

Trail Master Plan
City of Manzanita
Spring 2021

Prepared for
The City of Manzanita

Prepared by
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DRAFT

Acknowledgements

The City of Manzanita would like to acknowledge and thank the many citizens, businesses, public agencies, and organizations that contributed to this plan.

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Project Background

Over the past several decades, the City of Manzanita has developed and managed small portions of natural surface trails within the city limits. Volunteers have also maintained and improved non-motorized access through public rights-of-way, primarily to improve neighborhood circulation. As the city grows, with more people wishing to move around on foot and by bike, the Manzanita City Council has acknowledged the need to approach trail development in a more-coordinated manner, and requested the creation of this Trail Master Plan to guide their investment of time and funding.

Scope

This plan identifies the existing or proposed approximate location of 1) natural surface trails, and 2) paved paths separated from vehicular traffic. It does not identify all non-motorized transportation or recreation facilities, and it is not a non-motorized circulation plan. The map shows corridors for continued or potential access and improvement but these should not be construed as specific alignments, which would need to be determined through the design process. The plan looks primarily at those opportunities within the city limits; in some instances the plan shows extensions or additions within the urban growth boundary but only for major trails/paths. No trails/paths are proposed outside of the urban growth boundary, as the city does not have jurisdiction to plan for these areas.

Public Involvement

The development of the plan included a public meeting at the beginning of the project, opportunities for review and comments of draft versions of the plan, and regular contact between interested citizens and the City Council's representative to the project, Councilor Jerry Spelman. The plan was also presented for public feedback at two city council sessions prior to its adoption.

Existing Conditions

A few city-maintained trails exist in Manzanita, complimented by several citizen-maintained trails. The majority of these are in the public right-of-way (ROW) where it has been too steep to develop streets and sidewalks. Some informal trails exist on private land.

The Oregon Coast Trail (OCT), a trail of statewide significance, passes near but not through the city. Other trail systems outside of the city include those at Nehalem Bay State Park and at Elk Meadows, which is owned by the Lower Nehalem Community Trust.

Opportunities

In general, three types of opportunities exist for developing trails and paths in Manzanita:

- 1) Undeveloped portions of the public ROW, where it is too difficult and costly to build a street and sidewalk. Trails in these locations improve non-motorized mobility to and through neighborhoods.
- 2) Pathways along busy roadways where having separated facilities would increase safety and efficiency for bicyclists and pedestrians. Pathways are typically paved and 12 – 16 feet in width.
- 3) City-owned lands, including public parks.

Constraints

The city has limited resources to develop and maintain trails and pathways. While grant funding can sometimes be used for construction, funding of maintenance is difficult for most jurisdictions. This will limit the speed in which the city can implement projects. Nothing in this plan identifies or obligates funding for implementation or maintenance of trails and pathways.

Even for projects within the public ROW and on public lands, objections by neighbors will exert political pressure to deny or constrain projects identified in this plan.

Recommendations

The proposed trails and paths are shown on the attached map (Appendix A) with details provided in the trail matrix (Appendix B).

Prioritization and Implementation

To facilitate the efficient implementation of this plan, the city shall create a Trails Committee and rely on public involvement to prioritize projects. The Trails Committee shall have a mandate to:

- 1) Prioritize and recommend for implementation the projects identified in the Manzanita Trail Master Plan.
- 2) Propose updates to the Manzanita Trail Master Plan to keep it current and relevant.
- 3) Foster coordination with other agencies, jurisdictions, and organizations to encourage cross-jurisdictional trail planning and development.

The committee should:

- 1) Report to the Manzanita City Council.
- 2) Be composed of five members, selected by the mayor.
- 3) Meet as needed and at least quarterly.

Recommendations by the Trails Committee shall be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

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