

Hyland Forest Park Revised Plan Comments

Patron Comments – Phoned in

- Suggests that we do not remove the trail that runs along the south side of the pond because this is where patrons gain access to the pond and the closure will be hard to maintain/unsuccessful. Agrees that this is a balance of user issues with habitat needs and that access to the pond should still be allowed.
- Happy to hear about the pending trail improvements and agrees that mulching the trails is not a part of the solution.
- Agrees that a maintenance period of 2 – 3 years is needed for restoration of the natural areas to be effective.
- Amused by the neighbor's reactions to removing the non-native cherry trees, as they are invasive and a problem at the park.
- Would like to see the bike jumps removed and these areas maintained to prevent further jumps from being built.
- Excited to see how the nature play area is used and what type/level of maintenance the area will need as it progresses.

Patron Comments – Emailed

• I was one of the attendees at the Elsie Stuhr public meeting. Thank you for following up and mailing the copy of the Hyland Forest Park Plan. I appreciate that you took the feedback from the public meeting and decided to reinstate several of the very important high traffic main trails. I am now very happy with your choices for trail closures. Thank you!

I would like to emphasize one more point that was made during the public meeting. Since the vast majority of us use the park primarily for walking and running, the number one improvement desired by us is the **weatherization of the trails** so they can be used year-around. I've lived adjacent to the park for 24 years and use it twice a day for walks. Because of the volunteer efforts, the trails are much less muddy now than they were years ago. But, there are still a dozen or so small areas that become unavoidable mud-pits when we've had a lot of rain. Because of the recent May rains, they are very easy to identify right now. If you would like, I can help you pin point them on the map.

I also have a question. The plan mentions a kiosk. Where exactly do you plan to put it? At one of the Sexton Mountain Drive entrances? Which one?

Personally, I would prioritize the park improvements this way:

1. Weatherization of the trails
2. Remove non-native species
3. Close dead-end trails
4. Improve wetlands and pond habitat
5. Nature Play Area experiment

Thanks again for listening, Melissa. In summary, it should be mostly about weatherizing/improving the trails and removing the non-native species. Please make them the highest priority.

- Hello, I am interesting in volunteering for the work to improve the trails in Hyland Forest Park. How soon will the work begin? I live nearby and haven't been using the trails because they are in such bad shape (muddy). I am hoping that the work on the main trails will begin soon. Also, I'm wondering if there will be any enforcement of the leash law. More and more people are allowing their dogs to be off leash (including those people who cannot control their dogs). This is becoming a serious issue which greatly diminishes the pleasure of walking through the park with my dog (who is on leash).

- These are comments on the proposed changes for Highland Forest Park.

Thank you for the public meeting 5/13/10, for the mailing with the revised map, and for extending the deadline for comments.

I was the one at the meeting lobbying to keep more trails open in the southwest part of the park, in the best trillium area. I was happy to see some of my suggestions were included in the revised map.

I would have liked to see us keep a loop around the pond, but I appreciate your explanation about the frogs needing to migrate.

My main remaining concerns are about the need to have native vegetation. I'm wondering where the rules came from, and if there is any way to make exceptions in the following cases:

Poison oak: I don't think that we should keep this just because it is native. It's a hazard to people trying to enjoy the park, and especially to volunteer work parties trying to remove blackberries and ivy. It is not valuable for wildlife habitat.

Cherry trees: I think we should keep these, even though they aren't native. They are beautiful, they aren't invasive, and they do provide housing and food for wildlife. If you insist on removing them, I hope that you will replace them with native dogwoods, which are also beautiful. There would still be the problem that it would take a long time for the replacement trees to grow.

Thanks again for taking the time to get public input, and for keeping us informed.

- I have walked through the forest for many years and enjoyed it. I am glad if some improvements will be made.

The most important thing by far is to improve the trails so that they aren't a muddy mess much of the time. Proper design and surfacing should make a great difference.

Closing some trails, particularly dead end ones, is OK. However it is a minor point. If the major trails are improved they will get almost all of the use. I use the short exit trail in the middle of the east side. Since it is so short and near the edge of the park, I don't think there is any habitat issue. That trail is in a handy place and I hope it can remain. Second most important is getting rid of the invasive plants. Himalayan blackberries and ivy are the worst and are in almost every area of the park.

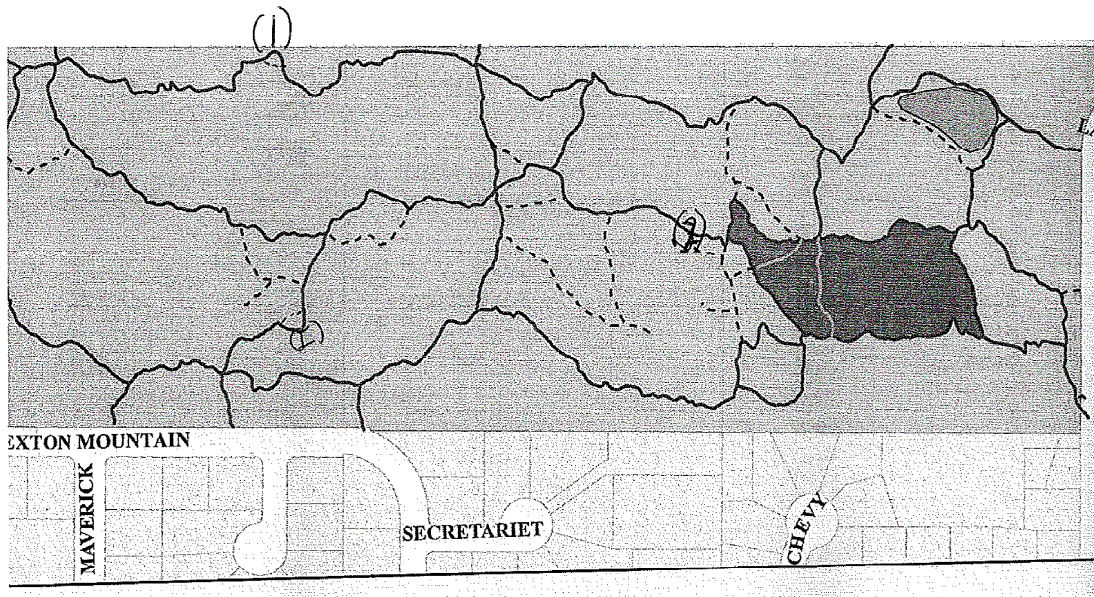
I wish the pond could be cleaned out enough that it would remain as a pond. Debris is often thrown into the pond. I know that filling in is a natural process too, but there is real value in having it remain a small pond. My son enjoyed playing there when he was little thirty years ago. It is one of the most attractive areas of the park. Doing just enough to keep the pond active seems like a good idea to me.

I think the Nature Play area is an interesting idea. However if very many children use that area, it won't seem like nature very long. Plants will get trampled and limbs moved

about (what else can they build forts of). That will compact the soil and affect the plants. I am eager to see improvements made. I hope much can be done this year because the park really needs it.

- I think folks visit that park from further away than 1/4 mile. I would suggest future notices go out to homes within at least a mile radius if not more. It is a neighborhood treasure that many folks visit from around the area.

Patron Comments – Mailed in



My Feedback on updated plans for Hyland Forest Park.

I agree with your plans for closing all trails you have marked on updated April map.

Two trail corners marked (1) on enclosed map copy are always muddy during wet times but that could be easily corrected by moving the trail as marked.

I would like to see a bench placed by the pond outlet so that people could rest and enjoy looking at the water.

In years past we tried planting on the S. side of the pond but it is just hard clay and everything died. I think if new plantings are done they would need to be placed in good soil and watered during the dry seasons.

You have chosen a good area for the Nature Play Area.

Water drains from the south across the trail at (2). I have ditched the area in past years but the ditches keep filling with mud. Will you look into a solution.

I previously faxed you a map showing areas of the trail that constantly turn muddy. Please look at that map and correct the trail in those places.

The ditches beside the trails and drainage pipes crossing the trails need maintaining and the plants along the trails need to be cut back at least several times during the year.