

This guide is produced by **Newcastle Trails** to describe the trails we use, or expect to use soon (but not proposed trails 7, 14, & 18). Trails can change quickly as vegetation encroaches, so occasionally some may seem less “walkable” than described. To be notified of hikes and work parties, consider joining: no dues—just your name on an email list (not sold). You'll find guides, maps, and activities at www.NewcastleTrails.org.

The map and guide include well-maintained all-weather trails, ad hoc and/or poorly maintained trails, and proposed trail segments. Use them at your own risk. But do use them. Our trails connect with parks, neighborhoods, viewpoints, and historic sites. Most are on public property. Please respect signs and fences.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

1. **CrossTown Trail** (from Newcastle Way ballfields SE past Hazelwood School to Cougar Mountain)

West CrossTown Trail (1.8 miles from Coal Creek Parkway, NW thru Lake Boren Park, to ballfields)

- From **Coal Creek Parkway** & SE 135th Street (opposite **Milepost**), go west along the paved, wooded trail across Boren Creek and up to the **Lake Boren Park** restrooms near the parking lot.
- Turn right, passing the restrooms, and follow the asphalt pathway north to **Lake Boren**, then west to 129th Avenue SE. Angle north on 129th past the historic **Newcastle Historic Cemetery**.
- Just past the cemetery, turn left at the trail sign. Follow the trail west through tall trees. (In a utility corridor, the **Olympus Trail** branches off to the left, southbound up the hill.) Take the cutoff or the easier switchback and continue west through the **School Woods**—ten acres being sold by the Renton School District.
- About halfway through the School Woods, a neighborhood trail branches right to a chain link fence at 126th Avenue SE (the Hazelwood community). Angle left. In a few yards (where the trail heads south to Olympus), turn right. Cross the causeway and continue west through woods to a north-south power line corridor.
- Walk straight west under the power lines and descend between two houses to the sidewalk. (Or turn right and follow the **Horse Trail** north to **Donegal Park** on a power line utility road.)
- Turn right at the sidewalk and follow it north along 122nd Place SE. Cross at the stop sign just north of SE 75th Place. Continue north along the other side of the same street. Where the street curves right, the trail turns left at a trail sign into **Hazelwood Park** on a boardwalk across wetlands. (The sidewalk goes another block to **Donegal Park**.)
- Turn left just short of **Hazelwood Park**'s main entrance at 121st Place SE, and climb the steps. (Part way up, a branch goes to **Lake Washington Ridge**.) Keep right, up the steps to the summit, known locally as Cowboy Hill.
- Descend a woody trail and veer right past the junction with the **Hazelwood Trail** (which branches left, heading west to Hazelwood School and 116th Ave. SE).
- Descend a driveway (officially OK for walkers, not parked cars) to SE 73rd Place. Follow the sidewalk left, take a utility road west, then north. Follow the trail past the Coal Creek Utility District water tank to the cul-de-sac at 119th Court SE. (There's a branch west down a stubby street and stairs to **Hazelwood Elementary School**).
- Follow the sidewalks north along 119th Place SE through Newport Trace to Newcastle Way. Turn west at the trail sign and follow the trail down to the **ballfields**, and the parking lot near **Renton Alternative School**.

East CrossTown Trail (from Coal Creek Parkway & SE 79th, SE to Cougar Mountain Park) **[incomplete]**

- From **Coal Creek Parkway** & SE 135th Street (opposite **Milepost**), head north up the **Esplanade**.
- The current route crosses the parkway on **SE 79th Street** and goes generally east to the **Beit Tikvah Church**. From there, the old trail is overgrown and unwalkable. Detour up SE 79th Street. **Newcastle Vista** has put in a trail along the west edge of their new subdivision. It will soon be accessible via sidewalks off **141st Ave. SE** and **SE 83rd**, and an access trail from near the cul-de-sac. Turn left at the foot of the steps.
- A flagged trail route **being built** in segments heads SE to join the **Terrace Trail**. The combined trails go SE to a flight of steps. (Here the **Terrace Trail** ascends the steps to SE 85th Street in **The Terrace** subdivision.)
- From the steps, continue southeast to the **De Leo Wall Trail** in **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park**.

2. Waterline Trail (1.5 miles from Newcastle Way south past Lake Boren Park to May Creek Park)

- **North Extension in Bellevue:** *From Newcastle Way the trail goes north through Newport Hills in Bellevue. At SE 60th is a small park on the right. Cross the street, walk east a short way under the power lines; descend steps into the woods, and follow a lovely footpath. It will follow the newly “daylighted” Coal Creek under Coal Creek Parkway’s new bridge by late 2014. For now, cross Coal Creek Parkway, walk up Forest Drive, and descend an access trail to the “The Dip.” The Coal Creek Trail and Primrose Trail are being rebuilt.*
- From the south side of Newcastle Way west of City Hall, go south on the water line corridor to SE 73rd Place. Cut left to 129th Ave. SE. (From the Newcastle Library head south.) Follow 129th Ave. SE south to the **CrossTown Trail** and **historic cemetery**. Continue south on the utility corridor above Lake Boren Park.
- Cross SE 84th Way, and head south down a gated, broad utility corridor lined with trees. (The **Olympus Trail** on your right heads west steeply up to **Eden’s Grove** and **Olympus**.) Continue south across SE 89th Place into **May Creek Park**. Follow the corridor to a May Creek overlook. (Or veer right to the **May Creek Trail**.)

3. May Creek Trail (2.3 miles from Coal Creek Parkway west past the Waterline Trail to Windtree)

Meandering Section (0.8 mile from Coal Creek Pkwy. & SE 91st, northwest to the Waterline Trail)

- *From the traffic light at SE 91st St., head south on the west side of Coal Creek Parkway. (From the east side, the Highlands Trail heads east; the Milepost Trail heads north, mostly on sidewalks, to Lake Boren Park.)*
The trail is **nearly completed**—watch out for trail workers doing finish work.
- Turn right onto an asphalt pathway, head west to the woods, and follow a gravel path as it curves left and then descends in a graceful switchback to a wide footbridge across Boren Creek. In a short distance is its confluence with May Creek. The trail rises from the flood plain, passes over drainages (work in progress), ascends to an overlook, passes an old mail truck, veers left, and reaches the **Rail Trail Section of the May Creek Trail**. Turn left onto the rail trail (or right to the **Waterline Trail** and SE May Creek Park Drive).

Rail Trail Section (1.3 miles from Waterline Trail west to Windtree)

- *To reach the start of the rail trail from the upper edge of Lake Boren Park, follow the Waterline Trail south. Cross SE 84th Way and SE 89th Place, and veer right onto the May Creek Trail.*
- Westbound, the trail generally follows the broad, flat roadbed of the old **Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad** through cuts and over fills, mostly in woods, parallel to (and well above) May Creek. At **Bartrum Station**, where 124th Ave. SE enters from the north, the trail follows a sometimes muddy park road used by adjacent neighbors. Turn left between boulders. The trail leaves the (wet) railroad bed and meanders under old fruit trees, rejoins the railroad grade at a small footbridge, and detours periodically by large trees and old landslides.
- Where a new trail veers left, continue along the railroad grade. At “Milepost 16” (from the Seattle waterfront), a large tree fell across the trail. Several yards farther is a kiosk with trail and history information. At a split rail fence, you can look below at the footing mounds from a huge wooden trestle that headed west over May Creek to Kennydale (old photo in kiosk). The access trail ascends steps to SE 93rd Street in the **Windtree** subdivision. The park bench at the top is a gift of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Bridge Section (0.2 mile from Rail Trail west to May Creek and Renton’s proposed trail system)

- This forest trail has nice views of May Creek as it gently descends by “**Picnic Bluff**” (to be built as an Eagle Scout project) and on to a planned suspension bridge site. From there, Renton’s planned route is down along May Creek to Lake Washington (and their new park on Lake Washington Blvd.). Routes have also been proposed up Honey Creek to the Highlands, and up along the old railroad grade to Kennydale.

4. Lake Boren Esplanade (0.7 mile from Newcastle Way south on Parkway to Lake Boren Park)

- From the **City Center** at **Newcastle Way & Coal Creek Parkway**, head south on the west side of the parkway past McDonald’s. At the next intersection, you’ll see China Creek on your right, flowing through a meadow to Lake Boren. (At SE 79th Place, the **CrossTown Trail** follows the road shoulder to **Beit Tikvah**.) The Esplanade ends just south of 135th Ave. SE. *Four options: (1) Head west into Lake Boren Park. (2) The Milepost Trail goes east on sidewalks along 135th Ave. SE to Newcastle Elementary School. (3) Continue south to SE 91st St., and cross to sidewalks intersected several yards up by the Highlands Trail. (4) Just south of SE 91st St., the May Creek Trail heads west, starting out on an asphalt pathway.*

5. Horse Trail (0.7 mile from Donegal Park south to 84th Street Trail)

- From SE 74th Street, head south on a gated power line corridor across private property and public open space maintained as a lawn. (The **CrossTown Trail** emerging from the **School Woods** on the left descends steps to the right.) Detour around a fenced backyard, cross SE 80th Way, and follow a utility road south. (To the right, the **84th Street Trail** heads west to 116th Ave. SE.)
- A brushy trail descends at an obtuse angle down to the right to the hairpin turn at SE 89th Place & 124th Ave. SE. (You can follow 124th Ave. SE to **May Creek Park** at Bartrum Station, but the shoulders are narrow. Cross carefully on top of the slight rise for visibility.)

6. 84th Street Trail (0.5 mile from 116th Ave. SE east to Horse Trail)

- Follow 84th Street east, first on a sidewalk, then on a trail in the 84th Street corridor. The trail is currently closed during the construction of Cottington Subdivision, but is expected to reopen.

8. Olympus Trail (0.8 mile from CrossTown Trail south thru Olympus to Waterline Trail)

- The north end of this trail branches south from the **CrossTown Trail** just west of the cemetery. It is walkable (blackberries permitting) from here to the **Waterline Trail**. Follow it uphill to SE 80th Place. It continues south through **Olympus** in a public trail corridor atop a gas line, unmaintained, sometimes on grass, to SE 86th Place.
- Cross SE 86th past a trail sign and swing left past a second sign. A recently built trail flanked by blackberries continues east to the **Waterline Trail** along the north side of **Eden's Grove**. (A short trail branches south into this new subdivision.) Near the water line the trail descends steeply and crosses a small piece of private property.

9. Highlands Trail (1.7 miles from Coal Creek Parkway & SE 91st, looping around Highlands at Newcastle)**North Highlands Trail (0.8 miles from Parkway & SE 91st, NE to Terrace Trail)**

- From **Coal Creek Parkway** at SE 91st Street (the entrance to **The Highlands at Newcastle**) head east along 91st. Walk a short distance to the crosswalk and turn left. From here, the Highlands Trail loops completely around the Highlands and back to 91st. SE 91st ends at **Highlands Park**, which you can use as a trailhead (with parking lot). Helpful new trail signs have been installed, and muddy areas rebuilt.
- Follow the trail north from 91st through weeds (with some blackberry vines). It soon curves east, crosses a street, and follows a zigzag route northeast. Follow it east as it crosses 139th Ave. SE, descends into a wooded valley, and turns north. (The **Heritage Trail** enters from the left: you can follow it back to 139th and **Heritage Morgan Park**, or take the steps up to 140th Ave. SE.) Follow the combined trails a short distance as they curve east to a junction, and turn left. (Or turn right and follow the **Heritage Trail** south to the **South Highlands Trail**.)
- Continue north past a cross trail. (It goes right to SE 87th Place in the Highlands, and left to 140th Ave. SE in Heritage Morgan.) The main trail curves around to the right and continues to SE 87th St. at 144th Place SE, the old **Thomas Rouse Road**. A gate on 87th prevents access to the Highlands from 144th by non-emergency vehicles. Across 144th you'll see a trail sign and the lower entrance to the **Terrace Trail** (which ascends to the **East CrossTown Trail** and **Cougar Mountain Park**). The loop trail continues south across 87th.

East Highlands Trail (0.5 mile from SE 87th St. south to Thomas Rouse Road)

- From 87th the trail continues south in the woods to a retention pond, where it turns left (east) to the old **Thomas Rouse Road**. (Just before the road, there's an access to SE 93rd St.) Follow the road (now a tree-shaded dirt track) south past 93rd (the street end is visible on your right), and turn right off the road (which continues to May Valley Road) and continue west on the loop trail.

South Highlands Trail (0.4 mile from Thomas Rouse Road west to SE 91st St.)

- From the **Thomas Rouse Road** just south of 93rd, follow the loop west in woods along the south edge of the **Highlands**. You'll pass an access to 93rd on your right, then an access left to May Valley Road. Further on, the trail forks; head left into a wooded valley. (The right fork is the **Heritage Trail**, which crosses the loop.) The **Highlands Trail** ascends a steep slope, passes south of a fenced retention pond, continues west almost to the Parkway, and turns north to complete the loop at 91st. (At the turn there's an access west to the Parkway.)

10. Heritage Trail (0.5 mile from Heritage Morgan Park south to South Highlands Trail)

- From **Heritage Morgan Park**, follow the sidewalk SE along 139th Ave. SE. Cross SE 88th Place and turn left at the Heritage Trail sign. Follow the trail downhill. On your left, steps ascend to 140th Ave. SE (and another Heritage Trail sign). Continue down the trail, and turn left where it joins the **North Highlands Trail**; follow the combined trails to the next trail junction, and turn right.
- Continue south through the center of the Highlands. The trail crosses SE 90th, continues on a utility road marked by bollards, and crosses SE 92nd. (To reach **Highlands Park**, detour west on 90th or 92nd.) Continue straight to the **South Highlands Trail**; the utility road is offset to the right.

11. Clubhouse Trail (0.5 mile from golf course clubhouse south down to Meadowview Park)

- This public trail has been granted by the Golf Club at Newcastle. It is generally open from 10:00 a.m. to dusk, but may be closed during tournaments or other special events. Pass left of the clubhouse. Follow the broad cement golf cart track down to a snack hut. Pass left of the hut, enjoying the great views, and follow the cart path to a gravel road angling down to the right. Stairs lead down to a gate and **Meadowview Park**.

12. Meadowview Trail (0.9 mile from the golf course south thru Meadowview to Cougar Mountain Park)

- This trail is walkable from the golf course, much of it on sidewalks, and has nice views. A trail section goes through **Ballybunion Park** into **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park**.

13. Golf Course Trail (1.8 miles from 136th Ave. SE east along Newcastle Golf Club Road to 155th)

- Head east along the east side of Newcastle Golf Club Road from SE 71st Street on a wide gravel trail with ups and downs, woods and meadows. At 155th, head a short distance up the sidewalk. A post marks a trail toward the **Red Town Trailhead** in **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park**.

15. Milepost Trail (0.8 mile from Lake Boren Park south thru Milepost to The Highlands at Newcastle)

- From Coal Creek Parkway follow 135th Ave. SE up through **Milepost** to **Newcastle Elementary School**. Turn right on SE 88th Way, and follow a path to an old asphalt road. A pleasant, shady, two-minute walk brings you to stairs. Descend to the Parkway, and follow it south to SE 91st Street. (Turn left to follow the **Highlands Trail** to the **Terrace Trail**, or cross Coal Creek Parkway and walk south, then west on the **May Creek Trail**.)

16. Terrace Trail (0.7 mile from Highlands Trail (& 144th Place SE) NE to Terrace subdivision)

- The trail starts opposite the gated back entrance to **The Highlands at Newcastle** at 144th Place SE & SE 87th Street. It ascends on steps beneath a small cliff. (The **Highlands Trail** crosses 87th near the gate.)
- At the first switchback, Erratic Turn, rock steps ascend between large boulders. The next switchbacks are in **Boulder Grove**, a lovely spot (with bench) where the trail threads between massive fern-covered boulders.
- Follow the trail upward through ferns and forest to its intersection with the **East CrossTown Trail**. (Turn left on this informal trail section to reach 141st Ave. SE.) Continue SE on the combined trails, and ascend 52 steps to the **Terrace** subdivision. (Or continue SE on the **CrossTown Trail** into **Cougar Mountain Park**.)

17. China Creek Trail (walkable section behind Lake Boren Townhomes at north end of Lake Boren)

- From the library, walk south on 129th Ave. SE (use sidewalks on west side). Turn left at Lake Boren Townhomes and walk a short distance east to the trail. Follow the trail on wood chips past wetlands. Take a spur trail left to Lake Boren (and a lakeside bench), or loop back to 129th just south of the townhomes.

19. Hazelwood Trail (0.3 mile from Hazelwood Park west past Hazelwood School to 116th Ave. SE)

- Leave the **CrossTown Trail** at the junction **inside Hazelwood Park** near the SE 73rd Place cul-de-sac and follow the **Hazelwood Trail** west down to **116th Avenue SE**. It's walkable (blackberries permitting), and passes through a "town" of rabbit holes. Where it leaves the park, it turns left and hugs the fence on dirt (with weeds), then grass, then gravel, then asphalt. (Where the asphalt starts, look left: a short road provides public access south to **117th Place SE** and **Lake Ridge**.) Continuing west, you'll pass an access path (to **Hazelwood Elementary School**). The trail continues down a long flight of stairs to **116th Avenue SE**.

20. 80th Street Trail [not on map] (0.3 mile from SE 80th St. west to Renton's NE 44th St./Lincoln Ave.)

- *From 116th Ave. SE, go west down SE 80th Street.* Continue from the end of SE 80th Street down an ad hoc trail that winds a little as it muddily descends on a utility corridor past the **Rhododendron Garden** and across a lawn and road crossing to the Kindercare and NE 44th Street and I-405 exit 7.