

Skagit Trail Builders

April 11, 2026 Work Party Work Party Plan

Edited April 6, 2026 - Jenny Sandbo, Communications & Project Manager, STB



Background

On March 28 we were joined by youth volunteers from Kidz-N-K9s 4-H. We put them to work excavating the trail routing on the east side of Thompson Pond.

The routing here is a mixture of gravel and sod, so we were not able to use a sod cutter to create the trail bed. Instead, we used a combination of pick axe and Dingo loader, then hand-loading the discarded material into power carriers.

It took most of the day to clear the routing, which was more time than we expected, but we were able to fill a small section with $\frac{3}{4}$ between the contractor line and the access road.

Side note: We are considering scheduling a small team work party for the week of May 16 to complete rock sand capping.

Our plan for April 11 is to re-focus our efforts on section 1, building up the area of significant water flow with ballast and begin rock sand capping. We will also have teams working on the rock retaining wall and briar clearing in the trees above the wall.

Goals

1. Complete capping on section 1 to the dock trail.
2. Build a rock retaining wall and fill the low spot on “Fisherman’s Trail” (marked green on the map), making it wide enough for power carrier and mower access.
3. Begin rock work on the main rock retaining wall.

Schedule

8:00 am Most of our leadership team meets at the tool shed to bring the tools and power carriers to the trail head. Jenny and Chloe meet at the trail head.

8:45 am Volunteers Sign-in at the material staging area on Thompson Rd. Volunteer Parking is located at “the Quad” on Thompson Rd. [Directions.](#)

9:00 am:

Jenny, JT & Paul will lead introductions, make announcements, and explain today’s work.

Safety Talk : Chloe

T-shirts & Group Photo

930-noon: trail work

12-12:45 pm: lunch

1-3 pm: trail work

3 pm: clean up and organize tools

4:00 pm: Work Party Planning Meeting (by invitation for volunteers who work a full day 9am-3pm)

Materials Staging (Friday Prep)

- For “dip”: Large 1-man rock + 2 loads of large drain rock. On a tarp, north of the area of work.
- For rock retaining wall: 1-man rock + 2 loads of ¾” + all the remaining 4x8.

Teams

Roving Crew Leader: Paul

Capping Leads: Chloe and TBD

Number of volunteers: 7

Guide the rock sand delivery: 1

Rake and level: 4

Compact: 2

Rock Wall: Jenny, Jerry + TBD

Number of volunteers: 9

We will split up into 3 teams with Jenny as the floating crew leader.

- Building up the low spot with a rock retaining wall, back filling with drain rock and topping with sod discards.
- Starting in the center of the slope, two teams will work north and south building up the rock wall base. Work in collaboration so that the walls have a consistent appearance.

Restoration: Lynn

Clipping blackberries in trees above rock retaining wall. Prepping ferns or other native plants to naturalize the top of the retaining wall.

Power Carrier Drivers: Kip, Michael and Craig

Material staging and loading: JT

**Additional teams may be determined on Friday afternoon after the conditions and materials are evaluated.

Key Dates

- April 11: STB Work Party at Thompson Pond
- April 25: STB Final work party on Thompson Pond

- May 9: STB First work party on Norlum Trail. Guest Groups Skagit Alpine Club and SW Earth Club.
- May 16: Potential for an extra session at Thompson Pond to complete rock sand capping.
- May 23: Norlum Trail. Guest Group Mountaineers GoHike.
- June 13: Norlum Trail. Guest Group Mountaineers GoHike.
- June 27: Norlum Trail. Final work party before summer break.
- July 25: Public History Day at SWIFT
- Aug 22: Music in the Park SWIFT (tentative)
- Sept 12: Music in the Park SWIFT (tentative)