

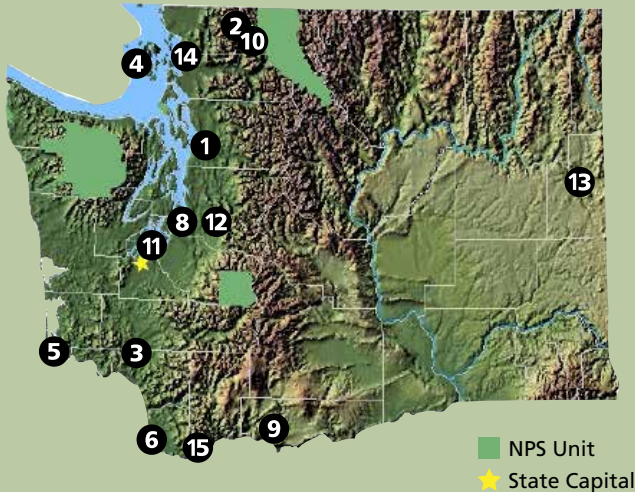


Washington News



A paddler enjoying a serene day along the Pend Oreille River Water Trail in northeastern Washington. Photo: Curt Gillespie

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Central Puget Sound Regional Open Space Conservation
2. Columbia Valley Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
3. Cowlitz County Trails
4. English Camp Trails
5. Ilwaco Parks & Open Space
6. Intertwine Sense of Place
7. Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails
8. Lakes to Locks Water Trail Stewardship
9. Lyle Community Trails
10. Nooksack River Recreation
11. Northwest Community Forest Partnership
12. Rainier Valley Greenways
13. Scablands Recreation
14. Washington State Trails Conference
15. Washougal Riverfront Trail

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Pend Oreille River Water Trail Brings in the Bucks!

The Pend Oreille River Water Trail is a great place to kayak, motorboat, picnic, birdwatch, swim, camp, and learn about local history. In 2010, the NPS started working with more than 20 partners to create the Pend Oreille River Water Trail Plan, which outlines a common vision for this 70-mile trail. Adopted in 2011 by local towns, the Kalispel Tribe, Pend Oreille County, and the Public Utility District, the plan contains recommendations for wayfinding signs along the river; educational signs about safety, protecting wildlife, and respecting private property; and improving river access sites. Implementation of the plan got underway when the project received a National Park Service Challenge Cost Share grant of \$8,000 that project partners matched with \$38,000 to develop a logo, trail guide, interpretive material, signs, video, and an enhanced website.

The Pend Oreille River Water Trail got another boost through the Boundary Dam License issued in March 2013. The license represents a \$6,000,000 investment in recreation improvements, many of which will benefit the water trail, including improvements to six access sites, investigation of portages around Metaline Falls and Boundary Dam, developing interpretive material and signs, and creating a new river ranger position to educate visitors and monitor natural resources. The NPS was a party in the licensing process and a signatory in the comprehensive settlement agreement that led to these improvements.

Current Projects

1. Central Puget Sound Regional Open Space Conservation

Project Partners: University of Washington, Green Futures Lab
NPS Contact: Michael Linde
Location: King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap Counties
Congressional Districts: WA - 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9

Project Goal

Identify priority measures to conserve and enhance open space systems that contribute to the ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic vitality of the central Puget Sound region. Foster collaboration among organizations working toward these goals.

NPS Role

Assist the Open Space Steering Committee with development of a regional conservation strategy; participate on the communications committee and contribute to shaping Puyallup-White and Snohomish watershed strategies.

2. Columbia Valley Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail

Project Partner: East Whatcom County Community Council
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone
Location: East Whatcom County
Congressional District: WA - 1

Project Goal

Develop a 3-mile multi-use trail in Kendall that links to the regional Bay to Baker Trail which connects Bellingham and Mount Baker

NPS Role

Provide assistance with outreach, public engagement, and collaboration with local and state agencies. Support efforts to involve area youth in trail planning and promotion.

3. Cowlitz County Trails

Project Partner: Pathways 2020
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone
Location: Kelso and Kalama; a trail corridor east of Castle Rock
Congressional District: WA - 3

Project Goal

Build a trail between Kalama and Kelso; a potential rail-trail near Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument.

NPS Role

Assist partners with creating plans for both trails and leverage expertise on rail-trail development. Encourage partner participation in a pilot community health assessment using a tool developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



San Juan Island National Historical Park is planning an expanded trail system. Photo: NPS

4. English Camp Trails

Project Partner: San Juan Island National Historical Park
NPS Contact: Sue Abbott
Location: San Juan Island
Congressional District: WA - 2

Project Goal

An integrated system of multi-use trails that provide hiking, biking and equestrian opportunities, and link to the island-wide community trail system.

NPS Role

Provide trail planning assistance and community engagement strategies.

5. Ilwaco Parks & Open Space

Project Partner: City of Ilwaco
NPS Contact: Dan Miller
Location: Ilwaco
Congressional District: WA - 3

Project Goal

Improvements on and between 60 acres of park land.

NPS Role

Assist with public outreach and development of a parks and open space plan.



Kids have fun at the annual Fishing Derby at Black Lake Park, Ilwaco, Washington. The NPS is helping project partners create their first Parks and Open Space Plan. Photo: Damian Mulinix

Current Projects cont.

6. Intertwine Sense of Place

Partner: Urban Greenspaces Institute
NPS Contact: Dan Miller
Location: Greater Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Region
Congressional Districts: OR - 1, 3, 5; WA - 3

Project Goal

Conduct a detailed inventory of the history and culture of the region, including a web-based database and a digital map that allows people to search for the locations of significant cultural and historic sites.

NPS Role

Help convene professionals in the historic and cultural fields from around the region. The NPS will assist with development of project scope, timelines, meeting facilitation, and planning.

7. Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails

Project Partner: Kitsap County
NPS Contact: Sue Abbott
Location: Kitsap Peninsula
Congressional District: WA - 6



Seattle sparkles from Lake Union, on the Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail. The NPS is helping project partners develop a stewardship plan. Photo: NPS

Project Goal

Organize a peninsula-wide alliance of water trail partners; clarification of the trails' representation as the "Kitsap Peninsula" segment of the Cascadia Marine Trail.

NPS Role

Assist with formation of the Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails Alliance and development of a water trail action plan.

8. Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail Stewardship

Project Partner: Washington Water Trails Association
NPS Contact: Sue Abbott
Location: Metro Seattle/King County
Congressional Districts: WA -1, 7, 8, 9

Project Goal

Establish a strong regional partnership focused on priority actions for stewardship of the Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail and its access sites.

NPS Role

Provide assistance with organizational development, the creation of a stewardship plan that promotes healthy lifestyles and ecosystems, and the engagement of local youth.

9. Lyle Community Trails

Project Partner: Friends of the Columnia Gorge
NPS Contact: Dan Miller
Location: Lyle
Congressional District: WA - 3

Project Goal

Develop over six miles of non-motorized trails in and around Lyle.



Rafting up on a Paddle Kitsap event. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.



The NPS and American Rivers are working with project partners to develop a recreation plan for 120 miles of the Nooksack River and its key tributaries. Photo: Bonnie Rice

NPS Role

Work with trail stakeholders, adjacent landowners, and the public to create a community trails plan.

10. Nooksack River Recreation

Project Partner: American Rivers
NPS Contact: Susan Rosebrough
Location: Upper Nooksack Watershed
Congressional District: WA - 8

Project Goal

Develop a comprehensive recreation plan for 120 miles of the Nooksack River and key tributaries.

NPS Role

Collaborate with land managers, recreation user groups, and non-profits to develop a plan that documents use, identifies issues and needs, and recommends strategies for providing high quality recreational experiences while preserving conservation goals.

11. Northwest Community Forest Partnership

Project Partner: Nisqually Land Trust
NPS Contact: Michael Linde
Location: Washington, Oregon
Congressional Districts: WA - 3, 4, 6, 8;
OR - 1, 2, 3

Project Goal

Establish five self-sustaining community forests averaging 5,000 acres each that will be managed for a wide range.

NPS Role

Create an alliance of conservation organizations to share existing knowledge, strategies, and approaches for the establishment and management of community forests.

12. Rainier Valley Greenways

Project Partners: Bike Works; Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone
Location: Southeast Seattle
Congressional District: WA - 7

Project Goal

A network of neighborhood greenways that connect transit hubs, businesses and community destinations in Rainier Valley.



Rainier Valley Greenways partners turn a busy street in front of Rainier Beach High School into a mini-greenway for a day. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

NPS Role

Support public outreach and participation and help the greenways group build a sustainable organization. Provide assistance with social media outreach and marketing, as well as with the development of a Rainier Valley Greenways Plan.

13. Scablands Recreation

Project Partner: City of Cheney
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone
Location: Cheney area
Congressional District: WA - 5

Project Goal

Increase public access to outdoor recreation and continue to enhance the city's "Let's Move" initiative to increase the number of residents who are getting outside and enjoying physical activity.

NPS Role

Assist with stakeholder and public input on a vision for Cheney's recreation opportunities that emphasize a healthy and active community and celebrate being part of the channeled scablands.



Hikers enjoy panoramic views of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area on a community trail system near Lyle, Washington. Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge

14. Washington State Trails Conference

Project Partner: Washington Trails Coalition
NPS Contact: Michael Linde
Location: Bellingham
Congressional District: WA - 2

Project Goal

Support the trails coalition in planning and organizing the bi-annual conference.

NPS Role

Serve on the conference planning committee and help recruit high-profile keynote speakers.

15. Washougal Riverfront Trail

Project Partner: Port of Camas-Washougal
NPS Contact: Dan Miller
Location: Washougal
Congressional District: WA - 3

Project Goal

Develop a 0.6-mile waterfront trail on the Port of Camas-Washougal.

NPS Role

Work with project partners to plan a public walking trail on port properties.



Members of the Columbia Valley Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail Development Committee stand on a section of trail that will be located along Kendall Road. Photo: East Whatcom Community Council

We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

www.nps.gov/rtca

Recent Successes cont.

Holistic Approach to Watershed Stewardship Reaps Big Dividends

Dramatic accomplishments have occurred in the Nisqually Watershed since project partners and the NPS completed a stewardship plan in 2005. The biggest success is the largest tidal marsh estuary restoration project ever conducted in the Pacific Northwest. After a century of restricting tidal flow, the dike at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge was removed to assist in the recovery of Puget Sound salmon and native wildlife populations. Additionally, 140 acres of nearby delta wetlands were restored. Other successes include restoration work in Ohop Creek and the Mashel River, and viewshed protection outside the main entrance of Mount Rainier National Park.

More than \$3,000,000 in grants and local funds are implementing Salmon Safe and Forest Stewardship Council certification programs, helping local businesses create sustainable practices, and improving recreation opportunities. Development of climate adaptation strategies, establishing an ecosystem services marketplace, and continuing youth education and stream stewards programs add to the list of accomplishments in the watershed.



The Nisqually Salmon Camp teaches students to gather and identify fish.
Photo: Nisqually Indian Tribe

Historic Walking Tours Showcase Heritage of Mount Rainier Gateway Communities

With NPS assistance, a series of inter-related brochures featuring walking tours were created for five historic communities located in the Carbon and White River valleys outside the northwest corner of Mount Rainier National Park. Graphic design and layout of the brochures was provided at no cost through Seattle Art Institute design studio classes and printing was provided through a Boeing Company grant that funded 10,000 copies of each brochure for each community. Together, the tours include South Prairie, Enumclaw, Buckley, Orting, and Wilkeson. Every brochure is unique to each specific town, but all of the communities enjoy a shared regional history. The brochures have been equally popular with residents and visitors traveling through on their way to visit the national park.



Wilkeson Elementary School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo: NPS