

Middle Fork Willamette River Loop Path

Willamalane Park and Recreation District, in partnership with City of Springfield, received \$3 million in federal transportation funds to design, engineer, and construct a regional bicycle and pedestrian path along the north bank of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River in Springfield.

A top priority of residents in Springfield and throughout the nation is the provision of off-street bicycle paths and walking trails, and the ability to access nature in close proximity to their homes. The Middle Fork Willamette River Loop Path will provide an opportunity to meet these needs. The off-street multi-use path will travel three miles between Willamalane's historic Dorris Ranch Living History Farm and Clearwater Park, where it will connect to a path along the Springfield Mill Race. When used in conjunction with on-street bicycle lanes, the path will create an eight-mile loop, beginning in downtown Springfield. The path will also connect to an extensive riverfront path system in Eugene. To further enhance the Middle Fork Willamette River Loop Path's regional use, a bridge across the river is planned to provide access to Lane County's Howard Buford Recreation Area. (See attached context map.)

Over 70 percent of the property needed to locate the section of the trail between Dorris Ranch Living History Farm and Clearwater Park is already in public ownership. Based upon previous discussion with private landowners, acquisition of right-of-way for the project should be straightforward.





The proposed path is a significant regional bicycle and pedestrian route, providing the first off-street connection between east and west Springfield south of Main Street. The Middle Fork Willamette River Loop Path is included in the City's adopted *Springfield Bicycle Plan*, the metropolitan area's regional transportation plan, *TransPlan*, and the 2003 *Rivers to Ridges Open Space Study* endorsed by metro-area governments.


The Middle Fork Willamette River Loop Path is also included as a priority project in the 2004 *Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan* adopted by Willamalane, Springfield and Lane County. The *Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan* included input from over 750 local residents who identified the provision of off-street bicycle paths and trails as the most desired outdoor recreation facility the District could provide.

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Willamalane Park and Recreation District Planning and Development Department

October 2005

-  Proposed Millrace Path
-  Proposed Middle Fork Path
-  Existing On-Street Bicycle Lane
-  Streets

-  Water Bodies
-  Streams
-  School Properties
-  Parks

