

A River Runs Through It, and People Too!

Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve: Owned by the Conservancy, Open to the Public

As hikers descend the switchbacks to the Little Spokane River, the sound of rushing water greets them, no matter the time of year. The Rathdrum Prairie Spokane Valley Aquifer gushes through the adjacent state property and brings millions of gallons of cold, clear water to our new preserve. That's right! This October, thanks to the taxpayers of Washington, we purchased our first nature preserve, to be maintained for the enjoyment of our community and local wildlife species. Our Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve represents the best of the Inland Northwest, with a priceless 1,700 feet of shoreline along the meandering Little Spokane River, plus a ponderosa pine forest, abundant meadows, and ponds that make it superb habitat for native fish and other wildlife.

This beautiful 95 acres was on the cusp of development when concerned neighbors, dedicated legislators, partnering land managers, and the Conservancy stepped in to save it. "The existing public use of this area, combined with the critical habitat it provides for native Inland Northwest plants and animals, made its protection a high priority for us," says Dave Schaub, Executive Director of Inland Northwest Land Conservancy.

The Wonders of the Preserve

The upland forest, studded with rocky cliffs, contains numerous healthy ponderosa pines. Understory species include blue elderberry, mock orange, red flowering currant, and wood rose. Wildflowers abound, such as bright yellow arrowleaf balsamroot, purple lupine, orange and gold blanket flower, and pink bitterroot. The meadow provides habitat for birds. It contains willows and small cottonwoods.

The river and its banks are the area's star attributes with cottonwood, aspen, dogwood, spirea, ocean spray, and serviceberry. The river has back channels, ideal habitat for a variety of fish and amphibians.

Throughout the property there are plentiful wildlife, particularly moose, deer, ducks, and geese. Great blue herons take flight over the water, bald eagles nest in a majestic ponderosa pine just on the other side of the river, and coyotes, whose eerie howls can be heard for miles, hunt for prey.

Most importantly, naturally occurring springs upstream provide abundant water. Thanks to broadleaf vegetation along the river shores as well as the fresh spring water, the water remains cool even during the hot summer months. Coupled with the perfectly sized rock cobbles on the river bottom, this is ideal spawning habitat for fish.

Preservation Partners

With our partners, we are planning to manage and operate this water-rich urban oasis. The Spokane Tribe of Indians is the Conservancy's primary collaborator for the Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve. The preserve is on the Tribe's ancestral lands. Together, we have a chance to share the area's wonderful attributes with others. The Tribe's Division of Natural Resources is excited to partner with INLC to enhance habitat and support other projects underway.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is also a seminal partner. Not only does the Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve adjoin their 116-acre property, it is also the access point to the Preserve. In turn, the Department is delighted to be working with the Conservancy. Jerrod Ploof, WDFW regional lands agent, says, "It's great to nearly double the size of the land accessible to the public for recreation along the river. We're looking forward to working with the Conservancy. Conserving this property that otherwise could have been developed is awesome!"

What's in Store

In addition to providing wildlife habitat and incredible public access along the Little Spokane River, the Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve will be a cornerstone of the Conservancy's recreational and educational activities. Field Fridays, where volunteers help improve the land, and Grounded in Nature educational events are in the works. There is much to be done, from planting native shrubs and trees, to Firewise forest thinning, to trail building, to noxious weed removal. It is a fantastic place for stewardship, arts activities such as yoga in the

continue on page 3

You make a difference:



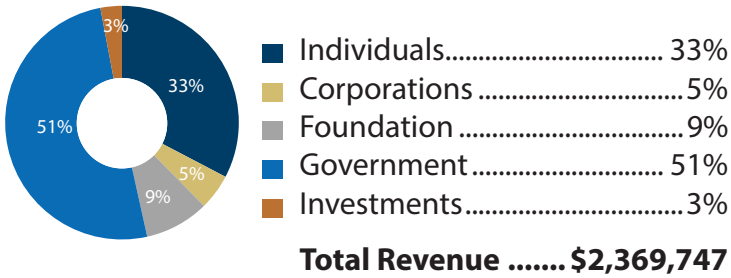
65+
miles of
protected waterways

Your Investments at Work: July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

Our mission begins with, "connecting people to nature," and this year, many have connected with nature for the first time, to find peace and restoration in difficult times. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, our

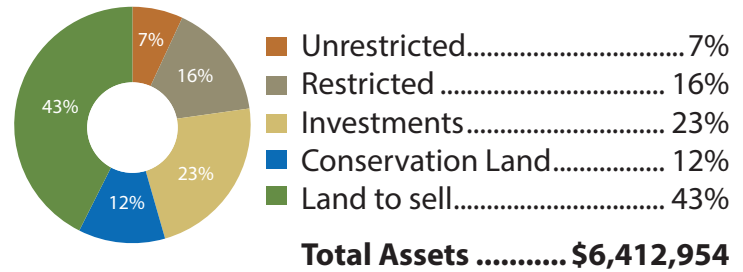
Grounded in Nature and Volunteer Land Stewards programs, led by Todd Dunfield and Rose Richardson, respectively, were still able to support the community in engaging with lands and waters.

Revenue



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE UP **1/3** OF OUR REVENUE.
YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO OUR MISSION!

Assets



Expenditures



HIGHLIGHTS

157+
PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH US ON THE LAND

276 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK COMPLETED

A VALUE OF **\$7,019** IN STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

24 ACTIVE VOLUNTEER LAND STEWARDS

* RIMROCK TO RIVERSIDE LAND PURCHASES

\$266k

NEW LAND PROTECTION PROJECTS

\$191k

\$1.2 million PERMANENT PROTECTION ON THE COEUR D'ALENE RIVER

ACRES & WATERWAY MILES

IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS: **1,019** ACRES OF LAND AND **1,723** FEET OF SHORELINE

7 NEW PRIVATE EASEMENTS — TOTALING **1,847** ACRES

A difference for the future:



22,000+
acres of land protected

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continued from page 1

woods, nature journaling, and education. The Conservancy is working with the local Mead school district, and hopes to team up with the Fairwood Farmer's Market KERNEL program (Kids Eating Right - Nutrition and Exercise for Life), started by Catholic Charities. ■

For more details visit:
InlandNWLand.org/waikiki-springs-nature-preserve

Leaving a Legacy

For many of us the tumult of 2020 has revealed the impermanence and instability of so much of "normal" life. We no longer gather in the ways that we are used to. Our workplaces and economy have fundamentally shifted, and our politics seem to further divide us.

Like many of you, what grounds me during these unsteady times are my family and the natural world. Families have flocked outdoors to relish in the nurturing qualities of our open spaces, trails, forests, rivers, lakes and parks; making our shared work of protecting such spaces all the more relevant and rewarding.

As a result, conservation has become a keel in my life, helping me chart a steady course during these stormy times. Our work to protect essential lands and waters in perpetuity takes courage and vision and a certain audacity; but the results of our work are visible. And tangible. And equitable. And enduring. And inclusive.

This October the Conservancy lost two significant friends who left legacy impacts upon our organization and the work we will continue to do. Claude Sappington's connection to INLC spanned almost 25 years with roles as board

JOIN US FOR COMMON GROUND OUR ANNUAL MEETING by video conference

Tuesday, December 8, 6 p.m.

Register at InlandNWLand.org

Celebrate the
protection of
local lands and
waters with us!



president, land protection committee member, donor, and most importantly as a friend and committed conservationist. He will be missed by many of us, but he helped our organization build a strong foundation upon which we are growing.

We also were saddened by the passing of Alice Clausen, one of our conservation easement landowners who helped permanently protect the 1,000 acres of Palouse farmland that she stewarded almost her entire life. We are humbled to have received a generous estate gift that, as part of our endowment funds, will help us recruit and restore additional conservation lands.

We are grateful to be able to do this work with you, and for our communities. Thank you for joining us in creating an enduring legacy that will ground us well into uncertain futures. ■

Sincerely, Dave Schaub, Executive Director

Interested in adding the Conservancy to your estate plan?
Email me at dschaub@inlandnwland.org
or call (509) 328-2939.

A difference you can see:



Approximately
90%

of households in Spokane & Kootenai
counties live within view of lands
INLC has helped protect



2020 **YOUR** Impact



Inland Northwest Land Conservancy

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FIND US ON:



Mission: Connecting people to nature by conserving lands and waters essential to life in the Inland Northwest