

# CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY'S TREASURED LANDSCAPES

FALL 2001

## Land acquisition expands Lord Hill Park

Lord Hill Park contains diverse and beautiful terrain.

Working with the landowner, Everett Parks Foundation and Snohomish County Parks and Recreation, Cascade Land Conservancy completed a complex series of transactions to acquire 154 acres along the Snohomish River. The

acquisition will expand the southern boundary of Snohomish County's 1,300-acre Lord Hill Regional Park, a natural area popular with hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, bird watchers and star gazers.

"Snohomish County is excited that Lord Hill Regional Park will be completed with the addition of this important river frontage property," said Bob Drewel, Snohomish County Executive. "This acquisition provides important habitat for migrating salmon and provides better equestrian access to the park."

The acquisition protects over a mile of Snohomish River shoreline. Addition of this parcel to Lord Hill Park will provide invaluable access to the river, while also offering important restoration opportunities that will benefit several species of salmon, including the endangered Chinook.

The property contains floodplain meadow, diverse wetlands, forested uplands, and a former gravel mine that has been reclaimed. The extensive trails in Lord Hill Regional Park, the largest in the Snohomish County system, can be extended now into the property, enhancing recreational opportunities.

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"We are grateful for the critical role Cascade Land Conservancy played in arranging this transaction," said County Council Chair Dave Somers. "In lending their talent and experience in these negotiations, they have provided Snohomish County residents with a valuable public service."

Funding for the acquisition was provided by Snohomish County Conservation Futures and the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board through the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department.



TODD PARKER

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND PRESIDENT:

**Nonprofit organizations** like Cascade Land Conservancy are built on the commitment and generosity of those who support them. We are tremendously grateful for the more than 2,000 individuals, families, companies and foundations that donate to the Conservancy each year.

This fall, we celebrate an extremely important milestone: the 10-year anniversary of our first charitable contribution. Although incorporated in 1989, the Conservancy received a very generous grant from the Wilburforce Foundation in November 1991 that allowed us to become truly operational. The importance of this gift cannot be overstated. It provided the impetus and foundation for the

Conservancy's growth into an active and vibrant land trust.

The contribution from Wilburforce and all of those that followed have made it possible for us to protect nearly 7,500 acres of land, and will continue to help us through ongoing negotiations. Thank you for such a generous decade of giving.



Carol James,  
*Chair*



Gene Duvernoy,  
*President*

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### Business Office

615 Second Avenue, Suite 525  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Tel: (206) 292-5907  
Fax: (206) 292-4765  
info@cascadeland.org  
www.cascadeland.org

### Snohomish County Office

Tel: (425) 339-8007

### Pierce County Office

Tel: (253) 582-6601



## Students explore invasive weeds at Hazel Wolf Wetlands Preserve

In late July, 25 high school students from Palm Desert, California came to the University of Washington for an introduction to college work and career opportunities in the natural sciences. The students were part of an Upward Bound Program intended to encourage under-represented groups to pursue a college education. The course curriculum was designed by CLC staff member Michelle Connor to allow the students to investigate a real management challenge at Hazel Wolf Wetlands Preserve. The students collected and analyzed field data as a basis for developing a management strategy for the non-native invasive weed, Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), which is present along some of the preserve's foot trails.

## News from King County

*By Michelle Connor,  
King County Area Manager*

This summer has been an exciting one in King County, marked by a number of new and expanding partnerships that allow us to protect important natural lands.

CLC has partnered with the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust (VMILT) to secure a conservation easement at the estuary of Christiansen Creek, one of the island's highest quality watersheds. The easement will ensure that the property is forever maintained in a predominantly natural wooded condition. Earlier this summer, CLC also partnered with VMILT to protect 20 acres of pristine second growth forest and critical wildlife habitat at the headwaters of Christensen Creek.

CLC is working with Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities to protect important riparian corridors along major rivers in King County. Negotiations are underway to secure several parcels important for salmon spawning and rearing. We hope to have more news this winter on these exciting acquisitions.

The Conservancy also has been working cooperatively with Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Friends of P-Patch, Friends of Lewis Creek, and loose-knit citizen groups to preserve important neighborhood open spaces. CLC is exploring collaborations with the Seattle Parks Foundation on initiatives important to urban neighborhoods. Each of these partnerships holds great promise for achieving shared goals.



### CLC protects open space in Leschi neighborhood

In July, working on behalf of the Leschi neighborhood and the Seattle Parks Department, CLC secured a unique hillside overlook that expands the existing Leschi Natural Area and buffers a neighborhood stairway. This rare, empty lot offers sweeping views of Lake Washington, the Cascades and Mount Rainier.

### Middle Fork Snoqualmie River update: Phase One complete

Cascade Land Conservancy completed Phase One of its Middle Fork Snoqualmie Initiative in June with the acquisition of a 150-acre property in the Granite Creek basin. For the past three years, the Conservancy has been working to acquire private inholdings within publicly owned lands in the Middle Fork Valley of the Snoqualmie River. Over 1,200 acres were acquired as part of Phase One. Five of these properties have been resold to the United States Forest Service to provide increased lands for passive public use and to reduce the recreational pressure on the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. It is expected that the latest acquisition will be resold to the Forest Service in late fall.

The most recent acquisition contains high-elevation meadow that drops precipitously to Granite Lake, a 14-acre alpine lake, which is part of the headwaters of Granite Creek. Granite Creek and the upper and lower Granite lakes represent key mid-elevation riparian habitat for migrating waterfowl and songbirds. Undeveloped lakes such as these are rare in King County, except in protected wilderness areas. Protection of the property removes the threat of resource extraction, such as logging and rock removal.

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*Granite Creek and the Granite lakes represent key mid-elevation riparian habitat for migrating waterfowl and songbirds.*

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## News from Snohomish County



*Lake Stickney represents all the elements of an ideal urban park project: community support, quality habitat, and an opportunity to provide a place for quiet refuge in an under-served urban area.*

### Lake Stickney's western shoreline

*By Peggy Bill,  
Snohomish County Area Manager*

We have been working on some exciting projects in Snohomish County. As discussed in the last issue of our newsletter, the Conservancy's county chapters are working to define conservation priorities to focus efforts and funding in each county. This process continues to be helpful to the Snohomish County board members in bringing together and clarifying goals, values and priorities.

We had an exciting development this summer related to our Lake Stickney project. On behalf of a neighborhood group, CLC submitted an application to the Snohomish County Council to acquire properties for a neighborhood park at the west end of Lake Stickney. We were delighted that Council awarded \$1 million for the project. The west end of the lake is

a rare ecological treasure. The diverse, high-quality wetlands and forested uplands provide habitat for an active population of beavers, as well as nesting and wintering habitat for waterfowl and upland birds. This opportunity represents all the elements of an ideal urban park project: community support, quality habitat, and an opportunity to provide a place for quiet refuge in an under-served urban area.

Efforts in Snohomish County continue in other areas:

- acquiring land for salmon habitat;
- implementing projects along the mainstem confluence of the Snohomish River; and
- seeking funding for acquisitions on the Skykomish and Stillaguamish Rivers.

### JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

Please join Cascade Land Conservancy in Everett on **October 8** for a special Snohomish County Conservation Luncheon with keynote speaker **Senator Patty Murray**. It will be a great opportunity to celebrate conservation efforts in the county.

Please be sure to reserve your seat in advance. More information is available at 206-292-5907, ext. 101.

## News from Pierce County

*By Chip Nevins,  
Pierce County Area Manager*

This summer has been full of new conservation projects and partnerships as we continue to see our presence grow in Pierce County. The number of calls that I receive regarding potential conservation projects also continues to grow as we become increasingly well known. From small backyards to large pristine properties, the opportunities are endless.

One important success this summer was the acquisition of 20 acres along South Prairie Creek for the Pierce County Parks Department (see related story this page). Another exciting advancement has been the number of public/private partnerships that we have forged. In addition to the acquisition mentioned above, we have been working with the Parks Department

on other projects. We also have begun partnering with Metro Parks Tacoma, and we continue to work with the National Park Service. Our outreach efforts are ongoing in the smaller cities, and I expect to have more partnerships and projects to write about this winter.

The Pierce County Chapter of the Board has been busy with several initiatives. Board members have been working hard to define conservation priorities, values and goals for the county, and also to plan NatureFest for the fifth year in a row. As part of the recently received Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, we have developed management plans on several of our properties that will guide our restoration efforts.

## South Prairie Creek land acquired

Cascade Land Conservancy recently acquired an important 20-acre property along South Prairie Creek for the Pierce County Parks Department. The property consists of abandoned railroad right-of-way along the creek. It is adjacent to the proposed Foothills Trail extension and is a prime site for habitat restoration and wetland mitigation. CLC will hold the property until the Parks Department obtains the funding to take ownership.

Land preservation along South Prairie Creek is critical to salmon because the creek has been identified as the most important, wild salmon-bearing stream in Pierce County. This project forges an important partnership with the Pierce County Parks Department and solidifies CLC's role in salmon habitat protection.



## Morse Wildlife Preserve viewing tower

On June 10, nearly 200 people gathered at the Morse Wildlife Preserve in Graham for the dedication of a new viewing tower. The tower offers visitors spectacular views of the surrounding wetlands, forest and remnant prairie. Two very special individuals (left) were honored during the brief presentation: **Lloyd Morse** and **Thelma Gilmur**. Cdr. Lloyd Morse and his wife Maxine donated the property to establish the preserve. Thelma Gilmur has dedicated countless volunteer hours to its care.



CANDY STEWART

## Special thanks to our supporters

### Conservation Patrons

#### Individuals

Cascade Land Conservancy is very grateful to the individuals listed below who donated or pledged \$10,000 or more during the past year. Donors contributed to the annual fund, land acquisition and stewardship.

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Priscilla Collins  
Steven Gillis  
B. Gerald Johnson & Linda Larson  
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### Corporations and Foundations

The companies and foundations listed below donated \$10,000 or more during the past year toward specific projects or programs.

The Bullitt Foundation  
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### Conservation Circle

#### Individuals

Cascade Land Conservancy is very grateful to the following individuals who donated or pledged between \$1,000 and \$9,999 during the past year. Donors contributed to the annual fund, land acquisition and stewardship.

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The companies and foundations listed below donated between \$1,000 and \$9,999 during the past year toward the annual fund, specific programs or event sponsorships.

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### Donors to CLC Partnerships

The individuals and organizations listed below donated \$1,000 or more toward projects in which CLC assisted another community organization.

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Holly & Albert D'Annunzio  
John & Joan Hartsfield  
Robert & Bente Pasko  
Polygon Northwest  
Robidoux Foundation  
SAFECO  
Save Lake Sammamish



On June 28, Board Chair Carol James and her husband Keith joined 40 other supporters of Cascade Land Conservancy for a sunset cruise of Lake Washington. Board Member Maryanne Tagney Jones and her husband David Jones were the generous hosts of the event. Views from the historic Schooner Zodiac included a half dozen properties that the Conservancy has protected.

## Hats off to CLC members

You could be the first person on your block to sport an official Cascade Land Conservancy baseball cap. These caps will make great gifts for family and friends while showing your support for the Conservancy. Hats are forest green with the CLC logo embroidered in white.

To order, send \$15 per cap to Cascade Land Conservancy (615 Second Avenue, Suite 525, Seattle, WA 98104) and indicate the quantity of hats on the check's note line.

If you have any questions about ordering hats, please contact Duncan Greene at 206-292-5907, extension 101, or send an email to [info@cascadeland.org](mailto:info@cascadeland.org).



thank you, friends

Due to space constraints, we cannot list all of our generous donors. The contributions listed below were received between May 17 and August 28, 2001.

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**Join Cascade Land Conservancy for  
NatureFEST on Sunday, October 7.**

This free outdoor fair offers natural history displays, along with interactive games and hands-on projects for children.

- Bring the kids.
- Meet live birds of prey.
- Crawl through a 25-foot-long salmon named Big Fin.
- Look a bald eagle in the eye.



**Nature  
FEST**

**Sunday, October 7**

**Noon to 4 p.m.**

**South Puget Sound Wildlife Area  
7801 Phillips Road SW, Lakewood**