



LUP Hearings <lup-hearings@multco.us>

Testimony Submission

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To: lup-hearings@multco.us

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Testimony for Metro's proposed nature park in the North Tualatin Mountains and proposed recreational trails on a portion of one of the park units (Burlington Creek Forest) is attached.

Thank you so much!

Best,

Lisa Olivares (she/her)
Executive Director



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Lisa Olivares Testimony_ Metro's proposed nature park in the North Tualatin Mountains .pdf
39K

Exhibit H.16

February 6, 2023

Good evening Commissioners. Thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Lisa Olivares, and I'm the Executive Director of Northwest Trail Alliance, or NWTA. NWTA is a nonprofit organization with a mission of trail stewardship and to increase access to the outdoors through mountain biking opportunities.

NWTA is in favor of approving the revision to the Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan to designate a local park, and of the public nature park project in a portion of Burlington Creek Forest. The recreational trails proposed in the nature park project will give needed and desired local access to outdoor spaces through mountain biking.

NWTA has led many programs and opportunities for local community members to connect with nature on mountain bike trails; including specific programs for youth, people of color, and women. NWTA helped lead the grand opening at Newell Creek, a Metro park that has successfully provided bike access on trails. There was so much excitement from the community to have a local place for families to ride. We need more green spaces in the metro area with bike access to serve all of our communities, not just those that can afford long travel distances to access bike trails.

In 2019, over 70% voted in favor of a Metro bond to fund large-scale community nature access projects and make park areas more accessible and welcoming, especially for low-income families and communities of color. Bike trails are a critical component of this access and connecting people with nature.

NWTA commends Metro and the County for a planning process that was thoughtful, fair and inclusive; and for their initiatives to make access to nature through bike trails a reality. The health benefits of being outside are numerous and well-documented. Sharing the love of being in nature while mountain biking with my own kids is one of my greatest joys. These experiences help connect us as a family, and I see it strengthen the desire in them to care for nature. By providing more bike trail access in spaces like this proposed park, Metro is helping to expand these experiences, so they are available to all. Thank you, and thank you for all you do.