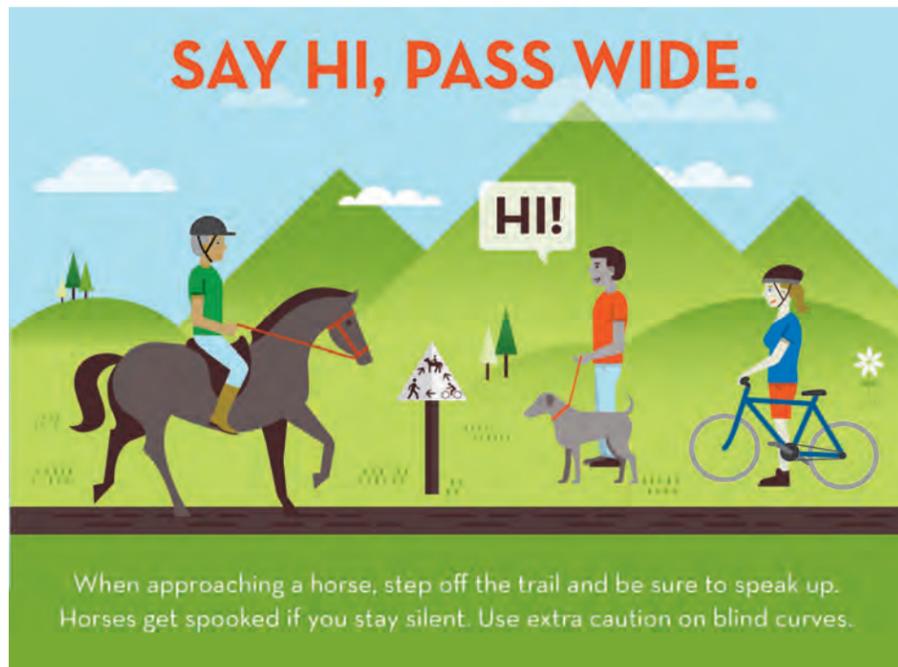
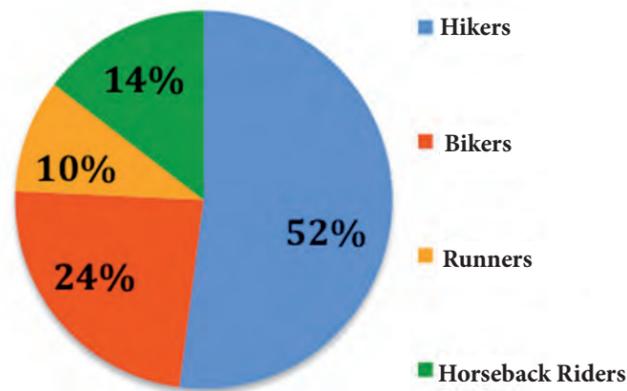


### Summer 2015 Herron Park User Survey

While Grete Gansauer was still in “intern” mode she surveyed over 150 trail users at the Herron Park trailhead and counted over 530 users at the park. These user surveys have generated data that will be useful for the management of Herron Park in the future. Not surprisingly, hikers were tallied as the majority of trail user groups: about 52% of all users counted at Herron were hikers. Mountain bikers, horseback riders and runners followed at 24%, 14% and 10% respectively. Herron Park’s trail network is, and will always remain, a multi-use system. In the survey results, 46% of users stated that they visited Herron Park 2 times per week or less, while 21% of people said that they were visiting from out of town. Clearly, locals are not the only people drawn to spending a day at Herron. FTBT is also delighted to report that over 98% of those surveyed rated their overall trail experience as a 4 or a 5 on a five-star scale.

**Herron Park User Distribution**



### THANK YOU

#### Flathead County Parks & Recreation Department

For their steadfast partnership and generous support.

#### Our Donors

Thank you to the many friends, individuals, businesses, institutional supporters, and other community members, too numerous to list here who have helped us in a variety of ways, large and small. We are truly grateful for their support, and could not thrive without them!

#### Grantors in 2015

Cadeau Foundation, Kalispell Daybreak Rotary, and Montana State Parks Recreational Trails Program.

#### Board of Directors and Staff

Foy's to Blacktail Trails is guided by its volunteer Board of Directors:

- Clifford Kipp, Chair
- Carol Bibler, Vice-Chair
- Trish Eaton, Treasurer
- Kelly O'Brien, Secretary
- Matthews Bradley
- Jenny Cloutier
- Danielle Coffman
- Chris Devereux
- Grete Gansauer
- Charline Payne
- Jim Watson
- Richard Lauer (began 2016)
- Joanne Tatro, Administrative Coordinator (part-time)

#### How You Can Help

To support our trail building/maintenance and education efforts, please send donations to PO Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903. Or you may donate online at [FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](http://FoystoBlacktailTrails.org).

To donate directly to our permanent endowment fund at the Flathead Community Foundation please contact them at 406-756-9047 or [info@FlatheadCommunityFoundation.org](mailto:info@FlatheadCommunityFoundation.org).



Photo by Mari Stoner

**Message from Clifford Kipp, Chairman**

**Greetings from Foy's to Blacktail Trails!**

Over the last few years it has been a real pleasure to reflect on the annual accomplishments our little organization has enjoyed, representing substantial gains in each of our focus areas.

Riding the momentum of having completed our capital campaign for land transfer to Herron Park in late 2014, our Board of Directors revised our Strategic Objectives early in 2015 to focus on Leadership, Partnerships, Stewardship and Outreach in the interest of achieving our mission to connect Herron Park with the USFS land around Blacktail Mountain.

Together with Flathead County we co-hosted a three-month Conservation Intern who meaningfully advanced some of our outreach and stewardship objectives including establishing social media protocols, compiling a user survey, revising our trail map, and drafting an invasive weed management plan for Herron Park. We were also fortunate to be named a host site for a month-long intern from Patagonia, Inc. who helped significantly with our outreach objectives.

We increased the recreational amenities in Herron Park by constructing two phases of the Boundary Trail, adding over a mile of new trail to the system. We installed native plant interpretive signs along the Nature Loop, as well as park and natural history educational displays at our trailhead kiosk. Each of

**Our Mission**

To secure historic access to the trails and lands connecting Herron Park to the forest lands at Blacktail Mountain, and provide long term stewardship of those lands through voluntary and cooperative means.



these initiatives was advanced significantly during two large volunteer service events we hosted in celebration of National Trails Day, and National Public Lands Day.

Importantly, we met with key private landowners to discuss terms and draft the easements required to eventually complete our namesake, the Foy's to Blacktail Trail. This process could be formalized and finalized as early as June. We look forward to continuing our legacy of working cordially and in good faith with land owners and land management agencies to achieve our mission.

Enjoy the trails!

Clifford Kipp, Chairman



Photo by Devi Morgan

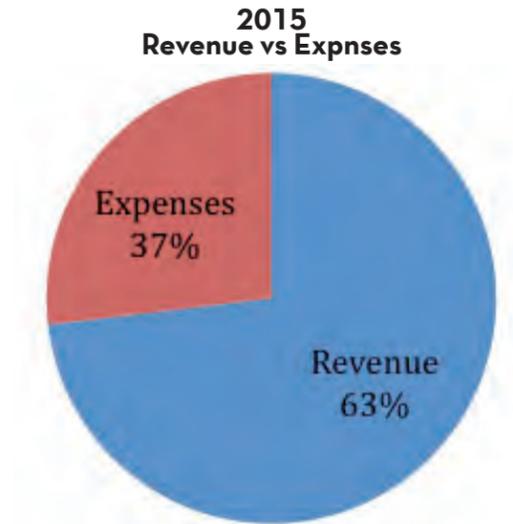
**Financials**

**Revenue**

Donations	\$43,002
Grants	\$34,900
Events & Merchandise	\$ 2,746
Interest	\$ 439
	<u>\$81,087</u>

**Expenses**

General Operations	\$12,888
Fundraising	\$ 2,795
Trails	\$14,121
	<u>\$29,804</u>



Thanks to generous donations, a successful kick off of Foy's to Blacktail Trails Membership program, and faithful grants, we brought in \$81,087. This exceeded budget expectations. Half of the 2015 expenses went directly to trail expansion and maintenance. The \$50K that was budgeted for easements across private land between Herron Park and Blacktail wasn't spent in 2015, but these funds are available in 2016 for this monumental undertaking. The Board is working hard toward this goal and having the cash on hand puts FTBT in a great position knowing we have the financial support of FTBT's members to secure easements and maintain the trails.

**Memberships**

In May 2015 we announced our first-ever Membership program. Membership donations support trail building (including Herron Park's newest trail, The Boundary Trail, under construction now) and easement acquisition, as we seek permanent public trail easements through private forest land. Memberships also help with stewardship, including trail maintenance and weed control in Herron Park and beyond; signage and maps; and education, including trail safety and interpretive materials on nature and forestry.



**Summer 2015 Interns**

This summer FTBT was fortunate to have two interns working for us. Mari Stoner came to Foy's to Blacktail Trails through Patagonia's Employee Environmental Internship Program. Mari is passionate about conservation and preserving recreational access to nature. She volunteered with FTBT for three weeks helping us with a variety of tasks that will make a long-term difference. Thank you to Mari and to Patagonia for her work with Foy's to Blacktail Trails!

Grete Gansauer came to Foy's to Blacktail Trails through an Americorps internship. During this summer internship she helped FTBT maintain trails, conduct user surveys, verify trail distances for our newest map, and much more. She graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Forestry and aspires to use her education to shape the future of land-use and public land access in the West. Grete currently works as a Wilderness Fellow for Montana Wilderness Association. Grete enjoyed working with FTBT so much she became a board member!

