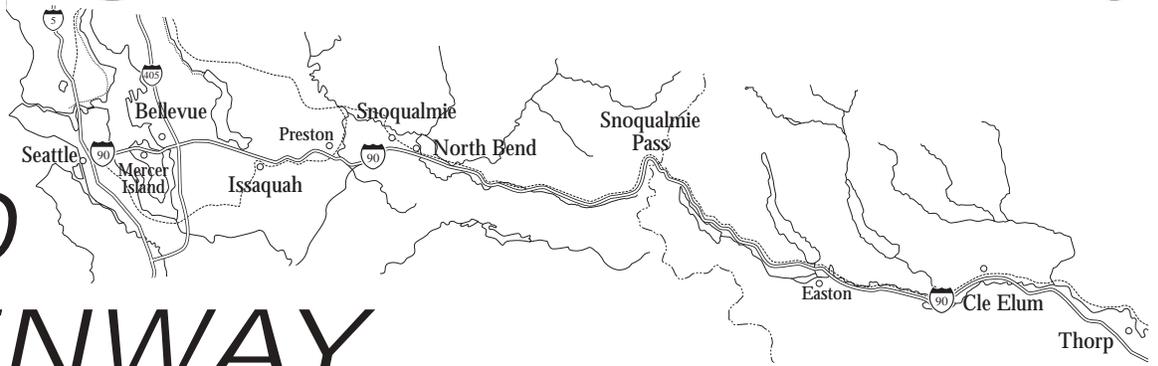


MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY



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

Volume 12, Number 2
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June 10-12, 2005

The popular Mt. Si trail before (above) and after (right) volunteers from the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and Student Conservation Association built steps to prevent water runoff and erosion, and to help keep the trail safer for hikers.



Greenway Trails

Recently a variety of e-mails have crisscrossed through Greenway computers, reminding us that change never stops and there's a cacophony of viewpoints on good trails, problem trails and lots of differently-equipped users. The forests and trails that inspired the Greenway 15 years ago may appear the same, but the pressures on them are different. Just as in 1990, by ignoring those changes we risk losing something valuable.

On a sunny Saturday, most outdoors people want to clear their heads of problems and stretch their legs into the mountains. But while putting one foot in front of the other, we hope you will think about some of the implications. In this issue, we offer a small sample of viewpoints about our trails.

- The Editor

Talking About Trails

Hiker: "My hope is that not all trails have to be designed for a large general public use, that some can be sustained as more difficult so there is a range from family strolls to serious adventure along the Greenway."

Trail Expert: "That's an interesting point. I'm of the opinion that there is a place for more difficult trails (which are inevitably more difficult to maintain) but that those trails should be of more difficult access in order to keep the numbers of users low. Exceptions to this seem to turn challenging trails into "sacrificial zones" of high erosion, route widening and braiding and occasional user injury, like Cable Line trail on Tiger and now the current Mailbox Peak Trail."

The Rattlesnake Mountain Ledge trail is a major destination and an easy 2-mile hike up. Several decades ago, Issaquah Alps Trails Club volunteers carved the first trail to the ledge, just south of North Bend. But the alpine-level view drew more people every year.

With guidance and funding from Seattle Public Utilities which owns this watershed

land, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, EarthCorps and Washington Trails Association, supported by hundreds of volunteers, re-oriented most of the trail in 2002 away from fragile habitat and made it a slightly longer but less steep climb.



The State's Busiest Trail

"Every year, nearly 80,000 people climb the well-worn trail up Mt. Si," says **Kelly Heintz, natural areas manager for the State Department of Natural Resources**. "Now, with a grant from a national trails program, we'll begin work to completely rebuild the top two miles of the Mount Si trail to protect the fragile natural resources of the mountain. Exposed tree roots are tripping hikers and water running down the trail leads to dangerously slick conditions. We'll be working with the Greenway Trust and Washington Trails Association to make it safe."

Some trail observations:

"People don't seem to have as much spare time as they used to. They want to hike closer to I-90. We see a lot more use of trails along the Greenway, but as day trips, not into the backcountry. Because we have to do a thorough job of planning new trails or removing old ones - meeting environmental standards, listening to the public - our planning for trails can take a decade. But with rapid population growth, the demographics of trail users and their needs change year to year. If we tried to revisit and revise our plans to respond to that, we'd just be planning all the time and not getting anything done on the ground.

I'll tell you, the current census data projections for population growth here are pretty startling: the current population is about 6 million. The predicted increase will take it to nearly 8.5-9 million residents by 2025 and most of that will be in the counties of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. We're cutting staff, not increasing it here in the district, so the challenge to keep up our recreation facilities is going to be even greater in the future."

- Jim Franzel, North Bend District Ranger, USDA Forest Service

Tiger Mountain Trails Demonstrate Challenges of the Greenway Trail Network

“The Greenway..... oh, that trail to Snoqualmie Pass. Have you finished that yet?”

“One of the misconceptions about the Greenway is that it’s a single trail,” says Mike Stenger, Greenway Trust staff trails specialist. “Just between Lake Washington and Snoqualmie Pass there’s a network of over 170 miles of paved and unpaved regional trails and over 360 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails, all on public lands.”

Stenger works full time for the Greenway Trust surveying and designing new trails, assessing trail repairs and training volunteers to build and maintain them.

“People love these trails,” Stenger says, “and having more people out on them fulfills one

of the primary goals of the Mountains to Sound Greenway, but it’s also bringing on a lot of challenges. Trails that could withstand the boot treads of hundreds of people with minimal maintenance are now hiked by thousands. Meanwhile, at the agencies that manage these lands, trail maintenance budgets are dwindling.”

Tiger Mountain: Pleasures and Challenges

One of the most popular destinations in the region is the 74-mile Tiger Mountain Trail system, managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. On all but the rainiest days, when the gate at Tradition Plateau (exit 20) opens, the parking lot is soon full. Some people head straight for the nearest summit, West Tiger #3. Others, looking for a less arduous hike, take Around the Lake or Bus trails or head out the Puget Powerline Road Trail. Long distance hikers and runners head for the Tiger Mountain Trail, traversing the entire state forest in 16 miles.

As Stenger walks the trails of Tiger with his eyes on the path, he catalogues the variety

of signs of wear and tear. “I look for things that damage the surrounding vegetation or make for dangerous footing or deep mud and inadequate drainage,” he says. Trees felled by winter storms or heavy growth of brush can cause hikers to invent new trails in poor places. Erosion on steep trails both tears away the solid

footing for hikers and sends silt into creeks and wetlands.

Most hikers

Issaquah Alps Trails Club is a pioneer among trail maintenance groups, says Stenger. In recent years, the Washington Trails Association has grown a statewide network of trail volunteers. On Tiger Mountain, the Greenway Trust joins other non-profit groups and clubs to help the state Department of Natural Resources maintain trails.

“With a minimal level of funding and a strong volunteer force,” Stenger says, “we’re making visible improvements. But we’re only hitting 10% of the needs for the Tiger

Conservation Area trails.

What about the rest of the Tiger trail system? And what about the Greenway trails beyond Tiger? Seventy miles of trails on Tiger represent less than 20% of the overall Greenway trail network west of Snoqualmie Pass. Use and wear are growing constantly.”

“These trails are part

of what attracts people to live and work in the Northwest. Just look at the activity at Tiger on a late summer afternoon as people get off work. As time goes by, the land agencies, the conservation non profits and the thousands of people who love these trails are going to need to come up with a combination of funding and coordinated work to keep from loving our trails to death.”



The Swamp Trail at Tiger Mountain State Forest sustained heavy storm damage (above) but this bridge was rebuilt for heavy use by volunteers in the Greenway.



don’t compare a foot trail to a highway. Stenger can’t help doing so. “When a simple trail that a few climbers built 20 years ago becomes popular, you have people both coming and going. People politely step aside so others can pass and pretty soon the upper bank is crumbling or worse, the outer edge of the trail is crumbling down the hillside.” In spring, the heavy run-off of melting snow completes the destruction of what started as the tread for a few boots.

“People tend to take bridges and boardwalks for granted. These wooden structures are always deteriorating and have to be repaired and replaced. The backlog of these needs, both on Tiger Mountain and throughout the Greenway, on state and federal lands, gets

longer each year.”

A Growing Role for the Public

The enthusiasm of people in the Northwest for outdoor recreation is increasingly translating into outdoor work, as non-profit groups bring the sweat and muscle of volunteers to keep up the region’s trails. The

“One of the misconceptions about the Greenway is that it’s a single trail.”
- Mike Stenger

You can volunteer to improve Tiger Mountain trails!

Saturday, April 30, 9:00-3:00
Saturday, May 7, 9:00-3:00
Saturday, May 14, 9:00-3:00
Saturday, May 21, 9:00-12:00

For a complete list of events or to sign up, visit
www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer
 or contact Kelly Kirkland:
 206-812-0122
volunteer@mtsgreenway.org.

Greenway Trails

The Intoxication of Being First at the Top

While most people and Webster's Dictionary think "bootlegging" has to do with illicit alcohol, the term must have originated closer to the body where a boot covers the foot at the far end of a leg. Many of the most popular trails in the Mountains to Sound Greenway began as 'bootleg trails' – a few people could see the top of the mountains and they wanted to go there. They bushwhacked the brush and scrambled across streams and ravines and up boulder-strewn steeps. When they made the summit they felt like Sir Edmund Hilary. Great views and racing endorphins made them happy.

These days, bootleg trails are raising more concerns than spirits. Land managers find that explorers can still find and carve out virgin trails to a summit, but close on their bootlegs come dozens, then hundreds, of other hikers.

"Trail bootleggers have left us a tremendous trails legacy," says **Elizabeth Lunney, Executive Director of Washington Trails Association**. "Some of our most popular hikes were created by adventuresome people thirty years ago. Back then, hardly anyone noticed; use was low."

"Decades ago," she adds, "much of the land along I-90 was in private ownership and natural resource extraction - timber and mining - were the main concern for owners. Now, most of that land is managed by public agencies and they have to answer to tighter regulations and meet the scrutiny of a variety of citizen interest groups."

"Attitudes have changed too," Lunney says, "We're more aware of the need to protect the landscape. Now, instead of just getting to the top, we're seeing trails as a way to mitigate and control the human impact on land and wildlife. When a bootleg trail is created, inevitably, other people find it and start using it and our ability to build trails to control impact and protect natural resources is compromised."

"Looking at the Greenway corridor and the ease with which people can get to trails near I-90, the explorers of today are probably going to have to shift their focus. People may just have to go farther afield to experience the adventure and rewards of being the first to carve a route to the top."

Trails: a wildlife viewpoint

Trails can sometimes have negative effects on wildlife habitat. Some species need undisturbed "blank spots on the map," what biologists call "core security habitat." It is important to keep new trails away from these critical areas where possible. Fortunately, people and wildlife are usually seeking different things in the mountains along the Greenway: people like views, and wildlife want food. There are many rocky outcrops and view spots where new trails could be built. These are usually less valuable for wildlife than low valleys and wet areas where food sources are located. New trails climbing to viewpoints, keeping away from wildlife feeding areas, can probably make everybody happy, human or animal.

- Rick McGuire, Alpine Lakes Protection Society

A Few Words from the Old Bootlegger

Harvey Manning, founder of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and prolific author of hiking guides in Washington, advocated for years that people should strike off through the forest to create new trails, even to the extent of trespassing on private land.

"The reason I advocated people trespass in the Issaquah Alps was that there was no government agency paying attention to those lands and who knows what might become of them. Building trails out there was a way to put pressure on government to protect the forests, to put people out there who would stop them from developing everything."

"But now government is there and we can't do anything without an authorization. That creates a little frustration for people who love to build trails, but even they are not campaigning against that. A lot of trails ought to just be left worse, abandoned, not signed, not cleared, just discourage people using them. I do have a problem though with turning trails into freeways. The agencies should analyze individual trails. Places like the trail to Rattlesnake ledge should be easy, but some places should remain difficult. I guess that's a point of controversy."

Different Trails for Different Uses



Barricades? These on Tiger Mountain are designed to separate different types of users. Hikers can pass through, but these prevent motorized vehicles and let equestrians and mountain bikers know they need to find trails designed for their use.



GREENWAY DAYS

FROM MOUNTAINS TO SOUND
JUNE 10-12, 2005



Enjoy Concerts, Hikes, Cowboys and Indians, Boat Rides and much more at Greenway Days!

Mountains to Sound Adventure Relay presented by **REI** on Sunday, June 12

A 53-mile, multi-sport race with mountain biking, road cycling, flat water paddling, trail running and a team run.

100-mile **Scavenger Hunt** presented by **Lexus of Bellevue** on June 11 and 12 between Seattle and the central Washington town of Thorp

Greenway Geocaching - presented by **Puget Sound Energy** on June 11
Team treasure hunting near Snoqualmie Falls

Best of the Greenway Art Show on Mercer Island, presented by the **Boeing Company**, June 11 & 12

Green Treasures Trek - a family-friendly scavenger hunt, June 11 and 12, on easy Greenway hiking trails presented by **Overlake Hospital**

Roslyn Moose Days - June 11 and 12, in cooperation with the **Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust**

And many more community events between Seattle and central Washington. Visit www.mtsgreenway.org for details and sign-up information.

Greenway Days media sponsors: King 5 Television, KMTT "The Mountain," The Seattle Times, The Seattle PI

Corporate Sponsors: Intracorp, Port Blakely Communities, Rowley Properties, Washington Mutual Bank

Explorers: AAA Washington, Group Health, Raging River LLC, Talus, Washington Athletic Club



Artwork by David Horsey.

RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN



Photo by Larry Hanson

Rattlesnake Mountain comes into the eastbound view just beyond and south of the intersection of I-90 and State Route 18. Its western flank is dominated by recent logging by Fruit Growers who purchased the land from the Weyerhaeuser Company several years ago. But the 3260-foot highest point is forever protected as the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area, purchased jointly by King County and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in 1993. Public acquisition of the 1800-acre top of the mountain was the first governmental commitment to protect the forest landscape for the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

The southeast flank of the mountain, bordering Rattlesnake Lake, is heavily forested and part of the City of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed. The northern flank borders I-90 from Exit 25 to Exit 31. Snoqualmie Point Park and the western terminus of an 11-mile cross mountain trail are at Exit 27. At the far eastern tip of Rattlesnake, the famous Ledge viewpoint juts out of the forest at 2079 feet and offers one of the most popular short hikes along I-90. (I-90 Exit 32, 3 miles south to the trailhead.)

The name of the mountain may have resulted after road survey crews, including pioneer Arthur Denny, heard seed pods rattling in the wind. Indian guides may have told the surveyors about a "Rattlesnake Mountain" that used to have rattlesnakes on it, according to the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed. Currently there are no rattlesnakes on the western side of the Cascades.

Greenway People:

The power of literature to ignite a lifelong passion gets a rousing testimonial from Bill Longwell. He says two books were the catalyst that set his feet to walking and climbing nearly 48,000 miles in his lifetime, mostly in the Cascades. His colleagues in the hiking community say that same passion has built and maintained some of the most popular trails in the Greenway.

"In the eighth grade, I read *Behind the Rangers* by Stephen Meader," Longwell says. "It was about a boy who's father was a botanist and they explored the Olympic Peninsula together. That book opened up a world of adventure to me and from then on, I just wanted to be in the woods and mountains behind our home in Renton. In college, I read *Of Men and Mountains* by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and it had that same exciting effect. He was a true outdoors person and that became a sort of heroic image to me."

Putting Words into Action

As a high school English teacher in Renton for 30 years, Longwell spent spare time heading into the Cascades foothills. "My friend Phil Hall and I began exploring Squak Mountain in the 60s and for 10 years, it was our own private kingdom, our secret garden you might say. We came across overgrown logging roads and we'd clear them a bit and open them up. We'd take people in there and make them promise not to tell too many people, but of course," Longwell says with a grin, "that never works." Today, six heavily used trails on Squak, many built on Longwell's footsteps, are popular with hikers and equestrians.

In person, Bill Longwell is a glowing advertisement for a life spent hiking. At 69 years old, he still logs from 1-2000 hiking miles a year. Such careful record-keeping is another one of his passions. Rather than talk about his own exploits, he plunks on the table an 18-page report about one year's work by the people that give him the greatest pleasure: the volunteer trail crews that he has organized for the Issaquah Alps and Snoqualmie Valley trails clubs, beginning in the late 1970s.

Opening Tiger Mountain with Hand Tools

"In '72, the Mountaineers asked Phil Hall and me to build a trail across Tiger Mountain. It took us 16 years to build that 16-mile trail. In those days we went out with garden tools, and it was a wonder to us when we discovered there were these heavy hand tools like the McLeod and the grub hoe. The other thing we did was to start bringing out my high school students and over the years I've had students on hundreds of projects."

One of his longtime compatriots on the trails is Joe Toynbee. "Bill took a bunch of us out one day to Tiger and said he wanted to build a trail all the way across those three summits. We laughed our heads off. But you know what, he did it, and there were many times when he was out there alone, carving the trail and building bridges. His impact on the recreation in this region is just enormous."

With formation of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club in the late 1970s, Harvey Manning urged hikers to establish new trails into

BILL LONGWELL

the public and private forests on the edge of the city so there would always be a constituency to protect them from conversion to other uses. He made Bill Longwell Chief Ranger of Trails and soon Longwell, his students and co-workers in the trails clubs began to create hiking access all along the Greenway.



Bill Longwell

Among many other trails reopened by Longwell and his cohorts are trails to Mt. Defiance, the Taylor river trail and the Dingford Creek trail in the Middle Fork Valley. A year ago, when a severe windstorm brought thousands of trees down on Tiger Mountain, Issaquah Alps volunteers were the first to begin the huge job of clearing trails and they kept at it for months.

Longwell is among many trail enthusiasts who note the change in users. "In the 60s, you'd most often see backpackers going in for several days. Now, it's much more common to see runners in shorts and running shoes, carrying a couple of water bottles."

Seeking the Next Generation of Rangers

Bill Longwell is both proud and wistful as he describes his current crew. "We're all in our 60s and 70s. We need to keep bringing young people into this and hope they will make it a lifelong adventure the way we have, but most often our new members are our age. I think the difference is that we all grew up in the depression and it gave us some kind of self-reliant concept of life."

"Our newest member, Ken Hopping, retired a few years ago from Boeing and decided to become an expert on the crosscut saw. In 2004, he cleared 545 fallen trees on Tiger. Mind you this is one man operating a two-man saw. Unlike the old days, a few of us now use chain saws but many of us still like working with manual hand tools. Sometimes we work together, but a lot of us really like to work by ourselves. Of 396 work parties last year, 374 were solo." Again with a smile, he says, "Maybe you'd say we're a lot of loners."

Among people who know his lifetime's work, Longwell is well known to refuse the recognition that comes with awards or his name on a trail. "I like to operate under the radar," he explains, "it's in my genes. If a person volunteers, why does he want recognition?"

"You have to understand about Bill," says his old friend Joe Toynbee, "he isn't out working with no reason, he has a deep love of the mountains and nature; it's a spiritual thing for him."

Each spring, Bill Longwell leads wildflower and bird identification hikes in the Issaquah Alps. For information on walking the trails with Chief Ranger Longwell, go to www.issaquahalps.org.

A TALE OF TWO WRENS

The song drew me into the dense forest. It was bubbly, babbling, melodious, complex, and never-ending. But above all, it was loud. In contrast, the singer was rather dull and diminutive. A ruddy-brown bird with a glowing yellow gape, and a short, barred, cocked tail. It was a Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), one of the most characteristic small birds of our coniferous forests.



BIRDS

You will find the Winter Wren in the upper stretches of the Greenway where shadows drape fir, hemlock, spruce or pine forests, and undergrowth, including healthy amounts of deadfall, impede your way. This same species occurs throughout the western mountains, the northeastern United States, and in Asia, Iceland, and Europe. Abroad it is simply called the Wren. In Europe it is found close to people, in city parks and relatively open, even deciduous, forests. In the Greenway, this is not the case. There the Winter Wren is one of the first species to feel the pinch of urbanization and disappear from neighborhood forest remnants. Perhaps forests imbedded in our urban fabric are too dry, too light, too trampled, or too dangerous for the Winter Wren. Its raucous singing and bulbous nests meticulously made from bits of moss, twigs, and leaves may be too easily detected by the rats, cats, and kids that roam these forests. Or is there more to the story?

The City and Country Cousins

The lower, more urban stretches of the Greenway are home to a second, slightly larger, bolder, and possibly more aggressive wren. The Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), a common denizen of the scrubby southern and western United States is adept at exploiting our trappings. They use our nest boxes, inhabit our gardens and shrubs, and thrive in all our forest remnants. They surprise and thrill urbanites with bold eye stripes, bright necklaces, and wonderful songs. They also may be the real reason that Winter Wrens are destined to live in the wilder, colder, darker forests of the Greenway. A superb ability to take advantage of people gives Bewick's Wrens the upper hand in the battle for the lower Greenway. It is not that Winter Wrens can't live with us—they do in Europe—they just don't have a chance to, thanks to the bold Bewick's Wren. This loss is our gain. Suburban sprawl, usually the bane of natural biological diversity, appears to have given us a second wren. Now our challenge is to keep both. This means planning for a diversity of habitats. Rather than a monotony of sprawl, which would benefit Bewick's Wrens, but probably extinguish Winter Wrens, we should contain, not eliminate, sprawl. Our wrens need wildlands AND suburbs. In a diverse region, we can marvel at Winter Wrens where forest dominates the landscape and wonder about Bewick's Wrens where forest only peaks among the houses. A diversity of landscapes gives us a diversity of birds and allows users of the Greenway who follow their ears to be serenaded by two wrens.

- John M. Marzluff, UW College of Forest Resources

Greenway Trails

Seattle Trails

The network of trails in the Mountains to Sound Greenway flows from the spine of Interstate 90, where an ample trail was built into the Lake Washington floating bridge in the late 1980s. While there are still some missing links in the 100-mile system, the bridge trail makes it possible for pedestrians and bicyclists to have the same shot at the mountains as people in cars.

One of the missing links in the Greenway system begins at the end of the I-90 trail on the north end of Beacon Hill and ends at the Seattle



Potential trail route connecting I-90 trails across I-5 to downtown Seattle.

waterfront. Bridging that gap had been a challenge until 2002, when Pete Lagerwey, Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator for the Seattle Department of Transportation wrote a successful grant for funds to fill in one of the toughest missing links in the whole, 100-mile system.

For the past two years, City and State Department of Transportation staff have been designing a trail link that will cross the vast barrier of Interstate 5 and link to the recently completed SR519 overpass that drops to the waterfront on the south edge of Safeco field. "We have several alternative plans now and we expect to finalize in 2006" says Lagerwey. "It will probably take several million dollars in transportation funds to get it built. But we're all motivated by the safe, efficient connection this will make for bicyclists from the east side to the sports fields and to downtown offices. People make that trip already, though on a pretty challenging road system, so a completed I-90-to-Puget Sound trail might really attract people out of cars."

For the past two years, City and State



Jackie Van Anda, new office and finance manager, comes to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust with a strong background in finance and nonprofit management. Jackie recently returned from a trip to the United Arab Emirates and has been a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras. Jackie has a Masters Degree in Divinity and lives in Seattle.



Tomorrow's hikers helped open Seattle's Central Park connector trail to the I-90 trail system in 1998.

Talking About Trails

Trail Expert: "I happened to visit the High School Trail project on Friday and got a dressing down from a user who was irate that we had graveled his trail. I tried to explain why we gravel some trails and invited him to get involved in solutions rather than just standing in judgment of others, but I'm not sure I convinced him."

Hiker: "I appreciate hearing about the angry hiker. Why was he so bothered about the trail being graveled? Why do you gravel some and not others?"

Trail Expert: "The hiker was angry because the gravel 'hurt his feet' which were in ultra-light hiking shoes. I explained that what he had been walking on before was road ballast which is rougher and harder but compacted by the passage of time. The freshly-graveled surface would settle in over the course of the season.

Not being a great fan of gravel, I only advocate it when the soil conditions can't handle the amount of traffic, most likely on low elevation trails where the mineral soils are soft (south sides of Tiger and Squak), or there's a high clay content (the Midfork Valley and the lower north slopes of Tiger and Squak). In this country of broad valleys with steep mountains - a legacy of the glaciers - the valley bottoms are where the problem soils tend to be."

RESTORING PARKS ON MERCER ISLAND

A thick wall of blackberry intertwined with ivy is a daunting sight to anyone removing invasive weeds. However, during the upcoming months Mercer Island community members will arm themselves with gloves and clippers, volunteering with the City of Mercer Island and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to preserve island parks.

Similar to other areas in the Greenway, Mercer Island's invasive weed problem is growing. Invasive plants, originally from other areas of the world, contain characteristics that allow them to dominate another region, with unfortunate consequences. Himalayan Blackberry, English ivy, and ten other species of weeds have infested the Mercer Island's parks, killing native trees and shrubs. The weeds also destroy wildlife habitat, reduce water quality, create unstable soil, and become a breeding ground for rats.

Thankfully, "Removing invasives is great fun!" Said Sue Stewart who pulled ivy and baked brownies for 16 volunteer events at Upper Luther Burbank Park during the last year. "People chat and get to know each other, while working together to make a difference." Stewart, a 30-year resident of Mercer Island recognizes that "parks are a sanity for people who need to escape the urban environment. We need to take care of them."

Volunteers will work at four different parks; Upper Luther Burbank, Mercedale Hillside, Pioneer and Island Crest. The parks were selected by Paul West, City of Mercer Island's Arborist, due to the widespread infestations of invasive plants that are threatening the ecological and recreational values of these places.

Beginning this month, volunteer opportunities will be available to help restore public parks on Mercer Island (*see box at right for dates*). The Greenway Trust's Restoration Project Coordinator, Tor MacIlroy will run many of the weekday morning and monthly Saturday events on Mercer Island. In addition, the Mercer Island youth volunteer program, VOICE, will run Thursday teen events at Upper Luther Burbank Park during the summer.

"I'm looking forward to working on Mercer Island - a critical piece in the Greenway for birds, animals and people." MacIlroy said, "And with the help of volunteers, I know we can make a huge difference in the health of parks that people will use for many years into the future."



ISLAND VOLUNTEER DAYS

WED AY

Every other Thursday 9 -12 am
A great opportunity for adults wanting to make a big difference in a shorter time.

May 5	Pioneer Park
May 19	Island Crest Park
June 2	Pioneer Park
June 16	Mercedale Hillside Park
June 30	Upper Luther Burbank Park
July 14	Island Crest Park
July 28	Upper Luther Burbank Park
August 11	Mercedale Hillside Park
August 25	Pioneer Park

WED _____

One Saturday each month 9 am - 3 pm
Family friendly, bring your scout troop!

Upper Luther Burbank Park

April 23
May 21
June 25
July 23
August 27

Additional dates can be arranged for specific groups

Left: Volunteers spent many hours removing Himalayan Blackberry & English Ivy, giving native species the chance to grow. They gathered the weeds into a giant pile to decompose at the site.

Volunteer Events & Activities

You're invited to celebrate a volunteer

DAY IN THE GREENWAY Saturday May 21

Sponsored by Puget Sound Energy & Asplundh

FOR FOOD, FRIENDS & FUN!



AM: Choose from a variety of volunteer opportunities in the Greenway – families & groups welcome!

PM: Relax and enjoy a FREE BBQ picnic at Lake Sammamish State Park

This 10th anniversary "Day in the Greenway" is a special opportunity to recognize the outstanding commitment of volunteers during the past 10 years. On May 21, hundreds of volunteers, local groups, community members and public agencies will work at twelve different sites building & maintaining trails, removing invasive plants and caring for native seedlings. Day in the Greenway events will involve all ten public land managers within the 100-mile greenway landscape. Work parties will help restore and enhance important natural places including the Mercer Slough, the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River, Gardiner Creek, Tiger Mountain, and Iron Horse State Park. After working 9 am to 12 pm, volunteers from all over the Greenway will join together at Lake Sammamish State Park for a free BBQ picnic party.

Please visit www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer for more information or to register

Thank you, winter volunteer groups!

We appreciate your hard work and support.

Birmingham Southern University	Boy Scouts
Eastlake High School	Epiphany School
Green River Community College	Griffin Home
Issaquah Lacrosse Club	Skyline High School
Preston Gates & Ellis	University of Washington

Office Crews Can Dig, Too!

On March 5th five employees of the Preston Gates & Ellis law firm left their offices, opting for a day of trail work on Tiger Mountain. They chose a group volunteer project to bring their department together while contributing to the local community.

Along with seven other volunteers, Preston Gates & Ellis employees built a rock wall and dug water drainage to protect the West Tiger 3 trail.

"We thoroughly enjoyed the project," said Todd Smith who helped move a giant rock into place, requiring the collaborative effort of five people.

"They were awesome!" Concluded project leader, Pete Kingham. "Each person worked hard and did their best. They pushed themselves physically, and completed high quality work with enthusiasm. I couldn't have asked for a better group to work with."



Preston Gates & Ellis workers model hard hats on Tiger Mountain. From left to right: Susan Elizabeth, Todd Smith, Tanielle Huff, Ken Hillyes, and Amy Theobald.

Funded by a grant from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, this work is part of a year-long effort to upgrade 30 miles of trails on Tiger Mountain in a partnership between the State Department of Natural Resources, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Washington Trails Association and hundreds of volunteers.

MOUNTAIN WORKS 2005

A free summer program for young people ages 11-18 who like to work hard, get dirty, enjoy beautiful views, try new things, camp outdoors and have a great time. No experience is necessary. This summer, young people will venture into the mountains for 6 days of trail building or logging road removal, camping, education, and fun. Mountain Works is run jointly by the Greenway Trust, Earth Corps with support from land managing agencies, youth organizations and individual volunteers.

Register Now!

2005 Session Dates

June 27 - July 2: Monday - Saturday

July 5 - July 10: Tuesday - Sunday

July 13 - July 18: Wednesday - Monday

July 20 - July 25: Wednesday - Monday

To register, please visit:

www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer



Mountain Works participants in 2004 created a trail bed on Rattlesnake Mountain.



Join the Mountains to Sound Greenway **Booth Crew**

Would you like to attend fairs, festivals and other public occasions as a public liaison? The Greenway Trust is looking for interested volunteers who enjoy interacting with people and want to get involved within their community. As part of the Booth Crew, you will help share information and generate enthusiasm about preserving the ecological health, recreational opportunities, and the splendor of the Greenway.

Don't miss this unique chance to help

BOOTH CREW TRAINING On Saturday, May 7 from 10 am - 1 pm in Issaquah a mandatory training will prepare volunteers, giving them the knowledge and skills to staff a booth at events. It includes a short Greenway tour, Greenway education, booth material information, and lunch. Participants are asked to volunteer at various public tabling events for 20 hours during the next year.

For more information or to sign up, please contact:

Emi Morgan 206-812-0122 or volunteer@mtsgreenway.org



A booth volunteer at TrailsFest at Rattlesnake Lake chats with an interested community member.

A LOOK BACK

at the Mountains to Sound Greenway



Copyright 1993 by Darin Klauer

"The Largest Hop Ranch In The World"

Headquartered at the historic town of Meadowbrook, a flourishing hop farm spread over hundreds of acres in the Snoquamie Valley as shown in this 1903 photo. Over 840 acres in the Valley have now been permanently protected as Meadowbrook and Tollgate Farms between Snoqualmie and North Bend.



MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST
1011 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 606
SEATTLE, WA 98104

PHONE (206) 382-5565
VOLUNTEER LINE (206) 812-0122
EMAIL: INFO@MTSGREENWAY.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST

Newsletter Production

Nancy Keith, Amy Brockhaus, Kelly Kirkland, Emily Morgan
Line Drawings: Nicola Yarbrough

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