

TOWN OF EAGLE

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN



**FINAL PLAN
JULY 2022**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ADA	Annexation and Development Agreement
BCVROS	Brush Creek Valley Ranch Open Space
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CPW	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
ECOS	Eagle County Open Space
EVLТ	Eagle Valley Land Trust
GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado
HTC	Hardscrabble Trails Coalition
IMBA	International Mountain Bike Association
NFS	National Forest System
OSRAC	Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee
PUD	Planned Unit Development
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMZ	Recreation Management Zone
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
VVMTA	Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance
WRNF	White River National Forest

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Eagle community is passionate about its open space and trails. Residents place immense value on their proximity to hundreds of miles of trails and the accessible open space that supports important wildlife habitat. This Plan identifies a vision and goals to preserve and enhance those valued qualities and guide the Town's Open Space and Trails department for the next decade. Through robust analysis and engagement process, this Plan offers guidance on community interests and gaps, opportunities, and threats associated with the existing system. Detailed recommendations and implementation priorities outline next steps for the department and its partners.

Plan Overview

PLANNING AREA

The Town of Eagle manages approximately 1,400 acres of open space and 37 miles of trail within the Town boundary, with an additional ~150 miles beyond it that connect to Town trails and act as an area-wide trail system. The land in and around Eagle is also home to diverse wildlife populations and important natural resources.

The extent of this Plan's analysis matches that of the 2014 International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Eagle Area Trails Plan, extending from the Town of Eagle west towards Gypsum, east towards Bellyache Road, south towards the White River National Forest (WRNF), and north to the Town's northern boundary. Unlike the 2014 Trails Plan, which solely focused on trails, this Plan encompasses Town Open Spaces, natural resources, and conservation as well. The planning area encompasses all trails within the Town of Eagle, the Town's open spaces, as well as trails in surrounding open spaces and federal lands. These include lands administered by the Colorado River Valley Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District of the White River National Forest (WRNF), land owned by Eagle County Open Space (ECOS), and land protected by conservation easements held by the Eagle Valley Land Trust (EVL). However, the primary focus of the natural resource management element of the plan is Town-owned Open Space. See **Figure 1** for a map of the planning area and **Figure 2** for a map of Town Open Space.

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS DEPARTMENT AND OSRAC

Open Space and Trails-related efforts in the Town of Eagle are led by the Town's Open Space and Trails Department and the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC). The purpose of the Town department is to "preserve and protect natural open space areas and wildlife habitat while also providing outdoor recreation opportunities for Eagle's citizens and visitors."

The purpose of OSRAC is to provide additional expertise to the Town Council and the Town Manager to enhance and facilitate open space and recreation in the Town. OSRAC was founded in 2020 due to overwhelming interest in enhancing natural resource management. OSRAC acts as a catalyst between the Town, residents, relevant stakeholders, and the broader community to expand and improve the Town's internal and adjacent open space and recreation opportunities. This is done within the context of the Town's commitment to conservation, social, and environmental objectives.

The mission of OSRAC is as follows: "Ensure continuing investment, conservation, and sound management practices of open space, trails and natural resources within the Town of Eagle and adjacent public and private lands with the goal of maintaining our community's quality of life for present and future generations." This seven-person advisory committee was instrumental in the development and refinement of this plan.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Town has valuable partnerships with entities such as federal land managers, trail and recreation advocacy groups, state and local agencies, conservation groups, Homeowner's Associations, and others for trail maintenance and construction, open space management, and acquisitions. These partnerships have been instrumental in providing recreational opportunities and maintenance. This Plan makes recommendations on how to formalize and leverage these partnerships to complete new trails, maintain existing recreational infrastructure, and manage open spaces and natural resources.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

This planning process considers the ideas, recommendations, and documented conditions of several recent planning efforts.

The 1996 Eagle Area Community Plan and 1997 Eagle Area Open Lands Conservation Plan established important principles around open space and conservation that continue to guide this plan. The Open Lands plan first identified the management objectives for open space and outlined the vision of management by the Town. While some management strategies have evolved to address increased use, new recreational equipment developments, and changes in desired management by Town residents, many major objectives identified in that plan still hold true today.

The [2014 Eagle Area Trails Plan](#), sponsored by the Town, documented a vision for recreation, new trails and maintenance recommendations. This was the Town's first attempt to develop a comprehensive plan to guide recreation and trail development in the Eagle area. Some of these recommendations were considered during the development of this plan. However, several recommendations were removed or changed based on new information, community feedback, and updated goals in more recent planning documents, including the BLM's 2015 BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP).

The [2015 BLM RMP for the Colorado River Valley Field Office](#) documents resource conditions and management practices for BLM land within the Colorado River Valley, which includes land in the Eagle planning area. The plan identifies recreation management zones around Eagle and establishes desired trail mileage and type in each management zone. New trails were planned following the directives of the BLM resource management plan.

The Town recently completed a new comprehensive plan, [Elevate Eagle](#). The Elevate Eagle plan includes goals such as: enhancing downtown, diversifying the Town's economic opportunities, improving connectivity among neighborhoods, promoting Eagle's unique recreational offerings, balancing wildlife and recreation, and improving traffic, walkability, public transit, and other transportation options. Along with sentiments expressed in recent community surveys, this Elevate Eagle plan encourages a balanced approach to open space management that encourages responsible recreation management with regard to wildlife habitat and natural resource protection. The plan calls for the development of an Open Space and Trails Plan and the development of programs or funding around protecting wildlife habitat, maintenance and improvements to the trail system, wildlife education, and natural hazards mitigation. This Open Space and Trails Plan develops more detailed actions around these goals.

In the [2021 Community Survey](#), Eagle residents listed quality of life and recreational opportunities as the top two reasons they choose to live in Eagle. For quality of life, key contributing factors listed include open space & trails and the recreation-oriented lifestyle. Stream and river quality, open spaces areas, scenic/visual quality, recreational access, and wildlife conservation were among the top issues listed that need to be responsibly addressed by the Town.

The [2015 Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Wildlife Action Plan](#) was consulted around important habitats and management actions to preserve them. In addition, the [Eagle County Safe Passages for Wildlife](#) report offers information on connecting wildlife habitat and mitigation projects throughout the County.

Additional documents and plans reviewed include the [Eagle River Corridor Master Plan](#), [Brush Creek Watershed Management Plan](#), Brush Creek Ecological Assessment, Eagle Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Plan, [Haymaker Trailhead Master Plan](#) and Haymeadow Open Space Management Plan. The Open Space and Trails Master plan provides additional detail to these existing planning documents and/or works in tandem with the existing goals and objectives.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

This first chapter introduces the Plan and establishes the vision and goals for the open space and trails system.

The second chapter of this Plan is an overview of existing conditions. This chapter includes an analysis of the existing trails system, an analysis of conservation priorities, natural resources and open space, and a discussion of the existing land management structure and directive.

The third chapter dives into the recommendations of the Plan. This chapter is the heart of the Plan, with recommendations that speak to the opportunities and gaps identified through the existing conditions analysis and discussions with the Town of Eagle community. If implemented, these recommendations will help Eagle achieve its vision and goals.

The final chapter of the Plan, Implementation, describes the priorities for all the recommendations listed throughout the Plan, outlines steps for implementation and action, and offers suggestions for funding and other opportunities to bring the Plan recommendations to life.

How to Use this Plan

The Open Space and Trails Master Plan aims to provide guidance on how to improve and enhance the trail system as well as stewardship strategies for open space management. These outcomes will only be achieved through coordination and collaboration with regional partners and the community.

This Plan provides the Town with key funding priorities, identified gaps and opportunities, strategic direction, capital projects, and partnerships to support implementation for the next 10 years. This Plan represents the community's direction to the Town around open space and trails.

Prior to the implementation of any recommendation, additional environmental review and public scoping would occur for projects on both federal land and Town Open Space. Thus, these recommendations represent a vision for the future, rather than an approved list of projects.

Over the next decade, as habitat/natural conditions change or new data becomes available, it may be necessary to update this plan in response. In conversations with the community, land managers, and resource specialists, it became apparent that being adaptable is a necessity. While the vision below describes the overall intention, this plan can be adaptable and flexible in accordance with new information or updated data, maps, and science.

Vision, Objectives, and Goals

VISION

The Town of Eagle's vibrant community values their quality of life defined by an abundance of open space, a respect for local wildlife, and an accessible trail system that has options for all

users. Eagle's open space and trails system is known for its steep hillsides covered in juniper, sagebrush, and gypsum dirt, all centered around a scenic river valley. The system is a hidden gem for outdoor recreation, where intentional planning balances recreation opportunities with conservation and habitat preservation. The Town's Open Space and Trails Department proactively collaborates with partners and community members to support trail maintenance, natural resource and habitat management, and unique recreational experiences.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The Town's 1997 Open Lands Conservation Plan laid out the following objectives around the management of open space. These objectives were reviewed as part of this plan process and reaffirmed.

- a. Conserve Natural Characteristics
- b. Protect Critical Wildlife Habitat
- c. Provide Appropriate Recreational Opportunities
- d. Maintain Scenic Qualities

GOALS

This plan has 6 primary goals with 14 additional sub-goals. These goals are listed in order of priority.

1. Inventory conditions and improve understanding of open space.
 - a. The Town is actively increasing its capacity and understanding in managing natural resource conditions and habitat.
 - b. The Town monitors and manages natural resource conditions in its open spaces in accordance with best practices and management plans.
2. Based on the outcome of conditions inventory, appropriately invest in open space, natural resources, and wildlife habitat protection.
 - a. The Town works with partners to identify and pursue appropriate habitat restoration and open space management projects on Town Open Space and surrounding federal lands.
 - b. The Town invests in wetland and riparian health, particularly around Brush Creek, and works to restore impaired wetlands for wildlife habitat and riparian health.
3. Maintain existing trails and recreation assets in open space and surrounding federal lands.
 - a. The Town has capacity to maintain trails to a high standard within its boundary and support the BLM and other partner organizations in managing and maintaining trails beyond its boundary.
 - b. Accurate and informative signage and trailhead kiosks help users navigate the system and understand resource sensitivity and proper etiquette.

4. Strategically evaluate support for new recreational opportunities with consideration to wildlife habitat, natural resource impacts, system connectivity, user experiences, and accessibility.
 - a. Together with partners, the Town strikes a community and scientifically-supported balance of wildlife and resource protection with appropriate recreational opportunities.
 - b. The Town encourages and promotes recreational use in appropriate areas based on resource/habitat sensitivity, parking and access, desired experiences, and neighborhood impacts.
 - c. Key trail connections support access to the many different parts of the system and create a cohesive trail network.
 - d. The Town strategically evaluates its support for new trails based on connectivity, wildlife habitat, user experiences, accessibility, and soil conditions.
5. Provide equitable access to the open space and trails for all users across a variety of activities and effectively communicate with residents and visitors to support accessibility, good etiquette, and an understanding of wildlife habitat and natural resource impacts.
 - a. The Town effectively communicates with the community to share important information about wildlife habitat and resource sensitivity, seasonal closures, etiquette, and system updates.
 - b. The trail system offers a variety of experiences to meet the needs of all user groups and types: welcoming beginner experiences on flatter terrain and long or difficult backcountry routes - for mountain biking, motorized, equestrian, and hiking uses.
 - c. The Town works closely with its partners to creatively engage the community, support accessible recreation, and better educate open space and trail users.
 - d. The Town provides information and opportunities for open space and trail system users to understand and appreciate the diverse habitats and natural resources in and around the Town.
6. Residents and visitors to the area contribute to a consistent source of funding for the Open Space and Trails Department.

Plan Process

The planning process combined a thorough analysis of the existing system with a robust public engagement process to identify issues and opportunities for the Plan. The Eagle Open Space and Trails Master Plan process began with the planning team gathering information on the Town of Eagle's assets and perspectives on open space and trails. The

team reviewed past plans and other relevant documents, developed maps of existing conditions, and hosted an initial roundtable meeting with stakeholders.

Following initial information gathering efforts, the planning team analyzed the existing open space and trails system to clearly understand the dynamics of the existing system. These analyses are summarized in Chapter 2 and available in full in **Appendix B**. At this stage, the planning team also engaged the community to understand their perceptions on the strengths and gaps in the existing system.

Utilizing the analyses and public engagement, the planning team identified key opportunities for the Open Space and Trails Department. The trails opportunity map highlights potential changes or enhancements to the trail system. Chapter 2 also exhibits opportunities for the Town to inventory and improve management of natural resources and wildlife habitat.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The planning process repeatedly invited and encouraged Eagle residents to share their ideas for the Plan. The process engaged stakeholders such as local land managers, the land trust, members of trail organizations for motorized, non-motorized, and equine user groups, members of OSRAC, and the Fire District. In addition to stakeholder meetings, two community outreach events and one online survey were conducted to gather input from the larger community.

Roundtable

On August 2, 2021, a roundtable meeting was held to engage stakeholders, discuss desired outcomes for the Plan, and perform a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of the open space and trails system. Notes from this meeting are included in **Appendix A**.

Visioning Open House and Survey

On October 19, 2021, a Plan Visioning Open House was held at the Brush Creek Pavilion. The event was an opportunity for the community to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns towards establishing the vision and foundation of the Open Space and Trails Master Plan. The Open House had interactive boards where attendees could respond to questions about their use of trails and open space, values, issues and gaps, and vision for the future.

Following the open house, an online survey was available for those unable to attend the event. Replicating the open house experience, the open house materials were available online for context and a survey asked the same questions as the boards.

Approximately 60 guests attended the in-person open house event and the survey received 234 additional responses. Survey and open house results indicate that residents value

accessibility to trails and open space areas, open space/habitat preservation, continued maintenance of trails and trailheads, trail connectivity, good user etiquette, and having a variety of trail types. Full results from the survey and event are provided in **Appendix A**.

Focus Groups

On December 9, 2021, stakeholders were gathered for two focus group discussions, one on the trails system and one on open space and natural resources. Each focus group discussed existing conditions, management efforts, issues and gaps, future challenges, and goals for open space or trails. The trails focus group primarily discussed access and connectivity of trails within the system as well as opportunity areas for new trails. The open space focus group primarily discussed natural resource management, balancing wildlife and recreation, and funding for open space areas in and around Eagle. Notes from the focus groups are provided in **Appendix A**.

The planning team also engaged Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement and Cycle Effect to discuss system accessibility during a focus group.

Plan Review

The draft plan was presented to and reviewed by OSRAC and the public. OSRAC met on March 3, 2022, to review the plan. On March 15, 2022, an open house was held to present the draft Plan for community feedback. A public comment period was open from March 16, 2022, to April 8, 2022. This feedback was incorporated into the plan prior to a meeting with OSRAC on May 3, 2022, to review changes. A Town Council work session was held on May 31, 2022. Subsequent to the Council work session, redline edits discussed at the work session were provided to OSRAC for review at the July 12, 2022 meeting. All the OSRAC meeting and the Council work session were open to the public to provide additional comment.

All public engagement opportunities were advertised on the Town website, social media, at Town Hall, on user group platforms, in Eagle Today and Vail Daily, and on flyers placed around Eagle. Some meetings were advertised on the Town's electronic sign on Broadway Street as well and through HOA listservs.

A summary of the comments received and the corresponding edits is included as **Appendix C**.

CHAPTER 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Town of Eagle's natural open space areas protect important winter range habitats for ungulates, native vegetation, and amazing vistas of peaks and forests in the Brush Creek Valley.

Recreationally, within the Town of Eagle municipal boundary, there are paved and natural surface trails, trailheads, natural open space areas, and parks. There are also opportunities for other types of recreation at the river park, Children's fishing pond, BMX/pump track, the pool and ice rink, and the nearby disc golf course on land managed by Eagle County. A map of the existing recreation offerings within the Town boundary is included as **Figure 3**.

Beyond the Town boundary, the open space and trails system expands west, south, and east onto lands managed by the Town, BLM, the WRNF, ECOS, and land protected by conservation easements held by the EVLT. **Figure 4** depicts the trails, trailheads, open space, and dispersed camping surrounding the Town on federal lands.

Town Open Space and Natural Resources Management

LAND CONSERVATION

The Town has historically focused available resources for conserving land on properties with high wildlife and recreation values in the Brush Creek Valley. This includes supporting the establishment of Sylvan Lake State Park and protecting properties once proposed to be part of the Adam's Rib/Hardscrabble Ranch (now the Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space). In addition, the Town has worked with Eagle Valley Land Trust, Eagle County Open Space, and other community partners to purchase properties for conservation. These include the Spud Cellar and Abrams Creek Open Space properties.

EXISTING OPEN SPACE

The Town of Eagle owns 61 parcels of open space, totaling 1,371 acres, within and adjacent to the Town. These parcels have been categorized into 13 open space areas, listed in the table below and shown in **Figure 2**, numbered accordingly. There are a few small parcels that create connections between neighborhoods and paths that are shown on the map as well.

TABLE 1. TOWN OPEN SPACE

ID	Name	Acreage
1	Abrams Creek OS	174.2
2	Eagle Ranch OS	862.0
3	Haymeadow OS	58.8
4	Haymeadow School/Recreation Land Dedication	15.1
5	Haymaker Trailhead OS Involvement	6.8
6	Spud Cellar OS	34.9
7	Johnson's Corner OS	0.8
8	Bluffs Neighborhood OS	7.1
9	Eagle River OS	13.2
10	Eby Creek OS	3.5
11	Brush Creek OS	145.0
12	Brush Creek OS Extension	46.6
	Neighborhood Connections	2.57

This section describes each of the Town's open spaces, recreational opportunities, mapped habitat within them, and other natural resource information. The full review and data sources are available as **Appendix B**.

In 2020, the Town annexed Red Mountain Ranch along the Eagle River into the Town. There is a Planned Unit Development (PUD) with a maximum of 153 dwelling units approved for this property. The property will also include open space, some of which will be deeded to the Town. The acreage and the location deeded to the Town is unknown at the time of this plan but would be an addition to the Town's open space system.

Abrams Creek OS

Abrams Creek Open Space (OS) is a 174.2-acre parcel located next to the Town boundary and adjacent to Eagle Ranch OS and BLM land. With the help of community partners, the Town of Eagle acquired this parcel in 2016 and Eagle Valley Land Trust has a conservation easement on the parcel. Existing trails through this parcel are LOV Connection and Abrams Creek trails, and the trails are closed December 15 – April 15 as a seasonal wildlife closure. The open space is typically accessed via the Silver Spur/Abrams trailhead or from the LOV connection trail originating at the Arroyo trailhead. Narrowly endemic Harrington's penstemon can be found within this parcel according to the Eagle Valley Land Trust. The parcel is also within mapped Elk Severe Winter Range, Elk Winter Concentration Area, Mule Deer Migration Corridor, Mule Deer Severe Winter Range, Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area, Mule Deer Summer Range, and Elk Summer Range.

The Town has conducted resource management activities such as restoring a pipeline scar and noxious weed control, along with a fence removal project. In 2021, the Town partnered with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to remove over 7,000 feet of unmaintained barbed wire fence on the property. Removal of the fence will benefit movement of wildlife in the important winter range.

In addition, the Town has planned efforts around hazardous fuels reduction and vegetation management. The Colorado State Forest Service has mapped the area as moderate and high wildfire risk.

The Abrams Creek Watershed is home to a rare population of native Colorado River cutthroat trout that is thought to be one of the last remaining aboriginal trout populations in the greater Eagle River watershed. The Town supports efforts by various partners to protect habitat for this population of fish while ensuring local water rights are also delivered.

Eagle Ranch OS

Open space in the Eagle Ranch PUD totals 862.9 acres and encompasses 36 different parcels. The parcels were deeded to the Town through the Eagle Ranch PUD. There is relative diversity in these parcels, with some small, neighborhood parcels and higher elevation parcels with juniper/pinions and sage. Eagle Ranch OS abuts BLM land, County Open Space, Eagle Ranch residential areas, and Abrams and Brush Creek Open Spaces. Existing trails in the open space include LOV Connection, Hernage Creek, Turniphead, Bailey, Third Gulch, Mayer Gulch, Riddle, Wall, School House Rock, Abrams Gulch, and the Highlands Paved Loop and Eagle Ranch paved paths. Trailheads and access points include Horton Street/School House Rock, Silver Spur/Abrams, Hernage Creek, and Arroyo that act as the primary access to West Eagle/Hardscrabble BLM lands from the Town of Eagle.

These parcels have been managed in accordance with the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan. This plan was developed to “avoid, minimize, and mitigate wildlife impacts resulting from the Eagle Ranch PUD.” Development was avoided on elk and deer winter range to the maximum extent feasible, with those areas deeded to the Town as Open Space. The seasonal wildlife closure, where applicable, is December 15 – April 15. For some trails and open space on the west side of the PUD, the seasonal wildlife closure is included as a condition of the Eagle Ranch Annexation and Development Agreement (ADA). Other elements of the mitigation plan discuss fencing, building envelopes, landscaping, and potential actions on developed lots.

Much of the open space is within mapped Elk Severe Winter Range, Elk Winter Concentration Area, Mule Deer Migration Corridor, Mule Deer Severe Winter Range, Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area, Mule Deer Summer Range, and Elk Summer Range. The area is also mapped black bear habitat. Mapped noxious weeds in the open space are

limited to along Hernage Creek Road. The Colorado State Forest Service has mapped the open space as mix of moderate, high, and highest wildfire risk.

Haymeadow OS

The Haymeadow OS is currently comprised of three parcels totaling 59.2 acres, to the north and south of the of the future Haymeadow development. These parcels are managed in accordance with the Haymeadow Open Space Management Plan. The parcels, with changed agricultural practices, have converted from grassy hayfields to weed-dominated habitats with low vegetation cover. The northern parcel includes most of the first loop of the Haymaker Trail and a portion of the Haymeadow Paved Trail. It is bordered by BLM land to the north. The Haymeadow Wetlands paved path is located within the southern parcel. Primary access to these open space parcels is from the Haymaker Trailhead. These parcels will also include trail connections from new homes built in the Haymeadow development and existing homes in the area.

There is currently no seasonal wildlife closure on these parcels. The southern parcel is within emergent wetlands and contains a few mapped noxious weeds. An integrated weed management plan describes a range of biological, mechanical, cultural, and chemical methods to control the existing stand of noxious weeds. Additional noxious weeds found on the property are listed in the management plan. The northern parcel is located within Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area, Mule Deer Severe Winter Range, Mule Deer Migration Patterns, Elk Winter Concentration Area, Elk Severe Winter Range, Mule Deer Summer Range, and Elk Summer Range. The southern parcel is only Mule Deer Summer Range and Elk Summer Range. The parcels are at lowest risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service. As the Haymeadow PUD is developed, additional open space parcels are proposed to be deeded to the Town.

Haymeadow School/Recreation Land Dedication

A 32.82-acre parcel, Tract E, was deeded to the Town during the first filing of the Haymeadow PUD. The parcel was deeded to the Town as a School and Recreation site. Upon request of the Eagle County School District, a portion of the parcel would be conveyed to the school district, when they see a need for a new school. The school is proposed to be located on the southern portion of the property. The amount of land needed for the school will be determined by the school district at a future point. Until and if there is a need for the school, the developer will be responsible for irrigation of the property. This parcel has been identified as low quality, weed-dominated habitat, and an Ecological Restoration Plan was developed for this parcel in 2018. This plan outlines restoration and weed management practices to be undertaken on the parcel.

With the approval of a major PUD amendment on December 8, 2021, 6.5 acres will be removed from Tract E on the northeastern side and instead will be used for housing. Haymeadow will dedicate 8 acres for a future park/recreation site at a later point in the

development. In partnership with Mountain Recreation, the Town intends to develop a new site plan for the Haymaker Trailhead and recreation site. Land in the northwestern portion of Tract E is proposed to be included in the site plan. Likely elements of this site plan include an expansion of the trailhead, overflow parking, and a bike park.

Tract E abuts land managed by the BLM and Town Open Space on the northern side. The Haymaker and Pool & Ice Rink trails cut through the northern portion of the parcel as well, along with the Haymeadow paved path. Most of the parcel is within mapped Elk Severe Winter Range, Elk Winter Concentration Area, and Mule Deer Migration Corridors and it is entirely Mule Deer Summer Range and Elk Summer Range. It is just beyond Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area and Mule Deer Severe Winter Range. The parcel is at lowest risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service.

Haymaker Trailhead OS Involvement

The Open Space and Trails Department helps manage the Haymaker Trailhead with the Mountain Recreation District and Town of Eagle Public Works. This 7-acre area is within a larger 19.2-acre parcel owned by the Town and includes the Haymaker parking lot, BMX track, RC car park, shade structure, pump track, and the access to the Haymaker trail. Eagle's Pool and Ice Rink complex is located on the larger parcel, as are tennis courts and other recreation amenities. This area is proposed to be included in the Haymaker Site Plan described above. Most of the area is within Elk Severe Winter Range, Elk Winter Concentration Area, Mule Deer Summer Range, and Elk Summer Range. It is just beyond Mule Deer migration corridors, Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area, and Mule Deer Severe Winter Range. The parcel is considered less resilient in Nature Conservancy mapping. The parcel is at lowest risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service.

Spud Cellar OS

Spud Cellar OS is a 34.9-acre parcel located to the north of the pool and Brush Creek Meadows neighborhood and bordered by BLM land to the west and private land in Kaibab (unincorporated Eagle County) to the north. The only trail in this parcel is a short portion of Pool and Ice Rink at the edge of the parcel. The parcel is Elk Severe Winter Range, Mule Deer Summer Range, and Elk Summer Range, and mapped Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area is just beyond the boundary. The parcel is at lowest risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service.

Named the Spud Cellar property due to the structure that was once located in this area, this parcel was part of the expanse of working ranches that stretched from the Town south through the Brush Creek Valley. The Town purchased the property in 2006 and placed a conservation easement held by the Eagle Valley Land Trust. The easement has a significant emphasis on protection of wildlife habitat and therefore, recreational use is limited to established trails only. The conservation easement contemplates an additional trail on the

property to connect the paved path behind the Orchards neighborhood to a paved path northwest of the Terrace neighborhood.

Johnson's Corner OS

Johnson's Corner OS is a small, triangular 0.8-acre parcel off Brush Creek Road. This parcel was deeded to the Town as open space with the development of Brush Creek Village Townhomes. Prior to the development of neighborhoods in this area, Brush Creek Road used to be aligned to the south and west of this parcel. Today, recreationalists can enjoy a soft surface trail that runs the length of the old roadbed. It is within Elk Winter Concentration Area, Mule Deer Summer Range, and Elk Summer Range. There are mapped noxious weeds on the edges of the parcel, and the parcel is mostly grass and small shrubs. The parcel is at moderate risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service.

Bluffs Neighborhood OS

The Bluffs Neighborhood OS includes two narrow parcels, a combined 7.1-acres, between Bluff neighborhood homes along Bluffs Drive and Highway 6. There are no system trails in this area, but there are several unsanctioned/game trails. It is Elk Summer Range and Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area is just beyond the parcel. The parcel is at lowest risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service. The parcels help preserve a view corridor along Highway 6 and from the Bluffs neighborhood as well.

Eagle River OS

There are three Eagle River OS parcels with a total area of 13.2 acres along the banks of the Eagle River between Eby Creek Road and the junction of Highway 6 and Nogal Road. Some of the river itself is included as well. The 2015 Eagle River Corridor Plan has zoned open space areas along the river as Preservation Areas, Natural Experience Areas, and Active Recreation Areas. The lands included within this Town Open Space on the north side of the river have been designated as a Natural Experience area, where visitors are encouraged to experience the area via soft-surface trails, offering protection of natural resources while allowing limited human visitation. This land has been more disturbed, and the area is well suited for limited improvements (benches, shade trees, educational kiosks). Several user-created trails exist from the bike path down to the water for fishing and recreation access. The Eagle River Corridor Plan recommends consolidating these trails into fewer designated trails that could be aligned to limit impacts to riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat.

On the south side of the river, it is designated as a preservation area, to be protected in its natural condition without development of any kind and without the intrusion of trails. This area has mature cottonwood trees and dense thickets of willows.

There are no system trails in this open space and most of it is mapped river or riparian wetland. Most of the unsanctioned trails are steep and unsustainable. It is Elk Summer Range and Mule Deer Summer Range.

Eby Creek OS

The Eby Creek OS is 3.5 acres across four parcels on the north side of the interstate, close to the on-ramp for I-70 west and heading up Eby Creek Road. There are no trails in this open space, and it is largely wetlands. It is Elk Summer Range, Mule Deer Summer Range, Mule Deer Migration Corridors, and Mule Deer Severe Winter Range. The parcels are at lowest risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service.

Brush Creek OS

Brush Creek OS is 145 acres, across four parcels. The Open Space extends west from Hockett Ditch to Sylvan Lakes Road at the junction with Brush Creek Road. The open space also borders portions of the Eagle Ranch neighborhood. The Brush Creek Pavilion and playground are located within this open space, as are the children's fishing pond, community garden, soccer field, and Brush Creek paved path. Much of the open space is mapped wetlands, a mix of forested, emergent, and riparian wetlands, with some ponds as well.

Most of the ponds in the open space are a component of the Eagle Ranch Drainage and Stormwater Management System. The intent of the system is to process stormwater sediment before the water makes its way into the wetland and riparian areas. In addition, the system diffuses water throughout the wetlands, benefiting wetland and riparian habitats.

Portions of the open space are Elk Winter Concentration Area, Elk Severe Winter Range, Bald Eagle Roost Sites, and Mule Deer Winter Range. The entire open space is Elk Summer Range and Mule Deer Summer Range. There are many mapped noxious weeds within the open space, particularly on the northern portion. The open space is a mix of moderate and high risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service.

The Brush Creek Watershed Improvement Project was completed circa 2011, intended to improve stream health from the lower Sylvan Lake Road bridge near Highway 6 to the upper end of the Eagle Ranch development boundary (3.5 miles of waterway). The project was jointly coordinated by the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee, the Town of Eagle, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) under a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. The project identified well-established practices that improve stream health and fish habitat for spawning, feeding, resting, and wintering. Plan recommendations have resulted in plantings of cottonwoods, willows, and other shrub species. Disturbed sites were also replanted with a native grass/forb seed mix. These projects have been completed both on Town open space and adjacent private properties along the creek.

In 2019, the Town partnered with Eagle County to remove Russian olive, a state listed class b noxious weed, throughout the open space.

In 2021, an ecological assessment was conducted for 28 acres in Brush Creek OS west of Capitol Street. The assessment recommended adjusting noxious weed treatments according to the growing season and specific species. It also recommended the inclusion of mechanical treatments (currently just chemical). Other recommendations include a monitoring program, a map of restoration opportunity areas, and formalized paths/boardwalks for riparian areas.

Brush Creek OS Extension

Brush Creek OS Extension refers to the 46.6 acres along Brush Creek east of Sylvan Lake Road, extending southeast approximately 1.3 miles. The open space is within the Eagle Ranch PUD. This open space is significantly narrower around Brush Creek than Brush Creek OS. The open space is bordered by Eagle Ranch to the south and residential lots in unincorporated Eagle County to the north. The Crusher Fine Trail runs the length of the open space. Only a small portion of the parcel is mapped wetlands, with the creek itself and small pockets of riparian wetland and ponds. The open space is within Elk Winter Concentration Area, Mule Deer Migration Corridors, and Bald Eagle Roost Sites. There are some mapped noxious weeds on the eastern edge of the open space. The open space is a mix of moderate and high risk of wildfire according to the Colorado State Forest Service.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Town actively manages the natural resources within its open spaces. This section describes the Town's current efforts and their efficacy. While each resource is described separately in this section, it is important to recognize that all natural resources affect each other and addressing one category may positively impact others.

At present, the Town does not have a thorough understanding of natural resource conditions in its open spaces. Therefore, one of the main goals/recommendations of the plan is to conduct studies to establish what the conditions are. Then, the Town can act on those results.

Noxious Weed Management

According to state law, the Town of Eagle is responsible for identifying and eradicating (or where not possible, containing) state listed noxious weeds on Town-owned properties and rights-of-ways, including open space. Unfortunately, detailed knowledge of the location of noxious weeds and general condition of these weeds has not been documented by the Town. The Town contracts a certified and licensed herbicide applicator to treat noxious weeds on Town owned open space. At times, the Town will organize volunteer days to help with mechanical treatments of noxious weeds. Weed Warriors of Eagle River Valley also works to address weeds management and education for residents in the area. In the past, the Town has partnered with Eagle County to address noxious weeds along Brush Creek.

Managing noxious weeds in the Eagle area has been an ongoing challenge. Some local noxious weeds of concern include Canada thistle, musk thistle, white top, and Russian olive. Noxious weeds are particularly stubborn in the Haymeadow area, in conjunction with the development of new roads and subdivisions. Former land use (including cattle grazing and agriculture), development, and recreation within the Eagle area are driving factors for the spread of noxious weeds on Town-owned land.

Pest Control Management

Recent land use changes, development, and eradication of natural predators has led to a substantial increase in the ground squirrel population. At their current numbers, ground squirrels can spread diseases, remove native vegetation, and displace local wildlife. The Town works with a contractor to manage the population of ground squirrels in open space. In addition, the Town monitors for any new expansion of non-native pests.

Riparian, Wetland, and Water Management

The Eagle River and Brush Creek are important riparian environments for wildlife habitat, ecosystem function, and recreational access. Both of these environments have been subject to recent planning (Eagle River Corridor Plan, Eagle River Watershed Plan, and Brush Creek Watershed Management Plan). These plans provide additional information and recommendations around the management of these environments and may need to be revisited to better understand current conditions and establish criteria for management in line with open space objectives.

Brush Creek is a dynamic natural system strongly influenced by spring runoff. Throughout the Town boundaries, the river and river corridor have been protected with the designation of open space. The Town generally takes a passive approach to riparian management and permits the river to naturally run its course, although corridor enhancement work has previously occurred. The Town recently worked with the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife on the Brush Creek Enhancement project, where they installed gravel bars, pools and riffles, and stabilized eroding stream banks in an effort to improve stream health and fish habitat.

Wildlife Habitat Management

The Eagle area is home to a critical winter range for elk and mule deer. **Figure 5** shows elk habitat in the area and **Figure 6** shows mule deer habitat in the area. These habitats, along with those of other species with important habitats in Eagle County are available at this [link](#) prepared by Eagle Community Wildlife Roundtable. Current data on habitat can be obtained directly from the local CPW staff.

In the winter, big game species seek the lower snow levels of this valley. It is critically important that recreationists give these animals ample space and do not stress them during the winter. Through seasonal wildlife closures and coordination with neighboring

landowners, the Town provides these animals with open space to overwinter. A map of seasonal wildlife closures is available at this [link](#). The Town has observed a decline in non-compliance to wildlife closures likely through efforts by the Town and recreational community in education outreach. However, challenges remain around user behavior and pets on trails that are open in the winter.

During the summer, the Town takes a passive approach to wildlife habitat management, leaving most of its natural areas open for wildlife to occupy. Management for other natural resources will also improve the quality of the habitat.

Natural Resource Restoration

Town open space properties exhibit varying degrees of impacts from past land use, infrastructure to support development, and recreation. Some of these lasting impacts include land degradation from cattle grazing and agriculture, channelization of waterways to prevent flooding, habitat fragmentation from roads and trails, consequences of unmanaged recreation, interruption to a natural fire regime, and broad consequences of climate change. When funding is available, the Town works with natural resource specialists and community partners to identify critical areas for restoration (i.e., Brush Creek enhancement projects in the early 2000s). Additionally, the Town has worked to restore other more recent manmade impacts such as the scar from the repair of the gas pipeline along the Abrams Creek Open Space.

The Town has a limited understanding of current conditions and potential restoration projects, towards ultimately identifying restoration projects in line with open space management objectives.

Fish Habitat Management

The Town has worked to improve stream health and trout habitat along Brush Creek. In addition, the children's fishing pond was constructed to provide access for youth and other improvements have benefitted anglers as well.

Sustainable Trail Builds and Designs

Trails such as Pool and Ice and Redneck Ridge have been rerouted, with assistance of the Town, to provide a better user experience and decrease damage from erosion. The Town strives to build sustainable trails to protect natural resources near trails.

Fuel Loads Management

Eagle has an excess of fuel loads in the urban-wildland interface. The Town partners with the Greater Eagle Fire District to reduce excess fuel loads, conduct prescribed burns, and cut fuel breaks near homes. Most of these activities are mutually beneficial for improvements to wildlife habitat and management of vegetation.

Surrounding Federal and Publicly Accessible Lands

The landscape surrounding the Town of Eagle is managed by diverse landowners. This can make land management (including wildlife conservation, and the management and maintenance of trails and other recreational opportunities) complex, as the management regulations and goals may differ by landowner.

Land conservation and protection of wildlife habitat beyond the municipal boundary is also a priority for the Town and its residents. This section describes habitat, conservation, and resource efforts on adjacent BLM and County lands. This information is to be considered in the planning of future recreational opportunities and habitat improvement projects beyond the Town. The BLM planning zones described herein are shown in **Figure 7**.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BLM lands in the Eagle area are managed according to the 2015 BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Colorado River Valley Field Office. The plan provides directives on resources and resource uses such as recreation. Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) have objectives and standards specific to the nature of recreation and natural resources in the area. The area around Eagle is within the Hardscrabble/East Eagle SRMA. The Hardscrabble/East Eagle SRMA is divided into two Recreation Management Zones (RMZ). RMZ 1 is East Eagle and portions of West Eagle, and the management emphasis is non-motorized recreation such as mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian use. RMZ 2 is West Eagle/Hardscrabble, and the management emphasis is motorized recreation (refer to **Figure 7**). The BLM restricts mechanized and motorized trail use in the SRMA between December 1 to April 15 to protect wintering wildlife species. Other standards for the Hardscrabble/East Eagle SRMA allow timber harvest, fuels/vegetation treatments, and dispersed camping in specified areas and prohibit firearms in developed recreation sites, mineral leasing and disposal, and surface-disturbing activities.

Additionally, the BLM RMP established the Hardscrabble/East Eagle Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), which is also within this Plan's study area (refer to **Figure 7**). ACECs have special management objectives to protect their resource values. The Hardscrabble/East Eagle ACEC has one of the highest known concentrations of Harrington's penstemon, so it is closed to certain forestry, mineral leasing and disposal, and recreation practices. New trail and recreation developments are intended to be confined to SRMAs rather than ACECs.

Hardscrabble/East Eagle SRMA Recreation Management Zone 1

This zone is oriented towards non-motorized recreation. The BLM approved 12 additional trail miles to be constructed in this zone in its Resource Management Plan.

Eastern Portion

This portion is 8,110 acres in East Eagle extending from Highway 6 to Brush Creek Valley Ranch Open Space. It has 18 miles of existing trails and recreational roads including Bellyache Road, Boneyard, Redneck Ridge, Pool and Ice Rink, Dirt Surfer, Will's Thrill, Belly Up, Hillbilly, and Road Gulch. Trail density is moderate/high on the northern portion of the zone and very low on the southern portion of the zone, where there are no designated trails.

The zone is within Mule Deer Migration Corridors and is largely Elk Winter Concentration Area, Elk Severe Winter Range, Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area, and Mule Deer Severe Winter Range. It is Mule Deer and Elk Summer Range.

There are no mapped wetlands. Wildfire risk is a mix of low risk at lower elevations and moderate risk at higher elevations. A study of Penstemon in East Eagle recorded species on the southern portion. It is unclear whether this study included the full extent of this portion.

Western Portion

This portion is 9,407 acres in West Eagle from Hockett Gulch and the BLM boundary south, with the southern boundary just north of Firebox Road. It has 21.7 miles of existing trails and recreational roads including Hernage Creek, Abrams Gulch, Abrams Ridge, World's Greatest, School House Rock, Elmers, Scratch, and Itch. Trail density is relatively low within the zone, with higher densities on the edges around Eagle Ranch/Abrams and Reynolds Wrap and Itch.

The portion is within Elk Summer Range and Mule Deer Summer Range and is largely Elk Winter Concentration Area. A small portion of the zone close to Eagle Ranch is Elk Severe Winter Range. Mule Deer Severe Winter Range and Mule Deer Winter Concentration Areas are located on the northern portion of the zone. Mule Deer Migration Corridors are located just beyond the zone.

There are no mapped wetlands. There are no mapped noxious weeds within the zone. Wildfire risk is largely high risk.

Hardscrabble/East Eagle Recreation Management Zone 2

This zone is 19,248 acres in West Eagle west of RMZ 1, with the northern boundary along US Highway 6 and the southern boundary along Dead Cow and Mike's Night Out. It has 58.9 miles of existing motorized trails and recreational roads including Maze, Pole Road, Elk Drop, Star Wars, Spring Creek Road, and Dead Cow. Trail density is relatively high in the zone with higher densities around Elk Drop and Star Wars, Maze, and around Itch and Cat Walk.

The zone is within Elk Summer Range and Mule Deer Summer Range and is largely Elk Winter Concentration Area. The northern portion of the zone is Mule Deer Severe Winter Range and Mule Deer Severe Winter Range.

There are no mapped wetlands. There are no mapped noxious weeds within the zone. Wildfire risk is largely high.

The BLM approved 10.5 additional trail miles to be constructed in this zone in its Resource Management Plan, oriented towards Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs).

Hardscrabble-East Eagle Area of Critical Environmental Concern

The Hardscrabble-East Eagle ACEC was established to protect one of the highest known concentrations of excellent quality occurrences of Harrington's penstemon, a sensitive plant species. Miles of routes will not increase beyond the baseline of the designated routes.

Eastern Portion

This zone is comprised of 1,320 acres at higher elevation in East Eagle. Existing trail mileage is relatively limited, with a portion of Boneyard and Redneck Ridge in the zone, along with Bellyache Road along its edge.

The entirety of the zone is mapped Elk Summer Range, Mule Deer Summer Range, Mule Deer Severe Winter Range, and Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area. No portions of the zone are mapped Migration Corridors or Migration Patterns. The entirety of the zone is mapped Elk Winter Range and Summer Range. The southern edge of the zone is mapped Elk Winter Concentration area. Most of the zone is mapped Elk Severe Winter Range, except for a strip running east-west across the zone.

A study of Penstemon in East Eagle recorded species on the southern portion. It is unclear whether this study included the full extent of the ACEC. The area is at high wildfire risk.

Western Portion

This area is 5,703 acres in West Eagle and existing trails are Bailey, 2nd Gulch, 3rd Gulch, Jeep Road, and Hardscrabble Road.

The entirety of the zone is mapped Elk Summer Range and Mule Deer Summer Range. The northern portion is Elk Severe Winter Range, Mule Deer Severe Winter Range, and Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area, and the western portion is Elk Winter Concentration Area. There are Mule Deer Migration Corridors on the northern portion

The area is at high and moderate wildfire risk, with moderate risk more to the south. There is a small wetland along Hardscrabble Mountain Road.

North Side of the Highway

The area north of the Town of Eagle, on the opposite side of the interstate, is also BLM Land. The Town has not historically provided resources for recreation or habitat management in this area. There are numerous unsanctioned trails in this area and some system double tracks.

It is Mule Deer Summer Range and Elk Summer Range. Much of the area is Mule Deer Severe Winter Range and Mule Deer Migration Corridors, and some area is Mule Deer Winter Concentration Area. There are bald eagle roost sites close to the interstate.

There is a small wetland along Rule Road and some noxious weeds by Rule Road as well. Wildfire risk is moderate at lower elevations and high risk at higher elevations.

EAGLE COUNTY

The Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space (BCVROS) properties have specific directives established by the Eagle County Open Space Department, the property management plan, and the conservation easement. Trails on these properties only allow for non-motorized use, and the Salt Creek portion of the open space is limited to pedestrian and equestrian use only. Other than the Salt Creek area, the BCVROS properties have seasonal wildlife closures to all public access.

Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space

The Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space (BCVROS) is comprised of 1,540 acres of County open space located adjacent to the eastern and southern Town boundaries (see **Figure 4**). It includes an approximately 2.5 mile stretch of Brush Creek. The land was purchased by the County in 2017 with the help of partners including the Town of Eagle. The Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails Department is an important partner to the county and assists with management efforts in this area.

The recreation opportunities within BCVROS include walking, biking, and fishing. Fishing is allowed at public access points along the southern portion of Brush Creek. Approximately 570 acres of the BCVROS land is used for agricultural purposes such as livestock grazing, horse pasturing, or hay production. Existing conditions described in the 2018 Brush Creek Valley Ranch and Open Space Management Plan indicate noxious weed infestations over approximately 200 acres of the property, and most pastureland is in poor to fair condition.

The BCVROS area is home to a diverse array of birds, small and large mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. High management priorities are riparian habitat and the winter habitat within BCVROS for elk and mule deer, as the upper ranges of the property are Severe Winter Range and Winter Concentration Areas for these species. The area has a mix of seasonal wildlife closures to address habitat needs.

The 2018 BCVROS Management Plan offers recommendations for future vegetation and wildlife management. Specific to the sensitive resources described above, the plan recommends aggressive weed control and monitoring to control noxious weeds, installing wildlife-friendly fencing to avoid riparian habitat degradation from livestock, implementing riparian habitat improvement projects such as vegetation recovery along the creek, and continuing to enforce wildlife closures to protect mule deer and elk habitat. The County actively pursues restoration projects to improve noxious weeds and rangeland management on the property.

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

The Bureau of Land Management land near Eagle is bordered by the White River National Forest to the south. Lands on the White River National Forest are managed in accordance with the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (2002) with recreation managed in accordance with the Forest's travel management plan. These lands are outside the study area of this plan, but this plan and recreation/natural resource management in and around Eagle have impacts on the National Forest. As a result, the U.S. Forest Service has been engaged in this plan process and will be an important partner for the Town going forward.

Trails

The Plan's study area encompasses trails on Town of Eagle, BLM, and ECOS lands. These trails provide opportunities for hiking, biking, equestrian, and motorized use. This section breaks down the existing conditions of the Eagle area trail system and includes information on the balance of the system as a whole, how trails are used, and existing maintenance strategies. This analysis then informs the recommendations outlined in Chapter 3.

TRAIL ANALYSIS

The trail analysis outlined below identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the Eagle area trail system, particularly towards providing desired experiences and opportunities at a variety of ability levels. Criteria used to analyze trails included trail type, difficulty, uses allowed, location, popularity, proximate trailheads, directionality, land managers, seasonal closures, and trail function. The results of the analysis are summarized below, and a detailed description of each criterion along with the full trail analysis document is included in **Appendix B**.

Background

The Eagle area trail system is a mix of historic BLM routes and trails, unsanctioned trails formalized into system routes, and newer, planned natural surface trails and paved paths. The analysis considered the extensive network of 131 trails and routes, or 184 trail and road miles.

- **Trail Type.** The trail system serves a mix of recreation and transportation purposes and as analyzed, consists of 80 miles of singletrack trails, 66 miles of doubletrack trails, 37 miles of paved paths, and 1 mile of singletrack sidewalks. The singletrack sidewalks are located parallel to other sidewalks within Town and are primarily used for recreational transportation purposes. The majority (55% or 19 miles) of trails within the Town boundary are paved paths. The singletrack trail network provides the primary recreational experience and the paved path network, singletrack sidewalks, and doubletrack are important for transportation and connecting people and neighborhoods to recreational opportunities.
- **Trail Difficulty.** The majority (64% or 68 miles) of trails in the singletrack trail system are intermediate. Beginner and advanced trail mileage is comparatively limited, at 10 and 24 miles respectively. Those interested in intermediate trails tend to make up the largest portion of the market and having an abundance of intermediate trails is desirable. The hilly terrain and limited rocks in and around Eagle lend themselves to intermediate trails. However, the terrain does present challenges for the development of sufficient mileage of easier and sustainable advanced trails.

Opportunities and Analysis

Takeaways from the trail analysis are summarized below.

- **Mileage and Access.** The bulk of the trail system mileage is located in West Eagle/Hardscrabble, particularly the motorized routes. This area has 106 trail and road miles, 75 of which are open to motorized use. While there are many trails open to motorized use in West Eagle/Hardscrabble, there are limited access points to motorized opportunities from the Town of Eagle. There are more access opportunities for motorized users on the west side of Hardscrabble, mostly from Gypsum. There are also limited access points with formalized amenities such as parking, kiosks, or restrooms for non-motorized users from Town.
- **Use and Connectivity.** Although the trail network in the Eagle area has extensive mileage, a number of the trails are not regularly used owing to their poor condition, remoteness, lack of connections to the rest of the system, or overall less desirable trail experience.
- **Popularity.** Singletrack trails with the highest popularity ratings from Trailforks are Eagle Ranch and Boneyard/Pool and Ice Rink area. Singletrack trails with the lowest popularity rankings tend to be further out in West Eagle/Hardscrabble. A majority of the singletrack trails in the Eagle area are ranked as popular or very popular. It is important to note that popularity data from Trailforks is based on recorded activities by its users and may disproportionately reflect the preferences of mountain bikers.

- **Directionality.** A small proportion of trails (13%) have a required or recommended directionality. Recommending or requiring directionality can be an important tool to reduce user conflict, particularly when a trail's build may lead to high-speed riding or blind corners on a singletrack.
- **Land Managers.** The BLM is the primarily land manager of the trail system. Over 100 miles of trails and roads are on BLM land, with some trails crossing between Town of Eagle and BLM lands. As some trails intersect lands managed by more than one entity, it is important that land managers work collaboratively to manage trails in this area.
- **Seasonal Closures.** Trail closures are important to manage the natural resources and limit impacts to wildlife in and around Eagle, and these vary by land manager. Most trails in the system have seasonal closures. The majority of trails that remain open year-round are paved paths, with the exception of some singletrack trails in East Eagle and the Haymaker trail.
- **Trail Function.** Most trails within the system are point-to-point trails. While some short connectors are available, it can be challenging to navigate the system and create shorter loops and routes.
- **Trail Grade.** Trails with an average grade over 7.5% or sustained grades higher than 10% may have sustainability issues and need to be re-routed and/or closed. There are 16 such trails in the area that have been reviewed in this process.

MAINTENANCE

The maintenance of the Eagle area trail system is a collaboration between the Town, public land agencies, Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA)/Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC), volunteers, adopt-a-trail groups, and several other local organizations. Given the extensive mileage and challenging soil quality, the maintenance of this network is a large undertaking, and this collaboration is essential. The Town and trail advocacy groups have championed the maintenance of signage and trailhead kiosks. However, there are several places where signage has been removed or up to date information is necessary but missing.

Challenges exist in aligning maintenance labor capacity to timing and seasonal needs, collective understanding of priorities, addressing more complex maintenance issues, and the funding and staffing to maintain the trails to a desired level. There are several steeper trail sections that provide a different recreational experience but where re-routes may resolve some habitual maintenance issues. The Town recognizes the need for additional maintenance and regular support for stewardship highlighted in Town planning documents and surveys, and the Town has worked to grow the resources available for trail maintenance each year.

While new recreational opportunities can take the pressure off some heavily used existing trails, the Town and its partners' capacity to maintain the existing network must be considered as new opportunities are proposed.

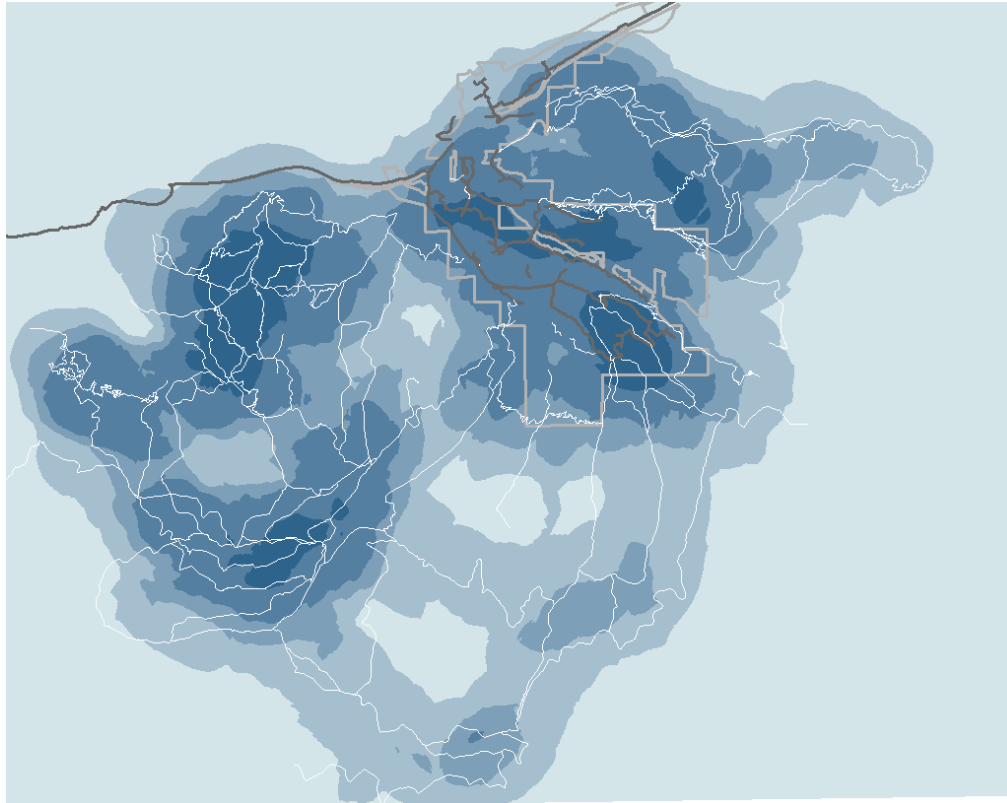
The trail system around Eagle is located on land managed by several cooperating agencies. Each agency manages trails on their respective land; however, many trails close to Eagle are adopted by groups who volunteer to take the lead on maintenance. The Town has assisted with maintenance responsibilities on BLM trails as well, as those trails provide a direct benefit to residents and visitors to Eagle.

The Eagle area trail system of singletrack, doubletrack, and paved paths in the Town and on surrounding public lands offers a very high level of mileage. This high mileage paired with the poor soil quality in the area creates challenges for keeping the trails well maintained. Even with extensive and effective trail work every season, steep sections of trail with poor soil quality often require continual maintenance.

TRAIL DENSITY

Trail density was measured by the number of trails within a 2-mile radius of any given point in the study area. It is an important factor when considering existing disturbance and potential new trails. For example, it is favorable to concentrate trails in already disturbed areas to minimize impacts to the natural environment and wildlife habitat in particular.

The area in and around Town and to the east has a relatively high density. There are also distinct areas with high trail density in West Eagle/Hardscrabble, far from Eagle access points into the system. These trail densities, along with other factors such as wildlife habitat, potential experience, and access have informed this Plan's recommendations.



TRAIL COUNT DATA

The Town had three trail counters in place on system trails to understand relative levels of use and daily/seasonal patterns on the trail system during 2021. The trail counters were placed on Boneyard, Haymaker, and 3rd Gulch (near the Arroyo trailhead) trails. These counters record each time a user passes but do not distinguish by type of user. The counters were placed shortly after the seasonal closure ended (mid-April) of 2021 and data was available through November 17, 2021 at the time of the analysis. The counters will be in place going forward to demonstrate how use is changing across the system.

According to the data collected in 2021, trails see the highest level of use in the spring, and extremely high use over the high school race weekends in the fall. In general, Boneyard sees higher use than Haymaker or 3rd Gulch trail. This information was utilized in this Plan's recommendations around dispersing and/or concentrating use and planning facilities and future maintenance needs.

CHAPTER 3: RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are aimed at achieving the goals and vision for the Town of Eagle open space and trails, as outlined in Chapter 1. The recommendations are also aimed at addressing the gaps, issues, and opportunities identified in the Chapter 2 analysis of existing conditions.

Existing and new partnerships will be fundamental to the implementation of many of these recommendations.

To note, the recommendations for open space and trails reflect the different stages each system is in. While the trail system is relatively mature and its issues and opportunities well documented, significantly less is known about the resource conditions of the Town's open spaces and the work that needs to be completed. Therefore, the recommendations for the Town's open spaces and conservation are more focused on further studies and partnerships. It is anticipated that these studies or ecological assessments would provide more detailed recommendations. Overall, the Town's goal is to increase its understanding and capacity to manage natural resource conditions.

OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

The following recommendations address how the Town of Eagle can improve management of its 1,300+ acres of open space and support conservation on surrounding public lands. Given the integrated nature of natural resources and habitat, many of these recommendations are intended to address multiple challenges, such as habitat conditions, risk of wildfire, and pest control. See **Figure 8** for a map of natural resource management opportunities on Town Open Spaces.

Wildlife and Habitat

OS1 – Enforcement Officer/Ranger

Explore the inclusion of wildlife closure enforcement in Town Code Enforcement officer duties or a dedicated open space ranger.

OS2 – Habitat Improvement Projects

Provide support to habitat improvement projects on surrounding public lands.

Work with CPW and other partners to identify areas of degraded habitat on Town Open Space and projects to restore impaired habitats.

Support projects outside of Open Space that protect existing habitats or limit disturbance.

OS3 – Dog Control Policies

Work with neighboring land managers to have consistent dog control policies or to better identify dog policies according to each land manager.

OS4 – Dog/Wildlife Conflict

Work with CPW and public land managers to address dog/wildlife conflict issues and consider enforcement on open space as necessary. The Town of Eagle is currently contracted with Eagle County Animal Control, however, this could be included in the duties of the enforcement officer/ranger recommended in OS1.

OS5 – Regional Habitat Studies

Support county/regional efforts to study wildlife habitat, connectivity, and biodiversity hot spots in the region. An example could include the Watershed Biodiversity Initiative completed in the Roaring Fork Valley. These efforts could be led by partners such as the Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable and/or the Eagle Valley Outdoor Stewardship Coalition.

The Open Space and Trails Master Plan could be adaptable and flexible in accordance with new information or updated data, maps, and science from such studies.

To note, additional recommendations on limiting habitat fragmentation as it relates to trails can be found under the Trails recommendations. Potential wildlife impacts and known habitat helped drive the determination of what trails to include in the trails opportunities map. Further policy around winter recreation/seasonal wildlife closures are listed under the Policy recommendations. Wildlife education-related recommendations are included under the Accessibility and Education recommendations section.

Open Space Assessment and Management*OS6 – Ecological Assessments*

Conduct ecological assessments for Town Open Spaces to better understand noxious weeds, habitat, and other resource conditions. Prioritize assessments in open space properties that have high ecological value or that provide important wildlife habitat, such as the Brush Creek Open Space properties. These ecological assessments should include vegetation surveys, wildlife habitat surveys, and wetland delineation/reach conditions studies if applicable.

OS7 – Spatial Inventory of Town Open Spaces

Create and maintain a spatial inventory of Town open spaces. The inventory could include named parcels, past assessments completed, and mapping of resources.

OS8 – Development of Open Space Management Plans

Develop open space management plans for each open space that the Town manages. These plans should help determine the need for ecological assessments (recommendation OS6) and include a robust inventory of existing conditions (cultural resources, ecological resources, existing uses, easements, geology/soils), a public process, and management actions around biodiversity protection and maintenance, recreation and special uses, education, interpretation, and enforcement. Further understanding the existing conditions

and what needs to be done for Town open spaces will provide great clarity on where the department needs to go from a budgeting, partnerships, and capacity perspective.

Natural Resource Restoration

The spatial location of recommended natural resource restoration projects is depicted in **Figure 8**. Additional assessments and inventories of town Open Spaces (described as part of OS6/OS8) will likely result in additional areas for future such projects.

OS9 – Wetlands

Conduct further studies to better understand the conditions of wetlands in Town (e.g., Brush Creek) and prioritize projects that restore wetlands and improve riparian health and degraded wildlife habitat.

Sponsor a broad assessment of the Brush Creek wetlands on Town-owned open space to highlight sections that are impaired. Work with the community and stakeholders to establish goals for restoration. Focus on attainable restoration projects that meet the goals of restoration.

Pursue outside funding, such as Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)'s Restore grant, for large scale studies and restoration projects along Brush Creek.

OS10 – Fuels Management

Work with Eagle Valley Wildland to conduct fuels management in Town open spaces that address noxious weeds, pests, wildfire risks, and other resource conditions. Support Eagle Valley Wildland to educate the public on the importance of this work.

OS11 – Noxious Weeds Management

Develop a noxious weed management plan that set goals for the Town and lays out the Town's weed management methodology to achieve said goals. Incorporate a nimble and data-driven approach that includes innovative techniques to target weed problems on specific properties.

Work with Town Council to nominate the OSRAC as the Town's Noxious Weed Advisory Board. Bring in new committee members that have experience or expertise with noxious weeds and/or encourage existing OSRAC members to learn more about noxious weed management.

Advocate for additional resources to be allocated to noxious weed management. In addition, pursue outside partnerships and funding to strengthen the Town noxious weed management program. Examples include the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Weed Management Grants and EVLT'S Weed Worriers Program.

OS12 – Adjacent Property Weed Coordination

Coordinate with the property owners adjacent to Town open space and HOAs responsible for open space management on noxious weeds management.

OS13 – Unsanctioned Trail Management

Establish a “Stay on the Trail” campaign to provide education on the impacts of traveling off trail and creating unsanctioned trails.

Inventory existing unsanctioned trails on Town Open Space. Develop a plan to effectively and permanently close unsanctioned trails. Focus on education in the plan to change behavior and develop a restoration plan. Priority areas include on the Spud Cellar property, open space along the Eagle River, spurs off the Charlie Brown Trail, and near the Haymaker Trail and Trailhead area.

Work with adjacent landowners to close unsanctioned trails that start or cross on properties with different landownership.

Support the BLM to close and restore unsanctioned trails identified on BLM lands.

OS14 – Restoration near Brush Creek and Eagle River

Develop a plan to reduce erosion and improve vegetation along riverbanks where recreation has damaged natural resources. Inventory existing unsanctioned trails near waterways. Develop designated access points to popular river locations and a restoration plan to reduce off trail use and restore streambanks and vegetation.

OS15 – Restoration Organization Support

Support organizations and volunteers working on natural resource restoration projects through Town communication platforms, tools, supplies, people-hours, and coordination.

OS16 – Restoration Efforts Coordination

Work with Eagle County Open Space to better coordinate restoration efforts and habitat conservation projects with regional priorities.

Policies and Departmental*OS17 – Open Space Acquisition*

If potential open space acquisition opportunities arise, look for partnerships to fund the acquisition and continued maintenance of the open space (i.e., EVLT, ECOS, Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee, HOAs). The Town’s criteria for acquisitions includes properties that are important for natural resource protection, habitat, buffers/scenic view protection, cultural ranching preservation, and/or recreational access. Properties that rank highly among several or all of these criteria should be prioritized. In addition, pursue key properties that would provide public access from Town to public lands.

Continue with the Town’s historic support for land conservation in the Brush Creek Valley.

OS18 – Development Standards

Consider an update to the Town of Eagle Code of Ordinances to require that developers provide land or funds that align with Town Open Space and Trails Department needs and increased demand through existing code update processes. Potential actions include the provision of a trail impact fee dedicated to trail maintenance, open space that provides intuitive access to the trail system and limits the potential for unsanctioned trails, wildlife mitigation plans, and the development of trailheads that provides necessary facilities for residents and visitors.

OS19 – ACEC/SRMA

Support the BLM in their management of the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern around Eagle, allowing the Harrington’s penstemon to thrive. Support the BLM in their management of SRMAs to balance recreation and conservation needs in these areas.

OS20 – Open Space Budgeting

Develop a ballpark cost estimate report for the annual open space budget and the prioritized projects and tasks listed herein to better plan budgeting and further funding needs. Cost estimates and budgets will be reviewed on an annual basis.

OS21 – Consistent Funding Source

Establish a consistent funding source to continue to provide management and restoration of Town Open Space.

ACCESSIBILITY AND EDUCATION

The following recommendations address making the trail system and open space more accessible to all users and improving education for recreationists to support better etiquette, limit confusion, and increase appreciation of the area’s wildlife.

AE1 – Wildlife Education

Develop educational materials about area wildlife and their habitat, how to recreate responsibly with wildlife, and the value of seasonal wildlife closures for wildlife and residents. These materials could be shared through trailhead kiosks, the Town of Eagle website, Town social media platforms, open houses, and via partners’ networks.

AE2 – Natural Resource Education

Develop educational materials about area natural resources and the fragile ecosystem and soils, and accordingly how to recreate responsibly. These materials should be shared through trailhead kiosks, the Town of Eagle website, Town social media platforms, and via partners’ networks.

AE3 – Spanish Signage and Maps

Continue to work with community partners on improving recreation management and accessibility for non-English speakers. This could include signs, maps, trailhead kiosk

information and web information about trails and open space in Spanish. This may also include working with non-English speakers and community partners to identify and remove other barriers to the outdoors.

AE4 – Community Partners

Continue partnering with the Cycle Effect, Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement, and other similar community partners to support inclusive events on the Town's open space and trail systems.

AE5 – Creative User Etiquette Signage

Develop creative signage that educates users about etiquette, with a focus on the Haymaker trail.

AE6 – Etiquette Standards

Work with local user group organizations and land management agencies to establish a standard set of etiquette guidelines and policies for trail and open space. This collaboration should also extend to the dissemination of etiquette information in member communications.

AE7 – Messaging System

Develop a messaging system with local user group organizations to share timely updates about the open space and trail system (i.e., wildlife closures, trail closures). This could be in the form of emails, newsletters, open houses, and/or social media blasts. Continue to work with the community to understand desired communication methods.

AE8 – Beginner Friendly Opportunities

Explore and collaborate on efforts to develop more beginner friendly and skills building opportunities in the area.

TRAILS

The following recommendations address maintenance, accessibility, and new opportunities for the Town's trail system. These recommendations are aimed at better connecting the system, enhancing user experiences, creating broader accessibility to the system, and concentrating use where appropriate to limit the fragmentation of habitat. The recommendations were developed in light of the potential maintenance load and wildlife habitat and other resource concerns. Trail opportunities include both new routes and connections. Opportunities to decommission and re-route existing routes in light of soil quality, habitat, and level of use of system trails are also included here. BLM management directives have established allowable new trail mileage in the Resource Management Plan, and these trail recommendations on BLM land are in keeping with those totals.

The general ethos and prioritization here emphasizes maintenance of existing trails, enhancements and connectivity with the existing system, and newer trails near

development, rather than major trail expansion. This is in keeping with the important habitat and challenging soils in and around Eagle.

Opportunities

T1 – Trail Opportunities

See **Figure 9** and **Table 5** for recommended trail opportunities, connections, re-routes, and decommissions. **Figure 9** also shows recommendations for areas for further study or trail zones (see **Table 6**) and specific locations/points (**Table 7**).

The trail recommendations included here represent those that align well with the community's vision and goals, specifically around an accessible trail system while continuing to conserve habitat, and the Town's capacity and priorities.

Public land managers may approve other trail alignments not shown in this Plan that meet the goals of the land manager, and this Plan, by no means, precludes that from taking place.

All trail proposals in this plan will be subject to additional environmental review and public scoping determined by each land manager's internal policies (such as National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on federal lands or Town of Eagle Municipal Code requirements on Town open space).

The following tables summarize the identified trail opportunities. A trail by trail list is available as **Table 5** at the end of this chapter. The numbers in the tables below represent estimates and general trail configurations, not approved alignments.

TABLE 2. OPPORTUNITIES BY TYPE

TYPE	MILEAGE
New Trail	17
Re-Route Existing	1
New Paved Trail	4

TABLE 3. NEW SINGLETRACK MILEAGE BY PRIORITY

PRIORITY	MILEAGE
Low	3
Medium	12
High	7
Dependent	2

TABLE 4. MILEAGE BY BLM ZONE

BLM ZONE	NEW TRAIL	RE-ROUTE EXISTING
ACEC	.5	0.5
RMZ 1	10	1
RMZ 2	6	0
Total	17	3

T2 – Criteria Development

Evaluate support for trails within the Town or surrounding public lands based on wildlife habitat, potential seasonal wildlife closures, filling gaps in the area's offerings, and sustainability.

T3 – Trail Hubs

Support the development of identified trail hubs in the West Eagle/Hardscrabble area with maps and signage. Re-route trails as necessary to meet up at the identified points.

T4 – Motorized Dead-ends

Work with the BLM to reduce motorized dead-ends in the trail system.

T5 – Support Horse Access

Support improved horse access to BLM land from Town and work to limit conflict with other user groups. Explore opportunities to provide horse trailer parking and equestrian access from Town to BLM lands.

T6 – Bike Skills Park

Explore opportunities to develop a bike skills park and easier loops in and around the Haymaker trailhead.

T7 – Use Changes

Work with the BLM to explore allowable use changes on area trails that accomplish other recommendations in this plan. Recommended changes are opening Dead Cow and Firebox to motorized users. Engage with user groups during this process.

T8 – Haymaker/Road Gulch/3 Sisters

Engage with Eagle County and BLM to further explore connectivity between Haymaker, Road Gulch, and Three Sisters trail.

T9 – Dirt Surfer Discussion

Engage with the BLM and user groups to discuss decommissioning, allowable use changes, or re-routes of Dirt Surfer and unsanctioned trails in that area.

T10 – Hermit Discussion

Engage with the Forest Service and the BLM to discuss future trails in the Hermit area and appropriate siting and connectivity for such trails, whether on BLM and/or National Forest System (NFS) land.

T11 – U.S. Forest Service Discussion

Engage the USFS to evaluate existing recreation and management in the Hardscrabble area and Sylvan Lake/Yeoman Park, and plan for needed and community supported improvements.

T12 – Funding Relationships/Restoration Opportunity Policies

Explore the opportunities to implement restoration projects or other mitigation strategies upon the development of new trail mileage.

Trail Maintenance*M1 – Re-routes*

Re-route steep trail sections prone to erosion and frequent maintenance needs. Some longer re-routes have been listed under trail opportunities, but the Town should look for smaller such opportunities on trails within Town boundaries and provide support for such projects on surrounding public lands.

M2 – Unsanctioned Trails

Implement signage and physical blockages, in partnership with trail maintenance crews and organizations, to discourage users from using cut-off and unsanctioned trails within the system. Unsanctioned trails should also be incorporated into educational/etiquette campaigns around the impact of unsanctioned trails on habitat and natural resources.

M3 – Trail Maintenance Collaboration

Continue to work collaboratively with VVMTA, HTC, and other partners on supporting trail maintenance efforts on the area trail system, either through funding the trail conservation crew or hiring trail builders for more technical projects.

M4 – Early Season Maintenance

Ensure there are resources available to hire appropriate crews or builders to conduct vital early season maintenance.

M5 – Trail Conditions Facebook

Publicize VVMTA Trail Conditions Facebook page or other such social media platforms through town portals and at trailhead kiosks.

M6 – Haymaker Testing Ground

Use Haymaker as a testing ground for new and more developed armoring techniques, such as plastic armoring or chip seal. Set aside funds to collaborate with trail builders and implement these techniques.

M7 – Quarterly Meeting

Have a quarterly meeting between the Town, VVMTA, HTC, and other partnering organizations to talk about key trail maintenance priorities and support a more cohesive effort.

M8 – Maintenance Tracking System

Develop a tracking system for maintenance efforts and unmet needs shared with HTC and VVMTA and other partners. This tracking system should record where maintenance occurs in the system, the frequency of it, and the associated time and costs. This can be used to guide future maintenance planning and budgeting.

M9 – Annual Maintenance Plan

Develop an annual maintenance plan that addresses when maintenance needs to occur on each system trail, responsible party, and a monitoring strategy.

M10 – Trail Organization Support

Support HTC and other trail organizations' volunteer projects through Town communication platforms, tools, supplies, people-hours, and coordination.

M11 – Adopt-A-Trail

Support VVMTA in the management and coordination of the Adopt-a-trail program.

Support Facilities and Infrastructure*SF1 - Haymaker Trailhead*

Secure funding for more detailed site planning and the eventual implementation of the Haymaker Trailhead Master Plan, collaborating with Mountain Recreation District if possible.

SF2 – Trailheads Access

As new trail portals are added to the system, ensure that they are located and oriented in such a way that supports access for the broader Eagle community. Strategies include providing parking, locating such trailheads along paved paths, and developing wayfinding signage.

SF3 – Wayfinding Signage

Develop effective wayfinding signage that directs people to and between Town open space and trails for pedestrians and cyclists. This may include signage from downtown to trailheads or trailhead to trailhead on the paved path network.

SF4 – Visitor Information Strategy

Develop a visitor information strategy that determines appropriate areas to encourage visitors to park and strategies to effectively disseminate that information (e.g., Haymaker trailhead rather than Boneyard, Brush Creek Pavilion rather than Brush Creek Elementary School). This strategy should be implemented through the development of visitor-oriented

facilities (i.e., bathrooms, bike repair stations), signage, and information posted online on the Town's website and trail websites such as Trailforks or MTB Project.

SF5 - Replaceable + Replicable Signage

Add signage throughout the system that helps users better navigate the system and educates users on etiquette, wildlife, natural resources, and closures. Build signage where the information boards are replaceable and replicable and can be easily updated as information changes (i.e., new trails, changing wildlife closures).

SF6 - Motorized Access

Explore opportunities to develop better motorized access into West Eagle/Hardscrabble. This portal could have limited facilities for motorized users, supporting ride-from-home explorations rather than out-of-town visitors.

SF7 - In-Town Camping

Explore in-town camping opportunities that are well-managed and maintained to alleviate pressure on dispersed camping on surrounding BLM land and encourage economic activity in Town. Should a campground be developed, wildfire risk should be mitigated.

SF8 - BLM Camping Level

Work with BLM to establish a community supported level of dispersed camping in areas near Town that limits impacts to natural resources.

SF9 - BLM Camping Services

Support the BLM to increase services for camping on nearby public lands, including fire rings, designated sites, information, parking, restrooms, and wildlife friendly trash receptacles.

SF10 - BLM Camping Capacity

Support increasing capacity for visitor services on nearby federal lands such as law enforcement, education, trail and visitor use maintenance, through additional staff and VVMTA's Trail Conservation Crew.

SF11 - Trailheads with Wildlife in Mind

Follow best practices for designing, developing, or upgrading trailheads around wildlife. This would include wildlife-friendly fencing and approved bear-resistant containers.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

P1 - E-Bikes

Continue to evaluate e-bikes policies on non-motorized trails in the system. The ultimate policy should be consistent system-wide to minimize confusion.

P2 – Seasonal Wildlife Closures

With seasonal wildlife closures, work to balance consistency, changing habitat needs of wildlife, and winter recreation opportunities. All recreational opportunities in mapped wintering range and/or other environmentally vulnerable areas will be considered for seasonal wildlife closures. Dates will be determined in partnership with CPW, BLM, and any other applicable land managers.

P3 – Permitting Structure

Explore a permitting structure for events, programs, or commercial outfits on Town open space and trails. A fee or volunteer trail maintenance could be required, or the permit process could serve as an opportunity to communicate key etiquette or other information.

P4 – Trail Sustainability

All new trails must be built sustainably to limit impact on the natural environment and require a reduced maintenance load.

P5 – Unsanctioned Trails Policy

Develop a new culture around unsanctioned trails, where unsanctioned trails are not formalized and new trails are only added to the system following proper review of the appropriate location, alignment, trail offering and purpose. Work with the BLM to develop specific Eagle-area management objectives for closures and off-trail travel.

TABLE 5. TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The ID numbers listed in this table correspond to the trail recommendation as shown in Figure 9. Recommendations are highly conceptual and do not represent approved alignments.

ID	NAME	Type	Priority	User Type	Difficulty	Land Manager	BLM Zone	Note	Estimated Mileage
0	Boneyard Road Bypass	New Trail	High	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 1	Referred to as Good Bit	0.4
1	Pool & Ice - Harder Route	New Trail	High	Non-Motorized	Intermediate/Advanced	BLM	RMZ 1		0.9
2	Pool & Ice Bottom Re-Route	Re-Route Existing	High	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 1		0.2
3	Haymaker Uphill	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Beginner/Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 1	Uphill route from Haymaker Trailhead to start of Pool & Ice. Explore opportunity to incorporate equestrian use as well while limiting conflict.	0.7
4	DM Re-Route	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 1	Creating singletrack option in the Road Gulch area.	0.5
5	Hillbilly Extension	New Trail	Dependent	Non-Motorized	Beginner/Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 1	Difficult trail build given resource concerns and topography, dependent on development of Trail Recommendation #6.	1.4
6	New Road Gulch Area Loop Route	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 1	Opportunity to extend trail mileage in East Eagle while limiting habitat fragmentation	1.7
7	World's Greatest Re-Route	Re-Route Existing	Medium	Non-Motorized	Advanced	BLM	RMZ 1		0.3
8	School House Uphill	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 1	Initial section of trail would be on Town Open Space	2.6
9	Abrams Ridge Singletrack Extension	Re-Route Existing	High	Non-Motorized	Advanced	BLM	RMZ 1	Singletrack for current doubletrack section near top of trail	0.6
10	Brush Creek Paved Path	New Paved Trail	High	Non-Motorized	Paved	Town/County		Planning for this path extension is already underway and would	4.1

ID	NAME	Type	Priority	User Type	Difficulty	Land Manager	BLM Zone	Note	Estimated Mileage
								provide ADA accessible opportunities.	
11	Blue Grouse Extension	New Trail	Low	Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 2	Re-routing to Catwalk to create new motorized loop	0.9
12	Mike's Extension	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 2	Extending/Re-routing Mike's into new trail hub	0.5
13	Adam's Way Brush Creek Connector	New Trail	High	Non-Motorized	Beginner	BCVROS			0.3
14	Haymeadow Connector	New Trail	Dependent	Non-Motorized	Beginner	Town		Dependent on Haymeadow Development	0.5
15	Bailey LOV Connection	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	ACEC	Partially on Town Open Space	0.4
16	Abrams Gulch Connector	New Trail	Low	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 1		0.6
17	Itch to Tick Alley Connector	New Trail	Medium	Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	RMZ 2	Creating a motorized connector that allows motorized users to avoid non-motorized area	0.7
18	Kill Bill/School House Connector	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	Town/BLM	RMZ 1		1
19	Spud Cellar Connector	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Beginner	Town		Additional planning needed, may be paved or singletrack	0.3
20	Mike's Alt	New Trail	Low	Non-Motorized	Intermediate/Advanced	BLM	RMZ 2	downhill trail	1.2
21	Mike's Night Up	New Trail	Medium	Non-Motorized	Intermediate/Advanced	BLM	RMZ 2		3
22	Bailey Re-Route	Re-Route Existing	High	Non-Motorized	Intermediate	BLM	ACEC	Re-route of existing trail section	0.4
	TOTAL								23.2

TABLE 6. POLYGON RECOMMENDATIONS

ID	NAME	PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION
I	Potential Bike Skills Park and Horse Access	High	Explore bike skills park in Haymaker Trailhead area that is open to the public and supports rider progression. Explore opportunities for trailer parking/access from Haymaker.

ID	NAME	PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION
II	Potential Hermit Trail Zone	Low	Explore trails in this area to support access to this area and use of pipeline. Minimize habitat fragmentation in trail siting and work with Forest Service to consider opportunities on adjacent National Forest.
III	Re-routes/decommissions for Trail Hub (lower)	High	Re-route trails to all meet up at single point for trail hub (Abram's Ridge, World's Greatest, Yellow Chair, Itch, Scratch). Support motorized flow through this hub.
IV	Re-routes/decommissions for Trail Hub (upper)	Medium	Re-route trails to all meet up at single point for trail hub (Catwalk, Mike's, Reynolds, Scratch)
V	Further study of unsanctioned trails/motorized connections (Dirt Surfer area)	High	See recommendation T9
VI	Further study of Haymaker/Road Gulch/3 Sisters	High	See recommendation T8
VII	Inventory Unsanctioned Trails and Add Signage (Eagle River)	Medium	Inventory unsanctioned trails and add signage around appropriate use for Town Open Space along the Eagle River
VIII	Unsanctioned Trail Decommissioning	Medium	Unsanctioned trail decommissioning along Charlie Brown Trail and in Spud Cellar Open Space
IX	Potential Red Mountain Ranch OS + Trails	Dependent	Support the development of sustainable trails in the new Red Mountain Ranch PUD open space, consistent with the Eagle River Corridor Plan and PUD Guide.
X	Hockett Gulch Motorized Connection	Medium	Explore opportunities and acquire land as necessary to develop motorized connection through Hockett Gulch
XI	Haymaker BLM Horse Connection	Low	Develop equestrian connection from Haymaker Trailhead onto BLM land if trailer parking is added at the Haymaker Trailhead. Explore allowing horses on recommended Haymaker uphill trail (Trail Recommendation #3).
XII	Downtown/River Connectivity	High	Enhance trail connectivity in and around downtown to and along Grand Avenue and to the River Park. Participate in the Grand Avenue Corridor Study.
XIII	East Eagle area for further study of habitat, conservation, and trails, Consistent with SRMA	Low	Conduct additional study to weigh Town support/direction for new trails in this area given existing habitat and recreational uses. To note, the BLM may pursue new facilities or recreational uses in this area in the intermediary, and this recommendation would not preclude that. Any ultimate recommendation would not change the land use designation on the property as established by the BLM.
XIV	Potential Trails and Connections as Part of Haymeadow Development	Dependent	As part of the approved Haymeadow Development Plan, new natural surface trails and paved paths have been planned.

TABLE 7. POINT RECOMMENDATIONS

ID	NAME	PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION
A	Hockett Gulch TH	High	Development of Hockett Gulch trailhead in conjunction with Reserve at Hockett Gulch
B	Haymeadow Trailhead 1	With buildout of PUD	Planned trailhead as part of Haymeadow Development
C	Haymeadow Trailhead 2	With buildout of PUD	Planned trailhead as part of Haymeadow Development
D	New Eagle Ranch Trailhead	High	Develop small trailhead with parking at Haystacker Drive intersection with Wall
E	Trail Hub (Lower)	High	See recommendation T3
F	Trail Hub (Upper)	Medium	See recommendation T3

CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

Implementation is where the recommendations in this Plan can come to life! This chapter weaves together all the work generated during the Eagle Open Space and Trails Plan process into a prioritized set of recommendations, implementation strategies for completing projects, and a list of potential funding sources and grant opportunities. The money and capacity to build these projects must come from somewhere— this chapter addresses ways the Town of Eagle can raise money or dedicate existing funds to trail, open space, and connectivity projects.

Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to the current operations of the Open Space and Trails Department and to the implementation of the recommendations going forward. The following table lists who the Town would need to partner with to implement each recommendation. This list includes both existing and new partners for the Town to work with. There are some recommendations where the Town would need to work with multiple partners (i.e., the BLM and VVMTA). For specific trail recommendations, it is recommended that the Town partner with the land manager and impacted user group organizations (i.e., VVMTA/HTC, Rocky Mountain Sport Riders).

TABLE 8. PARTNERSHIPS

Partner	Recommendations
Bureau of Land Management	AE1, AE2, AE6, AE8, T1, T3, T4, T5, T7, T8, T9, T10, M1, M2, M9, SF5, SF7, SF8, SF9, SF10, OS2, OS3, OS4, OS13, OS19
Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance/Hardscrabble Trail Coalition and other trail maintenance organizations	AE3, AE4, AE5, AE6, AE7, AE8, T1, T3, T6, T7, T9, M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, M6, M7, M8, M9, M10, M11, SF1, SF3, SF4, SF5, SF10
Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement and similar organizations	AE3, AE4
Community outdoor recreation programming organizations	AE4, AE7, T6
Rocky Mountain Sport Riders	AE6, AE7, T1, T4, T7, T8, T9, M1, M2, SF6
Mountain Trekkers Back Country Horsemen	AE6, AE7, T1, T5, M2, SF1

Colorado Parks and Wildlife	AE1, AE2, AE6, T2, T7, SF4, SF8, SF11, P2, OS1, OS2, OS3, OS4, OS5
Eagle Valley Wildland	OS10
Eagle Valley Land Trust	OS1, OS3, OS5, O10, OS16
Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee	AE1, AE2, OS1, OS2, OS3, OS4, OS5, OS6, OS8, OS9, OS10, OS12, OS17, OS7, OS10, OS14, OS15
Mountain Recreation District	AE4, SF1
U.S. Forest Service	T10, T11, OS2, OS13
Eagle County Open Space	T8, OS2, OS3, OS4, OS5, OS11, OS13, OS14, OS16, OS17

Intergovernmental Implementation

There are several recommendations where the Open Space and Trails Department would need to coordinate with other Town departments. Necessary collaborations include working with the Planning Department on potential code updates and the development review process (OS8), working with the Public Works Department on the Brush Creek Paved Path extension and Haymaker trailhead planning (SF1), and working with Council and the Town Manager on policies and future funding.

Grants

The following list describes grants that the Town of Eagle could pursue to implement many of the recommended projects.

GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Grant Program is a competitive grant program for park and open space land acquisition and development, outdoor recreation, environmental education, and conservation. The program is funded by the Colorado Lottery and has provided \$1.1 billion in lottery proceeds since 1992 in all 64 counties of the state. Grants are generally awarded in two funding cycles, with deadlines in the spring and fall. GOCO is currently prioritizing projects that aim to repair the disconnect between youth and nature, connecting people to the outdoors by increasing bike and pedestrian access, and protecting urban and rural land. (www.goco.org)

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Colorado Land and Water Conservation Fund provides grants for the state Recreational Trails Program. Eligible applicants are any local, county, or state government with control over public lands. These projects must enhance the outdoor recreation resources on public

land and the funds are frequently used for trail building. To receive the grant, the local government must provide a 100% match. For large trail construction grants, the maximum is \$400,000; for small trail construction grants, the maximum is \$75,000.

(<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Trails/LWCF/LWCFGrantsProcess.pdf>)

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

A grant funded by a partnership of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, GOCO, and the federal recreational trails program. A 30% match is required. Grants are available for large and small trail construction/maintenance, planning, and support. This includes constructing new trails and trailheads, maintenance or reconstruction of existing trails, enhancing existing trailheads, engineering and feasibility studies and building and enhancing volunteer organizations. The grant can be awarded to governments, nonprofits, or recreation districts. (<http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/TrailsGrantsNM.aspx>)

COLORADO NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

The Colorado Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Management Fund provides additional financial resources for on-the-ground noxious weeds management. Organized private interests, conservation districts, municipalities, and counties are eligible to apply. The program also administers federal noxious weed management funds from the U.S. Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program.

(<https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds/grants>)

COLORADO HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Colorado Habitat Partnership Program funds habitat manipulation, fencing, game damage, monitoring/research and conservation easement projects. The purpose is "to reduce wildlife conflicts, especially those associated with fence and forage, and to help the Division meet game management objectives." In particular the program focuses on projects related to deer, elk, pronghorn and moose. Some level of match is typically required (ideally 50/50), although that can be in the form of funds, equipment, or other in-kind donations. These projects are applied for and coordinated through the local Habitat Preservation Program committee.

(<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/LandWater/PrivateLandPrograms/HPP/HPPFAQ.pdf>)

COLORADO OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANT

CPW and the Outdoor Equity Grant Board annually fund programs to broaden accessibility to the outdoors for those in underserved communities. Non-profit organizations and governments are eligible to apply. Grants are largely up to \$50,000 and eligible expenses include project planning or coordination, operating expenses, physical goods, staff expenses, costs of engineering/design/land acquisition, and costs associated with volunteer engagement and retention. (<https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Outdoor-Equity-Fund.aspx>)

TRAILS CONNECTING PEOPLE

Trails Connecting People with Nature is a Sierra Club initiative that works to ensure that access to the outdoors is increasingly equitable and available to all communities. The Sierra Club Foundation awards one-year trail grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 towards trail creation or maintenance projects that engage new leaders and provide opportunities for communities to connect with nature. (<https://www.sierraclub.org/nearby-nature>)

IMBA TRAIL ACCELERATOR GRANTS

The International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) offers trail grants to municipal, state, and federal governments, along with non-profits that actively manage parks and trails. The grant awardees receive professional services from the IMBA trail solutions team. The grants typically range from \$5,000 - \$30,000 dollars and require a one-to-one match. (<https://www.imba.com/trails-for-all/trail-accelerator-grants>)

PEOPLEFORBIKES

The PeopleforBikes Community Grant program has traditionally supported bicycle infrastructure projects that make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to participate. PeopleforBikes is currently reevaluating their grant structure.

COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Colorado Health Foundation has a variety of grant programs largely around equity and addressing inequalities particularly focused on health. There is a specific grant around creating outdoor spaces that reflect community history, culture and legacy. (<https://coloradohealth.org/open-funding>)

DOLA

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs provides grants through its Conservation Trust Fund to all communities that have established conservation trust funds in the state. It is to be used for acquiring and maintaining parks, open space, and recreational facilities. (<https://cdola.colorado.gov/funding-programs/conservation-trust-fund-ctf>)

GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Gates Family Foundation provides strategic grants and capital grants for natural resource related projects. Projects can include constructing or improving parks, public recreation facilities, outdoor spaces, community gardens, particularly in underserved urban and rural areas. (<https://gatesfamilyfoundation.org/strategic-priorities/natural-resources/>)

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provides grants to projects that sustain, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats. The Foundation has funds devoted to species, ecosystems, and bioregions.

There are additional grants that the Town of Eagle may be able to pursue by working with a partner non-profit such as those offered by the Cornel Douglas Foundation or Xcel Energy.

Priority Matrix

The following matrix assigns a level of priority (low, medium, high) to each project in Chapter 3 based on its alignment with plan goals, community interest, cost, potential environment impacts, accessibility, and recreational value. The intention of this matrix is so that Town Staff can use it as a guide to implement “low hanging fruit” projects in the short term and to start finding political support and funding for longer term, more visionary projects. Projects are abbreviated as listed here, with the full recommendation found in Chapter 3.





<u>HIGH (0-3 YEARS)</u>	<u>MEDIUM (4-6 YEARS)</u>	<u>LOW (7-10 YEARS)</u>
OS1. Enforcement Officer/Ranger OS2. Habitat Improvement Projects OS5. Regional Habitat Studies OS6. Ecological Assessments OS9. Wetlands OS10. Fuels Management OS11. Noxious Weeds Management OS13. Unsanctioned Trail Management OS14. Restoration Brush Creek/Eagle River AE1. Wildlife Education AE2. Natural Resource Education T3. Trail Hubs T8. Haymaker/Road Gulch/3 Sisters M1. Re-Routes M3. Trail Maintenance Collaboration M4. Early Season Maintenance M7. Quarterly Meeting M8. Maintenance Tracking System M9. Annual Maintenance Plan SF1. Haymaker Trailhead SF3. Wayfinding Signage SF5. Replaceable + Replicable Signage SF6. Motorized Access SF8. BLM Camping Level	OS8. Open Space Management Plans OS12. Adjacent Property Weed Coordination AE3. Spanish Signage + Maps AE5. Creative User Etiquette Signage AE6. Etiquette Standards AE7. Messaging System AE8. Beginner Friendly Opportunities T4. Motorized Dead-ends T5. Support Horse Access T6. Bike Skills Park T7. Use Changes T9. Dirt Surfer Discussion M2. Unsanctioned Trails M5. Trail Conditions Facebook M6. Haymaker Testing Ground SF2. Trailheads Access SF4. Visitor Information Strategy SF7. In-Town Camping SF9. BLM Camping Services P1. E-bikes	OS7. Spatial Inventory of Town Open Spaces T10. Hermit Discussion T11. Forest Service Discussion SF10. BLM Camping Capacity P3. Permitting Structure
<u>ADVOCACY/CONTINUED INITIATIVES</u>		
OS3. Dog Control Policies OS4. Dog/Wildlife Conflict OS15. Restoration Organization Support OS16. Restoration Efforts Coordination OS17. Open Space Acquisition OS18. Development Standards OS19. ACEC/SRMA OS20. Open Space Budgeting OS21. Consistent Funding Source	T2. Criteria Development T12. Funding Relationships/ Restoration Opportunities SF11. Trailhead w/ Wildlife in Mind M10. Trail Organization Support M11. Adopt-A-Trail P2. Seasonal Wildlife Closures P4. Trail Sustainability P5. Unsanctioned Trail Policy	

All projects are listed in this table with an estimated cost. Cost ranges are listed as approximate under the following \$ (\$0 - \$15,000), \$\$ (\$15,000 - \$50,000), \$\$\$ (\$50,000+).

TABLE 9. PRIORITY MATRIX

Recommendation	Priority	Estimated Cost (\$-\$\$\$)
OS1. Enforcement Officer/Ranger	High	\$\$
OS2. Habitat Improvement Projects	High	\$\$\$
OS3. Dog Control Policies	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$
OS4. Dog/Wildlife Conflict	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$
OS5. Regional Habitat Studies	High	\$\$
OS6. Ecological Assessments	Medium	\$\$\$
OS7. Spatial Inventory of Town Open Spaces	Low	\$
OS8. Open Space Management Plans	High	\$\$\$
OS9. Wetlands	High	\$\$\$
OS10. Fuels Management	High	\$\$
OS11. Noxious Weeds Management	High	\$\$
OS12. Adjacent Property Weed Coordination	Medium	\$
OS13. Unsanctioned Trail Management	High	\$\$\$
OS14 Restoration Brush Creek/Eagle River	High	\$\$\$
OS15. Restoration Organization Support	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$\$
OS16. Restoration Efforts Coordination	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$
OS17. Open Space Acquisition	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$\$\$
OS18. OS Development Standards	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$
OS19. ACEC/SRMA	Medium	\$\$
OS20. Open Space Budgeting	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$\$
OS21. Consistent Funding Source	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$\$
AE1. Wildlife Education	High	\$\$

AE2. Natural Resource Education	High	\$\$
AE3. Spanish signage and maps	Medium	\$\$
AE4. Community Partners	High	\$
AE5. Creative User Etiquette Signage	Medium	\$\$
AE6. Etiquette Standards	Medium	\$
AE7. Messaging System	Medium	\$
AE8. Beginner Friendly Options	Medium	\$\$\$
T1. Trail Opportunities	See Chapter 3 for trail by trail priority	
T2. Criteria Development	Medium	\$
T3. Trail Hubs	High	\$\$
T4. Motorized Dead-Ends	Medium	\$\$
T5. Support Horse Access	Medium	\$
T6. Bike Skills Park	Medium	\$\$\$
T7. Use Changes	Medium	\$
T8. Haymaker/Road Gulch/3 Sisters	Medium/High	\$\$
T9. Dirt Surfer Discussion	Medium	\$
T10. Hermit Discussion	Low	\$
T11. Forest Service Discussion	Low	\$
T12. Funding Relationships/Restoration	Advocacy/Continued Initiative	\$\$\$\$
M1. Re-routes	High	\$\$\$
M2. Unsanctioned Trails	Medium	\$\$\$
M3. Trail Maintenance Collaboration	High	\$\$
M4. Early Season Maintenance	High	\$\$
M5. Trail Conditions Facebook	Medium	\$
M6. Haymaker Testing Ground	Medium	\$\$
M7. Quarterly Meeting	High	\$
M8. Maintenance Tracking System	High	\$
M9. Annual Maintenance Plan	High	\$
M10. Trail Organization Support	High	\$

M11. Adopt-A-Trail	High	\$
SF1. Haymaker Trailhead	High	\$\$\$
SF2. Trailheads Access	Medium	\$\$
SF3. Haymaker to Boneyard Signage	High	\$
SF4. Visitor Information Strategy	Medium	\$\$
SF5. Replaceable + Replicable Signage	High	\$\$
SF6. Motorized Access	High	\$\$\$
SF7. In-Town Camping	Medium	\$\$\$
SF8. BLM Camping Level	High	\$
SF9. BLM Camping Services	Medium	\$\$\$
SF10. BLM Camping Capacity	Low	\$\$\$
SF11. Trailheads with Wildlife in Mind	High	\$\$
P1. E-bikes	Medium/High	\$
P2. Seasonal Wildlife Closures	High	\$
P3. Permitting Structure	Low/Medium	\$
P4. Trail Sustainability	High	\$
P5. Unsanctioned Trail Policy	High	\$

Funding

The Eagle Open Space and Trails Department is funded by a combination of lodging tax and contributions from the Town's general fund. The Town's lodging tax is 6% on all lodging nights, with half of that (3% of lodging fees) going directly to the Open Space and Trails Department. The tax has been recently restructured (6% of lodging fees rather a set \$4 dollar amount) and is increasingly capturing revenues from short-term rentals. Due to these changes, the revenue from the lodging tax is expected to increase. In the past few years, the Town Council has decided to make contributions of varying amounts from its general fund. In some years, the department has operated leanly and not required this contribution from Town Council.

There is a Town Open Space fee associated with commercial river access that has not been collected recently. This fee should be enforced going forward, adjusted as necessary, and applied to commercial outfitters on all Town Open Spaces.

It is the recommendation of this plan that the department fund itself through a combination of increased lodging tax enforcement and growth, the fee on commercial outfitters, grants, and a funding floor from the Town's general fund. Town Council would

establish a minimum amount or floor to which they would contribute each year, helping the department better plan future projects. Further study is necessary to determine the appropriate funding floor amount.

While an additional tax may not be feasible now given the current landscape, an additional tax could be explored in the future.

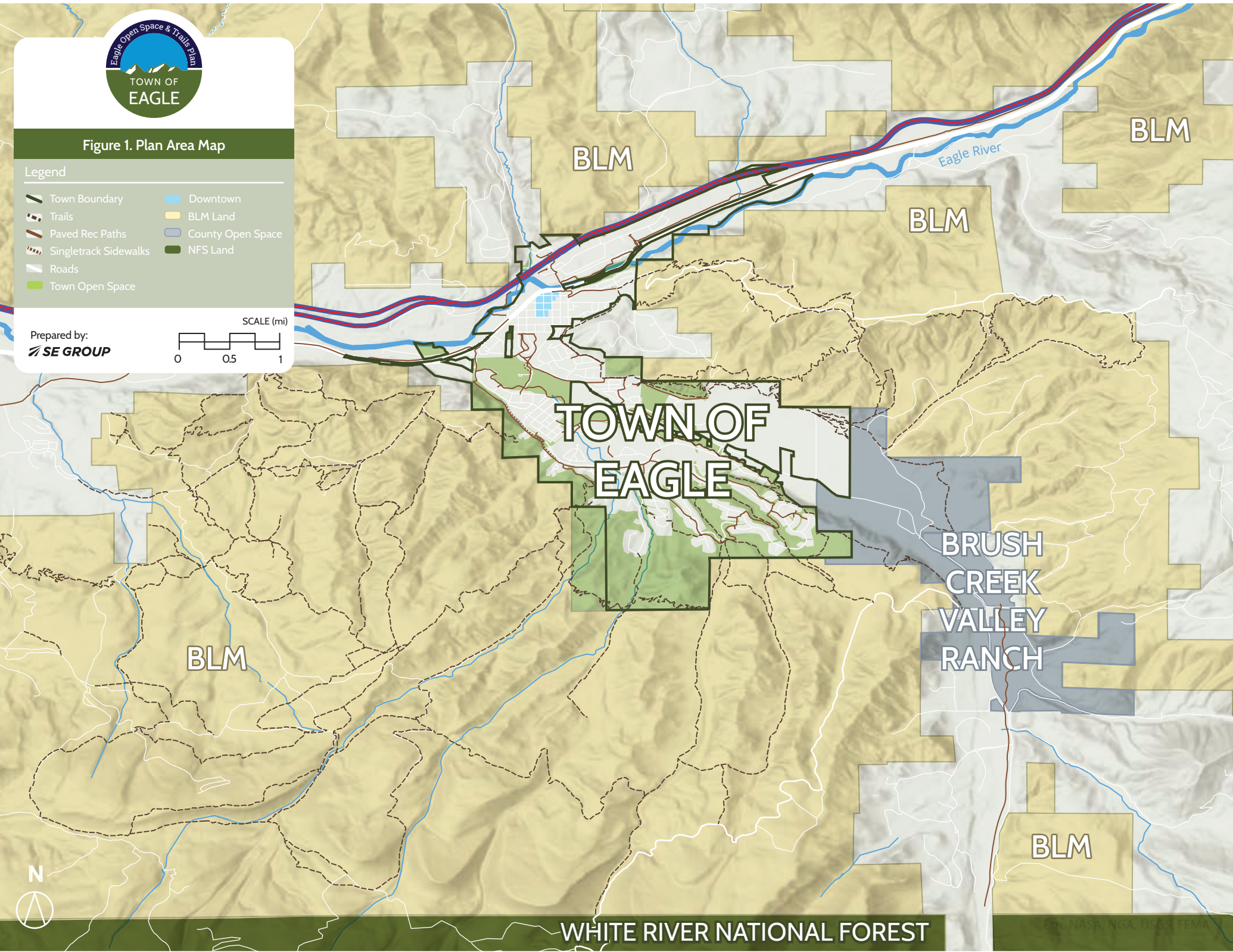
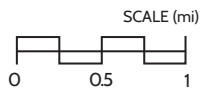


Figure 1. Plan Area Map

Legend

- Town Boundary
- Trails
- Paved Rec Paths
- Singletrack Sidewalks
- Roads
- Town Open Space
- Downtown
- BLM Land
- County Open Space
- NFS Land

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SE GROUP



WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST

BLM

BRUSH
CREEK
VALLEY
RANCH

BLM

BLM

BLM

BLM

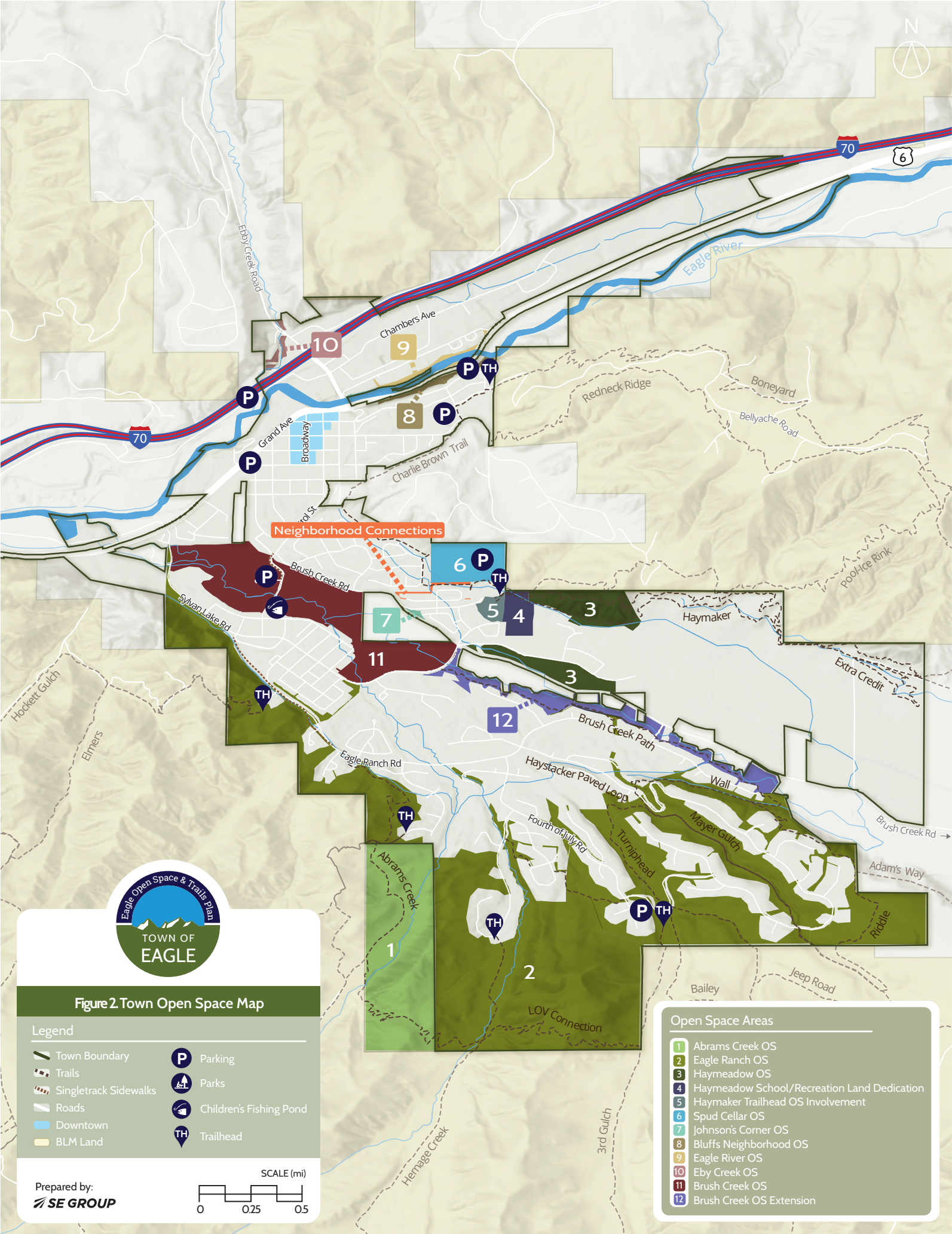


Figure 2 Town Open Space Map

- Legend**
- Town Boundary
 - Trails
 - Singletrack Sidewalks
 - Roads
 - Downtown
 - BLM Land
 - Parking
 - Parks
 - Children's Fishing Pond
 - Trailhead

Prepared by:
SE GROUP

SCALE (mi)
0 0.25 0.5

- Open Space Areas**
- 1 Abrams Creek OS
 - 2 Eagle Ranch OS
 - 3 Haymeadow OS
 - 4 Haymeadow School/Recreation Land Dedication
 - 5 Haymaker Trailhead OS Involvement
 - 6 Spud Cellar OS
 - 7 Johnson's Corner OS
 - 8 Bluffs Neighborhood OS
 - 9 Eagle River OS
 - 10 Eby Creek OS
 - 11 Brush Creek OS
 - 12 Brush Creek OS Extension

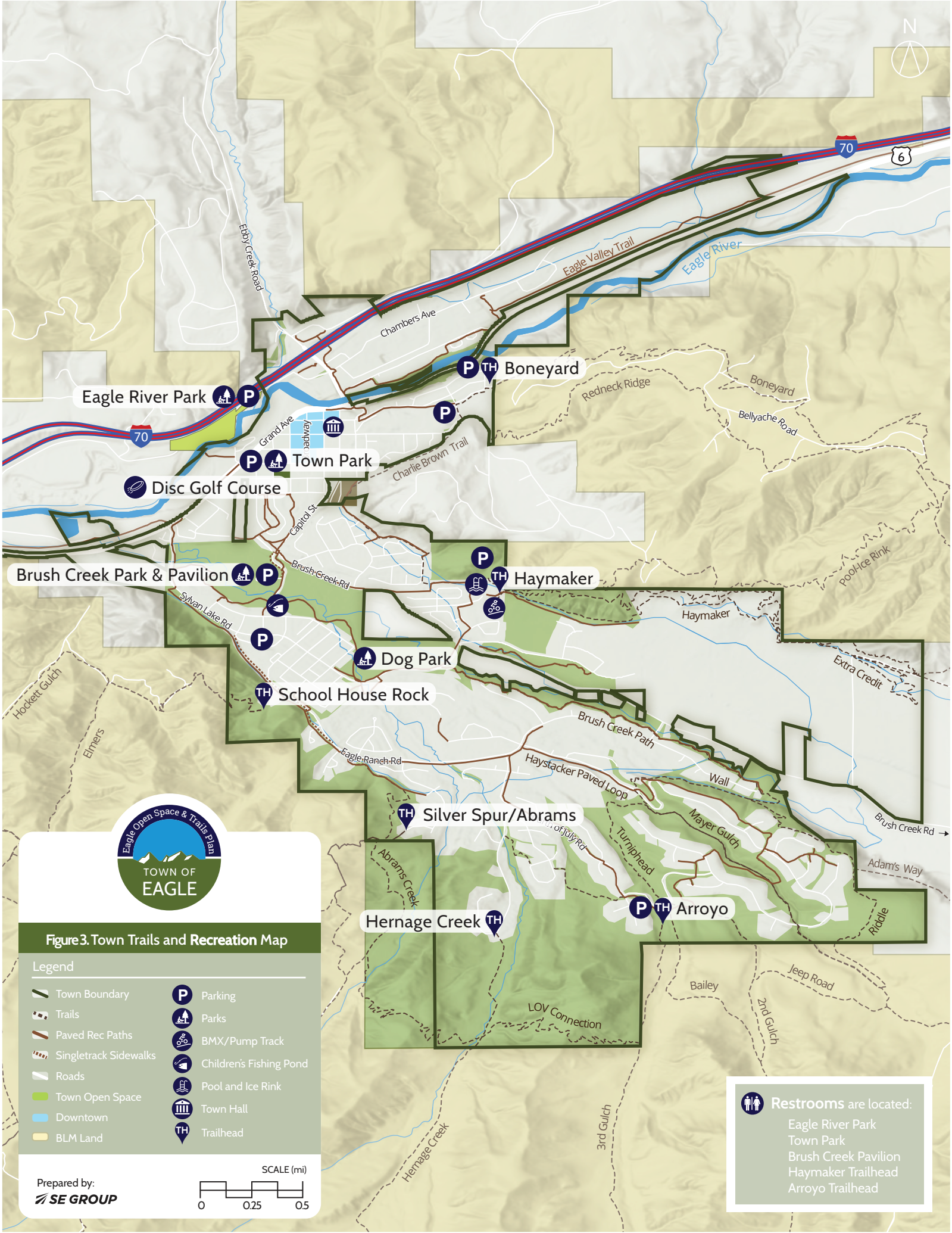
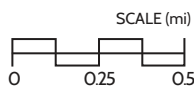


Figure 3. Town Trails and Recreation Map

Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Town Boundary | Parking |
| Trails | Parks |
| Paved Rec Paths | BMX/Pump Track |
| Singletrack Sidewalks | Children's Fishing Pond |
| Roads | Pool and Ice Rink |
| Town Open Space | Town Hall |
| Downtown | Trailhead |
| BLM Land | |

Prepared by:
SE GROUP



Restrooms are located:

- Eagle River Park
- Town Park
- Brush Creek Pavilion
- Haymaker Trailhead
- Arroyo Trailhead

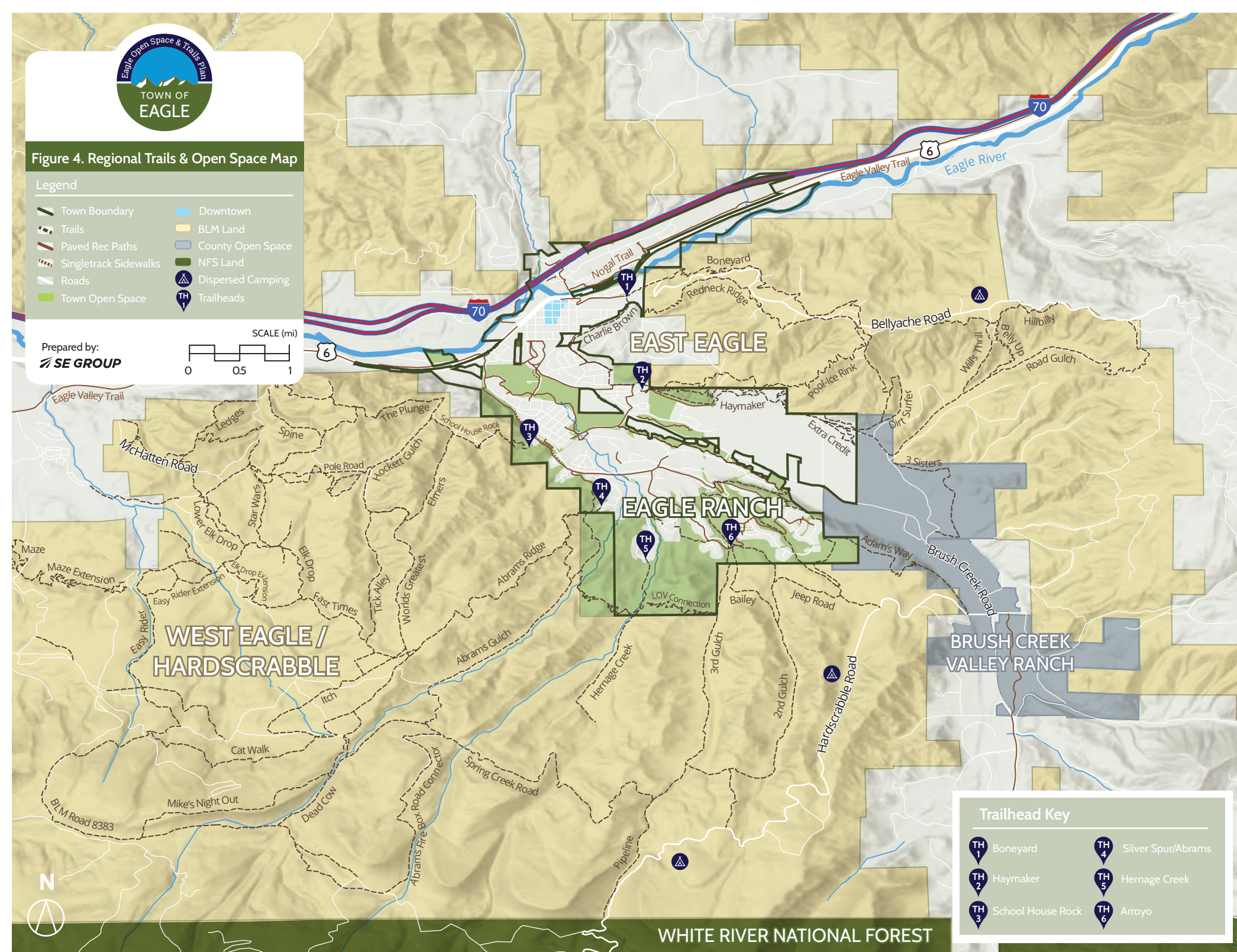
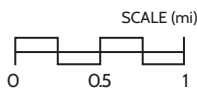


Figure 4. Regional Trails & Open Space Map

Legend

- Town Boundary
- Trails
- Paved Rec Paths
- Singletrack Sidewalks
- Roads
- Town Open Space
- Downtown
- BLM Land
- County Open Space
- NFS Land
- Dispersed Camping
- Trailheads

Prepared by:
SE GROUP



Trailhead Key

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| TH 1 Boneyard | TH 4 Silver Spur/Abrams |
| TH 2 Haymaker | TH 5 Hernage Creek |
| TH 3 School House Rock | TH 6 Arroyo |



Figure 5. Elk Habitat Map

Legend

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Town Boundary | Severe Winter Range |
| Roads | Winter Concentration Areas |
| Winter Range | Severe Winter Range/Winter Concentration Area (Overlap) |
| Production Areas | |

Elk summer range covers the whole map area except for parts of Downtown. Migration corridors and summer concentration areas are not within the frame of this map

Source: CPW Species Activity Mapper

Prepared by:

SE GROUP



SCALE (mi)



This data is provided by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. For up to date information, please contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife.



Figure 6. Mule Deer Habitat Map

Legend

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Town Boundary | Severe Winter Range |
| Roads | Winter Concentration Areas |
| Winter Range | Severe Winter Range/Winter Concentration Area (Overlap) |
| Concentration Area | Migration Corridor |

Mule Deer summer range covers the whole map area except for parts of Downtown

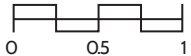
Source: CPW Species Activity Mapper

Prepared by:

SE GROUP



SCALE (mi)



This data is provided by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. For up to date information, please contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife.



Figure 7. BLM Management Zones Map

Legend

- Town Boundary
- Trails
- Roads
- Downtown
- Dispersed Camping
- Trailheads
- NFS Land
- BLM Land
- Recreation Management Zone 1
- Recreation Management Zone 2
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Prepared by:
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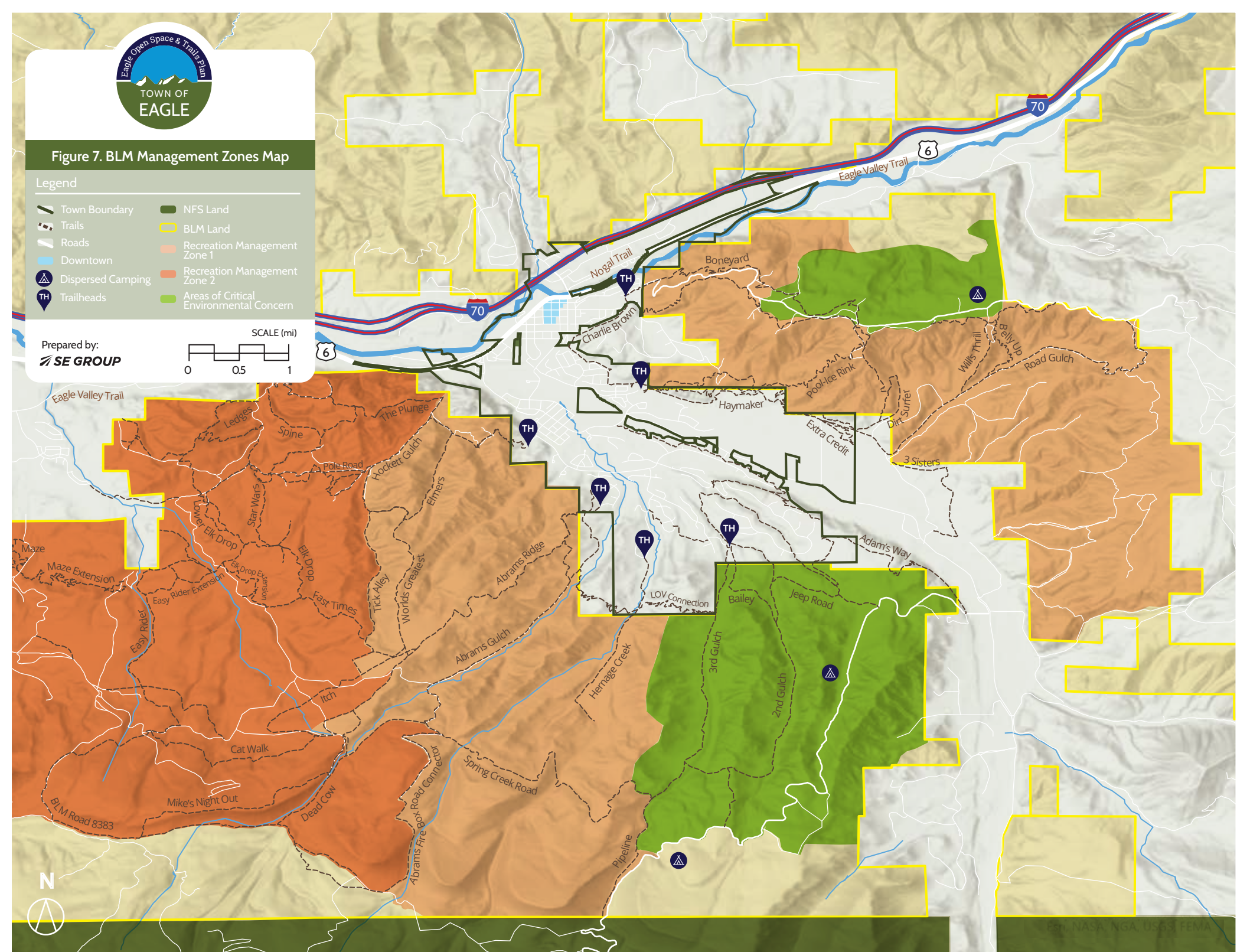
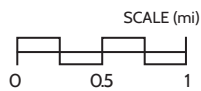




Figure 8. Open Space Opportunity Map

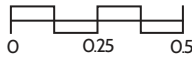
Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Town Boundary | Roads |
| Trails | Town Open Space |
| Paved Rec Paths | Downtown |
| Singletrack Sidewalks | BLM Land |

Prepared by:

SE GROUP

SCALE (mi)



Opportunities

- Known Areas of Noxious Weeds
- Ground Squirrel Management Focus Area
- Riparian, Wetland, and Water Management/Restoration
- Social Trail Decommissioning
- Bank Stabilization
- Trash Clean-up
- Vegetation Management
- Continue to Support Conservation Projects in the Brush Creek Corridor

The Town of Eagle intends to partner with CPW and neighboring landowners to sponsor projects that improve wildlife mobility and habitat throughout our open space portfolio, when opportunities are available.

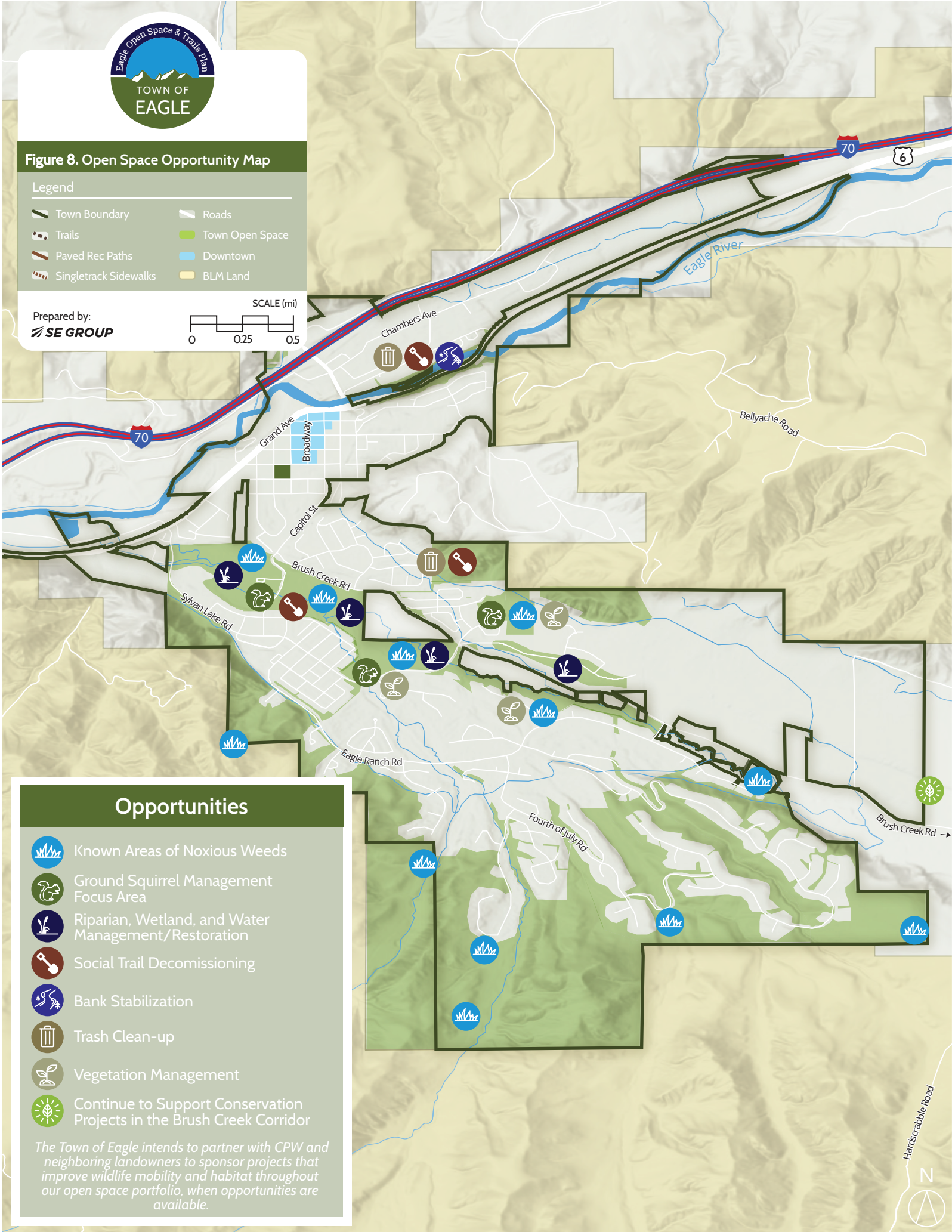




Figure 9. Trail Recommendations Map

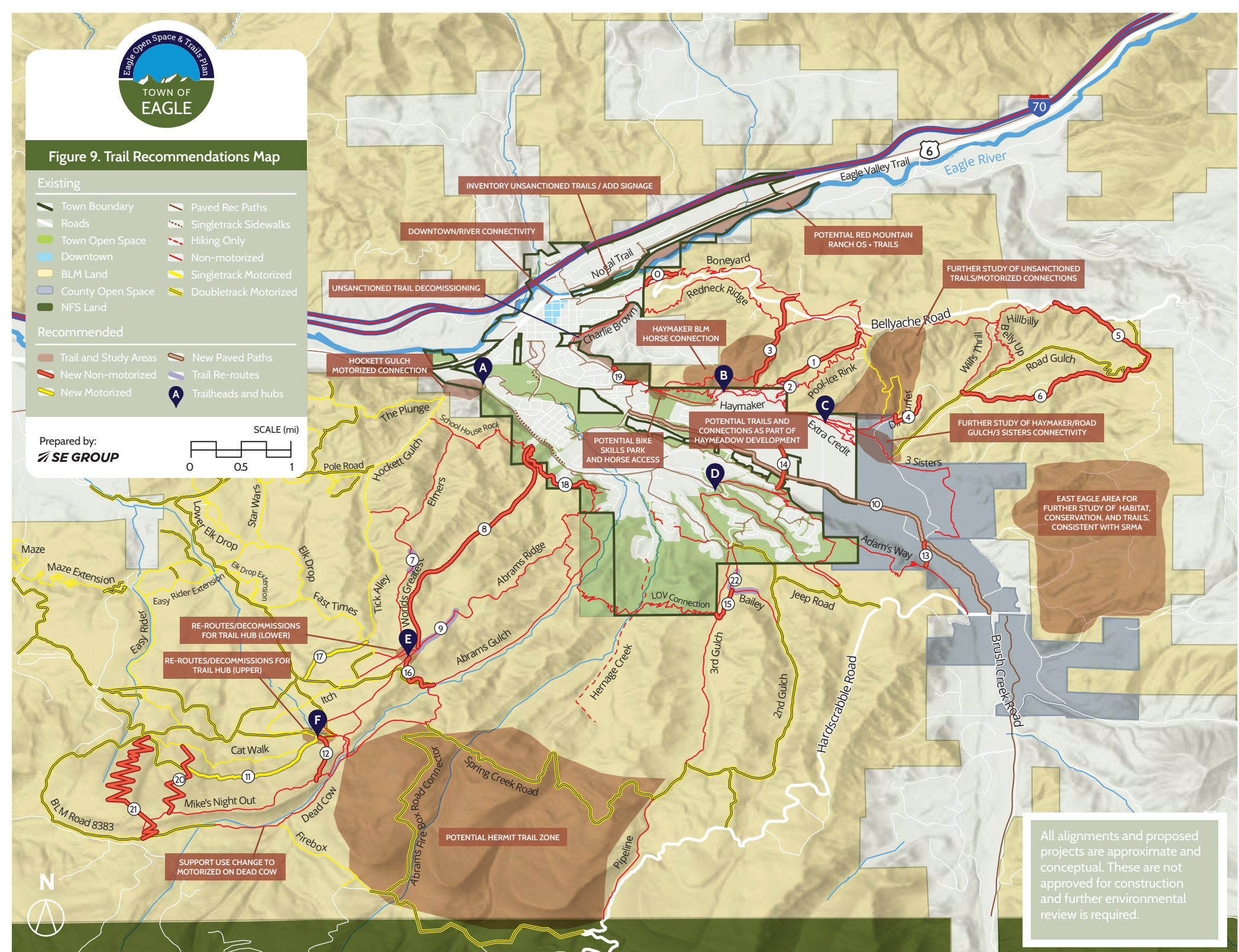
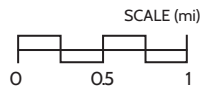
Existing

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Town Boundary | Paved Rec Paths |
| Roads | Singletrack Sidewalks |
| Town Open Space | Hiking Only |
| Downtown | Non-motorized |
| BLM Land | Singletrack Motorized |
| County Open Space | Doubletrack Motorized |
| NFS Land | |

Recommended

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Trail and Study Areas | New Paved Paths |
| New Non-motorized | Trail Re-routes |
| New Motorized | Trailheads and hubs |

Prepared by:
SE GROUP



All alignments and proposed projects are approximate and conceptual. These are not approved for construction and further environmental review is required.