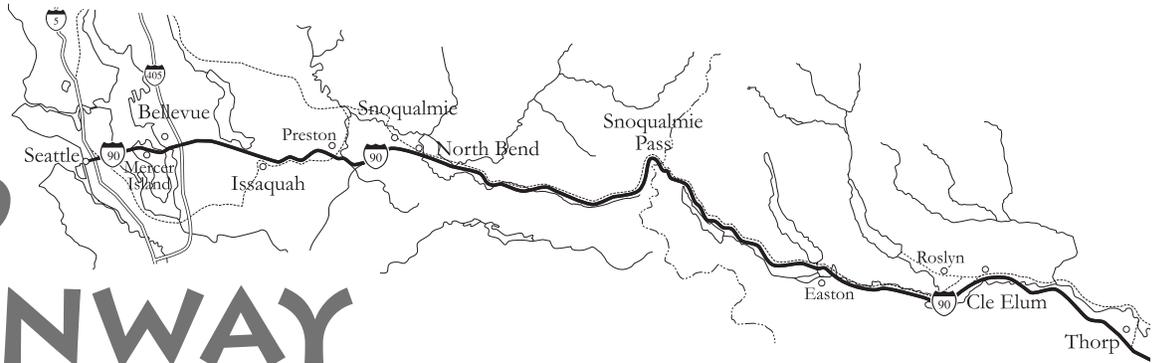


MOUNTAINS

TO SOUND GREENWAY



Linking Forests, Trails, Wildlife and History along I-90 in Washington State

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Tate Crenshaw, Evan de Kruif and Kieran Swan pause to admire one of the many blackberry roots they unearthed at Lake Sammamish State Park in March. These students from Vista Academy at Open Window School are taking part in a new program to add hands-on restoration days to the existing Greenway environmental education program for schools.

Snoqualmie Point Park to get Orientation Table

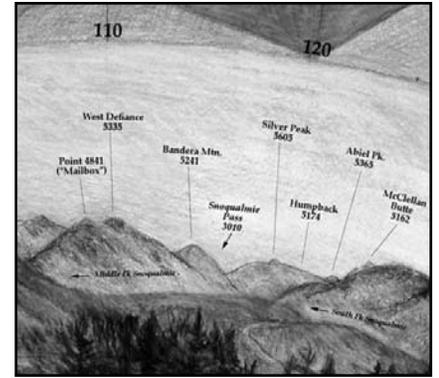
The Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS) has commissioned an “orientation table” identifying the peaks and valleys of the Cascades as seen from the new viewpoint park at Snoqualmie Point, located south of I-90 exit 27. As more than one visitor has remarked, this is a place with excellent geomancy, or “feng shui” - meaning it’s a very pleasant place to just be at, with a commanding view of much of the Greenway, and extending north to Mt. Baker. The park is owned and managed by the City of Snoqualmie, and was built in partnership with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust.

The table’s design is inspired by the “tables d’orientation” which can be found at many viewpoints in France, says Rick McGuire, ALPS board member. The table is essentially a large compass, with the mountains drawn in an arc, each one shown in its exact position as seen from the viewpoint. Since the plane of the table is parallel with the “plane” of the Earth, the mountains as depicted on the table line up exactly with the actual mountains. As an observer stands and looks across the table, whatever mountain he or she looks at is directly behind and in line with its depiction on the table, allowing each one to be identified much more precisely, and elegantly, than would be possible with a regular sign. This may be the first instance of a European style orientation table being constructed at a mountain viewpoint in North America, according to McGuire.

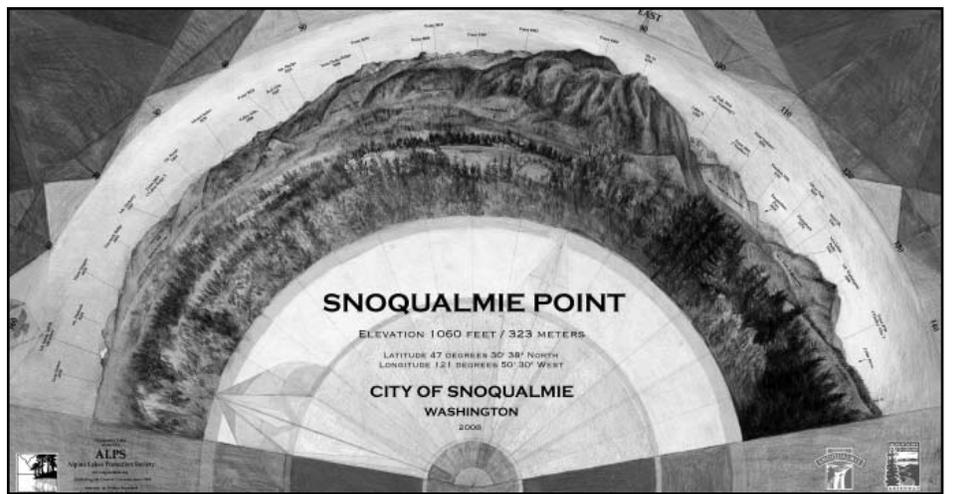
ALPS president Donald Parks said, “Were it not for

the Greenway’s unrelenting efforts over many years, Snoqualmie Point would have become an office park instead of the wonderful public park we now have. We are very pleased that ALPS is able to make this contribution toward this extraordinary new asset for the Greenway. We hope that by informing people about just what they are looking at when they take in this tremendous view, we will help build support for further protecting the places that can be seen, and beyond.”

The orientation table was designed and produced by Rick McGuire with artwork by nationally exhibited North Bend artist Denita Benyshek.



Above: South Fork Snoqualmie detail.
Below: Top-down view of Snoqualmie Point Park orientation table.



Carter Motors Plants Trees in the Greenway



Volunteer Melissa Ferland planted native trees along Issaquah Creek in March.

Carter Subaru, Carter Volkswagon and Carter Saab are helping to plant trees in the Greenway in an initiative to help offset the carbon footprint of their new cars. Jennifer Moran, General Sales Manager at Carter Subaru, exclaims, “All of us at Carter Motors are thrilled to be able to partner with the Mountains to Sound Greenway.”

Carter Motors will make a donation to plant one tree in the Mountains to Sound Greenway for every test drive, and an additional three trees for every car purchased. Greenway volunteers and field crews will plant and care for the trees in public parks and forests in the 100-mile Greenway corridor.

“Carter Motors is making an enormous contribution to the health of Greenway forests and their ability to absorb carbon dioxide,”



says Danny Levine, Greenway Trust board member. “We estimate that they will help plant 12,000 trees each year.”

“Thanks to this relationship with Carter, local residents are learning about the Mountains to Sound Greenway,” says Cynthia Welti, Greenway Trust Executive Director. “People are calling us to ask questions about the Greenway because they saw an ad on King 5 Television or KMTT radio. And most importantly, Greenway forests will have thousands of new trees.”

Kids Nurture Trees in the Greenway Classroom

Roger thrust a gnarly blackberry root above his head and declared himself victorious. Evan dug trenches to remove huge portions of the offending blackberries. Shelby and Kyra steadily chopped, hacked, pulled and then carried the prickly plants away.

Students from an innovative Issaquah middle school, Vista Academy at Open Window School, worked alongside their teachers and Greenway staff at Sammamish Lake State Park in March. These sixth-grade students will complete five days of volunteer stewardship events that follow their participation in the Greenway's environmental education program, "Seeking Solutions to Sustain Forests." Samantha Smith Elementary and Clark Elementary will also participate in restoration events following environmental education classes this spring.

"In addition to learning in their classroom about land use issues, biosolids and the connection between trees, water, soil and animal habitats, the students interact with the natural world on field trips and volunteer work events that illustrate these concepts," says Greenway environmental educator Sally Kentch. "This combination of classroom learning, field study trips and community service provides an opportunity for authentic learning, and a chance to apply education to a real life challenge."

The students explored several options when confronted

with land use questions: What is the best way to use the last remaining forest lands near the city? Should we cut down trees and build houses to meet the needs of a burgeoning population? Do we need timber harvest to keep our economy strong? What happens to the wildlife and water quality if the trees are removed?

“Leave it to middle school students to define removing blackberries as fun!”

Kentch explains that complicated land use challenges demand compromise and an

ability to look at all sides of the situation.

"We were thrilled with the opportunity to do volunteer service. Having the chance to restore parts of Lake Sammamish State Park helps our students live out the mission of our school," says Tim Costello, Middle School Head of Vista Academy. "We jumped at the opportunity to engage our students in hands-on environmental education. Leave it to middle school students to define removing blackberries as fun!"

Contact 206.812.0122 or volunteer@mtsgreenway.org for outdoor service learning projects this spring and summer for youth volunteers!

In a Student's Words



Sixth-grader Kyra Thrush removes blackberries to help the trees.

Dear little tree,

It seems that our mission was a success. We seemed to have cleared the area around you from blackberry bushes. It was so upsetting how we found you alone in that little area with blackberry bushes choking the sun off from reaching you. How are you now that it has been a couple days since we rescued you? Well, we saved many other little trees too and I was wondering if you could ask them if they like it better now. We made a huge success to help you guys I think considering you were in trouble when we got there and now there is an open clearing.

You guys are so lucky to have the Issaquah Creek right next to where you live. It must relax you to sleep every night. During lunch we chucked sticks into the river to see how it flows and all. I am wondering what it will be like when we get back. I bet we'll be able to tell if we missed any plants by the time we come back. Also, make sure to call us if you get crowded over by blackberry bushes because I am concerned for your safety.

Please try to take care of yourself. I want to be able to come back in thirty years with my kids and say, I helped rescue that tree way back when. You be strong and help the other trees. Okay?

See you soon, Kyra Thrush

Dear Kyra Thrush,

Thank you dearly for your great help bestowed upon me. I am very lucky that you found me under those evil blackberry bushes. I am now basking in the weak but beautiful rays of light generated by the sun. Many of my friends are in the area of blackberry bushes at the other side of the clearing. Please promise me you will try to help rescue them next time. It would really help them considering right now they live in a dark world under the blackberry bushes. Thanks again for helping to rescue me and I will see you again in 2 months.

Sincerely, Little tree up front

Their Trash is not our

After filling 30 large garbage bags of litter in a span of just two weeks, Greenway volunteer Tim Whittome figures he has seen most of what people dump out of the windows of their cars. “You’d be surprised,” he says. “Beer bottles, energy drink containers, prescription drugs, fast food wrappers, magazines and even electrical supplies are strewn along the roadside on a daily basis.”

Luckily, the stretch of road between I-90 and Rattlesnake Lake, just south of exit 34, has help from Whittome and his volunteer crew that consists of Bob and LaDene Carson. These North Bend residents have adopted this 3-mile section of road through King County’s Adopt-A-Road program. Instead of choosing to list own names on the Adopt-A-Road sign, Whittome listed the Mountains to Sound Greenway. “We figured that this road that leads to Rattlesnake Lake, the Cedar River Watershed and the popular Rattlesnake Ledge Trail is a road that visitors travel often,” says Whittome. “Since we are volunteers in the Greenway, we decided the Greenway could get the credit.”

“We’re lucky to have the Washington State Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Road

program for I-90 and King County’s and Kittitas County’s Adopt-A-Road programs in the Greenway,” says Cynthia Welti, Greenway Trust Executive Director. “Keeping the



Volunteer Tim Whittome and the Adopt-A-Road sign on the 3-mile road from I-90 to Rattlesnake Lake.

National Scenic Byway and other roads in the Greenway clear of litter is an ongoing and much appreciated task that many remarkable volunteers have taken on.”

Trash Invades the Woods

To address the issue of trash, Wade and Tania Holden started Friends of the Trail to clean garbage out of the much-abused Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. “We have Friends of the Trail to thank that families are able to enjoy the Middle Fork Valley without fear of finding a garbage dump or illegal target shooting at their favorite hiking or fishing spot,” explains Welti. Holden brings crews into the woods that are made up of adult and juvenile offenders doing court-ordered community service.

“If you think the Greenway has people dumping trash in it, you should see other parts of the state,” says Wade Holden, founder of Friends of the Trail, a nonprofit organization that cleans 115 tons of trash each year off of public lands. “We found an AK-47 in the Sultan Basin, cars in so many rivers, and giant piles of abandoned tires throughout the state. We’ve been to places where we picked up trash that had been sitting there for 30 years.” Friends of the Trail responds to complaints of illegal dumping on public lands in King County, resulting in 67 tons of trash, 6.2 tons of recyclables and 413 tires being removed from King County sites last year alone.

“I don’t know what we’d do without Wade and Tania,” says Mark Boyar, Greenway board member and President of the Middle Fork

PEAKS OF THE GREENWAY - SERIES #16

ROCKDALE RIDGE

Rockdale Ridge rises above Interstate 90 just west of Snoqualmie Pass, near exit 45. The snowy path straight up the mountain is Puget Sound Energy’s transmission wires, bringing electricity from Eastern Washington dams and now wind power to Western Washington’s large population centers.

The crest of Rockdale Ridge is also the boundary line between King and Kittitas Counties, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests, and the eastern and western halves of the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Photo by Larry Hanson



Treasure

Outdoor Recreation Coalition. “When they cleaned up the Middle Fork in the 1990s - hauling out shot up cars, junked appliances, and all the rest – families started coming back and the trash dumping went way down. Their work has a big impact on lawlessness, let alone water quality and habitat values. And they do it all on a shoe-string.” Holden and his crews return to the Middle Fork when necessary, says Boyar, and do major work in other popular recreation areas in the Greenway, including Easton, Silver Creek, Gold Creek near Snoqualmie Pass, Stampede Pass, Tinkham Road, Mt. Si, Tiger Mountain and many others.



Abandoned cars are just one type of trash that Wade Holden and Friends of the Trail have cleaned out of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River. Since their founding 12 years ago, Friends of the Trail has removed over 2,000 tons of garbage from public lands in Washington.

King County Council Honors Nancy Keith



The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and retired Executive Director Nancy Keith were honored by members of the King County Council on March 24th for protecting and preserving green space in King County. From left, Councilmembers Bob Ferguson, Pete von Reichbauer, Reagan Dunn, Kathy Lambert, Dow Constantine, Council Chair Julia Patterson; Nancy Keith; Councilmembers Larry Phillips and Jane Hague; Greenway supporter and founder Gretchen Thomsen; Greenway Trust President Bill Chapman, Executive Director Cynthia Welti and Development Director Wendy Tyner; and King County Councilmember Larry Gossett.

THE PEELING GRANITE OF THE SNOQUALMIE BATHOLITH

GEOLOGY OF THE GREENWAY SERIES #10

A huge body of granite called the Snoqualmie Batholith underlies much of the area north of I-90 in the Cascade Mountains. The Batholith is made up of a massive body of granite, and at some places on its outer surface you can see gigantic thin slabs of this solid rock that seem to be peeling off like the skin of an onion. There are ideal places in the Greenway to see the surface of the Batholith.



ROCKS

The story begins when molten magma rises into the earth's crust and intrudes into the surrounding rocks. The magma rises since it's less dense than the surrounding rock. This happened about 20 million years ago in the case of the Snoqualmie granodiorite, a variety of granitic rock. Because

it's insulated by the rock it intrudes into, it cools slowly to form visible “salt-and-pepper” crystals. The magma often solidifies at depths of several miles where temperature and pressure are very high, forming globular bodies of granite ranging from larger “batholiths” to smaller “plutons.” If the intrusion occurs in several separate phases, the liquid magma from later phases may expand the solid part from an earlier phase, causing thin layers to separate from the outer solid surface. As tectonic forces raise these deep rocks to form mountains and erosion removes the overlying rock, the granite is finally exposed to the surface, taking the pressure off. With the pressure relieved, the granite expands slightly, and fractures called “sheeted joints” form parallel to the rounded exposed surface. Other mechanisms, such as multi-stage intrusions, tectonic forces and weathering processes can produce a similar effect, but the peeling surface of the Snoqualmie Batholith appears to be primarily due to decompression as it was raised up to the surface of the earth's crust, a process known as “exfoliation from unloading.”

You can see the Batholith at Lipsy Lake, a few miles up the Taylor River trail from the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River road (north of I-90 at exit 34 just east of North Bend). You'll see a huge cliff of exposed granite peeling away with the added bonus of a spectacular waterfall cascading on the cliff surface into a deep pool at the base. Less spectacular but more accessible, a similar exposure is less than a mile up the Denny Creek trail (north of I-90 exit 47). If you're an avid hiker in the northern part of the Greenway, watch for similar open areas on mountainsides where you can see solid granodiorite peeling off, and consider the immense heat and pressure and vast length of time that brought it there!

- Phil Fenner

There's more at: www.mtsgreenway.org/newsandpublications.
Click on “Geology Tour.”

Volunteers Improve the Greenway

Spotlight on Volunteer Groups:



Puget Sound Energy (PSE) employees Beth Rogers, left, and Jeff Beckwith, right, worked at the Greenway native plant nursery for their annual Arbor Day project on March 14th. Over 30 people potted 2,000 bare-root tree and shrub seedlings which will grow in the nursery for one or two years before being planted by volunteers at restoration sites across the Greenway. "Puget Sound Energy employees are proud to support the Greenway," says Sue McLain, Senior Vice President of Operations at PSE and Greenway Board member. "We are glad to volunteer to improve the health of local forests."

A team from Tata Consultancy Services including Vamshi Maringanti, left, and Austin Thomas, spent a sunny February morning doing restoration work at Mercerdale Hillside Park on Mercer Island. Forty employees pulled ivy and blackberry and cut down invasive laurel and holly trees that are taking over large sections of the park. These species crowd out the native ones of the area and don't provide food or habitat for the wildlife in the forest. Project organizer Nikhil Laghate said the team "really appreciated the opportunity to volunteer."



13TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER DAY IN THE GREENWAY Saturday, May 17th

This is the biggest volunteer event of 2008, and with seven projects this year at sites from Mercer Island to North Bend, you'll be sure to find one that's perfect for you! Volunteers will work at the various project sites from 9 until 1 and then meet back at Lake Sammamish State Park for a celebration BBQ / picnic where we'll recognize volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the stewardship of the Greenway.

To sign up, visit www.mtsgreenway.org and click on Volunteer.

We look forward to seeing you there!

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Most events run from 9 AM - 3 PM.
Some events may be offered
in 3 hour shifts.

SAT, April 19th -- EARTH DAY SATURDAY

- Restoration @ Emily Darst Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Little Si Trail (North Bend)

TUES, April 22nd -- EARTH DAY

- Trail Maintenance @ Little Si Trail (North Bend)
- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah)

SAT, April 26th

- Restoration @ Mercerdale Hillside (Mercer Island)
- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah)

SAT, May 3rd

- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah)

SAT, May 10th

- Restoration @ Issaquah Creek Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah)

SAT, May 17th -- DAY IN THE GREENWAY!!!

- Restoration @ Cybil Madeline Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah)
- Restoration @ Luther Burbank Park (Mercer Island)
- Trail Maintenance @ Squak Mountain (Issaquah)
- Restoration @ Snoqualmie Point Park (Snoqualmie)
- Nursery Work @ Greenway Tree Nursery (Issaquah)

SAT, May 24th

- Restoration @ Lake Sammamish State Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah)

SAT, May 31st

- Restoration @ Tibbett's Valley Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah)

SAT, June 7th -- NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

- Trail Maintenance @ Little Si (North Bend)
- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Squak Mountain (Issaquah)

Visit mtsgreenway.org for the most up-to-date information and to sign up, or contact 206.812.0122 or volunteer@mtsgreenway.org

Issaquah REI Recognizes Greenway Crews' Hard Work and Dedication



Skylar Farmer, left, was recognized by REI Outreach Specialist Tami Asars at a celebration for Greenway field crewmembers. Farmer has spent the past 10 years with the Greenway, first as a volunteer and then a field crew member.

On Thursday, March 20th, Issaquah REI hosted a celebration to recognize the contributions of Greenway Conservation Corpsmembers.

The Greenway, working in partnership with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Service Corps, is fortunate to have between 13 and 24 field crew members who work full time on restoration and trail projects and coordinating the volunteer program. Rain or shine, through sleet, slush, snow, and ice, crews work 10 hour days to enhance recreational opportunities and protect restoration areas to improve the Greenway landscape.

After spending the day snowshoeing at Snoqualmie Pass, crew members were treated to a warm reception at the Issaquah REI by employees of the store as well as Greenway staff members.

Greenway Director of Stewardship Doug Schindler gave a slideshow documenting a "Year in the life of a Greenway Corpsmember." Issaquah REI Store Manager Matt Bergerson and Outreach Specialist Tami Asars presented new REI rain jackets to all of the crewmembers. "They are giving back a living legacy to future generations of recreationalists. That's a huge gift," said Asars. "It was an honor to meet them and acknowledge their hard work."

Do you know your Greenway?

GREENWAY DAYS

June 28-29, 2008

Kick off your summer adventures by exploring the Mountains to Sound Greenway from Seattle to Central Washington during Greenway Days.

Take the Greenway Challenge to learn about the cultural, historic and recreational treasures of this scenic landscape and to win great prizes.

Register for the 100-mile Mountains to Sound Relay at mountainstosound.com and test your physical endurance. Join the fun and get to know your Greenway!

Visit mtsgreenway.org for a schedule of events

Volunteers Kicking Off Busy Spring and Summer



Before: *This nearly un-hikeable section of trail on Squak Mountain was in desperate need of help!*

Volunteers play a huge role in helping complete a number of major projects each year, including work at dozens of restoration sites and on a number of trails across the Greenway. Already this year, corporate groups including Issaquah REI, Bank of America, the Sierra Club and the Boeing F-22 Damage and Tolerance team have led the way with sign-ups. Dozens of schools and youth groups from throughout the region participate in service learning projects.



After: *Volunteers constructed a turnpike to help with drainage problems and to improve the trail for increased use.*

"Taking care of 750,000 acres of public lands in the Greenway is a huge task and we are proud to be able to assist public land managers," says Doug Schindler, Greenway Director of Stewardship. Agency partners in 2008 include the cities of Mercer Island, Issaquah, Snoqualmie and North Bend, King County, Washington State Parks, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

A LOOK BACK

at the Mountains to Sound Greenway



Giant Fir Tree

Postcards such as this one from the late 1800s or early 1900s often showed giant trees and the loggers felling them in the vast, untouched forests of the Cascades. This postcard was published by E.P. Charlton and Company, Seattle. Earle Perry Charlton founded a chain of 5 and 10 cent stores in Canada and western portion of the United States, before joining five other competitors to become the F. W. Woolworth Company.

Photo courtesy of O.B. Mallott.



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Greenway Days Festival
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mtsgreenway.org

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST MISSION:

Protect and enhance a 100-mile corridor of permanent open space lands along Interstate 90 from Seattle to Central Washington. The Greenway embraces city parks and trails, wildlife habitat, working and protected forests, recreational opportunities in nature, local history, scenic beauty, tourism and educational activities that promote a sustainable balance between population growth and a healthy environment.

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