

ANNUAL REPORT

(APRIL 1, 2019 - MARCH 31, 2020)

tvtap.org



walk.
ski.
ride.

GET OUTSIDE AND CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

In looking back on the past year, I can't help but reflect on the twists and turns presented, both literally and figuratively! I have walked, ran, biked, and skied so many of the amazing trails and pathways in our community during the past year. For me, the trails offer a place for recreation, meeting with friends, opportunities for adventure and a sense of connection to the natural world around us. I feel incredibly fortunate to live in a place with such natural beauty, ease of access to outdoor activities and a vibrant community of people. The global pandemic that continues to impact our lives in unprecedented ways only further highlights how lucky we all are to live where we do.

When presented with the opportunity to join the Trails & Pathways Board a few years ago, I was honored and immediately felt that the organization was a great fit as my first venture into nonprofit board service. It's not just the "trails and pathways" that get me excited to be involved with TVTAP. It's also the "connected community" part of our mission that speaks to me. When I drive (or ride!) from Victor to Driggs during the non-snowy months I always see such a

robust swath of our community out enjoying the bike path – on bike, on foot, on rollerblades, on horseback – walking dogs, exercising, enjoying the views. I see young, old and everyone in between. TVTAP physically connects the community with trails and pathways and socially connects the community by providing places where anyone and everyone can get outside.

As we slide into the second half of summer, I hope you are getting outside with your friends and family to enjoy the spectacular network that exist right in our backyards. Grab your bike or walking shoes -- or whatever mode of travel strikes your fancy. Get outside. Explore a new trail. Connect with our community.

I appreciate the work TVTAP has for 21 years to connect our community through building and maintaining trails and pathways.

**Jaime
Musniki**
Board
President



"GO, PUT YOUR WORK CLOTHES ON, GO AND LEAVE YOUR MARK" ~ John Bell

Whether those work clothes are your "dress" Carhartts for a day at the office, Kevlar chaps for chainsaw duty on trail day or a TVTAP logo shirt for an event, the idea is the same. Working and volunteering for Trails & Pathways is a way to leave a mark.

As I was thinking about the last year, I was rolling through the list of events: Safe Routes to School with Rendezvous Upper Elementary 4th graders, Filmed by Bike and Backcountry Film Festival at the Wildwood Room, Wednesday Walks on the Teton Creek Corridor, trail days, backcountry trail work via Llama (LLAMAS!), Wydaho and the Teton Nordic Race Series. We saw so many familiar faces and were able to tell the Trails & Pathways story to new supporters. I am certain our casual and fun events left a mark on our participants.

The success of our events, winter trails program and tenacious grant writing paid off. We finished the

fiscal year with a reserve that we are able to invest in the strategic future of our organization.

And I am thankful for that because next year will be challenging. The uncertainty of the safety of events, a projected reduction in gifts and a recession are realities that we are dealing with today. But you will not see a furrowed ginger brow here. Our commitment to financial responsibility, a solid, productive board of directors and ability to be nimble as a small non-profit puts us in a perfectly fine place to continuing making a mark on the quality of life in Teton Valley.

See you on the trail.

**Dan
Verbeten**
Executive Director



TETON VALLEY TRAILS & PATHWAYS

Approach and Planning



Winter Trails Program finishes strong

Trails & Pathways is unofficially adding "Fleet Management" to our organization's resume. According to the organization's balance sheet, we are now managing over \$200,000 of equipment specific to the winter program. The board and staff have created a ten-year asset replacement schedule, updated annually. This schedule will help us project future expenses and continue to offer a high level of service to our winter trails.

One of the heavy hitters on this line on the balance sheet is a new Ginzu groomer and snowmachine purchased with grant help from the Community Foundation of Teton Valley and Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol. The new equipment was added to the fleet so we could groom the new Yeti's Loop and Southern Valley single track on a regular schedule.

For those that like stats and data, take a look at last season:

- Total Grooming Hours-1256 with 772 being done by volunteers and 484 by paid staff
- Total Miles Groomed-6720 miles
- Total visits to winter trails-30,020
- Users per grooming hour-23.9

As gyms closed, schools shuttered, people were asked to work from home and we moved closer to isolation, we were asked by the community to keep grooming and you thanked when we did. We appreciated and listened to your feedback. Usage numbers were a little lower than last year given the abrupt end in the third week of March when Governor Little issued the stay-at-home order for the state of Idaho. Officially, we ceased grooming but some of our amazing volunteers did take the liberty to occasionally buff out some of our favorite trails, when it was safe to do so.

Planning a foundation

Fiscal year 2020 was a year that we invested time, money and energy into the planning processes that form a foundation for developing pathway projects and grant funding.. Specifically, we hosted a stakeholders meeting with more than 30 different agencies and organizations working on specific aspects of the Greater Yellowstone Trail. The goal of the stakeholders meeting was to share updates, renew energy toward a pathway circumnavigating the southern half of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and update the original concept plan that was written in 2014.

Comprehensive Plans in both Victor and Driggs were other efforts that we've allocated time and resources toward. Assembling community input and creating a master plan for the cities gives direction to elected officials and staff on the priorities moving forward.

In Driggs, Program Director and city resident Nick Beatty has been a member of the citizen committee, providing comp plan feedback and guidance for complete streets, bike-ability and pedestrian safety. When Trails & Pathways collaborates with local government, we bring skills and a community connection that makes us a critical member of the team.

In Victor, we were identified and interviewed as a "community service organization" Executive Director, Dan Verbeten spent time with the consulting company sharing community views on bicycle and pedestrian connections and safety. As Victor developed their transportation plan, Dan provided input on pathways to make sure they are included in the plan and serve as a transportation option for citizens.

At the county level, Dan was again asked to help re-write a section of the Teton County Transportation Plan on non-motorized transportation. Working with the Public Works Director, Trails & Pathways was able to provide a section of the plan that informs decision making when looking at road treatments and budget planning. This is the first time the county has included this information in a transportation plan. Not only does this assist decision making, but illustrates the first-level commitment the community has made to pathways, strengthening collective grant applications and improving our position in the process.

Volunteers are the literal backbone of trails!

In June of 2002, the summer volunteer trail day program was started by Trails & Pathways. We are incredibly grateful for the community support for this program and we estimate that it has yielded more than 18,000 hours of volunteer time working on trails in the Teton Basin Ranger District. We also want to thank the many businesses that support the days with raffle items, food and beverages for the wonderful community members that opt to work hard on the weekend days.

TRAILS IMPROVED BY VOLUNTEERS

(just a sample!)

- Bovine
- Channel Lock
- Pole Canyon
- Aspen Trail
- Mill Creek
- South Fork Horseshoe
- Rush Hour
- Lady Slipper
- South Leigh
- Moose Creek
- Mail Cabin
- Sheep Bridge
- Yeti's Loop
- Badger Creek
- DeCoster
- AJ Trail

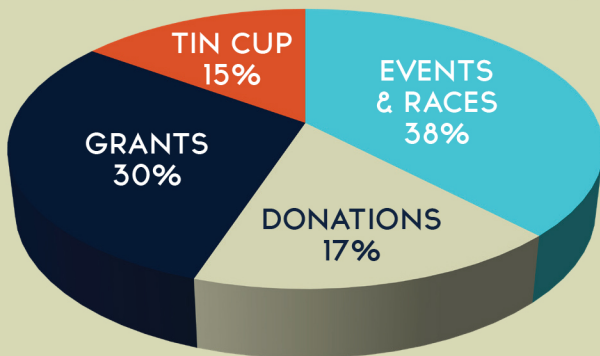
Winter trails and programing also would not be where it stands today without the work of our volunteer groomers. Over the past 8 years, we have relied on an average of 638 hours of volunteer time per year. These incredible souls skip that second cup of coffee or head out after dinner in the cold temps so that we all may enjoy that fresh groomed corduroy.

It takes time and effort to manage these volunteer efforts. AND, we could not have accomplished what we have in our 21-year history without the work of volunteers. If you have volunteered your time--as a community we are grateful for your help. Volunteer time is just as valuable as donor contributions or business sponsors and we'll continue to need your strong backs, fierce energy and smiling faces as we strive to connect our community. Next time we have a trail day, bring a mask, bring a friend and see the strength of this program for yourself.

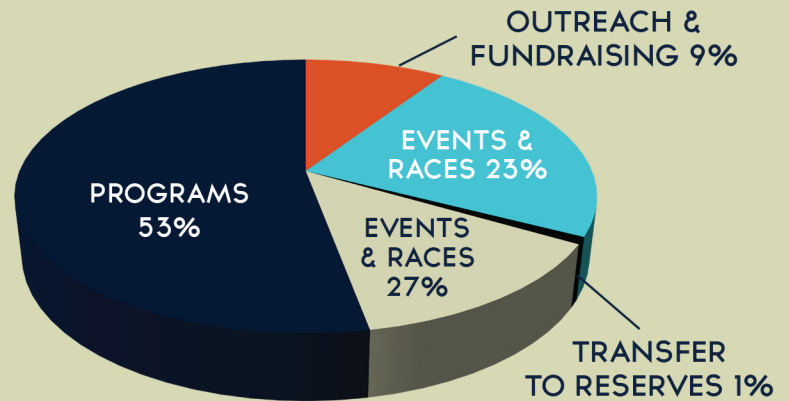
TETON VALLEY TRAILS & PATHWAYS

FY2020: The Numbers

REVENUE SUMMARY APRIL 2019 - MARCH 2020



SPENDING TOTAL \$377,991



Grant writing and collaboration continue to be a major source of funding for Trails & Pathways' projects and strategic work. In 2020, we increased direct grants awarded by **50%** and collaborative grants by **495%**.



Staff

Dan Verbeten, Executive Director
Nick Beatty, Program Director
Mark Heinen
 Teton Canyon Head Groomer
Devin Dwyer
 Wydaho Festival Manager

Board of Directors

Jaime Musnicki, President
Amy Hatch, Vice President
Ty Mack, Secretary
Donald Radkoski, Treasurer
Jason Berning
David Heinemann
Lindsay Moss
Jennie White
Janet Heslin
Corey McGrath

Board Members Emeritus

Mark Hanson
Buol Heslin
Anna Trentadue

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 life styles



PO BOX 373
DRIGGS, ID 83422

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #209
IDAHO FALLS, ID

2020/2021 WAYS TO CONNECT FOR DETAILS GO TO TVTAP.ORG

7/30 Trail Time at Southern Valley– Evening

7/31 PAWS Ambassador Training

8/6 Trail Time at the Teton Creek Corridor

8/13 Trail Time at Southern Valley

8/15 AJ Linnell Memorial Trail Day

8/20 Trail Time at Rail Trail/Greater
Yellowstone Trail – Evening on Bikes

9/4–9/7 Wydaho Rendezvous Bike Festival

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

- Complete construction of TCC pathway
- Finish Southern Valley Trail project by completing Centennial Pathway, rerouting Rush Hour trail and create summer Yeti's Loop Trail
- Advance Driggs to Tetonia pathway by working with willing landowners for alternative routes
- Recruit and train ambassadors for year round outreach and education focused on Leave No Trace practices, dog etiquette and multiple users.
- Develop plans with Driggs and Victor after comprehensive plan is adopted
- Re-imagine fundraising, outreach and continued connection with the community in a year without events
- Maintain Winter Trails quality and quantity amidst potential program changes

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS GIVE BACK



Do you have a volunteer program at your company? Do you want to start one? Volunteer programs help attract employees and show your commitment to making Teton Valley a unique and well-cared for place. It's also great for culture building at your organization! Trails & Pathways can help you structure the program, identify a project

and provide guidance to your group of employees during the service time. Your volunteer hours might also serve as match for grants we pursue (see page 3), which demonstrates community buy-in to grantors. Contact us to get a volunteer trail project rolling at your company.

YOU'RE A FAN. ARE YOU A SUPPORTER?

You're getting this Annual Report, so we know you are interested in trail work, what's happening with pathways and how we're advancing quality of life in Teton Valley. Can you follow through by supporting us with a donation during this year's Tin Cup Challenge? Teton

Valley Trails & Pathways relies on donations of all amounts to maintain Winter Trails, summer programming, trail maintenance and pedestrian safety efforts throughout the year. Your Community Foundation of Teton Valley Tin Cup Challenge donation this



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF TETON VALLEY**

year will be matched, stretching your generous gift and increasing our capacity to improve your self-powered pursuits in Teton Valley.