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Southwest's Urban Trails—A Closer Look

Southwest Portland, home to some of the city's most beautiful parks and natural spaces, is also one of the only areas of Portland to house marked urban hiking trails winding through its neighborhoods. There are five east-west and two north-south routes, all identified by trail markers. Each trail connects to one or more of the major trail systems—the [40 Mile Loop](#), the [Willamette Greenway](#), [Terwilliger Trail](#) and the [Fanno Creek Greenway Trail](#).



The urban trails are a combination of existing public roads, sidewalks, stairs, trails and walkways. They were developed in response to the need for safe pedestrian routes throughout SW Portland for recreation and transportation. Using the guiding principle "Where do SW neighbors want to walk?", volunteers from the [SWTrails](#) group worked with Portland Bureau of Transportation and southwest neighbors to identify routes and plan improvements.

SWTrails is a citizen-led group organized as a committee of Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and facilities. They meet monthly, host a monthly walk, and sponsor monthly work parties to improve SW area trails. [Check out Southwest Portland's urban trails in PDF form here.](#)

East Portland In Motion hopes to kick off in 2012

Portland's Bureau of Transportation has completed the draft for a five-year strategy focusing on many active transportation (walking, biking and taking transit) projects east of 82nd Avenue. Through [East Portland In Motion](#), PBOT aims to create safer streets, a healthier environment, and equity and access to affordable transportation options.



The 130's Greenway Plan

Next year will be the starting point for various projects from EPIM's recommended list, including low-traffic, low-speed Neighborhood Greenways along the 130's corridor, the 4M neighborhoods (Market, Mill, Millmain, Main), and from Gateway Green to I-205. The [drafted plan](#) includes ten greenways, five in-roadway bikeway projects, three bicycle parking plans, and support for trail and roadway improvements with regional partners.

In total, East Portland in Motion recommends 20 sidewalk projects, collectively providing 8.1 miles of infill, 56 crossing improvements (including nine as part of sidewalk projects and 20 from Neighborhood Greenways), and adding 29.5 miles to the low-stress bikeway projects.

To learn more, visit the [EPIM website](#) or directly to their most recent [Action Strategy](#) draft.



★ Walking or biking this winter? We've got a few tips:

- **Be seen!** **Walking**
 *Wear reflective, bright clothing to help drivers and bikers see you.
 ► **Layer up**
 *A good clothing line-up includes thermal layers close to skin, insulating fabrics like wool or fleece in the middle, and water/wind repellent shells on top.
 ► **Don't forget your feet!**
 *When the going gets wet, wool socks will keep your toes warm.

- **Be seen!** **Biking**
 *Wear reflective, bright clothing.
 *Front & back lights are required by law in low light conditions.
 ► **Slow it down**
 *Wet conditions increase your stopping distance; brake early!
 *Wet leaves, sewer lids, & train tracks are slippery.
 ► **Be prepared**
 *Always keep bus fare, flat repair and extra lights with you, just in case.
 ► [More tips here!](#)

Meet the new TriMet Trip Planner

Say 'so long' to basic trip planning! The wave of the future has brought TriMet's multi-modal [Regional Trip Planner](#), which can combine transit, walk and bike trips in a single itinerary. Already expected to be the envy of transit agencies everywhere, even more good news on the way. **See what new features are down the road and rails:** ★

Within the next 18 months, partnerships with agencies [C-Tran](#), [SMART](#) and [CHERRIOTS](#) will let you plan transit trips all the way from Battle Ground, Wash. to Salem.

A "Walk Only" option is available, and once your route is laid out you can view an elevation chart of your trip. Walking paths will be kept up-to-date.

Specify your trip preferences by choosing the quickest, flattest or safest routes. See your ride's elevation on provided charts and know that bike paths will be up-to-date. Down the road you should be able to see locations of bike-and-rides, bike staples and corrals.

Zipcar locations are already viewable on the map when selected from the sidebar, and possible future upgrades might let you know if a certain car is available.

Close to two years from now, you should be able to build an auto trip to the nearest park-and-ride into your trip plan.

- Try your hand at the [Regional Trip Planner](#).
- More info available on [PortlandAfoot's wiki page](#).
- Thanks to [BikePortland.org](#) & [PortlandAfoot](#) for article help.