



## EVENT SUMMARY

In 2023, we set a record by offering 28 in-person recreation and stewardship activities. Combined with an ever-growing number of self-guided, DIY events thanks to partners like Downtown On the Go, there were more opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and interest areas to get out, get active, and contribute to our trails, parks, and natural areas.

We engaged with several first time Trails Day partners (**in bold**) and a few partners hosted multiple activities (underlined) and one in **BOTH categories**:

Alchemy Skateboarding  
 Bike Gig Harbor!  
 Black Girls Run!  
 City of DuPont Parks & Recreation  
 City of Fife Parks, Recreation & Aquatics  
 City of Tacoma Safe Routes to School  
**Clover Park Rotary**  
 Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association  
**Eatonville Parks and Trails**  
 Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition  
 Friends of Waughop Lake

Job Carr Cabin Museum  
Metro Parks Tacoma  
 Ms.Fit MTB Brigade  
 PenMet Parks  
**Phil's Bike Shop**  
Pierce Conservation District  
Pierce County Evergreen (PiCOE)  
Pierce County Parks  
**Route 16 Run/Walk**  
 WA Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter  
**Zero Waste Washington**

ForeverGreen Trails would like to thank our grantors, donors, and our amazing activity hosts and participants for making Pierce County Trails Day 2023 a success.

## Trails Day Hosts & Activities

### Alchemy Skateboarding — **Push the Narrows**

Unfortunately, returning partner Alchemy Skateboarding had to delay their activity due to a shortage of lead time to promote it. They enjoy hosting for Trails Day and have promised to send some photos of the make-up activity “Revenge of the Narrows”.

### Bike Gig Harbor! — **Cushman Trail Bike Tour**

Six riders enjoyed a 27-mile route from Gig Harbor to University Place via the Cushman and Scott Pierson Trails and a mix of surface streets. Route highlights were the views from the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and, unsurprisingly, the tastes at Bliss Ice Cream along the route.



### Black Girls Run! — **Foothills Trail Run**

BGR! Promotes the health and wellness of Black women and women of color through supportive active recreation and sisterhood. Although our usual organizer was unavailable for Trails Day, another volunteer generously stepped up to host a trail run on the Foothills National Rail Trail which two runners attended.



**City of DuPont Parks & Recreation — Sequalishoot 2023!**

This annual photo contest was graciously moved to coincide with Trails Day this year. The event challenges photographers to take their best shot of any of DuPont’s trails in a 24-hour period. This activity brings a very different aspect of trail use to our event. Trails are often places of rapid travel or care-free recreation, but this contest shows that they can also be places of introspection, presence of mind, sense of place, and of course, art.

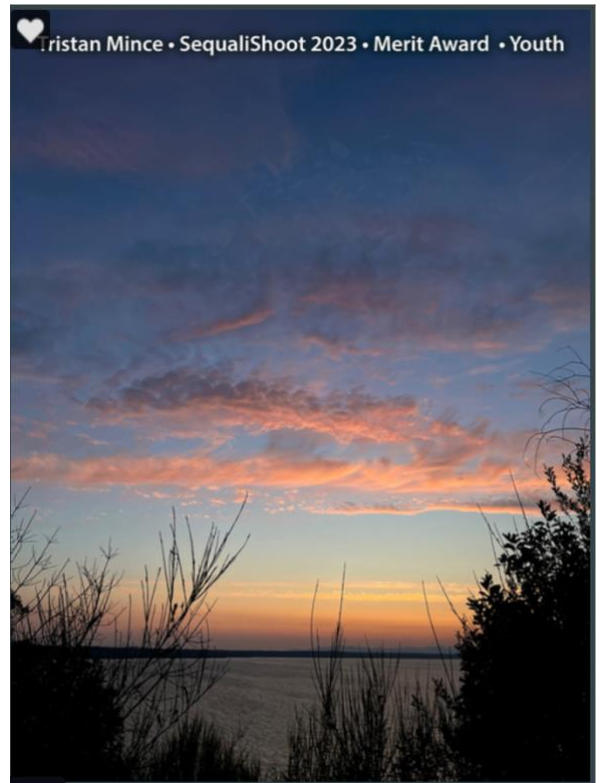
Photo entries were received from 11 youth and 20 adults. Judges used three criteria: tells a visual story, inspires an emotional response, and is a balanced composition. Winners for both age categories were selected as well as a People’s Choice and Merit Award winners.



Reece Rozsnyai • SequaliShoot 2023 • 1st Place • Youth



Gina Comer • SequaliShoot 2023 • 1st Place • Adult



Tristan Mince • SequaliShoot 2023 • Merit Award • Youth



Ava Dean • SequaliShoot 2023 • People's Choice • Youth

### [City of Fife Parks, Recreation & Aquatics](#) — Frank Albert Trail Cleanup

Parks staff hosted an stewardship activity trimming branches, cleaning pathways of moss, picking up litter and revitalizing the trail for users.

### [City of Tacoma Safe Routes to School](#) — Edison School Traffic Garden

The City of Tacoma, Second Cycle, Downtown on the Go and others hosted 68 youth at Edison Elementary School on Tacoma's south side. Participants had their bikes checked for safety (with minor adjustments done on-site) and were given instruction about riding safely. Also, 40 youths were fitted for helmets to help remove financial barriers to their safe mobility.



### [Clover Park Rotary](#) — South Sound Wildlife Area Walk & Weed

An intergenerational group of ten people gathered at this area on Phillips Road in Lakewood that is managed by the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. There are several paved and unpaved walking trails on-site that are well used and loved by local residents for active recreation. The group walked the trails, learning about the property's history and removing invasive plant species.

### [Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association](#) — Riverwalk Festival Walk

The Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association broke a previous Trails Day activity record with 73 walkers taking part in their 5K and 10K routes. They included the All Along the Riverwalk Festival (see below). DVVA, whose membership includes many seniors, illustrates that more people are staying active in later phases of life. Trails are important resources for people of all ages and abilities and help enable healthy active lifestyles throughout life. The organization also surprised us with a cleanup event along the Puyallup Riverwalk Trail the day before Trails Day, with 15 volunteers participating!



**[Eatonville Parks and Trails](#) — Smallwood Park Trail Trim & Tidy**

First-time Trails Day partner Eatonville Parks and Trails held a small work party to help maintain the usability of the trails in Smallwood Park. Six people participated and made good progress in brushing the trails.

**[Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition](#) — All Along the Riverwalk**

FGT member and frequent partner Foothills held their All Along the Riverwalk Arts, Education & Entertainment Festival on Trails Day this year. They estimate that between 500-1000 people passed through or came to the festival to enjoy music and art at the various booths.



**[Friends of Waughop Lake](#) — Waughop Lake Habitat Stewardship**

A small but determined group removed blackberries by Lakewood's Waughop Lake in Fort Steilacoom Park. A popular walking route, several people passing by thanked us for working to improve the lake and park.

**[Job Carr Cabin Museum](#) — Ruston Way Waterfront Walk**

Perennial Trails Day partner Job Carr Cabin Museum hosted a historic walking tour along Ruston Way that was attended by six people. The host highlighted the significant changes to the waterfront over the past 160 years as they walked. Clever marketers, the Job Carr Cabin Museum also showed the power of trails for local economies as they included a list of other activities the public could enjoy within walking distance of the tour site so folks can make a day of it including market and dining experiences.

**[Metro Parks Tacoma](#) — Guided Hike & ADA-accessible Promenade at Point Defiance Park and Swan Creek Park Cleanup**

Six people participated in the 3.5 mile Inside Loop hike at Point Defiance Park on Saturday. The host reported that there was interest among the participants in doing more such hikes in the future. Metro Parks also hosted our first-ever ADA accessible activity on the 1.3-mile-long Point Defiance Promenade attended by two people.

### **Ms.Fit MTB Brigade — Hit the Trails With the Ms.Fits!**

A co-ed group of nine riders gathered at Swan Creek MTB Park on Sunday to explore the trails and have fun. Trail riding skills were shared, and videos of practice runs on challenging parts of the trails were sharing on Ms.Fit's social media channels.



### **PenMet Parks — Harbor Family Park Cleanup**

Twelve people came out to help the park district to help them maintain the trails at one of their system's parks. PenMet staff are spinning up a stewardship program within the district and were eager Trails Day partners. They want to partner with community groups like Kiwanis and Rotary as local influencers to help them increase participation in the future.

### **Phil's Bike Shop — Dash Point State Park MTB Trails Tour**

In a cross-jurisdiction partnership, Phil's Bike Shop, located in Federal Way, hosted a mountain bike trail ride in Dash Point State Park, which spans the King-Pierce County border. Five people participated in a relaxing spin around the hand-built trails followed by refreshments at a nearby eatery while discussing potential areas to work on for the following day's work party.

### **Pierce Conservation District — Bradley Lake Park & Pioneer Place II Work Parties**

Returning Trails Day partner Pierce Conservation District worked with seven volunteers at two sites in Puyallup on habitat restoration. They cared for existing plants and removed invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and thistle. This work supports water quality, our local wildlife, and pollinators.



### **Pierce County Evergreen (PiCOE) — Swan Creek MTB Trail Cleanup and Dash Point Work Party**

On Saturday, PiCoE co-hosted (with Metro Parks Tacoma) a cleanup of Swan Creek Park, concentrating on the mountain bike trails. Seven people signed up to clean the MTB trails and removed lots of litter and another six people cleaned other parts of the park. One clever volunteer showed up with a garden wagon to make her litter collection easier.

On Sunday, six volunteers brushed the mountain bike trails at the Dash Point State Park for three hours. They also removed a downed tree blocking access at the Norpoint Trailhead.



### **Pierce County Parks — Nathan Chapman Trail Guided Nature Walks / Kids Scavenger Hunt / Pollinator Seed Packets**

Jurisdiction member Pierce County Parks reports that 10 people came out specifically for their triple-activity and roughly another 10 people who were at the park stopped by to talk with them.



### **Route 16 Run/Walk — Crescent Valley Trail Run**

Three people joined new Trails Day partner Route 16 Run/Walk (a local running store and event promoter) for a run in the 1,000+ acres of the Crescent Valley Trail System north of Gig Harbor. Host Miguel Galeana says that having soft surface trails, whether standalone or adjacent to paved trails, is important for runners who do not like unforgiving paved surfaces commonly found in many parks and our regional trail system. He also cited that more natural settings with greenery in close proximity enhance runners' experiences and provide mental health benefits that more engineered/impermeable trails and facilities often lack. Lastly he asked ForeverGreen Trails to contact him again to partner in Trails Day next year.

### **WA Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter — Sehmel Homestead Park Native Plant Walk**

Six hikers attended this plant walk led by a volunteer from the WA Native Plant Society. This site also has a self-guided plant walk created by the Pierce County Master Gardeners. The Sehmel Homestead Park is the farthest northwest of all the activity sites this year and was one of five on the Gig Harbor Peninsula.



### **Zero Waste Washington — Scott Pierson Trail Cleanup & Pipeline Trail Cleanup**

New Trails Day partner Zero Waste Washington (ZWW) hosted two trail cleanups in Tacoma on successive days. The cleanup on the Scott Pierson Trail was attended by ForeverGreen Trails staff and a board member as well as the Deputy Mayor of Tacoma, Kristina Walker and several others. Discussions for how to address such trail maintenance ensued to help make sure that our trails are inviting for all users. The following day, ZWW hosted a cleanup on the Pipeline Trail using the Eastside Community Center's parking lot on S. 56<sup>th</sup> (in cooperation with Metro Parks Tacoma) for their coordination and litter sorting. Several volunteers from the community helped out including a group of six from the Tacoma REI store (also a returning corporate partner) who did a bike ride on the trail prior to assisting in the cleanup.