

Skagit Trail Builders

City of Sedro-Woolley Olmsted Park Planning Meeting Overview

Feb 9, 2026 - Notes taken by Jenny Sandbo, Communications STB

Updated Feb 15, 2026 - JS

In attendance:

Nathan Salseina, Public Works Maintenance & Operations Division Supervisor for the City of Sedro-Woolley

Jim “JT” Taylor, Managing Director Skagit Trail Builders

Paul Klein, Senior Crew Leader, Skagit Trail Builders

Michael Hinchon, Volunteer-At-Large, Skagit Trail Builders

Jenny Sandbo, Communications and Project Manager, Skagit Trail Builders



Project Overview

Skagit Trail Builders and United General District 304 have contracted with the City of Sedro-Woolley to build a loop trail around Thompson Pond at Olmsted Park in Sedro-Woolley, WA.

The park and trail will connect to a larger system of trails built by Skagit Trail Builders in partnership with the Port of Skagit and Skagit County Parks and Recreation, currently referred to as the Northern State Trail System. This trail system seeks to provide public access to the grounds of the historic Northern State Hospital.

Our work with the Port of Skagit on Quarry Trail will be completed on Feb 28, 2026. Groundwork at Thompson Pond will begin the week of March 9.

We anticipate spending 4 volunteer work parties on this project: **March 14, March 28, April 11, and April 25**, including 4-6 hours of pre-session work by our leadership team. Our contract with the City allows for 5 work parties completed by June. We will hold the 5th work party for special sessions or follow-up work.

Our primary access point and materials staging area is located on the East Pond Access Road. Volunteer Parking can be along the edge of the road, or preferably in the duplex parking area. Our morning sign-in and safety talk will be located at the materials staging area. If the park bathrooms are not open yet, the city will provide a port-a-potty for our use at this site.

STB leadership has flagged and measured the complete route and reviewed the route with Nathan Salseina from the City of Sedro-Woolley.

Managing Director, Jim "JT" Taylor will create a materials list for Nathan to place and have delivered before March 9. In addition, JT will provide an estimate for a side project under consideration - building a retaining wall on the west side of the pond.

Materials to be used include:

- Rock Sand (need to find a source of dry material)
- 5/8 minus (in stock at the City shop)
- ¾ no fines (instead of 1 ¼ ballast)
- Small 1-man rock
- 4x8 rock
- Repurpose gravel pile sitting on the lawn
- Repurpose sod discards

Mechanized Equipment to be used includes:

- Power Carriers
- Dingo Loader
- Compactor
- Sod Cutter

The trail is divided into 4 segments:

1. **Section 1** – begins near the guard shack, ends at the steel bridge, includes a “Y” to connect to the sidewalk, filling to the top edge of the concrete to reduce tripping hazard.
 - a. The completed trail will be 3’ feet wide, graded and finished for multi-use.
 - b. We will cut the trail into the hillside, with a slight slope for drainage, removing sod and organic material for re-use in other areas.
 - c. We will utilize $\frac{3}{4}$ no-fines for drainage and top with 5/8 minus.
 - d. We will finish with rock sand capping and compaction.
 - e. The trail will stay above the tree grouping, avoiding the “fisherman’s trail” created by foot-traffic.
 - f. The trail will be placed at least 6’ behind the Memorial Bench site, keeping in mind the potential for a pathway to the bench.
 - g. The trail will cross the ADA Trail at the Fishing Dock. It will tie into the pavement by widening the multi-use trail from 3’ to 5’ at point of contact and filling to the level of the blacktop to create a smooth transition.
 - h. Where the multi-use trail crosses the steel bridge, it will widen to 5’ at the point of contact on both sides of the cement, filling to the level of the hardtop.
2. **Section 2** - begins at the steel bridge, ends at Benefield bridge near the guard shack.
 - a. The completed trail will be 3’ feet wide, graded and finished for multi-use.
 - b. It will follow the existing road bed, staying to the uphill side closest to the National Guard Parking Lot.
 - c. We will remove organic material to establish trail corridor and repurpose in other areas of the park.
 - d. We will grade the slope edge where needed.
 - e. Because this segment is being built over an established road bed, a limited amount of foundational material will be needed. We will utilize 5/8 minus for drainage and shaping.

- f. The trail will be finished with rock sand capping and compaction.
3. **Section 3 “Fisherman’s Trail”** – *Completing this section is a nice-to-have and not a certainty.* STB will provide an estimate of the materials needed so the City can make a decision.
- We would fill the low spot with gravel/sod discards.
 - We would build a rock wall (small 1-man, 2 rocks high) to retain the slope below the trees and above the grass terrace.
 - The City would provide straw wattles for waterway protection.
 - No trail will be built here. A grass planting will be performed by the City.
4. **The City’s contractor will complete the access trail from the** Benefield Bridge to Thompson Rd and the segment of trail below the guard shack.

**discards will be used to fill hole in the lawn created by the removal of materials, fill low spot on “fisherman’s trail”, or go to materials staging area to be hauled away by the City.*

***fill and grade permit has been renewed.*

The To-Do List:

- **STB will provide 2 materials estimates by Feb 20:**
 - Materials and rental equipment for completing sections 1 and 2.
 - Materials and rental equipment for completing the rock work on section 3 “Fisherman’s Trail”.
 - Include photos of equipment requested.
- **The City will provide:**
 - Materials and equipment needed to complete sections 1 and 2 by March 9.
 - Final approval, materials and equipment needed to complete the rock work on section 3. Date TBD.

Key Dates

- **Week of March 9:** Begin trail work at Thompson Pond for the City of Sedro-Woolley. This will include pre-session work by the STB Leadership team and our first scheduled volunteer work party on March 14.
- **May 2-3:** Fishing Derby at Thompson Pond. Our goal is to complete the loop trail before the event. We will focus on finishing Section 1 first. This prioritization ensures that if unforeseen work delays occur, derby participants will not be negatively impacted.

- **TBD: Grand Opening of Olmsted Park**