Objective 9B Trails

- Create trails and access to outdoor recreation opportunities
- Protect our Natural Resources
- Community involvement and partnerships
- Non motorized public trails in Boundary County
- Fundraise, plan and develop
Data from this survey show that trails are an essential part of daily life in Bonner County:

Three out of four residents used trails in the last year.

Residents use trails nearly every day in the summer and every other day in the winter.

Trail use is high in towns and rural areas, regardless of duration of residence in the county, income, or age.

Residents age 45-54 are most likely to use the trails, with 88 percent reporting use in the past year.

More than three-quarters of residents support the development of an expanded and better connected trail system in the county.

Nearly nine in ten residents believe that protecting the rural character of areas outside cities is extremely important for Bonner County.

More than half of residents identified proximity to trails and safe places to walk as important factors influencing their decision on where to live.
Survey respondents identified several opportunities to increase trail use and satisfaction:

There is strong interest in more trails in and around residential areas, with one in five residents saying they would use trails more if they lived closer to them.

There is strong interest in easier and wheelchair accessible trails to encourage new trail users and increase use among existing trail users, the disabled, and seniors.

There is strong interest in more broadly shared information about trails. One in five residents do not use trails because they are unsure where they are.
16 Respondents answered an open-ended question following the satisfaction ratings asking, “A random sampling of satisfied comments is presented below to provide a general idea of specific responses.

Overall, respondents who are satisfied with the trail system mentioned adequate maintenance, connectivity, abundant trail options, and beautiful scenery as positive qualities of the trails network.

“Access is easy for the most part.”

“Ease of access from where we live to where we want to go. Includes some scenic routes”

“Gorgeous areas”
### Bonner County Trail Study

**January 1, 2018 → July 5, 2018**

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*Compared to 05/01/2018 → 06/04/2018*
Impact of Trails and Walking Paths

Trails in Local Communities are essential for the following reasons:

1. Attracting future employees and tourists
2. Health of the residents
3. Tourists will stay longer to explore
4. Businesses see revenue growth
   a. Retail shops will have more customers
   b. Expenditures for food, clothing, outdoor gear
Impact of Trails and Walking Paths

**Varieties of economic impacts***
There are many ways that trails and greenways affect the local and national economies, including:

- Tourism
- Events
- Urban redevelopment
- Community improvement
- Property value
- Health care savings
- Jobs and investment
- General consumer spending

* Americantrails.org
Tourism on trails*

While money spent on a trail trip is money not spent elsewhere, the real benefit is that it is money spent in rural towns and in more economically disadvantaged areas.

Many of the people traveling to a trail and spending a night or more in the area are economically well off with significant discretionary income. On the Great Allegheny Passage, over a third of overnight trail users reported household incomes of $100K or more.

Trail tourism is one way of creating opportunities for people to vacation in the U.S. and especially places that are not standard tourist destinations. Rather than spending money in Las Vegas, at Disney World, or on cruise ships, they are traveling to rural areas across America.

* Americantrails.org
The Local Economic Impact on the Whitefish Trail

The Whitefish Trail contributes to $6.4 million in annual spending by visitors.

Spending by visitors who use the Whitefish Trail translates to:

1. 68 additional jobs
2. $1.9 million in labor income in Whitefish.
Boundary County Trails
In Work
Proposed
Trails in Work and Proposed

In Work

- Farnsworth Property

Proposed

- State Land
- County Property
- Dikes
- Rails to Trails
- ITD
Farnsworth Property
State Property

- Proposed
  - Mtn Biking
  - Walking
  - Running
  - Cross Country Skiing
  - Piece of property for ATV??
County Park Trail

- Union Pacific Foundation Grant
- Trail will be paved and have benches
- Safety for kids using the park
Dike Property

- Dikes owned by Gov’t entities first
- Dikes owned by Individual farmers will be next
Rails to Trails will be a heavier lift to complete

Rail property reverted back to private ownership

There is some engineering taking place to put trails next to active tracks
Trail Conclusion

- Trails benefit communities and there is always a benefit to its residents
- There are a variety of uses for trails and all trail types are needed
- Trails has a positive benefit to the community
  - Healthier community
  - Cleaner community (less garbage around trails)
  - Less people in cars whether they are using the trails for recreation or commuting
What makes the Pend Oreille Bay Trail So Important?

- Its landscape kept us in awe

Boundary County Trails

In Work

Proposed
Trails in Work and Proposed

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State Property Map
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- Rail property when back to private ownership
- There is some engineering taking place to put trails next to active tracks
The Kootenai River is a treasured asset, currently being underutilized in Boundary County. The proposed Kootenai River Trail - East to Northside Park/District 2 would provide an ADA compliant, safe pedestrian and biking trail for enthusiasts and families, by enhancing and connecting the current Kootenai River Bridge pedestrian/bike path to an existing dirt path located under the bridge and along the dike to Northside Park.
The benefits of this trail project would

• Increase usable riverfront access and visitation to Riverside Park

• Provide access to District 2 and Blume Hill.

• Add recreational opportunities for local individuals and visitors.

• Enhance scenic and wildlife viewing and bird watching. allow connectivity from Downtown, the Gateway Visitors Center, the City Parking Lot, The Kootenai River Inn and other local restaurants and businesses.
This map is provided for informational purposes only. The parcel map DOES NOT REPRESENT A PROFESSIONAL SURVEY and is intended only as a geographic representation. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness. The County will in no way be held responsible for any errors, omissions, or interpretation.
Objective
Project Outline

• **Trail and Dike Improvements:**

  Permeable surface paving for existing informal/ gravel pathway starting at the North end of the Kootenai River Bridge, under the bridge, east to the District 2 Dike.

• **Legal Requirements include but are not limited to:**

  • Acquisition easements and permits from the City of Bonners Ferry, Idaho
  • Transportation Department
  • Union Pacific
  • Planning and Zoning,
  • US Army Corps of Engineers, District 2 Drainage District, etc.

• **Materials include:** Safety fencing near railroad tracks, benches, signage, gate and various other materials, to be determined

• **Determine long term maintenance plan:** Maintenance is usually underestimated
Comments and Questions?