

Kevin Cook
Multnomah County Land Use Planning
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August 29, 2019

Re: Metro Burlington Creek Forest Nature Park

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for Metro's Burlington Creek Forest Nature Park proposal. In addition to being a long time resident, I was a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the North Tualatin Mountains Master Plan. My reason for support is that my children grew up here and enjoyed trail biking for recreation. This is an area where road biking is not safe for kids and no paved shoulders or sidewalks exist. I know that their experiences biking and walking on trails throughout this beautiful area contributed to their healthy development and instilled a lifelong appreciation for nature and its preservation. This privilege should be accessible to all people who want to recreate in nature.

I believe Metro listened to the various interests of the entire community and developed a sensitive plan. The trail plans were developed with input from the bike community, hikers, and neighbors. By utilizing shared use trails, the project limits the total amount of human impacted area and preserves large areas for wildlife habitat & restoration. This was important to the community and will work well. In addition, this area has been historically carved up by old logging roads and user made trails with no land use management. Consequently, the uses are not balanced in a meaningful way and currently the property suffers from no management plan at all. I support Metro's plan for land management and see that it will improve wildlife habitat, water quality, and at the same time allow for recreational uses.

The trails proposed for Burlington Creek are important because they will be one more link in the chain of trails from Portland's Forest Park stretching to the coast one day. A Regional Trail of this scope will bring benefits to every community along its route and to those who use it for exercise and recreation.

As a community member, I urge you to approve the proposal so the Burlington Creek Forest will become a place where people can hike, bike, or ride in a unique and natural setting and these regionally important trails can become a reality.

Sincerely,

Susan Watt
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