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New intersection in Issaquah.

Look inside for a
Project Newsletter

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



Existing intersection in South Sammamish.

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** for project information and weekly construction updates.
- Look for upcoming project newsletters to stay informed of current construction activity.

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King County Parks **Your**  King County
Big Backyard

east lake sammamish trail

South Sammamish
Project Newsletter

June 2014

Join us for an informational meeting on South Sammamish Segment A

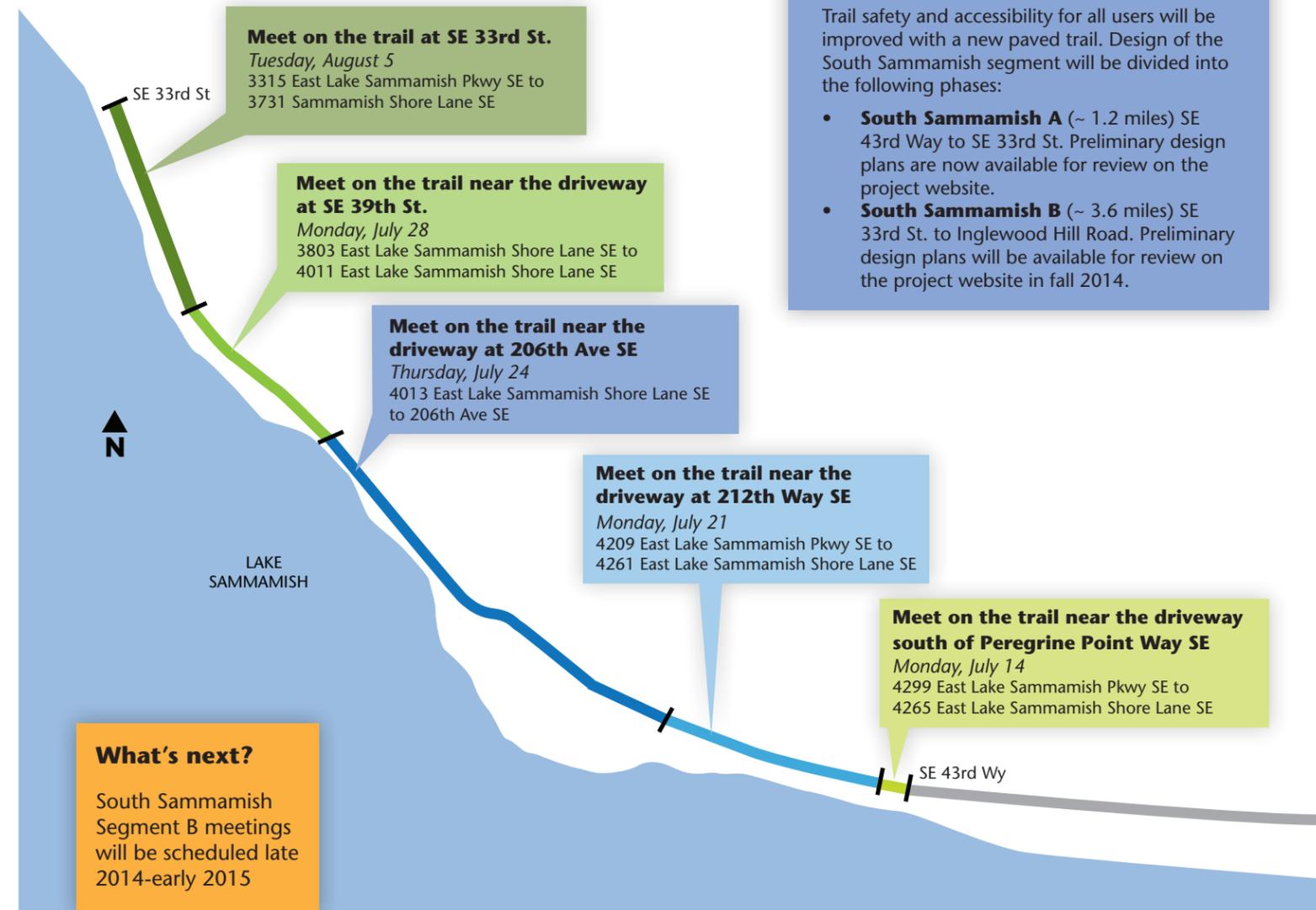
Preliminary trail alignment plans for South Sammamish Segment A of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, from SE 33rd St. to SE 43rd Way, are now available on the project website. King County is hosting five neighborhood meetings along the trail to explain the plans, answer questions, and listen to comments and concerns before advancing the trail design. All meetings will be held from 5-7 p.m.

Can't make the meeting? Contact us to schedule a time that works best for you. Call the project hotline: 1-888-668-4886 or email ELST@kingcounty.gov.

SOUTH SAMMAMISH
Design update

Trail safety and accessibility for all users will be improved with a new paved trail. Design of the South Sammamish segment will be divided into the following phases:

- **South Sammamish A** (~ 1.2 miles) SE 43rd Way to SE 33rd St. Preliminary design plans are now available for review on the project website.
- **South Sammamish B** (~ 3.6 miles) SE 33rd St. to Inglewood Hill Road. Preliminary design plans will be available for review on the project website in fall 2014.



What's next?

South Sammamish Segment B meetings will be scheduled late 2014-early 2015

Landscaping the trail corridor

Native plants, shrubs, and trees are an important part of the trail design. They serve to restore the project area, prevent erosion, and help make the trail feel like a park. Low growing plants at intersections provide clear sight lines for drivers and trail users.

Many trail neighbors have shared their comments and concerns regarding landscaping along the corridor. The County's design team is working to incorporate many of these comments and will provide updated planting plans in September. The updated plans will be posted to the project website. Landscaping along the corridor will be installed at the end of the project and during the planting season between October and March.

How will this project impact trees?

Building a wider trail that is safer and more accessible to people of all ages and abilities will require the removal of some trees. During the design phase, King County's arborist assesses the overall health of each tree and its proximity to the construction zone to determine if the tree must be removed. King County Parks' goal is to preserve significant trees whenever possible. Trees provide natural habitat for birds and wildlife and shade and screening for trail users and neighbors.

Why are there metal tags on some trees?

During the design phase, King County's arborist attaches metal tags to identify trees near the work area. The metal tags are used as a tool to inventory trees and do not indicate the significance of the tree nor whether the tree will be removed.



Metal tags identify trees near the work area.

Understanding the design plans

The trail design plans are developed using industry standards and are intended for construction experts. King County understands trail neighbors and project stakeholders would like to be informed how the new trail relates to the surrounding environment. To assist trail neighbors and stakeholders, King County developed a **Readers Guide to Understanding the Design Plans** and posted it to the project website: www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail. Project staff are also available by phone or email to explain the plans and answer questions. Call the project hotline to schedule a time that works for you.

How is the trail alignment developed?

The trail alignment is developed based on the following considerations:

Safety

- Building a safe, accessible trail through a narrow corridor, steep terrain and complicated intersections
- Meeting regional trail standards and national safety guidelines, including maintaining clear sight distances

Protecting the environment

- Preserving significant trees
- Complying with local, state, and federal environmental regulations to avoid and minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas

Using taxpayer dollars effectively

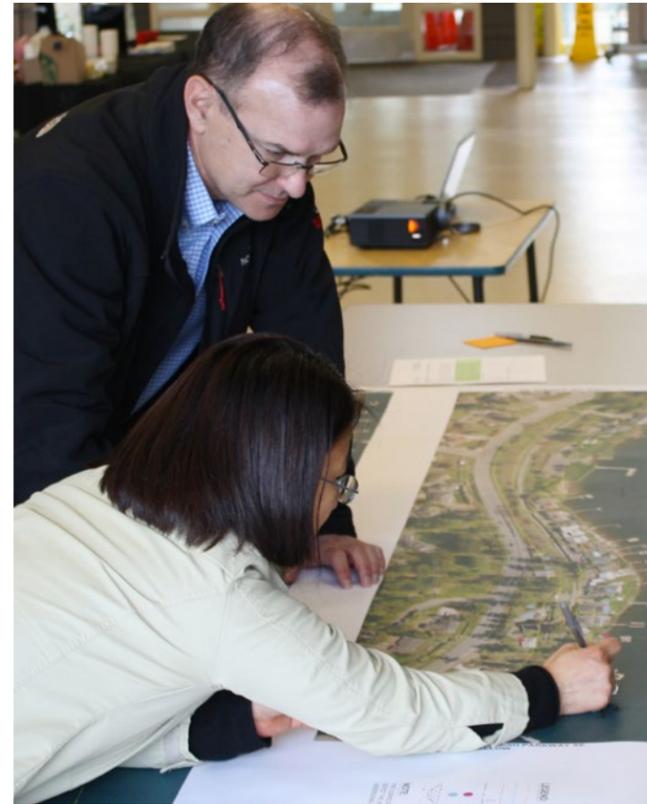
- Staying within the King County right-of-way
- Minimizing costs where possible without impacting trail standards

Being a good neighbor

- Minimizing impacts to adjacent homeowners



The improved trail in Issaquah.



Open house attendees view roll maps and provide comments on trail design.

King County thanks everyone who attended the March open houses and shared comments

More than 100 people attended the open houses and provided the County with about 140 comments. All comments were shared with the design team and will be considered as design progresses. The feedback received is consistent with the key themes we've heard over the past decade through the planning and environmental phases of the project. Key themes include:

- Widespread interest in trail design features and alignment
- Support for improving trail safety and enforcing rules and etiquette
- Interest in preserving landscaping and trees along the trail corridor
- Concern for safe access to nearby residential properties, especially during construction

The design team is reviewing all comments before advancing the trail design. A summary report, including all comments received at the open houses and the County's responses to those comments, will be available on the project website in mid-July. Thank you for your feedback!

What's next?

King County anticipates design of Segment A will be complete early next year and construction will begin in spring 2015. South Sammamish B is in the preliminary design phase. Preliminary alignment plans are expected in late fall 2014 and construction could begin in spring 2016.

Community outreach

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