



Parks and Recreation Division
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
KSC-NR-0700
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle WA 98104-3855

Burke-Gilman Trail Redevelopment Project

FAQ

What is happening on the Burke-Gilman Trail this spring?

King County Parks will begin redeveloping a two-mile-long segment of the Burke-Gilman Trail through Lake Forest Park, from Northeast 145th Street to Logboom Park in Kenmore in spring 2011. The 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. Recreational groups have also been key partners in the project, including the Cascade Bicycle Club and Bicycle Alliance of Washington.

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, the trail is deteriorating and does not meet the minimum standards for safe use by the current volumes and mix of users. Surveys of trail use show that more than 1,300 trips are made on the Burke-Gilman Trail through this section on weekdays, including many cyclists on their daily commute. On a sunny weekend the number of trips can jump to more than 2,200 in this location.

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. This two-mile segment through Lake Forest Park is the oldest and narrowest section of the Burke-Gilman Trail. The redevelopment 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. Environmental improvements include wetland enhancements, slope stabilization, native landscaping and restoration of Lyon Creek.

Will the Burke-Gilman Trail be closed during construction?

Yes. Safety is our primary consideration. Due to the extensive scope of construction work within the narrow corridor, limited trail access and topographic constraints, the two-mile-long trail segment will close to all trail users. Closing the trail will allow these critical improvements to be done as quickly as possible and minimize the impacts to trail users and nearby homeowners.

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When will the trail be closed?

The closure is anticipated to begin in May 2011 and last for up to six months. As soon as the specific closure date is identified, it will be announced in the local press, posted on the project website (www.kingcounty.gov/burkegilmantrail) and on signage on the trail. 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.

Will there be a detour?

With the assistance of Lake Forest Park, the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Cascade Bicycle Club and other stakeholders, King County Parks has identified a preferred detour route that utilizes public side streets. However, permit approvals from local jurisdictions (Lake Forest Park, Shoreline and Seattle) are required before the route becomes an official detour. We are working to obtain the necessary approvals before the trail closes in May so that we may notify the public as soon as possible. We are encouraging commuter cyclists to first consider using Sound Transit and King County Metro buses equipped with bike racks or carpooling as a temporary alternative during the trail closure.

How is this project being funded?

Project funding is provided by the 2008 – 2013, voter-approved Parks Expansion Levy (Proposition 2; August Primary Election 2007). These funds are dedicated exclusively to regional trail development and open space acquisition in King County. Parks Expansion Levy funds will also be used to develop the 11-mile East Lake Sammamish Trail beginning this summer.

Thank you for your support!

Who manages the Burke-Gilman Trail?

King County Parks manages the Burke-Gilman Trail from Northeast 145th Street in Lake Forest Park to Bothell where it intersects the Sammamish River Trail, also managed by King County Parks. The City of Seattle manages the Burke-Gilman Trail segment within the city limits, south of Northeast 145th Street to Shilshole Bay.

How can I learn more about the Burke-Gilman Trail redevelopment project?

King County offers several options to keep everyone up to date about the Burke-Gilman Trail redevelopment project, including the project website at www.kingcounty.gov/burkegilmantrail. You may also direct questions to Gina Auld, project manager at: gina.auld@kingcounty.gov.

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