



TrailBlazer Report

BONNERS FERRY - IDAHO

VOL. 1 NO. 1
JAN. 2020

TRAIL
TALK

TRAIL
CREW

FRIENDS OF
9B TRAILS

9B KIOSK

9B TRAILS
IS A
NON-PROFIT
501(C) ENTITY
CONSISTING OF
LOCAL OUTDOOR
ENTHUSIASTS
FROM ALL
WALKS OF LIFE,
INTEREST
AND
BACKGROUNDS!

Trail Talk - Year(s) in Review

Over the past couple of years, 9B Trails and its dedicated volunteers interested in providing more outdoor opportunities have been actively involved in assisting with designs and developments of integrated non-motorized trail networks in Boundary County.

Initially started in 2016, under the Economic Development Council, the group formed a Charter with the County and created relationships with local agencies and identified several key connector trail locations, and important recreational system areas.

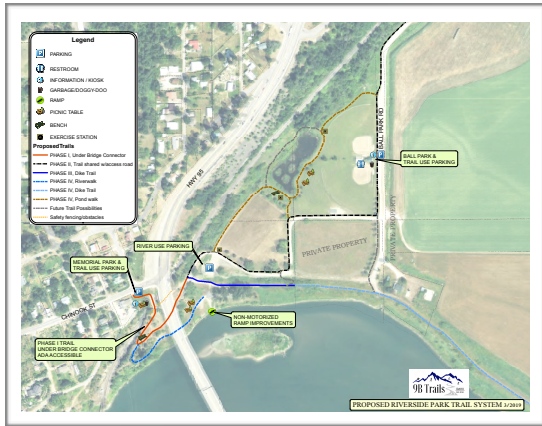
The goal was to create networks that would act as a catalyst for economic growth while providing paths for alternative transportation and promote increased outdoor recreational opportunities to enhance the local health and quality of life.

In 2017, the committee secured a long-term agreement with landowner, Al Farnsworth, to create and maintain the Enchanted Forest. In loving memory of his wife, Caroline Farnsworth, they were able to acquire more than 1100 acres of private land to develop hiking, biking, equestrian, snowshoeing and Nordic trails for the public to use and to enjoy.

In March 2018, 9B Trails gained momentum by becoming it's own non-profit 501(c). In a short period of time, volunteers in **2018** were able to;

- Build and complete 3 miles of new trail at Enchanted Forest
- Design and assist with ADA compliant engineering plans and provide cost estimates for Riverside Park near the Kootenai River Bridge
- Create their www.9btrails.org website and Facebook social media page
- Design an additional 25-mile trail system for Enchanted Forest
- Meet with various stakeholders and groups promoting trail projects
- Begin fundraising efforts.

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In 2019, we saw even more progress with;

- Mapping and approval for an additional 2 miles of a connected trail at Riverside Park, to include fitness stations.
- Design and flagging of an 11.5-mile trail system at Section 16.
- Design and flagging of Mudslide Trail at the North Hill
- Completion of an additional 0.5 mile of new trail at Enchanted Forest
- Completion of 6+ new miles of beginner trails at Section 16.

However, it was 2019 that saw the greatest gains with financial support received in grants and donations to build these trails and to buy equipment.

GRANT FUNDING

- **Urban Renewal Agency** awarded tentative funding through the City of Bonners Ferry to go towards Riverside Park, Phase 1 trail improvement, which includes 850 linear feet of trail, lighting and safety fencing.
- **Innovia Foundation** awarded 9B Trails an **Equinox** grant for the purchase of a mini excavator, chainsaw, tools and a trailer to assist with trails during the 2020 build season.
- **Kaniksu Bike Coalition** awarded a grant to build a new kiosk at the Enchanted Forest trailhead.
- **High Five Blue Cross** awarded two grants for new fitness stations at Riverside Park, slated for summer 2020.
- **TransCanada** awarded a \$5,000.00 community support grant towards the Riverside Park trail project.
- **Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad** awarded \$1,500.00 grant towards Riverside Park Trail project.



Other generous donations came from Columbia Bank, which held a carwash and donated all proceeds to 9B Trails. Hank Willis, in support of both Enchanted Forest and Section 16 and The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, The Plaza Downtown, Boundary Abstract, Becks Furniture, Far North Logo Shop, Idaho Forest Group and numerous Friends of 9B Trail supporters.

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2020 - UPCOMING!

So what’s in store for 2020? The new year for trails will ring in excitement as we continue to make progress on the Riverside Park Trail System, Section 16 and Enchanted Forest.



2020 9B TRAIL GOALS

- Start Phase 1 trail construction and improvements at **Riverside Park Trail System**, which is dependent on funding received.
- Start Phase 2 at **Section 16**, which includes the construction of a new parking lot, restroom facility, and additional 5+ miles of beginner mountain biking trail.
- Start Phase 3 at **Enchanted Forest**, which includes a new parking lot, kiosks and 6 miles of trail.

We also look forward to promoting more awareness and opportunities on our trail projects, increasing financial support through grant writing and fundraising, improving volunteer opportunities and trail building events and finally encouraging more to consider joining our cause.

2020 promises to be an exciting year as we look forward to providing more trail opportunities to Boundary County!



“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Trail Chief Volunteer - Scott Bourassa

by Julie Holly

The development of local trails gained momentum when curious and driven, Scott Bourassa, a native Bonners Ferry resident, started asking a few questions.

His determination to find answers to curious questions often stems around outdoor adventure. As a teen in the mid-1980s when knobby bike tires that could handle rough terrain and mountain biking was hitting the scene Bourassa's dad, a forester, returned one evening and told his teenage son, "Somebody rode Long Canyon." It was a matter of weeks before their wheels flew down the trail.



The Millennial's Role Model

Millennials are given all the credit for valuing life-experience over monetary gain but people like Bourassa forged that thinking. In lieu of building a career, Bourassa strategically chased the river rapids in Boise, Idaho, Virginia, and New Zealand as a river guide.

Adventurer Returns to Bonners Ferry

Returning to Bonners Ferry, Bourassa welcomed a new adventure: A family of his own. As his girls grew older, he began reliving childhood wilderness adventures but found a missing piece: Beginner single track bike trails. With Brush Lake a bit too difficult for young beginners and a drive that puts it just out of the way, Bourassa recalled an area called Section 16.

Logged in the late 70's to early 80's old skid and deer trails created an exciting single-track riding experience perfect for beginners. He began taking his daughters to the area for in-town adventure but didn't stop there.

Selfless Vision

The curiosity that comes natural to Bourassa grew a vision to permit and develop Section 16 for all to enjoy. Persistent questions and answers with people led him to "Boundary County Trails & Park Committee" (now 9B Trails). When he went to their next scheduled meeting he found Section 16 already on the agenda. It wasn't a secret spot after all!

Bourassa walked in with a vision and walked out Vice-President and board member of the newly established non-profit organization. Since then Bourassa worked to obtain approval from Idaho Department of Lands and created a partnership with the IDL and 9B Trails.

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The More Trails the Better

Humble and determined Bourassa contemplated ways to develop in-town trails. He took point from our Canadian neighbors who tout their expansive trails to the discipline of weekly trail building. A man who takes action, Bourassa quickly implemented our northern neighbor's philosophy.

In addition to clocking countless volunteer hours of his own, Bourassa single-handedly organizes opportunities for volunteers to experience the wonder of forging new trails for all to enjoy. Each

week, in the best and worst conditions Bourassa and the volunteers who join him build trails one section at a time. He's built bridges in subzero conditions and dripped sweat drip from his brow and get caked with trail dust.

You Can Too!

The satisfaction of trail building can be yours! "People often volunteer to help others but find themselves with relationships, ownership and personal growth." Bourassa welcomes anyone interested in minimal physical condition to help for an evening of trail building which might include clipping roots, moving dirt or rock or clearing brush. Already Northwoods kids, Boulder Creek Academy staff and students and other local organizations and individuals have given the significant contribution of time and energy. It's an incredible opportunity to give back to our community and build lasting opportunities. The supplies are at the ready, the only thing missing is YOU!

Take Time to Enjoy

In addition to mapping, flagging, and building trails Bourassa organizes weekly mountain bike rides. These rides take mountain bikers on epic adventures deep in the heart of the wilderness. With great attention to the direction trails to ride trails to organizing shuttles when necessary, Bourassa creates life-changing experiences for mountain bikers.

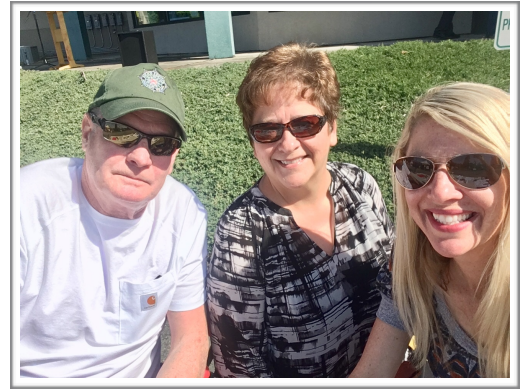
Come out of hibernation in spring to chase early fall sunsets, with a season of mountain bike rides that fill hearts (and adrenaline addictions) with adventure and camaraderie. Connect with Bourassa's mountain bike group through their facebook page "Bike Bonners Ferry's" (simplistic because in true form, Bourassa wanted anyone interested in biking to find like-minded people).

After traveling, we are grateful he returned to Bonners Ferry because of the people and epic outdoor opportunities the three ranges offer. Bourassa doesn't conform to traditional models; he allows his curiosity, love of outdoor adventures and passion to help others forge new paths for everyone to enjoy!

JOIN THE 9B TRAILS MOVEMENT

9B Trails is supported through the efforts of amazing volunteers and donations from sponsors, partners, and Friends of 9B dollars.

This year, we are kicking off our **FRIENDS OF 9B TRAILS** drive by reminding everyone just how important our Friends are to the work we do.



From a financial perspective, the money generated from Friends allows 9B Trails to cover its operating expenses and build more trails. From an advocacy perspective, our strength is in our numbers. The larger our Friends, the more weight our efforts carry with land managers and local politicians when we advocate to protect and build trails.

This season, **FRIENDS OF 9B TRAILS** is aiming to increase its supporters, and in doing so, understand that we will need to convince you that our organization is worthy of support.

Why Get Involved & Support 9B Trails?

We believe in providing access and trails for all levels and abilities so our FRIENDS can have great local places to walk, ride their bike, snowshoe or cross-country ski!

We have local trail expertise! Our trail crew have the knowledge and experience in designing, building, and maintaining many miles of sustainable shared use trails.



**2020
FRIENDS**

- \$15.00 - Student
- \$25.00 - Individual
- \$35.00 - Family X2
- \$40.00 - Family X3 or more
- \$50.00 - Trailblazer Explorer
- \$100.00 - Trailblazer Adventurer

We believe in taking advantage of the benefits of being outdoors for better health and quality of life.

We have relationships with local officials, entities, and landowners to get trail projects approved and ready for public use.

We believe in actively seeking community input on all types of projects, and regularly solicit feedback about the trails we steward.



Join today, and our Friends of 9B Trails supporters will receive an official 9B Trails decal, latest trail updates, newsletter, and more! - Contact us at 9btrails@9btrails.org

THE 9B KIOSK

Thank you to [Scott Bourassa](#) and the rest of 9B Trails crew. We hiked the new trail Enchanted Forest today. It's very family friendly and the view from the top was worth it!



UPCOMING

Jan. 9th -

Monthly Meeting
12:00 @ Mugsy's

Feb. 6th -

Monthly Meeting
12:00 @ Mugsy's

Mar. 5th -

Monthly Meeting
12:00 @ Mugsy's

FRIENDS OF 9B TRAILS

John & Sharlene
Delaney
Scooter & Olivia Drake
Scott Bourassa
Larry Davidson
Eric Anderson
John O'Connor
David & Elaine Kjos
Bob & Diane Branford
Carl & Cris Hunter
Victor & Tess Rae
Ryne Rae

New

FAR-NORTH
LOGO SHOP



DECALS

\$3.00 EACH
- OR -
2 FOR \$5.00

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

DECALS & SHIRTS

ON SALE NOW

FAR NORTH LOGO SHOP
FAR NORTH OUTFITTERS

ALL Proceeds to go towards 9B Trail projects!
Visit: www.9btrails.org for more info.



ON SALE AT Far North Logo Shop

