

21 November 2005: Madrone Wall Update

On Tuesday 15 November, the Clackamas County Parks Advisory Board (PAB), which is a citizen-led group that advises the County's Parks Department, made a formal recommendation to not sell the Hardscrabble/Madrone Wall property out of public ownership and to include the site in the County's future parks master plan. If accepted by the Commissioners, the PAB recommendation would effectively prevent the site from being quarried or developed into trophy homes and would provide permanent protective status as a park. It is being recommended that the site would include passive and active recreational uses (hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, et al.) and potential continued timber harvest.

This recommendation will be submitted to the County Commissioners within a month. It is expected that the Commissioners will review the recommendation in January of 2006 at a working study session. While the PAB recommendation is non-binding, and the Commissioners will have the final say over the future use of this land, it is, nonetheless, an important step forward to re-establishing recreational access and providing permanent park protective status.

Until such time as the site's usage would be detailed in a park master plan, the site will remain posted "No Trespassing" and closed to public activities. We are encouraged by the outcome of the PAB information-gathering process this year and are hopeful that the Commissioners will follow suit by solidifying the preservation of this site that will eventually lead to re-established access. In the meantime, we are encouraging folks to respect the County's wishes and not visit this site.

It is not too late to provide your input directly to the ultimate decision makers - the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to write them a letter or email. A sample letter endorsing preservation and re-established access can be found on the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee's website at www.savemadrone.org.

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

