

Harmony Campus plan includes road extension

The controversial extension of Sunnybrook Road remains on the plan, but is scaled back

BY MATTHEW GRAHAM

The Clackamas Review, Apr 28, 2009, Updated 11.3 hours ago



COURTESY OF LANGO HANSEN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS / CLACKAMAS REVIEW

The gray line outlined in orange shows the proposed path of the Sunnybrook Road extension through the Three Creeks Natural area behind the Clackamas Community College Harmony Campus. The road at the far right is SE 82nd Avenue, and the road across the top is Harmony.

After two years of public forums, planning charettes and more, a conceptual master plan has been presented for the Harmony campus.

The near-term plan for the site includes more defined trails in the lower forested part of the site at 82nd Avenue and Harmony Road, a disc golf course, expanded parking facilities, storm water improvements and an extension of Sunnybrook Road that would cut between the campus and the forested area and meet up with Harmony Road at Fuller Street.

The long-term plan includes expansions of the upper campus portion to include more academic space, a campus mall or community space, and mixed-use development where Toys 'R' Us currently sits. It also envisions completing the trail loop in the lower portion, expanding the disc golf facilities, and adding a picnic area.

The document is intended as a guiding plan for any of the various organizations — the North Clackamas Parks District, **Clackamas Community College**, Oregon Institute of Technology, the Clackamas Development Agency — that has plans for the site. So if CCC wants to expand on the site, it has an idea of where those partners would like its expansion to go and what their plans are for other portions of the campus.

“The plan before us today is a plan to coordinate, not dictate,” said Dan Johnson, of the Development Agency. “Before you had a lot of special interests.”

NCPRD Planner Michelle Healey said having a plan also allows the organizations to seek grants and other funding sources.

Sunnybrook extension

The most controversial aspect of the plan has been the extension of Sunnybrook Road.

The Tsunami Crew, a volunteer group that takes care of the lower wetlands area, has said that putting in the road would require cutting down a line of oaks atop the ridge that they estimate at over 200 years old.

Johnson said the county has taken those concerns into account and scaled down the extension accordingly.

“We’ve heard a lot of concerns about environmental impacts,” he said. “Essentially what happened is the roadway design ranged up to five lanes in width and was further down on the bluff. We’ve had meetings to say, ‘can we move it up the bluff and reduce it and still have it as a functional roadway system?’

“The road before you is a road on a diet,” he said.

The plan is to have it wider where it meets 82nd Avenue and Harmony, but to have the roadway through the campus be much smaller and higher up on the bluff so that it won’t take out those trees.

“The road uses a lot of the existing driveway that’s there already,” Johnson said.

Dick Shook, who’s advocated for the preservation of the trees, said he’s still concerned about the extension.

He said he’s worried that even with two lanes they’d have to cut down old oak trees, “and once it goes through, at some point down the road they’re going to say, ‘gee, we need it wider,’” he said.