



Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District

Trail Steward Volunteer Description

Description:

Trail Stewards are volunteers who report the conditions of trails to staff on a routine basis, at least twice per month. Generally, trail stewards are individuals who frequent a trail, or trails, managed by the Park District and are willing to agree to contact the Park District about issues that need attention on the trails.

Why are trail stewards needed:

Trail Stewards are needed to assist Park District staff with inspections of trails to decrease the time necessary to adequately inspect the over 30 miles of trails currently managed by the Park District. Trail Stewards create the ability for staff to be informed of trail issues immediately and schedule needed maintenance, repairs, or correction of safety hazards in a timely, efficient manner. By utilizing volunteers in this way staff can focus their efforts on prioritizing the many needed maintenance and repair issues on Park District trails.

What to look for:

- Trail Heads
 - Garbage left in parking areas
 - Kiosk condition
 - Cars left abandoned
- Signage
 - Are they in good condition?
 - Have they been removed?
- Down trees
 - Make a note of where they are on the trail to minimize the search for staff when they respond to clear the trail
- Bridges and Boardwalks
 - Check Boardwalks for traction, broken or loose boards, entry ramps
- Wet areas
 - Especially look for areas that are mucky and don't dry up after a couple days of dry weather
- Trail tread condition
 - Is fabric showing through?
 - Has running water begun to cause erosion?

- Are roots becoming overly exposed on Class I trails?
- Is the side clearance or overhead clearance becoming an issue?

How to report:

Trail Stewards can report their findings to Sean Smith Sell via email or phone (seans@biparks.org, 206-565-5672). Copy all emails to Dan Hamlin (dan@biparks.org). It is good to report that the trail is in good condition as well, which will encourage routine communication between staff and trail stewards. Photos of the issues are encouraged to assist staff and to use for documentation purposes.

When to inspect trails:

Trails can be inspected at any time a trail steward is on the trail and the more frequent the better. The minimum expectation is that the trail steward is on the trail at least twice per month. More frequent inspections are encouraged to ensure issues are spotted as soon as possible.

There are events or seasons that increased or scheduled trail inspections are beneficial.

- After major wind events

- After heavy rain events

- Spring to Early summer to report side and overhead vegetation clearance issues