



MEMORANDUM

TO: BELLINGHAM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: GINA AUSTIN, PROJECT ENGINEER
CC:
SUBJECT: ARROYO PARK BRIDGE SEGMENT OF THE COAST MILLENNIUM TRAIL
DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Staff will provide a presentation regarding proposed trail improvements as follows:

1. Marine Drive bypass at the Lockwood open space to the north; and
2. A new crossing over Chuckanut Creek in Arroyo Park to the south.

These projects are part of the regional Coast Millennium Trail, a multi-agency project that was master planned in 2000 and includes connecting Skagit County to the Canadian border.

The Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan includes these improvements as recommended trail facilities. However, the exact route and design details to create these connections has not been fully realized.

The City's biennium budget does not include funding currently. However, the city has received a request from a local nonprofit, Recreation Northwest, to partner with the community in moving these projects forward.

The concept for a new bridge crossing at Chuckanut Creek has been discussed several times over the last two decades. In 2003, a feasibility and alternatives analysis for a new crossing in this location was presented to the public.

A trail connection through the Lockwood Open Space off Marine Drive has also been previously discussed as a viable alternative for a multimodal trail connection that would bypass the Marine Drive bridge, which currently does not have a shoulder, sidewalks, or bike lane.

Staff will provide an update and open the discussion regarding next steps for these projects. Next steps may include:

1. Allocating staffing and funding to the project
2. Beginning the public process, including a public meeting and Engage Bellingham site