



CHAPTER 7.2: EXISTING TRAILS

EXISTING TRAILS

The County has several trail segments managed by multiple jurisdictions that provide important bicycle, pedestrian and watercraft linkages to communities as well as recreational opportunities. There are approximately 75 miles of existing trails within Pierce County, which are managed by multiple jurisdictions. The trails are a mix of continuous alignments and discrete segments. The mix of trail alignments and discrete segments is due to the fact that Pierce County has multiple jurisdictions: one first class city, 16 optional municipal code cities, six towns, four park districts, eleven community planning areas and numerous trail interest organizations. Map 7: Existing Trails on the following page depicts the developed trails within Pierce County. Appendix E: Trails Inventory provides a more detailed listing of trails.

EXISTING PIERCE COUNTY TRAILS

Pierce County currently manages approximately 31 miles of trails along four trail alignments. The trails are the Foothills Trail, the Nathan Chapman Memorial Trail, the Grandview Trail and Soundview Trail. Table 7.1 summarizes the mileage for each trail alignment.

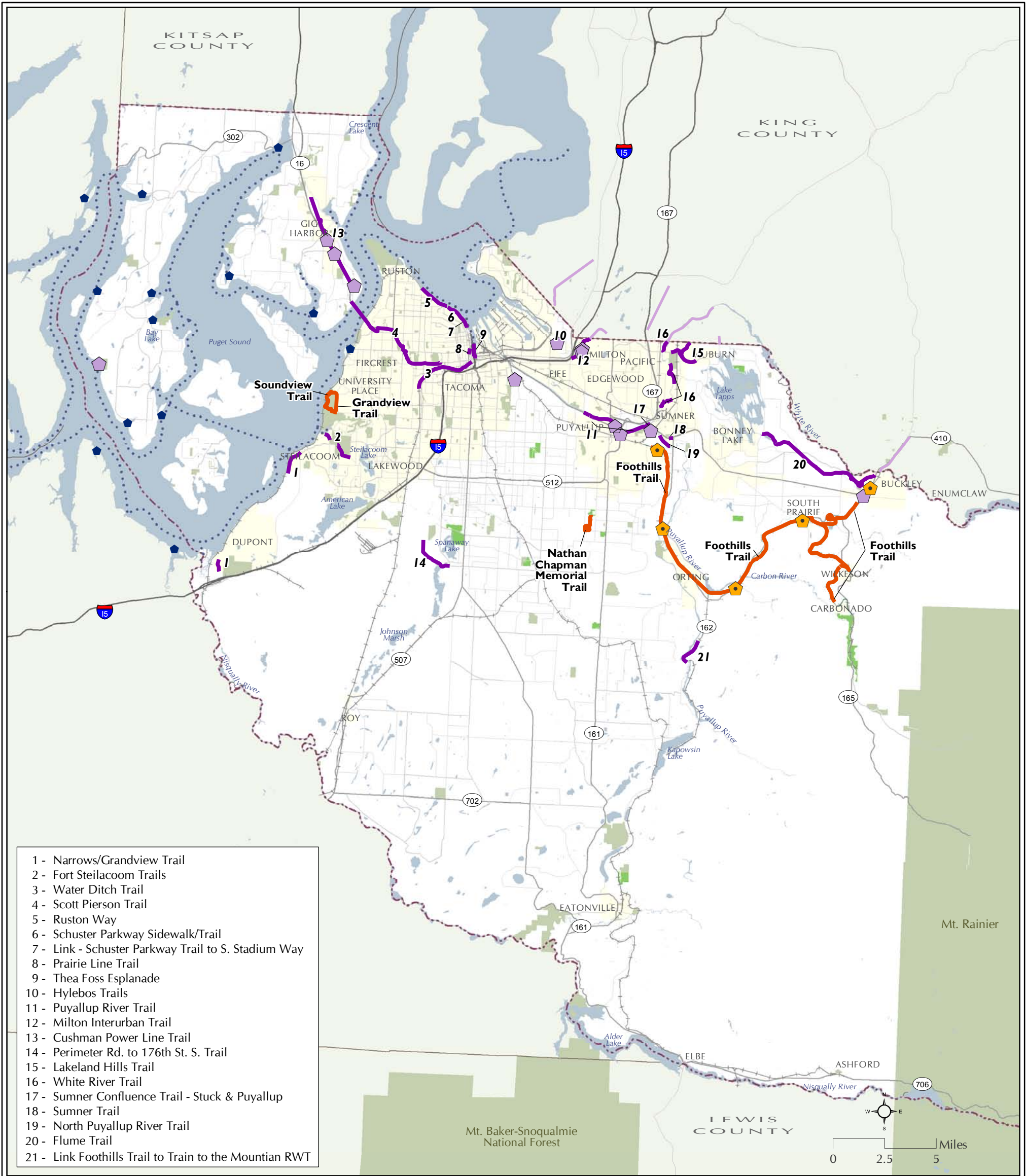
Table 7.1: Existing Pierce County Trails

Trail Name	Approx. Miles ¹
Foothills Trail	26.1
Grandview Trail	1.2
Nathan Chapman Memorial Trail	1.6
Soundview Trail	2.0
TOTALS	30.9

¹Mileage is approximate and has not been derived from a survey.

- Foothills Trail.** The Foothills Trail is a 12-foot wide rails-to-trails corridor with approximately 26 miles of paved and unpaved trail segments. The trail is suitable for bicycles, walking, in-line skates and wheel chairs. It also has a soft shoulder path for equestrians. Completed paved sections include 15 miles from Meeker to the South Prairie Creek in the Town of South Prairie and a 1.8 mile section in the City of Buckley. The future plan is to continue the trail to the City of Sumner where it will connect with the Interurban Trail that now extends through the cities of Kent and Auburn. The trail in Buckley will continue east to the City of Enumclaw and King County. There are four trailheads and one rest area located along the trails length.

- **Nathan Chapman Memorial Trail.** The Nathan Chapman Memorial Trail is a 1.6 mile trail located in South Hill Community Park. The trail is dedicated to the memory of Sgt. Nathan Chapman and connects the Heritage Recreation Center with the park. This trail provides a connection between the Heritage Recreation Center and South Hill Community Park and will eventually connect to the future Cross County Commuter Collector Trail that will run parallel to 94th Street. The link is being planned along 144th Street to link the Nathan Chapman Trail to the future Cross County Commuter Collector Trail.
- **Grandview and Soundview Trails.** The Grandview and Soundview Trails connect amenities at the Chambers Creek Properties site managed by the County's Public Works and Utilities Department. The properties are located in the cities of University Place and Lakewood, Washington. The Grandview Trail is a 1.2 mile paved trail that provides views of Puget Sound and surrounding islands, the Chambers Bay golf course, and runs adjacent to the County's Environmental Services Building. The Soundview Trail is a two mile trail that connects the south and north ends of the Grandview Trail and creates a recreational loop through the Chambers Bay Golf Course.



- 1 - Narrows/Grandview Trail
- 2 - Fort Steilacoom Trails
- 3 - Water Ditch Trail
- 4 - Scott Pierson Trail
- 5 - Ruston Way
- 6 - Schuster Parkway Sidewalk/Trail
- 7 - Link - Schuster Parkway Trail to S. Stadium Way
- 8 - Prairie Line Trail
- 9 - Thea Foss Esplanade
- 10 - Hylebos Trails
- 11 - Puyallup River Trail
- 12 - Milton Interurban Trail
- 13 - Cushman Power Line Trail
- 14 - Perimeter Rd. to 176th St. S. Trail
- 15 - Lakeland Hills Trail
- 16 - White River Trail
- 17 - Sumner Confluence Trail - Stuck & Puyallup
- 18 - Sumner Trail
- 19 - North Puyallup River Trail
- 20 - Flume Trail
- 21 - Link Foothills Trail to Train to the Mountain RWT



Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Map 7: Existing Trails

All users of the data shall be advised that the map features are approximate and are intended only to provide an indication of said feature. Additional areas that have not been mapped may be present. This is not a survey. The County assumes no liability for variations ascertained by actual survey. ALL DATA IS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED 'AS IS' AND 'WITH ALL FAULTS'. The County makes no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose.

MIG July 2009 | Data Source: Pierce County GIS, Foothills Trail Coalition, Trails Plan Technical Working Group, and Community Plan - planning area maps. Projection: NAD 1983 HARN State Plane Washington South FIPS 4602 Feet Lambert Conic Conformal

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Existing County Trail | Other Trailhead | Municipality |
| Existing Other Trail | Water Trail Access | Pierce County |
| Existing Out of County Trail | Linear Park/Trail | Other County |
| Water Trail | County or Regional Park | Interstate |
| County Trailhead | Other Park | Highway/Major Arterial |
| | | Railroad |
| | | Water Feature |

OTHER TRAILS

There are 21 trail alignments managed by other jurisdictions and private organizations totaling approximately 44 miles. Table 7.2 below summarizes the existing trails maintained by other jurisdictions and identifies the corresponding map identification number for identifying the alignment in Map 7: Existing Trails.

Table 7.2: Existing Other Jurisdiction Trails

Trail Name	Approx. Miles ¹	Map ID
Cushman Power Line Trail ¹	4.9	13
Flume Trail	7.4	20
Fort Steilacoom Trails	1.4	2
Hylebos Trails	0.3	10
Lakeland Hills Trail	2.4	15
Link - Foothills Trail to Train to the Mountain RWT	1.4	21
Link - Schuster Parkway Trail to S Stadium Way	0.1	7
Milton Interurban Trail	1.4	12
Narrows/Grandview Trail	1.9	1
North Puyallup River Trail	0.7	19
Perimeter Rd to 176th St S Trail	2.1	14
Prairie Line Trail	0.3	8
Puyallup River Trail (Puyallup River Walk)	3.3	11
Ruston Way	1.5	5
Schuster Parkway Sidewalk/Trail	1.4	6
Scott Pierson Trail	6.3	4
Sumner Confluence Trail - Stuck & Puyallup	0.6	17
Sumner Trail	0.2	18
Thee Foss Esplanade	0.8	9
Water Ditch Trail	3.2	3
White River Trail	2.6	16
TOTAL	44.2	

¹Mileage is approximate and has not been derived from a survey.

¹ The Cushman Power Line Trail was developed as joint partnership with the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District and the Pierce County Parks & Recreation Department.

PROPOSED² & PLANNED TRAILS

There are approximately 259 miles of proposed trails within Pierce County. Proposed trails may be included in the local jurisdiction or private organization plans, but have not gone through a formal planning process. These alignments are conceptual in nature and will need further public input, alignment assessment, and planning. Planned trails are alignments included in adopted plan documents, such as: community plans, parks and open space plans, trails master plans and capital facility plans. These trail alignments typically have gone through a public involvement and design process, and may have funding identified for development. Map 8: Existing and Proposed Trails depicts the proposed trail alignments identified during the project.

PROPOSED COUNTY TRAILS

Pierce County has about a half mile of proposed trails that will add to the existing trail network. A new trail alignment is planned between Cross Park and the future Train to the Mountain Rail with Trail (Table 7.4). Table 7.3 summarizes the mileage for the trail alignments.

Table 7.3: Proposed Pierce County Trails

Trail Name	Approx. Miles ¹	Map ID
Link - Cross Park to Train to the Mountain RWT	0.1	tl
Stewart Road Trail	0.4	w
TOTAL	0.5	

¹Mileage is approximate and has not been derived from a survey.

The County has in the past partnered with a number of agencies for joint trail planning and development. Additional partnerships could be established for the trail projects summarized in Table 7.4, which would create an additional 65 miles of trail.

² For the purpose of this document the term 'proposed' is used for both planned and proposed trails in Pierce County.

Table 7.4: Proposed Trail Partnership Opportunities

Trail Name and Partner	Approx. Miles ¹	Map ID
Cross County Commuter Collector Trail – Tacoma Public Utilities, Water Division	12.6	o
Cushman Power Line Trail	3.3	a
Eatonville to Rim rock Park Trail, Town of Eatonville	1.5	t3
Link-Foothills Trail – Enumclaw Connector	1.8	z
Trail Linkage Tacoma Dome Station/Freight house Square, City of Tacoma Public Works	0.6	jl
Train to the Mountain Rail with Trail - Port of Tacoma, Tacoma Rail Division	45.1	t
TOTAL	64.9	

¹Mileage is approximate and has not been derived from a survey.

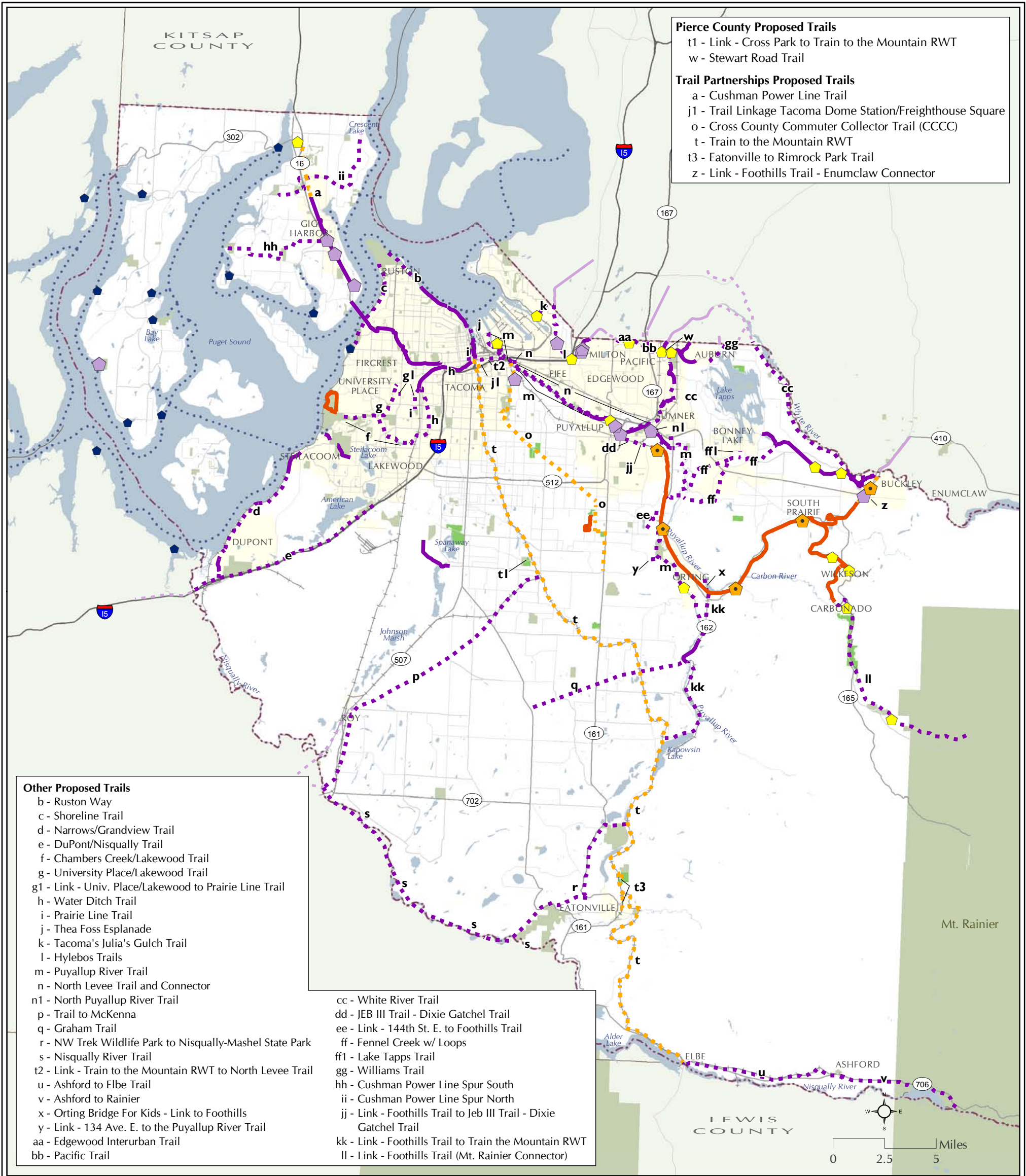
OTHER TRAILS

The other proposed trail alignments are at various stages of planning. Some are more conceptual while others are actively being pursued for funding. Table 7.5 summarizes the proposed trail alignments within Pierce County, but not managed by the County or its departments. The alignments have been given a map id for locating the trail on Map 8: Existing and Proposed Trails. A complete trails inventory is provided in Appendix E: Trails Inventory.

Table 7.5: Proposed Other Trails

Trail Name	Approx. Miles ¹	Map ID
Ashford to Elbe Trail	8.1	u
Ashford to Rainier	6.4	v
Chambers Creek/Lakewood Trail	4.5	f
Cushman Power Line Trail Spur North	7.1	ii
Cushman Power Line Trail Spur South	6.0	hh
DuPont/Nisqually Trail	9.8	e
Edgewood Interurban Trail	1.8	aa
Fennel Creek w/Loops	9.0	ff
Graham Trail	7.7	q
Hylebos Trails	2.8	l
JEB III Trail - Dixie Gatchel Trail	0.9	dd
Lake Tapps Trail	0.3	ffl
Link - 134 Ave E to the Puyallup River Trail	0.7	y
Link - 144th St E to Foothills Trail	2.0	ee
Link - Foothills Trail to JEB III Trail – Dixie Gatchel Trail	0.8	Jj
Link - Foothills Trail (Mt. Rainier Connector)	11.4	Ll
Link - Foothills Trail to Train to the Mountain RWT	7.6	kk
Link - Train to the Mountain RWT to North Levee Trail	1.4	t2
Link - Univ. Place/Lakewood to Prairie Line Trail (east)	0.1	gl
Link - Univ. Place/Lakewood to Prairie Line Trail (west)	0.3	gl
Narrows/Grandview Trail	6.0	d
Nisqually River Trail	13.2	s
North Levee Trail	9.1	n
North Levee Trail Connector	0.3	n
North Puyallup River Trail	0.5	nl
NW Trek Wildlife Park to Nisqually-Mashel State Park	8.5	r
Orting Bridge For Kids - Link to Foothills Trails	0.8	x
Pacific Trail	1.1	bb
Prairie Line Trail	2.0	i
Puyallup River Trail	19.4	m
Ruston Way	2.5	b
Shoreline Trail	4.3	c
Tacoma's Julia's Gulch Trail	1.1	k
Thea Foss Esplanade	0.9	j
Trail to McKenna	15.2	p
University Place/Lakewood Trail	2.1	g
Water Ditch Trail	3.4	h
White River Trail	12.9	cc
Williams Trail	1.5	gg
TOTAL	193.7	

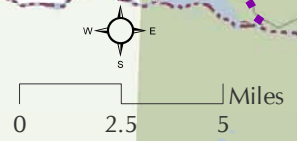
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- Pierce County Proposed Trails**
 t1 - Link - Cross Park to Train to the Mountain RWT
 w - Stewart Road Trail
- Trail Partnerships Proposed Trails**
 a - Cushman Power Line Trail
 j1 - Trail Linkage Tacoma Dome Station/Freighthouse Square
 o - Cross County Commuter Collector Trail (CCCC)
 t - Train to the Mountain RWT
 t3 - Eatonville to Rimrock Park Trail
 z - Link - Foothills Trail - Enumclaw Connector

- Other Proposed Trails**
- b - Ruston Way
 - c - Shoreline Trail
 - d - Narrows/Grandview Trail
 - e - DuPont/Nisqually Trail
 - f - Chambers Creek/Lakewood Trail
 - g - University Place/Lakewood Trail
 - g1 - Link - Univ. Place/Lakewood to Prairie Line Trail
 - h - Water Ditch Trail
 - i - Prairie Line Trail
 - j - Thea Foss Esplanade
 - k - Tacoma's Julia's Gulch Trail
 - l - Hylebos Trails
 - m - Puyallup River Trail
 - n - North Levee Trail and Connector
 - n1 - North Puyallup River Trail
 - p - Trail to McKenna
 - q - Graham Trail
 - r - NW Trek Wildlife Park to Nisqually-Mashel State Park
 - s - Nisqually River Trail
 - t2 - Link - Train to the Mountain RWT to North Levee Trail
 - u - Ashford to Elbe Trail
 - v - Ashford to Rainier
 - x - Orting Bridge For Kids - Link to Foothills
 - y - Link - 134 Ave. E. to the Puyallup River Trail
 - aa - Edgewood Interurban Trail
 - bb - Pacific Trail

- cc - White River Trail
- dd - JEB III Trail - Dixie Gatchel Trail
- ee - Link - 144th St. E. to Foothills Trail
- ff - Fennel Creek w/ Loops
- ff1 - Lake Tapps Trail
- gg - Williams Trail
- hh - Cushman Power Line Spur South
- ii - Cushman Power Line Spur North
- jj - Link - Foothills Trail to Jeb III Trail - Dixie Gatchel Trail
- kk - Link - Foothills Trail to Train the Mountain RWT
- ll - Link - Foothills Trail (Mt. Rainier Connector)



Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Map 8: Existing and Proposed Trails

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| Proposed Trail Partnership | Other Trailhead | Other County |
| Existing Other Trail | Proposed Trailhead | Interstate |
| Proposed Other Trail | Water Trail Access | Highway/Major Arterial |
| Existing Out of County Trail | Linear Park/Trail | Railroad |
| Proposed Out of County Trail | County or Regional Park | Water Feature |
| | Other Park | |

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Multiple planning documents and regulations guide growth and development in Pierce County. State, county, city and local planning efforts create layers of goals and policies. To prevent contradiction or conflict, the Regional Trails Plan should be designed to complement and strengthen the goals and policies of other documents. This section provides an overview of the existing regulatory framework in Pierce County. A more detailed review of the regulatory framework and permitting process is provided in Appendix G: Trail Planning Framework, Appendix F: Trail Providers, Advocates and Plans, and Appendix H: Trail Permitting Process.

FEDERAL

The Federal Government hands down federal transportation requirements from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to individual state transportation agencies. FHWA bases federal transportation requirements on two primary sources that regulate trail design: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidelines and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Design Guidelines. The FHWA also publishes the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which provides consistency in standards for traffic control devices.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act.** The ADA guidelines require that facilities are readily accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities. The guidelines outline minimum dimensions and standards for width, passing space, head room, surface textures, slope and other design considerations for all publically accessible areas.
- **American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials.** The AASHTO design guidelines for bicycle transportation facilities and shared use paths provide development parameters for facility development. Compliance with AASHTO guidelines is required for most transportation funding sources and reduces the County's exposure to liability. In general, AASHTO guidelines exceed ADA accessibility guidelines. The Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (commonly referred to as the "AASHTO Bike Guide") is currently underway and may be released by spring 2010.

- **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.** The MUTCD defines the standards used by road managers to install and maintain traffic control devices on all streets and highways. Traffic control devices are critical for the safe and efficient transportation of people and goods. The MUTCD sets minimum standards and provides guidance and ensures uniformity of traffic control devices. Part 9 of the MUTCD addresses traffic controls for bicycle facilities and applying these guidelines to trail traffic controls can encourage uniformity throughout the County's transportation system³.

STATE

The State of Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) sets forth legislation that all planning and development in the state must follow. Based on federal and state legislation, trail planning and design should closely follow the Washington State Trails Plan and Washington State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) guidelines and specifications.

- **Washington's Growth Management Act.** Pierce County is required to develop its plans in accordance with the State's GMA. In 2005, the State of Washington amended mandatory elements of comprehensive plans, requiring communities to address health through their transportation network. Through the transportation element of a comprehensive plan, counties and cities must address pedestrian and bicycle facilities and corridors, and encourage enhanced community access and promote healthy lifestyles. The intent of the amendments is to promote policy and planning efforts that increase access to inexpensive or free opportunities for regular exercise. Along with transportation benefits, trails also provide valuable recreation opportunities for a number of users. Based on the intent of the amendments, the responsibility for providing a regional trail network is the combined responsibility of transportation departments and parks and recreation departments.

³ Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/index.htm>

- **Washington State Trails Plan.** The State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is responsible for the Washington State Trails Plan. Accepted by the National Park Service in 1991, the Plan is an element of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) program. The Plan establishes a number of trail related goals and identifies different trail users. Specific goals related to the Pierce County Regional Trails Plan include:
 - Develop new trails and paths in city and county jurisdictions;
 - Connect trail systems and populated areas via trails and paths; and
 - Increase the miles of trail available in semi-primitive and other remote settings.

- **Washington State Department of Transportation.** WSDOT provides two primary publications related to federally funded transportation projects. These include the Local Agency Guidelines (LAG Manual) and Construction Manual and Standard Specifications for Road, Bridge and Municipal Construction. The manual provides information and advice on public works project design and construction management. Both documents are based on federal transportation guidelines. Consistency with WSDOT guidelines is also important for securing grant support for project development. The WSDOT Design Manual was updated and reformatted in June 2009; the information regarding shared-use path design is available in Chapter 1520 (previously in Chapter 1020).

LOCAL

Within Pierce County there are multiple layers of regulatory review. County plans and regulations, park districts, cities, towns, and neighboring county planning efforts should all be considered when planning and designing the regional trail system.

- **Pierce County.** There are a number of County planning documents that are relevant to the regional trail plan. These include the County-wide Planning Policies, the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan, the Pierce County Code, the Pierce County Park, the Recreation & Open Space Plan and the Pierce County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Pierce County also identifies several community areas with adopted plans that include strategies for providing and maintaining parks and open space. All of the

adopted community plans have specific goals, objectives or action items that address a regional network of trails. Based on the intent of the amendments, the responsibility for providing a non-motorized regional trail transportation network is the combined responsibility of the Transportation and P&RS. As noted in the Pierce County Non-motorized Transportation Plan, Pierce County Parks & Recreation plays the lead role in developing off-road trails while Pierce County Public Works & Utilities is responsible for on-road non-motorized projects. The County's Low Impact Development (LID) techniques also provide information related to environmentally responsible and effective stormwater management techniques.

- **Park Districts.** All of Pierce County's park districts have adopted a park and recreation related plan. Similar to city, town, and county plans, park district plans contain policies and goals related to connectivity to neighboring communities, and coordination among affected agencies and user groups.
- **Cities & Towns.** Several cities and towns in Pierce County have adopted trail specific plans, recreation plans or have existing or planned trails within their jurisdictions. Of the County's cities and towns, nine have adopted a plan related to trail development and four have either drafted a trail related plan or are in the process of trail development. Several of these communities have identified specific trail classifications as well as trail design standards. All of these communities identify the need for a regional trail network, or trail connectivity to neighboring destinations.
- **Neighboring Counties.** Pierce County is surrounded by six counties. King, Mason, Thurston and Yakima Counties all have adopted County-wide trail master plans. Kitsap County has an area specific trail plan and a bicycle plan, as well as non-motorized transportation planning efforts through the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council. Lewis County does not currently have an adopted plan related to trail planning.