



October 28, 2009 7-8:30 PM
Chehalem Youth Building
Newberg, OR

This kickoff meeting for the Chehalem Heritage Trail Strategic Plan invited a number of key stakeholders to review project goals and objectives and to discuss points of interest along the trail system. The meeting presented work completed on the goals statement and on preliminary mapping since mid-September when a consultant team was engaged by Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD). A list of attendees is at the back of this summary.

Welcome: Paul Agrimis with Vigil-Agrimis, Inc. (consultant team project manager)

Introduction: Don Clements, CPRD Superintendent
This project has been developing for over 15 years with input from a number of visionary people in the Chehalem Valley. The proposed trail system is a legacy gift to our children and grandchildren that celebrates the rich legacy of the Chehalem Valley in terms of history, natural resources and recreation. Portions of the trail already exist.

Discussion of Draft of Goals and Objectives: Paul Agrimis
Goal - This project will create an outstanding 50+ mile trail system that links the greater Newberg-Dundee area through parks, historic preservation, habitat restoration, multi-modal transportation, education, and tourism.

Group Input – Goals Statement

- Connecting regional, community, and neighborhood areas is important
- Recreational purposes are important – not a focus but needs to be well incorporated
- Strong Cultural History is good; historic sites should be identified
- Paths that travel to and through city streets
- Ideally future additions are anticipated and established later
- Economic Factor – potential economic force – increase property values – more healthy communities, and tourism benefits
- Quality of life improvement
- Multi-modal transportation – walk/run – bike – equestrian – not all areas will offer the same opportunities
- Well defined public information program needed to mark trail network
- Viewpoints for wildlife viewing are needed to protect resources and private property
- This should be a voluntary program to support community assets
- The trails should be community specific – at the scale of the community

Group Input – Objectives

1. Safe Routes

- Linkages across Highway 99W, Bypass – Noted span across I-5 in Eugene/Springfield
 - Convenience
 - Scaled to community
- Consider a range of solutions from totally off street versus just a larger shoulder that is part of the street
- Integrate with local jurisdiction trails
- Protect property owners – security of property owner against damages, vandalism etc

2. Linkages at local, regional, and state levels

- Start with Chehalem Valley and reach out
- Provide linkages with others that are in progress
- Substantial investments needed to support project
- Funding available – grants etc

3. Historical Legacy – Recognize and Celebrate

- 200 registered historical homes – state inventory in Newberg
- Geological history
- Museums – Rail – Lumber
- Newberg History
- Dundee History
- River History
 - 30 riverboat landings
 - RR crossings and facilities
- Red Electric trolley

4. Habitat Restoration / Interpretive

- Labeling – standardization is important to making it easy and safe to use
- Interpretive plan could be done in phases
- Audio tour – example give regarding San Francisco
- Landmark trees
 - Trees important to Native Americans
 - Survey Bearing Trees
 - Heritage Trees

5. Safe Connections

- This can include canoe and kayak trails too
- Consider roller blades, skate boards, strollers/small children
- Current focus non-motorized
 - Electric carts for disabled use
 - Segway vehicles?
- Avoid Main Arteries – use sections that are less busy with vehicles

- Lighting – when and when

6. Local Economy / Tourism

- This will provide large potential opportunity to shape community
- The trail will promote the local economy, education, and tourism
- This will create business opportunities in the existing community and attract new business
- Add RR/trolley connection as appropriate
- River tourism (Keizer to Newberg)
- Birding – Audubon has a state wide map of locations
- Quality of Life will improve

Points of Interest:

A number of new sites were added to the draft maps with sticky notes and conversation.

Closing Overview:

The Strategic Plan will be completed in early 2009 after two more community meetings. This plan will focus on points of interest and potential connections. A master plan is anticipated in 2010 that will begin to identify specific trail routes. Construction of the first segments could begin in 2011.

Attendees:

Don Clements	CPRD Superintendent
Rob Daykin	Dundee City Manager
Mike Ragsdale	CPRD Board Member
Ken Huffer	Yamhill County
Sherri Mathison	Yamhill County
Keith Hay	Community Citizen
Larry Anderson	CPRD Board Member
Deona Twenge	CPRD Board Member
Jim Morrison	Community Citizen
Floyd Aylor	Columbia Empire Farms
Clyde Thomas	George Fox University
Jessica Cain	Newberg Chamber of Commerce
Terry Emery	Newberg Chamber of Commerce
Barton Brierly	City of Newberg
Fred Gregory	George Fox University
Larry Christensen	Property Owner
Don Sundeen	Dundee Mayor
Tom Edwards	Property Owner
Mr. Crawford	Dundee City Council
Lisa Joyce	CPRD Special Projects