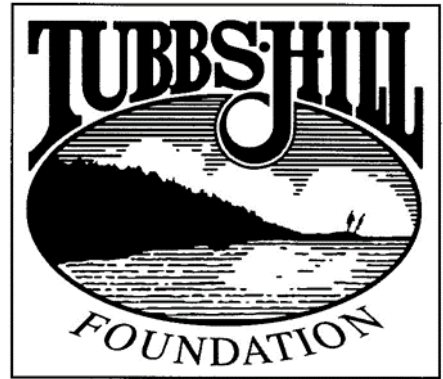


# Friends of Tubbs Hill

Fall 2019 Newsletter



## Tubb Hill Foundation Strengthens Ties with Community

In furtherance of THF goals, our Board continues to engage and develop partnerships with community members, local organizations and the CdA Parks Department.

In early spring, members of the Kootenai County Young Professionals donated their time for our first clean up of the year on Tubbs Hill. Despite it being a cold day, approximately twenty of their members showed up to work. The second clean up was with Friends of Tubbs Hill, with assistance from the Parks Department. Several of the THF board members interacted with these volunteers as they headed up the hill with trash bags in hand. Huckleberry ice cream, lemonade, and coffee was available as a thank you!

In April, we joined other organizations for Earth Day. Then in May we partnered with KEA for their water festival and at a later date joined in Coeurfest activities. And as always our biggest outreach efforts were during the Art on the Green weekend. Each of these events raises community awareness of Tubbs Hill and

our goal to keep it natural and special.

We were assisted by Jamie Esler's Outdoor class with mapping of trails on Tubbs, which gave us a start on the mapping process.

CdA Parks Department managed and coordinated many projects with us this year, all of which required a lot of time and planning:

- Back up for clean-up days.
- Mapping of trails and identification of areas that needed remediation.
- Trail remediation and brush clearing.
- New signage.

We established a new partnership with the museum which will benefit Tubbs in allowing for open space areas and educational opportunities to discuss ecological issues on Tubbs and to promote its natural status.

These partnerships help make CdA an awesome place to live and each of our groups stronger.

~ **Barbara Fillmore**

## THF 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.



Visit us at [www.tubbshill.org](http://www.tubbshill.org)

# Tubbs Hill News

In the past year members of the Tubbs Hill Foundation have met with Mayor Widmyer and Fire Chief Gabriel to discuss concerns about the health of the forest on Tubbs Hill. The meeting was a result of a walk of the hill with several board members and three veteran foresters. Several areas of concern were noted. We were concerned with unauthorized trails, areas of diseased trees and areas where there was concern about accumulation of dead materials and overcrowded shrubs, etc. that could pose a fire danger. The first two issues are being dealt with by members of the Tubbs Hill Foundation in co-operation of the City Parks Department. The third issue, of fire safety, is being addressed by the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department.

The fire department has been working with the Idaho Department of Lands to develop a plan for two prescribed burns which will be done in the spring of 2020. The burns will take place on two consecutive days, with the first burn being on the west side in an area that had previously been burned, presumably to maintain the benefit of the first burn there. The second burn will be on the east side of the hill in an area to be determined, but it will be one of the areas identified by our walk on the hill with the foresters. The Idaho Department of Lands is putting the plan together, and the Tubbs Hill Foundation will be kept abreast of it before the burning takes place.

The health of the forest on Tubbs is a concern of many, not just the Tubbs Hill Foundation. We have undertaken numerous plantings in the past to regenerate trees that have been lost, and will continue to do so. Trees that are most susceptible to disease, such as Douglas Fir, will be replaced with those that are more disease resistant, e.g. Western Larch. It is important to remember that a forest is a living dynamic ecosystem, and that what we see today is not necessarily what it looked like in the past, nor is it what it will look like someday in the future. Disease and decay are a part of that process, and our mission includes keeping it in its natural state, which means that it will not always look "pretty". Public safety is also paramount, and thus the reason for the prescribed burns.

We all benefit when we do our best to respect and care for what Tubbs Hill offers: a wonderful natural area surrounded by a beautiful lake, adjacent to an amazing downtown area with a special park nestled in between. How fortunate are we!

## New Event! Scott Reed & Art Manley Post July 4th Huckleberry Hill Cleanup

A new Tubbs Hill cleanup event has been initiated. The Scott Reed & Art Manley Post July 4th Huckleberry Hill Cleanup

As President Barbara noted in her article, The Friends of Tubbs Hill, celebrated the 8th of July by holding the initial Scott Reed & Art Manley post-4th of July Tubbs Hill Clean up.

Kim Ashbaugh, who daily walks and cleans the Hill had commented over the last several years how untidy the Hill becomes over the 4th with the celebrants packing more on to the hill than off. So this year we tried a "special" cleanup day in the spirit of Scott Reed and Art Manley. Huckleberry ice cream cones were provided compliments of Mayor Widmyer and Councilmember (and Tubbs Hill Foundation member) Ron Edinger. Coffee was donated by Bakery by The Lake and Lemonade by a friend of John Fox.

Everyone had a great time and the Hill certainly looked pleased

Thank you Friends of Tubbs Hill.

Hope to see you all again July 5, 2020, for our second annual Scott Reed & Art Manley Huckleberry Cleanup .





# Museum of North Idaho

Two and a half years ago the Tubbs Hill Foundation spoke up in protest of a proposed plan by ignitecda to sell their property adjacent to the south end of the city hall parking lot. Their perceived intent was to sell it to private parties for the purpose of building homes or apartments there. Our goal was to have the property become city property, keep it open and natural, and use it for educational purposes related to Tubbs Hill. Through discussions with the ignitecda board, the city, and ultimately, the Museum of North Idaho, we finally reached a resolution to the issue. The property will be owned by the city and thus the public. Whatever property is not needed for the buildings as now planned will remain open, and the Tubbs Hill Foundation will have a presence there. We felt the compromise allowed us to achieve a good portion of our original goals and also serves the interests of the other involved parties, and we voted to approve the deal. We appreciate the cooperation of the ignite board and the mayor, and are pleased that we could help the museum obtain a new location.

In response, we received the following note from Julie Gibbs, writing on behalf of the Museum of North Idaho:

Last night, the City Council voted in favor of the Young Ave. property transfer from Ignite CDA with the associated deed restrictions. Council also approved entering into a lease agreement with the Museum of North Idaho for this property. This is a significant accomplishment that will help MNI achieve its vision of becoming a premier regional museum.

We could not have achieved this milestone without the support of the Tubbs Hill Foundation. On behalf of the Museum, thank you for working with us on the planning of the project and for voicing support at various City Council and Ignite CDA meetings. Please extend our appreciation to all members of your Board.

On a personal note, I feel Tubbs Hill is a unique and priceless asset for the City of Coeur d'Alene. Thank you for all the work that you do to preserve this beautiful area for public enjoyment. It will be a privilege to be a neighbor.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as plans develop for the new museum.

**-Julie Gibbs, Board Member, Museum of North Idaho**

## Trails Erosion Mitigation Project Update

We are in the midst of a long term project to assess, prioritize, and take action to mitigate the erosion on Tubbs' many trails with the help of the city and other local partners. We began last spring by closing off a user trail for restoration, a trail that is significantly eroded and steep, and poses risks to the health of both the hill and its users. This trail was well used by visitors who missed the official trail just a short distance away, which is the intended route. We hope that people will respect the closure and allow this area to regenerate. We are very aware that closing certain trails may not be popular, but we ask that you respect posted signs and trust the city Parks Department and Tubbs Hill Foundation Board members who are working hard to minimize the impact to users and maximize the protection of the hill for long term health.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation board has long held concerns regarding the growing foot traffic on user trails, routes created by visitors cutting across the terrain between established trails. Established trails are designed, created, and maintained by the city's parks department to hold up to traffic and be resistant to erosion. User trails, not intentionally designed or created, are often damaging to the local ecosystem. Many of the user trails on Tubbs Hill pose significant risk to the health of our beloved hill.

The overall soil depth on the hill is shallow and lacking significant subsoil due to the repeated scouring of the hill during the Glacial Lake Missoula flood episodes. The major risk for soil damage here is soil displacement due to a lack of subsoil. In other areas, where the bed rock has had hundreds of thousands of years to decompose, or weather, this subsoil layer, together with the upper layers, binds the soil to the bed rock. This deep soil profile of 30 to 40 inches, or more, has a good moisture holding capacity. Here on Tubbs, however, the shallow layer of weathered volcanic ash and decomposed plant material are sitting directly on bedrock, lacking stability.

The most significant cause of soil erosion by people on the user trails is soil displacement from foot traffic. Foot traffic also damages plants, whose root structures help hold fragile soils in place. Damaged root systems expose soil to erosion. As soil erodes and bare rock is exposed, rain and snow melt can run unimpeded down hill. Because this soil is thin and has little moisture holding capacity, this water force easily washes soil below further down hill, ending up in the lake, where it poses a hazard to lake health.

**- Jessica Bryant**

## Ron Edinger's Farwell Open House 11-14-2019



The City of Coeur d' Alene had a retirement Open House in celebration of Ron's 50 years of public service on Thursday, November 14th, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Hagadone Event Center, 900 S. Floating Green Drive.

Ron is a passionate positive supporter of Tubbs Hill.

Ron's support of the Tubbs was identified by Scott Reed in his book "THE TREASURE CALLED TUBBS HILL". In the mid 1970's, Scott notes in his book that the final acquisition of Tubbs Hill was publicly discussed and argued. Mayor Edinger's position was key in that process.

"Positions in support (public acquisition) signed by thousands, plus all direct contacts, were of more help. Mayor Edinger, who subsequently has become the city council person most proactive for public parks and recreation, was finally convinced. The story we all loved to believe was that Ron was finally persuaded to overcome his monetary cautions by strong words of support for acquiring the rest of Tubbs Hill from his wife, Nancy" (pg. 35)

Later in his book Scott notes that on July 23, 1975:

"There was a nice dedication ceremony at the entry way of the hill with the mayor and council members plus others, all feeling good, but this time there was another omission.

There should have been another concrete monument saying "Land Acquired for the Benefit of the People Forever" and naming Mayor Ron Edinger, Red Halpern, Trust for Public Lands and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. There is still time" (pg. 37).

George Ives, on behalf of the Tubbs Hill Foundation, comments:

It's hard to find words that don't sound trite to express our appreciation for Ron Edinger's continuing support of Tubbs Hill. His name has been a fixture since the Tubbs Hill Foundation's founding. As an advocate for the entire CDA Parks system, an outdoor sports enthusiast and a generally good guy, he has continued to grow in our esteem throughout the years. As former Mayor and continuing Council Representative he has consistently advocated in support of the THF's mission to keep Tubbs as natural as possible while encouraging appropriate uses by his efforts such as expanding access with Eastside Park Trail improvements, staunching misguided attempts to "improve" Tubbs with "water features," and nixing sledding runs as part of the McEuen redevelopment. As our journey to be responsible advocates of a natural setting in our urban environment for future generations continues, Ron's record of service will provide a guide directing our steps.

## Summer Work Projects on Tubbs

Community volunteers, Foundation Board members, and Coeur d'Alene Parks Department initiated several work projects on Tubbs Hill this summer. Activity kicked off with a summer clean up after the Fourth of July, while the main trail was in good shape, a significant amount of trash was collected off trail and on the beaches. Brush trimming occurred along the north-east side of the hill reducing the overgrowth and allowing easier passage on the trail. Additional work activity included continued decommissioning efforts on a steep, eroding and dangerous trail from the summit to the main trail. Friends of Tubbs Hill thanks the City of Coeur d'Alene Parks Department and community volunteers for their support in maintaining the quality of Tubbs Hill. **By David Taylor**

## Welcome!

To Susan Troppmann, our new board member. Come join her and other board members the 2nd Thursday of each month, 8:30 at Calypso. You too may be interested in joining our Board.

## Presentations

Tubbs Hill presentations are available to interested groups. The presentation takes about 30 minutes and is usually told by George Saylor. This year he has given presentations at a Friday Iron Horse lunch group and the CDA Public Library. His next scheduled event is 1/14/2020 with the Audubon Society. Interested? Email [gsaylorcda@sol.com](mailto:gsaylorcda@sol.com).



## Friends of Tubbs Hill Annual Membership or Engraving Application

### Mission Statement

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To become a member or have a name engraved on one of the monuments, fill out the form below, attach a check or money order for your choice of membership or \$150 for each line of engraving and mail to Tubbs Hill, Inc., PO Box 3061, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816 -3061.

If you would like to engrave your company's logo on a separate corporate monument, the cost is \$500, plus the engraving charge. The maximum logo size is 4" x 4".

For more information please contact the City Parks Department, 208-769-2252.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Membership

(Both include upcoming newsletters)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership, \$15      \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership, \$25

### Engraving

The monuments are located at the Third Street Entrance to Tubbs Hill and at the East Tubbs Hill Park. Please designate which location you prefer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Third Street Entrance      \_\_\_\_\_ East Tubbs Hill Park      \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Rock

Please print the name as you would like it to appear below. Spaces count as one letter. Total cannot exceed 22 spaces. Please note IN MEMORY OF inscriptions may require two lines for a total cost of \$300. Engravings are done semiannually — May and October.

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**THANK YOU for your generous support. Your contribution to the Tubbs Hill Foundation is tax-deductible as permitted by federal law for nonprofit foundations.**



**Tubbs Hill, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 3061  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061

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## Friends of Tubbs Hill

### Our Sincere Thanks To Our Recent Contributors:

The mission of the THF, to keep Tubbs Hill natural and still allow for compatible public use, is made possible in large part by the support of the many friends of Tubbs Hill. Your support comes in several ways, one of which is financial contributions. We want to thank the following for their generous financial support in 2018/2019 as well as those who made anonymous contributions during Art in the Park.

Cook Family	Janet Torline
John Maher	Randall Sorbel
Justin Stormogipson	Bea Fisher
Robert & Yvonne Hallock	Pat Barber
Wayne & Fay Sweeney	Richard King
James Chapkis	Priest/Bennett
Tim & Kathryn Hunt	Helen Yuditsky
David Taylor	Jacques Croom Sr.
Doug Eastwood	Barbara Fillmore
Patty Underdown	Tex Peak
Barbara Dennis	Catherine Tinder

*Our sincere apologies if we have failed to include your name. Please let George Ives know at 667-7888. We will be sure to print your name in the upcoming newsletter.*

### Board of Directors

Barbara Fillmore, President  
Dave Yadon, Vice President  
Barb Crumpacker, Secretary  
George Ives, Treasurer  
Ron Edinger, City Council Liaison  
Kellie Kuster, Legal Counsel  
Evalyn Adams, Director  
Jessica Bryant, Director  
Chuck Hosack, Director  
Peter Luttrupp, Director  
Nils Rosdahl, Director  
George Saylor, Director  
David Taylor, Director  
Susan Troppmann, Director

### Tubbs Hill Monthly Meetings

Please join us for our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of every month, at 8:30 a.m. at Calypsos, 116 E. Lakeside. For more details, visit [tubbshill.org](http://tubbshill.org) or email [gsaylercda@aol.com](mailto:gsaylercda@aol.com).

*New Members Wanted! Please join us!*