

Greenway News

2005 Annual Meeting

If you're interested in seeing a interconnecting system of trails in Thurston County in your lifetime, then come and hear from the people at the State, County, and City level who are planning and building them. Panelists include:

Joe Sobinovsky	Washington State Parks and Recreation
Bob Barnes	Washington State DOT
Michael Welter	Thurston County Community Development
Paul Brewster	Thurston Regional Planning Council
Julie McQuary	City of Olympia
Chrissy Bailey	City of Lacey

Thursday April 14 7PM - 9PM

Olympia Public Library meeting room 313 8th Ave SE

Refreshments Courtesy of RW Droll, Landscape Architect

Accomplishments in 2004

2004 was a very productive year for the Woodland Trail.

The City of Olympia's grant proposal for \$300,000 ranked first of 23 statewide trail proposals to the Interagency Commission for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). WTGA was an active participant in this grant proposal. This funding will be used for Phase I development from Eastside St to Dayton St.

We cleared land and planted 600 trees last Fall. A 3000 foot strip along the trail is now a forest of tiny trees, thanks to a massive volunteer effort by the whole community.

Three years ago, the trail between Boulevard Rd and Dayton St was a 16 acre wasteland of Scotch Broom so thick you could not walk through it. It was littered with many tons of trash. Today it is a forest with hundreds of tiny trees, and hardly a scrap of litter.

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2004 Accomplishments (Cont.)

150 volunteers, including individuals and teams from ESRI, Providence St Peter Hospital, The Evergreen State College, and local schools and churches gave freely of their time in exchange for sore muscles and the satisfaction of being able to come back to this forest and say "I planted that".

You showed up and made a difference, and for that we thank you.

The San Francisco Street Bakery and Otto's have been long-term partners in our effort, literally fueling our volunteers. I cannot count the times when a bagel or croissant gave a volunteer the sustenance to keep going! Panda Express donated lunch on the United Way Day of caring. Olympia Supply, Lew Rents, Barnett Implement, and OlyBikes donated equipment. The local media announced our events free of charge. Thanks go to The Olympian, The Green Pages, TCTV, MIXX96, KAOS, and KGY.

The Washington State Department of Transportation partnered with Olympia Volunteers in Parks and DNR to provide trees, materials, tools, and technical support to enable our volunteer efforts.

Our Goals for 2005 are:

- ✓ Keep the 1000 trees that we planted over the last three years alive.
 - Depending on the weather, this project may require an extensive watering campaign.
- ✓ Ensure that the D' Miller Lake property is purchased and made available for passive public use.
- ✓ Develop a connection from Boulevard Road to the Woodland Trail
- ✓ Ensure the completion of Phase 1 construction
- ✓ Create an interim gravel surface connecting to the CWT.
- ✓ Build a crosswalk on Fones Road
- ✓ Continue our program of invasive plant removal and reforestation.
- ✓ Continue our program of litter removal and interim trail maintenance.

D'Miller lake property

Urgent action is needed to preserve a 2.5 Acre parcel that connects the Woodland Trail to D'Miller Lake, near the Dayton St. entrance. If action is not taken now, this jewel will be sold for development, and public access to D'Miller Lake will be lost forever. Please come to the Olympia City Council meeting April 5 at 7 PM. Contact Jack Horton 956-1743 if you want to be added to our list of speakers. The City Council meets in the center of the round City Hall building at 900 Plum St.

Chehalis Western Trail news

Funding for the "Bridging The Gap" project appears to be coming together nicely. This project will bridge Martin Way, I-5, and Pacific Avenue, thus bridging the gap between the Northern and Southern Chehalis Western Trail. This project will be an immense benefit to the Woodland Trail, since it will connect the entire CWT trail network to the Woodland Trail.

Workparties

Apr 9 Install mulch mats on remaining trees

May 1 Third Annual Scotchbroom Conga Line!

June 4 Invasive plant removal or trail improvement project

July 9 Invasive plant removal or trail improvement project

Check our web page for details and final verification of workparty schedule
<http://www.wtga.org>

Phase 1 Final Construction

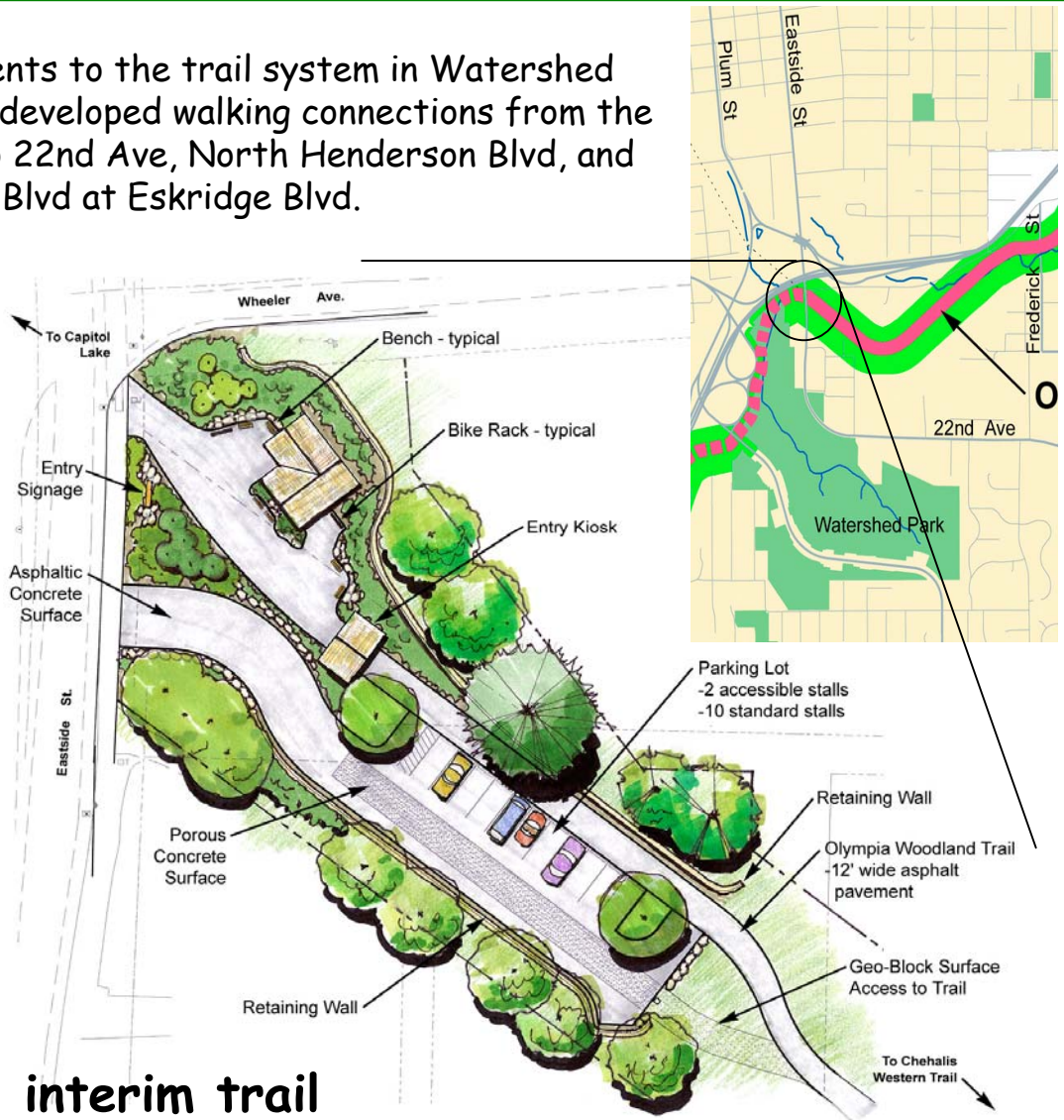
We've all been waiting a long time for this event. We've worked hard to demonstrate our support for this project and secure funding. Construction is scheduled to begin Fall 2005.

Phase 1 extends from Eastside Street to Dayton St. This portion of the trail is currently graveled and open to the public. The final trail will have a 10-foot paved surface, a vegetation barrier, and a 4-foot parallel gravel surface. There will be a restroom and parking at Eastside Street, and parking at Dayton Street.

Recent improvements to the trail system in Watershed Park provide well-developed walking connections from the Woodland Trail to 22nd Ave, North Henderson Blvd, and South Henderson Blvd at Eskridge Blvd.

Phase 1 Trailhead Site Plan

Across Eastside Street from Watershed Park



Phase 2 interim trail

The right-of-way for the Olympia Phase 2 and Lacey portions of the trail now belongs to the public through a rail-banking agreement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad. This acquisition connects downtown Olympia to the Chehalis Western trail (CWT). It continues East from the CWT all the way through Lacey almost to Union Mills.

BNSF is scheduled to remove the rails and ties by August.

The cities of Olympia and Lacey are seeking grant funding to develop these portions of the trail. In the interim, the Woodland Trail Greenway Association (WTGA) is proposing to gravel an interim trail on the railbed. There are numerous road crossings in Lacey, but only one in Olympia. WTGA has funded the preliminary design of the Fones Road crossing in Olympia, to expedite the creation of an interim connection to CWT.