



Great Peninsula Conservancy

Fall 2019

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come.



Protecting forever
the natural habitats,
rural landscapes, and
open spaces of the
Great Peninsula.

WE’VE MOVED! CHECK OUT OUR
NEW SUITE NUMBER AND UPDATE
YOUR RECORDS.

Great Peninsula Conservancy
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Cover: Ali Erskine at Howe Farm Park.
Photo by Claire Voris.



Letter from the Director

Your support and willingness to engage in local conservation protected over 250 acres of land this year. As a community, you raised \$412,000 to save the 162-acre Hahobas Shoreline Preserve for wildlife and future generations. In partnership with Friends of Miller Bay, over \$150,000 was raised to protect the Miller Bay Preserve, which will expand the Grovers Creek Preserve and further connect a vital wildlife corridor.

I’m blown away. The generosity and passion I’ve seen since my arrival six months ago has been overwhelming. You are putting your money and words into action. The success of these two campaigns would not have been possible without you. Thank you!

As we approach the end of the year, we look back at our shared accomplishments with gratitude, and we look toward the future with optimism. Your support makes it possible to continue to complete projects at the scale of Hahobas and the strategic approach of Miller Bay.

At the heart of our mission, Great Peninsula Conservancy is expanding conservation efforts throughout west Puget Sound, protecting more acres at a faster rate than ever before. And GPC is building capacity to increase community engagement opportunities like NextGen Outdoor Camp and volunteer events that get more boots on the ground. The recent Howe Farm Park Stewardship work parties, sponsored by REI, were a prime example of creating partnerships with the community to connect more people with nature.

You may have already donated to a campaign this year, dollars that did the work of direct acquisition. Or maybe you already renewed your membership at the \$35, \$50, or \$500 level. Thank you! Now we need your help again.

Our annual Great Peninsula Conservancy Fundraising Challenge sustains every aspect of our mission. We have big ambitions before the end of the year, and we won’t be successful without your continued support. From now until the end of the year, your donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$130,000 thanks to generous leadership donors. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift in now, and join us in protecting the places you love before it’s too late!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan Daniel".

Nathan Daniel
Executive Director



NextGen Outdoor Camp

Words from the Campers

It was a whirlwind summer for NextGen Outdoor Campers. We rode bikes, horses, and waves. We picked plums, pulled ivy, and plotted the slope of Lions Park Beach. We learned important lessons about the rich and complicated history of our home-place and met with mentors whose passion for their work was inspirational.

NextGen Outdoor Camp provided an amazing opportunity for tomorrow’s environmental decision makers to see the wild as something worth preserving, and I cannot help feel anything but pride and hope in the mutual restoration that takes place when nature and young people are introduced.

Throughout the summer, I asked NextGen students to write about their outdoor experiences. You’ll find a few of their thoughts here.

“I will tell my family that [hiking Green Mountain] was awesome and they will want to go with me and it might be hard, but very fun

and awesome. It will help with my depression. It is going to be fun!”

“I’m glad I learned how to garden, because now my sister wants to start one!”

“One thing I’m super glad I learned [with Olympic Mountain Rescue volunteers] is what to do when someone has heatstroke. I’m glad I learned this because I was with my mom and she had heatstroke and if I had not learned that something really bad could have happened.”

“I was really scared to go all the way up the rock climbing wall, but people kept encouraging me so I did it!”

“Horseback riding was my favorite field trip. I loved learning how to take care of them. I even want to take lessons. It inspired me to try something new.”

“One goal I came to camp with and conquered was being more social.”

“My favorite fieldtrip was the Yama Village archaeological site. I found it super interesting that there was once a building where we were standing.”

“I have too many adventure stories to write. I’d have to say them out loud. I’ll write a journal and show you later.”

It’s true, there were just too many adventures and too many people to thank for helping to make those experiences and opportunities come to be. Nonetheless, thank you to everyone who played a role as stewards of a bright future for our community’s youth and for our local environment.

As is the NextGen way, may we all continue to enjoy the wilds of our beautiful peninsula with a sense of kindness, respect, and responsibility, and with each visit strive to leave them a little better than we found them.

—Claire Voris, *Events & Outreach Associate*



Miller Bay: 13 acres



Header: Photo contributed by Bonnie Chandler. Top: Paul Dorn. Photo by Claire Voris. Bottom: Rich and Taffy Satter. Photo by Claire Voris.

The Year of the Bays

If 2018 was a year of shorelines for Great Peninsula Conservancy, then 2019 can be highlighted in bays.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is prioritizing the conservation of several bays, or coastal inlets, and the remarkable estuary ecosystems they shelter. These smaller bays can be found all over the peninsula. Often a neighborhood gem, they are valuable to the local community for their scenic views and passive recreation.

In these places between salt and fresh water, a closer look will reveal marine vegetation that sequesters carbon and harbors small fish and crustaceans. Juvenile salmon dwell in estuaries before preparing for their salt water voyage, feeding, acclimating, and avoiding predators.

From a strategic conservation perspective, bays pack a punch, and give a lot of bang for your buck. The habitats are smaller and denser but support the whole food chain, from salmon, birds, and river otter, up to black bears.

“Whether driving along Miller Bay Road or paddling in the bay, these natural landscapes are beautiful, diverse, and vanishing.” —Paul Dorn, President of the Friends of Miller Bay

In the summer of 2019, Great Peninsula Conservancy partnered with the Friends of Miller Bay to conserve 13 acres of forested shoreline on the gooseneck of Miller Bay. This property is near the mouth of Grovers Creek, which winds north through GPC’s 280-acre Grover Creek Preserve and offers critical habitat for coho, chum, and chinook salmon. Thanks to the dedication of the Friends of Miller Bay, the local community came together and raised over \$150,000! Support for the remaining \$270,000 came from the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, the Suquamish Tribe, Kitsap Audubon Society, and the Ferguson Foundation. GPC will purchase the property in November 2019.

“I have lived here for 57 years, and I love kayaking back in Burke Bay. It is just like a little bit of paradise in and amongst all the chaos.” —Taffy Satter, Burke Bay Preserve Supporter

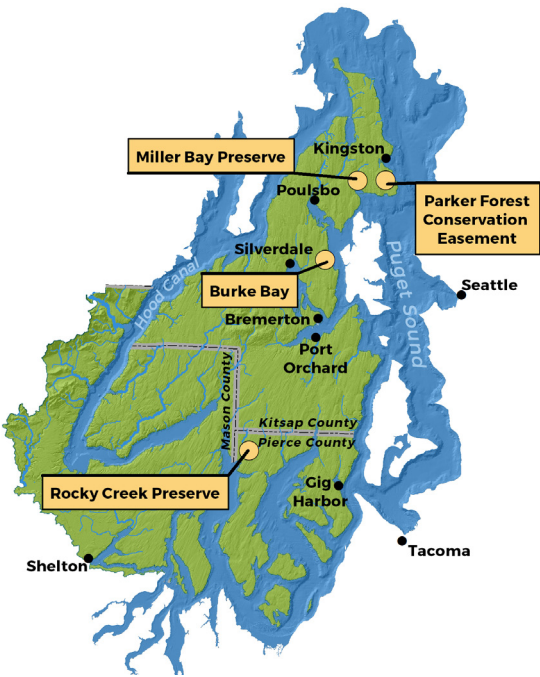
In the quaint port of Brownsville lies a quiet bay surrounded on all sides by evergreens. Great Peninsula Conservancy is working with the landowners of a 27-acre shoreline property on the south side of the bay and a group of local Brownsville residents to purchase the property. The landowners have generously offered to donate the land, assessed at \$135,000, and the community is working together to help raise the additional closing costs and stewardship funds. Once a home for a heron rookery, this bay sits beside a busy road and port, a small wilderness tucked away to provide homes for river otter, salmon, trout, and birds.

“What’s the problem? Well, overfishing and habitat, those are the two main things. Habitat was going away and what habitat was left the salmon couldn’t get up there because of obstructions.” —Roy Lampson

If you traverse the peninsula down to Rocky Bay near the town of Vaughn and follow East Fork Rocky Creek as it meanders northeast, you’ll discover the Lampson property. Roy Lampson, who grew up in Tacoma and had never observed salmon in the wild, purchased a 5-acre parcel of forestland with a salmon stream in the 80s. Over time he expanded it to encompass a 34-acre stretch and worked with Pierce Conservation District (PCD) to replace an undersized culvert. The project increased salmon activity in the stream so much that when the fish returned, they were “wall to wall.” Over the last few years, Roy thought carefully about the future of his property and again reached out to PCD for advice on protecting it. They connected Roy to Great Peninsula Conservancy. GPC is excited to announce that we are nearing the finish line on this project, a soon-to-be nature preserve and place to observe salmon in the wild for years to come. Support for this project comes from the Pierce County Conservation Futures Program and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.



Burke Bay: 27 acres



Top: Featured projects by Brenna Thompson. Below: Roy Lampson. Photo by Jess Lessard. Footer: Photo by Dept of Ecology.



Sustaining the Sound: Forests

A Natural Climate Change Solution



Kim Parker with his late wife, Melissa.

“Over years of watching the slow growth and the natural evolution of this forest land maturing in natural beauty, I’ve grown to realize how much would be undone by a chainsaw and logging operation in a matter of days. It would terminate a natural process already years in the making, instantly. I felt it unacceptable at any price.”

Kim Parker didn’t always feel this way. After purchasing a 20-acre parcel of forested wetlands in North Kitsap, the property taxes loomed large. But something changed after Kim spent time on the land. He and his wife Melissa built a small homestead and farm. Surrounded by their horses and animals, they observed the natural processes around them and soaked them in. They dubbed their new home “La La Land.” To this day Kim looks back fondly on those memories and makes new ones as he watches the maturing forest transition season to season, year to year.

In order to protect the land, Kim realized he needed some concrete legal framework with guidelines to

prohibit development and place limits on any future logging operations, including making the largest existing timber completely off limits to harvest. Casting about with this idea he came across Great Peninsula Conservancy, and in late 2019, Kim finalized the donation of a 17-acre conservation easement to GPC.

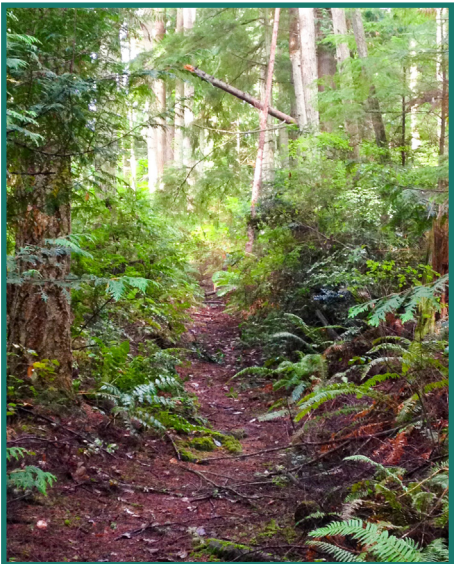
“I personally see this as a direct benefit to myself, to the environment, and to any like-minded future owners interested in what a balance within nature holds for our mental and physical well-being,” said Kim.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is so thankful to work with amazing community members like Kim Parker. Together we can protect more forests and natural habitat across the peninsula.

Forests, like the one found on the Parker Conservation Easement, are a natural climate change solution. To date, Great Peninsula Conservancy—through community partnerships



Kim with his dog, Lily. Photo by Claire Voris.



A trail leading through La La Land. Photo by Jonathan Decker.

across the peninsula—has helped protect almost 10,000 acres of trees that sequester tens of thousands of tons of carbon.

Do you have land that you’d like to see protected well into the future? Let us know! Great Peninsula Conservancy prioritizes the conservation of forests, salmon streams and estuaries, shorelines, farms, and community greenspaces. Our conservation team works strategically to build off existing protected areas to expand wildlife corridors and open spaces.

There are many ways that landowners choose to protect their land: donation or sale of a conservation easement; donation or sale of land (sometimes at a bargain price); the donation of property for resale (whereby GPC can sell it and use the proceeds to protect land with higher conservation values). If you have questions about saving your land, please contact our conservation team at (360) 373-3500.

NEW! A Benefit for GPC



TICKETS: \$17 IN ADVANCE \$20 AT THE DOOR

AVAILABLE NOW AT GREATPENINSULA.ORG
OR (360) 373-3500

Give Smart with Your IRA



Great Peninsula Conservancy is a community-driven organization made up of members devoted to local conservation. One way to support Great Peninsula Conservancy’s mission is through a direct assignment of your annual IRA distribution.

After age 70½, you are required by law to take a distribution from your IRA, whether or not you need the income. A qualified charitable distribution made payable directly to Great Peninsula Conservancy can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution for the year and can be excluded from your taxable income.

Check with your IRA administrator for details and contact GPC at (360) 373-3500 for more information.

Gifts to Honor and Remember

MAY - SEPTEMBER

Gifts made in memory of:

Virginia Cowling
from Glynis Burns & Pernel Tyus and Janeen Dorsch
Norman Magnuson
from Ardy Magnuson
Bill and Bee Mahan
from Kathy Mahan
Linda Manlove
from James Manlove
Bill Reetz
from James Taylor & Catriona Essley; Chris West; Lee Hauenstein
Tom Starr
from Betha Gutsche

Gifts made in honor of:

Jim Bulman
from Ben and Charlotte Pedersen
Darryl Bothel
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from Steven Todd & Denise Melton-Todd
Violet Viav
from Kystal Meiners
Lillian Watkins
from Lorisa & Luke Watkins
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**Great Peninsula
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Join the Winter Challenge!

Now until the end of the year, your donation to Great Peninsula Conservancy will be matched dollar for dollar.

Protect the
lands you love!

\$50 --> \$100
\$250 --> \$500
\$500 --> \$1,000

Volunteers at
Grovers Creek
Preserve plant a
grand fir in memory
of Elisabeth Bondy,
a GPC legacy society
member.

