



P.O. Box 222
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**Connecting the Canyon for
Business and Community Growth**

June 12, 2019

Re: Mill City Falls Parking Development

To the Grant Advisory Council,

The City of Mill City has one of the best potential tourism development areas in the North Santiam Canyon, and we are asking for your help to see it grow. The Oregon Department of Transportation shows that over 6,000 cars pass through Mill City daily. Our goal is to see how many of those cars that we can get to stop and take a break at one of our restaurants, or to just enjoy the scenic beauty of the North Santiam River.

Through the City of Mill City, and your funding assistance, we hope to get closer to that goal by offering our support for the parking development at Mill City Falls Park.

Other grants have been awarded to the City that will improve the areas around the Mill City Falls Park and Hammond Park areas. This is an ideal time for the City to build on that improvement and create a destination stopping point, complete with restrooms, a scenic view, food, convenience stores, ADA walking path, a skate park, and unique shopping. Additionally, this area is also walking distance to the newly developed community resource center.

Of course, all of those visitors will need a place to park! That's where your help is needed the most at this point. Our current parking situation near Hammond Park fills up very quickly in the summer, resulting in visitors leaving the area before they are able to enjoy any of the amenities. This particular location is also important for parking because a large number of people who park near Mill City Falls Park are rafters heading down the North Santiam River. This is great for our community because not only do they come to Mill City once to launch their river craft, but they also return again after their float to pick up their vehicles. This means they are likely hungry, thirsty and need fuel - which means double the exposure for our local businesses.

Additionally, this project would establish a larger community pride which has been shown to further increase participation from local families, rolling the ball for continued improvement. We hope that you consider our community as you decide on your funding projects. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gates

Chamber Liaison

North Santiam Chamber of Commerce