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From: Clackamas County Tourism & Cultural Affairs [<mailto:jen@mthoodterritory.com>]
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March 2015

BICYCLE TOURISM NEWS



We Want Your Input!

Let us know if you have any ideas for topics you would like to see us cover. Have an upcoming event? Let us know, and we'll include it below.

Fighting for Mountain Biking Trails



About an hour from Portland, Sandy Ridge is currently one of the few mountain biking spots for riders. Photo by Anna Laxague

For years, mountain bikers in the Portland area have advocated for increased trails closer to the city. Currently, enthusiasts must get in their car and drive 45 minutes to an hour in order to find quality mountain biking.

Portland was nowhere to be seen in [Singletrack's](#) 2014 list of the top 10 mountain biking cities in the U.S. and Canada.

In recent months, the mountain biking community has banded together to push even more

strongly for increased trails closer to Portland. In December 2014, over 200 individuals gathered at the [North Tualatin Mountain Project](#) interactive community event hosted by Metro, who owns the property. Nearly everyone in attendance indicated they had come to support plans for single track riding in the natural area, according to [Bike Portland](#) editor, Jonathan Maus.

Most recently, on March 16, [over 300 riders gathered at the River View Natural Area](#) to peacefully protest a riding ban imposed by Commissioners Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz. For over 20 years, mountain bikers flocked to River View, given that it was the only place to ride within close proximity to Portland.

Typically, reasons given for limiting cycling in natural areas include increased erosion, infringement on wildlife, and/or inability to share trails with other users. Studies, however, have shown that [mountain biking causes no more environmental harm](#) than hiking or running. Moreover, many mountain bikers carry tools to remove road blocks like fallen trees and volunteer to plant native species or design trails that discourage erosion from usage.

Located just 15 miles from downtown Portland, Oregon City potentially faces a similar fate as River View Natural Area. Like the North Tualatin Mountain project, Metro owns the 300-acre parcel of land known as [Newell Creek Canyon](#). Currently utilized by a transient population, the land is otherwise unusable by the public. Metro plans to open the land to public use by mid-2016.



After many years of overgrowth and little use, Newell Creek Canyon in Oregon City will soon offer recreation opportunities that may include mountain biking. Photo by Kirill Ignatyev

In a series of community visioning events hosted by Metro, the government organization has asked for public input as to how the land should be used. In the October 2014 meeting, attendees were given stickers to indicate yes or no votes on particular features for the park, one of which included mountain bike trails. In the beginning, green 'yes' dots littered the mountain bike proposal, however, by the end, the 'no' votes seemed to have caught up.

Once the Orange MAX line begins running in September 2015, the ride to Newell Creek Canyon from the Park Ave Station stop is 10 miles away. In addition to its close proximity to Portland, Oregon City has also proven its status as a dedicated cycling destination with [First City Cycles](#), [The Bike Concierge](#), [Oregon City Trail Alliance](#), and [First City Central Marketplace and Bistro](#), located at the Oregon City Amtrak Station and slated to open June 1st.

Trails out in Oregon City may still require riders to load up their car and drive to a mountain biking destination, but it would be the closest option other than Powell Butte. Metro will host another community meeting this spring, date still to be announced. Like

North Tualatin Mountain and River View, riders must demonstrate their desire and continue the fight for nearby mountain biking trails.

Stay tuned to the Mt. Hood Territory Bicycle Tourism Newsletter for continued updates.

Featured Recipe of the Month



Strawberry Sunrise Smoothie. Photo by Sarah Britton of My New Roots

Strawberry season is near and Oregon has, without a doubt, the most delicious strawberries in the world. As the weather warms and smoothies for breakfast begin to replace warm bowls of oatmeal, consider this Strawberry Sunrise Smoothie from Sarah Britton of [My New Roots](#).

This smoothie is sunshine in a glass. The squeeze of lemon adds a hint of tang, while the dates slightly sweeten the drink to perfection. Use almond, or another kind of milk in place of the almonds + water, if you like, and definitely add the lemon. Drink slowly and enjoy.

Updates and Events

Oregon Active Transportation Summit Oregon Bicycle Tourism Partnership

Meeting

Join transportation enthusiasts and professionals for two days of discussions, sharing best practices, learning, and networking with transportation leaders throughout Oregon. The summit takes place March 30-31, 2015 mobile workshops on March 29 and the [Oregon Bicycle Tourism Partnership meeting on March 31](#). Learn more at the [OATS website](#).

Oregon Bicycle Tourism Partnership Meeting

Those interested in working collaboratively to help make Oregon an even better place to ride are invited to join the [Oregon Bicycle Tourism Partnership](#) (OBTP) meeting on March 31, 2015. The purpose of OBTP is to make Oregon a premier cycling destination in North America, increasing Oregon's economic prosperity, particularly in rural areas. The meeting will be held at the Sentinel Hotel. For more information and to RSVP, please visit the [webpage](#).

Free Event - First Friday Film Viewing of Pedal Driven in Oregon City

On Friday, April 3rd, Oregon City Library's [First Friday film](#) will be [Pedal Driven](#). This free event begins at 6:30 at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City. Representatives from Oakridge and IMBA will facilitate discussions afterward.

Ride Oregon Ride Survey

Take the [RideOregonRide.com](#) website survey for a chance to win a GoPro Hero!

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