



Public Meeting #2 / Meeting Notes

Ted Olson Nature Preserve Master Plan

The meeting was 7 to 9 PM 10 December 2009 at the Activity Center at Camp Yeomalt.

Attendees - **Public** - Roger Allen, Ed Berschinski, Scott Cameron, John Fossett, Harry Gibbons, Maribeth Gibbons, Katy Krokower, Karen Salsbury, Kirk Robinson (District Commissioner)

BIMPRD – Arlan Elms, Perry Barrett, Dan Hamlin, Kent Scott, Stan Rullman (Consultant)

Discussion of Meeting #1 Notes –

In addition to the published notes the following comments were considered to be important and should be added to the summary of meeting #1 notes –

- Bikes and horse use of the park and new trails should be limited
- The Preserve should remain passive (use of the amphitheater should be managed not to conflict)
- A trail connection to Kallgren is fundamental to the plan

Other discussion about the Meeting #1 Notes –

- There was a preference for no picnic areas at the Preserve
- There 'are' or 'were' four benches in the amphitheater. Is Wilkes using these? (Parks has contacted both Wilkes and the Wilkes PTO with yet no response). The benches should be replaced for informal use.
- Agreed and restated preference for new trails to match the 'windy and circuitous' character of the existing trail.
- Restated that Preserve is a 'wildlife corridor' and improvements should enhance habitat and species success.

Discussion of Meeting #2 Materials

- **Flora / Fauna Report –**
 - Site has important habitat and is generally well covered with mature native vegetation.
 - Site offers important recreational activities – a key issue with use is off leash dogs that impact native fauna and dog feces should be removed from the site.
 - Non- native should be removed and the areas revegetated with natives.
 - Other considerations – domestic cats also pose a threat to native fauna, trails should avoid surface hydrology and salmonberry / alder thickets, trails should optimally create a 200' forest buffer to optimize habitat, nest boxes and other opportunities to enhance wildlife should be considered.
 - Optimal time to build the Kallgren trail to minimize nesting 1 April through 30 May

- **Site plan** – identified completed wetland delineation on the original 10 acre parcel. It was noted that there was less wetland area than anticipated. This will be an important consideration for the trail alignment from Kallgren
- **Site Vegetation** – Noted areas to be revegetated – to advance plant succession in declining alder woods to the SE and provide additional screen for adjacent neighbors. Identified areas of non native plants – additional areas were noted and discussion of need for work parties to continue non native removal and restoration native plants. Noted that only a few significant trees have been identified and future work will identify them before additional improvements are made.
- **Proposed Improvements** –
 - North v South Kallgren trail options – group preferred north option.
 - Amphitheater – group preferred the trail alignment be revised to 'bypass' amphitheater, as possible, and the steep trail that now exists. General consensus the amphitheater benches be restored. Perhaps this can be another Eagle Scout project.
 - Loop Trail – There was active discussion about expanding the trail. The vast majority of participants preferred the loop trail be expanded. Concerns acknowledged by all were – privacy of adjacent properties and the challenge of decommissioning the existing trail.
 - Other Trail Improvements – group acceptance to eliminate trail to residence in the NW and agreement that trails off Madison on the north and south improve safety and use of the park.
 - Other Improvements – acceptance that there would be park signs on Madison, Winthers, and Kallgren, there would be a small kiosk (bulletin board) at the parking area along with a dog station, and participants would like to see interpretive signs akin to what once existed at the Preserve.

Next Steps -

- **Draft Master Plan** – Document tentatively to be presented to the Board 28 January and first be posted on the website with email notice before the meeting.
- **Park Steward** – The District is still soliciting for a Steward to work with Parks to assist with ongoing weed / restoration projects as provide notice of activities and needs at the Preserve.
- **Kallgren Trail** – A draft alignment has been flagged by Parks and reviewed by BILT in the end of December 2009.

Questions / comments contact Kent Scott kent@biparks.org 842.9099



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