

Black Earth Creek Natural Resource Area Master Plan
Sunnyside Seed Farm Property
Public Input Meeting Summary
November 3, 2009

Habitat restoration and natural areas:

- Prairie remnants and preserving nature are important.
- Spend money on removing invasive species.
- Have a restoration focus – a smooth transition between prairie and woodland by restoring savanna between the two.
- Keep natural, improve habitat.
- Involve schools in invasive species control.
- Concern about logging damage to future trails.
- Control invasive species.
- Randall Swanson would want the woodlots managed with proper silvicultural techniques. They selectively cut lumber and had a portable sawmill to mill lumber for neighbors.
- This is a local natural area to go to, keep it in a natural state.

Water Quality

- Black Earth Creek water quality is important.
- Water quality projects could be instituted on the land south of USH 14, which is easier to access and walk around because it is level, this could be a great educational area.
- Impact on water quality is important. Knowing that trout live here means the water quality is good and that is important for the health of the whole area. We owe our children this greenspace.

Low Impact Opportunities

- Keep development low key – mostly trails not access roads.
- The topography is important, I like the property as it is, no development around it is part of the beauty.
- Like resting areas and benches along the trails. Benches can be made out of recycled plastic bottles. Would like tick awareness brochures provided along the trails.
- Would like a sledding hill and restrooms.
- Have shorter trail loops that are easy to access.
- Trails on steep slopes can be built sustainably.

Recreational Opportunities

- Would like mountain biking and more recreational opportunities. Mountain bikers can help build sustainable trails.
- Would like a snowmobile corridor between Middleton and Cross Plains
- Snowmobiling and horseback riding have happened historically on the property and the Swanson's would probably have approved of those uses.

- Interest in the Good Neighbor Trail crossing the property.
- The snowmobile club is interested in a trail crossing the property.
- Would like connections to the Good Neighbor Trail, which will be multi-use for snowmobiles, horse, hiking, etc. Consider more recreational use on future acquisitions to the property.
- Disc golf can be harmonious with nature-based recreation on a fee basis. Firebreaks can be used for disc golf in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. Would like more variety in the uses allowed at the property, especially considering the Ice Age Trail corridor for hiking is almost adjacent to the property. Disc golf tournaments don't have to be allowed. For disc golf you need parking, a mix of open land and woods, and elevation changes. This property is perfect. To implement disc golf, concrete T-pads and a fee station would be needed.
- Randall Swanson was an active snowmobiler and would approve of a trail through the property.
- The Town is looking for a site for a dog park, but noted that this site isn't an option due to the grant restrictions.
- As a cyclist and mountain biker the natural beauty is important and would like surrounding trails uses to go through the park. We need more mountain biking areas in this part of the County and they can be built sustainably.
- Would like to see horseback riding.
- Dane county needs more land open to a variety of recreation that people can use.

Access

- Access and parking are important.
- Happy this property is not a development, needs some access where it is not so steep.
- Hunters need safe access from USH 14 right now.
- The property needs to be useable to build a constituency.

Neighbor Remarks

- The owner of one of the inholding parcels along USH 14 said the inholdings are a potential access point.
- Neighbors would like the boundaries marked and the boundary signs checked periodically.
- Good fences make good neighbors.
- Would like to see farming portions of the property to continue perhaps in the form of a farm or crop demonstration area. Or some recognition of Professor Swanson's farm safety contributions.
- People who knew the Swanson's respected them and enjoyed knowing them and working with them and want the property to reflect the values of the Swansons.