



Regional Trails System Development Guidelines, Landscape Characterization Study

Background

The character of a landscape is composed of combinations of vegetation, landforms, and surface features modified by weather and climatic conditions. The assessment of the character of a landscape considers land use type and intensity, topography, hydrologic features, vegetation, and historic context. The intent of the Landscape Characterization Study is to identify the landscape character associated with each King County regional trail corridor and recommend appropriate plantings. Each identified landscape has corresponding native vegetation. The Landscape Characterization Study lists this vegetation but also includes ornamental species that may augment the identified character.

The intended use of the Landscape Characterization Study corresponding list of vegetation is to encourage landscape development and planting along trail corridors that reflect the environment through which each trail passes. As these linear parks are further developed, plant materials that are recommended for the trail will serve to complement the existing landscape character of the corridor.

The Landscape Characterization Study classifies each of King County's regional trail corridors into one of five identified landscape character classifications based on landform and the dominant vegetation through which each trail passes. These include

- Water Related (Riparian);
- Open Valley or Hillside;
- Forested;
- Rural; and
- Suburban/Urban.

East Lake Sammamish Trail Landscaping

The landscaped character of the East Lake Sammamish Trail has been identified as Suburban/Urban. Recommended plant types for this classification include

Trees

- Big Leaf Maple / *Acer macrophyllum*;
- Vine Maple / *Acer circinatum*;
- Red Alder / *Alnus rubra*;
- Sitka Spruce / *Picea sitchensis*;
- Western Hemlock / *Tsuga heterophylla*;
- *Douglas Fir* / *Pseudotsuga menziesii*;
- *Red Elderberry* / *Sambucus racemosa*
- *Evergreen Huckleberry* / *Vaccinium ovatum*;
- Willow / *Salix* spp;
- Black Cottonwood / *Populus trichocarpa*;
- Western Red Cedar / *Thuja plicata*; and
- Douglas Fir / *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.

Shrubs

- Sword Fern / *Polystichum munitum*;
- Nootka Rose / *Rosa nutkana*;
- Evergreen Huckleberry / *Vaccinium parvifolium*;
- Snowberry / *Symphoricarpos albus*;
- Wild Mock Orange / *Philadelphus lewisii*;
- Compact Strawberry Tree / *Arbutus unedo* 'Compacta'; and
- Salal / *Gaultheria shallon*.