

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District

DRAFT

Park District Trails Vision Plan

April 2, 2011 - Reformatted June 24, 2011

Introduction

The District Trails Vision Plan is to serve as a guiding document for the Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District to use in acquiring, planning, developing and maintaining trails on Bainbridge Island. The purpose of the Trails Vision Plan is to provide the District and the community with a guide for the future growth of island trails. The plan will help shape which trail projects are supported by the community and prioritizes them for acquisition and development through the budget process. When adopted by the Board, the Trail Vision Plan will become an element of the District's Comprehensive Plan.

Vision Statement

To develop a system interconnected of trails that offer diverse, healthy outdoor experiences within a rich variety of landscapes and natural habitats. This vision ensures the development of a coordinated and continuous system of parks, trails, and open space that serves the community's need for natural areas, outdoor recreation, education, and tourism. The Trails Vision Plan will also include the COBI Non-Motorized Transportation link to serve as a connection linking neighborhoods, schools, parks and trails.

Goals of the District Trails Vision Plan

- Coordinate and augment COBI Non-Motorized Plan
- Identify a trails classification program to meet the needs of a large variety of user abilities
- Promote health and wellness for all community members with natural trails for hiking, jogging and experiencing nature
- Enhance the community's use of District's resources by expanding recreational use of District trails
- Provide for more community connections to our unique history, landscapes and natural beauty
- Provide alternative, safe non-motorize routes that protect and conserve the natural landscape
- Increase community connections between the Winslow core, parks, recreation centers schools and neighborhoods
- Integrate public trails into an island-wide system which connects the island both north and south, and east and west

Benefits of a Trails Vision Plan

All trails provide numerous economic and quality of life benefits to the individuals they serve and the communities in which they are located. Below are some examples of the benefits that can be derived from implementing such a plan.

- Increased recreational and health opportunities: walking is the number one fitness- related activity in the United States today
- Greater community amenities
- Increased tourism

- Increased public access to historic, cultural and natural environment
- Added opportunities for exercise and recreation bringing greater quality of life
- Meeting the high public expectation for quality trails, parks, open space and outdoor recreation
- Provide social benefits by connecting people with neighbors and by building community pride
- Provide benefits to the environment by connecting people with the natural environment
- Preserving important natural areas and habitats, and preventing over- development

Attachment 1: Draft: Bainbridge Island Public Lands Trails Vision Plan (graphic)

Attachment 2: Draft: Trail Standards (chart)

Attachment 3: Comprehensive Plan

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District's 2008 Comprehensive Plan includes details on trails-related information. Excerpts from the Comprehensive Plan related to trails are included in this attachment titled "Trails Related Excerpts".

It should be noted the District's Comprehensive Plan was adopted by Resolution 2009-4 on March 12, 2009 by the Park District's Board of Commissioners. Any changes to the excerpts included in this attachment would require a formal process to amend the plan.