

Hyland Forest Park Public Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 13, 2010, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

22 Patrons in attendance

Patron Comments – Verbal

- Will nature play area be supervised?
- Is there a focused access point for the park (bike rack, signage, etc)?
- Interest in enhancement of the pond
 - Debris/excess branches should be cleaned out.
 - More aesthetically pleasing
- Add interpretive sign/education programs to park
 - Plant labels
- Suggestions to keep SW trail open
 - Feeling that closing trails will impact users/create more user conflicts
 - Preference for gravel over chips
 - Suggestion to remove fabric from trails because creates a trip hazard
 - Eliminate dead-end trails
- How will construction be done?
 - Keep park open/do work during ‘business’ hours for the majority of time.
- Non-native cherry – Can we remove in phases?
- Add benches or logs to sit on along trails
- Preference for keeping multiple entrances
 - Disperses impact of parking on the neighbors.
- People would like more detailed information with greater notice in future.
- Is the nature play area a good use of space?
 - More details on this are desired.
 - Will THPRD be able to maintain this area as well?

Patron Comments – Written on Comment Cards

- Excellent facilitation by both presenters. Terrible meeting space (noisy fridges). Thank you!
- Improving drainage near pond removes water that creates unique habitat. The current elevation of the two large diameter PVC pipes under the trail drains too much water too fast. To create a better habitat, plant more proper plants in the pond. Create a swamp, not a pond.
- The worst problem in the park is the increase during good weather of dogs off leash. I’ve been threatened by dogs off leash, jumped on and exchanged angry words with dog owners that don’t believe leashing their dog applies to them.

Patron Comments – Referencing Areas on Map

1. Keep open!
2. Best trilliums, magical sunlight
3. Ok to remove dead-end spur
4. A few log benches in central area for classes, small amphitheater

5. 'Bouncing log' – a large fallen tree to walk on and bounce on.
6. Creepy area – found stuff left in a 'hide out'
7. Very pretty trail, please keep
8. No Way! This is a great trail

Patron Comments – Phoned in

- Need places to sit down in park. Either benches or logs along trail for this use.

Patron Comments – Emailed

- I enjoyed the meeting tonight, and we look forward to improvements in the park. I prefer the nature of the park, rather than more trails, and the pond to be as nature would want it. I think you all do good work and seem to carefully consider what is best for the natural aspect. There aren't many of those places left within city boundaries.

I forgot to mention something that might help with history of the park, or maybe it won't or maybe you already know about it. A few months ago we went to an event at the Beaverton City Library that I think was done by the Visioning Committee. They had two huge aerial photos of Beaverton, one fairly current and one long before this neighborhood was built. The area of our house barely made it on the map and looked like a former blueberry farm. Our house is farther south than the park so the park area should be on there. I didn't know if that would help to see if there used to be a creek, cherry farm, anything else. Just a thought....

I also had wanted to ask you if you knew anything about the Meadow Waye Park and the changes to be made there. We were just curious as to what type of play structure will be put in there.

- I am a resident of the Hyland Hills neighborhood. As a resident of 20 years and a frequent visitor of the Tualatin Hills parks, I would like to state that I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN HYLAND FOREST PARK. I do not know what the plans are for a "Nature Play Area", but the thought of development of structures in one of my most cherished of parks sickens me. THE WHOLE FOREST IS THE "NATURE PLAY AREA", THERE IS NO NEED FOR STRUCTURES IN THE PARK! BOND MONEY WOULD BE BETTER SPENT OBTAINING MORE FORESTED PARK LAND LIKE THAT LAND CALLED THE "NIKE WOODS" ON THE CORNER OF MURRAY AND JENKINS. THAT LAND NEEDS TO BE PRESERVED AND FORESTED PARKS NEED TO STAY FORESTS! You can expect to hear my comments at the meeting on the 13th of May. Please send me more information of this "nature play area" plan. Thank You.

- Thank you for your response. I am glad to hear that there will be no structures built within the park. The forest parks are a great place to find sanctuary and solitude within the city and I was concerned about that sanctuary being threatened and unsightly structures. The forest parks are a great place for kids to play and learn and I can give the Hyland Forest Park much credit for my passion for the outdoors and my knowledge of plants and birds of this bio-region because I grew up playing in the Hyland Forest. I cherish the forest parks of my neighborhood and I would love to see more forested parks in this city.

- Thanks for the update on the plans for the park.

Here is what I remember from the meeting. I was there until about 7:30 pm. The proposed changes to Hyland Forest Park that I remember being discussed included removing invasive plant species, planting native species, cutting down fir trees that are a safety hazard, reclaiming trails to forest habitat, closing some trail entrances, maintaining trails and marking about 1.5 acres as a play area for off-trail use. Over time, the pond will fill in and not be dredged.

No development, playground or structures are proposed for the park. Signage might be added along the trails and to mark the nature play area. Trail maintenance might include using gravel instead of bark chips.

Unique birds in the park include Pileated Woodpecker and owls. The pond has Red Legged Frogs.

Regarding comments about the closure of trails, by making the main trails wider there is no need for the side trails. Currently the main trail is not wide enough in some places for two people to pass comfortably.

Anything I can do to help/volunteer, please let me know.

- Poison oak is growing just off the main trail, within 3 feet of a trail going to a gate on the south side of the park. The trail leads to a metal gate from the neighbor's house in the cul-de-sac on Chevy Place.