



Pullman Civic Trust

contours

Winter
2018/2019

Pullman Civic Trust strives to enhance the quality of life here in Pullman and the Palouse region. Our projects seek to celebrate our rivers, create trail networks, beautify downtown, and develop a deeper sense of community.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

IMAGINE

Imagine . . . The Riverwalk trail system taking you in many directions from downtown Pullman and campus to enjoy the various shops, theaters, and restaurants, passing street performers busking for tips along tree-lined plazas. The Farmers Market draws people to buy healthy foods. You can follow a well-mapped and signed trail system throughout the entire town. Formal and informal paths connect neighborhoods of children, dog walkers, active seniors and all abilities. People greet their neighbors and enjoy watching their children grow up. On College Hill, students are planting bulbs and engaged in work parties to improve the neighborhood of homes listed on the Historic Register. Those students feel a vital connection – not only to the campus - but to an exciting downtown. You can cross under Grand Avenue through the underpass trail along the river, thereby effectively avoiding crossing five lanes of traffic. You pass by an amphitheater with people sitting outside reading or eating their lunches from local food vendors who have set up under cover on the historic B&N rail trestle located by the Neill Public Library or they walk to food trucks assembled near the newly renovated Historic Pullman Depot. At night the B&N Rail Trestle is lit-up with white sparkling lights to continue the connection between the Pine Plaza Bridge and new businesses along an expanding Riverwalk. Bicyclists stop by and grab a snack as they continue their ride to Colfax on the CAP Trail. There are trees shading the South Fork of the Palouse River, creating cooler water for fish and wildlife, and attractive gathering spots for walkers and talkers. Restaurants have remodeled their facilities so that both indoor and patio diners can enjoy the relaxing river views. There is an occasional B&B for visitors on bikes or those staying for WSU football, volleyball, basketball or other sporting events or attending the local theater. This network also connects you to an award-winning medical facility staffed by talented professionals who are drawn to the bustling community. Recent graduates establish thriving businesses and families send their children to crisp new public schools. Neighborhood children commute to school along an accessible trail system. The Palouse Community is vibrant, attractive, and commerce is thriving. The communities of Palouse, Colton, Uniontown, Colfax, Albion, Pullman and Moscow (and on) have created numerous connections between entrepreneurial businesses, excellent schools, exceptional health facilities and a transportation system of beautiful trails. Imagine the possibilities for our Palouse Community . . . Imagine a world of connection . . . Imagine . . .



Imagine a Riverwalk under Grand Avenue, connecting the Lumberyard, Pine St. Plaza and Reaney Park.

Letter from the President

At the Pullman Civic Trust Annual Meeting in May, I was honored to be elected as the new President of Pullman Civic Trust. I am happy to report that Lisa Carloye continues to be actively involved as the Vice President. Together we make a great team and are excited about the future for Pullman. I have been a board member of PCT for many years and it feels good to help coordinate the list of numerous PCT projects.

Many exciting community building activities have taken place over the last few years and Pullman Civic Trust has been a participant whenever possible. The Colfax-Albion-Pullman Corridor public workshop process was wrapped up last year with a report that can be downloaded from the WSDOT website. According to coordinators, "The CAP process inspired the 2040 organizers to dive into a community-wide creative brainstorm so that Pullman can determine its future, rather than react to it." We were honored by this comment and appreciate the extensive effort by Pullman 2040 to create a vision for the future of Pullman. Like PCT, many groups have been doing community improvement efforts and 2040 has done a brilliant job of recognizing these activities and orchestrating them into an inventory and continued action plan so that we can all be "on the same sheet of music." Kudos 2040!

Many people want to know when will the CAP Corridor be railbanked? PCT continues to advocate for a trail, but the final decision lies with the Washington State Legislature. Building a trail is more than just the construction. It is most importantly about building relationships. PCT continues to learn and understand the concerns of some property owners, and we hope they continue to understand our ideas. We appreciate their positive relationship with us. PCT supports keeping the corridor for rail purposes and we believe the best option to accomplish this is by establishing a railbank. At the end of the day, we are all citizens with an interest in this state-owned corridor and understanding as many opportunities and concerns as possible is important to achieve the best result for our communities.



ITANI TRAIL

PULLMAN
TRAILS & PATHWAYS

The PCT In-Town Trails Committee has also been busy this last year and you can enjoy reading an article about their work to keep our neighborhoods connected and people using paths as part of our transportation system.

Clean rivers have always been a priority for PCT. We have actively participated in stream cleanups, riparian planting parties, landscaping maintenance along the river trails and celebrating that our downtown has a river as part of its identity.

Enjoy the articles in our annual newsletter and consider donating money or your time to help Pullman Civic Trust in its work to make the Palouse the best place to live.

See you on the Trails!

Bobbie Ryder

PCT Collaborates with City Parks

The Pine Plaza Waterfall landscaping in downtown Pullman and the Three Forks Wayside along the Grand Avenue Greenway Trail are two calm greenspaces initiated and maintained by Pullman Civic Trust in collaboration with the City Parks Department.

Without the landscape care by Don Heil, PCT members launched a series of weekly weeding parties. In the process, PCT and Parks personnel agreed to develop a more maintenance-friendly plan. Changes will highlight the lovely forms and colors of the shrubs and trees while easing the work load.

The Wayside has also received pruning, weeding, planting, and mulch-spreading over the past year. Ongoing work on its waterfall by Mark Firebaugh brought notable progress before winter weather arrived. If you enjoy gardening and would like to donate an hour of your time next summer to keep these spaces beautiful, contact Pullman Civic Trust!



Karl Boehmke, Fern McLeod, & Carolyn Gordon discuss Riverwalk improvements



Carolyn Gordon & Mary Carloye at The Wayside



Downtown Riverwalk waterfall

PCT Works to Restore Rivers

- PCT contributed nine members along with eight WSU recruits to the city-wide Adopt a Stream clean up day in April. What a party! Every spring, Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute provides snacks, beverages, T-shirts and lunch, bringing together hundreds of local residents and WSU students for a major de-cluttering of our local rivers. This collaboration with the City of Pullman gets trash off the riverbanks and out of the streams. Local wildlife and any fish venturing into our waterways will benefit, as will we humans as we enjoy the clean vistas.
- During two weeks in April and October, PCT board member Carolyn Gordon worked with WSU Environmental Science students to restore and improve Missouri Flat Creek, the waterway that borders the three Forks Wayside. Water quality testing, weeding invasive plants and planting new native trees, shrubs and grasses are part of the curriculum for the WSU students.



In-Town Trails Committee reviewing Conservation Park Plans and Trails

In-Town Trails Update:

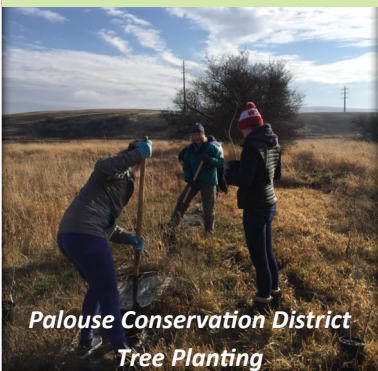
Work to Begin on Conservation Park Trail

- **Safe route to Jefferson:** Walking or biking from the Copper Basin subdivision to Jefferson School will soon be easier and safer. In 2020 the City will construct a paved all-weather trail from Canyon View Drive to the western end of Darrow Street. From there sidewalks on Darrow Street will lead children safely to the school.

- **Greater access to City assets:** This new trail will provide year-round mud free access for walkers, joggers and cyclists to the Conservation Park and the old City nursery. These areas are popular with dog walkers, exercisers and nature lovers. As it winds its way through Conservation Park this trail will offer westward views of the Palouse River Valley and the Palouse Prairie beyond.

- **Part of longer term vision:** In 2020 the trail through Conservation Park will be paved all the way to Harrison Street. Eventually these segments will be part of a loop trail that has been proposed from Guy Street to the high school. This will provide access from these northwest neighborhoods to downtown.

- This November, for the first time, the Palouse Conservation District joined the Day of Action to connect people to our critically endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales in the Puget Sound. The PCD-hosted restoration event addressed two of the primary causes of Orca Whale decline: malnutrition due to salmon scarcity and increasing water pollution. The local activity was a riparian planting of native plants along the Paradise Creek at Shawnee. Native plantings along waterways help to create wildlife habitat, take up some contaminants from run-off, and shade the water to help lower the water temperature, thereby helping to reduce water pollution upstream. PCT members partnered with WSU CCE to participate in this event.



Palouse Conservation District Tree Planting



Celebrating Members



Work Parties



Talking with ASWSU

Would you like to donate to Pullman Civic Trust?

You can use the enclosed envelope or go online to our website: pullmancivictrust.org



Check box to be removed from mailing list

If you dream about more trees in your city, areas for pedestrians to enjoy, cleaner rivers, a welcoming look to downtown, or paths and trails creating a walkable/bikeable community, we invite you to join us. Your voice can make a difference.

CAP Corridor Update

Converting the Colfax-Albion-Pullman rail corridor into a trail is a long-haul project. As the decision to railbank (or not) ultimately lies with the Washington State Legislature, we want to be sure our Legislators hear and feel the enthusiasm that is out there. To that end, we hosted three fun letter writing parties, held at the new Trailside Taproom venue of Paradise Creek Brewery. The turnout was great – people walked, biked, and drove to come write letters to our legislators – and the weather was perfect for sitting outside along the Koppel Farm segment of the Pullman Loop Trail.



Paradise Creek Brewery hosts letter writers

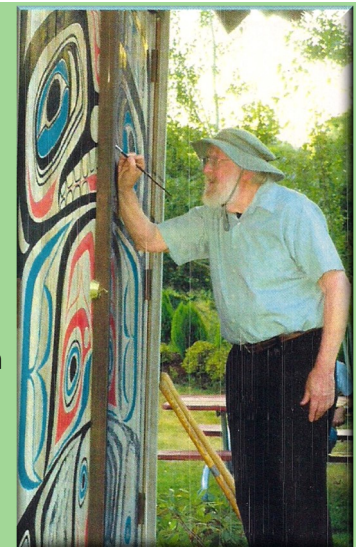
What can you do to help? Let elected officials representing local, county and state interests know what you think about converting the rail corridor into a trail and why. Talk with your friends and neighbors to let them know about this opportunity to expand the regional trail system. Encourage our communities and businesses to support a trail both politically and, ultimately, financially. Visualize the future of a well-maintained trail system connecting our Palouse communities.

Don Heil

Pullman and Pullman Civic Trust lost an important member of our shared civic life when Don Heil passed away on April 3, 2018 at the age of 87. PCT held a public memorial gathering to honor Don on June 12 in his beloved Riverpark on Spring St. near Reaney Park.

A founding member of Pullman Civic Trust, Don designed the Riverpark, PCT's first major project. He built its artistic tool shed and the check dam in the stream below it. Designer of the plantings along the Downtown Riverwalk waterfall, he was known for his continuous hands-on care for it. His design for the Three Forks Wayside along the Grand Avenue Greenway Trail transformed a large pile of dirt into a graceful, verdant respite for trail users. His generosity extended to donating not only his professional expertise but also the

irrigation system and much of the manual labor which created the Wayside. Don loved trees, especially evergreens. His plantings continue to bring graceful color, shape and greenery to many public spaces. Pullman has benefitted greatly from his influence and his hands-on work to create parklet spaces where people can enjoy being outdoors.



Don Heil paints the toolshed he designed and built at Spring Street