

MOUNT VERNON

Girl Scouts paint mural for Kulshan Bike Trail

Over the past few months the local Girl Scout troop 2103 took on a community improvement project for the Neighborhood Station to help beautify the Kulshan Bike Trail by creating a mural on the trail of various wetland images.

When **Richelle Johnson**, **Becky Vigoren**, **Allison Washburn**, **Angel Kelly**, **Lilly Ricketts**, **Kimberly Ore** and **Madison Ore**, all of Mount Vernon, complete the mural, their efforts will land each of them a bronze award. It is the highest award junior Girl Scouts in grades 4 through 6 can earn.

Planning for the project began in April with choosing their theme "What you find in the wetlands or see from the wetlands" and learning about types of paints that would adhere most effectively on various surfaces. The girls raised funds by writing letters to businesses requesting paint donations — and getting them from Parker Paint and Sherwin-Williams. By June 23, after designs for each section of the mural were finalized, the painting began.

Each of the scouts had a personal reason for wanting to paint the mural, but Scout **Becky Vigoren** spoke for all of them.

"I painted this mural ... to let people know that Kulshan Creek trail isn't just a trail that connects two sides of town," she said. "It doesn't just connect a trailer park with apartments; it connects a community."

The girls also wanted to improve the aesthetics of the trail.

"I'm doing this mural because I want to make the



Submitted photo

Members of Mount Vernon Girl Scout Troop 2103 work on a mural earlier this month on the Kulshan Bike Trail by the Neighborhood Garden at North 26th Street.

trail look even better," Lilly Ricketts said.

"I painted this mural to beautify the Kulshan Creek trail — to add onto the beautiful garden that the Kulshan Creek Community has worked so hard on!" Becky said, adding that earning the bronze award was her third and least important reason.

The criteria for earning the bronze award included planning, 15-hour project completion, leadership, team building, volunteering to improve the community and exercising various skills such as painting and drawing. Troop co-leaders **Julie Johnson** and **Val Manuel** led the girls through the various aspects of the project.

Adults who also contributed their time painting were **Brandy Fouts** of Troop 308 and assistant leader **Jennifer Nording**.

The project was intended to add to the beauty of the trail and provide the girls the satisfaction of seeing their work make a difference in the community.