

40 Mile Loop and Regional Trails Map

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1fgXia8Flh_eBgz81AiYv4aV208Rhqpo&ll=45.562404010211054%2C-122.7615132322132&z=12

Initially the map was created only to show the 40 Mile Loop and to include notes about trail segments where history or institutional knowledge relating to trail segments was important.

Pretty quickly the map went regional in scope, well beyond the 40 Mile Loop. I had been attending Metro's Quarterly Trails Forums since about 1993, so I had a decent overall knowledge of what was happening or beginning to happen around the region.

Transportation System Plans and various Park Trails Master Plans found online were very helpful. Where possible, I tried to assign appropriate credit in part to confirm the legitimacy of the alignments shown.

The map goes beyond Metro's boundaries by including Vancouver & Clark County trails, the Yamheli Westsider Trail, the Banks Vernonia and Salmonberry Trails, the Crown Zellerback Trail, the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, the Cazadero and Tickle Creek Trails, and the Canby Mollala Trail.

In selected parks and natural areas, internal trails were added, most of which are for pedestrians only. So far, Forest Park, Mt Tabor, Washington Park, Hoyt Arboretum, Pittock Acres, Tryon Creek, Smith & Bybee, and 1000 Acres on the Sandy River Delta have been added. More are coming, such as Gabriel, Riverview, Oxbow, Blue Lake, Chehalem Ridge, Mt Talbert, and nearby National Wildlife Refuges.

Occasionally, trail alignments were added that perhaps only I believe should be in our future. An example is the low elevation route along the Columbia River Gorge from Troutdale to Latourell which would put Rooster Rock, Multnomah Falls, and the low traffic and separated portions of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail within reach of many, many more people.

Much of the map was created by tracing trails that could be seen from the google map aerial layer. Trails beneath tree canopies were added thanks to help from GIS staff at Portland Parks & Recreation, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Metro, and SW Trails. This was especially helpful on the west side from Forest Park to Tryon Creek, for the SW Trails System, and for places like Powell Butte, Tualatin Hills Nature Park, and Cooper Mountain.

All 10 layers available from Google's My Maps were utilized. Users can turn layers on and off. Consistent language was developed, such as Community Paths for trail alignments that are primarily local; and consistent standards for what is shown as a regional Multiple Use Path as well as a Shared Use Path versus a Gap. A color-coded key was developed to help communicate the status of development and the intended use for each trail segment.

For the most part, the map is focused on Multiple Use Paths that are separated from vehicle traffic. The local pedestrian trails and Community Paths are included as a public service. Currently the map is for trail advocates and planners to support the development of a safe and accessible active transportation and recreation system of pathways and trails for the entire region. In and of itself the map does not convey any government intent.

Jim Sjulín, 40 Mile Loop board member, 503.804.6957, 4/4/2023