

## Ragged Mountain Draft Trail Use Plan Proposed Trail Alignment Descriptions

Sections are labeled A-V starting from the parking lot and going clockwise around the reservoir.

March 10, 2017

This document describes the rationale behind the locations for proposed trails and permitted uses on the accompanying map. Staff was directed by City Council to create a draft trail use plan that accommodates hiking, jogging, and biking around the reservoir, provide for a separated pedestrian only trail as much as possible, and takes into account environmental and topographical limitations. This plan provides for nearly 90% of the trail to be separated with the exception of the environmentally sensitive area in the southwest corner of the property. This is near the floating bridge where staff believes one shared trail close to the reservoir shoreline is the most appropriate means of protecting the sensitive area from human encroachments. The corridors noted on the map are somewhat broadly defined as final exact trail placement will be determined by staff and informed by comments from users on the proposed alignments.

- A. The existing trail from the dam to the peninsula is designated hiking/jogging only.
- B. On the west side of the spillway a new shared use trail can be built closer to the reservoir, roughly 50 feet in from shore. The terrain is somewhat steep and passes through a mountain laurel area for a portion, then can cross over the existing trail/roadbed towards the bridge.
- C. Portions of trail in this area are along old roadbeds. The roadbed is wide, but may be steeper than desired in some areas. Options for rerouting it are limited and use of the old roadbed may be the best option to reduce further ground disturbance. Where possible, rerouting or modification should be done to create a more sustainable trail.
- D. The peninsula is designated hiking only (no jogging) to allow for quiet enjoyment of nature.
- E. A new hiking only trail will be built near the shore to the floating bridge.
- F. On the west side of the bridge, only one shared use trail is proposed near the lake shore. This area is already somewhat disturbed, and keeping the trail below the sensitive area will limit the threat of spread of invasives in accordance with the Ecological study recommendation. DEQ recommended using the upper roadbed since it already exists, but that portion is not on City property and the road going uphill from the bridge is not sustainable due to steep grades. A small footbridge where the tributary meets the reservoir will prevent the need to have any trail intrude up the hollows into the sensitive areas. The existing unplanned trail leading uphill from the bridge will need to be properly routed on contours to be sustainable and safe.
- G. An old driveway/roadbed leads from the reservoir up to the maintenance road on the property boundary. This driveway lends itself well to shared use, and is already disturbed. The upper maintenance road from the top of this old driveway to a point just before Ednam Forest is proposed for shared use.
- H. The hiking/jogging only trail can follow the reservoir shore, connect to the existing trail built by Ivy Creek Foundation in the next hollow, and will require construction of another section near the shore to connect to existing trails that lead to the old upper dam access road bed.
- I. The old upper dam access road bed is wide and flat and well suited for shared use.

- J. Terrain between the old upper dam access road bed and the next two hollows leading towards the tunnel is quite steep. This trail may not be needed if users can agree to share the old upper dam road bed for about 300 yards.
- K. The old waterworks pump valves and sluice offer a good hike only side trail and interpretive opportunity.
- L. There are a number of ravines running down the next hill towards the lake, so the new hiking only trail should either be located above these ravines, or along the reservoir shore, and may require some small footbridges over the ravines. There is an old driveway/roadbed that might be more suitable for trail use, and intersects with the upper dam road at a good location to diverge a hiking and jogging only trail towards the tunnel. From the tunnel to the eagle bridge, a new trail is proposed near the reservoir shore.
- M. The existing trail that has switchbacks leading down to the tunnel is proposed for shared use and may require limited improvement for such use. This trail connects to the upper roadbed.
- N. The existing trail along the reservoir shore is proposed for hiking and jogging only and connects to the Bear Statue. The last portion will need some rerouting since it follows an old roadbed used by ICF as a trail that is too steep in some areas.
- O. A new shared use alignment has been flagged to avoid use of the upper roadbed behind Ednam Forest in accordance with neighborhood request. This trail includes new portion to be built that is just out of sight of the Ednam residences, then connects to and uses the existing trail to the bear statue. The alignment of this trail will need to be field verifies and might shift somewhat based on ground conditions. It is intended to avoid entering the pine forest stand.
- P. The roadbed leading from the water tower to the lake, including a loop trail on the peninsula, is proposed for hiking only.
- Q. The upper roadbed along the back of Ednam Forest is proposed for hiking only all the way to the mountain man statue.
- R. The existing trail from the bear to the mountain man is proposed for shared use and may require some improvements.
- S. The existing lower trail from the mountain man to the parking lot is proposed for hiking only.
- T. The upper roadbed from the mountain man to the parking lot is proposed for shared use.
- U. Roundtop Mountain trails and the link trail from the lower parking lot are proposed for hiking only (no jogging). There is an existing trail going up to Roundtop that is too steep and may require re-routing
- V. If the connection is desired to the Ragged Mountain trails from adjacent property and biking is permitted on that property, a new shared use link would need to be constructed to avoid existing Roundtop trails.