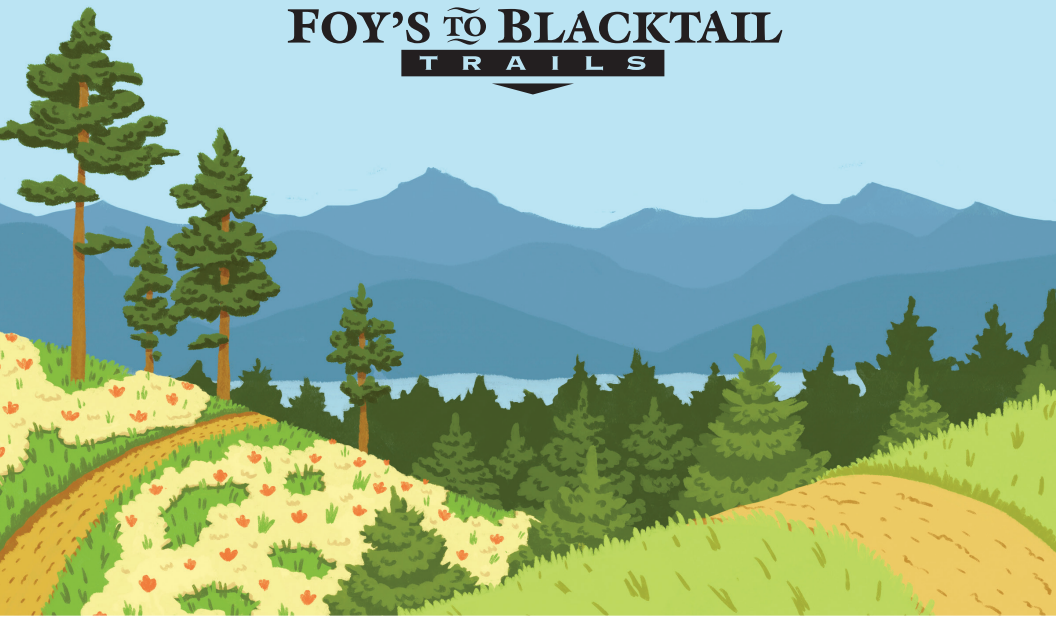




# FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS



[Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org](https://Foy'sToBlacktailTrails.org)

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

### ● **New Chair Takes The Torch**

Matt Hoyne leads the way after Lynn Foster takes a much deserved break as Chair of FTBT Board of Directors. Thank you, Lynn, for your dedication!

### ● **2024 Trail Work Accomplishment Report**

The final touches make everything more polished and smooth. If you haven't checked out the new Emmon's Saddle section, you better hurry up!

### ● **Introducing Kevin Ireland, New Board Member**

So lucky to have great folks on the FTBT team!

### ● **A Record-Breaking Year for the 2024 Great Fish Community Challenge**

Thank you for the trail love and donating to your local trails. Your support means everything to us!

### ● **Race Recaps and Changes for 2025**

Thank you, racers! We have updates for next year.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



I am honored to step into the role of Chairman for Foy's to Blacktail Trails (FTBT). My passion for community work, outdoor adventures, and mountain biking led me to become deeply involved with FTBT after settling into Montana. I've had the privilege of serving as Vice Chair and working on trail development and maintenance alongside our dedicated team.

I am continually impressed by the commitment of our board members, especially Lynn Foster, our former Board Chair, whose leadership has taken FTBT to new heights. We have some exciting news on the horizon, and we'll need your continued support to make our beloved trail system better, bigger, and badder than ever before. With your help, I'm committed to building on the foundation Lynn and others have created by expanding our trail network and strengthening community engagement.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed during the Great Fish Community Challenge and The Circle of Giving donors at Whitefish Community Foundation. Your generosity brought in record-breaking funds this year hitting the \$70,500 mark! It's truly inspiring to see such love for our local trails.

Thank you for your unwavering passion and support. We may be small, but with your help, FTBT is a mighty force for good in our community.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Hoyne".

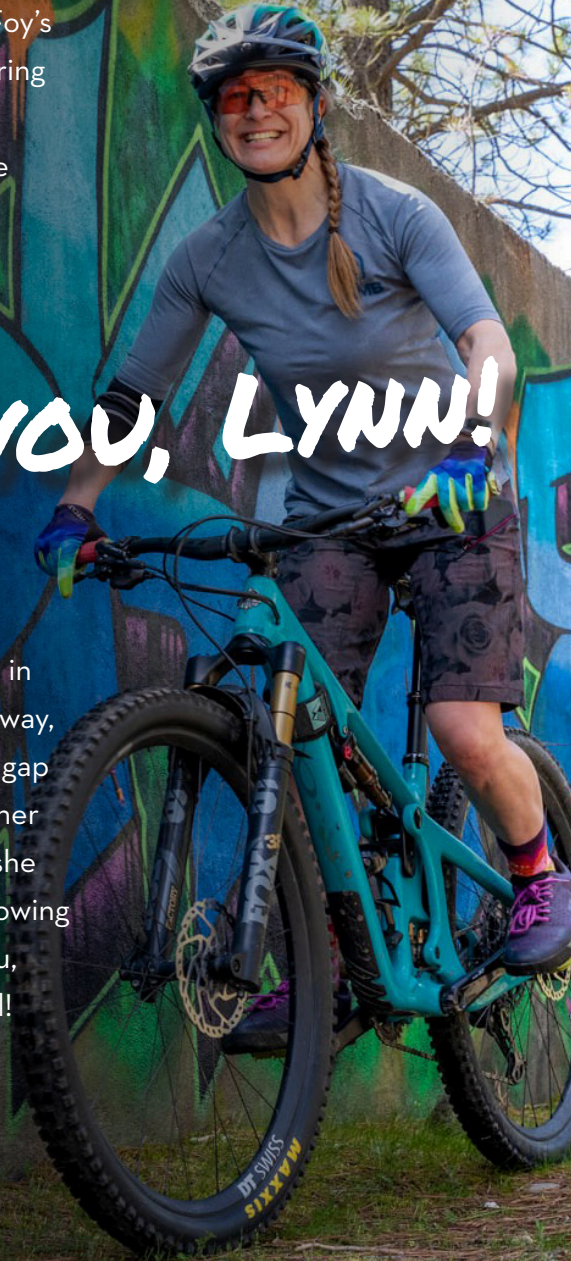
Matt Hoyne  
FTBT Board Chair

A huge thank you to Lynn Foster, our former Board Chair, who led Foy's to Blacktail Trails with unwavering dedication, grace, and true commitment. For six years, she wrangled trail cats, managed grants, volunteered at every event, and brought her heart to every role she played. Lynn

# THANK YOU, LYNN!

truly walks the walk, and she's adored by all who know her. While we're grateful she'll stay in touch to support us along the way, there's no doubt we'll feel the gap without her around. We send her off with gratitude and love as she steps down to focus on her growing business, A7 Cycles. Thank you, Lynn. We'll see you on the trail!

 Amanda Guy





## WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER 2024 TRAIL WORK REPORT

Around here, trail maintenance means keeping paths clear, accessible, and ready for all who call these trails home. At Foy's to Blacktail Trails, our Program Coordinator, Brian Roland, dedicated his summer to making it happen. It was a big job for one person, but Brian made it look easy! From coordinating partner trail crews to collaborating with land management agencies—and even grabbing a tool himself—Brian kept our trails in top-notch condition. Here's what we (ahem, Brian) managed this season:

**Smooth Like Butta:** The best trail work is the work you never notice. Finish work includes shaping the backslope to prevent debris from sliding onto the trail, adding a slight outslope to guide water away, removing rocks and roots, packing loose dirt to create a solid trail bed for safe and even travel.

**Bye-Bye Brush:** Brushy trails and dodging branches is no fun and certainly noticeable on wet days when your pant legs and socks are soaked. Cutting back brush and maintaining a clear, open line of sight allows trail users to see others coming and helps keep everyone safe.

**Managing Drainage:** Water is a trail's worst enemy, leading to erosion, mud pits, and washouts. While it's not the most glamorous task, building effective drainage is crucial to keeping paths intact and accessible year-round.

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# Finishing Touches

Montana Conservation Corps polished up the Emmon's Saddle trail section last summer.

Read all about trail accomplishments and how we put your donations to work for local trails in this newsletter.



## BOARD MEMBER HELLO! WELCOME TO KEVIN IRELAND

About a year ago, Kevin Ireland and his family hiked up the Notch Trail—a go-to in the Foy’s to Blacktail trail system—for a picnic with a view. Inspired by the valley, the vibrant community, and a growing urge to pitch in on the trails he enjoyed so often, Kevin attended a couple of FTBT board meetings to learn more, and—boom!—he became the newest FTBT Board Member.

By day, Kevin is a keyboard warrior at a local engineering firm, designing heating and ventilation systems for buildings all over the region. With an engineering degree from Montana State University, he takes real pride in

his work and in supporting the community that powers his adventures.

In his free time, if it has wheels and pedals, Kevin is all over it. Mountain biking, commuting, or getting his dog Cedar out for a good sprint around the local bike paths—he’s your guy. And when it comes to fishing, hand him



*Kevin Ireland, the latest addition to FTBT Board*

a fly rod and set him near a trout stream, and you may not see him until dinner (if you’re lucky).

Kevin’s hype crew includes his wife Lyn, kiddos Emmett and Lily, and, of course, Cedar, the family’s loyal four-legged member. Just like a solid best friend, Cedar sticks so close to Kevin that she almost earned the name Shadow (with a nod to Homeward Bound!).

Kevin is honored to serve on the FTBT board, bringing his passion for the outdoors and strong community ties to help shape the next chapters of Foy’s to Blacktail Trails. 🌲

## ◀ ROCKSTARS WANTED ▶ DO YOU LOVE THESE LOCAL TRAILS TOO?

Consider joining the FTBT Board of Directors.

We’re looking for dedicated, creative, and thoughtful individuals who want to lend their expertise and enthusiasm to support our mission. Get involved, help shape the future of our trails, and contribute to the positive impact we’re making in the Flathead Valley. We’d love to hear from you.

[info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](mailto:info@FoystoBlacktailTrails.org)





# \$72,487

## THE FINAL TALLY FOR FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL TRAILS

On October 22, 2024 Flathead Valley nonprofits gathered at the Wachholz College Center for the exciting “final reveal” of funds raised during the 2024 Great Fish Community Challenge. It was a record-breaking year, with a staggering \$6,678,402 raised for our community. What a generous show of support by our neighbors!

We are pleased to report that you helped us raise an impressive \$72,487 for our trail system. Your contributions helped us reach our fundraising goal, securing the full \$14,500 match offered to nonprofits that raised over \$25,000. We also took home the Biggest Catch Title on week 2 with an extra \$10,000, plus \$1,000 for outstanding messaging (thanks to Jill for the staff vote!).

A massive thank you goes out to Whitefish Community Foundation and their hard-working staff. These wonderful humans do the heavy lifting during the valley-wide fundraiser and it's a ton of work! Thank you for your energy and smiles, especially on long, hot summer days.

Funds raised for FTBT will go directly into maintaining and enhancing our trail system, ensuring these paths remain safe and welcoming for hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and families.

Our board of directors and staff extend our heartfelt gratitude to every donor and to the Whitefish Community Foundation for their leadership. Here's to many more miles of trails and memories—all made possible by YOU! 🌲

Please see the full Great Fish Community Challenge fundraising report online at the Whitefish Community Foundation website.

[whitefishcommunityfoundation.org](http://whitefishcommunityfoundation.org)



Thank you to The Circle of Giving, a dedicated group of donors contributing \$5,000 or more annually to support Whitefish Community Foundation's mission and grant programs. They provide vital funding to local nonprofits in the Flathead Valley and make the Great Fish Community Challenge possible by seeding the Match Fund.



# \$6,678,402

## TOTAL AWARDED



Montana Conservation Corps crew member working near Emmon's Saddle, FTBT.

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And the benefits to you? Here's how our boots-on-the-ground work makes your trail time even better:

1. Improved Safety: Rocks, fallen branches, and hidden debris are cleared, reducing slips, trips, and surprises on the trail. And safe trails = more trail fun!
2. Better Visibility: With brush trimmed back, you have a clear line of sight, essential for trail runners, bikers, and equestrians to move confidently and to help avoid unexpected encounters.
3. Sustainable Paths: Effective, well-placed drainage features prevent water erosion so trails stay intact and ready for use year-round. This also means less maintenance and overall costs when trails are designed with the natural landscape in mind.

4. Enhanced Experience: When trails are clear and well-maintained, it's easier to focus on the scenery and the adventure.

Thanks to support from the FTBT community, we're able to keep this work going strong. Every donation goes right back into keeping these trails in shape for everyone who comes through. So grab your bike, sneakers, dog or horse and go enjoy your local trails! 🌲

*THANK YOU - Trail work completed in Herron Park and on the FTBT system is accomplished with volunteers, partner groups including Montana Conservation Corps, Flathead Area Mountain Bikers, the Flathead National Forest and Flathead County Recreation Department. Thank you for the ongoing collaboration.*



MCC crews assist with annual trail maintenance in Herron Park.



## TRAIL LOG SUMMER 2024



### JUNE

**LOCATION: HERRON PARK**  
**CREW: MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS**  
**WORK: 6.8 MILES OF DRAINAGE WORK, BRUSHING, AND LINE OF SIGHT CLEARING.**

### JULY

**LOCATION: EMMON'S RIDGE TRAIL**  
**CREW: MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS**  
**WORK: 5 MILES OF FINISH WORK, BUILDING DRAINS, CLEARING DOWNFALL, TREAD WORK, AND CLEARING.**

### OCTOBER

**LOCATION: EMMON'S SPRING TRAIL**  
**CREW: FLATHEAD AREA MOUNTAIN BIKERS (FAMB)**  
**WORK: 1 MILE OF FINISH WORK, BUILDING DRAINS, CLEARING DOWNFALL, TREAD WORK, LINE OF SIGHT CLEARING.**



## RIGHT ON, RUNNERS! 2024 TRAIL RACE RECAP

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2024 Herron Half, 10K, 5K and Fun Run on June 9th and the Foy's to Blacktail Trails Marathon on September 8th! Both days were filled with energy, community spirit and maybe a little bit of suffering.

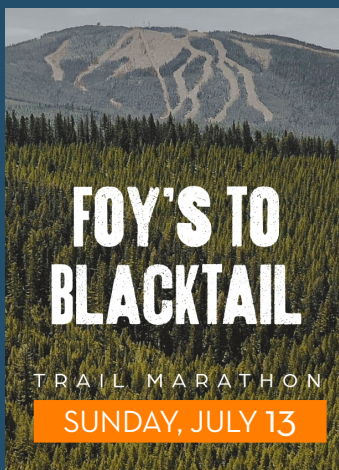
The Herron Half saw a fantastic turnout with 236 runners (an increase of 188 participants in 2023) and the FTBT Trail Marathon welcomed 48 runners. Every athlete and race entry fee goes towards trail maintenance and the essential work of Foy's to Blacktail Trails. Thank you for helping us raise over \$14,000 to keep these trails looking good! Congratulations to our top male and female finishers across the race categories!



**Left to right - Herron Half top female finishers: 2nd: Jessica Johnson, 1st: Samantha Modderman, 3rd: Flavie Dokken. Fastest time: 1:54:05. Herron Half top male finishers: Keegan Siebenaler, Ryan Skotnicki, Trevor Eccles. Fastest time: 1:25:14. Herron 5k top female finishers: Heidi Bork, Hannah Bork, Jill Bork. Fastest time: 26:11. Herron 10k top female finishers: Heather Bissen, Lauren Bissen, Sydney Ayers. Fastest time: 46:27.**

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# SAVE THE DATE FOR 2025 RACES!



## 2024 FLATHEAD RACE SERIES

We'd also like to give a special shout-out to runner Angela Nye, who completed the entire 2024 Flathead Race Series. In a period of one short Montana summer, she completed all these races totaling 120 miles. Impressive work, indeed!

- Herron Half Marathon: 13.1 miles
- FTBT Marathon: 26.2 miles
- Whitefish Trail Blazer 50K: 31 miles
- Le Griz Ultra-marathon: 50 miles

Though Angela didn't claim a spot on the podium in these trail runs, her perseverance and spirit embody the true essence of trail running. She reminds us that it's not just about speed; it's about the determination, grit, and adventure that fuel each stride. Angela's journey is a celebration of the trail's challenges, inspiring us all to push our limits and embrace the thrill of accomplishment.

# NEW DATES ANNOUNCED FOR TRAIL RACES

Big changes this year! The Herron Half races and the FTBT Marathon will be combined into one weekend, July 12 & 13, to make one big trail fest celebration! There will be a discount for go-getters that sign up to run both days. What better way to kick off your race season this year?

ALL THE DETAILS ARE ONLINE AT [FTBTRACES.COM](https://ftbtraces.com)

## MVP RACE DIRECTOR: BRIAN MILLER

The mastermind behind the scenes, Brian Miller handles everything from the FTBT race website and registration to fielding runner questions, coordinating volunteers, managing medical support, ordering buses and porta-johns, organizing sponsors, and overseeing countless other logistics. A long-time friend of Foy's to Blacktail Trails, Brian is truly the heart of this event. If you haven't had the chance to meet him, you're missing out—his boundless energy and dedication to FTBT and our running community deserve a standing ovation. 🌲



Brian Miller, the heart of FTBT races!





**FOY'S TO BLACKTAIL**  
**TRAILS**

Foy's to Blacktail Trails | PO Box 81 | Kalispell, MT 59903 | [FoystoBlacktailTrails.org](http://FoystoBlacktailTrails.org)