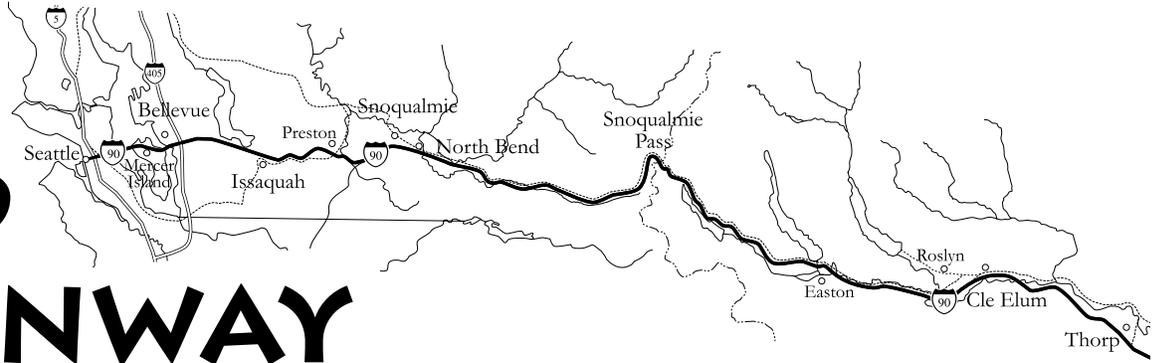


MOUNTAINS

TO SOUND GREENWAY



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

Volume 14, Number 1
January 2007



Snoqualmie Point Park: December 18, 2006. After four months of earth-shaping and underground work, visible progress is happening fast at this 8.5-acre park with a phenomenal view. Foundations for the view plaza and shelter are shown here with Mt. Si in the background. Views from this point stretch from Mt. Baker on the North, past Mt. Si and up to Snoqualmie Pass. To keep up with the park's progress, visit www.mtsgreenway.org.

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Floods and Open Spaces: The Issaquah Success Story

When record-setting rains came to the west side of the Greenway in early November, residents in the historic center of Issaquah held their breath. Ten years ago, during the infamous flood of February, 1996, heavy rains flooded throughout the Issaquah valley at the south end of Lake Sammamish. Damage from that flood was in excess of \$3 million.

Today, Issaquah has grown from rural town to suburban city in the valley and hillsides between Cougar, Squak and Tiger Mountains. But while the rains caused extensive flooding on other river systems in the region, the surging force of Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks kept within their natural banks and thousands of residents and businesses - ready for the worst - smiled with relief.

Keeping People Dry and Salmon Wet

"After the floods of the mid-1990's, this City embarked on a big effort to tackle the flooding problems with a combination of natural and constructed strategies," says Kerry Ritland, Senior Water Resources Engineer for the City. "Since that time we've been making major investments to buy flood-prone land along our creeks, replace 10 bridges and culverts that used to back up floodwaters and push the creeks over the top, and restore stream and floodplain areas." Those open spaces have now become planned, mapped and sometimes trailed, as the Tibbetts Creek Greenway and the South Issaquah Creek Greenway.

"We've had plenty of good partners in this effort," says Ritland. "Issaquah civic leader and developer Skip Rowley funded a major component of the Tibbetts Creek Greenway project in 2001. In 2004, the State DOT replaced an undersized culvert under I-90 with a 40-foot bridge to improve fish passage and water flow to Lake Sammamish. State and local agencies including the Department of Ecology and King Conservation District have provided grant funds for property acquisition and habitat restoration."

Greenway board member Joanna Buehler, founder of the water quality advocacy group, Save Lake Sammamish, credits Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger. "She's shown real leadership and unwavering commitment to protecting water quality in the Lake Sammamish tributary creeks," Buehler says.

Conservation Bond Wins with 76% Voter Support

"Our City Council and citizens have become smart about all this," says City Parks Director Anne McGill. "In early November, before the heaviest rain, they passed a Parks and Open Space Bond issue for \$6.25 million that will enable us to protect even more land around the creeks. That's key to providing sufficient floodplain capacity with room for the creeks

to overflow into natural areas where the water can flow unobstructed without impacting homes and buildings."

"Our City Council has allocated \$3.5 million of that bond funding to acquire creek and hillside natural areas," she says. "The Trust for Public Land helped us develop a survey before the election and people very strongly approved open space acquisitions to protect water quality and natural character."

"Twenty years ago, the City began acquiring lands and flooded homes along the creeks for flood management, salmon enhancement and riparian habitat," McGill says. "Now, we've assembled a little more than 1000 acres of open space in the City, along Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks and nearby uplands. In many of those areas trails have been built for people to walk and run and enjoy nature a few blocks from home."

Greenway Volunteers Bring Native Green to Creek Banks

"After the City has acquired and reshaped these creek banks," says Tor MacIlroy, Greenway Trust restoration coordinator, "we've often helped coordinate crews, volunteers and materials to remove invasive plants like Japanese knotweed, Scot's broom and blackberries and to plant thousands of native trees and shrubs. These are great projects for our expanding volunteer program. People of all ages like to get out and work on environmental improvements that relate to salmon and they seem to love the idea that you can have these wild, natural areas within a city."

Greenway Trust volunteers have worked on over a dozen Issaquah projects in the past five years, including restoration on the steep slopes of the old Bianca mine in the upper Tibbetts Creek valley. "There, it wasn't flood control so much as it was the mine waste eroding into Tibbetts Creek," MacIlroy says. "Volunteers have

planted 19,000 native trees and shrubs along Tibbetts and Issaquah Creeks in the last five years. When they drive by 10 years from now and see a lush forest there, it's going to make them really proud."

The Greenway Stewardship Program is supported by grants from cities and public agencies, REI and all donors to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. Opportunities to volunteer and support the program can be found at www.mtsgreenway.org.



In past years, Tibbetts Creek flooded into the Tibbetts Manor. This year, no such flood occurred.



For his Eagle Scout project, Matt Boker led Boy Scouts in planting native trees and plants to restore the streambank of Tibbetts Creek in 2003.

TRAIL LINK PROJECTS MOVING EAST AND WEST

Each month at the Depot Café in South Cle Elum, a handful of Kittitas county leaders sit down to plot the connection of two major trails. They're working to link the historic Coal Mines Trail that runs north/south from Ronald to Cle Elum with the John Wayne Pioneer Trail that runs from North Bend, across the mountains and across the state. The gap is less than a mile but will require crossing several roads, active railroad tracks and the Yakima River.



The Coal Mines trail will need to cross under I-90 (middle of picture) and over the Yakima River before it can connect along South Cle Elum Way to the John Wayne Pioneer Trail.

On the wetter side of the mountains, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is checking off all the variables and potential obstacles to filling the trail gap between the Issaquah/High Point trail and the Preston Trail. WSDOT is working with a Federal Highways Design and Engineering grant. In Kittitas County, lacking dollars, citizen planners are working with ingenuity, partnerships and a supportive map maker.

High Point to Preston

WSDOT's John Johnson and Manny Quinterro met in November with King County Regional Trail Coordinator Robert Foxworthy to walk the 1.7-mile gap, a stone's throw from westbound I-90. To succeed, this trail will have to weave carefully between wetlands, East Issaquah Creek and the narrow winding shoulder of High Point Way.

Kittitas Connection Brings Major Tourism Potential

Linking the Coal Mines and John Wayne trails has been a decade-long goal of Greenway Board member Terry Wallgren. He played a key role in public acquisition of the Coal Mines Trail in the mid-1990s when Burlington Northern Railroad abandoned their rail corridor from Cle Elum through Roslyn to Ronald.

With the successful renovation of the historic Milwaukee Road Depot alongside the John Wayne trail in South Cle Elum, upper-County recreation fans and elected leaders are seeing the link between north/south and east/west trails and an attractive recreation resource that could bolster the local economy.

Participants in the Kittitas planning include Wallgren, South Cle Elum Mayor Jim Devere, Cle Elum City Administrator

Gregg Hall, Park and Recreation District Commissioner Gary Kurtz, County Commissioner Alan Crankovich; State Parks trail planner Joe Sobinovskiy, Scott Nikolai, habitat biologist with the Yakama Nation Fisheries Program and Greenway Executive Director Nancy Keith.



WSDOT engineers scout the potential route of the High Point-Preston trail link. I-90 is just beyond the brush, top right.

Greenway Trail Maintenance Grant Receives Best Score



Karen Daubert, left, presented a state grant for trail maintenance to Greenway Trust President Bill Chapman, Greenway Stewardship Program Director Doug Schindler and Board Vice President Sue McLain on November 8th.

Grant requests for recreation projects on the Mountains to Sound Greenway won over two million dollars in the 2006 funding cycle of the state Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). A Greenway Trust request for \$59,000 to advance trail maintenance was the top scoring project in the National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP).

Every two years, the State Legislature allocates an average of \$50 million to recreation and conservation programs. Federal funds also add to the money available. The IAC selects from among hundreds of funding requests for trails, wildlife habitat conservation, water access and city, county and state parks.

Other Greenway partners who were awarded NRTP grants include: State Parks for 2 grants for bridges on the John Wayne Pioneer Trail; Easton Sno Park, Phase I; Kittitas Co. Parks & Recreation District #1; US Forest Service for the Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance Crew, Backcountry Recreation Site Maintenance, Mid-Fork Snoqualmie River Trail and Wilderness Maintenance near Cle Elum.

PEAKS OF THE GREENWAY
SERIES #11

MT. KENT



Photo by Larry Hanson

This view looking south from the overpass at Exit 42 of Interstate 90 shows the 5000-foot peak of Mt. Kent. While no formal trail goes to the summit, hikers can view Mt. Kent from the McClellan Butte trail along the ridge to the west.

Mt. Kent is owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service. On its southern slope Mt. Kent borders the Cedar River Watershed and its snows feed the Seattle water supply. Snow often remains well into the summer at the base of its rocky face.

In Memory:

*By Doug McClelland, Washington State Department
of Natural Resources Asset Operations Manager and
Greenway Board member*

I was in Illinois with my mom when my wife Kristi called to tell me Harvey Manning had died. I said to myself, “How could Harvey die?” I had just received my monthly Harvey-letter last week. You could always recognize a letter from Harvey, it was typed on the back of another letter he had received or on a Xerox of an important article you should read after you finished his letter. Harvey always reused paper or sent more to learn in each incoming report, direction or charge. His typewriter: good thing he wasn’t on the FBI list as a terrorist since his typewriter would always give him away. Maybe he was.

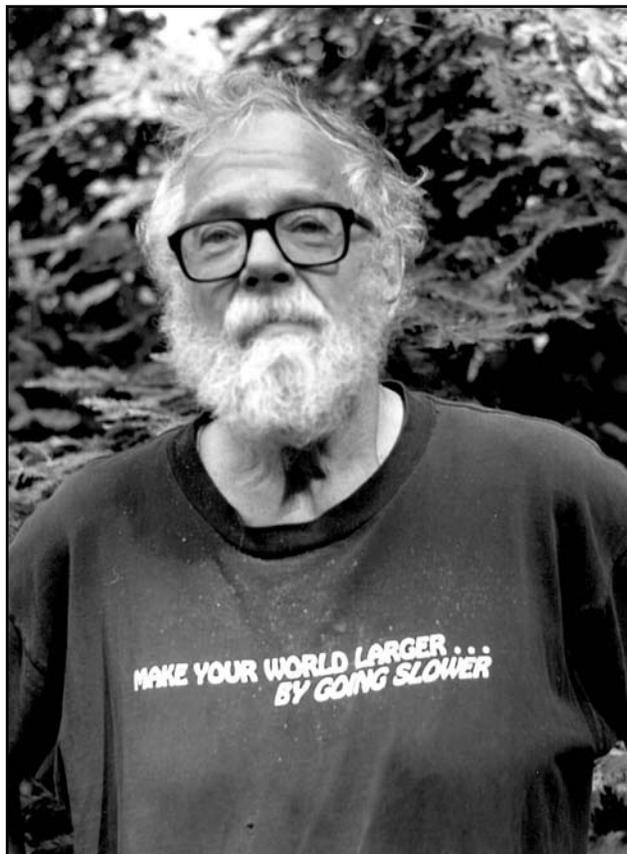
I first met Harvey on his annual government officials’ hike, the “Big Wigs” hike, on Tiger Mountain; spring of 1980. Kristi and I were new foresters with the State DNR learning the ropes from Harvey. Little did we know it was the beginning of 26 years of learning for both of us, the Department of Natural Resources and all who had the privilege to know Harvey. Harvey’s vision and unrelenting drive to complete it is the foundation of so much we take for granted in the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Each of his letters contained another challenge from Harvey to make Tiger Mountain a successful working forest AND a wilderness on the Metro bus line. Sometimes it was praise for getting it right. Sometimes a warning that he is still watching. Most of the time it was a challenge to do more, watch out for those who don’t understand what we are doing here. We are stewards of the land we have the privilege to walk on. We need to be forever vigilant to keep ahead of those who want to take back the forest for development.

Over the years we learned many things from Harvey. They were just the tip of his vision but hopefully we will find a way to ensure that vision is never lost. We have to ensure that future visitors to Tiger Mountain remember what Harvey has taught us:

- If people do not know about the forest, they won’t take the time to protect it. Name the stream, rock outcrop or lakes; make people love it by hiking there; without a name it is nothing. Beaver Valley, Double Beaver Wetland, Otter Lake and other special spots on Tiger were not valued until they were given a name.
- The trail is the means to the end not the end itself. Ensuring the land is there for the animals and future generations to explore is the end. The trail and the footsteps that follow are the means to develop a reason to save the land. After the land is protected the trail may need to disappear for it’s the land and all it provides that is really important.
- A plan is great, but it’s the way you implement it that really counts. What you do on the ground is what really matters.
- Don’t accept that it can’t be done. If you take the time to learn from each other, really get to know each other, you can find a way to make special things happen.
- Don’t take Harvey’s words personally. It’s his challenge to

HARVEY MANNING



Harvey Manning

get you to think, react and change. If you don't listen you can't learn. If you don't think and question your actions you might not ever get what he was really trying to tell you.

Harvey grew to appreciate the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. At first he didn't trust Old King Cole as he named Bert Cole, the Department's first commissioner from 1957 to 1980. But after that hike in 1980 Brian Boyle, Bob Rose and others in the DNR learned Harvey's methods and long term partnerships were forged. Our task now is to ensure all the future foresters and managers at the DNR come to understand what Harvey meant when he said let's make this a working forest and a true wilderness on the Metro.

I feel privileged to have spent 26 years with Harvey, even when, in the past few years, it was only that monthly letter. Our challenge in the time we have together, working on the Greenway, is to ensure his message, however direct and to the point, is never lost. Have you figured out how we are going to do it? We must or the forest will not be here after we are gone.

SNOQUALMIE FALLS

Geology of the Greenway Series #5

Snoqualmie Falls is certainly the most spectacular geological feature of the lower Snoqualmie valley. At 268 feet, it's almost 100 feet higher than Niagara. Before the Ice Age began almost two million years ago, the Snoqualmie River had cut a valley from the Cascades westward through the Puget Lowland. At least twice during the Ice Age, the Puget Lobe of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet advanced south from British Columbia, filled the valley, and receded from it. It left behind a valley partially filled with "till," a mixture of rock sizes from silt to boulders. In the final glacial stage, the valley was filled with a lake which accumulated more sediments.

About 12,000 years ago when the ice dam broke and the lake drained, the river found a new course across the accumulated sediments, and plunged over a bedrock shoulder that had projected out from the side of the pre-glacial valley. Today, a power plant diverts much of the river flow during the summer when the river is low, but if you visit the falls right after a heavy winter or spring storm, you'll see a falls that resembles the one before the diversion. The facilities for generating electricity include a small diversion dam above the falls, a tunnel in the bedrock, and power plants beneath and downstream of the falls. The steep cliffs around the falls are a good place to see some of the bedrock buried beneath glacial deposits elsewhere in the Puget Lowland. The volcanic bedrock here is Eocene in age or about 40 million years old.

For millennia, the falls and the surrounding forests have held a sacred value for members of the Snoqualmie Tribe. Go there right after a big storm, feel the thunder shake the little viewing platform and watch the immense mist cloud rise from the base of the falls to far above the lodge and you can imagine why the Snoqualmie Tribe sees that as a connection from heaven to earth.

—Bob Carson and Phil Fenner

There's more at <http://www.mtsgreenway.org/newsandpublications> – click on "Geology Tour"



ROCKS

CAVE RIDGE

After the brief steep ascent from the Alpentel parking lot, the alpine meadow beckoned us to drop our packs. Squatting among sun-warmed granite boulders in the heather, we realized we could stay in one place and feast endlessly on plump huckleberries. I had climbed with a group of Boy Scouts to Cave Ridge, an accessible, but wild ridge between Guye Peak and Snoqualmie Mountain. Located one hour East of Seattle, just off of I-90, this lovely spot provides great campsites, alpine views, and access to both peaks.

A jewel in the crown of the Greenway, ownership of Cave Ridge has been coveted for a long time. F.M. Guye staked a dozen mining claims in the area during the 1880's and the Tacoma News Tribune in 1967 states that "future plans include an aerial tram from the valley to Cave Ridge". This tram was intended to provide access to the caves dotting the meadow where the Boy Scouts exploded with enthusiasm for the hike, the berries, the caves, the solitude, and the burnt gold Mountain Ash leaves against the vibrant red of the berry plants.

The caves, with names like Newton, Hellhole, Cascade, Danger and Lookout provided another angle from which to appreciate this unique spot. Hellhole boasts two entrances, one the size of a coat hanger and one a little larger named Backdoor. Newton is at least 600 feet deep and is touted as the deepest limestone cave in Washington. It offers a series of five cliffs to descend. A caving report describes some of the walls as coated with marble or allophane, a mineral ranging from blood-red to yellow in color. Exploring the caves was not an option for us because they require climbing equipment and more experience than we could summon. So, we stayed sky-side, exuberant in beauty and peace, held in this land that blends human history with mountain pageantry.

– Sally Kentch and Danny Miller



TRAILS

Greenway Volunteer Program

Teams, Groups and Classes Pitch in to Build the Greenway

Taking care of the trails and habitat in the Greenway is an ongoing challenge and the Greenway Stewardship Program thanks the following groups for the volunteer people-power that makes it possible.

Companies

Bank of America Employees
Boeing
HomeStreet Bank
Microsoft
Puget Sound Energy
REI
Starbucks
United Parcel Service

Schools

Beaver Lake Middle School
Billings Middle School
Bush School
Cougar Ridge Elementary
Eastlake Catholic High School
Interlake High School
Issaquah High School
Overlake Middle School
Pacific Cascade Freshman Campus
Pine Lake Middle School
Puget Sound Adventist Academy
Puget Sound Community School
Seattle University
Shoreline High School
Shorecrest High School
Two Rivers Middle and High Schools
University of Washington

Youth Organizations

Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
Griffin Home
Kent Youth Group
Sammamish YMCA
VOICE
Youth Volunteer Corps

Other

AmeriCorps
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Habitat for Humanity East King County

WINTER VOLUNTEER EVENTS

All events run from 9-3. Shorter shifts may be available.

Sat, Jan. 13
Clean Up Day @ MTS Nursery (Issaquah)

Mon, Jan. 15 - MLK Jr. Day
Tree Potting @ MTS Nursery (Issaquah)

Sat, Jan. 20
Tree Potting @ MTS Nursery (Issaquah)

Sat, Jan. 27
Tree Potting @ MTS Nursery (Issaquah)

Sat, Feb. 3
Tree Potting @ MTS Nursery (Issaquah)

Sat, Feb. 10
Tree Potting @ MTS Nursery (Issaquah)

More events are posted online at:
www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer/events

Please RSVP for the events on the web site or contact Nicole at 206-812-0122 or volunteer@mtsgreenway.org.

Volunteers Clean Up and Have a Party

On International Volunteer Day, December 5th, the Greenway threw a party for the dedicated volunteers who work in the field all year long. Families, individuals and friends packed the Tibbetts Manor in Issaquah for desserts and prizes. Outstanding volunteers who have attended more than a dozen events each were given special recognition, including: Kortney Okura, Carol Whitaker, Steve Blank, and Alicia and Conor Buechler. Each received an REI gift certificate, a sweet chocolate treat, and our deep appreciation.

New Greenway People



The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust recently welcomed new staff members William "Ty" Tyler, Stewardship Program Associate and Steve Dettman, Designation Project Associate.

LOCAL COMPANIES FIND NEW WAYS TO BUILD THE GREENWAY

Microsoft

In September, Peter Spiro, Distinguished Engineer at Microsoft and Greenway Board Member wanted to share his love of the outdoors with his colleagues. Instead of a slide show, he organized a party and hike up to the Rattlesnake Ledge on a sunny afternoon. "There's no better way to inspire people with the Greenway than being out in it," Spiro said.



About 80 Microsoft employees attended, enjoyed good food, hiking, and many made a contribution to the Greenway that day, raising over \$6000 from employees which will be matched by an additional \$6000 from Microsoft.

Microsoft employees who don't donate money directly can still raise money for the Greenway. The company recently began a program to match the time their employees volunteer with dollars that go directly to the non-profit organization. Many other companies have similar programs, including Starbucks and Bank of America.

Bank of America

This year a dedicated group from the Bank of America Environmental Network took full advantage of the program. Seven employees—and many of their family members—each volunteered at least 50 hours at Greenway projects this year. Bank of America matched each employee's volunteer time with a grant to the Greenway of \$250.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to not only make a difference in the community, but to get outdoors and get my hands dirty. Some of the sites

were just so beautiful and it was always such a great workout!" said Kortney Okura, the group organizer.

"Kortney Okura did an amazing job of gathering volunteers to maximize the benefits offered by our Company," said coworker Carolyn Harvey. "Not only am I proud of achieving the 50 hours and being able to raise money for the Mountains to Sound Greenway, I've also been lucky enough to create new friendships, explore new areas of our state and contribute to the success and preservation of our environment. The connections I made with the MTS Greenway and the people involved, inspire me to continue volunteering and making a difference in the environment."



Microsoft employees hiked to Rattlesnake Ledge at their fundraising party to benefit the Mountains to Sound Greenway.



Wendy Tyner recently joined the Greenway Trust as Development Director to lead fundraising to sustain the organization.



Boeing

In addition to ongoing support as a major donor to the Greenway, Boeing brought 55 employees from the Phantom Works-Support and Services group to volunteer in October to improve water quality and wildlife habitat surrounding Ribary Creek in North Bend.

During this team building day they planted 358 native trees and shrubs, and freed a mature willow tree from the tangled grip of invasive blackberry. Justin Thomas, Keith Sellers and Don Murray coordinated group members from as far away as St. Louis and Los Angeles to participate. Director Peter Lawrence led the team building efforts.

A LOOK BACK

at the Mountains to Sound Greenway



Early Snoqualmie Pass Skiing

In the 1920s these members of the Cle Elum Ski Club had no lifts or rope tows to get to the top of the slopes for winter recreation at Snoqualmie Pass. Later, in the 1930s, the Milwaukee Road railway brought skiers by train to the Snoqualmie Ski Bowl at the present site of Hyak.

Photo courtesy of the Museum of History and Industry.



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Steve Dettman, Designation Project Associate

Greenway Education Program
Sally Kentch, Environmental Field Educator

Greenway Days Festival
Cynthia Welti, Greenway Days Coordinator

www.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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