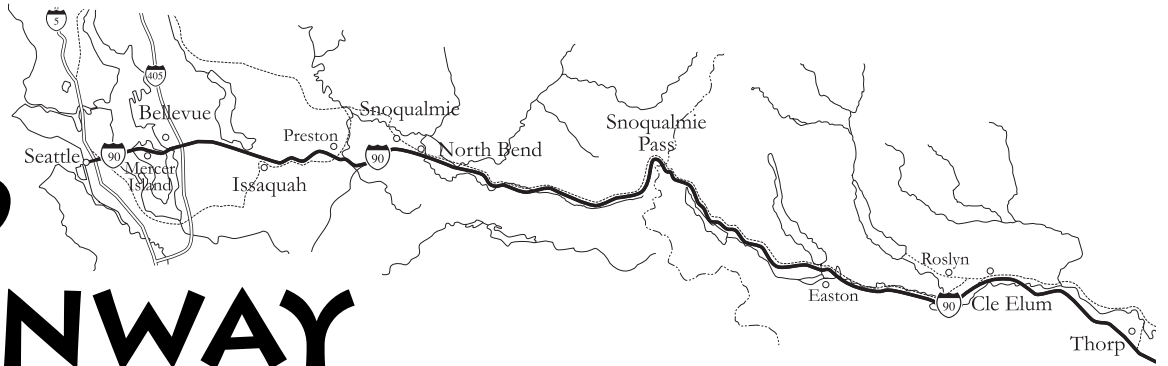


MOUNTAINS

TO SOUND GREENWAY



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

Volume 15, Number 1
January 2008



Snoqualmie Point Park, built in partnership by the City of Snoqualmie and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, opened in October. This park and community gathering place just south of Interstate 90 exit 27 boasts sweeping views of the Snoqualmie Valley and Cascade Mountains. Original plans for the site included 8 office buildings. Instead, the park and surrounding forests have been permanently protected for the public. Retiring Greenway Executive Director Nancy Keith served as project manager for Snoqualmie Point Park, making this special place the most recent of her many achievements in the Greenway. Read Nancy's parting words, page 3.

Wildlife Habitat Grows in the Cascades

"While the Greenway embraces and links city parks and trails, its heart and inspiration lie in the majestic mountains of Snoqualmie Pass and the Central Cascades - our backyard wilderness," said Ron Sims at the Greenway celebration in December.

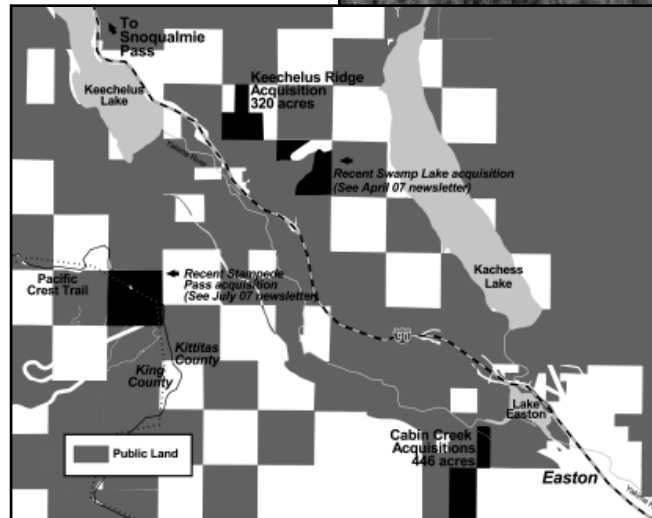
The Greenway Trust and its partners continue to work to consolidate checkerboard land ownership in Kittitas County, which is the result of railroad land grants in the 1800s. The Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) recently acquired 446 acres of wildlife habitat near Easton along Cabin Creek. "This is a critical link in a north-south wildlife corridor just east of Snoqualmie Pass," says Charlie Raines, Director of Forest Conservation for CLC. The land will be transferred to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and will be open to the public for recreation, including hiking and cross country skiing.

CLC also acquired 320 acres of wildlife habitat on Keechelus Ridge, on the north side of I-90.

Conservation groups protecting land in the Central Cascades are in line with the Washington State Department of Transportation's plans to build wildlife crossing bridges for an Interstate 90 expansion project from Hyak to Easton.



The view from newly acquired public lands near Cabin Creek encompasses Central Cascades peaks all the way to the Stuart Range, shown in the background. Cabin Mountain looms to the right of this photo.
Photo by Matthew Simek



NEW TRAIL LINKS ISSAQUAH TO HIGHLANDS



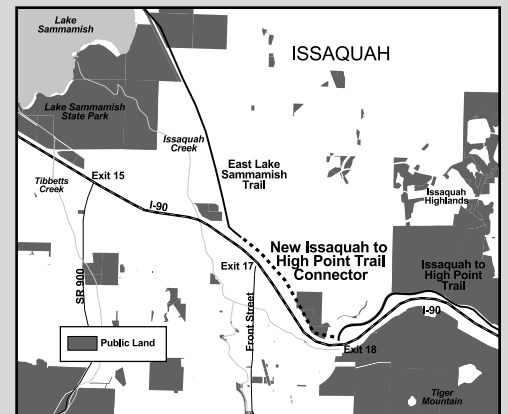
From left, King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert, Washington Department of Transportation engineer Ed Conyers, Mayor Frisinger and Greenway Trust President Bill Chapman opened the new trail.

Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger cut the ribbon on November 28, 2007, to open a new link in the Greenway cross-mountain trail system. The new Issaquah-High Point Trail Connector is a one-mile regional trail for bicycles and pedestrians that runs from the south end of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, along the north side of Interstate 90 to the Sunset Interchange where it links to the existing trail to High Point and to the Issaquah Highlands.

"You can bring a 5-year-old on training wheels down the trail," said Greenway Trust President Bill Chapman at the ribbon cutting ceremony. "You can't on Front Street."

Chapman explains that this new trail fills one of six gaps in a regional trail system that he hopes will eventually reach from Seattle, across Snoqualmie Pass and to Eastern Washington.

King County will own and manage the trail, which was built by the City of Issaquah and state Department of Transportation. Funding for the trail came from state and federal grants as well as the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, administered by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.



FINDING OPTIMISM ON THE HIGHWAY

BY NANCY KEITH

After 14 years, retiring Greenway Executive Director Nancy Keith reflects on the way the Greenway changed her life.

Years ago, while working on a radio series called “The Land,” I asked people to remember their childhood and talk about the neighborhood places where they loved to play. People described hidden places where they built camps out of brush sticks and stones or just wandered off alone to indulge mystery and heroic fantasies.

But their answers were wistful. Re-visiting the vacant lots and edge-of-town forests now, they find them paved over. It seems our famous American optimism about the future has acquired a shadow as the frontier disappears and we spread ourselves over the landscape. We have to drive farther and farther from home to enter those wild places where our minds can wander and we can give minutes to contemplate moss on a rock or a vast sky with no buildings in it. What kind of people will we be without those secret places and a dose of uncontrolled nature in our blood?

Working for 14 happy years on the Mountains to Sound Greenway, I have learned two things that lightened the shadow of loss and renewed my optimism. I learned to imagine the future in realistic detail in a picture that isn't just paradise lost.

Learning the Long View

It's hard to picture the future, the present is so strong. When I began working for the Greenway Trust in 1993, founding board member Ted Thomsen drove me out I-90, showing me dozens of trailheads, lakes, parks and historic buildings. Overwhelmed with names and exit numbers and public and private forests, I couldn't get my mind off the towns and truckstops and planned housing developments I could see along I-90. That fatalistic shadow was still there: concrete and buildings will *always* win.

Board president Jim Ellis heard the ‘but’ in my voice when talking about the Greenway. “Listen,” he said, “for the next 10 or 15 years, people may not believe that there is a Greenway. There are developments already in the pipeline that we can't stop and there are more of us every year that need places to live and work. But, Nancy, look 20 and 30 years out! A million more people will live here. If we can set aside most of the farm and forest land

we see today along I-90, the Greenway will be huge in the midst of so much urbanization. It will be the lungs and quiet place in nature the way Central Park is for the millions of people in New York City, only much bigger, big enough to protect clean air and water and wildlife. Close enough to give people a way to leave the city behind.”

That was my introduction to the long view. To get there, I had to accept that our region will fill with people and there is no free lunch, even for paradise. But if we could let go the impossible dream of stopping change and start working to raise the money and set aside specific parcels of land, not all of paradise would have to be paved over. In 1993, no one could imagine that, one by one, so many of those farms, forests, river banks and trails would roll together into the huge, protected green landscape the Greenway encompasses today.

People Replace Stereotypes

My second lesson was valuable in a more personal way. In the unique coalition formed in the Greenway Trust Board of Directors, I saw a living demonstration that, when the cause is good, traditional foes can unite and transcend adversarial politics to make real progress. In our region, the ‘good guys/bad guys’ theater of the early environmental movement has morphed into conservation activism that grows out of boundary-crossing friendships and creativity. It's not always easy, but so much more satisfying and productive than butting at brick walls. In 17 years, the partnerships

and compromises have yielded a Greenway of over 750,000 connected, protected acres of the kind of mysterious green precincts and boundless vistas that inspired something special in us as children.

So many smart, positive-minded people have played critical parts in this happy story that it's hard to single out a few, but I must credit my long-standing colleagues Ken Konigsmark, Amy Brockhaus and Doug Schindler. As Jim Ellis would say, they “put the pants on the Greenway vision” and got it walking. The Greenway Board of Directors is full of passionate volunteers who give an extraordinary amount of time from already-busy lives to advance the Greenway cause. Their meetings are filled with mutual respect, serious discussion and regular laughter. They have made my work for the Greenway a joy and given the future a ‘central park’ of inspiring proportions.

For her next endeavor, Nancy plans to do humanitarian work in a developing country.



Nancy Keith

Greenway Trust Welcomes New Executive Director



Cynthia Welti, new Executive Director of the Greenway Trust, brings a rich background of experiences, including corporate management and non-profit leadership. A graduate of Duke University, Cynthia worked for Hewlett Packard for 17 years. Upon leaving her management role at HP she taught leadership workshops, worked at an international internet start-up, sold real estate in Kauai, led fund-raising campaigns at her church, and served as PTA president at Medina Elementary and International Schools of Bellevue.

Cynthia is well-acquainted with the Greenway Trust, having worked for the past four years as the coordinator of the annual Greenway Days summer festival. Cynthia and her family live in Bellevue.

Greenway Partners Celebrate

100 Miles of Accomplishments 2006-2007

King County Executive Ron Sims brought his experience as a Baptist pastor to the job of Master of Ceremonies at the Mountains to Sound Greenway Celebration of Achievements on December 5, 2007. Over 275 people attended the event at the Museum of History and Industry for dinner and an awards ceremony to honor people and projects in the Greenway.

Executive Sims was joined by Snoqualmie Mayor Matt Larson and Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission Director Rex Derr to celebrate newly acquired public lands, the completion of Snoqualmie Point Park, a new trail and trailhead at Rattlesnake Mountain, a new campground in the Middle Fork Valley and many other recreation and conservation projects. The annual event was also a successful fundraiser, netting over \$40,000 for Greenway projects.

Awards

Certificates of Merit were presented to Sue McLain of Puget Sound Energy, Dennis Neuzil for his volunteer work on regional trail connections and



King County Executive and Greenway Trust Board Member Ron Sims led the celebration in December.

Joan Thomas, a long-time volunteer and State Parks Commissioner.

Allan and Inger Osberg and retiring Executive Director Nancy Keith earned the prestigious Greenway Hall of Fame award.

Celebration of Achievements Presenting Sponsors

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PEAKS OF THE GREENWAY SERIES #15

HUMPBACK MOUNTAIN

Humpback Mountain flanks the south side of Interstate 90 near exit 47. Its 5,174-foot peak rises above the talus slope toward the left of this photo. The two humps to the right are the foreshortened view of the northwest slope of Humpback.

Hikers on the popular Annette Lake trail walk along Humpback Creek for 3.5 miles before they are rewarded with a view of the north side of Humpback Mountain in the cirque surrounding the lake.



Photo by Larry Hanson

Give to the Mountains to Sound Greenway!

You can help protect this scenic, recreation corridor along I-90 for people and wildlife.

Outright gifts to the Greenway Trust, gift memberships and endowment gifts to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Legacy Fund at the Seattle Foundation are just a few ways you can make a real impact on this landscape!

Visit mtsgreenway.org/donate or contact Wendy Tyner at 206.382.5565 or wendy.tyner@mtsgreenway.org.

GREENWAY DAYS

JUNE 28 AND 29, 2008

Mark your calendars for the 5th annual **GREENWAY DAYS** festival! Games, hikes, treasure hunts and outdoor events for all ages will take place throughout the Mountains to Sound Greenway on June 28 and 29.

Now is the time to sign up for the 100-mile **MOUNTAINS TO SOUND RELAY**, a signature Greenway Days event. Individuals and teams from around the country compete on mountain and street bicycles, in canoes and kayaks and on foot, racing from Snoqualmie Pass to Golden Gardens Park in Seattle. Register now at mountainstosound.com.



A new face for Greenway Days

New Greenway Days Coordinator Kelly Cundiff brings 15 years experience in high-tech marketing and her love of the outdoors to the Greenway Trust. Originally from Montana, Kelly is an avid skier, mountain biker and hiker. She lives in Bellevue with her husband and two children and is thrilled to be organizing Seattle's premier celebration of earth, nature and open space.

Bill Longwell, Greenway Trailblazer 1936-2007

Bill Longwell, an avid hiker and high school English teacher who built many of the first trails on Tiger and Squak Mountains, passed away on November 28, 2007.

An Issaquah Alps Trails Club founder, Longwell was dubbed "Chief Ranger" for the trails club by hiking guide author Harvey Manning. Using small garden tools and with help from his students, Longwell spent 16 years surveying and building the first 16-mile hiking trail on Tiger Mountain. Many heavily used hiking and equestrian trails on Squak Mountain were built by Longwell.

Longwell was a meticulous record-keeper, logging hundreds of miles each year, and he was the author of "Guide to Trails on Tiger Mountain."

"The Issaquah Alps are what they are today because of Bill's work," says Greenway Trust Board Member Doug McClelland. "He was a true gentleman who will be forever missed."

A remembrance will be held on February 18 at Tiger Mountain. Details are at issaquahalps.org.



Bill Longwell

THE BOXLEY BURST:

DISASTER ON THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE, 1918

Geology of the Greenway Series #9

If you take what used to be known as the "Edgewick Exit" off I-90 (#34, now signed "468th Ave. SE") just east of North Bend, you won't find a town by that name. Once the site of a lumber mill and company town built for the North Bend Lumber Company, Edgewick was virtually wiped off the map on December 23, 1918, by a spectacular flood. The flood began at the "Boxley Burst," named after Boxley Creek upstream from Edgewick.

After the Great Seattle Fire showed the inadequacy of Seattle's water supplies, the City of Seattle developed a watershed south of the I-90 corridor on the Cedar River as the site of a reservoir system.

One of the new dams on the Cedar River was built at a gap in a long ridge, known as a glacial moraine, that already walled off the mouth of the valley just east of what is now Rattlesnake Lake. A moraine is an accumulation of earth and stones deposited by a glacier. Terminal moraines form at the end, or terminus, of a glacier, and are often found at the mouths of Cascade river valleys, left behind by valley glaciers during the Ice Age that ended about 12,000 years ago. But a very different sort of glacier built these moraines where the Cascades meet the Puget Lowland at the mouth of the Cedar River valley.

The dam builders didn't realize they were working in moraines deposited by the Puget Lobe of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet as it flowed up the valley from below. Because of this unusual uphill glacial flow pattern, these moraines lacked the silt and clay layers on the upstream side that the dam builders expected and relied on to seal the new reservoir. As water backed up behind the newly built dam, the moraine became saturated and the water came through the moraine at a permeable weak point, finally bursting through in a rush above Edgewick.

About one million cubic yards of earth flowed down Boxley Creek toward the South Fork Snoqualmie River. Flood waters and landslide debris swept away the mill and town of Edgewick. Luckily a night watchman at the mill noticed the water rising and rang the mill's steam whistle, so the residents escaped.

It was a man-made disaster that would not have happened had modern hydrological surveys been available. The approximately 60 residents of the town escaped with their lives, but their homes and most of their belongings were destroyed.

Further trouble with the reservoir has been avoided by lowering the water level. New studies were begun last year to determine the risks of raising the reservoir again.

- Phil Fenner

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



ROCKS

Volunteers Improve the Greenway

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

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

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

SAT, FEB. 9

- Mountains to Sound Nursery (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Squak Mountain (Hiking & Equestrian Access Trail)

SAT, FEB. 16

- Mountains to Sound Nursery (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Squak Mountain (Hiking & Equestrian Access Trail)

TUES, FEB. 19 ~ WINTER BREAK!

- Youth Volunteer Restoration Project @ Emily Darst Park (Issaquah) 10:00 am~2:00pm

WED, FEB. 20 ~ WINTER BREAK!

- Youth Volunteer Restoration Project @ Emily Darst Park (Issaquah) 10:00 am~2:00pm

THURS, FEB. 21 ~ WINTER BREAK!

- Youth Volunteer Restoration Project @ Emily Darst Park (Issaquah) 10:00 am~2:00pm

SAT, FEB. 23

- Restoration Project @ Mercerdale Hillside (Mercer Island)
- Trail Maintenance (Hiking & Equestrian Access Trail) @ Squak Mountain

SAT, MAR. 1

- Restoration Project @ Pickering Reach (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Rattlesnake Mountain Trail (Snoqualmie)

SAT, MAR. 8

- Restoration Project @ Middle Fork Snoqualmie River (North Bend)
- Trail Maintenance @ Mt. Si Trail (North Bend)

SAT, MAR. 15

- Restoration Project @ Preston
- Trail Maintenance @ Rattlesnake Mountain Trail (Snoqualmie)

SAT, MAR. 22

- Restoration Project @ Upper Luther Burbank Park (Mercer Island)

- Trail Maintenance @ Mt. Si Trail (North Bend)

SAT, MAR. 29

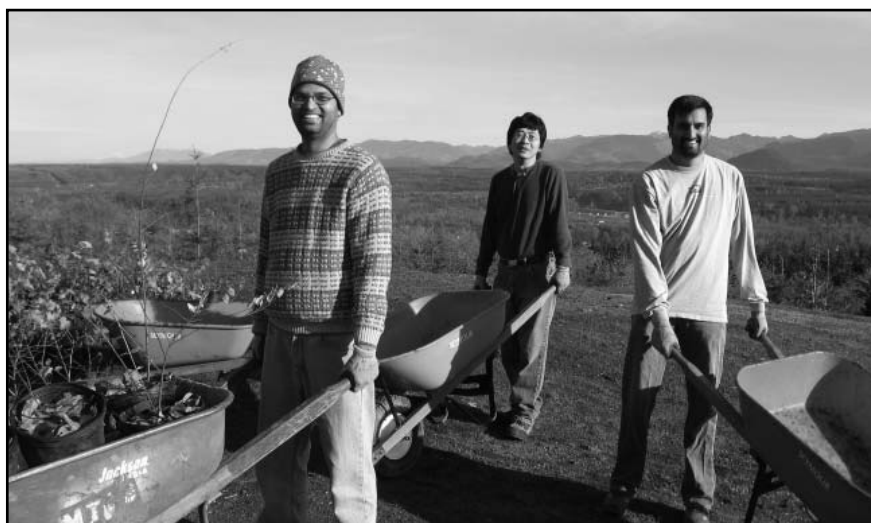
- Restoration Project @ Lake Sammamish State Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Little Si Trail (North Bend)

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Spotlight on Volunteer Groups:



Students from Skyline High School in Issaquah volunteered in January at the Mountains to Sound Nursery. These National Honor Society students are required to complete service learning projects and the Mountains to Sound Greenway was their first choice of charitable organizations. Skyline students joined other Greenway volunteers to help pot 1,100 bare-root trees and shrubs to prepare them for eventual planting in public forests.



Microsoft employees enjoyed a November morning planting trees and shrubs at the newly opened Snoqualmie Point Park. As part of the morale initiative at Microsoft, one software development group decided to volunteer their time in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. Employee Angela Morrow says, "Each group at Microsoft has a morale budget that can be used for anything the group wants to use it for. Some groups go skiing or go bowling or have a cookout. Some groups rent a whole theater for a private movie screening. But I think more and more groups are trying to use their morale day to positively affect our communities."

Volunteer Groups Wanted This Spring!

The Greenway Volunteer Program will begin major trail projects on Little Si, Squak and Tiger Mountains this spring. We will continue to maintain dozens of restoration sites across the Greenway and prepare sites for tree planting projects in the fall. Over 20,000 trees and shrubs in the Greenway nursery need care.

Please join us! Volunteer events are scheduled each Saturday, or we can create a special event for your company, church, school, youth group or family.

KIDS DISCOVER THE WOODS

Charming and thoughtful questions are common during student field study trips at Tiger Mountain:

"Do trees have feelings? Is the sap I see the tears of the tree?"

"Who takes care of the baby salmon if the mom dies?"

The Mountains to Sound Greenway environmental education program, "Seeking Solutions," teaches over 5,800 students each year about the challenge of sustaining a healthy, natural environment in balance with regional population growth.

"Environmental education provides an opportunity for students to learn across disciplines," says Sally Kentch, Environmental Field Educator for the Greenway Trust. "Our lessons are science based, but teachers can extend what the

students learn on our field trips by assigning essays, relevant math exercises or activities with a social studies emphasis."

Kentch explains that research provides compelling evidence to support the case for environmental education for all students. In a 2001 survey of teachers by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 87% of respondents showed interest in receiving environmental education lesson plans and technical support.

"Our curriculum accompanied by the accessible natural classroom of the Greenway help meet the mandate for environmental education for Washington State students," says Kentch. She explains that funding for bus transportation to field study trips is provided by the King County Wheels to Water Program.

"Seeking Solutions" is funded by the King County Wastewater Treatment Division and supported by the Thomas H. Maren Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Issaquah and Greenway Trust donors.



Martin Sortun Elementary School students identified plants, observed wildlife and took soil samples in order to analyze the benefits of trees and forests just outside the city.

BIOSOLIDS POSTER WINS AWARD

Biosolids, the Ultimate in Recycling! is a two by three foot poster that chronicles the journey of biosolids (treated sewage waste) from urban areas to fertilizer for forests and farms. This vibrant poster was developed by King County and Greenway Trust staff, and it recently won a national Society for Technical Communication Competition award.

General information on soil and biosolids, teacher-friendly biosolids related exercises, and resources are located on the reverse side of the poster.

The Greenway education program, "Seeking Solutions," offers a biosolids curriculum for students in 5th through 10th grades. Visit mtsgreenway.org and click on Education or contact the Greenway office to sign your class up for a biosolids lesson or to request a free poster.

In a Student's Words

My class trip to Tiger Mountain was an insightful experience. I enjoyed seeing the different artwork that Mother Nature created. During our trip to Tiger Mountain we saw and did many different things. I got to see and even touch some of the mushrooms, the different types of fungus, and some of the plants. The trip was fascinating because I got to see many things that I haven't gotten to see before.

When we were arriving at Tiger Mountain all I could see was green everywhere. The air was moist and fresh. When we got off the bus we were introduced to Mrs. Nancy, a nature expert who helped us along through the day. As she showed us around I saw many different kinds of vegetation and there were more than I thought. One thing that interested me was a fungus. It was called Witches Butter; it was a bright neon kind of orange. When I touched it, it felt squishy like a gummy bear. Mrs. Nancy told us that the fungus devours the log until it turns to dirt!

After we explored the forest we got to do a small activity. First we were assigned into groups. My goal was to find things that were located on the forest floor and what was growing on it. After the activity we were suppose to present what we found. I found some leaves that have fallen off the trees, a tree stump, a slimy brown slug, and lots of dirt.

As I sit down on the bus I noticed how wet I was. A mini movie plays in my mind about the things that I had learned like about the different types of plants, the different kinds of fungi, and I thought to myself that there are more in a forest than just green. I don't normally go out and explore forests so I really do appreciate the trip to Tiger Mountain.

- Gretchen Lirio, 6th grade student, Martin Sortun Elementary



Gretchen Lirio

**Mrs. Nancy is Nancy Lomneth, Greenway environmental educator. Reprinted and edited with permission.*

A LOOK BACK

at the Mountains to Sound Greenway



North Bend Lumber Company Mill, Edgewick

Edgewick was a logging town that was built for the North Bend Lumber Company with its first sawmill erected in 1906. Eighteen row houses were built for employees of the mill. The mill and the town were located along Boxley Creek which emptied into the South Fork Snoqualmie River. In 1918 a flood known as the Boxley Burst destroyed the mill and town completely. See Rocks column page 5.

Photo courtesy of the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society.



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Sally Kentch & Nancy Lomneth, Field Educators

Greenway Days Festival
Kelly Cundiff, Greenway Days Coordinator

Mark Sollitto, Land Acquisitions Manager

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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