

A Greenway Trail for Kennydale Garry Kampen for Newcastle Trails, 1/15/24

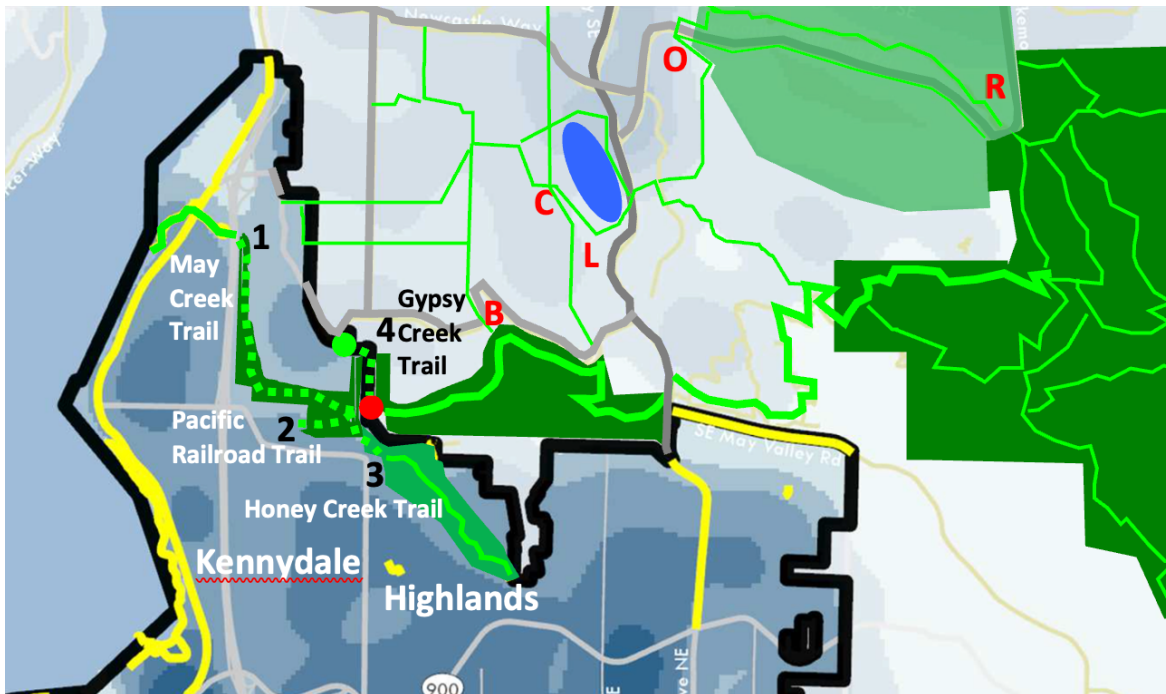
By the end of 2024, the May Creek Greenway will be essentially complete from Lake Washington to Cougar Mountain Park (see Figure 1 below), with a sequence of trails (wide green line) starting with the May Creek Trail. That trail has a **gap** (dotted line). And a **bridge** (red dot) is needed to cross May Creek. The bridge and trails 1-4 (listed below) will complete the Greenway **and** an extensive Renton-Newcastle trail system – while reducing the park and trail deficit in the Kennydale-Highlands area.

We hope Kennydale will join us in asking Renton to start **now** to build trail 2 and the bridge, and reactivate the **Greenway Partnership** (Renton-Newcastle-King County) to pursue grants for the bridge and trails 1-4 (all in Renton's Master Plan). Trail 2 is on public land (no delay for land or easements). Building it will give Kennydale a lovely and historic trail in May Creek Park.

1. In 2024, the existing **May Creek Trail** will be extended under I-405 to Jones Avenue, which follows the Greenway south. The low-use road continues east nearly to the bridge site as NE 31st Street.
2. The proposed **Pacific Railroad Trail** follows an old railroad route from Kennydale to the bridge site (once spanned by a high trestle). The rail route continues in Newcastle on trails and sidewalks past other historic sites (red letters): **B**artram Station, **L**ake Boren, and **O**ld Newcastle. In Bellevue it follows the Coal Creek Trail to the **R**ed Town Trailhead for Cougar Mountain Park. **C** marks the old cemetery.
3. The existing **Honey Creek Trail** reaches almost to Sunset Boulevard in a lovely wooded valley. Only one easement is needed to connect the trail (and Highlands) to the bridge site on a route well above the flood plain. We hope Renton will try now to obtain the easement.
4. The **Gypsy Creek Trail** can be extended at any time (on public land) from Newcastle's May Creek Trail to Renton's planned Kenyon-Dobson Park (green dot), serving the Lacrosse neighborhood.

In Figure 1, we've added pedestrian trails and open space in green to a base map from Renton's **2019 Renton Trails and Bicycle Master Plan**. Only a few major Newcastle trails are shown.

Figure 1. Renton-Newcastle Trail Systems



Renton has built a magnificent system of parks and bicycle trails, but is deficient in pedestrian trails (especially nature trails). The Kennydale and Highlands areas are underserved. The **2019 Renton Trails and Bicycle Master Plan** notes that Renton has about 30 miles of trails (bike 20, pedestrian 10); the Kennydale and Highlands areas have a combined LOS of 0.13 miles/1000 residents, with most other areas higher (up to 0.95). For pedestrian trails, Renton's LOS is a tenth of Newcastle's. In the Plan, the highest priority goes to 23 bike and 3 pedestrian trails (including 1 and 3). But trails 1-4 and the bridge may well provide the most benefit to the most people at the least cost.

The projects below can be combined in various ways to pursue grants and achieve specific goals. For example, Renton could commit to B now while the partnership pursued grants for A and C or CD.

A(1) Build the May Creek Bridge linking Newcastle and Renton.

B(2) Build the Pacific Railroad Trail from Kennydale School to the bridge site. Add history signs.

C(1) Extend the May Creek Trail from the bridge site to NE 31st (at D).

D(1) Build a trailhead area with parking and restrooms (proposed by King County).

E(3) Extend the Honey Creek Trail to the bridge site. Start now pursuing the needed easement.

F(4) Extend the Gypsy Creek Trail to serve Kenyon-Dobson Park (another trailhead!) and Lacrosse.

G(1) Improve the road (Jones Ave and NE 31st) for pedestrian use from D west and north to the existing trail. After acquiring private land near I-405, consider routing the trail closer to May Creek.

Newcastle Trails is a 501(c)3 nonprofit (founded 1999, 400+ members) dedicated to developing and maintaining trails in Newcastle (founded 1994). See www.newcastletrails.org (**Contract** page) or read <http://www.newcastletrails.org/doc/linking.pdf> (5 pages, 3 maps, trail info) and <http://www.newcastletrails.org/doc/expanding.pdf> (2 pages, 2 maps, city comparisons).

Figure 2. Renton-Newcastle Trail Projects

