



Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Milestones

1990

Hundreds of citizens march from Snoqualmie Pass to the Seattle waterfront to dramatize the need for a Greenway plan

1991

Citizens form the non-profit Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, with civic leader Jim Ellis as president

60 people from many interests elected to Greenway Trust Board of Directors

The Trust for Public Land supports the Greenway with a loaned executive and administrative assistance

1992

70-member Technical Advisory Committee begins gathering information and planning

State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designates over 4000 acres on Tiger Mountain, just east of Issaquah as a Natural Resource Conservation area

Boeing, Microsoft, and Weyerhaeuser pledge multi-year start-up donations

Bullitt Foundation funds research, writing and publication of a book about the Greenway

1993

The Boeing Company loans an executive to work full time for the Greenway Trust on a continuing basis

Mountains to Sound: The Creation of a Greenway Across the Cascades, 128 pp., published

Technical Committee produces Greenway Concept Plan defining goals and describing 70 projects along the 100-mile scenic corridor

Weyerhaeuser and Seattle Rotary sponsor the first Greenway tree-planting at Jose Rizal Park on Beacon Hill

Nine cities and two counties along the route endorse the Greenway concept

First public land acquisition for Greenway: 1800 acres on top of Rattlesnake Mountain

Outdoor writer Harvey Manning publishes Hiking the Mountains to Sound Greenway with photographer Ira Spring

1994

400 acres of historic Meadowbrook Farm preserved between North Bend and Snoqualmie

The Washington Forest Protection Association sponsors sixteen local history interpretive signs around the Snoqualmie Valley in cooperation with the Greenway Trust

State Parks opens the long-closed 2.3-mile tunnel under Snoqualmie Pass for summer use by John Wayne Pioneer Trail users

18 acres, zoned commercial, are acquired and protected at popular High Point trailhead, 20 miles east of Seattle on I-90

In support of Greenway scenic highway goals, the state Department of Transportation, (WSDOT) eliminates plans for a truck weigh station at key I-90 view spot

1995

Cle Elum, Roslyn, Kittitas County and the Greenway Trust acquire a 6-mile abandoned railroad right-of-way from Burlington Northern Railroad to create the Coal Mines Trail

130-acre Lind property, straddling highway 18 at I-90 is purchased by the US Forest Service as the nation's first Forest Legacy project

Innovative Biosolids Forestry Program developed and authorized to recycle treated sewage wastes, fertilize forests, generate public revenues and acquire public forest lands in the Greenway corridor

Greenway Trust and the stewardship organization EarthCorps initiate on-going program to bring young people into the mountains to remove abandoned logging roads

By community request, the Greenway corridor expands to include the historic town of Thorp in central Washington and Alki Point and Discovery Park on the Seattle waterfront

State Parks adds 620 acres to double the size of Squak Mountain State Park in Issaquah

WSDOT installs four large Greenway signs along I-90

Congress allocates \$3.2 million for public purchase of 1,000 acres of old growth forest at Silver Creek, north of I-90 at Easton, in the eastern Greenway

City of Bellevue adds a mile of landscaped bike and pedestrian trail alongside I-90 from Eastgate to West Lake Sammamish Parkway

1996

State and county agencies fund a two-year planning process to address security, sanitation and recreation needs in the 110,000-acre Middle Fork Valley of the Snoqualmie River, just east of Mt. Si, producing a River Corridor Public Use Concept Plan

Greenway Trust initiates environmental education program “Seeking Solutions,” for local schools focusing on forests, water quality and recycling

Greenway Trust receives the Puget Sound Regional Council “Vision 2020” Award

The US Environmental Protection Agency recognizes 5 partners in the Greenway Biosolids Forestry Program with awards for Innovative Conservation Programs with Public Benefits

King County initiates 4-to-1 land use program on Grand Ridge and preserves 1400 acres of open space near the Greenway forest gateway

Puget Sound Energy awards \$50,000 for use on Greenway community projects

1997

Washington State Department of Natural Resources adds 6,720 acres to public land in the Snoqualmie River Middle Fork valley through land exchange with Champion Timber Company

King County protects Issaquah Creek and Lake Sammamish headwaters by acquiring 1300 acres of Taylor Mountain Forest on Highway 18

King County expands a forest connection between Cougar and Squak mountains with acquisition of Sunset Quarry

Federal and local funds combine to add 1100 acres to public forest on Rattlesnake Mountain

Puget Sound Energy and Asplundh Tree Expert Company employees begin annual donation of equipment and labor for “Day in the Greenway” maintenance on the John Wayne Pioneer Trail and other sites in the Greenway

National Park Service, Plum Creek Timber and local donors fund recreation improvements at Speelyi Beach on Lake Cle Elum

10 miles of abandoned logging roads removed in the Middle Fork Valley by Greenway youth volunteer program over next 3 years

WSDOT completes 4-volume “Greenway Implementation Plan”

Lake Sammamish State Park provides space for a permanent nursery for trees used in Greenway planting projects

Washington Trails Association provides volunteers for 6,000 hours of trail maintenance along the Greenway

Greenway Trust and National Park Service produce 20-minute audio visual program, “Taking Charge: Successful Models of Scenic Towns and Highways,” distributed nationally by the American Planning Association

Greenway Trust receives a national award for scenic and recreation preservation from Scenic America

1998

The Federal Highways Administration designates the 100-mile Greenway a National Scenic Byway

Weyerhaeuser sells and donates 1,750 acres as permanent public forest land on Grouse Ridge, east of North Bend. Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen adds a large donation to acquire riverfront parcels

The US Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser complete the Huckleberry Land Exchange, adding 25,000 acres to the public forests along the Greenway

Seattle Mayor Paul Schell and WSDOT ensure that a Greenway trail is included in plans for State Route 519 connecting I-90 to the Seattle waterfront

Central Park Trail is connected to the I-90 Greenway trail in Seattle's Central District

The Boeing Company donates design and printing of "Greenway Adventures" tour guide brochure

The Seattle Water Department makes major recreation improvements and begins building a watershed education center at Rattlesnake Lake, south of North Bend

Volunteers join state and county staff to complete the first official trail across Rattlesnake Mountain

King County purchases 12 miles of abandoned rail right of way along the east shore of Lake Sammamish for a trail that will connect Seattle to eastern King County and I-90: one of the longest urban bicycle and pedestrian trail systems in the United States

Kittitas County citizens make dramatic improvements to 6-mile historic Coal Mines Trail from Cle Elum to Ronald

1999

State Parks replaces missing Hall Creek Trestle, removing a major obstacle on the Greenway-backbone John Wayne Pioneer Trail

State Parks develops and opens large Hyak Trailhead with parking and showers for cross-state hikers and equestrians

City of Issaquah approves new East Cougar Village (now Talus) development including 75% of land as permanent public open space

Federal Lands Highways funds grant \$400,000 for design and construction of a missing trail link from High Point to Preston, along I-90

\$20-million in Land and Water Conservation Funds allocated by Congress for Greenway land acquisitions

Washington Forest Protection Association funds 8 historic interpretive signs in upper Kittitas Valley

King County purchases the first, 20-acre parcel on the edge of I-90 at Preston for a future arboretum

2000

Federal funds acquire 130-acre Snoqualmie Point and save a spectacular viewpoint from becoming a private office park

I-90 Land Exchange between Plum Creek Timber and the US Forest Service brought a net gain of 20,000 acres to public forests east of Snoqualmie Pass

US Congress allocates \$7 million for Greenway land acquisitions

Washington State Department of Natural Resources acquires 640-acre Section 12, the last private in-holding on Tiger Mountain next to Issaquah

Federal highway enhancement funds combine with local and federal forest funds to protect 160 acres in small parcels next to I-90 for proposed Preston Arboretum

King County Parks acquires 423 acres of forested “Mitchell Hill connector” on a hillside north of I-90 through new Transfer of Development Credits program

Greenway Trust secures funds and enlists thousands of volunteers to plant “200,000 Trees in 2000.” They exceed the goal by 30,000 trees

Volunteers construct “missing link” trail segments on Cougar and Squak mountains

A 10-day hike across the Cascades attracts over 100 participants to commemorate the 1990 Greenway kick-off march and celebrate progress

2001

Spring: Nearly 6,000 acres of private forest land in large and small parcels along I-90 in King and Kittitas counties are acquired through purchase or exchange by the state DNR, the US Forest Service and King County

Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative protects 3,500 acres from future urban development, including the backdrop of Snoqualmie Falls and the Raging River Tree Farm

Volunteers have removed 21 miles of abandoned logging roads since 1995

2002

The Cedar Falls Trailhead, the western terminus of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, opened to hikers, bikers and equestrians

Washington State Department of Natural Resources acquired 171 acres on Mt. Si, 26 acres at the Mt. Si trailhead and 4 acres at the High Point trailhead. High Point is the busiest trailhead in the state

350 acres of forestland were acquired in the Raging River Valley

King County acquired 60 acres in the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley for water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation

The Lake Easton area gained 950 acres of US Forest Service land through efforts of Washington State Parks, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Cascades Conservation Partnership

Issaquah unveiled new interpretive signs and a new education center at the Issaquah Fish Hatchery

Greenway representatives from Kittitas County completed a new recreation plan

2003

5300 acres were acquired along the Pacific Crest Trail for recreation and wildlife habitat connectivity

Lake Easton State Park gained 800 acres of forestland

In the Salmon La Sac area, 4421 acres were added to the Wenatchee National Forest. At Manastash Ridge, 1200 acres were added to public ownership

State Route 519 was completed with extra-wide sidewalks past the stadiums to connect the I-90 Greenway Trail system to the Seattle waterfront

Mountains to Sound Greenway, EarthCorps and Washington Trails Association volunteers donated over 20,000 hours of labor to build a new trail to Rattlesnake Ledge, on the edge of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed

The Sunset Interchange opened in Issaquah with a new trail built by WSDOT to connect regional trails between Issaquah and High Point

Greenway volunteers planted 14,000 trees along Tibbetts Creek in Issaquah to restore natural salmon habitat

Washington State Parks has donated space for several years at Lake Sammamish State Park for the Greenway Tree Nursery, which this year produced 20,000 plants for revegetation projects along the Greenway corridor

The Alps to Arboretum Bike Tour drew cyclists from the Issaquah Alps to Seattle's Arboretum as part of the centennial celebration of the Olmstead Park System

New artwork at Snoqualmie pass symbolizes transportation history at the Pass

The South Cle Elum Depot of the old Milwaukee Road railway gained National Historic Landmark status

Young volunteers spent weeks removing 2.5 miles of abandoned logging roads at Bessemer Mountain, above the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley

2004

The Crown Lakes property, 597 acres that include three alpine lakes and rugged mountain scenery, were purchased by the state Department of Natural Resources for addition to the Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area

State Route 519 in downtown Seattle connects Interstate 90 to the waterfront, including a Greenway regional trail link and Greenway logo signs.

Greenway Discovery Days (later to be known as Greenway Days) debuted in June 2004

Washington State Parks filled final gaps in John Wayne Pioneer Trail by building two trestles across the Yakima River and BNSF railway near Easton

Snoqualmie Forest - 90,000 acres of the Snoqualmie Forest are preserved by conservation easement

Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative saves Snoqualmie Falls backdrop and wildlife habitat in the Raging River Valley

King County Wastewater Treatment wins National Biosolids Partnership seal of approval

Trust for Public Land protects 465 acres at Lake Easton for Washington Department of Natural Resources and Washington State Parks to protect wildlife habitat in the Yakima River Wildlife Corridor and preserving recreation along the John Wayne Pioneer Trail

Bonneville Power Administration acquired 548 acres near the confluence of the Cle Elum and Yakima Rivers

Suncadia preserved 302 acres above Roslyn for permanent open space

New river access points for kayaks were created along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie

The Greenway icon peak, Mt. Si received a new trailhead by the Department of Natural Resources, and volunteers helped rebuild the first two miles of this popular trail to withstand heavy recreational use

The Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center opens, designed to emulate a Native American longhouse to preserve history in this public open space between Snoqualmie and North Bend

Two miles of Rattlesnake Mountain Trail were built

New bicycle trail circles south end of Lake Washington in Seattle

2005

The 120-acre Moore Oxbow Property, the last private riverfront parcel in the Upper Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley, was purchased for US Forest Service management

28 acres on Tiger Mountain preserved just east of High Point Trailhead, and another 15 acres on west side

Bicyclists and hikers launch shared trail experiment on Middle Fork Trail, with bicyclists on odd calendar days and hikers and equestrians on all days

Girl Scout Camp near Carnation preserved by transfer of development rights

Land acquisitions at Patterson Creek, Fall City riverfront, Cougar Mountain

Northwest Railway Museum rehabilitates historic Bridge 35 in the Snoqualmie Valley

3.3 miles of abandoned logging roads removed in the Middle and Sough Fork Snoqualmie River Valleys

Major ecological restoration project at Lake Sammamish begins with restoration of 4.4 acres and planting of 4,500 native trees and shrubs

New trails are built on Grand Ridge and Taylor Mountain

Upper two miles of popular Mt. Si trail were rebuilt

A new mile of trail on Rattlesnake Mountain was built thanks to 3,000 hours of volunteer labor

Greenway environmental education for schools has taught 23,000 students

Voters in Kittitas County created the first ever Park and Recreation District to preserve traditional recreation areas in response to rapid population growth

Greenway Trust receives first of many 4-star ratings from independent Charity Navigator

2006

Grouse Ridge agreement concludes, placing over 2,000 new acres into public forestry

US Forest Service opens new Middle Fork Valley campground

State legislature funds improved access to nature in the Greenway including trail improvements at Squak Mountain, completion of visitor facilities at Snoqualmie Point Park and the cross-mountain Rattlesnake Mountain Trail and new trailhead

Mountaineers restore and improve the Asahel Curtis Nature Trail

Green Infrastructure - Linking Landscapes and Communities uses the Mountains to Sound Greenway to illustrate that an interconnected network of natural areas is key to environmental, social and economic health

Mercer Island opens a new trail at the SE 53rd Street Open Space

Huge volunteer effort rebuilds final mile of trail on Mt. Si, with over 13,000 hours donated by volunteers for the more than 100,000 people that use the trail annually

Mountain Works brings 82 young people into the Greenway for ecological restoration, trail building and fun

The Jim Ellis Birthday Tribute launches the Mountains to Sound Greenway Legacy Fund, and raised the first \$1 million for this endowment in Jim's honor

Open Space Seattle 2100 project brings neighborhoods together to plan for keeping Seattle vibrant and healthy

CityLeague Sports launches 100-mile Mountains to Sound Relay, a major Greenway Days event

2007

Greenway conservation corps crews and volunteers rebuild West Tiger #3 that leads to the third summit of Tiger Mountain

Conservation groups join forces to preserve 300 acres at Amabilis Mountain, just east of Snoqualmie Pass

New, 11-mile cross-mountain Rattlesnake Mountain Trail and Trailhead open on National Trails Day

Stampede Pass land along Pacific Crest Trail acquired for Wenatchee National Forest

Snoqualmie Point Park opens in October, 2007, the culmination of over a decade of work to preserve surrounding forests, acquire the park site that would otherwise have held office buildings, and design and build a City of Snoqualmie park with one of the most magnificent and sweeping views in the Greenway

40 acres acquired in the Cougar Mountain / Squak Mountain Wildlife Corridor / Connector

Tiger Mountain High Point Trailhead improved and new ADA-accessible bridges installed on Bus Trail and Around the Lake Trail

Cascade Land Conservancy acquired 446 acres of wildlife habitat near Easton along Cabin Creek and 320 acres on Keechelus Ridge

New Issaquah-High Point Trail Connector regional trail opens to connect the south end of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, along the north side of I-90, to an existing regional trail at High Point

2008

Snoqualmie Point Park gets mountain peak orientation table; wins Award of Excellence from the Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation

Local auto dealer Carter Motors plants one tree for every test drive, an additional three trees for every car purchased to help offset the carbon footprint of their cars

King County Council honors retiring Executive Director Nancy Keith; Greenway Trust welcomes new Executive Director Cynthia Welti

Lake Sammamish restoration effort receives large trees along the lakeshore to improve wildlife habitat, while volunteers continue restoration work and plant 7,000 native trees and shrubs

Penny Harvest grant funds native plant identification guides for the Greenway environmental education program

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center opens in Bellevue with increased capacity for hands-on learning in a spectacular natural setting

Tower Peak and Cabin Creek acquisitions preserve over 1,000 acres of forest land along the Pacific Crest Trail

The City of Issaquah acquired 10 parcels along Issaquah Creek to protect stream quality and expand a city park

A critical 8-acre property was purchased by King County at the intersection of I-90 and SR 18 to protect the viewshed of the Mountains to Sound Greenway

Swamp and Big Tree Trails upgraded at Tiger Mountain

Greenway education program wins *No Child Left Inside* grant from Washington State Parks

The Greenway Trust and Mountaineers Books reprint *Snoqualmie Pass; From Indian Trail to Interstate* by Ellensburg historian Yvonne Prater

2009

National Trails Day marks the grand opening of the new and improved 2.5-mile Little Si Trail, including a second parking lot to accommodate heavy recreational use, a trail between the parking lots and a new bridge over the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River

REI in the Greenway Month brought hiking clinics to four area REI stores and volunteer service projects on four local trails

The City of North Bend and the Greenway Trust are restoring Riverfront Park by removing massive invasive English ivy from trees and the forest floor, helping to restore the park to a healthy state for people and wildlife

14 acres preserved by King County in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley to improve recreation access

Washington State Department of Natural Resources adds 2,100 acres to the Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area

Major renovation of Squak Mountain trails improves trail tread, drainage and signs, with over 6,000 hours of volunteer labor

Greenway volunteers build a sustainable trail to Teneriffe Falls near Mt. Si

Raging River 7,000-acre land acquisition completes 15 years of work by the Greenway coalition to connect Tiger Mountain, Rattlesnake Mountain, the Cedar River Watershed and Taylor Mountain into one large swath of forestland to be managed as the Raging River State Forest

Greenway Summer Camps bring youth ages 10 - 18 to week-long camps for ecological restoration and trail maintenance

King County builds new 1.5-mile trail through Marymoor Park at the north end of Lake Sammamish, creating a safe and convenient link for cyclists, walkers and joggers between the Burke-Gilman and East Lake Sammamish Trails

Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark signs new 10,272-acre Middle Fork Natural Resources Conservation Area into existence at annual Mountains to Sound Greenway celebration

2010

The Washington State Department of Transportation built a regional trail connection from High Point to Preston. Funding to fill this trail gap on the north side of I-90 between I-90 exits 20 and 22 came from the state legislature at the Mountains to Sound Greenway's request. This fills a major gap in the regional trail system along I-90 between Issaquah and the Snoqualmie Valley.

Major ecological restoration is underway at Squak Valley Park North, including removal of invasive plants, removing an old levee, constructing a smaller berm to allow Issaquah Creek to resume a more natural, meandering flow, and adding large woody debris to improve salmon habitat. Funded by the King Conservation District, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, this project will truly improve water quality in this salmon-bearing creek.

Roslyn's Historic Cemeteries: Roslyn resident and historian Richard Watts won the 2010 Humanities Washington Award for preservation of Roslyn's historic cemeteries

Thanks to a partnership between King County Parks and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Duthie Hill Park was constructed to be one of the premiere mountain biking parks in the country with over five miles of trails for all ages and abilities

The Bessemer Mountain Road Project removed 15 miles of roads on the west side of the Middle Fork Valley, including a road-to-trail project that will connect the Mt Si road into the Middle Fork for recreation by the US Forest Service and WA State DNR

Lake Union Park, a new 12-acre park with walking paths, lake shore access, maritime history and boat pond was made possible by the City of Seattle and the Seattle Parks Foundation

The 100-acre historic Reinig family farm preserved by a conservation easement held by King County

2011

Eight new interpretive kiosks were installed across the Greenway providing information to the public about recreation, conservation, and local ecology. The kiosks were funded by the National Scenic Byways Program, Jim Ellis, Jones & Jones Architects, Landscape Architects and Planners, and the Trust for Public Land.

The City of Issaquah acquired 140 acres on the forested west flank of Tiger Mountain to preserve highly-visible forest where development had been planned

Greenway volunteers planted over 13,000 native trees and shrubs at Lake Sammamish State Park and along Issaquah Creek to improve wildlife habitat and help combat climate change, and Carter Motors planted the 45,000th tree funded through their “On the Road to Carbon Neutral” campaign

Yakima Basin Environmental Education Program brought over 1600 Central Washington students on field trips to view spawning salmon along the Cle Elum River

The Snoqualmie Tribe has undertaken a major ecological restoration project along the Snoqualmie River in Fall City to improve salmon and wildlife habitat

Reecer Creek floodplain restoration was 14 years in the making, but this restoration near Ellensburg opened up nearly 4,000 ft of creek that was once confined by a levee, improving salmon habitat and protecting nearby homes from seasonal flooding

The regional trail between the Mountains to Sound Trail on I-90 and a bridge over I-5 near Jose Rizal Park was completed in Seattle, adding to the local and regional trail system

The Greenway Turns 20! The 20th Anniversary Trek from Ellensburg to Seattle commemorated the 1990 March which inspired the original idea for the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and highlighted the tremendous amount of work that has been done so far.

2012

Between Tiger Mountain and the Cedar River Watershed, the City of Seattle and the State Department of Natural Resources conserved 150 acres which have been added to the Raging River State Forest.

King County acquired 38 acres connecting Cougar and Squak Mountains to broaden the wildlife and trail connectors between these two key peaks in the Issaquah Alps.

In Kittitas County, 10 miles east of Cle Elum, Washington State Parks acquired a 28-acre property along the beautiful Yakima River Canyon to add to Iron Horse State Park, thanks to a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant from the state Recreation and Conservation Office.

Washington State Parks acquired a 3.7 acre parcel at the South Cle Elum Depot for a future trailhead for Iron Horse State Park, a critical segment of the Greenway Regional Trail network.

The Trust for Public Land continues to work to consolidate “checkerboard” sections in the Central Cascades and place them into US Forest Service ownership. TPL preserved 640 acres at Big Creek for inclusion in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, via the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

60,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted in the Greenway thanks to the efforts of Carter Subaru & Carter Volkswagen’s “On the Road to Carbon Neutral” program. The City of Issaquah recognized Carter’s commitment during the Tree Planting Kick-Off Event at Sammamish Cove.

In July the Yakama Nation celebrated the 16th anniversary of their salmon recovery facilities in the Upper Yakima Basin at the annual Salmon Feed, which attracted over 500 people to Cle Elum. A big cause for celebration was the tribe’s reintroduction of sockeye salmon into Lake Cle Elum this year.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway education program teaches more than 3,000 students each year about the importance of sustaining a healthy natural environment in balance with the needs of a growing population. New this year, students at Clark Elementary in Issaquah raised and released salmon at Cybil Madeline Park in partnership with Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery.

During a dry summer, the Taylor Bridge and Table Mountain fires wreaked havoc in Upper Kittitas County. The American Red Cross brought community members from Cle Elum and the surrounding area together to replant trees lost in these catastrophic fires.

GreenHouse Apartments is the first apartment building in Columbia City since 1969 and is part of a growing trend of bringing density in to Seattle neighborhoods that have great access to transit.

The City of North Bend constructed the new paved Boalch Trail and interpretive signs to allow people to bike or walk from North Bend to the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center.

Thanks go to the efforts of the Friends of North Creek Forest and the City of Bothell, 6 new acres are now preserved in Bothell’s “last great forest” in the North Creek Watershed.

Greenway volunteers joined UW Bothell to plant several species of native plants this fall to help restore the historic wetlands on campus. Special thanks to PEMCO for providing trees through their “Flawless Firewood Stacker” Campaign.

King County completed a major renovation of the Burke-Gilman Trail through Lake Forest Park and Kenmore. The widened trail is now 12 feet across and sports new benches, plants and improved safety features.

Kirkland purchased a 5.75 mile segment of East Side Rail Corridor that runs from the southern edge of the city to Totem Lake. The city expects to start building an interim trail in 2013. Eventually this transformational project will allow for multi-modal connections across Kirkland and beyond.

King County and PCC Farmland Trust acquired the development rights at biodynamic Jubilee Farm in the Snoqualmie Valley, which is a long-running Community Supported Agriculture operation. This preserves the farm for agriculture in perpetuity and moves the development rights into urban areas like South Lake Union in Seattle.

The Greenway restoration program has ventured into new territory this year, working on small farms, doing ecological restoration along riverbanks to improve salmon habitat and reduce flooding. The Celigoy family farm is located in May Valley and is home to the historic landmark Red Barn. Greenway crews enhanced 600 feet along a salmon-bearing stream by planting 660 native trees and shrubs along May Creek, which runs through Newcastle and into Lake Washington near Renton.

Kittitas County and Forterra permanently conserved Triple Creek Ranch with the purchase of a 260-acre working-farmland conservation easement, the largest completed to date in Kittitas County, thanks to funding from Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranchland Preservation Program and the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office Farmland Preservation program.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources opened the new 1.4 mile East Tiger Summit Mountain Bike Trail in Tiger Mountain State Forest, the first new mountain bike trail built on Tiger Mountain in 20 years. The trail was built by DNR, the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Washington Conservation Corps crews, and volunteers who dedicated hundreds of hours. This project was funded by the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to build connector trails to enable a more user-friendly and safe mountain bike network.

In the Central Cascades, Greenway crews started doing trail work with the Cle Elum Ranger District of the US Forest Service on trails that stretch up from Salmon la Sac to the Cascade Crest, over Dutch Miller Gap and into the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley. Crewmembers spent days camped out on these backcountry trails clearing them of downed trees and overgrown brush and improving trail tread so equestrians and other trail users can once again travel across the Cascades.

The State Department of Natural Resources acquired two parcels of land to add to the Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area. Just 3 acres each, they are valuable to fully connect public lands, saving land management expense. Funding for these outstanding acquisitions came from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

King County acquired 22 acres in the Three Forks Natural Area, creating a key link in the Snoqualmie River wildlife and recreation corridor. The land sits at the confluence of the middle and north forks of the Snoqualmie River and provides habitat for elk, deer, bear, cougar, bobcat, river otter, beaver and fisher, among numerous large Sitka Spruce trees.

Greenway staff and crews and other partners are busy building the new 5-mile Mailbox Peak Trail, which will be finished next summer, thanks in part to funding from the Spring Family Trust for Trails. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources also just finished a new trailhead for Mailbox Peak this year to accommodate all these new users.

Thanks to the strong financial support of Waste Management, we are busy planning a whole series of trail, trailhead, river access, signage and sanitation and other recreation improvement projects on US Forest Service lands in the Middle Fork Valley.

Just behind Mailbox Peak, the Greenway Stewardship Program is on the ground working with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the US Forest Service to decommission the final 11 miles of forest roads in the Granite Lakes Basin, home to the infamous Zorro Roads. Five and ½ miles of these old roads are being converted into really amazing trails to access the scenic Granite and Thompson Lakes.

2013

National Heritage Area Designation – After 22 years of hard work creating the Greenway, it is now time to have this area officially recognized, at all levels of government, as a unique place that deserves special attention. This year, the “Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area Act” was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support. The designation will provide the recognition and resources needed to increase the visibility of the Greenway and conserve the landscape for future generations. We are currently working on the introduction of a companion bill in the Senate.

The Eastside Rail Corridor runs 42 miles from Renton to Snohomish, with a spur to Redmond. The Port of Seattle, King County, Puget Sound Energy, Sound Transit, and others formed a partnership to keep it intact. After nearly a decade of hard work, this year King County made the final acquisitions on the Eastside Rail Corridor.

Smith Cove Park, between Queen Anne and Magnolia, was expanded this year thanks to a creative partnership between King County, the Port of Seattle, and the City of Seattle. The new city park will provide more public access to Puget Sound, improved water quality in Elliott Bay, and great public views of downtown Seattle and Mount Rainier.

Linden Avenue North Cycle Track – Seattle’s first urban cycletrack opened in the summer of 2013 on Linden Ave North from N 128th St to N 145th St in Seattle, connecting to the Interurban Trail that runs north through Shoreline. This separated two-way track for cyclists has bright new signage and directions, creating a safer, off-road bike route in this busy residential and commercial area.

The Bullitt Center opened in Seattle’s Capitol Hill neighborhood and serves as a world-class example of how the built environment can contribute to healthy living. The building generates its own electricity, treats its own wastewater, and has large windows that open to provide daylight and fresh air for all its occupants. The building was recently recognized as “the world’s most sustainable building” by the World Architecture News.

This month, the City of Issaquah and the Department of Fish and Wildlife removed a dam on Issaquah Creek, resulting in 11 miles of new habitat for Chinook salmon up Issaquah Creek from Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

Port Blakely made a generous financial contribution, through the Issaquah Schools Foundation, that enabled Greenway educators to develop a biodiversity curriculum with 9th grade teachers from Issaquah high schools. They instructed classes in the four Issaquah high schools, and took students to Lake Sammamish State Park to study the ecological health of Issaquah Creek and plant native trees.

King County recently acquired the Riverbend Mobile Home Park in Maple Valley. The property fills a gap in a five-mile stretch of public land along the Cedar River, but more important, it protects public safety by managing flooding and moving vulnerable residents away from the river.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources built a new segment of trail and a 50-foot bridge on the Iverson Railroad Trail thanks to Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funding.

Puget Sound Energy completed a major renovation of the powerhouse at Snoqualmie Falls this year, complete with new interpretive and education exhibits about this historic power generation plant, as well as park and trail enhancements at the popular tourist attraction, Snoqualmie Falls. Puget Sound Energy also improved river access to the Snoqualmie River for kayakers and rafters.

Jubilee Biodynamic Farm, Sol to Seed Farm, and others teamed up this year and created the Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Cooperative to collaboratively market and deliver produce. By working together, these farmers are sharing resources to promote a strong agricultural community in the lower Snoqualmie Valley.

The Snoqualmie Tribe and Cherry Valley Dairy outside Duvall demonstrated how farms and fish can coexist in the Snoqualmie Valley through their work to restore a creek adjacent to the farm and remove a series of rock dams to allow fish migration upstream.

Washington Trails Association celebrated 20 years of trail maintenance at Commonwealth Basin near Snoqualmie Pass, a spectacular hike into the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Alpine Lakes Wilderness Bill Passes Senate – In 2013 the US Senate passed legislation that would protect 20,000 acres adjacent to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and designate both the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers as Wild and Scenic.

The Greenway Trust has been working with the State Department of Natural Resources and US Forest Service to permit and design new trails, trailheads, river access points, and picnic areas to accommodate increased public use in the Middle Fork. To launch a whole series of projects, this fall the new Dingford Creek Trailhead was completed with 35 new parking spaces, trail signs, picnic tables, even a new toilet!

Greenway educators worked with YMCA counselors at Camp Terry this year to teach college-aged counselors how to help kids learn outdoors, thus helping thousands of young people build a stronger connection to the environment. This is only one example of many educational activities going on in the Greenway – teachers use forests, farms, and rivers to connect students to the natural world.

This year, the State Department of Natural Resources, Trust for Public Land, and King County negotiated the purchase of 106 acres adjacent to the I-90/SR 18 interchange near Echo Lake that will be added to the Raging River State Forest and will help connect Tiger Mountain and the Cedar River Watershed.

Many of you likely remember last year's devastating Table Mountain fire. In response to the fire, the Alpine Lakes Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen partnered with the US Forest Service and rallied more than 80 volunteers from all over the state to re-open the trails in the Haney Meadows area that were burned.

Interstate 90 Snoqualmie Pass East – The Washington State Department of Transportation opened three new miles of interstate highway this year with multiple new wildlife crossings below and above I-90. The project demonstrates how to combine wildlife habitat connectivity with economic development and transportation needs.

Iron Horse State Park is the backbone of the regional trail system in the Mountains to Sound Greenway, running between North Bend and Ellensburg, and beyond across the state. This year, two historic tunnels were fully repaired and re-opened near Easton, thanks to Washington State Parks. Recreationists can now travel the John Wayne Pioneer Trail east of Snoqualmie Pass along a piece of railroad history.

The Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce and Cle Elum-Roslyn Chamber of Commerce partnered to open a new visitor information center in Cle Elum. With high visitation rates, the Chamber is hopeful the new center will facilitate a better experience for tourists and lead to more dollars captured at local businesses.

Yakima Basin Integrated Plan – For 40 years in the Yakima Basin, farmers, environmentalists, tribes, and government agencies had been deadlocked on water issues. Water from the Upper Yakima Basin is needed by farms, fish, and communities from Snoqualmie Pass to the Tri-Cities. This year, these groups collaborated to develop the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, laying the groundwork for a reliable water supply during drought years and providing for holistic salmon recovery with habitat restoration and fish passage around existing dams.

The Manastash Creek Project was the first on-the-ground work to come out of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Just south of Cle Elum, 25 miles of critical salmon habitat are now opened up to migrating salmon through the creation of a new irrigation pipeline and removal of a water diversion system that dried up part of the creek every year.

Teanaway Conservation – On October 1, 2013 over 50,000 acres – roughly 80 square miles of the Greenway – was conserved to create the new Teanaway Community Forest northeast of Cle Elum! This acquisition was Washington’s largest public land acquisition since 1968 and was accomplished through the combined hard work of many groups including the Wilderness Society, Governor Inslee, State Department of Natural Resources, State Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Department of Ecology, the State Legislature, Forterra, Backcountry Horsemen, and Washington Trails Association.

2014

Over the past seven years, Carter Subaru has donated one tree for every test drive and three trees for every car purchased, planted by the Greenway Trust as part of Carter’s “On the Road to Carbon Neutral” program to offset emissions. This fall, the Carter family and the Greenway Trust celebrated the program’s 100,000th tree, which was planted at Discovery Park in Seattle on October 25th. King 5 Television selected this event as part of their annual “Make a Difference Day,” honoring volunteerism in the community.

The City of Bellevue is working to connect a key missing regional trail link, and further the vision of a safe, enjoyable trail between the mountains and the Sound. With funding from the City of Bellevue, leveraging Federal Highway Administration dollars through their Transportation Alternatives Program, the City is currently designing a trail corridor across densely-populated Factoria. This advances the effort to fill in the first major segment of the Bellevue gap in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail along Interstate 90.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources has been working hard to meet the growing demand for outdoor recreation for hikers, mountain bikers, and more. This spring, DNR partnered with Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance to build a three-mile connection, expanding the Tiger Mountain bicycle trail system to 12 miles. The trail construction was funded by two grants: through the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program and the Non-highway & Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program. Then, DNR partnered with Puget SoundCorps and the Greenway Trust to relocate a half mile of the popular Tiger Mountain Trail that had been damaged by flooding, including a bridge.

The Trust for Public Land and King County teamed up to conserve key parcels connecting Cougar and Squak Mountains. TPL facilitated King County Parks’ purchase of 226 acres of high-quality forestland in the Issaquah Alps, adding to King County’s Cougar-Squak Corridor parkland. Funding for the purchase came from King County Parks Levy regional open space funds, Conservation Futures funds, and Real Estate Excise Taxes. This property has significant potential for outdoor environmental education, and will open for hiking in 2015.

King County partnered with the City of Seattle to acquire a privately held stretch of King County's Taylor Mountain Forest. The 40-acre parcel was the last private inholding in the Forest. This acquisition will increase space available for Taylor Mountain's hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers, allow better management, and grant unimpeded public access within the forest.

King County Roads installed a .7-mile cycle track along High Point Way. The new cycle track is located between Issaquah and Preston, running parallel to Interstate 90, and connects to the Preston-Fall City Trail. Riders can now enjoy a 50-mile scenic journey from the Burke-Gilman Trail in Seattle, around Lakes Washington and Sammamish, to an iconic view of Snoqualmie Falls.

In an effort to ensure the Valley reaches its full agricultural potential, King County acquired the property that for years housed Tall Chief golf course. Though it made for a bit of a muddy 18 holes, the 191-acre property contains a valuable commodity -- rich, fertile Snoqualmie Valley farmland. The site had been targeted for residential development, which could have seeded conflict with the Valley's hard-working farmers. The Tall Chief property was purchased by King County using Conservation Futures Tax funding, and will be returned to working farm land as part of the County's efforts to support the growing local food movement.

The Tolt MacDonald Park Riparian Habitat Restoration Project is a multi-stakeholder partnership to restore degraded shoreline habitat conditions in a priority salmon recovery area, on lands owned by King County and the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe. Along the lower Tolt and Snoqualmie Rivers near Carnation, The Tribe, King County Parks, the City of Carnation, the Greenway, and the local community are working together to control invasive plants and re-establish native plants. The restored riparian zone will provide shade, fish and wildlife diversity, promote natural ecosystem processes, and sustain native plant species that are culturally significant for the Tribe. Thus far, nearly 2,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted with valuable volunteer stewardship assistance from local citizens and students from Carnation Elementary and the Riverview Learning Center. The project is funded by the City of Carnation, King Conservation District and King County Flood Control District.

After three summers of construction, the new Mailbox Peak trail officially opened to hikers in September. The 4.7-mile trail was built by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the Greenway Trust, Washington Trails Association, and EarthCorps. The old trail is a daunting ridge route, frequently visited by search and rescue to help lost or injured hikers. The new trail offers a family-friendly alternative, ascending at a moderate pace to sweeping views of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley and Cascade Mountains. Funding for the trail was provided by DNR, the Spring Family Trust for Trails, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and the Federal Highways Administration. With the new trail, DNR provides another mountaintop destination close by for the thousands of people who flock from the Seattle area each year to climb Mt. Si, Little Si, and Rattlesnake.

The Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District, an entirely volunteer-driven organization and longtime partner of the Greenway Trust, opened Evergreen Sno-Park on November 1st. The sno-park, at 2,200 feet in elevation, gives snowmobilers access to more than 100 miles of groomed trails on the Taneum-Manastash trail system. The project was made possible by an impressive collaboration: Washington State Parks helped find grant funding to cover insurance costs of the sno-park; Washington State Snowmobile Association led fundraising, and the family of local developer Sean Northrup donated 5 acres of land.

Kittitas Conservation Trust improved connections between the lower Cle Elum River and side channel habitat, which is critical for salmon spawning. Working along more than 2 miles of river and a floodplain area of 240 acres, the Trust and partners added large woody debris to the river, much of it flown in by helicopter, and reconstructed segments of the channel to reconnect the floodplain and improve rearing habitat for salmon.

Management of public lands is very difficult when those lands aren't contiguous. The alternating square mile "checkerboard" pattern of land ownership, the result of federal land grants given to railroads in the 19th Century, is visible in Northwest forests. This year we saw a number of historic achievements filling gaps in the "checkerboard." Our partners at Forterra acquired and transferred 640 acres near Easton into public ownership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The land was previously owned by Plum Creek Timber Company, and was acquired with funding from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, acquired 1,280 acres of Plum Creek timber lands near the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area in June 2014. This follows the purchase of 3,510 acres in December 2013 on the same 5,490-acre property, as part of an ongoing effort to improve connectivity of public lands in the Manastash Creek Basin. This area encompasses a critical migration corridor for elk between seasonal habitats, contains prime habitat for spotted owls and wolverines, and Manastash Creek is home to steelhead and trout. This purchase is part of the Heart of the Cascades Project, and was jointly funded by Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the national Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Nature Conservancy has finalized an agreement to purchase 41,500 acres of Plum Creek Timber land in the Greenway as part of 2-state, \$134 million acquisition. The second-largest conservation purchase in the history of the Mountains to Sound Greenway, it includes key lands such as Cle Elum Ridge, adjacent to the new Teanaway Community Forest, and the majority of the infamous "checkerboard" lands that have posed a host of challenges to Washington land managers for a century. Uniting the checkerboard lands under one owner is a huge step toward cohesive, effective management of these east-slope forest lands for conservation and recreation.

The Future

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is a national success story. In the past two decades, Greenway partners continually worked together to achieve a vision of accessible natural areas, livable communities, productive working lands and incomparable scenic beauty.

To energize and inspire the next generation of Greenway stewards, a campaign is underway to officially recognize the expansive Greenway landscape as a National Heritage Area, which will demonstrate the national significance of this landscape, empower partners to work together more efficiently, enhance funding opportunities and formalize the Greenway coalition's cooperative management style across this broad landscape, without affecting private property, water, hunting or fishing rights.

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust - 206.382.5565 - mtsgreenway.org