



GREENWAY TREE PLANTING KICKOFF

ISSAQUAH, WA, October 16, 2008: **Over 200 Mountains to Sound Greenway volunteers will plant native trees and shrubs this Saturday at Lake Sammamish State Park to improve the health of the park and the Lake Sammamish shoreline.**

EVENT DATE: Saturday, October 18, 2008 – 9:00 AM

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Mountains to Sound Greenway have undertaken a major, multi-year restoration project along the shoreline of the 512-acre Lake Sammamish State Park. Earlier this year, volunteers, conservation corps crews and contractors removed non-native invasive weeds, spread wood chips and installed large woody debris along the lakeshore. This Saturday, volunteers will plant thousands of trees and shrubs at Lake Sammamish State Park, enhancing wildlife and salmon habitat. Over 7,000 trees will be planted at this site throughout the fall, with a total of 15,000 to be planted at various sites in the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

“This project is a major step in achieving the vision for an urban state park,” says Peter Herzog, Washington State Parks planner. “People from the State’s largest metropolitan area can experience and learn about the natural environment and get involved in hands-on restoration activities.”

Native trees are critical to the health of the Pacific Northwest. Trees reduce greenhouse gases and improve air quality, reduce erosion and filter pollutants, and they shade creeks, improving water quality and cooling the water for threatened salmon.

The project has been supported with funding from Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the state Recreation and Conservation Office’s Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, a King County WaterWorks grant, the King Conservation District, Carter Motors, Microsoft and Puget Sound Energy.

“The Mountains to Sound Greenway offers many places in nature for retreat and reflection,” says Greenway Executive Director Cynthia Welti. “Volunteers get to know these special places and contribute to making them accessible for people and healthy for wildlife. They do valuable work for the Greenway, and at the same time they are getting outside and enjoying themselves.”

ABOUT THE MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY:

The 100-mile Mountains to Sound Greenway connects natural areas, trails, working farms and forests, historic towns and communities, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. The Greenway provides easy access to recreation and nature for millions of people in the Northwest, helping to ensure the quality of life in the region.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is a nonprofit conservation organization established in 1991 to protect the Interstate 90 corridor between Seattle and Central Washington. The Greenway Trust works to promote public land acquisitions, connect a continuous regional trail system, teach people of all ages about the importance of conserving forests and wildlife, improve recreation access, create new parks and trails and mobilize thousands of volunteers.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: mtsgreenway.org

Press releases can be found at mtsgreenway.org/newsandpublications/pressroom

To volunteer: mtsgreenway.org/volunteer, email volunteer@mtsgreenway.org or call 206.812.0122

Photos available upon request.