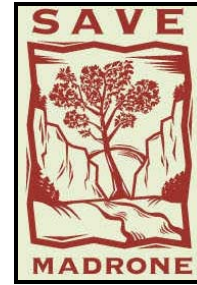


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



### **Clackamas County Commissioners Approve Madrone Wall for Parks Master Planning Process**

**Portland, Oregon -- 1 February 2006 --** Yesterday, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners (BCC) unanimously accepted the Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board (PAB) recommendation that the Hardscrabble property (a.k.a. Madrone Wall) become part of an area for Clackamas River Watershed Protection and that it should not be sold to a private interest or mined.

The BCC unanimously supported implementation of the following specific recommendations for the property:

- Retained in public ownership.
- Included in the inventory of County lands for future master planning and consideration for development by the Parks Advisory Board and the staff. The master planning process will include, but not be limited to, a site analysis that identifies the amount of area for active and passive recreation uses, potential timber harvest, operations and maintenance needs, as well as budget considerations and responsible public ownership of the property.
- Included as a priority for master planning as part of the future Clackamas County Parks Department Master Plan, and
- Retained in its current status pending a master plan.

With acceptance of the PAB recommendations, the PAB will include the Hardscrabble property in its planning and budgeting process, along with the existing inventory of properties. The planning process will include additional input from the public. Because of the massive public support the Madrone Wall site has received to protect it from being quarried or turned into a housing development and the community interest in making it a park by citizens, local community planning organizations, elected City of Damascus officials, Carver businesses, and over two dozen recreational and conservation organizations, the PAB may work to accelerate the parks master planning process to allow for creation of a park, available for public access and re-established recreation, as early as 2007.

The Madrone Wall is a 44-acre site 2.2 miles east of Carver along County Scenic Highway 224. It has been owned by Clackamas County since 1937 and was for decades a site of public ecology education and open for recreational hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, picnicking, and bird and flower viewing prior to its closure in the fall of 1997 as an ill-conceived County quarry plan was pursued. This plan was later narrowly averted as quarrying was deemed uneconomical. This compact site contains an uncommon stand of Pacific madrone and the only geologic feature of its kind in the northern Willamette Valley, a natural cliff face of Boring basalt soaring over 100 feet. Views over the nearby Clackamas River are stunning. This public site has a diverse and intact ecosystem including over 100 plant species with a few remaining old-growth Douglas fir and native wildflowers. It is the source of drinking water for nearby citizens and a clear, cool tributary stream supports the endangered salmon habitat in the Clackamas River designated as a National Wild and Scenic River. Please continue to respect Clackamas County's current "No Trespassing" posting at the Madrone Wall until the site is opened as a park.

The Madrone Wall Preservation Committee is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) Oregon all-volunteer public charitable organization focused on preserving and re-establishing access to the Madrone Wall of Clackamas County and to act as a parks advocacy organization for a future park at the site of this amazing civic treasure. As developments occur and progress is made on the parks master planning process, please look for updates at our website ([www.savemadrone.org](http://www.savemadrone.org)).

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