

It's no surprise that Flathead Valley residents and our booming tourism economy are hungry for more conservation and recreation on local lands. Trail usage has increased, the local rental bike fleets have doubled, and the WLP phone rings constantly with visitors seeking advice on where to explore next. We asked locals about their favorite aspect of the Whitefish Trail, and the top three answers reveal the backbone of our work: trails close to town, public access to protected, open lands, and a quality trail network with a high level of maintenance.

To the west, 1,520 protected acres at Lion Mountain, Skyles, and Beaver Lakes are connected with a permanent trail corridor. 640 acres of working forest at Lupfer are conserved forever, and to the east, over 10,000 acres of prime habitat and clean, drinking water in Haskill Basin and Trumbull Creek will remain unchanged for generations to come.

Connecting our local conservation lands with a front-country trail system is smart in the long-term and has improved our

quality of life. A solid partnership with the City of Whitefish and our strong base of community support combined with the growing Whitefish Trail Endowment make it all possible.

As we work to connect our legacy lands, Smith Lake is the next conservation and recreation opportunity. The south-facing benches are important wildlife habitat and provide a seasonal migration corridor between the high country on the Whitefish Range and the Swift Creek lower valley. The hiking, biking, fishing, and hunting opportunities have been enjoyed by the community for decades, and the cold, clear waters of Smith Creek provide invaluable watershed protection for Whitefish Lake. Smith Lake deserves a permanent solution, and we need your help to ensure that tomorrow's generations can enjoy the same opportunities we enjoy every day.

Mike Jopek, Board Chair Whitefish Legacy Partners



Whitefish Legacy Partners • P.O. Box 1895 • Whitefish, MT 59937 • 406-862-3880 • www.whitefishlegacy.org



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Let's Hit the Trail! Our generous sponsors are challenging the community to log 10,000 miles during the month of May. For every mile you bike, hike, run, or ride on the Whitefish Trail, our sponsors will donate \$1 to support our local trail and protected lands. Participate as an individual or create a Workplace Team. Help us reach our 10,000 mile goal and hit the trail this spring!

10,000 miles = \$10,000

1 SIGN UP

TRACK YOUR MILES
online, with Strava,

SUPPORT YOUR TRAIL

CHALLENGE SPONSORS

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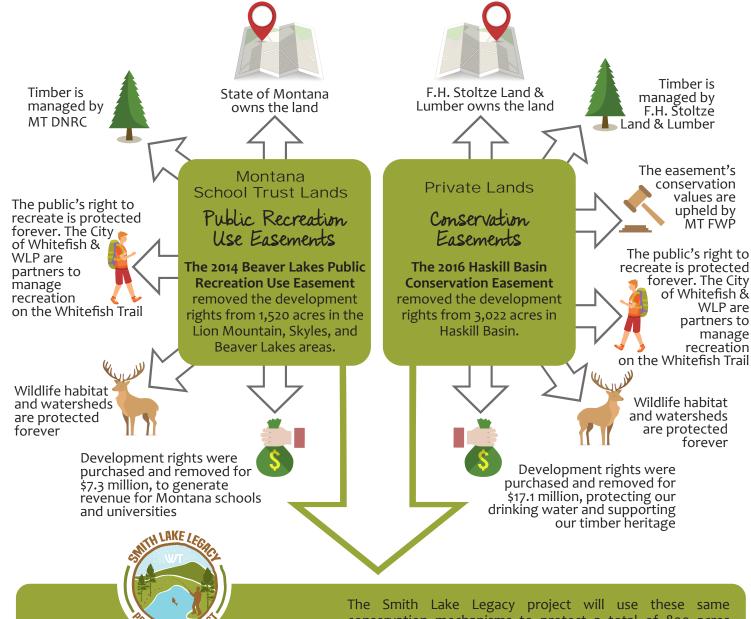
North Valley Hospital & Kalispell Regional Medical Center

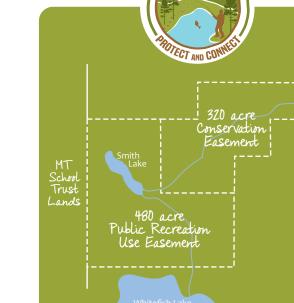
thank you

for supporting health of wellness in our community.



Land ownership is like a bundle of sticks: each stick represents a different set of rights, such as development rights, timber rights, or access rights. Sometimes one owner holds all the sticks, and sometimes the sticks are spread across multiple owners. Permanent conservation removes the development stick from the bundle, but the mechanism for removing it is different with State lands and private lands.





conservation mechanisms to protect a total of 800 acres across State and private lands to connect the Stillwater State Forest to Flathead National Forest. This permanent protection will create a critical connection for wildlife habitat, watershed protection and public recreation as surrounding private lands are further developed in coming years. The forests will continue to be sustainably manged, by DNRC on State lands and F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber on private lands, to provide wildfire protection and support our local timber economy. Flathead Land Trust will ensure the conservation values are upheld on private lands ensuring healthy ecosystems and balanced use. As with Beaver Lakes, millions of dollars will be invested in the Montana School Trust paying dividends every year to schools and universities across the state. This project will continue the community's legacy of conservation and ensure Smith Lake and the surrounding lands will be enjoyed for generations to come.





2018 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**









e

In 2018, Cheryl Tillemans of Somers, MT came to almost all the Guided Learning and Community Hikes on the Whitefish Trail. Whether it was a Bear Aware hike, learning about wildflowers, or an outing with the Kalispell Veterans Center, Cheryl's smiling face was always part of the group.

In the past few years, Cheryl has been on an amazing health and wellness journey. "After having some serious heart issues, I was a little intimidated to start hiking at first, but going out on the Whitefish Trail, especially with a group and leader, helped me become more confident. Once I started hiking, I just kept going!" Since then, Cheryl has lost an incredible 70 pounds and found a more active lifestyle. "Last year I did 16 5k races, with at least one each month of the year. My husband Gary says I've become an athlete, but I don't know about that," she jokes. For what it is worth, we are with Gary on this one!

"A lot of people might be intimidated to get out and start. Whether you've lived here forever or are brand new, when you're working to get healthy its something you have to overcome. On the Whitefish Trail, it doesn't matter which trailhead you choosethey are all great and they are all approachable. It's a great place to begin if you want to start getting out more, and there's

so many options to keep pushing yourself." For Cheryl, the camaraderie she found on WLP's hikes was just as important as the trail itself. "It definitely made me feel more comfortable going out with a group. Once you're out there, everyone is there for the same experience - to learn and enjoy the trail with others. I really appreciate that WLP's staff takes I just kept

the time to share their passion and knowledge on

these community hikes."

going!" We are inspired by Cheryl's story and the power that

our trails and open spaces have to change lives and build a healthy community. As for Cheryl, you will probably see her out on the trail this summer. "Now I venture out on my own more, but I still love coming back to the Whitefish Trail. Last year, we hiked from Swift Creek and didn't quite make it to Smith Lake. This year I want to go back and make it the whole way to the lake."

"Once I

started

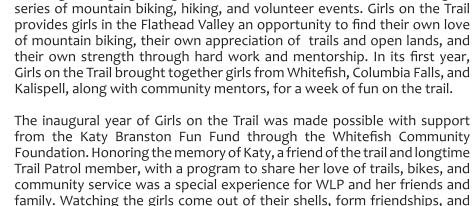
hiking,





'Thank you for this amazing program! Kalena had so much fun and I know she will be more confident enjoying our beautiful trails in the future! That was her first time trail riding and we are excited to get back out there and do more exploring on our mountain bikes! Thank you!"

Lacota Cavender



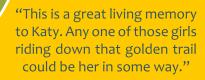
In 2018 Whitefish Legacy Partners launched a new education program to bring teenage girls, ages 12-15, out on the Whitefish Trail through a

In 2019 we are looking forward to growing Girls on the Trail into a weeklong summer program, incorporating a wider variety of activities and experiences to reach more girls.

push themselves out of their comfort zones was a wonderful example of

the power of trails, and the activities they allow, to build confidence and

For more information visit www.whitefishlegacy.org/youth-programs



resiliency in youth.

Katy's family





2012 WHITEISH TRAIL

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



KIDS PROGRAMS AT THE WT LEARNING PAVILION

Meet at Lion Mountain Trailhead. Two hour programs. No registration required, kids must be accompanied by an adult. Suitable for ages 5 to 12.

FOREST CRITTERS - Wednesday June 19, 10 am Discover the critters of the Whitefish Trail on a nature walk.

CLAY DAY - Tuesday June 25, 10 am
Play with squishy clay and create imprints of nature to take home.

TOTS ON THE TRAIL - Wednesday July 10, 10 am Join the Whitefish Community Library for this special toddler program.

PAINTING FROM NATURE - Thursday July 11, 10 am Be inspired by nature around you as you paint a masterpiece.

FAIRY HOUSES - Tuesday July 16, 10 am

Use your imagination as you explore the fairy land of Lion Mountain and build homes for its inhabitants.

NATURE MOBILES - Wednesday July 24, 10 am
Bring a little of the forest home with a mobile made from nature.

SCAVENGER HUNT - Tuesday July 30, 10 am Explore Lion Mountain with a nature scavenger hunt!

FOREST EXPLORERS CAMP on the Whitefish Trail



Wrap up summer with a fun day camp for kids ages 6-10 at the WT Learning Pavilion.

Sign up for one week or both!

WEEK I: August 5-8, Monday-Thursday Morning session: 9 am - 12 pm Afternoon session: 1 pm - 4 pm

WEEK 2: August 12-15, Monday-Thursday Morning session: 9 am - 12 pm Afternoon session: 1 pm - 4 pm

CDST:

\$40/week for WT Friends and Families or \$160/week Pre-registration required.

Register at www.whitefishlegacy.org/youth-programs

New events are always being added! Visit www.whitefishlegacy.org for the full schedule!

All events are free and do not require registration. They are suitable for all fitness levels and are family friendly.

Guided Learning Hikes

WINTER WILDLIFE TRACKS --- Saturday February 16, 10 am --- Lion Mountain Trailhead

Learn how to identify wildlife tracks in the snow on this easy 2 mile hike.

KALISPELL BEAR AWARE PRESENTATION IMAGINEIF LIBRARIES & REI --- Tuesday April 23, 6 pm --- Kalispell Library

Learn about bear biology and behavior, how to recreate safely in bear country, what to do in an encounter, and practice deploying inert bear spray during this interactive presentation. PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

WHITEFISH BEAR AWARE PRESENTATION --- Tuesday April 30, 6 pm --- Grouse Mountain Lodge

Learn about bear biology and behavior, how to recreate safely in bear country, what to do in an encounter, and practice deploying inert bear spray during this interactive presentation.

SPRING MUSHROOM HUNT --- Sunday May 4, 2 pm --- Swift Creek Trailhead
With spring rains come mushrooms! Hunt for wild mushrooms and learn to identify them.

BEAR AWARE HIKE --- Thursday May 23, 6 pm --- Lion Mountain TrailheadLearn about bear behavior and safety on an easy 2 mile hike.

WILDFLOWER WALK WITH MT NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY --- Wednesday June 5, 6 pm --- Lion Mountain Trailhead Learn how to identify the wildflowers of the Whitefish Trail with an easy 2-3 mile hike.

BEAR AWARE HIKE --- Wednesday September 18, 10 am --- Lion Mountain Trailhead

Just in time for hunting season, learn what you need to know to be safe in bear country during the fall on this easy 2 mile hike.

FALL MUSHROOM HUNT --- Sunday October 13, 2pm --- Woods Lake Trailhead

Cooler fall weather means mushrooms are back! Come hunt for wild mushrooms and learn to identify them.

Community Hikes & Bikes

NATURE IN FOCUS
July 16, 6-8 pm
August 8, 6-8 pm

Nature in Focus and Girls on the Trail teen programs are free. Pre-registration is required.

Visit www.whitefishlegacy.org/youth-programs to sign up

MOTHERS DAY HIKE WITH OUTSIETY --- Sunday May 12, 11 am --- Reservoir Trailhead Bring the whole family out to celebrate Mother's Day with a 3 mile hike.

FITNESS HIKE --- Tuesday May 14, 10 am --- Reservoir Trailhead
Get moving on the trail with a group hike led by fitness trainers.

GROUP MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE --- Tuesday May 21, 6pm --- Beaver Lakes Trailhead Join us for a beginners ride with an instructor or intermediate group ride. Free rentals available from Glacier Cyclery.

COMMUNITY HIKE WITH KALISPELL VET CENTER --- Tuesday June 4, 6 pm --- Lion Mountain Trailhead
Whether you're a veteran, have a loved one who is, or just want to show your support, join us for a hike!

WELLNESS HIKE WITH KALISPELL REGIONAL HEALTHCARE --- Wednesday June 12, 10 am --- Lion Mountain Trailhead Looking to get in shape or recovering from a medical issue? Explore the trail for your health!

FALL COMMUNITY HIKE --- Tuesday September 10, 6 pm --- Big Mountain Trailhead
Enjoy the changing fall colors and views with a 3 mile easy to moderate hike to the Haskill Lake Boardwalk.







The Whitefish Trail Endowment safeguards the long-term health of our community trail system for future generations, ensuring that we can forever enjoy free recreation access to our local lands. Volunteers provide much of the maintenance needed on the trail, clearing downed trees and brush, and improving tread and drainage. Revenue produced by the WT Endowment is also needed for other costs including replacing signs, cleaning, stocking, and pumping trailhead toilets, and snowplowing.

Cultivating an ethic of trail stewardship in our community and growing a healthy endowment will ensure our trails are well cared for, for generations to come.

> As we work to build trails for our community to enjoy now, growing the Whitefish Trail Endowment ensures those trails will continue to serve our community forever.

by inspiring future conservation leaders and providing permanent outdoor recreation opportunities many benefits, to our personal lives and to the community as a whole."

Paul & Wendy Faganel

How to Give

Support trails now and trails forever with a gift to the Whitefish Trail Endowment. Your donation to our qualified MT endowment will provide a MT tax credit of 40% of the value of the gift - up to a \$10k credit per year, per individual. Or leave your legacy with a charitable bequest through your will or living

2018 **VOLUNTEERS**





TOTAL VALUE OF VOLUNTEER TIME \$37,915 DONATED TO THE TRAIL

CARRIE JOHNSON seasonal trail coordinator

The Whitefish Trail

2009-2018 expenses **\$2.10 MILLION**

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION 33%

TRAILHEADS & AMENITIES 23%

> PROGRAMS 14%

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE **21%**

PLANNING & DESIGN 9%

REVENUE \$274,242 EXPENSES \$259,581 Grants & Foundations 23% Recreation 30% Friends & Families 22% **Conservation** 22% **Major Donors** 22% **Education** 17% **Fundraising Events 17%** 21% Outreach 10% Sponsors **5**% 11% **Administration Surplus Invested in** In-Kind Volunteer **WT** Endowment Labor **Donations** \$14,661 \$37,916 \$16,982







Biggest Catch' award for most donors

208 **Total Donors**

Whitefish Legacy Partners

\$99,169

total community donations

\$10,200

WCF matching grant

First time donors

Preston & Marjorie Spencer Joseph & Deann Sramek

The 2018 Great Fish Community Challenge was a great success for Whitefish Legacy Partners and all the local non-profits participating. Together, the Whitefish Community Foundation and the community raised an incredible \$2,406,810!

Michele Irelan

Charles James

Pat & Bob Jepsen

Paul & Ann Jeremiassen

Kevin Abel Charlie & Susan Abell Koel & Lazette Abell David & Ruth Ackroyd William & Olga Adams AGL Foundation Lin & Kathy Akey Angora Ridge Foundation Carrie & Jim Archibald David Archibald Summerfield & Julie Baldridge Roger Barber & Mary **V**anBuskirk Joe & LuAnn Basirico William & Betsy Bayne Mary & Ronald Béhrendt Todd & Glenna Bergland Carol Bibler & Jim Watson Jack & Nancy Biddle Cameron Blake & Sandy Gray Noah & Erin Bodman Gretchen Bover Scott & Barb Brant Becky Briber & Doug Griesel Mark Buckland Bill & Kay Burg Charles Cameron & Vita Wright Sue & Bill Carpenter Helen & Larry Cates Susan Causey Linda Chaunér Gail Cleveland & Bruce Tannehill Catherine Cloutier Jenny Cloutier

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TRAIL

thank you for supporting conservation, recreation,

education in our community

people have donated over the life of the project

with a median donation of

in 2018 new donors

Your donations add up to make it all possible!

2018 CPRPPRATE SPPNSPRS

Please support these businesses that are committed to conservation, education and recreation in our community:

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TITLE SPONSORS

Don K Subaru Whitefish Therapy & Sport Center

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Whitefish Tree Service **EVENT SPONSORS**

Beyond the Boundaries **Boedie Cycles** Bonsai Brewing Project Celebrate Event & Party Rentals

Culligan Water Ed McGrew BBQ The Firebrand Hotel First Interstate Bank Volunteers Fork in the Road Get A Grip Glacier Cyclery & Nordic Great Northern Cycle & Ski **Grizzly Security** Hammer Nutrition Jersey Boys Pizza The Lodge at Whitefish Lake Montana Coffee Traders Morley Canoes Mountain Berry Bowls **National Honors Society** PettyJohn's Water Store **REI Kalispell** S & M Taco Truck Shanti Yoga Studio SobbaCycle Sportsman & Ski Haus Super 1 Foods Superfeet Sweet Peaks Ice Cream Tea Kettle Cafe The Toggery

Whitefish Bike Retreat

ADOPT-A-TRAIL CREWS Applied Materials Averill Hospitality Beyond the Boundaries Eman & John Federico Ethos Eco Boutique Flathead Area Mountain Bikers **Grouse Mountain Estates** Montana Conservation Corps Mountain Man Engineering NW Montana Backcountry Horseman

RE/MAX of Whitefish Summit Preparatory School Wheelie Creative Design Whitefish Bike Retreat Whitefish Mountain Resort

TRAIL VOLUNTEER **GROUPS**

Bill Love Flathead Farmers 4-H Club First Interstate Bank Fresh Life Church Jamie Moore Ridge Mountain Academy Whitefish Middle School

TRAIL SPONSORS

Big Mountain Tree Service Grassroots Lawn Service Thompson Design and Management **RBM Lumber** River Design Group WBC Whitefish

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Partners

Katy Brantson Amý Derin James Howe Sam Penzi Peter Stanley



















