



September 9, 2016

Douglas County Board of Commissioners
1036 SE Douglas Avenue
Roseburg, OR 97490

Dear Commissioners:

Duchess Sanctuary, an affiliate of The Fund for Animals and The Humane Society of the United States, was established in 2008 as a permanent safe haven for rescued horses and donkeys saved from abuse, neglect, abandonment, and slaughter. Our 1120 acre property shares a lengthy fence line with Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park. We have supported park improvement efforts in the past including the replacement of more than 5000 feet of shared property line fencing at our cost, and a place on the community panel charged with creating the park development plan in 2014.

Our affiliates work with wildlife rehabilitation centers around the world to meet unmet and critical wildlife rehabilitation needs, promote healthy wildlife habitat, and assist communities with humane solutions to wildlife conflicts. Our facility is designed to avoid predator conflicts and allow for the safe passage of all wildlife. Many of our horses are elderly or otherwise impaired and require an environment free from the stress of displaced wildlife movement. Having the park as a neighbor is a benefit we are very appreciative of, as it provides safe habitat for so many native species and the opportunity for equestrians to ride their horses in a beautiful, peaceful setting. Many of our volunteers and visitors are also horse owners who ride their horses at the park, and some of them have made use of the camping facilities since they opened.

We promote responsible horse ownership and support appropriate public facilities where horse owners can meet to exercise, show, and deepen their relationships with horses. Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park is the only county owned park in Douglas County that has an established equestrian and hiking trail system, equestrian camping facilities, and pavilion where equestrians can gather. It truly should be seen as a jewel in the county's crown.

Duchess Sanctuary is a member of Oakland Economic Development, organized to promote the economic development of Oakland, Oregon, which directly benefits from its proximity to Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park and to Duchess Sanctuary.

The natural habitats in Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park are essential to the park to promote economic development, educational opportunities, equestrian involvement, and habitat for wildlife.

We respectfully request that the Board of Commissioners pledge its continued collaboration and support for Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park by working to increase income and reduce expenses at Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park without the need to log, sell or close Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kunz

Jennifer Kunz
Director of Operations