

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.

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

-William Shakespeare

Thank You Volunteers

Volunteers are love in motion.

-Author unknown

The first and most important thing we can say to all of you who love Tubbs Hill is thank you! This has been a big year for all of you who have given your time to keep Tubbs Hill the jewel that it is.

You will read and see photos below describing what we have accomplished this year. -As this report was being prepared, the city, including your Tubbs Hill has sustained substantial wind damage. We know that the Friends of Tubbs Hill are committed to contributing to the developing recovery efforts. We also know that we will be announcing invitations to join us for Work Days. Please visit our website and sign up for our newsletter if you want to be notified events are scheduled.





A note to all friends: we're changing how we communicate with the public. This is our first annual report, which will replace our biannual newsletter. We will share more frequent news and information via our email list, please sign up on our website if you don't already receive your newsletter electronically.

Tubbs Hill is unique and special.

So, what is Tubbs Hill? It's a city park, but it's a different kind of city park. There are no playgrounds, bathrooms, or baseball fields. This is a park where we work to conserve a natural lakeside forest for the public to visit and enjoy. In this park we maintain a natural habitat for the animals that live here, such as deer, wild turkeys, and birds of prey. There are Osprey nests here, and tall trees at the edge of the lake where they can perch to look for the fish they eat. There are also beaches for swimming, but you have to take a hike or paddle a kayak or canoe to get to them. Tubbs is a managed forest, too small to survive on its own.

There may be no other city that has a place like this, it is very unique, something we all need to work to keep.

On Tubbs Hill we like to remind everyone of a very important rule for helping to keep the ecosystem healthy: We say "take only photographs, leave only footprints." What might this mean? Why? Footprints show that hikers were staying on the trail, and we leave only footprints and not trash or trampled plants. We take only photographs meaning we don't disturb or remove rocks, plants, flowers, or anything else (except trash) from the hill. The plants here have to struggle to survive. The soil here on the hill is a very fragile thin layer of topsoil. In most places about two feet of nutrient rich topsoil lies at the surface of the earth, underneath that is a coarser moist material, and under that is rock. On Tubbs we have just 5" or less of weathered soil on top of rock that has many cracks. All those cracks drain away the water instead of holding it close to nourish the soil and plants. The soil here has good nutrients, but there is just not enough of it. That 5" of soil is the maximum depth, some places have much less. So with just a few inches of good soil perched on rocks with no nutrients, there is little here for the plants to survive on, making it very important that we let the plants that are here continue to live and not increase their struggle.

Another thing to consider is our trails. The main trails have been packed down firm, so the soil is held in place. When people go off the main trails, their feet kick the soil loose, disturbing it. Rain then easily washes the soil down the hill and into the lake. Displacing soil also displaces plants whose roots hold the soil in place, which leads to even more erosion. The best thing people can do to help keep Tubbs Hill healthy is to stay on the main trails and avoid trampling plants. And remember to leave no trash and clean up after your pets.

The biggest plants on the hill are our trees. We have Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, Western White Pine, and Larch. If you hike around the entire hill, you can spot some trees that don't look very healthy. Many of our trees here are dealing with some tough diseases and pests. Our Ponderosa Pines face two different beetles. Young trees whose trunks are less than 8" in diameter can be attacked by the Ips Pini, a small beetle that bores under the bark. Older Ponderosas face the western pine beetle. The female bores a wavy line laying eggs under the bark. The larvae eat the cambium layer, circling the tree, which girdles the tree causing it to be unable to get nutrients, causing death. Woodpeckers eat the larvae, and so you will

see a large pile of bark under an older Ponderosa that has been killed by the western pine beetle. Ponderosas on the dry south side of the hill also have to deal with mistletoe, a kind of plant that lives off a tree, causing the host tree to have stunted growth and typically the limb that the mistletoe is on will die, sometimes the entire tree will die.

Douglas Fir are struggling with a kind of root rot, a fungus called *Armillaria mellea* or shoestring rot. Back in 1996 there was an ice storm that caused many trees to fall. The city did a good job cleaning up all the fallen trees which helped prevent the Douglas Fir bark beetle from infesting the hill. However, all of the stumps that were left became a great habitat for the root rot. Cutting down the diseased trees will not stop the root rot because it spreads through the root systems of the infected trees. There is no easy way to eliminate this disease.

The forest on the hill is a managed forest. It is such a small area it has to be managed to be a healthy natural forest. There is too much fir on hill right now. Adding other native species like Larch, White Pine, and Ponderosa Pine increases diversity, which makes it healthier and more resistant to insects and disease. In a natural environment, fire would take out brush, stumps, unhealthy trees, and allow a variety of tree seeds to disperse and grow new trees. Without fire, there is nothing to keep resistant species established. The City, with aid of volunteers, is planting tree species that are resistant to root rot. This will be the next forest on Tubbs Hill.

Footprints show that hikers were staying on the trail, and we are taking care of the hill when we leave only footprints and not trash or trampled plants. We take only photographs meaning we don't disturb or remove plants or flowers from the hill. In the springtime we have lots of flowers here. Remember that flowers are part of the process that lets plants reproduce so that they continue to live. What happens when we interrupt this process? Plants have to wait another year for the chance to reproduce and the overall population will decline. If plants die, their roots no longer help hold the fragile soil in place, and it begins to erode. You might think there are many flowers on Tubbs Hill, but there are also many visitors, in fact the city estimates about 150,000 people visit the hill each year. If everyone took just one flower, would we have many left?

Tubbs Hill is a very special place. It's fun to explore while hiking the trails or swimming at a beach. But it is very important that each and every visitor understands that they are responsible for keeping our hill healthy so it can last through our lifetimes and beyond. Remember to stay on the main trails and take care not to disturb the plants. The Tubbs Hill Foundation is committed to protecting the hill and keeping it healthy, but we need your help.

So, revisit our natural treasure, but "take only photographs, leave only footprints" and bring a bag to collect some trash.

Taking Care of Tubbs – What We Have Done

Tubbs Hill, our natural treasure, is a wonderful asset for our community. It provides a variety of recreational activities and is used and enjoyed by thousands of people every year. Like anything that gets used much, it requires some care and maintenance to keep it healthy. The good news is that over the past several years, the Tubbs Hill Foundation, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Fire Departments have partnered to shoulder the responsibility of caring for the hill. Their efforts have resulted in protection for the hill and increased user friendliness.

In the past year or so the Parks Department did significant cleanup of the downfall and damaged trees from a previous windstorm, they have provided tools and manpower on trail remediation and improvement projects, graveled several areas, such as the third street entrance where the trail had worn to the point of needing repair, and replaced many older signs with new ones providing better directions to various trails and exits from the hill. They replaced the boards on the suspension bridge and tightened it, so it is safer and easier to use, and have removed some of the hazardous trees along the trails.

The Fire Department has also been very involved, particularly with safety measures that will lessen the danger of fire. Their activities include establishing a water supply (fire hydrant) on the east side of the hill, completing the fire road that connects both ends of the hill, doing annual maintenance of the road, acquiring a fire boat and wild-land fire engines specifically suited to fight fires on Tubbs Hill, performing annual training and planning for fires on Tubbs, and doing annual tree thinning in conjunction with the Parks Department. They have also been involved in the long-term planning to maintain the health of the hill's forest, including occasional prescribed burns to reduce fire potential.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation has also been actively involved in care of the hill. Our mission is to maintain Tubbs Hill as a healthy forest typical of North Idaho while also providing for appropriate public use. To that end, the THF several years ago began to develop strategies for preventing erosion of trails, especially unauthorized trails, strategies for maintaining the health of the forest on the hill, improving signage, and providing education to the public about the hill. Two years ago several THF board members, along with several veteran foresters, did a survey of the hill to determine areas of concern and make recommendations for dealing with them. As part of the effort to educate the public we have participated in numerous community activities, such as leading tours on the hill, participating in Art on the Green, conducting clean-ups on the hill, and creating a power-point presentation about Tubbs Hill that is available to the public. A new Trail Ambassador program and a program to get every district student in the fourth grade on Tubbs Hill were initiated. We also worked with the Museum of North Idaho to incorporate an outdoor interpretive display about Tubbs on their site.

This year, another major effort has been trail remediation and improvements. The northeast trail entrance was modified to make it safer and shortcuts were closed, which helps protect the habitat structure of the hill, as well as prevent erosion. The upper section of that trail was modified to mitigate some of the winter hazard of ice on a sloping section of the hill, and to help with closing of several shortcuts. Work was done on the upper section of the trail to re-route the trail and close a dangerous unauthorized trail down the east slope of the hill. Several other projects, such as re-routing trails, providing additional or re-locating directional signage and clearing brush along trails, were also completed. All told, in 2020, 45 volunteers completed 26 different activities on the hill while accumulating 422 hours of volunteer service. A great debt is owed to the Inland NW Land Conservancy for their very helpful involvement in these activities. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

As you can see, a great deal of effort has gone into keeping Tubbs Hill a healthy forest and a safe place to enjoy the outdoors. The Tubbs Hill Foundation is a non-profit organization and relies on contributions from the public to help sustain its activities. Check us out on our website at tubbshill.org, and please consider becoming a Friend of Tubbs Hill by donating to support our efforts.

We are grateful to the Parks and Fire Departments for their help in maintaining the hill, and to YOU who support the THF. We could not carry out our mission without our partnerships. Continue to enjoy the hill and please do so in a respectful manner. Please stay on designated trails, don't leave trash behind or your pet's waste, and do enjoy your time on Tubbs Hill!

A quick look at some highlights of what we have done this year:

- Forest Health
 - Prescribed Burn – Continued to advocate & coordinate with City Fire and Parks;
 - Promote BMP (Best Management Practices) Continued to support actions identified by forestry and fire professionals;
- Trail Work: 25 documented work activities were done this year. Examples of the major efforts include:
 - Corbin Point Fire Connector Trail: Constructed re-routing option for lower section and facilitated rehab. *(Completed April)*
 - 10th & Mountain Ave connector Trail:
 - upper section: Identified re-routing or modification options to avoid winter hazard and facilitate rehab; *(Completed Sept. Monitoring for adjustment)*
 - lower section: constructed switchback modification and closure of shortcuts; *(Completed Aug)*
 - North Summit Trail: evaluated re-routing or methods to reduce erosion and hazardous rock crossing;

- Southwest & East Summit Trail: identify re-routing & constructed summit approaches; *(Completed April)*
- West connector trail from Fire Rd. to summit (AKA “Enchanted Forest”): re-routed steep section of trail; *(Completed March)*
- Signage: Reviewed and assisted city with signage. Proposed “You are here” maps at key intersections to aid wayfinding. Test Map completed and approved for installation at East Tubbs Hill Trailhead (10st I& Mountain Ave.);
- Facilitated relocation of East Tubbs Hill No Bicycling sign to be visible ;*(Completed Aug)*
- Cleared trails of numerous downed trees;
- Closed various user trails that were dangerous or eroding.
- Public Outreach
 - Education – Every Kid on Tubbs -4th Grade Program the foundation began partnership with the University of Idaho, CdA to develop a grade level appropriate curriculum that engages students in learning the natural and human history of Tubbs Hill.
- *Special Projects*
 - Museum Interpretative Center – working in concert with the Museum of North Idaho on an outdoor interpretive display at the new museum site at the base of the hill.
- *Volunteers*
 - Ambassador Program
 - Foundation proposed partnership had soft rollout of program to provided information to users.
 - Trail & Cleanup Work
 - Numerous board members and other FTH members participated in 26 trail day activities with a documented 422 hours of volunteer time. Calculated to be worth \$9,512. This does not include the folks who participated in the two official cleanup days or those that pick-up litter, trim brush, adjust fallen rocks etc. throughout the year.

Words from and about some Friends of Tubbs Hill

Tubbs Hill Reflection

The sky is the brightest of clearest blues- the kind that grows wings on your feet & sunbeams in your heart. I look up at it through the piney green of the evergreen trees rising far over my head, the earthy, fresh forest smell rolling over our bodies as we hike through the cool morning air. It’s the brightness of the sky contrasted by emerald that draws my attention from the soft needle strewn path of Tubbs Hill. It never fails-- this small outcropping of earth and rock and tree, to sooth each ruffled layer of my body, mind, heart, soul.

I’ve been coming here since I was a tiny girl and will return, I hope, until I am well past this 41st year of life. I have walked or run or strolled this place alone and with my family in every season.

I’ve felt the heat of summer settle a laughter filled, golden dryness over the pathways. Autumn with welcome crisp mornings and passing rainfall quiets the energy and brings a last bold, blazing color. Winter pads through the forest with a whisper of snow and frozen trails. Running there with my dad, our breath is nearly as visible as the geese passing above. And spring. Oh spring launching relentless rain and an effervescent green boiling up and greeting the newly sparkling sun deprived water of Lake Coeur d’Alene. Wildflowers burst or quietly emerge in the higher meadows. When you breathe, in those meadows in the spring, you breathe life and joy, you catch a glimpse of the transient bliss and pain of Existence.

Here’s what I’ve come to understand: Tubbs can be a recreational space, an object used for merely its physical presence. You can walk and smoke and drink and swim oblivious to the Sanctuary this place is. And the land will hold you. It will swallow your carelessness and disconnect and continue to offer a place to play.

Or. Tubbs can be for all of us, a Refuge, a sanctuary, a holy escape into peace. You can still walk and play and run but can you also take a moment to FEEL. There is an energy. Stop. Breathe fully and mindfully, feel the quiet settle in through your skin and bones. What can you sense when you really do stop to listen and feel? What can you receive when you set aside our human chatter and competition and distraction?

I feel an ancientness. A sacred pause. It lands in my body like a gentle beckoning. It makes me wonder what indigenous people lived here and how they loved this outcropping of land. Tubbs Hill has been here eons longer than you and I and will exist, in some form, far past our brief breath of life. I *FEEL* that. I connect my temporary self to the slower, quieter, older Earth in gratitude and surrender.

This land holds us in a deep, grounding way. And that holding, the generosity of always existing no matter our abuse or disregard challenges us to care for the Land in return.

Let's look closely and mindfully at the flora and fauna. How can we give back? How can we respect and protect the hill that has become a highway for our town and tourists? You have to answer this inquiry from your own heart of course. I do humbly offer this though:

All care begins from a place of soulful knowing----

Next time you use Tubbs Hill, slow down, breathe. Get close to the ground and notice what tiny subtle life exists on the forest floor. Smell the changing seasons. Observe the trees for health. Touch the stone so you know the texture and solidity of their presence. Pick up trash someone less caring or knowing or thoughtful has left behind. Treat your time in this Sanctuary as if entering a dear friend's home. Know this place in your mind, body *and* heart. Know it intimately, like you know the contours of a Beloved's face.

For this knowing will bring a deep respect and a warm love out of which springs your unique action to preserve, protect and respect this place we call Tubbs Hill, one of the last few stretches of land by the lake not privately owned.

And, if I meet you on the trail, our eyes can connect in a joyful understanding of the Sanctuary we enter, arriving more whole in our Knowing.

-Lesley Yadon

Friend Ruth

Tubbs lost a special friend this January with the death of Ruth Thomas just days before she had planned a hike with friends to celebrate her 95th birthday. As a daily tourer of the Hill's sometimes rocky trails, Ruth became a familiar figure with her dual hiking poles and a ready smile—always willing to pause briefly for a chat or reminisce about plans before “heading out.” My wife Juli & I were among her fellow trekkers on her 90th, so we’ve seen first-hand the admiration she inspired. Often, she would share a story from her post-retirement bucket list to bicycle to the smallest town in each state, a goal she achieved in the decades after a career in teaching. Doug Clark, former columnist for The Spokesman Review, wrote about Ruth in one of his columns.

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2006/apr/27/a-journey-for-the-ages/>

Tubbs friend Jenny Lamb, another fellow traveler, said, “This morning my phone calendar pinged a reminder that today is/was Ruth's 95th. My friendship with her began about 8 years ago. It seems only fitting that we met on her beloved Tubbs Hill. I was hiking with my then five-year-old grandson, Benjamin, who, if you know him, is part mountain goat! I was worried he was going to knock down the “little old lady” ahead of us.

“From our first encounter on Tubbs, we became hiking buddies always grabbing some coffee and sharing her amazing adventures to complete the day.

“She was quite the talker.

“I heard her stories about the history of the Silver Valley where she raised her family and taught 5th grade and of her incredible outdoor adventures.

“During the 2020 pandemic, we stayed in touch by writing letters every month. Real letters! No email or texts for Ruth. She always included a few political cartoons...she had a wicked sense of humor.

“My last one from her is dated early December and she was not happy with how things were going in our country! Today Ruth would have celebrated her 95th birthday....and our original plan was to hike Tubbs together. I will celebrate my friend in the best way I know of... by taking a long hike!

As Jenny, I & all her Tubbs hiking friends can attest: Ruth was definitely not your typical little old lady!
-George Ives



How You Can Help

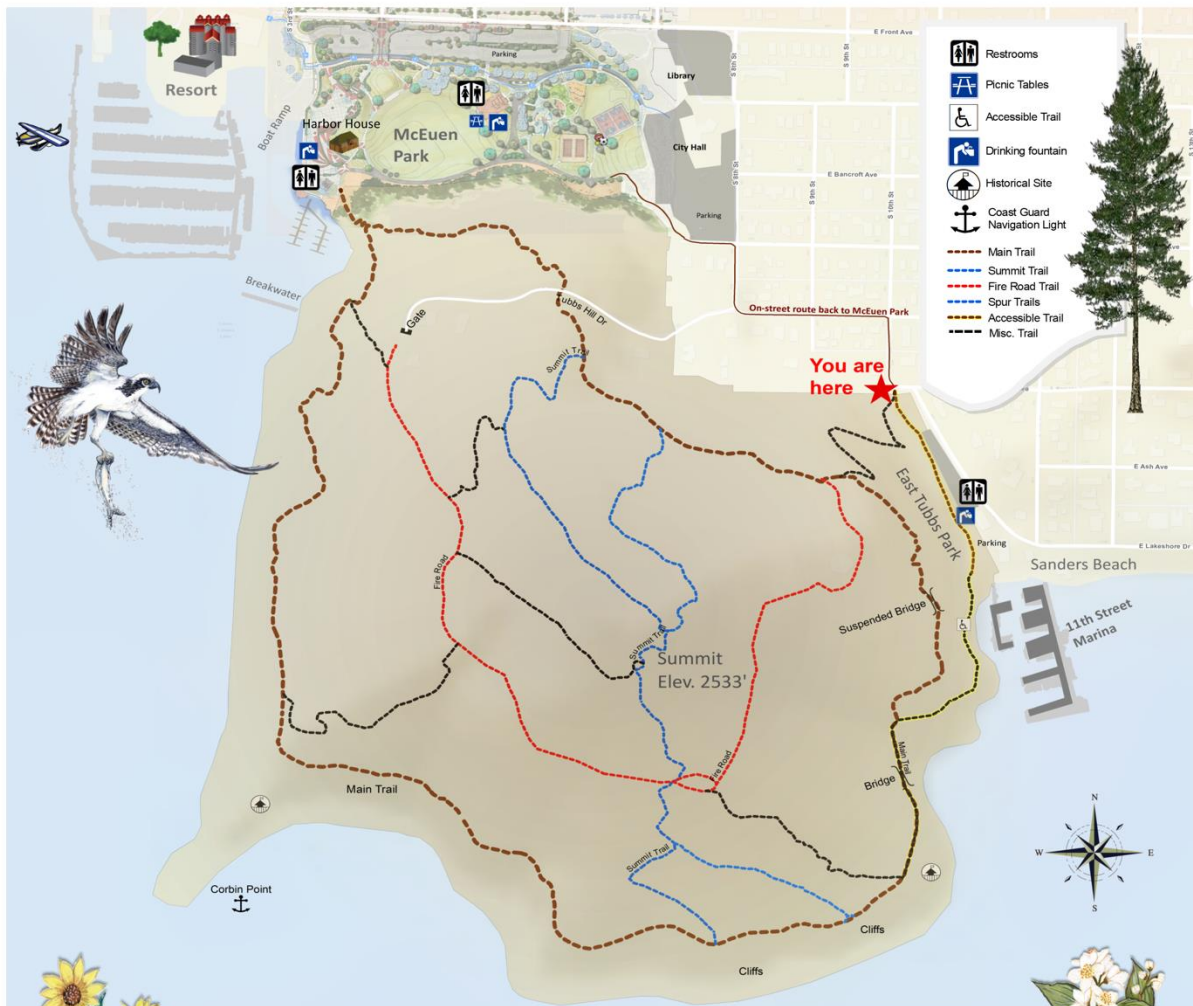
We appreciate, and depend upon, your generous donations! The Tubbs Hill Foundation is a non-profit organization and relies on contributions from the public to help sustain its activities - like cleaning up after the windstorm to prevent a bark beetle infestation and doing trail maintenance. Check us out on our website at www.tubbshill.org and please consider becoming a Friend of Tubbs Hill. Annual donations are always appreciated. As an annual donor you will have the option of receiving a hard or electronic copy of our newsletter. You could also have your family's name inscribed on one of the

rocks at the entrances to the hill for a donation of \$150.00. As mentioned above, we also very much appreciate the time you give to help with the work projects. You can sign up for the email newsletter on our website to be notified of volunteer opportunities as they are scheduled.

No donation too small, if you enjoy Tubbs, please consider supporting our efforts!

A Map of Tubbs Hill

This map shows Tubbs Hill and the official trails. An online map of the hill can be found at <https://www.tubbshill.org> or <https://maps.cdaid.org/Tubbs/> and from the QR code on the map below.



Tubbs Hill:

Length of Main Loop Trail: 2 Miles
 Height of Summit: 2533 ft
 165 Acres of Publicly Owned Land
 Lake Coeur d'Alene Elevation: 2128 ft

Thanks to the following for making these signs possible

Tubbs Hill Foundation
 Kiwanis of Coeur d'Alene
 Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society
 Maria Ryan - Birds, Trees, Shrubs and Wildflower Illustrations
 Savvy Marketing - Graphic Design
 Wren Foundation



Online Map

Tubbs Hill Foundation Board of Directors

- David Yadon, President
- David Taylor, Vice President
- Carla Redline, Treasurer
- Barbara Crumpacker, Secretary
- Christie Wood, City Council Liaison (Christie replaced longtime Council Liaison Ron Edinger who retired in January after 50 years of service.)
- Kellie Kuster, Legal Counsel
- Kim Ashbaugh, Director
- Steve Bloedel, Director
- Jessica Bryant, Director
- Barbara Fillmore, Director
- Chuck Hosack, Director
- George Ives, Director
- Peter Luttrupp, Director
- Nils Rosdahl, Director
- George Sayler, Director
- Susan Troppmann, Director

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