



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

November 2023

News – Events – Hikes



Join our Annual Campaign & help us earn a \$25,000 match!

Nicole Assumpcao - November 7, 2023

Since 1979, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) has worked towards its mission of education, conservation, and advocacy for the Issaquah Alps. You can see a piece of our legacy in our [Accomplishments Map](#). None of this work would be possible without the generous support of donors like you.

[Donate here!](#)

This year was a landmark year for us in supporting the legal fees associated with the fight to Save Coal Creek, which amounted to over \$160,000. These funds helped us raise awareness, gain over 5,000 petition signers, and helped secure \$9.2 million in King County Conservation Futures funding to help purchase the land. While the battle is not over yet, we could never have gotten to this point without our incredible community of supporters.



In 2023, we have also hosted more than 50 events with over 400 guests in attendance, including Hikes with a Purpose, restoration events, educational webinars, an Issaquah City Council candidate forum, and our annual public forum. We also welcomed a Program and Volunteer Coordinator in late 2022 who has leveled up all of our events and coordination. Your gift will enable IATC to:

- Enhance educational programming
- Increase our capacity to advocate for conservation legislation
- Host more environmental candidate forums for upcoming 2024 elections
- Collaborate with our land manager partners to expand and build a resilient Issaquah Alps ecosystem

Looking to the future, we hope to expand our educational programming and staff capacity to find creative new ways to pursue our mission.

Keep an eye out for our official fundraising mailer in your mailbox or Inbox, or get ahead of the game and [donate here](#) today! IATC's Board of Directors is generously matching up to \$25,000 in donations.

[Help us meet our \\$25,000 match](#)



Just one of our many community engagement and education events

Cheers to a Successful Forest Carbon Forum!

Nicole Assumpcao - November 6, 2023

On October 25, IATC hosted its first in-person forum since before the pandemic! We were thrilled to host an incredible team of speakers including Dan Hintz (City of Issaquah), Kathleen Farley-Wolf (King County) and Mark McPherson (City Forest Credit). Each brought a unique perspective on the nuances of Forest Carbon and Carbon Credits and their utility as a tool in climate change mitigation. Kelly Jiang, Board VP, moderated the panel and expertly guided the conversation with pre-made and audience questions. The engagement of the audience with the subject matter was a particular highlight! A video recording is available [here](#) for those who were unable to attend.



We had 56 attendees, including esteemed guests Bill Ramos, Jeff Watling, Larry Franks, Doug & Kristi McClelland, Steve Williams, Ben Mayberry, Laura Cooper and, of course, our own David Kappler. We are so thankful to everyone who took the time to learn with us!



Blakeley Hall, the venue donated generously by our partners at Highlands Council, served as the perfect backdrop for the festivities. The main dishes included appetizers, noodles, and fried rice by Noodleboat in Issaquah, which were a crowd hit. We are also thankful to PCC, Safeway, and Costco for their generous donations of sides, desserts, and drinks.

Help enable us to continue offering this kind of educational programming by [donating today!](#)

Grand Opening of the East Lake Sammamish Trail

Tom Anderson - October 29, 2023

The paved version of the East Lake Sammamish Trail (ELST) is now open for walkers, runners, baby strollers and cyclists. The grand opening ribbon-cutting (actually banner-breaking) ceremony was conducted on Saturday, October 7, coinciding with Salmon Days in Issaquah. The event was conducted on the north end of the trail in Redmond, which minimized the traffic and parking travails of the Salmon Days event.

The 11-mile trail is a key component of the 44-mile **Locks to Lake** corridor, providing a continuous paved path from the waterfront in Ballard to eastside communities and Lake Sammamish. And, most importantly, of course, connections to trailheads of the Issaquah Alps.



Map courtesy King County Parks.

Travelers can continue eastward on another segment of the King County regional trail system, the Issaquah-Preston Trail (7 miles), and then on to the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail (another 7 miles), yielding a total of 58 miles of trail from Golden Gardens at Shilshole Bay to the overlook of Snoqualmie Falls on the eastern end. The "Locks to Lake" moniker is nicely alliterated, but we need a more expansive moniker reaching out to the eastern end of the corridor. How about the "Shilshole to Snoqualmie Trail?" (One caveat on the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail: there is a bridge closed about 2 miles before the eastern end of the trail - scheduled for repair next year.)

The trail follows the former BNSF railroad along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish. King County Parks acquired the corridor in 1997 and opened the narrower gravel trail in 2006. Then began the incremental process of converting the gravel trail to a broader paved trail in segments, starting in Redmond. Now, 17 years after the gravel trail debut, the vision for the fully paved route has been realized.

The banner-breaking was officiated by King County Executive Dow Constantine and a cadre of county officials, staff and the mayors of Redmond and Sammamish. Here are a couple of images from the celebration:



*King County Executive Dow Constantine (fourth from left) officiates the banner-breaking of the ELST.
Photo by Tom Anderson.*



*King County Councilmember Sarah Perry addresses the crowd of ELST fans.
Photo by Tom Anderson.*

You can read more about the grand opening event on the King County Parks blog:
<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/about-king-county/about-dnrp/newsroom/2023-news-releases/10-11-east-lake-sammamish-trail>

Salmon Days Photo Recap

Tom Anderson - October 29, 2023

We had a great time "Jammin' with the Salmon" on Salmon Days weekend. And Harry, our "Leave No Trace" ambassador, inducted many to the cause dear to his heart. Here are a few pics of the IATC booth festivities (all photos by the author):











Events

Partner Event: Planting Party at Emily Darst Park with City of Issaquah

Saturday, Nov 11 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Come join Green Issaquah during planting season as they add native trees and shrubs to Emily Darst park, helping to create a healthy forested habitat.



Tree Planting Event at High School Trail

Saturday, Nov 18 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join IATC and Green Issaquah at this final restoration party of the High School Trail. After months of fantastic work by community volunteers to remove invasive plants from this well-loved section of Tiger Mountain, we will celebrate with a tree planting event. Come be an active part of this history!



Partner Event: Restoration Event with FLSSP

Saturday, Nov 18 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

FLSSP is excited to work on a new habitat restoration project along the buffer of Tibbetts Creek, where they will continue to clear the site of invasive blackberry and begin planting native plants.



Partner Event: Salmon Sleuths with FLSSPP

Sunday, Nov 19 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Salmon watching season may not be over! Join FLSSP Board member and resident salmon expert David Kyle as you hunt for Kokanee salmon and learn more about the salmon's habitat and lifestyle.



Restoration Work Party at Park Pointe | Kickoff Event!

Saturday, Dec 2 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join IATC and Green Issaquah at this kick off work party as we embark on a new restoration site at Park Pointe. We will be removing invasive species, primarily blackberry bushes, to protect the forest and clear space to plant trees.





Critical Habitats for Climate Change

Thursday, Nov 9 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Join the IATC and Dan Hintz from the City of Issaquah on a guided hike along Pickering Reach to explore how riparian areas and wetlands are critical habitats for plant and wildlife diversity in the face of a rapidly changing climate.



Pet-Friendly Hike around Park Pointe / Lake Tradition Plateau

Saturday, Nov 11 from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Join IATC's Nicole Assumpcao on a fall hike around Park Pointe and Lake Tradition Plateau. Enjoy the scenery and some fresh air while giving your four-legged friend(s) room to explore new sights and smells.



Forest Carbon Hike: Harvey Manning Hike

Friday, Dec 8 from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Join Kathleen Farley Wolf, King County's Forest Carbon Program Manager, on an interactive hike to learn how KC's forest carbon credits program helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



The Apparatus

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