

# Local Jurisdiction Policy Reference to Oregon Coast Trail

## Summary

2023

In partnership with the Oregon Coast Trail Action Plan Project Advisory Group, the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) at the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) worked to assess the status of how local jurisdictions along Oregon's coast referenced or incorporated policies acknowledging the OCT. City and county comprehensive plans, transportation system plans, and park and/or trail plans were reviewed for any language referencing the OCT to gain a better understanding for the extent and quality of local policy's addressing the OCT.

### Summary of Assessment

*The assessment was conducted by doing a word search for the term 'trail' in each planning document, and then the search results were reviewed for reference to the OCT. The results of this assessment are based on the quality of the word search tools used. All data collected, including exact language of OCT reference, were documented in a spreadsheet.*

- Planning documents for 28 coastal cities were reviewed
  - 22 of the 28 cities (79%) has some sort of reference to the OCT in at least one planning document.
  - 5 of the 28 cities (18%) did not appear to have any reference to the OCT in any planning documents.
  - 1 of the 28 cities (3%) did not appear to have their planning documents available on-line.
- Planning documents for 7 coastal counties were reviewed
  - 5 of the 7 counties (72%) has some sort of reference to the OCT in at least one planning document.
  - 1 of the 7 counties (14%) did not appear to have any reference to the OCT in any planning documents.
  - 1 of the 7 counties (14%) planning documents were only available as image documents and were not searchable.
- **Overall, 77% of coastal local jurisdictions had some sort of reference or mention of the OCT in at least one planning document.**
- References to the OCT in local planning documents included a range of information about the trail, inventory and/or description of trail locations within a specific jurisdiction, proposed improvements to the trail (including costs estimates), and specific local policies focusing on the OCT. Here is a list of a sampling of policies addressing the OCT:
  - The City shall recognize the importance of the Oregon Coast Trail as a recreation resource for the State, and shall encourage the preservation of its scenic character through its planning policies.
  - The City recognizes the potential alignment of the Oregon Coast Trail down Highway 101 and will coordinate development with the State Recreation Trails Advisory Committee.
  - The City should continue to apply for transportation enhancement funds, or other available funds to develop bicycle paths connecting the City to nearby recreation areas, particularly to: Improve linkages within the Oregon Coast Trail that connects the North Jetty area with the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.
  - Pedestrian and Bike improvements along Rhododendron Drive will provide both a safe and energy efficient transportation option to area residents and visitors traveling along the State's Oregon Coast Trail.
  - The City will cooperate with the Oregon Department of Transportation by managing Gearhart's portion of the Oregon Coast Trail so that it retains its attractiveness for both residents and visitors.

- Preserve and enhance the Ridge Path as a recreational asset for the city and a segment of the Oregon Coast Trail by establishing connections to the path, requiring appropriate access easements, and maintaining the path surface.
- Encourage maintenance and development of the Oregon Coast Trail.
- The City recognizes the importance of and encourages a link between the Oregon Coast Trail and the Salmonberry Trail, and the Tillamook County Water Trail.
- The TSP update project will consider the presence and asset of the Oregon Coast Trail in creating new policy, programming, and projects related to walking in the updated TSPs.
- The City shall assist the State and County in protecting the County Road 804 right-of-way and the prescriptive easements accepted by the Oregon Supreme Court as established by the Lincoln County Surveyor (Survey 11,905 12/18/87) from alterations that would prevent the establishment and maintenance of this segment of the Oregon Coast Hiking Trail within the public right-of-way.
- The Oregon Coast Trail and Saddle Mountain Trail shall be added to the Comprehensive Plan Goal 5 resource inventory and corresponding land use policies shall be added to the Land and Water Development and Use Code as appropriate.
- Since most of the Coast Hiking Trail lies either on public beach or public highway right-of-way which is designated for public facilities use by the comprehensive plan there is no identified conflicts with the plan designation and the recreational trail can be considered to be in a protected status.

## Coastal Planner’s Public Access Handbook

OCMP staff are developing a handbook that will address a suite of coastal shoreland (ocean, estuary, and coastal lakes) public access topics for coastal city and county planners. Topics addressed in the handbook will include policy analysis of state land use goals addressing protection of public access to coastal shorelands, accessibility, equity, maintenance, funding for improving or increasing public access to coastal shorelands and model comprehensive plan policy language for protecting and increasing public access to coastal shorelands.

OCMP recognizes the intersection of the OCT, the OCT action plan goals and protection of coastal shoreland public access. Therefore, OCMP is interested in including policy recommendations for planners to consider for the recognition and improvement of the OCT.

For more information on the handbook or OCMP/DLCD’s work on coastal public access please contact:

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