



Eastrail Partners 2021–2025:

**FIVE YEARS
OF IMPACT**



A note from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The 42-mile Eastrail is rapidly becoming a reality, thanks to the dedication of supporters and partners who have come together in countless ways to transform a former rail corridor into a vibrant, connected, and accessible trail.

As I reflect on the past five years of work by Eastrail Partners, our nonprofit championing this ambitious vision, two words come to mind: **community** and **momentum**.

Together, we are creating more than “just” a trail. Every mile connects community: a commute made possible, green space made accessible, a family able to walk to light rail instead of drive,

community co-created public arts. That’s the heart of this effort, and it’s what makes the momentum behind Eastrail so exciting to be part of.

From planning and advocacy to trail development and activation, this report captures five years of that work: the funding secured, the miles opened, the partnerships built, and the communities engaged. I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished together, and even more excited about what’s ahead.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support is helping turn a bold vision into a lasting legacy of connection, recreation, and community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katherine M. Hollis'.

Katherine Hollis

THE EASTRAIL

Built on a former railroad line, the **Eastrail** is transforming 42 miles along the east side of Lake Washington into one of the Pacific Northwest's most significant public spaces. Stretching from Renton to Snohomish through the traditional homelands of the Coast Salish peoples, Eastrail connects communities.

Currently under development, Eastrail is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reshape how our region moves, connects, and grows.

The Eastrail:

- **Connects people to place** by expanding access to transit options and greenspace, decreasing carbon emissions
- **Creates opportunities for health and wellbeing** through public space for movement, recreation, and connection
- **Fuels economic vitality** by linking neighborhoods to employment hubs and opportunity, including development along the trail itself
- **Advances equity** by improving access to park space and transportation connections for people of all ages and abilities

As a major spine of the Puget Sound's regional trail network, Eastrail will ultimately connect to more than 175 miles of existing trails, creating an unparalleled recreation and active transportation system. The 42-mile Eastrail will serve approximately 450,000 residents from Renton to Snohomish, with 1.9 million more within day-use reach.

Bringing this vision to life takes exceptional partnership across communities, government, and business, united by a shared belief in what this corridor will become.

The Eastrail is managed by multiple government and owner-entities that come together as the Regional Advisory Council, the collaborative body representing the public agencies and utility partners responsible for planning, developing, and stewarding the corridor. Its members include the Cities of Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and Woodinville, and King County, Snohomish County, Sound Transit, and Puget Sound Energy.

The Eastrail Regional Advisory Council coordinates regional planning, infrastructure development, and policy decisions so Eastrail is built as one connected, multi-use corridor rather than a patchwork of separate projects.

The vision for a fully-connected Eastrail is taking shape: as of 2025, almost 20 miles are open, drawing thousands of enthusiastic users each year. Together, the organizations leading the Eastrail effort have made remarkable progress, but significant gaps remain. Now is the time to build on that momentum and complete a trail that will serve our region for generations.

Governmental and nonprofit leadership working hand in hand is what is making this shared vision for the Eastrail a reality.



EASTRAIL PARTNERS

A trail this ambitious doesn't build itself. Eight jurisdictions, dozens of funding sources, and multiple easements and utilities along the corridor require an organization to be the hub for this vision. That's why Eastrail Partners exists: we unite, inspire, and mobilize the people, resources, and partnerships needed to transform 42 miles of a former rail corridor into a thriving regional trail.

Working alongside communities, businesses, philanthropic partners, and our public agency partners, we build public support, advocate for funding, cultivate private investment, and help ensure the trail reflects the diversity of the Puget Sound region. We also connect people to the trail through programming, storytelling, and community engagement, fostering a sense of ownership and belonging.

We believe Eastrail should be welcoming, accessible, and inclusive, especially for people and communities who have not always felt represented or comfortable in outdoor spaces. Since launching operations in 2020, that belief has shaped our work: bringing corporate, civic, and government leaders together with the communities who will use the trail most, so everyone sees themselves reflected in Eastrail and has the opportunity to enjoy its benefits.

WHAT WE DO:

- Advocate for the public funding needed to complete the trail.
- Engage communities to ensure Eastrail reflects the needs and cultures of the people it serves.
- Build partnerships with businesses, foundations, and community leaders.

Our Mission:

To create a thriving trail that reflects the diversity of the Puget Sound in partnership with communities, business, and governments to raise awareness, secure trail funding, and connect people to each other and the trail.

As the only entity solely focused on the Eastrail, we are uniquely positioned to unify and catalyze this effort. Building exceptional community, business, and government partnerships is how we create a multifaceted, equitable trail.

Our Vision:

Making the Eastrail for everyone, every day.

An Eastrail for everyone means a trail that is welcoming and accessible to anyone who wants to walk, roll, or stroll — where every community along its length sees itself reflected and represented.

“Every day” means the trail becomes part of daily life: a route to transit, a connection to nature, a link between neighborhoods, jobs, and shops — all part of regional sustainability, not just a destination for special occasions. That’s why we envision Eastrail as more than a trail: an activated linear park that engages and brings communities together along the entire 42 miles.



EASTRAIL PARTNERS: WHAT WE DO

Coalition Building for Trail Funding

Through the coalitions, advocacy, and partnerships cultivated by Eastrail Partners, governments along the corridor successfully pursued trail funding, securing grants, budget allocations, and other investments to advance the development of Eastrail.

- King County Parks' successful \$25M Federal RAISE grant for the I-90 Gap project
- City of Woodinville's successful \$5M Federal RAISE grant for trail planning
- \$29M state funding allocated for Eastrail Projects in *Move Ahead WA* legislation
- \$3.6M for Eastrail projects in Kirkland and Redmond from Congressional Community Project Funding
- Ongoing community engagement and action opportunities on trail policy, funding, and levies

Community Building and Co-Creation

Eastrail Partners fosters long-term relationships with community groups and trail users to shape the Eastrail experience and make the trail welcoming for all. This includes building awareness of the trail, especially within historically sidelined communities through executing community-informed partnership events, like cultural performances, cross-cultural public art, and trail stewardship events.

Over the past five years we have co-created with community in countless ways, including:

- Annual Bike Everywhere Day activations in Renton and Kirkland
- Community rides at each new trail segment opening
- Run collaborations with local run clubs
- Annual Summer Concert Series at Feriton Spur Park (started in 2023)
- Multiple annual community partnerships for events and outreach
- Installation of public art on Eastrail in Wilburton, Bellevue
- Art Walk in collaboration with BelRed Arts District
- Trail Ambassadors program launched to engage with community on the trail



Private Sector Engagement

Eastrail Partners cultivates partnerships with Eastside-focused businesses for direct trail investment and for policy and funding support. To date, Eastrail Partners has secured \$9.5M in direct trail investment from Eastside-focused corporations and secured letters of support for trail funding.

Private Sector Investment to date:
Google, \$9.5M - Eastrail at Feriton Spur Park, Kirkland
Amazon, \$7.5M - Wilburton Trestle and Trail, Bellevue
REI, \$1M - Northup Connector, Bellevue
Meta, \$1M - Northup Connector, Bellevue
Kaiser Permanente \$500,000 - Wilburton Trestle, Bellevue

IN DIRECT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Governmental and nonprofit leadership working side by side is what is making a fully connected Eastrail a reality.

The Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC) is the collaborative leadership body representing the public agencies and utility partners responsible for planning, developing, and stewarding the corridor. Its members include the Cities of Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville, King County, Snohomish County, Sound Transit, and Puget Sound Energy.

The RAC coordinates regional planning, infrastructure development, and policy decisions, so Eastrail is built as one connected, multi-use corridor rather than a patchwork of separate projects. Eastrail Partners is the nonprofit partner in that work: while RAC members plan and build the corridor, we build the coalition around it, raising private and philanthropic investment, advocating for public funding, and engaging the communities the trail serves. Council members and staff work closely with Eastrail Partners at every stage to advance this shared vision.



EASTRAIL PARTNERS MISSION MOMENTS: 2021- 2025

- 2021** Partnered with Amazon on their historic \$7.5M investment in the Eastrail.
- Collaborated and hosted 12 community-building events on the trail – a first for Eastrail activation.
- 2022** Partnered with Peace Peloton on a second-annual Eastrail ride.
- Celebrated \$3.6M in federal project funding, secured through year-end federal omnibus spending that we advocated for.
- 2023** Launched the Eastrail Summer Concert Series at Feriton Spur Park.
- Broke ground and opened the Northup Connector in Bellevue - funded by REI and Meta, with last-in funding from King County District 6.
- 2024** Led inclusive call for artists for a mural on the Wilburton section of Eastrail in Bellevue.
- Hosted the Wilburton Station of the 2-Line light rail opening, underscoring direct connections between Eastrail and transit.
- 2025** Advocated and celebrated the successful passage of the King County Parks Levy, which includes \$65M for Eastrail projects.
- Partnered with Sound Transit and City of Redmond to celebrate the last two Eastside light rail stations opening with direct connections to Eastrail.
- Celebrated the opening of the final section of the Eastrail in Redmond.

THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

Eastrail Partners gratefully recognizes the individuals, businesses, and foundations that generously support our work. Our impact would not be possible without you!

Individual Donors

\$10,000+

Matt Cohen and Kim Kemp*
Stacy Graven and Ken
Johnsen*
Ron and Eva-Maria Sher+

\$5,000+

Anonymous Anonymous*
Greg Johnson*
Joan McBride and Margaret
Meister +

\$2,500+

Daniel Abbott*
Nate and Janessa Caminos+
Bill and Frankie Chapman*
Gene Duvernoy+
Bill and Kristin Finkbeiner+
Stephanie Lizza and
Ava Bastian+
John Marchione+

\$1,000+

Jared and Ana Axelrod*
Amy Brockhaus*
Torrey and DJ Edwards
Ori Gershony*
Peter Goldman and Martha
Kongsgaard
Taldi and Nathaniel Harrison*
Katherine Hollis and Ben
Gardner+
Sarah Langton*
Sara Lazkani and Chris Johns*
Miye Moriguchi*
Deling Ren*

Mark Ronish
Joseph Rothlin*
Sabrina Ruiz
Edna Shim+
Kay Taylor
Kelsey Vaughn and David Hale
Susan Pappalardo and Brad
Weed*
Sung Yang*

\$500+

Fred Chapman*
Michael Christ*
Deloa Dalby*
Kimberly Ellerton*
Martinique Grigg
Katie Halse
Alicia Harvie
David Hobbie+
Linda Hoffner*
Kirk Hovenkotter*
Jeffrey Johnson*
William and Judith Moritz
Paul Robichaux*
Vik and Jessica Sahney
Steven Soneff and Vicki Wang

\$250+

Kevin Bosien*
Diane Carlson*
Siwei Chen
Lisa Deng
Glenn Eades+
Jim Freeburg
Nicole Gerber
Jesse Giordano*
Joel Hollis+
Scott Holm

Mike Ingram*
Warren Jimenez*
Ian Kell
Shibin Ma*
Scott Morris
Camron Parker
Tim and Lori Punke
Kelli Refer*
Acitt Smith
Ariel Taylor*
Camille Townsend*
Heather Trescases
Christie True and Lawrence
James
Donna Waidtlow
Ryan Walker*
Ran Wang
Lei Wu*

\$100+

Tawnee Baker
Gregory Barnes*
Rachel Benner
Putter Bert
Doug Brock
Alana Budasoff and Dan
Mckinney
Jennifer Dean
Joe di Stefano
Anthony Duncan
Jason Evans
Michelle Evans
James Florez
Karls Forsgaard
Jessica Forsythe*
Amanda Frame
Jesse Franklin
Eric Freeman

Michael Gedeon
Rick Gnehm*
Greg Gunther*
Dave Hamilton*
Diana Harrison*
Peter Hendrickson
Kelly Jiang
Emily Kelly
Kevin Killeen
Pearl Leung*
Doug Levy*
Charlene Lieu
Sharon Linton
Susan Little
Mo Malakoutian*
Anne Moore
Jeff Myrter
Brenda Petkus
Keri Pravitz*
Sara Ramsay and
Eric Freeman
Alexander Rumbaugh
Sunil Sayala
Darren Schwend
Piotr Slatala
Betty Spieth-Croll
Tom Spors
Samantha St John*
Lauren Staal
Sean Stappas
Theresa Tang
Acacia Tena Cervantes
Sally Otten and Tom Neir
Michael Wasserman*
Heidi Westling
Don Winters
Thomas Wysocki
Christy Yao
Michael Yellam

Corporate

\$75,000+

Amazon+

\$50,000+

Meta*
REI Co-Op*

\$25,000+

Google*
KG Investment Properties*
Wright Runstad & Company*

\$10,000+

Anonymous*
EvergreenHealth*
SRM Development*
Symetra*

\$1,000+

Bellden Café
Puget Sound Energy*

\$500+

TRF Pacific

Foundations and Grants

\$50,000+

Microsoft Philanthropies
REI Cooperative Action Fund

\$10,000+

Muckleshoot Charity Fund
Welcoming America
via Eastside For All
Sound Transit 2 Line
Activation Granting

\$5,000+

Seattle Children’s Hospital
Foundation

\$500+

Kirkland Community
Foundation

*multi-year support
+5 years of support





Eastrail Partners

PO Box 1091 • Woodinville, WA 98072

info@eastrailpartners.org
eastrail.org