

FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 2012-05

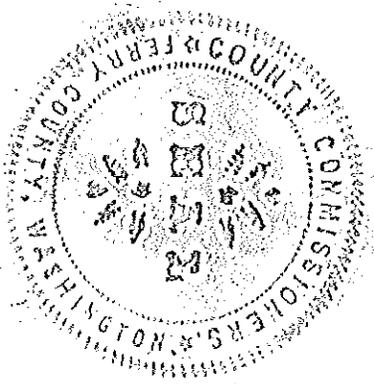
**WHEREAS;** Ferry County operates and maintains the Golden Tiger Pathway from Republic to West Herron Creek Road; and

**WHEREAS;** A Golden Tiger Trail Plan is required by funding agencies;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;**

The BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS adopts the attached Golden Tiger Trail Plan.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.



FERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Handwritten signature of Brian Danel in cursive script.

BRIAN DANSEL, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Robert "Bob" Heath in cursive script.

ROBERT "BOB" HEATH, Vice Chair

Handwritten signature of Brad L. Miller in cursive script.

BRAD L. MILLER, Member

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Hayley Aubertin in cursive script.

Hayley Aubertin  
Clerk of The Board

## GOLDEN TIGER PATHWAY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

The Golden Tiger Pathway is a multi-use trail owned by Ferry County. The day to day operations, management and planning is administered by the Golden Tiger Pathway Advisory Committee appointed by the Commission. This plan has been developed by that committee and adopted by the Commission. Members of the committee include Larry Beardslee (walking, ATV, snowmobile), Everett Paul Diener (ATV, walking), Larry Heming (walking, ATV, equestrian, snowmobile), Tom Hern (walking, wildlife and scenic viewing, cross country skiing), Stan Christie (ATV), Luis Trim (bicycle, snowshoeing, skiing), and Timothy Ries (ATV, handicapped walker).

### MISSION

To provide safe, easily accessible recreation opportunities for a wide group of users, including but not limited pedestrians, bicyclers, skiers, and non-highway motorized user.

### HISTORY AND INVENTORY OF EXISTING PATHWAY

The Golden Tiger Pathway began as a link in a longer cross state trail. This link, the Golden Tiger Pathway, is a multi-use pathway that extends from the east boundary of the City of Republic to the West Herron Creek Road crossing, for a length of 5.7 miles.

This is the only developed pathway or trail in Ferry County for all users. (See attached map). The pathway provides spectacular views of the surrounding countryside and mountains. These include striking views of the San Poil River valley and high mountains

to the south and east. Wet-lands may be viewed near mile 2.3 and beaver ponds near mile 3.4. Further along near mile 3.6 the path passes along the west edge San Poil Lake and the valley to the north may be viewed.

The multi-use pathway attracts a large cross-section of users from the community; we walk the trail almost daily and are in contact with 10 family walkers per hour primarily when the pathway is free of snow. ATVs are present in small numbers, mostly after school, equestrian use is infrequent, but makes access available to the fairgrounds. In the spring the school track team practices on the Golden Tiger and the USFS conducts their firefighting fitness training, In the Winter, when snow is adequate, cross country skiers and snowhoers number 12 per day. Snowmobiles use this route as a connecting link from Republic to their homes or recreation destinations. The flat grade and easy access of the paved section is a favorite of local seniors and family groups that may include all ages, including small children learning to ride a bicycle. Other users are those out for a pleasant walk with their dog. Runners enjoy the opportunity to exercise or train for competitive events of the school track teams or marathon races. The pathway was used as a section of a triathlon race. Bicyclists and off highway vehicle users take advantage of the off highway trail. The USFS uses the trail for training and testing firefighters. Visitors to this area take advantage to park their RV's in the large parking lots while enjoying the trail and viewing the scenery. During winter months it is enjoyed by skiers and snowmobiles. Whether summer or winter, it is seldom one doesn't meet other users along the trail. User conflicts are rare and all users are asked to report violators and submit photos of offenders, which has worked well. Previously these users used SR20 which has very narrow shoulders.

The pathway is constructed on an abandoned railroad grade. These acquisitions and accomplishment have taken place over nearly 30 years by the Ferry County Commissioners in public session. Grants have been received from IAC (RCO) NOVA funds for appraisal, appraisal review, and a parcel acquisition. Ferry County purchased the first three miles of the rights of way in obtained use of the balance under provisions of the Rails to Trails program. The Ferry County Commissioners acquired property and constructed a parking lot and extended pathway to avoid a state highway crossing.

The use of the multi-use pathway is restricted to pedestrian, bicyclist, equestrian and off road non-highway vehicles. Access to the pathway is from paved parking areas at milepost 0.0 and 2.1 and graded gravel parking areas at milepost 4.7, West Curlew Road crossing, and milepost 5.7, Herron Creek Road crossing. The west access is across from Republic schools and provides access to students and athletes. The pathway provides access to the Ferry County Fairgrounds from the parking area at milepost 2.1. The western section starting at Republic, milepost 0.0 to milepost 2.1, includes a 9 foot wide paved pathway and a 5 foot wide gravel shoulder.

The remaining section extending to milepost 5.7 is unpaved but graded and compacted to provide a semi-smooth walking surface. Use of the paved walkway is restricted to pedestrians, skiers and bicyclist. The wide gravel shoulder and unpaved section may be used by off-road vehicles and equestrians. The paved pathway is groomed for cross-country skiing during the winter months.

Ferry County has completed many improvements through grant monies or county resources. Ferry County received grants to have Ferry County Public Works Department grade, drain and surface 2.3 miles of the county owned railroad bed and a parking lot from Republic easterly. They also contracted to have a vault toilet installed at milepost 1.3 and post and cable safety fencing along some steep embankments (monies ran out before completion of all needed areas). A towed sweeper to be towed by a volunteer ATV was purchased by the county for maintenance and has kept the paved surface free of cobbles and debris.

Volunteers have contributed to construction of improvements and general maintenance. The 3.6 mile section of unpaved rail bed was cleared of brush, graded, reshaped and compacted by use of volunteer equipment and labor. Likewise, volunteers improved parking area at the West Curlew and Herron Creek road crossings. Regular maintenance, including sweeping, trash pickup and restroom cleaning is by volunteers. Informative signs were donated and installed by a volunteer Eagle Scout. A donation has been requested from a local business for additional signage.

The cost of continuing routine maintenance will be borne by Ferry County and volunteers. Every 8 or 10 years, preservation of the asphalt will be required by seal coating which it is hoped will be grant funded.

## GOALS

To maximize the users enjoyment of the pathway by providing a safe, healthy, and durable pathway usable by all user, including those physically impaired, by providing amenities including rest areas, restroom facilities, parking and access to view points for wildlife viewing, scenic views, access to fishing sites and an opportunity for physical training for six years and into the foreseeable future.

- Improve accessibility for impaired persons by addition paved parking adjacent to the pathway near Milepost 2.0. Complete in 2012 by contract.
- Construct safety fence on embankment at Herron Creek parking lot. Complete in 2012 by contract.
- Add 4 steel hinged bollards at access point with donated boulders replacing old tires. Complete in 2012 by contract.
- Enhance safety by extending several existing and adding new barrier fencing above hazardous embankments.2012. Complete in 2012 by contract.
- Provide groomed cross country ski trail annually when snow is adequate annually by volunteers.
- Add and compact a gravel surface on the unimproved 3.5 miles, Complete in 2012 by contract.

- Upgrade surface of unpaved 3.5 mile, including 3.2 mile of rail-banked railroad grade, to match current pathway. Complete in 2014 by contract.
- Provide additional user amenities, including restrooms, benches and picnic areas along unpaved section. Complete in 2012 by contract.
- Maintain pathway by sweeping, brush clearing, weed control annually by local forces.
- Apply seal coat to pavement. Complete in 2012 by contract.
- Provide connecting links to State Park and adjoining trails. Begin as soon as permitted by RCW and County Ordinance and complete in 2016.
- Obtain access to San Poil Lake for picnic site and fishing. Begin negotiations for access in 2013 hoping for completion by 2017. Costs and funding unknown.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

These acquisitions and accomplishment have taken place over nearly 30 years by the Ferry County Commissioners in public session. Grants have been received from IAC (RCO) for appraisal, appraisal review, and a parcel acquisition. Surveys conducted county-wide in 2005 and 2011 ranked these activities very high, (ranking walk, running, and other trail activities). Stakeholders, interviewed by Committee members who are on the pathway daily, have requested additional safety fencing, extended pavement, additional toilet facilities and benches. Over the years the Board of County

Commissioners and the Golden Tiger Committee have received numerous positive comments from residents and visitors. In the last 6 years we have experienced growth in users and have begun to advertise the Golden Tiger. A pull sweeper was purchased in 2011 and it has kept the pavement clean without hiring a contractor. Maintenance of the vault toilet has been done by volunteers, except for storm water runoff management which was paid for by Ferry County. Litter pickup and trail education is done constantly by volunteers.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This has been on the Capital Facilities List since 2006, and adopted or amended by public hearing ordinance by Ferry County Commissioners as recently as 2008 and includes priorities identified in the surveys. No changes were made after the 2011 survey. (See Attachments)

#### ADOPTION

This plan was adopted by the Ferry County Commissioners on February 27, 2012.

Attachments:  
Site Map  
Capital Facilities List  
Surveys  
Survey results

# 2012 GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY

## PAVED 2 MILES

FENCING	\$23,650
GUARDRAIL	\$30,000
Pave Handicap Parking	\$4,000
A&E	\$5,465
Contingency 5%	\$3,006
TOTAL	\$66,121

## GRAVEL 3.5 MILES

DONATION	\$20,000
BASE	\$5,660
GRAVEL	\$41,060
PARKING LOT SAFETY	\$3,000
BOLLARD & BOULDERS	\$2,800
A&E 10%	\$5,252
Contingency 7%	\$3,676
TOTAL	\$61,448

GRAND TOTAL	\$127,569
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