

Bonneville Shoreline Trail

2023 Status Report

BST in Coldwater Canyon, Weber County

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Prepared by:

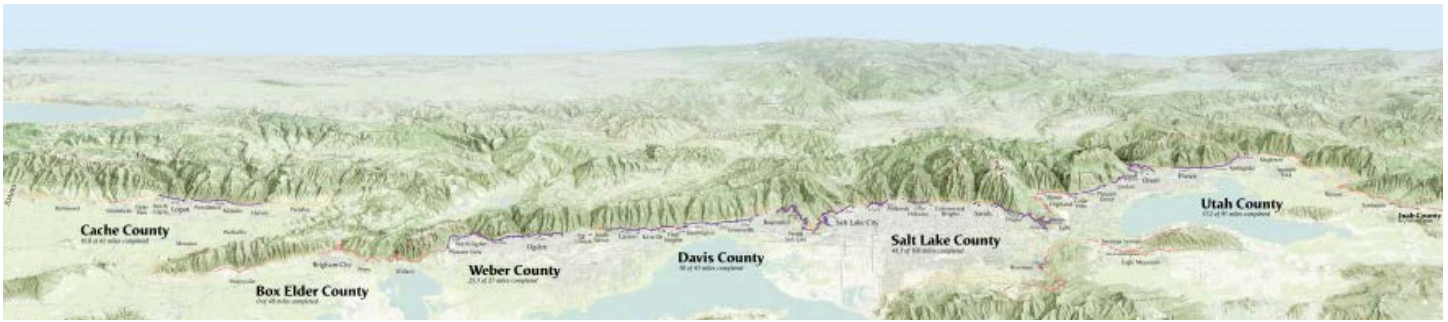
Brandon Plewe, Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee and Utah Valley Trails Alliance

Thank you to representatives from many around the state, and from counties and city governments and non-profit organizations who submitted updates and answered our questions about the trail. Thank you to Sarah Bennett of Trails Utah and Brandon Stocksedale of the National Park Service for feedback and editing.

Note: the trail segment names used in this document, generally named after the mountain each segment traverses between canyon trailheads, are tentative proposals, not official.



bonnevilleshorelinetrail.org



Introduction

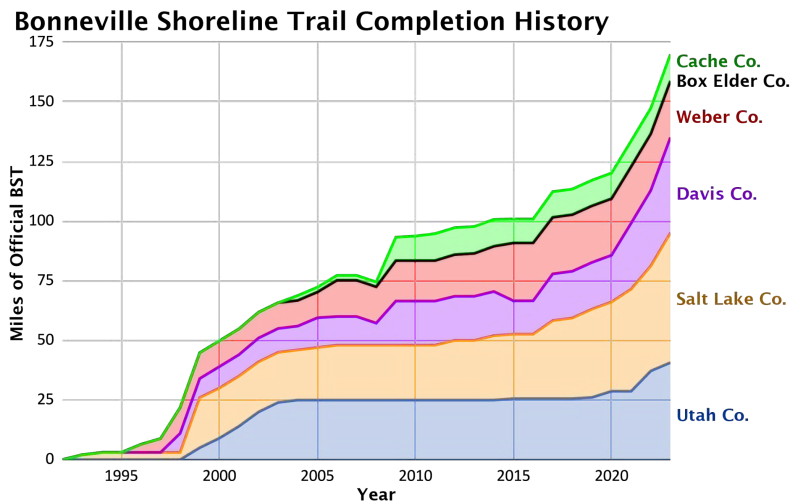
For more than thirty years, the Bonneville Shoreline Trail has been emerging, mile by mile and piece by piece, as the backbone of trail systems all along the Wasatch Front. The BST is unique in the United States, in that it is named after and approximates a massive geologic formation left behind by an ancient lake. Where it contours along mountain foothills it is at the “Urban-Wildland Interface,” providing an outstanding recreational amenity for communities throughout Northern Utah.

The trail humbly began as a 3-mile traverse behind the University of Utah in Salt Lake City in 1993, but an expansive vision of a trail spanning the entire Wasatch Front was born with it. The idea quickly caught on in one community after another. Current city, county, and federal plans add up to over 400 miles of potential trail.

Progress has often been slow and difficult for the hundreds of people who have worked on the BST, largely due to the “patchwork quilt” of land owners, land managers, and government jurisdictions that the trail passes through. In fact, it is a miracle that so much of it has been built, given that there is no real central planning or supervision. While there have been periods when the trail languished, construction has been accelerating in recent years, and is documented in our 2022 Annual Report, which can be found at bonnevilleshorelinetrail.org.

The past year has been great for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Almost 23 miles of trail were added to the BST in 2023, more than any year in its history, bringing the total length of official trail to 170 miles. These new trail sections are not a single construction project; instead, seven separate projects were carried out independently by several cities, counties, and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, a variety of other work improved the BST, including new access trails, the acquisition of rights of way, major maintenance, and the improvement of trailheads.

Our 2022 Annual Report gave a detailed analysis of the current status of each segment of the trail, and readers are encouraged to review that for more in-depth information. This year’s report will be more concise, focusing on new developments in 2023, and immediate plans for 2024.



Trailwide Initiatives

State Government: We are grateful for the ongoing support that our legislature gives to outdoor recreation in general and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in particular. In recent years, they have provided several million dollars for land acquisition, trail construction, and trailhead improvements, which is administered through grant programs operated by the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR). The Division has placed particular emphasis on the BST as one of the strategically important trails in the state. Several projects were funded by these programs in 2023, as detailed in this report.

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (UWCNF): Many portions of the BST weave in and out of the lower edge of this extensive national forest, and it is a major supporter of the trail, designating several segments in Utah County and Weber County in the late 1990s. While trails on federal land require a review and approval in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act of 1970 (NEPA), the stated support of the National Forest for the BST vision has helped to streamline this process. In recent years, it has worked with Salt Lake County and Davis County to develop BST master plans, and an additional segment was recently designated in Utah County. The recent passage of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act (see the 2022 BST report for details) will enable several more miles of the trail to be designated on federal land.

Rebooting the Committee and Coalition: The BST Committee was initially formed by community residents of Salt Lake County to organize, plan, and advocate for the BST construction. The BST Coalition was conceived by the Committee to be a group of municipal representatives from throughout the entire length of the BST that could share strategies for trail development and share lessons learned. While the BST Committee continues to work toward trail implementation after losing several key members in 2020, the Coalition has not met in over a decade. In 2024 we plan to rejuvenate the BST Committee by including community representatives from all of the counties along the BST. These community representatives can work with their local municipal agencies to plan for and construct missing segments of the trail. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Committee through our website, bonnevilleshorelinetrail.org.

Non-profit organizations: Several citizen-led organizations are helping to build the trail. Most are focused on local areas and their work is highlighted below. Organizations with a broader focus include Trails Utah (trailsutah.org), which has spearheaded several initiatives resulting in new segments of the BST in Salt Lake County and continues to work to help local communities along the Wasatch Front raise funds and implement the trail. The Trust for Public Lands (tpl.org) and Utah Open Lands (utahopenlands.org) have been working with the Division of Outdoor Recreation and local governments to purchase key private parcels and make them public land where the BST can be built.

State of the BST Project: Brandon Plewe, Chair of the Utah Valley Trails Alliance and member of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee, began an independent project in 2021 called State of the BST (stateofthebst.org). He and his filmmaker son are hiking the entire completed length of the BST (and many unofficial segments) and producing a video documentary series to document the current status of the trail, the geography of the urban-wildland interface through which it passes, and interviewing many of the people who are working to complete the trail. In 2023, they nearly completed filming (only one episode remains in Logan), and have released 26 episodes, with the last few set to come out in Spring 2024.

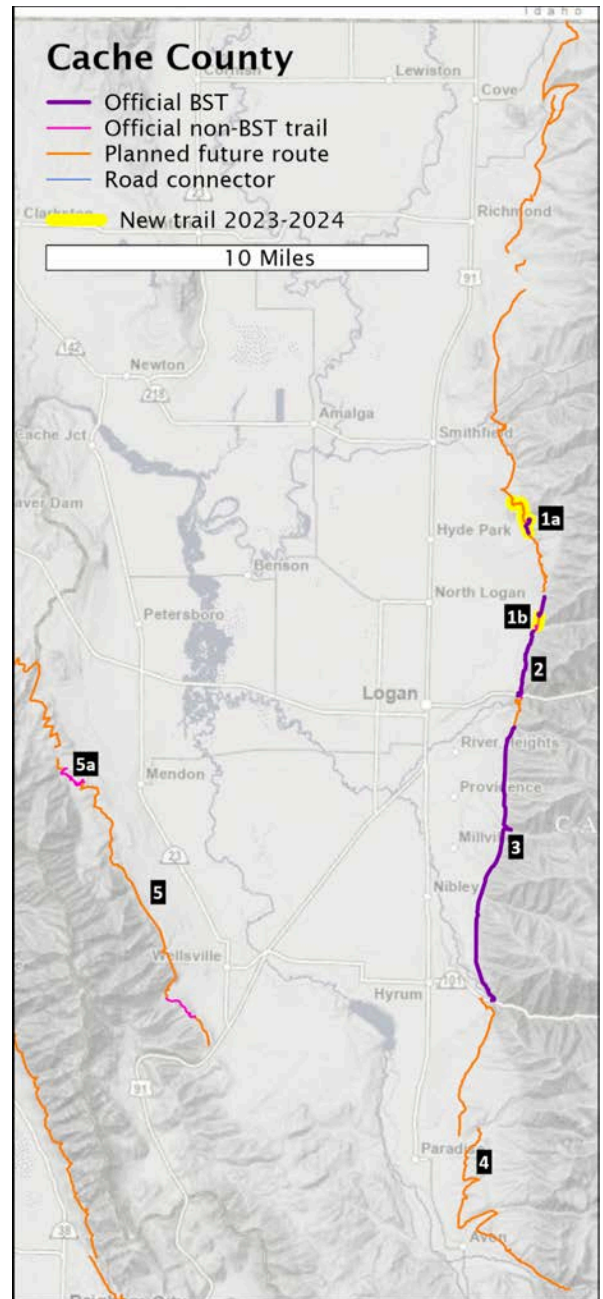


Cache County

11.1 miles completed BST (0.5 miles new in 2023) of 65 miles planned.



1. **Naomi Peak Segment** (Idaho border to Green Canyon): 1.2 miles completed, 20.6 miles planned.
 - a. Hyde Park built its first half mile of the BST in 2023 as part of its new bike park, funded in part by a Utah Outdoor Recreation grant. Another mile of the trail is currently under construction and set to open by Summer 2024.
 - b. North Logan City is currently designing a BST route to connect the trailhead at King Park to the existing BST at 2300 North across land it recently purchased to build a water tank.
 - c. In 2024, Cache County and the cities of North Logan, Hyde Park, and Smithfield will begin working with landowners on a plan to complete a fully connected trail above their cities.
2. **Logan Segment** (Green Canyon to Dry Canyon): 2.3 miles completed of 3.5 miles planned.
 - a. The U.S. Forest Service is considering a high trail route between Logan Canyon and Dry Canyon to avoid private property on the bench.
3. **Logan Peak Segment** (Dry Canyon to Blacksmith Fork): 7.3 miles completed.
 - a. Providence is currently developing a plan to build a new trailhead.
4. **Paradise Segment** (Blacksmith Fork to East Fork): 0 miles completed, 13 miles planned.
5. **East Wellsville Mountain Segment** (Wellsville Canyon to County Line): 0 miles completed, 15.7 miles planned.
 - a. In 2022, Mendon City received a state grant to construct a trailhead at Deep Canyon, but encountered difficulties in implementing their original plan. They are currently working with the county and the Forest Service on a new solution to reopen the area, including possible BST alignments north and south of the trailhead.



For more information:

Landis Wenger, Cache County Regional Trail and Active Transportation Coordinator
cachecounty.gov/trails

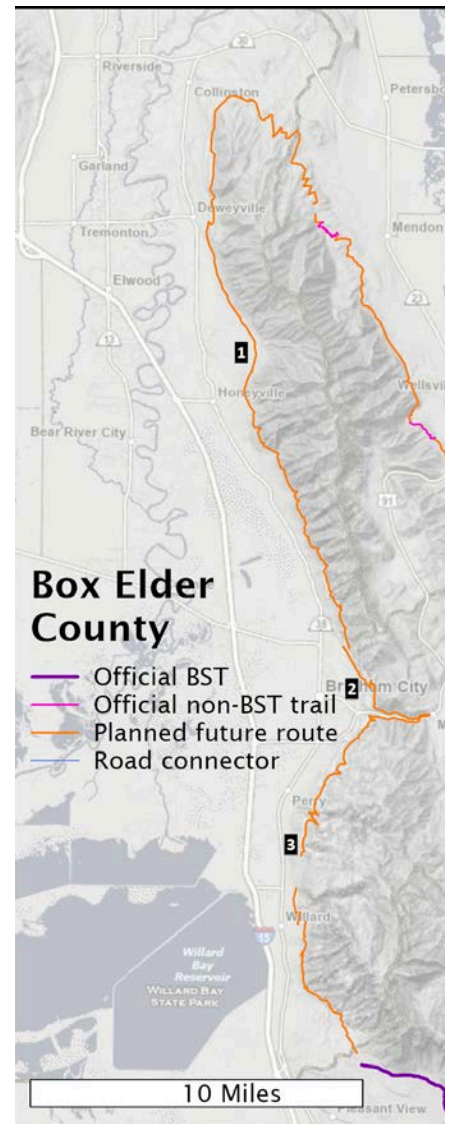
Box Elder County

0 miles completed, 56 miles planned

1. **West Wellsville Mountain Segment** (Collinston, Deweyville, Honeyville, Harper): *21 miles planned*. Honeyville recently completed its updated general plan, but residents decided not to include the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, which would most likely be outside city limits anyway.
2. **Brigham City Segment** (North and south of Box Elder Canyon): *7 miles planned*.
3. **Perry/Willard Segment**: *18 miles planned*. Although a combination of existing fire break and utility roads and social trails form a complete unofficial BST route through this area, the multitude of private landowners, especially sand and gravel companies, have made it difficult to secure an official trail corridor. A segment above Perry is most likely for designation in the near future, as public access around a gravel pit and through a state wildlife management area is already established.

For more information:

- Bear River Association of Governments, brag.utah.gov
- Box Elder County, boxeldercounty.org



Weber County

23.7 miles completed trail, 2.4 miles designated connector streets, 2.2 miles planned, 28.3 miles total

1. **Ben Lomond Segment** (Box Elder County line to North Ogden Canyon): 5.1 miles completed of 6 miles total planned. One remaining gap, through the Pole Patch neighborhood of Pleasant View, is currently in the planning process.
2. **Lewis Peak Segment** (North Ogden Canyon to Ogden Canyon): 10 miles completed.
3. **Mt. Ogden Segment** (Ogden Canyon to Beus Canyon): 6.7 miles completed.
4. **Uintah Segment** (Harrison Blvd to Weber River): 1.5 miles completed of 2.4 miles total planned.
 - a. The Trails Foundation of Northern Utah (TFNU) received a Utah Outdoor Recreation grant in 2023 that enables the construction of a bridge over the Weber River near I-80, which will join the Bonneville Shoreline Trail to the Weber River Parkway. However, construction is delayed while the I-80/US-89 interchange is redesigned, which could greatly impact the trail location but possibly help fund its completion.



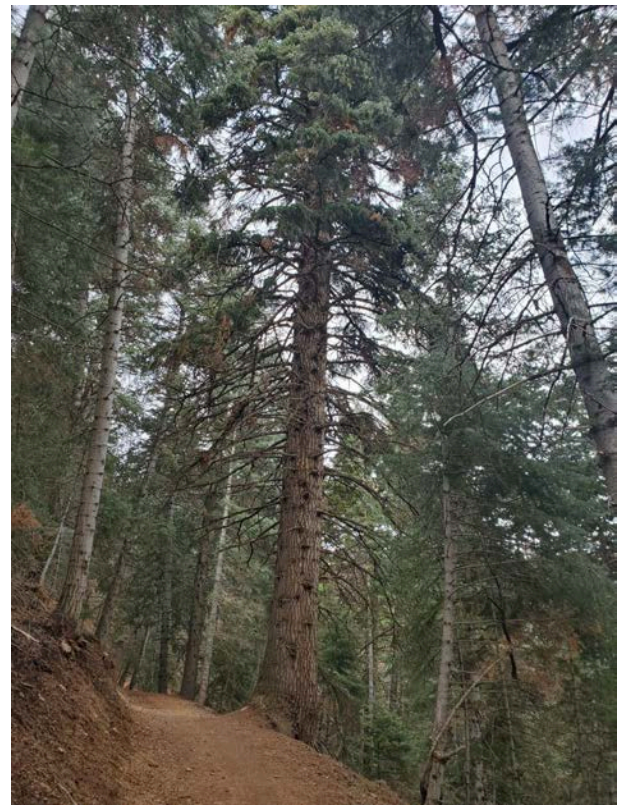
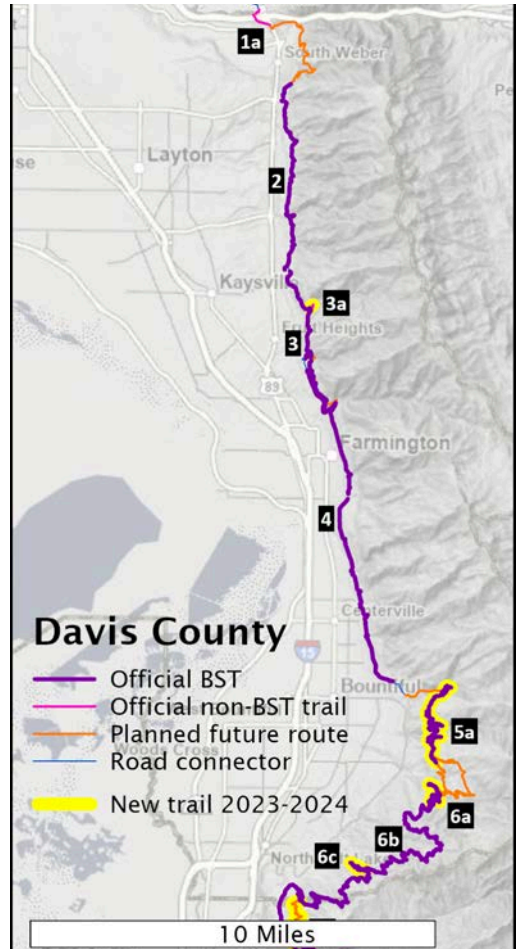
For more information:

- Trails Foundation of Northern Utah, tfnu.org

Davis County

40 miles completed BST (7.8 new miles built 2023), 51 miles total potential trail.

1. **South Weber Segment:** 0 miles completed.
 - a. In 2023, a pedestrian underpass was constructed under US-89 just south of the Weber River. Trails Foundation of Northern Utah is working with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and South Weber City to extend the Weber River Parkway (which will also be the BST here) to reach the mouth of the canyon, which will likely be built as part of the I-84/US-89 interchange reconstruction project.
2. **Thurston Peak Segment** (Layton Ridge to Kaysville Wilderness Park): 5.9 miles completed.
3. **Francis Peak Segment** (Kaysville Wilderness Park to Farmington Canyon): 4.7 miles completed of 5.2 miles planned.
 - a. Fruit Heights City has funding to improve the trail above the city, including building new trails crossing Bair Creek and Shepard Creek, and improving another 3 miles of existing trail, which they plan to complete in 2024.
4. **Bountiful Peak Segment** (Farmington Canyon to Ward Canyon): 8 miles completed.
5. **Sessions Mountain Segment** (Ward Canyon to Mueller Park): 6.1 new miles completed in 2023, 8 miles planned.
 - a. In 2022, Bountiful City received a Utah Outdoor Recreation grant to begin developing a trail network on its extensive mountain property in this area. In 2023, they completed 6 miles of new Shoreline Trail between Holbrook and Ward Canyons, but are not currently signing it as official BST because access trails at the ends have not been secured across private property.
6. **Grandview Ridge Segment** (Mueller Park to County Line): 13.8 miles completed (1.7 miles completed in 2023).
 - a. In 2023, Davis County and the Forest Service completed the final northern portion of their major BST project, including an access trail from the lower Mueller Park trailheads, a new bridge, and a set of switchbacks climbing up the south side of Mill Creek Canyon.
 - b. With the help of the Trust for Public Lands, the Forest Service acquired 4 acres of private property in North Canyon, which helps to secure access to the BST.
 - c. A new access trail was built climbing to the BST from the Summerwood Trailhead in southern Bountiful, replacing a very steep old double track.



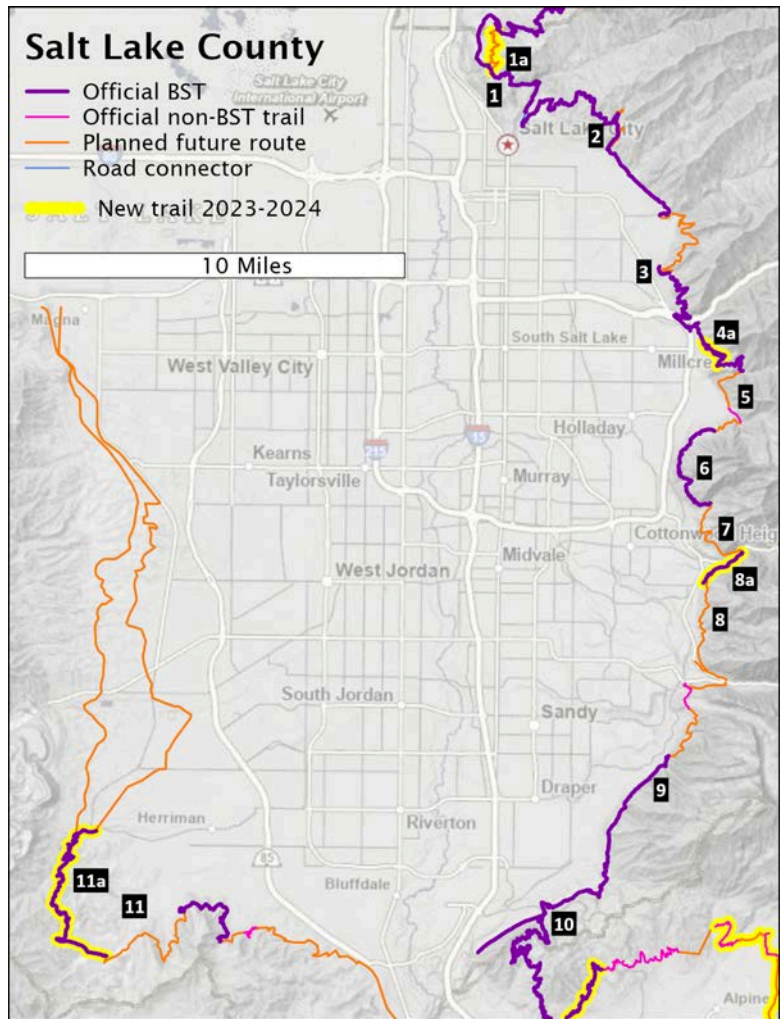
For more information:

- Davis County Trails:
daviscountyutah.gov/county-info/trails

Salt Lake County

54.4 miles completed BST (10 new miles built in 2023), 100 miles potential total.

1. **Meridian Peak Segment** (Davis County Line to City Creek Canyon): 4.8 miles completed of 5.6 miles total planned.
 - a. Salt Lake City, Davis County, and the U.S. Forest Service are working on design and approval for a 2.3 mile trail to connect the two counties. They are planning to build it in 2025.
2. **Steiner Centennial Segment** (City Creek to Emigration Canyon): 10 miles completed.
 - a. Salt Lake City received a state grant to reconstruct several trailheads in 2024, including four along the BST: Bonneville Blvd (City Creek), 18th Avenue (Morris Meadows), Popperton Park (near the “U”), and the Rick Reese Memorial Trailhead (Emigration Canyon).
3. **Parleys Pointe Segment** (Emigration Canyon to Parley’s Canyon): 5.3 miles completed, 9.8 miles planned.
 - a. Salt Lake City is currently acquiring property for a trailhead in the Carrigan Canyon area, with partial funding from the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation.
4. **Grandeur Peak Segment** (Parley’s Canyon to Millcreek Canyon): 5.2 miles completed, 2.5 miles new in 2023.
 - a. In 2023, construction was completed on the last part of this trail segment, climbing to the Mill Creek Pipeline Trail, connecting a 10.5 mile unbroken stretch of BST.
5. **Millcreek Ridge Segment** (Millcreek Canyon to Neff’s Canyon): 0 miles completed, 1.5 miles planned.
6. **Mount Olympus Segment** (Neffs Canyon to Heughs Canyon): 3.9 miles completed of 5.5 miles total planned.
7. **Big Cottonwood North Segment** (Heughs Canyon to Big Cottonwood Canyon): 0 miles completed, 2.6 miles planned.



8. **Twin Peaks Segment** (Big Cottonwood Canyon to Little Cottonwood Canyon): *1.5 miles completed (0.2 miles new in 2023), 5.5 miles planned.*

- a. A 1.3 mile section of trail was completed in 2023, connecting the Dogwood Picnic Area in Big Cottonwood Canyon to the existing Ferguson Canyon Trailhead.
- b. Utah Open Lands and Cottonwood Heights are currently working to obtain trail easements through private parcels in this area.

9. **Lone Peak Segment** (Little Cottonwood Canyon to Corner Canyon): *4.9 miles completed, 8.9 miles planned.*

10. **Traverse Mountain North Segment** (Corner Canyon to Utah County Line). *7.4 miles completed*

11. **BST West**: *11.6 miles completed of 35 total miles planned, 7.8 new miles designated in 2023.*

- a. In 2023, Salt Lake County worked with Rio Tinto Kennecott to construct a new trail network at the mouth of Butterfield Canyon, including more than 6 miles of new Bonneville Shoreline Trail connecting to an existing trail in Yellow Fork Canyon.



For more information:

- Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee: bonnevilleshorelinetrail.org
- Trails Utah: www.trailsutah.org
- Salt Lake City Public Lands Department: slc.gov/parks/
- Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation: slco.org/parks-recreation/parks-trails/

Utah County

41 miles completed (3.2 new miles in 2023), 90-125 miles potential total.

1. **Traverse Mountain South Segment** (Point of the Mountain to Alpine Dry Canyon): 11 miles of BST completed (2.5 new miles in 2023) of 20 miles planned.

- a. In 2022, Lehi and Draper constructed a pair of trails from the Sensei Trailhead down to a neighborhood, then up to the Brookside Trailhead in Draper. While the first opened last year, the second has been delayed by utility work. Although ongoing construction may necessitate further adjustments, it is essentially open now.
- b. In 2022, Alpine City received a Utah Outdoor Recreation grant to build a paved pathway along Grove Drive to connect from the Lambert Park area to the west, which should be completed in 2024. Once it is finished, existing trails going over a ridge into Fort Canyon can be designated as part of the BST.

2. **Box Elder Peak Segment** (Dry Canyon to American Fork Canyon): 0 miles of BST completed, 4 miles planned.

- a. Since the passage of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act in 2022, Alpine City has been working with the U.S. Forest Service to approve the designation of an existing social trail as part of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

3. **Mahogany Mountain Segment** (American Fork Canyon to Grove Creek): 4.8 of 5.3 miles completed.

4. **Timpanogos Segment** (Grove Creek to Bridal Veil Falls): 9.0 of 10.6 miles of BST completed.

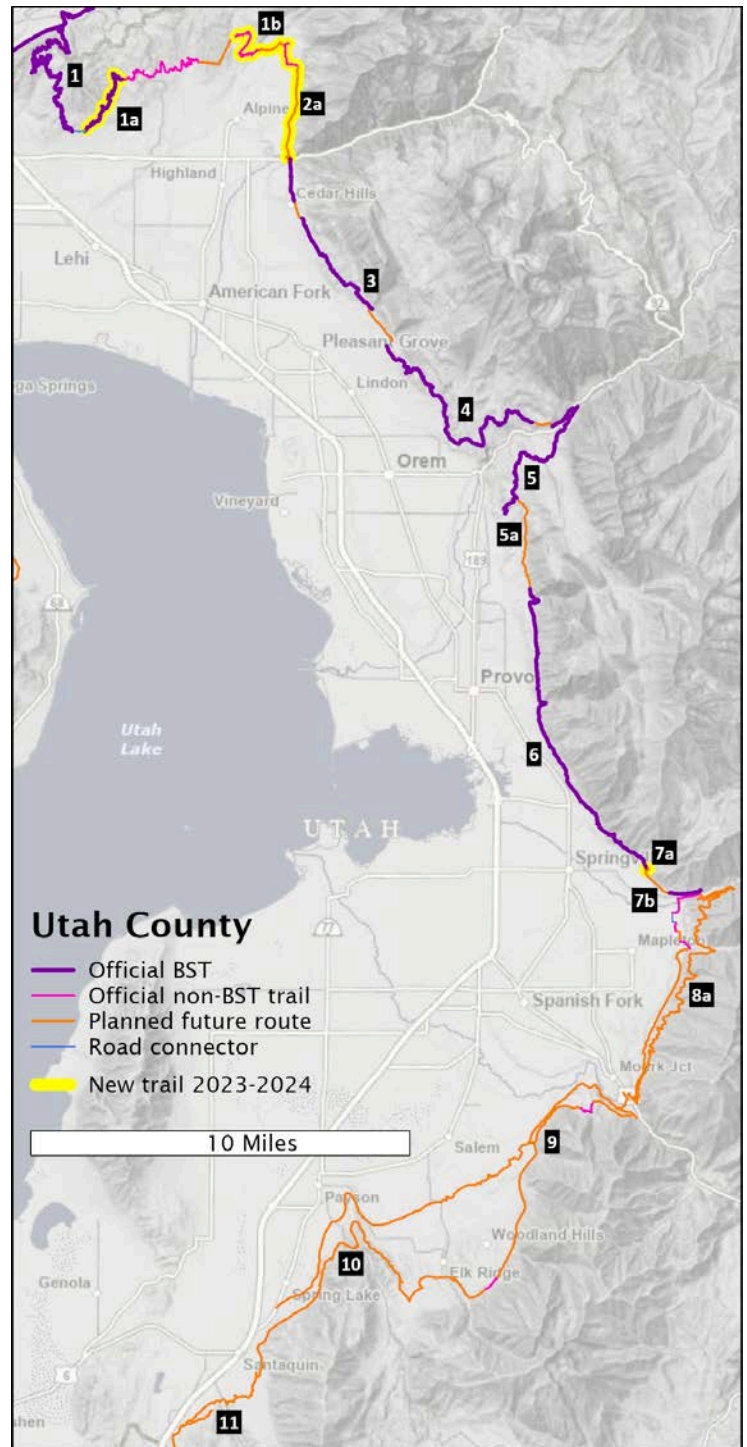
5. **Kyhy Segment** (Bridal Veil Falls to Rock Canyon): 5.8 of 8.1 miles of BST completed.

- a. In 2023, Provo City improved a trail access point at Little Rock Canyon, and worked with the U.S. Forest Service to design a new 1.5 mile segment of the BST between that point and the existing trail to the north. NEPA approval is anticipated in 2024, after which the trail can be built.

6. **Provo Segment** (Rock Canyon to north Springville Trailhead): 6.7 of 6.7 miles completed.

7. **Springville Segment** (North Springville Trailhead to Hobble Creek Canyon): 3.8 of 5.5 miles completed.

- a. During 2023, Springville City built the first phase of a trail network in lower Spring Canyon, including a BST route crossing the canyon. This network will officially open in Spring 2024.



- b. The Hobble Creek Bicycle Association (HCBA) and the city are working to secure a permanent official route east of Spring Canyon, including an old road through private property and a city-owned corridor around a subdivision through which it can build a trail.
8. **Maple Mountain Segment** (Hobble Creek Canyon to Spanish Fork Canyon): *0 miles completed*.
 - a. During 2023, Mapleton completed a trails master plan for the area above the city, which includes city, state, and federal land. One part of this ambitious plan is a new route for the BST above the bench, which will avoid impassable private property.
9. **Loafer Mountain Segment** (Spanish Fork Canyon to Loafer Canyon): *0 miles completed*.
10. **Payson Segment** (Loafer Canyon to Picayune Canyon): *0 miles completed*.
11. **Dry Mountain Segment** (Picayune Canyon to county line): Santaquin City is in the process of planning and building a foothills trails network, including a BST route. Much of this potential route is within private property and the Santaquin State Wildlife Management Area.

On the west side of the valley, there is potential to extend the West BST south from Herriman into Utah County. The most feasible route would start as a paved bike path along the Mountain View Highway extension through Camp Williams (construction to begin in 2024), then follow a powerline corridor into Eagle Mountain. From there it could continue along the west slope of Lake Mountain above Eagle Mountain, and/or the east slope of the mountain above Saratoga Springs. Saratoga Springs currently includes a general BST corridor in its trails master plan, but construction is not anticipated in the near term.

For more information:

- Utah Valley Trails Alliance: utahvalleytrails.org
- Traverse Mountain Trails Association: traversemountaintrails.org

Conclusion

Designating 23 miles of new trail in a single year is a feat that will be difficult to surpass! While plans for 2024 are not likely to reach that level, we do expect to see several more miles built. We are grateful for the work of the many stakeholders that have made this happen, including federal, state, and local government agencies, and the organizations and volunteers who have helped.

Over its history, the BST has been very fragmentary, as short sections have been completed when possible. With the work of the past couple years, we are starting to see more lengthy continuous sections. Here are the longest:

1. Pleasant View to Beus Canyon (Ogden), Weber County, 22.2 miles
2. Rocky Mouth (Sandy) to Canyon Hills (Lehi), Salt Lake/Utah Counties, 20.2 miles
3. Davis County Line to Emigration Canyon (SLC), Salt Lake County, 17.1 miles
4. Mueller Park (Bountiful) to Wild Rose (North Salt Lake), Davis County, 13.8 miles
5. Devonshire Drive (SLC) to Millcreek Canyon, Salt Lake County, 10.4 miles
6. Rock Canyon (Provo) to Spring Canyon (Springville), Utah County, 10 miles

However, there is still significant work to do, as only half of the currently planned trail is complete. Most of the remaining gaps in the BST have more significant obstacles than the completed sections did, which will require greater effort, greater cooperation between land owners, residents, and agencies, and more funding. Some of the long-term initiatives that the Bonneville Shoreline Committee is considering include:

- Applying for designation as a National Recreation Trail or National Scenic Trail (which requires a significant stretch of continuous trail)
- Focusing support on major gaps, such as southern Utah County and Box Elder County
- Working with local communities to consider extending the BST vision to Juab County, Tooele County, and western Utah County
- Institutionalizing state government support for the trail, possibly through legislative action to designate the BST and other long inter-jurisdiction trails as “State Scenic Trails”
- Developing BST-branded gear for fundraising and increasing awareness

Although the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee and its partners such as the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and Trails Utah are supporting the completion of the entire trail, the most successful strategy for “trail blazing” is when local residents get organized and work directly with their cities and land owners on the BST in their backyard. This approach also ensures the long-term maintenance of the trail. If you are interested in helping blaze the BST, contact the BST Committee and we can help you find the best way to get involved. Completing the Bonneville Shoreline Trail will take the effort and cooperation of all partners along the trail.

Show off your passion for the BST!

We have produced a beautiful companion map poster, which shows the current extent of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in a panorama of its urban-wilderness landscape. You can purchase a copy from Zazzle at <http://bit.ly/bstmap2023>. Half of the proceeds will be used to purchase trail markers to place along the trail.



Please contact us for more information: Brandon Plewe <info@stateofthebst.org>, John Knoblock <john@bonnevilleshorelinetrail.org>