



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date: 2/2/21

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation		PRESENTED BY: Mike 'Diesel' Post
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ITEM:

MOU with Salida Mountain Trails 2021

BACKGROUND:

Salida Mountain Trails (SMT) is an all-volunteer 501c3 not for profit organization committed to building and maintaining sustainable, non-motorized, multi-user trails on public lands near the city of Salida. Over the past 15 years, SMT has established/created both the Arkansas Hills Trail System and the Methodist Mountain Trail System. To date, SMT has built and/or maintains over 40 miles of trails on these 2 trail systems, mostly on BLM and Forest Service lands, but also including city of Salida open space - in order to connect the 2 trail systems directly to Salida city limits. SMT has cooperative management agreements and/or MOU's in place with the BLM, Forest Service, and Chaffee County.

FISCAL NOTE:

The 2021 City of Salida budget commits \$10,000 to SMT for "trail projects".

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Council approve entering into an MOU with SMT in the consent agenda.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Content agenda item

ATTACHMENTS:

City of Salida and Salida Mountain Trails MOU

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) between Salida Mountain Trails and City of Salida

I. BACKGROUND

Salida Mountain Trails (SMT) is an all-volunteer 501c3 not for profit organization committed to building and maintaining sustainable, non-motorized, multi-user trails on public lands near the city of Salida. Over the past 15 years, SMT has established/created both the Arkansas Hills Trail System and the Methodist Mountain Trail System. To date, SMT has built and/or maintains over 40 miles of trails on these 2 trail systems, mostly on BLM and Forest Service lands, but also including city of Salida open space - in order to connect the 2 trail systems directly to Salida city limits. SMT has cooperative management agreements and/or MOU's in place with the BLM, Forest Service, and Chaffee County.

II. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for cooperation between the City of Salida and SMT, and to more formally identify the roles and responsibilities of each party. The 2 parties propose to work together to achieve a common goal of creating and maintaining trails and trailheads that are on City of Salida property and that border adjoining BLM and Forest Service public lands. The 2 parties also propose to also enhance these valuable community assets as opportunities allow.

The partnership between the City of Salida and SMT has existed since 2005 when the first "Arkansas Hills Trails" were built. The purpose of this MOU is to further strengthen this relationship to continue to provide high quality recreation opportunities directly from town for our local community and visitors alike.

III. SMT RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

1. **Trail Maintenance** - Continue to maintain the trails that are on city property using best practice as set forth by IMBA connecting to BLM and Forest Service lands. These trails currently include Frontside, Burnpile, Lil'Rattler, Tenderfoot – as well as portions of Lower Sand Dunes, The Peppers and Dream On.
2. **Signage** - Continue to provide effective trail signage for trails on city property while working with the City as it develops its own brand and updated signage.
3. **Trailhead Kiosks** - Continue to provide and maintain trailhead kiosks along with providing current effective trail maps, trail etiquette information and other trail information/signage.
4. **Fst Kiosk** - Consult with the City for any information that is placed on the Fst Kiosk and provide space for City news or announcements.
5. **Coordination/Planning/Approval with Salida Parks and Recreation and the PROST Board**- On all projects on City Property including trail maintenance projects as well as new trail proposals.
 - a. New trail proposal process
 - i. Project proposal including GPS line, length, potential cost/timeline
 - ii. Reviewed by PROST & P&R

- iii. Site visit by staff and/or board – must see a flag line on the ground
 - iv. Possible public comment opportunity
 - v. Approve the trail corridor and the “mission” of the trail.
6. **Collaboration with Salida Parks and Recreation and the PROST Board** – on long term planning efforts – master planning, new trails and/or additional connectivity efforts, and other infrastructure.
7. **Sign MOU and Volunteer insurance paperwork annually** - All members of SMT that work on City property need to sign volunteer paperwork that adds them as additionally insured on the City’s insurance for that related work. The Board and/or President must annually approve and sign an MOU with The City of Salida

IV. City of Salida RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

1. **Coordination/Planning/Approval with SMT** - On significant projects including significant trail maintenance projects as well as new trail proposals.
2. **Review Contracts and agreements** - City Staff will review contracts and agreements made between SMT and contractors for work done on City Property.
3. **Secure funding** - The City will make best efforts to secure funding to support SMT’s work on City owned property.
4. **Provide insurance** - Volunteers that complete the City of Salida Volunteer paperwork will be covered under the City’s policy for work done on City Property.

V. FUNDING

SMT will fund the professional construction of any new approved trails on city open space as well the costs for effective signage. SMT will supply volunteer labor, tools, planning/organization for all maintenance and other necessary tasks.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be effective upon the signature of SMT and City of Salida authorized officials. Both parties indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

Signatures and dates

Salida Mountain Trails

[Mike Smith - Salida Mountain Trails Board President](#)

01/19/2021 Date

City of Salida

_____ Date