

NANOTECH: Clearing part of land

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Reeb said he was surprised to learn on Wednesday, just hours before a previously scheduled meeting with Nano College officials, that the plot would be cleared this weekend.

Also, Lynne Jackson of Save the Pine Bush, a local environmental group, issued a statement Wednesday blasting the college's plans.

"In this day and age, it is unbelievable to me that the people who run these high-tech facilities would be so lacking in understanding of the importance of protecting the Pine Bush," she said.

On Wednesday, college officials decided to curb their plans, leading to the decision to clear only one-third to one-half of the 3-acre plot. Janack said the Nano College will hold off for 60 days on further clearing to make plans with community groups to remove sensitive vegetation and re-plant it elsewhere.

"It's our intent to work toward a solution that is agreeable for both the neighbors and the college," he said. "We're part of the neighborhoods as well. We want to be good neighbors."

Reeb said area residents walk and play in a 90-acre area of the Pine Bush that is owned by the college and other entities. He

said the group's goal is to keep as much of that area as undeveloped as possible, but he understands the Nano College has to expand and add parking. That is why he is happy the college has promised to build a garage the next time it seeks to add parking.

The Albany NanoTech complex currently has 523 parking spaces, but that is not enough for the 1,500 workers there. After the new building is completed sometime next year, employment is expected to jump to 2,000 people.

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UAlbany scales back parking lot, for now

College will wait to clear rest of NanoTech parcel due to Pine Bush issues

By **LARRY RULISON**
Business writer

ALBANY — The University at Albany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering is planning to clear land on its property this weekend to make room for a new parking lot.

Initially, the lot will be used for construction vehicles as work begins on NanoFab 300 East, a new \$100 million, 250,000-square-foot building that will expand the Albany NanoTech complex on Fuller Road.

The Nano College is planning to clear a 3-acre piece of land behind Albany NanoTech that

will eventually have 320 parking spaces.

But the college will clear only about one-third to one-half of that parcel now until it meets more with community and environmental groups about saving some of the vegetation for replanting elsewhere. The land is an unprotected part of the Albany Pine Bush, an environmentally unique ecosystem known as an inland pine barrens.

Nano College spokesman Steve Janack said UAlbany officials have been meeting regularly for about a year with the McKownville Improvement Association and unveiled their plans for the parking lot at a meeting with the neighborhood group last summer.

But association president Don Please see **NANOTECH E3** ►

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