

COMMUNITY



"We are so looking forward to extending our learning experience beyond the walls of the school- there is so much learning that can happen in an outdoor space!" - Kelli Knowles, Principal

REWILD THE CHILD

By reintroducing natural landscapes to play yards, teachers will have immediate access to outdoor learning spaces on school grounds. Three local elementary schools have participated in the planning and design process to rewild their play yards, taking advantage of our region's natural education assets.

With designs in place at Farmin Stidwell, Kootenai, and Washington Elementary Schools, we are now leveraging our partner funding with your contributions to begin digging in the dirt.

By helping to create outdoor learning spaces, you are playing a vital role in elevating the education experience and student success for local children.



LET'S PICNIC!

Nutrition is a vital aspect of KLT's education program. So, when the free summer meals program that typically feeds hundreds of Sandpoint area children in June, July and August was put on hold in 2022, KLT came together with Bonner Community Food Bank, Food for Our Children, East Bonner County Library, and other community partners to fill the gap. Collectively the group served more than 7,000 lunches over the summer!

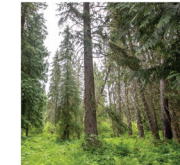
CONSERVATION

We work together on many vital education and community initiatives, but land conservation is where the boots hit the trail. To date, we (that is, you and us) have preserved over 4,000 acres of forests and farms, places for animals and places for people, in the 20 years since our work began. There are more than a dozen new projects currently in the works, with two completed in 2022.



GREGORY CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

Acres: 92
Conservation Values: working lands, wildlife habitat



HECHT FAMILY LAND DONATION

Acres: 87
Conservation Values: wildlife habitat, resilient land, public access

Since 1975, this land has been thoughtfully tended by its owner, who has planted more than 12,000 trees on the property. It is now preserved forever as a sustainable working forest.

"It is our family ethos to leave something better than we found it. We hope to inspire other people to do the same. We are happy to donate this land to Kaniksu Land Trust for the public good, to honor the land, for the wildlife, forest stewardship, and the watershed."

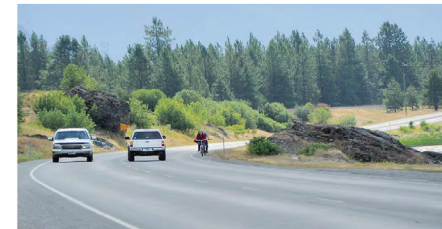
At a time when large tracts of rural property are being subdivided and developed at a more rapid rate than ever before, it is rare to find an undeveloped parcel of this character. It is even more rare for the owner to donate the land in order to benefit wildlife movement and the community.

This land gift will ensure that wildlife will have space to roam, the forest and watershed will thrive, and this family's wishes will be honored forever.

CONNECTION

EASTWARD EXPANSION TRAIL GAINS TRACTION

The education and outreach work on the Montana side of our service area continues to make a growing impact on the recreation economy of Sanders County. For years, residents of Thompson Falls have dreamed of a connecting trail along Highway 200 between the two disconnected hubs of town. The narrow highway shoulder is currently the only foot and bicycle access. This new section of trail would provide safe access for non-motorized traffic between Wild Goose Landing and Harvest Foods (and also a great spot to cast a line in the water), which will bring significant benefits to the community and economy of Thompson Falls. Conservation takes many forms. We are grateful to you for supporting projects that improve the safety and quality of life of the people who live in our communities.



KANIKSU FOLK SCHOOL

This past year, 24 artisan instructors taught hundreds of adults and teens traditional skills in an impressive 47 classes. By supporting such educational programs, you have given a lifelong gift to members of the community. KFS instruction has contributed to the livelihoods of area artists and craftspeople, resulting in a combined income of \$30,000. Now in its third year, KFS continues to introduce new skills to people, further strengthening our community's connection with the land and one another.

Learn more about this traditional skills and craft initiative, and upcoming classes for adults at kaniksu.org/kanikusufolkschool.



SAVE THE SLED HILL

The IMBY (In My Back Yard) neighborhood group is made up of community members who live near the sled hill in Sandpoint. These neighbors have come together with a shared purpose of raising awareness and funds for the campaign to acquire and conserve this special place.

The IMBY group meets regularly and reaches out to others in the community to support the campaign as a team. Their hard work has helped bring Kaniksu Land Trust closer to the goal of raising \$2.1 million to acquire the sled hill.

"My granddaughter was on her way to the sled hill the day the Weisz Family put up the notice that the hill would be closing. I'm supporting this campaign because I want to see her and my other grandkids walk toward that hill again," said a member of the neighborhood group.

We encourage you to consider forming your own neighborhood group, inspired by the work of IMBY. Together, we can continue to build a strong and vibrant community that cherishes the natural spaces and community treasures that make it so special.

Visit kaniksu.org/savethesledhill for fundraising updates, news, and ways you can help Save the Sled Hill.



"We miss the sound of children's laughter. The sled hill brought a lot of joy to our neighborhood."
- Paul Rumore, neighbor and IMBY member