



BLACK FOREST TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWS

President's Corner

BFTA's Recent Run - A Decade to Remember!

By Larry Fariss, President



For the past 10 years I have had the distinct honor to serve as your Black Forest Trails Association President. When past president Hank Hoover stepped down in 2010, he handed me a great organization with a long list of service and accomplishments. Now it is time for me to pass the baton to another as I too, like my mentor Hank, step down from this leadership post effective October 2020. It got me to thinking, what have we accomplished together this last decade? To that end I reviewed 10 years of minutes, newsletters and past President's Corner articles to ascertain our collective impact on the Black Forest Community. *Let's take a victory lap!*

A true measure of an organizations success is how well they reach their stated goals. So let's review a set of long term goals our Board listed way back in 2011 and subsequently see how we stand in 2020.

2011 Goal #1: Finish all items in the County Regional Park Master Plan: This includes the Section 16 Vault Toilet, Fox Run Dog Park, and a BFRP parking lot.

As of 2020: All three projects were accomplished and are benefiting park users.

2011 Goal #2: Establish a Friends Group for each park in Black Forest: Currently only Section 16 has this grass root support in place.

As of 2020: Now there are Friends Groups, not only in Section 16, but in Homestead Park, Fox Run Park and we are close to seeing one in the Pineries.

2011 Goal #3: Preserve more park land and open space in El Paso County: Whenever and wherever this is possible, grow the amount of public land open for trail recreation.

As of 2020: Falcon Regional Park was opened in 2016 adding parkland for our use.

2011 Goal #4: Install more horse trailer parking in El Paso County parks: Lack of trailer parking spaces remains an issue for trail riders.

As of 2020: New horse trailer lots were established in Black Forest Regional Park, Falcon Regional Park, and in the Pinerias.

2011 Goal #5: Finish the Pinerias Open Space development: We want to get this operational ASAP with trails installed as funds become available.

As of 2020: It took the full decade, but this latest park “crown jewel” just opened with nearly 10 miles of new trail for our users to enjoy!

Another measure of success is making improvements that expand our reach and impact in the community. Here are few of BFTA’s growth ventures over the past decade:

- Established a new platform for our outstanding website Black Forest Trails.org
- Established a well visited BFTA page in Facebook
- Installed trailside memorial benches honoring past BFTA greats – Hoover, Mosgrove, Kjeldsen
- Campaigned for the successful passage of Measure 1A which gave Black Forest’s parks \$750,000
- Enrolled BFTA as a member in full support of the Black Forest Preservation Plan
- Helped establish a BF Inter-Agency Forum which assisted in BF Fire recovery efforts
- Worked with three housing developers to establish trail systems in new developments
- Established three new trails transiting private properties in Black Forest
- Lobbied successfully for the County to establish a Nature Center for Northern El Paso County

These efforts provide BFTA with a big footprint in the Black Forest Community and El Paso County. All who have led or supported BFTA the past 10 years can be rightly proud of what we have accomplished. So very grateful to have had this opportunity to lead our Association that steadfastly championed these causes for our membership. In closing, I want to express a big THANK YOU to the Board Members I have worked with and the loyal membership who supported our efforts in my term as President. Black Forest Trails Association has been in existence for nearly four decades and its collective accomplishments are well recognized and appreciated by its membership and fellow citizens of Black Forest.

Hank would be proud of us!

Sincerely, Larry Fariss
President BFTA

THANK YOU! Section 16 Clean-Up

By Nancy Reinhardt

Over a dozen hardy souls picked up trash at Section 16 on July 11. Members of Cavalier trail riding club were part of the group. Surprisingly with all the crowds that have been going to the Black Forest section 16, there was not a great deal to pick up. We did the inner trail and along all four roads that surround it. There were some interesting items that were found such as a pool cue, some underwear, a full beer and a tube of toothpaste. Thanks to everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to keep this well loved trail tidy. Happy 20th birthday to our trail!

BFTA Time Machine - Section 16 Is 20 This Year!

By Nancy Reinhardt

Page 6 - Black Forest News & Palmer Divide Pioneer - Thursday June 15, 2000



Black Forest Section 16 Partnership Trail was officially adopted by the Black Forest Trails Association on Sat., June 10. El Paso County Parks staff member Pat Farrell (to right of the sign) assisted in placing the adoption sign at the Burgess Rd. main entrance. The trail is still under construction. Plans are to open it for local use later this summer.

Please Welcome The Backyard Farmers Market

Locally Grown! Locally Made!

Please join us every Saturday from now until the 10th of October (9 AM to 1 PM) for the Backyard Farmers Market (BFM). BFTA is a proud sponsor of BFM.

The BFM is a community outreach/service project of the Black Forest Community Club (BFCC) to provide opportunities for local farmers, producers, and makers to sell their goods, while promoting sustainability, healthy living and building community. Theda Stone and Elba Barr have taken on this challenge and we are so excited at what they have lined up even with the COVID limitations.

Black Forest Community Center Backyard
12530 Black Forest Road
Black Forest, Colorado 80908

Stop by and say HI to our wonderful family farms and crafters/makers/artisans selling:

- Farm-fresh vegetables and fruits
- Humanely raised meats
- Fresh eggs
- Yummy artisan foods, baked goods, cottage foods
- Gluten-free options
- Treats for your furry babies
- Handcrafted items
- Unique gifts all occasions
- Food trucks offering delicious breakfast and lunch options

We are also pleased to announce the partnership between the Backyard Farmers Market and the Black Forest Arts and Craft Guild for the 2020 season. Each market will have 5-8 members of the guild.

For more information, please visit:

<https://bfackyardfarmersmarket.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BFBackyardMarket/> (Please like us)

<https://www.instagram.com/backyardmarkeinblackforest/>

or contact manager@bfackyardfarmersmarket.com

See you this Saturday and many more through October 10th! Thank you for supporting our local businesses!

Hiking Bob: Pineries Open Space Sneak Preview

By Bob Falcone (reprinted with permission)

BFTA Note - this article came out just in the CS Indy before The Pineries opened on June 27, 2020. The Pineries has since opened to the public.

El Paso County's newest park, the Pineries Open Space, is likely to become a prime attraction for hikers, runners, cyclists and equestrians when it opens on June 27. Located in Black Forest on Vollmer Road just north of Shoup Road, the tract of land started out in 2010 as a proposed 389-lot residential development. At the time the project was approved, the developer entered into an agreement with the county to dedicate 1070 acres of the development as park land.

Three years later, the Black Forest Fire roared through the area, including where the proposed development was slated to be built. Although plans for building a development on the land died with the fire, the park land dedication remained, and after several years of planning, funding and building, the land is about to open to the public. Work to build the open space was performed by El Paso County Parks Department staff, the Rocky Mountain Field Institute and the Mile High Youth Corps. Additionally, local fire departments used the opportunity to fell dead, dangerous trees as training for future wildland fires.

The Open Space now consists of a parking area with room for cars and trailers, a bathroom facility and a single, 9-mile loop trail. According to El Paso County Parks Planner Ross Williams, plans for the open space include:

- Expand the trailhead parking to include a larger equestrian parking area near the restroom.
- Construct a trail from the trailhead down to the corner of Vollmer and Shoup to form a connection to Black Forest Section 16.
- Complete more forestry work, most likely along Shoup Road and north of Blue Spruce Lane. Perhaps clear the area east of Cantrell Lake.
- Construct a singletrack trail from the corner of Vollmer and Shoup to connect to the existing singletrack loop near Frog Pond, thus creating a shorter loop for folks that don't want to crank out the main loop.

On a recent preview hike of the Open Space, I found it to be an enjoyable, easy hike, although it may be a bit much for hikers not used to 9-mile treks. It also may not be the best for families bringing young children, since there are no bailout points or shortcuts. Once you're halfway around, you are committed to a 9 mile hike, whether you turn around, or keep going. Cyclists and equestrians should find it to be an easy ride, and for runners practicing for marathons, three laps around the loop is 27 miles, just a bit longer than a full marathon.

Follow Up On The Pineries Opening

By Andy Meng

The Pineries Open Space has proven to be the bigger hit that it was expected to be. The newest open space and trail in El Paso County was highly anticipated for years, and the trail does not disappoint. However, all of that pent up demand has made parking, particularly for horse trailers a bit problematic. The BFTA and El Paso County Parks department have both received a lot of comments about this issue. We recently received a formal response from Ross Williams, a Park Planner with El Paso County Parks:

Hello!

Thank you so much for sending your comments and suggestions regarding El Paso County's newest park, Pineries Open Space! We hope you enjoyed your initial visit(s) to the facility and were able to take in all that the Pineries has to offer along its 9-mile trail loop. The past two weeks have seen a flurry of visitations from hikers, bikers, and horseback riders alike. Along with the high level of usage have come some very constructive comments and questions about future developments at Pineries Open Space.

The current parking lot and access roads are part of the Phase I Improvement Project of the open space development, which also included the construction of the restroom, the nine-mile singletrack trail loop, major forestry work, fencing, and signage. The Phase II Improvements Project is scheduled to take place in 2023, and will include (as resources and funding allow) the larger equestrian parking lot adjacent the restroom, as well as a second trail loop that will connect to Section 16 via a wider Tier I trail to the east of Vollmer Road. A singletrack trail will connect the Tier I trail to the existing trail loop near "Frog Pond" in the south central part of the open space. This will allow park visitors to choose between a longer or shorter trail experience.

Due to the large volume of passenger cars in the current parking lot, El Paso County Parks is implementing the overflow parking plan for the facility. This plan will allow for expanded equestrian parking along the “exit” road to the west of the parking area. Approximately 450 feet of equestrian parking will become available, and the entire parking area will become one way. The new parking area will be blocked off to prevent wrong way drivers. A section of fence will be opened in the vicinity of the two locked gates, thus allowing for easy equestrian access to the trail and restroom without the need to enter the main parking area. Additional signage will be added to clarify this parking plan, and this arrangement will remain in place until the new parking area is opened in 2023.

Thanks again for your interest in and enthusiasm for the Pineries Open Space. We hope you continue to enjoy the open space for years to come!

We ask for your patience with these parking issues as the county works through them. If you'd like to contact the county directly, we'd recommend you visit their website at:
<https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/parks-and-recreation/>

Come Visit Us At The Black Forest Festival!

Mark your calendars for:

Saturday Aug 15, 2020

(We will reassess on July 25th)

The Black Forest Community Club
12530 Black Forest Rd.
Black Forest, CO, 80908

The theme for 2020 is: “We Are Black Forest”. Special features will include farm themed children’s activities/games/crafts, information on: growing vegetables at high altitude, raising chickens, goat milking and soap making demos, alpaca care and display, fiber arts, one room school open house, in addition to our annual booth fair, parade and pancake breakfast. Great music all day, including an afternoon performance by the USAF Wild Blue Country Band. Expanded food and dessert vendors. The Return of the Black Forest Outhouse Races is planned to follow the parade.

Plan on coming out for part or all of the day to experience Black Forest’s past and present. You can also pencil in the following festival details on your calendar:

- 6:30 – 9:30 AM: Pancake breakfast sponsored by the R&R Café
- 8 AM – 3 PM: Booths, children’s games, crafts, demos, music, expanded food venues, and more
- 10:30 AM: Parade
- 11:40 AM (estimate): Outhouse Races
- Music all Festival Day

There will be delicious food, and unique selections for shoppers throughout the day. See you at the shindig pardner!

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BFTA Membership

By supporting BFTA with your annual membership, you help provide the funding and support for a whole range of issues that affect Black Forest trails and the lifestyle we all want to protect. The Black Forest Trails Association is a non-profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). Donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by tax law.

There are 4 tiers of BFTA membership (Dues are tax deductible):

- 1) Individual / family (\$15 per year),
- 2) Business / club (\$30 per year),
- 3) Donor (\$50 per year)
- 4) Lifetime (\$150 one time).

Membership runs from April 1 to March 31, and if you become a member now, your membership will be good through March 31, 2020. We use PayPal, which is easy and secure, to accept online payments, or you can print out an application and mail your payment in via US Postal service – either option can be completed via our website at **<http://www.blackforesttrails.org/joinrenew>**