



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

FROM THE BOARD:

Dear FTBT Supporters and Enthusiasts,

In 2018 we accomplished so much behind the scenes and on the ground. The winter of 2017-2018 produced so much snow and wind that literally every trail needed clearing in the Foy's to Blacktail system. As spring transitioned into summer, we helped neighbors spray weeds on their land adjacent to Herron Park, erected the hiker's shelter, built a new trail down to Emmon's Spring (potable water along the trail!) and conducted numerous trailhead cleanup efforts. By August, we installed new signs along the Foy's to Blacktail Trail and printed new trail maps for display at the kiosk and local businesses.

From his work all summer and into the fall, special thanks go out to Dick Lauer for his work parking cars at events, staining picnic tables around the park, and numerous trailhead cleanup efforts. And thanks to our many volunteers that pitched in every step of the way!

This summer, we will grade the parking area and install a pit toilet at Emmon's Saddle along Patrick Creek Road. This trailhead was immensely popular during the 2017-2018 seasons, so FTBT is working with the Forest Service to make improvements there. We are very hopeful that construction of an additional 5.5 miles of trail will occur during the 2020 work season.

Other improvements include updated kiosk maps at Herron Park, permanent signs along the Nature Loop walking tour, and a glacier interpretive educational sign to be installed at an overlook above Foy's Lake. Maintenance will occur on Forest Service land along the Lakeside to Blacktail and Foy's to Blacktail trails.

--FTBT Board of Directors



The hiker's shelter was built in just one day!

HERRON PARK EQUESTRIANS

Herron Park Equestrians (formerly Flathead Combined Training) is a group of horse enthusiasts that promote eventing, dressage, working equitation (obstacles) and show jumping. We host several equestrian shows at Herron Park including mini-events; similar to The Event at Rebecca Farm, but on a smaller scale. Our shows are low key and fun, even for beginners.

Since 1979, HPE has been a leader in developing and supporting Herron Park by building the barns, jumps, dressage arenas and putting in the well. We also help with weeding, clipping, and gopher control.

As a volunteer organization, we rely on sponsorships, donations, memberships, show fees, and volunteers. Keeping the park alive and functioning depends on all of us who care about its longevity.

Contact us if you would like to get involved!
www.herronparkeq.org

THE FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAIL WAS COMPLETED IN 2017, SO WE'RE DONE, RIGHT? NOT EVEN CLOSE!

Painting a picture of the FTBT system, there are 34 miles of trail that extend from Herron Park near Kalispell south to Blacktail Mountain, including 600 acres of park land, and 5 trailheads.

During the expansion of Herron Park from 2013-2014, 110 acres were added as part of the Foy's Community Forest grant. The Family and Notch trails were built, and plant identification signs were erected along the Nature Loop. As part of the goals of the Community Forest grant program, we provide ongoing education and outreach efforts, along with forest management.

Foy's to Blacktail Trails is the stewardship partner to Flathead County, who is the land manager of Herron County Park. We also have agreements with the Chase family, Weyerhaeuser and other private landowners along the FTBT route, and the Flathead National Forest to perform ongoing maintenance through these trail corridors.

We're also involved with ongoing work for the Foy's Community Forest. An additional pavilion and teacher's circle along the Nature Loop, coupled with ADA access would open this area up to school group field trips. Forest thinning occurred near the current pavilion in the

1990s which allowed grasses, shrubs, wildflowers, and diverse tree species to develop. Thinning in the John Chase Forest five years ago is one of the reasons for the wildflower explosion on that trail each spring. Similar thinning along the Family and Notch trails would create a healthier forest and provide fuels reduction in our at-risk wildfire environment.

Part of our mission has been accomplished, and now we are putting your membership dollars to work for long-term maintenance so these trails will be in good shape for our children's grandchildren.

We appreciate all the support we've received over the years and look forward to serving the people of Flathead County and beyond. Use of all trails in the valley has increased, and every organization does its part to provide a high quality experience on pavement, dirt, in the snow, and on the water. Our goal is to sign up 500 new members in 2019. Become a FTBT member today!

UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

For More Details and Updates Visit FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

May 2-3 A day of giving at Kalispell Center Mall. Come out to see more than 50 Flathead non-profits. Become a new member or renew your membership during this event and stretch your donation dollars. Flatheadgiving.org

May 11 Family Forestry Expo at Trumbull Creek Educational Forest

May 18 Spring Into Safety at the Flathead County Fairgrounds Expo Building

May 19 Flathead Area Mountain Bikers (FAMB) Youth Mountain Bike Skills Clinic

June 1 National Trails Day, help build and maintain trails in the FTBT system

June 9 Herron Half/10k/5k, 8th year! To benefit FTBT. Visit ftbtraces.com for details.

June 22 Herron Park Equestrians (HPE) Mini-Event and Working Equitation Show

July 20 HPE Derby and Open Dressage Show

August 17-18 24 Hours of Flathead

August TBDHPE Evening of Jumping

August 25 FAMB Youth Skills Clinic at Herron Park

September 22 Foy's to Blacktail Trail Marathon. Visit ftbtraces.com for details

September 28 National Public Lands Day

September TBD HPE Mini Event

October 6 FAMB Youth Skills Clinic at Herron Park

Horse events and maintenance of jumps in the meadow are sponsored by Herron Park Equestrians (HPE). Check them out at www.herronparkeq.org and their Facebook page.

New members welcome! Spectating at events is always free.



Join Foy's to Blacktail Trails Today

Your gift supports trail building, stewardship, nature education, signage, maps, & more.

Support the place you love.

Become a FTBT Member for as little as \$15 a year (and receive a membership decal).

- \$15 Friend
- \$45 Family
- \$100 Supporter
- \$250 Sustainer
- \$500 TrailBlazer
- \$_____ 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

Do NOT send me a membership decal

Make checks payable to **Foy's to Blacktail Trails** & include this form with your donation.

Mail checks to **FTBT, P.O. Box 81, Kalispell, MT 59903**, or donate online at FoystoBlacktailTrails.org

Contact **406.203.3939** or info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org



New trail signs to tell you which direction you're heading!

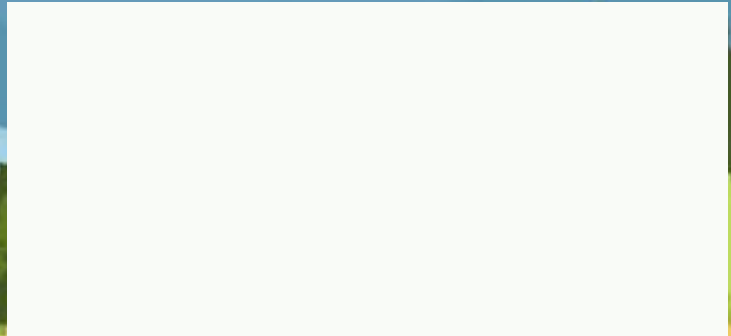


P.O. Box 81
Kalispell, MT 59903

Issue 17, Spring 2019

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
KALISPELL, MT
PERMIT NO. 87

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**THANK
YOU
—FOR—
YOUR
SUPPORT!**



FLATHEAD GIVES MAY 2-3

A day of giving at Kalispell Center Mall.

Come out to see more than 50 Flathead non-profits. Become a new member or renew your membership during this event and stretch your donation dollars. Flatheadgiving.org

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 for supporting FTBT's 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