



Board of Commissioners

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4500 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333

Bentoncountyor.gov

May 9, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Legislative Bill: Senate Bill 5531

Written Testimony from Benton County Commissioner, Pat Malone

Good afternoon, I'm Pat Malone, Benton County Commissioner, and I'm here to urge your support for Benton County's \$1.5 million request for the final source of funding to reconstruct our Jackson-Frazier Wetland Boardwalk.

This isn't just a walkway—it's a lifeline to nature, education, and equity for a historically underserved area. The boardwalk winds through a beautiful wetland surrounded by low-income housing and senior communities—many of these people rely on this peaceful and accessible space for exercise and connection to the outdoors.

In 2022, this site earned the State Land Board Award for Outstanding Wetland. Today, it's a living science classroom for students at Cheldelin Middle School, area high schools and Oregon State University. They learn here—not just from textbooks, but from frogs, birds, and native vegetation.

This project also involves partnering with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to do test plots on our wetlands with their special camas bulbs.

The current boardwalk is showing its age. Warped planks, erosion, and uneven surfaces now make it inaccessible for many. With my written testimony, I've also provided you with a map that illustrates the trail plan and the broader connections it makes to our communities such as the Owens Farm Project across Highway 99W.

This project has secured almost half the needed funding through the County, community donations, and grants. The boardwalk has been designed and permits are in hand. This shovel ready project is about honoring Oregon's legacy of environmental stewardship, equity, and education. I strongly urge your support.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Malone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Owens Farm and JF Wetland Conceptual Trail Plan

Proposed Trails and Related Facilities Map

Legend:

- Site Boundary
- 10-Foot Contours
- Intermittent Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Wetland or Floodplain
- Existing Trails
- Existing Parking and Trailhead
- Tax lot Lines
- Segment Code

Proposed Trails and Related Facilities

- Proposed Universal Access Trail - Gravel (3.3 miles)
- Proposed Shared-Use Path - Hard Surface (1.5 miles)
- Seasonal Mow Trail - Unsurfaced (1.5 miles)
- Boardwalk or Elevated Trail (0.7 miles)
- Other Potential Future Regional Trail Connection
- Wayfinding Signage
- Interpretive Signage
- Overlook with Seating and Interpretation
- New Trailhead with Kiosk and Welcome Sign
- New Trailhead Parking (locations to be refined)
- Percent Average Running Grade of Trail

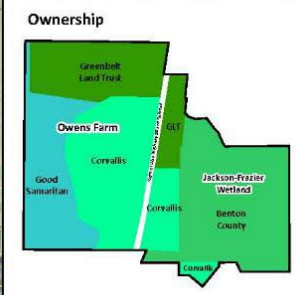
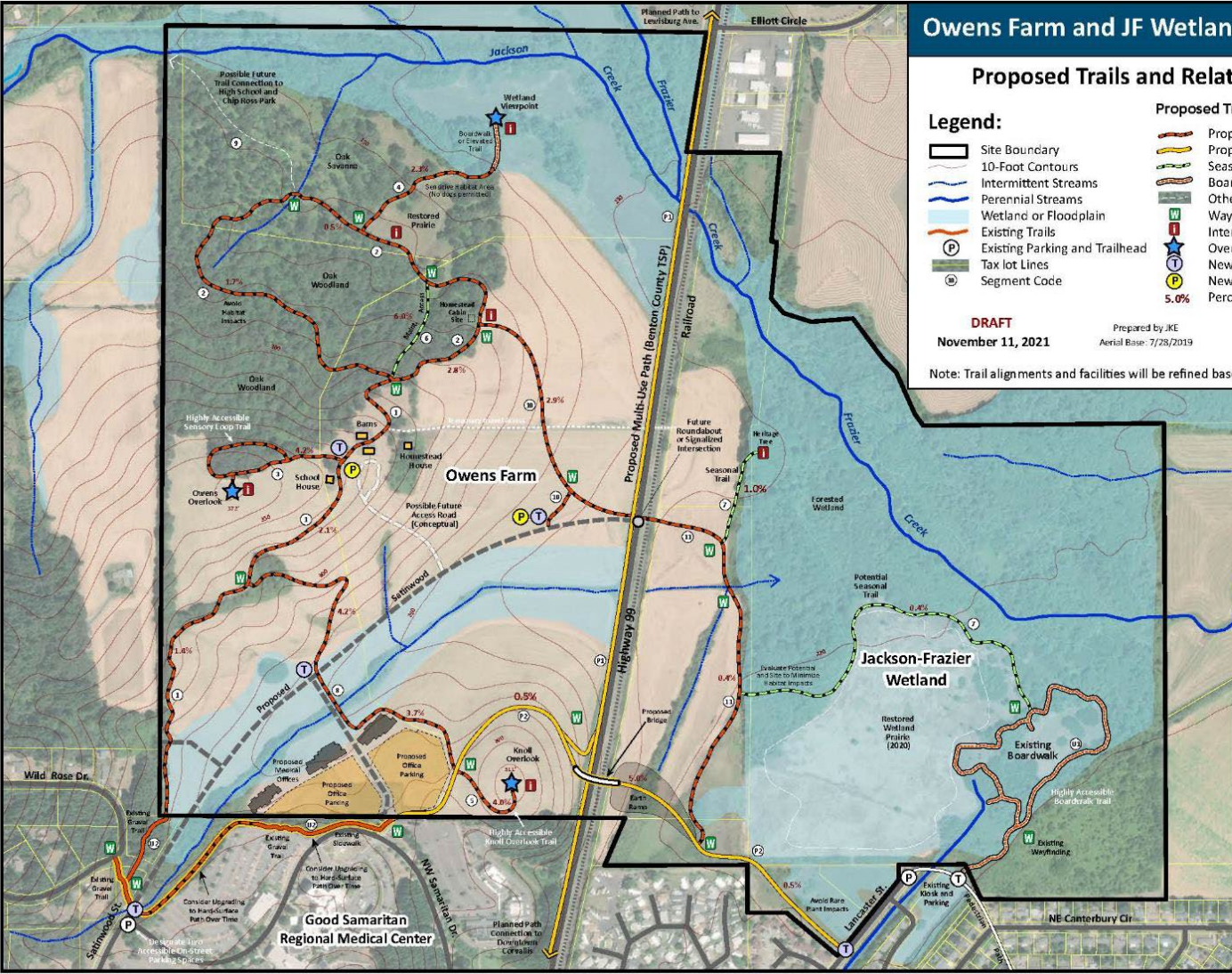
DRAFT

November 11, 2021

Prepared by JKE
Aerial Base: 7/28/2019



Note: Trail alignments and facilities will be refined based on further analysis and input.



2023-25 CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Legislative Fiscal Office
900 Court St. NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION

Legal Name _____

Organization Type _____ Federal Tax ID Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____

Contact Phone _____ Contact Email _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name _____

Project Description

Project Location _____

Project Schedule (Please describe the project's readiness, including planned start and end dates and any remaining permits, approvals, or other steps that must be completed prior to beginning.)

PROJECT BUDGET

Estimated Project Cost

Construction/Renovation	_____
Site Improvements	_____
Land Acquisition	_____
Architectural and Engineering Fees	_____
Equipment	_____
Contingencies	_____
Other Costs (specify) _____	_____
Other Costs (specify) _____	_____
Estimated Total Project Costs	_____

Amount Requested _____ **Percent of Total Project Cost** _____

Type of Funding Requested _____

Matching Funds

State Funds (source) _____	_____
Federal Funds (source) _____	_____
Private/Other Grants	_____
Donations/Gifts	_____
Other Revenues/Financing (source) _____	_____
Other Revenues/Financing (source) _____	_____
Total Matching Funds	_____

OTHER INFORMATION

Grants financed through the issuance of bonds are not available until bonds are sold. Multiple factors impact the timing of sales; however, many sales often occur during the last six months of the biennium (Oregon's biennial budget begins on July 1 of odd-numbered years and runs through June 30 of the next odd-numbered year). Significant decreases in revenues or changes in financial conditions subsequent to authorization may also delay or prevent the issuance of bonds, which means that the approved projects or grants would also be delayed or not funded.

Public works projects, including any project that uses \$750,000 or more of public funds for constructing, reconstructing, painting or performing a major renovation on a road, highway, building, structure or improvement of any type, may be subject prevailing wage requirements. Grant recipients must comply with prevailing wage rate laws and should consult the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to determine whether a project is subject to prevailing wage.

Please return the completed form and any supporting documentation to:

Walt Campbell, Principal Legislative (Bonds) Analyst

walt.campbell@oregonlegislature.gov