

Planning and Sustainability

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How is the Off-road Cycling Master Plan project identifying potential off-road cycling sites?

THE SITE SCREENING PROCESS IS A KEY PART OF PLANNING FOR A CITYWIDE NETWORK OF PLACES TO RIDE A BICYCLE OFF-ROAD.

This process is underway and is happening in multiple steps:

First, the project team screened out properties that would not be appropriate for off-road cycling for an easily identifiable reason (such as properties that were very small, incredibly steep, fully developed, predominantly wetland, or designated as industrial land or archaeologically significant).

Next, the team categorized remaining sites as potentially suitable for off-road cycling trails, parks, both, or neither, based on considerations like slope, size, and the extent of existing natural areas.

As a third step, the project team, the Project Advisory Committee, and agency partners will identify initial sites that might offer good opportunities to provide a connected network of diverse off-road cycling experiences. This step will also consider important factors like:

- Existing regulatory restrictions that prevent or limit recreational use.

- Community priorities and other guidance established in existing master and management plans.

- Environmental factors, such as habitat, soils, and waterways.

- Other existing or planned recreational facilities on the property.

The final step will combine community knowledge and feedback with on-the-ground site assessments.

As part of a broader community engagement strategy, community members will be able to explore and comment on all potential off-road cycling sites via an online interactive map. Sites that were screened out in previous steps will also be displayed and identified as such. Community members will be asked to help shape the plan by voicing their priorities for Portland's parks and trails; commenting on potential sites; identifying ways to create a varied off-road cycling system that meets community needs; and noting potential management opportunities or challenges that should be explored further.

Specialists in environmental conservation and off-road cycling facility design will also complete field assessments of potential sites that have unique features or challenges. They will confirm suitability for the types of riding experiences proposed based on environmental conditions and other site-specific factors.