



Taos Ski Valley
Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by the chair. Present were Kent Kiehl, Janet Ratliff Thomas, Dan Vaughan, and Joan Woodard. The chair noted that a quorum of members was present. Also present were Richard Bellis, Village Administrator, Henry Caldwell, Village Counciler, and a few neighbors and property owners. The chair presented the minutes from July 22, and August 26, 2025. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

The chair reported that the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew completed steps in the lower section of the connector trail to the upper entrance of Kachina Vista Park. Some funds from the prior contract with the RMYC which the VTSV Council voted to support a new contract completion date, were used to pay for required supplies. The remaining funds will also support a crew at the beginning of 2026 summer.

The chair reported on the tour of village owned land segments with the Enchanted Circle Trails Association after the master planning kickoff meeting on September 4, 2025. She noted that many committee members joined that tour. The primary focus was to review village owned land segments and to identify existing parks and recreation infrastructure. Following the September 4th meeting, ECTA will develop a schedule for the near term initial outreach meetings. ECTA will provide periodic updates.

The chair concluded her report with a request for volunteers to help with removal of the hanging baskets and a request for village guidance for a storage location.

Dan Vaughan, director of the Taos Ski Valley Chamber, reported on the visitation statistics for the past years from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For Hiker Parking, visitation was up in 2021 and 2022 probably due to COVID, down in 2023 due to Chair 4 construction, up in 2024 and relatively constant from 2024 to 2025. The most popular day is Saturday. The charts presented are attached. Mr. Vaughan also reported on work to possibly get this service restarted; funds are extremely limited for the chamber and funds are being solicited from all sources.

Richard Bellis, Village Administrator, reported on the cleanup of Kachina Vista Park. Approximately one third to half the park length starting at the lower entrance, has been cleared of dirt that has eroded or fallen off the hill. The road has also been graded. He stated that the park work will most likely not be completed this summer and will have to recommence next spring. He reported on staff work on better vehicle layout in Hiker Parking which might increase the vehicle count by 15. The chair reminded everyone of the Hiker Parking design work done by a landscape architect in early 2025 which included a handicap space, increased vehicle numbers as well as some protection for the vault toilet from plow damage. The chair suggested that the topic of Hiker parking be on the agenda for the next meeting. Finally Mr. Bellis reported that

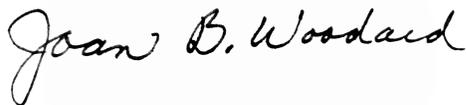
design work has commenced for a camera located at the green water tank for purposes of monitoring the park entrance at the upper end. A camera at the lower end will require power to that site. The chair asked about the work on replacing slats on the Ramming Trail ski lift benches; this work is part of the matching for the Trails+ grant. Mr. Bellis reported that this work will be conducted during the winter. Mr. Bellis reported that a part time person has been added for recycling and will also be dedicated to parks and trails. This person will transition to full time next year.

The chair initiated a discussion on the topic of year-round usage of Kachina Vista Park. She reported on the recent Public Safety meeting discussion of Kachina Vista Park. That committee's conclusion was to not change the village resolution which required closure in the winter. The primary reasons were the avalanche safety risks and the complexity of signage etc, to permit winter use. She stated the village does not have the time and resources to consider this topic and its complexity. The Public Safety committee did state that the PARC should continue to study and consider this topic. A picture of a Jackson Hole sign for such an area is attached. The chair stated that signage will be required this fall to close the park and the village staff will need to consider modification of their snow storage which currently involved heavy vehicles entering the park during the winter, a hazard given the avalanche danger. Finally, the chair stated that there are risks of falling rocks as well as water and mud/dirt slides during the summer. Signage for this will need to be considered in the spring. Janet Ratliff-Thomas reported on a review of the issues associated with usage of the park in the winter. Ms. Thomas reported on contact with the NM Department of Transportation to request information on winter safety and signage. She also reported on discussions with the director of the Taos Avalanche Center who expressed support for year-round access as an uncontrolled area. She also talked with the Snow Safety director for TSVI. The discussion included the topic of passive snow mitigation measures. The committee discussion concluded with a committee resolution that the park will be closed in the winter, signage will be posted for avalanche danger and closure, and no vehicles will be permitted inside the gates of the park.

The chair introduced the topic of another Trails+ grant application. The scope might include trail maintenance, cleanup for hiker parking, cleanup of the lower end of Kachina Vista Park and obscuration of the jersey barriers, and signage if the village standard for signage is available. A partnership with ECTA was also discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 11 am

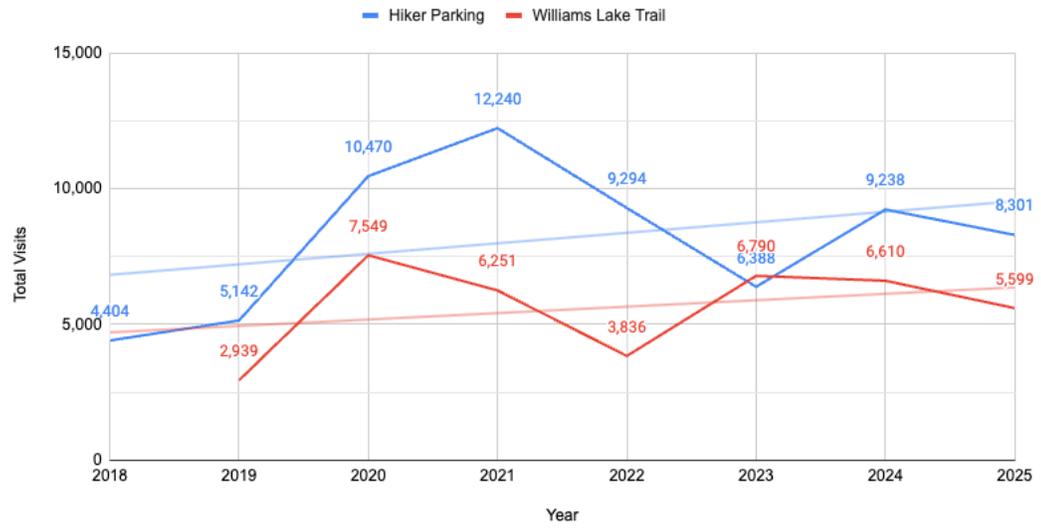
Submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan B. Woodard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Submitted by" text.

Joan Woodard
PARC Chair

Hiker Parking and Williams Lake Trail Summer Visitation

Memorial Day - Labor Day



Property Overview

Property:



Williams Lake Trail

Williams Lake Trail #62, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525

May 27 - Sep 5, 2022



Williams Lake Trail

Williams Lake Trail #62, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525

May 26 - Sep 4, 2023



Williams Lake Trail

Williams Lake Trail #62, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525

May 24 - Sep 2, 2024



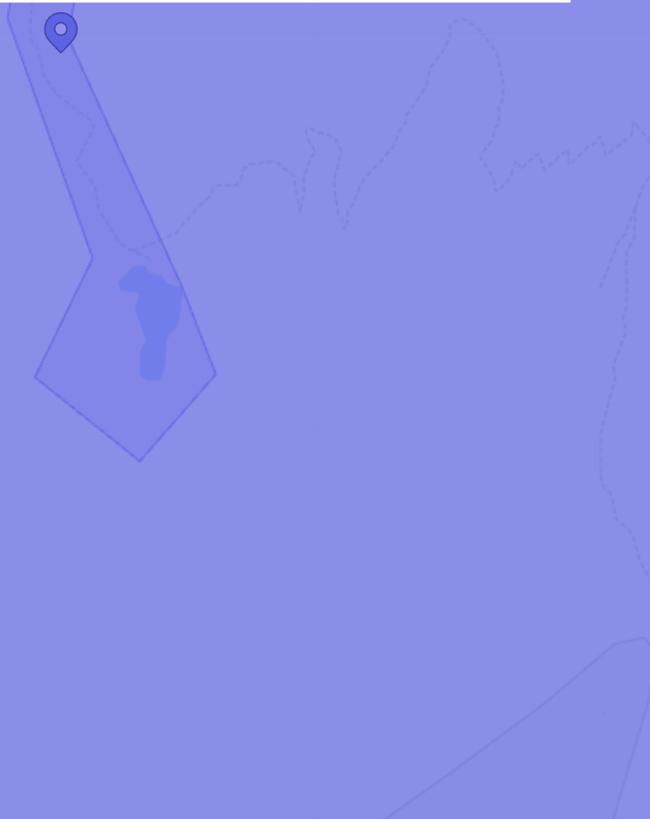
Williams Lake Trail

Williams Lake Trail #62, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525

May 23 - Sep 1, 2025



Scan to view on placer.ai platform



Property Overview

Property:

	Williams Lake Hiker Parking Kachina Road, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525	May 27 - Sep 5, 2022
	Williams Lake Hiker Parking Kachina Road, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525	May 26 - Sep 4, 2023
	Williams Lake Hiker Parking Kachina Road, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525	May 24 - Sep 2, 2024
	Williams Lake Hiker Parking Kachina Road, Taos Ski Valley, NM 87525	May 23 - Sep 1, 2025



Scan to view on placer.ai platform



STATUS BOARD
HEADWALL OPEN
CRAGS CLOSED
CASPER BOWL CLOSED

GRANITE CANYON HEADWALL WARNING

WHEN YOU PASS BEYOND THIS GROOMING AREA BOUNDARY YOU ARE LEAVING THE AREA OF SKI PATROL SERVICES INCLUDING AVALANCHE HAZARD REDUCTION MEASURES AND TRAIL GROOMING. YOU ARE ENTERING A HIGH RISK AREA WHICH HAS MANY HAZARDS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO AVALANCHES, CLIFFS AND HIDDEN OBSTACLES. YOU ARE AT RISK FROM THESE NATURAL HAZARDS. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DECISIONS AND ACTIONS, YOUR OWN RESCUE, FOR THE COST OF YOUR RESCUE, AND YOU WAIVE ALL CLAIMS FOR INJURY. YOUR LIFT TICKET FURTHER DEFINES YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

