



# Chambers Creek Properties Newsletter

Winter 2008

*Reclaiming our Resources*

Volume XX



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*A BNSF train rolls past Central Meadow*

## Central and North Meadow Update

Located in the middle of the Chambers Creek Properties, the 22-acre Central Meadow is scheduled to officially open in August of 2008. The grass is coming in on an 11-acre event lawn that will be used for passive recreation as well as a staging area for golf tournaments and community festivals.

The preservation of existing mining relics links the historic use of the site to the present. The “swing set” is a large concrete structure that is located at the west end of the event lawn. Remnants of seven sorting bins and a conveyor tunnel at the north end of the meadow serve as a buffer to the Chambers Bay golf course. Central Meadow also features a half-mile loop trail that links to Soundview Trail and will eventually provide access to the North Beach and North Dock via an overpass. Native grasses will be planted throughout in combination with hundreds of native shore pines and other trees. A new restroom facility at Central Meadow and a parking area with space for 84 cars will be opening early 2008. This will open vehicular access to the lower portions of the Soundview Trail, making it more accessible to all.



*Looking northwest across North Meadow*

The 6-acre North Meadow includes a lawn at the east end for passive recreation and a larger native wildflower field at the west end. A 39-stall parking area will be accessed by one-way entrance and exit off of Grandview Drive West. The parking area is scheduled to open in early 2008, with the official

opening occurring in August. An existing buffer of trees has been retained on the edges of North Meadow. Several stands of native shore pines on the south side have also been saved. These trees will remain as an integral part of the meadow. Visitors will also enjoy excellent views of Puget Sound and the Chambers Bay golf course from a lookout at the west end. The panoramic views to the south and west will provide spectacular opportunities to view sunsets over Anderson and McNeil Islands.

## Environmental Education

We are always looking for opportunities to provide the most rewarding and inspiring experiences we can at the Chambers Creek Properties. With that in mind, Pierce County is working in partnership with the Chambers Creek Foundation to more fully develop the environmental education potential of the Properties for the people of Pierce County.

Earlier this year, the Foundation and the County began a collaborative process that uses shared perspectives from community members to aid in development of a project. It allows the project team to gain a more complete understanding of the goals and visions for a project.

A major component of this unique process is sharing of information through personal interviews. Local high school and college students will be holding “Earthy Conversations” with members of the community. The selected students will be trained and matched with a mentor and interviewees. Once completed, the results of the interviews will be compiled and used to guide the development of a wide range of environmental education opportunities at the Chambers Creek Properties.

The interviews will focus on connections to the environment and personal experiences. Each question is designed to inspire those involved in the interview to think about how they are connected to the specific places that are important to them and how they are connected to the greater environment and nature.

We are very excited to participate in this process. The valuable information that comes out of it will be used to create environmental education experiences to match the unbounded potential of the Chambers Creek Properties. As this process begins to unfold over the coming months, we expect to learn much about the Chambers Creek Properties and the large community it serves.



*Looking north from North Dock*



## Trail Safety

Since its opening in May, Soundview Trail has become one of our most popular destinations. We make every attempt to ensure that the Chambers Creek Properties offers the most enjoyable features and a safe environment for its users.

To help reach these goals we have marked both Soundview and Grandview Trails in 1/8-mile increments. The white numbers painted on the trail are accompanied by either the letters SV (for Soundview Trail) or GV (for Grandview Trail). Providing these markers will help ensure emergency services can pinpoint any location to which they might be called. They may also be used to calculate how far you have walked on the trails!

For safety reasons, our trails are only available during daylight hours. The gates at Soundview Trail are opened at dawn and closed at dusk to avoid any unsafe situations. Because daylight hours vary so greatly from season to season, the exact time the gates will be opened and closed will also vary. This means longer hours of availability in the summer and significantly shorter hours in the winter.

Please be aware that hazardous conditions caused by snow and ice may require us to temporarily close portions of Soundview Trail over the winter months.

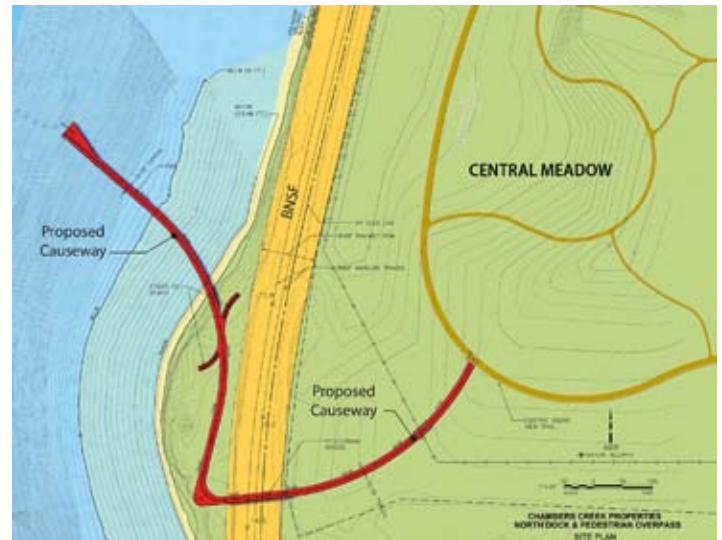
## Next Year's Projects

2007 was a big year for the Chambers Creek Properties. Many years of work culminated in the opening of Chambers Bay golf course and Soundview Trail. North and Central Meadows are also close to completion (projected opening August of 2008.) With all of these accomplishments for 2007 it is time to turn our attention to 2008. It is shaping up to be another busy and productive year for the Chambers Creek Properties team. Here are some of the projects we will be working on:

### North Dock and Pedestrian Overpass

In 2007 work began on the North Dock Overpass and reconstruction of North Dock. The new overpass and dock will maximize use of the shoreline, allow safe access across the BNSF Railroad tracks and replace existing aging structures with new fish-friendly structures. Pierce County has submitted applications for permits and is continuing to work with a variety of state and local agencies to complete the permitting process.

Pierce County has been able to obtain approximately \$1 million dollars in state funds for construction of the overpass and has requested an additional \$1.4 million dollars to complete the



*North Dock and Overpass*

overpass portion of the project. The County has also applied for federal funding for the reconstruction of the North Dock. The total cost for the project, including design and permitting, is estimated to be \$9.5 million.

### Chambers Creek Canyon

The Chambers Creek Canyon is a beautiful area and a wonderful asset. The Master Site Plan identifies improved accessibility and utility in this area. Currently the canyon has a multitude of disconnected trails in various states of repair. The improvement of the trail system will provide users with an enjoyable nature trail experience and provide new access to portions of Chambers Creek. This trail system will be designed to integrate into the larger regional trail system as opportunities arise.

Design for improvements in the lower canyon will begin in 2008 with permitting and construction to follow in 2010.



*Photo courtesy of Jeff McCrory*



## Golf News

In its first six months Chambers Bay has received rave reviews and exceeded initial expectations for rounds played. In addition the course has hosted numerous tournaments, including:



**BMW Northwest Charity Skins Game** The October Skins event was a huge a success. More than 1,500 people walked the course with Aaron Baddeley (playing for the Chambers Creek Foundation), Ryan Moore (playing for Operation Holiday Hope), Bubba Watson (playing for Emergency Food Network), and Michael Putnam (playing for Need a Break Services).

**2007 Big Ten/Pac-10 Challenge** The fourth annual event held October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> was co-hosted by Northwestern University and the University of Washington. Four teams from the Big Ten Conference (Northwestern, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan State) competed against four teams from the Pac-10 Conference (UW, Oregon, UCLA and Oregon State.) UCLA took the team victory.

Chambers Bay has received national media attention since its opening in June. Several golf and travel magazines have recognized the course for its excellence.

- Best New Course Opened in 2007—Golfweek
- Development of the Year (Daily Fee category) 2007— Golf Inc.
- Top New Course of 2007— Travel + Leisure Golf magazine
- Best New Course of 2007—GOLF Magazine

For information on upcoming events please visit [www.ChambersBayGolf.com](http://www.ChambersBayGolf.com)



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