

March 9, 2021

Senate Committee on Redistricting
House Committee on Redistricting

RE: Connections Between Beaverton, Tigard & SW Portland

Senate and House Redistricting Committees,

I live in the Vermont Hills community in Southwest Portland and I am writing to you to articulate my sense of place as it related to nearby communities with similar interests. My house is fewer than eight blocks from the boundary between Multnomah and Washington Counties and near the unincorporated communities of Raleigh Hills and Garden Home.

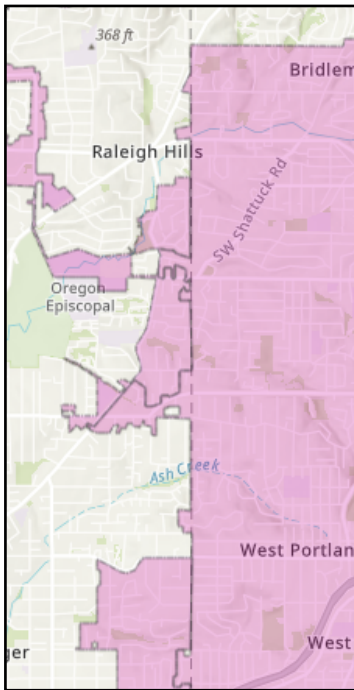
First and foremost, I feel it is important for you to know that the county boundary is almost meaningless in our area. In my part of Southwest Portland, the dominating vista and winding roads of the West Hills to the north and east present more of a hurdle than any imagined line marking the county to the west. Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, Scholls Ferry Road, Multnomah/Garden Home Road, and Vermont/Oleson/Greenburg Roads all create easy transportation routes to go between the Southwest Portland area through Raleigh Hills or Garden Home and on to Beaverton or Tigard. Bus routes also provide a lot of connection along these same roads.

Much of my area also has natural connections with the Beaverton and Tigard area such as creek watersheds. Many smaller creeks such as Vermont, Woods and Ash Creeks all drain into the larger Fanno Creek, which runs through much of Southwest Portland to Raleigh Hills, Beaverton and Tigard. Some of our important bike and pedestrian trails run alongside these creeks, such as the Fanno Creek Greenway and various other trails and park services that serve an important purpose in an area that has very little sidewalk infrastructure.

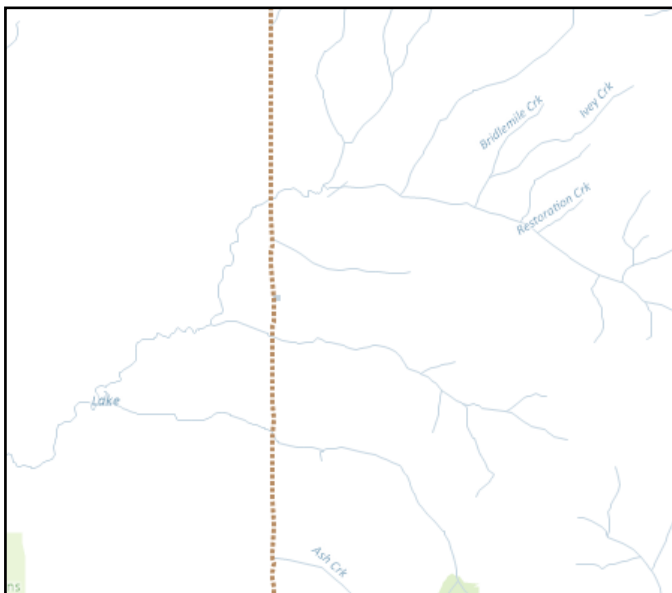
There are also a fair amount of city boundaries that deviate from the county line. For example, Portland extends into Washington County at least six times between Sunset Highway and Interstate 5. Near the Sylvan area, there is a substantial unincorporated portion of Multnomah County just outside of the Portland boundary. It is a lot more complicated than the cliché assertion that “Portland = Multnomah County” and the wrongheaded opinion that Portland is totally different than everything that is right next door to it. I have included several illustrations of my points below.

The recent versions of Congressional and Legislative Districts in the SW Portland and Beaverton area have reflected the nuanced sense of place and the connections in our area, but I would encourage even less utilization of the Multnomah/Washington County line and more focus on the connections between these predominantly suburban communities.

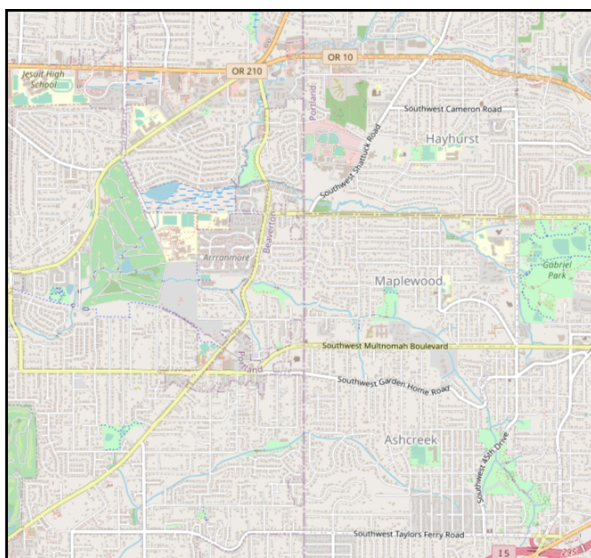
Tom Powers
SW Illinois St
Portland



Portland's city boundaries extend west, past the Multnomah/Washington county boundary (SW 65th Avenue)



Fanno Creek and its tributaries cross the county border at many places throughout SW Portland/Beaverton



Transportation links in the Beaverton/SW Portland/Garden Home/Raleigh Hills area