

We Support Grand Forest North Mountain Bike Trails

We, the Gear Grinders student mountain bike team and the Bainbridge Island Mountain Biking Club support the addition of mountain bike trails at Grand Forest North. This project ensures that all user groups can continue to enjoy the park's existing multi-use loop trail.

History of Trail Stewardship.

We cleared and reopened the current loop trail at Grand Forest North in 2011 and we help maintain it. Since 2012, over 3 miles of new trails have been built on the Island with the Gear Grinders being the largest contributor of volunteers. We are usually the largest group of participants at regular Parks-run trail work parties across the Island. Our Gear Grinder students are provided a fun, healthy and safe program to develop as an athlete, an environmental steward and a hard working volunteer in our community.

Benefits to the Community.

We expect Island kids and families to be the main users of the proposed trails. The trails would add a little over 1 mile of trails to the Parks trail system of 32 miles. An area this small would likely not draw off-Island riders.

Despite the popularity of mountain biking, our Island parks have no trails designed for this sport. This is a pressing unmet recreational need. Many other sports have public single-use facilities on the Island such as tennis, roller hockey, ball fields and pickleball. The project features a small skills practice area and four short beginner and intermediate trails. The new trails will mostly not be visible from the outer loop trail.

These trails will benefit the Park District's extensive mountain bike recreational program for kids as well as the Gear Grinders teams. They will improve the health of our community by providing kids and families a place to learn mountain biking that they can access easily. Mountain biking can offer island children an appreciation of nature, a focus on fitness, an alternative to screen time, and a boost in confidence and self-reliance.

Minimal Forest Impact.

No trees need to be removed. The trails would be built with careful attention to the environment, with oversight by Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. Evergreen has a proven history of planning and building fun, sustainable trails suitable for every age and skill level.

Community Fundraising for the Project.

There would be little cost to the taxpayer. Bainbridge Island has a wealth of experienced and willing volunteer trail builders to work with Parks on this project. With these volunteers and the participation of Parks staff, we can reduce costs. We are confident we can privately raise most of the funds need to complete the project. Users will be relied upon for maintenance.

Parking Impact.

Parking is available on Koura Road. Many users, such as the Gear Grinders teams and Parks recreation programs, will ride their bikes to the park. Some families, particularly with smaller children, will drive to the park. Given the size of the park, we do not expect families to spend more than a couple of hours at a time there, which will reduce the pressure on parking.

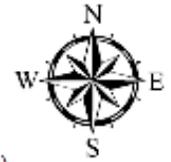
Join us in supporting the addition of mountain bike trails to Grand Forest North.

<https://geargrinders.org/club>

<https://www.facebook.com/BainbridgeIslandMountainBikingClub>

Bainbridge Island - Grand Forest North

Trail System Design Proposal 2.3 mi Total (1.7 mi New, 0.6 mi Existing)



- New Easier Trails
- New More Difficult Trails
- 0.8 Mile Perimeter Loop
- Skills Zone
- ⋯ Existing Easier Trails (Keep/Re-Build)
- ⋯ Existing More Difficult Trails (Keep/Re-Build)
- x x x Existing Trails to be Closed/Decommissioned
- Direction of Travel

