



# Rattlesnake Ledge Trail NOVA Grant Application

Cedar River Municipal Watershed  
Seattle City Council CRUEDA Committee

April 11, 2017

# Public Recreation Areas

Lands and trails outside the hydrologic boundary where limited public recreation is permitted.

## **LIMITED USE AREA**

This area is managed by Seattle Public Utilities for limited public recreation.  
Please respect the environment and observe all rules and regulations.

**Use Established Trails ONLY**  
**No Possession of Firearms**  
**No Hunting or Shooting**  
**No Overnight Camping**  
**No Motorized Vehicles**  
**No Fires or Fireworks**  
**No Collecting**

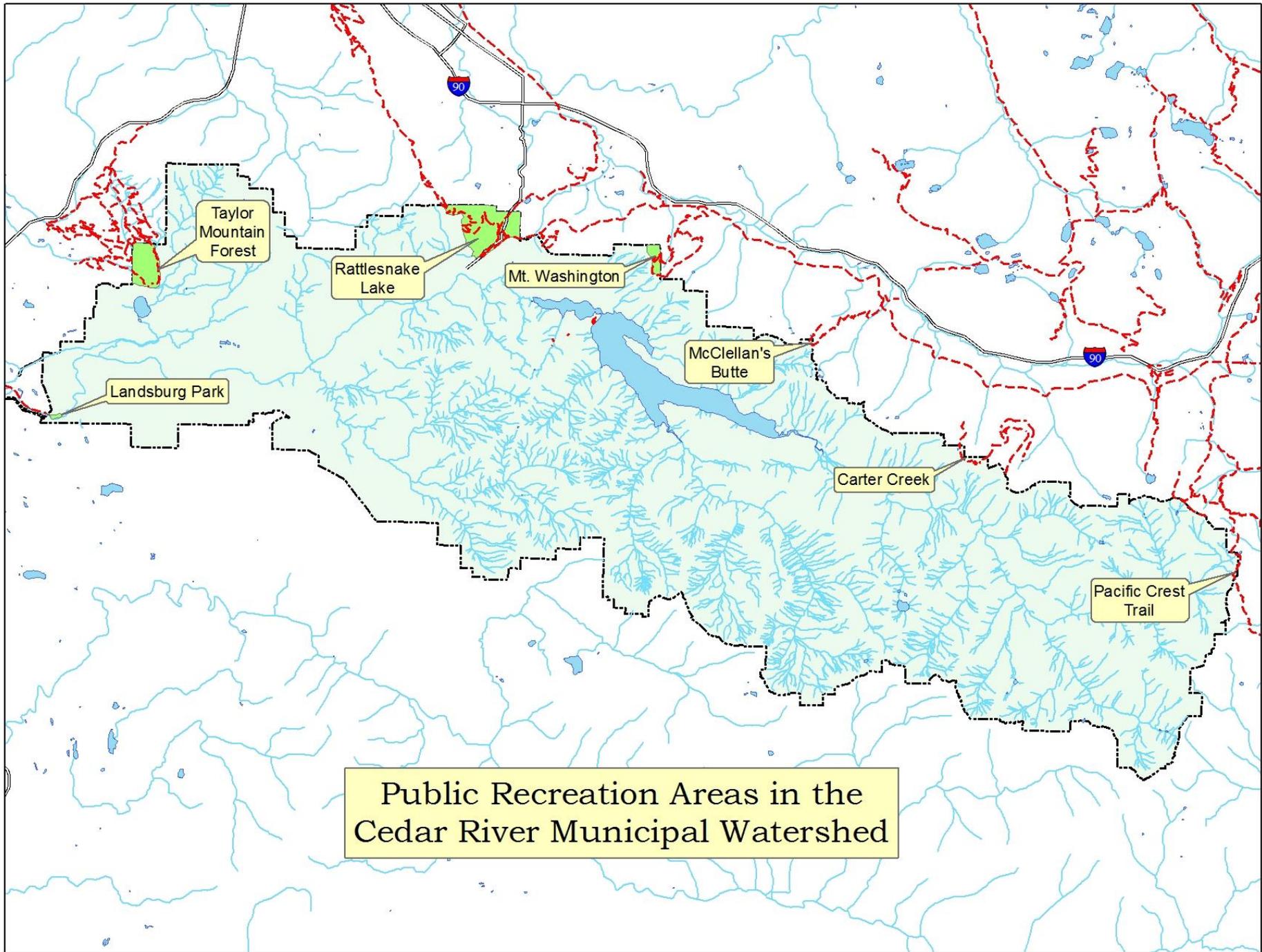
**VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED**

Seattle  
Public  
Utilities

Watershed Services Division 206 233-1510

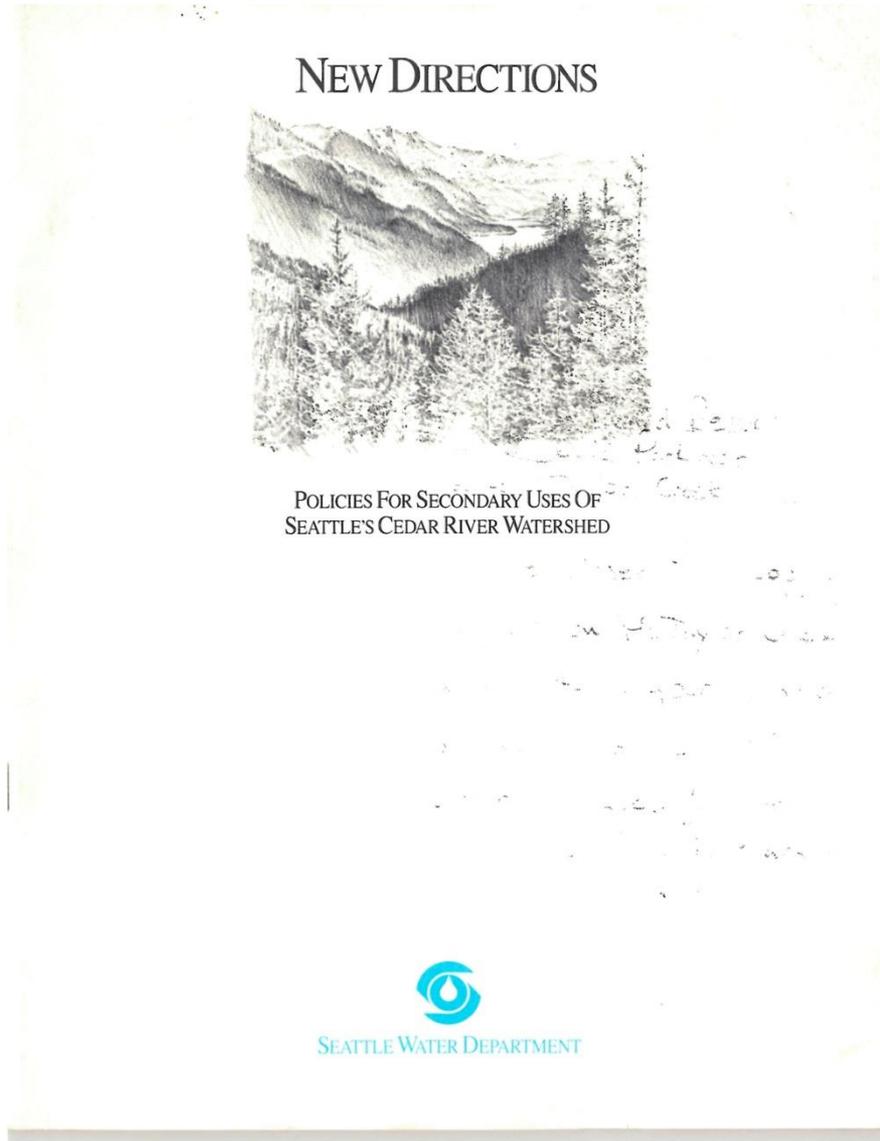
Emergency: Call 911

Seattle  
Public  
Utilities



Public Recreation Areas in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed

# Why are these areas open?

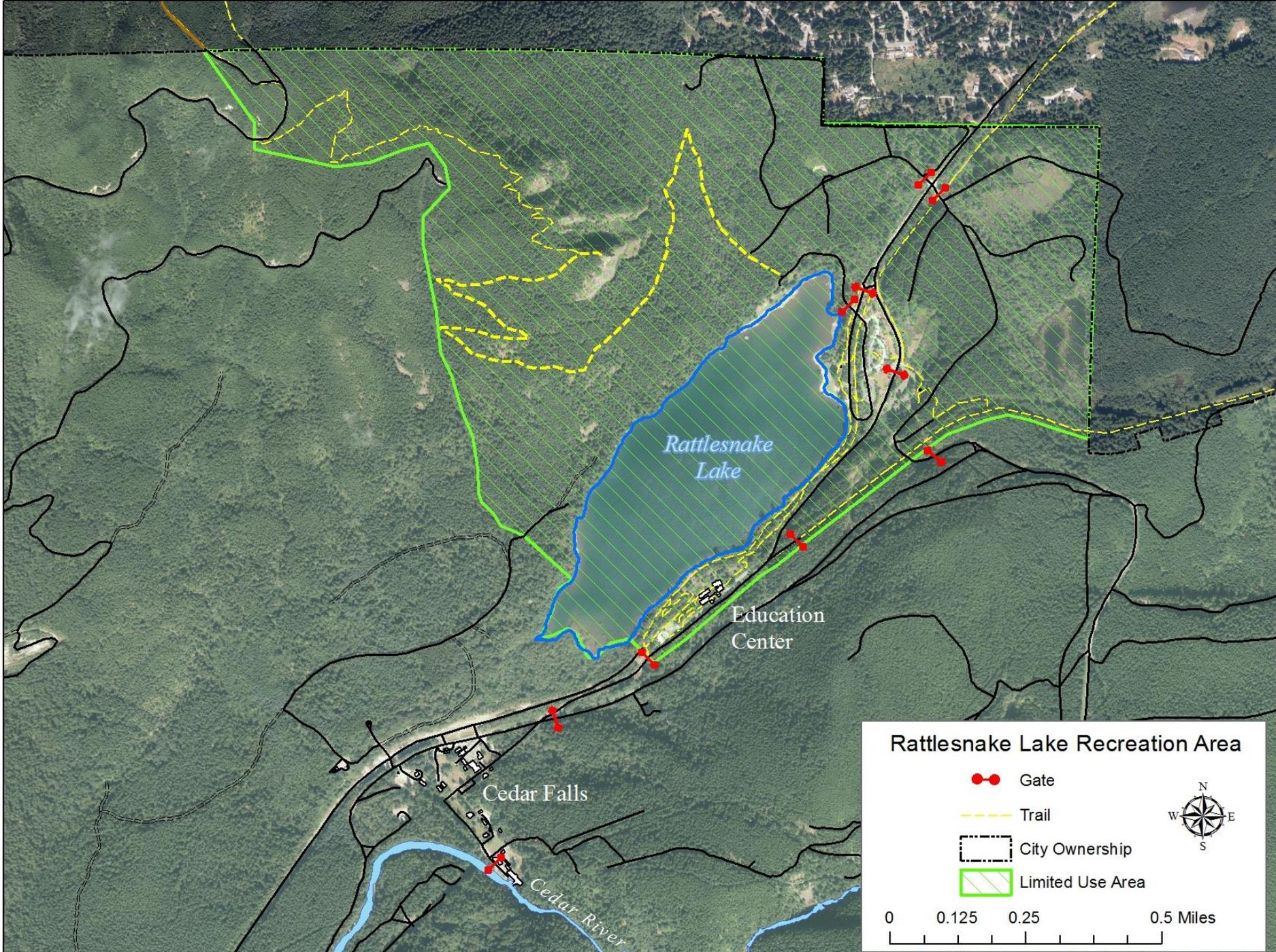


- Outside the hydrologic boundary
- Not necessarily on our land when constructed
- Public and community benefit
- Secondary Use Ordinance

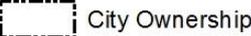
# Secondary Use Ordinance – 1989

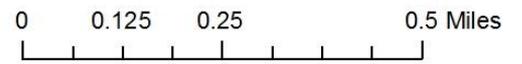
Maintain closed status of Watershed escorted, educational public access only

- Improve facilities at Rattlesnake Lake.
- Continue to allow access on existing trails.
- Build Visitor Center, expand Education programs, escorted public access only in Cedar River Municipal Watershed.



### Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area

-  Gate
-  Trail
-  City Ownership
-  Limited Use Area





# Rattlesnake Ledge Trail

# Rattlesnake Ledge Trail

1980s: Steep, user created trail

1994: Issaquah Alps Trails Club constructed single-track, improved trail

2004: SPU collaboration with Mountains to Sound Greenway, Washington Trails, EarthCorps to build 48" wide, < 15% grade trail



1993...





2004 Improvements:  
Anticipated 40,000-50,000  
users annually...

# Use is increasing: 200,000 + visitors annually

Since 2004 improvements, use has steadily increased.

- Trail counter:
  - 2009 – 80,000
  - 2012 – 114,000
  - **2015 – 277,000**
  - 2016 – 206,000
- Trail use is continuous and predictable (any sunny weekend day year-round – 2,500 + hikers)

# A typical summer day...



# Rattlesnake Ledge and Trail on a busy day...



# Trail designed for fewer users, structures and tread are deteriorating

Use will continue to grow; to some extent self-limiting

- NOVA grant leverages limited SPU funds, involves community. ~ \$250,000 total value
- Partnership with MTS Greenway and Washington Trails Assoc. utilizing trained crews and volunteers.
- Bring trail to standard of use (one that can sustain 200,000 plus users annually).