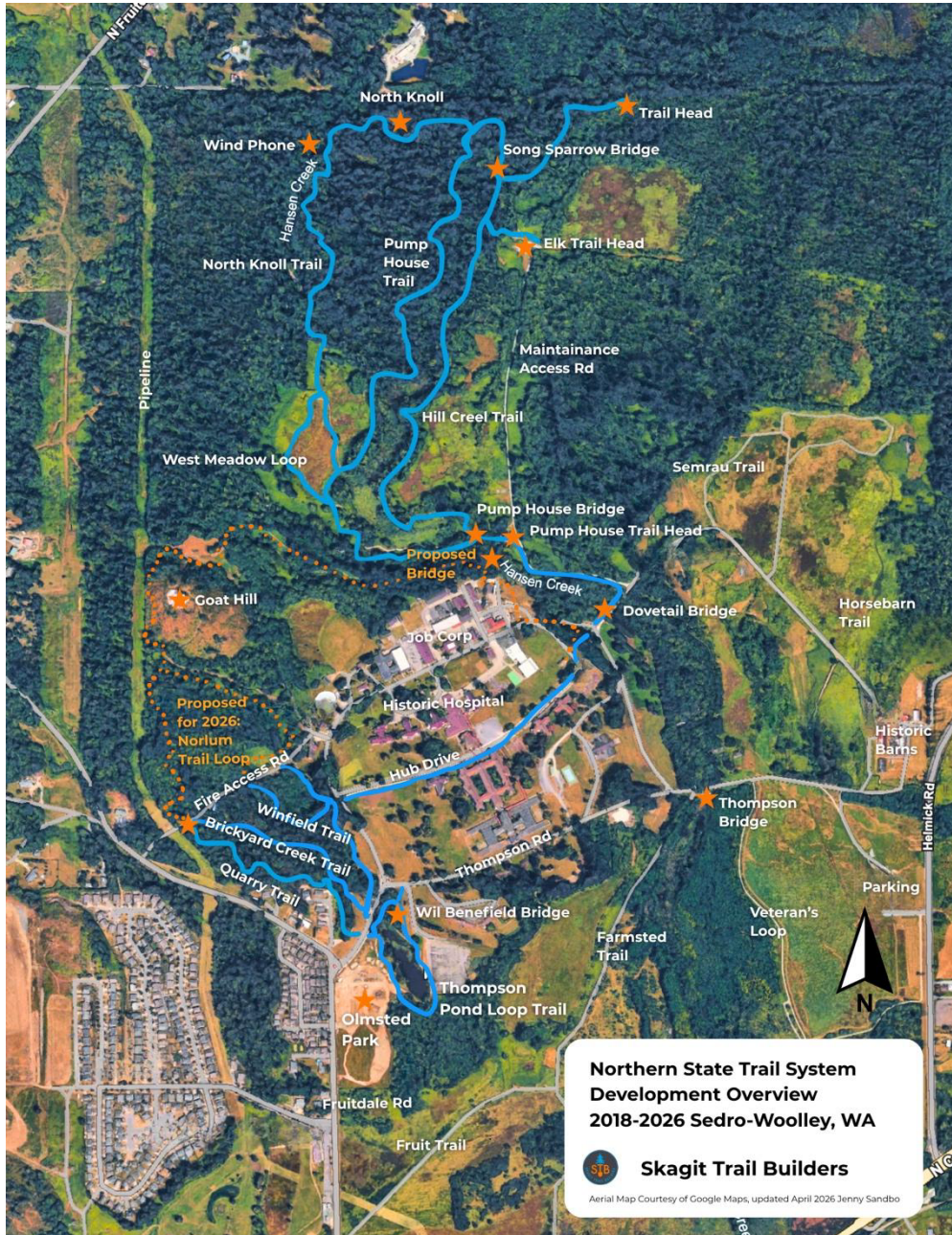


Skagit Trail Builders & Port of Skagit Planning for the May-June, 2026 Work Parties

Norlum Trail, Port of Skagit SWIFT Campus, Sedro-Woolley, WA
April 3, 2026 - Notes taken by Jenny Sandbo, Communications STB

In Attendance: Jim "JT" Taylor, Paul Klein, Jenny Sandbo, Laura Schumacher, Zach Helms, Joe Hayes



About Norlum Trail

STB and the Port of Skagit team met on Friday, April 3, 2026 to walk the proposed trail routing for Norlum Trail Loop. The loop trail is the first phase in the development of the longer Norlum Trail which will follow the property line, connecting to Goat Hill and a proposed bridge site at the north end near the Powerhouse Building.

Norlum is short for “Northern Asylum”. It was the name of railroad spur that extended from Sedro-Woolley to the hospital (and also the name of the hospital’s baseball team).

The trail begins at the Fire Access Road, directly across from the entrance to Quarry Trail, and extends north towards Goat Hill. The first section takes advantage of the historic railroad bed. Here the routing is elevated and well-drained.

As we move deeper into the landscape, we encounter springs, streams, and swamps. The Port has done diligence to water flow and identified routing that will give peek-a-boo views of Brickyard Creek, while skirting areas of seasonal flow and standing water.

This trail is lush with native plants: Oso Berry, Salmonberry, Aspen, Cedar, Big Leaf Maples, Ferns, Bleeding Heart, and much more.

This segment has been partially roughed in by the Port’s contractor. The Port will ensure that needed work is complete ahead of our work party schedule.

At the point where the trail nears Reservoir Access Road, it will turn east and loop back towards campus, exiting directly across from Winfield Trail behind Trevennen Hall.

During the time that the hospital included a working farm, the area northwest of Trevennen Hall was used for sheep grazing. Over time, invasive blackberries have overtaken the meadow. The port team is working to clear the trail routing through the briars. It is noted that this portion of the property is a development lot, so the trail routing through this area is temporary and will remain more rustic than the rest of the trail system.

Challenge Areas and Control Points:

1. Near the entrance (across from Quarry Trail), is the first of several wet crossings where rain water seeps downhill from the adjacent grassy field. The Port team will build a stabilized rock crossing in advance of our first scheduled work party.
2. Beyond the old railroad bed is where the routing crosses several areas of standing water. We’ve identified 2 spots where half culvert and rock will need to be installed

for the trail to sustain during rainy weather. The Port will do these installations in advance of our schedule.

3. “Sheep Camp” is a control point for trail development. A cleared flat area between two large cedar stumps, it looks like a natural place to camp and may have been used for that purpose by hospital residents who were allowed to freely explore these woods.
4. Blackberries. Below Goat Hill and Reservoir Road, the blackberries are thick. The Port has been working to clear the trail routing. They will blade, grade, and spray the blackberries.

Materials

We will be utilizing 4x8, ballast, and a combination of pit run and native soil for capping. The Port has approved the use of borrow pits. JT will work with Zach on materials delivery.

Equipment

We will use our standard equipment: Power carriers, the Dingo loader, a plate compactor, wheelbarrows, buckets and assorted hand tools. In their work , the Port will deliver rock using power carriers, avoiding the use of larger equipment that may damage the trail corridor.

Schedule

We have 4 volunteer work parties scheduled for Spring 2026. We do not expect to complete the full loop before summer break.

Each Saturday volunteer work party is preceded by a Friday prep session to ensure that the work site, materials and equipment are ready for an effective volunteer work party.

- **May 9:** Guest Groups include SWHS Earth Club and the Skagit Alpine Club.
- **May 23:** Guest Group The Mountaineers GoHike Course
- **June 13:** Guest Group The Mountaineers GoHike Course.
- **June 27:** Last work party before summer break.

Routing reviews with the Port team will be scheduled on an as-needed basis.