Waterleaf Property Acquisition -

For Immediate Release

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Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, Metro and the Trust for Public Land make possible the acquisition of the "Waterleaf" Property on Clatsop Butte

Natural area acquisition safeguards the 26.85-acre property from future development and helps protect water quality within the Johnson Creek Watershed

(Portland, OR) - Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) have announced the acquisition of the "Waterleaf" property, 26.85 acres of undeveloped land in Southeast Portland. The \$4 million purchase was funded by a partnership which combined Park SDC (System Development Charge) acquisition funds, BES Sewer Operating Funds and Portland's share of Metro's 2006 natural areas bond measure funds.

The nonprofit Trust for Public Land (TPL) facilitated the acquisition on behalf of the City from Riverside Homes Inc., who had approval for a 65-lot housing development on the site. TPL is also providing a \$1.6 million loan to aid the City in applying for grant funding.

"This additional Portland parkland will add to the quality of life for residents of East Portland. It is a prime piece of natural area adjacent to property already owned by Portland Parks," noted City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. "I am thrilled to have been part of this partnership because without all of us coming together, this land would not be saved for future generations."

The purchase allows the City to safeguard the property from potential development, expand parklands in East Portland and help protect wildlife habitat and water quality within the Johnson Creek Watershed.

"This is a critical step toward leveraging public investment to preserve one of Portland's most significant natural resource areas," said City Commissioner Sam Adams. "Public ownership of important hillsides to minimize runoff, erosion and landslides in our waterways and to avoid negative impacts on public health and safety, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat is essential to Portland's strategic growth."

Located adjacent to the existing Clatsop Butte Park at SE 152nd Avenue and Cooper Street, the property will be managed as a natural area by PP&R's City Nature division. A Master Plan is being developed for Clatsop Butte Park, and that process will now include the newly acquired additional acreage. The result will be a hybrid park, similar to Gabriel Park in Southwest Portland, featuring both the 16.3 acres of developed park and 26.85 acres of natural area.

PP&R's City Nature will also manage the nearby Clatsop Buttes Natural Area, including 110 acres purchased by Metro with funds from the voter-approved 2006 natural areas bond measure.