

County Commissioners
Danielle Bethell, Chair
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MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 9, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod
Co-Chair Representative Rob Nosse
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Subject: Support for \$750,000 Appropriation for Keizer Rapids Park Synthetic Turf Project

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

As Marion County Commission, I am pleased to express my strong support for the City of Keizer's request for a \$750,000 appropriation in Senate Bill 5531 to complete the final phase of the Keizer Rapids Park Synthetic Turf Project.

Marion County has proudly partnered with the City of Keizer on this important project, contributing \$2 million alongside Keizer's \$2 million investment to bring this multi-use facility to life. Since opening the first two synthetic fields in October 2024, the park has quickly become a premier destination for youth and adult soccer, football, rugby, and lacrosse in the mid-Willamette Valley. As the only multi-sport synthetic turf facility in Marion County outside of local high school fields, it fills a critical gap for year-round recreational access in our rainy climate.

Phase II of the project, which will add much-needed restrooms, is set to begin soon. However, Phase III, which includes paving the parking lot and constructing a storage building for equipment, remains unfunded. Completing these final improvements is essential to fully realizing the potential of this regional asset.

This facility is more than just fields; it's an investment in the health, well-being, and economic vitality of our community. It promotes equitable access to recreational opportunities, supports youth sports development, and strengthens local tourism through tournaments and events. Moreover, the synthetic turf design reduces ongoing maintenance costs and conserves water, aligning with both fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship.

I urge the committee to approve this impactful request and help ensure the long-term success of Keizer Rapids Park. Thank you for your service to our state and for your thoughtful consideration of this important investment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danielle Bethell".

Danielle Bethell
Chair