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FOREST PARK CONSERVANCY OPEN TO CITY OF PORTLAND'S PENDING MOUNTAIN BIKING PROPOSALS, REITERATES WELL-BEING OF FOREST PARK AND USERS ARE TOP PRIORITY

PORTLAND, Ore.—As the City of Portland creates its comprehensive city-wide Off Road Cycling Master Plan, the Forest Park Conservancy (FPC) is participating as part of the advisory committee, along with representatives from the biking community, environmental and civic groups and community leaders.

“It’s important for us to be involved in the dialogue. While we can’t speculate on what the city may ultimately propose, our goal is to seek meaningful engagement in regard to any recommendations or proposal that may affect Forest Park and its many users,” said Renee Myers, executive director of the Forest Park Conservancy.

While Forest Park is managed by the City of Portland and the city makes all decisions regarding trail and land use within the park, the Forest Park Conservancy is the leading nonprofit that helps restore and protect Forest Park through the efforts of staff and more than 1,000 volunteers. According to Myers, FPC’s top priorities in regard to any and all proposals impacting Forest Park—biking or otherwise—are the ecological health of the park and the safety of its users.

The city’s master plan is expected to be announced sometime this fall. FPC is open to proposals for mountain biking in Forest Park, at the same time, the organization will remain steadfast in its position that it will not support any proposal that includes opening up the iconic Wildwood Trail for use as a mountain biking trail. Additionally, the organization supports enlisting additional rangers in Forest Park to help ensure user safety, proper trail use and Forest Park protection for all uses, including off-leash dogs.

“Our support for any proposal will be based on ensuring that whatever is proposed will not negatively impact Forest Park’s ecosystem, including wildlife, watershed and habitat quality,” said Myers. “It doesn’t make a difference whether the proposal is about cycling or some other use or development plan, protecting the ecological health of the Park for wildlife and the enjoyment of all users will always be central to our mission and values.”

About Forest Park Conservancy

Forest Park Conservancy is the only nonprofit organization solely dedicated to helping protect and restore Portland’s Forest Park, one of the largest forested urban parks in the nation with nearly 80 miles of trails. To volunteer, learn more, make a donation or find out how you can help support FPC’s efforts, visit <http://www.forestparkconservancy.org>*

**Note: Formerly known as Friends of Forest Park, the Forest Park Conservancy is a separate organization and has no affiliation or ties with Friends for Forest Park, a recently created local advocacy group. The Forest Park Conservancy changed its name from Friends of Forest Park nearly 10 years ago and has officially been recognized as the Forest Park Conservancy (or FPC) ever since.*