



DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOCIATION
3415 S. LINCOLN DRIVE, SPOKANE, WA 99203, 509 747-8147

Non-Profit Org.
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LIGHTS AND SHADOWS from the Dishman Hills, June, 2002

NEW PURCHASE

The Association has offered to buy 100 acres of forested land on Tower Mountain, and the owner has agreed to sell. The land is adjacent to the east side of the land we bought in 1994 to start out the new nature area, the Rocks of Sharon. The parcel includes a quarter mile of ridge top with a fine collection of scenic rocks and will make a great addition to the new Nature Area. This purchase is the result of years of effort to maintain good communication with land owners who live in different parts of the U.S..

The Association is well aware that many donors want their generous contributions to be used for natural land acquisition, and we are always looking for purchase opportunities. The owner will sell the parcel for \$87K making the deal attractive at \$870 per acre. The purchase will be funded by a contract, as we have done with our other land deals. If anyone out there wants to hold the contract please contact the us as soon as possible; this might be an attractive investment for someone who is looking for a place outside the stock market to park some money. We should be closing on the land later in the summer. Remember, all land fund donations now will increase the down payment and reduce the size of the contract.

FORUM OPENS EYES

Last month the Parks to Peaks program and EWU had an Open Space forum to address the value of natural areas, open spaces, and green spaces in a community. Speakers from Boise (Mayor Brent Coles), Seattle, and D.C. talked about the various benefits of using land conservation to enhance both the economic health and the quality of life in a growing urban settings. Soon (now!) the Dishman Hills Association will start a champaign to support the renewal of the Conservation Futures Program in next November's election. The program allows the County to collect a small fee on your property tax to obtain, not maintain, urban forest and green space through land purchase. The Program has been a smashing success over the last few years, but the Commissioners feel the public should approve it once again since it is a tax.

The forum was an "eye opener" on how natural areas such as the Dishman Hills generates long term economic benefits. A community by growing smart, and protecting its natural heritage as it expands, can create a better tax base by discouraging sprawl with its high cost for tax-supported infrastructure. The natural beauty and quality of life is a major factor in attracting new investment and businesses. Parks and natural space greatly enhance the value of property in proximity, and

Growth without definition is a malignancy
Kent Lustig, '02

encourages revitalization of communities that have suffered from the bad effects of growth. Tourism and recreation resources cannot be ignored by any western city wishing to prosper. Even the convention trade can be enhanced by the beautiful natural setting of a city. Lastly, protecting the ecology pays off in the water and air quality, as well preventing flood and landslide damage. Boise's Mayor at the forum was very enthusiastic about his city's support of open space preservation, reminding us Spokaneites that Boise was moving forward into the 21st century to be an attractive place to live, work, and visit. If our community wants to compete with cities such as Boise we better get to work.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have any questions. There will be no monthly meetings until September, since it's summer and we are all very busy enjoying the season.

The following are our May donors that have consented to be listed: Nancy Cashon, Myrna Cliff, David Cole, Joseph Collins, Lee Dominey, William Greene, Scott Grimmett, Chuck Gulick, Patty Houff, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Joyal, Vern & Gloria Krebs, Rich Landers, Beradine McClincy, Mary Meagher, Marilyn Miller, Gloria & Don Nicol, Dorothy Torney, Jeanne Wilson, and two anonymous donors. Thank you very, very much.

*All the paths that lead to Somewhere, echo with the hurrying feet,
Of the Struggling and the Striving, but the way I find so sweet,
Bids me dream, bids me linger. Joy and beauty is its goal.*

On the path that leads to Nowhere I have sometimes found my Soul.

Carinne Roosevelt Robinson

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All contributions are tax deductible

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3415 S. Lincoln Dr.

Spokane, WA 99203

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\$ _____ ANNUAL DUES due in January (\$10 regular, \$5 student or living lightly, \$2 to cover bulletin expenses)

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