

Get neighbors involved

Activity support is an effort to promote the presence of responsible pedestrian users in a given area. What you can do:

- Encourage immediate neighbors to walk the trail on a regular basis.
- Start a Foot Patrol trained by the City of Portland's Crime Prevention Program. Neighbors volunteer to walk in a small group along the trail, be a friendly presence and report problems, where necessary.
- Call the police when you see suspicious activity. Call 9-1-1 for immediate threats to life or property or a crime in progress. Otherwise, contact the police non-emergency number at 503-823-3333.

Maintain the trail

The strategies that you employ above are only as good as your commitment to maintain them. Steps you can take:

- Repair burned out lights, trim vegetation regularly, and pick up litter and debris.
- Eliminate trip hazards along the path whether that includes uneven surfaces, rocks, or ruts along the path.
- Work with PBOT to see if a dog bag dispenser and garbage receptacle can be installed to discourage waste being left on the path.
- Report all graffiti. If it's on your property, take a picture, report it and remove it immediately. See www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/graffiti for more info.

City of Portland Contacts

For questions and information about the Community Initiated Neighborhood Trails Process:

- Visit www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/trails
- Contact the Trails Program with the Portland Bureau of Transportation at 503-823-7736

For help with crime and livability issues in Portland, contact the City of Portland's Crime Prevention Program:

- Visit www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/cp
- Call 503-823-4064
- Email onicpa@portlandoregon.gov

For ADA Title II or Civil Rights Title VI accommodations, translation/interpretation services, complaints, or for additional information, call 503-823-5266, TTY: 503-823-6868, or use Oregon Relay Service: 711.



A Path to Trail Safety

What volunteers and homeowners can do to improve their neighborhood trail



**This brochure applies to Portland
Bureau of Transportation Community
Initiated Neighborhood Trails**

The City of Portland encourages neighbors and community volunteers to incorporate safety in the design of a trail to attract more neighbors and deter potential issues. Ideally the design will encourage users to:

- Move along the path,
- Stay on the trail and not unknowingly trespass onto private property,
- Engage in appropriate behaviors and be mindful of the residents living in the area.

The following recommendations are intended to create safer trails for users and neighbors, but not to prevent people from using trails on public rights-of-ways.

Improve trail visibility

Opening up sightlines on the trail eliminates hiding places for people and allows neighbors and trail users to observe and report suspicious activity. The following are ways to improve visibility:

- Trim vegetation and limb up trees on your property and on the path so that trail activities can be observed. Volunteers must obtain permission from the owner to trim vegetation on private property. If the trail is located in an Environmental Zone, you will need to contact the Bureau of Development Services for guidance at 503-823-7526.
- Remove any structures or features that block visibility to the trail such as a shed or wood pile.
- If possible, light pathways that are adjacent to a dwelling. Add motion detector lighting that illuminates the

pathway, but doesn't encroach onto your neighbors' property. Because you are lighting a natural area, consider limiting the detection area and sensitivity so that lighting isn't activated by woodland critters and there is a minimal impact on their habitat.



Secure your property

By securing your property, you are decreasing criminal accessibility. Some steps you can take:

- Consider installing a wrought iron, good neighbor-style, or chain link fence that allows you to see the adjacent trail.
- Secure gates to your yard that are accessible from the trail.
- Control access by planting non-invasive shrubs along entry points to your private property; see the Portland Plant List at portlandoregon.gov/bes/plantlist. You must maintain these plants so that they don't block the trail or visibility. Some home owners will install a fence a few feet in from the property line and plant vegetation against the structure. Choose

thorny vegetation to mitigate graffiti and prevent access.

- For sheds or storage units accessible from a trail, install locks and secure tools and ladders as you would in your front yard.

Define the trail

When you provide a clear designation between public, private, and semi-private areas, it defines an area's intended use and makes it clear when someone trespasses. Taking care of your property and the area around it conveys a sense of active "ownership" and communicates that illegal acts will be noticed and addressed.

- Clean up the area by weeding, picking up litter and pruning bushes and trees so that the trail looks well-kept. For permitted trails, there will be designated group who will maintain the trail. Contact information for this group will be posted on trailhead signs.
- Create uniformity along the trail so that it is well-defined. For example, if gravel is used on one part of the trail, it should be used throughout the path. Maintaining a consistent width will also further define where the path starts and ends.
- For a home near the trail, add some low growing non-invasive vegetation, fencing, or texture changes at the property line to indicate the transition to private property.

For crime prevention advice, contact the City of Portland's Crime Prevention Program at 503-823-4064, onicpa@portlandoregon.gov.