

For Immediate Release

City of Renton - 1055 South Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

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For more information contact:

Kelly Beymer, Parks and Golf Course Director 425-430-6617
Kent Curry, Commander, Renton Police Department 425-430-7555
Preeti Shridhar, Communications Director 425-430-6569, cell 206-491-8158

Renton Implements Reduced Speed Limits, Trail Striping, and Signage to Emphasize Trail Safety *Police cadets reinforce trail etiquette*

RENTON, WA—The City of Renton has painted a dashed yellow centerline stripe on the Cedar River Trail and installed signs indicating the new reduced speed limit from 15 mph to 10 mph. The centerline stripe encourages users to keep to the right and extends from 6th Avenue N. to Logan Avenue N., and from the entrance to the trail underneath I-405, to 149th Ave SE, by Ron Regis Park.

After a tragic accident on the Cedar River Trail involving a collision between a bicyclist and a pedestrian, Renton Mayor Denis Law implemented a comprehensive trail safety program to enhance and promote safety for all users. The trails safety initiative includes education and outreach, new rules, trail striping and additional signage.

Education and outreach

The city is also working on a comprehensive trail etiquette and education campaign to promote safety. As part of this campaign, the city has set up patrols by police cadets on the trails to assist with education and remind trail users to stop inappropriate behavior. Since June, cadets have contacted over 500 users on the trail and provided information on trail etiquette and safety. They have also noted 15 helmet violations, 31 speeding violations, 19 dismount violations. Trail users appreciate the assistance and information they have received and have often expressed their thanks.

“A lot of people were very thankful that we were out on the trail,” said Renton Police Cadet Crystal Burns. “We were told that our presence on the trail made them feel safer.”

“The new lanes are making a difference and bikes are going slower” said Renton Police Cadet Travis Gnehm. “At least three citizens have come up to me and expressed their appreciation and have mentioned that that our police-presence on the trail was a great help.”

The city will also provide flyers and information on trail etiquette at kiosks and dispensers along the Cedar River Trail, post additional signage to promote trail etiquette, and work with local bicycling organizations and event coordinators to inform their members about the new rules and encourage trail safety.

Key messages of the campaign include:

- Control speed on the trail, especially in congested areas.
- Keep to the right, except to pass.
- Be aware of people around you before entering a trail, changing directions or passing.
- Be courteous when passing by warning those being passed.
- Don't block the path; if necessary, stop on the side of the trail.
- Keep pets on a short leash to prevent interference with other trail users, and pick-up after your pet.
- Wear reflective clothing and use lights when using the trail after dark.

Revised Parks Rules

All civil violations of park rules carry a fine of up to \$101.

- Reduced speed limit reduced from 15 mph to 10 mph.
- Dismount zone for bicycles on the Cedar River Trail between the library and the Renton Senior Activity Center.

Trail Striping and Enhanced Signage

- Dashed centerline on the Cedar River Trail to denote a separation and to encourage trail users to stay to the right of the line unless passing.
- Signs at all access points stating the speed limit of 10 mph (currently no bicycles are permitted on the trail from N 6th Street to the mouth of the river due to reduced trail width).
- Warning marks on pavement approaching bollards.
- Additional trail signage that is universally understood and consistent with other cities and King County.

The efforts to enhance trail safety also include rigorous enforcement of reckless behavior and violations that occur in various areas of the city including Lake Washington Boulevard. Since July 1, 2010, the Renton Police Department has issued 185 tickets on Lake Washington Boulevard for vehicles and bicycles/trail users.

The city will continue to monitor the program to determine whether improvements have reduced trail congestion and conflicts. For more information, visit rentonwa.gov.

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