



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BRAGG CREEK TRAILS

[braggcreektrails.org](http://braggcreektrails.org) | [info@braggcreektrails.org](mailto:info@braggcreektrails.org)



## WE ARE

A community-minded, volunteer-run nonprofit dedicated to maintaining and advocating for multi-use trail systems in Bragg Creek.

## WE PROVIDE

Multi-use trail systems in Bragg Creek cared for and created by community for community so everyone can connect with nature in every season.

## OUR MISSION

Happy trails! Connecting a diverse community through a shared love for the outdoors in every season.

## CONTENTS

- 01 Message from the President and Board
- 02 Friend Raising and Fundraising
- 06 Community Trails
- 07 Ski Trails
- 09 All Season Trails
- 13 Financial Statements

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD

Despite the COVID pandemic, 2020 was one of our busiest years and also a year of many firsts. Summer and winter seasons both saw a big increase in the number of trail users, which placed increased pressure on the trail system. We experienced increased media interest in BCT and outdoor activities in general. Volunteers and staff stepped up to the challenge despite personal stresses caused by the pandemic. This year was an affirmation of just how important trails and the natural environment are to everyone.

We continue to mature as an organization with an emphasis on improving our processes in problem solving and decision making. The Board was tasked with spending significant time reviewing new organizational guiding and governance documents that are reflected in our revised Operating Framework. We tuned up our Human Resource Policy to guide us through the many challenges we face as interactive humans. Long term planning was also a focus for us this year with Strategic Plan 2030, Trail Plan 2.0, and a new Asset Management Plan set to guide us for the next decade.

2020 brought some degree of financial security with BCT continuing to enjoy strong public support; major donors came through when needed and we experienced record donations at the trail head. See details in the Fundraising section that follows. Our financial position allowed us to establish an Equipment Reserve Fund of \$50 thousand.

A real highlight this year was an organizational rebrand, resulting in a new name and look for our association. This initiative was led by Director David Cebuliak and his communications team. What an overwhelming success.

Thank you to all of BCT family—Board members, leaders, donors, volunteers, supporters, friends—who have helped make 2020 the success that it was. Please read on for summaries of all the work done this past year.

Sincerely,  
Conrad Schiebel, President

## Board Members:

Brad Small – Vice President Operations • Karena Brawley – Secretary  
• Ken Young – Treasurer • David Cebuliak • Imke Gudehus-Ryder • Bill Hoyne  
• Dave Kunz • Baruch Laskin • Eric Lloyd • Neil MacLaine • Alf Skrastins





# FRIEND RAISING AND FUNDRAISING

## COMMUNICATIONS

The major news in 2020 was the rebrand of our organization, resulting in a new name, look and logo. Bragg Creek Trails was launched with a new website, with increased social media presence, a reformatted newsletter and with merchandising initiatives to promote and build pride in Bragg Creek Trails. Initial merchandising plans are to produce stickers, t-shirts, hats, toques and buffs.

An improved visitor experience and easier access to information are the result of this brand refresh. Our brand promise says it clearly:



---

## FUNDRAISING

2020 was a banner year for Bragg Creek Trails, with more than \$400,000 contributed from businesses, foundations and from individuals. Some of the success can be attributed to the increase in users on our trails, but beyond that, our organization was fortunate to benefit from the largesse of some key donors.

Notable among them was the Frischkorn Family Foundation, which stepped up as the anchor donor for the \$172,000 acquisition of the new Snow Rabbit ski grooming machine. Following along with substantial donations were Pieridae Energy and the Shell Legacy Fund. To make up the bulk of the remaining money needed, our trail users responded to an appeal and collectively contributed an amazing \$68,000. The final \$9,000 came from Bragg Creek Trails' general funds.

### Of note in 2020 are the following donations:

- Bill Sawyers (\$5000 donation to Tom Snow and/or other trails)
- Spin Sisters Mountain Bike Club (\$2324 donation to Tom Snow and/or other trails)
- Alberta Equestrian Federation (\$6000 donation to Tom Snow and/or other trails)
- TransCanada Trails (several trail initiatives)
- Alberta Environment & Parks (major trails grant)
- The Jim Faryna Fund and Grant Brodie's Professional Outdoor Leadership Fund, both funds from the Calgary Foundation.

### BY THE NUMBERS

Gifts from registered charities and private grant funding:	<b>\$283,492.92</b>
Contributions from a raffle held by Calgary Cycle:	<b>\$5,770.00</b>
Total from donation boxes:	<b>\$25,028.19</b>
Total from on-line Donor Box:	<b>\$8,975.02</b>
Total Canada Helps:	<b>\$81,303.13</b>
Number of donations/grants from first-time donors:	<b>279</b>
Total amount from first-time donors:	<b>\$72,736.64</b>

We make every effort to recognize our donors and sponsors through our web site and also in our monthly newsletter. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of you.



## TRAIL HOSTING

The Trail Host Program is an initiative that came to fruition in the summer of 2020, with more hosts recruited during the winter. Currently, there are twelve trail hosts, varying in user activity from skiing to hiking to mountain biking.

Once Covid-19 restrictions made the Trails Centre inaccessible to the public, BCT decided to use it as a base of operations for the Trail Hosts. A new deck was built out front to accommodate access to the west window with a screen that allows for kiosk-style opening and closing. This has allowed our Trail hosts to answer any questions while staying warm and socially distanced to ensure safety. In the interior, we have located an iPad along with supporting devices like a printer, pens, clipboards, first aid kits, portable saw, etc. We are in the process of compiling a larger First Aid backpack that can be grabbed at a moment's notice.

Various companies stepped up to support this initiative. Arcteryx on 17th donated twelve Atom SL jackets, and two Gore-Tex shells to keep our volunteers warm and identifiable. Smartwool Canada donated 30 Merino toques for our volunteers. Insport Fashions donated

two 16L Osprey backpacks and two Osprey waist packs to use on the trails. Mountain Exposure donated a 44L Osprey backpack to serve as a quick carrier for our First Aid supplies on the trail. In addition, Do Much Concepts offered the printing for the toques at a discounted price.

It's been a learning curve and one issue of improvement is First Aid competencies. Communication among volunteers on the trails and/or with those at the Trail Centre base during an incident remains a challenge. Radio certifications or a better wi-fi system is necessary to have more fluid communication to Kananaskis Emergency Services.





## VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Volunteers are everything at BCT and we are so grateful to all that you do. From trails building and maintenance to trails hosting, leadership and administration, we are a volunteer run association.

### BY THE NUMBERS

---

85 volunteers logged 9132 hours

---

42 volunteers logged 20 hours and more

---

121 new volunteers signed up in 2020, 10 new volunteers/month

---

Volunteer agreements now are electronic and required for all volunteer work. Out on the trails, volunteers are identified with orange high visibility shirts, while leaders wear yellow shirts.



# COMMUNITY TRAILS

## COMMUNITY TRAILS OPERATIONS IN ROCKY VIEW COUNTY (RVC)

BCT conducted routine maintenance on The Great Trail (TGT) and the Banded Peak Trail including snow removal, weed steaming, side slope mowing, crosswalk repairs, gravel tread repairs and tread smoothing—using paid BCT staff and contractors.

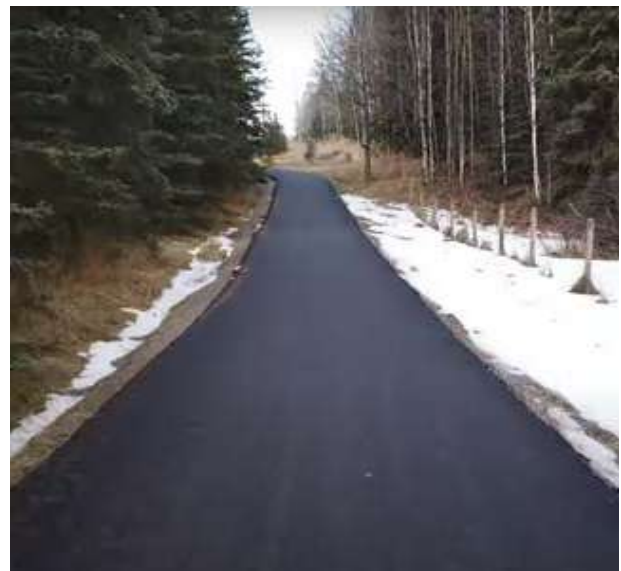
## COMMUNITY TRAILS CAPITAL PROJECTS IN RVC

BCT graveled and paved Phase 1 (2.5 km) of The Great Trail (TGT) in Rocky View County in the fall of 2020. \$332,000 in funding for the paving was provided by the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, RVC and the Alberta Government Community Facilities Enhancement Program. Public response and feedback on the paving has been positive, with increased trail use. Phase 1 of TGT had an estimated 12,000 visitors in 2020 based on trail counter data. This was an increase of 79 per cent over 2019.

RVC plans to install a new WBC road bridge with a TGT pedestrian component near Wild Rose in 2021. BCT will provide the funding for construction of this pedestrian component to RVC. This pedestrian bridge component will complete construction of the West Bragg Creek Trail or TGT in RVC, more than 16 years after the project first was initiated.

BCT installed new educational/etiquette signage at key junctions along the West Bragg Creek Trail or TGT.

BCT is currently collaborating with the Bragg Creek and Area Chamber of Commerce and the Bragg Creek Community Association to install a Bragg Creek information/trail map kiosk at the BC Community Centre in 2021.







# SKI TRAILS

## SUMMER WORK

An enthusiastic crew of volunteers and community partners made the 2020 ski trails season the most productive in our history. All projects were brought in under budget and on schedule.

Major work was done on Telephone Trail, one of the legacy trails in our system. Telephone is notorious for significant swampy sections in its far NW section; new bridges and culverts along with trail rebuilds now make Telephone far improved for summer and winter trail users alike. Significant work was done on the Hostel / Telephone approach, a heavy use ramp that provides access to a number of trails. Moose Loop also received attention, along with a few other spots in the cross country ski trails network.

### Our partners:

- John Lajuenesse - Bragg Creek Excavating
- Justin Walsh - Walsh Construction
- Matt Freeman - Associated Environmental
- Tim Davies - Alberta Transport
- Tim de Freitas and Brian Bellamy - Pieridae Energy
- Trevor Willson - P Eng (Bridge Engineer)
- Alberta Environment and Parks

## BY THE NUMBERS

180 tons of concrete abutment blocks installed

---

Many tons of deck and railing lumber used

---

Hundreds of volunteer hours

---

Three 40' bridges, four smaller bridges/box culverts installed

---

More than \$120,000 of grant and donated funds spent

---

Quads - 42 days

---

MUTS Trailer - 24 days

---

PTO Mower - two days

---

Swisher Mower - two days

---

Brush Cutters - three days

---

Kubota Tractor - 20 days

---

Chainsaws - four days

---



## WINTER SKI GROOMING

BCT's marquee operational program had another eventful year! Never have we had such an enthusiastic crew of ski trail groomers. Not only did they have Erica the Snow Rabbit taking pride of place in the grooming fleet, they also were able to groom trails super early in October, a Christmas-type event.

The grooming team saw the addition of two enthusiastic new groomers – Jeremy and Josh. It turned out to be quite the season, long in length but up and down from a snow perspective, with periods of outstanding skiing interspersed with periods of drought. From 'hero to zero' was how one of the groomers characterized the ski season.

The Snow Rabbit's power tiller allowed for some aggressive renovation of hard pack

during the lean times and when the big dumps came Erica was key to packing the snow and laying some outstanding tracks for skiers. Our two Japanese Kei trucks continued their awesome work as well.

Trails reporting saw a great improvement with the addition of Nordic Pulse, our new GPS based ski conditions app.

Record numbers of skiers came out to enjoy the BCT ski trails – everyone from those having their first ski experiences to National Team members out for training sessions. The usage was reflected in our donation boxes and in how our supporters responded to the appeal to raise funds to support the purchase of Erica the Snow Rabbit.



# ALL SEASON TRAILS

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL

The WBC network of single track trails include 113 kilometres of all-season multi-user trails, hiking only trails, and winter trails for specific groups of activities. Work was done on 30 of the 36 existing trails, for a total of 27.4 km of trail length, or 24 % of the network.

Once the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and trail crews could resume work, we first concentrated on fixing drainage issues and doing tread repairs on the most popular trails to get them ready for the summer season. In the autumn, we did drainage and tread repairs on another selection of all-season trails and then did brushing, clearing and preparatory work on the winter trails, to get them ready for the snow season.

The work continued throughout the winter, with the pruning of encroaching brush and branches. Several big wind events resulted in 300+ downed trees, which were promptly cleared from the trails.

The big project of the 2020 construction season was to upgrade the portion of Tom Snow between Moose Loop and the north Kestrel Junction. This is one of the oldest legacy trails at WBC, even predating the existence of Kananaskis

Country, and it is part of The Great Trail. From July into October, four kilometres of the trail was refurbished, rebuilt or re-routed. Decades old drainage problems were fixed, six culverts and two new bridges were installed. We had planned to complete the connection to the current end of Kestrel, but the deep snowfall in October put a sudden end to our construction season. Funding for this project was provided by the Trans-Canada Trail Foundation, Alberta Equestrian Federation, Rocky Mountain Charitable Giving Foundation, Spin Sisters Cycle Club and the Government of Alberta.



---

## NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

New trail construction in 2020 consisted of three winter equestrian trails: Iron Vista (0.8 km), Sugar Pony (0.9 km) and the Snagmore-Elbow link (0.4 km) are cleared and marked alignments, without a constructed tread. A new bridge was added at the start of the Boundary horse trail. That completes the 11.2 km of winter equestrian trails outlined in the Winter Equestrian Use Pilot Project. This provides separate equestrian trail opportunities when other trails are groomed for XC skiing or fat-biking.



## SIGNAGE

One significant project during the winter was the updating of the map signs at trail junctions. Dozens of posts were pounded into the partly frozen ground in December, then new maps were installed at more than 100 trail junctions during January.

Thank you to all the amazing trail crew volunteers who made it possible to achieve all of this work. We had 148 trail days, an average of 13.5 days per month since the COVID closure was lifted in May, 2020. Volunteers put in 596 shifts, for 4012 hours of trail work.





## AST WINTER GROOMING

Fat bikers and winter hikers move easily over the winter trails thanks to the dedicated efforts of our grooming crew; that snow does not pack itself down. Two machines are used at a time to groom, so never is there a time when one groomer is out on the trails without a buddy.

Eight volunteer groomers support the paid grooming staff, for a volunteer to paid grooming ratio of approximately 1.25: 1. The new Kestrel trail and the rebuilt section of Tom Snow were added to the trails groomed regularly. The AST Grooming Manual now is 90 percent complete, and we initiated a Safety Enterprise system with completion scheduled for 2021.

Multiple high wind events filled some bench cuts with hard pack snow and ice, requiring manual chopping to renew the tread.



BCT's fit-for-purpose grooming machinery worked very well, though we relied also on the KTM snow bikes which require a higher level of operating expertise. We purchased a third BW200 (\$2500) to add redundancy to the grooming fleet, because our 35-year-old machines can break down.

### BY THE NUMBERS

One safety incident resulting in one minor injury

Total AST grooming labour spend of \$3500, plus approximately \$3000 for equipment maintenance

Eight recorded incidents of equestrian tread damage

Zero Covid infections among volunteers

The result of all this hard work was happy winter trail users, as evidenced by social media accounts of the winter trail conditions considered "Excellent".





## ENVIRONMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

With Covid mitigation protocols in place, BCT experienced zero Covid infections traced to our facility or volunteer operations. Fifteen minor safety incidents happened with follow-up corrective action. Two injuries were experienced, both minor, and two near misses with equipment took place. All of these are opportunities for learning and improvement.

In addition, two minor hydrocarbon spills happened and were cleaned up with no environmental impact.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## NOTICE TO READER

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the statement of financial position of The Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association as at December 31, 2020 and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in net assets for the year then ended.

I have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, I express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Ben Plumer CPA Professional Corporation  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

Bragg Creek, Alberta  
May 14, 2021



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 36,097	\$ 136,525
Term deposits	356,657	118,989
Accounts receivable	1,643	6,000
Inventory	-	3,125
Goods and services tax recoverable	18,634	638
Prepaid expenses	4,454	1,000
	<u>417,485</u>	<u>266,277</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>236,673</u>	<u>91,180</u>
	<u>\$ 654,158</u>	<u>\$ 357,457</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 23,663	\$ 10,995
Wages payable	-	8,207
Employee deductions payable	1,501	3,251
	<u>25,164</u>	<u>22,453</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>628,994</u>	<u>335,004</u>
	<u>\$ 654,158</u>	<u>\$ 357,457</u>



# STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Year Ended December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grants	\$ 830,185	\$ 183,054
Donations	239,121	267,954
Government subsidy	19,013	-
Fundraising	13,540	14,134
Other revenue	5,600	1,705
	<u>1,107,459</u>	<u>466,847</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Trail development	525,388	256,302
Salaries and wages	84,632	76,598
Trail maintenance and supplies	50,033	29,605
Equipment operating and maintenance	33,968	13,461
Amortization	31,000	12,311
Strategic planning	16,118	-
Administration	16,073	7,675
Consulting	15,106	-
Professional fees	13,576	14,209
Credit card charges	6,058	2,340
Utilities	5,108	6,922
Advertising and promotion	4,785	3,089
Insurance	4,710	14,930
Office	3,254	2,981
Building maintenance	2,784	1,226
Business taxes, licenses and memberships	1,114	-
Interest and bank charges	527	359
Event costs	-	8,283
	<u>814,234</u>	<u>450,291</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>293,225</b>	<b>16,556</b>
OTHER INCOME	<u>765</u>	<u>606</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 293,990</b>	<b>\$ 17,162</b>

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended December 31, 2020

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	2020	2019
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 173,814	\$ 161,190	\$ 335,004	\$ 317,842
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	252,584	41,406	293,990	17,162
Transfers	22,073	(22,073)	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 448,471	\$ 180,523	\$ 628,994	\$ 335,004