Case Study

Walkable Washington

The Walkable Washington program grew out of the Feet First Cities Program. It showcases exceptional pedestrian-oriented improvements, community groups and outreach programs; maintains a statewide network for key contacts and stakeholders including an annual symposium; and provides assistance with Safe Routes to School, walking audits and other educational activities and programs.

Sammamish Walks
Sammamish, WA

Description and purpose
The Sammamish Walks is a website developed by Judy Petersen, Sunita Dublisch and Larry Petersen. The site provides maps, descriptions, directions and photos for trails that cut through more than a thousand acres of land preserved by the City of Sammamish, King County and the Cascade Land Conservancy. By raising awareness of the established trails and natural area around the Sammamish plateau, the Sammamish Walks site has helped the community better plan for the preservation and development of walking trails and parks.
Costs and funding
The Sammamish Walks’ only cost is website maintenance, $100-200 per year, which is covered by founder and volunteer Judy Petersen.

Implementation time-frame
The program and website has been continually active since its founding in 2009. The Sammamish Friends—another organization founded by Judy Petersen—has recently been established as a non-profit organization focusing on habitat, trails, bog preservation and the overall enrichment of the Sammamish community.

Community involvement
The program involves three core volunteers who focus on website development and general planning. Many other volunteers are involved in leading monthly walks.

Benefits and results
The program has created some influence within the City of Sammamish—about 600 people participated in the trail-walks in the past six years, and there are around 32,000 active visitors to the website. The Sammamish Walks and Sammamish Friends have also caught the attention of City of Sammamish and King County in visioning the Emerald Necklace—a program that seeks to connect existing trails and add new trails to form a continuous loop around the Sammamish Plateau.

Project Contacts
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Resources
Sammamish Walks website
http://www.sammamishwalks.org
Emerald Necklace—Sammamish Friends Website
http://www.sammamishfriends.org/emerald-necklace

Photo courtesy of Sammamish Walks.