



# WASLA Newsletter

Washington Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

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SEPTEMBER 2007

## Announcements

### Partnership to Help Small Communities Plan Connections with Trails

#### WASLA & ORASLA to Support Community Assistance Charrette

November 2-3, 2007

Together, the Washington and Oregon chapters will partner with the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program on a community charrette this autumn in southwestern Washington. The NPS-ASLA partnership will assist residents and local agencies in Cowlitz County prepare a conceptual plan for a 12-mile trail loop connecting the City of Castle Rock and unincorporated Lexington, north of Kelso, and link local and visitor recreation areas and activities along the Cowlitz River. Leading the project locally is a coalition of public health, recreation, and transportation organizations and agencies, with the support of a volunteer trail committee. The charrette is scheduled for November 2nd-3rd, 2007, running from Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon.

The Castle Rock-Lexington trail project grew out of collaborative efforts that resulted in recent adoption of the Cowlitz Regional Trail Plan, and the 2006 "Cowlitz on the Move Strategic Plan". The "Strategic Plan" notes that Cowlitz County's 68% incidence of overweight/obese is higher than the [already high] state average, putting residence at increased risk of many chronic diseases and premature death. Among the plan's goals is to "Increase the number of people who have access to free or low-cost recreational opportunities for physical activity", and development of local- and regional-scale trail systems are a primary strategy (it is foreseen that

## Events Calendar

September 22

[Tours of Lochkelden Mansion](#)

September 28

[Northern California LARE Prep Courses](#)

October 3

[Urban Designability Forum: Pedestrian Safety](#)

October 4

[Garden Poetics: The Landscape of the Olympic Sculpture Park](#)

October 12

[2007 WASLA/WRPA Golf Scramble](#)

October 17

[Stormwater: Turning A Potential Problem Into An](#)

## [Asset](#)

October 19

[Professional Development Course: Trail Design](#)

October 26

[Northern California LARE Prep Courses](#)

November 1-2

[Design Charrette](#)

November 7

[Practical IPM Strategies for Landscape Professionals Workshop](#)

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the trail will eventually reach Kelso/Longview and Kalama and Woodland on the Columbia River in subsequent phases).

Chapter members always describe the NPS-ASLA partnership charrettes as professionally rewarding and energizing. Complimentary lodging and hospitality will be provided for visiting design professionals and technical experts, as well as round-trip transportation from the Seattle and Portland areas. Please join other WASLA and ORASLA members, NPS, and community leaders in southwest Washington on November 2nd and 3rd for a fun and productive community assistance event. To volunteer, please contact Don Benson at 206.438.2027 or [don\\_benson@URSCorp.com](mailto:don_benson@URSCorp.com).

*The partnership with NPS was launched in 1998 with a charrette in Seattle's International District, and has continued with a joint community assistance event on a nearly annual basis. In 2006, the partnership supported park master planning projects in Washington and Oregon: the Oregon Chapter assisted with Keizer Rapids Park (Keizer, OR), and the Washington Chapter aided Lake Sawyer Park (City of Black Diamond, WA). Information about the RTCA program can be found at [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca).*

## HANDS ACROSS THE TEE

**First-ever Joint Golf Tournament  
WRPA and WASLA  
Friday, October 12, 2007  
Auburn Golf Course  
29630 Green River Rd. SE  
Shotgun start - 8:30 am**

Brutal competition, friendly rivalry, or "hands across the tee"? Members of the Washington Recreation and Park Association and WASLA will join together for big prizes, big fun, good food, and a winning round of golf. This scramble offers a great chance to get to know colleagues in WRPA, network, and enjoy October outdoors at a premier golf course.

The Auburn course features over one million dollars in court improvements, as well as a new clubhouse and full-service-restaurant and lounge. Only \$70 per golfer, \$280 per foursome. Fee includes 18 holes of golf, early morning "wake me up" necessities, pro shop gift certificate, and lunch time festivities. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for interested firms. Visit [www.wasla.org](http://www.wasla.org) to sign up today!

## PROPOSED NEW PPN SEEKS SHOW OF INTEREST FROM POTENTIAL MEMBERS

A new Professional Practice Network, Children's Outdoor Environments, is currently being proposed and seeks individuals interested in membership.

The design of children's outdoor environments, reconnection with nature, health-related concerns, and other surrounding issues are increasingly gaining attention on a national and global level. Most recently, Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, speaks to the value of spontaneous outdoor play, the connection with nature during childhood, and concerns with raising today's "plugged-in" youth. Landscape architects play a critical role in the process of advocating and providing a variety of places for children to play, learn, and develop a relationship with the natural environment. The Children's Outdoor Environments PPN is intended to focus on topics such as nature-based play and learning environments; safety considerations; educational settings; urban environments; health care trends (including obesity, ADHD, and autism); plant selection; networking with other professionals; and sharing literature, project examples, and experiences.

Formation of a new PPN requires approval by ASLA's Board of Trustees. The Board's Executive Committee will consider petitions of 30 or more members interested in participating in a proposed PPN. If you would be interested in joining a Children's Outdoor Environments PPN, please contact Jena Ponti, ASLA, at [jenaponti@hotmail.com](mailto:jenaponti@hotmail.com) or [jena@brucebody.com](http://jena@brucebody.com).

### **GREEN GARDENING PROGRAM TO PRESENT ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON PRACTICAL IPM STRATEGIES FOR LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS**

**Wednesday, November 7, 7:15 am to 4:00 pm  
South Seattle Community College**

Sponsored by Seattle Public Utilities, King County, and Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Fee \$45 full-day (with lunch) or \$30 half-day (no lunch). Preregistration required.

Pesticide recertification and continued education credits from WSDA, ISA, CPH, and CLT.

Climate change, stormwater regulations, stormy winters, and customer demands for organic landscaping are changing the way we design and maintain landscapes in the Pacific Northwest. The 2007 Green Gardening IPM Workshop will address these changes and ways to reduce maintenance costs and create healthier landscapes. Workshop topics include: attracting beneficial insects, proper pruning, products to

improve soil health, organic weed and pest control, marketing green services, and more. NEW THIS YEAR! A separate afternoon session for landscape company owners and managers on green marketing. PLUS, a separate session on weed identification and control for Spanish speaking landscape professionals (taught in Spanish!). The workshop includes both indoor and outdoor portions.

Attendees can earn pesticide recertification credits from the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Continuing education credits are also available for Certified Professional Horticulturists, Certified Landscape Technicians, and from the International Society of Arborists.

Download the registration flyer at [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) or call (206) 343-9759 ext 108 for more information.

## **STORMWATER: TURNING A POTENTIAL PROBLEM INTO AN ASSET**

### **A Practical Design Workshop for Professionals**

**Back by popular demand - register early!**

**Wednesday, October 17, 8 am to 4:30 pm**

**NHS Hall, UW Center for Urban Horticulture, Seattle**

**Sponsored by Seattle Public Utilities and UW Botanic Gardens**

**Fee \$50, includes lunch. Pre-registration required.**

**ISA Certified Arborist credits pending**

Rainwater can be a resource. This practical course shows professionals how to use simple "Low Impact Development" stormwater management techniques to slow, infiltrate, and celebrate rainwater in our landscapes. It's designed for landscape architects, landscape contractors, designers, builders, engineers, architects and planners. Speakers will focus on successful projects around our region, large and small, municipal and private, as teaching tools. Rain gardens, cisterns, permeable paving options, bio-retention swales, soil improvement, plant selection, and landscape design for projects will be presented, along with "how to" guidelines. Upcoming stormwater regulations will require many of these practices, customers are asking for them, and there are many reasons to start using them now.

This seminar will show you how.

Instructors include: Chris Webb PE (Chris Webb Engineering),

Curtis Hinman (WSU), Tracy Tackett PE, Jim Johnson and David McDonald (Seattle Public Utilities), Peg Staeheli and Kathy Gwilym PE (SvR Design), and Shane DeWald ASLA (SDOT).

[Click here to download registration flyer.](#)

Or call (206) 685-8033 for more information.

## CREATIVELY SPEAKING WITH CHARLES ANDERSON

### **Garden Poetics: The Landscape of the Olympic Sculpture Park**

**October 4, 2007**

**7-8 p.m.**

**Alvord Art Lab**

Go beyond the garden with Charles Anderson, a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a principal with Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture. Anderson will discuss the landscape design and selection of plants at SAM's brand-new Olympic Sculpture Park.

Finally, an opportunity to be a part of the conversation! The Creatively Speaking series provides a forum for artists to explain the philosophies underlying their work and for audiences to ask the questions they rarely have a chance to ask. SAM aims to be unique among cultural institutions by integrating artists into the fabric of the museum.

Free and open to the public. To reserve your space, please call the SAM Box Office at 206.654.3121, except where otherwise noted. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis and reservations are released ten minutes prior to start time.

## 2008 DESIGN AWARDS UPDATE

The WASLA 2008 Design Awards process is taking shape. The competition will be launched in October. The committee is recruiting distinguished judges from across the country. Plans are to use a brand-new process for viewing and evaluating all submissions electronically. This promises a great opportunity to showcase outstanding work in landscape architecture in Washington and demonstrate excellence in our field. Contact the office, 206-443-9484 or [office@wasla.org](mailto:office@wasla.org), to volunteer in this exciting project.

Sponsorships are now available. Visit [www.wasla.org](http://www.wasla.org) for complete information.

## **2008 Marks 100th Anniversary of Olmsted-Designed Spokane Park Plan**

Representatives of the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) are scheduled to arrive in Spokane late this month for a series of meetings and a tour of Spokane parks, three of which were designed by the Olmsted Brothers from their "System of Parks and Parkways," developed for Spokane in 1908.

The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) is a non-profit organization focused on the legacy of landscape work left by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and the firm founded by his sons, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects (OBLA).

The NAOP board meeting in Spokane is timed to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the Olmsteds' work here and is in conjunction with the opening of a major new exhibit at the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (MAC), Olmsted Brothers: Designing Spokane Landscapes.

"By connecting Spokane with the wider City Beautiful movement and nationally-recognized professionals, the Olmsted Brothers constructed a framework for Spokane's future city design," said Marsha Rooney, Curator of History for the MAC. "This exhibit features that historic work, as well as the park story today with images representing a range of parks city-wide," she added.

The NOAP group is expected to arrive in Spokane on Thursday, September 27. They'll hold their board meeting Friday morning, September 28, and then tour Spokane parks that afternoon. On Saturday, a private reception is planned at the MAC for the group to tour the new exhibit which opens to the public on October 6, 2007.

### **About the Olmsted Brothers**

The Olmsted Brothers' landscape design firm was significant and influential in the United States from the time it was formed in 1898 by step-brothers, John Charles Olmsted (1852-1920) and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (1870-1957). They had inherited the nation's first landscaping practice from their father, Frederick Law Olmsted. The two brothers were also among the founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and played an influential role in creating the National Park Service.

In 1907, the newly created Spokane Park Board hired the Olmsted Brothers to prepare a detailed, written report of

recommendations. In 1908, John C. Olmsted visited Spokane. His report, with accompanying maps, was completed later that year and published in 1913 by the Board of Park Commissioners.

The Olmsted Report proposed extensive parks and connecting boulevards. Such improvements, they argued, needed to happen quickly before available and inexpensive land disappeared. Aubrey L. White, Spokane's first park board president, followed the Olmsted's recommendations enthusiastically. He led the planting of 80,000 trees along Spokane streets, persuaded voters to approve a one-million dollar bond issue in 1910, and encouraged real estate developers such as Jay Graves to donate land to the city. The significance of the Olmsted report on guiding major land use decisions in Spokane cannot be underestimated and ultimately resulted in the marvelous park system the public enjoys today.

The Olmsted Brothers completed numerous high-profile projects, many of which remain popular to this day, including park systems, universities, exposition grounds, libraries, hospitals, and state capitols. Notable commissions include the United States Capitol and White House Grounds, Great Smoky Mountains and Acadia National Parks, Yosemite Valley, New York's Central Park, Atlanta's Piedmont Park, and entire park systems in cities including Seattle, Boston and Louisville.

### **About the National Association for Olmsted Parks**

The National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) is a coalition of design and preservation professionals, historic property and park managers, scholars, municipal officials, citizen activists and representatives of numerous Olmsted organizations around the United States. Its concern is the legacy of landscape work left by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and the firm founded by his sons, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects (OBLA). NAOP advances Olmsted principles and the legacy of irreplaceable parks and landscapes that revitalize communities and enrich people's lives. For more information please visit the Web site at [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

### **About Spokane Parks and Recreation**

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation is responsible for the professional management and prudent caretaking of more than 4,100 acres of developed parks and conservation land. The Golf Division maintains and operates four championship municipal golf courses, including Indian Canyon, Downriver, Esmeralda and the Creek at Qualchan. Park Operations has responsibility for the maintenance of all park land and park facilities in the City of Spokane including Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory and the many city-wide

gardens, Finch Arboretum and the Urban Forestry Program. The Recreation/Entertainment Division offers classes, special events, athletic leagues and activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors and persons with physical and mental disabilities. It also operates Riverfront Park attractions, activities and events, and provides support for community centers, senior centers, the Northeast Youth Center, Corbin Art Center and outdoor swimming pools. For more information or to sign up for any class, please visit [www.spokaneparks.org](http://www.spokaneparks.org).

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## Committee Reports and Public Relations

### TAKE ACTION NOW TO SUPPORT SMALL COMMUNITY VISIONING INITIATIVE

ASLA is continuing its campaign to gain cosponsors for our bill, H.R. 3374, The Small Community Visioning Improvement Act. Because many landscape architects and other design professionals have witnessed first hand the benefits of community visioning projects, this is an exciting opportunity for ASLA members to take action.

As you may know, H.R. 3374 will provide small communities with the tools and resources to compete and thrive in the 21st century. The bill would establish the Small Community Visioning Pilot Initiative within the Department of Agriculture and make \$25,000 visioning grants available for small communities, Indian tribes, Alaskan native villages and native Hawaiian organizations.

Small communities are an integral element of our nation's agricultural, economic and social fabric. As you know, residents and visitors are attracted to areas with scenic landscapes and natural resources, abundant parks and recreation opportunities and accessible and well-planned downtown districts. H.R. 3374 would provide landscape architects and other design professionals significant opportunities to help small communities identify and achieve their unique goals for community growth and enhancement.

Please act now to urge your member of Congress to cosponsor this important legislation. A sample letter is including below for your convenience. Please feel free to personalize it with specific examples of successful community visioning projects you are familiar with or an explanation of how your community could benefit from passage of this legislation.

Please contact ASLA Government Affairs Coordinator Dan Lijana at [dlijana@asla.org](mailto:dlijana@asla.org) with questions or to follow up on your letter.