Lord Hill Regional Park Status Update

March 2022
Agenda: 6pm to 7pm

- Overview of Meeting & Introductions – 5 min
- Preferred Plan Process Check-In – 5 min
- Trail Work Updates – 5 min
- Q&A
Meeting Code of Conduct

Use welcoming and inclusive language
  • Be respectful of differing viewpoints and experiences
  • Try to frame comments positively and around what improvements can be made at the park
  • Focus on what is best for the community
  • Show empathy towards other participants

Unacceptable behavior
  • Harassment, bullying, and intimidation
  • Any activity meant to convey or cultivate hostility
  • Insults, or other attacks
  • Encouraging the above behavior
Introductions

Snohomish County Parks Staff

- Tom Teigen, DCNR Director
- Jeremy Husby, Parks Director
- Emily Griffith, Senior Park Planner
- Rose Intveld, Communications Specialist
Why This Update?
Why Now?

• Promised to check in with the community in this window

• Committed to transparency with the community
Why Now?

• Making some immediate trail improvements in the park ahead of finalizing the plan, which we will cover in more detail later in the presentation
  • These improvements will increase safety
  • They will implement core site principles that have been identified for the site

• These changes are needed independent of the Preferred Plan process
Why Now?

• Lord Hill Regional Park is an island of nature in the increasingly urban fabric of Snohomish County
• Based on community input Parks is making decisions on what recreation activities are appropriate and sustainable
Preferred Plan Process Check-In
Looking ahead to the future of Lord Hill, we are already seeing trail degradation with the increased use in the park over the past few years and are seeking to be proactive in planning now.

Use of the park will only continue to grow as the population of the county grows and the area surrounding the park increasingly urbanizes.

As the land managers, Parks recognizes that we need to be more deliberate in how we plan for shared recreation at Lord Hill.
Preferred Plan Process Check-In

• Responses from around 800 individuals from the November 2021 update
• To be thorough, we have pushed our timeline for finalizing the Preferred Plan to the end of summer 2022
The park will remain multi-use. However, Parks is taking a more holistic and long-term look at how recreation uses interact with each other and the environment.

- The trail system will prioritize flow of users throughout the park and minimize conflict while optimizing recreation experience, rather than perfectly balancing mileage totals.
- Trails may also be modified or decommissioned for environmental or sustainability reasons.
- Trails that do not meet the environmental and recreation use guidelines that are established will be either modified or decommissioned. These standards are being defined as part of the final Preferred Plan.
Hiking Trails

- Hikers will have access to all the trails in the park
- Trails that are in or near critical areas will be evaluated for trail condition and sustainability and may be modified or decommissioned
- Proposed trails will be evaluated against potential environmental impacts and whether they provide a missing recreation experience, but will not be added just to balance mileage within the system
- Trails that do not meet the environmental and recreation use guidelines established will be either modified or decommissioned. These standards are being defined as part of the final Preferred Plan.
Equestrian Trails

- Trails that are in or near critical areas will be evaluated for trail conditions and sustainability and may be modified or decommissioned.
- Proposed trails will be evaluated against potential environmental impacts and whether they provide a missing recreation experience, but will not be added just to balance mileage within the system.
- Trails that do not meet the environmental and recreation use guidelines established will be either modified or decommissioned. These standards are being defined as part of the final Preferred Plan.
Mountain Biking Trails

- Lord Hill is appropriate for a cross country, low speed experiences, on natural trails
- There will be no mountain-bike only trails in the park
- Trails that are in or near critical areas will be evaluated for trail conditions and sustainability and may be modified or decommissioned
- Trails that do not meet the environmental and recreation use guidelines we will establish will be either modified or decommissioned. These standards are being defined as part of the final Preferred Plan.
The county recognizes that mountain biking is a fast-growing sport, and Lord Hill, as one of only a few of our parks that offers mountain biking recreation, cannot meet the current and future demand.

While Lord Hill will remain multi-use, to help ease the burden on this park and meet the need for mountain biking facilities, we are actively exploring developing a separate park focused on mountain biking and better tailored to meet the needs of this sport.
Upcoming Trail Changes
Upcoming Trail Work

- Decommissioning and modifying trails this spring/summer
- Independent of the Preferred Plan process
- The work will focus on trails and features that have become a point of concern for safety, points of conflict, or environmental reasons
Upcoming Trail Work

- Decommission Divingboard/drop feature
- Reroute Third Eye to improve safety of intersection with Rock Candy Bypass
- Other work to be determined as needed
Next Steps
Next Steps

• Trail work  
  Spring/Summer 2022

• Final public meeting  
  Summer 2022

• Finalize Preferred Plan  
  Summer 2022
Questions & Answer

• The rest of the meeting (saving a few minutes at the end to wrap up) have been left open for answering questions and hearing comments from the community

• We would like to leave space for as many people to speak as possible, so all speakers will be limited to two minutes for questions and comment, which will then be answered

• Please keep in mind our meeting code of conduct

• As time allows, people may share more than once
ONLINE:
1. Staff will indicate that the floor is open for comments or questions from the public.
2. To virtually “raise your hand,” click “Participants” in the Zoom control box and select “Raise Hand” in the grey box on the bottom of the participants box.
3. Staff will ask if any “hands are raised” and each person will be called upon by name or ID as shown on the screen, in the order that their hands were raised.
4. Staff will tell you to unmute your mic to speak and “lower your hand.”
5. When it’s your turn to speak, clearly state your full name for the record. All speakers will be limited to two minutes to provide comments or testimony.
6. When you are done speaking, staff will mute your mic.

BY PHONE:
1. Staff will indicate that the floor is open for comments or questions from the public.
2. To virtually “raise your hand,” press *9 on your phone.
3. Staff will ask if any “hands are raised” and each person will be called upon by name or by the last four digits of the phone number shown on the screen, in the order that their hands were raised.
4. Staff will tell you to unmute your mic to speak and “lower your hand.”
5. When it’s your turn to speak, clearly state your full name for the record. All speakers will be limited to two minutes to provide comments or testimony.
6. When you are done speaking, staff will mute your mic.
Thank You!