We have finally completed the core portion of the Foothills Trail! There are still branches to complete to Wilkeson, Carbonado and Mount Rainier, connection to the Riverwalk and Sumner Link Trails and also the future Pipeline Trail on the City of Tacoma-McMillin water pipeline. In other words, we are on our way to completing the Tahoma to Tacoma Trail system.

I am elated that the Town of South Prairie to the City of Buckley paving has concluded and on December 2 the trail was reopened. This completion is truly a momentous occasion!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
The annual meeting and dinner for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition will be held on Thursday, January 25, 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 of our 15 directors are up for election. In accordance with bylaws, 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:

Steve Brown, Dixie Gatchel, Loras Gassmann, Jeremiah Meacham, Don Partington, Stuart Scheurman

Please RSVP no later than January 19th to Bill Hilton at Billhltn@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, including a silent auction and a few chances to win a contest or two.
Visions of the Foothills Trail - The Puyallup River

by Bob Rowan, Editorial Advisory Board Member

Photos by Bob Rowan

“OH, the Places You’ll Go!” Dr. Seuss. Fishing, walking, biking, skating, birding, kayaking, swimming. They’re all here, along with 2 of Western Washington’s most prolific gifts; the Puyallup River and the Foothills Trail.

The Puyallup River is one of the great amenities that Pierce County has to share. It is about 45 miles in length and was formed by the Tahoma and Puyallup Glaciers on the west side of Mount Rainier. The River is named after the Puyallup Tribe, who, along with other tribes of the time, lived throughout the river basin. The first known European to explore the river was William Tolmie, in 1833. Ezra Meeker plotted the town site in 1877 and named it Puyallup, after the Tribe, who were excellent fishers and hunters. Puyallup means “the generous people”.

The Puyallup flows primarily northwest and empties into Commencement Bay, which is part of Puget Sound. It begins in two forks: the North Fork and the South Fork. The river is harnessed at the Electron Diversion Dam, just below the Mowich confluence.

Two of the cities that the river elusively passes in its flow to the ocean are Orting and Puyallup. The cities embrace the river with pride and, along with the Puyallup Tribe, have kept the waters clean and the uses diversified. As time passes, it continues to be a generator of environmental and recreational value for the area that it serves.

The Puyallup Riverwalk, which is a relatively new part of the Foothills Trail, is one of the most embraced sections of the trail. It begins near Mama Stortini’s Restaurant, continues west, with the River on its right, to 5th Street NE, at Veterans Park. The Riverwalk continues for about 2 miles along the Puyallup, near River Road, behind Fred Meyers. It then parallels River Road for approximately 2 miles. It’s completely paved and flat; a great place for children to walk, ride bikes, scooters or be with parents in strollers. In the months of August through November, fishermen can be seen by the hundreds trying to catch salmon along the Riverwalk.

Access to the Puyallup River is easier to do than to find. But you can park your vehicle at Veterans Park, off 5th Ave. NE. A map or your phone directions will serve you well. There is an amazing sculpture, titled Nature’s Medley, on the edge of the park, that every age group enjoys. It was created by Jason Smathers, and is a great location to spend time and enjoy this excellent piece of art.

It is easy to understand why people come from all over Washington (and beyond) to enjoy the Puyallup River and those waters that flow into it. At any time of the year, the Foothills Trail and the Puyallup River can be enjoyed by cyclists, walkers, runners, skaters, swimmers, boaters, fishermen, and many who just want to experience one of nature’s great gifts to the communities along the river. Our family’s 3 generations have enjoyed it for years.
Foothills Trail Construction Update
by Theresa Turpin, Capital Projects Manager, Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services Department

Foothills Trail Construction updates

It has been a pleasure working on the Foothills National Recreation Trail. As many of you know my position with Pierce County Parks was a limited duration position and while there is much work to be done, I will be leaving Pierce County Parks to pursue a career opportunity with the Washington State Department of Transportation as a Multi-modal Development Manager. Before I depart the County, here are some updates on the Foothills Trail work – the connection from Puyallup to Buckley has now been completed.

Phase 2: Buckley End

The awning under the highway bridge is constructed. Our Parks Staff: Bob Cady, Chris Dixon, and Ed Ivy did great work and have completed this awning. The wetland mitigation plantings are being installed at the beginning of December. The trail is open but as previously stated, please respect the private road 268 Ave Ct CE at the bottom of the upper section of the trail. Now that the Switchback Bridge is open, Parks hopes that respect of the private road will continue. Parks will also install signage reminding trail users the road is not Pierce County right of way. No parking allowed.

Phase 3: South Prairie End

This section is open and has received the Aussie Seal of Approval from Inspector Pepper. The section of Phase 3 through the South Prairie RV Park is completed and includes 160 linear feet of pin-pile bridge which avoids adding fill into the flood plain. Phase 3 connects to the Phase 1 section which includes Spiketon Creek Bridge – and yes that is a very giddy Parks project manager bicycling with Foothills Friends and others on this section of the trail.

On the older section that connects to Phase 3, Mitch Nelson coordinated with Pierce County Road Operations to get the mossy mess cleaned up. The work included sweeping with an angle broom and vacuuming the pervious pavement. It looks almost new and matches nicely with the new section of trail. The views from the Coalition Bridge and Lower Burnett Bridge are great.

Switchback Bridge

The work in this area on the culvert has been completed and the trail is once again open from South Prairie to Buckley.

Buckley Repaving

Miles Resources made fast work of this section. The root barrier is installed and the repaving completed. The root barrier should prevent the cottonwoods from damaging the trail in the future and maintain a nice smooth service on this section of trail. Of course, while biking the trail, I have found older sections of the trail where adding the root barrier would also be a good idea, like that one large root between Arline Road and South Prairie (of course my speedometer was not working).
Fair Bicycle Drawing Winners Announced

by Ken Woolery, Board Member

So what are the odds that this year’s bicycle winners would have recently moved to our area from out of State (Montana & Kansas)! The two bicycles (graciously) donated by Bonney Lake Bicycle Shop of Sumner and South Hill were won by: Meg Sanchez and Ashley Nelson.

This year’s fair was busy and 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 4,000 maps and brochures were given out; drawing a lot of interest from visitors.

See you at the fair in 2018!

Photo Provided by Stuart Scheuerman. Pictured: Ron Pasquier (Bonney Lake Bike) Stuart Scheuerman, Ken Woolery, Bicycle Winner Meg Sanchez, and Buzz Grant.

Prairie Line Trail Receives Recognition


A citation from the award submission provided by the Daily Journal reads, in part, “The Prairie Line Trail (PLT) adds an iconic layer to the rich history of Tacoma … [T]he PLT embraces its history, reorient the [UW Tacoma] campus, transforms the downtown and provides beloved public open space. … The Prairie Line Trail has created a true civic heart for Tacoma’s downtown that continues to develop with the support of a loyal community.”

The full article and submission (with photos) can be viewed at the following website: http://www.djc.com/news/ae/12105920.html.
Active Transportation Update - TRFF Passes the Torch to PWI Community Board

BY DIXIE GATCHEL, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR

It turned out to be a match made in trail lover’s heaven when our Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition jumped on the bandwagon with The Russell Family Foundation’s (TRFF) Puyallup Watershed Initiative (PWI). And it was successful beyond our wildest expectations as announced below by TRFF Strategy Director Henry Izumizaki on November 15:

“The Russell Family Foundation (TRFF) is excited to announce after five years of hard work and guidance, the PWI will transition to an independent, community owned organization. There’s no greater measure of success than launching a program and watching it grow into a self-sufficient and flourishing initiative. As we pass the torch, TRFF board of directors awarded $1,130,000 in grant funding for the six PWI Communities of Interest to support the next year of on the ground work as the initiative transitions to community independence.”

PWI was launched by TRFF in 2012 to improve the health of people and places throughout the region which comprises more than 1,000 square miles from Mount Rainier to Commencement Bay. Over the past five years, the PWI has cultivated six communities of interest and leveraged over $30 million of funding in the watershed to support farmlands, forests, active transportation, healthy foods systems, better industrial stormwater practices and environmental education.

On January 1, 2018, leadership and administrative duties will be directed by the newly appointed Community Board made up of various constituencies from the watershed. This includes hiring a permanent Executive Director who aligns with the Board’s desired skills, experiences and values. Determining those expectations takes thoughtful time and consideration. In the interim, to ensure leadership stability, TRFF plans to promote Jennifer Chang to the position of “PWI Acting Director” also effective January 1, 2018.

We are excited for Jennifer’s role with PWI as her institutional knowledge and personal commitment will be a huge asset to the board, including keeping forward momentum and growth in 2018.

Additionally, PWI’s new independence status will bring a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt, charitable status for the organization. This will allow the organization to develop a fundraising strategy to meet public support requirements.

The Russell Family Foundation is proud of the meaningful connections PWI has made within its communities in a relatively short time. Together they have developed dozens of strategies that include supporting regulations to assist local businesses in building connections across diverse populations. These successes have contributed to significant systems change in the watershed. This philanthropic commitment is what makes organizations like PWI successful. We believe this is just the beginning of a long-term impact on the watershed and its communities, and look forward to many more successes in the years to come. While TRFF will not have a formal position on the Community Board, it will stay informed on PWI’s activities through committee participation, or advisory roles within the governance framework. If you have any questions about this milestone moment and transition with PWI, please contact Izumizaki at henry@TRFF.org.”

Welcome to the new PWI Community Board members: Solana Booth; Jacques Colon; Grayson Crane; Kristy Fry; Dixie Gatchel; Geysar Gurbanov; Nannette Huber; Annie Jones-Barnes; Kathryn Mahan; Hayley Matthews; Augustin Moreno; Korbett Mosesly; David Nash-Medez; Heather Shadko; Debbie Terwilleger; and Anaid Yerena.
2017 Update on Chambers Creek Canyon Trail

by David Swindale, Director, Planning & Development Services, City of University Place

In 2017 the Chambers Creek Canyon Trail partner agencies, University Place, Lakewood and Pierce County received the Preliminary Design Report for the Chambers Creek Canyon Trail produced by Bruce Dees and Associates with assistance from BergerABAM. The work conducted to produce the report included: analyzing the proposed trail alignment originally mapped by the partner agencies, recommending trail alignment revisions to avoid steep slopes and environmentally sensitive areas; preliminary trail and boardwalk design cross sections and details, locating potential bridge locations; preliminary bridge designs; locating and designing trailheads, estimating costs and developing a phasing plan.

The first phase of trail improvements will be between the Chambers Creek Road Trailhead in University Place and the Phillips Road Trailhead in Lakewood. The improvements in this phase includes maintenance of two existing unconnected trails, the existing trail between Chambers Creek Road and Chambers Creek and the existing trail between Phillips Road and Chambers Creek. To connect the two trails, the partner agencies with Pierce County in the lead applied for a grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board’s Recreational Trails Program for a pedestrian bridge over Chambers Creek. The proposed bridge will be a 150 foot clear span to clear the creek and 100 year floodplain. The trailheads on Chambers Creek Road and at the end of Phillips Road will be improved to provide parking, informational kiosk and waste receptacles.

More work parties will be scheduled to improve existing trail segments and in later phases to build new trail segments.
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 below 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 Wapato Lake from the causeway across the north end. I suspected that this might be a hard one, but there were no guesses at all! It’s a beautiful park riddled with trails around the lake.

Let’s see how well you do on this 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!

Puyallup Riverwalk/Ernie Bay Connector

BY DIXIE GATCHEL, BOARD MEMBER

Kudos to City of Puyallup for beginning to work on Phase V - the final link of the Riverwalk Trail which would provide a connection between two existing trail heads located at the Veteran’s Memorial (Milwaukee) Bridge and the State Route 512 Trail head. The City hopes to move forward with negotiations for potentially affected homeowners in 2018 to secure property rights or an easement for the future trail development. Should negotiations go well the next step would be to seek funding to finally complete the Riverwalk Trail!

There is also strong support for extending the Riverwalk through Puyallup’s Urban Growth Area to join with Puyallup’s Phase VI “Ernie Bay Connector” trail segment within Van Lierop Park and on to the 19-mile Foothills National Recreational Trail at the East Puyallup Trailhead. The City of Puyallup will begin construction of Van Lierop Park Phase 1 the summer of 2018 which includes the “Ernie Bay Connector”.

PHOTO BY JOHN SELBY
President’s Message Continued from Page 1

This has taken from 1985 to 2017, five Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition presidents, many directors and thousands of members of the Coalition, without whose support we would not exist, to finally get the trail (almost) completed. To finish the Foothills Trail and other trails throughout Pierce County we still need that same dedication and support from our members. We have gone through changes in county executives and county council members who have been supportive of this project, our sincerest thanks to all of you. There have been four Directors of Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services and numerous employees of Parks who without their help this core trail would not be completed. I cannot name all of the people who worked tirelessly with us to see this through to fruition without taking up this entire edition of the Trail Line News, but suffice to say our heartfelt thanks go out to each and every one of you. I would like to note a special thank you to the late Claudia Peters who negotiated the purchases by Pierce County of about three-fourths of the trail, without her we would still be a long way from completion.

When will we have a ‘Grand Opening’ of this section of the Foothills Trail? That is not up to me, but I would like to suggest a Saturday prior to May 30 as a date. Why? It would be 26 years since the opening of the first paved section of the Foothills Trail, about three-quarters of a mile in Buckley, on Saturday May 30, 1992. See the connection? The core trail will begin and end in Buckley where it all started. Thanks Dr. Tait and his supporters. In our Trail Line News for June 1992 it was suggested that “May 30th, henceforth will be a memorial day for the Foothills Trail”.

Without the tremendous support of our volunteers we would not be where we are now. To steal a catchphrase for how we feel about our volunteers and everyone that has helped see this project through, “You complete us”!

Happy Trails

I love running because it’s the one thing I do every day and never regret.
-Katie Mackey
going on in his district. Gateway Park has 432 acres with nine miles of trails for walking, biking, and equestrian activities. There is also a pump track for mountain bikers. Bryan Bowden then provided history of Foothills Coalition and information on current activities.

Chris Beale, President of ForeverGreen Trails presented three awards: Outstanding Project Award to the City of Tacoma for completion of the Prairie Line Trail; Outstanding Organization Award to Pierce County Council & Pierce County Executive for approval of park impact fees; and Outstanding Individual to Janet Myers for exceptional work as a trail steward in Puyallup.

ForeverGreen Trails will be holding our annual planning meeting on January 10, 2018. Watch for news after that for many exciting activities we will be hosting next year including Trails & Ales, Speak Up trainings, and the annual trails conference. Mark your calendars now for Pierce County Trails Day on July 28, 2018.

Key note speaker Ryan Mello, Director of Pierce Conservation District and City of Tacoma Council member stressed that we must know our “why” – not just what we want but why it is desirable. We need to make our voices heard – personal stories matter to decision makers. Invite decision makers for a bike ride or a walk on the trail; join in coalitions; volunteer for Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, or Steering Committees; attend neighborhood meetings; and share your “why” on social media. Know your “Why” and “What” will come.

The final panel was made up of agency and organizational representatives. Kimberly Freeman, Pierce County Parks, talked about completion of Foothills Trail phase and purchase of property in Parkland Prairie and Swan Creek. They will be holding trail prioritization open houses in January and hope to have an updated plan adopted by April. Debbie Terwelliger, Metro Parks Tacoma, said the trail popularity is the “why”. Trails from point A to point B and trails within urban parks and the second most requested amenity (trail restrooms). They are working towards a goal of everyone living within a 10-minute walk of a park. Metro Parks is partnering with the City of Tacoma to develop a plan for redoing Ruston Way as part of the entire Tacoma waterfront. They are starting a one-year visioning process with outreach to the entire city. Wilson Way, the pedestrian bridge connecting Ruston Way Waterwalk to Point Defiance will open in late 2018. It will have a spectacular view and slides down the hillside. Scott Gallacher, Director of Key Pen Parks detailed the work that is ongoing (one retirement at a time), but patience and perseverance will win. It is important to stay involved in updates and understand why an answer was “No” to figure out how to get to “Yes”.

The TRAIL LINE NEWS will be held on January 10, 2018. Watch for news after that for many exciting activities we will be hosting next year including Trails & Ales, Speak Up trainings, and the annual trails conference. Mark your calendars now for Pierce County Trails Day on July 28, 2018.
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 between August 2017 - October 2017.

Barton, William & Roddi
Berg, Lucretia & Michael
Brown, Steve
Cohn, Amanda
Corrado, Cathy
FRED MEYER REWARDS PROGRAM
Gassmann, Loras & Carolyn
Gatchel, Dixie
Giddings, Wm & Rochelle
Helmer, Charles
Kagle, Jonathan
Kastama, Bob & Diane
Klingman, Kurt
Kogle, Mark & Marty
Livingston, T. J.
Moser, Robin
Nix, Roger
Quintella, Joseph & Karen
Siegenthaler, Mary
Smith, Terry & Suzanne
Walkama, Linda
Walter, Linda
LaBerge, Mary Ellen
Moser, Robin
Mowreader, Jack & Tara
Segers, Melissa & Mike
Smith, Terry & Suzanne
Stanford, Michael
Swatman, Don
Walk, George
Walker, Robert
Weber, Joe & Shannon

New Members YTD 2017
Anderson, John
Cohn, Amanda
Cool, Raymond
DAVE’S BARBER SHOP
DeBoer, Amy & Cameron
Dodgen, Rhiannon
Giddings, Wm & Rochelle
Hamilton, Mark
Helmer, Charles
Jacobsen, Fred & Winona
Kagle, Jonathan
Kraeger, Willaim

Foothills Trail Construction Update Continued from Page 4

ing and I MAY have hit it at a speed faster than 10 miles per hour).
It has been a privilege working on the Foothills Trail again, something I am very passionate about (yes, again, I worked on portions of it as a consultant). Although I am leaving Pierce County Parks, I do hope to see you on the trail and I do plan to be at the grand opening when it happens sometime in the spring. I also hope to see all of you at the annual Foothills Trail Coalition meeting (Buzz is saving me a seat at the President’s table).

Until then, Happy Trails!
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, billhltm@aol.com, or Janet Rich, dcnjrich@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 ☐ CCV (3 digit number) Exp.______

Name: ____________________________ 
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________ Zip: ___________
Phone: __________ Signature: __________________________
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