

Off-Road Cycling Advisory Committee Frequently Asked Questions

	Question	Answer
1	<p>What is the Off-Road Cycling Advisory Committee?</p>	<p>In response to hundreds of e-mails and phone calls, the Parks Bureau launched an Advisory Committee to explore options for improving the off-road biking experience in Forest Park.</p> <p>The Committee is made up of representatives from diverse user groups and began meeting in August 2009.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee has been asked to consider various options and provide a recommendation to the Parks Director, Zari Santner, and the Parks Commissioner, Nick Fish.</p> <p>The recommendations must improve both the biking experience and the ecological health of Forest Park. The Advisory Committee plans to have a recommendation by late Spring 2010.</p>
2	<p>Are walkers and hikers part of the discussion?</p>	<p>Walkers are represented. The Advisory Committee is made up of thoughtful people who care about the park:</p> <p>First Last Affiliation / Interest</p>

Tom
Archer
NW Trail Alliance

Chris
Bernhardt
Trail Planning Consultant

Les
Blaize
NWNW – Neighborhood
Coalition

John
Deschler
PSU - Biologist

Chris
Distefeno
Chris King Components

Stephen
Hatfield
Forest Park Conservancy

Lisa
Heigh
General Park User, runner

Leslie
Hildula
F.P. Neighborhood Assoc.,
hiker

Marci
Houle
Biologist, Hiker, Author,
Historian

Judy
Jewell
Thurman gate neighbor

John
Runyon
General Park User, runner,
cyclist

Bob
Sallinger
Audubon

Frank
Selker
NW Trail Alliance

Eric
Tonkin
NW Trail Alliance

Jill
VanWinkle

Intl. Mountain Biking Assoc.

Lori
Webb
Hoyt Arboretum, walker

Doug
Wittren
Linnton Neighborhood
Association

Parks Staff

Astrid
Dragoy
City Nature West Zone
Manager

Emily
Hicks
Office of Commissioner Nick
Fish

Brett
Horner
Senior Planning Manager

Elizabeth
Kennedy-Wong
Public Involvement Manager

Emily
Roth
Natural Resource Planner

Dan
Moeller
City Nature West Zone
Supervisor

Kurt
Nelson
Park Ranger

3	Do the current options being discussed include the possibility of opening up pedestrian-only trails, specifically <i>Wildwood Trail and Maple Trail</i> , to mountain biking?	<p>The Wildwood Trail is not an option.</p> <p>3.2 miles of the Maple Trail, in the central part of the park (where other parallel trails existed), could potentially be shared.</p> <p>All other options would involve re-greening fire lanes currently open to bikers or building short connecting trails between existing fire lanes.</p>
4	Is there the possibility that the Maple trail will be closed off to hikers several days of the week?	The Advisory Committee is charged with considering all possibilities and perspectives and providing Nick and Zari with their recommendations.

5

Are these decisions being made in a public, open process?

Absolutely. All meetings are open to the public with a time for public comment allocated at each meeting. The public is invited to listen to the committee discussion but are asked not to participate. We also post meeting minutes on the [HYPERLINK "http://www.portlandonline.com/PARKS/index.cfm?c=51017"](http://www.portlandonline.com/PARKS/index.cfm?c=51017) [project website](#) and have uploaded a “fact sheet”.

The public will be given opportunities to review and comment on the Advisory Committee’s recommendations before they are finalized.

<p>6</p>	<p>Do we risk losing the natural resource qualities that make Forest Park so special?</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee will use the Forest Park Natural Resource Management Plan to guide their recommendations. Emily Roth, Parks' Natural Resource Planner, provided each member of the Advisory Committee with a copy of the Plan and spent the first meeting summarizing this guiding document.</p> <p>The Advisory Committee has also been asked to include, in any recommendation, restoration opportunities that improve the ecological health of the park.</p>
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<p>7</p>	<p>Is the current proposal to increase singletrack trails in Forest Park in opposition to the Forest Park Natural Resource Management Plan?</p>	<p>There is no current “proposal.”</p> <p>There are specific legal and procedural requirements contained in the Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan.</p> <p>Any changes to trails in Forest Park will require a land use application to be filed with Bureau of Development Services (BDS) and public outreach and input is part of that formal process.</p> <p>Parks is not prepared to pursue any changes that would trigger a Type III Land Use Review.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Why is there pressure to increase singletrack trails in Forest Park, instead of other places in the City?</p>	<p>We are looking at opportunities elsewhere in the City. Forest Park represents 50% of our Parks system.</p> <p>We have launched a planning process for a new regional park focused on biking opportunities called “Gateway Green” and are also working on other trail system improvements including the Powell Butte Natural Area.</p>