

**Resolution 07-2024**

**A RESOLUTION REPLACING THE EXISTING TRAILS MASTER PLAN WITH AN UPDATED 2024 VERSION.**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Park City, Utah, has a desire to create a sustainable, world-class recreational trail system within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Land Management Code, the Trails Master Plan provides guidance and parameters for which recreational trails are provided through the development process or implemented on city-owned property, in compliance with [Sensitive Lands Overlay Review Process](#); and

WHEREAS, numerous factors, including but not limited to the need to adopt updated definitions and standards which are nationally recognized, the growth and evolution of recreation within the region, and ever-changing technology, support the reimagination of the Trails Master Plan;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF PARK CITY, UTAH, THAT:

The Park City Council adopts the updated version of the Trails Master Plan, attached as Exhibit A, which replaces the existing Trails Master Plan, adopted on March 27, 2003, and last updated in 2008.

This resolution is passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

PARK CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

DocuSigned by:  
*Tana Toly*  
E0F301728DA043D...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tana Toly, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:



DocuSigned by:  
*Michelle Kellogg*  
E5F905BB533F431...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Kellogg, City Recorder

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:  
*Margaret Plane*  
11B5B6E4ACE34C7...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney's Office



# PARK CITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN

2024





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>3</b>	Introduction and Purpose
<b>7</b>	Trails Master Plan Annual Review and Planning Purpose
<b>8</b>	Trails and Facility Definitions, and Standards
<b>12</b>	Park City Trails & Open Space General Restrictions
<b>13</b>	Policies and Ordinances
<b>13</b>	Goals and Objectives
<b>15</b>	Development Process and Liability
<b>17</b>	Budgeting and Resources



# INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The Park City Trails Master Plan (TMP) serves as a supplementary guide to the Park City General Plan, the Land Management Code, the Active Transportation Plan, and the Recreation Master Plan. Its purpose is to facilitate passive, non-motorized recreation and establish a framework for the design, planning, development, management, and maintenance of the trail system and associated amenities. The responsibility of implementing this plan lies with the Trails & Open Space Department, in accordance with the directives and approvals of the City Council. While the TMP does not aim to resolve all the challenges related to the trail system, it provides general guidance for both short-term and long-term planning on an annual basis.

## Trails & Open Space Department Mission

*The Trails & Open Space Department manages and maintains Park City's public trails and passive open spaces for the benefit of residents and visitors, consistent with City Council direction.*

At the Trails & Open Space Department, our mission is to oversee and preserve Park City's public trails and serene open spaces for the well-being and enjoyment of both residents and visitors. With unwavering commitment, we diligently manage and maintain these natural resources under the guidance provided by the Park City Council. By fostering a harmonious connection between people and nature, we strive to enhance the quality of life within our community while promoting sustainable recreation and environmental stewardship in perpetuity. You can find more information on the Trails & Open Space Department [parkcity.org/departments/trails-open-space](https://parkcity.org/departments/trails-open-space).

## Trails & Open Space Department History

Nestled in the scenic Wasatch Back, Park City, Utah, sits on ancestral land that has been inhabited for thousands of years by various Native American tribes, including the Ute, Shoshone, and Paiute. The Ute Tribe, in particular, has a significant historical connection to the region. They are one of the oldest residents of Utah and have lived in the area for centuries, utilizing its resources for sustenance, trade, and cultural practices.

Before European settlement, the Ute people roamed across vast territories, including present-day Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming. They were semi-nomadic, following seasonal patterns of hunting, gathering, and fishing. The land that is now Park City would have been part of their traditional territory.

The Ute Tribe's presence and influence persisted even as European settlers arrived in the 19th century, drawn by the discovery of valuable mineral deposits, particularly silver and lead. The influx of settlers led to conflicts with Native American tribes over land rights, resources, and cultural differences, which ultimately resulted in a dramatic shift in land use practices as mineral extraction dominated the landscape.

Today, Park City, UT, stands as a multi-season resort community, offering a diverse landscape encompassing mountainous terrain, peaks soaring over 10,000 feet, high desert expanses, and alpine environments. A unique feature distinguishing Park City from other mountain resort communities is its limited federal land holdings. The consolidation of private land traces its origin to mining claims dating back to the turn of the 19th century, which in turn was consolidated by major mining entities like United Park City Mines.

As mining activity waned, the private properties evolved into the ski resorts that now occupy nearly half of the City's acreage. Primarily designed for winter recreation, these resorts also play a pivotal role in shaping the City's summer recreational offerings.



The City Council adopted the first Trails Master Plan in 1983. The document underwent its last revision in 2008. The evolution of the trail system aligns closely with the creation of additional trail options on publicly owned open spaces or within resort areas. Despite serving as a tool to ensure developments provide adequate public benefit, the availability of developable parcels within the community remains limited.

In 1992, the Mountain Trails Foundation emerged as a non-profit trail advocacy program, singularly dedicated to creating and maintaining trails and trail access. Today, Park City boasts an impressive network of approximately 200 miles of trails and pathways, within City-limits, offering diverse experiences (refer to the exhibit for a breakdown of miles and types).

Beyond the confines of the resorts, large-scale developments such as Lower Deer Valley, Solamere, April Mountain, and Aspen Springs were mandated to allocate open space parcels during their planning and development phases. The community's commitment to preserving open spaces further materialized with the 1991 acquisition of the McPolin Barn and subsequent endeavors funded by general obligation bond initiatives. Since 1998, Park City residents have embraced five open space bond initiatives, collectively amounting to \$113 million. These funds, sourced from general obligation bonds, sales tax bonds, and the City's strategic planning, have enabled the preservation of approximately 10,000 acres through fee title, conservation easement, and development processes.

Developing and maintaining open spaces involves more than just caring for trails. It includes activities such as weed mitigation, wildfire prevention, and preserving natural resources. Additionally, adopted policies and programs, require management, monitoring and when applicable, enforcement as provided by the Trails & open Space Ranger Program. This comprehensive approach is achieved through collaboration with various City departments and key partners.



# PARK CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

The Trails & Open Space Department in Park City is essential for maintaining and improving the City's natural areas and recreational spaces. With a small but dedicated team, they work closely with key partners to ensure the well-being of trails and open spaces. The department currently operates from the third floor of City Hall, but there's a pressing need for a permanent space that provides better public access and more robust public outreach opportunities and a workspace to efficiently manage activities and supplies. As caretakers of Park City's trails and open areas, the department plays a vital role in promoting outdoor activities and environmental conservation. Additionally, several other City departments collaborate to ensure the success of trail planning and implementation:

- **Planning:** Processes land use applications for compliance with the General Plan and Land Management Code, in addition to confirming trail projects align with the community vision.
- **Transportation Planning/Engineering:** Focuses on improving walkability through the development of paved multi-use pathways and sidewalks as part of the active transportation network, while also providing connectivity to trailheads and open spaces.
- **Parks and Streets:** Provides asset management and maintenance to area trailheads and multi-use pathways.
- **Special Events:** Coordinates events on the trails, enhancing community engagement.
- **Communications:** Disseminate trail and open space information and engage the public in the project planning and implementation process.
- **Public Safety & Emergency Management:** Ensures trail user safety and develops emergency response protocols. Trail Rangers operate on Summit County dispatch system for assistance in trail/trailhead related issues/emergencies.
- **Parking Services:** Facilitates Trails & Open Space parking enforcement functions through administrative services and software support. Enhances overall parking management in Park City by providing additional physical presence at various times of the year and utilizes their ticketing and database system for effective enforcement.

These departments work collaboratively to comprehensively develop and maintain the trail network, contributing to the overall well-being of residents and visitors in Park City.

## KEY PARTNERS

Similar collaboration is required with key community partners. From fundraising, marketing, outreach, and special projects, these four partners are vital to the success of the open spaces and trails:

- **Mountain Trails Foundation (MTF):** Founded in 1992, the Mountain Trails Foundation builds, maintains and advocates for public trails within the greater Park City Community. For more than two decades, PCMC has contracted with MTF to provide seasonal trail maintenance and construction. | [mountaintrails.org](http://mountaintrails.org)
- **Summit Land Conservancy (SLC):** Holds 15 easements and provides monitoring services either in partnership with Park City Municipal or independently. These include Deer Valley - Empire Lady Morgan, Deer Valley - Empire Ski Area, Prospect Ridge, Silver King, Gambel Oak, Iron Mountain, Library Field, McPolin Farmlands, Old Ranch Hills - City, Rail Trail, Richards' Ranch, Risner Ridge, Round Valley - Bilogio, Round Valley - Cranbrook, Round Valley - Gillmor, Round Valley - Grover, Round Valley - McMillen, UP&L Main Street, Virginia Mining Claims. | [wesaveland.org](http://wesaveland.org)



- **Utah Open Lands (UOL):** Holds 6 easements and provides monitoring services on parcels totaling 1,975 acres. The parcels include Willow Ranch Preserve, Kerry and William Melbourne Armstrong Barn and Pastures Heritage Preserve, Bonanza Flat Conservation Area, Armstrong Family Thaynes Canyon Preserve, Armstrong Snow Ranch Pastures, and the North Round Valley Preserve. | [utahopenlands.org](http://utahopenlands.org)
- **Snyderville Basin Special Recreation District (SBSRD):** Established in 1986, Basin Recreation owns and manages nearly 2,300 acres of open space and has built and/or maintains 170 miles of trails adjacent to Park City limits in western Summit County. | [basinrecreation.org](http://basinrecreation.org)
- **Park City Mountain and Deer Valley Resort:** Numerous public trails traverse the resort boundaries and are integral to the connectivity of the entire system. These trails have been dedicated to public use through the planning process. Additionally, the resorts sell passes to provide summer lift access to the system. In recent years, Deer Valley Resort funded and constructed numerous 'flow' trails, without public dedication.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Park City's expansive trail system encompasses approximately two hundred miles of diverse recreational opportunities, primarily situated within open spaces and resort areas, easily accessible from town and neighborhoods. The trail types are cataloged below with brief descriptions, providing a snapshot of the variety within the system.



Category	Quantity*
<b>Property</b>	
City-Owned Open Space (acres)	4898
Dedicated Development Open Space (acres)	5291
Conservation Easements	25
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
Trailheads/Kiosks	19
Vault Toilets	6
Trash Receptacles	62
Mutt Mitt Station	46
Signs	Many

Trails (Summer/Miles)	
Recreational Backcountry Trails: These trails form the backbone of Park City's trail network	172
Multi-Use Hard Surface (8' wide or greater)	15
Multi-Use Natural Surface (5' wide or greater)	9
Directional Uphill (bikes): Trails where downhill bicycles traffic is prohibited. Examples: Armstrong and Mother Urban	11
Directional Downhill (bikes): Primarily constructed for downhill biking. Examples include Seldom Seen and Change Reaction	25
Hiking Only: Trails exclusively for hiking. Examples include Quarry Mountain and Dawns Trails	23
E-bike Permitted: Specifically designed for e-bike usage, regardless of age or mobility exceptions	5
Trails (Winter/Miles)	
Groomed XC Skiing/Multi-Use**	44
Groomed Singletrack Fat Biking/Multi-Use	26

\*Approximate

\*\*Includes White Pine Touring Fee Area

# TRAILS MASTER PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW AND PLANNING PURPOSE

The Trails & Open Space Department will present the Trails Master Plan to the Planning Commission for review and City Council for adoption once annually. This annual update will focus on proposed trail projects to be implemented over the next few years. It is the intent to review the Trails Master Plan once every three years per the [Sensitive Lands Overlay Review Process](#), as required within the [Land Management Code \(LMC\)](#).

## KEY COMPONENTS

**Annual Review:** The Trails Master Plan is designed to undergo an annual review by the Planning Commission and City Council. This structured review process ensures that new capital projects, and trail policies, are reviewed holistically to the standards outlined in the Park City Land Management Code. This commitment ensures that trail development, maintenance, and policies are in harmony with the City's budgeting and regulatory framework, promoting responsible land management practices.



- **Trails Master Plan:** Land Management Code Section 15-2.21-2(D). "Trails proposed to be constructed in compliance with a Trails Master Plan that has been fully reviewed for compliance with this Chapter by the Planning Commission and adopted by the City Council require an Administrative Permit at the time of trail construction with wetland and Significant Vegetation evaluation only. The Trails Master Plan shall be reviewed for Significant Land Overlay compliance at least once every three years."
- Specifically, to preserve and protect environmentally sensitive lands consistent with the LMC, trails shall consider mitigation of applicable criteria, including ridgelines, steep slopes, stream corridors, wetlands and wildlife habitats.
- If necessary, mitigation efforts will be consistent with best practices and recognized by the nationally recognized and adopted IMBA guidelines.
  - Mitigation efforts, if necessary, may include but are not limited to:
    - Hand built construction methods to mitigate impacts to view corridors or construction on steep slopes.
    - Sustainable stream crossings, boardwalks, or bridges to protect sensitive waterways or wetlands.
    - Replacement of Significant Vegetation to prioritized locations or dedicated forest health enhancements in the project area.
    - Seasonal trail closures to mitigate impacts to identified and documented wildlife.

**Transparency and Public Outreach:** The Trails Master Plan provides definitions, design standards and a map of current and proposed trail projects or major improvements. The annual meeting highlights aspects of the plan and appropriate public notice and transparency. It also allows for educational opportunities and outreach per etiquette and responsible trail behavior.

**Flexibility and Responsiveness:** Recognizing the dynamic nature of outdoor recreation and community needs, the Trails Master Plan is designed for adaptability. It allows for regular updates and adjustments to respond to emerging trends, technological advancements, and changing environmental considerations. A commitment to continuous improvement, maintenance and preservation is at the core of the Trails Master Plan. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms are integrated to identify opportunities for enhancement, ensuring the plan remains a living document that evolves alongside the community it serves. By establishing this Trails Master Plan with a commitment to regular review, public engagement, and adherence to regulatory frameworks, we aim to create a resilient and vibrant trail system that enriches the quality of life for all residents and visitors of Park City.

## TRAILS AND FACILITY DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS

Trails and related facilities and infrastructure are designed and managed for specific purposes to allow for a more harmonic use by the public. Surface standards, widths, amenities and programming all play a part in the overall management of the system. Below are definitions, standards and guidelines utilized throughout the plan and in policies and regulations. They are provided for consistency in evaluation, policies, ordinances, and discussion points.

**Multi-Use Pathways:** Multi-Use Pathways are versatile recreational routes that accommodate various non-motorized activities. These pathways not only serve as essential components of the active transportation network but also offer opportunities for different recreational pursuits. Traditionally constructed with a minimum width of 8 feet, these trails may be constructed with either Hard or Natural surfaces.

**Hard Surface:** Serving as the spine of Park City and its surroundings, these hard-surfaced trails, typically constructed with asphalt or concrete materials, are ideal for commuters, walkers, skateboarders, roller skiers, and in certain areas are groomed in winter for skiing. Connecting schools, businesses, open spaces, and neighborhoods. Examples include McLeod Creek and Rail Trail. [The National Association of City Transportation Officials \(NACTO\)](#), provides nationally recognized guidelines for the design and management of these facilities.

**Natural Surface:** Positioned within open spaces, these wide pathways, typically constructed with road base material, offer a more rustic option for users. Groomed for skiing in winter, they allow side-by-side passage and seamlessly integrate with the natural environment.

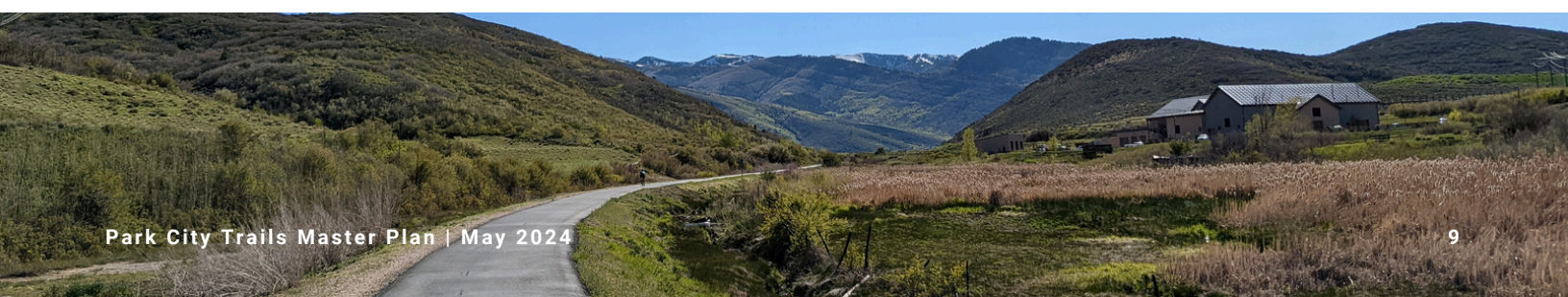
**Recreational/Backcountry Trails:** Recreational Trails, sometimes referred to as "Backcountry" or "Singletrack," trails enable access to and within dedicated open spaces and recreational areas. Typically, natural surface, two to four feet in width these trails can be managed in different ways, including multi-directional or directional routing, or for specific/segregated usage patterns, depending on whether they provide management benefits or cater to specific user needs. [The International Mountain Bike Association \(IMBA\)](#) Trail Solutions Program provides nationally recognized standards and guidelines for the development of these facilities.

**Neighborhood Trails:** Neighborhood trails are integral parts of planned developments, typically identified within the subdivision process, where developers dedicate trail amenities for public use. These trails are designed to serve residents within the immediate vicinity, enhancing connectivity and promoting outdoor recreation.

**Wayfinding:** Wayfinding refers to signage and navigational aids within the trail system that assist users in finding their way. Wayfinding can take various forms, including carsonite signage, signposts with placards, kiosks, stencils/markings, and online maps or media. These aids help users navigate and understand the trail network effectively.

**Amenities:** Amenities associated with the trail system enhance user experiences and convenience. Common trail amenities include trash receptacles, mutt mitt stations (for pet waste disposal), trailhead cameras, maps, fix-it stations (for bicycle maintenance), benches, and public art installations. These amenities contribute to the overall enjoyment and functionality of the trail system

**Rail Trail:** The Historic Union Pacific Railroad underwent a significant transformation through the national Rails to Trails movement, culminating in its dedication as a Utah State Park in 1992. This 26-mile trail, tracing the path of an old rail bed from Echo, UT, to Park City, and has become a cherished route for outdoor enthusiasts. In 2023, the Park City Municipal Corporation (PCMC) took a proactive step by entering into an Interlocal Agency Agreement to oversee a 2.75-mile section of the trail, extending from Bonanza Drive to SR-248. This strategic move solidifies PCMC's commitment to the preservation and enhancement of this historical and recreational asset. Guiding the future development and operations of this trail segment is the Rail Trail Master Plan. This comprehensive plan outlines proposed improvements and operational guidelines for the corridor, ensuring that the trail continues to serve the community and visitors alike. For further details on the Rail Trail Master Plan, you can refer to the [Rail Trail Master Plan](#).





**Winter Trails:** Winter Trails are designated and maintained for various winter activities, including Nordic or cross-country skiing, fat biking, snowshoeing and walking. These trails undergo specific grooming and maintenance practices to ensure safe and enjoyable experiences during the winter season. Many of these activities require wide trails to accommodate the use. Historically, area pathways and double tracks, typically located within community open spaces have been utilized for this facility; however, continued development of this resource should consider the following considerations for future development.

**Annual Maintenance:** To prepare trails for winter use crews mow tall grasses and clear brush up to sixteen (16) feet wide, to enable grooming services with minimal snowfall. Furthermore, markers are strategically positioned along the trails to aid in maintenance identification, especially during times of poor visibility. These steps guarantee that Winter Trails are adequately prepared and user-friendly, promoting safety and enhancing the overall trail experience.

**Amenities:** Recommended amenities that the community should consider for Winter Trails include warming huts, storage facilities for groomers and equipment, signage, and designated maintenance areas. Ensuring sufficient parking or transit services is crucial, given the likelihood of users driving to the facility. Additionally, considering snowmaking can help maintain consistent trail conditions during periods of low snowfall. Furthermore, addressing a glaring omission in the winter trail system, and aligning it more consistently with Park City's designation as an Olympic venue, the community should contemplate the development of a biathlon facility to foster youth programming and nurture future Olympians.

**Design Guidelines:** The Trails & Open Space Department has researched and developed the following design guidelines for the development of cross-country skiing:

- Trails should ideally be 14-20 feet wide, depending on terrain and management purposes.
- Beginner trails typically have grades less than 10%, while intermediate to advanced trails may have grades up to 30%. In rare instances, trails may reach up to 40% for short distances.
- Clearing height should accommodate grooming practices.
- Environmental considerations include minimizing side cuts, managing water flow, blending materials with natural surroundings, and investigating rehabilitation/reforestation.
- Forest coverage should be maintained, and snow fencing utilized to preserve snow conditions in low snow areas, while rocky or wetland areas should be avoided.
- Trails should favor north-facing slopes for better snow retention.
- Trail surfaces should follow natural contours, with drainage managed using grade reversals, rolling grade dips, and out sloping techniques.

**Park City Municipal Golf Course:** One standout winter feature is the City's municipal golf course, which hosts a Nordic concessionaire agreement. This agreement facilitates the operation of a full Nordic center, complete with lessons, rentals, and guided tours. Although these services and trails require a fee, they are immensely popular, catering to youth programming, collegiate athletes, and even Olympic contenders seeking optimal training conditions.



**Trailheads/Parking:** While Park City has often embraced the concept of 'your garage is your trailhead', providing parking and access to the trail system is necessary for an efficient and world-class facility. Strategic planning and integration of trail access and parking should prioritize dedicated trailheads over on-street parking whenever possible, recognizing that existing permitted or platted trails within established neighborhoods may limit such changes. These prioritized trailheads should be designated as standalone parking areas, featuring amenities such as kiosks, public art, maps, trash receptacles, restrooms, and other conveniences and consider transit service options.

Additionally, having separate, dedicated entrances where cars can back out without entering the road, when feasible, is preferable. Finally, in a continued effort to mitigate parking congestion at popular trail destinations, like Bloods Lake, 'Trailhead Cameras' have been placed, so users can visualize parking conditions before leaving home and plan accordingly. A link to the current site is posted on the Trails & Open Space webpage: [parkcitytrails.org/parking-cams](http://parkcitytrails.org/parking-cams).



**Existing Facilities and Classifications:** The Trails & Open Space Department has established a classification rating based on the presence of restroom facilities, as well as an illustration of existing facilities.

Trailhead Name	Class Level	Parking Spots	Bathrooms	Trail Information	Winter Maintenance	Winter Maintained Trail Access	Mutt Mitt Station	On Transit Route	Maintenance Party
Quinn's Round Valley	1	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		PCMC
North Round Valley	1	12 + Oversize Vehicles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	BSRD
Old Ranch Road	2	9		✓	✓		✓		BSRD
Cove	2	8		✓	✓		✓		PCMC
Sunny Slopes	2	12		✓	✓	✓	✓		PCMC
The Farm	2	22	✓ (at Barn)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PCMC
Meadows	2	18				✓		✓	PCMC
McLeod Creek	2	10		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	PCMC
Rail Trail	2	19		✓	✓	✓		✓	PCMC
PC Hill	2	20		✓	✓		✓		PCMC
Daly	2	17		✓	✓		✓		PCMC
Ontario Mine	2	8		✓	✓		✓	✓	PCMC
Mid Mountain	2	25			✓				PCMC
Aeire	3	2			✓				PCMC
Empire Pass View Area	1	15	✓	✓			✓		PCMC
Bonanza Flat Trailhead	1	39+ Oversize vehicles	✓				✓		PCMC
Bloods Lake Trailhead	1	60	✓				✓		PCMC
Guardsman Pass View Area	1	6 - Short term/Drop off	✓						PCMC

**Easement:** A perpetual public (exclusive or non-exclusive) dedication of public access, across a property for the purpose of establishing public trails. Ideally, these easements should be secured during the development phase and officially recorded on relevant plats. However, the practical implementation of easements must consider the landscape and ecological factors beyond the development phase. With this in mind, it may be necessary to annotate plats subsequent to their initial creation to accurately document easements within a dedicated corridor to ensure the credibility of the desired public improvement.

In cases where easements are not obtained during initial development, individual projects may necessitate budget allocation and funding to procure additional easements from property owners. These acquisitions are crucial for expanding the trail network and ensuring its integrity.

The following minimum easement widths are recommended based on the type of trail:

- Backcountry/Singletrack Trails: a minimum width of 10 feet.
- Multi-Use Pathways: a minimum width of 20 feet.



# PARK CITY TRAILS & OPEN SPACE GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

To ensure the safety, enjoyment, and preservation of our open spaces and trails, the following rules and regulations are hereby established:

- **Trailhead Hours:** Trailhead access is permitted from one hour prior to sunrise until one hour after sunset. Users are advised to plan their activities accordingly and respect these time limits.
- **Motorized Vehicles:** The use of unauthorized motorized vehicles on trails and open spaces is strictly prohibited. However, the following exemptions are recognized:
  - Emergency vehicles
  - Vehicles authorized through a special event process
  - Authorized construction or maintenance vehicles
- **Closed Areas:** Access to closed open space lands is strictly prohibited. Users must adhere to all signage indicating closed, seasonal, maintenance, or other specific restrictions. Note that seasonal, temporary, or emergency closures may be in effect at any given time.
- **Camping Restrictions:** Unauthorized camping is strictly prohibited at all trailheads and on any open space properties.
- **Fires:** Open burning is prohibited within the open spaces and trail areas unless it is part of an authorized wildfire mitigation project.
- **Resource Protection:**
  - Vandalism or damage to any Open Space and Trails property is strictly prohibited.
  - It is unlawful to alter, move, remove, damage, or destroy any structures, signs, vegetation, or objects of value within the open spaces and trails.
  - Users must dispose of trash, litter, or waste only in designated containers.
  - Dog owners must adhere to posted regulations, including picking up after their pets to maintain cleanliness and prevent environmental contamination.
  - Any construction, excavation, or erection of structures is strictly prohibited without explicit authorization.
  - Travel off designated trails, whether by hiking, bicycle or any other means, is prohibited to protect the integrity of the natural habitat.
  - Special Events or large gatherings may be required to attain additional permits prior to taking place.
  - Additional use restrictions may be posted on properties for management purposes. These may include but are not limited to e-bikes, dogs, commercial use, or other activities determined by the City Council or through an adopted conservation easement or other.
- **Wildlife Protection:** The hunting, trapping, harming, or disturbing of wildlife within the open spaces and trails is strictly prohibited unless otherwise specifically authorized by the Park City Municipal Corporation.



These rules and regulations are posted at all major trailheads within the system. All users are expected to familiarize themselves with these rules and regulations and to act responsibly to ensure the preservation and enjoyment of Park City's trails and open spaces for current and future generations. Violations may result in penalties as prescribed by law.

## POLICIES AND ORDINANCES

The City Council has implemented distinct ordinances and administrative policies addressing various trail and open space activities and projects. These policies aim to address and mitigate potential adverse effects. Additionally, the Master Plan identifies additional policies, the Council may consider for the future to further enhance the management of trails and open spaces, demonstrating a commitment to continually adapting and improving strategies in response to evolving needs and challenges.

### Existing Policies

- The Special Events-Trail Policy: The [Policy](#) defines a special event and establishes parameters and fees for hosting events on the trails, ensuring minimal disruption and maintaining their integrity.
- Donation Policy: Outlines procedures for accepting and utilizing private donations on open spaces and the trail system. The large majority of these donations are for benches in the open spaces and are memorial in nature
  - This policy is slated for review and edits in 2024.
- Designated Off-Leash Area: Ordinance [7-3-2 Dogs Running at Large](#) outlines parameters under which owners in the care or custody of dogs in public are required to leash their animals. The Ordinance recognizes designated 'off-leash' areas, such as the Round Valley Open Space, as places where voice and sight control measures are allowed.
- Electric Assisted Bicycles (E-Bikes): Ordinance [10-1-4.5 Non-Motorized Trail Use](#) regulates the use of e-bikes on pathways and e-mountain bikes on natural surface trails within Park City Limits.

### Policies for Future Consideration

- Commercial Use: The City may contemplate implementing a commercial use policy in response to the escalating popularity and utilization of its system, particularly in tourism, the economy, and recreational outdoor tours, it is imperative to establish a policy that ensures any commercial use adheres to best practices, is adequately insured, complies with regulations, and, if deemed appropriate, contributes fees to mitigate the impacts associated with commercial use.
  - If directed, the Trails & Open Space Department will return with a draft policy in 2024.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A stakeholder group consisting of elected officials, appointed planning commissioners, the Mountain Trails Foundation, representatives from Deer Valley and Park City Mountain, Basin Recreation, and PCMC planners met several times over the summer of 2023 to develop goals and objectives for the master plan. Both have been formulated into a plan, in which subsequent projects and policies may support or advance. That said, these are not directives and may not address policies and procedures currently in place, such as continued preservation and acquisition of public access easements or communication goals and strategies. They represent a snapshot in time for the system in which projects and actions should advance.



## **Goal 1: Enhance Trail Design and Diversity**

### *Objective 1.1: Adhere to Trail Design Standards*

- Follow guidelines set by IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) and BLM (Bureau of Land Management) for trail design to ensure quality and safety.

### *Objective 1.2: Consider Environmental Impacts and Sensitive Land Overlay (SLO) Requirements*

- Evaluate and address potential impacts during trail design and construction, complying with applicable Sensitive Lands Overlay (SLO) requirements.

### *Objective 1.3: Foster Diversity of Trail Types*

- Develop a range of trail types to cater to different needs:
- Seasonal trails to accommodate varying weather conditions and protect sensitive areas.
- Directional/purpose-built trails to provide specific recreational experiences.
- Adaptive design trails to facilitate growing accessibility for all users.
- Multi-use trails to accommodate various non-motorized activities.

## **Goal 2: Maintain and Manage Trails Effectively**

- *Objective 2.1: Implement Comprehensive Maintenance Practices*
- Establish a regular maintenance schedule and allocate resources for year-to-year upkeep and maintenance.
- Conduct trail tread reviews to identify areas in need of repair or improvement.
- Develop a mapping system and maintenance history to optimize maintenance operations.

### *Objective 2.2: Utilize Trail Rangers*

- Deploy Trail Rangers to monitor trails, provide user assistance and education, and ensure compliance with trail rules and regulations.

### *Objective 2.3: Manage Trailheads*

- Include trailheads in asset management systems to ensure proper maintenance and upkeep.
- Allocate budget resources for trailhead amenities, such as signage, facilities, webcams and parking.

### *Objective 2.4: Enhance Wayfinding Systems*

- Incorporate wayfinding signage into asset management and allocate appropriate budget resources for installation and maintenance.

## **Goal 3: Enhance Trail Experience and Accessibility**

### *Objective 3.1: Utilize Data Analytics for Trail Monitoring*

- Collect and analyze trail usage data to understand trail demand, usage patterns, and user preferences.
- Implement a regular review process based on data insights.

### *Objective 3.2: Install Permanent Trail Counters and Wildlife Cameras*

- Install automated counters to accurately measure trail usage and monitor wildlife activity.

### *Objective 3.3: Address Parking and Traffic Conflicts*

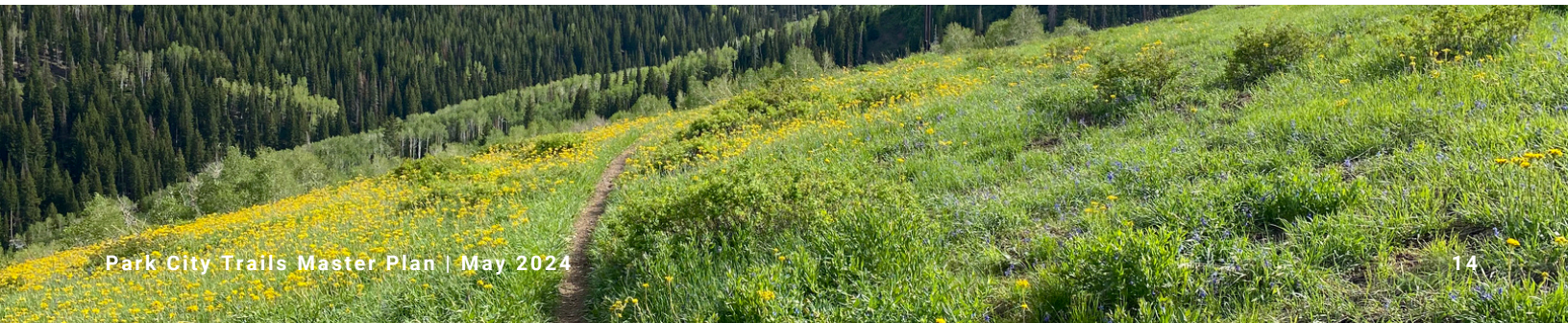
- Identify and resolve parking and traffic conflicts to enhance safety and user experience.

### *Objective 3.4: Embrace Technology and social media*

- Utilize social media platforms and technology to disseminate trail information, updates, and alerts to the public.

### *Objective 3.5: Improve Transit Options and Trailhead Connections*

- Improve transit options to provide convenient access to trails and trailheads.
- Enhance connections between neighborhoods and trails to encourage local residents' engagement.



## **Goal 4: Effective Implementation, Budgeting, and Partnerships**

### *Objective 4.1: Establish Winter and Summer Operations Distinctions*

- Evaluate and address specific operational needs for winter grooming operations and summer trail maintenance.

### *Objective 4.2: Streamline Budgeting and Grant Processes*

- Develop a clear and transparent budgeting process, including grant application procedures, to secure necessary funding.
- Develop policies and guidelines for budget allocation and resource management.

### *Objective 4.3: Foster Community Involvement in Implementation*

- Engage the community in trail system implementation through public consultations, workshops, and volunteer programs.

### *Objective 4.4: Ensure Adequate Funding for Projects and Maintenance*

- Advocate for sufficient funding to support new trail projects, ongoing maintenance, and operation requirements.

### *Objective 4.5: Recognize Capacity and Cost Factors of Winter Trail Needs*

- Consider the unique capacity and cost implications of winter trail maintenance and allocate appropriate resources.

### *Objective 4.6: Evaluate Staffing & Resource Needs*

- Assess and allocate necessary staffing and resources to effectively manage and maintain the trail system.
- Hire and retain staff high-quality individuals.

### *Objective 4.7: Partnerships*

- Leverage expertise, fundraising and other opportunities with key partners and stakeholders for the benefit of public trails.

# **DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND LIABILITY**

Park City's Land Management Code (LMC) provides a framework for the assessment, review and regulations of proposed developments within City-limits. Applications associated with annexations, master planned developments, and subdivisions, specifically address developer obligations related to improvements and public benefits associated with the dedication of open space and trails and trail related infrastructure. The Park City Land Management Code (LMC) is "designed, enacted, restated and reorganized to implement the goals and policies of the Park City General Plan." From the 2014 General Plan, goal number 4 is to "conserve a connected, healthy network of open space for continued access to and respect for the Natural Setting." Goals 9, 10, and 11 within the General Plan also contribute to advancing the objectives and purposes in the Trails Master Plan.

*Goal 9: "Park City will continue to provide unparalleled parks and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors."*

*Goal 10: "Park City will provide world-class recreation and public infrastructure to host local, regional, national, and international events that further Park City's role as a world-class, multi-seasonal destination resort while maintaining a balance with our sense of community."*

*Goal 11: "Support the continued success of the multi-seasonal tourism economy while preserving the community character that adds to the visitor experience."*



The LMC upholds the General Plan's goals through Land Use Application review, which includes: Annexation petitions, Zone changes, Master Planned Developments, Plat Amendments, Subdivisions, and/or Conditional Use Permits. The review of these applications often includes the Applicant's responsibilities concerning improvements and public benefits linked to the dedication of open space, trails, and trail-related infrastructure within the affected property.

When evaluating potential trail and access points, it's essential to prioritize opportunities that enhance connectivity within the existing system. Furthermore, during these evaluation processes, the aspects of parking and public access should be given significant preference. The Trails Master Plan Map (Exhibit A) identifies conceptual trail improvements that should be considered through each review.

## KEY GUIDELINES

- **Easement Preference:** Easements should ideally be dedicated on a plat and subsequently recorded with Summit County. This ensures clarity and legal standing for the trails and access routes into the future. Easements should provide for quality trail experiences and consider alignments based on topography and vegetation, not just the remaining aspects of undevelopable land.
  - Typical backcountry trail easements require a minimum of 10' in width and may require a professional trail designer to locate the trail appropriately in terms of grades and topography.
  - Neighborhood Trail easements may vary depending on the intent but typically range from 10-20' in width and should provide efficient and logical connections within and through the development.
  - Multi-use pathway easements typically require a minimum of 20' in width and should provide efficient and logical connections to existing facilities or destinations.
- **Construction Standards:** Trails should be constructed to meet the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) guidelines and shall be constructed by contractors who have prior experience.
- **Permanent Easements:** The City leans towards the establishment of permanent easements to ensure longevity and consistency in trail access. Revocable or easements with sunsets should only be considered under special circumstances.
- **Improvements, Phases and Dedications:**
  - **Open Space:** It is the preference of the City to have open space dedicated through fee title, before the beginning of development.
  - **Phases/Timing:** The timing of trail development may vary depending on the specific circumstances of each case. The City might require construction during the initial phase of a project or opt to postpone improvements to later stages of a development to prevent public use within areas undergoing active construction or development.
  - **Improvements:** The City prioritizes overseeing all backcountry trail work financed by a development to guarantee high-quality outcomes. Meanwhile, developers may be responsible for constructing additional amenities such as trailheads, stairs, or other enhancements, subject to review and approval by a designated City representative.

### Landowner Liability

To address concerns raised by landowners and developers regarding trail access and potential liability, the following legal provisions offer protections:

- **Limitations on Landowner Liability:**
  - The Utah Code Annotated §§57-14-101 through 401 (Limitations on Landowner Liability - Relating to Recreational Use) provide protection for the dedication, construction, and operation of public trails.
  - This legislation limits the liability of public and private landowners towards individuals who enter their land as trespassers or for recreational purposes.

- **Inherent Risks of Certain Activities:**

- UCA §§57-14-401 and 78B-4-509(2) and (3) (Inherent Risks of Certain Activities) further safeguard the owners of property used for recreational purposes.
- These provisions state that individuals cannot make claims or seek recovery from landowners for personal injury or property damage caused by the inherent risks associated with participating in recreational activities on the land.

- **Indemnification and Hold Harmless:**

- Trail easements include standard language that indemnifies landowners and holds them harmless from any loss, damage, injury, or death resulting from acts or omissions by PCMC and its invitees.
- This provision ensures that landowners are protected from liability arising from the actions of PCMC and those authorized by PCMC to access the trails.

By adhering to these liability protections, landowners can have greater confidence in granting trail access and contributing to the development of a safe and enjoyable trail system

## BUDGETING AND RESOURCES

### Budget

Funds for trail enhancements and maintenance are sourced from various allocations during the annual budget deliberations. In the 2023 fiscal year, the Trails & Open Space Department has set aside \$732,100 for personnel and operational expenses, covering roles such as Department Manager, Project Manager, Coordinator, and Rangers. The Trails Master Plan account specifically backs projects and endeavors outlined in the master plan. The Open Space Maintenance fund supports the care and conservation of open spaces linked to the trail network. Furthermore, the Backcountry Trails Maintenance contract focuses on managing and upkeeping backcountry trails throughout the year. Impact Fees are earmarked for future projects to accommodate community growth. Through judicious distribution from these accounts, the department ensures adequate funding for both structural enhancements and ongoing upkeep, enhancing the trail experience for all.

### Project Planning

The capital budgeting process for significant new projects should be seamlessly integrated with the annual Trails Master Plan review, held each spring alongside broader budget considerations. This cohesive strategy ensures a thorough examination of proposed capital projects within the framework of the Trails Master Plan, emphasizing alignment with established goals and objectives. Rigorous adherence to conservation easement terms, land use restrictions, and compliance with planning regulations is integral to project evaluation. Prioritizing projects is a strategic endeavor aimed at maximizing efficiency with public funds and leveraging available grant opportunities, thereby optimizing the impact of trail-related initiatives within the community. Additionally, this holistic approach emphasizes the importance of understanding ongoing maintenance impacts stemming from new capital projects. Ensuring a well-maintained facility for both summer and winter use, if applicable, is a key consideration, reinforcing the commitment to responsible and strategic capital investment in support of the City's trail infrastructure.





Budget	Notes
Department Personnel and Structure	4 full-time Employees: Manager, Project Manager, Coordinator, 2 full-time Rangers, 2 part-time Rangers
Operations	Includes but not limited to contract funding for backcountry and winter maintenance, wildfire mitigation, noxious weed abatement, and the transit to trails program.
Capital	Trails Master Plan and Open Space CIP
Grants	Summit County Restaurant and RAP, Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation, Utah State RTP
Resources	Description
Major Resources Assets	Ford F-150 Superduty Truck Ski-doo Skandic Snowmobile Can Am Defender Pro XT Work-related tools and equipment PistenBully 100
Storage/Facility	Currently operating out of City-owned property on Marsac but needs to move operations to a suitable facility in 2024.
Groomed Singletrack Fat Biking/Multi-Use	26

## GRANTS

To secure funding for capital trail projects that bring significant benefits to the community, we will actively pursue various grants available to support these endeavors. Two specific opportunities include the Summit County RAP/Restaurant grants, which provides financial assistance specifically for recreational projects in Summit County. Additionally, we will explore opportunities with the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation, a valuable resource for securing funding for outdoor initiatives that align with our trail projects. The Recreation Trails Program is another avenue we will pursue, as it offers grants focused on enhancing and expanding recreational trail systems. Lastly, we will seek support from the Park City Chamber Sustainable Grant Program, which provides funding for projects that promote sustainability and contribute to the local community. By leveraging these grant opportunities, we aim to secure the necessary resources to realize our capital trail projects and create lasting benefits for our community.



# TRAILS MASTER PLAN MAP

