

County Commission Update: Blazing Trails in Tooele County

The recent drop in temperatures reminds us that fall is right around the corner. Before we know it, the leaves will be changing colors, and hunters will be taking to the field. Tooele County is recognized for its beautiful vistas from a striking, red sunset over the Stansbury Mountains to a brilliant morning in Settlement Canyon with the ridges ablaze with orange, red, and yellow hues.

The County Commissioners, along with Tooele County Parks and Recreation and the Tooele County Trails Committee are trying to make those beautiful scenes more accessible by identifying and marking old trails and creating and designating new trails. This is a work in progress.

The Trails Committee created a master trails plan that is a working document, updated as new trails are identified and marked. That plan includes trails to connect communities with each other, trails to connect communities with Deseret Peak Complex, and continued access to a maintained system of trails for motorized (ATV, motorcycle, snowmobile) and non-motorized (equestrian, hiking, biking, skiing) use in the mountains and along the foothills.

The County Commission and Trails Committee are currently working with private land owners to preserve access to public lands by controlling access to private land, marking trails, producing maps and policing the trail system. These steps will help to reduce or eliminate abuse to private and public lands due to property and environmental damage, vandalism, and trash left behind.

Our Parks and Recreation Department maintains the trail system and identifies trailheads with kiosks. Currently we have kiosks marking the trailheads at both ends of the Mid-Valley Trail between Tooele and Deseret Peak Complex, at the mouth of Middle Canyon, on the new Grantsville to Deseret Peak Trail at Durfee Street and SR-112, on the new East Bench Trail (in progress) at Droubay Road and Lasslee Lane, at the walking trail on Stansbury Island, on three trails in Ophir Canyon and in Dry Canyon on the Jacob City Loop Trail. More kiosks will be added as other existing and new trails are identified for public use, such as the Parkway trail between Sheep Lane and Droubay Road.

You can check out our master trails plan on our website at www.co.tooele.ut.us. Hover over the Parks and Recreation tab. Click on Tooele County Trails, then click on the Master Plan tab at the top of the new page. You will find a presentation and a map showing the Tooele County Trail System.

If you're interested in getting involved, the next two Trail Committee meetings are September 2 and October 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the Deseret Peak Complex offices. Groups and families can also

help by participating in our Adopt-a-Trail program to maintain and clean a specific trail. Call 843-4001 for more information.

We appreciate the cooperation of the private landowners and other government agencies to identify and provide these valuable recreation resources. You can do your part by observing the trail signs, staying on designated trails, not creating new cuts or trails into the environment, picking up trash, and staying off private lands. That way we will all benefit through the existence of the Tooele County Trails System for years to come.