

This guide is produced by **Newcastle Trails** to describe the trails we use, or expect to use soon (not proposed trails 7, 14, & 18). Trails can change quickly as vegetation encroaches, so sometimes may seem less “walkable” than described. To be notified of hikes and work parties, consider joining: no dues—just your name on an email list (not sold). Guides, maps, and activities are on the website at [www.NewcastleTrails.org](http://www.NewcastleTrails.org).

The map and guide include well-maintained all-weather trails, ad hoc and/or poorly maintained trails, and proposed trail segments. Use them at your own risk. But do use them. Our trails connect with parks, neighborhoods, viewpoints, and historic sites. Most are on public property. Please respect signs and fences.

The **May Creek Greenway** includes a linear series of trails: De Leo Wall Trail on Cougar Mountain, East CrossTown Trail, Terrace Trail, Highlands Trail, and May Creek Trail.

## TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

### 1. **CrossTown Trail** (from Newcastle Way ballfields SE past Hazelwood School to Cougar Mountain)

#### **West CrossTown Trail (1.8 miles** from Coal Creek Parkway, NW thru Lake Boren Park, to ballfields)

- For now, from Newcastle Way & 119<sup>th</sup> Place SE, follow the sidewalk south to the 119<sup>th</sup> Court SE cul-de-sac that ends at a Coal Creek Utility District water tank. (A trail branches west down a stubby street and stairs to **Hazelwood Elementary School**.)

In a few months, the Renton School District is scheduled to rough in the trail from the crosswalk across Newcastle Way just east of the ballfields by Risdon Middle School to the base of steps west of the 119<sup>th</sup> Court SE cul-de-sac, and the City of Newcastle is planning to do the finish work.

- Turn left at the end of the 119<sup>th</sup> Court SE cul-de-sac to follow a trail that skirts the fence NE of the water tank. Ascend a combined trail and driveway to SE 73<sup>rd</sup> Place, and follow the sidewalk to the right most of the way around the cul-de-sac. Turn right up a driveway marked by a trail sign (officially OK for walkers, not parked cars) to Hazelwood Park.
- Ascend a woodsy trail past the junction with the **Hazelwood Trail** (which branches right, heading west to Hazelwood School and 116th Ave. SE).
- After ascending a broad curve to the summit (“Cowboy Hill”), descend steps and turn left. (To the right is a branch that goes to **Lake Washington Ridge** subdivision.) Descend steps toward **Hazelwood Park**’s main entrance at 121st Place SE, and continue through wetlands and over a boardwalk to SE 74<sup>th</sup> Street & 122<sup>nd</sup> Place SE one block west of Donegal Park.
- Turn right at the sidewalk and follow it south along 122nd Place SE. Cross at the stop sign just north of SE 75th Place. Continue south along the other side of the same street. Turn left at the trail sign and ascend large steps between houses.

An alternative route being recommended by Newcastle Trails is to turn left from Hazelwood Park and cross 123<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SE. Continue up SE 74<sup>th</sup> Street. Where a paved pathway goes left into **Donegal Park**, turn right and cross SE 74th Street to reach a grassy trail going south along a power line utility corridor. This stretch of trail has been called the **Horse Trail**. Skirt a retention pond west of Hazelwood Ridge subdivision (where the “School Woods” used to be, and veer left to SE 76<sup>th</sup> Court.

- Turn right along the SE 76<sup>th</sup> Court cul-de-sac sidewalk, and follow it to 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Continue across, and turn right to cross SE 77<sup>th</sup> Court. Turn left (east) on the south sidewalk along SE 77<sup>th</sup> Court, and turn right at the trail. This rejoins the old CrossTown Trail route that descends steeply to a power line corridor, where the **Olympus Trail** ascends to the right (south). Keep left and follow the trail along the north side of the **Newcastle Historic Cemetery** to 129<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.
- Just past the cemetery’s main entrance, keep left along the road as the **Waterline Trail** goes south along the utility corridor. Continue into **Lake Boren Park**, and turn left along the asphalt pathway toward Lake Boren. Pass the dock and, keeping left, follow the pathway to the restrooms. Turn left along the **Milepost Trail** to the **Esplanade** at Coal Creek Parkway & 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Follow the Esplanade north to the intersection of Coal Creek Parkway & SE 79<sup>th</sup> Street.

Future plans are for the CrossTown Trail to go east to Coal Creek Parkway by crossing Boren Creek immediately south of Lake Boren on an elevated boardwalk, and then ascending to SE 79th Street. The **Lake Boren Trail** is to continue north near Lake Boren’s shore.

**East CrossTown Trail** (from Coal Creek Parkway & SE 79th, **SE to Cougar Mountain Park**) [under construction, but walkable]

- Cross **Coal Creek Parkway** to the north side of **SE 79<sup>th</sup> Street** and ascend an S-curve generally east to 134<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Turn right to cross SE 79<sup>th</sup> toward **Beit Tikvah Church**. Here 134<sup>th</sup> becomes 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Turn left to cross 136<sup>th</sup>, and turn right along the sidewalk. Across from Beit Tikvah's main entrance is a yellow fire hydrant. Turn left to veer around the fire hydrant and take the trail into the woods. The trail has been roughed in by Washington Conservation Corps and is walkable to the **Terrace Trail** and on into **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park**. Watch out for rocks and roots sticking up through the trail bed, and be careful not to step directly on the edge of the trail, as it might subside.

An access half-way up can be reached by car; follow SE 79th Street east, turn right onto SE 79th Drive, right up a steep turn onto 141st Ave. SE, and right again onto SE 81st Place (Newcastle Vista subdivision). From the left side of the cul-de-sac, an access trail descends to the west edge of this subdivision. From the foot of the access steps, the Newcastle Vista Trail goes left toward Cougar Mountain Park, or right toward Beit Tikvah, reaching the CrossTown Trail in either direction to form a loop.

As of the middle of 2018, over ¼ mile of the CrossTown Trail has been completed, and further work parties are needed. Help is welcome! Contact Peggy Price at [Peggy@NewcastleTrails.org](mailto:Peggy@NewcastleTrails.org). Community service hours are available.

- The **trail route** ascends generally SE. An access trail goes up to Newcastle Vista subdivision. From the Newcastle Vista Trail, an access goes up steps to SE 81<sup>st</sup> Place. Further along the CrossTown Trail, the other end of the Newcastle Vista Trail goes up to the left. Ascend a few switchbacks.

On the way, a **bicycle descent trail** goes down to the left from the 4th switchback above the Newcastle Vista Trail. It follows a fence line down to the Newcastle Vista Trail. Descending bicyclists have the right of way only on this trail. Pedestrians have the right of way on the CrossTown Trail.

- After ascending the Newcastle Vista switchbacks and the “slalom section” (a series of short switchbacks), the trail continues on to **Eagle Scout Aerie**, where there are peak-a-boo views of Mount Rainier, Renton (850 feet below), Lake Washington, Seattle, and the Olympic Mountains. Between Eagle Scout Aerie and the **Terrace Trail**, the CrossTown Trail has been upgraded mostly by the Washington Conservation Corps\*. The combined trails go southeast to a flight of steps. (Here the **Terrace Trail** ascends the steps to **SE 85th Street** in **The Terrace** subdivision.)

\*Washington Conservation Corps is under the auspices of the Washington State Department of Ecology. It consists of a few supervisors and work crews of college students who dedicate a year or so to trail building in exchange for getting tuition and books paid by the State of Washington.

- The steep section of the CrossTown Trail ascends southeast from the Terrace Trail to the **De Leo Wall Trail** in **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park**. It has been partially upgraded and made safer by the Washington Conservation Corp.

**2. Waterline Trail (1.5 miles from Newcastle Way south past Lake Boren Park to May Creek Park)**

**North Extension in Bellevue:** From Newcastle Way the trail goes north through **Newport Hills** in Bellevue. At SE 60th there's a small park on the right. Cross the street and walk east (right) a short way. Under the power lines; angle left, descend steps into the woods, and follow a footpath through beautiful woods to the **Coal Creek Trail**. The Coal Creek Trail and Primrose Loop Trail have been rebuilt. Some segments west of the **YMCA Trail** are very steep!

- From the south side of Newcastle Way west of the new apartment complex, go south on the water line corridor to SE 73rd Place. Cut left to 129th Ave. SE, and turn right along the sidewalk. Follow it south to the **CrossTown Trail** and **Newcastle Historic Cemetery**. Continue south on the utility corridor above **Lake Boren Park**.
- Cross SE 84th Way, and continue south down a gated, broad, grassy utility corridor. (The **Olympus Trail** on your right heads steeply up to **Eden's Grove** and **Olympus** subdivisions, forming a loop that goes north around the cemetery.) Continue south across **SE May Creek Park Drive** into **May Creek Park**. Veer right to the **May Creek Trail**.

### 3. May Creek Trail (2.3 miles from Coal Creek Parkway generally west past the Waterline Trail to Windtree)

**Windtree Steps Access (0.1 mile southwest from SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Street to the proposed Gypsy Creek Trail, 0.3 mile to where the May Creek Trail turns off the rail trail to descend to the creek)**

- There is some on-street parking where **SE 93rd Street** becomes **117<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE** in the **Windtree** subdivision. Look carefully for a corridor between lots where an asphalt pathway goes by a dog-supply station and trail sign. The park bench at the top is a gift of the local Chamber of Commerce and HomeStreet Bank. Take this corridor down the **Windtree Steps**.

**Future:** Because the **May Creek Trail** now turns off the railroad grade to descend to a proposed **pedestrian bridge site** to cross May Creek to Renton's proposed May Creek Trail, Newcastle Trails is proposing that the trail north of the junction be renamed the **Gypsy Creek Trail**.

(The bridge requires funding, and must span the entire flood plain with no piers—200 foot suspension bridge?)

The Gypsy Creek Trail is planned to extend north past the foot of the Windtree Steps, over **Gypsy Creek**, and northwest to Renton's **Kenyon-Dobson Park**. This bequeathed park with a Panabode log house is located above the hairpin turn near the west end of SE May Creek Park Drive.

Near (and from) a split-rail-fenced overlook area, you can look below at footing mounds of a huge wooden **trestle** that soared west over May Creek to Kenydale. It was the largest trestle west of the Mississippi for 6 years. A **kiosk** has a map, information, and a photo of the old trestle (both the older narrow-gauge trestle and the under-construction "new" wide-gauge trestle).

- Nearing "Milepost 16" (from the Seattle waterfront), a large tree fell across the trail, and now frames it. On the other side of a "rooty" section of the trail is its junction with the May Creek Trail where it descends to the proposed bridge site.

#### **Bridge Section (0.2 mile from the rail trail west to May Creek and Renton's proposed trail system)**

- Going down to the right (toward the creek), this forest trail has nice views of May Creek as it gently descends by **Picnic Bluff** (with a picnic table) and on to the site of a proposed pedestrian bridge underneath where the old trestle ran high overhead.

An ad hoc access trail, well used by Renton residents crossing the creek, reaches a riffled section of May Creek. (A 2017 survey by the City of Renton found that Renton residents use the May Creek Trail more than any other except the Cedar River Trail.) During the summer especially, kids and dogs enjoy investigating the gravel and sand banks of the creek. During the winter, it's more like a rushing river that often reaches the vegetation line at the tops of the banks. It's enjoyable to see the changes from day to day. If you're lucky, you can see a peamouth minnow redd (watery nest of yellow eggs about 6 inches thick) during the 3 days or so the foot-long minnows are spawning en masse. After 3 days, the eggs hatch and the fry swim down to Lake Washington to mature. Salmon aren't as plentiful as they were, but they still migrate up May Creek in the fall. River otters sometimes come to feed, especially on the peamouth minnows.

**Future Plans:** From this crossing spot, Renton's planned May Creek Trail is down along May Creek to Lake Washington and their new trailhead park on Lake Washington Blvd. Connecting trails have been proposed up Honey Creek to the Highlands, and up along the continued old railroad grade toward Kenydale School.)

**Rail Trail Section (1.1 miles from the Gypsy Creek Trail east to the Waterline Trail)**

- Eastbound, the trail generally follows the broad, flat roadbed of the old **Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad** through cuts and over fills, mostly in woods, parallel to (and well above) May Creek. Periodically, it detours by large trees and old landslides. At a small footbridge, the trail bypasses the very wet railroad bed, meanders under old fruit trees, and rises up to the rim of the railroad cut.
- At **Bartrum Station**, where Mr. Bartrom had a farm and railroad siding to transfer farm goods, and where **124th Ave. SE** enters from the north, the trail follows a sometimes muddy park road used by adjacent neighbors. Enter the driveway between boulders and go right.
- Between here and the Waterline Trail, the May Creek Trail gets wider, more open, and generally more level. It parallels SE May Creek Park Drive.

To reach the trail from the upper (west) edge of **Lake Boren Park**, follow the **Waterline Trail** south. Cross SE 84th Way and SE May Creek Park Drive, and veer right to the May Creek Trail.

**Meandering (East) Section (0.8 mile from Coal Creek Pkwy. & SE 91st, northwest to the Waterline Trail)**

- Just before the railroad grade veers left toward the **Waterline Trail** and **SE May Creek Park Drive**, take a sharp right turn to continue the May Creek Trail. It changes character abruptly, leaving the railroad grade and meandering down past an old mail truck and down a somewhat steep old road to a winter overlook with a bench. When the leaves are off the trees, you can see about 400 feet directly up May Creek.
- Head down past a hairpin turn (the “Swamp Switchback”), and on to a much closer view of May Creek.
- A set of stepping stones on a causeway crosses the water line corridor through canary grass. A fairly straight section of trail crosses a wet hillside, partly on a footbridge, and continues on to a sharp descent to the May Creek **flood plain** and a creek-side section of trail.
- At the end of this section, **Boren Creek** runs into May Creek, and the trail veers left through a little valley. It crosses the **Boren Creek Bridge**—a wide, sturdy footbridge with views of Boren Creek below.
- Next, the trail rises up via a switchback to an asphalt pathway, which skirts the north side of a retention pond to **Coal Creek Parkway**. The May Creek Trail officially ends after going left along the sidewalk to the traffic light at SE 91st Street.

**Lake Boren Park** and the **Esplanade** can be reached by going north along the west sidewalk for 0.7 mile. Across the parkway, the **Milepost Trail** heads north along the sidewalk, east up steps, north to **Newcastle Elementary School**, descends northwest along 135th Avenue SE, crosses Coal Creek Parkway, and enters Lake Boren Park.)

**May Creek Greenway “Mountains-to-Sound” Route:** From the **Lake to Sound Trail** being built from the salt waterfront in Des Moines to Renton, or from the **Interurban Trail** from Alki Point, a nonmotorized trail route is nearly complete via the **Lake Washington Trail** (along the Eastside Rail Corridor) to Renton’s **May Creek Park** on Lake Washington Boulevard, up the **May Creek Trail**, arching east along the **Highlands Trail**, and up the **Terrace Trail**, which ascends to the **CrossTown Trail** and **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park**. Routes continue through the **Issaquah Alps** to the **Iron Horse Trail** to **Snoqualmie Pass**. It continues on the **John Wayne Trail** through **Eastern Washington** and on as far as **Montana**. Further segments have been completed across the country.

A “**Grand Loop**” of about 14 miles is contemplated along the **May Creek Trail**, **Lake Washington Trail**, **Coal Creek Trail**, **Marshall’s Hill Trail**, the **De Leo Wall Trail**, a portion of the **East CrossTown Trail**, the **Terrace Trail**, the **Highlands Trail**, and back to the **May Creek Trail**.

**4. Lake Boren Esplanade (0.7 mile from Newcastle Way south on Parkway to Lake Boren Park)**

- From **Newcastle Way**, go south on the west side of **Coal Creek Parkway** past McDonald's. The Esplanade is a wide, paved, urban trail along Coal Creek Parkway with views west to Lake Boren. It ends just south of **135th Ave. SE**.

**Trail Connections**

Next to the Aegis retirement facility, and just north of the intersection with Newcastle Golf Club Road, the Esplanade goes over China Creek, along which the **China Creek Trail** (partially boardwalk) is expected to be completed from 129<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE soon.

At SE 79<sup>th</sup> Street, the **CrossTown Trail** leaves the Esplanade to cross Coal Creek Parkway and ascend southeast to **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park**. The City of Newcastle is currently working toward completing an elevated boardwalk that will take the CrossTown Trail west through **Lake Boren Park** and on to **Risdon Middle School** and **Newcastle Way**.

From the south end of the Esplanade, you have five options: (1) Head west into **Lake Boren Park**. (2) Go east on the **Milepost Trail** (sidewalks along 135th Ave. SE) to **Newcastle Elementary School**. (3) Go south and turn west on SE May Creek Park Drive 3 blocks to the **Waterline** and **May Creek Trails**. (4) Go south and cross at SE 91st St., and ascend several yards to the **Highlands Trail**. (5) Just south of SE 91<sup>st</sup> St., head west on the **May Creek Trail** that starts on an asphalt pathway north of a retention pond that is popular with birds.

#### 5. Horse Trail (0.7 mile from Donegal Park south to the 84th Street Trail)

- From SE 74th Street by Donegal Park, head south on a gated power line corridor on a public easement maintained as a lawn.

(The **CrossTown Trail** emerges from the subdivision on the left and descends steps to the right.)

- Detour around two fenced backyards, cross SE 80th Way, and follow a utility road south.

(To the right, the **84th Street Trail** heads west to 116th Ave. SE.)

- A narrow, brushy trail descends at an obtuse angle down to the right to the hairpin turn on **SE May Creek Park Drive**. You can follow 124th Ave. SE south into **May Creek Park** at **Bartrum Station**, but the shoulders are narrow. Cross carefully on top of the slight rise for visibility.

#### 6. 84th Street Trail (0.5 mile from 116th Ave. SE east to Horse Trail)

- Follow SE 84th Street east from 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, first on a sidewalk, then rising steeply on a trail. At the top of the rise, an access on the left comes from the end of 121<sup>st</sup> Ave. SE. It then descends steeply to the **Sylvan Trail** that, going right, skirts a retention pond above Newport Hills Creek. The 84<sup>th</sup> Street Trail ascends steeply again to the **Horse Trail**.

#### 7. Sylvan Trail: The only segments that exist currently are as follows:

- From the end of SE 84<sup>th</sup> Place, go left to follow Newport Hills Creek on a utility corridor. Veer around a retention pond to a junction with the **84<sup>th</sup> Street Trail**.

Go **left** along the 84<sup>th</sup> Street Trail to reach SE 84<sup>th</sup> Place and follow it left to the point of beginning.

Go **right** along the 84<sup>th</sup> Street Trail to go up a steep hill to the Horse Trail.

**Future Plans:** Newcastle Trails is recommending that the CrossTown Trail be rerouted from Hazelwood Park to Donegal Park, and go south along the Horse Trail to where it would meet the current route. The steps between the houses going down to 122<sup>nd</sup> Place SE would then be considered part of the Sylvan Trail.

The trail would then cross **122<sup>nd</sup> Place SE** and turn left along the sidewalk. One lot south of SE 77<sup>th</sup> Place, the trail would go west on a grassy utility corridor, and then descend into the valley of **Newport Hills Creek**. An old road along the west side of Newport Hills Creek used to be used as the trail, and it is still useable (requiring stepping over a few trees felled over it many years ago). However, where the old road goes south after crossing the creek, the parcel of land belongs to a homeowners' association. If a public access easement can be acquired by the City of Newcastle, it could become a formal city trail.

A route going south and rising high on the hill in a beautiful Douglas fir forest, east of Newport Hills Creek, is envisioned as taking the Sylvan Trail to the "122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE public corridor, along which it could continue south to the 84<sup>th</sup> Street Trail and the portion of the Sylvan Trail that currently exists.

From there, it could continue down the 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE corridor until turning left along a half-width road right of way called SE 88<sup>th</sup> Street to SE May Creek Park Drive. It would then follow 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE into May Creek Park to intersect the May Creek Trail.

**8. Olympus Trail (0.8 mile** from CrossTown Trail **south** thru Olympus to Waterline Trail)

- The north end of this trail branches south from the **CrossTown Trail** just west of the cemetery. It is walkable (blackberries permitting) from here uphill to SE 80<sup>th</sup> Place. It continues south through **Olympus** in a public trail corridor atop a gas line, unmaintained, sometimes on grass.
- Cross SE 86<sup>th</sup> past a trail sign and swing left past a second sign. A trail flanked by blackberries continues east along the north side of **Eden's Grove** (*short trail to right*), descending steeply to the **Waterline Trail**.

**9. Highlands Trail (2.3 miles**, a loop around The Highlands at Newcastle)**South Highlands Trail (1.6 mile** from SE 91<sup>st</sup> St. **counterclockwise** to SE 87<sup>th</sup> Place)

- From the crosswalk 350 feet up SE 91<sup>st</sup> Street from Coal Creek Parkway, go south.

Across Coal Creek Parkway is the eastern end of the **May Creek Trail**, and it's 0.7 mile from the **Esplanade** and 1.3 mile from **Downtown** at Newcastle Way & Coal Creek Parkway. An alternate route is the **Highlands-May Creek Trail Connector** that ascends from Coal Creek Parkway a few yards south of SE 91<sup>st</sup> Street, veers north of (and well above) a retention pond, and reaches the Highlands Trail 310 feet south of SE 91<sup>st</sup> Street.

- Follow the trail as it veers east.
- At 0.4 mile, the trail veers left around a retention pond where red-winged blackbirds like to nest in the spring. (Ahead, an ad hoc shortcut trail descends very steeply into a drainage dip. This trail is not maintained.) In 320 feet, the trail veers right around a steep, wooded cirque about 30 feet short of SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Street. In 140 more feet, it reaches the south junction with the **Heritage Trail**, which cuts across the Highlands Trail loop.

**Highlands-Heritage Loops:** The west loop is 1.5 miles long. The east loop is 1.7 miles long.

- From the Heritage Trail, turn right to descend south, passing the east end of the steep shortcut. The trail curves left, and 830 feet from the south junction with the Heritage Trail, through forested trail, is an access junction.

The access descends right toward the south, and curving west, (right) along a utility corridor and access road 360 feet to May Valley Road.

In 600 more feet, an access trail goes left to SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Street.

- In 400 more feet (0.8 mile from the south junction with the Heritage Trail), the trail turns north (left) onto the **Historic Thomas Rouse Road**.

An access trail descends gently 280 feet right to May Valley Road. (A sign warns of "guard slugs." ☺)

In 410 feet, an access goes left (west) 50 feet to the end of SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Street.

- Continuing north 320 feet, the trail turns left (west) across a "native growth protection easement."

The official right of way for 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE—the Historic Thomas Rouse Road—continues straight, accessing a web of trails on private property.

In 134 feet, an access goes 290 south along a utility corridor to SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Street. (Yes, there are three accesses to the same road!)

- In 450 feet, the trail veers right onto a portion of the trail upgraded by Washington Conservation Corp to raise it out of a swampy drainage area.

To the left, an access trail goes 280 feet up to 143<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE.

In 660 feet, another access corridor goes angles up to the left 460 feet to SE 90<sup>th</sup> St.

In 1,056 feet is a junction with an access that goes steeply up 230 feet to 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Going right from the same junction is an ad hoc trail across City property that goes to the Historic Thomas Rouse Road and a series of trails on private property.

- In 514 feet (1.0 mile from the south junction with the Heritage Trail) is a crossing of SE 87<sup>th</sup> place.

**North Highlands Trail (0.7 miles** from Terrace Trail generally southwest to Coal Creek Pkwy. & SE 91<sup>st</sup> Street)

- A gate on SE 87<sup>th</sup> Street prevents access to the Highlands from 144<sup>th</sup> by non-emergency vehicles, except when SE 91<sup>st</sup> Street is blocked for some reason.

From the north side of SE 87<sup>th</sup> Place, to reach the **Terrace Trail**, go right 100 feet. The CrossTown Trail is 0.5 mile up the Terrace Trail, and Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park is 0.8 mile up.

- Continue northwest.

In 760 feet, at the northernmost point of the Highlands Trail, a small 84-foot access trail goes right via private driveway (with permission of the owner) to **144<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE**.

- Soon the trail veers left, and then sharper left, and heads south.
- In 380 feet is a junction with access trails from both directions.

Turn left to go 620 feet up a broad, cleared access corridor to **SE 87<sup>th</sup> Place** in the Highlands (sometimes wet), *or* right 410 feet down a cedar-rooted trail and causeway to **140<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE**.

- The main trail heads south 720 feet to the north junction with the **Heritage Trail**.

The Heritage Trail goes left (south) 0.3 mile to its south junction with the Highlands Trail. Another portion of the Heritage Trail shares the CrossTown Trail route for the next 350 feet.

- Follow the Highlands Trail southwest 350 feet to a junction with the spine of an access trail cluster to 139<sup>th</sup> and 140<sup>th</sup> Avenues SE.

#### **Access Cluster to 139<sup>th</sup> and 140<sup>th</sup> Avenues SE:**

The “spine” of the Access Cluster is a segment of the **Heritage Trail** that forms a “lollypop stick” with the Highlands Trail loop, and bisects the loop after sharing the last part of the Highlands Trail.

- Turn right up steps 70 feet to a broad, cleared access from a retention pond to **139<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE**.
- At this location is a junction with a trail to the left running 240 feet south immediately east of a retention pond fence, reaching the **Highlands Trail** 140 feet east of 139<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.
- 170 feet farther west is a junction with an access trail going north 110 feet up steps to a cul-de-sac at the south end of **140<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE**. *(To walk a 0.5-mile loop, go north 0.2 mile along the sidewalk of 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, and turn right to reach the Highlands Trail. Turn right on the Highlands Trail to return to this location via the Access Cluster.)*
- 139 feet farther west is a somewhat steep ad hoc trail that ascends 128 feet to the **140<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE** cul-de-sac, reaching it 22 feet west of the access that has steps.
- 106 feet farther west along the retention pond access corridor is **139<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE**. (**Heritage-Morgan Park**, a playground for preschoolers, is 390 feet to the right along the sidewalk.) \*

- The Highlands Trail continues south, and then turns right somewhat steeply up to a junction with the trail from the Access Cluster that parallels the east fence of the retention pond on the right. From the Heritage Trail’s north junction, it is 0.2 mile to the Highland Trail’s intersection with **139<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE**.
- The trail goes down from 139<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE toward the west, and then turns left around the residential lot. The backyards of residences below are clearly visible from here.
- 1,000 feet from 139<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, after a winding descent through woods, is a crossing of **138<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE**. The official trail crosses to the SW corner and turns right to cross **SE 91<sup>st</sup> Place** to the NW corner. It then descends 240 feet along this residential street to a west crossing of the cul-de-sac. The trail then descends steeply south 100 feet to **SE 91<sup>st</sup> Street**, and the point of beginning of the loop.

#### **10. Heritage Trail (0.5 mile from Heritage-Morgan Park to the south junction with the Highlands Trail)**

\*For the “lollypop” segment of the Heritage Trail, reverse the description of the route to **Heritage-Morgan Park** above.

- From Heritage-Morgan Park at the intersection of 138<sup>th</sup> Court SE & 139<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, go 390 feet south along the east sidewalk of 139<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE to the grassy utility corridor. Turn left and head east another 480 feet and down steps to the west junction with the Highlands Trail. Turn left on the **Highlands Trail**, and follow this shared segment for 350 feet to the north junction, and turn right (south) on the diverging **Heritage Trail**.
- This is the north end of the portion of the Heritage Trail that bisects the Highlands Trail, and forms a portion of two loops with the Highlands Trail (one east, and one west). Go south through woods 680 feet to **SE 90<sup>th</sup> Street**.
- Cross the street, and follow a wide, cleared utility corridor 690 feet to **SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Street**.
- Cross the street, and go 30 feet farther to the south junction with the **Highlands Trail** loop.

To reach **Highlands Park**, detour west on either SE 90<sup>th</sup> Street or SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Street.

**Highlands-Heritage Loops:** The west loop is 1.5 miles long. The east loop is 1.7 miles long.

#### 11. Clubhouse Trail (0.5 mile from golf course clubhouse south down to Meadowview Park)

- This public trail has been granted by the Golf Club at Newcastle. Dress appropriately for a golf course. While generally open from 10:00 a.m. to dusk, it may be closed during tournaments. Pass left of the clubhouse. Follow the golf cart path as it curves down and right below the clubhouse, and continue past the snack shack. Then take a gravel road angling down to the right.

**Ignore** signs intended to turn you back; the cart path is open to the public as far as the gravel road. In exchange for public use of this trail, the golf club has been granted a substantial tax break.

- Stairs lead down to a gate and **Meadowview Park** at SE 78<sup>th</sup> Way.

#### 12. Meadowview Trail (0.9 mile from the golf course south thru Meadowview to Cougar Mountain Park)

- This trail is walkable from the golf course, much of it on sidewalks, and has nice views. The southern end of the trail goes from **Ballybunion Park** into **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park** to a junction with the **Marshall's Hill Trail**.

#### 13. Golf Course Trail (1.8 miles from 136th Ave. SE east along Newcastle Golf Club Road to 155th)

- Head east along the south side of **Newcastle Golf Club Road** from **SE 71st Street** on a wide gravel trail.

In 220 feet is junction with the **Thomas Rouse Trail**, which crosses Newcastle Golf Club Road at a crosswalk to the west side of Newcastle Commons Drive.

The **YMCA** can be accessed by crossing Newcastle Commons Drive and walking east along the north side of Newcastle Golf Club Road.

- At **155<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE**, head a little way up the sidewalk. A post marks a trail that angles left 0.2 mile to the **Red Town Trailhead** in **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park**.

#### 15. Milepost Trail (0.8 mile from Lake Boren Park south thru Milepost to The Highlands at Newcastle)

- From the restrooms in Lake Boren Park, go east along an asphalt pathway past the vehicle turnaround area. Follow it over Boren Creek to the south end of the **Esplanade** at **Coal Creek Parkway**.
- Cross the parkway, and take sidewalks up **135th Ave. SE** through **Milepost** subdivision toward **Newcastle Elementary School**.
- Turn right on **SE 88th Way** (not crossing it), and follow a path to an old asphalt road.
- A pleasant, shady, two-minute walk brings you to stairs back down to the parkway; and a sidewalk goes south to **SE 91st Street**.

Turn left to the **Highlands Trail**, which goes either way along the loop to the **Terrace Trail-CrossTown Trail-Cougar Mountain Park**, or cross the parkway and go south along the sidewalk, then west on the **May Creek Trail**.



**16. Terrace Trail (0.7 mile from Highlands Trail (& 144th Place SE) NE to Terrace subdivision)**

- From opposite the gated back entrance to **The Highlands at Newcastle** and the **Highlands Trail** (144th Place SE & SE 87th Street), the trail ascends on steps beneath a small cliff.
- At the first switchback, Erratic Turn, rock steps ascend between large boulders. The next switchbacks are in **Boulder Grove**, a lovely spot (with bench) where the trail threads between massive fern-covered boulders dropped off during the last ice age.
- Follow the trail upward through ferns and forest to its intersection with the **East CrossTown Trail**.

Turn left to descend gradually to Coal Creek Parkway at SE 79<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Continue southeast on the combined trails, and ascend 52 steps to the **Terrace** subdivision.

Or continue southeast on the **CrossTown Trail** into **Cougar Mountain Park**.

**17. China Creek Trail (walkable section from the CrossTown Trail to the wetlands north of Lake Boren)**

- From the **CrossTown Trail** between the cemetery and the Hazelwood Ridge subdivision, the China Creek Trail starts north along the west edge of a retention pond to the east end of **SE 77<sup>th</sup> Court**. It then turns right to follow the power line corridor to a set of steps and a pathway down through a condominium complex to **129<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE**.
- Descend east just south of Lake Boren Townhomes toward **Lake Boren**, and walk a short distance northeast, where a lake view bench is usually accessible (but occasionally flooded).

To access the trail from **Newcastle Way**, walk south from the library on **129th Ave. SE** and turn left immediately before Lake Boren Townhomes to the end of a short access road. The boardwalk will continue straight ahead. Or veer right along the China Creek Trail to go to the lake view bench.

- Descend east just south of Lake Boren Townhomes toward **Lake Boren**, and walk a short distance northeast, where a lake view bench is usually accessible (but occasionally flooded).
- Follow the boardwalk right to a bench and bird viewing area.

Once some specified items are completed, we hope before the end of 2018, the trail is to be opened along the rest of the boardwalk following China Creek up to Coal Creek Parkway, veering widely around the new Aegis retirement facility. For now, it is blocked by temporary fencing.

- From Coal Creek Parkway 0.2 mile north of SE 76<sup>th</sup> Street, the China Creek Trail adjoins the Esplanade. (Currently it is blocked by a fence.) Go south along the parkway toward SE 76<sup>th</sup> Street, and cross Coal Creek Parkway to its NE corner with Newcastle Golf Club Road, and immediately turn right to cross to the SE corner. Continue south along Coal Creek Parkway for 90 feet, and turn left up a retention pond access road.
- Skirt the retention pond behind the Newcastle Regency retirement center to the current end of the China Creek Trail.

**Future plans:** The China Creek Trail is eventually to be built following China Creek up to the Marshall's Hill Trail in Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. It will make a nice round trip with the East CrossTown Trail.

**19. Hazelwood Trail (0.3 mile from east from 116th Ave. SE past Hazelwood School to Hazelwood Park)**

- From **116th Avenue SE**, ascend a long flight of cement steps up to a south access to **Hazelwood Elementary School**. Continuing on, the trail becomes asphalt, then gravel, then grass.

To the right, an access goes up a paved pathway to **117<sup>th</sup> Place SE**.

- Veer left along a fence, and ascend through a hazelnut grove (good nuts in the fall if you can beat the squirrels to them!).
- Blackberries permitting, continue up to the CrossTown Trail.

From the east end of the Hazelwood Trail, a left turn along the Highlands Trail goes down a driveway (officially the trail) to **SE 73<sup>rd</sup> Place**.

**20. 80<sup>th</sup> Street Trail [not on map] (0.3 mile from SE 80<sup>th</sup> St. west to Renton's NE 44<sup>th</sup> St./Lincoln Ave.)**

- From 116<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, go west down SE 80<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Continue from the end of SE 80<sup>th</sup> Street down an ad hoc trail that winds a little as it muddily descends somewhat steeply along a utility corridor, and crosses a lawn toward **NE 43<sup>rd</sup> Street** immediately across from Kindercare near **I-405 exit 7**.

The cross road is named **NE 44<sup>th</sup> Street** by McDonald's, becomes **110<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE** where it veers south, and then, south of NE 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, becomes **Lincoln Avenue NE**.

**NE 43<sup>rd</sup> Street** goes west, and then turns south to become **Jones Avenue** and then **NE 31<sup>st</sup> Street**. The combined road is usually called "**Jones Road**" locally. This road goes to a beautiful section of the **May Creek Greenway** where Renton plans to build their portion of the **May Creek Trail**. It ends at a nursery property that will be immediately north of the proposed pedestrian bridge. Renton residents use this driveway (a privately built bridge on a public road right of way) to reach Newcastle's May Creek Trail.

#### **YMCA Trail (0.5 mile north from Newcastle Golf Club Road by the YMCA to the Coal Creek Trail)**

- From the **YMCA** on Newcastle Golf Club Road, go to the back of the parking lot. At a trail sign, take the short YMCA Trail north to Bellevue's **Coal Creek Trail**.

#### **Coal Creek Trail (from YMCA Trail east to Cougar Mountain Park and west to I-405)**

- Turn right to go **east one mile** on an old railroad grade. Where it descends to Coal Creek, you'll find historic sites and a waterfall plunging from an old coal mine. The trail ends at **Newcastle Golf Club Road/Lakemont Boulevard** across from the **Red Town Trailhead**. Explore **Cougar Mountain** or return to the YMCA on the **Golf Course Trail**.
- Turn left to go **west 2.5 miles** along this "mountains-to-sound" trail route to I-405 & Coal Creek Parkway.

This route has some very steep sections (47% grade, where at 12% a human goes from a walking gait to a climbing gait).

In **0.7 mile**, it passes the **Thomas Rouse Trail** that ascends steeply along stepped switchbacks to **134<sup>th</sup> Place SE** at **Newcastle Commons**.

The **Primrose Loop** descends to Coal Creek and crosses it on sturdy bridges before looping back up to the Coal Creek Trail.

- A trailhead parking lot has been built just east of where the Coal Creek Trail goes under **Coal Creek Parkway**.

An access trail ascends left about **1/3 mile** to **SE 60<sup>th</sup> Street**. Follow this street west for half a block to go south to Newcastle on the **Waterline Trail**.

- The trail continues northwest through woods with many very steep segments, ascends to **119<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE**, and follows **Coal Creek Parkway underneath I-405** to connect to the **Lake Washington Trail** and **Eastside Rail Corridor** west of I-405.