

Tri-City Herald

Little Badger park nearly ready for hikers, with just one piece missing

BY ALLISON STORMO | FEBRUARY 05, 2021



The Friends of Badger Mountain group is looking to buy a piece of land in south Richland to connect the popular hiking trails across the four local ridges of Little Badger, Badger, Candy and Red mountains. Bob Brawdy TRI-CITY HERALD

One of the most scenic views of the Tri-Cities will have more public access if the final pieces of a trail project fall into place.

The Friends of Badger Mountain are working to buy a parcel to connect the popular hiking trails across the four local ridges of Little Badger, Badger, Candy and Red mountains.

The group, which began as a grassroots effort 18 years ago, needs just 20 acres to create Little Badger Mountain Preserve — the third park that the group has helped establish.

“It will have the nicest views of all of the city of Richland,” the group’s president Marc Spinner told the Herald.

“Cities and regions realize the more hiking trails there are, the more it adds to economy and community growth and health. It is a big drawing point,” he said.

Spinner said the Friends of Badger Mountain has an agreement with the land owner to buy the property by the end of the year for \$1.5 million.

The group has raised all but \$600,000 — and is launching a public fundraising campaign to get the rest by the end of the year.

“If we don’t do anything, and we don’t put anything in there — it will be overrun with houses,” Spinner said.

The group first created the Badger Mountain preserve in 2005. It was followed by Candy Mountain in 2016.

And now there is a network of 10 miles of trails over 900 acres. More than 300,000 people used those trails in 2019.

The trails will follow the ridges up to the summit of Little Badger, which will also have a parking lot and playground.

The new Little Badger trails will be multi-use — allowing hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. It will span from the eastern boundary of Badger Mountain to Queensgate Drive.

The group’s goal is to have a continuous system that also includes a stretch over Red Mountain.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Project manager David Comstock, who has been instrumental in moving the project forward, said the first section of the trail will be done this spring.

While Comstock has been working behind the scenes since 2017 to make the park a reality, the group was able to take action starting in 2019 with the first land acquisition.

The same year, the Washington Legislature allotted \$450,000 from the 2019-21 capital budget to put toward the project.

Spinner said that the goal is to complete the entire system, including a trail to Red Mountain, by 2023.

“One of these days lets, face it, the entire area will be houses — maybe not in our lifetime but it will happen,” he said.

For more information or to make a tax deductible donation, go to friendsofbadger.org.

An excerpt recreated from the Tri-City Herald published Feb 5, 2021

Friends of Badger Mountain Membership/Donor Form



We are delighted you have decided to join us in our mission: the preservation and stewardship of the ridges of the Lower Columbia Basin for the benefit of the community and the environment. We encourage you to attend the Friends of Badger Mountain annual meeting and celebration, lend a hand in trail maintenance, participate in activities to involve young people in our mission and support the setting aside of additional land for public access and enjoyment. Find information on trails, news and special events at www.friendsofbadger.org.

Sign Me Up!

Member/Donor Benefits

Your voice heard on issues of trail-building, maintenance and other matters of interest.

FOBM's Quarterly e-Newsletter

Invitation to FoBM's annual celebration and membership meeting

Election of Board of Directors

Notices about guided hikes and other special events, including:

- I-MAC New Year's Day hike
- Badger Mountain Challenge: 15K, 50K, 50 & 100 mile races
- Wildflower walks & habitat restoration
- Fun Fit & Over Fifty weekly hikes
- Chinook Bicycle Club Time Trials
- YMCA "Trick or Treat on the Trail"
- Student projects
- "Hike Wine Dines"
- Equinox, solstice and full-moon hikes

Membership year is Jan. 1-Dec. 31. (Questions? Ask treasurer@friendsofbadger.org)

Membership levels: Individual \$20 Family \$30

I'd like to make an additional donation: Townsend's Squirrel \$50 Jack Rabbit \$100
 Coyote \$500 Badger \$1,000 Other \$ _____

I'd like to make a donation but not become a member \$ _____.

Donors who give \$1000 & above will be inscribed in a monument as part of the Little Badger Trail.

To donate by credit card go to: www.friendsofbadger.org

All dues and donations are used to support the mission of Friends of Badger Mountain, an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Tax ID # 68-0480736.

If you give through United Way, 100% can be designated to FoBM. For information on special tribute or memorial donations, please contact us directly.

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Comments: _____

Send this completed form and your dues and/or donation to:

Friends of Badger Mountain P.O. Box 24 Richland, WA 99352

To join and give online and for more information: www.friendsofbadger.org or call 509-783-6558