



## King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
**Parks and Recreation Division**

King Street Center  
 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5702  
 Seattle, WA 98104  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks>

### State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance

**Date of Issue:** September 8, 2023

**Name of Proposal:** Taylor Mountain Forest – Sustainable Trail System Improvements

**Location of Proposal:** Taylor Mountain Forest, King County: within areas of Section 5 in Township 22N, Range 7E and within areas of Sections 31, 32, and 33 in Township 23N, Range 7E

**Description of Proposal:** Taylor Mountain Forest is a popular location for people to ride horses, hike, mountain bike and recreate. Public use has increased significantly over the past decade and is expected to continue to increase into the future. The trails are showing the impact of this heavy use; tread surfaces are eroding in many locations, portions of the system require users to pass through streams without trail bridges, certain trails are closed during the rainy months, and in some cases, eroding into streams that are important habitat for salmon. King County Parks plans to improve the trails to a standard that will serve the recreation community into the future and protect our valuable natural resources. The voter-approved 2020-2025 Parks, Recreation Trails, and Open Space Levy included funding for King County Parks to improve to backcountry trails at five parks including Taylor Mountain Forest.

Proposed trail system improvements will provide sustainable long-term recreation opportunities for equestrian, pedestrian, and mountain bike uses by protecting resources and discouraging reopening and use of decommissioned unsustainable trail segments, while developing new bridges and trails to improve connectivity offering multiple trail loops with improved user experiences. The project includes:

- Development of approximately four miles of new multiple-use non-motorized trail meeting King County's most current trail standards for sustainability.
- Decommission and restore approximately 1.5 miles of existing unsustainable trail segments that are often difficult to maintain, and provide a dissatisfactory user experience, and in some circumstances are causing resource damage.
- Constructing nine trail bridges with secured funding, including: Five new trail bridges to cross streams on the Beaver Pond Trail, one new bridge on Road I Trail, one new bridge on Holder Ridge Trail, One new bridge on Mt. Beaver Trail, and one new bridge on Carey Creek Trail.
- Construction of up to eight additional surface water crossings (either bridges, culverts, or boardwalks) throughout the park as future funding becomes available.

Most proposed trail routes are conceptually designed, and final trail locations will be fully completed once the more detailed full trail design and layout process is finalized. Overall, a stacked-loop trail system design is targeted where successive trail loops are “stacked” upon each other, connecting in such a way as to give users options for extended distance or varied routes. The stacked loop trail system design is a method that helps achieve a positive user experience, while reducing and balancing overall density of trail development, by allowing for various loop options, which can disperse visitors within the network and reduce trail conflicts between users.

**Proponent/Lead Agency:** King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Parks and Recreation Division

**Responsible Official:** Warren Jimenez  
Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division

**Address:** 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5702  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

**DATE:** 8/23/2023 | 1:28 PM PDT  
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The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. This determination was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency as set forth in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-330 and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030. This information is available to the public on request (for a nominal photocopying fee). It is also available on the King County website at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks/publicnotices>

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal until after **September 22, 2023**. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by **4:30 PM on September 22, 2023**. To provide comments or request additional information contact:

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201 South Jackson Street, Room 5702  
Seattle, WA 98104  
206-477-7372 (SEPA) or [KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov](mailto:KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov)

For email comments, please use the email address noted above and put "Taylor Mountain Forest Sustainable Trail System Improvements" in the Subject line.

