



**NORTH
CLACKAMAS**
PARKS & RECREATION
DISTRICT

October 28, 2009

Nature in Neighborhoods Committee
c/o Mary Rose Navarro
Metro
600 Northeast Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Subject: Nature in Neighborhoods Grant for Re-Greening of Park Avenue Park & Ride

Dear Committee Members:

The North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) is pleased to support the Urban Green and TriMet proposal to develop a green station area plan for the proposed Park Avenue light rail station as part of the Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program.

This future light rail station location is bounded by McLoughlin Boulevard (Highway 99E) on the east and the alignment of the future NCPRD Trolley Trail, a regional bicycle and pedestrian pathway, on its west. While McLoughlin Blvd. will be the dominate route for auto access, the Trail will significantly enhance access to the station by pedestrians and bicyclists. NCPRD is completing design of the Trolley Trail and has scheduled construction of the trail in 2010.

The primary goal of the project is to provide habitat and stormwater linkage between distinct reaches of the Courtney Springs Creek Channel. There are three primary project elements, including on-site storm water management and treatment at the Park Avenue Station site, habitat transition, new plantings, and storm water management and treatment capacity at the parking structure site, and restoring a natural drainage way along the Courtney Springs Creek drainage. As a partner in the project, NCPRD believes that it is important to plan and develop this ecosystem restoration work now and to provide an integrated ecosystem corridor (1.5 miles) from the McLoughlin Boulevard railroad overpass at the north end of the Trolley Trail to Courtney Avenue. The project will be a model for re-introducing habitat throughout Oak Grove and will connect to the larger Kellogg Creek watershed and riparian corridor. The Trolley Trail has been planned as an element of the project and will provide a trail and greenway, not only for pedestrians and bicyclists, but will act as a natural system corridor for birds, herptiles and mammals.

NCPRD looks forward to working with Urban Green and TriMet and other partners on development of the re-greening of the Park Avenue Park and Ride Station Area. We encourage your support of this application.

Sincerely,

Dan Zinzer
Director

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