

IMPORTANT: Any citizen may orally address the Parks Commission on non-agenda items during the Public Forum. Any citizen may submit written comments to the Commission on any item on the Agenda, unless it is the subject of a public hearing and the record is closed. Time permitting, the Presiding Officer may allow oral testimony. If you wish to speak, please out the Speaker Request Form located near the entrance to the meeting room. The chair will recognize you and inform you as to the amount of time allotted to you, if any. The time granted will be dependent to some extent on the nature of the item under discussion, the number of people who wish to speak, and the length of the agenda.



MEETING AGENDA

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Trail Master Plan Update Committee
May 25, 2018
Siskiyou Room—51 Winburn Way

10:00 a.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (if available)
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & GUEST SPEAKERS
 - a. Open Forum
 - b. Review Additional Public Input Since Last Meeting (if any)
- IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Review Chapter 4: Bear Creek Greenway Trail Corridor (Gardiner)
 - b. Roundtable Discussion (All)
- VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATE
 - a. June 1 2018
 - Siskiyou Room—10:00 a.m.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT—11:30 a.m.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number (800) 735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I). Parks Commission meetings are broadcast live on Channel 9, or on CHARTER CABLE CHANNEL 180. Visit the City of Ashland's website at www.ashland.or.us.

THE BEAR CREEK GREENWAY

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The Bear Creek Greenway is a twenty-mile trail that connects five cities and a number of municipal and county park sites all within Jackson County. It is the premier bicycle and pedestrian transportation route that transverses a significant portion of the Rogue Valley. The route begins near Dean Creek north of Central Point and extends generally south along Bear Creek, through Medford, Phoenix, Talent and currently terminating at Nevada Street just past the Ashland Dog Park. Several of the parks along the route provide support facilities including restrooms, parking, drinking water, picnicking areas, benches, and wildlife viewing areas. These parks serve as important trailheads offering the aforementioned services to users who can enjoy segments of the greenway.

Governance: The Bear Creek Greenway has its own comprehensive planning document which has been endorsed by the city of Ashland and is administered by several agencies, including Jackson County Parks and the private, non-profit organization, Bear Creek Greenway Foundation. The funding for the maintenance of the greenway is administered by Jackson County Parks through a Joint Powers Agreement between the five municipalities and Jackson County. (Is it appropriate and useful to mention the source of continued funding?)

A trail guide has also been published. This guide has been updated and made available through Jackson County Parks.

The Greenway enters the jurisdiction of the city of Ashland on the north end of the Ashland urban growth boundary where approximately two miles of the Greenway lies within the urban growth boundary and the city limits.. This portion of the trail runs predominately west to east and extends from Valley View Road and then following Bear Creek to the current termination point at West Nevada Street near the Ashland Dog Park and the Verde Village housing development. Another three miles of trail is proposed to extend through Ashland to the southeastern edge of the Ashland Municipal Airport. FAA security standards may prevent the building of a trail near the airport so alternative routes should be considered on the south side of Bear Creek or along East Hills Drive to East Main and around the airport. From here, the route could continue southeast, following Bear Creek, to the proposed Tolman Creek Trail and beyond. The planned route consistently follows the south side of Bear Creek. Near the confluence of Hamilton Creek and Bear Creek, the route would ideally cross under Interstate 5. Such a route would require significant inter-agency discussions and agreements.

A future trail extension from West Nevada Street to North Mountain Park has become the scope of work for a new trail building project. Currently an Alternate Routes Proposal study is being funded by a joint agreement between the Ashland Public Works Department, APRC and the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation Board. (Can we make this more clear?)

LINKAGES

When completed, the Bear Creek Greenway will potentially connect with the Wrights Creek Trail, Ashland Creek Trail, Roca Creek Trail, Clay and Hamilton Creek Trails, and Toman Creek Trail. The Greenway will also connect to Helman and Oak Streets, which are designated bike routes. The route is planned to connect from Oak Street through the newly acquired APRC property below Clinton Street and connect with North Mountain Avenue and North Mountain Park. Even though access to this section is currently limited, significant linkages are in place through North Mountain Park connecting the Greenway to the Roca corridor and the existing links to schools and civic features described in other chapters. In the future, the proposed trail alignment could connect the Greenway to the Ashland Pond open space giving good linkages to Helman Elementary School, the Central Bike Path, and downtown Ashland.

CHARACTER

The corridor's character is largely wooded riparian vegetation with many open views to the surrounding landscape including large sections of riparian open space, an often vigorous flowing Bear Creek, farmland and Cascade foothills viewscapes..

EXPECTED USERS

Users include bicyclists, pedestrians, runners, skaters, wheelchairs, and maintenance and emergency vehicles. Equestrian use is expected to be mainly outside the city limits to the northwest and southeast toward Emigrant Lake.

TYPICAL SECTION

The Greenway Trail is a multi-use asphalt trail of

ten-foot width. Portions of the trail have an adjacent equestrian surface.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

New settlers bestowed the name Bear Creek in the early 1850s due to several near-fatal encounters with grizzly bears along its banks. Ashland's section of the Greenway includes several important small, remnant groves of mature ponderosa pine and California black oak, a vegetation community that once characterized many portions of the valley floor.