

## AM No. 10-042

TO: Mayor Marchione and City Council

FROM: Craig Larsen, Parks and Recreation Director 425-556-2310  
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DATE: March 2, 2010

SUBJECT: **STAFF REPORT: CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY – YEARLY UPDATE**

The purpose of this staff report is to provide the City Council an update on the activities and progress of the Green Redmond Partnership.

### **History**

In late 2007 the City of Redmond entered into a partnership with Cascade Land Conservancy in its Green Cities Program. The program's goal is to bring 1,200 acres of forested parkland into active management over the next 20 years.

2008 was a year dedicated primarily to research and development. Assessments were completed on the natural areas within parks, outreach materials were developed, and public meetings were held to gather input and encourage participation. A few volunteer work events were also coordinated. This past year, 2009, was our first year dedicated to training volunteers and coordinating the work effort involved in actively managing forested parkland.

### **2009 Annual Report**

The Forest Management Plan identifies yearly goals in many areas as a means to guide the overall goal of bringing 1,200 acres of forested parkland into active management in the 20-year time period. We are excited to report the overwhelming success of this first year of on-the-ground efforts. The numbers speak for themselves:

- Forested Parkland in initial restoration
  - **Goal:** 2 acres
  - **Result:** 5.42 acres
- Volunteers
  - **Goal:** 800 volunteer hours
  - **Result:** 2,214 volunteer hours
- Forest Stewards
  - **Goal:** Recruit and train a minimum of 6 active Stewards
  - **Result:** 10 active Forest Stewards are currently working at 5 sites

### **Planned Activities for 2010**

This year we will be working to continue the momentum established in 2009. We will train additional Forest Stewards while continuing to support those already in the program. We must maintain the acreage initiated into restoration, and continue to add additional acreage into active management. The community of Redmond, already very engaged in this program, will have many opportunities to continue its involvement in the Green Redmond Partnership. Our goals for this year include:

- Forest Steward Orientation – March 13
- “Last Saturday” volunteer events April through October
- Advanced training through Washington Native Plant Society
- Events led and coordinated by Forest Stewards
- 2 corporate events
- 2 events with a youth focus
- 2 independent events

The continued support of Redmond City Council, the experience of Cascade Land Conservancy, and the enthusiasm of the Redmond community have all contributed to the initial success of this program. Visit the website [www.greenredmond.org](http://www.greenredmond.org) at any time for an update on activities or events.