

leafline trails coalition

Connecting Trails, Connecting Communities

Criteria for Network Inclusion

Off-road vs. On-road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-street, separated from vehicle traffic. • Provision for on-street facilities for connection: On-street facilities may not be accessible to all ages & abilities. Key on-street or neighborhood connections—such as permanent greenways, shared-use paths, or cycletracks with adjacent walking facilities—that are LTS 1 and connect between existing trails may be included.
Width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 feet preferred width, 10 feet target minimum. • Designed for probable use. • Wider if demand warrants. Narrower to accommodate design constraints or fit land use context.
Design Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New trails (from Planned to Existing, post-2021) designed according to best practices. E.g., AASHTO standards.
Types of Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for non-motorized use & accessible by all ages & abilities. Note: mobility aids & most e-bikes are considered “non-motorized.”
Surface type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved. • Firm, crushed stone, where appropriate, for example in rural areas or an interim basis. • Boardwalks & bridges are acceptable.
Relation to the Network (“Connectivity”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly connected to the overall network or will be part of the network with completion of future planned trails. Connections are in the form of a physical multi-use trail; “thematic” connections are not acceptable. • Each trail connects to the overall network via at least one point. Even if individual trail segments are short, completed trails should connect places.
Transportation & Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-suited for serving both transportation & recreation purposes. • Connecting people to transit, activity centers, & recreation areas.
Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasible route identified & trail capable of being built within 20 years. Prefer right of way or easements identified or acquired. • Planned trails preferred to be in an associated local plan or



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Application

Purpose

This framework sets the minimum criteria for which trails—existing and planned—are included in the Leafline Trails Network, envisioned as an interconnected, intuitive, well-traveled, and treasured trails network spanning the Central Puget Sound region, providing equitable access, health benefits and recreational opportunities for all. This world-class network serves people walking, riding, and rolling at all ages and all abilities.

Exceptions to criteria

Trails that are considered essential spines of their respective jurisdiction’s multi-use trails network may be included if they do not meet all of the criteria.

Process

The criteria was drafted in 2019 by the Map Vision Working Group, discussed by the Coalition, and ultimately adopted by the Leadership Group on December 15, 2021. Minor updates were approved in March 2022 to clarify on-street connections. Refinements may be approved by the Leadership Group on an annual basis.

