



**Board of Directors**

September 27, 2024

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Senator Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair  
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Vice Co-Chairs Boquist and Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committee,

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is the largest special park district in Oregon, spanning 50 square miles and serving about 270,000 people in and around Beaverton, Oregon. Established over 65 years ago, THPRD's mission is to provide high-quality park and recreational facilities, programs, services, and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves. We invite people to gather, play, and explore the more than 120 park sites and 70+ miles of hard- and soft-paved trails on the over 3,600 acres of THPRD properties.

THPRD's urban trail system helps community members enjoy the outdoors and is an important part of our region's transportation system, providing options to get to work, to the grocery store or to a friend's house while getting exercise and living a healthy lifestyle.

Three regional trails provide the backbone of this growing network; a fourth serves a similar function while not technically meeting the definition of a regional trail:

**Westside Trail**

Extending north to south, the Westside Trail one of the region's most important corridors, connecting neighborhoods and communities while providing access to the region's distinctive rivers, forests and prairies. Within THPRD boundaries, Westside Trail expansion has been a priority. The 2008 bond measure earmarked more than \$4 million, resulting in the construction of three trail segments, including a paved 1.5-mile expansion over Beaverton's Mt. Williams.

**Rock Creek Trail**

The Rock Creek Regional Trail consists of 3.5 miles of ADA-accessible trail in the northernmost part of THPRD. The trail runs west to east along Springville Creek and a powerline corridor from Rock Creek Boulevard toward the Washington/Multnomah County line. It passes through forests, wetlands, meadows, and a variety of parks, making it a great destination for walking, running, biking, recreation, and wildlife viewing. It also connects to Hillsboro's Rock Creek Trail.

**Fanno Creek Trail**

The Fanno Creek Regional Trail is one of THPRD's most used trail systems, serving people interested in active recreation, nature exploring, or using the trail as a

transportation corridor. Within THPRD boundaries, the Fanno Creek Trail includes 4.5 miles of ADA-accessible trail that meanders through the Garden Home-Whitford and Raleigh Hills communities. The trail begins at the Garden Home Recreation Center and largely follows Fanno Creek west toward Highway 217, through Greenway Park, dipping south to SW Scholls Ferry Road and into Tigard.

### **Waterhouse Trail**


While not defined as a regional trail, the Waterhouse Trail is a four-mile, ADA-accessible trail that begins just north of Tualatin Hills Nature Park, and extends north across Highway 26 toward PCC Rock Creek along the powerline corridor. THPRD's Howard M. Terpenning Recreation Complex is easily accessible from the trail, which also passes through wetlands, meadows, and a variety of sports fields.

One of the district's highest priorities is the construction of a bike and pedestrian bridge as part of the Westside Trail. The bridge would connect NW Greenbrier Parkway to NW Cornell Rd over Highway 26. The future trail sections and bridge would create a link connecting over 25 miles of our Regional Trails system for pedestrians and bicyclists to reach destinations across Washington County. Key destinations include schools, businesses, housing, parks, recreation centers, natural areas, and transit stations. Funding for the future trail sections and the bridge project are a combination of the THPRD systems development charge fund, Metro's 2019 Parks & Nature Bond fund, Metro's Regional Flexible fund, the Oregon Community Paths Program grant, and the Washington County Major Streets Transportation Improvement Program (MSTIP) Opportunity fund.

Trails are increasingly integrated into transportation systems to promote active transportation options such as walking and biking. This integration enhances connectivity within communities and supports sustainable mobility. We urge the Joint Committee on Transportation to consider and prioritize the role and function of trails, those provided by THPRD in Washington County and others across Oregon, as they consider the future of Oregon's public transportation system and how it will be funded. Projects like the Westside Trail bike and pedestrian bridge is just one example of many that cannot and will not happen without state funding. The Committee has a daunting job ahead, but we look forward to working with you and the Oregon Department of Transportation to build the system Oregonians need.

Please contact Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager, at [a.panas@thprd.org](mailto:a.panas@thprd.org) or by phone at 503-816-5804, if you have any questions. We appreciate your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,



Barbie Minor  
President, Board of Directors  
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District