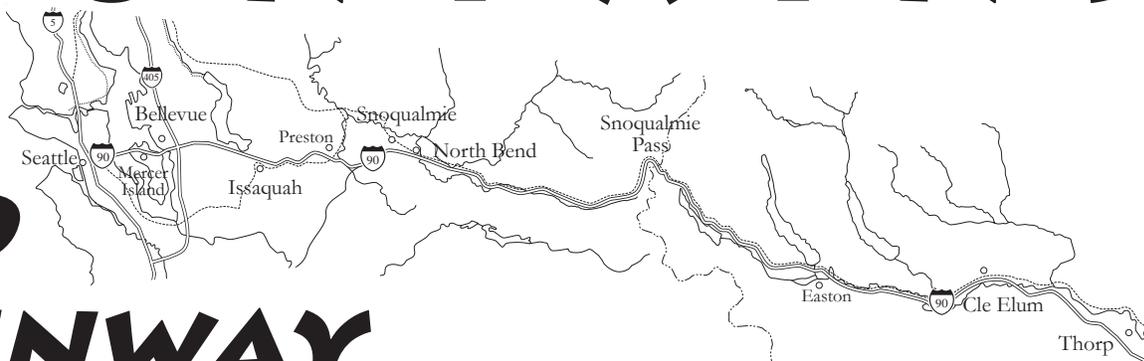


MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY



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

Volume 11, Number 3
October 2004



King County has pledged to purchase development rights on 90,000 acres of the Snoqualmie Forest, just north of the City of Snoqualmie, from Hancock Timber Resource Group. The County's investment will protect an area almost twice the size of Seattle from urban development. The Weyerhaeuser Company originally owned what was the Snoqualmie Tree Farm but sold it to Hancock in 2003. Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Mill, shown here, is no longer in operation. See story page 2.

GREENWAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND NEWS INSIDE - SEE PAGE 5.

SPECTACULAR

Week for King County Conservation Initiatives

People in the cities of central Puget Sound wake up each morning between two dramatic mountain backdrops: the Olympics and the Cascades - the essence of Pacific Northwest landscape.

In the past month, King County leaders joined rural mayors, forest land owners and conservationists to celebrate two massive agreements and public investments that will guarantee that a large portion of the Cascades front range will remain covered in trees and protected from future conversion to urban uses, forever.

Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative Saves Falls and Greenway Forests

In late August, County leaders, Weyerhaeuser Company executives, the Mayor of the City of Snoqualmie and the Cascade Land Conservancy stamped "done" on an innovative deal called the Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative that will protect the landscape behind Snoqualmie Falls from urban development as well as 2,800 acres of forest land and wildlife habitat in the Raging River Valley, just south of I-90, and 650 acres along the nearby Snoqualmie Valley and Preston Snoqualmie trails. In exchange, the City and Weyerhaeuser agreed to speed up the schedule for Phase Two of the Snoqualmie Ridge housing development that Weyerhaeuser's Quadrant division has been planning and building in the City since the 1980s.

The agreement that involved purchases of land and development rights by King County, Weyerhaeuser and the City of Snoqualmie was brokered by the Cascade Land Conservancy in 2001. It required a sequence of plans, agreements, purchases and permits to occur before the whole package of conservation benefits was secure. An August 30 celebration at Snoqualmie Falls marked the successful closure of all elements.

Easements to Protect Vast Snoqualmie Tree Farm

Just three days later, many of the same people announced another huge conservation achievement: King County will buy the development rights on most of the 104,000-acre Snoqualmie Forest that forms part of the

"That huge tree farm has been a conservation focus for many groups for the past decade," says Jim Ellis, founding president of the Greenway Trust. "Harvests help keep timber jobs in the traditional timber towns in rural King County. The huge forest is a mecca for hikers, fishers and recreation seekers and it provides major wildlife habitat. In recent years, we've become aware of new benefits for the people of the region provided by the capacity of trees to absorb and store carbon dioxide and generate oxygen to help maintain air quality. Now, with salmon on the threatened species list, the erosion control and water filtering capacity of forest lands are also of great importance."

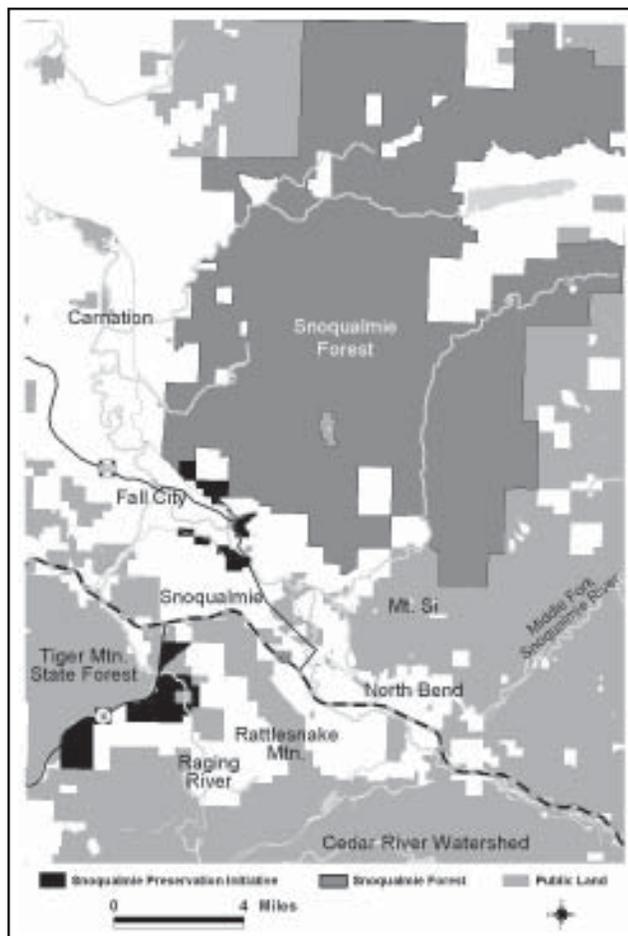
Ellis Credits Bold Thinking

At the age of 83, Jim Ellis has led many successful efforts to fund large, regional conservation projects, beginning with the creation of regional sewage treatment to protect the quality of lakes and streams followed by public bond campaigns to fund the purchase of parks and farm land.

"It gives me the greatest imaginable pleasure to see a new generation of conservation-minded leaders take on such huge challenges," Ellis says. "I can't put enough emphasis on the creativity and remarkable cooperation it took to reach agreements like these. To see each of them come to fruition is a testimony to the skills of the people involved."

"I think the title of 'visionary' has got to go to County Executive Ron Sims, County Council Chair Larry Phillips and President Gene Duvernoy of the Cascade Land Conservancy. It's very seldom that any of us look 30 years into the future and imagine the possible changes in this region. Each of these men has not only done the looking ahead, they've made huge personal investments in time and effort to make sure the future will be a healthy one."

Ellis credits Sims for a continuous commitment to protecting open space in King County. "He's taken a lot of heat for his stands on protecting rural areas and enforcing growth management but among the hundreds of issues he has to deal with daily, he has pushed continuously for land conservation because he knows what it's value will be for our kids and grandkids.



front range of the Cascades north of I-90. As a result, public or private owners can continue to log the land, but it cannot be converted to urban uses. Roughly 12,450 acres are not part of the purchase and may accommodate future, rural-density development around the south edge of the tree farm. Five thousand of those acres are on the Snohomish County border.

“Larry Phillips has been a leader in environmental protection through land conservation since he began on the County Council in 1991. Getting the entire Council to support such programs as Waterways 2000 and the Mountains to Sound Greenway shows a level of diplomacy and leadership that’s essential if government is going to put some of our tax dollars to the things that can make a long-term difference. Larry’s proposal to use accumulated Conservation Futures tax funds to buy development rights of the Snoqualmie Tree Farm was controversial among supporters of many good open space projects throughout the County. But with his eyes on the future, he took the choice that would bring the biggest, long-term gain.”

Ellis also credits Snoqualmie Mayor Fuzzy Fletcher. “His commitment to protect the landscape of the Falls was strong enough to enable him to accept accelerated growth for his city when many people would probably have liked to see it slow down. Over a million people visit the Falls every year. Just imagine if houses replaced the huge old trees on its skyline! That was a courageous choice.”

Innovative Agreements Require Diverse Partners

Ellis continues, “Negotiations like these two transactions are complex with many interests that must have their needs understood and met. Fortunately, the non-profit conservation community has given us people like Gene Duvernoy. He has grown his organization, the Cascade Land Conservancy, into a very effective conservation broker that can handle projects like these. Gene brings a particularly imaginative talent to negotiations that always seem to give all the parties what they need to make an agreement.”

Timber Company Support Essential

“Of course, neither of these great victories would exist without the support and real commitment to conservation of the two timber companies involved: Weyerhaeuser and Hancock Timber Resources. Without Weyerhaeuser’s deep love for the timber-growing capacity of our Northwest forest lands, we would not have a Mountains to Sound Greenway. From our beginning in 1991, they have been willing to cooperate and contribute patience, expertise and funds to a whole series of public purchases and exchanges that account for a major portion of the scenic I-90 corridor. They have been strong supporters and members of our Board from the beginning.

“Hancock is relatively new to this region and we have been holding our breath to see what their plans would be for the Snoqualmie Tree Farm which they purchased from Weyerhaeuser three years ago. John Davis of Hancock told us they were interested in conserving the land and by this agreement, they have backed their words with action. To realize how valuable their efforts have been, I just have to recall that someone once said, ‘That whole tree farm is going to be suburbia one of these days. You might as well get used to it.’

“The fact that this beautiful part of the Cascade foothills will not become suburbia is a testimony to the ability of people to envision the long-term, common good and work hard and successfully to make it happen,” Ellis says. “I think that’s pretty inspiring and hopeful for our future.”

FEDERAL AND GATES FUNDS JOIN SNOQUALMIE POINT PARK PROJECT



Views from Snoqualmie Point include the entire Snoqualmie Forest, being protected by King County.

A plan to enhance the visitor facilities at Snoqualmie Point, just off I-90 at exit 27, got a boost in mid-summer when Congress awarded \$596,460 to the Greenway Trust for design and construction at the sweeping regional viewsite. The Federal funds will be coupled with a 2003 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to create a view promontory, view shelter, restrooms, an entry road, parking and trails. Snoqualmie Point Park is owned and managed by the City of Snoqualmie.

Federal funds have come to the rescue of Snoqualmie Point several times, says Greenway Executive Director Nancy Keith. “This latest grant had an excellent champion in Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn. She and her staff pushed for the funding in a special round of projects within the larger 2004 transportation budget.” The purchase and protection of the property in 2000 was achieved with Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds, sponsored by then-Senator Slade Gorton. In 2001, the Federal Highways Scenic Byways program funded a Master Site Plan for the park.

“We’ve had a very rewarding partnership with the Greenway Trust on this property,” says City of Snoqualmie Parks Director Al Frank. “This viewsite might have been covered in office buildings, but by working with the Greenway Trust, Trust for Public Land and the U.S. Forest Service, we were able to keep it for the public as one of the most spectacular view spots in Western Washington. It should remain a very natural kind of park that Snoqualmie people can continue to use and share with people from all over the region who come to look at the Cascades, from Mt. Si to Mt. Baker.”

In 2003, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation granted \$500,000 to the Snoqualmie Point Viewsite Park project. Those funds will be meshed with federal funds to pay for design and construction of improved access and view facilities. The park is expected to be completed by April, 2006.

Middle Fork Valley: Neglected No More

S ometime in the 1970s, hikers, fishers and camping families quit going into the Middle Fork Valley of the Snoqualmie River. The 100,000-acre forest and river corridor just east of Mt Si had become an outlaw haven where car thieves, drug lab operators, garbage dumpers and angry hermits with guns became a dominating influence. People didn't feel safe.

In the 1990, some Seattle hikers decided that the vast forest at the western edge of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness should play a bigger role in satisfying the growing demand for places to hike, canoe, fish, picnic and enjoy nature, if only the lawless component of the valley could be controlled.

Citizens Push

Seattle medical software specialist Mark Boyar created the Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition and began to improve trails and call attention to the problem. In the mid-90s, a Texas couple, Wade and Tania Holden, moved to the edge of the valley and were shocked at the huge piles of garbage they found along the banks of the wild river. They formed Friends of the Trail and single-handedly built a massive volunteer clean-up program to end dumping in forest open spaces.

This summer, another initiative began to put brakes on trashing in the valley. With funds from a private donor, the Osberg Family Trust, the Director of Field Programs for the Greenway Trust, Doug



What was a muddy track to the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River has been converted to a camp site near the river with a few parking spaces along the main road, partially fenced by a rock berm. This is one of 16 sites rebuilt to prevent damaging vehicle use on the river bank, thanks to funding from the Osberg Family Trust.

Schindler, supervised a project to permanently close 16 unofficial spur roads that led from the main Middle Fork road into sensitive areas along the river where trashing has occurred for years.

Out of Sight - Out of Control

"There are over 50 of these spur roads leading right to the edge of the river," Schindler says, "and they are one of the main problem areas up there.

Over the years, Jeep and foot trails have been widened by four-wheelers and despite regular cleanups they're always full of abandoned cars, appliances and heaps of spent gun shells and discarded beer cans. Vehicles have mowed down expanses of underbrush and trees to create mazes of muddy 4-wheel trails.

Sometimes, people drove right into the river."



Target shooters leave hundreds of shotgun shells and piles of trash along spur roads in the Middle Fork Valley.

Schindler

adds, "the majority of these "roads" are on US Forest Service land, and they intend to close others further upstream as funding allows, but with this donation from the Osberg Family Trust, we were able to deal with the worst of these sites, 15 on Forest Service lands and one on the state Department of Natural Resources land."

Schindler supervised heavy machinery work to loosen compacted soils in the roads, cover them with woody debris and shrubs and add berms of large rocks to block vehicle access. Some sites were turned into trails leading to walk-in picnic and camping sites with parking spots next to the main road for 3-4 cars. "We don't want vehicles right on the river bank destroying fragile habitat," Schindler says.

Improvement projects in the Middle Fork Valley have been growing since 1996 when the Greenway Trust, the Forest Service, State and County agencies and user groups completed a Public Use Plan for the valley. It identified strategies to make the valley a safer place for people and a healthy place for fish and wildlife.

RECREATION GROUPS COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE MIDDLE FORK RIVER ACCESS

As the Greenway Trust began closing roads along the Middle Fork River, American Whitewater and the National Parks Service were beginning to create an access plan for river users on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The plan identified several of these unofficial roads as important access points for kayakers, rafters and canoers. Taking advantage of the opportunity, recreation groups teamed up with the Greenway to add trails and parking for river users as illegal vehicle access was closed.

“The timing was perfect. These groups were able to leverage our road closing funding to bring in more funding, which allowed us to turn these trashed sites into the access points they needed with real trails and parking,” said Doug Schindler of the Greenway Trust.

American Whitewater received a grant from Tom’s of Maine, and local river groups including the Washington Kayak Club, University Kayak Club and the Paddle Trails Canoe Club also chipped in funding to move the project forward. These groups also identified additional river access sites along the Middle Fork, stretching from the Taylor River almost

all the way down to Snoqualmie Falls. “One of the most popular sites for kayakers is the abandoned Mine Creek campground,” Schindler said. “There are cars parked there almost every day. We were able to work with river users and the WA State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR) to build a new graveled trail at this site, replacing a dangerous scramble down a steep drainage outlet. Now it’s a gentle 400’ trail from the road to the river.”

Another river access site has also been officially opened over the past year as EarthCorps and the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks built a beautiful access trail near the confluence of the Middle Fork River and Granite Creek.

“This is a great beginning to improving several sites that historically have been



More than 50 volunteers joined the WADNR Washington Conservation Corps crew to move soil and heavy rocks and dig a wider trail to make this popular river access point safer and easier to use.

used by river folks and we are excited to have this opportunity to work with a great coalition to address resource degradation issues, enhance user experiences and provide safe and convenient access to the water,” notes Thomas O’Keefe, a volunteer with American Whitewater who has been coordinating the river access efforts.



Mine Creek access point: before



Mine Creek access point: after

Photo credits: Tom O’Keefe

See the next page for a list of fall volunteer events!

Trees for Issaquah

Planting Dates

Oct. 23

*Sammamish Stewardship
Saturday at Kees Creek*

Oct. 30 & 31

Tibbetts Creek

Nov. 7

Issaquah Creek

Nov. 13

Issaquah Creek

Nov. 20

Tibbetts Creek

Dec. 11

Issaquah Creek

The Issaquah Creek Basin is about 61 square miles and is bordered by Tiger, Squak and Taylor mountains. Even though the basin has many acres of good habitat for wildlife, existing streamside areas are filled with more than 50% non-native plants.

Trees along Issaquah streams are critical to healthy salmon runs and clean water.

Native vegetation shades and cleans the water, and provides important habitat for fish and wildlife large and small. Increasing the number of native trees and shrubs along these creeks will ensure a healthier and more beautiful basin.

Additional Issaquah Events

Oct. 6

Team Leader Training

Oct. 16

Issaquah Stream Team Water Quality Training

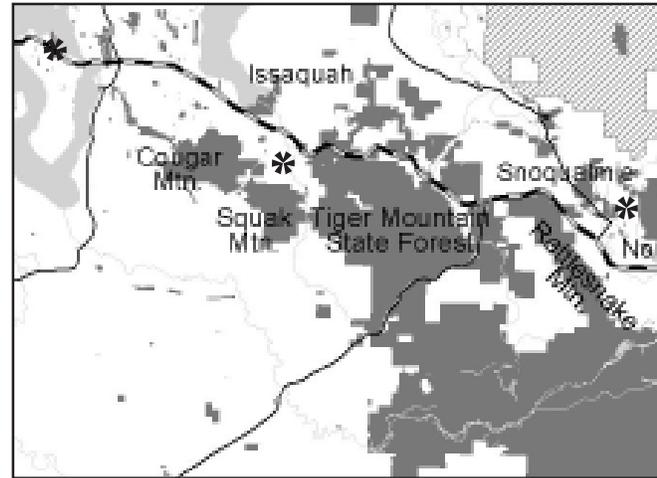
Nov. 6

Community Teaching Garden

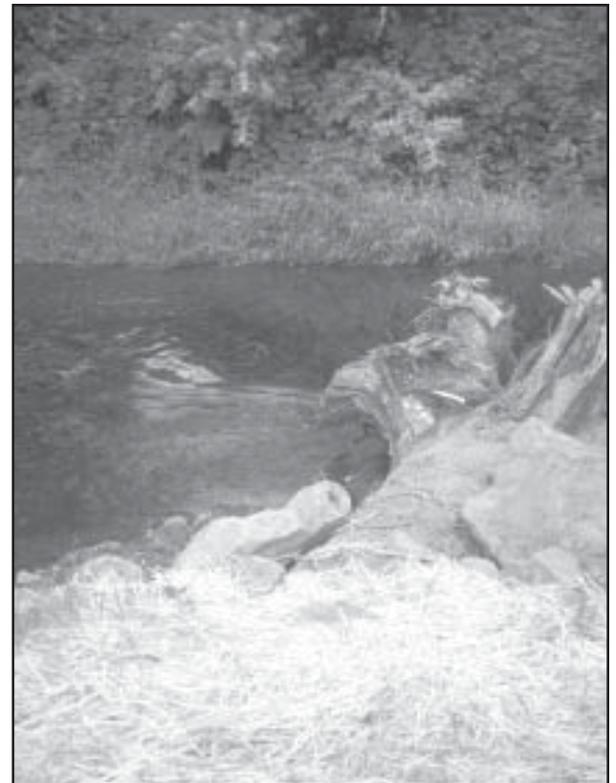
For more information please contact Chrys Bertolotto
at chrysb@ci.issaquah.wa.us or 425-837-3442.



Green



The Greenway tree planting season expands this year with big projects in the Snoqualmie Valley, as well as small plantings on Mercer Island and...



Left: Issaquah Creek, right: the banks of Gardiner Creek in North Bend. These sites of blackberries and other invasive weeds. Now all the fall pl...

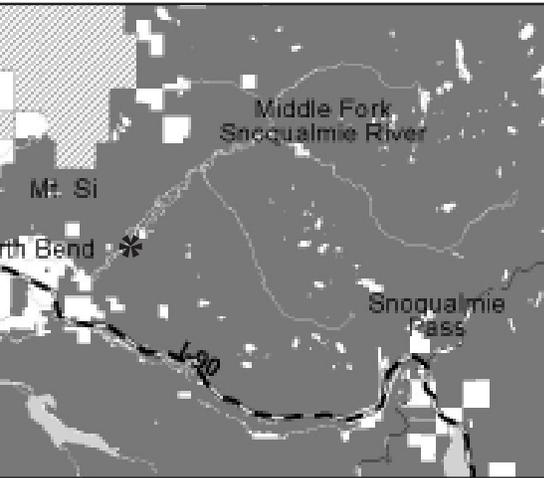
WHAT'S MISSING FROM THE

To volunteer to plant trees this fall, please call
phone at 206-812-0122 or by email
or visit www.mtsgreenway.org/volunteer

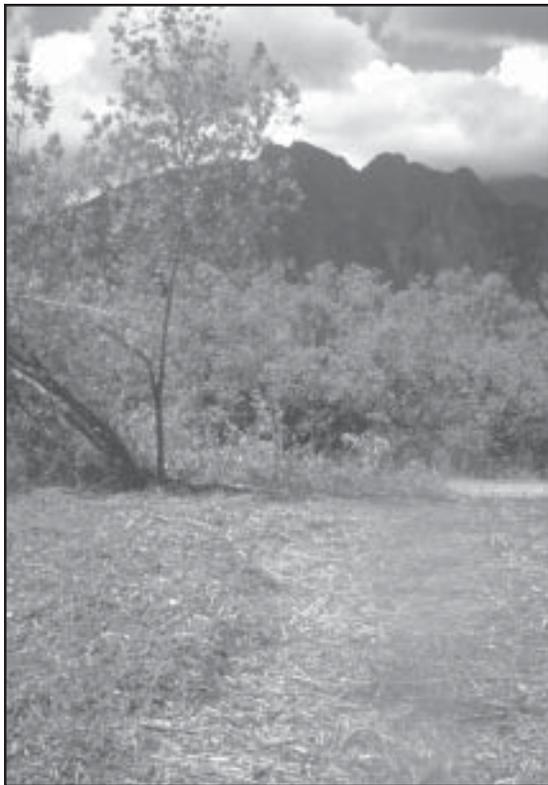
Greenway Volunteer Program

Connecting People and Landscapes Through Volunteer Stewardship

FALL PROJECTS



Projects at several sites in the City of Issaquah and in the Upper Valley in the Mid Fork Valley.



Volunteers have been working hard all summer to clear planting sites ready to be filled with 12,500 native plants.

THESE PICTURES? YOU!

Please contact Kelly Kirkland by email at volunteer@mtsgreenway.org or We can't do this without you!

Creating Healthier Rivers in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley

At any given moment, millions of gallons of water are flowing through the Upper Snoqualmie Valley and tumbling over Snoqualmie Falls. These waters and the surrounding natural areas are a valuable resource to people and wildlife who depend them for high water quality—and a high quality of life.

Planting Dates

Oct. 16 & 17

Gardiner Creek at Meadowbrook Farm

Oct. 23

Snoqualmie River at the Meadowbrook Bridge

Oct. 24

Kimball Creek in Snoqualmie

Nov. 6

Gardiner Creek at Meadowbrook Farm

Dec. 4

Gardiner Creek at Meadowbrook Farm

This fall, hundreds of volunteers will work to improve both. They will dig up invasive weeds and plant native trees and shrubs. This work will reduce erosion, improving water quality for local residents and salmon downstream, and add habitat for wildlife.

These restoration projects are a collaboration between the City of Snoqualmie and the City of North Bend, the Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust with funding provided by a King Conservation District Grant and a King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Rural Community Partnership Grant.

Volunteer Stewardship Program FIELD NOTES

Upper Luther Burbank Park

In a new partnership between the Greenway Trust and the City of Mercer Island, young people with the Mercer Island VOICE (Volunteer Outreach in Communities Everywhere) program removed invasive English Ivy from Luther Burbank Park. VOICE volunteers hope to team up with other Mercer Island locals to plant trees in this wooded park straddling I-90 this fall.

Little Si Trail

REI and the Access Fund, a national non-profit which promotes climbing access, teamed up with the Greenway to improve the trail on Little Si. Andy Fitz, a local member of the Access Fund, spearheaded this project to improve the route that leads to a very popular climbing site on the mountain that has gotten extremely muddy with so many feet traveling up it. Andy worked with the WA State Department of Natural Resources to get permission for the work and then wrote a grant to REI for \$3,300 to fund it. Volunteers and passing hikers carried wooden poles and gravel up the trail to create over 100 feet of raised trail, called turnpike, and over 1,000 additional feet of trail were hardened with gravel.

United Way Day of Caring

For the past two years about 25 Microsoft employees have helped the Greenway in honor of this annual corporate service day sponsored by the United Way of King County. This year, over 80 Microsoft volunteers weeded thousands of plants at the Mountains to Sound Nursery and hauled gravel and poles up the Little Si Trail. Also, a hardworking group of folks from Symetra Financial removed invasive weeds from along Tibbetts Creek. Overall, 127 volunteers made Day of Caring 2004 by far the most successful yet.

National Public Lands Day

Large, connected areas of public land are one of the most treasured aspects of the Mountains to Sound Greenway. On Saturday, Sept. 18th, dozens of volunteers from Seattle University, REI and Boeing worked with the Greenway Trust to celebrate public lands by working at sites managed by WA State Parks and the WA State Department of Natural Resources.

GREENWAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Are you a student, parent or teacher of 5th-10th grades in King County? If so, it's time to sign up for "Seeking Solutions," free environmental education units that include both in-class lessons and field trips to Tiger Mountain State Forest. Students learn about the importance of keeping forests on the edge of the city, recycling, salmon or soils. For more information or to sign up your class, contact Sally Kentch at 206-524-1665 or sally.kentch@mtsgreenway.org, or visit www.mtsgreenway.org and click on Environmental Education.

Wilder Elementary School students joined teacher Richey Shipley at Tiger Mountain State Forest for a field trip.



Students learn about tree growth and forest health. For many, this is their first trip into the woods.

Environmental Educator Sally Kentch, center right, teaches Tukwila Elementary students and teacher Robert House about why salmon need a healthy forest to survive.



King County Biosolids Win National Certification

King county's process for producing biosolids, the highly treated by-products of sewage treatment, recently won high marks in a review of production and management practices by independent auditors. Biosolids have been recycled in selected Greenway forests since 1995, when the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust joined King County and other partners in an innovative recycling program that fertilizes forests and generates funds to sustain the forest land base.

Only two other wastewater management systems in the nation have received the National Biosolids Partnership seal of approval, according to Lisa Vogel, who coordinates the Environmental Management System for the County.

King County's safe management of biosolids production and recycling procedures met standards set by the National Biosolids Partnership, a consortium of environmental protection agencies and national metropolitan sewerage agencies. The certification process requires technicians who work in all phases of wastewater treatment to answer questions and demonstrate procedures in 17 different elements of the treatment and recycling process.

Innovative Program Begun in 1995

After two years of study and public involvement, the Greenway Trust became an advocate for recycling King County biosolids on local forest lands. "Sustaining working, harvested forests was the only viable way to insure that forests weren't converted to urban uses," says Trust Executive Director Nancy Keith. "We also realized that continuous harvesting over a century has depleted nutrients from forest soils in the western Cascades," she says. "In the 1990s, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a 10-year study on the public health and environmental impacts of biosolids in soils. King County's biosolids have always measured at the top of the EPA's standards. Given the pressures on forest land, it seemed to us that recycling biosolids as fertilizer on forest lands in the county where those wastes are generated was a good model of sustainable practices."



Applied by a spreader that can fling them over 200 feet, biosolids add humus to soils and increase fertility in forests.

Since 1995, King County Wastewater Treatment Division funds have been used to purchase over 5,000 acres of public forest land in the Greenway corridor. Not all lands are suitable for biosolids application, but all generate harvest revenues for the county and will be protected permanently as working forests.

Partners in the Greenway Biosolids Forestry Program are: the State Department of Natural Resources, using biosolids to fertilize select state forests and managing forest lands purchased for King County; the University of Washington College of Forest Resources, providing technical recommendations and monitoring; the Weyerhaeuser Company which has used biosolids as fertilizer on its King County forests, and the Greenway Trust, which uses biosolids compost in a variety of environmental restoration projects and also offers an environmental education program to schools on biosolids and related sustainable forest topics.

GREENWAY TRUST ADDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Six new members have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. They are:

Jim Pearman, Mercer Island City Council member and former director of the Eastside Convention and Visitors Bureau; **Danny Levine**, president of NationAd Communications, a media marketing firm, a recreational user of the Greenway and volunteer for the first annual Greenway Discovery Days; **Tod McDonald**, recreational user of the Greenway and principal in the Cascade Capital Group; **Kollin Min**, Seattle attorney, State former legislative aide and Executive Director of the Cascades Conservation Partnership, recently named Vice President for Programs of the Cascadia Region Green Building Council; **Jim Boynton**, the new Forest Supervisor of the Wenatchee National Forest and **Judith Maxwell**, long-time member of the Mountaineers.

"Our Board of Directors is unique in bringing together so many different interests from business and the environmental community that can agree about the future of the I-90 corridor," says Greenway President Bill Chapman. "We're excited that these new members

bring personal qualities that will enrich our group and new skills and energy to help carry out Greenway goals and reach the public with our story."

The Greenway Advisory Council also added new members, including **Jim Franzel**, North Bend District Ranger for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; Honorable **Charles Glondo**, Mayor of Cle Elum; Honorable **Ken Hearing**, Mayor of North Bend; **Julie Keough**, the Weyerhaeuser Company and **Rodney Smoldon**, Cle Elum District Ranger, Wenatchee National Forest.

Greenway Trust officers elected in June 2004 are: President: **Bill Chapman**; Immediate Past President: **Sally Jewell**; Vice President: **Rich Hanson**; Vice President-Funding: **Jerry Henry**; Vice President-Stewardship: **Sue McLain**; Vice President - Kittitas: **Rich Grillo**; Secretary: **Karl Forsgaard**; Treasurer: **Ed Oberg**; President Emeritus: **Jim Ellis**.

The Trust board meets five times a year to guide policy, coordinate projects in nine cities and two counties and promote broad support for the Greenway. All board members are volunteers.

PEAKS OF THE GREENWAY SERIES #2 SQUAK MOUNTAIN



Photo by Phil Sturholm

Heading East of Lake Washington on I-90, travelers pass the urbanized flanks of Cougar Mountain, drop into the valley and see the dark green forests of Squak Mountain forming the southern backdrop to the city of Issaquah. Squak is the middle of the three peaks of the “Issaquah Alps” that embrace the city and is 2,024 feet high at its summit. One flank of Squak rolls right down into town, touching the urban center along Newport Way.

Squak Mountain covers 8.75 square miles. It’s crowned by a 590-acre parcel donated to the public by Seattle’s Bullitt family in 1972 with the provision that it remain a non-motorized wilderness. Thanks to State Parks and King County purchases, roughly 40% of the mountain is owned by the public, with a Washington State Parks trailhead on the south side of the mountain on May Valley Road which is popular with hikers and equestrians. Squak Mountain trails connect to both Cougar and Tiger mountains, and can also be reached from the Issaquah Trail Center, downtown at 110 SE Bush Street.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club has just published *Squak Mountain: an Island in the Sky*, by Doug Simpson. (www.issaquahalps.org)

Greenway People:

Bill Chapman, newly-elected president of the Greenway Board of Directors, came of age during the developing environmental awareness of the late 60’s and early 70’s. He witnessed the first Earth Day, participated in early recycling efforts in his rural hometown, and studied the expectation-exceeding cleanup of Lake Washington in wastewater engineering courses at Harvard. Chapman says he grew up with a sense that he wanted to contribute in some way to shaping the community and the environment around him.

Today Chapman is a partner in the law firm of Preston Gates and Ellis, a founding member of the Greenway Trust board and one of the founders of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition. In his day job, he often represents clients seeking to build business facilities that will meet community concerns and comply with land use and environmental regulations.

Outside the office, he chairs the Mercer Island Planning Commission, is active in conservation groups and now has been elected to succeed Sally Jewell as head of the Greenway Trust. Many weekends find Bill Chapman studying the lessons of the mountains, step-by-step, ascending some of the most challenging summits in the state.

Looking for the Balance

Coverage of the first International Earth Day in 1970 sparked Chapman’s lifelong interest. “I was fascinated by the implications of the science coming out,” he says, “wanting to understand just how much damage we could be doing, how much the natural systems could take, and how science offered some solutions to pursuing both environmental goals and economic aspirations.” To answer that question, Chapman studied environmental engineering as an undergraduate and taught high school physics briefly before taking a job in Washington, D.C. as a policy analyst for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the White House staff, under President Carter.

“I learned a lot through those experiences,” Chapman says. “At EPA and in the White House, we debated furiously about the right things to do and the right way to do them. But then, Carter was defeated and a new administration came in with very different approaches to the environment and it made me see that we had been debating about very small differences. I realized that you don’t have a full and real debate unless you invite in the people who think very differently.” At that point, Chapman went to law school.

The diversity of interests on the Greenway Board fits his experience. “I come home from every meeting inspired by the warmth of all these people who might be on very different sides of the fence on certain things. But there they are, making connections and talking animatedly with each other and relishing all the things we’ve accomplished together.”

BILL CHAPMAN



Bill Chapman on top of Black Peak in the North Cascades.

Diversity Fosters Greenway Success

“The Greenway started with tremendously difficult goals - to set aside from development a hundred miles of forests – but the realism we developed by listening to many points of view has really helped us. Some people have been surprised to see the Greenway Trust supporting a gravel mine on Grouse Ridge for example,” Chapman says, “but by listening to all the possibilities for that site and facing the legal and physical realities of it, we could weigh those with the environmental necessities and negotiate for smart siting of facilities and meticulous environmental planning with long-range conservation benefits. Without months of discussion in our Board meetings, the results might have been very different in the landscape.”

What Remains To Be Done?

What are top priorities for the Greenway Trust now? “Complete the protection of significant lands in the 100-mile corridor that are still vulnerable to development; fill in the gaps in a trail network that can lead safely from the cities to the mountains and build the Greenway Stewardship program into a model for cooperation between land management agencies, environmental organizations and volunteers.”

“People won’t see the magnitude of the Greenway for another 10 or 15 years,” Chapman says, “but when population in the region is close to double what it is now, the green corridor of forests, parks and trails linking to the mountains will be a marvel.”

RAVENS

The large bird’s shallow wing beats, ebony gloss, and attention to the world beneath it gave away its identity even before I heard its hoarse craaawk. The common raven and its probable lifelong mate were flying directly at me, scanning I-90 for the evening’s carnage. A freshly killed raccoon was too much to resist. The pair circled, landed nearby, and waited patiently. Their meal was going nowhere. To hurry is careless and risky. Ravens are neither careless nor risky. I drove on, savoring this contact with a scavenger who has been cleaning up after sloppy predators for millions of years.



The inspiration I derived was nothing new. Ravens have stimulated our culture since the dawn of humankind. Indeed, Tony Angell and I speculate that our culture has actually co-evolved with the raven’s culture. Like a hummingbird’s beak that is molded by the shape of the flowers they probe for nectar, the raven’s behavior is shaped by opportunities we provide. And the raven shapes our behavior in return.

As native people dried salmon, ravens snuck in to steal their share. People erected scarecrows or posted children to shoo the thieves away. The challenges of keeping a smart and social adversary out of their food stores may have ultimately stimulated people to incorporate ravens into their legends and religion. They carved totem poles and danced in their honor. Raven was creator. Europeans also revered ravens. The Norse god, Odin, relied on them. Noah utilized them. Greeks named a constellation for them. Poe and Hitchcock immortalized them. Even today’s sports teams turn to them for inspiration—The Baltimore Ravens are an NFL team.

Ravens have also adapted to our love-hate relationship with them. Where we persecute them, they are shy. But where we ignore or revere them, they are bold. The raven pair I saw as bold. They knew the road and used it the cars that drive it as a tool. Their culture of patrolling the road has coevolved with our culture of driving. My encounter was just the latest in this long line of interactions.

- John Marzluff

A LOOK BACK

at the Mountains to Sound Greenway



Early Issaquah Logging

A team of oxen pull logs across a bridge near the south end of Lake Sammamish, circa 1888. Early logging was done with human and animal labor. In the early 1900's, "steam donkeys" were invented. These steam-powered machines used cables to pull logs to a central point, replacing the oxen that had once done this job.

Photo courtesy of the Issaquah Historical Society.



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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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