

Tubbs Hill Foundation

2023 Annual Report

Mission Statement

Tubbs Hill, Inc. is a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation of Tubbs Hill City Park as a unique and natural lakeshore forest typical of North Idaho while providing for compatible public use. We act as advocates for the park; advise the city administration on issues pertaining to the park; and support volunteer efforts, fund raising, community relations, and other tasks as needed to achieve this goal.

President's Message

David Yadon

Another year and I am still sea kayaking, walking and running the trails around this wonderful park. On the days that I am wearing a "Tubbs Hill Ambassador" vest I am still amazed by the joy that visitors, local and from afar, share with me about their experience on Tubbs Hill. Some are quite unique....

The end of 2023 marked the end of just over three years as President. I am turning over the title to David Taylor. David has been the greatest Vice President I could ask for and will be an excellent President. David and our terrific board members (and you "Friends") have helped accomplish what I believe are some good things during these past few years. I look forward to continuing to help David et.al. with what comes next. One thing I know is I will continue to organize and lead the Trail Day projects so you trail volunteers can count on invites.

I need to give an additional shout out to a few people and organizations. The Tubbs Hill Foundation is an independent non-profit organization with a mission to keep the City of Coeur d'Alene's Tubbs Hill Natural Park as a special and unique place. I am really pleased that we maintain a great working relationship with the City that embraces and welcomes our mission and work. In particular, Parks and Recreation Director Bill Greenwood, Trails Coordinator Monte McCully, Urban Forester Nick Goodwin and City Council Liaison Christie Wood and a host of other City staff have been super to work with. Bill and Monte even still trust me on the hill with my chainsaws.

I also feel fortunate to have the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy graciously allow their Public Lands Protection Specialist, Todd Dunfield, to have shared his trail planning/building/ maintenance knowledge (and muscle) over the last few years.

Finally, Thank YOU Friends for supporting Tubbs Hill. As you read this annual report, please consider making a donation or joining us on a Trail Work or Cleanup Day this year to help us continue our work. Once again, like last year, I look forward to seeing your smiles on my next run or Trail Day activity.

Don't forget to sign up for email updates!

www.tubbshill.org/newsletters

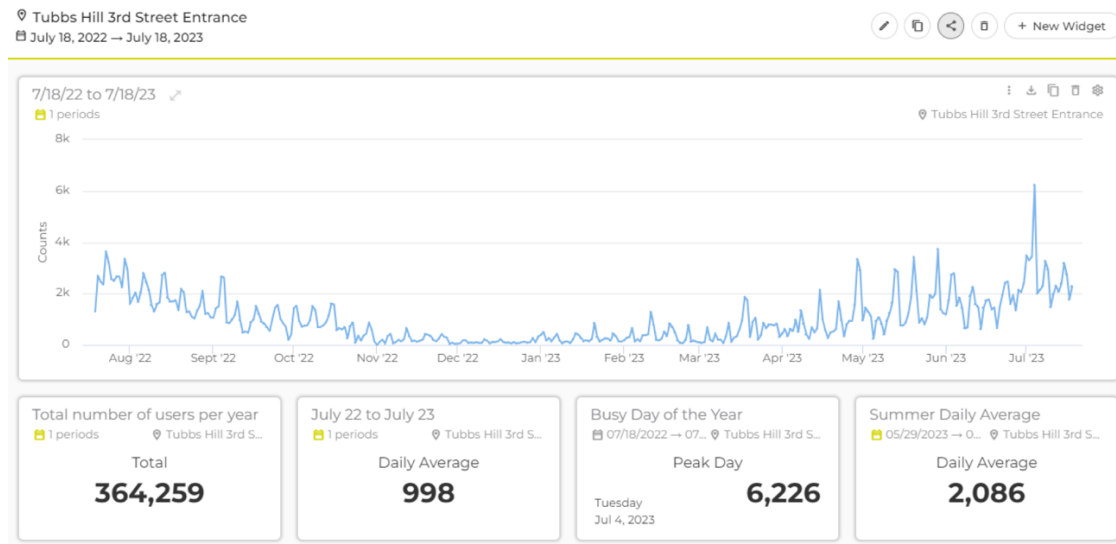


The Year in Numbers

- 360 feet of new trail constructed
- 5 sections of Main Loop Trail reconstructed or adjusted to reduce erosion and safety concerns
- 1.2 miles of brush trimmed on trails
- 65 days of Tubbs Hill Ambassadors roaming the trails to provide information to hikers
- 5 Active Osprey nests on the hill
- 2 Clean-up days with many large bags of trash removed
- 90+ Friends of Tubbs Hill members participated in 25 trail related projects with a documented 464 hours of volunteer time – calculated to be worth \$12,895
- 100s to 1000s of friends visit the hill every day via the McEuen Park Trailhead - see the chart below

Trail Counter Update

Visit our website to see the graphs at: www.tubbshill.org/newsevents



Committee Action Update: Trails

David Yadon

90+ Friends of Tubbs Hill participated in 25 trail related projects with a documented 464 hours of volunteer time – calculated to be worth \$12,895.

All Trails: Cut and removed downed trees, debris cleanup, trimmed brush and completed minor trail tread repair.

Main Loop Trail (South & West Sides): Identified and completed four erosion and degraded tread mitigation projects. Identified further tread repair projects for Spring 2024.

Main Loop Trail (North Side): Completed transporting and spreading of gravel to mitigate ponding on portion of the trail below East Tubbs Hill Dr.

Corbin Point Fire Road Connector Trail: Partial disassembly of debris on old user trail to enhance visual appearance and rehab for upper section

Connector Trail from S 10th & Mountain Ave to Main Loop Trail (Manley Trail): Continued monitoring upper section for maintenance. Identified possible work on “closed culvert” rock cap and other work that had been disassembled by unknown party

Accessible Trail from East Tubbs Trailhead to Southeast Point: (Completed minor maintenance/repair of Accessible Trail tread surface and drainage. Identified additional future drainage projects.

Connector Trail from the Main Loop Trail to the East Tubbs Hill Drive/Fire Road Trailhead: Constructed a new bypass trail and closed very rocky, eroded user trails.

Assisted City with reorientation or replacement of trail identification signs.

Committee Action Update: Forest Health

Nick Goodwin, City of Coeur d'Alene Urban Forester

Western States Fuel Management Grant

The City of Coeur d'Alene has worked with the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management team and the Idaho Department of Lands to successfully apply for and receive a grant to perform fuel mitigation work to reduce the risk of fire on Tubbs Hill. This grant will allow the city to have nearly \$600,000 of fuel reduction work performed on the Hill, not only will this help the city in reducing the risk of fire to this treasured Natural Area, but also it will allow us to work toward improving forest health. This project is currently in the early planning phase with plans to begin work in 2024-2025.

The Foundation continues to partner with the city Parks Department to support forest health. We are especially excited about the outcome of the application for the Western States Fuel Management Grant. The city was required to provide matching funds, and at their request, the Foundation pledged \$12,000 in assistance.

Committee Action Update: Education

David Taylor

Your Tubbs Hill Foundation board engaged in a wide range of educational activities this year, including:

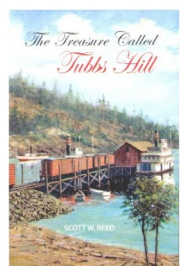
- THF participated in the Coeur d'Alene Public Library Earth Day event.
- The Foundation provides presentations about Tubbs Hill to various groups in the community on request.
- THF provided in-class education at the Ramsey Magnet School about the history of the hill and forest health.
- The Foundation worked with the Audubon Society project for bird identification signage.
- The Foundation is working with the Museum of North Idaho and the City on interpretative displays to enhance the new museum site.
- THF board members have lead interpretive hikes for organizations that have requested them.
- The Foundation hosted a library program to provide information on Foundation activities and shared a video tour of the Hill to highlight forest health, flora, fauna, geology and how the Foundation partners with governmental agencies and the public to further the mission of the foundation. That video is posted on the City of Coeur d'Alene's website and our Tubbs Hill Foundation website and YouTube channel.
- The Foundation provides public information via the Friends of Tubbs Hill Facebook page, our website, email notifications, and our printed and electronic Annual Report. Our email distribution list is approximately 500.



Some of our wonderful trails volunteers!

Want to Learn More About Tubbs' History?

Scott Reed's book, *The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill*, offers a detailed history of Tubbs Hill. It is available for \$10 at the Coeur d'Alene Library Bookstore, Museum of North Idaho, Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce, City of Coeur d'Alene Parks Department, The Well Read Moose, and The Coeur d'Alene Resort Logo Shop. Thanks to a generous commitment by The Margaret Reed Foundation, 100% of sales is dedicated to the Tubbs Hill Foundation.



Committee Action Update: Events

David Taylor

2023 was another eventful year for the Friends of Tubbs Hill. Early in 2023, the Friends of Tubbs Hill was asked to help with a new series of walks organized by the Coeur d'Alene Library. Volunteering to participate, several board members acted as walk leaders on these Wednesday morning hikes. Starting at the library, hikes on the hill included discussions of Tubbs Hill's geology, forests, wildflowers, osprey, history, and fall foliage. Typically having 8 to 10 participants, these hikes, lasting 2 to 3 hours, provided both an educational opportunity and introduction to activities of the Friends of Tubbs Hill. The library has indicated that it will offer similar walking opportunities in 2024.

In March, members of the Lake City High School Outdoors club redistributed rock from an artificial rock wall on the south side of Tubbs Hill to create a more natural shoreline and removed a primitive log structure along the northeast side of the hill.

Spring started off with our April participation at the Earth Day Celebration at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library.

For National Trails Day in June, a great group of 14 volunteers and Cd'A Parks crew worked their tails off over three days building a new bypass trail and closing a very eroded and rocky trail that leads from the Main Loop Trail to the Fire Road. In spite of the hard work, the crew was smiling, especially when hikers praised the work. We even had an adjacent homeowner deliver fresh baked cookies as a thank you for the work!

We had two successful cleanup days on Tubbs Hill this last year. Our usual July 5th cleanup kicked off on a nice morning with early participants starting at the 3rd street trailhead and gathered the usual amount of post July 4th trash. There was one unusual and concerning exception. Kim Ashbaugh, Friends of Tubbs Hill Board member, came upon a large number of used and unused parachute signal rockets/flares. The potential both of injury and fire starts on Tubbs Hill was avoided and the rocket/flares were disposed of by the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department. Our second cleanup occurred on October 14, starting at East Tubbs Hill Park. Treats and refreshments were supplied by Jim Chapkis, Ignite CdA board member. The clean up was focused on the beaches and the northeast side of Tubbs. As usual, a large number of local residents supplied the people power to make for a successful clean up. A big thanks to those who participated and for the many community volunteers who cleanup trash on a regular basis throughout the year. Thanks to the board members who helped staff the cleanup table and encourage the participants.

North Idaho College welcomed The Friends of Tubbs Hill at the NIC Student Health and Wellness Fair in September. Approximately 30 vendors promoting physical fitness, environmental awareness, occupational, spiritual, social, psychological, and intellectual growth welcomed the 200 plus students who enjoyed the event. Many participating individuals grew up in the area and have hiked Tubbs Hill for years. Other students were surprised to learn of the treasure within our City Limits!

All of these events were in addition to the contribution of volunteers independently picking up trash and the multiple trails repair/construction projects. We look forward to continued participation from our many volunteers on similar events in 2024. Watch the Friends of Tubbs Hill website and your e-mail for 2024 event announcements.



Avoid Stormwater Poo-llution and Pick Up After Your Pet

Last year we shared the astounding number of folks using the McEuen Park Trailhead at 3rd St. Take a look at the chart in this newsletter at the numbers for this past year. Keep in mind that this count is for one trailhead. This does not account for some other friends of Tubbs Hill that also are thrilled to be on the hill – dogs! I don't know many folks who do not love dogs and delight in seeing them enjoying the hill, but I urge you to read the article below on how we dog lovers/owners can help protect the quality of visitor experience and health of the hill and lake.

The following story was written by the Our Gem Collaborative team for the CDA Press on Sunday, March 20, 2022.

[Click here to read the original article.](#)

Spring showers are quickly washing away the snow that has lingered since the beginning of the year. As snow recedes, many long-buried treasures are revealed like that one soggy glove you've been looking for all winter, but the most frustrating remnant of winter snowmelt is something that pollutes our waters with bacteria and nutrients. Waterlogged dog poop now emerges from melted snow piles along our streets, sidewalks, lawns, parks, and anywhere Fido decided to do his business, making it a stormwater pollutant. Disposing of doggy do-do is very important because there is no Poop Fairy. Studies have shown that up to 40% of Americans do not pick up their dog's feces. And according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, Idaho has the highest rate of dog ownership in the U.S. with 1.7 dogs per household. That's a lot of poop! Dog waste left by irresponsible dog owners doesn't just go away, it gets washed down the stormdrain and into Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River unfiltered.

Dog poop is considered a significant source of pathogens. Dog waste has four to ten times more bacteria than human waste. A single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria and potentially even parasites. Parasite eggs dispersed from feces can survive for years in outdoor areas. These pathogens can be passed on to other dogs or humans and gets washed into lakes and rivers where people swim. Bacterial source tracking studies in the Seattle area found that 20% of the bacteria contaminating waterways were traced back to dogs. Unlike wild animals that consume resources from their ecosystem, dogs are fed nutrient-heavy pet foods designed to give them a complete and healthy diet. Because dog food is extremely nutrient rich, dog waste contains high level of phosphorus and nitrogen. A single pile of pet waste will continue to release nutrients every time it rains, until it's all flushed away. These nutrients contribute to algae and nuisance aquatic weed growth, causing low oxygen in the water that can affect fish and aquatic life. Nutrient pollution can also cause the waters to become cloudy making it unattractive for swimming, boating and fishing. In urban areas, pet waste and fertilizers are among the top sources of nutrients in stormwater.

Help protect Our Gem, Coeur d'Alene Lake, by scooping the poop. Carry disposable bags and pick up after your pet on walks. Properly dispose of bagged pet waste by depositing it in trash cans. Please pick up pet waste from your yard regularly. Please do not throw bagged pet waste in storm drains, leave it on the ground or toss it in the woods. Avoid allowing your dog to do his/her business within 200 feet of a water body. You can also bury it in a 12-inch-deep hole at least 200 feet from a water source and ideally away from an edible garden. Pet waste is a common pollutant that contributes to water quality problems and is one that each of us can easily help correct. Scoop the poop because there is no Poop Fairy.

Our Walkabout

You may have seen a lady picking up trash on Tubbs Hill, but you may not know that she also cleans up dog poop as well. This can be difficult work especially when you have no dog of your own. She said that after the first 1,000 or so you get used to it. To give some perspective, in two years she has used approximately 4,500 dog poop bags. This is just the number of bags used not a count of how much dog waste has been removed from the hill, that's a lot of dog poop! This service has been an ongoing effort she has made for 20 years or so. When she hears complaints about irresponsible dog owners not cleaning up she takes it in stride, thinking to herself, "If they only knew." She says the best reward she can receive is to see others caring for Tubbs Hill by leaving it better than they found it.

Introducing a Friend: the LCHS Outdoor Studies Program

Jamie Esler, Environmental Science Teacher at Lake City High School

The warm sun and mild temperatures of mid-October feel like a lifetime away while sitting here at the keyboard on a subzero morning in January. The passing of time between now and then has felt slow as a falling autumn leaf yet quick as the flames dancing across the glass of my wood stove door.

This perplexing nature of time, and the unique ways that people place themselves within it, was the overarching topic for a day of learning that my students and I shared with the Friends of Tubbs Hill back on October 18, 2023.

We are the Lake City High School Outdoor Studies Program, a somewhat ‘motley crew’ of students and teachers (all learners alike) that spend our days combining US History, Environmental Science, and English Language Arts to immerse ourselves in the fabric of Coeur d’Alene’s rich human and natural histories. We are musicians, athletes, actors, gamers, debaters, artists, and we come from every nook and cranny of the student body and teaching staff at Lake City. We are a diverse group with a shared passion for the outdoors. Whether someone just moved here, or is one of the few “born and raised” folks around town, everyone has a home within OSP because everyone has a connection to this amazing place we all call home.

For this particular trip, we traveled downtown to spend the day on Tubbs exploring our new Essential Question for second quarter: “How do my actions affect future generations?”

After reading that question a couple times and really contemplating it, it should come as no surprise that our team of teachers is hard-pressed to find a more appropriate local venue to pursue this question with our students than the trails, cliffs, and shady forest groves of Tubbs Hill.

Before departing campus, students spent some time in the classroom quietly journaling about their favorite ways to enjoy Tubbs Hill with their friends and family. They discussed what they wrote about in small groups. As a large class, we came to determine that the cliff jumpers and dog walkers and hammock nappers all share one thing in common: the health of the Tubbs Hill ecosystem benefits everyone that enjoys time there. And that its health is a product of people’s actions; past, present, and future.

Carrying clipboards with excerpts from Scott Reed’s *The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill* and backpacks with snacks, water, and work gloves we boarded the buses. We were ready to place ourselves squarely between past efforts needed to save Tubbs and future efforts needed to preserve Tubbs.

We were greeted at the 4th Street Entrance by board members Jessica Bryant and Kim Ashbaugh. Thanks to their hard work and preparation, our group was set to split up into two service-learning projects: mitigating trail erosion on the south side of the hill and removing concrete blocks and other large debris from the east side of the hill.

Our previous few class periods in Environmental Science focused our studies on restoration ecology, and the various ways it can be used as a science to repair damage to ecosystems caused by humans. After a wonderful introduction from Jessica and Kim about current restoration efforts happening on the hill, the students were challenged to use what they had learned in class to determine which type of restoration ecology we’d be helping the Friends of Tubbs Hill with, and the ways its influence on ecosystem health could be measured/observed in future years.

Before hitting the trail and hiking out to our project sites, we read a few passages from *The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill* and showed the students the plaque dedicated to Scott Reed at the entrance of the main trail. We reflected on the courage that he, Art Manley, and others must have had for the important work they did to save Tubbs Hill for future generations to enjoy and admire as much as they were able to.

It’s one of my most cherished experiences as an educator to watch students realize how classroom learning can, and should, come to life in the day-to-day “real world.” Thanks to the support of Jessica, Kim, and The Friends of Tubbs Hill, my students were able to experience the variety of ways that human actions truly do affect future generations.

And as importantly, the ways in which our own actions today will affect generations yet to come.

More About the Outdoor Studies Program

Jessica Bryant

As a board member and as a parent, I want to offer a tremendous thank you to the Outdoor Studies Program teachers and give you a more thorough understanding of what OSP is and how it benefits Tubbs Hill. Both of my kids went through this remarkable program, and I was lucky enough to tag along on many of their field trips in addition to leading several of the service-learning field trips on Tubbs. It is incredible what OSP offers its students and our community. The depth of learning, hands-on experiences, and teacher engagement have a lifelong impact.

What exactly is the Outdoor Studies Program and how does it work? As Jamie said, the program combines Environmental Science, US History, and English Language Arts. Students learn each of these subjects in the context of the outdoors. LCHS is on a block schedule, with four classes each day, alternating between A and B days, for a total of 8 different courses. Students apply to the program, and the 60-80 who are accepted have these three classes in a row, every other day. They go to a different class first thing in the morning, and then at about 9am, they are in OSP for the rest of the day. Because of the number of students, there are three full classes in each of the three subjects. Most days, students rotate between the three classes, but OSP is also able to take students on frequent field trips that last most of the school day. Besides coming to Tubbs Hill, common OSP field trips include the Avista power plant, the city sewage treatment system, Blackwell Island, a lumber mill, a local farm, the Spokane River, the historic Davenport, conducting citizen science at Lookout Pass, and so much more. The teachers collaborate closely, and every field trip incorporates elements of each subject. Past visits to Tubbs have included not only a service-learning project, where kids are able to give their time and energy to helping the hill, but also hands-on learning about restoration efforts, history and historical artifacts found on the hill, literature like Scott Reed's book, and writing by myriad relevant authors. The students benefit from local experts who work with them in the classroom as well as in the field, throughout the year. Students are exposed to a wide variety of outdoor issues, career paths, and have the opportunity to learn about many industries and their relationship to, and dependence upon, the outdoors. They are encouraged to think deeply, engage in rich conversation, and discover interconnections. Having had the opportunity to attend many of their field trips, I can personally vouch for the incredible impact of OSP. These kids will see a lifelong benefit from the immense breadth and depth of exposure and experience. OSP is teaching and learning at its best.

We, the board of directors, are deeply appreciative for the hands on help, but even more so for these dedicated teachers who offer our community's youth the chance to connect with Tubbs Hill in deeply meaningful ways. This is how we encourage the next generation to care and get involved. It's how we foster long term, continued support for our beloved hill.

Winters of the Past

The following photos come from an archive of images taken by Art Manley, one of the founders of the Tubbs Hill Foundation. We thought you might enjoy seeing the hill with the frozen lake!





Fun on the hill, past and present.

Green is Good

If you're one of the many Friends of Tubbs who enjoy an occasional visit, new studies suggest that a more intimate relationship with our lakeside treasure can provide benefits not only for the environment, but also for more focused engagement. Helping plant seedlings, maintaining trails or posting photos on social networks are among the activities that repay the volunteers who more consciously take that extra step.

A British study conducted during the pandemic restrictions of 2020 by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology determined that nature-based "citizen science" projects boosts the well-being of participants and their connection to nature. The study, "Nature Up Close and Personal: A Well-being Experiment," is the first large-scale study to measure the well-being benefits to the volunteers taking part in citizen science projects—such as the wildlife recording activities providing data that are vital to assess environmental change.

Five hundred volunteers from across the UK were randomly assigned to carry out a 10-minute nature-based activity at least five times over eight days: a pollinating insects survey, a butterfly survey, simply spending time in nature and writing down three good things they noticed, or a combination of both. The groups were surveyed both before and after taking part to assess differences in their connection to nature, well-being and pro-nature behavior.

The researchers found that all volunteers showed increased scores in well-being and feeling connected to nature after completing their activities. Participants' comments included: "It gave me permission to slow down;" "It made me more aware of nature in all aspects of the environment;" and "It reminded me that small things can make a big difference to my mood."

In addition, those writing down three good things they noticed, either alone or when combined with nature recording activities, reported they were more likely to adopt pro-nature behaviors beyond their involvement in the project, such as planting more pollinator-friendly plants in their gardens, or creating shelters for wildlife, showing that taking part in citizen science has even more benefits for nature.

So, the bottom line according to Dr. Michael Pocock, ecologist and academic lead for public engagement with research at UKCEH: "Being in and around nature is good for our well-being, and we've shown that focused, active engagement with nature is just as important—whether that is 'mindful moments' in nature or taking part in citizen science."

(Adapted from <https://dx.doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10432>)

Thank You, Volunteers!

Our successful efforts to build and maintain trails, pick up trash, clean up storm damage, etc. is due to *you* volunteers. A huge thank you to the following volunteers who participated in this year's Trail Work Days!

Dick Barkley	Mary Duff	Mike Fuller	Jan Mosley	Robin Scardina
Wendell Bouwens	Todd Dunnfield	Rich Gaertner	Jack O'Brien	Debbie Siemens
Mary Jo Brooks	Jamie Esler	Rich Gerhard	Tere Porcarelli	Mike Siemens
Marlene Craig	James Fillmore	Rick Holman	Dan Redline	Dale Young
Bill Delyea	Heidi Fischer	Jon Ingalls	Ken Roberge	Brad Zielinski

60+ Students from Lake City High School's Outdoor Studies Program and Outdoors Club

And all of those unnamed friends who picked up litter on organized Clean-Up days and any other time.

If you would like to be included on the list to be notified of Trail Work Day activities, please leave us a message with your name and contact information at friendsoftubbshill@tubbshill.org.

We would love to have you join in on the sweat and the fun!

Thank You, Donors!

The Tubbs Hill Foundation is a non-profit organization that relies on contributions from the public to sustain its activities – like trail maintenance, matching funds for grants, and other projects. We are sincerely grateful for every donation. If you are not yet a donor, please consider becoming a Friend of Tubbs Hill. As an annual donor you will have the option of receiving a hard or electronic copy of our newsletter.

You can also have your family's name inscribed on one of the rocks at the entrances to the hill for a donation of \$150.00. Visit our website for details at www.tubbshill.org/donate.

No donation is too small. If you enjoy Tubbs Hill, please consider supporting our efforts!

Donations can be made online at www.tubbshill.org/donate

or mail a check made out to:

Tubbs Hill, Inc.

P.O. Box 3061

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061

Did you know? You can set up an automatic monthly donation! Simply check the box when you donate online.



Some of our wonderful clean-up day volunteers!

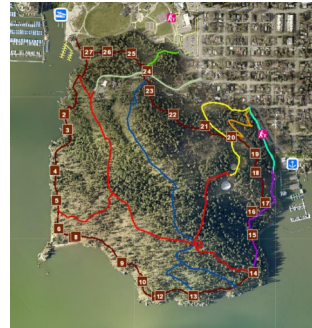
More Images and Information

We run out of room for all the great images and stories we have to share. View the online version of this newsletter for more at: www.tubbshill.org/newsletters. You can also read publications from past years.

Website Resources

Did you know? Our website offers maps, guides, history, photographs, and so much more. One of the maps even shows your location on the hill in real time, along with all the official trails, with clickable points of interest. Our guided hike brochure is there too, offering information about each of the numbered signs around the Main Loop Trail.

You can also find old issues of our newsletters that offer some interesting history!



Tubbs Hill Foundation Board of Directors

Thank you to our dedicated 2023 board members!

David Yadon, President
David Taylor, Vice President
Carla Redline, Treasurer
Barbara Crumpacker, Secretary
Christie Wood, City Council Liaison
Kellie Kuster, Legal Counsel
Kim Ashbaugh, Director
Steve Bloedel, Director
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