

March 31, 2025



RE: Please do not appeal public access to Oswego Lake

Dear Mayor Joe Buck and Councilors,

I'm writing on behalf of The Intertwine Alliance to urge you to vote NO to appealing the court decision granting public access to Oswego Lake.

The Intertwine Alliance is the Portland-Vancouver region's coalition of 80 public, private and nonprofit partners advocating for investments in parks, trails, greenspace and equitable access to nature. The City of Lake Oswego has been a long and valued partner in the coalition, and we thank you for your partnership and commendable work.

Public access to nature for the benefit of all communities is a coalition value. Oswego Lake is a regionally significant body of water—significant in its size, location, natural history and cultural history. We celebrate the addition of more than 400 acres of open space to our regional system.

The Intertwine Alliance supports your ongoing efforts to make Lake Oswego a more inclusive community and believes that allowing equitable public access to Oswego Lake is consistent with your goals. As decided in recent court decisions, Oswego Lake is a state-owned resource, and the City of Lake Oswego is required to provide public access from Millenium Plaza Park. The Intertwine Alliance agrees with the [petition](#) led by the Minority Law Student Association and Native American Law Student Association at Lewis and Clark Law School that describes the exclusionary history of lake access restrictions, and your current opportunity to change course for a more equitable future.

We concur also with the recent recommendation of the City of Lake Oswego Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Advisory Board that you not put further public resources into fighting public access, but instead turn toward creating access that is safe for both people and the environment. Non-motorized public access to the lake can be well regulated to ensure the safety of all users while allowing equitable use of this public



resource. We believe that kind of access is possible, and we stand ready to help you make this vision a reality.

The Intertwine Alliance recognizes that creating and managing public access adds new work and challenges for City staff and budgets. Your coalition partners are here to help. There's a lot of creativity and resources within this coalition; please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can support the transition.

We urge the City of Lake Oswego not to join the Lake Corporation in its efforts to perpetuate exclusionary practices, but to be forward thinking about the future of public access to Oswego Lake.

Thanks for all your good and hard work.

Sincerely,

Tara Wilkinson, Director
The Intertwine Alliance
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