



Public Meeting Notes

Project: Hideaway Park Natural Area Restoration
Location: Garden Home Recreation Center
Date and Time: Wednesday, May 16th 2012, 6:30-8:00 PM
Staff Present: Kyle Spinks, Park Ranger
John Gaddis, Natural Resources and Trails Specialist

Introduction

Approximately ten neighbors and interested park patrons attended this public meeting for the Hideaway Park Natural Area Restoration. John Gaddis opened the meeting and gave a brief overview of the area around Hideaway Park, including the new THPRD property acquisition (now referred to as the Hideaway Park Addition), and Kyle Spinks followed with a discussion of the restoration plan. Points were made that the project will only focus on the natural area restoration, and concerns about the trail, parking lot, and playground are all open for discussion but are outside the scope of this particular project.

Existing Conditions

John Gaddis gave a breakdown of existing conditions of Hideaway Park and the Hideaway Park Addition. Hideaway Park consists of natural and developed areas. The developed areas consist of a parking lot, playground, mowed field and paved trail connecting the parking lot to two neighborhood trailheads. The natural area contains Woods Creek and an associated forested buffer. The forested buffer consists of some native trees and shrubs, but also contains a significant coverage of non-native blackberry and reed canarygrass. Hideaway Park Addition is completely a natural area, with Woods Creek flowing through the middle and a mature Douglas-fir upland. Both the creek buffer and the upland are contain significant amounts of non-native English ivy, blackberry and reed canarygrass.

Plan Overview

Kyle Spinks gave a brief overview of the proposed restoration plans for Hideaway Park and the Hideaway Park Addition.

○ **Hideaway Park**

Hideaway Park restoration will be broken up into two zones, the creek corridor proper and the mowed field.

Creek corridor proper

- Initial blackberry and reed canarygrass control.
- Planting with native trees and shrubs.
- Ongoing blackberry and reed canarygrass management to assist in the establishment of the native trees and shrubs.
- No large wood placement, no earthmoving, no grading.

Mowed field

- Initial chemical control of existing turf grasses.
- Planting with native shrubs and wetland grasses
- Ongoing management of turf grasses to assist in the establishment of the native shrubs and wetland grasses
- A portion of the mowed field closest to the playground will not be restored and will continue to be maintained as a mowed field.

○ **Hideaway Park Addition**

Hideaway Park Addition will also consist of two restoration zones, the creek corridor proper and the upland area.

Creek corridor proper

- Initial reed canarygrass control.
- Planting with native trees and shrubs. Focus will be on creating “islands” of native trees and shrubs in the reed canarygrass monoculture that overtime will shade out the untreated reed canarygrass.
- Ongoing reed canarygrass management to assist in the establishment of the native trees and shrubs.
- No large wood placement, no earthmoving, no grading.

Upland

- Initial blackberry and English ivy control.
- Planting with native trees and shrubs.
- Ongoing blackberry and English ivy management to assist in the establishment of the native trees and shrubs.
- Hideaway Park Addition also contains a Washington County road right-of-way and THPRD is working on acquiring the property through a property vacation. If and when this vacation occurs, the additional property will also be considered for restoration.

General Comments

- Will this project increase mosquitos?
 - Without a grading component it is unlikely to increase standing water onsite initially, but over time as the mowed turf returns to functioning less like a ball field and more like a wetland, there is the potential for an increase in mosquitos.
- Will this change the access to the manholes?
 - The City of Beaverton has an easement over park property to access and maintain their stormwater facilities and this will continue on both Hideaway Park and the Hideaway Park Addition.
- Will the trees in the Hideaway Park Addition remain?
 - Yes
- How will contractors access Hideaway Park the Hideaway Park Addition?
 - Access will be through the Washington County right-of-way at the end of SW 66th.
- What does mechanical removal mean?
 - All work will be done with hand held tools. Neither Hideaway Park nor the Hideaway Park Addition will need vehicle access.
- What are the chances of a trail in the Hideaway Park Addition in the future?
 - There are no plans for a trail in the Hideaway Park Addition at this time, and while we can not rule out a trail in the future, I would say that it is not likely.
- The trail in Hideaway Park is very wet. What can be done?
 - Several pipes have been placed under the trail and they have helped during normal flows. There have been discussions of an elevated boardwalk to allow for a dry trail during all but the highest flows, but there have been no formal plans or budget allocations.

Written Comments

No written comments were submitted.