



Date: August 31, 2012
To: Chair Robinson and members of the Parks & Community Services Board
From: Dan Dewald, Natural Resource Manager
Camron Parker, Senior Planner
Subject: Response to Planning Commission request for SMP Restoration Plan feedback

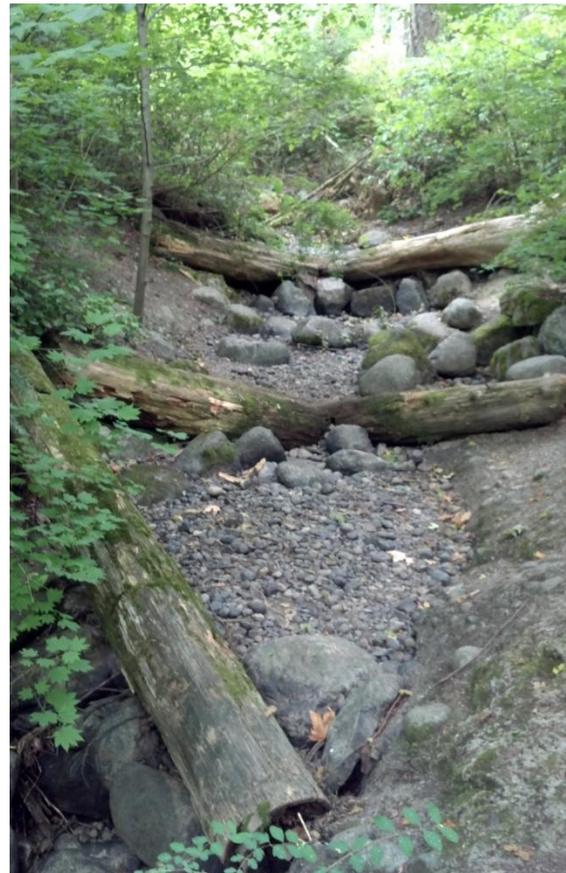
The Parks & Community Services Board received a letter from the Planning Commission regarding Phantom Lake and Weowna Park (attached). As part of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) regulatory update, the Commission was asked by a community organization to include a potential recommended project in the SMP Restoration Plan focusing on Phantom Creek in Weowna Park. The Planning Commission is seeking recommended wording to describe such a restoration project.

After reviewing the letter, Chair Robinson asked if Parks & Community Services staff would provide a recommendation regarding the Planning Commission's request.

Weowna Park Stream Stabilization

The watercourse commonly referred to as Phantom Creek is an old agricultural drainage channel connecting Phantom Lake with Lake Sammamish. A portion of this channel runs through Weowna Park. Soil erosion caused by the channel was a significant issue until a major stabilization project was completed in 1998. The City invested \$1 million in an engineered solution using a natural system approach. Installation of natural looking concrete walls and the introduction of large boulders, logs and other natural debris work to slow water flow, create pools and encourage sediment settlement before water leaves the

park on its way to Lake Sammamish. The project received an Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award in 2000 from the American Society of Civil Engineers. The water channel within the park is monitored and is performing as designed.



Phantom Creek engineered stream bed (photo: August 2012)



Before: pond at sediment capacity



After: pond with increased sediment capacity

One area of ongoing monitoring and maintenance is the sediment pond at the base of the park, just west of Lake Sammamish Parkway. Over the past 10 years, it has filled to the rim of the overflow standpipe. There remains ample room within the overall pond to capture additional sediment with minor modifications to the pond's infrastructure. This was completed recently (see photos) by raising the height of the overflow standpipe, which effectively increases the capacity of the pond to capture additional sediment and slow water flow rates.

SMP Restoration Plan

In terms of the SMP Restoration Plan, this water channel was not submitted for inclusion as the City has already invested in significant restoration and Weowna Park is outside SMP jurisdiction. However, the following project description could be used if interest remains in adding this to the SMP Restoration Plan:

Continue to monitor the Phantom Creek stream and sediment collection system within Weowna Park, increasing capacity of sediment collection as necessary per the design and recommendation of the project engineer.

The City will perform this action regardless of whether it is included in the SMP Restoration Plan. However, including it provides an opportunity to highlight the significant work that has occurred to date to decrease sediment entering Lake Sammamish and reflect the ongoing commitment of the City to maintain the performance of the stream stabilization project.

Staff is prepared to provide this information directly to the Planning Commission for their consideration. If you have any questions about Weowna Park, please contact Dan Dewald at (425) 452-6048 or ddewald@bellevuewa.gov. If you have questions about the Shoreline Master Program, please contact Camron Parker at (425) 452-2032 or cparker@bellevuewa.gov.



Post Office Box 90012 • Bellevue, Washington • 98009 9012

July 11, 2012

Parks and Community Services Board
Lynne Robinson, Chair
P.O. Box 980012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Re: Phantom Lake and Weona Park

Dear Chair Robinson and members of the Parks and Community Services Board,

The Planning Commission continues to review Bellevue's draft Shoreline Master Program. As part of this project, the Phantom Lake Homeowners Association submitted a comment letter, provided by Brian Parks on May 8, 2012, recommending a number of actions related to Phantom Lake and Phantom Creek. We would appreciate input from the Parks Board's on one of the requests that relates directly to Weona Park. The Phantom Lake Homeowners Association asks that the restoration plan component of the SMP include a project that states:

While maintaining existing ecological functions, identify and fund changes to this waterway that mitigate impacts to Lake Sammamish and to adjoining properties.

Recognizing that if this project is implemented it would occur within a park, the Planning Commission seeks guidance as to how it could be captured in the SMP restoration plan. The exact wording of the project description provided by the Phantom Lake Homeowners Association may not be consistent with the non-regulatory nature of the shoreline restoration plan. Yet, we find the community's concerns compelling and support including a project in the restoration plan that addresses their well-meaning intent.

The SMP Update provides an opportunity to address the community's interest in Phantom Creek. The SMP, as directed by the state, is a comprehensive document that not only contains development regulations, it sets comprehensive policy about our lakes and shoreline areas and establishes aspirational objectives for restoring the shoreline. Recognizing the overlap between the requirements for shoreline planning and the Parks Board's responsibility for planning for parks and open space, we welcome working collaboratively to address this community objective.

The SMP restoration plan includes a range of opportunities to improve lakes and shoreline resources, including projects that may be upstream of shoreline-regulated water bodies. Adding a project related

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to Phantom Creek to the restoration plan would directly address the community's concerns about excessive sedimentation and attendant water quality impacts to Phantom Lake and Lake Sammamish. Including the project in the SMP does not create a specific City obligation.

It has been communicated to us that the City Council is looking for the Planning Commission to make a recommendation on the SMP Update as expeditiously as possible. That said, we want to ensure that there continues to be time for the community and boards and commissions to provide input during the process. Our current schedule will have us returning to the restoration plan component in September. Any feedback you may have on how to include a Phantom Creek improvement project in the SMP restoration plan would be appreciated at that time.

We look forward to working with you to meet the needs of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Carlson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Carlson

Chairman, Planning Commission