



## **Forest Park Conservancy**

April 3, 2019

Kevin Cook  
1600 SE 190th Avenue  
Portland OR 97233-5910

Re: Metro's North Tualatin Mountains Land Use Application

Mr. Cook,

My name is Renee Myers and I am the Executive Director for Forest Park Conservancy (FPC). We have had several opportunities over the past few years to provide feedback and comment on Metro's North Tualatin Mountains Master Access Plan and more specifically, the Burlington Creek Forest Nature Park. The Forest Park Conservancy holds the conservation easement on this property, owns a 38-acre Ancient Preserve adjacent to the Burlington Creek property and holds eleven conservation easements adjacent to the Ancient Preserve. In total, including the Metro's Burlington Creek property, FPC holds over 1,100 acres in conservation easements.

Over five years ago, the Forest Park Conservancy, in partnership with Portland Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, Metro and numerous other partners, launched the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative. This plan provides a roadmap for protecting and restoring Forest Park, and an additional 10,000 acres of public and private land that includes all four Metro natural areas covered under the North Tualatin Mountains Master Access Plan. The vision behind this plan was to protect and restore the corridor between Forest Park and the Oregon Coast Range, in collaboration and coordination with private landowners, non-profits and local, state and federal agencies. We understand the importance of this critical habitat corridor and the work it takes to restore and protect these lands.

Ecological integrity and habitat protection of the greater Forest Park ecosystem and is a core priority for the Forest Park Conservancy. We also understand that our city is growing rapidly and there is an increased need for access to nature and suitable recreational opportunities that balance both habitat protection and access.

It is our opinion that Metro's North Tualatin Mountain Plan balances the need for recreational access, meaningful experiences in nature, and habitat protection. We continue with the opinion that little or no footprint for recreational opportunities should occur on the McCarthy Creek, Ennis Creek and North Abby Creek Natural areas, with the majority of the initial focus and funding centered on the Burlington Creek Property.

As an adjacent landowner to the Burlington Creek Property, we understand the ecological value of this habitat, but also feel, based on impacts of past management practices, the Burlington Creek property, could be an ideal opportunity to combine new recreation opportunities with increased restoration and educational efforts.

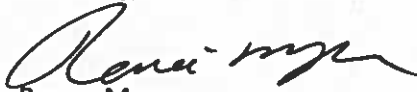
In light of proposed multi-use trails, FPC believes this as an opportunity to bring different user groups together to create common ground towards shared recreational values and work collaboratively, to maintain trails at the proposed Burlington Creek Nature Park.

In addition, to protect wildlife we think it is critical to enforce Metro's no dog policy and is consistent with the Forest Park Conservancy's no dog policy in our Ancient Forest Preserve.

We look forward to partnering with Metro to ensure that critical habitat is protected while balancing the need for increased access to nature as our region continues to grow.

The Forest Park Conservancy supports Metro's plans for natural resource protection while meeting community needs for recreation. We urge Multnomah County to approve the Burlington Creek Nature Park proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renee Myers", written in a cursive style.

Renee Myers

Forest Park Conservancy, Executive Director