

Main Talking Points Nov. 16, 2016

from B. Dugan, B.S (OSU Forestry Degree) B.A. M.S., Retired PPS teacher and Native of
Portland

Mayor Hale, Commissioner Fritz, Commissioner Fish, Commissioner Novick, and
Commissioner Saltzman

I know you are all quite busy and in respect of that and to streamline your time in
looking over my materials, I included a minimum amount of papers and
summarized my main talking points.

Papers included:

1. My original email to City Hall in August 2016
2. A letter from Senior Citizens Mark and Lark Brandt
3. My comments in response to letter from Lori Grant
4. Two Page excerpt from the Oregon Trails 2016 Survey Report
5. My Main Talking Points in this morning's 3 minute presentation

Main Points

- I am concerned about safety not only for senior citizens but also children and anyone else not nimble enough to safely jump out of the way of illegal single track bikers. I know of many people besides myself who have been run off the trails by bicyclists who are riding illegally on pedestrian only trails.
- I know longer feel safe hiking in Forest Park as is true for other senior citizens of the city.
- Signs are not being posted/maintained showing the trails in Forest Park that are closed to cyclists. This opens the city to lawsuits when pedestrians are hurt by cyclists

Continued ↓

- There are way more people wanting to use Forest Park for activities other than single track biking – see Oregon State Trail Recreation Report to get a sense of trail use state wide. (79% other vs 4% single track) (I subtracted activities like snowshoeing and beach walking since it doesn't apply to Forest Park.
- Based on a conversation with a Portland Parks Employee in Management I know the terrible erosion and compaction caused by Mountain Biking on clay soils. For example about 20 years ago there was a terrible issue in Gabriel Park. According to the employee, the area is still not completely recovered even though extensive work has been done to rehabilitate the area that was ruined. Check it out for yourself. Get some testimony or statements from people who work in and supervise Gabriel Park.

Forest Park Perspectives

This is a copy of my original letter sent to all members of city council in August - they had some slight differences - this is the one I sent to Commissioner Fritz. I have underlined a few things to make your finding specific points easier.

- lichenocan@yahoo.com
- Aug 6 at 7:12 PM

To: Amanda@portlandoregon.gov

Message body

Dear Commissioner Fritz

I respect you as a person and as a politician. In voicing concerns in the past you have always sent what seems to be a personal response and that makes me feel you really listen. As the Parks Commissioner I hope you will reflect on my input below. Thank you for your service to the city.

I know the citizen voice is important so as a **native Portlander** and Senior Citizen, I'd like to offer some questions and perspectives regarding Forest Park.

Please note - having owned and participated in Mountain Biking over the years I feel like I have a balanced perspective that is worth your consideration on this matter.

It has come to my attention that there are some plans to offer single track mountain bike options in that park. In response, **I'd like to speak for bikers, the poor, children, senior citizens, and non-bikers.**

In speaking for bikers - Thank you for all you have done for both road and Mt bikers. It is safer riding through the city and there are many place to Mt bike including Powell Butte, Mt Tabor Park and I hear a new biking park is being planned in the east county. Having done my share of mountain biking I know it is a fun, noisy, adrenaline rush activity. There are already a number of places in the city to do this as well as Ski Bowl and parts of the national forests and other natural areas. In looking at the percentage of people in Portland who do this activity, it is small in comparison to the entire Portland population but I am concerned about the power and influence this small percentage of people (bike activists) are wielding to the detriment of the rest of Portland's citizens.

First in speaking for the poor of Portland - Forest Park is a unique rarity in a city. One of only a few wilderness city parks in the country. In this often frenzied world it offers a place of solace and calm for the mind and spirit. Why not start promoting this aspect of the park - there certainly are enough stressed people in Portland that could deeply benefit from a walk though these woods. Fortunately for poor people, it is accessible by our fine Trimet bus system. Thank you for your support on that. To access other wilderness expanses requires a reliable car - which is something many economically challenged people cannot afford. And there are many such people in this city. Maybe even 30% or more of the city population. How do I know that? Just take a look at the number of children on free and reduced lunches in the city schools. As a retired PPS teacher some schools I taught in had as many as 86% of the families in that category and none had less than 30% on free and reduced breakfast and lunches. Please check out the statistics yourself. Having done single track biking myself I know how boisterous and rambunctious it can be - totally changing the experience of a woodland sanctuary for

anyone within earshot. Wealthier people can leave the city to find calm - poorer people often do not have that option.

Speaking for senior citizens and children - hiking is fun, nature holds wonderment for all ages and hiking is a good low impact exercise option. Single track biking is fast and includes blind corners which impacts safety for all hikers but more so for children and seniors with slower reactions. I have been injured twice in trying to get out of the way of bikers on trails that were supposed to be "hiker only" in Forest Park. Severely spraining my ankle once and another time ended up with serious cuts and bruises when I fell down a steep incline. I still have a scar on my arm years later from the deepest cut. Neither time did the bikers stop. And luckily there are multiple other times over the last few years I have jumped off "hiking only" trails without injury as I heard someone yell "on your left" and speed by me! Since bikers are already on "hiker only" trails I fear that if single track trails are opened up in Forest Park - it will increase bikers on all trails regardless of the designated use making safety a huge issue for hikers. I believe this to be true based on the responses I have received from bikers when I told them it was a hiker only trail - being flipped off, sworn at, and one man yelled- "this is America - I can go anywhere I want". That, plus the person laughing and riding off when I fell down the slope makes me realize hiking in forest park is becoming a high risk sport and while not all bikers have disregard- there are enough already that don't seem to care about putting hikers in peril. I have yet to meet any enforcement officers in the park in all the years I have hiked there.

In speaking for people who do not mountain bike - (which is the majority of Portland citizens) I ask you if you want your legacy to them to be taking a natural jewel of a sanctuary in our city and allowing it to become a boisterous, eroded, recreation area that is unsafe for pedestrians when there are already plenty of other areas that already meet their needs?

The original city leaders made a great plan, including laws to protect this gem. They had great foresight - can you also see that? Please don't let a small group of well-organized bikers hijack Forest Park away from the people of Portland. Have the foresight to see that as the density of this beautiful city increases having a refuge of Forest Park which now also includes lots of wildlife will be even more important to the citizens

Finally, I am aware of the survey that is being circulated regarding the park. As a teacher for 33 years I have taught a variety of units including technical writing. One of the lessons in that unit was how to write a good unbiased survey. So from that background I need to say the park survey is quite biased towards allowing single track biking. A good lawyer could easily shred its validity based on the type of questions, the wording etc. It is set up in a way to elicit a particular view point - getting more biking trails in the park. And it appears it is going to off-road bike users and I'm not sure how you are guarding against the same person submitting their opinion multiple times.

In closing - thank you for reading and considering these perspectives. I hope you will have the caring and circumspection to protect the natural treasure of Forest Park.

Sincerely

B. Dugan

To the City of Portland:

Although we live in Washington County, our closest best nature hikes have always been in Forest Park. We have taken numerous visitors from all over the world to the Park so see what a majestic old-growth Douglas fir forest looks, sounds, smells and feels like. To hear the birds and see the beauty of nature. Our visitors are always amazed at the wisdom the City of Portland has shown in preserving such a treasure for all to witness throughout the years.

This has changed drastically in the last few years since single-track cycling has become the adrenaline-driven rage that it is. Now it is too dangerous to take an elderly person, a small child, a pregnant woman, or anyone else who can't quickly jump out of the way of a speeding cyclist for a quiet hike in the Park. The Park is being degraded and abused by those who do not understand or care about it's historic purpose or the damage they are causing, and the City is doing nothing to stop it.

All bicyclists over the age of 12 should be required to have licenses on their bikes so that law breakers can be dealt with. The revenue from licensing can be used to help build bike trails in suitable places.

There are plenty of suitable places in Portland that could be developed into "world-class" cycling courses. Forest Park is NOT one of them.

Thank you.

Mark Nelson/Lark Brandt
33405 SW Cook Rd.
Hillsboro, OR 97123

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Nelson" and "Lark Brandt" written together in a cursive style.

Response from Lori Grant to my original email sent to: Mayor Hale and the city council, Susan Anderson, Mike Abbate and Jeff Anderson

I realize Lori Grant no longer is in this position but wanted to comment on some things she said for you to consider. I have insert them in Balloons Comments on the side

Survey Responses

- Grant, Lori <Lori.Grant@portlandoregon.gov>
- Aug 8 at 2:22 PM

To: lichenocan@yahoo.com

Dear B. Dugan:

Thank you for your email expressing your concerns about off-road cycling in Forest Park. The intent of the Off-road Cycling Master Plan is to develop a citywide system of off-road cycling facilities, including sustainable trail systems. Many of the trails in Forest Park are not designed nor constructed for multiple users, and shared use of such trails is not safe nor sustainable. We agree it is unfortunate that some bicyclists continue to violate the rules by riding on the pedestrian trails in Forest Park. Unfortunately, the City has limited resources to enforce misuse of public lands for many types of activities (camping, dumping, off-leash dogs, etc.) - we do the best we can given our resources. In recent years, we have substantially increased our park rangers presence where appropriate and feasible. It is most helpful to our ranger to report if there is a particular time and place that you encounter the illegal riding so that we could better direct our park rangers. It is not the intent or expectation that the master plan could suddenly open existing Forest Park trails to off-road cycling.

While many off-road cycling enthusiasts have voiced their desire for single track trails in the City, including in Forest Park, the master planning process is taking a wide view of all potential opportunities across Portland. Our charge from the City Council is to create a master plan that provides a wide range of facilities and user experiences for all ages and abilities, including skill parks, pump tracks, and varying trail types. The goal of the planning process is to develop a system of off-road cycling facilities that serves the community, provides safe experiences for all users of city parks, and protects natural resources.

I also want to assure you that we do not consider the online questionnaire to be a statistically valid survey. We know that by being available online, people opt in to responding, attracting a disproportionate number of responses from people closely following the issue. We are also collecting responses separately through the intercept method at community events unrelated to cycling. In any case, the questionnaire is but one tool we are using to help us learn about the types of off-road facilities wanted (or not) by the community. We were careful to craft the questionnaire so that a "we don't need this" option was included in virtually all the questions, and provided space for general comments as well. We will continue to seek input through the summer by tabling at community events, and through focus groups and other targeted methods to reach community members not typically involved in these issues.

I encourage you to get engaged in the planning process. There is a wealth of information on the project website: <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/offroadcycling>.

You can sign up for email updates and track the advisory committee discussions. The site suitability assessment is just getting started and will look at all city owned properties, including Forest Park. Later in the summer we will share the results of the assessments and begin the community discussion on a citywide plan for a system of off-road cycling facilities.

The master plan may find that providing additional sanctioned off-road cycling trails in Forest Park would help reduce conflicts and provide a safer and more enjoyable experience for all park users. If the master plan does recommend constructing new trails or reconstructing trails to safely allow multiple users, additional studies, public involvement and discussion will be required. The master plan could also recommend amending the 1995 Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan trail standards to incorporate current best practices in trail design and management, which would also require further analysis, public input and separate action by the City Council.

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Comment [F1]: Since the goal Lori states includes safe experiences for all users then the comment in the first paragraph about illegal riding needs to be addressed lest the city gets sued by someone injured. Mark and Lark Brandt's idea (their letter is included in this packet) of requiring all bikers to have a bike license attached to their bikes not only would be a way to actually cite people who ride illegally anywhere in the city it would be a source of revenue to fund park rangers and police. Since bikers use the infrastructures of the city and money is spent on many bike projects throughout the city, this seems to be a fair assessment. I myself bike in the city and would like to see this. It is way too easy for bikers to avoid fines and penalties by claiming they don't have their ID on them.

Comment [F2]: I had questioned the validity of the Survey being circulated. Lori responds it is not a statistically valid survey - my questions then are: Why is the city spending money on an invalid survey and how are they going to get truly valid input?



Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Lori

Lori Grant
Associate Planner
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
City of Portland
503.823.7849 lori.grant@portlandoregon.gov

Oregon Trails 2016 Recreational Study Survey Report

I have included the attached two pages from the Oregon Trail 2016 Recreational Study which is based on an accurate survey to supplant the Forest Park survey that according to Lori Grant is statistically invalid.

The entire survey report can be found at:

http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Trail_Programs_Services/Documents/2016OregonStatewideTrailsPlan.pdf

There is lots of valuable information within this report but I am including these two pages to point out that the preference of trail users for single track biking is only 4%.

I think the City Council needs to keep in mind that Forest Park is a Park for all of Portland residents and not let a small minority of users dominate policy making and recreation and preservation decisions.

FAVORITE ACTIVITY, TRAIL PREFERENCES, AND PRIORITIES

Respondents reported their favorite among the listed trail activities, then reported trail preferences for that activity.

Favorite Activity And Trail Preferences

As shown in Figure 62 walking/ hiking is the favorite activity for almost half the respondents. Note that respondents could choose only one activity and that the walking/ running sub categories were presented as separate activities in this question. Thus, 48% who chose walking/ hiking presumably reflect people whose favorite activity is walking/ hiking not on an ocean beach and not involving a dog.

There were fewer than 10 respondents who indicated that each of the winter trail activities was their favorite. No respondent indicated that inline skating or skateboarding was their favorite. Therefore,

these categories are omitted from the following “by favorite activity” analyses. In addition, walking/ running on an ocean beach is omitted from trail surface, length, and difficulty results.

Figure 63 shows satisfaction with three aspects of trail opportunities for engaging in their favorite activity. The aspects were described as follows:

- Proximity - you can access trails for this activity near your home.
- Quality - the trails are well-suited to the experience you seek.
- Variety - you can access multiple trails.

Across all activities, the percent somewhat or very satisfied (4 or 5 on the 1 to 5 scale) is highest for quality and lowest for variety. There were high ratings (80% or higher) for some aspects of some activities, but opportunities for improvement remain for other aspects and activities.

Figure 62. Favorite Non-Motorized Trail Activity

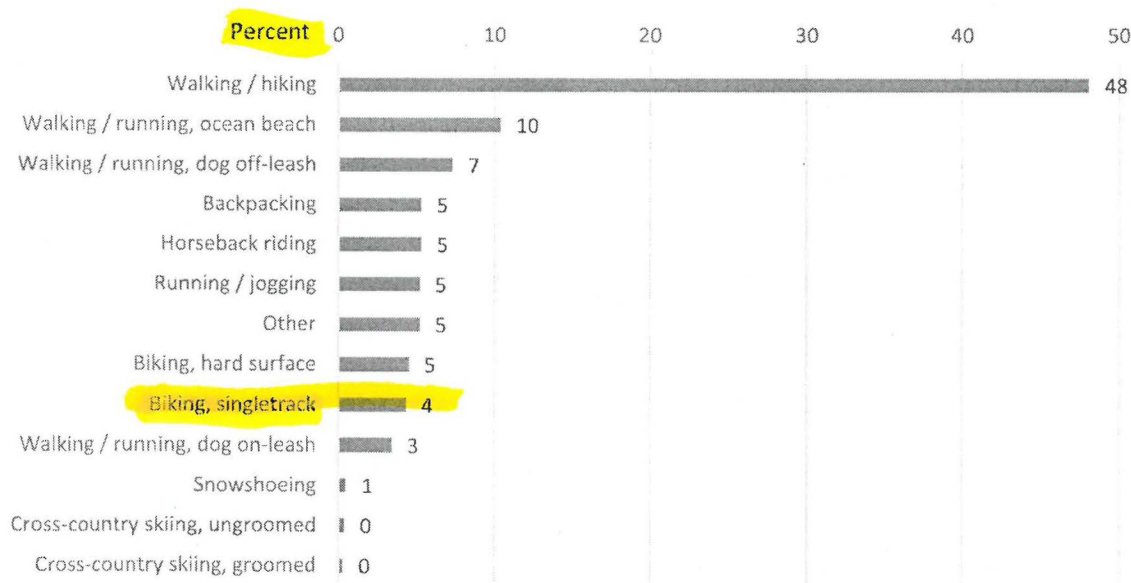
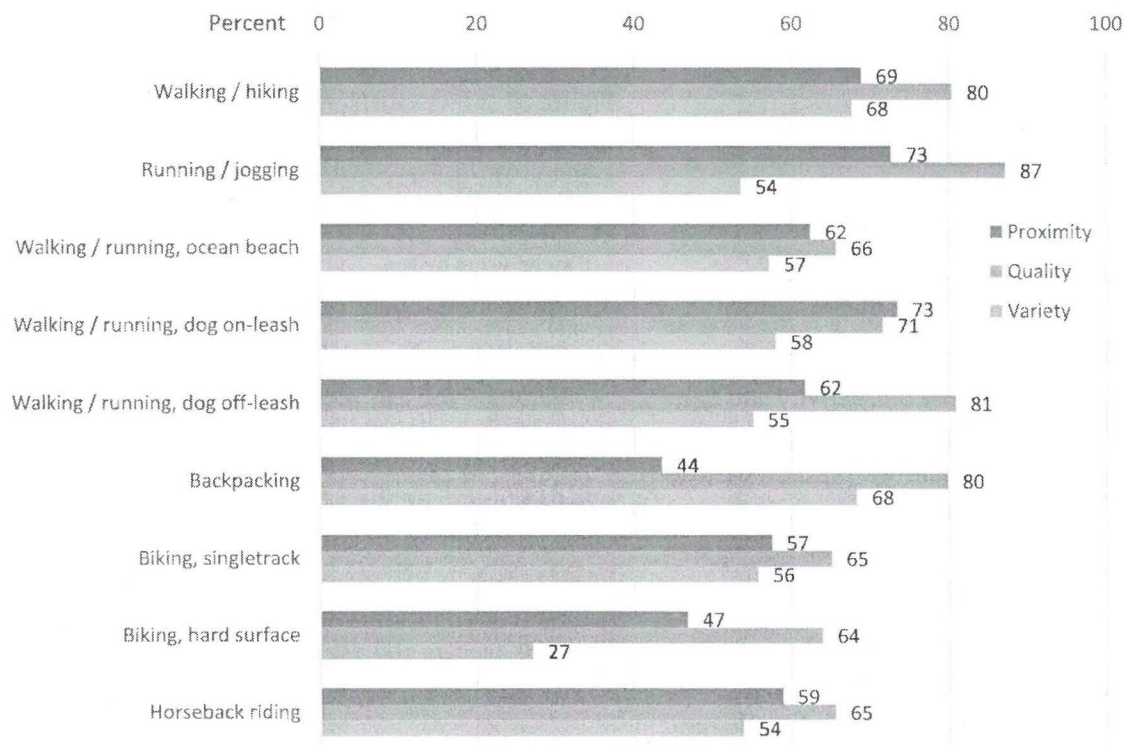
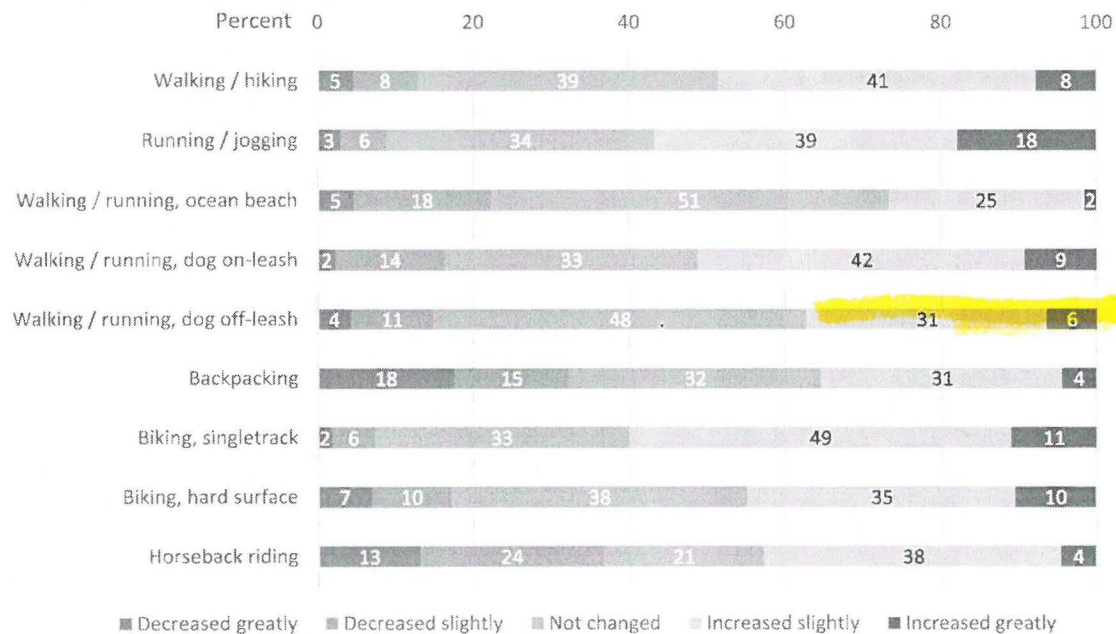


Figure 63. Satisfaction With Opportunities To Engage In Favorite Non-Motorized Trail Activity, Percent Rating Somewhat Or Very Satisfied



Respondents then indicated whether opportunities to engage in their favorite activity have decreased, not changed, or increased in the past 10 years, with results shown in Figure 64. In general, increased opportunities outweighed decreased opportunities.

Figure 64. Changes In Opportunities To Engage In Favorite Non-Motorized Trail Activity In Past 10 Years



2011
Parsons, Susan

4
BARBARA DUGAN

From: lichenoccean@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2016 1:29 PM
To: Parsons, Susan
Subject: Re: Confirming Nov. 16th

11/16

Yes Susan - confirming I will be there. Thank you for all the useful guidelines.

Barbara DUGAN

"***"

On Sep 16, 2559 BE, at 11:51 AM, Parsons, Susan <Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Dear Barbara,
Please confirm this request for a Communications spot on November 16th.

Here is further information for you on the Communications portion of the agenda:

- You will have three minutes to address the Council and may also submit written material (please provide seven copies).
- We start the meeting at 9:30 and Communications are the first item on the agenda.
- Please note communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our citizens, but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.
- The Council meeting takes place at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers.

Regards,

Susan Parsons
Assistant Council Clerk
City of Portland
susan.parsons@portlandoregon.gov
503.823.4085

From: Marcy Houle [<mailto:newmoonfarms@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 16, 2016 10:58 AM

To: lichenoccean <lichenoccean@yahoo.com>; Parsons, Susan <Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov>

Subject: Confirming Nov. 16th

Dear Barbara:

Thank you so much for agreeing to speak about Forest Park to City Hall on November 16th! I am cc:ing Susan Parsons, Assistant Council Clerk at the City of Portland, on this email, so you and she can communicate and settle on times, etc.

Your view about the dangers to senior citizens if single track cycling is allowed to occur on pedestrian only trails in Forest Park is a powerful voice. Also, your experiences with nearly being run over by cyclists riding illegally on these trails is critical for the Mayor and City Councilors to know.

Thank you for your time and everything you are doing to save our wonderful Forest Park!

Warmly,

Marcy

1263

Request of Barbara Dugan to address Council regarding dangers to senior citizens if single track cycling is allowed to occur on pedestrian only trails in Forest Park (Communication)

NOV 16 2016
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Filed NOV 08 2016

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		