

Ravine Update. June 23, 2016.

## 1. Project Managers' Summer Schedule.

Jeanie O'Shaughnessy, Ricky Richardson are the Project Managers.

Goal: Create big visual impact to generate interest.

Jeanie walked the entire perimeter of the Ravine with Jay Moore of the SCC Horticultural Dept. and marked "keepers" with blue tape. (Jay was excited to discover several sassafras trees.)

Joel Cox of Forestry Unlimited test-sprayed a section of Pod 1 to attack rampant ground ivy. The test was successful, and Joel has now hand-sprayed all of the ground ivy, wisteria, and other uglies in the 5-acres of Pod 1. Cost was \$3,175.

Newt Hardie and Company will continue to spray kudzu, remove bamboo, trees of heaven, parasol trees, and other undesirables, and to schedule the bob-cattng of areas that are flat and accessible. We have paid \$6,000 to Newt for his work to date.

Ricky will begin scheduling volunteer work days again when weather and vacation schedules are more favorable.

## 2. Other Ravine Activity.

Chuck and Wesley have been meeting with City Manager Ed Memmott, and Mark Ford and Josh Baker of the City's Grounds and Greens Department to create a formal agreement between the City and CHNA to cover:

- City responsibility to maintain the landscaped and irrigated areas along the side of Pod 1 in front of the Young's house. This area was landscaped by Sherwood Circle residents under Bill Barnet's leadership, with the idea that the City would take over maintenance at some point. (The City has indicated that they would rather we not create any more of these landscaped spaces unless we plan to maintain them ourselves.)
- City to provide minimal maintenance of the Ravine, mostly mowing around edges, taking down dangerous trees, and mulching flat areas along the roads. (We are asking that the City follow the same codes that would be in effect if the Ravine were privately owned.)
- New agreement for yearly planting/replanting of street trees using the CHNA managed Trees Fund.
- Improving/replanting of the median on Mills Avenue.

- City acceptance of the plan in place to improve and restore the Ravine. (City will require liability waivers of all volunteers working in the Ravine, and volunteers under the age of 18 will have to have their parents sign off. We plan to add CHNA to this waiver.)

Mailers have been sent to all residents in CH who have not been already solicited inviting them to participate in this project, and explaining what we are doing.

The ALTA plan has been posted on the CHNA website, along with a brief write up of the project, and a Paypal link for donations.

We plan to have a sign and some handouts at Happy Hollow Park for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade to promote this project.

Please note: To restore the Ravine to a natural Piedmont forest, we will be removing some large, healthy plants, mostly bamboo, holly, and ligustrum, which have been planted by homeowners over the years.

The reason behind this is to take out non-natives and invasives, open up sight lines into the Ravine and to the stream, and to allow sunlight to penetrate into the Ravine to promote healthy growth of the plants and trees that belong there.

It is likely that some neighbors will say we are taking out too much and others that we are taking out too little. We are relying on the expertise of Jay Moore and Kevin Parris on this, and will have City approval, since the Ravine is City property.

Our 3-year plan is moving forward on budget, with appropriate over-sight, and with thoughtful deliberation.

Have a great summer!

Wesley