

Introduction

This report documents the condition of the Hansville Greenway in 2009 and 2010 including descriptions of natural resources in each of the 17 stewardship areas making up the Greenway. It also provides management alternatives and notable natural features in each area. It is a companion document to Reference (A), Hansville Greenway Stewardship Guidelines.

Hansville Greenway Background

The Hansville Greenway is a corridor of county-owned natural areas, trail easements, and conservation easements reaching from Puget Sound at Norwegian Point Park to Hood Canal. The Greenway was created in mid-1990 through a community partnership with Kitsap County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Kitsap Conservation District (KCD) prepared an inventory of natural resources and management recommendations on the original Greenway property in 1996. Using that report as a foundation, the Hansville Greenway Committee and Kitsap County parks staff prepared a Stewardship Manual that was published and adopted by Kitsap Board of County Commissioners in 1997. Since then, more than 120 acres and two miles of trail easement have been added to the Hansville Greenway. This report is an update of the natural resource inventory for the original property and has been expanded to include the additional property and easement areas.

The Hansville Greenway Association (HGA) provides stewardship services for the Greenway in cooperation with Kitsap County Parks and Recreation. The HGA is an unincorporated association of community volunteers which led the effort to establish the Hansville Greenway and continues to provide development, stewardship, and maintenance services for the Greenway. The association functions as a project under the non-profit umbrella of the Great Peninsula Conservancy (GPC). It evolved from the Hansville Greenway Committee, which was formed to implement the 1993 Hansville Community Plan.

Hansville Greenway Description

The Hansville Greenway is located near the north end of the Kitsap Peninsula, southwest of the unincorporated town of Hansville, and adjacent to Buck Lake County Park (see Figures 1 and 2). The Greenway consists of a 245-acre, 2 mile long tract extending to the north of Buck Lake. The southerly and western boundary is Hawk's Hole Creek. It includes a separate 20-acre tract close to the town of Hansville, 2.5 miles of trail easement, and 8.6 acres of conservation easement. It comprises the west shore of Buck Lake, most of two beaver ponds (Upper and Lower Hawk's Ponds), other wetlands, and the portion of Hawk's Hole Creek that flows from the southerly beaver pond (Lower Hawk's Pond) to Hood Canal. Most of the land is forested with second and third-growth forest that is primarily Douglas fir, red alder and cedar. Approximately 5 miles of trails run through the Greenway and another 2.5 miles of trails are on easements across private property. The main entrance to the trail system is at Buck Lake County Park (Area 5) and stewardship of that area is not included in this document. Norwegian Point Park is the Puget Sound terminus of the Hansville Greenway trail system (although the park is not part of the Greenway).