



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

BRAGG CREEK TRAILS

braggcreektrails.org | 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.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year saw the BCT continuing to grow and thrive with volunteerism reaching a record high. It is quite revealing just how much it takes to run this organization behind the scenes in support of the trail building and maintenance program. As usual, volunteers stepped up when needed to fill leadership roles, with many providing fresh ideas and perspectives. As usual, partnerships played a key role in the success of many of our projects.

It was also a year of building on the previous year's successes as we navigated another challenging and busy year. The influence of COVID is still apparent as evidenced by the increased pressures on the trails, the community and the environment. Working with various stakeholder groups, BCT and AEP are facilitating a process to manage these challenges by updating the decade old West Bragg Creek Trail Management Plan.

The funding landscape changed dramatically for BCT this past year with the initiation of the Kananaskis Conservation Pass. Trails groups were promised funding from these revenues, however there was uncertainty surrounding how much funding BCT would actually receive and how this would impact our donations. Restrictions on our ability to communicate this funding agreement with our supporters without a formal government announcement further complicated our fundraising messaging. After numerous announcement delays, BCT eventually was able to acknowledge the receipt of \$250,000 for 18 months of operations. Continued strong donations during the whole time helped keep our coffers in the black. There are restrictions to the use of the AEP grant, so fundraising for special projects and equipment will still be a reality for us.

Our solid financial position, along with the realization for the need of administrative support, has brought BCT to the next level to ensure the organization remains viable. Relying on volunteers to put in the hours required for administration is not sustainable in the long term. As identified in our Strategic Plan 2030, BCT began laying the groundwork for the hiring of an Executive Director to help guide the organization. This is in step with other non-profit organizations our size and is a much needed step in the evolution of BCT.

Con Schiebel, BCT President



TRAILS LOVE: A BUSY YEAR IN 2021

ALL SEASON TRAILS MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL

The WBC network of single track trails consists of 113 kilometres of all-season multi-user trails, hiking only trails, and winter trails for specific groups of activities. Work was done on 27 of the 36 existing trails, for a total of 23.2 km of trail length, or 20.5 % of the network. Over the past three years, we have fully refurbished two-thirds of our single track trails



Our crews started by 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.

BCT crews also participated in a major riparian reclamation project at the Old Shell Road-Mountain Road junction, and invasive weed removal projects targeting Orange Hawkweed. These projects were part of a larger West Bragg Creek Collaborative Watershed Project, which is in its second year.



Featured Projects

The big project of the 2021 construction season was the construction of the final 700 metres of Kestrel and the completion of upgrades to the portion of Tom Snow between Moose Loop and the north Kestrel Junction. The completion of this project creates an outstanding set of loop options. A unique characteristic of this loop is that it is an approximately 22 km round trip from the West Bragg Creek parking lot or from the Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest PRA/ Highway #68. 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.



Kestrel Project

We also upgraded two other segments of Tom Snow trail. The one kilometre portion of Tom Snow between Mountain Road and West Meadow trail had drainage upgrades at six sites, a 300 metre reroute around a marshy area and a 20 metre long boardwalk. The 500 metre piece of Tom Snow between Mountain Road and Ridgeback #4 also received drainage and tread upgrades, bringing it back to as-new condition. Encroaching brush was pruned back from the trail of the middle sections of Tom Snow.



Boardwalk on Middle Tom Snow



Devastating Wind Storm

An intense wind storm with gusts to 187 kph blew across the eastern foothills of Kananaskis Country on Dec. 1. Thousands of trees were blown over or snapped off like matchsticks. Every single trail in the West Bragg Creek network was impacted, all the way from the parking lots to the ridge tops. During December volunteer crews, together with crews from Alberta Environment and Parks worked tirelessly to clear enough trails to provide passable access for XC skiers, snowshoers, fat bikers, hikers, trail runners and equestrians. The work was complicated by snowfalls, freezing temperatures and drifted snow. It took four and a half months of steady work to clear all 170 km of the WBC network. To date, more than 2,600 trees have been removed from the trails. The work of repairing tread that was damaged by toppled trees and ripped out root balls will continue over the summer.



Thank you, Volunteers

Thank you to all of the enthusiastic trail crew volunteers who made it possible to achieve all of this work. We had 152 trail days and volunteers put in 423 shifts, for 2703 hours of trail work. Special recognition goes out to the skilled crew leads who guide the volunteer crews: Brad Small, David Owen, Jill Hartzell, Michele White, Willie Prebushewski, Conrad Schiebel, Greg Potter, Pete Irwin and Alf Skrastins. And to volunteer coordinator Pam Lewis-Cresswell for all of the background support.





SKI TRAILS SUMMER AND WINTER

It was another very busy summer on WBC ski Trails. The East Crystal Line bridge was re-decked from 10-12 width and new guard rails installed, making this a safer, more durable bridge. The approach to Hostel/Telephone was gravelled to reduce mud and improve drainage at this site. Extensive drainage ditching was installed on North Telephone; only one drainage site remains there. Walsh Construction was contracted to complete the Hostel - Telephone access trail gravelling: Big thanks.

Further drainage ditching occurred with the use of the Kubota Tractor on Mountain View West, Mtn Rd, Moose Connector, Loggers and Moose Loop. Bridge deck reinforcement was completed on Mountain View West.

BCE was contracted for a major project to raise the road bed along the first ~300 metres of Mtn Road to mitigate against impending flooding from beaver activity in the adjacent meadow. The outcome was outstanding and should provide an enduring solution. BCT is partnering with AEP, Cows and Fish and ERWP to provide addition long term mitigations that might include installation of pond levellers to allow for co-existence of beaver and human activity at this site

Tread enhancement was done on South Moose to create a viable and dry summer route so summer users can avoid two stream crossings. Extensive brushing using hand held gas powered brushers occurred at multiple locations including, Loggers, East and West Crystal Lines, Sundog, Moose connector, Moose Loop, Telephone and Hostel. Extensive brushing was also completed using the Kubota Tractor and a PTO driven mower/brusher. The complete ski trail system was mowed/brushed using the Kubota tractor and its mower

Winter 2021-2022 saw a re-configuring of our 'all volunteer' grooming operation with the notable addition of two new Volunteers - Seth and Geoff Ryder. David Cebuliak took on a mentoring role for the team. Seth provided invaluable mechanical expertise with repairs carried out to all of the grooming machines and much needed enhancements to our sleds, Kei trucks and Snowcat. Big kudos to Seth!

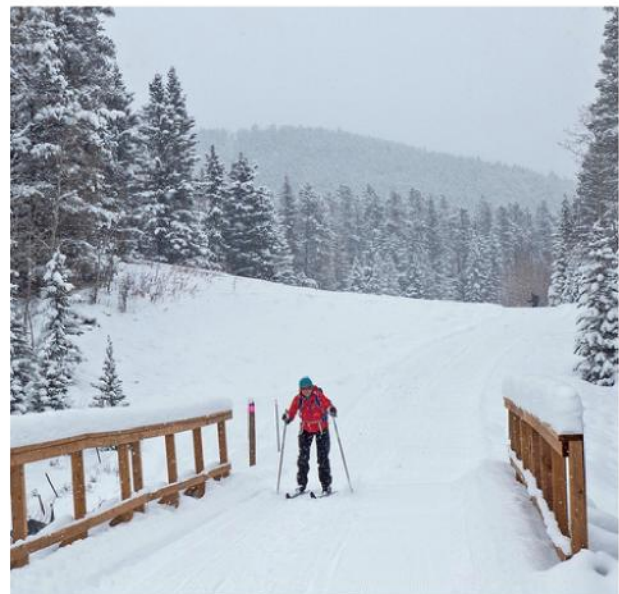
We trained and expanded the groomer team who are now qualified to operate the Snowcat, which is now the work horse of our grooming operation. We have plans to further restructure the ski grooming operation for winter 2022-2023 by the hiring of a full time paid groomer. We just got better and better at grooming with the Snow Rabbit 'Erica' - what an amazing addition to our fleet.

The massive Dec 1 wind storm had a huge impact on ski trails with many hundreds of sometimes enormous trees laid down across trails. The ski grooming team mobilized the day after the storm and within ten days all trails with the exception of N Telephone were cleared and grooming operations were able to commence. Clearing of N Telephone was completed by January 1 2022.

Big kudos to the team: Jeremy Neufeld, Bill Hoyne, Geoff Ryder, Peter Tucker, Josh Leung, Dan Creaser and a few key volunteers. Also big thanks to Matteo and Mike from AEP for their assistance dealing with technical trees that were beyond BCT's skill level. Also big thanks to an anonymous donor who donated over \$1500 worth of Japanese 'Silky' hand saws just prior to the wind event. These saws proved invaluable to the cause.

School groups were a daily sighting on our ski trails, as were performance skiers including the National ski team and their feeder team the Alberta World Cup Academy and National Ski Team High Performance Director Chris Jefferies; the grooming must have been good to bring these folks out!

We continue to see more diversity in cross country skiers, including sit skiers, novice skiers and family groups. Ski Conditions updates continued to be provided by the very popular Nordic Pulse App which saw further refinements this year. Big Thanks to Nordiq Alberta for ongoing sponsorship.





2021 COMMUNITY TRAILS IN ROCKY VIEW COUNTY (RVC)

BCT conducted routine maintenance on the West Bragg Creek (WBC) TransCanada Trail (TCT) and the Banded Peak Trail including snow removal, weed steaming, side slope mowing, gravel tread repairs and tread smoothing using paid BCT staff and contractors. Expenses: \$ 30,112 (includes insurance, accounting)

Revenue: \$ 30,112 (RVC Operating Grant = \$18,000, Donations = \$ 6,112, TCT Grants = \$6,000)

BCT had Bragg Creek Excavating complete two drainage upgrades on the WBC TCT (RR54 hill & west of Meadow View Road): Funding of \$10,339 was provided by RVC, TCT & BCT.

BCT (Mike Frena employee & Adam Johnston volunteer) installed loam on the side slopes of the WBC TCT Phase 1 to complete this paving project.

RVC paved the BCT Banded Peak Trail and built/paved the TCT from the Elbow River bridge to Bracken Road to connect to the WBC TCT Phase 1. Cost = \$575,000

RVC installed a new WBC road bridge (Wild Rose) with a TCT pedestrian component. BCT cost = \$104,000

BCT is collaborating with the Bragg Creek and Area Chamber of Commerce and the Bragg Creek Community Association to complete the installation of a Bragg Creek information/trail map kiosk at the BC Community Centre in 2022. We have been waiting for updated mapping information and indigenous consultation to ensure that this is included on the kiosk panels.

Phase 1 (paved section) of the WBC TCT had an estimated 17,000 visitors in 2021 based on trail counter data (an increase of 42% over 2020).

BCT continued to do grants fund raising for paving of the WBC TCT Phase 2.



TRAIL HOSTING AND MERCHANDISING

The trail host Program continues to grow in numbers and responsibilities. Currently there are 17 trail hosts, varying in user activity from skiing to hiking to mountain biking, who answer questions, give directions and sell swag at the Trails Centre. Trail Hosts also have a presence on the trails.

The Trails Centre remained inaccessible to the public due to the Covid-19 pandemic so BCT uses it as a base of operations for the trail Hosts. The deck allows access to the west window for kiosk-style opening and closing. This allows our trail hosts to answer any questions while staying warm and socially distanced to ensure safety. In the interior, we have an iPad along with supporting devices like a printer, pens, clipboards, first aid kits, portable saw, etc. First Aid gear was purchased and was used to create emergency backpacks for both the trails hosts and operations crews.

Arc'teryx on 17th donated an additional six Proton LT jackets to keep up with our growing trail host numbers, and to keep our volunteers warm and identifiable. Mountain Exposure donated another 50L Osprey backpack to serve as a quick carrier for our First Aid supplies on the trail (given to operations). Rocky Mountain Medicine gave us a discounted rate on any first aid supplies purchased.

Trail hosts have also aided in emergency operations with Kananaskis Emergency Services, helping to guide emergency personnel to the scene and /or keeping the trail user safe while awaiting rescue from KES services.

As new trail hosts are brought on, it will be important to address First Aid competencies. While a few trail hosts received their radio qualifications in 2021, we are still looking to improve that number to ensure better communication, especially in emergency situations. Communication among volunteers on the trails and/or with those at the Trails 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.

Bragg Creek swag sales (Bragg Swag) has been very successful. BCT has sold approximately \$60,000 worth of merchandise in the last 14 months, creating a profit of over \$15,000. Paid inventory at the Trails Centre remains over \$20,000 in value.

Initiatives in 2021 include: Tri-blend tees, baseball caps, custom Canada Buffs with BCT map, Merlin View Logo, Moose Loop logo, stickers, water bottles and Smartwool toques.

The Square App is being used to keep track of inventory, and for sales at the Trails Centre. In addition to cash, a new chip reader system used with our iPad allows BCT to accept debit, credit and phone wallet purchases.

Future initiatives will look into new products, storage space, gift cards and working with local artists to design merchandise. An online webstore is being investigated to accommodate trail users unable to purchase merchandise at the Trails Centre on the weekend, or to sell small, limited edition products.





FUNDRAISING

Fundraising in 2021 was relatively successful despite the uncertainty caused by the Kananaskis Conservation Pass. Donations were close to \$150,000, about \$90,000 less than the previous year.

While BCT waited to hear from the Alberta government about our share of the funds raised from the new pass, messaging about fundraising was largely halted. At the same time, trail users were not so committed to providing donations, given that they already were supporting trails through their purchase of the pass.

Recognition for substantial gifts was provided in the BCT newsletter, and as always, donations of more than \$250 are recognized on our website.

Special events like Tunes for Trails and Brews for Bragg were paused again in 2021 due to restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Our online auction held in November brought in close to \$80,000.

BCT has thrived in the past on the generosity of our donors and supporters, and this continues into 2022. Thank you to all of our contributors.



WEST BRAGG CREEK (WBC) COLLABORATIVE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

The WBC Collaborative Watershed Stewardship Project aims to increase the Elbow River Watershed’s resilience. By effectively managing the land-use footprint in the WBC area, we will increase its natural ability to withstand flooding and drought events, while maintaining the many ecosystem goods and services of functional riparian ecosystems. The project engages multiple stakeholders, such as range allotment Preference Quota (PQ) holders, the Rocky Mountain Forest Range Association (RMFRA), the Elbow River Watershed Partnership (ERWP), Cows and Fish, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), range agrologists, Bragg Creek Trails (BCT) and the public.

The focus of activities in 2021 included coordinating field tours and directed follow-up discussions with project partners to plan the implementation of range and riparian stewardship projects. This included various scouting tours to plan the placement of off-stream water troughs; finalize fence realignment recommendations; evaluate other alternative off-stream watering opportunities; plan the logistics of a volunteer-led weed removal event; and conduct a site tour with a bioengineering consultant to develop a restoration plan for a degraded riparian crossing along Bragg Creek (critical habitat for native bull trout).

“Watershed Stewardship in Action” Signage

To encourage broader awareness and public participation from trail users, “Watershed Stewardship in Action” signs were designed and installed near the West Bragg PRA staging area in July 2021. The signs were developed with input from all project partners and with in-kind design expertise from AEP. The signs explain the intent of water trough installations and encourage participation in volunteer events planned for the project.



WRRP funds enabled the purchase of two solar water troughs (each with a capacity of about 1,500 liters [400 gallons] for 50 cow/calf pairs). The intent here is primarily to reduce instream use of cattle in natural water courses. This has benefits to water quality and fish habitat and can help reduce damage to streambanks and potential for erosion. This year will be a pilot year to determine optimal placement of the waterers to achieve less in-stream use and to understand water trough performance and maintenance needs.



On July 23, 2021, a group of volunteers and members of BCT, ERWP and Cows and Fish participated in a weed pull day in West Bragg, Kananaskis. The focus of the event was to eradicate a localized patch of orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), a provincially regulated Prohibited Noxious Weed. The weed patch was identified and mapped as part of the range health baseline inventory in 2020. Eradication of this weed is a management priority since it can spread rapidly via wind dispersal of airborne seeds and by vegetative reproduction (via rhizomes, stolons and root fragments).



Bragg Creek Riparian Restoration Project

The objective of this project is to use simple riparian planting and bioengineering techniques to begin to rehabilitate the “Old Shell Road” Bragg Creek crossing. A professional bioengineer was contracted to provide a simple restoration design plan and to deliver a webinar and in-person training for volunteers. Woody debris was used to reduce cattle access to slumping or eroding banks. 700 plants were installed to help rehabilitate the creek. This project has promoted stronger relationships among project partners and helped facilitate a science-based, collaborative approach to promoting beneficial range and riparian stewardship initiatives.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 2021

COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Bragg Creek Trails Association

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the statement of financial position of Bragg Creek Trails Association as at December 31, 2021, and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

I performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements. My responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

I did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor was I required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

BEN PLUMER CPA PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

Bragg Creek, Alberta
June 29, 2022

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Year Ended December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Donations	\$ 149,934	\$ 239,121
Grants	78,762	830,185
Merchandise sales	44,605	5,600
Equipment sales	28,975	-
Fundraising	21,685	13,540
Government subsidy	-	19,013
	<u>323,061</u>	<u>1,107,459</u>
EXPENSES		
Trail development	216,734	525,388
Trail maintenance and supplies	85,431	50,033
Salaries and wages	69,301	84,832
Amortization	44,652	31,000
Insurance	23,068	4,710
Consulting	19,742	15,106
Merchandise purchases	18,023	-
Equipment operating and maintenance	14,528	33,968
Building maintenance	11,308	2,784
Administration	10,842	16,073
Professional fees	9,738	13,576
Utilities	5,589	5,108
Credit card charges	3,391	6,058
Office	3,230	3,254
Training	2,326	-
Advertising and promotion	2,018	4,785
Interest and bank charges	660	527
Business taxes, licenses and memberships	-	1,114
Strategic planning	-	16,118
	<u>540,581</u>	<u>814,234</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	(217,520)	293,225
OTHER INCOME	<u>3,455</u>	<u>765</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (214,065)</u>	<u>\$ 293,990</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 97,417	\$ 36,097
Term deposits	119,152	356,657
Accounts receivable	-	1,643
Inventory	15,473	-
Goods and services tax recoverable	5,491	18,634
Prepaid expenses	4,020	4,454
	<u>241,553</u>	<u>417,485</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>192,022</u>	<u>236,673</u>
	<u>\$ 433,575</u>	<u>\$ 654,158</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 16,574	\$ 23,663
Employee deductions payable	2,072	1,501
	<u>18,646</u>	<u>25,164</u>
NET ASSETS		
General fund	304,028	467,804
Restricted fund	110,901	161,190
	<u>414,929</u>	<u>628,994</u>
	<u>\$ 433,575</u>	<u>\$ 654,158</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended December 31, 2021

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	2021	2020
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 467,804	\$ 161,190	\$ 628,994	\$ 335,004
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	(31,387)	(182,678)	(214,065)	293,990
Transfers	(132,389)	132,389	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 304,028	\$ 110,901	\$ 414,929	\$ 628,994