

spring  
2008

vol. 13 issue 1



Promoting a  
Complete Pathways System,  
Safer Streets, and Great Trails  
for Jackson Hole

[inside]

- p1 Grand Teton Pathways Construction Groundbreaking May 17th
- p1 Letter from Friends of Pathways President, Randy Roberts
- p2 Teton Pass Ambassador Jay Pistono
- p3 County & Town Support \$5 Million SPET for Wyoming 22 Pathway
- p3 National Bike Summit 2008 – Washington DC
- p4-5 New Summer Pathways Map
- p6 Victory for Main Street!
- p6 Additional \$1.75 Million for Grand Teton Pathways
- p7 2008 Pathways Trails and Complete Streets Construction
- p8 Friends of Pathways Board
- p8 How To Donate to FoP
- p8 Upcoming FoP Events
- p8 FoP Jerseys on Sale!

[contact]

Executive Director - Tim Young  
Development & Communications  
Director - Stephanie Thomas

Post Office Box 2062

335 South Millward

Jackson, Wyoming 83001

307.733.4534

[www.friendsofpathways.org](http://www.friendsofpathways.org)

Email: [info@friendsofpathways.org](mailto:info@friendsofpathways.org)

Drop in: 335 S. Millward  
(1st bldg. south of Brew Pub)

## Grand Teton Pathways Construction Groundbreaking

May 17th!

### Senator Barrasso Helps Win \$1.75 Million for Park Pathways

The Grand Teton Pathways Project will take a momentous step forward this spring as Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott will be joined by U.S. Senator John Barrasso, Friends of Pathways, the National Parks Conservation Association, and invited guests to celebrate the start of the first phase of new pathways in Grand Teton National Park.



Above: U.S. Senator John Barrasso

The ceremonial groundbreaking will be held May 17th in Moose, and actual construction on the Grand Teton Pathways will begin soon after. The 2008 pathway construction section is planned from Taggart Lake Trailhead to South Jenny Lake, a distance of about 5 miles, plus a short pathway section in Moose near the new Craig Thomas Visitor Center. These initial sections will hopefully be finished for visitors to ride and walk on by late

Fall 2008. Provided the first section goes well, Grand Teton plans to finish the pathway completely from Moose to Jenny Lake next year. *[Continued on page 6]*

#### How you can help:

Please send a "Thank You" to U.S. Senator John Barrasso for his success to help Wyoming and Grand Teton National Park receive this \$1.75 million. You can contact him directly at: [Senator\\_JBarrasso@barrasso.senate.gov](mailto:Senator_JBarrasso@barrasso.senate.gov) or go to his web site <http://barrasso.senate.gov/>

### Letter from Friends of Pathways President, Randy Roberts

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter! There has been exciting news here at Friends of Pathways over this long great winter, as you'll read.

**On the Stewardship side** - With the huge powder year came greatly increased winter use up on Teton Pass. Friends of Pathways helped protect public access and support the Bridger-Teton's educational efforts with our second season running the Teton Pass Ambassador Program.

**On the Advocacy side** - Friends of Pathways dedication to good urban design paid off for West Broadway, Jackson's Main Street. Friends of Pathways organized the West Broadway Roundtable, bringing in national experts Michael Ronkin and Michael Moule, P.E. to work with the Town and WYDOT to explore enhancements to the design. *[Continued on page 2]*



Left: Teton Pass Ambassador Jay Pistono (in green coat)  
 Right: Friends of Pathways event on Teton Pass

# Teton Pass Ambassador Jay Pistono

It's been a big powder year on Teton Pass, and Friends of Pathways has been there to help the Bridger-Teton National Forest with the second successful year of the Teton Pass Winter Ambassador program. Teton Pass Ambassador Jay Pistono was up on the pass four months from December 1 through the end of March, talking to winter users about backcountry safety and responsible winter use. Building on the program's initial success last season, and supported by additional funding from Friends of Pathways, the program was expanded up to thirty hours per week this winter.

Friends of Pathways and the U.S. Forest Service co-manage the program. The Ambassador Program was also made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, and generous support from Cloudveil.

The easy access on Teton Pass, improved equipment technology, and increased regional population has all contributed to a significant increase in winter use over the past decade. Top it off with 600 inches of powder and it's no surprise the Teton Pass parking lot filled up every weekend and many weekdays.

With increased use have come increased conflicts. The Ambassador position is purely educational and focuses on face-to-face contact with users and a pro-active, common sense approach to backcountry ethics. Forest Service personnel remain responsible for enforcing snowmobile prohibitions in the Wilderness and Old Pass Road, and other Forest restrictions. The Wyoming Highway Patrol and the Teton County Sheriff's Office are responsible for enforcing parking restrictions and ensuring that users are not parking in locations that compromise highway safety.

USFS Winter Sports Coordinator Ray Spencer noted that Teton Pass is increasingly recognized as one of the nation's premier backcountry skiing and snowboarding destinations. "The Winter Trails Ambassador Program works to promote responsible use, which starts with building awareness and understanding of the issues and ways individuals can help. This education is key to reducing user conflicts and promoting backcountry safety as use increases," said Spencer. He also noted that this program would not be possible without the support of Friends of Pathways.

Pass Ambassador Jay Pistono is an experienced mountain guide and avalanche snow safety expert and has been skiing Teton Pass since 1978. His patrolling duties range from educating users about the daily avalanche forecast and backcountry ethics to refilling the PAWS mutt-mitt stations and encouraging people to clean up after their dogs. Pistono also has been maintaining information kiosks, talking with snowmobilers in the Ski Lake/Phillips Canyon area and assisting users in maximizing limited parking spaces.

Jay helped gather daily avalanche observations to improve forecasting, and communicated this information back to the USFS, Friends of Pathways and local outdoor shops both in Jackson Hole and Teton Valley.

The Teton Pass Ambassador Program is an effort to ensure long-term access and respect for this treasured backcountry area. Jay's presence is making a measurable difference on Teton Pass, and Friends of Pathways is proud to help.

## Letter from Friends of Pathways President, Randy Roberts

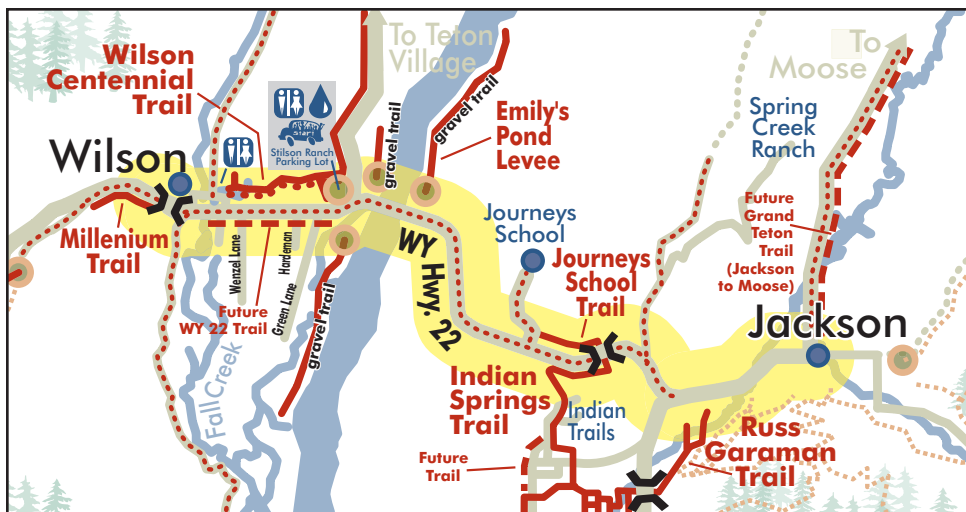
*[Continued from page 1]* The meeting was extremely productive, and the changes agreed to will produce a much more bicycle and pedestrian friendly "Complete Street" in the final design.

**On the Funding side** - Hats off to U.S. Senator John Barrasso for securing an additional \$1.75 million for the Grand Teton Pathways! That's great news, along with a Pathway groundbreaking ceremony planned this May 17th with Senator Barrasso and Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott. The first park pathways will be constructed this summer!

As always – we thank you, our members, for your help and appreciate your continued support. Through your donations, Friends of Pathways will continue to be your advocate in support of Jackson's Pathways and trails, and to speak up for complete streets that work for our community.

**Randy Roberts, FoP President**





## TAKE ACTION!

Please write and thank the Teton County Commissioners and the Town Council and for their willingness to include the WY-22 Pathway on the next SPET ballot.

### Teton County Contact:

email: [commissioners@tetonwyo.org](mailto:commissioners@tetonwyo.org)  
P.O. Box 3594 Jackson, WY 83001

### Town of Jackson Contact:

email: [electedofficials@ci.jackson.wy.us](mailto:electedofficials@ci.jackson.wy.us)  
P.O. Box 1687 Jackson, WY 83001

# County and Town Support \$5 Million SPET for Wyoming 22 Pathway

Most people would agree the “Missing Link” in Jackson’s Pathways System is the gap between Wilson and the Town of Jackson along the busy Wyoming Highway 22 corridor. WY-22 is the valley’s primary east-west link over the Snake River, with over 20,000 motor vehicles and 500 bicycles per day traversing the 5 miles in the summer season. These volumes make WY-22 the busiest 2-lane highway in Wyoming and one of the state’s busiest bike routes.

Friends of Pathways has long been an advocate for a separate pathway along WY-22. In FOP surveys, members frequently cite WY-22 as one of their top safety concerns for commuting between Jackson and Wilson. A WY-22 Pathway has been considered before, but funding was tied to the reconstruction of the highway, which has been postponed by WYDOT.

Fortunately, the Teton County Commissioners and Jackson Town Council have heard from Friends of Pathways members about how important completing this missing pathway connection is. Our Town and County elected leaders have recently come out in support of moving the pathway forward ahead of highway reconstruction.

In order to fund the pathway construction, local leaders are considering a \$5 million ballot issue before Teton County voters this August 2008 for the Specific Purpose Excise Tax, or “SPET” which is an optional 1% added sales tax. Friends of Pathways Director Tim Young has been attending the Town and County meetings and speaking in support of the SPET funding ballot, and has also expressed FOP’s willingness to help raise additional funds and support for the WY-22 pathway and potential pathway bridge over the Snake River.

The current highway was built around the mid-70’s and has 12’ lanes and 8’ shoulders for much of the road. However, the shoulders narrow down to 3’ and less over the Snake River Bridge and through the busy intersections, creating safety barriers. While many people do ride WY-22 daily, many more would like to ride but are intimidated by the busy high-speed traffic and lack of separate pathway accommodation.

Friends of Pathways strongly supports Teton County and the Town of Jackson in placing a SPET funding ballot question for a separated pathway to connect the Town of Jackson with Wilson.

# National Bike Summit 2008 – Washington DC

Jackson Hole & Teton Valley were well represented at the 2008 National Bike Summit in Washington DC. Nine people attended the annual gathering of America’s top bicycle advocates in our nation’s capital the first week of March.

Sue Prevost, Jannine Witte, Scott Fitzgerald, Randy Roberts, Carson Stanwood, Tim Young, David Vandenberg, Brian Schilling, and Tim Adams made the trip to DC.

The group attended the Summit and climbed Capital Hill to visit all the Wyoming and Idaho Congressional Offices. Friends of Pathways Executive Director Tim Young moderated a legislative panel “Creating Bicycle Friendly National Parks” at a Summit Conference session. Tim also serves on the Board of Directors of the host organization for the Summit, the League of American Bicyclists.



# Map Legend

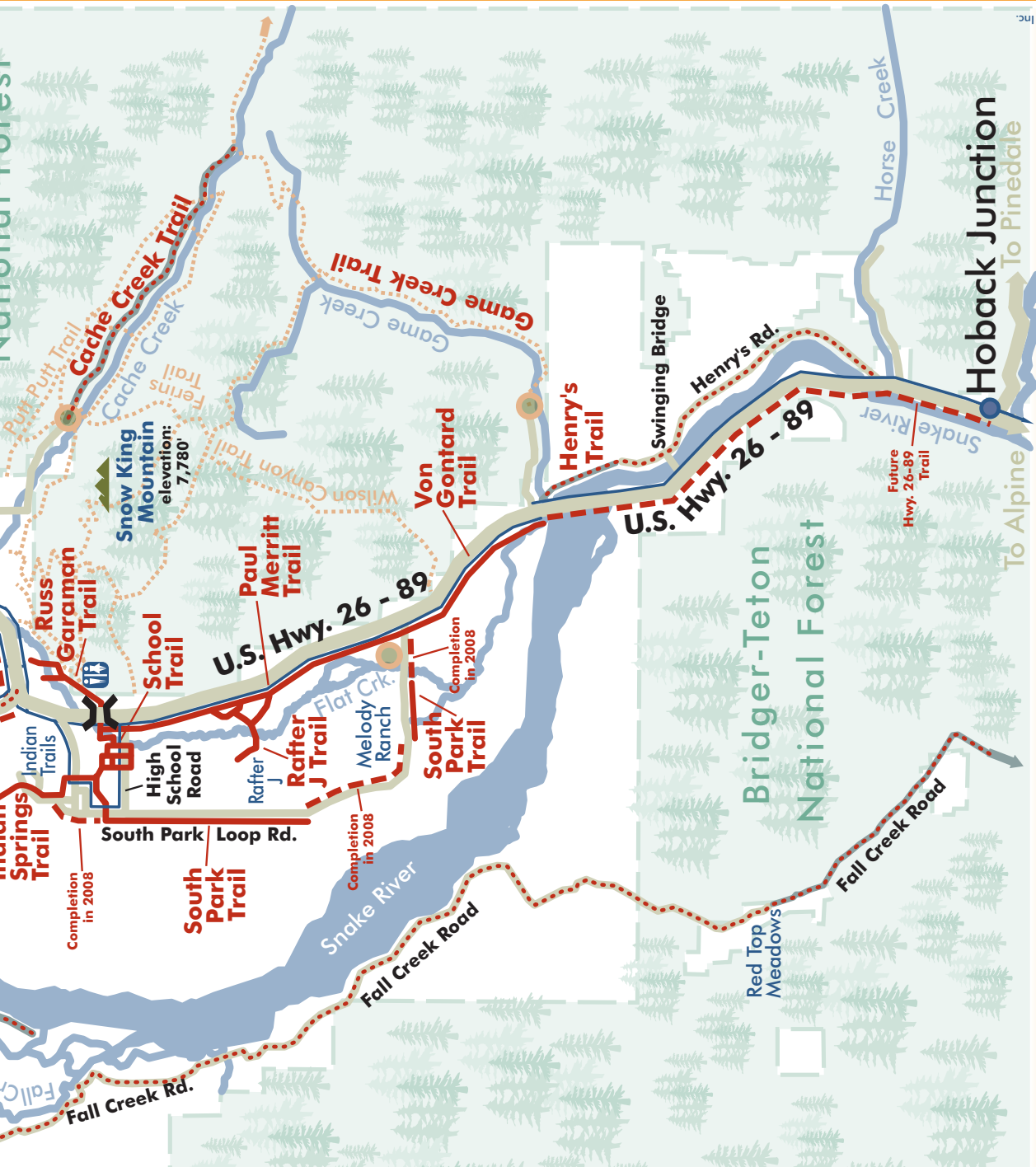


- Pathway for non-motorized travel
- Future pathway
- Paved Road suitable for bike travel
- Gravel Road suitable for bike travel
- Backcountry trail
- Highway
- Highway Underpass
- Paved road
- START Bus Centers ([www.staribus.com](http://www.staribus.com))
- Trailhead
- Parking lot
- Bike & sports shop
- Restroom
- Water fountain





Mt. Ely  
elev. 9,279'



Map Design ©2008 Burton Design, Inc.

# Jackson Hole Pathways Map

## Pathways and Trails Respect & Responsibility Code

### All Pathways & Trail Users

- Enjoy and share the Trails and Pathways
- Always think safety, courtesy and respect
- Leave no trace and respect private property
- Control pets and help clean up the poop
- Respect and protect wildlife

### Cyclists

- Pass Safely!
- Follow the Rules of the Road
- Yield to others on backcountry trails

### Walkers, Hikers & Runners

- Allow faster users to pass safely
- Yield to uphill travelers and horses
- Stay on the trail and avoid shortcuts

### Equestrians

- Expect to encounter others
- Offer safe passing instructions

## Jackson Hole Pathway Partners:

- Jackson Hole Community Pathways (307)732-8573
- Teton County/Jackson Parks & Recreation (307)733-5056
- Bridger-Teton National Forest (307)739-5500
- Grand Teton National Park (307)739-3399

For more information or to make a gift  
to support Friends of Pathways' work visit  
[www.friendsofpathways.org](http://www.friendsofpathways.org)  
(307)733-4534

# West Broadway Roundtable

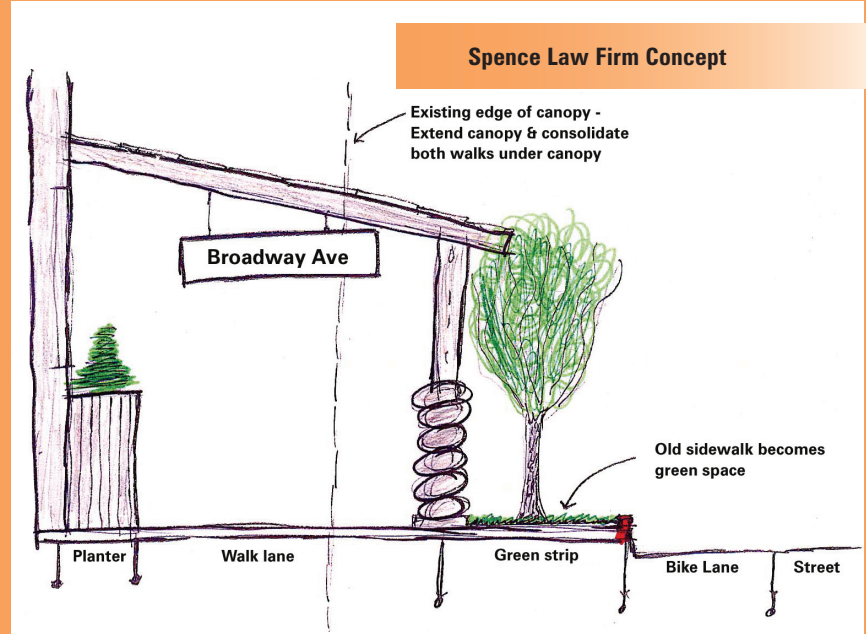
## Victory for Main Street!

Friends of Pathways is extremely pleased to announce a breakthrough in the design for the West Broadway 5-Way Intersection Reconstruction Project. For the past 10 years, Friends of Pathways has fought for better accommodation of bicycles and pedestrians along with moving motor vehicle traffic on Jackson's main street and important southern gateway.

To help find a better solution, Friends of Pathways contacted respected national experts Michael Ronkin and Michael Moule, P.E. to assist the Town and WYDOT in considering new options to enhance the design and create a more "Complete Street" that works for everyone.

Ronkin and Moule traveled to Jackson in mid-March and completed an extensive review of the street and its design challenges. In addition, WYDOT District Engineer John Eddins and 7 members of his staff traveled to Jackson and participated in a Roundtable Discussion hosted by Friends of Pathways and the Town of Jackson.

The Roundtable meeting was very constructive, and the concepts agreed upon will form the basis of a much-improved West Broadway design. District Engineer John Eddins has agreed with the key elements of 11' vehicle lanes, 5' bike lane, median islands, and



wider sidewalks where feasible. The 5-Way crosswalks will also include a number of the recommendations by Ronkin and Moule. Next the Town of Jackson will be working on revised plans for a 30-day public review this spring. The Town Council plans to issue its final recommendation to WYDOT by June, and construction is planned for 2009-10.

## Grand Teton Pathways Construction Groundbreaking

[Continued from page 1] Friends of Pathways is especially grateful for the hard work of Superintendent Scott and her staff. The Park has been quite busy this past year finishing the design details to start building pathways and developing the

associated monitoring programs. Engineers with the Federal Lands Highways Program are helping the Grand Teton park staff design and construct the pathways, which will rest lightly on the land and provide a high-quality visitor experience.

## Additional \$1.75 Million for Grand Teton Pathways

[Continued from page 1] In related good news, the 2008 Federal Budget signed into law the end of December contained a wonderful boost for the Grand Teton National Park Pathways. A line item in the annual federal funding bill dedicated an additional \$1.75 million for the Grand Teton Pathways Project.

U.S. Senator John Barrasso fought hard to keep the funding intact. For a newcomer to Washington DC, he displayed uncanny skills in navigating the federal budget process to bring this additional \$1.75 million back to Wyoming. Senator Barrasso was impressed with the considerable public support he heard from constituents after attending last year's Gabriella Axelrad Celebration Ride, sponsored by Friends of Pathways. This new funding is on top of a previous \$8 million that had been approved in past federal budgets, bringing the total appropriations to date to \$9.75 million, with the net actual funding somewhat lower.



Illustration by Jocelyn Slack



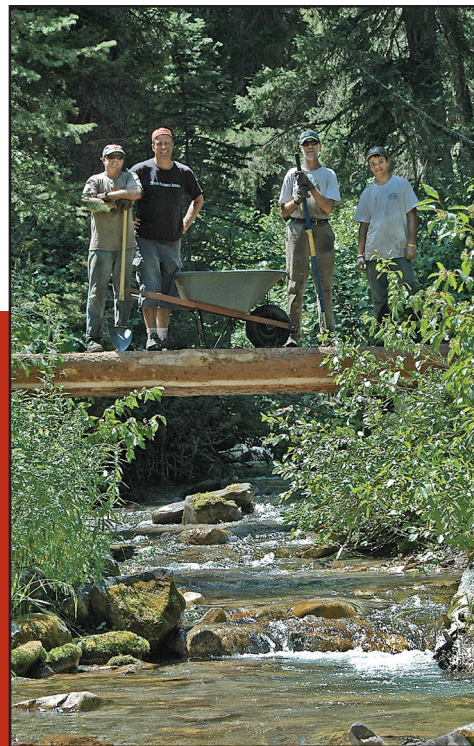
# 2008 Pathways, Trails and Complete Streets Construction

This summer promises to be an incredibly busy and productive construction season for both pathways and trails in Jackson Hole. Here is a quick look at the projects you can enjoy soon:

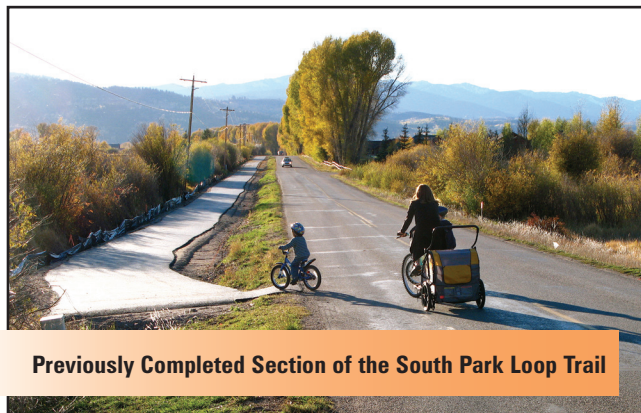
**Teton Pass Trails:** The big news is the Boy Scouts are coming – Not just a few, but 1,000 Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts, 16 year-old members of the “honor society” of the BSA, will be arriving to the Jackson Hole High School on July 26, 2008. Under the leadership of the Bridger-Teton National Forest staff and special FoP Trail Project Manager Chris Peck, the Scouts will set up a tent city on the football field of Jackson Hole High School. This area will serve as the base camp for both living and for transportation purposes for the week.

Over 650 of the Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts will construct 10.5 miles of new and improved singletrack trail, 7 miles on the north side of Teton Pass and 3.5 miles on the south side during a one-week period in July 2008. The new work includes substantial new cross-country mountain bike trails on Phillips Bench, and new hiker-horse trails by the Big Rocks Trail and completion of the Old Wagon Road “History Trail” to the summit of Teton Pass.

These new trail sections will create tremendous new loop ride options when combined with existing trails. The projects will largely complete the east side Teton Pass trails system that was approved by the Bridger-Teton several years ago. The BTNF also has a state grant that will fund additional work to install new and improved signage after the new trails are constructed.



Trail Crew Working on Teton Pass



Previously Completed Section of the South Park Loop Trail

**Pathways:** In addition to the Grand Teton Pathways 2008 construction between Taggart Trailhead and Jenny Lake, Jackson Hole Community Pathways also has a busy season planned for both construction and planning.

Two more sections of the South Park Pathway will be constructed this year. On the south end, Melody Ranch and Teton County will be finishing a pathway bridge over Flat Creek and complete the pathway east to connect with the existing Von Gontard Trail along the main highway, making a nice addition for residents living in the Melody Ranch area. The County Pathways staff will also start planning for the missing section between Melody Ranch and the existing 3 Creek Ranch pathway.

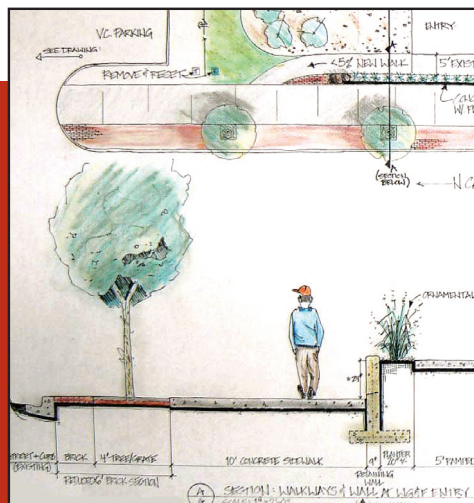
Pathway construction is also planned on the north end of South Park Loop. The pathway will be extended almost one mile from the current end of the 3 Creek section up to the Boyles Hill intersection, then east toward the Middle School.

Extensive improvements are planned to the problematic High School Road intersection with South Highway 89. Friends of Pathways and its members have long commented the intersection posed safety hazards to users, and it is encouraging that the Town of Jackson and Jackson Hole Community Pathways are taking action. The improvements will realign the pathway to a better location, highlight the intersection with improved markings, add new warning signs for motorists, and restrict right turns on red across the pathway crosswalk. Construction should be completed by the start of school in the fall of 2008.

**Complete Streets:** The Town of Jackson will be constructing the first two blocks of the North Cache Streetscape project this summer. The main northern “Gateway” to Jackson along the Bridger-Teton forest headquarters and Game and Fish offices will be enhanced with a new 10’ wide sidewalk and 7’ buffer, complete with street trees and street lights. Friends of Pathways has been a strong proponent of this project, which will set a new standard for the Town of Jackson’s main street sidewalks. The project is being funded 80% from a federal Scenic Byway Grant.

The North Cache project ties directly into the North Highway 89 Pathway, which continues to move forward. Jackson Hole Community Pathways is completing the required NEPA planning this summer, with a decision expected by August. Teton County won \$1 million in FY-07 to begin construction of the 4-mile connection to the south boundary of Grand Teton National Park. The County will be responsible for the 4 miles up to the start of the Park Pathways, which will soon connect to Jenny Lake and eventually to Colter Bay in future phases.

North Cache Streetscape Plan





spring 2008 newsletter

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #66  
Jackson, WY

Promoting a  
Complete Pathways System,  
Safer Streets, and Great Trails  
for Jackson Hole

Post Office Box 2062  
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

## Donate to Friends of Pathways:

Your support is critical to Friends of Pathways' ability to work on complete streets, great trails and a world-class pathway system for the Jackson Hole community. Please return the enclosed donation envelope today! You can also make a gift with your credit card on our website, [www.friendsofpathways.org](http://www.friendsofpathways.org)

## Wear Your Support for Friends of Pathways!

Last Call for Friends of Pathways jerseys. Limited sizes. Available at the FoP office.

### Upcoming FoP Events

For more info, see our website

- May 8 "Party for Trails!" @ Snow King Resort
- May 17 Celebrating the start of Grand Teton Pathways @ Snake River Brew Pub
- May 24 Bike Rodeo
- June 8-14 Bike Week 2008



now just  
\$80!

eight

[www.friendsofpathways.org](http://www.friendsofpathways.org) 307.733.4534

## [board]

**President:** Randy Roberts

**Vice-President:** Erin Dann

**Secretary:** Don Alsted

**Treasurer:** Ellen Fales

**Members:** Michael Austin, Steve Elzemeyer,  
Connie Johnson, Luke Lynch,  
Shannon McCormick, Mark Memmer,  
Jill Moberg, Carson Stanwood

## [about FoP]

Founded in 1994, Friends of Pathways is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting the communities in and around Jackson Hole by promoting healthy opportunities for human powered transportation and recreation. Friends of Pathways helps local government and public land managing agencies with numerous trail and pathway projects through funding, advocacy, and program support.