

## Note from our Executive Director



Nate counts growth rings with two young stewards at an event.

In spite of the global pandemic, **⊥**the GPC team advanced our mission to protect and steward ecologically valuable lands and to connect people with nature. The current surge in development across our region makes it imperative that we protect streams, shorelines, forestlands, and farms from conversion now. Preserving these natural areas not only sustains our

Saving the Places You Love

local wildlife, it sustains us as well.

In 2020, GPC secured a record amount of funding from grants and community contributions. Those dollars went right to work creating, expanding, and stewarding some truly magnificent nature preserves.

In order to better manage this expanding suite of preserves, GPC is looking to our members and community groups for assistance. In 2020, we expanded our stewardship staff and secured a multi-year grant that funds four, full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members who dedicate a year of national service to improve our community. With this additional capacity, we are excited to offer opportunities for everyone to protect and connect

with the lands that help define us.

is committed to protecting our region's biodiversity in a thoughtful and deliberate way that ensures all segments of our community feel welcome to take part in conservation and create a more resilient landscape.

Fundamentally, the work we do at Great Peninsula Conservancy is made possible by our network of dedicated members and partners.

Thank you, all!

Nathan Daniel





Fulfilling our Mission

Great Peninsula Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to

the Great Peninsula region of West Puget Sound, Washington.

protecting the natural habitats, rural landscapes, and open spaces of

At right: Map of GPC's working region. 2020 projects in yellow. This report is printed on FSC paper by Blue Sky Printing.



Conserve

**Steward** 



Nature can unite us all, and GPC

Meet the Team

Nathan Daniel Ali Erskine **Executive Director** Conservation Associate



Erik Steffens Conservation Director



Claire Voris Events & Outreach **Associate** 



Erik Pedersen Conservation Easement **Specialist** 



Katherine Tacke Development & Communications Manager



Adrian Wolf Stewardship Manager

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Micaela Petrini

Stewardship Associate

Dylan Tenney

Finance & Operations

Manager

Peter Alexander Development



Janessa Hollmaier Site Coordinator



Sierra Kross Education Coordinator



Hannah McDonough Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator



2,472 acres monitored \$84,795 awarded in arants

250 staff hours to reaccreditation

# Stewardship + Restoration Thank you grantors, volunteers, and community partners!







We couldn't hold many volunteer events in 2020, but that didn't stop GPC's stewardship team from prioritizing restoration work. The Lay Wildrose Preserve in Gig Harbor benefited from several grants, including the Washington Native Plant Society, Gig Harbor Rotary, and One Tree Planted + Promise the Pod. The preserve was highlighted for Orca Recovery Day and was included in Conservation Associate Ali Erskine's virtual presentation to local students, who learned about the importance of native plants to shoreline health, especially in the face of climate change.



**Clear Creek** Trail

At the beginning of the pandemic, county parks closed leaving one safe place to walk, run and bike with the kiddos—The Clear Creek Trail. With partners from Kitsap Regional Library, Discovery Play Days, and Kitsap Salmon Tours, events were available virtually and still are! Restoration projects were postponed but Mother Nature was not to be put off. Volunteers that could, came out for trash detail, mowing, brush trimming, and leaf blowing. Many thanks for your support of the Clear Creek Task Force and to all our volunteers.

GPC volunteer Diane Fitzpatrick contributed over 300 hours helping GPC prepare for reaccreditation by The Land Trust Accreditation Commission. National accreditation is one of the highest marks of excellence and public trust that a land trust can receive and preparing for review is no small task. Diane's many hours in the GPC office helped GPC staff stay on top of our filing and document organization in preparation for our review. Thank you, Diane!

Diane loves spending time with her granddaughters and introducing them to the wonders of the outdoors. "Whenever they visit I take them into the real world," says Diane. "They love it!"





**Hahobas Shoreline** Restoration

Removing the pilings at the Hahobas Shoreline Preserve helped ensure that creosote won't leach toxic chemicals into the marine habitat. Many thanks to partners: Mason Conservation District, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Washington State Conservation Commission, and Blackwater Marine, LLC.

# Connecting during COVID

GPC leveraged cancellations into opportunities for growth



Claire Voris spent numerous hours at the Curley Creek Land Labs site, ensuring it would be an excellent resource for the community.

V / hen it became clear that GPC's plans—our 20th N anniversary celebration, Spring Dinner, Walk & Talks, and summer camp—would all have to be cancelled, it took a while for the team to adapt to the abrupt reality of 2020. Thanks to incredible community support, GPC was able to use the newfound time to rethink our engagement projects in the short term (going virtual) and create longterm plans to sustainably advance our mission.

On May 12th, 2020, we celebrated 20 years of conservation with our members on Zoom. Over the course of the year, Executive Director Nate Daniel gave over a dozen virtual presentations to continue GPC's



Local birding group, The Willettes, visited the Curley Creek Tyner Preserve to ID birds for a Land Labs resource.

outreach to new community partners. In the fall, GPC held our annual fundraising event with a virtual auction and film fest, which raised over \$100,000 from sponsors, auction donors, and members.

One of the biggest adjustments GPC made during 2020, was the transformation of the NextGen Outdoor Camp into a program that reaches more students on a year-long basis. At the end of 2020, GPC was awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA grant to support four full-time, college-educated VISTA members over three years. In addition, GPC received invaluable program and COVIDrelief support from The Russell Family Foundation.



5th graders from Catalyst Public Schools visited the preserve to learn about healthy ecosystems with GPC's Land Labs team.

GPC's Events & Outreach Associate Claire Voris was integral in securing the grants and facilitating community partnerships to transform the Curley Creek Tyner Preserve into GPC's premier Land Labs site. Special thanks to Pat & Steve Weagant—who spent several days helping clear trails—and to everyone who helped create the library of tools, including bird and bat houses, plant ID guides, a native plant nursery, and a game camera. Building these resources for students offered opportunities for GPC staff, volunteers, and partners to connect to nature during an isolating year.







\$129,624 awarded in grants

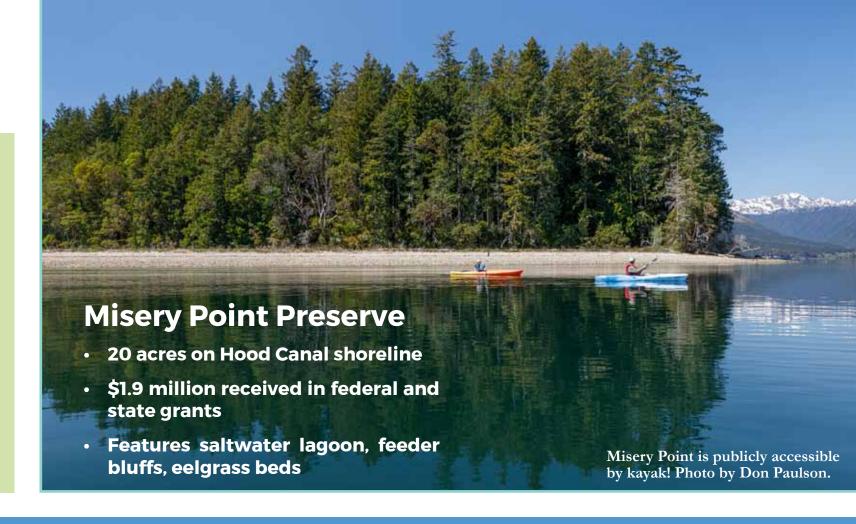
**AmeriCorps** members per year

# 2020 Conservation Highlights



### **Curley Creek Expansion**

- 18 acres added to the Curley Creek Preserve's total 67 acres near Port Orchard
- 1/2 mile of salmon stream protected
- Inaugural site for GPC's Land Labs Program



5 acquisitions

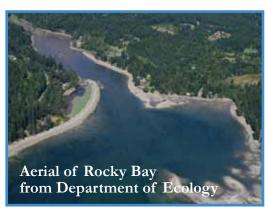
\$3.2 million awarded in grants

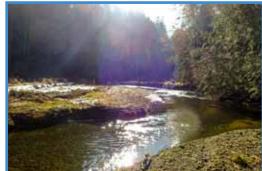
217 acres protected

### Thank you, funding partners!

Pierce County Conservation Futures, Salmon Recovery Funding Board (RCO),
National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant, U.S. Navy REPI Program, Department
of Ecology, Kitsap Audubon Society, Hood Canal Environmental Council, Aloha
Lumber, Max & Janet Laudeman, Brownsville community, and GPC members!







### **Burke Bay Preserve**

- 2 acquisitions totaling 28 acres near the Port of Brownsville
- Land donated by owners
- 1,700 feet of shoreline protected for wildlife, including endangered salmon



# 2020 Contributors

Thanks to the generous individuals, foundations, and businesses who supported Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2020.

#### **PUBLIC AGENCIES FUNDING** LAND ACQUISITION National Coastal Wetlands

Conservation Grant Pierce County Conservation Futures U.S. Navy REPI Program WA Department of Ecology WA Recreation and Conservation

#### \$200,000+

Max & Janet Laudeman

#### \$100.000+

Laana & Barry Fishman

#### \$50,000+

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#### \$10,000+

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Nisqually Indian Tribe

#### \$5.000+

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<sup>1</sup>Donors of \$100 or more are listed in this report.

**Great Peninsula Conservancy** 

# 2020 Finances at a Glance

Every Acre, Every Member, Every Dollar Counts

#### **REVENUE**

**TOTAL REVENUE...** 

Contributions	\$1,401,870
Grant Income	\$3,090,859
Land Donations	\$148,990
Special Events	\$111,017
Investment & Interest	\$134,577
Other Income	\$45,704

\$4,933,017

#### **OPERATING EXPENSES**

Program	\$617,311
Administration	\$104,678
Fundraising	\$61,898
TOTAL OPERATING	\$783,887

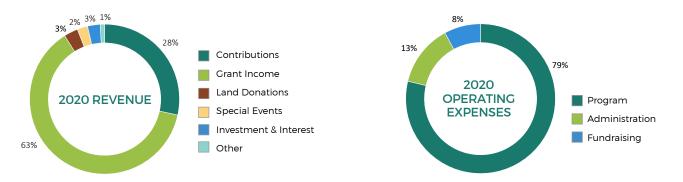
#### **OTHER EXPENSES<sup>2</sup>**

Easement Acquisition....\$1,365,295

**TOTAL EXPENSES...... \$2,149,182** 

#### **ASSETS**

Cash & Investments \$2,845,706
Property \$13,567,234
TOTAL ASSETS \$16,412,940
CHANGE IN \$2,783,835
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR \$13,517,849
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR \$16,301,684



<sup>1</sup> 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, 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Value of easement to the US Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program

Pamela McPeek & Bill Halligan

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# Your Membership Makes a Difference!

GPC members help save and care for the places we all love on the peninsula. Sign up at <a href="mailto:greatpeninsula.org/support">greatpeninsula.org/support</a> or return the enclosed remit envelope to become a member and receive:

- Updates on conservation work on the peninsula
- Members-only tours of conserved lands
- Hands-on opportunities to steward protected lands
- Invites to special events
- Pride that you're helping protect the lands you love for future generations!

### Other Ways to Give

### **Legacy Society: Wills & Trusts**

Leave a bequest to Great Peninsula Conservancy that speaks to your love of nature!

#### **IRA Charitable Donation**

At age 72 you will be required to make minimum distributions from your IRA each year. Charitable IRA rollovers to GPC are exempt from income tax.

#### **Stock Transfer**

Protect the lands you love and avoid paying capital gains when you transfer stock to GPC. Please call our broker for details: Bruce Bennett (360) 613-1974.

#### Save Your Land

A gift of land is one of the most significant contributions you can make to GPC.

For more information, contact us at (360) 373-3500 or info@greatpeninsula.org.

Great Peninsula Conservancy



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