

King County Parks is seeking input and recommendations from the public on ways to enhance and improve the trails and trail uses at Big Finn Hill Park.

King County staff gathered public input at two general meetings in June and August 2012. In September 2012, the Big Finn Trails Committee, comprised of Finn Hill neighbors, park users, hikers, mountain bikers and dog walkers, started meeting on a weekly basis and has acted as the advisory group to King County Parks .

Based on input gathered at the two general meetings the committee identified the following major themes and trail issues that have been the key focus of the committee’s agenda:

Trail mapping and inventory	Trail maintenance	Trail uses, layout and design
Juanita Drive crossing	Dogs on trails	Engaging youth
Trail connection to O.O. Denny Park	Access and parking	Beavers

Goal

- ❖ Improve the trails, enhance the trail experience for all users of all ages, and preserve the natural character of the park.

Long term recommendations that require further investigation and coordination

- ❖ Juanita Drive crosswalk
  - work with City of Kirkland to develop crosswalk that connects East and West sides of the park
- ❖ Trail connection to O.O. Denny Park
  - direct connection from Big Finn Hill Park is difficult due to topography and soil conditions; work with FHNA, neighbors and stakeholders to find suitable route
- ❖ ADA accessible trail and boardwalk near 84th
  - possible capital improvement and grant-funded project
- ❖ Dogs off leash
  - no proposal to create off leash trails or dedicated area; will require further investigation by dog owners
- ❖ Expand shoulder parking along 138<sup>th</sup>
  - Coordinate with City of Kirkland

Short term recommendations that can be implemented immediately and over the next 2-3 years

- ❖ Create accurate map of existing trail network
  - number and sign intersections for orientation; and emergency access
  - install new wood trails signs and kiosks

- ❖ Keep all existing and new trails open to hiking, mountain biking, running and dog walking
  - designate as “shared use”
- ❖ Continue to work with volunteers on all trail improvements
  - Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance and FHNA trail and stewardship committee
- ❖ Eliminate unauthorized trail construction through signage and outreach
- ❖ Engage students and youth to help with trail stewardship
  - FHJHS students were surveyed about the park and trails, such as how they use the trails and if they would help with trail improvements; still waiting for results
- ❖ Eliminate and decommission designated trails and replace with properly designed and engineered trails and trail structures, such as bridges, turnpikes, etc.
  - improves safety for user
- ❖ Enhanced annual maintenance on all major trails; identify and eliminate wet areas
  - establish north-south maintenance access trail on the west side
- ❖ Construct new trails to include bike features such as small jumps, log roll-overs and log-rides
  - bike features will incorporate walk-around bypass for hikers
- ❖ Create three bike skills areas on the west side for beginner and intermediate mountain bikers
  - small jumps, log roll-overs, log rides, rock gardens and chutes
- ❖ Construct 30x60-foot bike pump track on the east side near play area; target users are children
- ❖ Beavers and beaver pond
  - monitor and coexist with beaver activity; abandon trails that are seasonally flooded
- ❖ Forest health
  - conduct analysis of unique stand of madrone trees on west side
  - restore former orchard area
  - ongoing ivy removal
- ❖ Friends of Big Finn Trails
  - Establish an ongoing committee to work with King County Parks staff to carry out and implement the plan recommendations

The Big Finn Hill Park trails committee

Jeanette Leach	Joel Wood	Aaron LeFohn
Troy Kasper	Christy Carter	Jennifer and Matt Pruitt
Scott Edison	George Meredith	Dan Barton
Bill Hall	Mark Garnick	Jill Bartlett
John Cope	Tom Fitzpatrick	Janice Gerrish
Mike Crandell	John Turner	David Kimmett

**Big Finn Trails Plan -- Public Meeting Thursday, June 23 7-8:30 PM Finn Hill Junior High School cafeteria**

For further information about the plan and meeting, please contact David Kimmett at 206-263-7159 or [david.kimmett@kingcounty.gov](mailto:david.kimmett@kingcounty.gov)