

Winter 2002 Newsletter

Jefferson County

As part of the process for developing Jefferson County's Non-motorized Transportation plan the county had their consultants conduct a telephone survey to find out what types of recreational interests people had and what they would be willing to pay. The survey consultants made 226 random calls and found people who were interested in participating in the survey, which required time to read and fill out a lengthy questionnaire.

The results of the survey found that the Olympic Discovery Trail was consistently rated high on the list of priorities. Other multipurpose trails did not rate as high. Two other recreational interests that rated high were on-road bicycle routes and pedestrian facilities. While the respondents were not interested in paying more in taxes, 87% did say they would favor a ballot measure for a countywide bond to pay for the higher priority recreational and park services and facilities. The average amount they would be willing to pay was \$147 annually. The survey consultants are now working with the county's Non-motorized Transportation Parks and Recreation and Open Spaces Advisory board to create a funding proposal to present to the Board of Commissioners.

Larry Scott Trail

Construction on the segment of trail under SR20 might not happen for 6 months because the county was not able to get funding released in a timely manner. Although the public is using the 40 acres the county bought last year and the logging road south of it there is no official trail on it. The county can't build a trail until they have enough money to build it to standards and the money won't get in the budget until 2003 at the earliest.

Four Corners to 101

Extending the Larry Scott Trail from the Four Corners area to the foot of Discovery Bay and Hwy 101 is the next logical step for ODT in Jefferson County. PTC is currently conducting a study of prospective routes for this section of ODT. Our study will provide Jefferson County with the information they need to write grant proposals for funding this section of trail. We are evaluating five alternate routes from the end of the Larry Scott Trail to the end of Discovery Bay. A trail connecting these two areas might go through DNR and Pope Talbot land and is a stretch of trail that could be put in place for not much money. The key is to get the county to put this section in the budget so a county employee will be able to work with the landowners drafting easements. Currently the study is about 40% complete, with completion expected in late March. If you have an interest in this area contact board member Chuck Preble at 683-4549 or chuckpreble@prodigy.net

Quimper Trails Association

The Washington State Parks Commission recently recognized all the work the Quimper Trails Association has done on the trail system around Anderson Lake State Park on the Quimper Peninsula. For the past few years this loosely knit group of bikers and hikers has been responsible for developing,

improving and maintaining the trail system around Anderson Lake and just passed the 500 hour mark in volunteer labor. If you haven't checked out the trails on Anderson Lake you should. It is great hiking and biking and in the summer Anderson is one of the only lakes on the Olympic Peninsula that warms enough to swim in. The PTC will be posting a map of Anderson Lake on its website soon.

The QTA holds work parties on the first Sunday of each month. Contact Randy Kline at 379-3889 (rkline@co.jefferson.wa.us) or George Binney at 732-4973 (binney@olympen.com) for more info.

Clallam County

East End- Sequim to Diamond Point Road

For the past several months we have been looking at route options to take the ODT from the Johnson Creek Trestle at Whitefeather Way to the county line at Diamond Point Road where it will hook up with Jefferson County. We are just about ready to take these options to the public and probably in late March or April will hold neighborhood meetings at Ramblewood in Sequim Bay State Park and the Gardiner Community Center. Watch the newspapers for more information.

Port Angeles

Rayonier Mill

The City and Rayonier have agreed to a fencing plan and a route through the mill site. The easement calls for a 14' foot wide trail. To keep the cost down fencing will only be on one side in places. Construction is scheduled to begin in May or June of this year!

Bridge for Ennis Creek

The route through the mill site goes over Ennis Creek. The PTC discovered the Port of Port Angeles had an old unused bridge and convinced them to surplus it to the City of PA. The transfer has been completed and now we are in the process of looking for a grant to help refurbish the bridge. It will probably require sandblasting, some welding, a new deck and handrails. The decking and handrails we can handle with volunteers but we need to get somebody with sandblasting equipment. If you can help us or know anybody that can get in touch with us.

Sequim

Our start date for refurbishing the Johnson Creek Trestle is officially June 1st. We have started buying lumber. Thomas Lumber is the official lumber supplier for this project. (They had a choice between being the official lumber supplier for the Winter Olympics and being the official lumber supplier for this project and they chose us-somebody there will probably get a T-shirt-wow!) Our first work party will probably be June 8th. This project is going to require a large volunteer effort and will probably last about 10 weekends. We will need all levels of carpentry as well as people who will paint, carry lumber, drill holes, paint and landscape. For the early stages of the project we will need an air compressor that will drive an

impact wrench and we will need a generator that will power a chop saw (about 5000 watts) if you have either and want to let us use them call us. We are going to feed you well and have a food team starting to assemble their recipes. The fatted calf is ready. This will be a fun project. Call me and let me know what you are interested in doing. (Dave 683-7180 marthadave@olypen.com)

Artist Wanted

We are still looking for someone who would like to make some public artwork for the Johnson Creek Trestle. We are thinking something whimsical and fun, and something that will handle the weather.

\$4000

The Soroptimist Morning Club of Port Angeles just gave the county \$4000 to fund a planting project along the Olympic Discovery Trail. The soroptimists have been big trail supporters from day one and, in fact, were early proponents of the Port Angeles Waterfront Trail. The PTC is organizing a couple of work parties to plant. We are looking at March 14th which is a Thursday and March 23 rd which is a Saturday. Give us a call if you are interested in getting your hands dirty on either one of those days.

Traveler's Journal

Traveler's Journal begins its 11th season on February 28. We started it late this year so it wouldn't conflict with the Olympics. For the past eleven years we have been presenting this series of travel and adventure slide shows as a way to raise money to buy food to feed the volunteers working on trail projects. The shows start at 7:30 PM in the Sequim Middle School Cafeteria on Hendrickson Road (ride your bike there -a new section of the ODT parallels Hendrickson Road). Admission is \$3. Kids are free. The seats are hard so bring a cushion. Check the Sequim Gazette for more info on the presentations. February 28-Hawaii's Midway Islands, Pete Schroeder

March 7-Madagascar-Scenes from the Red Island, Betsy Carlson, and Eric Wennstrom

March 14-The Galapagos Islands and Ecuador, Charlie Lyons

March 21-Africa-Botswana to Zambia, Susan Roberts

March 28- South America by Bicycle, Greg McCormick

April 11- India-Spokesongs, Willie Weir

April 18- Voyages of Moonshadow, Tom Beard

April 25- Indonesia-Forgotten Isles of the Indonesian Archipelago- Irv Schultz

Slide Shows (other)

We have a 30-minute slide show on the ODT that we present to service groups, clubs and other organizations. Call or contact one of us to schedule a presentation.

Signs

We are looking for someone who wants to put up some of our new blue and white Olympic Discovery Trail Signs (designed by Larry Eifert of Port Townsend) You'll need a cordless drill and, in some locations, a posthole digger. We can supply the digger and a map. If you'd like to do this contact us.

From FITNET

Physical activity as a public health initiative is becoming more accepted. Both health and community planners are recognizing the value of walking for a wide range of citizens. These planners now have more evidence that if they build trails people will follow.

In several southeastern Missouri communities where there were few sidewalks, shopping malls, or other places to walk, community coalitions have started building walking trails as part of a program to reduce risk factors for heart disease. Ross C. Brownson of the Saint Louis University School of Public Health and colleagues surveyed 1,269 adults, 18 years and older, from these areas. Overall, 45 percent of the adults had walked for exercise in the previous month, and 20 percent walked regularly – defined as five or more times a week for 30 minutes or more. About half of those who used the trails said they had increased their walking since the paths were built. The trails were developed for about \$2,000 to \$4,000 each!

For less than the price of one coronary, 10 communities could develop such trails. There are few public health initiatives that make as much sense!

Take two fifteen minute walks and you won't have to call the doctor in the morning.