



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

FTBT 2020 PROJECT LINE-UP

We hope to complete all of these projects in 2020. Please consider rolling up your sleeves and joining us!

Emmons' Saddle Trailhead Development

Since the completion of the Foy's to Blacktail Trail in August 2017, use has increased substantially at the ad hoc trailhead located 9.3 miles up Patrick Creek Road from Foy's Canyon Road. Known for years to locals as a camping and party spot, the Emmons' Saddle TH has been making the transition to a parking area. FTBT has provided cleanup efforts over three summers, and the number of beer bottles, dirty diapers, and leftover pallet nails has decreased each time.

All types of user groups utilize this trailhead. To go on a mellow out-and-back along the closed Forest Service road to the south or as a shuttle for hikers, horses, and mountain bikers to access Herron Park 11 miles north, there is plenty of trail to experience from Emmons' Saddle. Neither FTBT nor the Forest Service anticipated the popularity of this spot.

At the request of the USFS, we have spent a couple of years planning and applying for support to develop this trailhead. We will formalize a parking lot and install barrier rocks, hitching posts, increased signage, and a pit toilet. FTBT has partnered with Flathead Valley Community College and has been awarded funding from Secure Rural Schools to make this project happen. We hope to break ground late spring or early summer.

Volunteer efforts will continue after construction is completed to make sure non-authorized users take the party down the road.

Forest Service Lands Signage

The further you go out on the FTB Trail, the chances of getting turned around go up! Several intersections can be easily missed, and the convergence of the Lakeside to Blacktail and Foy's to Blacktail trails is a Bermuda Triangle of sorts (literally).

The Swan Ranger District is working with us to keep you pointed in the right direction. FTBT will add signage along the trail sections, and trailhead maps at Lakeside and Blacktail Mountain. Also, the Forest Service has plans to update signage at both Patrick Creek and Cramer Creek roads as accessed from Foy's Canyon Road and Highway 93, respectively. Work will begin in May (or June if it keeps snowing).

Herron Park Maintenance

Thanks to Flathead County Parks & Recreation for working with us to perform drainage and switchback improvements in Herron Park and the John Chase Forest. Most of the trails in and near Herron Park have surpassed the 5-year mark, and could use a tune-up. In many areas, the trails have stopped draining properly due to the past summer's above-average amount of rain, and the ever-increasing trail usage. FTBT aims to go over 16 miles of trail with a professional trail planner. Then we will employ an operator to use a mini excavator to dig, repair, and shape your trails, so they correctly shed water.

We have applied for a Recreational Trails Program grant and, thanks to your support, have cash on hand to use as a match. Volunteers will be used as a "sweep" after the machine work to clear debris, tamp and stomp the ground, and generally beautify the area. We anticipate this project to start in late September and finish mid-October (and hoping that deep freeze from last year doesn't come back) to work in the best soil conditions.

Memberships and Volunteering

What does giving to Foy's to Blacktail Trails mean to you? Last year, 330 individuals, families, businesses, and grants donated to Foy's to Blacktail Trails. Your generosity funded trail maintenance, the Herron Half/10k/5k & Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon, volunteer outreach, the new interpretive sign along the Notch Trail: A Landscape Shaped By Glaciers, and the nuts & bolts to make future projects possible. We love this community!

PROJECT RECAP, CONTINUED FROM COVER

The Giving Tree was a great way to end the year. We met lots of great people and ten new members signed up. Those that gave in honor of someone were especially touching.

We hosted four main volunteer events that totaled 175 hours spread between 60 individuals. Another 50 hours were spent scooping poop, assisting Montana Conservation Corps crews, and scoping out maintenance and construction projects for this year. When used as match for grants, this volunteer labor has a value of \$4,500. Time is money in the volunteer world.

The Herron Half and Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon continue to grow. Huge thanks go out to not only our cash and in-kind sponsors but to the 25 Herron Half and 50 Marathon volunteers that devoted their entire day to these events. All proceeds from our races fund the FTBT mission.

One of those "individuals" represents the entire community: the Iron Ranger at Herron Park. That little metal box at the map kiosk accounted for \$560.43 in 2019 and over the last 9 years has totaled \$3,404.33 (yes we count every penny). We suggest a \$1 donation for taking a map and trail users give more than 50% of the time. Anonymous is often the most generous fellow in the room.

Of the three hundred twenty-nine donation entries, we ended the year with 303 members, 91 of which were new.

Now in the seventh year, we are looking to reach 500 members by December. We estimate that an average of 150 people use Herron Park and the FTBT trail system every day. Consider your time spent walking the dog, getting some fresh air, or recreating on this land and decide if a membership is right for you. Foy's to Blacktail Trails is committed to serving this community, and we love your support!

THANK YOU, 2019 SPONSORS!

Race sponsors and in-kind donations:

YWAM Endurance Adventures

Measure Law, P.C.

Kalispell Regional Medical Center

Dental Distinctions, P.C.

Step Ahead Foot & Ankle Clinic

Advanced Rehabilitation Services

Jordahl & Sliter, PLLC

Berube Physical Therapy

Kurt Lindemann, DDS

Loretta Merriman Massage

Stan & Liz Makman

Rocky Mountain Outfitter

Kalispell Brewing Company

Hammer Nutrition

Kalispell OBGYN

Outfitters Supply

Terra Designworks

Chuck Olson Real Estate

Spliggitty Fiber Optic Services

Sportsman & Ski Haus

Flathead Gives Business Matching Sponsors:

Wheaton's Cycle

The Sustainability Fund

Glacier Cyclery

MontaVino Winery

Volunteer funding:

Applied Materials Foundation

IF YOU USE THESE TRAILS, IT'S TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER!

If you're a routine trail-user please consider donating one dollar for each time you have enjoyed your outside time at Herron Park or on Foy's to Blacktail Trails this past year. Your gift supports trail building, stewardship, youth education, signage and way-finding, maps and more! Get involved and support the place you love.



HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU ENJOY FTBT TRAILS THIS YEAR?

WOULD YOU CONSIDER DONATING \$1/DAY?

Become a FTBT Member for as little as \$15 a year and feel great about pitching in! And, even better, please encourage others to get on board when you rock your FTBT membership sticker. All the cool kids do, ya know.

- Options for donation amounts: \$15 Friend, \$45 Family, \$100 Supporter, \$250 Sustainer, \$500 TrailBlazer, and a blank line for other amounts.

DONATE ONLINE AT Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org

Do NOT send me a membership decal

Mail checks and donation form to FTBT, PO Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903 or donate online on the FTBT website via PayPal at Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org. Questions? Contact us at (406)203.3939 or info@Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Did you know we have a volunteer list? Historically, FTBT members have opted-in to receive volunteer emails. The list had 73 people in 2017 and has increased to 117 last year. We have received generous support from the Applied Materials Foundation to ramp up our volunteer efforts and, whether you give financially or not, we would love the support of more volunteers. We have added weed spraying to our list of regular maintenance tasks, and there will be several opportunities to kill some knapweed on most of the FTBT trail system this year (and forever).

Please send us an email at info@foystoblacktailtrails.org if you'd like to receive emails about volunteering. National Trails Day on June 6 and National Public Lands Day on September 26 are two long-standing group volunteer days, and of course, we love support for the Herron Half on June 7 and the FTBT Marathon on September 20. We will keep you updated on opportunities around Kalispell, Somers, and Lakeside, but also other volunteer events around the Flathead Valley.

FTBT aspires to provide a safe and fun working environment and, of course, will provide food at every volunteer day. It's a great way to give back and connect with your community and your land.



Hundreds of pounds of nails have been removed from Emmons' Saddle over the past three years.

NICA COMES TO MONTANA

This was the inaugural year of the Montana Interscholastic Cycling League, and race number two of the season was held on our very own Herron Park trails system this fall. If you happened to visit Herron Park the first weekend in September, you might have noticed a little bit of excitement! Among the stables and throughout the meadow there were professional start and finish race chutes, team pit zones complete with barbecues and lounge chairs, tents, campers, and even a few horses being exercised among the NICA racers - it was true mountain bike racing Montana style!



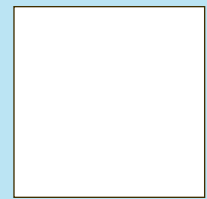
Middle School and High School mountain bike racers attended from around the entire state, with teams from Big Sky, Billings, Bozeman, Butte, the Flathead Valley, Helena, the Bitterroot, and Missoula. In total, Herron Park hosted over 200 male and female youth athletes, in addition to their parents, siblings, friends, and a huge contingent of volunteer coaches. It truly was a fantastic weekend of camping, racing, and getting to know each other. We are looking forward to hosting another race in 2020!



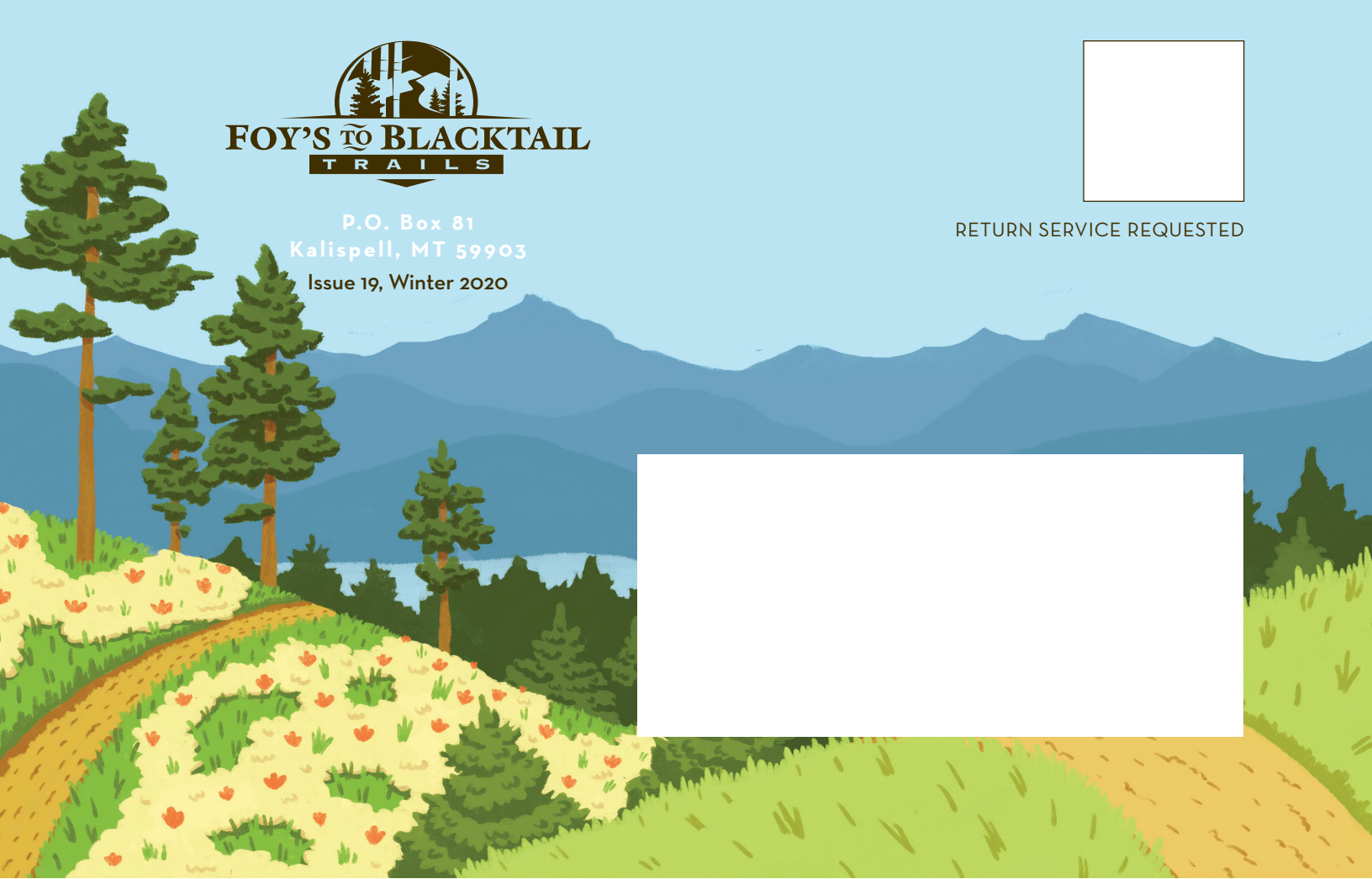
For news and updates stay tuned to Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org and follow us on social media.



P.O. Box 81
Kalispell, MT 59903
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**THANK
YOU
—FOR—
YOUR
SUPPORT!**



2020 FTBT EVENTS

Saturday, June 6

National Trails Day, help maintain trails in the FTBT system.

Sunday, June 7

Herron Half/10k/5k for the 9th Year!
To benefit FTBT.

Sunday, September 20

3rd annual Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon.
Visit ftbtraces.com for details.

Saturday, September 26

National Public Lands Day, roll up your sleeves and volunteer with us!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

To the Flathead County Parks Department for working to continue stewardship of the trails in Herron Park.

To the Flathead National Forest for an enthusiastic partnership to maintain trails on the Island Unit.

To Applied Materials Foundation for supporting ongoing volunteer development

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.

@foystoblacktail #herronpark