



## Forest Park Conservancy

Dear Forest Park Supporters,

In 1989 Forest Park Conservancy officially became a nonprofit organization with the mission of ensuring that Forest Park is healthy, protected, and remains a special place that people will continue to enjoy and steward for generations to come. But our connection to Forest Park started long before 1989 and dates back to the original committee of 50, a group of advocates and stewards that worked tirelessly to have Forest Park established as city park in 1948. A small group of advocates from the committee of 50 knew their work was just beginning and formed a small ad hoc group called the Forest Park Association, which then became Friends of Forest Park and eventually Forest Park Conservancy.

Over this time long time span, we have grown and matured as an organization and gained valuable insight on how we can best protect and steward not only Forest Park, but the properties we own from the ever-growing threats that face them. Forest Park is not an island and, to remain healthy and sustainable, it needs to be connected to the larger network of parks, natural areas and other public and private lands that surround it, known as the greater Forest Park ecosystem. This larger ecosystem functions as a vital wildlife corridor connecting Portland's urban habitat to the Oregon coast range and, due to its size, plays a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change on our communities.

In 2013, we brought partner organizations together to collaborate on the development and launch of the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative(GFPCI), a long-term collaborative conservation strategy that encompasses over 15,000 acres of public and private land. We reinforced our long-term commitment to protect and restore the greater Forest Park ecosystem. The GFPCI addresses critical threats to the greater Forest Park ecosystem by bringing together a dedicated coalition of partners and stakeholders that are collaborative and leverage each other's efforts and financial resources, to ensure native habitat is restored and protected throughout this larger landscape.

This long term commitment to both the ecosystem and are our partners, required us to increase staffing and financial capacity to successfully implement our work and foster, build and support strategic partnerships to ensure we continue to play a vital role in leading the GFPCI and increase our collective impact to improve the health and connectivity of this larger ecosystem.

When our partner organization, Friends of Marquam Nature Park, asked us to collaborate with them on ways they could build capacity to hire staff and have a greater impact in Marquam

Nature Park, the conversation led to an idea of a merger between our two organizations. I am delighted to share with you that this idea has come to fruition and Forest Park Conservancy will soon take on the role of stewarding Marquam Nature Park. Friends of Marquam Nature Park will join forces with, and become part of, Forest Park Conservancy. At 203 acres, Marquam Nature Park is the third largest park in Portland. The Marquam Trail connects to the Wildwood Trail in Washington Park, is the “Trail” in the 4T Loop system, and is an important 5 mile link in the 40 mile Loop.

As part of this merger, I want to be very transparent to supporters of both Friends of Marquam Nature Park and Forest Park Conservancy. Friends of Marquam Nature Park (FMNP) will dissolve as a 501 c3 and, although FMNP will no longer exist, the history, legacy and people that have made the park what it is today, will remain and never be forgotten. We will continue to foster and build relationships with supporters and volunteers of this amazing organization and will create an advisory committee to ensure the voice of FMNP is always present and continues to help drive the vision and work being done to protect and restore Marquam Nature Park. Additionally, we will be adding two FMNP board members to FPC’s board of directors.

And to all of our FPC volunteers and supporters, this merger will not take any of our efforts away from Forest Park, only add to them, as we create more opportunities for community members and organizations to engage with our work. This larger vision and mission will also increase our ability to leverage additional financial support from businesses and foundations that understand the value and benefit that these larger, healthier intact landscapes have on our human and natural communities.

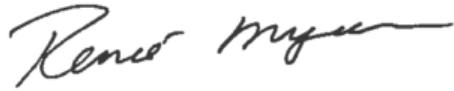
We also have more exciting news to share! In addition to our merger with Friends of Marquam Nature Park, FPC will be acquiring Keller Woods and Nikolai Woods from Columbia Land Trust. Keller woods is a 40-acre parcel of land connected to the southern end of Marquam Nature Park and Nikolai Woods is a smaller, 5 acre parcel just west of Keller Woods. These exciting new developments will provide more opportunities for you to engage with us and be part of a larger effort and vision to protect and steward our urban forests, which play a critical role in the vitality, health and resiliency of our urban communities and help mitigate the increasing effects of climate change.

For those of you that are financial supporters, rest assured that when you donate to Forest Park Conservancy, you will be able to designate where you want your funding to go, whether it’s Forest Park, Marquam Nature Park, or both, and your funds will be restricted. We are excited about this opportunity and honored to become part of the legacy of Marquam Nature Park. We are also grateful for our long-term partner, Columbia Land Trust, who has entrusted us with taking over stewardship and ownership of Keller and Nikolai Woods.

These are big developments for us as an organization, and I know many of you may have questions. I encourage you to reach out with any questions or suggestions you may have. This wouldn’t be possible without all of you, and I hope you’re as excited as we are about this new journey we are embarking on. Thank you for your support, and know that we appreciate each

and every one of you whether you are a volunteer, donor, or if you simply give back by loving these special places every time you step foot in them.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Renée Meyers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Renée Meyers  
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