



Great Peninsula Conservancy

Winter 2017

Protecting our lands and waters for generations to come



EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS - Pages 3-6

See you Outside!

Want to take your kids, aging parents or holiday visitors out for a walk in the woods or along a beach? Looking for a place to see birds or salmon? The Great Peninsula is an incredible place to explore at any time of year. Use the handy centerfold map and key to find a place that meets your needs close to home. Last year's map was so popular we are bringing you an updated map this year.

Great Peninsula Conservancy is proud to have been a partner in protecting these lands - which include public parks, nature preserves and private timber lands open to the public. You - and many others like you - saved and safeguard these lands with your personal commitment and generous gifts.

Today, your donation is urgently needed if Great Peninsula Conservancy is to continue to protect the wonders of nature in your backyard. In fact, your gift is so important that a group of generous supporters has offered to match any donation you make before the end of the year up to \$50,000!



Don Paulson

Guidebook author Craig Romano joined us in October to lead a walk through one of his favorite Kitsap trail systems, Hansville Greenway. See map page 4.

Please send your most generous donation today. Your gift of \$50 becomes \$100, \$250 doubles to \$500, and \$1,000 grows to \$2,000 - protecting twice as much land for wildlife and people. Your contribution will be matched dollar for dollar and be put right to work keeping nature close to home.

See you outside!

Sandra

Sandra Staples-Bortner
Executive Director

Great Peninsula Conservancy

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

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EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

Heart of Hansville Greenway

A walk through wooded, well maintained (and well-marked) trails brings hikers to a sturdy observation platform overlooking wetlands protected by Great Peninsula Conservancy in the heart of Hansville Greenway. Look closely for a beaver lodge, wood ducks and river otters. This is the perfect place to observe a watershed at work, feeding clean water to Hood Canal and Admiralty Inlet.

What began as a community vision in the 1990s became a reality thanks to leadership of Hansville Greenway Association founders like Sid Knutson, cooperation with Kitsap County, and partnership with their local land trust.

This October GPC members celebrated the publishing of Sid and Craig Knutson's book *Story of the Hansville Greenway*, heard an enthusiastic presentation on Kitsap's many trails by *Urban Trails-Kitsap* author Craig Romano, explored Hansville Greenway with trail experts and enjoyed Knutson family stories about building the trail.



Hansville Greenway Association's Ken Shawcroft proudly shares details about this vibrant wetland and the Greenway's outdoor education program.

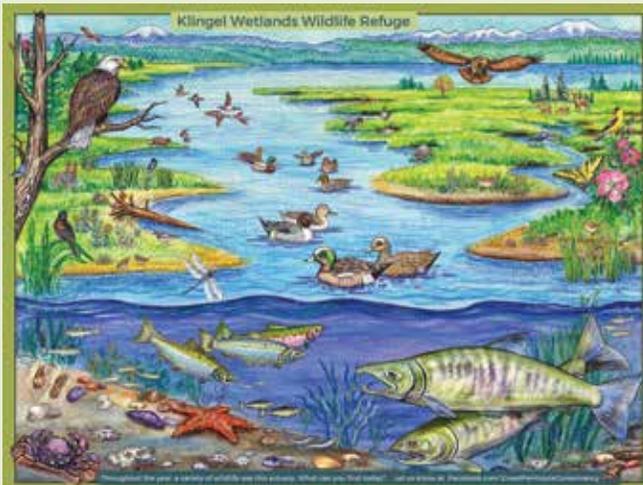
Don Paulson

Missed the book signing? You can still pick up a copy of the Knutsons' book at the Hansville Grocery. Proceeds support field trips that bring fourth graders to the Greenway to take in the grand view of a watershed at work and try their hand at using microscopes to get a close up view of the stream's health by observing its tiniest creatures.

Scavenger Hunt at Klingel Wildlife Refuge

Beautiful new signs at GPC's Klingel Wetlands Wildlife Refuge near Belfair invite families to join a wildlife scavenger hunt. The restored estuary at the toe of Hood Canal teems with life and offers a panoramic view of more than five miles of conserved shoreline. Return each season to see if you can spot the creatures enjoying this estuary. Then share your photos with us at [Facebook.com/GreatPeninsulaConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/GreatPeninsulaConservancy).

Klingel Refuge restoration project and signs were funded by RCO Salmon Recovery Funding Board and EPA Marine and Nearshore Program. Thank you!



Joanne Tejada

EXPLORE THE

Great Peninsula Conservancy invites you to get outside and enjoy these

Banner Forest Heritage Park

6471 Banner Rd SE, Port Orchard

Hike, walk the dog, hunt for mushrooms, or grab your mountain bike and go! With over 636 acres to roam you are likely to have the forest to yourself no matter what trail you choose. Be sure to wear your waterproof hiking boots as the trails can get a bit muddy.



Chico Creek Estuary

4270 Kittyhawk Dr, Bremerton

The best time to view this beautifully restored estuary is during the return of salmon in the fall. Chico Creek produces the largest run of wild chum salmon in Kitsap County – 30,000 to 80,000 chum pass up the creek each year. Come for the salmon, stay to see other wildlife like heron and eagles. Wear your waterproof boots. It's muddy here in the fall and winter.



Clear Creek Trail

9641 Levin Rd NW, Silverdale

Almost 7 miles of trails perfect for all levels of walking, jogging, and biking. Enjoy this quiet urban oasis along Clear Creek. Leashed dogs are allowed on the path, or you can let them burn off a little energy at the dog park.



Cowling Creek Forest Preserve

20325 Miller Bay Rd NE, Poulsbo

Park at the Cowling Creek Salmon Center and enjoy the trails in this 42-acre forest preserve also home to bear, eagles, and river otters. Visit in the fall to see over 30,000 chum salmon return to the creek to spawn.



Filicy Bay Preserve

Longbranch (Coming Soon!)

Once an ancient fishing cove for First Peoples, this quiet tree-lined bay soon will be easily accessed by kayak from nearby Longbranch or a short 10 minute walk on a maintained wooded trail. GPC is working to open this new preserve to the public, so stay tuned!



Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve

19235 Stavis Bay Rd NW, Seabeck

Looking for a great view of the Olympics? A short but steep hike down to the beach will reward you with beautiful views across Hood Canal. Take the kids and search for starfish and crabs on the beach. Be sure to check out the old stump house along the way.



Hansville Greenway

6959 Buck Lake Rd NE, Hansville

With over 8 miles of well-maintained and well-marked trails, a walk in the Greenway is perfect for all ages. Explore the 260-acre wildlife corridor and you'll see two beaver ponds and the perfect-for-a-beach-day shoreline at Buck Lake.



Indianola Waterfront and Woodland Preserve

8001 NE Seaview Ave, Indianola

An official stop on the Kitsap Water Trail, this is the place to land your kayak, stick your toes in the sand and enjoy a panoramic view of Mt. Rainier. Rugged hiking trails through the woodlands are also great for stretching your legs.



Kingston Trails

272nd Avenue off Lindvog Road, Kingston

Beautiful wooded trails just a stone's throw from downtown Kingston. Walk through licorice ferns and trilliums while gazing up at old big-leaf maples. Listen for woodpeckers, wrens and the flutelike song of Swainson's thrush. Be prepared for trails that can be rugged and muddy in places. Trails run on private property so please be respectful.



Klingel Wetlands Wildlife Refuge

2091 NE HWY 300, Belfair

If you are an avid birdwatcher this is your place. Visit this 94-acre wetland on Hood Canal and you might encounter regulars like bald eagles, heron, osprey, or the elusive Virginia rail. Each winter the refuge is a favorite spot for mallards, pintails, wigeon and green-winged teal.



Newberry Hill Heritage Park

SE corner of NW Newberry Hill Road and Tieton Place NW, Silverdale

GPS (N47 38.062 W122 45.319)

Great loop trails for hiking, trail running, walking leashed dogs, or just meandering while seeking out everything from mushrooms to salamanders. This 1,100 acre park has over 15 miles of trails, many of which connect to other local trail systems. Be sure to make a stop at the beaver pond.



North Kitsap Heritage Park

24701 Miller Bay Road NE, Kingston

If you are looking for a variety of trail types, head here. You can choose from narrow foot paths to wide gravel trails to wander or ride through the forest. Take time to explore the wetlands that are the headwaters of Grovers Creek.



Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park

28901 HWY 104, Kingston

The trail options are endless along the old service roads and rough trails of this 1,890 acre park – a favorite of mountain bikers, trail runners, equestrians, and hikers. If it is water views you want, enjoy a quiet walk along the bluff trail overlooking Port Gamble Bay.



OUTDOORS

the special places protected with the help of GPC, our partners, and you!

Poulsbo Fish Park

288 NW Lindvig Way, Poulsbo



Perfect for those seeking an easy scenic walk, 3 miles of gentle trails are ideal with young kids in tow. Look for fish-themed art along the path and keep your eyes (and ears) alert for birds along the trail. The salmon viewing platform at Dog Fish Creek is a popular spot in the fall.

Sehmel Homestead Park

10123 78th Ave NW, Gig Harbor



There is something for everyone here. Over 4 miles of maintained nature trails for hiking and walking the dog, ball fields for the kids, a heritage garden, ponds and meadows for birdwatching.

Tahuya Legacy Forest

Mason County

Logging roads provide some public access to 2,300 acres of private forestland between Tahuya State Forest and Green Mountain State Forest. See www.PopeResources.com for information on permitted uses and a map.

Taylor Bay Park

17916 76th St KPS, Longbranch



In the mood for a quiet picnic overlooking the water? This rustic park is the place to go. If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, wheel your kayak down to water's edge and head out for a paddle, but be sure to check the tides before you go.

Ueland Tree Farm

Lebers Lane NW, Bremerton
GPS (N47 34.800 W122 43.082)



Trails through this private FSC certified tree farm are open to the public for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, leashed dog walking, trail running and even mushroom and berry picking. See if you can find the hidden path to the waterfall about ½ mile into Chico Trail.



Hiking



Kayaking



Leashed Dogs



Bird Watching



Biking



Equestrian



Picnic Tables



EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

Chico Creek Estuary

Every year in early November tens of thousands of Chum salmon return through this recently restored estuary into Chico Creek to spawn. And hundreds of Kitsap residents return to the stream to view the remarkable event! Great Peninsula Conservancy teamed up with the Washington Department of Fish

and Wildlife to welcome Kitsap Salmon Tour visitors at the mouth of Chico Creek with information about the salmon life cycle, healthy fish habitat and the Suquamish Tribe's recent restoration which Great Peninsula Conservancy now helps protect.



Jess Lessard



Brenna Thompson

Kitsap Salmon Tours is supported by a tremendous partnership of local organizations including: Great Peninsula Conservancy, Chico Salmon Park Stewardship Group, City of Bremerton, City of Poulsbo, Clean Water Kitsap, Clear Creek Task Force, Kitsap County, Kitsap PUD, Kitsap Poggie Club, Mountaineers Foundation, The Mountaineers, Suquamish Tribe, Washington Sea Grant, and WSU Extension.



Jess Lessard



Conservancy Reception

GPC's Conservancy Circle and Legacy Society members gathered at The Point Hotel in Kingston for a special program and update on GPC's conservation projects. The October event kicked off with delicious hors d'oeuvres served in a sunny courtyard surrounded by beautiful Native American story poles. A welcome song performed by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Singers was followed by a talk about tribal history, culture, and art from Port Gamble S'Klallam Chairman Jeromy Sullivan and Executive Director Kelly Sullivan.

Meet Tania Issa

Tania Issa first got involved in conserving land while living in Issaquah. When a 300 acre property next to her home was slated for development, Tania and her neighbors jumped in to lobby King County to purchase the land. However, it wasn't until her son Oliver, then in 8th grade, launched a Facebook campaign that their *Save Squak Mountain* effort gained traction and finally won over King County.

Five years ago, Tania, her husband Antoine and their five boys moved to Kingston to escape the hustle and bustle of Issaquah. Antoine is an avid mountain biker and the entire family enjoys bicycling and hiking. When they learned of the *Save Port Gamble Forest Campaign* this year, they were impressed with the widespread community support and stepped in with a very generous gift. Their annual Conservancy Circle gifts to Great Peninsula Conservancy have been made through Kitsap Great Give.

Tania has fond memories of visiting family sheep stations in Australia and dreamed of a farm of her



Sandra Staples-Bortner



own. After finally finding 23 acres on Jefferson Point, she was faced with the challenge of clearing brush covered fields. Then Tania learned the heritage breed of Mangalitsa wooly pig eats brush. Today, a couple dozen pigs are hard at work chomping on blackberry and Scotch broom and turning them into yummy meat she sells under the label The Sheepish Pig. For Tania, conserving land and creating a sustainable community begin at home.

Conservancy Circle: GPC's most generous donors who make an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.

Memorial Gifts

(September 1, 2017 - October 31, 2017)

- ◆ *In memory of Helen Forsman*
Natalie E Bryson
- ◆ *In memory of Alice Harris*
Gary and Marilyn Cunningham
- ◆ *In memory of Dan and Shirley Inveen*
Cameron Haslam
- ◆ *In memory of Lynda Lewis*
Louise Skipton
- ◆ *In memory of Kathy Reck*
Terrance Burns and Susan Collins

Gifts to Honor

(September 1, 2017 - October 31, 2017)

- ◆ *In honor of Don Reck*
Terrance Burns and Susan Collins

Smarter Giving with Your IRA

Did you know there are two ways you can use your IRA (Individual Retirement Account) to support GPC?

Charitable Donation

Once you reach age 70½, you must make Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA each year. These RMDs are treated as taxable income except when you make a charitable IRA rollover. Donations you make directly from your IRA to your favorite charities (up to \$100,000 a year) are exempt from income tax. Check with your IRA administrator for details on making a charitable IRA donation.

Charitable Beneficiary

Consider naming Great Peninsula Conservancy as a beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA. Neither you, your estate, nor GPC pay taxes on this gift. In contrast, heirs you name as beneficiaries of your IRA will pay income taxes on the gift (Roth IRAs are an exception). When dividing assets among heirs and charities, financial advisors recommend you give your appreciated stock and real estate to heirs and make charities beneficiaries of all or a portion of your (non Roth) retirement funds.

Please note: GPC cannot give tax or financial advice. Please contact your tax advisor and IRA administrator for assistance and clarification of these rules. Thank you for your support!





Great Peninsula Conservancy

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The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.



EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

You'll Find a Map Inside – Pages 4-5



Raise your hand if you love this land! REI and GPC teamed up with community volunteers this fall to accomplish stewardship projects that will make Port Gamble Forest and Banner Forest Heritage Parks even better places to #OptOutside year round.

Brenna Thompson