



Please make a difference and donate today

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

SUMMER 2019 | V.27, NO.2

INLAND NORTHWEST LAND CONSERVANCY



photos by Jeanne Dammarell

RIMROCK TO RIVERSIDE: — Connecting — Palisades City Park and Riverside State Park



A Red-tailed Hawk lifts off from his perch in a ponderosa pine in Kendall Yards on the edge of downtown Spokane. He soars and glides for a full 11 miles, all the way through Indian Canyon, Palisades Park, and Riverside State Park. After pausing on a bluff in Palisades Park to peer down at the city of Spokane, he continues on, to land on a granite cliff at the end of Riverside State Park. Sharing the air space with Hairy Woodpeckers, Canada Geese, and cross-bills, he particularly notices the numerous mice, voles, chipmunks, and squirrels.

While flying north, he spots a moose and her calf ambling through dense foliage. They are drawn to the rich vegetation, including colorful wildflowers such as arrowleaf balsamroot, shooting stars, camas, iris, and phlox. They walk around the numerous “mima mounds,” unique geological features varying here from 15 to 30 feet in diameter. Because it is spring, the moose stop at vernal pools in the rocky soil that so easily holds water, and also wallow in several wetland areas, favorites for ducks and geese, that are full of cattails and tule. Both the hawk and the moose travel easily through the land, which is not blocked by development or scarred by pavement. They don’t notice the “private property” signs, and are able to avoid the fallen barbed wire fencing.

With the Rimrock to Riverside project, in the future people will have the same access as the hawk and the moose in this near-urban wildlife and recreation oasis, and be able to hike all the way through Indian Canyon, Palisades Park, and Riverside State Park without

once having to leave the public trail.

Previously the two parks had been separated by several privately owned parcels. Now, thanks to the combined efforts of INLC, “conservation angels,” and Palisades NW (see separate articles in this newsletter), with on-going support from the Johnston-Fix Foundation, almost all of these properties are protected, and are scheduled to become part of Palisades Park. On July 12, 2018, the Spokane City Parks Board unanimously passed a resolution to own and manage these lands as part of an enhanced and expanded Palisades Park. The aspirational date for the merger is 2022. This is a major part of INLC’s “Olmsted 2.0” project (see the side bar), which will identify additional projects to expand and connect conservation areas in Spokane County.

The completion date for Rimrock to Riverside cannot come soon enough. After that, “all” that remains is construction of a bridge over the Northern Pacific Railroad line at the base of Riverside State Park. Given that connecting the lands was until recently seemingly impossible, INLC is confident that with the generous help of so many environmentally conscious supporters this challenging goal is also within reach. Your ongoing financial support of INLC allows us to achieve these ambitious conservation projects here in our backyard. Additionally, capital contributions can be made towards the direct purchase of the remaining land in the project area. Please contact INLC’s Executive Director Dave Schaub at 509.328-2939.

— Catherine Henze



PARTNER IN CONSERVATION: Palisades NW



AN EXCEPTIONALLY DEDICATED, enthusiastic group with a sustained stewardship calling, Palisades NW members have a significant role in the Rimrock to Riverside project.

Palisades NW began in 1984. A handful of neighbors got together to clean up the park they loved for year-around outdoor activities such as running, biking, snowshoeing, picnicking, and horseback riding. It was being used as an illegal, free dumping ground for everything from old cars, to roof shingles, to defunct refrigerators, to household trash. Moreover, the park didn't seem to be a high priority for Spokane because

at that time residents were more interested in formal gardens, grass, and ballparks than a natural area.

Easy access via Rimrock Drive, a lane that traverses Palisades Park, facilitated the massive trash dumping and other activities that created a fire danger and safety concerns. Consequently, the organization began a movement to close Rimrock Drive. After years of extensive effort the road was finally closed in the early 2000s. Just prior to this huge victory, in 2001 the group formally incorporated.

Many people have played important roles in Palisades NW since it began 35 years ago. Particular leaders have been Robbi Castleberry (and her husband Vic) and Craig Volosing (and his wife Karen Stevenson), past and current presidents of the organization. Both the Castleberrys (now deceased) and the Volosing-Stevensons lived adjacent to Palisades Park, chose to put INLC conservation easements on their properties, and loved horses. Robbi rode her horse in Palisades Park until

the very end of her life, and Craig currently raises Quarter Horses.

These leaders, and many others, spurred Palisades NW members to envision the Rimrock to Riverside project over a quarter of a century ago. They saw that only a handful of properties separated the large parks: Palisades Park and Riverside State Park. A major step was reaching out to "conservation angels" to buy properties for protection until they could become part of Palisades Park. Once Rimrock to Riverside began to become a reality in 2018, Palisades NW reached out to INLC, the latter described by Volosing as "The preeminent conservation organization in the Inland Northwest, a group that is perfectly positioned, qualified, and absolutely capable of taking the lead." Volosing adds, "We couldn't ask for a better partner."

INLC's role is spearheading and coordinating the work to permanently protect the land; raising the capital necessary to purchase parcels for eventual public ownership; and building public awareness, enthusiasm, and support.

CONSERVATION ANGELS are local people who love the land and have found a creative way to protect it from development. Connecting Palisades and Riverside Parks would be but a fantasy without the incredible generosity of these forward-thinking people who bought some of the key parcels connecting the two parks and are holding them until they can become part of Palisades Park.

The conservation angels are very clear about why this particular land is so important to them. For example, Becky Brown (biology professor) and her husband Chris Lambiotte (engineer) write,

We love the beautiful views, rocks, wildflowers, moose, elk, and ponds. We love biking there, running there, walking there, and even cross-country skiing there! Our kids love to explore and find new special places at Palisades. The view of the city at sunset is mesmerizing.

Kyle and Rachel Baird write,

We live near Palisades and we are daily trail runners. At our deepest level we are animal lovers. We have seen a lot of wildlife in Palisades and we want to do everything we can to preserve open space for the original inhabitants.

Another angel, who wishes to be known as a "concerned citizen

enamored by biscuit and swale topography," asserts,

Palisades allows soaring views, soaring birds, seasonal ponds, and general wonderment at the geology and plants. I love the feeling one gets just being up there, able to see east into Idaho, south down the Latah Creek corridor, and northwest into Riverside State Park.

The angels are equally clear regarding why they are acting now. Becky Brown says, "When I saw the 'for sale' signs on the properties, I knew we needed to immediately protect the land, or the opportunity would be lost." Kyle and Rachel Baird assert, "Instead of having regrets later after these parcels were developed we decided to step up and do what we felt was best for the wildlife and the area. Once the land is developed it never goes back."

We, in turn, are honored by the generosity of these angels, and so many others who work for conservation. We welcome more angels to underwrite the numerous projects INLC has in the works. Let us

know when you are ready to help preserve our very finite, endangered, undeveloped land for plant and animal habitat, for recreation, and for the very life of our planet. Please contact Dave Schaub, INLC's Executive Director, at 509.328.2939.

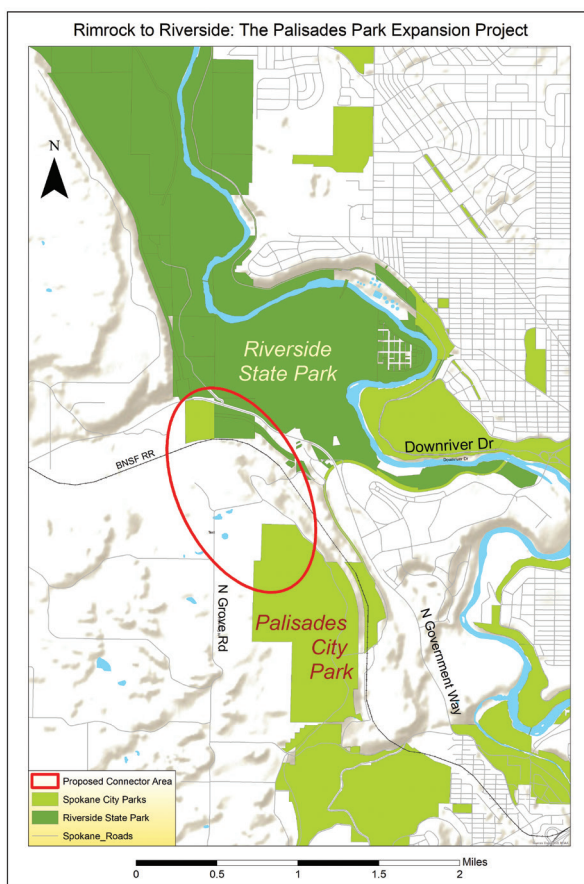




photo by Jeanne Dammarell

HERE IN EASTERN WASHINGTON and North Idaho we have two species of woodpecker so similar they are easily misidentified: the Hairy Woodpecker and the Downy Woodpecker. They frequent the same habitats—forests, woodlands, and shade trees—and are similarly colored and patterned with white-spotted black wings, white undersides, and black and white striping on their heads. The Hairy Woodpecker is the larger of the two birds and has a much larger bill than the Downy Woodpecker although it takes practice to discern this difference with confidence. Hairy Woodpeckers are less common than the Downy, which are often found in suburban trees and parks. The Hairy requires larger trees and limbs where it pounds away looking for insects and larvae, its primary food. Being very determined in their search for bugs, they can be seen prying bark off of pines and other conifers and can sometimes be found in a recent burn. Both species will come to backyard feeders where they will eat suet and sunflower seeds. High in dead snags is the preferred location for these birds to excavate their nesting cavity. Even though the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers are amazingly similar in appearance, recent DNA evidence shows that they are not closely related.

— Alan McCoy



OLMSTED 2.0

map designed by Eric Erickson

RIMROCK TO RIVERSIDE is the first major project in INLC's "Olmsted 2.0" initiative, a conservation vision for future parklands in Spokane County in the next 100 years. Just as the original Olmsted project in 1907 laid out a master park plan

for the city of Spokane (that included revising Manito Park, and creating Riverfront Park), Olmsted 2.0 creates a blueprint of important properties to preserve for wildlife and recreation corridors. Funded by a grant from the Innovia Foundation, INLC is partnering with numerous organizations, from user groups such as the Spokane Mountaineers to advocacy associations such as the Washington Trails Association. Whereas in Seattle's King County 54% of the land is privately owned, in Spokane County, nearly 90% is private, opening the way for development, and reduction of precious open space. As a result of the original Olmsted plan 82.3% of people in the city of Spokane currently live within a half mile of a park. With Olmsted 2.0, INLC and its partners hope to offer similar proximity to parkland for everyone in Spokane County.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

MITZI VANVOORHIS

INLC WELCOMES MITZI VANVOORHIS, Vice President of Marketing for McConkey Auction Group, to the board of directors. In the few short months since her election she has already become chair of the External Affairs Committee, where she is applying her expertise in marketing and promotion to help expand INLC's reach through increased donations and land protected.

Exemplifying her philosophy of "living life fully," in addition to an active professional career Mitzi is a tireless volunteer, with everything from helping coordinate sock and winter gear drives for Union Gospel Mission to co-chairing a Second Harvest Bite2Go program and mentoring children at Sunset Elementary School.

At INLC, Mitzi wants to help build support for our strong vision in conservation, and in "connecting people to our magnificent lands and waters." It is important to her to be part of something that has a positive effect on future generations. INLC is grateful to her for choosing to share her considerable talents, passion, and energy.



35 W. Main Avenue | Suite 210 | Spokane WA, 99201
Please make a difference and donate today
www.inlandnwland.org | 509.328.2939

CELEBRATING
28
YEARS OF
CONSERVATION

Our Mission: Our Mission: Inland Northwest Land Conservancy connects people to nature by conserving the lands and waters essential to life.

19,914 acres
of protected land
in our region

35
partner
projects

23 miles of
protected
streams

55
conservation
easements

35 miles of
protected
shoreline

MEMBERSHIP

Members are truly the cornerstone of INLC. We could not do our work without them. A diverse group, of different ages, interests, and socio-economic backgrounds, they contribute and connect with us in myriad ways. For example, some make financial contributions that allow us to protect additional priceless open space for recreation and animal habitat. Others come on our Grounded in Nature hikes, and share their nature photography with us. Yet others put conservation easements on their land, and connect us to neighboring property owners for additional conservation easements. Others become volunteers. Virtually all of our members share information with their friends and associates about INLC's mission of protecting and conserving land and clean water for future generations. Become a member today! To join INLC in our vitally important work **contact Jolene Uddman, Director of Member Engagement, 509.328.2939, JUddman@inlandnwland.org.**



DINNER,
PROGRAM,
PADDLE RAISE,
LIVE AUCTION,
SILENT AUCTION

THURSDAY

SEPT. 19, 2019
5:30PM-9PM

RIVERSIDE PLACE

1110 W RIVERSIDE AVE.
SPOKANE, WA

Why Accreditation MATTERS



WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that INLC is now an accredited land trust. Why does this matter? Because we have a permanent obligation to steward the conservation easements entrusted to us.

Accreditation demonstrates that INLC has strong standards, sound finances, ethical conduct, and respon-

sible governance to ensure organizational longevity.

"We are a stronger organization for having gone through the rigorous accreditation program," says Dave Schaub. "Our strength means special places – such as Reardan's Audubon Lake – will be protected forever, making eastern Washington and northern Idaho an even greater place for us and our children."

Visit our website article <https://bit.ly/inlc-accred> to learn more.