

East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail Issaquah 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, extending from Redmond to Issaquah. King County purchased the corridor from BNSF in 1997 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 citizens 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 funding availability. King County Parks reopened the first segment of the master plan trail in Redmond in November 2011, with a newly paved surface for the 1.2 -mile-long segment from Northeast 70th Street to 187th Avenue Northeast and a 77-stall parking lot between Northeast 65th and Northeast 70th Streets.

The trail segment closed in May and construction began on June 11 on the 2.2-mile-long Issaquah segment, from Southeast 43rd Way to Gilman Boulevard. Due to the narrow corridor, limited trail access, and the extensive scope of work, this trail segment will be closed to all users during construction. The Issaquah segment is scheduled to re-open in June 2013.



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 includes the Burke-Gilman Trail, the Sammamish River Trail, the Marymoor Connector Trail and the Issaquah-High Point 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. 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?

Safety and accessibility are the primary goals. Development plans call for building a 12-foot-wide asphalt trail, installing two-foot-wide soft-surface shoulders, and enhancing intersection and road crossing treatments. The project will improve the safety of the trail through a widened surface and soft-surface shoulders as well as through enhanced traffic controls, fencing, sight distances and drainage. Environmental improvements include wetland enhancements, slope stabilization, native landscaping.

Will the Issaquah section of 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 2.2-mile-long trail segment will close to all trail users from Southeast 43rd Way to Gilman Boulevard. Closing the trail will allow these critical improvements to be done as quickly as possible and minimize the impacts to trail users.

When will the trail be closed?

The trail closed on May 16 and is scheduled to re-open in June 2013. 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.

Will there be a detour?

A formal detour route has not been designated. There is a designated bicycle lane and shoulder on East Lake Sammamish Parkway to navigate around the closed trail segment between Southeast 43rd Way to Gilman Boulevard. Please visit www.kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/trails to view a listing of the many other trail and park amenities available for your recreational enjoyment.

How is this project being funded?

Funding for the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail Issaquah segment is provided by the 2008 – 2013 voter-approved Open Space and Trails Levy, as well as by the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. *Thank you for your support!*

What's Next?

Design is currently under way for the North Sammamish segment of the ELST, from 187th Avenue Northeast to Inglewood Hill Road. Depending on funding availability, construction of the North Sammamish segment is anticipated to begin in Summer 2013.

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.

Construction Project Hotline: 1-888-668-4886

Got a minute? Tell us what you think at www.parksfeedback.com.

What can we expect during construction?

Construction of the Master Plan Trail will include use of equipment such as excavators, graders, loaders, compactors, dump trucks, and pavers. Portions of the trail construction will require cutting existing pavement. During construction, residents and visitors to the area can expect to see medium-to large sized equipment in the construction area.

There may be short-term construction activity at individual roadway and driveway crossings that are anticipated to last for one to two weeks. However, access through driveways and roads will be maintained during construction. Access to properties for all emergency response services will be maintained during construction of the trail.

How noisy will construction be?

Heavy machinery will be used during construction of the trail generating back-up alarm and engine noise. Noise from excavators, graders, compactors, trucks, and pavers is expected during the construction period.

All construction work must meet requirements set by the City of Issaquah and as stated in the construction permit.

How can I access the trail during construction? Where can I park?

Visit the project website at www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail and download the PDF entitled "[Parking, access points and restrooms along the trail](#)" to view other access points along the corridor.

What hours will construction crews be allowed to work on the trail?

Crews are allowed to work on weekdays during daylight hours from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Crews will be allowed to work from 9:00am to 6:00 pm on Saturday with prior approval from the City of Issaquah. No work is permitted on Sunday.

How will construction vehicles and equipment access the trail? Where will equipment be staged?

Trucks would access the trail from public streets.

Will my landscaping be affected?

Any landscape within the King County right-of-way could be affected. For questions about specific properties along the trail, please contact Robert Nunnenkamp, King County Property Agent, 206-263-6207 or e-mail robert.nunnenkamp@kingcounty.gov

Who do I call if:

- ***I have complaints about construction (i.e. noise, dust, etc)?***
Please call our project hotline by calling 1-888-668-4886 or submit a comment at www.parksfeedback.com.
- ***I have a question about my property?***
For inquiries about specific properties along the trail, please contact Robert Nunnenkamp, King County Property Agent, 206-263-6207 or e-mail robert.nunnenkamp@kingcounty.gov.

If there is a project emergency, please contact:

King County: K.K. Soi, Project Manager: (206) 263-7283 / (206) 384-3619 (cell)

Contractor: Mike Miles: (425) 471-4806 / (360) 435-0659

Lili Enriquez: (425) 754-7242 / (360) 435-0659

City of Issaquah: Butch Weiher: (425) 837-3434 / (425) 864-6075
(no after hours contact)

What is the cost of the Issaquah segment?

Construction of the Issaquah segment is estimated to cost \$2.74 million. Funding for the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail - Issaquah Segment is provided by the 2008 – 2013 voter-approved Open Space and Trails Levy, the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.