



GREENWAY DAYS ASKS AREA RESIDENTS AND VISITORS: “DO YOU KNOW YOUR GREENWAY?”

**5TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY
JUNE 28-29, 2008**

SEATTLE, WA, MAY 29, 2008 – The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust today announced it will challenge area residents and visitors to learn more about the cultural, historic and recreational assets included in the 1.4 million acre Mountains to Sound Greenway as part of the 5th annual Greenway Days celebration the last weekend of June.

“Seattle is fortunate,” Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Board Member and REI President and CEO Sally Jewell reflects. “Few other major metropolitan areas in the United States offer residents and visitors such immediate, easy access to the outdoors. The question is, how many people really *know* their Greenway?”

The Mountains to Sound Greenway, the area Jewell refers to, is a 1.4 million acre scenic and recreation corridor that runs from Puget Sound in Seattle to Central Washington. With 750,000 acres of public land, 1,600 miles of multi-purpose trails and hundreds of lakes, campgrounds, museums and farms, it may be difficult for any one person to fully know the Greenway. However, this year, Greenway Days is inviting area residents and visitors to learn more about its assets.

Greenway Days is a two-day festival boasting over 25 events in 10 communities along 100 miles of I-90. The festival celebrates the conservation, maintenance and education efforts of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and its corps of over 4,000 annual volunteers who toil to make the Greenway a reality. Greenway Days offers many group hikes, bike rides and community celebrations in addition to its highlight events: The Cowboy Rendezvous in Cle Elum, Greenway Geoteaming Competition at Rattlesnake Lake, Fenders on Front Street Car Show and Cruise in Issaquah, and the 100-mile Mountains to Sound Relay from Snoqualmie Pass to Golden Gardens Park in Seattle.

In addition, this year Greenway Days kicks off a summer long competition to offer individuals and families a fun way to learn more about the Greenway. “The **Greenway Challenge** provides an enjoyable, structured way for people to learn about the natural history, culture and recreation opportunities within the Mountains to Sound Greenway,” explains Cynthia Welti, Executive Director of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. “Participants register online at mtsgreenway.org, visit either 5 or 10 sites in the Greenway, take photo proof of their visit, and submit the photos in exchange for a chance to win great prizes. We want area residents and visitors to understand that this is *their* Greenway to take advantage of, appreciate and enjoy.”

“The average American child spends 30 minutes a week outdoors,” adds Jewell. “Yet, studies show over and over again that nature and unstructured play in the outdoors provides our children with important sensory experience crucial to their development. By taking advantage of this amazing natural resource that is unique to our region, we can begin to reverse this potentially devastating trend. I encourage all Seattle-area residents and visitors to attend Greenway Days and to get to know *their* Greenway.”

ABOUT THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is a nonprofit conservation organization established in 1991 to protect the Interstate 90 corridor between Seattle and Central Washington. The Greenway Trust works to promote public land acquisitions, connect a continuous regional trail system, teach people of all ages about the importance of conserving forests and wildlife, improve recreation access, create new parks and trails and mobilize thousands of volunteers.

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