

Lake Whatcom Park & Lookout Mountain

Conceptual Trail Alternatives Summary

Lake Whatcom Park(East)		Lookout Mountain (West)	
Alternative 1	Trail Miles	Alternative 1	Trail Miles
Hiking only	2.5	Hiking only	0
Hiking/Mt. Bike	3.2	Hiking/Mt. Bike	12.1
Hiking/Equestrian	0	Hiking/Equestrian	0
Existing WCPR Trails	4.3	Existing WCPR Trails	4.1
Total	10.0	Total	16.2

Lake Whatcom Park(East)		Lookout Mountain (West)	
Alternative 2	Trail Miles	Alternative 2	Trail Miles
Hiking only	6.8	Hiking only	2.8
Hiking/Mt. Bike	3.9	Hiking/Mt. Bike	12
Hiking/Equestrian	7.3	Hiking/Equestrian	0
Existing WCPR Trails	4.3	Existing WCPR Trails	4.1
Total	22.3	Total	18.9

Lake Whatcom Park(East)		Lookout Mountain (West)	
Alternative 3	Trail Miles	Alternative 3	Trail Miles
Hiking only	5.8	Hiking only	3.8
Hiking/Mt. Bike	12.3	Hiking/Mt. Bike	22.5
Hiking/Equestrian	11.5	Hiking/Equestrian	0
Existing WCPR Trails	4.3	Existing WCPR Trails	4.1
Total	33.9	Total	30.4

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Conceptual Trail Alternative Descriptions

1) Lake Whatcom Park, Alternative 1 (East)

Overview

Alternative 1 represents the lower end of new trail development, and keeps these trails within areas that are close to existing developed facilities (i.e. the trailhead, restrooms and existing Park trails).

This alternative improves trailhead facilities to include new restrooms, additional parking and improved way-finding signage.

It also adds 5.7 miles of new trail, adding two new loop segments to the existing Hertz trail with an alternative return leg. This allows longer hikes for those who want to increase the length of the hike without trekking over the same stretch of land repeatedly. Trails traverse challenging grades and offer exceptional views of waterfalls and Lake Whatcom.

Trail Improvement Summary:

New trail mileage = 5.7 miles

Hiking only Trail Total = 2.5 miles (44%)

Hiking / Mt. Bike Trail Total = 3.2 miles (56%)

Hiking / Equestrian Trail Total= 0 miles (0%)

Other Improvements:

Parking area improvements: add capacity and additional restroom facilities.

Improve way-finding signage along existing and proposed trails.

Close unsustainable trails, stabilize soils and restore degraded areas to a natural state. Upgrade trail sections that are of value to the proposed trail system.

Maintain active service roads (allow hikers, mt. bikers and equestrian use)

2) Lake Whatcom Park, Alternative 2 (East)

Overview

Alternative 2 includes most of the trailhead improvements identified in alternative 1, expanding parking capacity, adding restrooms, new trails close in, and expanding into back-country areas making trail connections that extend outside of the park boundary.

Alternative 2 provides an equestrian trail connection to off-site trails connecting to the Y-road trailhead, and south to the Wickersham / Truck Trail. It also includes a hiking only trail south of Smith Creek creating a back county hiking loop. The trail system offers a variety of loop opportunities that range from 4-13 miles in length.

Additional trail segments have been added that traverse challenging grades that extend well into backcountry areas and offer more challenging trail experiences

Trail Improvement Summary:

New Trail Mileage = 18.0 miles

Hiking only Trail Total = 6.8 miles (38%)

Hiking / Mt. Bike Trail Total = 3.9 miles (40%)

Hiking / Equestrian Trail Total = 7.3 miles (40%)

Other Improvements:

Parking area improvements: add capacity and additional restroom facilities.

Improve way-finding signage along existing and proposed trails.

Close unsustainable trails, stabilize soils and restore degraded areas to a natural state. Upgrade trail sections that are of value to the proposed trail system

Maintain active service roads (allow hikers, mt. bikers and equestrian use)

3) Lake Whatcom Park, Alternative 3 (East)

Overview

Alternative 3 represents the highest level of development of all the alternatives. This alternative would provide the most recreational access to the widest spectrum of users. In this option not only is parking capacity increased to increased future use, but would be of sufficient size to accommodate special events that might attract regional attention (P3). Vehicular access would be extended beyond the limits of existing trailhead areas to a scenic overlook, allowing users that have mobility limitations a wider range of recreational experiences. A robust trail network extends beyond front country areas well into backcountry.

Trail Improvement Summary:

New Trail Mileage = 29.6 miles

Hiking only Trail Total = 5.8 miles (20%)

Hiking / Mt. Bike Trail Total = 12.3 miles (41%)

Hiking / Equestrian Trail Total = 11.5 miles (39%)

Other Improvements:

Parking area improvements: add capacity and additional restroom facilities. A new non-motorized bridge would be required to provide access from the expanded parking area (P3) to the trailhead.

1.6 miles of the existing service road would be upgraded to accommodate two-way vehicular traffic, providing vehicular access to the proposed viewpoint. The viewpoint would include restrooms, interpretive signage and hitching post.

Provide area for staging special events.

Improve way-finding signage along existing and proposed trails.

Close unsustainable trails, stabilize soils and restore degraded areas to a natural state. Upgrade trail sections that are of value to the proposed trail system.

Maintain active service roads (allow hikers, mt. bikers and equestrian use)

1) Lookout Mountain Park, Alternative 1 (West)

Overview

Alternative 1 represents the lower end of new trail development, and keeps these trails within areas that are close to existing developed facilities (i.e. the trailhead, restrooms and existing trails). The notable exception on this property is the trail connection from Lookout Mountain Trailhead, Galbraith Mountain to Squires Lake. The alternative also includes a neighborhood connection to the Glenhaven Lakes Community.

The alternative adds 12.1 miles of new Hiking / Mt. Biking trail. The new trails provide a 7 mile loop from the Lookout Mountain Trailhead, and a new trail connection through a City of Bellingham property providing access to Galbraith Mountain.

The Squires Lake connection totals 11 miles (including the existing service road connection) and gains approximately 1,900 feet of elevation.

Trail Improvement Summary:

New trail mileage = 12.1 miles

Hiking only Trail Total = 0 miles (0%)

Hiking / Mt. Bike Trail Total = 12.1 miles (100%)

Hiking / Equestrian Trail Total= 0 miles (0%)

Other Improvements:

Improve existing trails at Lookout Mountain Park.

Improve way-finding signage along existing and proposed trails.

Close unsustainable trails, stabilize soils and restore degraded areas to a natural state. Upgrade trail sections that are of value to the proposed trail system.

Maintain active service roads (allow hikers, mt. bikers and equestrian use)

2) Lookout Mountain Park, Alternative 2 (West)

Overview

Alternative 2 includes all trail improvements outlined in Alternative 1, but also includes a new hiking trail off of Repeater Road, providing an alternative neighborhood connection from Sudden Valley.

A hiking trail near the ridge line in the vicinity of the communication towers has also been added, providing a 12 mile road/trail loop trail.

Trail Improvement Summary:

New trail mileage = 14.8 miles

Hiking only Trail Total = 2.8 miles (19%)

Hiking / Mt. Bike Trail Total = 12.0 miles (81%)

Hiking / Equestrian Trail Total= 0 miles (0%)

Other Improvements:

Improve existing trails at Lookout Mountain Park.

Improve way-finding signage along existing and proposed trails.

Close unsustainable trails, stabilize soils and restore degraded areas to a natural state. Upgrade trail sections that are of value to the proposed trail system.

Maintain active service roads (allow hikers, mt. bikers and equestrian use).

3) Lookout Mountain Park, Alternative 3 (West)

Overview

Alternative 3 represents the highest level of development for west side alternatives. This alternative nearly eliminates the need to incorporate existing service roads in order to make trail connections throughout the park. The alternative includes Hiking only and Hiking / Mt. Biking trails and offers a several loop alternatives that range in length from 5 to 15 miles.

Additional trail segments have been added that traverse challenging grades that extend well into backcountry areas and offer more challenging trail experiences.

Trail Improvement Summary:

New Trail Mileage = 26.3 miles

Hiking only Trail Total = 3.8 miles (15%)

Hiking / Mt. Bike Trail Total = 22.5 miles (85%)

Hiking / Equestrian Trail Total = 0 miles (0%)

Other Improvements:

Improve existing trails at Lookout Mountain Park.

Improve way-finding signage along existing and proposed trails.

Close unsustainable trails, stabilize soils and restore degraded areas to a natural state. Upgrade trail sections that are of value to the proposed trail system.

Maintain active service roads (allow hikers, mt. bikers and equestrian use)