

contours

Spring
2020

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

"Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will not die."

Daniel Burnham

What's Up?



There is much to celebrate! Last year, Pullman Civic Trust (PCT) began a visioning process to help capture the exciting ideas generated during the Pullman 2040 meetings. PCT hosted a "design charette" where stakeholder's brainstorming was captured in drawings. PCT saw this as a way to forward the process for community improvement. These visions were shared with the downtown consultant hired by the City of Pullman. Three of the concept sketches from the PCT Charrette are shown below. These are ideas and not specific plans, but stay tuned. . .

The ideas kept flowing! During the fall semester, the WSU Landscape Architecture Junior Design Studio created visions for landscape improvements at the new City Hall building, and for a soccer complex with improved parking at City Playfields. Currently, the exciting "Gateway" project, a Town/Gown initiative, is exploring how to create a stronger connection between downtown and WSU via College Avenue. PCT continues to advocate for pedestrian plaza opportunities downtown, including a pocket-park on Paradise Street, making Pine Street pedestrian friendly beside the Evolve apartments, and expanding High Street Plaza. In addition, PCT provided an initial draft for the City's new Complete Streets ordinance. A revised draft ordinance can be found on the City's website.

The Colfax-Albion-Pullman (CAP) corridor remains a publicly held rail-line. PCT has continued conversations with WSDOT, property owners, community members, and legislators as PCT advocates for railbanking status. PCT believes the CAP corridor could become a recreational asset for all citizens, and also provide economic benefits to Colfax, Albion, Pullman, Whitman County and the entire Eastern Washington region.

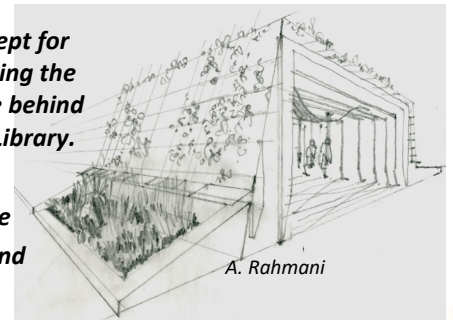
View from Pine Street waterfall toward Maple Street

Steps and landings, combined with commercial space and second-story apartments provide opportunities to draw students from Maple Street on College Hill into the Downtown Riverwalk.



S. Austin

Concept for greening the Trestle behind Neill Library.



A. Rahmani

An outdoor performance space beside the river and Pine Street Bridge.



S. Austin

Letter from the President

The Pullman Civic Trust Annual Meeting featured numerous PCT projects, and celebrated the associations and partnerships we continue to enjoy. Our philosophy is: "We are all in this community together! Through sharing and caring we all make Pullman a great place to live."

In this Spring 2020 issue of *Contours*, we have highlighted some PCT projects, but there is still more to do! One exciting greenspace that PCT has discussed for many years is the area on the river side of the Neill Public Library. There is an opportunity to create a park with a trail under Grand Avenue Bridge. Passing under Grand Avenue will be safer than at the four-way/ five-lane stoplight at Neill Library. The Library can use this space for outdoor summer programming for children. Picnic tables by the river will provide a lunch space or quiet respite from the busy downtown. It will likely require railbanking, which also opens opportunities for creatively using the railroad trestle, which ties into the Downtown Riverwalk Trail. A trail underneath Grand Avenue Bridge would enable citizens and visitors to experience where rivers meet and run through our downtown. Many agencies must be engaged in this discussion in order to achieve the highest quality design.

PCT has a board of dedicated volunteers who have vision and who are willing to do the hard work necessary for ideas to become realities. If you are interested in making Pullman a better place, consider donating your money or your time. Join us! Become an advocate for our rivers, our trails, and a vibrant downtown. It is through your ideas, conversations, and collaborations, that Pullman and the Palouse Region are a place of pride. To all who have donated in the past, in whatever capacity, PCT thanks you. Your participation means so much, and we are grateful for your support.

See you on the Trails!

Bobbie Ryder



D. Hoyt

Special Thanks to Dave Hoyt, Steve Austin, Michael Sanchez, Ayad Rahmani, and Bobbie Ryder for sharing their graphic expertise in this newsletter.



Paradise Street Pocket Park

There is a small parking lot at the corner of Paradise Street and Daniel Street that offers an opportunity to add a pocket park and vegetation while losing only three parking spaces.



Membership Matters

PCT welcomes you to Pullman Civic Trust and to efforts to address our mission of promoting clean rivers, bicycle and pedestrian trails and creating a vibrant community. As a member you will receive our newsletter, notices of upcoming activities, and information about opportunities to volunteer. You will become part of projects that can be accomplished because your voice speaks for action and change. You can help promote multi-modal transportation, the CAP Corridor, trail linkages, neighborhood connectivity, safe routes to school, pedestrian plazas, bike racks in the downtown, and a trail under Grand Avenue bridge. There are many ideas and more keep coming. For over 30 years PCT has made a difference. Together we become stronger advocates for community improvement. Consider becoming a paying member of Pullman Civic Trust by filling out the enclosed envelope. Join us! Come with us! Help be the change you wish to see.

Improving Wayfinding Along Pullman's Trail Network

The PCT In-town Trails Committee chaired by Karl Boemke, has been working with the City of Pullman to improve wayfinding signage throughout town. The Committee has identified navigation gaps in the trail system and will add signs and paint the pavement to indicate where the trail segments link. Adding signs will also alert newcomers to the existence of Pullman's trail system. Map kiosks will provide an overview of where the trails can take you. The new signs, like the one to the right, will also include distance and travel time information to encourage people to walk or roll instead of driving to downtown. Visitors staying in hotels, RVs, or using the city playfields will appreciate knowing they are close to the amenities offered by welcoming downtown businesses.



D.Hoyt

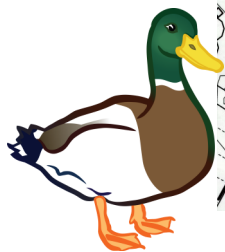
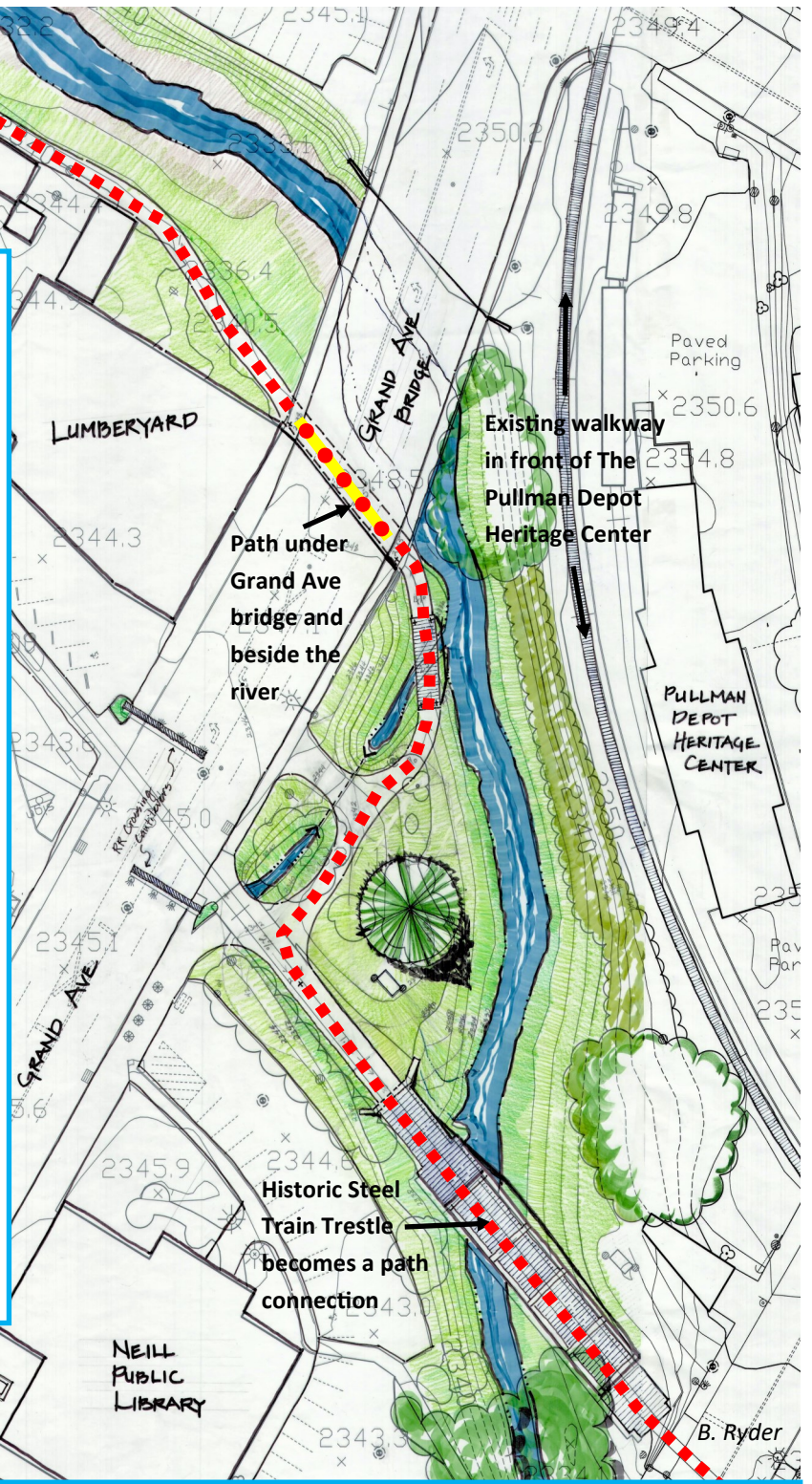


Trestle on Our Trails

Pullman Civic Trust and The Grand Avenue Greenway Committee are working together on a new path connection and greenspace where the rivers meet in Downtown Pullman. A distinctive feature that almost everyone notices in downtown Pullman is the large steel train trestle between the Pullman Depot Heritage Center and Neill Public Library. The erector-set look is ripe with possibilities. Currently, it is part of the railroad system and not open to the public. But, what if the trestle were railbanked? That would open the possibility for a connection to the Downtown Riverwalk and a path underneath the Grand Avenue Bridge. A lovely green space was established years ago as "Scouts Park." This park can be expanded to flow from the library parking lot to the river, providing outdoor programming space for the library and a place for people to enjoy eating lunch by the river during warm Palouse days.

Crossing Grand Avenue ... why not duck under it?

A path underneath Grand Avenue Bridge would improve safety for pedestrians crossing Grand Avenue by avoiding the traffic entirely. The trail would be closed during flooding and spring run-off, but for the prime walking/biking seasons, the trail would provide a pleasant passage for all users. The proposed path connection under Grand Avenue Bridge will utilize existing grades, where possible, possibly help with flood management, and open the area as a public park to be enjoyed for generations to come.



Adopt-A-Stream Cleanup

Come for the fun and do a good deed! You are invited to join us on April 18, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Spring Street Park to pick up trash along our streambanks. Palouse Conservation District will provide a tasty lunch for the many students and townspeople who gather to clean up our rivers.



A path below Grand Avenue Bridge provides a safer and more pleasant way to get to State Street.



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.



Would you like to donate to Pullman Civic Trust?

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

pullmancivictrust.org



Your Pullman Civic Trust Board members and general membership volunteers have been actively working in four project areas in 2019 and into 2020.

- *Pullman Downtown Vision*
- *Colfax, Albion, Pullman (CAP) Rails to Trails project*
- *Pullman Community Landscapes*
- *Pullman's In Town Trails*

Working with the Town and Gown Committee, the Pullman 2040 project, the City of Pullman Downtown consultants, and the Pullman Downtown Association has helped bring the Pullman Civic Trust's vision for Downtown Pullman into the forefront of long term downtown planning.

The CAP Rails to Trails project has enthusiastically captured the imagination of people from all ages, all income levels and all abilities. PCT continues to advocate for railbanking the CAP Corridor to provide recreational and multimodal opportunities in this publicly owned 19-mile corridor.

City of Pullman Parks Department and Pullman Civic Trust work together to plan and maintain highly visible landscaped areas within the City. The Pine Street Plaza waterfall area is

currently transitioning to lower maintenance plants. PCT continues to maintain this area during the transition. The Three Forks Wayside area along Missouri Flat Creek is high enough to have been spared from the creek flooding and continues to be a lovely respite along the Grand Avenue Greenway Trail. A new trail along Grand Avenue heading North from Whitman Street is expected to be landscaped this spring with considerable input from PCT.

In-Town Trails Committee of PCT has long been a champion for the completion of a "cloverleaf trail system" in Pullman. Working with the City, the Parks Department, and the Chamber of Commerce has led to the completion of many trail segments and inclusion of trails into the City's Comprehensive Plan. PCT is excited that the city will be hiring a consultant to create a bicycle plan for Pullman.

All these efforts have been enhanced by cooperation with many city and county agencies and organizations as well at the students at WSU through the Center for Civic Engagement. PCT is grateful to the many individuals who help us make things happen.