



**Wyoming
Pathways**

WYOMING PATHWAYS

2023 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.



ABOUT

Wyoming Pathways celebrates its 12th year as the statewide voice for people who walk, bike, hike, and cross-country-ski, 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

Pete Skram, Data Management

Grace Templeton, Community Engagement

COMMUNITY LIAISONS

Sarah Repshire, Douglas Community Liaison

Randy Lehman, Riverton Community Liaison

Janie Curtis, Cody Community Liaison

BOARD MEMBERS

John Gallagher (Cody)

Jerimiah Rieman (Cheyenne)

Meghan Kent (Sheridan)

Melissa Turley (Jackson)



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thank you for taking the time to read through our 2023 Annual Report!

2023 was our biggest year yet and began with the addition of Grace Templeton, our Community Engagement Coordinator. Grace brought several years of professional experience in social media, marketing, communications, fundraising, and event planning to Wyoming Pathways. Her efforts were a big part of reaching six new communities. In support of this work, we added three Community Liaisons, Sarah Repshire from Douglas and Randy Lehman from Riverton, and members of the nonprofit “That Other Project” in Cody, who furthered active transportation projects in their communities.

Additionally, our online Active Transportation and Trails Needs survey has shown that people from over 43 municipalities across Wyoming would like our help making their communities better, safer, and more connected for pedestrians. This feedback drives our efforts. We then created a reporting tool where you can search, sort, and view the survey results that anyone can access to show the desire for these projects around the state.

We worked on several active transportation and trail projects, some of which are completed, currently active, and just getting started. Please look at the following 4 pages for more specifics on our projects. We also completed the production of our new film highlighting the trail-building process (Wyoming Pathways: Trail Development in Fremont County). This film has been shown in three communities and could be coming to a venue near you in 2024.

We anticipate 2024 to be bigger than ever, as our reach is rapidly growing! We appreciate your support every step of the way; it makes all the difference!

Sincerely,

Mike Kusiek

Want to support our work? Consider donating
www.wyopath.org/donate/



COMPLETED PROJECTS



LARAMIE

We contributed \$10,000 to Laramie BikeNet to construct the Laramie Middle School Bike Trail. Every 6th grader in Laramie will now take a bike skills class as part of their PE curriculum and have a trail on the grounds to test those skills. Urban features were included on the trail as well, to teach students how to ride safely in town. This project had overwhelming community support, and the trail is open for community use after school hours.



LANDER

We worked with the BLM and Trail Co. Inc. to complete a new trail at Johnny Behind the Rocks. The trail is appropriately named “Giddy Up” since it is uphill-optimized and built with horseback riders, runners, and hikers in mind. Downhill bike traffic is not allowed to ensure safety for foot and horseback users. This trail was built to get folks up to scenic vistas more quickly and to reduce overcrowding and user conflicts on other trails at JBR. The trail has been getting a ton of use, and we have been loving the feedback and excitement from the local community.

CONTINUING PROJECTS



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL

The Shoshone National Forest invited us to continue our work at Togwotee Pass. This time, we are planning and rebuilding a connector between Upper and Lower Jade Lakes as part of the iconic 3100-mile Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) with TPT Trails, which we anticipate will be completed in 2024.



HAPPY JACK AREA

We continued working with Pointe Strategies to complete the planning for Phase 2 of the Pole Mountain Connector trail, which will eventually link Laramie to the Happy Jack parking lot. When complete, Laramie locals will be able to walk or ride from town to the trail, reducing barriers to the mental and physical benefits of outdoor recreation!

In the coming years, we have plans to improve and repair 6-10 miles of system trail between Happy Jack and Vedauwoo.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

CASPER

We are leading the charge for better trails in Casper by partnering with Platte River Trails, Central Wyoming Trails Alliance, the City of Casper, Natrona County, the Natrona County Outdoor Recreation Collaborative, and others to host a trails charrette in 2024. When complete, a report of community recommendations for trail projects and maintenance will drive the next steps in the Casper area.



PINEDALE

Along with Ruckelshaus Institute, Sublette Trails Association, Friends of Bridger Teton, and other local partners, we hosted a trails Charrette to generate recommendations for Upper Skyline and Tyler Draw. Over 40 engaged citizens and partners spent a Friday and Saturday providing feedback and recommendations for those areas. We are working with the Sublette Trails Association to identify funding sources for trail planning as a result of the charrette.

DOUGLAS

We are working with Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and partners in Converse and Natrona County to advance the Great American Rail Trail (GART). The GART trail crosses 3,700 miles and 12 states between Washington, D.C., and Washington state. A roughly 50-mile corridor connecting three towns, each about 25 miles apart (Douglas, Glenrock, and Casper), has been identified as Wyoming's best option for connectivity. This route would provide an excellent 1-2-day trip with services available in each community. We are also advancing biking and hiking opportunities in the Douglas area in partnership with the City of Douglas and the Outdoor Enthusiasts of Converse County.



PROJECTS JUST UNDERWAY

LOVELL

We are working with the Town of Lovell and the BLM to talk about assessing, planning, and building a trail system near the Cottonwood Creek Campground and other BLM sites in the vicinity. This work should begin in 2024, with a hoped-for build in 2025.



LANDER

We have partnered with Baldwin Creek Elementary School staff in writing a grant to improve a pathway around the school grounds, which students and the community heavily use. This path links to city pathways, the senior center, and other schools. This work is also part of a renewed partnership with the City of Lander and Fremont County.

RIVERTON

Wyoming Pathways worked closely with the Chamber of Commerce and other local partners to prepare a grant application based on recommendations from the Riverton 2019 master plan and other ideas discussed within the group to repair the Riverton pathways system. This grant has the support of the Riverton City Council, the Fremont County Commissioners, and over 20 local entities.



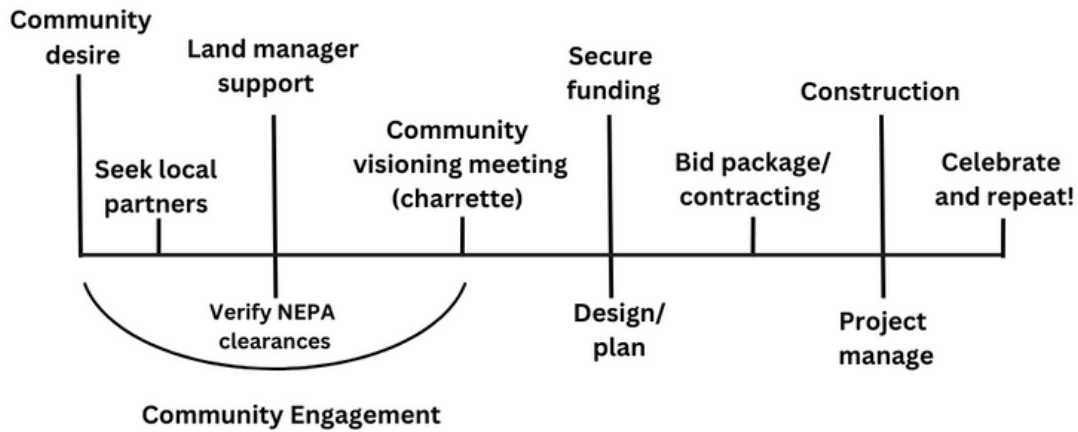
2023 EVENTS



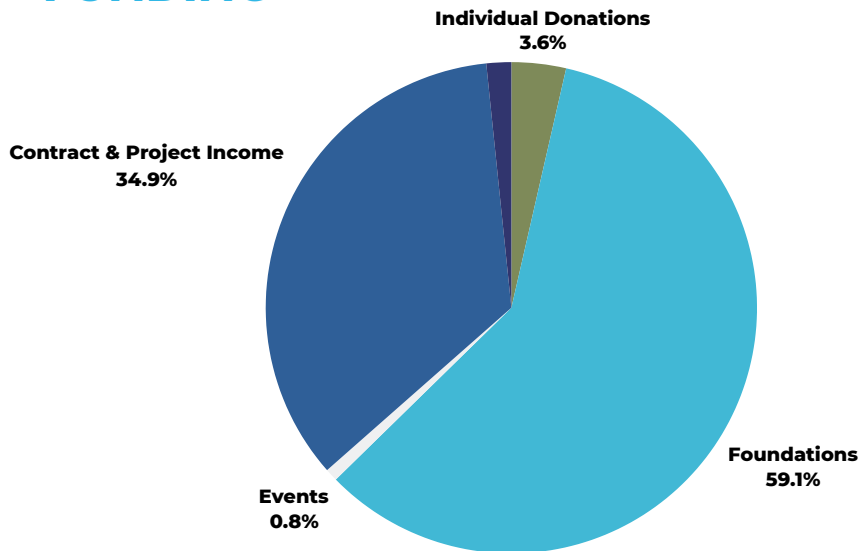
- Panel participation at the **Emerging Issues Forum: Outdoor Recreation in Wyoming**
- Two-day **Pinedale Community Trail Charrette**
- **Governor's Economic Development Week Proclamation Signing**
- Presentation at the **Region Two United States Forest Service conclave of Trails, Recreation, and Wilderness Managers**
- Tabled at Teton Mountain Bike Alliance **Dirt Diggler Fundraiser**
- **Trails Day** with Common Outdoor Ground and Laramie Bikenet
- **Douglas Mountain Bike Skills Park Open House** with Outdoor Enthusiasts Of Converse Co., Trail Co. Inc., and TPT Trails
- We partnered with That Other Project and HDR on multiple **Active Transportation Open Houses**.
- Supported **Fistful of Dirt Gravel Race** in Cody and **131 Gravel Race** in Lander
- **Film Events** (Wyoming Pathways: Trail Development in Fremont County) in Lander, Wilson, and Laramie.

OUR PROCESS, FUNDING, & LOOKING AHEAD

OUR PROCESS



FUNDING



FUNDRAISERS

- Challenge for Charities (Lander)
- WyoGives (Statewide)
- Old Bill's Fun Run (Jackson)
- Pints for Pathways Fundraiser (Lander)

ONWARD AND UPWARD

We are excited about the impact we will be able to make across the state 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/**

