

33.272 Major Public Trails

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33.272.010 Purpose

The major public trail requirements are intended to:

- Increase recreational opportunities within the City of Portland and connect these recreational opportunities with a regional recreational trail system;
- Support active modes of transportation and provide connections to other transportation systems;
- Increase public access to and along the Willamette River and to other significant natural resource areas;
- Provide emergency vehicle access;
- Provide access to increase public safety;
- Assist in flood protection and control;
- Assist in shoreline anchoring;
- Implement the City's Comprehensive Plan policies regarding public trails;
- Help create a pleasant, aesthetically pleasing urban environment; and
- Provide consistent standards for trail development.

33.272.020 Where These Regulations Apply

- A. General.** The regulations of this chapter apply to all sites that have the major public trail symbol designation shown on the Official Zoning Maps. The regulations of this chapter apply when a proposed development will increase the use of the trail system or will contribute to the need for additional trail facilities, and application of the regulations is determined to be roughly proportional to the impacts of the proposed development. Portland Permitting & Development is authorized to develop and maintain administrative rules establishing a clear and objective formula for rough proportionality. A determination that the regulations of this chapter do not apply does not preclude acquisition and construction of a public trail through other legal means.
- B. Exception.** The regulations of this chapter do not apply when the proposal is for the removal or remediation of hazardous substances and the actions are conducted in compliance with state law under ORS. Chapter 465.

- C. Columbia South Shore Plan District.** Sites in the Columbia South Shore Slough Trail area and Cross-Levee Trail area must also comply with the regulations of 33.515.260. These areas are shown on Map 515-4.
- D. South Waterfront subdistrict of the Central City Plan District.** Sites in the South Waterfront subdistrict of the Central City Plan District must also comply with the regulations of 33.510.253. The regulations of that section specify when major public trails must be constructed within the South Waterfront subdistrict.

33.272.030 Dedication of a Public Right-Of-Way or Easement

All applicants for a land use review or for building permits on lands designated with a major public trail symbol on the zoning map may be required to grant an easement for the trail. The easement must be recorded with the County Recorder/Auditor's Office as part of recording an approved land use review decision, and finalized prior to obtaining a final certificate of occupancy. The land may be donated to the City instead of granting an easement when the standards of Section 33.272.100 are met. Trails shown adjacent to public rights-of-way may be constructed in the public right-of-way, subject to approval from the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

33.272.040 Construction of Trails

- A. Single-dwelling zones.** The construction of the major public trail in single-dwelling residential zones is only required for land divisions and Planned Developments. Construction of the trail is not required as part of development on an existing single-dwelling lot.
- B. All other zones.** Construction of the major public trail is required on lands designated with a major public trail symbol on the zoning maps in any of the following situations:
 - 1. When there is new development;
 - 2. When exterior alterations to existing development are 35 percent or greater of the assessed improvement value of the total improvements on the site; or
 - 3. When there is a land division or Planned Development.
- C. Prior to certificate of occupancy.** The trail must be constructed prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, unless the site is eligible for the trust fund provisions of 33.515.260.B, or the special timing provisions of 33.510.253.D.4.

33.272.050 Trail standards.

A major public trail must comply with the standards of Portland Parks and Recreation for recreational trails or, where the trail is located in a public right-of-way, it must comply with the standards of the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

33.272.060 Use of Trail

Public use and conduct on the major public trail are subject to the regulations in Chapter 12, Prohibited Conduct, of Title 20, Parks and Recreation; and Chapter 50, Columbia South Shore Slough Trail of Title 20 except as otherwise limited by the terms of an easement between the applicant and the City.

33.272.070 Hours of Use

The major public trail and access paths must be open to the public between the hours of 5 a.m. and 10 p.m., except as otherwise specified by the terms of an easement between the applicant and the City.

33.272.080 Trespass

Nothing in this chapter is intended to authorize public use of private property. Public use of private property is a trespass unless appropriate easements and access have been acquired.

33.272.090 Trail Maintenance and Liability

- A. City maintenance.** The City will accept maintenance and liability, similar to its responsibilities for City-owned park property, for a major public trail segment if the City Engineer or the Director of Portland Parks and Recreation finds all of the following:
1. The applicant requests that the City assume the responsibilities;
 2. The trail lies within an easement or right-of-way granted to the City for trail purposes;
 3. The trail has been constructed to City standards;
 4. The trail is physically continuous for at least 1/4-mile along the designated route. This requirement will be waived if the trail has not been made part of a physically continuous segment of at least 1/4-mile within 2 years after completion of the segment under consideration; and
 5. If the applicant desires to use a private security force to patrol the trail area, the owner has signed an agreement holding the City harmless from all claims, suits, or actions of any nature, caused or arising out of the actions of the private security force, its subcontractors, agents, or employees.
- B. Applicant maintenance.** The applicant retains maintenance and liability responsibilities unless these responsibilities are accepted by the City. Where the applicant retains maintenance and liability responsibilities, the trail segment must be maintained at a level at least equal to those segments maintained by the City.

33.272.100 Standards for City Acceptance of Deeded Land.

The land may be donated to the City instead of granting an easement if the following standards are met:

- A.** The trail is constructed and meets the City's trail construction standards or the trust fund option described under Subsection 33.515.260.B. has been applied.
- B.** The property owner meets the hazardous substances standards in the City's standard trail easement agreement.

(Amended by: Ord. No. 166835, effective 5/23/95; Ord. No. 174263, effective 4/15/00; Ord. No. 177082, effective 1/20/03; Ord. No. 189000, effective 7/9/18; Ord. No. 190023, effective 8/10/20.)

