

## **Recommendation of 4-Campus Woods Committee**

After many months of shared reflection with the KCC communities, the 4CW Committee is convinced that as Phase One of a fence protection plan, the area south of Bennett's Run should be fenced to prevent deer browse of seedlings.

This 40+ acre area is considered the most urgent for protection from deer because there is little or no evidence there of sustained growth of seedlings from trees, shrubs or woodland ground covers. The contiguous acreage includes:

- 20 acres of spray fields upon which the Crosslands, Kendal and Cartmel communities depend for disposal of effluent from the waste water treatment plant
- 2-3 acres in a blown-down area in which few trees are still standing
- 5-6 acres that is well-shaded, has no understory and has diseased beech trees.

The area has existed for decades as an intact geographical unit within its present boundaries: Bennett's Run, two roads and two footpaths. Implementation of Phase One is an opportunity to demonstrate that heterogeneous contiguous wooded areas can benefit by protection from deer. Fencing of arbitrary smaller units would result in fragmentation of the forest. Also, fencing of smaller plots would adversely impact the experience of hiking on existing trails.

An 8' fence could be set back 20' from boundaries provided by the Service Road, Kendal Drive, the Woods and Creek Trails. Six gates would provide access to the inside of the fenced area, and once inside, the fence would not be easily seen by hikers.

While it is unknown how, whether or if deer browse would worsen in Crosslands or Cartmel gardens, the Grounds Dept. has committed to provide mitigation help.

The visual impact of the fence, if any, will be to Kendal where the woodlands damaged by the spray fields lie along Kendal Drive. Crosslands and Cartmel are both at some distance, will continue to benefit from distal wastewater disposal, and will not see the fence.

The 4CW Committee concluded that this is an important first step toward the eventual recovery of the Big Woods as a whole and that this action is urgent. We are grateful that our community has taken this opportunity to act as good stewards of our shared natural heritage.

---

<sup>1</sup> ARationaleA!