

Memorandum of Understanding
For The Forest Park Alliance
With Application To
The Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes an operating agreement and framework between the Forest Park Conservancy and identified Forest Park Alliance Organizations related to The Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative (GFPCI).

- Audubon Society of Portland
- Bureau of Environmental Services
- Columbia Land Trust
- Forest Park Conservancy
- Forest Park Neighborhood Association
- Friends of Trees
- The Intertwine Alliance
- Linnton Neighborhood Association
- Metro
- Portland Parks and Recreation
- West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

I. PURPOSE

The Purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework for cooperation and coordination between the above mentioned entities. This framework of cooperation and coordination provides for joint planning, assessment, implementation and studies and programs that enhance natural resources, including, but limited to forest health, fish habitat and connectivity, water quality, soils, vegetation, invasive species, wildlife and associated corridors and other aquatic species within the GFPCI boundary. This cooperation serves the benefit of all parties to improve resource management and community outreach and engagement within this area.

II. BACKGROUND

The primary purpose of the GFPCI is to provide a strategy for protecting and restoring the Greater Forest Park Ecosystem through partner collaboration, cooperation and coordination. The GFPCI is a long-term, strategic, concerted effort and commitment to maintaining and restore the ecological integrity of Forest Park and surrounding natural areas of importance, and to engage and obtain support from the wide range communities that are served by this area. The conservation of

natural areas on a local level is critical to maintaining the region's ecological integrity and biodiversity. The GFPCI is an attempt at a local scale to develop strategies to achieve the following:

- Protect air and water quality in the Portland area
- Improve ecosystem services such as flood management, groundwater recharge and sediment storage
- Improve biodiversity
- Increase a natural systems resilience to adapt to disease and climate change
- Increase habitat of native species
- Improve stream and riparian health and protect native fish populations
- Improve forest health and reduce invasive species

Efforts of this scale require collaboration and partnerships. The GFPCI is a collaborative undertaking of numerous organizations, referred to as the "Forest Park Alliance" that share a commitment to the conservation of regional habitats, in partnership with the local greater, Portland community. Through this initiative value is added to public investments by ensuring the park's natural resources and surrounding connective habitats are protected and preserved for future generations.

III. SCOPE

Forest Park Conservancy and the Alliance Organizations commit to the long-term viability and sustainability of Forest Park and its larger ecosystem by striving to realize the vision of the GFPCI. The initiative focuses on five principle objectives: streams, connectivity, forests, wildlife and community support/engagement. The initiative takes a holistic view of the Forest Park ecosystem by encompassing Forest Park, private land immediately adjacent to Forest Park, and other lands managed for conservation within the greater Forest Park ecosystem. The specific goals and actions identified by the Alliance Partners to be completed within the framework of this MOU, will be detailed on a Strategic Action Plan to be created and review at a maximum every 5 years.

The Forest Park Alliance recognizes that success depends on developing new, creative ways of solving resource issues, including community based efforts that bring organizations together work to solve resource problems and implement strategies resulting in long-term management solutions. Public-private partnerships increase success though a sharing of information and engaging parties in collaborative problem solving that balance various interests.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

Each organization will appoint a principal contact to serve as the official contact and coordinate the activities of each organization in carrying out this MOU. In addition, each organization will identify an alternate contact as a delegate for the principle contact. The appointees of each organization are expected to change over time and are maintained in Attachment 1 of this MOU.

The organizations agree to do their best efforts in relation to the following responsibilities under this MOU:

Lead Organization (Forest Park Conservancy):

- Create and maintain Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative long range plan, project plans, and supporting documents.
- Schedule and host quarterly Alliance Partners meetings; set agenda, gather and distribute required information, facilitate meeting, and distribute post-meeting status report.
- Collect and disseminate information and data between and on behalf of the Forest Park Alliance.
- Operate within the governance structure once established by the Alliance Partners.

Alliance Organizations:

- Participate in quarterly Alliance Partner meetings, and applicable subcommittee meetings; ensure principle contact remains current and engaged in the Alliance.
- Coordinate all aspects of committed work within respective organizations as related to the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative.
- Operate within the governance structure once established by the Alliance Partners.
- Work with Alliance Partners to develop work plans and implementation strategies approximately every five years

Forest Park Conservancy and Alliance Organizations:

- Partner to achieve the shared goals and objectives of the Initiative.

- Leverage complementary and shared organizational purposes to achieve specific aspects of the Initiative.
- Publically support the Initiative
- Organize and promote GFPCI fundraising efforts.

V. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

It is mutually understood and agreed by and between all parties that:

A. Non-Fund Obligating Document

This MOU is a nonbinding agreement that all parties have entered into in good faith. This agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Funds secured for projects listed under the GFPCI will be handled on an individual basis between cooperating parties based on by-laws, agency rules and regulations and grant agreement obligations. Each party understands that no party shall be committed perform any act hereunder unless and until said approval or authorization has been issued by said party's governing body.

Parties agree to work together to explore opportunities for shared funding for the Alliance in the future.

B. Modifications

Modifications made within the scope of this MOU shall be made by mutual consent of the parties with written modification, signed and dated by all parties. Any organization may sign-on to the term of this MOU as a new Alliance Organization with unanimous approval from the existing signatories.

C. Termination

A party or (parties) can withdraw as members at any time with written notice to all other parties.

D. Authorized Representatives

By signing below, each Forest Park Alliance Organization certifies that the individuals listed in this document are representatives of their respective organization and are authorized to enter into this agreement and act in matters related to this MOU. Signing of this agreement implies that the signatories will

strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the goals and objectives stated in the MOU.

Name:

Organization:

Date:

Attachment 1

Forest Park Alliance Organizations Appointed Points of Contact:

Audubon Society of Portland:

Bureau of Environmental Services:

Columbia Land Trust:

Forest Park Conservancy: Alejandro Orizola, alejandro@forestparkconservancy.org,
(503)223-55449 – ext. 108

Forest Park Neighborhood Association:

Friends of Trees:

The Intertwine Alliance:

Linnton Neighborhood Association:

Metro:

Portland Parks and Recreation:

West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District: