

# Columbia Section News

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 5, 2012 - Fall 2012

## Special points of interest:

- Similkameen Trail Links Oroville to the Region and Its History
- Downtown Walla Walla named a Great Neighborhood by the American Planning Association
- City of Richland's "Ridges to Rivers" plan wins APA/PAW Award

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## Similkameen Trail Links Oroville to the Region and Its History

The Washington & Great Northern Railroad provided the first rail service to Okanogan County reaching Oroville in 1906. Rail service on the Oroville - Nighthawk line continued until the 1972 flood which damaged a bridge in Canada and caused further damage along the line. The rail grade remained abandoned until 2009 when efforts by Okanogan County, the City of Oroville, the state Recreation and Conservation Office and a lot of local support led to the development of the Similkameen Trail.

Leaving Oroville's trailhead, the trail gently climbs to Taber's Vineyard and a second trailhead. From Taber's the trail drops down to a 375 foot girder bridge, 96 feet above the river. After crossing the river the trail is carved into the cliff wall of the Similkameen Gorge. Stunning views of the river are revealed at every turn for the next two miles. Currently the trail stops at an Overlook of Similkameen

Falls and Enloe Dam. Future phases will continue through a 1/3 mile tunnel at Shanker's Bend and seven miles on to the ghost town of Nighthawk.

Historical signs and photos along the trail describe the history of the Similkameen and Okanogan Valleys. Students of Oroville High School have built and installed heavy timber benches every half mile along the trail and are building several of the other trail features.

Oroville is the center point for the 1200 mile Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail and the Similkameen Trail serves as the western gateway to the NST. South of Oroville and east of Highway 97, the

new Whistler Canyon trailhead will serve as the eastern gateway to the NST.

You can find more information on the Similkameen Trail and other Okanogan County recreation opportunities at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Similkameen-Trail/125033350876813> and <http://www.okanogancountry.com/>

—Ted Murray, Okanogan County



Enloe Dam and Similkameen River near Oroville, Wash.  
Ted Murray

## Richland Prepares for a Wine Science Center at WSU Tri-Cities

The Richland City Council created the Wine Science Center Development Authority last year to design and construct the Wine Science Center at Washington State University (WSU) Tri-Cities.

The Authority held its first meeting in January 2012 and has formed four subcommittees focusing on design, project management, financing and communications.

Predesign and Programming work was contracted to Flad Architects partnered with Meier Architects to develop the essential elements of a Wine Science Center. This group

has held numerous meetings with researchers, WSU facilities staff and industry representatives to develop and prioritize the program.

Hill International was selected as the Project Manager. Their first task is to prepare an application to the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board to receive Design Build approval.

The finance subcommittee is focused on developing the financial plan for the project. The financial plan includes development of the contracts between the various entities to fund the project and to turn

it over to WSU upon completion. The subcommittee will also identify how funding from the Washington Wine Commission and private pledges, which will be collected over time, will be financed.

The Authority's goal is to have the commencement date for the delivery phase later this year. On that date there will be sufficient funding to complete a significant portion of the project, all agreements will be executed and the Authority will have control of the land to develop the project. The target for construction is late summer 2013.

—Gary Ballen, City of Richland



Boat launch near Plymouth, Washington  
Valerie Smith

"The Section Board agreed to use some of its limited resources to produce and distribute a semi-annual newsletter."

## News from the State Conference

### Members Modify Chapter Bylaws

The APA Washington Chapter Bylaws were amended October 14, 2012 in Olympia by the membership.

The changes add clarity and modify several provisions affecting the Chapter, such as the status of representatives and procedures for making changes to committees. Please visit <http://washington-apa.org/about/bylaws> to learn more about and review the changes.

## President's Comments

Hello fellow APA members of the Columbia Section.

The Columbia Section is one of two established Sections serving Eastern Washington, and is, geographically, the largest Section in the Washington Chapter of APA, with boundaries that extend from the Canadian border on the north to the Oregon border on the south, and from the Cascades east to approximately the Columbia River. The Section was formed in 1998, and currently has 84 members dispersed throughout the Section, making it a challenge to schedule and solicit participation for formal events and activities.

However, in an attempt to improve communication within the Section, the Section Board agreed to use some of its limited resources to produce and distribute a semi-annual newsletter.

This newsletter represents the first of edition of future newsletters. Several of the regular features in the newsletter are envi-

sioned to be: the "County Corner" with a short news bite from each of the Counties in the Section about current activities; a one to two page feature article; and, a list of upcoming events. A majority of the credit for this newsletter goes to Nathan Gwinn, a Planner with Yakima County, for agreeing to serve as the Communications Officer for the Section, and for his diligence in producing and arranging for the publication and distribution of the newsletter.

The Section Board is committed to continuing education for its members. However, due to the challenges outlined above, the Board's approach is to work with other organizations and State agencies to co-sponsor various events and activities such as the Eastern Washington Planner's Forums, State SEPA Training, etc., as well as, considering other opportunities for co-sponsorship such as the Randall Arndt workshop in Richland.

If possible, we will try to arrange for two, geographically dispersed sessions within the Section boundaries. Any other suggestions would be greatly appreciated. I would also encourage you to visit the Washington Chapter and National APA websites, which contain a wealth of resources.

A roster of the current Section Board Members and the Section Bylaws can be found on the Washington Chapter of APA website at <http://washington-apa.org/sections/columbia/>. You will note there are several vacancies on the Board, ***please consider volunteering for one of the vacant positions.***

Finally, if you have any questions or suggestions for improving the Columbia Section, please feel free to contact one of the Section Board members.

—Gary Mabley, AICP  
President – Columbia Section

## Board of Directors: Meet Your Section Officers

### Elected Officers

President	Gary V. Mabley, AICP	<a href="mailto:gary@mableyassociates.com">gary@mableyassociates.com</a>
President-elect	Lilith Yanagimachi, AICP	<a href="mailto:lilith.yanagimachi@co.chelan.wa.us">lilith.yanagimachi@co.chelan.wa.us</a>
Secretary	Christina Wollman, AICP	<a href="mailto:christina.wollman@co.kittitas.wa.us">christina.wollman@co.kittitas.wa.us</a>
Treasurer	Joseph Schiessl, AICP	<a href="mailto:jschiessl@ci.richland.wa.us">jschiessl@ci.richland.wa.us</a>

### Appointed County Representatives

*Members may contact their county representatives regarding needs, concerns or issues.*

Benton County	Valerie Smith	<a href="mailto:valerie.smith@co.benton.wa.us">valerie.smith@co.benton.wa.us</a>
Okanogan County	Ben Rough	<a href="mailto:brough@co.okanogan.wa.us">brough@co.okanogan.wa.us</a>
Kittitas County	Christina Wollman, AICP	<a href="mailto:christina.wollman@co.kittitas.wa.us">christina.wollman@co.kittitas.wa.us</a>
Walla Walla County	Gary V. Mabley, AICP	<a href="mailto:gary@mableyassociates.com">gary@mableyassociates.com</a>
Yakima County	Nathan Gwinn	<a href="mailto:nathan.gwinn@co.yakima.wa.us">nathan.gwinn@co.yakima.wa.us</a>

*Positions for county representatives in Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Franklin, Grant and Klickitat counties are presently vacant.*

### Other Appointed Officers

Education Coordinator	Christina Wollman, AICP	<a href="mailto:christina.wollman@co.kittitas.wa.us">christina.wollman@co.kittitas.wa.us</a>
Professional Development Coordinator	Anne Knapp, AICP	<a href="mailto:anne.knapp@ora.wa.gov">anne.knapp@ora.wa.gov</a>
Communications Officer	Nathan Gwinn	<a href="mailto:nathan.gwinn@co.yakima.wa.us">nathan.gwinn@co.yakima.wa.us</a>
Legislative Liaison	Lilith Yanagimachi, AICP	<a href="mailto:lilith.yanagimachi@co.chelan.wa.us">lilith.yanagimachi@co.chelan.wa.us</a>

*The Public Information Officer position is presently vacant.*



## County Corner

News, planning projects, community service and educational activities in Columbia Section counties

### Benton

Benton County developed the Red Mountain AVA Master Site Plan to enhance the region's wine and tourism industries and increase the visibility of future development. The public will review the plan in the upcoming months for proposed inclusion in the Benton County Comprehensive Plan as a sub-area plan. This year's update to the plan will appear on the Web later this month: <http://www.co.benton.wa.us/pView.aspx?id=805&catid=45>

Last month, the "Vision Plan for Open Space Conservation and Trail Connectivity in the Mid-Columbia Region" (2011), prepared by the Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network steering committee, was awarded the APA/PAW project award for citizen involvement. The committee fully engaged in a lengthy plan development process and worked hard to accomplish its goal of a regional plan accepted by all local jurisdictions, citizens and other non-profit and public organizations. It's a great read, enjoy! <http://www.rrosn.org/pages/theplan.html>

—Valerie Smith, Benton County

### Chelan

After weeks of fire and smoke Chelan County is finally enjoying some blue sky and fall weather. All too soon the winter snowpack and fall rains will be traveling down numerous drainages and rivers to valleys and cities. With the heavy loss of ground cover and trees we are expecting a potentially devastating impact on the water management infrastructure and fragile stream habitats. While many departments are discussing options, the game plan has not been determined. This unprecedented fire will provide the affected counties and cities many lessons in how to develop within and around wilderness areas. For more information visit [http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/pw/after\\_the\\_fires.html](http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/pw/after_the_fires.html)

—Lilith Yanagimachi, AICP  
Chelan County

### Kittitas

Kittitas County Public Works and Community Development Services (CDS) have been busy writing and updating plans and regulations in 2012. The Public Works Department received approval for a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation

Plan and an update of the County's Capital Improvement Program. CDS is currently updating the Critical Areas Ordinance, completing the first update of the Shoreline Master Program since 1975, and updating the land use designations and comprehensive plan through a large public process to define "rural character" and "rural development" in the context of Kittitas County.

Like Chelan County, Kittitas County is recovering from the devastating impacts of the fires and preparing for impacts from the Table Mountain and Taylor Bridge fires. The Table Mountain Fire is estimated to have almost 14,000 acres of high burn severity which creates potential for increased water and debris flow due to the high water repellency of ash. This impacts both wildlife and human life. For more information on the Central Washington wildfires recovery you can visit the InciWeb website at <http://inciweb.org/incident/3292/>.

—Christina Wollman, AICP  
Kittitas County

### Okanogan

Greetings from the sunny Okanogan! These are exciting days in North Central Washington. We are nearing completion to updates of the comprehensive plan, shoreline master program, and critical areas. On the heels of that lengthy process will be updates to the zone, the subdivision code, airport safety regulations, etc. We recently updated our recreation plan and have seen growing activity/interest with our many miles of public trails. Although new commercial development has slowed over the last few years, our local cities have been busying themselves with improvements to long range plans, infrastructure improvements, park improvements, and other projects.

—Ben Rough, Okanogan County

### Walla Walla

Downtown Walla Walla was fortunate to have been recently selected as one of ten "Great Neighborhoods" in the Nation for 2012 by the American Planning Association.

APA's news release stated, "What residents, businesses, city officials, and local organizations in Walla Walla have achieved since 1980 when they began

implementing their plan to rehabilitate and revitalize their downtown neighborhood has been nothing short of profound. Results include more than \$50 million in private and public funds to preserve and improve nearly 300 neighborhood buildings; national awards for having revitalized Main Street, their business and commercial corridor; and exponential growth of the region's newly established wine industry that now generates \$100 million a year for the city and region."

The Walla Walla Union-Bulletin reported the Mayor of Walla Walla credited "public planning" and "... marvelous visionaries we know as urban planners ..." as being instrumental in creation of the vibrant Downtown.

While it would not have occurred without the efforts and commitment of a number of other community stakeholders, it reinforces the positive role planners can play in actively developing and participating in partnerships with other community groups. It is worth the effort! Find out more about the Program and Downtown Walla Walla by visiting "Great Places in America" on the APA National website.

—Gary Mabley, AICP  
Mabley & Associates

### Yakima

Strategic planning at a former landfill and sawmill in northeast Yakima poises the Cascade Mill site for brownfield redevelopment in conjunction with a proposed east-west corridor transportation project. The project includes public meetings this winter. The corridor will bisect the site adjacent to Interstate 82 to provide a much-needed auto/bike/pedestrian connection across the Yakima River between the city of Yakima and the unincorporated Terrace Heights neighborhood. The project Web page is <http://yakimacounty.us/yakimacastwestcorridor/>

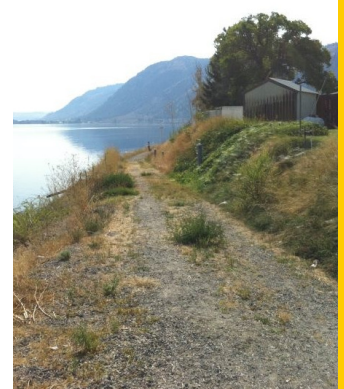
Less than two miles to the northwest, the Yakima Valley Trolleys association prepares to replace overhead electric transmission lines for reactivation next year of its six-mile passenger line across the Naches River to the city of Selah. The association is organizing volunteers to clear the line, which was inactive for seven years, and work parties have been planned for this month and into the spring. Please contact Karl Pasten by e-mail [kpasten@aol.com](mailto:kpasten@aol.com) for more information.

—Nathan Gwinn, Yakima County



Downtown Walla Walla  
Gary Mabley

"The Mayor of  
Walla Walla  
credited 'public  
planning' and  
'marvelous  
visionaries we  
know as urban  
planners' as  
being  
instrumental in  
creation of the  
vibrant  
downtown."



Lake Pateros near Brewster,  
Washington  
Karri Espinoza



Naches River  
Byron J. Gumz



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar: Functions, workshops and social events to further communication

Subject	Date & Time	Location and Contact
Yakima Valley Trolleys Work Days	November 10, 2012 November 17, 2012	Yakima, Washington Contact <i>Karl Pasten</i> (509) 949-4233 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:kpasten@aol.com">kpasten@aol.com</a>
Custom Short Course on Local Planning & Integration of Urban Forestry Planning	November 29, 2012 6:30 p.m.	Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington <i>Janet Rogerson</i> (360) 725-3047 (check <a href="http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growth">www.commerce.wa.gov/growth</a> after the 1st of each month for Short Courses offered in Central Washington)
Planners After Hours	December 6, 2012 5:00 p.m.	Bob's Keg & Cork, 27 North Front Street, Yakima, Washington (509) 573-3691
Eastern Washington Planners' Forum	January 23, 2013 9:30 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Big Bend Community College, ATEC Bldg. #1800, 7662 Chanute St NE, Moses Lake, Washington <i>Dee Caputo</i> (509) 389-1291 <a href="mailto:dee.caputo@commerce.wa.gov">dee.caputo@commerce.wa.gov</a>
Planning Association of Washington Conference	April 10-12, 2013	Campbell's Resort, Chelan, Washington (509) 782-9446 <a href="mailto:info@planningpaw.org">info@planningpaw.org</a>
Eastern Washington Planners' Forum	May 1, 2013 9:30 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Big Bend Community College, ATEC Bldg. #1800, 7662 Chanute St NE, Moses Lake, Washington <i>Dee Caputo</i> (509) 389-1291 <a href="mailto:dee.caputo@commerce.wa.gov">dee.caputo@commerce.wa.gov</a>

Please share your event.  
E-mail:  
[nathan.gwinn@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:nathan.gwinn@co.yakima.wa.us)



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