

Newberry Hill Heritage Park

Trail Committee: Long Range Planning Proposal

Monday, September 20, 2010

The Trail Subcommittee made a long-range proposal to NHHP stewards on Thursday, September 16th. The stewards voted unanimously to pass the following recommendations on to Kitsap County Parks and Recreation staff:

Trails to Keep

- Some legacy trails on the east side of the park, while in need of maintenance, provide either access to private property and the Whisper Ridge development or to points of significant interest. These would need work in the future. All of these trails lie outside of the RCO grant land.
- Strange Days, Gear Jammer, and Ricochet (formerly The Jack) are tight/twisty/technical mountain bike trails sustainably built on relatively flat land outside of any significant wetlands. They contain no jumps or technical features, but are more difficult to ride or walk than a regular trail. While these trails lie in the RCO area, they have little measurable impact upon the environment and are generally located 30 feet or more from any seasonal wet areas. They provide a more advanced ride for mountain bikers than would a traditional, multi-use trail, the predominant style of trail in the park.

Trails to Close

- Satisfaction, Holy Diver, and Valley Girl and any other trails between the Speedway and the Old Loop Rd (formerly Forest Service Rd). Parts of these lie in wet areas of the RCO land.

Trails to Modify

- Speedway is the main thoroughfare north and south in the lower park. It is an old trail, dating back perhaps more than 100 years, and is very compact, dry, and sustainable. As such, it is a vital link and would provide the best method of adding three planned beaver habitat viewing platforms. These would allow users an educational insight into the life of the animals that have created the lake in the RCO. The platforms would control access to the lakeshore, thus avoiding erosion and compaction, while still allowing good views of the beavers' environment. They would also facilitate educational presentations by teachers, scientists, or stewards. The three platforms would be located:

1. Adjacent to the main beaver dam on the connector trail currently called Twilight Zone near where it meets the Old Loop Rd.
2. On the high ridge above the beaver lodge. This would link parts of Twilight Zone and That Smell with the Speedway. The trail would require some



rerouting and construction to improve sustainability. Some sections of the trails will be closed in the process.

3. At lake level on the Speedway. This would grant controlled access to a view of the lake from ground level and allow park users to see a larger picture of how the beavers' activities affect their habitat.
- Part of Speedway at its north end will need to be elevated to accommodate a seasonal wet area with either a turnpike or a boardwalk.

New Trails (all of these trails lie outside of the RCO grant land)

- Connecting the NE corner to the rest of the park.
- Connecting the NW 250 acres to the rest of the park via a trail (rather than the road).
- Connecting Klahowya to the lower lake area (this is already under construction).
- Children's Forest (a loop trail adjacent to the staff parking lot).

Trail Name Changes

- SPEEDWAY- stays as is.
- BONES- Change to BIRD MEADOW
- FOREST SERVICE ROAD- Change to OLD LOOP RD.
- STRANGE DAYS-stays as is.
- GEAR JAMMER-stays as is.
- THE JACK- Change to RICOCHET.
- KLAHOWYA- LAKE TRAIL, will connect to Old Loop Rd.

