

Homestream Park Coming to Winthrop

The community of people who know and love the Methow Valley never ceases to inspire us, and it is in that spirit that we share news from Board Member Phil Davis and his wife Cathy about their pretty amazing plans to restore a natural floodplain right near the town of Winthrop and dedicate the space to raising awareness about salmon and the rivers they call home.



This 2-acre property just outside of Winthrop will be restored and become a place to learn more about salmon and the rivers they call home.

The property has long been home to a horse corral and serves as a gateway of sorts to downtown. Their vision is to engage a diverse array of community partners (including us here at the Methow Conservancy) in transforming the property into a park space honoring the rivers and salmon of the Methow Valley by making it a public space providing river access, an interpretive trail, sculptures, and exhibit space in the property's iconic barn. The remaining land will be restored to its natural riparian and floodplain condition in support of the salmon it will honor.

Long-time conservationists and leaders active in many Methow Valley non-profit organizations, Phil and Cathy recognize that they are taking on a big project, but they are motivated by their reverence for the miraculous journey of the Methow's salmon and a deep love for this Valley.

We'll let Phil share this vision in his own words below, as we say "Wow!, thank you for this gift to our community Phil and Cathy!":

Phil and Cathy have purchased a two-acre property just down river of the Hwy 20 bridge in Winthrop. The property has long been home to a horse corral and serves as a gateway of sorts to downtown. Their vision is to engage a diverse array of community partners (including us here at

*I am captivated by salmon. I never tire of seeing a spawning pair over their cobbled nest in a shallow run. I even wrote a story, *The Last Salmon*, inspired by my own son's encounter with a dying Chinook and by the true story of a single returning Snake River sockeye salmon, Lonesome Larry.*

I grew up in Connecticut where salmon just weren't a part of our collective identity. But when I transplanted to the Northwest, I was awed by the majesty and tragedy of their story.

Majesty, born in waters millions of years ago, with a life journey that is truly remarkable, guided by a singular purpose, just one chance to spawn a new generation back in their home stream. And then die.

Tragedy, in their losing battle against unrelenting human pressure. Yet they keep trying.

More and more people are working to help salmon regain their rightful majesty. I want to be one of those people. I want our community to be those people.

Cathy and I are thrilled to be creating a park on one of the best salmon tributaries of the Columbia system, the Methow River.

Located on two riverfront acres just downstream from the town of Winthrop, WA, we are rehabilitating an old horse corral with native plantings, public art, interpretive trail, and a gathering space with river access. The park's focus will be on the rivers and fish of the Methow Valley. It will be named Homestream Park.



Phil and Cathy Davis are planning to restore a natural floodplain and create a park dedicated to raising awareness about salmon.