

Rathrum Mountain Protected From Development

Grass-roots effort prevents building on the City of Rathdrum's geographic landmark

Rathdrum, ID (Fall 2004) - Rathdrum's Gem Community Advisory Committee (GEM) worked with City Council members to place development restrictions on 570 acres owned by the city. The parcel's protection is the culmination of a two year community-based planning effort. GEM contacted the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to assist them in a planning effort to determine what the City should do with its land on Rathdrum Mountain. Tempers flared at early open houses as conservationists, landowners, loggers, and pro-trails community members clashed over how the mountain should be protected and utilized. RTCA worked with GEM to develop a collaborative planning process weighted heavily with public outreach and community participation. Interested Rathdrum citizens, stakeholders, and students from the North Idaho College assisted with the parcel inventory, gathered GPS data for existing and potential routes, and developed potential alternatives for the parcel. Students from University of Idaho's Landscape Architecture department provided renderings and drawings. After two years of intensive efforts, a widely supported three-phased plan that begins with protecting the parcel from development was developed and adopted by Rathdrum's City Council. Plan highlights include sustainable forestry, restoration projects, multiple-use trails, and interpretive displays on the Rathdrum Aquifer (a feature of the Ice Age Floods Trail). For more information contact Dan Miller, Community Planner, RTCA, Seattle, WA, at dan_miller@nps.gov or 206-220-4122.



One of several illustrations depicting potential uses for Rathdrum Mountain. Illustration courtesy Thomas Guyer, University of Idaho Landscape Architecture department.

Neighbors Restore Ryan Lake Shoreline

First phase of long-range open space development plan completed successfully

Minneapolis, MN (September 18, 2004) – More than 44 volunteers completed the first shoreline restoration project at North Minneapolis' Ryan Lake. Neighborhood residents, agency staff, and other volunteers mulched, installed erosion control fabric, and planted 3500 native wildflowers and grasses in order to improve water quality, create better wildlife habitat, control erosion, and enhance aesthetics of

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this impaired water body. The planting activity (photo on left, courtesy Karen Swenson) is part of a long-range, neighborhood-developed vision for open space improvement around Ryan Lake which began with a trash cleanup last spring. This conservation project was assisted by \$3600 in NPS Challenge Cost Share funds, along with local funds, donated supplies, and labor. Partners in the Ryan Lake shoreline restoration and/or related

open space development activities include: Victory Neighborhood Association, Groundwork Minneapolis, Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission, Camden Garden Club, City of Minneapolis (Public Works and Environmental Management), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Loring Elementary School, Ryan Lake Association, University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener Program, Minnesota Department of National Resources, and Federal Highway Administration. For additional information, please contact Holly Larson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, NPS/RTCA, Minnesota Field Office, at holly_larson@nps.gov or call 651-290-3003.

Willard Park Rededication Story

Indianapolis, IN (August 12, 2004) – Indianapolis celebrated the rededication of Willard Park after two years of renovation work. The historical park's transformation was made possible in large part by a \$500,000 grant from the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program to Indy Parks and Recreation. The local match requirement was exceeded thanks to the Indianapolis Parks Foundation (IPF), which secured more than \$238,000. Indy Parks and Recreation also provided matching funds from its capital improvement budget. "We have witnessed the effect that the financial support of UPARR and many additional individuals, foundations, and corporations has had on this community. It's a clear example of how, with the right support, parks can truly become the centerpiece of a community," said IPF Executive Director Cindy Porteous. She was joined at the rededication ceremony by local dignitaries and Dale Phillips, Superintendent of George Rogers Clark National Historic Park representing the National Park Service and the Midwest Region's Partnerships/Grants staff. Improvements included renovations to the pool, bathhouse, concession and vending building, the basketball court and parking lot, and the addition of a spray pool, recreation trail, family activity area, and sport and playfields. For more information, please contact Marilyn Gillen, Outdoor Recreation Planner at marilyn_gillen@nps.gov or 402-661-1550.



Children enjoying the new renovations to Willard Park.
Photo courtesy Marilyn Gillen.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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