

Media Advisory – June 18, 2008

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Meadowdale Park repairs to provide trail access

Snohomish County is completing its first round of repairs on the main trail at Meadowdale Beach Park, closed since flooding in December damaged access in three locations.

The initial repairs will allow the upper stretches of the 1.25-mile trail to reopen for public use. The lower part of the trail, which provides access to the beach, will remain closed until long-term repair work can be designed and completed.

The December storm caused damage in three locations along the trail. Landslides in two locations caused holes more than 20 feet deep. Damage also included heavy storm debris being deposited at the railroad trestle. Most debris has been collected but still remains in the park, causing safety hazards in some locations.

Initial trail repairs should be completed by the beginning of July. The upper portion of the park will be reopened up to the second damage location. There, the trail will be blocked to prevent further access.

Additional repairs to the remainder of the trail currently are being designed. Staff has been coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on repairs, and acquiring needed permits as some of the work is near sensitive wetlands and Lund's Gulch Creek, a salmon-bearing stream.

Work is expected to be completed next spring, and the entire park should then be reopened.

In the meantime, Parks' officials are looking for ways to provide another access route to the beach, a main attraction at the park. With its beach access, Meadowdale is a popular attraction, and county staff is working hard to restore the park for use, said Parks Director Tom Teigen.

“We know how much people love this park, and we're doing all we can to see that it gets open as quickly as possible,” he said. “In the meantime, we hope to at least open part of the park while we find the best way to finish repairs.”

This is not the first time Meadowdale, between Edmonds and Mukilteo, has been closed due to weather-related events. In 1996, the county closed the park due to excessive storm damage, reopening the following year after costly repairs.

Snohomish County Parks acquired the land in 1968 to develop a public park with beach access.

The park offers a stroll along a relatively short nature trail, where park patrons can experience the sounds of the adjacent tumbling stream as it weaves its way through the giant trees of the old forest. The stream – which is home to various aquatic life, including freshwater fish and migrating salmon – forms a small marine estuary as it empties into Puget Sound.

Park amenities include beach access, picnic tables, picnic shelter, forest trails, restrooms and disabled parking.

For more information on this park and others within the Snohomish County system, go to www.snocoparks.com.

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