



**Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Julie Fitzgerald Supporting SB 1576-A:
*Legislation Restores Public Access to Free Trails and Recreational Facilities***

Scheduled for public hearing on Feb. 27, 2024, before
the House Committee On Judiciary

Co-Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Whalen, and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying in strong support of SB 1576-A, which restores recreational immunity for all local governments that allow the public to walk and recreate on their properties. Public access to trails and parks is a top-priority for the City of Wilsonville residents, visitors and employees of Wilsonville businesses.

Wilsonville's park system, which includes sports fields, sport courts, picnic shelters, trails and open spaces, also provides diverse recreational programming for all ages and abilities. The park system has grown by 23% over the past 10 ten years, from 230 acres in 2013 to 283 acres in 2023 with 18 parks, and is expected to continue to add acreage and facilities as City population growth continues. METRO's 250-acre Graham Oaks Nature Park, located adjacent to the City, features three miles of trails, which connect to the regional Ice Age Tonquin Trail.

The Oregon Public Use of Lands Act passed in 1995 with a goal of encouraging public and private owners of land to make their land available to the public for recreational purposes. The purpose of the Act was to facilitate the ability of landowners, both public and private, that made their land available without charge for recreational use by the public were not liable if a person was injured while using the land for recreational purposes.

The Act increased the availability of land for free recreation by limiting liability to cities, counties, parks, schools and a wide range of private owners, including farmers and timber companies that allow hunters, anglers, hikers, mountain bikers and other members of the public to use or traverse their lands at no charge.

SB 1576-A adds "walking, running, and biking" to the definition of recreational purposes (ORS 105.672) and adds improved trails to the recreational immunity provided via ORS 105.688. During the 2024 Interim period, the legislature could form a workgroup to pursue a more comprehensive fix to the recreational immunity statutes with all stakeholders at the table to be introduced in the 2025 legislative session.

The City of Wilsonville encourages a Do-Pass vote on SB 1576-A. Thank you.











Sincerely,

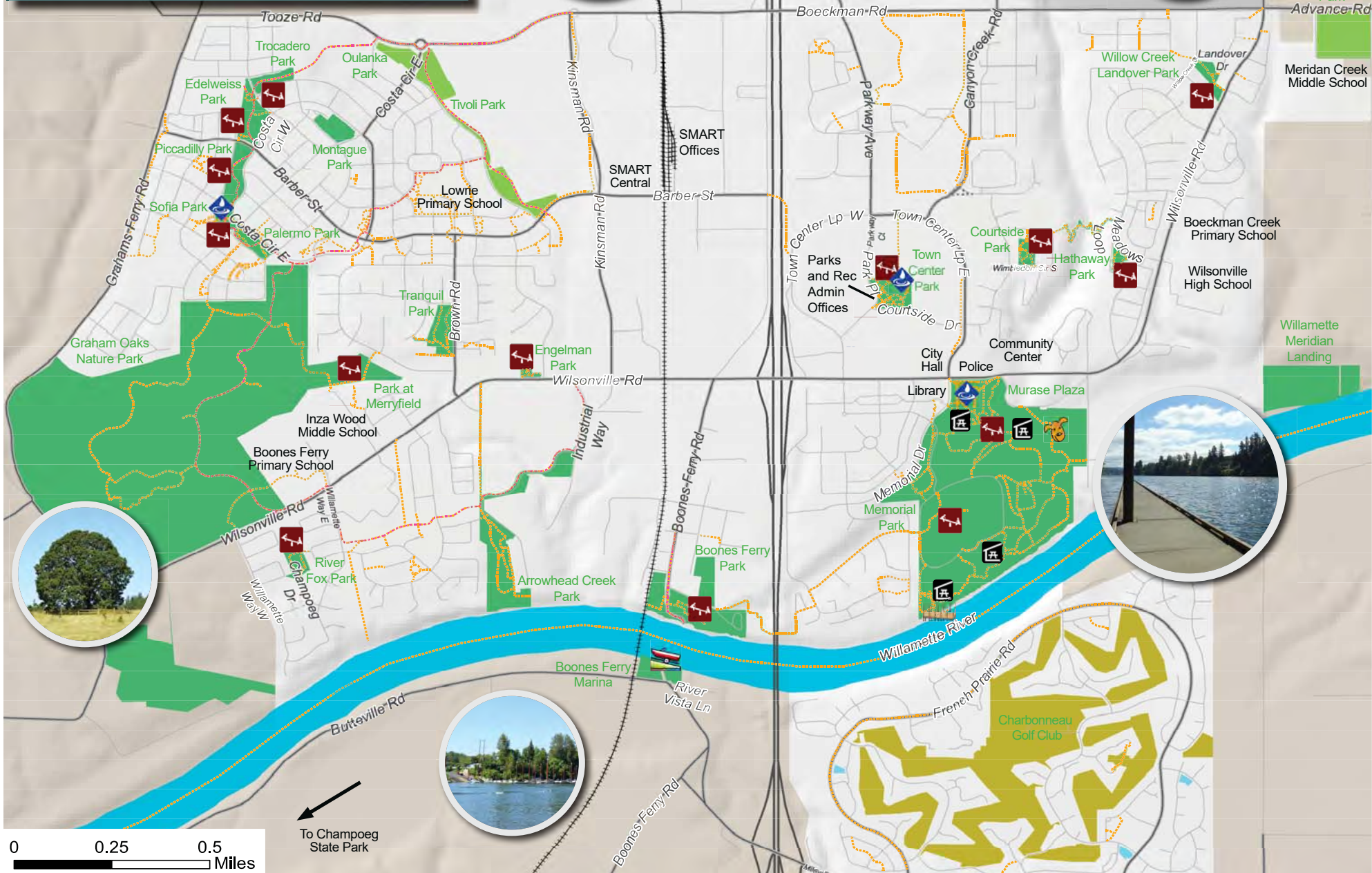
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Fitzgerald".

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor, City of Wilsonville

Attachment: City of Wilsonville Parks & Recreation Brochure

Wilsonville Parks, Trails and Recreation

-  Children's Play Area
-  Interactive Water Feature
-  Off Leash Dog Area
-  Rentable Shelter
-  Boat Launch
-  Day Use Dock
-  Trails
-  Ice Age Tonquin Trail
-  Parks
-  Planned Parks



Park Facility Rental

Stein-Boozier Barn

The Stein-Boozier Barn is a rustic barn (circa 1901) located in Murase Plaza, with a main gathering space of 1,325 square feet. Amenities include: clear bulb string-lighting, tables & chairs, and a 10' bar with a sink. The area in front of the barn contains terraced basalt stone seating and both front and rear sliding doors can be opened. Maximum capacity: 96



River Shelter

The River Shelter at Memorial Park sits in the SW corner of the park near ball field 5. This is the largest covered shelter in the park and its amenities include: electricity, water, 16 picnic tables, and a large grassy area suitable for lawn games. River access is just a short walk away. Maximum capacity: 200



Forest Shelter

The Forest Shelter at Memorial Park sits in the SE corner of the park and is a secluded shady shelter near ball field 3. Amenities include: electricity, water, and 20 picnic tables. The surrounding area is very wooded with a small sloping grassy area. Maximum capacity: 150



Field Rental

Memorial Park

Fields are available for rent from April 1st to October 31st depending on weather conditions.

There are 5 baseball/softball fields and 3 soccer fields. The outfield of ball field 4 can be used for small sided soccer games.

Baseball/Softball Fields Dimensions:

Fields 1 and 2: Dirt infields with 60', 65', 70' and 80' base length capabilities

Field 3: Grass infield with pitching mound and 70', 80', and 90' base length capabilities

Field 4: Dirt infield with 60', 65', and 70' base length capabilities

Field 5: Dirt infield with 60' and 65' base length capabilities

Fields 1, 2, and 4 have lights



Wilsonville Parks

Recreational Opportunities

The City of Wilsonville is dedicated to creating community through people, parks, and programs. We strive to enrich the lives of Wilsonville citizens by providing diverse opportunities for personal development and social interaction.



The Parks and Rec Department provides recreation programs, encompassing all age groups from preschool to older adults and offering community members a chance to experience the arts, fitness programs, sports activities, family events and a wide range of classes.

To find out more information about our great program offerings, youth sports or special events please visit the Parks and Rec website.

