



Little Bear Creek Linear Park Master Plan



One of the Plans that is currently under consideration by the City Council is a park plan for the Little Bear Creek Area. This is a long and narrow swath of land that is a key component within the proposed Downtown/ Little Bear Creek Master Plan. Like all plans that help our City develop in the way that citizens approve, this linear park plan follows the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan, the City's overall plan for the future. It has received thorough review by your neighbors who voluntarily serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission and has been the subject of numerous public meetings. Here are a few key questions that the Commission has had from the public so far:

Where is Little Bear Creek?

Little Bear Creek flows from Snohomish County through Woodinville along SR522 and joins the Sammamish River behind McLendon's Hardware.

I've never even seen this creek! Why is there a master plan for a park along its length through Woodinville?

LBC is a beautiful and valuable little tributary to the Sammamish River. It contains critical habitat for salmon, mammals, birds, and insects in this area. It is partially hidden and not well known, but it is one of Woodinville's most important natural resources. Your neighbors on the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council think it deserves special attention.

If we want to protect it, why have a park with a trail running alongside it?

One of the best ways to involve citizens in stewardship of natural resources is to introduce them to those resources in careful and interesting ways. The Master Plan for LBC calls for educational signs and viewing stations along the way, to help people understand what they can do to protect and enhance the habitat.

Why build a trail if all you need to do is educate people?

Walking is the most popular recreational activity in the United States and we need more recreation opportunities in Woodinville! Especially since the LBC trail will eventually connect to the Sammamish River Trail. This gives people a chance to safely move through Woodinville without cars, and walk beside a beautiful creek.

Why is there a pedestrian bridge going from the Wedge neighborhood into the park?

In addition to protecting natural resources and adding to recreation opportunities, the Plan will help break down the isolation of this neighborhood and allow easy access to downtown amenities.

Isn't that neighborhood concerned about what will happen with a bridge connecting it to downtown?

Actually, this neighborhood got a preview of the bridge concept at a special meeting last year. Most residents expressed enthusiasm for walking downtown without getting into their cars and traffic as long as there are safe connecting paths and trails. They saw it as a real advantage to living in Woodinville. Plus the trail will connect them to a lot of recreation opportunities, including the Woodinville Community Center and the Sammamish Trail.

Isn't that private property where LBC is shown on the map?

Absolutely right! Although the City owns two key parcels along the route, most of the abutting properties are private. This means that development of the trail will happen over time, with the cooperation and assistance of owners and developers.

When will I get a chance to walk on the LBC trail?

Perhaps as soon as 2005 portions of the trail will be open on the Rotary Community Park property at NE 195th Street. A huge volunteer effort is underway to build the wetland trails near LBC for viewing and education. This work is being done in conjunction with the Woodinville Rotary Club, Woodinville High School, and Volunteers for Outdoor Washington.

How can I help make this trail project a reality?

If you want to help make sure LBC is a healthy creek system today and for the future, contact Volunteer for Outdoor Washington at 206-517-3019 (info@trailvolunteers.org) or check the City website at www.ci.woodinville.wa.us.

How to get involved and stay informed.

Want to get involved and learn more about the Little Bear Creek Linear Park? Want to share your opinions about the park plan with City Staff? Contact Woodinville Parks and Recreation at 425-289-2700 X 2232 or visit the city website at www.ci.woodinville.wa.us for more information on the plan.

Have a school or scout group that wants to get involved in volunteer activities along Woodinville's creeks and rivers? Want to roll up your sleeves and help protect and enhance Woodinville's natural habitat? Contact Patrick Tefft, Volunteer Coordinator, at 425-489-2700 x 2289.