

MAKING A
GREAT
PLACE



Westside Trail Master Plan

Executive Summary

February 2014

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Trail purpose

Located on the west side of the metropolitan Portland region, the Westside Trail will provide a regional active transportation link for pedestrians and bicyclists between the Tualatin and Willamette Rivers. Spanning approximately 25 miles, this trail will connect dozens of neighborhoods, businesses, schools and parks as it passes through King City, Tigard, Beaverton and Portland, as well as the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) and unincorporated portions of Washington and Multnomah Counties.

The trail will provide a convenient, comfortable, and safe atmosphere for trail users of all types, ages, and abilities. Users will be able to recreate and commute using the trail, which has the potential to become an important corridor for wildlife habitat and movement. By primarily following the power transmission corridor owned or controlled by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Portland General Electric (PGE), the trail will extend through highly urbanized areas with relative ease and few land acquisition costs.

Master plan purpose

The master plan for the Westside Trail provides trail alignment, design and implementation guidance and is the culmination of over two years of a combined effort by Metro, consultant staff, a stakeholder advisory committee, and many groups and individuals who have contributed their ideas. The master plan will provide direction as local and regional partners embark on efforts to fund, design and build the trail.

The availability of the power corridor for trail development opens up the opportunity to establish a 25-mile-long trail, through highly developed urban lands, serving recreational and commuter bicyclists, pedestrians and, in some areas, equestrians. The trail will connect neighborhoods to major westside commercial and employment areas and to schools and open spaces. The major parks and natural areas connected by the Westside Trail will include the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Tualatin River Greenway, Tualatin Hills Nature Park, Terpenning Recreation Center, Bronson and Rock Creek Greenways, Forest Park, and the Willamette River Greenway, as well as numerous local parks.

In the course of this master plan effort, trail segments were adjusted or eliminated; trail alignment options were decreased, altered and added; and some underlying assumptions were modified. All illustrated trail alignments in the master plan are plan level, meaning that they have not been subject to survey, final design, or engineering.

Trail themes

The Westside Trail will reflect two unifying themes as it crosses through and connects communities: wildlife habitat and power transmission.

- This master plan proposes distinctive practices and standards for establishing the Westside Trail as a corridor for people *and* nature. Approaches to restoring and conserving habitats along the trail and within power corridors, as well as approaches to wildlife-friendly siting and design of trail pathways, crossings, bridges, and boardwalks, are an integral part of the master plan.
- The presence of power lines and transmission towers is an unmistakable feature of the trail corridor. Design themes and unifying elements such as signage and other amenities will recognize the heritage of electrical power that preserved a corridor for the trail.

Trail support

The trail has garnered strong support from project partners including the cities of King City, Tualatin, Tigard, and Portland; Multnomah and Washington Counties; BPA and PGE; THPRD; and Metro. Public input and the participation of local community organizations has been a strong influence on refining and adapting the trail alignments and options illustrated in this master plan.

These governmental and community partners will continue to work together to implement this master plan. The Westside Trail starts with the advantage of having several sections that have already been built by THPRD or that will be built by the end of 2014. In Washington County, between Kaiser Woods Park and the Multnomah County line, several trail sections have been built by private development or are scheduled for near-term construction. Trails in Portland’s Forest Park, including the NW Saltzman Road trail, are well-developed and numerous.

Trail highlights

King City to South Beaverton

The Westside Trail will include a new bridge over the Tualatin River near King City. Users crossing south on this bridge will connect with the future Ice Age Tonquin Trail and the Tualatin River Greenway Trail. Users heading north will pass through King City and Tigard neighborhoods, as well as urban unincorporated neighborhoods in Washington County. The trail over Bull Mountain will reveal spectacular views of rural Washington County to the west, and then enter Beaverton with connections to homes, schools and employment centers.

Beaverton to North Bethany

Existing segments of the trail built by THPRD will carry users to the Tualatin Hills Nature Park and TriMet’s MAX light rail transit line. A combination of trail sections built along city streets and within the power corridor will lead to a new trail bridge across US 26 (Sunset Highway) and will connect the urbanized commercial centers of Beaverton to north Beaverton and Bethany area neighborhoods and the Beaverton Creek Trail and the Rock Creek Trail.

West Hills to Portland

At the intersection of the Rock Creek Trail and Kaiser Woods Park, the Westside Trail will turn east and climb into the West Hills and then into Portland. The trail will enter the west side of Portland’s Forest Park at NW Saltzman Road and exit the park on the east side at the lower Saltzman Road gate. The final trail section will continue along NW Saltzman Road to the Willamette Greenway

along US 30 (St. Helens Road). From US 30, trail users can access downtown Portland or North Portland via the St. Johns Bridge.

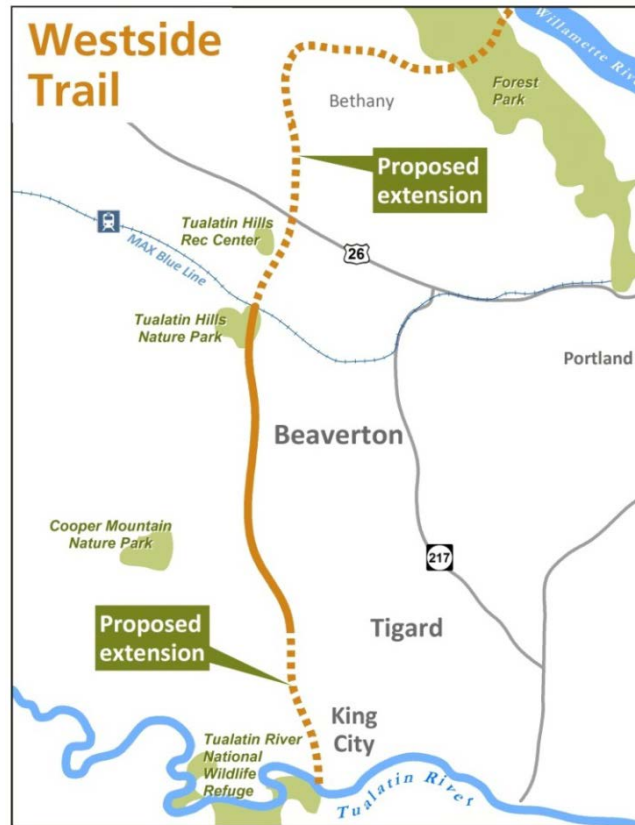


Figure 1 Proposed and existing Westside Trail segments
Illustration credit: Robert Spurlock

Plan process and implementation

The Westside Trail will be developed in phases. The trail’s jurisdictional partners will adopt the master plan into their respective plans and policy documents. THPRD, Metro, and area cities and counties, and potentially some neighborhood associations and user groups, will share construction and/or maintenance responsibility as funding becomes available. All partners are committed to finding creative solutions. This will be a complex process, as all partners share funding challenges. But the two-year planning effort has demonstrated that commitment is high to see the trail fully constructed.