

TOWN OF BLUE RIVER OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Blue River Open Space and Trails (BROST) Master Plan, drafted by the Town of Blue River Open Space and Trails Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees on July 19, 2022, establishes the community vision, goals, and policies for open space and trails throughout the Town of Blue River. *Chapter IV. Goals and Policies/Actions* and the goals for geographic areas in *Chapter VI. Trail Planning Areas* of the document identify specific action items to achieve the vision set forth in the BROST Master Plan. It is understood that the master plan is a dynamic undertaking that may take several years to achieve the desired outcomes.

This document “Town of Blue River Open Space and Trails Plan - Implementation Strategy” presents action items in the short term (0-3 years) that will help the Town develop annual budgets and work plans. A number of action items will depend on future staffing levels and capacity, funding, and partnerships. Staff will work with other public land managers, and other organizations to identify action items that may be conducted collaboratively.

To ensure adaptability in how the Master Plan is implemented, action items and their priority will be reviewed on a regular basis during annual Town budgeting, work plan development, and meetings with the Blue River Open Space and Trails Committee and partners. Action items can be refined, removed, or added as projects are accomplished or priorities change. Annually reviewing action items will also allow BROSAT to evaluate whether it is meeting the goals of the master plan. A more extensive check-in should be completed every five years to evaluate any significant changes or updates to the Master Plan action items. Significant changes could stem from a substantial change in landownership, shifts in demographics, recreation trends, or impacts from climate change or natural disasters.

This document identifies appropriate action items and level of priority for the short-term, next 0-3 years, or actions that are ongoing or completed on an annual basis. The following pages are copied directly from *Chapter IV. Goals and Policies/Actions* and the goals for geographic areas in *Chapter VI. Trail Planning Areas* of BROST Master Plan. Text and bullet items in **red italicized text** are the specific action items to be achieved in the short term.

Goals and Policies/Actions

Goal A. Develop, maintain and improve trail access and quality recreation opportunities.

- Policy/Action 1. Provide diverse year-round non-motorized trail recreation opportunities.
- Policy/Action 2. Identify and manage trails that provide appropriate recreational experiences while protecting the area's natural and historic resources as well as minimizing user conflicts.
 - Continue pursuing construction of a paved recreational pathway or designated bicycle lane between Hoosier Pass and Breckenridge, with Summit County taking the lead in the planning process.
- Policy/Action 3. Secure easements, property interest, or other agreements and authorizations to retain and enhance public recreational access to existing and proposed routes and trailheads.
 - Resolve encroachments, trespass, and unauthorized uses within existing dedicated easements, including easements to subdivision landowners as well as easements to the TOBR.
- Policy/Action 4. Design and build trail portals to address desired trail uses, volume of use and the long- and short-term capacity of the resource.

Goal B. Plan and provide for the sustainable maintenance of trails and trail portals.

- Policy/Action 1. Close and restore user created routes that are not part of the identified travel system.
- Policy/Action 2. Use trail design and construction standards that incorporate sustainability guidelines.

Goal C. Manage the travel system in cooperation with other public and private entities.

- Policy/Action 1. Create and expand public/private partnerships, including "Adopt-a-Trail" programs.
 - Consider having the Town of Blue River formally adopt the segments of the Blue River Trail and Lower McCullough Gulch Trail within and immediately adjacent to Town.
- Policy/Action 2. Work to minimize existing and potential conflicts between property owners and recreational users.
 - Resolve encroachments, trespass, and unauthorized uses within existing dedicated easements, including easements to subdivision landowners as well as easements to the TOBR.

Goal D. Provide public information to promote stewardship and appropriate recreational use.

- Policy/Action 1. Install signage at trailheads/portals with appropriate information.
- Policy/Action 2. Post pertinent information to encourage sustainable resource use and facilitate law enforcement.
- Policy/Action 3. Continue to work cooperatively to make Town regulations consistent and enforceable across jurisdictional boundaries, including USFS Supervisor's Order or other mechanisms.

- HIGH priority - In fall 2022 set up staff level meeting with TOBR, SC, TOB and USFS to review/discuss regulations.
- Policy/Action 4. Provide accurate information about trails and access points to social media and publishers of trail guides and maps.
 - Transfer data from BROSAT spreadsheets and maps to E-Files for official records of the TOBR.
 - HIGH priority - In fall 2022 set up staff level meeting with TOBR, SC, TOB and USFS to develop cooperative messaging related to TOBR trail/open space objectives (i.e.. neighborhood use).
 - Create regular topic in TOBR Newsletter for Open Space and Trails information (e.g., trail etiquette, trailhead parking, Leave No Trace, encroachments in easements, wildlife issues/sightings, etc.).
 - HIGH priority – Create electronic map of Appendix C in a format similar to other mapping done by Mueller (zoning, land ownership, CIP projects, etc.). Consider hyperlinks on Appendix C map to spreadsheet data for “one stop shopping” of information on open space parcels and potential trail easements shown on Appendix C. Take Appendix C and have Mueller transfer info to electronic map file similar to the maps Dan Cleary developed in 2018. Create hyperlink data base for spreadsheet data on final maps for ease of looking up data.

Goal E. Develop, maintain and improve travel signage.

- Policy/Action 1. Provide uniform signage to direct users to appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Policy/Action 2. Incorporate Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly messages on signs to educate users on rules and codes of conduct.
 - Create regular topic in TOBR Newsletter for Open Space and Trails information (e.g., trail etiquette, trailhead parking, Leave No Trace, encroachments in easements, wildlife issues/sightings, etc.).
- Policy/Action 3. Install directional signage at trail intersections identifying routes and allowed uses.

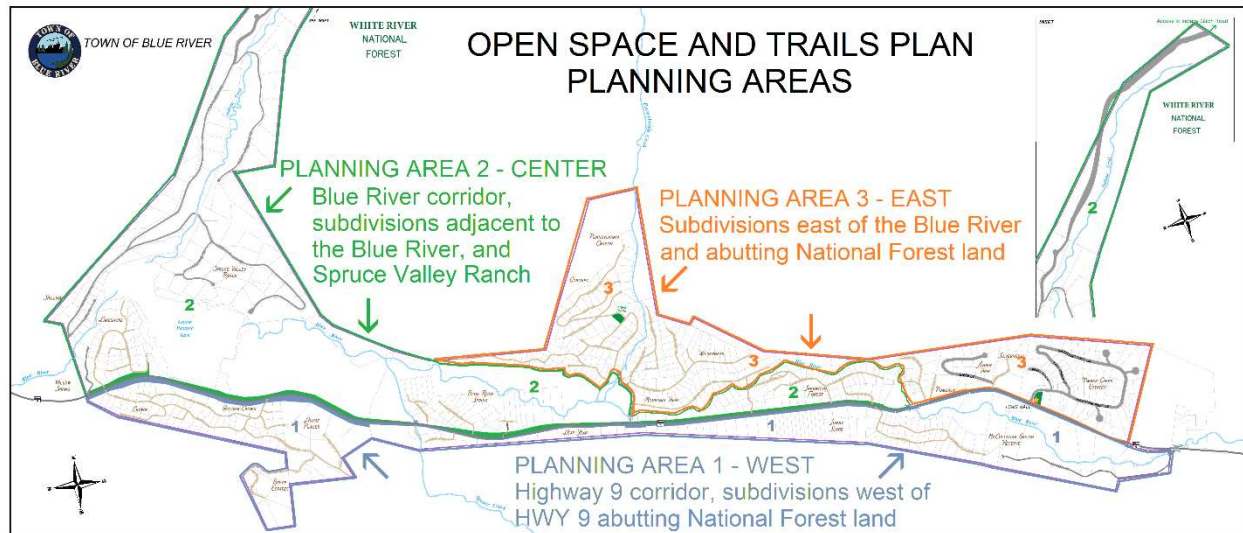
Goal F. Identify, acquire, and protect environmentally sensitive areas to preserve and maintain unique natural areas, wetland and wildlife habitat, the rural mountain character, and access to present and future recreation opportunities.

- Policy/Action 1. Identify and evaluate undeveloped lands in order to decide which areas should be recommended to be protected and managed as open space.
 - DONE - See Appendix C
- Policy/Action 2. Identify specific properties and acquire property interests, when zoning and development regulations are not a viable alternative, to protect and enhance the recreational trail network within the Town.
 - Create an overlay designating “open space and recreation management zones” for TOBR properties, based on natural, historic, and cultural resources, and outdoor recreation opportunities. Consider amending TOBR Land Use Code/Zoning to include “River Corridor and Open Space Protection Zone”
 - Include specific high priority parcels identified in Appendix C and described in detail in the spreadsheets.

- Draft protection criteria, guidelines, and requirements for said zone(s) and start review process with P&Z to codify the new land use zone(s) in current the Land Use Code or amendment thereto.
- Policy/Action 3. Acquire property interests to protect the Blue River corridor and the scenic backdrop visible along Highway 9 through the Town when land use regulations are not a viable alternative.
 - Begin discussions with pertinent landowners to determine interest in working with the Town to grant mutually agreed upon property interests for such lands.
- Policy/Action 4. Secure easements, property interest, or other agreements and authorizations to preserve the natural open space character of the Goose Pasture Tarn and surrounding undeveloped lands.
 - Begin discussions with pertinent landowners to determine interest in working with the Town to grant mutually agreed upon property interests for such lands.
 - Collaborate with Summit County Safe Passages to protect movement corridors and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- Policy/Action 5. Prepare site specific open space protection management reports for acquired open space parcels that identifies strategies to be implemented to protect the open space qualities of the parcel.
 - Monitor, identify, and treat noxious weed populations on TOBR properties.

Trail Planning Areas

Figure 1. Planning Area Vicinity Map



A. Planning Area 1: West -Highway 9 corridor, subdivisions west of Highway 9 and adjacent National Forest land

Planning Area 1 encompasses residential subdivisions within Town limits west of Highway 9. The subdivisions include Crown, Bryce Estates, Leap Year, Sunnyslope, 97 Circle, and McCullough Reserve, and Timber Valley subdivisions. There are two trailheads outside the Town limits of Blue River including the USFS Spruce Creek Trailhead and Lower McCullough Gulch Trailhead.

Goals for Planning Area 1

- The Blue River corridor at the southern end of the planning area is relatively undisturbed and is an important wildlife/waterfowl area. Do not encourage use nor future trail development along the river corridor in this area.
 - Create new land use zone –“Conservation Corridor” and work through the administrative process to codify this.
- Work cooperatively with Summit County, USFS and McCullough Gulch Reserve to maintain the trail connection from Rio Azul Road to the Lower McCullough Gulch Trail on National Forest land.
 - Consider having the Town of Blue River formally adopt the Lower McCullough Gulch Trail.
- Continue to work cooperatively with CDOT, the Town of Breckenridge, Summit County, the USFS and other partners to complete a grade-separated recpath from the junction of Boreas Pass Road and Highway 9 to Hoosier Pass.
 - Let County continue to take lead. Identify and prioritize Open Space parcels that facilitate future Recpath alignment along Hwy 9 ROW.
- With the exception of the Lower McCullough Gulch Trail there are no designated trails on National Forest lands west of Hwy 9 and immediately adjacent to the Town of Blue River. Work cooperatively with the USFS on any updates to the White River National Forest travel management plan that may propose new trails in the future.

- i. Get on White River National Forest (WRNF) Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) mail list and specifically request notifications on Travel Management Plan (TMP) updates and opportunities to provide comment on USFS projects near Town.
- e. Identify significant travel routes, separated from roads where reasonable, within subdivisions that allow for single-track non-motorized travel to connect subdivisions and provide access to established trails and open space/parks.
 - i. DONE – See Appendix C
- f. Work cooperatively with the USFS to identify, for future construction, potential non-motorized single-track routes to connect travel routes in the Town with the Spruce Creek Trail and Burro Trail on National Forest land.
 - i. Secondary priority to first developing internal TOBR trail network.
 - ii. Get on WRNF Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) mail list and specifically request notifications on Travel Management Plan (TMP) updates.

B. Planning Area 2: Center – Blue River corridor, subdivisions immediately adjacent to the Blue River, and Spruce Valley Ranch subdivision,

Planning Area 2 encompasses land within Blue River town limits, and residential neighborhoods immediately adjacent to and nearby the Goose Pasture Tarn and Blue River, including, Spillway and Rivershore, Blue Rock Springs, Spruce Valley Ranch, '96 (western portion), Mountain View (west of Mountain View Road), Sherwood Forest, and New Eldorado (abutting the Blue River) subdivisions. Currently, there are no formal trailheads inside the Town of Blue River in the planning area. At the north end of Blue River Road, on National Forest land, is an informal parking area to access the Blue River Trail and social trail along the Blue River.

Goals for Planning Area 2

- a. The Blue River corridor and Goose Pasture Tarn is a relatively undisturbed wetland/riparian complex through the planning area and is important wildlife/waterfowl habitat. Do not encourage use nor future trail development along the river corridor in this area.
 - i. Create new land use code – “Conservation Corridor” and work through the administrative process to codify this.
- b. The terrain is very steep on eastern portion of the river in the Planning Area, making it difficult to build sustainable trails.
- c. Wayfinding/signage is needed in the area on a site-specific basis in cooperation with landowners.
- d. Work cooperatively with landowners to consider putting undevelopable land along the Blue River in conservation easement status.
 - i. Create new land use code – “Conservation Corridor” and work through the administrative process to codify this.
 - ii. Partner with like-minded agencies to acquire high priority open space lands, including access to the Blue River Trail in Planning Area 2.
- e. Identify and explore easements for significant travel routes, separated from roads where reasonable, from the end of Blue River Road to the Goose Pasture Tarn that allow for single track non-motorized travel.
 - i. High priority to work with Bailey, Theobald and USFS to acquire authority to build, use and maintain non-motorized trail ROW across respective parcels.
 - ii. Start dialogue with USFS about special use permit for all NF trails of interest to TOBR (i.e., Blue River Trail)

- b. Maintain public access along the Blue River Trail from the Town of Blue River to Breckenridge along established easements in Spruce Valley Ranch subdivision.
 - i. **DONE – verify that TOBR has legal easements, and supportive documentation, for the Town records. Partner with like-minded agencies to acquire high priority open space lands, including access to the Blue River Trail in Planning Area 2.**
- f. Identify significant travel routes, separated from roads where reasonable, within Blue Rock Springs subdivision that allow for single-track, non-motorized travel to connect subdivisions and provide access to established trails and open space/parks.
 - i. **High priority to work with Theobald and owners of Blue River San District easement parcels to acquire authority to build, use and maintain non-motorized trail ROW across respective parcels to tie end of Blue River Road with Blue Rock Springs Sub.**
- g. Work with the USFS to obtain a legal right-of-way granted to the Town of Blue River for the northern portion of Blue River Road that is located on National Forest lands.
 - i. **This is a separate action from acquiring permit for trails. Should be taken care of immediately. Determine what level of parking should be allowed, designed, signed, and enforced.**
 - ii. **Move rocks at end of road to accommodate a better entrance to the trail, and similarly access to the Blue River Trail to the east.**

C. Planning Area 3- East - Subdivisions East of the Blue River Adjacent to National Forest Lands

Planning Area 3 encompasses land within Blue River town limits, and residential neighborhoods east of the Blue River up to and abutting the National Forest, including, '96 (eastern portion), Mountain View (east of Mountain View Road), Wilderness, Royal, Coronet, New Eldorado (east of Blue River), Aspen View and Timber Creek Estates subdivisions. There is a formal trailhead on land owned by Summit County and the Town of Breckenridge, known as the "Royal Placer" at the end of the Coronet Drive for 4-6 cars.

Goals for Planning Area 3

- a. Identify and explore easements for significant travel routes, separated from roads where reasonable, from the end of Calle De Plata to the Fredonia Gulch Road that allow for single track non-motorized travel and provide access to established Forest Service trails and roads.
 - i. **HIGH priority. Secure easements across Lot 6 New Eldorado Sub and Lot 18 Aspen View SubS to perfect trail route from end of Vogt easement to Fredonia Gulch Rd.**
 - ii. **Work with landowners on encroachment issues on north end of Audry's Trail easement (cars parked in easement right-of-way visually discouraging use of trail as well as potential liability issues with damage to cars, tripping on stuff in easement, etc.) easements to resolve encroachments and safety concerns about use of easement ROW (Vogt Esmnt and parked cars).**
- b. The Pennsylvania Creek corridor itself is a relatively undisturbed wetland/riparian complex through the central portion of the planning area and is important wildlife habitat. This must be considered in planning, design, and construction of any trails along the creek.

- i. Create new land use code – “Conservation Corridor” for significant segments of Pennsylvania Creek and work through the administrative process to codify this.
- c. Work with USFS on the Old Wagon Road trail that goes from Blue River Road to Coronet Drive to re-route trail to meet sustainability standards for mountain bike use and connect to Blue River Trail Extension at Royal Placer, via Coronet Drive and Holly Lane.
 - i. HIGH priority to work with USFS and TOB to get this on the 2023/24 program of work for heavy maintenance to establish sustainable water diversion features within existing Trail ROW.
- d. Wayfinding/signage is needed in the area on a site-specific basis after coordination with landowners affected by the proposed improvements.
- e. Identify significant travel routes, separated from roads where reasonable, that connect the Town Park and Old Wagon Road north of Coronet Drive with the Blue River Trail on Summit County/Town of Breckenridge lands near Pennsylvania Creek.
 - i. HIGH priority - work to obtain access easements access from Regal Circle near Town Park (R2 easement in Royal Sub, Lot 270 & Lot 271) to the Blue River Trail segment on Town of Breckenridge and Summit County land in the Royal Placer.
- f. Cooperate with landowners to secure appropriate right-of-way across lots along the Blue River Trail from Pennsylvania Creek to Calle De Plata, and further south to Timber Creek Estates.
 - i. High priority – start on north end by securing easements across lots in Sherwood Forest (Lots 82, 83, 88 and 100) up to Clyde Lode.
 - ii. Verify status of “Road Easement” on subdivision plat – Does the TOBR have a legal ROW for the platted road?
 - iii. After establishing credibility in working to secure and manage easements on Calle De Plata-Fredonia segment, approach landowners of Clyde Lode et al concerning easements on Blue River Trail.
 - iv. Acquire vacant unsubdivided residential land east of Aspen View Sub in unincorporated Summit County (Government Lot 5, TR 7-77 Sec 30, Acres 4.570) to provide re-routing of non-system trail on National Forest that links Fredonia Gulch Road to Timber Creek Estates and 39 Degrees North Sub south of TOBR.
 - v. Start dialogue with USFS to get the existing non-system trail included in the USFS Travel Management Plan, after Gov Lot 5 has been acquired.
- g. Work with Summit County/Town of Breckenridge on the design and construction of an improved parking plan for the trailhead at the end of Coronet Drive and access to Pennsylvania Creek.
 - i. HIGH priority - In fall 2022 set up staff level meeting with SC and TOB to develop management plan for Royal Placer and Sherwood Forest Lots.
- h. Work with Summit County/Town of Breckenridge and USFS to evaluate the socially created trail network that is located immediately east of the trailhead at the end of Coronet Drive and north of Pennsylvania Creek.
 - i. Tie this with management plan for Royal Placer and potential forest fuels mitigation planning in 2023.