City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Proposed Trail Classification Hierarchy

October 30, 2000

Below are eight proposed classifications describing the hierarchy of trails within the jurisdiction of the City of Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation.

Class	Description	Min.-Max. width	Example
I.	On-Street Trail, or spur section, of which a considerable portion is within Parks and Recreation jurisdiction. Typically a cross-jurisdictional bicycle or walking route. Route is published and/or signed.	5'-0 min., may vary	Central Park Trail
II.	Paved multi-use trail. Surfacing either concrete or asphalt. Uses including walking, jogging, skating, and bicycling. Cross-jurisdictional, urban, includes street crossings although vehicular access is limited to service vehicles.	8'-0 min.	Burke Gilman, Green Lake, Alki Blvd.
III.	Paved multi-use trail. Surfacing either concrete or asphalt. Uses including walking, jogging, skating, bicycling and service access. Contained within a Park, vehicular access limited to service vehicles.	8'-0 min.	Seward Park loop.
IV.	Paved Pedestrian-only walking path contained within a Park.	5'-0 min., may vary	Almost any developed Park.
V.	Soft Surface Multi-purpose trail. Crushed rock paving. Primarily walking, service access, limited bicycle use. Contained within a Park, vehicular access limited to service vehicles.	8'-0 min., 12'-0 max.	Carkeek Park.
VI.	Arterial Walking Trail. Crushed rock paving. Pedestrian only, no vehicles access. Contained within a Park.	4'-0 min., 8'-0 max.	Most fully developed primary trails within "undeveloped" or natural parklands.
VII.	Secondary Walking Trail. Improved mineral soil or crushed rock paving. Pedestrian only, usually associated with a Class VI arterial trail. Should reconnect back to arterial, developed area, or terminate at a destination of some significance. Lowest legitimate level of development within the Park system.	2'-0 min., 4'-0 max.	Far loop at Dead Horse Canyon - Lakeridge Park.
VIII.	Dirt Track. Illegitimate path or underdeveloped class VI or VII trail awaiting improvement. Illegitimate paths may include private points of access or those in very wet or steep areas typically deemed inappropriate for continued maintenance or future development.	as narrow as 1'-0	Many short cuts throughout the Parks trail system.