

Trail Awards

*“Great trail systems don’t
just happen ...
... it takes a team effort.”*

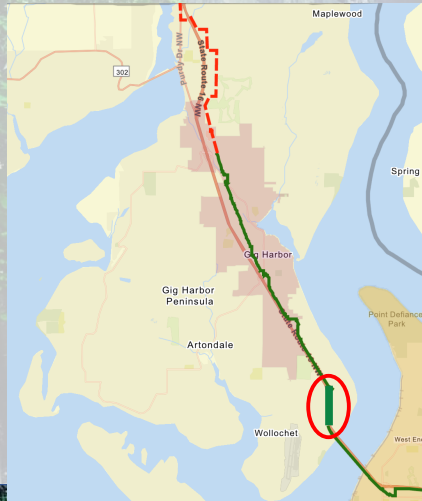


Earlier I mentioned one of FGT’s mottos: “Great trail systems don’t just HAPPEN. It takes a TEAM EFFORT.” However, sometimes there are particular stars on that team or specific accomplishments that deserve special recognition. Each year at our conference we give Trail Awards for outstanding contributions to our trails network or in the area of trails advocacy.

This year we are recognizing TWO region trail projects and TWO individuals

Trail Awards

Cushman Trail Southern Completion



TRICK OR TRAIL
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24
5-7:30 PM



The Cushman Powerline Trail is an important regional facility linking Tacoma and the rest of Pierce County to the Gig Harbor Peninsula. It is envisioned to reach Kitsap County and is also crucial for connecting to the Key Peninsula. For several years, there has been a gap in the southern end of the trail from 14th Avenue NW to 24th Street NW. However, this was recently addressed with a combined project to construct a recreation center and trail that was completed in June. A portion of the trail was built adjacent to the roadway along 14th Avenue NW. The trail then enters the recreation center property at its north end and runs through the campus to an existing crosswalk on 24th Street NW.

Trail Awards

Cushman Trail Southern Completion



We look forward to working with PenMet and other jurisdictions to complete the northern extension of the trail but are pleased today to recognize PenMet Parks for their accomplishment in extending the trail to its southern terminus. Accepting on behalf of the agency is Ally Bujacich, John Laughery, and Brynn Grimley.

Trail Awards

Doc Tait Pavilion & Buckley Trailhead Partnership



Our next award is for the Doc Tait Pavilion & Buckley Trailhead Partnership.

This new trailhead and pavilion create a welcoming hub where the public can rest, meet up, and learn the story of the facility and the community that initiated it. This project improves trail access, enhances orientation and safety with maps, and tells the story of the Foothills National Recreation Trail. The pavilion honors Dr. Douglas “Doc” Tait, the Buckley physician who first imagined the trail, and the other visionaries who worked to make it a reality. This project partnership is an example of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors working together to improve trails in our region.

Trail Awards

Doc Tait Pavilion & Buckley Trailhead Partnership

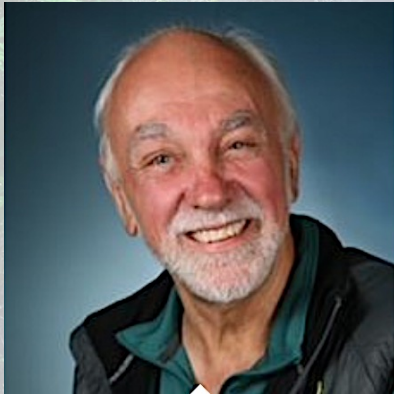


Tonight, we would like to recognize the efforts of the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, the City of Buckley, and Pierce County for their work to bring the vision of this trailhead and interpretive history resource to fruition. Accepting these awards are Dan Bucci the President of Foothills (and Breanna Fokes their Executive Director) and Pierce County Parks Director Travis Buell. Unfortunately, Erin Snodgrass the City of Buckley Parks & Recreation Director was ill and unable to join us tonight.

Also, we want to acknowledge the efforts of Robin Partington, Shayla Miles, and County Councilman Dave Morell for their efforts on this project.

Trail Awards

Outstanding Achievement: John Hopkins



John Hopkins has been an invaluable partner in advancing our shared vision for a connected trail system in the greater Puyallup area. A former mayor of the city, he is the Chair of Friends of the Riverwalk and joined the board of Foothills in 2024, serving on their Finance Committee. John generously gives, not only his time but also a personal donation each year to support the development of the Riverwalk Trail. As someone who uses the trail daily, John's commitment is deeply personal. He also spearheaded the All Along the Riverwalk festival which features art, education, and entertainment between multiple trailheads. John has brought that same spirit of creativity and community to help make the Riverwalk Trail more connected, visible, and celebrated by people of all ages. His contributions have been instrumental in moving the long-envisioned Phase 5 connection project forward.

I'm sure there is no better way to thank John than to make a donation to our Riverwalk Fund Drive! Right John?!

Trail Awards

Lifetime Achievement: Bob Myrick



An involved advocate and leader in the Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club for decades, Bob Myrick has truly been a devoted Trail Champion. His institutional knowledge is a valuable resource and his unfailing interest in, awareness of, and dedication to active mobility connections throughout our region is astounding. If you've been on the receiving end of one of Bob's frequent email missives, you know what I mean. Bob has a lot to say about the importance of trails but he also "puts his money where his mouth is" having been a generous supporter of nonprofits like 2nd Cycle, Foothills, and, yes, ForeverGreen Trails. He is an ardent promoter of these groups and an ambassador, inviting people to join or donate to these organizations and attend their events. He serves as an example of fiscal stewardship and membership growth for other board members. Bob established our Endowed Fund and has proved that octogenarians are also able to use online peer-to-peer fundraising effectively. If Bob seems just like a quiet and mellow old guy, then you likely aren't an elected official, agency staff, or director of a local nonprofit, who he politely harangues about accelerating active mobility projects — all while cycling the globe. For his lifetime of advocacy for active mobility, we are pleased to recognize Bob Myrick.