



## FAQ

### **When and why did FTBT start?**

FTBT was started in 2001 by a group of people who had been using trails between Herron Park (which at the time was 120 acres) and Forest Service land to the south and realized permanent public access to this land was not guaranteed. They wanted to find a way to keep access open permanently.

### **Why is it called Foy's to Blacktail Trails?**

Because the effort involves securing permanent public access to a historic trail corridor between Herron Park (in the **Foy's** Lake area) and **Blacktail** Mountain (on US Forest Service land above Lakeside).

**Who uses Herron Park?** Equestrians, hikers, runners, cyclists, dog walkers, skiers, snowshoers. Families with small children, seniors, athletes, school groups, nature lovers. In short, just about everyone who appreciates getting outside in a beautiful, natural setting just 10 minutes from downtown Kalispell.

**Who owns Herron Park?** Flathead County owns the property and the Flathead County Parks Department manages it. Nonprofit partners FTBT and Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) assist with trail building and maintenance; FTBT also produces maps, signage, and educational materials to enhance trail user experience. Nonprofit partner Flathead Combined Training Association built and helps manage the equestrian facilities at the park.

**Did FTBT help expand Herron Park? Why?** From 2008 to 2014, FTBT purchased, in phases, 320 acres of private land adjacent to Herron Park that was at risk for sale and subdivision. FTBT raised \$2.25 million from individuals, businesses, foundations and agencies (including Flathead County Parks) to purchase this land and transfer it to Flathead County as an addition to Herron Park. FTBT knew it was important to protect this land because 1) numerous equestrians, hikers, and cyclists used it daily for recreation and 2) It is the gateway to thousands of acres of commercial timberland owned by Plum Creek Timber and Stoltze Land & Lumber. If the 320 acres had been sold, public access to these vast forest lands from Herron Park would have ended.

**How big is Herron Park now?** 440 acres.

### **What is the John Chase Forest? Is that part of Herron Park?**

Mr. John Chase's land is not part of Herron Park but has a permanent conservation easement on it. This easement includes a permanent trail corridor for Foy's to Blacktail, and Mr. Chase generously welcomes non-motorized recreation on his private property. FTBT and its partner Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) built and helps maintain the public trail through this 160-acre forested property.

### **Is the Foy's to Blacktail Trail finished? What is the route?**

A portion of the trail is complete. The completed portion is on U.S. Forest Service land and extends from Emmons Saddle (at the upper end of Patrick Creek Road) to Blacktail Mountain. Signage for this completed portion of the trail has not been installed yet.

With regard to travel from Herron Park to U.S. Forest Service Land (at Emmons Saddle), the permanent trail route has yet to be determined. FTBT is working diligently to secure a permanent trail easement through Plum Creek Timber, Stoltze Land & Lumber, and possibly other private land. FTBT and these parties are all working together in good faith to achieve this goal. For now, both Plum Creek and Stoltze allow nonmotorized public recreation on established roads through their land and that policy is not in immediate danger of changing as long as users are respectful of this private property.

#### **What does FTBT do with donations?**

FTBT uses donated funds to help build and maintain trails, create trail maps, signage, and educational materials. FTBT, through its partner MCC, has built about 15 miles of trail in Herron Park and on the John Chase Forest since 2007. We are committed to maintaining these trails.

FTBT will also need to purchase the trail easement through Plum Creek and other private commercial timberland. Monetary support from trail users helps us achieve all of these efforts.

Donations of \$15 or more entitle you to membership and you'll receive a Member decal and our annual newsletter. We also send out infrequent e-mails (one or two a year) to update you on events. FTBT is a 501(c)3 charity and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

#### **Are there any maps of the area available?**

Our website contains general maps. A hardcopy map of existing trails at Herron Park and the John Chase Forest is available free of charge at our kiosk at the Herron Park parking lot. (Note that maps are currently in short supply and we plan to update and print more of them soon).

As to the route to Blacktail, a precise map is not practical or useful at this time because there is more than one way to get there and these routes utilize and intersect various logging roads, the location of which are subject to change or become abandoned without notice. Many of them abruptly dead-end. The goal is to have a single, designated route extending to Blacktail Mountain, that will be signed and mapped.

Bottom line – this is a primitive area; users must assume all responsibility for their own safety and use common sense. Obey Flathead County Parks rules while in Herron Park. Respect all landowners.

#### **How can I get more information?**

Visit [FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](http://FoystoBlacktailTrails.org). You can also find us on Facebook, call us at 406-203-3939, or e-mail [info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](mailto:info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org) with questions.