

Astoria Hot Springs Park

Community Design Report

November 2016

DHM DESIGN



THE
TRUST
FOR
PUBLIC
LAND

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

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History



Photograph by the Gill family

Fifteen minutes south of Jackson along a lazy bend, mineral hot springs flow into the Snake River. Since Native Americans discovered the healing advantages of mineral springs, these special places have been gathering sites.

Since the valley's earliest historic accounts, Astoria Hot Springs Park has been a gathering place in the Snake River Canyon. Native American tribes, mountain men, and miners all traveled through or lived in the canyon. In the early 1900s, the land was a profitable cattle ranch, and in the early 1960s, it was opened as a leisure resort. Popular for local families, Astoria Hot Springs represented the area's growing recreation economy and love for the outdoors. Residents enjoyed the unique close-to-home experience of soaking in the mineral springs, picnicking after a float on the Snake River, and camping along the riverbank. For many years it was the only local resource for families to teach their children how to swim.

In 1999, the resort was closed to the public and envisioned as a private development. Since then, residents have clamored to reclaim this community retreat, fighting against the planned 200,000 square feet of luxury development. The Trust for Public Land is working with civic and community leaders to protect 100 acres of sensitive landscape and return Astoria Hot Springs Park for wide-spread public use. DHM Design is leading a team of architects, engineers, and local contractors to re-envision the park through a participatory design process.

The Trust for Public Land believes that conserving land and creating parks is powerful and inspirational. When people come together to protect places they love, they demonstrate their hope and commitment to the future and inspire others to take action to improve their surroundings. In 2015, we protected Astoria permanently, after relocating development away from the river to Snake River Sporting Club.

Photograph by the Gill family



Photograph by the Gill family

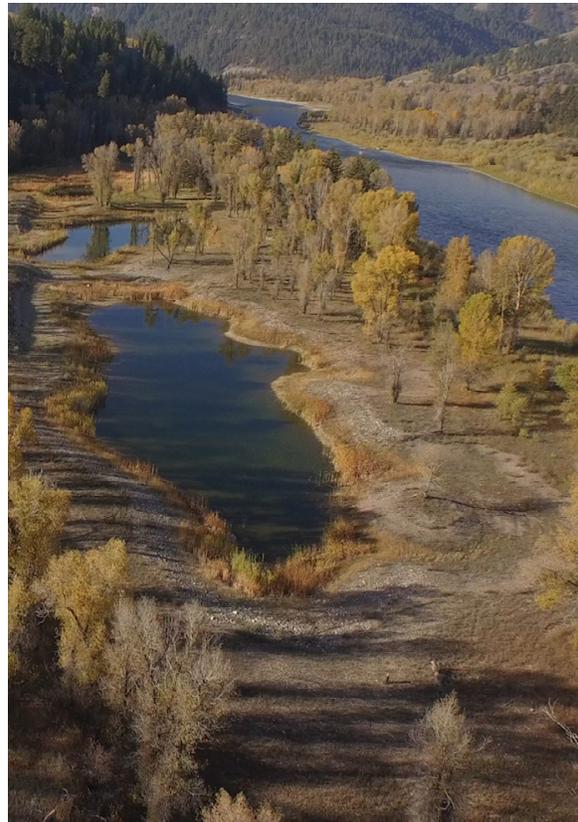
"Changes to the resort master plan, in my opinion, were of significant community benefit. The development footprint of the resort was much reduced. The square footage potential was reduced. A scenic corridor along the river that previously had the potential for structures right along the banks was better protected."

**– Barb Allen
Teton County Board of Commission Chair**

The site returned to a wilder state during the stalemate in development that stretched from early 2000s to present day, and the protection effort conserved critical habitat for 97 avian species and numerous other wildlife. An iterative, community-fueled design process engaged 1,500 residents and partner organizations in shaping a meaningful public space for the newly protected landscape.

The Trust for Public Land brings national expertise to engage communities in designing and building innovative parks, playgrounds, and trails that foster a strong sense of place and connection to nature.

This report highlights our design process for Astoria. The following details our outreach that formed the foundation of the newest chapter of Astoria Hot Springs Park.

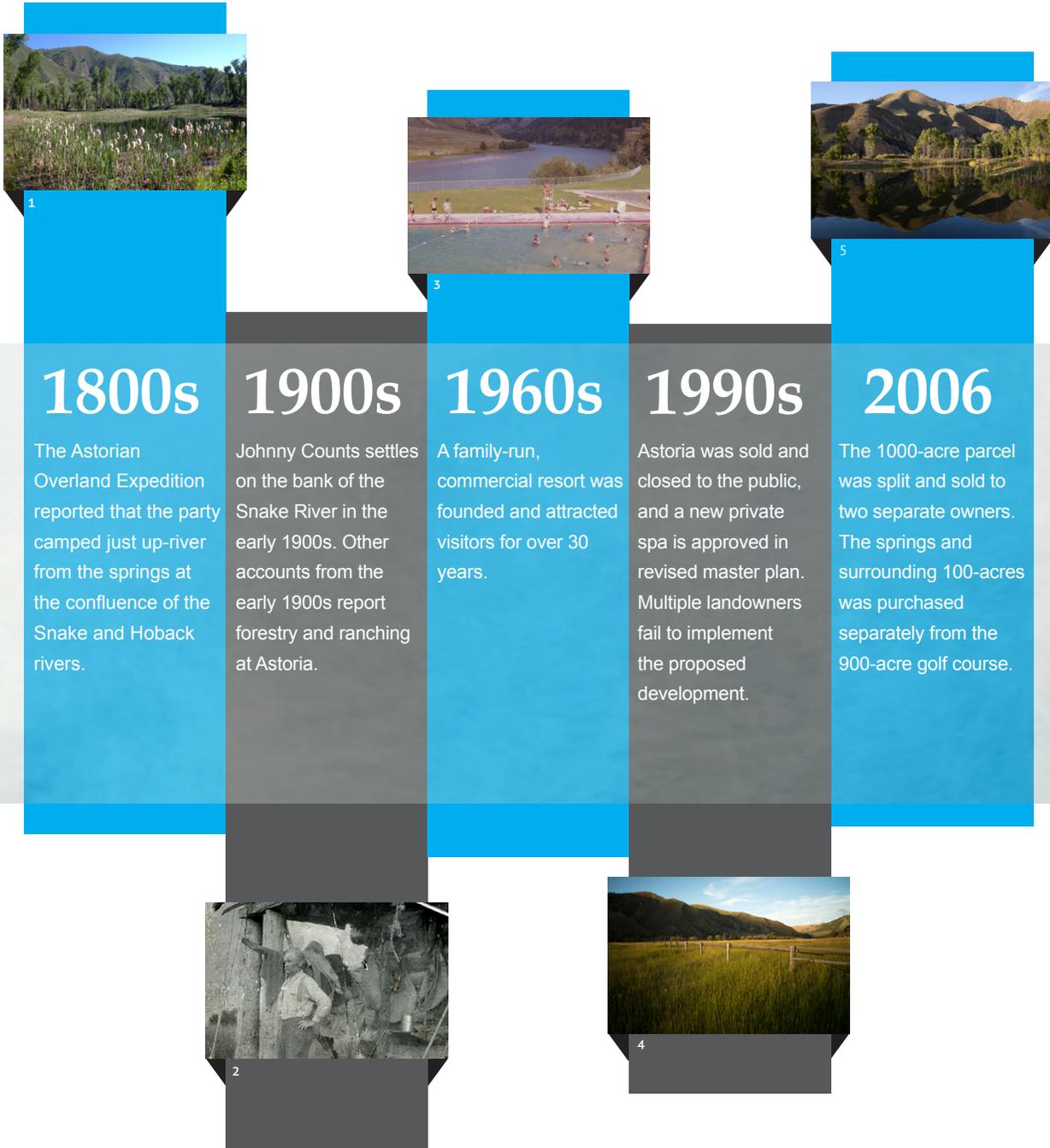


Photograph by Sheets Studio



Photograph by The Trust for Public Land

Timeline



- ¹ Photograph by The Trust for Public Land
- ² Photograph by The Jackson Hole Historical Society Museum
- ³ Photograph by the Gill family
- ^{4,5} Photograph by David Stubbs

2014

Northlight Trust partners with The Trust for Public Land and Snake River Sporting Club to revise the master plan to protect and ensure public access at Astoria Hot Springs Park.



1



2

2015

Public outreach to refine new park plan begins. Together the community starts re-imagining the new park and gives input during tours and outreach events.

Spring 2016

A design team is hired and public outreach continues with high school students, who conduct research and facilitate the first “placemaking” event.



3



4

Summer 2016

The Trust for Public Land purchases future park site in July and participatory design continues. The design team hosts public open houses, stakeholder meetings, and more “placemaking” events to help refine the design.

Fall 2016

Community design phase concludes at the Community Foundation’s 20th annual Old Bill’s Fun Run, and the design team begins seeking approval for final design plan.



5

1, 2, 5 Photograph by David Stubbs

3 Photograph by Jackson Hole Public Art

4 Photograph by DHM Design

Design Process



Photograph by The Trust for Public Land

Every park, playground, and public space created by The Trust for Public Land is an open invitation to wonder, explore, discover, and play. This begins in park design and lasts well into the future.

The Trust for Public Land uses its signature participatory design process to listen to what residents want and help them implement that vision. Time and again, we have seen that the grassroots process of involving communities and providing hands-on opportunities for engagement empowers individuals, strengthens community bonds, and ensures that our parks, trails, and natural areas are cared for long into the future.

During the design of Astoria Hot Springs Park, residents participated in a variety of events and provided critical feedback to shape the final park plan. By embedding arts and culture into our work, we created meaningful and sustained engagement with residents, addressed issues such as public health and inequality, and built strong partnerships and impactful public spaces.

Student Engagement

In February and March 2016, The Trust for Public Land partnered with Jackson Hole Public Art and the Jackson Hole High School Design Fabrication Lab to engage students in design research for Astoria Hot Springs Park. High schoolers dove into a design intensive, using innovative design research techniques. The curriculum incorporated class visits by design professionals, interviews with ten residents about their memories of the past resort, a field trip to Pierson Land Works, and a site visit to Astoria. The compiled research and potential pool models were shared with our design team and exhibited at the Jackson Hole Ski and Snowboard Club's Karen Oatey Pole Pedal Paddle.

The Trust for Public Land's design process benefited from involving high school students, who helped the designers better understand their perspective and ideas. Students benefited, as well, by participating in a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) learning opportunity that illustrates how schoolwork has real-world implications, inspiring a new generation of public land stewards and park enthusiasts.



Photograph by Jackson Hole Public Art



Photograph by Jackson Hole Public Art



Photograph by Jackson Hole Public Art

Stakeholder Meetings

Astoria’s project committee assembled two stakeholder groups to confer with our designers. One group was comprised of technical experts with past experience operating regional hot springs or pool facilities, engineers, and construction management professionals. The other was a group of community partners, civic leaders, and public art experts. Each group met twice, once in March and once mid-way through the design process. Helping the team define programming for the springs and larger park, the stakeholder groups provided invaluable feedback, including the following three specific examples:

- Team wants to leverage geothermal education opportunities, especially in the welcome center.
- People support adding another soaking pool and conveyed desire for a variety of pool sizes.
- Wayfinding and directional signage will be critical, especially in the parking area that is closest to the historic bridge to avoid bottlenecking.



Photograph by The Trust for Public Land



Photograph by The Trust for Public Land



Photograph by The Trust for Public Land



Photograph by DHM Design

Public Tours and Open Houses

The wider public was also invited to participate in the community-wide design process. 20 total tours were offered during the fall 2015, advertised in the local paper and via local radio. These visits occurred twice weekly and garnered input from a wide-reaching group of visitors, including residents from Alpine and Pinedale, Wyoming.

In July 2016, the design team facilitated two open houses that were also advertised widely in the community and open to the public. The morning open house was hosted at the Teton County Library and the second was hosted at Old Wilson School House Community Center. Both offered residents the opportunity to meet the design team, see our updated plans, and share their ideas.

Along the way, participants viewed and commented on our project website and learned about upcoming events.

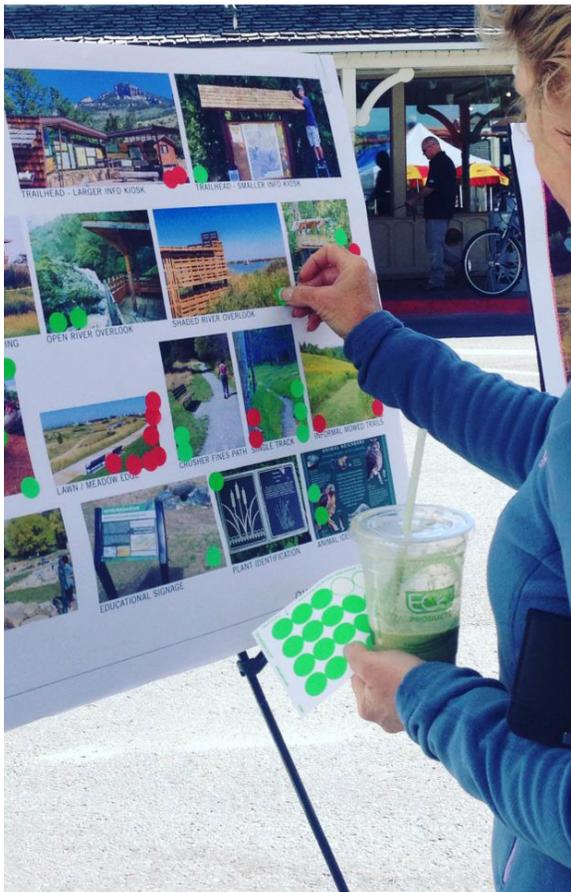


Photograph by The Trust for Public Land

Creative Placemaking Events

The Trust for Public Land uses Creative Placemaking, a process where community partners apply arts and culture to shape the character of a neighborhood, to create parks and serve the needs of the communities where we work.

During the Jackson Hole Ski and Snowboard Club's Karen Oatey Pole, Pedal, Paddle (March 2016), we elicited community input through photography and oral history recording activities in partnership with Jackson Hole Public Art and the Jackson Hole High School's Fabrication Lab. In July, we introduced our plans with One 22 during the La Liga Sunday soccer league, where we garnered specific feedback from Latino families using visual art activities. We targeted input from young people and new families at a happy hour in June, and we partnered to conduct "placemaking" work at wide-reaching, public events. All our outreach activities allowed residents a voice in shaping and sustaining the new park, bringing their vision to life and instilling a sense of collective ownership in the new Astoria.



Photograph by The Trust for Public Land

Partners

- Anderson Hallas Architects
- Cloward H2O
- Community Foundation of Jackson Hole
- DHM Design
- Energy Conservation Works
- Jackson Hole Farmers Market on the Town Square
- Jackson Hole High School's Design Fabrication Lab
- Jackson Hole Public Art
- Jackson Hole Ski and Snowboard Club
- Jorgensen Engineering
- One 22
- Pierson Land Works
- Rendezvous Lands Conservancy
- Teton County Parks and Recreation



Photograph by Jackson Hole Public Art



Photograph by The Trust for Public Land



Conclusion



Photograph by Sheets Studio

"Designing and building parks is truly a ground-up effort. Without the participation and input from the community, the needs and the vision for the new Astoria Hot Springs Park would never be successful."

- Chris Deming

Concluding Ideas

Discussions with residents grounded the new Astoria design in the context of the site's historical significance and ensures the new park reflects and welcomes future visitors. Our outreach activities forged connections between diverse residents and coalesced ideas from different ages, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The process also brought people together and created a community dialogue that included voices normally disfranchised in community planning. Our enclosed final plans manifest the comments to our designers.

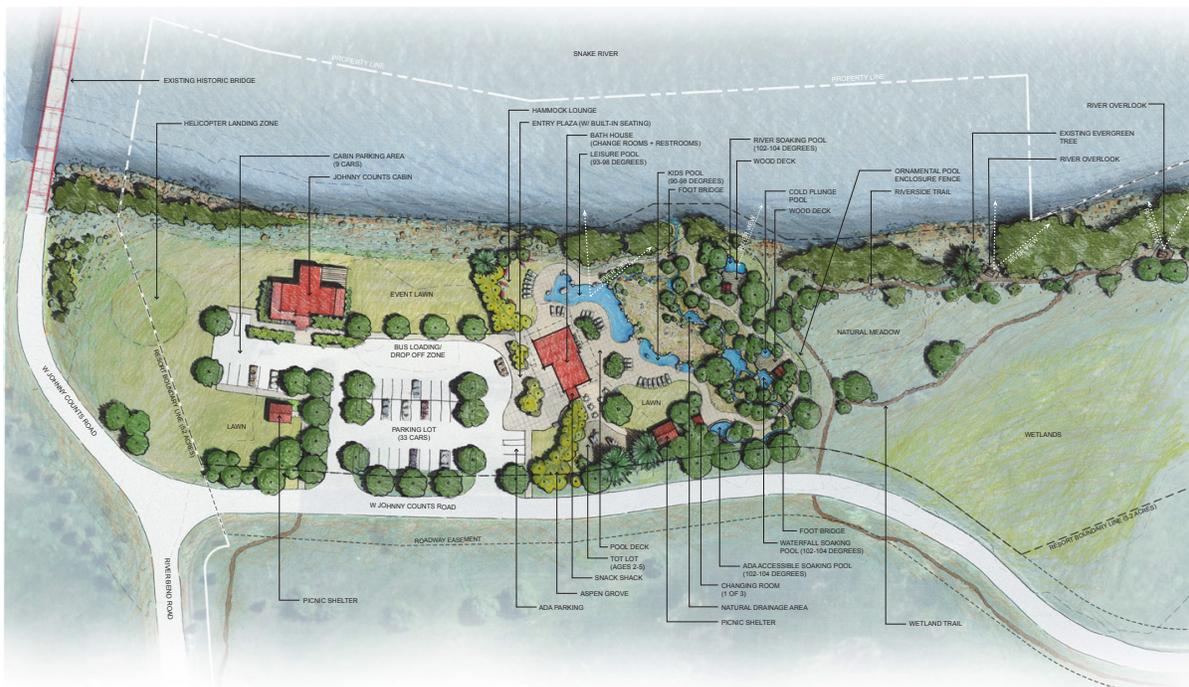
Below are a few examples of how the new park design was directly impacted by public comment:

- Opportunities for safe interaction with water that flows between ponds in passive park
- Desire for interpretation and teaching moments to elevate visitor experience in both English and Spanish
- Large leisure pool and "kiddie pool" in addition to multiple smaller soaking pools and a cold plunge pool
- Trails for different ages, abilities, and interests throughout larger park
- Space within hot springs zone that allows for out-of-water experiences (like hammocks, river overlooks, seating, etc.)
- Public art integrated and encouraged through continued engagement of artists throughout design and construction process
- Incorporation of various programmatic spaces to accommodate community need (i.e. picnic pavilions sized for larger family gatherings and multi-purpose space in Johnny Counts Cabin for meetings and classes)
- Architectural Character and detail of the Welcome Center Building
- Desire for a natural aesthetic character of the hot springs pools.

Final Designs and Renderings

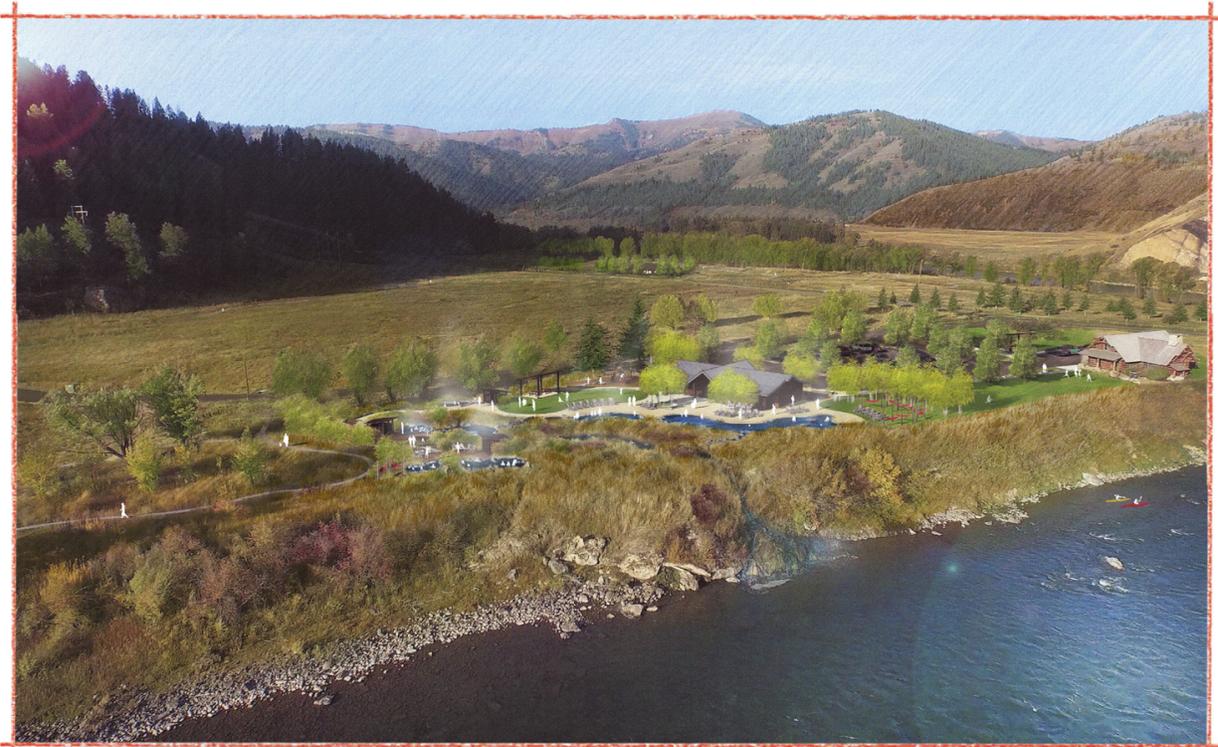


Overall Park Plan



Hot Springs Resort Plan





Park Bird's Eye Perspective



Waterfall Pool Character Sketch



River Pool Character Sketch



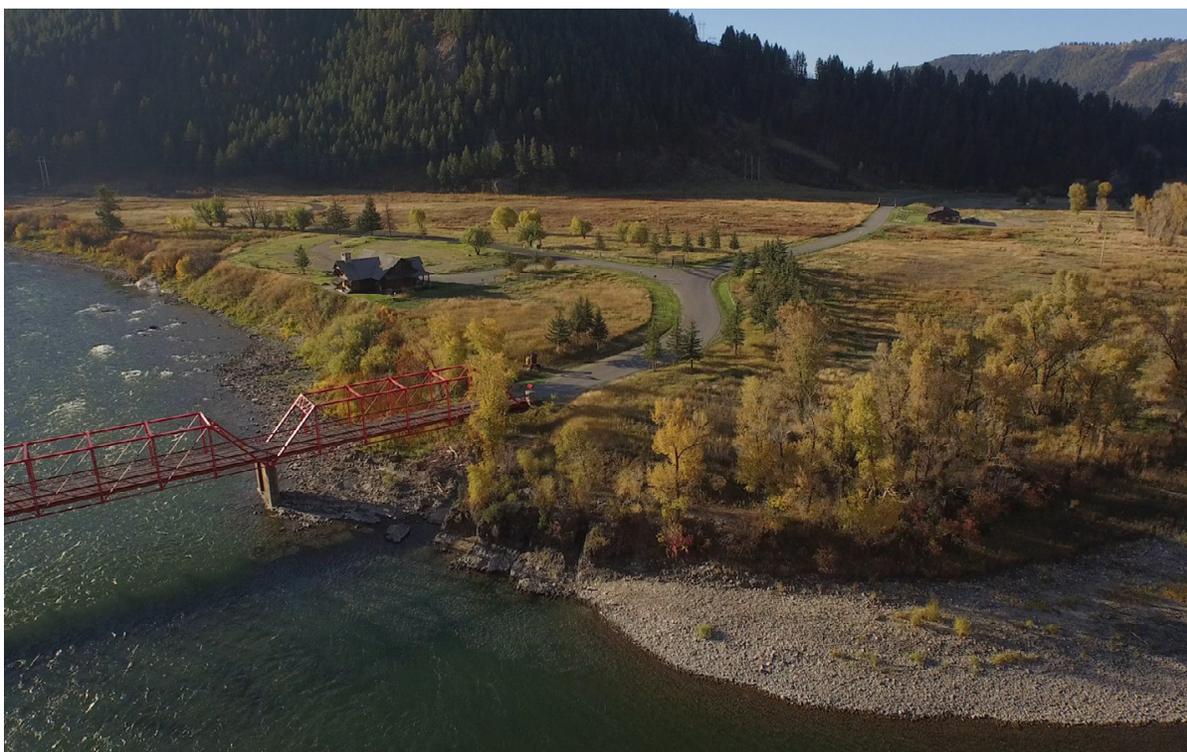
Welcome Center Architectural Concept

Next Steps

We are grateful to all our neighbors and community leaders who participated in the design process for Astoria Hot Springs Park. Now completed, this design will lead us through the final development process with Teton County and guide our designers through creating construction drawings. As we continue to refine programming and public use at Astoria, we look forward to further opportunities to seek input and share our progress through public engagement.

Our Gratitude

The Trust for Public Land thanks early campaign donors, including the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole and its Youth Philanthropy program, for supporting our community outreach and participatory planning. We are grateful to those who understand how rebuilding the beloved mineral hot springs will once again connect residents to nature and to each other.



Photograph by Sheets Studio

Parks are not built on ideas alone. We need your help to ensure our collective vision for the new park becomes a reality. The *Campaign for Astoria Hot Springs Park* will support the property's protection, our participatory design process, and the phase-one construction.

Please contact Paige Byron, 307-739-3942 or paige.byron@tpl.org, for further information.