



Hello everyone! I'm Larry Leveen, the Director of ForeverGreen Trails, and I wanted to welcome you all to Trails & Ales — an opportunity to discuss important trail projects and initiatives in a more social atmosphere.

I want to take a moment to thank our awesome event sponsors: Parametrix, PSE, Evergreen Personal Injury Counsel, and PSOMAS.

I also want to thank Simple Goodness Soda Shop for having a special nonprofit venue rental rate and for Carlson Block pizza for working with us, and especially Foothills for being a key sponsor, co-host, and all-around mover and shaker for the Foothills Trail.

Lastly, I want to give a quick shout-out to Pierce County Parks and Recreation Director Travis Buell who was an inspiration for today's event and gave his staff the go-ahead to collaborate with us.

Agenda

- Trails & Ales Presentation
 - Breanna Fokes, Executive Director, Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
 - Jayme Peloli, Executive Director of Wilkeson Historical District
 - Travis Curry, Senior Trails Planner, Pierce County Parks
 - Role of ForeverGreen Trails
 - Q&A time – hold your questions
- Trails & Tales Walk-and-Talk
 - White River Partnership
 - Families First Coalition
 - Friends of the Carbon Canyon



We scheduled three events today – the Foothills stewardship work part on the trail here in Wilkeson, the Trails & Ales presentation, an on-trail walk-and-talk with some community partners. Our Trails & Ales speakers will be:

Breanna Fokes from Foothills who will talk about the vision for the Foothills Trail and its connections to other trails in our regional network
Jayme Peloli from the Wilkeson Historical District and former mayor who will address the importance of trails to gateway communities
Travis Curry from Pierce County Parks who will be sharing information about TWO Foothills Trail extension projects
The you'll see me again as I briefly describe the role of ForeverGreen Trails' in these projects and overall regional trail system buildout
We ask that you hold your questions until the end

Following this talk, we will have a Trails & Tales walk-and-talk on this section of the trail.

After that, we encourage you to visit The Carlson Block for more refreshments and to help support the local economy which we will hear more about in just a bit.

About FGT

ForeverGreen Trails supports the development of a unified system of trails throughout Pierce County, WA, via education, advocacy, promotion, and collaboration.

- **Education:** Trails & Ales, the Pierce County Trails Conference
- **Advocacy:** Policy and funding for active recreation & mobility
- **Promotion:** Trails & Tales and our Trail Accelerator Program
- **Collaboration:** Jurisdictions, Nonprofits, Businesses, Individuals

Member Organizations



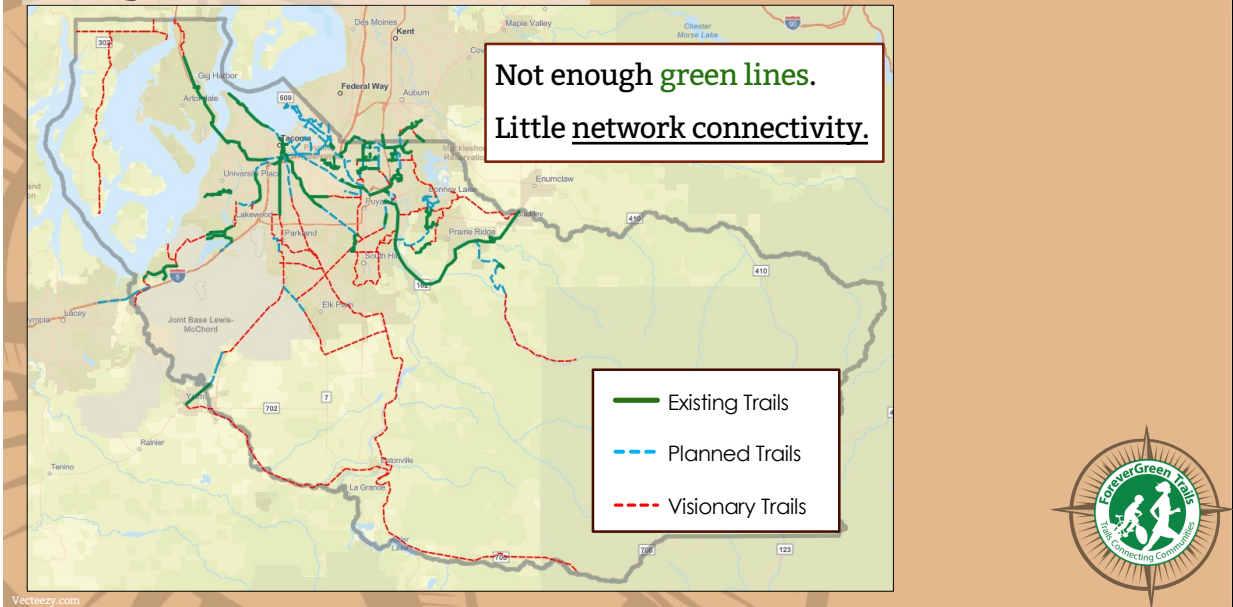
www.forevergreentrails.org



ForeverGreen Trails is a 501c3 nonprofit serving all of Pierce County through education, advocacy, promotion, and collaboration to support the development of a regional trails network.

We are a membership organization and are supported by local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, forward-thinking businesses, and of course individual members — people who use and love trails just like YOU. At ForeverGreen Trails we have a saying, “Great trail systems don’t just HAPPEN — it’s takes TEAMWORK!” We invite you to join our team by becoming a member of ForeverGreen Trails or donating. You can find us online at www.forevergreentrails.org

Why FGT is Needed



Pierce County is characterized by having a relatively low number of trail miles, trail miles per capital, and trail connectivity. ForeverGreen Trails is needed to help address our region's backlog of trail projects.

Our Vision statement captures the potential impact the planned system:

"All of Pierce County's communities are more connected, livable, and economically viable due to a system of trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and local pathways that provides safe, convenient, non-motorized travel and recreation for all ages, abilities, and income levels. Residents and visitors use, value, and care for this network because it contributes to their health, well-being, quality of life, and the local economy."

We are committed to turning those lines green. That's not why we are called ForeverGreen Trails, it's just handy it worked out like that.

How FGT Helps

- Government outreach at all levels
- Technical & financial assistance for jurisdiction members



**“We GROW the pie of trail funding
& help our local partners GET the pie!”**



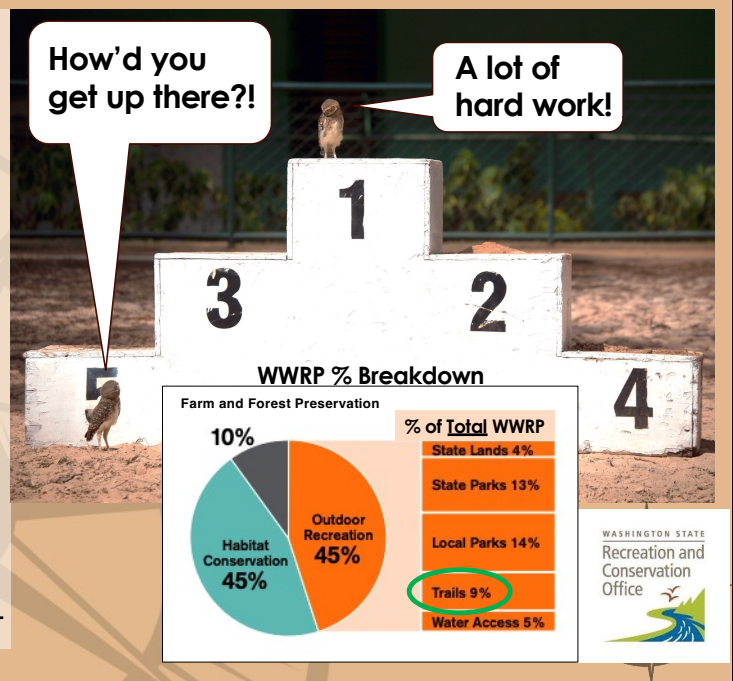
Turning all of those lines on the trail map green takes a LOT of funding. That's why we work hard to both GROW the pie and GET the pie.

Our government outreach helps ensure sound active recreation and mobility policy and funding. Our technical and financial assistance programs help our local partners get grants to build out our planned trail system.

At FGT, “We keep our eyes on the PIES!” And we have the receipts that what we do works, having helped secure many millions of dollars in grant funding for our region, through grants and direct appropriations.

Grant Trends

- # funded projects dropping
 - 2020: Top 8
 - 2022: Top 6
 - 2024: Top 6
- Avg. request amounts increasing
 - 2020 \$1.02M
 - 2022 \$1.51M
 - 2024 \$1.54M
- Funded project point spread
 - 2020: 8.36
 - 2022: 2.95
 - 2024: 2.81 — Top 3 spread .11 points!



One of the most important sources of grant funding for local park and trail projects is the WA Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) which is managed by the Recreation and Conservation Office, known as RCO. Trails only receive 9% of each dollar appropriated to the WWRP. Just nine cents. That means that if you want to significantly boost trail funding through this program, you must add a lot to WWRP to make a difference in the Trails category.

ForeverGreen Trails tracks RCO's data in this grant program and we've noticed two trends — the FIRST is that this program is highly-competitive and only getting more so over the last few biennia. Despite WWRP funding increasing by \$20M in 2022, thanks to a dedicated coalition of advocates, the number of funded trail projects is actually decreasing. The size of grant requests increased, probably mostly due to inflation. Lastly, we see that the point spread among the funded projects has decreased. WWRP is getting incredibly competitive. If you want to be among those top six funded projects, you need to put in a lot of hard work, like the owl atop the podium.



So, FGT GOT WISE. Armed with RCO's data, we developed programs to make our region's grant applications more competitive.

- We use Trails & Ales and the more active Trails & Tales event to provide outreach and education about trail projects. These increase public awareness and support that we share with grant agencies – and it MATTERS, so thank you for helping!
- We offer contracted services to provide temporary staff capacity so grant deadlines can be met. Common tasks include writing narratives, gathering data, producing maps, graphics, designing/delivering presentations, soliciting letters of support. 11
- Sometimes we host public-private fund drives to help provide some of the local match funding often required for grants.

With state budgets being biennial, if you lose out here, you lose out for TWO YEARS at a minimum. So, it is important to succeed in every WWRP grant competition to keep phased trail plans and and our whole regional network development on schedule.

Questions?



Do folks have any questions for any of our speakers?

Thank you – let's walk!

Thanks to today's partners/presenters:



Pierce County
Parks & Recreation

WILKESON
HISTORICAL DISTRICT



Thanks to our event sponsors:

Parametrix



PSOMAS



Thanks once again to Simple Goodness, and our event sponsors, Parametrix, PSE, Evergreen Personal Injury Counsel, PSOMAS, and Foothills, as well as our partners at Pierce County Parks.

Now, if you'd like to join us on a one-mile walk of the trail, we can enjoy the weather and hear from our community partners at

- **White River Partnership**
- **Families First Coalition**
- **Friends of the Carbon Canyon**

And don't forget that Carlson Block pizza will be open afterward!