The Goodenough Community

August 2024

VILLAGE VIEW

Rose and Phil showing us how it's done!
Gearing up for a wonderfully community-centered weekend at Sahale coming up at the end of this week - lots of connection and conversation sprinkled with

getting some maintenance and upgrades done.

While we won't be cidering this weekend, we will get a chance to try some hard cider that Laura and Terri made from early apples harvested 2 weeks ago! We also have the opportunity to harvest apples, plums, and blackberries, and keep up the blackberry removals started during the Summer Gathering '24 in July.

Join us for our annual

Labor Day Get Together and Workparty,

Friday, August 30th through Monday, September 2nd
by RSVP to Elizabeth at elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com
by Wednesday, Aug 28...wait, that's yesterday...but you can still RSVP today!

Are **YOU** coming?

Goodenough Community Update - August 2024

by Sky Blue

We live in a time of great uncertainty and transition. In many ways this is reflected in the Goodenough Community, as it transforms into a self-reliant, collaboratively-led community. Let me give you a quick sketch of the last couple years: where we're at, and where we might be heading.

Quick disclaimer: the views expressed here are entirely my own. I am not representing the community in this article, and others may have a different take.

Colette's passing in 2022 was a major turning point for the Goodenough Community. It revealed the need for the long-term core members to reckon with the past (the good, the bad, and the ugly) in order to clear space for what was to come. Since then we've been in a powerful, ongoing inquiry about what is good about the community legacy that we want to carry forward, and what needs to be composted to allow for new growth.

In 2023 we affirmed the three realms in which the Community has made

- and continues to make - an important impact: individual growth, nurturance of beloved community, and stewardship of our land. This shifted our focus to revamping our organizational structure to better serve these core aims. One positive result of our organizational update was that new opportunities were opened for people who'd been waiting in the wings to get more involved. In short order, our core circle of engaged members grew. While we're still under-capacity, the load on overworked long-term members is now more broadly shared, new ideas are flying, and morale is up.

So, what's going on in the community these days? A lot!

- In the last year or so, there are about 20 core people who have been regularly showing up to different events, meetings, and/or participating in Sociocratic governance circles. This is up from about a dozen before that.
- At our March '24 leadership retreat, we created new Vision and Mission statements for the community.

    - **Vision: the future we're creating**
- *Inspiring a conscious, just, and peaceful world through deep connection to self, community, and nature*

- **Mission: what we are doing now to make that happen**
- *We serve individuals and communities by creating opportunities for lifelong, experiential learning that cultivate personal transformation, deep relationship, and regenerative community.*

- Our Summer Gathering '24 was a rousing success! This is the first time the community has created a major gathering without the Hoffs. Let that sink in for a moment. It was a powerful example of how we can carry forward what's worked well in the past (so we're not entirely reinventing the wheel), while not being leashed to dogma.
- The Nature Systems Circle of Sahale has been hosting regular work/community-building weekends, with the next one coming up Labor Day Weekend!
- We've updated and streamlined our website and newsletters to freshen our public image, and make it easy for old and new friends to stay informed about our current status, projects and events.
- We've started a new virtual Sharing Forum for people actively involved in the community. The purpose of this forum is to create a space for us to stay current with each other, and share our hopes and concerns for the future of the community. Our first session at the

beginning of August was wonderfully connective for the 13 people who participated, and showed how much we are on the same page about what's needed to move forward.

- We're in the process of drilling a much-needed new well for Sahale, and have been fundraising to cover those costs.
- We're well on our way to making an agreement with the Great Peninsula Conservancy to put much of Sahale in some level of conservation. This agreement will be an expression of our commitment to protect the land in perpetuity, and will bring in a major injection of much-needed capital.
- Our new Business Development and Fundraising Circle has been looking at ways to strengthen the community's financial health.
- We're developing a new Membership system, and continue to look for new ways to make our governance system function more smoothly.

We're starting to see a path forward. It's not an easy path, or a sure thing. There are lots of known challenges with no easy answers. But there's a lot more clarity on what this community is about and what our opportunities are.

Here are some of the challenges we're facing:

- Some of the community's programs (e.g., the Men's Culture) and ongoing practices for personal and relational development have fallen away. These programs represent key aspects of what this community is all about, and are waiting to be revitalized.
- We need clarity on what membership means in the community, what the rights and responsibilities are, and more and easier pathways for people who align with our vision to become actively involved.
- We need more new, especially younger, people to join the community, for their capacity and perspective. Everyone seems keenly aware of this, and that it is going to take a lot of effort and openness to change.
- The center of gravity for the community has been shifting towards Sahale. Sahale provides the space and opportunity to practice our core values of relationship to nature and land stewardship, both of which are crucial to the community's evolution and to attracting new people. But our extended community is also absolutely crucial, and we need to cultivate good practices for fostering the residential community, the extended community, and the relationship between the two.

- Once our summer staff leaves, there will only be four people living at Sahale, which isn't enough. We need to figure out how to make it financially viable for people to live at Sahale, and how to better balance the needs of a residential community with its function as a retreat center. And before we add new residents at Sahale, we need a more robust process for becoming a resident, including a comprehensive resident agreement.
- The community's financial situation is tenuous. We're not getting the level of donations we used to, and the retreat center business - our sustaining source of income - is struggling to operate with a reduced amount of volunteer energy. While our baseline expenses as a community are relatively low, they're not nothing, and we face a Catch-22 of needing more funds and labor in order to generate or expand income sources.
- Stronger relationships with other communities and networks are also important to becoming more relevant and attracting the kinds of relationships and resources we need.

We're building momentum, but much more still needs to happen. There is considerable work to figure out the strategy and plan for addressing the interlocking set of needs and challenges we face. The money we'll bring in from the Conservancy will help keep us going during this time, but we want to make sure it doesn't just get eaten up by operating costs. We need to make sure the bulk of those funds are used to seed changes that will create a thriving future for the community.

Want to get involved? We need more people to do everything we want to do. Consider joining us in tending our land over **Labor Day Weekend**, or for our **Community-Building Retreat** over Veterans' Day weekend in November, where we'll dream and strategize about what's next for us. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or would like to explore what that might look like!

Sky Blue peacewithinchaos@gmail.com

Sahale:

Preserving Our Land for the Future

by Kirsten Rohde

When we (Goodenough Community members) purchased the land we call Sahale, it fulfilled a dream we'd had for many years - to have a beautiful piece of the earth that we could enjoy, protect, and learn from: how we will live lightly on the land and help it stay healthy. Many of us felt as though the land was loving us and teaching us. We also benefited from visits from folks who practice permaculture and caring for nature. We have always enjoyed making Sahale available for others to enjoy.

I personally find that every time I step outside there is something new to see – the changing river, the salmon, birds, different weather patterns, trees everywhere, wildlife, all types of plants, stars at night, and more. We avoided saying that we "owned" the land rather that we wanted to be good stewards.

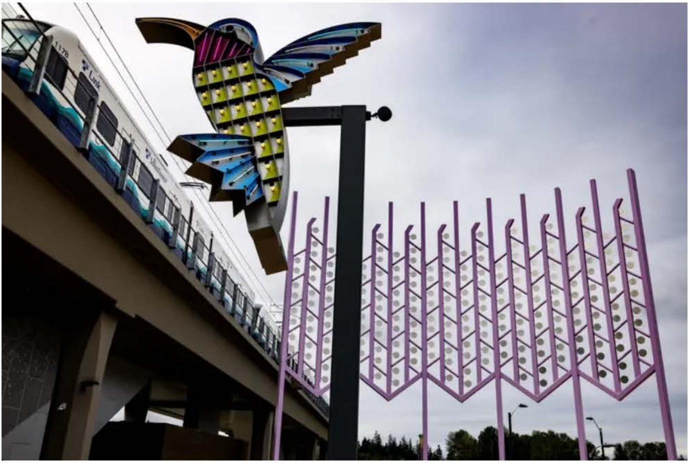
For thousands of years, people have been here before us and have been its stewards. So when the Great Peninsula Conservancy group approached us about putting land in conservancy to protect it forever, we gathered and decided that this met with our wishes for Sahale. While we are working out the details, it is already inspiring to envision this piece of the natural world being preserved into the future.

Conservancy is also a way to address climate change through protection, adaptation, and education. Through our relationship with the Conservancy, we learn more about habitat preservation and restoration and join with others living on the Tahuya River in caring for the waters, the land and all the kinds of beings that live here. We will of course continue to provide housing and infrastructure for those human beings who wish to live here and for visitors to our precious Sahale.

For details of the conservancy plans:

Kirsten Rohde: krohde14@outlook.com
Sky Blue: peacewithinchaos@gmail.com
Great Penninsula Conservancy: https://greatpeninsula.org/

Claudia Fitch Does It Again!



On the heels of her successful show at Greg Kuchera gallery in Seattle, Claudia's newest work, **City Hummingbird and Kitchen Window Curtain** is being featured by Sound Transit as the centerpiece of the new Lynnwood City Center Station! According to a Sound Transit description of the art, the piece “honors the rich history of neon road signs that once lined Highway 99.”

Way to go, Claudia!

* * *

Have *YOU* contributed to our **WELL FUNDRAISER**?

All of the donations received in the month of August have come from happy retreat visitors! An extra $860 has been added to the campaign. We are currently at **$14,160** and growing - closer and closer to our goal of $35,000. Drilling is expected to begin this November, after the retreat season has ended for the year. **CLICK HERE** for more information and to donate to the long-term development of Sahale Learning Center.

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Next **Women's Culture** Zoom event:
September 21, 2024, 10:00AM - 1:00PM

Looking forward to harvesting some deep connection with feminine source?

You are the apple of our eye.

Gather yourself and join us in September - you will love what it yields!

We welcome all female-identified individuals to our group. Practicing deep listening and sharing, while supporting one another, is our goal and our joy! For information, reach out to Laura Sweany at community@goodenough.org
Our Zoom link is:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89706843097?pwd=hs9uUmapZlPpNvhyfebc4YiJ7yuKeH.1

Goodenough Community Events Calendar

Aug 30 - Sept 2: Labor Day Get Together Weekend at Sahale
September 21: Women's Culture Zoom event
October 10-13: Big Tent take down and Nature Systems fall prep
November 8-11: Community-Building Governance Retreat

We look forward to being with YOU again soon!
