

JONES FALLS TRAIL

Questions asked and answered at the public meeting:

Q: Will the trail be lighted at night?

A: No. It will close at dusk.

Q: How will the trail cross Kelly Avenue at South Road?

A: The trail crossing will be at the traffic signal which will be upgraded by DOT as a separate project.

Q: Will the Western Run Spur connect to the Mount Washington Arboretum?

A: That's not in the plan, though it could be discussed as a future enhancement.

Q: Can the planned route through the hospital woods be staked out to show the alignment?

A:

The contractor will be required to stakeout the trail alignment and the limit of disturbance through the hospital woods prior to any construction activities.

Q: What's the timing on the trail?

A: The City submitted the 95% plan to the state in May. The final review meeting is schedule for July 18, 2012, at which time the State Highway Administration (SHA) and various city agencies will provide comments to be incorporated in the final design drawings. After that, the City will submit the final contract documents to the State for approval to advertise. We anticipate the project to be advertised in October of 2012 and construction to start in February of 2013. That would mean the trail should be open for use by summer 2014.

Q: Is there a chance the trail could run to Luckman Park?

A: Not in the initial plan. The neighborhoods near Luckman Park voted against extending the trail into their area in 2005. Assuming funding becomes available in the future, this could be reconsidered.

Q: Will the City control erosion in the hospital woods, or clear out invasive species?

A: Only within the 12-foot trail easement which the City controls (the rest of the woods remain the property of the hospital). Like the park, the creation of a "Friends of the Trail" volunteer group could take on these tasks. The hospital has said it would welcome that activity.

Q: How will construction vehicles gain access to the woods?

A: The contract drawings designated three (3) areas (West Rogers Avenue, Roxbury Place and Newbury Street) where the Contactor will be allowed to enter the woods. In order to minimize the construction activity impact on the woodlands, the Contractor will utilize smaller, more compact equipment to construct the boardwalk.

Q: Is funding available to build the trail?

A: Yes. All needed funds have been committed by the City and State.

Q: Will the pedestrian bridge over Northern Parkway be fully enclosed?

A: That decision has not been made yet. The City's standard for bridges of this type and location would be not to enclose it because there is no evidence of need from a safety standpoint. But comments on this issue are welcome.

Q: Will the streams be stabilized or restored near the trail?

A: Not in the hospital woods. But plans are in the works at Department of Public Works to stabilize the Western Run.... However this is not part of the JFT project.

Questions submitted after the public meeting:

Q: There are currently flags marking what appears to be the path of the trail through the Pediatric Hospital grounds. What do the blue flags represent? What do the pink flags represent? These appear to correspond with the alignment and where it turns -- on site plan pages 4-5, it looks like these flags correspond with markers B-1 through B-9. Is that correct? What do the orange flags that have the word "boundary" on them represent?

Are these the property boundaries of the neighboring properties?

A: The current markings along the trail route are approximate. Upon award of a contract, surveyors will mark a more precise trail route which will then be adjusted on site to account for conditions on the ground. The precise positioning of the trail will not be finalized until that time.

Q: Will the alignment with the LOD (Limit of Disturbance) be staked out in time to allow the people on Roxbury to independently verify that it is not on their property?

A: The property line was established in the field by professional surveyors to make sure that the trail does not impede on anyone's private property.

Q: Will there be an opportunity for volunteers to transplant native plants ahead of construction?

A: Yes

Questions about construction of the trail

Q: The briefing indicated that the LOD will be 8 feet plus two feet on either side for a total of 12 feet. The LOD on page 4 of the site plan looks wider than that -like about 20-25 feet)-based on the scale which is one inch=40 feet. What will be the LOD in the part of the plan shown on site plan page 4?

A: The LOD will be approximately 12 feet along the length of the trail. If conditions on the ground require the LOD to be expanded at certain points, extra care will be taken to minimize and/or remediate any potential damage. The exact LOD cannot be known until construction begins. The contractor will be required to stakeout the trail alignment

and the limit of disturbance through the hospital woods prior to any construction activities.

Q: Where will equipment and materials be staged during construction? Which of those staging areas would permit refueling of construction equipment? Which would serve as a place where boardwalk materials could be stockpiled for access during trail construction?

A: Potential staging areas for the Boardwalk section of the trail will be discussed with the residents of Roxbury and the MWIA at our meetings this summer.

Q: For the section of the trail that crosses the stream at Roxbury, will there be a staging area on Roxbury, or will there be a bridge built crossing the stream and then equipment and materials transported across the bridge?

A: There will be a stabilized construction entrance at Roxbury to allow for construction.

Q: Will the construction equipment used (Bobcats, etc.) be able to travel on the boardwalk section of the trail?

A: In order to minimize the construction activity impact on the woodlands, the Contractor will utilize smaller, more compact equipment to construct the boardwalk.

Q: Will the trail be built as a continuum or will sections be built and connected? Will equipment be brought in from both ends?

A: The contract drawings designated three (3) areas (West Rogers Avenue, Roxbury Place and Newbury Street) where the Contractor will be allowed to enter the woods.

Q: What techniques will be employed to prevent soil compaction in the critical root zone of trees along the trail path?

A: Best practices will be employed to prevent soil compaction near tree roots. In order to minimize the construction activity impact on the woodlands, the Contractor will utilize smaller, more compact equipment to construct the boardwalk. Also, the contract includes an Item – Root Pruning that will be overseen by a Professional Arborist.

Q: Is there a process to deal with trees that might be damaged during construction? If there is damage to trees, how soon can damage be mitigated?

A: The contractor will be responsible for any and all damages to trees located beyond the clearing limits. The contractor will restore, at his expense, and to the satisfaction of the City, any trees that have been damaged or destroyed. The contract specifications call for 2 to 1 caliper replacement. For example, if a 10-inch caliper tree is removed, the contractor will be required to plant ten (10) 2-inch trees as replacements.

Q: How will trees that are larger than 2-4" diameter that are in the LOD be taken down so as not to cause damage to neighboring trees? Also, a small wood chipper was mentioned, which looks like a great idea for limbs/trees less than 2" in diameter. How will larger diameter limbs/trees be removed from the woods so as not to damage neighboring trees?

A: Best forestry practices will be employed when removing any trees or tree material. Material that cannot be chipped on site will be removed in sections.

Question about property lines

Q: What we understand to be our property line [on the drawings] is between the dashed line and the solid line boundaries but this is not affected by the trail. Is this correct?

A: Property lines are indicated by a dash and two dots. The trail does not impede on any private property.