

## **Block 7 Testimony for the GHFL Vote by Daniel Salomon, 4/29/2014**

My name is Daniel Salomon. I am an environmental writer with a Masters Degree in Theological Research and a Certificate in Science and Religion.

I am a resident of Goose Hollow.

I am against the MAC proposal to rezone Block 7 from residential to commercial. Block 7 is home to many mature trees and shrubs. Cutting down trees and their benefits compromises the Comprehensive Plan's Goal 8.

Portland forester Dr. Geoffrey Donovan shows a correlation between preserving older trees and shrubs in cities and human survival.

Donovan demonstrated through three different scientific experiments that:

- Affluent neighborhoods that had older trees and shrubs experienced a reduction in crime. But affluent neighborhoods that had younger trees and shrubs experienced an increase in crime.
- Affluent neighborhoods east of the Mississippi who lost their native and/or non-native ash trees of any species because of the emerald ash borer also experienced an increase in mortality due to cardiovascular disease. Donovan contends that the ash stands for all mature trees. Mature trees reduce stress connected to the immune system and improve local air quality.
- In Portland neighborhoods that had more extensive tree canopy cover, women experienced greater reproductive success, while Portland neighborhoods that did not have as much of a tree canopy experienced higher reproductive failure. For the same reasons---mature trees reduce stress, strengthen the immune system and improve local air quality.

This means that the mature trees and shrubs of Block 7 are irreplaceable to the health, safety and well-being of the people of Goose Hollow. The mature trees and shrubs of Block 7 can't be mitigated through the MAC replanting seedlings.

See my ecological survey in my submitted testimony.

As a neurodiverse human on the autism spectrum the stakes are high. I need a lower stress environment to manage my anxiety symptoms. This is not to mention the possibility of additional air, water, noise, light, electromagnetic chaos and carbon pollution caused by building a four story underground parking garage negatively impacting my nervous system if Block 7 is rezoned.

I leave you now with one line from the Talmud.

“Let all creation praise you, each plot of land declare [God's] providence” (Psalm 103).



## Ecological Survey of Block 7

### Mammals:

- One bat sited (native) (declining)
- Western grey squirrels (native) (declining)

### Birds:

- Townsend's Warbler (native) (seasonal) (migratory to open habitats like Block 7)
- Ruby Crowned Kinglet (native) (seasonal) (migratory to open habitats like Block 7)
- American Robin (native) (seasonal) (migratory to open habitats like Block 7)
- American Crow (native)
- Steller's Jays (native) (seasonal)
- Western Scrub Jays (native) (resident)
- Song Sparrows (native) (resident)
- Spotted Towhee (native) (migratory) (neotropical)
- Northern Flicker (red shafted) (native) (migratory)
- Red-breasted Sapsucker (native) (seasonal)
- Anna's Hummingbird (native) (expanding range) (resident)
- Black Capped Chickadees (native) (resident)
- Bushtits (native) (seasonal)
- Cedar Waxwings (native) (seasonal)
- American Goldfinches (native)
- House Finches (native)
- Oregon Juncos (native)

### Trees: All native trees

- Lodgepole Pine (child)

- Alaska Cedars (child)
- Big Leaf Maples (youth)
- Black Cottonwood (baby)
- Paper Birches (adult)
- Bitter Cherries (adult)
- Oregon White Oaks (mature)
- Oregon Ashes (elder)
- Pacific Dogwoods (elder)

**Shrubs:** Native and non native shrubs

- Black Huckleberries (native) (declining) (fruit producing)
- Pacific Rhodendron (native) (state flower) (mature)
- Asian Yew (non-native) (mature)
- Leland Cypresses (non-native) (mature)
- English Holly (non-native) (mature)
- American Hollies (non-native) (1 mature, 2 babies) (good food source for native birds)
- Camellias (non-native) (mature)

**Native Wildflowers:** Important for preserving biodiversity and food for wildlife

- Palmate Coltsfoots (native) (locally common)
- Queen's Cups (native) (abundant)

**Exotic Wildflowers:** Positive role of providing food for native wildlife and ornamental value

- Saint John's Wort (non-native) (good for wildlife) (ornamental and medicinal value)
- Snow Drops (non-native) (ornamental value)

**Primitive Plants:** All native, extraordinarily biodiversity and sign of good air quality and ecosystem health

- Flat-Leaved Liverworts (native) (locally common)
- Hard Scale Liverworts (native) (uncommon)
- Magnificent Mosses (native) (locally common)

- Oregon Beaked Mosses (native) (locally common)
- Slender Beaked Mosses (native) (locally common)
- Twisted Ulota(s) (native) (locally common)
- Curly Thatch Mosses (native) (abundant)
- Lover's Mosses (native) (locally common)
- Yellow-Green Peat Moss (native) (abundant)
- Licorice Ferns (native) (locally common)
- Sword Ferns (native) (locally common)

**Lichens:** All native, high biodiversity, sign of good air quality and ecosystem health

- Dust Lichens (native) (multiple species) (common)
- Bark Barnacles (native) (common)
- Cladonia Scales (native) (common)
- Peppered Moons (native) (abundant)
- Pimpled Kidneys (native) (abundant)
- Ragbags (native) (two different colors) (common)
- Sulphur Stubble (native) (abundant)

**Historical:**

- Traces, yards, staircases, gardens, plants and property lines of demolished Queen Anne's houses belonging to Chinese immigrants dating back to possibly the end of the nineteenth century.
- One possible original outdoor staircase still useable today.
- Definitely in the watershed of Goose Hollow.
- Seed bank from an earlier floodplain Douglas fir lowland temperate rainforest has survived, explains presence of both wetland and rainforest plants, as well as why many wetland trees like the paper birches grow well here and are present in extraordinary numbers, including planted ones on surrounding streets.

**Other:**

- Extraordinary mushroom and fungous diversity including the Turkey Tail.
- Can see the moon and some stars in Block 7 on clear nights.
- "Dark space"----little to no light pollution in this area after dark.

- Fairly quiet after dark too.
- Not much in the way of litter, compared to more urban places in Goose Hollow.
- Used primarily as a dog park, communal social space and for informal athletic events.
- Home to a native bee colony.
- Saw at least two orb spider webs.
- Saw one migrating dragonfly.

### **Bibliography for Further Reading:**

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- Paul Gerald, *Peaceful Places Portland: 103 Tranquil Sites in the Rose City and Beyond* (Menasha Ridge Press, 2012) read “Maquam Nature Park” 97–98.
- Geoffrey Donovan and multiple authors, “The Relationship Between Trees and Human Health: Evidence from the Spread of the Emerald Ash Borer” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* (2013; 44 (2): 139–145).
- *Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine---the Portland. Vancouver Region’s Network of Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas* ed. by Michael Houck and M.J. Cody (Oregon: Oregon State University Press, 2011) “Hard Drinkers: Freshwater Mussels” by Mathew Shepherd, 308–310, “Oak Woodlands and Savannahs” by Mark Griswold Wilson, 67.
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- Michael Mehaffy, “Do Portland Planners have tower envy?” *The Sunday Oregonian* (September 29, 2013).
- Multiple Authors, *Gathering in the City: An Annotated Bibliography and Review of the Literature About Human–Plant Interactions in Urban Ecosystems* (United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Pacific Northwest Research Station, February 2012).
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- Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon, *Revised–Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia & Alaska* (British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Lone Pine Publishing, 1994 2004).

- Tracy Prince, *Portland's Goose Hollow: Images of America* (Arcadia Publishing, 2011).
- Esther M. Sternberg, M.D., *Healing Spaces: The Science of Place and Well-Being* (USA: Harvard University Press, 2009 2010).