



How-To: Community Partnerships

***Mountain Biking:
King County Parks & Evergreen
Mountain Bike Alliance***

www.kingcounty.gov/parks

King County Parks

- 180 parks
- More than 25,000 acres
- Regional trail system of 175 miles
- 135 miles of backcountry trails



Why We Partner

1. **Increased Recreational Opportunities To Meet Demand** without incurring ongoing costs—often with the best design and expertise
2. **“Sweat Equity”** - Build support by keeping Parks personal
3. **Cash for O & M** – Critical after a debilitating fiscal crisis



Community Partnership and Grant (CPG) Program

- Identify and support community-based partner organizations
- Empower community-based partners to plan, develop, and invest in new recreation facilities on public land
- Make strategic capital grant awards to community partners to leverage resources
- Recognize intangible value of community goodwill

CPG Metrics:

- \$9M in grants translated into \$50+M worth of new public recreation facilities
- Over 80,000 constituents directly served from 30+ community-based organizations
- Launched with \$600,000 in grants in 2003

Examples:

- Preston
- Ropes Course
- Marymoor Park Audubon

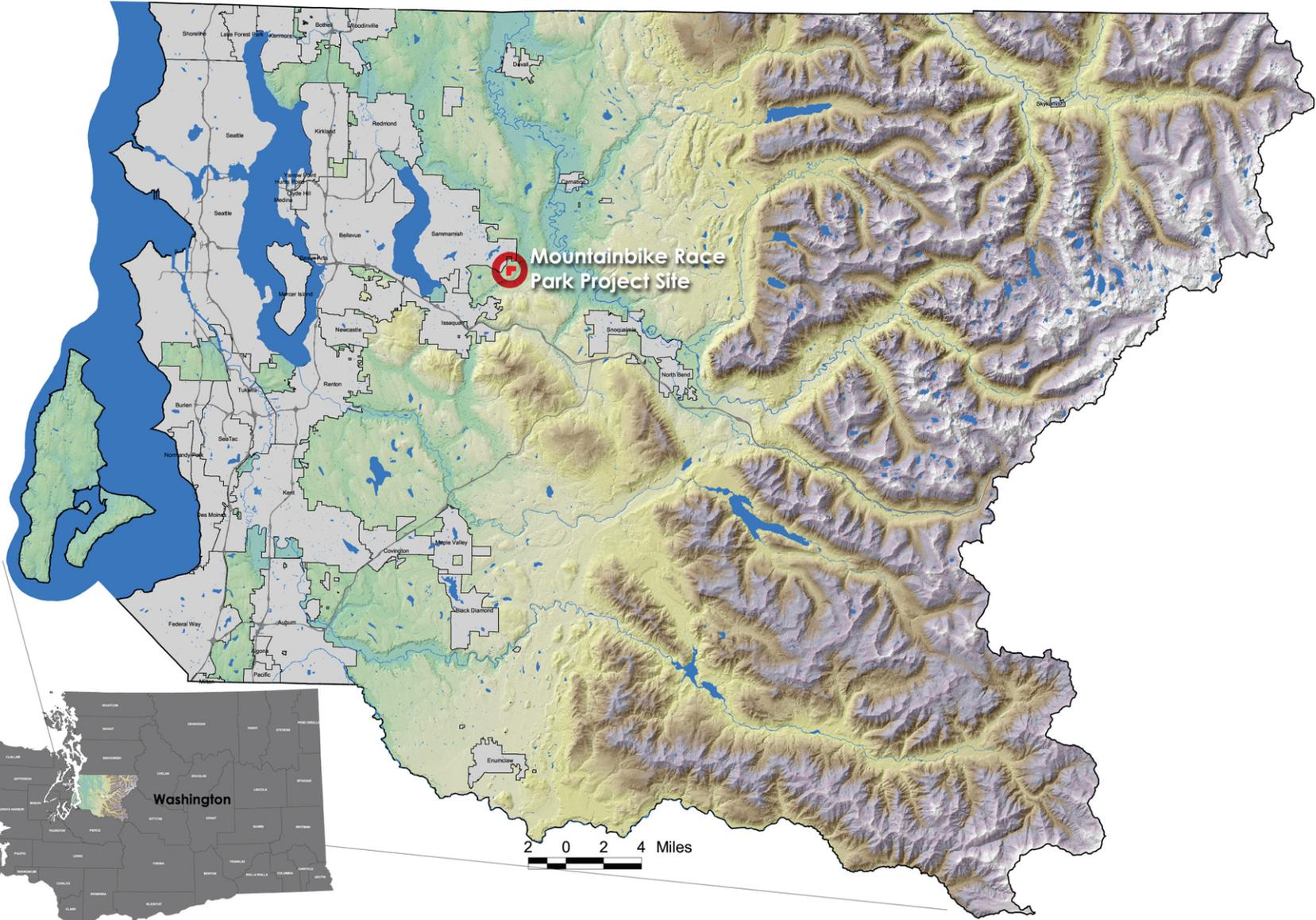


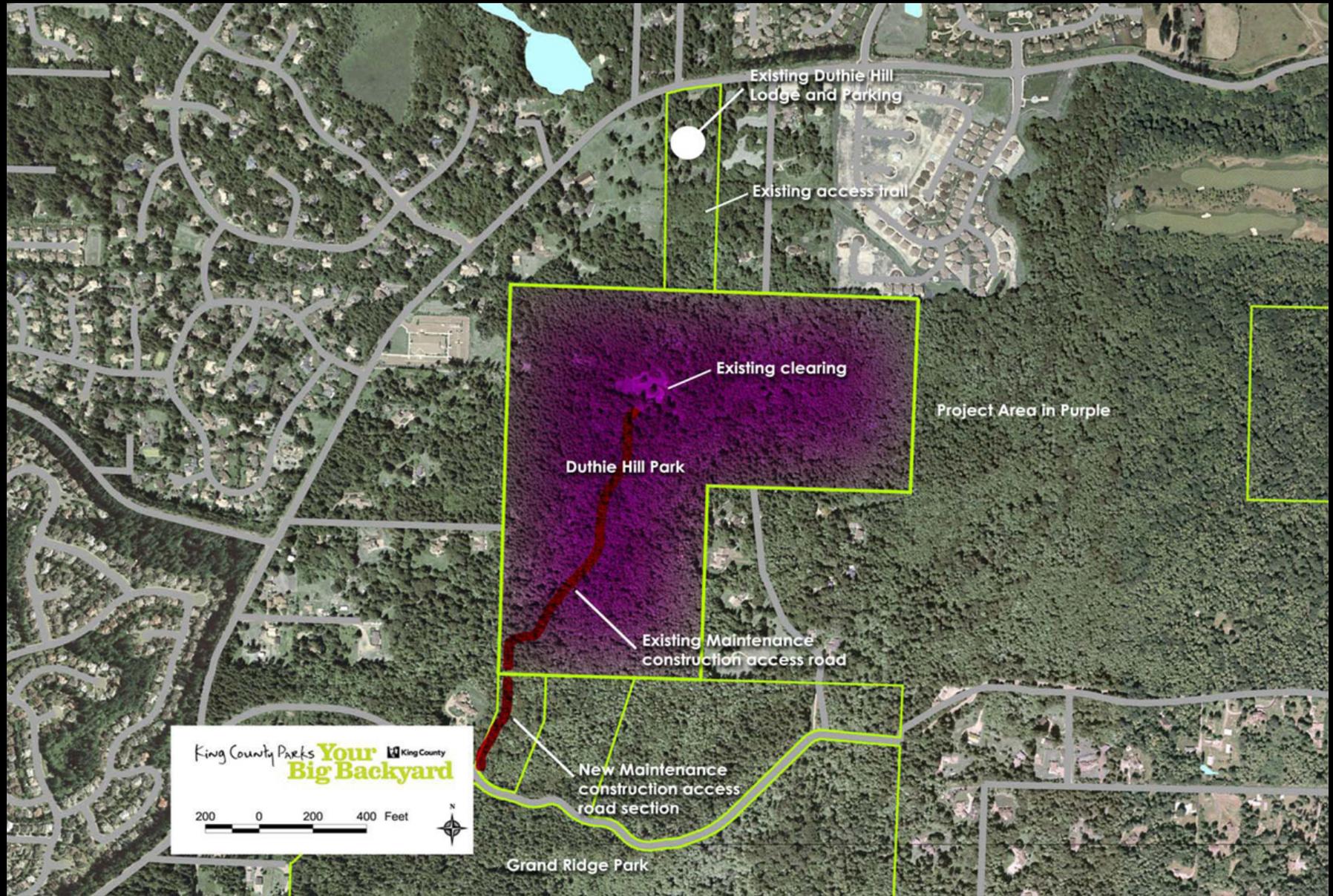
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS | Keys to Success

- Philosophical shift at all levels of the agency
“the agency owns, plans, constructs, and operates ...”
“the community owns, plans, constructs, and operates...”
- Top down modifications in gov’n’t processes to minimize partner disruption and encourage collaboration, (*remove obstacles—risk, policy, agency structures, etc.*) **Get between partner and obstacles.**
- Encourage preliminary momentum & vision – don’t focus too early on inevitable limitations, get to yes.

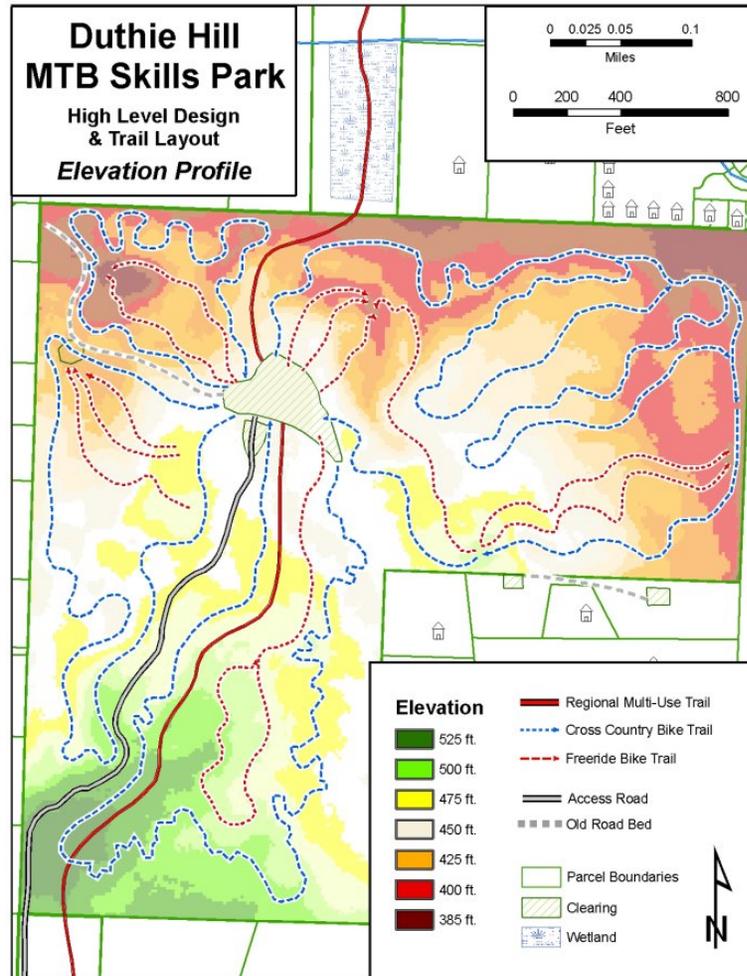


King County



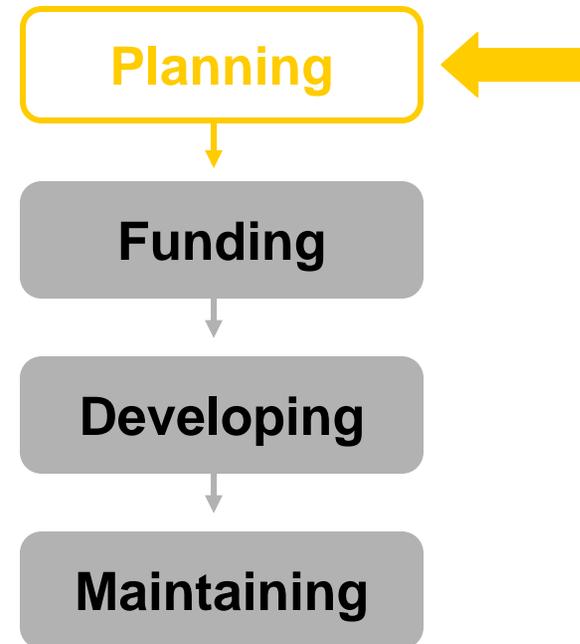


- 5-6 miles XC trails
- 2-3 miles Tech trails
- Multi-use Regional trail
- Family/Kids Zone



Working with Local Government

- **I-5 Colonnade**
Mt. Bike Skills Park
- **Duthie Hill**
Mt. Bike Park





Working History with Mountain Bikers

- Ten years of working with Evergreen from when they first started—dual work parties with WTA.
- Long history of working with WTA, Issaquah Alps, and the Backcountry Horsemen

Planning Objectives

- Identify need, create common vision
- Inventory Analysis
- Build Relationships, Create Trust
- Advocate for each other
- Engage multiple interests, do not devalue others for your gain.
- Clarify Roles & Responsibilities



Planning

- Outreach & Public Meetings
 - Flyer to neighbors
 - Co-hosted meeting with neighbors
 - Individual meetings with neighbors, opponents to supporters
 - Gather supporters
 - Survey of future users
 - Show and tell
 - Project website
- Politics
 - Do your homework, meet with elected leaders beforehand, let partner lead

Duthie MTB Park May'08 [Exit this survey >>](#)

1. Default Section

* 1. Name

* 2. What city/town do you live in?

* 3. If Duthie had the types of trails you wanted, how often would you ride there?
Number of times per year

4. Rate your level interest level in having the following types of trails at Duthie (select 1 for each trail type):

	0 (no interest)	1 (low interest)	2	3 (medium interest)	4	5 (strong interest)
Tight, twisty and slower XC trails	<input type="radio"/>					
Flowy and faster XC trails	<input type="radio"/>					
Natural technical features on XC trails (rocks, roots, logs)	<input type="radio"/>					
Smooth and buff XC trails	<input type="radio"/>					
Freeride trails (lotsa structures and TTFs a la N. Shore)	<input type="radio"/>					
Optional freeride features alongside XC trails	<input type="radio"/>					
Flow lines (Jump & Drop lines a la South	<input type="radio"/>					

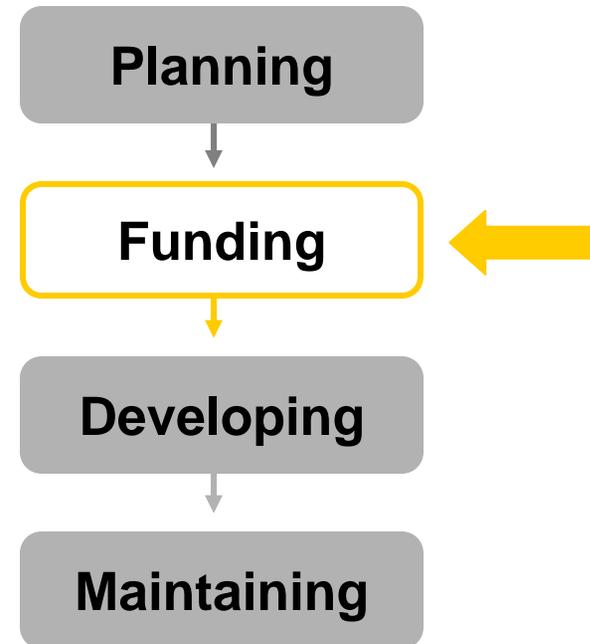
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Funding

- Get early commitment, at concept
- Grants-\$150,000 from King County, \$75K up front for design
- Evergreen—fundraisers, volunteers
- Clarify Roles
 - KCP support: staff, mapping, access, mailings/admin
 - Evergreen: project lead, develop & manage scope & budget



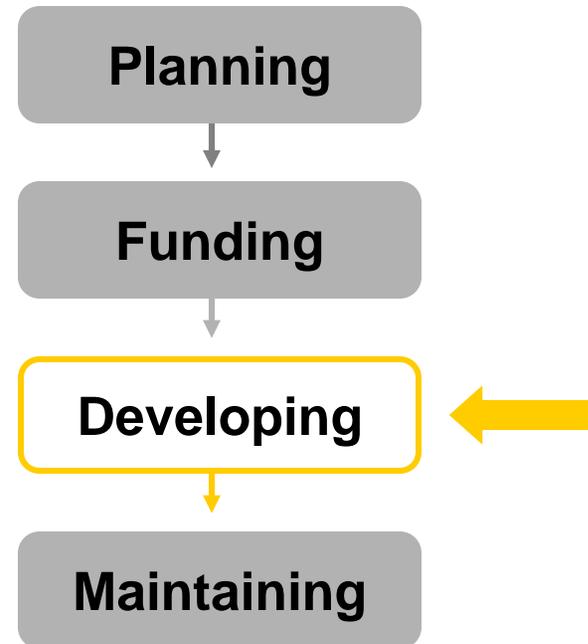
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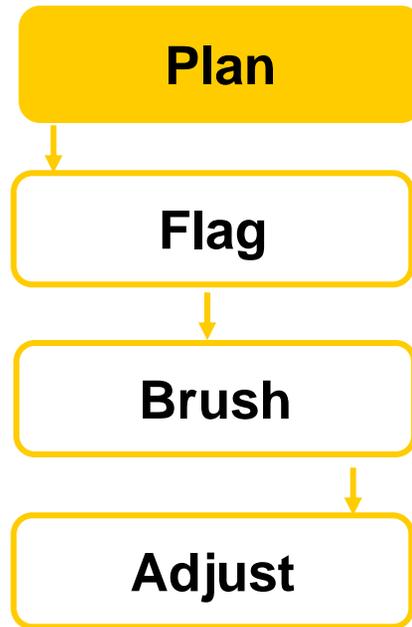


Development

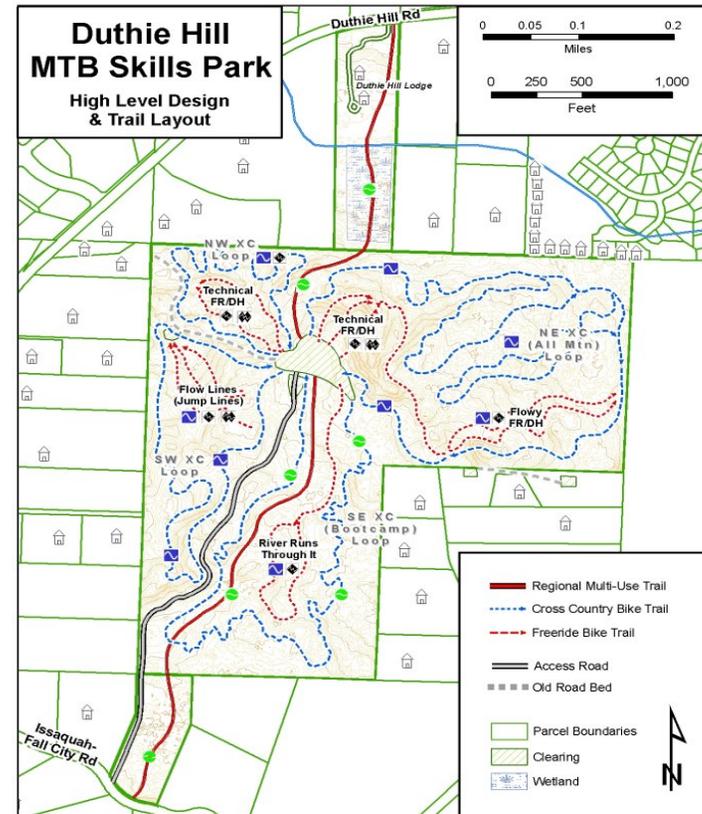
- Good design = Sustainable trails
- Letting go—Evergreen leads, we support and monitor
- Agreement
 - Budget
 - Scope



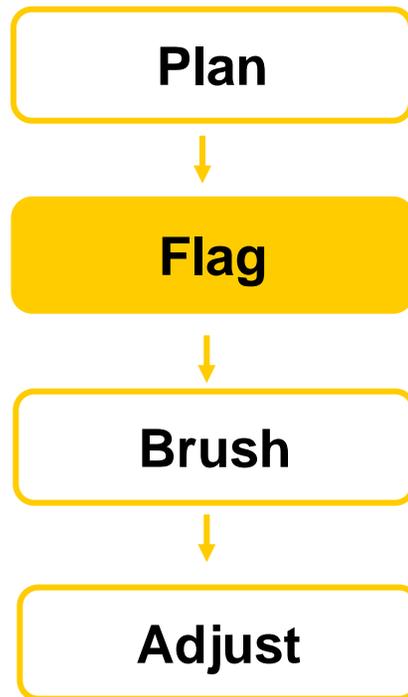
Detailed On-the-Ground Design



- Initial flow
- Map contouring
- Walk the site
- GeoDB
- Problem solving
- Adjust and repeat



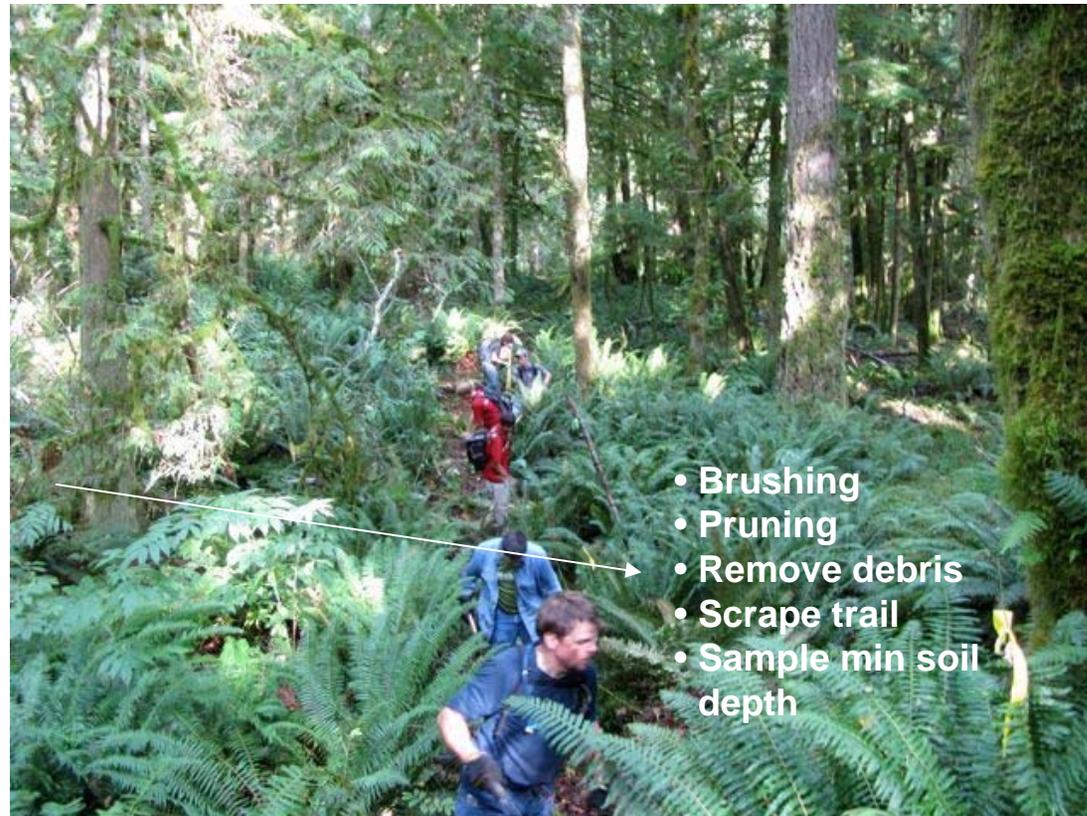
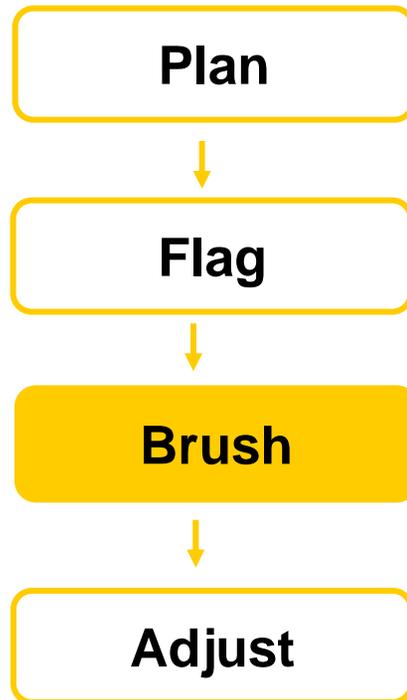
Detailed On-the-Ground Design



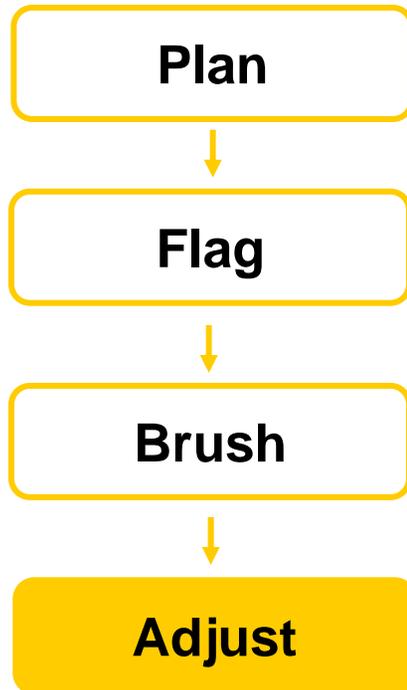
- Initial flags w/clino
- Adjust for flow/curves
- Fill in the blanks
- Paint



Detailed On-the-Ground Design



Detailed On-the-Ground Design



- Drainage problems
- Fix flow & curves
- Grade problems
- Re-route around bad soil areas

Construction

Full Bench

- Mini trail excavator
- McLoeds/Pulaskis
- Sweat!

Adjust

Plan Features

Build Features



Construction

Full Bench



Adjust



Plan Features

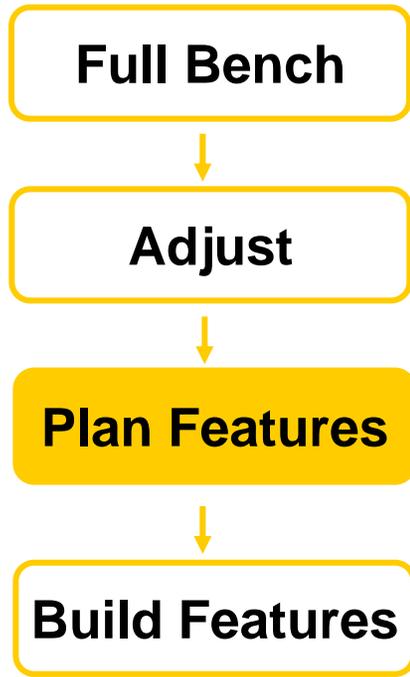


Build Features

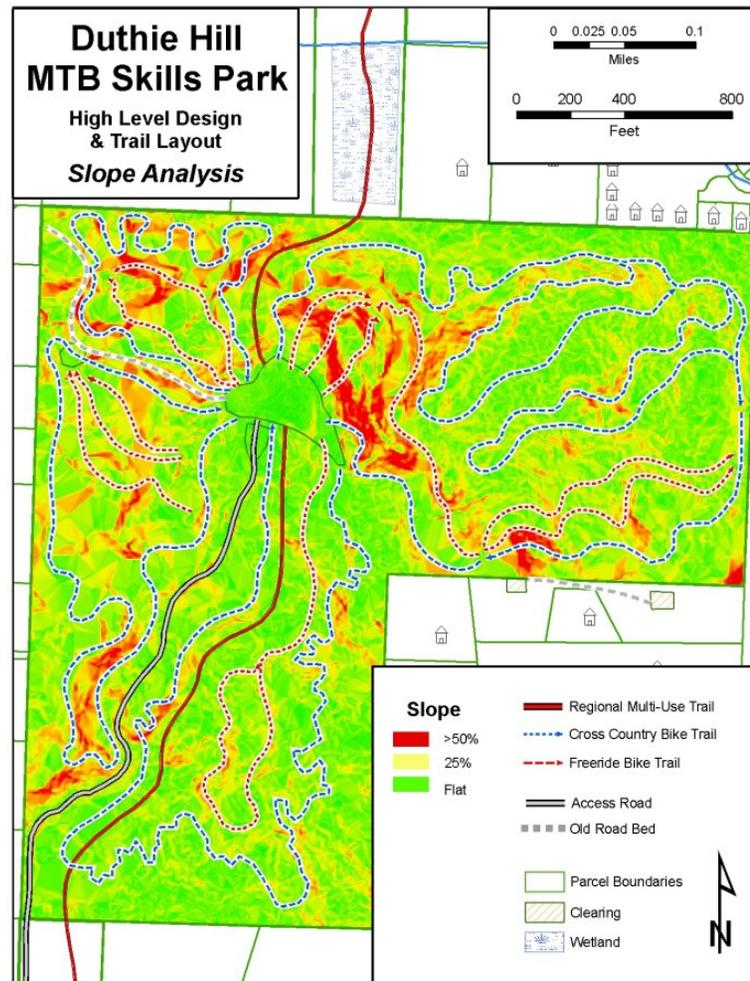


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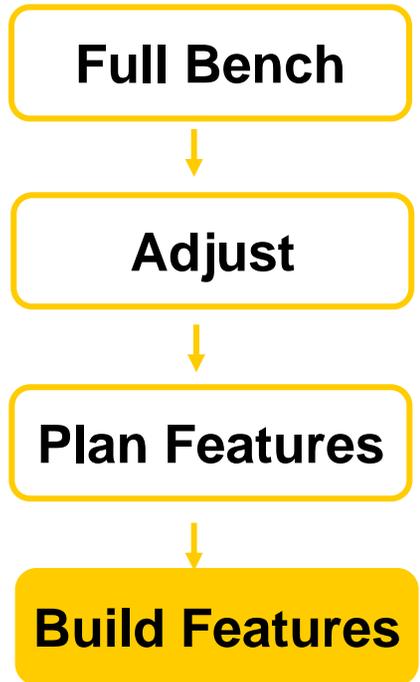
Construction



- Feature Flow
- Flag
- Design



Construction



- Generators
- Power tools
- Skilled volunteers
- Leaders

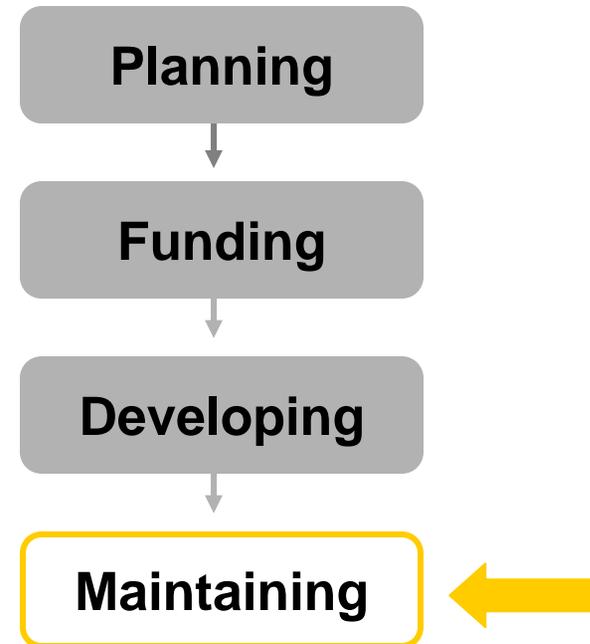
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Maintaining

- Cooperative Maintenance
- Standards
- Liability
- Labor/Unions





Take Home Messages

- Empower Community Groups
- Remove Obstacles
- Empower Your Team to Get to “Yes”

King County Parks Team | Daily Priorities

Meet Business Revenue Goals – Know your market, know your business & think BIG

Execute Capital Program - Safety, save money, make money

Create Sustainable Partners - Build base of support, don't wait for a crisis, earnest outreach

Create Efficiencies - Work smart, plan smart

Track What We Do – measure performance

Great Customer Service





Business Development & Partnerships

Ron Sims | King County Executive
Kevin Brown | King County Parks Director

Jessie Israel | Business Development & Partnerships, Section Manager
TJ Davis | Community Partnerships & Grants
Butch Lovelace | Youth Sports Facility Grants