



[www.kingcounty.gov/parks](http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks)

## **East Lake Sammamish Trail - North Sammamish Segment FAQ**

### ***What is the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail Project?***

The East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail project includes design and construction of an alternative, non-motorized transportation corridor and a multi-use recreational trail along 11 miles of the former Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad corridor on the east side of Lake Sammamish, from Redmond to Issaquah. King County purchased the corridor from BNSF in 1998 and opened an interim gravel trail in 2006. King County Parks has spent more than 10 years on master planning, design work and environmental review for this project, with ongoing involvement of a citizen's advisory group and in close coordination with the cities of Redmond, Sammamish and Issaquah.

### ***What is happening on the East Lake Sammamish Trail?***

The East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail is being designed and constructed in segments, based on budget availability. King County Parks opened the first master plan trail segment in Redmond in November 2011, with a newly paved surface for the 1.2 -mile segment from Northeast 70th Street to 187<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast and a 77-stall parking lot between Northeast 65<sup>th</sup> and Northeast 70<sup>th</sup> streets.

Construction began in June 2012 on the 2.2-mile-long Issaquah segment, from Southeast 43rd Way to Gilman Boulevard. Due to a narrow corridor, limited trail access and the extensive scope of work, this trail segment is closed during construction. It is scheduled to re-open in April 2013.

The 2.6-mile-long North Sammamish segment, from 187<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast to Inglewood Hill Road, is in the final design phase. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2013 and is expected to be completed in summer 2014.

### ***Why does it take so long to build the trail?***

Steep slopes along both sides of the corridor require extensive grading and construction of retaining walls to accommodate the wider trail.

### ***Why is this development project needed?***

The East Lake Sammamish Trail is currently an 11-mile "missing link" in a 44-mile-long urban regional trail corridor that will connect the Burke-Gilman Trail, the Sammamish River Trail, the Marymoor Connector Trail and the Issaquah-Preston Trail, linking Seattle to the Eastside and the Cascade foothills.

When completed, the trail will provide greater access to recreation, employment, and retail in the cities of Redmond, Sammamish and Issaquah and provide a multi-use path for bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, skaters and other users of all ages and abilities. The project will also complete the missing link in King County's most heavily used non-motorized transportation and recreation corridor.

### ***How will the trail be improved and what will it look like?***

Safety and accessibility are primary goals. The new trail will include a 12-foot-wide asphalt trail with 2-foot soft-surface shoulders that walkers and runners can use and a 1-foot clear zone on each side of the trail. The new trail will also feature improved intersections and crossing treatments. The project will improve trail safety

with a wider surface and soft-surface shoulders as well as enhanced traffic controls, fencing, sight distances and drainage. Environmental improvements will include wetland enhancements, slope stabilization, fish-passable culverts and native landscaping. The 90 percent design plans and specifications are being finalized and are posted to the project website at [www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail](http://www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail).

***Will the North Sammamish section of the trail be closed during construction?***

Yes. Safety is our primary consideration. Due to the extensive scope of construction work within the corridor and limited trail access, the 2.6-mile-long trail segment will close to all trail users from 187<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to Inglewood Hill Road. Closing the trail will allow these critical improvements to be done as quickly as possible and minimize the impacts to trail users and homeowners. While this construction project presents a significant temporary inconvenience, please understand that the improvements we're making to this section of the East Lake Sammamish Trail will benefit trail users for decades to come.

***How will I access Sammamish Landing Park during construction?***

Access to Sammamish Landing Park will be maintained via the East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

***Will there be a detour?***

A formal detour route has not been designated. King County Parks is working to identify an appropriate, safe alternative route for trail users, if available, during the closure. Please visit [www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/trails](http://www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/trails) to view a listing of the many other trail and park amenities available for your recreational enjoyment.

***How much does the ELST North Sammamish Project cost?***

The preliminary engineer's estimate for construction of the 2.6-mile segment is \$6.9 million. This cost estimate will be refined when the design is finalized in early 2013. Please keep in mind that this is an estimate only. The final project cost could be influenced by the bidding climate and the cost of materials.

***How is this project being funded?***

Funding for the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail North Sammamish segment is provided by the voter-approved 2008–2013 Open Space and Trails Levy, as well as by grant funding provided by the federal Surface Transportation Enhancements Program and the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. *Thank you for your support of the Open Space and Trails Levy!*

***What's next?***

Design is currently under way for the South Sammamish segment of the ELST, from Inglewood Hill Road to Southeast 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. Construction of the South Sammamish segment is dependent on funding availability.

***How can I learn more about the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail project?***

King County offers several options to keep everyone up to date about the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail project, including the project website at [www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail](http://www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail). The website will be updated as new information becomes available.

You may also direct questions to our project hotline by calling 1-888-668-4886.

Find us on Facebook, too! "Like" King County Parks at [www.facebook.com/iheartkcparks](http://www.facebook.com/iheartkcparks).

Got a minute? Tell us what you think at [www.parksfeedback.com](http://www.parksfeedback.com).

Follow our blog (<http://kingcountyparks.wordpress.com/>) for frequent updates about the East Lake Sammamish Trail and other King County Parks projects.