

contours

Pedal Pullman: Celebrating Pullman

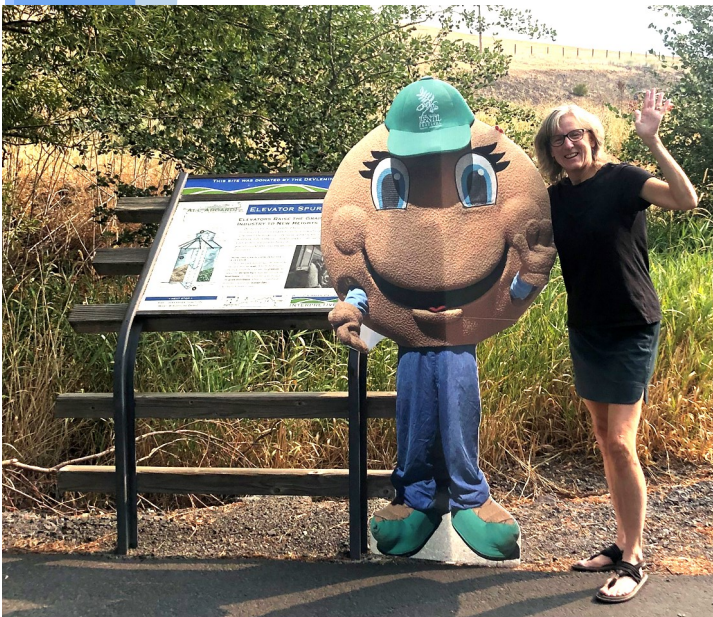
When it became clear that the traditional National Lentil Festival events would not be happening due to the pandemic, Pullman Civic Trust wanted to do something for the community to celebrate the end of summer and welcome WSU students back. Pedal Pullman, a community celebration of trails and history, was born. Participants registered at Pine Street Plaza and were given a map showing stops along the trail between Stadium Way at Grand Ave, through downtown and Koppel Farm, and then swinging out to the WSU bear facility before returning to Pine Street Plaza. The entire route was 7 miles but was broken up with stops at key locations along the trail. Parents with young children appreciated the stops and reported that their kids were eager to see what came next. At each stop, participants stamped their map and used the QR codes to learn fun facts about each location. Long-time residents found there's more to Pullman than they knew!

In keeping with the National Lentil Festival sponsorship, we commissioned a 6'-tall stand-up of Tase-T Lentil who then surprised riders along the Chipman Trail with a basket of free lentil samples provided by the Pea and Lentil Association. Participants were instructed to take a selfie with Tase-T to share which was a big hit.

The event was wildly successful with nearly 80 participants on bikes, in wheelchairs, and on foot. Everyone who completed the route earned a small prize and took a picture in the event's selfie frame to post on social media. Pedal Pullman brought a much needed joyous celebration after being cooped up due to covid and the intense smoke we experienced in August. We plan to make it an annual event.

*Life is like riding a
bicycle. To keep
your balance you
must keep moving.*

- Albert Einstein



President's Column

This year was filled with collaborations to support downtown businesses, participation in Town/Gown discussions, work on Pullman 2040 Committees, and continued efforts on railbanking inactive rail lines on the PCC Railroad System. PCT also continues to work with the City toward a Bike and Pedestrian Plan for Pullman.

In this newsletter we highlight these activities and new ideas from people enthusiastically participating in creating a wholesome community.

The Palouse is a great place to live. As our towns experience increased population, we need to increase recreational opportunities and to meet demand for more trails, parks, and playfields. Our population has increased, but expanding these kinds of facilities has lagged. Funding is, of course, the root of this problem. We have heard citizen desire for more quality recreational linkages and multi-modal transportation opportunities. PCT would like to see more of these active spaces also. Your encouragement to envision the possibilities and what that can mean for our communities motivates us. We hope you will support PCT through your thoughtful and generous gifts.

Thank you for your support,



Bobbi Ryder

Festival of Lights

The holiday season kicked off with *The Festival of Lights*, a collaborative event between the Chamber of Commerce, ASWSU, Downtown Pullman Association and Pullman Civic Trust. This holiday event highlighted the lit bridges along the Downtown Riverwalk. The event began at the YMCA with a jingle bell trot for little elves who ran along a luminary-lighted trail, stopping at the first bridge for a story about Hannukah where we handed out gold foil chocolate coins and then at the Pine Street Plaza bridge for a reading of the Night Before Christmas and candy canes.

The jingle bell kids arrived at the Pullman Heritage Depot just in time to see Santa step off the train where he was greeted by an enthusiastic choir of 75 festively dressed fraternity men

singing carols. PCT handed out glow sticks for the light parade back to Pine Street Plaza for a spectacular tree lighting. Hot cocoa was provided by the Chamber and cookies provided by ASWSU. Holiday themed selfie photo booths were available in many participating downtown businesses to kick off the shopping season. Look for this event next year as we integrate the trails with the arrival



CAP Trail Updates

January and February had PCT keeping an eye on a budget proviso embedded in the Transportation budget as it worked its way through the Washington State legislature. The budget proviso requested \$250,000 from the active transportation budget to fund a fact-finding study that would answer many of the key questions voiced during the public workshops hosted by Pullman Civic Trust and a group of stakeholders in 2016. Although it ultimately did *not* make it into the final budget, the study's focus was to evaluate the costs and liabilities associated with leaving the rail corridors in status quo (WSDOT maintaining the unused corridors), railbanking them and constructing a trail, or disposing of the state-owned right-of-way to private ownership. It also would have explored questions of access rights for adjacent landowners and the costs and benefits of using the rail elsewhere in the PCC system. Although unsuccessful this legislative session, a study like this would go a long way toward providing the information needed to renew conversations about the Colfax-Albion-Pullman rail corridor and provide Pullman and Colfax with information needed for better utilizing the inactive rail lines that run through our downtowns.

Downtown Design Committee Bucket List

The Pullman Downtown Association Design Committee has been meeting monthly to discuss what could happen in the downtown. As the City of Pullman pursues street and public space improvements, the Design Committee hopes to provide input as well as work with private property owners on ways to create a lively downtown. To view idea buckets they are working on go to the Pullman Civic Trust website: <https://www.pullmancivictrust.org>

Plants and Poems

Take a stroll by Missouri Flat Creek and look for the 24 interpretive markers just west of the railroad tracks near the Three Forks Wayside at N. Grand Ave and Richie Street. Installed in 2021, with a grant from the Palouse Conservation District, these poems integrate the arts with the natural world.

The brainchild of Dr. Linda Russo, WSU professor of Creative Writing and Dr. Kayla Wakulich, then doctoral student in the School of the Environment, the markers were a way to celebrate the years of restoration work along Missouri Flat Creek with a dose of the literary and visual arts.

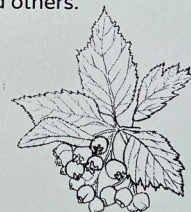
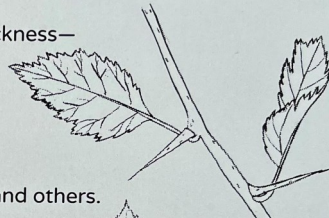
Four of the interpretive signs inform the viewer about restoration work along Missouri Flat Creek. The remaining 20 signs highlight native plants species with line drawings and poetry along with a QR code for those seeking additional information. The line drawings and collaborative poems were created by WSU EcoArts Spring 2021 interns and staff as part of the plant poems project.

<https://www.ecoartsonthepalouse.com/plant-poems-project>

Pullman Civic Trust members have contributed hundreds of hours to the MFC restoration as well as designing and maintaining the Three Forks Wayside area along the creek.

Black Hawthorn, Crataegus douglasii Lindl.

Undulating ripe berry blackness—
wall, **N**est, shelter, and home
flourishing un**D**er your canopies.
Ke**E**per of soil
and feede**R** of birds, cattle, sheep, and others.
You're **S**harp!
Your **T**horns, that is.
Medicine to lo**O**sen the heart and blood
when we fo**R**get to open ourselves
to the sk**Y**—



Plant Poems
Project:
EcoArts on the
Palouse



Further information about
Black Hawthorn at the
Missouri Flat Creek Service
Learning webpage.



Artwork
created by
Kaleb Bass



SPECIAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

J & H Printing
Electrical Contractors NW, Inc
City of Pullman
Whitman County Parks
Downtown Pullman Association
Pullman Chamber of Commerce
WSU Center for Civic Engagement
Palouse Regional Transportation
Planning Organization
Palouse Conservation District

Want to Participate in Community?

Annual Stream Clean-up

Join your fellow Pullman Civic Trust members and friends for our adopt-a-stream clean up event.

Date: Saturday, April 23rd

Time: 10 am—noon

Meet at the Neill Public Library parking lot. Bags and gloves will be provided, or bring your own.

Contact:

Carolyn Gordon
jeffnwife@tds.net





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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 where you live.

2022 Annual Meeting

The Pullman Civic Trust Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 17th at 7 pm over Zoom. At this meeting we will elect the slate of officers, adopt a budget, and have a presentation of our Year In Review. The community is invited to join us. The Zoom link can be found on the Pullman Civic Trust website.

Slate of Officers:

President: Bobbie Ryder

Vice Pres: Lisa Carloye

Treasurer: John Anderson

Secretary: Mary Carloye

Board of Directors

Karl Boehmke, Chair

Carolyn Gordon, Chair

Madeleine Brodsky

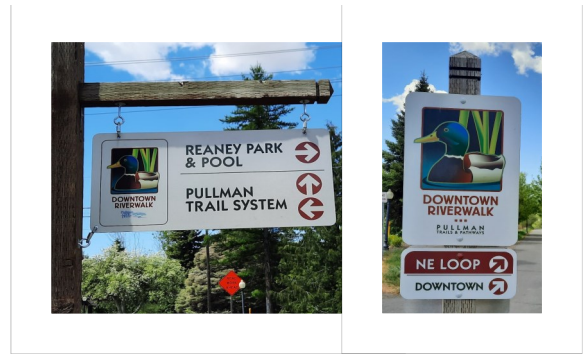
Karen Johnson

Bob Morris

Suzanne Kopan Sakwa

Rich Wesson

You Can Help—Take the Trail Survey QR Code **ON-SITE**



SIGN DESIGN QUESTIONNAIRE



New trail signs are being tested to provide trail users with a better wayfinding experience in Pullman. Would you help evaluate the test

Please complete the questionnaire as you view the signs in person.

