



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

September 2021

We are currently hosting our annual fundraiser!

If you've enjoyed one of our free guided hikes, joined our Adopt-a-Trail program, or helped restore habitat at Berntsen Park this year, consider [supporting the club with a gift!](#)

Save Coal Creek, Eastside Audubon, and People for Climate Action Bellevue are coming together October 13th to host an environmental candidate forum for Bellevue City council candidates. [Register here.](#)

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

Upcoming Hikes and Events

[September 25th](#)- National Public Lands Day with Green Issaquah

[September 26th](#)- Teddy Bear Hike at the Swamp Trail

[October 1st](#)- Forest Health Hike at E Sunset Way

[October 2nd and 3rd](#)- Salmon Days

[October 9th](#)- Green Issaquah at Berntsen Park

IATC Launches its 2021 Annual Fundraiser

Hannah Wheeler - September 17, 2021



Every year the Issaquah Alps Trails Club hosts its annual Fundraiser during the month of September to raise funds for our general operating budget. **This year, the board worked together to come up with a \$15,000 match**, so all gifts made during this fundraiser will be doubled by our very own board members.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club has worked for forty years to protect, preserve, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps now and into the future. The incredible generosity of our community makes it possible for the IATC to engage volunteers in critical public lands restoration, stewardship, and education programs.



This year, **in addition to our advocacy efforts including Save Coal Creek and the Highway 18 redevelopment**, we've expanded our public outreach and education programming.

In 2021 we:

- Re-started our **free educational guided hiking program**
- Created an **"Adopt-a-Trail" volunteer program** to help clean up our local trails
- Partnered with **Green Issaquah at Berntsen Park** to restore critical salmon habitat
- Hosted several **free virtual events and forums** on environmental topics

Check out our [Accomplishments Map](#) to see our impact

A gift made today would go directly to supporting these programs. We still have a lot of work to do to advocate for our public lands and we can't do it without the support of our community.

Support us today at: [Support - Welcome to IATC \(issaquahalps.org\)](https://www.issaquahalps.org)

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with Us!

Hannah Wheeler - September 17, 2021

National Public Lands day celebrates the hard work that has gone into creating and maintaining our nation's public lands. Beginning in 1994, it has become the single largest volunteer day for conservation efforts. This year, we are inviting you to celebrate with us and our partners by hiking, restoring habitat, building trails, or cleaning up.



[Issaquah Alps Trails Club: Green Issaquah Restoration at Berntsen Park](#)

When: Saturday, September 25, 2021, 9:00 AM 12:00 PM

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with us! Join Issaquah Alps Trails Club and the Green Issaquah Partnership in restoring Issaquah's forested parks. We will be enjoying some time outdoors while digging out blackberry roots and pulling out other weedy plants to protect existing trees and prepare for planting in the fall and winter.

[Issaquah Alps Trails Club: Adopt-a-Trail](#)



When: Anytime

If you've been considering joining our Adopt-a-Trail program, National Public Lands Day is the perfect reason to get outside and help keep our trails clean. Sign up to adopt-a-trail today and share your work with us on National Public Lands Day!

[Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust: Help Keep the Greenway Trash Free!](#)

When: Anytime

If you are interested in cleaning up public lands while you are out this National Public Lands Day...please use these resources from our friends at the Greenway to do so safely!

[Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park: Trail Stomp](#)

When: Saturday, September 25, 2021, 9:00 AM 1:00 PM



During this event, volunteers will be flattening reed canary grass to create a new trail, which will help make the trail system at the park more accessible to hikers, families, the elderly and wheelchairs as they discover the beauty of Lake Sammamish. Other activities will include a trash pick-up, weeding and park beautifications.

Forest Carbon Storage in the Issaquah Alps

Anne Newcomb - September 20, 2021



This month, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club hosted a guided hike about the importance of Forest Carbon. We started our Forest Carbon Hike at the Harvey Manning Park (919 Bear Ridge Ct NW) with a small but inquisitive group led by Kathleen Farley-Wolf, Program Manager with the King County Forestry Program. Kathleen is a wealth of knowledge and we felt lucky to have her share with us as we walked through the green wet forest.

We learned that carbon is sequestered from Earth's atmosphere through photosynthesis and stored in forest biomass and soils. 50% of a tree is made up of carbon which means mature forests, with bigger trees, are much better at storing carbon. Forests in the Pacific Northwest play an important role in sequestering and storing carbon due to their ability to accumulate large quantities of biomass in long-lived tree species that can sustain growth in both diameter and height over long time periods. These tree species characteristics combine with abundant moisture and mild winter temperatures to create some of the highest levels of carbon sequestration and storage in the world. However, due to past management, the forests in King County likely still have potential for greater carbon storage.

To kick off the [King County Forest Carbon Program](#) in 2019, King County sold some rural carbon credits from a small piece of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, the property which we hiked on, to Microsoft. This program is the first in the nation to offer certified credits to protect local forests. Before putting the carbon credits on the market there was a lot of measurement and verification involved. Lidar, a method to measure distance using radar, was used to help measure tree height. Tree

circumferences were measured by hand and ground logs were counted and measured all in a defined area. Although carbon is also stored in soil, it is difficult to measure in pacific northwest forests and was not included in this project.

This property was chosen because it is a very healthy forest that escaped the logging boom over a century ago and has thrived with diversity which made it the perfect piece of land for the [King County Forest Carbon Program](#). Microsoft buys carbon credits from this piece of property to offset some of their carbon footprint. King County then uses the money to purchase more land to conserve through the [Land Conservation Initiative](#). The initial purchase of carbon credits is much larger than the credits from the following years because it is a guarantee to keep forests safe from logging and housing developments. Later payments are for the accrued carbon as time goes on.

When purchasing property for conservation King County's offer is based on the appraised value and it is difficult to pay over market value no matter how perfect the property is. IATC is hoping to help bridge this gap on some future parcels with the opportunity fund in which all donations will go to filling these gaps.

As Issaquah creates our [Climate Action Plan](#) (comments are welcomed) and changes land use codes, we are wise to follow the good advice and research of the [KC 30-Year Forest Plan](#) which Kathleen helped create. The plan covers 7 important topics:

1. Climate
2. Forest Health
3. Urban Forest Canopy
4. Human Health
5. Salmon Habitat
6. Water Quality and Quantity
7. Sustainable Timber

With the help of IATC, Issaquah has conserved 51% of its tree canopy. The more intact forests we can continue to save the better as we look to reduce and sequester carbon emissions to help reduce the effects of climate change and increase our resiliency. Healthy mature forests sequester tons more carbon than freshly planted trees. But planting trees is important too especially in disturbed or bare areas and to create greater diversity and resilience.

We can be very grateful to King County for purchasing this well intact forest on Cougar Mountain. Without the work of IATC and King County, many of the trees in this important carbon sink would most likely have been cut for development.

Community Mosaic Unveiled in Downtown Issaquah

Hannah Wheeler - September 20, 2021



Finally, after years of planning and setbacks due to COVID-19, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club mosaic was unveiled at the original Trail House on the Rainier Trail, across from the Harvey Manning statue. This beautiful art project represents the community coming together to celebrate the dedication that has gone into advocating for the beautiful landscape we all enjoy in the Issaquah Alps. This commemorative piece of community art will be displayed in perpetuity in this location.



Members and friends of the trails club came together to watch the unveiling. Former IATC President John Sherwin and Cheryl Smith, whose mosaic business made this project possible, kicked off the celebration with speeches detailing the long history of this project from its initial conception on the dock of a mutual friend, to the setbacks we faced due to COVID and extreme heat conditions. Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly unveiled the finished mosaic where it will be displayed for everyone to visit.



The art for the mosaic was created by watercolor artist Claire Giordano, then cut pieces of glass were overlaid on the design by the community with guidance and help from Cheryl Smith and her team of volunteers.





Next time you find yourself in downtown Issaquah, be sure to take a look at this amazing piece of community art.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this project possible including our generous donors:

- City of Issaquah Arts Commission
- Cheryl Smith Mosaics
- Claire Giordano
- Home Depot
- MAPEI Corporation
- National Etching
- North West Art Glass
- Phoenix Art Restoration
- Seattle Glass Block
- Skeew
- Steel Fab Inc.

IATC Board Welcomes New Treasurer

Hannah Wheeler - September 20, 2021



This month the Issaquah Alps Trails Club welcomed Hayley Hayes to our board as our new treasurer.

Haley developed a love for the outdoors growing up in Seattle and exploring the Cascades with her family. By day, Haley works in financial services at KPMG valuing intangible assets for deal work. She graduated from Seattle University with a double major in Accounting and Finance and holds her CPA license. Haley is frequent user of the Issaquah Alps trail network and can regularly be found hiking, trail running, or mountain biking on these trails. She is passionate about protecting public lands and ensuring there is fair and equal access for everyone to use these trails.

We are excited to have Haley's expertise in the IATC. [Meet her and the rest of our board.](#)

The Apparatus

Club Founder

Harvey Manning

Interim Executive Director

Hannah Wheeler (exec@issaquahalps.org)

President

David Dunphy (Governance Committee Chair)
(president@issaquahalps.org)

President-Elect

Anne Newcomb (Public Engagement Committee Chair)

Vice President of Advocacy

David Kappler (Advocacy Committee Chair)
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Communications and Community Engagement Manager

Hannah Wheeler (communications@issaquahalps.org)

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Tom Anderson

Denice Carnahan

Kaytlyn Gerbin

Mark Griffith

Hayley Hayes (Treasurer)

Kelly Jiang

Suzanne Kagen (Secretary)

Kirt Lenard

Elizabeth Lockwood

George Potter

Gaurav Sharma

Nate Smith (Philanthropy Committee Chair)

Ed Vervoort

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