

Madrone Wall Preservation Committee  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **Pro Bono Professional Engineering Expertise Requested to Create Madrone Wall Construction Documents**

**Portland, Oregon – 29 November 2009** -- Recently, several important developments occurred which evidence progress in the 12 year effort to secure a park at the Madrone Wall site (a.k.a. Hardscrabble) in Clackamas County. **Pro bono professional engineering expertise is requested to help assist in the creation of park construction documents as a potential cost savings option.**

After a seven month public involvement process, a Final Concept Plan for a park at Madrone Wall was completed in January of this year (attached as a .pdf). This plan was unanimously approved by the Board of County Commissioners in February with the stipulation that the forest on top of the bluff be retained for timber harvest while the forest below the bluff be removed from timber harvest opportunity. The decision to log the upper bluff was made in spite of unanimous citizen input at all three public involvement meetings and 143 people wrote in advocating no commercial logging at the site of this future park.

In March of this year, we established contact with the Oregon National Guard's 1249<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion and proposed they assist Clackamas County Parks in an intergovernmental construction project to train the State's uniformed soldiers. We met with the 1249<sup>th</sup> and Clackamas County Parks and provided a site tour. In this proposal, the 1249<sup>th</sup> would avail the soldiers and its wide array of heavy construction equipment to a training opportunity consistent with the 1249<sup>th</sup>'s road construction mission. Clackamas County Parks would benefit from significantly offset park construction costs. Last week, Clackamas County completed its submission of application materials (attached as .pdf) requesting military assistance and the application is now under review by the Department of Defense.

In October, the only Public Hearing in the entire 12 year effort to secure a park, was held. At this quasi-legal proceeding, we submitted proponent testimony for the County Parks' Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application; there was no opposition. The Final Order of the Hearings Officer was released this month confirming the CUP application should be approved (attached as .pdf). There are 34 conditions of approval that must be met to grant the park's occupancy permit, among them include the following: 20 foot long paved approach to Highway 224; resurfacing of the existing trailhead access road for a gravel, one-lane, 16 foot wide, quarter mile driveway (12 foot wide driving surface with two foot wide shoulders on either side); 10 foot x 30 foot turnouts to allow cars to pass each other; and a small, graveled 20-space parking area to include an ADA van space. The Concept Plan additionally describes a primitive day use park with a variety of hiking trails for all abilities, climbing as an allowed activity, educational trail head kiosk and interpretive signs, bike parking, and a vault toilet.

One of the Final Order's conditions of approval is that construction drawings and plans require the stamp of an Engineer registered in the State of Oregon. ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation and Development) requires these plans be submitted by November 2010. We are working with Clackamas County to locate the engineering expertise needed to complete this documentation. We have reached out to Oregon's premier engineering universities (Oregon State University, Portland State University, and University of Portland) and have received outstanding interest from bright engineering students who want to support this design project. **Please contact us if you are interested in discussing how you can help by providing pro bono, professional engineering support.**

In other news, we applied for and won a competitive \$5,000 REI Trail Building Grant in August which we will use to purchase trail construction materials. We are working closely with County Parks to plan new trails and improve the dilapidated existing social trails. We have partnered with the Mazamas Trail Tending Committee to help tap into their extensive experience to construct quality trails. Following our site-improvement work days the past two years, where we organized 115 volunteers for 350 volunteer hours to remove invasive plants and illegally dumped rubbish, please stay tuned for opportunities to help with trail building work days at the site in 2010 as the site is further prepared for a park.

Finally, in an important development at the end of October, Metro's Natural Area Program purchased 88.3 acres in a willing-seller acquisition only a quarter-mile east of the Madrone Wall along the Clackamas River Bluffs (.pdf of Metro's press release attached). This key acquisition provides additional open space protection and helps further the effort to establish an east side "big park" in an intact natural area. We have always advocated that the County site would serve as an anchor for additional aggregation of willing-seller property acquisitions along the Bluffs and, with Metro's recent purchase, this shared vision is now becoming a reality.

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. Please look for frequent updates at our website ([www.savemadrone.org](http://www.savemadrone.org)). Tax deductible donations are graciously accepted (E.I.N. #: 96-1267537). Please continue to respect Clackamas County's current "No Trespassing" posting at the Madrone Wall until the site is opened as a park.

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