

Forest Drive Open Space Properties Current Condition 2008

An inventory and analysis of the forested open spaces along the Forest Drive right of way was done to assist in planning of the forest management prescription for the site. All sites were heavily overgrown with exotic plant species which out competed native vegetation. The forest was predominately mixed or deciduous forest with little or no conifer regeneration. The sites provided poor noise buffering capacity due to the lack of leaf cover during the winter months and lack of native shrubs to reduce noise. Public safety was compromised because of over mature pioneer tree species in decline.



Planned Restoration Activities

Restoration activities will include removal of exotic species, cleaning the forest floor of down limbs and debris, selective stand thinning, and planting native vegetation.

- The majority of exotic species include Himalayan Blackberry and English Ivy. These species will be weeded to ground level and managed to prevent resprouting.
- Down woody debris will be removed from the site to reduce fuel loading and provide access to the forest floor.
- Selective stand thinning will be done to provide more air and light to the forest floor and enhance more vertical and horizontal native plant and wildlife diversity.
- Native vegetation will be planted in the fall to increase the overall health of the forest and meet the parks forested open space management goals more effectively.

Recent Changes

- Blackberry and English ivy have been removed along the right-of-way and open space property.
- Crews will continue to remove blackberry as it grows back, to prevent it from taking over again.
- Individual trees have been evaluated and tagged with pink ribbon. These trees will be removed and will make way for young vigorous trees of more desirable species.



What to Expect this Fall

- Tagged trees will be removed
- Areas where blackberries or trees have been removed will be re-vegetated with native trees and shrubs, including conifers that will provide better screening and buffering between homes and the road.
- These sites will be actively managed to prevent blackberry re-growth and ensure plant survival for several years, and carefully monitored as they mature.

