



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

March 2022

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

[Saturday, April 16](#) - Geology of the Alps: Underfoot at Red Town on Cougar Mt.

[Saturday, April 23](#) - Western Redcedar Dieback Hike

[Saturday, May 7](#) - Native Plant Identification Hike to De Leo Wall

[Saturday, May 14](#) - High Point Logging History Hike

Funding for Trails

Paul Winterstein - March 31, 2022

Whether you are just starting to get outside with the onset of spring, or you are among those who hiked or ran in the Alps this past winter, it is hard to miss the toll that a fair number of newly downed trees and erosion had on many of the trails. In many cases it was the timely intervention of private individuals using their own saws and shovels who cleared the trails and dug out the water bars to minimize the damage. But over time such spot fixes can't provide the types of improvements that will assure a good, safe trail for the long term. This is especially true on steeper terrain and at stream crossings. It often requires extra materials such as timbers and fastening hardware, and a coordinated crew of trained workers to do the job right. IATC watches out for these needs and coordinates its maintenance activities with the land owners.



A hand saw won't do the job on the East Side Trail on Squak Mt.

Good News Out of Olympia

Trails on state-owned lands in the Issaquah Alps may now get more attention to address the backlog of maintenance needs because of the \$15 million dollars included in the most recent State budget update. The funding will be shared equally between the WA State Departments of Natural Resources, Parks, and Fish and Wildlife, and can be used for a wide range of recreation maintenance needs throughout the state.

Washington Trails Association, the primary champion of the legislation, along with key members of the legislature, many individuals, and outdoor groups all deserve our appreciation for this accomplishment. See this [WTA blog post](#) to learn more about the back story and impact of this funding, including some additional funding for the Emerging Leaders Pilot Program.

It is still too early to know precisely how these funds will benefit the Alps, and we shouldn't assume that the local state land managers are aware of all the trails and other infrastructure that needs attention. That's why IATC is creating a catalog of trail sections that need maintenance and sharing it with the land managers in order to assure nothing is overlooked.



Water damage on the Phil's Creek Trail on Squak Mt.

20 Acres of Forest Preserved on Squak Mt.

Paul Winterstein - March 31, 2022



An aerial, 3D rendering of the "Squak Mountain Estates" property looking SW. The City of Issaquah has purchased the land and will preserve it as open space.

The City of Issaquah has entered into a purchase and sale agreement to buy 20 acres of forested hillside on the northeast slopes of Squak Mt. The property, known as Squak Mt. Estates had been proposed for development. With this acquisition, which is expected to close in May, the land will now be preserved as open space and integrated into the City's park system. The property borders the Squak Mt. State Park to the south, and representatives of the State are open to creating new trails to connect this property with the wider network on the mountain, according to Jeff Watling, the City's Director of the Parks & Community Services Department.

Cabin Creek flows just outside the property's NW border. Access to the property will be from Sunrise Place SW, in close proximity to the Kelkari Condominiums, and about 500 feet northwest of the Squak Mt. Access Trailhead.

"Keeping this as open space is really important. The land is steep and Cabin Creek doesn't need any more impacts to it", said IATC Board member and VP of Advocacy, David Kappler. "But what we most appreciate is the ability to connect to the trail system on Squak Mt. State Park. IATC is looking forward to working with the City and the State on the restoration of the site and planning out the trail network."

Trails Restoration Set to Begin on Tiger Mt.

Paul Winterstein - March 31, 2022



The timber harvest in the West Tiger Mt. summits area disturbed many popular trails. Trail restoration, replanting, and road maintenance activities will commence this spring.

Weyerhaeuser and the WA DNR have entered into an agreement for the DNR to restore the trails that were disrupted by the timber harvest. The work will begin as early as this spring and be ongoing into 2023. The trail design and layout details are not yet finalized. The intent is to rebuild many segments with good grades and good drainage right where they were before the harvest, while options for easier grades and rerouting to improve the user experience are also being considered.

The affected trails include the Tiger Mountain Trail, Seattle View Trail, W. Tiger 2 Trail, Bypass Trail, and the upper portions of the Preston and Poo Top trails.

At the same time, it is likely that Weyerhaeuser, the land owner, will be performing maintenance work on its access road in the area, as well as begin replanting.

IATC will remain in close contact with the DNR and Weyerhaeuser during the month of April and will report more specifics as they become available.

The Apparatus

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