

CHEHALEM HERITAGE TRAILS

Connecting Neighbors and Communities With Each Other and Their Heritage

Community Meeting 1

November 4, 2010 7 PM -8.30 PM

Chehalem Park and Recreation District Adult Enrichment Center

Newberg, OR

The first of three Community Meetings for the Chehalem Heritage Trails Phase 1 Master Plan was conducted at the Chehalem Park and Recreation District (CPRD) Adult Enrichment Center. A list of attendees is at the back of this summary. Meetings 2 and 3 will be held in January and March have not been scheduled.

Welcome: Paul Agrimis with Vigil-Agrimis, Inc. (consultant team project manager) and Kat Ricker (CPRD Public Information Coordinator)

Introduction: Paul Agrimis

An overview was given to highlight how the Chehalem Heritage Trails will celebrate the natural resources, cultural resources, and other attractions of the Chehalem Valley. The Strategic Plan completed earlier this year (April) identifies the entire proposed 70+ mile trail system. The Chehalem Heritage Trails system is intended to connect points of interest at local, community, and regional levels starting at the center of the Chehalem Valley based on goals and objectives drafted during that planning effort.

The Phase 1 Master Plan is developing four key segments of the Dundee to Newberg Connector (Dayton Avenue, Willamette River, Downtown Newberg, and Hess Creek Corridor). The Phase 1 Master Plan will identify alignments and trail types for approximately 20 miles of trails. This planning effort is scheduled for completion by March 2011.

Dayton Avenue: Paul Agrimis

The proposed trail from Memorial Park to Dundee would include a shared roadway/bicycle boulevard and six-foot sidewalks on the east side of Blaine and the south side of East 5th. The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is below 2,000, which is used as a rough threshold below which mixing vehicles and bicycles works well. Existing four-foot sidewalks would be replaced with six-foot sidewalks.

Traffic calming and signage will be needed as varying levels at intersections to provide a safe and pleasant experience for trail users and motorists alike. A traffic calming toolkit will be developed including elements such as marked or raised crosswalks, speed bumps, curb extensions, median islands, etc. Operational needs of emergency vehicles will be addressed as part of the traffic calming toolkit development.

The existing bridge at Chehalem Creek will not be widened in this phase. The trail will be resurfaced and a new railing installed. A bicycle lane will be provided for climbing uphill on each side of the bridge, but confident bicyclists and motorists will share the downhill roadway until the bridge is upgraded at some point in the future. The speed limit will be posted as 25 at the bridge to facilitate mixing confident bicyclists and motorists on the downhill approaches across the bridge. Signage will be developed to advise bicyclists using the multiuse trail to maintain a safe speed to share the trail appropriately with pedestrians.

Discussions are underway with Union Pacific and Portland and Western and two adjacent property owners to determine how to locate a 20-foot wide easement for a 10-foot multiuse trail between Edwards and Dayton.

The CHT along Edwards would be a bicycle and pedestrian boulevard.

Willamette River: Paul Agrimis

The trail would depart from Edwards Avenue in Dundee on Eighth to the River. A multiuse trail is proposed along the River passing the former Yamhill County landfill on its way to Yamhill County's Rogers Landing Park.

Lower Chehalem Creek Paul Agrimis

This portion will run from Ewing Young Park parallel Chehalem Creek to connect with Waterfront Street and beyond to the Willamette River.

Central Newberg Paul Agrimis

This portion of the trails system includes important connections to the Cultural Center, the Newberg Library, Newberg City Hall, stores, George Fox University, and other points of interest. Sheridan, Blaine, and Center Street would be important links in the system. Crossings at College and Meridian will need particular attention to traffic calming due to the high vehicle usage on these cross streets.

Hess Creek Corridor and Downtown Newberg: Paul Agrimis

The intention for this trail is to be an off-street multiuse trail that will provide an experience that puts users in close contact with natural resource assets such as Great Blue Herons, deer, and other wildlife that frequent this corridor. Opportunities for viewing birds, deer, coyotes, and other small mammals would be a wonderful counterpoint 10 or 20 years in the future when the Chehalem Valley is presumably more urbanized.

The key challenge to achieving this vision is the need to cross numerous private properties. Two alternative alignments between Friends Park and Herbert Hoover Park were described. Dog Ridge Road was offered as a potential alternate to an alignment along Hess Creek below the Newberg Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The existing trail system developed by George Fox University will be enhanced. This system has been developed as gravel trails approximately four feet wide and would need to be upgraded to meet the regional trail 10-foot paved surface standard, but it is a great start.

The trail would continue to the Pool on Haworth. Alternate alignments through the three schools or continuing on Haworth to Springbrook are possible to reach the Phase 1 terminus at the Allison Inn.

Trail Types: Paul Agrimis

The three basic trail types are off-street multiuse trails (paved 10-12 feet wide); on-street bicycle lanes and sidewalks, on-street bicycle boulevards (shared roadways with signage for bicycles) and sidewalks.

Comments:

Dayton Avenue

Can't support Dayton Avenue project until tie to 99W is closed.

Speeding on Dayton Avenue is an issue.

Keep a more "country" setting – perhaps a multiuse trail.

Use path in place of bike lanes and sidewalks.

Lack of active speed patrols currently – use speed bumps to keep speed down.

The Wildwood/Dayton corner is dangerous

- Line of site is short
- Vegetation blocks view
- Turn lane possibly needed.

Narrow bridge at Chehalem Creek is an issue.

Who will clean up garbage?

What is the Return on Investment for this trail?

Bicycles crossing driveways present a safety issue.

Will there be crime issues?

Look at future potential growth and how the need to upgrade city services in the future could impact the trail and residents.

Hess Creek

Like alternate route between GFU ball fields and Friends View Manor.

Like to explore a route along the RR track behind the HS ball fields connecting to Villa Road by the trestle.

Still like tunneling under 99W at Herbert Hoover Park.

Have you identified parking areas?

Have you identified restroom facility locations?

Attending:

Bill Boyd

Julie Boyd

Rick Leffler

Andrew Parker

Clyde Thomas George Fox University

Don Clements, CPRD

Jim McMaster, CPRD

Kat Ricker, CPRD

Mike Ragsdale, CPRD Board