

ANNUAL REPORT

(APRIL 1, 2022 - MARCH 31, 2023)

tvtap.org



walk.
ski.
ride.

RAPID GROWTH AND INCREASED USE MAKES OUR WORK CRUCIAL FOR THE FUTURE

"Come for the mountains, stay for the people," is in so many words how I ended up here over a decade ago to be a ski bum "for just a year."

As I reflect on Trails & Pathways' accomplishments of 2022-23, it's worth noting that mountains, skiing, and people are vitally linked to our mission and everyday activities. From revitalizing the Fox Creek Canyon trail with our Wilderness Stewards to grooming winter trails for 52,000+ visitors to the Highway 33 safe travel corridor planning, our organization has made significant progress on advancing our vision of a trails and pathways connected community.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our staff, as well as the donors who support and fund our work.

The rapid expansion of our valley over the past few years has highlighted the need for TVTAP's work even more acute. Summer trails

that are well maintained and signed helps everyone enjoy their time. Increased winter snow and trail users threw a curveball (or feet of snow) at our 29 volunteer groomers and staff that required flexibility. And, the roads and highways are only becoming more clogged and dangerous, making the need for multi-modal transportation is convenient, that much more important. Whether you're fifth generation or on day five of your vacation, we appreciate your support of TVTAP and hope you continue to engage with the many projects we have ahead. I look forward to seeing you on the trails and pathways.



Corey McGrath
Board President

WORKING FOR AND IN THE COMMUNITY

For twenty-four years Trails and Pathways has worked in Teton Valley, advancing connections, building and maintaining year-round trails and generally making this place an even better place to live. We could not do that without the support of the community. I'd like to use this space and the next few pages to show you how your support is visible in Teton County.

Fiscal year 2023 demonstrated continued fiscal responsibility while advancing immediate work and planning on projects that might not take shape for another 5-10 years. While working on the long term vision, we added to our team, skied under lights, hosted a regional bike festival, won awards, cleared trails, strengthened partnerships, and invested in our community.

Those actions and principles will continue to guide our path forward in 2024 as we grow our winter program by adding capacity and a snowcat for grooming. We will also continue to leverage funds through grants to build new trail and acquire needed

assets. There will be continued work on Bureau of Land Management ground in the foothills of the Tetons and work on the Teton Creek Corridor project. Lastly, there are some pieces coming together for a Trail Creek greenbelt-style trail in Victor. The vision for this project was affirmed in the Victor Comprehensive Plan and we hope to help nudge it along where possible. If interested to know more, we always encourage you to reach out with questions.

Look for information soon on how you can help us celebrate 25 years this October!



Dan Verbeten
Executive Director



TETON VALLEY TRAILS & PATHWAYS WINTER

Responsible Asset Management Sustains Winter Trails

You've likely seen the stats from winter 22/23. Most miles groomed, most hours worked, most consecutive weeks of grooming, and fifty-two thousand visits to our trails. Our winter trails program is part of the spirit of our community during our long winter. To groom our six respective venues, we need to manage a fleet of equipment and tools. Full replacement value of this fleet is about \$175,000.

Let's rewind back to 2014 when the program was in a growth stage and we recognized much of our equipment was similar in age and depreciating. Trails & Pathways responded by raising \$100,000 to begin our asset rotation program. The goal was to stagger the large purchases for equipment so in any given year we did not have to replace multiple sets. Additionally, we turn over snowmobiles at around 7/8-year mark where they still hold value and we can still generate revenue through a sale. The asset rotation plan represented a maturing of the organization into our next phase.

Seven snowmobiles, five ginzu groomers, two trailers, an ATV, truck and numerous rollers and track setters later, we still maintain a strong balance in that fund and will continue to use to support programs, such as the Winter Trails Challenge, capital campaigns and traditional fundraisers. As you will see in the financials, we annually allocate money to the asset replacement fund to ensure we have tools that are effective and reduce maintenance. Fiscal year 2023 allowed us to further bolster the fund that we need to have for functional equipment for our staff and volunteers.



TETON VALLEY TRAILS & PATHWAYS SUMMER



DRIGGS PATHWAY

Community Connections for Student Safety

In fiscal year 2023, three pathway projects crossed the finish line and improved connectivity in 3 distinct areas of the County.

In late summer of 2022, pathway sections were built connecting to the new elementary schools, through funding allocated to Driggs and Victor. Both projects were funded through Transportation Alternatives Program funding allocated through Federal Government transportation dollars.

Driggs: The pathway on La Grand Pierre from Booshway west to Driggs Elementary was completed.

Victor: The newly constructed Baseline pathway connected neighborhoods from the north to the school and south to Sherman Park.

In these projects, Trails & Pathways takes on a quiet but important role. Our job is to be a valuable part of the planning process, helping to advance the progress of pathway construction. We provide information on logical connections to existing or future pathways that contributes to our vision of an integrated pathway system. Our team also brings stakeholders together to request letters of support, provide expertise and boost project exposure.

We stand on the lookout to make sure pathway projects are considered and folded into the planning process, even when it's outside our organization.

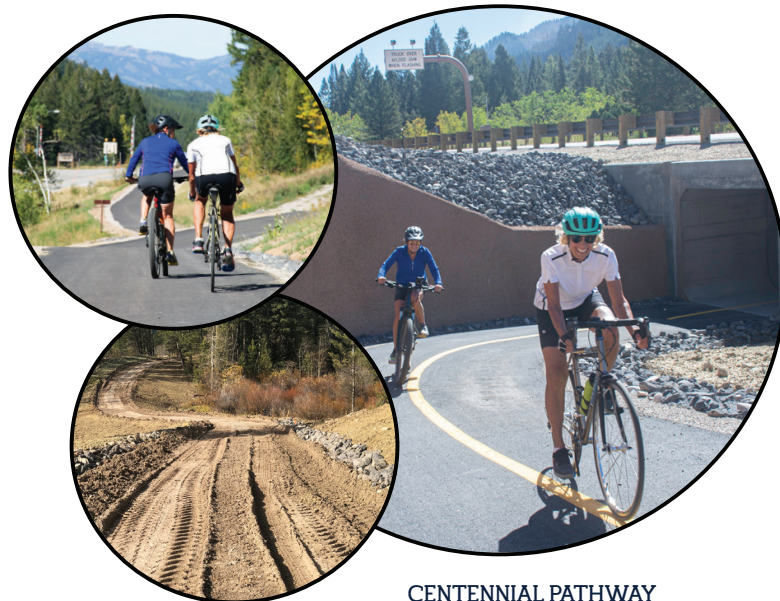


VICTOR PATHWAY

Patient persistence builds pathways

The Centennial Pathway project from Moose Creek to the Trail Creek Campground just across the border in WY. The original grant for this project was approved in 2014 and after nearly 10 years, the project was completed.

Pathway projects require that Trails and Pathways partners with local governments to complete projects. Because we are a non-profit, we cannot apply for the funds but are involved in planning and application processes. These three projects represent work over multiple years before completion. Patient persistence on our part helps keep projects moving while also looking to the next 10-year cycle. Unlike grooming where our impact is immediate, pathways projects require a long view.



CENTENNIAL PATHWAY



Progress on Fox Creek

The Wilderness Steward Program was busy, busy, busy in summer of 2022! In addition to numerous outings to clear trees from trails in the northern end of the Teton Range, the group reopened the trail along Fox Creek.

After years of neglect, Trails & Pathways worked with the Forest Service to reopen the historic trail which provides access to Grand Teton National Park and the Teton Crest Trail. For nearly 10 weeks, our group of stalwart volunteers met at the trailhead with crosscut saws, hand saws, wedges, axes, first aid kits and good humor. From there, the group hiked several miles clearing more than 80 trees from the trail. Prior to the cuts, it was nearly impossible to find the trail and users were creating small paths that veered away from the trail itself. In doing this critical work, it re-established the alignment of the trail.

Because the Fox Creek Trail is almost entirely in Wilderness, the group was limited to tools that required sweat equity (no power tools in Wilderness). Once a significant amount of clearing was done, the Forest Service then sent in a crew of Montana Conservation Corps to work to re-establish the trail tread in certain areas.

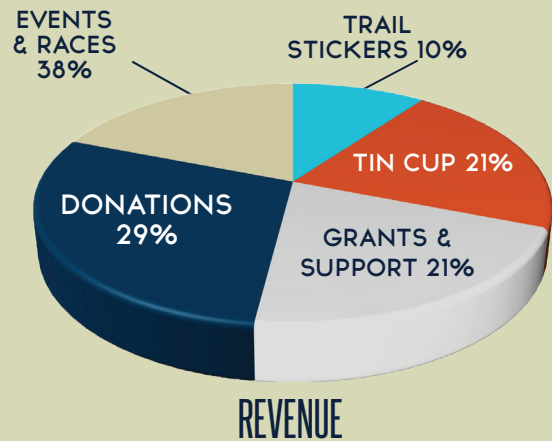
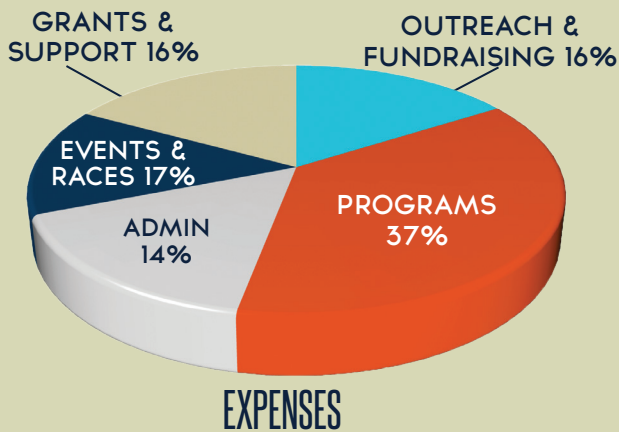
In total, our volunteers logged over 426 hours working on the Fox Creek Trail. With all this work, we are proud to say that the Fox Creek Trail is re-opened for use. Please note, this is still a wilderness trail with multiple stream crossings throughout. Parking at the trailhead is very limited so make sure you plan ahead and prepare and show up with appropriate expectations and gear.



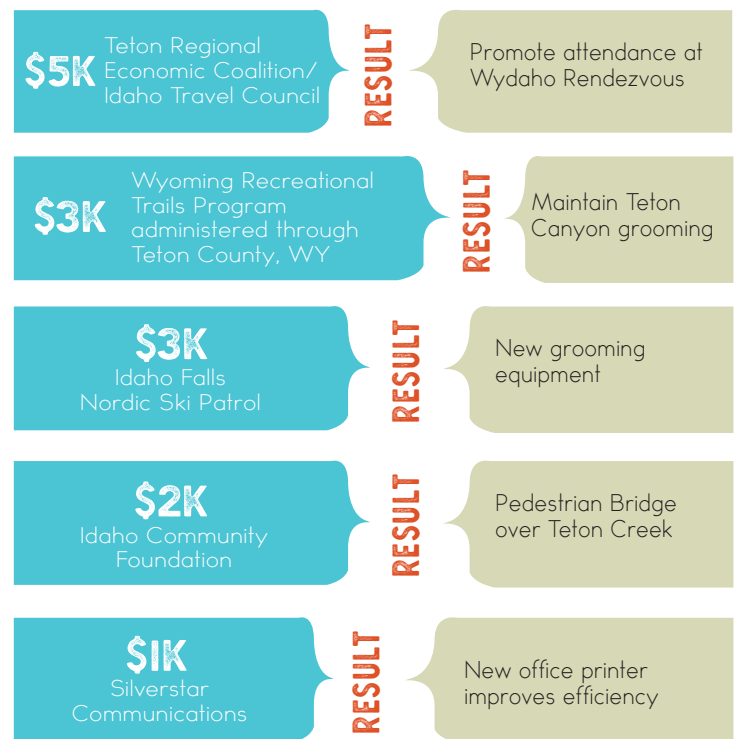
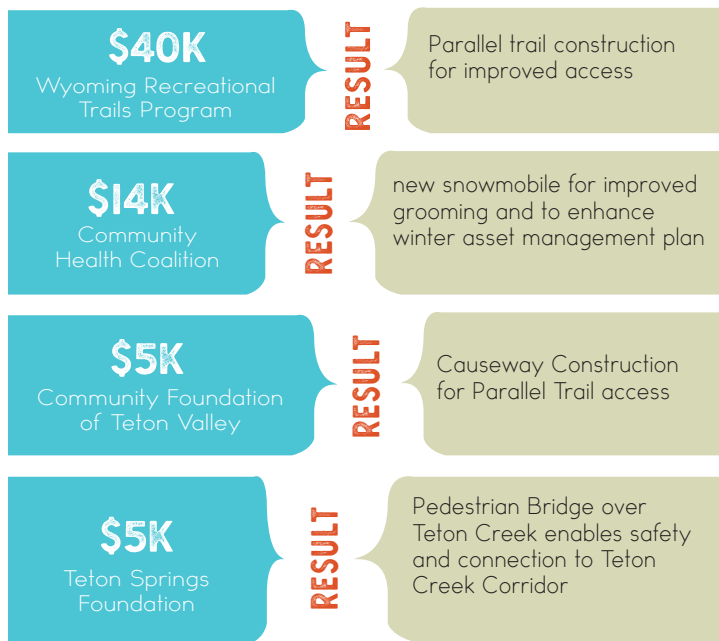
TETON VALLEY TRAILS & PATHWAYS

FY2022: The Numbers

REVENUE SUMMARY APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023



Grants Total \$78,000 in 2023



Mission & Goals

To build and maintain a complete, connected network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways and trails throughout Teton Valley to create a practical alternative to driving a means of both transportation and recreation.

Engagement

The organization brings together citizens, businesses, and local governments to expand the valley's opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature appreciation, while linking communities, providing access to National Forest trails, and promoting healthy mountain lifestyles

From the Development Director

In our busy world, where life demands that we spend maybe more time than we'd like in our cars and in front of screens – a path outdoors really matters. Trails allow us to pause, to connect to others in person and to spend time in solitude. Trails help us take care of our physical and mental health. Trails are places to learn new skills. Trails offer the opportunity for exploration, adventure, and thrills – and trails provide reassuring comfort and familiarity. Trails help us get around town. Trails are public spaces for everyone. What would you do without your winter and summer trails and pathways?

In October 2022, I took a big leap into the unknown joining Trails & Pathways as the organization's first Development Director and received a warm welcome – *thank you!* With an additional development staff member, we've been working on growing the organization's fundraising efforts into more mature fundraising program.

SO WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

- Tidying up the **donor database**
- Creating a new **business sponsorship program** with the help of TVTAP Ambassador Glenn Kerr
- Establishing a **major donor** program
- Applying for several grants and compiling information on statewide and national **grant opportunities** for the future
- Providing a **monthly giving option** to our supporters
- Launching our (exciting!) **Grooming the Future** Snowcat campaign to acquire a small snowcat and hire a Winter Trails Manager
- Participating in **US Department of Transportation SS4A** (Safe Streets and Roads for All) grant meetings with our local governments
- Attending **outreach events** at winter trailheads and at summer events no more farmer's market

And last, but definitely not least, the most important part of development, getting to know all of you. I'm enjoying talking to donors, volunteers, community supporters and our dedicated Board members. Thank you for your continued support so we can continue to connect the community.

~ See you out on the trails.



Peggy Boggs
Development Director

Staff

- Dan Verbeten**
Executive Director
- Nick Beatty**
Program Director
- Peggy Boggs**
Development Director
- Mark Heinen**
Teton Canyon Head Groomer
- Kevin Emery**
Winter Groomer
- Tony Ferlisi**
Wydaho Festival Manager
- Glenn Kerr**
Trails & Pathways Ambassador

Board of Directors

- Corey McGrath**, President
- Stacy Snyder**, Vice President
- Nan Pugh**, Treasurer
- Todd Saulters**, Secretary
- Janet Conway Heslin**
- Jay Millin**
- Jaime Musnicki**
- Greg Buchko**
- Jill Payne**
- Mike Abbott**
- Jennie White**
- Wade Kauffman**
- Stephen Houmes**

Board Memebers Emeritus

- Mark Hanson**
- Buol Heslin**
- Anna Trentadue**

Legacy Giving

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS, TRAILS & PATHWAYS IS CELEBRATING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2023!

All of our work on the ground – past and future – is thanks to your shared passion for our mission.

As we reflect on our successes, we look to the work still to be done in the next 25 years.

We invite you to join others who have chosen to leave a legacy gift of any size to Trails & Pathways.

By including our organization in your will or estate plan, or by naming TVTAP as a beneficiary of certain assets, you can help add to our long-term financial strength and your gift will shape Teton Valley for generations to come.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INCLUDING TRAILS & PATHWAYS IN YOUR PLAN, SPEAK WITH YOUR ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY OR FINANCIAL ADVISOR, AND CONTACT PEGGY BOGGS VIA EMAIL (PEGGY@TVTAP.ORG) OR PHONE - 208.570.3277.

WITH YOUR GIFT, YOU CAN SET AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



TETON VALLEY
TRAILS
&
PATHWAYS