

Village of Taos Ski Valley 2015 Master Plan

Recreation Element

Taos Ski Valley is known across the world for skiing and winter sports, but the Village has more to offer than advanced skiing terrain and short lift lines. A resident or visitor can attend a music festival, ride a mountain bike, learn German, or take a ballet class throughout the year. The Village offers great potential for a greater diversity and quality of recreation facilities and events. And in response to these opportunities, the Recreation Element establishes the goals, policies, and objectives for expanding recreation opportunities to diversify the economy and provide recreation for residents and tourists.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Existing Conditions

The following is an outline of the recreation facilities and events currently available with the vicinity.

- **skiing & tubing**

Taos Ski Valley, Inc. (TSV) provides **1,294 acres** of downhill skiing through a Special Use Permit issued by the United States Forest Service (Forest Service). **There are 110 total ski runs and 15 lifts.** Snowboarding was first permitting in 2008. Tubing is located at the Strawberry Hill Tubing Park. The Taos Winter Sports Team is a non-profit organization devoted to improving skiing skills, promoting sportsmanship, healthy competitiveness, and personal development.

- **hiking & biking**

Several trails are located on the Forest Service surrounding the Village. These trails are outlined below and are illustrated on the Existing Conditions Map:

Name	Distance	Permitted Uses
Wheeler Peak	7.3 miles	hiking/, horseback, cross country skiing, snowshoeing
Wheeler Peak Summit	2 miles	hiking + snowshoeing
Lobo Peak	10.7 miles	hiking + horseback riding
Italianos	3.5 miles	hiking + horseback riding + snowshoeing
Gavilan	2.4 miles	hiking + horseback riding + snowshoeing
Manzanita	4.2 miles	hiking + horseback riding
Yerba Canyon	4.0 miles	hiking + horseback riding
Williams Lake	2.0 miles	hiking + horseback riding
Long Canyon	3.6 miles	hiking + horseback riding
Goose Lake & Gold Hill	1.0 miles	hiking + horseback riding + ATVs

Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, snow shoeing, and snowmobile riding are popular activities on Forest Service trails and trails located on private property. Trailheads for the Bull of the Woods Trail, Long Canyon Trail, Goose Lake Trail, and Gold Hill Trail are also located within the Village. The J.R. Memorial Trail was constructed by the Village and runs along the Rio Hondo between the Children's Center and Sutton Place. TSV permits hiking along the Rubezahl Return Trail during the off-season. This trail provides a connection between the Village Core and the Kachina Area. The Rubezahl Return Trail and Williams Lake Trail provide a continuous pedestrian connection that extends the full length of the Village. The Village envisions that pedestrians and hikers would be able to access the trail from numerous points and connect to parks, trailheads, and resort destinations throughout the Village.

The Village owns a 2-acre parking lot on Kachina Road dedicated to hiker parking. It has a capacity of at least 50 cars.

Business enterprises take advantage of the trails network. Rio Grande Stables and Northside at Taos Ski Valley offer guided horseback riding, lama treks, and snow mobile excursions along various trails in and around the Village and across the Pattison Trust property. The Field Institute of Taos a non-profit organization offering outdoor education programs in the Village since 1996.

- **fishing**

The Rio Hondo begins at the confluence of several small perennial streams within the Village then runs into the Rio Grande near Arroyo Hondo. The upper Rio Hondo provides fishing for cutthroat and brown trout.

- **camping**

The Forest Service operates the Lower Hondo Campground, Cuchillo del Medio Campground, the Cuchilla along NM 150 and the Twining Campground located near Wheeler Peak. These facilities offer hiking, fishing, overnight camping, and limited facilities.

- **disk golf**

TSV operates a free 18-"hole" disk golf course located around Strawberry Hill and Pioneer lifts. It operates from June 28th to October 1st.

- **motorcycle events & off road vehicles**

The Pattison family sponsors "observed trials" and dual sport and adventure guided rides on Pattison Trust property.

Off road vehicles are permitted on **XX** trails, during the **YY** season.



- **rock climbing**

Rock climbing is available through Mountain Skills.

- **hunting**

Hunting for big horn sheep, elk, and deer can be found in **Forest Service lands** by permit.

XX climbing on XXXXX

- **music, language & dance schools**

Outdoor recreation is not the only form of recreation in the Village. The Village is the home of The Taos School of Music, the Taos Opera Institute, the Jiliana Ballet School, and the German Summer School of New Mexico language school.

- **music festivals**

Music festivals have been popular events. One of the most popular events has been the Mountain Music Festival. Over **XX** people attended the **20XX** Music Festival. The Saturday Summer Music Series is also popular.



The 20XX Mountain Music Festival featuring XXXXXXX.

- **volleyball**

The Parks & Recreation Committee supports a volleyball court located at the base of lift #5. The court is used for pick-up games and frequently used by the German school and ballet classes.

The Existing Conditions Map illustrates the type and location of the recreation facilities within and around the Village.

The Parks & Recreation Committee

The Parks & Recreation Committee was originally formed on July 8, 1996 by the Village Council. The committee serves as the advisory committee to the Village Council regarding parks and recreation facilities. They also advise the Village Council on budget recommendations for the uses of the parks & recreation impact fees. This Committee was instrumental in the construction of the John Ramming Educational Trail, the gazebo located at the hiker parking lot, and the Visitors' Information Center at the Guard Shack. They are currently working on several projects, including a hiking/biking trail between the Village core and the Amizette area and a permanent picnic/play area.

The Committee reviewed prior drafts of the Recreation Element and formulated the goals, policies, and objectives. They also assisted in developing the Proposed Recreation Facilities Map.

Previous Plans

The following is a summary of plans previously adopted by the Village Council and/or Planning & Zoning Commission that address recreation improvements:

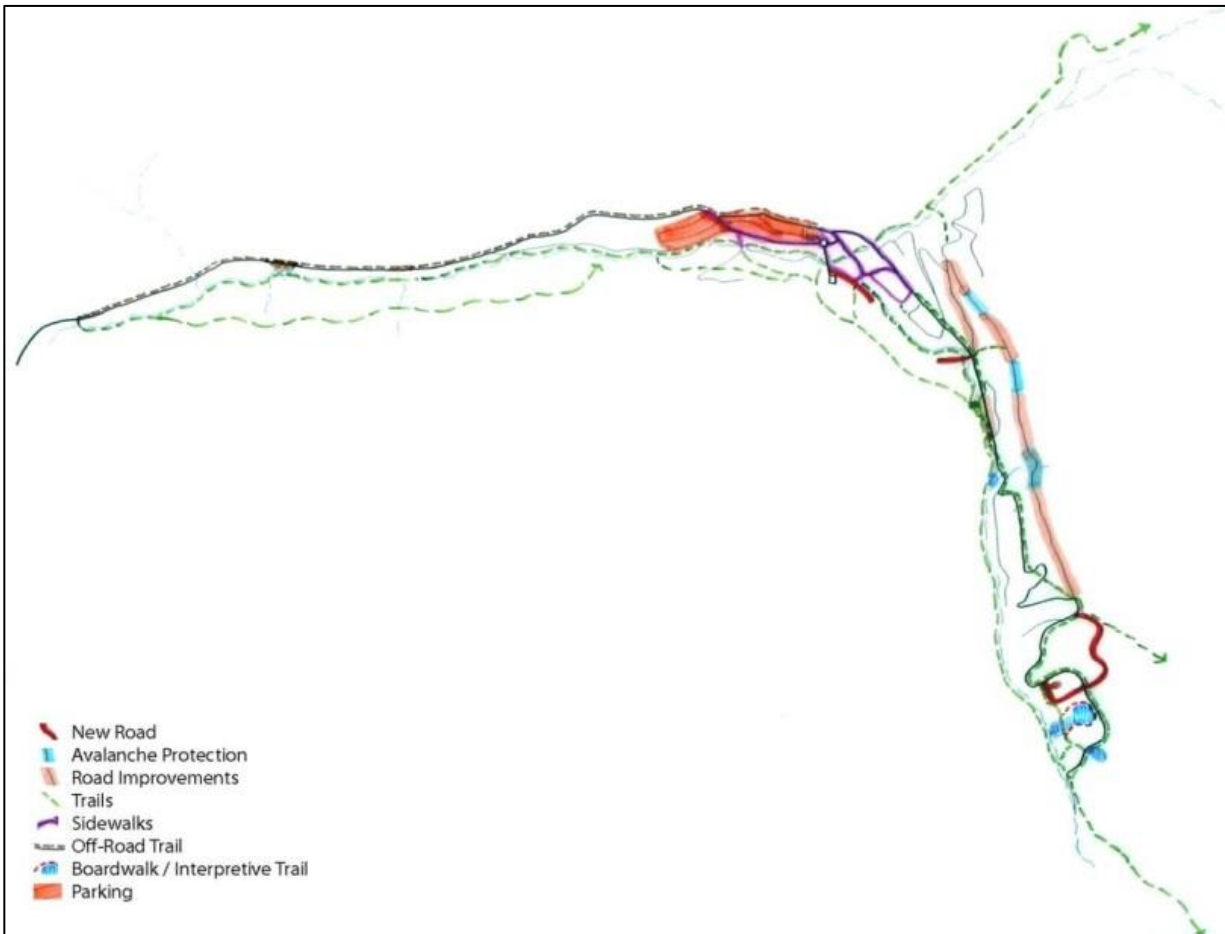
2001 Comprehensive Plan

The Village Council recognized the importance of recreation to the Village when it adopted the first Comprehensive Plan in 2001. The Comprehensive Plan included the following recommendations in the Recreation Element:

1. The Village will, as a part of the emphasis on a year round resort economy, encourage the private development of recreation amenities for the public.
2. The Village will, as a part of its capital improvement plan, identify opportunities for recreation and community amenities funded by taxes, bonds and/or government grants. These recreation and community amenities will be chosen for their ability to help support a year-round resort economy, as well as serve different age and interest groups.
3. The Village will consider partnership arrangements with private entities for development projects to enhance Village amenities and services.

2010 Master Plan

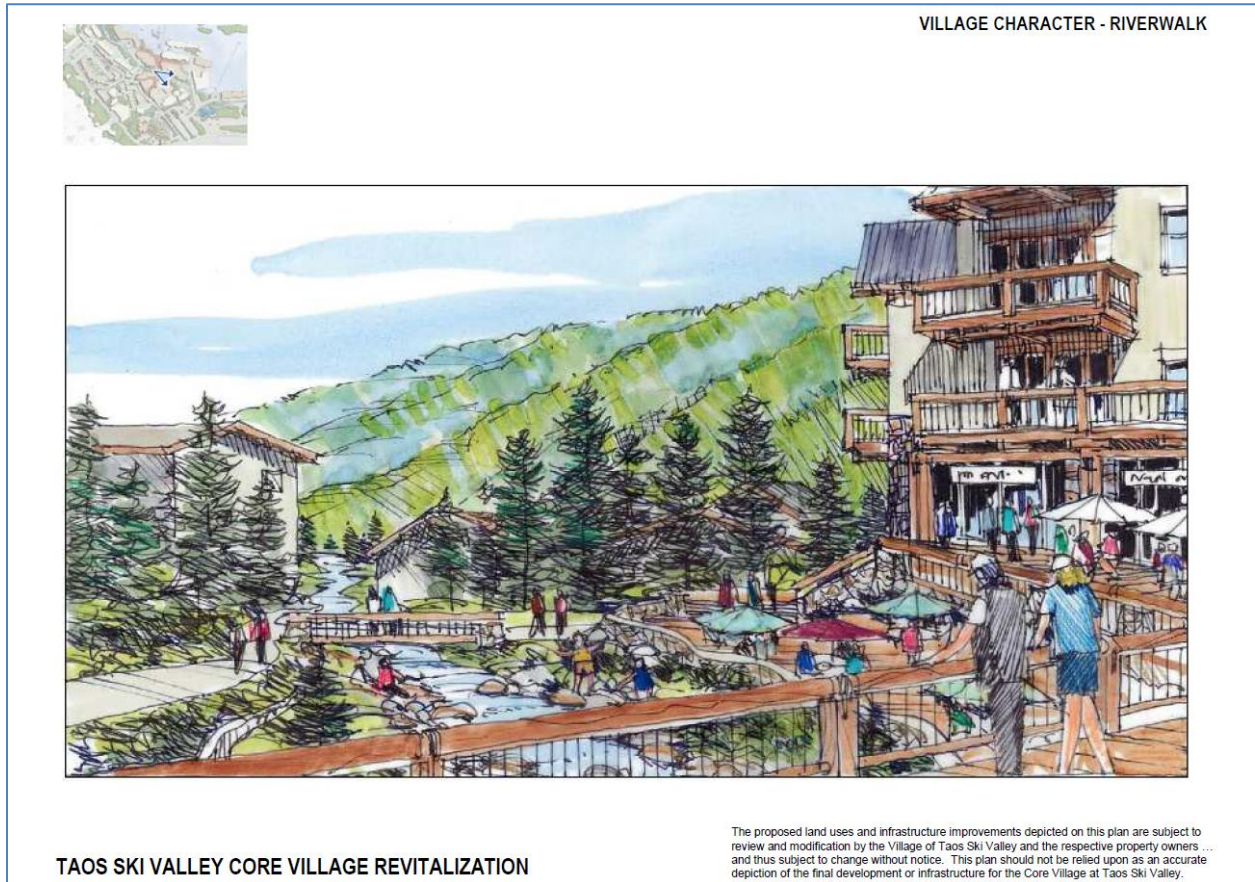
The 2010 Master Plan is filled with very broad recommendations for recreation improvements. Most of the recommendations are related to trails. The proposed trails system is illustrated on the map below.



One of the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS of the 2010 Master Plan is to **“Create a focal point that establishes Taos Ski Valley as a visitor destination for local, regional and national events pertaining to arts and recreational activities.”** The corresponding “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION ” to this goal is “Partner with TSV, Inc. and other private companies in constructing venues such as a **conference center or music amphitheater** to promote year-round cultural, entertainment and recreational events.”

2012 Parcel Conceptual Plan

This plan recommends a riverwalk along the Rio Hondo between the new hotel, retail, and condominium developments.



The rendering of the proposed riverwalk.

2015 Tax Increment Development District (TIDD)

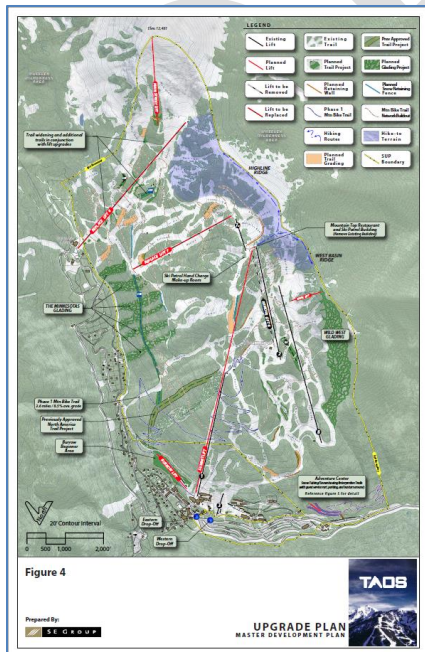
The TIDD includes two recreation developments. These are a new public plaza at the bottom of lift #1 and the riverwalk along the Rio Hondo (see above). The cost estimate for the public plaza is \$2,750,000 to be completed between 2015 and 2017. The cost estimate for the riverwalk is \$1,100,000 and is scheduled to be completed in 2016-2017.

Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plans

The following recreation projects have been included in the previous 5 years of ICIPs:

ICIP	Year	Project Name	Estimated Cost
2012-2016	2013	Purchase Land for Pedestrian Walkways in Village Core	\$150,000
	2013	Acquire Land for Bike/Walking Path (Amizette)	\$100,000
2013-2017	2014	Village Core Pedestrian Walkway Construction	\$45,000
	2015	Design Village Community Center/Public Safety Building	\$70,000
	2015	Design & USFS Approval of Hiking, Biking Path Amizette	\$40,000
2014-2018	2015	Village Core Pedestrian Walkway Construction	\$45,000
	2015	Design & USFS Approval of Hiking, Biking Path Amizette	\$40,000
2015-2019	2016	Village Core Pedestrian Walkway Construction	\$45,000
	2016	Design & USFS Approval of Hiking, Biking Path Amizette	\$40,000
	2017	Purchase Community Center	\$250,000
2016-2020	2017	Design & USFS Approval of Hiking, Biking Path Amizette.	\$40,000

TSV Inc. Special Use Permit



TSV, Inc. operates Taos Ski Valley under a special use permit through the Forest Service. Some of the proposed improvements include a variety of “on-mountain” projects such as new lifts, ski ruins, and mountain bike trails.

(BULL OF THE WOODS CONNECTOR TRAIL)

Construction of 3.2 miles of flow track mountain bike trail within the special use permit boundary of Taos Ski Valley (TSV). An additional 435' pedestrian trail will connect the eastern parking area of TSV with the Bull-of-the-Woods trailhead.

Goals, Policies, and Objectives

The goal, policies, and objectives present a framework for evaluating new development proposals and for implementing recreation projects.

Goal

The Village is known as a world-wide destination for year-round recreation activities to serve visitors and the local community.

Policies

1. The Village recognizes that the construction and the on-going use and maintenance of recreation facilities will have negative impacts to natural resources, and that these impacts must be limited to prevent any long-term or permanent impacts. Impacts must be mitigated as a condition of approval for a development proposal.
2. The Village will encourage private developers to allow public access to recreation facilities which are developed as part of a private development.
3. Participate with regional recreation organizations and government agencies to promote recreational activities and the design and construction of recreation facilities that serve Village and visitors.
4. The Village supports the development of recreational trails for health, leisure, and tourism and will participate in trails planning efforts sponsored by private property owners and local and regional organizations that provide trails planning and construction services.
5. The Village recognizes that recreation is not limited to outdoor sports. The Village will work cooperatively with the Taos Ski Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Lodger's Tax Advisory Board, and other arts and cultural organizations to promote and facilitate recreation, arts and cultural events.

Objectives

1. design and construct multi-use recreation trails
 - a. Amizette to John Ramming Trail to Village Core Riverwalk
 - b. Lake Fork Creek to Kachina; Work with Pattison Trust and other property owners to acquire ownership or access easements for a trail along the Lake Fork Creek.
2. amphitheater
3. recreation center for indoor recreation

4. tennis courts
5. zip line
6. volleyball court
7. aerial adventure park
8. archery competitions
9. snow play areas
10. Update the Zoning Regulations to allow a developer's open space dedication to be satisfied through development of trails or other recreation facilities.
11. Work with the NM Department of Transportation to build a bicycle lane along state highway 150 at such time it is resurfaced.
12. Use the Village webpage as a clearinghouse for recreation information...what to do here.

Conclusions

To be concluded...

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