

# Teton Creek Corridor Project

*Connecting our Community  
with natural resources,  
agricultural heritage, and recreational  
opportunities*

## A Shared Success

On November 14, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners voted to approve the Teton Creek Pathway easements that extend along the creek corridor from State Line Road to the intersection with Cemetery Road near the Teton Creek Bridge. The county will hold the donated easements through private property, and has granted permission for the pathway to cross the old landfill property in order to connect 2.5 miles for public use.

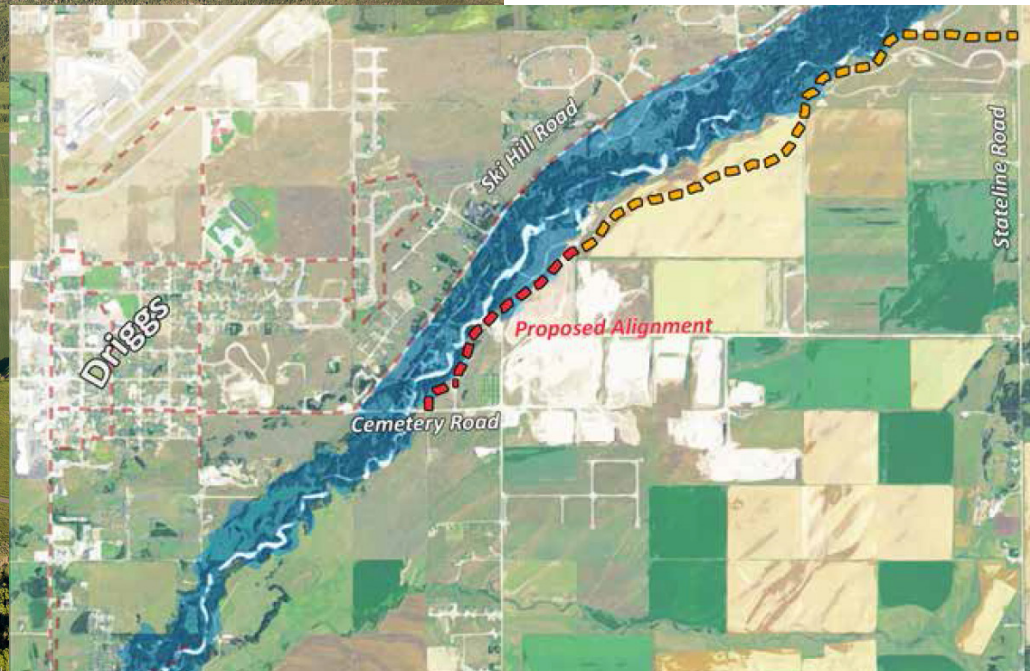


Photo: Chris Boyer ©cfboyer.com

## What are the overall goals of this project?

While a public pathway is a big part of this project, the overall goals are much broader than this. FTR's involvement is focused on improving stream function and fish and wildlife habitat, protecting Teton Valley's agricultural heritage, and providing an asset that benefits the entire community.

» **Pathways and Public Access:** This project establishes a new 2.5-mile paved pathway from the Cemetery Road to Stateline Road along the Teton Creek corridor for non-motorized use. The pathway will be subject to a winter seasonal closure to protect critical winter range for big game species. The pathway will create a safe, family-friendly recreational opportunity easily accessible from Driggs, connecting local families to nature and providing economic benefits for the entire community.

- » **Agriculture:** The project will maintain productive farmlands along the Teton Creek corridor through conservation easements, protecting Teton Valley's agricultural heritage.
- » **Stream Habitat:** Stabilizes more than 5 miles of Teton Creek streambed, reducing flooding risk for private property and the City of Driggs, and improving stream function & habitat
- » **Riparian Habitat:** The project will improve and protect important wildlife habitat along Teton Creek.
- » **Community Development:** Project partners will work with interested landowners to improve existing developments, making them more compatible with community goals.

## FAQ's

### Who is this project for?

Everyone! This project is meant to be an asset for everyone in Teton Valley. This project will build a publicly available paved pathway adjacent to Teton Creek that can be used by the community and visitors.

### Who made this project possible?

This project has relied on the joint efforts of willing landowners and various community organizations, including Friends of the Teton River, Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, Teton Regional Land Trust, Valley Advocates for Responsible Development, Teton County, the City of Driggs, the Community Foundation of Teton Valley, American Rivers, and the LOR Foundation.

### When will we be able to use the pathway?

The nonprofit partners aim to break ground for the pathway in 2018. Once completed, public access will be allowed, but will be limited to the pathway. We will ask that you respect private property and natural areas.

### Who will pay the costs?

Together, these nonprofit groups have paid for the land acquisitions and habitat restoration through private donations and grant funds. They will pay for pathway construction and some maintenance costs.

### How will this benefit our community economically?

Studies have shown that pathways and trails increase nearby property values by 4-8 percent, resulting in increased tax revenues that can offset maintenance costs. Moreover, pathways like this attract visitors to Teton Valley, equating to more dollars spent at local businesses, making this a more vibrant place to live.

### Why is FTR involved?

FTR has invested over a decade of work and \$3 million dollars to research, restore, protect, and improve fish habitat, stream flows, water quality, and riparian health in the Teton Creek corridor, with the majority of our work occurring from State Line to the Cemetery Road Bridge. As a project partner, FTR has been able to ensure the goals of the project align with our goals as an organization. We have also been able to leverage partner support to secure more funding for FTR's ongoing work on Teton Creek, including Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout research, stream flow restoration, and habitat restoration.

### How will FTR continue to protect & improve this important resource?

Teton Creek is the most ecologically significant tributary in the upper Teton watershed. It has also been the most heavily impacted, and is a major conservation and restoration priority. FTR currently has \$400,000 in state, federal, and private funds for upcoming projects that restore healthy stream function, channel stability, water quality, riparian habitat, and connectivity to the Teton Creek corridor. This fall, FTR is conducting an assessment downstream of Cemetery Road Bridge in preparation for riparian and stream channel restoration work over the next two years.

### How can I learn more or get involved?

Please visit [tetoncreekcorridor.org](http://tetoncreekcorridor.org) or contact FTR or any of the other nonprofit organizations with logos at the bottom of the page. All of the nonprofit partners are interested in getting local citizens involved in the project. Please stay tuned for more updates and ways to help with this community project.



THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY SUPPORT FROM THE LOR FOUNDATION