

Appendix A

ESA Litigation

The established facts are that listed salmon and steelhead use Burlington Bottoms. McCarthy Creek is a salmon spawning stream. These species also use Burlington Creek.

It seems highly likely that, given the slopes, type of soil in the BCF, and the more extreme weather events brought on by global warming, that harm will result from almost any version of the trails Metro has thus far proposed, because fine silt does the most harm to fish.

The definition of “take,” which triggers EPA liability is expansive under the Act, and is further expansively refined by administrative rule. Set forth below is an excerpt from the Habitat Conservation Planning and Incidental Take Permit Processing Handbook (NOAA Fisheries, 2016). This excerpt is probably as good a summary of the ESA take provisions and rules, and their

implications relevant to Metro's request to amend the CP and for permits as any:

Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the take of any fish or wildlife species listed as endangered. Section 9 prohibits damage or destruction of plants listed as endangered on Federal property or on non-Federal lands when doing so in knowing violation of any State law or regulation or in the course of any violation of a State criminal trespass law. Take is defined as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." FWS further defines "harm" (50 CFR 17.3) as "...an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering." The NMFS definition of "harm" (50 CFR 222.102) is very similar, but adds more specific terms related to fish. It is "...an act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures fish or wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavior patterns, including breeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, feeding, or sheltering."

The FWS further defined "harass" in 50 CFR 17.3 as "...an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering." On October 21, 2016, NMFS issued "Interim Guidance on the Endangered Species Act Term, Harass" employing a similar definition (see Glossary).

Although section 9 does not prohibit take of fish and wildlife species listed as threatened, the FWS promulgated a regulation (50 CFR 17.31(a)) stating that all prohibitions for endangered fish and wildlife species also apply to threatened species ...

In 1988, the ESA definition of “person” was amended to include an “...individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, or any other private entity; or any officer, employee, agent, department, or instrumentality of the Federal Government, of any State, municipality, or political subdivision of a State, or of any foreign government; any State, municipality, or political subdivision of a State; or any other entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States...”

States, counties, cities, municipalities and other political subdivisions that regulate or issue permits for certain activities (e.g., building permits, capital improvement projects, etc.) that could result in unauthorized take may be held equally liable for violation of section 9.

The things that are most pertinent from the above summary are that conduct that amounts to a take of either threatened or endangered fish can expose counties to ESA liability if they issue permits or otherwise engage in action that can result in a take.

Appendix B

ODFW and Metro interactions including email correspondence and ODFW recommendations to Metro regarding its trail plans for BCF.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM

STATE / FEDERAL AGENCY REVIEW

A REVIEW OF A PROPOSED OUTDOOR RECREATION PROJECT WHICH FEDERAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED

Project Name:	Burlington Creek Forest Natural Surface Trails
Project Sponsor:	Metro Parks and Nature
Return Date:	Wednesday, October 25, 2017

To Agency Addressed: This is a Federal Aid Grant. A comment is required. If your agency cannot respond by the return date, please notify us immediately.

PROGRAM REVIEW AND COMMENT

We have reviewed the subject notice and have reached the following conclusions on its relationship to our plans and programs:

- It has no effect.
- We have no comment.
- Effects, although measurable, would be acceptable.
- It has adverse effects. (Explain in Remarks Section.)
- We are interested, but require more information to evaluate the proposal. (Explain in Remarks Section.)
- Additional comments for project improvement. (Attach if necessary).

REMARKS

Agency: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Reviewed By: Susan Barnes Regional Conservation Biologist

Return to: Karen Vitkay Metro Parks and Nature 600 NE Grand Avenue Portland, Oregon 97232

cc: Jodi Bellefeuille, Recreational Trails Program Coordinator Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C Salem, OR 97301

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Attachment 1. ODFW Remarks and Additional Comments for OPRD Federal Aid Grant

Date: **December 15, 2017**

Project Name: **Burlington Creek Forest Natural Surface Trails**
Project Sponsor: **Metro Parks and Nature**

Thank you for the opportunity for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to review and comment on Metro's October 2017 version of the proposed Burlington Creek Forest Natural Surface Trails Project. ODFW appreciates Metro's consideration of our previously submitted comments and recommendations, and subsequent adjustments made to the proposed trail alignment in an effort to avoid and minimize negative impacts to fish and wildlife resources. In accordance with our mission and authorities, ODFW offers the following comments and recommendations:

Comment #1: ODFW offers the following information to describe the context of the project site in terms of ecoregion and local landscape level fish and wildlife conservation goals. The proposed project area lies within two Conservation Opportunity Areas¹ (COA ID 054 and COA ID 058) as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy². Recommended conservation actions for these COAs include: address fish and wildlife movement barriers, foster forest succession to old growth, improve stream buffer vegetation and width, manage public access and recreation to protect fish and wildlife, protect and improve water quality, protect and improve habitat for turtles, amphibians and bats; and reduce road mortality for amphibians and other wildlife crossing Highway 30.

Comment #2: ODFW offers the following information to describe the relative value of the project site to fish and wildlife. According to ODFW's on-line mapping tool COMPASS³ (Centralized Oregon Mapping Products and Analysis Support System), the proposed project is located within Compiled Crucial Habitat Priority Ranks of 1 and 2. COMPASS is intended to inform land use decisions and project planning as related to fish and wildlife and their habitats. ODFW crucial habitat layers were developed using multiple data sources, various aggregation methodologies, and classifications which are intended to reflect agency priorities. All layers are categorized and assigned a priority rank 1 through 6. The highest score of 1 indicates the most valuable habitat.

¹ Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) are places where broad fish and wildlife conservation goals would best be met. Focusing investments in these prioritized areas can increase the likelihood of long-term success, maximize effectiveness over larger landscapes, improve funding efficiency, and promote cooperative efforts across ownership boundaries.

² The Oregon Conservation Strategy (Strategy, ODFW 2016) is Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan and voluntary approach for conserving fish and wildlife. The goals of the Strategy are to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations by maintaining and restoring functioning habitats, preventing declines of at-risk species, and reversing declines in these resources where possible.

³ <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/maps/compass/index.asp>

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Comment #3: ODFW offers the following information to describe the relative importance of the project site to fish and wildlife. ODFW has categorized the Burlington Creek Forest tract as "Habitat Category 3" per ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy (OAR 635-415-0000). "Habitat Category 3" is essential, but not limited, habitat for fish and wildlife, or important habitat for fish and wildlife that is limited either on a physiographic province or site-specific basis, depending on the individual species or population. The mitigation goal is no net loss of either habitat quantity or quality. Mitigation of impacts, if unavoidable, is to be accomplished through reliable in-kind, in-proximity habitat mitigation.

Comment #4: ODFW is concerned about development of new recreation trails and their potential impacts to wildlife habitat. Impacts from recreational trails, though not as well studied as roads, are known to adversely impact fish and wildlife, both directly and indirectly. The proposed project has the potential for adverse impacts to a variety of wildlife species, but of particular concern are migratory birds and amphibians. Anticipated adverse impacts to birds from increased habitat fragmentation and human presence include reduced nest success, reduced fitness, and increased competition for resources in adjacent suitable habitats. Proposed trails may also adversely affect amphibian movement patterns and behavior through habitat fragmentation and changes in micro-habitat conditions. In addition, there may be direct impacts associated with mortality of amphibians attempting to cross the trails that become entrapped in bike ruts. There may also be increased risk of illegal collection.

The risk for these potential adverse impacts are greatest where trail development is densest (e.g., areas of multiple switchbacks) and at lower elevations where terrestrial amphibian movements are likely more concentrated seasonally due to closer proximity to breeding habitat. Though data on dispersal and overland excursions is limited for still-water breeding amphibians, existing information including field observations indicate that terrestrial movements are typically point-to-point in nature versus along specific habitat corridors (e.g., stream channel, elevational gradient). Seasonal movements to and from breeding sites primarily occur during nighttime hours while foraging occurs in both the daytime and nighttime.

While these impacts are anticipated for all native amphibians known/suspected to occur at the Burlington Creek Forest (BCF) site, of particular concern is northern red-legged frog, a protected State Sensitive Species and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. A population of red-legged frog has been documented moving between the BCF site and ODFW's Palensky Wildlife Area (Burlington Bottoms). Movements are seasonal in nature with frogs moving from the moist forested habitat of the BCF tract (and possibly the greater North Tualatin Mountains area) to wetland habitats at Palensky in the late fall/early for breeding/egg-laying, and then from Palensky back to BCF in late winter/early spring. Timing and patterns of overland movements are related to and affected by environmental conditions (e.g., air temperature, precipitation events). The BCF tract and greater North Tualatin Mountains area also provides important foraging habitat for red-legged frogs. ODFW staff managing Palensky Wildlife Area have observed numerous red-legged frogs and other native amphibians moving throughout the BCF site and all along the northern boundary of the tract near Highway 30, including the area where Shared Trail AA is proposed.

Please see ODFW's letter to Metro dated February 26, 2016 (attached) for more information about the importance of the project area to northern red-legged frog.

Comment #5: ODFW is concerned about the potential for increased erosion / sedimentation resulting from proposed trail development on steep slopes and resulting trail use. If an issue, impacts from reduced water quality would extend downstream to the Palensky Wildlife Area, potentially affecting a variety of fish and wildlife.

Comment #6: ODFW appreciates Metro's mission to try to balance protection and improvement of habitat conservation values and provision of public access to nature and outdoor recreational opportunities. We offer the following recommendations to further mitigate for the above described anticipated adverse impacts to wildlife and their habitats. These recommendations are intended to supplement the environmental commitments and mitigation measures (n = 19) already included by Metro in Part V of OPRD's RTP Environmental Screening Form for the proposed project.

Avoidance / Minimization

- A. ODFW recommends reducing the amount (length) of proposed new trail development to prevent / reduce impacts to wildlife from habitat loss/fragmentation and human presence. Priority areas to target for avoid placement of new trail would be lower elevation areas where amphibians are likely more concentrated during their active season, unless amphibian monitoring data indicates otherwise.
- B. ODFW recommends strategically placing woody material in locations that direct amphibians away from trails and toward more intact habitat and stream/drainage crossings, further preventing / minimizing risk of direct mortality of amphibians inadvertently caused by trail users and providing suitable micro-habitat elements.
- C. ODFW recommends reducing the number of vehicle parking spaces at the proposed Trailhead, reducing the corresponding number of cars on Highway 30 and decreasing the number of trail users anticipated, this in turn reducing negative impacts to wildlife caused by human presence.
- D. To achieve #19 (*"Avoid and minimize direct mortality of fish and wildlife species present at the time of construction"*) in Part V of the OPRD Screening Form, obtain a Wildlife Capture, Holding, Transport, and Relocation Permit from ODFW. There is no ODFW fee associated with this permit.

Compensatory Mitigation (for unavoidable adverse impacts anticipated by ODFW)

- A. Per the ODFW Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Policy, the Burlington Creek Forest tract is categorized as "Habitat Category 3" (see Comment 3, above). The mitigation goal for Habitat Category 3 is no net loss of either habitat quantity or quality. In order to achieve this goal of no net loss, ODFW recommends Metro consider decommissioning existing

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trails and restoring wildlife habitat. For example, one option Metro may consider is to decommission two miles of existing shared use trail in addition to the three miles of gravel road Metro plans to decommission at their North Tualatin Mountains properties. The habitat restoration for the decommissioned trail should support in-kind habitat types and in-proximity to the proposed BCF project to meet the goal of ODFW's Habitat Mitigation Policy.

- B. ODFW recommends incorporating large / coarse wood structures throughout the project site to offset temporary and permanent changes in forest canopy and micro-habitat conditions resulting from the proposed project, including forest thinning actions aimed at improving long-term habitat conditions.
- C. ODFW recommends Metro coordinate with ODFW, amphibian conservation partners, and academia to design and sponsor an amphibian movement study at the BCF site and/or other Metro properties to better understand local amphibian movement patterns, impacts of trail development on amphibians, and methods to mitigate impacts to amphibians.

We appreciate the continued collaboration with Metro and thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Burlington Creek Forest Natural Surface Trails Project. While it is outside our regulatory authority to approve or deny this proposed development action, ODFW's mission is to protect and conserve Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats. We look forward to further coordination with Metro and please contact me (971-673-6010, susan.p.barnes@state.or.us) with any questions about the above comments or recommendations.

Sincerely,

Susan Barnes

Susan Barnes
Regional Conservation Biologist
West Region

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Fwd: FW: Burlington: Trail Design - ODFW Comments

sue beilke <beilkesue@gmail.com>
To: Hank McCurdy <saveforestparkcorridor@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 9:17 PM

I think you have this but just in case.
----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Sue Beilke** <Sue.G.Beilke@state.or.us>
Date: Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 4:52 PM
Subject: FW: Burlington: Trail Design - ODFW Comments
To: sue beilke <beilkesue@gmail.com>

From: Susan Barnes [mailto:Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 5:46 PM
To: Karen Vitkay
Cc: Jonathan Soll; Katy Weil; Bellefeuille Jodi * OPRD; Joy R Vaughan; Sue Beilke
Subject: RE: Burlington: Trail Design - ODFW Comments

Karen –

Please see attached comments and signed OPRD form. Thank you for your patience.

Susan Barnes
Regional Conservation Biologist
West Region

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
17330 SE Evelyn Street
Clackamas, OR 97015

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Tel: (971)673-6010

Email: susan.p.barnes@state.or.us

From: Karen Vitkay [mailto:Karen.Vitkay@oregonmetro.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 9:48 AM
To: Susan Barnes <Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us>
Cc: Jonathan Soll <Jonathan.Soll@oregonmetro.gov>; Katy Weil <Katy.Weil@oregonmetro.gov>; Bellefeuille Jodi * OPRD <Jodi.Bellefeuille@oregon.gov>
Subject: RE: Burlington: Trail Design

Susan,

I wanted to check in again regarding ODFW's comments on our Burlington plans. Can you provide us with an update regarding when those will be available? Please note that design changes become increasingly difficult and costly to accommodate the farther along we get into our project. We are very interested in moving this project forward and would appreciate timely feedback from ODFW.

Thank you.

From: Susan Barnes [mailto:Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 5:22 PM
To: Karen Vitkay
Subject: RE: Burlington: Trail Design

Hi Karen --

I just got done dealing with an unexpected bat situation that consumed the time I was planning on spending on Burlington. I will try again tomorrow...

Susan Barnes

Regional Conservation Biologist

West Region

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
17330 SE Evelyn Street
Clackamas, OR 97015
Tel: (971)673-6010
Email: susan.p.barnes@state.or.us

S

From: Karen Vitkay [mailto:Karen.Vitkay@oregonmetro.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 7:38 AM
To: Susan Barnes <Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us>
Cc: Katy Weil <Katy.Weil@oregonmetro.gov>; Jonathan Soll <Jonathan.Soll@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: Re: Burlington: Trail Design

Susan,

Thank you for the update and progress on this. It is much appreciated.

Karen

From: Susan Barnes <Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Karen Vitkay
Cc: Katy Weil; Jonathan Soll
Subject: RE: Burlington: Trail Design

Karen –

ODFW staff have reviewed and I am compiling comments. I should have to you by COB 11/29. Thank you for your patience.

Susan Barnes
Regional Conservation Biologist
West Region

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
17330 SE Evelyn Street
Clackamas, OR 97015
Tel: (971)673-6010
Email: susan.p.barnes@state.or.us

From: Karen Vitkay [mailto:Karen.Vitkay@oregonmetro.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 11:42 AM
To: Susan Barnes <Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us>
Cc: Katy Weil <Katy.Weil@oregonmetro.gov>; Jonathan Soll <Jonathan.Soll@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: RE: Burlington: Trail Design

Susan,

Can you please provide us with a status update on this? It's been over five weeks since I requested ODFW's review. Please let us know if it would be helpful to meet.

Thank you.

Karen

Karen Vitkay, PLA

Senior Regional Planner

Parks and Nature

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1874

From: Karen Vitkay

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Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 9:23 AM
To: 'Susan Barnes'
Cc: Katy Weil; Jonathan Soll
Subject: RE: Burlington: Trail Design

Hi Susan,

I wanted to check that you are still on schedule to return comments to us by tomorrow as we discussed. Let me know if it would be helpful to have a call or meeting to discuss.

Thank you.

Karen Vitkay, PLA

Senior Regional Planner

Parks and Nature

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1874

From: Susan Barnes [<mailto:Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 3:03 PM
To: Karen Vitkay
Cc: Katy Weil; Jonathan Soll; Sue Beilke
Subject: RE: Burlington: Trail Design

Hi Karen –

Just a quick follow-up to our telephone conversation a bit ago... The comments I provided Metro on June 26, 2017 were based on my review of the proposed trail alignment shown in the 2016 Master Plan, not the alignment depicted in the map dated April 2017. I overlooked this map and am just seeing it today. I am really embarrassed and apologize for the confusion this obviously has created. As we just discussed, I will proceed with review of the October 2017 version of the proposed trail alignment. I am including Sue Beilke on this email since she manages the Palensky Wildlife Area and I have asked for input on this proposal.

susan



Susan Barnes

Regional Conservation Biologist

West Region

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

17330 SE Evelyn Street

Clackamas, OR 97015

Tel: (971)673-6010

Email: susan.p.barnes@state.or.us

From: Karen Vitkay [mailto:Karen.Vitkay@oregonmetro.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:44 PM

To: susan.p.barnes@state.or.us

Cc: Katy Weil <Katy.Weil@oregonmetro.gov>; Jonathan Soll <Jonathan.Soll@oregonmetro.gov>

Subject: Burlington: Trail Design

Susan,

Thank you for recently discussing the Burlington Creek Forest Park project with Katy Weil. She conveyed to me your priority concerns with two of the trail alignments. Based on those, I've made some adjustments to the alignments and am requesting your reconsideration. The changes are highlighted in the attached maps as well as below:

- Alignment D – You expressed concern about this alignment with respect to frog passage. Alignment D has been reduced from 0.3 miles to 0.2 mile.
- Alignment F - You expressed concern about this alignment with respect to frog passage particularly the eastern section of this alignment. This alignment has been shifted to the west. Shifting the alignment necessitates a new bridge crossing over an intermittent drainage. The change most likely makes this segment a longer term project which would not be implemented in the near term. Also, please note that the length of segment F (0.5 miles) has been substantially reduced from the master plan (1.4 miles) shown on page 3 of the attached for reference.
- Alignment AA – Please also note that this is a new nature loop which replaced length of trail removed from alignment A.

Please know that we are committed to evaluating trail usage, monitoring wildlife and measuring potential impacts at the site. As stated in the master plan, we reserve the right to adjust trail alignments and usage as well as implement

seasonal closures if we find impacts that do not reflect our mission to protect wildlife habitat and water quality.

If you find the attached revised plans acceptable, we ask that you review your response on the attached consultation form. Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us should you have questions.

Thank you.

Karen Vitkay, PLA

Senior Regional Planner

Parks and Nature

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1874

ODFW 12_15_2017 comments Metro BCF Trail Project OPRD Grant.pdf
234K

beilkesue <beilkesue@gmail.com>
To: Hank McCurdy <saveforestparkcorridor@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 6:27 PM

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S7.

----- Original message -----

From: Sue Beilke <Sue.G.Beilke@state.or.us>
Date: 1/31/18 4:52 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: sue beilke <beilkesue@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: Burlington: Trail Design - ODFW Comments

From: Susan Barnes [mailto:Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM

STATE / FEDERAL AGENCY REVIEW

A REVIEW OF A PROPOSED OUTDOOR RECREATION PROJECT WHICH FEDERAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED

Project Name:	Burlington Creek Forest Natural Surface Trails
Project Sponsor:	Metro Parks and Nature
Return Date:	Wednesday, April 26, 2017

To Agency Addressed: This is a Federal Aid Grant. A comment is required. If your agency cannot respond by the return date, please notify us immediately.

PROGRAM REVIEW AND COMMENT

We have reviewed the subject notice and have reached the following conclusions on its relationship to our plans and programs:

- It has no effect.
- We have no comment.
- Effects, although measurable, would be acceptable.
- It has adverse effects. (Explain in Remarks Section.)
- We are interested, but require more information to evaluate the proposal. (Explain in Remarks Section.)
- Additional comments for project improvement. (Attach if necessary).

REMARKS

See Attachment 1

Agency: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Reviewed By: Susan P. Barnes, Regional Conservation Biologist, West Region

Return to: Karen Vitkay, Metro Parks and Nature, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232

cc: Rocky Houston, Recreational Trails Program Coordinator, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301

Attachment 1. ODFW Remarks and Additional Comments for OPRD Federal Aid Grant

Project Name: **Burlington Creek Forest Natural Surface Trails**
Project Sponsor: **Metro Parks and Nature**

[X] It has adverse effects.

The proposed trails are expected to negatively affect movement and dispersal of native amphibians through habitat fragmentation and changes in micro-habitat conditions. Another anticipated adverse impact from trail development is direct mortality of amphibians that become entrapped in bike ruts and inadvertently run over. Adverse impacts are expected to be greatest where trail development is the densest (e.g., areas of multiple switchbacks). While these impacts are anticipated for all native amphibians known/suspected to occur at the Burlington Forest Creek site, of particular concern are northern red-legged frog, a protected species identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW 2016). Northern red-legged frog and several other native amphibian species have been documented moving between the Burlington Creek Forest site and ODFW's Palensky (Burlington Bottoms) Wildlife Area. Movements are seasonal in nature with frogs moving from the moist forested habitats of the North Tualatin Mountains to wetland habitats at Palensky in the late fall/early winter for breeding/egg-laying, and then from Palensky back to the North Tualatin Mountains in late winter/early spring. Timing and patterns of overland movements are related to and affected by environmental conditions (e.g., air temperature, precipitation events). Please see ODFW's letter to Metro dated February 26, 2016 for more information (attached).

[X] Additional comments for project improvement.

ODFW appreciates Metro's mission to try to balance protection and improvement of habitat conservation values and provision of public access to nature and outdoor recreational opportunities. Designation of a core habitat area in the northern portion of the Burlington Creek Forest site, minimization of new stream crossings, and use of existing roads in the current proposed project is commendable. That said, ODFW offers the following comments for project improvement and to address the above described anticipated adverse effects:

1. ODFW recommends removing Trail # F and the 0.4 mi segment of Trail #D (Trail #A and #F connector trail) from the proposed trail development plan, at least until habitat use and movement patterns of amphibians (and other priority wildlife species) are better understood.
2. If the above noted trails are not removed from the planned project, ODFW recommends altering trail design specifications and implementing additional actions to decrease anticipated adverse effects on amphibians related to habitat fragmentation and entrapment.

E.g., use elevated trail designs to allow amphibians to move freely under the alignment and avoid direct mortality.

- 3. ODFW recommends considering amphibian movements between non-breeding and breeding habitats when planning and implementing seasonal trail seasonal closures.
- 4. ODFW recommends Metro coordinate with ODFW and amphibian conservation partners to design and sponsor an amphibian movement study at the Burlington Creek Forest site and/or other Metro properties to better understand local amphibian movement patterns between breeding and non-breeding habitat, the impacts of trail development and various recreational activities on amphibians, and strategies for anticipated mitigation adverse impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project. If you have any questions please contact me at susan.p.barnes@state.or.us or (971) 673-6010.

Sincerely,



Susan P. Barnes
Regional Conservation Biologist
West Region



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

West Region

17330 SE Evelyn Street

Clackamas, OR 97015

Phone: 971-673-6000

Fax: 971-673-6070

February 26, 2016



Olena Turula
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97323

Re: ODFW Comments on Tualatin Mountains Natural Area Metro's Recommended Alternative

Dear Ms. Turula,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the future management of the Tualatin Mountains Natural Area (TMNA), specifically Metro's proposed Recommended Alternative affecting the Burlington Creek Forest, Ennis Creek Forest, McCarthy Creek Forest, and North Abbey Creek Forest properties. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) recognizes Metro secured the properties as a result of voter-approved bond measures and is tasked with protection and conservation of natural resource values while providing some level of recreation and other public use benefits. In accordance to our mission and authorities, ODFW has reviewed Metro's current proposal for the TMNA and offers the following comments and recommendations:

Comments:

Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation is the primary threat to Oregon's fish and wildlife. Invasive species, degradation of water quality, barriers to movement, and anthropogenic caused disturbances and hazards are additional challenges. Trails fragment habitat, are vectors for invasive species, and can increase sedimentation, negatively affect water quality. While there are benefits to providing access to nature, human presence and recreational trail development can have adverse effects on wildlife by increasing stress/reducing fitness, disrupting breeding and foraging behaviors, and increasing risk of direct mortality and illegal collection. Amphibians are particularly sensitive to changes in micro-habitat conditions and vulnerable to direct mortality and illegal collection. It has been documented that amphibians can get trapped in ruts created by off-road bike tire tracks, causing them to get run over or making them more vulnerable to predation and illegal collection.

All four TMNA properties lie within Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) Conservation Opportunity Areas and provide fish and wildlife resource values of interest to ODFW. The Burlington Creek Forest (BCF) tract is of particular interest to ODFW because of its proximity to the 417-acre Palensky (a.k.a. Burlington Bottoms) Wildlife Mitigation Area managed by ODFW. Palensky provides important habitat for a variety of wildlife species include migratory songbirds,

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waterfowl, pond-breeding amphibians, and native turtles. Red-legged frog are a target wildlife species and are monitored annually as part of the mitigation plan for the Palensky Wildlife Mitigation Area. Even though separated by Highway 30 and Burlington Northern railroad lines, seasonal movements of native amphibians including red-legged frog have been well documented between Palensky and the BCF tract. Movements are considered significant and predictable based on observations of live and dead animals recorded since acquisition of the Palensky site in 1991. It appears that the BCF tract provides important foraging and over-wintering habitat for amphibians breeding at Palensky, in particular red-legged frogs. For example, during a 20-minute period on one night in 2014, 46 red-legged frogs and 3 northwestern salamanders were observed crossing Highway 30 during a heavy rain event. This count was made standing opposite Burlington Creek (Beilke pers. comm. 2015). At the same location in 2015, 140 red-legged frogs were observed moving from BCF to Palensky during a single survey period. Red-legged frogs are on Oregon's Sensitive Species List (ODFW 2008), are classified as "Nongame Wildlife Protected" (OAR 635-044), and are Strategy Species in the OCS (ODFW 2006, 2016 under review)

ODFW is concerned that proposed trail development in BCF may negatively affect red-legged frogs and other native amphibians that regularly move between Palensky and BCF. ODFW is also concerned trail development on the generally steep slopes of the BCF tract may result in increased soil erosion and sedimentation into Burlington Creek and the numerous seeps, springs and unnamed tributaries present on the property. While ODFW expects wildlife in general to benefit over the long-term from Metro's planned forest management prescriptions aimed at increasing tree growth and developing mature / late-successional conifer forest characteristics (e.g., multi-layer tree canopy, snags and down wood), we are unsure if these actions will off-set negative effects likely to result from trail development (e.g., habitat fragmentation) and resulting increased human presence (e.g., disturbance).

Recommendations:

1. Avoid / Minimize construction of new trails and other infrastructure, especially in areas of high quality habitat. Utilize existing roads, trails and other right-of-ways (e.g., power-line corridors) whenever possible to reduce additional habitat fragmentation. Minimize the extent (length and width) of new trail and road.
2. Site new trails and other infrastructure away from streams, including headwater streams (perennial or intermittent). Recommended buffer widths are to be developed on a site specific basis and depend upon site characteristics (e.g., soil, topography), but generally ODFW recommends trails be sited at least 100 m from the 100-year OHW mark of streams, including intermittent and non-fish bearing streams.
3. Avoid / Minimize stream crossings by trails and roads. When crossing streams, use bridges or other designs that do not constrain the stream channel or impede fish and wildlife movement. Consider climate change in crossing designs.

4. Improve existing trails and stream crossings as necessary to improve/protect stream flow and riparian area function, water quality, and fish and wildlife movement. Decommission trails and roads whenever possible.
5. Select trail designs that minimize soil erosion and trail rutting, discourage access / use by amphibians and reptiles, and/or allow wildlife movement underneath trails at designated locations.
6. Implement seasonal trail closures to protect priority wildlife species, e.g., during the peak of amphibian activity (breeding season).
7. Survey / Monitor wildlife presence and habitat use patterns to inform trail siting, habitat management practices, and management of public access (e.g., possible seasonal trail closures).
8. Avoid and minimize direct mortality of fish and wildlife species present at the time of project construction, in particular species or age classes thereof that are not able readily move out of harm's way (e.g., amphibian larvae, aestivating turtles, nestling birds). Conduct vegetation management with wildlife in mind (e.g., nesting birds). Use exclusion techniques to keep wildlife out of active work zones. Conduct preconstruction wildlife surveys to locate wildlife. Note: an ODFW Fish Salvage Permit and/or an ODFW Wildlife CHTR Permit may be needed to facilitate avoidance / minimization of direct mortality to fish and wildlife that may be present.

We appreciate the opportunity to review Metro's proposed plans for the Tualatin Mountain Natural Area. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding ODFW's comments or recommendations above please contact me at susan.p.barnes@state.or.us or (971) 673-6010.

Sincerely,

Susan P Barnes

Susan P. Barnes
 Regional Conservation Biologist
 West Region

Cc: ODFW (Don VandeBergh, Tom Murtagh, Mark Nebeker, Sue Beilke)

Sue Beilke

From: Susan Barnes <Susan.P.Barnes@state.or.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Sue Beilke
Subject: FW: Burlington: Trail Design - review requested
Attachments: BFC_Overview30%_Oct2017_forODFW.pdf;
RTP_Intergovtl_Consultation_Form_ODFW_v2.doc; ODFW BCF Nat Trails OPRD Intergovt form June 26 2017.pdf

Importance: High

Hi Sue –

Metro has made a few adjustments to their proposed trail alignment at Burlington Forest. I wanted to give you a chance to review and chime in. I've attached my previous comments fyi (June 2017 comments for OPRD grant/ODFW consultation and Feb 2016 general comments to Metro).

Metro is requesting feedback by 10/25/17. Can you squeeze in looking/thinking about this? we chat over the phone if that's easier. I'm just starting my review of their current proposal.

Susan Barnes
Regional Conservation Biologist
West Region

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
17330 SE Evelyn Street
Clackamas, OR 97015
Tel: (971)673-6010
Email: susan.p.barnes@state.or.us

From: Karen Vitkay [<mailto:Karen.Vitkay@oregonmetro.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:44 PM
To: susan.p.barnes@state.or.us
Cc: Katy Weil <Katy.Weil@oregonmetro.gov>; Jonathan Soll <Jonathan.Soll@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: Burlington: Trail Design

Susan,

Thank you for recently discussing the Burlington Creek Forest Park project with Katy Weil. She conveyed to me your priority concerns with two of the trail alignments. Based on those, I've made some adjustments to the alignments and am requesting your reconsideration. The changes are highlighted in the attached maps as well as below:

- Alignment D – You expressed concern about this alignment with respect to frog passage. Alignment D has been reduced from 0.3 miles to 0.2 mile.
- Alignment F - You expressed concern about this alignment with respect to frog passage particularly the eastern

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section of this alignment. This alignment has been shifted to the west. Shifting the alignment necessitates a new bridge crossing over an intermittent drainage. The change most likely makes this segment a longer term project which would not be implemented in the near term. Also, please note that the length of segment F (0.5 miles) has been substantially reduced from the master plan (1.4 miles) shown on page 3 of the attached for reference.

Alignment AA – Please also note that this is a new nature loop which replaced length of trail removed from alignment A.

Please know that we are committed to evaluating trail usage, monitoring wildlife and measuring potential impacts at the site. As stated in the master plan, we reserve the right to adjust trail alignments and usage as well as implement seasonal closures if we find impacts that do not reflect our mission to protect wildlife habitat and water quality.

If you find the attached revised plans acceptable, we ask that you review your response on the attached consultation form. Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us should you have questions.

Thank you.

Karen Vitkay, PLA
Senior Regional Planner
Parks and Nature

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1874

NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS

BURLINGTON CREEK

Master Plan Alignments
April 2016

Extent of
master plan
alignments

Legend

- Existing Gravel Road - Multi-use (off-road cycling, hiking, equestrian)
- Decommission Gravel Road
- Streams
- Multi-use Trail (off-road cycling, hiking)
- Existing trail (non-Metro)
- Entrance with parking area
- Trail road
- View
- Core Habitat Area

TRAIL #	USE	LENGTH	DESCRIPTION
A		2.7 mi.	Existing gravel road, steep (~15%) in places, with loose gravel
B		1 mi.	The trail begins at about 250', climbs to 415', and returns to the existing road near the Ancient Forest, near 330'. Average slopes ~5% max 8%
C		.75 mi.	Explore dual direction route with 160' of elev. change, slope ~4%
D		1.2 mi.	Elev. change ~380' slopes ~3% to 6% with short steeper sections
E		.5	Explore descending route for off-road cyclists, elev. change ~180'; slopes average slopes ~7.5% with short steeper sections
F		1.0	Explore dual-direction collector trail, total grade change 180', max grades to ~6%
G		.4 mi.	Potentially accessible trail



Review Alignments
April 2017

Nature loop added
near trailhead

Alignment
deleted

RTP: Burlington Creek Forest Natural Surface Trails

Project Component (Quantity)	Quantity	Description
Trailhead (TH)	1,0	Park access and parking for approximately 25 vehicles. Prefabricated restroom structure and two picnic tables.
Shared trail A	1.0 mi.	42" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 8%.
Shared trail B	0.5 mi.	30" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 10%.
Hiking trail C	0.1 mi.	24" wide hiking-only trail. Average target grade 3%, max slope 8%.
Shared trail D	0.3 mi.	36" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 3%, max slope 8%.
Shared trail E	0.7 mi.	30" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 10%.
Shared trail F	0.7 mi.	30" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 8%.
Shared trail G	1.2 mi.	30" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 10%.
Shared trail H	0.6 mi.	24" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 10%.
Crossing 1	18 LF	5x18' bridge structure.
Crossing 2	15 LF	4x15' drainage crossing.
Welcome Kiosk	1	Kiosk with orientation map, park rules, responsibilities and emergency contact.
Trail markers	22	Signs with site orientation map, directional information and elevated user information.
Benches	4	Metro standard benches.

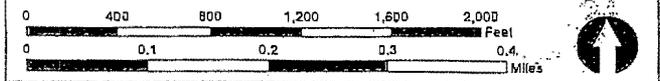
*Note: The trailhead is not included within the scope of the grant request and will be built with separate funding sources.

Alignment F to
shift west

Legend

- (P) Drainage Crossing
- (P) Hiking / Off-road Cycling Trail
- Existing Gravel Road
- NHDFlowline
- Intermittent stream
- Perennial stream
- 10' Contours
- Burlington Creek Forest
- Parks and/or Natural Areas

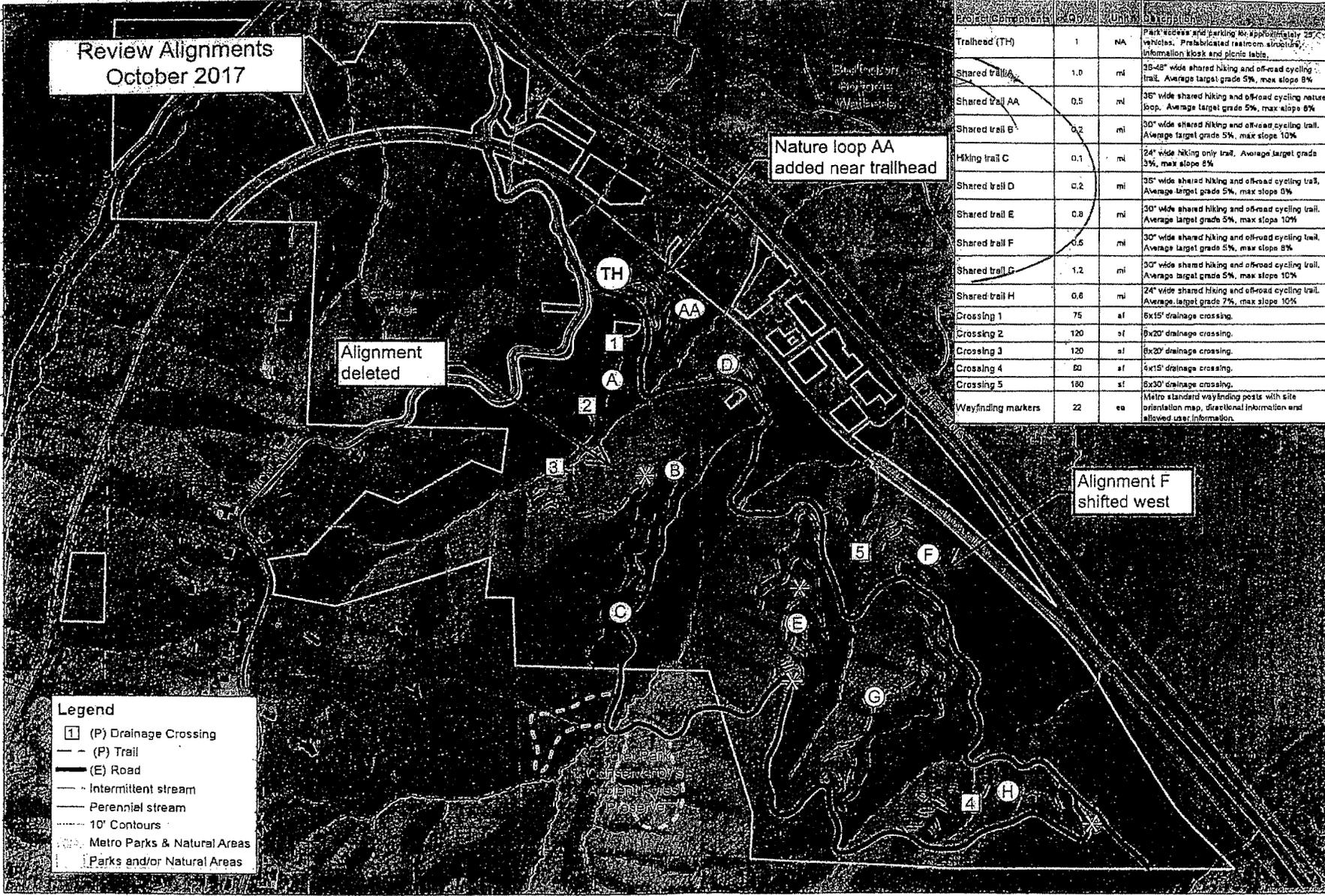
Burlington Creek Forest Natural Surface Trails
DRAFT - April 2017



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New

Review Alignments
October 2017



Nature loop AA
added near trailhead

Alignment
deleted

Alignment F
shifted west

Project Component	Q	Unit	Description
Trailhead (TH)	1	NA	Park kiosk and parking for approximately 250 vehicles. Fabricated restroom, directional information kiosk and picnic table.
Shared trail AA	1.0	mi	36-48" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 8%
Shared trail AA	0.5	mi	36" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling nature loop. Average target grade 5%, max slope 8%
Shared trail B	0.2	mi	30" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 10%
Hiking trail C	0.1	mi	24" wide hiking only trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 8%
Shared trail D	0.2	mi	36" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 8%
Shared trail E	0.8	mi	30" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 10%
Shared trail F	0.6	mi	30" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 8%
Shared trail G	1.2	mi	30" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 5%, max slope 10%
Shared trail H	0.8	mi	24" wide shared hiking and off-road cycling trail. Average target grade 7%, max slope 10%
Crossing 1	75	sf	6x15' drainage crossing.
Crossing 2	120	sf	6x20' drainage crossing.
Crossing 3	120	sf	6x20' drainage crossing.
Crossing 4	60	sf	6x15' drainage crossing.
Crossing 5	180	sf	6x30' drainage crossing.
Wayfinding markers	22	ea	Metro standard wayfinding posts with site orientation map, directional information and allowed user information.

Legend

- [1] (P) Drainage Crossing
- - - (P) Trail
- (E) Road
- - - Intermittent stream
- Perennial stream
- 10' Contours
- [Metro Parks & Natural Areas]
- [Parks and/or Natural Areas]



DRAFT

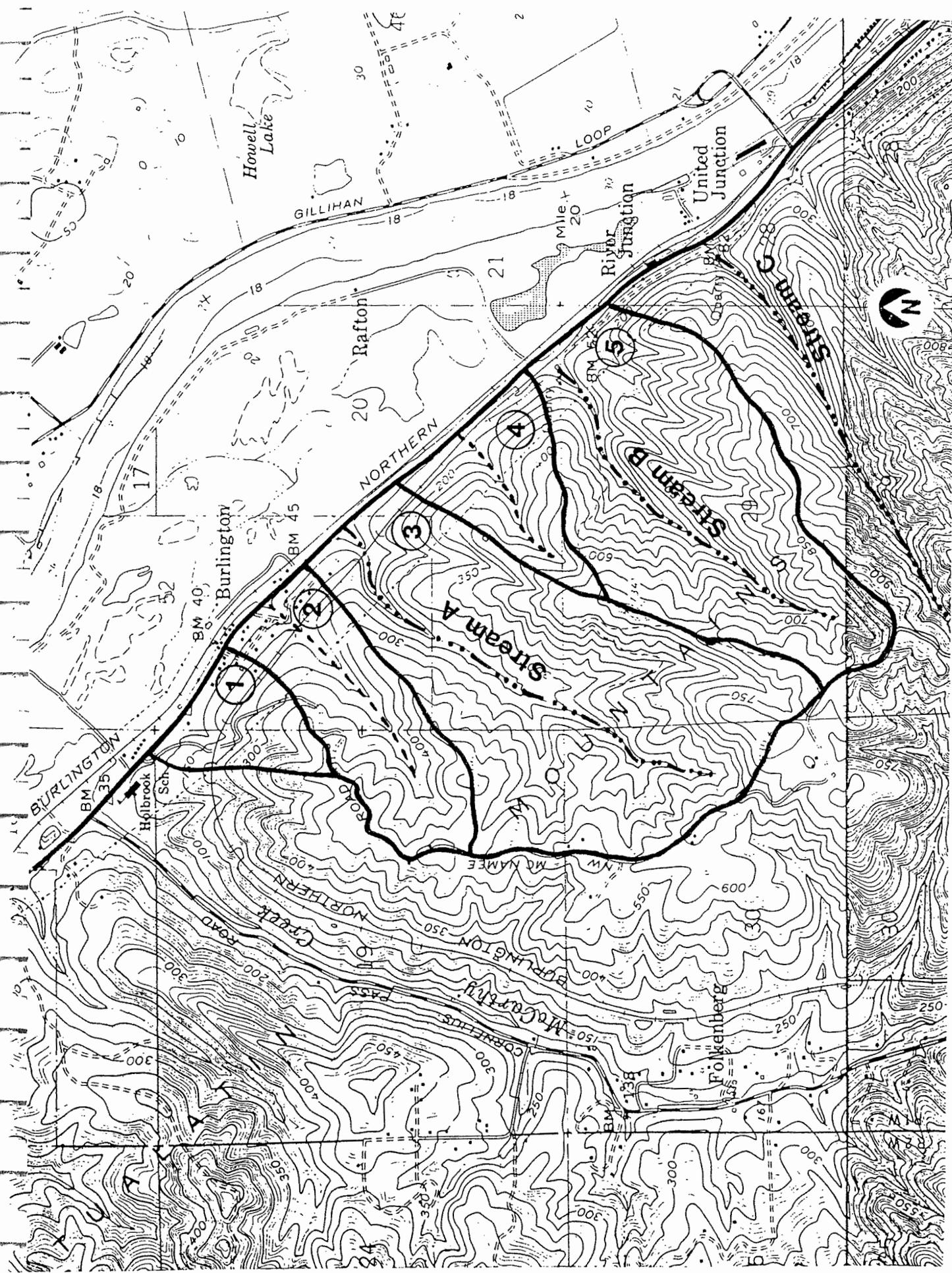
Burlington Creek Forest
Trail Overview

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Appendix C

Excerpts from the Burlington Bottoms Hydrology and
Hydraulics Assessment

Watershed Map and Explanation



Contributed by

To get an understanding of this 900 acre watershed it was divided into five sub-basins as shown Figure 3. Data are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Calculated Areas of Watersheds
Contributing to Burlington Bottoms

Sub-Basin	Drainageway Name	Area (AC)
1	Ephemeral Stream 1	40
2	Ephemeral Stream 2	141
3	Stream A	351
4	Ephemeral Stream 4	95
5	Stream B	270
Total		897

Sub-Basins 1, 2 and 4 contribute a small amount of flow via culvert crossings to the project site during rainstorm events only.

From field investigations, it was determined that both McCarthy Creek and Stream C do not contribute flows to the Burlington Bottom area. McCarthy Creek flows directly to the Multnomah Channel, however during periods of high stage in the Multnomah Channel there is a hydraulic connection between the McCarthy Creek Slough and the isolated slough. The direction of flow is dependent on the relative surface elevations of the sloughs.

Stream C may have, at one time, contributed flows to the project area. However, constructed drainage ways of U.S. 30 and the BN railroad have diverted the drainage south through United Junction. Stream C is the principal drainage way of the existing Angell Brothers Quarry. Since it does not discharge to Burlington Bottoms it appears that there are no direct water quality impacts.

Stream A conveys perennial flows from sub-basin 3. It drains an area of approximately 350 acres and enters the lower lakes of Burlington Bottoms through two 48" corrugated metal pipes passing beneath the railroad. Stream A has a reach of about 6,200 feet with an average stream gradient of 8.1 percent.

Stream B conveys perennial flows from an area of 270 acres and enters the upper lakes of Burlington Bottoms through a 30" concrete pipe. The northwestern end of the Angell Brothers quarry is a part of the watershed that drains through stream B. A site investigation showed that an access road belonging to the Angell Brothers Quarry is within this watershed. At the time of the site visits it was difficult to establish if the roadway is contributing sediment to the stream reach. Stream B's reach is about 5,400 feet in length with an average stream gradient of 14.0 percent.

Appendix D

The comments contained in this appendix reflect the conflict between mountain bikers and others who use, or are otherwise interested in protecting Forest Park. However, the issues discussed by the commenters are the same for the BCF. Sitting on the east slope of the North Tualatin Mountains Forest Park has the same soil and terrain as is found in the BCF as has been discussed in the body of the memo.

This appendix contains two sets of comments and two letters as follows: 1.) *Coalition to Protect Forest Park*, 2.) *Make Forest Park Safe Again*, 3.) *Letter the Medical Society of Metropolitan Portland*, 4.) *Letter from Dr. Jeff Menashe, an oncologist, whose letter did not disclose that he is a medical doctor.*

The comments of hikers/walkers who have had to jump out of the way of mountain bikers to avoid injury can be found in *Coalition to Protect Forest Park* at pages 5, 6, 7, 10, 14, 21, 27, 30, 41, 47, 52, 61, 67, 70, 72, 76, 79, 80, and 83. The number of people who have felt compelled to jump for their safety is 26. Those who have not jumped out of the way of mountain bikers, but are concerned about having to do so can be found at pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 38, 40, 41, 46, 50, 50, 51, 53, 55, 58, and 67. The number of commenters who have expressed fear of injury from mountain bikers, other than those who have actually felt compelled to jump out of the way of oncoming mountain bikers is 24.

Commentators also commented on the tranquility they experienced in Forest Park, absent disturbance from mountain bikers. They also discussed the iconic stature of Forest Park. Many commenters described the damage mountain bikers

caused from rutting trails, the erosion they caused, and the unauthorized trails that mountain bikers made that caused further damage. One commentator suggested moving mountain bikers onto property that Metro owns.

Most of the comments under the heading *Make Forest Park Safe Again*, are duplicates of those found under *Coalition to Protect Forest Park*, but contain three new comments at pages 8 and 9 of people who have had to jump out of the way of mountain bikers bringing that total to 29.

The letter from the Medical Society of Portland, authored by a number of medical doctors states the issues as follows:

Single track mountain biking is often done on trails three to four feet wide. The current city ordinance pertaining to Forest Park allows cyclists to share a trail with hikers only if it is at least eight feet wide. Due to the twisting trails and uneven terrain in the park, the sight lines are often short. It seems unreasonable to expect vigorous, exuberant riders to

cautiously approach every blind corner or bump. What kind of fun would that be? Because bicycles and hikers are relatively quiet, one can envision many sudden, unexpected encounters, which would be particularly hazardous for young children and the elderly. A stark demonstration of this was the death of a woman hiker during the month of April in Renton, Washington when she collided with a cyclist on a shared trail... The international experience with "multi-use trails" to be shared by pedestrians, equestrians, and cyclists has been that the horseback riders and hikers avoid the trails used by the bicycle riders.

Dr. Menashe uses Forest Park for hiking running and biking.

He supports cycling within Forest Park on trails wide enough to accommodate both bikers and hikers safely, but not on trails that are not wide enough. He has had to jump out of the way of at least one mountain biker.

Dr. Catherine Thompson, a retired pediatrician, was the primary gatherer of these comments. Dr. Thompson has been active in protecting Forest Park for a number of years.

COALITION TO PROTECT FOREST PARK

Comments Accompanying Petition

As Submitted to City Council Members, June 19, 2017

INTRODUCTION: Signers of the petition to Protect Forest Park and to Uphold the Ordinance 168509, have penned hundreds of passionate comments about the necessity of preserving the unique nature and ecosystem health of Forest Park and providing for the safety of all park users.

Portland civic leaders, well known celebrities and authors, and hundreds of citizens have raised concerns about the legality, the equity, and the wisdom of adding single track cycling to Forest Park.

Signers who have written serious comments and concerns include: Cheryl Strayd, author of the best-selling book WILD; Ursula Le Guin, nationally renowned author; Mike Lindberg, Past City Commissioner; Chet Orloff, past president of the Portland Parks Board and Portland Parks Foundation member; Spencer Ehrman, of the City Club of Portland; Jack McGowan, founder of SOLVE; Ted Kaye, who served on the 1992 Forest Park Trail Policy Task Force to address user conflict; Phyllis Reynolds, author and representative of the Portland Garden Club; George Milne, president of Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and past president of the Trails Club of Oregon; and many others.

These citizens, and they number in the hundreds, assert that a proposal to introduce single track cycling to Forest Park *"conflicts with the environmental, recreational, social and legal mission of the park." "Forest Park is one place where true silence and quiet contemplation needs to be the overarching goal in this decision."*

We request that you take the time to read these thoughtful and well-written comments from your constituents and from people all around the country and the world who have given voice in this vital matter, and who are urging you to protect the only designated urban wilderness in the United States.

Further, we ask that you uphold the integrity of Ordinance 168509, also known as the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan, that specifically prohibits the active sport of single track cycling anywhere in Forest Park.

To change the law and to permit this new form of recreation would negate the legal intent, as well as the spirit and inspired vision for Forest Park, as well as increase dangerous user conflicts.

SPENCER EHRMAN Beaverton, OR 2016-08-03

Mayor, we discussed this matter when you first took office as I represent City Club on this issue. It's our position that the Management Plan as written is the defining document for the park and should not be changed.

Forest Park is not the place to satisfy the appetites of the single track minority. Thank you.

TED KAYE Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I served on the Forest Park Trail Policy Task Force in the early 1990s and this proposal conflicts with the environmental, recreational, social, and legal mission of the park.

CHET ORLOFF Portland, OR 2016-08-25

I've lived near and used Forest Park for nearly 50 years. As the former chair of the Portland Parks Board and a member of the Parks Foundation, I have long been a supporter of our parks and, especially, Forest Park.

JACK MCGOWAN Sisters, OR 2016-08-29

As the Portland area continues to grow, its citizens will have an increased need to find close in places where they can find peace and quiet and be able to experience nature by the simple gift of walking and running on its trails. Forest Park will play an important role in this evolution of the urban area.

This decision is truly one of legacy for future generations. Economic concerns should not outweigh the preservation of this jewel that was given to all of us by visionary leaders long ago. While I understand that our statewide community has diverse interests in the ways we recreate, Forest Park is one place where true silence and quiet contemplation needs to be the overarching goal in this decision.

GEORGE MILNE Clackamas, OR 2016-07-26

I am President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and past President of the Trails Club of Oregon. Both of these organizations were deeply involved in the development of Forest Park and the philosophy on how it should be administered.

To modify the Master Plan would create a serious situation that will certainly result in injuries to pedestrians, joggers and even cyclists using the narrow "hiking" trails would be an irresponsible decision at best.

Other cities have reported that single track biking does serious damage to the trails and makes the trails dangerous for walkers, hikers and joggers that are currently the predominant activity in the park.

Having been advised of the potential for serious injuries, will the City of Portland be willing to accept the liability for such a decision.

There definitely needs to be a place for those seeking single track thrills, but Forest Park is NOT the place.

Once you have destroyed the ecology of the park, it will never be the same one of a kind facility that has been an asset to the City of Portland's reputation nationally.

The FWOC represents over 40 organizations in the Western United States and has actively established a position against changing the long lasting and very effective Master Plan. It would be nice to see the City complete the unfinished projects mentioned in the Master Plan.

MEGANNE STEELE Portland, OR 2016-08-10

Portland's Forest Park is a unique resource that should be protected. The thoughtful and farsighted Management Plan responds to timeless ecological vulnerabilities, and was adopted after broad based citizen participation. Please honor and protect this extraordinary wilderness area.

ROBERT MCCARTHY West Linn, OR 2016-08-15

Forest Park is treasured resource for all of us who live in metropolitan Portland. There are ordinances and plans that govern how the park is to be maintained and used. Make no exceptions to these rules. Only limited biking should be allowed.

SYLVIA MILNE Portland, OR 2016-08-12

I'm signing because I believe we are deviating from the original intent. We know it was designated for park land because the soil conditions would not support construction or heavy usage. Why would we want to decimate a natural area which brings persons in

touch with nature and themselves, not to mention the fact we want to protect the flora and the animal life.

TERI ROWAN Portland, OR 2016-08-15

I feel strongly that single trail biking does not support the designated most important priorities for the park, that of protecting the park's ecological health and preserving wildlife habitat.

Neither does it support the goal of providing for quiet and reflective experiences within the park.

Lastly, I share the concerns about safety for pedestrians who comprise the largest group of park users.

CHARLES CIECKO Gresham, OR 2016-08-25

This proposed use is incompatible with the character of Forest Park and will adversely impact how the park functions as an important wildlife corridor.

FRANK BIRD Portland, OR 2016-08-10

Honor the terms, objectives, and goals of the management plan.

CHRISTINE COLASURDO Portland, OR 2016-08-08

The original mission for Forest Park is pedestrian trails. The park is a retreat from fast mechanized things like bicycles. I walk the trails to escape that kind of activity/motion.

ANN TAYLOR Portland, OR 2016-08-27

Common sense and the law dictate that bicycles should be restricted to eight foot wide trails. Get it, City Hall?

BILL CUNNINGHAM Beaverton, OR 2016-08-14

Trails such as the Wildwood and other non-biking trails are not safe for peds and bikes. It is also against current laws that define joint use trails.

KAREN MAHAN Portland, OR 2016-08-21

As a person with Native American heritage, I strongly support the fact that Forest Park has been set aside to provide quiet, reflective spiritual experiences. This along with the

goal of caring for the native species and wildlife is in keeping with the management practices of native peoples for thousands of years. It saddens me to see Forest Park overrun by recreational enthusiasts who fail to observe the expected trail etiquette. They desecrate the park by riding on trails where they are not allowed and riding at night when the animals are most active. We need education and better enforcement to once again make Forest Park a place for contemplation and a sanctuary for all of the native plants and animals that call Forest Park their home

I was once forced off a trail, injuring a knee that required a trip to the ortho. I have also had dozens of near misses. Bikes should not be allowed on trails currently designated pedestrian only.

MAXINE DEXTER Portland, OR 2016-07-27

My family of four as well as our pets use this park system on foot almost daily. We rely on the serenity and ability to observe animals and vegetation in their natural habitats. This is our refuge. Bikes have already destroyed parts of the park where they go off-trail and have run directly into my husband and I as well as our dog when walking at night. Bikes have other trail systems to use and do not belong on the narrow trails in Forest Park.

JERRY WEIGLER PORTLAND, OR 2016-07-27

I have encountered illegal bicyclists on Forest Park pedestrian trails and it is dismayng. This is a PARK for individuals, families and generations of children year in and year out. NOT a roadway for vehicles of ANY sort. Please do not be pressured into converting foot paths to ROADWAYS!!!

GRAHAM PUGH Portland, OR 2016-08-06

I am a frequent hiker and have been seeing more and more bikes on the trails. They have a pronounced impact on the trails.

RICHARD ELLEGOOD Portland, OR 2016-08-08

I have frequently encountered bikers violating existing regulations and stopped them. Some are respectful and say that they won't do it again. Others seem unconcerned with the possibility that they will turn a blind corner and be unable to avoid a mother pushing a baby carriage. To allow such bikers to ride on narrow trails is an invitation for disaster. Most bikers are extremely safety- conscious and do not want the outcome that I have described. There should be a safe solution that doesn't put people at risk. Let's find it.

EMILY BRONEC Poulsbo, WA 2016-08-10

I love forest park. I love walking and running and hiking there. I've had a close encounter with a mountain biker here and at another park (where bikes were allowed). In the second circumstance the cyclist was injured as he was unable to stop his bike quickly without hitting us and veered off the small trail. I do not think it is safe or reasonable for cyclists and hikers to be on the same trail of it is small, narrow, and with poor visibility. It's just common sense.

MARYANN AMANN Portland, OR 2016-08-21

I hike regularly in Forest Park and do not want to be run over by bikes on the hiking trails. I have been in close calls with bikers over the years and there is no reason for them to use designated hiking trails. Bikes cause too much erosion - let them continue to ride Leif Ericsson. Let us hike in peace and maintain the ability to be in silent meditation in the Forest.

FRED BOWMAN Portland, OR 2016-08-12

I hike or run in Forest Park once a week and have been doing so for over 30 years. Bicycles are not compatible with these uses. The occasional illegal cyclist is bad enough. Hoards of them would completely ruin the experience.

PHILIP SELINGER Portland, OR 2016-08-13

I value Forest Park as a place to reflect and be at peace without the hubbub of city life. Bike would pose a constant source of anxiety for fear of getting run over on some curve.... and I fear the increased impact of bikes on trails, plants, birds and other animal life.

LOVINA QUERY Portland, OR 2016-08-18

I have run years on the trails and love them and want to keep them safe for my grandchildren.

KAREN DAVID Portland, OR 2016-08-06

I have been run over by cyclists on these trails.

BRANDY SAFFELL Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I think we should keep the trails that are off-limits to cyclists as such. As a trail runner in forest park, I have been injured in the past by collisions and near- collisions with cyclists on the narrower trails. I have also seen other people nearly run off the trails, and dogs

spooked by cyclists. I recommend keeping the trails as they are, as a citizen of Portland and regular user of Forest Park.

SHARON MURPHY Portland, OR 2016-08-11

I once enjoyed the park and now it doesn't feel safe to walk with my dog. We don't like the high speed cyclists.

IAN SMETHURST Portland, OR 2016-07-27

My young son one was almost run over on Holman Lane! Do not want any more bikes on walking trails! Having done 3 Cycle Oregons I know the Wildwood is not a good idea given the number of people walking!
Thanks for your consideration!

ALICIA EMEL Portland, OR 2016-08-14

I have been almost hit several times by bicycles while hiking. There is no way that bicycles can safely share hiking trails with hikers. Please keep Forest Park safe and continue to limit biking in the park!

BILL CUNNINGHAM Beaverton, OR 2016-08-15

I walk those trails regularly and have already encountered bikes even when they are not supposed to be there. Without diligent enforcement (and stern consequences) this creates a very dangerous situation already. What will open permission create?

JANE BROWN Beaverton, OR 2016-08-22

I'm a guide at the Japanese Garden and often walk there through the park. I've had some unpleasant encounters with both bicyclists and dog owners.

KIMBERLEY CHEN Portland, OR 2016-08-14

I was also almost hit by a bike on the trails while hiking. I absolutely oppose opening up the trails to bikers. Not only is it a safety issue, but it will also cause deterioration of the existing trails.

JOHN BISSONNETTE Portland, OR 2016-07-26

Mr Olmstead who designed Forest Park sought to create a refuge from the city in our beautiful forest. There are many other off road cycling venues currently, and other sites which would be more suitable to develop as off road cycling venues. I live nearby, walk there every day, and see how off road cyclists do not respect pedestrian traffic, making it unsafe for walkers, especially with dogs and small children. This is a unique park that makes Portland so special; please do not make it a off road cycling venue

LOUISE GRAY Portland, OR 2016-08-18

Enough bike riders are rude and irresponsible using our sidewalks and streets. Too many bike riders do not respect the damage they do and refuse to play by any rules. Forest Park has bike trails, do not allow more destruction in Forest Park. Bikes really tear up the paths!

LISA DEUTSCHMAN Portland, OR 2016-08-30

Forest Park walking and hiking trails weren't developed with off-road biking in mind. The way that off-road bikers behave on these trails poses a significant hazard to walkers and hikers and the overall health of the park itself.

LUCILLE STAUDUHAR Portland, OR 2016-08-07

I jog in the park often on Wildwood .. I don't want to worry about bikes screaming past me on narrow paths. It's bad enough around the curves on Leif Erikson!

SEAN SULLIVAN Portland, OR 2016-08-09

Just moved here two months go from CA where bikers and walkers shared the same trails in our local State Parks. It was refreshing to walk the trails in Forest Park without wondering if you were going to be hit by cyclists. Designate a few trails for cyclists but shared trails are a safety hazard.

CAROL GREEN burbank, CA 2016-08-09

I don't live in Portland but totally understand this issue. In our Griffith Park, cyclists are militant about using an equestrian-only bridge and whip up and down horse trails they're legally prohibited from using, endangering horses, riders and themselves. It's common sense to exclude bicycles from some trails, just as it's common sense to exclude horses from some trails here. In my area, equestrians comply, but bicyclists defiantly flaunt/flout their trespassing.

JEFFREY COURION Beverly Hills, CA 2016-08-12

Single track mountain biking on family or public hiking trails is not safe. It was attempted in Los Angeles County and was later withdrawn as unsuspecting hikers and

small children were placed in harm's way. Cycling and pedestrian traffic do not mix as slow and fast speed traffic result in accidents and injuries.

DAVID KENNEY Portland, OR 2016-08-11

Bikes don't belong on pedestrian trails. The city should enforce the existing rules and ensure that this wonderful place continues to be a place of peaceful refuge for humans and nature.

ROGER AUMANN Portland, OR 2016-08-17

Not in Forest Park! We don't need more bikes on the trails; there are plenty of places to ride already, and they are dangerous to the walkers, hikers, runners, and pets on leash.

DEBORAH ABELE Portland, OR 2016-08-08

I've been walking on narrow, steep and winding trails in Forest Park for several decades and have seen the number of other walkers increase dramatically as our population grows. With even more people in the next decades needing a break from the crowded concrete, the trails will be even more precious to us all. Clear and sensible division of incompatible use is the only reasonable way to share the park. I cannot imagine how a bicycle coming down around a hairpin turn could possibly stop in time to miss me and my leashed dog! Bikes are fine on the wide fire lanes with adequate visibility, but let's not set up dangerous situations. If the current regulations aren't being followed and there's no budget for enforcement, perhaps what we need really is better signage?

BRETT SHEPPARD Portland, OR 2016-08-08

Mountain bikes already have access to Leif Ericsson and the fire lanes. These are broad enough to allow time move out of the way and also provide auditory clues that a bike is approaching. The other trails (eg. the wildwood and secondary (maple, cleater, koenig etc) are all single track and there is no room to easily get out of the way and there will likely be less auditory warning that a bike is approaching until it is too late. Many families with young children and our elder citizens out for physical activity but with physical impairment use these trails. What will happen is a biker will plow into a 5 or 6 year old, cause a devastating injury and by the time they are extracted we will be faced with a brain dead child, a dead child or someone who will need state support for their life.

A similar fate will await our elderly and handicapped utilizing these trails if mountain bikes are allowed .

INGA DUBAY Portland, OR 2016-08-25

As a long term and frequent walker on Forest Park Trails I would be quite apprehensive walking there if there were bikes on the trail. Frequently I have been forced to the trail side by runners coming up behind me. At least you can hear the runners coming by there pounding foot steps.

At 81 I am not as agile as I once was to dodge bikes on these narrow trails. Why should anyone have to Dodge them anyhow. I don't want to wear a Bike Helmet to walk in Forest park.

CHAR GLENN Portland, OR 2016-08-09

I see many people walking on the Forest Park trails who, although able to walk, are not agile enough to get out of the path of a cyclist. In some areas one has to step into a small opening in the brush at the side of the trail simply to let another walker or runner pass. The walking speeds are slow enough to allow this negotiation and the runners are able to slow or stop relatively easily if someone is in their path.

ROGER AUMANN Portland, OR 2016-08-17

Not in Forest Park! We don't need more bikes on the trails; there are plenty of places to ride already, and they are dangerous to the walkers, hikers, runners, and pets on leash.

DIANE NOWICKI Portland, OR 2016-08-08

The majority of Forest Park trail users are pedestrians, of all ages and abilities. Biking is way too fast a modality for pedestrain-mostly trails. Biking will reduce the physical and mental health of our city by dis-inviting people to walk. The trees and fragile dirt paths already suffer from the wear and tear of bicycles going where they shouldn't be. I am a volunteer trail maintenance person and see the damage caused by bicycle tires.

JACK MONTAG Portland, OR 2016-08-25

I hike in Forest Park frequently. This Summer almost daily. I also volunteer with Forest Park Conservancy to improve the trails. It seems clear to me that it would be dangerous

to allow bikes on the park trails where there are pedestrians, runners, dogs and children. It would also be damaging to the trails that are already suffering from heavy use and erosion. Many of the trails, including Wildwood are quite narrow in places and there would not be room for a bike to pass. It's a terrible idea!

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, OR 2016-07-26

As a 14+ year volunteer maintaining trail throughout Forest Park, I have seen up close the damage bikes do to our lovely trails, and it takes a lot of very hard work to repair them! The City has no funds to maintain these trails, so relies on us volunteers, but we are few and the cyclists are many. Please do not open up the Park to more erosion.

JOSEPH A. SOLDATI Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I have hiked all of Forest park Trails, and worked on them as well as a trail maintenance volunteer almost every Saturday from November, 2000, to November, 2013. I worked too damned hard to have bikers ruin this pristine park; having repaired the damage that biker dos--destroy native plants, increase soil erosion, mar the trail with ditches, etc. --I know the destruction first- hand. IF YOU ALLOW BIKERS ON THESE TRAILS, YOU/they WILL RUIN THE TRAILS FOREVER, AND FOREST PARK, TOO. Note: Portland has spent millions to allow bikers access to city streets, and as a former biker, I really support this. Therefore, there are plenty of places in town and out--Sauvie Island, Spring Water Trail, etc.-- for bicyclists.

CAROLYN BUPPERT Portland, OR 2016-08-12

One reason we moved back to SW Portland was the hiking in Forest Park. It's one place one doesn't have to be looking out at all time for cyclists. We want to preserve the safety of walkers in the park.

DAVID KAFOURY Portland, OR 2016-07-26

We as a family use Forest Park a great deal. I would hate to have a grandchild hit by a bicyclist as he/she raced around a corner. Please keep the park safe and pedestrian-only. Let bikers buy their own property for High-Speed Single- Track Cycling. Many of us

have supported Friends of Forest Park and Now The Forest Park Conservancy to preserve our park for walkers/runners.

VERENA GIEBELS Bow, WA 2016-08-11

Whenever visiting Portland from WA, several times a year, I have been visiting Forest Park to get a break. Such a peaceful place, which makes my vacation in this vibrant city complete. Please keep it safe for people who like some quiet time, enjoying nature. It would be over with when bicycles

JOHN MILLER Portland, OR 2016-08-13

In general, I think natural areas should be kept natural. Bikes are machines. I do not support bikes in most natural areas or any wilderness areas. I am very concerned about MTB industry and lobbying influence.

ALEXANDRA CLARKE Lake Oswego, OR 2016-08-13

Mechanized transport does not belong in natural areas and watersheds. MTBing is a sport, as such it deserves a hard surface trail/track/arena and not the Oregon Jory Soil found in Forest Park and other local natural areas vulnerable to soil deterioration and stormwater runoff. This is not to mention the issue of wildlife preservation in this part of the NW wildlife migration corridor. It should be of great concern that the MTB industrial complex is lobbying for more access to our local natural areas and watersheds by using its considerable financial resources to pressure City officials.

SUSAN MEAD Portland, OR 2016-08-18

We are restricting urban wildlife to fewer and fewer green spaces as small homes with yards are replaced with multi-story complexes with zero greenspace virtually right up to the borders of Forest Park. Please preserve this urban oasis as it has been historically managed and leave peaceful hiking trails alone for both humans and wildlife to enjoy!!

TIM LUNDHOLM Portland, OR 2016-08-10

I'm a mountain biker too but forest park has too many pedestrians for single track riding, it's not safe.

SUE DONORA Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I love mountain biking AND hiking. There are plenty of places to mountain bike in the Portland area, but Forest Park needs to be preserved for the majority of people, who are hikers, not bikers.

DAVID SHAW Portland, OR 2016-08-03

I am both a hiker and a mountain bike rider. Forest park hiking trails CANNOT be made compatible with single track bike riding. They are too narrow with many blind corners. Terrain doesn't permit widening them. Please do not open hiking trails to bikes.

BOB SHOTLAND Portland, OR 2016-08-07

I run and hike on trails such as Wildwood, Wild Cherry, Dogwood, etc. There is no way that mountain bikes should be allowed on these types of trails; it would be hazardous and intrusive. I have also cycled on Leif Erikson and I think mountain bikers should be content to stay on that trail.

BARRY EMMERLING Portland, OR 2016-08-25

I'm a cyclist (including a little of mountain biking in the past), but do not think any more trails in Forest Park should be open to mountain bikes. If cyclists are looking for single-track trails they should head for the Cascades or Coast Range, and should not expect this type of trail to be offered in an urban area park.

JOHN LEMMER Portland, OR 2016-08-15

While an active off-road bicyclist myself, and a hiker, I believe the bikes cause too much damage to the trails to allow in Forest Park

JOHN THOMPSON

Portland, OR 2016-07-25 I am deeply concerned about preserving the Forest Park Management plan, and the city's intention of allowing single track cycling on pedestrian trails. This is both unsafe, and unfair to the 90 percent of users who are pedestrians.

JOHN HOULE Portland, OR 2016-07-25

I am very concerned about the health of the park and the safety of pedestrians. Please follow the law and keep this wonderful park intact now and for future generations.

KATHRYN MIDSON PORTLAND, OR 2016-07-25

I love the peace of the pedestrian only trails. As I walk along them, I try to imagine the difference if cycling were allowed, and I despair. Please follow the existing Forest Park plan, and keep the park a safe and relaxing refuge for human visitors and existing animal populations.

BILL CUNNINGHAM Beaverton, OR 2016-07-25

I am deeply concerned about safety issues. I also fear that the trails will be degraded. Forest Park IS NOT a "Six Flags" venue; it is a one-of-a-kind pristine urban treasure.

CINDY PRICE Portland, OR 2016-07-25

I hike and run these trails for the last 20 years. Cycling tracks are all over Wildwood. I came a millimeter away from having a cyclist crash into me. I had to jump off the trail to avoid serious injury. When it happens next, how would you like me to title my lawsuit against the city?

JESSICA SPIES portland, OR 2016-07-25

I don't want single track bicycling in Forest Park

AARON WOLF Ann Arbor, MI 2016-07-25

Forest Park is not the place to have expensive-to-maintain off-road biking trails. I'm a hiker and biker, and I'll be happy to bike elsewhere in order to preserve Forest Park for less intrusive activities.

MARGOT THOMPSON Portland, OR 2016-07-26

City officials are trying to subvert the law by allowing uses that are clearly destructive to the environment of Forest Park. I am an avid cyclist but feel the trails are now unsafe for pedestrians because cyclists are not obeying current laws and or showing considerate behavior toward pedestrians and hikers of all ages using the trails in the park. Metro owns land further out on skyline and that is an area with clearcuts and places perfect for the development of single track cycling. Please consider near-in but entirely different places. Thank you!

P. SYDNEY HERBERT Portland, OR 2016-07-25

I love Forest Park and I don't appreciate being run over. The scofflaws are taking over the Park. We need enforcement!

HANK MURROW Eugene, OR 2016-07-26

I am concerned about bikes sharing the trails with slower moving pedestrians and animals.

VICKI JACKSON Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I want to be able to walk through Forest Park without worrying about a single tract bicycle running me down.

JOHN WERTZLER Portland, OR 2016-07-26

Forest Park is a natural environment that is a treasure to Portland citizens and visitors. Single track cycling will adversely affect this natural sanctuary that was so wisely conceived and protected by its creators. Don't undermine the sanctity and beauty of this amazing one-of-a-kind natural asset.

LES BLAIZE Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I am concerned that no wildlife baseline study has been done so the health of the park is not none or its carrying capacity so why increase any use until we can be assured that it won't harm the resource.

DON MCCOY Portland, OR 2016-07-26

Bicycles are allowed on Lief Erickson, but I don't think they should be allowed on any other trails in the park. They compromise the safety of walkers/hikers/runners and disturb the wildlife.

DAVID MITCHELL San Francisco, CA 2016-07-26

Allowing bicycles on pedestrian-only trails in Forest Park is a bone-headed idea which I vehemently oppose. I am 67 and use the Forest Park trails regularly, and even the trail runners who whiz through and force a walker to stop and stand aside is bad enough. Add bicycles? Are you nuts? I vote and I pay taxes, and I am sick and tired of seeing terrible public policy ideas from Portland's City Commissioners.

DAVID BOE Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I live near Forest Park and understand these traffic situations. Bicyclists who ride too fast risk hurting not only themselves but pedestrians and, worse, small animals on a leash. I pity any bicyclist whose carelessness causes death or injury to a beloved pet.

CARMEL BENTLEY Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I moved into walking distance to Forest Park when the neighborhood was emptying out in anticipation of a freeway running up Thurman. Little did I know that I was a half a block from Macleay Park, the most used entrance to the many trails of Forest Park. What a gift. Over these many years I have luxuriated in the cool breezes on hot days and the solace of silence in winter. I'm sure my first two dogs who wandered into my neighborhood were abandoned there. Over the years I reported someone who was doing target practice and saved a toddler who had fallen into Balch Creek and was minutes away from hypothermia.

The biggest danger? The bicyclists who thundered around the many blind corners on the trail. I thought acceding Lief Erickson Road for their use was a fair trade, but apparently not.

There are bikes everywhere and good for them. But I think we hikers with kids and dogs deserve a safe place of our own. From what I can tell, there are plenty of bike- tolerant, if not bike-friendly, areas elsewhere in Portland. Please preserve Forest Park for its original intent.

If you can create a bike-only trail somewhere in Forest Park that doesn't harm or interfere with existing trails, go for it. But you have to assure that the bikers stay where they belong. That's only fair.

ROBERT LAIRD Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I'm saying "NO NO NO" to high-speed single-track cycling on pedestrian-only trails in Forest Park. What are you people thinking???

LINDA MCKIM-BELL Portland, OR 2016-07-26

Bikes and pedestrians don't mix on trails, as other cities have found out! Bikes need separate trails. Bikes ruin dirt trails.

CURTIS BELL Portland, OR 2016-07-26

The city should recognize that it is liable if it allows bikes on the narrow hiking trails and someone gets hurt.

DIANNE SICHEL Portland, OR 2016-07-26

Forest Park is a unique urban haven and as stewards and the people's representatives you are charged with protecting it's wildlife and continuing the policies that make it a living educational experience for our children and a peaceful environment for walkers and runners. The peace and quite should never be broken by recreational speeding bicycles screaming down narrow trails and off trails creating new paths for runoff and disturbing the fragile undergrowth.

NORMAN SHAFFNER Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I've witnessed the destructive unruly behavior of these mountain bike delinquents.

ORA BOTWINICK Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Forest park is a sanctuary and a natural treasure in Portland that needs to be maintained and protected.

High speed single- track cycling can not safely coexist with people and wildlife in the park.

HELEN SUDBURY Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I walk the trails in Forest Park almost everyday and would hate to think I of the damage bikes would do on the narrow trails. Besides I think they would be a safety hazard.

STEPHANIE JOHNSON Portland, OR 2016-07-26

dangerous and annoying.

SARA MAURITZ Portland, OR 2016-07-26

Bicycles cause severe damage to trails not caused by foot traffic. AND, as witnessed in Hoyt Arboretum, bicyclists don't stay on trails. They cut new ones down steep hills opening the area to severe water damage to the trail and further damage to the plants.

It is all about the thrill of the ride and nothing about caring for our natural world.

Speeding, thrill-seeking cyclists are a real danger to walkers who have no safe way to get out of the way of racing cyclists.

STEPHANIE JOHNSON Portland, OR 2016-07-26

dangerous and annoying.

SUSANNA MOREHOUSES Portland, OR 2016-07-26

On Pedestrian only trails why should we have to compete with bikes!!!!

JOHN BISSONNETTE Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I walk with my dog daily on the Wildwood Trail and would strongly urge that it be not opened to bicycles.

ROLLA LEWIS Portland, OR 2016-07-26

This is an important issue for those who love Forest Park as a refuge, habitat, and quiet.

JERRY SLEPACK Portland, OR 2016-07-26

Maintain a safe and environmentally secure Forest Park.

NANCY BODERICK Benton City, WA 2016-07-26

Keep pedestrians safe!

KATHRYN MENARD Portland, OR 2016-07-26

wildlife habitat is shrinking and I want to protect what remains

SHARON CHRISTENSON Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I want Forest Park protected for all users and kept pristine

TERRANCE HOHNER Portland, OR 2016-07-27

The Wildwood, Maple and all the current hiking only trails are safe because they are not infringed upon by bicycle riders. Anyone who has hiked these wonderful 70+miles of trails can tell you that if you were hiking up any modest hill and saw a bike rider wheeling at you downhill on a narrow trail, that you have created a very unsafe situation...for seniors, for families with small children, with those with canines on a leash i.e. 90% of the users of these relatively very narrow trails. The bicyclists have the Fire Lanes to use and that should be the extent of their riding on narrow trails.

BETSY WRIGHT Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I want us all to be safe and to be able to enjoy Forest Park. Pedestrians can't mix with the type of biking proposed.

PATTI LOUIE Portland, OR 2016-07-27

The trails are far too narrow for both cyclists and hikers. Someone will get hurt and it will be on your conscience.

NORA ESKES Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I'm signing for all the reasons given. Forest Park as it is, friendly and safe for people of all ages ranging from young children to the elderly, is an in-city haven of the beauty and peace of nature. Leif Erickson trail gives cyclists a place for relatively high speed cycling, without encroaching/usurping pedestrian-only trails. It would be such a loss for so many to convert or open pedestrian trails in Forest Park to single track cycling.

MARY HAYDEN Oregon City, OR 2016-07-27

Single track cycling does NOT belong in Forest Park. Respect the current management plan!

JILL PRICE Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Opening up the trails to cycling will not only ruin the beauty of this one of a kind in city park oasis, but it would be so dangerous to the foot traffic users. Imagine trying to move out of the way of a fast moving bike without much room for error. There are steep hillsides, and many blind corners. Keep Forest Park the special place it is! There is many other not so beautiful areas to make single track an event space. Most cyclists that are riding at high speeds, have no interest in the surroundings.

MARJIE LUNDELL Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I believe increased bike use of this type is not appropriate in forest park

CHRISTINE BUGAS portland, OR 2016-07-27

Meditatively we walk daily the Wildwood and other Forest Park trails. Bikes are noise and surges of epinephrine in a place that is a refuge. The trails are winding. You will not notice a bike till you are jumping out of its way. Have mercy.

ERIK WOHLGEMUTH Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Forest Park is a mecca for our residents to find quiet and solace from our increasingly busy city. There is no need to open up the pedestrian trails to bikers for there are enough places now for bikers to roam in Forest Park and in the greater Portland area. Ensure the solitude, natural habitat quality, and the safety of our treasured park for the many rather than catering to the thrill seeking of the few.

MICHAEL BECKER Portland, OR 2016-07-27

The park does not owe cyclists anything. Cycles degrade the trails inevitably and irreparably.

WILL AITCHISON Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Forest Park trails should continue to be safe for all users, particularly pedestrians and runners.

CHRISTIAN SPENCER Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I run in Forest Park and single track speed bikes will endanger more pedestrians than riders. There are far more hikers and runners than there are cyclists up there. It wouldn't be safe.

CARLOS VIVAS Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Protection of pedestrian trails at forest park. Also, to avoid high speed biking to bother or crash with hikers and runners. There are hundreds of biking trails around the Portland area, no need to implement this change in Forest Park

STEPHEN HOPKINS Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Keep forest park save for runners and hikers

JORDAN LAUB portland, OR 2016-07-27

These are paths for pedestrians that we use and love every day, elderly and young, dogs, and fragile folks of all ages. We're just not compatible with mountain bikes.

JANET SHERMAN Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Cyclists on the trails will damage the vegetation, risk injury to walkers and runners, and destroy our much loved wooded trail system. i vote "NO" to cycling on the trails!!!

ED CARPENTER Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Daily Forest Park user.

CYNTHIA PELLELY Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I run in forest park with my children and have concerns about a cyclist coming around a bend and crashing into us

TIMOTHY JOHANSSON Portland, OR 2016-07-27

The bikes will ruin the trails. Having lived in Utah for many years I witnessed beautiful trails being ruined by mountain bikes.

PAMELA HAYES Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I'm signing because I am very opposed to bicycles on pedestrian trails for reasons of safety and conflict.

LIZ GOTTFRIED Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I agree

ROBERT DAYTON Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I live next to the Park. Use is at a very high rate. Single track biking does not fit. Runners and hikers have to watch out for bikers now. They need to find an appropriate place elsewhere.

JANE BEEBE Portland, OR 2016-07-27

citizens need places of quiet and peace. Olmstead recognized this in designing park systems.

JEREMY SACKS Portland, OR 2016-07-27

The single-track trails in Forest Park--such as the Wildwood Trail--should be for pedestrians only. Mixed use for bikes/pedestrians will not work and will be destructive to the environment.

JAMES CHASE Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I have seen first hand the damage that mountain bikes do to pedestrian trails

PETER HESFORD Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I think this is the most ill informed, ill advised action our local government has attempted to take in a long time. They want to make this city a meca for single track bike users. Hell with them, let them go make someone else's backyard their meca. This is absurd, doesn't have local support and is just a small very select group. Why should other larger interested groups suffer so that this exclusive group can have their fun???

ANNE BRACKETT Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I want to walk safely on the trails.

BRENT MOORE Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I run in the trails at least 3 times a month and feel that allowing bikers on single track would be dangerous to all involved.

PATTE SULLIVAN Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I walk on the trails and know how narrow they are. I also see how fast bicycles go on Leif Erikson Drive.

JAN MADILL Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I strongly think that protecting our beloved Forest Park and keeping it safe for all is crucial. High-speed single-track cycling should not happen in our few forested wilderness areas.

SHEILA BRADY Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I live in the Willamette Heights neighborhood, and am an avid walker/hiker. I also bike, but feel strongly that some places are not meant for biking. Forest Park is one of them. I have seen in other places the toll taken on the landscape by off-road biking. A reasonable compromise would be to keep paved roads and graveled wide roads, such as Erickson Trail, open to biking, but restrict the smaller hiking trails to pedestrians. Thank you, Sheila Brady

DEBBIE KAYE Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Wildwood, particularly, is a narrow trail requiring walking single-file. There is no room for bikes and walkers

DR. PETERSON Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Safety must remain our top priority while maintaining the fragile habitat in this precious urban resource. There is no reason for bikes to be allowed on pedestrian trails. We must enforce this expectation with steep fines for those who violate the rule. The safety of our children, elderly citizens, and habitat should be our top priority.

JANE BUCK Tualatin, OR 2016-07-27

Dangerous to walkers. Having to always step aside for cycling.

KIKI ADAMOVICS Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I have lived on the edge of Forest Park for thirty years and have seen it lose its identity as a Forest and a respite from the city

BILL MADILL Portland, OR 2016-07-27

We walk the trails in Forest Park frequently and dealing with bicycles on them is bad enough now. Worrying about being run into does not make for a good hike.

JOANN WOLFE PORTland, OR 2016-07-27

I use the park daily..bikes would destroy every lovely thing this park offers

THOMAS CRITES Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I run these trails and know how unsafe it is to have bikers on them.

DAVID SCHULTZ portland, OR 2016-07-27

Our primary concern should be the health of this city treasure.

NATHAN GRANT Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I'm originally from Minneapolis where the pedestrian and bike paths around the lakes were traditionally shared... until a pedestrian was killed by a cyclist. The city immediately developed separate paths. Adding cyclists to the narrow hiking trails in Forest Park with their countless blind twists and turns, is not only short sighted and illogical, it is actually creating the inevitable scene of a future tragedy. It's not "if" it's "when".

KATHERINE LYTE Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I live there and use park bikes don't belong where people walk

SCOTT LECHERT Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I do not want my quiet and peace disturbed by bikes careening down trails.

LINDA DURHAM Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I want to preserve, protect and restore the trails in our city's greatest natural park for future generations of strollers, walkers, runners and hikers. Single track bikes ruin trails for pedestrians.

MARIKA VAN ADELSBERG Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Portland City Hall has spent millions of dollars in studying, developing, designing, building and implementing a web of urban bike lanes throughout the metro area. Bravo. This was done to not only encourage more cycling as a form of transportation and commuting but also as an acknowledgement that shared lanes between such disparate users is dangerous. The difference between the size and speed of these two groups requires that there be separation and a heightened level of safety implementation. Why this same level of logic and concern is not being used by the same people with regard to opening single track Forest Park pedestrian-only trails to thrill seeking (not commuters) cyclists is beyond explanation. This is simply crazy!

SCOTT LECHERT Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I do not want my quiet and peace disturbed by bikes careening down trails.

RANDI OTNESS Portland, OR 2016-07-27

Not a good idea

MARILYN COUCH Victor, ID 2016-07-27

I have run, hiked and biked in Forest Park since the 1970's. Opening more trails to biking, especially Wildwood is unsafe. Mountain biking and walking/running don't mix on the narrow trails and it would be benefiting a minority of users, not the majority.

WENDY ORLOFF Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I have been a resident of Willamette Hgts and have used these trails often. It is very disturbing having a cyclist come up behind you and say coming up on your left. It ruins the tranquillity and peace a hike in the park provides.

YULIYA LUCEY Portland, OR 2016-07-27

We walk in Forest Park on a regular basis. It is already crowded, bringing bicyclists will only increase the traffic in what is supposed to be a natural trail. Thank you!

ANGELA LINDBO Portland, OR 2016-07-27

I appreciate that people want to recreate close in but Forest Park and our other natural areas are not the venue for mountain bikes. Our clay soil quickly ruts and creates an unsafe walking surface. The argument is that this can be overcome with engineering. Maybe so but I for one do not want to hike, run or bird watch on gravel or boardwalks. Enjoying our natural areas is enjoying quite and natural surfaces. Our natural areas are vital to the livability of Portland and must be protected.

ANGELA HOLLAND Portland, OR 2016-07-28

It's not safe to have bikes on the same trail as pedestrian, some of which are children. It's very disruptive to all the wildlife. The purpose of forest park is to preserve the forest not to make trails for a few bikes.

MARIANNE ZUCKERMAN Portland, OR 2016-07-28

I want the park to remain peaceful and user-friendly. It has been my experience that bikers go too fast in the park and are easily annoyed by runners, walkers and dogs.

BETH WESTBROOK Portland, OR 2016-07-28

I think allowing High-Speed Single track cycling would be a disaster in a park so close to downtown Portland. It would be a safety issue for walkers (extremely well used most hours of the week) and detrimental to a fragile plant system. There are many roads to bike on in the area, not many peaceful forests to walk in without safety concerns like Forest Park. Our park is unique and I hope we can preserve it!

JAY THIEMEYER Portland, OR 2016-07-28

This is a wilderness preserve not for recreation. Delicate growth is vulnerable to being destroyed. There are plenty of other alternatives for recreation.

TED REICHEL Portland, OR 2016-07-28

I want safe mixed use and careful environmental stewardship for this cherished community jewel

DAVIS GUTHRIE Portland, OR 2016-07-28

I grew up in willamette heights, a neighborhood surrounded by the park. I spent my youth walking the trails and continued to do after moving back to the neighborhood and living there into my early 40's. The park has always been one of the cities most precious resources. Lately, it has become a camping ground for transients who stray from the trails and leave refuse throughout the the park. The park no longer feels safe to walk through alone, and it certainly no longer a place where children can explore without an adult chaperone. I am empathetic to the homeless. They need someplace to live. That place should not be Forest Park.

CHRISTINA BLATCHFORD Portland, OR 2016-07-28

These trails are for hikers, not bikers

LARK BRANDT Hillsboro, OR 2016-07-28

Allowing mountain biking in Forest Park is like allowing skate-boarding in church, except it also harms wildlife.

CAROLYN WOODWARD Hillsboro, OR 2016-07-28

I care

LEAH DARR Darr Portland, OR 2016-07-28

A lot of us "oldsters" have balance issues and need to feel safe while walking the trails in Forest Park.

RANDY ZASLOFF Portland, OR 2016-07-28

I am a frequent user of the park and have been for over 30 years. The park is now being loved to death by increasing numbers of pedestrians and cyclists. The potential for serious injury if both these groups were to share single track trails is a foregone conclusion. Also the increased wear and tear on trails due to cycling would negatively impact the trail surfaces. I go to the park to experience quiet and nature not to be constantly vigilant- watching and listening to avoid a collision. Thank you for your consideration.

ANDREA HEID Aurora, OR 2016-07-28

I'd like to keep this park safe for walkers!

KRISTINE INMAN Portland, OR 2016-07-28

I'm a senior. I do not want to compete for trail width from young, assertive / aggressive mostly males who feel entitled to the whole trail at their time of passing me on the trail. Please keep them on their already designated trails and not expand their single track bike use of our cherished, quiet, pedestrian trails. Thank you for asking my opinion with an easy way to reply.

BEA MOMSEN Portland, OR 2016-07-28

Pedestrians need to be able to walk in Forest Park without being run down by cyclists. The trails are narrow and should be restricted to pedestrians!

JAMES BERRY Portland, OR 2016-07-28

I am a daily user of Forest Park as a hiker and runner. I appreciate the calm and quiet that it provides as an escape from the increasing bustle of the rest of the city.

I am adamantly against converting any of the existing pedestrian trails in Forest Park, especially Wildwood trail and other key trails, to shared or exclusive use for cycles.

Any off-road cycling trails considered for Forest Park should be qualified, designed, and sited with an overriding priority on retaining existing uses and character of the park,

maintaining habit, quiet, and scenic values, and through appropriate physical and acoustic separation from pedestrian trail systems.

I have seen the damage that illegal bicycle use already creates in Forest Park. I'm concerned that allowing more cycle use near or connecting with current trail systems will result in additional spillover of cycles into unsanctioned areas.

VANESSA JOHANSSON Salt Lake City, UT 2016-07-28

There is enough open space for bikes without turning a long and peaceful dog and human walking tradition into another dodge the bike scenario

PETER ANDREWS Portland, OR 2016-07-28

I use the trails often to run, walk and hike with my family. I'm on the trails often with my young son, wife and our baby daughter. I love the trails, but I've been on them with cyclist and it is not safe. As a cyclist myself the designated areas should remain and the trails should be left for pedestrian use only.

BRAD LAWLISS Portland, OR 2016-07-28

Safety

PATRICK MULLALEY Portland, OR 2016-07-29

I have been sideswiped by bicycles on several trails in Forest Park. Not Safe!!

ULYSSES SHERMAN portland, OR 2016-07-29

Cycling will destroy the trails and make walking dangerous for the many elderly and children who enjoy the park.

SHIRLEY HOEM Wilsonville, OR 2016-07-30

Unsafe to share

GAIL GREDLER Salem, OR 2016-07-30

Bicycles do not belong on pedestrian trails. They damage the trails and endanger pedestrians. Please keep our trails safe and intact.

LAUREN KAPLAN Portland, OR 2016-07-30

Biking will contribute to erosion of the natural landscape, congest the trails, disrupt the peacefulness, and make the trails unsafe for families and other hikers/runners.

HILDEGARD WETTE Beaverton, OR 2016-08-03

I'm signing because I think of this as a place all people can use. That would change, with the suggested changes.

DEBRA NORMANDIN Litchfield, CT 2016-07-31

I live in Connecticut and always enjoy the treasure of your Forest Park hiking trails. Please don't compromise this experience by allowing single track cycling on pedestrian only trails.

HILDEGARD WETTE Beaverton, OR 2016-08-03

I'm signing because I think of this as a place all people can use. That would change, with the suggested changes.

MICHAEL BAKER Portland, OR 2016-08-01

Trails in Forest Park are not designed for bikes. The interactions I have had with mt. bikers "poaching" the Wildwood have not been pleasant. The city needs to enforce existing regulations. Bikes are fine on the Leif and fire roads, but not on the trails.

ALICIA HAZEN Albany, NY 2016-08-02

I hike and walk in forest park everyday. It calms my mind and is a solace for many walkers who visit the trails. Allowing mountain bikes into no designated trails is dangerous for pedestrians.

LAYTON BORKAN Portland, OR 2016-08-02

Single track trails can not safely serve Both walkers and bikers. What high speed cyclist will be willing to stop for hikers who are ahead of them on the trail? Makes no sense....many good high speed options on Leif Erickson and the existing fire roads!

HILDEGARD WETTE Beaverton, OR 2016-08-03

I'm signing because I think of this as a place all people can use. That would change, with the suggested changes.

RAY BOWMAN Beaverton, OR 2016-08-03

I am a frequent hiker in Forest Park and don't want to see the pedestrian- only trails torn up by cyclists.

FRANK MACMURRAY Portland, OR 2016-08-03

I'm a walker. Forest Park is a wilderness, not a bike track for adrelin junkies. Please limit their use to approved tracks and aggressively enforce dog on leash ordinances. Thank you.

Frank MacMurray

SUSAN HAY Portland, OR 2016-08-03

bikes would cause a lot of erosion - Forest Park already suffers from overuse due to increasing population density. It would be a serious mistake to allow mountain bikes on the trails.

NELL BONAPARTE Portland, OR 2016-08-03

Trails for safer for People.

SU ELLIOTT Portland, OR 2016-08-03

I want to keep Forest Park the unique treasure to Portland that it is. I believe allowing high-speed cycling there will degrade the environment. I want there to be places in Portland for high-speed cycling, but not in Forest Park

MEL HINTON VANCOUVER, WA 2016-08-03

I frequently hike with friends in Forest Park and always enjoy the feeling of quiet beauty that nature provides.

SUSAN EHRMAN Charlotte, NC 2016-08-03

I love walking in Forest Park - please keep it safe for us.

CAROL DODSON Portland, OR 2016-08-03

I want to be able to enjoy the peace of the park without dodging MORE cyclists.

JEFF FAIRCHILD Portland, OR 2016-08-03

As a runner in Forest Park I believe that allowing bikes will make running in the park dangerous for both parties and change the solitude that the park offers.

BRUCE SWANSON Baltimore, MD 2016-08-04

I'm signing because I had a run in with a cyclist in both Forest Park and Marquam.

M SILLMAN brooklyn, NY 2016-08-04

I love Forest Park!

STEPHANIE LAMONICA Portland, OR 2016-08-04

bikers who are riding on the wrong paths make it unsafe for everyone -- for our children, for our pets, for elderly, for people just out enjoying the quiet. why should we have to put up with that? they have fire trails, and, they can go to powell butte. they also have lief ericson. enough is enough.

MICHAEL WELLS Portland, OR 2016-08-04

I regularly run and walk in Forest Park. The trails are narrow enough that often walkers have to move aside for one another, faster bikes would be unsafe. I regularly see families with children and dogs, who wouldn't know how to get out of the way on a narrow trail.

LEAH PERKINS-HAGELE Hillsboro, OR 2016-08-05

There are plenty of places for mountain bikers to ride just outside of Portland, I am one of them. I do not think the it is appropriate, at all, that we should mountain bike in First Park.

NANCY HAMER Portland, OR 2016-08-06

I feel it is unsafe to allow bikes on the paths, and that it will also ruin them by causing ruts to develop. Our beautiful and unique neighborhood forest has always been meant to be enjoyed while walking, not by zipping around on bikes. People benefit and learn from nature by traveling along on the pathways in a respectful way. So do the animals, birds, frogs and other creatures whose home it is. They deserve our continued and respectful protection, while we are their guests there. NO to bikes on pathways please!

MARY BROOKS Portland, OR 2016-08-06

Leif Erickson is the best place for bikes in Forest Park. The trails will degrade if bikes are allowed. There isn't room for hikers, dog walkers, and bikes.

ELIZABETH ZENGER Portland, OR 2016-08-07

I care about the ecosystem of Forest Park.

JENNY JULIAN Portland, OR 2016-08-07

I am signing the petition because I do not want more single track cycling in Forest Park. It is unsafe for pedestrians, makes for an unpleasant, sometimes confrontational

experiences, and damages trails and plants. There are plenty of single track places for cyclists available around Portland already.

TAMMIE KRISCIUNAS Portland, OR 2016-08-07

I walk in forest part and don't want to be run over by a fast moving bike. If they want to have off-road biking on the forest park trails, build new trails that do NOT intersect with the peds trails, or perhaps use the very far north end trails. shared trails would be a disaster.

JOE WHITTINGTON Portland, OR 2016-08-07

My experience is that it is dangerous to mix bikes and walkers on the trails in Forest Park.

JULIE SHEPPARD portland, OR 2016-08-07

It would be impossible for me, with my mobility issues to continue walking the trails while bikes shared them. Not good for anyone.

ILONA ZUBIK North Kingstown, RI 2016-08-07

It makes sense to have cycling where it is designated and pedestrian trails kept safe for pedestrians.

LARRY GOFORTH ore city, OR 2016-08-07

I grew,up next to the park and we used the trails for walking and running going from Fort to fort, not tearing it up with mountain bikes.

MICHAEL PEJSA Portland, OR 2016-08-08

I do not want bikes on hiking trails in forest park

CAMILLA WELHAVEN Portland, OR 2016-08-08

mountain bikes move too quickly and will impact the walkers and runners. Not a good idea!

MARILYN HALL Portland, OR 2016-08-08

I frequently use the trails in Forest Park. Both for safety of walkers/hikers as well as park preservation I do not favor the use of the trails by cyclists.

JENNIFER TORRES Portland, OR 2016-08-09

forest park should be enjoyed on foot only. period. too fast and furious for biking..... wear and tear, erosion and a conflict of pace.

MARK LANDA Portland, OR 2016-08-09

I often walk these trails in Forest Park. Except for the Leif Ericson trail, there is no room for bikes. To allow bikes on the other trails would degrade them and endanger pedestrians.

HILARY MACKENZIE Portland, OR 2016-08-09

I use the trails daily as a runner and hiker, often with my dog. Adding bicycles to this mix is asking for carnage.

BARBARA BERNSTEIN Portland, OR 2016-08-09

I value the Wildwood Trail and all the other pedestrian trails in Forest Park as a peaceful refuge from the city and wheeled vehicles.

DONNA MATRAZZO Portland, OR 2016-08-09

It's unsafe for everyone to have bicycles on the tiny pedestrian trails in Forest Park.

BEL GARZA Seabrook, TX 2016-08-09

I <3 Mother Nature!

MARY KEARNEY Portland, OR 2016-08-09

Please, no high-speed cycling. I hike Forest Park about 3 times a week. Adding these bikes would turn a peaceful hike into a treacherous endeavor for hikers and runners. It is a quiet, beautiful oasis in the midst of a city, why ruin it?

KEITH LOFSTROM Beaverton, OR 2016-08-09

I'm in West Slope in Washington County, but my wife's office is in Portland. She's a doctor, and for sound medical reasons publically opposed Portland's water fluoridation, appearing on television and authoring op-eds. Forest Park is Oregon's precious jewel, and our favorite place to hike. We rely on the City of Portland to protect it for us, and we will help correct the city leadership if they neglect their responsibilities.

NICOLE MICKELSON Arlington, WA 2016-08-09

PNW is my home and the parks/ forests are my refuge. Keep them safe!

MEG AGNEW Canaan, NY 2016-08-10

I've visited this spot before and would think bikers on these hiking trails is very dangerous. I'd definitely not hike there again!

ALICE DIFFELY Portland, OR 2016-08-09

My family and I live in NW Portland, within 3/4 mile of the nearest Forest Park trailhead. We typically run and walk in the park several times a week - sometimes individually, sometimes as a family, and sometimes with friends or neighbors. I am greatly concerned that allowing and encouraging mountain biking on narrow Forest Park trails that are currently designated as pedestrian- only will imperil the safety of runners and hikers of all ages, degrade the condition of the trails, and endanger wildlife. Forest Park uniquely offers Portland's citizens a zone of quiet contemplation within an increasingly busy urban environment. As our city's leaders, please preserve that sanctuary for current and future generations.

BETH BORNTRAGER Portland, OR 2016-08-10

Keeping the park safe and to rid it of unlawful cyclist

EMILIE PRODHOMME France 2016-08-10

Cheryl strayed défend cette cause et elle a fais le pacific crest Trail à pieds donc cette forêt doit être préservée en tant que telle.

MEG SCATA Middletown, CT 2016-08-10

I love the idea of a city park for walking and reflecting without the fear that hit shit cyclists or unruly young riders will mow me down or wise yet ride odd trail for a greater thrill. I don't expect to have to dodge cyclists as I walk in the beauty of the woods . Shame on you for even thinking mechanical devices and walkers belong in the same paths

JEANNE BEVIS Portland, OR 2016-08-10

Bikes and hikers w/ or w/out dogs are not compatible on narrow trails. Please consider the safety for those who don't ride.

SHEILAH TOOMEY Vancouver, WA 2016-08-10

Bikes aren't appropriate for that trail - too fast, too hard on the surface.

DANIELLE MUSSMAN union, KY 2016-08-10

We are avid hikers of Forest Park. One of the benefits of having such a wonderful space close to home is to get away from traffic, noise, and congestion to a calm and serene place. I feel allowing bikes to more of the pedestrian only trails will greatly diminish this experience for hikers. Bikes will create ruts on the trails making them more hazardous to walk on. Bike traffic will, most likely, cause accidents on the more narrow or steeply graded trails, again...making it more hazardous to hikers (who use the trails more than any other recreational user).

JAMES WISSWAESSER Bow, WA 2016-08-10

I like to walk on the park trails when I'm in Portland in tranquility. I don't like to have to jump out of the way of speeding mountain bicyclers and don't like the trail damage their tires at high speed do. Please find a sacrifice area for those adrenaline junkies local and from out of town. Thanks, James

KATHERINE LYTE Portland, OR 2016-08-10

We need to keep park safe for pedestrians keep something for Portland keep bikes out our neighborhood is already overrun by bikes!!!

LISA FRANGENTE Portland, OR 2016-08-11

Forest park is our treasure. Any activity such as high -speed single track cycling will damage delicate ecosystems and make serene trails dangerous to hikers. Please do not let this happen.

PHILIP CROSBY Portland, OR 2016-08-12

I often hike in Forest Park. Most of the trails are so steep that it would be dangerous have them shared with bicycles. Furthermore, there would be considerably increased erosion. We hikers avoid using the trails when they get muddy, but I fear that bicyclists would regard the mud as a challenge.

ZOANNE SALTER Portland, OR 2016-08-12

We need to preserve the trails for pedestrians; mountain bikes and pedestrians sharing narrow trails is a dangerous combination

JOAN CUMMINGS Portland, OR 2016-08-13

This is a natural area, not a playground, it needs to be preserved and protected. Mountain biking does not promote conservation.

PHILIP NEMER Portland, OR 2016-08-13

Safety. Bicyclists are a safety hazard in this area.

JUDY FREEMAN Portland, OR 2016-08-13

Enough trails for cyclists already. Preserve park for pedestrians

MARYELLEN Stesney Portland, OR 2016-08-13

I would like to feel safe when hiking rather than looking over my shoulder. Bikes are too fast and quiet to be safe

DENNIS SUTTON Portland, OR 2016-08-13

Enough with bowing to the bikers. They are given everything but pay nothing!

BONNIE COHEN Portland, OR 2016-08-13

To expand bike access in Forest Park will have disastrous consequences. Hard to understand how a city such as Portland is even considering this!

MADISON KENNEY Portland, OR 2016-08-14

I have hiked and run on the trails in Forest Park since I was very young. I have encountered bikes during this time, and have always found them to be presenting a serious safety concern. When I am running on a trail, I don't want to have to worry about being hit by a bike, I just want to enjoy the wonderful nature all around me.

ALAN COMNES Portland, OR 2016-08-14

keep forest park safe for those on foot!

GAIL MOSES Portland, OR 2016-08-16

Having cyclist share narrow trails w hikers/walkers/dogs is dangerous!!!!

SANDY MAINES Hillsboro, OR 2016-08-15

I love to hike in Forest Park and like the serenity and wilderness feel. I also feel safe walking through the park. Bikers on the trails will make the park lose its wilderness feel and potentially create safety hazards. I don't have a problem with bikers being in the park, but there should be hiker only paths as well, lots of them. Forest Park is an urban gem for those of us who don't want to drive out to the Gorge for a hike.

TERI ROWAN Portland, OR 2016-08-15

I feel strongly that single track biking does not support the designated most important priorities for the park, that of protecting the park's ecological health and preserving wildlife habitat. Neither does it support the goal of providing quiet and reflective experiences in the park. Lastly, I share the concern about safety for pedestrians who comprise the largest group of park users.

MICHAEL KRUTSCH Portland, OR 2016-08-16

Protect wildlife and keep the park from cycle routes. Cycling only makes camping easier. Also as a hiker, having bikes zooming by is not peaceful. It's

I use the park and its trail system and I believe it would be dangerous to walkers (I've met a cyclist on a blind curve) and I believe it would be detrimental to the park

WILLIAM NEWMAN Portland, OR 2016-08-16

off-road cycling is a thrill sport, not a contemplative, serene experience in nature. these uses are INCOMPATIBLE.

CRIS MORGANTE Portland, OR 2016-08-16

Please continue to prohibit the use of bikes on the pedestrian areas and the ecologically sensitive areas of the park.

CARL SCHULTZ Lake Oswego, OR 2016-08-16

I'm afraid that bikers will injure hikers.

STEVEN TIGHE Portland, OR 2016-08-16

I'm against allowing Single Track Cycling on Pedestrian only trails in Forest Park.

JEFFREY LAWTON Portland, OR 2016-08-16

This is a public safety issue!

JIM KENNEDY Tigard, OR 2016-08-17

Forest Park is beautiful. It is a trophy piece for Portland. It is not safe. There are only 2 places I feel a little safe from robbery. I have had my car broken into there.

JEAN STUPEK Portland, OR 2016-08-19

I don't them to put forest park in danger. Stupek

SARAH ELGIN St. Louis, MO 2016-08-19

I'm a visitor who thinks Forest Park is wonderful - and cyclists on narrow trails are a danger to pedestrians. This petition makes a lot of sense.

REBECCA MISCHEL Portland, OR 2016-08-21

This is a critically important natural habitat, highly accessible retreat for peaceful refraction and contemplation and utilities would be destroyed by expanding single lane bike access

HEATHER HANNAM Oregon City, OR 2016-08-21

I would like to see the quiet and spiritual aspect of nature maintained. I have walked the park many times for that lone reason. Please either set aside a small amount of trail for the bikers, or none. Maintain the goals of the original committee

NANCY CRUMPACKER Portland, OR 2016-08-22

In my 37 years of using Forest Park, I observed that off-road cyclers use the roads and fire lanes for an adrenaline rush. This goal is not compatible with the reasons walkers use the park. These 2 groups of users should not share trails.

PAMELA CALAMARI Portland, OR 2016-08-23

I'm signing because I enjoy a safe environment for my grandchildren. I'm an early morning runner and enjoy a peaceful, safe environment.

MARK GREENFIELD Portland, OR 2016-08-24

I have no objection to mountain biking on the wider trails like the fire lanes and Leif Erickson, but they have no place on the narrow trails that should be limited only to pedestrians.

RUBY APSLER Portland, OR 2016-08-24

The park is not only for us. It is for the plants and wildlife which will be harmed by more cycling traffic.

KENDALL HOLLADAY Portland, OR 2016-08-24

There are enough places for bicyclists. The Park needs to be a safe, quiet place for walkers and runners. Bikes erode the fragile ecosystem already at risk from higher pedestrian numbers. NO To BIKES!

GARY J HARTNETT Portland, OR 2016-08-25

if we allow bikes to over take the trails then off road RV's could be next. let's preserve the trails. There are plenty of other physical activities and exercising activities for people to enjoy without spoiling the environment

HUTCHISON BILL Portland, OR 2016-08-25

The importance of maintaining Forest Park Trails for pedestrian-only use cannot be overstated.

ANN WEIKEL Portland, OR 2016-08-25

I walk in Forest park and trails are too narrow for people and bikes. Bikes downgrade trails

DEBORAH WOODARD Seattle, WA 2016-08-25

Let's make the park user friendly for everyone.

SHEILA O'BRIEN boise, ID 2016-08-26

I feel most of the trails in Forest Park are too narrow and windy to be safe/appropriate for pedestrians and bikes together.

CHRISTINE ENBERG Portland, OR 2016-08-28

No more high speed cycling in Forest Park

LAUREN GEFFNER Portland, OR 2016-08-30

Trails need to be kept safe for pedestrians!

NANCY CRUMPACKER Portland, OR 2016-08-27

Running and walking Forest Park trail users seek a quiet environment free of distractions so they do not injure themselves. And some trail users want quiet to observe the fauna and flora.

People who come to the Park to bicycle are usually seeking an adrenalin rush. These two types of park users do not belong on the same trail except in circumstances where the runner/walker chooses to use a fire lane or other road to reach a section of the pedestrian trail.

LINDA SCHMIDT Portland, OR 2016-08-30

I'm opposed to high-speed single-track cycling. I run in Forest Park a lot and the thought of having to share more trails with high speed cyclists scares me. There are plenty of other places for them to ride. By the way, I'm also a cyclist.

LISA DEUTSCHMAN Portland, OR 2016-08-30

Forest Park walking and hiking trails weren't developed with off-road biking in mind. The way that off-road bikers behave on these trails poses a significant hazard to walkers and hikers and the overall health of the park itself.

BARBARA FERRE Portland, OR 2016-08-31

I think that it is important to preserve the amazing natural resource of Forest Park.

JULIE BLACKMAN Portland, OR 2016-08-31

Forest Park is a precious and fragile resource. As a resident of Portland, I fully support the current management plan for the sake of the Park, its current and future users, and the wildlife reliant on this park.

STEPHEN GEROULD Portland, OR 2016-09-01

People need sanctuary from people..... especially when they are on fast bikes!

JANE KURTZ Portland, OR 2016-09-02

I am both a mountain biker and a hiker. Allowing mountain biking on trails in Forest Park, other than those on which biking is currently allowed, will be harmful to the trails, make hiking very difficult and decrease the scenic and peaceful nature of the park.

BRYCE MILLIGAN Portland, OR 2016-09-04

I have hiked on those trails and do not believe they are safe for both bike traffic and hikers at the same time.

CANDY PUTERBAUGH Portland, OR 2016-09-05

As a hiker, runner, wildlife watcher, and nature lover from a family of bikers, I feel like Forest Park has been a quiet friend that is always there for me. With possible single-track cycling in the park, I worry that I'm losing a friend.

As a senior with toddling grandchildren and a happy yellow lab, I have enjoyed watching them wander innocently along the trails. Now I worry that high-speed cyclists will dominate and endanger anything close to those trails.

As a member of the community, I enjoy seeing others enjoy what Forest Park has to offer--beauty, quiet, a place to walk and wonder, a getaway to nature. Now, with the possibility of single-track cyclists careening around corners, that sanctuary will be shattered.

The voices of all users of Forest Park should be heard before the few dictate the park's use. Isn't government there to represent the people?

JAMES PUTERBAUGH Portland, OR 2016-09-05

This is a good example of why people don't trust government. Single track cycling only serves a small special interest group, only risks the beauty and serenity of the country's largest city park, only smacks of backroom dealings, and only raises the hackles of those of us who love the park. It also means these words will have no impact, as our city council is simply distanced from those it is meant to serve.

ROSEMARY BARRETT Portland, OR 2016-09-06

I'm signing because I don't want to be injured or hurt while walking in forest Park.

SHARON BUCK Portland OR, 2016-09-06

I'm signing because I would like to keep the paths of Forest Park bike free and open to pedestrians.

GEORGIA SCHELL Portland Oregon 2016-09-15

I believe that Forest Park is one of Portland's greatest natural wonders. I hike it's trails and I fear for my safety if single track bikes are allowed on the same trails like Wildwood that I hike.

DIANE (DEDE) DEJAGER Portland, OR 2016-09-15

I find hiking in Forest Park to be a delightful retreat. Sharing that trail with bikes is not at all appropriate. There is no room to get off the trail and they come quickly around corners. It would be a disaster especially since most users are walkers not bikers.

SHIRLEY POLLOCK Portland,OR 2016-09-15

I walk the trails weekly

CHRISTINE FARRINTON Portland, OR 2016-09-15

This is a fair and balanced request to follow and to enforce the rules. My friends and I walk on these trails and I want to feel safe taking my grandchildren.

ANN-MARIE CORDOVA Portland OR 2016-09-15

I grew up in Portland and have spent a lot of time in Forest Park, with friends, my kids and even alone. I feel that the cyclists have made the park unsafe. I have almost been hit by out of control cyclists.

PAMELA HOWARD Portland, OR 2016-09-16

Honor the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan. Keep Forest Park safe for all pedestrians. Protect the native flora and species habitat.

LAURA TURNEY Portland OR 2016-09-17

I frequently walk in Forest Park and am very concerned, due to the narrowness of so many trails, that allowing single track cycling will be extremely dangerous to hikers of all ages and dogs, as well as the bikers themselves. I am also very concerned about the damage bikes can cause to a precious and fragile environment. Let us all work together to create safe places for both pedestrians and bikers without changing existing laws that have been put there for good reason.

BARBARA TWOHY Portland OR, 2016-09-17

I frequently walk in Forest Park and am very concerned, due to the narrowness of so many trails, that allowing single track cycling will be extremely dangerous to hikers of all ages and dogs, as well as the bikers themselves. I am also very concerned about the damage bikes can cause to a precious and fragile environment. Let us all work together to create safe places for both pedestrians and bikers without changing existing laws that have been put there for good reason.

GWEN FAMHAM Portland,OR 2016-09-16

Make other trails open to them alone

LINDA LOVETT Portland, OR 2016-09-18

The park needs to be managed for its natural resources. More cycling will degrade the park for flora and fauna.

PAMELA ALLEE Portland,, OR 2016-09-28

It's difficult enough for old folks like me, or folks carrying babies and strollers (like i used to be) to hike these trails. Deny something to the bikes, for once!

MARK COLMAN portland, OR 2016-09-28

Keep it safe for pedestrians.

LUCY BREHM Portland, OR 2016-09-29

I want to use the Forest Park trails without worrying about cyclists on pedestrian only trails.

LINDI LIGHT Fairview, OR 2016-10-01

Forest park is an important refuge for so many animals. In this changing climate we can't afford to allow the tranquil interior of the park to be assaulted with more busy bike trails.

This is critical habitat for animals. Let's keep a balance and preserve the park for the animals.

LAURIE RAWSON Portland, OR 2016-10-03

I believe Forest Park needs to be protected and maintained at it's current state of development.

MIKE FLANIGAN Beaverton, OR 2016-10-06

I'm in favor of pedestrians (runners!) only on the single track trails.

VICTOR STIBOLT Portland, OR 2016-10-07

Bikes destructive of paths; dangerous to hikers; never have seen a bike rider quietly enjoying trails-- always intent on not crashing or adding speed; impossible to manage both bike and foot traffic on narrow trails.

KIRSTEN MENEGHELLO Portland, OR 2016-10-12

I enjoy hiking in Forest Park and I don't want to be mowed down by a fast-moving cyclist. Some areas should be quiet, pedestrian-only places. We should find other locations for bike trails.

DANIELA BROD Portland, OR 2016-10-13

The park's wildlife and natural habitat need to be preserved for future generations. Biking puts too much pressure on an already-pressured resource.

ALLISON ULLMER New Paltz, NY 2016-10-15

This has been my haven for over 20 years.

DIANE FRANK Portland, OR 2016-10-19

I am writing in opposition to opening Forest Park to mountain bikes and see nothing but trouble if it is enacted.

First off, you should know I am a cyclist and just returned from a trip cycling from Vienna to Prague so this is no knee jerk reaction.

I hike often in Forest Park. The trails are used by many pedestrians and children. Cyclists barreling down the paths pose a hazard to them. Cyclists rarely announce their presence and families, especially with kids, will spread over the entire path. It would be almost impossible for them to move quickly out of the way.

I have seen the damage to paths as a result of cyclists using them, especially in the winter. Who will pay for their maintenance and upkeep? Certainly not the cyclists!

Why would you put both people and the well being of the park in jeopardy in order to satisfy a small segment of the population who want the privilege of riding where they want when they want? BAD IDEA Diane Frank

JILL CESSNA Hillsboro, OR 2016-10-19

I don't think we need to have bikers on the trails in Forest Park as the bikes mess up the trails and make hiking hazardous.

PATRICIA REYNOLDS Portland, OR 2016-10-19

I am signing because I have so enjoyed walks through Forest Park listening to nature and not machines.

LISA BRICE Wilsonville, OR 2016-10-19

I walk in Forest Park once or twice a week.

DOROTHY SLATER portland, OR 2016-10-19

I live in an area with a lot of bikes on the streets and as a pedestrian have had to be very careful that i am not hit by some racing by me. The one place were seniors can be sure we can walk in peace and safety is forest park. there are more than enough places for bikers to ride - please keep this haven of serenity free of them.

GAIL C. DUNCAN Lake Oswego, OR 2016-10-19

Off road bikers have a brand new trail from Portland to Hood River paid for by Oregon taxpayers. Isn't that enough space?

PATRICIA BURNETT Beaverton, OR 2016-10-19

I frequently hike in Forest Park with my grandchildren ages 8 and 11. I think Mt. Biking through the trails could be dangerous to hikers.

MANUELA BONNET-BUXTON Cornelius, OR 2016-10-19

I want Forest Park protected from vehicles of any kind which would ruin the trails and endanger pedestrians and runners.

JANET TALMADGE Beaverton, OR 2016-10-19

Please keep Forest Park Trails for pedestrians/hikers only! No High-Speed Single track cycling!

MICHAEL ROBINSON Portland, OR 2016-10-20

I am an experienced hiker and off-road biking needs its own trail network or wide service roads to prevent collisions of bike riders and hikers. The trails I have utilized in Forest Park are too narrow for combined use.

LEIGH SCHWARZ Portland, OR 2016-10-20

Please preserve the peace and quiet and safety of Forest Park for walkers and hikers. Bikes cause erosion, unsafe encounters and change the very essence of a serene forest experience to one encountered on any roadway, just more dangerous. Thank you.

JOYCE RASMUSSEN Portland, OR 2016-10-20

Safety is a big concern; also trail maintenance.

ETHEL KRUM Portland, OR 2016-10-20

I hike the trails with family and friends and get run down by bikers. The way they tear up the environment and scare wildlife.

LARRY ALFIERI Portland, OR 2016-10-20

public safety on hiking trails, particularly the heavily used trails of Forest Park, must be protected. The presence of bikers on the trails runs contrary to public safety.

CECILE MANNY Portland, OR 2016-10-20

Worry about the increase traffic on a sensitive ecosystem. The park is a wonderful place to hike.

BEV HEDIN Portland, OR 2016-10-20

I have found that mountain bikes wear down trails much more than people feet, also they pose danger to walkers along the trail.

PATRICIA GRUHER Portland, OR 2016-10-20

Trail bikes do not belong on narrow, busy hiking paths.

JUDITH BARR Portland, OR 2016-10-20

Forests are for WALKING!

DEBBIE BRUNHOFF Portland, OR 2016-10-20

I don't want to get run over when I'm walking the trail.

TOM WILSON Portland, OR 2016-10-20

I have almost been run over by bicycles zooming downhill. Give walkers a break. I have also seen the ruts which channel water downhill.

JEAN MUNHALL Tigard, OR 2016-10-20

These trails should not be open to bicycles. I have tried hiking near the McKenzie River on a joint trail (hikers and bikes). It was very dangerous.

BARBARA GICKING Portland, OR 2016-10-20

Mountain biking does not belong on pedestrian trails, it is dangerous for both pedestrians and cyclists. Please do not approve this.

STANLEY BUNCH Portland, OR 2016-10-20

Bikes are currently allowed on the fire lanes and many are already a menace to hikers. The thought of losing the peace, quiet, and safety of the "hiking only" trails is abhorrent. High speed and often careless mountain bikers simply do not belong on these trails.

SHAURI BUNCH Portland, OR 2016-10-20

This idea would ruin the park for all of us who love it and use it daily!

HELEN PLOCHA Portland, OR 2016-10-20

I walk the trails and appreciate there are no bikes. Walking east and west side of the Willamette between the Steel Bridge and Tillikum Crossing is dangerous due to the high

speed of bikers, regardless of the signs. I would not want to see this same thing happen on the narrow trails in Forest Park.

DOROTHY DOBER Happy Valley, OR 2016-10-20

How can you even consider using tax money and changing land use laws to environmentally ruin a public treasure for a small special interest group?!!! For you to even consider it is an assault to sensibility and public duty.

SUZANNE RICKMAN Portland, OR 2016-10-20

I would not be safe for runners and walkers to have to look out for bikes!!!! The trails are way to narrow.

TIM MCGUILL Portland, OR 2016-10-20

I value the peaceful walks and jogs on many FP trails ...it definitely won't be the same if mountain bikes take over.

RICHARD JONES Portland, OR 2016-10-20

We need to maintain the safety and integrity of our trails.

PETER NELSON Beaverton, OR 2016-10-20

I am signing because as a kid, I walked the trails from age 7 on. I am now 77 and still walk the trails with friends from Cascade Prime Timers (all over 50 years old) and families of Trails club of Oregon. I like the quite and peacefulness of the largest park within a city in the United States. Thanks Pete Nelson

CARMEN RIVERA MYERS Portland, OR 2016-10-21

I do not want mountain bikes in Forest Park. Allowing mountain bikes will be dangerous to pedestrians and will cause undue erosion of natural areas.

LINDSAY GALEN Portland, OR 2016-10-21

as a senior walker, I have been put in dangerous situations several times by people with unleashed dogs on the trails and am even more worried about ANY bicycles allowed on

them. There is just not enough room for walkers to be side by side and I cannot visualize a safe way to allow bicycle traffic as well. In addition, hearing difficulties that impair many of my fellow seniors make the more silent but speedy bike a bit of a stealth attack weapon!

GLENDIA CHAITE Portland, OR 2016-10-21

This park is important to me and I do not want to see any cycling on the trails that are in use for hikers.

MICAELA LILES Portland, OR 2016-10-21

We use forest Park to hike and run with our children. We don't want the trails torn up nor the quick moving traffic. Speeding bikes are not safe.

RACHEL PREVOST Portland, OR 2016-10-21

My absolute favorite thing to do is wander the trails of forest park with my dog. I would be discouraged in coming if mt bikers were allowed on these incredibly peaceful trails. They are so beautiful and already hard to maintain. I believe the bikes would tear them up more.

JOANNE STERLING Rosamond, CA 2016-10-21

The peace and beauty of Forest Park is a feature in Portland that my family, neighbors, real estate buyers and I have enjoyed for many years. I have encountered cyclists on the pedestrian only trails, and in general they take the right of way, often are traveling at breakneck speed, making it a dangerous situation for children, dogs, elderly, and sometimes, me. In addition, for some reason I am encountering cyclists who are often reckless and rude. It would be a terrible intrusion to allow the illegal use of trails to go unenforced. Please, NO high-speed single track cycling in our beautiful precious resource.... Thank you.

BARBARA WILSON Beaverton, OR 2016-10-21

I believe that high-speed single-track cycling is an unacceptable intrusion and disruption into Forest Park. I support pedestrian-only trails in Forest Park.

ELAINE NEWLAND West Linn, OR 2016-10-21

Forest Park is a treasure, a wilderness for the future generations.

PAT MCALEER Portland, OR 2016-10-21

Forest Park is a gem. I would no longer take visitors to Forest Park if there were bikers on the same trails.

ELVINA CHRISTOPHERSON Scappoose, OR 2016-10-21

Have you ever hiked on a trail with bikers who come right up to you without even making their presence known? Is there room for another set of trails for them? They are going all over at Catherine Creek making a really ugly mess of trails. Give an inch and they take a mile. See many spots in Forest Park where they have cut down off the trail.

DOUG BERGMANN Portland, OR 2016-10-21

I run on these trails and it would be very dangerous to have bikers on all the blind corners. Horrible idea to allow bikers on these trails. Listen to the majority of us!

CHRISTIAN VEGA Portland, OR 2016-10-22

Even though full access to trails for bikes would be fun, hikers and walkers also need a safe and enjoyable place to do their activity in peace and quiet rather than being on the lookout for a speeding biker. There are plenty of other places to ride.

SANDRA MILLER Portland, OR 2016-10-22

Please allow paths to be accessed by and for pedestrians only.

STEVIE GIBNER Portland, OR 2016-10-22

I agree!

DIANE ABEL Portland, OR 2016-10-23

We run the wildwood trail and it would be a safety hazard for bikes to be on the same narrow trail.

BETTY POWELL Portland, OR 2016-10-23

I hike in Forest Park very often and I think it would be dangerous to put bikes with hikers on most of those trails.

DAVID RYUGO Neutral Bay, Australia 2016-10-23

I'm signing because I own a house in Portland.

KATHERINE HAMANN Portland, OR 2016-10-24

I have been walking and jogging on those trails for 30 years. I can't imagine being on the same trail with mountain bikes. There will be serious injuries. I love Mt biking and get plenty of use out of the Leif Erickson Rd. Keep them separate.

CAROL CRABILL Petaluma, CA 2016-10-24

Bicyclists and pedestrians don't mix. Just ask me about my loss of hearing and bad knee, among other ongoing aches and pains.

THERESE BUCKINGHAM Portland, OR 2016-10-25

I love running on Wildwood and the trails that connect to it without worrying about bicycles. There is not enough room on these trails for bikes to safely pass hikers and runners. The bikes would tear up the trails and make them unusable for pedestrians especially during the rainy months.

DAGNY ABEL Portland, OR 2016-10-25

Love the walking trails- no bikes please

WILLIAM HOBSON Portland, OR 2016-10-25

While 80% of cyclists will have good intentions, the other 20% percent will cause harm to the already precarious and narrow cliff side trails along the park, making it unsafe for seniors and children using the walking trails.

ELAINE NELSON Aloha, OR 2016-10-25

I walk regularly in Forest park with my young granddaughters and want to keep pedestrian only trails for safety reasons and preserving habitat.

GREG HARR Portland, OR 2016-10-25

runners, walkers, pets on leash, as well as mountain bikers should be able to enjoy Forest Park w/o fear of injury (beyond slipping on muddy trails). Mountain bikers on fire lanes is more than enough access.

VIRGINIA FULLER Portland, OR 2016-10-25

Lets keep forest park trails for hiking. it is a serene beautiful place not really one for the rush and thrill of mountain biking. It makes it unsafe for hikers.

HOLLY BURTON Portland, OR 2016-10-26

We seek peace in the woods, not having to watch out for a fast moving vehicle. And it's hard to believe that bikes won't do more damage than walking. It's disturbing to animals, plants and people. Please do not allow it!

SHANI FOX Portland, OR 2016-10-26

I trained for the Camino de Santiago on the wonderful trails of SW and NW Portland. These trails are safe, quiet places for exercise and social interaction between pedestrians. Allowing cycling on these trails would dramatically and adversely impact the peace, enjoyment and safety of 90% of the current users of the trails. Please find a separate location for the cyclists that doesn't ruin the trails for the vast majority of us who now use them.

DONNA FRIEDMAN West Palm Beach, FL 2016-10-26

Walking the trails peacefully is a major attraction of living in and visiting Portland. There are plenty of other areas that can be dedicated for bikers to enjoy.

DENNIS CLINEFELTER Portland, OR 2016-10-26

I don't want mountain bikers trying to avoid me as I am walking the trails through Forest Park

MADELINE KOKES Portland, OR 2016-10-27

Bikes disrupt the quite aura of the park and will be disruptive to all who live and hike there.

HEATHER KREBSBACH Portland, OR 2016-10-27

I want to keep Forest Park trails quiet and preserve the natural habitat.

CHARLES KUTTNER Portland, OR 2016-10-27

I mountain bike, and I hike. There are places that need to be for hikers, not for bikers.

PETER TETRICK Portland, OR 2016-10-27

Forest park is so beautiful and would be ruined with bike trails, this practice of bikers making unlawful trails is a crime. Those who do it are criminals and should be treated as such.

KAREN ROBIDA Portland, OR 2016-10-27

Mountain bikes will tear up the nice trails throughout Forest Park! Mountain bikers have plenty of places to ride!

MARY LOU ANDERSEN Portland, OR 2016-10-27

High Speed Mountain Bikes need to have their own paths. Walkers need to be protected from bikers.

MARCIA HANSCOM Playa del Rey, CA 2016-10-27

the place needs to be safe for nature and for contemplation

MAUREEN MASSON Santa Barbara, CA 2016-10-28

Bikers get bused to the top of the trails and then race down. Horses have been killed and hikers injured here in Santa Barbara, CA.

MARY ELLEN SMITH Portland, OR 2016-11-10

I am signing because I hike the trails of Forest Park all the time and bikes on the trails are a danger and destructive. They should remain of the fire lanes and The Leif, where there is room for them.

DON JACOBSON Portland, OR 2016-11-17

By allowing bicycles on pedestrian only trails, you are in effect denying safe walking trails for pedestrians.

MARTHA BRITTON Portland, OR 2016-11-17

Forest Park is extremely important to the Portland as a whole, not single track cycling. Find somewhere else to put the track.

MARCY JACOBS Portland, OR 2016-11-17

I am both a cyclist and a hiker. Single track cyclists are not compatible with hikers and walkers on Forest Park trails. Some riders bike illegally on these trails, and are a danger. They ride fast and furiously, endangering life and limb. What if they encounter a group with young children and/or dogs? I am a senior and do not want a risky confrontation

with out of control cyclists. Any trails for for mountain bikes should be single purpose and away from hikers.

ROGER BREWER Portland, OR 2016-11-17

I understand the desire of bicyclists to use Forest Park but they cause erosion that is not compatible with preserving Forest Park. If Forest Park were flat, bike erosion would not be an issue but it's not flat. It needs our protection. Please say no to opening Forest Park trails to bikes.

CHRIS CHRIS Sitka, AK 2016-11-17

For Wildwood!

MARY SCARBOROUGH Portland, OR 2016-11-17

I moved to downtown Portland in 1987 and began running the trails of Forest Park as soon as I heard they were so near. I was so amazed that I could live in a big city but be transported to such a beautiful undeveloped landscape within minutes and spend hours running the trails. No cars, no bikes, just clean air and trees galore! Loved it! Still love it, though I have been reduced to walking. Please keep it for us and not allow single-track cycling to negatively impact the beauty and safety of this urban gem!

CATHERINE THOMPSON Portland, OR 2016-11-30

According to the 2016 Oregon Statewide Trails plan only 4% of trail users consider single track cycling their favorite trail activity. 48% consider hiking their favorite trail use. It is estimated that 1.1 billion dollars of revenue is generated in Oregon by hiking and walking related activity compared to just 83 million dollars from off road cycling.

This 2016 study recommends increasing use of trails by seniors and minorities (both populations are growing). The study also reports the percentage and total number of seniors hiking on trails is considerably higher than the percentage and number that bike on trails.

The HIGHEST PRIORITY NEED IS FOR HIKING TRAILS inside and outside the community

Trails for HARD SURFACE biking were the next highest priority for inside (the community)

Clearly the Planning Commission needs to concentrate on those uses considered to be the most needed, which happen to also be the most popular and the most revenue generating and least harmful to the environment.

Increased efforts must be made to keep pedestrians safe on their trails in Forest Park. Increasing cycling in the park by adding new trails, converting pedestrian only trails or sharing trails would have a negative impact on pedestrians as it would increase the already rampant and uncontrolled illegal cycling on pedestrian only trails. This would discourage seniors and others from enjoying the trails and have a net negative impact on the health and enjoyment of park users.

Please save our pedestrian only trails and enforce the laws. In this way the most people will have the maximum benefit over the longest time.

STEPHANIE OLIVER Portland, OR 2016-11-28

I absolutely abhor the idea of trying to share Forest Park with single track cyclists. The park is one of Portland's wonders and it highly used by trail walkers on a daily basis. It is already a magnificent attraction to visitors to Portland and an incredible amenity to those of us you use it regularly. These pedestrian trails need to stay pedestrian-only trails. It would be like removing the permission for children to enjoy this park.

CHERYL NANGERONI McMinnville, OR 2016-11-17

I feel Leif Erikson Drive and fire lanes are fine for the off road cyclists.

MARCY HOULE Portland, OR 2016-12-1

Forest Park is the nation's only designated urban wilderness. It has more native wildlife diversity than any city park in the country, and greater interior forest habitat than in any city park in the world. The Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan specifically protects these values and insists that all who visit are safe and feel safe. Allowing a new, active use of single track would negatively impact all of these values as well is against land use law and environmental code. Please protect this crown jewel of Portland.

THOMAS SCANLON El Cajon, CA 2017-02-10

I am both a cyclist and hiker and I support this petition 100 percent. I've nearly been hit by cyclists going downhill, not totally in control. I also see the ruts that develop from continuous bike tracks, which does not happen with footprints. More erosion and trail deterioration.

MARSDEN GRISWOLD Oro Valley, AZ 2017-02-17

Pedestrians have the natural right of way on any highway, anywhere in the U.S. Everyone else has to yield.

KURT FERRE, Portland, OR 2017-2-18

I love Forest Park, and I want it to remain safe for visitors on foot

MARY BROOKS Portland, OR 2017-02-18

Forest Park was named as an urban wilderness. Such a designation is amazing. We have a treasure that we need to protect. Bikes can already use the Leif Erickson trail. Please please do not make more inroads for single-track cycling in this ecologically delicate forest.

JULIE VORHOLT Beaverton, OR 2017-02-18

I love cycling & I love walking, too! Having both on these narrow trails just doesn't work and ruins the experience for everyone.

J BASSI Oregon city, OR 2017-02-19

Keep the trails for the people

MATT MORRISSEY Alton, IL 2017-02-19

Forest Park needs protection from this sort of damaging use. And I'm an avid cyclist!

WENDY MEDNICK

Portland, OR

2017-02-20

I am signing this because I regularly hike Forest Park and know that there are 30 miles of bicycle riding areas. I realize that adding single track bike lanes is against the law and would cut down on the areas to hike and also I am concerned that the bikes would do havoc to the animals and the environment. So please keep the pedestrian trails only in Forest Park pedestrian trails.

ERIN CODAZZI

Portland, OR

2017-02-21

Forest Park is one of the few emeralds that remain in this city of high rises, overpopulation and eroding quality of life. Let nature be.

SUSAN STANGELAND

Portland, OR

2017-02-21

I have walked hundreds of miles in Forest Park over the years and cherish the 'slow time' enjoying and examining nature. Dodging bicyclists and their efforts to miss pedestrians will not enhance the experience for anyone.

CAMERON BENNETT Portland, OR 2017-02-21

I love this park

MICHAEL DOYLE Portland, OR 2017-02-21

Mountain bikes are a menace and would forever ruin Forest Park.

JENNIFER MCNRATNEY Portland, OR 2017-02-21

I love walking in the park. I don't want to worry about vehicles.

AMY ROSENTHAL Portland, OR 2017-02-21

Forest Park is a gem that both Portlanders and tourists use to enjoy nature in it's natural beauty. It is not a place for off road bikes. I have done long distancing biking and appreciate bicyclists. However we can never replace Forest Park, if you change it. Please vote to keep Forest Park the way it is and the way it was intended to be.

VIRGINIA DALE Portland, OR 2017-02-21

Everything i love about Portland is going away! Now Forest Park is under attack!^[SEP]Leave it alone! Leave portland alone!^[SEP]You want to screw it all up, move to LA!!

STEPHANIE SHEETS Portland, OR 2017-02-21

I'm concerned about the erosion caused by off road bicycles. I live near Powell Butte Nature Park and when cyclists use the wrong paths they destroy them. The ruts are deep and the rain causes severe erosion.

JEAN DUGAN Portland, OR 2017-02-21

No bikes. Too dangerous. We are all at risk as is the forest. Let the environment of peace and beauty not be relinquished to high speed two wheeled creatures. Forest Park should retain the natural habitat of which I am one

BONNI GOLDBERG Portland, OR 2017-02-21

I love FP!

JUDITHARIELLE FIESTAL Portland, OR 2017-02-21

I hike Forest Park many times of the year. I am 71 and want a safe hiking environment.

F. GORDON ALLEN & JANICE STEWART Portland, OR 2017-02-21

because I believe that bicycling would turn trails into mud tracks, require walkers/hikers to constantly have to step aside, and would destroy the wilderness and solitude to be found in Forest Park.

SARAH THOMAS Portland, OR 2017-02-22

I live walking in Forest Park.

EUGENE MCLEMORE Fairview, OR 2017-02-22

I hike in Forest Park several time a year and have done so for many years. Bicycles have no business on the trails.

PATRICIA LEONARD Portland, OR 2017-02-22

Forest Park is a treasure that needs to be maintained.

RONNIE LAWTON Portland, OR 2017-02-22

Real bikers don't need a nice little paved trail to ride their bike on. If you don't have it in you to ride a bike on unpaved trails then get away from Forest Park. Too many Portlanders are fake outdoorsmen already

LIZ AMES Portland, OR 2017-02-22

bikes don't belong on the trails in the park

BARBARA STROSS portland, OR 2017-02-22

It is critical that we keep Forest Park's trails and habitat true to the original intent.

DIANNE SICHEL Portland, OR 2017-02-22

I am stunned that anyone consider mixing biking trails with hiking trails. The current trails are too narrow, and enlarging the trails at the expense of the wilderness experience is a tragedy. Bike do much more damage to our fragile trails, especially when they go off trail to "jump down hillsides" causing changes in water runoff patterns and thus undermining portions of walking trails, also crushing underbrush and in some cases nesting birds and animals. This is not good environmental management of one of the greatest resources in the country--our urban forest.

CARMELLA BYERS Portland, OR 2017-02-22

I live by Forest Park and the last year or so i have seen the number of people using the park more than double. With more pedestrian traffic and bike traffic , it no longer is a peaceful hike, especially when you have bikes speeding by you on a narrow path.

LESLIE CENTNER Portland, OR 2017-02-22

Portland P & R has threatened more than once to close Hillside Community Center & other Community Centers in city. Given present budget cuts & concerns, it would be best to take care of what is already used & enjoyed by entire city.

JEANETTE JUSTER Portland, OR 2017-02-22

Has Portland becomes more densely populated and a busier city we need the tranquility and rejuvenation that a Forest Park reserve provides us. Please do not expand mountain biking into the park

SUSAN BRAVERMAN Portland, OR 2017-02-22

My husband runs in the park several times/week and we walk our dog there. Having bike paths in the park will lead to much more activity and dangerous conditions for walkers and runners. Please leave it s it is!

SYLVIA MILNE Portland, OR 2017-02-22

Why would we use public money to destroy a sanctuary of this magnitude to serve the thrills and needs of a few? I am grateful others felt the same about the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

SUE SELBIE Portland, OR 2017-02-22

I use Forest Park almost everyday and if cycles were permitted on the pedestrian trails, it would no longer be safe or be the wilderness it was intended to be. Let us preserve nature where we can, otherwise we are just one more invasive species.

RONALD BOURKE Portland, OR 2017-02-22

My family uses Forest Park for hiking on a regular basis. The world is full of developed parks. This park is unique. Let's keep it that way.

CHRISTINE REYNOLDS Portland, OR 2017-02-22

Portland needs safe and quiet places for pedestrians. We do not need to be dodging bicycles, nor should Forest Park be subject to the erosion and degradation of wild life that bicycles will bring. Please save Forest Park!

RICHARD SAULSBURY Milwaukie, OR 2017-02-22

The vast majority of trails should be for hiking, walking, strolling, in a quiet, safe and peaceful atmosphere. Not having to get out of the way of fast moving vehicle driven by a far different mind set.

CHRISTINE EDWARDSEN Portland, OR 2017-02-22

I am on Rapid Response as a volunteer and we need to keep the mountain bikers on their own trails and the Wildwood Trail just for walkers.

KATHARINE SAMMONS Portland, OR 2017-02-22

It's important to have pedestrian only paths for personal peace and pleasure, for the health of the Forest Park Eco-system (already compromised) and the integrity of the trails. Bikes are fast, dangerous and rip up the soil. Existing bike trails are sufficient, especially when there are riders out there who are illegally building trails of their own. Please don't cater to the bike lobby, even if they are your base.

JEFFREY COURION Portland, OR 2017-02-22

Providing access to mountain cycling on hiking trails directly and clearly throws the large number of Forest Park trail users into harm's way. If approved, trail users will sustain injuries from being hit. I am all for cycling, BUT not at the expense of public safety or high speed swarming in Portland's crown jewel of nature and wilderness. Bike travel on trails is not the mission, legacy or purpose for Forest Park's unique existence.

PAMELA TOWER Portland, OR 2017-02-22

I am signing this petition because bicycles have no place in the peace and serenity of Forest Park. Please do not allow this to happen. Keep the pedestrian trails for pedestrians only. ^L_{SEP} Thank you

MARIE RYAN Portland, OR 2017-02-22

There are numerous other locations that the thrill seekers can use to satisfy their desire for an adrenaline rush.

STANLEY COHAN Portland, OR 2017-02-22

The park is a treasure that need not be compromised to meet the self-indulgent bullying of one group of residents. The cities streets have frequently been made less safe due to bikers' behavior of entitlement, and now we face the same for the park.

GEOFF CARR Portland, OR 2017-02-22

As a hiker nothing is quite as scary as in ones quite reverie being broken by a biker coming full speed at you or on your tail.

PAUL BORTE Portland, OR 2017-02-22

As a Native Oregonian I've enjoyed many of these hikes and would like to see the trailers safe for travelers.

DAN BERNE Portland, OR 2017-02-23

Twice I have been hit by bicycle riders who have gone off trail or ignored hikers as they zoomed down a path. The park is a wildlife sanctuary.

POLLY ALEXANDER Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I want to keep pedestrian-only trails in Forest Park for pedestrians only. Bikes threaten the ecology of the park and the already fragile habitat for wildlife.

NANCY MCFADDEN Seattle, WA 2017-02-23

while I love all that the city does to support bike riding, I find myself intimidated by bikes on trails that were originally designed for hikers/walkers. I find I'm having to jump out of the way - and that cyclists can be aggressive. I also happen to be a cyclist. I love to bike around the city, and will not feel less loved/represented by the city for having these park trails allocated for foot-only traffic. thank you!

MARIE-CLAIRE WONACOTT Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I treasure Forest Park and take pride in its beauty. For years I have enjoyed trail running with dogs and friends on the trails. Such a shame to potentially lose that! Please protect the trails.

MARK KOENIGSBERG Portland, OR 2017-02-23

Forest Park does not need to be turned into a play ground for speed obsessed bikers. There are no places like this Park anywhere, nothing rivals it for peace, serenity, size, scope. Let's keep it and preserve it and give money to keep it alive and well. Bikers, you have other places for your sport!

BARB GAZELEY Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I walk and run in Forest Park multiple times a week during the milder months of the year, approximately March thru October. I am a single woman, age 61, and I am in the park alone. I need it to be safe.

SHERRY JOHNSTON Portland, OR 2017-02-23

bikes have no place on the hiking trails.

SCOTT R BOWLER Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I use the park daily and witness the trail degradation from bicycles. Segregate them!

JOHN RETTIG Portland, OR 2017-02-23

We need to focus on what this park will look like in 20, 50, or 100 years. Today it is single track cycling. Tomorrow it may be something totally different. We can't be reacting short term to every single special interest group that has a new plan for something big.

CYNTHIA CRANDALL Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I feel like Forest Park should stay the way it is. A treasure and unique to Portland. The single track folks have a wonderful area around Oakridge, Or. to enjoy their sport.

CATHY WATERMAN Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I have used and improved Forest Park since I was a Girl Scout in the 1960's. I have felt safe hiking and biking there, on the approved roads, for many years. We need this close in wilderness area for the use and benefit of all, and not change it's use designation for just a few. There are many areas designated for this type of cycling. Let families and those who already use the trails and designated bike areas continue to do so safely and find another area for the 8% who would significantly impact the safety of all by reallocating the trail use.

KATHERINE FRAHM Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I am very concerned about the proposal to allow mountain bikes.

DIANE PETERS Portland, OR 2017-02-23

We run on the narrow trails within Forest Park every day, sometimes very early in the morning. The trails are narrow and at times covered with ice, snow, branches and similar. Please, do not allow single lane bike paths in Forest Park. It is the one respite runners and hikers have away from traffic where we can enjoy true beauty and all that the park has to offer in safety.

HOLLY WENDELL Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I want my children to safely enjoy local nature

CYNTHIA COHAN Portland, OR 2017-02-23

it is critical to protect the existing ecosystem and not tamper with its natural setting

LARA RIX Seattle, WA 2017-02-23

As a frequent runner on the Wildwood Trails, I would find it highly disruptive and dangerous to add bikes. It's dangerous enough not being able to see people around corners as I'm running. There is no need to add bicycles into this equation.

CATHERINE J. FLICK White Salmon 2017-02-23

This urban park is one of the most lush & semi-native within our contiguous USA where humans, wildlife & plants reside side-by-side. People need to hear and see our natural world & have ready access to this world for their mental health & well-being.

CAROL DILFER Portland, OR 2017-02-23

Cyclists roar down the narrow trails in Forest Park. I've been nearly hit more than once. We need more than signage to prevent serious injuries. We need something chains across the non-cycling trails, with boulders alongside, to keep cyclists from going around the chains.

LESLIE POHL Portland, OR 2017-02-23

The ecology of the park depends on good management. Passive recreation, such as walking on trails is the best. I am a hiker and botanic specialist who wants to keep Forest Park healthy.

GRETCHEN BALLER Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I had the good fortune to grow up with Forest Park as my playground. It is essential that we continue to protect it as a wilderness, not recreational area, so future generations can enjoy it as I did and still do. Please do not turn Forest Park into an amusement park.

JUDY COOKE Portland, OR 2017-02-23

People who are handicapped (blind or sight impaired) will not be able to use the trails.

CHARLES SHUMATE Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I run on those trails and would hate to have to jump out of the way for cyclists. But I would support one-way bike-only single-track trails in Forest Park!

JEANINE BOUCHER-COLBERT Portland, OR 2017-02-23

I want Forest Park accessible to all who are on foot. Peaceful. Preserved forever. Thank you.

ANNIE SCOTT Portland, OR 2017-02-23

Bicycles in Forest Park are frightening and disruptive of the peaceful wilderness experience of walking the trails.

Jennifer Jasaitis

Portland, OR

2017-02-23

I hike the trails in Forest Park regularly. They are narrow, with many curves, and are steep in places. It is not easy to anticipate another hiker around the bend, much less a biker who is focused on speed. I've been surprised by bikers, and have only barely been able to get out of the way. I am 67, want to keep my health, and find the softer trails are easier on my feet than concrete sidewalks. But even a slight accident could impair my health immediate help far away, with the biker disappearing, etc. The park cannot be affordably maintained or policed to protect both the current users and the condition of the trail which currently has ruts and muddy areas from foot traffic. Even if bikes were restricted to the fire lanes, riders will not restrict themselves to them. If I see bikes now -- where they are not permitted -- I can only imagine that the current problem will be magnified exponentially, taking away the peace and calm beauty for the many in favor of the few.

PAMELA GARTEN Aurora, OR 2017-02-24

It's a beautiful, peaceful place that needs to stay that way.

LORNA LYONS Portland, OR 2017-02-24

Quiet if central to what I value about Forest Park

ROBERT BRANDT Portland, OR 2017-02-24

Keep Forest Park just the way it is

CRYSTAL GRANGER Portland, OR 2017-02-24

Because I love the rawness the park offers.

CLAUDIA HOLDEREGGER MCCORMACK Portland, OR 2017-02-24

I agree that allowing bikes on current narrow trails would likely lead to a fair bit of conflict between users. This is why I support this petition, but also support looking into

options for establishing separate trails for cycling, so that we can all enjoy the park our own way.

DAVID ALLRED Portland, OR 2017-02-24

a few cyclist bad actors are endangering peds. We need enforcement!!

JULIE GOTCHER Portland, OR 2017-02-25

I walk in Forest Park and want to protect it for future generations of not only people but future generations of wildlife

LYNN FOX Hillside Twp, NJ 2017-02-25

I strongly support the effort to retain a safe and serene hiking-only trail system in Forest Park. Forest Park is a treasure that I have enjoyed for more than 30 years. I highly value the park and do not support any use , such as single-track cycling, that violates Ordinance 168509 of the Forest Park Management Plan.

ABBY MAIER Portland, OR 2017-02-25

I walk regularly in Forest Park. Bicycles make the trails less safe and disturb the plants and animals. Keep the tranquility of Forest Park.

JANE MURPHY Hillsboro, OR 2017-02-25

I'm signing because there is no other city that has this lovely and quiet place so nearby

EDIE MILLAR Portland, OR 2017-02-25

I walk often in Forest Park and want to maintain this jewel for future generations. I support cyclists too on the fires lanes and Leif Ericsson. I love the wildness and

tranquillity of this big park so near downtown Portland, so I agree that we don't need to add any more trails.

MARCIA WOOD Portland, OR 2017-02-25

I walk in FP weekly and see this issue played out with negative effects from bikes on paths they shouldn't be

JOAN MILLER Beaverton, OR 2017-02-25

Please keep Forest Park a Wilderness Park

JOAN HOFFMAN Portland, OR 2017-02-26

I want to see the trails remains safe for the majority of walkers who do use them, especially for future generations, young & old & a safe sanctuary in times of stress to unwind peacefully, as I have enjoyed them.

WILLIAM HOLDEN Portland, OR 2017-02-26

Forest Park supporter!

PAT HOUGLAND Portland, OR 2017-02-26

I would like to keep the trails safe for pedestrians.

SHYANA SAINI Portland, OR 2017-02-26

I'm signing because I want Forest Park to be a safe habitat for wildlife first and foremost.

BONNIE RAMES Portland, OR 2017-02-26

We all love Forest Park for what it is. Now, some want to capitalize on it and make it something it isn't. Taking away wilderness is irrevocable. Please protect Forest Park as a wilderness; it has FAR more value in the long term than allowing bicycles (and, eventually, motorbikes, quads, and RV parks - you know how this works). Do the right thing. Leave it alone.

KATHY KELLY Portland, OR 2017-02-26

I believe we need to preserve Forest Park as treasured wilderness park

ROBIN LAAKSO Portland, OR 2017-02-26

We need to preserve the original intent of Forest Park. Save the park from self-serving interests. Facilitate the parks health and well being. We must protect Forest Park!

DEBORAH BERGMAN Portland, OR 2017-02-26

I live in the park. I would sign this petition regardless. Park trails are extremely narrow, often muddy, and often have very steep drops on one side. I would be afraid to walk alone or with my dog if bikes were permitted. There are so many safe bikers out there, but so many unsafe bikers too. I have many friends and allies who are bikers but I'm not sure bikers are entirely aware of the enormity of their impact in wilderness spaces and the fear, stress, and noise that others have no choice but enduring when narrow paths are shared. Also, unfortunately a small but significant minority of bikers become overconfident or overreach and the enforcement resource appears minimal. Is it worth it if one person or animal is seriously injured (or worse) and also if extraordinary wilderness character of our park is lost? Can bikers have their own designated (and proprietary) trail in a safe and separate location with easy and clearly defined street access? Thank you.

DAVID ERVIN Portland, OR 2017-02-26

Keep the Park's uses consistent with the applicable environmental ordinance 168509 and protect public safety.

NANCY KURKINEN Portland, OR 2017-02-26

Forest Park does not have to serve all recreational needs. It does not have a swimming pool, soccer field, or children's playground. It is a unique natural environment within our city that must be preserved as such.

GRETCHEN BALLER Portland, OR 2017-02-27

Thanks Marcy, I am so glad you are on our side. Your article was well written and very articulate. I have printed out copies for friends and encouraged them to sign the petition. Isn't it sad that we STILL have to fight to protect our wilderness. I am officially retired now and would love to meet for lunch and talk more about the issue. Call me, or I will call you.

RALEIGH KORITZ Plymouth, MN 2017-02-27

we need a safe forest park too!

MARCIA GLAS-HOCHSTETTLER Portland,, OR 2017-02-27

I firmly believe that Forest Park should remain a designated wilderness .

SUZANNE GARDNER Portland, OR 2017-02-27

we need to preserve this environment and pedestrian safety

PAULA JONES Scappoose, OR 2017-03-01

I care about preserving this beautiful park

BILL CUNNINGHAM Beaverton, OR 2017-03-01

I have been forced off the trail by careless bicyclists.

MAGDA CHIA NY, NY 2017-03-01

I want to be able to walk the trails without fear of bicyclists.

LUCY D BALDWIN Portland, OR 2017-03-02

We must protect our wild places as they are in danger of shrinking across the nation. Forest Park is a unique "city" park!

SHARI SCHOLZ Oregon City, OR 2017-03-02

Please keep the pedestrian only trails safe for myself and my fellow hikers.

NORA ESKES Portland, OR 2017-03-03

We need natural places, free from motorized wheels and high impact uses that disturb plant and animal life, and also create hazards for walkers.

CATHERINE & CARL VORHIES Portland, OR 2017-03-03

I agree 100 % with the writer of this article and do not support any changes in usage of Forest Park. I walk these trails when I want a "nature" experience rather than drive an hour or more out of the city. How many people cannot drive to Nature and benefit from easy access any day of the week via city bus to the perimeter. City Council is short sighted on this one.

RICHARD JENKINS Portland, OR 2017-03-03

The park is important to me!

ALEXANDRA CLARKE Lake Oswego, OR 2017-03-04

Honor the founders' mission for Forest Park. Let it remain as a natural wilderness area in our city--we are so very fortunate to enjoy their legacy to us. Forest Park was not intended as a sports arena or an amusement park. Tasteful renovations and maintenance with the founders' wilderness concept in mind is all that is needed.

MEL HINTON Vancouver, WA 2017-03-04

Thanks for the comment. We must preserve the quality of our natural parks. I recently moved to the Portland area from San Diego and have seen the damage mountain bikes can cause on single track trails in the canyons and Mission Trails Park.

Every Thursday is hike day up here and many are in Forest Park - great fun. Say hello to Jim.

RAY JORDAN Portland, OR 2017-03-04

I'm signing because I don't want a high-speed single-track in Forest Park.

AMY LAIRD Portland, OR 2017-03-04

We must protect the remaining habitat for the animals and plants of Forest Park! Let's take the long view on this one. It's not all about humans and our needs and wants.

On the human side, we have to protect hikers of Forest Park and not let them be run down by bikes on a narrow trail. I am a hiker AND biker, and I would never consider biking on Wildwood if it were legal. This is a ridiculous proposition for many reasons, and I appreciate the efforts to oppose it.

PATRICIA SEMINARIO Portland, OR 2017-03-04

I am a hiker and a mountain biker, but we don't need bikes on the walking trails in Forest Park.

DENCIE OLSON Tigard, OR

2017-03-04

We need to protect this park

DEBBIE GOFORTH Oregon City, OR 2017-03-05

I've lived in Oregon for 65 years & have cherished Forest Park for its beauty & wildlife. Walked there as a child, took my kids there etc, now my grandchildren. Pick a different area for extreme biking activities. It will ruin our PDX park!!!! The my bikes need a place where they can ride too, not Forest Park...please stop this now!!

BONNIE SUMMERS Portland, OR 2017-03-06

I am deeply concerned about the damage that will occur to our beautiful, wild Forest Park if single track off-road bicycling is allowed. I am also very worried about the lack of enforcement with regard to off rode cycling that already is happening within Forest Park.

CASEY PUTERBAUGH Portland, OR 2017-03-06

Having seen and worked on single-track trails in New Zealand, where they do NOT convert pedestrian trails into bike trails, and growing up in Portland, I would never agree with any decision to negatively impact what remaining wilderness and parks we have left.

CHUCK MCGINNIS Portland, OR 2017-03-06

To keep Forest Park a wilderness park like the people who created it wanted it to be & remain

THOMAS GUSTOVICH Portland, OR 2017-03-07

If it was just bikes, and a reasonable solution was met to make sure I'm not run over on a blind turn, I'd be all for the bikes. The bigger issue is turning the USA's largest urban park into a tourist attraction, littered with garbage and people that don't appreciate what they're ruining.

NANCY OVERPECK Vancouver, WA 2017-03-09

I love hiking in forest park!

KATHRYN REBAGLIATI Portland, OR 2017-03-28

Lifelong Oregonian. Want trails to be safe for people, especially those walking with children or leashed dogs.

ANDREW SIMON Portland, OR 2017-03-16

I love Forest Park. I love wandering in its peacefulness. Cyclists have so many other places to ride. Let's keep this one remarkable natural place safe for those who need quiet time in the woods to help them (us) deal with the stresses of city life.

MIKE LINDBERG Portland, OR 2017-04-02

Almost been run over by bikes

JIM PETTYJOHN Portland, OR 2017-04-02

Get them where they belong

DEBORAH BUCHANAN Portland, OR 2017-04-03

I live near the park and have hike there for many decades. Bikes belong somewhere else, off the pedestrian trails in the park.

LANI JELEN Portland, OR 2017-04-11

I'm signing because I love the peace of Forest Park and have for 14 years since I moved here. I would not like to have to watch out for bicycles etc so that I couldn't just have a nice quiet walk in the woods. I am a 'senior'

VIRGINIA RYAN Worcester, MA 2017-04-11

Forest Park is a unique natural resource worthy of protection. If it becomes something else on your watch, shame on you.

MARIANNE RITTER Portland, OR 2017-04-12

I'm against cyclists on the trails in Forest Park, uphold the law! Keep the park safe for ALL pedestrians/hikers.

ROBERT LAIRD Portland, OR 2017-04-14

We think you should listen to the people who really care about Forest Park and not just those who want to exploit it for their own narrow purposes. We are speaking for the native plants, animals and the delicate environment---they don't seem to have much of a voice in this important and long-term decision!!! Please think carefully about the world we will be leaving to our children and grandchildren!!

PETER LYTE Portland, OR 2017-04-15

Well, I already run into bicyclists on trails every month. They don't seem to recognize the No Cycles Allowed signs currently in place. I doubt very much many will follow any regulations that are established. Also I've experienced a couple of near misses on Leif Erickson Rd. I believe the safety, not to mention the ecology, of Forest Park will be significantly damaged by allowing bikes to access trails.

Not only are hikers in jeopardy, I'd include the bikers themselves. From our house we can see Aspen and Wildwood trails. More than several times we've watched bicyclists at night, after 9 PM, going down the trails using helmet or bicycle lights for illumination. While I admire the bravado it takes to do such a stunt, I feel they are putting wildlife, any hikers they might encounter and themselves in serious jeopardy. Authorizing bike use will only increase the number of "brave" souls who'll attempt this "sport".

NANCY OVERPECK Vancouver, WA 2017-04-17

I love the park. Keep it the same.

MARGARET NEAL Newberg, OR 2017-04-18

Forest Park is a precious resource, and it is seriously threatened by this proposal to allow cycling on its narrow trails. This will force pedestrians off the trails, out of concern for their safety. The demand for peaceful, tranquil WALKING trails far outstrips the demand for cycling. Please do NOT allow our trails to be used by cyclists.

FRANCE DAVIS Portland, OR 2017-04-19

This beautiful and unique natural resource cannot be allowed to become just another recreation area. As Henry David Thoreau said; "In wildness is the preservation of the world."

ANN CLARKE Portland, OR 2017-04-19

Dirt bikes on these precious trails do great harm, that cannot be repaired. We must protect the gift we were given.

ELIZABETH ROCCHIA West Linn, OR 2017-04-19

I grew up with Forest Park as a nearby safe source of hikes and exploration. I hate to think of bikes roaring through unconcerned with wild flowers and wildlife.

ROB LEE Portland, OR 2017-04-27

PP&R is incapable of protecting and sustaining FP, so citizens must stand up for Forest Park!

ALEXANDRA CLARKE Lake Oswego, OR 2017-04-28

Mountain Bikes are Mechanized Transportation and they have the capability of having small, quiet electric motors to boost their power and speed - So, Mountain Bikes can also be Motorized Transport with the installation of hidden, quiet electric motors... Those approving of MTB/ORC access in wilderness and natural areas and watersheds need to be aware of this motorized MTB capability (threat) during their due diligence and decision making processes for, in this instance, Forest Park.

ROBERT MCCARTHY West Linn, OR 2017-04-28

Mountain biking is incompatible with walking trails and the intent of Park. If Mountain biking is to occur it must be only allowed in separate areas and managed to protect fragile

ecosystems. Unless these criteria can be guaranteed, mountain biking should be prohibited from Forest Park permanently.

RAY AMSINGER Newberg, OR 2017-05-02

I have seen single track biking.

I frequently hike in Forest Park and believe that single track is not compatible. Other land is available.

Also, Forest Park parking is full now.

ALEXANDRA CLARKE Lake Oswego, OR 2017-05-05

You are a good guy to make this comment.

KATHERINE LYTE Portland, OR 2017-05-07

Forest park is in my backyard and I have observed many violations of the no bike signs why destroy a good quiet place for families

ALAN DELATORRE Portland, OR 2017-05-12

I care about recreational needs and safety concerns pertaining to older adults and people with disabilities.

LINDA HARTLING Lake Oswego, OR 2017-05-14

I'm in favor of keeping places for walkers free from aggressive biking. Please keep bicycles off pedestrian-only trails in Forest Park.

JOHN YATES Portland, OR 2017-05-14

I grew up in Roseburg mountain biking since the early 1950's. At 65 yo I love to bike and hike the hills of Portland.

Portland's automobile rule is to give 3 feet space when passing a bicyclist. Are bicyclist able to give 3 feet space when passing a pedestrian, hiker or other animal.

If the idea is to mix the activities then liability insurance for the mechanical traveler is reasonable.

WILLIAM WEISNER Portland, OR 2017-05-14

No to additional cycling in Forest Park. I am a regular trail runner and dog walker in the park. Cyclists already have plenty of great trails, yet many still trespass onto pedestrian

trails. This is key: there is now NO enforcement of the current rules. First, add park rangers/police to keep the cyclists from creating hazards for others and once we have that problem solved we can then reconsider the idea at a later time.

DAVID DOUGLAS PORTLAND, OR 2017-05-15

I run in Forest Park every weekend and have actually been hit by mountain bikers illegally tearing down the Wildwood and Maple Trails. This winter in particular the mountain bikes created a rut along the Wildwood Trail that caused the trail to break away and the slide down the hill due to the heavy rains just north of where it crosses Saltzman Road. There are dozens of miles of safe places for mountain bikers to enjoy. Keep these trails safe.

ERIN KELLEY SCOTT Lake Oswego, OR 2017-05-15

I've been struck by a cyclist on a forest park trail north of the downtown area. This was appx 4 years ago. I was injured and the cyclist did not stop to even check on my welfare. It didn't matter if he had the damage was done and he was traveling so fast I had no time to move off the trail.

LYDIA AGUNDEZ Portland, OR 2017-05-18

Keep the trails bike free. Let's hike!

KRISTINA KOENIG Portland, OR 2017-05-20

I'm a frequent runner in Forest Park. The trails have many blind corners and steep drop offs. This is a beautiful part of the park but a serious danger if you add the speed of bikes to the equation. Please don't take away my ability to enjoy the Park in it's natural state and my ability to feel safe doing so. Not to mention the change this will cause to the natural environment that makes Forest Park the jewel of our city.

MELANIE HENDERSON Sherwood, OR 2017-05-21

Ive grown up running and walking the forest park trails.

SUZI MERZ Portland, OR 2017-05-23

So I can feel safe with hiking. The bikes have plenty of trails dedicated for them. These trails are for hikers, not bikers. Let's keep it this way.

LINDA STARR Woodland, WA 2017-05-24

This wonderful wilderness is not a playground

JEANINE WARD Vancouver, OR 2017-05-24

I use the park frequently for the peace of nature it brings to my life. It is a joy to share this gem with my grandchildren. Also, walking is primary exercise and need safe off-road hiking. Portland must enforce the management plan established to keep the pristine nature of the park and keep it safe for animals and pedestrians.

DAVID MORGAN Portland, OR 2017-05-24

I have been hiking in Forest Park for over 30 years and there simply is no room for mountain bikes.

DEAN KOEHLER Beaverton, OR 2017-05-27

I'm a frequent hiking user and agree with all the points made here.

PETER EULAU Portland, OR 2017-05-29

Please keep the park safe, no bikes!

GWEN BERG Portland, OR 2017-06-02

The origin of the park was to create a REFUGE for it's citizens. Please no man- made machines. Cars and bicycles should not allowed throughout the park. There are plenty of areas throughout the Portland area for those. The impact on the forested area from abuse has already been felt, we need no more. The exception should be certain areas that can accommodate the handicapped.

We can destroy in a few years what our forefathers had the foresight to preserve.

None of what this city has done in the past by way of the park system was done without a desire to serve it's citizenry and much hard work against such pressures as we have now.

We have Oaks Park on the Eastside we don't need another amusement park or world tourist attraction. Keep Portland -- Portland --before it's too late.

GAIL NAKATA Portland, OR 2017-06-03

Does it do any good to make comments here? If yes, I repeat my stance. No additional biking opportunities in Forest Park and please put up signage asking bikers to slow down near pedestrians, indicate whether they are approaching on the right or left and make sure the walker has heard the info. There are a lot of elderly folks up there who can't hear.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I really would like to know if anyone in charge is listening.

ALEXANDRA CLARKE Lake Oswego, OR 2017-06-03

And those man made machines can have hidden motors. That means increased access and speed! The comment above is particularly concerning. Elderly on trails may be hard of hearing - mtb access on shared trails will possibly place the elderly, disabled and children in danger.

KATHY MOORE Portland, OR 2017-06-11

The park might suffer from erosion

NANCY POLE WILHITE Portland, OR 2017-06-12

I would like to see better maintenance and patrolling of all existing trails, ie. biking and hiking trails.

Make Forest Park Safe Again

Introduction to Petition Comments

Submitted to City Council Members, December 2, 2016

Petition signers have written hundreds of passionate comments about the necessity of preserving the unique nature and ecosystem health of Forest Park and providing for the safety of all park users.

Numerous Portland civic leaders, as well as hundreds of citizens, have raised concerns about the legality, the parity and the wisdom of adding single track cycling to Forest Park.

Petition signers who have voiced their misgivings through comments include Chet Orloff -- past president of the Portland Parks Board and Portland Parks Foundation member; Spencer Ehrman -- of the City Club of Portland; Jack McGowan -- founder of SOLVE; Ted Kaye -- who served on the 1992 Forest Park Trail Policy Task Force to address user conflict; Phyllis Reynolds -- representative of the Portland Garden Club, and author of Trees of Greater Portland; George Milne -- president of Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and past president of the Trails Club of Oregon; Ursula Le Guin -- nationally renowned author; and countless others.

They assert that the proposal to introduce single track cycling to Forest Park

"conflicts with the environmental, recreational, social and legal mission of the park."

"Forest Park is not the place to satisfy the appetites of the single track minority."

"The 2016-2025 Oregon Statewide Recreation Trails Plan puts single track cycling as the favorite trail activity of only 4 % of users."

"Forest Park is one place where true silence and quiet contemplation needs to be the overarching goal in this decision."

We ask that you take the time to read these thoughtful and well-written comments from hundreds of your constituents, and from people all around the world, urging you to protect the only designated urban wilderness in the United States. Further, we ask that you uphold the integrity of the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan that prohibits the active sport of single track cycling anywhere in Forest Park. To change the law and permit this form of recreation would negate the spirit and inspired vision for Forest Park, as well as increase dangerous user conflicts.

Make Forest Park Safe Again Comments 2016-2017

SPENCER EHRMAN Beaverton, OR 2016-08-03

Mayor, we discussed this matter when you first took office as I represent City Club on this issue. It's our position that the Management Plan as written is the defining document for the park and should not be changed. Forest Park is not the place to satisfy the appetites of the single track minority. Thank you.

TED KAYE Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I served on the Forest Park Trail Policy Task Force in the early 1990s and this proposal conflicts with the environmental, recreational, social, and legal mission of the park.

CHET ORLOFF Portland, OR 2016-08-25

I've lived near and used Forest Park for nearly 50 years. As the former chair of the Portland Parks Board and a member of the Parks Foundation, I have long been a supporter of our parks and, especially, Forest Park.

JACK MCGOWAN Sisters, OR 2016-08-29

As the Portland area continues to grow, its citizens will have an increased need to find close in places where they can find peace and quiet and be able to experience nature by the simple gift of walking and running on its trails. Forest Park will play an important role in this evolution of the urban area.

This decision is truly one of legacy for future generations. Economic concerns should not outweigh the preservation of this jewel that was given to all of us by visionary leaders long ago. While I understand that our statewide community has diverse interests in the ways we recreate, Forest Park is one place where true silence and quiet contemplation needs to be the overarching goal in this

Make Forest Park Safe Again Comments 2016-2017

GEORGE MILNE Clackamas, OR 2016-07-26

I am President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and past President of the Trails Club of Oregon. Both of these organizations were deeply involved in the development of Forest Park and the philosophy on how it should be administered.

To modify the Master Plan to create a serious situation that will certainly result in injuries to pedestrians, joggers and even cyclists using the narrow "hiking" trails would be an irresponsible decision at best.

Other cities have reported that single track biking does serious damage to the trails and makes the trails dangerous for walkers, hikers and joggers that are currently the predominant activity in the park.

Having been advised of the potential for serious injuries, will the City of Portland be willing to accept the liability for such a decision.

There definitely needs to be a place for those seeking single track thrills, but Forest Park is NOT the place.

Once you have destroyed the ecology of the park, it will never be the same one of a kind facility that has been an asset to the City of Portland's reputation nationally.

The FWOC represents over 40 organizations in the Western United States and has actively established a position against changing the long lasting and very effective Master Plan. It would be nice to see the City complete the unfinished projects mentioned in the Master Plan.

MEGANNE STEELE Portland, OR 2016-08-10

Portland's Forest Park is a unique resource that should be protected. The thoughtful and farsighted Management Plan responds to timeless ecological

Make Forest Park Safe Again Comments 2016-2017

vulnerabilities, and was adopted after broad based citizen participation. Please honor and protect this extraordinary wilderness area.

ROBERT MCCARTHY West Linn, OR 2016-08-15

Forest Park is treasured resource for all of us who live in metropolitan Portland. There are ordinances and plans that govern how the park is to be maintained and used. Make no exceptions to these rules. Only limited biking should be allowed.

SYLVIA MILNE Portland, OR 2016-08-12

I'm signing because I believe we are deviating from the original intent. We know it was designated for park land because the soil conditions would not support construction or heavy usage. Why would we want to decimate a natural area which brings persons in touch with nature and themselves, not to mention the fact we want to protect the flora and the animal life.

TERI ROWAN Portland, OR 2016-08-15

I feel strongly that single trail biking does not support the designated most important priorities for the park, that of protecting the park's ecological health and preserving wildlife habitat.

Neither does it support the goal of providing for quiet and reflective experiences within the park.

Lastly, I share the concerns about safety for pedestrians who comprise the largest group of park users.

CHARLES CIECKO Gresham, OR 2016-08-25

Make Forest Park Safe Again Comments 2016-2017

This proposed use is incompatible with the character of Forest Park and will adversely impact how the park functions as an important wildlife corridor.

FRANK BIRD Portland, OR 2016-08-10

Honor the terms, objectives, and goals of the management plan.

CHRISTINE COLASURDO Portland, OR 2016-08-08

The original mission for Forest Park is pedestrian trails. The park is a retreat from fast mechanized things like bicycles. I walk the trails to escape that kind of activity/motion.

ANN TAYLOR Portland, OR 2016-08-27

Common sense and the law dictate that bicycles should be restricted to eight foot wide trails. Get it, City Hall?

BILL CUNNINGHAM Beaverton, OR 2016-08-14

Trails such as the Wildwood and other non-biking trails are not safe for peds and bikes. It is also against current laws that define joint use trails.

KAREN MAHAN Portland, OR 2016-08-21

As a person with Native American heritage, I strongly support the fact that Forest Park has been set aside to provide quiet, reflective spiritual experiences. This along with the goal of caring for the native species and wildlife is in keeping with the management practices of native peoples for thousands of years. It saddens me to see Forest Park overrun by recreational enthusiasts who fail to observe the expected trail etiquette. They desecrate the park by riding on trails where they are not allowed and riding at night when the animals are most active.

Make Forest Park Safe Again Comments 2016-2017

We need education and better enforcement to once again make Forest Park a place for contemplation and a sanctuary for all of the native plants and animals that call Forest Park their home

I was once forced off a trail, injuring a knee that required a trip to the ortho. I have also had dozens of near misses. Bikes should not be allowed on trails currently designated pedestrian only.

MAXINE DEXTER Portland, OR 2016-07-27

My family of four as well as our pets use this park system on foot almost daily. We rely on the serenity and ability to observe animals and vegetation in their natural habitats. This is our refuge. Bikes have already destroyed parts of the park where they go off-trail and have run directly into my husband and I as well as our dog when walking at night. Bikes have other trail systems to use and do not belong on the narrow trails in Forest Park.

JERRY WEIGLER PORTLAND, OR 2016-07-27

I have encountered illegal bicyclists on Forest Park pedestrian trails and it is dismaying. This is a PARK for individuals, families and generations of children year in and year out. NOT a roadway for vehicles of ANY sort. Please do not be pressured into converting foot paths to ROADWAYS!!!

GRAHAM PUGH Portland, OR 2016-08-06

I am a frequent hiker and have been seeing more and more bikes on the trails. They have a pronounced impact on the trails.

RICHARD ELLEGOOD Portland, OR 2016-08-08

I have frequently encountered bikers violating existing regulations and stopped them. Some are respectful and say that they won't do it again. Others seem unconcerned with the possibility that they will turn a blind corner and be unable to avoid a mother pushing a baby carriage. To allow such bikers to ride on narrow trails is an invitation for disaster. Most bikers are extremely safety-

Make Forest Park Safe Again Comments 2016-2017

conscious and do not want the outcome that I have described. There should be a safe solution that doesn't put people at risk. Let's find it.

EMILY BRONEC Poulsbo, WA 2016-08-10

I love forest park. I love walking and running and hiking there. I've had a close encounter with a mountain biker here and at another park (where bikes were allowed). In the second circumstance the cyclist was injured as he was unable to stop his bike quickly without hitting us and veered off the small trail. I do not think it is safe or reasonable for cyclists and hikers to be on the same trail if it is small, narrow, and with poor visibility. It's just common sense.

MARYANN AMANN Portland, OR 2016-08-21

I hike regularly in Forest Park and do not want to be run over by bikes on the hiking trails. I have been in close calls with bikers over the years and there is no reason for them to use designated hiking trails. Bikes cause too much erosion - let them continue to ride Leif Ericsson. Let us hike in peace and maintain the ability to be in silent meditation in the Forest.

FRED BOWMAN Portland, OR 2016-08-12

I hike or run in Forest Park once a week and have been doing so for over 30 years. Bicycles are not compatible with these uses. The occasional illegal cyclist is bad enough. Hoards of them would completely ruin the experience.

DEBORAH MURRAY Portland, OR 2016-08-16

PHILIP SELINGER Portland, OR 2016-08-13

I value Forest Park as a place to reflect and be at peace without the hubbub of city life. Bikes would pose a constant source of anxiety for fear of getting run over on some curve.... and I fear the increased impact of bikes on trails, plants, birds and other animal life.

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LOVINA QUERY Portland, OR 2016-08-18

I have run years on the trails and love them and want to keep them safe for my grandchildren.

KAREN DAVID Portland, OR 2016-08-06

I have been run over by cyclists on these trails.

BRANDY SAFFELL Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I think we should keep the trails that are off-limits to cyclists as such. As a trail runner in forest park, I have been injured in the past by collisions and near-collisions with cyclists on the narrower trails. I have also seen other people nearly run off the trails, and dogs spooked by cyclists. I recommend keeping the trails as they are, as a citizen of Portland and regular user of Forest Park.

SHARON MURPHY Portland, OR 2016-08-11

I once enjoyed the park and now it doesn't feel safe to walk with my dog. We don't like the high speed cyclists.

IAN SMETHURST Portland, OR 2016-07-27

**My young son one was almost run over on Holman Lane! Do not want any more bikes on walking trails! Having done 3 Cycle Oregons I know the Wildwood is not a good idea given the number of people walking!
Thanks for your consideration!**

ALICIA EMEL Portland, OR 2016-08-14

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I have been almost hit several times by bicycles while hiking. There is no way that bicycles can safely share hiking trails with hikers. Please keep Forest Park safe and continue to limit biking in the park!

BILL CUNNINGHAM Beaverton, OR 2016-08-15

I walk those trails regularly and have already encountered bikes even when they are not supposed to be there. Without diligent enforcement (and stern consequences) this creates a very dangerous situation already. What will open permission create?

JANE BROWN Beaverton, OR 2016-08-22

I'm a guide at the Japanese Garden and often walk there through the park. I've had some unpleasant encounters with both bicyclists and dog owners.

KIMBERLEY CHEN Portland, OR 2016-08-14

I was also almost hit by a bike on the trails while hiking. I absolutely oppose opening up the trails to bikers. Not only is it a safety issue, but it will also cause deterioration of the existing trails.

JOHN BISSONNETTE Portland, OR 2016-07-26

Mr Olmstead who designed Forest Park sought to create a refuge from the city in our beautiful forest. There are many other off road cycling venues currently, and other sites which would be more suitable to develop as off road cycling venues. I live nearby, walk there every day, and see how off road cyclists do not respect pedestrian traffic, making it unsafe for walkers, especially with dogs and small children. This is a unique park that makes Portland so special; please do not make it a off road cycling venue

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LOUISE GRAY Portland, OR 2016-08-18

Enough bike riders are rude and irresponsible using our sidewalks and streets. Too many bike riders do not respect the damage they do and refuse to play by any rules.

Forest Park has bike trails, do not allow more destruction in Forest Park. Bikes really tear up the paths!

LISA DEUTSCHMAN Portland, OR 2016-08-30

Forest Park walking and hiking trails weren't developed with off-road biking in mind. The way that off-road bikers behave on these trails poses a significant hazard to walkers and hikers and the overall health of the park itself.

LUCILLE STAUDUHAR Portland, OR 2016-08-07

I jog in the park often on Wildwood .. I don't want to worry about bikes screaming past me on narrow paths. It's bad enough around the curves on Leif Erikson!

SEAN SULLIVAN Portland, OR 2016-08-09

Just moved here two months go from CA where bikers and walkers shared the same trails in our local State Parks. It was refreshing to walk the trails in Forest Park without wondering if you were going to be hit by cyclists. Designate a few trails for cyclists but shared trails are a safety hazard.

CAROL GREEN burbank, CA 2016-08-09

I don't live in Portland but totally understand this issue. In our Griffith Park, cyclists are militant about using an equestrian-only bridge and whip up and down horse trails they're legally prohibited from using, endangering horses, riders and themselves. It's common sense to exclude bicycles from some trails,

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just as it's common sense to exclude horses from some trails here. In my area, equestrians comply, but bicyclists defiantly flaunt/flout their trespassing.

JEFFREY COURION Beverly Hills, CA 2016-08-12

Single track mountain biking on family or public hiking trails is not safe. It was attempted in Los Angeles County and was later withdrawn as unsuspecting hikers and small children were placed in harm's way. Cycling and pedestrian traffic do not mix as slow and fast speed traffic result in accidents and injuries.

DAVID KENNEY Portland, OR 2016-08-11

Bikes don't belong on pedestrian trails. The city should enforce the existing rules and ensure that this wonderful place continues to be a place of peaceful refuge for humans and nature.

ROGER AUMANN Portland, OR 2016-08-17

Not in Forest Park! We don't need more bikes on the trails; there are plenty of places to ride already, and they are dangerous to the walkers, hikers, runners, and pets on leash.

DEBORAH ABELE Portland, OR 2016-08-08

I've been walking on narrow, steep and winding trails in Forest Park for several decades and have seen the number of other walkers increase dramatically as our population grows. With even more people in the next decades needing a break from the crowded concrete, the trails will be even more precious to us all. Clear and sensible division of incompatible use is the only reasonable way to share the park. I cannot imagine how a bicycle coming down around a hairpin turn could possibly stop in time to miss me and my leashed dog! Bikes are fine on the wide fire lanes with adequate visibility, but let's not set up dangerous

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situations. If the current regulations aren't being followed and there's no budget for enforcement, perhaps what we need really is better signage?

BRETT SHEPPARD Portland, OR 2016-08-08

Mountain bikes already have access to Leif Ericsson and the fire lanes. These are broad enough to allow time move out of the way and also provide auditory clues that a bike is approaching. The other trails (eg. the wildwood and secondary (maple, cleater, koenig etc) are all single track and there is no room to easily get out of the way and there will likely be less auditory warning that a bike is approaching until it is too late. Many families with young children and our elder citizens out for physical activity but with physical impairment use these trails. What will happen is a biker will plow into a 5 or 6 year old, cause a devastating injury and by the time they are extracted we will be faced with a brain dead child, a dead child or someone who will need state support for their life. A similar fate will await our elderly and handicapped utilizing these trails if mountain bikes are allowed .

INGA DUBAY Portland, OR 2016-08-25

As a long term and frequent walker on Forest Park Trails I would be quite apprehensive walking there if there were bikes on the trail. Frequently I have been forced to the trail side by runners coming up behind me. At least you can hear the runners coming by there pounding foot steps.

At 81 I am not as agile as I once was to dodge bikes on these narrow trails. Why should anyone have to Dodge them anyhow. I don't want to wear a Bike Helmet to walk in Forest park.

CHAR GLENN Portland, OR 2016-08-09

I see many people walking on the Forest Park trails who, although able to walk, are not agile enough to get out of the path of a cyclist. In some areas one has to step into a small opening in the brush at the side of the trail simply to let another walker or runner pass. The walking speeds are slow enough to allow this negotiation and the runners are able to slow or stop relatively easily if someone is in their path.

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ROGER AUMANN Portland, OR 2016-08-17

Not in Forest Park! We don't need more bikes on the trails; there are plenty of places to ride already, and they are dangerous to the walkers, hikers, runners, and pets on leash.

DIANE NOWICKI Portland, OR 2016-08-08

The majority of Forest Park trail users are pedestrians, of all ages and abilities. Biking is way too fast a modality for pedestrain-mostly trails. Biking will reduce the physical and mental health of our city by dis-inviting people to walk. The trees and fragile dirt paths already suffer from the wear and tear of bicycles going where they shouldn't be. I am a volunteer trail maintenance person and see the damage caused by bicycle tires.

JACK MONTAG Portland, OR 2016-08-25

I hike in Forest Park frequently. This Summer almost daily. I also volunteer with Forest Park Conservancy to improve the trails. It seems clear to me that it would be dangerous to allow bikes on the park trails where there are pedestrians, runners, dogs and children. It would also be damaging to the trails that are already suffering from heavy use and erosion. Many of the trails, including Wildwood are quite narrow in places and there would not be room for a bike to pass. It's a terrible idea!

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, OR 2016-07-26

As a 14+ year volunteer maintaining trail throughout Forest Park, I have seen up close the damage bikes do to our lovely trails, and it takes a lot of very hard work to repair them! The City has no funds to maintain these trails, so relies on

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us volunteers, but we are few and the cyclists are many. Please do not open up the Park to more erosion.

JOSEPH A. SOLDATI Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I have hiked all of Forest park Trails, and worked on them as well as a trail maintenance volunteer almost every Saturday from November, 2000, to November, 2013. I worked too damned hard to have bikers ruin this pristine park; having repaired the damage that biker dos--destroy native plants, increase soil erosion, mar the trail with ditches, etc. --I know the destruction first- hand. IF YOU ALLOW BIKERS ON THESE TRAILS, YOU/they WILL RUIN THE TRAILS FOREVER, AND FOREST PARK, TOO. Note: Portland has spent millions to allow bikers access to city streets, and as a former biker, I really support this. Therefore, there are plenty of places in town and out--Sauvie Island, Spring Water Trail, etc.-- for bicyclists.

CAROLYN BUPPERT Portland, OR 2016-08-12

One reason we moved back to SW Portland was the hiking in Forest Park. It's one place one doesn't have to be looking out at all time for cyclists. We want to preserve the safety of walkers in the park.

DAVID KAFOURY Portland, OR 2016-07-26

We as a family use Forest Park a great deal. I would hate to have a grandchild hit by a bicyclist as he/she raced around a corner. Please keep the park safe and pedestrian-only. Let bikers buy their own property for High-Speed Single-Track Cycling. Many of us have supported Friends of Forest Park and Now The Forest Park Conservancy to preserve our park for walkers/runners.

VERENA GIEBELS Bow, WA 2016-08-11

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Whenever visiting Portland from WA, several times a year, I have been visiting Forest Park to get a break. Such a peaceful place, which makes my vacation in this vibrant city complete. Please keep it safe for people who like some quiet time, enjoying nature. It would be over with when bicycles

JOHN MILLER Portland, OR 2016-08-13

In general, I think natural areas should be kept natural. Bikes are machines. I do not support bikes in most natural areas or any wilderness areas. I am very concerned about MTB industry and lobbying influence.

ALEXANDRA CLARKE Lake Oswego, OR 2016-08-13

Mechanized transport does not belong in natural areas and watersheds. MTBing is a sport, as such it deserves a hard surface trail/track/arena and not the Oregon Jory Soil found in Forest Park and other local natural areas vulnerable to soil deterioration and stormwater runoff. This is not to mention the issue of wildlife preservation in this part of the NW wildlife migration corridor. It should be of great concern that the MTB industrial complex is lobbying for more access to our local natural areas and watersheds by using its considerable financial resources to pressure City officials.

SUSAN MEAD Portland, OR 2016-08-18

We are restricting urban wildlife to fewer and fewer green spaces as small homes with yards are replaced with multi-story complexes with zero greenspace virtually right up to the borders of Forest Park. Please preserve this urban oasis as it has been historically managed and leave peaceful hiking trails alone for both humans and wildlife to enjoy!!

TIM LUNDHOLM Portland, OR 2016-08-10

I'm a mountain biker too but forest park has too many pedestrians for single track riding, it's not safe.

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SUE DONORA Portland, OR 2016-07-26

I love mountain biking AND hiking. There are plenty of places to mountain bike in the Portland area, but Forest Park needs to be preserved for the majority of people, who are hikers, not bikers.

DAVID SHAW Portland, OR 2016-08-03

I am both a hiker and a mountain bike rider. Forest park hiking trails CANNOT be made compatible with single track bike riding. They are too narrow with many blind corners. Terrain doesn't permit widening them. Please do not open hiking trails to bikes.

BOB SHOTLAND Portland, OR 2016-08-07

I run and hike on trails such as Wildwood, Wild Cherry, Dogwood, etc. There is no way that mountain bikes should be allowed on these types of trails; it would be hazardous and intrusive. I have also cycled on Leif Erikson and I think mountain bikers should be content to stay on that trail.

BARRY EMMERLING Portland, OR 2016-08-25

I'm a cyclist (including a little of mountain biking in the past), but do not think any more trails in Forest Park should be open to mountain bikes. If cyclists are looking for single-track trails they should head for the Cascades or Coast Range, and should not expect this type of trail to be offered in an urban area park.

JOHN LEMMER Portland, OR 2016-08-15

While an active off-road bicyclist myself, and a hiker, I believe the bikes cause too much damage to the trails to allow in Forest Park

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JOHN THOMPSON

Portland, OR 2016-07-25 I am deeply concerned about preserving the Forest Park Management plan, and the city's intention of allowing single track cycling on pedestrian trails. This is both unsafe, and unfair to the 90 percent of users who are pedestrians.

JOHN HOULE Portland, OR 2016-07-25

I am very concerned about the health of the park and the safety of pedestrians. Please follow the law and keep this wonderful park intact now and for future generations.

KATHRYN MIDSON PORTLAND, OR 2016-07-25

I love the peace of the pedestrian only trails. As I walk along them, I try to imagine the difference if cycling were allowed, and I despair. Please follow the existing Forest Park plan, and keep the park a safe and relaxing refuge for human visitors and existing animal populations.

BILL CUNNINGHAM Beaverton, OR 2016-07-25

I am deeply concerned about safety issues. I also fear that the trails will be degraded. Forest Park IS NOT a "Six Flags" venue; it is a one-of-a-kind pristine urban treasure.

CINDY PRICE Portland, OR 2016-07-25

I hike and run these trails for the last 20 years. Cycling tracks are all over Wildwood. I came a millimeter away from having a cyclist crash into me. I had to

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jump off the trail to avoid serious injury. When it happens next, how would you like me to title my lawsuit against the city?

JESSICA SPIES portland, OR 2016-07-25

I don't want single track bicycling in Forest Park

AARON WOLF Ann Arbor, MI 2016-07-25

Forest Park is not the place to have expensive-to-maintain off-road biking trails. I'm a hiker and biker, and I'll be happy to bike elsewhere in order to preserve Forest Park for less intrusive activities.

MARGOT THOMPSON Portland, OR 2016-07-26

City officials are trying to subvert the law by allowing uses that are clearly destructive to the environment of Forest Park. I am an avid cyclist but feel the trails are now unsafe for pedestrians because cyclists are not obeying current laws and or showing considerate behavior toward pedestrians and hikers of all ages using the trails in the park. Metro owns land further out on skyline and that is an area with clearcuts and places perfect for the development of single track cycling. Please consider near-in but entirely different places. Thank you!

P. SYDNEY HERBERT Portland, OR 2016-07-25

I love Forest Park and I don't appreciate being run over. The scofflaws are taking over the Park. We need enforcement!

HANK MURROW Eugene, OR 2016-07-26



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF METROPOLITAN PORTLAND



4380 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 215, Portland, Oregon 97239 – Main: 503-222-9977, FAX: 503-222-3164

June 1, 2010

Director Zari Santner
Portland Parks and Recreation Director
1221 SW 5th Ave., Room 1302
Portland OR 97204

Dear Director Santner,

We would like to address the issue of single track mountain biking on the hiking trails in Forest Park. Many legitimate concerns are raised by allowing bikes on trails designed for, and until now restricted to, hiking. Some of these issues include damage to trails, destruction of sensitive plants and their habitat, disturbing wildlife and changing the current wilderness atmosphere. Although the aforementioned issues may be deemed important, as a medical society we are most concerned with the health and safety issues.

Single track mountain biking is often done on trails three to four feet wide. The current city ordinance pertaining to Forest Park allows cyclists to share a trail with hikers only if it is at least eight feet wide. Due to the twisting trails and uneven terrain in the park, the sight lines are often short. It seems unreasonable to expect vigorous, exuberant riders to cautiously approach every blind corner or bump. What kind of fun would that be? Because bicycles and hikers are relatively quiet, one can envision many sudden, unexpected encounters, which would be particularly hazardous for young children and the elderly. A stark demonstration of this was the death of a woman hiker during the month of April in Renton, Washington when she collided with a cyclist on a shared trail.

Collisions and major trauma are much more dramatic than healthy lifestyles and exercise. However, one of the routine activities we perform as a profession is to advocate for regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. A large number of people use the park for walking and jogging on the trails. Presently about thirty miles of trails are suitable for the combined use of cyclists and pedestrians. Part of the proposal is to turn some of the most popular trails into shared use for single track mountain biking. The international experience with "multi-use trails" to be shared by pedestrians, equestrians, and cyclists has been that the horseback riders and hikers avoid the trails used by the bicycle riders. It is easy to imagine why. Even for the most nimble, it would hardly be relaxing to remain vigilant about what may be coming around the next bend. For the elderly or families with young children it would be especially dangerous. Allowing bicycles on the narrow hiking trails of Forest Park would discourage pedestrian use of these trails and would be counter to our efforts to encourage exercise.

There are not controlled studies or widespread case reports in the medical literature about accidents between cyclists and pedestrians. However, we should not assume the lack of studies implies safety, nor should we allow the absence of scientific certainty to stand in the way of exercising our common sense. We as physicians see the shared use of these narrow trails as hazardous to both pedestrians and cyclists. Because these dangers are inherently obvious, as has happened elsewhere, pedestrians would begin to avoid these shared trails reducing their options for recreation and exercise. We ask that the current restrictions regarding cycling on the narrow trails in Forest Park remain as they were wisely written.

Sincerely,
Medical Society of Metropolitan Portland Board of Trustees

Glenn Rodriguez, MD, President
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Marianne Parshley, MD
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Bradley Bryan, MD
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Cody Evans, MD, Resident Trustee
Evan Los, MS, Medical Student

Jeff Menashe

5050 NE Hoyt Suite 256

Portland, OR 97213

Oct. 16, 2017

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to communicate my opposition to allowing wheeled vehicles (bicycles) on the Wildwood and other heavily used running and hiking trails in Forest Park.

I am a frequent hiker, runner, and cyclist within Forest Park. It is a wonderful recreational resource for Portland residents and visitors.

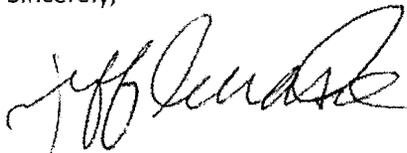
On one occasion while hiking on the Wildwood trail, I was suddenly (without warning) forced off the trail by an oncoming mountain bike. I was forced off my feet, but was able to avoid severe injury.

While I support the use of bicycles on the larger roads within the Park (Leif Ericson, Saltzman Rd., the wider firelanes), it is critical for cyclists to be aware of hikers and runners and the risk of collision on even those tracks which allow for two way traffic.

On narrower, heavily used trails in the park, the risk associated with shared bicycle use is prohibitive. Even on the less heavily used trails intersecting the Wildwood trail and Leif Ericson Dr., I am very concerned that shared use would be hazardous, and would decrease the enjoyment of the park for all its users.

While our transportation does not always to maximizing safety on our thoroughfares, the defining principle of shared use is that unless a track can be shared safely, it should not be shared. Pedestrian, single track trails within Forest Park cannot be safely shared within Forest Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Menashe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being more prominent and the last name "Menashe" following in a similar style.

Jeffrey Menashe

APPENDIX E

Summary of Statements

Nearly all the statements referred to in this appendix are from people living in the immediate area of the BCF and MCF. Many reflect a commitment to stewardship. Most statements have some comment about the elk in the area. Obviously, because of their size these animals are frequently observed. The observations, especially about elk, reflect much of what the Science portion of this memo says. Many show a feeling of deep disappointment over what Metro employees have told them compared with Metro's conduct and its plans for the BCF and MCF.

Observations on the Diversity of Wildlife

There is no question that the area abounds in wildlife. Observations range from a surprising number of cougar sightings, a recent bear encounter on private land bordering

the Burlington Creek Forest, to many observations of sizeable elk herds. Statements show the presence of numerous other smaller animals.

There have been a number of sightings of elk in the BCF in recent years, including a herd of 30 animals and a number of other sightings in numbers ranging from just a few animals to groups in the teens. There have been observations a good deal of elk sign there, such as hoof prints and droppings. Comments also show decreases in elk sightings coincidental with Metro's activities in the MCF and BCF.

In addition to elk in the BCF itself people living nearby observe elk on their property on a regular basis.

Several people commented on the presence of much smaller species including birds, amphibians and small mammals.

Metro excuses why no baseline wildlife studies would be conducted

A number of people heard Metro's excuses at various meetings as to why no baseline studies of wildlife would be conducted. Metro stated to several people on different occasions that such studies were too expensive and would not show anything anyhow. Many feel Metro did not listen to them while at the same time Metro acknowledged that the people in the local community know more about the wildlife in the area than Metro does. Several statements reflect disappointment at Metro's lack of a science-based approach. The statements also include Metro's claim of a pseudo survey of elk in the area of Metro's four forests.

Betrayal and hypocrisy

The statements show an awareness that Metro has repeatedly claimed that protecting water, wildlife and habitat is its highest priority in developing parks in the BCF and MCF and they do not see that Metro is doing so. Some raise the erosion problem and others discuss the way Metro has treated

the land thus far. See especially the statements of Hans and Lindsay Hoch, a young couple with strong science backgrounds whose land borders MCF not far from what has been referred to as the “elk nursery.” Their comments are especially thorough and reflect what may be Metro’s sabotaging the elk herd that frequents the MCF.

It is notable that Hans Hoch, aside from holding a science PhD, also has expertise in wild land fire fighting, and is a mountain biker. He points out what appears to be a targeting of elk trails with trees and brush Metro has cut and left suspended off the ground across well-defined elk trails that Metro flagged before felling the trees and cutting brush.

Not only does it appear that Metro created obstacles to normal elk movements, but Mr. Hoch also has noted Metro’s conduct has greatly increased fire danger in not putting the cut wood on the ground. Leaving felled trees and brush suspended off the ground has created not only barriers to movement, but

also “fire ladders” of fuel. Mr. Hoch currently works for the Portland Fire Department. Mr. Hoch and his wife are athletes and Mr. Hoch is a mountain biker

The greatest sense of betrayal reflected in the almost all of the statements in this appendix stems from the knowledge that Metro is failing to live up to its promise to protect water, wildlife and habitat as the first priority.

Mountain biking and wildlife stress

In addition to the foregoing both of the Hochs point to the science on mountain biking effects on wildlife. In summary, because mountain bikes are fast and quiet they come upon animals suddenly inducing a heightened flight response over that caused by other types of uses such as hiking, which approach wildlife more slowly giving animals a more advanced and less startling warning, which keeps their stress levels at a comparatively more moderate level.

Elk adaptability

Contrary to Metro's claims, elk in the North Tualatin Mountains' forests are not acclimated to human activity. Numerous statements show a great number of elk sightings, but rarely are any seen crossing roadways during daylight hours. In addition, when elk are seen near homes or roadways and are approached by humans on foot, they quickly vacate the vicinity. These observations validate what Metro's own Ecology and Corridors Reviews show to be the research on elk behavior.

In addition, the elk in the area display the predator shelter effect, also discussed in one of Metro's science literature reviews. Hunting is allowed west of Skyline Boulevard beyond the intersection of Skyline and Cornelius Pass Road. Linda Barnes, who lives at the north end of McCarthy Creek Forest has observed during hunting season the number of elk in the McCarthy Creek Forest area increases.

Sanctuaries and Corridors

Tied into the sense of betrayal are comments of long-term residents of the area, Jim McGrew, Laura and Larry Leuthe and Linda and Eddie Barnes. Over time they have observed changes in elk patterns, especially with the elk as different activities in the area progressed.

Beginning in the early 1990's a number of houses were constructed on McNamee Road after it comes up from Highway 30 and begins to move south along the ridgeline. This triggered an increase in the elk in the MCF. Towards the late 1990s and continuing to the present time the Knife River Angel Quarry expanded. The initial expansion also triggered a shift in elk patterns of movement into McCarthy Creek Forest. The Leuthes have also noted a change in elk patterns of movement since Metro began work in the MCF. Elk have shifted up onto the private land that borders McNamee Road along the east boundary of McCarthy Creek Forest.

Both Mr. McGrew and Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, based on their long-term familiarity with the area, know that the four forests in the area are sanctuaries from the activity on the private land that dominate the area and surround all the forests. There is strong belief, reflected in a number of statements, in addition to that of Mr. McGrew and Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, that Metro is significantly harming the sanctuaries that Metro's Burlington Creek and McCarthy Creek forests are.

A number of statements show an awareness of the importance of the McNamee Road area and Metro's forests as vital parts of the corridor between the Coast Range and Forest Park.

Mountain Biking

Of particular note is the statement of Dr. Catherine Thompson, a Sauvie Island resident and advocate for Forest Park. Her statement discusses, among other things, a failed experiment for a mountain biking trail in Forest Park.

The experiment was conducted with the idea that it would show the viability of mountain biking trails in the Park. The trail was built with the cooperation of the mountain biking community and those concerned about the ecological vitality of the Park. The mountain biking community committed to maintaining the trail.

From the photos provided by Dr. Thompson it is apparent that the experiment failed in that a great deal of erosion was generated on what appear to be slopes much more moderate than dominate, for instance, in the BCF.

Rough overview of Wildlife Sightings near McNamee Road
Ron Peck

I've lived near the center of McNamee Road for nearly 20 years. I have driven fairly extensively from my home to Hillsboro (work) and my home to Portland (kids schools). I've also spent a lot of time in the last 4 years walking my dog along upper McNamee.

Here's a rough overview of what I've seen.

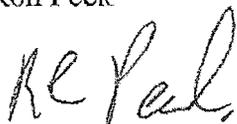
First of all, I often see Elk. I see them near the bottom of Cornelius Pass near the border between Multnomah and Washington County. I see them along Skyline road between McNamee and Cornelius Pass. I see them often in the meadows west of the upper side of McNamee road. I see them occasionally on my land in mid McNamee road. Mostly they occur as small herds of about a dozen in the former sites. The ones I see on my land are the outcasts (young bucks, crippled cows).

I see blacktail deer along McNamee regularly.

Fairly often I see bobcats along upper McNamee. I used to see foxes near the intersection of McNamee and Skyline. I have only seen a cougar on my land once. I have only had one porcupine that I know of. I see many coyotes obviously.

I see a wide variety of birds. Bald Eagles, Sharp Shinned Hawks, Turkey Vultures, woodpeckers, Steller and Mountain Jays, a couple of types of owls, and a wide variety of songbirds.

Signed
Ron Peck

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Peck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

To Whom It May Concern:

I was a high school English teacher for 37 years in the David Douglas District of SE Portland.
After I retired from teaching, I worked for Marylhurst University as a student teaching coordinator for four years.

I have lived on NW McNamee Rd for thirteen years.
During that time, I have run and walked weekly with my leashed dog on the Metro property referred to as the Burlington Forest.
In my estimation the wildlife contained within the forest is quite myriad and diverse.

I have encountered elk on three occasions.
Once, when I was starting up the fire road under the power line furthest east, I encountered a herd of perhaps thirty elk.
Another time, I saw a single elk in this same area, just a little further up hill.
The last incident consisted of two elk at the low point of the upper trail where it crosses Burlington Creek near the Old Growth Stand.

Two elk were poached and their bodies left near the front gate sometime in the last ten years.
I reported this incident to OSP.
Additionally, a deer was poached and its body left to rot two turns from the end of the east end of power line road.

Numerous elk, raccoon and bear scat traces appear on the trail.
This summer, a bear came out of Burlington Forest to raid the hives of my neighbor, Mark Johnson, whose property abuts the forest.

Many times I have encountered coyotes while walking on the trail.

I believe that Burlington Forest is an important refuge for wildlife.
It is a quiet and contemplative place.
It would ill serve the population to Multnomah County if it were turned into a multiple use playground.

Thank you.



Michael Baker
16320 NW McNamee Rd.
Portland, OR 97231
michael@mcnameerod.com
(503)799-3391

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Catherine Thompson, I am a retired pediatrician. Currently I volunteer at Outside In doing tattoo removal for low income patients. My husband and I are members of the Oregon mycological society and consider ourselves to be amateur naturalists. We enjoy hiking throughout Oregon and take pleasure in the diversity of trees, native species, mosses, lichens and mushrooms as well as the wildlife we encounter, birds, marmots, deer, coyotes, foxes. We also do advocacy work for Forest Park.

In this capacity I have taken an interest in the Metro North Tualatin Mountain Properties that were purchased with the natural areas bond money explicitly to restore wildlife habitat and improve water quality. The North Tualatin properties have been identified as the wildlife corridor for Forest Park. Because species can travel in and out of Forest Park all the way to the coast range, the genetic diversity and health of wildlife in Forest Park is sustained. The idea of a wildlife corridor is widely appreciated. Even for a park as large as Yellowstone steps have been taken to establish a wildlife corridor to maintain genetic diversity of the species in that park.

Forest Park was set aside by the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan with the highest priority to preserve natural resources. In order to do this effectively the Plan requires baseline wild life studies as well as six point wildlife monitoring :

1. To begin regular monitoring of natural resources, including wildlife, to determine if resources are being sustained, improved, or degraded over time.
2. To coordinate wildlife monitoring with recreation monitoring.
3. To establish permanent wildlife monitoring stations.
4. To develop a monitoring protocol.
5. To monitor stations on an annual basis.
6. To conduct periodic nighttime wildlife censuses.

As the Tualatin Mountain properties are adjacent Forest Park and form the life spring for genetic diversity in Forest Park, management of these properties determines the health of Forest Park wildlife. If baseline studies and monitoring procedures are not established for these source properties, robust management in Forest Park is worthless.

I gave testimony with these themes at the Metro hearing for the North Tualatin Mountain recreation plan. I was alarmed that the biologists from Metro said he did not see a need for a wildlife corridor and that baseline studies were too expensive and unnecessary. Metro Councilor Bob Stacey recommended monitoring of the impact of the proposed recreational facilities but no such stipulation was adopted in the Metro plan.

This raises serious concerns in my mind. Our experience with recreational trails in Forest Park has illustrated the need for ongoing repair and maintenance of trails. This has been done effectively for hiking trails but sadly not for bike trails.

In 2006 the Forest Park Conservancy (FPC), Portland Parks and the Northwest Trail Alliance, (formerly PUMP) completed a Single Track Cycling Pilot Project in Forest Park. Quoting from the 2009 FPC White Paper on Single Track Cycling in Forest Park "The trail was completed in the fall of 2006. Since that time, Northwest Trail Alliance volunteers, in cooperation with members of the Conservancy and PP&R, have been instrumental in maintaining and improving this coveted .3 mile section of singletrack, along with other trails." However, this is what the trail looks like today.



This is what some of the firelanes look like. All trails show the impact of v-grooving which occurs when bicycles travel on trails when they are wet. After the original damage subsequent rain continues to erode the trail.



The idea that new recreational trails would be built in a wildlife corridor without baseline wildlife studies and without planned monitoring sounds like a recipe for serious damage to our natural area. Given the impact of cycling on the loose soil of the Tualatin Mountains and the history of unsanctioned bike trails being built in Forest Park and Riverview Natural area, opening the door for new bike trails in a natural area that is currently relatively protected could spell disaster.

I commend the Multnomah County Commissioners for recognizing that preservation of natural resources and wildlife habitat is a higher value than new recreational opportunities. This stand is well supported by the scientifically collected data that forms the basis of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).¹This plan is meant to serve as the basis for all recreational decisions in our state, on federal, state and local lands. The newest 10 year Statewide Recreational Trails Plan covers 2016-2025.² The state asked an important question of Oregonians in their survey, "Please share your priorities for the next ten years, keeping in mind limited funding and land" The answer that the majority of Oregonians endorsed supports the stance that Multnomah County has taken. Statewide 77 % of respondents want repair of existing trails , 68% what preservation of natural features and 65 % want maintenance of existing trails. At the county level the support for preservation of natural features is even higher at 77%. New trails for hiking, ADA Access, running and paved bike trails ranged from 26-39%, with new mountain biking trails at 24%, 6th from the bottom of a 24 item list.

It is unclear why the Metro plans do not comply with this value and the SCORP guidelines. With most of the publicly owned lands in Multnomah county being held in trust for the public by Metro, to make an exception to the Multnomah County plan in favor of recreational development is to discard the values that the County Commissioners have established which are corroborated by the State SCORP data and SCORP trail guidelines.

Please conserve our public lands for habitat and wildlife in accordance with the wishes of the citizens of our county and the state.

Sincerely,

Catherine Thompson, M.D.

¹http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/Pages/SCORP_overview.aspx

²http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Trail_Programs_Services/Documents/2016OregonStatewideTrailsPlan.pdf

ZOË PRESLEY, MA LPC

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

503.987.0121

Zoe@zoepresley.com

1942 NW Keamey

Suite 32

Portland, OR

97209

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband, Matt Presley, and I have been residents of McNamee Road since the spring of 2005 (over 12 years). Matt makes his living building furniture, and I have a psychotherapy practice. We chose to make our home in this area because we value the opportunity to serve as stewards for the wildlife and natural landscape, to protect it for generations to come.

Our property is 1.7 miles (by road) from the intersection at highway 30, and less than ¼ mile from the Burlington Creek Natural Area (by land). Over the course of the last 12 years, Matt and I have spent a significant amount of time at Burlington Creek Natural Area (for the past 5 years, I have visited the natural area approximately 4-5 days per week). During much this time, we have had the pleasure of spotting diverse wildlife in this area, including bald eagles, elk, deer, coyote and rabbit. On several occasions, we viewed herds of elk numbering in the high teens. Matt and I have seen some of the same wildlife on our property, and have no doubt that wildlife is using the entire McNamee Road corridor for habitat and migration routes.

However, over the course of this past year my wildlife viewings have declined. This timing seems to coincide with forest thinning operations throughout Burlington Creek Forest earlier in the year. This operation was loud and considerable trash was unfortunately left behind (some of which is still present, including plastic buckets). I have not seen any elk in Burlington Creek this year, nor have I spotted elk tracks in the dirt or mud.

Along with many other local residents, Matt and I are concerned that the construction of a mountain-biking facility in the Burlington Creek Natural Area will have a profound negative impact on the wildlife who make their home in this area. In addition to the short-term disruption caused by construction of facilities, development of this property will invite a significant increase in human traffic, thus damaging or eliminating critical natural habitat for local wildlife.

A statement from Metro's website indicates Metro's commitment to protecting living aspects of the natural landscape: "Metro works with communities, businesses and residents in the Portland metropolitan area to chart a wise course for the future while protecting the things we love about this place." As residents of McNamee Road and tax-paying community members, we are disappointed in Metro's choice to prioritize development of a recreational facility over protection of wildlife. Rather than consulting with the local community, Metro has routinely disregarded our concerns about environmental impact. It is our hope that Metro will recognize the damaging consequences of disrupting this important wildlife habitat and withdraw their development plans.

Warm regards,



Zoë and Matt Presley
15203 NW McNamee Rd.
Portland, OR 97231

Linda Barnes Statement

My husband, Eddie and I have lived on acreage on Paully Road, which sits on the north border of what is now being referred to as the McCarthy Creek Forest. We have lived there since about 1984 and have horses, a horse arena and raise sheep and other animals.

Over the years we have ridden throughout the area, including McCarthy Forest and are familiar with the wildlife in the area as are many of our neighbors.

Wildlife and Their Shifting Pattern

There are definitely more elk and other wildlife in our fields and those of our neighbors than when we first moved here. We can see our neighbors' fields down the hill from us. A cougar killed some of our sheep a few years ago and we have seen cougar tracks in the snow.

Beginning in about 1989 extensive logging took place in the former Crown Pacific lands on the east side of McNamee Rd. generally north of us. Thereafter, beginning about 1992 a number of homes were constructed on the former Crown Pacific lands. Beginning with the logging and continuing with the home construction we saw more wildlife in and around or immediate neighborhood and the McCarthy Creek Forest. It seems to me that hunting was stopped in the area during this time frame, although we occasionally still hear gunfire.

The substantial increase in wildlife activity includes a noticeable increase in cow elk and their calves.

Beginning in approximately 1998 the Angel Brothers Quarry, now known as Knife River Quarry, began to do more rock removal. At about this time there was another increase in wildlife, in and around the McCarthy Creek Forest, though not as much as beginning in 1992.

I cannot state the cause of the shift in the wildlife pattern, but only tell you when it occurred and the events that happened at about the same time.

Our Disappointment with Metro

We have seen Metro plans for an extensive expansion of trails in the McCarthy Creek Forest, particularly in the east end of that property and extending to near Paully Road. If the overriding goal is to protect wildlife and its habitat then the planned trails are clearly in the wrong place.

In speaking with other neighbors it appears that Metro knows that its current plan of trails will go right through the elk calving, feeding and breeding area in McCarthy Creek Forest. We are disappointed that Metro has gone back on its promise to preserve and protect wildlife and its habitat.

We will not entertain either giving or selling any of our land to Metro. Metro cannot be trusted to keep its promises.

Sincerely,



Linda Barnes



Edward Barnes

To whom it may concern:

As a long time property owner of 40 years on McNamee Rd and life long resident of the Skyline area for over 70 years, we have seen a lot of changes in this area. Back in the day when there were fewer cars on the roads and you waved to your neighbor as you passed, you had respect for your fellow man and you could settle your differences with a hand shake. This has all changed drastically and partially because of government and particularly in this case, an agency called Metro, that represents "Preserve and Protect Natural Areas, clean water, fish and wild life".

How does this relate to Preservation and Natural Resource with the wildlife corridor? Activity such as this will disturb our habitat and force them to leave with nowhere to go. An example of this already is Metro purchasing these properties and "thinning" the forest for the sake of the "wildlife". There was a time, we would see herds of Elk on our property on a weekly basis. At calving time, they would bring their young calves to the top of the meadow and graze, feeling protected. Now with the disruption of "thinning", chain saws, workers and replanting a diet that the elk do not desire, are forcing them into our yards and gardens, which presents problems as well.

In the past the elk, deer, rabbits, bobcats and coyotes roamed this area, it worked well for all of us. We all had a purpose to reside here and the process worked. With Metro coming forth and allowing such activity as Biking and horse back riding to name a few, they are defeating the whole issue of what they claim to stand for. They have crushed the whole significance of living rural among the Natural Resources by those who chose to live here.

The changes we have witnessed over the years are magnificent. The traffic, population, disrespecting the neighborhoods, disturbing the wildlife because of Officials

failing to understand how this all works. The beauty of this area was not designed from a book or biologist that claim to understand its bounty. It is home grown, natural to the wildlife inhabitants of this area and surrounding generations that have lived here and understood how this formation works. To introduce these resources for public use will destroy what has been created.

As TaxPayers and Property Owners for over 40 years and residents of the Skyline area 70 plus years, we feel like we are being imposed on and our concerns are falling on deaf ears. Consider the homeowners who are respectfully asking for respect of our properties as well as the beautiful wildlife that surrounds us. Opening this natural Wildlife Habit to Mountain bikes, picnicking and Horse back riding, among other public interests, will destroy the Wildlife Corridor. The traffic will increase on this narrow, windy road. This beautiful Heaven will bring more bikers, horse trailers and other unknown clutter. More consideration needs to be given to the Property Owners located in this area.

Sincerely,

Larry and Laura Luethe

Laura Luethe
Larry Luethe

October 15, 2017

To whom it may concern:

We are Eric Miller and Mary Dower. We have lived on McNamee Rd for more than 20 years. Eric is an Engineer who has created and managed multiple international software companies based in Multnomah County. Mary is a Clinical Social Worker, who worked extensively in community mental health and private practice in Washington, Columbia and Multnomah counties.

Our home is located on 40 acres of Commercial Forest Use property in the North Tualatin Mountains adjacent to the McCarthy Forest Property.

Since 1997, we have planted almost 3000 native trees and shrubs and done extensive work eradicating invasive species across our property to repair damage from logging operations by previous owners. We did this work, not for financial gain, but to improve the health of the forest and watersheds. We have been rewarded in this effort by seeing a noticeable increase in the wildlife using our property during our decades of work here.

This year we were awarded the Rural Cooperator of the Year by West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) for our land stewardship. We felt that we were working in tandem with Metro's stated goals. Dan Moeller is quoted in the Northwest Examiner from December 2015 stating, "At the heart of our mission is protecting wildlife habitat and water quality."

Doing work to improve our long gravel driveway we have filed Environmental Impact Statements and Hillside Development Permits with Multnomah County and take very seriously the impact of our actions on forest health and water quality.

We have been a part of conversations with Metro for more than ten years regarding the identification, acquisition, and use plan for the 4 properties in the North Tualatin Mountains that were ostensibly purchased to protect water quality and wildlife.

We met at the Skyline Grange. We met at Brook Hill Church. We met at Skyline School. We met at the Linnton Community Center. And we attended multiple meetings downtown at Metro offices.

In the beginning, these meetings were fundamentally focused on identifying watersheds and green spaces that were especially fragile and needed protection from development. Metro repeatedly stated that they wanted to come to the local residents to identify these areas because “the residents know more about the area than Metro does”.

When the ballot measures for acquiring the land were finally submitted, we voted for them, based on Metro’s stated goal of protecting watersheds and other fragile areas.

Then we saw the plans come out for off-road mountain biking trails, parking lots, and bathroom facilities. This was frankly stunning to us, as it seemed to be in direct violation of the original principals under which this property was acquired.

In a 2012 article still posted on the Metro website, Metro spokesman Laura Odom wrote, “To protect natural resources, Metro prohibits ATVs, hunting, biking, horses and dogs at its natural areas.”

We attended a Principal’s Meeting at the Linnton Community Center where a small group of neighbors were first presented with the detailed plans for the Burlington and McCarthy Creek parcels. We began asking about the impact of such extensive new development on the wildlife and watersheds on these parcels, especially the endangered Northern Red-Legged Frog which lives in these forests. We also began asking for Metro to first perform some actual studies of the wildlife in these areas before beginning development.

The response from Metro staff (led by Dan Moeller) seemed contradictory.

- First they said that they knew all of the species that lived there.
- Then they admitted that they had never done any studies because they would be too expensive and not show anything.

- Then they said that their knowledge was based on anecdotal stories from the local residents and that the neighbors knew more than they did.
- Then they stated that their work would actually increase the wildlife in the area because they would open up the forest more.

All of these assertions were unsubstantiated and made without a baseline of knowledge.

A few months later, we attended another meeting at Skyline Elementary School, again led by Dan Moeller, stating these same assertions. At both of these meetings Dan told stories of wanting to have a place to go mountain biking with his son because Mt Hood was too far away.

The only true statement made by Metro in this regard was that the local residents know more about the local wildlife than Metro does. We have compiled a list of dozens of amphibians, reptiles, and mammals that we have identified in our completely unscientific survey of our property. I believe strongly that this is only a fraction of what actually lives here.

We are not against the creation of any recreational parks in the greater Portland area. We are not against mountain biking or horses. We are, however, against the creation of recreational parks in sensitive habitats.

The Burlington and McCarthy Creek forests have several miles of gravel road already available to hikers and bikers. The 40-acres of Ancient Forest adjacent to the Burlington Creek area are unique in our area and should be enjoyed by the public. Our concern is the construction of several miles of new off-road trails.

If Metro wants to create a new Recreational Park, they should approach it directly and honestly, presenting a bond measure for the purpose of creating such a Park. Sell it on its own merits. Don't tell us that we should protect the environment and then do a "bait and switch" to turn the property into a recreational park.

Sincerely,

Eric Miller and Mary Dower

Partial List of Species Observed on our Property

Mammals

Elk
Deer
Coyote
Bobcat
Porcupine
Skunk
Rabbit
Mountain beaver
Mole
Vole
Mouse
Chipmunk
Bat
Gray squirrel

Reptiles/Amphibians

Torrent
Alligator lizard
Rough newt
Rubber boa
Garter snake
Red-legged frog
Tree frog
Oregon salamander

Birds

Anna's Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Pileated Woodpecker
Acorn Woodpecker
Sapsucker
Flicker
Ring-necked Pigeon
Ruffed Grouse
Barred Owl
Great horned owl
Northern Pygmy Owl
Mourning Dove
Stellar Jay
Swainson's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Osprey
Turkey Vulture
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak
Grosbeak
Purple Finch
Spotted Towhee
Varied Thrush
Western Tanager
Robin
Raven
Swainson's Thrush
Junco
Chickadee

October 30, 2017

RE: Metro's Plan for Burlington Creek and McCarthy Creek Forests

My name is Dorinne Pedersen and I live at 13555 NW McNamee Road, Portland, Oregon 97231. I purchased this land in 1991 and began building the home where I live in 1992 and have lived here ever since. One of the big attractions to purchasing this property was the 'wildlife corridor' which maintains and preserves the land for wildlife which includes 12 surrounding properties with 'wildlife corridors.' We all welcome the opportunity to assist wildlife in their travels between Forest Park and the coastal range. It was a good idea as opposed to adopting plans that restrict the lives of wild animals. The time has come to consider other forms of life rather than just the wants and needs of humans.

In my neighborhood I have observed elk peacefully enjoying the area. Every year (without fail) a herd of about 25 to 30 Elk come through in spring and fall to graze and rest without harassment. After a few days they move overnight (never in daylight) and migrate across McNamee to a meadow a few blocks away. One year they arrived in the canyon just below my home for a few days and then overnight they were gone. You never see them arrive and you never see them leave.

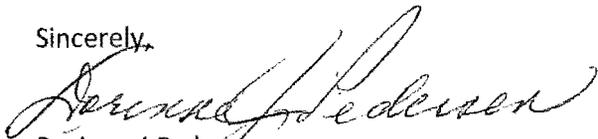
In 25 years I have seen 3 bobcat near my home. (2 adults and 1 juvenile) The juvenile walked the length of the back yard, crying for his mother before he disappeared into the forest. One of the adults casually walked down my driveway and vanished into the forest while the third one was in a field watching for his dinner. I pulled to the side of the road and a once in a lifetime opportunity unfolded.

One cougar made a brief appearance and then darted away never to be seen again. Numerous coyotes live in the canyon as I hear their calls at night. There is a trail through the forest that they follow each night between 10 pm and midnight which is 50 feet north of my home. I appreciate their freedom to live life as a coyote without the fear of interaction with a human who would gladly shoot them.

California Quail are seen quite often and once a Bobwhite on the side of McNamee road.

These statements are honest and accurate. Please consider what happens to wildlife when you introduce people into what is basically a wildlife preserve. There is **no** harm in leaving the area undisturbed with the wildlife living as they have for centuries. Once this area is gone it is gone forever.

Sincerely,



Dorinne J Pedersen
13555 NW McNamee Road
Portland, OR 97231
Ph: 503 515 5121

To whom it may concern:

November 5, 2017

I have lived at 16835 NW Pauly Road, Portland, Oregon with my wife Patty since 1995. Our property is just across from the McCarthy Creek Forest. We live on about 10 acres of land. It is approximately 25% forested and the rest is pasture. I am an optometrist and have been for many years.

We see elk on our property about once per week, frequently in herds of 30 to 40 animals. When I go out on my porch they will all look at me. If I step off the porch they stand up and if I move towards them they begin to move away and quickly vacate the area.

Over the years I have noticed that when elk-hunting season begins the number of elk I see on and near my property increases for a month or so. We live in a no hunting area while

across Cornelius Pass Road hunting is allowed. I believe the elk may also come to eat apples that are in an old orchard on our neighbor's land at the end of Pauly Road.

I have seen elk crossing McNamee Road, but it is not common.

When I have seen elk crossing the road it is just one or two animals and never large groups. I have only seen the elk crossing the road during the early morning hours and at night, and not during the day.

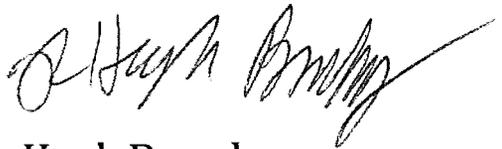
I also see quite a bit of other wildlife on and near our property.

We regularly see bobcats, coyotes, and deer as well as various birds.

About 15 years ago I heard a loud scream, like a woman in distress. I believe that was the scream of a cougar.

Metro has been eradicating blackberries along Pauly Road and replanting Oregon Grape. The elk are eating the Oregon Grape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Brumley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Hugh Brumley

To whom it may concern:

November 5, 2017

I have lived at 16835 NW Pauly Road, Portland, Oregon with my husband Hugh Brumley since 1995. Our property is just across from the McCarthy Creek Forest. We live on about 10 acres of land. It is approximately 25% forested and the rest is pasture.

As my husband has noted in his statement we see elk on our property about once per week frequently in herds of 30 to 40 animals. About 15 years ago I saw about 89 elk on our property.

I too have noticed that over the years that when elk-hunting season begins the number of elk I see on and near my property increases. We live in a no hunting area while across Cornelius Pass Road hunting is allowed.

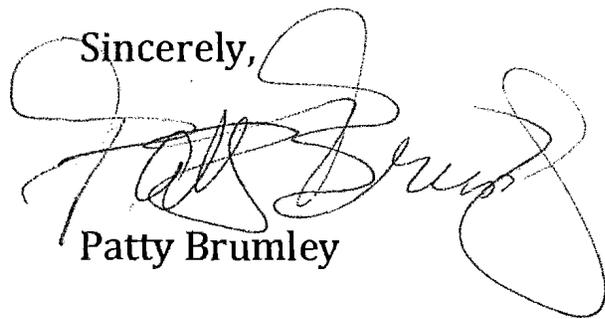
I have not seen elk crossing McNamee Road or other roads in our area, except Pauly Road, which is a lightly traveled gravel road with just a few homes on it. Each of the few homes on Pauly Road is surrounded by acreage and none are close together. If there are elk on our property and I pull into our driveway, which runs through pasture for about 100 or so yards from Pauly Road, the elk begin to move away and leave. They do so quickly, but not at a run. However, when I come down Pauly Road from McNamee Road and there are elk on and near the road they do break into a fast run and sprint away.

I see quite a bit of other wildlife on and near our property. Like my husband I regularly see bobcats, coyotes, deer. About five years ago I saw a cougar on our property. At first I thought it

was a German Shepard dog, but then I noticed the long tail. I saw the cougar long enough to identify it as a cougar.

I have regularly taken photos and videos of the wildlife around our property. I am happy to share my videos and photos with anyone who may be interested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patty Brumley', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,' and above the printed name 'Patty Brumley'.

Patty Brumley

To whom it may concern:

November 6, 2017

I have lived 16430 NW McNamee Rd., Portland, Or. 97231, for about four years. My residence is located about a quarter of a mile up hill from the Burlington Creek Forest. I have lived in the area for many years and have worked for the U. S. Postal Service for many years as a mail delivery person. My route is now Sauvies Island. Up until a few years ago for a period of 15 years I had a route that would take me from Newberry Rd. out to Morgan Road, near the Columbia County line. On my route I also covered Logie Trail and I would go up Cornelius Pass Road to Skyline and then onto McNamee Road.

During all this time I have seen many elk, especially along McNamee Road near the Leuthe residence, which is not far from the area in the McCarthy Creek Forest that the elk use as a calving area. I have seen elk many times on both sides of McNamee all the way from closer to Skyline on McNamee than where the Leuthes live, on down McNamee towards Highway 30. The only area on McNamee that I have not seen elk is where the houses are fairly close together uphill from my residence.

I have walked the loop road with my dogs in the Burlington Creek Forest frequently over the years. I have seen elk in the area of the loop road that is closest to the quarry. I have seen them more frequently near the entrance to Burlington Creek Forest on McNamee where they seem to feed on apples from a tree there. The elk I have seen in Burlington Creek Forest have been in groups of three to six animals. The elk I have seen on McNamee have been both large herds and small groups of elk. The herds have been perhaps in the range of as many as 40 or more animals at a time.

While walking in the Burlington Creek Forest over the years I would regularly see elk droppings and their hoof prints. Over approximately the last year and a half I have not seen nearly as much elk sign. During this time Metro has been thinning the Burlington Creek Forest and I assume engaging in other activity as I see Metro vehicles on the loop road.

I have seen other animals in the McNamee Road area including quite a few bobcats as well coyotes and deer. The deer in my experience are not as skittish when they see human beings as the elk are.

Within the last few years I heard a terrible scream in the woods across from my residence on the other side of McNamee. It was unforgettable and sounded like a woman screaming. I believe it was a mountain lion. It was a piercing scream. I put my chickens in their coop and brought my dogs inside.

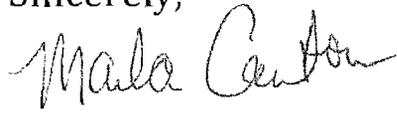
Metro held several meetings at the Skyline Grange and at Skyline School. I believe I went to three of those. Metro had a number of posters regarding their plans for the North Tualatin Mountains at each meeting. I cannot remember which meeting it was or if it was at more than one meeting where I heard the Metro people say that they would not be doing wildlife studies to determine what wildlife was in the area before Metro began constructing the trails, parking lots and other things Metro planned. The people from Metro were saying that it would be too expensive.

A good number of people from the McNamee neighborhood and surrounding area attended the same meetings I did. We spoke with the Metro people there. A number of my neighbors were concerned about what effects Metro's plans might have

on the wildlife in our area. The Metro people did say that the people who lived in the area probably knew more about the wild life in the area than they, the Metro people, did.

In all the years that I have lived here I have never seen elk crossing any roads. I did see a bull elk one time standing in one of the lakes in Burlington Bottoms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marla Canton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Marla Canton

To whom it may concern,

November 8, 2017

I have lived with my husband on Logie Trail Road in northern Multnomah County for 29 years. I have been retired from the company that I owned and operated, Performance Mobility, for seven years. Prior to operating Performance Mobility in NW Portland, I worked at Wells Fargo Bank at the Montgomery Park building for 13 years in a variety of positions including manager of large cash reporting and suspicious reporting.

I hike around my home on Logie Trail Road and in the Burlington Creek Forest. I like to hike along the loop road in the Burlington Creek Forest because it does not get muddy like other trails in the area.

Early on the morning of November 8, 2017, I was hiking along the loop road with my two dogs. I was just finishing and was about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the McNamee gate when I encountered a herd of about 10 elk. I believe they had come down the road from the area of the gate. They were in the first drainage dip on the loop road down from the entrance to the Burlington Creek Forest on McNamee Road.

I tried to get a photo of them but I was unable to get my cell phone positioned quickly enough to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darla Krieske".

Darla Krieske
19105 NW Logie Trail Road
Portland, OR 97231

To whom it may concern

Regarding animals in the North Tualatin areas. I have lived on McNamee since 1988 first serving the corporate world as a consultant, although today I am retired. I walk the trails and road daily, and my property borders Metro land. Of note, on the three-mile trail on lower McNamee I have seen dead, poached deer, and have seen deer from time to time wandering up from the Metro land onto my property as well as raccoons, coyotes and other smaller species. Surprisingly, this past spring a bear wandered through our neighborhood rummaging through garbage and was captured and removed. At that time an article appeared that stated bears had not been seen in Forest Park since 1985. Clearly the presence of major wildlife in the watershed has been underestimated.

In addition, a neighbor and I had to break up a biking trail complete with crude jumping ramps on the Metro property just adjacent to my land. I fear that bicyclists will do more damage to the habitat if they are encouraged to use the planned biking trails, particularly since they have a hard time just sticking to the designated trails.

Yours in conservation, Richard J GILKESON 16448 NW McNamee Rd.

Richard J Gilkeson
1/13/2018

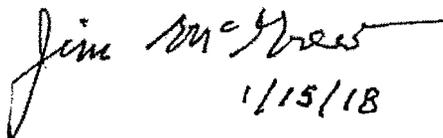
I have lived on 66 acres on McNamee Rd for forty years and my land has been in my family since 1904. My land borders Ennis Creek Forest and the Angel Brothers Quarry. I have observed the wildlife in my neighborhood for many years and am well familiar with this area and on my own land. I have been a structural engineer in practice for several decades.

I am communicating to you regarding the intensive network of multi-user trails planned for what is now being called the McCarthy Creek and Burlington Creek Forests.

I am not at all opposed to giving people access to lands that Metro has acquired. Nor am I opposed to mountain bikers. I was young once too. These forests are not the place for any of the new trails proposed for several reasons. They are far too intense and fragment the habitats in each of these forests. These forests have been the sanctuaries for wildlife in this area. While private land holdings dominate this area they are no substitute as sanctuaries. The private landowners here use their land for a variety of things. For instance, I logged half my land 25 years ago. I am authorized to build three homes on my land. I am presently contemplating building one for my daughter. Some of my neighbors raise, livestock, others grow crops and harvest timber as well. Some have horse farms. The quarry expands with each building boom and will eventually expand close to McNamee Road itself leaving a gaping hole in the landscape. Although wildlife adapts, it is not endlessly adaptable and there is no doubt that the uses on the private holdings are disruptive to wildlife. In this regard, Metro's failure to even inventory the wildlife here, let alone make an assessment of how many users it expects on the proposed trails, certainly puts the cart before the horse, and frankly it is neglectful.

Metro asked the voters to approve millions of dollars based on its promise to preserve and protect wildlife and its habitat. It appears to me that Metro has made an inadequate effort to do so. This is particularly concerning because these forests are very important to the continued vitality of wildlife in Forest Park.

Sincerely,
Jim McGrew



1/15/18

November 17, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Hans Koch and I live at 13253 NW McNamee Road with my wife, three children and elderly mother. I am writing out of concern over Metro's proposals to develop their recently acquired properties in the North Tualatin Mountains, including their land holdings at McCarthy Creek and Burlington Creek.

I currently work as a firefighter, paramedic and HAZMAT technician for Portland Fire & Rescue. Previously, I spent ten years working as a scientist at the Vollum Institute and Neurological Sciences institute at OHSU. I hold a B.S. degree in Biology from the University of California as well as a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Montana.

I have lived in and around the North Tualatin Mountains for over ten years, including three years at my family's current residence and eight years on a forty-acre farm on Sauvie Island. I have frequented Forest Park and the Tualatin Mountains since moving to Portland over seventeen years ago and am an avid road cyclist, mountain biker, climber, hiker and runner.

Initially, as a homeowner in the area and outdoor enthusiast, I was excited to learn about Metro's land acquisition in the North Tualatin Mountains. I believed – as virtually everyone I spoke with in my community did - that Metro's overriding intention was to protect wildlife and preserve wildlife habitat. After witnessing first hand how wildlife has diminished in Forest Park due to high traffic on biking and running trails, I felt that Metro was doing a great public service by purchasing land with the intention of preserving, rather than exploiting, animal habitat. These primary goals of habitat and species preservation were unequivocally stated on the Metro website, in tri-county bond/levy measure pamphlets, and in person to community members such as myself at public meetings.

Yet recently I have learned more about Metro's in-depth plans from speaking with Metro employees and reading their proposals for development of their properties in the Tualatin Mountains. I have realized that a deep hypocrisy exists between these current public use plans and their previously published and voter-approved intentions to preserve and protect wildlife habitat.

Before I provide evidence of the blatant disparities I have witnessed between Metro's voter-approved goals and their current land-management plans and practices, let me provide some background on the presence of wildlife in the Tualatin Hills. In the relatively short time that my family has lived on McNamee Road, we have seen elk herds of fifty head, multiple bobcat, great horned owl, fledgling red tail hawks, eagles, cougar, and the red-legged frogs that cross McNamee Road near Burlington Creek. Last spring a 6 year old female black bear was captured on a neighbor's land adjacent to McCarthy Creek after destroying a number of bee hives, including several of my own (see image below). Coyote and deer frequent our land and Metro's as well – wildlife simply flourishes in this

area - and none of the animals we have seen are acclimated to human presence (they scatter and/or bolt at the first sign of people entering their habitat).



Given the wild nature of this section of the Tualatin Mountains and the large amount of acreage that remains uninhabited by humans, Metro's plans to infiltrate their land with public use trails will not bode well for the animals here. Common sense alone, not to mention decades of wildlife studies, suggest that the development of parking lots, viewpoints, miles of trails, and mountain biking will all disturb wildlife and diminish their presence on Metro-owned land. If Metro truly desires to preserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats, as they claim, they need to abandon their plans to convert these wild areas into public use spaces.

For example, Metro has extensively outlined the details of a plan to turn a well-known elk calving ground on McNamee Road into a parking lot and viewpoint for public visitors. Community members have contacted Metro representatives repeatedly with evidence of the extensive way elk herds have used this land for decades (for calving, grazing and sleeping), yet Metro has plowed forward with invasive land management practices in this area that have disrupted the natural behavior of the local elk herd.

This particular elk herd frequented Metro land and was often seen from afar by locals until Metro began "managing" their forest by cutting down trees and spraying invasive species. Since tree thinning and spraying began, we have noticed a dramatic decline in elk

visitations. When we have seen elk, they travel in four to six animals compared to the forty to fifty regularly observed in years past.

Furthermore, during forestry work contracted by Metro on their McCarthy Creek land, foresters flagged elk trails and then proceeded to lay felled trees down across them. Miles of timber lying across the forest floor, directly across established travel routes, obviously makes movement by the herd incredibly difficult. Studies have shown that elk dislike climbing over debris as much as humans do. In addition to the blatant obstruction and destruction of elk trails, the forestry practices in McCarthy Creek by Metro contractors have also left many acres of dangerous ladder fuels. Rather than bucking the downed timber into smaller pieces and placing in direct contact with the forest floor, contractors often left timber in piles elevated off the ground. In my experienced capacity as a firefighter, I can say without hesitation that this negligent practice creates hazardous wildfire conditions.

Were the trails obliterated intentionally? If not, was it just complete lack of oversight by Metro and negligent forestry practice that led to these foresters destroying well-established elk trails? Or was it both? At the very least, felling trees and leaving them as elevated logs across elk trails suggests Metro's disregard for wildlife habitat as well as public welfare by creating a wildfire hazard (see images below).



These pictures (above and below) show the previously well-established and regularly frequented elk trails that are now completely blocked with downed timber, much of which is elevated off the ground and remains as potentially dangerous ladder fuels for wildfires.







In addition, Metro has proposed to construct mountain biking trails through prime elk habitat at the same location. I have personally been a mountain biker for over twenty-five years and have often startled wildlife while riding. I have almost never startled wildlife while hiking. Bikes are quiet and fast, allowing them to approach animals quickly and without warning, causing animals much greater stress than they would feel while casually sauntering away from a hiker. In addition, mountain bike trails ultimately are single-use trails, making them attractive to only a small sliver of the general public. I would never feel comfortable hiking a trail that is shared-use with bikers with my small children or elderly mother. Just as it is dangerous for animals to encounter bikes on trails, it is highly dangerous for hikers.

To destroy pristine wildlife habitat and force elk and other animals out of the area so that a negligible number of Portland mountain bikers will have trails to ride just minutes from available trails in Forest Park is contradictory to Metro's goals, as well as to the intentions of voters who approved funding for Metro's Tualatin Mountain land acquisitions.

Notably, Metro's McCarthy Creek holding is zoned by Multnomah County as protected wildlife habitat, which further emphasizes the need to reduce human presence on this land.

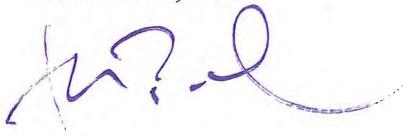
Just a few miles down the road at Burlington Creek, Metro intends to develop their land holding even more invasively. While I don't have the same first-hand knowledge of this location as I do about McCarthy Creek, which again, sits adjacent to my own land, I know from concerned neighbors that wildlife frequents Burlington Creek in the same way they frequent McCarthy Creek. In addition, the zoning on Burlington Creek by Multnomah County is equally contradictory to trail development – it has overlay zoning of erosion control and slope hazard. And of course it is also zoned as protected wildlife habitat.

Lastly, the concept of barring dogs from Metro lands because they are a threat to wildlife, while simultaneously proposing trail access to mountain bikes, which are equally – if not more – disruptive to habitat and wildlife, is completely hypocritical. I feel that this is further evidence that Metro is acquiescing to the desires of a very small special interest group and does not truly have the interest of wildlife and the general public in mind.

I strongly suggest, for these reasons, that Multnomah County reject Metro's revision to the master plan.

Sincerely,

Hans Koch, Ph.D



November 17, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lindsey Laughlin and I live at 13253 NW McNamee Rd. I am writing out of deep concern for Metro's proposed plan to transform both its Burlington Creek Forest and McCarthy Creek Forest land holdings into public use areas. In particular, I have deep concerns about the proposed development of a "viewpoint trail" and a "viewpoint trailhead" at the McCarthy Creek Forest – developments that Metro is planning for a segment of land that is a well-known and documented elk calving ground.

Here is a little background: my nearly nineteen-acre property sits adjacent to Metro's four hundred-acre McCarthy Creek land parcel. When my family and I moved here three years ago, we regularly observed wildlife entering and traversing our property from Metro land, including bobcat, coyote and elk. I personally saw a cougar crossing McNamee Road while I was driving home one Autumn night, and a black bear was trapped by ODFW at our neighbor's house this past July. Wildlife abounds in this area.

My husband is a hazmat firefighter and paramedic with Portland Fire & Rescue. He also has a PhD in pharmacology and worked as a scientist at OHSU for eight years. We have three young children whom I currently homeschool, and I am the founder and organizer of Homeschool PDX, a group of over six hundred homeschooling families in the Portland area. I organize everything from science classes to tree-identification hikes for members of this group. My education includes a B.S. degree from the University of California at Davis with majors in physics, neuroscience and philosophy.

Before I became a homeschooling mother, I worked as a science writer for Turnstone Environmental Consultants in Portland, OR, and before that I worked as an electronics technician at a biotech firm, TriTech Research, in Los Angeles, CA.

My husband and I are both athletes and love living so close to the trails in Forest Park – I run marathons and he runs and cycles – so we have a deep appreciation for both the need to preserve natural spaces and the desire to utilize them for human recreation.

With all of that in mind, we are adamantly opposed to Metro's plan to increase human presence on their McCarthy Creek Forest and Burlington Creek Forest properties. Here is why:

As stated in Metro's voter approved 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure 26-80, a primary purpose of Metro's McCarthy Creek land purchase was to **maintain both a wildlife habitat and wildlife corridor** throughout the Tualatin Hills.

Yet, since Metro began spraying invasive species, replanting native plants, and thinning trees in the McCarthy Creek Forest (work that began approximately two years ago) we have clearly noticed a decrease in wildlife sightings. Where we used to regularly observe a herd of nearly fifty elk sleeping in our field and grazing on Metro land, we now only

observe small herds of just eight to twelve elk that appear infrequently. Wildlife, especially elk, already seems to be vacating because of the increased presence of activity on land they are accustomed to occupying without human interference.

The exact wording in Metro's 2006 Natural Areas Bond Measure 26-80 regarding the measure's purpose was to **"preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife"** (pg. 1) In particular, stakeholders had the following concerns that led them to want to protect wildlife:

- Wildlife corridors ... down-slope of Forest Park into the Tualatin Valley are very important
- East/west wildlife corridors (Forest Park to Tualatin Valley) are just as important as north/south corridors (Forest Park to Coast Range)
- [There are currently] minimal regulations to protect upland habitat
- **[There are] potential conflicts between wildlife and people using trails**

Additionally, public opinion regarding the specific purposes of the bond measure included the following:

- [We must] ... consider that the elk herds use both the riparian areas and the open uplands and upland mature woods. [We must] protect some connected "stepping stone" forest and fields.

Voters did not approve the Natural Areas Acquisition Refinement Plan for the Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway Target Area with the intention of destroying conserved wildlife habitat in favor of public access to Metro-owned lands. In fact, they approved it for exactly the opposite purpose – to protect, preserve, improve and restore wildlife habitat and tributaries in and around the Tualatin Mountains.

In 2012, Measure 26-152 was approved by voters for nearly identical reasons -- to continue the process of restoring wildlife habitat and improving water quality on the lands that Metro had previously purchased with bond funds. The following is taken directly from a 2012 voter pamphlet:

Result of a "yes" vote [on Measure 26-152]:

- Improve water quality in local rivers and streams for salmon and other native fish including the Clackamas, Sandy, Tualatin rivers; Fanno, Johnson creeks.
- Restore wildlife habitat and remove weeds that choke plants wildlife need for food and shelter.
- Restore wetlands and floodplains to control flooding, provide habitat for birds and amphibians.
- Construct or replace capital projects in parks, such as restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds.
- Provide nature education programs in natural areas to visitors and school-aged children.

On page 14 of the complete Natural Areas and Parks Local Option Levy document (a page which was not viewed by the public), there is only a single comment that refers to the possibility of mountain bicycling in particular being considered as a way to “improve parks and nature areas for people”. The pertinent language is as follows:

Agency Creek/McCarthy Creek | Map location B

Various parcels near to but outside of Forest Park are currently or could be used by walkers or cyclists to access nature close to Portland. Access to the site is challenging and there may be opportunities to enhance use. **Over the past decade the demand for single-track mountain biking trails has increased.** This project would explore the potential to provide quality cycling and hiking experiences for formal single track cycling and walking trails, and **as appropriate, construct the facilities.**

Metro is clearly feeling pressured by the mountain bicyclist community – as stated above, this special interest group “demands” more single-track trails to use, presumably in the forested areas around Portland. What happens when Metro begins to take the demands of ATV users or dirt bicyclists to heart? Will Metro alter its voter-approved goals midstream in order to capitulate to these groups as well?

It is simply impossible to claim that voter-approved money from the 1995, 2006 and 2013 measures was obtained with the purpose of prioritizing the needs of a very small group of people ahead of the stated goals of preserving natural areas and protecting wildlife.

The elk herd that regularly visited our land and Metro’s includes approximately fifty animals. They enter our land via well-established wildlife trails that crisscross Metro’s adjacent land.

Of huge concern to local residents is that these elk annually calve in the very fields that Metro (1) proposes to turn into a parking lot for visiting bicyclists and recreational land users, and (2) recently replanted with native trees and plants.





Notice, in the second picture, the blue tubing – this herd was seen almost daily in the McCarthy Creek fields off of McNamee Road that Metro recently replanted.

Metro's well-intended replanting of those fields with native plants has significantly decreased the availability of open land for calving, grazing and sleeping. The spraying that Metro has done to reduce weeds has further disrupted elk feeding grounds and increases the animals' risk of developing hoof rot¹. We have seen multiple cows hobbling through our fields unable to keep up with the herd – is this the first sign of these elk being adversely affected by Metro's presence on the land? Just how will these wild animals fare when their prime habitat is invaded by a constant human presence?

My family has an easement to use Metro's road to access the upper portion of our property. Recently, I was walking along this road and I inadvertently surprised nearly fifty elk, as they lay nestled in the fields sleeping. I was alone, quietly walking – not barreling along a trail on a mountain bike or even hiking and chatting with friends – and my unexpected presence resulted in *the entire herd stampeding out of the area*. It is easy to imagine how these elk might respond to increased human presence in their habitat – they would abandon it.

¹ http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/fp_rules_eis_app_j.pdf (Appendix J, Forest Chemicals)

In the last three years, my children, husband and I have learned to not even open our windows – let alone step out onto a deck or walk within site of elk when they are in our field – because they immediately feel threatened and bolt for the cover of the forest. They are not accustomed to people, and are more likely to abandon habitat that holds the potential of a human threat than they are to acclimate to that habitat.

Research done by the Miistakis Institute in Calgary for the Canada Parks system in 2010, confirms my point²:

MOUNTAIN BIKING EFFECTS ON WILDLIFE

Recreational activity can affect wildlife in three main ways (Liddle 1997):

1. Stress/Disturbance: Wildlife becomes aware of human activity, and respond by becoming stressed, altering their behaviour, avoiding (fleeing) areas of activity, or confronting/attacking humans. Such responses may detrimentally affect the fitness of an individual or a population. Displacement of animals by recreational disturbance may be short term (i.e., minutes or hours) or permanent.

2. Alteration of Habitat: The presence of human activity and/or infrastructure serves to remove or fragment habitat for wildlife, or can create artificial habitat which elicits change in population dynamics or encroachment of new species/populations.

3. Collision/Mortality: Wildlife is struck by humans or their vehicles, resulting in injury or death.

Furthermore, page 5 of this same article states the following:

The effects of mountain biking on wildlife are primarily related to habitat alteration as a result of impact to soils and vegetation, as well as disturbance of daily or seasonal habitat use. The significance of the disturbance is related to the type, timing, intensity, duration and spatial distribution of use. **One of the most significant characteristics of mountain biking as a form of wildlife disturbance is a result of the potential relative speed and silence of the activity. A relatively fast moving, quiet mountain biker may approach an animal without being detected until well within the normal “flight response zone” . The result may be a severe startle response by the wildlife species with significant consequences to the animal and/or the mountain biker.**

Metro employee Robert Spurlock claimed in a telephone call to our neighbor that mountain bicyclists will *not* adversely affect elk herds in this area. The Oregon Game Commission may state this to be true, as Spurlock claims (he has not responded to my

² Mountain Biking: A Review of the Ecological Effects (Michael Quinn et al., 2010)

inquiry for more information), but scientific research and personal experience strongly suggest otherwise.

In 2006, a thesis study was conducted by Leslie Naylor of Oregon State University entitled Behavioral responses of Rocky Mountain Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) to recreational disturbances. The following excerpt outlines what the study entailed and concluded:

Resting, feeding, and travel activities of 13 cow elk were recorded at 5-minute intervals using Actiwatch™ motion sensors. Elk were subjected to four types of recreational disturbance: all-terrain vehicles (ATV), mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. Individual disturbance activities were recorded for five consecutive days following a nine day control period of no human activity. Elk alternated their activity budgets between feeding and resting bouts during the controls, with little time spent traveling. **Travel time increased during the disturbances** and was highest in the mornings. **Traveling was significantly different among disturbances and was greatest for ATV, followed by mountain biking**, hiking, and horseback riding. Feeding time decreased during the ATV disturbance and resting decreased during mountain biking and hiking in 2003. Elk returned to behavior patterns similar to those of the controls once each disturbance ended.

Two things are clear so far: (1) voters did not approve Metro's use of bond and levy funds for development that compromises conserved wildlife habitat; and (2) constructing public use facilities, such as bathrooms and a parking lot, as well as mountain biking and/or hiking trails will compromise elk habitat in the McCarthy Creek Forest and alter their behavior.

If these reasons aren't enough to forego plans to transform McCarthy Creek land into a public use area, consider what the acreage is zoned for. As you certainly know, it has a base zone rating of Commercial Forest Use (CFU-1 and CFU-2). It also has multiple overlay zones, including Wildlife Habitat Conservation (SEC-h), Stream Conservation (SEC-s), Hillside Development and Erosion Control (HD), and Slope Hazard.

While Commercial Forest Use includes the use of land for limited forest-related recreation, the overlay zones SEC-h, SEC-s, HD and Slope Hazard restrict any and all development on this land. In particular, mountain biking and/or hiking trails will:

- (1) Irreversibly damage conserved wildlife habitat, including well-established elk calving, feeding, and sleeping grounds³
- (2) adversely affect the very upland tributaries you aim to protect by increasing run-off from manmade trails, as well as herbicide-laden run-off from the spraying you are currently doing to suppress weed growth
- (3) contribute to soil erosion in a hillside area

³ "Numerous studies have shown both Rocky Mountain and Roosevelt elk are sensitive to human disturbances" [Rowland, et al., 2000].

(4) be nearly impossible to engineer safely given the slope hazard rating of the land (mountain bike trails require trail slopes of a maximum 15% grade - your land has grades of greater than 25%).

Metro is not only asking voters to ignore a huge discrepancy between their stated goals and actual goals, but they are asking Multnomah County to allow them to develop land that is zoned for wildlife and stream habitat conservation. Furthermore, they are proposing to introduce a recreational activity known to contribute to soil erosion to land that has both a slope hazard rating and a hillside development and erosion control overlay zone.

Clearly, Metro's choice of activities to pursue on the McCarthy Creek land parcel is misguided. Perhaps it is time to go back to the drawing board and readdress the priorities of Measure 26-152 as stated in the Natural Areas and Parks Local Option Levy document on page 7, under the heading "Improving Natural Areas for People".

Criteria for priority setting

Projects to be funded are assessed according to the following criteria. Although they reflect a general priority order, all criteria will not apply to every project.

- **Habitat protection:** The project reduces or eliminates visitors' negative impact on sensitive habitats.
- **Safety:** The project addresses a safety concern with current or future site access.
- **Light touch:** The project includes basic improvements such as trails and signage. The project is not capital intensive and avoids a significant increase to ongoing operating costs.
- **Enhanced stewardship:** The project provides access for volunteer and environmental education groups that will promote learning and stewardship.
- **Outdoor experience:** The project improves access to a natural area with a high quality outdoor experience. Activities beyond hiking and walking, such as boating and fishing, might be accommodated.
- **Equity:** The project improves opportunities to connect with nature in areas with a high concentration of low-income people and people of color who currently have poor access.

Presumably the caveat "all criteria will not apply to every project" means that Metro-owned land parcels with fewer resident wildlife species will not be given a top priority of "habitat protection." In these cases, and as the wording on this page suggests, Metro's second priority, safety, will move to the top position on the priority list.

However, when making decisions about the land use options for a parcel of land that is visibly bursting with thriving, undisturbed wildlife, this list confirms that Metro should place a higher priority on the protection of these species and the preservation of their habitat than they do on outdoor experiences for people. "Outdoor experience" is Metro's second to last priority, in fact.

It seems safe to assume that Metro will only prioritize the outdoor experiences of humans over the protection of wildlife when a parcel of land is much more accommodating to humans than to animals. This is yet another reason that the McCarthy Creek acreage – with a slope hazard rating and overlay zone of hillside erosion control – is unsuitable for

development and human use.

And if this doesn't clarify the priorities Metro stated to the public clearly enough, they confirmed them yet again on the comment form they passed out at the May 6th open house at Skyline Elementary School – question #4 begins with the statement, **“Protecting habitat, streams and biodiversity corridors in the North Tualatin Mountains is Metro’s first priority.”**

In reference to “explor[ing] the potential to provide quality cycling and hiking experiences for formal single track cycling and walking trails”, Measure 26-152 states **“as appropriate, construct the facilities”**. McCarthy Creek land is clearly *not* an appropriate choice.

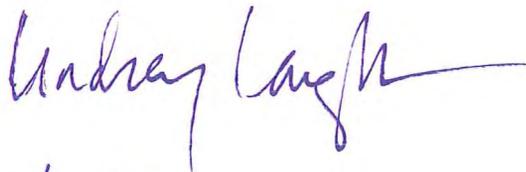
In addition to the concerns I have regarding McCarthy Creek Forest, I am concerned about Metro’s plans to develop the Burlington Creek Forest, which is about a mile and a half from my house. The Burlington Creek Forest is not as visible as the McCarthy Creek Forest because there are no open meadows that border it. However, given the similarities in habitat between the two forests, and Burlington Creek Forest’s proximity to the Burlington Bottoms, the Burlington Creek Forest is as significant a wildlife habitat as the McCarthy Creek Forest.

Burlington Creek has the same (or worse) slope and erosion hazards as the McCarthy Creek Forest. And of more concern, Metro’s development plans for the Burlington Creek Forest are even more invasive than those planned for the McCarthy Creek Forest. I am concerned, given the changes I have already observed at McCarthy Creek regarding wildlife presence and behavior, that Metro’s plans for the Burlington Creek Forest are going to be equally as damaging for the land and resident species, if not more so.

As a concerned citizen, I will personally not vote for future levy’s proposed by Metro if this development comes to pass. I will do everything in my power to convince fellow voters to withhold their votes as well. We voted for our lands to be protected and conserved for the greater good of *all* Tri-county residents, now and in the future - not turned into recreational parks for the entertainment of a few.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Laughlin



1/21/18

January 15, 2018

Dear County Commissioners:

I have lived up on McNamee Rd for over 25 years. It is a very special place that we have all enjoyed for its bio-diversity. It is home to elk, bobcat, and a more rare spotting of cougar and bear. It is a seasonal highlight to see the elk with their young calves grazing in the fields around our neighborhood. The bobcats are definitely more shy, but I do have pictures of them hunting across the street in the McCarthy Creek area.

These are sensitive habitats that cannot be stressed to the level that Metro has proposed. All one has to do is look at an aerial map to appreciate the narrow band of protected forest that connects the Coast Range to Forest Park. This is a wildlife corridor that will disappear if allowed to develop with mountain bike trails and supportive infrastructure.

I have heard the statements that the wildlife will adapt to the increase in human presence, and adapt they will. They will no longer frequent the area once seen as a safe protected area. Why do you think there are fences at the official Elk Viewing locations on the way to the Coast? What do you think would happen if people were allowed to walk out into those areas to take photos, not to mention careening through the fields on mountain bikes?

There are many days I see cars stopping to view the Elk in the fields off McNamee Rd. I think that it is great that people can enjoy the pleasure of seeing these incredible animals. But if they were to get out of their cars and venture out through the area the elk would run off in a flash. Bobcat are even more elusive.

These are examples of the more obvious animals that are hard to miss. What about all the smaller wildlife that makes up the unique bio-diversity of this special locale? Birds, amphibians, and the diverse insect populations are all important to a healthy habitat. There is no denying that Metro's proposal for access to more trails and mountain bikes is nothing more than a Mountain Bike Park. The volume of trails in such a confined area will have a devastating affect on the local ecosystem.

As an active mountain biker, hiker and outdoor enthusiast I can find no justification in Metro's attempt to invade such a natural resource for our entire Greater Portland Community. I have read through material that Metro has presented to warrant their position to develop the various areas of the Tualatin Mountain acquisitions. It is imperative that we look at the science and real facts regarding the impacts of Metro's proposals for the area. Save Forest Park Corridor has worked hard to provide credible supporting documentation which debunks many of Metro's claims. I am confident that after reviewing the real impacts of Metro's proposal, the commission will not allow the project to proceed.

Respectfully,



Elliot Michael
13236 NW McNamee Rd
Portland, OR 97231

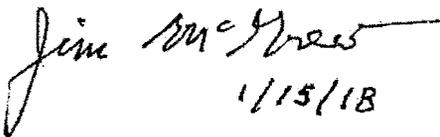
I have lived on 66 acres on McNamee Rd for forty years and my land has been in my family since 1904. My land borders Ennis Creek Forest and the Angel Brothers Quarry. I have observed the wildlife in my neighborhood for many years and am well familiar with this area and on my own land. I have been a structural engineer in practice for several decades.

I am communicating to you regarding the intensive network of multi-user trails planned for what is now being called the McCarthy Creek and Burlington Creek Forests.

I am not at all opposed to giving people access to lands that Metro has acquired. Nor am I opposed to mountain bikers. I was young once too. These forests are not the place for any of the new trails proposed for several reasons. They are far too intense and fragment the habitats in each of these forests. These forests have been the sanctuaries for wildlife in this area. While private land holdings dominate this area they are no substitute as sanctuaries. The private landowners here use their land for a variety of things. For instance, I logged half my land 25 years ago. I am authorized to build three homes on my land. I am presently contemplating building one for my daughter. Some of my neighbors raise livestock, others grow crops and harvest timber as well. Some have horse farms. The quarry expands with each building boom and will eventually expand close to McNamee Road itself leaving a gaping hole in the landscape. Although wildlife adapts, it is not endlessly adaptable and there is no doubt that the uses on the private holdings are disruptive to wildlife. In this regard, Metro's failure to even inventory the wildlife here, let alone make an assessment of how many users it expects on the proposed trails, certainly puts the cart before the horse, and frankly it is neglectful.

Metro asked the voters to approve millions of dollars based on its promise to preserve and protect wildlife and its habitat. It appears to me that Metro has made an inadequate effort to do so. This is particularly concerning because these forests are very important to the continued vitality of wildlife in Forest Park.

Sincerely,
Jim McGrew


1/15/18

Dear METRO Counsellor,

I am a 37-year Oregon resident and voter who has lived in Sandy, West Linn, Dunthorpe, and now 15 years in downtown Portland. I voted for the two bond measures for Metro's land acquisitions that includes parcels west of Forest Park. I am an active biking, hiking enthusiast for over the last 15 years, and presently volunteer for wetland restoration and trail maintenance in the Mt Hood and Gorge forests. I have used the streets and bike paths (Portland, Banks-Vernonia, Springwater corridor, and I-205) commuting to work clocking 25 miles roundtrips. I have hiked on local trails in the Forest Park, Mt Adams, Mt Hood and the coast range for years now. I volunteer for log outs and trail maintenance with the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

I am disappointed with recent Metro proposals that shift from preserve, protect and improve the natural spaces in the recent acquisitions west of Forest Park to a focus on recreational uses in the newest parcels west of Forest Park. When I voted for Metro funding for the land purchase that was to provide habitat and a corridor of animals, red-legged frogs, mammals, birds and elk, and cleaner water for salmon, I feel **betrayed** to understand there were already conceptual plans to add bike trails, hiking and facilities in those areas that would have a deleterious effect on the animals, and plants that is different than the original vision.

1. The Pacific Crest Trails accommodates the hikers, campers, and horses with continuous trail maintenance provided primarily by volunteers under the supervision of the Mt Hood chapter of the Pacific Crest Trail Association. This popular trail system is impacted by its users. Without the generous support of the volunteers, access would be difficult. **Hiking, biking and horse impacts** are clear in the many natural spaces in the area. Having hiked in the Brown's Camp area, I have seen the environmental impact of the ATVs and bikes to the trails alone that adds to the fragility of the trails themselves, compaction, erosion, in addition to safety issues when trails are shared. I can speak from experience as I have been part of multiple trail crews that have maintained and repaired damage by all users. I have been able to see firsthand how each user group impacts the trails systems differently. After reviewing the proposed plans, it is clear that **the emphasis is on recreational activities** as the proposed trails are designed with the most deleterious impacts by users combined with rainfall.
2. There are clear **safety** issues that should not be ignored when considering shared trails. Having experienced near-miss bike-hiker collisions shared and pedestrian only trails, proposals for shared trails is problematic, if not a terrible idea. Biker events in Forest Park, Brown's Camp, Bear Springs, and Larch Mt have reinforced my personal

experience with co-use planning and lack of compliance with 'rules of the road.' I have not yet been to the Sandy Ridge trail but will visit soon.

I went to **Powell Butte** which is an expansive park that had accommodations for co-sharing trails and interviewed 3 adults last week. The adults had leashed dog and lived in the neighborhood and were users for years. There was unanimity of opinion about their concerns of the dangers to themselves and their leashed dogs that bikers moving a fast speeds on the paved areas frequently ignored their safety and under-recognized the startling effect of bikes on dogs. As most bikers wanted a more adventurous experience on the trails in the forested area which provided some less chance of collisions, most bikers went to that area of the park. It is clear that additional cedar fencing was placed in areas in which bikers created shortcuts off the paved paths to redirect them on the main path on their return to the kiosk area. I presume they don't understand, as I was told, that most of the bird species are ground nesters, so their activity was disrupting that habitat.

3. The impact on trails by all activities must be matched by adequate **maintenance**. My observation, in all the areas that I have hiked, has been that the lack of funding for maintenance for most of the Forest Park, state and federal forest trail systems will continue into the future as it depends on volunteers and prisoners. Opening up extensive trails in the newly acquired properties when maintenance is inadequate in Forest Park already I think is a bad idea. The damage from bikes is much greater than hikers, but both have impacts: trail damage, trash, noise and introduction of invasive species. In relations to the Forest Park and environs, the maintenance cost of trails is apparently not sustainable within the present budgets, as I have noted on the delays of replacement of the bridge on the Maple trail in Forest Park, and deeply rutted Firelane 5 due to water erosion, lack of maintenance and bikes and other areas that has existed for the last few years.

If the most recent **bond measures in 2006 and 2013 funded were intended for acquisition, preservation, and improvement of habitat**, the plans proposed for recreation was not intended by the voters. It seemed logical to consider creating a habitat corridor so I voted for the measures. It was my understanding that the Powell Butte property was underused by bikers from the interviews of neighbors. The bicycle trails, though in more distant locations, at Stubbs Park, Brown's camp, Mt Hood, Sandy Ridge and Bear Springs trails are challenging and already in place for the advanced off-road bikers.

I can appreciate the difficulty of balancing the positions of users that presumably are polarized, but overall, the acquisitions were purportedly promoted for preservation, the

present planning is destructive and short-sighted when sufficient sites already provide offerings for all the stakeholders, hikers, bikers and naturalists. I object to the present proposals on the basis of intentions, habitat destruction, lack of maintenance, and safety issues described.

Respectfully,

David Moiel, M.D.

820 NW 12th Avenue, #604, Portland Oregon 97209

January 15, 2018

Dear METRO Counsellor,

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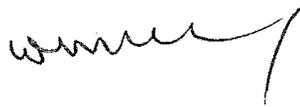
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Moiel', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke and a vertical line extending downwards from the end.

Respectfully,

David Moiel, M.D.

820 NW 12th Avenue, #604, Portland Oregon 97209

Statement of Hank McCurdy

Feb. 3, 2018

PHOTOS

Introduction

I have lived on McNamee Road for 26 year and my wife and I raised our three sons here. My 43 acres has a common, 900-foot east boundary with the Burlington Creek Forest (BCF). My land is part of the watershed for Burlington Bottoms. A branch of Burlington Creek starts on my land.

Until the last few years I have been a lifetime avid road cyclists. I have toured many parts of Oregon. I have completed numerous double centuries, mostly in California. I would often commute to my law office downtown during the spring and summer. I see cycling as a means to combat global warming. I do not oppose mountain biking in environmentally responsible places.

I am a retired lawyer. I have taught college locally. I hold a PhD in social and economic history from the University of Cambridge.

I attended four meetings at which various Metro planners and scientists were present. I listened and asked questions. I have also spoken to numerous residents who live in the Skyline and McNamee Road area.

I. Metro's admissions: Putting the Cart Before the Horse

- a. *Public involvement in the process: significantly a charade and public relations ploy*

- 1.) the so-called survey

One "survey" that Metro claims to have done consisted of asking local residents who attended one of Metro's open houses concerning its plans for its four North Tualatin Mountains Forests, some 30-35 local people, to put a green sticky on a map where they had seen elk.

At the stakeholder's meeting I attended as an observer I commented that Metro was "putting the cart before the horse" because Metro's knowledge of the wildlife in the area was, by its own admission, poor. I stated that a proper survey of wildlife should be done before the trails plans were proposed. The Metro scientist in attendance had admitted that the local residents probably knew more about the wildlife in the area than Metro did.

Robert Spurlock, a Metro planner in attendance, commented that the local residents had been surveyed. I stopped speaking because that surprised me. I had been a resident in the area at that time for 24 years and had never heard that there had been any survey. I asked Mr. Spurlock to send me a copy of the survey and any analysis that had been done of the results. He told me he could not do so because the survey had consisted of nothing more than residents putting green dots where they had seen elk as related above.

2.) local knowledge ignored

Metro staff has repeatedly admitted the residents know more about the wildlife in the area than Metro does. But Metro has, to this point, ignored it.

3.) stakeholder “involvement”

While Metro has consulted with certain local “stakeholders,” they are a group selected by Metro who did not formally approve or disapprove the plans. Rather, the claim that the stakeholders have “weighed in” appears to be designed to give Metro cover for its claim to have adequately involved the public. Specifically, at the end of the stakeholder’s meeting that I attended as an observer, I overheard one of the planners say to two people as the meeting was breaking up, that they, Metro, were the experts, and just had to do things like the stakeholder’s meeting so they could say that they had obtained public input.

The indisputable facts require that an independent assessment of the wildlife before any trials plans are implemented

Metro's has admitted in its 2014 Site Conservation Plans for these forests that it has not surveyed the wildlife:

A thorough ecological inventory and assessment has not been done for the site. Listed and rare species, such as Chinook salmon ... northern red-legged frog and others almost certainly occur in [McCarthy Creek /Burlington Creek] and in more mature forests. Coho and winter steelhead are present in lower [McCarthy Creek/Burlington Creek]. (Note the same language is used in reference to both McCarthy Creek and Burlington Creek Forests in the Site Conservation Plan document.)

Metro's admissions of inadequate study are further compounded by its staff's repeated assertions, witnessed by many, that it has not conducted an inventory of the wildlife because it is "too expensive" and that there are "too many variables," and that thus, studies would be useless. Metro has nevertheless, provided four studies concerning adverse wildlife impacts from human recreational activity elsewhere that they purport to rely on. This raises the question of why these four studies were not subject to what Metro claims is a

problem of “too many variables” rendering studies in general useless.

Metro has not invested in necessary study

I have thoroughly read the ballot measures, Metro’s enabling ordinance for the 2013 measure, and voters pamphlets. Through the ballot measures of 2006 and 2013 Metro raised more than a quarter billion dollars. Certainly, prior to the 2013 levy, through polling and other public opinion evaluation efforts, Metro assessed public priorities, which were to preserve and protect wildlife and its habitat, just as public sentiment had been in 2006. Accordingly Metro tailored the 2013 ballot measure to reflect public sentiment and as a result it passed. Metro did much good with a lot of that money including acquiring four forests in the narrowest part of the wildlife corridors to Forest Park.

There is nothing wrong with intense human access, recreation parks or even adventure parks if the voters

approve, and they are properly sited in conformance with Oregon's land use laws. In this instance they are not.

Metro plans to spend \$1.2 million to install its planned trails along with accompanying facilities, while having spent at the most \$2500 in minimally assessing some wildlife (birds, amphibians and fish in the McCarthy Creek forest only). I learned this from reviewing various documents, including billing, during my initial investigation of Metro's plans prior to April 2016.

The contrast between the money raised, from the voters, the money planned to be spent on trails, restrooms and parking lots and the negligible amount Metro has spent surveying the wildlife for Burlington Creek and McCarthy Creek, is stark.

No other sanctuary

Metro purchased the four forests (Ennis, Abbey, Burlington and McCarthy) that are the subject of Metro's effort

to amend the County's Comprehensive Plan because they are the least fragmented habitats in what it has recognized as a critical juncture in the narrowest point in the wildlife corridor between the Coast Range and Forest Park. These four forests are surrounded by private lands on which people log, farm, raise livestock, mine, and build homes, fences and outbuildings. In short, these least fragmented areas, the four Metro forests, are wildlife sanctuaries.

Elk in the Burlington Creek Forest

I have never seen elk in the Burlington Creek Forest. I have not been there much, perhaps 15 times in all the time I have lived here. I have been to the old growth grove, now owned by the Forest Park Conservancy, twice. I have been to McCarthy Creek Forest at least twice and maybe three times.

On my own property I have seen literally hundreds of elk, probably many of the same ones multiple times. The largest herd I have seen was 40 animals. I have seen groups of 15-25

animals frequently. They come up an old logging road from the direction of the Burlington Creek Forest up the drainage of Burlington Creek that is to the northwest of my property, into a 1.5-acre pasture in the back of my house. Generally, if not disturbed, they remain for anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour before heading southwest.

If anyone goes out onto our deck they begin to move out. They do not generally run, although the herd will pick up speed. I have tried to come out the front of my house creeping around it and using brush to shelter my presence to get photographs, but I have never been successful in not alerting the elk.

Over the past year or so we have hardly seen any elk, I assume due to the thinning Metro has been doing in the Burlington Creek Forest, but also because of the forestry work I am having done on my own land over the last two years or so.

We built our home, moving in February of 1992. It was about three years before we saw any elk on our property. After that they were regular visitors. At times we would see magnificent bulls, but we probably have not seen these majestic animals for fifteen years. I saw the 40 animal herd about five years ago

In addition to the elk we have seen a lot of other animals including lots of Bald Eagles, bobcats and coyotes, the occasional rabbit, quail, grouse and plenty of deer and their fawns. For a few years few Columbia White Tail deer regularly visited us. We have periodically seen some huge owls.

We have never seen cougar or bear, although a neighbor saw a young cougar sitting at the end of our driveway near McNamee Road.

Recreational Use in BCF is Light

For the last year or so I have been driving regularly down McNamee Road to go into Portland because of the closure of

Newberry Road, including weekends. I also go to Scappoose for business and pleasure, again driving down McNamee Rd. These trips are generally from mid-morning on. I see one to two cars parked at the access to Burlington Creek Forest occasionally. The highest number of vehicles I have seen parked there are three.

Fuel Laddering

I have not climbed through the BCF to thoroughly assess the extent of “fuel laddering” that my neighbor, Hans Hoch, has observed in McCarthy Creek Forest. Some fuel laddering can be seen from the loop road. The failure to get the trees and brush onto the ground, leaving trees and branches leaning against one and other off the ground obviously create a fire hazard and is a concern.

I frequently see large birds riding the thermals up from the Columbia River Multnomah Channel area as the temperature rises especially in the warmer weather. The

droughts we have had in recent years leave the forest tinder dry here, and of course throughout the state.

The failure of Metro to find out what if any fire department would come to a fire in the BCF is of great concern to me, especially give the conditions mentioned above. Fire in the BCF would come roaring up to my home and of course devastate the forest in my land that I have been working hard to improve.

In April of 2016 I attend the hearing before the Metro Council on Metro's North Tualatin Mountains Access Master Plan. Jonathon Sol, then a senior wildlife biologist spoke. Among the things he said was that elk do not use the BCF because the slopes there are north facing, and cold for the elk, which is ridiculous. He also said that frogs die from a lot of things. He acknowledged that the BCF is Red Legged Frog habitat, but argued that they die from disease, viruses, weather events and perhaps something else, and that the

introduction of trails to be used in the BCF were not that big a deal because the frogs die anyway. His entire unscientific presentation was disappointing and smacked of being disingenuous.

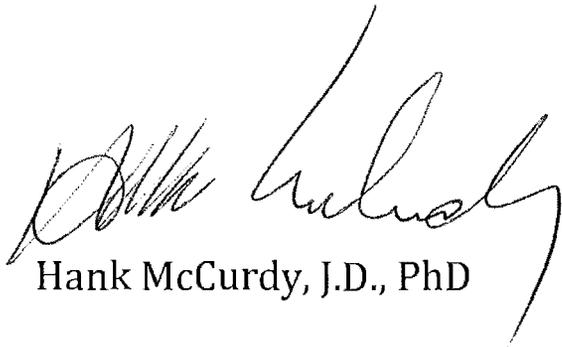
In December 2017 I sent the attached letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service. About a month later I followed up with NMFS and spoke to a woman there to whom my concerns had been assigned. My letter was the first notice that NMFS had about Metro's plans for the BCF and MCF .

Conclusion

The current trail plans should be put on hold, so that a *bona fide* assessment of the wildlife and habitat in the McCarthy Creek Forest and Burlington Creek Forest can be made before any trails are built.

There is much at stake here. Metro does itself and the public no favor in pursuing its current slipshod approach. Forging ahead without a proper evaluation of the impact of the

proposed trails, parking lots, restroom facilities and whatever else Metro planners feel is needed for their recreation facilities in these two forests, would be nothing less than a self-inflicted wound to Metro's credibility and legitimacy. The damage to the public trust cannot be overstated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hank McCurdy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Hank McCurdy, J.D., PhD

December 14, 2017

US Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Services
12011 NE Lloyd Blvd. Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97232

Re: Metro's (Portland area regional government) request to amend Multnomah County's Comprehensive Plan regarding Burlington Creek Forest (BCF) and McCarthy Creek Forest (MCF) and the effect Metro's trails plans will have on the BCF's watercourses McCarthy Creek and Burlington Bottoms.

From: Hank McCurdy
14250 NW McNamee Rd.
Portland, Oregon 97231
503-621-3267
saveforestparkcorridor@gmail.com

Dear Sir or Madam:

Metro has requested that Multnomah County amend its comprehensive plan by adopting Metro's North Tualatin Mountains Access Master Plan (Access Plan) that the

Metro Council adopted in April 2016.¹ The County's planners are presently reviewing Metro's request and are preparing a report that will make recommendations to the Multnomah County Commissioners. The Commissioners may vote on the amendment request in January 2018.

The proposed amendment concerns four forests that Metro owns in the North Tualatin Mountains at the narrowest point in the wildlife corridor between the Coast Range and Forest Park. Two of them are slated for trail development, the BCF and the MCF. Metro's plans for both these forests concern watercourses that are important to EPA listed steelhead and salmon.

The BCF

The BCF is to the immediate west of Burlington Bottoms. It is a Bonneville Power Administration habitat improvement and reclamation site administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The BCF is located at the bottom of a 900-acre watershed that is the sole source of cold, clean water for Burlington Bottoms. Burlington Bottoms also receives water during the winter

¹ The Access Plan is available online. Page 28 of the Access Plan has a proposed trails map for the BCF. The abbreviations in this letter and in the erosion memo are as follows: 1.) CEL means conservation easement land and refers to about 315 acres in the watershed that feeds the Burlington Bottoms. The CEL is in eight private ownership hands and is subject to rather strict restrictions such as no clear cutting more than 10 acres every seven years, stream and riparian area protection, and others, which effectively preserve this land as a natural area, 2.) HH Assessment refers to a hydrology and hydraulics assessment done of the watershed and Burlington Bottoms as part of the habitat evaluation process engaged in shortly after the BPA acquired Burlington Bottoms as a habitat mitigation site, 3.) Full Funding Plan refers to Metro's application to the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation for funding for its trails in the BCF.

and spring overflow of the Willamette River. The BCF is about 350 acres in total. The BCF and the rest of the watershed is zoned CFU, exclusive forest use only.

Metro's Access Plan mentions the existence of Burlington Bottoms, but thereafter completely ignores it. Burlington Bottoms is a remnant of once extensive wetlands that were part of the Columbia and Willamette River ecosystems. See Table A included with this letter. It is a partially completed list of significant species for which Burlington Bottoms is important habitat. Additionally, Burlington Creek, the main stream in the BCF is also according to Metro, highly likely to be used by EPA listed salmonoids.

An overall problem is that Metro has produced several versions of its trails plan for the BCF. It characterizes the Access Plan, the document it wants added as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, as a vision, and a guide to development. As a result it has developed several trails plans subsequent to publishing the Access Plan, including its latest trails map of October 2017. And, this last map was not even submitted as part of the great volume of documents and memoranda Metro submitted to the Multnomah County planners in support of its amendment request. Therefore, as demonstrated by past practice, there is a real danger that Metro will alter the trails plan as it sees fit because the Access Plan, if allowed as an amendment, will give it the authority to implement its vision, whatever that vision may turn out to be.

Thus far Metro's vision has been demonstrably in favor of intense mountain biking in the BCF, elevating recreation over protection of the habitat. Metro's vision presents a genuine risk of serious erosion and sedimentation of the BCF streams, Burlington Bottoms and also McCarthy Creek. Included with this letter is a map from the HH Assessment, which gives a good picture of the watershed and its relationship to Burlington Bottoms and McCarthy Creek.

Unfortunately Metro's vision is remarkably short sighted as Metro's ignoring the Burlington Bottoms demonstrates. But there is more. Metro has failed and refused to inventory the wildlife in the BCF and MCF before starting construction of its trails. Something ODFW asked it to do.

Depending on which version of the various trails maps Metro has produced for the BCF that one might choose, Metro proposes to add between 4.85 and 7 miles of new "multi-use" trails for mountain bikers and hikers. Multi-use is a euphemism for mountain bike trail since a great many hikers, generally those who are older and families with young children, will not use these trails for fear of injury from mountain bike/hiker collisions.

There is a tremendous demand for mountain biking trails in the Metro area because there are so few of them within twenty-five miles of the center of Portland. Even the best-designed trails will generate a great deal of erosion when overused. Metro has downplayed the intensity of use

its proposed trails will get claiming that use will be light. This is inaccurate. Use will be heavy. (Access Plan, p. 2).

The Essential Problem

Numerous steep ravines mark the BCF. The soil is highly erodible and the slopes are generally between 25% and 50%. Metro plans between two and five or six trail crossings in the BCF, again depending on which version of the trails map one selects.

The soil in the MCF is even more prone to erosion than that in the BCF. While the slopes where Metro appears to want to put trails in the MCF are not as severe as in the BCF, and while the trails proposed for the MCF are much less extensive, Metro has failed to overlay the slopes and streams clearly on its maps, something it is fully capable of doing. As a result, it is very difficult to evaluate how close trails come to, or if they are located in riparian areas. It is also difficult to determine the slopes of trail locations.

In its latest trails map for the BCF, the October 2017 map, Metro claims to have located the trails on much less steep slopes than previously, but even if true that does not resolve the question of whether or not too much sediment will be washed into the BCF watercourses and then into Burlington Bottoms and McCarthy Creek.

Added to the serious erosion problem based on the soil type and slope, there is the problem of overuse. The engineering report, which Metro has commissioned to evaluate landslide and erosion risk for the BCF describes the sediment that will be generated as silt with “fines content.” This report, however does not evaluate Metro’s

latest trails map, the October 2017 map, which adds a new segment of trails ("Nature Loop") and increases stream crossings. Nor does it evaluate the Access Plan trails maps for the BCF and MCF, the trails that Metro claims it wants as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.

Unfortunately, stream crossings are great sources of sedimentation before and after construction. There is abundant literature that documents the problem of sedimentation presents for spawning fish, but it is also well known that fine sediment interferes with fish gills making it harder for them to breath. Then too there is the problem of accelerating the eutrophication of Burlington Bottoms' lakes as described in the erosion memo included with this letter.

Although there was some interaction between Metro and the ODFW before the Metro Council approved the Access Plan in April 2016 it was not thorough. ODFW was handicapped by Metro's failure to inventory the wildlife. Metro ignored ODFW's advice to inventory the wildlife in the BCF and just went ahead with presenting its Access Plan to the Metro Council anyhow.

Now Metro has engaged with ODFW once again. Of great significance is that in the first round of engagement between Metro and the ODFW, the ODFW asked Metro to reduce the number of trail crossings. Instead, Metro did the opposite. It increased them.

Included with this letter are several pages of exchange between ODFW and Metro as well as Metro's trails maps for the BCF. Metro is now reengaging a full year after the Metro Councils' approval of the Access Plan, something it should have done well before putting the Access Plan forward as the plan for the BCF and MCF. As can be seen from the series of maps, Metro is significantly, if not radically altering its plan. The last one, the October 2017 version, adds a completely new set of trails, which Metro labels the "Nature Loop."

Again, this last map was not included in the submissions Metro made in support of amending the Comprehensive Plan with its "visionary" Access Plan. While this last version could in fact be a better plan the question still remains whether it presents unacceptable risks for the water courses in the BCF itself and of course, Burlington Bottoms and McCarthy Creek. The water flowing into Burlington Bottoms from the 900-acre watershed, of which the BCF is a vital part, supports six beaver dams in Burlington Bottoms.

I have put together an erosion memo that is part of what I am sending in to the County in opposition to Metro's request to amend the Comprehensive Plan. It is not quite a finished product, but it is complete enough to explain the serious erosion risk present in the BCF. Depending on where the trails are located they may pierce the water table that sits on top of the fragipan, a very compacted layer of soil below the Goble Silt Loam. Goble Silt Loam makes 96% of the soil in the BCF.

The MCF and McCarthy Creek

McCarthy Creek is listed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as Essential Salmonoid Habitat. McCarthy Creek and Burlington Bottoms are part of the same floodplain habitat. McCarthy Creek has its headwaters in the MCF. After coming out of the headwaters that are found along McNamee Road and Skyline Boulevard, McCarthy Creek makes its way to Cornelius Pass Road. It flows along that road, goes under Highway 30 where it then proceeds along the northern edges of Burlington Bottoms into the Multnomah Channel.

It is well documented that McCarthy Creek is habitat for adult and juvenile salmon, both Chinook and Coho, as well as a healthy population of Cutthroat trout. A 2012 fish survey showed evidence of salmon spawning beds in McCarthy Creek. Metro believes it to also be a steelhead stream.

Part of the new trail Metro proposes in the MCF comes close to a significant McCarthy Creek headwater tributary. Whether this causes an unacceptable erosion risk is undetermined.

Sue Beilke, the ODFW biologist who has been in charge of administering Burlington Bottoms and Sauvies Island for a number of years, relates that the BCF's streams contribute to McCarthy Creek during increasingly high water periods. Burlington Bottoms and McCarthy Creek both flood throughout the winter and spring. Burlington Bottoms contains a series of braided watercourses and

channels with connections to McCarthy Creek so sedimentation from the BCF watercourses will flow into McCarthy Creek during high water events.

It is my belief that Metro's plans present too great a risk to the dwindling runs of surviving anadromous fish that have been the iconic species of our region. Metro's plans need to be scrutinized much more closely than they have been.

Respectfully,

Hank McCurdy
saveforestparkcorridor@gmail.com
503-621-3267

Cc: Kevin Cook, Gary Shepard, Sue Barnes,
Commissioners Lori Stegman, Deborah Kafoury, Sharon
Meieran, Loretta Smith, Jessica Vega Pedersen