

September 19, 2012

John Carlson, Chairman
Planning Commission
City of Bellevue
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Chairman Carlson:

In a letter dated July 11, 2012, the Planning Commission asked the Parks & Community Services Board to review and provide guidance on one recommended project submitted by the Phantom Lake Homeowners Association for inclusion in the Shoreline Master Program Restoration Plan. The proposed project refers to Phantom Creek within Weowna Park and states:

While maintaining existing ecological function, identify and fund changes to this water way that mitigate impacts to Lake Sammamish and to adjoining properties.

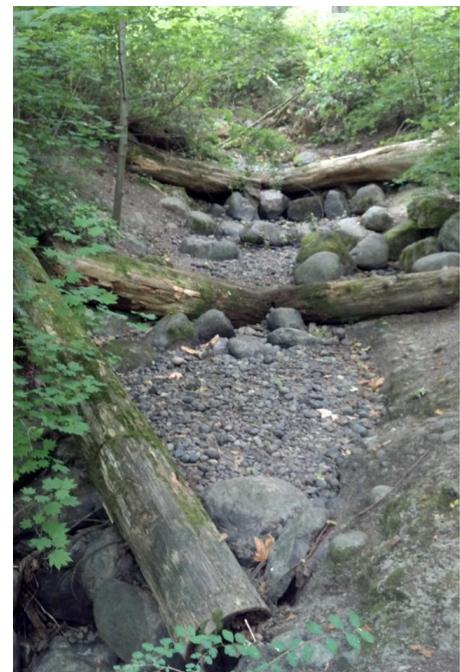
The Parks & Community Services Board reviewed and discussed the issue at the Board's meeting on September 11, 2012. Overall, it was apparent that issues of erosion and stream sediment have been and continue to be significant along the full extent of Phantom Creek. The Board encourages the City of Bellevue to work toward a comprehensive solution to the drainage issues occurring from Phantom Lake to Lake Sammamish, involving the Phantom Lake Homeowners Association and all private property owners along this watercourse.

Approximately one-third of Phantom Creek runs through Weowna Park. A significant restoration project was completed by the City in 1998 that included the full stream length within the park. That project, including the sediment collection pond at the base of the park is performing as designed without a need for additional public capital investment. As such, the Board recommends replacing the proposed SMP Restoration Plan project language with the following:

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.

Parks & Community Services 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.

For your information, background on the completed restoration and stabilization project follows.



Phantom Creek engineered stream bed
(photo: August 2012)

Weowna Park Stream Stabilization

The watercourse commonly referred to as Phantom Creek is an old agricultural drainage channel connecting Phantom Lake with Lake Sammamish. Soil erosion in the park caused by the channel was a significant issue until a major stabilization project was completed in 1998. The City and King County 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.



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.



Before: pond at sediment capacity



After: pond with increased sediment capacity

If you have any questions about Weowna Park, please contact Dan Dewald at (425) 452-6048 or ddewald@bellevuewa.gov or Camron Parker at (425) 452-2032 or cparker@bellevuewa.gov.

Thank you for inviting the Parks & Community Services Board to provide information and guidance on this portion of the SMP Restoration Plan. The Board will be interested to see how this and the other opinions we have provided in the past on SMP policy and regulatory provisions are addressed in the final document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Robinson".

Lynne M. Robinson
Chair, Parks & Community Services Board

cc: Kevin Wallace, Councilmember, Liaison to the Parks & Community Services Board
Patrick Foran, Parks & Community Services Director