habitat fragmentation



*Habitat fragmentation example*



# Preliminary Management Recommendations

## Visitor Use - Trails

### Trail Maintenance and Management

- Implement ongoing trail maintenance efforts throughout the property
- Focus on erosion and hazard areas, braided trails, and developing social trails
- Reroute system trails to eliminate unsustainable alignments
- Close unsustainable and redundant trails
  - Prior to closures, evaluate social, system and reroute options to determine the sustainable alignment
  - Install fencing to enforce closures until vegetation re-establishes



# Preliminary Management Recommendations

## Visitor Use - Trails

### Complete Comprehensive Master Plan

- Trail realignments and closures
- Possible new trails
- Trailheads and neighborhood connections
- Trail standards
- Wayfinding signage
- Annual work plan for implementation

Focus near-term efforts in specific locations



# Group Response to the Strategies

1. Do you have questions about any of the preliminary strategies?
2. Is anything missing that you think is important to include?
3. Do you have any comments about any of the strategies?

# Sinton Pond Open Space Management Plan



# Community Workshop

## What we've learned *so far*

Management issue categories:

- ✓ Vegetation
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# Preliminary Management Recommendations

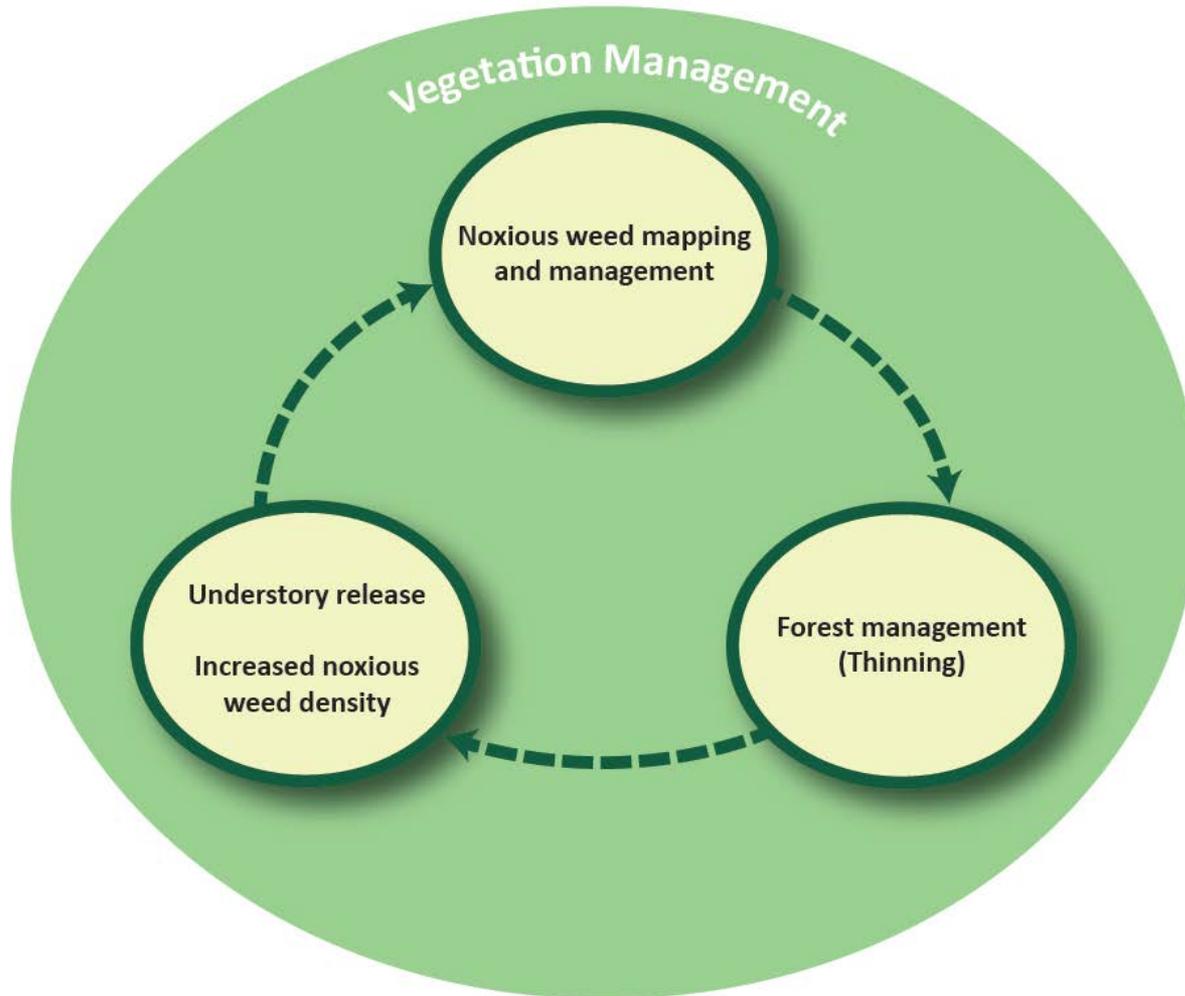
## Natural Resources - Vegetation

### Noxious Weed Management

- Complete annual inventory and mapping
- Complete a noxious weed management plan
- Conduct immediate removal of all Russian olive
- Continue removal of Siberian elm – treat sprouting elm
- Consider refining Siberian elm removal operations:
  - Use large-diameter material to facilitate any recommended trail closures
  - Dispose of slash off site when practicable
  - Ensure chipped materials are well dispersed
- Integrate management practices with other site activities
  - Trail maintenance
  - Forest health management

# Preliminary Management Recommendations

## Natural Resources - Vegetation



# Preliminary Management Recommendations

## Natural Resources - Wildlife

### Wildlife Habitat Protection

- Avoid disturbance/tree removal during songbird breeding season



# Preliminary Management Recommendations

## Visitor Use - Trails

### Open Space Access

- Designate safe and suitable access points
- Repair eroded street to trail junctions along Sinton Road
- Pursue parking agreement with office building across Sinton Road
- Provide crosswalk from parking to trail connection



# Preliminary Management Recommendations

## Visitor Use - Trails

### Experience

- Identify areas warranting design attention and maintenance
- Reroute system trails
  - Eliminate unsustainable alignments
  - Avoid steep, highly eroded banks



# Group Response to the Strategies

1. Do you have questions about any of the preliminary strategies?
2. Is anything missing that you think is important to include?
3. Do you have any comments about any of the strategies?

# Next Steps

- Please fill out your individual response form
- Look for results from tonight's meeting on the City website
- Please be sure to sign in tonight for email updates about review of the Draft Plans

*Thank you for your participation!*

