

Trail Dreams: West Salem Loop

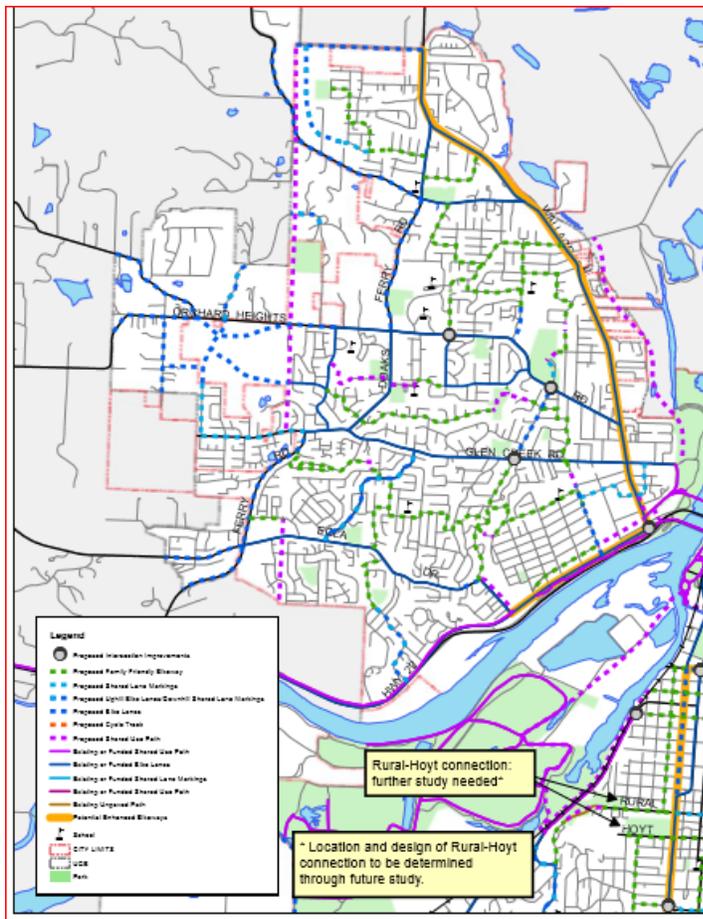
Powerline Trail

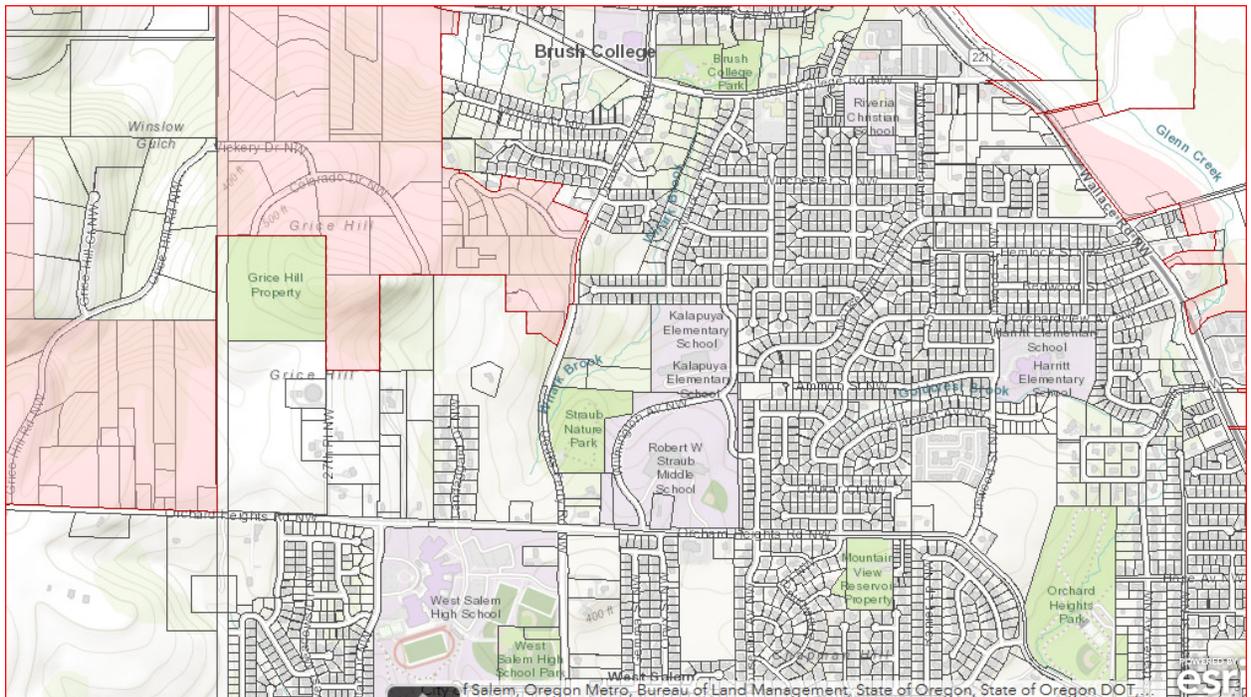
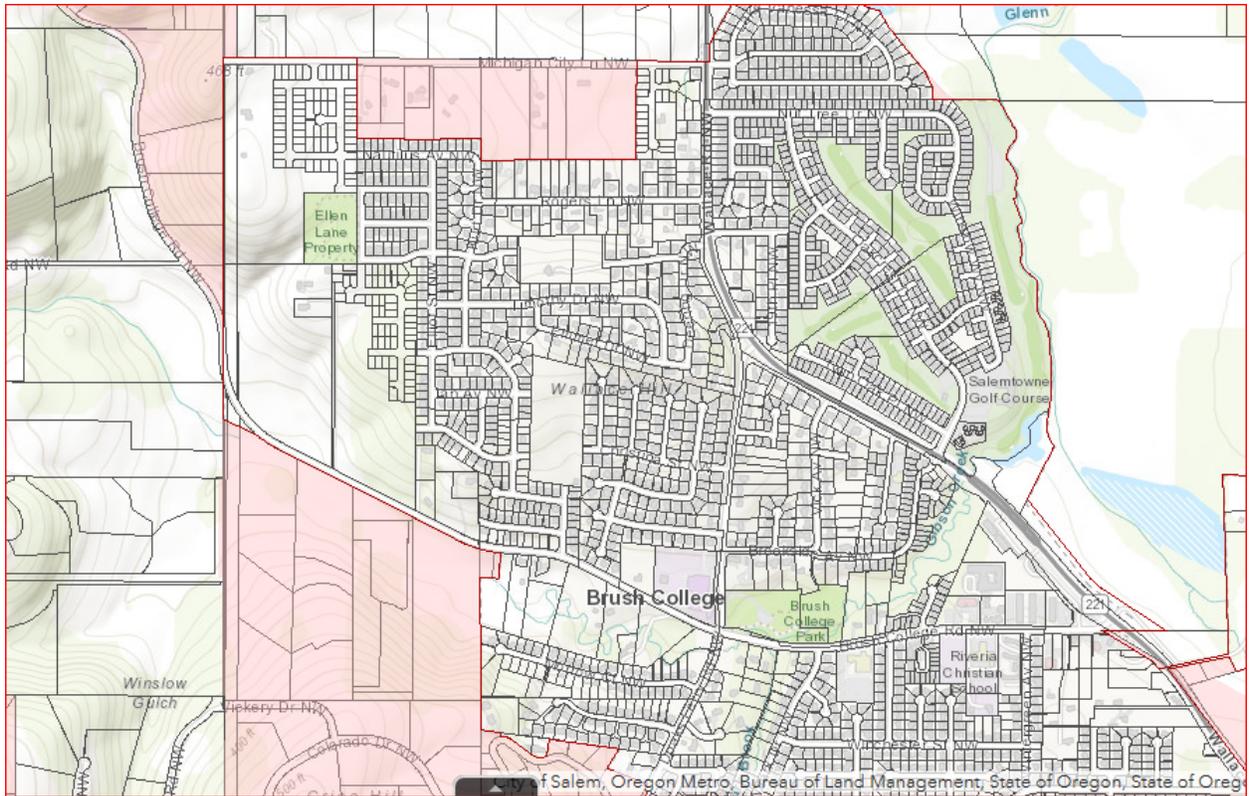
The Bonneville Power Administration owns a 100 foot wide corridor from Michigan Avenue, West Salem's northern city limits, to Highway 22 and the Willamette River, about 3.5 miles in length. In other areas of the state, local agencies have agreements with BPA to put trails and sports facilities in powerline corridors. This corridor is open for pedestrians and used in sections, but full public access has not been established for the entire corridor.

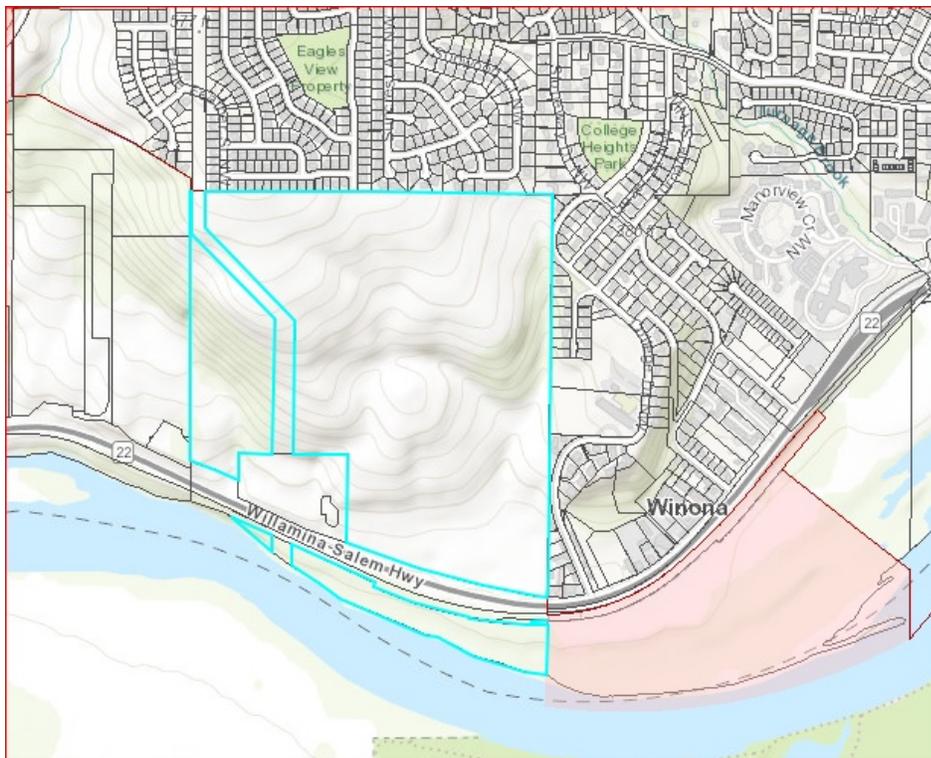
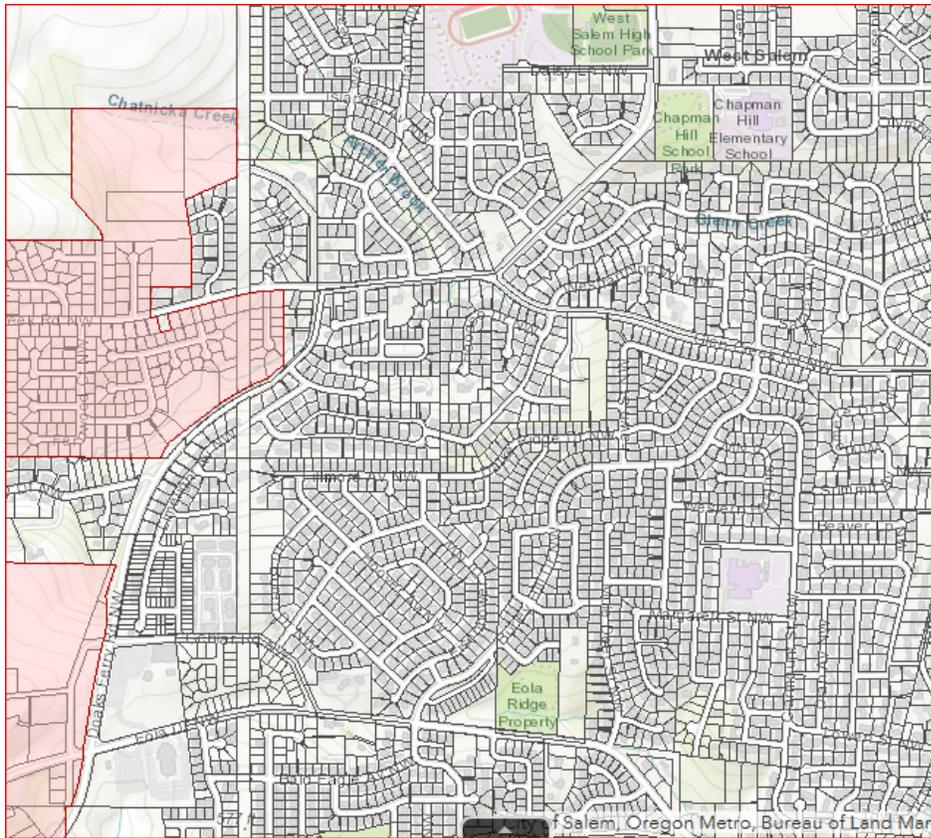
The Salem Transportation System Plan identifies most of the corridor as a future multiuse path. It stops at the city limits on the south and needs to extend to Highway 22.

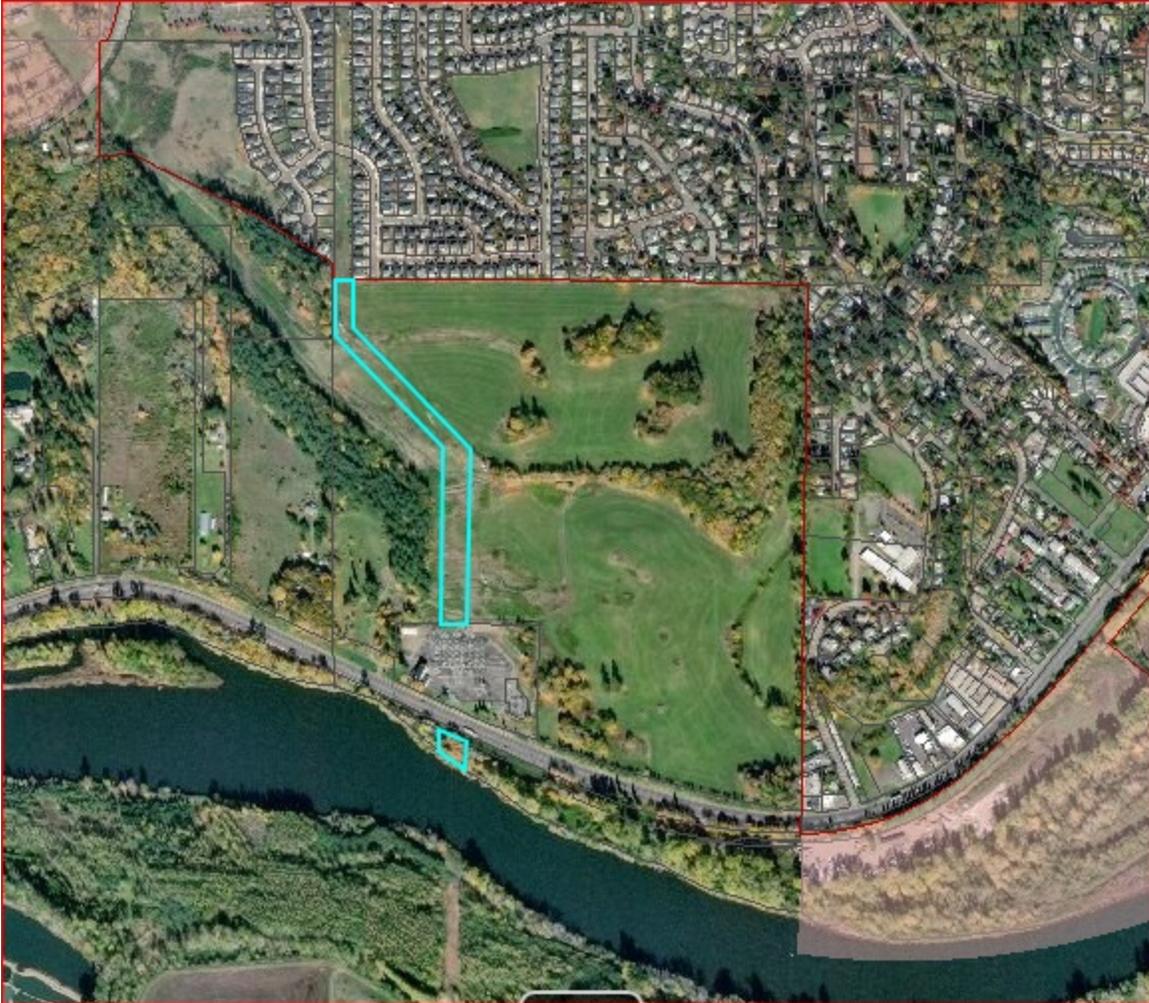
The southern half mile is in Polk County. Polk County has seen the economic benefits of the Black Rock Trails. They may be willing partners.

Salem Comp. Plan Bicycle Plan for West Salem, Powerline trail is purple line.









But why stop there?

Dream Big

The **Salem Health Foundation** owns the 150 acres outlined in blue around the BPA substation and powerline. The Foundation Director expressed a desire to reduce their costs of owning the property and increase the revenue to the Foundation. I hope to convince the Director and Board that they lease 80-90 acres for a solar farm (\$1,200/acre/yr average rate) but with trails connecting the neighborhoods, making it a solar park. Some of the land not suited for solar could be included in a BPA mitigation grant and treated as wildlife habitat with some recreation.

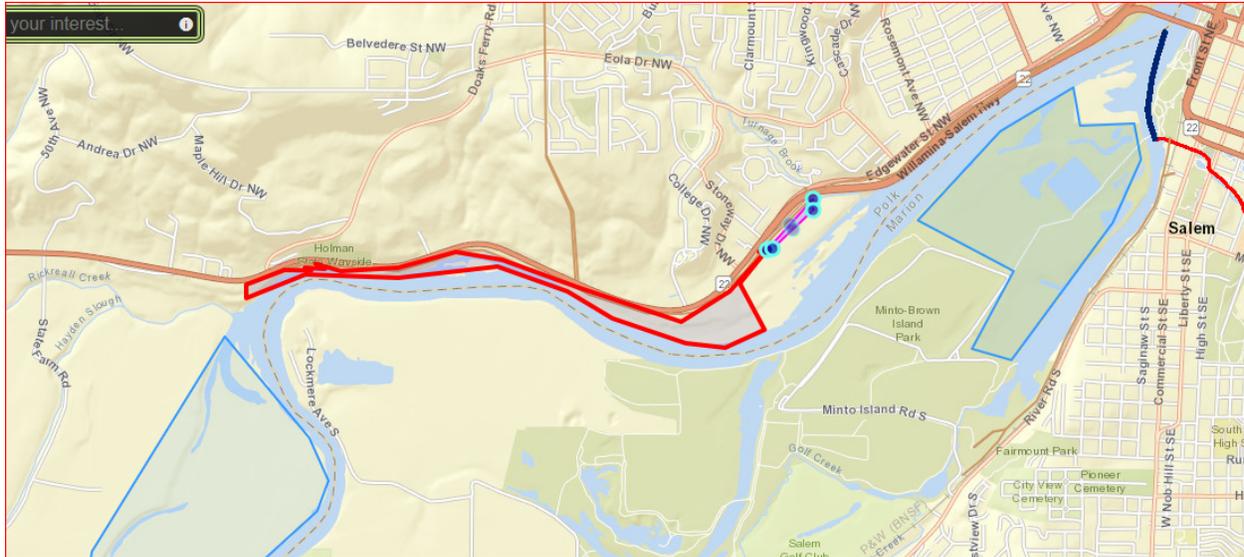
The trail above the substation would be very steep without a switchback onto Hospital property.



Dream Bigger

West Salem Rail to Trail

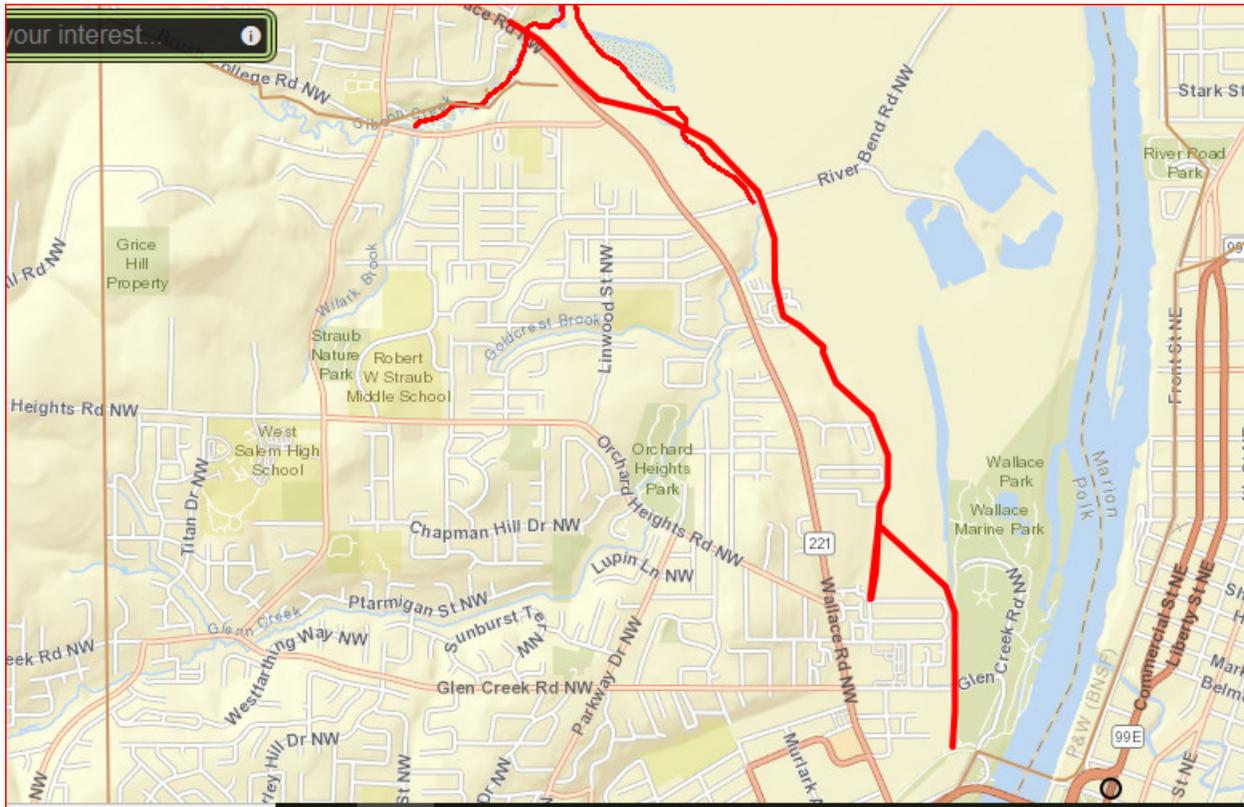
BPA mitigation funds purchased the 300-acre end of Minto Island and the 300 acre Achterman Wildlife Refuge in blue in the lower left corner. The same mitigation program could be used to purchase the railroad right of way and other properties along the corridor including the Salem Health Foundation parcels and the old gravel operation (red area). Access could be at Capitol Manor and the old bathhouse underpass.



Keep Dreaming

Marine Glide Path

The city already has 40% of the right of way for Marine Drive, Marine Drive includes a multiuse path on the east side of the proposed road separated from the road. The city has \$3.2 million from the 2008 bond measure that is dedicated to purchase of right of way and construct portions of Marine Drive. The city can purchase the right of way to Riverbend Road and and pave the multiuse path from Wallace Marine Park to Salemtowne.



And finally,

Dream

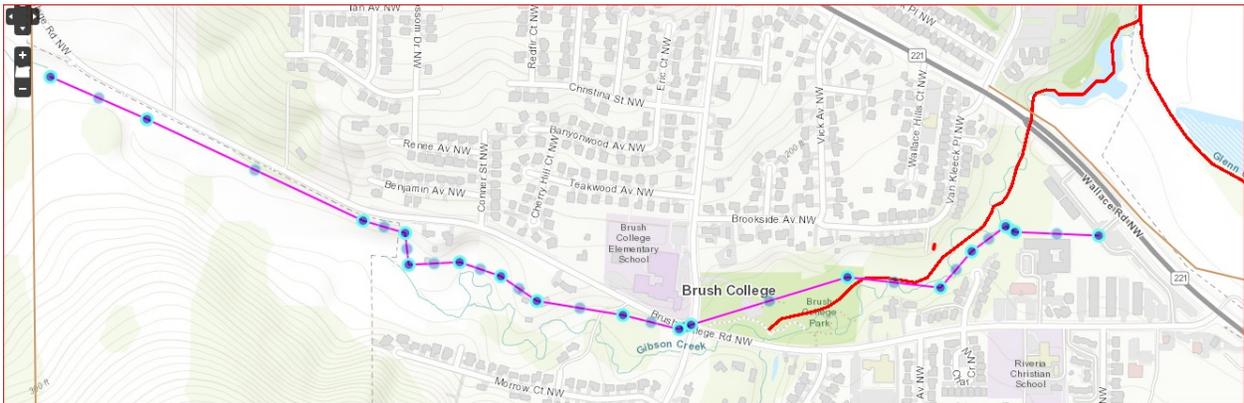
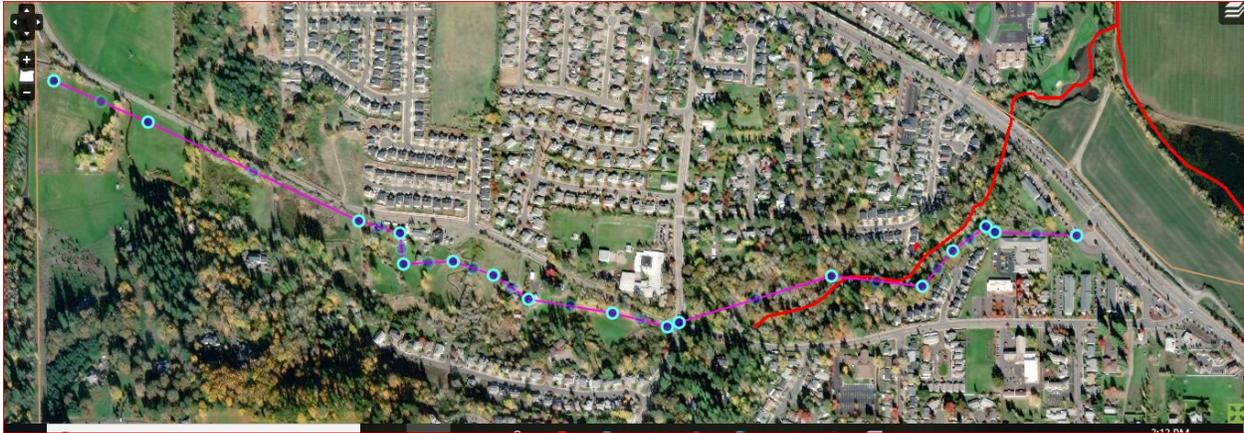
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impossible

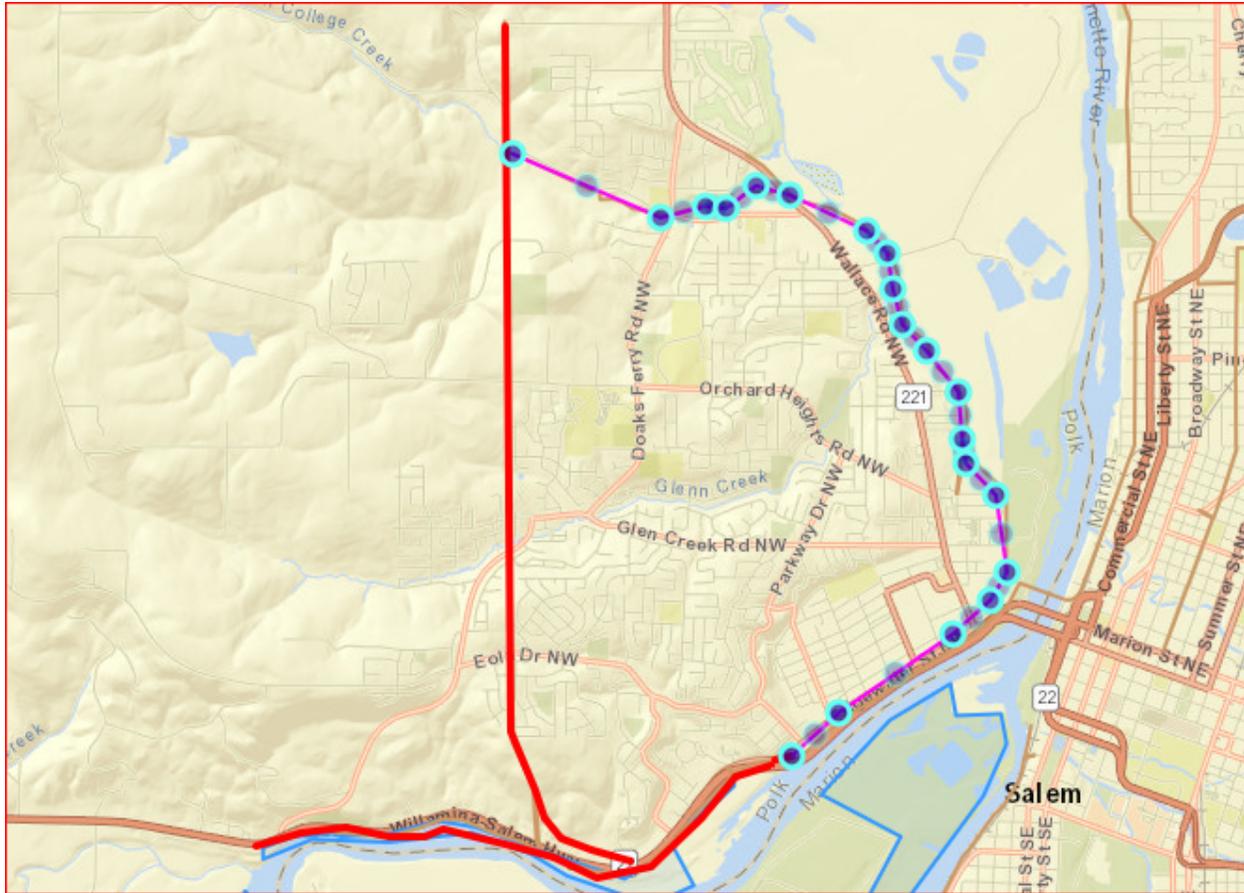
dream

Brush Creek Connector

Almost 30% of the route for an off-street path (red) is already owned by the city. This is a critical connector between the Powerline Trail, Brush Creek Park-n-ride, and the Marine Drive Path. It gathers the cyclists and pedestrians from the neighborhoods on the hills either side of Brush Creek.



The West Salem Loop



You may say that we are dreamers,

But we're not the only ones.

Someday we'll build these trails,

And in West Salem we'll have great fun.

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