

Trautman Conservation Area Fact Sheet

Meeting Place: Carlson Road Trailhead- Riverside State Park Near 9-Mile Dam

Distance: 1-3 mile loops. Various Possible Loops

REQUIRED TH PASS: WA State Discover Pass

- Trautman Ranch Conservation Area is a historic 275-acre ranch that sits between Sontag Park and the Deep Creek Ravine area of Riverside State Park
- For decades the Trautman Ranch was a missing link in the Riverside State Park complex with a good deal of park land north and south of Trautman. The only way for the public to recreate in this area was to use Carlson Road, a narrow and dangerous road.
- In 2015 INLC was able to work with the Trautman heirs to nominate their father's Ranch to the Spokane County Conservation Futures program.
- It is important to note that these lands are now managed and operated as part of Riverside State Park, Discover Passes ARE required.
- The most picturesque parts of this landscape can be found near the meadows in the North Central and Northeast portions of the historic ranchland.
- Most of the structures on the property like the farmhouse were all removed but two barns do remain and are used by the parks department for storage.
- Evergreen East and Washington Trails Association has been working with INLC and WA Parks to improve the trails within the property. Over time too many social trails (user built/illegal trails) have cropped up on the property and a new trail plan is being phased in to make the property more user-friendly.
- This property is a great example of WA State Parks taking an active role in wildland fire prevention and reducing the fuel load. During 2022-2023 state foresters hired WCC and Corrections crews to come in and remove doghair ponderosa pine trees and over winter they were burned onsite.
- Archeologically speaking these lands are of a sensitive nature to the Spokane Tribe due to their immediate proximity to the confluence of the Little Spokane River and the Spokane River.
- This is another example of INLC conservation staff (Chris DeForest) helping to close persistent gaps within parks near adjacent to the urban areas of Spokane.
- As of 2022 the Spokane Centennial Trail was re-routed off the dangerous and steep Carlson Road into a new trail alignment through Trautman Ranch Conservation area before it crosses Charles Rd. on its way out to Long Lake Recreation Area.
- During the construction of the 9-Mile Dam a town of workers sprang up in the area and alongside it was a much smaller town of Helen known for its watering holes and brothel. The townsite of Helen would have been on the north end Trautman Conservation Area near Charles Road. Very little of the town is left to see or visit today.