



Issaquah Alps
TRAILS CLUB

— EST. 1979 —

The Alpiner

January, 2020

DeLeo Wall Advocacy at the Newcastle City Council Meeting

The Newcastle City Council received a plethora of public comments from the “Save DeLeo Wall” supporters at the council meeting on January 21. It was a standing-room-only crowd with the majority there to speak and show support for the DeLeo Wall campaign. Our own Executive Director Lindsay Frickle spoke on behalf of the club, as well as several others with club affiliation.

Here are a few pics of the speakers and the crowded room.



IATC Executive Lindsay Frickle addresses the council.



Save DeLeo Wall co-founder Eva Lundahl addresses the council.



The crowded room.

Issaquah Alps Hike Program Hosts DeLeo Wall Hike in Support of Fundraiser

Hannah Wheeler – January 20, 2020

This past weekend, members of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, Save DeLeo wall, and public officials toured the DeLeo Wall Property itself in support of a fundraiser lead by the Save DeLeo wall group. Save DeLeo wall is raising \$35,000 dollars by January 31st to prevent the property from being logged. Read more about the the fundraiser [here](#), or visit Save [DeLeo Wall's website](#) to donate.



Eva Lundahl, Ryan McIrvine, and Denice Carnahan kick off the hike at Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.



Hikers brave the rain to visit the DeLeo wall property.



Ralph Owen stands in front of the trail sign for the DeLeo wall trail.



Thanks to all of the hikers who participated in the DeLeo wall hike fundraiser!

IATC History-Chapter 29 (2009): A Good Year for IATC

By Doug Simpson

January – March: Many Positives in 2008

Another access route to Cougar Mountain was completed with the opening of the Talus Bridge Trail. The trail connects the Talus community with Cougar's Bear Ridge Trail. Though only a quarter-mile long, IATC's Scott Semans reported that over 600 man hours were put into the project, including a bridge over West Tibbetts Creek. Up to 100 sword ferns were transplanted to open the trail route. Semans put in over half the hours on the project himself.

Tiger Mountain's Park Pointe property on its western flank was rescued from development, as the City of Issaquah and Port Blakely developers reached an agreement. To gain 36 acres for development in the Highlands, Port Blakely exchanged 160 acres (and 360 potential house units) at Park Pointe. The developer would also provide \$13 million in recreational improvements to Highland's Central Park, sell 3.2 acres to the city and build 53 affordable housing units among the concessions. Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger called the agreement "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to forever protect one of the last significant pieces of open space."

President Steve Williams commented on the above accomplishments and noted that 23 different hike leaders guided 139 different hikes in 2008 from Lake Washington to Snoqualmie Pass.

With the Greenway's goal of being able to walk or bike from Seattle to Snoqualmie Pass, this came closer to reality with a trail link along I-90 from Lakemont Boulevard to State Route 900.

DNR's Snoqualmie Unit received three grants for 2009 projects, for bridge replacements on Mount Si, a new trailhead near Mount Teneriffe and Mailbox Peak and for ongoing maintenance needs. And DNR announced a new policy governing regulation of recreational use in its jurisdictions.

The US News and World Report cited Issaquah among just ten cities in the United States as one of "the Best Healthiest Places to Retire." It cited the city's 1,146 acres of active and passive parks as a major reason for the recognition.

Mary Cadigan, a long-time active member of IATC passed away on November 23, 2008. She was a hike leader and volunteer in many club projects.

April – June: Another Storm Hits

IATC's annual meeting resulted in few changes to the club's board of directors. Steve Williams, Ken Konigsmark and Doug Simpson continued in their positions, and Cornelia Remy as treasurer and Kathleen Petty as secretary became official officers in the positions they had been filling. Dick Amidei became the only new board member, replacing Harry Morgan.

President Williams reported on a massive slide on Tiger Mountain, with over 200 feet of trail and a 60-foot bridge affected. He noted that climate change seems to bring a huge storm every other year now. He cited a dozen club members who tackled the project of repairing the damage. A new cable suspension bridge was being speculated.

Asked what hiking in the woods accomplished, in his Hiker's Corner column Joe Toynebee wrote: "Any activity that is healthy, inexpensive, provides great scenery and companionship and is fun must have something going for it."

Gas tax revenues provided funding sources to needed work on Squak Mountain. Landslides would be dealt with, bridges repaired and trails improved, with some new signage as well.

Scott Semans seemed everywhere. After finishing the Talus Trail, he then joined with Newcastle Trails to build the Terrace Trail up Cougar Mountain's southwest flank from SE 144th to the Terrace neighborhood. The trail, in two-thirds of a mile, gains 500 feet to intersect with the East Crosstown Trail and the Cougar park's trail system.

July – September: More Manning Honors

The upper Greenway Corridor was completed with acquisition of 7,000 acres (called 'the doughnut hole') that includes land on the slopes of Rattlesnake and Taylor mountains. The acquisition completes the unbroken connection of public land from Coal Creek Park to U.S. Foreign Service lands of the Cascades.

Harvey Manning received two posthumous honors. On Cougar Mountain's east side in Talus, a local park was officially named the "Harvey Manning Park at Talus." And he was given the Ruth Kees Environmental Excellence Award by the city of Issaquah. His award was the third for IATC leaders in as many years, following Bill Longwell and Ken Konigsmark.

President Steve Williams announced that the Harvey Manning statue would be dedicated on September 20. On the statue he was named “the Champion of the Issaquah Alps.” Williams called him “a warrior for the wilderness” whose weapons were “eloquent words and hiking boots.” Williams also paid tribute to the passing of Ruth Kees (75), Stimson Bullitt (85) and Tom Wood, environmental leaders who loved the wildlands and did much to benefit the Issaquah Alps. Bullitt donated the upper portion of Squak Mountain to King County Parks to expand the boundaries of the park.

The Greenway Trust and DNR were constructing a proper trail to the Kamikaze Falls, located between Mount Si and Mount Tennerife.

King County acquired 14 acres in the forest of Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River Valley. Most of the 110,000-acre valley is now public ownership, cleaned up and safe after years of misuse. Funds for the purchase were from Conservation Futures and levy moneys from property taxes.

King Count opened the Marymoor Connector Trail, making it possible to hike on trails from the Ballard Locks all the way to Snoqualmie Pass and beyond.

October – December: IATC Leads the Blind

Squak Mountain was named “a destination hike” by the American Hiking Society. It specifically cited the 6-8 mile “Double Park Loop” (Central and West peaks) as a moderately difficult trail, a real gem, with lush vegetation and grand views.”

President Williams credited Doug Simpson for his leadership in overseeing all aspects of the Harvey Manning statue, which all agreed presented a remarkable likeness. At the September 20 dedication, a good crowd came for the occasion with several speakers, including Mayor Ava Frisinger.

(See the separate story for IATC’s project of leading blind youth on a Twin Falls hike.)

The club had two new hike leaders in 2009—*Dick Amidei* and *Robb Mitchell*.

Important Bellevue City Council Meeting to Save Coal Creek

Please join the IATC in helping [Save Coal Creek](#) by attending the next Bellevue City Council meeting on Tuesday January 21.

MEETING DETAILS:

8pm Tuesday January 21
Bellevue City Hall
Council Chambers Room 1E-126
450 110th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

IATC Leads Youth with Blindness (Reprint)

(Note: The following article was in a 2009 *Alpiner* issue. It has been edited to reflect current preferred language of people with disabilities.)

IATC LEADS YOUTH WITH BLINDNESS

By Doug Simpson

Sometimes it can be difficult to see clearly on a woodsy hike late in the day or during inclement weather. Imagine how a trail would seem if you couldn't see at all—if you were a person with blindness. Several members of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club recently took six Korean and Native American youths with blindness and their leaders to Twin Falls on a sunny Sunday.

As hike leader Richard Mann asked, “How does one explain or lead when the word SEE is just incomprehensible? As the old saying goes, very carefully. The whole concept of leading people with blindness was unknown to us, and this day we overlooked the ten essentials.”

The mostly Korean group was led by Sammamish resident Yang-su Cho, himself living with blindness, who has been hosting and coordinating activities for Korean students with vision impairment up to college age for six years. He and his wife

participated in the hike as well, and served as interpreters as needed. They were accompanied by Mann, Steve Williams, Scott Semans, Dick Amidei and Doug Simpson from IATC.

After the initial introductions and pairings were made, the group set off with two white canes attached together. The first was for the student with blindness to tap his/her surroundings, and the second was a tether or physical connection to a leader.

“For us leaders, it was a very quick and necessary learning process,” Mann said, “to steer away from roots, rocks, etc., but most importantly away from the side of the trail and the ‘unseen’ drop-offs.”

Then the leaders were faced with the problem of trying to explain the sights along the way, especially the spectacular falls. “For most of us,” Mann said, “it was nearly impossible to describe the wonderful scenery and types of trees and plants. With the exception of Steve, we lacked the expertise.” Touching the trees and other objects was one way for the youth to sense the trail.

“When we got to the falls,” Mann added, “all I could say was LISTEN and give a description without using that SEE word.”

According to Cho, the students had a great time and were very appreciative. “It was good hiking with your group. I look forward to having a similar opportunity next year,” Cho said.

“For us who do see,” Mann concluded “it was a great learning experienced to imagine how people with blindness experience nature without seeing, and it was great to give them a hiking experience.”

Efforts to Save Cougar Mountain's DeLeo Wall Property from Clearcutting Continue



The following is written by Save DeLeo Wall's Eva Lundahl to the members of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. The IATC fully supports the efforts of Save DeLeo Wall and their fundraiser.

In 2018, the owner of the privately owned hillside on Cougar Mt, known locally as the "DeLeo Wall", was granted a logging permit by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, despite protests from more than 200 concerned citizens and strong objections from both the City of Newcastle and City of Renton. The plans call for a clearcut, which will destroy trails and habitat, and impact streams, wetlands, and riparian zones. Logging such a precarious property is a regional issue that could lead to devastating erosion, landslides, and runoffs into the May Creek Basin. Slash debris left behind from logging may also pose a significant fire hazard.

The City of Newcastle has appealed DNR's decision and court proceedings are underway, as are negotiations with the owners' attorneys. The City has partnered with Forterra, a local land conservation nonprofit organization, with the goal of purchasing the property and preserving it as green space. These efforts are strongly supported by the Save DeLeo Wall Campaign, a citizen-led group working to raise awareness and raise support in the community for conservation of the property. Since the logging permit was granted, representatives from the Save DeLeo Wall Campaign have also met with King County officials, Renton City Council members, local trails and preservation groups, and have attended town hall meetings, and community events. More than 140 people attended a City Council meeting in May 2019 and spoke against logging DeLeo Wall. The Campaign maintains a website (www.savedeleowall.org) and a Facebook group to keep citizens informed.

Fundraising

In the fall of 2019, the City was able to obtain a large conservation grant from the County that can be used to purchase the land. At this time however, the owner of the DeLeo Wall property has not expressed interest in selling. In December 2019, the City of Newcastle asked the Save DeLeo Wall Campaign to raise money for a full appraisal of the property, so its market value can be accurately established. This is necessary to apply for more grants and make a fair purchase offer. The appraisal will cost \$35,000 and we need to raise the money by January 31, 2020. Forterra has agreed to forego admin fees and have set up a fundraising page through which people can donate: <https://forterra.org/give-deleo-wall> Please consider supporting this important conservation effort on Cougar Mountain!

Newcastle City Council Meeting on January 21, at 7pm

The Save DeLeo Wall Campaign also wants to encourage local residents who are concerned about logging on DeLeo Wall to attend the Newcastle City Council meeting on January 21, at 7pm, to be held at Newcastle City Hall (located at 12835 Newcastle Way #200, Newcastle, WA 98056). Several new council members have just been sworn in and it's very important the Council sees that the issue has strong support in the community, especially as the City is facing budget cuts and has proposed eliminating the matching funds for conservation grants. We need a strong turnout so bring your neighbors and plan to speak for 1-2 minutes about the value of Cougar Mountain trails and the DeLeo Wall!

Please contact the Campaign if you have any questions or would like to help: savedeleowall@gmail.com. We need volunteers to hand out flyers at Red Town and on the Wall in the coming month! If you have any connections to influencers or

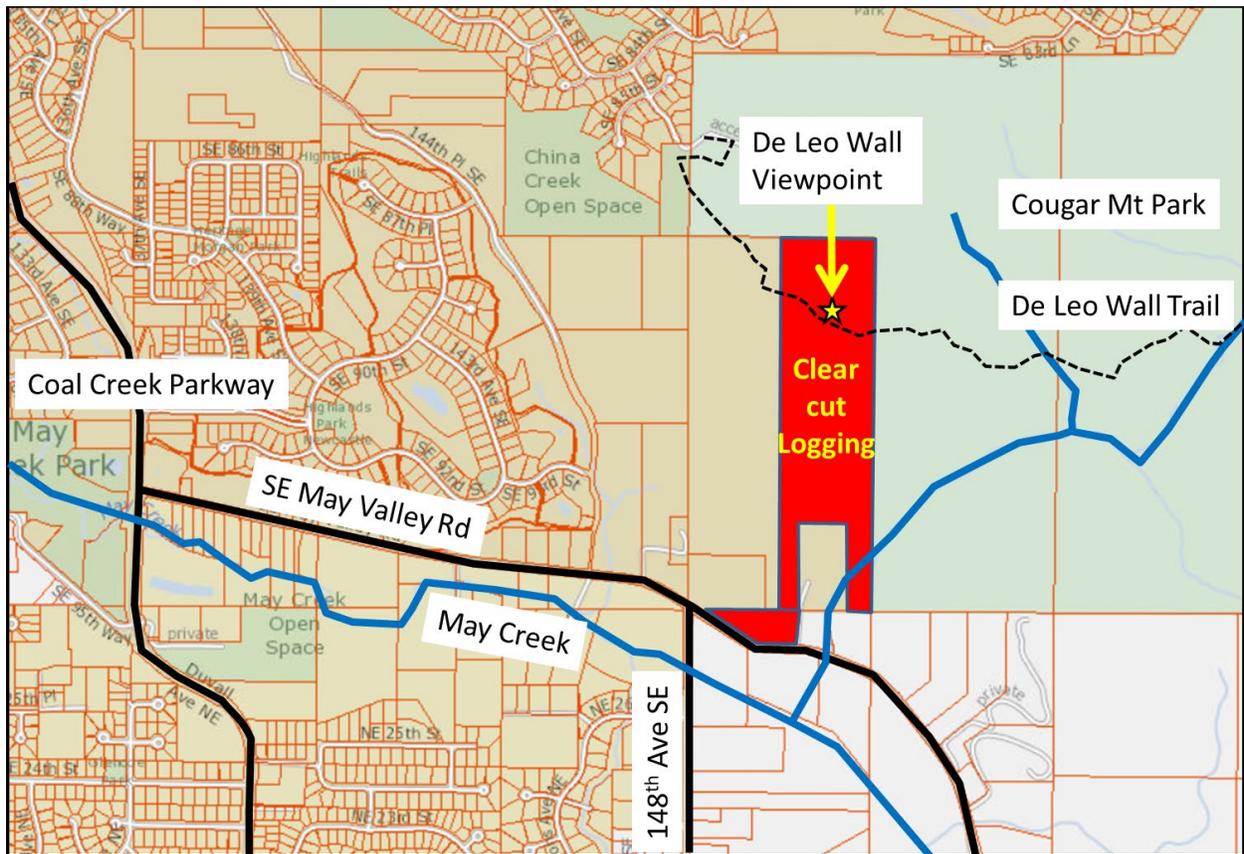
ideas, we'd love to hear from you too. Share this message on social media and via email. We post news and alerts to Facebook and our website.

Please donate if you can and thank you!

Eva Lundahl

Co-founder of the Save DeLeo Wall Campaign and author of "14 Shorter Trail Walks in and around Newcastle"

www.savedeleowall.org



Middle Fork Road Closes due to Landslide



View of the Middle Fork Snoqualmie area from the Granite Lake trail.

The Middle Fork Snoqualmie Road is closed just after milepost 9 due to a landslide. The area received 7 inches of rain in approximately 36 hours, causing instability and eventually a landslide. Crews will assess the damage and determine next steps for repair come spring when the rain subsides for the year. See more information [here](#).

Please avoid the area as the landslide is still considered active and dangerous. See wta.org for more hiking options, or join us for a hike in the Issaquah Alps [here!](#)