

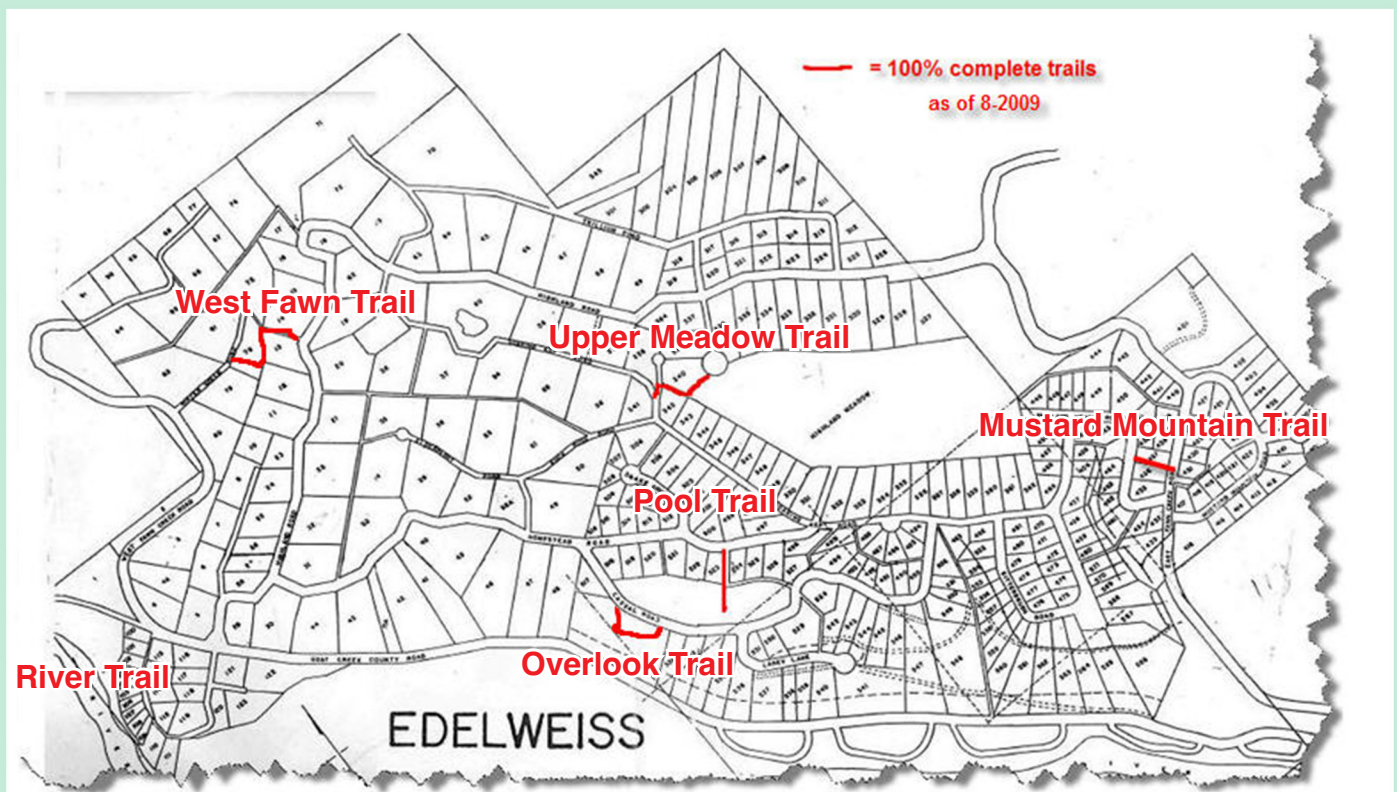
# History of the Edelweiss Trail System

When Edelweiss was originally developed, the community plan designated open spaces for the benefit of the entire community. These open spaces included the upper and lower meadows, the area occupied by the swimming pool, the entrance triangle, a few lots and a trail system. The trails were generally 15 feet wide and were located throughout the community. The trails were intended to provide walking access between roads, to the meadows, and to other residential areas within the community. Over the years these valuable trails have been neglected and almost forgotten.

Although there has been interest in renewing the trails, no serious effort was organized until 2008. At that time, a volunteer group reporting to the Edelweiss Board of Directors was formed for the purpose of reestablishing the trail system and was given the name *Trailblazers*. The reestablishment effort began with a discussion on how the trails would be used, how they would be constructed, how to determine where they are located and a selection of the highest priority trails. Everyone involved quickly agreed that natural-looking, non-motorized trails for the benefit of the entire community was the goal and determined that a trail from Homestead to the swimming pool was the first priority.

The construction of this first trail and others that followed began by using official county maps showing the location of each trail right-of-way followed by a search for long forgotten survey corner markers. The location of the actual trail within the right-of-way was then established before organizing a work party to build the trail. Although supported by Edelweiss staff, most of the construction labor has been community volunteers. Trailblazers welcomes everyone in the community who would like to support this community enhancing project with as little as a few hours work per year to more significant roles. We encourage everyone to use the trail system and support this trail building effort.

If you would like learn more about the trails make sure to check out additional tabs on the Trailblazer website. To become a part of this effort to reestablish the trail system, contact Jan and Will Fohrell at: [wfohrell@comcast.net](mailto:wfohrell@comcast.net)



# Trailblazers

We currently have no active work on the trails. If you are interested in a one-time trail party or organizing the Trailblazer volunteer group, please contact Jan and Will Fohrell at [wfohrell@comcast.net](mailto:wfohrell@comcast.net).

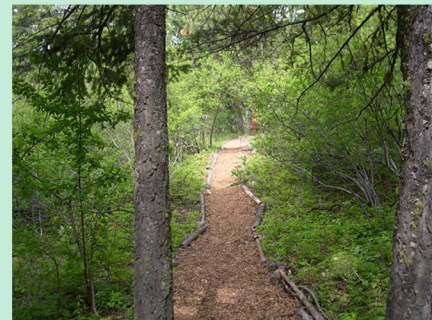
Hello to all of you who are interested in Trailblazers. We are a group of volunteers who live in the community of Edelweiss in the Methow Valley of Washington. Edelweiss is made up of 550 acres of beautiful terrain that is a nature lover's paradise. Our volunteers are Edelweiss neighbors who build and maintain a series of short trails in our community. These trails make traveling within the community easier, more enjoyable, and provide a way for neighbors to get to know each other. As of October 2010, we have completed seven trails adding up to a total distance of approximately three quarters of a mile.

To become involved in our next event, click on the Events tab above to find the details. To see maps and pictures of our trails or to learn about what volunteers do, make sure to check out the other links on the page. We look forward to any support and involvement you would like to contribute.

Send us an e-mail if you have any questions.

Jan and Will Fohrell

[wfohrell@comcast.net](mailto:wfohrell@comcast.net)



# Volunteer Activities

The reason we have been able to reestablish the Edelweiss Trail System is because we have members of this community who are willing to take their time to help create a better environment for all. Dozens of your neighbors have been involved over the years and the work has paid off. If you are one of those volunteers, we want you to know how much your time and effort is appreciated. If you would like to be a new volunteer, there are many ways in which you can help.

## Examples of the type of work we do at a trail party:

Most of the activities can be described as “heavy gardening” with hand tools. Specifically, we need people to help gather materials for the trail construction; haul and spread bark; rake paths; move and place small rocks; cut and clear shrubs; fall small trees; dig up small stumps; put up signage, dig up weeds and grass, or help locate corner markers.

## What to bring to a work party:

- This varies by every work party but always plan on bringing work gloves and water to drink. Usually we need strong rakes, spades, hoes and one or more wheelbarrows. Sometimes we need to cut small to medium size branches so cutting tools are helpful. There may be times a mattock and weed whacker will be needed. On rare occasions we have needed a chain saw and equipment to move large logs

Anytime you bring a tool, make sure to mark it. It has been surprising how many tools look alike. Also, only bring tools you are willing to share.

## Expectation of time:

- Come once or every work party, work one hour or as many as you want. If you don't want to get dirty then come and bring beverages and goodies for the workers. Occasionally, there is a requested task that can be done on your own at any time that is convenient to you.

## How else you can contribute:

Contribute chips or logs or other building materials as requested.  
Yearly maintenance is usually simple and adopting a trail would be great.  
Let us know how we could improve the volunteer experience.  
Help spread the word and encourage other volunteers.  
Send your teenage kids to work off some of that uncontrolled energy.

