

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled light on the ground. A large, dark red rectangular box is centered over the upper half of the image, containing white text. Two smaller white rectangular boxes are positioned at the bottom of the image, one on the left and one on the right, containing black text.

# Accessibility and Trails Marketing in Lane County

Grace Diaz, Alli Gerhardt, Nikos Skoufos, Hannah Buckingham, Spencer Palanuk, Ethan Baher, and Tenley Ong

**Presented today by:**  
Spencer Palanuk  
Nikos Skoufos  
Tenley Ong

# Table of Contents

A person wearing a backpack and a hat is hiking away from the camera on a sandy path through a dune landscape. The path is flanked by tall, dry grasses and leads towards a line of trees in the distance under a cloudy sky.

What is the ELP?

Project Mission

Goals

Community Partners

Process

Key Findings

Reflections

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees. The path is covered in fallen leaves and moss. The text is centered over the path.

# What is the Environmental Leadership Program?



# Three Projects

## Environmental Education

- Majestic Trees
- Restoring Connections

## Community Engagement

- Trails Team (that's us!)

## Conservation Science in Action

- Oregon Oaks
- Riparian Restoration
- Hendrick's Forest

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The path is covered in fallen leaves and has patches of moss. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled light on the ground. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Project Mission' in a dark red, serif font.

# Project Mission

The Trails Team is an accessibility-focused research team guided by the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity. We aim to ensure all people can find the right trail for their needs at the time that they need it.

# Goals

A vibrant yellow and red mushroom with white spots, likely a fly agaric, is the central focus of the image. It is growing on a lush, green mossy forest floor. The background is a soft-focus forest scene with various green plants and tree trunks.

1. Increase the **amount of information** and data on **accessible trails** in Lane County.
2. **Educate** trail users on qualities that make a trail accessible.
3. Help our partner, Eugene, Cascades, and Coast, **increase tourism in Lane County** and overnight stays in hotels through trail information and website content.
4. Increase accessibility in outdoor spaces and trails according to the principles of **justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity**.
5. Decrease impact on iconic trails by allowing users to **find other trails** that match their needs.

# Community Partners

Collaboration with Eugene, Cascades and Coast

Goal is to increase overnight stays in Lane County by welcoming and guiding visitors, and through providing resources for outdoor activity ideas, restaurants to visit, and events to attend.



## **Process: Adaptations in response to COVID-19**

In response to COVID-19, our team shifted its focus from in-person analyzation and data collection, to web-based research and collaboration with our community partners.

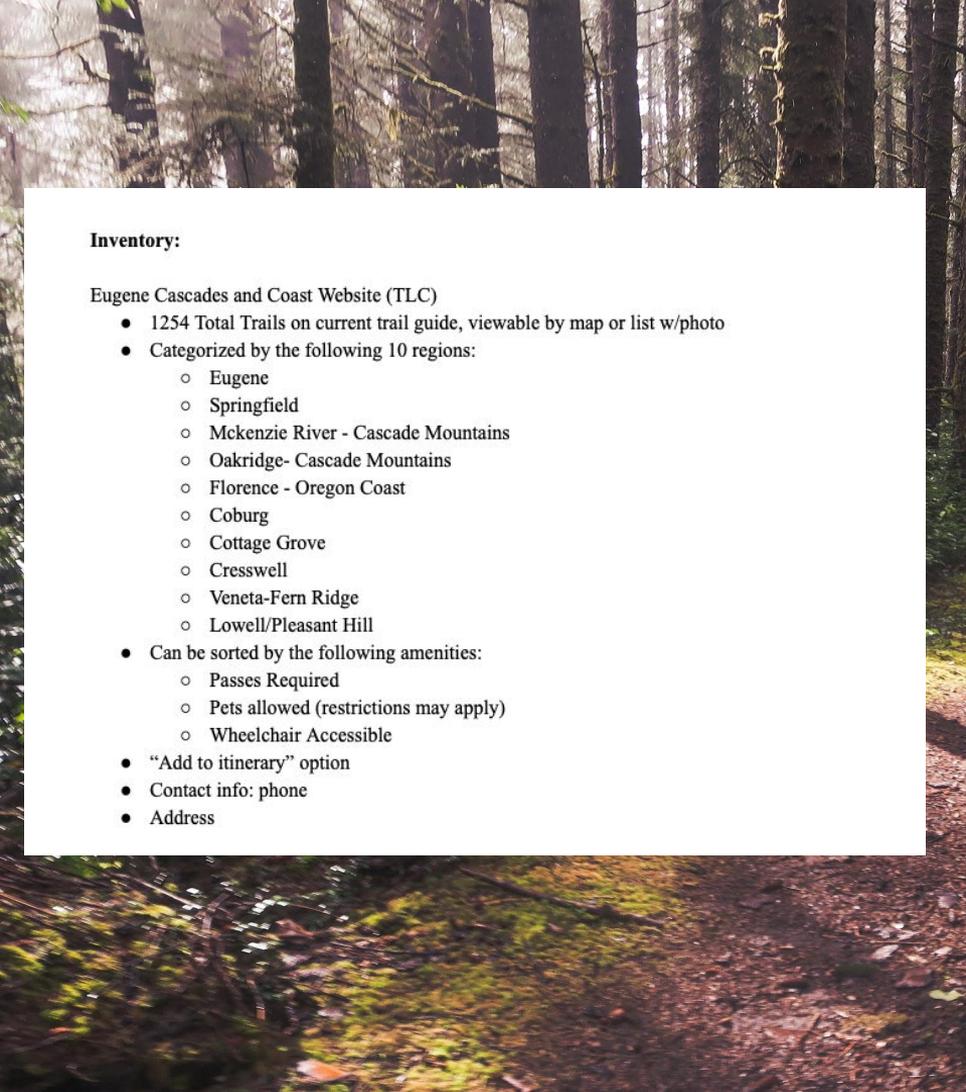
Our original plans centered around creating a checklist that would be used to assess and collect data regarding the accessibility conditions of trails in Lane County. Once this was no longer possible, our team decided to transition to a more informative approach and focused our efforts on developing a fully web-based format intended for easy public access to the information and data we collected.

### General Information

1. Location
  - a. County:
  - b. Address:
2. Management agency:
3. Name of trail:
4. Fees
  - Northwest forest pass
  - County park pass
  - State park pass
  - Pay to park
  - Free parking
  - Other:
5. Primary uses of the trail (check all that apply):
  - Hiking/pedestrian access
  - Biking
  - Equestrian
  - Interpretive
  - Off highway vehicle (OHV)
  - Other:
6. Pets allowed
  - Yes (off leash)
  - Yes (on leash)
  - Service animals only
  - No
  - Unsure
7. Describe any major attractions along the trail + visibility (waterfall, lookout, mountain views, etc.):
8. Hours of operation:

# Process

1. Created a trail evaluation checklist with the help of our community partners to aid in the specific articulation of the various levels of accessibility for any given trail in lane county.



### Inventory:

#### Eugene Cascades and Coast Website (TLC)

- 1254 Total Trails on current trail guide, viewable by map or list w/photo
- Categorized by the following 10 regions:
  - Eugene
  - Springfield
  - Mckenzie River - Cascade Mountains
  - Oakridge- Cascade Mountains
  - Florence - Oregon Coast
  - Coburg
  - Cottage Grove
  - Cresswell
  - Veneta-Fern Ridge
  - Lowell/Pleasant Hill
- Can be sorted by the following amenities:
  - Passes Required
  - Pets allowed (restrictions may apply)
  - Wheelchair Accessible
- “Add to itinerary” option
- Contact info: phone
- Address

# Process

2. Conducted an inventory of Eugene Cascades and Coast website and identified missing trails that needed to be accounted for.

*Bigleaf Maple (Acer Macrophyllum)*



**Habitat:** Native to low-mid elevations from San Diego, CA to Vancouver, Canada. Grows from near the Pacific Ocean to 186 miles inland.

**Characteristics:** 50-100ft tall, average of 12-36in. diameter. Has broad, rounded crowns on short, branching boles.

**Uses:** Wood for construction

**Fun facts:** Very flood resistant.

**Sources:** Richard, Terry. "Oregon Loses World's Largest Bigleaf Maple in Wind Storm." *Oregonlive*, 10 Apr. 2011,

*Incense Cedar (Calocedrus Decurrens)*



**Habitat:** They grow Cascade Mountains (below 6600 ft. in Oregon) and Sierra Nevada Mountains (below 8000 ft. in California).

**Characteristics:** Leaves are scale-like and appressed twig. Set of 4 leaves is much longer than it is wide. Woody cones about 1" long, unopened cones shaped like a duck's bill, open cones shaped like a flying goose. reddish-brown when mature.

**Uses:** Wood for construction, fencing, siding, and pencils.

*Red Alder (Alnus Rubra)*



**Characteristics:** simple, alternate, and deciduous; egg-shaped leaves. 3-6 inches long with straight veins. Produces 1 inch long small, brown woody "cones." Twigs: Young twigs are triangular in cross-section. Buds are borne on short stalks.

**Habitat:** Found in cool, moist environments below 2,500 ft. west of the Cascades.

**Uses:** For wooden products like food dishes, furniture, doors, tissue, and writing paper. Fiber materials. Makes dyes in red, red brown, brown, orange, and yellow. Infusions from the bark were used for treating anemia, colds, congestion, and stomach cramps.

**Fun fact:** In Washington and Oregon it's popularly

*Red Huckleberry (Vaccinium parvifolium)*



**Characteristics:** Grows slowly up to 12 ft, but mostly grows only to 3-6 ft. It is often found growing on top of decaying logs and stumps (nurse logs) in open to fairly dense coniferous forests. Bright red berries from July through August. Dainty leaves are small, oval, and not toothed.

**Habitat:** Mostly in the lowland forests west of the Cascades in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon.

**Uses:** Berries are a good trail snack for everybody (birds and mammals)! Twigs and then the leaves were separated from the berries by rolling them down a rough, wet plank.

# Process

3. Produced professional blogs encouraging individuals and families to get outside and explore Oregon's trails.

TRAILS TEAM

[Home](#) [About](#) [Research](#) [Contact](#)



## Trails Team

University of Oregon Environmental Leadership Program

<https://trailsteam2020.weebly.com>

# Process

4. Developed a website designed for public use containing all research and data collected.

# Key Findings

A vibrant yellow mushroom with red and white spots growing on a mossy forest floor. The mushroom is the central focus, with its bright colors contrasting against the lush green moss and dark forest background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the mushroom's cap and the surrounding vegetation.

1. Recreating outdoors is helpful for both mental and physical health
2. Want to make sure everyone has equal and equitable access to these spaces
3. Physical access: Rest spots, trail surface, running slope, cross slope and length
4. Social access: Proper signage and advertising to all
5. Inform about conditions and facilities, not our own perceived accessibility

# Reflections



- Lane County has a great variety of trails, ranging from highly trafficked (ex. Spencer Butte) to more remote locations (ex. Fall Creek).
- Our checklist can help trail users to determine the individual accessibility of trails.
- Trail accessibility info enhances a safe, fun, nature experience.

# Thanks to the people we worked with!

**Eugene, Cascades, and Coast** - Jeff Malik, Taj Morgan, Julia Voigt

**Oregon Office on Disability and Health** - West Livaudais

**University of Oregon Geography Department**  
- Pat McDowell

**Willamalane Parks and Recreation** - Kristina Koenig

**University of Oregon Environmental Leadership Program** - Katie Lynch, Alexa Foor



# Works Cited

*"AllTrails."* AllTrails.com, [www.alltrails.com/](http://www.alltrails.com/).

*Cohen, Judy, and Yvette Silver. "Disability etiquette." (2006).*

*Charnley, Susan, et al. "Environmental justice, low-income and minority populations, and forest management in the Northwest Forest Plan area." In: Spies, TA; Stine, PA; Gravenmier, R.; Long, JW; Reilly, MJ, tech. coords. 2018. Synthesis of science to inform land management within the Northwest Forest Plan area. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-966. Portland, OR: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station: 809-849. 966 (2018): 809-849.*

*"Hiking Trail Maps."* Hiking Project, [www.hikingproject.com/](http://www.hikingproject.com/).

*"National Forest System Trails."* National Forest System Trails | US Forest Service, [www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails](http://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails).