

powered by feet first



Walkable Washington

collaborate, take action, celebrate

For information about Walkable Washington and other Feet First programs

314 1st Avenue S
Seattle, WA 98104
www.feetfirst.org
206 652 2310

Case Study

Walkable Washington

The Walkable Washington program grew out of the Feet First Cities Program. It showcases exceptional pedestrian-oriented improvements, community groups and outreach programs; maintains a statewide network for key contacts and stakeholders including an annual symposium; and provides assistance with Safe Routes to School, walking audits and other educational activities and programs.



Olympic Discovery Trail Port Townsend, Sequim, Port Angeles and La Push, WA

Description and purpose

The Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) is a 130 mile bike and pedestrian route from the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the Pacific Ocean, following a route along the north side of the Olympic Mountains. Currently under construction, the 130 mile long paved trail is designed for multiple use groups including pedestrians, cyclists, disabled persons, and day hikers.

The ODT is described as a “major highway for non-motorized users” and provides access to a plethora of towns and natural scenery along the way – crossing through and connecting small towns, recreation areas and beaches. Parts of the trail feature a 4’ shoulder for equestrian use. The completed portions of the trail now cover over 50 miles.



feet first
promoting walkable communities



Walkable Washington

Costs and funding

The ODT is funded through public funds (capital funds, grants, etc.) and donations to the Peninsula Trails Coalition. Trail construction is being carried out by contractors, staff, and volunteers.

Implementation time-frame

The concept for the ODT was created by the volunteer Peninsula Trails Coalition, established in 1988. Their main objective was to create a public trail for non-motorized users, especially bicyclists, from Port Townsend to the Pacific Coast through restoration of a railroad grade which was no longer in use. In 1991, the first part of the ODT was created near Sequim along the Dungeness River, by creating a pedestrian walkway along a 3000 ft. section of rail corridor. Since then, the ODT has been under construction in various segments, with the vision of expanding westward from Port Angeles.

Community involvement

The ODT is truly a community effort, and its creation and expansion would not have been possible without local involvement and extensive volunteer efforts. Today the trail is maintained by organizations, individuals and volunteer adopters. Members and volunteers have been critical in raising funds to extend the trail when there have been funding gaps.

Results

While the trail has been highly frequented by local users, there has been a struggle to bring visitors from outside the region to use the ODT and draw attention to it as a “destination trail.”

Project Contacts

Peninsula Trails Coalition

www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com/contact_us.html

Resources

Olympic Discovery Trail website

<http://www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com/index.html>

Olympic Discovery Trail, Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.portangeles.org/pages/OlympicDiscoveryTrail1/>

Trail of the Month: Olympic Discovery Trail, Rails to Trails Conservancy

<http://www.railstotrails.org/news/recurringFeatures/trailMonth/archives/1205.html>

Photo courtesy of Peninsula Trails Coalition



feet first
promoting walkable communities