

McFarland proposed separating the data relevant to the Trail Master Plan Update from other detail, recording information into two tables – one for Master Plan updates and one to capture the wealth of knowledge collected from Committee members regarding future plans for easements, trail connectivity and other pertinent details. As an example, it was noted that an unused APRC easement below Waterline could be better utilized as a resource in a possible trade or future acquisition. The Trail Master Plan update spreadsheet for the TID Corridor would record the need for additional connectivity in that area, while the APRC Notes spreadsheet would make note of the possible resource.

Black said the details could be an important springboard for workplans, which could be included as an appendix to the Master Plan document. Workplan items also could be used by APRC to create goals for future trail connectivity.

To move the process forward, McFarland said information could be shared outside the meeting via an electronic spreadsheet. Groups of two or more Committee members could review chapters where little change was expected or where it would be important to capture community values. He cited **Chapter 13 Trail Standards and Basic Design Elements** as an example, where collaborative efforts would ensure that APRC, the City of Ashland and Ashland Woodland & Trails Association (AWTA) were in agreement with the updated Trails Master Plan.

McFarland highlighted other topics that would require review and revision such as the Chapter entitled Trail Safety and Etiquette. He noted that new safety requirements had been generated since the original Trail Master Plan was developed, particularly with the changes to Oregon’s recreational immunity laws.

Chapman relayed that in the past, local Forest Service and APRC representatives conducted periodic meetings of stakeholders that included discussions about current challenges and opportunities. He proposed reinstating the periodic meetings as a continuation of the update process once the Trail Master Plan Update was finalized.

Black offered to work collaboratively with the Ashland Planning Department on the integration of the Trail Master Plan Update into the City’s Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 15). He stated that facilitation of the process early-on would forestall any unexpected surprises once the Update was completed. McGinnis noted that it would be helpful to determine which elements of the Climate Energy Plan might be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan as well.

Chapter Assignments:

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| • <i>Chapter 13 Trail Standards and Basic Design Elements</i> | McFarland, Heycke |
| • <i>New Chapter Ashland Forestlands Network</i> | Chambers, McGinnis |
| • <i>Trail Safety and Etiquette</i> | McFarland |
| • <i>Coordination with the City Comprehensive Plan</i> | Black |
| • <i>Regional Trails</i> | Jensen? |

Discussion focused on the inclusion of lands outside Ashland's City limits. It was tentatively agreed that the Imperatrice Property would become a new corridor with potential connectivity to Grizzly Peak while also providing opportunities for a myriad of trails.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review and Discuss Trail Corridors

➤ Roca Creek

Richards highlighted SOU's plan for an arboretum, located in the lower Roca corridor. McFarland outlined the Roca Creek Corridor, noting that it extended from the TID Ditch Trail in the Pinecrest Terrace / Elkader Street areas, through the SOU campus to E. Main, traveling south to Bear Creek. Roca Creek is underground throughout much of the campus.

Chapman stated that SOU should be encouraged to develop a trail route through the campus. McGinnis offered to invite an SOU representative to the next Trail Master Plan Update meeting to discuss possibilities for trail connectivity.

Richards suggested the addition of Paradise Creek to the Roca Creek Corridor with a combined buffer. Further discussion focused on approaching Willow Wind School with a plan to skirt the school property and mitigate any potential impact with fencing. McGinnis noted that doing so would separate the trail from the creek in that area.

It was agreed that the width of the Corridor would be extended from Wightman Street south to incorporate East Main to the Bear Creek Corridor. Gardiner noted that the Bear Creek Greenway had a goal to eventually connect to Emigrant Lake. McGinnis commented that plans for a trail along Bear Creek along the south side was more problematic than following the creek on the north side where impacts could be more easily mitigated.

➤ Clay Creek

Chambers talked about a trail at the end of Clay Street that connects with the Mountain Ranch development. He stated that the Mountain Ranch HOA might not be willing to provide public access to their trail and an alternative might be developing for connectivity with other neighborhoods as well as for the Oredson-Todd Woods trailhead. The Green Meadows HOA neighborhood was also protective of their greenbelt area. There followed a brief discussion about the value of retaining the Clay Creek Corridor. McFarland advocated for leaving the corridor in the Trail Master Plan as a placeholder for future trail development. He stated that if the area continued to be referenced in the Trail Master Plan and on the corridor map it would strengthen the development of any future opportunities that might arise.

➤ **Clay/Hamilton Combined**

Chapman highlighted the close proximity of the Clay Creek Corridor to the Hamilton Creek Corridor, stating that in his opinion, the focus should be on developing the Hamilton Creek Corridor. Gardiner commented that should an easement opportunity arise along Clay Creek, it could be lost if not referenced in the Trail Master Plan (with consequent adoption into the Comprehensive Plan). McFarland suggested that once referenced, the corridors could be prioritized with emphasis on other more viable corridors. McGinnis proposed combining the Clay Creek and Hamilton Creek corridors so that Cemetery Creek could be factored in as well. He indicated that doing so would create greater flexibility as residential properties developed. Gardiner reviewed the number of existing APRC properties along Clay Street, stating that growth in the area could enhance connectivity. Further discussion included examination of the Normal Neighborhood Plan, the YMCA Park and the undeveloped Clay Street Dog Park. Heycke commented that it might make more sense to have an East/West Corridor from Walker Street to Clay Street. Chambers separated the movement of people through recreational trails from more functional trails used between neighborhoods and to residential services.

➤ **Side Corridors**

It was agreed that the Agenda for the next meeting would include a discussion about how to resolve the issue of side corridors. Also open for discussion at that time would be the chapter addressing the Central Area Bike Path.

VIII. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Minute-Taker
Trail Master Plan Update Committee
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission