



Proposed Hot Springs Rim Trail Fact Sheet

What is the Hot Springs Rim Trail?

- The Hot Springs Rim Trail is a proposed pedestrian and mountain biking trail designed to provide recreation and commuting opportunities for working professionals, families, students, and health-conscious individuals in the Hot Springs, Oregon Tech, and Sky Lakes Medical Center area.
- The trail is proposed to be a neighborhood amenity: providing opportunity for recreation just out your back door.



More Information:

There are already trails all over the hills and in this same area, why build another one?

- Although there are numerous well-used trails in this area, most of them are unauthorized and unmaintained trails that have been constructed on private property.
- The Hot Springs Rim Trail is proposed to be on land owned or managed by Oregon Tech, the City of Klamath Falls (pending Council approval), and private property owners who have generously agreed to host the trail across their land.
- The existing trails often go straight up hills and increase erosion. The new trail is proposed to be built to reduce long-term impact to the landscape by using established trail-building standards.
- The proposed trail route is designed to provide opportunities for exercise and recreation in the daily lives of nearby residents: a fun walk up to a vista point, and a means of commuting outside the busy roadway for those who like a challenge or want to avoid traffic.

What organizations are supporting this project?

- Currently, the partnership involved in this project includes: Oregon Tech, the Sky Lakes Foundation, the Klamath Trails Alliance (klamathtrails.org), and two private-property owners who have given permission to route the trail on their land. The trail also has the support of the Blue Zones project.
- We are currently seeking approval from the City of Klamath Falls to use undeveloped rights-of-way and adjacent City-owned lots to provide access to the trail system from the Hot Springs neighborhood. We plan to present our proposal at the March 19th Council meeting.

Proposed Trail Route



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Who will pay for the trail?

- The trail is proposed to be constructed and maintained using grant funding and donations.
- The Sky Lakes Foundation has agreed to take the lead in applying for grant funding.
- Currently, we have commitments for over \$5,000 in donations. If you would like to contribute, a tax-deductible fund has been established with the Klamath Trails Alliance (please contact Justin Rodriguez 541-274-0015 or justinrodriguez0001@gmail.com for more information).

Who will build the trail?

- Once we have funding in place, a professional trail-building firm will be hired to construct the trail (similar to the firm that has constructed the Spence Mountain trails).

Who will maintain the trail?

- The Klamath Trails Alliance (KTA) has agreed to recruit and coordinate volunteers for annual trail maintenance. KTA plans to work with Oregon Tech student groups to help provide additional volunteer labor.
- The KTA also maintains the existing Geo Trail, as well as the trails in Moore Park and Spence Mountain.

How will the trail affect local traffic?

- Because the trail will give pedestrian and biking options for those travelling between Oregon Tech/Sky Lakes Medical Center and the Hot Springs neighborhood, we anticipate that the project will decrease the number of vehicle trips along Eldorado, Campus, and Daggett streets.

Will the trail affect the value of my home?

- *“Trails have consistently been shown to increase (or have no effect on) property values, to have no measurable effect on public safety, and to have an overwhelming positive influence on the quality of life for trail neighbors as well as the larger community” –AmericanTrails.org.*
- *“Trails can be associated with higher property value, especially when a trail is designed to provide neighborhood access and maintain residents’ privacy. Trails, like good schools or low crime, create an amenity that commands a higher price for nearby homes. Trails are valued by those who live nearby as places to recreate, convenient opportunities for physical activity and improving health, and safe corridors for walking or cycling to work or school.” – Headwaterseconomics.org*
- The proposed trail will be of a similar quality to the trails developed by the Klamath Trails Alliance in Moore Park and at Spence Mountain. The trail is proposed to be designed and constructed so it is a neighborhood amenity. Access to trails is one of the factors that makes the Lynnewood and Running Y areas attractive to home buyers.

Will the trail be safe?

- The trail will be similar to the trails at Moore Park.
- Trail hours will be limited to sunrise to sunset. Trail rules will be posted at trailheads.
- A study of Rails-to-Trails projects published on the Federal Highway Administration website suggests that increased use and maintenance improves trail safety.
- The trail will be designed to International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) standards which cover items like trail width, obstructions, drainage, etc.
- The City approved a Resolution in 2011 invoking immunity for public use of trails within unimproved rights-of-way. The immunity from negligence claims of personal injury and property damage protects the owners of land abutting the unimproved rights-of-way, and KTA and its volunteers.
- In 2017, the Oregon Legislature (Senate Bill 327) improved liability protections of the Public Use Land Act by expanding the definition of an “owner” to include “officers, employees, volunteers or agents acting within the scope of assigned duties and business entity members.”

