

Correspondence

To: Chehalem Park and Recreation District Board of Directors

From: Dennis Wiley, Newberg Resident

Subj.: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park

During my time working as Historian and then Park Manager at Champoeg State Heritage Area I became acquainted with Crystal Rilee. Crystal was a long time member of the Friends of Historic Champoeg and often came to the Friends' special events and historical programming. Crystal shared with me her dream of developing her property as a living history park and agricultural museum. In our discussions I never heard Crystal talk about the property also supporting an equestrian park.

As a park and recreation professional, I was interested in reviewing the master planning process for CPRD's Bob and Crystal Rilee Park. The idea of being able to divide the park to mitigate potential conflicts between equestrians and mountain bikes seemed like an obvious and sound idea. It was a shock to then see, after a lengthy public planning process, the Board suddenly dropping that planning idea and instead banned mountain bikes from the park entirely.

I ask the board to reconsider their position and to again accommodate mountain biking as reflected in the original master plan before the ban.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 1:31:09 PM Pacific Standard Time

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

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkone@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Clay Downing <cdowning@cpdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cpdnewberg.org>

**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

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August 2022 Minutes

Chehalem Heritage Trails Advisory Committee

MINUTES

August 10, 2022 | 6pm

Attend either in person on-site at CPRD Admin Office
or remotely via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89157263898>

Meeting ID:

Green – in person

Blue – via Zoom

Red – communicated absence

Committee Members: *Jill Bilka* | *Erin Chen* | *Michelle Colvin* | *Quentin Comus* | *Matt Dolphin* | *Kristina Ernstrom* | *Allen Holstein* | *Lisa Jackson* | *Kimberly Lanier* | *Lacy Mendoza* | *Bob Oleson* | *Justin Patterson*
| *Martin Peters* | *Cindy Riggs* | *Erin Robinson* | *Peter Siderius* | *Dustin Wolfe*
Board Liaisons: *Bart Rierson* | *Jim McMaster* | *Lisa Rogers*
Others: *Todd Albertson*

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Attendance Roll Call
- 3) Public Comments ([see summary at end of minutes](#))
- 4) Sub Committee Reports (if there is any new news)
- 5) Discuss an action plan for trail signage, rules and regulations to be consistent
 1. Rilee property is a specific focus
 - People speaking regarding equestrian/bike and issues with multiuse
 - Hikers are neutral – aren't going fast
 - Stub Stewart, Chehalem Ridge, Oregon State Research Forest, Cathedral Park in Grants Pass, examples
 - Terrain – open v. forested
 - Jim – this group needs to review the rules and regs and then make a recommendation to the Board.
 - How inclusive should it be?
 - Chehalem Ridge – share trails but visibility is good
 - Safety is important for CPRD
 - Rules and signage need to be updated need a subcommittee to move on it.
 - Width of trail matters too
 - What happened to the farmhouse? And people who wanted to use it – concerns about nature
 - Site analysis of the property – company was hired to prepare
 - Request to have an equestrian representative
 - Jim – 2-3 people to work on signage district wide – will be some generic group = Jill wants to follow up by email to get the group together
 - Design
 - Generic Rules
 - Simplicity
 - Is there a conflict with the County

- Hoping to get those regulations within a month or 2 – Gettman is an example for signage
 - 5. Review ideas for current ways to support or offer recommendations to CPRD
 - Pause sub committees
 1. Assess where and what signage may be needed on current trails
 2. Website Updates/SEO
 3. Volunteer Projects/Tasks
 - Projects = notify the committee – we could get some volunteers organized
 4. Community Engagement
 1. Community Surveys
 1. Create committee to go over past survey with Don
 2. We lead survey, more detailed than last
 3. Recommend improvements/repairs needed
 5. Funding/Levy (when needed CPRD will let us know)
 - 6. Future CPRD Board Meeting (4th Thursday of the month) Participation
 1. Appoint CHTAC member to attend/report
 - Jill will follow up via email
 2. Send information to Kat/Don to be added to agenda – don't need to email we're on every meeting – if we need to be moved up – then it can be done on the fly at the meeting – any materials need to go to Kat in advance (2 weeks before is preferred) so she can make it part of the packet
 - 7. Future Field Trip Ideas (*if there is interest*)
 - 8. Conclude Chehalem Heritage Trails Advisory Committee 7pm
- We will discuss moving the meeting time next meeting.

Bob & Crystal Rilee Property Feedback

COMMENTS FROM EQUESTRIANS THAT FREQUENT BOB AND CRYSTAL RILEE PARK

- Have been riding trails for 4 or 5 years since it was turned over to CPrd
- Are wondering when signs will be put up
- Concerns about altercations with bikers, scaring horses, thinking they can go wherever they want and that they are multi use trails
- They said Casey said signs would be going up and would delineate bikes on one side, horses on the other
- They were told our committee has the power to say what trail usage would be and wanting to know what plan is
- East side has been closed down to horses
- Lack of horse trails makes this important to protect
- History of these trails was this it was always horses
- Addition of use other than horses was once CPRD got access
- Currently no signs indicating that bikes aren't allowed on west side
- West side should be for horse use only (preCovid that was it's use)

COMMENTS FROM BRIAN BOWMAN RE: BIKES

- Parett Mountain Rd is boundary
- Bikers have been putting in some single track trail for cyclists to use
- NICA Lake Oswego team/West Linn team/Sherwood team have used the park for the last few weeks on Thursday evenings at 6pm
- The whole park should be for everybody, but there should be areas that are separate for safety

JIM MCMASTER COMMENTS

- In beginning it was equestrian use
- Cycling has become more popular and has been requested for use
- Confirmed that CHTAC's purpose is to make recommendations for trails.
- A focus group needs to be formed to look at rules and regulations and make suggestions to board based on that to establish rules and signage for consistency across all trails

OVERALL SUMMARY OF ACTIONS NEEDED BASED ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Signage is needed to indicate usage in certain areas
- Look at modalities and terrain to determine safety
- Make distinction between single track and wider paths
- Hikers are neutral zone – horses and bikes may need to be on separate trails
- Examples Of Other Multi Use Trails For Reference: Willamette Mission, Stubb Stewart, Oregon State Research Forest McDonald, Silver Falls is starting to, Chehalem Ridge, Cathedral ?

Subject: on public record: large out of district bike clubs
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 2:20:02 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians
To: Clay Downing, Matthew Smith, Jim McMaster, Jason Fields, Brandon Slyter, Nick Konen, Kat Ricker
Attachments: august_10_2022_chtac_minutes.pdf

@Kat, please include in 2/26/2026 Board Package.

For your consideration: excerpt from the 8/10/2022 Chehalem Heritage Trail Advisory Committee (CHTAC) Meeting Minutes; see attached.

From our observation, this was the largest bike user group of the park in 2021/2022.

EXCERPT:

COMMENTS FROM BRIAN BOWMAN RE: BIKES

- Parrett Mountain Rd is boundary
- Bikers have been putting in some single-track trail for cyclists to use
- **NICA Lake Oswego team/West Linn team/Sherwood team have used the park for the last few weeks on Thursday evenings at 6pm**
- The whole park should be for everybody, but there should be areas that are separate for safety

Subject: Re: Crystal Rilee Park Support Documents

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 12:08:47 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Lauren Pfeiffer <pfeifferlauren89@gmail.com>

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

On Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 10:35 AM Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org> wrote:

Hello Lauren,

Thank you for clarifying. No, I may not edit your correspondence; however, you are welcome to revise and resubmit it to me.

--

Kat Ricker

Public Information Director

*Cehalem Park & Recreation District
125 S. Elliott Road
Newberg, OR 97132*

971.832.4222 [cprdnewberg](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

From: Lauren Pfeiffer <pfeifferlauren89@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 10:27 AM
To: Kat Ricker <kricke@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>
Subject: Re: Crystal Rilee Park Support Documents

Hi Kat,

Yes, thank you for checking, I understand your question.

The link was intended for the CPRD Board and other CPRD involved parties. We don't want to be responsible for distributing or hosting those documents for the general public. I think if the public requests any supporting documents mentioned in discussions, CPRD should be the entity distributing the documents. If someone specifically requests a document that CPRD doesn't have but you know is in this packet, please let us know. We can then consider on a case by case basis? Can you just delete the link when you publish to the packet?

Thank you,
Lauren

On Tue, Feb 17, 2026 at 9:04 AM Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org> wrote:
Hello Lauren,

Thank you for your materials for the upcoming Board meeting packet. There will be an agenda item dedicated to this topic, under Action Items and Board Comments.

I have a question regarding your intention on the public comment below in this thread which includes a link which displays as [REDACTED]. Are you intending the files that it is linked to be accessible to the public? If so, please resubmit your comment to me as you would like it to appear, but including the full URL instead. This is needed because we do not provide active hyperlinks from the public within public comments, for security reasons. However, if you provide the full URL in correspondence, then members of the

public will have that as reference and may choose to use that information.

Does that make sense to you? Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

--

Kat Ricker

Public Information Director

Chehalem Park & Recreation District

125 S. Elliott Road

Newberg, OR 97132

971.832.4222 cprdnewberg | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

From: Lauren Pfeiffer <pfeifferlauren89@gmail.com>

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 3:17 PM

To: Clay Downing <cdowning@cprdnewberg.org>

Cc: dannakemp44@gmail.com <dannakemp44@gmail.com>, ryann@TBREGroup.com <ryann@tbregroup.com>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Subject: Re: Crystal Rilee Park Support Documents

Hi Clay,

Yes, thank you for checking on this—please include it in the board's upcoming agenda item.

Also, can you or Kat provide any information on how the meeting will be organized? We'd like some time to speak, and are wondering if this should be via public comment sign-up or if we can request structured time on the agenda? I'm concerned that there will be a large number of sign ups and we'd like to offer a brief presentation that includes some video. Naturally we'd like to request that this time slot be before Jim calls for a vote on Rilee Park.

Could you please let me know when you have a moment?

thank you,
Lauren

On Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 3:10 PM Clay Downing <cdowning@cprdnewberg.org> wrote:

Good afternoon Lauren, Ryann and Danna,

Thank you for this information and thank you for sharing your additional thoughts with respect to Bob and Crystal Rilee Park. Would you like us to include this correspondence in the board's upcoming agenda item for Bob and Crystal Rilee Park? Best,

Clay

--

Clay Downing, AICP

Superintendent
Chehalem Park & Recreation District
125 S. Elliott Road
Newberg, OR 97132
971.281.1444 [cprdnewberg](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

From: Lauren Pfeiffer <pfeifferlauren89@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:05 PM
To: Clay Downing <cdowning@cprdnewberg.org>
Cc: dannakemp44@gmail.com <dannakemp44@gmail.com>; ryann@TBREGroup.com <ryann@tbregroup.com>; Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>
Subject: Crystal Rilee Park Support Documents

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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 haven't located this specific clip yet, but we'll forward it when we find it.

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.
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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.

Lauren, Ryann and Danna

Subject: Bob & Crystal Rilee Mountain Bikers - Please Vote NO

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 6:14:44 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: ALISON LORD <lordalison@icloud.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

I second the excellent letter already submitted to you by Megan Hessel!

Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter.

Alison Lord

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park – Request to Honor Donor Intent and Maintain Current Use Designation
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 2:48:20 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Amy Eldred <ajeldred@gmail.com>
To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Members of the Chehalem Parks and Recreation District Board,

I am writing in advance of your February 26 meeting to ask that the Board uphold the existing designation of Bob and Crystal Rilee Park as an equestrian-and-pedestrian-only facility, consistent with the donor’s original intent and the most recently adopted Master Plan.

Bob and Crystal Rilee Park is unique within the district. It provides the only space where equestrians can ride without the significant safety risks created by mixed use with mountain bikes. While multi-use trail systems can function in some environments, horses are prey animals with unpredictable flight responses, and even well-managed bike traffic can create dangerous situations for riders, hikers, cyclists, and dogs alike. Introducing bikes into this park would not simply change the user mix; it would materially increase the likelihood of avoidable accidents and the associated liability exposure for CPRD.

Equestrians already operate with limited access compared to other user groups, while mountain biking opportunities exist in multiple locations throughout the district and region. Maintaining this park’s current designation preserves balance rather than exclusivity.

It is also important to recognize that the equestrian community has invested time, funding, and volunteer labor into improving the park in partnership with CPRD. The installation of all-weather footing on the east side is a clear example of collaborative stewardship that benefits both riders and hikers. Planned future improvements—including additional footing and an in off-leash area—reflect an ongoing commitment to develop this park responsibly under its current vision.

Reconsidering the designation now risks undermining donor trust, community partnerships, and the predictability that long-term planning requires. Public parks rely on confidence that adopted master plans and donor agreements will be honored absent compelling new necessity.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Board:

Reaffirm the current equestrian and hiker use designation for Bob and Crystal Rilee Park.

Continue implementation of the approved Master Plan.

Pursue development of a separate facility intended specifically for mountain bike use, as previously discussed.

Thank you for your time, your service to the community, and your careful consideration of the long-term role this park plays for a user group that has very few comparable options.

Sincerely,

Amy Eldred
Bob and Crystal Rilee Park Patron
Sherwood, OR

“You can avoid reality, but you cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality.”

– **Ayn Rand**

Subject: please add to Board Packet for 2/26/26 Board Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 6:00:46 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Anna Danese <annadanese@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Clay Downing <cdowning@cpdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cpdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkoken@board.cprdnewberg.org>

To CPRD board: for the 2/26/26 CPRD board meeting re: Bob and Crystal Rilee

As a member of the Trails Advisory Committee, (TAC) I wanted to weigh in with my thoughts regarding giving bicycles access to the BCRP. (Bob and Crystal Rilee Park)

I joined the TAC primarily as a hiker who loves and supports publicly accessed trails. I also do road biking, but not any horseback riding.

In the past few months, attending our TAC meetings, the CPRD open house, and listening to testimony from people who want it opened to bikes, I have observed the following about the three user groups (bikers, horse riders, hikers)

Biker User Group: They have access to most of the CPRD properties, but would like access to this one too. They use language like "no access", "punished" to describe how they feel about not being able to ride at BCRP. Their response to concerns of safety is to divide the trails between bikes and horses, allowing hikers to use both but not addressing safety for hikers.

Horse Riders User Group: They have access to only one CPRD property, the BCRP. The original intent of the Rilees (although there was a comment at the Feb 10 meeting from a previous CPRD board member that they didn't care what the Rilees wanted since there were no legal covenants) was to have equestrian trails there. At the CPRD open house the post it notes put up on the easel (great idea!) strongly supported horses there and not bikes.

Hikers: currently comprise 90% of the users at BCRP. Seem to be, so far, the least represented in that many of the hikers using the park were unaware of the CPRD survey asking for community feedback. The ones that are vocal express deep concern about safety for both bikers and hikers when narrow winding trails in forest terrain are shared by people going 3 mph and people going up to 15 mph.

My biggest concern is for CRPD and their commitment to safety. To allow bikes (not even addressing the fact that very heavy and fast ebikes could also be on the trails) to share trails with hikers is in my opinion just asking for injuries to happen. Bikers mentioned teaching youth to ride trails, which also introduces more vulnerable bikers with less experience on trails with bad visibility and up and down hills.

I love biking and fully support great trail systems for bikes alone or trails where visibility is excellent, such as riding down Mt. Bachelor in the summer, but I think the vast majority of hikers will be very apprehensive about sharing with bikes, the horses will be even more limited to their trails (even assuming all bikers obey the rules) when they already only have this trail to ride. I would not want CPRD to regret this decision down the line. Whether you decide to

postpone the decision until you've canvassed more hikers actually using BCRP now and address the limitations of the new trail surfaces, or decide to keep the master plan the way it is currently, I would strongly advise not to open the park to bike use on behalf of all user groups.

Thank you!

Anna Danese

Subject: Support for the Original Vision for Crystal Rilee Park - Equestrians and Hikers only
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 at 3:27:44 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Betsy Schoettlin <betsy.schoettlin@gmail.com>
To: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board Members,

I am writing in strong support of keeping Crystal Rilee Park designated for equestrian and hiker use only, in accordance with the donor's original intent and the previously approved Master Plan.

This park is not just another recreational space — it is a sacred and carefully stewarded environment. The equestrian community has invested significant time, funding, and volunteer effort into building and maintaining the all-weather trail system. It is a rare and deeply valued space where horses and riders can safely coexist with hikers without the inherent risks that mountain bikes introduce. The trails at Crystal Rilee Park are steep and have many, many, blind corners which makes it unsafe for both hikers, children, hikers with dogs, and equestrians when bicycles come around them at speed. Even when on foot, it is terrifying when a mountain biker comes whizzing unexpectedly around a blind corner. Throw a dog on a leash into the mix and it gets more dangerous. My husband and I walk our dogs up at Crystal Rilee Park regularly and it is such a serene pleasure to know that we are not at risk of being run down or badly startled. I ride my horse up there, as well, and it is such a rare and wonderful thing to have an equestrian trail where I can truly relax and not worry about being come upon suddenly by a mountain biker.

Beyond safety and infrastructure, this is also a matter of integrity. When a donor makes a clear and intentional gift to the community, honoring those wishes builds trust. If we begin to reverse or reinterpret donor intent after the fact, it risks discouraging future philanthropic investment. Those with the means to donate land and resources need to trust that their legacy and intentions will be respected.

Equestrians have very limited safe riding options within the State. This park represents the ONE dedicated, bike-free space available to our community and it serves a multitude of equestrians coming from all over the greater Portland area. Preserving that designation protects safety, honors the donor, and maintains the integrity of the partnership between CPRD and the equestrian community.

I respectfully ask the Board to uphold the original designation and maintain Crystal Rilee Park as an equestrian and hiker-only park.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Betsy and Warren Schoettlin

9200 NE Parrett Mountain Rd.

Newberg, OR 97132

Subject: Riley Park

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 11:51:49 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Bill Dollar

To: Jim McMaster, Nick Konen, Matthew Smith, Brandon Slyter, Jason Fields, Kat Ricker

I find it very sad and disheartening that you all would even be thinking about going against the owners wishes that donated the property. Your morals should be screaming at you but it appears many of you have none. It really isn't about what the horse riders or the mountain bikers want...it should be about what the original owners want!!! Do the right thing no matter who might lose access, it really is that simple. Why would anyone in the future donate anything to CPRD when you wont honor what the donater wants?

Bill Dollar

Subject: Bob & Crystal Rilee Park Advisory Committee - Dec. 2018
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 at 9:59:52 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Brian Bowman <brian.h.bowman@gmail.com>
To: CPRD Board <board@cprdnewberg.org>
CC: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>, Clay Downing <cdowning@cprdnewberg.org>
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.png

All,

From the Feb. Chehalem Heritage Trails Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting there was some discussion about "4 to 5 past Rilee Park Master plans." I don't know of more than the one Master Plan delivered by NV5. I thought it would be helpful to have easier access to a copy of the document that was the output from the Bob and Crystal Rilee Park Advisory Committee; June 2017 through approx. early 2019. I hope this might be useful in getting a clearer picture of past work.

These links are from the CPRD website.

Our [Bob and Crystal Rilee Park Advisory Committee](#) delivered the following document to the Board of Directors in Jan. 2019 - this document represents recommendations for consideration while developing a master plan. https://www.cprdnewberg.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/cprd/page/13271/010119_committee_recommendations.pdf

Site analysis (2016) performed and available to our committee. This work pre-dated the committee. Links in two parts.

- https://www.cprdnewberg.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/cprd/page/13271/rilee_park_environmental_site_analysis_1_of_2.pdf
- https://www.cprdnewberg.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/cprd/page/13271/rilee_park_environmental_site_analysis_2_of_2.pdf

Note from the site assessment the clearly articulating goals for shared use going back at least 10 years.

CPRD District goals for the park include:

1. Capture the community's desire for recreation facilities balanced with the District's assets to heighten the quality of life for the District residents.
2. Showcase the farming heritage of the land and homesteading in the Yamhill Valley.
3. Respect the constraints of the land and minimize unforeseen and negative impacts of future use or development.
4. Carry on the tradition of equestrian use of the trails.
5. Manage the property for outdoor recreation and make trail improvements for hiking and mountain biking.
6. Maximize economic and operational opportunities.
7. Capitalize on the scenic and nature park qualities.
8. Manage the house and gardens for limited events.
9. Continue leasing the agricultural fields for farming and income to the District for the improvement and development of the Bob and Crystal Rilee Park.

Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Brian

Subject: Please Uphold the Original Vision for Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 at 3:19:41 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Bruce Goodman <brucelgoodman@yahoo.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, nkoren@board.cprdnewberg.org <nkoren@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board Members,

I am writing in strong support of keeping Crystal Rilee Park designated for equestrian and hiker use only, in accordance with the donor's original intent and the previously approved Master Plan.

I have enjoyed being able to hike this special area since moving to Parret Mountain a few years ago. I personally have had some close calls with mountain bike riders in the past (here and elsewhere) and was pleased when the mtb signs started coming down not too long ago. I hope it stays this way.

This park is not just another recreational space — it is a sacred and carefully stewarded environment. The equestrian community has invested significant time, funding, and volunteer effort into building and maintaining the all-weather trail system. It is a rare and deeply valued space where horses and riders can safely coexist with hikers without the inherent risks that mountain bikes introduce.

Beyond safety and infrastructure, this is also a matter of integrity. When a donor makes a clear and intentional gift to the community, honoring those wishes builds trust. If we begin to reverse or reinterpret donor intent after the fact, it risks discouraging future philanthropic investment. Those with the means to donate land and resources need to trust that their legacy and intentions will be respected.

Equestrians have very limited safe riding options within the State. This park represents the one dedicated, bike-free space available to our community. Preserving that designation protects safety, honors the donor, and maintains the integrity of the partnership between CPRD and the equestrian community.

I respectfully ask the Board to uphold the original designation and maintain Crystal Rilee Park as an equestrian and hiker-only park.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Bruce Goodman

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Crystal Rilee Park: Equestrians & Hikers Only
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 6:11:15 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Carol Colleen <buckskinpony1@icloud.com>
To: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Ms Ricker

As a horse owner and trail rider, I'm writing to implore you to keep the trails at Crystal Rilee Park designated for equestrians and hikers only.

This was the original intent of the owner of the Crystal Rilee property.

This is the only equestrian trail in our immediate area.

Horses and mountain bikes DO NOT mix. Mountain bikes tearing down the trails and horses are a disaster waiting to happen.

The Crystal Rilee Park Equestrian community has spent time and money to improve the footing of the trails and they plan to make further improvements.

Please honor their commitment, please honor the original intent of the donors of this property, and honor the safety of our equestrian community by NOT permitting mountain bikes at Crystal Rilee Park.

Carol Colleen
Horse owner and boarder at Alfadans Equestrian Arts
Newberg

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 10:24:38 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Catherine Wright <catmccrae@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CRPD board,

I have just learned that you are considering opening up the Bob and Crystal Rilee Park to mountain bikers. Hearing this made my heart sink, and caused a little panic, too.

First, I want to say how much I appreciate the footing on the paths on the west side. It makes hiking there at this time of year so much more enjoyable. Thank you!

I hike there regularly with my dog. He's very skittish, and meeting mountain bikes on the trails would make hikes scary and miserable for us. We would stop using the park.

I also ride my horse there. I appreciate the quiet trails and the fact that we can have a nice, relaxing, safe ride. My friends and I used to camp with our horses at L.L. Stubb Stewart State Park, but have stopped doing so in recent years because it has become too dangerous to share the trails with mountain bikes. The last time we went, a couple of mountain bikers came down the trail and around a corner, and ran right into the back of my friend's horse. Of course, he panicked and ran right into my horse. My friend and I ended up trying to hang onto bolting horses as they ran, panicked, through the bushes. Thankfully, this was on part of the tail that didn't drop off into a canyon on one side. This was one many such incidents over our years of camping there, and was the final straw which caused us to give up taking our horses out on those trails. Setting up potential for situations like this puts everyone at risk. The horses, their riders, the mountain bikers, and any hikers who are unfortunate enough to be in the vicinity when horses get spooked by bikes.

Please consider and respect the donor's original intent for equestrian and hiker use only. We have no other options locally for places to ride our horses; please don't ruin this for us. Mountain bikers have plenty of options, but designating a new park exclusively for mountain bikes, makes much more sense, and I'm sure the mountain bikers would prefer not to share trails with horses

As I can speak to from experience, mountain bikes and other current park users (hikers, horses, dog walkers) don't mix. This decision would be an accident waiting to happen and introduce liability to users, the CPRD, and burdens local taxpayers with the bills.

I cannot attend the hearing on the 26th, but I beg you to consider these points, and in the interests of safety and the enjoyment of those who use the park precisely because there are no mountain bikers on the trails, please vote against allowing mountain bikes. Please do not put the current park users at risk and ruin their safe enjoyment of the park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Catherine Wright.

Subject: Oregon Equestrian Trails has no Stance on this issue

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 7:11:27 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Collette Hayes <vpoutreachoet@gmail.com>

To: Casey Creighton <ccreighton@cprdnewberg.org>, Clay Downing <cdowning@cprdnewberg.org>, Julie Petersen <jpetersen@cprdnewberg.org>, Bryan Stewart <bstewart@cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>, Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>

Hello All,

Our Board of Directors decided in September 2024 that we would not be involved in this controversial and divisive issue at Bob & Crystal Rilee Park.

OET stands by Sharing Trails and working together with other trail users however we can make that happen safely.

We are a volunteer non-profit and many of our members received some very compelling (however not necessarily truthful) letters from Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians.

We are disappointed in the CPRE group pushing the false narrative and not helping to create a win/win situation for everyone.

I personally went to a CPRD meeting where I learned enough that I was impressed with the thoughtful layouts that included mounting areas, restrooms, etc...for horse riders and giving part of the property to bicycles.

I am an avid horseback rider and horse camper.

I have ridden at Rilee a few times. These are very limited miles for those of us who have the means to go anywhere.

I hope horse riders don't lose access but I also hope there is a win/win. Odd/even days or East/West like it was before. Seems there are enough bright minds to make something work for almost everyone.

Thank you and best of luck to all of you in trying to make everyone in your community happy!

Happy Trails!

--

Collette Hayes

Vice President Marketing Outreach

Oregon Equestrian Trails

503-270-7167

vpoutreachoet@gmail.com

Subject: Keep CPRD bikes out of Crystal Rilee

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 9:05:24 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Courtney McAra <courtney.mcara@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Board of directors,

I am writing to formally request that the Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) honor Crystal Rilee Parks' donor's original intent by maintaining the park **exclusively for equestrian and hiker use**.

Mixing mountain bikes with hikers, horses, and dog walkers presents significant safety concerns and a substantial liability risk for both the CPRD and park users. Currently, this is the **only park** within the District where equestrians can ride without the presence of mountain bikes, whereas cyclists have numerous other options available.

I know the Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians community remains dedicated to partnering with the CPRD. Following the successful installation of all-weather footing on the East side, we are prepared to continue devoting time and financial resources toward future projects, including all-weather footing for the West side and the development of an off-leash dog area.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these points.

Best regards,

Courtney McAra

Subject: Email For Board Meeting February 26, 2026 - No Bikes at Rilee Park
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 3:10:49 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Danna Kemp <ddtmkemp@yahoo.com>
To: Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

****Please confirm receipt and place my email in the 2/26/2026 board packet. Thank you**

Dear Members of the CPRD Board,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposal to allow bikes in Rilee Park. As a community member who values the role of CPRD in promoting the well-being, recreation, and connection of our residents, I believe it is crucial for the board to understand the significant safety issues this proposal entails, as well as its conflict with the original intent of the generous gift from Bob and Crystal Rilee and Crystal's Foundation.

It is well-known that bikes and horses do not mix well, and in most circumstances, it can be quite dangerous for both bikers and equestrians. The park has gained popularity among hikers and dog walkers, especially after the recent footing improvements this fall. While there is considerable discussion about the coexistence of bikes and horses, it is essential to consider the safety of other park users as well. As an older individual, I enjoy walking in Rilee Park without the fear of having to quickly get off the trail to avoid an accident. Bikes, which previously rode at high speeds before the bike ban, are quiet and hard to hear, particularly for someone like myself who has a hearing disability and cannot move swiftly. I have concerns that I maybe injured by a bike if allowed to return to the park.

Reintroducing bikes to Rilee Park would be detrimental to both the park and the district. It would also undermine the trust of property owners interested in donating or selling their land to CPRD, as it would suggest that CPRD cannot be relied upon to uphold their wishes regarding their land. It is vital for CPRD to secure land donations to continue developing parks and trails throughout the district. Otherwise, purchasing land to create much-needed recreational spaces would become a tax burden on citizens through levies and bonds, which are never popular and challenging to pass.

I do believe that having a dedicated mountain biking park is important, and it was an early promise made to bikers by the board. Providing them with the opportunity to create a park that caters specifically to their sport, in a safe environment without horses, dog walkers, and hikers, would be a suitable and most desirable solution.

I urge you to make the right decision by not allowing bikes in Rilee Park and to honor the promises made by past superintendents and boards, as well as the intent of the property donation. I appreciate the work each of you does to support our community and trust that you will give this matter thoughtful consideration.

Thank you for your time and your continued commitment to serving the residents of our district.

Sincerely,

Darrell Kemp
Newberg Resident

Subject: Please Honor Donor Intent and Keep Crystal Rilee Park Equestrian-Only

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 3:42:23 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Dean Family <deanfambam3@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board Members,

I am writing in strong support of keeping Crystal Rilee Park designated for equestrian and hiker use only, in accordance with the donor's original intent and the previously approved Master Plan.

This park is not just another recreational space — it is a sacred and carefully stewarded environment. The equestrian community has invested significant time, funding, and volunteer effort into building and maintaining the all-weather trail system. It is a rare and deeply valued space where horses and riders can safely coexist with hikers without the inherent risks that mountain bikes introduce.

Beyond safety and infrastructure, this is also a matter of integrity. When a donor makes a clear and intentional gift to the community, honoring those wishes builds trust. If we begin to reverse or reinterpret donor intent after the fact, it risks discouraging future philanthropic investment. Those with the means to donate land and resources need to trust that their legacy and intentions will be respected.

Equestrians have very limited safe riding options within the State. This park represents the one dedicated, bike-free space available to our community. Preserving that designation protects safety, honors the donor, and maintains the integrity of the partnership between CPRD and the equestrian community.

I respectfully ask the Board to uphold the original designation and maintain Crystal Rilee Park as an equestrian and hiker-only park.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Karissa Dean
Entrepreneur, Mentor, Coach
(503)927-1496
hello@karissadean.com
www.karissadean.com

Subject: Crystal/Bob Rilee Park

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 2:10:29 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: dianashrwd@aol.com <dianashrwd@aol.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

My husband and I have lived on Parrett Mountain for approximately 36 years. For many of these years we were personal and very close friends of both Bob and Chrystal Rilee. I am respectfully requesting that you honor the donor's original intent for equestrian and hiker use only on this property. As very close friends I know that neither Bob nor Chrystal would have wanted mountain bikes on the property.

The other issue I would like to address as a concern is that of mixing mountain bikes with horses. This combination does not go together. It is an accident waiting to happen in addition to the liability issues, which you can well imagine. As a previous horse owner, I just cannot imagine a horse and rider going around a corner with a mountain bike coming at them. This is a liability issue that need not exist.

Again, I am requesting that you honor the donor's original intent. Thank you very much.

Diana Pendell

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Subject: Bob & Crystal Rilee Park
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 at 5:33:26 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Dr Cecile Coulon <drcecile@zephyrequine.com>
To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>
Attachments: Pony 150px.gif

Hello Chehalem Park and Recreation District Board

Can this email please be included in the 2/26 Board Meeting package?

I write you as a concerned equestrian, on the future of Bob and Crystal Rilee Park.

I am a horse rider, a parent of two horse riders, a friend to many other riders, a coach to the Sherwood OHSET (Oregon High School Equestrian Team), an equine veterinarian, and of course a nature lover. I (and my extended family of equestrians) make regular use of B&CRP, hauling in horses and friends up there to enjoy the scenery, and to give horses and riders alike the opportunity to habituate to and condition over open terrain - something that is very important to us but harder and harder to do, with fewer spaces available and safe for horses and their riders.

I don't need to tell you: horses are spirited animals, and many are wary of bicycles. Sharing paths with bicycles is possible, as long as cyclists regulate their speed and stick to their designated trails. But in the past, there have been multiple incidents with bike riders who thought the rules didn't apply to them, putting horses and riders in danger. This is true both in B&CRP, and in other shared parks such as Stubb Stewart. And to be clear: it's not the cyclists that pay the cost of their poor decisions; it's the horses and/or riders who endure injuries.

Bob & Crystal Rilee Park, however, is and was always intended to be an equestrian park first. Equestrians such as Ryann Reinhofer and the many people she has helped organize, have put in enormous work and resources to improve the quality of the footing, making B&CRP accessible year round to horses, without damaging the footing. It is untenable to dedicate a space for horses and to go back on this decision again and again. Bicyclists had their chance to share the park; they did not appreciate what they had and casually put other users in danger. They also have many other places to choose from, places that horses do not have access to at all. Can equestrians not enjoy one safe space to themselves (and hikers and dogs, who are capable of sharing without difficulty)? A space that would not be accessible at all if it hadn't been intended for horses in the first place?

It's an enormous privilege to have a piece of land donated and dedicated to equestrian use; equestrians know and value this enormously. Bob and Crystal Rilee donated this land to the district for stewardship, and for equestrian use. Please protect this land for its intended use. I can't imagine future donors will be as generous if the district isn't up to the responsibility.

Thank you
Cecile

Dr C

Cecile Coulon, DVM, MS, CVA
Veterinarian & Acupuncturist



Zephyr Equine Veterinary Services
21370 SW Langer Farms Pkwy
Suite 142-306
Sherwood OR 97140
503-610-6771
503-214-8880 fax
www.zephyrequine.com

Subject: Support for more bicycle trail access
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 10:17:21 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Grant Burns <tnargisred@gmail.com>
To: CPRD Board <board@cprdnewberg.org>

Hello CPRD Board,

My name is Grant Burns and I am a 11 year resident of Newberg. I've been a life long cyclist both on the road and off starting from my days after school hanging out in my dad's bike shop in Santa Rosa California. Cycling is integral to how my family and I enjoy time together outdoors. I am currently very involved in the BMX racing community here in Oregon. My two oldest sons and I both race throughout the season and I hold a position on the Board of the CVBMX track here in town.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the reopening of the Rilee park East side trails. I had really enjoyed riding and hiking on that property from 2016-2023. I strongly desire closer trails for cycling for me, my family, and my community. Close trail access is one of the main things that I find lacking in the Newberg living experience. As you well know, one of the greatest parts of living in Oregon is the outdoors. Being able to get in a MTB ride after work would be amazing!

I asked my 13 year old son Will if he wants closer trails and he immediately answered "that would be so cool! we always have to drive so far to ride."

Thank you for considering my opinion, I appreciate the work you all do to ensure we in the 'Berg have many ways to recreate and play.

Sincerely,

Grant Burns
406 W Edgewood Dr

Subject: Subject: Crystal Rilee Park decision
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:02:38 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Jamie Dowdy <jamiedowdy45@yahoo.com>
To: Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

I am writing to request that CPRD honor the donor's original intent for equestrian and hiker use only for Crystal Rilee Park. I understand that the biker's feel that wasn't the donor's intent, but they need to read the paperwork – yes, it was their intent for an equestrian and hiker use only for this park!

Equestrians have **only this one park** within CPRD to ride without mountain bikes. The bikes have many other options within the district. Equestrians have special needs with regards to parking and safety concerns that bikers don't have.

Safety concerns: bikes, mountain bikes and other current park users (hikers, horses, dog walkers) don't mix. Bikes and mountain bikes can be either quiet or noisy and are fast. They can startle other users by coming up quickly and are startling when they appear suddenly. This can cause accidents with horses and dogs who are quick to startle and are reactive and unpredictable. Like users: such as hikers, horses and dog walkers go the same speed and are easily seen by each other.

Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians as a community is excited to continue partnering with CPRD by devoting time, financial and other resources to the effort. The community's donation of all-weather footing on the east side has been so well received by equestrians and hiker's alike!

Next on the list: additional all-weather footing on the west side and an off-leash dog area.

It is my understanding that a new mountain bike park has been promised and that many land parcel options within the district are available for that purpose. That would avoid the over-politicizing that has been going on over Crystal Rilee with many hard feelings and flip-flopping the decision that the donors of Crystal Rilee Park made when they donated the land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jamie Dowdy

Subject: Future of Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 10:08:07 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Jamie Keiser

To: jcmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org

Hello board members,

I am reaching out to express my concerns over the potential changes you might make to this wonderful equestrian and hiker only use park. The area is very lucky to have had the park donated by the previous owner but it was specifically to be designated by equestrians and hikers only. To go against the wishes of the donor is very wrong and there was a good reason why they chose this designation.

As an equestrian and also mountain biker I agree the two do not mix well. There are very few park locations for equestrians (and this is the only one where they are free from mountain bikes) to enjoy a trail system vs. the plethora of opportunities for mountain bikers. Also the equestrian community has devoted time, money and other resources to improve the park for horses and hikers.

Please stick to the approved Master Plan and designate a new park exclusively for mountain bikes as promised.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter and sincerely hope that you do not change the purpose of this park.

Subject: Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 12:43:14 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Jan Hammond <jan-hammond@att.net>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

To All Board Members:

As a member of the local equestrian community I am writing to request that you respect the wishes of the Crystal Rilee family and maintain the property for the exclusive use of horses and hikers. We winter in Arizona and I ride regularly at the Catalina State Park which is open to horses and cyclists. I see firsthand how horses and cyclists are not compatible. I can't tell you how many times there have been confrontations and encounters with bikers while on horseback which have resulted in serious and life threatening events. On a regular basis the cyclists will approach from front or back usually going fast focusing not on where they are going but on the immediate track and surprise the horses. In addition, they apparently are unaware of the right of way rules and may or may not get off the trail. In some cases, they are wearing ear buds and never hear anything. By allowing them in the Crystal Rilee Park you are assuming a liability which unfortunately may result in serious injury to horse and rider.

Secondly, the damage done to the trails by the tire tracks and the rutting can be disastrous. The ruts will continue to deepen from the rains and the erode the footing.

Thirdly, this topic has been debated and decided before so to have it revisited again by new board members is a waste of time. Will this be debated with every new board??? Will we have to continually fight the political winds to preserve the wishes of the donor?

The park was designated specifically for horse and hiker and should be preserved

as such.

Jan Hammond

Rolling Rock Farm

Sherwood, OR

Subject: Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 at 3:52:59 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Jenni Jeronimo <bayponyfarm@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, nkoren@board.cprdnewberg.org <nkoren@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board Members,

I am writing in strong support of keeping Crystal Rilee Park designated for equestrian and hiker use only, in accordance with the donor's original intent and the previously approved Master Plan.

This park is not just another recreational space — it is a sacred and carefully stewarded environment. The equestrian community has invested significant time, funding, and volunteer effort into building and maintaining the all-weather trail system. It is a rare and deeply valued space where horses and riders can safely coexist with hikers without the inherent risks that mountain bikes introduce.

The reality for myself and many is we won't be able to ride the trails without a real possibility of being seriously hurt if a mountain bike came careening around a corner either from behind or ahead. I have been a professional rider all my life and am very experienced and my horses well trained but none of that matters when faced with a speeding mountain bike. The consequences for an inexperienced or young rider would be devastating.

Beyond safety and infrastructure, this is also a matter of integrity. When a donor makes a clear and intentional gift to the community, honoring those wishes builds trust. If we begin to reverse or reinterpret donor intent after the fact, it risks discouraging future philanthropic investment. Those with the means to donate land and resources need to trust that their legacy and intentions will be respected.

Equestrians have very limited safe riding options within the State. This park represents the one dedicated, bike-free space available to our community. Preserving that designation protects safety, honors the donor, and maintains the integrity of the partnership between CPRD and the equestrian community.

I respectfully ask the Board to uphold the original designation and maintain Crystal Rilee Park as an equestrian and hiker-only park.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Sincerely,
Jenni Jeronimo

Subject: Crystal Rilee Park protection for equestrians and hikers

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 12:31:29 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Jenny Trainor <jenny.trainor@yahoo.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Board Members,

I grew up not far from this park just down Baker road and I care about protecting Crystal Rilee Park for equestrians and hikers. We need to preserve the park's trails, history, and open spaces for future generations and respect the wishes of the doners of this park for what it was originally intended to be. As a horse professional bikes and horses can create huge safety issues especially on a piece of property such as this and it's so easy to keep everyone safe if the original use of the property is followed by not allowing bikes on these trails.

Thank you

Jenny Trainor

Licensed 3 Star Parelli Instructor

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Request to Maintain Crystal Rilee Park as Equestrian and Hiker Only

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 10:47:49 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Jessica Strom <jessicalstrom@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Hello,

I am writing ahead of the February 26 meeting to respectfully urge CPRD to honor the donor's original intent and maintain Crystal Rilee Park as designated for equestrians and hikers only, consistent with the approved Master Plan.

Allowing mountain bikes in the park would create serious safety risks, as bikes and horses do not mix well on shared trails. This change would increase the likelihood of accidents and liability concerns for park users and the district.

Crystal Rilee is the only CPRD park where equestrians can ride without mountain bike traffic, while cyclists have many other options in the district. I ask the Board to preserve this unique space and consider a separate location for mountain bike-specific recreation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Strom, Hillsboro OR resident

Subject: Bob & Crystal Riley Park

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 11:50:00 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Jill Henri <henriksen.jill@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Hello,

My name is Jill and I would like to share my support of honoring the original intent of the owners in keeping the park equestrian and hikers only. I enjoy being able to both ride and hike there and use the park frequently. Allowing bikers not only goes against the owner's original intentions, but makes safety an issue. I would definitely reconsider using park for safety reasons.

Thank you for your time,

Jill Henriksen

Subject: Help preserve safe equestrian community riding in the beautiful Crystal Rilee Park and honor the intentions of the Park's donors by excluding mountain bikes.

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 9:12:43 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Darin & Jodi <djknuts@gmail.com>

To: Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>

- Request CPRD to honor the donor's original intent for equestrian and hiker use only. Commitment to the most recently approved Master Plan. Designate a new park exclusively for mountain bikes, as promised, from the many land parcel options within the district, and avoid flip-flopping the decision.
- Safety concerns: Mountain bikes and other current park users (hikers, horses, dog walkers) don't mix. This decision would be an accident waiting to happen and introduce liability to users, the CPRD, and burdens local taxpayers with the bills.
- Equestrians only have this one park within CPRD to ride without mountain bikes. The bikes have numerous other options within the district.
- Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians have just begun! As a community, they are excited to continue partnering with CPRD by devoting time, financial, and other resources to the effort. The community's donation of all-weather footing on the East side has been so well received by equestrians and hikers alike! Next on the list: Additional all-weather footing on the West side and an off-leash dog area.

Jodi Knutson

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 7:04:18 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Joni Huntley <jonihuntley@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

CPRD Boardmembers,

I love hiking the trails at Bob and Crystal Rilee Park without Mt bikes to worry about. Fast moving Mountain bikers and hikers, horses, dog walkers don't mix.

The decision to remove bikers from Crystal Rilee Park was made for a very good reason, SAFETY! I have a trail horse and I can only ride where there are no bikes. I went to Willamette Mission Park to check out the horse trails but saw that bikers were riding on the horse/pedestrian only trails. That is against the rules and dangerous!! I'm 69 years old and can not ride my horse anywhere near bikes which would be an accident waiting to happen.

Mountain bikes and horses are a liability to users, the CPRD, and burdens local taxpayers with the bills.

Equestrians only have this one park within CPRD to ride without mountain bikes. Bikers have other options within the district.

Joni Huntley
Newberg, OR

Subject: ATTN Board Members

Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 at 10:43:42 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Jordan Graeme <madkatequine@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, msmith@board.newberg.org <msmith@board.newberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

To the Crystal Rilee Park Board,

I am writing to express strong opposition to any vote that would allow mountain bikes on the trails at Crystal Rilee Park. This park was deeded, planned, and developed with a clear and specific purpose: to remain a safe, dedicated space for equestrians and hikers. Reversing that commitment now would not only disregard the donor's intent and the adopted Master Plan, but would also set a concerning precedent about the permanence of board decisions and community trust.

Crystal Rilee Park is not simply another trail system. Within the CPRD district, it is the only park that provides equestrians and hikers with a bike free environment. Equestrian users have extremely limited access to safe public riding spaces, while cyclists and mountain bikers already have multiple designated options throughout the region. Changing the designation of this park would disproportionately impact one user group by removing the single space created specifically for their safety and use.

The safety implications of introducing mountain bikes onto equestrian trails cannot be overstated. Horses are prey animals that can react unpredictably to speed, sudden movement, or blind trail encounters. Mixing bikes with horses, hikers, and dog walkers on trails intentionally designed to avoid that conflict creates foreseeable risk. Any incident resulting from this decision would be preventable and would expose CPRD to unnecessary liability. Maintaining the existing designation is not exclusionary; it is responsible risk management aligned with the park's original design.

Equally concerning is the message sent to donors, volunteers, and community partners if the Board chooses to overturn a previously honored agreement. The equestrian and hiking communities have invested significant time, funding, and stewardship into this park, including recent improvements such as the all weather footing project that benefits multiple user groups. Altering the park's intended use after these commitments undermines confidence in future collaboration and raises serious questions about how donor intent and master planning decisions are respected moving forward.

I respectfully but firmly urge the Board to:

Honor the deeded purpose of Crystal Rilee Park and preserve it as an equestrian and hiker only space.

Uphold the most recently approved Master Plan and avoid reversing course on a decision that was reached through extensive planning and community input.

Direct mountain bike development toward alternative parcels within the district that can safely support that use without compromising an existing equestrian focused park.

This decision is about more than trail access. It is about safety, stewardship, and honoring the promises that shaped Crystal Rilee Park from the beginning. I ask the Board to demonstrate leadership by preserving the park's original vision and protecting the one space within CPRD that equestrians can safely call their own.

Respectfully,

Jordan Graeme owner of MadKat Equine

Subject: Fwd: Crystal Rilee Park
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 7:50:13 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Judy Walker <tnacwlkr@msn.com>
To: Kat Ricker <kriccker@cprdnewberg.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Judy Walker <Tnacwlkr@msn.com>
Date: February 13, 2026 at 7:22:59 PM PST
To: jmcmaster@board.cprnewberg.org
Subject: Crystal Rilee Park

Please honor Crystal Rilee's intent for her property she so kindly donated to be used for equestrians and hikers. I don't understand why changing the board should not honor Crystal's wishes and all the previous meetings concerning this and the decision was made.

It is so not safe to have mountain bikes on same trails as horses and hikers. My experience with bike riders on horse trails is that they are always looking down and wearing earbuds. The bikes have many other options within the district.

Concerned citizen,

Judy Walker

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee park

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026 at 4:48:57 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Kelsey Menefee

To: Kat Ricker

To whom it may concern,

First off I want to extend my gratitude for you even taking the time out of your day to read this. I am a life long trail rider and passionate equestrian in the Willamette valley and I'm writing to share my concerns regarding Bob and Crystal Rilee Park and the conditions surrounding mountain bikers on the beautiful trails that are managed by CPRD. We have very few, if any equestrian trails in the PNW and Willamette Valley that are designated for hikers and equestrians specifically. The majority of the equestrian trails in the area are largely shared with mountain bikers, hikers, and dog walkers. Out of all the crazy, heart pounding moments that I've had while trail riding in the last 30 years, it is the bicycles that have come VERY close to some serious accidents. Most of the time it is not out of disrespect for the horse riders, but a lack of education and awareness of prey animal behaviors and instincts. At Chehalem ridge nature park 2 years ago I had a VERY close call with a park ranger on a bicycle who came zipping around the corner behind my horse. Gave no warning, no heads up, and came within inches of himself becoming seriously hurt as well as my son and I who were riding, all because a lack of etiquette and education around horses. Bob and Crystal Rilee originally intended on this beautiful piece of land to be designated for hikers and equestrians specifically, and it has become a special place for the neighborhood equestrians and families to be able to enjoy. The footing on the trails has been wonderful and I appreciate the hard work and care that goes into keeping these trails safe. WITHOUT the mountain bikers, the safety and maneuverability of the trails are solid and excellent for all to enjoy. Please consider paying respects and honor to the original donors and protect this land and the integrity of the intention behind this generous donation. Thank you so much for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Testimony for February 26th Board Meeting
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 5:54:45 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Lawrence Kitchen <lekitchen@comcast.net>
To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>
CC: Kat Ricker <kricker@cpdnewberg.org>
Attachments: Crystal Rilee Letter.docx

Enclosed is my testimony to the Board for their meeting on February 26th addressing use of Crystal Rilee Park. Lawrence Kitchen

To the CRPD Board,

I'm writing to comment on the rumor I have heard that the CRPD is considering changing its prior decision to preserve Crystal Rilee park for equestrian and hiker use only. My understanding is the Board is intending to allow mountain bikes to use a portion of the park. I use Crystal Rilee park for hiking but would no longer feel safe doing so if mountain bikes are allowed. The terrain in the park is undulating and I would be concerned that a mountain bike would appear over a hill without the ability to avoid hitting me. Even if mountain bikes were only allowed to use a portion of the park, there is no certainty and it is highly likely that riders once there would ignore any artificial boundaries. I urge you not to turn Crystal Rilee park over to mountain bikes. Find them another property in your district that can be used for mountain bikes only. Please include my comments in the hearing testimony.

Sincerely,
/s/ Lawrence Kitchen

Subject: Crystal Rylee Park

Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 at 9:14:27 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Lise Colucci

To: Kat Ricker

I'm writing to voice my concerns about the potential allowing of mountain bike bikes onto the trail at Crystal Rilee Park. I am asking that you listen to the pleas of the people who are working to keep this quiet space open to only equestrian and hikers. This is the one park in the area that allows for horses as well as hikers that does not also allow mountain bikes. The combination of mountain bikes with equestrian activities is a dangerous one and it also has entirely different wear and tear on the park itself. The ruts and erosion of hilled trails that would be caused by mountain bike bikes can lead to dangerous footing for both hikers and horses. The combination of people coming at higher speeds around corners, potentially spooking horses or colliding with hikers on the tight trails that are within the park could lead to injury and unfortunate circumstances. Being that there are other places for mountain bikers in the region to go, I feel that this is a reasonable request to maintain the spirit of what this park was created for.

It is my understanding that the donation for this park was done with the caveat that this be an equestrian only park. I think it is very important to honor and respect the wishes of those who donated as it will continue to bring donation money in the future from similar people to maintain properties such as this.

Having used the park as an equestrian myself, I was highly impressed with the cleanliness, the maintenance of the trails, the other people out there, enjoying the park either on foot or on horseback and their respectful attitude toward another. Please help us maintain the vision for this park as an equestrian, hiker location.

Thank you
Lise Colucci

Subject: Rilee Park Mountain Bikes

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 1:23:57 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Matthew Kibbe <matthew.r.kibbe@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing as a resident of Parrett Mountain to express my serious concerns regarding the consideration of opening Bob and Crystal Rilee Park to mountain bike use under the jurisdiction of the Chehalem Parks and Recreation District (CPRD).

I appreciate the District's efforts to expand recreational access; however, I believe that permitting mountain bikes on these particular trails would create significant safety hazards and long-term damage to an area that has been carefully maintained and responsibly used for years.

First and foremost, the co-mingling of mountain bikes and horses presents inherent and well-documented safety risks. Horses can be easily startled by fast-moving bikes, particularly on narrow or winding trails with limited sight lines. Even experienced riders cannot always prevent a dangerous reaction, which puts equestrians, cyclists, and the horses themselves at risk of serious injury. This would also open the door to Liability which could extend to the CPRD, especially if the original terms Park's use are changed.

Second, mountain bikes can cause substantial wear and degradation to trail surfaces, especially on steep or soft terrain. The existing trails have been thoughtfully cared for and maintained by the equestrian community and other responsible users at a significant cost, funded mostly by equestrian owners themselves, and donations from residents. Increased bike traffic could accelerate erosion, widen trails, and require costly and ongoing remediation. Preserving the integrity of the landscape should remain a top priority.

Third, shared use between mountain bikers and hikers, walkers, and joggers introduces additional safety concerns. Speed differentials on narrow trails make collisions more likely, particularly in blind corners or heavily wooded areas. Many current users value the park for its quieter, slower-paced environment. Introducing higher-speed recreational use would materially change the character and safety profile of the space especially when there are already plenty of biking areas already in use within CPRD.

Fourth, while not an equestrian owner myself, I have concerns over violating the terms of the original gift of land from the Rilee Family. It seems clear that the use of the land as a park for pedestrians and horses was clear. Violating the terms of this wonderful gift would endanger philanthropy in the community, and give other donors pause in the future. If I were a donor in the future, I would have deep reservations about making a gift to the CPRD if I knew my intentions of the gift were not to be honored, and this kind of new travels quickly in small communities.

In addition to concerns within the park itself, I must also raise the issue of traffic safety in the surrounding neighborhood. During the brief time the park was open to bikers, there was a troubling volume of vehicles—often associated with bicycle clubs and high school groups—racing down the road in front of my home to access the trails. Speeds frequently appeared to exceed 50 miles per hour several days a week. We were pleased, and noticed a significant decrease in traffic when the park reverted back to equestrian/pedestrian use

only. Expanding access to mountain biking will once again increase this traffic significantly, compounding an already serious safety hazard for residents, families, pedestrians, and local drivers.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to carefully reconsider the proposal to open the park to mountain bike use, or at minimum to conduct a thorough safety and environmental impact assessment before moving forward. The long-term safety of residents and trail users, as well as preservation of the terrain, should weigh heavily in your deliberations.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to provide further input or participate in any public discussion on this matter.

Respectfully,

Matthew & Heather Kibbe

Parrett Mountain Resident

12255 NE Parrett Mountain Road

Newberg, OR 97132

Subject: Re: **please read : why splitting Bob and Crystal Rilee Park doesn't work
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:09:51 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>
To: Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians <info@crpequestrians.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Clay Downing <cdowning@cpdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Park Equestrians, thank you for this correspondence. I appreciate your interest in the park. I will review the material.

Jim McMaster
CPRD Board President

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From: Crystal Rilee Park Equestrians <info@crpequestrians.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 1:31:01 PM
To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>; Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>; Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>; Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>; Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>; Clay Downing <cdowning@cpdnewberg.org>; Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>
Subject: **please read : why splitting Bob and Crystal Rilee Park doesn't work

**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

Subject: Fwd: Hello Board Of Directors
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 2:35:28 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Megan Hessel <megan.hessel08@gmail.com>
To: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

From: Megan Hessel <megan.hessel08@gmail.com>
Date: February 13, 2026 at 2:31:24 PM PST
To: jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org, nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org,
msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org, bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org,
jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org, kricke@cprdnewberg.org
Subject: Hello Board Of Directors

Dear Board of Directors,

First of all thank you for your time commitment and dedication to Crystal Rilee Park.

It has come to my attention that there may be a decision made to allow mountain biking in the park. As a lifelong equestrian and a now somewhat older rider who still owns a horse and rides many days a week, allowing mountain bikers on the trails would be devastating and very scary to me and most of my fellow equestrian's and our horses.

There are so many places and parks and trails for bikers to ride on. Not very many at all for horses and riders. Being on a horse and having bikers coming at you or worse, up behind you, can be very dangerous and scary. Yes I know there are some of those mountain bikers who would respect stopping their bikes to allow the horses to calmly pass, but this does not happen in most situations. Curves and bends in the trails limit a long visual line that would allow both horses and bikers to see each other in time to stop or slow down until it is too late.

This decision would definitely impact myself and the many horse riders I know who enjoy Crystal Rilee now. Accidents involving horses can go from nothing to tragic in a matter of seconds and it would be too scary to enjoy the park.

Please keep the park open to equestrians and do not allow Mountain Bikers to access the trails.

Thank you for your time,

Megan Hessel
503-201-1546

Please excuse typos
Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Crystal Rilee Park - honor the donor's original intent for equestrian and hiker use only

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 11:55:37 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Melissa Power

To: Jim McMaster, Nick Konen, Matthew Smith, Brandon Slyter, Jason Fields, Kat Ricker

Good afternoon,

I am reaching out as an avid equestrian in Yamhill County who is concerned that we are once again having to justify the need for the Crystal Rilee park to remain as the land donor intended - as a pedestrian and equestrian use ONLY. Mountain bikes (or any other bicycle honestly) have a plethora of other options for their recreation, equestrians do not. Bikes and horses do not mix well, and are a disaster waiting to happen on single track trails like we have at Crystal Rilee. This is the ONLY park we have where we can safely ride without the worry of encountering bicyclists. Not to mention the damage to the trails (ruts from tires/wheels) caused by bicycles.

If the will of donors is not upheld, we can be assured that donations like this will cease in the future. A loss to all of us.

[Melissa A. Power](#)

Subject: Equestrian park on PM

Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 at 3:21:10 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Bob & Olivia

To: Jim McMaster, Nick Konen, Matthew Smith, Brandon Slyter, Jason Fields, Kat Ricker

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to request that CPRD continues to honor Bob and Crystal Riley Smith's original intent for this property to be used exclusively by equestrians and hikers. While I did not know Bob, I met Crystal after moving to Parrett Mountain in 2000, and she was deeply passionate about preserving this land for those specific uses.

I ask that you commit to the most recently approved Master Plan and designate a separate park for mountain biking from the various land parcel options within the district. Please avoid over-politicizing or reversing this decision, as previously promised.

Maintaining this separation is essential for the following reasons:

- Safety: Mixing mountain bikes with hikers, horses, and dog walkers creates significant safety risks. Allowing these groups to share the same trails is an accident waiting to happen and introduces unnecessary liability for CPRD and park users.
- Limited Access: Equestrians currently have only this single park within CPRD to ride without the presence of mountain bikes, whereas cyclists have many other options throughout the district.

I personally had two terrifying experiences on the trails. One was while I was hiking with a group of 5 of my friends and two mountain bikers came barreling down the trail and yelled at us to "watch out" as they zoomed past. The second was while riding my horse with another horse and rider and it was the same situation, however the biker didn't say a word and just zoomed by frightening both horses and riders. Thankfully no one was hurt, but it could have been a catastrophe.

I'm very thankful that we have these beautiful trails and am urging you to please keep this land for hikers and horses use only.

I urge you to review the results of the recent survey and uphold the original intent of the donors and the existing Master Plan.

Best regards,

Sincerely, Olivia Wengert 503-476-7713

Subject: Crystal Rilee

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 10:38:33 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Rayne Hubbard <raynehubbard@gmail.com>

To: Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Kat,

As a horse & stables owner and trail rider, I'm writing to implore you to keep the trails at Crystal Rilee Park designated for equestrians and hikers only.

This was the original intent of the owner of the Crystal Rilee property.

This is the only equestrian trail in our immediate area.

Horses and mountain bikes DO NOT mix. Mountain bikes tearing down the trails and horses are a disaster waiting to happen.

The Crystal Rilee Park Equestrian community has spent time and money to improve the footing of the trails and they plan to make further improvements.

Please honor their commitment, please honor the ORIGINAL intent of the donors of this property, and honor the safety of our equestrian community by NOT permitting mountain bikes at Crystal Rilee Park.

Respectfully,

Rayne Hubbard
Horse & Stables owner

Rayne Hubbard
Thoroughbred Real Estate Group|Broker

raynehubbard@gmail.com

Cell: [503.799.7869](tel:503.799.7869)

Licensed in the State of Oregon

www.TBREgroup.com

Subject: OHSET Equestrian coach

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 12:31:01 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Sabrina Lovelace <bried81@icloud.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>, cdowing@cprdnewberg.org <cdowing@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board and CPRD Superintendent:

@Kat have this correspondence part of the 2/26 Board meeting package

Bob and Crystal Rilee Park was donated to be a public park for hikers and equestrians. This park provides a tremendous number of youth in our area a safe place to ride their horses without the potential for dangerous encounters with mountain bikes. Bob and Crystal Rilee park is the only park to provide the entire North Valley Oregon High School Equestrian Team (OHSET) District, which is over 82 high school athletes this year alone, a place for kids to safely ride their horses and practice for their equestrian team events without the potential peril of mountain bikes on the trail.

Yamhill county 4H equestrian kids also use the park for the very same reason. OHSET and 4H require year round riding of horses. Bob and Crystal Rilee Park provides a safe, inviting and cost free setting to get these kids outside when they don't have the resources to go elsewhere.

Both 4H and OHSET provide our youth opportunities to develop character and leadership skills, learn teamwork and self-discipline, to grow and to reach their fullest potential. Bob and Crystal Rille park provides the perfect setting for both organizations to thrive in their missions.

There are over 200+ mountain biking trails for mountain bikers to ride in the surrounding counties. There is not another park in the area providing the same opportunities for equestrians as Bob and Crystal Rilee Park.

Adding mountain biking back into the park will significantly diminish the opportunities for our local youth to ride horses in a safe environment and disrespects the original intent of why the land was donated in the first place.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Lovelace
Sherwood Equestrian Team Coach

Subject: Call to Action - Crystal Rilee Park meeting feb 26th

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 5:57:35 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Shanti Cain <shanti.kriens@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Hello

I was writing in because i cannot make it in person to this meeting being held on february 26th.

We have been using bob & crystal Rilee park for YEARS as a training ground for horses and riders alike. Its a purposeful build location for horses and multiple trails for different level riders and horses.

We have loved having this park available to all our riders and horses that come through our programs and its ease of access.

We have unfortunately had issues with bicyclists in the past flying by us on these trails thag are only wide enough in some places for 1 rider and almost cause SEVERE accidents. They come crashing down the hills where you g training horses are and have nearly caused horse fatalities when horses fell down the sides of the hillsides to escape the bicyclists inconsideration of racing down hill. No communication or warning. No apologies.

There have been several accidents and one there was a rider thrown from her horse due to a bicyclist racing by her horse and the accident broke her pelvis/hips. She can no longer ride. Her horse was hurt as well I heard.

We would respectfully prefer this park to remain bicyclist free. The foot pedestrians and dogs have all been respectful of the riders & horses when we encounter them but it has not been the same story with bikers sadly.

Please help us preserve this 1 and only park that is for horses only.

Thank you

Shanti Cain

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee must not allow bikes

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 3:46:02 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: syl.kan@frontier.com

To: Jim McMaster, Nick Konen, Matthew Smith, Brandon Slyter, Jason Fields, Kat Ricker

Dear Board Members:

Bob and Crystal Rilee Park must not allow bikes.

This issue was previously decided in favor of keeping bikes out of this park. Why is it on the agenda again? Bikes have many places to ride. Horses have only this one place in this area. It is dangerous for all to try to mix horses and bikes.

Bob and Crystal Rilee gave this park with the understanding that it would be for Hiking, Hikers with dogs, and Riders with horses. NOT FOR BIKES.

I am a old senior rider. I have no kids, no grandkids, my husband is deceased. What will I do with my assets upon my death? I can promise you that I will never leave a penny to any organization that has demonstrated disregard for a doner's stated wishes.

I want to ride while I am alive. I love Bob and Crystal Rylee Park. I go there multiple times per month. I have seen the ruts left by bicycles (that are there against the rules) leading me to believe that scofflaw bikers should not be rewarded by taking this park away from horses.

Who is going to pay for the inevitable injuries that will certainly occur if bikes are mixed in with horse riders? And if you try to ban the horses to favor the bikers, will you support allowing horses in every bike track or venue? I don't think you want that.

PLEASE let the riders have this one place!!!

Sincerely,
Sylvia Kantas

Subject: Please uphold the original intent/vision for Crystal Rilee Park
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 at 8:45:20 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: tbuschjo@gmail.com <tbuschjo@gmail.com>
To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, nkoren@board.cprdnewberg.org <nkoren@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board members:

I am writing to you with utter dismay that the CPRD would feel the need to re-visit bikers being allowed at Crystal Rilee Park. I am in very strong support of keeping Crystal Rilee Park designated for hikers and equestrians only, as was the original owner's intent for gifting the land to CPRD and it was also previously approved in the CPRD Master Plan.

I have been living near and riding in the park for more than 45 years. I used to ride my horse from my house to the park and would see and talk to Crystal. She would say how much she loved seeing the horse and riders enjoying her trails. Did she ever say specifically she didn't want bikes there? Probably not, since mountain biking wasn't even a thought in those days. Who would have thought that it was a good idea to mix horses and fast bikes?! Had someone asked her if bikers should be allowed in the park even though it would scare off many riders due to the high danger of bikers frightening the horses, she would have said HECK NO! Crystall wanted her land to be natural, to show farming, to enjoy the beauty of the land and not be developed. No doubt horses were used to plow her land many years ago. There is no doubt in my mind that would have been her answer. She wanted her farm/property to be left for the hikers and horseback riders, which many times includes children on the trails too!

I quit horseback riding at Stub Stewart State Park as bikers are allowed there. I know of a severe accident that occurred there when bikers came up fast behind a group of horses and riders were thrown from their horses. That ended our horse camping and riding there. Way too risky. There are many parks for bikers to ride, several in the CPRD area. There is only 1 for Equestrians in this whole area with no bikes allowed: Crystal Rilee Park. I know parents who take their children riding there as they know it is safe to do so. Young horses are taken there as it's a good training ground and safe from sudden surprises like a speeding bike coming around a blind corner behind horses. And, we older horseback riders love trail riding where it's safe to do so. We tried the East Side/West Side thing, separating the horses and the bikers. That didn't work as some bikers didn't see the signs or didn't know that bikers had to stay on their side. So separation overall wasn't honored. Many equestrians frequently reported seeing bike tires and/or a bikers on the wrong side.

I thought we could trust the action that the Board took in regards to Crystal Rilee Park having no bikes allowed. The Board at that time recognized the significance of a property owner giving land to the CPRD and that their wishes and intent for use of the property be honored and upheld in order to set an example of good stewardship with land gifts by CPRD. The equestrian community, including the non-profit that was established to help maintain and improve the park, has been working hard to keep the trails in excellent shape. A trusting partnership has

been established between the equestrian community and the CPRD staff and Board. I respectfully ask the Board to uphold the original designation and maintain Crystal Rilee as a hiking and equestrian park ONLY.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Tamra Busch-Johnsen

Subject: Please Uphold the Original Vision for Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:47:21 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: casey3franklin@gmail.com <casey3franklin@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board Members,

I am writing in strong support of keeping Crystal Rilee Park designated for equestrian and hiker use only, in accordance with the donor's original intent and the previously approved Master Plan. I own and ride horses on these trails regularly. **I am also a cyclist.** The equestrian community desperately needs this location to remain as an equestrian focused park.

This park is not just another recreational space — it is a sacred and carefully stewarded environment. The equestrian community has invested significant time, funding, and volunteer effort into building and maintaining the all-weather trail system. It is a rare and deeply valued space where horses and riders can safely coexist with hikers without the inherent risks that mountain bikes introduce.

Beyond safety and infrastructure, this is also a matter of integrity. When a donor makes a clear and intentional gift to the community, honoring those wishes builds trust. If we begin to reverse or reinterpret donor intent after the fact, it risks discouraging future philanthropic investment. Those with the means to donate land and resources need to trust that their legacy and intentions will be respected.

Equestrians have very limited safe riding options within the State. This park represents the one dedicated, **bike-free** space available to our community. Preserving that designation protects safety, honors the donor, and maintains the integrity of the partnership between CPRD and the equestrian community.

I respectfully ask the Board to uphold the original designation and maintain Crystal Rilee Park as an equestrian and hiker-only park.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

Casey Franklin, ABR

Thoroughbred Real Estate Group
Principal Broker | Licensed in Oregon

casey@tbregroup.com

Direct: 503-539-7709

Office: 503-862-9601

www.caseyfranklinrealestate.com

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Instagram: @casey3franklin

Facebook: @CaseyFranklinRealEstate

LinkedIn: /in/caseyfranklin

Subject: Crystal Rilee Park
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:06:56 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Cheryl Dollar <cdollar@pdxres.com>
To: Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning,

As a long-time Newberg resident, I want to express my strong opposition to allowing bicycles in Crystal Rilee Park. I am unsure why this matter is being revisited, as it has already been voted on and should not continue to resurface.

Crystal Rilee donated this property with a specific intent: to provide a place for the horse community to enjoy the trails. The trails were not designed for bicycles, electric bikes, or other recreational uses that conflict with the original purpose of the land.

Please do the right thing and honor Crystal Rilee's wishes.

Have a great rest of your week.

Cheryl Dollar
Office Manager



9780 SW Shady Lane, Suite 200

Portland, OR 97223

PH: 503.595.8840

www.pdxres.com

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Subject: Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:11:05 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Debby Radakovich <debbymradakovich@gmail.com>

To: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

To the Board Members of Crystal Rilee Park

I am an equestrian and frequent the park regularly. I can not adequately express to you what trail riding with my horse means to me. The comfort of being in the woods, hearing those hoofbeats, smelling nature and the horse, seeing the light filter through the trees means everything to me. It feeds my soul. These times of high technology and stress people need spaces like the park to relax and recover.

I am opposed to the addition of bicycles on these trails for the following reasons:

This land was basically donated to the public for horse and hiker use. I believe thls gift should be honored for what it was intended for.

There is much danger especially to the equestrian when there is bike horse interaction on narrow trails with many sharp turns. I have been in these situations before and especially when the biker is coming fast and does not realize the horse is also on the trail serious accident can occur. I use the term "accident" lightly here because this can easily be remedied by having bicycles use the many other options they have available. Usually when this happens it is the equestrian who pays the price. I have known many people who have had serious injuries because of this. I am not an attorney but if this would happen to me I would seek damages from the cyclist and the board.

It is difficult to find places to enjoy horseback riding in this area. Not only are there not many trails but the other issue we have is parking. You can easily put a bike on your car and park, but trying to find parking for a large truck and horse trailer is hard. You have to have designated places to park unlike the parking for bikes.

Many times that I ride I frequently come across hikers. They usually are so happy to see horses, especially the children. I think it is a very positive interaction for the public to see the horses.

I ask you to consider keeping the park open to hikers and horses as it was originally intended for. I like to see bikes, but not on trails with horses. Please let us keep one of the few places we can enjoy our time with our horses in nature.

Thank you for your consideration,

Debby M Radakovich

Subject: Crystal Riley Park

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:32:10 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Randy Reinhofer <rv8aer@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

CPRD Board and Staff,

I'm reaching as many others are and writing in concern to the future of the Crystal Riley Park. This park has become a very popular place for people to come and enjoy nature. Many of the nice days, the parking lot is filled with cars with people out walking and running, (with and without dogs). This park is becoming an important part of people's lives and what I would call, a success that will only become more popular with time.

Everybody is allowed to enjoy the park in this manor. To what end do we allow special user groups to text the superintendent, get one time access to the park and have it followed by full blown access? Why aren't motorbikes allowed? Should we allow airplanes to land in the field? What makes a group special enough to have the right to stake a permanent claim, or is it enough to have political ties with people in the right position of power?

We are lucky in regard to the question, we were given the answer. Farming and Equestrian! Obviously, hikers, walkers and runners, dog lovers as well, this is the biggest group of users in the park, by far! But the 2 biggest requests of the organization that gave CPRD the deal which was Pennies on the dollar, was Farming and Equestrian. This was past down through the Riley family and the fate rests in your hands.

They'll be a place for all groups to gather in their own respective right. If the Riley's had road bicycles all over, I'd like to think I'd stand on the bikers side. But that's just not the case here. Bicycles and horses don't mix, and there will never be the enforcement to keep things separate.

I understand the pressure that is being put on everybody, but doing what's right isn't always easy. I encourage you to honor the wishes of the Riley's and follow the intentions of the gift.

Respectfully,

Randy Reinhofer

Subject: Crystal Rilee Park Equestrian USE Only

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:28:29 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Ruby Dean <deanr@nclack.org>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, nkoren@board.cprdnewberg.org <nkoren@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board Members,

I am writing in extremely strong support of keeping Crystal Rilee Park designated for equestrian and hiker use only, without the addition of mountain bikers. I am 11 years old.

This park is not just another trail— I have had so many amazing memories here and i dont want to leave them all behind. Crystal Rilee Park is more than just a place or memory, it is a part of my heart.

My family has 3 horses. We love riding them but now there aren't many trails we can ride on anymore. This park represents the one dedicated, bike-free space available to equestrians. Preserving that designation protects safety, honors the donor, and maintains the integrity of the partnership between CPRD and the equestrian community. It wouldn't be safe for horses to go on trails with bikers because bikers often ride fast on trails and they often scare horses and leave riders on the ground, even ones that are pros.

I respectfully ask the Board to uphold the original designation and maintain Crystal Rilee Park as an equestrian and hiker-only park. Please don't take away the one place where we feel completely free — where hooves hit the earth, worries fall away, and lifelong memories are made. Crystal Rilee Park is part of who we are.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.

~Ruby Dean 11 years old

Subject: Please protect Bob and Crystal Riley Park as one of the few wild places in the region.

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:07:26 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Stacey <whmranch@gmail.com>

To: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

I am advocating that you remain true to the original plan for Bob and Crystal Riley Park. It's important to honor what has been promised to the community and the family. This place is currently a beautiful nature preserve with wildlife and quiet natural space for hikers and equestrians. Please preserve that.

I have been a professional horse trainer for 21 years and know that mixing horses and biking will result in accidents. The county should incur the liability of this dangerous mix after hearing from so many professionals who know the dangers. Horses are flight animals and no amount of training will make a horse oblivious to quiet, fast moving objects. Accidents will happen.

I am also a therapeutic riding instructor and this park is literally the only place I can take my students with special needs out to ride. This experience is a crucial experience for them. And I cannot risk running into cyclists with young riders or those with disabilities. The feeling of being on a horse in a quiet, natural setting is magical for these students. Adding bikes will not only be dangerous but will certainly disturb wildlife and pock the trails with grooves. I will not feel safe using these trails.

This blending has already been tried and the idea of alternating days did not work. People forgot their days and accidents happened. The obstacles that the bikers constructed were dangerous for horses and creating spooking. Furthermore, they were unsightly and no such obstacles should be in a nature preserve.

The county should find another place for cyclists. I know first hand that the sport is fun, but there are lots of trails that bikes can ride on and only one park preserved as The Bob and Crystal Riley Park is.

If the county pushes forward with using the land. I believe a third parking area should be built, a small area should be fenced off for cyclists and new trails built exclusively for cyclists. This, of course, still violates the long standing promise that the families wishes will be honored.

Please protect these woods as one of the last wild places in the area. Please don't mar the trails and destroy the peaceful tranquility of these wood.

Stacey Harnew
Wildhorsemountain.org

Subject: Letter concerning keeping Bob and Crystal Rilee Park safe for hikers and equestrians

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 1:56:02 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Bob Freshman <bob.freshman@frontier.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>

CC: bob.freshman@frontier.com <bob.freshman@frontier.com>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

To CPRD Board and Staff,

I have been lucky to have access to the Bob & Crystal Rilee Park property for 26 years. We were invited by Bob Rilee to use his property to hike on in 2000 and have been on this property almost continually since. We spent many years sharing the trails with other hikers and equestrians, always a pleasant experience in all the seasons. When the bikes started to use the park, the change was dramatic. The peaceful and safe trails were no longer safe and certainly not a peaceful experience. Unfortunately, many bikers used the trails as an unofficial race track, not caring about other user's safety. I and other hikers simply stopped using the trails in the park due to safety concerns. Even though CPRD said that bikes were limited to the east side trails only, which was generally ignored by these folks. So for a period of time we stopped hiking in the park for our safety.

When CPRD finally decided to not allow bikes on the trails, that was a great moment, we could now safely use and enjoy the trails again. It's hard to understand why CPRD would even consider allowing bikes back on the trails again. The problems that occurred before are going to come up again, pretending this is not the case is simply not realistic. We have seen in the past the bikes simply ignored signage, with no enforcement of the rules, it would quickly revert to the same problematic situation that occurred in the past. We the widespread use of high powered e-bikes that can travel up to 40 miles an hours, the danger to other users increases dramatically. Trails around the country have been struggling with these problems, some choosing to close trails to bikes due to safety and negative interactions with bike and other trail users and concern for legal liability issues by permitting bikes on trails with other users.

Keep in mind that the largest user group in the park is hikers. I use the park daily, in all season and have the chance to talk with other hikers. It would be prudent for CPRD to talk with the hikers at the park and get their feedback regarding bike on the trails. The feedback I have received is virtually unanimous to have trails that are safe and pleasant to use and are grateful to have somewhere to walk with the interactions with bikes.

I hope you do the right thing and prioritize safety over the demands from smaller but vocal groups supported by the bike industry and but the best interest of the large groups of hikers and equestrians that cherish this park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Freshman

Jane Stanton

33000 NE Corral Creek Road, Newberg, OR 97132

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 1:12:29 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Brooke Allen <mallowstderoll@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns with the reintroduction of mountain bikes to Bob and Crystal Rilee.

Safety is at risk.

For the horse, it's rider and the bicyclists. Why wait for an accident to occur when prevention keeps everyone alive and well?

Horses are prey animals. The sudden appearance of a speedy bicycle can frighten even some of the most solid trail horses.

This park was donated with the request that it remain a horse and hiker destination.

In addition, it is proven that bicyclists are detrimental to erosion. Such use of mountain bikes will destroy the land that was gifted to the equestrian and hiker community.

Please reconsider going against the original donors wishes. Please keep Bob and Crystal Rilee for hiker and equestrian use only.

Thank you for your time,

Brooke Castillo

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 1:12:29 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Brooke Allen <mallowstderoll@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns with the reintroduction of mountain bikes to Bob and Crystal Rilee.

Safety is at risk.

For the horse, it's rider and the bicyclists. Why wait for an accident to occur when prevention keeps everyone alive and well?

Horses are prey animals. The sudden appearance of a speedy bicycle can frighten even some of the most solid trail horses.

This park was donated with the request that it remain a horse and hiker destination.

In addition, it is proven that bicyclists are detrimental to erosion. Such use of mountain bikes will destroy the land that was gifted to the equestrian and hiker community.

Please reconsider going against the original donors wishes. Please keep Bob and Crystal Rilee for hiker and equestrian use only.

Thank you for your time,

Brooke Castillo

Subject: Do not allow cyclists in Bob and Crystal Riley park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 2:41:38 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Holly Swanson <hollyswanson64@gmail.com>

To: jcmaster@board.cprenewsberg.org <jcmaster@board.cprenewsberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you regarding the consideration of allowing cyclists to ride in the Bob and Crystal Riley Park.

I am an equestrian and cyclist. And I beg you to please not allow cyclists on the trails here. Cyclists have endless options throughout the city and state to ride their bikes, while equestrians do not.

In every other "co mingled" use park that I have ridden in within the State, I have witnessed first hand, really bad accidents on trails where cyclists and equines are using the same trails. From cyclists getting kicked to riders being thrown to the ground with serious injuries. These two DO NOT mix, and do not belong on the same trails.

As equestrians we need to keep this park cyclist free because it is the only trail system where we can enjoy nature on horseback without bicycles speeding past us or riding up behind us on e bikes which both spook horses because they are prey animals. It is also one of the very few trails where we can train young horses to trail ride, and since young horses are prone to spook, its ideal to take them out on non cyclist or motorized trails at first and once they pass that test, then take them on commingled but we can't get them to that point if they have to encounter cyclists when they are first being trained, and off they go to the feed lot. Horses and riders often cannot hear bikes that are coming up behind them because we are wearing helmets and the horses feet hitting the ground, drown out any noise coming from the bikes. Bells don't help because cyclists ride up right behind a horse and ring the bell and the horses first reaction is to kick back and ask questions later. I saw a woman life flighted out of Nehalem due to an incident like this. Please honor the generosity and intent that Bob and Crystal provided by keeping these trails open only for horses and hikers, don't give in to peer pressure from each other. The cyclists have more than enough options for riding without taking away another precious resource from the equestrians. I hope you will do the right thing and keep this park as is.

Kindest Regards

Holly Swanson

Subject: Keep the Bob & Crystal Rilee Park for equestrian use (with out bikes)

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 1:54:48 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: kelly <kmstearns@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

Good afternoon,

I was sent a note earlier today and it stated: "The Rilees generously shared their farm with equine trail riders and hikers. Upon their passing, their specific directions were clear — this property was to be granted explicitly for horsemen and hikers to enjoy. Their land. Their wishes. They recognized horses and bikes do not mix on a trail."

As an estate planning attorney and equestrian it is shocking that the wishes of the Rilee's and their stated purpose—maintaining equestrian trails on this donated property—would be overlooked or rescinded based on the whims of local government to include bikers.

I'm sure many other interested persons that have a long list of reasons to keep the park exclusive to equestrians and foot traffic, but mine is primarily **Donor intent** and that this is **the only exclusive park for equestrian use**, while bikers have many parks available that horses cannot use.

Please keep in mind you are directing land that was left to be park by the prior owners.

Best regards, Kelly

--

Kelly M. Stearns, Attorney, LLC

1139 Exchange St.

Astoria OR 97103

503 468 0160 office

503 717 2171 cell

503 325 1103 fax

<http://kmstearnsllaw.com/>

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Subject: Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 11:39:23 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: Megan Borg <megan@tbregroup.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

I'm writing to ask that you please keep Crystal Rilee Park dedicated to equestrians and hikers. As a horse owner and trail rider, have very limited options for dedicated horse trails in the area. This park is a beautiful spot and I have been lucky enough to ride here in multiple occasions. The risks with combining horses and bicycles is extremely dangerous, for both the equestrians and cyclists. This park was meant for a specific use, please honor the donors wishes and keep the bikes away.

Sincerely,

Megan Borg
Thoroughbred Real Estate Group
Real Estate Broker | Licensed in Oregon
Direct: 503.329.0339
Office: 503.862.9601
megan@TBREGroup.com
www.TBREGroup.com

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Bob & Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 1:40:35 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Newberg Old Fasioned Festival Sponsor <noffsponsors@gmail.com>

To: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Hi Kat,

I would like to voice my opinion regarding the Bob and Crystal Riley Park. I would like that to stay strictly equestrian or hiking on foot no mountain bike bikes and no motorcycles please I believe Bob and Crystal Riley really intended this to be more of an equestrian and hiking park than anything, and they're so a few places for horses to be allowed and only hikers where it's quiet and serene. I would love it if this CPRD would roll that it eliminates mountain bike bikes, and motorcycles from this park and only allows the hikers and equestrians on horseback to be there. Thank you for your time.

Pam Chapman

1000 Hilltop Dr.

Newberg, OR 97132

Subject: Safety @ Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 11:18:30 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: blanchekohl@gmail.com <blanchekohl@gmail.com>

To: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Kat Ricker,

I am a community member residing at 8705 NE Rising Star Lane in Newberg, near the park. My husband has owned our property since 2002, and we have been deeply invested in this community for many years.

I am a breeder of Gypsy horses and maintain a herd of 26 horses imported from Europe. They are a draft-type breed known for their calm, gentle demeanor. Crystal Rilee Park has been an invaluable asset to my program, as it provides a safe and controlled riding environment. This is especially important for my younger horses who are still in training and not yet ready for high-activity trails that include fast-moving bicycles, such as those at Stub Stewart.

As part of their development, I often pony young horses alongside their mothers or a seasoned, reliable horse. Having a SAFE environment for both rider and horse is paramount. Crystal Rilee Park has consistently provided that security, allowing me to properly train young horses and ensure positive experiences during their formative stages.

The park has also been a wonderful place to bring timid or beginner riders who need a calm, confidence-building setting. Its current use as a space shared by equestrians and hikers has served our community well.

It is truly disheartening to hear that mountain bikes are being considered for inclusion. The park has long been intended for equestrians and hikers, and its character reflects that purpose. I strongly believe the property should remain under the stewardship of an organization that respects the wishes and vision of the original founder/owner.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Blanche Kohl
Kohls Cobs

Subject: Rilee Park Equine and Hikers

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 2:21:06 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Kevin Rowley <KevRow@msn.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, jfields@board.cprdnewberg.or <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.or>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the meeting that is scheduled for the 26th of February to discuss the Equine and hiker trails being opened to bikes. The land was generously donated specifically for horseback riders and hikers, horses and bikes do not mix well and the opportunity for someone to get hurt or even killed when the two meet is not worth the risk. There are plenty of trails for bikers already designated for them and they do not include use by horses and there is a great reason for that. In contrast, trails that are designated for horses are dwindling every year, as more houses are built and the places we can ride safely disappear you will find that the equestrian community will come together to fight to keep the few places we can still ride safely.

Additionally, I would like to point out that this proposal was voted on last year and it is wrong to renege on a previously honored agreement. Please leave Rilee Park as it was intended by the lovely folks who donated the land, for the horses and the hikers.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Shelley Rowley

Subject: Bob & Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 2:17:57 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Tami Platt <tamiplatt@comcast.net>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

To the Chehalem Parks and Recreation Board,

I am writing to share my sincere appreciation for Bob and Crystal Rilee Park and to express my concern regarding the proposal to allow bicycles on its trails. The Rilee family generously donated this land with the clear intention that it remain a safe and peaceful space for equestrians and hikers. As someone who regularly rides my horse at the park, I am deeply grateful for the calm environment that currently exists and for the consideration that has always been shown toward both rider and animal safety. Introducing bicycles would change the nature of the park in ways that conflict with the wishes of the donors and would create safety challenges on trails that were not designed for mixed use. Sudden movements, fast approaches, and limited sight lines can be startling for horses, and even the most courteous cyclists can unintentionally create hazardous situations. I respectfully ask the Board to honor the Rilee family's original vision and to preserve the park as a place where equestrians and hikers can continue to enjoy a quiet and safe natural setting. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Tami M. Platt
Owner of Rainy Day Ponies, LLC
Resident of Sherwood since 1999
503-459-8007

Subject: Preservation of Crystal and Bob Riley Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 2:58:21 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: gsswanson@comcast.net <gsswanson@comcast.net>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Thank you for time and accepting my comments.

My family and I live on Parrot Mountain and we're long-time users of Crystal and Bob Riley Park. It's one of the only truly public wild forest habitats in the region. I personally walk/hike there several times a week and have for many years. The Riley family's desire to preserve the quietness and calming benefits of traditional rural life through the very generous family donation is a treasure and should be honored.

This park is a refuge for a huge amount of wildlife that has been displaced by all wineries and houses. It is also a human refuge from the noisy concrete jungle most of us work in.

A mountain biking is not a rural tradition and will significantly degrade the beauty and solitude of the park. Mountain Biking is not compatible with walkers, hikers, small children, dogs and horses and putting them together in this park will create a huge liability for CPRD.

The wildlife life and bird habitat will be destroyed by adding a fast paced, adrenaline sport such as mountain biking. I have nothing against mountain biking but please put it in another area that has already been spoiled and isn't such a serene, peaceful & natural space.

What's next Pickle Ball courts?

Subject: Cycling at Riley Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:04:47 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Alan Grobey <germangrover@gmail.com>

To: CPRD Board <board@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Chehalem Park and Rec Board,

My wife and I currently live in Sherwood but we were both raised in Newberg. I worked for Adec for 25 years and we are currently working on building a new house in Newberg on Parrett Mountain.

We were both terribly disappointed when the board voted to disallow cycling at Riley Park. I personally attended the meeting when the vote took place, along with many other people who were there to support cycling. I spoke at the meeting explaining that I knew Crystal Riley and was given permission from her for me and my friends to ride our mountain bikes on her property back in the 80's. She wanted it shared with everyone - not just horse people. We rode the trails for years. At the meeting Jason Fields said they would find another place for people to ride. Has he done anything to find another location?

Today my wife and I frequent the park to hike year round, sometimes several times a week. We have appreciated the work that has been done to maintain and improve the trails. We have also joined some volunteer events to help maintain the park. At those events cyclists continue to come and volunteer. I have not seen any horse people attend. It would be nice if they did come since they don't clean up after their horses on the trail like all of us with dogs do.

We currently ride at Chehalem Ridge Park where they allow hikers, cyclists, and horses. To my knowledge there are not any issues. Each time I ride there everyone shares the trails peacefully without any problems.

I respectfully ask that the board reinstate cycling at the park. There is room for everyone and it should not be limited. It's not what Crystal wanted.

Alan Grobey

Subject: Mountain biking at Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:47:17 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Brian Bowman <brian.h.bowman@gmail.com>

To: CPRD Board <board@cprdnewberg.org>

CC: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>, Clay Downing <cdowning@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board Members,

I am writing to share my experience as a lifelong mountain biker and to advocate for reopening Rilee Park to cyclists with a focus on separate trails for equestrians and bikes.

Mountain biking has been central to my life. I grew up in a neighborhood with a couple of vacant lots, one lot had a few jumps that brought the neighborhood kids together. In high school, my closest friends were the ones who shared a passion for biking. When I got my driver's license things escalated, now "real" trails were accessible. Over the years my appreciation of cycling has deepened. I've looked to give back to the cycling community by guiding, trail work, coaching, and now advocating for access.

Equestrians no doubt have similar stories about building community around their passion.

Cyclists were removed from Rilee Park, and the proposal to allow bikes back has understandably raised concerns from equestrians. I believe the best first step forward is to create separate trails for cyclists and equestrians. Designated bike and equestrian trails will reduce conflict, best address safety concerns, and build mutual respect, all while allowing everyone to enjoy the park. I'm hopeful we can start to build a shared community oriented towards making Rilee Park work together and focused on stewardship.

CPRD's mission is to connect and enrich our local community. Allowing cyclists and equestrians to share the park on thoughtfully separated trails advances that mission.

Regards,

Brian Bowman

Subject: Preservation of the Intended Use of Bob and Crystal Rilee Park
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7:38:58 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Candy Spahn <cspahnrun@gmail.com>
To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>
CC: Candy Spahn <cspahnrun@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment that we are once again having to revisit the issue of trail use at Bob and Crystal Rilee Park.

This park was donated to the county with a clear and specific intention: that it be used exclusively for equestrians and hikers. That intent matters. When a family makes such a generous contribution to the community, the county has both a legal and moral obligation to honor the purpose for which the land was given.

There are extensive opportunities for bicycle recreation throughout the state of Oregon. Cyclists have access to numerous parks, trail systems, and public lands designed specifically to accommodate bikes. In contrast, safe and dedicated equestrian trail systems are far more limited. Horses and bicycles simply do not mix well on narrow, shared-use trails. The safety concerns are real and well-documented. This is not about exclusion; it is about safety, suitability, and honoring the original intent of the donation.

We have already experienced the consequences of shifting that intent. In prior discussions, bicycles were ultimately allowed to take over one side of the park — the side with the more suitable terrain, better footing, and more gradual climbs for horses. Equestrians were left with the steeper, more dangerous back trails or the flat, less engaging perimeter fields. There was little opportunity for meaningful input from the equestrian community in that decision, and it was deeply frustrating to be informed of the outcome rather than included in it.

We should not be fighting this battle again.

More importantly, the broader message this sends cannot be ignored. Many landowners are watching how the county handles donated property. When families consider gifting land for public use, they must trust that their intentions will be preserved. If donor intent can be gradually altered over time, it undermines that trust and discourages future generosity.

It is critically important that the county uphold and protect the original purpose for which Bob and Crystal Rilee Park was entrusted to it. Doing so honors the family's wishes, protects user safety, and preserves community confidence in the county's stewardship.

I respectfully urge the board to reaffirm the park's intended use for equestrians and hikers and to resist any efforts that would compromise that commitment.

Sincerely

Candy Spahn
Gaston Oregon

Subject: RE: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 4:24:34 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Chemelle Stark <chemelles@aaieng.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board Members,

Look, this is not really complicated. The Rilees generously shared their farm with equine trail riders and hikers. Upon their passing, their specific directions were clear — this property was to be granted explicitly for horsemen and hikers to enjoy. Their land. Their wishes. They recognized horses and bikes do not mix on a trail. This is not a whim on the part of the equestrians. Our lives are often put at risk sharing trails with bicyclists. I ride a mountain bike too and I can say with absolute certainty that my options as a bicyclist are numerous while options as an equestrian are limited. Options where trail use is exclusive to horses only?? Practically non-existent. This area is a gem bequeathed to the equestrian community and it needs to remain this way!!!!!! It is your DUTY to uphold the wishes of the Rilees. I really can't believe we are even having this discussion. Much less over and over again.

Chemelle Stark

Subject: Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7:46:06 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: C M <ryegrass.cm@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

Please respect the wishes of the donation of the park. Please stop the bicycle zealots from ramrodding their demands on the taxpayers of Yamhill county. Take a look at the parking lot of your meeting and see how many people rode a bicycle to the meeting. The majority of this area do not ride a bicycle other than maybe once in the Spring. There are more equestrians in the area but are not as vocal as the bicycle mafia. We need an equestrian area!

Thank you
Chris Mattson
Yamhill OR

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 8:54:43 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: rcusher@frontier.com <rcusher@frontier.com>

To: Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

I am writing to ask you to please to keep the Rilee's Park exclusively for hikers and equestrian trail riders. I am an equestrian that enjoys trail riding and can assure you that it is very dangerous to allow bicycles or other type of vehicles on equestrian trails. We equestrians need a safe place were we can enjoy a safe place to ride. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Cris Usher

Subject: Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:21:57 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Don Holland <d4holland@gmail.com>

To: CPRD Board <board@cprdnewberg.org>

CC: Clay Downing <cdowning@cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

CPRD Board Members:

Please vote to restore bicycle access to Rilee Park. This property was purchased with public funds to create a park on Parret Mountain for all users, not to create an equestrian playground just for an elite few.

Horses and bicycles aren't mutually exclusive, look at Powell Butte in Portland, Chehalem Ridge in Washington County, and Sub Stewart State Park. At these parks proper signage helps to avoid conflicts and keep all users safe.

My kids grew up on Parret Mountain (off of Kramien) while in their teens they would have loved to have a mountain park that they could bicycle to and then ride on forested trails. Neither CPRD or Yamhill county have a large park with trails open to bicyclists. Please do the right thing and keep this public space open to all users.

Thank you,

Don L Holland
24315 NE Highway 240
Newberg, Or 97213
503 554 0907

Subject: Bob and Rilee Crystal Park Equestrian Use

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 5:50:56 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Donica Rustrum <missdonica2190@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Leadership and Directors,

My name is Donica Rustrum, and I have been an active member of the Yamhill County equestrian community since 2001. Having grown up in Newberg and served as the 2008 Yamhill County Fair & Rodeo Princess and 2009 Queen, I have a deep-rooted connection to our local traditions and outdoor spaces.

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the proposal to open the equestrian trails at Bob and Crystal Rilee Park to additional user groups beyond hikers and equestrians. I respectfully ask that you reconsider this change to ensure the continued safety and accessibility of the park.

Equestrian trail access in our region is already quite limited, and most existing trails are shared-use. Because horses are prey animals with strong fight-or-flight instincts, they can be easily startled by fast-moving objects like cyclists, skateboarders, or e-bikes, especially in changing light conditions or when approached from their natural blind spots. Furthermore, their sensitive hearing makes sudden noises—such as horns or tires on gravel—a significant safety risk that can lead to unpredictable behavior, endangering both riders and other trail users.

For many in our community, including myself, these trails provide a vital, quiet space to recharge. As someone working in the high-tech semiconductor industry, I deeply value the peace and safety these dedicated trails offer. Preserving Bob and Crystal Rilee Park for its intended use by equestrians and hikers protects public safety while maintaining a rare and valuable resource for residents of all ages.

Thank you for your time and for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Donica Rustrum

Subject: fw: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park: Access for Cyclists
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 10:23:22 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Jack Kriz <3fingerjack@comcast.net>
To: Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>
Attachments: Testimony to CPRD board-20260218.pdf

Please review the attached testimony for your Board meeting February 26. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I plan to attend your meeting next week.

Thanks!

Jack Kriz

9175 N.E. Neumann Lane
Newberg, Oregon 97132
503-708-6996
3fingerjack@comcast.net

February 18, 2026

Chehalem Park and Recreation District
125 S. Elliott Road
Newberg, OR 97132

RE: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park: Access for Cyclists

Greetings:

I have lived in the district since before it was created. I've been an avid cyclist since 1957. Though I have ridden thousands of miles mostly on roads and rail trails, I can understand why folks like to ride on unpaved trails and gravel roads. I support the reinstatement of cycling to Bob and Crystal Rilee Park (BCRP).

I have spoken to many people about this subject and have researched past actions of the Board through documents on the CPRD website. The points in support of the inclusion of bicycles at the park include:

1. Lease and sale documents of the park do not have any specific ban of bikes in BCRP. In fact, there is broad language supporting more than equestrian uses. Please read the documents! CPRD has them in their possession. If they can't be found, others have copies. If someone still believes cycling was not allowed at time of purchase, make your evidence public.
2. Staff commented at last week's Trails committee meeting that measures to manage shared access in the park have not even been investigated or implemented. Many parks and trails across the country successfully integrate equestrian, cycling, and hiking uses. Metro's Chehalem Ridge Park illustrates how multi-use trail systems can work.
3. The expense of measures to minimize conflict between different types of users need not be exorbitant. Signage, physical trail obstacles such as zig/zag, foot traffic only, fencing, and cross-trail gates with electronic code actuation are examples.
4. From the CPRD website: The adopted *BOB AND CRYSTAL RILEE PARK Master Plan Report* has all sorts of references to bikes. This report is in direct conflict with the Board's decision to ban cycling at the park. CPRD needs to be consistent with their documentation.
https://www.cprdnewberg.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/cprd/page/363/bob_crystal_rilee_park_master_plan_report.pdf
5. From the web page for Bob and Crystal Rilee Park : *"It is the intention of CPRD to fulfill its mandate to the public in the development of this wonderful property into a robust, enjoyable park which serves the needs and desires of various park users, from hikers and picnickers to equestrians and **mountain bicyclists**."* Note my emphasis on "**mountain bicyclists**". This is also a direct conflict with the Board's decision to ban cycling at the park. Readers would read this on the web and assume bikes were allowed.
<https://www.cprdnewberg.org/general/page/bob-and-crystal-rilee-park>
6. The map of trails link at BCRP web page is handy but nowhere on the map does it state that

bicycles are not allowed.

<https://www.cprdnewberg.org/general/page/bob-and-crystal-rilee-park>

7. When the decision was made to ban bikes at BCRP, CPRD made a commitment to develop another park for cyclists. Which park is that and what developments have been completed?
8. CPRD owns other land of a size where equestrian trails could be created, why not develop a second place for them ride?
9. Past and current district wide surveys of residents show significantly more support for cycling than for equestrian activities.
10. Kids and adult learners need off-road paths to safely learn bicycle riding skills.....falls don't hurt so much where there is no hard pavement.
11. Yamhill County roads have no shoulders, some don't even have a white fog line, where in close proximity to eastern Yamhill County and Newberg can riders, both new and old, go to enjoy this kind of recreation? State highways have high speed traffic, trucks, noise, and more fumes.

Cordially,



Jack Kriz
9175 NE Neumann Lane
Newberg, Oregon 97132

Subject: Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:27:30 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Jessica Vacek <jess.vacek@icloud.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Hi,

As an active user of horse trails both in Tryon Creek and Bob and Crystal Rilee park I respectfully ask that you consider saving the park for hikers and horses. There are fewer and fewer places to ride publicly, especially ones that are close to Portland. Oregon has a proud history of horsemanship. I recognize that we must share our resources, but there seem to be lots of places to ride bikes, trail ride bikes, hike, camp and trail run. Please preserve this special place for what Bob and Crystal specifically designated it for—horses and hiking.

Very sincerely,
Jessica Vacek

Subject: The Rilee Bike Ban put Kids on roads—Please Reconsider

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:29:53 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Josh Weissert <josh.weissert@gmail.com>

To: CPRD Board <board@cprdnewberg.org>, Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>

I'm a parent of two kids who were directly impacted by the mountain bike ban at Rilee Park. When the decision was made, they were 11 and 14 and riding on a youth mountain bike team that used Rilee once a week.

After losing access, the team was limited to streets and a grass field. It wasn't safe or enjoyable, and both of my kids quit the sport. **Today, at 13 and 16, they no longer ride regularly and spend much more time indoors.**

Kids were the primary users affected by this past decision. I respectfully ask the board to consider sharing the park with bike users. It need not be the whole park. The East side is more than enough, equestrians can keep using the West.

Restoring access will get youth back outdoors and engaged in healthy activity.

Thanks,
Josh Weissert

Subject: Preservation of the Intended Use of Bob and Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 4:17:01 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Katie Newburn <katienewburn@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>

CC: Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment that we are once again having to revisit the issue of trail use at Bob and Crystal Rilee Park.

This park was donated to the county with a clear and specific intention: that it be used exclusively for equestrians and hikers. That intent matters. When a family makes such a generous contribution to the community, the county has both a legal and moral obligation to honor the purpose for which the land was given.

There are extensive opportunities for bicycle recreation throughout the state of Oregon. Cyclists have access to numerous parks, trail systems, and public lands designed specifically to accommodate bikes. In contrast, safe and dedicated equestrian trail systems are far more limited. Horses and bicycles simply do not mix well on narrow, shared-use trails. The safety concerns are real and well-documented. This is not about exclusion; it is about safety, suitability, and honoring the original intent of the donation.

We have already experienced the consequences of shifting that intent. In prior discussions, bicycles were ultimately allowed to take over one side of the park — the side with the more suitable terrain, better footing, and more gradual climbs for horses. Equestrians were left with the steeper, more dangerous back trails or the flat, less engaging perimeter fields. There was little opportunity for meaningful input from the equestrian community in that decision, and it was deeply frustrating to be informed of the outcome rather than included in it.

We should not be fighting this battle again.

More importantly, the broader message this sends cannot be ignored. Many landowners are watching how the county handles donated property. When families consider gifting land for public use, they must trust that their intentions will be preserved. If donor intent can be gradually altered over time, it undermines that trust and discourages future generosity.

It is critically important that the county uphold and protect the original purpose for which Bob and Crystal Rilee Park was entrusted to it. Doing so honors the family's wishes, protects user safety, and preserves community confidence in the county's stewardship.

I respectfully urge the board to reaffirm the park's intended use for equestrians and hikers and to resist any efforts that would compromise that commitment.

Looking forward,
Katie

--

Katie Newburn Photography
707.287.4090
www.katienewburn.com

Subject: Preserve & Protect Exclusive Equestrian/Hiker Trail Use at Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 4:33:26 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Margaret Hansen <hansenlcs58@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kicker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear board members--

I'm an equestrian in the Albany Oregon area, and travel regularly with my horses to area parks and forest land to trail ride. I have visited Willamette Mission State Park many times. Here, horses, mountain bikes, and hikers share the same trails. I have also enjoyed Rilee Park on one beautiful occasion.

I write to urge you to preserve EQUESTRIAN/HIKER ONLY trails at Rilee. Having had several very scary incidents at the shared bike/horse trails at Willamette Mission, I speak from experience. Bikes can move much more quickly than horses, and particularly on wooded trails can suddenly appear and startle a big, 1200 pound animal which can cause a collision or other accident. With the growing popularity of "e-bikes" this becomes an even bigger issue because electric bicycles can travel even faster, and much more quietly. At Willamette Mission last summer, I had an electric bicycle rider roll silently up behind me and cause my horse to leap off the trail, nearly unseating me. The biker was apologetic, but had no idea of the risk/danger of speeding up directly behind a horse. It is completely insufficient to call out "on your left!" and assume there won't be a problem with a horse.

There are an abundance of bike and mountain bike trail options all over the State of Oregon. Additionally, bike riders can enjoy mile upon mile of scenic public roadways even designated as "scenic byways" for bicycles. This is just not so for we equestrians. We are very limited in our options, and have almost NO trails available where we aren't at risk of a catastrophic accident due to sharing trails with bicyclists. Please keep bicycles away from horses at Rilee Park, and preserve the equestrian use Bob and Crystal Rilee intended with the donation of their property.

Thank you for your time.

Margaret A. Hansen
Albany, Oregon

Subject: Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7:20:28 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Brad and Marilyn <roseofthirdstreet@gmail.com>

To: Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>, Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD,

Please preserve Bob & Crystal Rilee Park for horses and hikers only as those who bequeathed it wished. Bikes, including mountain bikes, have way more options to trail ride in the area than horseback riders do. Safety becomes a huge concern when trying to share horse trails with bikes. Thanks for keeping this park the way it was meant to be.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Kosel

Yamhill County resident

Subject: Restoring local trail access for families and cyclists (Rilee Park)
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 9:52:21 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Michael Owen <michaelowen900@gmail.com>
To: CPRD Board <board@cprdnewberg.org>

Hello CPRD Board Members,

I'm writing as a local parent and resident to ask CPRD to restore some reasonable bicycle access to natural-surface trails in our district, and specifically to support bringing back limited access at Bob & Crystal Rilee Park, where bikes were restricted in late 2023. Since that change, local cyclists and families have effectively had no CPRD trails available for riding.

For many of us, this isn't about "mountain biking culture" or special interest recreation, it's simply about having a safe, nearby place to get outside and be active as a family. My wife and I have four sons (ages 9–16) who love to ride. Trails are one of the activities that consistently gets kids off screens, moving their bodies, and doing something healthy with their parents.

Right now, families who would gladly use local trails respectfully and responsibly don't have an option. Restoring even limited, designated bicycle access at Rilee would make an immediate, meaningful difference for families like ours, especially for youth who don't have the ability to travel far for recreation.

I'm grateful for CPRD's work to balance different user groups, and I truly believe there's a solution here that honors everyone. I'm asking the board to support a plan that allows cyclists to return to a portion of the trail system at Rilee and to do so on a clear timeline (ideally by May 1), with whatever signage/etiquette expectations CPRD feels are appropriate.

Thank you for your time and for considering the needs of families and cyclists in our community.

Sincerely,

Michael Owen

503-380-0380

414 W. Columbia Dr.

Newberg, OR 97132

Subject: Bike Trails

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:22:34 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Neil Cantrall <ncantrall@georgefox.edu>

To: CPRD Board <board@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear CPRD Board,

I've recently been informed that there is a possibility for bicycles to be allowed once again on the trails in the Bob and Crystal Rilee Park. This would be a significant opportunity for my family and many others who live here in Newberg and other parts of Yamhill County. Our district needs nearby places where adults and children can ride trails and be in nature. Please consider allowing bicycles to return to these trails. This would be a great opportunity for those seeking a nearby site for trail riding.

Thank you for your consideration,

Neil Cantrall
521 S School St.
Newberg, OR 97132

Dr. Neil Cantrall
Assistant Professor
College of Education
Hoover Academic Building 216
Office: 503-554-2867



Subject: Bob & Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:43:25 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Wyckoff <wyckoffr2000@yahoo.com>

To: mcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org <mcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Point of order: Bob Straub State Park, in Pacific City, Oregon Horse, hiking only. Nothing else.

Regarding my recent post about the dilemma at Bob & Crystal Rilee Park: the injustice of it all. Why must we battle again for this park? Why don't people follow the rules anymore?

The Rilees generously shared their farm with equine trail riders and hikers. Upon their passing, their specific directions were clear — this property was to be granted explicitly for horsemen and hikers to enjoy. Their land. Their wishes. They recognized horses and bikes do not mix on a trail.

Some say, “We must share our trails.” My reply is this: here in Oregon, there is an abundance of trails for bike riders. But there is no balance. There are no free public trails exclusive to equine use ... except Rilee Park in Newberg.

How informed are we about the gradual loss of our exclusive horse areas? And do we care enough!!!

It is wrong to not to follow through on a previously-honored agreement.

Protect your paradise, horsemen.

Regan Wyckoff
503-409-9577

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Subject: Trail users at Rilee park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:08:52 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Ruth Sheridan <editorial.ruth@gmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkonen@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricke@cprdnewberg.org>

Good afternoon! I only just learned that this issue was back up for debate, so I hope I am not too late to chime in.

While I understand you may be facing a lot of pressure in the other direction, as a horseback rider, I find the current rules excluding bikes to be a major draw. It's hard to imagine how I would ride at Rilee if bikes are allowed again, especially in the wooded areas where sightlines are limited. And if horses are confined to the field-edge trails for safety, then the appeal of the property is essentially lost. I can ride in a field anywhere - the beautifully maintained public forest trails are the real draw for horseback riders looking for a SAFE location to experience the Chehalem Mountains without the danger of speeding bikes.

Sincerely,

Ruth Sheridan
Beaverton, OR

Subject: Bob and Crystal Rilee Park

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 4:22:08 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: T Kenzer <triptikenzer@hotmail.com>

To: Jim McMaster <jmcmaster@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Nick Konen <nkone@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Matthew Smith <msmith@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Brandon Slyter <bslyter@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Jason Fields <jfields@board.cprdnewberg.org>, Kat Ricker <kricker@cprdnewberg.org>

Dear Friends,

I am writing to encourage you make the trails at Bob and Crystal Rilee Park exclusively for Hikers and Horseback riders.

I own and ride horses. I also own and ride mountain bikes and road bikes. It is my honest, experienced opinion that Rilee Park should be open exclusively to horses and hikers.

As a native Oregonian, I've ridden trails with my horses in the Portland metro area my entire life. I've attended equestrian trail events held on the Rilee's property "back in the day" before they created a foundation. I know they wanted the land to be open to horses because they opened it up to trail riding and horse events when they were alive. I haven't heard of the same being true for mountain bikes.

There are so many public parks and trails where I am allowed to ride my bikes. And I appreciate that fact. But there are very few public parks and trails where I am allowed to ride my horses, and I lament that fact.

I think it's often overlooked that horses and horse enthusiasts are important contributors to Oregon's economy. While bicyclists are basically a one and done--we pay once for the bike and have minimal upkeep thereafter, it's a well-known fact that we horse owners just keep on spending! Just consider the property taxes, barns and fences, feed and hay, farriers, veterinarians, trainers, tack, trucks and trailers, gas, etc. A simple ai search brought up this info:

"The equine industry is a significant contributor to Oregon's economy, with a 30-year study highlighting \$10.7 billion in economic impact in Southern Oregon alone, driven by racing and agriculture. The industry supports thousands of jobs across agriculture, tourism, and veterinary services, including, for instance, a projected \$15.6 billion in broader Oregon outdoor recreation spending.

There are approximately 168,000 horses in Oregon, and the state's equine sector is part of a national industry that saw total value added increase to \$177 billion in 2023."

And yet, the opportunities and facilities for horses just keep shrinking.

I hope you will decide to make Rilee Park one of the true gems of the equestrian world.

Thank you,

Tripti Kenzer