





PO Box 14065 Tumwater, WA 98511 360.943.3012 CapitolLandTrust.org

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100 Properties Conserved

Land trusts exist because of land. But they also exist because of people.

When I reflect on the many milestones and accomplishments Capitol Land Trust achieved in 2023—reaching 100 properties conserved through our efforts, a major habitat restoration project and a record number of students attending environmental education programs one thing is clear. It all happened because of people.

We live in a region of extraordinary beauty and ecological diversity. And we are fortunate that so many people in our community want to keep it that way.

The word I think of is connectedness.

Driven by a deep appreciation for this magical place we call home and the wildlife that inhabits it, connectedness led a handful of community members to found this organization in 1987. It's what unites our staff, board, volunteers, and donors to support our mission today.

And through our public access preserves, we are building bridges of connectedness with others that will deliver positive impacts for conservation well into the future.

Land doesn't conserve itself; people conserve land. Together we achieved remarkable progress in 2023. As I look ahead to 2024, it is our connectedness that makes the future of conservation in our area so exciting and full of possibilities.



Land doesn't conserve itself; people conserve land."



Every donation of time, expertise, or funding is important. Thanks to you, our donors and funders, and with guidance from our Board of Directors and committees, Capitol Land Trust once again ended the year in good standing. In 2023, we strengthened strategic initiatives to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ), restoration, communications, land acquisitions and organizational capacity goals.

Assets Year-end 2023

\$ 1,887,415
2,979,418
18,468,004
2,355
\$ 23,337,192
\$ 590,034
\$ 447,945
2,293,922
206,407
\$ 2,948,274
\$ \$

\$ 3,761,698
18,985,460
\$

Total Net Assets 22,747,158

Revenue Donor Contributions 78%

Interest & Miscellaneous 7% Grants 15%

Expenses & Land Purchases

Program Services Management & General Fundraising	\$ 931,118 214,607 166,580
Total Expenses	\$ 1,312,305
Land Purchases	\$ 1,643,071

Expenses & Land Purchases



Management & General 7% Fundraising 5%

3

Cover photo: McLane Point, Mike Melton. Cover inset: Wood duck, CLT. Left: Dave taking time with family at Bayshore Preserve, Bruce Livingston. Above: Inspiring Kids Preserve, facing SSW, CLT.

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2023 Conservation Successes

We acquired several properties in 2023. These properties protect an additional 27 acres, 400 feet of marine shoreline, and 2,500 feet of freshwater shoreline. Crowell and Carlson preserves were donations, validating an important truth: people value land conservation.

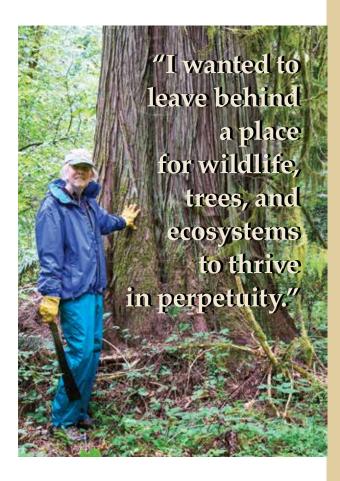
Crowell Preserve

Situated near Shelton, this 22-acre parcel is dense with towering hundred-year-old western redcedars and Oregon ash forests, tidelands, a perennial stream and marine shoreline.

After Barb Crowell's husband Dave passed, Barb faced the same choice many landowners eventually face: sell the land, keep it in the family, or conserve it.

"When I realized I could live out the rest of my life with the assets I had, I knew I had to conserve it," Barb says.

The new Crowell Preserve adds to a growing network of 640 acres and three miles of Puget Sound shoreline already conserved by CLT along Oakland Bay and Hammersley Inlet—all of which will provide wildlife habitat and clean water well into the future.



Carlson Preserve

This lush 5-acre parcel of freshwater wetland is heavily forested with redcedar, black cottonwood, Douglas fir and Sitka spruce trees. The 500 feet of Dempsey Creek that flows through it is known to be a spawning site for coho salmon.

The property is an exciting addition to our portfolio of conserved properties because it directly abuts Darlin Creek Preserve and the Edwards Conservation Easement. The three properties combined now make an uninterrupted conservation area totaling 367 acres.



Photo above: Barb Crowell, Bruce Livingston.
Left: Carlson Preserve wetlands, CLT.
Photos opposite page, from top:
Alexandra Cheatham, Ed Tromble.

Jenn Kennedy, Richard Walker, and Tom Terry, CLT.

Volunteers Make an Impact

Our accomplishments in 2023 were only possible because of our stalwart community of volunteers. We're highlighting a few people who are representative of our wonderful volunteers.

Alexandra Cheatham

"I love sharing my passion for the environment. I was able to do that at CLT's Salmon Experience program. Seeing families and people of all ages light up at this amazing PNW phenomenon was really inspiring. It makes me excited to continue my studies in environmental science in college."

Salmon Experience engages an average of 540 participants per year in salmon and conservation education at Bayshore Preserve.

Jenn Kennedy

"I'm an 80's kid. We grew up running around outside and organically developed an appreciation for nature. It's different for many kids today. We need young people to be inspired to take care of the planet and carry conservation work forward. The collaborative programs CLT hosts on the land inspire kids to do just that."

1,238 students served through community partnerships.

Richard Walker

"In my life I've found that spending time in nature can bring a real sense of peace and calm. That's why I became a Capitol Land Trust trail steward. I enjoy contributing to the safety and enjoyment of the trails so that people can have that same experience."

A total of 323 Trail Reports were submitted in 2023, which enabled us to keep our public-access preserves safe and enjoyable.

Tom Terry

"I like being busy and productive and CLT has conserved some pretty special places that need a little extra help. Regularly being out monitoring and working on these lands is rewarding because I can see it's making a big difference in the wildlife habitats we manage. The trail cameras I set up have documented some amazing wildlife in restoration areas."

The cameras show how quickly wildlife utilize and benefit from habitat improvements. For example, seven species of mammals and ten species of birds were observed utilizing one wildlife pile (made of logs and limbs) for cover and foraging.









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The Legacy of the Passionate

Sometimes a movement of monumental and lasting impact begins with a few passionate people. In 1987, a neighborhood's concern about water quality threats to Henderson Inlet launched an idea: to permanently protect a 68-acre parcel of sensitive creek and estuary habitat at the southern end of the inlet. Through the heartfelt efforts of that small group of people, Woodland Creek Preserve was successfully conserved and remains in conservation today.

The passion of those concerned citizens ignited and tapped into the passion of others. That passion became a mission, and the mission became a 501(c)3 organization that ultimately became Capitol Land Trust (CLT).

That was the first of many "assists" where we played a pivotal role in long-term land protection for the local community. Shortly thereafter, the first conservation easement recorded in southwest Washington was William Aldridge's donation to CLT of 120 acres of wetland, forest and meadow habitat. Since then, we have continued to work with private landowners who want to see their land conserved, while building expertise in land transactions and long-term management of conservation land along the way.

Today, we are celebrating the conservation of 100 properties over the course of our 37-year history. Combined, these 100 properties represent more than 6,600 acres of land protected and almost 19 miles of Puget Sound shoreline that will now remain conserved in perpetuity.

Since 2016, we have opened four of our conserved properties to the public with the goal of engaging people on our land and building the next generation of conservation leaders. Each year we host wildlife viewing events, stewardship projects and guided interpretive walks along our trails to help people experience nature. We work with local school groups to provide environmental learning in the outdoor laboratories our sites offer. To date, thousands of people have been positively impacted through these activities and we are making preparations to meet ever-increasing demand.

As we consider our accomplishments thus far, we ponder what lies ahead. Every native habitat and natural ecosystem we have conserved has a story to tell of passion, partnerships, and perseverance. Combined, these conserved lands help retain the integrity of the south Puget Sound and Chehalis Basin watersheds and refuge for untold wildlife populations.

We are grateful to have members, volunteers, staff and leaders that show their passion for our work every day. We look forward to working together towards our 200th project as we continue to strengthen our connection to the people and natural environments of this place we call home.



That passion became a mission, and the mission became a 501(c)3 organization that ultimately became Capitol Land Trust.



Learn more about our last 37 years!



Opposite page, top: Triple Creek Farm Conservation Easement, Mike Melton.

Opposite page, inset: Family investigates a salmon carcass during a CLT program, Bruce Livingston.

Above, top: Woodland Creek, CLT.

Above: Visitors watch chum salmon run at Bayshore Preserve, Bruce Livingston.

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In 2023 we asked our supporters to give a gift that was meaningful to them. Thank you for volunteering and financially supporting our mission—every gift matters.

We apologize if we have accidentally misspelled or omitted your name. Thank you for bringing errors to our attention.

Above photo: Sound Native Plants work on Blooms Preserve habitat project, CLT. Left inset: Volunteers pull scotch broom along Eld Inlet, CLT. Opposite page: Wilson's warbler, Mike Melton.

Page 10: Volunteers after mulching new plants at Twin Rivers Ranch Preserve, CLT. Page 11, left: Volunteers from United Way after restoring habitat at Inspiring Kids Preserve, CLT. Page 11, right: Volunteer brings mulch to restoration area, CLT.

Thank You, 2023 Supporters

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A bequest in your estate plan costs nothing today but provides sustained support for CLT for years to come. It's a powerful way to leave a conservation legacy at Capitol Land Trust that protects the lands and waters that make our region a wonderful place to live—for people and wildlife alike—for generations to come.

The Legacy Club is a community of your peers who have elected to put Capitol Land Trust in their estate plan or will. If you let us know that you've made this exemplary gift today, we can show you the impact your gift may have on the community.

For more information, or to let us know you've joined the Legacy Club, visit CapitolLandTrust.org, select "Ways to Give", then "Bequests, Estate Plans & Wills".

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