



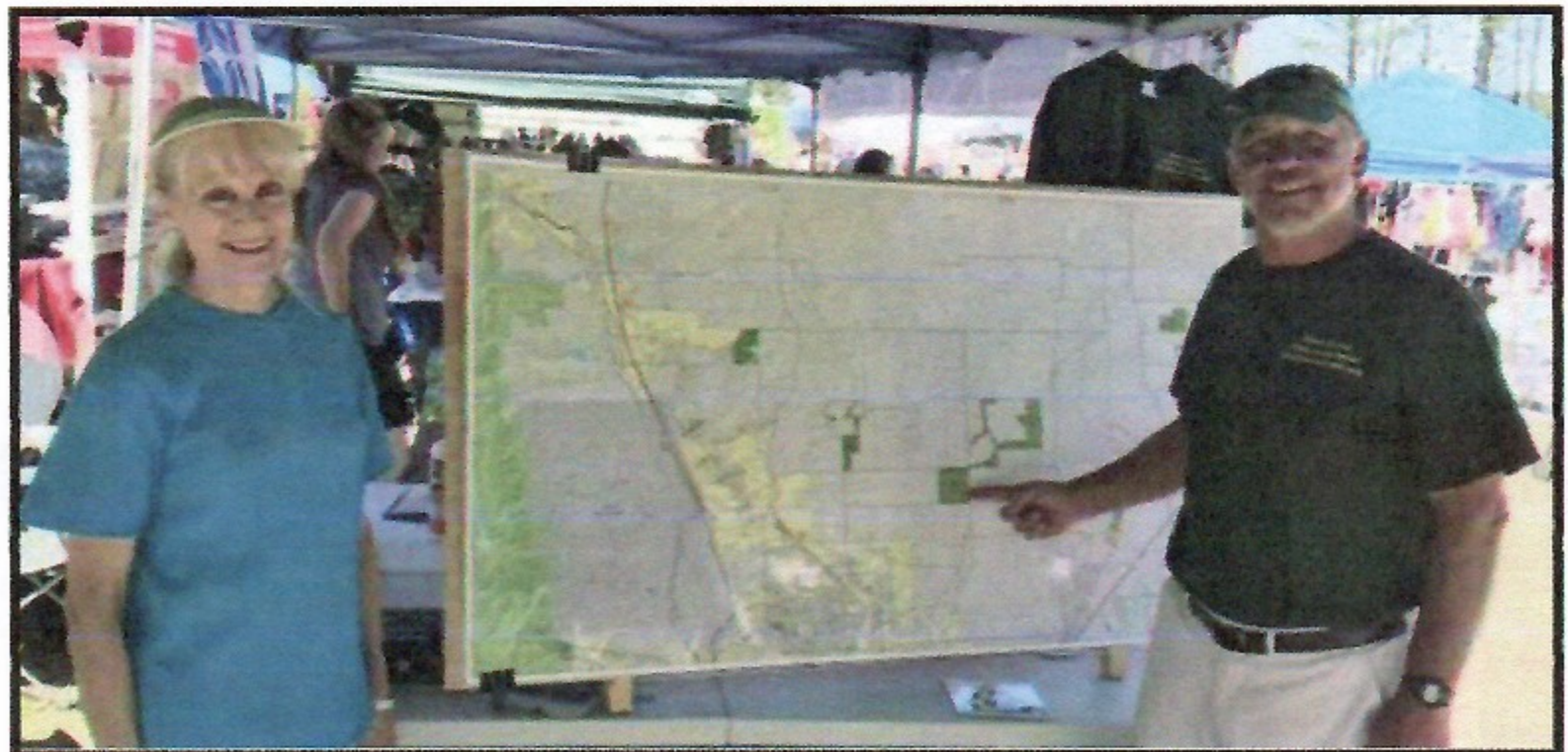
BLACK FOREST TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDER!

- JULY 11, Tues.** Summer Social and Board meeting
6:30 pm Black Forest Brewery 11590 Black Forest Rd.
Program:
New Fox Run Nature Center
Theresa Odello - El Paso County Parks
Rich Mock Appreciation
Retirement as President
Black Forest Festival Planning
- SEPT. 13, Wed.** 6:30 pm Bi-monthly Board meeting, BF Community Hall
- OCT. 5, Thurs.** Annual Membership Meeting, Social and Officer/Board
Annual Election BF Community Hall 6:30 pm

FOR OVER TWO DECADES

Black Forest Trails Association has been a leader in the Black Forest. In this "pre-COVID" photo Cheryl Pixley and Larry Farris host the booth advocating the mission of BFTA. at a past Black Forest Festival. You are invited to join in and lend a hand! See pages 5, 6 and 8 for more information.



BFTA Mission: To create a safe, legitimate, non-motorized, multi-use Recreational Trail System that connects Black Forest Neighborhoods to each other and the El Paso County Regional Trail System.

President's Corner

by Rich Mock (outgoing President)



NEW BENCH at Pineries Open Space Overlook
sponsored by BFTA.

Greetings Black Forest trails users and another glorious Summer to you. I trust you are all getting out on the many beautiful trails we have in the Forest.

Well it's time for me to pass the baton to the next leader of BFTA.

After two years as an At Large Board Member, and four as President, it's time for me to move on using another sports analogy. I always enjoy the relay race at track meets. It involves four team members that outperform a solitary runner. But the key is smooth hand-offs of the baton. If it drops, you lose. So, I'm working toward a smooth handoff to keep BFTA's trail advocacy mission winning the race.

Long time BFTA president, Larry Fariss, recruited me as his replacement and he is a hard act to follow. That said, I think the BFTA board did well the last four years with a little help from me.

The most important accomplishment was keeping BFTA functioning during COVID. Many organizations failed, but we adapted using technology to keep us going with no drop in membership. Through many generous donations we were able to install a bench at the Pineries overlook (see picture) and provide trail base for Fox Run Regional Park. We also built a connecting trail from Redtail Ranch to the Pineries and resolved several neighborhood trail issues.

I leveraged my relationship with El Paso County Parks staff built through my time on the Parks Advisory Board and Fairgrounds Corporation. Parks and Rec Director, Todd Marts drew the largest crowd I've witnessed at the March Board meeting when he talked about the future of Section 16.

"Time to Pass the Baton"

And I'm hoping we set another attendance record at the July 11 members meeting held at the Black Forest Brewery where Theresa Odello will update us on the Fox Run Nature Center. First beer is on BFTA, another of my ideas.

We also coordinated our annual trail clean-ups with the larger Great American Clean-up for the Fountain Creek drainage basin. We completed BFRP and the Palmer Divide Trail but still have to do Section 16, now scheduled for June 16.

To improve the handoff, I created an organizational email (president.bfta@gmail.com) and built a digital repository for BFTA documents. Being an Air Force Powerpoint ranger, I leveraged the BFCC projection system to use slides at our board meetings.

I've been fortunate to work with a great board. I already mentioned Larry Fariss, who I refer to as the Eskimo ice salesman for his ability to recruit new members. Andy Meng has moved on from his treasurer/membership role but continues to support us. I consider Cheryl Pixley as our unofficial lawyer for her understanding of BFTA history and negotiating with the county. She is currently working to transfer a quarter mile stretch along Vollmer Rd, given to us by a developer, to the county to create a N-S connector to Section 16. Nancy Reinhardt continues to support BFTA as an At Large Member and provides an equestrian perspective.

The Potato Doc, John Wallace, has stepped up to take on Andy's duties plus is a current member of the Parks Advisory Board. It's great to have Judy V's historical perspective back on the team as our secretary. New At Large member, Gary Sherwood is our eBike expert, an issue that will continue to grow.

Lastly Jack Yonce joined last year as an At Large member. He has lived in the heart of the forest for many years and has a ton of talent to tap.

Please stop by our booth at the Black Forest Festival on Saturday, August 12, to discuss any trail related issues and to get involved in BFTA.

BFTA Elections will be by mail-in vote this year to be held on October 5th.

Happy trails to you until we meet again. Peace out!

Rich Mock President of BFTA since 2020

Event Details

June 17 (Sat.) Section 16 Cleanup Report - Nancy Reinhardt

We had another successful trail cleanup at Black Forest Section 16 on June 17. The weather was good enough to get it done! BFTA helped build the Partnership Trail and has been a Friend of Section 16 since 2000 - faithfully implementing trail and road stewardship! Cavalier Trail Riding Club and others were there to volunteer also. Many thanks! As always there was a lot of dog poo to pick up. The County can add a trash can on the north side as a receptacle. Since the big rainfalls, trails have had erosion, and the County has re-graded the trail using a tractor and box blade.

Ten years ago the fire in Black Forest changed so many things. Many trees and structures burned. People moved away. New people moved in. Many of our marked trails disappeared. We'd like to renew some and get some new ones so we can connect non-motorized neighborhood trails, which was our original BFTA goal.

July 11 (Tuesday) Summer Social and brief Business Meeting

Don't miss this annual Summer social, Special Program and short Business Meeting on Tuesday, July 11 (6:30 pm) to be held at the Black Forest Brewing Company (NW corner of Burgess & BF Roads). Theresa Odello will update us on plans for the New El Paso County Northern Nature Center expected to open in 2025 at Fox Run Park. There will be a short business meeting mostly to make plans for participation of BFTA at the Black Forest Festival. Booth is planned. Parade Entry this year????! Here's your chance! ...and a Roast and Toast for Rich Mock, current President of BFTA who has served since 2020 during the trials and tribulations of COVID to advance the trails and celebrations of BFTA. BFTA members get a complimentary beer!

Sept. 13 - Regular Bi-monthly BFTA Board meeting

The September BFTA Board Meeting (6:30 pm) will be at Black Forest Community Hall). The agenda will be announced on the BFTA Website and will include discussion of plans for the October 5, 2023 Annual Membership Meeting and Officer/Board at Large Elections and draft Slate for the October 5 election.

October 5 - Annual Membership/Election Meeting & Social - Nominating Committee

This important annual meeting will be at Black Forest Community Hall at 6:30 pm on October 5. Five Black Forest Trails Association Officers - President, Vice President of Administrative Affairs, Vice President of Government Affairs [vacant since January], Secretary and Treasurer will be elected for One-Year Terms. Officers are also Regular Board Members with one-year terms.

Additional At Large Board members with two year terms can be added to the two present At Large Board Members who will be in their second term next year. Currently BFTA has seven total Board members (five Officers) and two At Large Members. BFTA needs additional At Large Board Members.

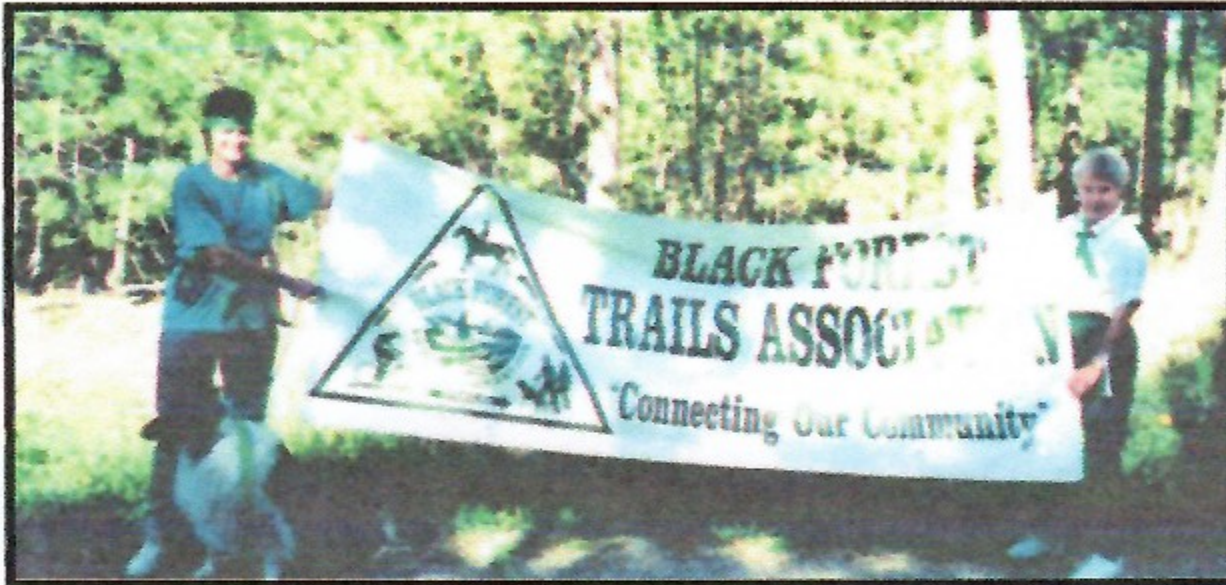
There is a Nominating Committee to plan and implement the 2023 Election which includes formation of a Slate and mailing of hardcopy ballots two weeks before October 5th election.

2023 and beyond is a special time for BFTA leaders to find new energy and projects after a difficult decade since the 2013 fire and the years of COVID. There is a need to rejuvenate the Grassroots Neighborhood efforts to establish local trails, and now with a new Edition of County Parks Master Plan in 2022, and the new El Paso County overall new Master Plan in 2021, there are special opportunities to connect neighborhoods in Black Forest with non-motorized trails and implement BFTA's mission.

BFTA Members are encouraged to contact the Nominating Committee if they are interested in being an Officer, or Board Member at Large. The Board is also planning to strengthen the Committees within BFTA and there are many ways to assist with hands-on trail stewardship (creating, building, moving fences, maintaining) of local trails. Many "recent" subdivision have provided perimeter non-motorized trails, or trails parallel to roads (paved or gravel) and they have proven to be a desired amenity and an important element for safety and near-to-home exercise and recreational opportunities.

HOW WE DO IT!

For nearly 25 years, public-spirited citizen members of BFTA have worked with other Non-Profits and community business partners to build trails on BFTA Easements over private lands, support improvements on El Paso County Parks & Trails, provide public information, and support community and safety. BFTA has partnered with Eagle Scout Projects, Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), and Cavalier Riding Club and many other organizations.

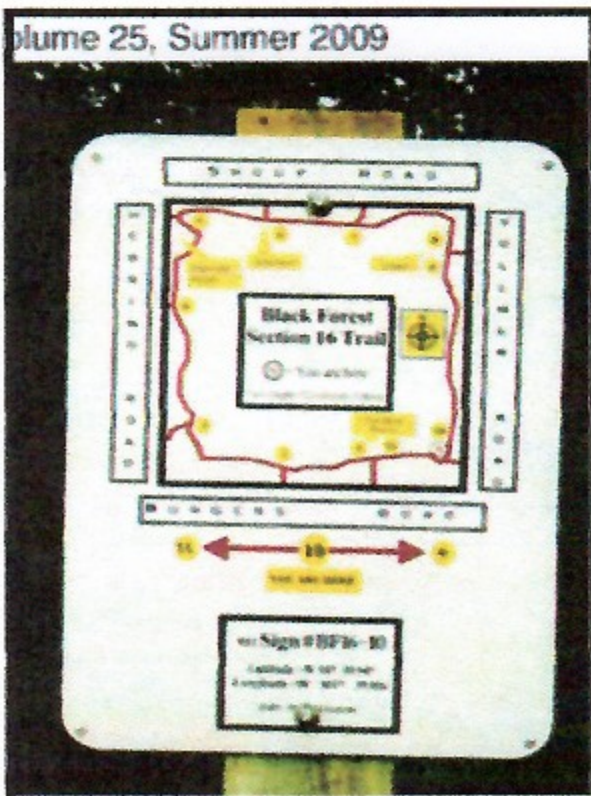


A New Banner in 1998

Founding members Nancy Reinhardt and Ike Mosgrove display the new BFTA banner just three years after BFTA became incorporated as a Non-Profit!

BFTA Banners are put to good use!

Here is the 2007 Black Forest Trails Association Festival Parade entry. You can join and support BFTA efforts to Connect Our Community!



Eagle Scout Dan Doty's 2008 sign project for the Partnership Trail around Black Forest Section 16. Distances, Entry Points, Parking, Latitude - Longitude



BFTA has donated benches like these to honor BFTA leaders Juel Kjeldsen, Hank Hoover and Ike Mosgrove. Benches are located in Section 16, Pineries Open Space and BF Regional Park.

Black Forest Trails Association Membership Profile July 2023

Thank you for being an Individual, Family, Business, Club, Donor or Lifetime Member of BFTA! Please update this form and bring it to the July 11, 2023 BFTA Social/Board Meeting (6:30 pm at the Black Forest Brewery), or send it by July 15 to:

Black Forest Trails Association Attn: Secretary
P.O. Box 88041
Black Forest, Colorado 80908
(This information will only be used within BFTA.)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Land Line/Business Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Neighborhood: _____

Subdivision: _____

1. Trail Activities: (circle all that apply)

Walk

Jog

Run

Bike

Equestrian

X-country ski

Other: _____

2. Trail Use Seasons and Times:

Summer

Winter

Year- round

Weekday

Weekends

Evenings

3. Trails Used: (Please Rank each list with numbers)

A. Area

Natl Forest

Military Reservation

County

City

Local (BFTA)

B. El Paso County

BF Reg. Park

Fox Run Park

Falcon Reg. Park

Homestead Park

Pinerias Open Space

Section 16 Partnership Trail

Palmer Divide Trail

Other:

C. Local

BF Gravel Roads

Local trails (Explain location)

4. Interest in Participation in Activities to promote local trails (Check all applicable)

BFTA Officer (1 year)

BFTA Board Member (2 years)

Trail Steward

Trail Construction

Trail/Rd. Cleanup

Committee Chair

Neighborhood Leader

Festival Booth staff

Office work

Other:

Black Forest Trails Association Grassroots Neighborhood Trails Areas

The Sections (Zones) of the early 2000s which defined Neighborhood Areas where trails could be placed using Easements on private land to provide local connections and also access to County Parks and Regional Trails have been reworked into a **Draft Neighborhood Trails Framework** which are defined mostly by road corridors and context of Parks/Open Space and developments. This provides a workable structure in which to place trails.

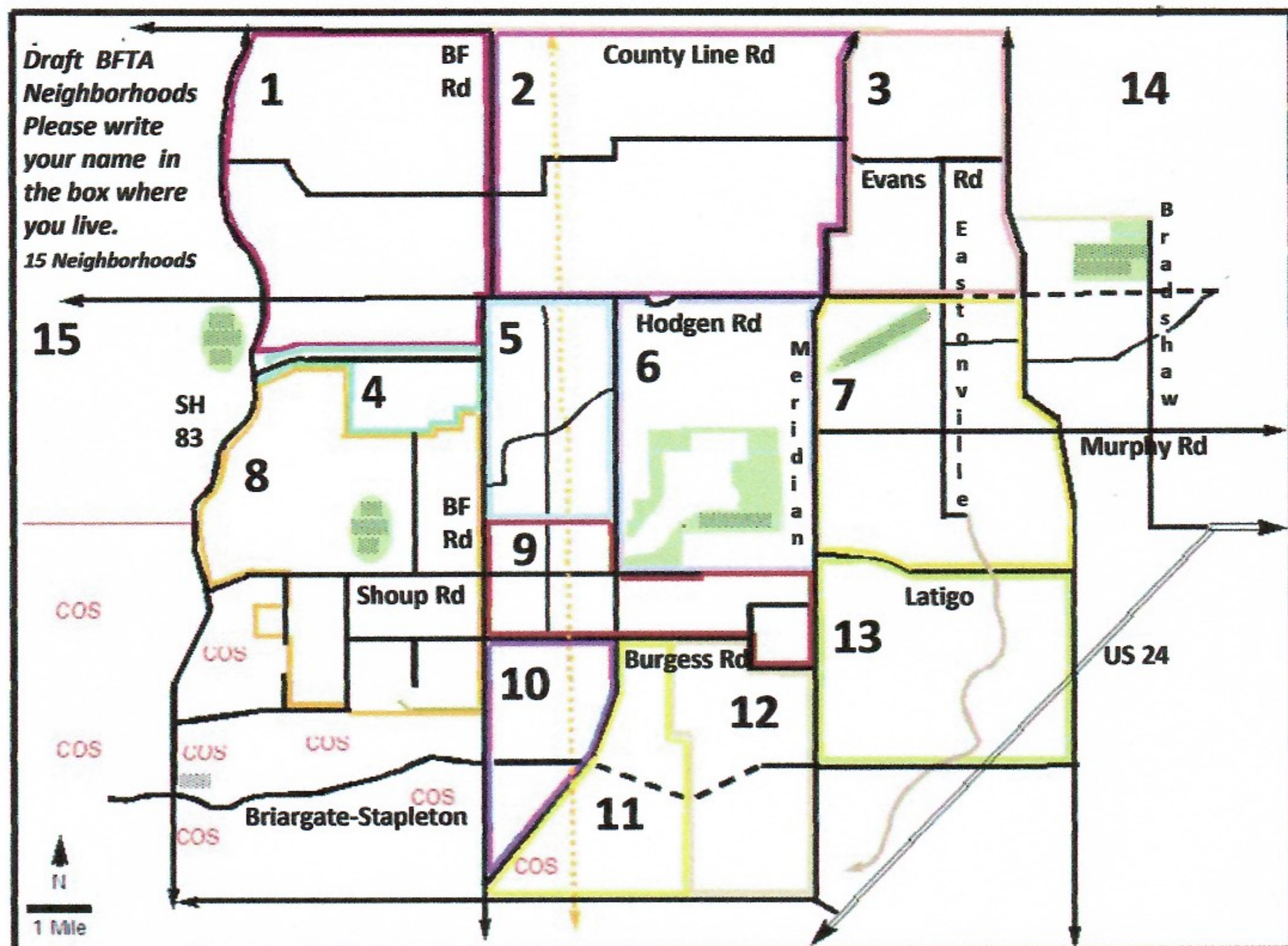
Black Forest Trails Association was organized on a strong base of Neighborhood Grassroots support which provided many hands and ideas for almost two decades before the 2013 Black Forest Fire, and over four decades before COVID!

The Trails Framework Committee has a new **Draft Neighborhoods Map** which has more complete cover, **Black Forest Preservation Plan** and the 1999 **Trails Addendum** to that **Plan**. The draft Neighborhood Map below also includes some adjacent areas to the west and east which were previously in Planning Areas for Monument and Falcon.

The Trails Framework Committee is working to update the Membership database to learn where members live in the Black Forest geography, and to find ways members can communicate and work together to improve non-motorized trail connectivity close to home and useful to them.

Please fill out the Survey on the back side of this sheet and also mark which neighborhood you live in on the map below. Please either bring this to the July 11 Meeting, or mail this to Black Forest Trails Association: Attention Secretary, PO Box 88041, Colorado Springs, CO 80908 by July 15. This information will be compiled and passed on to the new BFTA Board elected in October of 2023. It will also assist in updating the Membership List Information and database. It will not be shared or used for any purposes other than BFTA Communication with members and BFTA projects. It will not be put online. Feel free to include ideas, comments or questions in your response.

DRAFT BFTA NEIGHBORHOOD AREAS MAP July 2023



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BLACK FOREST TRAILS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

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

There are four tiers of BFTA membership. Three of these renew annually on April 1, the fourth is a lifetime Membership.

- 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. If you become a member after January 1 of a Calendar Year, the membership is good through March 31 of the next Membership Cycle (.ie. three free months).

We use DonorBox, which is easy and secure and can be accessed on the BFTA Website: www.blackforesttrails.org/membership.html. You can either apply and pay via DonorBox, or print the application and mail the payment via US Postal Service to Black Forest Trails Assn, PO Box 88041 Colorado Springs, CO 80908.