



Village of Taos Ski Valley
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
November 19, 2024
10 am
Location: Zoom

Call to Order	Woodard
Minutes September 24, 2024 and October 22, 2024 Meetings	Woodard
Close of Hiker Parking Vault Toilet—update on fencing	Robert Wooldridge
Kachina Vista Park—status of cleanup	Gabe Vasquez
Next steps for Rec equipment	Woodard
Review of Hiker Parking conceptual design by Hart Howerton	Committee discussion
Grants	
Trails+ ----- Grant application status of draft	Loren Bell (invited)
-Part 1--community-based Taos Ski Valley Village Comprehensive Plan	
-Part 2 (focused projects) --completion of Porcupine to Kachina Vista Park segment (adding steps); Ramming Trail lift benches upgrade; Bike trail	
NM DOT opportunities	Robert Wooldridge
Comments from Village staff	
Adjourn	



Village of Taos Ski Valley
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
September 24, 2024

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:20 am and noted that there was a quorum for decision making. Present were D. Vaughn, K. Kett, and J Woodard. Also present were Loren Bell from ECTA and Robert Wooldridge from VTSV. The chair presented minutes from the July meeting for approval. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The chair started the meeting by reviewing the status of work against the annual plan.

- The hanging flower baskets were reestablished this summer. The cost will be at least \$3500; the committee suggested we have discussions with TSVI regarding partnering or transitioning this.

- Hiker Parking Vault toilet has been generally successful; however, it has taken much volunteer time and additional expense. There are additional capital improvements which the committee will pursue, and the committee suggested discussions with the village administration about plans for next year.

- JW Ramming trail will be the focus for the final RMYC work team. The metal rails will be removed, and some trail widening is planned. If time permits some cleanup of the wetlands near Kachina Road will also be conducted.

- Recreation has been reestablished this summer with equipment provided in Kachina Basin. The TSVI has also established recreation in the basin, so the committee suggested discussions with TSVI should be pursued to explore future plans.

- The committee discussed Fall Cleanup and decided it would be good to do something and concluded that a weeklong campaign with bags provided for volunteers to cleanup at a schedule of their choosing.

Dan Vaughn gave a report on the national forest service meeting in August on their visitor management program. In general, the discussions were good with the right individuals and organizations represented. Dan reported that to date there has been no visitor count attempted to understand the usage for Williams Lake Trail and Wheeler Peak. The forest service officials are to be sending a draft document/plan for review by the participants.

The committee discussed the hiker parking area including both operations and the need for capital improvements. The improvements were discussed in the next section, and the operations were reviewed. The committee received suggestions from councilors and staff regarding how to cover the operational expenses. The committee discussed options and

concluded that cost recovery from users was so complex that such approaches are not warranted at this time.

The chair described discussions with Councilor Doug Turner regarding the possibility of state legislative requests for funding for the capital improvements at Hiker parking. The needs include regrading of the lot to the property boundaries, installation of bollards to protect the vault toilet from snow plow damage, rail fence through the middle, signage, and information kiosks with local and regional information signs. The chair also reported the TSVI is providing support from Hart Howerton to develop a conceptual design with graphics to support the request.

Loren Bell from the Enchanted Circle Trails Association described how ECTA might work in support of PARC to develop a grant application for the development a comprehensive plan for PARC related areas, as well as some (modest) trail work. The committee discussed the importance of community input in the development of a comprehensive plan, and was favorable about ECTA's experience in this area. The committee made a decision to engage ECTA for the grant application development and the chair will work with Loren on the scope of work for the contract.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Woodard
PARC Chair



Village of Taos Ski Valley
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
October 22, 2024

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and noted that there was a quorum present. The chair also noted the meeting cannot be decision making because it was not properly noticed due to the chair's submittal of documents with insufficient time to post the meeting properly. Present were D. Vaughn, K. Kiehl, and J Woodard. Also present were Robert Wooldridge and Ann Marie Wooldridge from VTSV. The chair presented minutes from the September meeting noting they would be approved at the November meeting.

The chair noted that the regular date for the November meeting would have been November 26, which is two days before Thanksgiving. The committee discussed and decided to move the date to Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 10 am. The chair also noted that the December regular meeting date would be December 24, and the committee concluded to cancel that meeting.

The chair reported on the end of summer activities. The Rocky Mountain Youth Corps completed the last work session which included work on Ramming trail to remove metal edging which was a safety hazard, and widening the trail to approximately 36 inches. A few turnarounds and a turnaround loop at the upper end were added. The YC also completed trail cleanup and blow down debris from the east side of the wetlands. The chair asked if the committee supported a letter of appreciation from the village to the YC and the response was affirmative. The chair reported that the vault toilet at hiker parking will be closed by the end of the month and a port-a-potty is in place. The chair reported that Kachina Vista Park needs some work from Public Works, to remove and return the equipment to TSVI and to remove the dirt and rock that is spilling over onto neighboring lands. The chair reported on a conversation with Steve Hoxie from TSVI regarding their possible participation in the comprehensive plan development. Mr. Hoxie expressed support. Roles of PARC were also discussed. Mr. Hoxie expressed willingness to partner on recreation as well as flowers/beautification. Follow up is planned. Finally the chair reported on the meeting with Hart Howerton Landscape Architects at Hiker Parking. They are preparing a draft design and will send it possibly by the end of October. The committee will be asked to review and the chair will seek input from the various village departments and TSVI.

The committee discussed the items which might be included in the Trails+ application being prepared by ECTA. In addition to completion of the Porcupine to Kachina Vista Park connector, and refurbishment of the ski lift benches on Ramming Trail, it was suggested we consider a bike

path between the Kachina Basin to the village water tank area to connect with Kachina Vista Park.

Robert Wooldridge offered that the NM Department of Transportation may have grants that would support village projects such as bike trails. He will gather more information and report at the next meeting. He will also investigate the property ownership of the land that the bike trail might traverse.

The committee also briefly discussed the topic of charge for parking at places such as hike parking. The chair summarized the result of the previous meeting discussion on this—namely that PARC would follow but not lead such a change. The committee also discussed what the rules or ordinances are regarding camping in the parking lots. The chair was asked to check with TSVI regarding this topic. Ann Marie Wooldridge was asked to research ordinances on this topic.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Regarding Recreation Equipment Disposition

Below is the direction from the village attorney:

“Joan,

OK, this fits within Section 3-54-2(A) which allows for the sale of personal property under \$2,500 at a private sale without any need for notice. The only real problem is that it must be a sale (for value) and not a donation. Lurking behind this is the infamous Article IX, Section 14 of the New Mexico constitution (the "Anti-Donation Clause"), which states that the state and its local governmental entities, specifically including municipalities, may not "make any donation to or in aid of any person, association or public or private organization." (There are exception, but none applicable here.)

Since Section 3-54-2(A) requires that the governing body be shown that the items have a value less than \$2,500, I suggest that PARC assign a reasonable value to either single items or "sets" of items, taking into consideration the condition of the stuff and its age. Then we draft a resolution for the Village Council declaring the items to be surplus and no longer needed and setting the values as stated, and authorizing the Mayor to seek purchasers for the items at the stated values. If TSVI or someone else comes forward with the cash before June 30, 2025, the items can be sold individually "over the counter" at Village Hall. If there are no takers, then the articles will be considered surplus and will be disposed of.

My reasoning as basically as follows: (1) No one buys a badminton set in November (unless they live in Houston or Miami). Let the potential buyers have until the end of the fiscal year next summer if someone wants to purchase. (2) If no one wants to purchase any item or items, then you can "dispose" of them after June 30 as you see fit. No one will be looking too closely at the disposal process.

I think this is the safest way to deal with the stuff without leading to a claim that the Village is violating the Anti-Donation Clause.

John

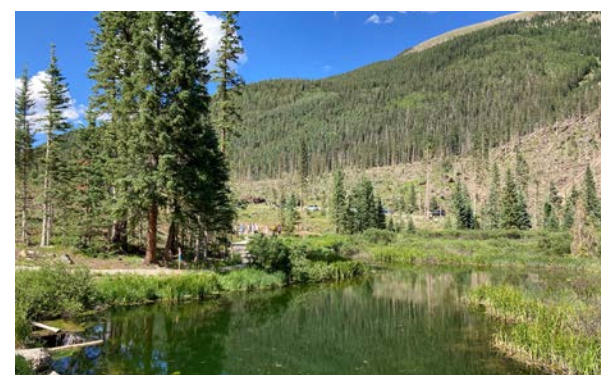
John L. Appel
Coppler Law Firm, P.C.
645 Don Gaspar Avenue
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
505-988-5656”

An aerial photograph of Taos Ski Valley at dusk. The image shows a snow-covered mountain with a ski run visible. At the base of the mountain, there is a resort area with several buildings, including a large central lodge and smaller structures, all illuminated with warm lights. The surrounding area is covered in dense evergreen forests. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, indicating the time is either dawn or dusk. A semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

Taos Ski Valley

Williams Lake Trailhead

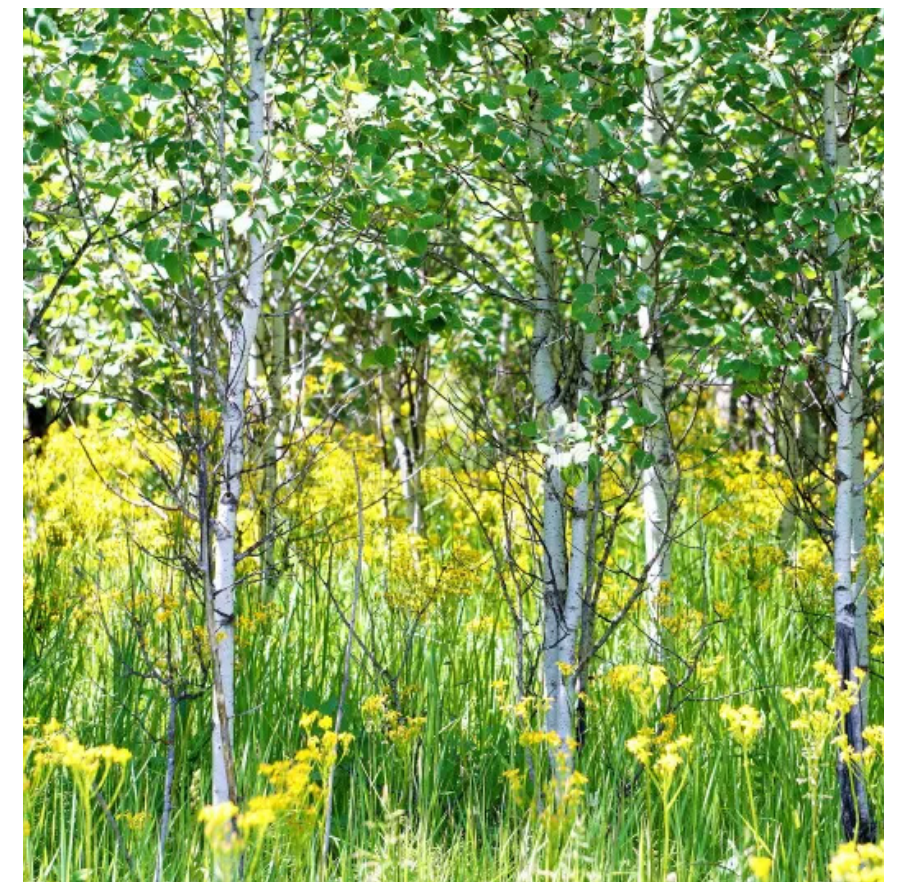
OCTOBER 2024



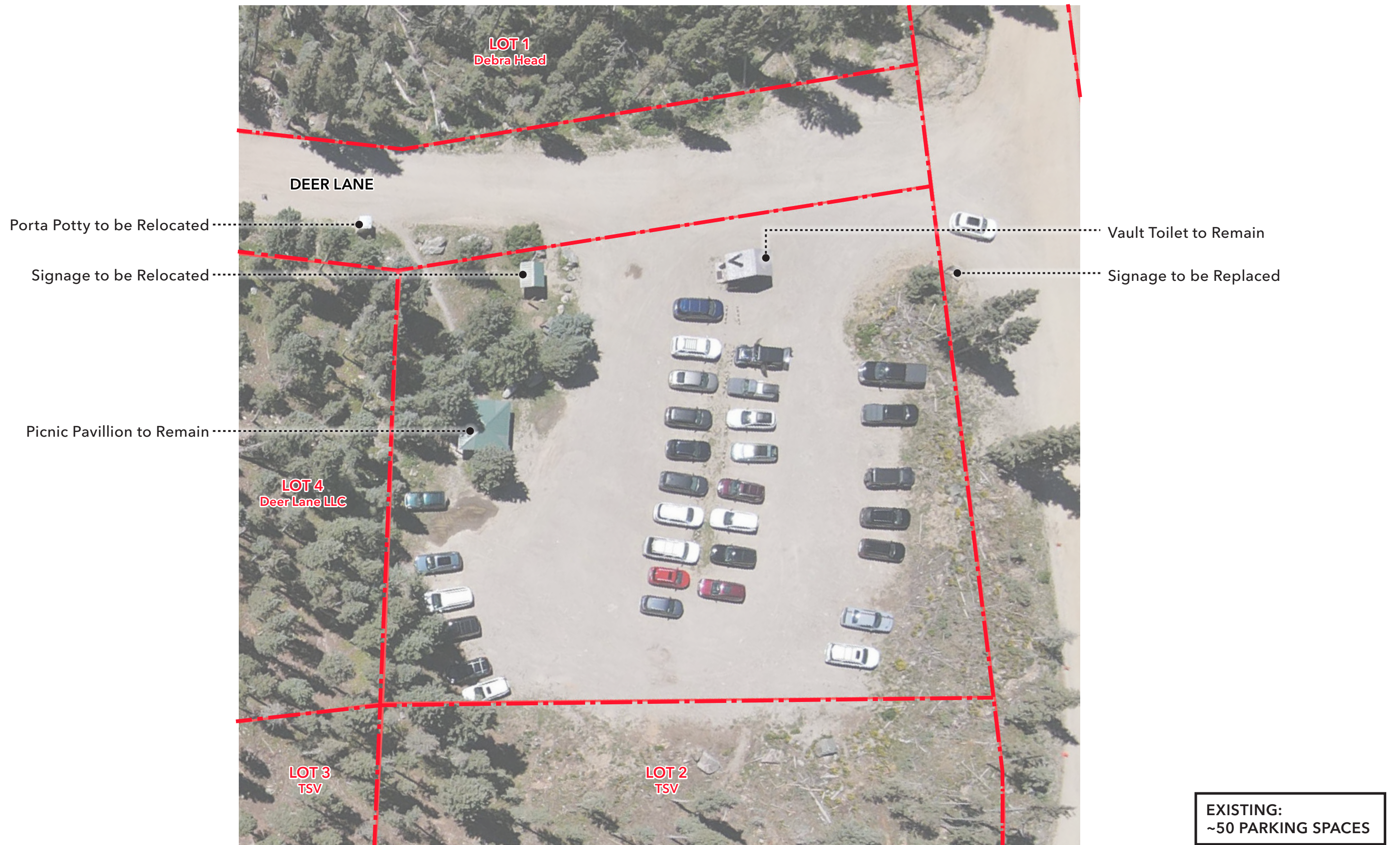
Williams Lake Trail | Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions | Williams Lake Trailhead & Parking



Williams Lake Trailhead & Parking | Existing Conditions





Relocated Williams Lake Trail Sign
(on Village Land)

Relocated Trailhead Kiosk

Decomposed Granite Trail & Plaza

New Directional Signage

Educational Native Plant Garden

Picnic Pavillion to Remain

Relocated Porta Potty

Fencing to Match Parking at Bavarian



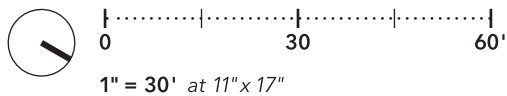
Resurfaced Gravel Lot
(Wide for Snow Plows)

New Kachina Basin Signage
(on Village Land)

Vault Toilet to Remain

Aspen Trees, Typ.
Wide Planting Strip
for Snow Storage

**PROPOSED:
70 PARKING SPACES**



Williams Lake Trailhead & Parking | Proposed Improvements



HART HOWERTON

NEW YORK · SAN FRANCISCO