



# Newberry Woods Community Forest

## Public Engagement Planning Meetings

### Planning Meeting #1 Results

January 17, 2023

Synopsis: During Planning Meeting #1, community members thought about the implications of a community forest, and brainstormed a list of Objectives and Community Benefits for Newberry Woods. Objectives and Community Benefits were written as pairs, and all were nested under the three overarching Goals for the community forest: Conservation, Stewardship, and Public Engagement. The following lists are the results of that meeting.



Community member input on “What does a  
*community forest* mean to you?”

<b>GOAL: CONSERVATION</b>		
Protect water quality and provide habitat for salmonids & other wildlife		
	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>COMMUNITY BENEFIT</b>
1	Habitat connectivity, more land acquisitions.	Less human-wildlife conflict, so wildlife can migrate through less urban areas to reach the resources they need.
2	Watershed and salmon habitat.	Biodiversity; soil stabilization and preservation.
3	Conservation of uncommon tree species & vegetation.	Food forests.
4	Conserve wildlife.	Enjoying wildlife, knowing that wildlife is in our community, Improved quality of life for people and animals.
5	Conserve trees and other plants to absorb carbon.	Cleaner air.
6	Protect and enhance salmon streams.	Observe salmon and increase their population to preserve the species and maintain biodiversity.
7	Protect ravine/forest sensitive areas; possibly restrict access in the ravines.	Safety, protection for forest and beings.
8	Expand the size of the forest through future acquisitions. (GPC)	Expand wildlife habitat and corridor size and quality.

<b>GOAL: STEWARDSHIP</b>		
Maintain the property as a community forest for the benefit of people & wildlife		
	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>COMMUNITY BENEFIT</b>
1	Look for the best loop path that appeases citizens & resident, and new, species inhabiting the forest area.	Much of humankind's actions are killing off species of beautiful animals. This will be a very good learning environment.
2	Enhance plant diversity to strengthen resilience to climate change.	More sustainable forest to enjoy; community can enjoy forest longer.
3	Incorporate actions that prohibit smoking viewers and look for ways to prevent a homeless encampment.	-
4	Manage for forest fires via thinning, limiting fuel ladders, prescribed burns.	Surrounding homes less susceptible to fire.
5	Manage invasive plants.	Prevent spread of invasive species in community & maximize ecological health.
6	Reduce human-wildlife interfaces; keep very little trails.	Improve wildlife.
7	Accessibility to encourage stewardship.	Supports advocacy from more diverse points of view.
8	Wildland fire mitigation.	Property protection.

9	Forest management.	Improve habitat.
10	If thinning is necessary for forest health, choose wisely what density and what is natural and will thrive.	Community will better understand the benefit of forest practices.
11	Geological assessment - critical slope areas.	Make sure we don't create destabilized trails.
12	Promote wildlife with as little human interaction as possible.	Increased wildlife.
13	Provide high quality wildlife habitat; utilize ecological forest management to improve ecosystem function /services/health. (GPC)	Maintaining the community's sense of place through our connection to nature; uphold community values; provide a revenue source to GPC.
14	Improving climate resiliency of the landscape. (GPC)	Fire risk abatement; improved water quality; increased biodiversity lessens risk of catastrophic species loss.
15	Provide tribal access to first foods and forest products. (GPC)	Preserve tribal knowledge, acknowledgement, and relationships.

<b>GOAL: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT</b>		
Allow public access to the community forest; Solicit community involvement in decisions regarding forest management, habitat protection, & allowable uses		
	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>COMMUNITY BENEFIT</b>
1	Find a good loop path showing the best of the forest, safely,	Public involvement and enjoyment,
2	Work with Newberry Hill Heritage Park Stewards to learn about the area,	Connecting with knowledgeable community members will increase the success of the community forest,
3	Take school kids out to learn about our forests,	Positive education,
4	Incorporate a space for community members to benefit directly from the land (food forest, community garden, orchard, etc.),	Increase participation of community on the land, increase community health, agricultural/silviculture education,
5	Get a brochure down to Visit Kitsap Peninsula,	Green tourists,
6	Environmental education / Land Labs,	Engage the future generation, connect youth to the land,
7	Limit to walks led by GPC,	Increased wildlife,
8	Trail from Hood Canal to Green Mountain,	Exercise, enjoyment of nature,
9	Plant salvages,	Change concept of what a yard is,
10	Interpretive trails,	-

11	Communication & formal engagement with Newberry Woods residents,	Promotes ease of access,
12	Hiking and biking trails,	Health and recreation,
13	Create a public access for trails to include safe parking,	Quality of life for adjacent neighborhood and users. Current parking is across Newberry using limited on-street parking.
14	Education,	STEM education; ongoing understanding of conservation
15	Trails for hiking & walking; interpretive trails,	Health & wellbeing; family activities,
16	Biking,	Building community relationships,
17	Introduce community members to the community forest through walks and presentations,	Community members learn about nature in their own community, & support the protection of the property,
18	Managed & controlled access points,	Having clear signs to enjoy the park & respect the neighborhood,
19	Low environmental impact with creating trails, etc.	Enjoy the wildlife in the forest, & protect habitat,
20	No camping, motorized, or mountain biking, horses; only hiking,	Control and manage community volume of people going into the community forest,
21	Resources for water quality protection, rain gardens, sustainable building, grey water systems, fire protection strategies, water management systems, sustainability education.	Protecting habitat and health of the biosphere; Support educating the community about stewardship of the areas around the community forest,
22	Hold community meetings before thinning and forest management,	Increase understanding, support for care of the forest,
23	Create activities, trails, & volunteering opportunities that are accessible to those with various disabilities including those who use wheelchairs,	Engage and include those with disabilities in nature, a space they are often excluded from due to lack of accessibility. This has huge benefits for mental health & quality of life, as well as community exposure & familiarity with people with disabilities,
24	Engage the community & young people to educate about hands-on and practical knowledge about nature and ecology to pass down this vital information to the next generation,	Steward and protect the environment for generations to come which can only be achieved collectively in community,
25	Outdoor gym; disability parking; playground,	-
26	Access by foot only.	Less impact on trails.



27	On-site, off-road wheelchairs available, accessibility vehicles distinguished from ATV's.	-
28	Create a food forest or demonstration garden to involve the community,	Engage the community in the vital skill of producing free food to care for people who may be food insecure, and promote decentralized, local, healthy food for the health of the community,
29	Invite speakers or Bremerton Sun to start the movement.	To entice those who might want to donate to GPC.
30	Perk up interest of different groups.	Create nature lovers - focus on children & families, i.e. children's forest - introduce them to walking & hiking.
31	Handicap accessible hiking only path.	Keep the area open for mostly wildlife.
32	Access to property limited to begin with - minimal trails.	Learn about wildlife & birds, native plants, mushrooms, etc.
33	Limit traffic to foot only, excluding horses and ATVs.	Bad for the plants.
34	Nearby schools working on science.	-
35	Onsite classes for the community - plant ID; forest management; foraging; art and photography.	Encourage stewardship in local residents.
36	Adopt appropriate Kitsap County Park management statutes (e.g. no firearm discharge, no motorized vehicles).	Equivalence of park management regulations.
37	Education programs for community beyond school-aged children.	Increase in stewardship in the community.
38	Include the community in stewardship activities to reduce costs & educate about forests & ecology.	Reducing costs and educating the community,
39	Create and maintain a high-quality recreational trail system (form a self-sustaining trail stewards group). (GPC)	Health and wellness; empower the community to have a feeling of ownership.
40	Create meaningful environmental education & community science projects. (GPC)	Improve scientific literacy; add to the scientific body of knowledge (assisted migration); STEM careers.
41	Provide a space for the community to gather & connect with nature. (GPC)	Improve equitable and inclusive access to natural spaces; "improve" the physical and mental health of community members; educational tours & field trips with school/scout groups, etc.; generate new & meaningful relationships among different segments of our community.