

Easy CLIMB-Trail ready for riders

The trail is rideable now, with only a few areas that need minor raking, what we really need is people to get out and use it. It is very easy to find coming from Hood River, take the exit eastbound on 84 when you see Cascade Locks. It is the exit you have always wondered where it goes, but never taken it. It goes to CLIMB. Go under the freeway and take a right, then next left of Forest Lane, then quick right on Cramblett Way. Drive to the end of gravel road and the trail is right there. It winds around along the waterfront and is approximately 2 miles. We are working on signage and a map, but mtn bikers do like adventure and discovering new trails as much as reading static maps so come get lost in the woods for a while.

History of the Trail

The Port of Cascade Locks is partnering with the Northwest Trail Alliance (NWTa) on a new multi-use trail open to mountain bikes and pedestrians on a scenic section of the Columbia River waterfront. Nicknamed "Easy CLIMB," the family friendly loop trail is just under 2 miles in length and is located on a piece of vacant property in the Port's Industrial Park. The NWTa recruited several dozen volunteers to clear a natural surface single track trail during two different weekend trail building days. Andrew Jansky of Flowing Solutions and the NWTa designed this trail to be just the first phase of a master planned trail complex in this area between Eagle Island and the Port's new Blackberry Beach wind surfing ramp. Port General Manager Chuck Daughtry was pleased by the level of creativity and energy contributed by the NWTa, a chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).

The beginners' trail is intended to serve as a community amenity to Cascade Locks as well as a destination recreation opportunity for visitors. The trail builds momentum in the community for several exciting regional trail projects on the horizon including the connection of the historic highway bicycle and pedestrian trail by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the feasibility study for improved bicycle and pedestrian safety on the Bridge of the Gods, and a 26 mile mountain bike trail complex on US Forest Service land just south of town. Work on the longer 26 mile Cascade Locks International Mountain Bike (CLIMB) trail is scheduled to begin in 2012-2013, following the required environmental studies. The Port envisions many opportunities for trail connections to the heart of Cascade Locks community.

We are planning a spring and trail enhancement party and possibly a fun race in the spring. We will provide more detail when available. Check www.nw-trail.org for details.