



NATURAL RESOURCES BOND PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET: Hideaway Park Natural Area Restoration

Project Time Period: Winter 2011 – Fall 2016
Project Manager: Kyle Spinks
Date Plan Written: 1/9/2012

OVERVIEW

Hideaway Park is a 3.58-acre park located in the southeastern corner of the park district. Approximately 60% of the park is natural area, comprised of mostly wetland forest and a small wetland meadow through which approximately 1000 feet of Woods Creek flows westward; the remainder is seasonally inundated, mowed turf and a small play structure. A paved path starts at the west end of the park and connects to neighborhoods on the northern and southern park boundaries. Despite much of the site being turfed or dominated by invasive grasses, the seasonal inundation of the turf indicates that the historic hydrology of the site is still intact and it can be restored to a wetland habitat. To improve habitat diversity, promote native fauna, and improve water quality, invasive plants will be removed and replaced with native plants over an area of approximately 1.65 acres. In coordination with THPRD's Maintenance Department, restoration efforts have begun with the removal of an old asphalt basketball pad.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

History

Previous restoration efforts have included ivy removal, blackberry removal, garlic mustard pulling projects, and a small amount of native plant installation (mostly willow and red-osier dogwood stakes). The park district has coordinated with Clean Water Services on the garlic mustard and lesser celandine treatments, and has supplemented that work with periodic herbicide applications by staff.

Neighbors have been involved in the restoration efforts in the past, though this involvement has dropped off in recent years. The road access at the western end of the park was reconfigured as part of the SW Oleson Road widening project by Washington County Land Use and Transportation, and maintenance of the drainage and vegetation adjacent to Oleson Road is expected to continue for several years by that agency.

Project Concerns and Strategy

Most of the natural areas of the park have a canopy of mostly red alder, with an understory of few shrubs that is dominated by reed canarygrass. Other invasive plants include bittersweet nightshade, creeping buttercup, English ivy and Himalayan blackberry, which are scattered in patches throughout the natural areas. The restoration work in this habitat will include some herbicide application to kill some of the invasives, followed by installation of approximately 7200 native herb, shrub, and tree plantings (including supplemental plantings, if necessary). Long-term goals include increased diversity of both tree and shrub layers in order to provide both improved habitat for native wildlife and competition against reed canarygrass.

Stakeholder Issues

Neighbors	Neighbor involvement in volunteer projects has dropped off considerably in recent years, but many are regular visitors to the park, especially to walk their dogs. Parking and environmental conditions preclude use as an official dog park.
User Conflicts	Decreased turfed area may be met with some resistance by local dog walkers. Off-leash dogs have been a regular occurrence and may continue to be an issue once the restoration zones have decreased the turfed areas of the park.
Regulatory Agencies	None.

Easements

Several sanitary sewer lines cross through the park.

OBJECTIVES (INDICATORS OF PROJECT SUCCESS)

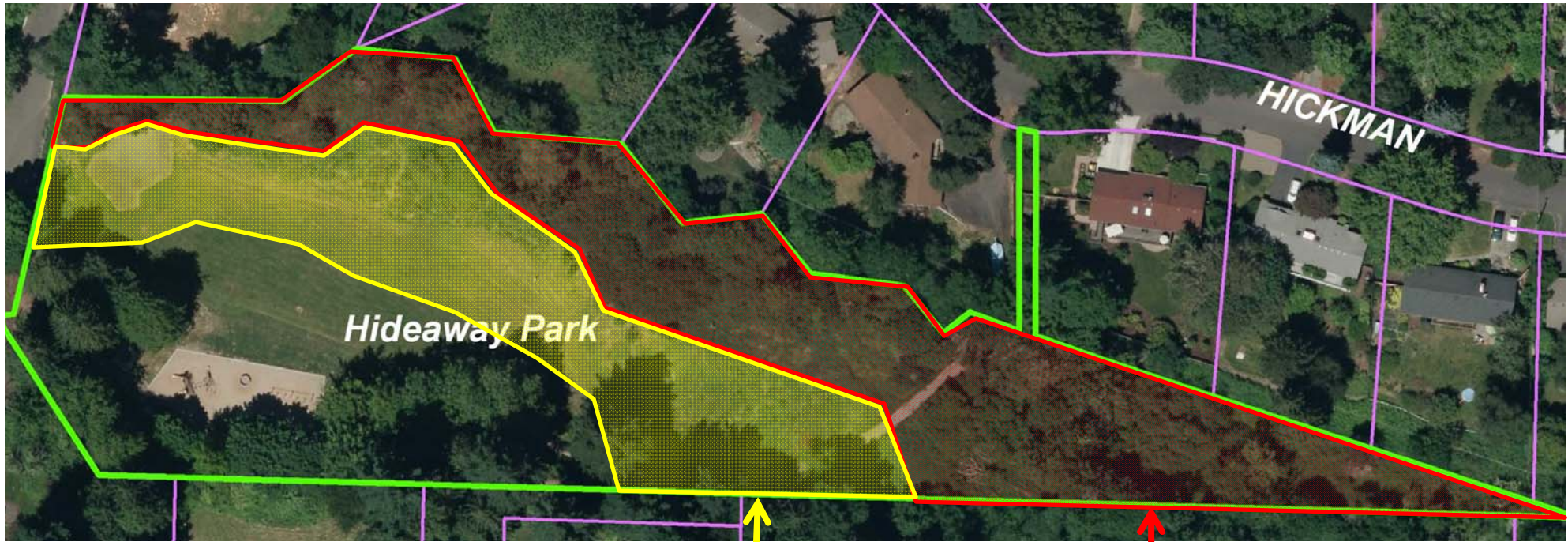
- A maximum of 10% cover by targeted non-native species.
- Minimum of 2,722 native trees and shrubs per acre.
- Public support of this project through the public meeting process.
- Completion of this project within the projected staff time and budget.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Start Date	End Date
Planning	Winter 2011	Spring 2012
Construction		
Site Prep	Spring 2012	Winter 2012
Planting	January 2013	March 2013
Maintenance/Monitoring	September 2013	September 2016

BUDGET

	\$
Contractors	8,739
Materials	6,989
Permits	0
Contingency (15%)	2,358
Total	\$18,078



Restoration Zone 1
Wetland Meadow

Restoration Zone 2
Wetland Forest

Hideaway Park Bond Restoration Zones

