

Forest Park by the numbers:

- **475,000** approximate annual visitors
- **5172** total acreage; the largest forested park within a city limit
- **200** native species of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, including many considered rare in the Portland Metro area
- **100** species of birds, **45** mammals and over **400** invertebrates call Forest Park home
- **75** miles of trail:
 - ◇ All open for hiking, running and walking
 - ◇ **28** miles open for cycling
 - ◇ **25** miles open for horseback riding
- **48** access points and **21** trailheads, but no formal entrance or visitor's center
- **11** subwatersheds with un piped streams provide cold, clean water to the Willamette River

Did you know?

- Forest Park extends 7.5 linear miles over the Tualatin Mountain Range and is a critical component of a wildlife corridor that extends to the Oregon Coast and Tryon Creek State Forest.
- Forest Park has two National Scenic Trails: Lower Macleay and Wildwood Trails.
- You can hike the entire length of Forest Park on the Wildwood Trail, which extends 30 total miles.
- 1/3 of the birds found in Forest Park are considered Special Status Species—birds identified as being important regionally and statewide for protection and conservation.
- Forest Park is home to the great and small. One of the world's smallest owls, the Northwest pygmy owl, and the largest woodpecker, the pileated woodpecker, both live year-round in the park.

Reconnect Forest Park



Forest Park sits on the ridge of the Tualatin Mountains, a wildlife corridor connecting the state's largest urban area with the Pacific Ocean.

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RECONNECT FOREST PARK

Funding an Entrance to Forest Park, an Opportunity of Statewide Significance

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT PHASES AND ESTIMATED COSTS

Forest Park is the largest forested natural area within city limits in the country. This forest within a city is part of a wildlife corridor that extends west to the Oregon coast, and south to Tryon Creek State Park. The Park is comprised of approximately 5,200 forested acres and provides tremendous ecological, recreational and health benefits for the entire region. Over 100 species of birds and 45 mammals call Forest Park home. As the Portland region's premier outdoor escape, almost a half million visitors flock annually to the Park to enjoy recreation and respite.

The City of Portland is embarking on a comprehensive, concentrated effort in Forest Park over the next ten years to build a continued legacy for future generations. Portland, through public and private money, is investing millions of dollars to fight invasive species, rebuild failing infrastructure and develop a visitor center with ADA accessible trailhead.

Despite the size and acclaim of Forest Park, there is no main entrance. There is no parking lot where a school bus can easily access the park. There is no nature center where visitors are welcomed, oriented to the Park, and invited to learn about the diverse ecology and history of this resource. There are too few ADA accessible trails. This wonderful public asset is not currently accessible to all Oregonians.

An entrance to Forest Park would create the opportunity for increased access to this unique resource for Oregonians and tourists alike. The land for the project, a former brownfield site, has already been acquired with local share monies from the 2006 Metro bond measure. The next steps are a topographic survey and creation of a site Master Plan, followed by design, engineering and permitting. These next steps will bring the project to "shovel ready" status.



Site for proposed entry point

Phase 1: Acquisition \$527,000

Status: Completed using Metro Local Share funds

Phase 2: Brownfield Cleanup. Designated No Further Action (NFA) by DEQ. \$0

Status: Completed by previous owners

Phase 3: Survey and Site Planning \$500,000

Status: Funding sought through Oregon Legislature

To include:

- Studies on geotechnical and environmental parameters
- Infrastructure needs and impacts related to transportation, water and sewer
- Topographic survey
- Develop site Master Plan

Phase 4: Design/Engineering/Permitting \$1,800,000

Status: Funding sought through Oregon Legislature

To include:

- Professional design consultant services
- Land use and building permit fees
- Contracting procurement process services

Phase 5: Building & Site Improvements Costs TBD

Status: Funding source to be determined

To include construction of:

- Nature center
- Parking with sufficient space for a bus turn-around
- Public restrooms and drinking fountain
- ADA accessible trail into Forest Park

Total State funding request: \$2,300,000





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May 15, 2015

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Tobias Read, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Read:

I am writing to express The Trust for Public Land's support of state funding for an entrance to Forest Park. This park is unique in Oregon and the nation, with over 5,200 wooded acres, 75 miles of trails, 100 species of birds and 45 mammal species. Nestled in-between Tryon Creek State Park and a forested corridor that extends all the way to the Oregon coast, Forest Park is a critically important ecological resource that cleans our air and water and provides recreational and health benefits for the region.

Despite its size, Forest Park can be difficult to access. Presently, there is only one quarter mile of ADA accessible trail and limited opportunities for public education and outreach. There is no parking lot where a school bus can come in and turn around. To address these access and outreach challenges, the City of Portland acquired a former industrial brownfield property that will be the site of a nature center, ADA accessible trailhead, and parking lot. The next steps involve site planning, design, engineering and permitting.

We support state funding for these next steps to bring the project to "shovel ready." Once built, the entrance to Forest Park will be a significant regional asset that will make the outdoors accessible to a growing population of Oregonians. I urge you to allocate funding toward an entrance to Forest Park.

Sincerely,

Nelson Mathews
Oregon State Director
The Trust for Public Land



RECONNECT FOREST PARK

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Tobias Read, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court St NE, Hearing Room F
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Read and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of funding for a visitor center and ADA accessible trailhead at Forest Park, one of the largest forested natural areas within city limits in the country.

Forest Park has over 5,100 wooded acres, 80 miles of trail, more than 112 bird and 62 mammal species, and almost half a million annual visitors. The park serves as a natural air purifier, water collector, and erosion controller and provides tremendous ecological, recreational and health benefits for the region. However, Forest Park suffers from the lack of a recognizable entry point.

Developing a brownfield property adjacent to the Park with a visitor center, an ADA accessible trail, and a parking lot with sufficient space for a school bus to turn-around would increase access to more Oregonians of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Presently there is only a quarter mile of ADA accessible trail and limited opportunities for public education and outreach.

The City of Portland is making broad investments in Forest Park to fight invasive species and repair critical infrastructure to help ensure the ongoing health and safety of park facilities. This request for state funds would help conduct a feasibility study and initial designs, permitting and engineering to redevelop the brownfield site. A feasibility study to identify site opportunities and constraints is critically important to the development of the visitor center and trailhead. Design, permitting and engineering costs bring the project to shovel ready.

For many years citizens and stakeholders have called for a major investment in the future of Forest Park. With a holistic look at ecology, recreation and access, this is a unique opportunity to make a significant improvement to this regional asset - a legacy that will be passed down to succeeding generations of Oregonians.

We, the undersigned, urge your support for investing in this unique and important asset: Forest Park.

RECONNECT FOREST PARK

Funding an Entrance to Forest Park

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An entrance was identified as a need in the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP), adopted by City Council in 1995. The NRMP recommends, among other things, the development of a regional trailhead that would include parking, seasonal restrooms, a drinking fountain and a multi-use, ADA accessible trail to connect with Leif Erikson and Fire Lane I.

The acquisition of a key piece of property at the intersection of NW Yeon/Hwy 30 and NW Kittridge affords an opportunity to create the Entrance long envisioned for the park. Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) purchased the former brownfield property and is now poised for the next phase, a feasibility study to identify site opportunities and constraints.

The development of the Entrance presents both opportunities and challenges due to its steep slopes, hillside seeps, and environmental zoning. A feasibility study is critically important to inform PP&R on permitting and construction requirements, and costs. Included in the feasibility study are numerous technical studies, a concept plan and cost estimates.

Following the scope developed under the feasibility study, the next phases will include detailed design development, permitting and project development.

Overview of Project Phases and Estimated Costs (using 2014 dollars)

Phase 1: Acquisition **\$527,000**

Status: Completed using Metro Local Share funds

Phase 2: Brownfield Cleanup. Designated NFA by DEQ. **\$0**

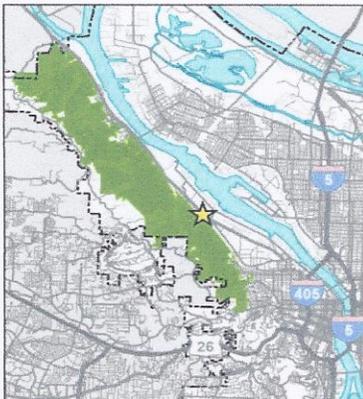
Status: Completed by previous owners

Phase 3: Feasibility Study and Survey **\$500,000**

Status: Funding sought through Legislature

To include the following studies:

- Roadway and Traffic – Determine the location of the driveway and parking lot, and assess required right-of-way improvements.
- Geotechnical – Investigate the physical properties of the site including soil suitability for improvements, erosion, slopes, geology and location of water seeps and wetlands.
- Environmental – Identify water resources; perform wetland delineations; identify sensitive, threatened and/or endangered species; locate possible



Site for proposed entry point



contaminants; and assess any necessary remediation and state and federal permitting requirements.

- Local Zoning and Permitting – Identify local requirements for stormwater treatment, environmental zone, urban forestry.
- Structural – Determine the load required to support a building at the site.
- Land Survey – Determine the topography of the site, establish site boundaries and other land features.

Phase 4: Design/Engineering/Permitting **\$1,800,000**

Status: Funding sought through Legislature

To include:

- Professional design consultant services
- Land use and building permit fees
- Contracting procurement process services

Phase 5: Building & Site Improvements Costs **\$9,700,000**

(\$7,300,000 Visitor Center + \$2,400,000 Site = \$9,700,000)

Status: Funding source to be determined

To include facility and site construction work of:

- 10,000 square foot visitor center
- Parking for approximately 40 cars with a bus turn-around
- Public restrooms and drinking fountain
- An ADA accessible trail into Forest Park
- An interpretive overlook

Total Project Cost (Phases 1-5) **~\$12,600,000**

