



# Bike Skills Area Assessment

Parks & Recreation Commission  
April 26, 2022

# Bike Skills Area Background

- Created in 1970s, on King County park land
- Use of the area has increased/decreased over the years
- In 2003, park transferred to City
- Luther Burbank Master Plan adopted in 2006, specified that the 'bike track would remain'
- No survey of area conducted



# Bike Skills Area Background



BSA, March 2012

- Since 2006, City has managed BSA
- 2016 – use of site increased, began to expand
- Boundary markers installed to delineate edges
- Use continued to increase during COVID
- Since 2020, has required extensive staff oversight
  - Large jumps
  - Unauthorized trails
  - Expansion into adjacent slopes
  - Damage to vegetation
- October 2021, BSA closed to address safety & operation issues





# Project Background

- City hired Action Sports Design (ASD) to perform assessment of the BSA
  - Condition assessment
  - Areas of concern
  - Recommendations for improved design and operation
- Focus on site safety and sustainability
- Report received late March 2022

## UPPER LUTHER BURBANK PARK BIKE SKILLS AREA ASSESSMENT

MARCH 2022



Report Prepared For:

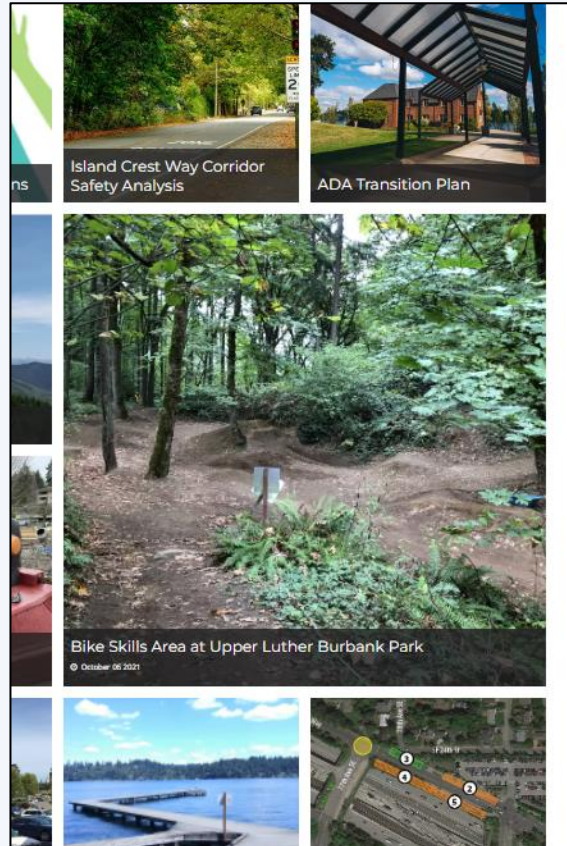
City of Mercer Island  
9611 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Report Prepared By:

Action Sports Design, LLC  
12400 W Hwy 71, Suite 350-348  
Austin, TX 78738



# Public Engagement Since Closure



- Let's Talk page
- Online surveys
  - General BSA user information
  - Jump design
- Public meeting – November 2021
- Public comments



# ASD Assessment Results

- Soils - *high in organics and sand, not appropriate for jump building*
- Drainage - *water pooling in low areas, no positive drainage off site*
- Grading - *native soils being 'borrowed' from adjacent slopes, creating highly erosive embankments, pooling areas, and steep jump sides*
- Trees & vegetation - *soil grade around trees altered, vegetation on slopes damaged/removed from soil excavation*
- Circulation - *shared bike/pedestrian trails have potential for conflict, especially at end of bike course; entry to BSA should be separated*
- Signage - *needs to be updated, moved to new BSA entry point*
- Bike course jump line - *can be improved to maximize safety, diversity of elements, and flow*

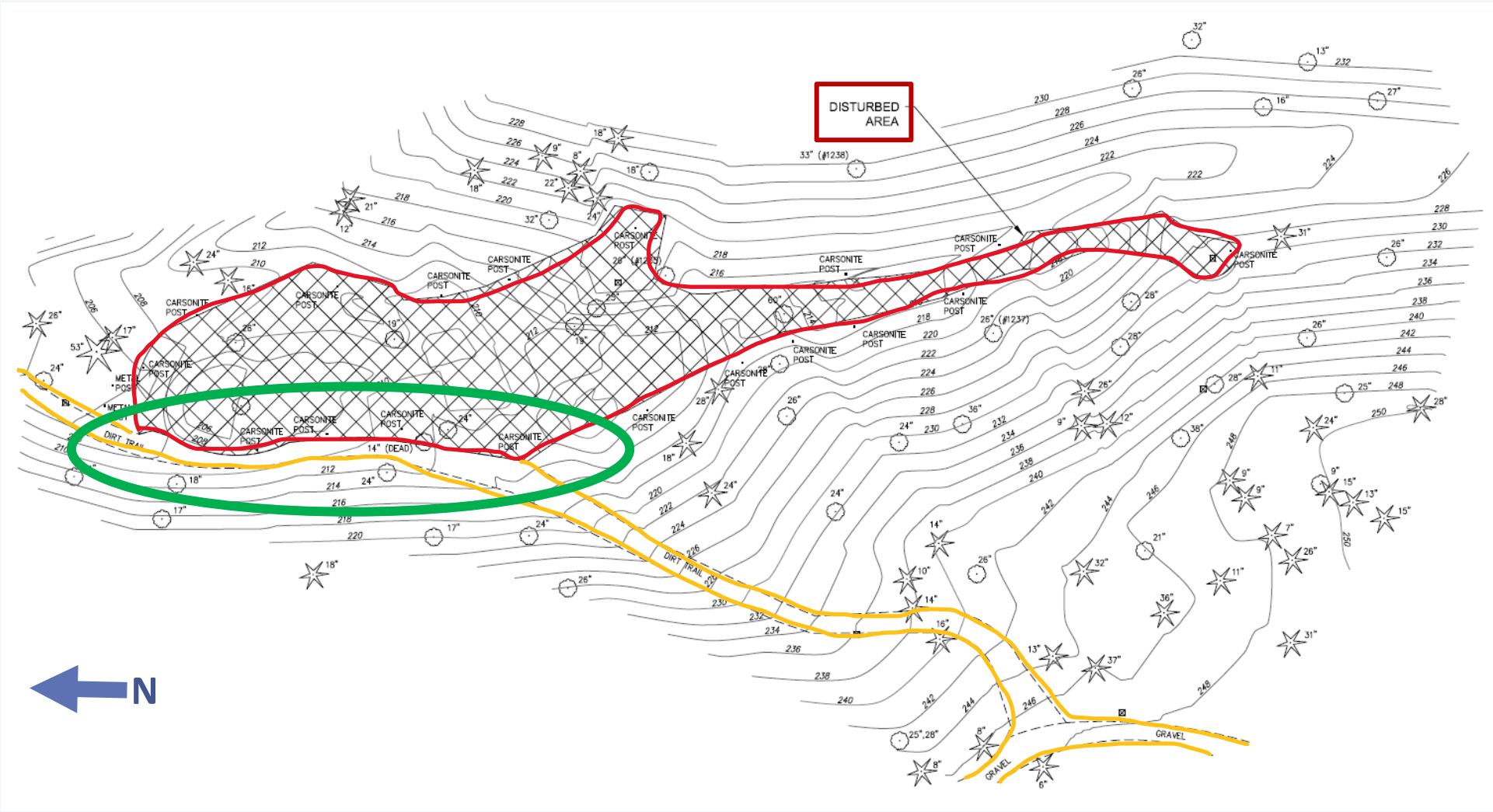


BSA, November 2021





# Topographic survey



# ASD Recommendations



BSA, October 2016

- Restore native soil to all slope bases and replant native vegetation
- Perform full tree assessment
- Renovated BSA should remain within current impact area
- Course should be professionally designed and maintained in designed form
- Add drainage system
- Create new bike entry at top of course
- Install fencing at southwest edge of course
- Install new rules and wayfinding signage





# Current status

Since October 2021, Parks staff have:

- Installed temporary construction fencing to stop site use
- Documented site topography and impact areas with survey
- Regraded soils at the site, removing all jumps
- Restored soils to undermined slopes
- Performed tree assessments on trees in and surrounding BSA, removed four trees that were in decline
- Hosted volunteer event in March 2022, planted 400 native shrubs and trees
- Staff planted an additional ~220



BSA, November 2021



# Next steps: Long Term Option #1

## RE-DESIGN THE BSA PER ACTION SPORTS DESIGN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- Report includes conceptual design for new jumpline layout and drainage system
- Estimated cost for construction: \$232,441 (planning level estimate)

### Considerations:

- Will require additional funding for environmental review, permitting, and final construction design
- Opportunities for public input into design

Timeline: 12-24 months



# Next steps: Long Term Option #2

## RE-OPEN THE BSA WITH NEW JUMP LAYOUT, NO DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

- Use conceptual design for new jumpline layout, but not drainage system
- Estimated cost for construction: \$158,000 (planning level estimate)

### Considerations:

- Will require additional funding for environmental review, permitting, and final construction design
- Shorter process due to faster design and review
- Seasonal closure of site during winter months

Timeline: 6-12 months





# Next steps: Long Term Option #3

## RE-OPEN THE BSA WITH NO PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Users could use course immediately
- No proposed improvements, opened 'as-is'
- No budget appropriation needed

### Considerations:

- Long-standing safety and operational issues are unresolved
- **Not recommended by staff**

Timeline: Immediate re-opening



# Next steps: Long Term Option #4

## CONDUCT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS TO DETERMINE NEEDS AND LOCATION

- Strong public opinions about whether BSA should remain at Upper Luther Burbank Park
- Keep BSA closed during process
- Identify site that meets amenity needs & acceptable impacts
- Budget appropriation required for consultant

### Timeline:

- Public engagement process - up to 12 months
- BSA closed - at least 2 years



# Next steps: Long Term Option #5

## CONSIDER RELOCATING BSA TO DEANE'S CHILDRENS PARK

- Staff have considered other potential locations for BSA
- Evaluation criteria include:
  - Current park/space use
  - Potential impact on ecological/vegetation health
  - Equivalent course size (or greater)
  - Terrain
  - Available park amenities: restrooms, parking
  - Ease of access for construction, oversight, and maintenance





# Next steps: Long Term Option #5 (continued)

## CONSIDER RELOCATING BSA TO DEANE'S CHILDRENS PARK



- Deane's Childrens Park location:
  - Former Adventure Playground area has been impacted by recreational use
  - Lacks healthy understory vegetation
  - Mid-Island location
  - Site served by restroom, parking area
  - Site bounded by fencing

Timeline: 12-18 months



# Next steps: Short Term Option #1

## KEEP BSA CLOSED UNTIL NEW PLAN IS ADOPTED

- Facility has been closed for 7 months
- Development of new facility will take 6-24 months more, depending on outcome
- Immediate concerns at ULBP site have been addressed



BSA, October 2021





# Next steps: Short Term Option #2

## RE-OPEN BSA IN LIMITED MANNER DURING LONG-TERM PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

- Immediate concerns at ULBP site have been addressed
- Would require new jump building materials, consultant assistance with re-build, additional monitoring
- No site alterations or expansion would be permitted
- **Site would be closed if rules are not followed**
- Bike track would be fully restored once new BSA is opened

Projected cost: \$50,000 – 75,000





# Staff Recommendations

## Long term:

Pursue design and construction of new BSA facility at Deane's Childrens Park.



## Required steps:

- Budget appropriation
- Hire professional course designer
- Engage MI bike community in design development
- Environmental review and permitting



# Staff Recommendations

## Short term:

Re-open BSA in Upper Luther Burbank Park during development of design and construction of new facility

## Required steps:

- Import jump building materials
- Hire designer to build simplified, improved jumpline within current footprint
- Increase City monitoring of site

BSA would be closed down immediately if any jump alterations or expansion of the BSA are observed.





# Questions & Discussion