

# Preliminary List of Key Issues

April 4, 2005

A preliminary list of key issues was developed based on informal stakeholder interviews conducted to date and the input received from a questionnaire completed by District staff. *This list is a summary of the key issues and preliminary recommendations from the initial stakeholder interviews and may not be inclusive of all issues to be addressed in the Master Plan.*

## **Balance Protection of Open Space with Low-intensity Recreational Use**

- Maintain the wilderness character and other open space values of each Preserve.
- Fulfill the District's mission balanced with current and future visitor use and demand.
- Provide low-intensity recreational opportunities that are in harmony with each Preserve's features.
- Plan future use to ensure that the environment is not compromised.

## **Visitor Use**

- A diversity of users are interested in the Preserve trails (bikers, hikers, runners, equestrians, dog owners, etc.).
- The trail use guidelines should consider the different user groups so they are not in conflict.
- Review examples of existing trail systems that provide for multi-use and learn from the successes and challenges.
- Appropriate maps and signage should be provided to designate trails and allowed uses.
- Policies should encourage people to stay on designated open trails and out of sensitive or dangerous areas.
- Staging areas should be in places that provide direct access to the main trails.
- Consider allowing other uses such as hang gliding in the Preserves or visitor access to Mount Umunhum.

## **Specific Areas of Concern**

- Dogs and horses have experienced conflicts sharing the trails.
- Mountain bikers and horse riders have experienced conflicts sharing the trails.
- Apprehension by residents that the District will try to buy their property.
- Trails should be open so the public feels that the money the District has spent buying the open space is worthwhile.
- Address concerns regarding un-permitted uses and trespassing.
- The Bear Creek permit process is difficult and has resulted in fewer users.
- Concern about resident safety when gates are introduced that require residents to get out of their cars.
- Some feel that Mount Umunhum should be open to the public; others find that Mount Umunhum should be closed.
- Buildings should be restored for historical interpretation, for docent-led activities, and school groups.

## **Community Coordination**

- Coordinate with surrounding neighbors and interested parties and involve them in the planning activities. Partner with the nearby neighbors to share the responsibility for improvements.
- Involve key organizations and individuals representing various interests to participate in the process.
- Coordinate with interested parties to explore volunteer programs and funding opportunities.
- Partner with other agencies and organizations that own the surrounding land. Coordinate connections to other Preserves and parks to provide contiguous wildlife corridors and potential trail access.
- Use electronic/web-based resources to provide opportunities for the public to review documents and comment outside of meetings.