



# NATURAL RESOURCES BOND PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET: Hyland Forest Park Restoration & Trail Realignment

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**Project Time Period:** October 2009 – November 2015  
**Project Manager:** John Gaddis  
**Today's Date:** 3/25/10

## OVERVIEW

Hyland Forest is a 30-acre natural area park located east of Murray Boulevard and north of Sexton Mountain Road. The park is an undeveloped forest predominantly characterized by a mature Douglas-fir canopy, with an area of wetland and a small pond in the northeast corner. Hyland Forest Park is riddled with invasive vegetation, which will be removed and replanted with natives as needed. There are many soft surface trails meandering throughout the park, with formal access at 10 locations. Some of these trails are considered excessive and in the interest of improved habitat quality, are slated for removal (see map attached). Amenities currently in the park consist of garbage cans and dog bag dispensers at the entrances, however a kiosk will soon be installed along the southern side of the park. Approximately two acres of natural area in the southeastern corner of the park is also slated to become a nature play area, where patrons are encouraged to explore nature off-trail.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### *History*

The park has been the site of many volunteer projects, focused on invasive plant removal, native planting, trail maintenance and split rail fence installation. The result has been a significant reduction in non-native plant cover and an increase in the extent and diversity of native vegetation.

Hyland Forest Park is riddled with non-native vegetation, including Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), vinca (*Vinca spp.*), cultivated cherry (*Prunus avium*), Robert geranium (*Geranium robertianum*), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), English and Portuguese laurel (*Prunus lusitanica* or *Prunus laurocerasus*) and non-native clematis (*Clematis vitalba*). Despite the prominence of invasive plants, the park has good cover of native trees, shrubs and herbs. The small pond provides very little wildlife habitat, since it has practically no vegetated buffer and is encircled by trails. Laminated root rot infects many of the Douglas-fir trees in Hyland Forest, which has exacerbated blow-down during windstorm events. There are a few species of concern throughout the park, including Pacific madrone and false lily-of-the-valley in the larger of the two evergreen forested habitats and Oregon white oak and common camas in the palustrine forested habitat.

Many people use the extensive trail system in Hyland Forest for passive recreation, primarily walking and jogging. Older children and teens often ride bikes in the park, and have occasionally constructed dirt ramps and pits for bike jumps. Although this practice is discouraged, it is a recurring problem due to the lack of skate and bike parks in this area of the Park District. Off leash dogs and yard debris dumping by neighbors are also ongoing issues at the park.

Approximately two acres of the southeast corner of the park will be designated as an off-trail Nature Play Area, which will provide unstructured play areas for children. In these areas, children will be allowed to go off trail to explore and recreate in nature. This does not change our approach to restoration; however demand trails will not be decommissioned in this area.

All trails in Hyland Forest Park are currently undeveloped soft surface trails, appropriate to a natural area. There are just over two miles of trails that wind throughout the park, some of which run parallel to or within 150 feet of other trails. Removal of approximately 2,800 linear feet of path with subsequent restoration of those areas would create larger blocks of viable habitat while allowing patrons access to all of the habitats within the park (see attached map). This course of action would also support NRMP Management Goals 3.2 and 3.5<sup>1</sup>, as well as Trails Master Plan Goal 7<sup>2</sup>, which are listed below.<sup>1</sup>

Restoration efforts in Hyland Forest Park will include removal of invasive plant cover, particularly Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, periwinkle, traveler's joy, cultivated cherry, English holly, laurel species, nipplewort and herb Robert. Native plants will be installed where necessary. In addition, native trees and shrubs will be used to vegetate the south side of the pond, creating a dense buffer. Native tree species resistant to laminated root rot will be chosen when re-vegetating this park.

Specified trails will be decommissioned through the establishment of a duff layer, overstory trees and an understory shrub layer. In order to ensure the establishment of vegetation in these areas, temporary (barrier fencing and small woody debris) and permanent (large and woody debris) barriers will be placed throughout and, more specifically, to block the mouth of these trails. Remaining trails will be upgraded to improve drainage and reduce trip hazards.

A portion of the southeastern corner of the park will be designated as a nature play area. Signs will be posted to inform patrons of this area's designation as a nature play area. Visible markers consisting of 2.5-foot 4x4 posts, which will be placed every 15 feet along the perimeter, will distinguish the boundaries of this area. Two basic signs will be incorporated into the nature play facility, including a regulatory sign that emphasizes the rules of the area and an interpretive sign that informs patrons about the area and encourages specific activities. Standard posted park rules will apply to free play areas. Additional rules that are not allowed in other areas of the park, but will be encouraged in Nature Play Areas include off-trail play activities such as building forts, climbing trees and digging in soil. Certain activities that will remain prohibited include paintball guns, destruction of vegetation, and excavation of soil deeper than 18 inches.

#### *Stakeholder Issues*

User Conflicts	Dogs off-leash, BMX bikers.
Regulatory Agencies	None.
Easements	City of Beaverton

### **OBJECTIVES (INDICATORS OF PROJECT SUCCESS)**

- A maximum of 10% cover by targeted invasive species throughout restoration sites.
- Complete closure of decommissioned trails, allowing native plants to become established throughout these areas.
- Public support of this project throughout the public meeting process.
- Completion of this project within projected staff time and budget.

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<sup>1</sup> Natural Resources Management Plan

Goal 3.2: Plan for, provide and manage appropriate access to natural resource areas while protecting natural resources.

Goal 3.5: Minimize adverse impacts to the resources and be compatible with the level of appropriate use.

<sup>2</sup> Trails Master Plan

Goal 7: Provide trail access to and preserve view corridors and viewsheds at vantage points. Preserve sensitive natural areas by designing, planning and constructing trails so that the natural area can be experienced without impacting or degrading the environment.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Start Date	End Date
Planning	October 2009	April 2011
Construction	NA	NA
Site Prep	May 2011	December 2013
Planting	January 2013	February 2013
Maintenance/Monitoring	February 2013	December 2015

## BUDGET

<b>Total Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$67,000</b>
Contractors	\$40,920
Materials	\$18,035
Contingency (15%)	\$10,050
Total	\$69,005