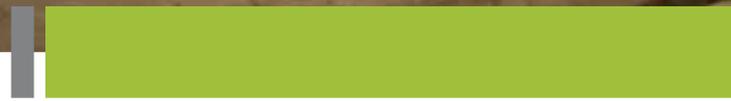




CHAPTER FIVE

# OUR WORLD-CLASS OUTDOOR RECREATION



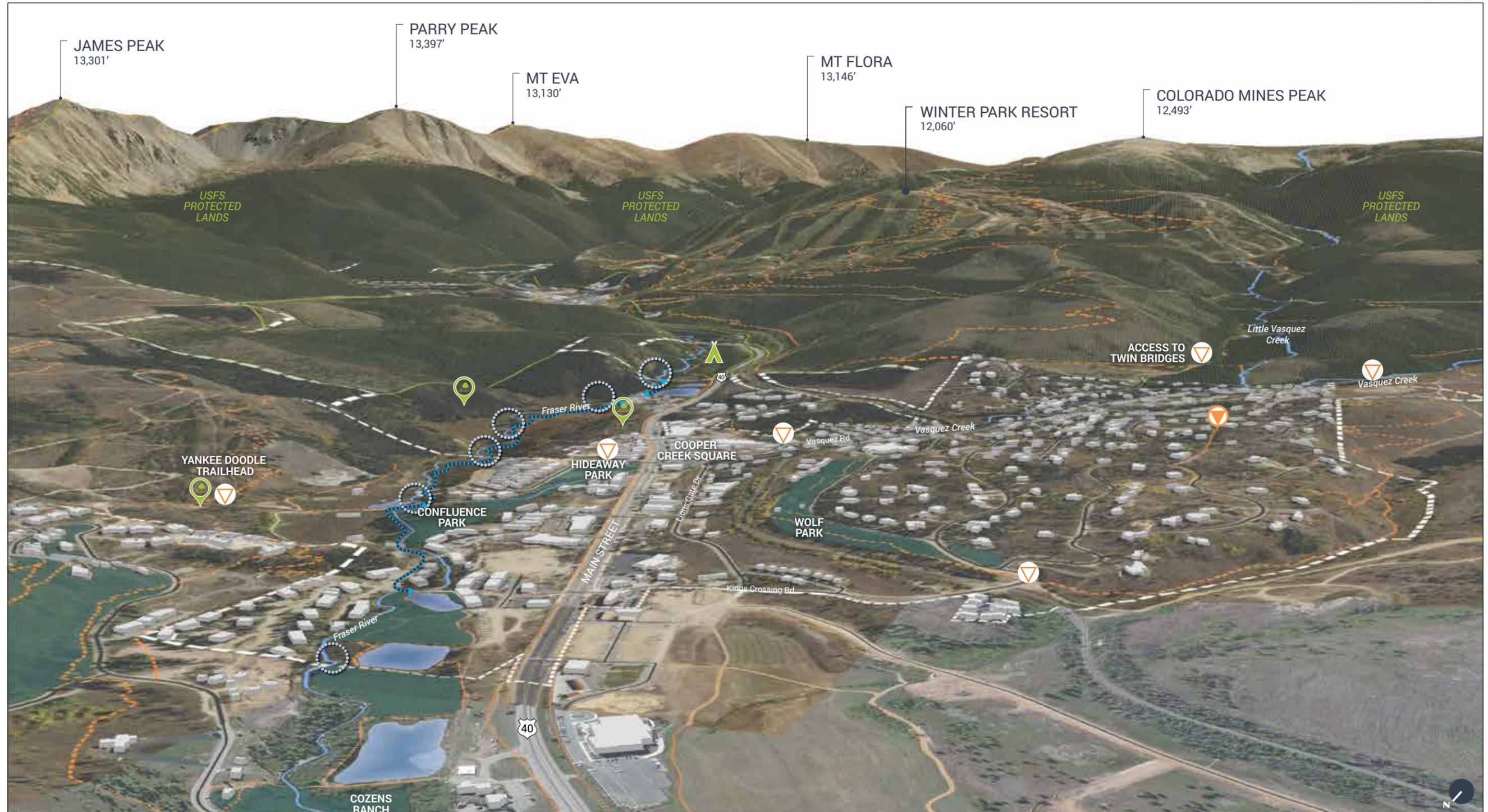


### *Importance of this Element*

Winter Park is firmly rooted in its relationship to the surrounding national forest, its trails, its ski resort, its narrow valley, and its stunning views. This relationship is both the Town's past and its future, and it is critical to integrate this relationship into every aspect of the Town's decision-making process, from physical infrastructure projects, to economic development goals, to policy and governance.

Each one of us, whether consciously or not, seeks a place where we feel at home. For many of the people in Winter Park, home has been defined by the opportunity to recreate in and enjoy our surrounding natural environment. As we move forward and grow, it is crucial that we integrate outdoor recreation into our everyday lifestyle by making nature accessible.

# Our World-Class Outdoor Recreation FRAMEWORK MAP



## LEGEND

- |                            |                     |                              |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| TOWN BOUNDARY              | EXISTING TRAILS     | RIVER/ CREEKS                | PROPOSED PARK       |
| EXISTING PARKS/ OPEN SPACE | EXISTING TRAILHEADS | PROPOSED RIVER WALK          | IDLEWILD CAMPGROUND |
| USFS PROTECTED LANDS       | PROPOSED TRAILHEADS | PROPOSED RIVER ACCESS POINTS |                     |

# Winter Park Resort Base & Old Town RECREATION FRAMEWORK MAP



## LEGEND

--- TOWN BOUNDARY

USFS PROTECTED LANDS

CAMPGROUND

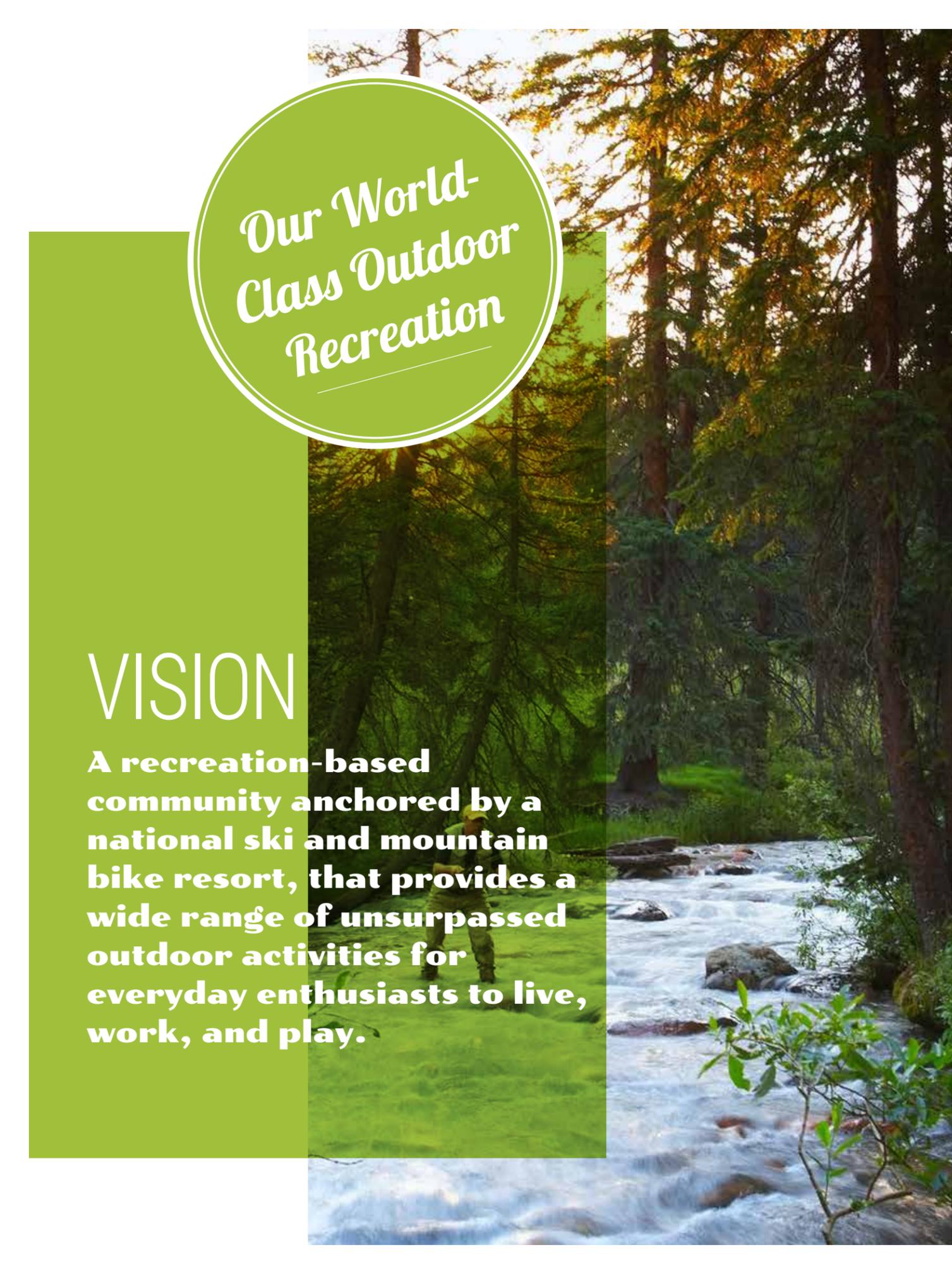
--- EXISTING TRAILS

EXISTING TRAILHEADS

PROPOSED TRAILHEADS

— PROPOSED FRASER RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION

— PROPOSED TRAIL CONNECTION TO SUMMIT OF BERTHOUD PASS



Our World-  
Class Outdoor  
Recreation

## VISION

**A recreation-based community anchored by a national ski and mountain bike resort, that provides a wide range of unsurpassed outdoor activities for everyday enthusiasts to live, work, and play.**

## PRINCIPLES

### **[MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLE]**

An authentic mountain community with a culture defined by and fundamentally linked to its surrounding natural, wild environment.

### **[EVERYDAY ADVENTURES]**

A small-town base camp embedded in a wide and varied collection of multi-sport, recreational opportunities accessible to every outdoor enthusiast.

### **[ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES]**

A complete community anchored by a nationally-acclaimed outdoor playground that supports innovative approaches to the outdoor recreation industry.

## Outdoor Recreation Participation

The most popular outdoor activities in Colorado (201) ranked by number of participants (most popular first):

1. WALKING
2. HIKING/BACKPACKING
3. PICNICKING
4. FISHING
5. TENT CAMPING
6. SKIING/SNOWBOARDING (RESORT)
7. JOGGING/RUNNING
8. SWIMMING (OUTDOORS)
9. ROAD BIKING
10. PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES
11. MOUNTAIN BIKING
12. WILDLIFE VIEWING (INCLUDING BIRDING)
13. GOLF
14. SNOWSHOEING/CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
15. ATV

Source: Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2013, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Policy and Planning Section.

# 1.

## [MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLE]

AN AUTHENTIC MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY WITH A CULTURE DEFINED BY AND FUNDAMENTALLY LINKED TO ITS SURROUNDING NATURAL, WILD ENVIRONMENT.

The Town's connection to the outdoors has led to our eclectic nature and 'real town' feel. This strong Town identity provides a framework for supporting the Town's outdoor adventure focus. By

promoting outdoor focused design details and seamless integration between the built environment and the natural environment we can continue to enhance this connection.

## Strategies

**OR STRATEGY 1.1:** Integrate dedicated recreation paths throughout the Town into a comprehensive regional network.

**OR STRATEGY 1.2:** Provide a safe, accessible, dedicated bike lane on Main Street to avoid pedestrian/bike conflicts and allow everyone convenient, easy access to our Downtown businesses.

**OR STRATEGY 1.3:** Design roadways with hikers and cyclists in mind, with particular attention to posted speeds, width, and other pedestrian/cyclist awareness measures.

**OR STRATEGY 1.4:** Maintain trailhead and forest access points and easements within and through residential and commercial developments. This access can be as simple as signage and a hiker/biker/horse width easement.

**OR STRATEGY 1.5:** Manage trailhead parking to mitigate impacts to the environment and to residents.

**OR STRATEGY 1.6:** Mandate/maintain public access on private roads as development occurs.

**OR STRATEGY 1.7:** Include design details, interpretive elements, and public art that references local history and features as an integrated part of Main Street streetscape enhancements.

**OR STRATEGY 1.8:** Introduce a public art requirement for all new developments abutting Main Street or within the primary pedestrian core (as defined in the Connectivity section of this Plan) that supports a Winter Park-specific theme related to the Town's natural setting.



# 2.

## [EVERYDAY ADVENTURES]

A SMALL-TOWN BASE CAMP EMBEDDED IN A WIDE AND VARIED COLLECTION OF MULTI-SPORT, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ACCESSIBLE TO EVERY OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST.

Winter Park, as the economic and social center of the Fraser Valley, attracts residents and visitors alike because of the unparalleled outdoor lifestyle it offers. A significant part of that attraction is not only the variety of available activities, but also the ease of accessing those activities. It is important to make it easy and intuitive for everyone to access recreational opportunities,

whether they be small afternoon adventures, or epic multi-day undertakings.

A key part of this focus area is exploring and expanding opportunities to attract and welcome non-traditional and underserved demographics into the ranks of outdoor recreation participants and workforce.

### Reasons for Participating in and Common Barriers to Outdoor Recreation

#### MAJOR MOTIVATIONS (1ST TIME, AGE 25+):

- Try something new
- Stay fit and healthy
- Friends/family participate
- Help me relax and manage stress
- More fun than indoor exercise

#### MAJOR BARRIERS:

- Not enough time because of my job
- Inadequate transportation
- Personal safety problems
- Physically limiting condition
- Outdoor pests

### Strategies

**OR STRATEGY 2.1:** Develop recreational opportunities suited to short, daily activities (e.g. shorter, close-to-town trails, opportunities for water play, fishing ponds, etc.).

**OR STRATEGY 2.2:** Maintain winter connectivity and access to all recreational trails including the Fraser River Trail.

**OR STRATEGY 2.3:** Maintain a centrally located outdoor activity information center to provide information on resources (trailheads, locations, maps, and activities) and private services (outfitters, guide services, gear rentals, and programs).

**OR STRATEGY 2.4:** Provide wayfinding signage throughout the Town to key trailheads, destinations, and access points to increase awareness of all the Town has to offer.

**OR STRATEGY 2.5:** Solidify the Town's outdoor adventure identity by cultivating opportunity and removing barriers for non-typical and underserved audiences such as seniors/retirees, youth, and people with physical or mental disabilities.

**OR STRATEGY 2.6:** Collaborate with public, private, and non-profit entities to increase recreation opportunities for everyone.



# 3.

## [ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES]

A COMPLETE COMMUNITY ANCHORED BY A NATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND THAT SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY.

Businesses based on outdoor recreation relying on the natural and wild environment can find a home in Winter Park that allows them to innovate and succeed. By attracting such businesses, the Town builds a stronger economic base and provides opportunities for citizens and guests alike. Supporting innovation in the outdoor recreation field will allow

Winter Park to stay at the forefront of new recreational trends.

Regional coordination with public and private partners is critical to enhancing and expanding outdoor access in a sustainable and integrated fashion. Winter Park should work with local jurisdictions and regional partners to ensure that the myriad stakeholders in the Valley operate in a collaborative, rather than competitive, manner.

## Strategies

**OR STRATEGY 3.1:** Actively market our cross seasonal opportunities and the range of opportunities available to all skill levels.

**OR STRATEGY 3.2:** Actively track and evaluate outdoor recreational trends to ensure the town stays relevant and competitive.

**OR STRATEGY 3.3:** Identify target industries and provide incentive programs to attract new outdoor recreation businesses.

**OR STRATEGY 3.4:** Further develop and market outdoor recreation events such as mountain bike races, trail runs, etc.

**OR STRATEGY 3.5:** Work to establish and reestablish clear trail and backcountry connections between Winter Park and other communities.

**OR STRATEGY 3.6:** Restore the corridor over Rollins/Corona Pass for recreational opportunities as a motorized backcountry route into the Valley.

**OR STRATEGY 3.7:** Examine regional solutions when responding to evolving recreational preferences and opportunities (e.g. determining where a facility would fit best).

**OR STRATEGY 3.8:** Capitalize on and enhance existing recreational facilities.

