



**PORTLAND  
PARKS & RECREATION**  
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
CITY OF PORTLAND**  
working for clean rivers

March 2, 2015

Dear River View Natural Area Stakeholder:

We are writing to update you on recreational policy changes at River View Natural Area (RVNA) as well as the accompanying RVNA Management Planning process.

RVNA is a 146-acre natural area in southwest Portland, located between SW Macadam Avenue and SW Terwilliger Boulevard. The River View forest provides a link in the upland wildlife corridor from Forest Park in the north to Tryon Creek State Natural Area in the south. The property contains special status habitats (rare or locally significant), including wetlands, interior forest, and riparian areas.

The City's Natural Resource Inventory designates River View as a high value resource for sensitive and threatened wildlife and habitats. Seven undeveloped streams flow through the property to the Willamette River. These tributaries and their forested buffers support critical habitat for coastal steelhead, coho, and Chinook salmon in the lower Willamette, all designated as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Acquisition of RVNA in 2011 fulfilled one of the City's highest natural area conservation objectives. The property is also one of the priorities identified through Metro's 2006 Natural Areas bond measure.

In 2013, PP&R began a Natural Area Management Plan process to identify significant ecosystem assets, direct future management priorities, establish research and interpretation activities, and design a trail system compatible with the protection of natural resources. During this time period, many recreational uses occurring on site prior to the City's acquisitions were permissible.

Exercising an abundance of caution and to protect the City's investment in the River View Natural Area, PP&R and BES will be limiting activities at RVNA from now on to passive nature-based recreational uses - hiking, wildlife viewing, stewardship, education, research etc. Planning for these uses will proceed with the goal of completing the Management Plan in the fall of 2015.

Mountain biking will no longer be an allowed use at RVNA as of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The two bureaus will continue to work together with the community to develop a plan for RVNA that meets our common goals of protecting water quality

and watershed health, restoring aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and providing recreation access that is compatible with the protection of natural resources.

The City recognizes the existing and growing need for additional nature-based mountain biking experiences within our City park system. While some natural areas may be able to accommodate mountain biking, other factors must also be considered when evaluating this type of nature based recreational use. We, as Commissioners of PP&R and BES, believe completion of a Citywide Off-Road Cycling Plan is the best course of action for meeting this demand. A comprehensive biking plan will identify the most appropriate biking opportunities within our City park system, while protecting the conservation values of our natural areas and the enjoyment and safety of all park users. Towards this end, funding for a Citywide Off-Road Cycling Plan is included in the requested PP&R Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget. Since the cost is \$350,000, community advocacy will be necessary to encourage the Mayor and Council to fund this request.

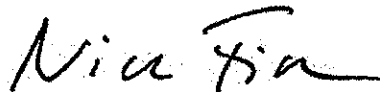
We welcome your continued participation in the Management Plan process. Updates on plan progress can be found on RVNA's website ([www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/riverview](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/riverview)).

If you have questions about this new policy, please contact Commissioner Fritz at 503-823-3008.

Sincerely,



Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Portland Parks and Recreation



Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Bureau of Environmental Services