Metro
Making a great place

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So, hello. We're Metro – nice to meet you.

If you have a disability and need accommodations, call 503-220-2781, or call Metro's TDD line at 503-797-1804. If you require a sign language interpreter, call at least 48 hours in advance. Activities marked with this symbol are wheelchair accessible:

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General information
Metro Regional Trails Program
oregonmetro.gov/regional-trails-and-greenways-system

A few of our many active partners:

National organizations
American Trails AmericanTrails.org
National Parks Service: Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program nps.gov/RTCA
Rails to Trails Conservancy railstotrails.org

In the region
40-Mile Loop Land Trust 40mileloop.org
Bicycle Transportation Alliance btaoregon.org
North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District ncprd.com
npGREENWAY npgreenway.org
Oregon Department of Transportation oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/AT
Oregon State Parks oregon.gov/OPRD
Portland Parks and Recreation portlandoregon.gov/parks
SW Trails PDX swtrails.org
The Intertwine Alliance theintertwine.org
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District thprd.org

THE VISION FOR A REGIONAL SYSTEM OF TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Regional trails and greenways

From the quiet beauty of Troutdale's earthen Beaver Creek Trail to the hustle and bustle of Portland's Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade, regional trails are like us—they come in all shapes and sizes.

Trails are designed to serve a variety of functions. Some, like the I-205 Trail, are well suited for bike commuters seeking a fast route. Others, like the Wildwood Trail, offer recreational hikers the opportunity to wind their way through lush forests. The Sandy River Water Trail allows visitors to experience scenic basalt canyons and rare old growth forest from a raft or kayak, while the Tualatin River Greenway provides opportunities to stroll beneath circling red-tailed hawks or float past great blue herons standing regally along the riverbank.

The popularity of outdoor recreation activities such as walking, running, bicycling, skateboarding, paddling and wildlife observation– as well as the growth in bicycling and walking for transportation–has increased the need for quality regional trails. Park and recreation providers, local cities and citizens have teamed up in an ambitious effort to establish a network of trails linking parks and natural areas to local communities and other area attractions.

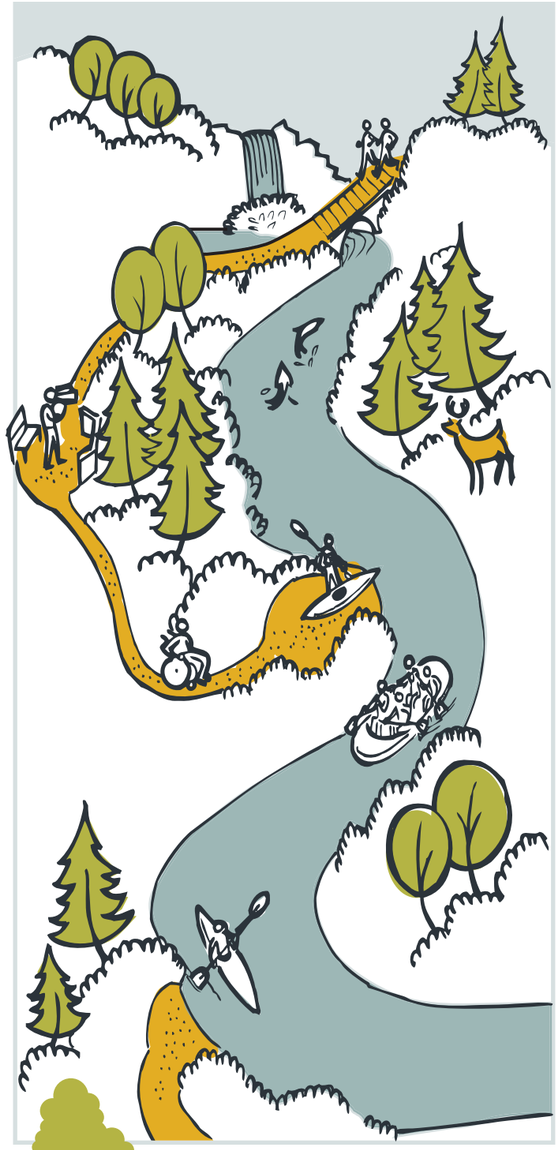
Metro envisions a system of trails and greenways spanning the 25-city, three-county region and beyond.

When originally conceived over 100 years ago by noted landscape architects John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Portland's trail system was envisioned to be 40 miles long, circling the city and linking public parks (see page 13). The Portland metropolitan area has grown a lot since then. Today, Metro envisions a system of trails and greenways spanning the 25-city, three-county region and beyond. Plans call for a 1,000-mile network of regional trails. As of 2014, about 35% percent of those trails are complete.

WHAT MAKES A TRAIL REGIONAL?

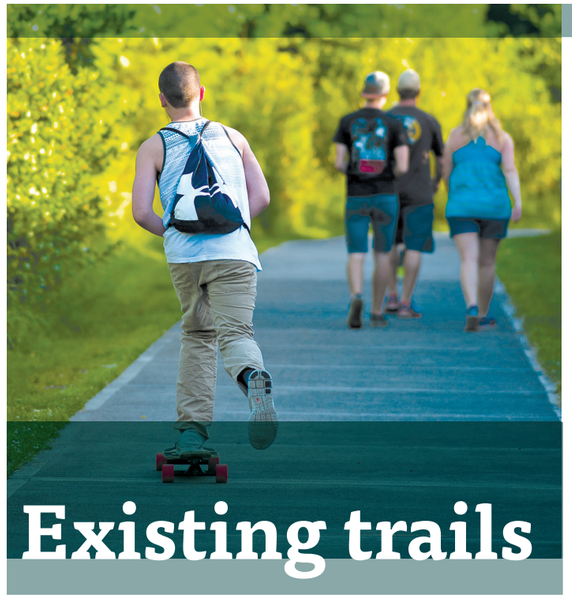
Regional trails differ from local trails in that they are usually larger in scope – crossing neighborhood lines and linking cities, counties and even states. As excellent places for hikers, walkers, runners, cyclists, and paddlers to exercise and experience nature, regional trails are destinations unto themselves – but they also take us from the places we live to the places we learn, work, shop and play.

Regional trails are typically separated from roads. Their off-street nature make trails more pleasant for recreational users by reducing interactions with vehicular traffic, which also make them quicker routes for pedestrian and bike commuters.



GREENWAYS

Greenways are linear natural spaces that follow creeks and rivers. Some greenways provide public access with environmentally compatible trails, viewpoints or watercraft launch sites. Other greenways prioritize wildlife habitat protection and do not allow any public access. For more information about these greenways, visit the Metro website at: oregonmetro.gov/trails



Existing trails

Existing trails are complete or near completion and open to the public (as of July 2014). They connect neighborhoods, schools, parks and jobs; provide access to nature; and present opportunities to hike, bike, walk, run and roll. For more information about these trails, visit the Metro web site at: oregonmetro.gov/trails

1 BANKS-VERNONIA TRAIL

This multi-use trail crosses county lines to connect Banks to Vernonia. Pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians are allowed. It is managed by Oregon State Parks and Recreation. 21 miles

2 BEAVER CREEK TRAIL

Located on the east side of Troutdale in a wooded canyon, this trail is geared for hikers. It will eventually connect the Sandy River to Mt. Hood Community College. 7 miles

9 CAZADERO TRAIL (NEAR COMPLETION)

Running from Boring through North Fork Deep Creek Canyon, this multi-use "rail to trail" parallels Highway 224. Once completed, cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians will be able to travel more than 30 miles off-street from the Springwater Trail in Downtown Portland to Estacada. 20 miles

10 CLACKAMAS RIVER GREENWAY

People can experience the Clackamas River Greenway at a number of parks including Barton Park and Milo McIver State Park. The greenway also features a beautiful paved trail along the banks of the lower Clackamas River, with a bridge connecting Gladstone to Oregon City. 15 miles

11 COLUMBIA SLOUGH TRAIL (NEAR COMPLETION)

From Kelley Point Park at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, this trail runs east along the Columbia Slough to Blue Lake Regional Park. Many stretches of the trail run atop a levee on the north side of the slough. West of I-205, the trail is paved and open to bicyclists. East of I-205, the trail is made of wood chips and limits users to travel on foot. 22 miles

15 CROWN ZELLERBACH TRAIL

A former rail line and logging road, the Crown Zellerbach was converted to a multi-use trail connecting Scappoose to Vernonia in Columbia County. 22 miles

17 FANNO CREEK TRAIL (NEAR COMPLETION)

Beginning in Durham at the Tualatin River, the Fanno Creek Trail travels through Tigard and Beaverton to Garden Home. 10 miles

19 GRESHAM-FAIRVIEW TRAIL (NEAR COMPLETION)

This "rail-to-trail" connects the Springwater Trail north to the Columbia Slough and Marine Drive Trails. 5 miles

22 HIGHWAY 47 TRAIL

The Highway 47 Trail rings the western edge of Forest Grove, and will one day extend south to Gaston and the Yamhelas Westsider Trail. 7 miles

24 HILLSDALE TO LAKE OSWEGO TRAIL

This pedestrian trail connects the Hillsdale neighborhood in southwest Portland south to Lake Oswego via Marshall Park and Tryon Creek State Natural Area. 5 miles

26 HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY (NEAR COMPLETION)

Once known as the "King of Roads" the Historic Highway is now considered by many to be the "King of Trails." Sixty-two of the original 73 miles of the Historic Highway are now open to bicyclists. Once restored, the remaining 11 miles of trail segments will allow bicyclists to travel the majestic Columbia River Gorge from Troutdale to The Dalles without riding along I-84. 73 miles

27 I-205 TRAIL (NEAR COMPLETION)

The I-205 Trail runs parallel to the I-205 freeway, connecting the Columbia River at Vancouver to the Clackamas River at Gladstone. Owned and maintained by ODOT, the trail is proposed to continue south to West Linn and Tualatin. 26 miles

28 I-84 TRAIL

This multi-use path runs along the I-84 freeway from East Portland to Fairview. 6 miles

31 MARINE DRIVE TRAIL (NEAR COMPLETION)

Parallel to the Columbia River, this multi-use path stretches from Kelley Point Park in north Portland to Troutdale. 19 miles

32 MARQUAM TRAIL

The Marquam Trail connects the Oregon Zoo and Hoyt Arboretum to Council Crest Park, Marquam Nature Park and Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) for urban hikers in southwest Portland. 5 miles

39 PENINSULA CROSSING TRAIL

Adjacent to the railroad, this multi-use trail crosses the north Portland peninsula between the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. 4 miles

44 ROCK CREEK TRAIL (NEAR COMPLETION)

The Rock Creek Trail follows a scenic greenway from Bethany to Hillsboro, and will connect to the Tualatin River Greenway in Rood Bridge Park when completed. 12 miles

45 ROSEMONT TRAIL

Pedestrians can use this paved east-west trail connecting Luscher Farm in Lake Oswego to West Linn. 5 miles

49 SPRINGWATER TRAIL

The Springwater Trail is a former railroad line that connects Portland, Milwaukie, Gresham and Boring. It also connects to the Cazadero Trail in the east and the Willamette River Greenway in the west. Most of the trail parallels Johnson Creek, and connects several significant parks, natural areas, and wildlife refuges, including Oaks Bottom, Beggars Tick, Powell Butte and Gresham's Main City Park. 21 miles

55 **TERWILLIGER TRAIL**

This multi-use trail stretches from Duniway Park in southwest Portland to downtown Lake Oswego, passing Lewis and Clark College and Tryon Creek State Natural Area. 8 miles

56 **TICKLE CREEK TRAIL** (NEAR COMPLETION)

Adjacent to Tickle Creek in Sandy, this trail will connect to the Cazadero Trail when completed. 9 miles

58 **TROLLEY TRAIL**

The Trolly Trail connects Milwaukie to Gladstone along a former streetcar line. 7 miles

59 **TUALATIN RIVER GREENWAY** (NEAR COMPLETION)

The Tualatin River Greenway runs west along the riverbank from the confluence of the Tualatin and Willamette rivers in West Linn through Lake Oswego, Rivergrove, Tualatin and King City to the proposed Reedville Trail. 21 miles

61 **WATERHOUSE TRAIL**

This multi-use trail follows a power transmission corridor from Bethany to the Tualatin Hills Nature Park. 6 miles

62 **WESTSIDE TRAIL** (NEAR COMPLETION)

The Westside Trail connects the Willamette River and Forest Park in northwest Portland to the Tualatin River. It runs through Beaverton, Tigard and King City, and largely follows a power transmission and gas pipeline corridor. The master plan for the trail was completed in 2014. 22 miles

63 **WILDWOOD TRAIL**

The region's longest completed trail, the Wildwood winds through Forest Park and other parks in west Portland, including Washington Park, Hoyt Arboretum and the Oregon Zoo. Mountain bikes are not allowed on the Wildwood Trail but are allowed on several miles of dirt roads in Forest Park, including Leif Erikson Drive. 30 miles

64 **WILLAMETTE RIVER GREENWAY** (NEAR COMPLETION)

Actually a series of multi-use trails, the Willamette River Greenway Trail follows the east and west banks of the Willamette River from Champoeg State Park to the river's confluence with the Columbia in North Portland. Major built segments include trails at Willamette Park and Mary S. Young State Park in West Linn, George Rogers Park and Foothills Park in Lake Oswego, and Tom McCall Waterfront Park and the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade in Portland. Portland has plans to complete the North Portland Willamette Greenway Trail, and someday a world-class trail will follow the Willamette Shore Trolley Line from Lake Oswego to John's Landing. The Willamette Greenway Trail is recognized as a trail of statewide significance. 80 miles

Planned trails

Planning a trail is a significant effort involving local residents, trail advocacy groups, elected officials, and teams of professional planners, engineers, and landscape architects. The trail plan is the blueprint for where, when and how to build the trail. Planned trails have exact alignments and are ready to be designed, permitted and built. For more information about these trails, visit the Metro web site at: oregonmetro.gov/trails

13 **COUNCIL CREEK TRAIL**

The cities of Banks, Forest Grove, Cornelius, and Hillsboro are currently working with neighbors, trail supporters, and professional consultants to plan the Council Creek Trail. When the plan is finalized in 2015, each city will begin building segments of the trail. 16 miles

29 **ICE AGE TONQUIN TRAIL**

When completed, this multi-use trail will connect the cities of Wilsonville, Tualatin, and Sherwood. The trail will interpret the dramatic geologic landscape left behind by the historic Missoula Floods. Parts of the trail are completed in Graham Oaks Nature Park, Stella Olsen Park and Tualatin Community Park. The trail's master plan was completed in 2013. Sections of the trail in Sherwood are also known as the Cedar Creek Trail. 21 miles

34 **MOUNT SCOTT TRAIL**

The Mount Scott Trail will run north-south through Happy Valley to connect Johnson Creek to Mount Talbert Nature Park, the future Sunrise Corridor Trail and the Clackamas River Greenway. It is part of the Mount Scott-Scounters Mountain Loop, which was master planned in 2014. The southern part of this trail follows Mount Scott Creek. 7 miles

40 **RED ELECTRIC TRAIL**

Many segments of this trail connect through quiet neighborhood streets. It will follow a former inter-urban railroad line through Southwest Portland, from Willamette Park to Garden Home. 7 miles

42 **RICHARDSON CREEK TRAIL**

This proposed trail will connect Damascus to the Clackamas River Greenway. 5 miles

43 **RIVER TERRACE TRAIL**

The River Terrace Trail will connect Cooper Mountain Nature Park to Bull Mountain, Tigard and King City. 7 miles

48 **SCOUTERS MOUNTAIN TRAIL**

Part of the Mount Scott–Scouters Mountain Loop, this trail will connect the Springwater Trail south through Happy Valley to the future Sunrise Corridor Trail and Clackamas River Greenway. The southern part of this trail follows Rock Creek. 8 miles

52 **SULLIVAN'S GULCH TRAIL**

This multi-use trail will run along the north side of I-84 from the Willamette River Greenway to the Gateway Transit Center and the I-205 Trail. 6 miles

53 **SUNRISE CORRIDOR TRAIL**

Adjacent to the future Sunrise Highway Corridor, this trail will run from the I-205 Trail east to 152nd Drive in Happy Valley. It will be part of the future Mount Scott–Scouters Mountain Loop. 4 miles

Regional trails and greenways

Metro
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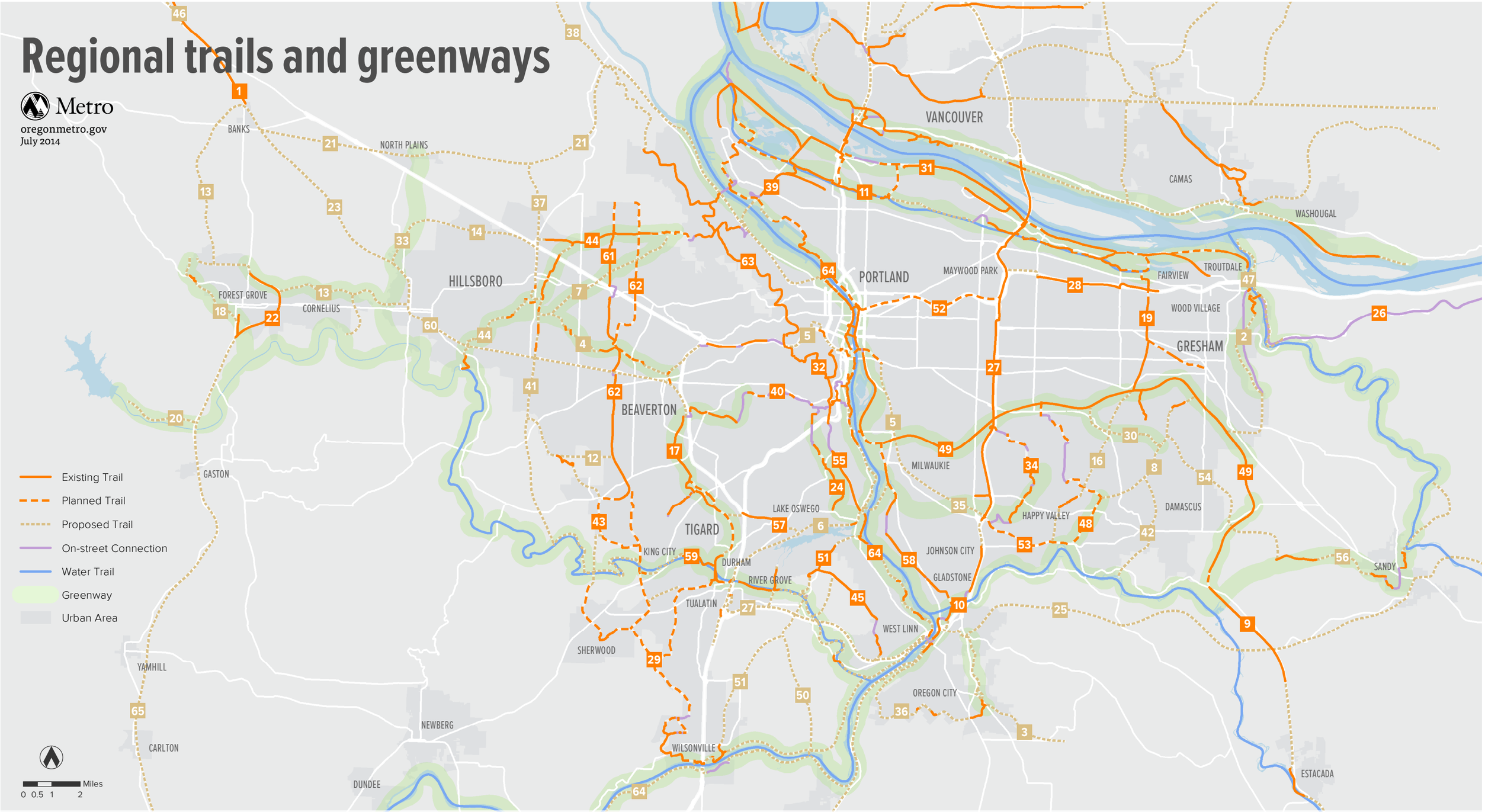
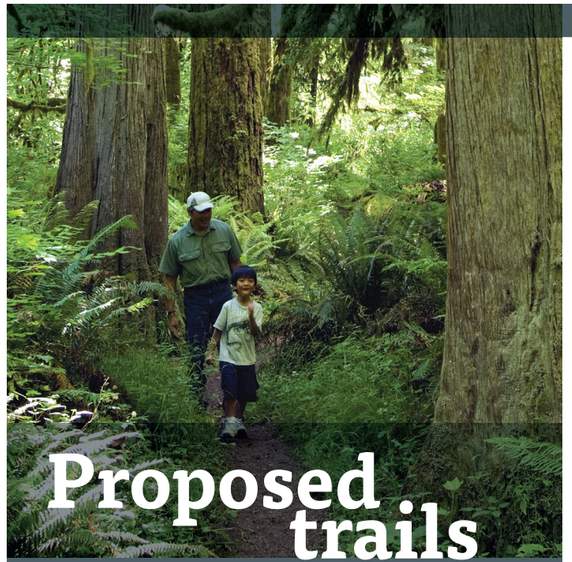
July 2014



1. Banks-Vernonia Trail
2. Beaver Creek Trail
3. Beaver Lake Trail
4. Beaverton Creek Trail*
5. Beaverton to Milwaukie Trail
6. Bridgeport to Milwaukie Trail
7. Bronson Creek Trail
8. Butler Buttes Trail
9. Cazadero Trail
10. Clackamas River Greenway
11. Columbia Slough Trail
12. Cooper Mountain Trail
13. Council Creek Trail
14. Crescent Park Trail
15. Crown Zellerbach Trail**
16. East Buttes Powerline Trail
17. Fanno Creek Trail
18. Gales Creek Trail
19. Gresham-Fairview Trail
20. Hagg Lake Trail
21. Helvetia Trail
22. Highway 47 Trail
23. Hillsboro to Banks Trail
24. Hillsdale to Lake Oswego Trail*
25. Historic Barlow Road Trail
26. Historic Columbia River Highway
27. I-205 Trail
28. I-84 Trail
29. Ice Age Tonquin Trail
30. Kelley Creek Trail
31. Marine Drive Trail
32. Marquam Trail
33. McKay Creek Greenway
34. Mount Scott Trail*
35. North Clackamas Greenway
36. Oregon City Loop Trail
37. Oregon Electric Railway Trail
38. Pacific Greenway Trail
39. Peninsula Crossing Trail
40. Red Electric Trail
41. Reedville Trail
42. Richardson Creek Trail
43. River Terrace Trail
44. Rock Creek Trail
45. Rosemont Trail
46. Salmonberry Corridor Trail
47. Sandy River Greenway
48. Scouters Mountain Trail*
49. Springwater Trail
50. Stafford to Canby Trail
51. Stafford Trail
52. Sullivan's Gulch Trail
53. Sunrise Corridor Trail
54. Sunshine Valley Trail
55. Terwilliger Trail
56. Tickle Creek Trail
57. Tigard to Lake Oswego Trail
58. Trolley Trail
59. Tualatin River Greenway
60. Tualatin Valley Trail
61. Waterhouse Trail
62. Westside Trail*
63. Wildwood Trail
64. Willamette River Greenway
65. Yamhelas Westsider Trail

* Alignments shown on map are simplified for cartographic purposes. Additional on-street segments are shown in individual trail master plans.

** Not shown on map. Located in Columbia County, Oregon.



Proposed trails

Local governments and community advocates have proposed several future trails that are currently a conceptual part of the regional trails and greenways system. Before final decisions are made about on-the-ground trail alignments and designated uses, each trail will be master planned through a comprehensive process with many opportunities for public involvement. For more information about the status of these projects, visit the Metro web site at: oregonmetro.gov/trails

3 BEAVER LAKE TRAIL

The Beaver Lake Trail is the eastern extension of the Oregon City Loop Trail and will connect to Beaver Lake. North of Beavercreek Road, the trail is known as the Newell Creek Trail. 9 miles

4 BEAVERTON CREEK TRAIL

From the confluence of Beaverton and Rock creeks in Hillsboro, this trail will connect to downtown Beaverton and the Fanno Creek Trail. The trail traverses Tualatin Hills Nature Park. 7 miles

5 BEAVERTON TO MILWAUKIE TRAIL

This multi-use trail connects downtown Beaverton to Milwaukie's Trolley Trail via the existing Sunset Highway Trail, downtown Portland and the new Tillicum Crossing Bridge. 13 miles

6 BRIDGEPORT TO MILWAUKIE TRAIL

This multi-use trail will follow a railroad corridor to connect the Bridgeport area of Tualatin and Tigard to Lake Oswego and connect across the Willamette River to Milwaukie. 7 miles

7 BRONSON CREEK TRAIL

Bronson Creek is an important tributary of Rock Creek and the Tualatin River. The Bronson Creek Trail will pass next to a number of large wetlands and natural areas. 5 miles

8 BUTLER BUTTES TRAIL

The Butler Buttes Trail will connect the Springwater Trail in Gresham to Damascus, traversing Gabbert Hill, Towle Butte, Bliss Butte and Damascus buttes along the way. 6 miles

12 COOPER MOUNTAIN TRAIL

This east-west trail in Washington County will connect the Westside Trail to Jenkins Estate and the proposed Reedville Trail, passing the iconic Cooper Mountain Nature Park along the way. 4 miles

14 CRESCENT PARK TRAIL

Hillsboro envisions a trail loop encircling the city. Following McKay and Waible creeks, the Crescent Park Trail will form the northern portion of the loop. 7 miles

16 EAST BUTTES POWERLINE TRAIL

As part of the Pleasant Valley Concept Plan, this trail will follow a power transmission corridor to connect the Springwater Trail to Happy Valley and the Clackamas River. 7 miles

18 GALES CREEK TRAIL

On the west side of Forest Grove adjacent to Gales Creek, this trail will connect to the Tualatin River and the future Council Creek Trail. 5 miles

20 HAGG LAKE TRAIL

Originating in the foothills of the Oregon Coast Range at Henry Hagg Lake, this trail will head east along Scoggins Creek to the Tualatin River and the future Yamhelas Westsider Trail. 3 miles

21 HELVETIA TRAIL

The Helvetia Trail will follow a railroad corridor from Banks, across the Tualatin Mountains to the Willamette River, passing through North Plains and Helvetia along the way. 17 miles

23 HILLSBORO TO BANKS TRAIL

This trail will follow a railroad corridor through beautiful farmland from Hillsboro to Banks. 9 miles

25 HISTORIC BARLOW ROAD TRAIL

This trail will follow the pioneer wagon train route from Mount Hood, west to the End of the Oregon Trail Center in Oregon City. 52 miles

30 KELLEY CREEK TRAIL

The Kelley Creek Trail will connect to the Springwater Trail, East Buttes Powerline Trail and Butler Buttes Trail in southwest Gresham. 4 miles

33 MCKAY CREEK GREENWAY

Metro's 1992 Greenspaces Master Plan envisioned a protected habitat corridor following McKay Creek from North Plains to the Tualatin River. 5 miles

35 NORTH CLACKAMAS GREENWAY

The North Clackamas Greenway follows Kellogg Creek from the slopes of Mount Talbert to Downtown Milwaukie. The greenway will one day feature a regional trail across I-205 and through North Clackamas Park. 4 miles

36 OREGON CITY LOOP TRAIL

Creating a multi-use loop around Oregon City, this trail will connect to the Trolley Trail, future Newell Creek Trail, Canemah Bluff Natural Area and the Willamette River Greenway. The loop includes the recently renovated WPA-era McLoughlin Promenade, the iconic Oregon City Municipal Elevator and a new river walk trail above Willamette Falls. 11 miles

37 OREGON ELECTRIC RAILWAY TRAIL

This future north-south trail will follow a former railroad corridor next to Cornelius Pass Road from Orenco to Helvetia. 5 miles

38 PACIFIC GREENWAY TRAIL

The Pacific Greenway Trail will connect the greater Portland area to the coast via Forest Park and logging roads in Columbia and Clatsop Counties. 38 miles

41 REEDVILLE TRAIL

This proposed north-south trail in Washington County will follow a power transmission corridor connecting the Rock Creek Trail in Hillsboro to the Tualatin River Greenway. Short sections of this trail are built in Reedville. 9 miles

46 SALMONBERRY CORRIDOR TRAIL

Using an 84-mile scenic rail corridor, this trail will go west from the Banks-Vernonia Trail to Tillamook. 84 miles

47 **SANDY RIVER GREENWAY**

Nature lovers can experience the Sandy River Greenway at several public parks, including Dodge Park, Oxbow Regional Park, and Dabney State Park. Soon the greenway will feature a regional trail loop through Downtown Troutdale and across the river through Lewis & Clark State Park. 5 miles

50 **STAFFORD TO CANBY TRAIL**

The Stafford to Canby Trail will connect Clackamas County's Stafford Hamlet to the Canby Ferry and across the Willamette River to Canby. 5 miles

51 **STAFFORD TRAIL**

The Stafford Trail will connect the Willamette River Greenway in Wilsonville north and east to Lake Oswego. 11 miles

54 **SUNSHINE VALLEY TRAIL**

This trail will connect Towle Butte to North Fork Deep Creek Canyon and the Cazadero Trail. 4 miles

57 **TIGARD TO LAKE OSWEGO TRAIL**

Connecting Tigard's Fanno Creek Trail to Lake Oswego, this trail already features a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across I-5, and a paved path along Kruse Way. 3 miles

60 **TUALATIN VALLEY TRAIL**

Following Tualatin Valley Highway and the railroad corridor on the south side of the road, this multi-use trail will connect Beaverton to Hillsboro. 12 miles

65 **YAMHELAS WESTSIDER TRAIL**

This multi-use trail will follow a former railroad line on the east side of Highway 47, stretching from Scoggins Creek just north of Gaston through Yamhill and Carlton to Highway 99W near McMinnville. 16 miles

On-street connections

Ideally, all trails would be completely separate from motorized traffic, but a number of trails start and stop at streets. On-street connections are short sections of road that allow trail users to stitch together off-street trail segments to achieve longer routes. The best on-street connections mimic the look and feel of trails by using curbs, bollards, planting strips, and other buffers to separate people from road traffic.

Quiet neighborhood streets make for the most enjoyable on-street connections. Miles Place along the Willamette River in Southwest Portland is one of the region's best examples.

On busier streets, sidewalks and bike lanes can serve as connections for short distances. For example, Oleson Road connects the end of the Fanno Creek Trail to the beginning of the Red Electric Trail in this manner. For an even more trail-like experience, most trail users prefer one- and two-way cycle tracks, like the ones along SW Moody Avenue in Portland.

Water trails

Water trails are waterway segments designated for non-motorized travel. They offer opportunities to experience the region's rivers and natural areas from an on-the-water perspective. Water trail development provides access points to launch and land canoes, kayaks, row boats, paddle boards and other non-motorized watercraft. To find out more about the status of these efforts, visit the Metro website at: oregonmetro.gov/trails

The region's six water trails are:

CLACKAMAS RIVER WATER TRAIL

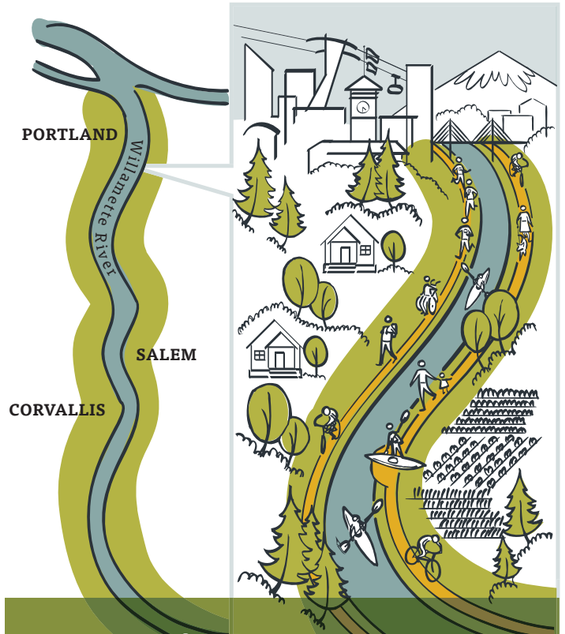
COLUMBIA SLOUGH WATER TRAIL

LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER WATER TRAIL

SANDY RIVER WATER TRAIL

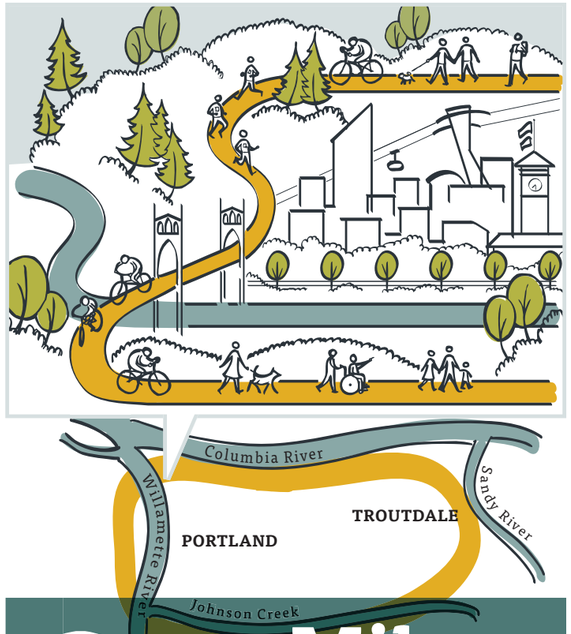
TUALATIN RIVER WATER TRAIL

WILLAMETTE RIVER WATER TRAIL



Willamette River Greenway

At 187 linear miles, the Willamette is Oregon's longest river. It drains nearly 11,500 square miles and provides essential benefits to the economy, environment and people of the state. The backbone of Governor Tom McCall's (1967-75) vision for Oregon was a revitalized Willamette River with a public greenway on its banks. The Willamette River Greenway encompasses existing and planned access along the lower 40 miles – and most urbanized stretch – of the river, and is one of Oregon's 19 statewide planning goals. When completed, it will include increased opportunities for river access and recreation, and new routes to schools, parks and commercial areas.



40-Mile Loop

After a visit to the region in 1903, pioneer landscape architects John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. proposed a comprehensive system of parks and natural areas connected by parkways and boulevards. Terwilliger, Sellwood and North Willamette boulevards in Portland are each part of that original plan. The Olmsteds' idea was revived in 1982 and named the 40-Mile Loop, honoring the original concept's proposed length. Since then, trail planners and advocates have updated the plan to meet the needs of a much larger metropolitan area and population. Plans for the 40-Mile Loop now include all of Multnomah County. When it is completed, it will connect more than 30 parks along the Columbia, Sandy and Willamette rivers, Johnson Creek and the Tualatin Mountains in a continuous 140-mile loop. The section from the Sandy River to the Springwater Trail is the last major gap in the 40-Mile Loop.

Funding for trail projects

Regional trail and greenway projects can take years to grow from concept to reality. They are often quite complex, involving many land owners and the help of hundreds – or thousands – of citizens. Determining a workable alignment, securing the trail right-of-way and finding the resources for trail design and construction all take time, energy and money.

Regional trails are typically built in phases as funding becomes available and trail corridors are secured. Some projects have received big boosts from special dedicated funding sources – such as Metro's two natural areas bond measures, passed by voters in 1995 and 2006. Other projects are built one section at a time, a new stretch of asphalt added year after year after year.

State and federal sources of support have been instrumental in planning and building the regional trails system. In 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) authorized federal transportation dollars for trail projects. In recent years, a number of regional trail projects have been funded though the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, which disburses federal and state transportation money in the Portland metropolitan region.

In addition to paying for trail construction projects, funds from Metro's 1995 and 2006 bond measures supported the acquisition of a number of trail easements and water trail access points. Local cities and park districts have also used local funds to acquire, plan for and build new trail segments throughout the region.

For each project, different strategies are used. Pieces of trails are built, gaps are filled, key acquisitions are made and local landowners agree to participate. Each step moves us along the path to our goal of a regional trail network linking our communities to nature and to each other.