

# Friends of Pathways Annual Report



2023





# About us



## **Mission statement**

Friends of Pathways champions a safe, connected system of pathways, trails, bike lanes and sidewalks that encourage active transportation and healthy recreation in our Jackson Hole community.

## **Our vision**

Jackson Hole will be a place where trails and pathways are central to our vibrant and healthy community. These networks will be interconnected, convenient, enjoyable and the most desirable means of travel. Residents and visitors will have the choice to access the natural world, places of business and healthy recreation options without the need for a car. Friends of Pathways will be a positive force toward achieving this vision.

## **We connect people**

Our pathways, sidewalks, trails, and bike lanes are Jackson's social network, enabling face-to-face interactions and providing the medium for a healthy and active community. Whether it's a safe route to school, a bike share commute or a wild ride on Teton Pass, FOP works to encourage everyone to get outside and enjoy Jackson Hole.

## **We are people empowered**

Thanks to the support of thousands of people, FOP is one of Jackson's most accomplished advocacy organizations. For 30 years, we have been the community conduit for a new paradigm for transportation and recreation in Teton County that has been realized in over 70 miles of non-motorized separated pathways, 152 miles of world-class dirt trails, millions of dollars in capital investment, and a powerful voice for car-less travel.

## **We believe driving is the alternative**

In Teton County, people prefer to walk, ride their bike, horse, or ski rather than drive. FOP is working to have "every neighborhood connected" by a pathway or trail, so that people can move around our unique home in healthy ways that respect our environment.



# Letter from our Executive Director

Dear FRIEND,

Of the many reasons I love my job, **YOU are at the top of the list.**

I may not have met you in person, but I know you by your love for the great outdoors, your affinity for sun on your face and wind in your hair, **your willingness to dream big for Jackson's trail and pathway networks** and your dedication to Friends of Pathways.

**There may be no other place in Jackson Hole that welcomes such a wide diversity of people and activities than the trail and pathway networks.** Spend a couple of hours at the Cache Creek trailhead and you'll see babies swaddled in front packs, insanely fit athletes, seasoned locals, and everyone in between. Take a stroll on the Garaman Pathway and note the myriad of ways that people enjoy this special place.

**How did this happen? YOU of course!** Your gifts,

your advocacy, your sweat equity and your firm belief that trails and pathways make our unique home even better.

Peruse the following pages and **you will see how YOUR generosity came to life in 2023:**

- **A brand-new pathway connection** from Wilson to Stilson with underpasses at the Wilson School and Green Lane;
- **Bike safety and skills building classes** for students at Jackson Hole Middle School;
- **A new Bike Safety Coordinator** to help interface with the schools and bike shops;
- **Three new miles of highly accessible trails** at the base of Teton Pass and much improved switchbacks and trail tread on the Upper Black Canyon trail;
- **Five months of winter grooming** 12 miles of singletrack in Cache Creek; and
- **A strong voice** for additional pathway connections in Grand Teton National Park and Teton County.

**There is still more work to do.** Town lacks bike lanes and sidewalks in key areas; many neighborhoods aren't connected to the pathway network; only a tiny percentage of the Bridger-Teton trails are designed to accommodate people with different abilities; and people are still faced with risky choices sharing the roads with high-speed traffic when there are gaps in the pathway network.

**I hope you will continue to support Friends of Pathways** and lead the way toward a future where pathways, trails, bike lanes and sidewalks connect our entire community and give all people sustainable and enjoyable options for moving around our special home.

**I look forward to our paths crossing in 2024,**



KATHERINE DOWSON  
Executive Director





# If a tree falls in the woods, we clear it

In partnership with the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Friends of Pathways keeps 152 miles of local trails in tip-top shape. We service Jackson's most popular trails on Greater Snow King, Munger Mountain and Teton Pass - building bridges, cutting back brush, fighting invasive weeds and clearing a lot of trees (224 trees cleared in 2023). In 2023, over 507,000 unique visits were taken on Jackson's front-country trail system. Trails provide an important boost to the mental and physical health of our community and your generosity keeps these well-loved trails open for business!

In 2023, FOP Trail Staff worked with over 100 volunteers and a crew from the Montana Conservation Corps to build and improve popular sections of trail including the Sink or Swim Trail, upper portions of Black Canyon and 3 miles of new Universal Trail Design singletrack at the base of the Old Pass Road. Universal Trail Design principals prioritize diverse access without compromising on the overall experience that natural trails offer. The new "Old Pass Loops" system is great for people using adaptive equipment, beginner mountain bikers, dog walkers, families and people looking for trails with minimal incline and exposure.

## 2023 TRAIL NUMBERS

<b>507,457</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>137</b>
total unique visits to our trail system	miles of new single track	trees cleared from trails	visits a day	volunteer hours	volunteers





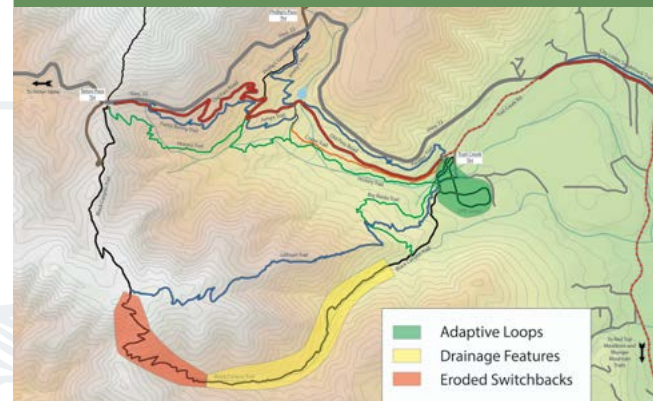


In the winter, Friends of Pathways grooms 12 miles of singletrack in Cache Creek for hikers, bikers, runners and skiers – the only free groomed single track in Jackson. The winter of 2023 was especially challenging to keep the Cache

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trails open from November to mid-April. It takes a village to raise and maintain our local trail system. Community support and sweat equity add up to a more accessible and sustainable trail network. Thank you for making this possible. 🌱

## 2023 TETON PASS TRAIL WORK







## 2023 PATHWAY NUMBERS

**2,560**

average daily pathway  
trips from Jan 1 – Dec 31

**8,484**

pathway trips on  
July 4 – peak day on  
the pathways

**1,219,934**

total pathway  
trips - fourth year  
in a row to  
exceed 1M



# A new neighborhood connected

Friends of Pathways is working to connect every neighborhood in Jackson Hole to the pathway network so more people have safe choices for moving around Teton County without a car.

The Teton County/Town of Jackson Community Pathways Department, Friends of Pathways, and a host of community advocates (like YOU!) work tirelessly to improve and expand the pathway network year after year. Even the simplest projects can necessitate hours-long meetings and require tenacious advocacy to be achieved. So, it is important to recognize and celebrate all wins for pathway safety and connectivity.

In the fall of 2023, the new Wilson-Stilson pathway opened! This 15-year in the making project now connects Wilson neighbors on the south side of HWY 22 to the Wilson school and the rest of the pathway network. Additionally, the 1.5 miles of new pathway and two new tunnels under HWY 22 offer a more direct route to downtown Wilson for all users. In the spring of 2024, a pedestrian bridge will be constructed over Fish Creek, allowing people to walk or bike directly into downtown Wilson.

In 2023, over 1,200,000 trips were taken on the pathways. That means 1.2 million fewer trips taken by car and less pressure on our over-burdened roads. It also means more





people than ever are on the pathways and as a community, we must work to keep the pathways safe and inviting for all users.

Last year, Friends of Pathways partnered with Jackson Police, Teton County Sheriff Department, our local school district, and every bike shop in Teton County to help promote bike safety on our pathways to residents, students, and visitors.

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In 2023, new 15 mph speed limits were posted on Town pathways in an effort to create a more welcoming space for all users on the pathways. Look for additional speed control infrastructure in 2024 – to help slow speeds in areas like Garaman park. These improvements in infrastructure, education, and enforcement are aimed at making our increasingly popular multi-use pathways safe and inviting for people of all ages and abilities. 🚲





# We're out there

Friends of Pathways logged over 200 hours of tent time this summer, engaging with the community and working to keep peace on the pathways. Plus, we made a new, original beer with our friends at Snake River Brewing! Every time you purchase a Putt-Putt Trail Ale a portion of the proceeds goes toward our trails program. Ride bikes, drink beer, and rejoice in well-maintained trails!

In 2023, you may have seen us at the People's Market, Jackson Hole Farmers Market, Snake River Brewing, Garaman Park, Snake River Bridge, Wilson School, Colter Elementary, Jackson Elementary, JH Middle School, the Teton Food Tour, Emily's Pond, Cache Creek, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Town Square, Stilson Parking Lot, Picnic, Jackson Hole Center for the Arts, the Genevieve Green Space, or simply out working on the pathways and trails.

**We look forward to our paths crossing in 2024!**






# Teaching our youth, visitors, and residents the way of the path

Jackson Hole's extensive multi-use pathway network allows hundreds of kids to bike safely to school every day, and many do so on e-bikes. Friends of Pathways supports kids biking to school and wants to give students the skills they need to bike safely, while preserving the pathway experience for all users.

Since 2021, FOP has been working to provide improved bike skills and safety education for middle-school aged students. Last year, FOP hired a Bike Safety Coordinator, Aaron Nydam, to assist in our efforts to provide pathway etiquette and e-bike education to local youth, visitors, and residents alike. Aaron shares his passion for cycling with our local youth and helps promote a kind and welcoming culture on our pathways.

This past May, FOP staff visited Jackson Hole Middle School and taught bike safety in an assembly setting as well as outside using a bike skills course. The curriculum focused heavily on e-bike safety and etiquette. Friends of Pathways organized this fun and educational day for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in response to growing public concern regarding pathway safety, specifically as it relates to e-bike usage and middle school students.

FOP takes pathway safety very seriously. Our aim is to foster a shared responsibility within our community to accommodate all pathway users. Parents play an enormous role in this effort. 



**For questions or advice on e-bike use and kids, you can find out information at [friendsofpathways.org/bikesafety/](https://friendsofpathways.org/bikesafety/) or feel free to contact Friends of Pathways Bike Safety Coordinator Aaron Nydam at [aaron@friendsofpathways.org](mailto:aaron@friendsofpathways.org).**





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Sweet Cheeks Meats  
Samuel Tarling  
Christine and Justin Tatosian  
Nancy Taylor  
Sarah and Patrick Tenney  
Jennifer Durning  
and Geoff Tennican  
Karla Tessler and Matt Deehan  
Teton Mountain Bike Tours /  
David Hunger  
Teton Toys / Meghan Warren  
and Wes Gardner

Teton Village Association  
Laurie Thal  
Sue Thomas and Jim Williams  
Nancy Leon  
and Charlie Thomson  
Three Peaks Corporate Advised  
Fund in Honor of Jess Grant  
Angus Thuermer  
Lisa and Mac Tichenor  
Shirley and Wes Timmerman  
Patti and Tom Tisone  
David Rodman Titcomb  
Foundation  
Titcomb Foundation  
Estela Torres  
Meaghan and Johnny Tozzi  
Barbara and Stan  
Trachtenberg  
Taylor Starr and Jeromie  
Traphagan  
Shannon Dale and Tom Turiano  
Melissa Turley  
UBS Matching Gifts Program  
Mariah Underhill  
Juliet Unfried  
Valenstein Family Foundation  
Colleen and Ethan Valenstein

Julie Epperson and Lane Valum  
Warren Van Genderen  
Allison Lenz  
and David Vandenberg  
Judy Vann  
Nancy and Paul Vaughn  
Nancy Vick / The Newcomer  
Family Foundation  
Sandy, Polly, Hans  
& Hannah Wakeman  
Deb and John Walker  
Linore and Jim Wallace  
Celia and Rob Wallace  
Christy Walton  
Lisa and Mark Wan  
Doreen Ward  
Lucinda Abbe and James Warner  
Jocelyn and John Wasson  
Teresa and William Waterman  
Shea and Don Watkins  
Andy Watson  
Karen Wattenmaker  
and Steve Dunbar  
Earth Tours / Lisa Varga  
and Keith Watts  
Jim Webb  
Mary Elaine and Bob Weber

William E. Wecker Associates  
Inc. Employee Matching  
Gift Program  
Nancy and Jamie Weeks  
Wendy and Chad Weiss  
Robert Wemple  
Ann and Joseph Wenger  
Edward Westerman  
and Chad Carlson  
Wheel Wranglers  
/ Katie and Bill McNamara  
Ali and Hal Wheeler  
Juliann Whelan  
Whiskey River Charitable  
Foundation  
Katie and Steve White  
Courtney and Andrew Whiteford  
Beth and Russ Whiteford  
Chris and Erich Wilbrecht  
Karen Wilbrecht  
Cindy and Rob Williams  
Gail Williams  
Suzanne and John Willian  
Katie Wilson  
Wilson Backcountry Sports  
Chris and Kurt Wimberg  
Barbara Ann and Gary Winter  
The Wiswell Family  
Barbara and Jeff Wogoman  
Ashley and Michael Wold  
June and Steve Wolfson  
Laura and David Woodruff  
Charles Woodward  
Chris Woolley  
Ann Wright  
Elli Bemis and Kelvin Wu  
Cindy and Peter Wuerslin  
Leona Wunnenberg  
Christi Yannelli  
Shannon and Jamie Yarrow  
David Yemm  
Karen and Matthew Yeo  
Jessica, Brook, Nico  
and Sita Yeomans  
Karen Youngblood  
and James Peck  
Dian and Karl Zeile  
Aimee Zeleznik  
Kelly and Steven Zelikovitz  
Deborah Clemens  
and John Zendler



# Thank you to our 2023 Business Sponsors and Partners







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**BRIAN REMLINGER**  
**SCOTT SPECTOR**  
**COLLEEN VALENSTEIN**  
**CELIA WALLACE**

## 2023 Staff

**KATHERINE DOWSON** Executive Director  
**CARTER DENISON** Outreach and Events Coordinator  
**AARON NYDAM** Bike Safety Coordinator  
**CHRIS OWEN** Trails Program Director  
**SAM PETRI** Communications and Advocacy Director  
**MICHAEL PIKER** Pathways Stewardship Director  
**SARA SOPER** Trails Program Assistant  
**MARGARET THOMPSON** Operations Director  
**NANCY WEEKS** Finance and Development Assistant



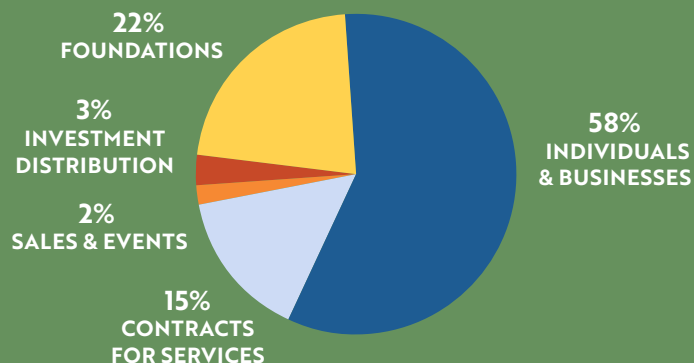
## 2023 Financial Snapshot\*

**RAISED**  
**\$773,912**

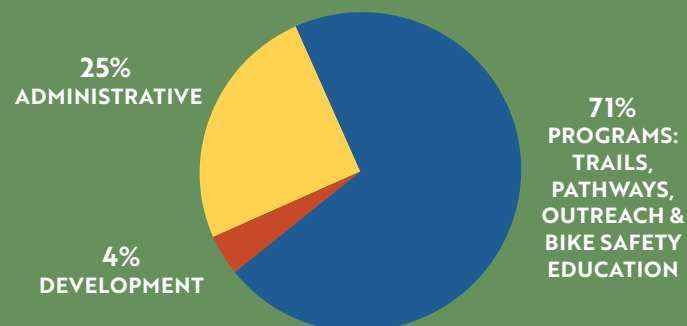
**EXPENDED**  
**\$833,517**

FINANCIAL RESERVES  
 WERE USED TO COVER  
 BUDGET SHORTFALL

### SOURCES OF FUNDS



### EXPENSES



\*Friends of Pathways Fiscal Year 2023: 10/1/22 - 9/30/23





**FRIENDS OF PATHWAYS**

PO Box 2062

610 W Broadway Avenue, Suite 204

Jackson, WY 83001

**[friendsofpathways.org](http://friendsofpathways.org)**

