

NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS

WHAT WE HEARD

At Community Event 2 in December we asked attendees to rank their top 3 activities (most important/very important/important) for the project. See below for what we heard.

TOP THREE ACTIVITIES



Off-road Cycling



Hiking



Being in Nature



OTHER ACTIVITIES



Trail running



Wildlife Viewing



Conservation Education



Playing



Volunteer Work



Scenic Viewing



Horseback riding



Art



Picnicking



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS VALUES

The North Tualatin Mountains Natural Area preserves valuable habitat, streams and biodiversity corridors between Forest Park and the Coast Range. Protecting habitat and water quality on these sites is Metro's first priority.

Access to nature supports healthy, active outdoor lifestyles and people depend on nature for peace, quiet and renewal. The North Tualatin Mountains are an opportunity for all to share in these benefits.

Metro intends to develop access to these sites in a sensitive and balanced way that ensures healthy habitats and a meaningful experience of nature.



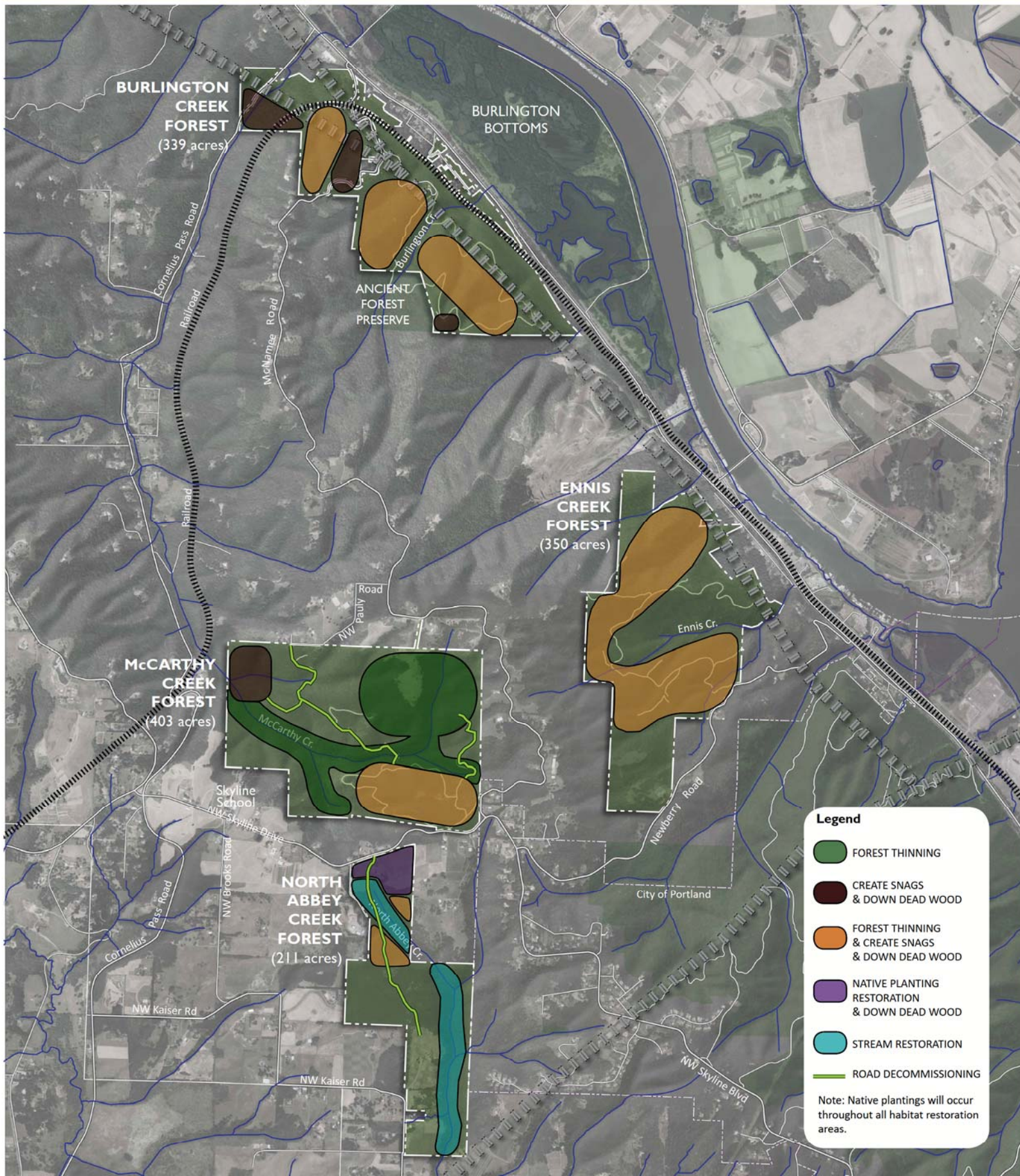
We plan to develop trail access on some, but not all, of the sites. We do not intend to develop all the trails shown.

The trail concepts show examples of trails system types and the range of possibilities.



Please fill out the survey and give us your feedback on the types of trails, trail systems and visitor experiences that you like.

NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS HABITAT RESTORATION



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS HABITAT RESTORATION

Forest Thinning



The North Tualatin Mountains natural areas have hundreds of acres of former commercial tree farms dominated by young stands of Douglas fir. Reducing the number of conifers per acre helps keep trees healthy and preserves hardwoods and native shrubs. Large diameter trees are lacking in the North Tualatin Mountains natural areas and are valuable for wildlife and water quality. Thinning accelerates tree growth and makes forests more resilient to disease and wildfire. Many of the trees removed during the thinning will stay on site and provide habitat as down wood.

Create Snags and Down Dead Wood

Standing dead trees (snags) and down wood have been removed by previous property owners through clearcut harvesting or other land uses. Adding them back into the forests by topping trees and dropping and leaving logs on the ground provides wildlife habitat and nutrient storage.



Native Plantings



Hardwoods and shrubs provide valuable food and shelter for many bird species but are often shaded out by fast growing conifers in young forests. Planting after thinning will help jump start the establishment of native shrubs and the creation of a diverse understory.



Stream Restoration



Large conifers and down wood have been removed from many of the North Tualatin riparian areas, resulting in incised (eroded) stream channels and slumping stream banks. Growing big conifers quickly and adding large wood into streams helps improve stream conditions and water quality.

Remove or Replace Culverts



Many culverts in the North Tualatin Mountains natural areas are old and under-sized, blocking wildlife movement and increasing the risk of failure and the amount of sediment into streams, resulting in decreased water quality. Removing or replacing culverts improves water quality and provides better wildlife connectivity.

Road Decommissioning

Old logging roads are a significant source of sediment in streams, which harms water quality and degrades fish habitat. Regrading and revegetating old roads reduce the risk of soil erosion and sediment in streams.



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS BURLINGTON CREEK

Burlington Creek Forest is part of the North Tualatin Mountains. This site's steep ridges and valleys were logged about twenty years ago and replanted with Douglas fir. The landscape is generally accessible due to existing logging roads. The southwest corner of the Burlington Creek Forest is adjacent to the Forest Park Conservancy's Ancient Forest Preserve.

HABITAT

Burlington Creek Forest protects an important link in habitat connectivity between Forest Park and coast range forest. This type of upland forest is especially important to migrating and nesting songbirds, woodpeckers, mammals such as Douglas squirrel and deer, and seasonal habitat for salamanders, frogs and turtles. Shrub dominated communities along the powerline corridor provide food and cover for neotropical migrant songbirds and create habitat for a variety of pollinator species.



TRAIL EXPERIENCE

Trails in Burlington Creek Forest would explore the ridges and valleys of the site. Burlington Creek Forest offers a great setting for a day hike or family picnic. Glimpses of a wooden railroad trestle recall the area's timber and railroad history. The Pacific Greenway Trail, a potential future regional trail connection, might someday connect coast range trails and Forest Park through the site. The Ancient Forest Preserve, managed by the Forest Park Conservancy would also be accessed from Burlington's day use area.



VIEWPOINTS

A power transmission corridor traverses the site, providing a clearing in the forest canopy. The trail crosses the corridor in several places, allowing visitors openings in the trees to see views of Sauvie Island and on a clear day several Cascade peaks.



ENTRANCE/DAY USE AREA

The primary access to this site is via McNamee Road, which requires safety improvements in order to accommodate a public entrance and day use area. A day use area could provide a small parking area, shelter and restrooms.



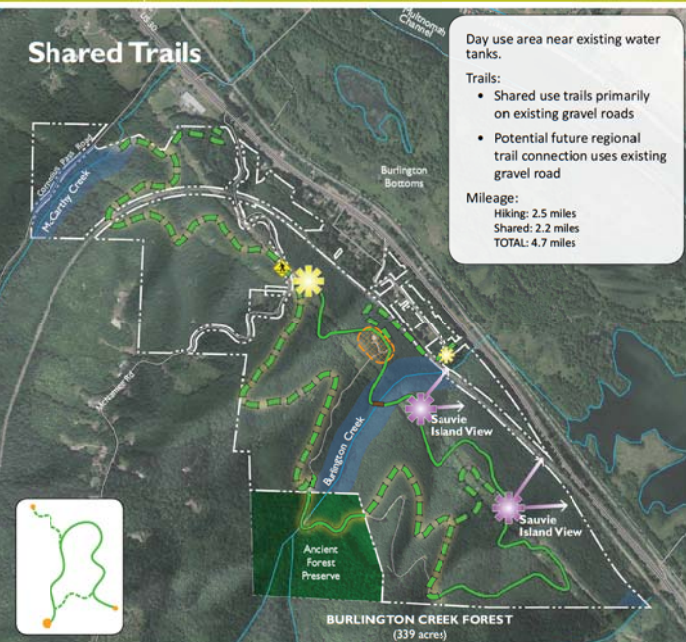
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Burlington Creek Forest and the Ancient Forest Preserve provide a delightful setting in the trees, and a dynamic place to observe a variety of forest ages, and learn about restoration and healthy forest habitat. Views of Sauvie Island and Columbia River provide a first hand observation of the region's geography.

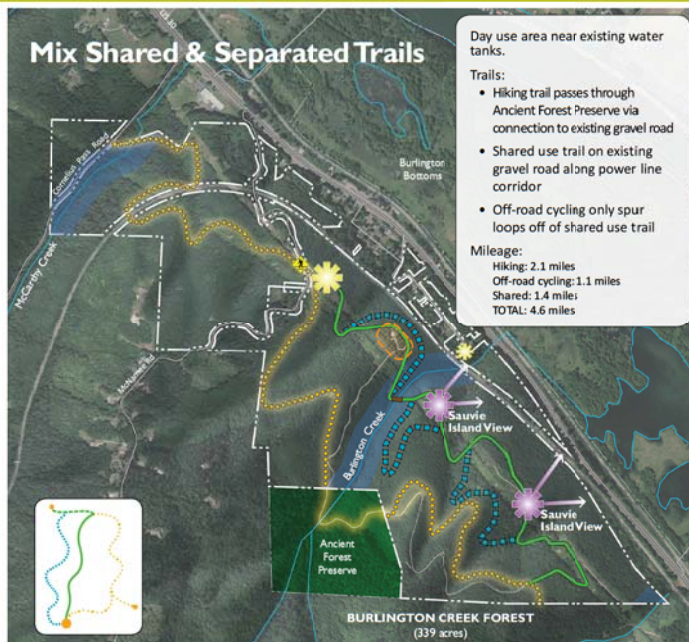


NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS BURLINGTON CREEK

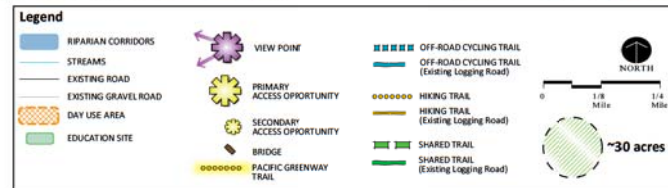
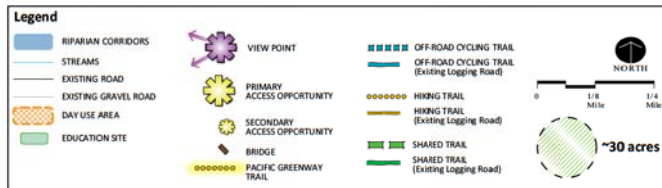
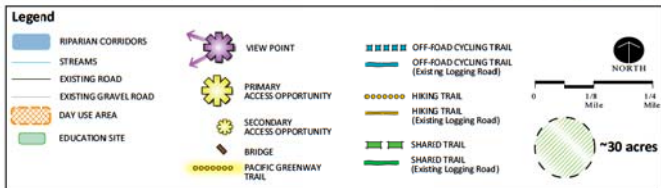
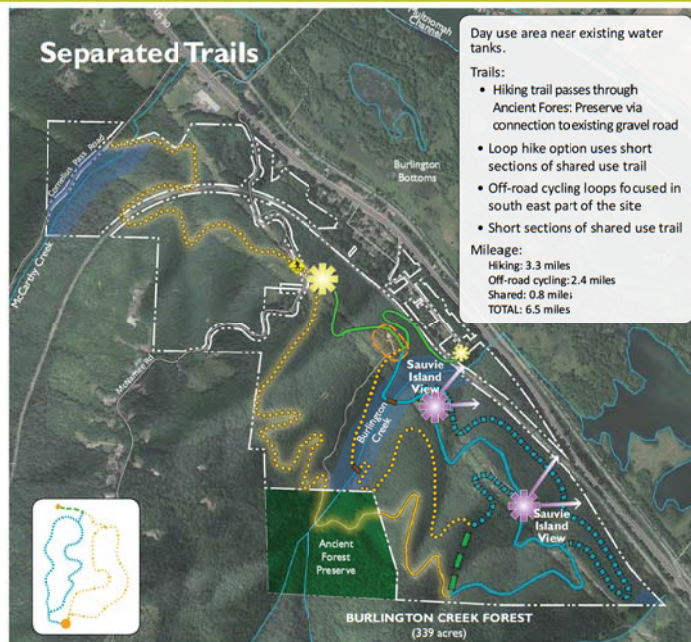
Shared Trails



Mix Shared & Separated Trails



Separated Trails



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS ENNIS CREEK



Instead of alternating steep ridges and valleys that are typical of the Tualatin Mountains, the north and south forks of Ennis Creek flow through more gentle topography. Forested wetlands provide habitat for amphibians, like red-legged frogs, a local celebrity species that plays an important ecological role. This site also has a rich agricultural history and includes an active small farm.

HABITAT

Like Burlington to the north, Ennis Creek Forest protects an important link in habitat connectivity between Forest Park and coast range forest. Habitat corridors like this one support local species biodiversity. Ennis Creek's Forested wetlands provide habitat for red-legged frogs. Elk can sometimes be seen moving through the power line corridor or grazing in that areas that remain open from past agricultural operations.



TRAIL EXPERIENCE

Gentle sloping trails would allow visitors to meander through second growth forests. Boardwalks and footbridges help protect habitat while inviting visitors to learn about Ennis Creek's plants, mammals, birds, and amphibians. At the edge of a small clearing there might be a sunny spot to picnic and the possibility of seeing elk graze. In the future, the Pacific Greenway Trail may provide a regional trail connection between coast range trails and Forest Park.



VIEWPOINTS

A trail climbs to a ridge-top vista of Sauvie Island and the Columbia River. On a clear day, the backdrop includes several Cascade peaks.



ENTRANCE/DAY USE AREA

An access point off of Newberry Road provides the best opportunity for a day use area at the site. It is currently developed as a home site and the area has been in agricultural use for decades. In the future, visitors could be greeted by a small parking lot nested between the forest edge and farmstead site. The day use area could provide restrooms, picnicking, and a short nature trail with opportunities to learn about the site's history and habitat.



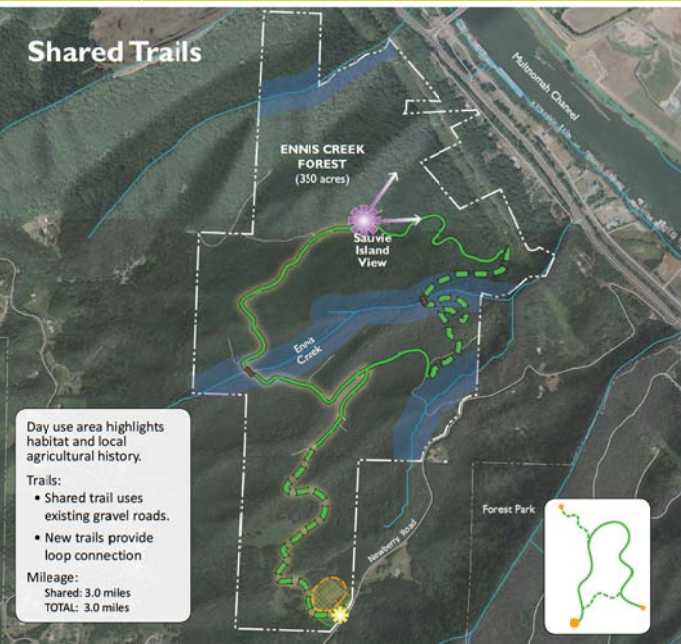
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Educational opportunities are abundant in Ennis Creek Forest. The forest provides a good home for red-legged frogs. Views of Sauvie Island and Columbia River are an opportunity to observe the region's geography first hand. The site's agricultural history offers many opportunities for connecting with and learning about nature and history.

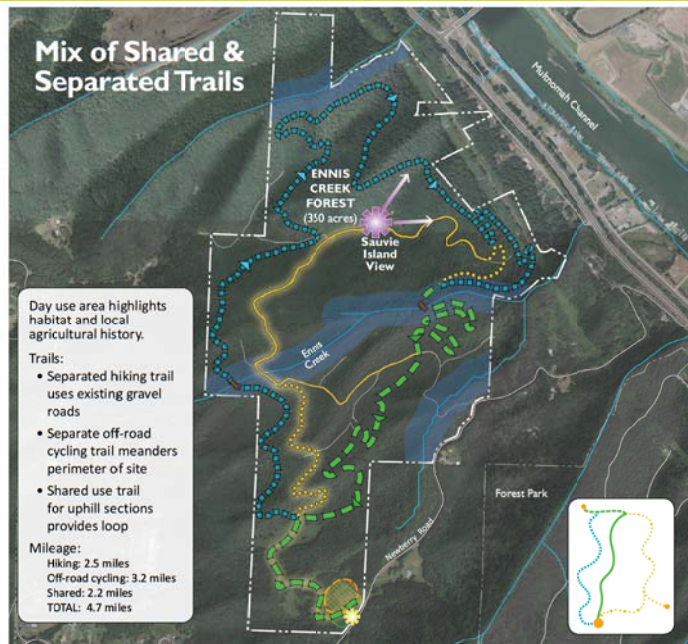


NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS ENNIS CREEK

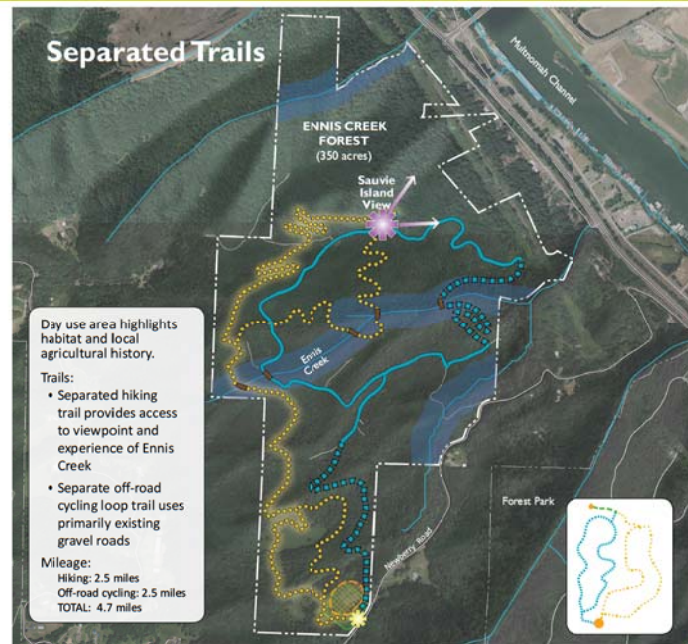
Shared Trails



Mix of Shared & Separated Trails



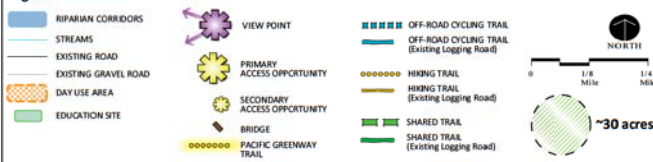
Separated Trails



Legend



Legend



Legend



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS MCCARTHY CREEK



McCarthy Creek Forest is part of the Tualatin Mountains, the ridge which extends from the coast range along the Columbia River and separates the Columbia/Willamette floodplain from the Tualatin Valley. The Tualatin Mountains are characterized by steep ridges and valleys dominated by upland and riparian forest. McCarthy Creek flows west then north, through the Tualatin Mountains ridge via Cornelius Pass before emptying into the Multnomah Channel.

HABITAT

Riparian forests protect water quality and provide important habitat near the headwaters of McCarthy Creek. Older forests provide diverse canopy along the stream. The upland forest is composed primarily of second growth Douglas fir, big-leaf maple, Oregon grape, salal and sword fern. Upland forests are especially important to migrating and nesting songbirds, woodpeckers, mammals such as Douglas squirrel and elk, and seasonal habitat for salamanders, frogs and turtles.



TRAIL EXPERIENCE

The varied topography of the site offers opportunities for a variety of family friendly trail experiences. There is an opportunity for a gently graded trail that culminates in a beautiful vista across the Tualatin Valley. For off-road cycling, there might be a choice of descending routes with varying levels of challenge. For hiking, a loop trail could explore McCarthy Creek's valley.



VIEWPOINTS

The Tualatin Valley View offers a unique vantage point across Hillsboro and Cornelius to Chehalem Ridge and the Coast Range. This vista provides a good vantage point from which to experience how the site fits into the region's geography. The McCarthy Creek View offers a perspective of the creek's valley as it curves toward the north on it's way to Multnomah Channel.



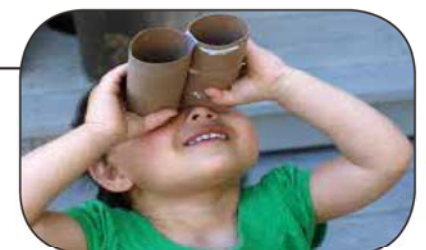
ENTRANCE/DAY USE AREA

An access point off of Skyline Drive offers an opportunity for a day use area at the southern end of the site. A day use area at this location could include a small parking lot, shelter and restrooms.

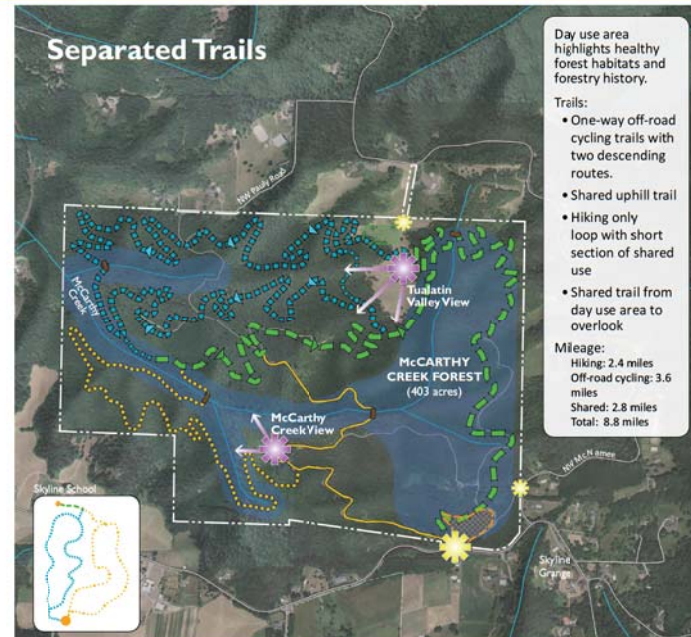
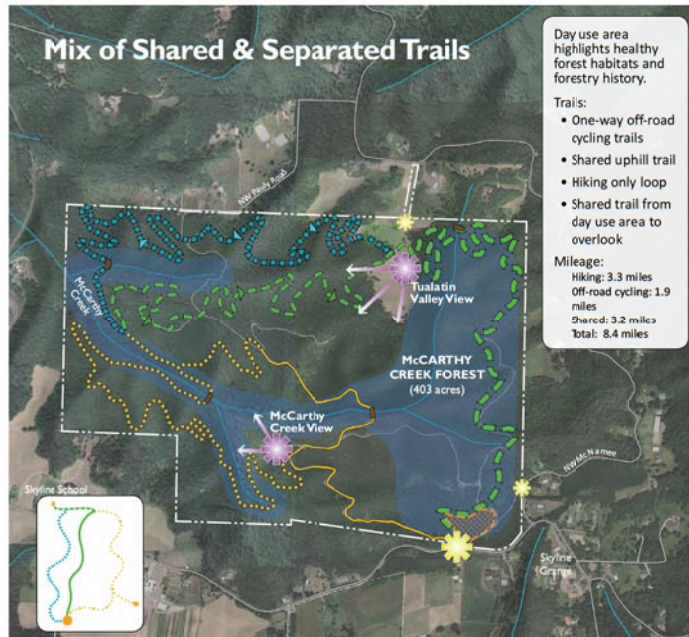
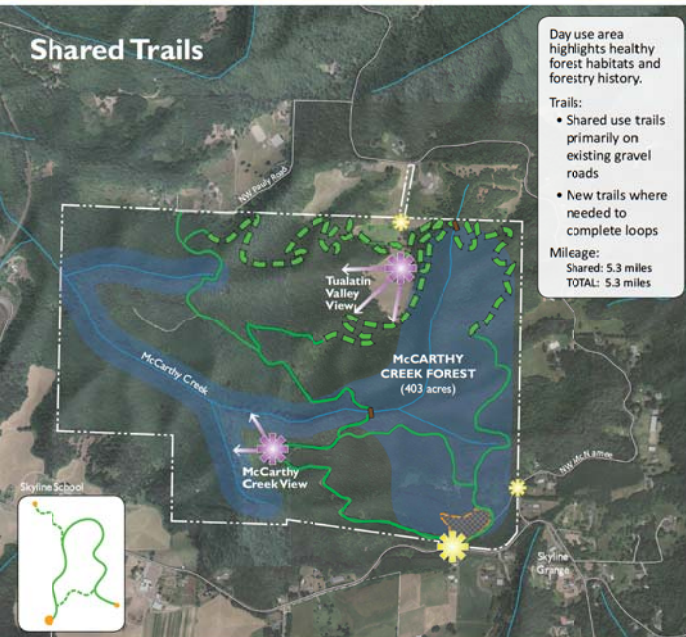


EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Stories of the local area include early settlers' kids walking to school along a route which crossed the valley, led down to McCarthy Creek and back up to Skyline School. For Skyline School students, this could be an opportunity to connect kids to nature and the local history of the community. Volunteer stewardship opportunities could focus on improving the forest understory, and monitoring trails to ensure they are well maintained and used properly.



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS MCCARTHY CREEK



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS NORTH ABBEY CREEK



At the north boundary of the site, Skyline Ridge defines the edge of the Tualatin River watershed. North Abbey Creek Forest is the only North Tualatin Mountains site that is in the Tualatin River watershed. The site includes the headwaters of North Abbey Creek. Its forest is older and more diverse, with big leaf maple, Douglas fir and a diverse understory. Large open areas offer elk habitat, opportunities for early successional pollinator habitat, and a unique bird watching experience. The site offers a potential opportunity for a future regional trail connection to the Waterhouse Trail (to the south).

HABITAT

Native shrub dominated restoration areas provide pollinator habitat, and food and cover for neotropical migrant songbirds. Riparian forests protect water quality and provide important habitat near the headwaters of North Abbey Creek, a tributary of the Tualatin River. Tributary creeks and confluence areas provide clean and cold water, nutrients and refuge areas for many important local species.



TRAIL EXPERIENCE

North Abbey Creek offers an opportunity for a narrow trail to meander through pollinator habitat, descend into the forest, and follow an old logging road grade above North Abbey Creek. Stop here to listen for varied thrush or black headed grosbeak. Look for some of your favorite understory plants, waterleaf, trillium or fringe cup. How many different ferns can you find? This trail opportunity offers the potential for a future connection to the Waterhouse Trail in Washington County.



VIEWPOINTS

The open areas offer views out across the west hills looking east and south. Views include pastoral landscapes and nearby hills.



ENTRANCE/DAY USE AREA

The south access offers opportunities to support education and volunteer programs. A small day use area at the north end of the site could provide a unique bird watching experience or an opportunity to walk along a short trail through the woods.



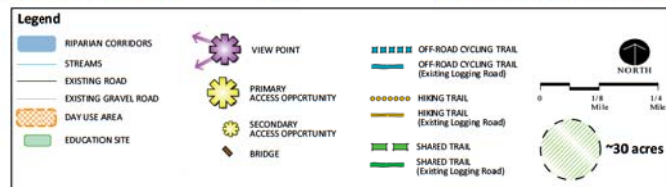
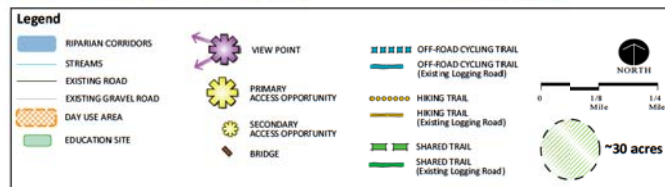
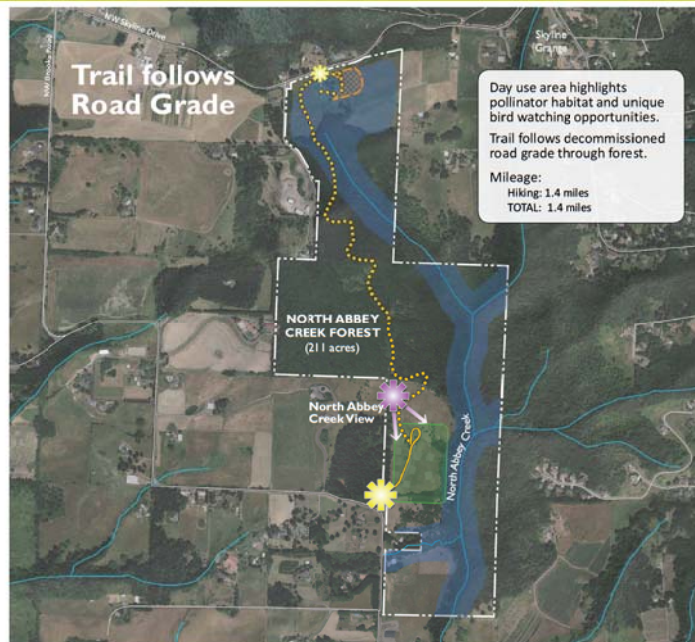
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Local schools' field trips can focus on birds, pollinators, frogs, stream ecology, or wildlife tracking. Metro's recent educational partnerships with Self Enhancement Inc, an organization supporting at-risk urban youth, and Trackers Earth, which promotes outdoor leadership and nature education for all ages, have focused on North Abbey Creek.



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS

NORTH ABBEY CREEK



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS DAY USE AREA

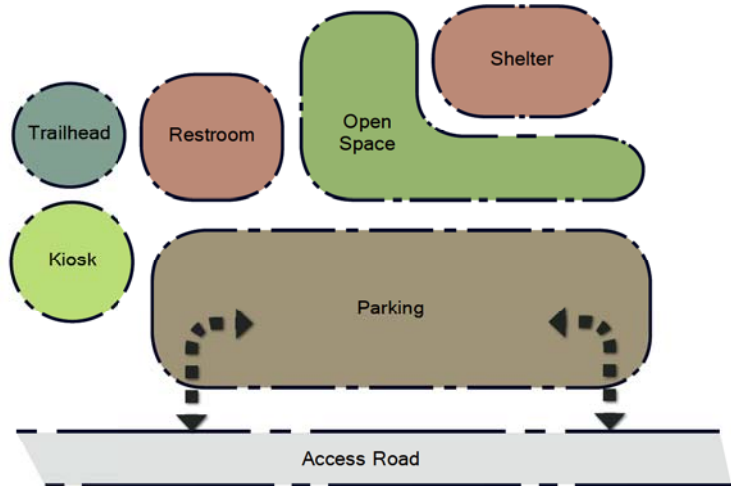
Shelters



Trailheads



Schematic



Parking Lots



Restrooms



Birding Features



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS FACILITIES

Bridges



Resting Places



Overlooks



Boardwalks



NORTH TUALATIN MOUNTAINS FACILITIES

Trails



Trail Types

Shared



Designed to minimize user conflicts

- Long sight lines ensure both hikers and off-road cyclists are aware of each other.
- Trail design can slow cyclists down often with choke points, obstacles and turns
- Wide spots allow passing

Hiking



Designed to maximize hiking experience

- Offer more direct connection to viewpoints and other destinations
- Opportunities for nature trails and interpretation
- Grades can be steeper for hikers

Off-Road Cycling



Optimized for off-road cycling

- Many curves and turns
- Varied topography with alternating ascent and descent
- Offer a variety of challenge levels
- Trails will be family friendly