



July 21, 2008

## **Press Release**

### Concept Plan Unveiled for Rathdrum Mountain Water Tank Trailhead

The Friends of Rathdrum Mountain have unveiled a concept plan for a nature trail on the City's mountain property through the forested areas along Spring Creek on Rathdrum Mountain. With a trailhead at the City of Rathdrum's million-gallon water tank on Reservoir Road, the plan includes a winding, half-mile long loop trail with gentle slopes and footbridges that crisscross the creek. Of particular interest is the Pumphouse Interpretive Center, an exhibit that focuses on the workings of an existing pumphouse and how the Rathdrum Aquifer serves the community's needs for fresh water.

Other unique features include a Forest Canopy Tree Walk and a Natural Learning Outdoor Classroom.

Wes Du Charme, President of the Friends of Rathdrum Mountain, says that this plan illustrates the potential for community use of the City-owned land. Abbotswood Design Group, a landscape architecture firm in Coeur d'Alene and long-term Friends supporter, donated significant time and talent in the development of the plan's details. The Friends envision field trips by local schools to introduce students of all ages to both the beauty and the science of this natural area that is so incredibly close to town. "This will be a great place for families to enjoy the outdoors without having to travel more than a few minutes from their homes."

The Friends have been talking with City officials about securing public access to the proposed trailhead. Du Charme adds "The Friends are committed to raising the money and getting volunteers to build this trail. Our goal is to have this project come together BY the community FOR the community."

Friends of Rathdrum Mountain is a 501c3 non-profit group of 100% volunteers focused on preserving the natural beauty of the Rathdrum Mountain area. To view the concept plan and for more information on the Friends of Rathdrum Mountain, visit their website at [www.RathdrumMountain.org](http://www.RathdrumMountain.org).

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Friends of Rathdrum Mountain