

(This is from an email during April of 2001 to a friend...)

Also...I will throw this one out there to you...it is my understanding that the Abbey forest has many hiking trails that are open to the public...I hiked several of them a few years ago.

As a citizen of Lafayette with a family, if I have a desire to hike in the woods, I have several local options, including the abbey forest, Crabtree Park by Dundee and the Airport Park by the airport.

There are so many excellent parks just in the county, including Lafayette Locks, Wortman, Grenfell...then of course Willamette Mission and Champoeg State Parks...I see no lack of parks here at all.

Even in Lafayette, I have Joel Perkins Park behind my house, the Commons Park by the community center, I can hike down the forest trail under the railroad trestle to the river, where the creek flows in...it is so amazing down there in the summer--we go there all the time, and hike up and down the river...also I think it's called Lower Park, down by the bridge by the sewer plant, also the school playground, and the really cool trees/hedgerow along the creek bottom, and the hill going up towards Duniway Rd from the school...also the new little parkway area in the new Lafayette Plantation development, with the little bench overlooking the Mineral Springs Road Area...and the creek below it, which my kids and I have hiked down into several times...I also consider the old Lafayette Pioneer Cemetery and the Masonic Cemetery on your road to be within my "park areas", even though they are not technically "public".

Lafayette is not doing a good job currently at maintaining the 3 main city parks that it has...so I do not see that it will be able to open up more current land for a new park.

Prior to 1999 when the watershed city property came into public light, with the logging process and public meetings, I had never even known it existed. I came out in opposition to any logging up there whatsoever, both in public meetings, in letters to the city council, and to the News Register.

I also applied for the position to serve on the Watershed Citizens Advisory Board, to oppose any future logging in the watershed, and made that part of my introductory statement at our first meeting in January of 2000.

I will continue to oppose logging in that property, both as a member of the board, and as a citizen of Lafayette.

I will leave the option of increased public access open for you, but I cannot support it at this time.

Travis Johnson