

## EAST LAKE SAMMAMISH TAIL

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### Summary

The East Lake Sammamish Trail (ELST) project includes design and construction of a non-motorized transportation corridor and a multi-use recreational trail along 11 miles of the former Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor on the east side of Lake Sammamish. The trail will provide access to recreation, employment and retail in the cities of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah and complete an important link in King County's Regional Trails System.

This project has developed in two stages:

- [Interim Use Trail and Resource Protection Plan](#)

The Interim use Trail, which was completed in 2006, originally extended south from NE 70th Street in Redmond to Gilman Boulevard in Issaquah and features a crushed gravel surface.

- [Master Plan Trail](#)

The proposed Master Plan Trail will be a paved, multi-use path accommodating pedestrians and non-motorized uses, such as bicycles, skates, and strollers. The trail is be developed in phases as funding allows. The Remond Segment, from NE 70<sup>th</sup> St to 187<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, was completed in November 2011 and included paving, drainage and landscaping improvements, and a 77-vehicle parking lot.

### Project Funding

Funding for the East Lake Sammamish Trail project has been provided by the following sources:

- 2008 - 2013 voter-approved King County Open Space and Trails Levy
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

### History

Railroads operated along the East Lake Sammamish corridor from 1885 to 1996. In 1996, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) suspended railroad operations along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish. In April 1997, the Cascade Land Conservancy purchased the active railroad corridor from BNSF. Also in 1997, King County and the Land Conservancy requested that the Surface Transportation Board grant interim trail use and railbanking status to this important corridor. Railbanking allows the development of inactive railroad corridors as recreational trails, so that such facilities are preserved for reestablishment of railroad use, should the need later arise. This corridor had been identified as an addition to the regional trail system as early as 1971.

The application to railbank the corridor was approved in August 1998 and a federal "Notice of Interim Trail Use" was issued. King County purchased the railbanked corridor from the land conservancy in September 1998 to develop it into the East Lake Sammamish Trail. In 1999, King County held three community meetings to discuss trail planning and formed a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG). In 2008, King County Parks began designing the master plan trail. The first phase of development of the master trail was completed in November 2011 with the opening of the Redmond segment and adjacent parking lot.

## Citizen Advisory Group

The 13-member East Lake Sammamish Trail Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) was convened by King County to provide local and user input into the East Lake Sammamish Interim Trail Use Plan (Phase I) and Master Trail Plan (Phase II) and to ensure the trail plans reflect the input and values of our multi-faceted community. CAG responsibilities include contributing a community perspective for all aspects of the project, advising King County on factors which may impact the trail project, assisting with public outreach efforts, and producing a written summary of CAG final recommendations for the Interim Use and Master Plan Trail. Please visit the ELST [documents page](#) for CAG meeting summary listings and reports.

## Timeline

### ELST Master Plan Trail Corridor

July 2008	Complete 30% Design Documents of 11 Mile Trail Corridor
January 2008	Begin Design of 11 Mile Trail Corridor

### Issaquah Trail Segment

April 2013	Complete construction of Issaquah Trail Segment
May 2012	Begin construction of Issaquah Trail Segment
December 2011	Advertise for construction of Issaquah Trail Segment
October 2011	Complete 100% construction documents
July 2011	Advertise for construction of Issaquah Trail Segment
June 2011	Complete 100% Design Documents for Issaquah Trail Segment

July 2010	60% Design Documents for Issaquah Trail Segment
April 2010	Submit Nationwide Permit (Section 404) to US Army Corps of Engineers for Issaquah Trail Segment
March 2010	Submit permit applications to City of Issaquah for Issaquah Trail Segment
July 2009	Begin Design of Issaquah Trail Segment

### North Sammamish Trail Segment

February 2013	Advertise for construction of North Sammamish Segment A
January 2013	Complete 100% design documents
November 2012	Complete 90% design documents
July 2012	Complete 60% design documents
January 2012	Begin design of North Sammamish Trail Segment

### Redmond Trail Segment

November 2011	Complete construction of Redmond Segment
June 2011	Begin construction of Redmond Segment
December 2008	Complete 60% Design documents for Redmond Segment

### Environmental Review

February 2011	EIS Process - 180 day Appeal Period - Complete
April 2010	Issue Final EIS - Complete
May 2010	Issue SEPA Notice of Action Taken - Complete
May 2010	Issue NEPA Record of Decision - Complete
Jan 2009	Submitted Permit Application to City of Redmond for Redmond Trail Segment; Request

	for Air Lease Agreement has been cancelled
August 2008	Submitted Air Lease Agreement to WSDOT for portion of trail through the SR 520 and SR202 Rights-of-Way; Request for Air Lease Agreement has been cancelled
December 2008	Submitted National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) to WSDOT and FHWA - Approved
September 2007	Submitted Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to WSDOT and FHWA - Approved

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