



Skagit Trail Builders

MILESTONES

Project Report 2018-2024



ABOUT

Skagit Trail Builders' mission is to design, build, and advocate for multi-use* trails in Skagit County, Washington. We work in partnership with Skagit County Parks and Recreation, the Port of Skagit, United General District 304, the City of Sedro-Woolley, and a fantastic community of volunteers. Our current project is at Northern State Recreation Area (NSRA), the site of an abandoned hospital and farm.

We believe that parks are vital for public health and health equity. Parks and trails located near population centers offer residents opportunities to connect with nature, promoting active lifestyles, and supporting physical and mental well-being at little to no cost for users. They also create appealing destinations for visitors, which boosts local businesses, stimulates job growth, and enhances property values.

The expansion of NSRA significantly contributes to our goal of promoting outdoor recreation, equitable access, and community well-being. With the support of our partners and incredible community of volunteers, we have created trails that make it easy to access peaceful forests and wildflower meadows, enjoy the bubbling of flowing water, and view salmon, eagles, and elk in their natural habitat - a place to enjoy the open sky, away from street traffic and the noise of everyday life.

We are deeply grateful for the involvement of our partners and local community of volunteers. They make our projects possible!

*Multi-use trails are designed for walkers, runners, cyclists, jog strollers, and non-motorized users. Our trails are developed using best practices to maintain a hard-packed surface and drain water. They are built to sustain through generations of use and are low-maintenance, requiring only the clearing of organic material, fallen trees, and invasive blackberries.



A PATH FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

An abandoned mental hospital and farm find new life as a public park thanks to collaborative partnerships and a community of volunteers.



JENNY SANDBO
MARCH 5, 2024



Hill Drive cuts through the center of the old Northern State Hospital campus, now owned by the City of Skagit. Historic roads like the 1860s The Old Kitchen, and Green Hall are on the right. Source: Jenny Sandbo.

How did evolving cultural attitudes towards mental health lead to the opening and later abandonment of a mental hospital in Northwest Washington?

Explore Northern State Hospital's transformation into a public park, empowering the community to take charge of their own health.



Read the article at
SkagitTrailBuilders.org

2023-2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM



Executive Director
Jim "JT" Taylor



Senior Crew Leader
Jerry Granahan



Communications
Jenny Sandbo



Crew Leader
Craig Emerson



Youth Coordinator
Bret Turner



Materials & Equipment
Kip Jacobs



Restoration Specialists
Lynn Postler & Kim Martin



Next Gen Leaders
Sativia, Alex & RJ

OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY



1,000
volunteers

10,000
hours



T-SHIRTS & HOODIES



We believe in paying it forward, so we welcome every new volunteer with a free **trail crew** t-shirt on their first day. In addition, volunteers earn a hoodie when they have contributed 25 hours - that's about 4 work parties.

During the 2023-24 build year, volunteers have earned over **200 t-shirts** and **35 hoodies!**



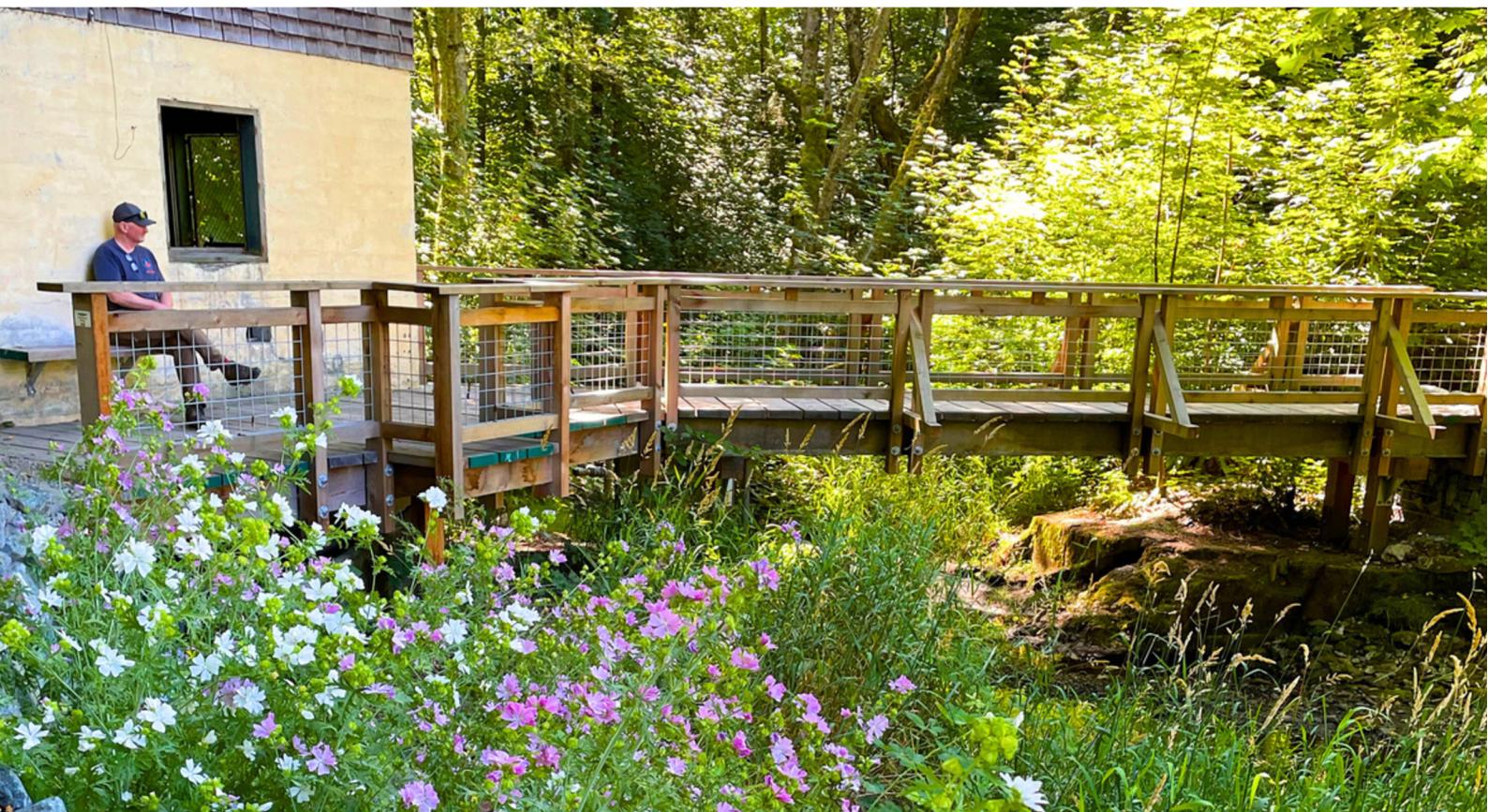
THREE BRIDGES



Dovetail Bridge, 2019



North Bridge (coming 2024)



Pump House Bridge, 2022

THREE TRAILS



Brick Yard Creek Trail, 2019



Pump House Trail, 2021-22

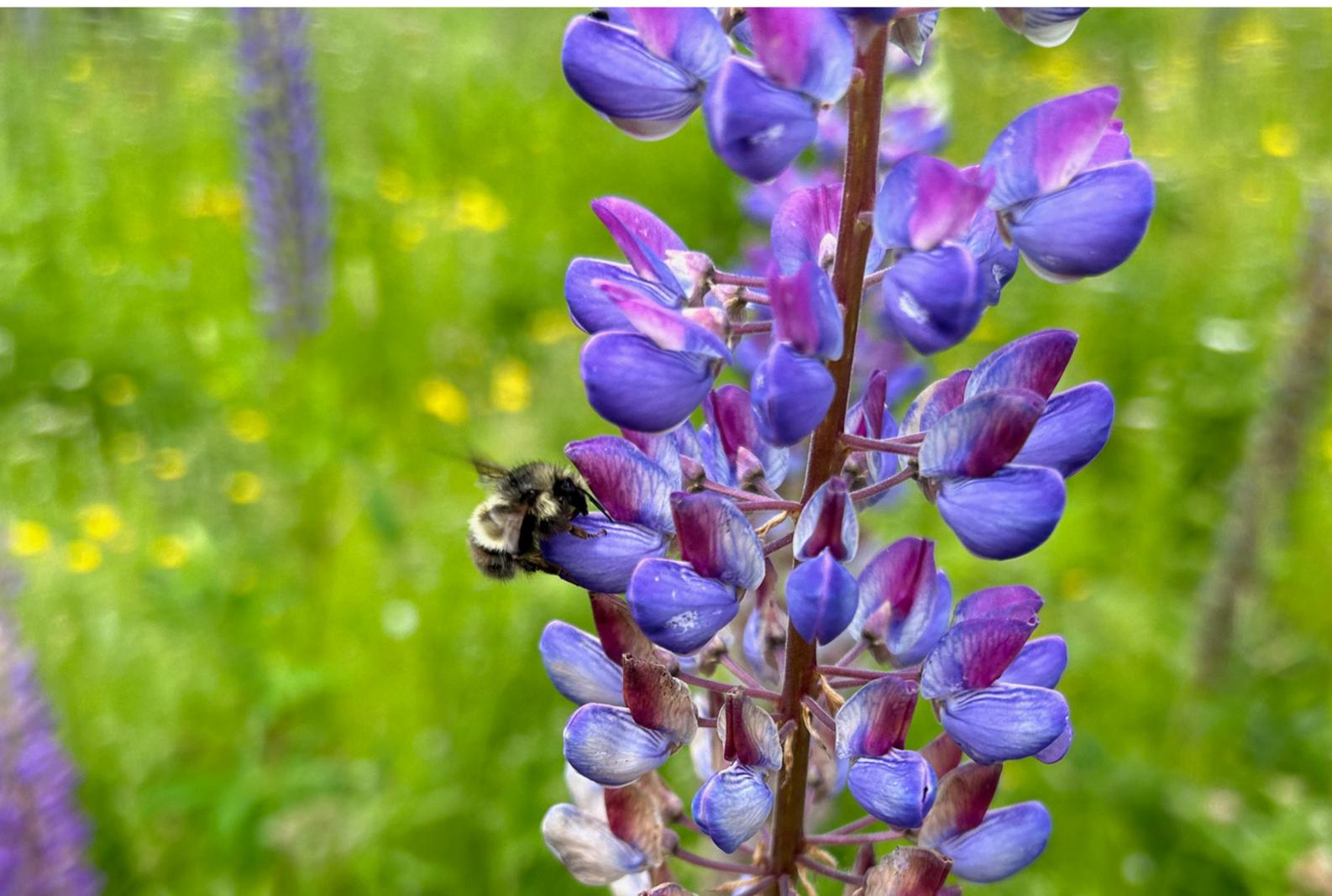


Hill Creek Trail Loop, 2023-24

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



stewardship - connection with nature - support active lifestyles - support physical and mental health - build community - create a destination for visitors - boost the local economy



2024 AND BEYOND

We are completing the final gravel capping on Hill Creek Trail and continuing our trail side restoration work - removing blackberry crowns, planting grass and wildflowers. This work is important to create a beautiful, sustainable trail system that will last for generations!

The County's contractor will begin work on North Bridge during the fall of 2024. Our volunteers are eager to support bridge construction using their skilled labor and specialized knowledge.

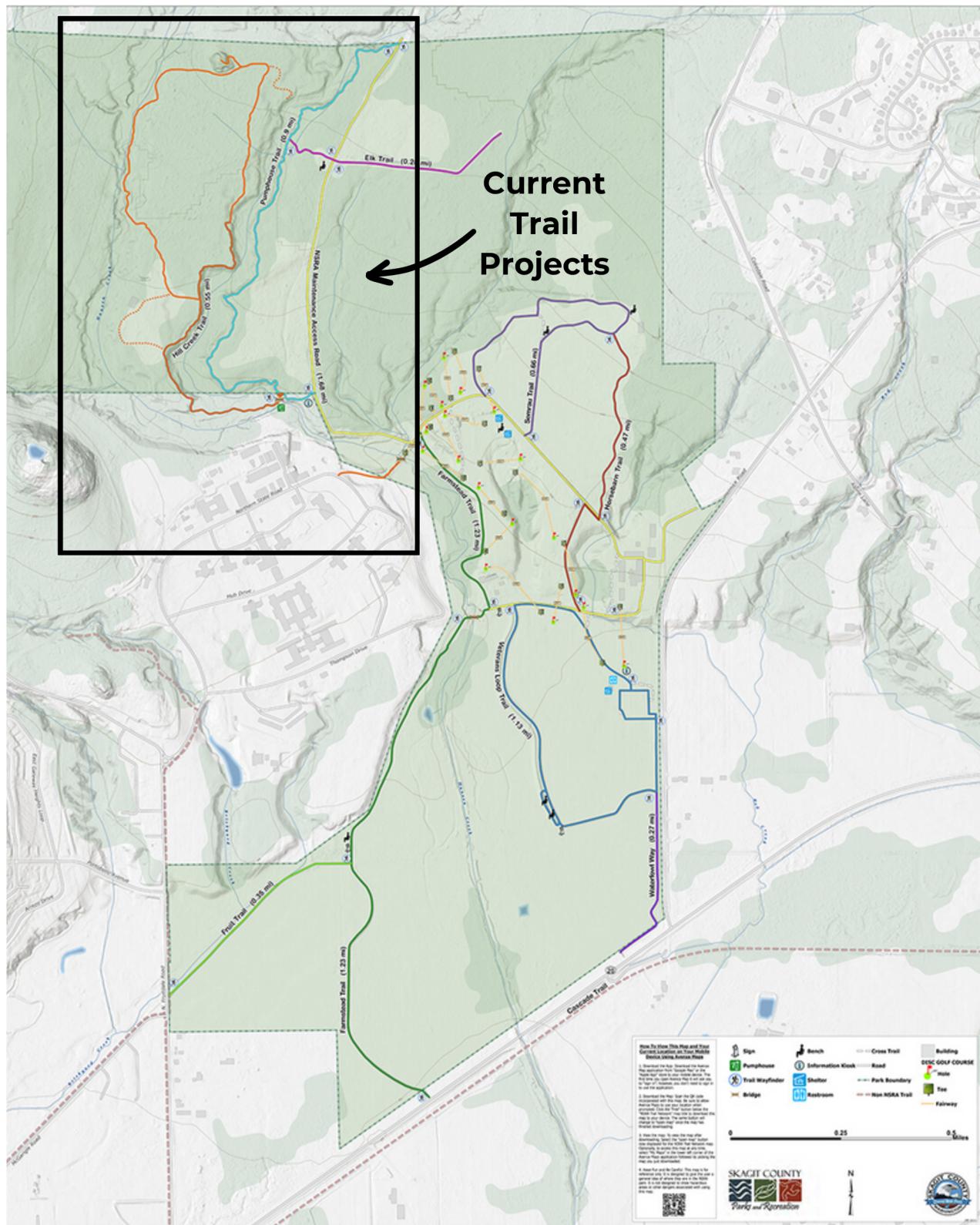
We have more exciting projects in discussion for the future!

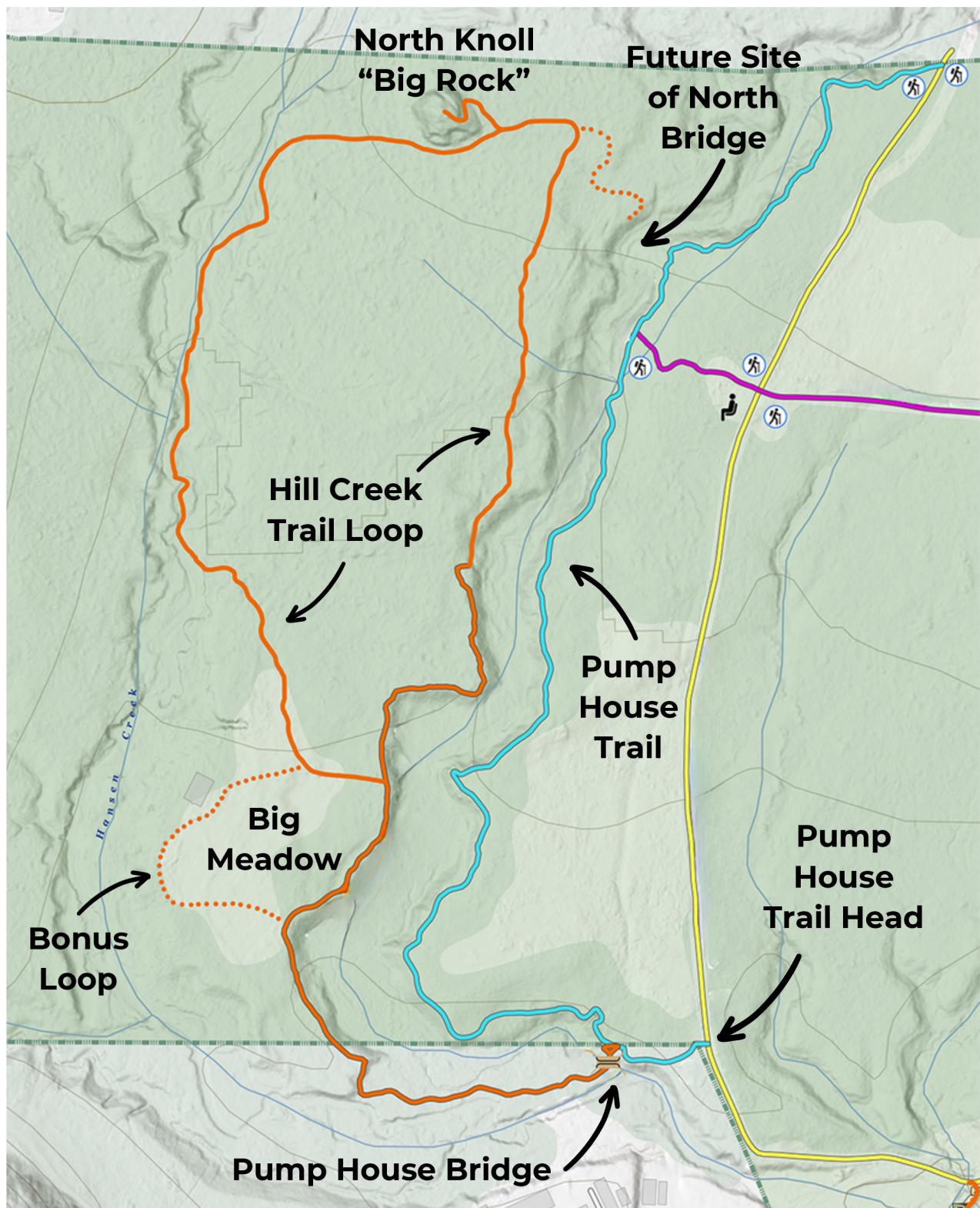
learn more at SkagitTrailBuilders.org



NORTHERN STATE RECREATION AREA

SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA





view the complete map at
SkagitTrailBuilders.org



Sign Up Today!



become a trail volunteer

Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley, WA



WWW.SKAGITTRAILBUILDERS.ORG

[@SKAGITTRAILBUILDERS](https://www.instagram.com/skagittrailbuilders)

FALL 2024 - WINTER 2025