



# Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Milestones

## 1990

Hundreds of citizens march from Snoqualmie Pass to the Seattle waterfront to dramatize the need for a Greenway plan

## 1991

Citizens form the non-profit Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, with civic leader Jim Ellis as president

60 people from many interests elected to Greenway Trust Board of Directors

The Trust for Public Land supports the Greenway with a loaned executive and administrative assistance

## 1992

70-member Technical Advisory Committee begins gathering information and planning

State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designates over 4000 acres on Tiger Mountain, just east of Issaquah as a Natural Resource Conservation area

Boeing, Microsoft, and Weyerhaeuser pledge multi-year start-up donations

Bullitt Foundation funds research, writing and publication of a book about the Greenway

## 1993

The Boeing Company loans an executive to work full time for the Greenway Trust on a continuing basis

Mountains to Sound: The Creation of a Greenway Across the Cascades, 128 pp., published

Technical Committee produces Greenway Concept Plan defining goals and describing 70 projects along the 100-mile scenic corridor

Weyerhaeuser and Seattle Rotary sponsor the first Greenway tree-planting at Jose Rizal Park on Beacon Hill

Nine cities and two counties along the route endorse the Greenway concept

First public land acquisition for Greenway: 1800 acres on top of Rattlesnake Mountain

Outdoor writer Harvey Manning publishes Hiking the Mountains to Sound Greenway with photographer Ira Spring

## 1994

400 acres of historic Meadowbrook Farm preserved between North Bend and Snoqualmie

The Washington Forest Protection Association sponsors sixteen local history interpretive signs around the Snoqualmie Valley in cooperation with the Greenway Trust

State Parks opens the long-closed 2.3-mile tunnel under Snoqualmie Pass for summer use by John Wayne Pioneer Trail users

18 acres, zoned commercial, are acquired and protected at popular High Point trailhead, 20 miles east of Seattle on I-90

In support of Greenway scenic highway goals, the state Department of Transportation, (WSDOT) eliminates plans for a truck weigh station at key I-90 view spot

## 1995

Cle Elum, Roslyn, Kittitas County and the Greenway Trust acquire a 6-mile abandoned railroad right-of-way from Burlington Northern Railroad to create the Coal Mines Trail

130-acre Lind property, straddling highway 18 at I-90 is purchased by the US Forest Service as the nation's first Forest Legacy project

Innovative Biosolids Forestry Program developed and authorized to recycle treated sewage wastes, fertilize forests, generate public revenues and acquire public forest lands in the Greenway corridor

Greenway Trust and the stewardship organization EarthCorps initiate on-going program to bring young people into the mountains to remove abandoned logging roads

By community request, the Greenway corridor expands to include the historic town of Thorp in central Washington and Alki Point and Discovery Park on the Seattle waterfront

State Parks adds 620 acres to double the size of Squak Mountain State Park in Issaquah

WSDOT installs four large Greenway signs along I-90

Congress allocates \$3.2 million for public purchase of 1,000 acres of old growth forest at Silver Creek, north of I-90 at Easton, in the eastern Greenway

City of Bellevue adds a mile of landscaped bike and pedestrian trail alongside I-90 from Eastgate to West Lake Sammamish Parkway

## 1996

State and county agencies fund a two-year planning process to address security, sanitation and recreation needs in the 110,000-acre Middle Fork Valley of the Snoqualmie River, just east of Mt. Si, producing a River Corridor Public Use Concept Plan

Greenway Trust initiates environmental education program “Seeking Solutions,” for local schools focusing on forests, water quality and recycling

Greenway Trust receives the Puget Sound Regional Council “Vision 2020” Award

The US Environmental Protection Agency recognizes 5 partners in the Greenway Biosolids Forestry Program with awards for Innovative Conservation Programs with Public Benefits

King County initiates 4-to-1 land use program on Grand Ridge and preserves 1400 acres of open space near the Greenway forest gateway

Puget Sound Energy awards \$50,000 for use on Greenway community projects

## 1997

Washington State Department of Natural Resources adds 6,720 acres to public land in the Snoqualmie River Middle Fork valley through land exchange with Champion Timber Company

King County protects Issaquah Creek and Lake Sammamish headwaters by acquiring 1300 acres of Taylor Mountain Forest on Highway 18

King County expands a forest connection between Cougar and Squak mountains with acquisition of Sunset Quarry

Federal and local funds combine to add 1100 acres to public forest on Rattlesnake Mountain

Puget Sound Energy and Asplundh Tree Expert Company employees begin annual donation of equipment and labor for “Day in the Greenway” maintenance on the John Wayne Pioneer Trail and other sites in the Greenway

National Park Service, Plum Creek Timber and local donors fund recreation improvements at Speelyi Beach on Lake Cle Elum

10 miles of abandoned logging roads removed in the Middle Fork Valley by Greenway youth volunteer program over next 3 years

WSDOT completes 4-volume “Greenway Implementation Plan”

Lake Sammamish State Park provides space for a permanent nursery for trees used in Greenway planting projects

Washington Trails Association provides volunteers for 6,000 hours of trail maintenance along the Greenway

Greenway Trust and National Park Service produce 20-minute audio visual program, “Taking Charge: Successful Models of Scenic Towns and Highways,” distributed nationally by the American Planning Association

Greenway Trust receives a national award for scenic and recreation preservation from Scenic America

## 1998

The Federal Highways Administration designates the 100-mile Greenway a National Scenic Byway

Weyerhaeuser sells and donates 1,750 acres as permanent public forest land on Grouse Ridge, east of North Bend. Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen adds a large donation to acquire riverfront parcels

The US Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser complete the Huckleberry Land Exchange, adding 25,000 acres to the public forests along the Greenway

Seattle Mayor Paul Schell and WSDOT ensure that a Greenway trail is included in plans for State Route 519 connecting I-90 to the Seattle waterfront

Central Park Trail is connected to the I-90 Greenway trail in Seattle's Central District

The Boeing Company donates design and printing of "Greenway Adventures" tour guide brochure

The Seattle Water Department makes major recreation improvements and begins building a watershed education center at Rattlesnake Lake, south of North Bend

Volunteers join state and county staff to complete the first official trail across Rattlesnake Mountain

King County purchases 12 miles of abandoned rail right of way along the east shore of Lake Sammamish for a trail that will connect Seattle to eastern King County and I-90: one of the longest urban bicycle and pedestrian trail systems in the United States

Kittitas County citizens make dramatic improvements to 6-mile historic Coal Mines Trail from Cle Elum to Ronald

## 1999

State Parks replaces missing Hall Creek Trestle, removing a major obstacle on the Greenway-backbone John Wayne Pioneer Trail

State Parks develops and opens large Hyak Trailhead with parking and showers for cross-state hikers and equestrians

City of Issaquah approves new East Cougar Village (now Talus) development including 75% of land as permanent public open space

Federal Lands Highways funds grant \$400,000 for design and construction of a missing trail link from High Point to Preston, along I-90

\$20-million in Land and Water Conservation Funds allocated by Congress for Greenway land acquisitions

Washington Forest Protection Association funds 8 historic interpretive signs in upper Kittitas Valley

King County purchases the first, 20-acre parcel on the edge of I-90 at Preston for a future arboretum

## 2000

Federal funds acquire 130-acre Snoqualmie Point and save a spectacular viewpoint from becoming a private office park

I-90 Land Exchange between Plum Creek Timber and the US Forest Service brought a net gain of 20,000 acres to public forests east of Snoqualmie Pass

US Congress allocates \$7 million for Greenway land acquisitions

Washington State Department of Natural Resources acquires 640-acre Section 12, the last private in-holding on Tiger Mountain next to Issaquah

Federal highway enhancement funds combine with local and federal forest funds to protect 160 acres in small parcels next to I-90 for proposed Preston Arboretum

King County Parks acquires 423 acres of forested “Mitchell Hill connector” on a hillside north of I-90 through new Transfer of Development Credits program

Greenway Trust secures funds and enlists thousands of volunteers to plant “200,000 Trees in 2000.” They exceed the goal by 30,000 trees

Volunteers construct “missing link” trail segments on Cougar and Squak mountains

A 10-day hike across the Cascades attracts over 100 participants to commemorate the 1990 Greenway kick-off march and celebrate progress

## 2001

Spring: Nearly 6,000 acres of private forest land in large and small parcels along I-90 in King and Kittitas counties are acquired through purchase or exchange by the state DNR, the US Forest Service and King County

Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative protects 3,500 acres from future urban development, including the backdrop of Snoqualmie Falls and the Raging River Tree Farm

Volunteers have removed 21 miles of abandoned logging roads since 1995

## 2002

The Cedar Falls Trailhead, the western terminus of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, opened to hikers, bikers and equestrians

Washington State Department of Natural Resources acquired 171 acres on Mt. Si, 26 acres at the Mt. Si trailhead and 4 acres at the High Point trailhead. High Point is the busiest trailhead in the state

350 acres of forestland were acquired in the Raging River Valley

King County acquired 60 acres in the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley for water quality, wildlife habitat and recreation

The Lake Easton area gained 950 acres of US Forest Service land through efforts of Washington State Parks, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Cascades Conservation Partnership

Issaquah unveiled new interpretive signs and a new education center at the Issaquah Fish Hatchery

Greenway representatives from Kittitas County completed a new recreation plan

## **2003**

5300 acres were acquired along the Pacific Crest Trail for recreation and wildlife habitat connectivity

Lake Easton State Park gained 800 acres of forestland

In the Salmon La Sac area, 4421 acres were added to the Wenatchee National Forest. At Monastash Ridge, 1200 acres were added to public ownership

State Route 519 was completed with extra-wide sidewalks past the stadiums to connect the I-90 Greenway Trail system to the Seattle waterfront

Mountains to Sound Greenway, EarthCorps and Washington Trails Association volunteers donated over 20,000 hours of labor to build a new trail to Rattlesnake Ledge, on the edge of Seattle's Cedar River Watershed

The Sunset Interchange opened in Issaquah with a new trail built by WSDOT to connect regional trails between Issaquah and High Point

Greenway volunteers planted 14,000 trees along Tibbetts Creek in Issaquah to restore natural salmon habitat

Washington State Parks has donated space for several years at Lake Sammamish State Park for the Greenway Tree Nursery, which this year produced 20,000 plants for revegetation projects along the Greenway corridor

The Alps to Arboretum Bike Tour drew cyclists from the Issaquah Alps to Seattle's Arboretum as part of the centennial celebration of the Olmstead Park System

New artwork at Snoqualmie pass symbolizes transportation history at the Pass

The South Cle Elum Depot of the old Milwaukee Road railway gained National Historic Landmark status

Young volunteers spent weeks removing 2.5 miles of abandoned logging roads at Bessemer Mountain, above the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley

## **2004**

The Crown Lakes property, 597 acres that include three alpine lakes and rugged mountain scenery, were purchased by the state Department of Natural Resources for addition to the Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area

State Route 519 in downtown Seattle connects Interstate 90 to the waterfront, including a Greenway regional trail link and Greenway logo signs.

Greenway Discovery Days (later to be known as Greenway Days) debuted in June 2004

Washington State Parks filled final gaps in John Wayne Pioneer Trail by building two trestles across the Yakima River and BNSF railway near Easton

Snoqualmie Forest - 90,000 acres of the Snoqualmie Forest are preserved by conservation easement

Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative saves Snoqualmie Falls backdrop and wildlife habitat in the Raging River Valley

King County Waterwater Treatment wins National Biosolids Partnership seal of approval

Trust for Public Land protects 465 acres at Lake Easton for Washington Department of Natural Resources and Washington State Parks to protect wildlife habitat in the Yakima River Wildlife Corridor and preserving recreation along the John Wayne Pioneer Trail

Bonneville Power Administration acquired 548 acres near the confluence of the Cle Elum and Yakima Rivers

Suncadia preserved 302 acres above Roslyn for permanent open space

New river access points for kayaks were created along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie

The Greenway icon peak, Mt. Si received a new trailhead by the Department of Natural Resources, and volunteers helped rebuild the first two miles of this popular trail to withstand heavy recreational use

The Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center opens, designed to emulate a Native American longhouse to preserve history in this public open space between Snoqualmie and North Bend

Two miles of Rattlesnake Mountain Trail were built

New bicycle trail circles south end of Lake Washington in Seattle

## **2005**

The 120-acre Moore Oxbow Property, the last private riverfront parcel in the Upper Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley, was purchased for US Forest Service management

28 acres on Tiger Mountain preserved just east of High Point Trailhead, and another 15 acres on west side

Bicyclists and hikers launch shared trail experiment on Middle Fork Trail, with bicyclists on odd calendar days and hikers and equestrians on all days

Girl Scout Camp near Carnation preserved by transfer of development rights

Land acquisitions at Patterson Creek, Fall City riverfront, Cougar Mountain

Northwest Railway Museum rehabilitates historic Bridge 35 in the Snoqualmie Valley

3.3 miles of abandoned logging roads removed in the Middle and Sough Fork Snoqualmie River Valleys

Major ecological restoration project at Lake Sammamish begins with restoration of 4.4 acres and planting of 4,500 native trees and shrubs

New trails are built on Grand Ridge and Taylor Mountain

Upper two miles of popular Mt. Si trail were rebuilt

A new mile of trail on Rattlesnake Mountain was built thanks to 3,000 hours of volunteer labor

Greenway environmental education for schools has taught 23,000 students

Voters in Kittitas County created the first ever Park and Recreation District to preserve traditional recreation areas in response to rapid population growth

Greenway Trust receives first of many 4-star ratings from independent Charity Navigator

## 2006

Grouse Ridge agreement concludes, placing over 2,000 new acres into public forestry

US Forest Service opens new Middle Fork Valley campground

State legislature funds improved access to nature in the Greenway including trail improvements at Squak Mountain, completion of visitor facilities at Snoqualmie Point Park and the cross-mountain Rattlesnake Mountain Trail and new trailhead

Mountaineers restore and improve the Asahel Curtis Nature Trail

*Green Infrastructure - Linking Landscapes and Communities* uses the Mountains to Sound Greenway to illustrate that an interconnected network of natural areas is key to environmental, social and economic health

Mercer Island opens a new trail at the SE 53rd Street Open Space

Huge volunteer effort rebuilds final mile of trail on Mt. Si, with over 13,000 hours donated by volunteers for the more than 100,000 people that use the trail annually

Mountain Works brings 82 young people into the Greenway for ecological restoration, trail building and fun

The Jim Ellis Birthday Tribute launches the Mountains to Sound Greenway Legacy Fund, and raised the first \$1 million for this endowment in Jim's honor

Open Space Seattle 2100 project brings neighborhoods together to plan for keeping Seattle vibrant and healthy

CityLeague Sports launches 100-mile Mountains to Sound Relay, a major Greenway Days event

## 2007

Greenway conservation corps crews and volunteers rebuild West Tiger #3 that leads to the third summit of Tiger Mountain

Conservation groups join forces to preserve 300 acres at Amabilis Mountain, just east of Snoqualmie Pass

New, 11-mile cross-mountain Rattlesnake Mountain Trail and Trailhead open on National Trails Day

Stampede Pass land along Pacific Crest Trail acquired for Wenatchee National Forest

Snoqualmie Point Park opens in October, 2007, the culmination of over a decade of work to preserve surrounding forests, acquire the park site that would otherwise have held office buildings, and design and build a City of Snoqualmie park with one of the most magnificent and sweeping views in the Greenway

40 acres acquired in the Cougar Mountain / Squak Mountain Wildlife Corridor / Connector

Tiger Mountain High Point Trailhead improved and new ADA-accessible bridges installed on Bus Trail and Around the Lake Trail

Cascade Land Conservancy acquired 446 acres of wildlife habitat near Easton along Cabin Creek and 320 acres on Keechelus Ridge

New Issaquah-High Point Trail Connector regional trail opens to connect the south end of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, along the north side of I-90, to an existing regional trail at High Point

## 2008

Snoqualmie Point Park gets mountain peak orientation table; wins Award of Excellence from the Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation

Local auto dealer Carter Motors plants one tree for every test drive, an additional three trees for every car purchased to help offset the carbon footprint of their cars

King County Council honors retiring Executive Director Nancy Keith; Greenway Trust welcomes new Executive Director Cynthia Welti

Lake Sammamish restoration effort receives large trees along the lakeshore to improve wildlife habitat, while volunteers continue restoration work and plant 7,000 native trees and shrubs

Penny Harvest grant funds native plant identification guides for the Greenway environmental education program

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center opens in Bellevue with increased capacity for hands-on learning in a spectacular natural setting

Tower Peak and Cabin Creek acquisitions preserve over 1,000 acres of forest land along the Pacific Crest Trail

The City of Issaquah acquired 10 parcels along Issaquah Creek to protect stream quality and expand a city park

A critical 8-acre property was purchased by King County at the intersection of I-90 and SR 18 to protect the viewshed of the Mountains to Sound Greenway

Swamp and Big Tree Trails upgraded at Tiger Mountain

Greenway education program wins *No Child Left Inside* grant from Washington State Parks

The Greenway Trust and Mountaineers Books reprint *Snoqualmie Pass; From Indian Trail to Interstate* by Ellensburg historian Yvonne Prater

## 2009

National Trails Day marks the grand opening of the new and improved 2.5-mile Little Si Trail, including a second parking lot to accommodate heavy recreational use, a trail between the parking lots and a new bridge over the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River

REI in the Greenway Month brought hiking clinics to four area REI stores and volunteer service projects on four local trails

The City of North Bend and the Greenway Trust are restoring Riverfront Park by removing massive invasive English ivy from trees and the forest floor, helping to restore the park to a healthy state for people and wildlife

14 acres preserved by King County in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley to improve recreation access

Washington State Department of Natural Resources adds 2,100 acres to the Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area

Major renovation of Squak Mountain trails improves trail tread, drainage and signs, with over 6,000 hours of volunteer labor

Greenway volunteers build a sustainable trail to Teneriffe Falls near Mt. Si

Raging River 7,000-acre land acquisition completes 15 years of work by the Greenway coalition to connect Tiger Mountain, Rattlesnake Mountain, the Cedar River Watershed and Taylor Mountain into one large swath of forestland to be managed as the Raging River State Forest

Greenway Summer Camps bring youth ages 10 - 18 to week-long camps for ecological restoration and trail maintenance

King County builds new 1.5-mile trail through Marymoor Park at the north end of Lake Sammamish, creating a safe and convenient link for cyclists, walkers and joggers between the Burke-Gilman and East Lake Sammamish Trails

Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmarks signs new 10,272-acre Middle Fork Natural Resources Conservation Area into existence at annual Mountains to Sound Greenway celebration

## The Future

To plan for the future of this landscape, the Greenway Trust is facilitating a Heritage Study. After nearly 20 years of collaborative efforts to connect a green corridor of forests, farms, rivers, lakes and communities, the Greenway coalition is looking at new strategies for sustaining the landscape. The Heritage Study, guided by active participation from an array of interest groups, will inventory recreational, historic and ecological assets in the Greenway, document their associated threats and needs, and devise a cooperative plan for efficiently managing them. This process will energize the next generation of stewards, building a framework for carrying out the Greenway's vision for a healthy balance between people and nature.