

April 19, 2021

## NOTICE OF DE MINIMIS IMPACT TERMINATION

The City of Lynnwood, Washington, is proposing to make critical upgrades to a 4,000-linear-foot section of shared-use path from the Lynnwood Transit Center to Wilcox Park. Due to its urban location, the trail is an important recreational amenity used by both bicycles and pedestrians. The project will improve public access to and enjoyment of public parklands and will provide a nonmotorized transportation alternative for accessing the Lynnwood Transit Center and future light rail station.

Construction of the improvements are funded in part by a federal transportation grant, and the project must comply with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Section 4(f) declares a national policy to “preserve the natural beauty of the countryside, public park and recreation land, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites.” The trail links the following City owned and operated parks, each qualifying as a Section 4(f) resource, pursuant to federal regulations (23 CFR 774): Scriber Creek Park, Sprague’s Pond Mini Park, Scriber Lake Park, and Wilcox Park.

City of Lynnwood Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department staff have reviewed the potential impacts that could result from development of the trail and conclude that the proposed project will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that make any of the parks (Scriber Creek Park, Sprague’s Mini Pond Park, Scriber Lake Park, Wilcox Park) eligible for Section 4(f) protection. The project will have a de minimis impact on these resources.

The City is offering the opportunity for the public to submit any concerns about this determination by May 7, 2021. Please see attached figures for the location of the trail with respect to each park. Please submit comments to:

Monica Thompson, PLA, CPSI  
Senior Parks Planner  
425-670-5567  
[mthompson@LynnwoodWA.gov](mailto:mthompson@LynnwoodWA.gov)

## BACKGROUND

The location of the trail improvements generally coincides with the location of an existing trail that provides access to and through the four parks:

- Scriber Creek Park was purchased in 1991 to conserve open space and limit development to passive improvements such as trails. It is comprised mostly of forested wetlands and nature trails, but also includes a parking lot, benches, and picnic tables. The location of the improved trail coincides with the location of an existing path in places while providing a buffer from the adjacent road and residential dwellings in others. The improved trail occupies approximately ¼ acre of the 4.6-acre park. See Figure 1.

---

18900 44<sup>TH</sup> Avenue West | Lynnwood, WA 98036 | Phone: 425-670-5732 | Fax: 425-771-1363 | [www.LynnwoodWA.gov](http://www.LynnwoodWA.gov)

Parks Administration  
19000 44<sup>TH</sup> Ave W  
425-670-5505

Recreation Center  
18900 44<sup>TH</sup> Ave W  
425-670-5732  
[www.PlayLynnwood.com](http://www.PlayLynnwood.com)

Golf Course  
20200 68<sup>TH</sup> Ave W  
425-670-4653  
[www.LynnwoodGolf.com](http://www.LynnwoodGolf.com)

Senior Center  
19000 44<sup>TH</sup> Ave W  
425-670-5050

- Scriber Lake Park was purchased in 1982 with the intent of preserving the natural area as a community park and limiting development to passive improvements such as trails. It features a floating boardwalk around the lake and forested wetlands and nature trails. It includes parking and restrooms on the west side of the park. The location of the improved trail will generally coincide with the location of an existing path, except where turns are softened to allow trail users to see the path ahead. The improved trail will occupy 0.35 acre of the approximately 24-acre park. See Figure 2.
- Sprague's Pond Mini Park was developed in 1970 to serve the immediate community and has a playground, neighborhood access path and benches with view of the pond, and parking lot. The improved trail coincides with the location of the sidewalk that abuts the north side of the mini park and will occupy 0.05 acre of the approximately 1.5-acre area. See Figure 3.
- Wilcox Park was initially acquired in 1961 and offers basketball courts, playground, picnic shelter, and lawn area, as well as more natural forested area. The improved trail coincides with the location of the sidewalk on the east side of the park and occupies less than 0.01 acre of an approximately 7-acre park.

The condition of the existing trail limits its use. The existing trail crosses Scriber Creek at three locations (within Scriber Creek Park and Scriber Lake Park) via wooden bridges that have exceeded their useful life. Long sections of the trail immediately adjacent to the creek flood annually making it unusable to pedestrians for about 6 months each year. Additionally, tree roots under the path create an uneven walking surface. In a 2018 survey and series of meetings, park users and community members indicated that the narrow path and inability to see around corners reduced public use and enjoyment of the existing trail and associated parks.

The proposed trail is designed as an accessible, hard surface to range in width from 10-12' wide with 2' wide shoulders. In the wetland and stream areas, the trail will be constructed on elevated bridge or boardwalk with a durable and slip resistant surface. These improvements will increase the capacity of trail and enhance the safety and park visitors' experience year-round. This project will eliminate the barriers to trail use and access caused by the frequent flooding, lack of ADA accessibility, safety concerns, poor sightlines, and aging infrastructure. Reconfiguration of the trail crossing at Sprague's Mini Pond Park and 200th Street SW will accommodate safety and efficiency enhancements for trail users.