



Saving Places We Love

What inspires people to make a difference? When the task is saving the places we love, passions run deep. Meet Carolina Veenstra, Sammy Mabe, Oonaugh and Albert Foster, Matt Slaney, Michael Matz and Janet Holdcroft. They're making a difference for the places they love.

You'll find their stories featured in our new annual report. Then learn more about our successful campaign to Save Grovers Creek Preserve! Thanks to donors like you, the big trees of Grovers Creek Preserve will continue to stand for generations to come. [View GPC's 2014 Annual Report.](#)



Kitsap Forest & Bay Coalition Honored

Great Peninsula Conservancy, Kitsap County, Forterra, Kitsap Forest & Bay Coalition, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and Suquamish Tribe received Puget Sound Regional Council's 2015 VISION 2040 Award for the Kitsap Forest & Bay conservation project, a visionary effort to conserve nearly 7,000 acres on Puget Sound. [Read all about it.](#)



REI Supports Stewardship!

A \$10,000 grant from REI will support Great Peninsula Conservancy's stewardship activities on Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park and Banner Forest Heritage Park this fall. To get ready, 24 volunteers received Trail Crew Leadership Training. Our new trail crew leaders constructed the first 100' of new trail at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.



Thank you REI, Kitsap County Parks, and our wonderful volunteers! Washington Trails Association provided training and CB's Nuts fueled the crew. [View more photos.](#)



Save the Date!

Sept 19 – Petersen Farm Dedication

Join us **Saturday, September 19, at Petersen Farm** – a treasured connection to Kitsap County's farm heritage – to dedicate GPC's conservation easement on the farm and unveil a bronze donor plaque. 9 am – 11 am. Silverdale. **RSVP to mary@greatpeninsula.org or (360) 373-3500.**

DONATE

Your donations to Great Peninsula Conservancy help protect lands that enrich your life – ensuring clean air and water, inspiring you with natural beauty, and providing you with special places to explore. **Please donate online through [JustGive.](#)** Or mail your gift to Great Peninsula Conservancy, 423 Pacific Avenue, Suite 401, Bremerton, WA 98337. Thank you!

State Budget Funds Some Conservation Priorities, Ignores Others

Washington State's 2015 - 2017 Capital Budget passed with conservation priorities funded at a total of \$228.6 million. Unfortunately some high priorities, like the Community Forest Trust program, were not funded at all and some priorities, like the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), were not funded at a level that meets the need in our state.

Phase II of the Kitsap Forest & Bay Grovers Creek project received \$300,000 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding to expand our Grovers Creek Preserve, but did not receive the requested WWRP funding. Unfortunately, the Community Forest Program, including Kitsap County's proposed North Kitsap Community Forest, received no funding. GPC's request to the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) to purchase land on Filucy Bay narrowly missed the mark for funding in this grant round. GPC plans to pursue alternative funding for these projects. Thank you to all who helped advocate for state funding of conservation priorities.



*Great Peninsula Conservancy (www.greatpeninsula.org) is a private, nonprofit land trust working to preserve forever the natural habitats, rural landscapes, and open spaces of the Great Peninsula. Federal EIN# - 91-1110978
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