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WESTERN VIRGINIA LAND TRUST POSITION STATEMENT

The Western Virginia Land Trust recommends that the City of Roanoke place conservation easements on portions of Mill Mountain Park and Carvins Cove Natural Reserve.

Mill Mountain Park and Carvins Cove Natural Reserve are two of the Valley's most precious and unique natural resources. Preservation of these assets, through conservation easements, would clearly demonstrate that the citizens of Roanoke value green space, outdoor recreation, tourism and quality of life and want these lands protected now and for generations to come. Permanent preservation of Mill Mountain Park and Carvins Cove would also strengthen the Valley's sustainable economic future.

The easements would make permanent the recommendations of the Mill Mountain Park Management Plan that City Council approved in 2006 and the Carvins Cove Land Use Management Plan approved in 2000. The Mill Mountain easement would apply to the slopes and sides of Mill Mountain and not to the 'approximately 15 acres at the top of the mountain, which may not be appropriate for a state-held conservation easement due to the existing development and intensive land uses of that property. The WVLT recommends that future development on the top of the mountain be conducted according to the recommendations in the Mill Mountain Park Management Plan.

A conservation easement on Carvins Cove Natural Reserve would protect a significant water supply for the Valley and fourteen miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and its viewshed. This easement would provide the most cost-effective way to protect the water quality of Carvins Cove while allowing for appropriate recreational uses.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees 7/11/07