

From: Susan Barthel [mailto:smbarthel@spiritone.com]
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2017 9:15 PM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: RE: NE Marx St, NE Deering Dr, NE 111th & NE 112th Aves (RWA #8073)

To members of the Planning Commission
RE: NE Marx St, NE Deering Dr, NE 111th & NE 112th Aves (RWA #8073)

Susan Barthel
216 SE 30 Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97214

To: Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
From: Susan Barthel
Re: NE Marx St, NE Deering Dr, NE 111th & NE 112th Aves (RWA #8073)
Proposed Street Vacation and Public Access Issues

Date: June 16, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed street vacation and public access issues related to NE Marx St, NE Deering Dr, NE 111th & NE 112th Aves (RWA #8073).

I am extremely concerned this proposed action will preclude legal public access to the Columbia Slough waterway. There is already a fence that closes off access to the waterway that stands within the right-of-way.

This proposed action would permanently remove opportunities for the public to utilize and enjoy the waterway and its wildlife. This area, called Little 4 Corners where the Columbia Slough main stem and the Whitaker Slough merge is one of the few locations that provides access to an easy natural launch. It is also one of the most unique areas on this complex of 60 miles of waterway. There are a host of active cold water springs right here. The water is clear, cold and constant. The trees and shrubs lining the waterway are much like what would exist in a non-urban natural area. It is idyllic. This opportunity would also provides access to the long -planned, but not yet built Columbia Slough Water Trail.

This is most likely the only opportunity, ever, to provide and protect a desired public good in an area of Portland that is parks and greenspace deficient. I believe that there should be either: a public easement that will allow the public to use the little trail from the end of NE 112th to the Slough or a vacation of NE Deering Drive only.

Certainly our planning department can find a way to accomplish this goal. The connection of NE 112th to the Columbia Slough is one of the few public access points, and should not be obliterated.

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to your thoughtful consideration and action that is protective of the public good.