

OCRF Grant Project Completion Report

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Introduction

Project Name*

ODFW #338-22_Improving Accessibility at Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Project Location*

Eugene/Springfield, Lane County, Willamette Valley Ecoregion

Actual Impact Measurement Unit

- **Miles:** ~4 miles of improved trails
- **Volunteers engaged:** Approximately 75 individuals
- **Other:** Accessible materials created, guided walks for individuals with disabilities

Oregon Conservation Strategy Species *

This project supported the enhancement of public access to diverse habitats within the Willamette Valley ecoregion, aligning with the Oregon Conservation Strategy by fostering educational and recreational opportunities for all, particularly underserved populations.

Final Report Questions

Project Statement*

The Improving Accessibility at Mount Pisgah Arboretum project addressed barriers to nature access for individuals with disabilities. By upgrading trail systems, hosting guided walks, and creating accessible communication tools, this project opened Howard Buford Recreation Area to a broader audience, fostering equity and inclusion in outdoor recreation.

Summary of Goals*

1. **Trail Upgrades:**
 - **Inside of the Arboretum:** Specific improvements were made to create two universally accessible trail loops and one barrier-free loop within the Arboretum. These upgrades included resurfacing trails, adding culverts, and ensuring appropriate signage.
 - **Outside of the Arboretum:** Working in collaboration with Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (Friends), additional trails outside the Arboretum were also

improved using methodologies identified in the 2021 accessibility study. Friends will complete surfacing and placement of benches at the two eastern rest areas this winter following conclusion of the cultural resource consultation with the tribes. The remaining bench sites will be constructed this spring. Friends are planning a formal trail completion event for early-mid May. This may include a ribbon cutting ceremony with elected officials, project partners, as well as community members.

2. **Guided Walks:** Seven guided nature walks were held, engaging groups of 6-15 individuals with disabilities, including collaborations with the "Wednesday Wheelers" wheelchair group and adaptive recreation programs. Feedback from participants informed further improvements.
3. **Accessibility Communication Tools:** Developed and deployed materials, including printed brochures, and a dedicated webpage providing clear trail accessibility information. A Spanish-language version of the trail accessibility map was also created, and bilingual trail accessibility information was installed at two park kiosks.
4. **Community Engagement:** Approximately 75 volunteers contributed to trail improvement efforts, and local organizations, such as Lane Independent Living Alliance and Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad, played active roles in outreach.
5. **Educational Opportunities:** Hosted an accessibility workshop in August 2023 led by Freya McGregor, attended by 26 participants from 16 agencies. The Arboretum also partnered with David's Chair to provide tracked all-terrain wheelchairs for free use on trails.

Lessons Learned*

The project faced several challenges but provided valuable learning opportunities:

- **Weather Delays:** Severe weather, including a major ice storm in January 2024, caused extensive damage to trails and trees, requiring two months of recovery before work resumed.
- **Permitting:** Navigating county permitting processes and floodway designations delayed trail improvements outside the Arboretum boundary. A project timeline extension to December 2024 was approved to address these issues.
- **Partner Coordination:** Collaborating with multiple stakeholders necessitated flexibility in timelines and work priorities. Improved communication helped mitigate these challenges.
- **Community Feedback:** Engaging directly with disability groups provided valuable insights for trail design and communication, ensuring the project met user needs.

Next Steps*

- **Ongoing Maintenance:** Establish a maintenance plan to preserve trail quality and accessibility.
- **Expanded Engagement:** Continue guided nature walks in collaboration with local disability organizations, including adaptive recreation programs and community partners.
- **Evaluation and Feedback:** Conduct surveys to gather user feedback on trail improvements and communication tools, ensuring continual improvement.
- **Trail Expansion:** Work with partners to finalize trail improvements outside of the

Arboretum and explore additional funding to expand accessible trails throughout the Howard Buford Recreation Area

Attachments

Attachment 1: Trail Accessibility Bilingual Signage installed at two park kiosks

“Barrier Free” Loop

Distance: 1.5 miles

Inspired by trail accessibility standards, this loop has gradual elevation gains and some narrower sections. Includes: Creek Trails, Buford Trail, Incense-cedar Trail.

Surface	Width	Cross Slope	Avg. Grade
			
Bark mulch, gravel	36" or wider Exception: after Incense-cedar Exhibit < 36"	Minimal Exception: Severe after Incense-cedar exhibit	Ranges from 0-15% across included trails

Improved Access Loop

Distance: 1 mile

This is a suggested route that is wider, full of regular resting spots, and has minimal elevation gain. Includes: Riverbank Trail, Meadow Road, part of Pond Lily Trail, outer loop of Water Garden Trails.

Surface	Width	Cross Slope	Avg. Grade
			
Packed gravel, fine mulch, bark mulch	36" or wider	Minimal	0-5% 5-10% entering/exiting Wildflower Garden

Circuito “Sin barreras”

Distance: 1.5 millas

Inspirado en las normas de accesibilidad de los senderos, este circuito presenta desniveles graduales y algunos tramos más estrechos. Incluye: Creek Trails, Buford Trail, Incense-cedar Trail.

Superficie	Ancho	Pendiente transversal	Pendiente media
			
Mantillo descortezado, grava	Alrededor de un metro; Excepción: después de Incense-cedar Exhibit < 36"	Mínima; Excepción: Severa después de la “Exhibición de incienso y cedro”	Oscila entre 0-15% en todos los senderos incluidos

Circuito de acceso mejorado

Distancia: 1 milla

Esta es una ruta sugerida que es más ancha, llena de áreas regulares de descanso y tiene un desnivel mínimo. Incluye: Riverbank Trail, Meadow Road, parte de Pond Lily Trail, circuito exterior de Water Garden Trails.

Superficie



Grava compactada,
mantillo fino,
mantillo de corteza

Ancho



36" o más ancho

Pendiente transversal



Mínima

Pendiente media



0-5%

5-10% entrando y saliendo
del jardín de flores silvestres



Trail Descriptions

The Improved Access Loop and "Barrier Free" Loop are more accessible with paths that are wider, full of regular resting spots, and with minimal elevation gain.

Head to our website by scanning the QR code below for detailed descriptions of all our trails:



Descripciones de Senderos

El Circuito de acceso mejorado y el Circuito "Sin barreras" son más accesibles, con senderos más anchos, llenos de sitios regulares de descanso y con un desnivel mínimo.

Visite nuestro sitio web escaneando el código QR para ver las descripciones detalladas de todos nuestros senderos:



Attachment 2: Updated Bilingual Trail Map Brochure highlighting accessible trails



Trail Information:

Scan below for descriptions of all trails:



Accessible Trails:

The loops below are our more accessible trails with wider paths, regular resting spots, and minimal elevation gain.

Improved Access Loop

- Width: 36" or wider
- Cross slope: Minimal
- Avg. grade: 0-5%; 5-10% entry and exit of Wildflower Garden
- Surface: Packed gravel, fine mulch, bark mulch

"Barrier Free" Loop

- Width: 36" or wider; < 36" after incense-cedar Exhibit
- Cross slope: Minimal; Severe after incense-cedar Exhibit
- Avg. grade: 0-15%
- Surface: Gravel, bark mulch

Park Rules:

- Stay on trails
- Dogs must be kept on leash
- No bikes or horses
- No camping or hunting
- Do not pick or disturb plants or landscaping
- No smoking, campfires, or fireworks
- Call 541-747-3817 for group activities

About:

Mount Pisgah Arboretum is a 209-acre nature education park with 7-miles of family-friendly trails where visitors can explore the ecology of the southern Willamette Valley. It is part of the larger Howard Buford Recreation Area and has been part of the community since 1973.

The Arboretum's mission is to engage people with nature through interactive learning and stewardship.

As a nonprofit, the Arboretum depends on support from members and donors to steward the site and to provide education for the community.

Contact:

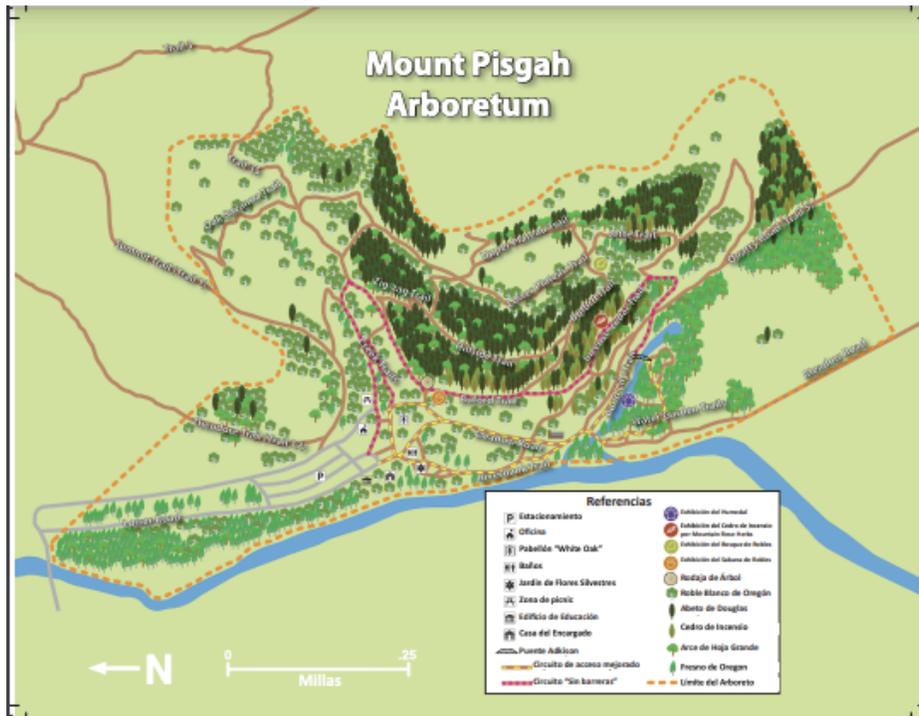
www.MountPisgahArboretum.org
34901 Frank Parrish Road, Eugene, OR 97405
541-747-3817



Trail Map

Discover your place in nature!

www.mountpisgaharboretum.org



Información de Senderos
Escanee a continuación para ver descripciones detalladas de todos nuestros senderos.



Circuitos Accesibles
Esos Circuitos son más accesibles, con senderos más anchos, llenos de sitios regulares de descanso y con un desnivel mínimo.

Circuito de acceso mejorado

- Ancho: 36" o más
- Pendiente transversal: Mínima
- Pendiente media: 0-5%; 5-10% entrando y saliendo del jardín de flores silvestres
- Superficie: Grava compactada, mantillo fino, mantillo de corteza

Circuito "Sin barreras"

- Ancho: 36" o más; después de Incense-cedar Exhibit < 36"
- Pendiente transversal: Mínima; Grava después de la "Exhibición de incienso y cedro"
- Pendiente media: 0-15%
- Superficie: Mantillo descortezado, grava

Las Reglas
Permanezca en los senderos
Los perros siempre deben ir atados a la correa
No bicicletas ni caballos
No se permite acampar ni cazar
No arranque ni altere las plantas ni el paisaje
No se permiten hogueras, fuegos artificiales ni fumar
Para actividades de grupos grandes, póngase en contacto con nuestro personal llamando al 541-747-3817

Quiénes Somos
El Mount Pisgah Arboretum es un parque educativo de 209 acres donde los visitantes pueden explorar la ecología del sur del Valle de Willamette. Forma parte del área recreativa Howard Buford y ha sido parte de la comunidad desde el año 1973.

La misión del Arboretum es acercar a la gente a la naturaleza a través del aprendizaje interactivo y la preservación.

Como organización sin ánimo de lucro, el Arboretum depende del apoyo de sus miembros, donantes y voluntarios para mantener sus senderos e instalaciones y ofrecer oportunidades de aprendizaje a la comunidad.

Contactos
www.MountPisgahArboretum.org
34901 Frank Parrish Road, Eugene, OR 97405
541-747-3817





Mapa de senderos

¡Descubra su lugar en la naturaleza!

www.mountpisgaharboretum.org

Attachment 3: link to Mount Pisgah Arboretum updated accessibility webpage

<https://mountpisgaharboretum.org/visit/accessibility/>

Attachment 4: link to Mount Pisgah Arboretum updated trail descriptions webpage

<https://mountpisgaharboretum.org/visit/trail-maps/>

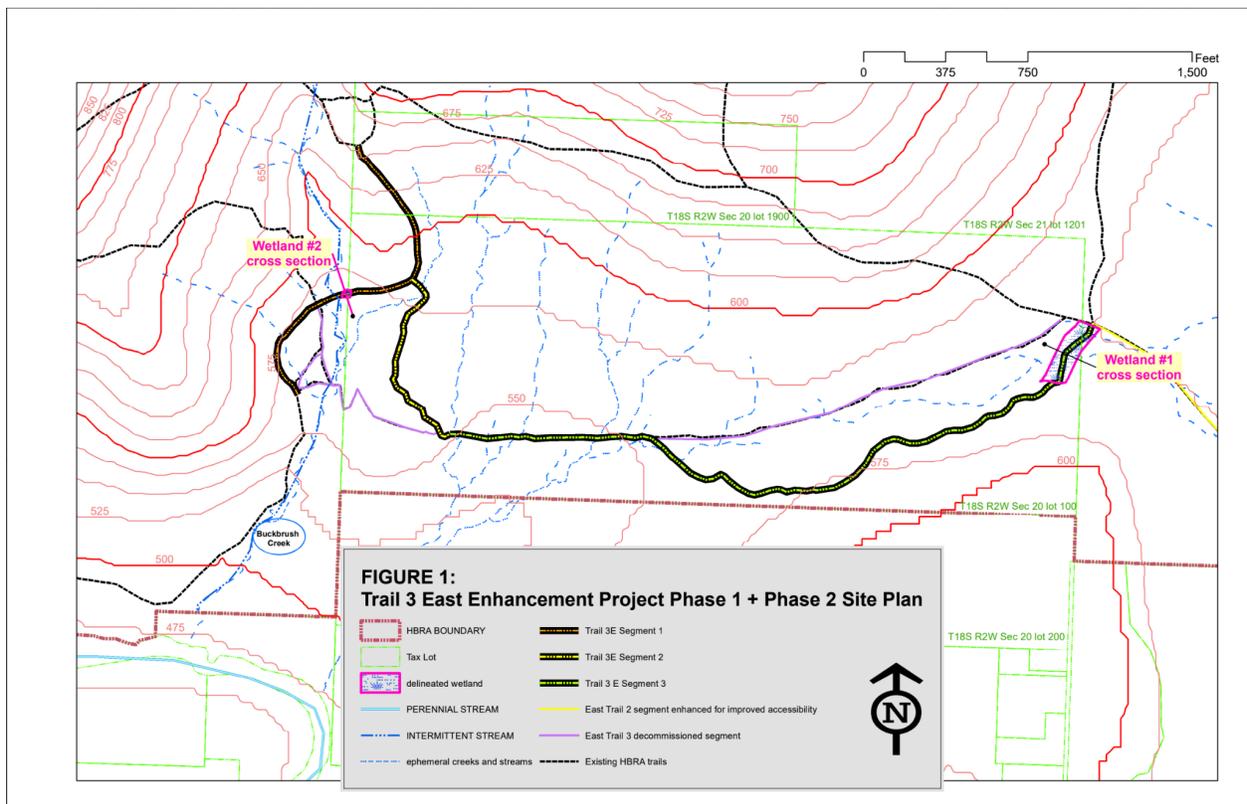
Attachment 5: photos of the completed trails inside Arboretum



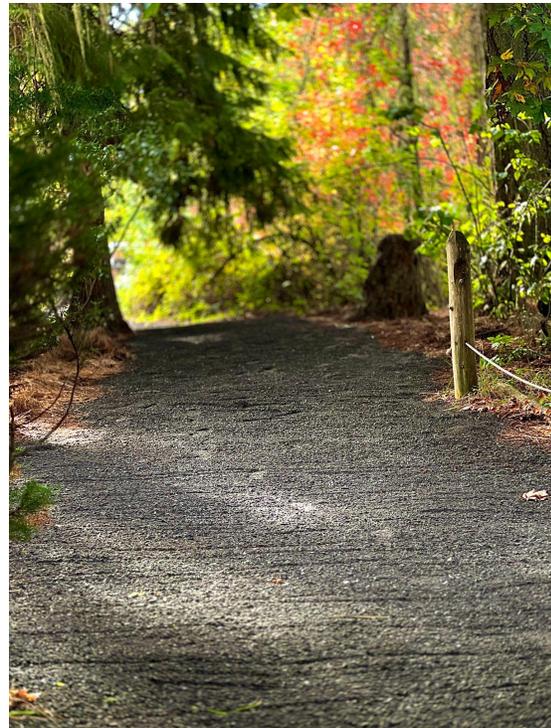
Attachment 6: photos of completed accessible trails outside of the Arboretum



Attachment 7: map of completed accessible trails outside of the Arboretum



Attachment 8: photos of United Way Day of Caring trail work party



Attachment 9: photos of David's Chair tracked all-terrain chairs at Mount Pisgah Arboretum.



Certification

Drafts of final reports for review may be submitted to ODFW.OCRF@odfw.oregon.gov

Certifying Statement*

I certify that the above and attached information is true and accurate.

Yes

Applicant Authorized Representative Name*

Ilana Jakubowski

Authorized Representative Title*

Mount Pisgah Arboretum Executive Director