

South Benton County Recreation Alliance
VISION STATEMENT

The South Benton County Recreation Alliance seeks to connect residents with each other and with the regions outstanding recreational opportunities in order to advance the safety, health, and economic vitality of the communities served.

The alliance seeks to build connections within communities, among communities and with regional recreational planning and development groups.

Connections within communities:

Create safe walking, jogging and bicycling options to build community connections and improve access to local recreational opportunities within Monroe.

Convert railroad right-of-way to a trail in Monroe from the Monroe Elementary School to Alpine Road to create a safe connection among Monroe schools, businesses, library and residential areas and a safe outdoor recreation opportunity for all ages. Additional options include connections across Hwy 99 to access the High School and tennis/basketball courts, and across the Long Tom River to access the dog park, ballpark, boating, and river access opportunities.

Connecting Communities:

Extend walking, jogging and bicycling options to connect the south Benton County communities of Monroe, Alpine, and Bellfountain with each other, local parks, the Finely Wildlife Refuge, Long Tom and Willamette River access points, and BLM campgrounds and trails at Alsea Falls. These efforts improve community health and quality of life through safe community connections and access to recreational sites. Trail development considers access to local businesses such as wineries, food establishments and retail farms and artisans.

Communities

1. Monroe to Alpine

Options

- Alpine Road west from Monroe to Alpine. Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.
- Less direct secondary roads – marked or widened shoulders (Coon Rd to Bellfountain Rd; Commercial St. to Shady Oak to Orchard Track; Cemetery to Orchard Track to Coon Rd, with either of these connecting to Alpine Cutoff and back to Monroe via the abandoned RR or moved right of way.)
- Abandoned railway combined with secondary roads or moving railway right-of-way adjacent to county roads

2. Monroe to Bellfountain and Bellfountain Park

Options

- Alpine Rd west of Monroe to Alpine and Bellfountain Rd north to Dawson Rd, Dawson Rd west to Bellfountain Park. Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.
- Less direct, secondary route could follow Alpine Rd., McFarland Rd., Occidental Ln. and Dawson Rd. Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.

- Abandoned railway combined with secondary roads or moving railway right of way adjacent to county roads
- Enhance Bellfountain Park: natural play area to replace aging play structure, additional parking, hiking trails

Recreation Sites

1. Monroe to Finley Wildlife Refuge (Wildlife observation, photography, hiking)

Options

 - Continuation of the Monroe to Bellfountain route along Bellfountain Rd. This would be the southern half of the Corvallis-Monroe connection. Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.
 - Less direct secondary route could follow Bellfountain Rd to Bruce Rd, Finley Refuge Rd, or McFarland Rd to access the refuge at various locations.
 - Abandoned railway combined with secondary roads or moving railway right-of-way adjacent to county and state roads to access the east side of the refuge

2. Monroe to Alsea Falls BLM Recreation area (Mountain biking, hiking, camping, picnicking)
 - Continuation of the Monroe to Alpine connection, along Alpine Rd, Glennbrook Rd and BLM South Fork Road. Some parts of this route are very narrow with little shoulder for a bike lane

3. Monroe to Anderson Park, Irish Bend, Norwood Island and state lands along Willamette River (boating access, hiking, wildlife observations, picnicking)

Options

 - Use part of Highway 99W and secondary roads to connect to river access points. (Hubbard Rd, Eureka Rd, Stow Pit Rd, Old River Rd, Gorake Rd). Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.
 - Trail along abandon railway along Highway 99W and combination of secondary roads to connect to river access points. Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.
 - Trail along Long Tom River following Corps of Engineers right-of-way and combination of secondary roads to connect to river access points. Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.
 - Create a put-in to the Long Tom in Monroe: by the water intake valve above the dam
 - Boat access at Bundy Bridge would provide a portal to the Willamette and Norwood Island as well as the Long Tom.

Regional Connections:

Coordinate trail development with state and regional planning in order to attract visitors and recreational revenue associated with integrated trail systems that connect local businesses with the regions outstanding biking, hiking, birding and water resources. Trail development considers access to local businesses such as wineries, food establishments and retail farms, and artisans

1. Monroe to Corvallis

- Connections – Corvallis/Philomath/Albany/Kings Valley extensive trail systems, Corvallis to Sea Trail, Marys Peak Trails
 - Options
 - o Bellfountain Road, using the Monroe to Bellfountain connection. Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.
 - o A separate bike path paralleling Highway 99W similar to the path between Rickreall and Monmouth
 - o Follow the railroad right-of-way between Monroe and Corvallis
2. Monroe to Coburg
- Connections – Eugene’s extensive trail systems, Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway, proposed Santiam – Calapooia Scenic Bikeway, Eugene to Cascades trail.
 - Options – secondary roads from Monroe to Harrisburg to Coburg. Wider shoulders or adjacent pathways are needed for safety.
3. Monroe to Willamette River
- Connections – Willamette River Greenway and Willamette River Water Trail
 - Options - as outlined in Connecting Communities section
4. Monroe to Territorial Road south
- Connections – Lane Country Territorial Road development

The South Benton County Recreation Alliance is an informal group of south Benton County residents collaborating with the Alliance for Recreational and Natural Areas (AFRANA) to build a grassroots plan for advancing recreational opportunities and economic vitality in the region.