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Visit Walla Walla Partnered Quail Trail

Walla Walla DISTRICT, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION

NWD Priority: People, Partners, Programs, or Innovation
WHO: Walla Walla District, NRM Section, partner is Visit Walla Walla
WHAT: New signage to improve the Quail Trail at Bennington Lake
WHEN: 4 SEP 2025
WHERE: Mill Creek Project – Bennington Lake, Walla Walla WA
WHY: Helping hikers and emergency response teams to identify locations on trail.
WHAT'S NEXT: Future partnering to enhance USACE recreational access point for the community



Above: Example Quail Trail location marker.

Above Center: NWW Park Ranger Dillon Benitez, Natural Resources Specialist Seth Langanese, Brad Trumbo, and Merissa Stevens at the Quail Trail ribbon cutting with Partners.

Below Left: Partners at the State of Washington Tourism awards ceremony.



Summary:

In July 2024, the Walla Walla District’s Mill Creek Project entered a Memorandum of Understanding with Visit Walla Walla to cooperate on the design and implementation of a “family friendly” trail. The MOU and subsequent trail work was the product of a year worth of brainstorming for regional recreation enhancements. The existing trail system, easy access, and popularity of the Mill Creek Project made it the perfect location to kick off this broader public recreation effort. The partnership designated a trail loop the “Quail Trail” and developed and installed new location maps and trail markers as navigation aids for hikers and emergency services personnel. On October 8th, 2025, the State of Washington Tourism presented the Quail Trail the 2025 Creative Partnership award. Future opportunities include completing a trailhead with a picnic table, potentially installing wildlife interpretive signage, and tying the Quail Trail into the next phase of trail enhancements on the Project’s downstream boundary with Walla Walla County.

