



**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**  
**Planning Department • Land Management Division**  
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[www.kpb.us/land](http://www.kpb.us/land)

**CTMA 2017-01**  
**TRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**FOR PUBLIC TRAILS ON BOROUGH LAND**  
KPB 17.10.185

**TRAIL MANAGER:**

Tsalteshi Trails Association, Inc  
PO Box 4076  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
[www.tsalteshi.org](http://www.tsalteshi.org)

**Trail Management Unit A**

**Non-motorized Multi-purpose Trails between Isaak Road and Slikok Creek**

Summary of Trail Management:

**SEASONS OF TRAIL MANAGEMENT**

Year Round

**TRAIL WIDTH (Typical)**

- 18" to 6 Feet (Single Track)
- 10 Feet (Main Trails)

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES**

- Periodic Brushing/Clearing
- Snow Grooming
- Erosion Controls

**TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS**

- New Trails
- Trailheads
- Parking Area
- Signs

**TRAIL ADMINISTRATION**

- Scheduled Events
- Grants
- Signage

**TRAIL ACTIVITIES**

***Non-Motorized:***

- Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Skijoring
- Hiking
- Biking
- Walking/Running
- Pet Friendly

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **USE REGULATIONS**

Non-motorized, human-powered use only (except authorized maintenance vehicles)

Management methods to support the regulations and restrictions.

Signs

Gates

## **TRAIL CONSTRUCTION METHODS & TIMING**

### **Main Trail**

Vegetation removal, stripping and grading using dozer, excavator, skid steer, and/or mulcher to 10-foot width, field fit based on terrain and soils to achieve a durable surface, with positive drainage, resistant to erosion, seeded with grass where needed to protect soil surface. Vegetation debris will be stockpiled and removed for firewood or burned during low fire danger conditions or incorporated into low sidecasting rows with incorporated topsoil.

### **Single Track Trail**

Hand Tools and Mini-excavator to 18" – 6 feet in width with embanked turns and varied natural and placed log bypass features and ramps.

### **Timing of Construction**

Construction of Trails will occur within the first 5-years of the agreement, during dry or frozen conditions.

## **WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS:**

Tsalteshi Trails Association has successfully developed and currently maintains over 25 kilometers of trails on approximately 440 acres of land pursuant to a lease authorized by Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Ordinance 99-19, Ordinance 2005-13, 2009-51 and 2011-31. The trail system is located near Skyview Middle School and extends from Kalifornsky Beach Road on the northern border to Isaak Road on the southern border. The trails are frequented by the local middle and high schools, a youth (6-12 years old) ski program, several adult fitness groups and countless members of the community at large. Just on the trails system itself since 2014, TTA hosted community-wide race events that totaled approximately 9300 kilometers, or 5800 miles, of race course, with an additional 1000 miles of TTA events held away from the trail system. We believe healthy outdoor activity is fundamental to physical, mental, and emotional health and are proud to contribute to the high quality of life available to residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Over the years, TTA has demonstrated its ability to provide and administer a quality trail system which has been used not only by the above mentioned events and

groups, but also by the Arctic Winter Games, Besh Cup Nordic Racing Series, and KPBSD regional and statewide events.

However, these existing trails have been designated primarily for Nordic skiing in the winter and running, mountain biking, dog walking and disc golf use during the non-snow months. Dogs, bicycles, walking and running are not allowed on the groomed ski trails, and snow-shoe use is restricted to the Wolverine loop and the newly constructed snow-shoe trail during the winter. Tsalteshi recognizes that this restriction limits some users the opportunity to use the trails, and TTA has received continued pressure from other user groups (fat tire bikes, skijor, winter runners, snow-shoe recreationists) to use the trails because there are no good opportunities elsewhere in the local area. As a result we are pursuing ways to provide year round, multi-use (human-powered only) trails that can benefit multiple user groups while maintaining the integrity of the current Nordic trails.

Tsalteshi Trails Association (TTA) is requesting to obtain a twenty-year "Trail Management Agreement" with the Kenai Peninsula Borough to build multi-use trails on the "Refuse Buffer Zone" property. TTA recognizes that the KPB may have other, unknown uses for this land at some time in the future, and as a result, all trails will be constructed in a way that best utilizes the topography of the land for trails while providing corridors, or set asides, for KPB future use.

Trails will be constructed using a multi-use model that will provide for a ski, snow-shoe, bike, skijor and dog-friendly main trail system with narrower, tighter single-track bike and running trails that branch off the main trail. These side trails will generally be more difficult than the main trail, but will give users choices depending on their skill levels. The main trail will be approximately 10 feet wide and will be constructed utilizing heavy equipment such as a dozer, excavator, skid steer and mulcher. The single track, side trails will vary from about 18 inches to six feet wide and will be built with mini-equipment and hand tools.

Trail layout will begin as soon as the Management Agreement is approved and KPB land manager and other agents have had a chance to view the project and make any needed modifications. Construction of the trails will not begin until TTA adds the parcel to TTA's general liability insurance policy or obtains a new policy specific to the project.

Because we want to limit access to the trails, particularly to keep motorized machines off the trails such as snowmobiles and four wheelers, access to the trail system will initially be through the current driveway directly across from the landfill entrance. This is our proposed initial trailhead and access to

the new trail system, and this location already has appropriate parking for trail users. This section of borough land is currently being used by State Forestry as a fire-fighter base camp. TTA recognizes their priority, will not interfere with their camp and will keep them informed of the trail construction schedules. This location has been identified as the most appropriate location for parking and trail access for two primary reasons.

First, as stated, it allows TTA to better control appropriate access to the trails and limit motorized machines access to the trails. If the trail construction began immediately to the south of Isaak Road (directly across Isaak road from our current trail system), there is lots of open spaces where snowmobiles and four wheelers currently operate, and a trailhead in that location would be difficult to limit that vehicular traffic at the present time.

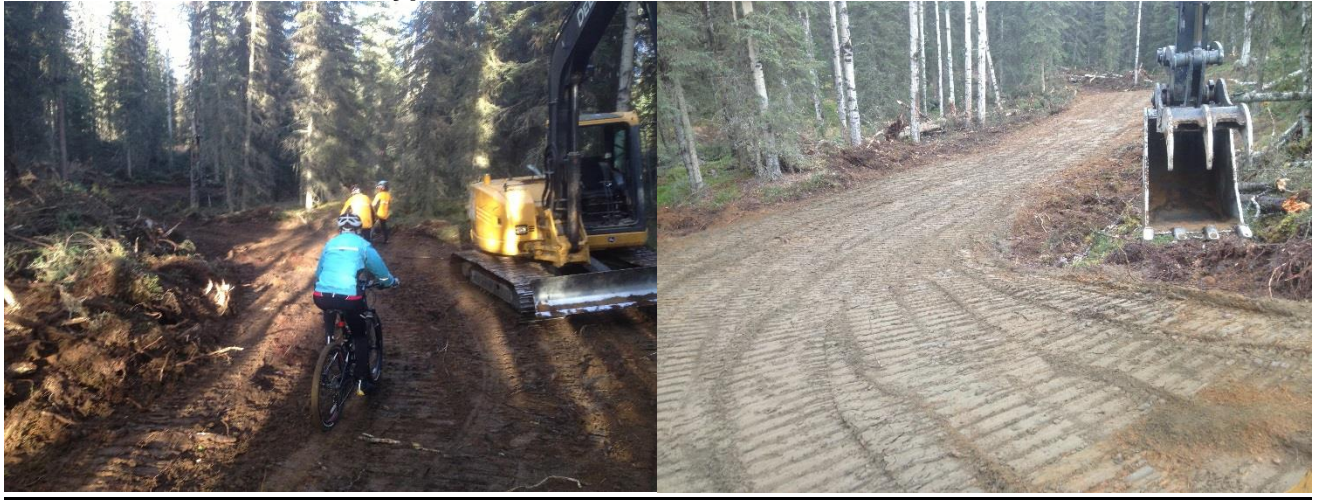
Secondly, a primary desire for developing this land into a multi-use trail system is our current trails are primarily restricted to Nordic skiing only in the wintertime. As noted earlier, we are wanting to develop this second trail system in an effort to meet the needs of a growing diversity of wintertime activity in the community. By locating the trailhead and parking in the proposed location, it better physically separates the two trail systems, and will therefore encourage winter time multi-use on the new system and preserve the Nordic ski trails on the currently existing system.

Our hope is to have the newly constructed trail system eventually connect with the existing Tsalteshi Trails across Isaak Road, but having a separate parking and access point will better allow us to manage each trail system appropriately.

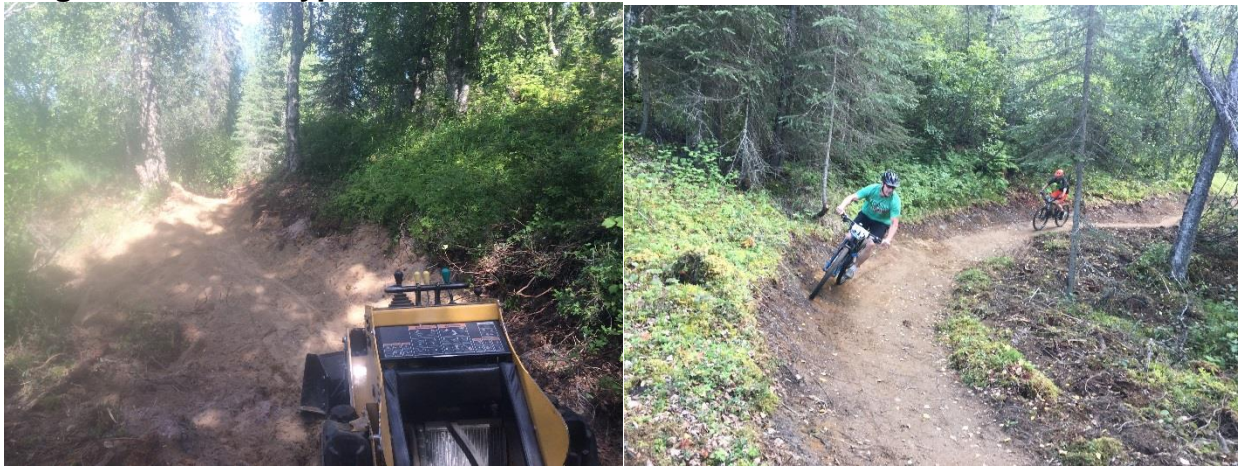
Over the past thirty years, TTA has demonstrated a commitment to developing and maintaining a trail system that benefits a very diverse group of outdoor enthusiasts found throughout our borough. Our organization has maintained a steady paid membership base of approximately 500 individual over the past several years, and if approved, our plan is to simply expand trails in order to not only allow for more trail experiences for the citizens of the borough, but to increase the number of varied activities on this multi-use trail system.

## TYPICAL CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAMS/PHOTOS

### 10-Foot Wide Main Trail Typical Construction

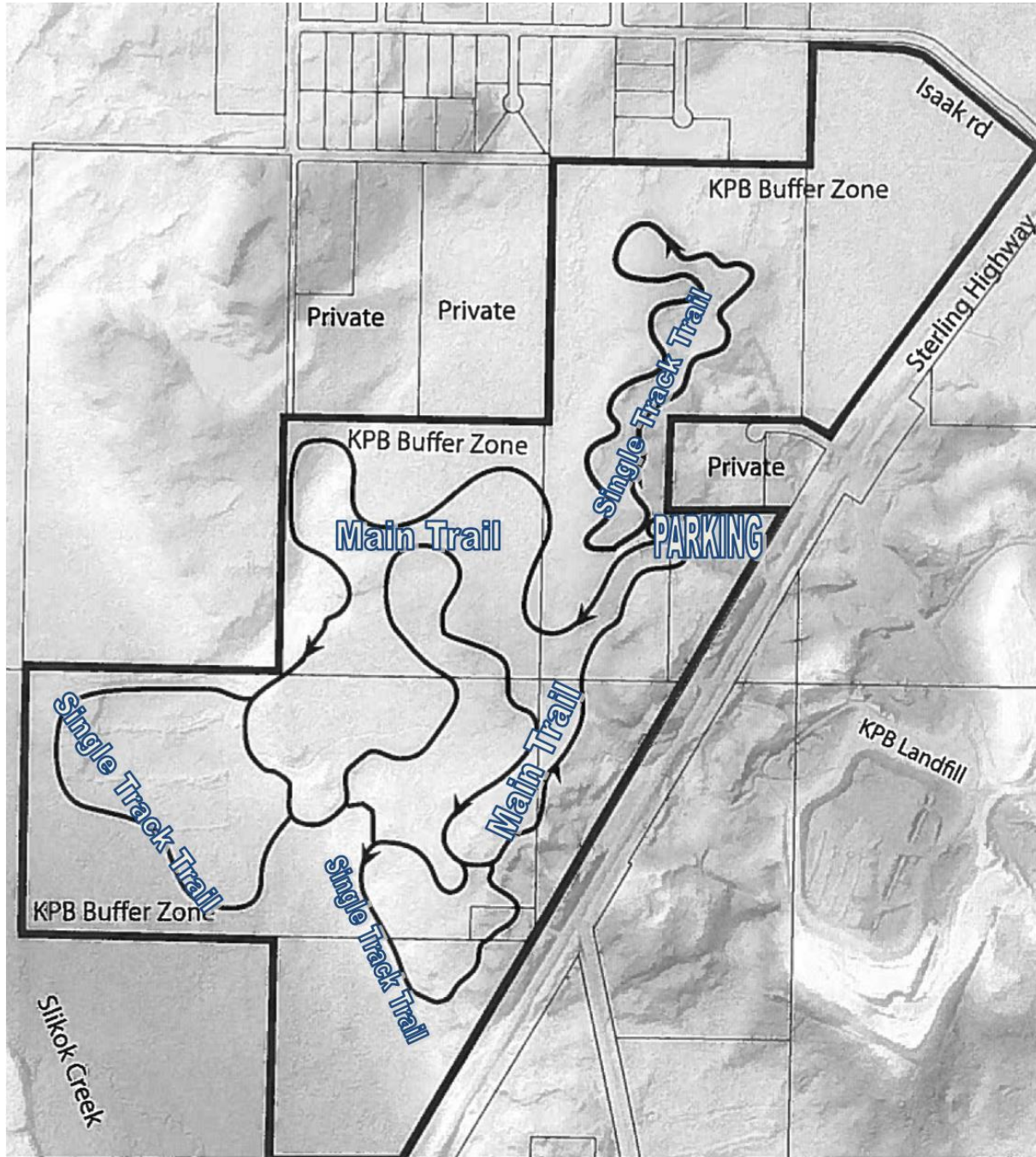


### Single Track Trail Typical Construction

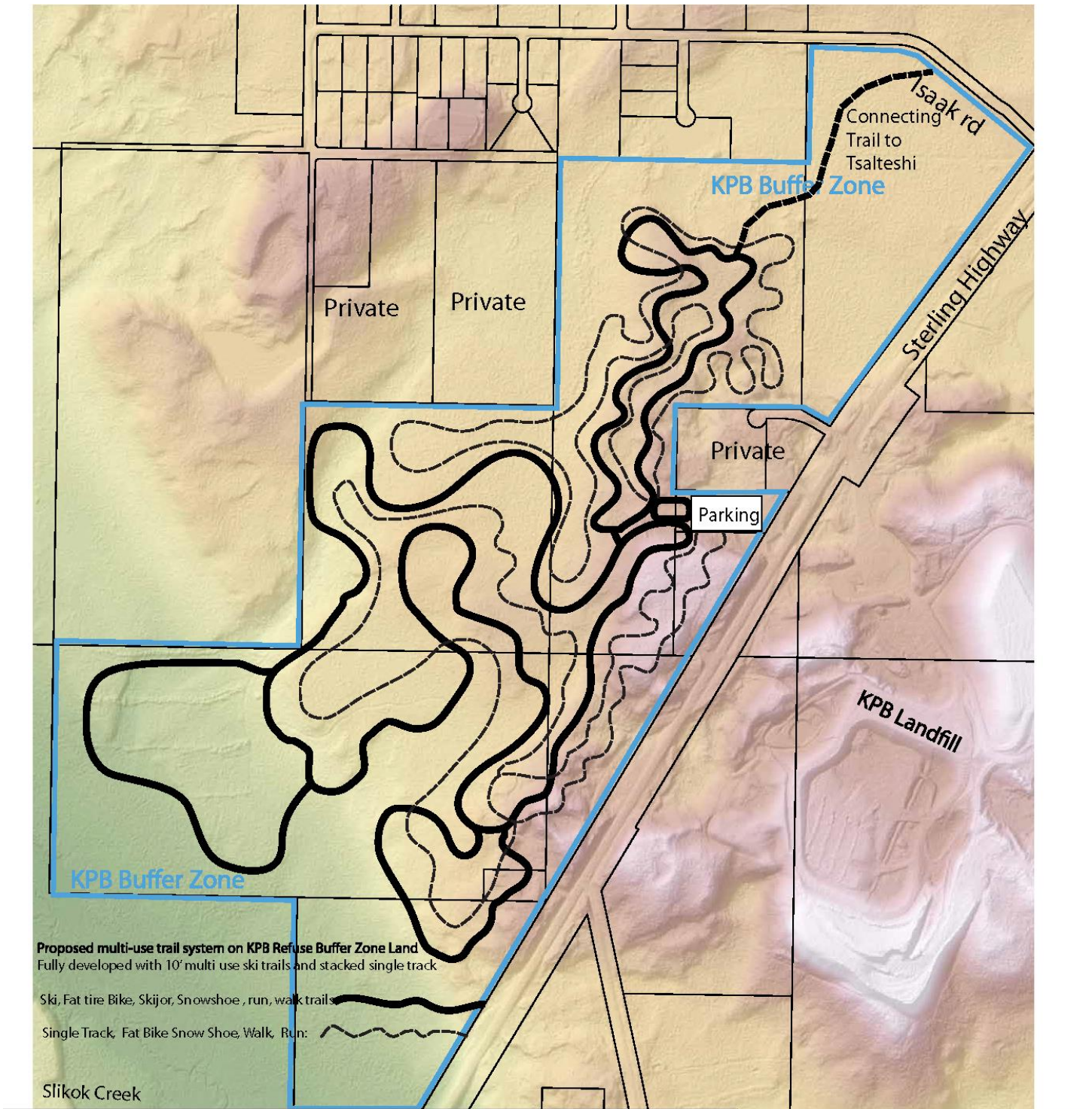


**LOCATION OF TRAIL FACILITIES**

**Initial Phase- Current Plan**



## Future Plan Sketch



## **PUBLISHED RULES & REGULATIONS**

The following rules and regulations will be posted by sign at trail access points and on the web at:

<http://www.tsalteshi.org/about/trail-etiquette/>

### **General Trail Rules and Etiquette**

- Respect wildlife
- No hunting along trails
- Trails are closed to motorized vehicles and horses (human power only)
- No littering
- Reduce your speed before passing another user, and announce your presence
- Frequent users should consider joining TTA to support grooming and trail maintenance
- HAVE FUN!

### **Summer Rules and Etiquette**

- Dogs must be on-leash or under voice command
- Please pick up after your pets!
- Singletrack users need to be aware of approaching trail intersections; yield to runners/walkers

### **Winter Rules and Etiquette**

- Singletrack is open to fat tire bikes and snowshoeing
- All other trails are open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring, walkers, and runners, in the posted trail direction.
- Pull behind sleds and chariots are allowed.
- Move to the side of the trail to allow grooming equipment to pass
- Avoid skiing 2-4 hours after grooming; this allows the trails to "set up"

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Current event schedules can be found at:

<http://www.tsalteshi.org/calendar/>

## **RESERVATION SYSTEM**

Current information for reserving Trail Facilities for group events can be found at:

<http://www.tsalteshi.org/events/>

## **FEES**

There are no fees proposed for any Trail Facilities at this time.

Note: Tsalteshi Trails Association does have membership fees and provides timing services for fees, neither of which are required for trail use and are independent of the CTMA.



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

The following measurements will guide annual reports submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup> each year, summarizing trail management from the period of April 1 to March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### TRAIL FACILITIES- DEVELOPMENT INVENTORY:

Kilometers of Single Track Trail  
Kilometers of Main Trail  
Number of Parking Spaces  
Number of Trailheads (Access Points)

### USE:

Number of School Events  
Number of Community Events  
Summer Estimated Users per Day  
Winter Estimated Users per Day  
Estimated Total Users per Year

### MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES:

Number of Grooming Events  
Vegetation Treatment or Other Work Days  
Trash Removals

### MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

Grant Funds Used  
Grant Funds Applied For  
Number of Signs

### CURRENT CONTACTS:

Trail Management Plan Administrator

### FEES:

None

**APPROVAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE:** Original TMP Approved and Effective on Date of CTMA