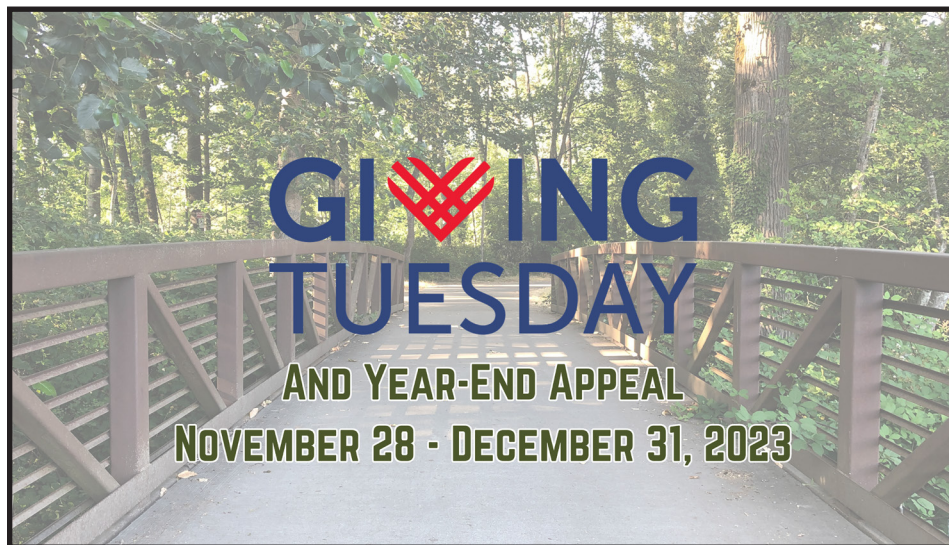




2023 Fundraising Efforts



As 2023 draws to a close, we’re looking back on all the incredible things that happened for the Foothills Trail and our communities throughout the year. From the White River Bridge being built before our eyes, to hundreds of volunteer hours improving and beautifying the trail, to all the advocacy work and behind-the-scenes meetings - 2023 was a big year!

This shows in our accomplishments! The Coalition completed a 5-year Strategic Plan, hosted several community events to encourage trail use, and leveraged nearly \$11 million dollars for trails in Pierce County. We could not have done this without your support. Whether you are a Coalition member, trail advocate, or trail user – thank you!

Our goals for 2024 are even bigger, so we launched our most ambitious Year-end fundraising campaign yet, with a goal of raising \$15,000 between Giving Tuesday and December 31st to support the Foothills Rails-to-Trail Coalition’s work in the new year!

Thanks to many of you, the Foothills Coalition raised an astonishing amount this Giving Tuesday - over \$2,500 in a single day. That’s a record for us! This money will go toward all of our important work advocating for and adding miles to the Foothills Trail and supporting other

Continued on Page 11

President’s Message

By Dan Bucci
President, Foothills Coalition

Hello fellow trail enthusiasts! I hope you had an excellent fall so far, and have had opportunities to get out on our local trails and enjoy the spectacular fall colors (I know I have)! As fall turns to winter, I’m reminded that we’re entering a season when we count our blessings and give thanks and gratitude. The entire Coalition and I are grateful for the support our members, donors, and partners have provided over the past year, so I’ll start this letter off with a simple THANK YOU, to all of you!

It’s hard to believe I’ve already held this role for more than a year and we recently passed the one year anniversary of hiring our wonderful Executive Director, Shayla. We’ve accomplished some amazing things over the past year and look to take that momentum into 2024.

As we look forward to next year, we are certainly excited about the future of the trail. We are looking forward to a huge milestone next year when the White River Bridge connecting Buckley and Enumclaw is complete. This has been a collaborative project many years in the making, and its completion will be a huge win for local trails and providing a safe pathway for trail users to travel across the county line.

I’ll end with a final appeal! In this season of thanks and giving, I

Continued on Page 10



Removing downed tree on the trail

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SHAYLA MILES



Recently I celebrated my one year anniversary working for the Foothills Coalition. As I have been reflecting on my year in this role, one word stands out more than anything else: gratitude. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work at this incredible organization with so many wonderful and talented Board Members, volunteers, community partners, and supporters.

Together, we have had a BIG year. Thanks to your support, here are just a few things that we were able to achieve this year:

1. We helped to break ground on the White River Pedestrian Bridge in January; and contributed crucial community dollars to help secure the grant to get the project fully funded.
2. We completed our Five-year Strategic Plan, including getting YOUR input to help guide our goals and priorities for our 2024 Work Plan and beyond!
3. We contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to projects such as work parties to care for the trail, putting on great community events, and more!
4. We advocated for our future Pierce County trail system, securing rail-with-trail language in the Tacoma Mountain Division Line of Tacoma Rail sale agreement.
5. We contributed over \$66,000 of Coalition funds, which leveraged nearly \$11 million in funding for Pierce County trail projects, such as the Pipeline Trail, Chambers Bridge, and more!
6. We held great events which got THOUSANDS of people out on the trail, such as the Rainier to Ruston Relay, Buckley to Orting Half Marathon & 10k, and the

Continued on Page 11

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Mission:

We work to expand, fund, maintain, promote and advocate for an accessible and inclusive trail system from Mt. Rainier National Park to Puget Sound, fostering recreation, health, active transportation, economic growth, and environmental and historic preservation.

Trail Supporter Ads:

Trail Line News ads are part of our Corporate Membership and Sponsorship benefits. For more information, contact Shayla Miles at shayla@foothillscoalition.org.

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2024 Coalition Board Member Candidates

Election occurs at January Business Meeting, 1/25/24

David Lee

My wife Carla (61) and I (71) live in Tacoma and are proud parents of four children, two daughters and identical twin sons. We've been fit and active all our lives and among our many interests, cycling and travel are two of our favorites and we've supported and cycled the Foothills Trails for a long time. We've cycled the Pacific Coast Bike Route from Tacoma to Santa Barbara, the Coeur d'Alene Bike Trail, and many other regional bike trails in Washington, Oregon, and California.

We're also avid backpackers having trekked the 380 km John Muir Trail (Yosemite to Mt. Whitney), the 67 km Timberline Trail (Mt. Hood), and the 153 km Wonderland Trail (Mt. Rainier) twice. Now we're planning a 1250 km cycling journey from the headwaters of the Rhine River in the Swiss Alps downstream to Amsterdam next summer.

Our volunteering stints include living in Costa Rica, teaching English in Argentina, Ukraine as Peace Corps Volunteers, and at Baan Chivit Mai (Swedish-run NGO providing housing & education to hill tribe children) in Chiangrai, Northern Thailand.

Audrey Pitigliano

I've lived in Pierce County all my life from childhood in Steilacoom, to my home in Puyallup since the early 1980's. My first love and college degree was in Recreation from WSU. I was thrilled when I first heard about the idea to convert the railway and periodically used and supported the trail as it got developed and I have loved every addition.

I worked in Buckley since the early 1980's and often used the trail during my lunch break or with clients for recreational pursuits. I retired in 2020 and biking, hiking, and walking on the trails was a life saver during COVID and continues to be in my retirement.

I am running for a spot on the FTC Board to help support and sustain all the hard work that has already been done, and to advance more safe connections to our trails/parks across Pierce County. I look forward to using my skills to advocate for equal access to recreational opportunities and programs within the trail system, for persons of all ages, genders, ethnicities, socioeconomic status, and physical/cognitive abilities.

Victoria Lincoln

I'm a lifelong resident of Pierce County and very supportive of projects like this Trail that get people out-

doors. I have a degree from Evergreen State College and spent most of my career in Olympia, advocating for local governments in front of the Legislature. It would be a pleasure to be able to serve on this Board and hope my experience in state government can be useful.

The Foothills Trail is one of the jewels of Pierce County. One of my favorite things to do is to ride the Trail on my mountain bike. It's amazing how many people I see enjoying it – walkers, runners, bikes, skateboards, and strollers, to name a few. I've even seen a unicycle along the trail on more than one occasion. It's gratifying to see the community embrace the trail and all it has to offer.

John Hopkins

I left London, England in my early 20's to visit my sister in Anchorage, Alaska and ended up staying 15 years. I became an electrician, met my wife and had three children. It was a rags to riches to rags story that ended with us all driving down the Alcan Highway in a brown station wagon with suitcases strapped to the top. We ended up in Puyallup and started an electrical construction company.

All went well until the last recession, but closing the business was a blessing in disguise. It freed up time for treks and climbs throughout the world and to give back to the community. I joined the boards of Arts Downtown and Pierce Conservation District and now serve on multiple committees with other organizations. I currently work with the Foothills Coalition in my position of Chair of Friends of the Riverwalk and founder of the All Along the Riverwalk Arts and Education event, which has successfully showcased our local trails. I would be honored to become a Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition board member.

John Peranzi

I have been a serious cyclist for over 30 years now, which I took up for health reasons after needing open heart surgery in my late 40s. Cycling has become a huge part of my life: I have bicycled all over the county, and even took part in a ride across the US from LA to Boston in the late 1990s. I have now bicycled over 130,000 miles and strongly believe in the benefits of trails for health, recreation and social connection. I am a business owner in Tacoma and have been in real es-

Continued on Page 7

ForeverGreen Trails Update

By Larry Leveen, Director of ForeverGreen Trails

Following a successful Pierce County Trails Conference in September (thanks again, Foothills and especially Shayla for all your support), ForeverGreen Trails planned its virtual Annual Meeting which was held in mid-November. We announced some exciting grant awards from the Rails to Trails Conservancy and REI's Cooperative Action Fund that will support our equity-oriented trail advocacy for projects like the Tacoma Mountain Division Trail and in underserved areas like Parkland and Spanaway. We also filled some vacancies on our board and discussed upcoming trail, recreation, and mobility issues of importance and how FGT can help support member organizations. Minutes are posted on our website.

That discussion was timely as the County was deliberating on the biennial budget — both staffing and capital projects. One amendment to the capital budget emerged that was of particular concern due to its impact on parks, trails, and the Foothills Trail in particular. The amendment affected many projects and shifted funding from high-growth and high-needs areas in the South and Central Districts of the County to the North and West Districts while also taking funding from various master planning efforts and redirecting them to construction activities. It resulted in inequitable investment, ran counter to adopted fiscal policies and the County's own long-range parks plan, and directed the County to make improvements on the Water Flume Trail that is neither a stated priority nor one that the landowner, Cascade Water Alliance, has granted the County an easement to use. It did these things by raiding several projects' funding, including two related to the Foothills Trail — one relating to master plan updates (needed for extending the trail south) and another relating to replacing the "Ski Park Bridge". The latter item will be pushed out at least a year, which doesn't sound like much initially. However, WSDOT has a fish-passage-oriented project in 2025 that will already require the closure of part of the trail during peak season use. Originally, the replacement of the Ski Park Bridge was also planned for 2025, so the closure it

requires would at least coincide with WSDOT's project. However, because of delaying that project by raiding its funds, a second peak-season closure of part of the trail will now be needed. We feel this is ill-advised and inefficient.

A second (well-intentioned) amendment sought to restore funding to one of the many projects in a high-needs area that was cut by the first amendment. However, it left most of the other inequities and problems of the first amendment intact — including the impacts on the Foothills Trail. ForeverGreen Trails' testimony recommending repeal of both amendments and restoration of the capital budget and its original parks project timing and geographic and equity-oriented investments were not heeded by the Council. We will coordinate with Foothills and Pierce County Parks to try and mitigate these disappointing budget impacts.

Looking forward, we will poll our local government partners about what state recreation and mobility grants they are pursuing in 2024 and how we might support them. Also, we will coordinate with our statewide active recreation and mobility allies regarding the upcoming legislative session. The annual (virtual) Parks and Great Outdoors Legislative Day is on Monday, January 29, 2024. If you can participate by meeting with state legislators, please register at <https://wildliferecreation.org/> (either toward the bottom of the page or under Get Involved).

We appreciate our partnership with Foothills in 2023. Together we had a huge positive impact on active recreation and mobility across Pierce County via trails. Let's recharge our batteries and jump back into advocating for trails next year. Happy holidays!



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Growing With You Since 1882

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 second photo to below before anyone else does, you will win a one-year individual membership renewal. (Sorry, board members, you are excluded.)

the Puyallup River. It was correctly guessed by Audrey Pitigliano. Congratulations, Audrey! You know your Pierce County trails.



Ok, folks, try this one. What trail is this and where was this photo taken?

The above photo in the September 2023 issue was taken on the Sumner Link trail near where the trail rises up to the north end of the East Main Avenue bridge over



Easily donate to the Foothills Coalition just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to the non-profit organizations its customers support in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards Program at fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by name or enter #94355.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping the Foothills Coalition earn a donation!
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- If you don't have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk at any Fred Meyer store.

Pierce County Parks Update

By Brianne Blackburn, Planner & Trails Coordinator, Pierce County Parks

East Puyallup Trailhead Improvement Update

Construction began in September to expand parking capacity and upgrade amenities at the Foothills Trail East Puyallup Trailhead. Crews have successfully expanded and paved the parking area, installed the new stormwater system, and begun improvements to lighting infrastructure. This project is expected to wrap up by the end of December, on schedule and under budget.

- Once complete, the East Puyallup Trailhead will see the following improvements:
- Increased parking capacity from 26 stalls to 81 stalls
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations
- New lighting
- Updated signage
- Planting and drainage improvements
- ADA improvements (including some improvements at McMillin Trailhead)

As a reminder, the trail will remain open throughout construction, but the parking lot and restrooms will be closed. Visit the project website (www.piercecounty-wa.gov/FHTTrailheadProject) for more information and to sign up for email updates.



Pipeline Trail Groundbreaking

In September we celebrated the groundbreaking for Pierce County's first phase of Pipeline Trail. This project will connect to the recently completed City of Tacoma's Pipeline Trail at 72nd Street East and Waller Road and will extend the trail 1.6 miles to Orangegate Park. Phase 1 of the Pipeline Trail is the first step for Pierce County to connect the highly anticipated Pipeline Trail from Downtown Tacoma to the South Hill Community, providing residents with expanded non-motorized commuting and recreational opportunities.

This Groundbreaking Event included Pierce County Parks Director Roxanne Miles, Tacoma Public Utilities Board Chair Carlos Watson, Pierce County Councilmember Marty Campbell (District 5), and Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier.

This project couldn't have happened without the support from our partners like the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (RTTC) and ForeverGreen Trails. Pierce County Parks extends a special thanks to Foothills RTTC members, board, and staff for the tireless trails advocacy, financial contribution, and overall partnership to bring more trails to our community. A video of the Groundbreaking Event can be viewed at https://youtu.be/K_Zn0FA1xH0

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Fall Volunteer Work Party

From August through October, Foothills Coalition volunteers were hard at work on the stretch of trail just southwest of the Linda Campbell Memorial Bench (aka "Fitzer-Mill"), right outside of Buckley.

These volunteers contributed dozens of hours tackling the following tasks along this popular and beautiful stretch of trail:

1. Cutting back tree limbs and shrubs encroaching on the trail to improve sight lines along the trail corridor.
2. Removing invasive species to help ensure our native plants can flourish.
3. Planting native plants along the trail corridor to ensure removed invasive plants do not return and to beautify the trail.
4. Picking up trash along the trail.
5. Raking leaves and removing trash from ditches to prevent flooding and/or water build-up along the trail.



The next time you run, walk, roll or cycle through this stretch of trail, take a few moments to appreciate how well cared for it looks...and as the years go by, all the native plants we planted will hopefully thrive and help provide more shade and beauty along this stretch of trail.

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who helped do this incredible work! And, thanks to Pierce County Parks for partnering with the Foothills Coalition!

Board Member Candidates Continued from Page 3

tate investment since the age of 22. I currently live in Lakewood with my wife of 61 years, Lucy. We have 6 children and 14 grandchildren who join me on various bike rides.

Robin Partington (running for reelection)

My late husband Don Partington and I first became involved with the Foothills Trail Coalition in 1987 when we volunteered to help staff the Coalition's booth at the Washington State Fair, accompanied by our then-six month old son, Daniel. Dan is now 35 with a six month old daughter of his own who will soon experience the joy of trails from a jogging stroller.

I enthusiastically support and use urban, rural and wilderness trails. I look forward to working with the Board to further the Coalition's mission in support of trails and trail users. As a Board member, I have been helping with the capital campaign for the Foothills Trails

Doc Tait Pavilion in Buckley, where Dr. Douglas "Doc" Tait founded the Foothills Trails-to-Trails Coalition and where the first mile of the Foothills Trail was completed.

Steve Brown (running for reelection)

I've been involved with the Foothills Trail as a volunteer for over 30 years (over half my lifetime). Lately, I have focused on county connections: Foothills Trail north to Sumner and then the Interurban; Yelm to Roy; and of course our favorite, from Mount Rainier to Tacoma using the R2R route.

I also have been spending a lot more time in the Carbon Canyon, which is everything above the town of Wilkeson. It is a great area for hiking, biking, fishing and camping. This is also the access to the northwest corner of Mount Rainier National Park.



STRATEGIC PLAN

2023 - 2028

PROCESS

This strategic plan was developed by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition board of directors and executive director, with input from key stakeholders and members, over a 12 month period of time using an evidenced-based method of strategic planning called ToP (Technology of Participation). ToP methods were developed by The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), a leader over the past five decades in promoting lasting positive change in organizations and communities around the world.



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW: UPDATED VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

VISION: Our vision is an accessible network of world-class trails improving people's lives by connecting communities and destinations throughout Pierce County and beyond.

MISSION: We work to expand, fund, maintain, promote, and advocate for an accessible and inclusive trail system from Mt. Rainier National Park to Puget Sound, fostering recreation, health, active transportation, economic growth, and environmental and historic preservation.

VALUES

Collaboration and Partnerships: We partner to build community support that enables trail projects to move forward.

Legacy: The Foothills trail connects the past to the present to the future.

Integrity: We build trust through transparency and are responsible to our community.

Visionary and Determined: We are in this work for the long haul. Building a trail from Mt. Rainier to Puget Sound takes perseverance, patience, and a leap of faith. We have been doing this work for 40 years, just wait until you see what we build in the next 40 years.

Inclusion and Fun: We work to expand trail access so that people of all ages, and abilities can have the joy of experiencing nature.

PARTICIPANTS

Bryan Bowden*

Dennis Brooke*

Steve Brown

Dan Bucci*

John Downs

Loras Gasmann

Mark Hamilton

Pat Johnson

Nicole Martineau

Shayla Miles*, Executive
Director

Robin Partington

John Selby

Teresa Turpin*

John Warhol

Kim Wells

*Core Planning Team

Our Five-Year Strategic Plan

<p>Objective 1: Complete the Foothills Trail connections from Mt. Rainier National Park to Puget Sound (Tahoma to Tacoma)</p>	<p>Key Strategies:</p> <p>1a. Partner with government and other stakeholders to complete the Tacoma to Puyallup (T2P) Trail, connecting the Riverwalk Trail to T2P Trail</p> <p>1b. Partner with government and other stakeholders to complete the East Puyallup to Riverwalk connection</p> <p>1c. Partner with government and other stakeholders to complete the Cascade Junction to Wilkeson section, connecting South Prairie to Wilkeson</p> <p>1d. Partner with government and other stakeholders to complete the Wilkeson to Carbonado section</p> <p>1e. Partner with government and other stakeholders to complete the Carbonado to Manley Moore section</p> <p>1f. Partner with government and other stakeholders to complete the Manley Moore to Mt. Rainier National Park section</p>
<p>Objective 2: Ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization</p>	<p>2a. Increase fund development</p> <p>2b. Manage money effectively</p> <p>2c. Ensure adequate staff to do the work of the organization</p> <p>2d. Build a strong governance structure to support the core values of the organization.</p> <p>2e. Develop Board recruitment, development, and retention strategies</p> <p>2f. Create a Volunteer recruitment and retention plan</p> <p>2g. Strengthen the brand of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition</p> <p>2h. Increase visibility and awareness of the Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition and our work</p> <p>2i. Create a Land Acquisition Strategy</p> <p>2j. Continue to plan for the future of the organization by engaging in Strategic Planning and refining those plans</p> <p>2k. Support existing staff through feedback and professional development opportunities</p>
<p>Objective 3: Increase access to the Foothills Trail and all trails in Pierce County to reflect the diverse communities we serve</p>	<p>3a. Reach out to underserved and BIPOC organizations and communities to increase trail awareness and usage</p> <p>3b. Increase the diversity of the Board to better reflect the communities we serve</p> <p>3c. Partner with transit agencies to increase trail access</p>
<p>Objective 4: Advocate for the development, maintenance and usage of trails</p>	<p>4a. Advocate for the Foothills Trail</p> <p>4b. Advocate for other Pierce County trails, trail connections to adjacent counties, across Washington and nation-wide</p> <p>4c. Develop an Advocacy Policy</p> <p>4d. Advocate for trail and outdoor recreation funding for Pierce County, Puget Sound and/or Washington State</p> <p>4e. Advocate for the safety of trail users</p> <p>4f. Advocate for trail assets and amenities in the greater Western Washington region e.g. restrooms, benches, parking, picnic shelters, interpretive information, historical signage, etc.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Increase Foothills Trail Usage through Education and Trail Enhancements</p>	<p>5a. Partner with others to build community assets along the current and future Foothills Trail (e.g. Dr. Tait Plaza, restrooms, benches, parking, picnic shelters, interpretive information, and historical signage.)</p> <p>5b. Develop programs that increase the enjoyment of the trail, and connection with each other e.g., work parties, family events, festivals, fun runs, birdwatching, downhill marathons, historical related geo-caching, etc.</p> <p>5c. Build community stewardship for the trail e.g., membership, service organizations, courtesy patrol, internships, scholarships</p> <p>5d. Build awareness of the Foothills Trails through marketing, outreach, and branding.</p>

White River Bridge Construction Update

The White River Bridge superstructure is now in place for two of the three segments - great news! Tasks within the next quarter to be completed include the finishing of the third bridge segment at the Buckley side of the White River and building of the engineered embankment supporting the trail from Mud Mountain Rd. to the bridge on the Enumclaw side of the river.

King County Parks, the lead agency overseeing the construction, has experienced intermittent delays in steel material deliveries for the bridge so the construction's substantial completion date has been extended to mid Summer 2024. The steel production and delivery of products in the regional construction industry is an ongoing market condition so the delay has been outside the control of King County or their contractors. The good news is that all the major steel bridge components have now been delivered to complete the third span on the Buckley side of the river.

Stay tuned for more updates! If you have any questions, please contact Shayla Miles at Shayla@Foothillscoalition.org.



President's Message Continued from Page 1
encourage you to include the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition in your giving plans. Our Year-end Appeal provides us with funds that are crucial to continuing our work, and supports our vision of a world class trail network connecting communities across Pierce County, from Tahoma to Tacoma! Thanks for your support, and I wish you all a fantastic holiday season!

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Giving Tuesday Continued from Page 1

Your year-end donation will help to fund important work in 2024, such as:

1. Adding miles to the trail! We have several exciting initiatives planned including partnering with Pierce County and other cities and towns along the trail to identify new connections to other Pierce County trails, acquiring trail right-of-way, and more!
2. Increasing access to the Foothills Trail through new diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, and partnering with community organizations to encourage trail use.
3. Continuing to advocate for increased trail mileage and trail funding county-wide through formal stakeholder representation and meetings with jurisdictions.
4. Stewarding and maintaining the trail, like our plans to perform overdue maintenance near Carbon Canyon to reduce water and flooding, and our continued partnership with Pierce County Parks to maintain the paved Foothills Trail and keep the trailheads clean and beautiful.

New this year: as a thank you for your donation and support, we will send you a special gift for donations above \$50. Can we count on you to help us reach our goal?

As we enter the new year, we need your help more than ever to reach our goal of raising \$15,000 to support the progress and maintenance of the Foothills Trail and other important trail projects throughout Pierce County! When you donate to the Foothills Trail Coalition, you become part of the incredible history of our trail! Thank you for your support and happy trails this holiday season!

FOOTHILLS RAILS-TO-TRAILS COALITION

THIS GIVING SEASON
Support the Foothills Trail

As a thank you for your donation, we will send you a special gift!

For donations \$100 & above, we will send you our beautiful R2R t-shirt!* Simply include what size you would like on the name line on your return donation envelope. Both women's and men's sizing are available.

For donations \$50 & above, we will send you our new sticker featuring Bumpy the Sasquatch!

*while supplies last

Message from the Executive Director Continued from Page 2

the All Along the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment Festival!

Thank you for all that you have done to show up and be a part of the Coalition's work this year! Whether you are a Coalition member, trail user, trail advocate, volunteer, donor or supporter - we could not do this work without you!

I am looking forward to next year: We have BIG PLANS for 2024, including expanding and caring for the Foothills Trail, advocating for local trails, hosting work parties and more. Through our work, we will be promoting trail usage for healthier communities, economic development, and more. Stay tuned for more information about these plans!

Working for the Foothills Coalition has been a joyful experience, thanks in large part to getting to know many of you on an individual level. Thank you for this honor! I am looking forward to building more relationships in 2024 and I extend an open invitation for anyone who wants to learn more about our work and/or get more involved: please reach out to me directly, and we can go to coffee, take a walk, or find a time to chat.

Thank you so much for your support! Happy Trails!

Warmly,
Shayla



Pierce County Parks Update Continued from Page 6



der SR-162 which is likely to include reconstruction of a culvert under the Foothills Trail between Orting and Crocker Parking Area. Coordination between WSDOT and Pierce County will continue as the project progresses to design in coming months.

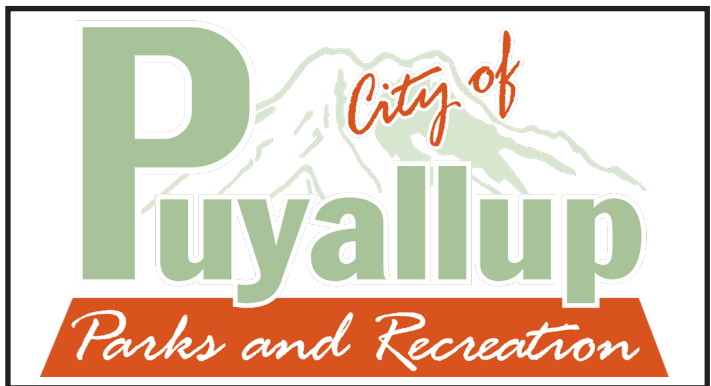
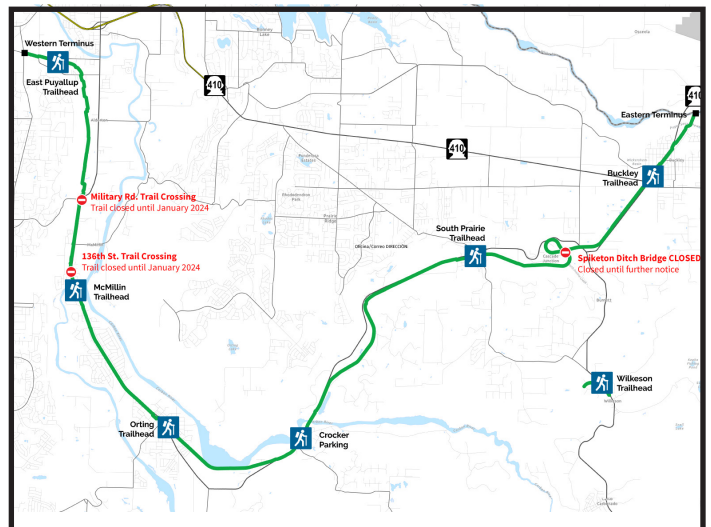
- Temporary, daytime closures of the trail are expected for up to a couple of days this fall as the team performs geotechnical drilling. Exact dates to be determined. Construction is planned for 2025. For more information on Parks projects, please visit www.piercecountywa.gov/ParksProjects.

Other Foothills Projects and Closures

- ADA Improvements Extended: Improvements to the accessibility of Foothills Trail began in November with closures at both 136th Street and Military Road trail crossings. These closures have been extended due to unforeseen grading, permitting, and traffic control issues. Construction activities will continue with an anticipated re-opening of the trail by early December.

Spiketon Ditch Bridge Inspection: The Spiketon Ditch Bridge (located 1.5 miles east of the South Prairie Trailhead) will be closed until further notice. During a routine inspection of the bridge in July 2023, Pierce County Planning and Public Works (PPW) inspectors observed a split in the top chord of the wooden truss bridge. As a result of that finding, PPW has contracted with the design engineers of the bridge to conduct a more thorough inspection. We anticipate a report with findings and a recommendation in January 2024. There are no detours available at this time. Please do not attempt to go around or climb fencing or barriers blocking the bridge. We appreciate your patience.

- WSDOT Fish Passage Improvements: As a part of their statewide efforts to improve fish passage, WSDOT is planning to reconstruct culverts on Rauch Creek un-






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2024 Events

Save the date for all these upcoming events!

Foothills Coalition Annual Business Meeting:

Thursday, January 25th at 6pm

The meeting will be held via Zoom. Details and Zoom link will be posted on our website. Contact Shayla with any questions – shayla@foothillscoalition.org

2024 Parks & Great Outdoors Legislative Day:

Monday, January 29th

Whether you are a trail user, supporter or advocate, you can join in on this virtual advocacy day for parks, trails and outdoor recreation funding! More information and registration is here: <https://wildliferecreation.org/events/virtual-legislative-day-2024/>

Spring into Trails: Thursday, March 28th at 5pm

Save the date for our 2nd annual Spring into Trails event! This year’s event will likely be held in Buckley. More details and invitation coming soon!

Celebrate Trails Day: Saturday, April 27th

Save the Date for Celebrate Trails Day! The Coalition will host a Volunteer Work Party at different locations on the trail. Stay tuned for more details!

Rainier to Ruston Relay: Saturday, June 1st

Join this iconic relay race in teams of 2, 3, 4, or 6 to run from Mt. Rainier National Park to Tacoma! All proceeds go towards the purchase and maintenance of the trail system from the base of Mount Rainier to Tacoma’s waterfront. Help us finish the trail! Register and find more info at rainiertoruston.com.

B&O Half Marathon and 10K: Sunday, July 21st

Enjoy views of the Foothills Trail at this annual race. Point to point, the half marathon is downhill and quick while the 10K out and back is flat. Learn more at bnohalf.com

Pierce County Trails Day: Saturday, July 27th

Recurring Meetings

Foothills Coalition Monthly Board Meetings

Fourth Thursday of the Month at 6 p.m. via Zoom
Details and Zoom link on our website
Contact Shayla with any questions
shayla@foothillscoalition.org

Monthly Trail Volunteer Work Parties (Mar - Oct)

Join us every month in the Spring, Summer and Fall at various locations as we work to improve the look and safety of the trail!



Foothills Trail Coalition



Thanks For Your Support!

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MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 7PM
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9AM - 6PM

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Support Trails



Contact Information

Full Name: _____ Company: _____
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Make a Donation

Donation amount:

- \$25 \$250
- \$50 \$500
- \$100 \$1,000
- I would like to donate a different amount: _____

Payment Information

- Check enclosed (make check payable to Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition)
- Cash enclosed (no coins, please)
- Credit Card:
 - Card Number: _____
 - Expiration: _____ CVC: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____


Become a Member (or Renew)


- \$20 Single
- \$30 Family
- \$50 Pathfinder
- \$100 Trail Builder
- \$200 Hero
- \$200 Corporate*

*Includes a quarterly ad in each edition of the Trail Line News

Check your newsletter distribution option:

- Email
- Mail

 **Send Completed Forms to:**
 Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
 PO Box 192
 Puyallup, WA 98371

 **OR Give/Join Online**
foothillscoalition.org

THE FOOTHILLS TRAIL TALES

Chilly Adventures Begin!



"Join Us for Cold-Weather Fun at the Foothills Trails!"

Skating Extravaganza!



Snowman Magic!



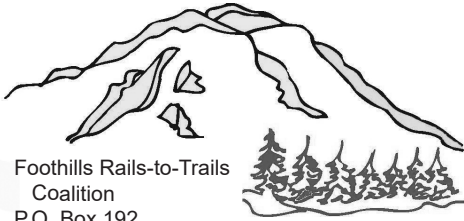
"Kids, come play with us in the chilly outdoors!"



Campfire Tales!



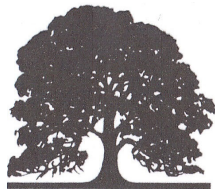
By Patty Velez



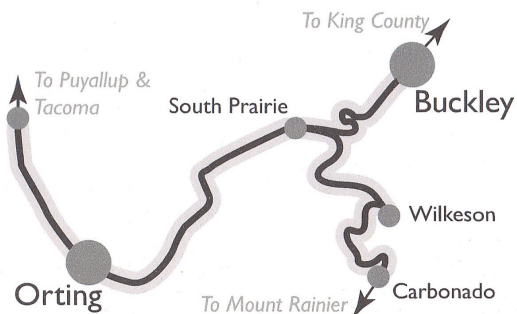
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