



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 2023

News – Events – Hikes





March & Rally to Save Coal Creek

Saturday, February 11th, 2023

Noon at Newcastle Beach Park

March to the Rally

9AM-12pm START @ Red Town Trailhead OR OTHER POINTS ALONG THE WAY

Attend the Rally

Noon-2pm @ Newcastle Beach Park

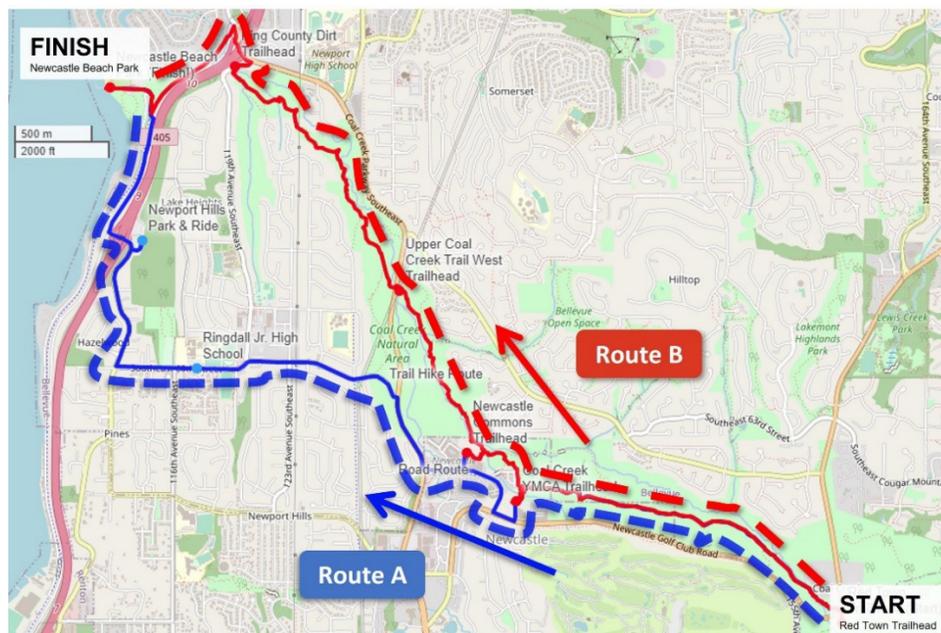
4400 Lake Washington Blvd SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

Speakers: King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci

& Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson

& SALLY LAWRENCE, CHAIR OF THE SAVE COAL CREEK COMMITTEE

THE MARCH



Participants are invited to join fellow supporters in a march starting at 9AM from [Red Town Trailhead](#) and ending at [Newcastle Beach Park](#) at 12PM.

There are two routes to choose from and they both start on the Coal Creek Trail at Red Town Trailhead on Lakemont Blvd. After about 2 miles, **Route A** will depart the trail at the Coal Creek YMCA and proceed to the rally destination by city streets/crossings. **Route B** will continue on the trail all the way to its end and arrive at the same rally destination from the north.

There are alternative entry points along each route for those who wish to join later/closer to the final rally destination. Route A is 5.6 miles (or 11.2 miles round trip), but can be as short as 1 mile (or 2 miles round trip) from at Newport Hills Park & Ride.

For full details for each route, including the various entry points, distances, and timing, visit the event page at: <https://www.issaquahalps.org/march-and-rally-to-save-coal-creek>

THE RALLY

The public is invited to convene at Newcastle Beach Park at 12PM to hear King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci and Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson speak about the value of saving the Isola property on Lakemont Boulevard SE in Bellevue. Together, we will write letters urging city and county officials to purchase the property and make it a public history and wildlife park.

Additionally, below are some key information about what to expect at this event:

- This event will occur **rain or shine**. Please come prepared with appropriate layers of clothing, close-toed shoes, and enough food and water.
- Pets are not allowed at this event.
- We follow [Leave No Trace Principles](#) at all our events. Please make sure you can pack out your trash!

RSVP is encouraged, but not required.

SaveCoalCreek.org

The Mountains to Sound March at Snoqualmie Pass - Then and Now

Tom Anderson - January 24, 2023

An enthusiastic band of hikers set out from Snoqualmie Pass on July 4, 1990, intending to march all the way to Seattle and Puget Sound. That was the beginning of the first Mountains to Sound March, an event that inspired the creation of the [Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust](#).

The march was organized by Jack Hornung and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club - a legacy of which we are proud. Club photographer Larry Hanson captured images of the event, the most famous being the intrepid band of marchers on the Pacific Crest Trail near the summit of Snoqualmie Pass, just setting out on the first day of the march. Ralph Owen, a club stalwart and route finder for the march, is shown at the front of the band, with Debbie Anshell, another club stalwart, second in line.

It's a legacy worth celebrating, and I got a bee-in-my-bonnet to recreate that classic photo, enlisting some of the participants on the 1990 march (if I could find any willing to participate in such a silly little project). Happily, Ralph and his wife Peggy were on board, and Debbie Anshell, with her husband Gregory, also said yes, so I had the first two in the original line-up covered, and all four were 1990 march participants! I considered myself lucky. Then, to fill out the ranks a little, David Kappler (a co-founder of the club, untiring advocate, hike leader, former president, vice president, etc.) and Doug McClelland (a founding member of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and past president of the board) signed on - both original marchers but not captured in the original photo. And, of course, Ned the dog came along with Doug (but he was not an original marcher, or at least when I asked him, he just said "woof").

I was able to identify the spot from which the original photo was taken on a scouting hike last summer. It was on the Pacific Crest Trail, about 1 mile south on the trail starting from the Lodge Lake trailhead near the Summit West ski area. Happily, the trail was in the same place as in 1990, but the brush along the trail had grown up, necessitating the placement of the hikers a little differently from the original photo, in a spot where the brush would not hide them. Weather, forest fire smoke, and people's availability came into play, pushing the photo shoot into late October. It snowed at the pass a few days before the planned shoot, introducing more uncertainty to the project, but thankfully, it cleared up, and we got the job done on a glorious autumn day in the mountains. The recent snow remained on the upper levels of the peaks, adding highlights.

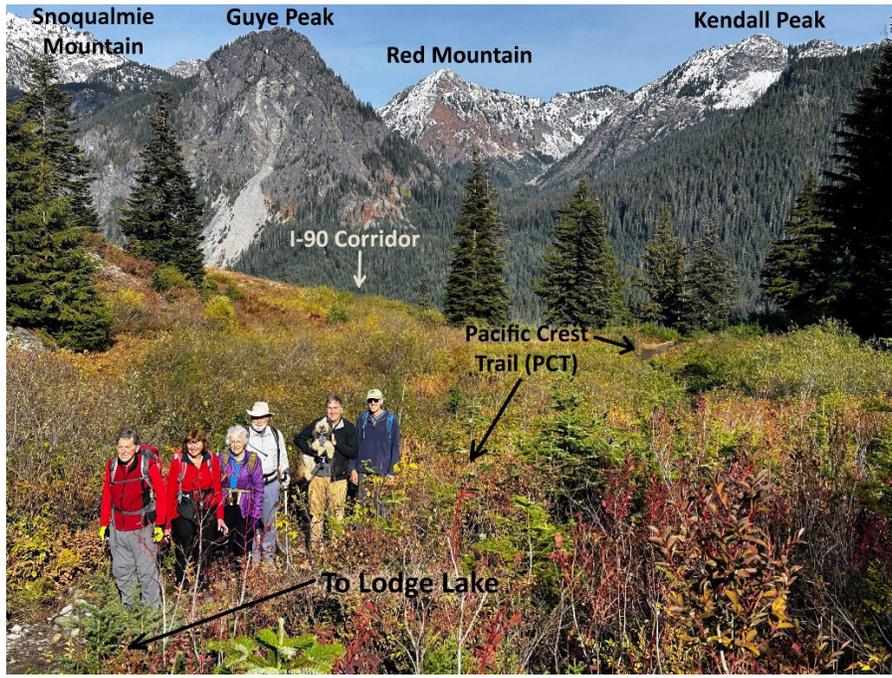
And so, here are the then-and-now photos for your viewing pleasure, followed by an annotated version for those curious about the mountains in the background.



The Mountains to Sound March at Snoqualmie Pass. July 4, 1990. Ralph Owen in the lead, followed by Debbie Anshell. Photo by Larry Hanson.



Reenacting the historic march on the same stretch of trail. October 29, 2022. Left to right: Ralph Owen, Debbie Anshell, Peggy Owen, Gregory Anshell, Doug McClelland and David Kappler. Photo by Tom Anderson.



Annotated photo identifying the peaks and trail features. Photo by Tom Anderson.



The march reenactors at the PCT trailhead. Left to Right: Doug McClelland, Gregory Anshell, Debbie Anshell, Ralph Owen, Peggy Owen, David Kappler. All six were participants in the 1990 march. Photo by Tom Anderson.

A big thanks to all the participants! Let's do it again next summer. 😊

[Learn more about the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust organization.](#)

[Learn more about the greenway from our friends at HistoryLink.](#)

IATC Leaders Advocate for Land Conservation in Olympia

Kelly Jiang - January 31, 2023

The revitalized and fully funded Trust Land Transfer program will provide resources for land conservation across the state of Washington, including 99 acres on West Tiger Mountain.



Kelly, Anne, and Doug at the state capital

On Thursday, January 26th, IATC President Anne Newcomb, IATC Vice President Kelly Jiang, and former Mountains to Sound Greenway President Doug McClelland headed down to Olympia to meet with legislators about an important statewide conservation program called Trust Land Transfer (TLT).

TLT has been critical to the conservation of special places throughout the state of Washington, including West Tiger NRCA (Natural Resource Conservation Area) and Mt. Si NRCA here in our backyard in the Issaquah Alps. Revitalizing the program will allow more of these special places to be protected.

The lobby day was organized by Jim Freeburg, a professional legislative advocate, who has been spearheading the campaign to revitalize the TLT program over the last two years. Citizens from several legislative districts around the state attended and met with their legislators to ask for their support on

House bills (HB) [1423](#) / [1460](#) and Senate Bill (SB) [5372](#), which formalizes the TLT program, as well as for an allocation of \$25 million in the capital budget to fund the TLT program.

What is Trust Land Transfer?



TLT advocates from around the state met with Senator Rolfes (center, 6th from L in green blazer) to thank her for her leadership on Trust Land Transfer. In addition to citizen advocates, several county commissioners attended to show their support.

But first - let's take a step back. What is Trust Land Transfer anyway? As the name may suggest, it relates to transferring lands from DNR's "trust," which is operated to generate revenue, to other uses such as conservation. Currently, DNR oversees over 2 million acres of forested trust land, and is legally required to operate the trust land to generate revenue for junior taxing districts, such as school districts, hospital districts, library districts, and fire districts. Typically, for forested trust land, revenue is generated through logging, although there are some pilot projects to generate revenue through innovative methods such as [forest carbon credits](#).

However, there are some parcels of trust land that are better suited to non-logging uses, such as recreation or conservation. For instance, the West Tiger NRCA (Natural Resources Conservation Area) and Mt. Si NRCA were formed several decades ago as a result of earlier TLT projects. In recent years, the funding for TLT has dwindled, even though there are still a number of land parcels around the state that are eligible for Trust Land Transfer.

Historically, the legislature allocated money to the DNR to do TLT projects, but there was no official program. The legislative bills HB [1423/1460](#) and SB [5372](#) would formalize the TLT program within DNR and establish a transparent public process for selection and prioritization of parcels for Trust Land Transfer. Once the land is transferred to a different agency, such as state parks or a county park system, DNR will go out and buy new forest land to replace the transferred land, to ensure that the trust is "made whole" and able to continue generating revenue for its trust recipients. To do so, it is imperative that the legislature allocates \$25 million from its capital budget for the next biennium to fund the [10 highest-priority TLT projects](#) that have been identified. A 99-acre parcel on West Tiger Mtn. is on that list. This patch of land on the north side of the mountain is visible from I-90 and has trees over 120 years old. Soderman Creek, a salmon-bearing stream, also flows through it.

Meeting with Legislators



From L to R: Rep. Lisa Callan, Doug McClelland, Kelly Jiang, Anne Newcomb, and Rep. Bill Ramos

Anne, Kelly, and Doug met with both of the state representatives from Washington's 5th Legislative District, Lisa Callan and Bill Ramos. The 5th Legislative District includes Issaquah, Maple Valley, parts of Sammamish, and stretches south to Black Diamond and Enumclaw. Kelly presented some of the basics of the TLT revitalization, and Doug answered Lisa and Bill's detailed follow-up questions about the specifics of the program.

The entire advocacy contingent also met with state Senator Christine Rolfes, who represents Bainbridge Island, to thank her for her sponsorship and championing of SB 5372 and the TLT program.

Finally, there was a committee hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks in the afternoon, where Doug McClelland and many others testified in favor of SB 5273 to formalize the TLT program. Thanks to many of our supporters, including you, who supported the TLT bill, there were a grand total of 591 people who signed in "pro" to support TLT, compared to only 10 who signed "con" against the TLT bill. That shows quite overwhelming (98%!) public support for increasing public funding for land conservation!

What's next?

Now, the House and Senate bills need to be passed out of their respective committees to be considered by the whole legislature. Jim Freeburg is tracking this closely for IATC and our partner organizations who are working on getting this important conservation program across the finish line. IATC will continue to monitor progress on TLT and keep our supporters in the loop about any opportunities to get involved in advocacy. Please feel free to reach out to Kelly Jiang, Chair of IATC's Advocacy Committee, if you are interested in getting involved and learning more.

Events



Restoration of Bernsten Park Continues

Saturday, Feb. 18 from 9:00 AM – Noon

Grab your work gloves and join us and Green Issaquah in continuing efforts to restore Bernsten Park to its natural state of native plants and no invasives along Issaquah Creek



Trail Work Parties on Tiger, Cougar, and (NEW!) Taylor Mtns.

Join others from the IATC community and WTA to maintain and build new trails on Tiger, Cougar, and Taylor mountains now through March





Trail Exploration: Better Connections Between NE Cougar and SW Squak Mtns.

Saturday, Feb. 18 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Join this exploration party—sometimes on trails, sometimes off—to scout possible trail connections between northeast Cougar and northwest Squak Mtns.



Park Pointe / Lake Tradition Plateau Hike - Pets Welcome

Saturday, February 25 from Noon – 2:00 PM

Come explore the lesser used trails of Park Pointe and the west end of the Lake Tradition Plateau. Want to bring your pet? Grab the leash and poop bags and join us!



Native Plant Identification Hike to De Leo Wall – Morning Hike

Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 AM – Noon

Join native plant steward Franja Bryant on the morning hike to De Leo Wall and along the way learn to identify native plants.



The Apparatus

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Vice President

Kelly Jiang

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David Dunphy

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Suzanne Kagen (Secretary)

James Li (Treasurer)

Ryan McIrvine

Gaurav Sharma

Nate Smith

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

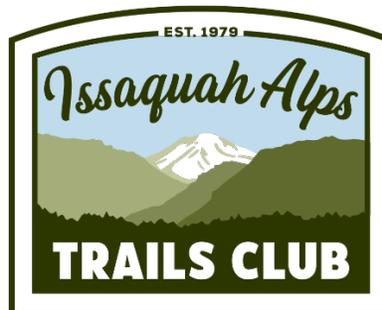
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