

FOOTHILLS

RAILS-TO-TRAILS

COALITION



JUNE 2020 | TRAIL LINE NEWS | VOLUME 34 | ISSUE TWO

Parks Planning Never Takes A Break!

BY CINDY HAVERKAMP, PIERCE COUNTY PARKS PLANNER
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PIERCE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Despite the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent shut-downs and work-from-home orders, Pierce County Parks continues to plan the parks of tomorrow for you today. Based on the priorities developed in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, adopted by the Pierce County Council in February 2020, and with a clear sense of the needs and desires of Pierce County residents, Parks is moving forward with two brand-new trail designs, improvements to the Sprinker Recreation Center, and three important master planning projects.



The Parkland Community Trail will provide connectivity between five schools, three local parks and Pacific Lutheran University. This paved trail will provide opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to walk, stroll or roll safely to local destinations. Through extensive public outreach, which included our first-ever live webinar, Parks is developing a conceptual trail design to meet the needs of the community. Next steps include applying for grants and completing final design and engineering. Construction of the Parkland Community Trail is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2022.

Smart planning, collaboration and project coordination mean that Parkland Community Trail users will find even more to love at the trail's southern terminus. Outdoor updates at Sprinker Recreation Center, anticipated to begin 2022/2023, will include a trailhead and bike plaza for the trail. Trail improvements in Bresemann Forest, right next door to Sprinker, are underway, including safer trail alignments and new directional and interpretive signs, giving trail users the opportunity to leave the city behind and

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President's Message

By Stuart Scheuerman, Coalition President

In our March 2020 Foothills Trail Line Newsletter there was no mention of the Covid-19 virus, just three months ago: a world away from today.

I pray that all of you and those you love have stayed safe. It looks like we may be through the worst, but we still need to be vigilant with the recommended social distancing.

Our members wanted to continue with our meetings, so in came "Zoom", and yes, a few months ago I thought it was a video game. We had our April meeting using Zoom and 29 members, friends and presenters attended, 20 using video and 9 on audio. It was a relatively normal meeting, but it was great to see and hear everyone. We will have our May 28 meeting using Zoom and maybe June. We hope to see or hear from everyone. If you know of someone that should be on our list to invite, please let us know.

I want to thank our members for allowing our organization to donate \$500 to nine local food banks or support groups that are along our trail or R2R route. This will truly help these groups that have so much to do in this time of need and the individuals that depend on them, thank you.

I attended a couple of other "Zoom" meetings over the last month or so; they are becoming more comfortable for me to connect to everyone in this new age.

The Fairfax road to Mt Rainier National Park opened Friday May 8,

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Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay (R2R) Update

BY SABRINA SCHER, R2R RACE DIRECTOR

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the uncertainty of being able to host an event in late May, we made the decision to reschedule the 2020 Rainier to Ruston Relay to Saturday, August 15th, 2020. All currently registered participants should have received an e-mail with this communication, and outlining what options will be available to them and their teams. Teams can transfer to the new date or defer to 2021. Also, individual runners on teams can be swapped out.

To keep updated on the R2R, please visit the following website: www.rainiertoruston.com/ or contact Sabrina Seher, Race Director at coachingbysuper@gmail.com or Jerry Gamez, Assistant Race Director at gumdawg69@gmail.com.

Foothills Rails-to-Trail Coalition Newsletter

The Foothills Coalition is looking for a new volunteer editor for its Trail Line Newsletter.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact Bill Hilton at (253) 302-1104 or ftceditor@gmail.com.

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”
Sherry Anderson

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-John Warhol
(253) 347-0325, warhol66@comcast.net
-Ken Woolery
(253) 863-4773, kenwoolery42@gmail.com

Publisher:

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.

Trail Supporter Ads:

Trail Supporter ads are published for a fee of \$25 per quarter or \$100 for one year, paid in advance to the Coalition and sent to the Ad Manager, Loras Gassmann, P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA.

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ForeverGreen Trails Report

BY JANE MOORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ForeverGreen Trails is adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic, as are many other organizations, by assessing information, anticipating impacts to event schedules, and making contingency plans. Our Bike Month event, Trails & Ales was held on Thursday, May 14, as scheduled, but was a webinar (or bevinar if you enjoyed your favorite beverage while watching) instead of an in-person event. The webinar went smoothly and seemed to be well received. If unable to attend, you can find a recording on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvXyWsBYO38>. Presentations on the Pipeline and Parkland Community Trails by Brianne Blackburn (Pierce County Parks) and the Pierce County Active Transportation Plan by Shawn Phelps (Pierce County Planning and Public Works) were excellent.

Pierce County Trails Day is scheduled for July 25. We are working with past event hosts and hope to have some in-person events by then. However, we are also working on DIY (do-it-yourself) events that can be enjoyed at any time. If you want to host an event or develop a DIY event to be included, please contact Larry Leveen – larryleveen@forevergreentrails.org. Watch our Facebook page for the latest information <https://www.facebook.com/ForeverGreenTrails>.

Plans for the Pierce County Trails Conference

are also proceeding. The conference is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30 from 4 until 8 pm as usual. We are investigating options for the conference. We may use a webinar type arrangement instead of meeting in person this year and will share details as they are finalized. Again, follow our Facebook page for the latest information.

We hope that you are continuing to use our local trails while practicing healthy habits and social distancing to protect yourselves and others. Physical activity and time outdoors are important to staying healthy. The Washington Trails Association has good information at Stay Home, Stay Healthy. Information and recommendations are changing quickly. We all hope to be able to enjoy our trails more fully soon.

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Regional Trail Progress - Hopes & Happenings

BY DIXIE GACHEL, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR

Editor's Note: Please confirm the status for any of the events below prior to attending to ensure they are still scheduled to take place.

My perplexity regarding a theme for my hopes & happenings column in this issue was solved when President Stuart Scheuerman suggested providing an update on events and meetings that have been cancelled, postponed, or whatever due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. So, cautiously, because the only certainty right at this moment is the uncertainty of the next one. Here goes:

06/25/20 (Thurs): Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition virtual Zoom meeting 6:30 TO 8:30 pm. A Big Shout Out to Dave Seago & Stu Scheuerman for pulling off a first-time Zoom Video Conference that was interesting and a huge productive success. Please watch your email for an invitation to join this one.

07/11/20 (Sat): Celebration of Life at 12 noon for our beloved trail champion work party leader Don Partington (02/03/58-09/29/19), Farm 12 Restaurant, #B,3303 #8 Ave SE, Puyallup 98372 Contact: robinhighpartington@gmail.com

07/18/20 (Sat): Buckley to Orting Half Marathon & 10K (B&O): Still planning to host event and will keep everyone updated. Link: <https://bnohalf.com/race-info>

07/25/20 (Sat): Pierce County Trail Day, partnering with Forever Green Trails; booths to be setup at Foothills East Puyallup Trailhead and Orting City Park, 9:00 am-12 noon. Link: <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/6349/Pierce-County-Trails-Day>

08/15/20 (Sat): Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay (R2R): Due to COVID-19 Pandemic and uncertainty of being able to host an event in late May, decision was made to reschedule 18th annual event. John Selby reported WSDOT called him to advise the Fairfax Road washout had been repaired and reopened. There is another closure above the concrete bridge at the entrance to Mount Rainier but that doesn't affect the R2R. Link: <https://www.rainiertoruston.com>

09/04-27/20: The Washington State Fair, in Puyallup, begins Friday before Labor Day and ends Sunday 09/27/20. Plans to reopen the fair grounds and stage the fair continue as the fair is considered to be in phase four of the governor's "Safe Start Plan" and is currently scheduled to happen. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition has hosted a booth for more years than long-time forever faithful coordinator Ken Woolery can recall, and both Ken and Stuart have been attending the planning meetings so guess we will have a booth. Link: <https://www.thefair.com/>

Other events, items of interest for our trail community:

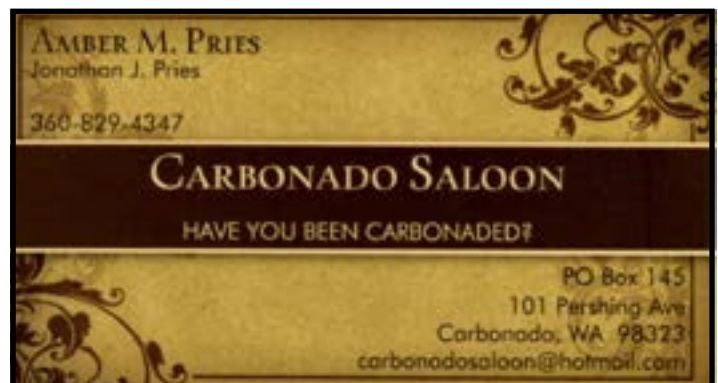
Mount Rainier National Park: Last Updated: 5/4/20 - The park remains open to foot and winter recreation via backcountry access points. Park roads, parking areas and trailheads (including the Nisqually Entrance, Paradise and Longmire areas) remain closed to private vehicles. Link: <https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

Washington State Trails Coalition (WSTC): The bi-annual 2020 trails conference has been rescheduled in Everett for October 28-30, 2021 due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Email: info.washingtonstatetrailscoaliton.org

Foothills Historical Museum: Jean Contreas called to thank us for our letter of support and say they had passed Phase 1 threshold in quest for Heritage Center funding to add a new building extension to the existing museum. Link: <https://www.cityofbuckley.com/museum>

That's it for now, Friends. There's more, but I've run out of steam. Stay safe and healthy and hopeful that we will overcome the dreadful consequences of this monstrous COVID-19 virus and optimistic that the new normal will be "of the people, by the people and for the people" and bless people of good will all over the world.

Happy Trails



Parks Planning Never Takes A Break! Continued from Page 1

immerse themselves in a lush forest experience filled with birdsong and the babble of Spanaway Creek.

Conceptual design of Pipeline Trail, which will extend from Tacoma City Limits to Heritage Recreation Center in South Hill, will be completed in late May. Next steps include applying for grants and completing design and engineering, with construction to begin in 2022. Pipeline Trail will give east-bound trail users a non-stop view of Mt. Rainier, while west-bound travelers will be able to connect to the City of Tacoma's portion of the trail which begins at 72nd Street East and Waller Road. This connection will create a much-needed bike commute option as well as the opportunity to recreate through some of Pierce County's most beautiful countryside. Pipeline Trail will pass through two parks, Orangegate and Half-Dollar. Master plans for these parks are currently underway. Orangegate and Half-Dollar will be partially developed with park amenities, trailheads and parking as the trail is developed.

Pierce County Parks is also working in partnership with the National Park Service and other major landowners in the Carbon River Valley, the area between Wilkeson and the Carbon River entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park, to develop the Carbon River Corridor Cooperative Action Plan. The plan seeks to identify opportunities to improve access and recreational opportunities while protecting important environmental and cultural resources through the corridor.



VIEW OF MT. RAINIER ON THE PIPELINE TRAIL

Visit our website: www.piercecountywa.gov/park-projects for additional information about the work we're doing that even a pandemic can't stop! See you on the trails!



VIEW OF MT. RAINIER ON THE PIPELINE TRAIL



PARKLAND HIGH FIVE

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 from November 2019 - January 2020.

Bret & Dawn Bellevue
 Ronald Brown
 Victor & Mary Jane Buonadonna
 Drs. John & Anna Cahn
 Bryce Carpenter
 Ron & Marty Celestres
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 Galen Stark & Lynnette Arthur
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 Gerald Whitehouse
 Jean White
 Robert & Corrine Wilkinson
 Virginia Wyatt



President's Message Continued from Page 1

so if the Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay (R2R) does happen on August 15, the race should be able to start at its normal location at the Park's entrance. We will be having some work parties soon to maintain the route through Carbon Canyon and possibly Gale Canyon as well.

The Washington State Fair is still in a holding pattern at this time, they are hoping to have the Fair, but they are not sure what it will look like.

Be Safe

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How Well Do You Know Your Pierce County Trails?

BY JOHN SELBY, BOARD MEMBER
PHOTO BY JOHN SELBY

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 March issue was taken of a trail in Bradley Lake Park on South Hill in Puyallup. It was correctly guessed by Mark Cooksley. Congratulations, Mark! 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!



Virtual All Along the Riverwalk Arts & Education Festival

BY BILL HILTON, FRIENDS OF THE RIVERWALK

The first "All Along The Riverwalk Arts & Education Festival" (May 9, 2020) was meant to be a vibrant, family-friendly festival that brought art into the natural environment to showcase the Puyallup Riverwalk. However, due to COVID-19 virus; the actual event was postponed. Instead, Friends of the Riverwalk (FRW) worked with various stakeholders to celebrate with a VIRTUAL event filled with fun, interactive events hosted on Facebook each day, the marketing efforts supported by M Agency. We are looking forward to a full scale event in 2021 hosted along the beautiful Puyallup Riverwalk trail, featuring food vendors, live entertainment, arts & crafts, and exciting art installations. We

hope you'll join us next year. Please visit our website at <https://allalongtheriverwalk.org/> to find out more information and get involved.




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Calendar of Events

Monthly Board Meetings:

Monthly meetings are currently being held on Zoom. If interested in taking part, please contact Stuart Scheuerman by email at snese01@msn.com

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, Puyallup City Parks 253-841-5447.

Plateau Trails Coalition

We are a group of volunteers devoted to the enjoyment and betterment of trails. Please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 630 pm at the Justice & Municipal Building, 9002 Main St E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391. *Please email prior to confirm any changes or cancellation at ptcchairperson@gmail.com

Washington State Fair

The Washington State Fair is tentatively scheduled on September 4-27, 2020. We can always use volunteers at our booth and this year we will have an all new display which should appeal to all. Please contact Ken Woolery at 253-863-4773 or Stuart at 253-405-5129.



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