



PARKS

Your Big Backyard

Green to Cedar Rivers Trail North Segment

Open House and Trail Walk

August 8, 2017

Summary

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Introduction

When fully complete, the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail will be an 11-mile-long trail stretching from the Cedar River Trail to Flaming Geyser State Park on the Green River. It will connect natural areas along the corridor including Lake Wilderness Park, Black Diamond Open Space, and Lake Sawyer Park. It will link the communities of Renton, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and eventually, Covington by way of the planned Covington Highlands Trail.

The current project is upgrading the three-mile-long North Segment which goes through the heart of Maple Valley, from the Cedar River Trail to SE Kent Kangley Road. Developing the North Segment will improve connections to schools adjacent to the trail, including Lake Wilderness Elementary and Tahoma High School, as well as to the library, community center, local businesses, churches, and neighborhoods.

Upgrading the existing interim gravel trail to a 12-foot-wide paved trail with gravel shoulders will make it more accessible and usable to people of all ages and abilities. More people will be able to walk, push baby strollers, scoot scooters, and ride bikes on the trail. Maple Valley residents will have an alternative to driving to local schools, parks, businesses and an increased opportunity to commute for work, as well as enjoy the health benefits of active transportation.

Meeting Background and Purpose

After conducting a public meeting in January 2017 to kick off the design process for the trail, the design team prepared two options for the north segment of the trail for presentation at an April public meeting. The options were:

- **Option One (Separated)** - A 12-foot-wide paved trail with 2-foot-wide soft-surface shoulders on either side of the paved trail. A meandering separated path would be provided alongside the main trail where physically possible.

- **Option Two (Combined)** - A 12-foot-wide paved trail with a 5- to 8-foot-wide soft-surface trail on one side of the paved trail and a 2-foot-wide soft-surface shoulder on the other side.

Following the April public meeting, the **preferred option** was selected, a modified Option Two (Combined): a 12-foot-wide paved trail with a 5-foot-wide soft-surface trail on the east side of the paved trail where feasible and a 2-foot-wide soft-surface shoulder on the west side of the trail. The wider 5-foot-wide soft surface shoulder will be possible for approximately 75% of the 3-mile corridor. Where the trail corridor is constrained, both shoulders will be 2-foot-wide soft shoulders.



The preferred option for the trail was selected based on community input, technical considerations and cost.

On August 8, 2017, King County hosted an Open House and Trail Walk from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lake Wilderness Lodge in Maple Valley. The purpose of this event was to:

- **Provide** a project update
- **Present** the preferred option and how it was selected
- **Provide** opportunities for attendees to weigh in on trail aesthetics and access points
- **Answer** questions about the project and regional trails

This summary describes the nature of this community meeting, how it was promoted, and feedback received from the community.

Promotion

A variety of methods were used to inform the public and spread the word about the community meeting:

- **Postcard:** A postcard with information about the community meeting was sent to all addresses within 500 feet of the trail (approximately 800 addresses)
- **Website:** Event information was posted on the project website
- **Social Media:** King County promoted the community meeting using Facebook, Twitter and its Blog
- **Email:** Community meeting notification was sent via email to approximately 1,100 people
- **Trail Signage:** Signs with information about the community meeting were posted at several locations along the trail

Meeting Format

Approximately 50 people attended the community meeting on August 8. Participants were greeted at the sign-in table and were encouraged to pick up a project fact sheet, project FAQ, and a comment form. Participants were also provided with a map for a trail walk scheduled as part of the meeting. The meeting consisted of the following elements:

- **Open House:** An opportunity for participants to review the preferred option and specific design details and to provide feedback on wall aesthetics and access points.
- **Presentation:** A presentation that included the project's background and the history of the Green to Cedar Rivers Trail planning process, statements of support from Maple Valley elected officials, and an overview of the preferred option and how it was selected.
- **Trail Walk:** A walk on a section of the trail that included three "stations": Access Points, Trail Grading and ADA, and Wall Aesthetics.



The trail walk provided participants the opportunity to weigh in on key elements of the trail's design and talk one-on-one with trail designers.

Participant Feedback

Participants were asked to provide their feedback on retaining wall aesthetics and access points. They could also provide general feedback by talking with project staff and filling out a comment form¹.

¹ No completed comment forms were received at the public meeting.

Retaining wall aesthetics: Four examples of wall treatments (Vegetated, Art, Modern, and Rock Face Concrete) were shown on a large board at the open house and during the trail walk. Attendees were given one dot and asked to place it on the wall treatment they liked best.

Access points: Twenty-five of the trail's potential access points were shown on large boards. Each attendee was given 5 dots and asked to distribute them among the 5 (or fewer) access points they thought were most important. (It was permissible to put up to 5 dots on a single access point.)

The following is a summary of the feedback we received on the wall treatment and access points:

Question 1: Which wall style do you find most appealing?

More than half of respondents found the vegetated wall the most appealing, and approximately a third preferred the Rock Face Concrete style. No respondents chose the modern wall style as the most appealing, and three opted for the art wall style.

A wall will be required at the Lake Wilderness slide area. Which wall style do you find most appealing?

Please use your dot to vote!

WALL AT LAKE WILDERNESS SLIDE AREA

VEGETATED

ART

MODERN

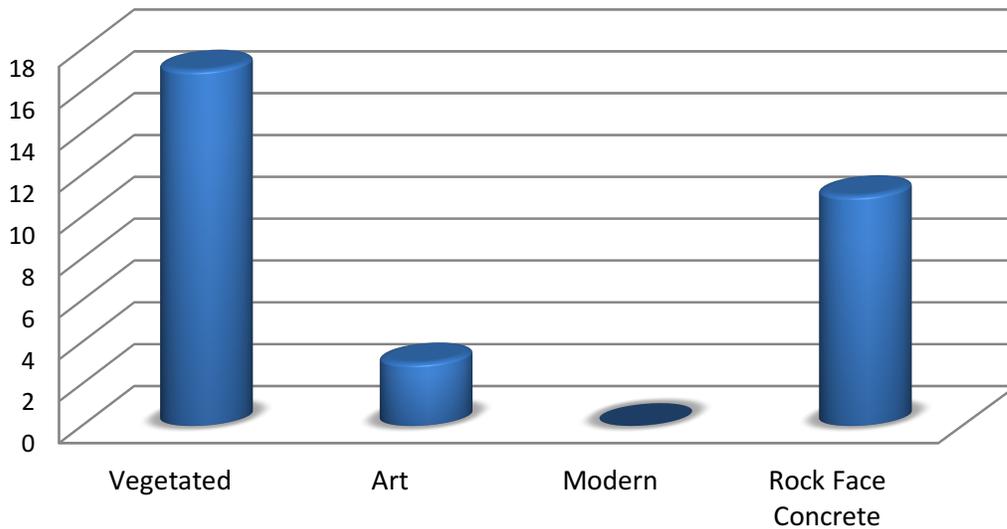
ROCK FACE CONCRETE

WALL AESTHETICS
GREEN TO CEDAR RIVERS TRAIL NORTH

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Participants used dots to identify the wall treatment they found most appealing.

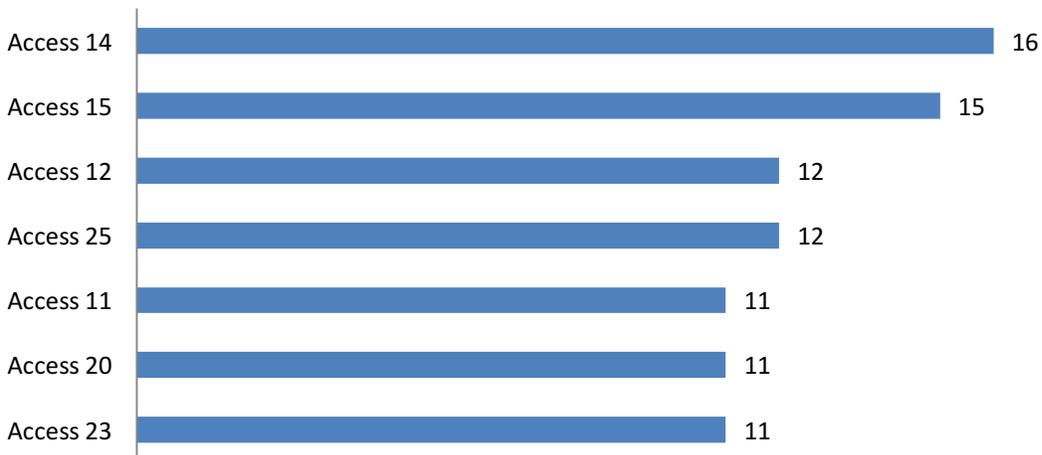
Which wall style do you find most appealing?



Question 2: Which 5 trail access points do you think are most important?

Access 14 received the highest number of dots overall (16), and Access 15 received the second highest (15). Access 25 and Access 12 each had 12 dots, while Access 11, 20 and 23 each had 11.

Which 5 trail access points do you think are the most important?



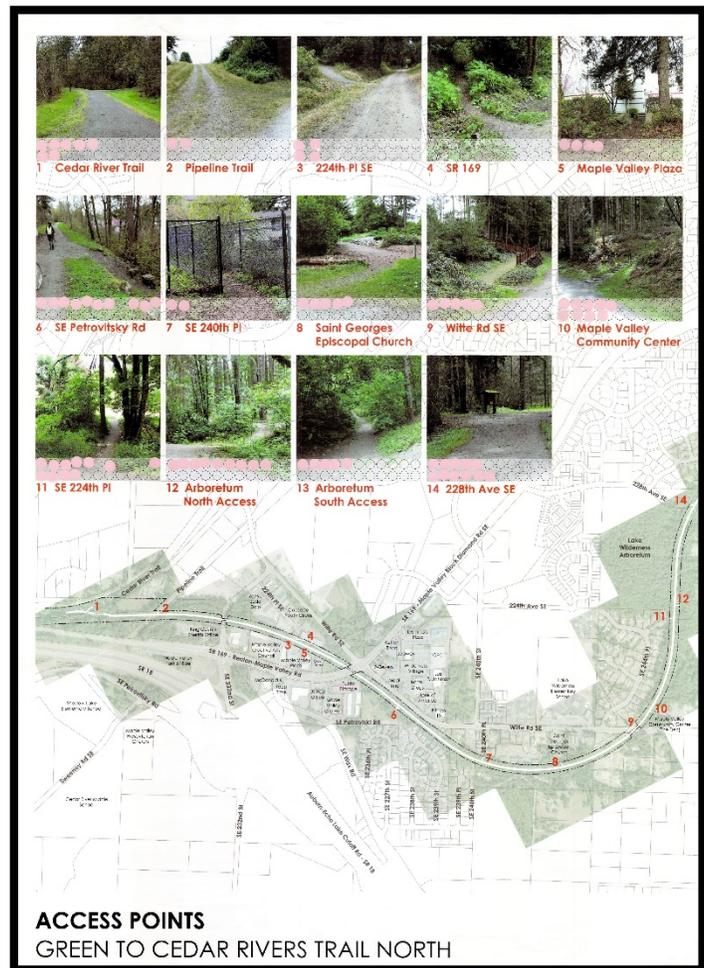
Listed below are the full results of the access point dot exercise.

Access Point Number	Access Point Location	Number of dots
14	228 th Ave SE	16
15	Lake Wilderness Lodge	15
12	Arboretum North Access	12
25	238 th Ave SE	12
11	SE 224 th Pl	11
20	SE 260 th Ct	11
23	SE 264 th St	11
6	SE Petrovitsky Rd	10
10	Maple Valley Community Center	9
16	230 th Pl SE	8
1	Cedar River Trail	7
13	Arboretum South Access	7
17	Lake Forest Estates	7
8	Saint Georges Episcopal Church	5
9	Witte Rd SE	5
22	SE 263 rd St	5
3	224 th Pl SE	4
5	Maple Valley Plaza	4
19	SE Lake Washington Dr	3
2	Pipeline Trail	2
7	SE 240 th Pl	2
18	SE 253 rd Pl	2
21	SE 260 th St	1
4	SR 169	0
24	SE 264 th Pl	0

Comment Summary

Project team members had a number of conversations with participants during the open house and trail walk portions of the public meeting. This section summarizes the key comments and questions raised during those conversations.

- Pave the access points to ensure good stroller access to the trail.
- Provide background information on the trail project, including where the trail will go to in the future and how it will cross the railroad tracks on the south segment.
- How does the voting for the access points work? (It was explained that even if these access points are not currently configured as they'd like, we would like to know which ones lead to the places they want to go.).
- The access point to the Pipeline Trail is problematic, since the Pipeline Trail dead ends into a quarry and getting around it is difficult.
- Why are there only 25 access points on the roll plots when there seem to be so many more on the trail? This participant objected to the Arboretum access point (between Access Points 13 and 14 on the west side of the trail) not being among the 25 shown.
- A participant expressed concern about the location of the proposed Access Point 11 and wanted to confirm that it didn't extend onto their private property.
- Locating a porta-potty at the (well used) gravel lot adjacent to the Cedar River Trail should be considered since the only porta-potty currently on the north segment is in the small (and virtually inaccessible) park. Consider adding drinking fountains along the trail at one or more of the rest areas.
- Keep the terraced stair connections in the middle of the arboretum; that is an easier way to navigate the slope than stairs with taller risers or steep slopes.
- The new gravel on the trail is hard to ride on, and it's confusing whether or not it's a part of the project. Is it part of prepping for the trail?
- I personally use Access Point 8 by St. George's Church the most. The Maple Valley Arts Commission would love to be involved in wall aesthetics design and requested a presentation on that topic.



Participants were given 5 dots to select access points that were most important to them.

- I am concerned about the King County Parks property lines in the Arboretum. The corridor should be flagged to ensure that King County does not encroach into the Arboretum.
- Arboretum staff would like to meet with the design team to discuss what's going to happen with the existing kiosks and stairs to ensure there's a place for them to post notices to the community.
- There should be an ADA accessible porta-potty placed at the parking lot on the Cedar River Trail near the Testy Chef.
- King County should not have any more meetings. Just pave it.
- Wax Road is a very important connection to the trail for people accessing the trail from Covington. It is relatively low traffic and accessible for bikes. Please improve the access point by Crown Donuts.
- Has King County considered "masonry form walls" for the retaining wall?
- The Lake Wilderness HOA is working with the King County Parks Arborist and Operations staff to address some hazard trees and to determine if the trees are on King County Parks property or the HOA's property.
- I am opposed to paving the trail.