

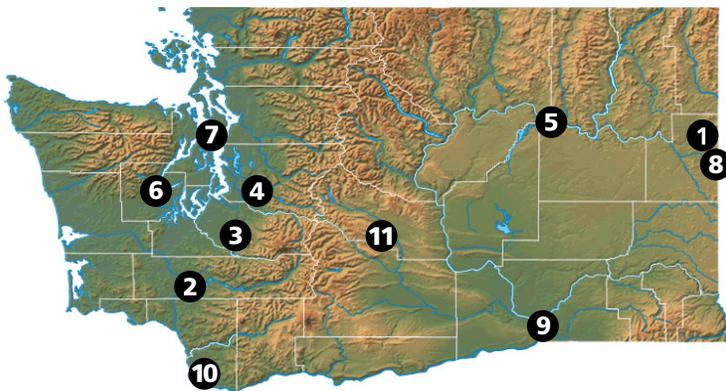


Washington News



Paddlers on Lake Washington during the "Nine Days, 100 Miles" Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail Celebration (Photo: Sue Abbott)

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2008



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Beacon Hill Trail System
2. Castle Rock-Lexington Loop Trail
3. Eatonville Regional Trail System
4. Enumclaw Foothills Recreation Area
5. Greater Columbia Water Trail
6. Mason County Regional Trail System
7. Sinclair Inlet Shoreline Restoration
8. Spokane Bikeways & Pathways
9. Tri-Cities Open Space
10. WA-OR Bi-State Regional Trails
11. Yakima River Trail

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail Still Getting Mileage

With more than 100 miles of shoreline and 100 access sites, the Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail provides plenty of opportunities for Seattle area residents to get on the water. RTCA worked with 16 partners to build a broad constituency for the trail and produce detailed site maps. In 2001 the freshwater trail was awarded two prestigious national awards.

Last year Lakes-to-Locks was featured in "Lake Union & Portage Bay: History in the Heart of Seattle," a brochure highlighting historic sites and access points for hand-carried boats. The City recently approved a \$1,000,000 budget to begin implementation of a 6-mile trail along the shores of Lake Union that connects to Lake Union Park, a 12-acre world-class waterfront park that will serve as a maritime heritage center, and a hub for both the shoreline and water trails.

Pedestrian Bridge Crossing Catalyzed by "Charrette"

Liberty Lake recognized the need to plan a community trail system before residential and commercial development pressures made it too late. Technical assistance provided by RTCA was enhanced through a partnership with the Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for sponsoring a design workshop, or "charrette", to explore trail options. Residents ranked a connection to the regional Spokane Centennial Trail requiring a major bike-ped overpass across Interstate 90 as their highest priority.

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Current Projects

1. Beacon Hill Trail System

Lead Partner: Fat Tire Trail Riders Club

Spokane's Beacon Hill is a unique piece of open space with an array of diverse ownerships and a heavily-used "unofficial" 20-mile trail system. RTCA will help project partners develop a trail concept plan and facilitate a design workshop focused on trailhead and community connections. The goal of the project is to attain official recognition and support for the trail system as an asset to both existing and new development.



Two mountain bikers enjoying a ride on Beacon Hill in Spokane, WA (Photo: Penny Schwyn)

2. Castle Rock-Lexington Loop Trail

Lead Partner: Cowlitz on the Move

Castle Rock, population 2,150, is taking a lead role in developing a proposed 13-mile non-motorized loop trail that

follows the Cowlitz River and connects them with parklands and Lexington, in southwest Washington. The trail links to Mount St. Helens National Monument and will support high profile activities such as the Seattle-Portland Bicycle Classic. Proponents hope one day to host a half marathon on the loop.

RTCA is helping partners prepare a regional vision for the management of a 10,000-acre region near Mount Rainier National Park that supports active forest management; maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat; protection of aquifers, water quality, and scenic assets; and public access to a multi-use trail network.

3. Eatonville Regional Trail System

Lead Partner: Town of Eatonville

RTCA is assisting the Town of Eatonville with planning, public involvement, and publication of a Regional Trail Plan that articulates the public vision for a trail system within the town boundaries, urban growth areas and adjacent southeastern Pierce County.

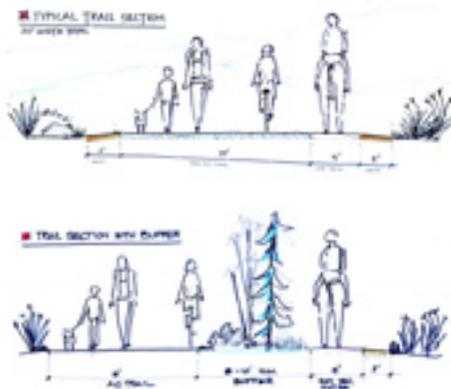
5. Greater Columbia Water Trail

Lead Partner: Port of Chelan County

The Greater Columbia Water Trail forms a large and important link in a three-state water trail system stretching 1200 miles from Canada to the Pacific Ocean. Key goals for this 500-mile water trail on the Columbia, Okanogan, and Similkameen Rivers in north central WA include increasing cultural and environmental education; improving access to the water; encouraging healthy lifestyles; and stimulating economic development in communities along the trail.

4. Enumclaw Foothills Recreation Area

Lead Partner: Enumclaw Forested Foothills Recreation Association



Alternatives for multi-use on the Castle Rock-Lexington Loop Trail (Sketches: Alex Stone)



Millpond Park, a site to be linked in the Eatonville Trail System (Photo: Bryan Bowden)

Current Projects

6. Mason County Regional Trail System

Lead Partner: Mason County

RTCA is working with the Mason County Trails Advisory Committee to engage the public and guide development of a regional trails plan that will link county destinations and nearby lands managed by Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, WA State Parks and Recreation Commission, WA Department of Natural Resources, the Port of Hoodspport, and Green Diamond Resource Company, a private timber company.

7. Sinclair Inlet Shoreline Restoration

Lead Partner: Kitsap Trees and Shoreline Association

RTCA is helping partners near Bremerton develop a concept plan for reclaiming and restoring 4 miles of shoreline along Puget Sound to use for an adjacent bicycle commuter trail and a marine conservation area underwater park.



Greater Columbia Water Trail dedication event (Photo: Sue Abbott)

8. Spokane Bikeways & Pathways

Lead Partner: City of Spokane

The City of Spokane is developing a master plan for bike routes and pathways within the city that will connect people to community services, office buildings, retail centers, and transportation hubs. RTCA will help develop an action plan and timeline for the project, assist in public outreach, and share examples of similar efforts from around the region.

9. Tri-Cities Open Space

Lead Partner: Tapteal Greenway Association

Project partners envision an open space network of public and private lands in the Tri-Cities area, including the ridgeline between Badger and Rattlesnake Mountains, with connections to Chamna Natural Preserve, Amon Creek Basin, the Tapteal Greenway, and existing river trails. NPS staff will help build a local coalition to guide public outreach and identification of a network of lands for conservation.



VIP ride organized by Enumclaw equestrian advocates showcases the potential for cooperative public/private management of the Enumclaw foothills region (Photo: EFFRA)

10. WA-OR Bi-State Regional Trails

Lead Partner: City of Vancouver/Clark County Parks & Recreation Department/Portland METRO

RTCA is working with local and regional governments and non-profits from WA and OR to inventory existing trails in the Vancouver/Portland Metro Area to prioritize opportunities, identify and solve issues, and create a bi-state trail plan.

11. Yakima River Trail

Lead Partner: Cascade Land Conservancy

Project partners are planning a 10-mile walking/biking trail corridor along the Yakima River that is anchored by Irene Reinhardt Riverfront Park on the northwest side of Ellensburg and Helen McCabe State Park to the south at the beginning of the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway. Funding is being sought for an eco-friendly straw bale interpretive center at the state park.

We're Here For You.

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

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THE RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides 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.

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



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Recent Successes con't.

Within weeks of the charrette, the Trail Plan was adopted and the community established a Transportation Benefit District for assessing a property tax to fund trail development. Construction of the Harvard Road Pedestrian Overcrossing was completed in 2007, with generous local and state transportation match funding.

"No dust will gather on these ideas. I guarantee you that Liberty Lake will move ahead on this."

-Trail Committee Chairperson



A pedestrian bridge over I-90 now connects the City of Liberty Lake and the regional Spokane Centennial Trail (Photo:WSDOT)

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Trail Garners One Million Dollars



This one-mile fitness trail is the first phase of an integrated 8-mile trail system on the Port Gamble Reservation (Artist: Sandra Noel)

The S'Klallam Reservation rests on the shores of Gamble Bay, a resource-rich inlet of Hood Canal with spectacular views of the Olympic Mountains. Facing a rise in obesity, the Tribe applied to RTCA for help in developing a trails plan to promote healthy lifestyles, improve safety, and provide recreation opportunities. An advisory group included the tribal doctor, health educator, planning director, natural resource staff, youth, and elders. The larger tribal community participated through surveys and focus groups.

"Like countless communities across America, we are seeing a rise in health problems related to our sedentary lifestyle. Our forefathers were on the move and lived healthier lives because of it. The NPS RTCA program helped us create a trail system that will go a long way in bringing back a tradition of exercise and activity."

- Ron Charles, Chairman, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

The 2006 concept plan outlined an integrated trail system with a central fitness loop, a trail following the main access road, and a walking/biking route in the forest. The Tribe has received over \$1,000,000 in grants from the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program, WA Health Foundation, and WA Department of Transportation for 2008 construction.