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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHERN STRAND COMMUNITY TRAIL BECOMES PART OF EAST COAST GREENWAY

Trail users will be able to travel safely from Everett to east coast destinations

You may think of the Northern Strand Community Trail (NSCT) as a place to visit for a leisurely stroll, or perhaps as a future way to travel from Everett to Lynn, but have you ever thought of it as a way to get to Florida or Canada? On November 10th, the trail was officially designated as part of the East Coast Greenway, a continuous, 3,000-mile trail that stretches from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida.

The NSCT will ultimately be 10 miles long, linking Everett, Malden, Saugus and Lynn. The 0.2-mile section in Everett, from Prescott Street to Madeline English School, was built by volunteers of Bike to the Sea, the non-profit organization working to build the NSCT, with support from REI. New trail construction in Malden is scheduled for spring of 2008, and planning and design grants have been received for Lynn, and applied for in Everett.

The NSCT aims to allow locals to safely travel from town to town, away from traffic, and is planned to eventually connect to trails in Boston. As part of the East Coast Greenway (ECG) trail network, the NSCT will attract non-motorized, recreational tourists to explore the region's culture and history. There are nearly 100 trails along the east coast that are part of the ECG trail system.

Often referred to as an "urban Appalachian Trail", the ECG passes through 15 states and Washington, D.C., linking cities and towns along the way using urban greenways, park paths, abandoned railroad corridors, waterfront esplanades, and scenic roads. Nearly a quarter of the route is already on traffic-free, firm-surface trail, while much of the remainder – largely on safe and scenic roads for now – is currently in development. Eventually the entire trail will be off-road, allowing families and people of all abilities to travel safely from city-to-city, state-to-state, or within their own community without the use of motorized transportation.

The project is spearheaded by the East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA), a non-profit organization based in Wakefield, Rhode Island. While the ECGA itself does not build trail, it supplies vision for connecting local trails and provides strategic assistance for states, counties and municipal jurisdictions that do build trail. The entire route will be publicly owned and operated and free for all to use.

For more information about the East Coast Greenway, please visit: www.greenway.org

For more information about the NSCT, please visit: www.biketothesea.com

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