

APPENDIX B: Public Input - Summary

Washington Grove, Cobb's Hill Park—Recommendations for Improvement

PUBLIC INPUT - SUMMARY

Listed below are all comments from the public meeting on April 26, 2016:

Trail Closures / Concerns

- Please no closing of entrances
- 45-52 trail is great connection...keep it.
- Great spots for migrating birds: 45, 47, 36, 50, 35...keep access but limit changes
- The 47-39-35 trail is nice, erosion control needed, but a valuable trail
- 47-51 needs erosion control, receives heavy use
- 25-17 or 29-42... keep one maybe, don't need both
- 25-17 is new (2-3 years old) and widening fast. It cuts through one of the two less accessible parts which can be "reservoirs" of delicate species and wildflowers.
- The entrance #60 is steep + dangerous. A wooden rail may prevent falls
- From 3 to 1: can't tell if there is supposed to be a trail through the berry patch—lower slope than the erosion to 1 but brambles need pruning.
- North of Reservoir & West of Water Towers there are entrances to access WG trails that seem unplanned. On these trails that lead from outside WG, there is always evidence of people partying/living (i.e. broken glass, etc.) Could we deter access to WG from these trails?

Trail Entrances

- Please consider accessibility in trail & entrance design
 - Current "perimeter" trail is accessible to wheelchairs, but NO ENTRANCE is.
 - A person with limited mobility needs well distributed seating. My mother can walk to the Grove and enjoys to woods, but should be able to sit—ideally near entrance.
- Use fallen trees as sitting/resting placed at entrances or open area in trails.
- Distinguish between major/primary entrances (located near parking, i.e. Nunda, entrance 37, entrance 2, new entrance at new Fleet Feet trail NW of entrance 37). The other entrances would be just local neighborhood entrances.
- I never use northern entrances: 1, 68, 64, 2, 67... too many it seems (and I live more to the north). I mostly use Nunda anyway
- The main entrance is already overtaxed as an entry to the park. Please take into great account that this is a residential area. Develop an entry point by the kiosk near reservoir
- Why not also use entrance at Highland Heights?
- Highland Heights: close trail through tennis court and make a new trail beside it. Close other HH trail
- Entrance from Cobbs Hill Park—very problematical at present. Need to regrade the path, cut out part of the slope (not part of the Old Growth Grove). Need to plan butterfly meadow, perhaps sacrificing some trees (Norway Maples, ugh!) now scattered in the meadow.
- In the field between the park and the reservoir: would like to change the shape of the field and incorporate a meadow

Trail Hierarchy / Running Trails

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- Keep running trail around the grove.
- Minimize main running route trails and protect intersections so runners don't cut corners and expand the intersection.
- Hierarchy of paths necessary—path for runners and paths not for runners.

Signage

- Keep it looking natural—cut back on the signs and plastic pipes.
- Agree with above.
- Put signs at major entrances that explain the trees are 200 years old and can never be replaced if the forest is not treated with respect
- Plaque—1932 in Tay House—mount on glacial erratic—Nunda entrance

Logs along trails

- Stop piling up logs on the sides of the trails.
- Agree with above
- How limit width of paths? People move stones and logs.
- Logs along trails do not contribute to responsible use of trails

Dead Wood

- When trees in the grove are cut down, stumps and dead trees are left behind. This has a negative impact on the aesthetics of the grove.
- There is dangerous amounts of dead wood all over the park

Park Management

- Strict enforcement of Leash Law
- Agree with above
- Agree with above
- Please don't make kids feel guilty for leaving the established trails. They need to explore nature!
- The Deer eat the acorns from Oak trees, not trees
- Mature forests have a natural cycle of species, let it happen
- Any opportunity for sustainable trails are a positive
- Less is better, leave things alone
- There is a lot of litter along the North edge of the grove (behind the school / water authority)

Artwork

- I visit the property for the artwork on the water towers. I hope the artwork can continue to be one of the attractions to this area.
- Yes agree [with above]. Let's make an "ART" Park of the water tower area (maybe let Albert Paley cut and reassemble the metal into sculpture & acoustic music area. MORE space for ART.