

We need trails in SW Portland!

A long time ago, Portland was a huge leader in innovation, transit, cycling, sustainability, urban planning, growth management, and so much more. Not only have we lost the lead in every area, but *people*-friendly infrastructure (as opposed to car-choked development) is where we are falling by far the most behind other cities. You don't even have to travel to realize this; simply research what other cities are doing lately with pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Every dollar invested in people rather than cars pays back MANY-fold in the long run. It benefits *every* person going through any neighborhood--yes, even those who solely get from A to B by driving. Let's encourage people to get OUTSIDE and explore their communities--and to, for often the first time ever (tragically), get to actually KNOW their neighbors!! Who knows--they might find that they have some wonderful things in common!

But this will never happen if we keep letting ultra-private-right, often wealthy (and highly entitled-feeling) people wall off the public from the periphery of their property and into our right of ways.

If you need to see a real-life example of a vast pedestrian trail network coursing its way through a stunningly beautiful urban neighborhood, Berkeley is a super obvious choice. I visited friends there, and I was *stunned* that I could walk from their house just a few blocks to an achingly beautiful set of 146 interconnected *public* stairways! And I wasn't the only one enjoying these unbelievably amazing public assets. I had never in my life seen anything like it, and I want that SO badly for Portland!!

So, if there's ONE place you must visit to see how wonderful urban trails can be, you really need to see the hills above downtown Berkeley. This one page alone will convince any rational person that encouraging and expanding public ROWs throughout SW Portland is the ONLY logical thing to do:

<http://stairwayfreedom.weebly.com/berkeley--oakland-stairs>

Don't let a few paranoid property owners ruin things for everyone!

People love the trolley track trail in Oak Grove. I have a relative who lives next to this trail. The main traffic is runners, families with children and walkers. The crime rate dropped. Why can't we have trails like this in our neighborhood?

Sincerely, Julie Rall

745 SW Stephenson Ct. Portland 97219

julierall@comcast.net