



# THE MARSHALL MOUNTAIN DIRT

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## Recreating in a Winter Wonderland

To skiers' delight, the final months of 2024 brought a 16-inch base of snow to Marshall Mountain, with the snowpack at mid-mountain reaching nearly 30 inches by mid-February. Winter recreation came in full swing, with swaths of backcountry enthusiasts lapping the runs, fat bikers pedaling the groomers, and sledders braving the bunny hill. Ranger Silas even hosted the first annual "Meet the Ranger" sledding event just after the holidays. It's paradise for people-powered recreation! Special thanks to the Montana Backcountry Alliance for their partnership during the first year of winter operations under public ownership.



## New Trail Construction – Beginner, Adaptive Friendly

Thanks to a collaboration between the Missoula Mountain Bike Coalition, Friends of Marshall Mountain, Missoula County, City of Missoula, and Missoula Adaptive Recreation and Sports, construction of 3 new trails was the storyline at Marshall Mountain Park over the summer and fall. The base area connection (0.5 miles), and the multi-use/bike uphill only trail (3 miles) are fully constructed. The beginner, adaptive friendly downhill mountain biking trail (1.6 miles) is trending towards an early spring 2025 completion. Designed to withstand heavy traffic, these key additions provide more convenient, easy-going options for Marshall Mountain Park recreators – a major step for accessibility at Missoula County's only mountain adventure park.



## So Much to Celebrate! Ribbon Cutting and Marshall Mountain Park Day

We hosted a very successful ribbon cutting event at Marshall Mountain in late May that included so many of the project partners who contributed time and funding to the recent acquisition campaign.

This historic recreation area will forever be open to public use thanks to a groundswell of community support and engagement.

The event featured speakers from both the City and the County, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the US Forest Service, Five Valleys Land Trust, and Friends of Marshall Mountain. The big scissors were used to cut the ribbon on this momentous occasion! The celebrations continued later in the summer, with Friends of Marshall Mountain hosting the inaugural Marshall Mountain Park Day. The base area transformed into a pop-up mountain village with community partner booths, ice block sledding, inflatable couches, and coolers full of Big Dipper Ice Cream.



## The Heart of Marshall Mountain Keeps Beating

The good times rolled on the hill this year! Thanks to the efforts of so many community partners, Marshall Mountain Park is living up to its goal of being a high use, all-season, all-access, public outdoor recreation and education area.

The Marshall Mountain ski school inspired generations of Missoula County residents. This legacy continued in 2024 with the forest school, youth sports teams, mountain bike racing and clinics, and year-round outdoor camps. All share a common thread of learning and connecting through recreation.

Marshall is the home mountain for Zootown Derailleurs, Rangers, and Missoula Mammoths. These three youth programs are carrying the torch when it comes to teaching and inspiring generations of Marshall Mountain recreators. When these programs hit the ground running each spring, the number of wildlife sightings, pizza parties, and cookie cups soar. Some strider bike racers are just as serious about racing as their adult counterparts, without the need for lycra.

Montana Cyclocross and the Missoula Mountain Bike Coalition hosted their respective signature events – the Missoula XC and the Mullet Classic – drawing over 450 riders and many more spectators to enjoy some high energy mountain bike racing. MT Alpha hosted their annual clinic at Marshall Mountain, with 80 women attending and working on their mountain bike skills, from beginner to advanced. 2024 was their first year with all female coaches – a tradition they'll continue into future years.

For the past 2 years, the Department of Ecology has hosted Nature Walk Week at Marshall Mountain. Last year 256 third-graders, teachers, and a cadre of parent volunteers explored the wonders of this natural place. Over two days students were introduced to the possibilities of outdoor recreation, spatial awareness through mapping, the importance of aquatic health through invertebrate identification, the role of native plants, and the ethics of recreating and camping responsibly. Nature Walk Week sparks curiosity and cultivates a sense of responsibility for public lands.



### Call for volunteers!

Use this form to join a listserv for Marshall Mountain volunteer opportunities.

[Fill out the form here](#)

### Want to support?

Want to support continued improvements at Marshall Mountain Park? Donate to Friends of Marshall Mountain to keep the momentum going.

[Marshall Park Development Fund](#)



### Help Us Capture The Legacy

Do you have old footage or stories to share about Marshall Mountain? Missoula County is embarking on a multimedia project to capture the legacy, evolution, and revival of the hill. Fill out this interest form if you have footage or a story to tell.

[Fill out the form here](#)

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**Missoula**  
COUNTY