

Tubbs Hill Foundation

2022 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

Last year I wrote about hoping to see your smiles on my next run on the hill. During my walks and runs this year I have once again seen a lot of smiles and heard praises for all of the work that volunteers do on the hill. As a smiling Friend of Tubbs Hill that I might have seen, you may have sensed that foot traffic on the hill has grown extensively in the last few years. Many of us have speculated on just how many folks that might be. We now have a better idea. The Coeur d'Alene Parks & Recreation Department installed a trail counter early last summer. Take a look at the "Year in Numbers" article in this report to see just how many FRIENDS are using the McEuen Park (3rd St.) entrance.

Why do we care about how many folks are enjoying the hill? The numbers we are seeing surprised us but confirm what we see happening on the hill. As Todd Dunnfield with the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy has said "Every footstep carries a bit of soil with it." The Main Loop Trail is showing wear and tear. The soil carried away by those footsteps degrades the trail surface and leads to increased erosion. The crowded trails can lead people to make the trail wider or "by-pass" the crowds and forge new user trails that are harmful to the hill's sensitive vegetation and potentially cause even more erosion. Much of our recent trail building activity has been done to mitigate some of the overcrowding by constructing reroutes of hazardous and/or eroding alternative trails up from the Main Loop Trail. In the coming year, we hope to partner with the City to address some of that wear and tear on the Main Loop Trail.

On another front, if you have not done so already, check out our new videos! Naturalist and writer Jack Nesbit, Forester & Tubbs Hill Foundation Board member Mark Weadick join City of Coeur d'Alene Urban Forester Nick Goodwin for what is a very educational walk on the hill. There's a link and article by Nick later in this report.

Thank you for supporting Tubbs Hill. 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. Once again, I hope to see your smiles on my next run.

Don't forget to sign up for email updates!

www.tubbshill.org/newsletters



The Year in Numbers

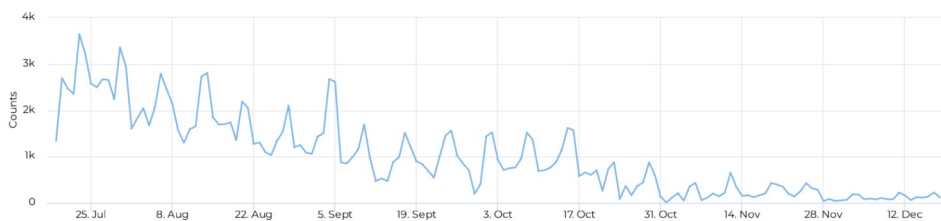
- 950 feet of new trail was constructed to replace trails with erosion issues that will be naturalized.
- Over 2.2 miles of trails were trimmed to remove invasive brush.
- 65 days were enjoyed by Tubbs Hill Ambassadors roaming the trails to provide information to hikers unfamiliar with the terrain, including international visitors from Canada to New Zealand.
- 100+ White Pine and Larch seedlings were planted.
- 5 Active Osprey Nests on the hill were monitored and given media exposure.
- 2 Community Clean-up days were organized with many large bags of trash removed.
- 100+ Friends of Tubbs Hill members participated in 14 trail related projects with a documented 607 hours of volunteer time – calculated to be worth \$15,849.
- 100s to 1000s of friends visited the hill every day via the McEuen Park Trailhead.

Tubbs Hill Gets a Trail Counter

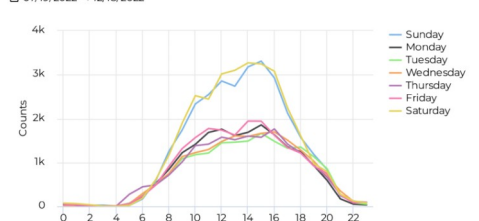
Big thanks to the Parks Department for purchasing and installing a trail counter this year. Based on 6 months of data, it looks like over 200,000 people enjoy the hill each year!

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

Time series
07/19/2022 → 12/18/2022



Days of the Week
07/19/2022 → 12/18/2022



Committee Action Update: Trails

David Yadon

This year, over 100 Friends of Tubbs Hill members participated in 14 trail related activities with a documented 607 hours of volunteer time – calculated to be worth \$15,849! Here is some of what was completed:

Main Loop Trail: Identified additional critical erosion and structure issues for future rehabilitation. Identified erosion mitigation projects on uphill side of the southside loop trail/summit trail intersections. Completed windstorm trail damage repair. Trimmed brush along the entire 2.2-mile loop trail. Sixty-five students from Lake City High School's Outdoor Studies Program assisted with blocking unauthorized user trails.

Connector Trail from S 10th & Mountain Ave. to Main Loop Trail: Completed tread maintenance and evaluated possible future work on rock culvert. The LCHS students also augmented user trail blocking tasks along this trail.

NE Summit Trail: Trimmed brush along 1000 feet of this trail (as well as on other trails).

Connector Trail from the Main Loop Trail close to marker 6/Corbin Point to the Fire Road: Constructed re-routing of the upper section. The older user trail was decommissioned.

East Tubbs Accessible Trail: National Trails Day project – major maintenance completed including rock removal, installing new sand, gravel, and cement to “buff up” the trail surface. Several drainage and erosion issues were also addressed.

All Official Trails: Cleared trails of fallen trees.

Committee Action Update: Forest Health

Mark Weadick

Driving down Third Street, it's easy to see Tubbs Hill as an unchanging sentinel against the backdrop of Lake Coeur d'Alene's blue beauty. Yet like the heavy metals lying hidden beneath those tranquil waters, change, often unseen, is taking place on the Hill—change that must be monitored and addressed.

In January 2021, for example, a wind event blew down several ponderosa pine on the southeast side of the hill. Left to naturally decompose, that windfall would encourage insect infestation. Most of the downed timber was of merchantable size, so it was salvage logged by a Coeur d'Alene city crew. They were able to remove six loads of logs via the fire road for sale to a local mill. The revenue covered the cost of salvage plus additional revenue that the city dedicated to the maintenance of Tubbs Hill. A number of Friends of Tubbs Hill worked to repair skidder trails, patch uprooted trails and mitigate lasting visual damage.

Douglas-fir mortality due to the root to root spread of *Armillaria mellea* is continuing on the north hillside. Douglas-fir bark beetle attacks noted on trees dying from root rot necessitate future monitoring. The City of Coeur d'Alene has applied for a fuel reduction grant from the State of Idaho for the north hillside Douglas-fir mortality area. If funding is secured, in 2023 the dense understory brush will be cut, piled and burned. The fuel reduction area will be planted with western larch (tamarack) that is very resistant to the *Armillaria* virus. If successful, this project will be the start of a new forest stand for this north side area.

Due to the prolonged dry period throughout the summer, western pine beetles were able to cause some ponderosa pine mortality on the south hillside. The evidence of bark beetle attacks on the ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir can be readily seen when walking on the hill by noting the bark that has been removed by woodpeckers going after the insect's larvae. In marked contrast to these damaged species, surviving white pine and larch planted on the north hillside a decade ago are well established and can be seen from the Main Loop Trail. Such proactive engagement cannot stop change, but it will modify negatives by providing more positive alternatives.

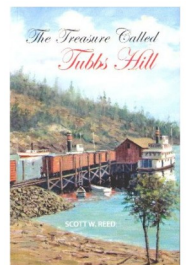
Daily commuters can thank the THF and its many Friends' ongoing efforts to keep Tubbs Hill as the best show on Third Street.



Volunteers hard at work on our trail work days.

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.



Committee Action Update: Events

David Taylor

2022 was another “eventful” year for the Friends of Tubbs Hill. Spring started off with our April participation at the Earth Day Celebration at the Coeur d’ Alene Public Library. In conjunction with the City of Coeur d’ Alene Urban Forester, we staffed a table providing general information and suggestions on Tubbs Hill activities along with an overview of the forest health of the Tubbs Hill environment.

A rainy June day greeted us on National Trails Day. A large turnout of volunteers worked along with the Coeur d’Alene Parks Department to improve the access trail from East Tubbs Park. Trimming brush, removing imbedded rocks on the trail, and adding fill material to low spots along the trail resulted in a better walking experience from East Tubbs Hill Park.

We occupied our usual table location in the City Park during the “Taste of Coeur d’ Alene” event. The great location made it easy to point visitors in the right direction to enjoy and appreciate Tubbs Hill. Brochures, bumper stickers, hats, and a wealth of information from the Friends volunteers greeted the large crowds enjoying great weather and lots of food and merchandise.

Finally, we supported many volunteers in our two annual Tubbs Hill clean ups - July 5th and October 8th. The July clean up began at the McEuen Park trailhead with garbage bags and a trash truck provided by the Parks Department. We have to complement 4th of July visitors with a lessor contribution of trash as compared to previous years but some trash nonetheless. We ended the event year off with the fall trash pickup. A nice October Saturday with numerous local residents turning out at East Tubbs Hill Park to collect the end of season trash. As was the case with the 4th of July, Tubbs Hill visitors didn’t contribute a particularly large amount of trash to be removed from the hill.

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 2023. Watch the Friends of Tubbs Hill website and your e-mail for 2023 event announcements.

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.

Committee Action Update: Education

David Taylor

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

- Offering presentations about Tubbs Hill to several school and civic groups.
- Providing in-class education at the Ramsey Magnet School about the history of the hill and forest health.
- Leading a field trip experience for students in Lake City High School’s Outdoor Studies Program.
- Continuing to develop an annual field trip experience for all Coeur d’Alene school district fourth graders.
- Leading interpretive hikes for organizations as requested.
- Working with the Audubon Society on opportunities for public bird identification signage.
- Working with the Museum of North Idaho to provide interpretative ecological and historical displays at the new museum site.
- Participating in the Coeur d’Alene Public Library’s Earth Day celebration, providing an info table and resource materials for Junior Friends (booklets available at the library, Parks Department, and our website).
- Hosting an information booth at Taste of Coeur d’Alene (in City Park during Art on the Green weekend).
- Sharing information about the hill via the Friends of Tubbs Hill Facebook site, our website, and our printed & electronic Annual Report/Newsletter. Email updates for cleanups and special workdays were shared with over 500 Friends who subscribe to our emails.
- Producing a video tour of the Hill that highlights forest health, flora, fauna, geology and how we partner with governmental agencies and the public to further the mission of the foundation. The YouTube video was posted on the City of Coeur d’Alene and THF websites as well as the THF YouTube channel.

Tubbs Hill Ranked Best Hiking Trail

Our beloved hill was chosen by the public as Idaho's Best™ Hiking Trail. We couldn't agree more!



New Signs Coming

George Sayler

In 2018, the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society decided to honor Kris Buchler, an ardent environmentalist, naturalist, educator, and nature lover who had done much to promote and protect birds, including leading many bird walks on Tubbs Hill. For several years, Audubon struggled to find a suitable location for a sign that would not only honor her, but also contribute knowledge of the natural world to those who viewed the sign.

They encountered obstacles over those years until this year when they approached the Tubbs Hill Foundation about placing one near the entrance to Tubbs Hill. The Tubbs Hill Foundation board agreed, and as part of its educational outreach, also agreed to provide some funding for the project. With the consent of the Parks Department, the project was approved and a committee of members from the CDA Audubon Society, the Wren Foundation, and the Tubbs Hill Foundation was formed. The committee worked through numerous meetings and eventually created a plan for two signs: one featuring birds of Tubbs Hill, and the other highlighting the importance of dead or dying trees to forest health.

The committee chose not to duplicate the bird sign at the west entrance. The new sign will focus on birds on the hill, with one group of birds representing migratory birds, the other representing year round residents. Eight species were chosen, with text about each as well as text about birds on the hill in general.

The second sign asks the question: "What good are dead trees?" and provides numerous examples of how dead or dying trees contribute to their environment. With the number of such trees on Tubbs Hill, it was felt the sign would be a good complement to our mission of educating the public about Tubbs Hill, while complementing other signage about trees that is already in place.

The signs are in the final stages of completion, but with winter here, they will not be installed until early spring. In addition to our beautiful wildflowers, you will have something else to look forward to on your walk come springtime.

Thank you to all the donors and the Parks Department who helped make this vision a reality! Kris would surely be pleased.



Volunteers hard at work at our clean up and trail work events.

Scott Wilde's Eagle Scout Project: New Map Signs!

Eagle Scout candidate Scott Wilde has enjoyed Tubbs Hill with his family since early childhood. When it came time to develop an Eagle Scout project, he naturally thought of Tubbs. Reaching out to the Foundation to see what our needs may be, he worked with us and the City to design and build maps to help visitors find their way on the hill. Scott learned some new skills and recruited a huge group of volunteers to install the signs this fall. To read his summary of his project, visit our website's Newsletters tab at: www.tubbshill.org/newsletters, then scroll down to his summary link under the 2022 Annual Report.



A Morning Walk on Tubbs Hill – New Video

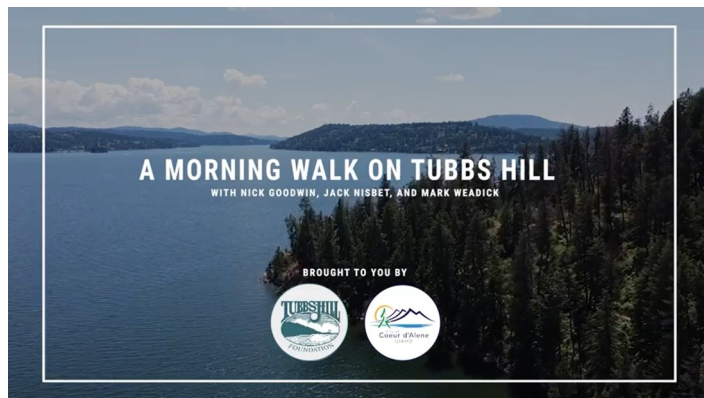
By Nick Goodwin

At times, my position as the City of Coeur d'Alene Urban Forester provides the opportunity to take on truly enjoyable projects. One of these opportunities took place when I was contacted by the Tubbs Hill Foundation to help with the filming of a walking tour of Tubbs Hill. Being on film is not what I would refer to as one of my “favorite things,” however, I would not say the same for Tubbs Hill. I then found that this video would consist of walking Tubbs Hill with Mark Weadick and Jack Nesbit. There was no way I was going to miss the opportunity to explore Coeur d'Alene's best natural area with these two and drink from the fountain of knowledge that they have.

On a beautiful sunny spring morning I met Jack Nesbit and Mark Weadick and we began to do something I've done countless times before, walk the trails of Tubbs Hill. However, what was new was the knowledge of the history and the elements of the makeup of the forest on Tubbs that I learned in my conversation with these two gentlemen. Our morning educational stroll was truly enlightening. What was filmed that day was a conversation amongst three people that have a passion for this natural area and its importance to the community. We were lucky enough to see great examples of the wildlife that call this place home while filming. We were also able to see great examples of the public enjoying this area to its fullest. All the while we were talking about things that make Tubbs Hill so special, its rich history and its hopeful future.

If you are reading this, I would wager that Tubbs is important to you, too. You may even have a “Friend of Tubbs Hill” sticker on something important to you. Perhaps you have joined us for one of the hill clean ups or planting programs. If you have the time, I encourage you to join us again for a virtual walk on Tubbs Hill. The video is available for free on multiple sites. I hope you enjoy the walk and the company as much as I did.

<https://youtu.be/kLnU4V3u2wY>



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!

Mary Jo Brooks	Rich Gerhard	Dan Redline	Eagle Scout Candidate Scott Wilde & 25
Bill Delyea	Steve McCrea	Ken Roberge	additional volunteers who he recruited.
Mary Duff	Paul Merrill	Michael Schwegel	
Todd Dunnfield	Jack O'Brien	Brad Zielinski	65 Students from Lake City High
Mike Fuller	Tere Porcarelli		School's Outdoor Studies Program

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 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.

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

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 to be notified of clean up days. To be added to the list of trail work volunteers, email us at friendsoftubbshill@tubbshill.org.

Amazon Smile – Help Us While You Shop

Support Tubbs Hill, Inc. at no extra cost every time you shop with Amazon. Complete these simple registration steps and Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Tubbs Hill, Inc.

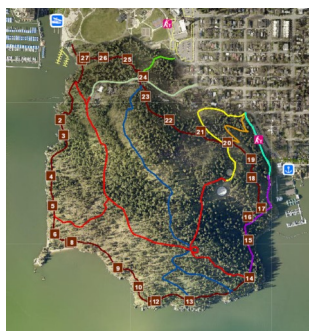
1. Go to smile.amazon.com.
2. Login to your existing Amazon account.
3. Search for and select Tubbs Hill, Inc. as your charity of choice.
4. Log in at smile.amazon.com **every time** you make a purchase with Amazon, and a percentage comes to us!

To activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app, simply tap on “AmazonSmile” within the Programs & Features menu or Settings and follow the on-screen instructions. Thank you for supporting Tubbs Hill as you shop!

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 board members!

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