

2025-2026 Short-Term Projects Outcomes

MEMO

To: Central Wasatch Commission Board
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CC: Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Tom Ward, Sandy City Public Utilities
Shayne Scott, Summit County

From: Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Will McKay, Director of Public Affairs

Subject: 2025-2026 Short-Term Projects Outcomes

Date: October 5, 2026

At the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the CWC disbursed a total of \$100,000 for 12 Short-Term Projects Grants for projects to be implemented during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. These projects have now been completed, and their outcomes are outlined below.

Park City Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau: Summit Bike Share Expansion Project (\$9,000)

Summit Bike Share installed a bikeshare station at the Park City Visitor Information Center to increase awareness of non-vehicular transportation options for Wasatch Back visitors. This location increased the visibility of the bikeshare system, provided immediate access to bicycles for visitors, and integrated active transportation options into the visitor experience.



Friends of Alta: Bird Monitoring Camera (\$2,500)

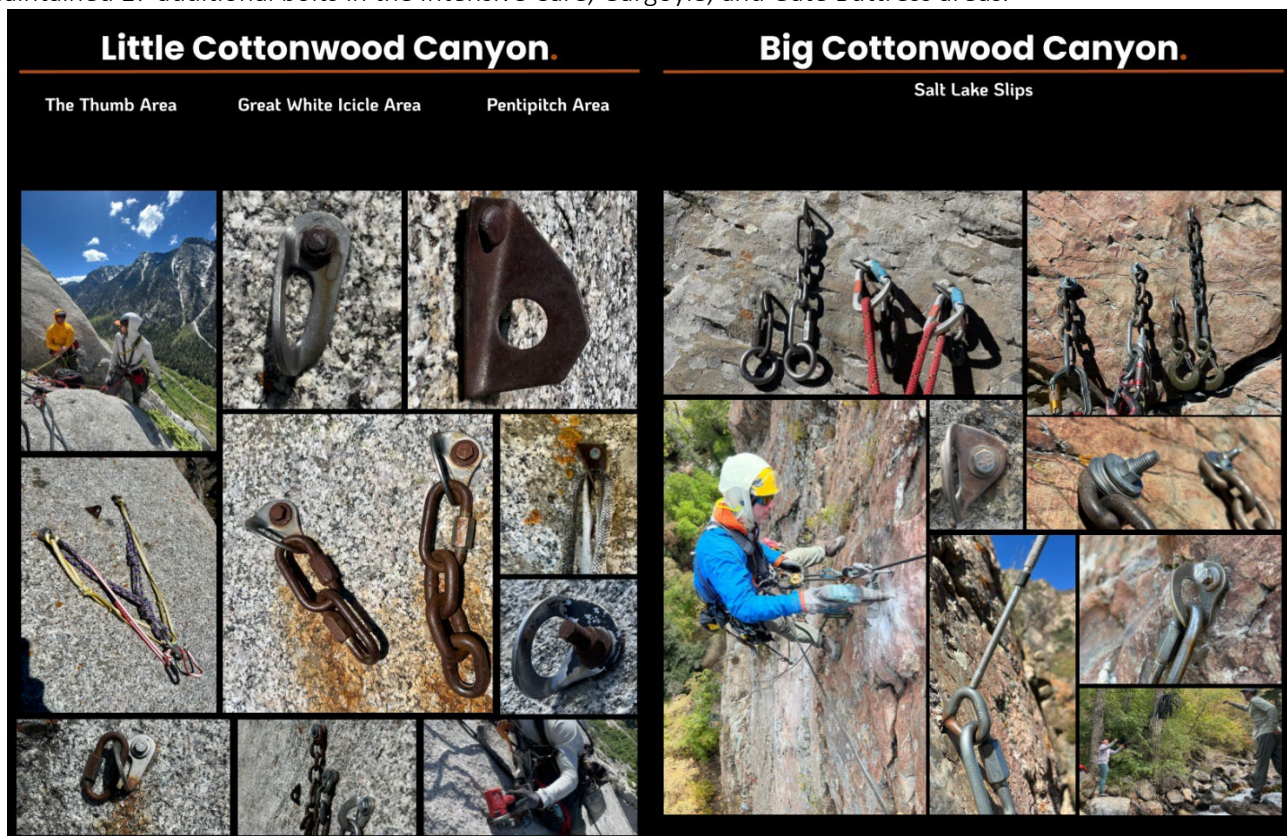
This funding enabled Friends of Alta to install a [bird feeder camera](#) that offers the public a real-time glimpse into the lives of the numerous bird species that frequent this high-elevation environment year-round. Importantly, it helps monitor the migratory patterns of the Black Rosy Finch, widely recognized as a species of highest concern and priority for protection in the face of climate change.

Cottonwood Canyons Foundation: Tri-Canyons Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds (\$20,000)

Cottonwood Canyons Foundation's continued trail maintenance and plant restoration programs employed a crew of 18 this season. They leveraged 510 volunteers and 4,360 volunteer hours to log out 81 trees, improve 8.5 miles of corridor, and construct 805 cubic feet of retaining walls across 9 sites, including the Silver Lake Trail, Secret Lake Trail, Adam's Canyon, Deseret Peak, Burch Hollow Trail, Peruvian Gulch, Lower Albion Meadows, and Pipeline-Elbow Fork Connector. Fuels reduction work, including chipping, cutting, and piling, was also undertaken in Silver Fork, Mill D, and Camp Tuttle.

Salt Lake Climbers Alliance: Fixed Anchor Maintenance (\$5,000)

This project utilized professional anchor-maintenance labor and modern stainless-steel hardware to replace deteriorating bolts and anchors, standardize lower-offs where appropriate, and reduce the likelihood of anchor failure, accidents, and emergency response needs in remote climbing terrain. The project also supported responsible recreation management, land-manager coordination, and public education around best practices for route development and anchor maintenance. In Little Cottonwood Canyon, the 2026 crew replaced 50 bolts and maintained 17 additional bolts in the Intensive Care, Gargoyle, and Gate Buttress areas. In Big Cottonwood Canyon, the crew replaced 10 bolts and maintained 17 additional bolts in the Salt Lake Slips area.



Park City Historical Society: Park City's Historic Mines Hiking Trail Route (\$9,000)

This project rebranded existing trails, procured signage and wayfinding infrastructure, created interpretive signs at historical sites, and installed new signage to create a new trail route and fully integrated mining heritage program. It includes an interactive audio tour that provides expert audio guidance so hikers will be immersed in stories of the deep-rooted mining history visible along the Historic Mine Route. The project includes preserved historic mining structures and relics for self-guiding, hiking, biking, skiing, and professional guided tours through the Park City Historical Society, Park City Mountain Resort, and many other organizations.



Summit Community Gardens: Environmental Sustainability Education (\$9,500)

This project delivered 32 weeks of after-school classes, 16 weeks of garden lessons, and 16 weeks of summer camp that focused on deep engagement with the environment and stewardship principles, including composting, building healthy soil, the importance of protecting native ecosystems, plus practical knowledge about waste reduction, water conservation, responsible land management, and sustainable food systems. The programs supported over 2,000 students and the garden produced 2,000 pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs that supported food-insecure families in the Wasatch Back.

Seven Canyons Trust: Folsom Trail Hidden Waters Project (10,000)

This project integrated art into the pedestrian environment to deepen public understanding of the city's water systems, promote watershed stewardship, and improve the vibrancy and accessibility of the City Creek at Folsom Trail Corridor. The [public art installation](#) connects people to place, history, and environmental restoration. It supported six local artists who created artwork inspired by the buried City Creek along the Folsom Trail and the vision for cultural daylighting along the Folsom Trail corridor.

Wasatch Backcountry Alliance: Backcountry Shuttle (\$5,000)

This grant funded a reservation-based backcountry shuttle, this year in Mill Creek Canyon. The shuttle has operated in the Cottonwoods for several years and set out to demonstrate that the model is also feasible in Mill Creek Canyon. Despite a very low snow year, WBA was able to gather data that will help inform future transit planning in Mill Creek Canyon, including that 50% of shuttle riders brought Mill Creek Canyon recreation passes, and hiking was the most popular winter activity.

Wasatch Graffiti Busters: Graffiti Abatement in the Central Wasatch (\$2,000)

This funding contributed to the purchase of a new power washer and other supplies to continue removing graffiti throughout the Wasatch canyons while protecting the watershed.

Save Our Canyons: Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program (\$18,000)

This project leveraged over 900 hours from 250 volunteers valued at an estimated \$31,000 to remove trash and invasive weeds in the Central Wasatch and surrounding areas. Save Our Canyons also expanded its fuel management efforts, continued watershed protection and stewardship education, and advocated for year-round public transit.



Trails Utah: Garlic Mustard Removal at Bell Canyon Trailhead (\$5,000)

Trails Utah partnered with Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, whose crew and volunteers removed almost \$4,000 pounds of garlic mustard from the Bells Canyon Trailhead area by hand pulling, a 1B noxious weed that poses threats to the watershed and ecosystem. Garlic mustard alters soil chemistry, outcompetes native plants, and spreads easily. This project significantly stymied the spread of the weed.

Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter: East Canyon Creek Restoration (\$5,000)

This project employed Utah Conservation Corps to remove over a half-mile of old fencing and posts embedded in dense vegetation, along riverbanks, and within the river channel itself along East Canyon Creek in areas identified by Swaner. This improved a third of a mile of the waterway and 0.15 acres of habitat. Tree planting was also envisioned for the project, but the logistical challenges of removing the fencing prevented tree planting during the project timeline.

