



Burke-Gilman Trail Redevelopment Project

Frequently Asked Questions

June 24, 2011

What is happening on the Burke-Gilman Trail?

Beginning June 15, King County Parks will start to redevelop a two-mile-long segment of the Burke-Gilman Trail through Lake Forest Park, from Northeast 145th Street to Logboom Park in Kenmore.

Why is this redevelopment project needed?

The Burke-Gilman Trail is King County's most heavily used non-motorized transportation and recreation corridor. At 33 years of age, this is the oldest and narrowest section of the trail, and it has deteriorated to the point that it no longer meets the minimum standards for safe use.

King County has spent more than five years on planning and design work for this redevelopment project, with ongoing involvement of a citizen's advisory group and in close coordination with the City of Lake Forest Park, the City of Seattle, the City of Shoreline, and the City of Kenmore. Recreational groups have also been key partners in the project, including the Cascade Bicycle Club and Bicycle Alliance of Washington.

Where can I learn more about this project?

King County offers several options to keep everyone up to date about the Burke-Gilman Trail redevelopment project:

- A 24-hour project hotline, 206-462-6348, is available to provide updated information and to answer any questions about the construction project.
- A project website, www.kingcounty.gov/burkegilmantrail, has been developed to provide detailed information about the project, including the detour route.
- Questions and comments can be directed to King County Parks' online feedback tool, www.parksfeedback.com. Construction updates will also appear on the King County Parks' blog, www.kingcounty.gov/parksalerts. Follow us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/iheartkcparks.

How will the trail be improved?

The redevelopment project will improve the safety of the trail including a widened surface with soft-surface shoulders as well as enhanced traffic controls, sight distances and drainage. Plans call for building a 12-foot-wide asphalt trail, installing soft-surface shoulders that walkers and runners can use, and enhancing intersection and crossing treatments. Upgrades also include a new bridge over Lyon Creek, improved sightlines and improved drainage.

Why is this section of the Burke-Gilman Trail being closed during construction?

The two-mile-long trail segment will be closed to all trail users, because of the extensive scope of construction work within the narrow corridor, limited trail access and topographic constraints. Construction fencing will be installed at the limits of the work area along both sides of the trail to clearly define the construction zone. Closing the trail will allow the work to be done as quickly as possible and minimize the impacts to trail users and nearby homeowners.

While this construction project presents a significant, temporary inconvenience, please understand that the safety improvements we're making to this section of the Burke-Gilman Trail will benefit trail users for decades to come.

How long will the trail be closed?

The closure begins June 15, and will last for up to six months.

Why is the County closing the trail during the busiest time of year?

There are several reasons why the redevelopment work and closure must occur in late spring and summer:

- Removing and replacing Lyon Creek bridge and its abutments, along with slope stabilization along the creek must be done during a "fish window" of July 1 through Aug. 31, per state and federal environmental regulations.
- Retaining wall construction must be done during dry weather.
- Constructing the trail during summertime's long hours of daylight means the trail will be closed for a shorter duration, which reduces the overall impact to trail users and homeowners.

Will there be a detour around the closed section of the trail?

King County Parks has been working for nearly a year with local and state agencies and trail user groups to find a safe and reasonable detour around the construction zone. The area's steep topography, fragmented road and sidewalk system and close proximity to busy State Route 522 all posed challenges to creating a simple detour.

A map of the detour route and turn-by-turn directions can be downloaded from the project website at www.kingcounty.gov/burkegilmantrail.

What are the options for cyclists who use this portion of the trail to commute to and from work?

With the trail closed and a longer detour in place, some bicycle commuters might consider riding in the State Route 522 bus lane and shoulder as an alternative. **This poses a major public safety concern and is not recommended.** Commuter cyclists are encouraged to take advantage of three Metro and one Sound Transit bus routes that provide service along this corridor as a temporary alternative during the trail closure. Buses are scheduled every six minutes during commute times and all feature triple bike racks. Bike lockers are available at the Kenmore Park & Ride lot.

What options do recreational trail users have during this redevelopment project?

King County has an award-winning regional trails network that stretches 175 miles across the County, and recreational trail users are encouraged to explore other portions of this system during the closure. For more information, visit King County Parks' website at:

www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/trails/regionaltrailssystem.aspx.

What is being done to ensure protection of the surrounding environment?

Trail reconstruction will require removing approximately 219 trees along the trail corridor. As compensation, King County will plant 236 trees, which exceeds Lake Forest Park's requirement of a one-to-one replacement ratio. The project will improve the environment through wetland enhancements, slope stabilization, native landscaping and restoration of Lyon Creek.

How much will this project cost, and how is it being funded?

This redevelopment project is expected to cost \$2.69 million and is being funded by the voter-approved 2008–2013 Parks Expansion Levy. These funds are dedicated exclusively to regional trail development and open space acquisition in King County. Parks Expansion Levy funds are also being used to develop the 11-mile East Lake Sammamish Trail which began in mid-May.

Thank you for your support!

Who manages the Burke-Gilman Trail?

King County Parks manages the Burke-Gilman Trail outside Seattle city limits, from Northeast 145th Street in Lake Forest Park to Bothell, where it intersects with King County's Sammamish River Trail. The City of Seattle manages the Burke-Gilman Trail segment within the city limits, from Shilshole Bay to Northeast 145th Street. The Burke-Gilman Trail runs more than 18 miles from Seattle to Bothell.