

# LIGHTS and SHADOWS

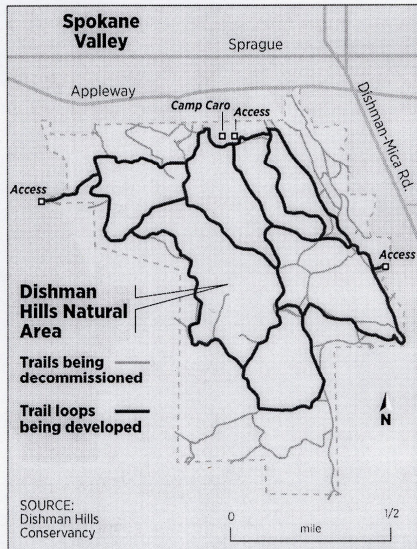
from the  
Dishman Hills

May 2013

## LOVELY LOOPS

For those that like to hike in the Natural Area, you will notice that the trail system now includes several new trail loops, and a number of trail closures (Thanks to all the volunteers that came out for Earth Day to help!). This is our spring project to improve hiking in the Hills while reducing environmental impact and solve the problem of trespass on neighboring private lands. Rich Landers wrote a very good article on the project in the Spokesman Review on May 1. The new trail loops will take you to some interesting places that you may not have seen before. By combining two loops you can do a giant figure eight, ending up where you started without repeating much of the scenery. Some people are complaining about the closure of the trails that are no longer needed, but some of that was expected. We live in a conservative community that resist change. While the new trail segments could be built in a day or two, the restoration of the old trails will take both some time for the land to heal, and the respect of hikers not to use them; after all, these restoration areas are just shortcuts, or pathways to private land outside the Natural Area. The Conservancy spent a pretty penny on native plants for the restoration, and we want them to claim residence. We figure that the established public trailheads should be the only portals to enter or leave the Natural Area. Please help us by not using the decommissioned trails.

### Dishman Hills trails



Map courtesy of The Spokesman-Review

The Department of Natural Resources is still working on a set of new trail signs. They are scheduled to be installed sometime in June, so if you want to get out there and get confused or lost you better do it soon, it will be much harder with well marked trail junctions. Temporary handmade signs were posted during trail construction to help hikers till June.

## YOUR INVITATION

Coming up on **June 1**, 2pm, will be the dedication of the Stevens Creek Rd. trailhead, and you are all invited. Maybe a celebration over a new parking lot and trailhead seems a little "over the top" to you, but this is so much more. The conservation of Big Rock and the building of public access through land purchases and trail building, has been a goal for many years and we are very happy to see it done. The event will include public presentations, food, and ice cream. Sponsors are Spokane County Parks, the Dishman Hills Conservancy, and Mountain Gear. Better still will be the opportunity to meet those that made this possible, and to take a hike up to Big Rock and see what this is all about. You will not be disappointed!

To find the party location coming from the southwest head south on Regal to the Palouse Highway. Turn left and proceed about 7 miles to the intersection with Stevens Creek Road. Turn left (only choice) and head north about two miles to the parking lot at the end of the road. From the Valley head south on Highway 27 to the Palouse Highway junction and turn right or west and go about 5 miles to Stevens Crk Rd.

## CONSERVANCY NEWS

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have questions. Our board meets every month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting will be on June 18th, 7 pm. We meet at the Moran Prairie County Library, 6004 South Regal St.. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our April donors that have consented to be listed: Blair Anundson, Gardner Bailey, Derick Baker, John Beecher, John Bottelli, Nancy Cashon, Galen Chamberlain, Barbara Colleran, Joseph Collins, Robert DeGroot, Cheri Ferguson, Sue Flammia, Paul Flannery, Guy Gifford, Greg Gorden, Lou Graham, Charley Gurche, Polli Hamlin, Pamela Haslebacher, Judy Heggem-Davis, Jeff Juel, Joyce Kelly, Gina Kettleon, Paul Knowles, Cynthia Langlois, Kris Major, Marilyn Miller, Trudy Miller, Thom Nephew, Mike Peterson, Robin Redman, Diane Richardson, Bryant Robinson, Eric Robinson, George Schneider, Steve Trefts, Dan Walsh, and two anonymous donors. Thanks for the wonderful support!

*Unless man can make new and original adaptations to his environment as rapidly as his science can change the environment, our culture will perish.*

- Carl Rogers. American Psychologist (1902-1987)

## YES, I want to help protect our natural areas in the Spokane Region

Enclosed is my tax-deductable donation of :

\$ 15\*    \$ 25    \$ 50    \$ 100    Other \_\_\_\_\_ \* annual dues, due by June 30

Gift is a Memorial for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Acc. No. (see address) \_\_\_\_\_  Please don't list me as a donor

**Please return this form along with your check payable to: Dishman Hills Conservancy**

I would like to receive my Lights & Shadows online My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dishman Hills Conservancy - 3415 S. Lincoln Dr. - Spokane, WA 99203 - www.dishmanhills.org**