Rhododendron Preserve

Hidden Ranch was a homestead to the Paschall family since the early 1900’s. In 1915, the original 74 acres was purchased by The Mountaineers with the help of Edward Paschall of Hidden Ranch. Edward Paschall’s daughters, Mary and Patience, donated an additional 57 acres to the Preserve in 1955 and 1963. Patience lived on Hidden Ranch until 1978 when she passed away. The Preserve gradually grew to 180 acres by 1986. That same year, the land was deeded to the Mountaineers Foundation (now Keta Legacy Foundation), to be held in perpetuity as a nature conservancy. Over the years, the Foundation has actively added acreage to the Rhododendron Preserve; today it totals 426 acres. We will continue to grow the Preserve and support other efforts to conserve this critical habitat through generous donations to our Land Acquisition program.

The original hearth from the homestead still stands in the forest.

In 2014 the Foundation developed a blueprint for the Kitsap Discovery Center. The Center’s vision encompasses a learning center that can be a conservation education clearinghouse for all students, kindergarten through adult. Our vision is beginning to be realized as Kitsap School District students and Olympic Community College students are brought to the Preserve to learn and work. We have hosted Earth Day activities, volunteer work parties, and biological research throughout our acreage.

https://ketalegacy.org/rhododendron-preserve/