

PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED AT THE MEETING
2/26/26

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM/INTENT TO SPEAK FORM

CHEHALEM PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
125 S ELLIOTT ROAD
NEWBERG, OR 97132

I wish to provide **VERBAL** testimony regarding the issue discussed at this public meeting.

I wish to provide **WRITTEN** testimony regarding the issues discussed at this public meeting.

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC Rilee Park - Horse

DATE OF MEETING 2/26/26

NAME (Please print legibly) Karen Pate

MAILING ADDRESS klpate88@gmail.com 1840 SE Insteig St
Portland, OR 971202

EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional) _____

SIGNATURE Karen Pate

WRITTEN COMMENTS: (CONTINUE ON BACK IF NEEDED)

Written comments may be emailed to kricker@cprdnewberg.org or submitted to the Public Information Office at CPRD Administration Office at 125 S. Elliott Road, Newberg, OR 97132.

Please keep Crystal Rilee Park for horses only.
Horses & bikes are not a safe mix. I'm an endurance
rider (long-distance riding) - there are very few places
in the Portland area where we can condition, especially
in the winter. Rilee - especially the east side, with
it's augmented footing - is perfect for us, and much
appreciated. Adding bicycles to the mix is dangerous.
Thank you for your time. Karen Pate



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I wish to provide **VERBAL** testimony regarding the issue discussed at this public meeting.
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AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC Bob + Crystal Riley Park Use
DATE OF MEETING 2/26/26
NAME (Please print legibly) Laure Branch
MAILING ADDRESS 12150 Sw Westfall Rd, Sherwood
EMAIL ADDRESS (Optional) LaureLBranch@gmail.com

SIGNATURE 

WRITTEN COMMENTS: (CONTINUE ON BACK IF NEEDED)
Written comments may be emailed to kricker@cprdnewberg.org or submitted to the Public Information Office at CPRD Administration Office at 125 S. Elliott Road, Newberg, OR 97132.

Please keep hiking and horses for horses
for safety and community trust



Biking Trail near Newberg

The Rubie P. Matteson Forest is located near Gaston, Oregon, west of Hagg Lake. It is relatively close to Newberg, typically a drive of approximately 30-40 minutes depending on the specific route taken through Yamhill and Washington Counties. offers diverse biking trails suitable for various skill levels. Located within Oregon State University's research forests, the Matteson Forest features a mix of gravel roads and singletrack trails optimized for mountain biking. Riders can enjoy scenic views while navigating approximately 40 miles of trails designed for off-road cycling, making it a popular destination for both casual bikers and enthusiasts.

Trail Features

- **Trail Types:** A combination of gravel roads and singletrack paths.
- **Accessibility:** Open to mountain bikers, with some trails also available for hikers.
- **Scenic Experience:** The forest provides a natural setting, enhancing the biking experience with beautiful landscapes.

Visitor Information

For those planning to visit, detailed maps and visitor guides are available to help navigate the trails and understand the regulations.

Overall, the Matteson Forest is an excellent choice for mountain biking enthusiasts looking for a mix of adventure and nature.

Report out from the Chehalem Heritage Trails Advisory Committee

John Rueter, vice chair

Our advisory committee met on Feb 10 after missing two months due to the Holidays and scheduling.

As we assembled, all of us appreciated the master sign for the kiosk at Bob and Crystal Rillee park. The staff has been working on this for a long time with advice from our committee and others. It's a beautiful sign that will help people find the right path for their hike or ride.

We all learned that the board would be considering a change in use at Rillee park, so we amended the agenda to get public input from three people on that topic.

The discussion after that focused on our concerns that should be passed onto you, The Board. In summary, because you've all been getting a lot of input on this issue, those concerns fell into several categories.

1) Timing: Why is The Board considering reopening the park to bikes at this time? Is there a reason to rush into this in the winter?

2) Basis for change: We reviewed the information that was the basis for the previous decision to close the park to bikes. What has changed? Is there new information?

3) Safety: Hikers, horses and bikers on the same trail raises safety issues including new ebike capabilities. Can these be mitigated with etiquette? How would any rules be enforced? Would we need a full time park ranger?

4) New information needed: What information would help make a decision and policy? This category should include getting more input from hikers (the main user group).

5) Bike users: It has been known for a long time that we need more bike paths. Bob and Crystal Rillee will serve mainly the mountain bike group. Would opening the park to bikes really meet the needs of most bikers? There was some talk about potential new bike park areas, but no details yet.

Given all these outstanding concerns, the Trail Advisory Committee recommends that:

- i. The Board should gather further public input.
- ii. Pause the decision to evaluate all options, considering safety, district costs, donor intent, and other properties available for bikes.
- iii. Complete the consultant evaluation.
- iv. Hold focus groups with current park users.

Thank you



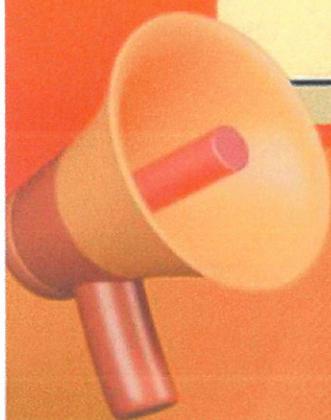
RIDE WITH A PURPOSE

OSU DRESSAGE TEAM HOSTING A TRAIL RIDE
TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT OF THE BOB &
CRYSTAL RILEE PARK AS A HORSE & HIKER
ONLY PARK

OSU equestrian team riders and local equestrians, join us for a trail ride of Bob & Crystal Rilee Park!

CPRD has opted to bring the topic of this HORSE AND HIKER ONLY park back to the floor for debate and an eventual revote. This means we may lose our ONLY local horse friendly park.

What can we do: At this time we must show our use and appreciation of this park.



Join us for a trail ride:
12-3pm February 28th 2026
Please wear OSU merch!

We will be meeting at the Horse Trailer
Parking Trailhead

*If you feel that your voice must be heard
please consider contacting CPRD directly



Crystal Rilee Park Support Documents

Lauren Pfeiffer <pfeifferlauren89@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 12:07 PM

To: Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Cc: Clay Downing <cdowning@cprdnewberg.org>, "dannakemp44@gmail.com" <dannakemp44@gmail.com>, "ryann@TBREGroup.com" <ryann@tbregroup.com>, Danna Kemp <ddtmkemp@yahoo.com>

Hi Kat,

Please find below the correspondence with the file link removed.

Thank you,
Lauren

Hello CPRD Board of Directors and CPRD Superintendent:

For your information, please find below the link to the (mostly historical) support documents regarding Crystal Rilee Park. Perhaps you've already seen some of these, but we've carefully organized and provided context in the file titled "START HERE Index and Context to Documents."

If you have any difficulty accessing the shared drive, please let us know. We hope these historical documents are informative, and we are happy to discuss any of them if helpful.

In addition to the links, it would be useful, if you haven't already, to review the meeting on 09.28.23, where the vote was taken to return the park to hikers and equestrians after biking was improperly allowed. During the meeting on 10.26.23, Jason Fields and Matt Smith discuss a new park for bikes. Don Clements, who initially granted access, reports at one of these meetings that he regrets that decision, believing horses and bikes don't mix and that bikes don't belong at Rilee.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to reiterate several important considerations from our perspective:

- **Integrity of the gift.** This gift is a farm — a **State of Oregon Century Farm**. It was always intended to maintain the agricultural spirit of the property and to preserve and educate younger generations about this history and way of life. Fast, competitive, large groups of mountain bikers are not compatible with this intent. CPRD risks undermining donor trust and future donations if this intent is not honored.
- **Integrity, commitment, and neutrality of the CPRD Board of Directors.** We respectfully urge the Board to avoid reversing course and to remain committed to the current adopted Master Plan. There is an opportunity to partner with private and community groups to maintain, preserve, and invest in the park for all current users without altering its foundational purpose.
- **Safety.** Mountain bikes and pedestrians, as well as mountain bikes and horses, do not safely mix. Many public agencies have addressed this risk by establishing separate parks for mountain biking. Introducing mountain bikes — particularly if e-bikes are included — would expose CPRD to substantial additional risk, as well as increased staffing, infrastructure, and operating costs.
- **No other place for horses to ride.** There are currently many places available for mountain biking. While some in the biking community have stated those options are "too far," the difference is often approximately 15 minutes. For equestrians, the nearest alternatives are all mixed use and are typically 30 minutes to an hour farther away, requiring travel on major freeways. Horses cannot be loaded onto a rack in the morning to go for a ride directly after work 😊 — every alternative for horses is a mixed use location involving significant logistics and travel.
- **Continue the strong partnership with Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians (CPRE).** CPRE has already donated \$20,000 toward all-weather footing on the east side of the park and has pledged to do the same on the west side. This investment has made it possible for the park to remain open to horses throughout the winter for the first time, and the improved footing provides significant, meaningful benefits to hikers as well. Hikers likely make up 80-90% of the park users today. The footing makes more trails accessible by eliminating the mud, thus improving access for the general hiking/birdwatching/dog walking population that uses the trails today. In addition, CPRE has pledged funds to build an off-leash dog park, as outlined in the adopted Master Plan. We're just getting started.
- **An opportunity to create an exceptional mountain bike park.** We strongly support partnering with passionate biking groups to design and build a dedicated mountain bike park elsewhere within the CPRD district. This would be a true win-win: riders would enjoy a purpose-built facility designed for large groups and skill progression, and CPRD could realize meaningful economic and community benefits to support its broader park system.

Thank you, we truly appreciate the time and effort spent on this issue.

Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians

[Quoted text hidden]

****please read : why splitting Bob and Crystal Rilee Park doesn't work**

From Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians <info@crpequestrians.org>

Date Wed 2/11/2026 1:31 PM

To Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>; Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>; Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>; nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>; bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>; cdowning@cpdnewberg.org <cdowning@cpdnewberg.org>; Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Bcc ryann@tbregroup.com <ryann@tbregroup.com>; Danna Kemp <danna@tbregroup.com>; Lauren Pfeiffer <pfeifferlauren89@gmail.com>

**Resending with corrected sender name

Dear CPRD Board and CPRD Superintendent:

Thank you in advance for your time to read through this email.

@Kat, can you please make this part of the 2/26/2026 Board Package?

This memo outlines key considerations regarding the likely potential proposal to designate the **East side for mountain bikes, the West side for equestrians, and hikers on both sides.**

The goal is to ensure the Board evaluates **impacts to existing user groups which in total significantly outnumber the biking community**, prior investments, and long-term park sustainability before making a structural change to park use. The biking community has expressed their preference for the East side due to its topography, trail length and proximity. Please consider the current user groups' preferences with at least the same level of importance and care.

Key Considerations

The East and West Sides Are Not Interchangeable for hikers nor horses

The East side and West side differ materially in slope, accessibility, trail width, footing, and overall user experience.

- **East Side:**

- Gentler grades
- Wider, 'groomed' trails with better sightlines
- Immediate tree-lined, shaded experience
- Improved all-weather footing allowing year-round access to complete, current, compatible user group
- Accessible to riders and hikers of varying skill and physical ability

- **West Side:**

- Steeper terrain
- Wetter conditions for much of the year
- More limited access for novice, older and younger users
- Greater seasonal limitations

These differences materially affect hikers and equestrians who rely on the East side's terrain for safe and year-round use.

Impacts to Hikers

Hikers will seek to avoid bikes and will shift to the West side, and impact to hikers that choose to hike East

- Crossing Parrett Mountain Road from the most used and well-maintained and structured East side parking lot to access certain areas presents safety concerns.
- Winter usability on the West is reduced due to the slope and persistent moisture.
- Parking capacity and trailer conflicts may increase. Hikers would reasonably park more often in the West side lot which experiences haphazard parking today.
- Access to shaded trails requires longer approaches.
- Steeper grades may deter older hikers, dog walkers and families.
- Bikes would significantly impact the East side trail surface, causing ruts and mud. This would result in a less safe trail surface for hikers and costly, year-round maintenance for CPRD Staff.

This would represent a meaningful change to the current hiking experience.

Impacts to Equestrians

The East side accommodates:

- Older horses maintaining fitness
- Young or inexperienced horses and/or riders
- Novice riders who depend on wider trails and visibility, and wide enough for side-by-side support and safety for novices
- Riders seeking shaded and summer-appropriate routes

Restricting horses to the West side would:

- Limit access for less experienced horses and riders
- Confine many riders to exposed field loops near road traffic
- Reduce safe winter usability due to steep and wet conditions **without significant cost and effort**
- Potentially eliminate meaningful access for a segment of current equestrian users

The practical result may be a significant reduction in equestrian participation. This is the only park in-district and anywhere within a reasonable distance where equestrians can ride without bikes.

Winter Use and Maintenance Implications

The West side's topography and shade result in:

- Prolonged wet conditions
- Increased erosion risk
- Greater maintenance demands to sustain safe winter access

Substantial additional grading, rock, and drainage work would likely be required to achieve East-side equivalency. Without such investment, **seasonal access may again be limited. Why go backwards?**

Partnership with Crystal Rilee Equestrians

The partnership between Crystal Rilee Equestrians and CPRD has been a strong example of collaborative community investment. The East side all-weather footing improvements have benefited not only equestrians, but one could argue even more so the greater number of hikers, dog walkers, and other winter park users. Those improvements accelerated elements

of the Master Plan and extended year-round accessibility in ways that may not otherwise have been possible on the same timeline.

As the Board evaluates future use decisions, it may be helpful to consider how changes could affect alignment with prior investments and donor expectations. The funds contributed for East side improvements were made in support of continued equestrian access within a current user group shared-use model. If equestrian access to that area were significantly limited or prohibited, it could create understandable confusion among donors about how designated contributions are applied. Donors' funds are now benefiting an area where horses could be prohibited.

In addition, the nonprofit has pledged and discussed future support for additional park enhancements, including West side improvements and other community amenities including an off-leash dog park contemplated in the current Master Plan. Continued clarity and predictability around shared use will help **maintain confidence** in long-term collaboration and ensure that private donations can continue supplementing public resources effectively.

There are also practical considerations. If trail surface changes are requested to accommodate different uses (for example, adjustments to hogfuel sections), this may require significant additional staff time and funding. It is worth evaluating whether such changes would duplicate prior investments or divert limited maintenance resources that could otherwise be deployed.

The partnership has worked because it has been built on transparency, shared goals, and mutual trust. Preserving that collaborative foundation will be important for the sustainability of future improvements and for maintaining strong community engagement across all user groups.

Closing

The discussed proposed split is not simply a reallocation of space. It materially alters terrain access, seasonal usability, parking dynamics, safety considerations, and prior investment alignment. **Also, frankly, we tried it already. It didn't work. Let's not repeat that mistake. Commit to the current decision and Master Plan.**

It would result in significant, unnecessary cost to CPRD and its taxpayers. Trail maintenance, required changes to signs and maps, revising the masterplan, duplication of efforts related to the East side trail surface with respect to ongoing significant trail degradation by bike users, and the employment cost of a full-time Park Ranger certainly required to monitor and enforce park rules. In addition, as we've stated before, limiting equestrian use of the Park is in direct and clear conflict with the donor's intent for the gift. We believe this will most likely require public relations management and put future donations at risk.

Given these factors, this decision warrants very careful, long term consideration. The loudest and most persistent voice shouldn't always prevail.

Thank you, sincerely, for your efforts and time.

Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians

CPRD Board,

I am, sincerely, concerned to learn there is any consideration of allowing bicycles on the trails of Crystal Rilee Park. The land was specifically gifted by horse people for the use and enjoyment of the horse community. It is a popular destination for both equestrians and walkers, alike, to relax and enjoy this special, quiet place. This park is a rare gem for us trail riders. Sharing the trails with bikers makes no sense and will, absolutely, cause serious accidents with the potential for severe injuries, or worse.

We ride horses of all training levels there. Our children ride there to have the opportunity to practice their horsemanship skills, bond with their equine partners and experience nature. It would be irresponsible to mix bikes with horses on these trails. Horses have the natural instinct to save themselves when they get startled. Bikers flying around corners and down the hills, with little regard for anyone's safety, is a recipe for disaster. Bicyclists in our area have many, many other places to ride. Please protect this gift from Bob and Crystal, as it was thoughtfully intended.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peggy Bauer



Lauren Pfeiffer <pfeifferlauren89@gmail.com>

thank you

Lauren Pfeiffer <pfeifferlauren89@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 10:18 PM

To: dclements@cprdnewberg.org, ccrighton@cprdnewberg.org, cricker@cprdnewberg.org, bstewart@cprdnewberg.org, gbizeau@board.cprdnewberg.org, lrogers@board.cprdnewberg.org, jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org, msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org, jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org

Dear CPRD Board,

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the recent Board action to return the East side trails of Bob and Crystal Rilee park to the Equestrians and Hikers only. I admire the integrity and character that were exhibited by the board in 'keeping their promise' and commitment to Crystal Rilee and her clear intentions and instructions for this land. This will surely be viewed as a key moment in the Board's history and will no doubt be noted by future donors that CPRD can be trusted to follow through with the agreed upon stewardship of such gifts.

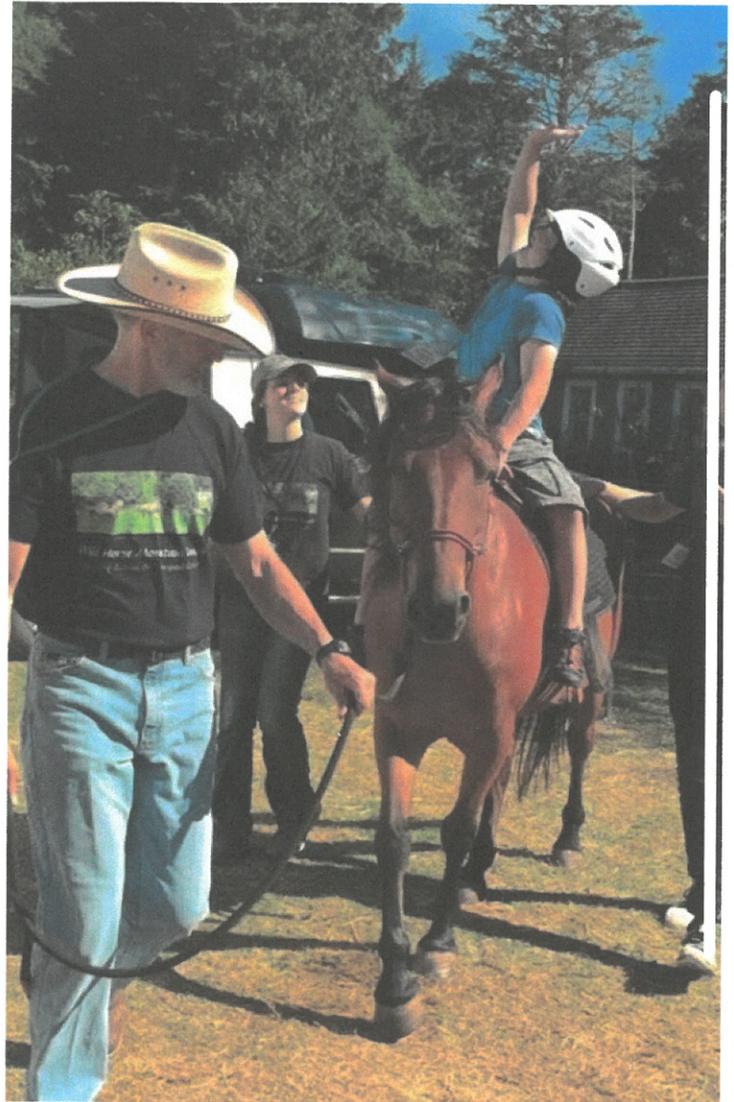
It is unfortunate that this decision is also receiving some outsized negative attention specifically from the disappointed mountain biking community. Not all land can be used for all things, and it is my hope that the mountain biking community will use this energy to instead work collaboratively with CPRD on your pledge to find another location for their activities and enjoyment. It is also my hope that this work and attention from all interested parties will continue at this level and be directed towards implementing some of Crystal's other wishes for the Rilee land so that many more people may enjoy this tremendous gift and community asset. Let's get started!

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Lauren

**Keep the trails
safe for those with
special needs**



**Bikes threaten the
safety & peace of
these pristen trails**

This is a big improvement over 5 or 6 years ago when cvclists were usini the trails were deep ruts. The woods echoed with the shouted conversa approaching bikers which was always my cue to get off the trail or risk t

Their focus was primarily speed, maneuvering, and excitement. They de ambiance and the terrain of Rilge Park and made it less safe for others.

(Cyclist Jim Talt)