



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

SAVING THE PLACES WE LOVE

Great Peninsula Conservancy, your regional land trust, protects forever the natural habitats, rural landscapes and open spaces of west Puget Sound.

OUR JOURNEY FORWARD

Great Peninsula Conservancy's conservation program is growing! Over the past two years (2014-2015), we have taken a leadership role in conserving nearly 1,300 acres. This remarkable achievement marks a transition from GPC's beginnings as a locally focused organization, to a higher-capacity regional land trust undertaking complex conservation transactions. Meanwhile the size of the geographic region we serve—spanning three counties—and the urgency of conserving high priority lands before they are lost forever, demands that we do even more.



GPC's new Strategic Plan lays out an ambitious scope of work through 2020. We will focus on growing our community outreach, taking good care of

our lands, and tackling an exciting variety of projects to conserve marine shorelines, salmon streams, forests, and community greenspaces. You'll find more about these initiatives in this annual report.

Our ability to achieve this visionary plan requires that we be bold, work in partnership with others, and engage the tremendous enthusiasm of our community for saving the places we love. The stakes are high and every acre, every member, every dollar counts.

You are invited to join us on our fearless journey forward.

Sandra Staples-Bortner
Executive Director

WHERE WE WORK

**Kitsap, Key, Gig Harbor Peninsulas
and Mason County, Washington**

GPC has protected over 7,000 acres of working forests, salmon streams, marine shorelines and community parks.



COVER PHOTO CREDIT: JESS LESSARD
MAP CREDIT: VISIT KITSAP PENINSULA
SANDRA'S PHOTO CREDIT:
IKLIL GREGG PHOTOGRAPHY



OUR CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

A road map to conserving the most threatened habitats and cherished landscapes of the Great Peninsula. GPC conserves shorelines, forests, streams, and greenspaces for wildlife and people.

PHOTO CREDIT: JESS LESSARD

PROTECTING CRITICAL HABITAT: FILUCY BAY

A nature preserve on Key Peninsula that began with a generous donation of 46 acres in 2013, expanded to nearly 70 acres and 2,000 feet of shoreline in 2015, thanks to the dedication of GPC members, and a partnership with Pierce County and Washington's Salmon Recovery Program.

Bear, deer, and songbirds find sanctuary in the preserve's mature forest, while osprey, heron, and otter thrive at water's edge. Located at the head of Filucy Bay, this peaceful cove is fed by two streams and is draped with forest to the shoreline. This combination makes an ideal nursery for young salmon on their journey to the sea. When the tide is in, kayakers from nearby Longbranch may be found enjoying a quiet paddle on the waters of this South Sound retreat.

WHY SHORELINES MATTER:

Shorelines and estuaries connect the land to the sea and are some of the most diverse ecosystems in Puget Sound.

SHORELINES

82%
Agree

Healthy shorelines and bays for fish and shellfish need protection now.

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FORESTS

74%

Agree

Protecting forests for timber and healthy watersheds is a priority now.

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PHOTO CREDIT: JESS LESSARD

CARING FOR THE LAND: PORT GAMBLE FOREST

Conservation successes yield stewardship opportunities that connect people to the land, to nature, and to each other. With support from REI and many other partners, Great Peninsula Conservancy is helping to create access to and care for outdoor recreation spaces like Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park.

As a leading partner in the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project, Great Peninsula Conservancy helped conserve more than 500 acres of forest and 1.4 miles of shoreline to create this Kitsap County park in 2014. Since then, hundreds of volunteers have removed invasive plants and unsightly garbage, planted native trees, and re-routed a quarter mile of trail around a wetland, improving habitat for wildlife and celebrating the strong stewardship ethic in our community. GPC's commitment to stewardship helps ensure the sustainability of the lands we protect into the future.

PHOTO CREDIT: MARY ZABINSKI

WHY FORESTS MATTER:

Evergreen forests clean our air and water, offer fantastic places for outdoor recreation, and provide habitat for wildlife.

WHY STREAMS MATTER:

Streams and freshwater wetlands are critical to providing healthy water for people and wildlife.

PROTECTING A WATERSHED: GROVERS CREEK


Groves Creek wanders mostly unseen through the lowlands of North Kitsap covered in forests and rural homesites. With little gradient to speed its flow, the stream takes a meandering route to Miller Bay, traveling through wetlands frequented by beaver and shady pools hiding cutthroat. Salmon, too, frequent the lower reaches of the creek. Orchids peak through thick moss in the spring and bears feast on fall salmon runs. Hidden within this watery wonderland are pockets of old growth trees—fir, cedar, hemlock and spruce—reminding us of the virgin forests that once graced Puget Sound.

From a 20 acre beginning in 2014, Great Peninsula Conservancy's Groves Creek Preserve grew to 200 acres in 2015 thanks to generous donations from community members, the energy of many partners, and grants from Washington's Salmon Recovery and Riparian Protection programs.



PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN F. WILLIAMS

STREAMS

A large blue heron stands in a stream, looking to the left. The background is a lush green forest.

88%

Agree

Preserving habitat for birds, fish, plants, and animals is an urgent concern.

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PHOTO CREDIT: DON WILLOTT

GREENSPACES

69%

Agree

Improving access to trails and open space is a priority.

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WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY: SEHMEL HOMESTEAD PARK

Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor boasts some of the best ballfields on the peninsula, but the real gem of this park is its 76 acres of natural areas. The campaign to turn the pioneer homestead into a park brought together sports advocates, nature enthusiasts, and government agencies with a vision of creating a place where young and old could recreate and enjoy nature. A successful fundraising campaign in 2002 led by Great Peninsula Conservancy ensured protection of the land.

Now, PenMet Parks manages a thriving park, where kids and adults can go to play sports, watch birds, take a walk in the woods, or enjoy a seasonal festival. Thanks to a multitude of community organizations, including Great Peninsula Conservancy, the park offers a variety of opportunities for community members to stay healthy, meet their neighbors, and connect with nature.

WHY GREENSPACES MATTER:

Community greenspaces, like parks and trails, connect people to nature and each other.

PHOTO CREDIT: LIZ SATTERTHWAITE

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Thanks to the generous individuals, foundations and businesses who supported Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2015.

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"To be able to help save this part of Filucy Bay, and its salmon habitat, for generations to come is a privilege and a delight."

Kit Ellis
GPC donor and Board member

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***"Great Peninsula Conservancy is a
fantastic organization doing amazing
work for our community.
We are privileged to
call them partners!"***

**Brian Kilpatrick
Evergreen Mountain Bike
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*“Great Peninsula Conservancy’s activities,
 goals and accomplishments are awesome!
 I’m especially impressed
 with the number of new
 members.”*

Pat Lantz, Gig Harbor

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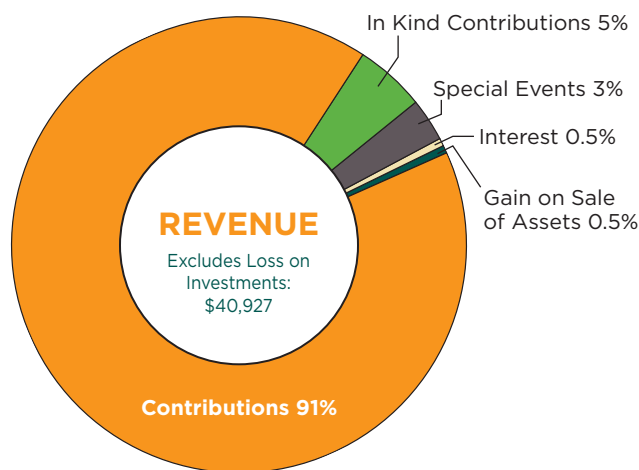
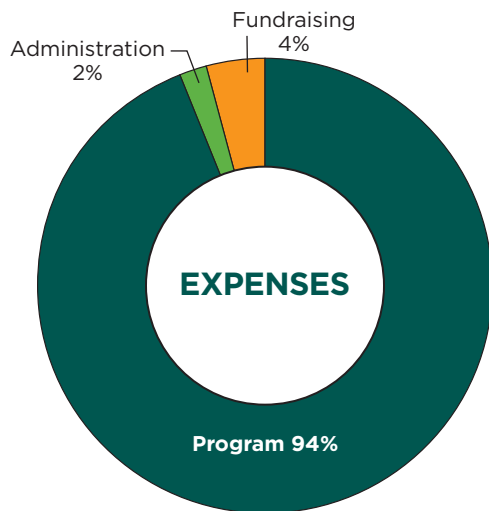
Are very satisfied

With GPC's four areas of
focus: shorelines, streams,
forests and greenspaces.

**CONSERVATION
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Richard D'Archangel, *Secretary, Kingston, 2016*
David De Bruyn, *Treasurer, Kingston, 2017*
Evan Bauder, *Belfair, 2018*
Peter Namtvedt Best, *Bainbridge Island, 2018*
Gary Cunningham, *Seabeck, 2016*
Kit Ellis, *Gig Harbor, 2017*
Debbie Engel, *Indianola, 2017*
Erin Ewald, *Gig Harbor, 2018*
Arthur Wesley 'Wes' Larson, *Bremerton, 2016*

STAFF

Sandra Staples-Bortner, *Executive Director*
Kate Kuhlman, *Operations Director*
Jonathan Decker, *Conservation Director*
Erik Pedersen, *Conservation Assistant*
Mary Zabinski, *Development Coordinator*
Jessica Lessard, *Development Assistant*

Editor – Sandra Staples-Bortner
Managing Editor – Mary Zabinski
Design Assistance – Jessica Lessard

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EVERY ACRE, EVERY MEMBER, EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS 2015 FINANCES¹

ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | \$332,000 |
| Cash for Restricted Purposes | 173,541 |
| Pledges Receivable | 38,264 |
| Prepaid Expenses | 7,311 |
| Investments | 944,910 |
| Property & Equipment | 7,460,337 |

Total Assets.....\$8,956,363

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Accrued Expenses | \$24,486 |
| Capital Lease | 10,770 |

Total Liabilities.....\$35,256

NET ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Unrestricted | \$680,794 |
| Temporarily Restricted | 896,290 |
| Permanently Restricted | 7,344,023 |

Total Net Assets \$8,921,107

Total Liabilities & Net Assets.....\$8,956,363

REVENUE

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Contributions | \$2,421,858 |
| In Kind Contributions | 127,900 |
| Special Events | 75,762 |
| Interest | 16,954 |
| Loss on Investments | -40,927 |
| Gain on Sale of Assets | 13,000 |

Total Revenue \$2,614,547

EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Program | \$1,132,783 |
| Administration | 30,636 |
| Fundraising | 47,117 |

Total Expenses \$1,210,536

Change in net assets..... \$1,404,011

Net assets at beginning of year \$7,517,096

Net assets at end of year \$8,921,107

¹ These abbreviated financial statements are derived from fully annotated financial statements audited by Aiken & Sanders, Inc., PS in whose opinion they "present fairly", in all material respects, the financial position of Great Peninsula Conservancy for the year ended December 31, 2015.



Great Peninsula Conservancy

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Bremerton, WA 98337

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A Mark of Distinction

The accreditation seal **AFFIRMS** national quality standards are met.



- ✓ Sound Finances
- ✓ Strong Transactions
- ✓ Excellent Land and Easement Stewardship
- ✓ Effective Governance

Great Peninsula Conservancy is an accredited land trust.

WHAT WE DO:

-  Protect shorelines, salmon streams, evergreen forests, and community greenspaces for people and wildlife.
-  Connect our members with hands-on opportunities to care for protected lands.
-  Organize community events to tour conserved lands and learn about the habitats and wildlife that make the Great Peninsula...GREAT!
-  Communicate the latest conservation news to keep YOU informed.

WHERE WE WORK:



Kitsap, Key, Gig Harbor
Peninsulas and
Mason County, WA

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

- 1. STAY INFORMED**
Get up-to-date info on conservation and volunteer opportunities near you. Sign up for our e-news, www.GreatPeninsula.org!
- 2. FOLLOW US**
Become part of our Facebook community @GreatPeninsulaConservancy
- 3. JOIN US**
Pick YOUR way to become a GPC Member:
 - Visit our website, www.GreatPeninsula.org
 - Tap the "♥Donate Now" button on our Facebook page
 - Mail your membership donation to:

GREAT PENINSULA CONSERVANCY

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