



EXPLORE

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

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Executive Director's Corner

Greetings, All and welcome to spring.

What a wonderful season! Gardening is starting and it's so nice to get outside and see the spring flowers starting to emerge. Every hike is a little different and even a week makes a tremendous difference in which plants are showing spring finery.

DHC is busy as well. We are adding events weekly and I'm particularly excited to have EWU Philosophy students guiding hikes connecting literature to nature, as well as a presentation on mushrooms and fungi by Michelle Pearson from Spokane Falls Community College. Our Education Committee is preparing "Kids in the Hills" for local 3rd-4th grade students. There are some volunteer opportunities coming up as well.

In other DHC news, we have been changing our website and email contact system. You can control your email settings (see pg. 3 for more information) or if you're no longer getting emails and want to, sign up on the website under GET INVOLVED. Newsletter/Volunteer Sign Up - Dishman Hills Conservancy.

Finally, I want to let you know we are continuing to look for ways to connect and protect. Your donations help us provide extensive programs for your enjoyment, steward the lands we have, and build our land conservation funds for future land purchases. Together we will continue to connect and protect the Dishman Hills through conservation, education, recreation, and stewardship. Thank you for being involved.

-Ruth Gifford

Welcome, new Board Members!



Stuart Grossman
Financial Advisor
- semi retired



Jeff Roberts
MS Engineering Director, Cabin Engineering
Boeing

We're participating in the Target Circle program



We are honored and excited to announce that we have been chosen to participate in a special charitable giving campaign, sponsored and funded by Target. And you have the chance to help direct a portion of Target's donation to us! Find out more about Target Circle here: www.target.com/circle

Homeless Camps in the Dishman Hills

By Eric Robison, City of Spokane Valley Housing and Homeless Coordinator

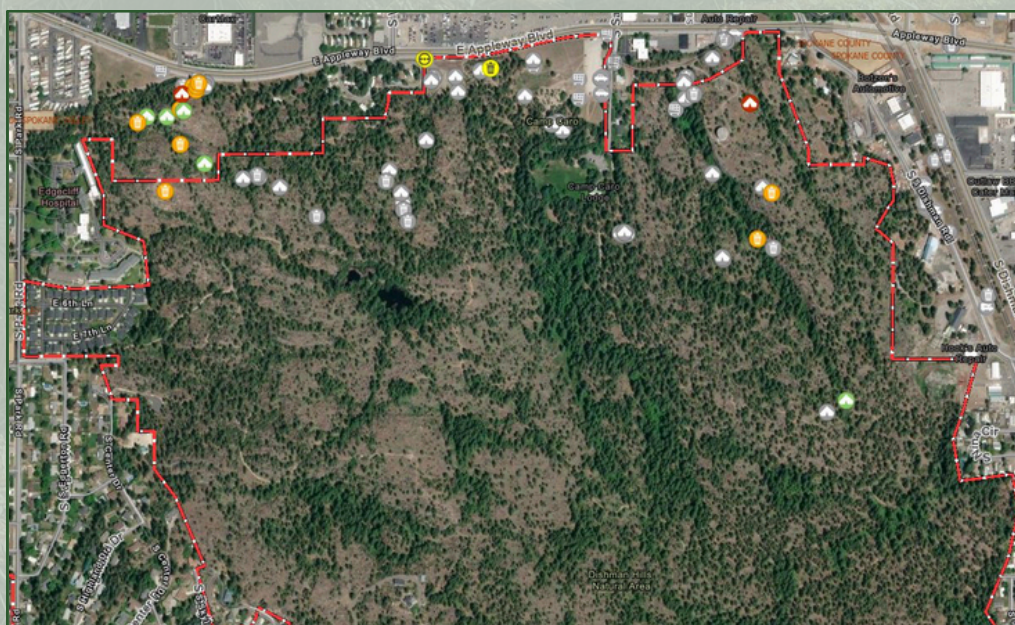
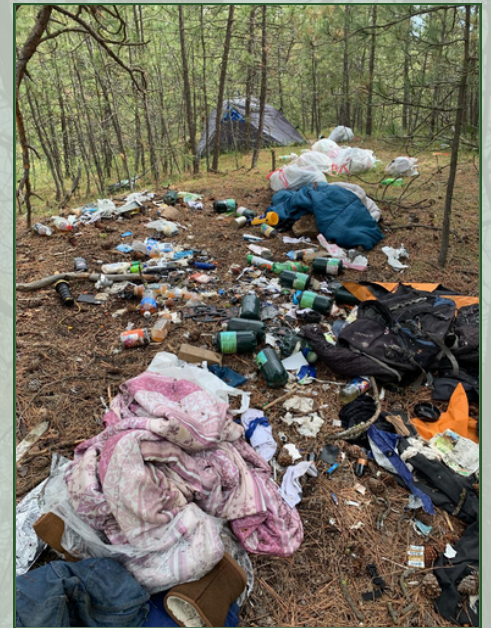
Like many people who grew up in the Spokane area, I have memories of visiting the Dishman Hills as a child with my family. Now, as the Housing and Homeless Coordinator for the City of Spokane Valley, I get to work alongside the DHC, County Parks, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and others to keep the Dishman Hills a natural and welcoming place for everybody.

Undoubtedly, many people have noticed the increasing number of camps proliferating across the county, including around the edges of the Dishman Hills Natural Area (DHNA). The growing number of people experiencing homelessness in our community impacts all of us in a variety of ways, including our experience in the many natural areas we enjoy in Spokane County.

To help keep the DHNA a welcoming place, the City of Spokane Valley works alongside the DHC and other partners to identify camp locations, offer follow-up services to camp occupants, and facilitate cleanup. Looking at the map [below], you can see where encampments or trash have been cleaned up (in grey) over the past approximately 18 months when the City began tracking this data.

While seeing camps when out on a hike can be unsettling, it may be worth remembering that according to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, those experiencing homelessness are “far more likely to be victims of violent crime than to commit violent crime.” Further, data shows us that camping activity in the Dishman Hills is primarily isolated to a relatively small area near arterials and generally not within sight of marked trails.

If you encounter something that needs to be addressed, please use the city’s “Report a Concern” button at the bottom of the city’s website at www.SpokaneValleyWA.gov. If the issue is within the Spokane Valley city limits, I will follow up on it, and if outside city limits, I will coordinate with our partners. With the help of staff and volunteers from the City, DHC and SCP, we are committed to ensuring your hiking experiences are enjoyable, natural and sustainable.



(Top right): Before image of abandoned camp.

(Bottom right): After image of camp cleaned in late 2022 by County Parks and volunteers.

(Left): Map of all identified camps. Grey symbols mean the camps have been removed.

Connecting People to Nature Since 1966

Leave No Trace Principles

1. **Hike out your trash**
 - a. Pick up others' trash you see
2. **Leave what you find**
 - a. Take pictures, not plants!
3. **No campfires**
 - a. Only you can prevent wildfires!
4. **Stay on the designated trails**
 - a. Especially when it is muddy!
5. **Respect wildlife**
 - a. Do not approach animals
6. **Let nature's sounds prevail**
 - a. Avoid loud noises
7. **Leash your dog at all times**
 - a. Dogs disturb vegetation and can attract dangerous wildlife towards you!

Your DHC Email Preferences

1. Log in to your DHC account at <https://dhnaa.wildapricot.org/>
2. Click your name in the top right corner
3. Click 'Edit profile' in the top left corner
4. Click 'Email subscriptions' in the top left corner
5. Click the check boxes for 'Automatic event announcements' and 'Mass emails from administration' to make sure you aren't missing anything important!
 - a. 'Automatic event announcements' are about 1-2 emails a week about upcoming events
 - b. 'Mass emails' are about once a month newsletters and special events
6. Click 'Save'



Spring Hike along the Pond Loop led by Marya Nowakowski



Hot Dog Roast at the Wilson Conservation Area



Attracting Birds to Your Yard with Alan McCoy

Upcoming Events

- EWU Philosophy Hike**
Camp Caro - April 14th, 1pm
May 12 & June 9
- Active Living Expo**
Mirabeau Park Hotel and
Convention Center - April 20th,
10am
- Two For Tuesday Hike**
Wilson - April 23rd, 2pm

Mycology for All: Mushrooms and Other Fungi

Moran Prairie Library - April 30th,
6pm

Laughter Yoga

Camp Caro - May 5th, 10am

Big Give Campaign

May 7th, 8th

Fire Station 81 Open House
May 11th, 10am

Kids in the Hills, School field trips - May 22-24, 28,30

Jon Isacoff Bird Hike
Stevens Creek - May 28th, 6am

National Trails Day
Camp Caro - June 1st, 10am

Other Ways to Support DHC:

- Vote for DHC on Target.com/Circle
- Connect your Fred Meyers Rewards with Dishman Hills Conservancy using this QR code



We are looking for someone to run an errand to pick up a stove donation in Priest River. Please email volunteers@dishmanhills.org if you are able.

We are requesting donations of:

- free-standing wood-burning shop stoves (similar to pictured)
- gently used 30"w 15"h 12"d above-stove microwave with exhaust fan



Firewood for sale!



Split, dry, pine wood available. Accepting donations. Text Dan: **360-402-1227** to arrange Tues/Thurs pickup.

Thank you, sponsors!

Suzy Dix

*Realtor, Conservationist, Farmer
Dix Farm Inc. and Windermere*

A.T. Miller

*Land Use and Environmental
Attorney, Conservationist
Paine Hamblen, LLP*

Kids in the Hills

*1) Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf.
2) Washington State Department of Natural Resources.*

Our thanks to Ramble Raven for their support over the years.



Are you interested in becoming an event sponsor? Contact Ruth Gifford, ed@dishmanhills.org for more information.

Announcement:

DHC is seeking new committee members that are interested in stewardship, education, or conservation. Contact Ruth Gifford at ed@dishmanhills.org.

The Dishman Hills Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts to DHC are tax-deductible. We are also able to receive stocks and real estate donations, with tax advantages.
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