

Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail Connector: Depot Road to 8th Street

Funding Request: \$500,000



Request: The City of Lynden is requesting Whatcom County Economic Development Investment (EDI) funds in the amount of \$500,000 to complete the trail extension from Depot Road to North 8th Street. This project will construct the final 5,000 feet of the 12-foot wide multi-modal east-west trail transportation system in Lynden. This section will follow along Fishtrap Creek between Depot Road and North 8th Street and includes a bridge over Fishtrap Creek. The requested funds would be matched with \$500,000 in City Parks funds and a \$200,000 State Department of Commerce Grant.

Issue: The City is seeking funding to complete its existing east-west trail network. The Jim Kaemingk Sr. Trail currently ends at Depot Road after meandering through the Lynden City Park along Fishtrap Creek. The trail does not begin again until approximately one mile later. As walking and biking have become more popular activities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for a continuous trail system has become more evident. Pedestrians currently must cross multiple streets to reach the final segment of the trail network. Additionally, this route is in the vicinity of multiple schools and the highly used Bender Fields. The existing trail network is a popular way for students to travel to and from school or athletic events on foot or by bicycle. The ability to provide off-street, safe travel for all while promoting health is a high priority in Lynden.

Solution: This project constructs 5,000 feet of 12-foot wide ADA-compliant trail to fill a gap in the City-wide multi-modal trail system. It provides educational and recreational opportunities along Fishtrap Creek in the central core of Lynden between Depot Road and North 8th Street. It provides multi-modal pedestrian access to Lynden schools including Fisher Elementary School, Lynden Middle School, and the Lynden Christian School complex which includes all grade levels. This trail section provides a connection from the west to City Park and the “Million Smiles” play area, the City Pool/Recreation Center, and the Bender Fields Recreation Area further to the east. The entire Kaemingk trail system began in 1994 and gives residents and visitors to Lynden an exceptional outdoor recreational activity that links to a wide variety of other City points of interest.

This photo-realistic rendering shows the proposed Kaemingk Trail Extension, including the pedestrian bridge over Fishtrap Creek.

