



Issaquah Alps
TRAILS CLUB

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The Alpiner

February, 2020

Commissioner Hilary Franz Delivers Keynote at the Annual IATC Public Lands Forum

Tom Anderson – February 24, 2020

The Preston Community Center was the venue for our annual Public Lands Forum Thursday evening, February 20. The warm ambiance of the historic building was enjoyed by all. About 80 people were in attendance.

The keynote was delivered by Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz speaking on the challenges brought by climate change to the management of state public lands.

The keynote was followed by a panel of local and state-level public land managers, taking questions from the room and our Emcee, Ken Konigsmark.

The following photos capture the highlights...



Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, delivers the keynote speech.



Nearly every seat was taken



Ken Konigsmark, IATC Board member and past president, served as Emcee.



Jon Hoekstra, Executive Director of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, gave an update on the Greenway and the upcoming 30th anniversary trek from Roslyn to Seattle. Registration opens on February 28.



The panelists, left to right: Kelly Heintz, King County Parks, Jon Hoestra, MTS&T Executive Director, Laurie Benson, WA State DNR, Jeff Watling, City of Issaquah Parks, Angie Feser, City of Sammamish Parks



Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz takes the pledge...



IATC President David Dunphy and Exec. Director Lindsay Frickle thank the attendees for their participation.



The historic Preston Community Center.

IATC History- Chapter 30 (2010): IATC Initiates Scholarship Program

By Doug Simpson

January – March: MANNING STATUE DEDICATED

The Harvey Manning statue was dedicated on September 30, 2009 with a good crowd in attendance, including six former IATC presidents—Dave Kappler, Barbara Johnson, Ken Konigsmark, Steven Drew, Doug Simpson and Steve Williams.

Another former club leader, Ted Thomsen, died of cancer in September at age 85. Ralph Owen cited Thomsen’s significant role in not only helping to hold IATC together at a rough time, but in co-chairing the first Mountains to Sound March and later playing a key leadership role on the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Joe Toynbee, in his “Hiker’s Corner” column, reviewed the role that IATC played by projecting the Greenway concept with ideas from Harvey Manning and Jack Hornung and the club’s Greenway marches.

April – June: “STAND ON GUARD”

At the club’s annual meeting January 28, the club leadership remained intact with President Steve Williams, Vice-Presidents Ken Konigsmark and Doug Simpson, Treasurer Cornelia Remy and Secretary Kathleen Petty, as well as new board terms for Scott Semans, Jackie Hughes and Ed Vervoort.

Williams picked out lyrics from the Canadian national anthem, specifically “We stand on guard to for thee,” citing the importance of those who love the trails and parks to stand on guard to protect them.

Semans, the club’s trailwork overseer, estimated that trailworkers put in 3,100 hours in 2009—2,000 hours of treadwork, 1,000 hours of brushing, and 100 hours scouting trail alternatives and possibilities. And Toynbee said the club held 105 hikes in 2009, totaling 1,023 hikers, or nearly 10 persons per hike. IATC had 22 hike leaders. Richard Mann was on 52 of the hikes and led many of them himself.

DNR manager Kelly Heintz announced plans for a new parking area and trail improvements in the Middle Fork area, as well as a new trail to Teneriffe Falls. She also told of the acquisition of forty acres in the Mount Si area.

The City of Issaquah announced the integration of three city parks (Tolle Anderson, Cybil-Madeline and Issaquah Creek) into the city's confluence master plan.

Dwight Riggs, IATC activist who initiated the club's Weed Whackers group and the Hard Core camping club, passed away in Tucson at age 61.

July – September: SCHOLARSHIP VOICES

IATC's Bill Longwell scholarship program made its first gift to Skyline High's Miles Burns, bound for Davidson College in North Carolina. A well-rounded student, he had a 3.95 GPA.

President Williams wrote at length of the club policy of no dogs on hikes unless it is on a designated "Dog's Welcome" hike. And he praised the state for restoring funding for DNR's enforcement program and the City of Issaquah for progressing toward acquisition of Tiger's Park Pointe acreage.

The East Lake Sammamish Trail was nearing completion. It will provide not only a trail link between Issaquah and Redmond, but also complete the 44-mile continuous route into Seattle. And a connector trail from Tiger Mountain past I-90 to more northerly trails was completed.

Here are a few comments from scholarship entrants: "I always feel comforted when I see the mountains when driving home on Interstate 90." . . . This is a place where I can be alone to think, rejuvenate, and connect with nature in its purest form." . . . "Honestly, I think it's a miracle that those mountains are still as green as they are." . . . "These mountains are a source of escape from our urban environment." . . . These mountains have souls. They sing on summer evenings, laugh in autumn storms and breathe life into the world."

October – December: KAPPLER NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT

David Kappler was elected as president-elect at IATC's July board meeting. He will succeed Steve Williams to the presidency at the January 2011 annual meeting. Kappler was club president in the early 90's before stepping down to assume his seat on the Issaquah City Council.

In his "Report," Williams elaborated on the problems created by mountain bikes on Alps trails. An example: Harvey Manning, walking on a Cougar Mountain Trail with his sheltie dogs, was "startled out of my wits" and had to leap into the blackberries while his dogs scooted in all directions. He was furious at being run off a trail that he had built, in a park that he had gained for the public after years of lobbying.

The only new hike leader in 2010 was *Tom Pohle*.

"Historic" Flooding in Issaquah

Nonstop rain in Issaquah and around Western Washington on Wednesday and Thursday caused Issaquah Creek to overflow, flooding parts of downtown including Gilman Boulevard, Front Street, and Newport Way.



IATC member Tom Anderson captured images of flooding occurring on the Wetlands Trail, turning it into the "Extra-Wetlands Trail."

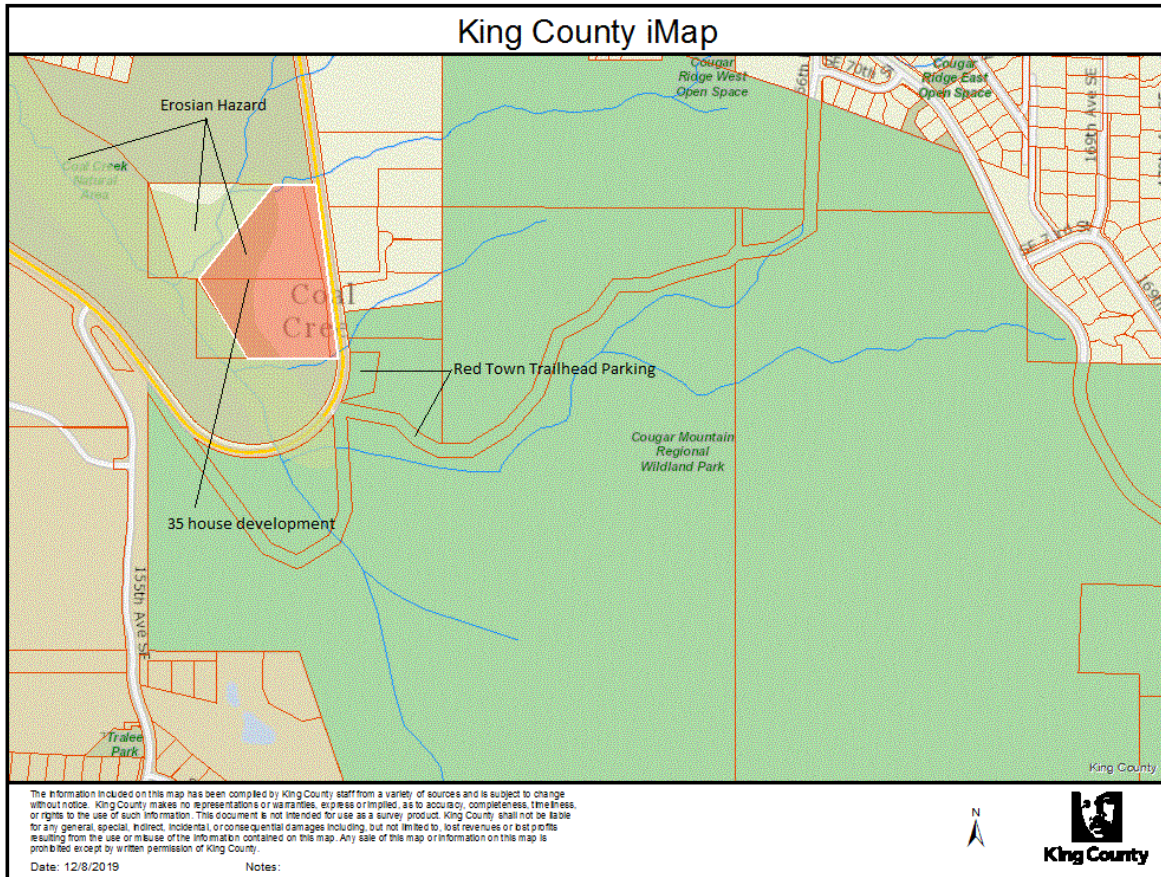


Photo by Tom Anderson

The National Weather Service reports that on Thursday morning Issaquah Creek was measured at 2,450 cubic feet per second. This level of flooding has not occurred since 2009. Read more about the flooding around Western Washington in this [KUOW article](#).

Take Action Against Development at Coal Creek

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club is encouraging its members to oppose the private development of 35 single-family homes on a City of Bellevue parcel near Coal Creek.



King County iMap image of the affected area (shown in red). This image highlights the proximity of the parcel in question to erosion hazards and the creek itself.

Why Oppose Development?

In addition to increasing traffic on a dangerous commuter roadway, Coal Creek serves as an important habitat for wildlife and a key recreation area for many of us. Development in this area would cause pollution from runoff in four fish-bearing streams and three key wetlands. A multitude of amazing animals currently reside in Coal Creek natural area including sapsuckers, pileated wood-peckers, bats, swallows, owls, hawks, weasels, frogs & salamanders.

Additionally, an existing Bellevue Parks trail is included in the proposed development site, and while trail access would be maintained, hiking through a subdivision does not provide the same mental and physical health benefits as hiking through a natural area. Learn more about the health benefits of nature from this [article in Audobon magazine](#).

What can you do?

1. Sign the petition to oppose development via the IATC website [here](#).
2. Tell the city your concerns. Any comments should be submitted to the Development Services Department for consideration, and specifically to Peter Rosen, Senior Environmental Planner, City of Bellevue and the permit project manager: (425) 452-5210 or prosen@bellevuewa.gov.
3. Learn more about the project and encourage others who share your concerns to act as well. More information on Save Coal Creek is available [here](#).