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The Waud Bluff Trail Project in north Portland has hit a major milestone with the construction of a bridge linking the steep bluff overlooking Swan Island to the industrial area below. The trail will dramatically shorten the time it takes to get to the Willamette River landmark for thousands of bike and foot commuters and visitors.

Trail for Bikes and Feet

Waud Bluff project moves to completion

A trail connecting travelers from Swan Island to North Willamette Boulevard is expected to be complete by the end of the month.

After six years of outreach and planning, work on Waud Bluff Trail began in 2011 and reached a major milestone in December with the completion of a bridge crossing over the Union Pacific railroad tracks.

Colf Construction, the company hired for the \$3 million project, is finishing the final touches on the 1,700-foot trail and bridge, however, weather and limited access continue to slow the process, said city officials.

Workers are waiting to pave the remaining portion of the upper trail, where storm drainage, curbing, and fencing also still need installing, said Portland Parks and Recreation Spokesman Mark Ross.

Also, the bridge still needs a walking surface, he said. And among other remaining details to complete, are the bus stop, crosswalk and concrete island near the Waud Bluff trailhead on Willamette Boulevard.

The trail connects to Swan Island via North Willamette Boulevard and Harvard Street, near the northeast corner of the University of Portland.

More than 6,000 native plants, including Oregon ash, vine maple, creeping Oregon grape and goldenrod will decorate the path-

way that will mostly benefit Swan Island visitors, workers, customers, or recreational users, going to or from Swan Island to north Portland.

Without the trail and during construction, the only safe way for commuters to get from the steep bluff overlooking Swan Island to the business area below was to detour three miles on North Going Street.

In the end, the Waud Bluff Trail will provide a link for the planned North Portland Greenway Trail, a path for walkers and bicycles to connect the Steel Bridge in downtown Portland to Cathedral Park near the St. Johns Bridge and extending through Baltimore Woods to Kelley Point Park where the Willamette River enters the Columbia River.

