

0020.120.033  
/jeh  
01/17/95

Redmond Watershed  
Emergency Closure

ORDINANCE NO. 1821

**ORIGINAL**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND CLOSING THE REDMOND WATERSHED TO USE BY HIKERS, BICYCLISTS, EQUESTRIANS AND OTHER USERS PENDING ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MASTER PLAN FOR TRAIL DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO AVOID IMMINENT ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND DAMAGE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY.

---

WHEREAS, the Redmond Watershed is a land mass of approximately 800 acres lying easterly of the contiguous City limits in the vicinity of N.E. Novelty Hill Road and N.E. 133rd Street, and

WHEREAS, the Watershed is honeycombed with trails which are heavily used by hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and other recreational users, and

WHEREAS, the trails are unimproved, dirt-surfaced trails which in many cases traverse extremely steep slopes and stream and wetland areas, and

WHEREAS, continued heavy trail use, particularly during wet weather, has caused, and is continuing to cause, serious erosion and damage to the trails and surrounding vegetation and wildlife habitat within the Watershed, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to prevent further degradation, the City Council and Parks Department have previously requested that various user groups voluntarily cease using the trails and surrounding environment during periods of wet weather and with the understanding that adoption and implementation of a Master Plan for trail development would be done in 1995

with improvement of the trails being accomplished in such a manner as to eliminate environmental degradation from use in the future, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has been advised by the Parks Department and the Park Board that, based upon personal observations, damage to the trails and to the surrounding environment continues despite the request for voluntary non-use and that the use of the Watershed remains heavy, and

WHEREAS, in order to prevent further degradation and property damage, the City Council has determined to close the Watershed to recreational use pending adoption and implementation of a Master Plan, now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON,  
HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings - Declaration of Emergency. The City Council hereby makes the following findings:

- 1) The Redmond Watershed is a land mass of approximately 800 acres owned by the City and lying easterly of the contiguous city limits in the vicinity of N.E. Novelty Hill Road and N.E. 133rd Street.
- 2) The Watershed is honeycombed by a system of unimproved trails which are heavily used by hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and other recreational users.
- 3) Heavy use of the unimproved trails, particularly during the winter and spring months when rainfall is most prevalent, has caused, and continues to cause damage to the trails and the surrounding vegetation. Examples of such damage include, but are not limited to, rutting from tire, hoof and foot prints, puddling and ponding in rutted areas, erosion from stirred up sediments and runoff, siltation of adjacent wetlands and stream areas, and widening of trails and destruction of adjacent vegetation due to heavy mixed use and users avoiding ponding and puddling on the trail surfaces.

- 4) Unless immediate steps are taken to prevent further use, the public property known as the Redmond Watershed will continue to be damaged and continuing environmental degradation will occur.
- 5) Efforts to encourage the voluntary cessation of trail use have been unsuccessful in curbing the damage and degradation and an actual prohibition on use is the only practical means of keeping such damage and degradation from occurring.
- 6) An emergency exists which presents an imminent danger to public property and an imminent threat of serious environmental degradation. Closure of the Watershed to recreational use pending adoption and implementation of a Master Plan for trail development would alleviate the danger and prevent the threat of degradation.
- 7) Because of the emergency, the closure of the Watershed is exempt from environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11-880.

Based upon the foregoing findings, the Redmond City Council hereby declares that an emergency exists necessitating the closure of the Redmond Watershed to all hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and other recreational users.


Section 2. Closure of Watershed. That certain property commonly known as the Redmond Watershed and consisting of approximately 800 acres of land east of the contiguous city limits in the vicinity of N.E. Novelty Hill Road and N.E. 133rd Street in the City of Redmond, King County, Washington, is hereby closed to public use. All access to the Watershed by the public, including but not limited to, access by hikers and other pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, motorcyclists, and any other person or persons other than authorized personnel and agents of the City of Redmond, is prohibited pending adoption and implementation of a Master Plan for trail development and further action by the City Council. Any person

violating this prohibition on access shall be deemed to be a trespasser and punishable as such under applicable provisions of the Redmond Municipal Code.

Section 3. Duties of Parks Department. The Parks Director and Department are hereby directed to erect fencing at major entrances to the Watershed, post signs, and otherwise take reasonable steps to bar access to the Watershed while the prohibition established in Section 1 of this Ordinance remains in effect and to publicize the prohibition.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance, having been declared an emergency and having received the affirmative votes of a majority plus one of the whole membership of the City Council, shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish a summary of this Ordinance in the form attached, which is hereby approved, as expeditiously as possible.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rosemarie Ives", written over a horizontal line.

MAYOR ROSEMARIE IVES

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

*Doris A. Schaible*  
CITY CLERK DORIS A. SCHAIBLE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

*[Signature]*

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:	January 17, 1995
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:	January 17, 1995
SIGNED BY THE MAYOR:	January 17, 1995
PUBLISHED:	January 25, 1995
EFFECTIVE DATE:	January 17, 1995
ORDINANCE NO. <u>1821</u>	