



NATURAL RESOURCES BOND PROJECT PLAN: Hideaway Addition Natural Area Restoration

Project Time Period: April 2012-December 2016
Project Manager: Kyle Spinks
Today's Date: 04/11/2012

OVERVIEW

The Hideaway Addition was acquired by THPRD in April 2012. This site includes the 2.2-acre Elston Property, as well as approximately 0.5 acres of right-of-way vacated by Washington County. The Hideaway Addition connects to Hideaway Park. Access through Hideaway Park is undeveloped along Woods Creek and is very difficult. Street access is available from the south via SW 66th Ave. The site is dominated by Woods Creek riparian corridor and floodplain, with islands of upland vegetation on the north and south boarder. Despite large areas of non-native vegetation, the site has a healthy upland canopy of conifers, a well-defined stream channel stabilized with some large wood, and a number of standing dead cedar snags. To improve habitat diversity and improve water quality, non-native plants will be removed and replaced with native plants over an area of approximately 2.7 acres.

PARK DESCRIPTION

Woods Creek is considered by THPRD staff and to be a high-function creek because it has a wide floodplain area where the creek channel can meander, accessing the floodplain which provides both habitat value and flood control benefits. Unlike many other urban creeks, there is a wide buffer of mostly native vegetation and few intrusions into the habitat area by human structures. THPRD manages 1,400 feet of Woods Creek (6.55 acres) and, if adjacent neighborhood association property is included, the segment is 1,800 feet (an additional 4.68 acres). This provides valuable, unfragmented habitat for wildlife.

Historic hydrology was most likely dictated by beavers, which kept the floodplain inundated behind a series of beaver dams. Vegetation would have been a palustrine shrubland, dominated by shrubs and willows adapted to growing in a wet environment. As the area was developed, beavers were removed and ponding along Woods Creek was reduced. The stream corridor became well drained and could support a more upland mix of conifers, dominated by western red cedar. In the mid-2000s, beaver repopulated the site and their ponding activity made the site too wet to support the cedars, killing many trees in the floodplain. There are currently no signs of beaver activity.

The floodplain areas of the site are dominated by a monoculture of non-native reed canarygrass. The grasses provide virtually no food and limited shelter for wildlife. Native trees and shrubs are scattered in the floodplain, while the upland habitat has healthy canopies of Douglas-fir and western red cedar. These upland areas are heavily infested with non-native plants such as Himalayan blackberry and English ivy.

While many neighboring homes face the site, there is currently limited public access via the Washington County road easement. Due to the size and condition of the property, habitat restoration is a worthwhile goal regardless of access.

RESTORATION PLAN

The Hideaway Addition has been broken up into three areas for restoration. (See attached map.)

Because of the proximity of all areas to streams, open water, or other riparian habitat, great care should be taken to avoid overspray, spills, or wind drift when applying herbicides. When herbicides are used, they shall be

appropriate and legal for wetland areas and used with the correct surfactants, equipment, and notification procedures.

Restoration Zone – 1 (EF1): EF1 consists of approximately 0.52 acres of Evergreen Forest (EF1). The site is infested with blackberries and ivy. Blackberries should be cut approximately 12 inches above the ground, left to resprout, and treated with herbicide in early fall. Ivy should be cut from all trees and ground ivy treated with herbicide.

Blackberries and ivy in EF1 are adjacent to residential properties. This area is significantly drier than the area around it, so the plant list below consists of mostly upland plants. After the blackberries are cleared, the soil and water conditions should be assessed to ensure proper plant selection. Plantings should be installed approximately 4 feet on center.

Stakeholder Issues

Neighbors	Currently, the site has public access via the Washington County Road Easement. With the potential of the easement transfer to THPRD, there would now be public access to a park. The current plan is for the site to be managed as a natural area and THPRD has no plans for any development on the site.
User Conflicts	None.
Regulatory Agencies	CWS & Washington County.
Easements	A sanitary sewer line crosses the site from east to west and intersects another line that runs along the right of way along the western edge of the property.

OBJECTIVES (INDICATORS OF PROJECT SUCCESS)

- A maximum of 50% cover by reed canarygrass after 5 years of management.
- A maximum of 10% cover by other targeted non-native species throughout upland restoration sites.
- Minimum of 2,722 native trees and shrubs per acre.
- Public support of this project throughout the public meeting process.
- Completion of this project within projected staff time and budget.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Start Date	End Date
Planning	April 2012	May 2012
Site Prep	June 2012	December 2012
Planting	January 2013	February 2013
Maintenance/Monitoring	March 2013	December 2016

BUDGET

Contractors	12,137
Materials	13,890
Permits	0
Contingency (15%)	3,904
	\$29,391

