



Wyoming Pathways is the statewide voice of people-powered transportation and recreation in Wyoming.

Dear Supporter,

We hope that all of you are enjoying a comfortable slide into the Christmas weekend, have all of your shopping done and are looking forward to a joyous time, however you celebrate the holidays. We wanted to take a moment to let you know what your support has enabled us to do this past year and let you know what we have planned for the upcoming year. So, let's kick things off with a message from our Executive Director, Tim Young:



Wyoming Pathways is pleased to report a highly productive 2018 as the "statewide voice of people who bicycle and walk". From successful trail projects in Lander and Laramie to the new Wyoming Bicycle and Pedestrian Report, this has been our most productive year yet. We are grateful for your support and wish to thank you for your help and encouragement!

Now starting our 7th year, Wyoming Pathways fills an important advocacy role to engage the public and help government agencies envision and implement better policies and make the investments needed to enhance bicycling, walking and trail systems throughout Wyoming.

Wyoming Pathways vision is to create thriving communities and enhance public lands across Wyoming. As Wyoming's leaders seek to diversify the economy, investments to improve biking and walking options are among the top proven ways for communities to realize greater economic, quality of life, and public health benefits. Wyoming Pathways advocacy is helping support the policies and investments to secure these benefits in Wyoming. A quick tour of our progress this year follows.

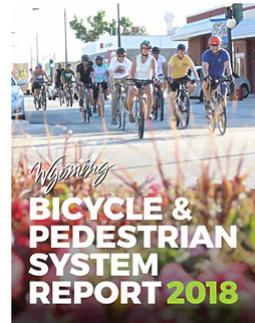
The first months of the year were busy with completing the new [Wyoming Bicycle and Pedestrian System Report](#). With our encouragement, the Wyoming Legislature passed a bill that required this first-ever report be prepared to study the "benefits and opportunities of bicycle and pedestrian pathways and natural surface trails for Wyoming communities", with detailed recommendations for Wyoming to realize these benefits.

I traveled to Washington DC in March for the annual National Bicycle Summit, and met with Sen. Enzi, Sen. Barrasso, and Rep. Cheney to discuss bicycle, pedestrian and trail issues in Wyoming. The Delegation continues to be receptive and helpful; they see the high value of pathways and trails in our communities, and know there is public support in Wyoming.



**Support Wyoming Pathways!**

**Become a Member or Partner Now!**



This May Wyoming Pathways partnered with the Platte River Trails and Friends of Pathways groups to co-host the 2018 Bike-Walk-Trail Summit at Snow King Resort. This is the third such statewide event over several years. The Summit provided an excellent venue for state officials and staff to showcase their respective active transportation and healthy community programs, good networking among community leaders, and terrific presentations to learn about the latest best practices from national experts.



Wyoming Pathways mission includes helping local communities realize their goals for pathways, trails, and main streets. Building on a successful trail pilot project in Laramie last year, this summer Wyoming Pathways took on two major public land trail projects, in Lander and in

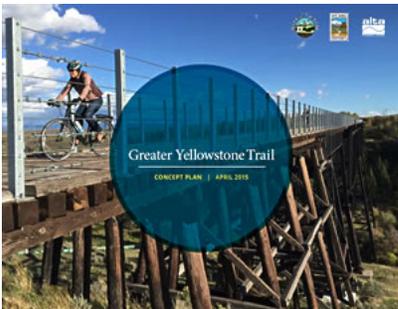
Laramie.

At the invitation of local groups and the US Forest Service, Wyoming Pathways developed and led the Upper Brewers trail construction on the Shoshone near Lander, and the Pole Mountain Trail project on the Medicine Bow near Laramie. The combined value of both projects is approximately \$220,000 from multiple grants. With this we constructed 5.5 miles of sustainable new trails, and fostered local partnership development to help maintain the new trails.



Wyoming Pathways Board members helped with trail layout work, and Chair Bruce Burrows lead a 10-day WCC Crew on a fun new section of the Headquarters Trail as well.

These trail projects were so successful, the Forest Service has asked us to continue helping next year! We already have a \$40,000 trail bridge project planned in Lander, and another Laramie Pole Mountain Trails proposed, with some funds approved and a \$50,000 Trail Grant pending.



On long distance trails, Wyoming Pathways continues to make progress toward the vision of the Greater Yellowstone Trail, a 180-mile world-class regional bicycling and walking trail connecting Jackson Wyoming with West Yellowstone Montana via eastern Idaho. For next steps, final design work is underway on a 2.3 mile pathway with a bridge and two highway underpasses between Wilson and Victor, investing \$3.7 million in federal grants we helped secure.

There was also a fair level of state policy work conducted over the year. I testified at several Travel Recreation and Wildlife (TRW) Committee meetings on possible trail legislation, which may come up this next Session. While in Cheyenne, it's also a good chance to meet with state agency staff that manage programs to support Wyoming's pathways and trails.

All together a very successful year. Thanks again to all of you that helped support Wyoming Pathways with donations, volunteering on your local trails, and contacting your elected officials on critical issues for pathways and trails.

From all of us at Wyoming Pathways, we wish you a joyful Holiday season and all the very best for the New Year. Please keep in touch and we'll do the same.

**Tim Young, Executive Director**

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### **Our Fall Membership Drive Wraps-Up - Thanks and There's Still Time for Year-End Giving!**

With the official end of Fall pending, we wanted to thank everyone that participated in our Fall Membership Drive and donated to us on Giving Tuesday. The financial support we receive from our donors, both large and small, is critical for Wyoming Pathways to continue the work we do on your behalf. We can't do what we do without your help, both financially and by getting involved. By making your voice heard on important issues and by letting us know about what is important to you in your own communities, you help us get important things done to improve Wyoming.

If you like what Wyoming Pathways is doing for biking and walking in the state, please consider making a donation before the end of the year. We have big plans for 2019 (see below) and the dollars you entrust to Wyoming Pathways will be well-spent toward making the state a better place to live and recreate in. To support Wyoming Pathways in a general way, you can do so here: <https://www.wyopath.org/become-a-wyoming-pathways-member-or-partner/>. If you want to provide support directly to the Pole Mountain Trails Project, you can do so here: <https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/pole-mountain-trail-project/>.

If you cannot make a financial donation, please consider supporting us by spreading the word about Wyoming Pathways to your friends and family and encouraging them to [donate](#), [join our mailing list](#) or like our [Facebook page](#).

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### **The Pathway Forward - Looking Ahead to 2019**

After the major successes in 2018, Wyoming Pathways plans to keep the "people-powered" momentum going forward into 2019. We will be continuing to work on some of our existing projects, working on new planned projects and will likely help with ones we do not even know about yet. Working with our partners and friends throughout the state, here are a few of the things we have on our plate for 2019:



**The 2019 Wyoming Legislative Session** - Wyoming Pathways will once again be hard at work supporting legislation that is helpful to biking and walking in the state and working with legislators that understand the value that improved policies can bring to the state. There is a chance that the recent trail user fee legislation could be revived during the session and other legislation may be put forth that needs to be supported or opposed. We will do our best to keep you advised and ask for your input on any legislation that could impact

biking and walking throughout the session, January 8th to March 8th.

**Lander Community Trails Charrette** - We will be holding the next iteration of this proven community consensus-building event to develop common goals for trails in late March or early April in Lander, WY. The event will bring together the community and land agencies to develop priorities, answer questions and address concerns over a common goal to improve trails in the

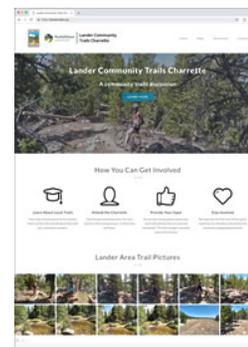
Lander area. After the success of the Pole Mountain Trail Charrette in Laramie and the subsequent progress for trails there, we can't wait to see how the Lander Charrette will positively impact the trails in Lander. You can keep up with the latest on the Charrette website at: <https://landertrails.org/>.



**Additional Trail work at Pole Mountain** - With the success of phases 1 and 2 of the Pole Mountain Trail Project, we look forward to implementing Phase 3 in 2019. We recently

applied for another \$50,000 Recreational Trails Project (RTP) Grant, and hope to again partner with the US Forest Service, Wyoming

Conservation Corps, a professional trail builder and various community groups to continue to improve the trails at Pole Mountain. It's hard to imagine, but this work and the commitments from those who use those trails is making an already world-class trail system even better. You can keep up with the latest on Phase 3 of the Pole Mountain Trail Project on the project web page: <https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/pole-mountain-trail-project/>



**Bridges for the Upper Brewer's Trail** - The trail tread for the Upper Brewer's Trail in Sinks Canyon on the Shoshone National Forest near Lander was completed this past summer, but there is still a bit of work needed for the trail to be fully complete. An additional \$40,000 in new funding will be utilized to add two bridges to the trail. The addition of these bridges will be the finishing touches to a trail that has already received great acclaim and will make the trail system in Sinks Canyon



a destination for all trail users. You can keep up with the latest on the Upper Brewer's Trail Bridge Project on our website at: <https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/lander-sinks-canyon-brewers-trail-extension-project/>



**Continuing Work on the Greater Yellowstone Trail (GYT)** - As one of the longer running and larger scale projects that Wyoming Pathways has been involved in, the GYT continues to move forward in 2019 with projections of more miles of world-class pathway to be built. Such complex and far-reaching projects need constant attention and extensive background knowledge to keep them on track and Wyoming Pathways has been shepherding the GYT forward for many

years. Wyoming Pathways will continue its commitment to moving this project forward and keeping you apprised of the progress. It is worth the effort, because when complete, the GYT will be a 180 mile gem that will be a tourism destination that will benefit the state and the communities it passes through. You can keep up with the latest on the GYT project on our website at: <https://www.wyopath.org/our-work/pathways-projects/greater-yellowstone-trail/>

**New Projects TBD** - Part of Wyoming Pathways' mission is to help communities become better, healthier and safer places to live through promoting biking and walking. We are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to do that, but we cannot know everything that is happening everywhere throughout the state. If you have questions about biking and walking and trails, pathways and safe streets in your community, please be sure to contact us. You can do so by email ([info@wyopath.org](mailto:info@wyopath.org)), by using the [contact form on our website](#) or [contacting us on Facebook](#). We will always get back to you and do our best to help.

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**...and some interesting items from around the state:**

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**What's Happening with our Partners** - Some of our partner organizations have recently released newsletters/articles that may be of interest to you as well:

**Common Outdoor Ground** - [Website](#)

**Friends of Pathways** - [Blog](#)

**IMBA** - [Press](#)

**Keep It Public, Wyoming** - [Website](#)

**Mountain Bike the Tetons** - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Newsletter Archive](#)

**NCBW** - [Newsletter Archive](#)

**People For Bikes** - [Blog](#)

**Platte River Trails** - [Website](#)

**Rails to Trails Conservancy** - [Blog](#)

**Safe Routes to School** - [Blog](#), [Blog Archive](#), [E-News Archive](#)

**Sheridan Community Land Trust** - [Website](#), [Newsletters](#)

**WY Public Lands Initiative** - [Newsletter Archive](#)

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We hope that you find this information useful and will take action to make Wyoming a better and safer place to bike and walk. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please be sure to [contact us](#) and [please also consider becoming a Wyoming Pathways member or partner](#).

Sincerely,

Tim Young  
Executive Director  
Wyoming Pathways

**Connect with Us**



**Wyoming Pathways**

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**Wilson, WY 83014**

[www.wyopath.org](http://www.wyopath.org)

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