

Door Creek Ski Trail Memo of Understanding
Draft 12-9-08

BLUFF POINT TRAIL - behind 6905-7017 Bluff Point Drive

TRAIL LOCATION

Due to the concerns about the oak trees, the plan presented at the September Park Commission showed the staff recommendation for the least impact trail location through the corridor. After further discussion with the adjacent residents, and greater consideration of the benefit to residents and park users of having some buffer between the trail and lot lines, some adjustments were made to the trail alignment. With the construction process being used, the tree impact will not be substantially greater, and there will be a minimum of 15 feet from the property line to the trail that can be landscaped with native shrub screening.

COMMUNICATION

Communication shall be through Jim Weinstock, Parks Operations Manager, and Steve Pullara, neighborhood representative.

SUPERVISION

City staff from Forestry and Conservation will both be monitoring this construction process throughout construction to ensure compliance with the following guidelines. City staff will provide daily supervision and will frequently be on-site during clearing, filling or grading operations near trees.

CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

- The two edges of the 10-foot trail will be marked prior to clearing and the neighborhood will be notified when the staking is completed.
- Prior to the start of construction, the clearing limits for the corridor will be marked and the neighborhood will be notified when the marking is completed.
- Construction in the tree impact zones will be done by filling the lower side for the trail and NOT by cutting the ground on the upper side.
- Residents will be given at least 48 hours notice prior to the start of clearing and construction. The trail behind houses on Bluff Point Dr. to be constructed under frozen ground conditions to mitigate the issue of compaction.
- Construction zone will be limited to 15 ft. width where possible when tree health is a concern, although some lower fill slopes may widen the total corridor to approximately 20 feet. (Parks forestry to determine these limits.)
- Brush to be cleared by contractor with forestry mower with tracks to reduce compaction impacts. Trail area to be cleared before construction begins so the trail construction can be clearly staked in the field. Clearing will be limited to the 15' corridor needed for trail construction. Additional clearing of buckthorn and other invasive species will not be done. Wood chips from the clearing may be mulched into the soil surface on the trail. Logs over 6" diameter may be used as blocking to contain the fill slopes below the trail. Other material shall be removed, not pushed off or dumped along the trail.
- 3-inch clear limestone to be added as fill to create 10 ft. wide hiking/skiing trail surface. ¾ inch clear stone to top dress trail surface. This recommendation allows for moisture and air to reach tree roots even though grade has been

raised. Wood chips may be added in a thin layer at a later date next spring or summer (possible volunteer project).

- Tow of slope to be anchored with logs cleared along the trail and/or coconut biologs to prevent stone from "migrating" down slope. Biologs can be seeded or planted with natives.
- Initial construction should be completed in 5-10 working days on this segment.

LANDSCAPING AND RESTORATION ALONG THE TRAIL CORRIDOR

Where the ski trail runs close to houses, the City will preserve or replant a buffer 10-15 feet wide. Plantings will be native shrubs that generally stay shorter than 10 feet. Existing vegetation, whether native or non-native will be preserved for screening. If homeowners volunteer to improve the native landscape quality, or improve the health of specimen trees, adjacent to their property, City staff will work with them individually to find a mutually agreeable landscape design and management plan.

REMAINDER OF DOOR CREEK SKI TRAILS

TREE PROTECTION PROTOCOLS (Bluff Point and all other trail segments)

1. Trees that are to be protected during the trail construction will have yellow flagging tied around their trunks. Orange fencing will be erected around the trees that are flagged where necessary to confine construction limits. In wooded/brushy areas, the limits of clearing will also be the limits of construction. No grading, trenching or machinery can be used in the fenced area. Where trails go immediately adjacent to tree trunks, extra care must be taken, and some hard fencing or wood board protection will be used. Any fill activity will be under the advisement and supervision of a City of Madison representative.
2. When roots of protected trees are encountered that are 1-inch or greater in size, a City of Madison representative will determine where to sever root(s). Roots shall be cut cleanly with a saw or ax. No wound dressing will be applied.
3. Brush that is cleared for the construction of the trail shall be removed off site or chipped and applied to trail construction under the supervision of a City of Madison representative.
4. No machinery or excess soil can be stored within the orange fencing around flagged trees.
5. City owned trees vicinity of the of the construction of the trail will be pruned for crown cleaning and raising as defined by *ANSI A300* (American National Standards Institute) for Tree Care Operations. *Crown cleaning* includes the removal of dead branches, stubs, and hanging broken live or dead branches that are 2-inches or greater. *Crown raising* shall address limbs that hang lower than 8 feet by shortening or removing downward-growing branches 2-inches in diameter or greater. Branches smaller than 2-inches may be temporarily tied up during the construction process to provide clearance over the ski trail area for construction equipment. City Forestry staff will prune and remove designated trees prior to the start of the construction of the trail. Removal of additional dead trees or invasive species that are beyond the trail corridor will not be done.

6. Construction phase monitoring by City representative to:
 - Ensure that all regulations and requirements imposed on the project are met.
 - Identify any existing or developing tree related problems that require treatment.
 - Discuss any new design or work procedures with the project coordinators.
 - Note: All contracted work to be closely supervised by park staff (Forestry, Conservation).

REMAINING NORTH LOOP TRAIL (north of park access at High Cliff Trail)

- Most of trail loop can be cleared with forestry mower with minimal grading of surface. This should be accomplished this winter along with other forestry mower work to avoid additional mobilization costs from contractor.
- Grading will be required for Northeast trail segment that follows natural gas pipeline route. Cut and fill to be approved and coordinated with pipeline owner.
- Grading requires unfrozen ground, and will take place in Spring/Summer 2009.
- All graded areas will be seeded, and mulched by contractor.

TRAIL SEGMENTS SOUTH OF HIGH CLIFF / BLUFF POINT PARK ACCESS

- Any forestry mower work required will take place in winter 2008-9 with other clearing work.
- Minimal grading on the trails with some grubbing of tree stumps in trail surface.
- There will be additional grading at the High Cliff/Bluff Point entrance to accommodate the trail entrance and facilitate crossing the paved bike path with the ski trails up and down the hill.
- Some fill and grading needed for far south trail area that uses former farm road along property line of High Cliff Trail residences. Any fill will be on the downhill side of trail away from private residences.
- Grubbing and fill work to occur in winter 2008-9 under frozen ground conditions.
- Grading and finishing work (seed and mulch) to occur in Spring/Summer 2009.

SUPERVISION

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-drafted by Si Widstrand and other Parks Staff 12-09-08

