Foothills Trail Celebratory Event Set for Saturday May 19 at South Prairie

by Dixie Gatchel, Board Member

Pierce County Parks & Recreation will host a gathering of trail supporters at 11:00 am, on Saturday May 19 in South Prairie to celebrate the opening of the new section of the Foothills Trail from South Prairie to Buckley. The event will be staged in and around Veterans Memorial Park and include speeches, partner information booths, and a ribbon cutting ceremony at the South Prairie Creek Bridge. Parking will be available next to the park; in the trailhead parking lot; in the gravel area next to the coffee stand; and at South Prairie City Hall. Parking will be limited so you might want to consider carpooling or using available alternative modes of travel.

TIMELINE:

9:00 am: Public can gather at East Puyallup Trailhead to bicycle with members of the Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club to the ceremony at South Prairie.

10:00 am: Public can gather at the parking lot at Orting City Park and bicycle with members of the Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club to the ceremony at South Prairie.

President’s Message
by Buzz Grant, Coalition President

On February 9 we completed our sale to Pierce County Parks and Recreation (PCPR) of the trail adjacent to our land west of Wilkeson. This was a long, drawn out process that started in November 2015. The County would not purchase the land from us until we evicted the prior owner and his “friends or fellow squatters.” I really do not blame the County for this stance, because if we had known the hoops we would have to go through to get them off our property I question if we would have purchased the property in the first place.

Our motivation was the 1,000 feet of trail that Pierce County had been attempting to purchase the right of way to since 2001 to 2002. The property had been owned by an anti-trail advocate who sold it to the next owner after they promised not to sell any land to Pierce County for the trail. The Foothills Coalition got involved by purchasing the land at a foreclosure of a Deed of Trust (Mortgage) sale in November 2015. We faced a number of challenges, wound up having to purchase two more adjacent parcels of land, and were finally able to get the prior owner evicted. While the entire story could fill an entire newsletter I want to include a few photographs as a reminder of what work parties faced as part of this process! The good news is that on February 9 we closed on selling Pierce County over 2,500 feet of right of way and...
Trailhead Improvements
by Kimberly Freeman, Pierce County Parks & Rec. Superintendent of Resource Stewardship

This spring Pierce County Parks will be applying for a grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to improve and expand trailheads along the Foothills National Recreational Trail. More parking is desperately needed at the popular East Puyallup Trailhead. If the grant application is successful, trail users can expect to see enhanced and expanded parking and signage at the East Puyallup Trailhead and new restrooms at the South Prairie Trailhead. This work would most likely be accomplished in 2020.

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The Trail Line News is published quarterly by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371. Our website is http://www.piercecountytrails.org/ and our email address is foothillstrail@msn.com.

Mission:
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. The Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition is a 503 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

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ForeverGreen Trails Report

by Dr. Jane Moore, Executive Director, ForeverGreen Trails

After a successful 2017, ForeverGreen Trails are busy planning a great 2018. We have three big events again this year. On May 31, as part of Pierce County Bike Month, we will host a Trails & Ales event at Mama Stortini’s in Puyallup. We will provide interesting speakers, food and non-alcoholic beverages, and a great chance to network with other trail enthusiasts. The program will start at 6 pm. We hope to have guided bike rides or walks beforehand on the Puyallup Riverwalk and the Sumner Link trails. There will be no charge to attend.

Our next event is Pierce County Trails Day on the fourth Saturday in July – July 28. We will publicize and help with many events across Pierce County. In 2017, there were 17 events on Pierce County Trails Day. The Buckley to Orting Half Marathon is the highlight of the day. If you have plans for other events on July 28 and would like to be part of Trails Day, please let us know. We are now planning events and our marketing campaign.

Our key event is the annual Pierce County Trails Conference. The 2018 conference is tentatively set for the evening of October 10. Our planning committee has ideas for an outstanding program so watch for more details as they become available.

ForeverGreen Trails also hosts Speak Up for Trails trainings. These are short, informal sessions to help people learn how to best make their voices heard at the local government level. We provide tips on how and where to speak up and usually have an elected official present to provide input. While these trainings are directed towards support for trails, walking, and bicycling, the skills learned can be used to speak up for any topics. If you have a group or organization that is interested, please contact us. Trainings last about one hour and there is no charge to participants.

We will be tabling at various community events and farmers markets this summer. Watch for us and let us know of any events that we could participate in.

ForeverGreen Trails is a member of the Puyallup Watershed Initiative’s Active Transportation Community of Interest and receives financial support from them for these events. We greatly appreciate the support from and collaboration with the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition.

Finally, we are updating our web site, so check it out at www.forevergreentrails.org. You can also keep up with our latest news on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/ForeverGreenTrails, Instagram https://www.instagram.com/fgt_253/, or Twitter https://twitter.com/FGT_253.

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 accurately 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 December issue was under the State Route 162 Bridge on the Foothills Trail between South Prairie and Buckley just below the junction with SR 165 before they built the pin-pile bridge under the highway. It was guessed by John Anderson. Congratulations, John! You know your Pierce County trails.

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!

Photo by John Selby
Putting Feet on the Trail
by Carolyn Warhol, Coalition Member

Each Monday morning at 9:00 am, you can find a group of walkers getting ready to walk the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail. The number of walkers varies from week to week, but there is a core group of walkers that will “weather” the weather and step out on the trail every Monday morning.

The Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association has sponsored this weekly group walk and has led over 800 walkers in each of the last two years on these Riverwalk outings. There are also individuals that volksmarch the trail independently during the rest of the week.

For the Monday group walk, we meet in the rear parking lot of Mrs. Turner’s Restaurant located at 701 East Main Street, in Puyallup, at 9:00 am to start walking at 9:15 am. One Monday we will walk eastward toward the end of the trail (6K) (5.7 miles) and on the next Monday, we will walk westward to the other end of the trail (8K) (6.8 miles).

Come out and enjoy your Puyallup Riverwalk Trail with us.

Many people Nowadays live in a series of interiors… disconnected from each other. On foot everything stays connected, for while walking one occupies the spaces between those interiors in the same way one occupies those interiors. One lives in the whole world rather than in interiors built up against it.

- Rebecca Solnit
Northwest Small Equine Club

by Carol Townsend, Northwest Small Equine Club Member

Photos provided by Carol Townsend and Steve Brown

On October 1, 2017, the Northwest Small Equine Club held one of their trail walks starting from the Crocker area. We were joined by Steve Brown who walked with us and was kind enough to take some photos. Steve actually drove one of our horse and carts and enjoyed himself. This area is a favorite with the club as there is adequate parking for the horse trailers, and the trail along the river heading to Buckley is very scenic. The horses have been well received on the trail, and we have made many stops to answer questions and for photos to be taken by trail users.

Hope to see you out on the trails. Please remember the driving horses wear blinders and cannot see behind them so please speak out and pass with caution.
Upcoming 16th Annual Rainer to Ruston
By Bill Hilton, Editor

On Saturday June 2, 2018 – National Trails Day – the Foothill Rails-to-Trails Coalition will be hosting the Rainier to Ruston (R2R) 50 mile run, which will once again challenge teams of runners starting near the base of Mount Rainier and traveling to the Puget Sound at the Tacoma waterfront on Ruston Way. To learn more about the R2R and to register for the event, please visit the following website: https://www.rainiertoruston.com/sponsors or contact John Selby, Founder, at johnselby16@gmail.com or Sabrina Seher, Race Director at sabrina@coachingbysuper.com

Photos by Bob Rowan © Bob Rowan/Progressive Image 2017
Photos by Bob Rowan © Bob Rowan/Progressive Image 2017

http://www.bonneylakebike.net
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.

Anderson, John & Doreen
ANYTIME FITNESS of BUCKLEY
ARTISTIC SOLUTIONS
BERRYLAND CAFÉ, LLC
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Gassmann, Loras & Pasquier, Carolyn
Grant, Gordon F. (Buzz)
Griffin, Alexander J
Grubenhoff, Richard D,
Harding - Robinson, Melanie & Ed
Hilton, William
Keeter, Preston
Kinkelaar, Patricia A.
KORUM AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
Marlene’s Market & Deli
Meshke, Beth & David
Niemann, Dianne V.

O Connor, Peggy Chatburn
Ohlsen, Allan
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Pollard, Kirby T.
Pratt, Barbi & Todd
PUGET SOUND ENERGY
Ross, Marlis & Layne
Rudd, William & Sandra
Rutter, Mary Ellen
Sacklin, John & Mary Hektner
SPOONER FARMS, INC.
TOYOTA of PUYALLUP
Uehling, Jeffrey & Sherry
Walkama, Linda
Walker, Scott & Amber
Zeiger, Hans A.
some land along Gale Creek that will enhance trail users’ experience forever.

More great news about the Foothills Trail: About the first week in December 2017 some trail supporters noticed about four miles of brand new pristine asphalt paving from South Prairie to Buckley just sitting there waiting for people to ride and walk on. The barricades somehow were removed and the hordes descended on a strip of trail we had been waiting for some 30 years. The follow-up to what could be called a ‘soft trail opening’ by the public is that Pierce County will hold a ‘Grand Opening’ of the Buckley to South Prairie portion of the Foothills Trail on May 19 at 11:00 am, next to the South Prairie Fire Station. Plans for the official opening are being finalized with meetings of PCPR members, ourselves and other trail advocates. Please come out and join us for this momentous occasion.

Even more great news: The Foothills Trail is definitely not complete, but in 2019 construction will begin on a trail bridge over the White River between Buckley and Enumclaw to complete a section of the trail connecting to Enumclaw by King County. Then on to Mount Rainier up Gale (Wilkeson) Creek Canyon through Wilkeson, Carbonado, Melmont, Fairfax, Manley-Moore to the expansion area of Mt. Rainier (or Mt. Tahoma, let’s start a movement) National Park that will complete most all of the Foothills Trail, other than future connections to other trails and Tacoma.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to welcome Jeremiah Meacham to the board of directors of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. Jeremiah is the owner of Any Time Fitness, in Buckley, at the intersection of State Route 410 and State Route 165, near the stop light. Jeremiah has participated in many work parties and is an inspiration of new ideas for the future of the Coalition.

Happy Trails!
ceremony at South Prairie.

10:15 am: Public can gather at Ryan Road in Buckley to bicycle with Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier and Mayor of Buckley Pat Johnson to the ceremony in South Prairie.

10:30-11:00 am: Public encouraged to mingle and visit the information booths before the start of the ceremony.

11:00 am: Ceremony begins at Veterans Memorial Park.

11:30 am: Parade to the Bridge and ribbon cutting ceremony.

11:45 am: Light Refreshments, visit information booths and encourage a tour of the new section of trail.

Special thanks goes to the following agencies listed below that helped fund the construction of the Buckley to South Prairie corridor which is an integral part of the Foothills National Recreation Trail and the Pierce County Regional Park System: Pierce County; Federal Highways Administration: Rural Town Centers and Corridors grant; Washington Recreation and Conservation Office WWRP trail grant; and a gracious donation from the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition.

For further information about the celebration contact Scott Hall, Pierce County Parks Recreation & Recreation: Phone: 253-798-4006 or email at shall@co.pierce.wa.us. The updated Foothills Trail Map is available for download on the Pierce County Parks & Recreation website www.piercecountywa.org/parks.
Support the Foothills Trail  
Re-enroll for Fred Meyer Rewards Program

Community Rewards Customer Re-enrollment is required at this time. When making your purchases at F.M. you should see a notation (at the bottom of the receipt) that the Foothills Trail is connected to your account. If you don’t see that, re-enrollment is required at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

If there are any questions, please contact Loras Gassmann, Treasurer at 253-508-3353 or by e-mail at: LAGasman@msn.com
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, billhlttn@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.

Plateau Trails Coalition
We are a group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of trials. Please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Justice & Municipal Building, 9002 Main St E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391.
*Please email prior to confirm any changes or cancellation at ptccchairperson@gmail.com

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Ted Hentschell
Vice President

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www.fleetfeetbonneylake.com

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☐ 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/

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