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Silverton Standard
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IN BRIEF

Silverton Standard Subscription Sale

Congrats to Larry Perino for winning a Wesley Berg calendar as part of the Silverton Standard subscription drive. This week we will be giving away a gorgeous summer Jimmy Keene metal print to one lucky subscriber. Look for the new winner on our Instagram/Facebook page and in the next paper. Anyone who subscribes during our subscription drive will be entered into a "pool" for a chance to win a weekly prize. For the months of August and September, get yourself a ½ price yearlong subscription to the Silverton Standard. Subscribe to the new Premium level and get a beautiful metal print with your purchase. Now is also a great time to gift a subscription to a friend! Know someone that likes to hear local stories, connect with small-town Colorado, or would like to hear historical stories told by locals? Gift a subscription or share with your friends. Subscription not up? Renew now and get the sale price!

Silverton Creates Needs You!

Silverton Creative District is seeking fun loving and energetic community members to assist during the Silverton Creates! arts weekend, happening September 8th - 10th. More than 30 different arts and heritage focused events will be happening throughout the weekend including an open studio tour, street fair/maker's market, free concerts, lectures, performances, workshops and more! You can contribute to the success of this vibrant arts weekend as a volunteer! Just email info@silvertoncreativedistrict.org or fill out the volunteer form at <https://tinyurl.com/SCVol2023>. All volunteers receive a shift meal and an SCD t-shirt! Check out the full weekend schedule at www.silvertoncreates.com.

Mobile Market comes to Silverton!

The Care and Share Mobile Food Market is coming to Silverton! Fresh and pantry food free of cost and available to anyone who needs it - No income or residency requirement. Choose what items you want. Friday, September 8, 3-4 p.m. On Snowden Street outside Silverton School. Contact

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Silverton Singletrack Blazing Trails



Photo credit Cracked Compass

Group photo from ground breaking at Baker's Park

■ *By DeAnne Gallegos*

Local 501C3 non-profit Silverton Singletrack Society is blazing new trails on Boulder Mountain, which is just on the skirt of town right above Memorial Park on the Northeast end of town limits, and the new trail park system is called Baker's Park. "We founded SSS 9 years ago with Baker's Park in mind. Creating these trails has always been the goal. It's been a lot of hard work to get here, so it's extremely gratifying to see our dream turn into reality," said Klem Branner, President of Silverton Singletrack Society.

The 30-mile trail system planned for Baker's Park is designed for 24 miles of "all user" trails for mountain bikes, class-one pedal assist bikes, hikers, walkers, and trail runners to share. However, 6 miles of the park is a one-way mountain bike only because single-direction trails intend to mitigate user conflict on the descent when bikes are going fast downhill. Once construc-

tion is complete, the trails will be open annually from May 1 through November 30, trail conditions permitting with dated closure from December 1 through April 30 at the request of Colorado Parks & Wildlife intended to reduce stress on wintering elk. SSS is working closely with the BLM and Colorado Parks & Wildlife to address the wildlife concerns surrounding Baker's Park.

According to Silverton Singletrack Society, "Early on, CPW had some concerns that were addressed through the BLM Travel Management Plan process. The Baker's Park Concept Plan was modified as follows: 1) 3.5 miles of high alpine trail (Zone 4 in the original Concept Plan) were removed to eliminate impacts to elk/mule deer; 2) Winter grooming and events are prohibited on the trail system to avoid snow compaction and reduce impacts to Canada lynx."

Silverton Singletrack Society has successfully secured funding through the following

sources: San Juan County was the first supporter of the project, donating \$11,000 to fund the Baker's Park Concept Plan. So far, they've pledged an additional \$11,000 in cash and \$23,500 for in-kind work and are serving as a fiscal sponsor for grants. The Town of Silverton has contributed \$35,000 so far and has offered in-kind assistance to date. SSS received two different grants from the GOCO/Colorado Youth Corps Association totaling \$75,000 to bring crews from the Southwest Conservation Corps here to work on the trail system. BLM has committed \$50,000 of in-kind work for the trailhead, facilities, and signage and contributed \$15,000 toward flagging the first ten miles. Colorado Parks & Wildlife recently awarded SSS a \$250,000 Non-Motorized Trails Construction Grant. The Boost Baker's Park fundraising campaign has raised \$44,675.15 from 236 donors to date, both through the GoFundMe platform and donations made offline. The

link to the campaign is www.gofundme.com/f/bakers-park.

Klem Branner, the SSS President, said, "San Juan County, Town of Silverton, BLM, and IMBA have been incredible partners to work with, and it's been amazing to see everyone get behind the vision for Baker's Park to make it a reality for our community. Lisa has volunteered a ton of time behind the scenes with fundraising, and my fellow Singletrack board members have spent a lot of time with IMBA on the concept and planning work, as well as time on the ground flagging the trails." Lisa Branner, who has been assisting SSS in grants and fundraising efforts, said, "We've easily spent 400 hours on fundraising in the past two or three years. With a total project cost estimated at more than \$2 million, we still have a ways to go, but every dollar counts and the start of trail construction will hopefully help spark some excitement that leads to additional donations and grants."

San Juan County and the

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Town of Silverton leadership have been great supporters of this project since its inception. The desire for more trails that are accessible from town limits has been a priority for this community, and that was made crystal clear from the community through the recent Town of Silverton's Compass Project, which resulted in our Master Plan that was adopted by the town board a year ago. Lisa Branner said, "There's no doubt that trails contribute to community health and that Silvertonians want more trails. That was made abundantly clear through different planning processes, including the Compass Master Plan. By boosting our quality of life, Baker's Park has the potential to keep existing residents here while also attracting new people." The Compass Project identified some of the top goals and that came straight from the community at large who participated in the two-year-long process of community visioning conducted by Community Builders non-profit. Community Builders, who were out of Glenwood Springs, has stated before that the participation of Silverton residents was one of the highest participation rates they had seen.

Silverton Mayor Shane Fuhrman said of the Baker's Park Project, "The Town of Silverton is proud to support the Silverton Singletrack Society's vision for Baker's Park. The development of an in-town mountain bike trail system is a community-led initiative aligned with Silverton's priorities to make place-based investments, enhance the year-round economy, and to strengthen our local assets. I could not be more excited to support this project!" San Juan County Commissioner Austin Lashley stated, "The county has supported the Baker's Park Project in annual financial donations, in-kind work, particularly in construction of the trailhead that goes towards grant match, and in the responsibility for grant administration. The county's role also includes the financial responsibility for cash flow and disbursements until the grant is reimbursed by the awarding agencies. This project wouldn't be able to take wings without the support of our community and local government, but Lisa, Klem, and the other board members of Silverton Singletrack deserve all the credit for legwork for these grants to make this project a reality."

Silverton Singletrack broke ground on the park this summer in partnership with IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association), who, according to their website, says, "We create, enhance, and protect great places to ride mountain bikes. Our focus is on more trails close to home. By 2025, we aim to partner with 250 new communities for more great local trails." IMBA has been side by side with Silverton Singletrack through the visioning, develop-



Photo Credit DeAnne Gallegos

Klem Branner describing trail system

ment, and now construction of Baker's Park. On July 17th, they physically broke ground on the first of many trails to come, and as of last week, I got the luxury of hiking the first two miles of 'roughed in' trail with the Branners and meet the two-person crew working on the project. The 'under construction' trail meanders through the woods along Boulder Mountain from the North parking lot off of County Road 110 back towards Silverton, and the views are spectacular. The trail is very noninvasive and flows through the wooded area, creating intermediate terrain for all users. You cannot see the trails from the road and feel very natural in the environment. They are still being cut and worked on, so I can only imagine the final product as being a one-of-a-kind trail experience just above town.

That being said, the trail system is officially CLOSED for construction, and even though it is more than tempting to go check them out, Silverton Singletrack asks that you be patient and stay away for now while giving the crew room to work and move their small equipment around. The two-person IMBA crew have been here since mid-July and have been funded for 13 full work weeks of trail excavating. The trail at this point is only 'roughed in' and not buffed out or complete, but the goal of that team is to hit the top of

Boulder Mountain by the end of summer. According to Silverton Singletrack, "2 miles have been roughed in, and we estimate 4 miles will be roughed in by the end of summer. The trails won't actually be finished and buffed out until fall 2024." Silverton Singletrack also secured a grant from GOCO to bring in this summer a crew of youth from the Southwest Conservation Corps who will be sending an 8-person crew for six weeks starting in September. SSS has secured enough funding for all this season's trail work and part of next season's but is working to obtain the remaining funds necessary to complete these first 10 miles of the total 30 miles of Baker's Park planned trail system.

How will this impact our community? We have been discussing as a community on all the ways to diversify our economy, and projects like this lend to that directly. Lisa Branner, who is also our former Town of Silverton Events Coordinator, said, "We've seen studies that show how investment in trails brings in visitor spending that directly supports jobs, businesses, and local governments. San Miguel, Hinsdale, and Ouray Counties attract more than 13,000 mountain bike visitors each year, which results in huge economic wins for those communities. The hope is that Baker's Park helps us capitalize on that same type of visitation, while providing a close-to-home, out-the-back

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door amenity for the people who call Silverton home." With the pandemic surge of full-time residents here in Silverton, as well as our tourism numbers, Silverton is seeing a constant growth rate. Many new residents have come to this high alpine hamlet for backcountry recreation opportunities like skiing, biking, hiking, trail running, and jeeping in the San Juans. Having these glorious mountains as our 'backyard' is the common thread of those that I have spoke to and asked why they have moved here.

Specifically, the Hardrock 100 Endurance Race has brought many ultra runners who now make Silverton their full-time home; therefore, speculation of expanding mountain biking opportunities will also bring us more residents who love outdoor recreation like mountain biking. Eddie Phillips, a full-time Silverton resident, moved from

the Front Range of Colorado four years ago and said, "I can't wait for the options that Baker's Park trails will bring! Our existing trails are fun, but they require hours-long hike-a-bike climbs followed by death-defying descents. It'll be a nice change to have less extreme trail options for pre-work outings and lunch rides. Trails of varying difficulty (green/blue/black) will also allow new riders to learn and grow. And the views looking down on town will be spectacular!" Phillips, who is also the Treasurer for Silverton Singletrack Society, continued with, "I've been a board member of SSS for several years and it's rewarding to see so many stakeholders come together to bring these trails to life. The work between BLM, San Juan County, the town of Silverton, IMBA, and countless individuals is inspiring and shows that big things can happen when people work together. These trails will

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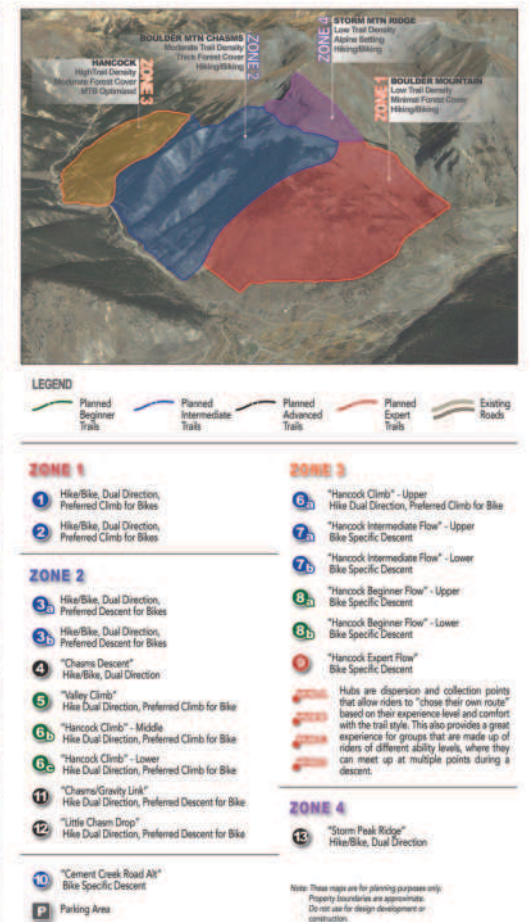
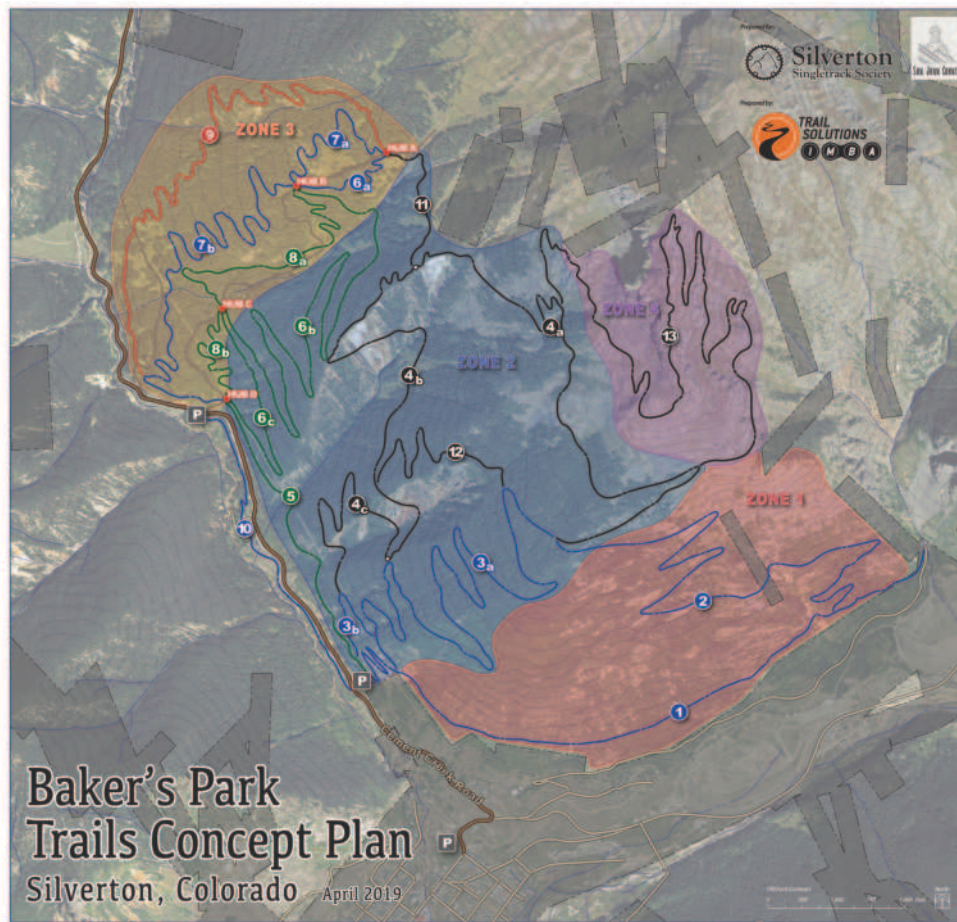
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offer new recreation opportunities to locals and visitors, and outdoor exercise is good for all.”

Silverton Singletrack now has five board members with Klem Branner as president, Calvin Davenport as secretary, Eddie Phillips as treasurer, Cliff Pinto as board member at Large, Lorne Glick as a board member at large, and SSS has over 50 current members. They started over nine years ago with three board members: Klem Branner, Calvin Davenport, and Jeremy Yanko.

Clavin Davenport the secretary for the SSS said “It might be easy for people to think the SSS hasn’t done much in the amount of time we have been around, but that’s far from the truth. These days most of the hard work in building new trails is not the actual digging and building, it’s the hours behind the computer screen writing grants or the countless meetings, phone calls, and emails with stakeholders and government representatives. Much of the success of the Singletrack Society can be credited to the Branners for all their work behind the scenes. I’m just happy to have been a part of it. My mom introduced me to mountain biking at a very young age on just the local Grand Junction trails. Those trails turned out to be world class and ended up giving me direction in life. I’m happy I’ll get to introduce my boys to world class trails right here in Silverton that can help shape and guide them through life too.”

Klem Branner, who is the current President and one of the main drivers behind this project, ended with, “We have been fortunate to have a lot of community support for this project, and it would not be where it is today without our locals backing it. Jeremy Yanko



Baker's Park Map Plan

should be credited for the original vision, and everyone who has served on the Singletrack board over the years should be recognized for staying true to that vision and not giving up on it.”

You can support Silverton Singletrack and Baker's Park by making a tax-deductible gift to the Baker's Park Campaign at www.gofundme.com/f/bakers-park. SSS will be organizing some trail workdays this fall so folks can check out the trails and help with construction. The first one will be on Sunday, September 17th. Sign up for the SSS email list at www.silvertonsingletracksociety.org, follow SSS on social media, or look out for announcements in the paper for more info! The most important reminder that Silverton Singletrack would like to remind the public is that the trails that are under

construction are CLOSED to the public due to safety concerns and just staying out of the construction zone of the trail building. There is small,


non-evasive excavation equipment and crew working almost daily. Let's all just be patient and give the project space and room to grow while we all

dream about the time when it will be a major part of all our lives; who love to meander, bike, hike, run, and walk in the woods.



Photo credit DeAnne Gallegos

The Branners working on the trail



Town of Silverton

Gloria Kaasch-Buerger
Town Administrator
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8.28.23 Regular Meeting Recap*

- 3a. 2022 Audit Review with Jim Hinkle, Hinkle & Company, PC
Informational Only
- 4a. Letter opposing NTIA's requirement of a letter of credit in relation to the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment funding.
Staff was directed to send the letter out to local congressional representatives.
- 4b. Staff and Banking Changes
Approved 7-0, Motion to give access to Melina Marks to view and deposit into the Town of Silverton's Citizens State Bank Account.
Approved 7-0, Motion to close the credit card account with Citizens State Bank.
Approved 7-0, Motion to close the savings account with Citizens State Bank and transfer fund to the general fund.
5. Approval of Consent Agenda Items: a. Payroll; b. Accounts Payable; c. Contract with Clarion Associates to facilitate Land Use Code Rewrite; d. Letter of Support for Silverton Singletrack Society
Approved 7-0
- 9a. Resolution 2023-12 A Resolution of the Town of Silverton recognizing the need for and creating a local housing authority.
Approved 7-0
11. Request for executive session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S., Personnel matters, Facilities, Parks and Recreation Director.
Approved 7-0
12. Request for executive session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., Conferences with an attorney for the public entity for the purposes of receiving legal advice on Silverton Square.
Approved 7-0

*This recap is for information only and is not the official approved minutes for the meeting. Approved minutes can be found at <https://bit.ly/TrusteeMeetingMinutes>
Agenda Packets can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/TrusteeBoardPackets>
You can sign up to receive meeting notifications and agenda packets at <https://bit.ly/SilvertonEmailSignUp>

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