The Greenway Connects It All

JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT
This vision—of the way life should be, of equal support for economic vitality and nature—is worth pursuing.

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.
Our impact in the Greenway

The 28 cities of the Greenway are enfolded by deep forests, towering mountains, and salmon-bearing streams. Residents can access nearly a million acres of public land within an hour or two of travel. This wealth of access, and its immediate proximity, are unique to this region. Its impact on Greenway communities is immense. Our natural surroundings buoy our health and happiness with clean air, clean water, and limitless outdoor activities.

The work of the Greenway Trust is built on common ground – the love we all share for this place and the desire to preserve and pass down the quality of life we enjoy today. With your support and participation, we worked this year to advance a shared vision of wise growth, sustainable land use, and equitable access so that everyone has a stake in preserving this remarkable landscape we call the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Thank you for being a part of our ongoing efforts to balance growth and recreation with conservation. We are proud to share this annual report about the impact we had this year.

Jon Hoekstra
Executive Director
Urban Communities

“Water is a part of our daily lives and we should understand where it comes from and where it goes. This program made me understand the importance of that.”
- Calvin La, Clean Water Ambassador

Assembling Volunteers

More than 4,500 volunteers came together under the Greenway banner this year, restoring park lands, improving stream corridors, and increasing the vital urban canopy that cleans the air we breathe. Volunteers eradicated invasive weeds and planted native trees in heavily used natural areas like Lake Sammamish State Park and Me-Kwa-Mooks Park.

Improving Trails

The Greenway Trust works with many partners to improve the trail system within and close by the metro region. These collaborative efforts often take many years to navigate through challenges of funding and planning within densely developed areas. This was a year of major achievements by partner agencies, highlighted by renovation of High Point trailhead, paving of one of the final segments of the East Lake Sammamish Trail, a new trail over the SR 520 floating bridge, and advances in the Eastside Rail Corridor and the Bellevue gap in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail.

Clean Water Ambassadors

In partnership with the King County Wastewater Treatment Division, and with funding from the Boeing Company, the Greenway Trust was thrilled to offer the Clean Water Ambassadors program again in July 2017. This intensive, six-week, paid internship is available to 10 high school students from across King County. As they learned about human and natural water systems, they gained valuable field experience, honed their leadership and communication skills, and made professional connections. The summer portion has ended, but the interns are just getting started. Each intern will dedicate another 40 hours during the school year to share what they learned with their schools, families, and communities as fully-fledged Clean Water Ambassadors.
Cultivating a Vision for Savor Snoqualmie Valley

Savor Snoqualmie Valley is an initiative to enhance the interconnectedness of the Valley’s natural, cultural, and community resources. The Savor Steering Action Team, made up of local community leaders throughout the Valley, crafted a new strategic plan to prepare the soil and plant the seeds for future growth of this community-based initiative. Cultivating a sense of place in the Valley while connecting residents to the culture, farms, outdoor activities and locally owned businesses is vital to making a collective impact. Toward that end, a “local first” promotional campaign seeks to inspire residents and visitors to preserve history, eat local, recreate locally, support local artists and buy local. Visit savorsnoqualmievalley.org to see what’s new.

Adapting to Climate Change at Stossel Creek

The Greenway Trust teamed up with Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Northwest Natural Resource Group to test an innovative approach to helping local forests adapt to a changing climate. With a $140,000 grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society, Pacific Northwest native trees sourced from southwestern Oregon are being planted in a 154-acre parcel along Stossel Creek, northeast of Carnation in the Tol Watershed. The Oregon trees are better adapted to warmer temperatures and drier summers that are expected in our region in the next 20-30 years, ensuring resilient forests for the future.

Wayfinding Signs Making Connections in the Valley

Five newly installed wayfinding signs are making it easier than ever to navigate the 31-mile Snoqualmie Valley Trail and visit the communities of Duvall, Carnation, Fall City, Snoqualmie, and North Bend. The Greenway Trust worked with these cities and King County to install new wayfinding signs, located at the entrances to each community, help users get their bearings and easily make side trips into the downtowns.
Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley

Campaign Progress

The Greenway Trust continues to lead a coalition of 25 partner organizations working toward a sustainable balance between recreation and healthy ecological conditions in the beautiful Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. After two years, the Middle Fork campaign has raised more than $5 million in funding to develop sustainable infrastructure, access, and stewardship in the Valley. It is thrilling to see the public and private sectors coming together to invest in the future of this priceless community asset.

Growing Stewardship in the Middle Fork

With outdoor recreation on the rise, the Middle Fork can only remain wild and pristine if people are committed to its long-term care. To build a foundation for this vital stewardship, the Greenway Trust has created a staff position dedicated to the Valley. With a full-time presence established, we are now working with coalition partners and recreation groups to grow a corps of Middle Fork volunteers who will support the preservation of the Valley’s spectacular natural character.

New Recreational Sites

The Middle Fork Coalition is working quickly to expand recreational infrastructure in the Valley to meet the surge in usage that will come with the new road. 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 saw improvements at several key sites within the road corridor, most notably a major new trailhead at Granite Creek, reconstruction of a section of the Middle Fork Trail, and a beautiful new log bridge at Pratt River Bar.

Middle Fork Road

More than 100 stakeholders came together on National Public Lands Day 2017 to celebrate the re-opening of the Middle Fork Road after three years of construction. The newly paved road opens safe, family-friendly access to the wild Valley for the first time and greatly reduces harmful erosion into sensitive wetlands.
Upper Yakima Basin

Towns to Teanaway

The eastern half of the Greenway, framed by the upper Yakima River watershed, holds half the land of the Greenway, but only one percent of the population. That makes cooperation absolutely essential to get big things done. This year, the Greenway Trust worked in partnership with Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District, The Nature Conservancy, The Western Conservation Project, and local community members to complete the Towns to Teanaway Corridor trail master plan, which will connect Cle Elum, Ronald, and Roslyn via multi-use trails to the vast public lands of the Teanaway Community Forest.

Equipping Hands with New Tools

Planting trees and building trails require a lot of hard work and the right tools for the job. Thanks to a grant from the Suncadia Fund for Community Enhancement, the Greenway Trust was able to purchase a large cache of tools to equip Kittitas County staff and volunteers for recreation and restoration projects. The new tools are also available to community partners, and have already been used by Conservation Northwest, Washington Trails Association, The Nature Conservancy, the Greenway Trust, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Tamarack Trail Builders and REI to care for existing trails, construct new trail corridors, and restore riparian habitat.

Grant Funding for New Bridges

In a time when we see steadily declining funding for the agencies that care for our public lands, the Greenway Trust specializes in working with those agencies to support their ability to serve the community. Our partnership with Kittitas County produced huge success this year, as we collaborated on two Federal Lands Access Program grants, which won approximately $5 million to repair the South Fork Manastash road and Dickey Creek Bridge, restoring safe access to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.
Putting the Greenway on the Map

When we are connected with nature, our lives are better. The Mountains to Sound Greenway offers world-class recreation and spectacular open spaces on the doorstep of our urban areas. This high quality of life makes us healthier and happier, and helps attract tourism and top employers that keep our economy strong. Designation of the Greenway National Heritage Area would recognize these strengths and allow the Greenway to serve as a national model for collaborative conservation.

Campaign Progress

Despite a difficult political environment for land designations, legislation to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area continues to enjoy strong bipartisan support. Representatives Reichert, Smith, DelBene, and Jayapal led the way to a major step forward, as H.R. 1791 passed the U.S. House of Representatives in June. A companion bill in the Senate, S.713, has passed out of committee and awaits action on the Senate floor. The continued bipartisan cooperation and broad community support for this effort here in the Greenway give us strong hope that the Greenway will soon receive the recognition it deserves as a national treasure.

“The heritage of wilderness and history encompassed by the three major watersheds that create the Greenway boundaries, provide a unique opportunity for a strong and thoughtful connection between the built environment of a major urban area and the natural environment that provides a quality of life that is inspiring, nurturing and efficient.”

– Sue McLain, Retired Senior Vice President, Delivery Operations at Puget Sound Energy
Financial Report

Statement of Activities for the Year Ending June 30, 2018

Revenue

Government Grants & Contracts $2,019,532
Contributions $1,865,650
In-kind Contributions $557,921
Investment & Endowment Revenue $46,827
TOTAL $4,489,930

Expenses

Program Expenses $2,696,532
Management & General $275,787
Fundraising $284,421
TOTAL EXPENSES $3,256,258

Net Assets - Beginning of Year $1,753,820
Net Assets - End of Year $2,987,492
Change in Net Assets* $1,233,672

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

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Net Assets - End of Year $2,987,492
Change in Net Assets* $1,233,672

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

Photo credit: Ray Lapine
Thank You Donors

The Greenway Trust gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, and foundations that generously support our work across the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

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We are seeking to raise $20 million to create recreational infrastructure and cooperative management in the Middle Fork, ensuring a sustainable future for the wild, 110,000-acre valley. To join the effort, contact Michael Woodsum.

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REI Co-op

$200,000
The NCREF Foundation

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"I support Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust because it’s important to help ensure that future generations continue to have access to beautiful lakes, rivers, and mountains in Seattle’s backyard."

- Sam Franklin, Founder and CEO, Grenevelope

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