

Planning Commission Public Hearing on Natural Resources Program
September 28, 2015
Testimony by Michael Buck

I am grateful for your respect in balancing residential ownership rights and countervailing natural public goods as you assess this proposed document. As in all planning processes, those recommending changes that affect future land use decisions need be mindful of what they are asking. And as a community that is trying to improve the natural resources that contribute to the public good, though many sites be located on private lands, we need find responsive ways to preserve and to enhance to a fuller integrity this natural legacy that provides so many benefits. We entrust these values to code because too much is at stake if we do not. A community forest takes a community's engagement. I therefore recommend that this draft should be sent to the City Council without the weight of more words even though some may discern we could do more. Sometimes, the weight of words are like repetitive footsteps in the forest. They compact and do not allow for productive growth. As a community, we have trod too much on this issue. For all those who are companions in the work of stewardship, the wielding of words must cross over to the energetic labor of restoration for what has been so abused and neglected in the past and present. This dirty but lovely work in our natural areas seems daunting and very challenging. But we are making inroads due to a more enlightened and educated public that values both the beauty and the function of our green infrastructure. Those who have natural resources on their properties and who preserve and enhance them are providing benefits to all. Since they are *providing*, they are doing something very *providential* for the community. They should be thanked by the community for continuing a healthy legacy for future generations.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK