



The Oregon Coast Trail

Oregon's world-class trail

Oregon holds the key to a world-class scenic walking trail that can draw recreationists from across the globe and build the economies of Oregon's small coastal communities. The Oregon Coast Trail runs the length of the Oregon coast—362 miles—from the Columbia River to the California border. The trail traverses sandy beaches, forested trails, and stunning headlands.

As envisioned, the Oregon Coast Trail will become a hallmark for an integrated trail-to-town experience that includes access to multiple public and private transportation options, a range of lodging and dining opportunities and exceptional outdoor experiences led by local guides and outfitters.



**OREGON
COAST TRAIL**

Unsafe gaps in the trail need to be addressed

The trail passes through seven counties, twenty-eight coastal towns, federally managed lands, numerous small communities and terrain that has been occupied by native communities since time immemorial. Unfortunately, there are gaps in the trail—more than forty miles are disconnected, inconvenient, unsafe, or inaccessible during certain seasons. Many sections of the trail follow the shoulder of U.S. Highway 101 and county roads that can be unsafe for trail users.

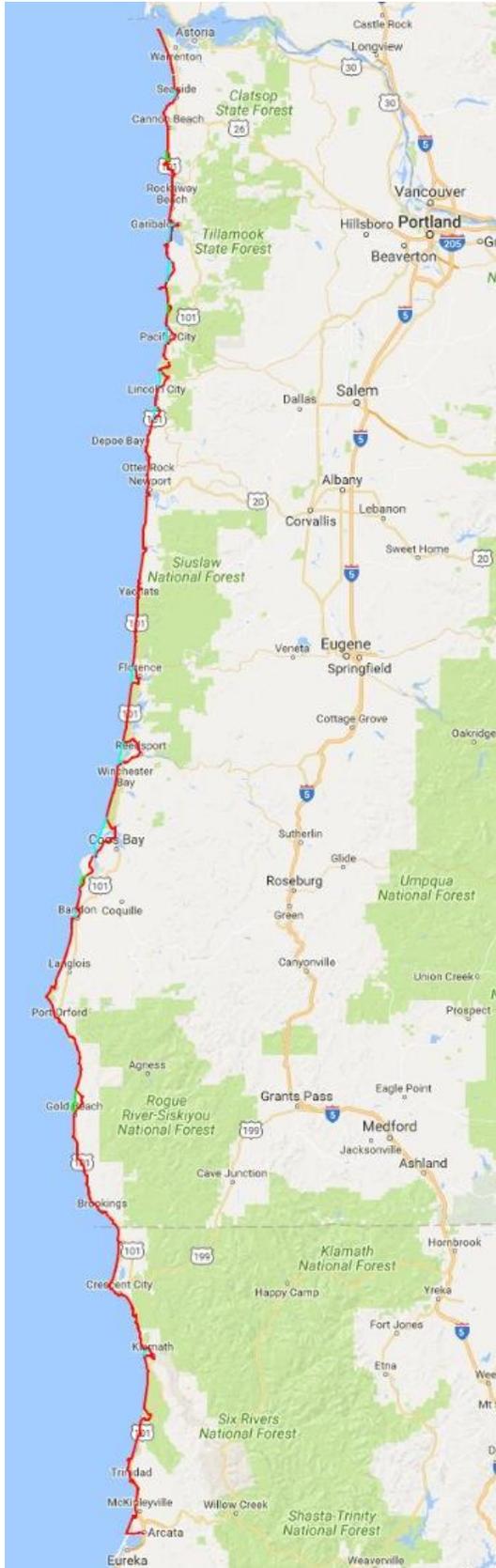
Action plan under development

In 2017 the Oregon Legislature directed the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to develop an action plan for closing gaps in the trail particularly where the trail is along US Highway 101 and other roads. In 2018 Governor Brown designated the Oregon Coast Trail as an Oregon Solutions project to bring together landowners hosting the trail to collaborate on development of the action plan and to identify resources for implementation.

Oregon Solutions brings trail stakeholders together

Oregon Solutions, in partnership with the County Solutions program at the Association of Oregon Counties, is working with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Coast Visitors Association on the project, using a collaborative approach.





Local leaders unite around the trail

Oregon

Representative David Brock Smith and

Oregon Parks Commissioner Doug Deur are co-convening the landowners hosting the trail to address coast-wide issues. Three county commissioners, Melissa Cribbins (Coos County), Doug Hunt (Lincoln County), and Bill Baertlein (Tillamook County) are convening community based stakeholder groups to identify solutions to close the gaps. Key stakeholders for connecting the trail gaps include federal agencies (the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Federal Highway Administration), tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations and trail advocates.



A key to pandemic recovery

The COVID pandemic has slowed work on the Oregon Coast Trail action plan as well as taken a toll on coastal communities and their economies. Outdoor recreation, including visits to state parks and federal lands, are important drivers of local Oregon economies. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has found “building active transportation facilities generates seventeen jobs per million dollars spent—a ratio higher than for roads and other transportation projects because the work is more labor intensive.” In the post-COVID recovery, resuming tourism and closing gaps in the Oregon Coast Trail will be important for coastal jobs and community recovery.

History of the trail

The Oregon Coast Trail (OCT) was envisioned by Oregon geographer Dr. Sam Dicken in 1959. With the passage of the Oregon Recreational Trail Act of 1971, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) began developing the trail.