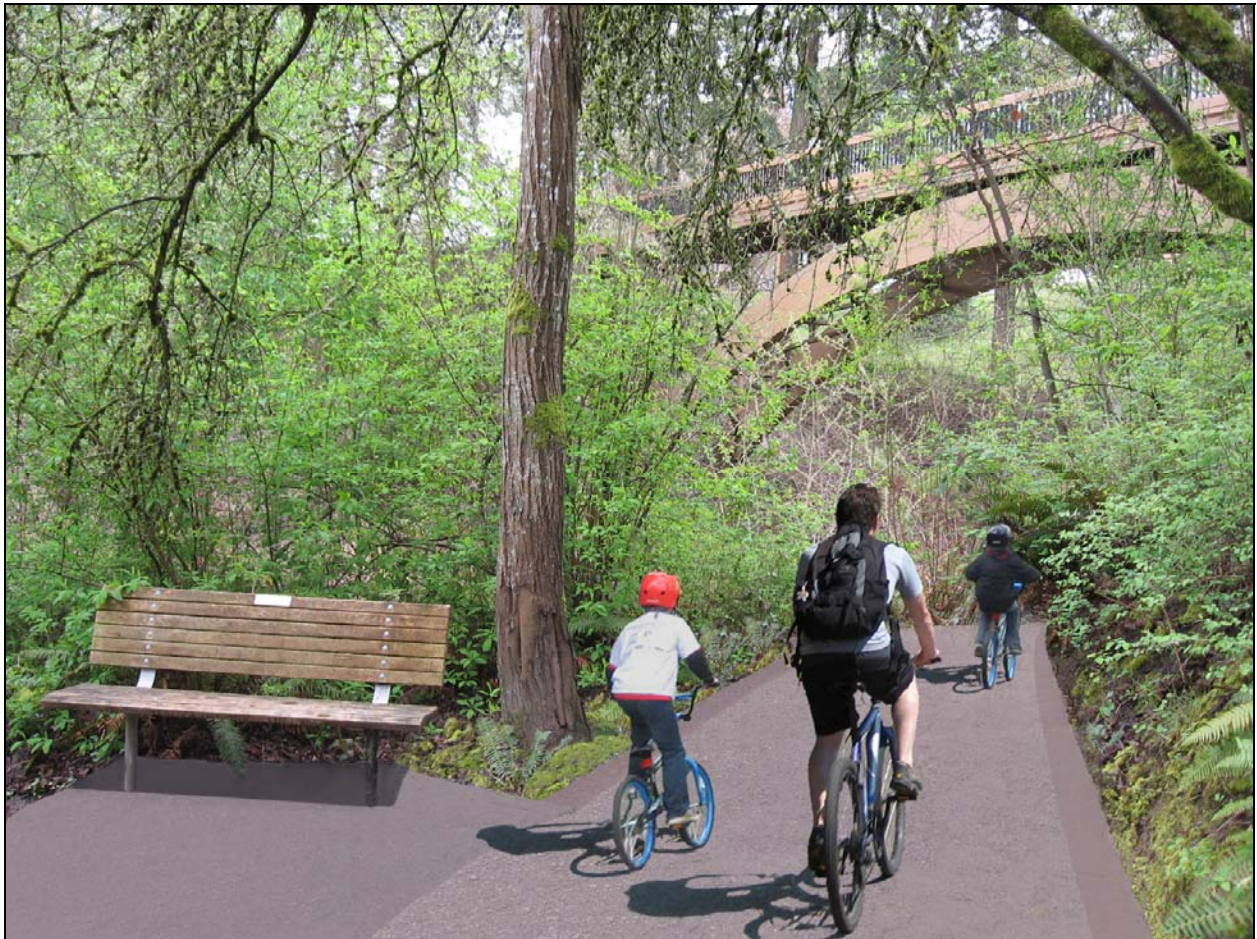


Chehalem Heritage Trails

Connecting Neighbors and Communities With Each Other and Their Heritage

Phase 1 Master Plan



April 23, 2012

▪ **INTRODUCTION**

Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) is developing a network of pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trail improvements named the Chehalem Heritage Trails in the Yamhill Valley, Oregon. This trail development will ultimately provide over 70 miles of pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails throughout the communities of Newberg and Dundee and beyond. Figure 1 shows the contextual setting for this trail system. The Chehalem Heritage Trails will provide regional, community, and neighborhood connections that celebrate the cultural history, the natural history, and the recreational potential of the region.

The Chehalem Heritage Trails Phase 1 Master Plan proposes implementing the first of multiple phases of the Chehalem Heritage Trails. Phase 1 includes approximately 24 miles of trails in Newberg and Dundee with a focus on improved pedestrian and bicycle access between Newberg, Dundee, and the Willamette River. These trails will vastly improve community connections between Newberg and Dundee.

▪ **BACKGROUND**

CPRD worked closely with a multi-disciplinary consultant team to develop the Chehalem Heritage Trails Phase 1 Master Plan. Vigil-Agrimis, Inc. (VAI) led planning for the Chehalem Heritage Trails from the Strategic Plan that began in 2009, and through the Master Plan in 2012 with support from several teammates. Hanna, McEldowney & Associates provided right-of-way planning services to determine potential right-of-way opportunities along the proposed trails. KPFF Consulting Engineers provided transportation and structural engineering recommendations on trail alignments; Stephens Planning and Design assisted with urban and regional planning; and Jerry M. Palmer provided civil engineering services. Additionally, Anderson-Krygier provided graphic design support for trails wayfinding signage throughout the Phase 1 Master Plan process.

CPRD actively engaged multiple stakeholders to gain input for design during development of the Strategic Plan and the Master Plan. CPRD sponsored a series of public open houses in 2009 and 2010 to gather input for the proposed trails, and this input was incorporated into a cohesive Strategic Plan in 2010 that proposed a trail network functioning at regional, community, and neighborhood scales. Proposed improvements include installation of accessible multi-use trails, retrofitting streets to become shared roadways with bike boulevards, providing boardwalk trails in sensitive habitats, adding bicycle lanes along busier roads, and providing consistent wayfinding signage throughout the network. Restoration of natural areas and implementation of cultural resources educational signage along the proposed trail system are key elements.

Stakeholder involvement continued during the Phase 1 Master Plan development with public meetings and with convening an Advisory Committee that met four times during 2010 - 2011. The Advisory Committee helped to refine proposed alignments according to their understanding of community needs and based on input from contacted property owners.



STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan identified goals and objectives for the Chehalem Heritage Trails; solicited and refined points of interest for the region, communities, and neighborhoods; and sketched out potential trails to make connections between those points of interest. Figure 2 shows points of interest identified during planning. Restoration opportunities along Hess Creek, Chehalem Creek, Springbrook Creek, and the Willamette River were also identified in the Strategic Plan.

Goals and Objectives- CPRD created the Chehalem Heritage Trails Strategic Plan to communicate the proposed trail development concepts and key recommendations with the community, funding organizations, and other potential stakeholders. The goal for the trail system is to create an outstanding 70+ mile trail system that preserves and enhances the greater Chehalem Valley communities' parks, historic heritage, natural resources heritage, open space, and community connectivity.

Six key objectives were determined for the Chehalem Heritage Trails:

1. Provide a safe trail system which promotes fitness, recreation, and increased transportation opportunities within the local region
2. Link the network to trails, parks, and open space systems outside the Chehalem Valley
3. Emphasize the historical legacy of the Chehalem Valley, including historical figures and interpretive materials
4. Promote habitat restoration, including the removal of invasive species and creation of interpretive materials
5. Provide safe connections within the region, emphasizing off-street trails and side street shoulders for non-motorized users (with lighting as appropriate)
6. Promote local economy, tourism, education, and wellness.

Points of Interest- the Chehalem Heritage Trails will connect key points of interest that hold historical, community/cultural, educational, natural resources, and civic/commercial significance in the Newberg and Dundee areas. These points were identified by stakeholders and the public at a series of public involvement meetings held in 2009 and 2010. At these meetings, the public ranked key local points based on their popularity and usage. The planning team then utilized these prioritized points to develop a consistent network of trails that meet property, land use, and topographic constraints. These points of interest informed the formation of the Strategic Plan with review of the Newberg ADA/Pedestrian/Bikeway Improvement Plan and the Downtown Newberg Vision 2020.



Trails Network

The Chehalem Heritage Trails are planned to function on regional, community, and neighborhood scales. The entire trails network connects key regional points of interest within the Chehalem Valley and beyond, such as Champoege State Park and Bald Peak State Park. On a community scale, the network provides accessible multi-modal connections between Newberg and Dundee to facilitate better access to recreation facilities, shops and services, and bicycle-oriented commuting. The Chehalem Heritage Trails will also support neighborhood connections with safe routes to schools and will promote recreation opportunities between local parks. The trails network was identified as having 15 potential phases of approximately five miles.

▪ **PHASE 1 MASTER PLAN**

The Phase 1 Master Plan focuses on the core of the Chehalem Heritage Trails. It does this by planning improved pedestrian and bicycle access within Newberg and Dundee and connections between these communities. Figure 3 shows the proposed Phase 1 trails to be developed or improved. There are five focus areas of the master plan:

1. Utilize portions of existing Rights of Way, sidewalks, and trails that are available
2. Approach landowners along proposed trail corridors to learn who might be willing sellers
3. Continue working with key stakeholders in Newberg, Dundee, George Fox University, Yamhill County, ODOT, Union Pacific, School District, Oregon State Parks, and others to develop trails design
4. Develop wayfinding signage with the City of Newberg and City of Dundee that identifies the Chehalem Heritage Trails and allows users to readily navigate between features along the trails
5. Prepare the Hess Creek Canyon Native Plant Garden Master Plan as a natural resources restoration model along Hess Creek.

The Phase 1 Master Plan continued stakeholder engagement.

Utilize Existing Right of Ways

The proposed trails include portions of developed Right of Ways for shared roadways, bicycle boulevards, sidewalks, and multiuse trails. Developing these alignments will be accomplished through careful coordination with Newberg, Dundee, Yamhill County, and ODOT. Development of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass will create stream crossing and other opportunities for the Chehalem Heritage Trails.



Approach Landowners

CPRD contacted landowners along key trail segments directly and through the consultant team. These initial contacts served to identify property owners who would be willing to negotiate for easements or purchase, those that might be open, and those who were unlikely to participate. Some of these conversations have continued with willing and potentially willing land owners, but most have been paused prior to passage of the anticipated Bond Measure.

Continue Working with Key Stakeholders

The District continued outreach to stakeholders during the Phase 1 Master Plan process. Key stakeholders were engaged through an advisory committee. CPRD held two Community Meetings to gather input from the public to contribute to the completion of the Master Plan. Some comments were also obtained from the CPRD web site. The planning team incorporated feedback from the Community Meetings and the web site to inform the preliminary alignment of the Master Plan.

Advisory Committee

CPRD convened an Advisory Committee of 15 members to lead the vetting of the proposed trails plan and to further develop relationships with key stakeholders. A list of the Advisory Committee members is in Appendix A. The Advisory Committee met four times and conducted a tour that included key points of interest and proposed trail alignments and trail types.

Community Meeting 1 for Chehalem Heritage Trails Phase 1 Master Plan, November 4, 2010

The meeting was held at the CPRD Adult Enrichment Center, and VAI provided an overview of the Chehalem Heritage Trails to the public and presented potential key trail segment locations in Newberg and Dundee. VAI also presented three proposed trail types to the public, including multi-use trails, on-street bike lanes/sidewalks, and on-street bicycle boulevards and sidewalks.

Community Meeting 2 for Chehalem Heritage Trails Phase 1 Master Plan, March 8, 2011

The meeting reviewed project intentions and informed the public of key features of the Draft Master Plan, including 16 miles of off-street and on-street trails with initial costs. VAI solicited input from the public for preferred alignments and orientations of the trail network to complete the Master Plan Phase 1. Both meetings were run as open houses and summaries were prepared that are in Appendix B.

Web Site- CPRD also provided information to the public regarding the Chehalem Heritage Trails Master Planning process on its web site to solicit feedback during the Master Planning process.

Develop Wayfinding Signage

CPRD developed signage with four components to assist in wayfinding along the Chehalem Heritage Trails:

- Chehalem Heritage Trails logo
- Individual trail name
- Universal bicycle trail symbol.
- Directional and distance information.

Numerous drafts were prepared and shared with the City of Newberg as part of the process of obtaining approval for the signs from the Newberg Traffic Safety Committee. Dundee planning staff was also engaged in this process.

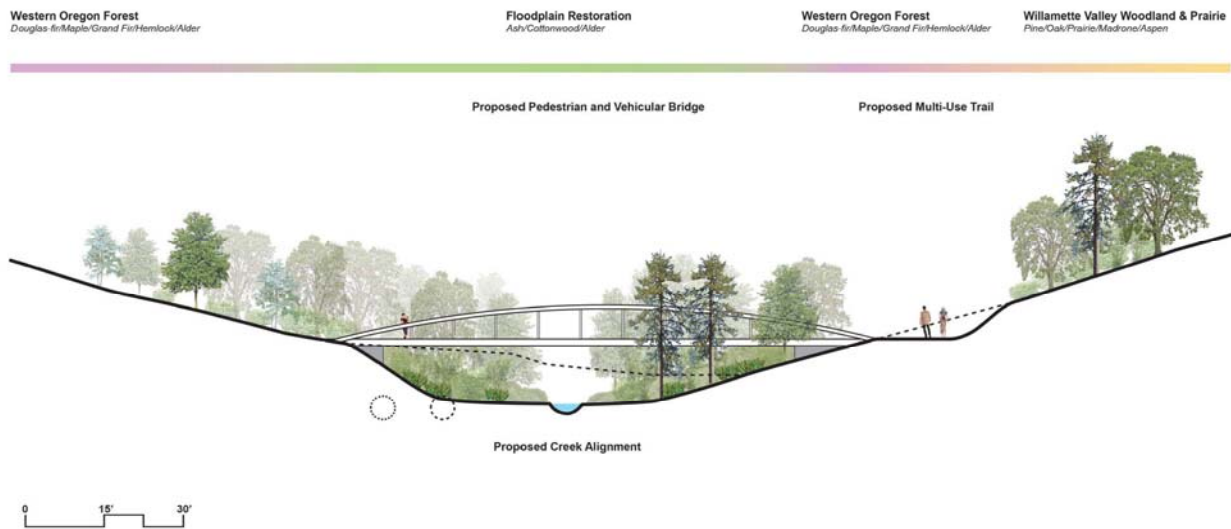


Proposed Wayfinding Signage

Hess Creek Canyon Gardens Master Plan

George Fox University (GFU) is a key stakeholder involved in planning the Chehalem Heritage Trails since the development of the Strategic Plan. Clyde Thomas, facilities manager for GFU, has led the development of a botanical garden within the existing Hess Creek Canyon. The botanical collection will comprise the majority of the Hess Creek Canyon from the north edge at Fulton Street through the south edge at Highway 99. This collection would showcase a large portion of botanical species from distinct ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest, including the Willamette Valley, the Cascades foothills, and the Coastal Range. The Hess Creek Canyon Gardens Master Plan is shown in Appendix C.

The Hess Creek Canyon Trail was identified as a key point of interest by the public throughout the planning process of the Chehalem Heritage Trails. The proposed improvements to this trail will increase public access to this outstanding natural area and provide restoration through removal of invasive plant species and stream restoration through replacement of undersized culverts and removal of abandoned utility lines. With the education potential of the GFU Botanical Garden, the Hess Creek Canyon trail would provide an outstanding opportunity for ecological education as part of the Chehalem Heritage Trails.



Descriptions of Trail Segments

The Chehalem Heritage Trails will feature three basic trail types within its network. The three trail types are: off-street multi-use trails (paved 10-12 feet wide), on-street bicycle lanes/bike shoulders and sidewalks, and on-street bicycle boulevards (shared roadways with signage for bicycles) and sidewalks. The Chehalem Heritage Trails Master Plan features these trail types in several trail segments that provide connections between key points as shown in Figure 4. These trail segments include:

Central Newberg Trail Segment- This portion of trail system proposes bike boulevards (shared roadways with signage for bicycles) that create important connections to the Chehalem Cultural Center, the Newberg Library, Newberg City Hall, city center shops, George Fox University, local parks, and other points of interest. Three streets will serve as important links in the system, including Sheridan, Howard, and Meridian Street. The initial implementation will use the existing three-foot wide sidewalks, and expand the sidewalks on one side of the street to six feet.

Dayton Avenue Trail Segment- This proposed trail will feature a combination of bike boulevards, bike lanes/bike shoulders, and multi-use paths that connect Memorial Park in Newberg to Billick Park in Dundee. The trail would include a shared roadway/bicycle boulevard and six foot sidewalks at the west side of Howard Street and south-east side of East 6th. Existing three-foot and four-foot sidewalks would be replaced with six-foot sidewalks in Newberg. Road surface widening will be needed beyond Newberg city limits.

The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is below 2,000, which is used as a rough threshold below which mixing vehicles and bicycles work well. A traffic calming toolkit will be developed for intersections in this area including elements such as marked or raised crosswalks, speed bumps, curb extensions, and median islands. This trail segment will also be planned with consideration for the operational needs of emergency vehicles.

The existing bridge at Chehalem Creek will not be widened in Master Plan Phase 1, but the bridge will be resurfaced and new railing will be installed for safety. A bicycle lane will be provided for uphill climbs on both sides of the bridge, and speed limit signage will be developed and posted to facilitate mixing confident bicyclists and motorists on the downhill approaches across the bridge.

Right of Way (20-foot minimum) will be needed to connect from Dayton Avenue to Edwards Street in Dundee. An alignment parallel to the Union Pacific tracks is preferred for this portion of the trail system.



Proposed Future Dayton Avenue

Dundee to River Trail Segment- This trail will feature a bike boulevard along Southeast 8th Street in Dundee. The trail will join the Dayton Avenue Trail to the north, will provide connection to downtown Dundee across Southwest 5th Street, and will extend east-west along Southeast 8th Street to the Willamette Riverfront at Ash Island.

Willamette Riverfront Trail Segment- This trail will be a multi-use path that stretches along the Willamette River from Ash Island near Dundee to Rogers Landing Park in the south of Newberg. The segment will feature expansive views along the Willamette River, including the floodplain communities of Ash Island, and will provide unique wildlife viewing opportunities.



Proposed Future Rogers Landing Road

Chehalem Creek Trail Segment- This segment will be a multi-use path that connects the Willamette riverfront with Ewing Young Park in Newberg. This trail will extend through a range of floodplain and upland ecosystems that will provide a rich environmental experience for trail users and provide opportunities for natural resources restoration.

Hess Creek Corridor Trail Segment- This trail is intended to be an off-street multi-use trail that will put users in close contact with natural resource assets in the east area of Newberg. The trail will provide rich opportunities for viewing wildlife that frequent this corridor, such as Great Blue Herons, other migratory birds, deer, and small mammals. The existing gravel trail system developed by George Fox University will be enhanced to meet the regional trail 10-foot paved surface standard. As the future vision of the Hess Creek Botanical Garden at George Fox University is realized, this trail will provide a unique opportunity for public education and interaction with ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest. The trail segment will connect Babe Niclous Pool Park on Fulton Street at its Northern edge through the improved trails at Hess Creek Canyon. The segment will continue as bike boulevards along downtown Newberg via Hancock, Sheridan, and Meridian. The trail will then continue as a multi-use path from Hoover Park to the south toward the Willamette River at Highway 219.

Haworth-Springbrook Trail Segment- This trail will connect to the Hess Creek Corridor Trail at its western edge and will feature a bike boulevard along Fulton Street and Haworth Avenue. The trail will provide a north-south connection to the Allison Inn (point of interest to the northeast of central Newberg) through a series of existing and proposed bike lanes along Springbrook Street.

▪ **Cost Estimate and Implementation**

The cost estimate for the completion of Chehalem Heritage Trails Phase 1 is \$19.5 million. A cost breakout by trail portion is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1
Estimated Cost**

Portion	Bounds	ROW Cost	Construction Cost	25% Contingency	20% Engineering	10% Mobil. & Bond	Estimated Cost
Central Newberg	Sheridan/Rogers Landing	\$0	\$1,196,300	\$299,100	\$239,300	\$149,500	\$1,884,200
Central Dundee	Upland to Edwards	\$0	\$417,300	\$104,300	\$83,500	\$52,200	\$657,300
Dayton Ave	Howard to Edwards	\$102,200	\$1,023,500	\$281,400	\$225,100	\$130,500	\$1,762,700
Dundee to River	8th/R. Landing/E. Young	\$2,251,200	\$1,604,500	\$963,900	\$771,100	\$256,800	\$5,847,500
Hess Creek	Allison/90 Acres	\$1,854,500	\$4,107,500	\$1,490,500	\$1,192,400	\$559,800	\$9,204,700
Chehalem Glenn	N & S of Fernwood	\$36,300	\$58,300	\$23,700	\$18,900	\$8,200	\$145,400
		\$4,244,200	\$8,407,400	\$3,162,900	\$2,530,300	\$1,157,000	\$19,501,800

Phase 1 would be implemented over five to seven years should an anticipated bond measure be approved. Grant funding from ODOT and other sources would be needed to supplement the potential bond measure funding.



Proposed Future 6th Street, Newberg