PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, December 3, 2014
MCRA Administration Office (Blue Building with “Office” Sign)
2100 East Johns Prairie Road
Shelton, WA 98584
5:00 p.m.

Call to order and attendance

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve minutes from the November, 2014 Parks and Trails Advisory meetings.
2. Approve the agenda of the December, 2014 Parks and Trails Advisory Committee meeting
3. Public comment: Up to five minutes available per person for citizens to address the Parks and Trails Advisory Board.

4. Information Agenda:
   • Kitsap County Trails Advisory Board

5. Business Items:
   • Skatepark Park meeting December 3 - John
   • Shelton - Belfair meeting with Rep. Kilmers Office – John / Neal
   • Shelton - Belfair Trail support letter – John / Neal
   • Marketing program progress – John / Linda

6. Correspondence / Good of the Order
   • None

7. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: January 2015

If special accommodations are needed, please contact John Keates , 427-9670, Ext. 669. From the Belfair area, please dial 275-4467; from the Elma area please dial 482-5269.
Kitsap County is forming a nine-member volunteer advisory group to help lead the development of bike routes, regional trail systems and other nonmotorized transportation projects.

The Kitsap County Non-Motorized Transportation Facilities Citizens Advisory Committee will review proposed bike and walking routes, help prioritize funding and project implementation and review the safety and maintenance of existing facilities. The committee will pay close attention to the county's Non-Motorized Facility Plan. Approved late last year, the plan outlines shared routes for cyclists, walkers, runners and equestrians. The core of the plan is a proposed regional trail that would stretch about 70 miles, from Poulsbo to Mason and Pierce counties. The trail could, over time, extend north of Poulsbo, linking to the Sound to Olympics Trail taking shape between Bainbridge Island and Hood Canal bridge.

The plan was crafted with the idea that better and safer nonmotorized transportation infrastructure will improve residents’ health and boost Kitsap's economy.

Only about 37 percent of Kitsap adults are at a healthy weight, according to health statistics highlighted in the plan. Providing safe walking or cycling routes would encourage residents to lead more active lifestyles.

The plan notes that a regional trail would draw more tourists to Kitsap and help local businesses attract and retain good employees.

The county is accepting applications for the committee until the end of November or the positions are filled. Applicants should have knowledge of nonmotorized transportation networks, shared-use paths, bicycle lanes and other trail systems. The county hopes to have representatives who use or understand nonmotorized transportation from the perspectives of cyclists, horseback riders, recreational walkers and the disabled. People who can represent the needs of businesses, schools and public safety organizations also are asked to apply.

Each of the county's three commissioner districts — north, central and south — will have two members on the committee. The remaining three members will serve in an at-large capacity.

Here's another article that might interest you also...

Four Kitsap projects have risen to the top of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program’s funding list, making it likely that local conservation and trail-building efforts will get more than $1 million next year.

The WWRP is one of the state's biggest sources of money to buy critical habitats, build parks and trails, and protect farmland. Of the more than 215 proposals submitted for funding, 11 came from Kitsap. A ranking process recently identified four Kitsap projects as high priorities for full funding.

The Kitsap projects are:

- **Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area expansion**: The state Department of Natural Resources could receive up to $2.06 million to help expand this Seabeck-area conservation area by 436 acres. Stavis has one of the oldest forest stands on the Kitsap Peninsula, and its streams serve as habitat for fall chum and coho salmon. DNR plans to develop trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities at Stavis.

- **Port Gamble mountain bike park**: The Kitsap County parks department has asked for $500,000 to acquire 200 acres of timberland for use as a mountain bike riding course. Owned by Pope Resources, the site is adjacent to other properties that form the larger Kitsap Forest & Bay Project, which aims to preserve about 7,000 acres in North Kitsap. Local mountain bike groups have pledged to use mostly volunteer labor to develop a series of trails and obstacle courses.

- **Grovers Creek acquisition**: The Great Peninsula Conservancy hopes to use a $400,000 WWRP grant to help protect highly-valued fish and bird habitat between Indianola and Kingston. Included in the preserved area are more than a mile of Grovers Creek and rare stands of Sitka spruce.

- **Port Orchard’s Bay Street path**: Port Orchard wants $106,000 to build 500 feet of a 1.5-mile pedestrian and bike path taking shape along the town's waterfront.

Lower-ranking Kitsap projects that will probably receive no WWRP funding include a 38-acre expansion of Manchester State Park, improvements for Bainbridge Island’s Waterfront Park and the renovation of Waterman Pier in South Kitsap.
The WWRP’s ranked list has $97 million worth of grant requests. That would cover about half of the more than 215 requests the WWRP received.

“Kitsap fares pretty well on the list,” said Frances Chiem, a spokesperson for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, the group that advocates for WWRP funding.

The WWRP received 17 percent more requests than the last biennium, Chiem said.

The list now goes to the governor’s office for inclusion in the 2015-17 capital construction budget.

During the last biennium, the WWRP request amounted to $90 million. The governor and the Legislature whittled the amount down to about $65 million.

If the current funding request is reduced by an equal amount — about 25 percent — the four priority projects in Kitsap still should receive full or partial funding, according to the state Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, which developed several WWRP funding scenarios.

Thanks to especially high rankings, the Port Gamble bike park and the Bay Street path would receive their full request even if the WWRP’s funding drops as low as $60 million. The Stavis and Grovers Creek proposals would get nothing if funding falls to $60 million.

The Grovers Creek purchase would get just $27,000 if funding falls to $70 million and nothing if it falls to $60 million. The Stavis expansion would get $1.07 million — about half the requested amount — if funding comes in at $80 million.
December 3, 2014

Mr. Rohan Shrikhande
Constituent Services Manager
Representative Derek Kilmer’s Office
345 – 6th St. Suite 500
Bremerton, WA 98337

Dear Mr. Shrikhande,

Thank you for meeting with John Keates and Neal Winders regarding the vision Mason County Parks and Trails Department has for a non-motorized trail that we hope someday would connect Shelton with Belfair and also Kitsap County. This letter from the Mason County Parks Advisory Board is being presented to you and Representative Kilmer to provide our support for this project.

A trail connecting the City of Shelton with Belfair has been a high priority ever since the adoption of our County Trails Plan in 2008. Linking the north and south sections of the County, along with a possible linkage to surrounding County’s is one of the main recommendations of the trails plan.

The Mason County Parks Advisory Board was established in 2007. The purpose of the Mason County Parks and Trails Board is to provide guidance, direction and recommendations regarding the planning, acquisition, development and operation of parks, trails, facilities, and programs serving the needs of Mason County. The recommendations of the Parks and Trails Advisory Board are first provided to the staff and ultimately to the County Commissioners.

The Parks and Trails Advisory Board are extremely supportive of a trail linking Shelton with Belfair. The Most obvious means to accomplish this goal is utilizing all or portions the U.S. Navy Right of Way with a “Rail with Trail” concept.

In conclusion, we will be deeply appreciative of any efforts from Representative Kilmer’s Office in assisting Mason County to move this vision of a trail between Shelton and Belfair to reality!

Sincerely yours, Mason County Parks and Trails Advisory Board

Monte Ritter Linda Woytowich

Kendy Meyer Susan Baker

Mark A Peake Andrew Kinney

Neal Winders Mary Jones