



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 6, 2009
To: Parks & Community Services Board
From: Geoff Bradley
Parks & Community Services
Subject: Coal Creek Park Trail System

This memo responds to questions raised at the March 10th Parks & Community Services Board meeting about Coal Creek Park trail closures.

Trails Open

The bridges in Coal Creek Park that were damaged by the December 2007 storm have all been replaced, and the Coal Creek trail system is open. The stairs used for temporary bridge approaches will be replaced with ramps within the next few months.

Trailheads

We are currently working on designs for trailheads at the SE 60th St. and Coal Creek Parkway entrances. Trailheads will include parking, landscaping, signage, fencing and other associated amenities. The trail opposite the Coal Creek Parkway trailhead was vacated with the creation of the SE 60th St trail expansion, completed in 2008. Users are currently redirected along the sidewalk north to the existing pedestrian crossing at Forest Drive to access the lower Coal Creek system. As a component of the trailhead designs, we will be looking at the possibility of providing additional landscape separation to the current sidewalk to buffer the parkway, increase safety and enhance the user experience. A more formalized entrance at the Forest Drive crosswalk entrance will also be installed.

Upcoming Work

Other anticipated improvements over the next two years include trail renovations necessary to bring the system up to City of Bellevue standards, including trail regrading and surfacing, replacement of additional dilapidated bridges and installation of new stair and boardwalk structures where necessary. Additional improvements may also include the development of the Red Town entrance with picnic tables, kiosk, and interpretive signage.

This summer the Bellevue Utilities Department will be undertaking a bank stabilization and bed grade control project in the upper reaches of Coal Creek Park to help reduce erosion and downstream sedimentation. We anticipate that the trail will be closed between Lakemont Boulevard and the Cinder Mines area beginning in mid-June. The lower portion of the trail will

be open, and we will install appropriate public information signage at all entry points noting the area of trail closure. The work in the upper area may take two months. Work will then continue downstream in the Cinder Mines area. The Cinder Mines work will be remote from the trail, except that some materials will be hauled along about 900 feet of road that is also the trail through that area. The trail will likely be closed for the duration of work in the upper area, but then may be reopened while the downstream work continues.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 425-452-2740 or gbradley@bellevuewa.gov .

cc: Bruce Jensen, Utilities