

April 2006: Madrone Wall Update

County Commissioners unanimously decided in January not to sell this site for a private quarry or housing development, to include it as a priority for master planning as part of the future Clackamas County Parks Department Master Plan, and to retain it in its current status (i.e., posted “No Trespassing”) pending a master plan. The public input received from over two dozen organizations including environmental, recreational, citizen, and business organizations amounted to several hundred letters to the Commissioners to help identify to them the groundswell of public support to save this amazing civic treasure from an irreversible demise as a rock quarry or housing development and to open the site as a park for all for enjoyment and recreation. Thank you very much for being a part of providing this critical public input!

We continue to work closely with County Parks and their Parks Advisory Board to accelerate required efforts to move this amazing civic treasure to park status. Site improvement (trails, signage, etc.) and capital expenditures (such as to establish parking at the site) will start to be considered as the County’s budgeting cycle for 2006/2007 begins this July. The planning and implementation process is currently estimated to take between one and two years for a park to be established. One of the MWPC members, a citizen of Clackamas County, has applied for membership on the County’s Parks Advisory Board (PAB). The PAB is influential in guiding the direction of the County Parks Department and it will be a great help to have this MWPC member, with years of experience in advocating Madrone Wall preservation and re-established access as well as a keen interest in public parks policy, on the Board. Finally, we led a well attended tour of the Madrone Wall site, after obtaining permission to access the site, with the Native Plant Society of Oregon – Portland Chapter. Two dozen participants braved the rain on 8 April to see the native plants and wildflowers coming into bloom and learn about the site’s unique geology. Their knowledge of native plants was incredible and they identified several new plant species that will help us update our plant inventory (www.savemadrone.org/plantsurvey.htm). They also pointed out several invasive plants that need to be removed as this site becomes a publicly-accessible park. If you would like to keep current on our activities, please visit our website at www.savemadrone.org. Please continue to respect the County’s current “No Trespassing” posting at the Madrone Wall.

Madrone Wall Preservation Committee
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