

Rotary Club of Bellingham steps up for the Bellingham Outdoor Community!

\$100,000 major project donation by Bellingham's largest Rotary Club will provide significant parking relief, improve safety, and provide service facilities for mountain bikers using Galbraith Mountain.

For Immediate Release:

November 16, 2018:

In front of 800 mountain bikers gathered for the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition's Shoot the Trails event, Peter Theisen from the Rotary Club of Bellingham announced the Rotary's Major Grant donation of \$100,000 to the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition. The generous donation will go towards the completion of an expanded parking lot for Galbraith Mountain and Lake Padden Park.

In August, 2018, the WMBC along with the City of Bellingham, Whatcom Land Trust and Galbraith Tree Farm worked to purchase Recreation and Conservation easements on Galbraith Mountain preserving public access to the mountain forever! Over the years, Galbraith has become a nationally recognized trail network and the gem of Whatcom County. The current parking lot only fits 30 vehicles and it's not uncommon for it to be full on weekdays with overflow parking taking place on Samish Way.

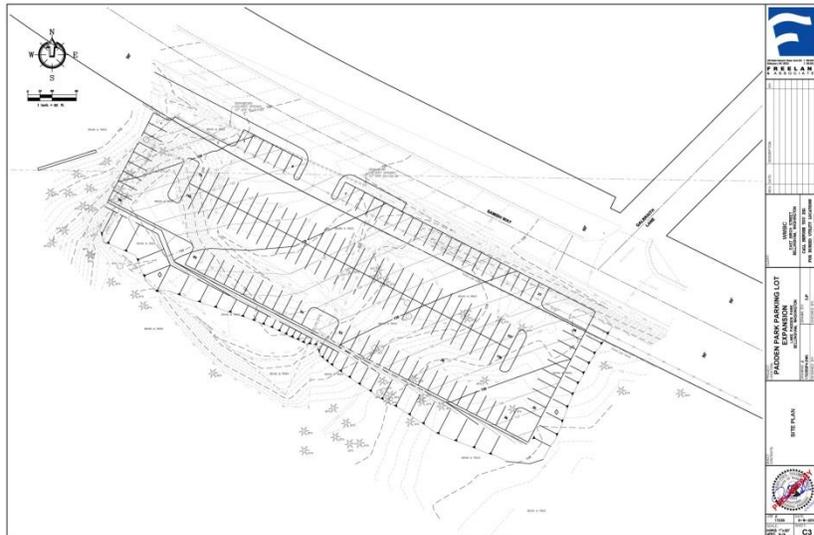


Current parking lot with cars parking on Samish Way.

Eric Brown, Trail Director for the WMBC, stated "The WMBC is thrilled to receive the Rotary Club of Bellingham's support for this project. This donation is over 1/3 of the total price for this parking lot expansion, so it's a huge jumpstart to our fundraising campaign! The Rotary recognizes this tremendous outdoor resource and the need for a safe place to park trail users including families with small children."

Mike Diehl, the projects Rotary sponsor, said "What an exciting project to be part of. This parking lot will be utilized by many different user groups while allowing safe and secure access to the trails on Galbraith Mt. and the Lake Padden area."

Sandy McIntire, Rotary Club President added “Our Rotary Club is excited about this project because it solves a very real safety issue, provides more outdoor activity access for local families, and supports a growing sector of our local economy. It’s the right project at the right time.”



Future expanded parking lot design (draft).

The expanded parking lot will hold 140 vehicles and include 2 vault toilets, a crosswalk across Samish Way, a Kiosk and places for trail users to picnic. Expected construction is September 2019, but we are working with our partners including PSE for pole relocation, Whatcom County Public Works on the crosswalk and the City of Bellingham. The WMBC has already received tremendous support from other member businesses in the community, so the Rotary’s support is another big step in the progress of this project.

Brown added, “On behalf of the WMBC and the extended trail community, a huge thanks the Rotarians for selecting this project and we look forward to hosting them for trail work days on their newly adopted trail New Issues!”.

The WMBC’s current partners for the parking lot expansion so far include the Rotary Club of Bellingham and the following businesses:

Current Partners



www.wmbcmtb.org/parking

