



# Open Space News

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Welcome to the Willow Springs Open Space newsletter – one of a very occasional informational update!

## Spring 2017

In this newsletter:

- [Trail Work Update](#)
- Volunteer Opportunities
  - [Weed Wednesdays \(and Fridays\)](#)
  - [Trail Tuesdays](#)
  - [Volunteer Reporting](#)
- [Friends of Willow Springs Open Space](#)
- [Facebook Page](#)
- [Yoga on the Mount](#)
- [Basic Tag Info](#)
- [Neighborhood Contacts](#)

## Trail Work Update

The Open Space retained Momentum Trail Concepts to assist in the maintenance and repair of our trails. Momentum is an experienced trail building and design firm with projects worldwide. They have brought a fresh view on how to design, build, and maintain trails for a very long term. We are downright excited with their work. After a delayed start due to the spring snow storm, the work has focused on our lower trails in the vicinity of the Whale Rock Trailhead. In addition to repairing erosion damage some abandoned trails have been reclaimed including the old ranch road from the WRTH. We have received very positive and enthusiastic feedback on the work. If you get a chance get out there and see it yourselves.



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A reclaimed section of Willow Walk (old ranch road) where it was rerouted last year.



Example reworked trail with hardened water bar with outflow for runoff.

## Weed Wednesdays (and Fridays)

This year Kathleen Knowlton aka “the Weed Czar” is getting a head start on those evil critters! Directly from the throne:

We are going to begin the noxious weed control efforts in our open space next week (April 19th). Each week we will set aside Wednesday 5:30-7:30 PM and Friday 7:30-9:30 AM to tackle these nasty invaders. At least initially I plan to work both sessions each week so will be available to identify species. I will seek input from all of you as to where we should be focusing our efforts.

This first week, for Wednesday evening April 19th I'd like to meet at the water tower at the plateau and tackle the mullein, toadflax and thistle on Baldy. For Friday morning April 21st we will meet at Whale Rock.

This early in the season we do not need to bag and remove any weeds since there are no seed heads yet. Please bring gloves, small shovels, sprayers and any other tool you might use to dig or pull weeds. I will buy chemicals and locate the association's backpack sprayers.

If you can make one of these times, please let me know. If you would rather work on your own as your schedule allows, please do that. We need all the manpower we can muster.

Kathleen can be reached at [tknow6136@aol.com](mailto:tknow6136@aol.com)

## Trail Tuesdays

We will be repeating Trail Tuesdays again this year. With the major work done by Momentum, we will be reassessing our volunteer efforts and most likely start in early June. As things start to grow, we will be focused on weed whacking, brush control, and a more distributed effort to control erosion. As always, if you have a specific area of interest, do not hesitate to let Chris or Chip know and tackle it! There have been a number of fantastic anonymous volunteer efforts put forth this year – whomever you are, we do appreciate it! We all can use the work done by Momentum as examples of best practices.

## Volunteer Reporting

If you are working in the Open Space, we want to know! This is not just for “qualifying” for a Ken Caryl tag, but helping us gauge how much effort is being put into maintenance on an annual basis. The link below is ugly, so try bookmarking it so you can find it again.

2017 Volunteer Reporting : <https://goo.gl/trhPRv>

## Friends of the Willow Springs Open Space

This year we founded a 501(c)(3) organization to promote sustainable maintenance in the Open Space. This will allow us to raise funds which are tax deductible to the contributor. Initially the funds will go to educating volunteers in trail maintenance. In the future, this could be expanded to include forestry management. If you are interested or know of a grant program we should explore, let us know! The Friends website can be found at [www.friendsofwsos.org](http://www.friendsofwsos.org).

## Facebook Group Page

Mark Holte, our RRCC Board Member and Tom Economou have taken over management of the Facebook group first established a couple years ago. This is a great place to put wildlife sightings, event notices, and just cool pictures. It is a closed group, so you will have to request access, but please do. The more we use it, the better resource it becomes for all of us. There is a great video of the work on Moore Skunk posted today.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wsosoa/>

## Yoga on the Mount

Well, really on top of Baldy!

Phyllis Allen from Willow Springs North has graciously agreed to instruct a “gentle sunrise flow in celebration of Mother Earth” on top of Baldy April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a beginner class, so you don’t need to be an expert, but you will need your own mat. We will meet at the Whale Rock trailhead at 7am April 22<sup>nd</sup>, weather dependent. If you want to join, let Tom Weeks ([willowbrook@wsosoa.org](mailto:willowbrook@wsosoa.org)) know (just so we can gauge interest).

## Basic Tag Info

This year we are still using the Pink tags from last year. You do not need a new tag for 2017 if you had one last year. The 2017 reciprocal tags with Ken Caryl are gold.

Basic tag rules:

- 1) You must have a tag on your car if you park at a trail head
- 2) You must have a tag on your bike in the Open Space
- 3) You do not need a tag on you when hiking or riding horses in the Open Space

While we encourage everyone to help us discourage unauthorized access (poachers), we do not want any confrontations in the Open Space. When you see someone parking or biking, feel free to politely ask if they have a tag. If they do not, remind them they need one – nothing more. If we make poachers uncomfortable, the word will get out quickly and they will not come back.

If you are new to the neighborhood, did not get a tag last year, or just need new tags please put your name on our request page (again, an ugly url) and let your neighborhood rep know.

<http://goo.gl/forms/OxSN4wPTBM>

## Neighborhood Contacts

<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Addresses</b>
Filings 1&2	Chip Wernig (Treasurer)	- filing1-2@wsosoa.org
Filing 3	John Avey	- filing3@wsosoa.org
Filing 4	Chris Wittenbrink	- filing4@wsosoa.org
Filing 5 – Sundance	J Bretz (Vice President)	- Sundance@wsosoa.org
W/S North Master	Rick Zimmerman	northmaster@wsosoa.org
Dakotah	Geof Stephenson	- dakotah@wsosoa.org
Dakotah Pointe	Dave Wicks (Secretary)	- dakotahpointe@wsosoa.org
Falcon Ridge	Jeff Gori	- falconridge@wsosoa.org
RRCC	Mark Holte	- RRCC@wsosoa.org
Tidrick Property	Rick Tidrick	- tidrickproperty@wsosoa.org
Willowbrook	Tom Weeks (President)	- willowbrook@wsosoa.org