

TRAIL NEWS

Summer 2024 § ISSUE 85



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New toilet being placed
at Cambridge trailhead

Project Complete!

After several years of planning, the joint venture between Friends of Weiser River Trail and the City of Cambridge finally came to fruition this spring. The CTX unit was set in place last fall, and on May 4, 2024, we held the grand opening!

This was one of our most ambitious enhancements to date. The cost of the toilet was \$128,300 (the cost went up substantially between the time we applied for a grant and received grant approval, and we absorbed the cost). Other costs, including plumbing, electrical installation and pouring concrete, brought the total to \$143,948.

The City of Cambridge funded extension of the city sewer 300 feet and hooking to city water. Local vendors were sourced, including Jon Anderson from Council, High Country Electric from Cambridge, Verl Cate (concrete) from Cambridge and Bill Gladhart Excavation from Cambridge. FWRT will pay for cleaning.

CAMBRIDGE TOILET

(continued from page 1)

In order to mitigate potential vandalism, the toilet is locked at night.



In addition to the trailhead toilet, the sidewalk recently was extended to the fair-grounds, providing curbs and gutters

which further enhance the trailhead. FWRT and the City of Cambridge can be very proud of the trailhead and we anticipate a lot of use, as it is the only readily accessible public toilet for many miles on highway 95.

MEMORIAL BENCHES

Lane Williams
memorial bench in
the Midvale Park



The memorial bench program continues to

be successful, adding an average of 2 or 3 benches per year. The cost includes a plaque with wording of your choice, installation in the location of your choice, and lifetime maintenance. For more information on ordering a bench, please contact Pam Lakey at (208) 739-3366. Note these benches can recognize and honor not only people but organizations.

RECOGNIZING OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS

We value each and everyone of our members. Your membership dollars go into our general fund for operating expenses such as trestle repair, weed management, trail surface maintenance and restroom cleaning. This month we would like to recognize our lifetime members. At the present

time, we have a total of **30 lifetime members!** This includes people who supported the trail from inception to our most recent member from Atlanta, Georgia, who joined at the lifetime level after traveling to Idaho in June and falling in love with the trail. A lifetime membership is \$1000. Obviously not everyone can afford to join at that level but please think about bumping your membership level the next time renewal comes around. We appreciate and thank you!!!!

LATE BREAKING NEWS

07/26/2024: ANOTHER person joined at the lifetime member level, this time from Boise!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024-2005

October 5-6, 2004: October Trek

<https://www.bikereg.com/october-trek>

(registration now open)

January 29 – Feb 6, 2025: Idaho Sled Dog Challenge

<https://idahosleddogchallenge.com/>

April 26, 2025: Weiser River 50K Ultra and Relay

May 23-26, 2025: 23rd annual Wagon Train event.

<https://weiserrivertrail.org/wagontrain>

June 7, 2025: June Bike Event

OctoberTrek: First weekend in October 2025

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES!

There are multiple ways to help the trail! We so appreciate the generosity of our members and we keep trying to find new and EASY ways for you to donate to the trail. Every dollar you donate allows us to keep the beautiful 85 mile trail open, do necessary maintenance like re-planking the trestles (yes, the trestles are now 20+ years old and needing replacing/repairing), and to find new and exciting events on the trail so you can come use it!

Here are the current funding opportunities:



Ridley's. They have a points program, and all you need to do is the next time you are in a Ridley's store, tell the cashier that you want to donate your points to Friends. To date, Ridley's has paid us over \$89,000 in the 15+ years. Please consider us if you shop at Ridley's!!



Fred Meyer. If you don't shop at Ridley's but you do shop at Fred Meyer, they have the same program...Fred Meyer Community Rewards. If you have a rewards card, you can tell the cashier that you want to give your points to us, or you can go online, create an account and at the bottom of the home page, you will see Fred Meyer Community Awards. Click that and follow the steps. We are listed as Friends of **THE** Weiser River Trail, Inc in their listings.



Idaho Gives. This year we raised not quite \$4,000, for which we have a 100% match from a generous donor. Thanks to all who donated!

Albertson's Boise

Open: Tickets are now on sale. They can only be purchased on line **AUGUST 22 - 25, 2024 | HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB** at <https://tinyurl.com/4fnrtuye> . At this time, tickets are limited but still available.



You can also make individual contributions that are project directed (right now for example we are looking to fund extension of the water line at the Weiser trailhead and re-decking of 57 trestles).

Another way to support the trail is to donate directly to the Idaho Community Foundation. For more information, visit their web site at <https://tinyurl.com/4pft7fpb>

2024 PROJECTS AND HAPPENINGS (in no particular order)



Earlier this summer, the Eaton Building at the Weiser Trailhead received a

new roof!! We look forward to complete restoration of this historic little building!

Installation and opening of the new toilet in Cambridge (see page 1).

Barb McGann and Mike Beavers placed concrete mounting blocks on both sides of all gates, to help out equestrian community who have to dismount to open control gates, as well as key areas at the trailheads.



Tree removal in Weiser: A concerning area of over-grown trees was identified in Weiser, and recently these were removed by a professional service.



Hitching rail installation: Hitching rails have been installed at key points along the trail, near restrooms and at trailheads.

Painting projects: Both the Midvale and Weiser trailhead restrooms were painted due to wear and tear as well as vandalism.

In June, in lieu of a monthly director meeting, the directors toured the trail from the Wye to Goodrich. It was very informative, especially as the newer directors are not familiar with some of the history of ongoing trail issues. We plan on touring

the southern half this fall and hopefully we will make this an annual event.

EVENTS RECAP

50K run: On April 27, in conjunction with National Trails Day, the annual 50K run was held. This year the race ran north to south, finishing in the Midvale Park.



Horse Expo: The first weekend in April, we again sponsored a booth at the Horse Expo in Nampa, reaching out to horse lovers from across the Pacific Northwest.

Wagon Train: A hugely successful wagon train was held over Memorial Day weekend, with 40 participants, including three wagons and outriders covering the 60 miles from Weiser to Council. The weather was mostly cooperative and sincere thanks to all who work so hard to make this event happen!



June Bike Event: On June 8, approximately 65 riders gathered to ride the trail from the Wye Campground to Council or Cambridge. It truly takes a village to organize this event and our sincere thank you to all the volunteers and participants.

NOTE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

We strive to keep up with real time information to our membership. While we absolutely will continue to honor your preference for a paper newsletter, if you have E-mail and have no objection to receiving occasional E-mails from us and on-line voting in the annual election, we would greatly appreciate you sending us your E-mail and we will update our database. There is also a blog on the home page of our web site. To subscribe, just go to the home page

<https://weiserrivertrail.org>, click into the blog and follow the prompts.

You can E-mail weiserrivertrail@gmail.com with your E-mail address and state your preference to switch from paper to digital. **WE WILL NEVER SHARE YOUR INFORMATION.**

Another way of supporting the trail at renewal time is to up your membership level, or even consider joining at the \$1000 lifetime level.

VOLUNTEER STRONG!



Sisters Karin and Pam Lakey at the 2024 Fiddle Festival.

An organization is only as healthy and strong as its volunteers. In addition to an all volunteer board of directors, we depend heavily on a volunteer force to

accomplish a myriad of tasks. One important function is having a presence at community events such as the Fiddle Festival and Hells Canyon Days. Sisters Pam Lakey (Ontario) and Karin Lakey (Payette) staff most of these events, as well as working at trail sponsored events such as the 50K, both bike events and the wagon train. Pam and Karin's brother, Larry Lakey, helps us at the annual wagon train by hauling one of our support trailer from camp site to camp site, so this is truly a family endeavor!

Keeping our membership roster in fine order and mailing out the monthly renewal letters, working quietly behind the scenes for the last several years, we would like to recognize long-time FWRT member, Chris O'Brien.

Many thanks to Back Country Horsemen who retrieved a couple of pick-up loads of barbed wire from collapsed fencing, which was not only unsightly but extremely dangerous.

Thank you to Glen Carsten, who has volunteered to remove several downed trees, which pose a hazard to all trail users and often obstruct the trail from safe passage.

ANNUAL MEETING AND DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

As required per our by-laws, we hold yearly director elections (for three year terms) and host an annual meeting. This year Pam Lakey and Pam Haynes were re-elected to another three year term, and we welcomed Leonard Messersmith aboard. Leonard had been appointed as director at a meeting earlier in the year, and has now committed to a three year term. Leonard is a native of Weiser and brings a wealth of experience and connections with the community. In addition, at our most recent director meeting in July, Beth Ahrend agreed to be appointed as director until May 2025. Beth has managed the 50K run for several years now, and with her passion for running, brings a new dimension to our directors.

REPORTING TRAIL DAMAGE/ISSUES



Obviously we cannot be everywhere at once and we depend on you, the trail users, to be our eyes and ears.

Please report trail blockage/damage/issues on our Facebook page, by calling President Barb at 208-602-2534 or E-mail weiserrivertrail@gmail.com

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Greetings from the President!

The spring and summer of 2024 has been a great time in many ways.

We continue to sponsor and put on great events. Beth Ahrend puts on the annual 50K solo and relay race that is a huge favorite. Pam Haynes, Alan Stoneman, Mike Beavers and Pam Lakey put on the ever popular Wagon Train. They have a catered (S&A BBQ Catering in Cambridge) dinner in Midvale on Saturday night, with attendance of around 80 people this year. Everyone gets to view the wagons and horses, enjoy a wonderful meal and buy raffle tickets for the awesome raffle (this year's top item was a hand crafted knife by Leonard Messersmith, as well as two quilts donated by Carrie Pedreira of Indian Valley).

Then we sponsored a bike ride that takes riders and their bikes to the top of the trail at the Wye and they ride down to either Council or Cambridge, depending on how far they want to go.

These events are important fund raisers but even more importantly, they bring in new users and raise awareness of the trail, and bring economic value to the towns along the trail.

Another interesting thing that happened this year is that we have been getting a lot of volunteer help. Early in the spring, a user posted on Facebook that there was a big tree down across the trail. One of our equestrian users said, "hey, no problem, I'll just take my chainsaw and ride my horse down there and get the tree off the trail!" She did just that and since then, volunteers have gotten five trees down.

A chapter of Back Country Horsemen rolled up and hauled out several truckloads of downed barbed

wire. Another volunteer replaced the frost free water riser in Council.

I know I'm missing other examples, but the point is that we are thrilled when our members and users get involved and help us out with small but very important projects.

Upcoming projects include decking the trestles to start doing deferred maintenance. The trestles are now over 25 years old and are beginning to need to be replaced. If we can do 5 to 10 a year, by the time we get to the last one, it will be time to start over.

If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer, please contact one of the directors (listed on page one) or myself. Thanks for supporting us!!!

Barb McGann, President and Treasurer, FWRT

NEW SPRAY TRUCK



Unfortunately, last year our spray truck began experiencing intermittent overheating issues and

after consulting with an experienced diesel mechanic, it became apparent that the best thing to do was sell it and invest in another truck. Thanks to the astute negotiating and shopping skills of our Habitat Manager, Dan Haynes, and Director Leonard Messersmith, they located a 2015 Chevy Silverado 3500 in excellent condition.



DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that the true start of the trail in Weiser is not at the trailhead and not even at highway 95, but at 4th and Washington (off Commercial, near the

fish pond). This short section runs from East 4th Street to where it intersects and crosses highway 95. It is paved and mostly shaded. There is enough parking for a couple of vehicles on the west side of 4th Street and there is a vault toilet at the fish pond. Unfortunately the trail does not extend to the old Depot but maybe some day . . . (hope springs eternal).

WYE CAMPGROUND UPDATE



Effective July 27, 2024, we implemented a no fires ban at the Wye Campground, not even in a fire ring. Due to the extremely high fire danger and poor air quality, we felt this was the responsible thing to do. Obviously this extends to anywhere on the trail, with smoking confined to a safe area.

LANE'S LEGACY

Lane Williams, one of the original directors, was a true visionary and completely invested in seeing the Weiser River Trail become a reality and a destination for users to enjoy. Lane passed away a little over two years ago but his widow, Elsa Freeman, continues to foster Lane's vision and passion for the trail. With that in mind, in 2016, Elsa and Lane purchased a seven acre riverfront property in Midvale, with the intent to turn it into a nature park for not only the local community to enjoy, but trail users, as it is adjacent to the trail on the north end in Midvale.

Elsa has since donated the land to a nonprofit called Midvale Market Place, Inc, and is working on laying the groundwork to transform the property into a park. For more information, contact Elsa at freemanelsa6292@gmail.com

Become a Member

The Weiser River Trail is owned and managed by the Friends of the Weiser River Trail, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The mission of FWRT is to preserve the integrity of the rail corridor, manage it as a public trail, and conserve the natural habitats along its length. FWRT is a self-funding membership organization that depends heavily upon funds raised through membership dues, grants, and fund-raising efforts to cover ongoing maintenance and operational costs.

We welcome your support!

- o \$15 Basic Member
- o \$25 Trail Blazer
- o \$50 Pioneer
- o \$100 & Up Bridge Builder
- o \$1000 Life Member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I prefer to receive my newsletter via (check one): E-mail ☐ snail mail ☐

Please Send your contribution and membership information to:

Friends of Weiser River Trail
9201 Grandmason
Eagle, ID 83616

If you would like to help work on the trail or serve on a committee, please call 208-602-2534. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

If you would like more
information about
the Weiser River Trail,
visit us on the web at:
www.weiserrivertrail.org
or
call (208) 602-2534

FRIENDS OF THE WEISER RIVER TRAIL

9201 Grandmason Place
Eagle, ID 83616

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TRAIL NEWS



In 2008, Sheldon celebrated his 56th birthday by snapping a picture in front of mile marker 56. In 2024, he returned to celebrate his 71st birthday. Keep on pedaling, Sheldon!!!