2016 Pierce County Trails Conference

by Dr. Jane Moore, Executive Director, ForeverGreen Trails

ForeverGreen Trails hosted the 2016 Pierce County Trails Conference on September 29 at the University of Washington Tacoma. It was a good location with easy access by the Tacoma Link Light Rail and Pierce Transit buses. Conference activities kicked off with a walk on the Prairie Line Trail through UWT led by Milt Tremblay, Director of Planning & Sustainability for UWT.

The opening speaker was Derek Young, Member of the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health and Pierce County Council Member from District 7. He spoke about connections between trails, health, and equity. Mr. Young mentioned the recent yellow postcard campaign. ForeverGreen Trails printed bright yellow postcards that they distributed to be signed by trail users in support of the proposed park impact fee increase. Signed cards were sent to the County Council. This is one method of increasing the voice of the public who might not otherwise be heard. Providing a voice in public decisions is important to achieving equity.

As always, the updates panel provided interesting information. Tony Tipton, Pierce County Parks, advised that the Foothills Trail from South Prairie to Buckley should be completed by the end of 2017. Dana King County received a grant from Washington Wildlife Recreation Coalition & the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office this year for construction of a bridge over the White River to connect the trail from Buckley to Enumclaw possibly in 2018. This will complete the core of the Foothills Trail.

Now all we need are connections of the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail and the Sumner Link Trail to the Foothills Trail, the Interurban Trail to Sumner, the Foothills Trail to the Carbon River entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, Tacoma to the Puyallup River going upstream on the Puyallup River, the Tacoma Water Pipeline Trail from

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President’s Message

BY BUZZ GRANT, COALITION PRESIDENT

It has been a good year for the Coalition. Construction on a section of the Foothills Trail from the 2016 year end of the trail at Fitzger’s Mill (Originally the mill of Valley Mill Company which some people call by the old name of the “Junk Yard” now all cleaned up) to 168th Street East. This construction will be discussed in this newsletter by Theresa Turpin of Pierce County Parks and Recreation. In later 2017 the trail will be completed from the Coalition Bridge over South Prairie Creek to a bridge on the west side of the trailer park to connect with the trail that ends behind the fire station in the Town of South Prairie. When this construction is completed we will have a trail from Puyallup through Orting and South Prairie to Buckley.

Photo by Hugh Moore.

Agency panel: L to R - Dana Brown, City of Tacoma; Sarah Harris, Puyallup Parks; Alan Carter Mortimer, Washington Trails Association; Tony Tipton, Pierce County Parks; moderator at podium Lyle Quasim, ForeverGreen Trails board.

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Notice of Annual Meeting & Dinner

The annual meeting and dinner for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at High Cedars Golf Course in Orting.

The doors will open at 6:00 pm for registration and socializing with dinner served promptly at 6:30 pm. Following dinner, there will be a brief business meeting to update the membership on upcoming events, past year’s accomplishments and voting for board of directors. Everything should wrap up about 8:00 pm.

Directors serve a period of three years, and each year five members are up for election. In accordance with by laws, a member of the Coalition may be considered as an eligible candidate for Director by submitting a petition of nomination to the Board of Directors not less than 21 days before the Annual Meeting. Such petition must include the valid signatures of 10 Coalition members or 10 percent of the Coalition membership, whichever is less.

The candidates seeking consideration for the five open Director positions are listed below:

Brian Bowden  Don Rich,  Open Position
Dave Seago  Ken Woolery

Please RSVP no later than January 19th to Bill Hilton at Billhlt@aol.com or (253) 302-1104. In order to make sure we have enough meals to serve everyone and not pay for more meals than necessary, pre-registration is important. All those that register on or before the January 19th will be entered into a drawing for a prize.

The cost of the dinner is $20 and money will be collected at the door. Like last year, there will be a no host bar and this should be another fun evening with many fun elements and a few chances to win a contest or two.
Super News! It’s going to happen! After a quarter of a century we are on track to complete the Foothills Trail connection from Buckley to South Prairie in 2018. This will complete the spine of the Foothills Trail within Pierce County. Phase 2, starting south of Buckley, is currently under construction and will be completed in 2017. A shoreline hearing for Phase 2 will be held in South Prairie on December 6th at 7:00 pm.

Approval of the increase of the Pierce County Park Impact incrementally to $2552 by July 2018 will yield an estimated $51m over the next 15 years. Liz Kaster, Manager, Puyallup Watershed Initiative, Active Transportation Community of Interest (PWI-AT COI) stated, “The County Council today passed R2016-51s in a 6-1 vote which allows Pierce County to collect a one-time impact fee from a builder when new homes or apartments are constructed. This fee assures that new development pays a greater share of the cost of new park facilities necessary to meet the demands of new residents for public parks, open space and trail facilities in Pierce County.” The passing of this ordinance comes after a year of collaboration with private industry, parks and recreation organizations, the community and Pierce County staff to develop an agreed-upon proposal that would set an acceptable fee structure for all affected parties. The current impact fee structure had not been studied or updated since 1996.” (See Pierce County press release in this issue of the Trail Line News)

The Russell Family Foundation awards full funding to the PWI-AT-COI: The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition will add our share of the funding received to our Opportunity Fund. This fund has been pledged as a match for the further extension of the Foothills Trail from Buckley, across a new White River Bridge, to connect with the Foothills Trail in Enumclaw.

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Networking for Trails

An Update on Julia’s Gulch
by Heather Halabisky, Coalition Member

Julia’s Gulch was a 40 acre gravel pit before it was acquired by the City of Tacoma to buffer noise between the Port of Tacoma and a residential area. Since then a group of five volunteers along with their neighbors and friends have made a big dent in ridding Julia’s Gulch of the Himalayan Blackberry and other invasive species that over the years had completely engulfed the Gulch to a height of 10 to 12 feet. We realize removal of invasive species is an ongoing task so in the meantime, with the help of the Washington Conservation Corps, energetic volunteers have constructed a loop trail that takes one down into the Gulch and back up to the parking lot - about a half mile stretch starting at View Park. This makes for a beautiful walk through a Big Leaf Maple Forest where we have brought in Madrona’s, Douglas firs, red cedars and others.

Sadly we have been robbed twice of our tools and water pump. This is an ongoing problem even though Metro Parks has provided a state of the art job box to keep on site. We meet on the second Saturday of each month and work from 9am until noon. To learn more about Julia’s Gulch or if you would care to volunteer please visit our website at http://www.juliasgulch.org/.

Washington State Fair Bicycle Drawing Winners Announced!
by Ken Woolery, Board Member

This year’s two bicycle winners were drawn at the September 26th meeting of the “Friends of the Riverwalk” by Bob Kastama. The two bicycles donated by Bonney Lake Bicycle Shop of Sumner and South Hill were won by: Leah Haugen of Bonney Lake and Joanna Gough of Tacoma (her son received this bike for his birthday).

The bicycles were presented to the winners at the Bonney Lake Bicycle’s shop located on South Hill. The Foothills Trails Coalition’s delegation consisted of Ken Woolery, Fair Committee Chairman, Buzz Grant, Coalition President and Stuart Scheuerman Coalition Secretary.

This year’s fair was a week longer than previous years. We owe a great big thanks to all those who volunteered at the booth. We gave out trail & bike maps for Pierce, King, and Thurston Counties as well as trail specific maps & brochures for the Foothills Trails, Puyallup Riverwalk, and Sumner Link Trail. A total of over 5,600 maps and brochures were given out, drawing a lot of interest from visitors.

Next year we will try to add several more county bike/trail maps with a new look at the booth. See you at the fair in 2017!
A new mural brightens the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail

by Bill Hilton, Editor.

A new mural, which includes a tribute to Dr. Ernie Bay, is now available to view at the east end of the Riverwalk Trail in Puyallup. The mural is located on a wall underneath the Linden Avenue Overpass along the trail just behind Mama Stortini’s. Mr. Jeremy DeAnda brought the idea forward to the city of Puyallup and Friends of the Riverwalk who helped fund the project.

In fact, it was DeAnda and friends who designed and painted the mural which has caught the attention of a number of trail users. The purpose of this new mural – I think Jeremy said it best, “Thank you guys for all of your help with this project to brighten our beautiful city.” Photos below provided by Jeremy DeAnda.
Visions of the Foothills Trail

BY BOB ROWAN, EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Many of you who are acquainted with the Foothills Trail are aware of its varied beauty. I have been provided the opportunity to make some of that available to our readers every issue. Each issue from this one forward will share one of the many visual gems available to view if you are in the right place at the right time.

Having been a professional photographer for 50 years, I have traveled throughout the United States and Canada extensively. One of the concepts I learned is that beautiful photographs can be found very close to home...if you are really aware of your environment. It is my goal to share some of the photographs and locations that I have been fortunate to make over the 10 years that I’ve been photographing our Foothills Trail. I hope you enjoy them. If you have questions or comments, please send them to Bill Hilton, Editor at ftceditor@gmail.

Trail Conference Continued from Page 1

Brown, City of Tacoma, reported that they have received grant funding to complete the Pipeline Trail from the Tacoma Dome area to Swan Creek Park. Susan Harris, Puyallup Parks, discussed plans in Puyallup including the Ernie Bay Connector in Van Lierop Park. Finally, Alan Carter Mortimer from Washington Trails Association talked about the huge amount of trail maintenance done by WTA volunteers including work at Swan Creek Park in Tacoma and Pierce County.

President Chris Beale gave a report on ForeverGreen Trails accomplishments in the past year and plans for the coming year. ForeverGreen Trails participated in the park impact fee working group, has developed a trail steward tool kit for local governments, continued work on a preliminary alignment study of a Puyallup to Tacoma trail, and conducted Speak Up for Trails trainings. In the coming year, plans include additional Speak Up for Trails trainings, beginning implementation of a Trails Community award program, and hosting the Pierce County Trails Conference.

Finally, Executive Director Jane Moore presented the annual trail awards. Outstanding project award went to the Point Ruston Waterwalk. Outstanding non-governmental organization was awarded to Evergreen Mountain Biking Alliance for their work in Swan Creek Park. Finally, the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Barbara Skinner, a founding member of ForeverGreen Trails and long-time supporter of trails.
Pierce County Council passes Park Impact Fees

Press Release - Pierce County
November 8, 2016

The County Council today passed R2016-51s in a 6-1 vote which allows Pierce County to collect a one-time impact fee from a builder when new homes or apartments are constructed. This fee assures that new development pays a greater share of the cost of new park facilities necessary to meet the demands of new residents for public parks, open space and trail facilities in the County.

The passing of this ordinance comes after a year of collaboration with private industry, parks and recreation organizations, the community and County staff to develop an agreed-upon proposal that would set an acceptable fee structure for all affected parties. The current impact fee structure had not been studied or updated since 1996.

According to the ordinance, park impact fees will be collected with the following fee structure in place;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Type</th>
<th>Impact Fee Obligation</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Dwelling Unit</td>
<td>$1,107.46</td>
<td>05/01/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Dwelling Unit</td>
<td>$1,829.92</td>
<td>01/01/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Dwelling Unit</td>
<td>$2,552.39</td>
<td>07/01/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Impact fees do not pay for the operation or maintenance of park and recreation facilities, and only contribute to the construction of a new facility.

“The park impact fee ordinance passed by the Council today will help to provide the necessary capital investment needed to ensure our parks and recreation facilities meet the demand of a growing Pierce County population,” said Tony Tipton, Pierce County Parks and Recreation Director.

Park impact fees are estimated to generate $51 million dollars over the next fifteen years with 30 percent of the proceeds going to new parks sites, 32 percent of the proceeds intended for improvements at existing County parks and 38 percent of the proceeds to be used to extend the County system of multi-use trails.

Erin Babbo, Communications Specialist, 253-798-6248   ebabbo@co.pierce.wa.us

“Solitude is as needful to the imagination as society is wholesome for the character.”
- James Russell Lowell,
US poet, essayist, and diplomat, 1819-91
How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?

by John Selby, Board Member

Here’s your chance to win a free membership renewal in the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. If you can describe the location of the photo to the right before anyone else does, you will win a one-year individual membership renewal. (Sorry, board members are excluded.) The photo in the September issue was of the Foothills Trail along South Prairie Creek between Arline Road and Keating Road where the trail rejoins the river on the way toward Orting. Donna Hogerhuis knew where this is. Congratulations, Donna! You know your Pierce County trails!

Let’s see how well our members do on this easy one. Please respond to JohnSelby16@gmail.com with your answer to “How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?” Good luck! The winner will be announced in the next issue.

If you don’t know your Pierce County trails well enough to guess, then get out there and explore them! You are missing out!

Well there was the good news, now for the bad news.

Donna Tait, wife of the late Dr. Douglas Tait, father of the Foothills Trail, passed away peacefully on November 7, 2016. Donna and Doug met because of Doug’s work on setting up the concept of the Foothills Trail and Donna was an attorney with the law firm of Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell in Tacoma. Donna was the lead attorney in a major court case that went before the U. S. Supreme Court against Mary Harris which essentially broke the back of Citizens Against the Trail. Basically their love affair was the first love affair created by the Foothills Trail. Donna had ailments the last few years and was not able to attend functions but was always hungry for information on how the trail was progressing.

Please give remembrances to the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition’s DOC TAIT MEMORIAL FUND at http://www.piercecountytrails.org/doug-doc-tait-memorial-campaign/ to construct a memorial to both of them in Doug’s home town, of Buckley, the starting point of the Foothills.

Hope you have a great Christmas and a Great New Year.
The following is a construction update for the Foothills National Recreation Trail for sections Phase 2 and Phase 3, see the map below for Phase 2 and Phase 3 locations shown in red. In spite of 2016 being one of the wettest Octobers on record, construction has progressed on Phase 2 of the Foothills Trail. Phase 2 construction starts at the end of the paved Foothills Trail southwest of the City of Buckley to the intersection of the trail with 268th Street just above South Prairie. When completed, Phase 2 of the trail will have 2,850 linear feet of pin-pile bridges. Using pin-piles avoids directly impacting wetland areas. The pin-pile material has arrived and is being installed on the trail and is shown in the picture below.

As stated previously, the use of pin-piles avoids direct impacts to most of the wetland areas. The project includes wetland mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts. The wetland mitigation area is being graded and prepared for planting. The mitigation area is alongside the upper portion of the trail. Logs and other items that were removed for the trail will be recycled on site and used for habitat restoration along the mitigation site.

At the lower end of the site, by 268th Street, the wall has been installed along with a bridge over the small intermittent creek. The contractor also took the time to arrange larger rocks found on the site along the creek and above ordinary high water line.
Memberships/Donations

The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is a non-profit organization with a mission to assist Pierce County communities in the creation, maintenance, and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mount Rainer to Puget Sound. The following people and organizations have renewed their memberships or made a donation in the last quarter.

2016 New members:

Anytime Fitness
Anderson, Jim
Barrett, Margaret
Carrieri, Brenda
Curtis, John
Hefner, Frank & Teresa
Hilding, John
Jordon, Davis & Diane
Lavell, Paul
Phelps, Shawn

Shadko, Heather
Takoro, Timothy
White, Jonathan

Renewals: August - October 2016

Coblio, Nicholas & Teri
Johnston, Sondra
Livingston, TJ
Mandy, John & Jean
Volland, Larry & Barbara

To succeed, you need to find something to hold on to, something to motivate you, something to inspire you.

Tony Dorsett
Planning a trail vacation?

Rambletown
http://rambletown.appspot.com/
is an excellent website that features geocoded trail information in their GoogleMaps.

The Rails-To-Trails Conservancy has also been mapping trails nationwide on their trail finder site at http://www.traillink.com featuring detailed trail information, guidebook descriptions and trail reviews.

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FOOTHILLS TRAIL CONSTRUCTION
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Phase 2 will add approximately 1.3 miles of paving to the existing trail. It is an active construction site and the trail is currently closed. It is anticipated the trail will be completed in the summer of 2017.

Meanwhile, in the valley below, there has been progress with Phase 3 of the trail. Phase 3 is the section from the current end of the paved trail in South Prairie east to the Coalition Bridge. This work doesn’t show obvious signs of progress, but it does provide the groundwork for the construction phase (sorry about the pun). All required right of way has been obtained and permits have been submitted for the work in both South Prairie and unincorporated Pierce County.

As part of the permitting, the planned paving adjacent to the coalition bridge requires a shoreline substantial development permit. A shoreline substantial development hearing will be on Wednesday December 14, 2016 at 9am at the Pierce County Annex. Public notice is being provided on the work in South Prairie. The trail portion in South Prairie requires a small section of pin-pile bridge, approximately 135 linear feet, on the east side of the South Prairie Creek. This pin-pile bridge avoids adding fill to the flood plain.

Phase 3 will add approximately 1.0 miles of new trail section. It is anticipated the trail will be completed in the fall of 2017.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The new president has promised “trillions of dollars for transportation and infrastructure.” Please sign the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy petition urging the president to make sure trails, walking and biking are key parts of transportation investments. Trails are transportation. Wise investments in active transportation networks help create healthier, more connected communities, create more transportation choices and help boost the local economy. Link to petition: http://www.railstotrails.org.
Calendar of Events

Meetings:

Monthly Board Meetings:
Open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Thursday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Heritage Quest Research Library located at 1007 Main St., Sumner. Monthly meetings may be rescheduled, so check our website at www.piercecountytrails.org for changes.

Friends of the Riverwalk Committee:
We are an informal group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of the Puyallup Riverwalk. Please join us for most Monday mornings* at 8 a.m. at Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant, 701 East Main, Puyallup. We also have a group walk that starts at 9 a.m. following the meeting and is open to those who would like to join us. *Call prior to confirm in case of cancellation. Bill Hilton (253) 302-1104, billhltn@aol.com, or Janet Rich, dcnjlrich@msn.com, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447.

Charlie Chat - Weekly Luncheon:
Informal luncheons every Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. at Charlie’s Restaurant, 113 East Main, Puyallup. All are welcome to come and share what they have been doing to promote the mission of the Coalition. No business is conducted even if a quorum of members is present.
Membership makes a difference!

The work we are doing is made possible because of your membership and generous support. Credit cards accepted.

- $20 Single
- $30 Family
- $50 Pathfinder
- $100 Trail Builder
- $200 Corporate (Includes a 1 year ad in the Trail Line News)
- Please email my newsletter to ____________________________

The Mission of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is to assist Pierce County government and communities in the creation, maintenance and usage of a connected system of non-motorized trails for healthier people from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound.

Pay online using Pay Pal  http://www.piercecountytrails.org/become-a-member/

Charge my □ Visa  □ Mastercard  □ Other
No: __________________________  Exp.________
Name: ____________________________________
Address: __________________________________
City: __________________________ Zip:_________
Phone:___________________ Signature:_________________
Email: ____________________________________
Support your local trails by linking your Rewards Card online by visiting www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards