



NATURAL RESOURCES BOND PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET: **Commonwealth Lake**

Project Time Period: Nov 2009 – Sept 2015
Project Manager: Julie Reilly
Today's Date: 2/24/2010

OVERVIEW

Commonwealth Lake Park (20.84 acres) is located in the Cedar Hills neighborhood in the northeast quadrant of the park district. The shallow 6-acre lake is encircled by a paved 0.8-mile trail. Patches of trees and shrubs at property corners and along the north side of the lake and stream are infested with Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and other weeds. This is an extremely popular lake for many recreational activities including fishing. Fishermen's access to the lakeshore has damaged vegetation and increased lakeshore erosion. Efforts to improve the quality of the vegetation in certain areas will include removal of invasive species and native plant installation. No planting is intended that will further obscure neighbor views of the lake without buy-in from the majority of neighbors. A separate ADA project, which is described in another document, is focused on realigning a section of trail on the north side of the lake.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

History

One area of path along the north side of the lake was fenced off in 2007 because the trail was so deeply undermined that it could fall into the lake at any time. Rerouting this portion of the trail away from the lake will allow more stable access for patrons, meet sustainability goals, and make a long-term improvement to the pathway by avoiding the inundation present in the current location.

The lake is stocked with rainbow trout three times each year in the spring, and the concentration of fishing activity at this relatively small urban site heavily impacts the lake. User conflicts with fishing includes cutting of trees and shrubs for pole supports, fishing supplies and other garbage left along the shoreline, trampling of vegetation, and parking issues. Some neighbors have requested that fish stocking and the yearly angling event (sponsored by ODFW) be discontinued for these reasons. A public meeting separate from the restoration project will be held to discuss these issues. Some restoration work from 2003 to 2006 by school groups and other volunteers was started, but is in need of a more comprehensive effort to be successful.

Project Concerns and Strategy

Bond restoration activities will include the removal of Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, teasel and tansy, and other select non-native vegetation. Replanting will be focused on areas currently considered to be habitat features: north shore of the lake, vegetation surrounding the small pond and spring, south shore of North Johnson Creek, and the southeast corner of the park.

To ensure proper establishment of native plantings, access to restoration areas will be limited to staff, contractors, and volunteers. In order to help the public understand the project goals, an education and outreach program will inform neighbors about the lakeshore erosion problem and the benefits that trees and shrubs along the bank could impart to the lake. To allow plants to become established and to minimize trampling, permanent split rail fence will be installed around the spring pond in the NE corner of the park. Temporary fencing will be installed in select locations, especially along the north shore of the lake.

Stakeholder Issues

Neighbors	Neighbors wish to have completely clear views of the lake from their homes.
User Conflicts	Fishing is impacting the lakeshore vegetation, especially along the north bank. Fishermen expect to be able to go wherever necessary to obtain the best casting spots.
Regulatory Agencies	Clean Water Services.
Easements	Clean Water Services sanitary sewer lines and storm water lines.

OBJECTIVES (INDICATORS OF PROJECT SUCCESS)

- Installation of listed native plant species, and at least 75% survival two years after planting.
- A maximum of 15% cover by targeted invasive species at the end of three years throughout the restoration areas.
- Restoration of old pathway after trail rerouting.
- 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	November 2009	June 2010
Construction	N/A	
Site Prep	July 2010	October 2011
Planting	January 2012	March 2012
Maintenance/Monitoring	April 2012	September 2015

BUDGET

Total Approved Budget	\$40,000
Contractors	\$11,809.00
Materials	\$9,325.00
Trail Decommission	\$3,000.00
Permits	\$400.00
Contingency (15%)	\$6,000.00
Total	\$30,534.00