





Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

ANNUAL REPORT • JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021









The COVID-19 pandemic created adversity and uncertainty that impacted nearly every aspect of life over the last year. It also yielded valuable lessons in resilience. At the Greenway Trust, we found strength in our relationships, steadiness in our values, and a clearer understanding of the need for change.

When lockdowns, work-from-home, and social distancing kept us apart, we learned that our bonds of friendship and shared purpose in the Greenway NHA might bend but would not break. Even the myriad video conferences had their silver linings when they enabled introductions to families and pets who might not otherwise be part of "work life."

Among many things, this has also been a year of introspection and deepening our investments in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). In the first half of 2021, having established a strong base of DEI knowledge and skills across the staff, we began shifting toward prioritizing areas for organizational growth to advance DEI and have begun to implement our plans for change in both our internal and external work.

Through all of the trials and tribulations of the last year, two constants kept us grounded: the Greenway NHA landscape that offered outdoor respite for so many of us, and the support of our donors. I am profoundly grateful for both, and look to the year ahead with a renewed focus and commitment to caring for the land and for each other.



Jon Hoekstra **Executive Director**



PICTURED ABOVE

Greenway team members all together for the first time since the start of COVID-19

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE

Our Year In Review

LANDSCAPES



489 Acres in restoration





16,238 Native trees & shrubs planted

CONNECTIONS



78.9 Miles of trail maintenance completed



\$840K+ Recreation improvements

PEOPLE



People volunteered (9% youth)



Students participated in Greenway education programs



AmeriCorps members sponsored

Adapting During the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

Early in the pandemic, we prioritized health and safety, taking care of our people, and staying true to the Greenway Trust mission and values. This commitment to people and focus on mission kept us on course as we had to make tough decisions about safely resuming field work, putting education and volunteer events on hiatus, and virtualizing everything from board and staff meetings to management planning for the Greenway NHA.

As we entered a new virtual world, we also figured out how to bring our in-person events into homes and laptops across the Greenway NHA. We tapped into our creative sides, launching new campaigns and leaning into the opportunities that the digital world offers!

Annual Dinner: From the Washington State Convention Center to Zoom

The Annual Dinner is a long-standing tradition at the Greenway Trust and a yearly "reunion" for everyone who works together across the landscape. In the interest of public safety, we took the event from the stage at the Convention Center to a Zoom room. We created a special dinner menu and signature cocktail for guests to recreate, displayed the parade of accomplishments in a virtualized format, and hosted an inspiring panel featuring Sally Jewell (US Secretary of the Interior from 2013-17 and former Greenway Trust President), Allan Kafley (ECOSS), Nha Khuc (former Clean Water Ambassador), and our own Nicky Pasi. Although it was different from gathering in person, we still made the most of it. Some other highlights included breakout room sessions before and after the dinner, having Greenway Trust families tune in from across the country, and of course celebrating all that we accomplished together in 2020!

Spring Breakfast: A Journey Across the Greenway

After our first virtual Spring Breakfast in April 2020 featuring a panel and Development Director

Mike Woodsum burning his French toast live, we decided to pivot the programming in April 2021 to give viewers an "on the ground" experience. During the live show, we featured six locations with staff and partners at each location across the Greenway NHA, from the home base at Lake Sammamish State Park, all the way to Cle Elum ridge, and even the top of Dirty Harry's Balcony! Each host "zoomed" in to tell stories of collaboration and the important work that continues to go on to ensure the future of the Greenway landscape.





who donated prizes, and two who donated five dumpsters around the Greenway NHA for easy trash drop off. Through the

Litterati app, our participants logged more than 1,000 pieces of trash cleaned up, with even more that went uncounted!

Social Partnership with Carter Subaru

In lieu of a physical tree planting event with Carter Subaru this year, we teamed up to promote some of the work their generous donations help support. We wrote blogs and social content that covered everything from our long-standing partnership, to a deeper look at the Greenway native plant nursery.

"Gift the Greenway" **Holiday Giving Campaign**

In December, we launched a new holiday giving campaign, where we encouraged donors to give their loved ones "the gift of the Greenway." When someone donated, they had the option to download a virtual certificate to share with a loved one over the holidays, during a year where most in-person gatherings and physical gifts were put on hold. After a successful pilot season, we hope to continue this campaign into the future.



OUR WORK

Continued Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We believe that when we are connected to nature, our lives are better. We are healthier, happier, and our communities are stronger. And yet, we recognize that not all people have equal opportunities to access the outdoors and the benefits it offers, and that systemic racism creates barriers that influence every aspect of the lives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

We are committed to promoting greater diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the Greenway NHA and within our own organization and all aspects of our work. Specifically, in our strategic plan, we commit to:

- Expand participation in our programming and diversify our partnerships, Board
 of Directors, and staff to better reflect the racial, ethnic, geographic, generational,
 and economic diversity of people in the region.
- Prioritize environmental justice and equity considerations in our projects and programming.

Since fall of 2019, we have contracted with a DEI consultant who continues to provide guidance throughout the process. In early 2021, after establishing a strong base of DEI knowledge and skills across the staff, we started to identify and prioritize areas

for organizational growth to advance DEI. Now we are underway implementing our plans for change in both our internal and external work.

We still have very much to learn, and we acknowledge that change cannot, and will not, happen overnight. But we are committed to creating lasting structural changes that increase DEI internally in our workplace and externally in the communities we serve. As a coalition-based



organization, we strive to be transparent throughout our journey with the hopes of learning and growing together with our partners.

We invite you to learn more at mtsgreenway.org/DEI.

OUR WORK

National Heritage Area Planning *Zooms* Ahead

Despite limitations caused by the ongoing pandemic, management planning for the Greenway NHA continued in earnest. Early in the year, we reached a notable milestone when we finalized a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service that formalizes our role and responsibilities as the Coordinating Entity for the Greenway NHA.

Meanwhile, the NHA Advisory Committee, still meeting virtually, "zoomed" ahead with the management planning process. Committee members with expertise in historic preservation, interpretation, and education, helped guide development of interpretive themes, a resource inventory, and interpretive strategies that will help convey the nationally significant stories of the Greenway NHA to residents and visitors alike. Committee members teamed up with Greenway Trust staff to conduct several virtual listening sessions during which we invited feedback from agency staff, tourism agencies, museums and heritage groups, nonprofits, and interested community members.

Another central element of the management planning process is consultation with tribes. We have been working with a tribal liaison to initiate and conduct consultations with an aim to center NHA themes and interpretation on tribal heritage and to provide a platform for tribes to share their stories in their own voices.





In March 2021, the City of Bellevue completed a new, .8-mile section of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail from the I-90/I-405 interchange east to 132nd Avenue Southeast. The new segment includes a bridge over busy Factoria Boulevard to separate people biking and walking from automobiles, a tunnel under existing freeway ramps, and a 12-foot path heading eastward on the south side of Interstate 90.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail represents a key east-west connection in our world-class regional trail system, with a future vision for non-motorized trail connections between the Puget Sound urban areas and across the Cascades into Central Washington. There are also future plans to use ramps to connect the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail to the Eastrail, a key north-south corridor that is currently under construction and will eventually connect 42 continuous miles of trails from Renton all the way north to Snohomish County.

This is a major milestone in a decade-long effort to connect this regional trail corridor through densely-populated Factoria. The improvements are expected to greatly enhance safety for people on the trail, and will also create more vehicle capacity on the highway exit ramp, helping drivers avoid long backups onto I-405.

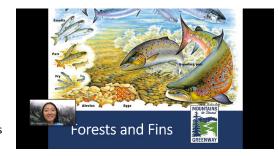
Laying the Groundwork for a New Paid Internship Program

Our education program, in partnership with the Highline School District and Pacific Education Institute, planned a new six-week paid youth internship: Equitable Green Opportunities for Youth in Highline. The program is set to have its pilot summer in 2021 with up to 16 participating students.

Online Educational Series Continues

The Greenway Trust Education Program engaged more than 730 students this year in virtual programming. In the fall, high school students from the Issaquah School District

participated in the Issaquah Biodiversity Project, a multiweek program. Throughout the spring months, nearly 600 students joined Greenway Trust Educators online for a one-hour Forests and Fins lesson. They learned about the salmon life cycle, habitat needs, and threats to salmon, and brainstormed actions they can take to help



protect the species. Additionally, our Education Program Manager, Becca, worked with the Kokanee Work Group (KWG) to adapt the annual Kokanee Education Day to a virtual two-hour program. One class of 4th grade students participated and learned from six KWG partners about kokanee salmon conservation.

Floodplain Habitat Restoration for Chinook Salmon

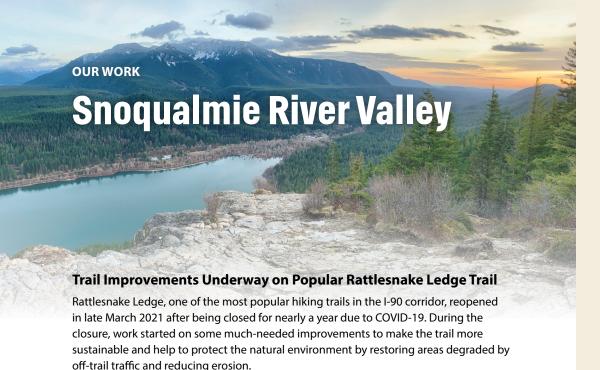
In March 2021, the Greenway Trust Restoration
Crew broke ground on five acres at Belmondo
Reach Natural Area in unincorporated
King County, south of Renton along the
Cedar River. This project is focused
on restoring floodplain habitat
for Chinook salmon and over the
next one to two years, we will be
planting several thousand trees
along the Cedar River.

This project was funded by the WRIA 8 (Lake Washington/Lake Sammamish/Cedar River Watershed) Cooperative Watershed Management grant program, King County Flood Control District, and a grant from Boeing.



A Greenway Trust First: Selling Carbon Credits

The Ballinger Open Space project is one of 16 urban forest planting and preservation projects (all by U.S. nonprofits, cities, or governmental entities) that generate more than 40,000 metric tons of third-party verified Carbon+ Credits. The Greenway Trust is working with City Forest Credits (CFC) to participate in the national sale of these locally sourced credits that represent trees planted and preserved and the range of positive impacts associated with these actions, which CFC describes as "the first and largest aggregation of urban forest carbon projects in the world."



The original trail was a partnership between Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), the Greenway Trust, Washington Trails Association, and EarthCorps, and the same partners are working together to complete the improvements. The first phase of the project involved a contractor on a mini excavator who removed large rocks and obstacles to clear the trail. By the end of the project, we expect that more than 700 volunteers will have

When completed, the trail upgrades will include:

completed 5,000 hours of trail work.

- Renovating two miles of trail, including improving the surface, combating erosion, clearing brush, and revegetating areas that have been impacted by hikers
- Working to keep trails dry by improving drainage in multiple locations
- Eliminating 200 feet of rotting wooden structures that support the trail and replacing them with rock structures
- Improving two key switchbacks to make them stand up better to the many hikers who visit each year
- · Removing many dead and dying trees to ensure safety

This project was made possible thanks to funding from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program, the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, and the support of SPU.





New Grants Provide Support for Savor Snoqualmie Valley Initiative

Thanks to generous new funding sources in spring 2021, the Savor Snoqualmie Valley initiative received a new burst of energy to further its mission of celebrating and promoting the Valley.

The Greenway Trust was awarded King County tourism funding, which will be distributed as a two-year grant. These funds will support ongoing expenses related to the Savor Snoqualmie Valley initiative, including website improvements, new content development, refreshed signage in the Valley, and the coordination of Snoqualmie Valley Heritage and Recreation Action Teams, which are affinity groups

that meet regularly for collaboration, project development, and information sharing.

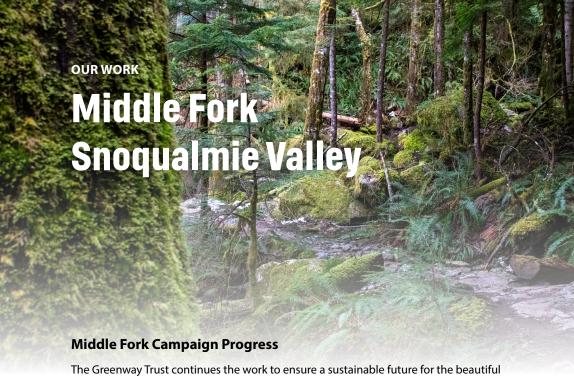
The Greenway Trust also secured a grant from the Port of Seattle thanks to a collaboration with the City of Duvall. These funds supported the development and promotion of an "Explore Duvall and Shop Small" campaign. The program aimed to encourage both residents and visitors to get out, get moving, and support local businesses who are recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Collaboration Continues via Heritage and Recreation Action Teams

Despite the pandemic and the numerous associated challenges, the Snoqualmie Valley Heritage Action Team continued to meet over Zoom throughout the year. This group brings together museums, historical societies, historians, funders, local residents, and volunteers for collaboration, project development, and information-sharing. Conversations were often centered around the financial challenges related to required closures, and also potential grant opportunities to offset these hardships where possible. Many groups also pivoted to offer more online content, and we promoted historical walking tours as a safe, outdoor, and individualized activity for our audience. Although collaboration looked a little different this year, these organizations were able to provide support to one another as we all navigated the ever-changing nature of living and working through the pandemic.

The Outdoor Recreation Action Team also continued to meet virtually around funding, planning, designing, and implementing a connected network of trails, parks, healthy rivers, forests, and communities in the Snoqualmie Valley. In several ways, meeting virtually this year allowed for more active participation for existing partners, increased the size of the coalition overall, and allowed for several guest presentations on relevant topics. The group discusses important issues that require collaborative approaches such as: creating regional and wildland trail connections, enhancing trailheads to sustain ecological function, improving transportation and accessibility, and establishing safe and sustainable river access points, all which help to spread user experiences and connect communities throughout the Valley.



The Greenway Trust continues the work to ensure a sustainable future for the beautiful Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. This incredible expanse of wilderness just minutes from the Seattle metro has seen a huge surge in usage during the ongoing pandemic, and public land management agencies, Greenway Trust staff and crews, nonprofits, and volunteers are working hard to help recreational facilities keep up.

Since 2016, the Middle Fork campaign has raised approximately \$9 million — leveraging public and private sources — for development of the crucial infrastructure (trails, trailheads, sanitation, signage, etc.) needed to absorb heavy usage while enabling such an easily accessible wild place to remain wild. As major site projects wind down, we look forward to the second phase of this campaign, which will focus on stewardship and sustainability of the Middle Fork's lands, waters, and recreational facilities.

Jewelweed Removal in the Middle Fork

This past spring as part of an annual invasive species removal project in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley, the Greenway Trust Restoration Crew along with several Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) members were out in the valley removing spotted jewelweed. Spotted jewelweed is a fairly new invasive plant in Washington, declared to be a noxious weed in 2018.

The crews were out containing it as early as possible to try to prevent the weeds from flowering. Once it produces a flower, if an innocent recreationist brushes against it, the seeds can be shot up to 10 feet!



Camp Brown Day Use Area: Accessible Middle Fork Trail Opens

In October 2020, Camp Brown Day Use Area officially opened, the latest addition to the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley family of trails and recreation opportunities.

Located 11 miles down the Middle Fork Road, this gently meandering half-mile loop trail, built following Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, provides scenic views of the congressionally-designated Wild and Scenic Middle Fork Snoqualmie River.



Visitors can stroll along the gravel-lined loop trail that is routed through lush forest with frequent sightings of the river surging by and the rock face of Garfield Mountain! Nestled along the riverbank and trail are 11 picnic sites with charcoal grates, which make a perfect spot to enjoy lunch with a view. A short ramp and set of stairs also give visitors access to a gravel bar beside the river.

In May 2019, the Greenway Trust along with Northwest Trails and McClung Construction began construction, wrapping it up just 15 months later. This trail wouldn't have been completed so quickly without the hard work of the Forest Service and Greenway Trust trail crews, who together logged approximately 30 days and 1,500 hours. Volunteers contributed an additional four days and more than 300 hours to complete the project.

Funding was provided by the Middle Fork Campaign, the National Forest Foundation, and the Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities program via the Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office.



Local historian Brad Allen helped the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest and Greenway Trust design a series of interpretive signs that greet visitors along the trail.





October 9, 2020



Salmon La Sac Picnic Shelter Restoration

In October 2020, the Greenway Trust teamed up with the US Forest Service to prevent the condemnation of a historic picnic shelter at Salmon la Sac campground. The Civilian Conservation Corps built the shelter using hand tools in 1936, but the passage of time compromised the structure's stability until it was eventually shut down in 2016. The Greenway Trust acquired Title II grant funds to hire David Rogers, a historic preservation specialist to revive the shelter and reopen it to a new generation of Salmon la Sac campers. Best of all, we enabled David to create a week-long skill clinic so he could pass his specialized knowledge on to a cohort of volunteers, who replicated a kiosk in the same style as the picnic shelter. The kiosk will be finalized and installed in fall 2021. We hope this project will be the first of many historic building restoration efforts on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest!







Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee

The Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee (CPPC) formed in 2019 to work on transferring privately owned Cle Elum Ridge lands into a new community forest model. The Greenway Trust co-facilitates the CPPC's Outreach and Communication committee. In 2020, we worked with The Nature Conservancy to produce a series of community testimonial videos supporting the project, and co-authored a grant to the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) newly minted Community Forest Fund. We are pleased and excited to announce that the Cle Elum Ridge Forest project will receive \$3 million from RCO to acquire the first phase of the new community forest lands!

LT Murray Kiosk and Public Information Project

Before non-native settlers arrived in Washington, more than 10.4 million acres of pristine shrubsteppe covered Eastern Washington. Today, less than 2 million acres remain, and 80,000 of those acres make up the LT Murray Wildlife Area. Thanks to a grant from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, the Greenway Trust partnered with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff and community volunteers to install eight new kiosks with brand new interpretive panels on the LT Murray Wildlife Area. These kiosks will help visitors orient themselves across the open shrubsteppe, provide key safety information, and emphasize the importance of protecting this vanishing ecosystem for wildlife, recreation, and the enjoyment of future generations.

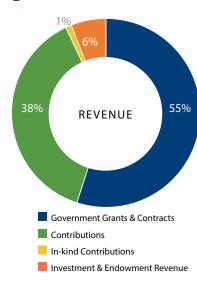
East Cascades Recreation Partnership Stepping up to Rec Challenges

2020 saw an unprecedented number of people anxious to spend time outdoors, even during the winter. Sno-Parks quickly overflowed, and first time recreationists kept Search and Rescue teams running ragged. The East Cascades Recreation Partnership (ECRP), facilitated by the Greenway Trust, worked across agency lines to open three temporary Sno-Parks in Kittitas County to help combat parking on roadsides, medians, and private driveways. The ECRP also developed a series of Safe Winter Recreation videos, shared with the Recreate Responsibly Coalition, to guide newcomers through gear selection, navigation, and avalanche awareness.

Financial Report

REVENUE

Government Grants & Contracts	\$1,930,929
Contributions	\$1,336,131
In-kind Contributions	\$10,678
Net Investment & Other Income	\$205,458
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,483,196



EVDENCES

Photo credit: Merrill Imag

EXPENSES	
Program Expenses	\$2,510,920
Management & General	\$216,691
Fundraising	\$229,414
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,957,025
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$3,299,595

NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR \$3,825,766 \$526,171

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS*

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



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and becker&mayer!

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"The easy access to mountains, rivers, and wild places so close to a major urban center makes our community a great place to live, work, and play. But we can't take these things for granted. I support the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust as the organization that brings diverse interests together as partners to ensure we have the resources to steward and care for this special landscape we call home."

- Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater

DONATIONS RECEIVED JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

Thank You, Donors

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

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.

\$1,000,000+

REI Co-op

\$500,000 - \$999,000The Boeing Company

\$100.000 - \$499.999

Greg & Monica Smith Maggie Walker The Norcliffe Foundation

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Treeline Foundation

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\$2,500 - 9,999
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Cascade Gateway Foundation
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Education Foundation

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\$25,000+ Anonymous

\$10,000-\$24,999

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Sally and Warren Jewell
Gretchen Luxenberg and Leigh Smith
Inger Osberg
Jim and Bonnie Reinhardsen
Jon Hoekstra and Jennifer Steele

Robert Wiley \$5,000-\$9,999

Jim and Barbara Becker
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Cliff and Pauline Cantor
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John and Jennifer Spaith
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\$2,500-\$4,999

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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