

From: [Bob Carey](#)
To: [cindy foster](#)
Subject: Suggestion Negley Park
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 4:40:17 PM

Cindy Foster
September 23, 2020

Cindy,

Here are some reflections and suggestions based on our walk and talk recently.

The Problem

The “View” at Negley Park is an oft replicate image familiar to many folks in our region. It appears that over the course of time, trees have come to grace the otherwise vacant space inside the frame. These trees were undoubtedly planted with the best of intentions and reflected laudable environmental sensibility. While they were small, they did not impose on the view and were easily ignored. Meanwhile though, as they attained stature, their value functionally (in an environmental sense), increased. Today however this value conflicts with an original value; namely the ability to see the Capitol Complex unobstructed.

During our discussion, we did not explore the possibly the View might have been formally protected. Today, there is clearly an emerging conflict between the presence of otherwise healthy trees and the ecosystem value they afford and the aesthetic value of the view across the river.

Observation

The notion of planting, preserving and generally promoting trees is powerful. The conspicuous removal of healthy trees is bound to raise concerns. I’d like to suggest some accommodations that I think most thoughtful people would appreciate and even become enthused about.

The Pivot

Remove the obstructive trees. Remove the non-obstructive pear trees that bracket the open space; they are aggressive non invasives.

There are several failed trees in the park that need to be removed to eliminate hazards. Their removal may provide opportunities to replant some appropriate species as well as provide some educational opportunities. Utilizing space “vacated” by failed trees has great value in that trees generally thrive better in communities of trees.

Besides restoring the view that folks associate with the park, incorporating and managing trees elsewhere in the park can be aesthetically desirable but provide and even more robust eco-benefit.

Recommendations

Directing my attention elsewhere in the park, I couldn’t help notice areas of potential tree failure where the woods are covered in mostly non-native vines. There is a scenario of slow decline punctuated by sudden failures, usually associated with ice storms. Viney/forest edge systems are more dynamic than unimpaired woodlots. Relieved of competition from vines; these trees will look and perform better.

Elsewhere, there are some banks covered by the *dreaded* mile a minute vine. There are lots of reasons to address this issue; sooner would be better and easier.

How much is a view worth? How much are trees worth? Reconciling the proposition these questions pose can ultimately be an opportunity for an education in civics, forestry and land management.

Moreover, It provides an opportunity to incorporate the talents of individuals and organizations lending their expertise, enthusiasm and promotional heft.

CBF, Master Gardeners, Landscape and Engineering firms came to mind.

I'd be happy to make suggestions for any of those and happy to lend my further two cent if appropriate.

Sincerely,

Bob Carey; Horticultural Services.