

Gypsy Way

Constraints, opportunities, and obligations

Covers about 2 acres of forested wetlands (most plans propose development of only half). Floods often inundate the area. Understory provides buffer and habitat. Invasive non-native vegetation covers some of the site. Native vegetation merits protection. The site is too small to be significant wildlife habitat (e.g., chickadees defend a nest territory four to eight times larger). The dense canopy and wetland soil would make sod growth challenging.

The northern boundary of the original property marks the limit of the possible public area. The out-of-the-way location predicts relatively low traffic. An emergency exit from East 13th and Gypsy Stage must be included. Space should be reserved for Gypsy Stage and booth campers. A non-public toilet court north of Gypsy Stage could provide relief for campers, vendors, and entertainers. A service road from Snivel Road could provide access for carts, gators, and pedestrians, but truck access might be difficult in wet conditions.

This is the last area contiguous to the Figure 8 where a traditional forest path and a quiet site for a small acoustic stage (e.g., Shady Grove or Daredevil Palace replacement) could be developed. Note possible sound conflicts with Gypsy Stage, the Rabbit Hole, and the Front Porch. Noise from the Recycling dock may intrude until the dock moves to another location (2012?). "Gypsy" has negative connotations to some people. A different name should be chosen if this area is opened to the public.

Common elements in most plans

Open public space with two entrances, one at or near the Gypsy Stage plaza and the other between the Rabbit Hole and the Front Porch, which stay where they are. A long stacking lane where bus riders wait before the gates open. A family- and service-only entrance from Smile/Snivel. Toilets and hand washing station at Greenbus Road. Quiet use level.

Options

Tribal Way. Nature walk. Bubble dome. Community Village annex. Child Care satellite compound. Education, Fair history, Galleria Philanthropia. Bell tower, minaret, wishing well, banner poles. Food booth(s), coffee shop near back entrance. Up to 15 booths, including some minis or carts. Wildlife/raptor rescue and rehabilitation, demonstrations. Elders' Still Living Room (nearest public site to Elders' camp). Small- to medium-sized acoustic stage (e.g., vaudeville, music, mime, spoken word). Kids' play area and Mellow Place (puts kids in the shade, frees space in Crafts Lot for high-traffic booth space).

Please note that all plans are preliminary and conceptual. On-the-ground constraints and opportunities will dictate changes.

Send comments to <pathplanning@oregoncountryfair.net> or to Path Planning Committee, Oregon Country Fair, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, OR 97401. Input received by September 1, 2010, will be incorporated into the refinement of these plans. See <http://ocfpathplanning.org> for more information.