Connected with nature, our lives are better

We are healthier and happier, and our communities are stronger, more equitable, and more economically competitive. Enhancing people’s connections to nature drives our mission.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust leads and inspires action to conserve and enhance the landscape from Seattle across the Cascade Mountains to Central Washington, ensuring a long-term balance between people and nature.

This vision—of the way life can be, of equal support for economic vitality and nature—is worth pursuing.
The Greenway is an NHA!

The Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. It has a great ring to it. After more than a decade of preparation and advocacy, with support from thousands of citizens and organizations, and thanks to bipartisan support in Congress, the Greenway is now official. National Heritage Area designation affirms what we have known for a long time: that this place we call home is special. It tells a nationally significant story that merits recognition and deserves our continued care and stewardship.

No one knew that better than our founder, Jim Ellis. Jim’s vision and leadership launched the Greenway, and it was wonderful that he could see the Greenway recognized in such a profound way before passing away in late 2019 at the age of 98. The values Jim exemplified and wove into the fabric of the Greenway will guide our efforts to continue his good work.

I anticipate that National Heritage Area designation will elevate our perspectives and extend the boundaries of what we see as possible in this amazing place. Through our work this year, we’ve continued to connect communities with public lands in the Upper Yakima Basin; enhanced safe and sustainable access to our “backyard wilderness” in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley; promoted pride-of-place for natural, historical, and cultural resources in the Snoqualmie Valley; and helped the Greenway’s burgeoning urban population connect with and care for nature.

Thank you for your part in making what we do and what we achieve together possible.

Jon Hoekstra
Executive Director

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE

Our Year In Review

LANDSCAPES

401 Acres in restoration
473 Acres of new public land
38,059 Native trees & shrubs planted

CONNECTIONS

50 Miles of trail maintenance completed
$750K+ Recreation improvements

PEOPLE

4,518 People volunteered (33% youth)
4,050 Students participated in Greenway education programs
Duwamish Alive! Day

The Greenway Trust partnered with the City of Seattle and ECOSS to host two events in celebration of Duwamish Alive! Day in April and October. ECOSS brought together communities from their New Arrivals Program to learn about their new local environment through environmental restoration with the Greenway at Duwamish Hill Preserve in the City of Tukwila.

Everyone learned about native and invasive plants on a native plant walk, and participated in planting a native shrub buffer at Duwamish Hill, a site sacred to the Duwamish and Coast Salish Tribes.

Ballinger Open Space

What began as a volunteer planting event in 2018 has grown into a much larger commitment for the Greenway Trust at Ballinger Open Space in Shoreline. Located in a high-density area with limited access to green space, the 3-acre Ballinger Open Space is the backyard for many families and individuals. Unfortunately, after decades of neglect, the open space was overrun by invasive weeds and trash hiding beneath blackberry. Volunteers, along with Greenway Trust staff, crews and AmeriCorps members, have been leading the effort to restore Ballinger into a healthy forest with strong biodiversity.

Although it may seem like a typical urban forest restoration project, this project has a unique partnership with City Forest Credits to develop Carbon+ Credits that not only quantify carbon sequestration, but also calculate the value of other environmental benefits like air quality. This project is in partnership with the City of Shoreline and City Forest Credits and is funded by King County Flood Control District, The Nature Conservancy’s Urban Habitat project, and pilot funding from Bank of America. The goal at the end of the 25-year project is to establish 2,000 trees on site which will help store an estimated 4,000 tons of carbon dioxide, or the equivalent of removing about 1,000 cars off the road for a full year!
Savor Snoqualmie Valley

Savor Snoqualmie Valley is a cooperative effort, facilitated by the Greenway Trust, to celebrate and promote the local food and farms, arts and culture, heritage, outdoor activities, and independent businesses of the Snoqualmie Valley. Local events, activities, stories, and destinations were promoted through the Savor website, Facebook page, and suite of brochures. A series of historical downtown walking tour itineraries elevated the unique history of each community and encouraged visitation to the downtown business cores. Visit savorsnoqualmievalley.org to see what’s new.

Heritage Summit

The third annual Snoqualmie Valley Heritage Summit, organized and facilitated by the Greenway Trust, brought together representatives from historical societies and other heritage groups from Duvall to North Bend to network, learn, and work towards shared projects, like outreach materials and digitization of newspaper archives. The Summit is part of the Greenway Trust’s year-round work to lead a coalition of heritage groups across the Valley to share resources, spark ideas for collaborative projects, and build a Valley-wide narrative to build pride of place among residents and visitors.

Ecological Restoration in the Snoqualmie Valley

The Greenway Trust coordinated community volunteers and professional conservation crews to restore several important open spaces in the Snoqualmie Valley. Projects included invasive plant removal and replanting with over 11,000 native trees and shrubs at Meadowbrook Farm, Sandy Cove, Kimball Creek, and Bernard Memorial Park to provide better wildlife habitat and shade along the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries. The Greenway Trust also continued a decade-long effort to control highly invasive knotweed populations along the Raging River, engaging both public and private landowners.
New Recreational Sites and Facilities

Trails, river-access sites, signage, and sanitation facilities are all essential to directing and absorbing heavy recreational activity and preserving the long-term quality of the Valley’s wild expanse. This year, we completed the family-friendly, 1.5-mile Oxbow Loop Trail, constructed in partnership with the state Department of Natural Resources along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River and past an oxbow lake. This new trail easily connects people to nature in a spectacular place, with future plans for educational and interpretive features. Since the start of the Middle Fork Campaign, we have also increased publicly accessible toilets from two to 11.

National Public Lands Day Celebration

This year on National Public Lands Day, more than 150 people joined the Greenway Trust and our partners in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley to celebrate ongoing stewardship efforts and implement six new projects. From constructing new picnic tables, to enhancing native habitat, and nearing completion of the new Garfield Ledges trail, the energy and dedication from our volunteers could be felt throughout the Middle Fork Valley on this incredible day of stewardship.
**New Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan**

The Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee provides advice to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about the ongoing management and recreation planning for the forest. The committee represents the interests of governments, communities, partners, and stakeholder groups reflecting the priorities of the broad cross-section of Washingtonians who cherish the forest. In December 2018, the agencies and advisory committee completed the Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan to serve as a supplement to the Teanaway Community Forest Management Plan. Now, the Teanaway is entering into a 15-year implementation phase guided by the plan.

During the summer of 2019, the Greenway Trust partnered with DNR to expand volunteer opportunities in the Teanaway by hosting the 3rd Annual Teanaway Work Party. Volunteers erected a mile of fencing to prevent cattle from crossing out of grazing pastures and into sensitive restoration areas.

**Towns to Teanaway Trail Progress**

In October 2018, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Washington Trails Association (WTA), Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District, and REI Co-op came together in the largest-ever trail building event to take place in the Greenway! More than 300 REI executives and store managers turned out to build 2.3 miles of trail from the border of the Roslyn Urban Forest to the top of the Cle Elum Ridge. The “Ewok” trail is the first completed piece of the recently designed Towns to Teanaway trail system. REI funded excavation work to rough in the trail line as well as the hand tools needed for 300+ of their staff to do the finishing work. WTA flagged the trail line and provided expert crew leads, and the Greenway Trust oversaw event logistics, tool acquisitions, and coordination with REI.

In Spring of 2019, The Kittitas Chapter of the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance offered to help fund design and construction of a downhill bike trail that would complete the Ewok loop into the town of Ronald. The Kittitas EMBA chapter, Greenway staff, and local businesses partnered to develop grant applications and events to benefit the project. They successfully collected the resources and volunteer manpower to complete 2.25 miles of bike trail, as well as 3 miles of a multi-use trail for hikers, equestrians, and other users.

**Human Ecology Mapping**

Kittitas County has become the site of a unique cross-boundary model of recreation management. Known as the East Cascade Recreation Partnership (ECRP), it is made up of federal, state, and county land management agencies, private landowners, and recreation groups, all seeking to design regional recreation systems and better coordinate their limited resources. The Greenway Trust facilitates the partnership, and created a position during 2018-2019 to conduct a survey assessment of recreational patterns across the eastern Cascades to inform future work.
“The Mountains to Sound Greenway is a treasure in our midst, with history dating back to the well-worn path of the first Americans—inland tribes trading with their coastal neighbors over Snoqualmie Pass.”

– Sally Jewell, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior & Founding Member of the Greenway Trust Board

Local Pride & Joy is a National Treasure

After eight years of tireless advocacy, the Mountains to Sound Greenway was designated a National Heritage Area (NHA) on March 12, 2019!

We proudly join 54 other NHA sites in 32 states, including iconic and historic landscapes such as New York’s Niagara Falls, Mississippi’s Gulf Coast, and North Carolina’s Blue Ridge. Through public-private partnerships, NHAs support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. Leveraging funds and long-term support for projects, these partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

Next Steps

As the named coordinating entity, the Greenway Trust aspires to reach every community and every corner of the 1.5 million acre landscape to engage an inclusive coalition of people as stewards of their public lands, trails, natural resources, and cultural heritage. The overarching care for the Greenway, the people who live here, and the connections between them, is the driver of the NHA vision to inspire action to protect and enhance this place we all love.

Thank you to our partners and every one of you who supported us over the years. It is because of all of you that the Greenway will be conserved for future generations, connecting our residents and visitors with the diverse people, landscapes, and stories of this region.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019

Financial Report

**REVENUE**
- Government Grants & Contracts $1,302,136
- Contributions $2,356,924
- In-kind Contributions $30,119
- Investment & Endowment Revenue $82,182
- Fundraising $224,777
- Management & General $246,592
- Program Expenses $2,680,204

**REVENUE**

**EXPENSES**

**EXPENSES**
- Program Expenses $2,680,204
- Management & General $246,592
- Fundraising $224,777

**NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR** $2,986,816
**NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR** $3,606,604
**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** $619,788

*Restricted Middle Fork, project restricted, and pledged in-kind

**NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR** $3,606,604
The Greenway Trust gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, and foundations that generously support our work across the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

**Thank You, Donors**

**MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE CAMPAIGN**

The Middle Fork Snoqualmie campaign seeks to chart a sustainable future for the Middle Fork Valley through enhanced recreational infrastructure, cooperative management, and volunteer stewardship. Donors have broken new ground in this effort by bringing philanthropy to bolster dwindling public funds. With their help, the Greenway Trust and agency partners are creating the facilities needed to accommodate rising usage of this incredible wilderness just minutes from the busy Puget Sound metro.

**GREENWAY VISIONARIES**

- Jeffrey and Eleanor Freeman
- Al Smith and Babs Potachnick
- John and Jennifer Spalth
- Andrew Jacobsen
- Carol Weisbecker and Michael Ernst
- Joel and Wendy Toker

**$1,000,000+$

- National Forest Foundation
- REI Co-op
- The Boeing Company

**$500,000-$999,999**

- Fred R. Smith Foundation
- Peach Foundation
- Island Wood Foundation
- Cascade Gateway Foundation
- David and Sue Sturtevant
- Eric and Katie Artz

**$200,000-$499,999**

- Candace Smith and Steve Bolliger
- Alpine Lakes Protection Society
- Cascade Gateway Foundation
- David and Sue Sturtevant
- Eric and Katie Artz

**$100,000-$199,999**

- Valley Camps
- Anonymous
- Maggie Walker
- Maggie Walker
- Maggie Walker

**$20,000-$99,999**

- National Forest Foundation
- Fred R. Smith Foundation
- Peach Foundation
- Ron and Eva Sher
- Biogam Thomson
- Allan and Inger Osberg
- Valley Camps
- Anonymous
- Arlene Levy
- Jones & Jones Architects

**$10,000-$19,999**

- Cascade Gateway Foundation
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**$5,000-$9,999**

- Anonymous
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**$1,000-$2,499**

- Candace Smith and Steve Bolliger
- Betty Bailey
- Susan and Eric Cutman
- Wahkeena Whitaker
- Kathy Williams
- Philip and Susan Ponzi
- Pam and Dan McFarland
- John and Jennifer Spalth

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- Joel and Wendy Toker

**$100-$249**

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- Kathy Williams
- Philip and Susan Ponzi
- Pam and Dan McFarland
- John and Jennifer Spalth

**Green Trails Maps**

- John and Jennifer Spaith
- Marcie and Peter Spiro
- Cara and Michael Ernst
- Andrew Jacobsen
- Andrew Jacobsen
- Andrew Jacobsen

**MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE TRACTORS**

- Alan Black
- Michael and Debra Brooks
- Amy and Andreas Brochmann
- Jason and Liz Bonneke
- Susan and Steve Persing
- Margaret and Peter Spiro
- Andrew Jacobsen
- Andrew Jacobsen
- Andrew Jacobsen

**Thank You, Donors**

**Donations Received July 2018 - June 2019**

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- John and Jennifer Spalth

**$50-$99**

- Anonymous
- John and Jennifer Spaith
- Andrew Jacobsen
- Carol Weisbecker and Michael Ernst
- Joel and Wendy Toker

“...the special treasures of our part of the country is the natural beauty and opportunities for exploration, especially in the I-90 corridor. We take this for granted, but 30 years ago it was in danger of being developed. Thanks to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, we have it to enjoy today and for future generations.”

- Kathy Williams, Greenway Visionary
Visit mtsgreenway.org for the full version of our annual report.

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