



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

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29 November 2020

RE: South West Trails
OPRD Partner Support

Dear Review Committee:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has a long history of working collaboratively with SW Trails, the City of Portland and community partners on trail connections to Tryon Creek State Natural Area.

Located about 15 minutes from downtown Portland, Tryon Creek State Natural Area is Oregon's only state park within a major metropolitan area. The park is 658 acres and features 15 miles of multi-use trails, a Nature Center, youth programs, and much more.

OPRD is a long-standing partner in relation to this project starting over a decade ago, with our participation in the planning process. The Marshal Park Trail project (one link in a regional vision) is located in an undeveloped section of the park and will improve trail system connectivity.

OPRD finalized an Inter-Governmental Agreement with Bureau of Environmental Services in regards to the project to replace the Boons Ferry culvert, allowing for safe pedestrian crossing under the road. Additional trail connections are also named within that agreement. The bridge and crossing will be completed in the spring of 2021.

In addition, Metro and OPRD have signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement to assist with funding of the Marshal Park connection trail and we continue to work with partners, like SW Trails, to secure the remaining funds needed.

The ability to connect our communities to healthy ecosystems through trails and recreation lends to greater environmental empathy and well-being. OPRD is in strong support of the project and the many positive benefits it will provide to both the environment and the greater Tryon community.

Sincerely,

Iris Benson

Park Manager

Tryon Creek State Natural Area