

As a caretaker of Otis Johnson Wilderness Park for the City, I have heard from neighbors, park users and the City. The staff suggestions seem to be sensitive to the environment and to the neighbors' concerns that no large scale changes be made. I have some ideas to add, which the professionals can determine how and if to incorporate;

1. That security and vandalism prevention be written into all plans
2. That maps be created showing neighbors which trails will be closed,
3. That money should be spent on trail closure ahead of other items on the agenda such as signs and tables
4. That if money runs short the bridge at the bottom of the stairs be removed in favor of using the trail itself to handle water runoffs
5. That a study of wildlife be made to determine why songbirds, owls, raccoons and other native critters seem to be largely absent from the park as year-round dwellers

1. Security:

One thing left out is security, something I can definitely help with. Picnic tables and signs that are installed will be vandalized, probably in fairly short order. I would encourage bridges, signs and amenities to be designed in way that makes them unattractive to graffiti artists.

Some examples of the extent of recent vandalism;

The city built a wire fence to protect a washout from foot traffic. Within a week, someone had stomped the wire fence into the ground. I stretched it back out, wired it down and the next day it was stomped down again. I went through this five times with this fence before giving up.

As a board member of the Salmon Restoration Association, I have brought about \$10,000 so far into park restoration by students of our local schools, with the effort led by Jughand Farm Nature Center. Helene Chalfin of Jughandle made the contacts in the school (which I failed to pull off on my own), and we now fund Helene and the kids to remove invasives in the park, plant trees, pick up trash, etc.

Once, when the kids were pulling out ivy, I loaned them my greenwaste container. They were gone for less than a half hour when vandals hurled the greenwaste container to the bottom of the ravine. I also drove my truck into the park so the kids could throw waste into it and while they were there, other kids were throwing rocks at the truck.

Teri Jo from the city Planning Department used bales of hay last summer as part of restoration work. When done a couple bales were left over. She asked me to remove the bales into the caretaker enclosure immediately. When I went out, a family was using the bales for a picnic so I left them until a Saturday, a couple days away. Before I got there, someone had taken two of these very heavy bales and thrown them down into the canyon. I say all this to illustrate the will of these vandals, whom I have yet to catch in the act.

When amenities are being built, equipment simply can't be left in the park without some kind of protection. I would be happy to have an alarm in my trailer that would go off with motion activation, if that is possible. I also think lights on a motion sensor would be a great idea.

2-3 Closing trails and protecting neighbors:

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2010

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2010
COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM
FRANK HARTZELL

Living next to the park has been a curse for some. I think we can ease this during restoration by closing off all trails on the southeastern end of the park. This area is absolutely invisible to us in the trailer and its remoteness is a temptation for vandals. In regular emails I have suggested this spot as a prime problem area and I even showed members of the police force and Sally, the consultant hired by the city a while back. On one occasion recently, vandals threw rocks at a neighbors house from this spot, which enraged the neighbor. These unofficial trails are key to both erosion and vandalism in the park and I feel they should be at the top of the priority list.

4. I have observed the drainage pipe overflow during recent rains, which didn't happen when we first moved in there. There have been occasional "flash floods" this year, which seem to come from an upstream source. If there isn't funding for the bridge, this problem could be handled by putting concrete or hard gravel in the trail path and the water would naturally follow that path down into the other creek.

5. I am amazed at the lack of critters in the park versus other wooded places I have visited in the area. When we first moved in, there was a man feeding the ravens with bread. There were numerous ravens, and I think they were killing songbirds. We got the guy to stop. I've never heard an owl at night, which seems odd, and the dogs rarely alert on a raccoon. There are no rabbits, quail and strangley few raccoons and skunks.. I think it would be interesting to find out why. Was the area a recipient of mill site fly ash?

Acknowledge contributions to Park from:

SRA - SALMON RESTORATION ASSOC.

Middle School Kids - Restoration Program

OVERSIGHT by HELENE CHALFIN - JUGHANSTE
CREEK
FARM