



WYOMING PATHWAYS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OVERVIEW

MISSION

To inspire, motivate and unite a strong community of public, business, and political leaders to improve active transportation and people-powered recreation opportunities in Wyoming, including bicycling, walking, hiking and cross-country skiing and fat-biking.

ABOUT

Wyoming Pathways celebrates its 11th year as the statewide voice of people who bike and walk, and it is exciting to say that momentum is on our side. Communities across Wyoming are increasingly seeking to improve livability by investing in biking and walking pathways, walkable main streets, close to home trails, and safe routes to schools.



STATEWIDE BENEFITS

- Mental and physical well-being
- Economic vitality
- Safer and more connected communities
- Reduced healthcare costs
- Equal access to recreational activities, transportation, and social opportunities
- Reduced crime
- Increased property values

STAFF MEMBERS

Michael Kusiek, Director
Tim Young, Special Projects
Pete Skram, Data Management
Grace Templeton, Community Engagement

BOARD MEMBERS

Melanie Arnett (Laramie), Gordon P. Edwards Jr (Gillette), Sarah Stacy Fitz-Gerald (Cheyenne), John Gallagher (Cody), Margie Lynch (Jackson), Jerimiah Rieman (Cheyenne), & Clair Smith (Lander)





MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We had a very successful year and could not have done it without you! From new trails in Thermopolis, Lander, and Laramie to continued success in the Jackson area with multi-modal transportation projects. 2022 was our best year yet!

With a new website, a robust online survey, a more significant social media presence, and the invaluable support of the Hughes Charitable Foundation, we are able to serve more people of all ages, reaching further throughout Wyoming to work with many new communities. These projects are community-driven, focused on safety and quality of life, and will create opportunities for increased well-being and economic development. We are mission-driven to help make your community more bikeable, walkable, and livable.

You can continue to count on Wyoming Pathways to be your voice in Cheyenne during the legislative session and to be here for you when you have ideas to share or concerns you need help with. We have great partners across the state in many communities who advocate with us and for their constituents. These include Friends of Pathways and the Teton Village Association in Jackson, Common Outdoor Ground in Laramie, Lander Cycling Club in Lander, Hot City Alliance in Thermopolis, Friends of the Bridger Teton, and the Sublette Trails Association in Pinedale. Partners like the George B. Storer Foundation and long time donors like you, are the reason we are able to keep going year after year.

You'll read throughout this report about the highlights from 2022 and a bit about what we have in store for 2023. Please continue to reach out to us (michael@wyopath.org) and stay connected. I look forward to visiting with you throughout the coming months! Thank you all very much!

Sincerely,

Mike Kusiek

Want to support our work? Consider making a donation at www.wyopath.org/donate/



STATEWIDE TRAIL PROJECTS



THERMOPOLIS

Working with Todd Thibodeau and TPT Trails, we secured funding to complete three new trails connecting Hot Springs State Park through T-Hill, across the old airport, Thermopolis golf course, and up to the top of the iconic Round Top peak. When ridden or walked from town, this trail yields almost 13 miles of some of the best views in Wyoming.

From the Big Horns to the Absarokas to the Wind River range, you can see "all of Wyoming" from the high-point on this trail; top it off with a soak in the springs, and you've just had a first-rate, Wyoming experience!

LANDER

Alan Mandel and Trail Co Inc redefined what is possible with trails on public lands in Wyoming. A first-of-its-kind downhill-optimized trail on public lands is genuinely a work of art. The "J-Line" is on par with what you would find at bike parks across the continent and allows riders of all ages and abilities to have a rare and exhilarating experience while visiting Johnny Behind the Rocks outside of Lander. If you haven't, you should!



HAPPY JACK AREA

Our friends at Singletrack Trails have been partners in trail-building across Wyoming for a few years, and in 2022 they hit it out of the park with the Phase 1 Connector Trail from Pilot Hill to Happy Jack and the Tie City Parking Lot. This trail is almost 4 miles of unbelievable vistas and parts of this landscape not seen by most folks prior. We plan to build Phase 2 in 2024 and this section may have an awesome surprise ending!

TETON COUNTY PROJECTS

BUILD Grant and Active Transportation

In 2020, Teton County won a \$25 million USDOT BUILD grant for the Teton Mobility Corridor Improvements Project, with a dozen interconnected multi-modal transportation projects now underway between the Wilson, WY Stilson Transit Center and Driggs, ID. This is the largest single investment in transit and active transportation facilities ever made in Wyoming. We continue to advocate for all projects associated with BUILD, and bring over ten years of experience to make sure they are the highest quality possible!

Greater Yellowstone Trail

Based on a plan involving numerous jurisdictions, agencies, and advocates, Wyoming Pathways has worked to pursue the vision of developing a 180-mile regional trail that will link two national parks, three national forests, two state parks, and several municipal and county parks while simultaneously integrating regional economic development and recreation opportunities for all seasons. Recent progress is substantial. In 2022, a 2.5-mile new pathway section opened on the west side of Teton Pass. On the north, the West Yellowstone community and the Custer Gallatin National Forest substantially completed the Yellowstone Shortline rail trail, a roughly 9-mile section of the larger Greater Yellowstone Trail that connects to the Idaho border in Island Park. In addition, Idaho State Parks recently secured a Great American Outdoors grant that will pave the 30-mile existing gravel rail trail between Ashton and Teton.

Grand Teton National Park Pathways and Active Transportation Pathways and Active Transportation in Grand Teton National Park has been an on-going program for Wyoming Pathways since its founding in 2012. Grand Teton has been receptive to including several of our recommendations into recent park planning, including the contraflow bike lanes on the Jenny Lake One-Way Loop in 2022. Next up, Grand Teton is working on two big planning projects, a Gros Ventre Road Study, which could include a pathway from the Roundabout to Kelly, and a Colter Bay Village major redesign for a more pedestrian oriented experience than today's motor vehicle centered one.



2022 EVENTS & LOOKING AHEAD



EVENTS

- Bhava Shala Fundraiser for JBR in Lander
- Volunteer day with Lander Cycling Club at JBR
- National Public Lands Day at JBR and Pole Mountain
- JBR Downhill Optimized Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Round Top Trail Ribbon Cutting in Thermopolis
- Fundraising – Challenge 4 Charities in Lander
- Fundraising – Old Bill's Fun Run in Jackson

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

The year began with the addition of Grace Templeton, our Community Engagement Coordinator. Grace brings several years of professional experience in social media, marketing, communications, fundraising, and event planning to Wyoming Pathways. Her primary focus will be strengthening our brand by engaging with citizens across the state on issues related to human-powered transportation and recreational activities. Additionally, we are committed to fostering strong relationships with new communities by adding Community Liaisons and Ambassadors, who will serve as advocates, photographers, social media assistants, and event coordinators to further our work around the state.

We have had a very successful 2023 legislative session, supporting the eventual success of the long-awaited Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund. In addition, we played a critical role in securing the next round of American Rescue Plan Act funded outdoor recreation grants.

We are working on several projects, including new trail development on Togwotee Pass, completion of trail work started last year at JBR, and implementation of two Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Grant-funded projects (pending). We look forward to continuing working on the Pole Mountain, Teton County Projects, and the BUILD Grant Active Transportation initiatives. We are also excited to help plan and host the Pinedale Trail Charrette in early June, working on a film and hosting many fundraisers and events.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the impact we will be able to make in our community through the various projects, initiatives, and events we have planned. We look forward to continuing to work towards promoting active lifestyles and sustainable transportation options in the region. We can only complete this work with your support! Get in touch with us at michael@wyopath.org and if you'd like to donate, you can do so by going to www.wyopath.org/donate/

