Spokane County
Regional Trail Plan

Draft 2014

A Collaborative Effort Between:
Inland Northwest Trails Coalition
Spokane County Department of Parks
Recreation and Golf
Purpose of Plan

• Guides and assists staff and elected officials on future trail projects and land use decisions;
• Helps obtain outside funding for projects through grants and other sources;
• Establishes a vision of an interconnected trail network; and
• Provides strategies to implement the vision.

Right: Meeting to plan Liberty Lake Trail Re-route, 2010 (Funded through RCO Grant).
Background

- **2003**: Parks to Peaks Plan, which identified potential open space corridors was completed.
- **2004-2007**: Regional Trail Plan developed with help from a National Park Service Planning Grant & Inland NW Trails Coalition.
- **2008**: Adopted by the BoCC.

**Right:** A frozen Hog Lake, Fishtrap Recreation Area (Bureau of Land Management)
Why Update the 2008 Plan?

• Must be updated every 6 years to retain grant eligibility
• Some 2008 trail strategies have been completed (e.g. Iron Bridge)
• Several large open space areas have been acquired – creating new trail opportunities

Right: Camas meadows at Turnbull Wildlife Refuge (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
What’s New?

• A mapped inventory of trails (p. 21-33)
• Several new trail strategies/projects (e.g. North Green Acres Trail, 3-I)
• Demand and Needs Analysis Chapter (p. 10)
• Over all more detail
• More data driven

Right: A new section of the Centennial Trail at Gateway Park, completed in 2013, funded by RCO Grant (Spokane County Parks).
The Regional Trail System Will:

- Create an arterial trail system that connects parks, open spaces, and communities;
- Connect local/neighborhood trail networks to the regional (“arterial”) trail system;
- Connect trail and transit systems;
- Link colleges and universities to each other to the greater community;
- Create a large “circle and spoke” system connecting communities throughout Spokane County;
- Identify trail connections for local use and neighborhood access to existing park and trail facilities;
- Encourage co-location of trails and conservation corridors in locations where a trail and the activities associated with it will not adversely impact the conservation qualities the corridor is intended to protect; and
- Promote a variety of implementation methods applicable to trails on public and private lands.
How Do We Make the Vision a Reality?

• Map what trails we have (Inventory)
• Analyze the existing trail network (Where are the disconnections?)
• Develop goals, policies and specific strategies
• Identify funding opportunities and pursue projects.

*Right: Trail walkers at Minnehaha Park (City of Spokane Parks)*
So, what’s out there?

- **At least 677.31 miles of Trail!** (R/T to Seattle: 556 miles)
- **Trail Types:**
  - Asphalt, separated (e.g. Fish Lake Trail)
  - Asphalt, sidewalk-like (e.g. Liberty Lake)
  - Single Track, designated, native surface
  - Single Track, user built/worn, unofficial
  - Single Track, user built/worn, unofficial, on private property.
  - Old logging/access roads
  - Abandoned RR grade

*Right: Medical Lake from the Medical Lake Trail, funded in part through RCO Grants (City of Medical Lake / DNR)*
Four Main Goals*

• Develop an interconnected system of trails
• Ensure adequate maintenance
• Ensure road and trail standards include BMPs
• Promote the trail system as an economic development tool

*Unchanged from 2008 Plan

Right: South Segment of the Ben Burr Trail near 57th Ave and Palouse Highway (Spokane County)
Trail Specific Strategies
“Making the Connections”

• Many of the 2008 Strategies were kept
  – E.g. Develop safe crossing at Mission Street for the Centennial Trail

• Strategies added based on:
  – Jurisdiction input
  – Public input
  – Trail Organization input
  – Staff input / data

Right: The Iron Bridge Spur of the Centennial Trail, funded through an RCO Grant. (City of Spokane)
Link to Regional Trail Strategies Map (p. 42)
Link to Urban Corridor Trail Strategies Map (p. 43)

Upper Left, Clockwise: Big Rock (DHCA), Centennial Trail at Mirabeau Park, Slavin Conservation Area, Iron Bridge Spur.
Funding for Implementation

• Federal
  • Recreational Trails Program / SRTC

• State
  • Recreation & Conservation Office Grants
  • WSDOT Funding

• Local
  • Conservation Futures
    (Open Space Corridor Acquisition)
  • General Fund Budgets
  • Transportation Benefit Districts

Right: Hikers enjoying Slavin Conservation Area (Spokane County Parks)
Initial Public Outreach

- Online Survey posted for 2+ months
- INTC outreach at area trailheads
- INTC outreach to recreation users & organizations.
- Spokane County outreach to jurisdictions and interested parties.
- Article in the Spokesman Review (June)
- INTC Appearance on radio.

*Right: Snowshoers enjoying Dishman Hills Conservation Area; acquisition funded in part through an RCO Grant (Spokane County Parks)*
Final Public Outreach

- Advertised Open House at REI, January 7th, 2014
- Spokane Transit Authority Display, December 20th – January 3rd, 2014
- Spokesman Review Article, January 5th
- Press Release December 20th
- KXLY Story – January 6th

Right: STA Plaza Display for the Regional Trail Plan Update (12/13)
Steps Towards Adoption

• March 1 Deadline to submit to RCO

• 60 day Notice to Commerce – 12/5/13

• SEPA Determination/Notice – 12/5/13

• PAC Briefing – 12/11/13

• PAC Recommendation – 1/8/14

• Planning Commission Briefing & Public Hearing – 1/16/14 (Voted 7-1 to Recommend)

★ BoCC Briefing – 2/4/14
Above: Bonnie Lake as viewed from Washington State Department of Natural Resources land (undeveloped public access).