

FoysToBlacktailTrails.org

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- **National Trails Day update**
Huge thanks to our amazing volunteers for braving the rain. Check out their good work.
- **Tips & Reminders for Shared Use**
More people on the trails means more reminders about playing nice.
- **Outside Kind, Trail Courtesy Campaign**
Local trail nonprofits unite in messaging.
- **WARNING! FishSquatch Season Nears**
We expect to see FishSquatch again this summer during migration in August and September.
- **Emmons Ridge Trail**
Work resumes. New trail coming soon!





NATIONAL TRAILS DAY THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

The first Saturday in June is the traditional date for National Trails Day each year. Nationally, 2022 marked the 30th event and FTBT has been observing National Trails Day for 15 of those years! While many organizations do guided hikes, presentations, and music festivals, at Herron Park we WORK. Last year, 274 miles of trail improvements were made in the United States on NTD. That translates to a volunteer value of nearly \$100,000 in just one day!

Here's our recipe for getting trail work done, with a side of good times in the great outdoors:

- Plan ahead. Lone Pine State Park, Americorps, Kalispell Daybreak Rotary, and Montana Conservation Corps start project planning in the spring about work needed, volunteer numbers, and a tool count for each project.
- Start early. Cool weather in the morning sure beats working in the hot sun.
- Be safe. We provide a safety talk about the day's conditions, proper tool use, and who's the go-to person for emergencies. Safety first!
- Feed the people. You can't ask folks to volunteer for manual labor and then not feed them. Plus, it's a great way to socialize and meet fellow trail-lovers. Thanks to Lone Pine State Park for the use of the pavilion for our BBQ!
- Thank you swag! Local businesses generously support our trails and volunteer work by giving away shirts, stickers, and other cool stuff like tools, Glacier National Park passes, and local rentals. A small way to say thanks.

Thanks to everyone that made this year's NTD a success! Sign up for volunteer news on our website and mark your calendar for Saturday, September 24 for National Public Lands Day so we can get our trails winter ready.



TRAIL ETIQUETTE TIPS & REMINDERS

Will summer ever get here? We are ready for some sunshine and dry trails! Thank you in advance for your kindness and patience with others – let's be safe and courteous on our shared Montana trails. And really, this is good advice for newcomers and long-time locals. It's not about rules or who was here first. It's just good manners, folks.

ADVICE FROM HORSE RIDERS

Herron Park Equestrians now hosts bi-weekly trail rides in Herron Park. They meet at the stable area Sundays and Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. Lindsay Abernethy is leading this effort and encourages other riders to join her.

"If even one person joins me each time, it will have been worth it," Lindsay said.

Lindsay added that most horses don't leave their home properties more than a handful of times in a year. Factor in more people, dogs, bikes, and a new environment; it can be very intimidating for a horse. But after a few repeat rides, most animals will gain more confidence in the multi-user trail environment.

"We're excited to see more horses on the trails. More exposure to different user groups gives us all practice with trail courtesy," said Lindsay.



ADVICE FOR FOLKS ON FOOT

While we haven't had the warmest of springs, the flowers don't seem to mind. Herron Park is a goldmine for wildflower viewing. Each year the balsam root, Oregon grape, glacier lilies, and indian paintbrush show us a full pallet of colors, textures, and platforms for their pollinating friends. Try taking your best photo; it will last a lot longer than picking them to take home. Wildflowers only bloom for a short time, so preserve them as art on your wall and leave the real thing to be enjoyed by the bees (and your trail-loving friends).



ADVICE FOR FOLKS ON WHEELS

Are e-bikes allowed? Sorry, no. All classes of e-bikes have motors and all trails in the FTBT system are currently designated as non-motorized. The Flathead National Forest, Flathead County Parks and the private land segment for the Chase and Foy's to Blacktail Trail have clear rules about non-motorized use. Foy's to Blacktail Trails is not a governing body; our job is to respect and support the current policies in place. We ask that all users do the same.

E-bikes are a hot topic right now, and it is a current discussion being had with all land management agencies and landholders. Please be patient and respectful! Watch for a more in-depth article on this subject is coming soon.



It's best to travel as a group with other riders. Horses feel safest in a herd, some may panic if they feel deserted and you can help others in a pinch.

It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of the country best, since you have to sweat up them and coast down them. 🌿 Ernest Hemingway



OUTSIDE KIND TRAIL COURTESY CAMPAIGN

In May, Flathead Valley organizations and agencies that manage multi-use trails launched a new trail user courtesy campaign called Outside Kind Flathead. The campaign promotes responsible recreation by encouraging trail users to treat each other with kindness and courtesy, share the trail with all users, and respect wildlife and natural resources.

Our local trail networks are growing, and more folks are enjoying them. It's something to celebrate – more people enjoying the outdoors, getting outside staying fit on the trails, and connecting kids to nature. And as more people enjoy the trails, an emphasis on courtesy and kindness seems relevant.

The Outside Kind Flathead campaign is comprised of user-group messaging, so that no matter how folks like to

enjoy our local trails, they can do it with kindness. Targeted user-groups include: hikers, dog walkers, bikers, equestrians, trail runners and skiers. It would be fantastic if all users know how to be courteous, aware, safe, inclusive, and to practice leave-no-trace.

Outside Kind Flathead is a partnership between Whitefish Legacy Partners, Foys to Blacktail Trails, Gateway to Glacier Trails, Rails to Trails Northwest Montana, Flathead Area Mountain Bikers, Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, Flathead National Forest, and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

Learn more online at
outsidekind.org/flathead



**No matter how you enjoy our local trails,
do it with kindness.**

Being Outside Kind means treating each other with kindness and courtesy, sharing the trail with all users, and respecting wildlife and our natural resources.





TRAIL SUPERSTAR MEET BRIAN ROLAND

FTBT now has two employees! Brian Roland has joined Gabe as the new Project Coordinator and he'll be out on the trails all summer long. Brian's highlight reel includes more than 13 years working trails in Glacier National Park, design and construction of the Goat Lick Overlook trail, and construction of a section of the Whitefish Trail near Reservoir Road.



Brian Roland & family

It's going to be a busy summer and we are looking forward to Brian's help with trail maintenance, weed spraying, managing a Montana Conservation Corps Youth Crew, and construction of the new trail.



Welcome to the FTBT team, Brian!



TRAIL WARNING FISHSQUATCH SEASON NEARS

Many of you may remember sightings of a strange fish creature last year in Herron Park and around Kalispell. It even appeared for a radio interview during the Great Fish Challenge to raise money for Flathead Valley nonprofits.



After conferring with local wildlife experts, we've learned there are more of these creatures out there. The FishSquatch has other aquatic relatives and there have been sightings by air, bicycle, and car.

Word on the street is FishSquatch will be migrating through Montana in August and September.

If you encounter a FishSquatch, local authorities ask that you document it by taking pictures and video. These creatures are as curious about us as we are of them. They thrive on generosity, kindness, and laughter. Humans approached by FishSquatch may receive a treat for either their dog or for smaller humans, so welcome them to our home.



EMMONS SADDLE NEW TRAIL COMING SOON!

FTBT is proud to announce that we received full funding for the Emmons Ridge Trail. It took a little bit of this, a little bit of that, and some great partners to make to make it happen.

Four major sources of income will fund the construction and maintenance of this trail for the next five years. Here's how it all penciled out. As you can see, building new trail and taking care of it is not cheap! In addition to these grant dollars, we have our donors to thank. Grants almost always require "matching funds" from our own bank account, which is how we use your donations. As we expand the FTBT trail system, your continued support helps keeps the momentum going.

RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	\$12,000
MT TRAIL STEWARDSHIP GRANT	\$40,392
RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT.....	\$71,560
GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT	\$15,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$138,952

Before any dirt gets moved, there is also a ton of behind-the-scenes project planning required – trails committee members, Forestation, and crews from Montana Conservation Corps and Worman Forest Management have spent hundreds of hours scouting, planning, designing, flagging, and clearing the route.

While 5.5 miles of new trail may not sound like much, it took six full days in the field, sometimes armpit deep in dead fall or crawling through thick sapling stands to plan and stake out the trail corridor. Many times we had to backtrack and set the flag line again to end up in the best spot. Why do we do this? Because sustainable trail routing requires less maintenance and because we want to find some fun lines! This addition offers up great views of the surrounding area (the trail is at 5,800 feet above sea level) near Blacktail Mountain.



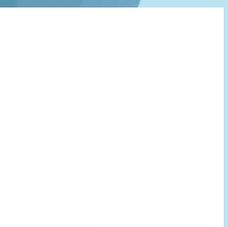
Left to right: How it started. How it's going.

After all the paperwork was completed, we aggressively moved forward with the project last fall. The mild weather in November was great for our clearing crew to get a jump start on the first mile of corridor. We should be back at it in July, barring any major weather.

FTBT has enough cash to match these grants entirely because of your generosity and donations. Your continued support will sustain these trails for generations. Thank you so much!



FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS



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