
Appendix D

Public Meetings



Memorandum

To: **Lower Big Creek Advisory Committee**
From: **Kyle Lukes**
CC:
Date: **November 27, 2007**
Re: **November 20, 2007 Lower Big Creek Public Meeting**



Alternative Trail Alignments Comments

1. Bike racks, places to stop and look around!
2. Security- if the trail is well used, security will not be an issue, if few people use the trail, security will become a problem
3. People wanted to see the valley from the Henninger land fill. They thought the trail should be on the edge of the valley to give a great view from the top. This would be more to see then if the trail was on the south side of the land fill.
4. Two people liked the connector from the treadway trail. They wanted the access to the neighborhood.
5. Like the idea of the upper bridge over the Rail Road tracks. The high bridge would give a great view of the valley!
6. One person would like to see the area where the big creek and the Cuyahoga river come together- they thought this would be a great point of interest.
7. One participant mentioned their preference for the Valley trail route.
8. One participant who lived in the Brooklyn Center side of the valley favored the use of the NEORS D sewer maintenance connection to the Treadway Creek trail for a connection to the neighborhood. Use of the neighborhood streets was also acceptable to make the connection off road to the landfill.
9. A representative of Zeleznik's restaurant expressed a desire to have the trail relate to their establishment. They have a patio out back that faces the Creek that customers are invited to use. They would like that to remain for customer use.
10. One participant thought that the upland trail route and similar routes because it allowed views of the neighborhood. In other words he felt that being able to see something interesting from the trail was preferable to nature only.
11. Fences should be installed along the trail to safeguard private property from trespass by trail users.

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12. Security along an urban trail should be a big concern. Need 24-hour lighting, cameras, etc.
 13. The Treadway Greenway Connector is wonderful! A real asset to the community.
 14. The alternate routing of the Valley trail near the Wallpaper Factory property is preferable because it keeps the trail near to the Big Creek and reuses the old Pearl Rd. Bridge.
 15. If parking were to be developed on Brookside Auto Wrecking property, it should be done in conjunction with a trailhead and not for general Zoo parking.
 16. The trail that connected to Calgary Park was a desirable connection for Brooklyn Center neighborhood use.
 17. Natural restoration of the valley would also benefit the trails, so that they feel like your are in nature as opposed to in the City.
 18. As residents of the Calgary Park neighborhood, we'd love to see the connector trail to Calgary Park
 19. Since it is possible to navigate streets which parallel Henninger Landfill already, the valley trail is more important than the upland trail
 20. Absolutely no upland trail!
 21. Please avoid steep grades on any trail alignment
 22. There should be nature trails that extend from the main trails
 23. The upland trail along the landfill is a great idea
 24. Avoid putting trails on existing streets
 25. More trail loops
 26. Tell history of the valley and surrounding neighborhoods through interpretive exhibits
 27. Tell story of historic ball yard
 28. True cyclists enjoy the challenge of steeper grades
 29. Examine ways to access the Creek from the trails wherever possible
 30. Keep the valley trail along the trucking terminal off existing greenspace on the hillside
 31. Creek is hidden in many spots and needs to be more visible
 32. Junkyard offers opportunity to tell the story of recycling
 33. Keep ATV's off any future trails – they are already causing problems for users of Treadway connector
 34. Don't pave Granby Rd.- it is a brick road with good character
 35. Provide programs/classes for bike repairs etc
 36. Conflict- Valley Rd. is very busy, many drivers with little regard to the speed limit

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37. Resident in Calgary area feels connection to their neighborhood is critical
 38. Ann M. Krula, 1708 Granby Ave.: I am very excited about Treadway Trail and the future of the trails, neighborhood improvement and these meetings where we can give our opinions.
 39. I favor the purple route that hugs the valley and provides access to and from Calgary Park. B. Could be for long ending or beginning bicycle trips on Metro towpath/Cuyahoga Valley National Park towpath which has numerous interesting scenes and locations.
 40. Bad idea in building the Zoo connector trail to run on City streets and the landfill. Keep the lower trail concept from infringing on the plateau eliminating existing green space.
 41. Dale Smith: A. Come up Calgary and serve the oldest neighborhood west of Cuyahoga. B. The Henniger landfill should be an essential component: trail that runs along edge looking down into valley; access/parking, commercial (outfitter, etc.) where abandoned racetrack is and adjoining the landfill, providing access to commercial area of Old Brooklyn.
 42. Kevin Kelley: Interested in connecting the trail along John Nagy Blvd. with Wildlife Way and without leaving the valley and having to cross Fulton Road intersection.
 43. 44109 participant: A. Keep the major trail on the valley floor. Seek to have the junkyard relocated.
 44. Unknown participant: A. W. 38th Street (Snake Road) neighborhood connector- between Wildlife Way and Muriel Avenue (across from Fanner Factory).
 45. Safety is a concern at the proposed Valley Road and Granby Road crossing. Valley Road is very busy. Not against but just concerned.
 46. Be sensitive to the neighbors along Granby and other roads where the proposed trail will pass and especially to neighbors where the trail will pass either in side yards or back yard. The area noted when this comment was made was along Granby Road and in the backyards to the west of Valley Road.
 47. Lives on 20th Street and likes the idea of a trail running in the upper area at the end of his street.
 48. Would like to see organized field trips now to give residents an idea of what some of these areas shown on the plans look like. Some people can't read maps that well and visualize these areas. It may allow people to see these areas for their beauty and not just as dangerous hidden areas in the valley. I did mention that the Friends of Big Creek is always organizing tours along Big Creek.
 49. Noted that the neighborhood south of the extreme sports area just east of Pearl Road around the landfill is an old and established neighborhood and the residents should be respected and protected if any trail or development occurs in that area. Concern about buffering visually and setting curfews.
 50. Wants to see scenic overlook areas created along the trail to take advantage of the views into the valley and to the city.
 51. Like old bridge across the river that the old Pearl Road used to cross. It is a cool and likely historic old stone bridge!
 52. Concern about adjoining neighbors' privacy: A. Make sure you keep the trail far enough away from houses that resident's privacy is protected, and safety ensured. B. Limit the hours that the trail is open; don't allow people on the trail at night; find ways to close the trail at night

53. Bike trails – make sure they are finished first

54. Make sure there are drinking fountains along the trail.

General Land Use Comments

1. Several people said they wanted to see something changed at the salt mounds and the junk yard!
2. A visitor center on the land fill- just like the one on 49th street
3. Recycle stations and other garbage facilities to encourage people to clean up the area.
4. Encourage other business growth. Whatever types of activities are in this area, be sure the opportunity exists for other local business!
5. Could a marina or some other water activity take place in the Cuyahoga river- it is still deep at Harvard.
6. One participant noted the need to resolve future land use for the Henninger landfill.
7. One participant noted that the use of the old Pearl Road route should be considered for car access to the zoo, since traffic is snarled for left turns onto Wildlife Way off Pearl.
8. Several participants expressed an interest in seeing the CVSR have a zoo connection.
9. In discussing the young house and the possibility of reuse, one participant said that the adjacent apartment housing had a Section 8 contract that would have to be resolved for its use for overnight accommodations.
10. There is a need for stepped up code enforcement for the buildings and properties located within the valley and particularly along Valley Road. Too much current blight.
11. Need to develop a destination restaurant like the Sweetwater Landing facility in the Metroparks' Rocky River Reservation. Either at Harvard & Jennings or along Pearl Rd. opposite Wildlife Way to capture spending power of Towpath & Zoo-related visitors.
12. Take advantage of the proposed Scenic RR stop at Harvard Avenue to create a "mini Peninsula"-like attraction with family restaurants, in-line skate, canoe and bike rentals and trail links to the Zoo.
13. Examine potential redevelopment options for Go Cart track
14. Examine options for winter recreation activities in the valley, including sledding and cross country skiing
15. Rental booths for bikes, roller blades etc
16. How about a welcome center at the YMCA building?
17. Auto Salvage Yard- OK to relocate but must be accessible to inner city/bus riders, etc.
18. Need a Scenic railroad spur to the Zoo.
19. Ideas for ancillary uses: Bike shop repair, Bait and tackle, Ice cream shop
20. Consider a development for the south west corner at Pearl and Wildlife Way – it would be a great place for ice cream; it would attract people from the trail

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21. Do not need restaurants on the north side of the valley
 22. Need to provide rental places for roller blades, skate boards, bikes, etc to use on the trail
 23. Make sure there is a Welcome center somewhere in the valley, - this could be where the rental of equipment is provided, make sure maps are available
 24. Need a bike repair place – should also provide seminars on bike repairs, skating lessons, and other things
 25. Make sure there is and always will be public access to the Valley; keep the valley open to the public; make sure outsiders don't trash the place and leave

Green Infrastructure Comments

1. People said keep it green, as natural as possible!
2. Educate the homeowners of the importance of protecting this area- send flyers etc.
3. Recycle stations and other garbage facilities to encourage people to clean up the area.
4. Repair the area up valley rd. hill!
5. Several participants expressed a strong preference for improved ecology of the Creek through the zoo. This included removing paving and restoring a greenbelt through the zoo and daylighting the creek where it's been culverted. They thought it would be in keeping with the zoo's emphasis on stewardship and could be an interesting component of the zoo.
6. Several participants were in favor of converting the auto recycling yard back to floodplain for wetlands and other natural uses.
7. Participants noted their desire to regreen Big Creek; getting adjacent uses to clean up adjacent to the stream.
8. One participant expressed concern that trail development didn't compromise the natural qualities present where the trail would be placed. Don't forget nature in the process of trail building.
9. John Young expressed the desire to have the borrow pit and the dumping problem off Valley Road be restored and cleaned up.
10. Several participants were open to anything stormwater related that helped the situation in the valley. They favored detention in old parking lots, rain gardens and downspout disconnects, provided that the program could be coordinated so neighbors weren't adversely affected by the changes.
11. Participants felt that an educational program was necessary to help people see the merits of green infrastructure in the neighborhoods.
12. In general participant's thoughts that everybody needed to clean up their act; that the neighborhood would not be reinvested in if it looked seedy.
13. Need to "green-up" the valley – eliminate conflicting land uses and return it to natural state.
14. Dumping issues on Martin Enterprises steep-sloped property that front Valley Rd. need to be resolved. Contractors dump sinks, drywall, lumber and other construction debris on a regular basis.
15. The Brookside Auto Wrecking property is an eyesore and an environmental time bomb. The business needs to be relocated and the site cleaned up for green uses.
16. Cleveland Metroparks should purchase the Brookside Auto Wrecking property and employ the National Park Service example of converting it to a beaver marsh, like was done in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
17. Work with Cleveland Botanical Gardens to develop landscaped Green Gateways to serve as entrances to the Lower Big Creek Valley.

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18. Participants were interested in detention, rain gardens, etc.
 19. Participants felt that more information was needed regarding what techniques were available for green infrastructure.
 20. Have the zoo get involved in urban wildlife; research and horticulture.
 21. Participants were interested in preserving/naturalizing the floodplain.
 22. Restoration of the valley should focus on improved biodiversity; the quality and long-term stability of the restoration.
 23. Improvement/expansion of greenspace should be a priority over trails, starting with the Henniger landfill.
 24. Improvement to the neighborhoods' urban green infrastructure was seen as important; stormwater management, rain gardens, disconnects, bioswales and the like.
 25. Natural restoration of the valley would also benefit the trails, so that they feel like you are in nature as opposed to in the City.
 26. Dale Smith favored restoration of the junk yard as a natural area – wetlands and ponds.
 27. Concerned that the riparian zone of the creek be restored to return some measure of stability.
 28. Because of standing water on and around the Henninger landfill, mosquitoes are terrible and West Nile virus is a real concern
 29. Stench from CSO near landfill is terrible
 30. Protect and restore flood plain of the Creek
 31. Green up the valley as much as possible (2)
 32. Plant more trees throughout the valley and surrounding neighborhood
 33. Re-locate businesses on the north side of Valley Road and create more greenspace
 34. I favor restoring the floodplain. I favor restoring wetlands. I favor restoring riparian zones along the creek. I favor leaving as many areas as possible free to wildlife and native plants. I favor wild areas over camping- could you have viewing areas? Bird watching areas?
 35. On Big Creek channel in Brookside Park the channel is pretty unsightly. There are sections that are dislodged. Anything that could restore riparian nature greenery. Would be a vast improvement. Further along Big Creek near the baseball fields there is a much better system with a wider channel with high I believe stone embankments. Could something similar to this be done for the narrow channel? Also the 20 foot waterfall (dam) perhaps could be made more natural.
 36. Bill Montville: Great idea in restoring the Big Creek embankments.
 37. More green space; get rid of junk yard. Increase riparian barriers; more trees.
 38. Ted Jones, 4216 W. 23rd St.: A. The key to the project is riparian and ecological restoration to provide a healthy, accessible, appealing natural walk/bikeway area that is restorative to those using it.

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39. How about a 50'X50" area run by the Cleveland Botanical Garden that you can see from the bridge as a gateway? A "flower clock" like up at Niagara Falls?
 40. Granby resident: has traveled the Treadway Trail, likes having the trail in the area, likes the idea of it leading to land owners cleaning up their properties when they are in the redevelopment area; wants to see dumping stopped along Valley Road and feels this would lead to an end to the dumping. She's excited to see the whole area cleaned up.
 41. "I'm all for green space where the container storage is now" person lives just north of the storage site at the top of the hill.

Camping Comments

Camping is a desirable land use, specifically primitive-style tent camping. Will bring visitors and dollars to the area.

Develop a more formal lodging facility like a youth hostel in the old YMCA building.

Camping amenities should be accessible to neighborhood residents

Camping is a viable option

Camping is not a good idea, the citizen felt that RV sites may work

Talk to Wal-Mart for some partnership possibilities

Resident liked the idea of camping. Resident wanted to make sure there was open (free) access for the local neighbors, fishing opportunities and to involve local schools for ecological/maintenance activities

Incorporate winter activities at the camp sites- mentioned the list of adventure sports lacked winter options

Explore the options of using Wall Paper factory as possible hostel

Explore the options of using YMCA as hostel (this comment was seconded)

Incorporate school field trips

Camping should be located as close as possible to tow path

Incorporate kayaking as an option with camping

Local resident really liked idea of camping for his church youth group, mentioned a need for a pavilion or similar structure for meeting space and rentals

Land behind substation would complement camping

Sheryl Manthey, 1308 W. 33rd St.: A. I favor hostels over RV and tent camping because I expect more supervision at hostels and also hope it would use less land space.

Roger Kalbrunner, 6209 Dellisank Drive: Camping- Great Lakes Science did perhaps, still does have an overnight program- could the zoo have night programs for children and/or young adults and have a camp/hostel? I am not confident that people would use or for safety and management a general non-connected camping area would be successful. Another possible use of a managed camp/hostel. Much of security concern could be addressed - camping and other ecofriendly recreation drawing significant numbers of people and lighting during evening hours especially.

Greg Cznadel, 4325 Sunnyhill Circle: A. Partner with Wal-mart. Wal-mart lets RV's park along Creek (Tiedeman and Steelyard). If there is a RV park can the two partner somehow? A shuttle from park to Wal-Mart at Steelyard.

Mentioned that the camping area need parameters because it may draw a mix of quiet people and people attending Browns games that return after a game and party all night.

Thinks camping idea is ok but feels that the trail should be the main focus and the first thing built.

Likes idea of a camp grounds north of the substation near the YMCA. This would require a connection across the RR tracks to this area.

Possibility of using the YMCA as youth hostel.

Likes idea of youth hostel.

May use old wall paper factory as youth hostel.

Adventure Sports Comments

Tobogganing- Liked the ideas but wanted winter activities as well

Picnic areas, tables, grills, Pavilions, encourage the use of the area!

One participant suggested that the landfill would be a good spot for adventure sports such as dirt bikes and skateboarding due to the topographic relief and large open space.

Extreme sports development would be good and could take advantage of topography – steep valley walls, uneven land forms on landfill, ravines, etc.

Extreme sports would appeal to nearby younger residents, many of whom have no outlets for their energy – BMX biking on Henninger Landfill, skate boarding, rock climbing, etc.

I support non-motorized “adventure sports”- does that include skate rental places? Bike rental?

Garfield Park has had little seminars on things like fixing your bike. How about a location for seminars? How about a rental place for skates, blades, bikes, etc. where rollerblading lessons, etc. can be given? An instruction center for skateboarding, rollerblading.

What about sledding and tobogganing? Winter sports should be considered too.

Skate boarding is too much of a liability, compared to rock climbing. Rock climbers typically sign a waiver; go through a short course, etc.

Consider kayaking and canoeing, how about pursuing an outfitter like REI ? REI concept: Pay a membership fee; Facility includes things like indoor rock climbing; Rent equipment for outdoor sporting activities

Inner tubes to ride down the creek

Boulee ropes

Need winter activities: Cross country skiing and sledding area

Likes the Henniger land fill as a site for the adventure sports, but feels the sporting activities need to be kept out of the valley

Likes the whole idea of having sporting activities in the valley but make sure the valley is Green

Consider rollerblading area

DO not allow motorized RV park

Don't have enough area in the valley to have a mountain bike trail

Need to provide rental places for roller blades, skate boards, bikes, etc to use on the trail

Memorandum



To: **Lower Big Creek Advisory Committee**
From: **Kyle Lukes**
CC:
Date: **May 29, 2008**
Re: **May 12, 2008 Mayor's Chief of Staff Meeting**

Dennis Mersky of Floyd Browne Group presented the final plan to a group of mostly city representatives at City Hall.

Ken Silliman – *Chief of Staff to Mayor Frank Jackson*
Bob Brown – *Director, City Planning Commission*
Eric Wobser – *Capital Projects Administrator, Mayor's Office*
Rebecca Schaltenbrand – *Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs, Mayor's Office*
Jim Danek – *Assistant Director, City Planning Commission*
George Cantor – *Chief City Planner, City Planning Commission*
Martin Cader – *Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, City Planning Commission*
Don Kasych – *Senior Landscape Architect, Division of Research, Planning & Development*
Tim Donovan – *Executive Director, Ohio Canal Corridor*
Tom Collins – *Old Brooklyn CDC*

The master plan was generally accepted by those who attended after a few questions were answered:

1. It was requested that a data copy of the plans be provided to the Mayor's office for study and review.
2. It was discussed that the plan would be presented to City Planning Commission for informational purposes.

Memorandum

To: **Lower Big Creek Advisory Committee**
From: **Kyle Lukes**
CC:
Date: **May 29, 2008**
Re: **May 13, 2008 Lower Big Creek Public Meeting**



Tom Collins (Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation) and Tim Donovan (Ohio Canal Corridor) gave an overview about the project and how it related to surrounding amenities like the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath and the Cleveland Zoo.

George Cantor (Chief City Planner for the City of Cleveland), along with Karen Selle from Hull & Associates, discussed the environmental study that the City of Cleveland is conducting on lower Big Creek for future land use changes to the area. George also briefly talked about the economic study that is being conducted to better understand the feasibility of the new land uses that are being proposed by this master plan.

Kevin Kelly (councilman Ward 16) and Brian Cummins (councilman Ward 15) briefly discussed their involvement and how the project evolved from start to finish.

Dennis Mersky of Floyd Browne Group presented the final plan next.

The master plan was very well received by the public with only a few comments and questions:

1. how will the environmental study impact the master plan and was it completely necessary
2. why wasn't the old W 38th Street route included as a route on the master plan