

# Annual Report 2017



Great Peninsula  
Conservancy



# Making a Big Impact Together

One of the joys of my childhood was spending time helping my father on his lobster boat, waiting to see what marine life would come to the surface in each lobster pot. Would there be a lobster, starfish, crab or maybe a big-eyed, spiny, fleshy sculpin?

In the backyard, I was just as thrilled to see colorful blue jays, cardinals, and goldfinches at our feeder. Occasionally I'd even find a feather left behind. It is experiences like these—discovered as a child and rediscovered throughout a lifetime—that inspire us to feel a part of, rather than separate from, nature. And they motivate us to work together today to save the places we love.

By pooling and magnifying the diverse life experiences of our many members and partners, Great Peninsula Conservancy is able to accomplish amazing things. We are saving trails through legacy forests, preserving ecosystems with a fantastic array of plants and animals, and protecting shorelines with rich marine life as special places of beauty and joy. Together we are leaving an imprint on the world that speaks to what we deeply cherish. Together we are making a big impact!

*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 Peninsula and north Mason County, WA

Featured projects  
in yellow



# Saving a Rec

## Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park

**Project size:** 3,400 acres

### What You'll Experience:

Enjoy endless trail options in Kitsap County's largest park.

**What We're Doing:** Preserving a massive forest for trails, wildlife, and clean water in Port Gamble Bay. With Kitsap Forest & Bay partners, protecting sensitive natural areas, while using restoration forestry to increase the health of the forest over time.

### How To Get There:

28901 HWY 104, Kingston. Visit Kitsap County Parks' website for a trail map.



# recreation Paradise



## Protecting 4,000 acres of legacy forest to keep trails and nature close to home

We live in a wondrous place with awesome people! That became abundantly clear when in December 2017, Great Peninsula Conservancy and Kitsap Forest & Bay partners completed a years-long effort to save 4,000 acres of forest in north Kitsap County. Lovers of trails and nature rallied to raise a whopping \$3.5 million to purchase the final 1,500 acres—together making a very big impact.

Stretching over four miles south from the historic mill town of Port Gamble, the new Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park has over 60 miles of trails that hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders can now enjoy forever. The evergreen forest-lined shore of Port Gamble Bay will remain a quiet place to paddle a kayak and observe heron, otters and mergansers up close. You and your neighbors shared a vision for saving a recreation paradise and together you are leaving an incredible legacy!



A photograph of a forest stream with moss-covered trees and autumn foliage. The stream flows through a dense forest, with water splashing over rocks. The surrounding trees are covered in moss, and the foliage shows signs of autumn with some yellow and orange leaves. A large, moss-covered log lies across the stream in the foreground.

## Curley Creek Tyner Preserve

**Project size:** 28 acres

**What You'll Experience:** Visit in the fall to view bountiful spawning salmon and, if you are lucky, threatened steelhead. Year-round you'll enjoy a magical place with the song of birds, lush greenery and towering trees.

**What We're Doing:** Identified by Great Peninsula Conservancy and the Suquamish Tribe as a conservation priority, GPC has protected nearly 200 acres of habitat within the Curley Creek watershed.

**Getting There:** Great Peninsula Conservancy members receive special invitations to preserves like this one that are not yet open to the public. Join us August 18, 2018 for a members-only tour. To sign up email [Membership@GreatPeninsula.org](mailto:Membership@GreatPeninsula.org).

## Sharing a Family Retreat

This preserve was once the Tyner family's retreat from busy Seattle. Looking for a place to get his hands in the dirt, Steven Tyner knew he had found the perfect place on his first visit. The amazing spectacle of the fall salmon run then underway on Curley Creek captured his imagination. As time went on, his kids and grandkids experienced the thrill of finding crayfish among the rocks in the stream's cold water, and family memories were created around campfires on summer campouts.

When Great Peninsula Conservancy approached Steve with an offer to buy his land and conserve it forever, he was interested. While waiting for a state grant to close the deal, Steve's conviction grew that conserving the land was the right thing to do. Unexpectedly, he made the incredible decision to donate the land to Great Peninsula Conservancy—saving a place for other families to be inspired by its natural wonders.



# Preserving an Ecosystem

## Saving all of nature's wonders to awe and inspire

Time your first visit to Great Peninsula Conservancy's Curley Creek Tyner Preserve in the fall when spawning salmon are thrashing their way upstream and you might get the impression that salmon are the sole reason the land has been protected for all time. After all, this stream has one of the largest salmon runs on the peninsula.

But look closely, and come again at other times of the year, and you'll realize there is much more to awe and inspire. Poke around in the creek and you'll find crayfish and caddisfly larvae. Step back from the stream and you'll see willowy ferns, dainty wildflowers, and towering trees. Listen and you might hear woodpeckers, warblers and the flutelike song of thrushes. Come when berries are ripe or adult salmon are in the creek and you'll find signs of bear—a footprint in the mud or a pile of scat.

Each plant and animal has its own story to tell. How does the caddisfly larva make its protective case? What events have unfolded at the foot of that giant centuries-old cedar? Take your time and contemplate nature's wonders in this rich ecosystem. Your GPC membership preserves its natural legacy.





# Saving Our Shorelines

## Dewatto Shoreline Preserve

**Project Size:** 42 acres

**What You'll Experience:** A forested stream winds its way down the high bluff bringing clean water to oyster-filled tidelands. This is the perfect spawning ground for surf smelt, which lay their eggs at night in the upper intertidal zone.

**What We're Doing:** Hood Canal Coordinating Council provided funding for the purchase to mitigate for the loss of natural shoreline elsewhere on Hood Canal. As the new owner, Great Peninsula Conservancy will ensure the permanent protection of the preserve's rich habitats for wildlife.

## Preserving the beauty of our region and the nurseries of Puget Sound

Everyone loves the beach! It's a place of great beauty and a place people come to connect to the sea—to harvest clams, dip a paddle in the water, and gaze at distant shores. Marine life thrives here.

The shallow water of our shores allows light to reach the seafloor, benefitting aquatic plants like eelgrass, which provide habitat for crabs and other creatures. Juvenile salmon stick close to the shore, avoiding predators, finding food, and seeking the film of freshwater that often clings there.

Forage fish—herring, surf smelt, and sand lance—lay their eggs in the surf zone and sands of our beaches. These small fish are a key food source for adult salmon, marine mammals, and sea birds. Protecting their spawning ground is a priority for Puget Sound recovery.



# 2017 Contributors

Thanks to the generous individuals, foundations and businesses who supported Great Peninsula Conservancy in 2017.<sup>1</sup>

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



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# Connecting People and Caring for Nature

## Walks & Talks



Great Peninsula Conservancy helps connect people with nature through Walks & Talks on preserves and parks. Puget Sound Energy's support makes our 2018 program possible!



## Stewardship Days



Companies like REI make a big impact when they team up with Great Peninsula Conservancy to accomplish trail stewardship projects. Since 2013 REI's tremendous support has helped make our community an even better place to explore the outdoors.



## Spring Dinner



Great Peninsula Conservancy's annual Spring Dinner introduces new people to GPC's conservation and stewardship work, celebrates our partners, and raises funds to save special places for people and wildlife.



Thanks to these  
2018 Spring Dinner sponsors.





## Great Peninsula Conservancy

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Bremerton, WA 98337  
360-373-3500  
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www.greatpeninsula.org

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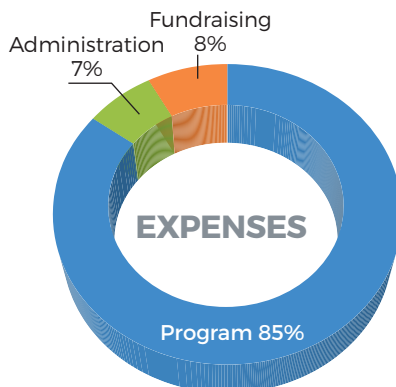
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Page 4-5: Brenna Thompson, Tara Hooper  
Page 7: Jonathan Decker  
Page 8-9: Brenna Thompson, Kenna Cox  
Page 10: Mary Zabinski, Brenna Thompson, Iklil Gregg Photography  
Back Cover: Don Paulson

# 2017 Finances<sup>1</sup>

Every Acre, Every Member,  
Every Dollar Counts



### ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents.....	\$497,390
Cash for Restricted Purposes .....	\$254,912
Receivables .....	\$10,589
Prepaid Expenses .....	\$7,430
Investments.....	\$1,164,540
Property & Equipment .....	\$8,675,963

**TOTAL ASSETS..... \$10,610,824**

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accrued Expenses.....	\$15,439
Capital Lease.....	\$6,607

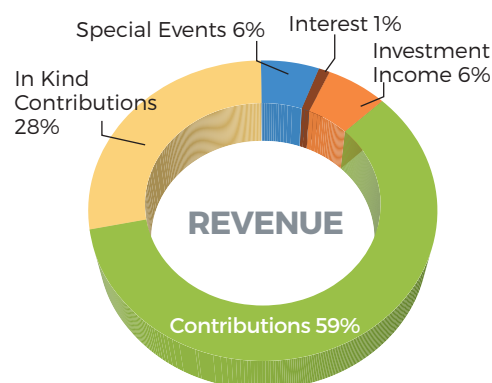
**TOTAL LIABILITIES..... \$22,046**

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted.....	\$862,200
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,177,548
Permanently Restricted	\$8,549,030

**TOTAL NET ASSETS ..... \$10,588,778**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS ..... \$10,610,824**



### REVENUE

Contributions.....	\$1,156,765
In Kind Contributions (incl. land) .....	\$554,287
Special Events.....	\$119,436
Interest .....	\$24,330
Investment Income.....	\$123,122

**TOTAL REVENUE..... \$1,977,940**

### EXPENSES

Program .....	\$665,059
Administration .....	\$52,473
Fundraising.....	\$60,538

**TOTAL EXPENSES..... \$778,070**

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS..... \$1,199,870**

**NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR..... \$9,388,908**

**NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR ..... \$10,588,778**

<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, 2017.





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

# Saving Homes For Wildlife

See GPC's New Tyner Preserve – Pages 4-5

