

May 17, 2022

Thank you so much, Mayor Buck and Councilors, for the opportunity to speak with you today in support of the City of Lake Oswego's work to advance ADA and beyond-ADA access to parks, trails and nature.

My name is Tara Wilkinson, and I'm one of the co-directors of The Intertwine Alliance, a coalition of 80 public, private and nonprofit partners advocating for parks, trails and nature — and equitable access to nature — throughout the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. We do this work cross-sector with our friends in housing and transportation for maximum benefit of all communities.

Our coalition has been doing its thing for 11 or 12 years, and the City of Lake Oswego has been a long-time partner.

I'm speaking today on behalf of The Intertwine Alliance, but also in coordination with Georgena Moran of Access Recreation. More detailed written comments I submitted earlier this week on this same topic, were co-signed by the statewide Oregon Trails Coalition.

We're here today to express support for work the City has begun to increase equitable access to parks & trails. We are excited that you've created a full-time position to refine and accelerate the City's ADA transition plan, and that you've engaged a group of community stakeholders to set priorities within that plan.

We're excited about the Advisory Group — *and* encourage you to keep expanding and diversifying it to include greater representation of people experiencing various types of disabilities and with other lived experience related to lack of access, including people of color.

We understand that identifying and recruiting individuals for this type of work can be challenging, and we invite you to call on The Intertwine Alliance to help.

We originally reached out to your ADA Coordinator Kelli Byrd about the Stevens Meadow Trailhead Project. We understand that the city *had* plans to add ADA accessible parking spots and an ADA compliant bathroom at the Steven Meadows Trailhead, which would have effectively created access for both it and nearby Cooks Butte. We also understand that it was the citizens' measure passed last November amending the city charter to restrict development that blocked that project.

That city charter amendment has created obstacles to ADA compliance and to operationalizing our shared values of equitable access. As you of course know, meeting ADA standards is a legal requirement when building or altering public parks and trails. The current situation at Stevens Meadow does not meet basic ADA needs, much less go beyond ADA to achieve truly equitable access. We join our colleagues at Access Recre-

ation in calling for a solution that delivers this planned and much-needed access. We want to be a partner to the City of Lake Oswego to find a solution and a path forward.

Thank you so much for your time today and for prioritizing access for people of all abilities.