



Trails, Politics and Building Bridges

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Guest Speakers:

Quentin Comus and Matt Dolphin
CPRD's Chehalem Heritage Trails Advisory Committee

Over the past few years, elected officials and citizen groups have increasingly voiced their competing views on trails in Yamhill County. Some argue trail development will impact farming practices, increase crime and homelessness, and infringe on private property rights. Others suggest trail development will only further contribute to our community's social, economic, and environmental well-being.

Seeing this political landscape evolve leading up to and following the May 2023 Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) Board of Directors election, the Chehalem Heritage Trails Advisory Committee set out to reestablish a culture of collaboration and consensus building. This includes commissioning qualitative and quantitative feedback mechanisms, hosting trail maintenance volunteer events, increasing trail etiquette education, and enhancing sources of trail network awareness through a new website and promotional marketing. Together, alongside the CPRD Board of Directors and community partners, the Advisory Committee seeks to cultivate a transparent, effective, and inclusive setting for our community to discuss the needs and concerns surrounding trail maintenance, development, and management.

The presentation will present an overview of the current political landscape regarding trails, provide an update on our advisory committee's work, and highlight the opportunities for meaningful collaboration moving forward.