

**City of White Salmon City Council Special Meeting
A G E N D A**



April 29, 2026 – 12:30 PM

119 NE Church Ave and Zoom Teleconference

Zoom Meeting ID: [881 8790 6350](#)

Call In: 1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Business Items**
 - A. Approval of RCO Grant Application
 - 1. Presentation
 - 2. Discussion
 - 3. Action
- VI. Adjournment**

Posted / Distributed: April 27, 2026, 5:00 PM

Posted at City Hall, Library, Post Office and the City website.



COUNCIL REPORT

Business Item

Consent Agenda

Needs Legal Review:

No

Meeting Date:

April 29, 2026

Agenda Item:

Approval of RCO WWRP Trails Program Grant Application

Presented By:

Marla Keethler, Mayor

Action Required:

Authorize the city to submit the RCO WWRP Trails Program Grant Application for the Bluff Trail Project

Motion for Business Item / Proposed Motion for Consent Agenda:

Motion to authorize submission of the Bluff Trail Project grant application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for funding through the WWRP Trails Program.

Explanation of Issue:

The City of White Salmon has prepared an application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for funding through the WWRP Trails program. The application seeks funding to develop the southern trailhead for the Bluff Trail system, a key access point connecting the community to the Columbia River waterfront and the broader trail network.

This project represents a defined and fundable phase of the larger Bluff Trail vision, establishing a safe and accessible entry point near SR-14 and the future Hood River–White Salmon Bridge roundabout. The proposed improvements include parking, ADA access, internal circulation, signage, a trailhead kiosk, and basic visitor amenities.

RCO staff have indicated that the Bluff Trail project is eligible for funding and aligns well with program priorities, particularly given the City's current level of project readiness.

Council Options:

City Council has the following options available at this time:

1. Accept/Approve the submission of the grant application as presented
2. Modify the grant application as presented
3. Refer back to staff and request additional information
4. Other action as desired by council.

Fiscal Analysis:

The total estimated project cost is \$360,000, with a grant request of \$300,000 and a required match of \$60,000.

The City has already secured sufficient state funding through the Climate Commitment Act (Move Ahead Washington) to fully cover the required match. As a result:

- No additional general fund dollars are required to pursue this grant

- The City is able to leverage existing funding to secure additional external investment

Additionally, several categories of work that the City would otherwise need to fund independently are eligible for reimbursement through this grant, including:

- Cultural resources review
- Permitting
- Architectural and engineering services

Diversity Equity Inclusion & Stakeholder Analysis:

This project advances equitable access to public spaces by:

- Creating a safe and clearly defined access point to the Columbia River waterfront once the other planned improvements (roundabout/new HRWS Bridge) are also implemented
- Providing ADA-accessible pathways and infrastructure
- Expanding non-motorized transportation options between the waterfront and downtown

The Bluff Trail project is reflected in prior planning efforts and continues to seek public engagement as it moves forward in development, especially as it relates to also integrating historical feedback and desires from the community to realize a riverfront park and build connectivity to the new Hood River White Salmon Bridge. This phase of the project will respond directly to those interests by delivering a tangible and accessible entry point for a wide range of users, including residents, visitors, and individuals with varying mobility needs, and ultimately complete the connection point to the future riverfront park and pedestrian accessible bridge from downtown White Salmon.

Policy & Plan Implications:

The Bluff Trail project is identified in the City’s adopted Parks System Plan (2022).

Advancing the southern trailhead allows the city to further implement a priority project identified in the Plan, support broader goals related to recreation, connectivity, and community health while also aligning with regional infrastructure investments, including the Hood River–White Salmon Bridge replacement and SR-14 improvements

Approval positions the City to leverage outside funding to deliver a meaningful public benefit while continuing to build toward the full Bluff Trail system.

Recommendation of Staff/Committee:

It is recommended that City Council approve submission of the RCO WWRP Trails grant application.

RCO WWRP Trails Grant Application (Council Review Draft)

Project: White Salmon Bluff Trail – Southern Trailhead Development

1. Applicant Information

Primary Sponsor:

City of White Salmon
PO Box 2139
White Salmon, WA 98672

Organization Type: City/Town

Project Contact:

Marla Keethler, Mayor

Alternate Contact:

Amelia Alberts

RCO Project Manager:

Russell Malburg, Recreation and Conservation Office

2. Project Overview

Funding Program: WWRP – Trails

Project Type: Development

Project Name:

White Salmon Bluff Trail

3. Project Location & Property Information

Worksite: Southern Trailhead

Parcel: City Parcel #03102444001000

Ownership: City of White Salmon

Acquisition Source: City general fund

Urban Growth Area:

No – Population 2,485 (2020 Census)

State-Owned Aquatic Lands:

No

Property Control:

- Fee simple ownership
- Held in perpetuity

Adjacent Considerations:

- Proximity to SR-14 (WSDOT right-of-way)
- Coordination with Hood River–White Salmon Bridge replacement and roundabout

4. Project Description

The City of White Salmon proposes to develop the southern trailhead for the Bluff Trail system, establishing a critical public access point connecting the community to the Columbia River waterfront and regional trail and multimodal networks.

This project will construct an accessible trailhead that includes:

- Off-street parking
- Internal circulation
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- A small-scale information facility and trailhead kiosk
- Visitor amenities including benches, waste receptacles, and bike racks
- ADA-accessible pathways connecting parking to trail access points
- Lighting and safety improvements
- Native landscaping and erosion control

These improvements will provide a safe entry point to the Bluff Trail, significantly expanding public access to the waterfront and adjacent recreational areas.

The southern trailhead is a key component of a staged implementation strategy designed to deliver immediate public benefit while building toward a fully realized bluff corridor trail system. Work is currently underway to establish a continuous trail corridor from the northern trailhead to Dock Grade Road, including safety improvements, fire mitigation infrastructure, and foundational utility systems.

Development of the southern trailhead will complete a critical gap in this system by providing direct access from SR-14 and the new Hood River–White Salmon Bridge, as well as the Columbia River shoreline and associated parks and trail access.

5. Relationship to Larger Project

This project is part of the broader Bluff Loop Trail system, which will connect:

- The Columbia River waterfront
- The southern trailhead near SR-14
- The downtown core via the northern trailhead

Once complete, this system will allow users to travel between the waterfront and downtown without reliance on vehicles.

6. Environmental & Site Context

The project site is located within the **White Salmon Fuel Break Mitigation Project area**, which is nearing completion.

Trailhead development will:

- Improve long-term maintenance access
- Support wildfire risk reduction through active site management

Site considerations include:

- Slope and drainage constraints
- Potential wetland considerations
- Proximity to WSDOT right-of-way

7. Project Scope & Development Elements

Trailhead Development

- Clearing, grading, and slope stabilization
- Parking area construction and access improvements
- Drainage infrastructure (culverts, stormwater dispersion)
- ADA-accessible pedestrian pathways
- Trailhead kiosk construction and installation
- Installation of benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks
- Wayfinding, regulatory, and interpretive signage
- Solar lighting for safety
- Native landscaping and erosion control
- Traffic control during construction

8. Project Metrics

Parking

- 2 ADA spaces

- 2–4 standard vehicle spaces
- 2 trailer spaces
- **Total: 6–8 spaces**

Trail System

- Total trail system impacted: **2.1 miles**
- New trail construction: **0.3 miles**
- Continuous trail after completion: **1.9 miles**

Site Development

- Acres developed: **2.75 acres**
- Acres renovated: **2.0 acres**

Trail Use

- Designed use: Pedestrian
- Managed uses: Walking, biking, non-motorized recreation

Plan Consistency

- Identified in City Parks System Plan (2022)

9. Project Timeline

- Northern access improvements: anticipated Spring 2027
- Full project completion: June 2030

10. Project Cost Breakdown

Development Costs

Category	Description	Cost
Site Preparation	Clearing, grading, slope stabilization	\$45,000
Parking & Access	Drive aisle, parking, striping	\$70,000
Drainage	Culverts, stormwater	\$25,000
Trails / Pathways	ADA-accessible connections	\$22,000
Structures	Trailhead kiosk	\$15,000

Category	Description	Cost
Amenities	Benches, trash, bike racks	\$12,000
Signage	Wayfinding and interpretive	\$8,000
Utilities / Lighting	Solar lighting	\$15,000
Landscaping	Native plantings, erosion control	\$18,000
Traffic Control	Construction-phase safety	\$12,000
Contingency (20%)	Site uncertainty	\$48,000

Total Development Cost: \$290,000

Architectural & Engineering (A&E)

Category	Description	Cost
Design / Engineering	Civil design (grading, drainage, access)	\$25,000
Surveying	Boundary and topographic survey	\$8,000
Geotechnical	Soil analysis	\$4,000
Permitting	WSDOT + local/state permits	\$7,000
Environmental Review	SEPA and studies	\$10,000
Construction Admin	Oversight and inspection	\$12,000
Other A&E	Traffic control plan design	\$4,000

Total A&E Cost: \$70,000

Total Project Cost

\$360,000

11. Funding

WWRP Grant Request: \$300,000

Sponsor Match: \$60,000

Match Source:

- State funding secured through the **Climate Commitment Act (Move Ahead Washington)**

12. Permitting

Estimated permits include:

- Local building permits
- WSDOT right-of-way coordination
- Potential wetlands/environmental permits

Estimated total: approximately **3 primary permits**

13. Public Access & Use

The site will be open for general public use.
No restrictions on access are anticipated.

14. Project Significance

This project:

- Expands public access to the Columbia River waterfront
- Establishes a critical access point within the Bluff Trail system
- Aligns with major regional infrastructure investments
- Supports wildfire mitigation through improved site management
- Advances recreation, tourism, and community connectivity goals

15. Required Attachments (for submission)

- Boundary Map
- Trail/Facility Map
- Site Plan
- Photos
- Control & Tenure Documentation