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# North Sammamish Project Newsletter

August 2014



Example of new intersection in Issaquah

## Look inside for a Project Newsletter

King County Parks – Your Big Backyard: We're at work so you can play!

### How would you like to communicate with the County?

During design and construction of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, King County is committed to being a good neighbor and providing the public with timely, complete and convenient updates. The County has received input from the City of Sammamish, trail neighbors, and trail users on ways to improve communications. As a result of this feedback, the County increased the number of public outreach representatives on the trail during construction. In addition, callers to the hotline will now speak directly with a project representative during business hours. To assist the County in improving its community outreach efforts, please let us know how you would like to receive trail information and construction updates by going to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/FK53TC3](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FK53TC3).

### Community outreach

- For questions or more information about construction, call the 24/7 project hotline: **1-888-668-4886** or e-mail **ELST@kingcounty.gov**. King County will respond within one business day.
- Visit the website: [www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail](http://www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail) for project information and weekly construction updates.
- Look for upcoming project newsletters to stay informed of current construction activity.
- Trail outreach staff are onsite throughout the week to answer construction questions and address neighborhood concerns. Staff can also be reached directly on the project hotline Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Learn about King County Parks

Follow our blog: [kingcountyparks.wordpress.com](http://kingcountyparks.wordpress.com)

For the latest King County news:   @lheartkcparks

## Construction of North Sammamish segment on schedule

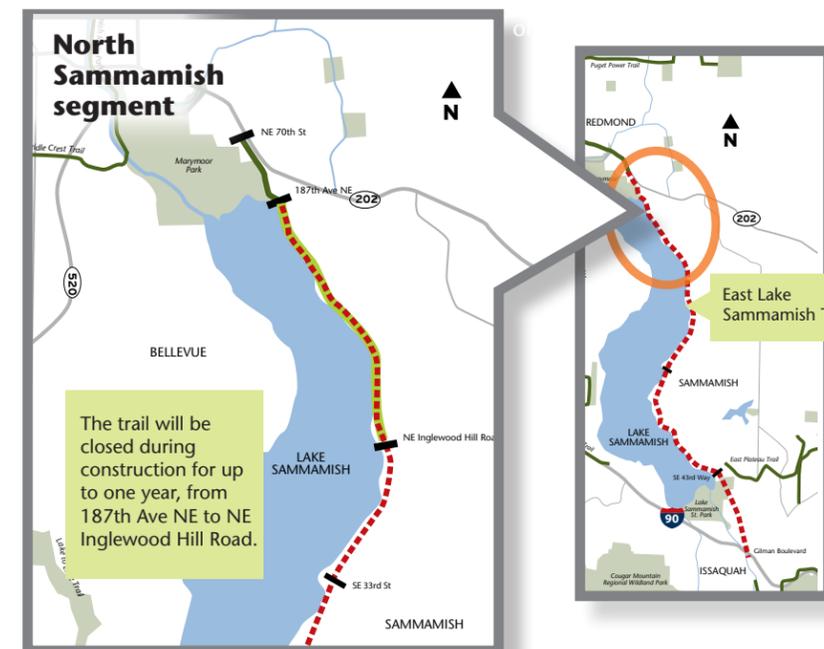
Construction of the upgraded North Sammamish segment of the East Lake Sammamish Trail is on schedule. The improved trail, from 187th Ave NE to NE Inglewood Hill Road, is scheduled to reopen spring 2015.

### Construction progress

Crews are diligently constructing the improved drainage systems, retaining walls and fish passable culverts. Trail construction is on schedule. During construction, biologists, arborists and engineers are onsite to ensure the Contractor is using environmentally-safe and best construction management practices.

### What's next?

Within the next two months, crews will continue constructing retaining walls, installing the improved drainage system, and developing the trail footprint. Multiple construction crews are working along the entire trail segment to prepare for paving, anticipated in late fall.



### New culverts improve fish habitat

King County Parks is dedicated to protecting and preserving the natural environment. Construction of the North Sammamish segment includes installing four large fish passable culverts that allow the stream to flow under the trail and improve fish passage to Lake Sammamish. Installation of these culverts also includes restoring stream beds. Environmental restoration is a key part of trail improvements and will enhance local wildlife habitat. This project will restore 1.07 acres of wildlife habitat along the corridor.



Crews installing a large fish passable culvert



Fish culvert and stream restoration construction

We appreciate your patience during construction!

# Understanding retaining walls

Trail development requires constructing retaining walls to stabilize slopes, avoid impacts to environmentally sensitive areas, and minimize the project footprint. Construction of the trail includes three types of retaining walls: gravity block walls, structural earth walls, and one soldier pile wall



Trail crews lay blocks for a gravity block wall



Mesh geogrids are inserted to reinforce one of the segment's 37 structural earth walls



Workers install horizontal timber pieces to reinforce the soldier pile wall

## Gravity block wall

- Gravity block walls use their own weight to retain cut slopes and require no tiebacks.
- The solid concrete block design provides structural support.
- These walls are primarily used in cut wall situations where space for excavation is limited and the required wall height exceeds four feet.
- Gravity block walls have a compact footprint, resulting in less impact to the surrounding environment.
- Six gravity block walls will be constructed in the North Sammamish Segment of the ELST.



Gravity block wall construction

## Structural earth wall

Structural earth walls are the most common type of retaining wall and are composed of precast concrete blocks and reinforced fill.

- Thick mesh or geogrids are placed in horizontal layers to reinforce the wall.
- Structural earth walls have a shorter construction duration, they are easy to install and less expensive.
- Structural earth walls provide needed flexibility to withstand deformations or settlements.
- 37 structural earth walls will be constructed in the North Sammamish Segment of the ELST.



Structural earth wall construction

## Soldier Pile Wall

A soldier pile wall is an earth retention technique that retains soil, using vertical steel piles with horizontal timber lagging

- One soldier pile wall will be constructed on the North Sammamish segment
- The steep slope, poor soil conditions and close proximity to East Lake Sammamish Parkway near Station 565 required installation of a soldier pile wall at this location.



Soldier pile wall with concrete artwork construction

# Trail landscaping

Several trail neighbors have expressed interest in providing input on trail landscaping and the possibility of additional landscaping within King County's right-of-way. King County will post revised landscaping plans to the project website mid-September, providing neighbors an opportunity to review and submit comments. King County staff are available to meet with trail neighbors to discuss landscaping preferences, the County's Special Use Permit (SUP) process for additional planting, and safety guidelines for landscaping design.

Consistent with King County Parks Regional Trail guidelines, the trail design includes landscaping with native plants, shrubs, and trees to restore the project area and achieve the following goals and objectives:

- Increase trail safety by improving sightlines at all trail intersections. This includes installing plants that grow to a maximum of three feet at full maturity to ensure sightlines are maintained.
- Restore areas disturbed by construction with landscape mulch and plantings or seeding to prevent erosion.
- Native plants provide multiple benefits including: ability to thrive in local conditions of drought or excess moisture; less maintenance; blend well into the natural surroundings along the trail corridor; and provide wildlife habitat.
- Contribute to visual continuity along the trail corridor and help make the trail feel like a park.
- In all cases, the species planted along the trail corridor will be appropriate for the surroundings with consideration given to size at maturity.

## Thank you for your patience and support during construction

King County wants to thank homeowners and trail users for their patience, cooperation, and feedback during construction. King County understands that trail construction can be inconvenient, noisy, dusty, and at times disruptive. Despite the construction inconveniences, there have been countless examples of neighbors displaying thoughtful and kind acts toward construction workers and trail staff. Some trail neighbors have generously brought out lemonade, cookies, and popsicles on hot summer days. These acts of kindness are deeply appreciated by all.

Public outreach representatives will be on site throughout construction to meet with neighbors and answer questions. They can be reached directly by calling the project hotline at 1-888-668-4226 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. or by emailing [ELST@kingcounty.gov](mailto:ELST@kingcounty.gov).

A community celebration will be scheduled in spring 2015, after construction of the North Sammamish segment is complete.

## Enjoying the trail

Sammamish resident Dave Wahl owns recreational property along the trail just south of Weber Point. After construction, Dave is looking forward to getting back on the trail with his dog, Maya. He reports, "This is a trail for the people, and it is ideal for getting out into the open air and enjoying everything the area has to offer including great views and recreation." He and Maya will do their part by using pet waste bags as they responsibly walk the trail.



Dave Wahl points to the natural environment and scenic views he enjoys from the East Lake Sammamish trail

## Trail Timeline



## Future Phases (pending funding availability)