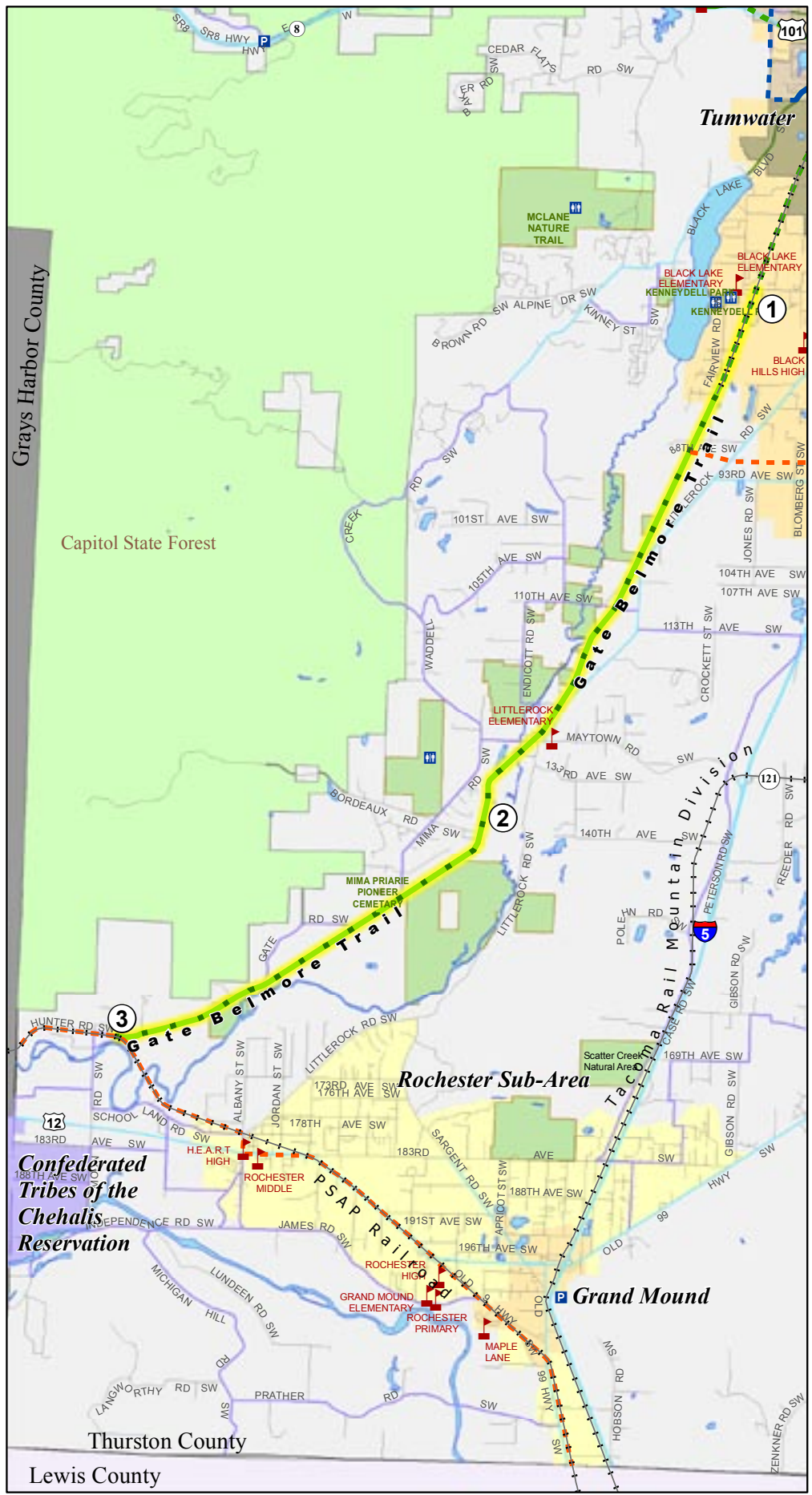


Gate Belmore Trail

15



- Trail, Shared Use, Planned —
 - Trail, Shared Use, Proposed - - -
 - Trail, Shared Use, Potential - - -
 - Route, On Street, Existing —
 - Route, On Street, Proposed - - -
 - Featured Trail on Map —
- Existing Bike Routes**
- Bike Lane —
 - Wide Shoulder —
 - Commonly Used Local Roads —
 - Bicycle/Pedestrian Connection —
 - Local Streets —
- Scale**
- 10 Miles
 - 9
 - 8
 - 7
 - 6
 - 5
 - 4
 - 3
 - 2
 - 1
 - 0.5
 - 0
- Schools
 - Park & Ride Lots
 - Public Restrooms
 - Urban Growth Areas
 - Parks, Preserves, and Open Space
 - Rochester Subarea
 - DNR Managed Lands
 - Unincorporated Thurston County

Disclaimer
 This map is for general planning purposes only. Thurston Regional Planning Council makes no representations as to the accuracy or fitness of the information for a particular purpose.



Gate-Belmore Trail

Length: 12.5 miles undeveloped former Railroad ROW, 1.3 miles proposed

Type of Facility: Shared-Use Trail, Undeveloped

Lead Agency: Thurston County

Partners: U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Description: In 1996, Thurston County acquired the Gate-Belmore Railroad Corridor from the Burlington Northern Railroad Company. The Port of Olympia was instrumental in securing this corridor for interim trail use with freight and intermodal grant sources. This is the longest stretch of undeveloped former rail corridor in Thurston County's Trail Plan. The County's ROW stretches from the historic former Town of Gate near the current junction of Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad line and Owens Street SW and proceeds northeast to around 81st Avenue SW just inside the current Urban Growth Area boundary. This trail corridor is the most rural in the County, passing through several publicly owned natural preserves and open spaces. The trail will traverse mixed coniferous-deciduous forestlands, riparian habitats, mounded prairies, and farmland fields and pastures.

Cost Estimate: \$2.5 million (Thurston County CFP, 2007-2012).

Connections and Destinations: Historic Gate Community, Black River Natural Area, Glacial Heritage Preserve, Mima Mounds Natural Area Reserve, Little Rock Elementary School, Chehalis River, Capitol State Forest, Kenneydell County Park

Conditions and Recommendations:

(Recommendations are in bold)

- ① 66th Avenue SW to 81st Avenue SW Vicinity - **Thurston County should continue to pursue additional railroad ROW of this corridor as opportunities arise.** The additional 1.3 mile proposed connection highlighted on the map would provide critical connectivity to Kenneydell County Park at Black Lake and the County should include this segment as 'proposed' in its County Trails Plan. Students attending Black Lake Elementary School and Black Hills High School could both benefit from the recreation and non-motorized transportation options this extension could provide. By including the additional proposed segment, this trail corridor would truly connect the historic communities the trail is named after.
- ② 81st Avenue SW (northern extent of County owned ROW) to Owens Street SW – Thurston County owns the railroad ROW for interim trail use and is holding this property for future development. This trail would be developed as funding and County capital facility development priorities are established. **Thurston County should consider design features for equestrian use of trailheads and along the corridor.** Design and Engineering of this trail project is yet to be funded. Preliminary cost estimates for this project are \$2.5 million (Thurston County CFP, 2007-2012).
- ③ Gate Trailhead - **As part of the County's Gate-Belmore Trail planning process, the County should consider developing a trailhead on the County owned 13 acre parcel at the southern terminus of this trail.** This trailhead could serve as a junction with the potential Gate-Rochester-Grand Mound trail corridor (Map 16).