



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

January 2022

Strap on your pack and get involved with the IATC by filling out our [volunteer form](#).

King Conservation District, [Board of Supervisors election](#) is underway.
Cast your ballot by February 8th in this all-electronic vote.

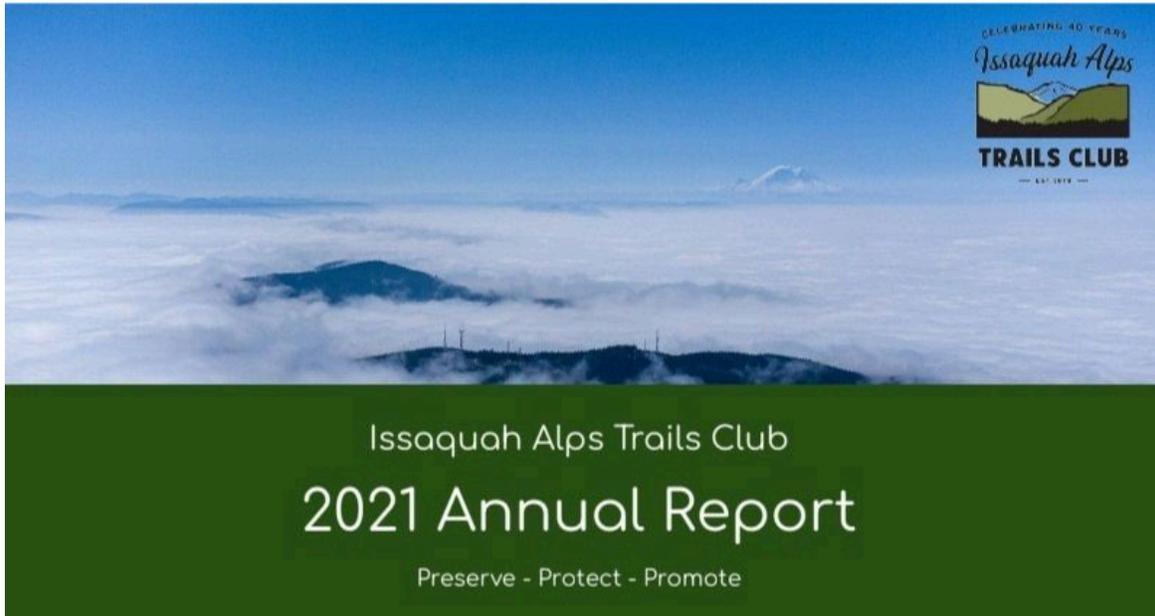
Upcoming Hikes and Events

[Saturday, February 12th](#) - Green Issaquah invasives removal at Bernsten Park

[Saturday, March 12th](#) - Green Issaquah invasives removal at Bernsten Park

IATC Releases its 2021 Annual Report

Paul Winterstein - January 25, 2022



2021 was a notable year on many fronts for IATC. The changing COVID-19 landscape allowed us to resume some in-person events. A major transportation project drew our energies to fight for safe passage for wildlife and safer trailhead access. The fight to save Coal Creek on Cougar Mt. grew in intensity and scope. And the multi-use nature of Tiger Mt. fired us up to push for proper replanting and trail restoration after a timber harvest. These are just some of the highlights.

IATC itself also grew in 2021. As an organization we took a big step forward in our focus and ability to affect change by establishing our first-ever strategic plan and a dedicated funding source for conservation. Additionally, the growth in the number of supporters and their financial support gave us a solid base from which to increase our advocacy for land conservation and trails.

"The generosity of our supporters has affirmed our commitment to our mission and positioned us to grow our impact in 2022 and beyond. Our region's desirability and the demand for high-end housing continue to drive up costs, making land conservation more and more challenging. Now, because of the generosity of our supporters, we enter 2022 positioned to play an expanding role in the preservation of sensitive lands and the construction and maintenance of a connected trail system within the Alps. As we prepare to roll out our enhanced agenda, we hope that everyone stays connected with us online and at our public events as we work together for the land for present and future generations."

~David Dunphy, IATC Board President & Paul Winterstein, Executive Director

Meet Our New Executive Director

IATC Staff - January 20, 2022



The Issaquah Alps Trail Club (IATC) has named longtime Issaquah resident [Paul Winterstein](#) as its new Executive Director. Paul takes over for interim Executive Director Hannah Wheeler, who has been keeping the trails open since August 2021 when then Executive Director Lindsay Frickle moved to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"The Executive Director role at IATC is key in maintaining the infrastructure for the club which enables citizen advocacy and helps us continue to realize the long term vision for the Alps", said David Dunphy, the IATC Board President. "Lindsay's work over the last several years was critical in propelling the club forward, both engaging young people and building a sustainable foundation in our fundraising. I'm excited for Paul to bring his passion for the landscape and connections to the community and project management skills to continue this work."

Since 1979, IATC has engaged the public to preserve, protect, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps for present and future generations. Today it is a leader in the fight to preserve land on Cougar Mt. within the Coal Creek watershed that faces development to the detriment of salmon and wildlife, and is actively working with Weyerhaeuser, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust on the restoration of trails on Tiger Mt.

"Over time the need for an Executive Director to bring order to our organization became obvious and we hired some great people that brought organization and efficiency to our mission. With Paul we have someone who can continue to move us forward and with his experience in government can step right into working with all our public sector partners. Paul also really 'knows the ground' in the Issaquah Alps and thus knows what acquisitions still need to be made to provide habitat, trails and supporting facilities", said David Kappler, the IATC Vice President for Advocacy and charter member of the club.

"I am thrilled to be working for the land that I know so well and honored to continue the amazing work of so many people. No grassroots organization has punched above its weight to greater effect than IATC has when it comes to securing the open spaces, trails, and quality of outdoor life that we enjoy here in the Cascade foothills. Now my love for the outdoors will feed my daily work energy," said Paul, a former Issaquah City Councilmember. "The forested trails that so many enjoy today are here because people of vision and determination fought to preserve the land. And the battle continues. As the region grows, pressure to develop is unrelenting and climate change threatens more disruption. But responsible trail users of all types and those who value open space know that we must never stop working for the future of the Issaquah Alps."

Advocacy Update: Tiger Mt. Harvest

IATC Staff - January 28, 2022



Mt. Rainier from the new open vista near the West Tiger 3 summit. Photo credit: Jeff Kirk

- The timber harvest on Tiger Mt. is complete
- Focus shifting to replanting and trail restoration
- IATC, City of Issaquah, Mts. to Sound Greenway, WA DNR, and Weyerhaeuser are all in support of the long-term conservation of the land
- New vistas make this popular destination even more rewarding
- For the back story on the harvest, read the [IATC article from last August](#)
- Remember: Recreate responsibly

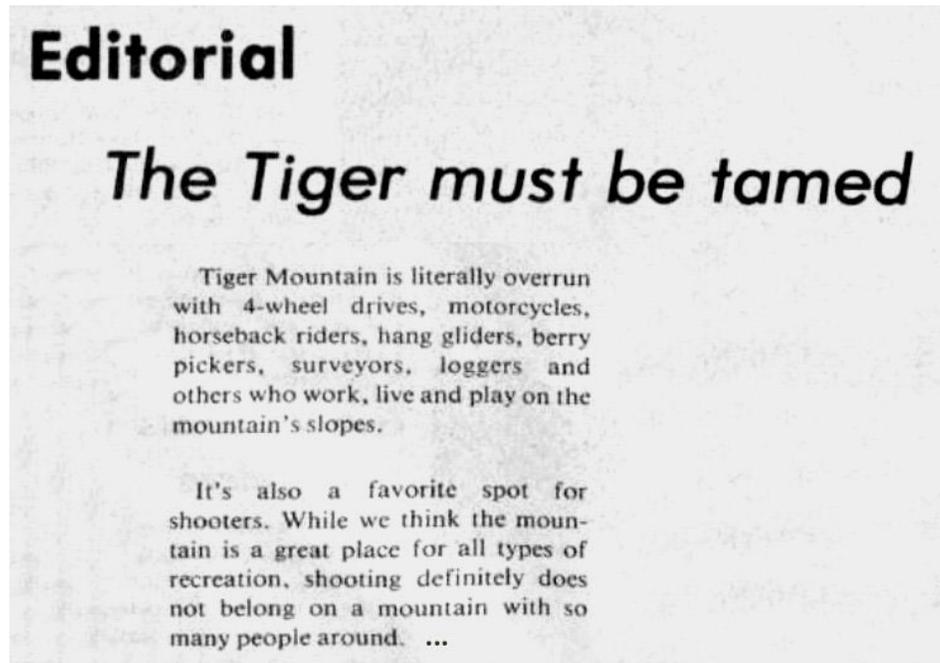


Squak & Cougar Mts. - Islands in the sky. From the new vista near West Tiger 3 summit. Photo credit: Jeff Kirk

History Corner - The Taming of the Tiger

Tom Anderson - January 26, 2022

Forty years ago, there was a turning point in the management of Tiger Mountain. Reckless behavior on the mountain had reached the point the Issaquah Press published an editorial entitled "The Tiger must be tamed." Here is an abridged snapshot of the editorial with the first two paragraphs to capture the general tone:



The Issaquah Press, November 4, 1981. (Courtesy the Issaquah History Museums)

Happily, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources was up to the challenge, and announced a bold plan the following week. The Press covered the announcement under an encouraging headline:



The Issaquah Press, November 11, 1981. (Courtesy the Issaquah History Museums)

The DNR proposed to create a 13,500-acre Tiger Mountain State Forest, which the IATC had been advocating for years.

To guide this process, the DNR established the Tiger Mountain State Forest Advisory Committee. The stalwart voices-of-advocacy of the IATC had apparently been noticed by the DNR as 5 of the 18-member committee had club affiliations (Harvey Manning, Thomas Mechler, Ruth Kees, Bill Longwell and Laurene McLane). The Issaquah Press reported the formation of the committee in the following April (abridged for brevity):

Residents named to Tiger Mountain committee

Seven Issaquah-area residents have been named to the Tiger Mountain State Forest Advisory Committee, an 18-member group designed to help the Department of Natural Resources prepare management plans for the proposed 13,500-acre forest.

Local residents on the board are John Penney, Laurene McLane, Bill Longwell, Ruth Kees, Thomas Mechler, Harold Davis and Harvey Manning. ...



Harvey Manning Thomas Mechler Ruth Kees John Penney

Bill Longwell Harold Davis Laurene McLane

The Issaquah Press, April 4, 1982. (Courtesy the Issaquah History Museums)

Today we enjoy the fruits of the labors of those citizen advocates and DNR visionaries. Something to think about as we enjoy the trails of Tiger Mountain.

At that point in time the club had only been in existence for three years, but the *modus operandi* of advocacy for our public lands was well established (under the leadership of our President Harvey Manning).

That legacy continues, but our work is never done. New challenges are always on the horizon, and we hear the voice of Harvey rallying us with words he liked to quote:

"Once more unto the breach, dear friends."

Advocacy Update: Save Coal Creek

Paul Winterstein - January 28, 2022



Protect our salmon-bearing creek * Preserve a wildlife corridor * Improve trailhead safety

- The [online petition](#) to save this property now has more than 4,000 signatures and is growing. We are getting noticed.
- A permit application to build homes on the site is still active within the City of Bellevue. Expect a public hearing in the spring or summer.
- Get involved: Watch for upcoming events and volunteer activities to help us raise awareness.
- Add your name to the email list to [receive updates](#) directly from the Save Coal Creek Steering Committee.

"The passionate voice of the people will win the day. We are determined. Please join us!"

~ Sally Lawrence
Bellevue resident
Steering Committee Chair
Eastside Audubon's 2021 Environmentalist of the Year award winner

The Apparatus

Club Founder

Harvey Manning

Executive Director

Paul Winterstein (exec@issaquahalps.org)

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David Dunphy (president@issaquahalps.org)

President-Elect

Anne Newcomb

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Board of Directors

Tom Anderson

Kaytlyn Gerbin

Mark Griffith

Hayley Hayes (Treasurer)

Kelly Jiang

Suzanne Kagen (Secretary)

Kirt Lenard

Elizabeth Lockwood

Gaurav Sharma

Nate Smith

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

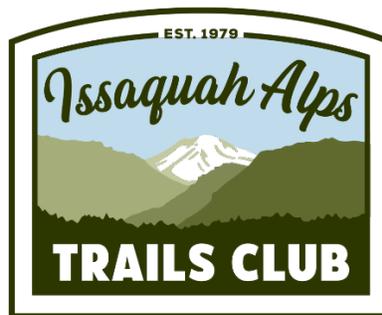
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