

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY



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

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Photo Phil Fenner

Franklin Falls, a Greenway Challenge site this summer, boasts a family-friendly hike from I-90 exit 47.

GREENWAY DAYS, JUNE 20-21, 2009
LET GREENWAY DAYS BE THE KICK-OFF TO YOUR GREENWAY SUMMER!



Middle Fork Lands Protected

In the lush forest of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley, another 14 acres have been protected by King County.

“This is an important acquisition. Twenty years ago we didn’t know what would become of the Middle Fork. Most of the lower valley was in private ownership and starting to be carved up into cabin sites. Shooting, dumping, and craziness was the scene,” says Doug Schindler, Deputy Director of the Greenway Trust. “Today, through the hard work of many, most of the 110,000-acre valley is in public ownership and the area is cleaned up and safe for families. This property is one of the last in-holdings we have been hoping to acquire for 15 years.”

“This acquisition advances our Greenway goal to improve public access in the valley,” says Mark Boyar, Greenway Trust Board Member and President of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Recreation Coalition. “This parcel is right on the Middle Fork Road in an area well-suited for recreation. Trails from here can go up both sides of the valley and it’s also a popular spot for kayakers, rafters, and fishers, so a new trailhead is much needed. This purchase couldn’t have been better timed.”

King County acquired the land using Conservation Futures funding, levy funds from property taxes that are dedicated to the purchase and permanent preservation of open space lands. The County will add this property to their Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Area.



Photo Washington State Department of Natural Resources

This view looks north over Gifford Lakes toward Russian Butte in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. Lands in this area next to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness have been acquired over the past 20 years by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Middle Fork News:

- The Washington State Department of Natural Resources received a grant to design a trailhead and trails in the area of this acquisition
- The Federal Highway Administration is working to secure funds to pave about 9 miles of the Middle Fork Road. The project aims to improve public access and safety, replace many fish-blocking stream culverts, and significantly cut gravel and sediment runoff during storms
- The State Board of Natural Resources just approved adding several thousand acres of State Forest land in the valley into the Mount Si Natural Resource Conservation Area
- Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Dave Reichert have proposed legislation to add sections of the valley into the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area this year

PEAKS OF THE GREENWAY SERIES #19

KENDALL PEAK

With a popular scramble route to its summit, Kendall Peak rises to 5,784 feet, just northeast of I-90 exit 52 at Snoqualmie Pass. Below its rugged shoulder the two Kendall Peaks Lakes lie nestled into the valley. The Pacific Crest Trail passes to the west of Kendall, and the Gold Creek Valley flanks its east side.

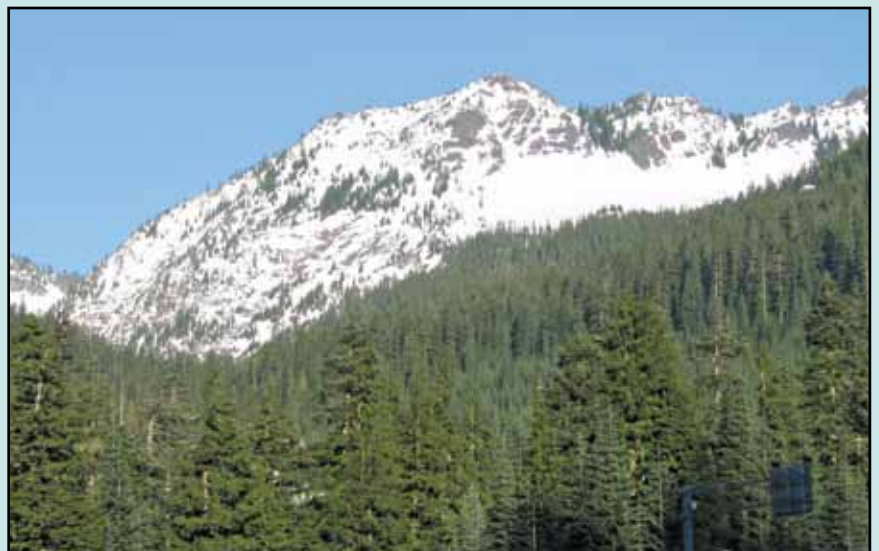
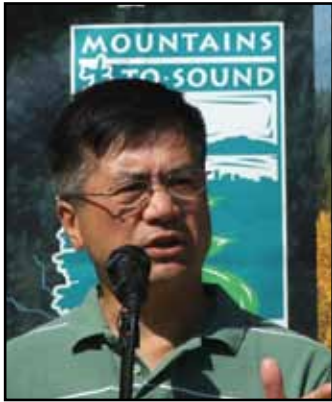


Photo Larry Hanson

Greenway Board and Advisory Council Members on the Move



Former Governor **Gary Locke** has been confirmed as Secretary of Commerce for the Obama administration.

Locke participated in the 1990 march that kicked off the Mountains to Sound Greenway movement, and has served on the board of the Greenway Trust since its inception in 1991.

Locke spoke at the Rattlesnake Mountain Trail Grand Opening.

King County Executive **Ron Sims** has been nominated to be Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Sims, a Greenway Trust board member since 1997 and an ardent supporter of the community of Preston, sawed into a celebration cake at the Preston Mill site, now a King County Park.

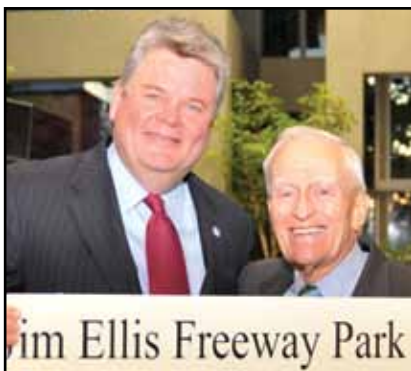


Greenway Trust President **Bill Chapman** has been appointed by Governor Gregoire as chair of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Funding Board. The RCO helps finance recreation and conservation projects throughout Washington State.

Chapman hikes the Greenway in all seasons, shown with Phineas at the summit of Bandera Mountain.

Ava Frisinger, Mayor of Issaquah, was awarded Public Official of the Year by the Municipal League of King County for outstanding contributions to the community at the 50th Annual Civic Awards Ceremony in March.

Mayor Frisinger and Bill Chapman cut the ribbon to the new Issaquah to High Point Trail Connector.



Seattle Mayor and Greenway Trust board member **Greg Nickels** received the Jim Ellis Regional Leadership award from the Municipal League.

Mayor Nickels honors Greenway Founding President Jim Ellis with a new name for downtown Seattle's Freeway Park.

NEWS ALONG THE GREENWAY

John Wayne Pioneer Trail Tunnels Closed

Five tunnels on the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, the backbone of the Mountains to Sound Greenway regional trail system, are closed until further notice.

The former Milwaukee Road railway runs from its western terminus at Rattlesnake Lake just outside of North Bend and heads east across the state.

"These historic tunnels may contain loose concrete because of freezing and thawing over the years," explains Tim Schmidt, Manager of the trail in Iron Horse State Park. "The concern is one of potential falling rocks."

A mountain bike ride in the 2.3-mile Snoqualmie Tunnel under Snoqualmie Pass is part of Mountains to Sound Relay, the signature Greenway Days event on June 21st this year. "We are working on an alternate route," says Chris Lewis, organizer of the relay. "Regardless, the race is on!"

Schmidt said that State Parks is seeking funding to repair all the tunnels, and speculated that the Snoqualmie Tunnel could reopen soon. The other tunnels are east of Stampede Pass, near Lake Easton, and two west of Thorp.

Coal Mines Trail Washout

January floods washed out part of the Coal Mines Trail, the former Burlington Northern rail line that connects the historic towns of Cle Elum, Roslyn and Ronald.

"A fifty or sixty foot section of trail was washed away," says City of Cle Elum Public Works Director Jim Leonhard. "As soon as the snow melts we'll get in there to repair it." Leonhard estimates that the trail will be reopened for recreation this spring.

The forested Coal Mines Trail passes alongside small mountains of tailings left from coal mining days.

Middle Fork Road Closed

The Middle Fork Road suffered major damage, including a washout of the Taylor River Bridge near the Middle Fork Campground. The road is closed for several months just beyond the trailhead to Mailbox Peak, about three miles north of I-90 exit 34.

Seattle Jewish Film Festival Goes Green

Protecting the earth is a core Jewish value, says AJC Seattle Jewish Film Festival Director Pamela Lavitt. This year's festival runs April 23 to May 3.

The festival is asking audience members to take the "Jewish Climate Challenge" to find ways to reduce their impact on the earth, reducing the festival's carbon footprint and partnering with green organizations, including the Greenway Trust. For each audience member who takes a test drive at Carter Subaru in Seattle, one tree will be planted in the Mountains to Sound Greenway and a second tree will be planted in Israel. "That's a local/global green *mitzvah* or good deed!" says Lavitt.

Squak Mountain, the lesser-known "Alp"

A green forested backdrop just south of the city of Issaquah, Squak Mountain rises 2,024 feet high between its better-known neighbors, Cougar Mountain to the west and Tiger Mountain to the east. Hikers and equestrians find massive old growth stumps and remnants of logging roads, a testimony to the human history of this area.

In 1972 the Bullitt family of Seattle donated 590 acres near the top of Squak Mountain to the state of Washington with the stipulation that the land must remain a non-motorized wilderness, thereby creating Squak Mountain State Park. Stimson Bullitt had purchased the land in the 1940s to build a recreational cabin. But over the years vandals destroyed everything but the fireplace. Hikers can now find that fireplace by a 2.5-mile hike.

"Many trails on Squak Mountain have deteriorated over the years into muddy routes that caused erosion and caused hikers to veer off the trail," says Mike Stenger, Greenway Trails Program Manager. "These trails were not built to withstand heavy recreational use."

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is managing a two-year project that will improve trail tread, improve drainage and install new signage on Squak Mountain trails. Greenway volunteers and conservation corps crews will spend over 6,000 hours at Squak. Funding from the State Legislature in 2007 in combination with a National Recreational Trails Program Grant to State Parks enabled significant improvements.

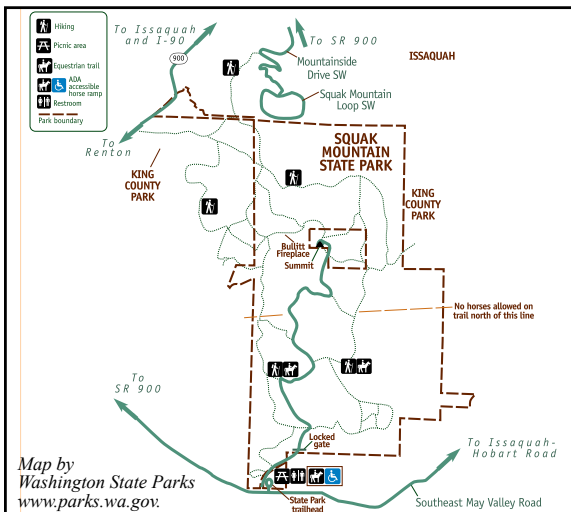
Equestrians begin at the Squak Mountain State Park trailhead on the south side of the mountain. Hikers can also start at the Issaquah Trails Center or along State Route 900 to explore the mountain. Squak Trails connect to both Cougar and Tiger Mountains.



Equestrians enjoy the 6 miles of horse trails on Squak Mountain, accessible from May Valley Road on the south side of the park.



Greenway volunteers from the Issaquah Lacrosse Team resurfaced parts of the Bullitt Access Trail on the north side of Squak Mountain this spring. The Bullitt Access Trail runs through the Talus Open Space donation to the City of Issaquah, and is accessible from Mountainside Drive.



A Brief History of Squak Mountain

Native Americans gave the name "Asquowk" to the mountain, surrounding valley and nearby creek and lake. Anglicized, it turned into "Squak."

1853 - Coal was "discovered" by a white settler on Squak Mountain, although the Snoqualmie Indians already used "fire rock."

1889 - Shipments of coal and lumber from Squak began on the new Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern Railroad.

1972 - The Bullitt family donated 590 acres on the top of the mountain to Washington State, with the stipulation that it must remain in its natural state.

1976 - Hiking guide writer Harvey Manning coined the term "Issaquah Alps" to describe Cougar, Squak and Tiger, later on to encompass Grand Ridge and Rattlesnake Mountains as well.

1990 - King County acquired 464 acres on the west slopes of Squak using open space bond funding

1991 - King County acquired 168 acres between Squak and Tiger Mountains.

1995 - 629 acres were acquired for Washington State Parks by the Trust for Public Land.

1997 - King County acquired 70 acres on the west side of the mountain.

2001 - King County acquired 46 acres on the east flank of the mountain along Issaquah Creek for wildlife habitat.

2002 - Talus development on the east flank of Cougar Mountain included 400 acres open space donated to City of Issaquah.

2002 - Greenway Trails Program begins annual improvements on Squak.

2007 - City of Issaquah acquired 40 acres for wildlife habitat between Cougar and Squak Mountains.

2008-2009 - Mountains to Sound Greenway volunteers and conservation corps crews, in partnership with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, made significant improvements to the 12-mile Squak Mountain trail system for hikers and equestrians.

GREENWAY DAYS

JUNE 20 & 21, 2009

The 6th annual GREENWAY DAYS festival kicks off your GREENWAY SUMMER!

Take a hike or bike ride, visit a museum, join a geocaching event, take the Greenway Challenge for a chance to win great prizes or compete in the 100-mile Mountains to Sound Relay.



VISIT
MTSGREENWAY.ORG
FOR EVENT DETAILS

Give to the Greenway

Take a moment to reflect on the beauty and grandeur of the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Your automatic monthly gift will help us sustain what is most important to you in our region. You will help protect these lands and preserve them for public good.

Plan for the future. Invest in the Greenway. Thank you!

mtsgreenway.org/donate

Wendy Tyner 206.382.5565x23 or wendy.tyner@mtsgreenway.org

MCCLELLAN BUTTE: MATTERHORN OF THE GREENWAY

GEOLOGY OF THE GREENWAY SERIES #13

In geology we sometimes see the results of the proverbial paradox of the "irresistible force encountering the immovable object." When you see the sharp peak of McClellan Butte rising above the valley to the south as you drive through the Greenway near I-90 exit 42, think of its pyramid-shaped summit as a prime example. Here, the intense erosive force of several glaciers surrounded and carved particularly resistant rocks into a sharp peak.

McClellan Butte is a classic glacial landform, called a horn peak, with its steep summit slopes and a three- or four-sided summit pyramid. The bedrock in McClellan Butte is the result of volcanic eruptions in the Oligocene, a geologic epoch that lasted from 34 to 24 million years ago. This resistant volcanic rock with few fractures was surrounded by diverging glaciers grinding away on all sides during the two-million-year-long Pleistocene epoch, commonly known as the Ice Age, until finally when the glaciers melted what remained was a sharp-pointed rock remnant at the center. The resulting peak makes for some spectacular scenery.



ROCKS

Examples of horn peaks abound in the Swiss Alps (The Matterhorn), the Canadian Rockies, Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park and Montana's Glacier National Park. They're also found on a smaller scale here in the Cascades, including McClellan Butte. How this horn came to be named a "butte" is unknown, but it's really a misnomer -- a butte is technically a flat-topped mountain, and McClellan is anything but flat-topped. The final scramble up the summit pyramid is famously vertigo-inducing and not recommended for the inexperienced!

- Phil Fenner and Bob Carson

There's more at mtsgreenway.org in News and Publications. Click on "Geology Tour."



Photo Phil Fenner

Volunteers Improve the Greenway



Ryan Kinsley, Manager of the North Bend Safeway store, joined Mountains to Sound Greenway volunteers from REI, the City of Issaquah and local community members for an ecological restoration project at the Locust Trail Wetland in Issaquah. Volunteers worked to keep this beautiful wetland clean, healthy and enjoyable to animals and people alike by removing invasive plants, removing trash and planting over 180 native trees and shrubs. The event brought out a friendly rivalry between the managers of the North Bend and Issaquah Safeway stores to see who could pull the most weeds.

Celebrate National Trails Day at Little Si

National Trails Day on June 6th will mark the grand opening of the Little Si expanded trailhead, celebrating two years of improvements on this popular trail just outside of North Bend.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (State DNR) and King County have built a second parking lot to accommodate heavy use on this trail that is popular with hikers and rock climbers. In partnership with State DNR, the Greenway Trust coordinated conservation corps crews and volunteers to build a new trail to connect the two parking lots, resurface the Little Si Trail, and build retaining walls, steps, drainage and rock turnpike to prevent erosion.



Salt Lake Community College students joined a Mountains to Sound Greenway volunteer event to help rebuild the Little Si Trail during a spring break trip to the Northwest.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Events run from 9 AM - 3 PM
with half day options available on restoration projects.

April 25th

- Invasive Removal @ Tibbetts Valley Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Squak Mountain (Issaquah)

May 2nd

- Invasive Removal @ Timberlake Park (Issaquah)
- Sammamish Stewardship Day, in partnership with City of Issaquah and Save Lake Sammamish
- Trail Construction @ Kamikaze Falls Trail (North Bend)

May 9th

- Invasive Removal @ Cybil Madeline Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Construction @ Kamikaze Falls Trail (North Bend)

May 16th

- Invasive Removal @ Upper Luther Burbank Park (Mercer Island)
- Trail Construction @ Kamikaze Falls Trail (North Bend)

May 23rd

- Memorial Day Weekend—no volunteer events

May 30th

- Invasive Removal @ Pickering Reach (Issaquah)
- Trail Construction @ Kamikaze Falls Trail (North Bend)

June 6th: National Trails Day

- Trail Maintenance @ Little Si (North Bend)—in partnership with REI
- Trail Construction @ Kamikaze Falls Trail (North Bend)
- Trail Maintenance @ Squak Mountain (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Tiger Mountain (Issaquah) for volunteers age 14-18

June 13th

- Invasive Removal @ Pickering Reach (Issaquah)
- Trail Maintenance @ Little Si (North Bend)—in partnership with REI

June 20th

- Invasive Removal @ Luther Burbank Park Wetlands (Mercer Island)
- Trail Maintenance @ Squak Mountain (Issaquah)—in partnership with REI

June 22nd-26th

- Greenway Summer Camp @ Tiger Mountain, 16-18 year olds

June 27th

- Invasive Removal @ Lake Sammamish State Park (Issaquah)
- Trail Construction @ Kamikaze Falls Trail (North Bend)—in partnership with REI

June 29th-July 3rd

- Greenway Summer Camp @ Lake Sammamish State Park, 13-16 year olds

Customized events are available for volunteer groups. Visit mtsgreenway.org for more information and to register, or contact 206.812.0122 or volunteer@mtsgreenway.org

Youth Volunteers Outdoors

Spend the summer in the Greenway!
FREE Day Camps for ages 10-18

Week-long (9am-3pm daily, Monday-Friday) camps
with ecological restoration, trail work, outdoor
education and games!

Locations around Mercer Island, Issaquah, Snoqualmie
and North Bend between June 22 and August 14

Registration: mtsgreenway.org/volunteer/youth
Phone: 206-812-0122
Email: volunteer@mtsgreenway.org



Greenway People



Julia Munger, Volunteer Outreach Associate, joins the Greenway as an AmeriCorps volunteer through the Northwest Service Academy this year. A graduate of Western Washington University in environmental science, Julia likes to hike, backpack, read and is training for a marathon.



Jesse Miller joins the Greenway as Youth Volunteer Coordinator after leading volunteer events at the Grand Canyon. A graduate from the University of California at Santa Cruz, Jesse has been a science educator in Alaska, an endangered species monitor and naturalist in California and worked on a trail crew with the US Forest Service. He likes to backpack and rock climb.

New Trail Coming to Kamikaze Falls

Between Mt. Si and Mt. Tenerife is the impressive but relatively unknown Kamikaze Falls. “There is an unsanctioned trail that goes right along Kamikaze Creek,” says Mike Stenger, Greenway Trust Trails Program Manager. “The trail is too close to the creek and was not built to withstand so many feet walking on it. That causes erosion right into the stream.”

The Greenway Trust in partnership with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (State DNR) are building a sustainable trail to Kamikaze Falls. Part of the Mt. Si Natural Resources Conservation Area, the trail will provide a 3.6-mile round trip to the falls.

“This new trail will prevent future ecological damage and provide a safe and enjoyable hiking experience,” says Kelly Heintz, Natural Areas Manager for the State DNR.

Conservation corps crews will begin work this spring, and volunteer trail work events will be held in May and June.



Kamikaze Falls

King County Town Hall

May 6, 2009 - 6:00 PM

Join us for a King County Town Hall Meeting
about the Mountains to Sound Greenway
South Bellevue Community Center
14509 SE Newport Way, Bellevue

A LOOK BACK

at the Mountains to Sound Greenway



The town of North Bend in 1909

Downtown North Bend looked a little different a century ago than it does today. This view looks east from Bendigo Boulevard along First Avenue. North Bend was incorporated in March 1909, but the town burned in April 1909 after this photo was taken.

Photo courtesy of the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY

Greenway Officers

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Jim Ellis, President Emeritus
Todd Glass, Vice President - Fundraising
Terry Wallgren, Vice President - Kittitas County
Sue McLain, Vice President - Stewardship
Tod McDonald, Treasurer
Karl Forsgaard, Secretary
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Doug Schindler, Deputy Director
Wendy Tyner, Development Director
Amy Brockhaus, Communications Manager
Jackie Van Anda, Finance Manager & Grant Writer
Stephanie Dunlap, Office Associate & Greenway Days Coordinator
Margaret Ullman, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Jesse Miller, Youth Volunteer Coordinator
Jeanmarie Goodman, Volunteer Program Associate
Julia Munger, Outreach Associate
Tor Bell, Restoration Program Manager
Jennifer McKeown, Restoration Specialist
Mike Stenger, Trails Program Manager
Will Robens, Trails Specialist
Ty Tyler, Stewardship Administrative Coordinator
Oliver Stiefel, Special Projects Associate

Mountains to Sound Environmental Education Program
Sally Kentch, Nancy Lomneth and Tony Allison

Mark Sollitto, Land Acquisitions Manager

Photos by Greenway staff unless otherwise noted.

mtsgreenway.org

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY 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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