

Ferry County Rail Trail ~ Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Ferry County Rail-Trail ?

The Ferry County Rail Trail is a 25-mile, non-motorized, multi-use public trail that extends north from Herron Creek Road at the southern end of Curlew Lake near Republic, Washington, to just below the Canadian Border at Danville. From Herron Creek, the Rail-Trail connects to the Golden Tiger Pathway to the south, completing the 30-mile corridor. The entire trail is open to the public except for the Curlew Lake trestle and Kettle River tunnel, which are off-limits until improvements make them safe.

Who is responsible for planning the Rail-Trail ?

The Ferry County Rail Corridor Committee (RCC) is charged by the Board of Ferry County Commissioners to plan development of the rail corridor. The all-volunteer RCC meets monthly in Republic, and makes formal recommendations to the Commissioners. The RCC also secures grants and other funding sources to develop the trail, such as a \$100,000 Transportation Enhancement grant that will fund non-motorized bicycle and pedestrian improvements. The RCC also received a grant of technical assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program.

How is the Rail-Trail being improved ?

The surface of the Rail-Trail varies from fair to challenging. Its current large, crushed rock is not ideal for trails, but will provide an excellent base for an improved trail surface. Once funding is secured, the new trail surface will consist of crushed fine rock and binding agents compacted to form a smooth, user-friendly surface. Some of the more popular segments of the trail may eventually be paved with asphalt. Until such improvements are made, be prepared for rough surfaces by wearing boots or sturdy, cross-trainer shoes. Mountain bikes with suspension, or at least bikes with wide tires, are recommended.

When can we access the trestle ?

The RCC plans to develop platforms for walking, viewing, and fishing on the 770-foot-long trestle at the north end of Curlew Lake, and to improve surfaces adjacent to the trestle where it connects to nearby roads. The RCC hopes to begin initial improvements in fall 2011 or early the following spring. The goal is to open the trestle for everyone to enjoy by summer 2012!

This brochure was produced in part with support from the Ferry County Rail Trail Partners (FCRTP), a private, non-profit organization that raises funds on behalf of the Rail Trail. For more information, visit:

FerryCountyRailTrail.com

Does the Rail-Trail have Parking and Amenities ?

Temporary trailheads are located at Blacks Beach (Curlew Lake) and just north of the town of Curlew. Both of these locations have ample parking and portable toilets for spring and summer use. Trailheads (with parking, but no toilet facilities) provide access at the north end of the trail at Lone Ranch Creek and at the south end at Herron Creek. Access is available at the Kiwanis Road trailhead at the north end of Curlew Lake, a few hundred yards from the east end of the trestle where Kiwanis road crosses the Rail-Trail.

Is the Rail-Trail Accessible for people with disabilities ?

The trail is open to all non-motorized users, including equestrians. However, given the varied and unimproved railbed surface, it is recommended that people who use wheelchairs or other ADA-approved devices be sure that the area they want to access is suitable for their equipment. Please see the Ferry County website for the latest rules and guidelines concerning access for people with disabilities at www.ferry-county.com.

When will the Rail-Trail be Completed ?

Rail-Trail development on this scale requires detailed planning and coordinated efforts from citizen groups, local government, and state and federal agencies. The RCC is working on a planning document that will guide development of the Rail-Trail. The results of these collaborative efforts will create a recreational opportunity that benefits the area for generations to come. After planning is complete, priorities will be identified and then the trail will be developed in phases and as grants become available.

How Can I get Involved?

To find out more about the Rail-Trail or to get involved, please email the Rail Corridor Committee (RCC) at fctrails@co.ferry.wa.us.

Current Rail-Trail Rules

Ferry County Ordinance 2010-04 states:

- No unauthorized vehicles allowed on the trail
- Open during daylight hours (dawn to dusk)
- Users must stay on the rail bed
- Yield to traffic at crossroads
- No hunting or shooting
- No fires, camping, or littering
- Pets are required to be on leash
- No damage to or removal of rail corridor material

Violators are subject to fines