

Madrone Wall Preservation Committee
5815 N.E. 31st Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97211
www.savemadrone.org



22 October 2009

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Honorable Public Hearings Officer
Clackamas County
150 Beavercreek Road
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Re: Public Hearing Reviewing Conditional Use Permit to Establish New County Park at Madrone Wall

Endorsing Preser. & Park:

- > 750 Citizen Letters (since 2005)
 - Senator Ron Wyden
 - Senator Jeff Merkley
 - 3rd District, Rep. Earl Blumenauer
 - State Representative Brent Barton
 - Metro Regional Council
 - Damascus City Council
 - Portland Com. Dan Saltzman (Parks)
 - Grant Park CPO (Comm. Plan. Org.)
 - Boring CPO
 - Rock Creek CPO
 - Eagle Creek-Barton CPO
 - South Clackamas CPO
 - Clack. County Parks Advisory Board
 - Carver Store
 - Carver Hangar
 - Carver Curves Café
 - Rock Garden Tavern
 - Sierra Club
 - Audubon Society of Portland
 - Friends of Forest Park
 - Three Rivers Land Conservancy
 - American Alpine Club
 - Yvon Chouinard, Patagonia
 - Fed. of Western Outdoors Clubs
 - Oregon Equestrian Trails
 - Mountain Hardwear
 - Keen Footwear
 - Outward Bound
 - Mazamas
 - Ptarmigans
 - The Access Fund
- (Copies of endorsement letters available on our website)

Grants Received From:

- Meyer Memorial Trust
- Jubitz Family Foundation
- Mazamas
- The Access Fund
- Ptarmigans
- American Alpine Club-Oregon
- Yvon Chouinard, Patagonia

Awards:

- Montague Cup/Conservation (Mazamas, 2006)
- Sharp End Award (The Access Fund, 2005)

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.

The Madrone Wall is NOT open. Please continue to respect Clackamas County's "NO TRESPASSING" posting.

Latest updates at:
WWW.SAVEMADRONE.ORG

Honorable Public Hearings Officer:

On behalf of the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony today at the Public Hearing to review Conditions of Approval generated in response to the August 2009 Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application submitted by Clackamas County Parks to establish a new County Park at the County's Hardscrabble/Madrone Wall site along County Scenic Highway 224 east of Carver. We have patiently worked for and waited over a decade for today's Public Hearing. I am a Director, Officer, and co-Founder of the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee which is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) Oregon all-volunteer public charitable organization. We organized as a grass roots organization 12 years ago when Clackamas County closed the Madrone Wall site in 1997 as it pursued an ill-conceived rock quarry operation at the site. Previous to this, the site had been open to the enjoyment of citizens for recreational and educational access for decades. In addition to our goals to stop quarrying of the site our organization, which maintains a mailing list of over 1,000 outdoor enthusiasts and concerned local citizens, we seek to re-establish access to this public site, work for permanent protective status as a park, and, finally, to serve as a long-term parks "Friends of" advocacy partner with Clackamas County for years to come once the site receives protective park status.

We have partnered with dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals to support this park creation process. The list of those endorsing preservation and park creation includes all local Community Planning Organizations, City of Damascus, and all Carver businesses. Over 750 citizen letters of support have been submitted to Clackamas County since 2005 alone as the site went through an exhaustive public involvement process which ultimately produced a final park concept plan in August of this year. Some highlights of our advocacy in over a decade include funding plant survey with Portland State University biologists to document over 100 plant species many of them native plants, jointly funding a economic quarry study with Clackamas County which determined that it was "uneconomical even under the most favorable circumstances to quarry this site" – this resulted in County Commissioners plans to drop mining plans using County forces, we provided legal research citing Oregon Revised Statutes recreational use and public use of lands sections citing landowner immunity and insulation of local governments from liability for recreational use of government land secured in Oregon case law through the Oregon Court of Appeals. We paid for an appraisal review which correctly identified the property value at \$770,000, far less than the \$10 million that some previous Commissioners thought. We have raised money to improve the site; as an example, last month, we received a \$5,000 Trail Building Grant from the REI store in Clackamas. We conceived of and initiated discussions with the 1249th Engineering Battalion of the Oregon National Guard to use the road building project at the Madrone Wall a training exercise for our men and women in uniform. It is now on their list for projects they want to move forward with. We have identified pro bono civil engineer assistance that would like to assist the planning of the quarter mile access road and parking construction.

While this site has been closed to the public, it has been trashed: graffiti on the rock bluff and hundreds of pounds of garbage dumped at the site. This did not happen when the site was open to the public. In the last two years alone and in cooperation with Clackamas County Parks, we have accessed the site to improve it during two volunteer clean-ups. Over 350 volunteer hours have removed several large truckloads of garbage and also invasive plants thereby restoring native plant species. For over five years, again with the permission of Clackamas County, I have provided spring wildflower viewing tours to this site still posted "No Trespassing". Invariably, several dozen citizens show up each year, most of whom have never been to the site, and they remark at the beauty of this site, its old growth Douglas fir still intact, hundreds of Pacific madrone, panoply of wildflowers, rock bluff formed by a Boring lava flow over 600,000 years ago, and amazing vistas over the lower Clackamas River basin and its federally-designated National Wild and Scenic Clackamas River. There is no rival to this site in the entire northern Willamette Valley and, in this increasingly urbanized and park-barren area, this amazing civic treasure should be a park for all to enjoy and learn from.

We have read the Staff Report Z0522-09-C prepared in response to the CUP application. As a proponent of creating a new park at the Madrone Wall, we believe all applicable criteria have been identified in the Report and were adequately addressed. From the Staff Report, we note that all applicable County Zoning and Development Ordinances are either not applicable, can be met, or are already met. We note the 35 Conditions of Approval appear reasonable and we recommend approval without modification. My organization requests that we become a party to receive subsequent information from the Clackamas County's Land Use and Environmental Planning Division regarding the ruling of the Public Hearings Officer.

The County owns and maintains roughly 4,000 acres in its County Forest Management Plan. In discussions with County forestry officials, this is the only site that is closed to long term public access. Assuming the park use is granted as a permitted use for this public site and that it may take several more years for an official park opening, we ask: can you allow public access to this public property while conditions are being implemented? Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith K. Daellenbach

Keith K. Daellenbach (503/673-5065, kdaellenbach@att.net)
Director, Secretary/Treasurer