



FAQ

How did FTBT start?

Foy's to Blacktail Trails (FTBT) was started in 2001 by a group of people that had been using trails between Herron Park (at that time Herron Park 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 permanently keep access open.

Why is it called Foy's to Blacktail Trails?

Because the namesake trail links the trail system at Herron Park (in the Foy's Lake area) to Blacktail Mountain (on US Forest Service land above Lakeside to the south).

Who uses Herron Park?

Equestrians, hikers, runners, mountain bikers, dog walkers, skiers, snowshoers, families with small children, seniors, athletes, school groups, nature lovers. In short, just about anyone who appreciates getting outside in a beautiful, natural setting just 10 minutes from downtown Kalispell. **Mountain bikers please consider the lower trails (every trail within one-mile of the Herron Park trailhead) to be SLOW zones. Horses, dogs (on leash), families, and kids should be expected.**

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 development. 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 if the 320 acres had been sold, public access to vast forest lands south of Herron Park would have ended.

What is the Foy's Community Forest?

Within Herron Park's 440 acres is the 220-acre USFS-funded Foy's Community Forest. This must remain a working forest where timber is harvested using best-management practices, and both children and adults will learn from forestry professionals about forest stewardship, forestry science, and small-acreage timber management including fire prevention and disease control. Society of American Foresters completed a ~1 mile Nature Loop on the lower Family Trail identifying (via permanent placards) tree and shrub species, their characteristics and uses.

What is the John Chase Forest? Is it part of Herron Park?

John Chase's 160 acres of forested land is private and not part of Herron Park. Mr. Chase placed a permanent conservation easement on it that includes a public trail corridor for the Foy's To Blacktail Trail. Mr. Chase generously welcomes non-motorized recreation on his property. FTBT and its partner, Montana Conservation Corps, built and help maintain the public trail through his property.

Who owns Herron Park and The Foy's to Blacktail Trail?

Flathead County owns Herron Park and the Flathead County Parks Department manages it. Nonprofit partner FTBT assists with trail building and maintenance; FTBT also produces maps, signage, and educational materials to enhance trail user experience. Nonprofit partner Herron Park Equestrians built and helps manage the equestrian facilities at the park. Southwest of Herron Park, beginning at the Chase Overlook, the Foy's to Blacktail Trail passes through 8 miles of private land before connecting with USFS land near Emmons Saddle. The six private landowners granted a 15-foot wide permanent trail easement to Flathead County.

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

YES! As of August 2017 the Foy's to Blacktail Trail is finished! The Trail to Blacktail follows the ridgeline south from the Chase Overlook. From this Overlook it is: 5.6 miles to the Hiker's Shelter, 7.7 miles to the FS Road 2991 trailhead at Emmons Saddle, 11.9 miles to the intersection with the Lakeside to Blacktail (LTB) Trail and 13.6 miles to the top of Blacktail Mountain. The LTB Trail is 3.9 miles long, and that trailhead is 5 miles up the Blacktail Road from Lakeside.

Are maps of the trails available?

Yes, we offer maps of Herron Park trails and the Chase trail on our website. Hardcopies of this map are available at the kiosk at the Herron Park parking lot, as well as Rocky Mountain Outfitter, the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, and Wheaton's. Please donate \$1 per map.

Are e-bikes allowed on the trails?

No, e-bikes are considered motorized and all trails in the Foy's to Blacktail system are designated non-motorized.

How does FTBT use donations?

To date, FTBT has built 34 miles of non-motorized trail throughout Herron Park, the Chase property, and along the FTB corridor. FTBT uses donated funds to help build and maintain trails, and create maps and signage throughout the entire system. We are a volunteer-driven organization with just one part-time paid Coordinator. Become a member for just \$15 a year. You'll receive a Member decal and our newsletters. We also send out infrequent e-mails (less than 10 per year) to update you on benefit events such as the annual Herron Half-10k-5k run in the spring and the Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon in the fall. Membership helps you stay informed on events and opportunities pertinent to the trails.

How can I get more information?

Visit FoystoBlacktailTrails.org, find us on Facebook, call 406-203-3939 or e-mail info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org with any questions or comments. We welcome your input!