



FRIENDS OF
**MOUNT
SPOKANE**

The Moose Call

The Newsletter of the Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park

February 2023/4

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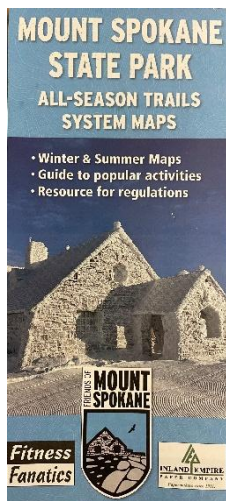
2023 Year in Review

This was a year of exciting changes for the Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park: a new logo, new website, and most importantly, a new trail map produced in partnership with Washington State Parks and the Washington State Parks Foundation!

Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park: A Partner in Education

In 2022, Washington State Parks approached the Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park board (FMSP) to determine if there was any interest in helping to fund a new trail map for Mt.

Spokane. The last map was drafted and published over 20 years ago and had numerous trails that have since been decommissioned. In two decades, new trails have been developed as well. The Board committed to funding both the design and the initial production of an updated map featuring both winter and summer use trails, and guidelines for use. Through the masterful leadership of Volunteer Coordinator Rex Schultz, Friends members participated in the design phase of the map through several map review sessions at the Nine Mile Park Headquarters. FMSP supplemented the funding for the map through the sale of sponsor advertising as well as a generous Partners in Promotion grant from the Washington State Parks Foundation. Once the map was approved and then “ground-truthed” for accuracy, it was printed and distributed for sale. FMSP board members led the charge to fan out across Spokane and distribute the maps to retailers in the outdoor industry: Fitness Fanatics, REI, Aunties, and various bike and ski shops in the region. State Parks is also selling the maps at ranger stations in the region.



The Friends get a Refresh: Bold New Look

After 20 years the FMSP board decided it was time to update the look and feel of the FMSP website and create marketing collateral for improved awareness of the organization in the community. A sub-committee was formed and started by redesigning the logo to incorporate the iconic summit Vista House. Using Vista House ties the Friends group closely to a landmark recognizable by skiers, hikers, snowshoers, and all others who love the Park. Members of the board also worked with Trevor and Dee Finchamp at Inland Northwest Media to create a new website, using a contemporary web platform and design system to better communicate the mission and vision of the FMSP in a user-friendly format. Check it out at [Friends of Mt Spokane \(mountspokane.org\)](https://mountspokane.org).



Funding From Friends

The FMSP undertook several other projects to improve the user experience on the mountain. State Parks shared the need for floor mats in the CXT bathrooms located throughout the park. Board Member Mike Henneberry volunteered to buy a sample to try in a high-use bathroom. After a month of use, it was deemed a success. Mike purchased enough for the rest of the bathrooms in time for them to be installed during the Winter of 2024. In addition the Nordic members of the FMSP proposed funding for a replacement part on one of the Nordic groomers. That was done in December 2023, just in time for the 23/24 winter seasons.

Friends Having Fun

FMSP board members participated in many activities on the mountain in 2023, including Nordic trail clearing, and chopping and storing firewood at the snowshoe hut in the Fall. Board members also participated in the State Parks First Day hikes on January 1, 2023, providing assistance and education for snowshoers bound for the summit, as well as those going to the snowshoe hut.



Making Trail Plans

The new Eastern Region Trail Planner, Paul Knowles, attended several FMSP meetings to conduct trail user focus group sessions in an effort to identify gaps in the existing trail system for future design and construction.

Advocating for Park Projects

The Friends wrote letters of support for the State acquisition of Bear Creek Lodge, purchased during 2023, and a **big** win for all park users! The board also supported the permanent protection of Inland Empire land on the Idaho side of Mt. Spokane. This land, if secured through

the Trust for Public Land, would be open for recreational use in the future. Board President Gibson attended the Washington State Parks Friends Conference held at Camas Beach in October, creating networking opportunities and connections with other state-wide Friends groups.

Friends' Finances

2023 presented growth in donations, thanks partially in part to the new user-friendly web platform. The organization's bottom line also benefitted from robust map sales. Despite the investments made by the board (mentioned above), the organization still saw an increase in funds over the year from \$30,213 to \$34,054, indicating increased awareness and relevancy in the outdoor community. The organization also holds stock that was gifted years ago. More detail about the financials may be obtained by email friends@mountspokane.org.