



Issaquah Alps TRAILS CLUB

— EST. 1979 —

Dedicated to engaging the public to preserve, protect, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps, for present and future generations.

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINER

May 2020

Join the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, REI, and other partners in [#RecreatingResponsibly](#) as our trails and public spaces open.

For more frequent updates on Issaquah Alps visit our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.
Reach out to us there with your questions!

If you're interested in getting involved with the IATC in more ways, please fill out our [volunteer form](#) and let us know how you'd like to help!

Community Comes Together to Recreate Responsibly

Hannah Wheeler - May 22, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted nearly every aspect of our lives and caused a great deal of uncertainty. Things are changing on a weekly, or even daily, basis. As parks, trails, and forests begin to reopen, it can be confusing to navigate this "new normal" in terms of how to recreate responsibly. The #RecreateResponsibly Coalition has guidance to help us all get outdoors safely:

<https://www.recreateresponsibly.org/>

#RecreateResponsibly

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO Check the status of the place you want to visit. If it is closed, don't go. If it's crowded, have a Plan B.	PLAN AHEAD Prepare for facilities to be closed, pack lunch and bring essentials like hand sanitizer and a face covering.
PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING Adventure only with your immediate household. Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth and give others space. If you are sick, stay home.	PLAY IT SAFE Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your risk of injury. Search and rescue operations and health care resources are both strained.
STAY CLOSE TO HOME This is not the time to travel long distances to recreate. Most places are only open for day use.	LEAVE NO TRACE Respect public lands and communities and take <i>all</i> your garbage with you.

5/18/20

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club is committed to helping our members understand how they can safely continue to enjoy the trails and open spaces of the Issaquah Alps as they reopen. [This article](#) from King 5 news details which public lands are open as of Memorial Day weekend, but as we all know the situation is continually evolving so please "know before you go" by double checking land management websites.

To "stay close to home" we recommend using [WTA's hike finder map](#) to see what trails and open spaces are close to you.

Finally, as always, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club encourages adhering to Leave No Trace guidelines which can be found [here](#). Happy trails everyone!

Thank you to our GiveBIG Supporters!

Lindsay Frickle - May 20, 2020

The IATC participated in GiveBIG this month resulting in over \$3,000 raised in just two days! Thanks to over two dozen generous donors, we are able to continue our work preserving and protecting the trails, wildlands, and parks in our beloved Issaquah Alps. During these difficult times, we are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of so many, as well as several new donors. The incredible generosity of our donors helps the IATC engage the public to preserve, protect, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps for present and future generations.

So where does the money go?

For over 40 years, citizen activists and volunteers of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club have worked with civic leaders and land managers to preserve and protect our parks, open spaces, and trails. With your support, our community has been able to continue our strategic planning work to best serve present and future generations of hikers, trail runners, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Volunteer organization and mobilization

Our Board of Directors is currently leading the charge to create a thoughtful strategic plan to guide our organization into the future. In addition, we are working to engage volunteers, activists, and donors in a deeper way than ever before. We aim to build a public engagement program that connects volunteers to ideas bigger than themselves, leverages partnerships, accomplishes tangible outcomes, and recognizes volunteers for their efforts. IATC's Public Engagement Committee oversees our guided hiking program as well as other volunteer opportunities that involve advocacy, education (events and tabling), and preservation (trail work). If you'd like to get involved on one of our committees or as a volunteer, please visit our website and fill out the [volunteer form](#).

Advocacy

The IATC supports public lands advocacy campaigns within the Issaquah Alps and beyond. Our resources and relationships with land managers, public officials, and partner organizations are broad and deep. Recently, the Save Coal Creek campaign posted signs throughout the area, and worked with neighborhood groups to drive hundreds of new signatures to a petition that will support public acquisition of this critical parcel. If you have not already, please sign the petition on our website: issaquahalps.org/save-coal-creek. In addition, we are currently working to support [Save DeLeo Wall](#) and continue to provide guidance to the [Bergsma acquisition](#). If you would like to support local advocacy efforts, please join the IATC by filling out our [volunteer form](#) on our website.

All GiveBIG donations support the heart of our mission -- advocacy. The generosity of our donors will help citizen activists organize, mobilize, and influence on a broader and deeper level than ever before. THANK YOU to all of our donors, volunteers, fellow hikers and trail runners who support the important work we do for our Issaquah Alps. Together, we will make a lasting impact on the trails and public lands we all love.

The (Trail-wise) Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

Tom Anderson - May 4, 2020

Let's talk about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. But not in human terms - rather, the signs and symptoms manifested on the trails. In the next few days some of the trails on public lands will be opening up, but lest we forget these historic happenings, let's capture a little time capsule of the signage that has come to be in the last couple of months. So, here is a little photo essay of some of the signs deployed by various land managers in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The City of Issaquah has kept the trails and paths in their jurisdiction open, but installed these helpful reminders of safe behavior.



King County has taken this approach for "non-essential use" of regional trails, such as the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail.



And, when necessary, the signage has been more direct. Shown here is the High Point trailhead for the Issaquah-Preston Trail.



Most of Tiger Mountain is managed by the State Department of Natural Resources. Here is an example of their signage, as deployed at the East Sunset trailhead.



The signage at the Lake Sammamish State Park is short-and-sweet.



For the bold that use the trails of Lake Sammamish anyway, there are reminders to "Please keep your social distance."



OK, so this isn't a trail, but still a noteworthy new sign of the COVID-19 era in a local grocery store.



Lastly, a helpful reminder on the Rainier Trail from a Happy Wanderer.

Save Coal Creek Petition Update

Hannah Wheeler - May 27, 2020



By Sally Lawrence

To boost the number of signatures on the "Save Coal Creek" petition, in mid-May temporary signs with the petition weblink were installed at 47 locations along streets in Bellevue and Newcastle. Thanks to volunteers Rayma Norton, Franja Bryant, Randy Gaddy, David Kappler, Suzy Stockton, and Sally

Lawrence for accomplishing this! (And thanks, Eva Lundahl, for info on city codes for posting signs.)

How can you help? Most important is to increase the number of signatures on the petition - please tell others about the petition and ask them to sign. This will help convince Bellevue City Council to take an active interest in the future of the Isola Homes property. If you have not yet signed, the petition is hosted on the Issaquah Alps website, at www.savecoalcreek.org.

The next step in Bellevue's planning process is to schedule a public hearing on the latest version of the Isola Homes development proposal. To date, no public hearing is scheduled. On April 30, Sally Lawrence sent a letter to Bellevue City Council, including councilmember Janice Zahn (council liaison with the Parks Department), and new Parks director Michael Shiosaki. The letter stressed the higher value of the Isola Homes property - to preserve its value for wildlife and local mining history - if it were purchased for addition to the Coal Creek Natural Area, rather than being developed.

Eastside Audubon Society's Conservation Chair, Jeremy Lucas, agrees that the Save Coal Creek conservation effort is one that this organization should support. We will likely ask the Board of Eastside Audubon to write a letter of support to Bellevue City Council if/when a public hearing on the development proposal is scheduled.

We are also looking for your photos and videos of wildlife, insects, trees, wildflowers, etc. taken in the vicinity of the Coal Creek and Red Town trails. Paul Van Atta, who lives nearby, shared a wonderful video of two bear cubs taken in his backyard - take a look on the website! Here is a photo by Hilary Barnes of a bear pawprint taken at the stormwater retention pond just north of the Isola property, on the west side of Lakemont Boulevard.



Photo by Hilary Barnes of a bear pawprint. Photo submitted to IATC by Sally Lawrence

IATC History - Chapter 33 (2013): Focus on Tiger, Squak

Doug Simpson - May 18, 2020

January - March: Active Vets Take Survey

An IATC survey netted 108 responses with over two-thirds being over 60 years old and just three under 40. Respondents are active, though, as in addition to IATC 42% were members of the Washington Trails Association, 26% the Mountaineers, 19% the Sierra Club, 17% the Snoqualmie Trails Club, and 12% the Mountains to Sound Greenway. Responders said their willingness to gain elevation is 2675 feet on average, the minimum just 756 feet. They advocated more participation from young people and families, not surprising given their ages.

Acquisition of property on Cougar's northeast corner has provided opportunity to link up with the Big Tree Ridge Trail. Elements of the old Precipice Trail are incorporated, enabling connection to the Surprise Creek Trail. Work was expected to be finished by spring.

DNR's Sam Jarrett announced the installation of three bridges on Tiger Mountain, including a 45-foot fiberglass span on the 15-Mile Railroad Grade and another 45-foot replacement on the Iverson Railroad Grade. The other would be on the upper High Point crossing of the Tiger Mountain Trail.

Joe Toynbee detailed the history of the club's Tiger Mountain Trail from Bill Longwell's idea expressed in 1972. The trail was opened in 1979, its length adjusted from 14 miles, then to 17 and finally settling in on its current 16 miles. Longwell recruited work parties from his Lindbergh High students, but much the work was his own. "It was a magnificent achievement," Toynbee wrote.

Between June and October of 2012, the club held 101 hikes for 762 people, an average of 7.5 per hike.

April - June: Kappler Re-elected as President

At the club's annual meeting in January, Dave Kappler was elected to another two-year term as club president. Doug Simpson and Kathleen Petty were elected to continue as vice-president and secretary. Dick Amadei replaced Cornelia Remy as treasurer and Allegra Atkinson and Scott Preuter were chosen as new board members, replacing Sally Davies and Larry Hanson.

IATC reported that a logging company was seeking to clear 216 acres of prime forest on Squak Mountain. As a result, the Save Squak movement was underway.

Hazel Weisman set in motion plans to add snowshoe hikes to IATC's hiking schedule. Concern was expressed about increased danger on hikes and a likely increase in insurance costs. The plan was conditionally approved by the board.

In his "Hiker's Corner" column, Joe Toynbee pointed out that hiking the same trails regularly is not repetition since the trails differ greatly during the year's four different seasons.

Ed Vervoort, who does most of the club's trailwork on Tiger Mountain, discussed the 9.2 miles on Tiger's south end that are not protected because they are on Washington State Trust Lands, which permit logging for fund-collecting for educational uses. Generally, about 100 acres per year are sold for logging in the area.

Designated club hiking territory was expanded by the IATC board from Seattle to Easton and twenty miles in either direction from the I-90 corridor.

An article reported on the expansion of the club's dog-hike program with three successful active hike leaders-Jean Lanz, Tom Pohle, and Dori Ost. "Dogs are social animals," Lanz pointed out. "They are taught to stay by their owners and not go off trail."

July - September: Giant Middle Fork Project

Mark Boyer, a Greenway board member, spearheaded an extensive project to clean up the Middle Fork area, including the Mailbox Peak Trailhead and the Middle Fork campground. The project would be completed by 2016. New roadway, parking, bathrooms and river access are all part of the project, in the former site of illegal operations and dumping garbage.

Squak Mountain became a center of activity in efforts to avoid logging a 95-acre clearcut. Funding from Conservations Futures was sought as well as gaining levy funding, with both needed to "Save Squak."

Winners of IATC's Bill Longwell Scholarship were announced: First prize of \$1000 went to Joseph Domek of Issaquah High. Another IHS student, Jennifer Duff, took second place and \$500. Andrew Smith of Skyline High was third for \$250. Following are excerpts from their essays:

Joseph Domek: *The Issaquah Alps Trails club is a great way to help the environment while getting some exercise, having some family time, having an opportunity to understand more about wildlife, and getting some community service. . . thinking globally and acting locally is just the beginning of creating a better and safer environment for everyone today as well as the generations to come.*

Jennifer Duff: *Once students are interested and educated about nature and the challenges it is facing, provide them with opportunities to take action. A great way to do this is to start a Junior Issaquah Alps Trails Club in local middle and senior high schools. The club could organize enthusiastic students and assist them in participating in environmental solutions.*

Andrew Smith: *There seems to be a vast chasm between the amount of information that people know about the issues, and the amount that people know about saving them. . . The solution is a two-pronged approach: continue the education of global environmental issues and create a movement among youth towards sustainable living.*

October - December: Squak Is Saved

Squak Mountain was saved with funding from the Trust for Public Land and passage of the King County Parks Levy in August. These sources provide sufficient funding to purchase 216 acres from Erickson Logging. County Councilman Larry Phillips stated: "Public outcry about plans to clearcut forestland on Squak Mountain meant swift action to preserve this cherished habitat and recreation area adjacent to prized county and state parks."

Former club activist Jim Cadigan passed at age 80 in July. He led frequent hikes and served as IATC treasurer from 1990 to 1994.

The Issaquah segment of the East Lake Sammamish Trail was opened in June, 2.2 miles that started from SE 42nd Way to NW Gilman Boulevard. This left just an 11-mile stretch in Sammamish to complete the Redmond to Issaquah trail system.

Ralph Owen and Doug Simpson wrote articles detailing IATC's pre-history, including the naming of the Issaquah Alps, and the beginning of the club. Owen said a turning point in the club's existence was a 119-page booklet by Harvey Manning called "Reflections on the Future of the Issaquah Alps."

Despite a busy hiking schedule in 2013, there were no new hike leaders.

Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT) Closure Explained

David Dunphy - May 29, 2020

You may have seen the signs on the south side of Tiger Mountain talking about a trail closure as logging begins. Logging is an important part of this working forest and helps pay for public education. In a future article we will talk more about the balance of recreation, logging, and public funding. In this article, we want to help explain what we have learned, thanks to the help from our friends at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), about the closure and reroutes that are planned that will affect you on the trails.

The current sign that you see at a couple of trailheads and road intersections explain the whole project. This doesn't mean that the section behind the signs is closed, but rather that a section of trail in the area might be affected at some point by the forestry practice.

ATTENTION

**TEMPORARY TRAIL CLOSURE
TO OCCUR BETWEEN
SPRING 2020 AND FALL 2021**

**IVERSON RR GRADE FROM TIGER SUMMIT TRAILHEAD
TO 1000 (WESTSIDE) ROAD WILL BE CLOSED DURING
TIMBER SALE ACTIVITIES**

Select leave trees will be preserved to protect:

- Unique ecology
- Wildlife habitat
- Trail experience

Tree replanting scheduled for 2023

**TRAIL WILL BE RESTORED FOLLOWING
TIMBER SALE ACTIVITIES**

Timber Harvest Map

For more information, please contact:
South Puget Sound Region Office
southpuget.region@dnr.wa.gov
360-825-1631


dnr.wa.gov/recreation



Image provided by Washington State DNR

Some of the work has been delayed due to the pandemic but we will continue to relay information about this project as we receive it. Currently they are working on the road and plan to start logging in the winter. This means only a small section of trail is closed at this time. There is a signed reroute of this closure that takes you on a short section of trail.

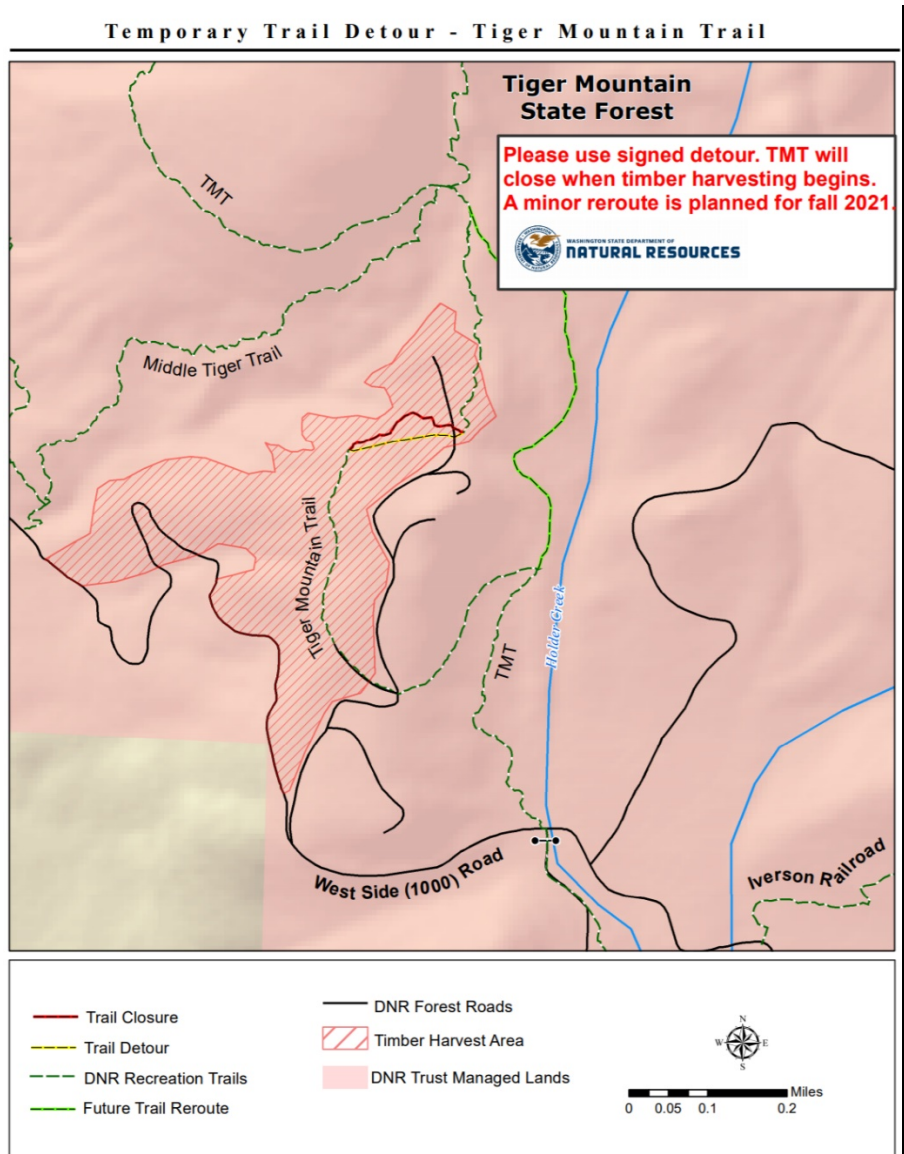


Image provided by Washington State DNR.

The red dash is the harvest area. The red line in the harvest area is the part of the TMT that is currently affected. Yellow is the new route while road work is happening.

The long-term goal is that there will be a reroute of the TMT (shown in light green) that will avoid this area and resolve some long-term maintenance in this section. The hope is that this route will be complete before logging operations start but it will depend on how trail work can progress this summer. We will work with DNR to keep you updated. The forestry and recreation team at DNR are committed to helping find routes when possible so that recreation can share space in this working forest.

Below is what the routing looks like on the Green Trails maps. Thank you to our friends at Green Trails for this great resource. You can purchase the whole map for Tiger Mountain from them [here](#) or from [Mountaineers Books](#).



Image provided by Green Trails Maps.

Iverson-Closure

There is also logging planned near this trail that won't affect the long-term use of the trail but might cause temporary closures when operations start.

You can find the most updated information at the DNR website [here](#).

If you're interested in helping the IATC work with our public lands to ensure recreation access, preserve more public land and promote its use please consider volunteering [here](#). Happy social distance hiking!

The Apparatus

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