

Event Report



With COVID restrictions being somewhat relaxed this summer, we were able to offer a record number of recreation and stewardship opportunities — 32 in total. Twenty-two of these were in-person activities. We still made an effort to provide ten self-guided, DIY events to encourage folks to get out and be active if they either were not available on Trails Day or if they needed or wanted to minimize their potential exposure to coronavirus.

This year we were able to engage with several first time Trails Day partners as well as many returning ones to provide activities for all ages, abilities, and interests. Some of these entities collaborated with each other on their events, helping to create connections in the community — another way that trails serve us. Hosts were asked to provide a short report on their event(s) and their responses are on the following pages of the report.

ForeverGreen Trails would like to thank our grantors, sponsors, donors, and our amazing activity hosts and participants for making Pierce County Trails Day 2021 a success.

Alchemy Skateboarding

“Despite only having three participants we had a really great push to the Narrows! The riders had a blast and wanted to know when we'd organize another one, so I'll have to carve out some more time in the future for these pushes!

Since the group was small, we were able to have some great conversations as we rode about our skate influences, when and why we started skateboarding, how skateboarding has evolved over time and influenced other things like music and art. We also talked about different gear and what different types of trucks and wheels do for different riding styles.

We all tried out each other's boards at various times and our younger rider Bruno said this was the first time he ever went out on a long push like this and really seemed to enjoy the various hills and neighborhoods we skated through!”



Black Girls Run!

BGR first hosted an event with us in 2020 and was excited to do so again. Jiquanda Nelson, the Pierce County ambassador for BGR reported, “We had about 35 people which included runners with us, folks stopping by the table, grabbing snacks and literature off of our table. It was so cool to meet some new folks, including a former BGR ambassador who recently joined the board of Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition. Thank you so much again for including us.”



Ms.Fits MTB Brigade

Ms.Fits generally focuses on encouraging and supporting women mountain bike riders, however, Ambassador Jayme Hill led a small co-ed trail ride in the evening at Swan Creek MTB Park. While the turnout was very small, some good networking was done between the ride leader and our board member Rob Buck, who also heads up the Pierce County Evergreen committee.

Key Pen Parks

Key Pen is a new Trails Day partner for us. They have a new Volunteer Coordinator who hosted a stewardship event at 360 Trails a popular multiuse area west of Gig Harbor. Five people showed up to do some maintenance on the park's multiuse trails.

Pierce Conservation District & Tahoma Audubon

Eight participants joined the tag-team hosts from the Conservation District and Tahoma Audubon for a walk around the Puyallup Loop Trail for a look at conservation projects and for birding. Although Trails Day was a bit muggy out, the group had an enjoyable time and were excited to see a pair of owls.



WA Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter

Six hikers gathered at McCormick Forest with volunteers hosts from the South Sound Chapter. Native plant care was discussed, and minor stewardship, such as trimming overgrowth and removing diseased plants, was performed on the trails there.



Washington Trails Association

Our long-time partner, WTA, had 11 participants in their work party on the South Puyallup Trail in Mount Rainier National Park. The tread was restored, and drains cleared to help maintain this trail.

Daffodil Valley Volkspport Association

The association had 154 walkers attend their Walk the Trails at Tehaleh event. Leaving a place cleaner that it was found is an important value that was modeled on the event — enough litter was removed from the trails to fill a large garbage bag.

Pierce County Parks

The department hosted a DIY/smartphone-based rubber duck hunt on the Pipeline Trail. The activity had about 25 people participating. Overall it went well, but one of the Ducks went missing — perhaps it was enjoying the trail that day.



Running the Movement, Comúnidad – Latinos Outdoor, and the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation

These three groups organized an educational and fun event the evening before Trails Day. They met at the Tacoma Chinese Reconciliation Park to learn about the city's sad and history of racism and expulsion of its ~700 Chinese residents in 1885. Foundation volunteers, aided by a Spanish language interpreter, provided a historical context and guided tour through the park sharing the impact of the conspiracy which included several community leaders — and the lack of repercussions for their actions.



They emphasized that the park exists to help ensure we never forget this history and to safeguard from any other group experiencing such violence and marginalization. Of the eight people who attended, none of them previously knew that the park existed or of this part of Tacoma's past. Those participants then biked out along Ruston Way to Dune Peninsula and to Defiance Park, across the recently completed bike/ped bridge connecting the two, arriving as the sun was setting. The vibrant area was full of people from all walks of life, showing that our community is stronger together. An interest in more outdoor activities highlighting our history were desired.

Running the Movement, Comunidad – Latinos Outdoor, and MetroParks Tacoma

The two former groups collaborated on a second Trails Day event the next morning at Point Defiance Park, joined this time by staff from MetroParks Tacoma who provided Spanish language interpretation about the park's history. They reported having five participants and although it was a small group, and maybe because it was a small group, it made the hike even more meaningful to them. They learned about the park's history as conveyed in both English and Spanish by MetroParks staff and they discussed issues surrounding our communities and access to the Parks in the area. The co-hosts are eager to partner with us again and continue community engagement. They have ideas on how to improve their turnout and better support their event next year.

City of Puyallup Parks

Puyallup organized a combination event, a 5K walk/run on the Puyallup Loop Trail and also a ribbon cutting on their new fitness station at Clarks Creek North Park. They had about 60 people (young and old) participate in our 5K Celebrate trails event and was coordinated by All Things Fun Sports.



Citizens for a Healthy Bay

This new Trails Day partner hosted an educational walk with a couple people at the Gog-Le-Hi-Te Wetlands in the Port of Tacoma, near the mouth of the Puyallup River. In recognition of the importance of wetlands' role in supporting biodiversity, they also did some birding on site.

Kidical Mass Tacoma & Asia Pacific Cultural Center

We had 27 folks attend the Water Flume Line Trail Ride with Kidical Mass Tacoma from South Park. They stopped along the way and enjoyed frolicking in a playground. Awaiting them at the end of the ride was a generous free vegetarian food truck arranged by returning Trails Day co-host Asia Pacific Cultural Center, whose offices abuts the trail and is adjacent to South Park.



Trashmountain Cleanup & Cascade Major Taylor Program

Local do-gooder Aaron Ross (aka “Trashmountain_Cleanup” on Instagram) teamed up with Josh Stowell & Sarah Conrads from Cascade’s Major Taylor Program in Pierce County which focuses on underserved youth with bike-oriented activities including rides, safety and mechanic education, and stewardship. In total, 13 people in two groups started at each end of the Pipeline Trail in Tacoma and removed a total of 3 pickup truck loads of trash. Many neighbors and trail users thanked them along the way, including one resident who served the grateful youth frozen ices as they worked in the heat.



Pierce County Parks Resource Stewardship Program, Pierce Transit & Pierce Trips

These three Trails Day partners co-hosted Trails & Transit at Sprinker Recreation Center. They provided information about trail county trail planning, transit mobility options, and led interpretive tours of the trails in the nearby Bresemann Forest. Brianne Blackburn, one of the organizers reported, “About 20-30 people attend our event. This was the first event of its kind for us at this location. Most of the people that attended were from the Parkland-Spanaway community, some brand new to the trails at Bresemann and many unaware of the projects underway in their community. We had people show up for the guided walks through Bresemann forest that walk there every week and some that took it as an opportunity to explore somewhere new to them. It was a wonderful opportunity to engage a different audience and see the excitement for the parks and trail improvements. I had one young attendee (he was about 10 years old) that keyed into the Parkland Trail information and after a quick chat about it, said, ‘Cool! That means I could ride my bike to soccer practice!’



Pierce Transit was a great partner, bringing a new hybrid bus for people to explore and learn more about the service. People really seemed excited at the opportunity to ask questions about transit. I look forward to growing numbers in the future, I think we could bring more partners, maybe do a bike rodeo or helmet giveaway and draw more people.”

Pierce County Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (PiCoE)

This trail advocacy group and new Trails Day partner held a “Bag for Swag” trail cleanup activity at Swan Creek MTB Park in South Tacoma. With over thirty people participating, about 25 bags of garbage were picked up from the trails. Many other riders also come by the booth to meet and network with PiCoE. Thanks also to Bonney Lake Bike Shop for having a booth and helping out riders with mechanical issues.



Thrive Center

This new Trails Day Partner organized a cleanup of the Interurban Trailhead in Edgewood. They had 13 people show up and they filled two big outside yard bags with garbage and litter. Thrive is a potential resource in an upcoming fundraising partnership with the City of Edgewood and ForeverGreen Trails.

Wilkeson Booster Club

The Wilkeson National Handcar Races are a tradition in southeast Pierce County. This year they fell on Trails Day and we were very glad to have the partnership of the Wilkeson Booster Club who hosted the event. We love having a wide variety of ways to be active and enjoy trails and a handcar race was definitely a new feather in our cap! The Wilkeson Booster Club reported that 27 Handcar racing teams (roughly 80 people) made 33 passes down our 300ft long racetrack. They also allowed spectators to operate a second handcar, at more relaxed demonstration speeds on a second track. We had racers from as far away as Folsom, California (home of the Folsom Handcar Derby) as well as from the Northern Pacific Railroad Museum- Toppenish in eastern WA.



MetroParks Tacoma

Five people attended a cleanup of Alderwood Park in Northeast Tacoma. Invasive plants were removed from the park's trails and brush trimmed back so that the public could continue to enjoy walking there.



Tacoma WA Bicycle Club & Campfire Coffee

TWBC members teamed up with locally owned Campfire Coffee for the Coffee Pipeline Ride through South Tacoma, including much of the Pipeline Trail. Ride organizers reported having a relaxed and enjoyable ride of four folks, starting at Campfire's café in downtown. The Campfire folks, many of whom ride bikes too, served up free coffee to the riders and took some picture of the group. The weather was overcast which blocked the great view of Mount Rainier, but the coolness was much appreciated. Staff from Downtown On the Go filmed the group using the new bike infrastructure on E. 65th as bike infrastructure (and its connections) was the focus of their ride.



Miscellaneous Trails Day 2021 Info

First time Trails Day partners: Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Campfire Coffee, Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation, Thrive Center, Trashmountain Cleanup, Cascade's Major Taylor Program, Evergreen MTB Alliance, Key Pen Parks, Running the Movement, and Wilkeson Booster Club.

Multiple-hosted Events: Trashmountain Cleanup and Cascade's Major Taylor Program; Kidical Mass and Asia Pacific Cultural Center; Pierce Conservation District and Tahoma Audubon; Running the Movement, Comunidad – Latinos Outdoor, MetroParks Tacoma, and Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation; Pierce County Parks Resource Stewardship Program, Pierce Transit, and Pierce Trips.

Outreach & Impressions: Website traffic increased from a variety of sources: 579 site sessions, up 215%, 234 direct sessions, 109 from Facebook, 84 from Google, 40 from Patch, 37 southsoundmag, 17 piercecountywa.gov, 11 thesuburbantimes. Our Trails Day webpage had 367 views, up 440% over the last month. Most site visits were made on mobile devices compared to desktops.

Instagram Posts



