June is Colorado Bike Month!

The biking, running, hiking season is here again!! The month of June is celebrated in Colorado as Bike Month, to encourage biking to work, to run errands, to school – to make the two wheeled vehicle part of our day. [Click here](#) for a full list of May through October biking, running, walking and other outdoor events – and mark your calendars for …..

**Eagle County Bike to Work Day!!!**

Join hundreds of locals and hop on your bike for Colorado Bike to Work Day!

**Wednesday, June 24th**

**7 a.m. - 9 a.m.**

Look for these “Aid Stations” with Breakfast Goodies and Prizes:

- GYPSUM - Hwy 6 at High School
- EAGLE -Mountain Pedaler downtown
- EDWARDS - Edwards Corner
Vail Pass Trail Clean Up June 13th

Vail Pass can get pretty trashy because of the interstate. Please come and help keep the trail and roadside attractive and trash free. This is a 1/2 day event that includes:

- LUNCH at the top of Vail Pass
- BUS RIDE to and from work site
- PRIZES

We wrap up at 12:30 p.m. and you’ll have the rest of the day to play!

Email Tracy from ECO Trails to sign up.

Check out the Gyp-Dot Trail!

Many people and organizations teamed up to create the newest section of the Gypsum to Dotsero Trail link including:

- Eagle County Road and Bridge Department
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado State Trails
- Eagle County Engineering, GIS, Open Space, Vegetation Mgmt, Legal, Sheriff, Facilities, Finance, and Project Management
• Eagle County Commissioners and Administration Staff
• Town of Gypsum
• ECO Trails Committee, ECO Board Staff, ECO Transit and Trails Staff
• Trail Adopters
• Adjacent Property Owners
• Local Contractors
• Great Volunteers who seeded, weeded or wrote grant support letters!

The project links 5 public river access sites owned by BLM or Eagle County and is popular with Gypsum residents for close to home recreation and is being discovered by other residents seeking river access or a down valley biking and walking route. The project was funded by grants and a portion of the mass transportation sales tax, with the majority of construction by Eagle County Road and Bridge. 4.4 miles of trail are now complete from Gypsum roundabout to BLM Lava River access site! **A grand opening event is scheduled for the recently completed 2.3 mile segment on June 3 at 4:00 p.m.** Parking at the Horse Pasture BLM river access site, 2 miles west on Hwy 6 from Gypsum roundabout - come one, come all!

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**Road and Trail Work Ahead.....**

**EAGLE** – the Brush Creek bridge replacement on Highway 6 west of Eagle is underway. CDOT asks that bicyclists use Violet Lane and the Eagle Valley Trail heading east and west rather than Highway 6 to avoid the highway construction zone.

**VAIL** – Reconstruction of the Gore Valley Trail recreation path between Lionshead and West Meadow Drive is taking place. The work includes installation of two steel truss bridges, replacement of trail lighting, stream bank stabilization work, realignment of a portion of the trail and removal/replacement of the existing asphalt paving. Work will be completed by July 16. Traffic will be detoured onto East Lionshead Circle. Town of Vail contact is Gregg Barrie, 970-479-2337.

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**30th Annual Sonnenalp Casual Classic Bike Ride**

Save the date, **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12** is the 30th Anniversary of the Sonnenalp Casual Classic Bike Ride.
Thanks to the always generous Faessler Family and the Sonnenalp Foundation Board members for once again choosing ECO Trails as an event beneficiary!

EVENT DETAILS:

- This is not a race! It’s a casual ride, all paces and types of riders welcome!
- 38 mile ride on paved trail from Breckenridge to Vail
- Bus transport provided to and from Breckenridge by ECO Transit and CME.
- Breakfast at the Sonnenalp morning of the event.
- Refreshment aid stations along the route.
- Goody bags and door prizes!
- Delicious gourmet lunch and beverages at the relaxing Bully Ranch in Vail at the finish.
- Silent Auction
- Several options to ride both ways, part way or attend lunch only.
- Registration: $90 adults / $35 children 15 and under
- Visit the Sonnenalp Foundation or email Michele Davis to register.

Aiming for the Trail Finish Line!

As many residents know, the Eagle Valley Trail is a project by the local governments on the Eagle Valley side of Eagle County to build a paved path to connect all of our communities for transportation, recreation, environment and economic benefit.

It’s long (63 miles total with 19 left to go plus mileage to be built by pending developments) and expensive (an estimated $15 million to finish, due to limited space and rugged terrain). The 19 miles have been divided into 5 design and construction segments, as shown on the map above.

The ECO Trails partnership that includes the Towns of Gypsum, Eagle, Avon, Vail, Minturn and Red Cliff and the unincorporated communities of Dotsero, Edward
s, Wolcott, Eagle Vail and Beaver Creek is applying for a grant from a federal program called TIGER for $9.2 million in construction funding to match $5.8 million in local dollars, generated primarily by the mass transportation sales tax that funds the regional trails and transit programs. Grant awards will be announced Fall 2015. ECO Trails will be working through 2015 to get the five trail segments ready for construction.

Proposed trail between Wolcott and Eagle

Improving Bike and Ped Infrastructure Together

Expanding the paved regional trail system, improving road shoulders for safety, keeping trail sides clean, maintaining and expanding the unpaved soft trails network, granting easements and rights of ways for routes, volunteering on projects to help cut costs – these are all ways that Eagle Valley residents, businesses, local governments and visitors are working together to improve our bicycle and pedestrian network.

There are many people in our county and beyond that deserve credit and thanks for their efforts to expand and improve our bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure. See below for a sample of volunteers and advocates that includes your friends and neighbors!

TRAIL ADOPTION VOLUNTEERS

14 groups have committed to help keep the Eagle Valley Trail clean, from Dotsero to Dowd Junction. Thanks to the enthusiastic and committed “adopters” who gather twice a year to pick up trash.

- Bossow Excavation
- Campbell Construction
- Eagle County Charter Academy
- Eagle County Cycling Project
- Eagle Valley High School Cross Country and Track & Field Teams
- Edwards Rotary Club
- Inn and Suites at Riverwalk
- R.A. Nelson
- Riverwalk Master Association
- River Pines Homeowners Association
- Ski and Snowboard Club Vail
- SOS Outreach
- Town of Gypsum Staff
- Western Eagle Valley Rotary Club

The Gore Valley Trail, Beginning at Dowd Junction and traveling east through Vail is managed by the Town of Vail. For information on adopting a portion of the Gore Valley Trail, please contact the Town of Vail Public Works Department at 970-479-2158.

GREAT RESULTS ON HIGHWAY 6 UPGRADE!
Bicyclists, Motorists, Pedestrians and Transit Users all benefit from the Highway 6 improvement project completed by CDOT from Edwards to Avon in late 2014. Now that biking season is in full swing for 2015, the project benefits really stand out, improving the safety of our #1 “Shared Road” here in Eagle County.

Improvements included highway widening, pavement overlay, markings, signs, new sidewalk sections and ADA improvements between Avon Road in Avon and Hillcrest Road in Edwards.

Funding partners included:

- CDOT
- Eagle County
- Edwards Community Authority
- Edwards Metropolitan District
- Beaver Creek Metropolitan District
- Beaver Creek Resort Company
- Bachelor Gulch Village Association
- Bachelor Gulch Metropolitan District
- Town of Avon
- ECO Transit

The citizen volunteers on the ECO Trails Road Biking Committee provided input during the advocacy and design process.

Thanks to all the partners for their hard work and commitment to the project!

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**ANNUAL TRAIL SUPPORTER AWARDS**

Every year the citizen volunteer ECO Eagle Valley Trails Committee selects “Trail Supporters” who have gone the extra mile. Many thanks to these 2014 honorees:

- The power partnership that built the WEST AVON PRESERVE TRAIL SYSTEM led by the Vail Valley Mountain Bike Association, Town of Avon and Eagle Valley Land Trust.

- EAGLE COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT for their commitment to completing the Gypsum to Dotsero Trail project despite scheduling challenges and other duties.

- EAGLE COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT provided survey and design services for the majority of the project.

- EAGLE SPRINGS GOLF CLUB was selected for their contribution to the Edwards to Wolcott Trail project that is in the planning and design stage.

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**TRAIL CONNECTIONS COMPLETED IN AVON AND EAGLE VAIL**

Town of Avon completed a portion of its Avon Road to Stonebridge Road segment of the Eagle Valley Trail, installing trail bridges over the Eagle River and Beaver Creek. Grants from State of Colorado and ECO Trails funded the project. Planning and permit work is underway on the next
phase of the project to Stonebridge Road. The Stonebridge to Post Boulevard segment was completed in 2014 by ECO Trails.

TRAIL CLOSURES STILL IN EFFECT:

Several soft trails in our area are closed seasonally to protect wildlife that are migrating, calving or resting after the challenging winter and low forage conditions. Please respect these closures for wildlife. For more information or a complete list of trail closures, contact the U.S.F.S. Holy Cross Ranger District at 827-5715. Re-opening dates for some popular up-valley trails include:

- June 15: North Trail and Son of Middle Creek adjacent to Town of Vail
- June 30: Paulie’s Plunge/Stone Creek between Eagle Vail and Beaver Creek.
- July 1: Whiskey Creek in Eagle Vail
- July 1: Two Elk, Back Bowls, Blue Sky Basin, Eastern Hillside near Minturn and Vail.

GET DIRTY THIS SUMMER AND SUPPORT UNPAVED TRAILS!

Two trail groups in the Eagle Valley are working to maintain existing dirt trail networks located on town, county or federal land, and add new trail connections.

Both groups need volunteers! Work days are regularly scheduled through the year to maintain and build new trail for the benefit of local mountain bikers, hikers and runners as well provide another attraction for visitors to our area, benefitting our economy as well.

Vail Valley Mountain Bike Association: VVMA focuses on “up-valley” trails between Wolcott and Vail Pass. Check out VVMBA on Facebook.

“No experience is required and you’ll quickly develop your own style in helping to sculpt sweet single-track. Building trails is a thoroughly rewarding experience on many levels – provides a creative outlet, is an incredible workout, helps build social relationships, and contributes to your community. In 2015 the
general schedule is to work on Wyse Way in the West Avon Preserve every other Wednesday evening and to work on the Berry Creek rerouting in Edwards every other Thursday evening (alternating weeks between these two projects).”

**Hardscrabble Trails Coalition:** Plenty of down valley backcountry trails action in the Eagle to Gypsum area is on tap for this summer for the HTC. Check out [HTC on Facebook](http://www.facebook.com) for information about work days, trail ride events and other Town of Eagle “dirt” trail action!

Famous Amos, Gerry Arnold, Willow, Tulip and Darlene Weinheimer enjoying the Eagle Valley Trail through the Duck Pond Open Space

To Learn more about the ECO Trails Program and the Eagle Valley Trails Committee go to [www.eaglecounty.us/trails](http://www.eaglecounty.us/trails)

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2015 Spring/Summer Newsletter

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