

# Tubbs Hill Foundation

## 2021 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

Running trails the other day, I had a smile on my face as I crisscrossed the hill, reflecting on the productive year we had. I encountered many others enjoying the hill as well. I stopped a frequently seen couple to ask if they were aware of some of the recent trail work and they exclaimed how much they like the results. They said that they hoped to support some of the foundation's efforts next year. It is great to hear how much people enjoy the hill. Thank you for supporting Tubbs. As you read about the work outlined in this annual report, please consider making a donation or join us on a Trail Work Day this year to help us continue our work. Hope to see your smiles on my next run.

**Don't forget to sign up for email updates!**

[www.tubbshill.org/newsletters](http://www.tubbshill.org/newsletters)

### The Year in Numbers

**700 feet of new trail constructed.**

**1.2 miles of brush trimmed on trails.**

**70 days of Tubbs Hill Ambassadors roaming the trails to provide information to hikers.**

**100 + windstorm downed green trees were GPS tagged and flagged for removal or treatment.**

**60 Saw logs removed after windstorm, funding the cost of damage repairs.**

**75 Pounds of wildflower mix spread to reseed areas damaged during windstorm cleanup.**

**5 Active Osprey Nests on the hill.**

**2 Clean-up days with many large bags of trash removed.**

**24 Friends of Tubbs Hill participated in:**

**31 Trail Day activities with a documented:**

**246 hrs of volunteer time – calculated to be worth \$5,963!**



## Committee Action Update: Trails

This year, 24 board members & Friends of Tubbs Hill members participated in 31 Trail Day activities with a documented 246 hours of volunteer time – calculated to be worth \$5,963!

**Main Loop Trail:** Identified critical erosion and structure issues for future rehabilitation. Completed ponding mitigation on north and west legs. Identified erosion mitigation projects on uphill side of the southside loop trail/summit trail intersections. Completed windstorm trail damage repair. Constructed new stairs to mitigate erosion. Trimmed brush along the entire 2.2-mile loop trail.

**Connector Trail** from S 10<sup>th</sup> & Mountain Ave to Loop Trail: Completed tread maintenance.

**NE Summit Trail:** Trimmed brush along 1000 feet of this trail.

**N Summit Trail:** Constructed 700 feet of trail. Re-routed trail to reduce erosion and hazardous rock crossing.

**Northwest Summit Trail** from Fire Road: Identified construction options to mitigate severe erosion at rocky switchback (identified in 2011 Natural Open Spaces Plan).

**Connector Trail** from Corbin Point to Fire Road: Identified re-routing option for upper section.

**East Tubbs Accessible Trail:** Closed four eroded user trails leading up to Loop Trail approximately 600 feet from East Tubbs Trailhead and conducted drainage maintenance.

**All Trails:** Cleared trails of fallen trees.



## Fire Management Grant Opportunity

The City of Coeur d'Alene and Kootenai County are jointly applying for a Western States Fire Managers grant for \$240,000. The undergrowth on the hill has seen dramatic growth with the advent of fire suppression and coupled with drought for the last several years, the health of the forest is in steep decline. The area averages 15 fires per year that generally are kept under an acre. However, under the right conditions, a wildfire could overwhelm local resources resulting in the destruction of homes, infrastructure and businesses. Tubbs Hill sees a lot public use, adding to the concerns (human ignitions) in this already high-risk area. This grant will pay for contracted hazardous fuels mitigation work to be done on approximately half of Tubbs Hill in order to improve the health of the forest and reduce the chance of catastrophic forest fire. The City and Tubbs Hill Foundation will each contribute \$12,000 for the required matching funds if this grant is awarded.

## Committee Action Update: Forest Health

We continued to support the city and the Idaho Department of Lands prescribed burning efforts this year, in order to reduce fire hazard. We promoted BMP (Best Management Practices) actions identified by forester and fire professionals. We also supported the city's mechanical thinning, advocated tree planting in trail closure areas, and partnered with the city in planning revegetation efforts for spring 2022. We assisted the city in conducting windstorm damage mitigation: our volunteers conducted GPS tagging and flagging of over 100 downed green trees. Volunteers also assisted with debris cleanup, trail tread repair, and grass and wildflower reseeding.



### What is a healthy forest, and how healthy is the forest on Tubbs Hill?

*By George Saylor and Mark Weadick*

According to Mark Weadick, retired forester and board member, a healthy forest is one that has resiliency to insect disease, fire, and drought, with a diverse mix of species that is suitable for that area. On Tubbs Hill it also means maintaining an acceptable fire hazard level.

In general, Tubbs Hill's forest is in pretty good shape, but there are areas of concern. The three main concerns are dwarf mistletoe, western pine beetle, and Armillaria root rot.

Mistletoe attacks Ponderosa Pine trees and can cause deformation. Pruning young trees prior to August will prevent mistletoe from spreading and will help the trees grow normally. After that time, it will disperse its seeds, causing the mistletoe to spread. At the present time, the western pine beetle is not a serious problem, and generally, the south and west sides of Tubbs Hill where the Ponderosa grow is in good condition.

There is a limited, planted presence of blister rust resistant Western White Pine on the east and north sides. Some has been lost due to drought. Climate change in general is exacerbating the problems of forest health throughout the west, including Tubbs Hill.

Armillaria root rot has caused widespread mortality of Douglas Fir, especially on the east and northeast part of the hill. Douglas Fir is the host species for this fungus, and cutting the trees does not solve the problem. It has the ability to spread through roots and dead material. The best solution is to plant those areas with Ponderosa Pine, Western Larch, and White Pine that are resistant to root rot. The east side of the hill has been replanted, and the trees are doing reasonably well.

On the north side of the hill, where there is a big loss of Douglas Fir, the area has been overrun by Nine-bark and Ocean Spray, two species of shrubby plants. In December, Mr. Weadick, Urban Forester Nick Goodwin, and Dr. Art Zach, a silviculturist, toured the area on foot. Together they concluded that fuel mitigation was needed to reduce fire risk and that the area should be replanted with disease resistant trees. The area's brush would be hand cut and treated and burned, then replanted with Western Larch and Ponderosa Pine. The plan would reduce fire risk, and reduce shade, thus providing better opportunity for growth of the seedlings and reduce competition for available moisture.

A similar project was done at the new park on the south side of Fernan Lake and was successful, while providing the city with the experience to do a similar project on Tubbs Hill. The city is applying for a grant to fund the project.

The major windstorm last year downed over 100 trees on the hill, causing some trail damage and habitat disruption. The trails have been repaired, some areas have been seeded with grass, downed wood has been cleared in most areas, and several loads of logs were sold. The money from the sale went into funding management activity on the hill.

Forests are living dynamic things and the forest on Tubbs Hill is no exception. The goal of the Tubbs Hill Foundation is to work with the city to preserve it as a healthy example of the forests typical of our region, while allowing for compatible public use. Please help us fulfill our mission by staying on designated trails, leashing and cleaning up after pets, refraining from smoking or open flames, and leaving no trash.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who have helped care for our treasure called Tubbs Hill.

## Committee Action Update: Education

The board is continuing to work on hill signage. This year we supported the update & replacement of the East Tubbs Hill Trailhead map, identified missing information “number” signs for replacement, and prepared a “You Are Here” map for the S. 10<sup>th</sup> & Mountain Ave Trailhead. We advocated for the future placement of bike racks and they will be installed this spring at the East Tubbs Hill Trailhead. The bicycle signage will be moved in an attempt to reduce the unauthorized use of bicycles on the hill. We also corrected the halfway point sign location on the Main Loop Trail.

This year, we began the first season of our new Trail Ambassador Program. Volunteer ambassadors walked the hill approximately 70 days from July through December, providing information to visitors. One ambassador recorded talking with 93 hikers from 15 states and 2 countries. The most frequent questions were for directions and information about Tubbs Hill. Other common questions/comments were about the Coeur d’Alene area and “What a wonderful place this city and hill is.” Notable quotes: “You are so lucky to have a park like this next to the lake and great downtown.” “I was here about 15 years ago and knew that if I ever came back, I wanted to hike Tubbs Hill again.” “Wow, I never knew that about Ospreys – They go to Mexico?” And there were numerous thank yous from visiting and local hikers for all the *Friends of Tubbs Hill* do.

We are excited to share that the Foundation is developing an annual field trip experience that will be available to all Coeur d’Alene school district students in fourth grade. Board member Jessica Bryant has developed this idea, which will offer funding and curriculum materials to our fourth grade teachers to provide a fun and educational Tubbs Hill experience that we hope will spark a life long love of the hill. Nature is always in need of advocates! Stay tuned for more information.

## Committee Action Update: Events

**National Trails Day:** The Foundation celebrated National Trails Day by conducting trail work projects to promote trails and trail stewardship. Learn more at: [www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-trails-day-first-saturday-in-june/](http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-trails-day-first-saturday-in-june/)

**Clean Up Days:** With the help of the Coeur d’Alene Parks Department, we had another productive (unfortunately) year of trash clean ups on Tubbs Hill. On July 5th, volunteers swept the hill after the 4th of July festivities. Starting at the 3rd Street trailhead, beach areas and the Main Loop Trail provided plenty of opportunities to pick up trash as a full city truck can attest. Friends of Tubbs Hill provided direction and refreshments to both local and out of town volunteers.

To wrap up the prime hiking season, the final 2021 cleanup happened on October 3rd. Because of conflicting events occurring at McEuen Park, the starting point was moved to East Tubbs Hill Trailhead. This offered a less congested starting point and resulted in the same productive removal of trash after a summer of accumulation. Both out of town and local volunteers, along with numerous residents of the Sanders Beach neighborhood, spent a pleasant and not smokey fall morning patrolling the main and side trails for the leftovers from a busy summer. Another city truck load of trash attests to the need for the clean ups.

Beyond the two formal events, the Friends of Tubbs Hill would like to thank the numerous Tubbs Hill walkers who regularly pick up trash. Without your efforts, the hill would suffer.



Clean up day volunteers and some of the trash collected.

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## Tubbs Hill has a New Neighbor

By George Ives

A few years ago the Tubbs Hill Foundation spoke up in protest of a proposed plan by Ignite CDA to sell its property adjacent to the south end of the city hall parking lot. The perceived intent was to sell to private parties for building homes or apartments. 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 Ignite CDA, the city, and ultimately, the Museum of North Idaho, a resolution evolved. The property would be owned by the city and thus the public. Whatever property was not needed for the buildings as planned would remain open, and the Tubbs Hill Foundation would enjoy a presence there. That compromise achieved a good portion of the original goals while serving the interests of other involved parties, and we voted unanimously to approve the deal.

In response, Julie Gibbs, writing on behalf of the Museum of North Idaho's board said: "Last night, the City Council voted in favor of the Young Avenue 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."

In Spring 2020, The Tubbs Hill Foundation supported the relocation of the historic White House to city property at the base of Tubbs Hill for the purpose of the Museum of North Idaho leasing the property to serve as the new location of the museum. Board members of Tubbs Hill Foundation and the museum worked cooperatively with Architects West in planning the project to provide suitable grounds for the museum, while preserving the property for public use, consistent with Tubbs Hill as a natural area. Initial Jon Mueller architectural plans incorporated an interpretative center about Tubbs Hill, landscaping consistent with a natural area, and included a trail across the museum property to connect with the existing city bike route/pedestrian link between Eastside Park and McEuen Park.

For the near future, the museum is focused on renovating the White House and fund raising. Once those preliminary steps have been completed, the museum and Tubbs Hill Foundation will move forward on plans for an interpretative center, landscaping ideas, and the layout for the trail. History, it has been said, connects us all. What a wonderful thought as we look forward to spring 2022, a time to build on previous collaborative efforts.

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## Musings About our Treasure

By David Kilmer

Rain or Shine, Tubbs Hill is a Friend for Life.

I've just returned from an early morning ramble on Tubbs Hill, and once again, the place has worked its charms. My lungs still feel the sharp inhalations of air shared with fir, moss and ferns, and my feet still feel the drumming of the trail. As I climb back into my tugboat at the Floating Boardwalk Marina, and gaze out the portside windows at the object of my unreasonable affection, I remember the full moon through those trees last night. I watch now as the trail welcomes other runners and walkabout dreamers, and I try to put into words the vast affection so many of us feel. How can a few acres of wild land mean this much? One thing's for sure. Every time I've needed Tubbs Hill, it's been there for me.

It's a remarkable place; a rock-and-pine peninsula that feels more like a private island, so near The Coeur d'Alene Resort and downtown CdA that in a matter of minutes I can be transported there. I've hiked, ran, paddled and swam Tubbs Hill uncounted days, and come away better every time.

Read the full article at [www.tubbshill.org/newsletters](http://www.tubbshill.org/newsletters), link under the 2021 Annual Report.

*David Kilmer sails boats and tells stories, with gusto at every opportunity. He is also one of our great Trail Volunteers. He lives in Coeur d'Alene for three seasons and on a sailboat in warm water during the winter.*



## Looking Back at Tubbs, and Ahead

By Mary Lou Reed

Sixty-six years ago, Scott Reed and I arrived in Coeur d'Alene, eager to explore the outdoor playground we had discovered. We were young and adventurous and it didn't take long for Art Manley to discover Scott, a new lawyer in town. And I came along for the ride.

Art Manley grew up in a house in the shadow of Tubbs Hill, which was his first and lifelong playground. Art Manley understood at an early age how special Tubbs is. Art's respect and affection for Tubbs became the major force in bringing public ownership to Tubbs Hill.

Scott Reed quickly came under the Tubbs Hill spell. He joined Art and several of Art's buddies in planting a small evergreen in the city parking lot, directly in line with Fourth Street, to prevent extending a street to Tubbs Hill.

As planned, the tree they planted grew tall and stately and was named the Freedom Tree during the Korean War. Before McEuen Park was conceived, Scott had announced it would be cut "over his dead body." But when McEuen Park emerged as a reality, Scott said the tree had completed its job and could now be excused. A portion of the Freedom Tree has been carved into a statue, now standing in full view in McEuen Park.

Protecting Tubbs from money hungry developers required such clever strategies. Many may remember the plan floated to build a convention center on the 34 acres of the crest of Tubbs Hill. Another plan by another group of developers was to sell the same 34 acres to German investors. Like a jigsaw puzzle, the city property as we now know it, was pieced together and accepted when the longtime Councilman, Ron Edinger, was Mayor of Coeur d'Alene, and Red Halpern was Parks director. The year was 1975, almost 50 years ago, when the federal dollars from the national Land and Water Fund assured us that Tubbs Hill would be in public hands forever.

Art Manley and my husband Scott were both smart men. But I remember Art saying to me, "It's not just smarts that gets things done, it's persistence." I know if they were alive today, they would both say there's work still to be done to complete a Tubbs Hill sanctuary.

That statement is true. There are approximately five pieces of property with houses on them on the back, city side of Tubbs Hill. From my parkside perch, I can see car lights going up and down the hill at night.

Eight months out of the year, living on Tubbs may offer a beautiful view, but in fair weather months, privacy would be a big issue in these inholdings. Lots of uninvited dropins; living in a fishbowl.

A plan needs to be in place to phase out the residential holdings. Such plans have been adopted in various natural areas across the country and the world. Coeur d'Alene city could take on a fifty year plan or even one hundred. It is amazing how quickly the years fly by.

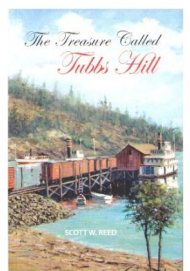
Phasing out the houses is my hang-up. I am sure there are other issues that need to be addressed from a long view – management of trails, protection of wildflowers, a bigger place in the city budget.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation does a valiant job of taking care of Tubbs. but it is up to the City of Coeur d'Alene to look ahead. What will the Hill look like one hundred years from today? How are other communities anticipating future needs? And who is responsible for Persistence?

Kudos to Persistence. I admire the members of the Tubbs Hill Foundation. I hope the City of Coeur d'Alene appreciates and listens to them.

## 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, Well Read Moose, and The Coeur d'Alene Resort Logo Shop. All proceeds benefit the Tubbs Hill Foundation.



## Thank You, Volunteers!

Our successful efforts to build and maintain trails, picking up trash, cleaning up storm damage etc. is due to *you* volunteers. A Huge Thank You to the following volunteers who participated in this year's Trail Days!

Kim Ashbaugh*	Ron & Pam Gomes	Skip Priest	Robin Scardina
Jessica Bryant*	Chuck Hosack*	Dan Redline	Mia Scardina
Bill Delyea	George Ives*	Sam Redline	Mike Siemans
Mary Duff	Steve McCrea	Ken Roberge	David Taylor*
Todd Dunnfield	Paul Merrill	Nils Rosdahl*	Barrett Weadick
Heidi Fischer	Ed Moreen	George Sayler*	Mark Weadick*
Rich Gaertner	Gwain Oka	Michael Schwegel	David Yadon*
Rich Gerhard	Tere Porcarelli	Kieran Schwegel	Dale Young

\*Tubbs Hill Board Member

If you would like to be included on the list to be notified of Trail Day Activities please leave us a message with your name and contact information at [friendsoftubbshill@tubbshill.org](mailto:friendsoftubbshill@tubbshill.org). We would love to have you join in on the fun!

## How You Can Help

The Tubbs Hill Foundation is a non-profit organization that relies on contributions from the public to sustain its activities—like conducting trail maintenance and cleaning up after the windstorm to prevent a bark beetle infestation. 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](http://www.tubbshill.org/donate).

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

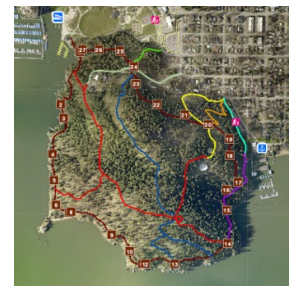
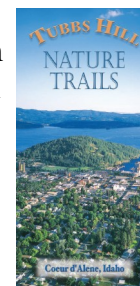
Donations can be made online at [www.tubbshill.org/donate](http://www.tubbshill.org/donate)  
or mail a check made out to:  
Tubbs Hill, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3061  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061

We also very much appreciate assistance with our work projects! You can sign up for our email updates and newsletter at [www.tubbshill.org/newsletters](http://www.tubbshill.org/newsletters) to be notified of clean up days. To be added to the list of trail work volunteers, email us at [friendsoftubbshill@tubbshill.org](mailto:friendsoftubbshill@tubbshill.org).

## 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

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

Jessica Bryant, Director  
Barbara Fillmore, Director  
Chuck Hosack, Director  
George Ives, Director  
Peter Luttrupp, Director  
Nils Rosdahl, Director  
George Sayler, Director  
Mark Weadick, Director

## A Tribute to Ron Edinger

### Board member, city council member, mayor, and devoted advocate for Tubbs Hill

Tubbs would no doubt have a far different look today had not founding Tubbs Hill Foundation Director Ron Edinger been elected Coeur d'Alene mayor in 1973. And indeed Tubbs and all its Friends lost a stalwart defender with Ron's death last fall.

Change was afoot in Coeur d'Alene in 1973 with plans by a German corporation to build condos on Tubbs Hill and monetize the spectacular scenery surrounding. At about the same time, the Idaho Water Company had threatened a doubled usage rate for Coeur d'Alene residents. Mayor Edinger, enraged citizens, and the council mobilized fundraising efforts that lead to the purchase of both the IWC land—which is today's East Tubbs Park—and the 34 hilltop acres proposed for development. Such prescient vision is unusual given the often slow grinding gears of governance.

Over subsequent years, Ron remained a defender of keeping Tubbs as a natural beauty to be enjoyed by all in the community be they residents or tourists. Whenever a voice needed to be raised in opposition to the inevitable plans to “improve” the hill, Ron in his role as city councilman and Tubbs Foundation Liaison was among the first to point out the folly of polishing our diamond in the rough. “It would be like putting lipstick on a pig,” he often quipped.

Though Ron is no longer with us, we cannot help but remember his legacy.

