

Pullman Civic Trust Newsletter

Spring 2004

RIVERWALK TO BE BUILT

This fall newsletter is a harbinger of spring, when the long anticipated Downtown Riverwalk will at last become a reality. Word from the City is that construction on the bridges will begin in the early months of 2005. Mark Workman, Director of Public Works is hoping to complete the Riverwalk by the end of the year. Pine Street Square, paved in a cobblestone pattern, lighted and furnished, will welcome Riverwalk users into the central downtown.

We're excited by the prospect of entering the downtown along the water. Among the obvious benefits of being separated from traffic noise and pollution and close to wildlife and other natural features of the Palouse, the Riverwalk will provide a direct path from the University campus into the central downtown. It will be a major step forward in pedestrianizing College Hill.

The benefits to the business community of increased foot traffic in the downtown, will we hope, spur further investment in small shops, cafes, and restaurants. The City is seeking funding for a new parking lot behind the Spot Shop, in anticipation of the Riverwalk's economic impact.

Again, we thank all of you who have given to this transformative waterfront project. It's not at all too late to add your name to the donor list with a \$250 minimum contribution. The funds will be used for lighting, landscaping, and other amenities that had to give way primarily to the rise in the cost of building materials these past two years. Send your tax deductible gift marked "Riverwalk," payable to WSU Foundation, P.O. Box 644102, Pullman, WA 99164-4102.

COLLEGE HILL RESTORATION

It was inspiring to join townspeople working together this fall at the 4th College Hill Workshop. Bobbie Ryder, WSU Senior Campus Planner and Emmett Fiske, facilitator from the Department of Community and Rural Sociology, synthesized the findings of the earlier workshops into a Master Plan for College Hill, which Bobbie presented. The Plan puts the ground under the growing effort to rehabilitate the Hill.

Working with big maps of the Hill, the over fifty citizens from all sectors focused on the six areas of concern identified: parking, circulation and traffic, infrastructure and safety, housing conditions, noise and behavior, and green space and parks.

The workshops have generated:

- an effort to establish an historic district of fine old homes
- Adopt-a-Block days for Hill cleanup, with students distributing information on landlord-tenant rights, zoning ordinances, sexual assault and drug abuse services
- City enforcement of the no parking on lawns ordinance and the illegal parking ordinance
- a "Better Neighborhoods For Pullman" committee, with representatives from the City, WSU, the Trust, and the College Hill Association.

The overall vision for the Hill is to create a more sustainable neighborhood which:

- balances the ratio of students to permanent residents for greater social stability
- restores historic buildings and houses
- preserves open spaces, protects trees and plants trees where needed
- pedestrianizes the Hill through off-hill parking lots and shuttle buses
- provides paths from the Hill that connect to the Greenway Path and Riverwalk.

The Trust has been a major partner in these workshops. We view the Riverwalk and Greenway Path at the foot of the Hill as an integral part of its rehabilitation. The fifth workshop is tentatively scheduled for January, 2005. We encourage citizens from all hills to attend, since they're either facing or will face many of the problems that beset College Hill. We urge them to form their own neighborhood groups, using the schools on their hills as meeting places, John Sherman's excellent suggestion.

CIVIC TRUST PARTNERS with GROUNDWORKS on RIVER RESTORATION

Darin Saul, cofounder of Groundworks, has identified potential funding sources for a joint Civic Trust, Groundworks central city watershed restoration project. Groundworks has brought hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal grant money to Eastern Washington for river, stream, and wetland restoration projects, educating students in their workshops and work parties to be the future caretakers of the land. They will provide the grant writing, manpower, and operational oversight. The Trust will engage private, city, county, state, federal, and local agencies in creating a comprehensive plan for river bank restoration and management.

The goal is a central city watershed that promotes wildlife and native plant propagation. Path users can look forward to an increase of raccoons, mink, ducks, and other wildlife along the stream. Local businesses promoting the trail to their customers will benefit from the eco-tourism.

Creating a document for riverbank restoration that coordinates with the City's river path engineering plans will open the way to a joint watershed restoration effort and lay the

groundwork for future efforts at weed control through native plant propagation, bank and river flow management, enhanced wildlife habitat, and natural landscaping.

The project will enhance the natural beauty of the necklace of central city parks: the Greenway, the City Playfield, the Civic Trust Riverpark, and the Riverwalk.

HIDDEN TREASURE

The folks who bought the Trust tulips and daffodils bought anticipation, radiance, cheer to come on the other side of winter. Heartfelt thanks to Randy Lagier who trucked the bulbs from the Roozengaard bulb farm in the Skagit Valley; Jean Wardwell, who organized the sale; Nancy Mack, Wiley Hollingsworth, Alice Spitzer, Diane Johnson, Gwen Pentecost and others who set up the booth and sold bulbs. And a special thanks to Bruce Anawalt for the hours spent digging and separating thousands of bulbs from his spectacular garden to donate. The Anawalts also donated flower embossed t-shirts for the bulb sellers to sport at the sale. The sale was preceded by a Friday night booth at the Lentil Festival with information on the Trust and the Riverwalk.

TRAILS IN THE MAKING

The following trail proposals are being discussed at this year's Trust meetings:

- a bike path between Airport Road and Forrest Way, as part of the new highway development
- paving of the existing gravel trail between Turner Drive and Terre View on the east side of the Palouse Highway
- trail development through the Gray Edition between Sunnyside Park and the Itani subdivision

PCT BROCHURE AND MEMBERSHIP

Our new brochure is enclosed with this newsletter. Please take the opportunity to join or renew your membership in the Civic Trust or to serve in the ways listed. In filling out the form and sending it with your check in the envelope provided, you'll join citizens working for a healthy, prosperous, naturally beautiful Pullman.

Loretta Anawalt