

Master Planning Proposal 5/25/10

Development of LCC Perimeter Lands south of Main Campus:
Oak woodland, Eldon Schaffer Nature Trail and Jay Marston Forest

To: Members of Master Planning Task Force, Facilities Council and LCC Board of Education

From: Gail Baker and Joe Russin, Science Division

I would like to advocate for LCC to become a land steward rather than a landlord. We have two exceptional areas of land with habitat that is rapidly disappearing from the Willamette Valley. This land has been an instructional, ecological and aesthetic resource for the campus since 1964.

The current nature preserves provide many many teaching and learning opportunities. The following are only some that should be considered.

The current nature preserves provides:

- Students with field sites within walking distance of the main campus class rooms. No vehicle transportation required.
- Field research experience. Best practices in science education show that introducing research participation in introductory science classes gives students advantages in employment, scholarships and success in upper division courses and improves science literacy. LCC does not have separate research orientated labs but we do have some venues where students can engage in open ended research. The surrounding nature preserve is one such area.
- A Continuing a legacy of field oriented course initiated by founding faculty Jay Marston, Freeman Rowe, Rhoda Love and Rick Fraga.

Please refer to the attached report, Balancing & Preventing Native Habitat Loss on the Lane Community College Campus (2009), which details the importance of the perimeter habitats.

A revenue stream from on-campus housing is certainly an enticing option to try to stabilize the LCC budget. But I would urge you to think about the value of the resource we have and focus on teaching learning related ?development?. Development that would integrate the mission and the expertise of the college employees. Housing and rental units require housing management and maintenance. To actually transform lives through learning we need to provide exceptional teaching venues that are not available at any other Oregon community college. Promoting LCC campus as having these opportunities should be used to attract both students and staff.

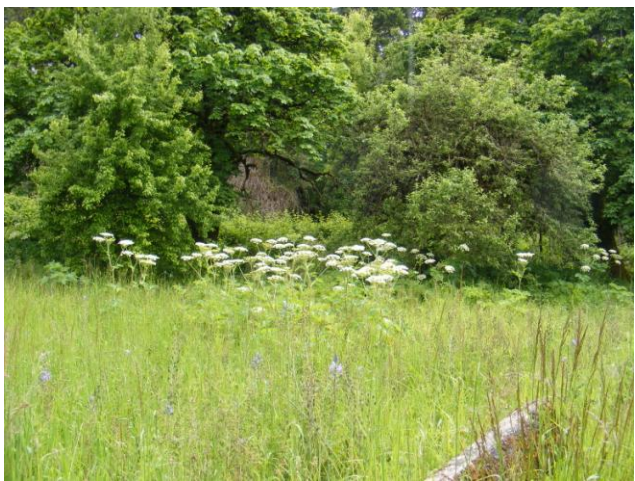
What is needed is to protect and identify the area as a nature preserve for the campus and community. It will take some broader thinking to figure out how to establish LCC's fiscal sustainability by focusing on minimal development or redirection of development to support and enhance natural landscapes that are currently on the perimeter of the campus.

I urge you to address and answer the question:
How can land stewardship provide revenue for LCC?

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Above photos taken along the south parking lot perimeter on 9 July 2009 after removal of vegetation.



Above photos taken from the same approximately positions 24 May 2010. Showing good native vegetation recovery.

Comments:

The eminent ecologist E. O. Wilson as noted that the greatest threat to biodiversity (and, therefore human survival) is deforestation. When considering the destruction of wild habitat, there are two areas impacted: both the destroyed habitat and the remaining fragments of wildland. Forest fragments cannot sustain the rich diversity that extensive forests can for several reasons. First, the isolated populations can't interbreed with other populations and are susceptible to being wiped out by disease, parasites or predation. They are also likely to experience genetic bottlenecks with their attendant problems. Second, fragments suffer from what are known as "edge effects": the borders of such fragments acting as refuges for parasites and predators. And, in some cases, fragments act as population sinks. In such a case, organisms from nearby, intact forests move to the fragment but do not survive for the reasons listed above, and the overall population declines (even in the intact forest). If sustainability is indeed a "core value", we must be fully aware of the environmental impacts of our actions and we must take responsibility for their consequences.

--Bert Pooth Science Division 5/26/2010

Campus Master Plan Presentations 5/21/2010

Last fall Dr. Mark Gillem and his architecture students at the University of Oregon began a project looking at future opportunities for Lane Community College's main campus and its perimeter. The results of this project will be used to influence the Board's adoption of a conceptual framework and the Facilities Council's development of our campus master plan. The materials developed which include 2D renderings, 3D models, and other graphic displays, will be available for two days -- Tuesday, May 25 and Wednesday, May 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in CML 102. In addition, a two-hour reception and focused presentation, which include remarks from the Board of Education, President Spilde, and others, are scheduled for Tuesday, May 25 from 3:00-5:00 pm in CML 102. Science faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to attend. Some of the plans may affect our outdoor learning areas such as the wetlands and the Oak savannah forest. Gail baker is providing information to Dr. Gillem so that his team is aware of these valuable instructional resources.

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