

Summit County Rail Trail Corridor Plan

The Rail Trail Corridor is a thirty-mile arts, culture, recreation, and tourism corridor running along the Historic Union Pacific Rail Trail. The Rail Trail Corridor will be designed to cultivate a strong sense of community and offer opportunities for both resource protection and economic revitalization. In August of 2021, Summit County began the process of collecting community input regarding the future of the Rail Trail Corridor.

What We've Done

In the first round of engagement, from September 2021 to June of 2022, we received 476 survey responses, welcomed 90 community members to two Open House events, and held four focus groups containing 25 different stakeholders. For detailed summaries of engagement events, please [click here](#).

October 2022 marks the start of the second round of community engagement. Feedback received will help edit the rough draft plan into a polished version that communities are proud of. This polished plan will be presented to the Summit County Council in February of 2023 for final revision, adoption, and implementation.



The Draft Plan

The community's vision is to embrace the Rail Trail Corridor as a meaningful connection through Summit County in order to enhance user experience, safeguard the natural environment, promote economic vitality, and enrich community character.

The Rail Trail Corridor Plan outlines three goals which were built from the community vision. Each goal is subdivided into two guiding elements that describe general focus areas for the Plan.

Plan Goals

Plan Elements

Goal 1:

Enhance user experience while preserving and maintaining the natural environment



Accessibility



Environmental Quality

Goal 2:

Promote economic vitality through sustainable tourism and responsible recreation



Economic Vitality



Sustainable Tourism and Recreation

Goal 3:

Enrich community character by encouraging agricultural opportunities and embracing the history, arts, and culture relevant to the area



Agricultural Preservation

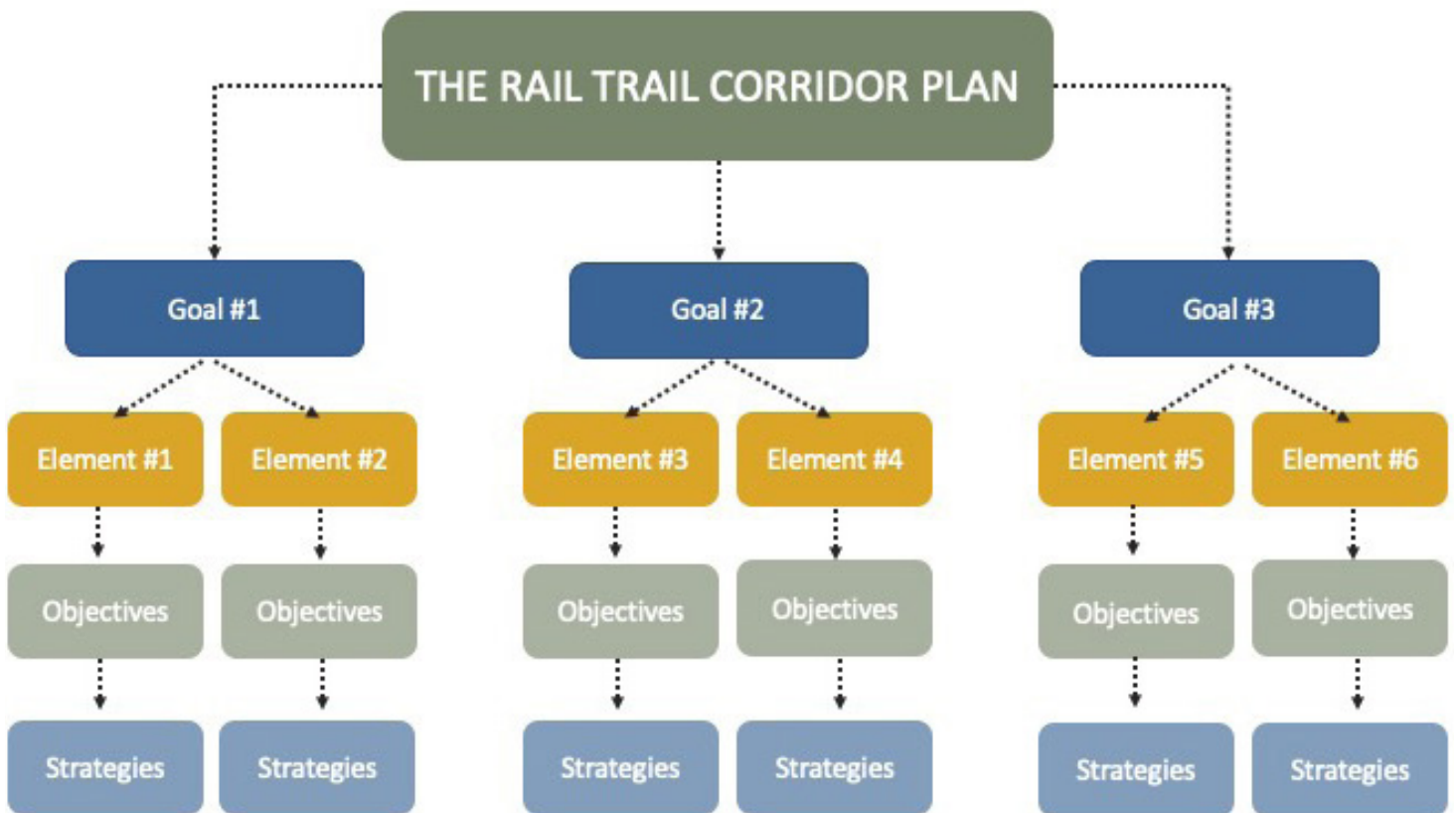


History, Arts, and Culture

Navigating the Document

Just as each goal is broken into two guiding elements, each element is broken down into clear objectives that describe ways to achieve a goal. Each objective is composed of action-items, also known as strategies.

The flow chart below describes the organization of the Rail Trail Corridor Plan and provides a theoretical “trail map” for the County to use across the next 10 to 20 years.



The following pages will outline each of the Goals, Elements, Objective, and Strategies for the Plan.

Goal 1 *Enhance user experience while preserving and maintaining the natural environment.*



Accessibility

Create equitable access to the Rail Trail Corridor for all ages and abilities

Objective 1.1 Improve personal safety

- Strategy 1.1.1** Improve minor road crossings with signage and raised or painted intersections
- Strategy 1.1.2** Improve minor road crossings with signage and raised or painted intersections
- Strategy 1.1.3** Improve major road crossings with pedestrian friendly infrastructure

Objective 1.2 Support and manage different user types

- Strategy 1.2.1** Mitigate conflict between trail users
- Strategy 1.2.2** Ensure user needs are met regardless of recreation user type, age, socioeconomic background, or physical ability i.e. potable water and bike maintenance stations, parking areas that accommodate trailers, shade, and rest areas

Objective 1.3 Establish ADA guidelines and standards

- Strategy 1.3.1** Partner with National Ability Center and Wasatch Adaptive
- Strategy 1.3.2** Install infrastructure in compliance with ADA accessibility standards, including water stations, signage, bike maintenance, restrooms, etc.

Objective 1.4 Promote local and regional connectivity

- Strategy 1.4.1** Partner with neighboring counties and communities on their recreation master planning efforts
- Strategy 1.4.2** Create non-motorized access points to the trail
- Strategy 1.4.3** Connect Rail Trail users to local destinations off the trail
- Strategy 1.4.4** Improve existing points of access for users

Goal 1 *Enhance user experience while preserving and maintaining the natural environment.*



Environmental Quality

Enhance, protect and monitor air and water quality, native vegetation, and wildlife habitat and corridors

Objective 2.1 Foster a climate resistant corridor

- Strategy 2.1.1** Future development or infrastructure enhancements within the RTC should compliment Summit County's renewable energy and emission reduction goals.
- Strategy 2.1.2** Integrate water and land use planning within the RTC with direction from Utah Division of Water Resources.

Objective 2.2 Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat

- Strategy 2.2.1** Assess wildlife migration corridors and ensure the Rail Trail does not present barriers to wildlife movement
- Strategy 2.2.2** Remove fencing that no longer serves a purpose and eliminate barbed wire where feasible.
- Strategy 2.2.3** Ensure all future infrastructure is low-impact and considers environmental impacts

Objective 3.3 Manage invasive species and restore native vegetation

- Strategy 2.3.1** Create a plant inventory along the Rail Trail
- Strategy 2.3.2** Host community invasive species clean up days
- Strategy 2.3.3** Work with agricultural landowners to use animals for weed mitigation and reducing wildfire fuel loads
- Strategy 2.3.4** Restore native vegetation in prescribed areas and develop a monitoring plan

Objective 2.4 Improve water quality along the Rail Trail

- Strategy 2.4.1** Collaborate with the EPA to remediate mine tailings along Silver Creek
- Strategy 2.4.2** Manage stormwater and agricultural runoff more effectively before it reaches bodies of water
- Strategy 2.4.3** Implement green stormwater infrastructure where feasible
- Strategy 2.4.4** Enhance riparian buffers to stabilize slopes and protect water

Goal 2 *Promote economic vitality through sustainable tourism and responsible recreation*



Economic Vitality

Create connections that support diverse local businesses and foster community relationships that promote a culture of hospitality,

Objective 3.1 Support local businesses throughout the County

Strategy 3.1.1 Feature complementary businesses along the Rail Trail

Strategy 3.1.2 Utilize trailheads as versatile spaces for events that showcase local businesses

Strategy 3.1.3 Explore agricultural partnerships

Strategy 3.1.4 Partner with local businesses to create trail amenities that integrate historical materials or information

Objective 3.2 Embrace Communities along the Trail as Trail Towns

Strategy 3.2.1 Utilize the already existing overlay zoning adopted in Summit County

Strategy 3.2.2 Enhance existing nodes along the Rail Trail

Objective 3.3 Combat the adverse impacts of economic enhancement by pursuing innovative approaches to employee retention and housing

Strategy 2.3.1 Create a plant inventory along the Rail Trail

Strategy 2.3.2 Host community invasive species clean up days

Strategy 2.3.3 Work with agricultural landowners to use animals for weed mitigation and reducing wildfire fuel loads

Strategy 2.3.4 Restore native vegetation in prescribed areas and develop a monitoring plan

Goal 2 *Promote economic vitality through sustainable tourism and responsible recreation*



Sustainable Tourism and Recreation

Create connections that support diverse local businesses and foster community relationships that promote a culture of hospitality,

Objective 4.1 Forge strategic partnerships

Strategy 4.1.1 Implement a regional collaboration plan that includes neighboring Counties, Trail Alliance/foundations, and other stakeholders

Objective 4.2 Promote citizen stewardship

Strategy 4.2.1 Develop Citizen Science programs for adults and teens

Strategy 4.2.2 Partner with local schools to create a Junior Stewardship program

Objective 4.3 Know the Rail Trail visitors, stakeholders, and other recreation providers

Strategy 4.3.1 Continue to monitor usage of the trail through trail counters and manual counting to identify type and amount of users

Strategy 4.3.2 Recognize where there are gaps in services for users and address them appropriately

Strategy 4.3.3 Create adopt the trail programs that enhance stewardship and responsibility of users along the Rail Trail

Objective 4.4 Provide the right information

Strategy 4.4.1 Adapt and utilize the shift in information sharing, including technological advancements or information

Strategy 4.4.2 Share information with partners/residents/stakeholders for those new to trail

Objective 4.5 Manage and enhance the existing recreation infrastructure

Strategy 4.5.1 Create a cohesive recognizable look for infrastructure along the trail that integrates arts, history and culture

Objective 4.6 Market the Rail Trail as an alternate mode of transportation

Strategy 4.6.1 Analyze and promote the Rail Trail as an alternative to motor vehicle transportation throughout the County

Goal 3 *Enrich community character by encouraging agricultural opportunities and embracing the history, arts, and culture relevant to the area*



Agricultural Preservation

Actively secure agriculture along the Corridors as a means of preservation for generational livelihood, open space, and ecosystem services

Objective 5.1 Understanding Agriculture

- Strategy 5.1.1** Promote educational programs such as wayfinding or events to help educate users on agricultural practices along the Trail
- Strategy 5.1.2** Incorporate agricultural history in signs, art, or monuments
- Strategy 5.1.3** Support agritourism as a viable economic and social benefit to the community

Objective 5.2 Foster relationships and support from the County

- Strategy 5.2.1** Land use strategies such as conservation easements, open space zoning etc.
- Strategy 5.2.2** Integrate water and land use planning along the Corridor
- Strategy 5.2.3** Provide funding for fencing or infrastructure that straddles the public/private boundary

Objective 5.3 Accessibility to the Trail for agricultural purposes

- Strategy 5.3.1** Motorized access for agricultural practices such as moving livestock to fields bisected by the Rail Trail
- Strategy 5.3.2** Consider managed grazing on the Rail Trail for landscape and weed control

Objective 5.4 Foster land stewardship

- Strategy 5.4.1** Promote adopt-a-trail program for litter cleanup and site monitoring
- Strategy 5.4.2** Integrate erosion control programs, groundwater protection, site buffering, etc
- Strategy 5.4.3** Promote sustainable farming practices that protect pollinator species and increase plant diversity

Goal 3 *Enrich community character by encouraging agricultural opportunities and embracing the history, arts, and culture relevant to the area*



History, Arts, and Culture

Preserve, protect and promote the community character of Summit County and the Rail Trail Corridor

Objective 6.1 Enhance the historical nature of the Rail Trail and the communities that exist in the Corridor

Strategy 6.1.1 Incorporate history into artwork that harmonizes with the natural environment

Strategy 6.1.2 Highlight historical landmarks and explore events that can be centered around the rich history of the area

Strategy 6.1.3 Embrace the architectural history through design guidelines within the Rail Trail Corridor

Objective 6.2 Foster relationships and support from the County

Strategy 6.2.1 Partner with The Summit County Arts Council to develop a comprehensive plan for installation, upkeep, and funding

Objective 6.3 Accessibility to the Trail for agricultural purposes

Strategy 6.3.1 Better understand the context of the communities by establishment of a RTC board that has representatives from each community

Strategy 6.3.2 Encourage local artists to participate in functional artwork that best blends with the natural environment and the culture of the area

Strategy 6.3.3 Explore opportunities to have community events along the trail, including educational programs, and annual gatherings

Objective 6.4 Foster land stewardship

Strategy 6.4.1 Partner with local organizations and professionals to integrate multi-dimensional art for trail users to interact and learn

Moving Forward

The second round of community engagement for the Rail Trail Corridor Plan begins October 2022. During this round of engagement, the County is seeking feedback on the Draft Plan's contents. The feedback received will help polish the plan for eventual approval and adoption by the County. The upcoming engagement events are outlined below:

Online Survey: To complete the most recent online survey, please click [here](#).

Open House: There will be two Open House events open to all members of the community.

X
October X, 2022

X
October X, 2022

Focus Groups: Four focus group sessions will be conducted during early November. To participate in a focus group, please click [here](#).

