

2017 NPS/WASLA CHARRETTES

NPS and WASLA have a unique, long-standing partnership for designing and participating in community design charrettes through the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program. In 2017 the partnership will host two charrettes, one in Sultan (June) and another in Spokane (October). Below are the overviews for each charrette.

Our goal is to recruit 15 landscape architects—both professionals and students—for each of these workshops, and pair them with an equal number of local experts to produce high-energy design teams and creative solutions to local challenges.

Check them out, and sign up early for one—or both! Look for more details soon via our website and newsletters. These 3-day events typically begin late Friday afternoon and culminate in a community open house early afternoon on Sunday. Lodging arrangements and meals are provided by the hosting communities. Please send all RSVPs to Don Benson at donbenson67@yahoo.com, along with the charrette(s) you are interested in attending.

Trail Town Connections on the Sky to Sound Water Trail

The Sky to Sound Water Trail stretches westward 84 miles from the Cascade Mountains of central Washington and passes through several rural towns along Highway 2 before reaching the urban center of Everett, on the shores of Puget Sound., a diverse coalition of land managers and trail partners has been working for the past year on developing a Concept Plan for the water trail. This design charrette will focus on exploring town-to-trail connections for small towns in the heart of the Sky Valley. What stories connect these towns--and all towns along the water trail--and how do these stories reflect and define the identity of each town? What physical, virtual and promotional connections can be created between towns and the trail? What community initiatives can be sparked? Let's imagine together!

Where: Sultan, WA

Lead Sponsor: Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department

When: June 2-4, 2017

Latah-Hangman Creek Trail

The Latah-Hangman Creek corridor project will result in a nine-mile trail, generally following the creek, linking six neighborhoods and a number of public parks in the City of Spokane, with a focus on protecting a wider conservation corridor and achieving non-motorized trail connectivity. The neighborhoods, between Hatch Road and where the creek joins the Spokane River at People's Park, each have distinct natural and historic elements and are the subject of increasing development pressures. This trail is identified in the Spokane County Trail Plan and additional community engagement and a concept plan will prepare the coalition and partners to seek funding for conservation and trail work in the Latah-Hangman Creek corridor. Current partners include the six neighborhood councils, and city and county departments including public health, and others.

Location: Spokane, WA

Lead Sponsor: Inland Northwest Trails Coalition

When: October, dates TBD

NPS/ASLA Partnership Background

The community assistance partnership between the National Park Service and WASLA was established through a formal agreement in 1998 to help communities "plan, design, and manage their natural, cultural, and recreational resources." This partnership became the model for the 2000 national NPS/ASLA agreement, which provides landscape architects with opportunities to work with communities and raise awareness about the profession through pro bono technical assistance on conservation and outdoor recreation projects with the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. In turn, RTCA is able to sponsor professional design expertise otherwise unavailable or unaffordable in these community-based efforts. Over the last 18-years, the NPS/ASLA partnership has assisted more than 70 community projects across the country, 14 of them in Washington State.