



CELEBRATING NATURE

 ANNUAL
REPORT
2016

GREAT PENINSULA
CONSERVANCY

Sharing Your Pride in Good Work

Look at what we are accomplishing together! As a team of concerned community members, we are saving salmon—the species most emblematic of Puget Sound. You make it possible for Pacific Northwesterners and visitors alike to be awed by their annual migration to the sea and back, and to marvel at the role they play in sustaining our region's iconic orcas, eagles and bears. I hope you're proud.

You are helping to re-create another wonder of the Pacific Northwest—an old growth forest—right here on the Great Peninsula. Undaunted by the centuries-long wait to achieve our prize, we will gently nudge Mother Nature along until a forest of massive trees provides sanctuary for marbled murrelets on 280-acre Grovers Creek Preserve. Aren't you proud?

Many have dreamed of a fully restored, thriving Union River estuary at the toe of Hood Canal. You made the dream come true! Sweeping for five and a half miles, an unbroken expanse of marshy shoreline once again is a nursery for young salmon, and a haven for wintering ducks feasting on its bounty. That's a lot of reasons to feel proud to be a GPC member.

The good work we do together restores a land of wonders. You are making an amazing impact for wildlife and people! Be proud!

Sandra

Sandra Staples-Bortner
Executive Director

SAVING THE PLACES WE LOVE

Great Peninsula Conservancy protects evergreen forests, salmon streams, marine shorelines and community parks for wildlife and people.

WHERE WE WORK

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



Grovers Creek Preserve

Project Size: 280 acres

What You'll Experience:

A rare grove of 200-year-old sitka spruce, hemlock, cedar and fir supports a wide array of wildlife. You'll see evidence of black bears and over 60 species of birds. A peat bog gives a spring to your step as you skirt its pools. Crossing Grovers Creek on a fallen log you'll marvel at salmon and salamanders.

What We're Doing: Creating a forest corridor for trails and wildlife habitat. Conserving and caring for this rare grove as it ages into an old growth forest. Protecting freshwater wetlands that ensure a year round flow of clean water into Miller Bay.



CONSERVING NATURE

Conserving vibrant forests, streams, shorelines and community greenspaces helps wildlife and people thrive.

A Peek at Grovers Creek's Wild Side

Under the forest canopy of Grovers Creek Preserve are wetland pools releasing a year-round flow of clean cold water, making this a critical habitat for threatened steelhead and a priority conservation project for GPC.

Hoping to find a wild run of steelhead in Grovers Creek, Trout Unlimited volunteers built an outmigration trap there in 2015. Their findings show an abundance of life: stickleback, lamprey, cutthroat trout, sculpin, crayfish, red-legged frogs, tadpoles, and salamanders, as well as large numbers of steelhead and coho salmon returning to these clean fresh waters to spawn.

"The good news," reports Suquamish Tribe fisheries biologist Paul Dorn, "is these are all native species and we're likely to see their numbers increase as instream barriers (like the recently replaced culvert at Miller Bay Road) are removed and more habitat is restored and protected."





The Story of the Union River Estuary Restoration

Looking out over the wide expanse of Klingel Wetlands Wildlife Refuge you'll see squiggly traces of tide channels and tracks of shorebirds, deer, and coyote. It's hard to image that here once grazed cattle to feed a thriving early 20th century logging industry or, more recently, that families gathered here to swim and play on land created by diking and filling saltmarsh.

With the removal of 4,600 dump-truck loads of fill, Great Peninsula Conservancy's restoration completes a much larger effort. Over three decades, an amazing 650 acres and 5.5 miles of shoreline have been conserved here, at the toe of Hood Canal. Great Peninsula Conservancy members now protect forever this final missing piece of the Union River estuary restoration, a bird watchers' paradise.

Project Timeline



1950s

A 1450 foot farm dike was constructed to allow hay to grow on what was formerly a saltmarsh. Salmon and ducks lost critical habitat.



1973

7 acres of saltmarsh were filled to create a recreation site for the Beards Cove Community, resulting in a loss of habitat for fish and wildlife.



Before

RESTORING NATURE

Restoring lands altered by human use gives a boost to wildlife and re-connects people to the land.

Klingel Wetlands Wildlife Refuge

Project Size: 95 acres

What You'll Experience: Visit the wildlife refuge and you'll have a panoramic view of more than five miles of conserved shoreline at the toe of Hood Canal. This is a bird watchers' paradise where one can spot an array of birds from bald eagles to heron, and green-winged teal to kingfishers.

What We're Doing: Restoration at Klingel Wetlands Wildlife Refuge protects the Union River estuary and provides vital habitat to threatened Hood Canal summer chum, Puget Sound Chinook, and winter steelhead. The project completes a larger effort by many partners that has now conserved over 650 acres.

Getting There: The refuge is open to the public. Park and enter the preserve just behind Pat's Little Red Barn Restaurant at 2091 WA-300, Belfair, WA.


2011

Klingel Refuge Dike Removal
- Old farm dike was removed, historic tidal channels were re-created and 13 acres of tidal marsh were reclaimed for fish and wildlife.


2015

Beards Cove Shoreline Restoration - Damaged saltmarsh and tidelands were restored to historic conditions. The project removed 4,600 dump-truck loads of fill, restored side channels and original shoreline contours and planted native plants, shrubs, and trees.

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Enriching lives by offering opportunities to experience nature close up.

Cowling Creek Forest Preserve

Project Size: 31 acres

What You'll Experience: Inside the preserve, elementary students release salmon and college students learn ecological principles. Stewardship volunteers just planted 400 saplings and you're invited for salmon tours in November or to walk the preserve year round.

How To Get Involved: Programs at the preserve are hosted by Friends of Miller Bay, Great Peninsula Conservancy and the Suquamish Tribe. To volunteer contact Erik Pedersen, (360) 373-3500 or Erik@GreatPeninsula.org.

Getting There: The preserve is open to the public. Park at 20325 Miller Bay Road, Suquamish, WA.



His Hair Stood on End

It could happen to any volunteer. You head out with a bag of saplings to replant the banks of the creek. As you clear the place where a new cedar sapling will one day tower, an awe-inspiring moment sneaks up on you.

"It was pretty wet," remembered stewardship volunteer Dick D'Archangel. "As we worked in the valley of Cowling Creek, we found these places above the stream, level areas full of salmon bones." Following the bones up the hill, they found one area, then another, then another, full of bones. "It made my hair stand on end!"

On the trails between the bones Dick found paw marks where bear had pulled themselves up the bank. "I had only read about this stuff!" Now he witnessed for himself how salmon and then bear bring nutrients from the sea, out of the stream, and into the forest.



2016 CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to the generous individuals, foundations and businesses
who supported Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2016.

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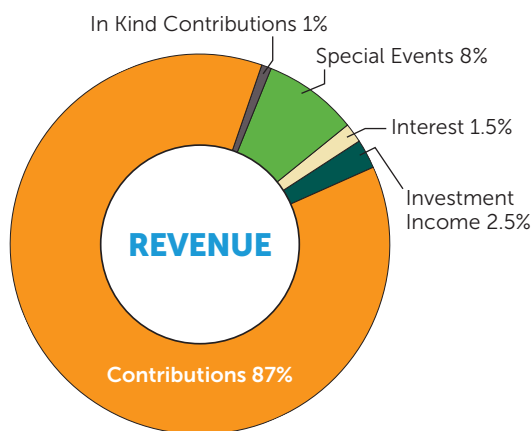
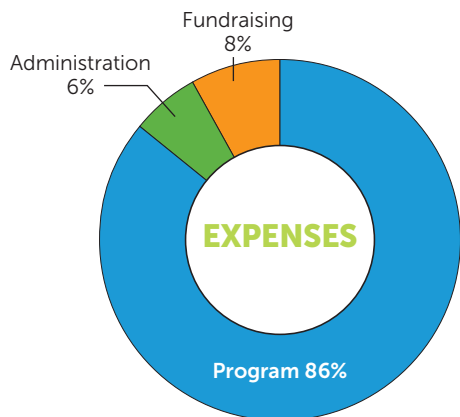
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Erin joined other community volunteers on Johnson South Sound Preserve to remove invasive scotch broom and plant over 250 trees to improve habitat for wildlife. Be part of caring for the land! Contact Erik@GreatPeninsula.org to become a stewardship volunteer.

CARING FOR NATURE

Caring for protected lands ensures wildlife and people enjoy the many benefits of nature well into the future.



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2016 FINANCES¹

EVERY ACRE, EVERY MEMBER, EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$319,384
Cash for Restricted Purposes	214,068
Receivables	389,603
Prepaid Expenses	13,370
Investments	1,017,977
Property & Equipment	7,456,650

Total Assets..... \$9,411,052

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accrued Expenses	\$13,362
Capital Lease	8,782

Total Liabilities..... \$22,144

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$865,256
Temporarily Restricted	1,197,622
Permanently Restricted	7,326,030

Total Net Assets \$9,388,908

Total Liabilities & Net Assets..... \$9,411,052

REVENUE

Contributions	\$1,095,578
In Kind Contributions	14,481
Special Events	101,552
Interest	19,138
Investment Income	30,977

Total Revenue \$1,261,726

EXPENSES

Program	\$685,942
Administration	45,718
Fundraising	62,265

Total Expenses \$793,925

Change in net assets..... \$467,801

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

Net assets at end of year \$9,388,908

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, 2016.



Great Peninsula Conservancy

423 Pacific Ave., Suite 401
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The accreditation seal
is awarded to land trusts
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conservation permanence.

CELEBRATING NATURE

A Peek at Grovers Creek's Wild Side – Page 3
Union River Estuary Heals – Page 4 & 5
Connecting to Nature – Page 6

