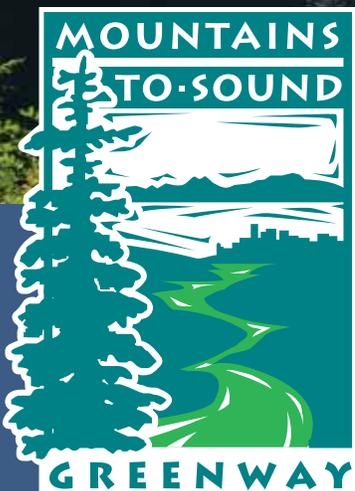


MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY

FALL 2014

# CONNECTIONS

Linking People to the Forests, Trails, Wildlife, History and Communities from Seattle to Central Washington



## *National Heritage Area Progress*

Carter Helps Plant 100,000 Trees

Mailbox Peak Trail Grand Opening

# NEW MAILBOX PEAK TRAIL NOW OPEN

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear friends,

I am honored to have begun my first year as the President of the Mountains to Sound Greenway. While I don't think anyone can replace Mr. Bill Chapman, I will bring my own unique energy, dedication, and perspectives to the role, learning from and building upon the good work that has gone before. I want to thank Bill for his ten years of service as President, and I want to thank the Board, Executive Committee, Staff and Donors for the opportunity to serve such a great organization.

*“We are in in the best position we have ever been in to further fulfill our mission.”*

We are in in the best position we have ever been in to further fulfill our mission of leading and inspiring action to conserve and enhance the cherished landscape of the Greenway. We were lucky to have such strong foundations passed down from great leaders like Jim Ellis, Ted Thomsen, Sally Jewell, Bill, and so many others. They helped to secure the iconic landscape you see today as you drive out Interstate 90 and in its surrounding watersheds. With rapidly increasing population in the region, much of the Greenway landscape did not happen by chance, it was not created by accident. It was a choice. Our work in bringing together political, business, community, recreational and environmental leaders in collaborative efforts to achieve a common vision for the landscape has helped secure its future vitality. The next generations deserve the chance to realize the value and enjoyment inherent in the 1.5 million acres of spectacular natural and built environments that make up the Mountains to Sound Greenway between Seattle and Ellensburg. It is my deep personal love of this landscape, its inspiration and its value to those who inhabit it that piqued my interest in joining this great organization nearly eight years ago.

*“Much of the Greenway landscape did not happen by chance, it was not created by accident. It was a choice.”*

For those of you who may not know me well, I am a geologist who chose my profession in a large part because of its path to the outdoors. I have had the privilege of the serving as CEO of GeoEngineers, Inc. since 2007, an earth science and engineering consulting firm. The inherent value in making responsible, sustainable, healthy connections between the natural and built environments motivates me to join others

to improve our quality of life by assuring the health of our surroundings.

I look forward to working with many of you in the months and years ahead to fulfill our strategic objectives:

- Conserve the Natural Environment
- Connect the Built Environment: Cities, Towns, Rural Areas
- Increase Public Education and Involvement
- Gain Official Recognition – through National Heritage Area designation
- Enhance Coalition Capacity

These objectives serve as guide posts to assure that the next twenty years of our accomplishments will have as much lasting, positive impact as the past twenty years of our good work. Let us recognize that most of these objectives are far too vast for the organization to do alone. One of the key strengths of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is the staff and board's ability to engage a much broader coalition of like minds. We serve as a catalyst, convener, and coordinating entity of this coalition to achieve the vision for the landscape.

This role will continue to be important as we work towards having the Greenway designated as a National Heritage Area. There has been great progress in this effort this summer, as you'll see later in this newsletter, yet there is still much to be done and our coalition's continued support and engagement is essential in making this reality come true. If you haven't done so already, please sign our petition and contact your congressional representatives to encourage them to pass the legislation. Your additional participation can take the form of time, money, wisdom and most of all getting outside in the Greenway.

This fall, I encourage you to draw closer to this home we call the Greenway and make greater personal connections to the landscape. You can rest assured that we are here to help you and generations to come do just that.



  
Kurt Fraese, Greenway Trust Board President



After three summers of work, the new Mailbox Peak trail officially opened to hikers in September. The trail was built by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Mountains to Sound Greenway, Washington Trails Association, and EarthCorps. Funding for the trail was provided by DNR, Spring Family Trust, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and the Federal Highways Administration.

The old Mailbox Peak trail is a daunting ridge route that is plagued by erosion due to its extremely steep grade and hikers routinely lose track of the trail. The newly designed trail employs switchbacks on the north side of the mountain to ascend at a much more reasonable pace. Hikers still need to climb 3,800 feet to the peak, and the trip definitely pays off with stunning views into the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River



Valley and towards the crest of the Cascades. Both trails will remain open for hikers to choose which route they want to take up to the peak.

The opening of the new Mailbox Peak trail is the first of many recreation enhancement projects scheduled for the beautiful Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley.

A road construction project began this summer, and when finished in 2016 will bring thousands of more visitors into the valley each year. The Greenway is working with its partners to prepare for this increased demand by planning for new parking areas and facilities, improved trailheads and trails, and new river access points.

Learn more at [mtsgreenway.org/bettermiddlefork](http://mtsgreenway.org/bettermiddlefork)



Your resource for exploring the Greenway, 365 days a year  
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Thanks to our generous sponsors:

- Boeing
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# WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In July 2014, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Board of Directors took on nine fabulous new members for three-year terms. Meet our new Board members:



**Mike Balboni**  
Forest Supervisor  
for Okanogan-  
Wenatchee National  
Forest



**Jim Becker**  
President of  
becker&mayer! book-  
producing company



**Jason Broenneke**  
Partner, Audit, KPMG  
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**Kitty Craig**  
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**Paul Kundtz**  
Washington State  
Director, The Trust  
for Public Land



**Helen Lee**  
Financial Advisor,  
Morgan Stanley  
Wealth Management



**Robert Manelski**  
Director of Business  
Operations for  
Boeing Fabrication,  
Commercial Airplanes



**Grant Ringel**  
Communications  
Director, Puget  
Sound Energy

## CREATIVE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP CARTER SUBARU & VOLKSWAGEN PLANT 100,000 TREES

Partnership with Carter Subaru reaches major milestone – 100,000 trees planted in the Greenway

As the cool weather returns and the tree planting season kicks off this fall, the Greenway is preparing to celebrate a major milestone in our partnership with Carter Motors. This fall, we will be planting the 100,000th tree donated to the Greenway by Carter Subaru and Carter Volkswagen.

Since 2008, Carter Subaru and Carter Volkswagen have funded tree planting in the Mountains to Sound Greenway through their “On the Road to Carbon Neutral” program, an innovative regional campaign that offsets carbon emissions by planting one tree for each test drive and three additional trees for each Subaru or VW purchased from Carter. This unique public-private partnership has allowed the Greenway to leverage additional public funding and make a significant difference in the effort to restore the forest canopy in urban and rural areas throughout the Greenway.



“The Carter family’s dedication to offsetting carbon emissions through tree planting in the Greenway is inspiring. 100,000 trees is really a remarkable milestone and we want to recognize the Carter family for helping the Greenway Stewardship Program work on a bigger scale across this landscape to improve forest health and ensure the Greenway remains a spectacular place for generations to come,” said Greenway Executive Director Cynthia Welti.

The 100,000th tree will be planted in the Greenway at Seattle’s Discovery Park during our annual tree planting kick-off event on October 25th. King-5 Television also selected the event as part of their annual community volunteer event called Make a Difference Day. We’re expecting 250-300 volunteers to plant trees and attend a ceremony to honor the Carter family for their contribution to the Greenway and to the health of our forests.



### Tree Planting Kick-Off

Join us! Celebrate the start of tree planting season and help plant the 100,000th tree.

Saturday, October 25  
Discovery Park | Seattle

Sign Up at  
[mtsgreenway.org](http://mtsgreenway.org)

## National Heritage Area Designation Progress

The effort to designate the Greenway as a National Heritage Area made huge gains this summer with the introduction of legislation in the U.S. Senate. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray introduced Senate Bill 2602 in July and shepherded the bill through a successful hearing in the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, National Parks Subcommittee.

The designation is also supported in the U.S. House of Representatives, with Congressman Dave Reichert serving as the champion of the legislation. The bill in the House also had a successful hearing in the U.S. House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation in July.

Meanwhile back home in this Washington, we have been working to secure more than 2,100 endorsements from members of the public, businesses, community groups, organizations, and elected officials.

In his support letter to Congress, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray said, “While it’s known nationally for its thriving economy and culture, as well as its green ethic, the City of Seattle recognizes that some of Seattle’s greatest assets are the waterways, forests, and mountains which surround the city. It is this



combination of urban vitality and bountiful regional natural amenities that attracts national businesses and adds to the quality of life for city, county and state residents.”

This is one of the many reasons the Greenway deserves recognition as a National Heritage Area – to conserve our quality of life for generations to come.

Tell us why you support the campaign today at  
[GreenwayHeritage.org](http://GreenwayHeritage.org)

# High Point to Preston Cycle Track Now Open

King County recently installed a 0.7-mile cycle track to connect the regional trail link between Issaquah and Preston. The cycle track runs along High Point Way, just east of the High Point to Preston regional trail parallel to Interstate 90.

“The Mountains to Sound Greenway encompasses a world-class regional trail system,” says Cynthia Welti, Executive Director of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. “Our vision is that a walker or bicyclist could travel on safe, enjoyable, off-road routes that connect Puget Sound urban areas to the Cascades and central Washington. Addressing this gap between Issaquah and Preston will help allow a cyclist to travel from the Burke-Gilman Trail in Seattle to an overlook at Snoqualmie Falls, a scenic 50-mile journey.”

*“Addressing this gap will help allow a cyclist to travel from the Burke-Gilman Trail in Seattle to an overlook at Snoqualmie Falls, a scenic 50-mile journey.”*

In 2010, the Washington State Department of Transportation completed the construction of a 1.25-mile section of the regional trail, which began the connection from the Issaquah to High Point Trail, yet ended just short of the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail trailhead. This new segment of roadside cycle track, built by King County Road Services Division, completes the connection. The cycle track provides a bicycle lane in both directions, separated from the automobile lanes.



“With this cycle track, we are able to complete another missing link in King County’s 175-mile Regional Trails System, while creating a safer and more enjoyable experience for trail visitors,” said Dave White, acting assistant director of King County Parks. “Partnering with King County Road Services Division ensured that this link was able to be made.”

*Discover this new trail and more at [mtsgreenway.org/explore-the-greenway](https://mtsgreenway.org/explore-the-greenway)*

# A Fond Farewell

*By Patrick Mulligan, Education Program Manager (a.k.a. “the new Sally”)*

The Greenway is saying “farewell” to one of its long-term staff members, Sally Kentch, Education Program Manager since 2000. To say that Sally will be missed would be an understatement. Sally’s fearless approach and tireless work ethic earned the respect and admiration of colleagues, and her infectious optimism endeared her to all fortunate enough to have crossed her path. I count myself among those fortunate souls, and though Sally’s last day draws near, I, and the Greenway Education Team she leaves behind, look forward to continuing the work that she began and carrying her legacy into the future.

The Greenway’s education program began in 1996 through a partnership with King County to teach students about the many benefits of maintaining our region’s forests and waterways. When Sally came on board, she developed a suite of science-based curricula intended to not only educate students about how the natural world works, but to also instill a sense of appreciation for and connection to these delicate systems. The programs evolved to include an in-class lesson where new concepts were introduced, a field investigation where concepts were put into context, and a stewardship

event where new knowledge and skills culminated into action.

Last year, Sally and the education team engaged over 5,000 students. When one does the math, even conservatively, Sally has introduced over 40,000 students to the Greenway during her fourteen year tenure! Many of these students came to us from underserved schools and were not often afforded an opportunity to walk in the woods. It cannot be overstated how valuable this work is to our collective future, and while Sally leaves big boots to fill, she leaves us a trail map to follow. We will do our best and wish her luck on her next adventure.



*Learn more about our Education Program at [mtsgreenway.org/education](https://mtsgreenway.org/education)*

# 'PONY UP for a POTTY'

The Snoqualmie Valley has an amazing array of recreational opportunities that bring thousands of visitors to the Valley to backpack, sightsee, hike, fish, boat, bike, and much, much more. However, not all of the recreation areas have the infrastructure to adequately support the droves of people who use the trails, rivers, and parks each year.

One such area is the Snoqualmie River around Fall City. King County counted more than 26,000 people in 91 days who put boats in to float the river near Fall City.

Del and Nancy Moore are local residents who have dedicated thousands of hours to keep the river access areas clean. During

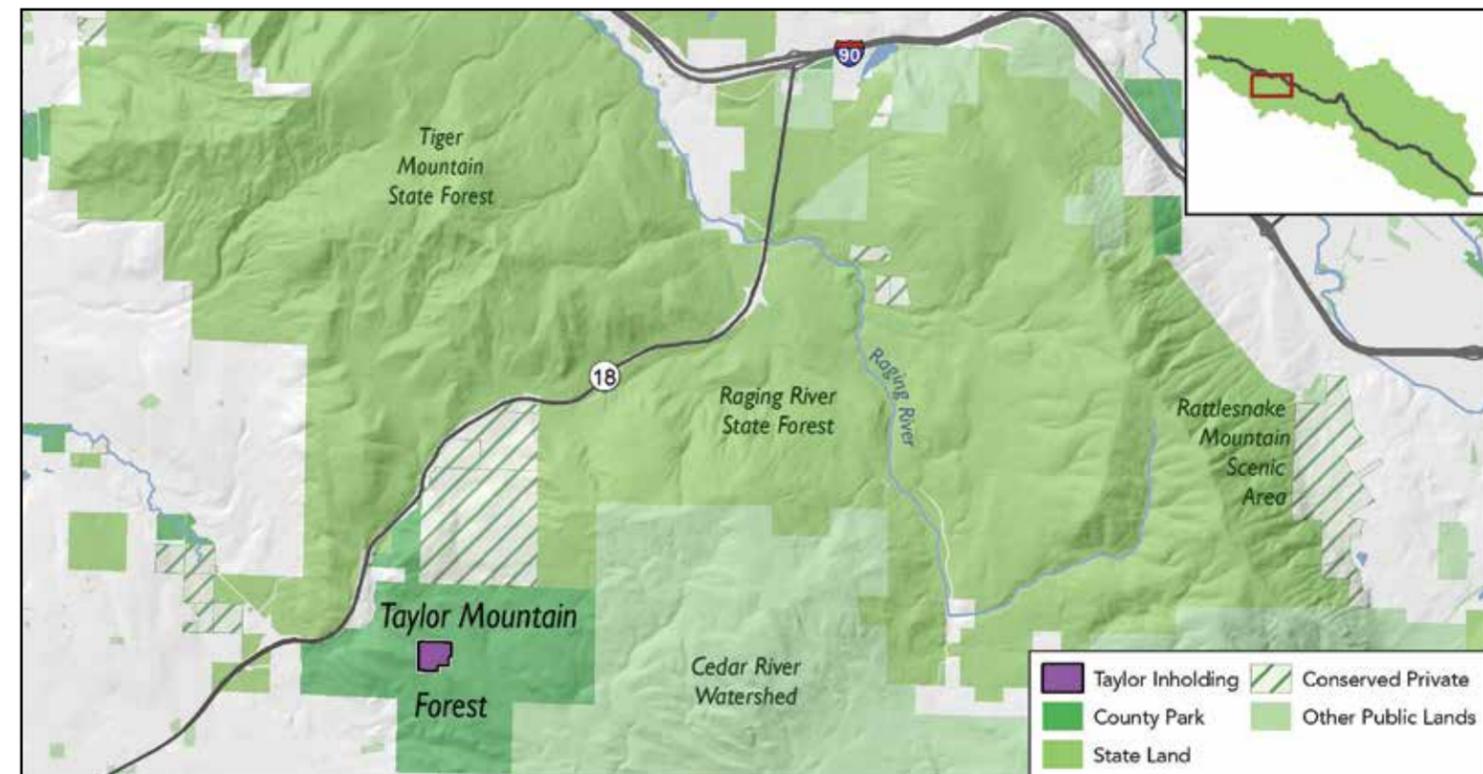


the summer they visit each site twice a day to pick up litter and dispose of the collected trash and recycling.

In an effort to increase communication and awareness of needs at these recreation areas, the Greenway brought together the Moores and the two land managers—Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and King County. A collaborative plan was created to consolidate signage and raise funds for a year-round bathroom, including a crowdfunding campaign to ask the people who use these areas to help raise funds.

*Learn more about the Snoqualmie Valley at [mtsgreenway.org/snoqualmievalley](https://mtsgreenway.org/snoqualmievalley)*

# TAYLOR MOUNTAIN Acquisition



King County recently acquired the last in-holding on Taylor Mountain. The 40-acre parcel will be added to the Taylor Mountain Forest to complete public ownership of the mountain. Funding for the acquisition was provided by King County and the City of Seattle.



MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST  
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Long before the 1964 Wilderness Act, investments such as the Granite Mountain lookout were made to help people explore the Cascades. This year we celebrate the **50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act** which protected 9.1 million acres of federal land across the country and created a legal definition of wilderness: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

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Sally Kentch, Environmental Field Educator  
Nancy Lomneth, Environmental Field Educator  
Elizabeth Lunney, Grants Consultant

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