

**THANK  
YOU**  
—FOR—  
**YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

## EVENTS

### MAY

7<sup>th</sup> - Jumper Derby (visit [flatheadeventing.org](http://flatheadeventing.org))

### JUNE

3<sup>rd</sup> - National Trails Day

4<sup>th</sup> - Annual Herron Half/10k/5k run to benefit FTBT. Visit [www.HerronHalf.org](http://www.HerronHalf.org)

20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> - Evening Jumper Shows (visit [flatheadeventing.org](http://flatheadeventing.org))

### JULY

1<sup>st</sup> - Jumper Derby, contact Flathead Combined Training for details (visit [flatheadeventing.org](http://flatheadeventing.org))

8<sup>th</sup> - Spirit Bear Classic. XC mountain bike race and festival (contact [thomasshelit@gmail.com](mailto:thomasshelit@gmail.com))

### AUGUST

5<sup>th</sup> - XTerra triathlon, distance and sprint races

19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> - 12 & 24 Hours of Flathead Bike relay. Visit [www.24HoursofFlathead.org](http://www.24HoursofFlathead.org)

### SEPTEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> - Mini event (equestrian). Visit [flatheadeventing.org](http://flatheadeventing.org)

30<sup>th</sup> - National Public Lands Day, come help build and maintain trails in Herron Park





Foy's to Blacktail Trails | PO Box 81 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | [www.FoysToBlacktailTrails.org](http://www.FoysToBlacktailTrails.org)

## FROM THE CHAIR

We at Foy's to Blacktail Trails look back on 2016 as a productive and rather monumental year for our organization and our community. As we look ahead into 2017 we can feel a great sense of accomplishment and pride.

The most exciting accomplishment for FTBT this year was completion of the easement agreements for the final segment of the Foy's to Blacktail Trail that will connect Herron Park to Blacktail Mountain above Lakeside. This trail is the culmination of years of effort, countless volunteer hours, and coordination with public and private partners. In the coming year FTBT, along with the help of our partners and volunteers, will actually build the trail. We look forward to the final completion of our namesake recreational trail in the year to come.

This last year we also have added to and improved the trails within Herron Park with additions such as the Boundary Trail. Our trail system is a year-round destination for hiking, biking, horseback riding, running and skiing with some of the most impressive views of the Flathead Valley. The Foy's to Blacktail Trail will add many more miles of trails to our current system and will provide expanded opportunities for non-motorized recreation close to town.

It has also been a year of change for our organization. We experienced change in our board of directors, and while it was bittersweet to have some of our long-time directors finish their terms on the board, we are fortunate to have the addition of some new members. We have a wonderful team to guide FTBT through the next phase for our organization. I, personally, am honored and humbled to chair a board with some of the most passionate, dedicated, and effective individuals whom I have ever had the opportunity to work with.

To accomplish our goals we will continue working collaboratively with the private landowners, the U.S. Forest Service, and Flathead County. Together we will set out a vision and working plan for the fully realized Foy's to Blacktail Trail. We are also fortunate to continue work-

ing with our partners such as Run Flathead, Flathead Cycling, Flathead Combined Training, and XTerra to host sporting and community events within Herron Park. We also had a great turnout of volunteers for National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day last year that came together to build upon and improve our trail system. We look forward to continued opportunities to work with our partners and engage the community in these events in the future.



*History was made on February 9 as Mike Pence signed easements for the Foy's to Blacktail Trail on behalf of Flathead County.*

To actually build the final segment of the Foy's to Blacktail Trail will take hard work, volunteer hours and additional funds. This is a community effort and it will require community involvement and investment. We are thankful for the continued support of our members, donors, corporate sponsors and volunteers. We hope that you will consider donating to help us build this trail that will connect Herron Park to Blacktail Mountain and encourage your friends to become members or donate to our efforts. We are grateful and proud to have such an amazing group of supporters in our community, but to achieve our ultimate goal, we rely on community support. The positive benefits for the future of our community are immeasurable and we thank all of you helping to improve this wonderful place we call home.

Many thanks,

**Kelly R. O'Brien**  
*Chairman of the Board, Foy's to Blacktail Trails*



# WE DID IT!

BY JIM WATSON

We did it! We secured easements across land between Herron Park and Blacktail Mountain. What was once a dream by a few people who formed an organization in 2001 is becoming a reality. On February 9 permanent public trail easements between Foy's to Blacktail, Flathead County and 6 private land owners across 8 miles of private property were finalized. The dream is coming true, thanks to unrelenting hard work, supportive partners and lots of generous friends.

The obvious question is "When will the trail be open?" The answer is summer of 2017, if you will help us secure funding. The trail is ready for construction, fully designed and cleared of brush and trees. It's a ridgeline trail with exemplary views and varied, exciting terrain. We designed it, with assistance from Forestation, for non-motorized multiple use. Combined with existing trails, the route from Herron Park to Blacktail Mountain is around 18 miles.

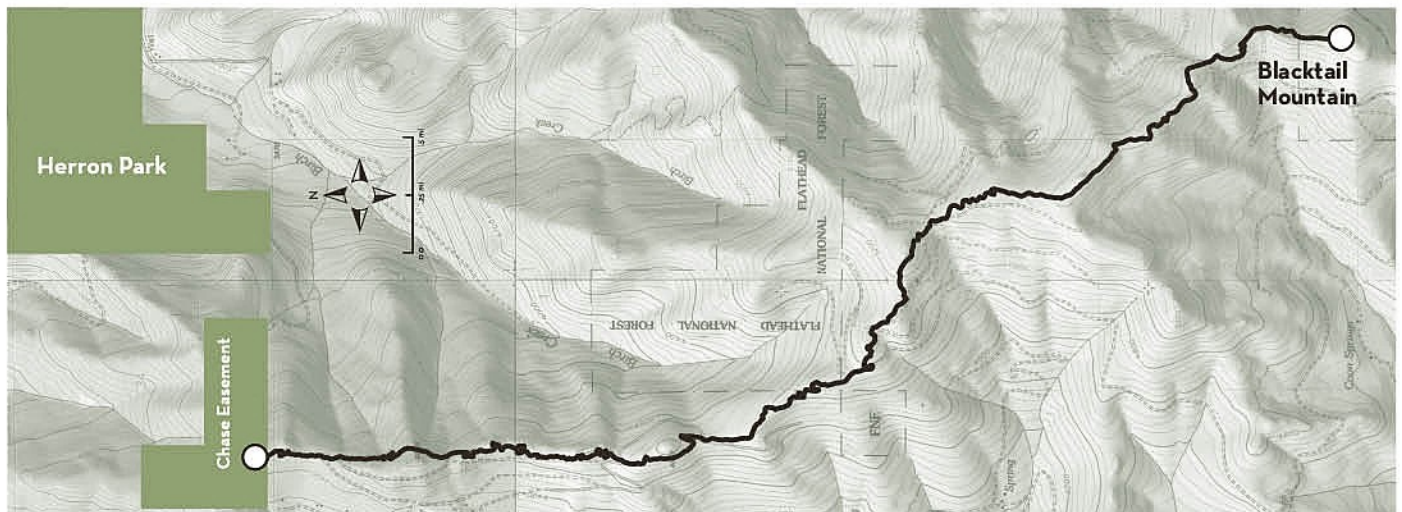
So let's talk about funding and how we are going to build this world-class trail. We have contracted with Terraflow

Trail Systems of Whitefish for most of the construction, using three mini excavators. We estimate \$140,000 for construction costs, including maps and signs. We ap-

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plied for some large grants and if we are successful in receiving them, they will pay for a large portion of the trail building expense but we still need to raise \$40,000 to cover all the costs. Construction will begin this spring, as soon as frost is out of the ground.

Flathead friends, you have been amazingly supportive of Foy's to Blacktail Trails. Over half of the funds for expanding Herron Park came from local individuals and businesses. *Do you want to ride/run awesome single-track to Blacktail Mountain from Herron by August of this year? Then send us some money and we will build this trail for your enjoyment.*



## PUBLIC LANDS DAY RECAP

Once again, Foy's to Blacktail Trails celebrated National Public Lands Day on October 1st with over 50 dedicated volunteers at Herron Park. We teamed up with Glacier Soccer to continue building the lower portion of the Boundary Trail, which we are hoping to open to the public in 2017. Armed with digging tools and hard hats, our team of about twenty got to work building new tread, repairing existing tread and obliterating any large stump or rock that stood in our path. We were very thankful for the youthful enthusiasm and strength

of the Glacier Soccer team members! Finally, we meet up with other hard working volunteers at Lone Pine State Park to enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch provided by the Kalispell Daybreak Rotary Club. Our thanks go to Montana Conservation Corps, our dedicated Rotarian Friends and Lone Pine State Park for coming together to make this event a success.

Sound like fun? Join us this June on National Trails Day! We'll teach you everything you need to know for the day - all you need is a good pair of work gloves and a good attitude. Stay tuned for details.



# THANK YOU!

To Flathead County Parks Department, the County Attorney's Office and the County Commission for approving the expansion of Herron Park and accepting these trail easements.

To Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser and F. H. Stoltze, who have always been professional, honest, generous, and supportive.

To John Chase and his late brother Myron for donating the first trail easement in 2006 and allowing us to enjoy his forest.

To John and Shelia Garske, Anita Steiner, and Dennis Curtin for donating easements across their properties that made this a better trail.

To all the amazing people in this wonderful valley of ours that embraced this dream and made it come true.

To the volunteer organization that is Foy's to Blacktail Trails. Wow.



Kate Paschen riding in the Spring Mini-Event

## FLATHEAD COMBINED TRAINING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Flathead Combined Training Association had a great summer at Herron Park. The weather and footing cooperated so we were able to host three shows. We added a new discipline to two of our shows, Obstacle Challenge. We look forward to hosting three shows in 2017. [www.flatheadeventing.org](http://www.flatheadeventing.org)

## HELP US COMPLETE THE TRAIL TO BLACKTAIL

WANT THE TRAIL OPEN THIS SUMMER? WE NEED YOUR HELP!

### Donate a mile, or a few steps. Help us get there!

- 1/32 mile (\$165)     1/8 mile (\$660)     1/4 mile (\$1,320)
- 1/2 mile (\$2,640)     1 mile (\$5,280)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

FTBT is a 501(c)3 non profit and donations are tax-deductible. We will not share your personal information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (Used for infrequent updates)

I use the trails for: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hiking, horseback riding, cycling, running, dog walking, skiing, etc.)

Please do NOT send me a membership decal

Please make checks payable to Foy's to Blacktail Trails and include this form with your donation.

Mail checks to **FTBT, P.O. Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903**, or donate online at [Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org](http://Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org).

For more information, please call **406.203.3939** or visit [info@Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org](mailto:info@Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org).

