

As roughly indicated here, The Town of Pulaski is helping out on this project. Thanks.

Discussion Paper, The Peak Creek Walkway v 1.0, 9/23/2016

This is a private, not a government, publication.

If you find it useful, please give the following link to others.

Link and updates are at <http://www.pedjo.com/Pulaski.html>

Ike Jeanes

## The Transformation Project

In two onsite meetings, Shawn Utt and I (Ike Jeanes) have discussed a project that has two key components: 1) Making the Pedjo Bike parking lot desirable and attractive especially for wide ranging pedestrian uses and having it integrally contribute to the restoration of West Main Street; and, 2) Bringing the alley up to standards.

For the former, I believe the work can be accomplished at trivially low cost and effort for the Town. Over time I believe it will provide outsized benefits to the Public.

The following is my interpretation of how I would like the project to proceed:

### 1) The Pedjo Bike Parking Lot.

Three changes in the parking lot are proposed: 1) The addition of the Cherry Tree Garden, 2) Removal of drive thru humps, and 3) Relocation of dumpster.

#### The Cherry Tree Garden.

The garden area will reside in a section approximately inscribed by the shown tape measure (17'10" long), perhaps 25" at deepest point and 11" at most shallow. The objective is to lay old style brick and mortar along a curved path roughly where the tape lies. I have and will supply the brick. I will take care of the construction work and expenses for making the wall.



I have arranged to purchase and plant a [Yoshino Cherry](#) (as in the [Washington Cherry Blossom Festival](#)). It will be the signature item in the garden. I have also purchased 12 boxwood to provide winter color along the edges. For ground cover: conventional hardy periwinkle, vinca, and naturalized flower bulbs covered with ivy will face the parking lot. I expect to spend about a thousand dollars to complete the project. If I can get the quality of work and material I want at a lower cost, I will. The planting will begin this fall for blooms to begin in the Spring.

I expect the Town to take one of its big back-hoe-like pieces of machinery with a hammer point and punch the holes for removal of posts and to make a hole for tree roots. A sufficient hole will need to be made for good deep tree roots to form. Breaking up the small area that now contains various posts and similar items shown in the photo and removing those items should be easy. I expect the concrete in this section to be about 6" or so thick. I believe it will require the Town to commit to an hour or so of work. I will supervise the work.

I believe the payback to the public will be large. The area will have an attractive appearance contributing to the appearance of trees, bridge, and Post Office already along this section of Washington Avenue. It will also provide a focal point next to the bridge for Duck watchers.

### **The Drive-Thru Hump.**

It is ugly. It serves no useful purpose. It stands in opposition to any attempt to make a Peak Creek byway useful and attractive. It is an impediment to pedestrians and traffic. It blocks off areas that would otherwise be useful to the public. It must go. Just look at it. It has nothing going for it:



I have partially cut it into 5 foot sections so that they can be removed when the Cherry Tree Garden is prepared:



I expect the Town can remove these drive-thru caps by modestly deepening some of the saw cuts with an 18"+ concrete saw and adding the persuasion of a back hoe. The hope is that they would break off easily. It seems they were poured on the top of pre-existing concrete. I would want my existing drive-thru overhang to remain undisturbed. I would supervise the work.

#### **Dumpster.**



This dumpster, owned by the Town, is used by the public (principally West Main Street businesses). It is on my property, not Town alley property. It blocks the natural walkway along Peak Creek.

On adoption and execution of the plan, it is my intention to have the dumpster moved close to the rear of the Pedjo Bike building on my property. I believe this move in combination with the garden and removal of drive-thru humps will help to transform West Main Businesses and Community.

Currently the dumpster makes walking along Peak Creek unattractive.

Let me explain.



This is how the area along Peak Creek looks from the air. The current location of the dumpster is shown at the purple letter “A.” The purple letter “T” illustrates the location of the Cherry Tree. I propose that the Dumpster be moved from position “A” to position “B.”

Moving the dumpster will free up the complete walkway along Peak Creek up to the Cherry Tree Garden at point “T”. It will provide visual continuity along the entire stretch up to the Episcopal Church. Visually the complete area along the creek can now be attractive. And in some instances rear entrances to businesses can better service pedestrians along Peak Creek.

These changes in the Pedjo parking lot also make it possible for this area to be more readily used for public pedestrian and bicycle purposes. In other words, a place where people in Pulaski can be outdoors, comfortable, and happy.



The double doors at the rear of the Pedjo Bike building are for electrical service access. They are seldom used. The practical point is that to move the dumpster to point "B" (in front of these double doors) presents a few unknowns. Undoubtedly it will put additional trash on the ground near our rear entrance (the single door).

As long as this trash is only moderate and there are no other serious adverse impacts, I believe I can live with it. It is not a perfect world. There are effectively no other suitable places for the dumpster that both service its current users and also provide the aesthetic and practical advantages of moving it away from point "A." So unless it becomes clearly unacceptable for as of yet unknown reasons, I am prepared to "grin and bear it" and stick with point "B" as being an acceptable dumpster location.

The hope is that the positive benefit to the Public as a consequence of moving from position "A" will far outweigh the negative consequences to me from some additional mess around our rear entrance.