

Brighton Community Trail Project

Creating a Shared Vision through Community Engagement



Strategic Plan



Strategic Imperative 2:

Help Manage Our

Recreation Economy

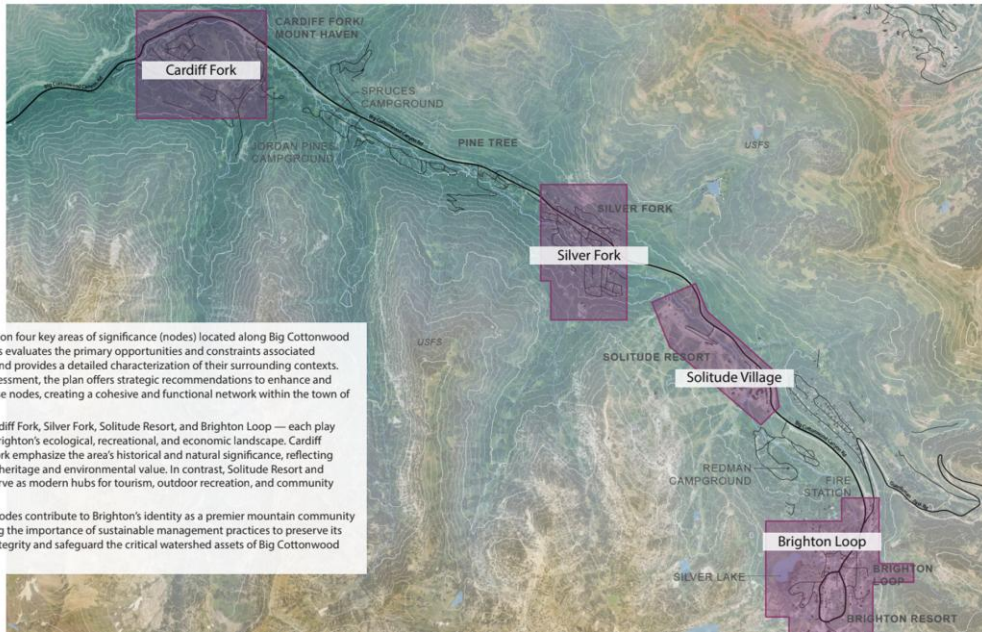
Key Initiatives:

- Continue to stress compliance regarding Short-term rentals (STRs)
- Collaborate with Partners to effectively lobby the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to adopt and implement plans to relieve traffic congestion in the Canyon
- Continue additional lobbying efforts with UDOT to adopt and implement needed Public Transit and Parking projects
- Adopt and implement the Brighton Neighborhood Nodes Plan, as appropriate
- Evaluate the feasibility of a resident shuttle service
- Continue to engage and expand relationship with Ski Resorts
- In partnership with Forrest Service, increase trail connectivity
- Identify appropriate parking options for back country skiers

What does success look like:

- Traffic reduction
- Lower commuting times both up and down the canyon
- Evaluate the potential for resident shuttles and usage rates
- Reduction in number of roadside parking spots

Neighborhood Nodes Study



This plan focuses on four key areas of significance (nodes) located along Big Cottonwood Road. The analysis evaluates the primary opportunities and constraints associated with each node and provides a detailed characterization of their surrounding contexts. Based on this assessment, the plan offers strategic recommendations to enhance and interconnect these nodes, creating a cohesive and functional network within the town of Brighton.

The nodes — Cardiff Fork, Silver Fork, Solitude Resort, and Brighton Loop — each play distinct roles in Brighton's ecological, recreational, and economic landscape. Cardiff Fork and Silver Fork emphasize the area's historical and natural significance, reflecting Brighton's alpine heritage and environmental value. In contrast, Solitude Resort and Brighton Loop serve as modern hubs for tourism, outdoor recreation, and community activity.

Together, these nodes contribute to Brighton's identity as a premier mountain community while highlighting the importance of sustainable management practices to preserve its environmental integrity and safeguard the critical watershed assets of Big Cottonwood Canyon.

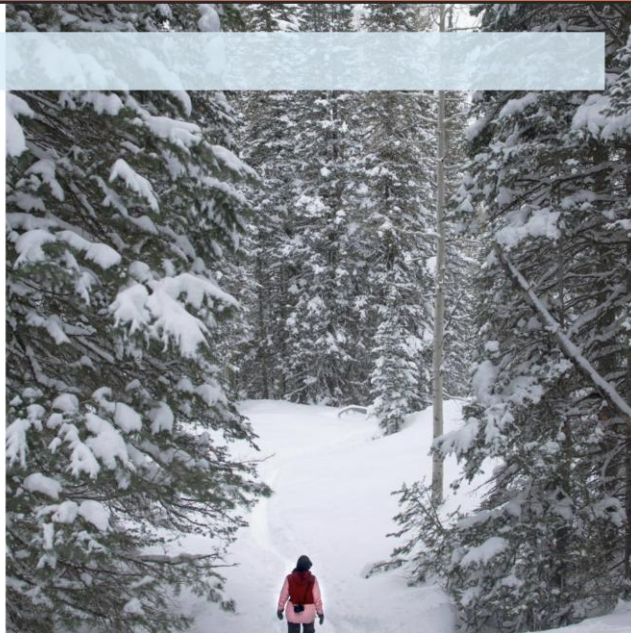
Conclusion

Collaboration

Collaboration will be key to success, with partnerships involving residents, government agencies (e.g., UDOT, UTA and USFS), and private stakeholders (e.g., resorts & landowners). This plan seeks to ensure that The Town of Brighton retains its identity as a premier outdoor all year recreation destination and a vibrant, close-knit community while addressing the challenges of growth, congestion, and environmental protection.

Next Steps

Each node presents unique opportunities and challenges that require tailored strategies. By focusing on the character of The Town of Brighton, environmental concerns, infrastructure improvements, and community engagement, Brighton can enhance its identity as a premier mountain community while ensuring sustainable development. Collaboration with stakeholders and continuous feedback from residents will be crucial in successfully implementing these next steps.



Node Connector Trail



A Conceptual Trail

- Trail System Improvements: The most desired enhancement to the trail system within Big Cottonwood Canyon is the development of a **multi-purpose trail** that provides connectivity between the four node areas (the “node connector”).
- Trail Connectivity: There was significant support for **improving trail connections and developing a new trail network that would establish continuous connectivity between the four node areas.**
- Solitude Resort proposed extending such a trail into the southern edge of the resort, linking it with the Village and Moonbeam Lodge.
- Residents expressed support for a node connector trail but were also **concerned about privacy, snow removal, and cost**
- As before, residents like the idea of a node connector trail in theory, and had **concerns about practicality**

Fig. 17 - Trail System & Node Connector

SCALE: 1" = 4000 FT
ON 22" X 34" SHEET

0 4000 8000

1

PHASE 1

Phase 1 trail projects provide some of the highest resource protections, and are most ready for implementation. Pre-work for some projects may already be initiated, although additional details may still be needed. Several of the Phase 1 projects have scouted alignments, and were reviewed in the 2025 NEPA process. Nearly all trail projects need support, which may mean project adoption by a partner, or financial support through grants or agreements.

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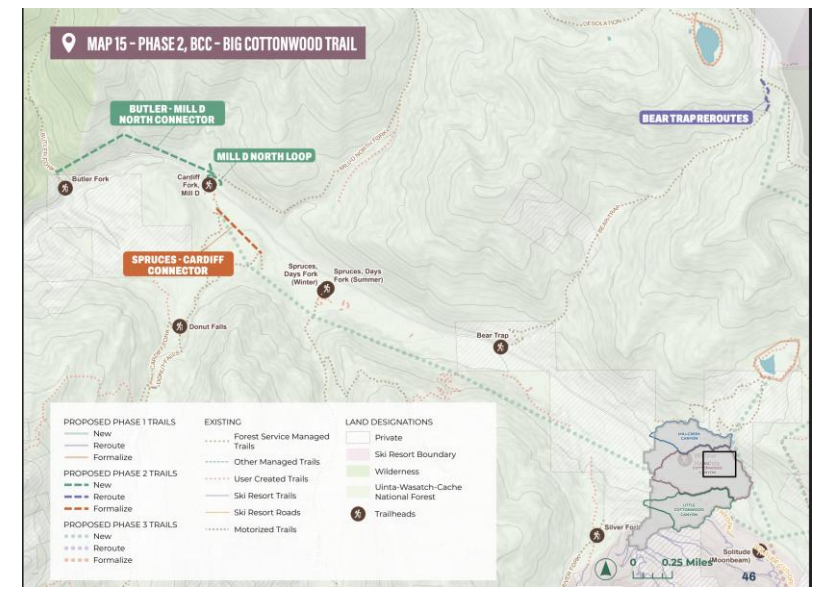
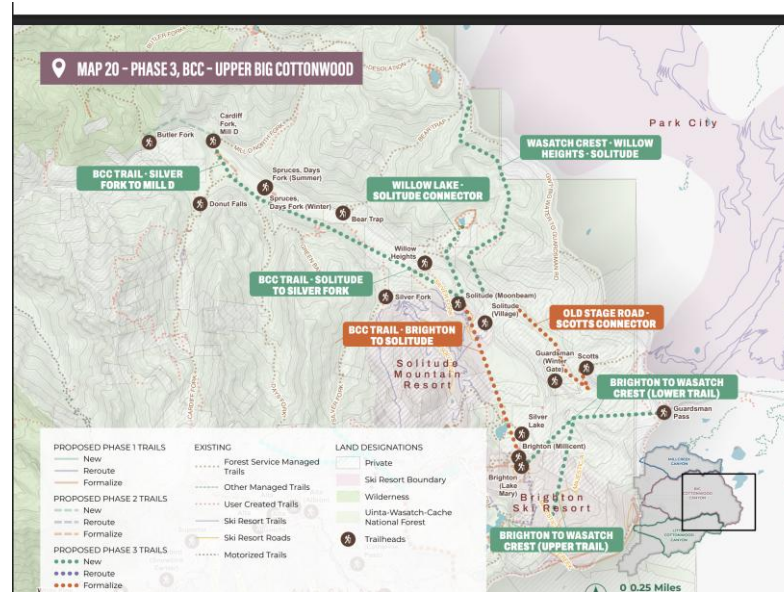
PHASE 2

Phase 2 trail projects are more complex to plan or implement. U.S. Forest Service or partners might need to acquire access across private property, to enlist engineering support for bridge design, or to engage contractors with specialized construction expertise.

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PHASE 3

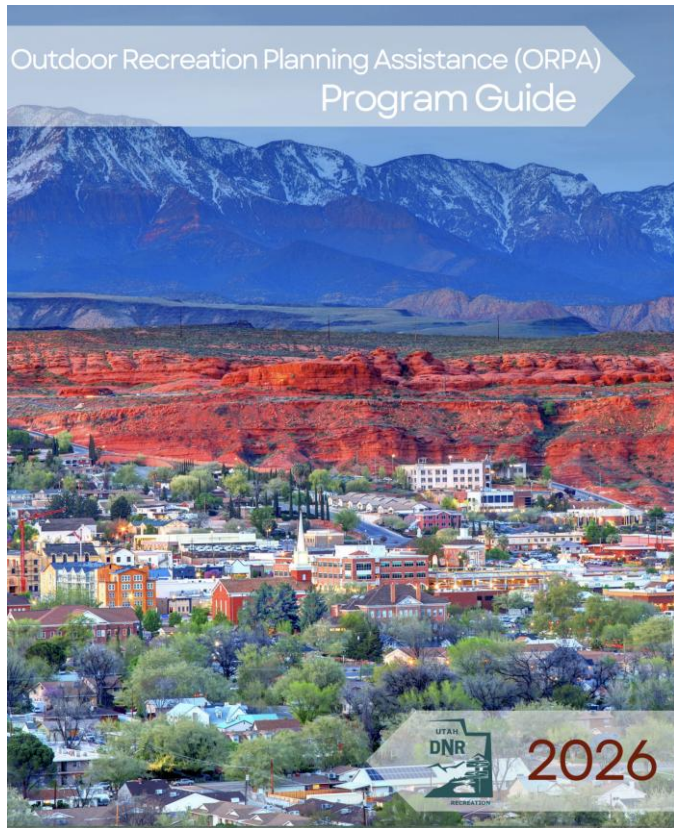
Phase 3 projects must be planned or implemented in coordination with separate, concurrent projects occurring on the Forest. Either the purpose or the alignment of the trail is inherently tied to a larger, concurrent project occurring on a separate timeline.



Tri-Canyon Trail Plan

Regional Transportation Plans





Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant-Planning Assistance

Most Common Project Types

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (NEPA)

RECREATION RELATED IMPACT FEE STUDY

CONCEPTUAL/SITE DESIGN

DETAILED ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION DESIGN
*50% of associated costs

COMMUNITY VISIONING & STAKEHOLDER FACILITATION

RECREATION MASTER PLAN (Trails, Recreation Area etc)

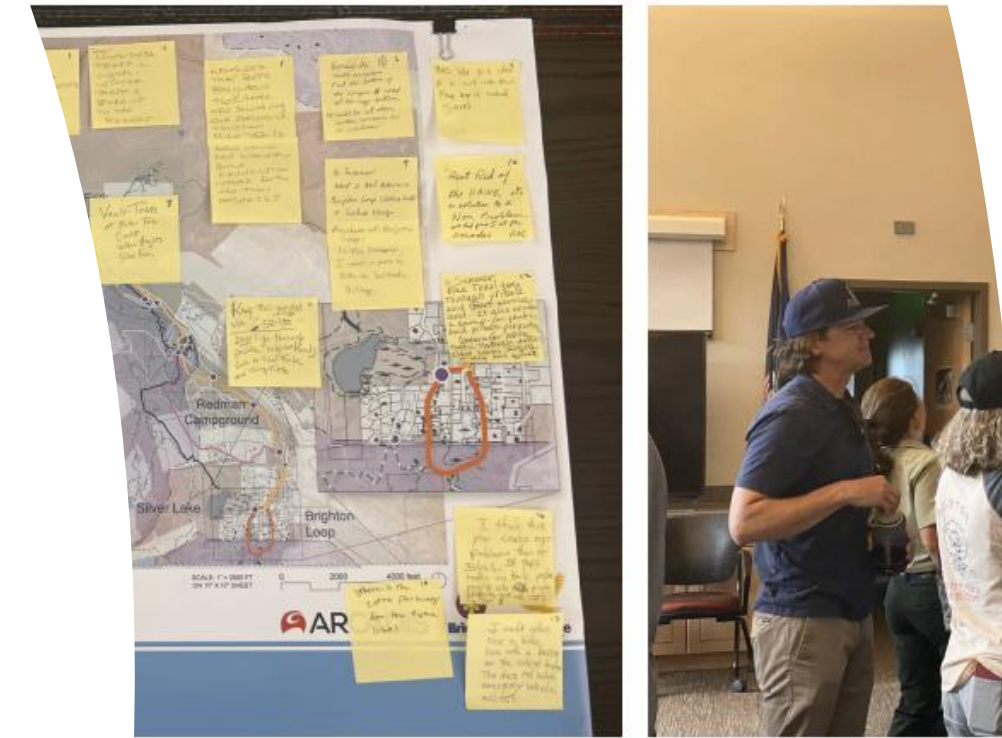
FEASIBILITY STUDY

TRAIL ALIGNMENT STUDY

RECREATION DATA GATHERING/ANALYSIS

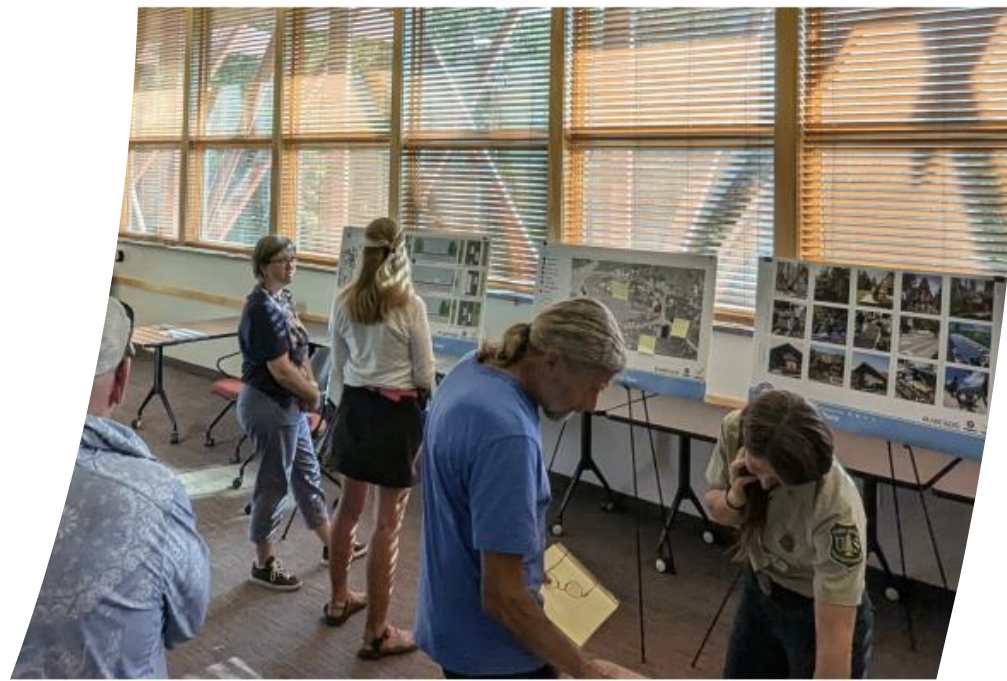
- Feasibility/trail alignment studies
- Community outreach strategies and execution
- Stakeholder/steering committee facilitation Plan development assistance (i.e. master trails plan)
- Conceptual trail & site design
- Mapping services Field data collection (trail assessments)

Community Engagement



While the trail concept is recognized in several documents, including the DRAFT USFS Tri-Canyon Trail Plan, and strong interest in improving connectivity is documented in the Neighborhood Nodes Study, this exercise focuses on **defining a vision for the trail's purpose, character, and users.**

The process will identify opportunities, constraints, and priorities for each segment to determine where a trail may be viable, design, and how it should function.



Three Segments

- Cardiff-Spruces
- Spruces-Solitude
- Solitude-Brighton

Scope & Timeline

- Engagement will involve residents, resorts, environmental stakeholders, and public agencies.
- Outreach will include stakeholder meetings, segment workshops, field walks, surveys and mapping.
- Feasibility will be informed by community engagement, desktop analysis and field review, with attention to existing versus new trails, seasonal use, resort interfaces, and connections to destinations and mobility hubs.

- **3 Month Engagement Timeline Summary (DRAFT)**
- **Month 1 – Community Engagement & Feasibility (August)**
 - Stakeholder/agency coordination
 - Develop segment contact lists/resident outreach
 - Desktop analysis (ownership, constraints, opportunities)
 - Interviews, initial segment issue identification
- **Month 2 – Segment Workshops & Alternatives (September)**
 - Segment workshops
 - Field walks and site validation
 - Develop and refine 2-3 alignment concepts per segment
 - Ongoing agency coordination and community outreach
 - Council meeting
- **Month 3 – Analysis & Direction (October)**
 - Evaluate alternatives and identify tradeoffs
 - Draft preferred corridors and phasing opportunities
 - Prepare engagement summary and visual materials
 - Final community meeting to confirm direction and next steps

Questions for Council



IS THE COUNCIL COMFORTABLE APPLYING FOR
THE OPRA GRANT?



WOULD A COUNCIL MEMBER AND PLANNING
COMMISSION MEMBER ADOPT A SEGMENT AND
ASSIST WITH THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?