

# OWENS FARM

## Community Engagement Report



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## THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s “Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund”  
Land Trust Alliance’s “Pacific NW Advancing Conservation Excellence Program”  
Willamette Partnership

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# INTRODUCTION

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Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland are 477 acres of pure beauty located on the northern side of Corvallis, Oregon. It holds the stories of many individuals who have walked through the land and is home to numerous native plants and animals. "Greenbelt Land Trust, Samaritan Health Services, Benton County Health Department, Benton County Natural Areas, Parks & Events, Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas, Willamette Partnership, and the City of Corvallis Parks & Recreation are collaborating to develop an innovative cross-sector vision for a thriving natural landscape that supports the mental and physical health and wellbeing of members of our community. We believe that all members of our community, regardless of age, health, mobility, and socioeconomic status deserve ready access to nature on a trail network that accommodates users of all abilities and provides an outstanding experience with minimal impact to the resource." (Owens Farm Conceptual Trail Plan)

In 2021, Owens Farm Partners and Advisors came together to design a community engagement process. This initial phase of the community engagement strategy was conducted to gain insight into what individual community members from diverse backgrounds and abilities want to see when they go to walking trails. We intentionally designed this phase to give traditionally underserved communities the opportunity to participate early on in the process and to help build a shared vision for the trail. This effort provided the opportunity for groups often forgotten, to be given the chance to voice their opinions and shape the final design of the trail.

# METHODOLOGY

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Over the course of ten weeks, individual and small group listening sessions were conducted with 22 community members. Community members came from a variety of different backgrounds and shared unique experiences about their time in nature. The listening sessions were conducted on Zoom, over the phone, and in-person, and lasted from thirty minutes to one hour. These interviews were recorded, with many transcribed using a digital transcription service, and notes were taken summarizing each interview.

After participating in the listening session, participants were invited to tour Owens Farm, where the proposed trails will one day be implemented. During the tours, we provided an introduction to the property, a history of the land, an overview of the Conceptual Trail Plan, and then asked questions at three stops along the tour. Experiencing the property in person gave community members a sense of the property and an opportunity to expand their vision for the property and share their stories about how they enjoy being in nature. As gratitude, participants were given a \$150 honorarium for participating in an interview and site visit.

This document summarizes the feedback gleaned from both the interviews and site visits, with much of the information synthesized throughout the entire document.



## Participant organizational affiliations/demographics:

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- 1 Senior/Neighbor
- 1 Corvallis Community Center Member/Participant (Adult and Senior Resource Center)
- 1 Teacher for blind and visually impaired K-12 students
- 1 Indigenous person/family
- 1 Access + ADA Planner/Designer
- 1 Old Mill Center family (non-profit providing services addressing the educational, social, emotional, and family needs of a diverse population of children.)
- 1 Corvallis Drop-in Center member (resource hub for information, referral, and direct services for individuals experiencing poverty and those who have co-occurring mental health conditions)
- 3 Pathfinder Clubhouse participants (a non-profit improving lives through meaningful work for adults living with mental illness)
- 5 NAACP Corvallis/Albany Branch Leadership Members
- 4 Spanish Speaking Families
- 2 Disability Equity Center participants (non-profit serving as a community education and resource center for disabled people and their allies)
- 1 Member of Access Benton County (works to improve access for persons with disabilities and seniors)



### Questions Asked During Individual Interviews:

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- What kinds of things do you like to do outside?
- What is your favorite place to be outdoors? What do you love about it?
- When you are outside, what experiences do you value the most?
- How often do you go out on trails?
- What would need to change to allow you to go on trails more often?
- What amenities would your ideal trail need to include to entice you to get out and go for a walk?
- If trails were closer to your home, how would that impact your interest or ability to get outside more often?
- Do you feel there are health benefits from being outdoors? Do you personally feel you benefit from those health benefits?
- What features should be improved in our local trails for more accessibility?
- What helps you feel safe and secure in the outdoors?
- Is transportation to parks a limitation for you?
- Any last thoughts you want to share about how to make a trail more accessible and inclusive? Or other experiences you want to share about your time outdoors?



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

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A handful of themes developed throughout the course of the interviews and site visits. This section highlights those key themes while also offering some examples of specific feedback we received from individual participants.

## ENJOYMENT OF THE OUTDOORS

Every participant we spoke to enjoys spending time outside, but they all like to spend that time in a variety of different ways. One participant mentioned that he loves the property as it is now and enjoys the opportunity to wander through the fields without a trail. But for many of the people we interviewed, an undeveloped, rugged landscape wouldn't work. Providing some basic amenities would offer a multitude of ways that people could engage with the trail system, which is important if we want the trail to feel inclusive and accessible to our diverse community.

Several participants expressed the desire to compliment the natural features of the landscape with amenities that make visiting the property more comfortable. Things like benches placed along the path and other designated rest areas would offer visitors places to sit, rest, and break up longer walks into smaller, more accessible sections. One of the participants expressed that due to his age, it is quite difficult to walk long distances without resting along the way. Another participant mentioned that some people on the trail may desire solitude or not want to be socially interactive, so it would be a great idea to have benches facing away from the trail or in a hidden area. This may be particularly helpful for people who have autism. Restrooms, in particular ADA accessible restrooms, were also called out as a "must-have" among several people, including parents of young children. These would make it possible for people to spend more time out on the trail, instead of needing to rush home to use the restroom.

Some people also lack the necessary clothes and gear to have a good time outside. As one participant put it, ***"My biggest barrier to going on trails is having the proper shoes or clothes. I don't have the money to put towards that, so if someone gave me hiking boots, and a backpack I would go hiking more."***

The last theme was the need for clean and well-maintained trails. By having trails that are free from blockages, people are more likely to go out and enjoy a peaceful walk. The maintenance of the path really ensures safety.

***"As a wheelchair user, I need well-maintained trails to prevent me from getting stuck."***

Other people had more unique ideas, including:

- Climbing trees
- Hayrides on the property

***"I could have my wedding out here!"***



## SENSE OF BELONGING AND INCLUSION

Everyone we spoke with wants to feel like they belong and are welcomed to this space, and project partners have explicitly made efforts to ensure that Owens Farm is inclusive of the entire community. We want people to feel a sense of shared ownership of the space and that this is their park.

A sense of belonging and welcome starts with the signage at the very beginning of the trail. Some participants recommended having a sign that says "Welcome!" in a variety of languages that represent the diversity of cultures in Corvallis. Interpretive signage with information about the trails should also be in multiple languages. Another participant suggested that there be a picture of people of all different races, body types, and abilities at the entrance to the space to visually show that diverse communities are welcome.



Other participants suggested working with local tribes to rename the trail and even the entire property. "Owens Farm" is not this space's pre-colonial name, and being able to include the tribes in renaming the space and sharing their culture through interpretive signage is important. And speaking of interpretive signs, people wanted to see a variety of signs that offered information about things like history, native plants, animals, and other subjects. As one person said, **"Have the trails lead us on a journey through time – I want to feel different things as I walk through the property – tell the story of the place and all the people involved."** This could help make the trail interactive and educational.

Another participant suggested offering suggestive signage at different parts of the trail, calling out things like "have a picnic here," or "read a book here." These signs could be written with a distinctive voice that sounds fun and inviting, rather than typical interpretive signs that are more formal. Having spaces specifically for community art projects or other kinds of creative engagement could entice community members who don't normally visit trails to come out and visit the space. One participant, a professor at a local college, even mentioned bringing her poetry classes out to the property for readings and creative exercises.

***"I would love to see Black art here and a little bit more spice!!"***

There were several other unique ideas participants came up with, including:

- A zip line from Chip Ross to Owens Farm
- A hammock grove back in the wooded area of the property
- A farmer's market
- Fruit trees that people could harvest from
- A permanent telescope installed for people to see the stars at night
- A small train that travels around the park

***"A hammock grove would be so nice, being able to come out relax and read a book."***



## AWARENESS OF HEALTH BENEFITS

When asked whether they believed there were health benefits to being outdoors, all participants responded “yes”! Participants shared a wide variety of benefits they get from nature, including physical, mental, and emotional health benefits. Physically, people enjoyed being able to move outside and experience the diversity of nature, from seeing trees and open spaces to pulling fruit off trees.

Many participants identified mental and spiritual health benefits of being outdoors, too. One participant said, **“I definitely go to the park on Sundays, it’s like church to me and I like to go admire the wonders of the world.”** Others shared their stories of how being outdoors really helped relieve stress during the COVID pandemic. One participant with mobility and visual disabilities talked about how his disabilities can be isolating (especially during COVID), but being outside and experiencing the sensory stimulants — the breeze blowing, visual variation in the trees — has restorative benefits on his mental health. Another participant shared, **“I live with depression of anxiety and PTSD. And being outside, like in nature is almost like putting this warm, cold, comfortable blanket over me.”**

In addition, participants shared how there are even doctors recommending time outdoors, adding extra motivation to find ways to enjoy time outside. This trail should be viewed as a community health asset, and perhaps have some of those health benefits highlighted in the interpretive signage along the path.

## CULTIVATING A FEELING OF SAFETY

People of color and women, in particular, noted that they sometimes feel unsafe in the outdoors, especially if the environment is new to them and they don’t know what they’ll encounter. One participant said, **“A lot of black people I know around this area are scared and fearful of hiking or jogging, and just doing stuff outside because they just don’t feel safe.”** For these communities, knowing that they’re safe and won’t be harassed in a public space is of utmost importance. Several participants shared several specific ideas about how to make them feel safer out on the trail, including:

- Having clean, well-maintained pathways that are wide enough for people to get through without having to step off the path. This makes it easy for them to walk through the property in groups or with friends, and also makes them feel safer if they need to pass someone on the trail.
- Providing interpretative signage that provides direction and clear guidance about how to return to the starting point. Participants noted that signage



not only helps direct the paths, but it also brings a sense of security for people when exploring a new environment. There should be signs placed at the beginning of each starting point of the trail if there are multiple starting points. They should state the length and level of difficulty of the trail or trails. A couple of participants mentioned that having arrows on the trail or clear signage directing them to the fastest way to get back to the parking lot would make them feel safer.

- Having a website or app to access information about the trail while on the trail. One participant shared how he watches YouTube videos of other wheelchair users to see how they maneuver the trail before he goes out. Another participant suggested having guided tours for specific community groups (ex. BIPOC communities, people with disabilities, etc.) to familiarize people with the trail before expecting them to access it on their own.
- Having lights along the pathway to help people navigate back to the starting point in case it gets dark.
- Having some form of emergency communication, such as a blue light system, walkie-talkies, or whistles along the trail to call for help if cell service is not available.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is usually reduced to following ADA standards, but for our participants it means a lot more than following slope or surface guidelines (though those are important as well). Having accessible trails is the only way many of our community members are able to access the outdoors, and being able to access those health and social benefits are very important. A participant with disabilities shared, ***“Being in a wheelchair and visually impaired is very isolating. Getting outside provides me with so much to experience and boost my mental health.”***



When it comes to the trail, having a compact surface that’s well-maintained ensures that wheelchair users and strollers can easily make it along the trail. Accessibility also means having ADA bathrooms, and could also include paved pull outs so that wheelchair users can easily get off the trail to view scenic areas.

For people with visual impairments, there’s a whole host of other ways to make the space safe and accessible, including:

- Sound recordings as part of the interpretive signs
- Tactile maps
- “Shorelining” that provides a distinct line between the gravel trail and off-trail vegetation to help guide walkers along the path
- Having binoculars and scopes available to assist with viewing nature
- Incorporating sound elements into wayfinding signage, the trails system, and amenities (bathrooms, parking lots, etc.) to alert recreators to trail crossings and distinct features
- Rope or handrail guides along sections of the trail for people to hold so they can more easily follow the path
- App integration with disability apps like Blindsquare to help with navigation



Although many participants did not voice transportation as being a barrier to accessing nature, there were several examples shared highlighting transportation limitations to getting out on trails. A wheelchair user shared some of the struggles she has faced in the past when using public transportation. For example, when using Dial-a-Bus, she must call a week prior to set up a ride; however, Dial-a-Bus only provides transportation for appointments and grocery shopping trips. There's no way for her to access trails without public transportation. She also expressed that if the closest bus stop is a distance from the starting point of the trail, it may not be possible for her to get to the accessible trail if she has to cross inaccessible terrain (ex. roads without sidewalks).



To ensure that everyone has equitable, inclusive access to the trails, participants shared several ideas:

- Creating a bus route that only stops at local hiking trails
- Having shuttles specific to this trail during high-traffic seasons (summer, holiday weekends)
- Frequent bus service to the trail so that people can return home safely — they don't want to get stuck out there
- Ensure that transportation stops directly at the accessible trailhead to avoid barriers or obstacles in between the bus drop-off and the trail

# CONCLUSION

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Owens Farm has the potential to be a radically inclusive space that provides unique and varied experiences for the whole community. Through this engagement, we heard in-depth information from a diversity of community members about what they would like to see to make this space a welcoming environment that fits their needs. Our hope is that this feedback is reflected in the next update of the Conceptual Trail Plan, and that, once completed, the Owens Farm property becomes a model for other public land owners across the region and nation.

This phase of engagement, though, does not represent the end of the line. Owens Farm Partners will continue to engage a variety of community members in as many ways as possible over the next few months to better understand the full breadth of opinions and ideas our community has to offer.



# Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland Conceptual Trail Planning Summary Report

Draft: November 2021

## Acknowledgements

*This effort would not be possible without the generous funding from the Land Trust Alliance, Oregon Advancing Conservation Excellence Program, and the Yarg Foundation and contributions from the Owens Farm Trail Planning Partners listed below.*

### Trail Planning Partners and Advisors

- Matt Benotsch (Greenbelt Land Trust)
- Emily Day (City of Corvallis – Parks and Recreation)
- Karen Emery (City of Corvallis – Parks and Recreation)
- James Feldmann (Oregon Department of Transportation)
- Claire Fiegener (Greenbelt Land Trust)
- Claire Fox (Greenbelt Land Trust)
- Jude Geist (City of Corvallis – Parks and Recreation)
- Mac Gillespie (Benton County Health Department)
- Sara Hartstein (Benton County Health Department)
- Phil Hays (Benton County-volunteer/Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas)
- Lyle Hutchens (Samaritan Health Services – consultant)
- Jennifer Killian (City of Corvallis – Parks and Recreation)
- Julie Manning (Samaritan Health Services)
- Lynne McKee (Benton County – Natural Areas, Parks, and Events)
- Rocio Munoz (Benton County Health Department)
- Michael Pope (Greenbelt Land Trust – Retired)
- Meredith Petit (City of Corvallis – Parks and Recreation)
- Barton Robison (Willamette Partnership)
- Jacqueline Rochefort (City of Corvallis – Parks and Recreation)
- Laurie Starha (Benton County – Natural Areas and Parks)
- Adam Stebbins (Benton County – Natural Areas and Parks)
- Ellen Tappon (Benton County volunteer/ Alliance For Recreation and Natural Areas)
- Ingry Thurow (Greenbelt Land Trust)

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Appendix A: Findings from Key Related Plans

Appendix B: Trail Planning Work Session Summary Report

Appendix C: Memorandum of Agreement

Appendix D: Owens Farm Community Engagement Report

Appendix E: Open to All Inclusion Guide

# Background and Purpose

## Purpose of the Trail Planning Process

Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT), Samaritan Health Services, Benton County Health Department, Benton County Parks & Natural Areas, Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas, Willamette Partnership, and the City of Corvallis Parks & Recreation are collaborating to develop an innovative cross-sector vision for a thriving natural landscape that supports the mental and physical health and wellbeing of members of our community. We believe that all members of our community, regardless of age, health, mobility, and socioeconomic status deserve ready access to nature on a trail network that accommodates users of all abilities and provides an outstanding experience with minimal impact to the resource.

The focus of this planning effort has been the development of a conceptual trail plan for the combined 477-acre Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland (OFJFW) site on the north end of the city of Corvallis. The site includes Owens Farm (GLT, Samaritan Health Services, and Corvallis Parks & Recreation owned), Jackson-Frazier Wetland (Benton County Parks & Natural Areas ownership), and various additional parcels owned by the City of Corvallis and GLT. This report documents this collaborative trail planning process and includes detailed site analysis, summary of related plan and policy guidance, trail siting and design objectives, identification of points of interest (positive control points), and a conceptual trail plan map depicting desired alignments and related facilities. In addition, rough cost estimates, recommended design details, and photo imaging products have been developed to help build understanding and support for the proposed system and guide on-the-ground implementation. The conceptual trail plan will continue to be refined based on further analysis and additional input from a broader group of interested parties.

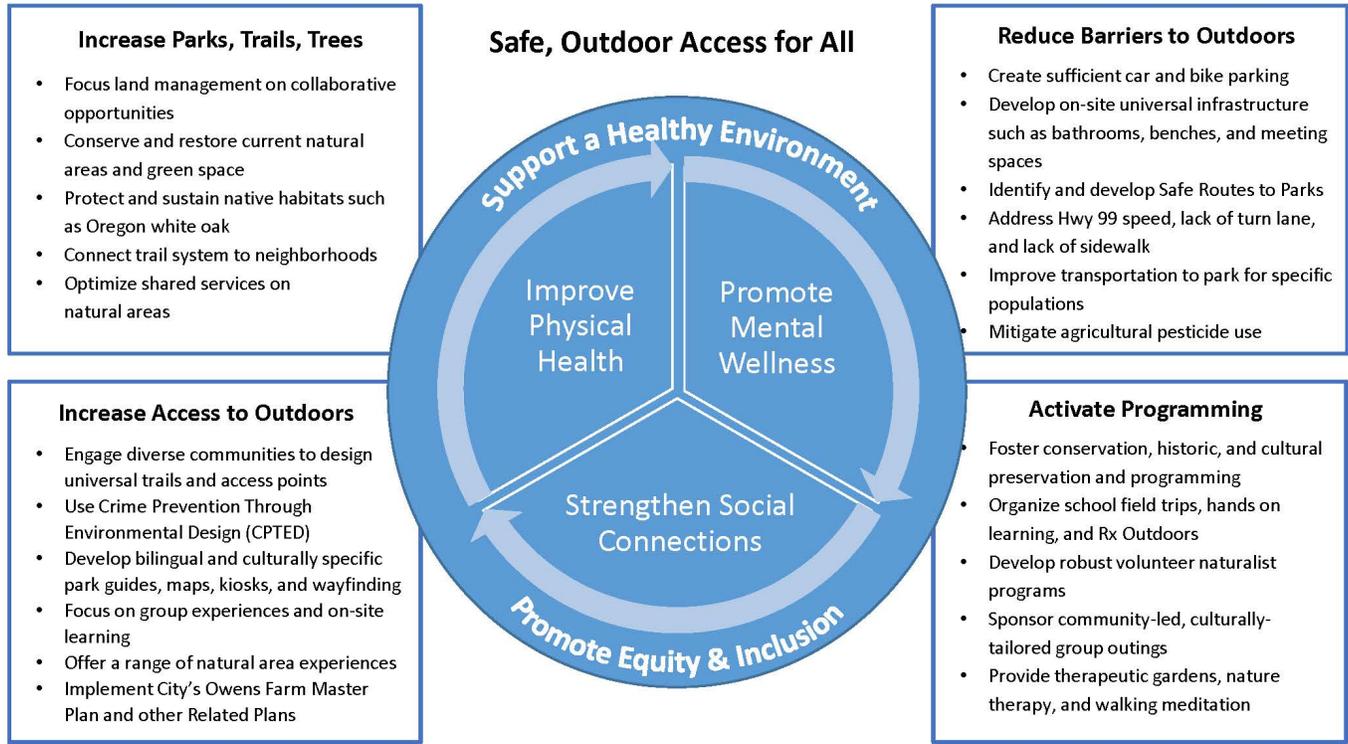
## Partnership Initiative

In 2017, Greenbelt Land Trust and the Benton County Health Department initiated an effort under guidance of the Oregon Health and Outdoors Action Framework (see diagram on next page) to develop the Owens Farm Partnership (Partnership) composed of landowners associated with Owens Farm. The vision for the Partnership was to create an opportunity to develop a universal access trail network on Owens Farm with connections to the adjacent Jackson-Frazier Wetland and other nearby properties that would benefit all of the community. In addition to GLT and Benton County Health Department, the City of Corvallis, Benton County, Samaritan Health Services and the Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas have collaborated in this effort. The Partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement in early 2021 (see Appendix C) and will work toward eventually constructing this trail system as a way increasing the accessibility of nature to all people in our community by supporting the diversity of needs for mental and physical health and wellbeing, while addressing the issues of traditional social and cultural barriers to accessing the outdoors. The Partnership also hope this process will be used as a community-wide template that can be applied to other open spaces and natural areas across the region.

Development of the conceptual trail plan described in this report has been a key objective of this Partnership. The Partnership's next tasks will be to expand community engagement, refine the proposed trail alignments, seek funding for implementation, and eventually oversee on-the-ground construction. It is likely that the proposed trails and related facilities will be constructed in phases over a number of years as funding is secured.

# Framework for Promoting Trail Connectivity at Owens Farm and Adjoining Properties and Neighborhoods

Cross-sector partners advancing holistic, collaborative planning to promote “healthy people in a healthy environment.”



**Stakeholders:** Samaritan Health Services (SHS), City of Corvallis, Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton County, Employees and Patients of SHS, Lewisburg Residents, Surrounding Neighborhoods, Mobile Home Community, Businesses along HWY 99, Crescent Valley High School, Cheldelin Middle School, Wilson Elementary School, Users of McDonald Forest/Jackson Frazier Wetland, OSU Research Forests, Historic Preservation/Education Stewards, Tribal and Other Cultural Groups, Oregon Department of Transportation, Linn Benton Lincoln Early Learning Hub, Access Benton County, The ARC, Benton County Developmental Diversity

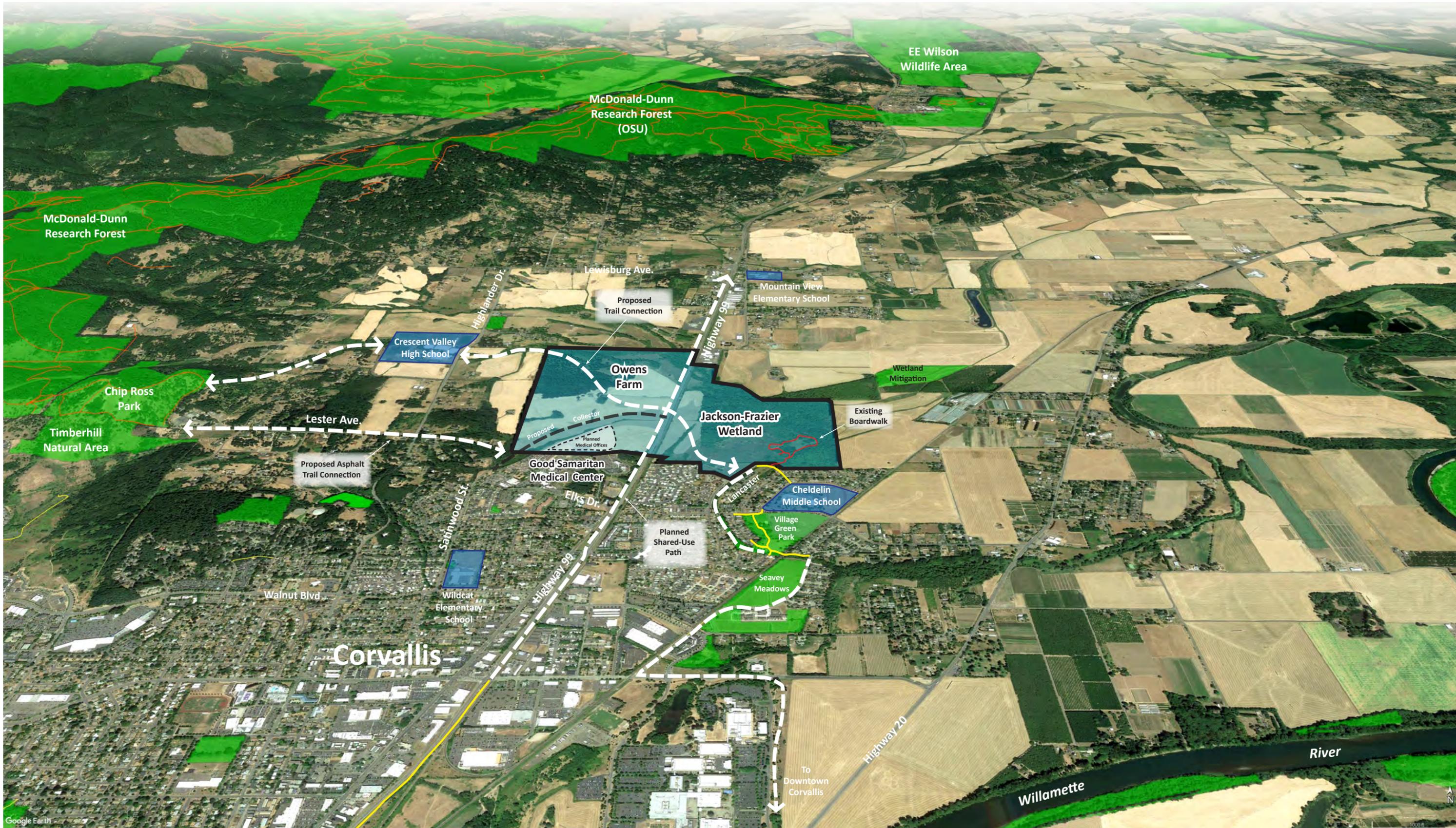
Framework adapted from Willamette Partnership's *An Oregon Action Framework for Health and the Outdoors*, Version 1.0, November 10, 2015. Final Draft 02.15.19

## Summary of Findings from Key Plans

A number of local plans provide key direction on the development of a trail system on the site. These include regional-scale transportation and recreation plans, County development code, and site-specific management plans. Findings from the review of these related plans are summarized in Appendix A.

## Regional Context

The 477-acre site is located just to the north of the Samaritan Health Services campus on the north end of the city and is bisected by Highway 99 and a parallel railroad. The adjacent lands to the west, north, and east are primary rural in character. Four public schools are located within a half mile of the site. Key planning documents propose a future shared-use path extending from downtown Corvallis parallel to Highway 99 and a trail connection running from Jackson-Frazier Wetland across Owens Farm and then westward to connect to the existing trail networks at Chip Ross Park and the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest (see the Regional Context Perspective on the next page).



# Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland Context Perspective - Looking North

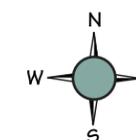
Map 1

### Legend

- Owens J-F Wetland Site Boundary
- Public and Conserved Lands
- Future Regional Trail/Path Connections\*

- Existing Soft-Surfaced Trails
- Existing Hard-Surfaced Paths

\* Future regional trail/path connections shown are reflective of facilities proposed in local Transportation System Plans and the Corvallis Parks and Recreation Master Plan (locations are approximate).



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### Existing Site and Conditions

#### Land Cover

The 477-acre Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland site consists of a mix of high-value natural areas that are managed for habitat values and agricultural lands that are currently farmed under agricultural leases for grass seed production. Jackson Creek and Frazier Creek converge just to the west of Highway 99 and then flows through the large floodplain and across wet prairie and ash forest wetland habitats at Jackson-Frazier Wetland. Much of the northern half of the Owens Farm property is managed as natural area and contains a diverse mix of native habitats including oak woodland, savanna, riparian forest, flowing water, and wetland and upland prairie.

#### Facilities

Several historical structures are found on the City-owned portion Owens Farm including the Knotts-Owens farmhouse, built around 1880, along with two century-old barns in poor condition. In 2014, the City moved the one-room Sunnyside School building (built in 1912) approximately one mile to its current location near the hilltop at Owens Farm. This building will be restored for future use as an educational facility and community center. The only formal trail on the site is located near the southeast corner of Jackson-Frazier wetland. This loop boardwalk trail covers approximately two-thirds of a mile and was constructed approximately 25 years ago. Benton County plans to re-construct this boardwalk in the coming years as it has reached the end of its lifespan. The trail system here includes a trailhead kiosk, a designated parking area on Lancaster Street, and several interpretive signs. There are currently no trails or formal public access elsewhere on the site, but two short gravel trail segments are found on and adjacent to the Samaritan Health Services campus (see Map 2: Existing and Planned Site Features and Facilities).

### Natural Features Regulation and Overlays

Natural features such as wetlands and floodplains are regulated by State and Federal laws and the known extent of these features have been mapped (Map 3). Under State and Federal regulation, trails are generally permitted in these areas but would need to be carefully designed to avoid seasonal flooding and any wetland fill of over 50 cubic yards would require State permitting and potentially require compensatory wetland mitigation. Boardwalks that are elevated above the floodplain and wetland surface are generally permitted and a good alternative to fill in wetland conditions. Benton County designated “natural features overlays” (see Map 3: Natural Features and Overlays) also apply to a portion of the site. These overlay areas are regulated under Chapter 88 of the county’s Development Code. In short, trails and related facilities are generally a permitted use within these zones, but with some restrictions. For example, trails that cross designated “Riparian Corridors” are limited to a maximum width of 48 inches and must cross these areas in an alignment that is perpendicular to the corridor itself (see Appendix A: Findings from Key Related Plans for more details).

### Planned Site Development

Samaritan Health Services will be constructing its long-planned medical office complex on approximately ten acres of the Owens Farm property, just to the north of the existing medical facility. The facility, which will likely include three medical buildings and associated parking and landscaping, will be situated on the south side of the waterway and outside of the protected riparian corridor and wetlands. In addition to the new medical facility, an extension of Satinwood Street (Benton County Transportation System Plan project CC-254) is proposed to cross the Owens Farm property to connect to Highway 99 in the future with a signalized intersection or roundabout (see Map 2: Existing and Planned Site Features and Facilities). A signalized intersection could facilitate safe pedestrian crossing of the highway.

This trail planning process is working under the assumption that these planned facilities will be constructed and that the proposed trail system will include a direct connection to the medical center to serve staff, visitors, and patients.

**Selected Site Photos**



*Samaritan Health Services campus and Owens Farm*



*2018 Owens Farm Universal Access Workshop*



*Looking north across Owens Farm from the "knoll"*



*Restored oak savanna on the north end of Owens Farm*



*Sunnyside School near the Owens Farm homestead*



*Existing boardwalk at Jackson-Frazier Wetland*

# Owens Farm Conceptual Trail Plan

## Existing and Planned Site Features and Facilities Map

### Legend:

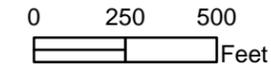
- All Mapped Wetlands (LWI)
- Intermittent Waterways
- Perennial Streams
- 10-Foot Contours (LiDAR derived)
- Site Boundary
- Parcel Lines
- 2020 Wetland Restoration Area

### Areas of Interest and Control Points:

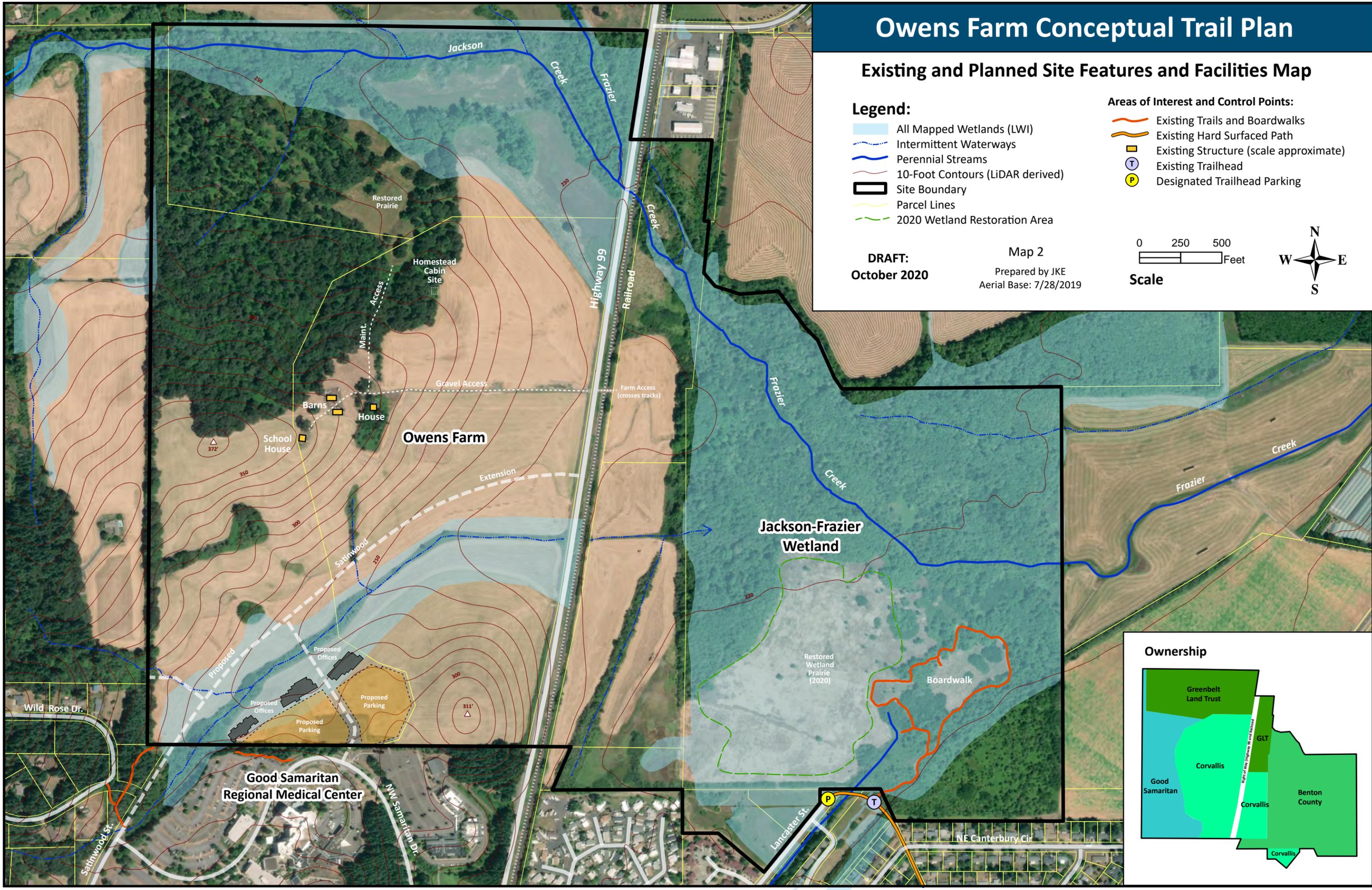
- Existing Trails and Boardwalks
- Existing Hard Surfaced Path
- Existing Structure (scale approximate)
- Existing Trailhead
- Designated Trailhead Parking

**DRAFT:**  
**October 2020**

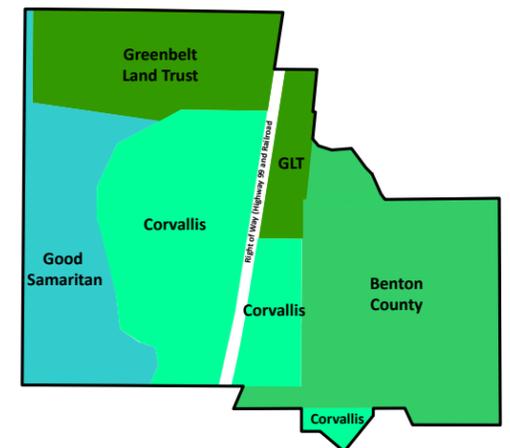
**Map 2**  
Prepared by JKE  
Aerial Base: 7/28/2019



**Scale**



### Ownership



# Owens Farm Conceptual Trail Plan

## Natural Features and Overlays Map

### Legend:

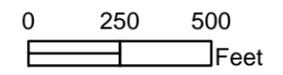
- All Mapped Wetlands (LWI)
- 100-Year Floodplain (FEMA)
- Perennial Waterways
- 10-Foot Contours (LiDAR derived)
- Site Boundary
- Existing Trail (Boardwalk)

### Natural Features Overlays (Benton County):

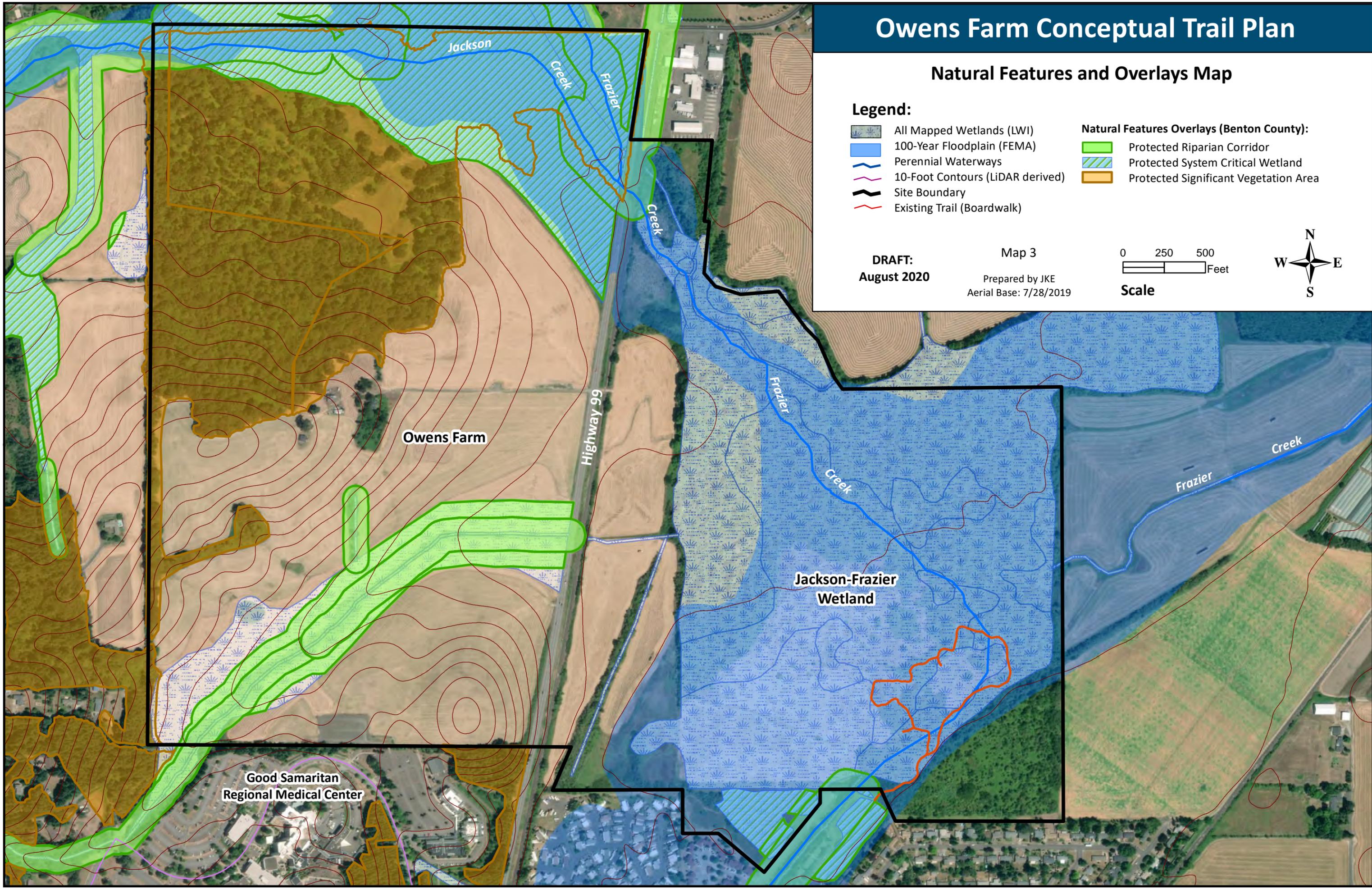
- Protected Riparian Corridor
- Protected System Critical Wetland
- Protected Significant Vegetation Area

**DRAFT:**  
**August 2020**

Map 3  
Prepared by JKE  
Aerial Base: 7/28/2019



**Scale**



## Focused Community Engagement and Key Recommendations

### Purpose

In 2021, Owens Farm Partners came together to conduct a targeted community engagement process to gain insight into what individual community members from diverse backgrounds and abilities want to see when they go to walking trails to inform the ongoing trail planning effort. The engagement process was designed to give traditionally underserved communities the opportunity to participate early on in the process and to help build a shared vision for the trail system. This effort provided the opportunity for groups often forgotten, to be given the chance to voice their opinions and shape the final design of the Owens Farm trail system. Lessons learned from this engagement process have been reviewed by the Owens Farm partners and used to refine this trail plan and could also be applied to other trail networks in the Corvallis area.

### Engagement Process

Over the course of ten weeks in the spring and summer of 2021, individual and small group listening sessions were conducted with 22 community members. Community members came from a variety of backgrounds and shared unique experiences about their time in nature. The listening sessions, guided by the “Owens Farm Fellow” Silvia Arizmendi, were conducted on Zoom, over the phone, and in-person, and lasted from thirty minutes to one hour. These interviews were recorded, with many transcribed using a digital transcription service, and notes were taken summarizing each interview. The Owens Farm Fellow was funded by Willamette Partnership.

After sharing their ideas and thoughts during the listening session, participants were invited to attend one of three guided tours given at the Owens Farm site in July 2021. During the tours, Partnership representatives provided an introduction to the property, a history of the land, and an overview of the Conceptual Trail Plan. Then they were asked three primary questions at stops along the tour. Experiencing the property in person provided community members a deeper sense for the site, an understanding of the general location of future trails, an opportunity to expand their vision for the property, and share their stories about how they enjoy being in nature. In gratitude, participants were given a \$150 honorarium for participating in an interview and site visit. A summary of this effort, titled the Owens Farm Community Engagement Report, is included as Appendix D of this report.



*Participants at one of three community engagement tours held at Owens Farm in July 2021*

## Key Themes and Recommendations

The Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland trail system has the potential to be a radically inclusive space that provides unique and varied experiences for the whole community. Through this engagement, our Partnership heard in-depth information from a diversity of community members about what they would like to see to make this space a welcoming environment that fits their needs. The recommendations below are sorted into four categories and are based on the feedback we received: 1) Fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion; 2) Access to nature; 3) Cultivating a feeling of safety; and 4) Comfort and enjoyment of the outdoors. These recommendations will be refined and integrated into the trail system at Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland in the coming years as the trail system is developed.

### ***Fostering a Sense of Belonging and Inclusion***

Almost all participants expressed a strong desire to feel like they belong and are welcomed to this space, and project partners have explicitly committed to ensuring the future trail system is an inclusive space for the entire community.

The following features and actions are recommended:

- **Welcome Signage:** Integrate entry signage at kiosks and trailheads that say “Welcome!” in a variety of languages that represent the diversity of cultures in Corvallis.
- **Celebrate Indigenous Heritage:** Work with local Tribal representatives to utilize native words and terms for site features, plants, wildlife, and nearby landmarks (e.g., Native names for Cascade peaks) and to celebrate the long history of Indigenous habitation of the area. Consider changing the name of property to an Indigenous chosen name to honor the Kalapuyan people who have been on this land since time immemorial.
- **Guided Walks:** Offer guided walks for community members and groups who have typically not utilized local trails to build confidence and awareness of the local trail resources.
- **Interpretation:** Develop highly-accessible interpretive materials that describe the natural environment and the long human history of the area including how humans interacted with and managed the land over time. Signage with QR codes could be used to provide multilingual interpretive materials and materials that are also accessible to trail users with sensory disabilities such as hearing or sight.
- **Art and Cultural Events:** Celebrate the diversity of our community and promote connections to nature through placement of temporary or permanent art installations and by hosting site-based cultural events (music, celebrations, storytelling) to honor our BIPOC community members and leaders.



*Welcome signage in Pullman, Washington creates a welcoming environment for local and distant travelers*



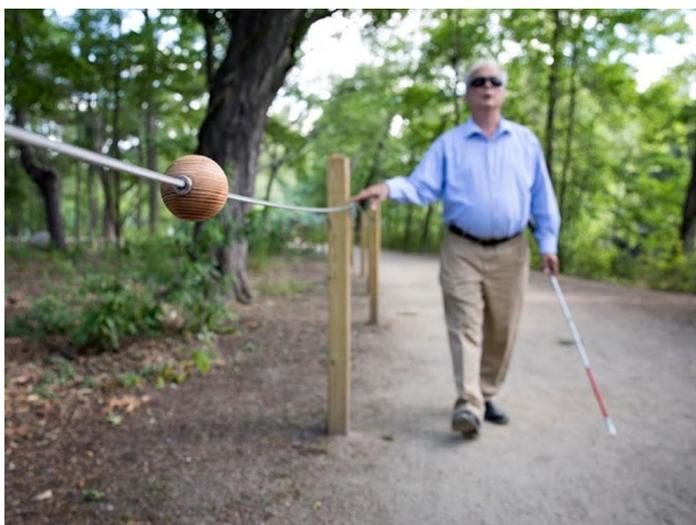
*One of a dozen Kalapuya “Talking Stones” placed throughout Alton Baker Park in Eugene and Springfield*

## Access to Nature

Having accessible trails and public transportation to the trailheads is the only way many of our community members are able to access the outdoors and enjoy the health and social benefits that are critical to a thriving community.

The following features and actions are recommended:

- **Universally accessible trails:** Construct a network of universal access trails that are designed to be usable by all people to the greatest extent practicable without separate or segregated access for people with disabilities (see proposed routes and design details).
- **Offer highly accessible and condensed loop trail options:** Offer trail options that are compact and highly accessible to accommodate trail users with a range of disabilities including mobility, sensory (vision and hearing), and cognition. These trail options should offer a high-quality experience with access to points of interest (viewpoints, heritage trees, historical features). The Owens Overlook loop (segment 3), Knoll Overlook (segment 5), and the J-F Wetland boardwalk (segment U1) are ideal locations.
- **Accommodate trail users with sensory (sight and vision) disabilities:** Incorporate special features such as sound recordings and tactile elements into wayfinding and interpretive signage and maps, cable guides, and carefully deigned “shorelining” (distinct line between gravel and off-trail vegetation) along select trail routes, and integrate trail information with disability apps like [Blindsquare](#) to help with navigation.
- **Provide transportation to and from trailheads:** Coordinate with Corvallis Transit System to expand transit service or provide peak season shuttles to trailheads to allow easy access for those without an automobile or to those who are unable to drive. Transit or shuttle stops should be placed directly at the accessible trailheads to avoid barriers between the drop-off and the trail.
- **Gear:** Offering discounted or free outdoor gear such as backpacks, water bottles, and hiking shoes to community members could make trail use more feasible and enjoyable for those with limited resources to put toward specialized equipment.
- **Special access events:** Provide special events that allow community members to travel portions of the trail system through alternate modes (e.g., hayrides or a small electric tram) as a unique and fun way to provide access to visitors of all ages and abilities.
- **Trail Information:** Provide clear guidance on trail ratings and conditions through on-site maps and web resources to assist trial users in advanced planning of their trips. Consider highlighting places to view wildlife through signage and web resources such as [Birdability](#).



*The “Braille Trail” in Watertown Massachusetts uses a cable system to define the trail route and tactile features such as the spherical block to indicate the presence of nearby benches or interpretive information.*



*Special events that offer alternate modes for accessing nature provides opportunities all community members regardless of age or level of mobility.*

### ***Cultivating a Feeling of Safety***

During the engagement process, many community members, particularly people of color and women, noted that they sometimes feel unsafe in the outdoors, especially if the environment is unfamiliar to them.

The following features and actions are recommended:

- **Well defined trail system**: Having well defined and maintained trails with clear maps and wayfinding signage along the entire route will provide users with a sense of security, good orientation, and clear direction on how to return to their starting point. Elimination of all unofficial “user trails” is critical for maintaining the clarity of route and eliminating opportunities for confusion.
- **Sight lines and adequate trail width**: Designing trails with good sight lines and adequate width is important for avoiding surprise encounters with wildlife and other trail users and ensuring users can easily pass without stepping off the trail.
- **Lighting**: Providing lighting at major trailheads and parking areas provides a beacon that helps trail users navigate back to the starting point as it gets dark, provides improved vehicle safety, and offers a sense of security. Lighting the entire trail system is not recommended as it would require significant ongoing maintenance, cause light pollution, negatively impact wildlife, and provide a false sense of security.
- **Emergency response**: Incorporating emergency communication options such as call boxes (blue light system) along the trail system would allow users to call for help or report problems if cell service is not available.
- **Docents or guides**: Having volunteer docents or guides present at the trail system to welcome visitors, provide information about the trails and recreational opportunities, and lead informal tours can be a valuable resource and offers a sense of security and welcoming, especially for first time visitors.



*A well-defined trail with good sight lines and frequent signage like the system at Riley Ranch Park in Bend gives users a feeling of security and good orientation.*



*Call boxes along a trail system provide an added safety feature and allows users to report emergencies even in areas with poor cell phone coverage.*

### ***Comfort and Enjoyment of the Outdoors***

Our community seeks enjoyment of the outdoors in a variety of ways. We have the opportunity to recognize that enjoyment of the outdoors can be experienced through many different lenses. Several participants expressed the desire to compliment the natural features of the landscape with amenities that make visiting the property more comfortable and interesting.

The following features and actions are recommended:

- **Seating**: Benches placed along the path and other designated rest areas would offer visitors places to sit, rest, and to break up longer walks. Installing a seasonal (or special event specific) hammock grove was another very popular idea and would be a low cost feature.
- **Destinations**: Suggesting potential routes and destinations at trailhead kiosks or through web-based resources gives first time visitors ideas of where to go on this large site. This could include suggesting destinations to visit such as viewpoints, interesting habitats, quiet seating areas, and loop options of varying length.
- **Spaces for gathering**: Creating spaces where groups of friends and family could gather for picnicking or be used as an outdoor classroom setting.
- **Spaces for quiet contemplation**: Creating dispersed seating areas that are away from the main trails would provide options for those desiring solitude and quiet.
- **Drinking water and restrooms**: Access to drinking water and restrooms were perhaps the most requested trail system amenities in the engagement process.



*A hammock grove at Camp Lutherwood in Cheshire*



*An incense cedar-themed gathering area at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum with seating and interpretation displays*



*A quiet seating area set back from the main trail in at the Howard Buford Recreation Area*

## Trail Siting and Design Objectives

The draft trail siting and design objectives listed below are based on a combination of existing plan and policy direction (see Findings from Key Related Plans report), input provided by the Owens Farm Trail Partnership at the October 22, 2020 work session and subsequent meetings (see Appendix B: Trail Planning Work Session Summary Report), and input collected during the 2021 community engagement effort described in the previous section and in Appendix D. These objectives will guide planning and development of the trail system and related facilities at the Owens Farm and Jackson-Frazier Wetland (OFJFW) site and may be refined based on further community input.

- **Objective 1: Connectivity.** Provide trail connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods, schools, and the broader regional trail network:
  - Provide a regional trail connection westward from Owens Farm to Crescent Valley High School and the existing trail network at Chip Ross Park and the McDonald-Dunn Forest.
  - Provide trail connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods and schools (Crescent Valley High School, Cheldelin Middle School, Wildcat Elementary School, and Mountain View Elementary School).
  - Provide a trail and/or path connection between Owens Farm and the Jackson-Frazier Wetland, creating a safe and convenient crossing of Highway 99 and the railroad – evaluate at-grade crossing, bridge, and tunnel options. This crossing would also connect neighborhoods to the east and west of the highway.
  - Provide direct trail access from the Samaritan Health Services campus for patients, visitors, and staff.
  - Support City, County, and ODOT efforts to extend the shared-use path along Highway 99 between downtown Corvallis and Lewisburg Avenue (adjacent to Owens Farm) to provide direct bike and pedestrian access to the site.
- **Objective 2: User Experience.** Provide an outstanding user experience:
  - Provide trail access to key viewpoints and points of interest (See Map 4).
  - Develop a system of stacked loops with options of various lengths and experiences (See Map 5).
  - Provide a welcoming, peaceful, and safe trail experience with open sight lines.
  - Provide access to a range of habitat types (oak woodland, oak savanna, upland and wet prairie, riparian)
  - Provide user amenities including welcome signage, clear wayfinding signage, benches, restrooms, trailhead information kiosks, multilingual trail maps with detailed accessibility information, and interpretive interventions (signage and/or QR codes to access multilingual interpretive information and information formatted for trail users with disabilities including sensory (vision and hearing) and cognition).
  - Interpret the site’s ecology and human history (Kalapuya and homestead era).
  - Enhance and showcase native vegetation along the trail corridor (maximize showy native forbs).
  - Highlight/celebrate the park and trail system to serve as a gateway to Corvallis.
- **Objective 3. Access for All.** Provide “Universal Access” to key site features (see Map 4). Guidelines for Universal Access trails include:
  - Maximum running grade of 5%.
  - Cross slope of 0-4%.
  - Highly compacted gravel surfacing and/or boardwalk (see design details).
  - Minimum clear tread width of 48” (adequate for wheeled mobility devices including motorized).
  - Passing spaces with a tread width of 60” at intervals of at least every 300 linear feet (allow

**Universal Access:** Universal Access trails, also referred to as barrier-free trails, are designed to be usable by all people to the greatest extent practicable without separate or segregated access for people with disabilities. As the population ages and health issues and disabilities increase, a growing number of people will face limits to their outdoor recreational activities. However, these limits do not mean a reduction in the interest in nature, wildlife, physical exercise, and recreation.

- wheeled mobility devices adequate passing space and social distancing).
- Special designated trail segment that accommodate those with sensory (vision and hearing) disabilities. This could include cable guides for navigation, sound recordings, tactile elements such as braille wayfinding and interpretive signage, and carefully deigned surfacing to aid “shorelining” (tactile surfaces for navigation).
- **Objective 4. Sustainability and Maintenance.** Utilize sustainable trail principles to produce a safe, high-quality, long-lasting trail facility:
  - Create an all-season trail system and elevate the trail tread and boardwalks above seasonal inundation levels.
  - Incorporate adequate drainage features - rely on drainage dips (grade reversals) and avoid culverts where feasible to reduce maintenance requirements.
  - Designate reinforced maintenance access points along the trail network where maintenance vehicles and farm equipment could cross without rutting the trail surface.
  - Seasonally brush (or mow) the edges of the trail corridor (minimum of 24” on each side) to keep the trail clear of encroaching understory and tall grass.
  - Blow or rake organic material (leaves and grass) from the trail surface once annually in fall/winter to prevent organic matter buildup on the trail surface - buildup could compromise universal access surfacing over time.
- **Objective 5. Limiting Impacts.** Site and design the trails to minimize negative impacts to the site’s natural features, hydrology, long-term agricultural uses, proposed urban facilities, and neighboring properties:
  - Site the trail to avoid impacting sensitive habitat areas (e.g., rare plants, wetlands).
  - Where feasible, site trails to limit conflict with ongoing agricultural practices or agricultural leases.
  - Avoid siting trails in areas where future development is planned (e.g., medical buildings, parking, and Satinwood Street extension).
  - Where the trail corridor crosses a designated “Riparian Corridor”, reduce trail width to a maximum of 48” and cross the mapped corridor at a perpendicular angle (as required under Chapter 88, Benton County Code).
  - Consider requiring that dogs remain on leash while on site and consider excluding dogs on segments that pass through particularly sensitive wildlife habitat (e.g., Proposed Wetland Overlook Trail).
- **Objective 6. Trail Network Access.** Provide adequate, safe, and convenient access to the proposed trail network:
  - Designate trailheads that provide trail access from Samaritan Medical Center, adjacent neighborhoods (existing and planned), and nearby schools.
  - Identify adequate parking facilities for projected future trail use and provide bus parking to accommodate school field trips. Disperse parking to several multiple trailheads if possible, to provide broader access to the site and to avoid creation of a single large, congested parking area. All formal parking areas should have designated accessible parking spaces that facilitate easy access onto the trail system.
  - Coordinate with Corvallis Transit System to possibly expand transit service or peak season shuttles to trailheads over time.
  - Provide special events that allow community members to travel portions of the trail system through alternate modes (e.g., hayrides or a small electric tram) as a unique and fun way to provide access to visitors of all ages and abilities. Designated routes should be carefully selected to avoid impacting trail surfacing.

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# Owens Farm Conceptual Trail Plan

## Points of Interest and Trail Related Constraints

### Potential Constraints to Trails

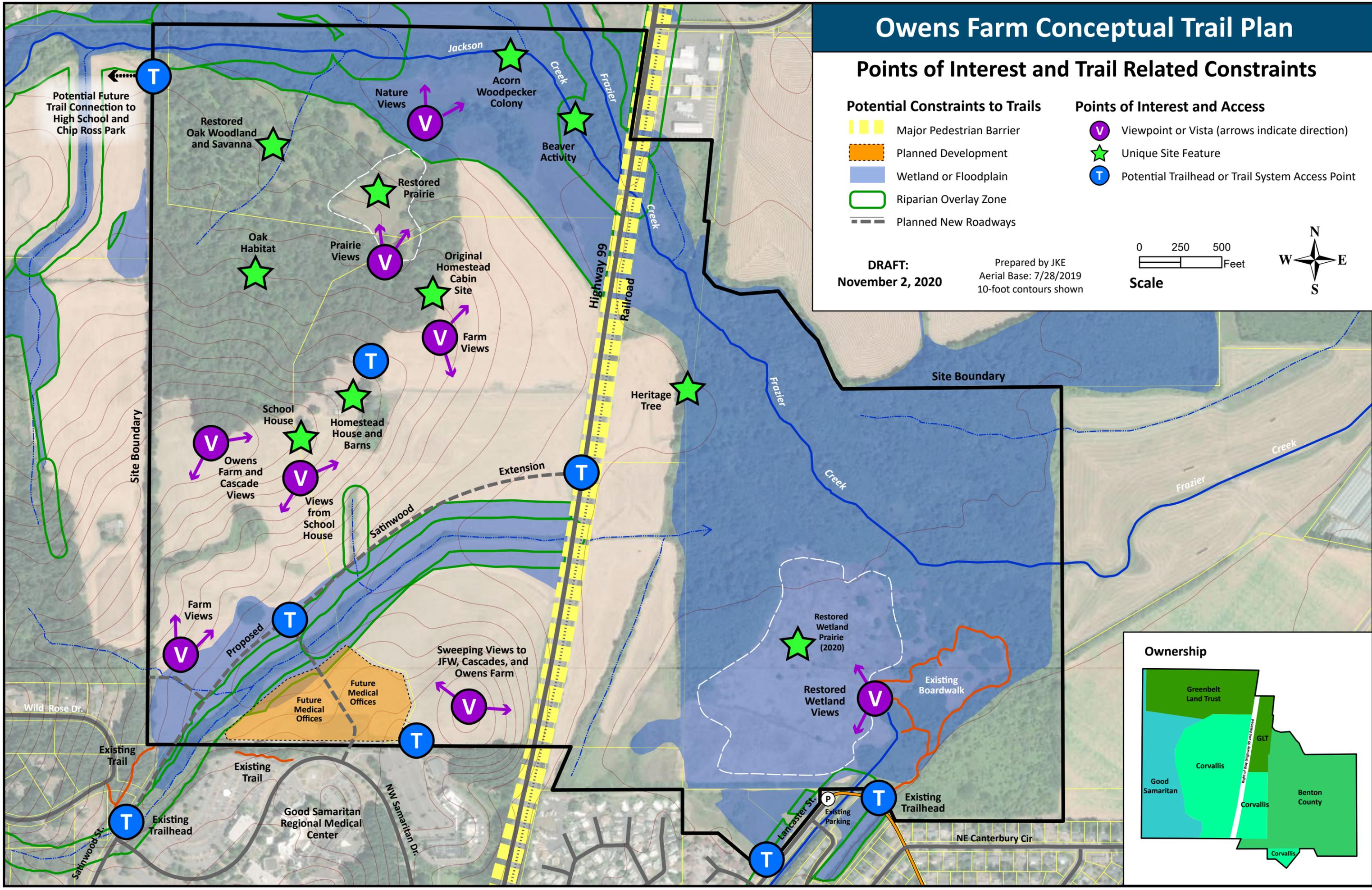
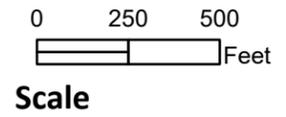
-  Major Pedestrian Barrier
-  Planned Development
-  Wetland or Floodplain
-  Riparian Overlay Zone
-  Planned New Roadways

### Points of Interest and Access

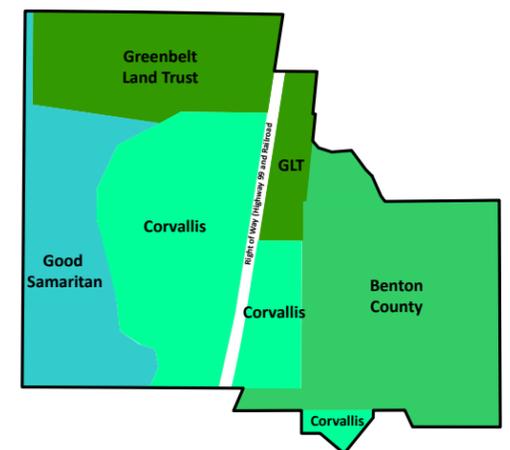
-  Viewpoint or Vista (arrows indicate direction)
-  Unique Site Feature
-  Potential Trailhead or Trail System Access Point

**DRAFT:**  
November 2, 2020

Prepared by JKE  
Aerial Base: 7/28/2019  
10-foot contours shown



### Ownership



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## Proposed Trail Concept

### System Overview

The proposed system was designed to provide highly accessible access to points of interest and an assortment of habitats and includes a series of loop options to provide varied experience and options for shorter or longer trail experiences. Priorities listed below are based on the desire to construct a functional trail system in the near-term that allows users to access key site features, but that does not significantly impact ongoing agricultural practices. Longer range projects include those segments that are dependent on future infrastructure improvements such as the need for a safe crossing of Highway 99 via a bridge and/or signalized intersection. Linear foot calculations are based on current proposed alignments which are subject to refinement. In total, 17,570 linear feet (3.3 miles) of universal access trail, 5,300 linear feet of mow trail (1.0 miles), and 7,670 linear feet (1.5 miles) of paved path are proposed for a combined total of 5.8 miles of new paths and trails. In addition, 3,510 linear feet of existing boardwalk at Jackson-Frazier wetland is slated for reconstruction by Benton County in the near future and approximately 2,500 linear feet trail on the Samaritan Health Services campus is proposed for upgrade/construction to complete the on-campus system. See Map 5: Proposed Trails and Related Facilities for details on proposed alignments and segment numbers.

### Proposed Trail and Path Segments and Priority

ID#	Type*	Linear Feet	Description and Extent
<b>Proposed Near-Term Trails (first priority)</b>			
1	UA	3,200 lf	From existing trail at SW corner of Owens Farm to the oak loop trail intersection
2	UA	4,230 lf	Oak Loop Trail on the northern half of Owens Farm
3	UA	1,240 lf	High access Owens overlook spur trail from the schoolhouse to the hilltop
4	UA/B	1,200 lf	Spur trail from the Oak Loop Trail to the Acorn Woodpecker Overlook
5	UA	530 lf	Samaritan Health Services campus to Knoll Overlook
6	M	600 lf	Existing grassed maintenance access road from homestead area to GLT prairie
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>11,000 lf</b>	<b>(2.1 miles)</b>
<b>Proposed Longer Range Trails (to be constructed after planned development and road projects are complete)</b>			
7	M	4,700 lf	Seasonal trail from J-F Wetland Boardwalk to Heritage Tree (merge with Trail #11)
8	UA	2,310 lf	Connector trail from proposed hard surfaced path (P1) to proposed Trail #1
9	UA	1,150 lf	From Oak Woodland Loop Trail to NW corner of Owens Farm (regional trail connection)
10	UA	1,530 lf	From Oak Woodland Loop Trail to proposed path (P1) – Crosses Highway 99
11	UA	2,180 lf	From future path (P2) to future Highway 99/Satinwood Intersection
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>11,870 lf</b>	<b>(2.3 miles)</b>
<b>Planned and Proposed Shared Use Paths (hard surfaced)</b>			
P1	Path	4,400 lf	Planned path (Benton County TSP Project PB65) parallel to Highway 99
P2	Path	3,270 lf	Proposed path from Lancaster Street to Samaritan Health campus (includes bridge)
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>7,670 lf</b>	<b>(1.5 miles)</b>
<b>Proposed Upgrades to Existing Trails</b>			
U1	B	3,510 lf	Replace boardwalk which has reached the end of its lifespan
U2	UA	2,500 lf	Upgrade existing trails on Samaritan Health campus and complete missing segments
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>6,010 lf</b>	<b>(1.1 miles)</b>

\*Trail Types: UA = Universal Access; M = Seasonal Mowed Trail; B = Boardwalk

# Trail Standard and Design Details and Rough Estimation of Costs

## Recommended Trail Standards

Trail Type	surfacing	Standard With	Side Slope	Maximum Running Grade	Drainage Features	Clearance
<b>Universal Access</b>	Highly compacted gravel (remove organic material and topsoil)	48" with 60" long passing zones spaced a minimum of every 300'	2-4%	5% sustained (up to 8% on short segments if needed)	Grade reversals	V: 84" (7 feet) H: 24" (2 feet)
<b>Elevated Universal Access</b>	Highly compacted gravel with elevated base	48" with 60" passing zones (60" long) spaced a min. of every 300'	2-4%	5% sustained (up to 8% on short segments if needed)	Grade reversals or culverts	V: 84" (7 feet) H: 24" (2 feet)
<b>Boardwalk</b>	Wood, concrete, or synthetic materials	60-72"	0% (level)	2%	None	V: 84" (7 feet) H: 24" (2 feet)
<b>Mow (seasonal)</b>	Natural grass surface or duff	60"	0-5%	10%	None	V: 84" (7 feet) H: 0" (none)

## Design Details

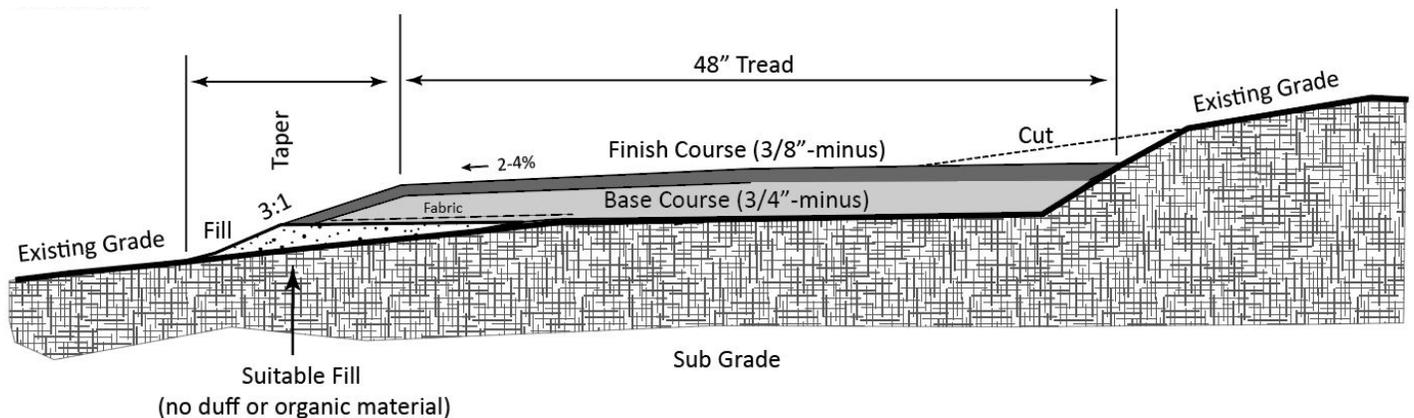
### Universal Access Trails

The majority of the proposed new trails on the site are standard universal access, covering approximately 3.2 miles in total. The design details shown below depict a variety of standards that could be applied in various site conditions such as wet areas, flat areas, and areas with significant side slope. The standards shown are conceptual and could be refined based on consultation with the trail construction contractor and/or Partnership staff.



*Universal access-style trail segment at Wild Iris Ridge in Eugene (right)*

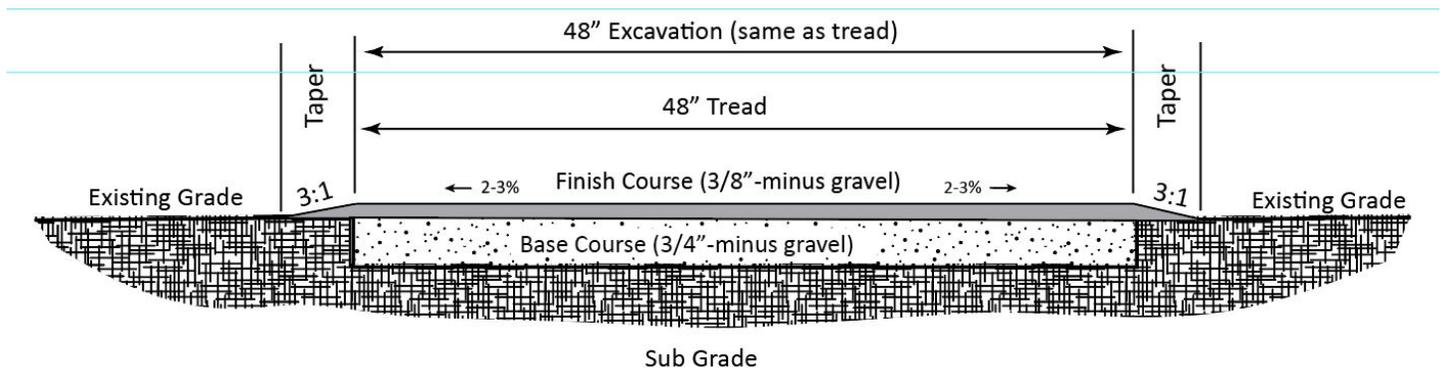
### Universal Access Trail Construction Detail for Side Slope Areas



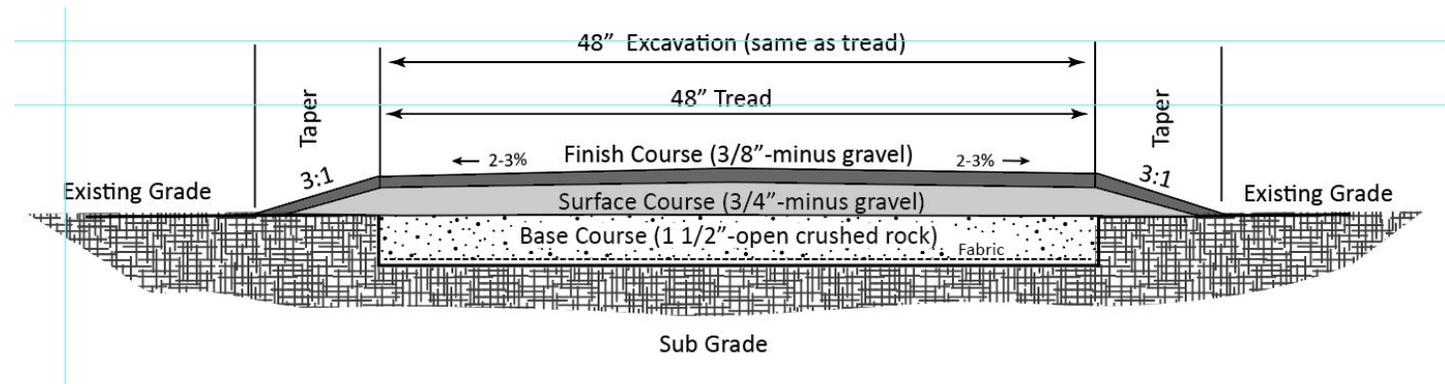
The standards shown below may be applied in in flatter areas with minimal side slope or wetter areas. In either situation, the organic topsoil should be removed and replaced by a base course (see details below). The base course should be approximately 4 inches in depth and the surface course should be approximately 1 inch in depth. All courses must be heavily compacted.



**Universal Access Trail Construction Detail for Flatter Areas**



**Elevated Universal Access Trail Construction Detail for Wetter Areas**



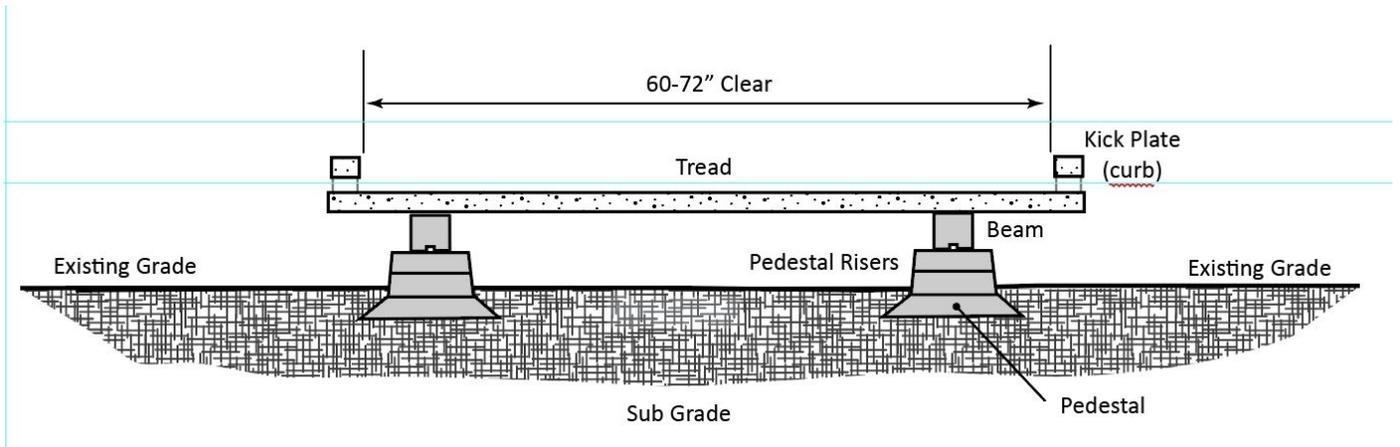
## Boardwalks

A boardwalk segment may be desired at the far end of the proposed Wetland Overlook spur at Owens Farm and Benton County will be replacing its existing boardwalk at Jackson-Frazier Wetland sometime in the near future. A large variety of boardwalk styles and materials are available, and each has its pros and cons. Pressure treated wood construction is the most cost effective, but has a limited life span, can become slippery, and could leach chemical preservatives. Composite (plastic) wood is made from biologically inert material and is a good boardwalk option, but is more expensive than wood, needs special framing, and can also become slippery over time.

Prefabricated vinyl and precast concrete boardwalks are by far the most long lasting and slip resistant options, but also the most expensive. Regardless of style, kick rails are an essential design elements to prevent users from accidentally stepping or rolling off the boardwalk and decking that is placed perpendicular to the route is preferred by users of wheeled mobility devices.



*Prefabricated concrete boardwalk example – PermaTrak*



**Boardwalk Construction Detail (concrete style shown)**

## Rough Estimation of Costs

Cost estimates are based on a rough estimation of unit costs derived from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department cost assumptions (2019), comparison of costs from similar projects, and known site constraints and will be refined will be refined in the future.

### Trails and Paths (estimates include preparation and construction)

ID#	Type	Linear Feet	Per Linear Foot Cost*	Segment Cost (rough estimate)*	Comments
<b>Proposed Near-Term Trails (first priority)</b>					
1	UA	3,200 lf	\$28	\$89,600	
2	UA	4,230 lf	\$28	\$118,440	
3	UA	1,240 lf	\$35	\$43,400	Highly accessible trail (60" standard width)
4	UA/B	1,200 lf	\$35	\$42,000	May require additional elevation of tread
5	UA	530 lf	\$35	\$18,550	Highly accessible trail (60" standard width)
6	M	600 lf	\$0	\$0	Complete
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>11,000 lf</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$311,990</b>	
<b>Proposed Longer Range Trails (to be constructed after planned development and road projects are complete)</b>					
7	M	4,700 lf	\$2	\$9,400	Cost factor is for initial brush clearing
8	UA	2,310 lf	\$32	\$73,920	May require additional elevation of tread (wetland)
9	UA	1,150 lf	\$28	\$32,200	Regional trail connection
10	UA	1,530 lf	\$28	\$42,840	
11	UA	2,180 lf	\$28	\$61,040	
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>7,170 lf</b>		<b>\$219,400</b>	
<b>Planned and Proposed Shared Use Paths (hard surfaced)</b>					
P1	Path	4,400 lf	\$120	\$528,000	Proposed in Benton County TSP
P2	Path	3,270 lf	\$120	\$392,400	
B	Bridge	-	-	Significant Cost	Detailed design needed for cost estimation
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>7,670 lf</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Proposed Upgrades to Existing Trails</b>					
U1	B	3,510 lf	\$250	\$877,500	Cost widely variable based on style and material
U2	UA	2,500 lf	\$15	\$37,500	Upgrade existing surfacing (needs more analysis)

### Other Trail Related Facilities

Type	#	Per Unit Cost*	Total Cost	Comments
Wayfinding Signs	15	\$725	\$10,875	Directional with embedded map
Interpretive Signs	6	\$1,000	\$6,000	Cost highly variable based on style
Kiosks	4	\$7,500	\$30,000	Cost highly variable based on style
Vault Toilet (2 stall)	2	\$64,000	\$128,000	Forest Service style concrete – Location TBD
Asphalt Parking Lots (3 new lots)	Approx. 60 spaces	\$3,100	\$186,000	Rough estimate of new spaces – Location and parking lot sizes to be refined over time
Sensory Loop Trail Features	1	\$25,000	\$25,000	Rough estimate. Actual cost would be determined by final design of features.
Emergency Call Box	3	\$2,500	\$7,500	Variable costs depending on unit
Benches	10	\$1,200	\$12,000	Variable costs depending on bench style
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$405,375</b>	

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# Owens Farm and JF Wetland Conceptual Trail Plan

## Proposed Trails and Related Facilities Map

### Legend:

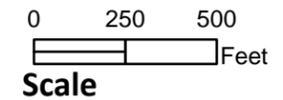
- Site Boundary
- 10-Foot Contours
- Intermittent Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Wetland or Floodplain
- Existing Trails
- Existing Parking and Trailhead
- Tax lot Lines
- Segment Code

### Proposed Trails and Related Facilities

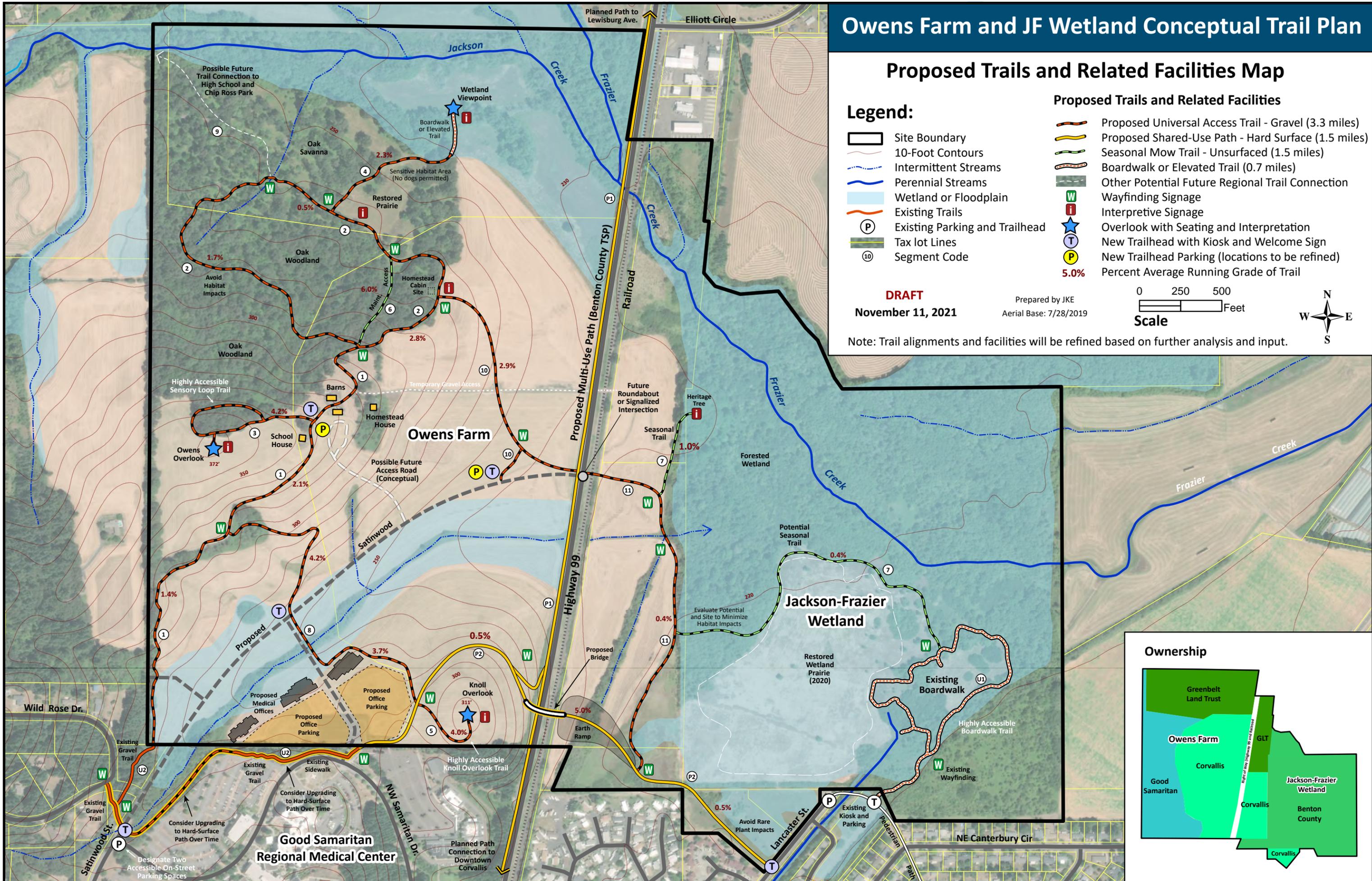
- Proposed Universal Access Trail - Gravel (3.3 miles)
- Proposed Shared-Use Path - Hard Surface (1.5 miles)
- Seasonal Mow Trail - Unsurfaced (1.5 miles)
- Boardwalk or Elevated Trail (0.7 miles)
- Other Potential Future Regional Trail Connection
- Wayfinding Signage
- Interpretive Signage
- Overlook with Seating and Interpretation
- New Trailhead with Kiosk and Welcome Sign
- New Trailhead Parking (locations to be refined)
- Percent Average Running Grade of Trail

**DRAFT**  
November 11, 2021

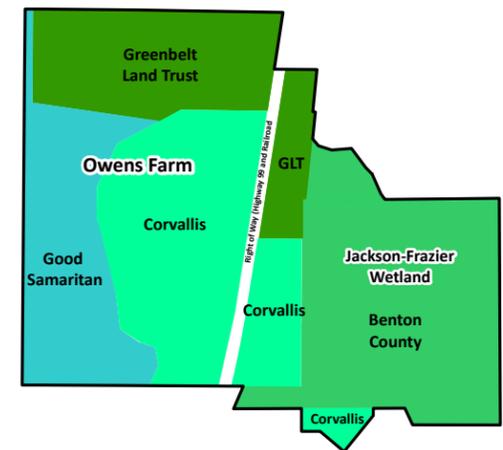
Prepared by JKE  
Aerial Base: 7/28/2019



Note: Trail alignments and facilities will be refined based on further analysis and input.



### Ownership



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## Envisioning Trails and Design Details

The following renderings were developed by graduate students from the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Oregon and depict how universal access trails and related facilities might appear at Owens Farm.

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# Owens Farm Conceptual Trail Vision

## Proposed Owens Overlook Universal Access



Existing condition

This overlook spur trail will provide a universal access connection from the Sunnyside School and homestead buildings to a scenic viewpoint. The trail will run along the edge of an oak woodland and will provide excellent vistas across Owens Farm and the surrounding landscape.



Photo imaging prepared by Darby Pierce

# Owens Farm Conceptual Trail Vision

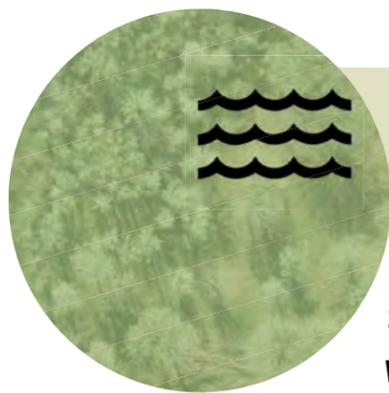
## Proposed Oak Loop Universal Access Trail



Existing condition

This universal access trail will provide a one-mile loop option that will take visitors past the site of the original homestead cabin, provide views to restored prairie, and pass through an oak woodland with several century-old oaks. This trail will provide great educational opportunities for interpreting a variety of habitats, native wildlife, and past human uses.





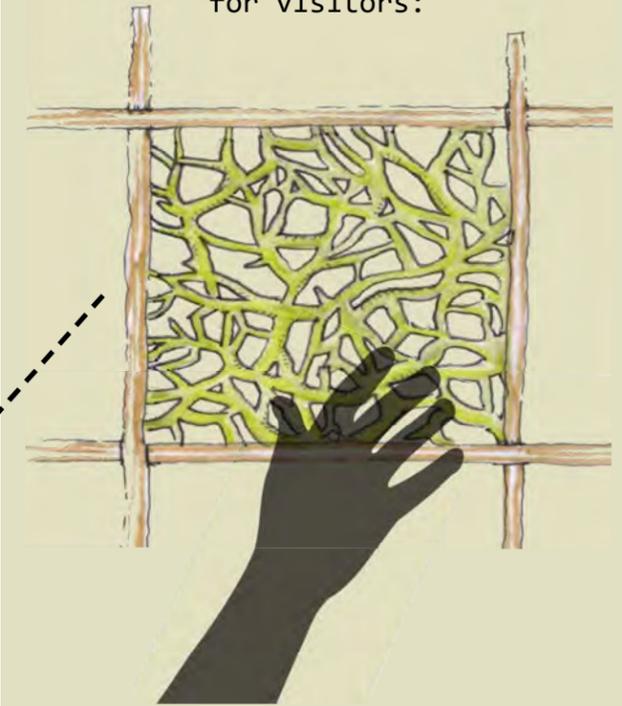
# Ash Savanna Gathering Place

Restoration of Ash Woodland, Savanna and Wet Prairie creates a unique setting to experience a wide range of biodiversity. This gathering place, which faces east through a sparse savanna and onto the Jackson-Frazier wetland, allows hikers or students to reflect on the habitat that surrounds them, specifically the distinctive epiphyte communities that thrive on ash tree branches.



## Tactile Art Installation:

Enameled metal tiles inspired by the lichens that make up the epiphyte communities on Ash trees are suspended to view the landscape through and provide a tactile experience for visitors:



Native Oregon lichens



# Oak Woodland Gathering Place

Oak Woodland, restored through thinning out conifers and invasives, offers habitat and food sources to many distinct organisms. This gathering place provides group settings that emphasize the form and distribution of the Oregon white oaks native to the site. Benches, ADA-accessible platforms and an art installation lead visitors off the main trail to experience being surrounded by mature Oregon oaks.



Acorn Woodpecker



## Tactile Art Installation:

Acorns from the Oregon white oak are an important food source for Acorn Woodpeckers. These birds store the acorns away in trees, called “granary trees” for later use. Many of these trees can be found at Owens Farm.

To add a tactile experience that is also unique to the place, granary tree specimens can be created by drilling holes in a log and then sealing with a lacquer. Visitors can then touch this texture as they pass through the Oak woodland and think of the special bird that lives there.



# Rendering of Universal Access Trail and “Educational Eddy” in Savanna



# Rendering of Universal Access Boardwalk and "Eddy" in Wetland Prairie





Illustration created by Taylor Bowden, University of Oregon, Department of Landscape Architecture

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## Design Element Examples

### Wayfinding Signage and Kiosk Examples

Kiosks with site maps and multilingual trail information will be located at key trail access points and parking areas and wayfinding signage is proposed at all trail intersections to ensure easy navigation. Examples are shown below:



*Existing kiosk at the Jackson-Frazier Wetland*



*Wayfinding signage on the Ridgeline Trail in Eugene*



*Wayfinding signage with integrated trail map at Riley Ranch Park in Bend*



*Wayfinding signage at Buford Recreation Area near Eugene and Springfield*

## Interpretive Signage and Map Examples



*Interpretive signage at Delta Ponds in Eugene*



*Trail map in Skinner Butte Park in Eugene*



*Interpretive signage at Jackson-Frazier Wetland*



*Multilingual QR code on interpretive sign in Australia*



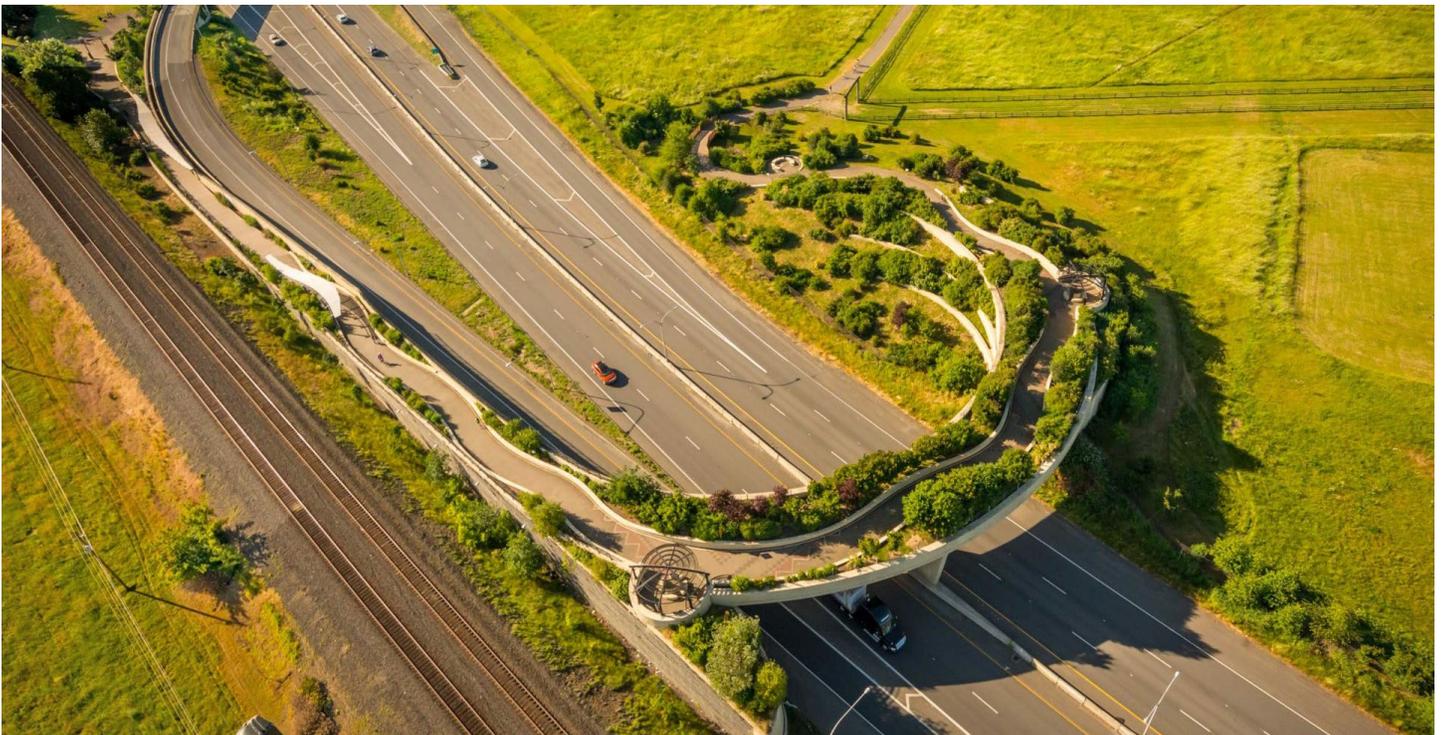
*Overlook at Riley Ranch in Bend with post mounted interpretive signage*

## Bridges

In addition to their function of moving people over obstacles, bridges can also function as scenic gateways, viewpoints, and highly aesthetic sculptural features.



*Barbara Walker Crossing in Portland*



*Vancouver Land Bridge in Vancouver, Washington*