

LORD HILL PARK PREFERRED PLAN UPDATE

PUBLIC MEETING #1 - NOTES

Nov. 16, 2021

1. Mtn bike videos - don't slow down for signs; Happens on every youtube video;
2. Map collaboration of user groups - were 3 public meetings; at all meetings high speed mountain bike trails were objected to; Like objectives, but don't think you're addressing safety, if keeping the high speed mountain bike trails.
3. Has the County Council approved not doing a Master Plan vs a preferred plan, which is not open for public process?
4. Emily - County council - is briefed and consulted on the process; preferred plan gives more flexibility vs Master plan requires council approval, while preferred plan reduces bureaucracy and allows simpler changes. Also work to meet County Codes.
5. Kalisa - live at north end of park; runner and hiker, 500 hours in the park annually; Concerned current multi-use trails - not maintained and impassable by hikers. Hiking most accessible activity and greatest use, widest socio-economic group. - Maintain trails for a greater user group. Many trails become impassable, especially when it's wet out. If they're multi-use trails, they should be maintained as such.
6. Do full inventory; some existing trails are not accounted for.
7. Chris - run, hike trail; lots of puddles; lots of maintenance work as volunteers, especially multi-use; consider future use; mountain bikers know equestrian use, but also looking to future needs; excited for new ADA trail; adding signs, new entry good; like new intersection revisions; Want to share ideas with the design team and also educate all; spread awareness of different user groups
8. Jerallyn - Who are the stakeholder groups and how their input has varied from the preferred plan? How do you propose to work with the stakeholders in future or will it continue? Gates - dismount for bikers or also for equestrians? Layers of existing trail system versus the proposed trails, would be helpful.
9. Emily - upload existing trail system to website; pine rail gate at mtn bike trails for dismounting only; Stakeholders groups - 25 have been involved, WTA, Equestrian, Friends of LH, LH home owners assoc., much input over the years; Had stakeholder meeting 2 weeks ago; is a piece of puzzle, very involved frequent users and will continue to be involved.
10. Lisa - mountain biker 3 years; youth cross-country team, son is part of; camaraderie for kids is great; adore the sport; LH intermediate trails, not high speed; all interactions with hikers, bikers, equestrians have been great; lots of young kids biking there. Lots of mountain bike respect shown to other users. Riding opportunity close to home. Ride there 2-3 x per week. Want to keep having positive influences at the park.
11. Michael Gomes - Hiked trails in all seasons for many years; Some trails will be closed to biking and riding? Easy 8 and others (Emily) - considering for seasonal use, when muddy, closing considered. Keep seasonal closures, supported.

12. Ann Schilling - Equestrian trail numbers - many are proposed. Is that correct? Does 17.77 miles - does that include existing and proposed trails?
13. Emily - yes, many equestrian trails exist already and others to be added; working on id. Sensitive areas and crossings; next consider breaking out into projects, to quickly implement to bring equestrian mileage up. They are a priority for the County.
14. Kathy - Started mountain biking in 2005. Helps maintain trails. Ride multiple times per week, also with women's groups; in black diamond ridge, Bellingham to Tacoma; See lots of bikers with kids; not unusual to have an exchange between bikers and hikers. Other shared use trail systems - unicyclist. - Number of users is increasing, so want to support park improvements.
15. Steve B - County is doing great job of meeting needs; runs, hikes and rides at LH since 2005; Saw articles with bad interactions; his experiences are positive, knows to be careful and respectful around horses; EMBA has etiquette program going on; hope it improves; Mountain bike impact assessment - doesn't have greater impact; Like gateway ADA improvement to ease access for kids.
16. Chris - hiking 15 yrs at LH, and used to mountain bike; prefers to hike at LH on rainy days, when doesn't encounter anyone; every time he clears branches from trails; uphill hiking on steamshovel trail, experienced bike going 40 mph downhill; too fast; bikers don't slow down when see him and his small dogs; think horse riders should pick up after their horses like he does after his dog.
17. Stephen Sher - lives 1 mi north of park entrance for 35 yrs. Sees change in added traffic; have some positive experiences with bikers, but most going too fast; Concern about kids and pets; Has 137th St been addressed - lots of people and strollers, dangerous with fast bike use there; Is it possible to have day use fee or annual fee for trailhead maintenance and to keep a ranger at the site.
18. Emily: Along road - Cty is considering improvements with public works; Fees idea raised before, much disinterest, right now is not on County's radar. Jeremy - not fan of user fees; supports idea of part time ranger, but not full-time ranger.
19. Lauren Benedict - new to Snohomish County - biker and walker; Goes very slowly up and down hill, because LH is an intermediate park, not ready for the bigger mountain bike systems; has had positive interactions.
20. Michelle - new mountain biker, discovered LH last year; EMBA has an ambassador program; Lots of new riders; excited about collaboration; learned about horses at LH, stop, dismount bike and wait until equestrian rider tells her what to do. With the ambassador program can teach others how to use trails. If other bikers join, they can also learn. Safety, parking lot at South end feels unsafe; A ranger there is appreciated.
21. Rene Vogel - is a hiker; has great experiences with bikers; go hiking with grandkids on multi-use trails, 90% of time, bikers are courteous, but small no. make it difficult for users; Don't want flow trails for bikes only; want parallel hiking trails next to bike only trail; Critical area at mountain bike trail - should be investigated; Should not be a new trail between equestrian parking and private property. Bikers should get off when horses are there.
22. Started mountain biking 3 yrs ago. Go 3x per week; go with 5 + 10 yr old and wife; Like new ADA trail, will make it much better for kids; Hasn't had any bad experiences at park; learned how to bike around horses; always dismount bike when around a bike; Love the

park and look forward to expansion of entry level mountain bike trails; Strava shows speed - 19 mph max, which is not fast.

23. Marika - 2 horses near park; husband biker and equestrian; will bike and ride horse together; Can coexist with training and education; Speed - entering parking lot - walk horses on road and cars come in very fast, so want ways to slow down cars; Education needed by equestrians for hikers and bikers. Horses are prey animals, are squirrely; Ranger could help educate. Want to coexist with other users.
24. Kristina - Sons mountain bikers she is equestrian user; Small % mountain bikers are disrespectful; hold them accountable; high speed trail that comes to multi-use trail, dangerous. Not safe. Opposed to the access trail, because it brings bikers closer to the equestrian lot and being disrespectful, expect more conflict, not less.
25. Christian - mountain biker at LH, live in Edmonds; used to bike at Port Gamble, which has a big mountain bike project underway; Love LH park, closest park to ride in; look forward to bringing young kids there. Like the new ADA trail for improved access. Hopeful that the plan will help resolve multi-use.
26. Yvonne - EMBA president, also hiker, multi-use trail advocate. Want to alleviate conflicts between users; has been involved as stakeholder offering design solutions; speed control features, conflict reductions, signage, etc. Many planning recommendations have been met with resistance. Mountain bikers want the best experience. Love the park. Proposed plan is as balanced as it can get, with many multi-use trails and priority use zones, designed to mitigate conflicts. EMBA not looking for a destination mountain bike at LH. It's a beginner park only and we want to preserve the park and continue to use it.
27. Clara - multi-use, not much biking. Engineer background, and think conflicts are an engineering problem, at springboard, golden eye and liquid bread, which are causing most of the problems. Need to engineer trails for family use of park, regardless of the signs. Liability issue. Springboard is a huge water runoff problem. Major work needed to revise and revise intersection points.
28. Mick - mountain bikers last 1.5 yrs, every weekend. Not many other parks in Snoco. Has positive experiences at park and seeks ways to meet other users; Like zones helps access and experience; ADA trail good idea, slower and easier; Request - ways to get involved in trail maintenance; Want trail work days to work to fix all types of trails to improve relations between users.
29. Emily - Tony Topentuck - volunteer coordinator from the County - all can get in touch with to get involved.
30. Daniel - biker since 1991, ride 1000 miles per year; biking is incompatible with preservation of trails, especially conflict with wildlife protection; more experience, more hard riding, stopping, skidding; Want no mountain bikers in the park; want to repair damage done by users; want nice walk in park and to preserve park.
31. Joshua - hiking and biking since 2006 with sons; close to home; like new entry for mountain bikers, because hard to be slow on steep slope; Teach kids how to ride around equestrians; aware of Golden eye safety issues; slow down there; Stop for horses; loops taken often; know intersections like crosswalks; Want to volunteer for trail maintenance.
32. Ed - Root cause: some don't adhere to regs, like speed limits on roads; encourage enforcement; signs not enough; off-leash dogs are a problem; Traffic, parking, access into equestrian lot by inappropriate users, should be managed by enforcement.

33. Ed - Budget - need funding to implement the plan.
34. Jeremy - enforcement is a big concern, thanks for accountability ideas; enforcement is difficult at 1,500 acre park; funding is limited for enforcement and rangers can't come as often as desired to the park; He wants to tackle this problem and fix it. Will remain a challenge through next summer. Structure hasn't been set up to address the concerns. People are not behaving and it is a burden to society. Open for input on solutions and funding for security.
35. Sandra - head coach for youth mountain bike team Snoco; kids need alternative to traditional sports; great cardio and ADHD, anxiety, depression. Lake Stevens, Everett, Monroe, Snohomish and groups 8-12, teach respect for other users, esp. Equestrians. Help with trail maintenance - combine teams for maintenance. Need LH for young riders; ADA trail is great, safer solution
36. Lawrence - lived near park for 30 yrs. Horse rider and hiker with family; recent years high speed biker use has increased. Formerly park was open to all users; None of us took anything from other users; Noe bikers taking some parts of park from us, including wildlife and safety is taken; quiet use of park is reduced; It's nature is taken; As county to remove manmade features from mountain bike trails and open all trails to hikers; Review plan evaluating biker impacts on park.
37. Aaron Edwards - lived in Snoco for 41 years; hiker and biker; no reason to have so much conflict; Want to build trail for hikers, biker and equestrians; existing entry creates conflict; new trail ADA entry alleviates problems. We don't want continued conflict. We're respectful and there to enjoy nature; let's work together, whatever user type you are.
38. Jordan - Mountain biker; plan is good; is optimistic; like zones for bikes and zones for equestrians; Zones help preservation also; helps volunteers, gives incentive for users to maintain the given zones.
39. Mary Krauss - high school teacher, track coach, NW endurance riders group. Care about kids; shld be able to ride bikes and horses at the park; Most people are nice; will also be jerks; We have some structural problems since 2016, going against EMBA guidelines, and poached trails, so they became vertical and dug pits under roots of trees, some trees died. Fight should be about poor trail design and need to re-route. Have to change many trails in the park.
40. Kristin - Pilchuck Audobon Society - critical areas reconnaissance and studies on some crossings, why not on all trails going into all areas? Want to see studies; What is the bubble showing the potl mountain bike loops? - why only the 3 critical are studies;
41. Kristin - more people moving to the area; best keep all trails multi-use, as it will slow down all users.
42. Emily - potential trails - just in a potential bubble. Not in sensitive areas; trails with lime green dash will include critical areas recon.
43. Shannon - runner and mountain biker, 3-4x per week; LH most accessible place to ride; not going to ride fast, but enjoy nature and exercise; Like new plan; like new access trail, for hikers and families with kids; support designated trail sections, esp. Specific trails for bikers; hasn't had bad experiences with other users; bikers mostly care about the same things other users do. Respect nature.
44. Russ Peterson - Agree with many; thanks for the plan; not best for any individual group, but best for all users, as it has been developed so far. Seems selfish to have all trails for

hikers. Family hike there and bike also - no bad experiences at LH; Most people are responsible; Can't shut down one user group, because there's someone that is misbehaving. Drainage - shutting down one trail in winter, would be better (crazy 8) to improve the trail drainage - shared use for hikers/bikers.

45. Randy Anderson - appreciate hearing others; mountain biked for many years at LH; from Lake Stevens; Hike about 9 miles there a week; hike through the middle of park and see very few people. Why would you want to hike on meat cutter or golden eye? Made for mountain bikers; Don't see anyone on the hiker trails; it's important to see young kids in the park to see deer, birds, and fish in the river.
46. Tobin - mountain biking with wife and kids, also runner and hiking; Many complaints come from a vocal minority. Biking since 2012, never had a bad interaction; the majority of users are respectful and friendly. Trail building and sustainability - EMBA people on phone, eager to help improve trails, which can resolve some problems.
47. Pat Pehling - riding since it was DNR property, horseback - volunteer with County. Stopped riding with kids on trails anymore, because of conflicts with bikers; want regulation changes and etiquette improvement; appreciate biker respect for their horses; want to be able to send kids out safely to the park for training; hope will be safe again in future; Kitsap - had speed bumps - add to 137th? To slow people down. Thanks to Parks.
48. Elizabeth - thanks for respectful meeting; have broken foot 3x (running) and been thrown from her horse by conflict with mountain biker; How can runners and equestrians come in and out of park safely? - Marked decrease in wildlife with increase in biking at park. Want plan to address speed bumps, trail design changes to solve problems. Don't want to be afraid of getting killed at LH.
49. Chuck - board of LH advocates group - our non-profit, want to maintain a slow and safe experience for all users; want the county to be able to afford to implement improvements; Want to urge County to help the group to be able to build trails. Hard to get approval process done; Want to improve line of sight and trail improvement and bring equipment in. Let's spend money the county doesn't have and create a slow safe park for all.
50. Julie - live close to LH - like the separate entrance for mountain bikers; mainly mountain biker, also is a hiker; haven't had bad experiences and enjoy seeing equestrians; understand riders and their perspectives; Education needed of each other's sports, to aid in conflict reduction.
51. Mike Niland - moved to WA 4 yrs ago, mountain biking 3 years; also hike and photograph. Especially used LH during covid, very accessible; introduced friends and kids to LH to experience nature. Want to keep access for all user groups; Preferred plan looks like a good way to improve the system. Like new ADA access trail, with gentler grade; GPS data in 40 rides average top speed: 12-13 mph, quicker than hikers, but not crazy speeds. - Gates at upper and lower Springboard are effective. Now educating new users about etiquette around horses.
52. Andrew Ogden - from Snohomish by Lake Stevens, for 20 years with family; Is all 3 groups, hiker, horseback rider, biker also. Never had a bad experience at LH. People give others the right of way. Like gates to slow bikes and make crossings manageable

for others. Entry trail - younger siblings would do better with a less steep trail. Thanks for the trail plan and progress.

53. Diane - bikers speeding through driveway, when with grandson, biker shield horse, almost dropped her grandson. Bikers are going too fast. Bikers appreciate they can take young people to park, but equestrians don't feel safe doing that. Biker only trails - do not like. River access - want to have for equestrian use, with good surfacing. How would others feel if horses went galloping through park? Others need to be aware. We train horses here.
54. Lisa - Sons and she hike, walk and run at LH also photographers and enjoy nature; also host mountain bike teams on the beginner and intermediate trails at LH. New ADA trail is great for kids and older riders. New to mountain biking - great opp to collaborate. Facebook group mountain bike group - want to share. Vocal minority with conflicts.
55. Cathy Nelson - equestrian, back country horsemen; many years riding at LH; most experiences very positive; Talk to all users. Talk to horse riders, most have great experiences at the park. There's a lot of park for everyone. Support an ambassador group and user groups working together on trails. Did work party on trails previously to improve seasonal trails to year-round trails. New access trail - support. Great addition. Horses access the river at steamboat trail, and want to maintain that (near river).
56. Jenn Maddox -
57. Shaun Terry - living in Snoco whole life 36 years; young son taking hiking and mountain biking at the park. Is a beginner; Close to park, so fits into daily life. Entry and exit improvements are positive. Work parties and non-profits, signage and trail maintenance. Want more signs and education about the park for equestrians, so people know how to respond when visiting the park. Would like to volunteer and also provide other ideas.
58. Emily - email address for Emily and Tony are in the chat.
59. Ryan Brien - shout out to all with the collaborative dialogue. Makes him look forward to being part of the community. Grew up mountain biking at LH and now takes his kids there. Like the new entry into the park. That's the most challenging area to control speed at the entry trail. Be conscious of other users. His most negative experience - horse at lower springboard riding up the trail. Want to enjoy and respect other users. Move forward with a great space for all of the community.
60. Allen Gibbs - president of Pilchuck Audubon society - are for the birds, also have equestrians and mountain bikers in the organization. Want to preserve natural and undeveloped aspects of the park. Birds have this as their home and habitats. 2017 study on LH birds - 64 species of birds. Compared to paradise valley park - 45 Willis tucker - 8 species of birds; these have a different variety of uses. The natural aspects are very important. A slow, safe park is what they want. Engineering would help.
61. Jenn Maddox - 2016 started going to LH, trail walking, running and equestrian. Question - horse trails to be determined by studies being done. What happens if studies show these are not a good place for the trails? Concerned about more traffic coming through the equestrian lot. Without rangers, bikers won't follow signs. Many positive and negative experiences, fast bikers, angry at horses. Want to slow high speed trails and have more rangers. Want to reduce dangerous conditions.
62. Kelly Amsbry - mountain biker and former youth coach and EMBA member; likes the plan as proposed. Likes new separate access to reduce conflict with different user

groups. LH is one of few beginner mountain bikers. Growing need for this opportunity. LH is a gem for this type of access, for beginner and youth mountain bikers.

63. Wendy Kondo - equestrian, hiker and dog walker, member of Backcountry; have maintained many trails, with mules, etc.; Like multiple users; can't gallop horses through the trails; go to breath and enjoy the wildlife; have mountain bikers in family; love horse riding and walking dog. Think we can work it out. Speed is not something appropriate for the park. Covid taught us to breathe and walk. Let's keep the place that we love.
64. Dianna Davis - share letter to Emily; moved to LH area in 1995; have horses and rode every week at LH; walked and rode her park daily; many who bike at the park, are disrespectful of horse riders; don't know how biker trails got allowed; bird monitoring and support Pilchuck; saw great horned owl at LH; is Seattle native, 70, at Evergreen Health hospital; still have covid positive patients; looking forward to retirement with access to LH park. Please ensure that it remains a horse and hiker park. Not only biker trails. Want park ranger.
65. Thank you! (Emily) - Please take survey and also send emails. Appreciate your support for the park.