

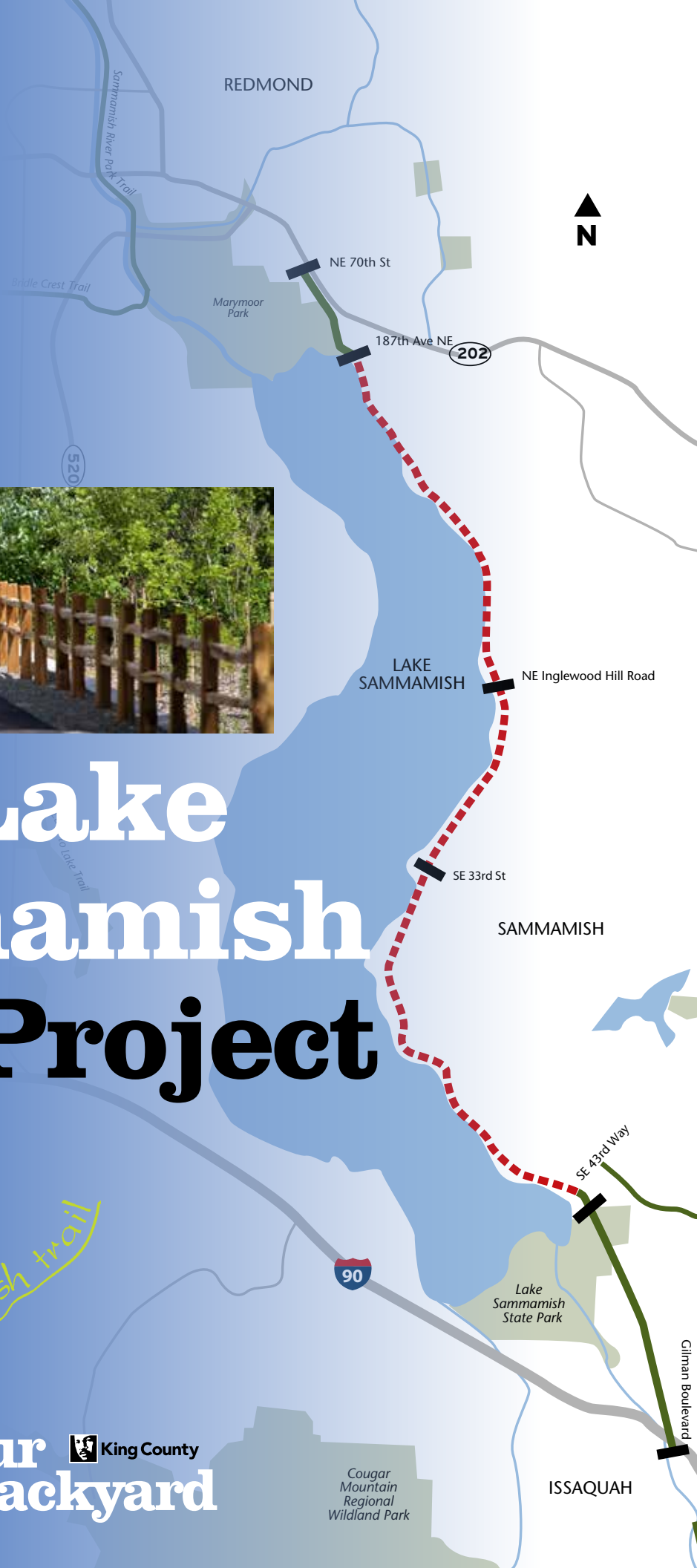


# East Lake Sammamish Trail Project

Spring 2014

*east lake sammamish trail*

King County Parks **Your**  **King County**  
**Big Backyard**





## What is the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail Project?

The East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail (ELST) is an alternative non-motorized transportation corridor and multi-use recreational trail along 11 miles of former Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad corridor on the east side of Lake Sammamish, from Redmond to Issaquah. King County purchased the corridor in 1998 and opened an interim gravel trail in 2006. King County Parks (Parks) has spent more than 10 years on master planning, design work and environmental review for this project, with ongoing involvement of a citizen’s advisory group and close coordination with the cities of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah.



*Sammamish River Trail*



*Burke Gilman Trail*

### Why is King County developing the East Lake Sammamish Trail?

This type of paved trail has the highest degree of accessibility to people of all ages and abilities. The ELST is currently the 11-mile “missing link” in the 44-mile long regional trail corridor that will connect the Burke-Gilman Trail, the Sammamish River Trail, the Marymoor Connector Trail and the Issaquah-Preston Trail, linking Seattle to the Eastside and the Cascade foothills. The trail will provide greater access to recreation, employment and retail in the cities of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah and provides a multi-use path for bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, and skaters.

### Trail Timeline

- 1998** King County acquired rail corridor
- 2003** Published Interim Use Trail Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- April 2006** Interim Use Trail completed and opened to the public
- May 2010** Published Master Plan Trail EIS
- Nov. 2011** Redmond segment completed and opened to the public
- 2012** North Sammamish segment in final design phase
- May 2012** Issaquah segment closed for construction
- June 2013** Issaquah segment completed and opened to the public
- 2014** South Sammamish segment in final design phase
- April 2014** North Sammamish segment closes for construction
- Spring 2015** North Sammamish segment completed (anticipated)

### Future Phases (pending funding availability)

- 2015** Construction of South Sammamish segment A – SE 43rd Way to SE 33rd St.
- 2016** Construction of South Sammamish segment B – SE 33rd St. to NE Inglewood Hill Road
- 2017** Construction of Parking Lot and restroom facilities at NE Inglewood Hill Road
- 2018** Construction of parking lot and restroom facilities at SE 33rd St.

## East Lake Sammamish Trail Project Segments

Trail safety and accessibility are King County's primary goals. The new trail features a 12-foot wide asphalt surface with two-foot gravel shoulders and a one-foot clear zone on each side of the trail. The ELST project provides safer intersections, traffic controls, fencing, clear sight distances, and improved drainage. Environmental improvements include enhancing wetlands, stabilizing slopes, installing fish-passable culverts, and planting native landscaping. King County is designing and constructing the East Lake Sammamish Trail corridor in phases as funding becomes available.

- **Redmond Segment**

NE 70th St. to 187th Ave. NE  
(1.2 miles)

Parks opened the first segment of the Master Plan Trail in Redmond in November 2011. The trail features a 77-stall parking lot between NE 65th and NE 70th streets.

- **Issaquah Segment**

SE 43rd Way to Gilman Blvd.  
(2.2 miles)

The Issaquah segment opened in June 2013.

- **North Sammamish Segment**

187th Ave. NE to  
NE Inglewood Hill Road  
(2.6 miles)

Construction of the North Sammamish segment is anticipated to begin April 1, 2014. Starting construction early in the year will maximize the construction season, resulting in a more efficient schedule and fewer impacts to trail neighbors and users.

- **South Sammamish Segment**

NE Inglewood Hill Road to SE 43rd Way  
(4.8 miles)

Design of the South Sammamish segment is now underway. King County Parks will construct the South Sammamish segment in two phases:

- **South Sammamish Segment A**

(City of Sammamish/City of Issaquah border to SE 33rd St.)

- Construction anticipated to begin second quarter 2015.

- **South Sammamish Segment B**

(NE Inglewood Hill Road to SE 33rd St.)

- Construction anticipated to begin in 2016.

- **Parking Lot and Restroom Facility at Inglewood Hill:**

- Design of the parking lot and restroom facility begins in 2014.
- Construction of parking lot anticipated in 2017.

- **Parking Lot and Restroom Facility at SE 33rd St.:**

- Design of parking lot and restroom facility anticipated in 2017.
- Construction of parking lot and restroom facility anticipated in 2018.

*Anticipated dates may change.*



## Questions and Answers

### How is King County improving safety at intersections?

Trail safety is a top priority for King County. The new trail clearly identifies intersections with consistent signage, striping, and bollards. The ELST project also enhances safety by:

- Providing open sightlines for trail users, motorists, and pedestrians crossing the trail
- Providing a visual and textural difference from the asphalt trail by constructing concrete intersections
- Warning trail users of approaching intersections with textured concrete warning bands 75 feet ahead of each crossing



Intersection in Issaquah trail segment prior to trail construction

### Why does it take so long to build the trail?

The trail's narrow corridor, limited trail access, sensitive areas, and steep terrain all contribute to the challenge of constructing the trail. These factors limit the contractor's ability to perform multiple activities at the same time. There are also seasonal constraints on when construction activities near streams can occur. ELST trail segments in Sammamish are particularly challenging because of the trail's close proximity to residences and many intersecting driveways and property access points along the corridor.



Intersection in Issaquah trail segment after trail construction

### How is the trail alignment developed?

The trail design and alignments are developed by balancing the following considerations:

- Complying with local, state and federal environmental regulations to avoid and minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas
- Meeting regional trail standards and national safety guidelines, including maintaining clear sight distances
- Staying within the King County right-of-way
- Building a safe trail by adhering to the standards and guidelines in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, 2011 (Green Book)
- Minimizing costs where possible without impacting trail standards
- Minimizing impacts to adjacent homeowners
- Preserving significant trees

### How can I learn more about impacts to existing landscaping adjacent to my property?

King County will make every effort to minimize impacts to existing landscaping. However, the paved trail footprint is wider than the existing gravel trail. Constructing the trail, retaining walls, environmental features, and drainage improvements requires clearing beyond the edge of the existing trail. As the project continues, contact us or visit the project website for additional information:

1. Once design is 60 percent complete, King County will survey and stake both sides of the County right-of-way and the centerline of the new trail. These survey stakes will identify the boundary limits of the trail corridor and centerline of the new trail. Construction will occur only within the County's right-of-way.
2. Prior to construction, a certified letter will be sent to property owners listing identified encroachments within the County's right-of-way that will conflict with trail construction. Property owners will have sufficient time to remove these encroachments.
3. Prior to start of construction, the contractor will mark the limits of work and install temporary fencing. Any remaining encroachments within these limits will be removed by the contractor during the early stages of construction. Work will occur only within the King County right-of-way.

### Could I plant additional landscaping in the trail corridor adjacent to my property?

Residents who wish to plant and maintain landscaping within King County's right-of-way must apply for a Special Use Permit (SUP) through King County's Real Estate Services Section for any private use of King County property (pursuant to King County Code 14.30). The SUP application form and instructions are available on the project website. The permit application includes a non-refundable fee of \$500. Prior to applying for a SUP, you may request pre-approval at no cost by submitting a Pre-Application Request form and a planting plan.

### What will the new landscaping look like along the trail corridor?

The project includes new plantings to restore the project area and achieve the following objectives:

- Open sightlines at all intersections to improve safety. Areas within the sight distance triangle will be restored with plants that grow less than three feet high at full maturity
- The most immediate function of trail landscaping is to restore exposed areas with landscape mulch and plantings or seeding to prevent erosion
- Native plants, shrubs, and groundcover offer many benefits; they are well adapted to thrive in local conditions of drought



The North Sammamish segment includes building four culverts to enhance fish passage and improving approximately one acre of habitat. Design of similar enhancements will be included in the South Sammamish segment.

or excess moisture; they require less maintenance, growing to natural sizes and forms; and they blend well into the natural surroundings along the trail corridor

- Contribute to a sense of visual continuity along the trail corridor and help make the trail feel like a park

### How is King County improving the environment?

Constructing the North Sammamish segment includes installing four culverts to enhance fish passage and restoring approximately one acre to enhance wildlife habitat. Similar environmental improvements will be included in the South Sammamish trail segment.

### Will King County remove trees to improve lake views?

King County Parks' mission is to preserve the natural environment. Therefore, Parks does not trim or remove trees to improve views and will only remove trees needed to construct the trail.

### How will King County enforce bicycle speed limits and maintain safety along the paved trail?

King County Parks understands that all trail users must obey speed limits and etiquette to maintain trail safety. In addition to the trail design features, Parks is working closely with the King County Sheriff's Office to heighten its presence on the County's regional trails and enforce the speed limit and trail etiquette. The increased presence of recreational users on

paved trails also serves as a natural deterrence to avid cyclists who prefer using bike lanes. Parks expects avid cyclists to continue using the bike lanes on East Lake Sammamish Parkway.

### Will the existing stop signs on the interim gravel trail be removed?

Trail safety is King County's top priority. Stop signs along the existing gravel trail do not meet national trail development guidelines, including those stated by AASHTO and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. These stop signs will be removed and replaced with consistent and appropriate signage. Additional information regarding stop signs on the trail can be found on the project website.



Trees are planted at least 10 feet away from the trail to promote healthy growth and prevent roots from damaging the new asphalt trail

## How will King County engage the public during design and construction?

During design of the North Sammamish segment, King County met with over 50 trail neighbors to answer questions and explain design details. Trail neighbors expressed interest in providing comments earlier in the design process. As a result of this feedback, King County is holding open houses in March 2014. This is an opportunity for trail users and property owners to share their comments and concerns early in the design process for the South Sammamish segment. King County's design team will review public feedback, along with trail design criteria and technical findings, to advance design.

King County will continue to keep the community informed by mailing newsletters, sending email alerts, distributing press releases, posting regular updates on the project website, and offering meetings to interested groups and individuals.

## How does King County ensure timely communication with the public?

King County understands that community involvement is a critical aspect of developing the ELST. King County hired a community involvement firm during the early stages of the project to help keep the public informed and engaged. This team continues to support King County, managing the project hotline and email account to ensure the public receives timely information. King County reviews and responds to all public inquiries. Community involvement staff also schedules and facilitates meetings with individuals and small groups; prepares project newsletters, and assists King County in communicating with all project stakeholders.

## Where can I get information or submit comments on the East Lake Sammamish Trail project?

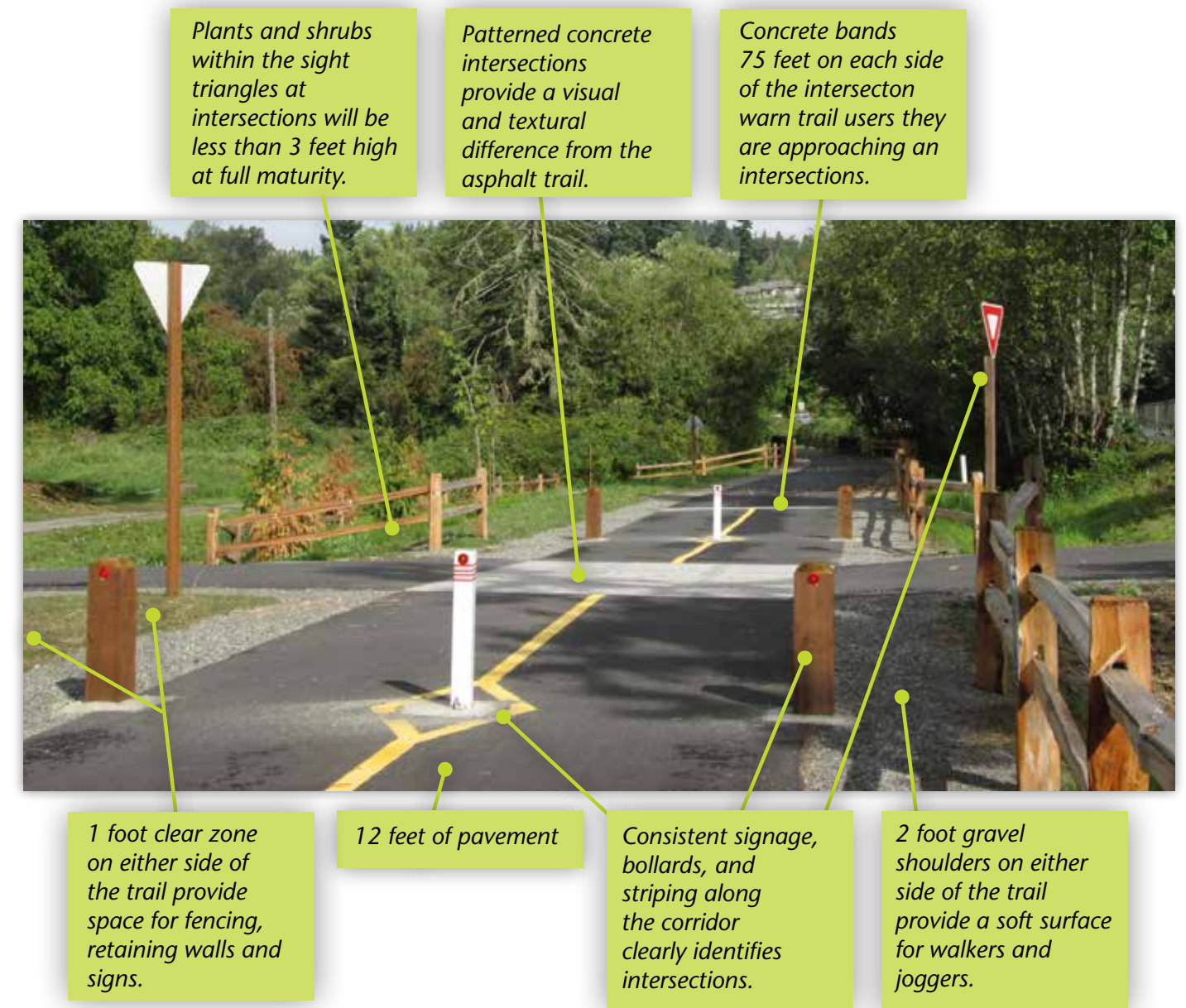
- Share your comments 24/7 by calling the hotline: 1-888-668-4886 or e-mail [ELST@kingcounty.gov](mailto:ELST@kingcounty.gov). King County will respond within one business day.
- Visit the project website: [www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail](http://www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail) for the latest information.
- Contact us to schedule a meeting. We are available to discuss the trail design, and construction activities, listen to your comments and answer your questions.
- Subscribe to our email alerts and mailing list to stay informed of current design and construction activities
- Follow our blog: [kingcountyparks.wordpress.com](http://kingcountyparks.wordpress.com)
-  Learn about King County Parks
- For the latest King County news:  @KC News

## How is this project funded?

Funding for the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail project is provided by the 2008–2013 King County voter-approved Open Space and Trails Levy, the 2014-2019 King County voter-approved Parks, Open Space and Trails Levy, the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

*Thank you for your support!*

## Trail features



## Trail construction: Frequently Asked Questions

### Will the trail close during construction?

Yes. Trail safety is King County's top priority. Due to the narrow corridor, limited trail access, steep terrain, and close proximity to residences, the trail will be closed for approximately one year during construction. Closing the trail also allows the contractor to perform multiple activities concurrently, resulting in a quicker and more efficient schedule.

### When will the trail close?

The North Sammamish trail segment, from 187th Ave NE to NE Inglewood Hill Road (approximately 2.6 miles), will close April 1, 2014, for approximately one year.

### Will there be a detour?

No, there will not be a designated detour route. East Lake Sammamish Parkway features a bike lane for ELST users who want to travel along the eastern shoreline of the lake, around the closed stretch of trail. Those who simply want

to get out on a trail are encouraged to visit other portions of King County's 175-mile regional trails system during construction. Please visit [kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/trails](http://kingcounty.gov/recreation/parks/trails) to view a listing of the many other trail and park amenities available for your recreational enjoyment.

### What can we expect during construction?

Construction activities will include the use of large equipment such as excavators, graders, compactors, trucks, pavers, and other equipment. There will be times when multiple construction activities occur at the same time. There will be trucks driving along the corridor to access construction sites, transport materials, and inspect and test equipment.

There may be short-term construction activity at intersections where private driveways cross the trail, however access to private properties will be maintained at all times. Emergency response services access will also be maintained during construction.



North Sammamish trail construction will begin April 1

### How noisy is construction activity?

The City of Sammamish noise ordinance limits construction to the following hours: Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays and holidays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and no construction on Sundays or major holidays. The contractor will establish working hours consistent with city regulations. During construction, an increase in noise from equipment and backup alarms may be noticeable.

### How will King County address safety during construction?

The Contractor will install temporary construction fencing along the trail corridor prior to start of construction. This fencing will clearly identify the trail as a construction zone. Construction signs will be posted along the trail corridor and barricades will be placed at both ends of the construction zone. A police officer will be onsite during crucial construction activities to maintain safety.

### When will the trees and vegetation be removed for construction?

The contractor will clear and prepare the site, including removal of trees and landscaping, during the first few weeks of construction.

### Will King County maintain access to my property during construction?

Access to private properties and driveways will be maintained throughout construction.



Construction retaining wall on Redmond trail segment.



Placing asphalt on Issaquah trail segment.

## What's next?

### What's next?

Construction of the North Sammamish segment will begin April 1 and is expected to take approximately one year to complete. In an effort to expedite this work, King County is offering the Contractor an incentive to complete the project early.

King County will continue with design of South Sammamish segments A and B throughout 2014 and the first part of 2015. Members of the design team will visit the trail periodically throughout the summer months to collect data and confirm information needed to complete the trail design. The design milestones for South Sammamish segment A and B are as follows:

#### South Sammamish segment A (SE 43rd Way to SE 33rd St.):

- May 2014 – Design 60 percent complete and design plans posted to the project website.
  - Design plans will include general trail alignment and identify where retaining walls are required. Please call the project hotline if you have questions about how to read and understand the design plans.
- Fall 2014 – Design 90 percent complete and design documents posted to project website.



North Sammamish trail segment before.

- Design plans will include final trail alignment in relation to the existing gravel trail. Sight distance triangles and items that need to be removed will be identified on the plans.

- Begin construction – 2015

#### South Sammamish segment B (SE 33rd St. to NE Inglewood Hill Road):

- November 2014 – Design 60 percent complete
  - Same as above
- Summer 2015 – Design 90 percent complete
  - Same as above
- Begin construction – 2016

### Questions during construction?

- King County offers several options to stay informed about the East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail project, including the project website at [www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail](http://www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail).
- Call the project hotline **1-888-668-4886** or email **ELST@kingcounty.gov** and receive a response within one business day.



Improved intersection on the Redmond segment



Issaquah trail segment before.



Issaquah trail segment after.





*east lake sammamish trail*

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**Thank you for your patience during construction!**