

Serene Conservancy status

The gravel loops in the lowlands, presently used by walkers and pets, are to be totally removed, destroying their function as a levee confining Van Bibber Creek. The replacement is a single curved path to the south made durable with fine gravel. There is also a small lowland loop of mowed grass, not durable for walking traffic.

The upper (south) pond is to be excavated, lined, with dirt replacement, to hold water temporarily for irrigation of the lowlands.

A picnic shelter and playground are to be built south of the parking lot.

Total cost estimate: \$774K as of June, likely to rise 30%, from property taxes.

Main issue: Conservation Easement allows natural and agricultural uses and irrigation. The District is not choosing agriculture and its water needs. By definition, all natural areas must receive precipitation only. Therefore the plans for the irrigation system and lining of the south pond (which are costly) violate the natural status and waste water on prairie grasses that do not need it.

from Dr. Ed Holroyd, former caretaker. eholroyd@juno.com