

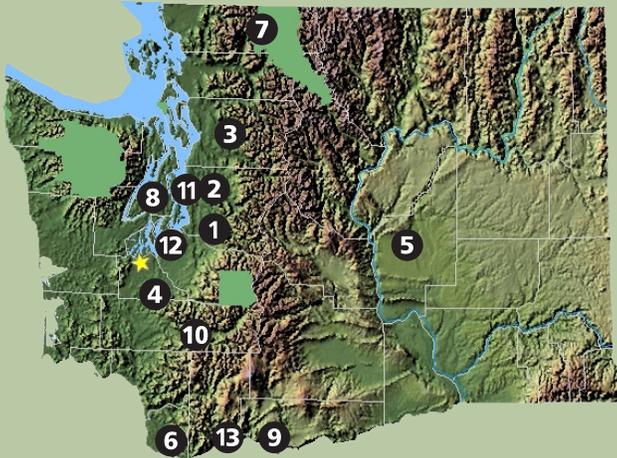


Washington News



Field Day in Amon Basin, Benton County, part of the Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network. Photo: Scott Woodward

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Cedar River Corridor Recreation
2. Central Puget Sound Regional Open Space
3. East Skagit County Community Trails
4. Healthy South Sound Prairies
5. Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Partnership
6. Intertwine Sense of Place, Oregon and Washington
7. Kendall/Columbia Valley Bike and Pedestrian
8. Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails
9. Lyle Community Trails
10. Nisqually River Recreation Access and Management
11. North Seattle Safe Green Streets
12. Puyallup Watershed Active Transportation & Trails
13. Washougal Riverfront Trail

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network Wins National Planning Excellence Award for a Grassroots Initiative

The Ridges to Rivers planning effort was jump-started in 2008 with planning assistance from the National Park Service and a citizen-led steering committee that included reps from the cities of Benton, Kennewick, Pasco, Richland, and West Richland, along with Benton and Franklin Counties and several local nonprofits. The network grew to include the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau, the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, and the Community Health Alliance.

Completed in 2011, the Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network Vision Plan delivers 50 recommendations that provide a framework for discussion and tools for open space and trails planning within seven jurisdictions in the Tri-Cities area. Ridges to Rivers Board Members were honored at the American Planning Association (APA) 2014 award ceremony in Atlanta. Jon Davis profiled this complex regional planning effort in APA's Planning Magazine by recognizing those who make a difference at the local level—the hometown heroes. Congratulations to our partners at Ridges to Rivers! Find the plan at <http://www/rrosn.org/pages/theplan.html>

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.

Current Projects



"Youth on the Columbia" is a popular program on the Greater Columbia Water Trail. Photo: Wenatchee River and Paddle Club
Photo: Wenatchee River and Paddle Club

1. Cedar River Corridor Recreation

Project Partner: King County
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone
Location: Renton
Congressional Districts: WA - 8, WA - 9

Project Goal

Improved public safety and access for river recreation, in conjunction with river management for salmon recovery and flood-risk reduction.

NPS Role

Collaborate on public involvement that engages river recreationists, the communities and the landowners, and managers along the Cedar River.

2. Central Puget Sound Regional Open Space

Project Partner: University of Washington Green Futures Lab
NPS Contact: Michael Linde, Sue Abbott
Location: King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap Counties
Congressional Districts: WA - 1, WA - 2, WA - 6, WA - 7, WA - 8, WA - 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 in framing public outreach for a variety of audiences toward development of a regional conservation strategy.

3. East Skagit County Community Trails

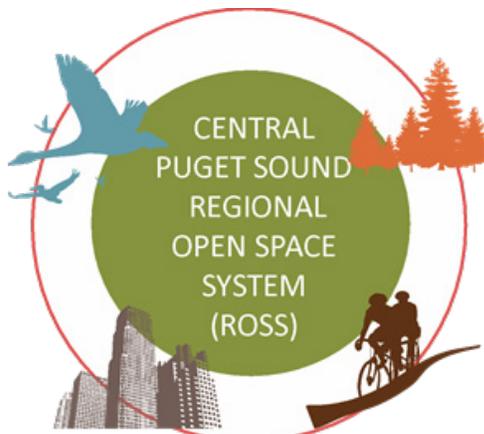
Project Partner: Town of Concrete, North Cascades National Park, US Forest Service
NPS Contact: Michael Linde
Location: Concrete, WA
Congressional District: WA - 2

Project Goal

Develop a system of multiuse trails in Concrete that extends to other trails in eastern Skagit county and North Cascades National Park, providing healthy recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. Provide local youth an opportunity to acquire trail construction/maintenance skills. Foster a greater sense of community, increased social connections, and commerce within town.

NPS Role

Conduct site feasibility study and create related technical map, plan and conduct stakeholder and community meetings, identify priority sections of trail, identify possible funding sources, and create an implementation plan for construction phase anticipated to begin in 2016.



Current Projects cont.

4. South Sound Prairies

Project Partner: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wolf Haven
NPS Contact: Sue Abbott
Location: Thurston and Pierce Counties
Congressional Districts: WA - 3, WA - 9

Project Goal

Establish a successful communications group focused on educating and involving the public in regional awareness and active support for South Puget Sound prairies, with a special emphasis on working lands.

NPS Role

Assist with organizational development and creation of a strategic communications plan.

5. Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Partnership

Project Partner: Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone
Location: Four states: MT, ID, WA, OR
Congressional District: WA - 5

Project Goal

Develop strong agency and partner leadership and collaboration for the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail.

NPS Role

Hold a "Collaboration Clinic" for IAFNGT partners and assist with the summary report to trail partners.

6. Intertwine Sense of Place, Oregon and Washington

Project Partner: Urban Greenspaces Institute
NPS Contact: Dan Miller
Location: Vancouver, WA
Congressional District: WA - 3

Project Goal

Create a detailed inventory of the history and culture of the region including a web-based searchable database and a digital map allowing people to view the locations of important cultural and historic sites.

NPS Role

Help to convene professionals in the historic and cultural fields from around the region. Assist with developing project scope, timelines, and action planning. Facilitate meetings and draft notes and planning documents.

7. Kendall/Columbia Valley Bike and Pedestrian Trail

Project Partner: Kendall/Columbia Valley Connectivity Plan Committee
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone
Location: East Whatcom County
Congressional District: WA - 1

Project Goal

Develop a 3-mile multiuse trail in Kendall/Columbia Valley that links to the regional Bay to Baker Trail which connects Bellingham and Mount Baker.

NPS Role

Assist with public engagement and collaboration with local and state agencies. Support efforts to involve area youth in trail planning.



South Sound Prairies partners are focused on raising awareness and support for prairie land in south Puget Sound. Photo: Taylor Goforth

Current Projects cont.

8. Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails

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

Project Goal

Organize a peninsula-wide alliance of water trail partners to help guide development, mapping, and marketing of the water trail.

NPS Role

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

9. Lyle Community Trails

Project Partner: Washington Department of Natural Resources, Friends of Columbia Gorge
NPS Contact: Dan Miller
Location: Lyle
Congressional District: WA - 3

Project Goal

Develop an approximately 6-mile nonmotorized trail system in and around Lyle.

NPS Role

Assist with development of a plan for a nonmotorized trail system around the town of Lyle. Facilitate decision-making meetings, help set the project scope and workplan, and work with adjacent landowners, trail stakeholders, and the public to create a working trail system.

10. Nisqually River Recreation Access and Management

Project Partner: Nisqually River Council
NPS Contact: Susan Rosebrough
Location: Nisqually River Corridor from LaGrande Dam to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
Congressional Districts: WA - 3, WA - 8, WA - 10

Project Goal

Create a plan to improve recreation access and management of the Nisqually River from LaGrande Dam to the Puget Sound. Promote safe and appropriate recreation access for the public on this 42-mile section of the Nisqually River.

NPS Role

Assist the Nisqually River Council and its partners in defining the planning process and designing public outreach strategies to address the recreation access and management needs for this stretch of the Nisqually River.



The Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails Alliance is developing a management plan to guide sustainability of their 350-mile trail system. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

11. North Seattle Safe Green Streets

Project Partner: Seattle
Neighborhood Greenways
NPS Contact: Alexandra Stone
Location: North Seattle neighborhoods
Congressional District: WA - 7

Project Goal

Develop a network of safe routes for walking and bicycling that connect shorelines and parks, schools, neighborhood businesses, and services.

NPS Role

Help establish a steering committee or committees to guide the process and involve the community in this demographically diverse area, host a design workshop, and support creation of a strategic action plan.

12. Puyallup Watershed Active Transportation & Trails

Project Partner: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
NPS Contact: Susan Rosebrough
Location: City of Tacoma and the Puyallup Watershed
Congressional Districts: WA - 4, WA - 6, WA - 8, WA - 9

Project Goal

Build and connect a comprehensive system of trails, sidewalks, bike lanes and boulevards, local and regional pathways, and public transportation.

NPS Role

Assist the Puyallup Watershed Initiative Active Transportation and Trails Community of Interest in collecting baseline health and demographic information that will be used to prioritize needs for developing the system and evaluate changes as the trail network is implemented.

13. Washougal Riverfront Trail

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

Project Goal

Develop a .6-mile walking trail and 2-acre park improvement.

NPS Role

Convene Port of Camas-Washougal and partners and facilitate the development of a plan for a waterfront walking trail and park on the port properties.



Hikers take a well earned break during a field trip of the planned Lyle Community Trail System. Photo: Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

We're Here For You.

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

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2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and
Parkland Protected

Find more information online
at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

The Greater Columbia Water Trail: Stretching Body and Mind

In 2009, the National Park Service partnered with a diverse group of partners to plan the Greater Columbia Water Trail in northeastern Washington. As Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club's website explains it, "Paddling this stretch of the Columbia is akin to taking a trip around a classroom. Traverse all or parts of it, and you'll end with passing grades in Recreation, Archaeology, U.S. History, Biology and Geology, among others. The lessons along the way are that many."

The territory covered by the Greater Columbia Water Trail stretches 355 miles between Kettle Falls and the Tri-Cities. The Row and Paddle Club makes its home in Wenatchee, where in collaboration with the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center they offer a popular program called Youth on the Columbia. The museum largely oversees the educational and historic aspects while the row and paddle club provides the "river experience" for students.

Nearly 1,800 students from 14 North Central Washington schools participated in the 2014 program.

"The paddling experience is universal," says Selina Danko, museum education coordinator. "It doesn't matter what language you speak. It's just a matter of everyone working together as a group, getting from Point A to Point B. And it isn't whether they can. They have to. It's an important life lesson to learn."

*"RTCA has been
instrumental in changing
the face of the Mid-
Columbia Region."*

- Mike Lilga, RROSN Board Member

Part II of Youth on the Columbia occurred in the fall when another 300 students from nearby East Wenatchee participated in the program. It's great to see so many young people using the water trail to get acquainted with their own back yard and the history that helped shape it! Find out more here: <http://wenatcheepaddle.org/yoc.cfm>



Downtown Washougal, Washington.