

I use the trails, especially the Fragrance Lake trail for trail running. I don't really know what there is to improve, I like everything at the park and it suits my needs

I have heard that people are getting huge fines for running and cycling on the trails after dark. Is this true? And if so when did the change happen. I have been enjoying those trails at night for the last 5 years. There have even been times that my car was in the lost lake parking lot and got back well after dark and the park left the gate open (Closed but with the lock unlocked) and there was no issue. Trail runners and cyclists are good eyes and ears for what is happening out there. If this is some new authority figure trying to flex their muscles, then that is not acceptable. I will be attending the meeting at the harbor this week.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in the trail planning for Larrabee S.P. As a senior citizen hiker, I am concerned about potential conflicts with mountain bikers and equestrian users on the trails. I acknowledge that most of the trails in the park are multi-use, and I would like to advocate that the potential for hazards to pedestrian hikers from bikes and horses be considered carefully in park planning. I do now wish to deny bikers and equestrians access to trails and recreational activities, but I feel that there are times when such multi-use can create hazards for hikers. Also, it seems to me that biking and equestrian use have the potential to cause much greater wear and tear on trails than pedestrian use. I do not have any specific trails that I am concerned about at this time, and simply provide this as a general comment about my own view on the issue. The other issue I am concerned about is roadside parking along Chuckanut near the trailhead for the Samish Overlook / Oyster Dome trail. This seems to be a very hazardous situation and I would advocate that some kind of improved parking facility be provided. (This may not be a Larrabee specific issue...). Thank you for your consideration.

Hello, My wife and I have owned our home in Bellingham since 2003 and retired to live there full time in 2014. Over the 15 years we have hiked the Larrabee trails throughout summer and winter. We have noticed a significant increase in use by both hikers and especially mountain bike. These trails attract people of all ages from the growing local community, Seattle and from around the region providing significant tourism dollars. My primary concerns with future planning is that the following are taken into consideration - 1) increased instances for collision between hikers and bikers; this becomes a serious concern with the older hiking community 2) an increase in human excrement on trails 3) while we avoid hiking on trails designated biking only....I have noticed some bikes on hiking trails. Can you install impediments.

I live in Bellingham and use the trails of Larrabee State Park often, sometimes down at the beach, sometimes up the hill, we have even camped at the campground (close, easy and can bail home quickly if it starts to rain). I ran the Chuckaut 50K years ago and volunteer most years (skipping this weekends event though). I ride in the Chuckanut Enduro and volunteer most years as well (riding this year in September!). I ride my mountain bike as well, many times at night after dark. Riding up Fragrance Lake Road after dark in the fog is awesome! Have done night rides for almost 15 years. I also hike with my family and dogs. Moving forward... 1. I would like to see more connectivity (to Blanchard especially). 2. I think a climbing trail is needed, so I don't need to ride up Cleator or Fragrance Lake Rd. 3. I want to

ride and run after dark as well, not all of us can get out during the day to recreate on our public lands. 4. I also like to see the events on these trails continue, runs and rides.

I ride the mountain bike trails in the park and want to continue to do so on an ever increasing trail system. Occasionally ride after dark, especially in the winter months. It would be great if this trail system had a connector to the Blanchard trails. In addition, a dedicated climbing trail would provide safety from downhill riders. I'd also love to see the Enduro event stay in the park for years to come. It's awesome!

Hello, I was unable to make the planning meeting last night, but wanted to comment. I am a hiker and cyclist and have been hiking in the Chuckanuts for about 20 years. I dearly love all the trails and their proximity to town. In general, my interactions with mountain bikers have been positive. However, I do think - for safety's sake - separating some trails makes good sense. Some mountain bikers are intent on speed and not thinking about the foot traffic downstream and I have been in and witnessed a few close calls. I think clearly marking trails as 'bike only', 'hike only' and 'mixed use' makes great sense. I'd rather make the choice than be ambling along and leap out of the way for an unexpected bike. Bikes degrade trails substantially faster than foot traffic and often leave great muddy gouges. One direction trails would also make good sense on some of the routes that are narrow and steep - possibly this is more important for bikes, although I have dodged bikes on more than one occasion. . . Thank you for your efforts and for soliciting public opinion!

Hello, I have been a long time user (the past 20 years) of the Larrabee state park and Chuckanut mtn trail systems. I trail run, hike and mtn bike. My wife and I have participated in several running and Mtn bike races in the Chuckanuts and hope to keep doing that into the future. I would love to see the system expanded especially considering the recent increase in usage. a few ideas: Connections between Blanchard and Larrabee. A dedicated mtn bike Climbing trail. more single and multi use trails. Thanks for considering public comment.

We are regular users of the Fragrance Lake and 2 Dollar trails and of the Blanchard trail system. We recommend putting resources into connecting the two systems. The value of this option is at least in part that for a single trail we get double benefits since it dramatically expands trail options in both the Blanchard System and Larabee Park system of trails. We would be happy to be involved in making this happen if volunteers are needed in planning, design or building.

Almost all dog owners ignore the leash rule. They know there's no enforcement. You should have signs all along the trails, not just at the bottom. You should write tickets occasionally. I went to the Butte MT library and it says gift of Francis X. Larrabee. He made his first fortune there before Bellingham. Why do some state government addresses end .us and some .gov?

I live so close to Larrabee that I walk or hike there nearly every day. My favorite loop starts at home, then along the Interurban to Fragrance Lake trail, Two Dollar trail to Cleator, then back to the Interurban and on to home. This is a heavily travelled section of trail, and the Fragrance Lake trail in particular benefitted greatly from attention by WTA and other volunteers in recent years. If only we could keep some people from cutting the switchbacks! The Two Dollar trail is showing some "abuse" by cyclists, noticeable at many of the switchbacks. I have only rarely encountered cyclists on that trail, but clearly they are using it

and causing damage. Signage has improved markedly in the last few years, and I love it! One location that should be added is where the Two Dollar trail starts/ends around Fragrance Lake.

Thank you for requesting input! Our family all rides mountain bikes and runners, 2 adults and 2 teenagers. We love living here. Please continue to increase the number of trails and our ability to ride in the day and night. We would appreciate consideration of connecting to Blanchard trails. Also it is important to us that trails stay true (we like roots!) and really appreciate down trails that are only for bikers (separate trails for hikers).

Randy, I reviewed the presentation. I thought I would take a little time to make some official comments. As we talked about on the phone I am primarily concerned about the ongoing impacts from heavy mountain bike use. Like any user group the mountain biking community will not want to give up any trails they have previously had rights to. This is understandable. That said, I do not think the ridge trail is appropriate for mountain bikers. There are very few competent enough riders to actually ride this particular trail. So it seems to me what happens is less skilled riders Begin to create alternative ways through a very technical landscape. Already mountain bikers poach trails such as fragrance lake. It is not uncommon for me to see mountain bike tracks. They access these trails after dark When the trails are likely to be empty. There is another trail called secret squirrel that most likely has shown up on heat maps as well as Fiona Ridge. Both trails are in my opinion good trails but they certainly need some changes. I think they were user created and therefore there are sections that are extremely steep and heavily eroded. Another section of trail that I believe needs to be realigned Is the ridge trail as it drops from the north end down to lost Lake Trail. Again the section of trail is extremely steep and heavily eroded.

We discussed black diamond and double down. I don't think either of these trails should have ever been utilized as a downhill mountain bike trail. I was on black diamond Last weekend and it was so noticeable the sections that were open to mountain bikes. Just in the four years I have lived here it is amazing how much a erosion has occurred on these trails. If it is decided to leave black diamond and double down as a mountain bike on the trail I think an entirely new trail should be constructed so that it does not cross these trails as it currently does. It is confusing to know as a hiker or runner what is open to bikes only. Something else to consider at the end of lost Lake before it begins to climb there is a spur trail that actually leads to the lake. There is a wetland that the trail crosses . This area is greatly in need of some sort of elevated walkway to keep people and dogs out of the wetland. The trail actually continues all the way to the far end of the lake and comes to a junction. One trail head on to Bloedel Timber Lands And the other ascends and meets a logging road at the south end of the park. There tends to be a lot of motorcycle use on this trail and it is heavily degraded. I'm wondering if State Parks has attempted to work with the private logging companies and others to try to stop some of the illegal motorcycle riding? There has been severe damage on trails south of Pine Lake. At times there has been an encroachment by motorcycles in that particular area. I do think it would be lovely to make the trail around lost Lake official. It is largely in very good shape and at an appropriate grade. I think trail users would enjoy if the trail reconnected to the lost lake trail above so that you could make a loop. Those are my thoughts for now.

Good afternoon, Randy

Sorry to have missed the planning meeting last week. I would like to chime in as I first started pedaling in the park in 1997 and I look forward to getting an after-work fix starting every spring as weather and daylight permits.

I am keenly interested in sustaining Larrabee as a top destination for riders from around the region. It seems like usage has really ramped up in the last 3-4 years. So often I encounter a full lot at the Lost Lake trailhead, and vehicles lined up along Chuckanut drive. While many may call for more parking, my opinion is to increase enforcement of Discovery Pass usage. I think that the park should be getting every nickel that it deserves from its users.

At the same time I would also like to see a wider variety of trails for users. Double Black and Double Down are gems, but they are very heavily used which can lead to user conflict. While I primarily ride my mountain bike at the park, I also hike there with my wife and my dog. It seems that user traffic is very heavily concentrated around Fragrance Lake Road. If there were more trails that took riders down towards Blanchard or off to Lake Samish I think that would alleviate the risk of user conflict, especially for the equestrian crowd.

To protect against another aspect of an emerging trend, I think that signage reinforcing the no-e-bikes rule (for singletrack) would be a wise investment. Whatcom County gets visitors from all over the region and from Canada, and those users may not be aware of our no-eMTB policy. Let's prevent as much of that unsanctioned use as possible.

On a parting note, I am really happy to see the Intrinsic Flow shuttle service in the park. I often see Mike Storm out on the trails with a shovel in his hand, keeping things tidy and maintained. Kudos to the park for permitting him to operate his local business here.

I advocate for many miles of "hiker only" trails. I enjoy the calm and not having to worry about getting run over. Thank you.

The Chuckanuts have two great trail systems on Chuckanut and Blanchard separated by the Oyster Creek drainage. The only viable connection is the East Lost Lake Trail. Unfortunately this trail is primitive at best and not bikeable. People wanting to ride both hills must resort to auto use, parking at one area, then another. It'd be great to improve that short trail connection to the logging road network on Blanchard so folks could ride both systems seamlessly

My husband and I frequently hike in Larrabee, greatly appreciating the network of trails. We do have problems, however, with mountain bikers speeding along, of course, much faster than we do. This is dangerous at times, especially if bikers are coming down a narrow trail, which they love to do. I recommend that trails which are not on a wide roadway be designated hiker or biker use only.

Comments on Larrabee State Park Long-Range Trail Plan

State parks should be for the enjoyment of everyone, not just a thrill seeking amusement park for bikers. Since the bikers arrived in force at Larrabee State Park, they have driven off a substantial number of other users.

Many bikers go too fast and are a safety issue for others. Bikes typically make little noise so when a biker is speeding down a trail they can come up on a hiker without their knowledge. Park signs indicate that bikers must yield to horses and hikers yet when hiking on a multi-use trail, we have been told by numerous bikers “You need to watch for bikes and get off the trails”.

Some bikers are using trails which have been designated as hiker only. We have seen several bikers on the hiker only section of the Fragrance Lake Trail. Bikers also use the Rock Trail which was specifically designed for hiking with multiple tight switchbacks, pedestrian staircases (due in some cases to the very friable soils) and pedestrian bridges. We volunteered and helped build the Rock Trail with Ken Wilcox and the Washington Trail Association. We have also volunteered on reconstructing several other trails throughout the park. The Rock Trail was not designed for biking (someone has removed the hiker only sign). We were informed by a biker that the Rock Trail was to be used in a bike race route in the spring of 2018. That biker wanted to know where the Rock Trail was so they could practice the route. Several bikers state their favorite trail is the Ridge Trail which is listed by the park on one of their maps as a hiker only trail.

Mountain biking is more destructive to the environment. Environmental damage including soil erosion, stream bed erosion and vegetative damage such as tree bark scraping by handlebars and tree root scraping is more substantial with mountain biking versus hiking.

Mountain bikers should not be allowed to use ridge trails such as Chuckanut Ridge and Fiona Ridge. Soils there are very shallow and are more subject to disturbance. Bikes should not be allowed in the Fiona Ridge old growth area for the protection of the trees. Bikers can walk in like everyone else if they want to see the trees. A majority of the rock formations in Larrabee State Park are Chuckanut Sandstone sedimentary deposits. Do not allow bikers to use outcroppings and boulders as obstacles for their pleasure since the sandstone is easily eroded. Also, please do not allow bikers to use stumps and downed trunks as obstacles to climb and run over, those stumps and downed trunks are frequently “nurse logs” for young vegetation.

The construction of unsanctioned biker bootleg shortcuts, switchbacks and trails (Pete's Escape, etc.) which do not meet design criteria also cause considerable environmental damage. Some hikers take shortcuts too, and we don't condone their behavior as well but at least it is less physically destructive on the environment compared to bikes. Look at Galbraith Mountain via Google Earth to see the extensive network of bootleg trails that the bikers have developed. Do you want this for Larrabee State Park? The Park cannot afford enough rangers to adequately maintain and patrol the existing trails let alone encourage more use and abuse.

Mountain biking is the primary recreational use on Galbraith Mountain resulting in limited use by all other recreational users. Chuckanut Mountain needs to be reserved for non- biking use as its primary recreational use. We can't walk our dog (on leash) on the trails due to fast, inconsiderate bikers. We now have to walk our dog on Cleator Road and inhale the dust and increased vehicle traffic due to bike shuttles.

We have noticed a big increase in personal vehicles shuttling bikers up to the top of Cleator Road. They have two goals in mind, how fast can I get up Cleator Road to drop my buddies and their bikes off and how fast can I get down Cleator Road to pickup my buddies and exchange drivers and then repeat this process over and over again. The excessive speed and the increased repetitive traffic causes dust and washboarding which requires regrading. Regrading the road is a major expense for the Park at least twice a year. Along with the expense it also means Cleator Road and the trails need to be closed to the public more frequently and for a longer period of time due to the extensive roadbed damage. We have also noticed a major increase in the quantity of energy boost, power drink and beer containers littered along Cleator Road which we pickup and dispose of properly.

Some bikers are courteous and follow the rules, however there are a lot of bikers who do not. We suspect that a majority of those in the latter category are not locals. Some of the non- locals find their way to Larrabee State Park due to race events and concessionaire advertising. These bring in people from outside the state and country that are not as respectful of the environment and local non-bikers. Please no concessionaires and no bike race events.

Some bikers park along Chuckanut Drive, behind the Chuckanut Fire Station, at the Interurban Trail parking at the end of Hiline Road or use personal vehicle shuttles as a way to avoid paying for a Discover Pass even though they have such large negative economical and environmental impacts on the Park. We know that some hikers also park along Chuckanut Drive to avoid paying the fee. We do not agree with this behavior either

but at least they have less of a negative impact on the Park as compared to the bikers.

Horse-hiker interactions have been OK from our experience.

Consider placing a local neighborhood representative on the advisory group. We have noticed a strong push from the bikers advocating for night time biking. We suspect a lot of folks in the Chuckanut Heights, Brighton Crest, Chuckanut Crest, Chuckanut Ridge and Chuckanut Mountain area would not enjoy night time mountain bikers. Night time biking would require more rangers to enforce speeding, property damage, noise complaints, camping restrictions, drug and alcohol abuse etc. Night time mountain biking also means increased risk for injuries which means more of a burden on emergency response services and local property taxes.

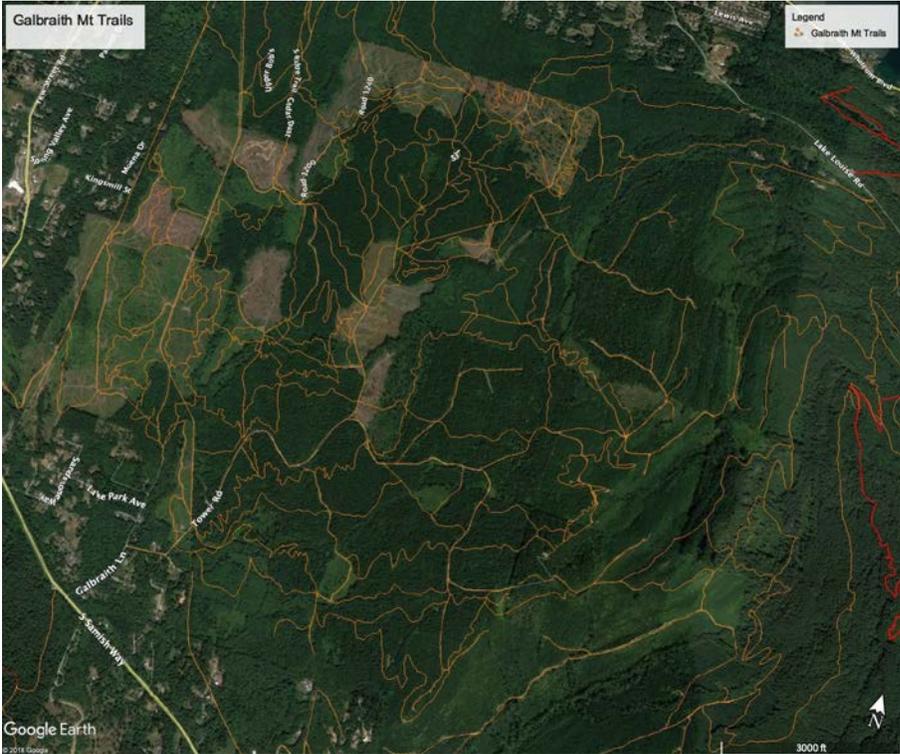
If mountain bikers are to remain in the Larrabee State Park, consider sacrificing a part of the park to the mountain bikers by making Double Diamond and Double Down a downhill only mountain bike trail. Reroute the bottom of Chin Scrapper Trail to the Lost Lake Trail and make it a horse/hiker (both ways) and uphill only mountain bike trail. Lost Lake Road and Fragrance Lake Road (maybe Burnout Trail) continue as multi-use trails. All other trails are horse/hiker only trails.

The new "Reconveyance" trail plan has proposals for many more miles of mountain bike trails for the mountain bike community.

Thank you for the the opportunity to share our comments on the Larrabee trail plan.

See following attachments:

Galbraith mountain bike designed and bootlegged trails:





After we wrote this, look what was on the cover of the Spring 2019 Mount Baker Experience Magazine. A lot of bikers have no respect for the environment like damaging this tree stump and other vegetation.



And this photo was inside the MBE magazine with the caption:

Cam Burnes carves a sandstone berm off Chuckanut Drive. Skye Schillhammer photo

Is this Clayton Beach? The sandstone tafoni formations are fragile! If these behaviors are glorified and published, what other environmental damage are they doing?