



Natural Resources Department  
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## Public Meeting Notes

**Project:** Chantal Village/Whispering Woods Restoration & Soft-surface Trail  
**Location:** Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center, Robin's Nest  
**Date & Time:** May 11, 2010 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

**Staff present:** Bruce Barbarasch, Supt. of Natural Resources & Trails Management  
Julie Reilly, Natural Resources Specialist  
Mike Janin, Supt. of Security Operations  
James Weed, Park Patrol

### Introduction:

Bruce Barbarasch thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He presented general information on the bond measure that is funding this project and other projects throughout the park district. Bruce introduced the topic of preservation of natural areas for water quality, wildlife habitat, and benefits to neighbors and other park patrons. He also described the assessment methods used to quantify and qualify natural area amenities before planning restoration projects, and the approval process that a restoration plan goes through before being presented to the public. Bruce set guidelines for the meeting, and then introduced Julie Reilly, Project Manager.

### General Information:

Julie discussed a quick history of the two park sites, and heard comments from the public regarding the development on Kalyca Way and prior condition of that area before development. Whispering Woods was acquired in 1977, with construction of the path and bridges in 1986. Chantal Village was acquired in 1993. Julie described the vegetation and habitats in the parks as related to the project map, also addressing what areas of the parks will be included in the restoration. All of Whispering Woods, which is mostly upland forest, will undergo vegetation restoration, including non-native plant removal and replanting with native trees and shrubs. A small area of dirt trail will be widened to 3 ft to connect to the trail in Chantal Village. For Chantal Village, which is entirely wetland habitats, only the area in hatch marks on the map will undergo vegetation restoration, which again will include non-native plant removal and replanting with native trees and shrubs. The loop trail to be completed and expanded is also located in this hatch mark area.

Julie explained that extensive site inspections were conducted before the restoration draft plan was written, and included analysis of the specific vegetation, invasive plant surveys, analysis of hydrology, and appropriate site for the soft-surface trail loop. An arborist inspected the trees in Whispering Woods, and found that the Douglas-fir trees were sound. He did not find any type of root-rot present. Natural Resources Technicians removed some of the non-native plants, and have flagged many of the non-native trees. Removal of these flagged specimens will continue in the future. Park Rangers compiled a map of the property, and recommended trail placement.

Improvements planned for these two parks include:

- Removal and on-going control of non-native plants within the project area. Maintenance of the weeds will continue for several years.
- Replanting is scheduled for February of 2012. The plan calls for an 80% survival of native plants.
- Project seeks to provide better structure for songbirds and small wildlife in the park.
- THPRD plans a large palette of native shrubs and trees for both sites.
- Establishment of a connecting soft surface trail between Whispering Woods and Kalyca Way.

A major project goal is to inform neighbors and park patrons of the plan, and enlist public support of the project.

#### Concerns & Responses:

1. Requests were made to explain the project map and the different colors, and exactly where restoration would take place. There is a color key on the map, which defines the various habitats, although the print was small. Hatch marks define the area of weed removal and native plant installation.
2. Several requests were made regarding placement of the new trail, and whether or not it would be paved, chipped, or graveled. The only actually new trail will be in the area of the dotted line on the map. The rest of this trail has existed for several years, but runs from the end of the solid line down to Beaverton Creek. This project will not extend a trail to the creek, nor will we install a bridge. That is beyond the scope and funding for this project. The dotted line is generally in the area of where the trail will be, but final determination will be made by the contractor to climb the slope in a moderate manner. This trail will not be paved, nor will it be chipped or graveled. The area is regularly inundated high up the slope, and any materials laid on the trail would probably be washed away each year. The plan is to keep the trail as a dirt trail, although it will be widened to 3 feet and properly graded. Keeping Himalayan blackberry controlled and out of the trail will do a lot for maintenance.
3. A question was asked about extending the trail farther to the west, toward the ponded area. There are no plans to do so, especially since that area is extremely wet most of the year. Although the area of the "new" trail is also wet

during winter months, in most years it is dry and perfectly passable from May through November.

4. A number of attendees expressed concern over illicit activities in both Whispering Woods and Chantal Village, and asked what the park district would do about the situation. Bruce then introduced Mike Janin, Superintendent of Security Operations, to talk about contacting Park Patrol. Park Patrol will respond as quickly as possible to calls regarding illicit or disruptive activities in the parks, and they are currently working until 10:00 pm. After June 15 and through the summer, Park Patrol will be working and available to respond until midnight. Mike introduced James Weed, a member of THPRD's Park Patrol, and explained their training and responsibilities. Mike also passed out refrigerator magnets with the cell phone number for Park Patrol (503-971-246-0169), and encouraged park neighbors to call as needed. Meeting attendees related several stories and issues regarding drug use and inappropriate behavior in the park to Mike, and also stated that when police showed up, the people causing problems dispersed through many different unauthorized routes and were rarely caught. Mike said that with help and persistence, these people could be caught, and he and park patrol would work diligently to create a safer park.

Additional Comments:

A number of other comments from attendees were written down for further consideration and discussion among staff. Comments included the following:

1. Desire for parking. Currently the parking is only on-street and not sufficient. Staff noted this was beyond the scope of the project, but the suggestion would be passed on to Planning Department staff.
2. Undesirable activities by some individuals (drinking, etc.) make the park uninviting to visit.
3. "Kids" (actual ages unknown) are cutting a neighbor's fence every time he puts one up, in order to access the park through his yard.
4. There is interest in seeing enhancement of the small intermittent stream through Whispering Woods. This will be done with plantings, but no in-stream work.
5. What can be done about all the mosquitoes? (Some neighbors said they did not have an issue with mosquitoes.) Staff will work with neighbors and Washington County Department of Health to address concerns as they arise.
6. Could a bench or kiosk be installed along the trail in Chantal Village Park? (Floodplain issues probably exclude this option.)
7. Kalyca neighbor on the north side is very concerned about "outsiders" doing undesirable activities in Whispering Woods by the bridge. Also, he does not want trees in the park, because they impact Canada geese landings and take-offs. He does not want the blackberry. The trail may lead to crime, and he is concerned that it will scare off wildlife.