



DRAFT STATEWIDE NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES



Goals, Objectives and Strategies For Top Statewide Trail Issues and Concerns

The chapter focuses on a set of long-range goals, objectives and strategies for the top two Statewide Non-motorized Trails Issues and five Statewide Trail Concerns as identified through the non-motorized trails planning effort. A brainstorming session during the September 23, 2003 Non-motorized Trails Steering Committee Meeting produced an initial set of goals, objectives and strategies for resolving these top statewide issues and concerns.

For the purposes of this plan, goals are general, broadly stated, desirable conditions toward which all motorized trail providers in the state should direct their efforts. Objectives, for the purposes of this plan, are the proposed long-range solutions to the issues and the discrete problem areas involved. Objectives do not represent the complete solution to the identified issue, but are aspects of the solution identified during the planning process. Finally, strategies are what need to be done to accomplish each objective and identify which specific motorized trail providers would be responsible for the strategies within the state's ten-year planning cycle.

Trail managers and planners in the state of Oregon must address the needs of a wide variety of non-motorized trail users such as (but not limited to) hikers, backpackers, mountain bike riders, equestrians, runners, walkers, bicycle riders, inline skaters and individuals with functional impairments. During this statewide trails planning process, all trail users had an opportunity to voice their specific needs and concerns through the issues workshops held across the state and the statewide non-motorized trail user survey. This plan recognizes that in Oregon there are finite resources to satisfy the demands of a growing number and diversity of trail users. The increased sharing of resources sometimes creates friction between the diverse user groups competing for limited trail space. Rather than focusing on individual user groups, the following statewide goals, objectives and strategies are designed to optimize the use of limited trail resources in ways that benefit all users and their appropriate trail uses. Decisions about how to best allocate resources for specific user groups are more appropriately addressed in local and regional trails planning efforts.

Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Issue A: Need For Trail Connectivity

As in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), recreation providers and other workshop attendees consistently reported in issues workshops the need for non-motorized trail connectivity within their regions. According to recreation providers, trail connectivity involves linking urban trails to outlying Federal trail systems; linking neighborhood, community and regional trails; connecting community parks and other recreational and public facilities; and connecting neighboring communities (e.g. Ashland to Medford). Recreation providers strongly felt that increasing non-motorized trail connectivity will result in better use of the state's existing non-motorized trail infrastructure and provide more trail opportunities.

Recreation providers stated that in order to properly plan for trail connectivity, there is a need for regional multi-jurisdictional trail planning entities (e.g. Deschutes Bike and Pedestrian Committee) to facilitate regional and urban trail system planning. Such groups would work with private landowners, irrigation districts and public agencies (federal, state and local) to coordinate the trails planning process and facilitate idea sharing and the communication process. In addition, there is a need for a shared vision between local, state and federal recreation providers on a regional scale that can be used to identify trail development priorities. Such an overall vision is essential in order to see trails projects through to completion and to ensure that individual trail projects make sense as part of the larger trail system.

According to recreation providers, the prioritization of trail development projects should be done at a regional level using gap analysis and a peer review process. At the local level, projects should be developed using grass roots organizations such as community solution teams to get a broader perspective on what other governmental agencies are doing which might affect trail development.

Finally, recreation providers stated that there is a need for a central database or statewide GIS system including all Local Transportation System Plans and current inventories of existing and proposed trails so that trails planners and local public officials are better aware of the current status of trails planning within their jurisdiction. The trails planning information should be easily accessible such as on a website.

Goal #1:
Identify and encourage key trail linkages between and among local, regional and statewide trails to better use the state's existing non-motorized trail system.

Objective 1: Collect and disseminate statewide multi-jurisdictional non-motorized trails information.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 1:

- OPRD will develop a GIS-compatible statewide trails inventory database that will allow agencies and other users to identify and map trail resources and characteristics for non-motorized trails of Statewide, Regional and Local Significance.
- OPRD and ORTAC will develop a vision map of trails of Statewide Significance (including those trails that existing trail maps in GIS format) showing the backbone or spine of a statewide trails system that could be linked to regional or local trail systems, and can be used for identifying statewide priorities.
- OPRD will collect vision maps from those regions in the state that have existing regional trail system maps in GIS format, and can be used to identify regional priorities and encourage other regions to develop trail system maps.
- Develop a list of potential funding sources for non-motorized trail development, maintenance and planning to be made available to providers.

Objective 2: Develop a regional approach to non-motorized trail planning.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 2:

- Establish regional working groups (e.g. Coos Regional Trails Partnership, Metro Greenspaces and Technical Advisory Committee) including representatives from trail organizations, federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments and other stakeholders, to work in cooperation with managing agencies in trail planning, funding, and design to facilitate the identification of multi-jurisdictional priorities.
- Develop regional non-motorized trails plans (multi-jurisdictional) to identify regional priorities.
- Involve trail organizations, non-motorized trail users and other interested stakeholders, private conservancies, foundations, and land trust organizations in the development of regional non-motorized trails plans.
- Identify potential funding sources for regional trails planning.

Objective 3: Provide technical assistance and outreach for regional non-motorized trails planning.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 3:

- The Oregon Recreational Trails Advisory Council (ORTAC) will develop and implement a regional trails planning forum process to promote interagency coordination.
- OPRD will develop a trails planning how-to manual to encourage connectivity.
- Develop case studies that showcase the planning and development of well designed and managed regional trail systems (e.g. Rivers to Ridges Planning process spearheaded by the Lane Council of Governments).

Objective 4: Focus resources towards the most significant components of local and regional trail systems.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 4:

- Develop a statewide GIS system to collect maps of all trails of local and regional significance identified in the statewide trails inventory as they become available.
- OPRD and ORTAC will perform a "gap analysis" of the statewide GIS system to identify local and regional trail connection priorities.
- Provide additional scoring points in trail-related OPRD administered grant programs for projects identified in this forum process as top local and regional trail system priorities.
- ORTAC will establish a process for regular reporting the development of, and connections to, the "State Significant" trail system (e.g. Desert Trail, Corvallis to Sea, Bear Creek Greenway).
- OPRD will work with the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers and Trails Program to identify and provide planning assistance for the most significant trail development projects in the state.

Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Issue B: Need For Trail Maintenance

Recreation providers strongly stated that they are struggling to maintain existing trails due to increasing use levels and declining maintenance budgets. At the same time, providers are being asked by user groups to develop more and more new trails. A common argument made across the state was that additional priority should be given to maintaining what we currently have before adding additional facilities. According to providers, there always seems to be funding available for trail development—but not for routine day-to-day trail maintenance.

Recreation providers argue that compliance with health and safety regulations must continue to be addressed by trail providers throughout the state. Deterioration of our trail system jeopardizes the safety and health of trail users, discourages continued visitation, and threatens the investments already made in trail resources. Delaying maintenance will result in increased long-term costs; deterioration is less expensive to fix if diagnosed and dealt with early. Poor maintenance can also foster lack of respect and encourage depreciative behavior. Providers reported that we are already beginning to lose the use of some trails due to lack of maintenance and associated resource damage.

Recreation providers and other workshop attendees felt a need for a dedicated long-term funding source for non-motorized trail maintenance in the state. Funding suggestions mentioned during issues workshops included:

- A trail use pass;
- Direct trail use fees;
- Out-of-state user fees;
- Taxes on the purchase of recreational equipment; and
- Recreation Trail Program (RTP) priority for maintenance projects.

According to recreation providers and other workshop attendees, there is a need to make better use of trail clubs and other volunteers for conducting trail maintenance. In addition, there are opportunities to engage private conservancies, foundations and land trust organizations as partners and providers in trail planning, development, management and maintenance.

Finally, providers argued that there is a need for consistent trail design and maintenance standards and procedures to proactively address resource damage occurring on trails. They reported a need for high-quality trail construction and maintenance information in the state. Such resources are currently available, but simply need to be housed in a central statewide location.

Goal #2:
Preserve and maintain the public's substantial investment in the existing infrastructure of trails and related facilities.

Objective 1: Inform the public, and state and local leaders, about the importance of maintenance in protecting the long-term viability of Oregon's trail system.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 1:

- Develop promotional materials for the general public stressing the importance of trail maintenance in getting the longest life out of the public's investment in trails.

- Develop case studies that showcase successful trail maintenance programs and methods.
- Encourage the use of standardized trail assessment methods (e.g. Universal Trail Assessment Process, USFS inventory and assessment process, OPRD inventory and assessment process) by all public recreation providers to conduct a trail condition assessment to determine short-term and long-term maintenance needs.
- Each public recreation provider in the state should conduct a facility condition report for trails and prepare a maintenance plan.

Objective 2: Increase the amount of resources available for trail maintenance.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 2:

- ORTAC and the state trails coordinator should work with other trail management organizations to identify and push for innovative and improved maintenance funding sources at the federal, state and local levels.
- ORTAC and the state trails coordinator should investigate the potential for initiating a trails foundation with a mission of funding trail maintenance.
- Recreation providers should better prioritize trail maintenance needs among other budget items.
- Establish public and private partnerships to augment trail maintenance budgets.
- Provide additional scoring points in trail-related OPRD administered grant programs for trail maintenance identified in a trail condition assessment process and included in a maintenance plan.

Objective 3: More effectively engage volunteers as stewards of Oregon's trail system to help preserve the legacy for future generations.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 3:

- Create an interagency volunteer information clearinghouse to match volunteers with local trail maintenance projects (e.g. Washington Trails Association).
- Encourage agencies to fund volunteer coordinator positions.
- Provide volunteer coordination training for trail managers and appropriate maintenance training for volunteers.
- Encourage organized trail groups and trail users to become more active in Adopt-A-Trail and other volunteer programs.
- Organize maintenance and clean-up events or other special projects on heavily used and high-visibility trails.
- Create an annual award for the best maintained trail/trail system in the state using volunteer assistance (such as the Doug Newman Award).
- Encourage agencies to award outstanding trail volunteer efforts at the local level.
- Better use National and State Trails Day as an opportunity to recognize volunteers and the importance of trail maintenance.

**Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Concern 1:
Need For More Trails In Close Proximity To Where People Live**

Recreation providers and other workshop attendees in issues workshops across the state voiced a need for more trails in close proximity to where people live. This need is clearly in line with the findings of the 2002 Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey that identified running and walking for exercise and walking for pleasure as the most popular everyday outdoor recreation activities of Oregonians. According to the OSU report, these activities are generally engaged in near home, and on a regular basis and state residents demand these opportunities in the communities in which they live.

Trail users also stressed the need to recognize the benefits that trails provide to communities such as attracting businesses, increasing overall quality-of-life, and drawing additional residents to the community. In addition, urban trails need to be considered as an important component of the urban transportation system. Additional trails also encourage the disbursement of recreational use in urban areas.

Finally, the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Services, and the Oregon Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity (OCPPA) are currently promoting physical activity and the health benefits associated with participation in recreational trail activities. The OCPPA has recently completed a plan entitled the *Oregon Plan for Physical Activity*¹, which states that, "Physical inactivity together with poor eating habits contributes significantly to the development of obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, which are the leading causes of disease and death among Oregonians. The current epidemic of obesity in the United States has hit Oregon particularly hard. At 22%, our state has the highest percentage of adult obesity of any state west of the Rockies. Our youth follow closely behind, with 28% of eighth graders and 21% of eleventh graders currently overweight."

According to the plan, "Communities need to make daily physical activity the easy choice, where parks and recreation facilities are available to children and adults in neighborhoods and are easily accessible by walking, bicycling, and public transit." The plan has identified providing pathways and trails in parks, along rivers, and in other natural settings to encourage walking and bicycling for exercise and transportation as a key strategy. The Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Services is also working with the CDC to develop federal funding for trail projects that would enhance other funding programs such as the Recreation Trails Program, TEA-21 grants, the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the Local Government Grant Program.

Goal #3:
Promote daily physical activity by improving local access to trails.

Objective 1: Inform the public about existing community trails close to where they live.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 1:

- Explore public/public and public/private partnerships to develop and disseminate trail maps and information to residents and communities of all sizes.
- Include trail users in the development of maps and information.

¹ Oregon Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity (2003). *A Healthy Active Oregon: The Statewide Physical Activity Plan.*

- OPRD will develop a GIS-compatible statewide trails inventory database that will allow trail users to access trail resources and characteristics for non-motorized trails of Statewide, Regional and Local Significance.
- OPRD will develop a search engine for public web access to the trails inventory database to assist individuals to find nearby trails.
- Encourage recreation providers to develop trail maps.
- Target trail information distribution to the disabled and the elderly populations through appropriate clubs and organizations such as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and school children as part of the "Safe Routes to School" program.
- Seek recognition of trails as part of local transportation systems and that trails provide an alternative to the automobile for local trips.

Objective 2: Encourage local governments to conduct community trails planning efforts to identify and prioritize local trail needs that will provide close-to-home trail opportunities.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 2:

- Provide additional scoring points in trail-related OPRD administered grant programs for grant requests satisfying priority needs identified through a local trails planning process—especially trails of regional and local significance.
- Involve trail organizations, non-motorized trail users, local business leaders and other interested stakeholders in the development of local trails plans.
- Identify potential funding sources/assistance for community trails planning (including funding for GIS mapping).
- Develop case studies that showcase the planning and development of well-designed and managed community trail systems (e.g. Jacksonville, Sisters and Bend).
- Work with transportation and school officials to provide children with safe pedestrian and bicycle routes to and from schools.
- Develop conveniently accessible trail networks which interconnect communities with shopping and employment districts, community activity centers, public transportation stops, parklands, and trails of local, regional and statewide significance.

Objective 3: Encourage local recreation providers to seek innovative funding mechanisms for urban trail development.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 3:

- Encourage local recreation providers to work with their City Council to develop Park Systems Development Charges (SDC) that can be used to provide funding for trail acquisition and development to keep pace with population growth and new development.
- Ensure that trails plans are incorporated into local land development ordinances to make sure that the development of the local trail system is considered with all land development proposals.
- Establish private foundations dedicated to urban trail systems (e.g. Portland 40-Mile Loop Land Trust and Ashland Woodlands & Trails Foundation).

- Recreation providers should consider other local revenue sources for addressing trail deficiencies (e.g. general obligation bonds, grants and gifts, local option taxes, regional funding or niche taxes).
- Develop case studies that showcase innovative and successful funding strategies for urban trail development (e.g. Bend Urban Trails Plan).

Objective 4: Develop and disseminate information on the personal and societal benefits of trails to a wide variety of local consumers such as policymakers, public works departments, school administrators, planners, business owners and leaders, chambers of commerce and developers.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 4:

- Compile, summarize and distribute information describing the physiological, economic, environmental, social, psychological and educational benefits associated with community trails.

Objective 5: Increase cooperation and communication with community-based health organizations related to trail development.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 5:

- Partner with health care systems and providers to support and promote trail development in communities throughout the state.
- Revise applicable health-related funding programs to include trail projects.
- Work with the Active Community Environments (ACE) Working Group to advocate for trail development as a means of building healthy communities.

Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Concern 2: Need For Additional Non-Motorized Trails

Recreation providers and trail users stated that there is a strong need for additional non-motorized trail opportunities in areas experiencing high growth rates and in trail planning regions with current shortages of non-motorized trails of all types. There also was a reported need for more non-commercial groomed cross-country ski trails, more snow parks and related facilities and additional equestrian camps and day-use trailheads.

Recreation providers stated that trails are not always seen as top priorities in relation to other community needs or even other recreational needs. As a result, recreation providers must work together to make a stronger case that trails are important to communities and provide a broad range of social and economic benefits to communities and are deserving of a higher position on the city, county, state and federal political agendas.

Finally, recreation providers and other workshop attendees stated a strong need for a state administered funding source for non-motorized trail development that is similar to the ATV grant fund program that taps user contributions and is not dependent on federal funding.

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| <p>Goal #4: <i>Support the development of new trails.</i></p> |
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Objective 1: Increase funding devoted to expanding trail opportunities for Oregonians.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 1:

- ORTAC will develop a statewide interagency marketing plan for educating local, state and federal politicians on the outstanding value of investing in non-motorized trails in the state of Oregon (RTP, Enhancements, LWCF, Local Government Grant Program— Measure 66, RTCA).
- ORTAC will advocate at local, state, and national levels for increased funding for trail planning, development, maintenance and operation (Partnerships with Public Health, Transportation and Urban Planning Organizations).
- ORTAC and the state trails coordinator should investigate an "Oregon Trails Foundation" concept with a mission of providing funding for trail planning, construction and maintenance.

**Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Concern 3:
Need To Consider Public Ways (Roads, Railroads, Utility Corridors)
Proposed For Closure Or Abandonment For Non-Motorized Trail Use**

Oregon is crossed by thousands of miles of linear facilities such as railroad beds, pipelines, canals, utility rights-of-ways and roads. Public utility and irrigation easements include oil and natural gas pipelines, sewer lines, irrigation ditches, electrical transmission, telephone, and television lines, and fiber optic cable. Recreation providers and other workshop attendees argued that there are opportunities to make greater use of such transportation rights-of-way and public utility and irrigation easements for recreational trail development.

Goal #5:
Ensure trail use is evaluated when roads, railroads & utility corridors are considered for abandonment, change of use, or shared use.

Objective 1: Develop additional trails along canal and utility easements and transportation rights-of-way.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 1:

- Work with federal, state and local agencies to create more opportunity for public input in the road closure/vacation process.
- Use the State Transportation Planning Goal and Transportation Planning Rule (OAR 660-12) requiring cities and counties to develop utility/pipeline plans as a part of local transportation system plans to identify potential trail opportunities.
- OPRD should create a notification process to alert park and recreation agencies of all railroad notices of intention to file for Exempt Abandonment.
- Contact railroad managers to explore Rail-With-Trail possibilities on railroad lines that are still in use, but receive little train traffic in areas where need has been determined.

**Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Concern 4:
Need For Improved Public Access To Trails**

Recreation providers in several regions reported a need for improved trail access for people with disabilities. At the same time, these providers argued that not all trails can or should be accessible to all users. There was general agreement that providing key trail type and condition information to users has the potential to increase the usability of existing trails and enable everyone, of all ages and abilities, to enjoy the benefits of recreational trails. To make better use of the existing trail infrastructure, all trail providers need to do a better job informing trail users of the conditions they will encounter on trails to allow each individual to decide if a particular trail is accessible to them.

To date, there have been only limited efforts by recreation providers to provide consistent trail access information for trails in the state of Oregon. There is no centralized trails information source in the state. In addition, there is no standardized methodology used for gathering and disseminating accessibility information.

Goal #6:
Better inform the public about accessible trail opportunities.

Objective 1: Develop and distribute information related to trail access.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 1:

- ORTAC will host a statewide trail accessibility meeting involving a wide range of stakeholders to evaluate standard trail access assessment approaches and disseminate trail accessibility information.
- Develop a statewide sign program for conveying trail access information at trailheads.
- Work closely with different groups of elderly and disabled trail users to identify the types of information most important to allow each individual to decide if a particular trail is accessible to them.

Statewide Non-Motorized Trail Concern 5:

Need For Regional Interagency Coordination/Cooperation In Trail Management

Recreation providers and other workshop attendees consistently reported that successful non-motorized trail facility development and management relies on good coordination and communication between trail organizations, federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments and other stakeholders. In many regions, providers and user groups stressed the need for regional coordination and information sharing between agencies for non-motorized trail planning, operations and management.

Regional coordination and communication should also encourage:

- adopting consistent design, construction and maintenance standards,
- developing and implementing directional and regulatory signing consistency,
- developing regulatory and law enforcement consistency,
- sharing limited trail maintenance resources and equipment,
- taking a regional approach, rather than having each agency working independently, to more effectively address trail capacity issues,
- taking a regional approach, rather than having each agency working independently, to more effectively address user conflict (e.g. mountain bikers and equestrians),
- taking a regional approach, rather than having each agency working independently, to more effectively develop and distribute trail information and other promotional materials,
- taking a regional approach, rather than having each agency working independently, to more effectively identify trail grant funding priorities, and
- connecting existing trails where opportunities exist.

According to recreation providers and other workshop attendees, managing agencies should strive to provide users with seamless and coherent trail experiences that are not disrupted by administrative boundaries.

Goal #7:
Promote coordination and cooperation between public agencies, private organizations and non-motorized trail users.

Objective 1: Standardize statewide trail management practices.

Strategies/Actions For Addressing Objective 1:

- Coordinate the standardization of rules and regulations across management boundaries.
- Review and revise any state laws or agency regulations or rules to create consistency in the regulation of non-motorized trail use.
- Develop statewide design and construction standards.
- Develop statewide directional and regulatory signing standards and standard messages.
- ORTAC will provide coordination between the OPRD, other agencies and non-agency stakeholders in the implementation of the 2005-2014 Oregon Non-Motorized Trails Action Plan.
- Promote communication and information sharing through websites, trail workshops or other public forums.

Next Steps

This chapter includes an extensive list of strategies recommended by a wide range of stakeholders who are dedicated to providing high-quality trail opportunities across the state. In total, these strategies are intended to enable many to work together in resolving the top two Statewide Non-motorized Trails Issues and five Statewide Trail Concerns identified through the non-motorized trails planning effort. The OPRD would like to thank all those who participated in this important part of the overall planning process.

As we proceed towards implementation, we must keep in mind that the ultimate success of the plan rests on the continued support of stakeholders across the state to actively participate in implementing these strategies. There are two entities that must take a lead role in engaging stakeholders across the state in the implementation of these strategies—the OPRD and its commission appointed advisory body, the Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council.

ORTAC Priority Strategies

ORTAC advises the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department on statewide trail matters that come before the department. They also make recommendations to other trail managing agencies and non-government groups and assist OPRD on a variety of funding committees. As a result, ORTAC will play a vital role in implementing a number of important strategies included in this chapter. The following is a list of high-priority strategies that ORTAC will focus on early in the 10-year planning cycle.

- Provide coordination between agency and non-agency stakeholders in the implementation of the 2005-2014 Oregon Non-Motorized Trails Action Plan.
- Develop and implement a regional trails planning forum process to promote interagency coordination (Participate in those that exist and try to encourage them whenever they do not).
- Develop a vision map of trails of "Statewide Significance" showing the backbone or spine of a statewide trail system that could be linked to regional or local trail systems and can be used for identifying statewide priorities.
- Perform a "gap analysis" of the statewide trails system to identify local and regional trail connection priorities.
- Establish a process for regularly reporting on the development of and connections to, the "Statewide Significant" trail system (e.g. newsletters, website, quarterly meetings).
- Work with other trail management organizations to identify and advocate for innovative and improved maintenance funding sources at the federal, state and local levels.
- Develop a statewide interagency marketing plan for educating local, state and federal politicians on the outstanding value of investing in non-motorized trails in the state of Oregon (sell the benefits, stories of current funding programs—Enhancements, LWCF, RTP, Local Grant Program).
- Advocate at the local, state and national levels for increased funding for trail planning, development, maintenance and operation.
- Investigate an "Oregon Trails Foundation" concept with a mission of providing funding for trail planning, construction and maintenance.
- Host a statewide trail accessibility forum involving a wide range of stakeholders to evaluate standard trail assessment approaches and disseminate trail accessibility information.

As with any long-term plan, the implementation strategies included in this chapter may change over the course of the planning cycle. The Council's public meeting process will provide opportunities for agency and citizen participation when implementation strategies need to be revised over time as circumstances change and opportunities arise.

OPRD Priority Strategies

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department was given responsibility for recreation trails planning in 1971 under the "State Trails Act" (ORS 390.950 to 390.990). In addition, the agency administers Recreational Trails Program, a federal-aid assistance program to help states provide recreational trails among other funding sources. As such, OPRD will also play a vital role in implementing a number of important strategies included in this chapter. The following is a list of high-priority strategies that OPRD will focus on during the 10-year planning cycle.

- Develop a GIS-compatible statewide trails inventory database that will allow agencies and other users to identify and map trail resources and characteristics for non-motorized trails of Statewide and Regional Significance.
- Develop a search engine for public web access to the trails inventory database to assist individuals to find nearby trails.
- Collect vision maps from those regions in the state that have existing regional trail system maps in GIS format that can be used to identify regional priorities and encourage other regions to develop trail system maps.
- Work with advisory committees to provide additional scoring points in trail-related OPRD administered grant programs for projects identified in ORTAC's regional trails planning forum process as top local and regional trail system priorities.
- Work with the NPS Rivers and Trails Program to identify and provide planning assistance for the most significant trail development projects in the state.
- Work to create a non-profit organization responsible for developing an interagency volunteer information clearinghouse to match volunteers with local trail maintenance projects (e.g. Washington Trails Association); providing volunteer coordination training for trail managers and appropriate maintenance training for volunteers; and organizing maintenance and clean-up events or other special projects on heavily used and high-visibility trails.
- Create an annual award for the best maintained trail/trail system in the state using volunteer assistance (such as the Doug Newman Award).
- Better use National and State Trails Day as an opportunity to recognize volunteers and the importance of trail maintenance.
- Provide additional scoring points in trail-related OPRD administered grant programs for grant requests satisfying priority needs identified through a local trails planning process—especially trails of regional and local significance.
- Develop case studies that showcase the planning and development of well-designed and managed community trail systems (e.g. Jacksonville, Sister and Bend).
- Work with the Oregon Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity and the statewide Active Community Environments Working Group to foster communities where people of all ages and abilities can easily and safely enjoy walking, bicycling and other forms of recreation.