



Office of Mayor Tom Potter
City of Portland

July 18, 2005

Tryon Life Community Farm
11640 SW Boones Ferry Rd.
Portland, OR 97219

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Tryon Life Community Farm, a local organization of dedicated volunteers working to preserve and restore valuable greenspace in Southwest Portland for public benefit.

This endeavor deserves continued support and congratulations for the impressive work done so far to unite a neighborhood and many diverse community partners around a holistic goal of sustainable agriculture, habitat protection, experiential education, and alternatives to conventional urban development.

The community farm's property is a true gem, part of the Tryon Creek watershed and surrounded by Tryon Creek State Park. Portland has demonstrated that natural habitat and urban development do not have to be mutually exclusive, and this is one more example of an innovative approach to conservation. The education programs on the farm provide invaluable opportunities for a broad array of youth and adults – including many at-risk and disadvantaged youth – to get hands-on learning about food production, nature, and community-building. These are experiences that can help our youth create positive futures and can educate the broader public about the practicality and importance of sustainable living.

As Mayor, I am supportive of grassroots efforts to build a stronger community and enhance the lives of our children. Tryon Life Community Farm embodies that mission. My office will explore opportunities to assist the farm in conjunction with the existing local partners that have realized the importance of this unique resource. I encourage other public, private, and philanthropic organizations and individuals to consider contributing to this effort.

Sincerely,

Tom Potter
Mayor of Portland
TP: sc