



Town of Green Mountain Falls

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee

P.O. Box 524; 10615 Green Mountain Falls Road

Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819

Wednesday, 2/16/2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Zoom Link; Meeting ID: 863 5544 7952; Passcode: 155883

To make a **public comment** please **pre-register** by 12pm on the day of the meeting via email: clerk@gmfco.us

REGULAR MEETING:

TIME*		ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOME
3:00	1.	CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL	
3:05	2.	ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTION TO THE AGENDA	PRT Action Required
3:10	3.	PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER	Information Only
3:20	4.	CONSENT AGENDA a. Meeting Minutes from PRT Committee Meeting held on 1/19/2021	PRT Action Required
3:25	5.	Old Business: a. Catamount Trail update b. Wayfinding signage c. PRT Parking Privileges - Walker	
3:45	6.	New Business: a. Mt. Dewey Trailhead erosion with possible relocation b. 2022 Goals and 2021 Recap c. Gazebo Park renovation	
4:15	7.	Correspondence	Information Only
4:20	8.	Reports	Information Only
4:25	9.	ADJOURN	

*Please note: Times are approximate.

**The Town shall provide reasonable accommodation for those with disabilities on a case by case basis. Please send accommodation requests to clerk@gmfco.us by 4pm on the date of the meeting.



**Town of Green Mountain Falls
Parks, Recreation, and Trails Meeting Minutes
10615 Green Mountain Falls Road
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present

Chair Jesse Stroope
Vice Chair Jay Kita
Member Nancy Dixon
Member Don Walker

Board Members Absent

Secretary

Member Nancy Dixon

Town Staff Present

Nate Scott

Trustees Present

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Parks, Recreation, and Trails meeting called to order at 3:01pm by Chair Stroope.

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTION TO THE AGENDA

Chair Stroope accepted the agenda with no edits.

3. SPEAKERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Joe Olds was at the meeting and said he was just listening.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Kita moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 8, 2021 and January 12, 2022.

Stroope seconded. All ayes - 4/0

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Catamount Trail update - Stroope shared the advice memo that was presented at the Board meeting on January 4, 2022. Kita was in attendance at the meeting and said that the Mayor wanted a MOU between the town and HGMFF concerning an easement for the trail to avoid future issues. Stroope met with the new town manager, Beckie Frank, and HGMFF will produce a MOU template that can be used for Catamount and other trails. HGMFF has a 25 year trail easement for the Wallace Reserve, no trail agreement for Mt. Dewey and a MOU for the Pittman Trail on Red Butte. HGMFF has requested an MOU template from their attorney which will be sent to the town manager.

Kita went over the trail summary document that he wrote concerning the trail inspections done with CSU and USFS in May and July of 2021. The May inspection was on the Catamount Trail. USFS was concerned that the trail was steep and could not be used as a multi-use trail. All trails connected to USFS property should meet their requirements. Suggested the trail above Steve's bridge be closed. The July inspection was on the Crystal Trail which only went to the CSU boundary. Kita mentioned that no other communication from CSU or USFS has been received by PRT or the town. Stroope reminded the group that if there are trespass issues, it is up to the property owner to post "No Trespassing" signs. HGMFF has an easement to get to the Catamount Trailhead. Suggested that Kita edit the report to say it was written by Kita and that Catamount Trail has no incumbrances. **This report and the MOU will be presented to the Board as an advice memo when completed.**

b, Wayfinding Signage - Phase I has been met with praise from Social Media. A new tile showing the correct turn for Mt. Dewey is being made. Phase II will include the Welcome Center Trailhead sign located at Maple Street. Kita had met with Dave from the sign company. The sign that was to be repurposed from Lake Street was too rotted and a new sign will be built which they have the materials. **Stroope asked that a mock up of the sign be presented at the next PRT meeting.** Touching up of existing signage is part of Phase II also. Identification of existing signage that needs to be removed needs to occur. **Dixon volunteered herself and her husband to make recommendations for signage that could be removed and will present at the next meeting.** Kita mentioned that the county highway department needs a form with the town to install the last sign at the east side of town. Stroope said to coordinate this with the town manager. Stroope mentioned that the signs for Red Butte and Skyspace will match the town signage. These signs will be presented to PRT. Walker asked if there is a map that shows the new signage? And that the sign at Lake Street and Ute Pass has "Lake Street" on 3 sides. Stroope said that will be changed. Dixon said that the new signage will help Trail Ambassadors navigate hikers to the trailheads.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Walker Report - Walker presented his report regarding PRT parking permits to access GMF parks and trails for planning, inspection, maintenance and service. He had amended the report to include other parks and trails. Dixon reported that the Trail Ambassadors that lived out of town would contact the paid parking company, give them their license plate numbers and not have to pay for parking when volunteering. The town manager gave the TA this authority. Stroope asked if the report could be tied to trail maintenance and ease of tool delivery? Walker answered this is exactly what this is for. **Stroope asked the committee members to give feedback to Walker so a final draft could be presented at the next PRT meeting.**

- b. PRT Annual Report - Stroope, part of the PRT responsibilities are to have an annual report presented to the Board at the February meeting. Since a similar report was presented in November, Stroope will modify it for the February requirement and send it to Scott, the town clerk for the February 15th Board meeting. PRT Goals for 2022 were discussed. Dixon said for the Trail Ambassadors it will be recruiting and education on the new wayfinding signage and Skyspace. Stroope said there will be a soft opening in March/April where different groups will be invited to participate. A mountain manager will be hired to manage the Skyspace. There is a dusk and dawn showing and 2 closed roof shows at 10am and 2pm. Stroope went on to say that PRT items that were not accomplished in 2021 will be added to the 2022 goal list. One goal will be to make a list of trails and ensure there are no issues with trespass which will lead to a new town trail map. Scott said that the town has GIS software to help with making new maps. The zoning map is used as a baseline. Walker said that in his report he has an inventory of GMF trails and parks. Walker also said that the Comprehension Plan has PRT goals to consider. **Stroope said PRT will review its 2022 goals at the March meeting.**
- c. PRT Elections - Stroope had shared communication from Gafford that he was resigning from the PRT so there is a member opening. Stroope asked Scott how openings were filled. Scott said he can post on Facebook. Volunteers will fill out a form which is presented to the PRT for approval and then on to the Board. Dixon moved that Stroope remain a PRT chair. Walker seconded. All ayes. Motion passed. Stroope moved that Kita remain as vice chair. Walker seconded. All ayes. Motion passed. Stroope moved that Dixon remain as secretary. Walker seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

Kita suggested that the new wayfinding signage (animals) be added to the new town maps. Dixon recommended that dog stations be added also.

Stroope mentioned that PRT be consulted if any new signs are added to the town.

Stroope thanked Scott for being at the meeting saying it was nice to have a town staff member attending.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

8. REPORTS

No reports.

3. ADJOURNMENT at 4:13pm.

This memo is a summary of reviews of GMF hiking Trails with Forest Service and Colorado Springs Utilities personnel. Inspection hikes involving the stake holders in local trails were suggested by the Town Manager (Angie Sprang) to better document the condition and circumstances of the trails. Because of the town hall fire, some records of prior agreements among the parties were not available. At the time of the hikes, various comments were exchanged but no further input was received from FS or CSU.

I (Jay Kita) served as a PRT representative and guide for hiking the lower portions of the Catamount and Crystal Falls trails. The following comments summarize my recollections of the trips.

Hike 1: Catamount below the Garden of Eden. May 5th, 2021

Participants:

Samantha Gooch –	Recreation Planner for the Forest Service
Lisa Waters -	Project Planner for Colorado Springs Utilities Source Water Protection
Angie Sprang	Town Manager for Green Mountain Falls
Rebecca Ockie	GMF Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee Member
Jay Kita	GMF Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee Member

This hike went to the top of the rise that defines the Garden of Eden hanging valley (ie, it did not reach the end of GMF town property). Lisa and Samantha had earlier hiked down from the Pikes Peak service road. Both Lisa and Samantha praised the condition of the trail, but commented that the trail was (unavoidably) steep. Samantha commented that the trail was not suitable for use by horses or mountain bikes and stated that this was not consistent with FS requirements. Further, she stated that the proximity of the upper section of the trail to Catamount Creek was inconsistent with current FS guidelines. Her understanding was that all trails that connected to FS property must meet these requirements. She stated that she would recommend that the FS section of the trail be closed. Conversely, she stated that if Catamount was limited to HGMFF & Town of GMF property the FS would not object to the trail. Because Catamount did not intersect any CSU property, Lisa did not raise any concern about this area.

At the time of the hike, the concern about the relation of the trail to private property had not been raised. Following the HGMFF purchase of the Smith property, I understand that all encumbrances on the lower portion of the Catamount Trail (below FS property) have been resolved.

Hike 2: Crystal Falls to boundary of CSU property. July 7th, 2021

Participants:

David Deitemeyer –	Landscape Architect, Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Lisa Waters -	Project Planner for Colorado Springs Utilities Source Water Protection
Angie Sprang	Town Manager for Green Mountain Falls
Susan Davies	Trails and Open Space Coalition
Jay Kita	GMF Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee Member

This inspection hike was delayed several times because of scheduling conflicts. Prior to the hike, a survey team was able to mark the beginning of CSU property (a substantial portion of the trail is on CSU property) and the hike went just above that point. The CSU team highlighted the steepness of the trail and difficult character of the trail that had been traversed, noting that it appeared susceptible to erosion. They raised the concern that erosion could damage the supply pipeline that connects Crystal Reservoir to the CSU treatment plant and stated that this might require the trail to be closed. The exact relationship of the trail and the pipeline was not discussed during the review.

As of this writing, I know of no further communication from the Forest Service or Colorado Springs Utilities regarding the use of the GMF trails.

+

Respectfully, Jay Kita 10640 Illinois Ave, Green Mountain Falls CO

Recommended Signage Removal

2/9/2022



BEAR at Ann and Olathe

Remove "No Parking for Hiking beyond this Point"

Purple dot?



MOUNTAIN LION at Belvedere

Remove "Living with Bears", white "No Parking" and yellow "No Hiker Parking Strictly Enforce".

MOOSE at El Paso Trail
No sign removal.

BUTTERFLY at Maple Street
No sign removal.



CHIPMUNK at Hondo
Remove yellow "No Hiker Parking Allowed Strictly Enforced" and white "No Parking for Hiking beyond this Point"

HUMMINGBIRD at Hotel Street
No sign removal.

TURKEY at Lake Street
No sign removal.

FOX at Foster and Howard
No sign removal.



DEER at Gazebo - Closest to the Gazebo

Recommend removing “No Watercraft, No Alcohol”, “Social Distancing”
 “Living with Bears”? “Don’t Feed the Geese”?



GOOSE - Gazebo Park close to Land Office

Recommend removing the entire Park Rules sign. Or repurpose.

“Please don’t feed the geese”?

Top sign “This project funded in part by Great Outdoors CO with funds from the Colorado Lottery”?

PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PRT PARKING PRIVILEGE PERMITS

DRAFT 01-23-2022

The Parks, Recreation & Trails Advisory Committee (PRT) ***unanimously*** submits to the Board of Trustees (BOT), for their consideration, the following recommendations:

In the course of events, pursuant to the **Annual Master Plan Work Projection Report (Master Plan)** objectives and improvements implemented by the PRT, under the auspices of the BOT;

PRT and their Agents, access to paid-parking, no-parking, non-public areas, and private parking areas, will be necessary during the course of said business, at scheduled and unscheduled times, on town, commercial, and private lands;

Namely for ease-of-access, for implementing the objective and improvements to the parks, trails, recreation, and open space areas, pursuant to the (Master Plan);

1. The PRT is recommending that the BOT, authorize and grant parking privilege permits (PPP), to the PRT members and its authorized Agents, in the specified park and trail areas, as disclosed below herein;

2. The PRT is recommending that the BOT, authorize and grant the PRT to negotiate and enter into non-monetary agreements, formal and informal with commercial and private property owners, pertaining to aforesaid PPP.

3. The PRT is recommending that the BOT, authorize and grant the PRT President, to administer the aforesaid PPP.

4. The PRT is recommending that the BOT, authorize and grant the PRT to design, produce, and display the PPP on PRT and its Agents vehicles.

NOTE: The obvious consequence of this PPP process, is that it would absolve the PPP holder from any posted parking regulations on town property and give access to otherwise restricted areas to the general public. And also grant authority to the

PRT to enter into non-monetary agreements with commercial and private property owners to gain ease-of-access, to certain park and trail areas.

Approval of these PRT recommendations would greatly enhance the PRT's ability to recruit and retain a volunteer work-force, and multiply the actual work performed in a given work-hour.

The PRT has identified the following areas for ease-of-access points for the following parks, trails, recreation and open space areas:

1. Access: Dewey Trail / Bratton Trail

Location: East end of Myrtle St. @ dead-end

Property: Town

Designation: No-Parking Area

2. Access: Dewey Trail / Bratton Trail

Location: East end of Myrtle St. @ turn-around on private drive

Property: Private

Designation: Private Drive

3. Access: Catamount Trail-Head / Thomas Trail / Bratton Trail

Location: West end of Belvidere Ave. @ dead-end & turn-around

Property: Town

Designation: No-Parking Area

4. Access: Gate access to Catamount Trail / Thomas Trail / Bratton Trail

Location: West end of Belvidere Ave. @ dead-end & turn-around

Property: Commercial / Town / Private

Designation: Locked Gate, No-Parking Area

5. Access: Gate access to Catamount Trail / Thomas Trail / Bratton Trail

Location: West end of Hondo Ave. @ dead-end & turn-around

Property: Commercial / Town

Designation: Locked Gate, No-Parking Area

6. Access: Catamount Trail / Thomas Trail / Bratton Trail

Location: West end of Hondo Ave. @ dead-end & turn-around

Property: Town

Designation: No-Parking Area

7. Access: Thomas Trail

Location: Foster Ave. south to end of Mountain Ave. @ dead-end

Property: Town

Designation: No-Parking Area

8. Access: Thomas Trail / Crystal Trail / Kirkpatrick Trail

Location: South end of Boulder St. @ dead-end

Property: Town

Designation: No-Parking Area

9. Access: Kirkpatrick Trail / Crystal Trail / Thomas Trail

Location: Grant Ave. west to end of Mountain Ave. @ dead-end

Property: Town

Designation: No-Parking Area

10. Access: Kirkpatrick Trail & H.B. Wallace Reserve Trail System

Location: Mountain Rd. south near Wildwood Rd. @ gated private drive

Property: Private

Designation: No-Parking Area

11. Access: Pittman Tail North

Location: Green Mtn. Falls Rd. @ "Joy Land" parking

Property: Commercial

Designation: Private Parking

12. Access: Pittman Trail South

Location: Hotel St. & El Paso Ave. @ construction parking

Property: Private

Designation: Private Parking

13. Access: Gazebo Lake Trail / Gazebo Lake Park

Location: Gazebo Lake Park east and west parking

Property: Town

Designation: Paid Parking

14. Access: Conn Trail / Pool Park

Location: Pool Park west and south parking

Property: Town

Designation: Paid Parking

15. Access: Ute Pass Trail West (American Discovery Trail)

Location: GMF Road @ lot 10635 (condos)

Property: Private

Designation: Condo Parking Area

16. Access: Ute Pass Trail East (American Discovery Trail)

Location: Ute Pass Ave. South & Mountain Rd. parking

Property: Town

Designation: Free Parking

17. Access: Angel's Trail North

Location: Scott Ave. corner near Pueblo St.

Property: Town

Designation: No-Parking Area

18. Access: Angel's Trail South

Location: Hondo Ave. & lot 11055

Property: Town

Designation: Residential Parking

19. Access: McArthur Park

Location: Pueblo St & Scott Ave.

Property: Town

Designation: Residential Parking

Original alignment

Pros

Shortest distance (30' to trail head sign from road)

Steps dissuade mountain bikers from using/damaging the trail

Cons

Steps can be more slippery in certain weather conditions

Steep grade (27%)

Cost of materials to build steps

More amount of required work/time to complete steps

Alternate alignment

Pros

Gentle grade (9%)

Less materials required

Known amount of required work (can be completed in one workday)

Less maintenance required to maintain safety (i.e. no sweeping of debris of steps)

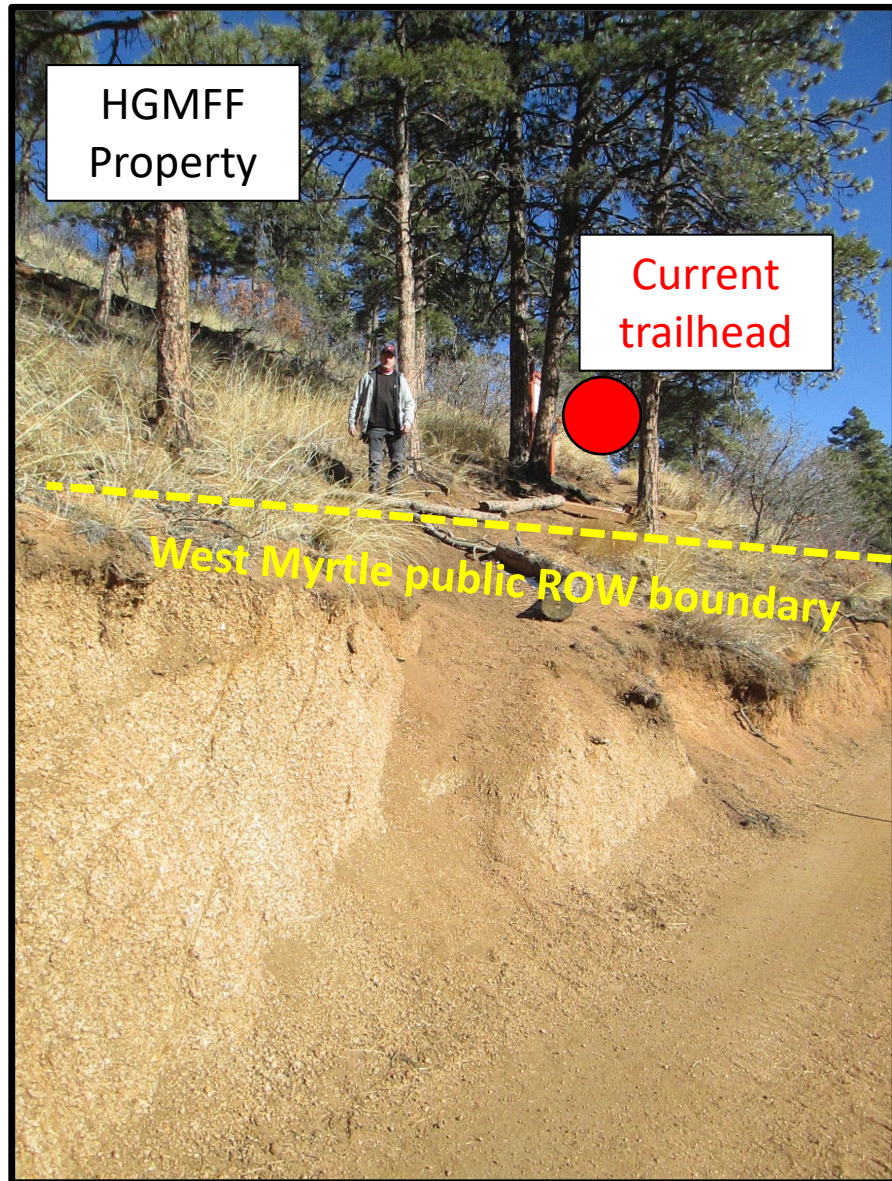
Entire trail is on HGMFF property

Less erosion problems

Cons

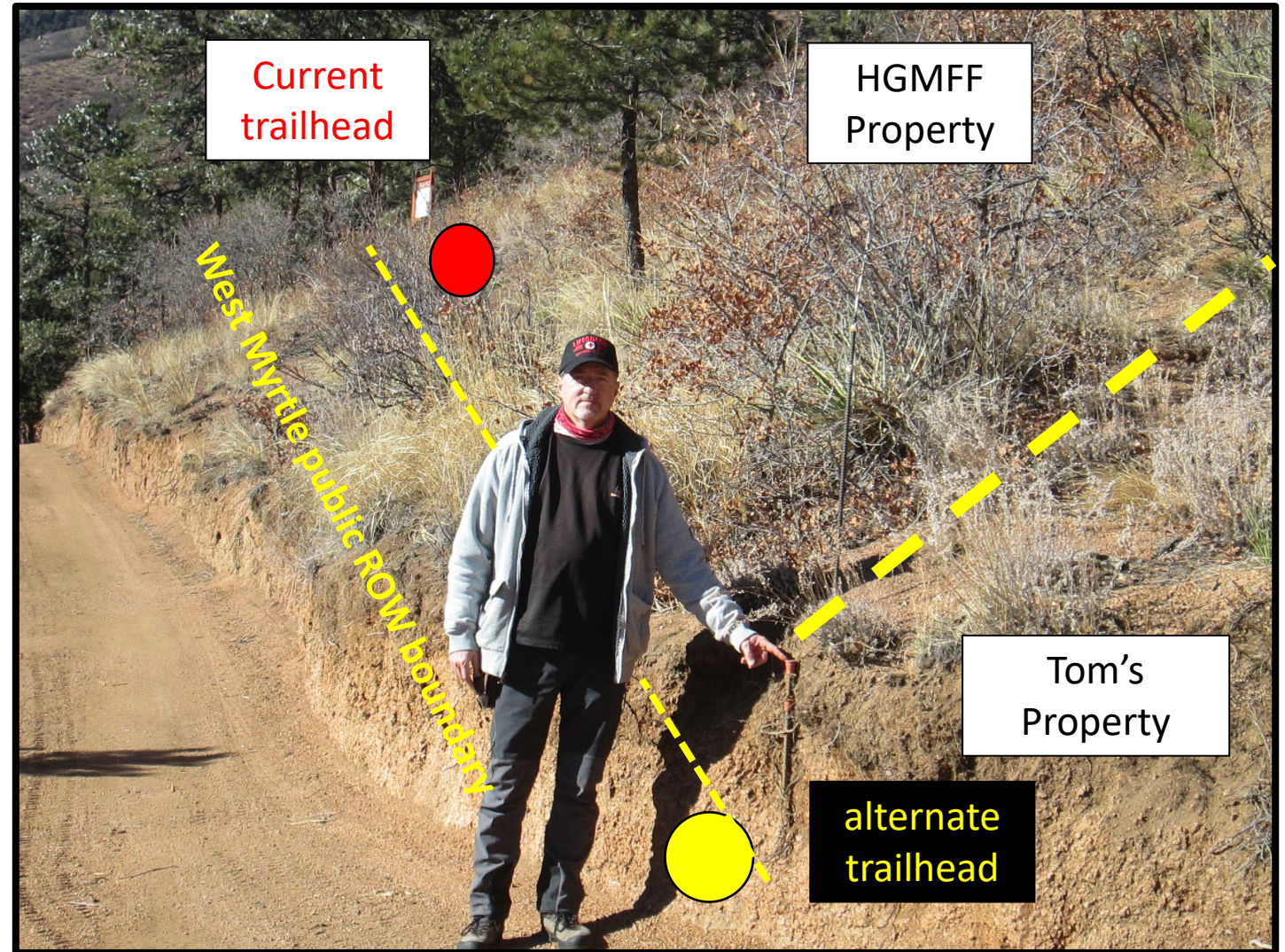
Trailhead 20' away from a bend in the driveway with hikers more exposed to vehicle traffic

48' from road to trailhead sign



27% slope using a staircase

135' from road to current trailhead sign
(where the new trail would connect to the existing trail)

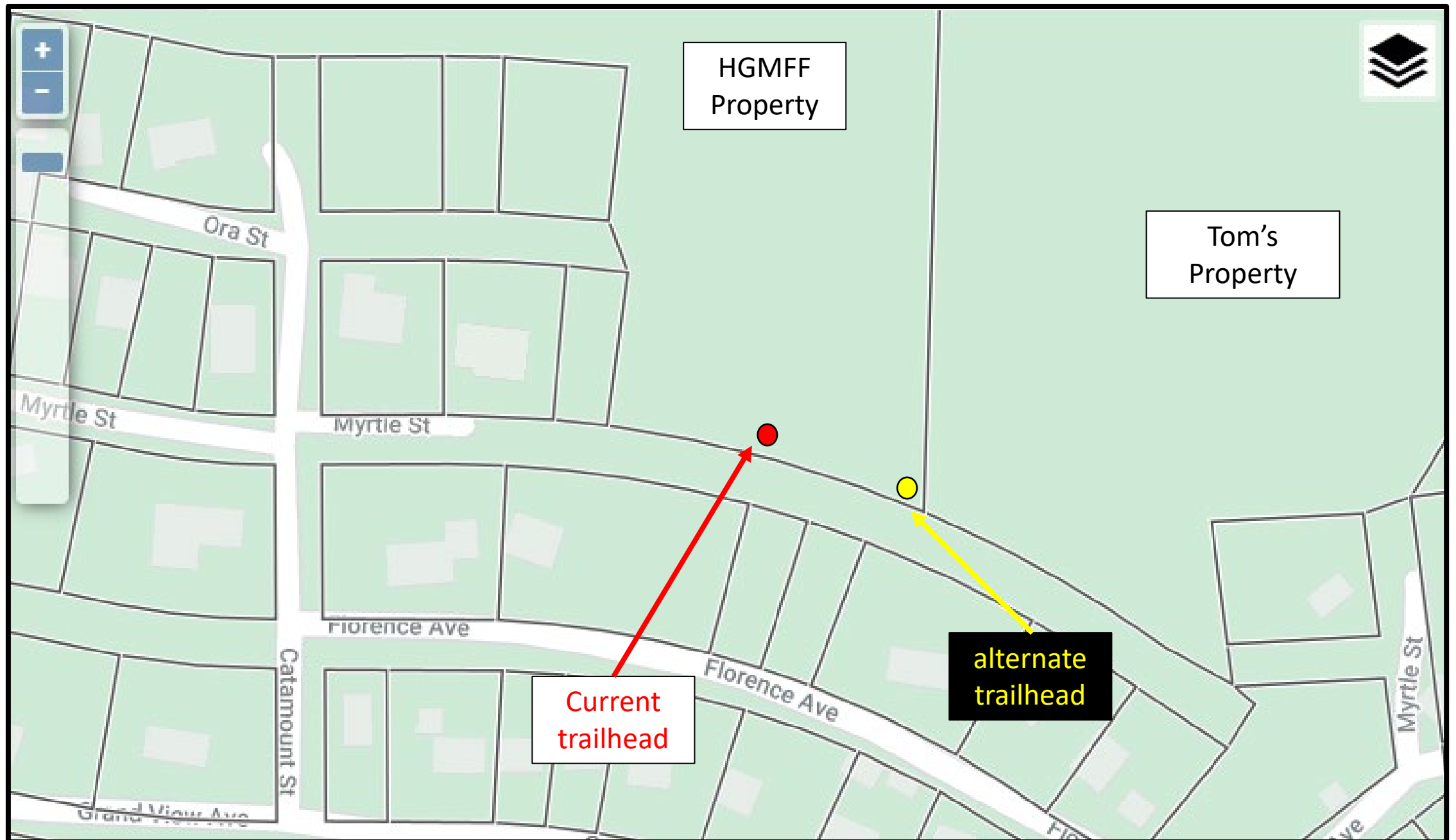


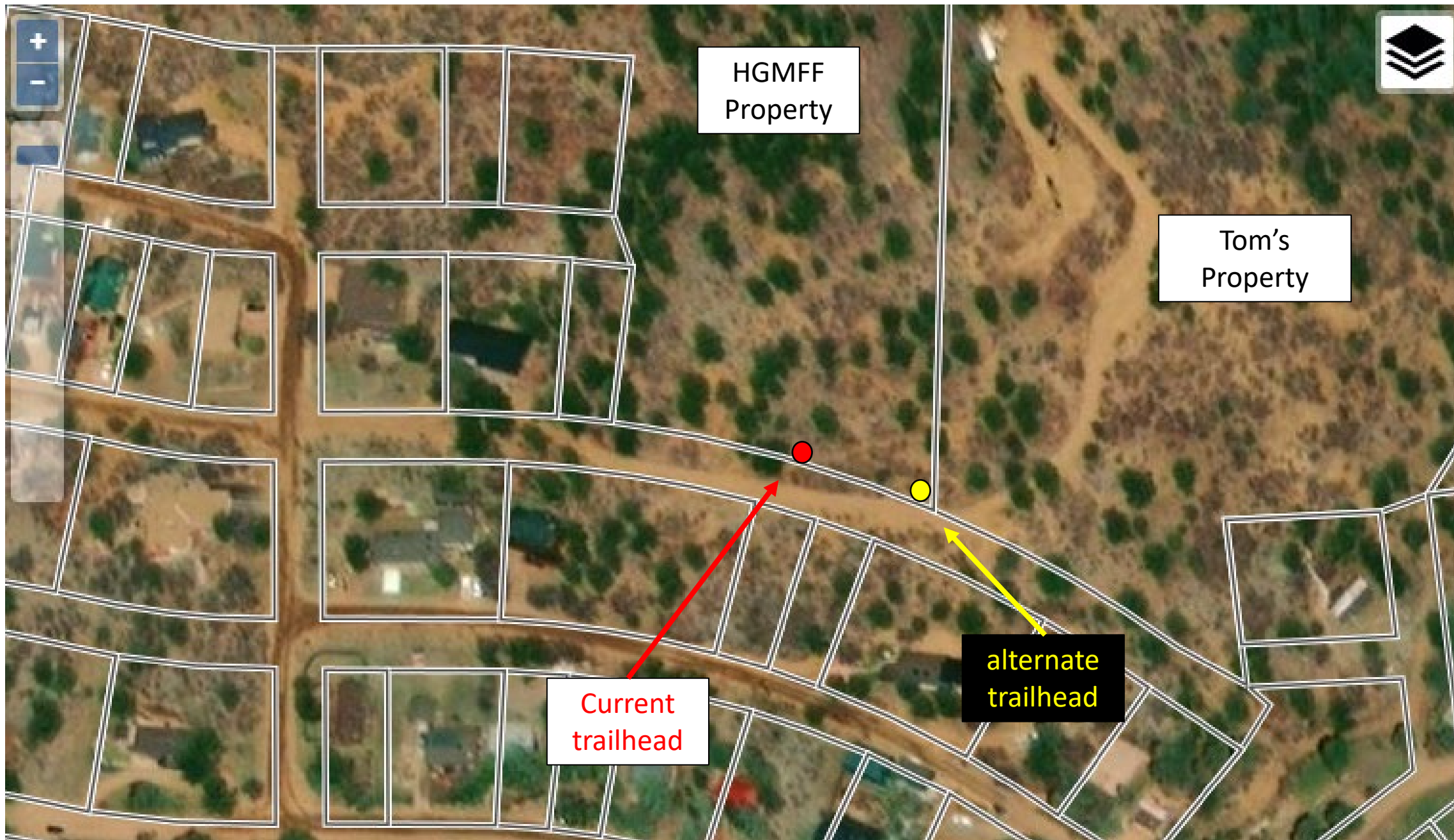
9% slope with no need for a staircase

28 January 2020



The Recon Gang





2021 PRT Goals

Priority goals PRT Committee

1. Establishing a new trail head and virtual trail head at Pool Park
 - a. This should be inclusive of restrooms, bear proof trash receptacles, hikers code of conduct, trail maps and be headquarters for Trails Ambassadors Program.
 - b. Trail Signage as prescribed by BOT in wayfinding signage communications.

Results . Temporary welcome station was set up as a result of our efforts inclusive of portolets, bear proof trash receptacles, trail maps and Hiker Five. Wayfinding to be installed over the next three weeks.

2. A Trails Ambassador Schedule and program by May 15th, 2021

Results. An abbreviated season which was highly successful and ended early do to decrease in hikers.

3. The creation and distribution of trail maps by May 15th, 2021
 - a. Have a clear understanding of what trails will be on the map.

Results. At BOT direction, a hiker map was completed which showed all parking areas and directed hikers to trail heads. These maps were posted digitally as well as handed out by ambassadors. The maps also included the Hiker Five.

4. Cultivation a working agreement between the PRT committee and Friends of the Ute Pass Trails
 - a. How should communications work, what documentation needs to be in place, insurance, scheduling of workdays?
 - b. How should we prioritize trail maintenance issues?

Results. It was agreed upon that the FOUPT would provide a list of identified projects at the beginning of trail season with a scope of work for each. The PRT would then review and recommend the season of work to the BOT. The FOUPT would then send in work date reports to PRT which would include the volunteer waiver's for that work day. (This needs work)

5. The installation of bear proof trashcans at 3 locations in Town Limits
 - a. Specify product, name recommended locations, price quote and forward to BOT.

Results. There were existing bear proof trash cans which were being underutilized. It was suggested that they be moved to increase utilization.

6. Hosting a Spring Workday. Maintenance work on Conn Memorial Trail and clean up Catamount Creek from Olathe to Post Office.
 - a. Propose community work day date and budget, supplies and sourcing.

Results. The Spring Workday did not get scheduled as it was upon us when we worked on goals in 2021. This work was done during the fall project.

7. Hosting a Fall Workday. Clean up Fountain Creek and remove willows along bank for better access to creek, Revive the old horse trail from behind swings in Gazebo Park to El Paso Ave at High Street.
 - a. Propose work day date and budget and supplies/sourcing. Creek Week Date.

Results. Creek clean up was a complete success. Propose old horse trail clean up for next Spring and include parks.

Recommendations

1. Naming of Town parks (BOT asked that we come up with a community engagement piece in order to do this. TBD)
2. Recommendation of reopening Catamount Trail. New Sprinkler System and reseeding at Pool Park? Explain. Work day?
3. New Sprinkler System and reseeding at Lake Street Park? Explain.
4. New Sprinkler System at Olathe St. Community Garden.
5. New landscaping at Town Hall
 - a. Sprinkler System, Landscaping Plan, etc...
 - b. CAD Drawing of town showing current and proposed projects.
6. Repaint and repair old town hall historic sign

7. Gopher control as needed in all parks.
8. Restrooms, Porta Johns at Lake St.
9. Restrooms at Pool Park
10. Re-seed EPMP after sprinkler is repaired.

Accomplishments to date:

1. Recommendation regarding tree removals
2. Recommendation regarding Goose Control
3. Recommendation regarding tennis court striping
4. Recommendation regarding backflow preventer and irrigation repairs
5. Recommendation of temporary closure of Catamount Trail