

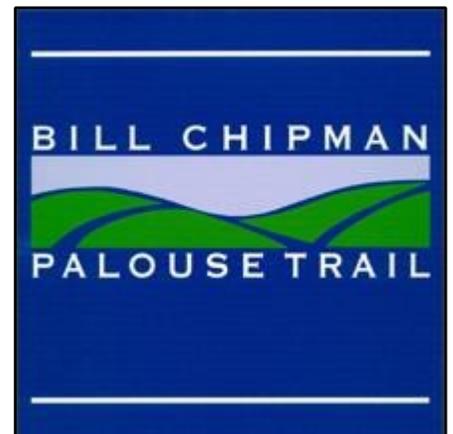
BILL CHIPMAN PALOUSE TRAIL

Parallel to Highway 8 from Stateline to Line Street
16.19 Acres (5.6 Acres in Idaho) 7.1 Miles Total



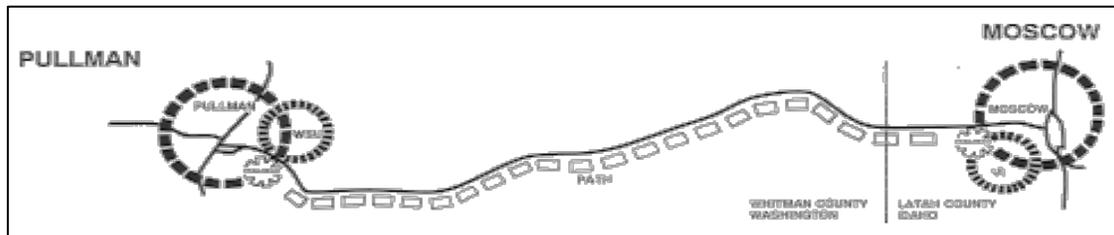
Description:

The Bill Chipman Palouse Trail is an eight mile paved pathway between Pullman and Moscow. The path was built on an abandoned railroad line that travels along the Pullman Moscow Highway and alongside Paradise Creek, crossing it 13 times. The trail connects Washington and Idaho, Pullman and Moscow, and Washington State University and the University of Idaho. The Bill Chipman Palouse Trails begins in Pullman at the Quality Inn and travels to Perimeter Drive in Moscow before connecting to Paradise Path of Moscow. Historic plaques line the way as the trail weaves through the Palouse. The trail is a level, 10 foot wide path that can accommodate all ages and abilities. Ride your bike, take a stroll, rollerblade, jog, or use a wheelchair as you travel out into the open wheat fields along the creek. The path is open from sunrise to dusk every day, year round. The Bill Chipman Palouse Trail is maintained and managed by a coalition of park and trail representatives from Whitman County, the City of Pullman, the City of Moscow, the University of Idaho, and Washington State University. The City of Moscow independently maintains the trail from the Idaho/Washington border to the connection of Paradise Path.



Amenities:

- ADA Accessible
- Handicap Accessible Restrooms- 2
- Bike Racks
- Emergency Phones
- Interpretative Signs of History, Agricultural, and Ecological Topics
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles



History:

1985:

- The Pullman Civic Trust sponsored a hike along an 8-mile abandoned rail line between the college communities of Pullman and Moscow.

1987:

- Pullman Trust Members, along with forty citizens and agency staff, expressed their dream of developing a safe path from Pullman to Moscow. These individuals became known as the Palouse Path Task Force. The Task Force knew what they wanted but was not sure how to get it. They turned to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance for help.

1993:

- At one point in the early 1990s, it appeared that the Chipman Trail was going to progress very quickly. This concerned the University of Idaho because they were not ready to connect it with the proposed University trail that was part of the initial Paradise Path plan. The University of Idaho generated enough money to start the path from perimeter drive to the Wallace complex. University of Idaho's landscape architect, Phil Waite, designed this portion of the trail, and it was built in 1993 before the completion of the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail.

1994:

- Whitman County filed for interim trail use with the U.S. Surface Transportation Board for the Bill Chipman Trail. Due to the proximity of the trail to the state highway, the Washington Department of Transportation applied for a grant through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. A grant of \$900,154 was awarded to the



Department of Transportation. The trail was also added to the federal “Rails to Trails program”, which preserves railroad corridors for non-motorized transportation and possible future transportation use. The Washington Department of Transportation began to design the trail after a lot of public input was received. The trail grant, however, was contingent on being used by July 1996.

1996:

- The year 1996 was accompanied by a tragic car accident that resulted in the death of Bill Chipman. Bill was a dedicated father, businessman, and good friend to many on the Palouse. Bill was also a graduate of the University of Idaho. In the later part of the year, community sentiment supported the naming of the new trail in the memory of Bill.

1997:

- Editor and publisher Mark Trahan of the Moscow-Pullman Daily News announced that the Daily News was contributing \$10,000 to the Bill Chipman Trail project. General Manager Wayne Hollingshead said the donation would be in the form of advertising contributions. Each week, those individuals that donated to the trail project would have their name printed in the newspaper.
- April - Fundraising for the Bill Chipman Trail continued by way of the “Take a Hike” celebration at the University Inn-Best Western in April of 1997.
- May - Governor Phil Batt announced that Moscow would receive \$36,000 to build the Idaho portion of the Bill Chipman Trail. The money came from the Stripper Well Petroleum Violation Escrow Fund, which pays for alternative forms of transportation and energy conservation projects in Idaho.
- May - The bid options for the Washington side of the Bill Chipman Trail were sent out and returned. The WSDOT bids came in \$120,000 over the allocated budget for the Washington portion of the trail.
- August - The bids for the Idaho side of the Bill Chipman Trail were returned almost \$20,000 over the budget estimates.

1998:

- January 15 – The Bill Chipman Palouse Trail hits its goal of \$510,000 after eleven years of pushing the project.
- April 4 - The Bill Chipman Palouse Trail opened to the public with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Leading the way onto the path was the University of Idaho’s band marching from the Moscow side and Washington State University’s band marching from the Pullman side; they met in the middle of the path.



1999:

- The Bill Chipman Palouse Trail trailheads were built in 1999, and the signs were built by the prisoners of Walla Walla State Prison. All of the names of those who donated \$250 or more to the trail are listed on plaques at the main trailheads.

2001:

- April – The Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning teamed up with the Palouse Astronomical Society to create the “Walk of the Planets” along the Idaho side of the Bill Chipman Trail. The signs which commemorate each planet are spaced at a relative distance of the planets in our solar system, and the planets were drawn by the students of the Palouse Prairie School.