




FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS

ISSUE 10

FALL 2012

Foy's to Blacktail Trails | PO Box 81 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | www.foystoblacktailtrails.org

PHASE 3
(50 MORE ACRES)  **DONE**

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Foy's to Blacktail Enthusiasts!

Since our newsletter last fall, a whole lot has transpired at Foy's to Blacktail Trails. After two significant land purchases (60 acres in November 2011 and 50 more in July), submission of multiple grants, providing a top tier venue for five great racing events, hosting successful fundraisers, producing a new trail map, and maintaining several miles of trail, we're pleased with what this little organization is doing.

In the last three years we've secured permanent public access to 150 acres, adding them to Herron Park (the park was originally 120 acres). This puts our fundraising effort just under the half-way point; we still need to raise \$1.1 million, so we can add another 170 acres. Imagine, 440 acres of permanently secure open space available for recreation and wildlife habitat, less than 10 minutes from downtown Kalispell!



Valley Bank of Kalispell presented the final payment of their \$20,000 pledge to FTBT in June 2012.

Each of our committees has been working hard to advance our project on multiple fronts. We aren't just a recreation organization, building and maintaining trails, we're a fundraising machine soliciting private/corporate donations and drafting grants in order to achieve our goal. We're not just a venue for competitive racing, we're the guardians of hundreds of acres of healthy forest land. We're not just creating a nice place to visit close to town, we're enriching an incredible asset and economic catalyst for the Flathead Valley, and leaving a legacy that we all—our board, our partners, and especially our donors—can be proud of.

Ponder the dynamism of this organization the next time you take your dog or kids out on the Family Trail, flow down the Notch Trail, or take in the expansive views from the John Chase and Foy's Lake Overlooks.

I am fortunate to chair this incredibly effective board filled with some of the hardest working, most dedicated volunteers around. Our efforts are starting to pay off in meaningful, measurable ways, and we must build on that momentum to fuel the work that remains to be done.

We are especially grateful to our corporate sponsors (take our quiz inside to see who they are) as well as Montana State Parks' Recreational Trails Program, our friends at Flathead Land Trust, the Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust, The Sustainability Fund, Cadeau Foundation and Cinnabar Foundation for their grants. Organizations including Flathead Combined Training Association, Run Flathead, Flathead Cycling, Hooves & Co. and the informal Paddlethon recently donated to our efforts. And of course we deeply appreciate the hundreds of individuals and businesses who continue to give so generously.

Please continue to support the work of Foy's to Blacktail Trails. Encourage your friends, your neighbors and your family to become donors. We remain ever grateful for your help in getting us where we are today, but we will continue to need your help in order to achieve ultimate success.

Onward!

-Clifford Kipp, Chairman of the Board, Foy's to Blacktail Trails



A temporary moment of confusion as Rotarians Wilson Higgs and Charlie Wilson discuss which way to go from the Overlook in the fog and rain at the National Trails Day work project. Members of the Kalispell Daybreak Rotary Club were joined by youth from The Montana Academy, Flathead Youth Shelter, and a large contingent of Montana Conservation Corps workers as they volunteered to improve the trails in Herron Park and land yet to be acquired from The Conservation Fund. Thanks Daybreak Rotary for providing a hot lunch under the dry pavilion on the wet and chilly day! Consider joining us when we work on the trails again on National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 29.

TRAIL TALK

Maintenance at Herron Park continues; work near Blacktail Mountain planned.

Foy's to Blacktail Trails Committee

While we did not add new trails to the Herron Park system this year, FTBT and its volunteers completed several improvements to existing trails. In the process, we strengthened several partnerships, resulting in more volunteers and productive, enjoyable work days.

Along with perennial partner Montana Conservation Corps (MCC), FTBT brought in groups from YAKIN (Youth Adventure Knowledge and Inspiration in Nature), the Center for Restorative Youth Justice, Flathead Youth Home, Kalispell Daybreak Rotary and several individual volunteers.

In addition, the MCC sent its Youth Crew Leaders in training into Herron Park for a week of early season drainage cleaning and spot retreat. Then, in July, thanks to a generous grant from Applied Materials Foundation, those leaders took their crew of 6 local teenagers back into Herron Park for another week of trail maintenance as a part of the MCC's Youth Expedition program.

Primary accomplishments so far include further "buffing" of the Notch Trail, full re-construction of two switchbacks on the Chase Trail, gravel/hardening of the first section of the Family Trail, removal

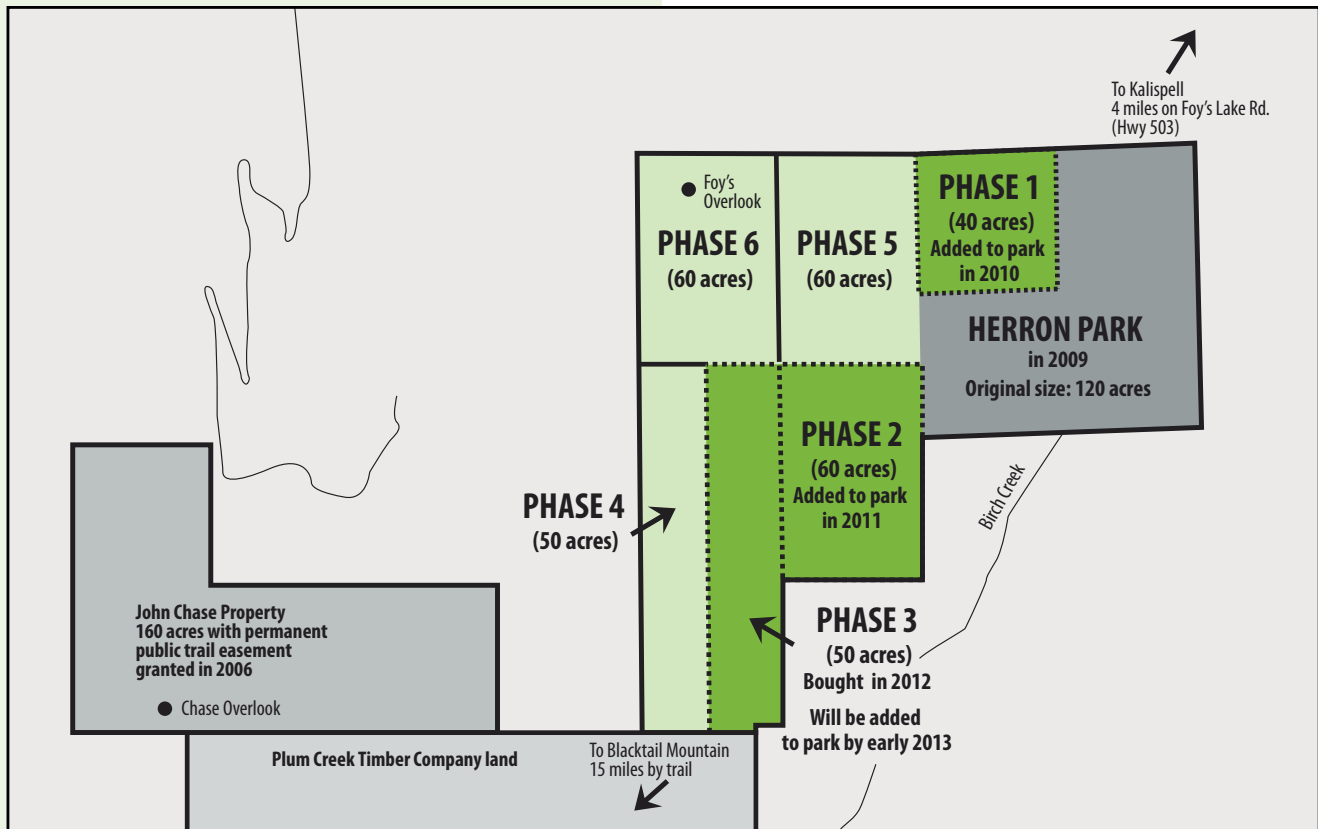
of houndstongue burr and Canada thistle from the pavilion area, and the installation of about eight "pinch-points" (large, strategically placed rocks that slow downhill traffic) along the Incline and Overlook Connector trails. All trail maintenance is funded through targeted grants sought by FTBT (not your donations, which go directly to land purchase).

Another significant development is that MCC expects to spend about 5 weeks this fall working on portions of the Foy's to Blacktail Trail on U.S. Forest Service land near Blacktail Mountain (funded by a Recreation Trails Program grant). This means we'll have less than 10 miles of trail remaining to be established through private timber lands (Plum Creek and Stoltze) between USFS and Herron Park.

Additionally, FTBT is working with local organizations to draft and implement a plan for the design and installation of more effective signage throughout the trail system. The signage upgrade will compliment the newest edition of our trail map, completed this spring and available through our traditional outlets (Rocky Mountain Outfitter, Wheatons, and our kiosk at Herron Park). Thank you, George & Elma for donating your professional graphic design time and talent to this map!

FTBT will host a National Public Lands Day event at Herron Park on September 29, so get in touch (info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org) if you'd like to help us maintain the trails.

Status of land purchase efforts, Foy's to Blacktail Trails at Herron Park. Phase 4, 5, and 6 are owned temporarily by The Conservation Fund and must be purchased before the end of 2015.



TAKE OUR QUIZ!

Test your knowledge of Foy's to Blacktail Trails:

1. Foy's to Blacktail Trails (FTBT) has been raising money to:

- a) purchase easements through private land
- b) build trails
- c) purchase private land and add it to Herron Park
- d) all of the above

2. The Foy's to Blacktail Trails cannot be used until:

- a) the trail to Blacktail Mountain is completed
- b) all of The Conservation Fund land is purchased
- c) both a and b
- d) none of the above—the trails are used now

3. Foy's to Blacktail Trails is purchasing land and adding it to Herron Park because that land is:

- a) just five miles from Kalispell and is used heavily year-round
- b) the gateway to thousands of acres extending south to Blacktail Mountain
- c) popular with people of all ages and abilities
- d) all of the above

4. The Foy's Overlook (site of the picnic table, that cool old tree snag, and the great view) is part of:

- a) private land that FTBT is raising money to buy
- b) Herron Park
- c) Plum Creek Timber land
- d) Forest Service Land

5. FTBT has raised and spent \$1 million on land to date, and still needs to raise about:

- a) \$2.3 million
- b) \$1.1 million
- c) \$8.2 million
- d) \$520,000

6. Which of the following are corporate sponsors of Foy's to Blacktail Trails:

- a) Applied Materials Foundation, Dean & Leininger (Linda P.), and Glacier Bank
- b) Montana Academy, Murphy Oil Corp., Northwest Imaging, and Pacific Steel & Recycling
- c) Plum Creek Foundation, Three Rivers Bank, Valley Bank of Kalispell, and Wells Fargo Bank
- d) All of the above

7. If you use the trails and haven't donated recently you should:

- a) quit using them and go to the gym instead
- b) relax and assume, "Someone Else" will do it
- c) mail a tax-deductible donation today to FTBT, Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903 (or donate online)
- d) feel guilty for awhile, then tell yourself someday you'll donate



Photo by Liz Seabaugh

A cyclist in the 2012 Herron Hammer takes in the view near the Foy's Overlook.

Answers:

- 1: c). FTBT is buying private land and will permanently protect access to the land by adding it to Herron Park.
- 2: d). The trail system currently features more than 14 miles of trails for users of all ages and abilities. Several scenic loops start at the Herron Park parking lot.
- 3: d). All of the above!
- 4: a). The Foy's Overlook is on private land held temporarily by The Conservation Fund.
- 5: b). FTBT needs to raise an additional \$1.1 million by the end of 2015.
- 6: d). To become a corporate sponsor, visit FoystoBlacktailTrails.org or call 249-2010
- 7: c). Please donate today. Your gift, regardless of size, will help us reach our goal.

IN MEMORY OF FRANZ BARTHEL

We are saddened by the loss of Franz Barthel, 62, who died April 27 in Kalispell. Franz was an avid hiker and climber and enjoyed being in nature with friends and family. Franz and his family requested that memorial contributions be made to Foy's to Blacktail Trails, a cause he supported. Franz was filled with gratitude to the end of his life, and we at FTBT are both grateful and humbled by the outpouring of support in his memory.

THANK YOU!

Our thanks to Robin Sorg, who donated her graphic design talents to producing this newsletter.

HOW TO DONATE ✂

Yes! I want to support Foy's To Blacktail Trails' efforts to secure Phase 4 and beyond. Please accept my donation of \$_____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If gift is in memory/honor of someone, please note here: _____

Please mail checks and this form to: P.O. Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903
 You may also make a secure donation at: www.FoystoBlacktailTrails.org



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Mountain Lady's Slippers Bloom Near Herron Park



Photo by Charlene Esch

"In descending the creek this morning on the steep side of a high hill my horse slipped and both his hinder feet out of the road and fell, I also fell off backwards and slid near 40 feet down the hill before I could stop myself such was the steepness of the declivity; the horse was near falling on me in the first instance but fortunately recovers and we both escaped unhurt. I met with the plant in blume which is sometimes called the lady's slipper or mockerson flower. It is in shape and appearance like ours only that the corolla is white, marked with small veigns of pale red longitudinally on the inner side."
-Meriwether Lewis

Thus Lewis recorded his first encounter with the Mountain Lady's Slipper in Montana as he descended the Bitterroot Divide on his return from the Pacific. This summer (206 years later) riders and hikers were treated with an exceptional bloom of this rare orchid near Herron Park. This plant (*Cypripedium montanum*) takes 12-16 years to flower, requiring undisturbed, shady, moist soil. It fools insects into its pouch and is pollinated when the insect tries to back out. The leaves can ooze a sap like poison ivy or poison oak, so don't touch! Let's hope these enchanting orchids bloom again next year on the Foy's to Blacktail Trails near Herron Park.

OUR MISSION:

To secure historic access to trails and lands connecting Herron Park to the forest lands at Blacktail Mountain. To provided long term stewardship of this corridor. To accomplish this mission through voluntary and cooperative means.
www.FoysToBlacktailTrails.org