

NEWS RELEASE

January 22, 2008

**MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS
411 NORTH 5TH STREET
SHELTON, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419**

TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN, TACOMA MORNING NEWS TRIBUNE, NORTH MASON LIFE.

RE: Mason County Regional Trails Plan, For the Development of Countywide Trails, Bikeways and Water Trails.

Mason County Parks and Trails Department would like to inform the public that the Mason County Regional Trails Plan, for the development of Countywide Trails, Bikeways and Water Trails is nearing completion. The plan will be presented to the Mason County Planning Commission on Monday, January 28 and is a continuation from the Planning Commission meeting in November. The Planning Commission comments have been incorporated into the new draft. After review by the Planning Commission, the plan will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners early in 2008 for adoption.

The Regional Trails Plan has been developed with the assistance of a Citizen Advisory Committee, Skookum Peak Consulting, and also with technical assistance from Sue Abbott, Community Planner with the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program and Susie Graham, Recreation Manager with the Hood Canal Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service.

The Regional Trails Plan has been in the development phase for one year and includes development policies, possible trails and bikeways in Mason County (including non-motorized trails, ORV recreation enhancement, bikeways, and water trails), community need for trails, key issues and opportunities, trail design standards and guidelines, recommendations and possible funding sources. Community meetings were held in Belfair, Hoodspoint, and Shelton in October 2007 to present the draft plan and collect comments and suggestions from county residents.

A review copy of the Mason County Regional Trails Plan can be found at Mason County Parks and Trails Department. If anyone has any questions about the Mason County Regional Trails Plan, please contact John Keates at Mason County Parks and Trails Department, 427-9670, ext. 669 or by e-mail, johnk@co.mason.wa.us. A copy of the final plan can be found at the local libraries, Mason County Parks and Trails Department and on the County web site www.co.mason.wa.us when the County Commissioners have formally adopted it.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS

Lynda Ring Erickson
Commissioner

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