

Inspired by the vision



Dedicated to the work

Build Lebanon Trails
PO Box 2604
Lebanon, OR 97355

January 16, 2025

Ron Whitlatch, Lebanon City Manager,
City of Lebanon
925 Main Street
Lebanon, OR 97355

RE: Request Waiver of Event Fee

Dear Ron,

Build Lebanon Trails (BLT) is respectfully requesting City Council consider waiving the rental fees for the use of Cheadle Lake Park for our 16th Annual Cheadle Lake 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk and Kids Obstacle Dash. The event is held on the first Saturday of May each year. Historically, the City has waived fees for this event.

On January 8, 2025, BLT received notice that our June 2024 submitted request to waive rental fees for our May 2025 use of Cheadle Lake Park was denied by Staff. A new fee structure determined the fee for 2025 would be \$1,700.

Points to consider:

- 100% of funds raised are used for the development and maintenance of the Lebanon Trail System.
- BLT is currently providing \$20,000 a year, for four years, to fund a City Temp Trail Maintenance Position.
- Since 2012, BLT has provided over \$2.6 million dollars in funding from grants and private funding, for materials and trail construction for the City of Lebanon's Trail System.
- BLT is a 501c3 nonprofit organization who does this community service with all volunteer staff.
- BLT volunteers provide hundreds of hours of free labor every year working on the Lebanon Trail System.
- The main focus for the event is to raise public awareness of the Lebanon Trail System and the outdoor recreation infrastructure it provides.
- This event attracts participants, families and spectators from outside our community. Not only does this boost local businesses, it strengthens the reputation of our community.
- Business revenue is generated from accommodations, dining, transportation and leisure activities, including those seeking outdoor green spaces (Lebanon Trails), to sustain good mental and physical health.
- Our event has a small footprint in the park and a short time span. (The fee structure seems to be set on using the entire park.)
- Historically, BLT has shared the park with other events taking place on the same day.

Considering Build Lebanon Trails long history of providing substantial funding for trail development and maintenance, it seems appropriate to waive user fees for this event.

BLT greatly values our partnership with the City of Lebanon. Working together, we will continue the legacy of providing well maintained, free to use, public trails in our Community, for all to enjoy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rodney W. Sell, BLT Board President