

Trails Day 2022 Event Report



Despite a heat wave resulting in a few cancelations, with the support of our host partners, we were able to offer a record number of recreation and stewardship opportunities — 43 in total. Twenty-six of these were in-person host-led activities. The number of self-guided, DIY events continued to grow to over 17 thanks to partners like Downtown On the Go which added another slew of walking tours in Tacoma’s core on their website. Such self-guided activities allow folks to get out and be active if they either were not available on Trails Day or were unable to participate during the heat wave.

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 groups collaborated with each other on their events, helping to create interpersonal connections in the community — another way that trails serve us. Hosts were asked to provide a short report on their event(s) and the responses we received are on the following pages of the report.

ForeverGreen Trails would like to thank our grantors, donors, and our amazing activity hosts and participants for making Pierce County Trails Day 2022 a success.

Special Mention – Transit to Trails

Pierce Transit partnered with us by providing free bus service throughout their system on Trails Day as part of a larger effort to promote #transit2trails. Pierce Trips, a countywide transportation demand management and commute trip reduction program of the County, also partnered with us by providing \$10 Orca cards to anyone who requested them for future transit access. Seventeen people requested these. Pierce Trips also hosted a social media photo contest for folks using transit to reach parks and trails.



Trails Day Hosts & Activities

Alchemy Skateboarding — Push the Narrows

Alchemy had four participants skate to and across the Narrows Bridge from the Thea Foss Skatepark on Tacoma’s west side. One of their staff members put in some extra miles by skating from home to the start point.

Being the Village — Point Defiance Park Hike

A support group catering to and for Black mothers (and welcome to moms of color), Being the Village partnered with us for the first time this year. Organizer Chelsea said that the group had expressed interest in getting out and being active together, but that there were some concerns about barriers to outdoor recreation. We shared some outdoor recreation resources and information with her to help flatten the learning curve. BtV planned a trail walk in Point Defiance, but due to the heat, turnout was small. However, three adults and four kids, including the youngest Trails Day participant ever (at 9 weeks!) came out. They met at the park with lunch and had a nature scavenger hunt bingo card for the kids.

Bike Gig Harbor! – Various Group Bike Rides

“Quality rather than quantity of participants...” — several people registered for rides who did not show up — probably due to the weather. A couple participants joined in the rides over the Narrows Bridge and back. They stopped briefly on the bridge to clean the trail of some debris that could cause a flat — the first time a Trails Day recreation activity contained a stewardship activity! One cyclist joined in the ride to the Foothills National Recreation Trail — where shade and refreshments were gratefully enjoyed.



Black Girls Run!

Five BGR hosts reported contacts with 42 people who either participated in the run or stopped by to ask about their organization. They made several new connections with people and were given donations by some. They also met a couple who got engaged on the trail the day before.



Buckley Downtown Association

Due to the heat, the Buckley Downtown Association rescheduled their event for a few days after Trails Day. Nine participants joined the staff for a historic tour of the downtown on a mercifully cooler evening.

Campfire Coffee & Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club

Two riders, powered by iced coffee, braved the heat and sun for a trail ride around Tacoma.

City of Fife FedEx Trail Stewardship

Seventeen intrepid volunteers showed up to help beautify a local trail in Fife, near Brookville Gardens Community Park and Wapato Creek. "It was hot, but everything went great."



Daffodil Valley Volkssport Association Puyallup Riverwalk Trailhead Stewardship

Returning partners from the Volkssport Association organized volunteers to clean up and perform provide some landscaping care to the 11th St. NW trailhead. Nine people showed up on short notice for this, illustrating a great love of trails in our area.



[Evergreen MTB Alliance & Trust For Public Lands](#)

A group of six people, including a high school student needing community service hours as part of their graduation requirements, gathered to formalize a walking trail connection between the Pipeline Trail and Swan Creek Park. They also blocked off a separate section of that walking trail that unadvisedly intersected a mountain bike trail for safety and to reduce user conflict. This provided a more enjoyable and inviting walking route parallel to the Pipeline Trail that is cooler and surrounded by trees. The work party also served as an in-kind donation for a recreation grant that the Trust for Public Lands and Metro Parks Tacoma are collaborating on in this portion of the Pipeline Trail to better connect the Park with other nearby community assets.



[Friends of Waughop Lake & Chambers Clover Creek Watershed Council](#)

These groups cohosted a habitat trail walk and educational event at Waughop Lake in Fort Steilacoom Park in Lakewood. “We had 18 people participate at our event, including a member of the County Council. Overall, it was a good event though we think fewer people were out in parks and trails that day because it was hot.”

[GirlTrek:Tacoma](#)

GirlTrek activates Black women to be Changemakers in their lives and communities through walking. They hosted a walk at Wright Park in Tacoma and posted on social media “Pierce County Trails Day collaboration with GirlTrek:Tacoma was a success! Welcome 2 new sisters to the GirlTrek family, Ruby and Maria!”



[Job Carr Museum - Old Town History Walk](#)

Twelve participants joined the host for a tour of Old Town Tacoma, a great turnout for such warm day. A couple of participants walked to the event from their homes. Staff at the museum reported, “We'd love to partner again next year!”



Metro Parks Tacoma — Alderwood Park Habitat Restoration

Two volunteers joined the local Habitat Steward to remove invasive plants from restoration areas. Over 2,000 square feet of habit area was covered by this activity in Northeast Tacoma.

Metro Parks Tacoma — Swan Creek Habitat Stewardship

Metro Park's habitat steward for the park led a group of eight volunteers in removing invasive species of plants at the Swan Creek Park Food Forest adjacent to the community gardens.

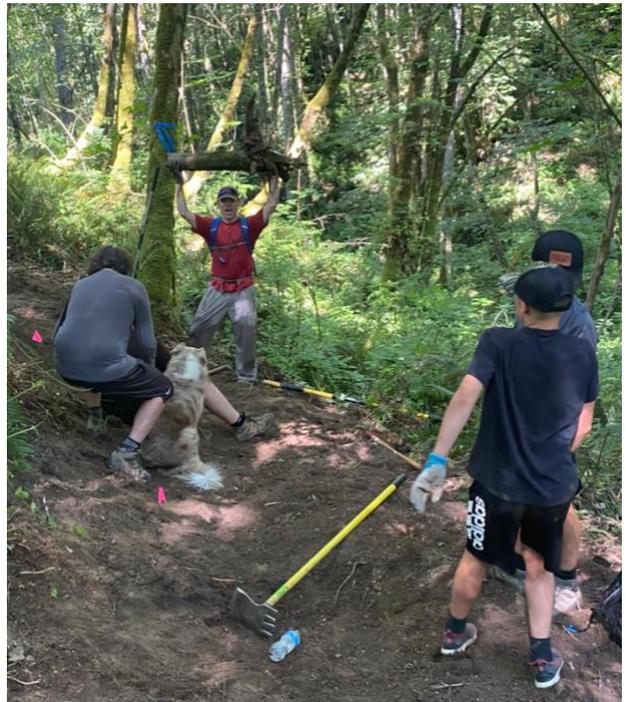
Pierce Conservation District & REI — Puyallup Loop Trail Habitat Cleanup

A total of 18 people, mostly volunteers from REI's Tacoma store staff, joined with the Conservation District host to perform habitat enhancement work adjacent to a part of the trail. They removed invasive plants and cleared areas around native trees that were previously planted in the area.



Pierce County Evergreen — Tehaleh Trail Dig Day

This new riding area currently in development is a public-private partnership entailing transfer of land from the developer to Pierce County. Staff from returning Trails Day partner Evergreen MTB Alliance and volunteers organized by the local Pierce County Evergreen group will be building trails the public will enjoy in perpetuity. The Tehaleh trail have been anticipated by the mountain bike community for several years. Because of this, an impressive 54 people turned out to help rough-in mountain bike trails in this area — a record for a Trails Day stewardship event!



Plateau Trails Coalition — Fennel Creek Trail Walk

Fifteen participants including one Bonney Lake City Council member, most of whom are pictured here, joined volunteers from the Coalition who led them on a walk of the new sections of the trail that were recently completed. This section goes through wetlands and forested areas, provides safe connectivity under a highway, and connects to residential areas and eventually to a school. This event led to an invitation for ForeverGreen Trails to address the Bonney Lake City about how the organization can help assist them with further development of the Fennel Creek Trail.



Summit-Waller Community Association & Pierce County Parks — Orangegate Park Activities

Ten people met up at Orangegate Park for a combination photo-op celebration of a successful fundraiser for Pipeline Trail and the park. Members of the Summit-Waller Association, Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition, Pierce County Parks, and ForeverGreen Trails are pictured with a check representing over \$15,400 raised for these projects and supporting three grant requests related to these projects. Following this, the group took a walk through the park to see recent trail work in preparation for Phase 1 development of the park.



WA Native Plant Society South Sound Chapter — Penrose State Park

Return partner WA Native Plant Society (WNPS) hosted a plant walk on the Key Peninsula in NW Pierce County. Seven participants joined the activity leader and enjoyed a stroll through the park and while identifying native plants. This event attracted participation from the Kitsap Peninsula and beyond.

Walk & Roll Pierce County & Tacoma Tree Foundation — Parkland National Night Out

New Trails Day partners Walk & Roll Pierce County (WRPC) and Tacoma Tree Foundation partnered with us to host two walks as part of the Parkland Community's National Night Out event on the Tuesday after Trails Day. Parkland is a focus area for the WRPC coalition's work in the region due to its lack of safe areas for active mode recreation and mobility. Coalition members provided outreach information and led two walking activities: an educational tree walk around Puget Sound University's campus and the surrounding neighborhood and a children's story walk, which was a combination of a narrated reading of a book (in both English and Spanish) through a short trail that had illustrations from the book on temporary signs throughout a nearby park area.



Washington Trails Association — WA Trails Day @ Point Defiance Park

Our long-time partner, WTA, organized Washington Trails Day on the very same day as Pierce County Trails Day. One of their four public activities across the State was at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, near the Rhododendron Garden. WTA staff reported having contact 150 people throughout the day, informing them about outdoor recreation issues and their programs.

DIY Event Hosts

The [City of DuPont](#) hosted a DIY scavenger hunt along the Sequallitchew Trail for kids and families.



The [City of Lakewood](#) hid painted rocks throughout four of their parks and challenged people to go walk the parks to find them.



Miscellaneous Trails Day 2021 Info

First time Trails Day partners:

- Being the Village
- Chambers Clover Creek Watershed Council
- Friends of Waughop Lake
- GirlTrek:Tacoma
- Trust For Public Lands
- Summit Waller Community Association

Multiple-host Events:

- Campfire Coffee & Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club
- Evergreen MTB Alliance & Trust For Public Land
- Friends of Waughop Lake & Chambers Clover Creek Watershed Council
- Pierce Conservation District & REI Tacoma
- Summit Waller Community Association & Pierce County Parks

Outreach & Impressions: ForeverGreen Trails' Website traffic increased from a variety of sources: 1,814 site sessions, with 96% being unique vs. return visitors, up 115%, with 614 direct sessions, 561 from Facebook, 242 from Google, 79 from email (likely our newsletter), 65 from URL shorteners (likely Twitter), and 64 from piercecountywa.gov. The Trails Day webpage was clearly the reason for this increase, accounting for 1,415 visits up 1,141%. Visits were split between desktop (47%) and mobile devices (49%), with tablets accounting for the rest.

Partner Social Media Posts

Pierce County Council @PierceCoCouncil · Jul 29
Pierce County Trails Day is tomorrow! Which trail are you visiting in @PierceCo? Hop on @PierceTransit buses for free rides to local parks for #TrailsDay #Transit2Trails.
 Learn more at bit.ly/3o8Tokc, @FGT_253.

HIT THE TRAILS
 This Saturday, July 30 for
 Pierce County Trails Day!

Cheryl T. @G8grmCheryl · Jul 30
 Today is Pierce County Trails Day, and though it's a bit hot out for a hike, it's a good time to plan one. I suggest the Foothills Trail in NE Pierce. My favorite leg heads east from downtown Orting and has great views of the Carbon River. #trails #piercecounty #foothillstrail

B. Lake-Summer Patch @BLakeSummrPatch · Jul 29
 The sunshine will stick around for the annual Pierce County Trails Day this weekend, with free community events planned across the region.

patch.com
Pierce County Trails Day Is Saturday
 The sunshine will stick around for the annual Pierce County Trails Day this weekend, with free community events planned across the region.

Pierce County Trails Day
 WITH BEING THE VILLAGE
 JULY 30TH | 1:00 PM
 5 MILE DRIVE
 MEET AT THE INNER LOOP
 BY THE TENNIS COURTS

DRESS TO SWEAT | SNACK SACKS PROVIDED
 FOR MORE INFO EMAIL CHELSEA@BEINGTHEVILLAGE.COM

LakewoodWA @CityofLakewood · Jul 29
 See you tomorrow for **Pierce County Trails Day**! Go rock hunting at 5 of our parks: Fort Steilacoom, Harry Todd, Springbrook and Oakbrook. Check out family-friendly activities at Waughop Lake in Fort Steilacoom Park starting at 11 a.m.
 #PCTrailsDay22

Pierce County Council @PierceCoCouncil · Jul 26
 Council declared July 30, 2022, as **Pierce County Trails Day** in @PierceCo & encourage all to hit the trails this Saturday. @PierceTransit is providing free bus rides to help get you to local parks for @FGT_253 #PierceCountyTrailsDay #TrailsDay.
 Learn more: bit.ly/3o8Tokc

PIERCE COUNTY TRAILS DAY
 SATURDAY JULY 30, 2022