



**Beaver Pond Natural Area on  
Thornton Creek Restoration  
MEETING #1 NOTES**

Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 7 – 9 pm  
Northgate Community Center,  
10510 5th Ave NE, Seattle WA 98125

Over fifty community members attended the first public meeting for the Opportunity Fund restoration project of Beaver Pond Natural Area on Thornton Creek. We opened the meeting to discuss any safety concerns and to respond to the vandalism in the Natural Area. Brock Milliern, Parks Security Officer and Mark Mead, Parks Arborist from Seattle Parks, responded to the safety concerns. The Watershed Company presented background studies and the site analysis. After the presentations the community members could move between four stations to provide their feedback for the conceptual plan. The four stations included: Natural Area Amenities, Habitat & Stream Restoration, Safety/CPTED and Park & Stream Steward. The community provided great feedback for the restoration including improving wildlife habitat, safety, and pedestrian access to the site. Parks and The Watershed Company will compile all input from the community to inform the design concept for the restoration of the open space. The preferred concept will be presented at the next public meeting, March 14, 2012 at the Northgate Community Center.

**Parks Response to Vandalism and Safety Concerns**

- Don't feel uncomfortable about or afraid to call 911.
- Parks has over 400 parks to manage and we can't always be there. The community can help.
- An opportunity to improve safety includes community organizing, i.e. a block watch or park watch.
- Anything that helps to activate the space and increase the positive use of the park can counter the negative use.
- Increasing sightlines and widening pathways can improve safety
- An important part of natural area management is the use of vegetation management plans.
- The pruning of the trees didn't help; community presence helps.
- Topography is the bigger issue here.
- The pruning that was done won't kill those trees but it will impact the habitat. It is \$1,000 fine per incident and there were 57 trees cut.

**Ideas/feedback provided from community:**

**Safety/CPTED Comments:**

- Pruning improved safety
- Add signage to indicate that pruning is vandalism
- Organize safety group w/weekly reports to the Police
- Unhappy with pruning
- Increase tree canopy – keep it green – Help us feel safe
- Hidden areas – way to discourage unwanted activity?
- Graffiti on wall, too dark, illegal dumping, and lack of pedestrian safety (no specific location)
  - Add bio “d” block or delta block on the graffiti wall.
- Clearer sightlines with no hidden bends;
- Entry off of 103<sup>rd</sup> needs clearer definition and sightlines into the park;
- Set up a “friends of BPNA” and citizen patrol group that could walk through the natural area, do volunteer work, and give comments to the police if necessary.

## **Natural Area Amenities Comments:**

- **Trails**
  - Three levels of trails:
    - Main paved trail that goes through whole natural area,
    - Second level gravel trail, that weaves in and out of the main trail, and
    - Third level of maintenance or service trails
  - A Formal, widened looped path through the entire natural area;
  - It would be nice to have a trail along the south east side of the Beaver Pond area- there are dry parts and it's a great vantage point
  - Boardwalk style walkways, like Foster Island
  - Pay attention to trail location in the newly acquired parcel because of constant flooding;
  - Review existing trails for connections, especially in the SW corner section of the natural area;
  - Review connection between 106<sup>th</sup> street end and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue street end.
  - Raise up the bridge and widen it so that it is at street level connecting the 104<sup>th</sup> street ends;
  - Add a pedestrian bridge across 8<sup>th</sup> @ 105<sup>th</sup>
- **Signage**
  - Interpretive signs about the habitat, vegetation and creek;
  - Clear distinguishing entry points and connections;
  - Maps with trails;
  - Add a community bulletin board.
  - Add signs for the natural area on 103<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Add an educational sign at Northgate mall
- **Entrances**
  - Improve entry off of Roosevelt from the northeast corner of the natural area.
  - At 103<sup>rd</sup>:
    - Steps down from 103<sup>rd</sup> are too steep and need add a hand rail.
    - open up the corner visually
  - Connection to the community garden;
  - A lookout or platform in the southwest corner of the beaver pond
- **Boundary**
  - Distinguish park boundary along 106<sup>th</sup> and Apartment parking.
  - Pedestrian Buffer along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Park

## **Habitat & Stream Restoration:**

- Create a woodland in the Demonstration zone Area;
- Provide more information about Beaver's habitat.
- The newly acquired parcel has extensive flooding, should be reviewed for any additional improvements;
- Add woodland herbaceous plantings or ethno botany theme to relate to gardeners;
- Review erosion near the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue street end for any improvements;
- Review culvert that runs along and then under 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue for any improvements.

## **Additional Comments:**

- Earthcorps has done some great volunteer organizing here, and there would seem to be many more opportunities
- Leverage Parks money with student and community volunteers.
- Project is a great opportunity for students.
- **Some comments were made pertaining to Seattle Department of Transportation Right-of-Way and City Light Street Lights these are duly noted.**

**Sticker board results:**

- Wildlife habitat = 20
- Safety = 19
- Stream health = 16
- Sense of community ownership = 11
- Alternative path to street sidewalks = 7
- Education opportunities = 7
- Sense of quiet retreat = 4
- Passive recreation amenities = 2

**Budget:**

The total budget for the renovation is \$500,000. Funding for this project is provided through the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy Opportunity Fund. The project budget cover all costs associated with the project including administration, design, permits, bidding and construction.

| Beaver Pond Natural Area @ Thornton Creek Timeline  | 2012 Quarters |   |   |   | 2013 Quarters |   |   |   |
|---|---------------|---|---|---|---------------|---|---|---|
|   | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1             | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <b>Pro View</b> – Internal Parks review of proposed project elements.                                   | ★             | ★ |   |   |               |   |   |   |
| <b>Community Meetings</b> – Early discussions with community members and presentation of site analysis. | Jan. 11       |   |   |   |               |   |   |   |
| <b>Community Meeting #2</b> –Presentation of schematic design and public input.                         | Mar. 14       |   |   |   |               |   |   |   |
| <i>Schematic Design Complete</i>  | ★             |   |   |   |               |   |   |   |
| <b>DPD Permit Review</b> – Submittal and Review   |               | ★ |   |   |               |   |   |   |
| <b>DOE/Army Corps</b> – Submittal and Review  |               | ★ |   |   |               |   |   |   |
| <b>Pro View Technical Review</b> – Internal Technical Review of 65% Construction Drawings               |               |   | ★ |   |               |   |   |   |
| <b>Pro View Technical Review</b> – Internal Technical Review of 95% Construction Drawings               |               |   |   | ★ |               |   |   |   |
| <i>Design Development and Construction Drawings Complete</i>  |               |   |   |   | ★             |   |   |   |
| <b>Construction</b>   |               |   |   |   |               | ★ | ★ |   |
| <b>Project Close Out</b>  |               |   |   |   |               |   | ★ |   |

**For more information contact:**

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**Website:** [http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/thornton\\_creek/naturalize\\_northgate.htm](http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/thornton_creek/naturalize_northgate.htm)

Meeting Information will be posted on line after the meeting.

