



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 future and present generations.

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINER

July 2020

Stay up to date on the Save Coal Creek campaign by joining their [Facebook Group](#). There you will find information about the petition, upcoming hearings, and ways you can advocate for the Save Coal Creek campaign.

If you are heading out to the trails this weekend keep [these principles](#) in mind to keep yourself and others safe. This information is brought to you by the [Recreate Responsibly Coalition](#).

If you would like to get involved with the IATC, please fill out our [volunteer form](#) and let us know what you are interested in.

IATC COVID-19 Update: July

Hannah Wheeler - July 27, 2020

Recently, Issaquah Alps Trails Club leadership has been getting many questions about when we will resume leading hikes and hosting events. We truly appreciate the support demonstrated during the past six months and we too are itching to get back to the trails with our community. That being said, the Trails Club is committed to first and foremost ensuring the health and safety of our members. At a board meeting this week, Issaquah Alps Trails Club leadership came together to decide exactly what that will look like going forward.

Here are the steps we are taking to prioritize public health and safety for our members:

We will not be hosting any in-person hikes or events through the end of 2020.

We understand this may come as a disappointment. We too love coming together as a community. That being said, our amazing events and communications committees are working hard to find ways to get together virtually. Stay tuned for updates on virtual events on our Facebook page.

We have joined the [#RecreateResponsibly](#) coalition and will continue to support this effort.

The Recreate Responsibly coalition is a collection of organizations, including many of our partners, committed to ensuring public health and safety in the outdoors during this public health crisis. They offer guidance on how to stay safe while enjoying your favorite trails, recreation areas, and open spaces. Learn more about their recommendations here or on our website.

We want to support the amazing community that supports us.

We want to stay connected with our members in every way possible to alleviate some of the isolation we are experiencing, and continue to work towards our mission even though we can't physically come together. We are looking for more ways to create virtual volunteering opportunities, virtual events, and keep our members updated on what they can do to advocate for our public lands now. Please join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) or visit our [website](#) to contact us online. Thank you for your continued support!

Conservation Work Continues:

While we are not able to hold events we still are working to connect and protect the Issaquah Alps for future generations. We encourage people to learn about the current efforts and join in.

- [SR- 18](#)
- [Save Coal Creek](#)
- [Save Deleo Wall](#)
- [People for Climate Action Issaquah](#)

U.S. Congress Passes the Great American Outdoors Act

Amy Brockhorst, Deputy Director, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
July 22, 2020

(Reprinted from <https://mtsgreenway.org/blog/great-american-outdoors-act/>)

Extraordinary good news is especially welcome right now.

The U.S. Congress made a historic investment in America's public lands – an investment that will leave a positive legacy on American conservation for generations to come.



Lawmakers came together across the political aisle to pass the Great American Outdoors Act, a bill that will permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and inaugurate the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund which will support deferred maintenance and repairs in national parks and forests. The Great American Outdoors Act was introduced on March 9, 2020 and approved by the Senate by a vote of 73-25 on July 17. The companion bill in the House was introduced on June 4 and was approved today by a vote of 310-107. It now heads to the president's desk for his signature.

At a time when our country needs a win, the Great American Outdoors Act will create jobs in communities across America in park maintenance and operations, wildlife habitat restoration, recreation, tourism and outdoor retail. It will make nature more accessible to more families by broadening and ensuring recreation access for wildlife viewing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, biking and other outdoor activities – whether they be in national parks or city neighborhood playfields.

Visitors and residents spend more than \$26 billion on outdoor recreation in Washington, generating 200,000 jobs and more than \$2 billion in state and local tax revenues – money that is especially

essential for many rural economies across our state.

And in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, LWCF funding has helped conserve more than 90,000 acres of land in nearly 50 separate land acquisitions. Iconic places such as Snoqualmie Point Park, vast stretches of the Pacific Crest Trail, wildlife watching areas in the L.T. Murray, water access along the Yakima River, the kite flying hill at Gas Works Park in Seattle, and so many more, provide treasured places for access to nature to enjoy today and for future generations.

National parks and wildlife habitat, waterways and forested foothills, and neighborhood parks and trails will be conserved and maintained, improving ecological health, boosting economic recovery and providing sustainable outdoor access for all.

Thank you, members of Congress, for passing the momentous Great American Outdoors Act today.

High Point Creek Mudslide (Redux)

Tom Anderson - July 21, 2020

Careful observers of Issaquah Creek have noticed a recurring syndrome - muddy water flowing in the East Fork every time there is a significant amount of rain. This is particularly noticeable at Confluence Park where the East Fork joins the main stream. The contrast between the muddy water and the clear water is striking, as shown in the photo below:



Investigation by our intrepid "watcher" David Kappler revealed the root of the problem - a mudslide along the banks of the High Point Creek at about 800 ft. elevation. A major creekside bank gave away, spilling tons of glacial till and mud into the path of the creek. The following photos illustrate:



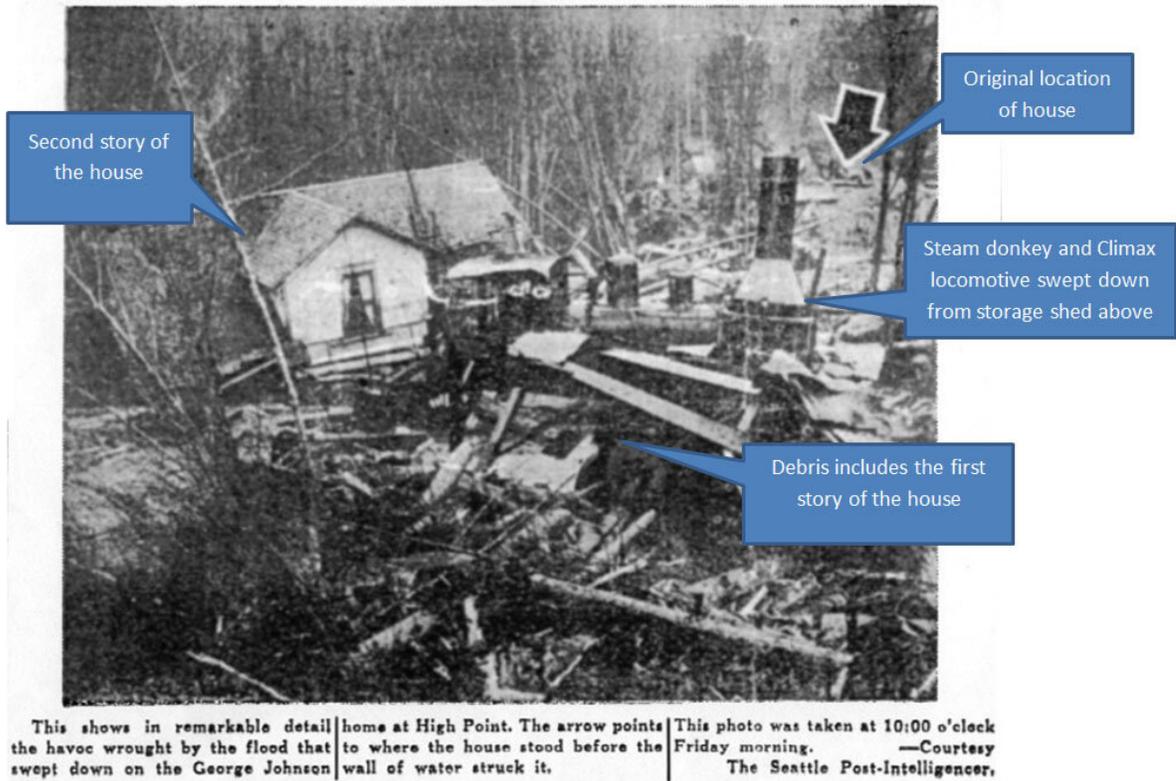
A scar of this magnitude will not heal overnight, but the process is underway. The creek runs clear when we have a few days without rain, but when it does rain, flow through the slide rubble brings silt to the creek once again. The following photo illustrates how the mud flow comes right up to the edge of the creek:



The slide area is situated in the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Conservation Area, under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. A DNR staff geologist has visited the site, but no remediation is planned at this time due to the remoteness of the site.

Mudslides are not new to the High Point Creek. A heavy rain in February of 1932 resulted in a debris dam forming upstream, and when the dam broke loose, a wall of water, mud and debris swept down to High Point taking with it a house, steam donkey and locomotive (belonging to the High Point Mill). The following photo from the Seattle PI captures the devastation:

Where Two Lives Were Lost In Friday Morning Flood



Article in the Issaquah Press, March 3, 1932. Photo first published in Seattle PI on February 26, 1932.

Sleeping in the house were Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson and their four children. George and son, GÅŕsta, sleeping on the first floor, were killed in the cataclysm. Two other children on the first floor, along with Mrs. Johnson and son, Knute, on the second floor, survived.

To put this flood in historical context, the High Point Mill had harvested all the trees it could from Tiger Mountain by the close of 1928. Thus, the slopes around the High Point Creek were denuded, leaving them vulnerable to erosive forces. The storm brought torrential rains and a warm Chinook wind melting the snow on the upper slopes of Tiger Mountain, a perfect combination leading to the destruction on that February night.

The debris flow crossed the main road through High Point (the Sunset Highway), thus disconnecting it from nearby Issaquah for several days. The storm also caused damage and loss of life throughout the region. The country in 1932 was the grip of The Great Depression, so some saw a silver lining in the form of public works jobs. Here is a little example of that sentiment from the Issaquah Press dated March 3, 1932:



Well, what can we learn from all this? Alas, the Great Depression is over, the High Point Mill is gone, but the forces of Nature remain.

IATC History Chapter 35 (2015): Several Club Icons Now Deceased

Doug Simpson - July 21, 2020

January - March: Two Leaders Lost

Two former club leaders passed away recently, Connie Dow and Larry Hanson. Dow, an active hike leader, served as IATC secretary from 1981-1988. "She was always up to date about what was happening and a strong, level-headed advocate for our mission," Dave Kappler stated.

Hanson, the club's "Tiger Watcher" for years, was an active hiker and skilled photographer who illustrated his friend Bill Longwell's Tiger Mountain guides. He worked closely with DNR's Doug McClelland, who said, "His passion and persistence in helping to create the forest we have today is something I will always be thankful for."

President Kappler submitted a formal letter to DNR to state the club's priorities for the development, maintenance and operation of trails on DNR-managed lands. Policies urged were for "the least impact to the land, provide environmental and water quality protection, and lower construction and maintenance costs."

Cynthia Welti of the Greenway noted that it is now possible to walk or cycle 50 miles from the Burke Gilman Trail in Seattle to the Snoqualmie Falls overlook with the addition of a .7 mile trail installed between Issaquah and Preston.

April - June: Greenway Trek Set

Plans were being set for the Mountains to Sound Greenway's 25th anniversary trek from July 11-19. The trek from Ellensburg to Seattle will cover 133 miles, using bikes in addition to the hiking sections.

The IATC Board of Directors remained the same except for the addition of Tom Anderson replacing longtime activist Jackie Hughes, who stayed on as club treasurer. Board members Rachel Hopkins, Kirt Lenard and Ken Konigsmark were reelected to three-year terms.

Tiger Mountain advocate Ed Vervoort provided extensive details for hiking Tiger Mountain trails in the aftermath of trail and bridge improvements. Vervoort did maintenance work on Tiger for an incredible 102 days in 2014.

July - September : Margaret's Way Trail Opened With Park Dedication

To celebrate National Trails Day, IATC with some 150 spectators dedicated the Margaret's Way Trail on Squak Mountain off SR-900. Numerous county and local leaders spoke in the opening of the Cougar Squak Corridor Park. After the dedication, countless hikers proceeded up the new Margaret's Way Trail (named for the deceased Margaret Macleod, the much respected former Interagency Coordinator) up to the Debbie's View lookout.





Margaret's way is dedicated to Margaret Macleod in 2015.

Duane Evans was named the new manager of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, succeeding Niki McBride. He was to move his office from the Cougar summit to the new park described above.

IATC President Dave Kappler was honored by King County for one of the Green Globe awards presented to eco-friendly leaders.

After the closure of several railroad lines, some have been converted to hiking/biking use. Sections near the Redmond Garden Connector and the 7.5 mile Cross Kirkland Connector were recently opened.

Issaquah High's Anne Robertson was the 2015 first place prize-winner in IATC's scholarship competition. An active Greenway member, she plans a career in civil engineering after studying at the University of California at Berkeley. Runners up were HIS senior Tali Magudsen and Liberty High's Steven Tuttle. Following are excerpts from their prize-winning essays:

Anne Robertson: "The opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation for the developmental history and the life-truly the goal-of Issaquah, often goes unnoticed by students and adults alike. However, for those that discover the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, the experience is unforgettable."

Tali Magidson: "I loved Steve Williams' analogy that knowing the flora around you makes you feel surrounded by friends, even when hiking alone. I ate lunch among chocolate lilacs, thorny rose bushes, and wild strawberry blooms, looking at a valley through madrona trees. It was so calming on the sun-dappled ground with strange fuzzy insects buzzing and birds chirping in the multi-faceted greenery!"

Steven Tuttle: "Simply hiking he trails, you ae able to enjoy the scenery and fresh air, but a guided hike allows you to get a deeper understanding of not only the plants, but also the history of the trails themselves."

October - December: 350 on Greenway Trek

July's Mountains to Sound Greenway trek had 350 participants, with 100 covering all 133 miles from Ellensburg to Seattle. IATC strongly supported the trek. As Ken Konigsmark wrote: "IATC was proud to provide key sponsorship for the 25th anniversary trek, contributing \$5,000 towards trek expenses and support for a team of youth from YMCA programs."

"Octogenarians Remain Active" headlined a story about four active IATC hikers-Bob Gross (88), Lena Cushing (87), Joe Toynbee (87) and Richard Mann (85). All have kept hiking over the years. Toynbee, a record-keeper like Bill Longwell, claims that since 1960 he had been on 3,643 hikes, amassing 25,800 miles. "I found if Bill could do 50,000, I could do 25,000."

The club had two new hike leaders in 2015- *Robbie Davis* and *Ben Pryor*.

IATC Partners with the Issaquah Community Convening on Climate

Hannah Wheeler - July 29, 2020

IATC had the honor being an important partner in organizing the Issaquah Community Convening on Climate.

The goal of the event was to bring the community together including businesses, environmental groups, resources managers, educational institutions, students and others to have discussions that will help identify recommendations to the City of Issaquah and community leaders for a course of action to address climate change.

Part I of this two part Webinar was held on July 20th and provided a common foundation of knowledge and awareness of climate data as well as past and current efforts in Issaquah and the region. Speakers and presenters included: Mayor Pauly, David Dunphy (IATC President), Megan Curtis-Murphy (Issaquah Sustainability Coordinator), Drew Wilkinson (Microsoft's Worldwide Sustainability Community co-founder), Ann Fletcher (Issaquah People For Climate Action). You can watch the full part I webinar [here](#).

Issaquah takes climate change and its impact on our environment seriously. The City has adopted a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 25% by 2020 (we have not met this goal, but have kept GHG down even with population increase), 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, with a base year of 2007. To read more about Issaquah's priorities regarding climate change, please visit their website [here](#). Thanks to all of the efforts of IATC over the years Issaquah has a very large tree canopy. This not only helps keep us cool but is also a huge carbon sink! The healthy soil, fungus and trees in the Issaquah Alps are responsible for tons of carbon sequestration! You can view our accomplishment map [here](#).

Part II was held on July 30th from 11:30am-1:30pm and engaged attendees in discussions to develop recommendations for addressing climate change. There were two breakout sessions: the first explored approaches for addressing climate change and the second had topical discussions on: Energy & Green Building, Transportation & Land Use, Waste & Consumption, Sequestration & Resiliency.

At first the plan was to rent a large space and meet in person in the spring...well we all know what

happened. We continued to meet and plan by phone and then online. During this time the City was forced to downsize due to Covid 19 financial strain. Sadly a partner organizer for the event, David Fujimoto's (Director, Office of Sustainability) position was cut along with two others from the Issaquah Sustainability Department. Luckily Megan Curtis-Murphy maintained her position and has been an instrumental part in making the event happen!

The original idea for the event came as a suggestion from Wally Bobkiewicz (Issaquah City Administrator) at a People for Climate Action (PCA) meeting. Wally had prior success with an event like this in Evanston Indiana as a city administrator. Ann Fletcher (IATC's David Kappler's talented wife) started the Issaquah PCA (<https://peopleforclimateaction.org/>) last summer with a kick off picnic in Confluence Park. She has led a dedicated group to great success with much progress!

A message from the City of Issaquah's Website:

"Although the impacts of climate change are daunting, there is something you can do about it. Simple choices in our daily lives can make a difference.

- Reduce emissions from vehicles by taking a [Salmon Friendly Trip](#) . Take the bus, walk, bike or share a ride.
- Use LED lightbulbs and other [energy saving steps](#) to reduce utility bills and environmental impacts.
- Look for smart ways to shop, store and cook food to reduce food waste.
- Buy products that are long-lasting, energy efficient, reusable and have less packaging to prevent waste in the first place.

Consider adding solar or [building green](#) if you are building new or remodeling."

The Apparatus

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