



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

PHASE 6 HELP US FINISH!

(final 60 acres)



\$2.25 MILLION FUNDING GOAL (320 ACRES)

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings Foy's to Blacktail Enthusiasts!

Since our newsletter last Fall, much has happened on multiple fronts for the Foy's to Blacktail Trails effort. We've advanced our fundraising and outreach objectives. We've advanced our trail construction and maintenance objectives. We've advanced our partnership objectives. We've advanced our Community Forest objectives, our education objectives, and our signage objectives. We hosted several great sporting/volunteer events, and supported others who hosted events at the Herron Park venue. We've even managed to spend some time on some organizational housekeeping objectives.

Earlier this year, we said goodbye to long time board

member Rosemary McKinnon. Our organization could not have achieved its goals without Rosemary's leadership on the board. We thank her for her stalwart participation, steadfast support, and genuine stewardship of the Foy's to Blacktail Trails effort. We miss you, Rosemary!

As we bid adieu to Rosemary, we welcomed Derek Milner to the board. Since moving to Kalispell in 2008 he has been an enthusiastic user of Herron Park and the Foy's to Blacktail Trails. In his spare time Derek works as the soil scientist for the Flathead National Forest. He lives in Kalispell with his wife and two daughters.

Looking forward, we're approaching the final arc of our land purchase initiative: *Only \$36,000 left to go* in order to purchase 60-acre Phase 6, making Herron Park 440 acres large. Remember when we started this audacious effort to raise almost \$2.3 million? Please help us finish!

We're beginning to reassess our organizational priorities, and contemplate the shift from a major capital campaign to land and recreation management through effective multi-agency partnerships. We've done so much by expanding Herron Park; we must double-down on our mission to secure historic access to trails and lands connecting that park to the forest lands at Blacktail Mountain, to provide for long term stewardship of these trails, and to accomplish this through voluntary means.

Of course, we would not be the successful organization we are today were it not for our dedicated board of directors, committee members, and volunteers, our incredibly generous donors, and our agency partners who are helping us achieve our vision.

For more specific information on all Foy's to Blacktail Trails' efforts, please visit our website, or connect with a board member.

Onward,

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

FOR MY CHILD AND YOURS "I DID IT FOR YOU"

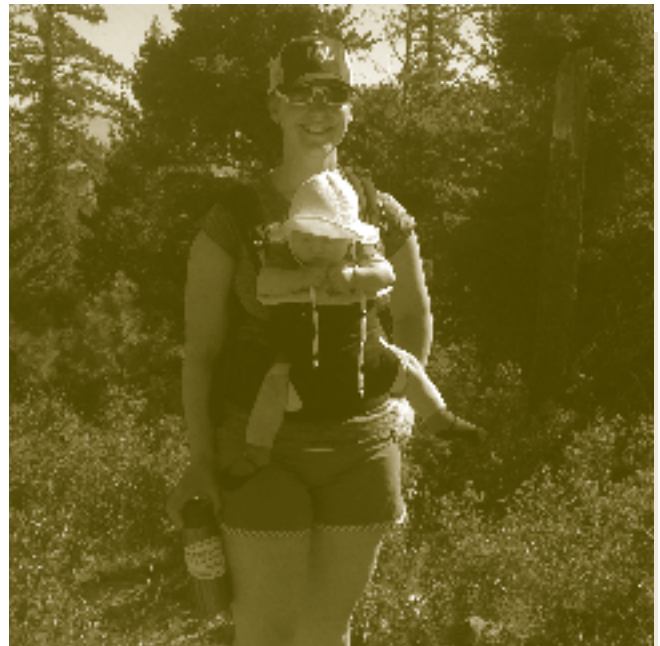
By Danielle Coffman, Board Member, Foy's to Blacktail Trails

As an avid trail runner, the expansion of Herron Park and a trail system minutes from Kalispell has been an interest of mine since I moved here in 2006. Shortly after my move, I joined the FTBT Board of Directors so I could help make this a reality. This past February I welcomed the birth of my daughter Clara and, not surprisingly, this changed my fundamental view of "why" Herron Park and its trails are important to me. Everything I do now is with Clara in mind (though it often benefits me as well). I want Clara to appreciate the outdoors, enjoy healthy outdoor activities (without thinking of recreation as dreaded "exercise") and have a place to hike, ride bikes, ski or ride a horse. I can't wait to take her sledding on the little sledding hill. Perhaps she will become interested in botany or forestry and can be part of the educational programs underway in Herron Park. Maybe she will get involved in volunteer projects and learn the value of stewardship and hard work.

I look at my daughter and see endless possibilities wrapped in a tiny adorable package. I am excited and lucky to be able to offer opportunities that are unique to our part of the country and am especially excited that all of these opportunities are available right outside our community's "front door". This means that

getting outside in nature won't always require a drive to Glacier Park or Jewel Basin. (She already hates her car seat and becomes rather angry during car trips longer than 15 minutes). It is so easy to put on the carrier and take her for a hike at Herron Park. Seeing how relaxed and happy she is during our hikes, which often culminate in naps, makes her mama relaxed and happy too!

FTBT needs to raise less than \$40,000 to finish expanding Herron Park. Our hard work has helped this dream become a reality. I look forward to telling my sweet girl: "I did it for you."



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LISA LOVES FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS!

Limited Edition "Lisa Loves Montana" charm produced by Wheeler Jewelry exclusively for the benefit of Foy's to Blacktail Trails

If you'd like to purchase a colorful Foy's to Blacktail Trails charm they'll be available for a limited time at Wheeler Jewelry. Proceeds from the sale of these limited edition charms, depicting an Arrowleaf Balsamroot flower, will be donated to FTBT. Charms are \$40 each.

Visit Wheeler Jewelry, 139 Main St., Kalispell or call them at 752-6809.

NEW KIOSK

A True Community Effort

In 2013, FTBT received a \$2,500 grant from the Plum Creek Foundation providing seed money for a permanent informational kiosk near the parking lot at Herron Park. More than a dozen local businesses then stepped forward to donate professional services, materials and labor for this beautiful structure.

Erected in May and June 2014, the kiosk now features park rules and safety information, as well as a map of trails in Herron Park and the Chase Family Forest. Thanks to a grant from the Sustainability Fund of the Flathead Community Foundation, FTBT plans to add information on the history of Herron Park since its inception, as well as interpretive information regarding forest stewardship, flora and fauna.

A permanent plaque acknowledging the many contributors to this kiosk is in the works. They are:

CONTRIBUTORS TO KIOSK CONSTRUCTION

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ford Custom Homes | Northwest Drywall |
| Bruce Boody Landscape Architect | Wisniewski & Sons Excavating |
| Waatti Engineering | Western Building Center |
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| Damon Designs | Flathead County Parks Dept. |
| Advanced Roofing | |



Kalispell Daybreak Rotarians and Montana Conservation Corps volunteers show off the newly seeded ditch

USING THE PARKING LOT

By Tom Esch, Board Member, Foy's to Blacktail Trails

Flathead County Parks and FTBT are pleased that most folks now use the parking lot across from the Community Center (schoolhouse) instead of in the ditch by the green gate to the north.

This is because:

- The approach to the road from the ditch is steep and the parking lot is much safer;
- The ditch at times turns into a mud bog and car traffic has caused unsightly erosion;
- Using the parking lot directs the park visitors to review information on the kiosk, and encourages the use of the bathroom and trash cans.

For the last three years National Trails Day volunteers have worked to re-seed and rehabilitate the ditch. Thanks for using the parking lot!

TRAIL MANNERS MYTHBUSTERS

Think you have good trail etiquette? See whether each statement is True or False.

1. This symbol summarizes trail right-of-way protocol: Pedestrians and cyclists should yield to horses; cyclists should also yield to pedestrians.
2. When you're on the trails, the most important thing is to put in your earbuds and get in the zone.
3. As long as your dog doesn't bite, it is fine to let him/her wander up to other people or dogs.
4. You should look at the bulletin board before you get on the trails, even if you know your way around.
5. If you encounter someone riding a horse on the trail, don't say anything so as not to scare the horse.
6. Respect for others is key to safely enjoying shared use trails.



1. **True.** People on foot as well as bike riders should remember that horses have right of way. And bike riders should yield to walkers, runners, hikers, etc. Everyone should use common sense.
2. **False.** Keep your eyes and ears open for other trail users and wildlife. If you are not paying attention, you could hurt someone else (if moving fast) or potentially get hurt (by other trail users, wildlife, etc.).
3. **False.** Your dog may not bite, but the other person's dog could! And did you know that many mules or horses will kick or stomp unfamiliar dogs? Always ask before letting your dog approach others.
4. **True.** A trail may be closed, a mountain lion may be in the area, an event may be in progress, etc.
5. **False!** Use your voice ("Howdy, How's It Going?") whether coming from behind or the front. This lets the horse know you are a person. If the horse seems agitated, stop moving but continue to talk until the rider indicates it's fine for you to proceed. If you have earbuds in, remove them so you can hear.
6. **True.** If you offer respect, you are more likely to receive it. Education with a friendly tone helps diminish negative encounters and keeps our trails fun for everyone.

A HAPPY HISTORY OF HORSES

Equestrians of all backgrounds rely on Herron Park

Equestrians of all sorts have long standing ties to Herron Park. Shortly after Flathead County Parks acquired the property from Iven and Vivian Herron in



Marjory McClaren photo

1978, a group of riders saw the potential for an equestrian facility. The Parks Department lacked funds to make improvements to the property, so the newly formed Flathead Combined Training Association raised money to build arenas, add permanent jumps, run water and electricity lines, and build stables.

These amenities greatly improved the park. In the 1990s, the popular Herron Park Horse Trials served as a precursor to the Event at Rebecca Farm.

Another group, Hooves & Company, began sponsoring competitive endurance rides and other events. Though this group is no longer active, they introduced many people to the pleasures of riding in and around the park, and southward onto the Plum Creek and Stoltze timberlands leading to US Forest Service land including Blacktail Mountain.

When horses are training in or near the arenas, do not use the trail passing between the arenas. Expect to see horses on any of the trails, particularly the Horse Trail that extends westward from the stable area. Whenever you approach horses from any direction, announce your presence by **using your voice**.

TAKE OUR USER SURVEY

FTBT's Trails Committee seeks feedback about your experience in Herron Park.

Please take a moment to offer your insight by completing our online User Survey. A link is on our website and Facebook page.





FOY'S COMMUNITY FOREST UPDATE

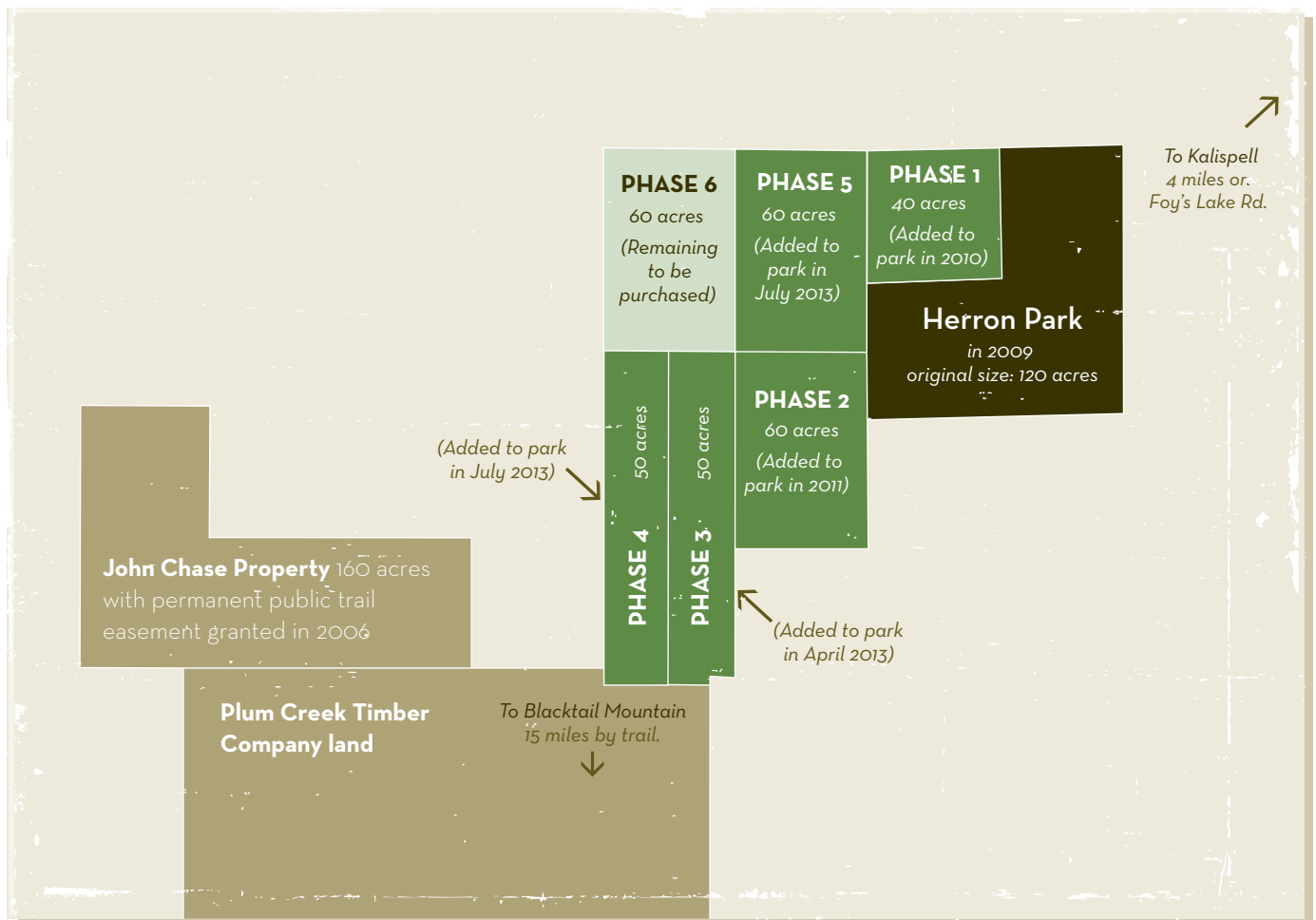
Interpretive Trail Planned

Your Community Forest is moving right along with outdoor and forestry education. Last fall, as part of Montana Forest Products Industry Week, FTBT helped facilitate a FireWise thinning demonstration project on the John Chase property. This project, supported by a grant from DNRC, removed decadent and diseased trees while reducing fire danger.

The Flathead chapter of Society of American Foresters is busy creating a permanent interpretive trail for use by area schools, groups and families. Starting from the parking lot it will follow the Lower Family Trail. Once in the woods it deviates from the Family Trail into an old log loading clearing (where the dozer work was done last fall). This clearing will feature a circle of log benches as a classroom gathering spot. The trail will exit the woods near the Direct Route, crossing the meadow back to the parking lot. Total distance is about a mile.



The transition from meadow to forest, along with different plants and animals found in each habitat zone, tells the interpretive story. Multiple numbered stops along the way will discuss plant species, natural history of the site, transition species and the ever changing nature of a forest environment. An Eagle Scout is currently working on plant ID signs that will be installed along the new Interpretive Trail.



Original boundary of Herron Park (in black), and land FTBT has added to the park since 2010 (in green, Phases 1-5). Phase 6 is owned temporarily by The Conservation Fund—your donation will help us purchase this last 60 acres and add it to Herron Park



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Each of these Corporate Sponsors has contributed at least \$2,500 to the campaign.

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Major Grants from Agencies and Foundations

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Flathead Land Trust
Sustainability Fund of the Flathead Community Foundation
Montana State Parks RTP Program
Steele-Reese Foundation
Plum Creek Foundation
MT Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Cinnabar Foundation
Applied Materials Foundation
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Thank you to the following contributors who have donated \$25 or more to help expand Herron Park since this campaign began in 2008. Thanks also to those who made smaller gifts, too numerous to list here.

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