

Clear Creek Trail News

A seasonal newsletter for friends and volunteers of the Clear Creek Task Force,
a project of the Great Peninsula Conservancy

Volume 5, Issue 1, Spring, 2008

Two new groups adopt

the Clear Creek Trail

Trail adoption offers community groups and businesses a way to join together with donors to maintain the Clear Creek Trail as an asset for Silverdale, forever.

Macerich, the company managing the Kitsap Mall and Kitsap Place, adopted the section of trail near the mall as part of their commitment to make the Trail their volunteer program this year.

Crew from the USS Emory S. Land eagerly volunteered to take on the maintenance of a section of trail, too!

To adopt the trail groups choose one of nine one-block (¼ mile) sections of trail and donate time for periodic maintenance. Work includes trash collection; a monthly walk-through; seasonal brush cutting, leaf cleanup and grass trimming. We are pleased to recognize their efforts on a trail sign.

Our trail adopters include: CK Kiwanis, Silverdale Kiwanis, the Lions Club, Macerich, and the USS Emory S. Land. Thanks a million for making the Clear Creek Trail YOUR trail!

To become a Clear Creek Trail volunteer, contact Mary Zabinski, our volunteer coordinator, at 613-5500 or at clearcreektrail@yahoo.com



It's our trail...



After December's torrential rains tore apart sections of the Clear Creek Trail, more than 50 community volunteers rallied together to repair the damage. Together they helped retrieve sections of boardwalk that had floated away, repaired washed out gravel trails, and put observation decks back on their foundations. Donors also responded to the need, and helped to make the repairs possible.

Events

Saturday, April 19th
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Earth Day at the
Interpretive Center

Thursday April 24th
9:00 a.m.
15th Annual Earth Day Work Party
with CKHS students

Saturday, May 7th
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Interpretive Center open

Saturday, May 16th
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Interpretive Center open

Saturday, June 7th
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
National Trail Day
Join us on the Trail!



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Step into spring

With events at the trail

Join us at the big red barn to kickoff our spring season of events. And bring friends!



Saturday, April 19th
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Earth Day at the Interpretive Center

Learn what you can do to help improve water quality. Find out ways to slow and clean storm water as it runs off your roof, walkways, decks and driveways. Learn about rain gardens and how to design your landscaping to protect our streams, inlet and wetlands.

Get a preview of a summer volunteer opportunity. The Clear Creek Task Force is partnering with Kitsap County later this summer to attach markers to storm drains throughout the Silverdale business area. Markers remind people that surface water, sometimes carrying pollutants, drains into Clear Creek and then to Dyes Inlet.

Thursday April 24th
9:00 a.m.

15th Annual Earth Day Work Party with CKHS students

More than one hundred Central Kitsap High School students join the Clear Creek Task Force to build a new section of the Clear Creek Trail.

Our partnership with CKHS students is now in its 15th year! Over the years students have assembled boardwalk, dug a myriad of postholes, shoveled tons of gravel, manned a cadre of wheelbarrow, and raked miles of gravel. “This is something they feel good about doing,” said Marie Crumb, the teacher who motivated her students to get involved in trail work. “It’s a

real buy-in to the community. They’re doing something to be a part of the community.”

This year, the students will build a connecting trail in the north end of the Clear Creek Valley about a quarter mile south of Trigger Avenue and just east of the Clear Creek Bike Trail. The students will be working on 600 feet of trail in addition to a short boardwalk across an irrigation ditch. Many, many thanks to Ace Paving, Taco Bell/ Orchard Foods, Silverdale Water District, Kitsap County Parks, and Public Works whose assistance in this program is greatly appreciated.

Saturday, May 7th
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Interpretive Center open

Drop by and learn about Clear Creek’s natural heritage.

Saturday, May 16th
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Interpretive Center open

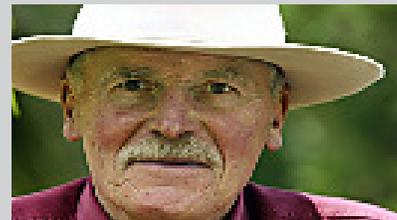
Drop by and learn about Clear Creek’s natural heritage.

Saturday, June 7th
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

National Trail Day --Join us on the Trail!

Activities include guided trail walks; “I Spy,” a fun and educational activity for kids; birding with the Audubon Society; and an old fashioned lemonade stand.

To recognize the importance of urban trail systems, the Mountaineers - Kitsap Branch has chosen the Clear Creek Trail for their National Trails Day service! Join them to clean up the beach in Old Mill Park. Bring garbage bags, gloves and sturdy shoes. (Directions and more information are available at www.clearcreektrail.org)



Tex Talk

The greatest joys I have had over the years helping with the Clear Creek Task Force has been to be associated with scores of community minded volunteers. Many are members of service clubs, and many just show up to help. The success we have had creating the trail is a testimony to their dedication and community spirit. Looking across the community, it is their spirit that gives a place soul and culture.

Their help takes many forms. Some show up, help out, and move on. Some decide to adopt the cause and stay on. Some provide goods or funds to sustain the effort of others. Each, in their way, is a treasure, and is deeply cherished. Their support is the vital force that makes the enterprise flourish. It is the difference between a system limited by resources, and a boundless adventure. It is the stuff that makes a community a vital and exciting place to live. The feelings volunteers share is very special. I think that is what makes them so much fun to be with.

Thank you all. --Tex Lewis

In 2007, Tex Lewis, chairperson of the Clear Creek Task Force, received the Kitsap Community Foundation Community Volunteer award, the Orca District / Chief Seattle Council's inaugural Community Leadership Award, and the Paul Brittan Award for his trail-blazing leadership. To learn more about Tex and his outstanding community service visit www.clearcreektrail.org to read "The Measure of the Man."



Our mission: to create and maintain a community-wide network to mobilize support, educate and focus actions to preserve, protect and restore the Clear Creek ecosystem. We envision a future Clear Creek as a healthy stream ecosystem with clean water and salmon, plant and animal habitat, providing quiet enjoyment and evoking sensitivity and respect for the stream, a part of our natural heritage.

Join the team!

We need a few more volunteers with building, writing, fundraising, event planning, and teaching, design, or computer skills to lend a hand to our Task Force teams. Our Interpretive Center Team is about to begin planning our future educational programs! Take a look at our five teams and give us a call if you can help. (613-5500 or clearcreektrail@yahoo.com)

Trail Building and Maintenance Team

- Plan New Trail
- Maintain Equipment and Facilities
- Train New Volunteers
- Oversee Group Maintenance
- Lead Work Parties
- Emergency Maintenance

Interpretive Center Programs Team

- Speakers
- Exhibits
- Educational Programs
- Family Programs
- Guided Walks

Events Team

- Whaling Days
- National Trails Day
- Celebrate Clear Creek
- Earth Day
- On-line Auction

Fundraising Team

- Grants
- Corporate Solicitations
- Direct appeals
- Evaluate success of fundraising events
- Develop new fundraising ideas

Public Relations Team

- Press releases
- Newsletter
- Website
- Email updates

Protecting open space

Thank you to Clear Creek LLC, Mike Brown, and Robert Mathwig for their gift of 2.73 acres of land between Levin and Ridgetop Roads. Their gift now permanently protects that land, on both sides of Clear Creek, as a wooded riparian area and it will continue to be an important part of the Clear Creek Trail system. To find out more about how you can help protect open space in our community, contact Great Peninsula Conservancy at (360) 373-3500.

Congratulations to the CK Kiwanis Club

They have been awarded our Tex Lewis – Community Partners – Award for many years of dedicated partnership with the Clear Creek Trail. Since day one, the CK Kiwanis have been big Clear Creek Trail supporters: leading the Salmon in the Classroom project, guiding trail walks, and planting trees. They were among the first to adopt a section of trail and generously donated a riding mower. The Central Kitsap Kiwanis Club is the first to be honored with this award. Thanks a million!



Children in the CK Kiwanis "Salmon in the Classroom" project visited Clear Creek to release their salmon fry and plant trees along the creek

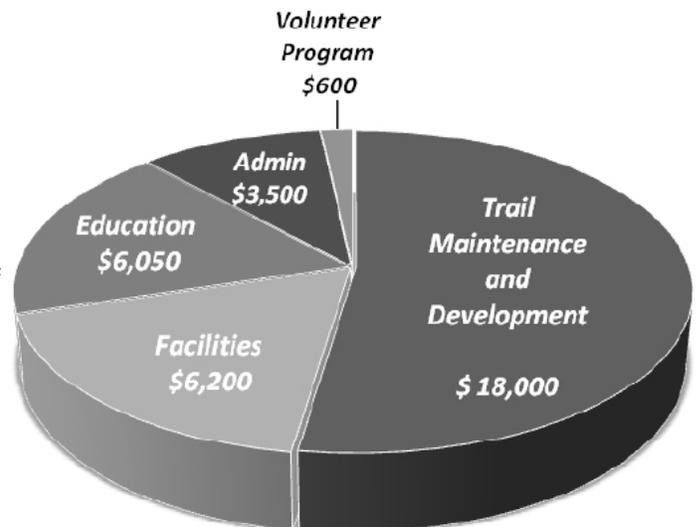
Financially Speaking

Projected Expenses for 2008

The good news is that with annual contributions of more than \$20,000 in volunteer services, the Clear Creek Trail Project is able to continue building and maintaining the trail on a shoe-string budget. The great news is that we are in our 15th year of building this jewel of a trail. That, of course, is a mixed blessing. Many parts of the trail (and some pieces of equipment) are now 14 years old. This year we anticipate needing to build a new bridge, add and replace trail signs, replace some 30-year-old picnic tables, repair areas of trail, and build new trail. We have a well used trail. So, keeping enough mutt mitts, toilet paper and garbage bags on hand for trail walkers is projected to cost \$1,500 this year. Our total trail maintenance and development expenses are projected to be \$18,000.

While the utilities expenses for our facilities are usually around \$3,000 each year, this year both our elevator (which keeps our interpretive center ADA accessible) and our sewer pump require repairs. Our total facilities expenses are projected to be about \$6,000. One of our central missions is to educate the community about Clear Creek's natural heritage. We are expecting to spend about \$6,000 doing that work this year. Additionally, we pay a reasonable 10% for the administrative services we receive from Great Peninsula Conservancy, our parent organization. But, because the Clear Creek Task Force itself is run entirely by volunteers, we are able to do an amazing amount with very little. This year we project our total expenses to be \$34 to \$35 thousand dollars.

We are incredibly grateful that over the years we have had a consistent base of individual donors, giving a total of about \$10,000 each year. This year we will face a funding challenge. Donations of any size can help. Whether you can help us buy a case of mutt mitts or make a major donation, we hope you will make the Clear Creek Trail your trail this year by becoming a contributor.



Maintenance jobs for volunteers

Jobs that can be done by the public

Pick up trash – anywhere and everywhere. Just carry a grocery bag while you walk. Preferably take it home. But you can deposit garbage in trash cans at Schold Rd trailhead, Gateway Park trailhead, Interpretive Center, or picnic pavilion off Ridgetop Blvd.

Report problems to the phone number or email address on kiosks. From time to time there is: damage, vandalism, graffiti, or trees down.

Clean Interpretive Signs (yellow ones): A map can be provided if needed. Cleaning is easiest with a cart or wheelbarrow to carry rinse water, scrub pad and a good household cleaner with bleach.

Clean picnic tables (just the recycled plastic ones, not wood tables): Locations can be provided, if needed. Same cleaning stuff, but a scrub brush will work better than a pad. We will clean graffiti, so there is no need to fiddle with solvents.

Cut Scotch Broom east and north of the hospital: you'll need loping shears or pruning shears. There is a lot, but they are scattered and small. Just leave the cut material to rot naturally. Cutting in winter or when in bloom should kill them. Small ones can be pulled up.

Cut blackberries (Himalayan and Evergreen, not the creeping natives) anywhere and everywhere within 20' or so of the trail. Again, leave the material where cut. The blackberries are very easy to spot in the winter - they are about the only thing that stays green. Volunteers should probably take a block or so, or a particular patch, at a time.

For more jobs, and jobs requiring assistance or guidance, visit www.clearcreektrail.org.



Clear Creek Task Force
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