



Chehalem Park and Recreation District is developing a strategic plan for a Chehalem Heritage Trail. The first phase of the project will engage stakeholders and partners to identify opportunities, constraints, and issues for realizing the vision of a 50+ mile multi-use trail system in the Chehalem Valley. This trail system will link parks; historical sites; schools, libraries and other public venues; the Willamette River; and regional trails in the Newberg-Dundee area. .

This network of interconnected multi-modal trails will provide multiple benefits to the community and to the region:

- Multi-use recreation
- Neighborhood connectivity
- Historic preservation
- Open space conservation
- Wildlife habitat conservation
- Greenway Restoration
- Educational opportunities
- Cultural opportunities
- Tourism and economic development.

The Chehalem Heritage Trail will provide a substantial link to the Willamette Greenway. Users are envisioned as walkers, cyclists, canoe and kayak paddlers, boaters, naturalists, and equestrians.

Major nodes are anticipated to include Champoeg Park, Roger’s Landing, Ewing Young Park, Ash Island, the Cultural Center, other parks and civic features in Dundee and Newberg, and George Fox University. Interpretive theme topics include:

- Willamette River
- Chehalem Valley
- Yamhelas Indians
- The Northwest Fur Company
- British and French settlers
- Champoeg History
- Willamette Post
- The Quakers
- Ewing Young
- Herbert Hoover
- Flora and Fauna
- Agriculture
- Wood Products Industry
- Wine Making

This project also includes key conservation elements for 1,800+acres. The first conservation component will restore native plant communities; remove invasive species; and improve habitat structure and water quality for aquatic species. The trail system integrates streams and other greenway corridors presenting the opportunity to restore terrestrial, riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats.

No definitive scope, cost, funding, nor schedule have been established for the project. This phase one strategic plan will define scope, cost, and funding options. A series of three open houses is planned for developing the strategic plan in fall and winter 2009/2010. A second phase will include a master plan that identifies all nodes and connections; identifies costs for land and easement negotiations and acquisition, design, and construction. The phase one work could be completed by early 2010 and by late2010 for the phase two master plan level.

Design and construction could presumably proceed over a period of years from 2011 to 2020, and perhaps beyond as grants and other funding sources are developed.

