



Scriber Lake Park Boardwalk Trail Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why are we replacing the Scriber Lake Park loop trail?

The existing wood-chip trail was built on fill material (pressure treated timbers, plastic geotextile fabric, and woodchips) more than 40 years ago through the wetland on the north side of the lake. Unfortunately, the wood-chip trail is failing, is seasonally inundated with water and is often inaccessible to park users much of the year. Without this improvement project, the City would be faced with a decision to close the northern trail and access to the floating dock due to failing infrastructure.

Additionally, Scriber Lake Park serves an important function to store run off during rain events. Fed by Scriber Creek, this wetland/flood plain complex has experienced historic flooding affecting surrounding businesses and homes. In 2014, the City conducted a flood reduction study and created the Scriber Creek Corridor Management Plan which identified removal of the woodchip trail as a high priority project to increase flood storage at Scriber Lake. More information about the flood reduction study available at:

<https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Engineering-Construction/City-Projects-Programs-Initiatives/Water-Sewer-Storm-Utility-Projects/Scriber-Creek-Flood-Reduction-Study>

Will natural areas be disturbed, or trees removed?

We recognize that demolition of existing infrastructure and tree shrub removal can be concerning. The project team conducted extensive studies and evaluation with biologists and environmental permitting agencies to determine how the project could minimize or eliminate impacts to natural areas.

A number of trees will be removed and “snagged” (cut to a certain height but not entirely removed). An arborist was involved to identify the location, health, and long-term retention suitability of every tree within the project area as well as to guide and create a plan to replace and improve the health of the wetland/forest

post construction. Managing healthy forests, wetlands, and riparian areas is a top concern for the City. In collaboration with the Friends of Scriber Lake, we have been rehabilitating forest areas within the park. Currently, less than a quarter of the park supports healthy forest conditions as evaluated in the 2023 Urban Forest Health Assessment. Restoring all forest and wetlands at Scriber Lake Park to a healthy condition will be a focus of the five-year South Lynnwood Urban Forestry & Community Stewardship Program. You can read more at:

<https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/Have-Your-Say-Lynnwood/Forest-Stewards>

Post construction, we will be planting native trees and wetland scrub-shrub plants to help restore the temporary construction impacts. Below are the environmental agencies that have purview over our project and have given approval to move forward:

What environmental considerations were made for wildlife, fish and habitat?

Scriber Lake Park is an important nature preserve in the heart of the city that is known to support wildlife such as waterfowl, birds, and small mammals. As part of the project, we carefully considered construction methods through the wetland to eliminate permanent impacts to the wetlands. After thorough review, there are no designated critical habitats associated with ESA listed species in the project area and the project site wetlands are not documented as Wetlands of High Conservation Value for listing by the Washington State Natural Heritage Program. This project is permitted at the Federal, State, and Local levels to conform to environmental and critical area regulations.

- City of Lynnwood Critical Areas Permit
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- City of Lynnwood (SEPA review)
- National Park Service (NEPA review)

How is the project meeting ADA requirements?

Scriber Lake Park was originally developed before the current 2010 ADA standards were adopted and has more than 40 known barriers. Unfortunately, none of the wood-chip segment or the wooden bridge meets accessibility requirements, therefore those needing adaptive or wheeled devices to travel cannot access our only publicly accessible lake.

Removing ADA barriers and providing recreation access to all has been and remains the top priority when considering park projects. This project will improve the parking lot, remove all barriers to the restroom, and provide an accessible route to the floating dock. In all, we will have replaced or renovated the 0.5-mile trail, creating a fully accessible and year round facility to all visitors.

How will the new boardwalk trail be constructed?

There will be some temporary construction impacts to the upland area of the park. The temporary construction impacts are needed to provide access to get the first set of steel piles installed to begin top-down construction, which further reduces impacts to the wetland and floodplain. Top-down construction means that the boardwalk will be built from an elevated surface, in a forward-moving method that does not disturb the ground. When constructed, we anticipate the elevated trail and associated guardrail/footrail will maintain people/animals to the trail alignment, further limiting off-path disturbances to the natural area.

Following construction, all temporary impacted areas will be restored to existing conditions or better. However, as a result of removing the existing trail and fill from the creek channel, wetland, and floodplain, reestablishing the hydrology, and providing ample mitigation, all agencies have found that the project will improve the riparian conditions and the project is a net-benefit to the wetland and its inhabitants. A number of conservation measures have been incorporated into the project design and implementation to minimize potential adverse impacts to fish habitat, non-endangered local wildlife (there are no endangered species in the project area), and the overall wetland complex and Scriber Creek corridor:

- More than 1,100 linear feet of existing at-grade trail will be replaced with elevated boardwalk.
- Only 2 of the 3 existing viewpoints will be reconstructed. The 2 northern viewpoints will be removed and replanted.
- The surface of the boardwalk will consist of open fiberglass grating that allows sunlight and precipitation to reach the ground.
- Where existing at-grade segments are replaced with boardwalk, the existing trail prism fill will be removed and restored to wetland conditions, increasing the availability of aquatic and riparian habitats.
- Planting mitigation for re-establishment of wetland/stream area, enhancement of buffer, and revegetation with native plant species.

Project website:

<https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Engineering-Construction/City-Projects-Programs-Initiatives/Park-and-Trail-Projects/Scriber-Lake-Park-Boardwalk-Trail-Project>

What is the project schedule?

The western portion of the park is closed to the public as of May 28, 2024, in order to secure the site. However, the eastern portion with the Scriber Creek Trail will remain open. If construction moves along as expected, we expect the contractor to be done sometime early next summer.