

Cheasty Mountain Bike/Pedestrian Trail Pilot Project

The Cheasty Mountain Bike and Pedestrian Trail Pilot Project will provide recreational opportunities for families and neighbors to access nature through our urban park greenspaces. The schematic design provides space for both pedestrians and mountain bikes. The proposed trails have been designed to minimize environmental impacts by utilizing best management practices for protecting wetlands and enhancing the stability of the steep slopes.

The Cheasty Greenspace Bike and Pedestrian Trail Pilot Project aims to:

- Create new local recreational opportunities for all age levels
- Provide a connection to the environment
- Provide new connections to schools, parks and adjacent neighborhoods
- Encourage positive activity to deter illegal activities such as camping and dumping

Background

- The idea of a bike trail has been proposed by community many times over the last decade.
- In 2014, SPR proposed Cheasty Greenspace as pilot site for bicycle and walking trails.
- Through a robust community process, establishment and work of a Project Advisory Team, many meetings, project development, a recommendation from the Board of Park Commissioners and approval from the Seattle City Council, the plan moved forward.
- The Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was challenged in August 2015, and as a result the hearing examiner required SPR to do additional environmental analysis related to wetlands impacts; drainage/hydrologic impacts as they relate to wetlands; and, wildlife habitat impacts.

Environmental Impact

- The current design reflects the environmental evaluation work that was done in response to the appeal of the DNS to the hearing examiner
- We determined avoiding the wetlands and steep slope areas made more sense and addressed the concerns around slope stability and habitat.
- The revised trail layout avoids all significant wetlands on site, although it does cross the buffer of a small wetland in the northwest corner. It also avoids the majority of steep slope areas.
- The trail is designed to work in harmony with Green Seattle Partnership restoration effort.

Next Steps

- SPR will be issuing a new Threshold of Determination
- Apply for the necessary construction permit(s)
- Get the Pilot Project up and running
- Pilot Project monitoring will occur for a 15-month period, evaluating:
 - Wetlands
 - Erosion Control
 - Habitat Disturbance
 - Parking Impacts
 - Litter
 - Safety
 - Maintenance

For more information on this project, please email pks_info@seattle.gov