



BEAVERHEAD TRAILS COALITION INC

Annual Report
2017

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HISTORY AND VISION

The Beaverhead Trails Coalition formed in 2009 as a group of community members that recognized the need for more recreation opportunities and improvement of health. The coalition they created has since developed projects like the Dillon Town Overlook and High Trails System and the In-Town Trails and Routes System, and supported programs like the Walking School Bus and Bike Recycling, all under the same vision:



2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dan Downey – President
- Ben Moore – Vice President
- Joyce Connors – Treasurer and secretary
- Pat Carrick – Member
- Ed Mooney – Member
- Dan Pence – Member
- Craig Simonsen - Member

Kathleen Wagner – Executive director until September 2017
Celine Beaucamp-Stout – Executive director since September 2017

Our Mission
A community with
easy access to
walking, bicycling,
and horseback
riding.

PROJECTS UPDATE

- **The High Trails System**

The High Trails Land Acquisition Project began in August of 2014, when the BTC entered a Buy/Sell agreement with a local, private land-owner to purchase over 1,100 acres of land, in three phases. As each phase is purchased, BTC turns the area into public access land, used for hiking, running, biking, horseback riding, education, and conservation of wildlife habitat. To date, we have purchased 781 acres for \$430,286. With 327 acres left to purchase, Phase III needs \$180,000 for the project to be finalized.

As the BTC has acquired land in the first two phases, we have worked diligently to create a unique trail system, add proper signage and maps, educated users on the area, host trail work and weed pull days, and also host 5K/15K fundraising runs. In the short time since we have begun the project, the number of users has increased exponentially and community members have welcomed and embraced the area with enthusiasm. Community members once had to drive 10-15 miles to reach such an area. Now they can walk or ride minutes from their home and community.



- Received \$50,000 from MFWCT toward phase III acquisition
- Climb The M 5k/15k Fund Run in partnership with the University of Montana Western
- New benches were installed at the Jackrabbit junction and the Red Tail Hawk junction – The bench at Jackrabbit junction replaces the one that was previously installed and stolen 2 years ago
- Dry Waterfall section of the Grand Canyon Trail was rerouted with the help of the Forest Service Recreation Specialists
- The B East Traverse Trail was improved
- Hand painted trail junction markers were added
- A new gate was installed at the border of county land
- A noxious weed and a fire safety signs were installed at the trailhead
- The B West Traverse Trail was finalized and improved
- Tim’s Ridge Trail was marked with post and cairns with the help of the BCHS Cross-Country Team
- A new section of Cliff Trail was roughed in with the help of the DNRC Fire Crew

Sponsor An Acre: Individuals can help with the funding of land acquisition in the High Trails project by sponsoring an acre for \$550. As per December 2017, ten acres have been sponsored.

In 2018, we are hoping to increase the funds toward the acquisition of phase III host the second edition of the Climb The M Fund Run and other events such as educational guided walks, and organize more trail maintenance and development.

- **The In-Town Trails Program**

The In-town Trails Program envisions a community where residents and visitors to Dillon can enjoy an interconnected system of safe and accessible walking and biking trails and routes, encouraging healthy lifestyles and reducing traffic. BTC has developed maps and concepts for a large number of connectivity projects within and around Dillon.



- Noble Avenue Trail

The 2,466-foot Noble Avenue Connector Trail is a key segment in the envisioned town trails network. The proposed trail will provide a direct link to several existing trails for bicyclists and pedestrians, and a safe and enjoyable non-motorized connection between the north end of Dillon, the city center and the parks adjacent to Noble Avenue.

With funding from the United Way of Beaverhead County, Patagonia, and the LOR Foundation, BTC hired WWC Engineering to help translate our vision for the Noble Avenue Connector into a conceptual design and develop cost estimates for the project. Requirements for the trail were gathered in a public meeting and in discussions with the City of Dillon, the Beaverhead Golf Course and other interested parties.

The trail will consist of four segments within the Noble Avenue right-of-way and on other land owned by the City of Dillon.

The project is currently being engineered and surveyed so it will be shovel-ready when funds are found.

- Selway Park

BTC is working on developing a primitive area along the Beaverhead River at the corner of Selway Drive and Laknar Lane. A grant received from the LOR foundation in 2017 will fund construction of this new park. Native vegetation will be protected and the existing boat ramp will be restored. Picnic tables and bike racks will be installed, as well as educational signs and trails.



- Downtown Bike Racks

Restoration and revival of the Downtown Dillon District has been a priority for property owners, businesses and the City of Dillon for a number of years. Recently updated Community and Downtown master plans identify improving walking and biking infrastructure as high priority goals as well. The City has indicated that the highest priority for making the Downtown more bicycle-friendly is providing parking. The Beaverhead Trails Coalition (BTC), in conjunction with the City and through consultation with businesses, bicyclists



and other stakeholders, has initiated a project to provide parking for bicyclists in Downtown Dillon.

Our goal is to install 36 two-bike racks over a two-year timeframe. Plans call for four on-street corrals with two racks each and six off-street clusters with four racks each. The racks will be placed in a variety of locations for residents and visitors alike. The expected benefits should be reduced off-street parking requirements and congestion, increased physical activity and health, increased traffic for downtown businesses, improved bicycle security, lower CO2 emissions as bikes begin to replace cars, and accommodation of changes in the local culture.

- **Bike Recycling**

BTC also serves the community with our Bike Recycling program with over 130 bikes provided to community members, free of charge to date. In 2017, about 30 bikes were donated.

In 2017, 26 bikes were acquired from the city and added to the pool.

A stationary bike stand for reconstructing and rehabbing bikes was purchased with United Way funds.



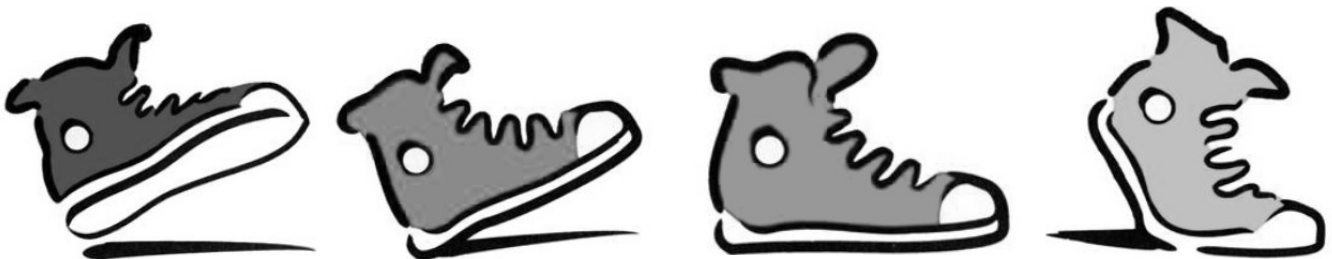
- **Walking Schoolbus**

BTC supports the Dillon Chapter of the Walking School Bus financially and in kind.

The Walking School Bus Program began in 2010 walking a single route on Wednesdays.

Currently, the Walking School Bus Program has two walking routes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from September through October and April through May. In the 2016-2017 school year we walked close to 700 miles and averaged 30 student participants.

The program's mission is to ensure the safety of children on their walk to school and to lessen traffic congestion at the school. Along the way, students learn how to cross streets properly, have fun, and become comfortable in their neighborhoods. A few days during each season, a “walk with celebrities” is scheduled.



FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2017 to December 2017

- **Income**

Grants	\$116,308.69
Donations	\$1,475.48
Membership	\$2,560.00
Sales (Tee-shirts)	\$115.00
Sponsor an Acre	\$1,100.00
Events	\$4,499.35
Total	\$126,058.52

- **Expenses**

Consultants	\$3347.00
Engineering studies	\$5000.00
Grant Writing	\$2385.00
Payroll	\$21,169.40
Advertising	\$871,26
Supplies and rent	\$5032.08
Insurance	\$1142.00
Total	\$87,112.43

Membership



In 2017, membership fees were as follow:

- Single: \$10
- Family: \$20
- Membership + T-shirt: \$50
- Business membership: \$100
- T-shirt: \$15

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1% for the planet
Amazon Smile
Beaverhead County
Bureau of Land Management
Great Harvest University
LOR Foundation
Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Trust
Montana Rural Health Initiative
Montana Youth Challenge
Patagonia
Safe Routes to School
Southwestern Montana YMCA
Speyers foundation
The City of Dillon
United Way of Beaverhead County
University of Montana Western

And to all our dedicated volunteers!

