



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE

Travel Oregon
c/o grants@traveloregon.com
2023-2025 Competitive Grants Program

September 12, 2023

RE: Support for 2023-2025 Competitive Grants Program Application by City of Wilsonville for ADA Accessible, Non-Motorized Watercraft River Access on the Willamette River at Boones Ferry Park in Wilsonville

Dear Travel Oregon Grants Review Committee:

The City of Wilsonville seeks to improve public access to the Willamette River for non-motorized watercraft that benefits residents and visitors, and provides ADA access to the river bank.

The proposed plan includes a new ADA walkway to the river, dock and launch access for non-motorized watercraft, including kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards, as well as watercraft storage. New ADA accessible restrooms and an all-abilities playground are planned for completion in 2024 to make Boones Ferry Park accessible and inclusive to anyone who may visit. All projects were part of the City's 2018 Boones Ferry Park Master Plan that included extensive public outreach.

The proposed grant application matches a number of the criteria of 2023-2025 Competitive Grants Program, including to support the development of new and existing tourism-related facilities and products for visitor experiences, attractions, and public spaces to better serve historically and currently underserved and under-resourced communities. The Old Town area of Wilsonville, known one time as Boones Landing, where Boone Ferry Park is located is part of Census Tract 227.10, Clackamas, OR, and demonstrates the following equity characteristics according to the U.S. Census Bureau (2021) American Community Survey 5-year estimates:

- **Poverty:** A higher rate of persons below the poverty line, with 18.4% of persons below poverty line, which is nearly double the rate in Wilsonville (9.5%) and more than double the rate in Clackamas County (7.5%)
- **Housing:** A higher rate of renter-occupied housing at 70.8%, which is nearly 50% higher than rate in Wilsonville (49.4%) and more than double the rate of Clackamas County (28.6%).

Thus, the proposed plan to increase access to the river benefits nearby members of the community that is identified as an equity area of concern for increased public investment.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's grant application.

Sincerely,

Erika Pham, Chair

Karla Brashear, Vice Chair