



## MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

**TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FROM: SUSAN LEE, PLANNING MANAGER**  
**PETE SWENSON, NORDIC CENTER AND TRAILS MANAGER**  
**RE: FRISCO TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE**  
**DATE: JANUARY 24, 2023**

**Summary and Background:** The Frisco Trails Master Plan (FTMP) was adopted in March 2017. The purpose of the plan was to inventory and map existing trails, recommend future trails, determine areas in need of wayfinding and maintenance, address bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout town, and prioritize projects for effective implementation. Since the plan's adoption, a great deal of progress has been made on implementing the various recommendations for hard and soft surface trail improvements throughout Town. In June of 2021 Council directed staff to update the FTMP to reflect completed projects, update community priorities, review impacts of increased visitation, and inventory existing signage and make recommendations for a consistent wayfinding plan. In February 2022, the Town contracted with SE Group to complete the FTMP update.

**Analysis:** The update was organized around four key tasks:

1. Existing Condition Update – This task was focused on identifying and evaluating completed projects, projects still in progress, and projects which are no longer feasible or desired. The outcomes from this task include updated maps and recommendations for new trails, connections, and other projects.
2. Community Priorities – This task included community engagement to reassess trail projects and priorities for the next five-years. An in-person open house and online survey were held to gain feedback on completed projects, new or needed projects, and a reassessment of community priorities.
3. Capacity Analysis – With increased visitation to Frisco area trails, this task focused on trailheads and trailhead access capacity and management. User intercept surveys were conducted at local trailheads to gain insight on where users are coming from, how they learned about the trail, and the impact of other users of the trails and trailhead on their experience.
4. Wayfinding Plan – This task focused on improvements to signage and wayfinding for path and trail users. Existing wayfinding was inventoried to identify gaps and issues. The plan update contains a new sign package including materials, siting, and construction recommendations, as well as a map with key destinations to guide sign locations.

The purpose of this work session is to provide Council with an overview of the findings from the above tasks, discuss next steps for adoption and implementation of plan priorities, and to hear general feedback on the findings and recommendations.

**Financial Impact:** Cost estimates for further trail improvements have not been fully developed at this time. Plan recommendations are for Council consideration and as plans develop for an implementation program, staff will provide an update as to costs, and incorporation into the 5-year Capital Improvement Program. A summary of the past several years of budgeted amounts for the Trail Enhancement line item in the annual capital improvement fund is given below.

Account Number	Account Title	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	Estimated 2022 Year End	2023 Budget
20-2000-5066	Trails Construction and Enhancements	\$100,771	\$92,193	\$490,000	\$250,000	\$500,000

In 2022, \$240,000 was allocated towards the planning efforts for the Backyard area, \$40,000 for the FTMP update, \$57,000 for trail maintenance in Frisco's Backyard Area, and \$100,000 for trail improvements at the PRA. The remainder was earmarked for potential wildfire mitigation projects.

2023 funding is dedicated to completing the Backyard Trails and Forest Health study and FTMP update, continued trail work at the Peninsula Recreation Area per the 2019 USFS approved Frisco Nordic Center Master Development Plan, and management efforts in the Backyard area. Additional funds (20-2000-5086) have been budgeted for construction of a new pathway on the west side of Summit Blvd between Hawn Drive and School Road in the amount of \$1,350,000.

Note that the above are the capital costs only, and do not include staffing or ongoing and future maintenance. Financial impacts will be higher in the implementation/improvement stages (first 1-5 years of the Management Plan) vs. years following when maintenance will be the focus. It should also be noted that there are opportunities available to offset capital costs through grants. Council may also choose to consider other funding sources such as sales tax or use fees to offset some portion of the cost of trail maintenance.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** The goals and priorities outlined in the FTMP support Strategic Plan goals related to the Sustainable Environment, and Vibrant Culture, Arts, and Recreation. Town recognizes that safe and efficient multi-modal pathways should be available and accessible to all users, especially modes that support a healthy, active lifestyle and support the environment.

The plan also recognizes that recreational opportunities are essential to the Town's vibrancy, providing unique opportunities for visitors and locals to explore, play, experience, and share with the broader community. Mobility and vibrant recreation are central to the community's economic vitality and an efficient, connected pathway system and developed trail system are therefore high priorities for the Town Council to maintain and enhance for future generations.

**Environmental Sustainability:** Implementation of the FTMP supports environmental goals by improving multi-modal transportation connections and sustainability of the soft-surface trail network.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff is seeking feedback and direction on future priorities that Council would like to see included in future budget discussions.

**Reviews and Approvals:** This report has been reviewed and approved by:

Diane McBride, Recreation Director  
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director  
Tom Fisher, Town Manager

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Existing Conditions Update Memo  
Attachment 2 – Capacity Analysis Survey Summary  
Attachment 3 – Wayfinding Assessment Memo  
Attachment 4 – Summary of public comments on pilot plowing program