

# VAIL PRIORITIES IN FOCUS



PHOTO BY JACK AFFLECK

If you've always wanted to live in Vail but didn't think it was possible, meet the latest Vail InDEED family. Enjoying all that Vail has to offer as a home.



**TOWN OF VAIL**

**2018**  
**YEAR IN REVIEW**

# WHAT A YEAR!

Community priorities were leveraged like never before in 2018 as a result of bold new partnerships involving commitments and investments from the public and private sectors. Championed by the Vail Town Council and town staff, these widespread collaborative activities have been recognized at all levels - locally, regionally, nationally and globally -

and are resulting in >



**MORE HOUSING**  
options for locals



**GLOBAL RECOGNITION**  
for sustainable activities



Changes to the **WILDFIRE** landscape



Elevating Vail's **LEADERSHIP**  
as the Premier International Mountain Resort Community

In the pages that follow, learn more about these focused actions, their alignment with community priorities and their direct impact on Vail's prosperity and overall quality of life.

## 2018 MILESTONES

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p><b>Jan 2</b> Organizational restructuring creates new Housing Department</p> <p><b>Jan 18</b> Wildlife Forum brings renewed focus on state of wildlife in Gore Creek Valley</p> <p><b>Jan 20-26</b> Vail delegation travels to Japan to further Global Friendship exchange</p> <p><b>Jan 26</b> Move-in for first homeowners at Chamonix Vail Townhomes</p>	<p><b>Feb 15</b> Recruitment begins for Adopt a Trail Ambassador program with volunteers helping to educate community and trail users about seasonal closures to protect wildlife</p> <p><b>Feb 23</b> Deadline for public art call for Red Sandstone parking garage</p>	<p><b>March 1</b> First-ever short-term rental regulations become effective</p> <p><b>March 5-12</b> 36th annual Burton U.S. Open Snowboarding Championships</p> <p><b>March 7</b> Vail named Best of the World's Top 100 Sustainable Destinations</p> <p><b>March 13</b> Trailblazers Sheika and Pepi Gramshammer recognized at Annual Community Meeting</p>	<p><b>April 3</b> Groundbreaking for Red Sandstone parking garage</p> <p><b>April 8-14</b> National Library Week activities</p> <p><b>April 12</b> One Book One Valley Finale Author Event with Ben Winters</p> <p><b>April 28</b> National Drug Take Back</p> <p><b>April 29</b> Annual Clean Up Day</p>	<p><b>May 11</b> Hard to Recycle collection event</p> <p><b>May 25</b> New \$25 overnight fee implemented for summer season in parking structures</p> <p><b>May 28</b> Eighth annual Sole Power green commuting challenge begins</p>	<p><b>June 7-19</b> GoPro Mountain Games</p> <p><b>June 12</b> Summer Reading program kickoff - "Libraries Rock"</p> <p>Vail Public Library celebrates 35 years in current location</p> <p><b>June 19-22</b> Annual Trees for Vail giveaway</p> <p><b>June 22</b> Patrick Dougherty's "Hodgepodge" Stickwork installation unveiled in Ford Park</p>

## VAIL TOWN COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS



PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

**JOIN US**  
at one of our annual community picnics for information on what's going on in Vail, free food and fun for the kids

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JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p><b>July 4</b> Grand Marshals Elaine and Art Kelton lead Vail America Days™ Parade</p> <p>Vail Public Library celebrates 35 years in current location</p> <p><b>July 18</b> Community Picnic at Bighorn Park</p> <p><b>July 20</b> Vail receives certification as first sustainable mountain resort destination in the U.S.</p> <p><b>July 30</b> Groundbreaking for Solar Vail Apartments</p>	<p><b>Aug 7</b> Community Picnic at Donovan Pavilion</p> <p><b>Aug 7</b> National Night Out with Police</p> <p><b>Aug 15</b> Donation of Lawrence Weiner art installation from Kent and Vicki Logan officially unveiled</p> <p><b>Aug 16-17</b> Colorado Classic professional cycling features elite men's and women's teams racing in Vail</p>	<p><b>Sept 4</b> Town Council accepts national award for Sandstone Underpass as 2018 Transportation Project of the Year</p> <p><b>Sept 7</b> Stage 1 fire restrictions rescinded in Vail/Eagle County following prolonged activation due to increased wildfire activity</p> <p>Sept 25 Fire Department hosts open house to collect feedback on Community Wildfire Protection Plan</p>	<p><b>Oct 6</b> West Vail Fire Station Open House</p> <p><b>Oct 16</b> Town Council approves first housing deed-restriction purchases outside town boundaries</p> <p><b>Oct 21-27</b> National Friends of Libraries Week</p> <p><b>Oct 27</b> National Drug Take Back</p>	<p><b>Nov 6</b> Community Business Recycling Challenge winners announced with McNeil Property Management leading the way</p> <p><b>Nov 15</b> America Recycles Day waste reduction and recycling</p> <p><b>Nov 20</b> Senior leadership team becomes fully staffed with promotions of Patty McKenny to assistant town manager and Tammy Nagel to town clerk</p>	<p><b>Dec 5</b> Vail hosts first-ever gathering of elected officials and leadership teams from throughout Eagle Valley</p> <p><b>Dec 20</b> Lower levels of Red Sandstone Parking Garage open to qualified pass holders</p> <p><b>Dec 23</b> Art in Public Places' Holiday Lantern Walk, 12th Annual Winterfest Ice Theater opens</p>

2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

OVERALL DIRECTION OF THE TOWN

61% RIGHT TRACK | 63% in 2016

WHY? (comments frequently offered by respondents)

- Satisfaction with town services
- Town is working hard to address important issues
- High quality of events
- Efforts to improve appearance of town buildings and infrastructure
- Transportation improvements

24% WRONG TRACK | 20% in 2016

WHY? (comments frequently offered by respondents)

- Short-term rental concerns
- Frustrations with parking
- Difficulties associated with cost of housing

The 2018 community survey was conducted by RRC Associates, an independent research firm. Results reflect the opinions of 562 community members that responded to the statistically valid version of the survey. Over 1,000 community members responded to the survey in total.

SOLID RATINGS FOR TOWN SERVICES

Circulated every other year, most recently in 2018, Vail's community survey offers insightful feedback from respondents who are asked to evaluate the overall direction of the town, rank priorities and rate their satisfaction with town services. Once again, day-to-day contributions by the town's front line employees received high scores in 2018. From the cleanliness of pedestrian villages and public restrooms, to dependability of bus service, to overall park maintenance and snow removal on roads, these services are among the highest rated for overall satisfaction by community survey respondents. With scores of 4.6 or higher on a 5-point scale, town departments use these scores to recognize achievement and seek continuous improvement. Examples of these service ratings are presented throughout this report.

PHOTO BY REX KEEP



VAIL TOWN COUNCIL

Top row / left to right Mayor Dave Chapin, Jen Mason, Greg Moffet, Mayor Pro Tem Jenn Bruno, Town Manager Greg Clifton  
Bottom row / left to right Travis Coggin, Kim Langmaid, Kevin Foley



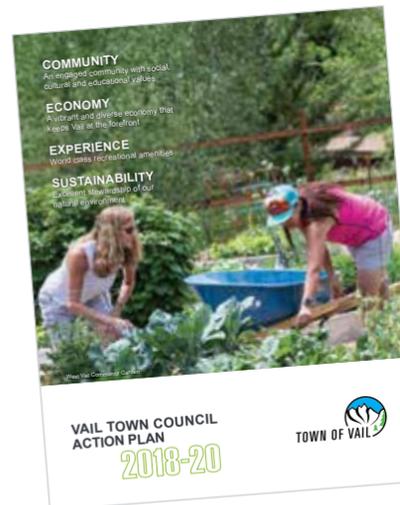
Televised Board Meetings  
**Highfivemedia.org**



Gavel-to-gavel @  
VailTownCouncil

COMMUNITY SURVEY REAFFIRMS PRIORITIES

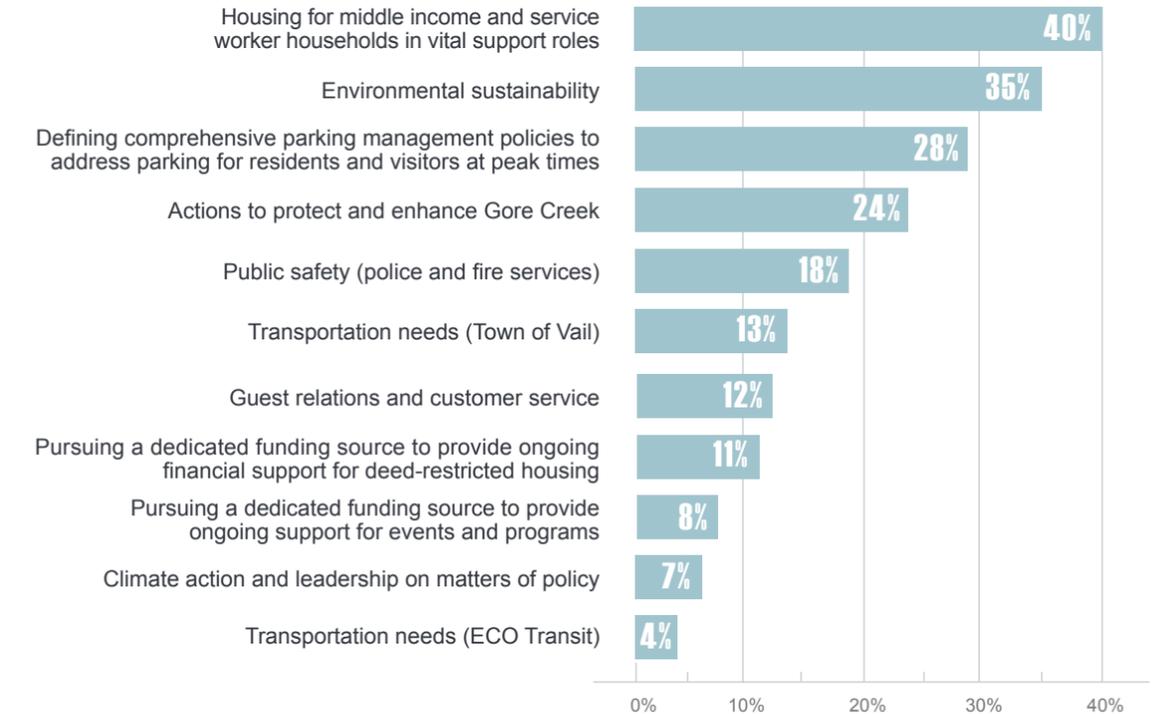
Results from Vail's biennial community survey are being used to assist the Town Council in aligning its areas of focus with community priorities. These activities are described in the Town Council Action Plan for 2018-20. Survey respondents identified housing opportunities and environmental sustainability efforts as high priorities for the Town Council to act upon. They were listed as the top two priorities from among 11 topics, and were confirmed through a financial prioritization exercise in which respondents were asked to allocate \$100 across six categories to best reflect their priorities. The topic of parking was also raised by respondents in a number of ways with concerns expressed about lack of available parking, pricing, the appropriateness of parking on the Frontage Road and comments about the future prospects of paid summer parking. The full report is available at [vailgov.com/2018survey](http://vailgov.com/2018survey).



View the Town Council Action Plan for 2018-20 at [vailgov.com/2018-2020-action-plan](http://vailgov.com/2018-2020-action-plan)

2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

WHAT ARE THE TOP TWO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES?



Housing opportunities and environmental sustainability efforts were identified as high priorities when survey respondents were asked to select their top two priorities from over 11 topics.

ACCOUNTABILITY & OUTREACH

Rating is based on a 1-5 point scale with 5 "very satisfied"





PHOTO COURTESY OF BURTON U.S. OPEN SNOWBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS



### COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

A spirit of collaborative leadership is being renewed between the Town of Vail and Vail Mountain following a first-ever joint retreat held last August. A series of far-reaching partner initiatives that will form the foundation for ongoing resort-community programs and activities has been identified. The goal is two-fold: enhance the guest experience and grow a sustainable tourism economy. The discussions have already been met with early successes, including the 10th Mountain Division Ski Down and Parade which has taken place during the 2018-19 winter season. Other co-successes include:

- Announcement of a three-year contract extension that will keep the Burton U.S. Open Snowboarding Championships in Vail through 2021
- Revitalization of Snow Days and Spring Back to Vail events as iconic pillars during need periods
- Support of the U.S. Mountain Community Summit focused on community housing solutions, held January 2019

Yet to come will be the design and implementation of a unifying guest service program that will draw upon the foundational work initiated by the Vail Chamber & Business Association through its new Mountain Hospitality Program. The goal is to launch the new training by September 1, 2019, as an enhancement for Town of Vail and local business staff.

Pending U.S. Forest Service approval of proposed snowmaking enhancements on Vail Mountain, efforts will also be explored to bolster the Thanksgiving holiday as well as other need periods to ensure strong visitation year-over-year.

Vail Mayor Dave Chapin says the enhanced collaboration, that also includes discussions around housing and sustainability, has been structured to leverage shared priorities between the town and Vail Mountain that will provide meaningful progress for the short-term and long-term.



Vail Mayor Dave Chapin and Yamanouchi-machi Mayor Yoshitaka Takefushi attend a dedication ceremony recognizing the relationship between the two resort communities after executing the Global Friendship Exchange Agreement in Nagano City, Nagano, Japan, in January 2018

### GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP

A 10-member Vail delegation traveled to Japan in January to further a Global Friendship exchange with the resort region of Yamanouchi-machi, located in the Nagano Prefecture. A memo of understanding was signed that identifies the exploration and development of cooperative projects in the areas of education, cultural exchange, promotion of tourism and environmental sustainability. The trip was led by Vail Mayor Dave Chapin and included visits with local government and tourism representatives. In August four Japanese students visited Vail and in September the Colorado Taiko Summit performance group showcased iconic and internationally-renowned master Japanese Taiko drummer Makoto Yamamoto, as part of the global friendship cultural exchange programming. The Japanese dignitaries originally experienced Vail's hospitality during a visit in 2017.



Hoteliers Sheika and Pepi Gramshammer have been greeting guests since 1964

### 2018 VAIL TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Sheika and Pepi Gramshammer, known around the world for investing their heart and soul into Vail's rise as a premier international resort, were selected as recipients of the 2018 Vail Trailblazer Award. Presented by the Vail Town Council, the award has been established as an annual civic recognition to honor those who contribute their time and talent to make Vail a great resort community.

### INAUGURAL EAGLE COUNTY TOWNS & COUNTY DINNER

The Town Council ended the year by hosting a first-ever gathering of elected officials and leadership teams from the towns of Minturn, Red Cliff, Avon, Eagle and Gypsum, as well as Eagle County Government, for an evening of friendship and networking. The keynote speaker was Cathy Ritter, director of the Colorado Tourism Office. There was interest from elected officials in attendance to continue the dinner gathering on an annual basis in an effort to support the idea of regional partnering and collaboration.

## ECONOMY IN FOCUS

PHOTO COURTESY OF SNOW DAYS

### BOLD STEPS TO ACTIVATE WINTER

Vail's legacy is defined by the courage to make bold decisions, which has resulted in success both on and off the mountain. So when an idea to reimagine a bigger and better kickoff to the 2018-19 ski season was floated, the town was all in. Following back-to-back low snow starts, a revitalized business model was piloted featuring free headliner concerts in Ford Park coupled with lodging, merchant and restaurant activation to drive guests to Vail over a four day period. The concept centers on attracting guests in early December – even if snow conditions are less than expected. With lead investments from the town and Vail Resorts, local businesses joined in supporting a reimagined Snow Days celebration produced by Highline Sports and Entertainment. Performances led by A-list entertainers Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats and Shakey Graves drew an estimated 8,000 concert-goers during each of the two nights. Lodging and dining packages enhanced existing destination incentives – as did a perfectly-timed winter snowstorm. The four-day celebration boosted lodging occupancy, retail spending and parking revenues over the previous year and has resulted in the town supporting the large-scale concert model to again stimulate the economy during April's Spring Back to Vail event.

#### 2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

**81%**

said events create  
a positive experience  
*same as in 2016*

**79%**

said there are about  
the right number of events  
in Vail | *78% in 2016*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SNOW DAYS - ZACH MAHONE



The reimagined free concerts drew thousands to Ford Park to celebrate the start of the winter season

**EVENTS GROW AND IMPROVE**

Vail works with event promoters to innovate and improve the experience for guests and residents alike. Among the 52 special events that received financial support from the town, several events identified opportunities to significantly enhance the guest experience and were met with enthusiastic response and positive reviews:

**GoPro Mountain Games**

The GoPro Mountain Games, in its 17th season, substantially expanded its footprint with the introduction of DockDogs in Lionshead, while Kids' Adventure Village was relocated to Golden Peak. The more spectator-friendly and spacious location was embraced by spectators, families and dog-lovers, and provided a better flow of pedestrians throughout Vail Village, Lionshead and Golden Peak.

**Whistle Pig Vail**

In collaboration with AEG Presents, one of the largest live music companies in the world, the Vail Valley Foundation brought the inaugural Whistle Pig concert series to the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater. Focused on performances by headliners in an intimate setting, most of the ticketed shows sold out, and included Dispatch, Robert Plant, The Jerry Garcia Birthday Band and 311. The series returns in 2019 with early concert bookings Steve Martin, Martin Short and Gary Clark Jr.

**NEW EVENTS IN 2019**

<b>JAN - MARCH</b> 10th Mountain Parades	<b>FEBRUARY</b> Legacy Days	<b>MARCH</b> Powabunga Music Festival	<b>JUNE</b> Rocky Mountain Burger Battle <i>Part of the Vail Craft Beer Classic</i>
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**Making Vail America Days™ More Sustainable**

At the direction of Town Council, new initiatives to improve the environmental footprint of Vail America Days™ were implemented by the event organizers and town staff. The parade included more electrically or person-powered entries, water bottles were replaced with water refill stations and participants endeavored to discourage disposable hand-outs at the parade.

**Colorado Classic**

In keeping with the spirit of cooperation with key partners and a willingness to take risks, the town joined with the Vail Valley Foundation to present the Colorado Classic on August 16 and 17.

While the event garnered worldwide televised media coverage reaching over 200 million households in 250 countries, Town Council decided to continue work with the Vail Valley Foundation to reimagine an event for the same time slot in 2020.



Vail hosted two stages of the Colorado Classic in August

PHOTO COURTESY OF VAIL VALLEY FOUNDATION - DAN DAVIS



VAIL AMERICA DAYS™ PARADE | JULY



VAIL 10TH MOUNTAIN PARADE | JANUARY - MARCH



GOPRO MOUNTAIN GAMES | JUNE



VAIL DANCE FESTIVAL | JULY



GOURMET ON GORE | AUGUST



PINK VAIL | MARCH



KIDS ADVENTURE GAMES  
AUGUST

EVENT PHOTOS COURTESY OF VAIL VALLEY FOUNDATION - RICK LOHRE (DOCKDOGS), ERIN BAIANO (VAIL DANCE FESTIVAL) | VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT | VAIL HEALTH | TOWNSEND BESSENT



PHOTO BY JACK AFFLECK

Chamonix Vail homeowner walks his dogs during his lunch break

**PRIORITY SPENDING**



**INVESTING IN COMMUNITY PRIORITIES**

Town Council-directed investments to advance community priorities increased \$6 million, or 62%, in 2018 from the prior year. Housing saw the largest increase year-over-year, with an additional \$3.4 million in spending, an increase of 81%. Housing expenditures include both the new Vail InDEED deed-restriction purchase program as well as partnering with private developers on housing developments, such as Solar Vail (see pages 17-18 for details). With the increase in spending funded by town reserves, Town Council has stressed that a consistent and reliable funding source is greatly needed to continue the positive momentum in providing workforce housing in Vail. Environmental efforts in 2018 focused mainly on water quality infrastructure projects, with an increase of \$2.1 million in spending, while \$500,000 of additional expenditures related to the economy helped fund music events during the winter season.

**BUDGET POLICIES | REFINED**

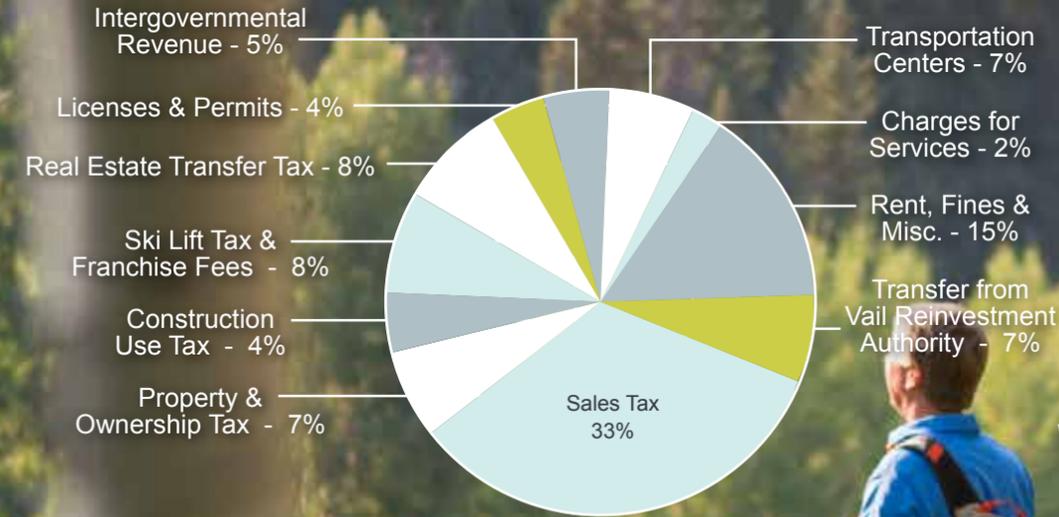
During 2018, Town Council adjusted budget policies to raise the minimum reserve levels to 30% of annual revenues from the previous minimum of 25%. Another change as recommended by the town manager is a reduction in the number of budget adjustments during the year, called "budget supplementals." The town traditionally has scheduled three supplementals during the year; in 2019 the target is two. The philosophy behind the reduction is to encourage more thorough and consistent planning during the annual budget process.

**SALES TAX | STRONG SUMMER**

Sales tax collections, the town's largest single revenue source, experienced a slow start to 2018 due to lackluster snow and soft visitation. Over the summer business picked up, with May, June and August up 25%, 18% and 17%, respectively, from the prior year. Early snow brought a strong start to the 2018-19 winter season. In December, the reenergized Snow Days concerts, consistently good snowfall and replenished lodging inventory contributed to substantial increases in occupancy over 2017. In total, sales tax collections of \$27.9 million in 2018 exceeded prior year by 8.9%.

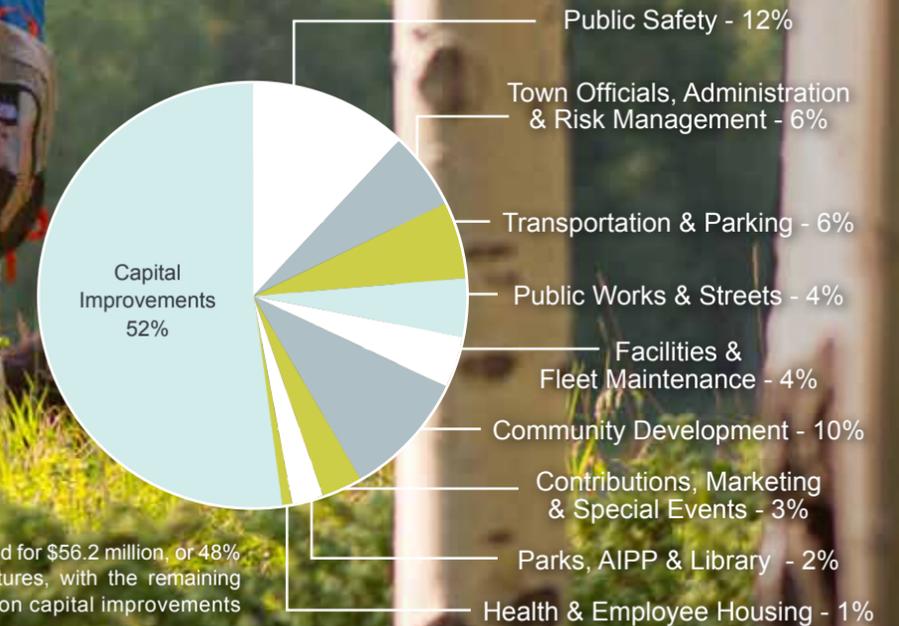
**2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM**



Taxes generate 60% of the town's \$78.8 million annual budgeted revenues for 2018, with sales tax making up the largest portion at 33%, real estate transfer tax at 8%, property and ownership tax at 7%, ski lift tax and franchise fees at 8% and construction use tax at 4%

**WHERE THE MONEY WENT**  
Municipal Spending by Area



Municipal services accounted for \$56.2 million, or 48% of budgeted 2018 expenditures, with the remaining 52% (\$61.5 million) spent on capital improvements

**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY**

High-end residential and commercial construction projects contributed to significant increases in town revenues, including Construction Use Tax, construction permits and plan check fees. Construction Use Tax more than doubled from the prior year, with \$4 million in 2018 collections. The increase was a result of the Vail Health Hospital renovations. Without that project, Construction Use Tax was up 16% from the prior year.

Other construction-related revenues totaled \$2.9 million in 2018, up 85% from the prior year. While the Vail Health expansion again made up a significant portion of the increase, construction revenues such as permits and plan check fees otherwise saw an increase of 21% with 594 residential remodels and 90 commercial projects during the year.



A conceptual rendering of Vail Health's future front entrance on South Frontage Road

**2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

**RATINGS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**4.4**

**HIGHEST RATED**  
Knowledge/ability to answer questions • Courtesy and attitude/helpfulness | 4.1 in 2016

**4.1**

**STRONG IMPROVEMENT**  
Building permit and review inspections | 3.8 in 2016

\*Rating is by those who have used services offered by Community Development Department and are based on a 1-5 point scale with 5 "very satisfied."

**REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX**

Real estate sales in Vail were up 23% for the year, with \$7.8 million in taxes collected by the town. Almost half of the increase was due to sales of new inventory at The Lion. Without those sales, real estate tax collections were up 14%. The funds from the 1% Real Estate Transfer Tax are restricted for the funding of parks and recreation, public art, environmental sustainability and open space.

**2018 REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY**

**10**

sales above \$10M  
prior year was 8

**29**

sales between \$5M & \$10M  
prior year was 19

**38**

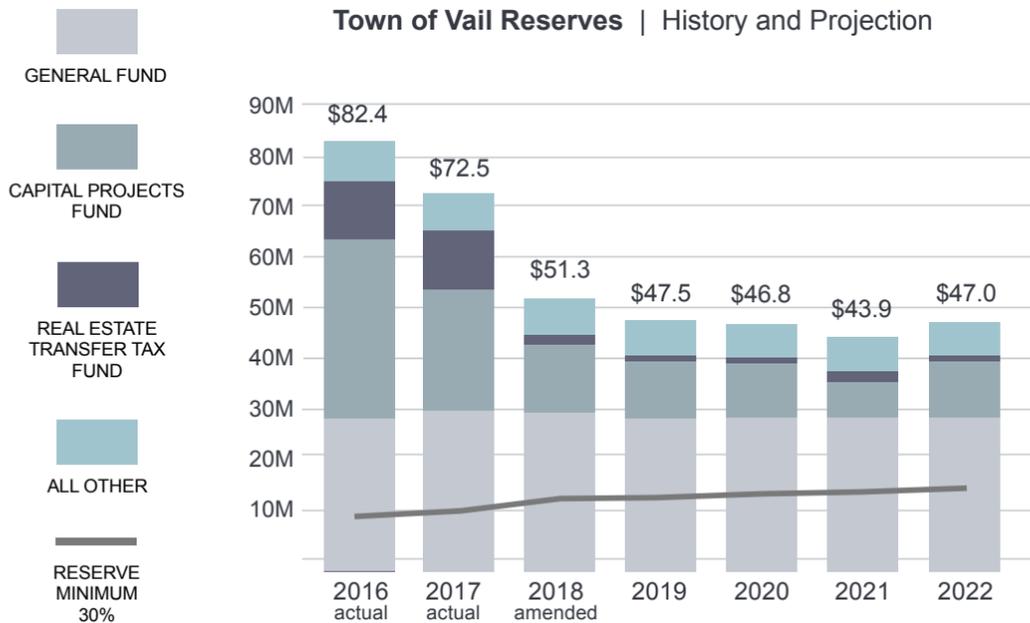
sales between \$2.5M & \$5.5M  
prior year was 43

**23%**

increase in RETT due to larger volume of high-priced sales

**RESERVES**

Reserves remained healthy at \$51 million at the end of 2018, but down from the all-time high of \$82 million in 2016. The town is debt-free, with recent large capital projects funded from cash reserves. Some of the most notable projects in 2018 included the Red Sandstone Parking Garage, East Vail water quality improvements, bus replacements, upgrade of in-town wireless equipment, undergrounding of utility lines, open lands master planning and repairs to the Slifer Plaza fountain.



For 2018, the reserve minimum is approximately \$10.2 million. General Fund reserves remain healthy at \$28.8 million and are projected to remain stable into the future. Town reserves were spent down in 2018 to fund capital projects and programs to help achieve goals identified in the Council action plan such as the Red Sandstone Parking Garage, employee housing programs, environmental efforts and water quality programs. During the 2019 budget meetings, Council directed increasing the minimum reserves policy in the General Fund from 25% to 30%.

**SHORT-TERM RENTAL**

Implementation of new short-term rental regulations which requires licensing, as well as life-safety and neighborhood considerations began March 1. However, responding to feedback from the lodging community and property managers, the Town Council revisited the regulations over the summer and revised the original ordinance. The main goal of the revisions has been to simplify the application process. For a full list of regulations, visit [vailgov.com/short-term-rentals](http://vailgov.com/short-term-rentals).

To date, 695 units are licensed to operate within the town. The town is set to increase enforcement efforts after the March 1, 2019, effective date, when fines may be assessed.

To report complaints related to rental activity in your neighborhood, call the town's hotline:

**VAIL SHORT-TERM RENTAL  
HOTLINE  
970.331.0632**

Call to report non-emergency issues, such as:

**parking | noise | trash**

For emergencies, call 911



**TOWN OF VAIL**

[vailgov.com/short-term-rentals](http://vailgov.com/short-term-rentals)



LOCALS  
IN FOCUS

For Matt Morgan, hiring and retaining valued employees, including kitchen staffer José Perez, are the foundation of a successful business

PHOTO BY TOWNSEND BESENT



SUSTAINING OUR ECONOMY - ONE HOME AT A TIME

It was a wake-up call for the community. Sweet Basil, the acclaimed Vail Village restaurant, abruptly announced it would no longer be serving lunch on Mondays and Tuesdays until further notice. Simply put, there were not enough cooks in the kitchen and the restaurant didn't want to sacrifice its reputation for quality. That was in 2008 and for majority owner Matt Morgan, the challenges associated with housing have continued to be difficult to overcome.

While the company has made ongoing investments to purchase rental homes and master lease others, Morgan says the need to do more as business owners is ever-present. Those efforts have gotten an additional boost through the town-sponsored Vail InDEED program, a revolutionary concept that is setting a new standard for mountain resort communities. In one of 21 transactions authorized by the town since the program's debut in 2017, Morgan's company used the funds it received for deed-restricting one of its properties as a down payment to purchase another. Sweet Basil now provides housing

opportunities for approximately 15% of its employees, which includes its sister restaurant, Mountain Standard. Morgan calls it a "win-win" and applauds the town for its innovation. Partnering with the Vail Local Housing Authority, which serves as the Vail InDEED agent, the Town Council has appropriated \$6.5 million in funding. The funding has been used to acquire deed-restrictions on 105 homes at an average cost of approximately \$63,000, resulting in an efficient and cost-effective use of town resources. The acquisitions are benefitting projects from East Vail to Edwards. By acquiring real estate interest in these homes, the properties become deed-restricted and must be occupied by residents working 30 hours a week for an Eagle County business.

For Morgan, Vail InDEED couldn't come soon enough for the community. "It's brilliant and it's helping to keep these homes from evaporating to the 2nd homeowner market which squeezes an already difficult situation." Morgan says the program also provides an unbelievable opportunity for young professionals to own a home in Vail.

*"The process was pain-free and laid out clearly for us. Working together with our mortgage broker we were able to get everything in place quickly. Without the assistance of the Vail InDEED program, our dream of our family owning a house in Vail would not have been possible!"*

~ Vail InDEED participant

VAIL INDEED  
BY THE NUMBERS\*

21

transactions completed

105

homes deed-restricted  
82 in Vail | 23 in Edwards

147

beds

193

estimated number of  
Vail residents housed

\$62,655

average cost per deed-restriction

\$82.53

average cost per square foot

\$2.5M

available for 2019

\* Town of Vail investment for 2017/2018

PHOTO BY TOWNSEND BESSENT



Johannes Faessler and son Sebastian Faessler of Sonnenalp Properties, Inc., are making it possible for employees to live close to their jobs

**SOLAR VAIL APARTMENTS**

Ground was broken during the summer for the new Solar Vail Apartments, located at 501 N. Frontage Road. The collaborative partnership between Sonnenalp Properties, Inc., and the Town of Vail will provide 65 new studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments. As a result of the collaboration, 100% of the new homes will be deed-restricted and occupied by residents of Vail, with 25% of the homes intentionally set aside for employees of Vail businesses other than the Sonnenalp Hotel. The terms of the deal were negotiated in 2017 and represent the first use of the Vail InDEED program. The town's \$3.2 million investment comes from housing mitigation funds collected from the private sector as an obligation of development impacts. The new homes are scheduled to be completed in time for the 2019-20 ski season. Prior to construction, only nine of the 24 units on the site were deed-restricted.

*“ The Solar Vail Project would not have been built without the financial participation and the 'let's make this happen' mindset of the town throughout the entitlement, planning and financing process. ”*

~ Johannes Faessler

PHOTO BY TOWNSEND BESSENT



Steve Spessard of 6 West Edwards Apartments, Inc., has championed the first of its kind public-private partnership involving two government jurisdictions

**6 WEST APARTMENTS**

The first public-private regional housing collaboration is represented by the 6 West Apartments in Edwards. To increase the supply of local housing, the town has joined with the Eagle County Housing & Development Authority by purchasing deed-restrictions. Vail acquired 23 deed-restrictions for \$625,000. The homes, 14 one-bedroom, 6 two-bedroom and 3 three-bedroom, will be rented at market rate to qualifying residents who work a minimum of 30 hours per week with leasing preference given to the town's municipal employees followed by a second preference given to employees working at a licensed business with Vail. Developed by West Edwards Apartments, LLC, the homes will be ready for occupancy by spring 2019.

The 6 West acquisitions represent the first use of the Vail InDEED program outside the town's boundaries and are being used to establish a down valley deed-restriction value and process. The town's effort to pursue regional housing opportunities has been identified as a top housing initiative by respondents taking part in the 2018 community survey and is included as a priority in the Town Council's action plan.

**FINDING A DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCE FOR HOUSING**

While Vail's housing program has become a model for other resort communities through the success of the Vail InDEED program and other actions, the ability to sustain the town's momentum is tied to funding. Town monies generated from fee in lieu payments from developments with either an inclusionary zoning or commercial linkage mitigation for employee housing requirements totaling \$3.2 million have been used as seed money for Vail InDEED. Other funding comes from the town's annual budgeting process which is dependent upon revenue forecasts and balancing other priorities.

Recognizing that Vail's housing needs cannot be met for the long-term through existing revenues, the Town Council has identified the need for a dedicated funding source and has tasked the Vail Local Housing Authority to explore possible options and assist in quantifying an annual need. The Housing Authority has begun the process of selecting consultants to aid the effort in 2019.

**2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

**53%**

say pursuing a dedicated funding source to provide ongoing financial support for deed-restricted housing is a priority. (17% say it is not a priority, 30% are neutral)

**MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD HOUSING GOALS**

The goal of the Town of Vail Housing Strategic Plan, adopted in 2016, is to acquire 1,000 new deed-restrictions by the year 2027.

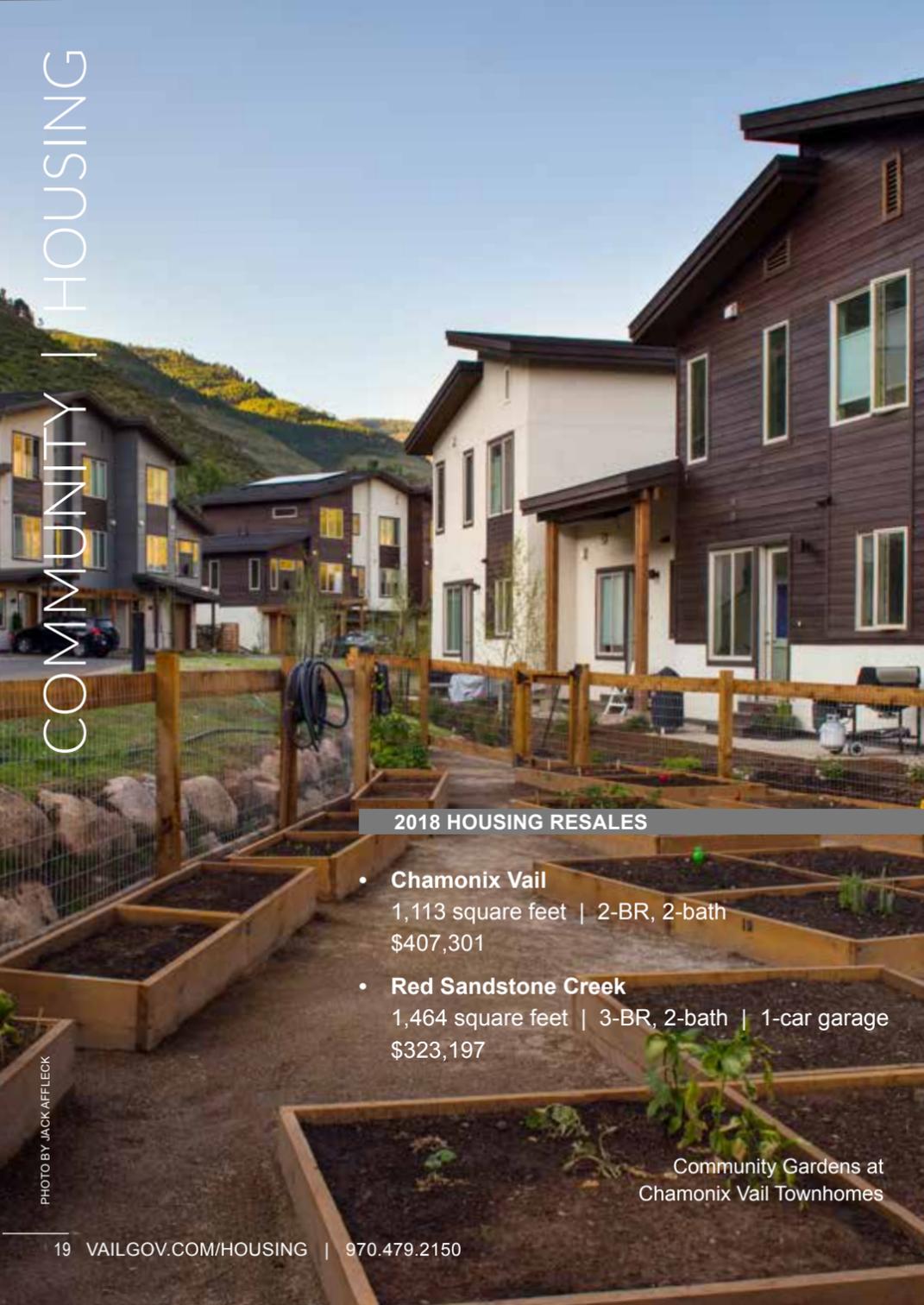
- In 2016 - **723** deed-restrictions were recorded within the town
- By 2018 - **867** deed-restrictions were recorded within the town\*

*\* An additional 114 deed-restriction obligations are pending as a result of entitlements granted. This includes development approvals for Marriott Residence Inn and Mountain View Residences.*



Vail's newest and youngest residents turned out for a block party in July as the town welcomed the 32 families of the Chamonix Vail Townhomes

PHOTO BY JACK AFFLECK



**2018 HOUSING REALES**

- **Chamonix Vail**  
1,113 square feet | 2-BR, 2-bath  
\$407,301
- **Red Sandstone Creek**  
1,464 square feet | 3-BR, 2-bath | 1-car garage  
\$323,197

Community Gardens at Chamonix Vail Townhomes

**HOUSING LOTTERY REVISED**

**to Restore Participation and Afford All Participants a Chance of Home Ownership**

You can't win if you don't play. After learning of frustrations that many prospective applicants of the town's housing lottery had chosen not to participate because the odds were stacked against them, the town has overhauled its process for resales of its deed-restricted homes. The revisions include implementation of a true lottery drawing process which affords all qualified participants a chance of being selected. A weighted preference and tiered system that had been in place since 1999 was replaced with a point-based lottery process which grants preference to persons that live and work in Vail, yet still affords all participants a chance of being selected. The changes also allow current residential property owners, including vacant residential land, to participate in the lottery. Another change is replacing the annual lottery process with a separate process each time a home becomes available for purchase. Minimum household size requirements have been eliminated as well.

A lottery will be used each time a home at Vail Commons, North Trail Townhomes, Chamonix Vail Townhomes, Arosa Duplex and Red Sandstone Creek Townhomes become available for resale. The inventory includes 98 homes ranging from one- to three- bedrooms. The town's employee housing guidelines stipulate a maximum resale price of 1.5 to 3% per annum to maintain affordability for the long-term.

The streamlined lottery process awards each qualified applicant a minimum of one lottery ticket into the resale drawing. Additional lottery tickets are awarded, up to a maximum of five total, based on the following criteria:

- Meet minimum lottery participation criteria 1 lottery ticket
- Vail resident 1 lottery ticket
- Vail resident for equal to or greater than 5 years 1 lottery ticket
- Employed in Vail 1 lottery ticket
- Employed in Vail for equal to or greater than 5 years 1 lottery ticket

**Maximum Total: 5 lottery tickets**

To learn more about the lottery application process or to sign up to be notified of upcoming resales, contact Lynne Campbell, Town of Vail housing coordinator, at [lcampbell@vailgov.com](mailto:lcampbell@vailgov.com).



PHOTO BY TOWNSEND BESENT

Lottery drawing for Chamonix Vail Townhomes

**2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

**HIGH PRIORITY**

- Expanded housing opportunities for a wide range of household incomes and resort community occupations are listed as a high priority for the Vail Town Council to consider in the coming months.

**70% SUPPORT MORE TECHNIQUES**

- In addition to identifying housing as a priority, survey respondents expressed support for various techniques to help improve the situation. Most favorable is support for identifying opportunities for regional partnerships to construct new deed-restricted housing outside of town boundaries.

**77% SAY LOSS OF LONG-TERM RENTAL IS A PROBLEM**

- In probing the impact of short-term rental impacts in Vail, 49% call the problem "critical" or "serious."

**Vail Local Housing Authority Board Members\***

	<i>Term Ends</i>		<i>Term Ends</i>
James Wilkins	2019	Francisco Meza	2022
Steve Lindstrom	2020	Molly Morales	2018
Mary McDougall	2021	• <i>Appointed by the Vail Town Council</i>	

EngageVail.com

**VAIL CIVIC AREA BEING DISCUSSED:**

1. Lionshead Parking and Transportation Center
2. Charter Bus Lot
3. Dobson Ice Arena
4. Vail Public Library
5. Town of Vail Municipal Complex

PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

**A PLAN FOR VAIL'S FUTURE**

A community-driven master planning process is taking place that will be used to guide future improvements to town-owned facilities and properties in the heart of Vail. Launched in December, the 11-month effort will identify opportunities for a number of prominent town sites. The 10-acre area includes the Lionshead Parking and Transportation Center, charter bus lot, Dobson Ice Arena, Vail Public Library and Vail Municipal Building complex. Completion of the Civic Area Plan has been identified as a high priority by the Town Council.

Upon adoption in late 2019, the plan will provide guidance on future decision-making, funding and an action plan for implementation. To learn more about the Civic Area Plan project schedule, upcoming outreach activities and other feedback opportunities, visit the town's new online forum, **EngageVail.com**.

**MAINTAINING VAIL'S CORE ASSETS**

Another town area needing improvements is the Public Works & Transportation Maintenance complex. Spanning 51-acres along a narrow bench on the north side of I-70, there's a fueling station, bus bays, carpentry shop, sign shop, greenhouse, impound lot, snow dump, a large fleet of vehicles and employee housing.

The property has been the headquarters for these critical town functions since 1979 and has undergone various expansions and modifications. Future improvements have been identified through a master plan update:

- Electrical system upgrades for new electric buses
- Solar photovoltaic array farm
- Streets and parks building expansion
- Additional employee housing
- Frontage Road turn lanes/tunnel widening

The plan will be budgeted and implemented in phases.

**VAIL NATURE CENTER | REDEFINED**

Tucked away on the south side of Gore Creek in Ford Park, the Vail Nature Center has served as an outpost for nature walks and other discoveries since 1974 utilizing a converted ranch house built in the 1940s. Looking to bring new life to the center and its 7-acre surroundings, the town expanded on planning efforts initiated by the Vail Recreation District, Walking Mountains Science Center and the Vail Local Marketing District with a needfinding assessment that has identified opportunities to strengthen the center's role as a community gem. The research also gave clarity to the center's mission as a place to learn how to value, protect and live gracefully with nature. A temporary yurt will serve as the center's seasonal programming space while architects and designers begin developing concepts for long-term improvements that will be implemented with input from the community. Also new is the center's management responsibility which has been transferred from the Vail Recreation District to the town. Walking Mountains Science Center will continue to staff the center with educational and outdoor programming.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT

Vail Nature Center | Ford Park

**UPDATE TO COMPREHENSIVE OPEN LANDS PLAN**

Council-directed refinements on the topics of environmentally sensitive lands, town land and use of lands and trails are included in the update to the 1994 Comprehensive Open Lands Plan. The update was formally adopted by the Town Council in October following an extensive public review process. The most significant modifications included removal of recommendations for several trails, including the Vail Trail extension, to avoid impacting wildlife habitat. In addition, the plan highlights the need to manage and monitor lands for biodiversity and protection of wildlife – considerations that were identified by stakeholders and highlighted during a community wildlife forum which was repeated in March 2019. The plan also identifies parcels with potential for workforce housing development and community connectivity.

Next steps include analyzing and prioritizing parcels for acquisition, additional and continued wildlife education and seasonal closure compliance, trail assessments including user types and numbers and reducing impacts to heavily used trails. **vailgov.com/openlandsupdate**

**2018 OPEN LANDS PLAN UPDATE ACTION ITEMS**

**27 ACTION PLAN PARCELS**

<p><b>15</b></p> <p>parcels for protection of environmentally sensitive lands</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>trail connections/new trail access</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>parcels for workforce housing or public facilities</p>
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# OUR VALLEY IN FOCUS

## VAIL'S LONG HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1972</b> Protection of open space added to Town Charter                           | <b>1991</b> Ban on new wood-burning fireplaces   |
| <b>1973</b> Vail Symposium speaker introduces "Think Globally, Act Locally" approach | <b>1994</b> Adoption of Comprehensive Open Lands Plan                                    |
| <b>1975</b> Establishment of Vail Nature Center and Preserve                         | <b>2015</b> Launch of Actively Green Business program                                    |
| <b>1979</b> Creation of 1% Real Estate Transfer Tax to improve parks and open space  | <b>2016</b> Adoption of Gore Creek Strategic Action Plan                                 |
|  | <b>2030</b> Vail Resorts' ambitious commitment to a zero net operating footprint by 2030 |

PHOTO BY JACK AFFLECK

## CONGRATULATIONS!

At long last, Vail has been officially certified as a Sustainable Mountain Resort Destination. The designation extends throughout the Gore Creek watershed encompassing 70,000 acres of public land from the top of Vail Pass through Dowd Junction.

This international recognition has been years in the making and extends far beyond the community's progressive environmental conservation efforts. Certification has required an intensive on-site audit of more than 200 indicators across all aspects of sustainability. These include:

- sensitive site and wildlife protection
- destination management strategies
- economic development
- waste
- carbon emissions
- water quantity and quality
- cultural and natural heritage
- public and youth education
- regulations
- local philanthropic giving
- volunteerism
- workforce housing
- diversity in age, gender and ethnicity in employment

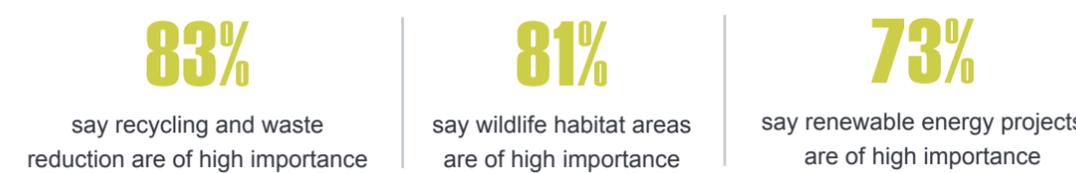
Requirements also include tracking data and strategies for crime, emergency preparedness, the threats of climate change and hazards like fire and flood. Only eight destinations in the world are currently certified sustainable destinations, including communities in Australia, China, Iceland and the Netherlands. In the U.S., Jackson Hole is currently in the process of certification and is a partner in sharing best practices.

Vail's efforts are managed by a Destination Stewardship Council, with representatives from the town, Vail Resorts, U.S. Forest Service, businesses and other local organizations, facilitated by Walking Mountains Science Center. Every eight months, the town and its partners are required to submit progress reports on key items from the destination scorecard where improvements to retain the certification will be needed. Areas for improvement include increased wildlife protection due to declining herds; reducing the carbon footprint, water, and energy associated with the town's snowmelt system and on-mountain snowmaking; and the need for a coordinated destination management strategy. There is also work to be done on data collection for employment, local employment indicators and workforce housing.

Being certified as a sustainable destination has reinforced a strong sentiment in Vail – a passion for environmental stewardship and natural resource protection, collaboration and innovation. The ability to share Vail's dedicated sustainable business practices with the world and a heightened focus on waste, climate action and wildlife have spurred action of residents and guests alike. Community members have educated and supported the project by spreading the word on trail closures for wildlife protection, adopting energy conservation measures in their homes and businesses, participating in the Sole Power Challenge (and leaving their cars at home) and purchasing solar or wind power through Holy Cross Energy. All of these actions will allow Vail to continue making progress and achieve a re-certification in 2020.



### 2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



### RECOGNITION

- First certification in U.S. established by Global Sustainable Tourism Council
- First in world certified to the Mountain IDEAL standard
- Named Top 100 Global Sustainable Destination in 2017/2018



PHOTO BY JACK AFFLECK

**GORE CREEK SHOWS SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT**

A significant investment to restore Gore Creek appears to be paying off with researchers documenting increases in aquatic invertebrate populations in both 2016 and 2017. Gore Creek has been listed as “impaired” since 2012 for failing to meet state standards for aquatic life. The latest data, from September 2017, show four of seven locations meeting state standards; only one site met the state-mandated bug population numbers in 2015. Improvements are being attributed to reductions in pesticide use, expansion of streamside vegetation and an emphasis on stormwater filtration projects. In contrast, testing downstream on the Eagle River, where no concerted education and outreach campaign has occurred, is showing lower scores.

Since 2015, the town has mapped and evaluated more than 1,096 stormwater inlets and over 500 outfalls that flow into Gore Creek. Of those, 46 were identified as high priority projects for upgrades, filtration and retrofits. About half the priority projects have since been completed. The most visible of the improvements have taken place at the East Vail Interchange and at Slifer Square in Vail Village. Future improvements are planned for Westhaven Drive in 2019-20 and the West Vail roundabout in subsequent years. The town has received approximately \$1 million in grant funding for the projects in partnership with Eagle River Water & Sanitation District, CDOT and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



**MAINTAINING GORE CREEK'S GOLD MEDAL STATUS**

Gore Creek has maintained its Gold Medal status from Red Sandstone Creek to the confluence with the Eagle River. Gore Creek is one of only a handful of streams where anglers can catch a “grand slam” of trout, all in one stream. The Gold Medal status dictates special regulations on that stretch of stream:

- fishing with artificial lures only (no bait)
- bag limit is two fish over 16 inches (statewide standard for trout is four with no size limit)

A stream’s Gold Medal status is designated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and is based on size and density of fish populations.

**PROJECT RE-WILD**

The town partnered with Eagle River Watershed Council to complete a riparian restoration project at Cedar Point Townhomes in East Vail during the year. The effort to stabilize and revegetate streambanks was the first to be completed through the cost-share program known as Project Re-Wild. Thanks to grants, volunteers and design funds from the town, this effort to restore important creek-side habitat occurred at no cost to the HOA or homeowners. Several other creek-side property owners received technical and design funding and assistance from the town to restore their riparian area. Project Re-Wild continues in 2019 with four more projects. The program is not accepting new applicants at this time.

**SPILLS HOTLINE**

Ten calls were made to the 24-hour hotline, **970.476.GORE**, during the year to report spills and illegal dumping in Gore Creek and storm drains in Vail. The anonymous calls resulted in several interventions where code enforcement and environmental staff members were able to prevent pesticides, paint, grease, drywall dust and carpet cleaning fluid from reaching Gore Creek.



**STORM DRAIN ART**

Six artists were commissioned to create original works for year two of the town’s popular storm drain art project. The illustrations, which were displayed next to selected storm drains, depicted Colorado wildlife species that live in or near Gore Creek and were used to raise awareness about storm drains and their direct impact on the health of Gore Creek.

**WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- Lunch with the Locals | Monthly
- Free Sustainable Landscape Workshop | Spring
- Storm Drain Art | Artist Applications Spring

**2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

**93%**  
supportive of a watershed protection ordinance to restrict pesticide use

**86%**  
supportive of an increase to stream setback rules within a prescribed distance from creek

**85%**  
supportive of a no-mowing zone to restrict lawn mowing next to waterways

**2018 STATS**

**220**  
identified actions in Gore Creek Strategic Action Plan

**\$2.25M**  
spent on Gore Creek actions since 2016

**27,000**  
bugs collected for sampling annually in the Eagle River Watershed

**VAIL BUSINESS RECYCLE CHALLENGE**

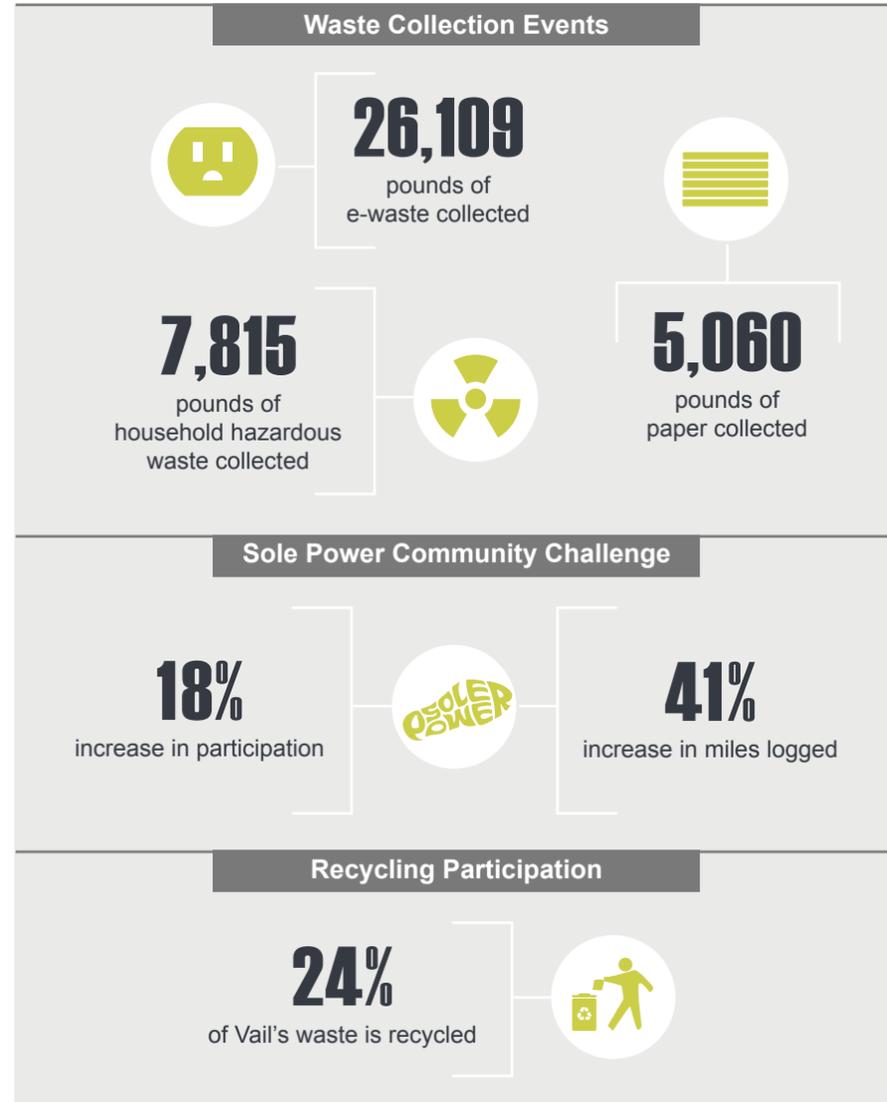
The Town of Vail's inaugural Business Recycling Challenge took place in 2018 with seven participating businesses averaging a 57% recycling rate following the four-week challenge, improving from a 49% average baseline before the competition began. Manor Vail, McNeil Property Management, Mountain Standard, Steadman Clinic, Sweet Basil, Vail Mountain School and Vail Spa Condominiums all participated in the challenge. McNeil Property Management was the overall challenge winner with a final recycling rate of 84%. The award for most innovative recycling education was given to Vail Mountain School while Vail Spa Condominiums was the winner of the most improved category.

Vail adopted a community-wide recycling ordinance in 2014 and the challenge program is part of ongoing efforts to reach community waste diversion goals of at least 25% by 2019. Vail is close to achieving that goal, having averaged 24% diversion in 2018. The Eagle County recycling rate is 22%, compared to 12% in Colorado and 34% nationally. The town partnered with Walking Mountains Science Center to run the challenge and serve as an expert liaison.

**CLIMATE ACTION COLLABORATIVE**

Vail continued its involvement in multiple coalitions to advance climate action policy over the past year, including the Colorado Communities for Climate Action, which Vail Town Manager Greg Clifton took over as chair starting in 2019. The CC4CA now has 23 member communities across the state, having direct involvement in state legislation on carbon pollution goals, no- and low-emission vehicles statewide, inventories for greenhouse gas emissions, energy impact assistance and more. The town also committed its financial support to the Climate Action Coalition of Eagle County, advancing a new education campaign and projects specific to power supply, waste reduction and green commuting.

**2018 SUSTAINABILITY EVENT TOTALS**



**FOCUS ON WILDLIFE**

The first Vail Wildlife Forum took place in January and brought together local experts to raise awareness about the declining state of area wildlife populations and to develop strategies to improve the local habitat. Following the high-profile forum, the town worked with local biologists to prepare a comprehensive habitat improvement plan involving land owned by the town, Colorado Department of Transportation and the U.S. Forest Service.

The forum also identified the need to provide a greater understanding of the purpose of seasonal trail closures after trail cameras in Vail recorded over 200 hikers ignoring the closures within a 10-day period. Deer and elk struggle to survive during the winter and need access to specific familiar regions to refuel and safely raise their new young in the spring. Closing trails allows them a familiar safe zone to graze and give birth.

To help reinforce the seasonal closures, the town partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to add gates and informational signs at the trailheads. Volunteers from the Vail Valley Mountain Bike Association were also present to help provide education and compliance during the closures and collect statistics on users through the new Trail Ambassador program.

Other actions taken during the year included repairs to wildlife fencing at Dowd Junction and an increased focus on wildlife education at the town's Lunch with the Locals series.

The updated Open Lands Plan cites the need for a biodiversity study to better manage lands for habitat and the designation of "wildlife sanctuary zones," where no trails or recreation should take place.



A series of actions including a prescribed burn and cutting and thinning of downed aspen trees and decadent shrubs has been recommended to improve the local bighorn sheep habitat. Recommendations on noise, sightlines, barriers, movement corridors and enhanced vegetation have also been prepared to address recreation access and future development considerations.



2018 WILDFIRE ACTIVITY

<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Mountain Area Mutual Aid Plan wildfire responses by Vail Fire</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>deployments by Vail Fire to wildland fires across western U.S.</p>	<p><b>500,000</b></p> <p>acres burned by wildfires in Colorado</p>	<p><b>450</b></p> <p>homes destroyed by wildfires in Colorado</p>	<p><b>2.9M</b></p> <p>Coloradans whose homes are at risk from wildfires per Colorado State Forest Service</p>	<p><b>1,600</b></p> <p>properties evaluated in Vail's curbside assessment program</p>
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Aftermath of an urban interface wildfire in Summit County

NO LONGER A FIRE SEASON - FIRE YEAR IS THE NEW NORMAL

When you're Vail's fire chief, the scenarios are all too real. Having spent more than two decades of his fire service career in California's Sierra Nevada, Chief Mark Novak has seen first-hand what wildfires can do.

*“ Like Paradise, one of the major challenges we face in Vail is helping people understand both the risk and potential impact of a catastrophic wildfire. ”*



Mark Novak, Vail fire chief

Fires are happening with more frequency and intensity than in previous decades. For example, all 20 of Colorado's largest fires have occurred since 2000 – five of them in 2018.

While it has been over 100 years since the Vail area has had a significant wildfire, Chief Novak says it's important

2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

**1 in 10**

say they're "extremely prepared" in the event of a catastrophic emergency event

**87%**

are in favor of using defensible space landscaping, such as using deciduous trees in place of conifers

PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

to understand that fires are part of our environment. "I can't tell you if it will happen in three months, three years, or 30 years, but what I can predict is that the actions we take today through our Fire Adapted programs can significantly change the way fire will impact our community in the future."

One component of the program is the curbside assessment initiative. To date, approximately 1,600 properties have been evaluated during the first two years of the five-year neighborhood canvass. The assessments have taken place in the Intermountain and West Vail south neighborhoods and have included evaluations of landscaping, roofing materials and other risk factors that can contribute to the ignitability of a home, especially from embers that can travel for miles. Property owners can now check the status of the door-to-door assessments by accessing a new online report at [VailWildfire.com](http://VailWildfire.com). The next phase in 2019 will bring assessments to East Vail neighborhoods.

This home located in the Intermountain neighborhood shows an example of a defensible space landscape



PHOTO BY TOWNSEND BESSENT

### MORE FIRE ADAPTIVE ACTIONS TAKING PLACE

- Preparation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan to be adopted in 2019 that will prioritize future wildfire mitigation efforts, including forest thinning
- Establishment of the Eagle Valley Fire Cooperative for enhanced coordination of training, joint-purchasing, technical rescue, fire prevention and wildland fire response
- Acquisition of a long-range mobile acoustical warning device that will be used for emergency notification in neighborhoods
- Continuation of pile burns and free chipping services for property owners

Residents are encouraged to contact the department at **970.477.3475** with questions about the Fire Adapted programs or to make an appointment for a free on-site property assessment.

### VAIL'S EVACUATION PLAN | ARE YOU READY?

During an evacuation, you may have 5 minutes or less to leave your home. As a general rule, take the shortest route to the Frontage Road and then onto the interstate. Details, along with a short video, can be found at [vailgov.com/evac](http://vailgov.com/evac) including instructions for those who don't have a car as well as information on an alternate evacuation route for East Vail. For a list of recommended items to take with you, visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov). See page 40 for additional emergency notification resources.



The Red Canyon 2 fire near Wolcott and a smaller wildfire in East Vail during the summer threatened electric transmission lines causing a renewed focus on resiliency plans by utility providers and other agencies



The Buffalo Mountain fire in Summit County forced the evacuation of 1,400 residents in June. The wildfire burned 92 acres. No structures were lost and there were no injuries.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VAIL FIRE DEPARTMENT



High Chateau fire near Woodland Park provided Vail Fire with first-hand experience in containing large wildfires

PHOTO COURTESY OF WYATT SMELTZER

cut out and save



## HAVE AN EVACUATION PLAN

### FOLLOW THE 6 Ps

1. **P**eople and pets
2. **P**apers, phone numbers and important documents
3. **P**rescriptions, vitamins and eye glasses
4. **P**ictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
5. **P**ersonal computers (information on hard drive and removable memory)
6. **P**lastic (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

### EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

- TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY: Call **911**
- EMAIL AND TEXT ALERTS: Sign up at [ecalert.org](http://ecalert.org)
- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: [vailgov.com/evac](http://vailgov.com/evac)

### QUESTIONS? Contact

Vail Fire Department at **970.479.2250**  
 Vail Police Department at **970.479.2210**

The new Red Sandstone Parking Garage offers close proximity to Lionshead Village via the pedestrian overpass



PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Rating is based on a 1-5 point scale with 5 "very satisfied"

**4.4**

**HIGHEST RATING**  
Parking attendant  
courtesy | 4.3 in 2016

**3.4**

**MOST IMPROVED**  
Overflow Frontage Road parking  
(convenience/ease of access)  
2.9 in 2016

**3.3**

**MOST IMPROVED**  
Overflow Frontage Road parking  
(safety) | 2.8 in 2016

**52%** Winter Season  
34% in 2016

**82%** Summer Season  
83% in 2016

**EASE OF PARKING**  
"very" or "somewhat satisfied"

RED SANDSTONE PARKING GARAGE

Vail gained 160 new public parking spaces with December's opening of the Red Sandstone Parking Garage. The four-level structure coincides with a major renovation of Red Sandstone Elementary School which addresses previous deficiencies, including inadequate parking and the dangerous mix of cars, buses and pedestrians. As an additional benefit, the project expands the town's public parking inventory.

The new structure includes public restrooms, solar photovoltaic technology, fast-charging electric vehicle stations and a future public art installation. A state-of-the-art parking locator system is being piloted to determine possible expansion to the Vail Village and Lionshead structures.

The pass-activated garage has provided a moderately priced option for Vail-based employees with passes selling for \$450 for the 2018-19 winter season. By using the pedestrian overpass, the garage is within easy walking distance to jobs in Lionshead Village or elsewhere by bus.

As school operations resume at Red Sandstone, the top deck will be used for the school's on-site parking, while the remaining three levels, representing 120 spaces, will be available for pass-holder parking. Access to all 160 spaces will be available to pass-holders during the weekends and other non-school times. The town will also be exploring a variety of options for operation of the garage during the summer season.



Funding was made possible as a result of a three-way partnership between the town, Eagle County Schools and Vail Resorts, totaling \$15 million. In looking to the future, the garage has been engineered to accommodate two additional levels as well as the ability to be repurposed for multi-use in the event a parking structure is no longer needed.

Completion of the garage brings the number of covered parking spaces in town to 2,610 and represents the first dedicated public parking to be established since 1990 when 400 spaces were built.



ELECTRIC BUS DEMONSTRATIONS

The town hosted a series of electric bus demonstrations during the year as manufacturers from three companies tested their vehicles on Vail's in-town route. The demonstrations allowed bus drivers and mechanics a chance to train and provide important feedback as the town begins a competitive procurement process for the conversion to new battery-electric buses by 2020.

## NEW IN 2018

### ADDRESSING VAIL'S PARKING CHALLENGES

Adjustments to summer and winter parking policies were implemented based on recommendations from the Vail Parking & Transportation Task Force and feedback from the community survey. Summer saw the addition of a \$25 overnight fee to discourage vehicle storage in the Vail Village and Lionshead parking structures. The fee was used to help increase daytime capacity in the structures and reduce overflow parking on the Frontage Road. Daytime parking remained free and allowances were made for free overnight parking for guests of nearby lodges with on-site parking limitations as well as employees who worked the night shift. The program resulted in an average reduction of overnight stays by 50% and a reduction in overflow parking by four fewer days. For winter, patrons enjoyed the return of 2-hour free parking, a change from the 90-minute period offered the prior season. The adjustment followed complaints that additional time was needed to enjoy lunch in the villages as well as adequate access to the library and Dobson Arena. Appointed by the mayor, the 12-member citizen task force includes representation from the lodging and retail-restaurant sectors, plus large employers, including Vail Resorts and Vail Health Hospital, as well as the community-at-large.



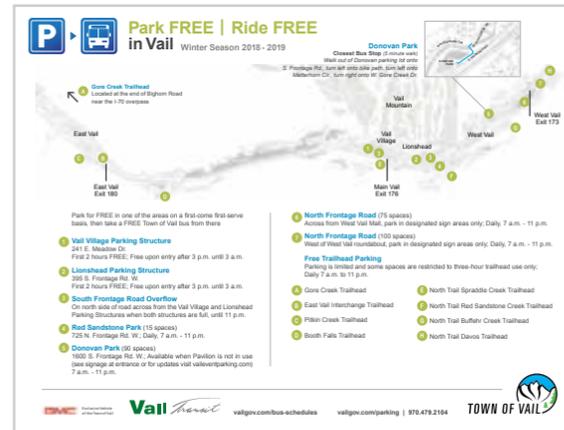
PHOTO BY JACK AFFLECK

### MORE FREE PARKING IN WEST VAIL

In cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation, the town gained daily access to 100 free parking spaces on the North Frontage Road west of the West Vail roundabout for the 2018-19 winter season. The spaces had previously been available Friday through Sunday only. There are now 150 free parking spaces in West Vail available seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. with easy access to a bus stop.

**330**

total number of free outlying parking spaces (winter season)



Download a FREE PARKING map at [vailgov.com/free-parking](http://vailgov.com/free-parking)

### 2018 STATS

**10**

overflow parking days on Frontage Road during winter season 2017-18

**17**

overflow parking days on Frontage Road during summer season 2018

**15**

day goal for overflow parking on Frontage Road per season

**2,860**

total number of gated parking spaces in Vail managed by town

### 2018 STATS

Rating is based on a 1-5 point scale with 5 "very satisfied"

**4.7**

HIGHEST RATING  
Dependability of bus service | 4.4 in 2016

**4.6**

Cleanliness of buses | 4.3 in 2016

**4.0**

MOST IMPROVED  
Level of crowding on buses | 3.4 in 2016

### WEST VAIL EXPRESS

Ridership on the West Vail bus routes has increased as a result of operational changes introduced for the 2018-19 winter season. By making use of the Sandstone underpass and adding a second bus, the Red and Green lines now provide 10-minute service on the north and south sides of the Frontage Roads during the morning and afternoon. As a result, the West Vail Express is servicing more than 900 riders per day.

### VAIL TRANSIT BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS

Two new bus stops have been constructed adjacent to South Frontage Road. The Vail Village Transit Center bus stop adds capacity with two new bays, while the Lionshead bus stop has added capacity with a new westbound stop and express in front of the Lionshead parking structure entry.

### SAFETY IMPROVEMENT FOR PEDESTRIANS

Long identified as a hazard due to icy conditions, the town added snowmelt to the walking path from the pedestrian overpass along the South Frontage Road to the pedestrian connection in Lionshead. The improvement provides a safe walking path for pedestrians traversing the north-south sides of the community between Red Sandstone Elementary School and Lionshead.



PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR



Officers Jose Balderas, Tyler Johnston and another new recruit, Melissa Metcalfe, at Snow Days concerts 2018



PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR



**LOOKING FOR A CAREER CHANGE?**

**Consider Becoming a Police Officer**

When Angela Sommer moved to the mountains 10 years ago, she had no idea she'd become one of Vail's newest police recruits. Working as an event planner, Sommer learned about the department from a friend and became intrigued with a career change.

*“ It was a time in my life when I was looking for something more personally fulfilling. ”*

Impressed with Sommer's variety of skills, the department offered a sponsorship that placed her at the Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy in Glenwood Springs, a four-month program. She and three other Vail recruits, Michael Chon, Jose Balderas and Tyler Johnston, are recent graduates of the Academy and have joined the department as peace officer trainees.

While other departments across the country are struggling to find qualified applicants for the jobs available, Vail is proud to have hired its largest and most diverse class of recruits.

Recruiting qualified candidates is serious business as the investment can exceed \$60,000 for seven months of training. In exchange, recruits are asked to commit a minimum of two years in Vail before relocating to other departments, or they are responsible for reimbursing the town for their training.

The department offers ride-alongs, sponsors an Explorer Post for young adults (14-21), maintains a presence at job fairs and prides itself in offering opportunities for returning veterans as part of its outreach and recruitment initiatives. To find out more, contact Commander Ryan Kenney at [rkenney@vailgov.com](mailto:rkenney@vailgov.com).

PHOTOS BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

**2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

Rating is based on a 1-5 point scale with 5 "very satisfied"



**HIGHEST RATED**  
Overall feeling of safety and security, 4.4 in 2016



**MOST IMPROVED**  
• Visibility of police foot/vehicle patrol  
• Appropriate presence of police on foot/vehicle patrol | each 4.0 in 2016

**Vail Crime Statistics**

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Arrests	797	666	728	532
Burglary	20	33	29	24
Larceny/Theft	282	296	277	208
Ski/Board Theft*	66	58	62	44
Motor Vehicle Theft	10	10	18	5
Assault	57	67	36	47
Fraud	93	91	140	78
DUI/DWAI	57	62	49	29
Drugs	136	126	122	53
Vandalism	102	116	109	104
Sexual Offenses	9	10	5	9
Trespassing	43	61	67	46
Trespassing - Vehicular**	18	18	24	22
Disorderly Conduct	47	34	49	44
Obstructing/Resisting	15	24	18	18
Protective Custody	51	33	49	24
<b>Call Volume</b>	2015 - 37,072	2016 - 34,502	2017 - 35,788	2018 - 35,211

\* Ski and Snowboard Theft is included in Larceny/Theft  
\*\* Vehicle Trespassing is included in Trespassing



PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE TAYLOR

### SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

The conversations have solved crimes, calmed fears, warmed hearts and made us laugh as the department's ever-growing presence on social media offers a window to the world. Each platform has a unique outreach function:

- **Facebook** serves as a place for conversation
- **Twitter** is used to release breaking news
- **Instagram** showcases the lighter side of the department

Facebook interactions have included a post asking for the public's help in identifying a suspect who broke a bus window last spring. Thanks to tips received, an arrest was made. In another post, a new father offered his heartfelt thanks to an officer who helped save his wife's life after the officer made an emergency run to Summit County for blood to help the young mother hospitalized at Vail Health.

It was a busy wildfire season, and while Vail was fortunate to be spared from the fires, the department partnered with neighboring agencies to help spread the word about evacuations in nearby subdivisions and communities through its Twitter feed.

The department's Instagram account is a favorite tool for officers and their followers. Posts range from wildlife seen on patrol, to team meals, to non-emergency activities. The most popular posts are of animals, or those which show the humorous side of policing.

As consumers increasingly move to social media for their news as well as everyday connections, the department invites its citizens and guests to join the conversation.

 vail police	 @vailpolice	 @vailcopolice
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### EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

In the event of an evacuation or other critical emergency, public alerts are disseminated in multiple ways to reach as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time. The most reliable notification for those in Vail and Eagle County is EC Alert. Signing up is easy and free and can be done quickly at [ecalert.org](http://ecalert.org). A secondary notification system is the Wireless Emergency Alert System, which works like an Amber Alert, to notify all cellphones within a geographic area. No sign ups are needed. When a local test of the wireless alert system in May identified coverage lapses, officials concluded that multiple notification tools, both low-tech and high-tech, will be used to reach those in imminent danger. This might even include a knock on the door by uniformed officers, a mobile speaker system canvassing the neighborhood, or a breaking news post on social media. For details, visit [vail911.com](http://vail911.com).



vail fire   
 @vailfire   
 @vailfiredept 

### STUDENT RESIDENT PROGRAM ENDS AFTER A LONG RUN

2018 marked the end of the Vail Fire Resident Firefighter program. Although this program had served the department well for decades, a changing workforce, increased basic training requirements and high attrition associated with the program necessitated the transition. According to Fire Chief Mark Novak, “we found ourselves in a position in which most resident firefighters remained with the department for a year or less, which can largely be attributed to the unprecedented rate at which Front Range fire departments have been hiring full-time firefighters.” This resulted in the program requiring a near continuous recruitment and training cycle just to maintain basic staffing levels.

### VAIL LEADS REGIONAL MUTUAL AID PLANNING

In 1993 when the South Canyon fire took the lives of 14 wildland firefighters on Storm King Mountain, the need for a statewide mutual aid plan was identified as a top priority. When those efforts slowed at the state level, Vail Fire’s leadership team got to work. A meeting of fire chiefs from eight northwest Colorado counties was convened and the Mountain Area Mutual Aid plan was developed. This regional plan includes a process to rapidly deploy local government fire resources. The timing of this effort was fortuitous as it was used almost immediately on area wildfires including the Buffalo, Golf Course and Lake Christine fires in Summit, Grand and Eagle counties. The success of this plan has drawn attention at the state level and has renewed a sense of urgency to build a state plan based upon the concept established by the Mountain Area Mutual Aid Plan.

### 2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Rating is based on a 1-5 point scale with 5 “very satisfied”

 **4.7**  
**HIGHEST RATING**  
 Courtesy and helpfulness of  
 Fire Department staff | 4.6 in 2016

 **4.4**  
**MOST IMPROVED**  
 Fire safety, awareness and education  
 programs | 4.1 in 2016

### FIRST RESPONDER COLLABORATION

It was a banner year for collaboration among emergency service agencies in Eagle County. The year began with a number of “First 15 minutes” workshops which involved all first responder agencies collaborating to develop strategies to operate more effectively during the critical first 15 minutes of a large incident. Another significant collaboration was the purchase of a new hazardous materials response unit through a cost-share agreement between Eagle County and the other participating agencies of the Regional Hazardous Materials Association of Eagle County. The culmination of this cooperative spirit was the formation of the Eagle Valley Fire Cooperative. This agreement will provide the framework for future collaborative efforts such as training, joint purchasing, fire investigation and technical rescue.

### Vail Fire & Emergency Services Response Calls

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Structure Fires	15	16	13	10
Vehicle Fires	11	15	15	9
Wildland Fires	11	8	14	11
Rescue/Emergency Medical	574	526	540	592
Motor Vehicle Accidents	231	131	180	149
False Alarms	526	607	599	537
Hazardous Materials	73	79	93	80
Service Calls	133	112	143	175
Smoke Reports	275	170	41	52
Miscellaneous	48	60	277	328
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>1,943</b>



PHOTOS BY TOWNSEND BESSENT, DOMINIQUE TAYLOR AND JACK AFFLECK

**STICKWORK** | Patrick Dougherty

After many years of planning, Patrick Dougherty's Stickwork installation came to fruition in June. A renowned environmental artist, Dougherty has created over 285 whimsical installations spanning 35 years. Utilizing locally felled materials, over 50 volunteers worked during a three-week period to build the willow structure situated on the lower bench of Ford Park. "The sculpture is sited within a crescent of trees, creating an intimate space behind it. Some of the individual elements lean, some bend at the waist falling into each other. This is meant to suggest camaraderie and interdependence," explains Dougherty. A video documenting the installation was also produced and may be viewed on [artinvail.com](http://artinvail.com).



PHOTO BY TOWNSEND BESSENT

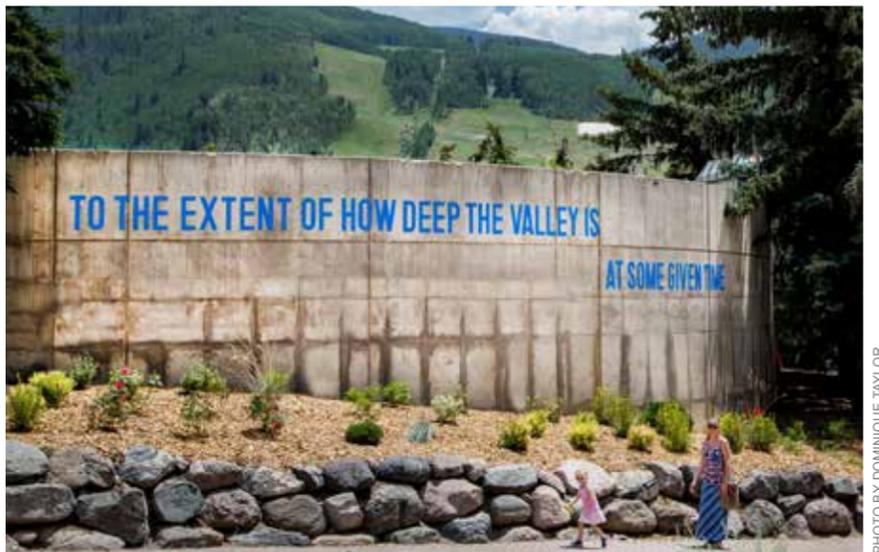


PHOTO BY FRANZ ZARDA

Paper Lantern Workshops, Holiday Lantern Walk and Vail Winterfest Ice Theater

**12TH ANNUAL VAIL WINTERFEST** | Sponsored by Doe Browning

Vail's Paper Lantern Workshops & Holiday Lantern Walk was a highlight of the AIPP winter programs. Several hundred guests and residents participated in two AIPP workshops led by Alpine Arts Center. Many who participated in the Lantern Walk on December 23 built their paper lanterns at home or at school. Led by Santa and Ralph, the world's tallest elf, the jolly procession ended at the grand opening of the Vail Winterfest Ice Theater on Gore Creek Promenade. Sculptor Paul Wertin created an interactive installation where guests could wander through the ice arches to enjoy free and family-friendly cinematic experiences.



Major art donation from the collection of Vicki and Kent Logan

**TO THE EXTENT OF HOW DEEP THE VALLEY IS AT SOME GIVEN TIME** | Lawrence Weiner

AIPP accepted a generous art donation from the collection of Vicki and Kent Logan. Lawrence Weiner, an original figure of the 1960's Conceptual Art Movement, is among the trailblazing artists who presented art through language. The work was redesigned with the artist this summer to complement its new location on the western facing façade of the Vail Village parking structure. This major gift, which was recently featured in the New York Times, enhances the caliber of the town's public art collection.

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES STATS**

**55**

permanent public art works

**36**

works are created by Colorado artists

**350**

attended the free Wednesday Art Walks

**35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

2018 marked the 35th anniversary of Vail Public Library in its current location. In recognition of the anniversary, an exhibit featuring highlights of the library's history was created. Through the efforts of many over the years, the library stands as a legacy to the ski resort pioneers who started it, the values that continue to enrich it and the community of users that enable it.



**2018 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

Rating is based on a 1-5 point scale with 5 "very satisfied"

**4.7**

**HIGHEST RATING**

Overall satisfaction with the Vail Public Library | 4.5 in 2016

@vailpubliclibrary



@vaillibrary



PHOTO BY JACK AFLECK



**VIRTUALLY VAIL**  
A DIGITAL ARCHIVE COLLECTION

**NEW!**

The library's digital collections were launched in 2018 and all live under the umbrella of Virtually Vail which includes: Vintage Vail Quilt, Vail Valley Voices and Art in Vail. Vail Valley Voices continues to grow as more oral histories are added. More digital archive projects are in the works: historical magazines and library history.



*Join us!*

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES @ your library\***

The library's partnership with Red Sandstone Elementary School entered year seven in 2018. Due to school construction in the fall, staff traveled to *Camp Minturn* to bring the teachers and students programming and books. A new program *Touch a Truck* was the highlight of the spring near Ford Park where town and private vehicles, fire trucks and police cars were assembled for children to explore. The library's summer reading program *Libraries Rock* continued to serve residents and guests. Library programs were taken on the road by partnering with many agencies and staff continue to collaborate with the Eagle County Historical Society, Eagle River Land Trust, Walking Mountains Science Center, The Bookworm and Eagle River Youth Coalition's Girls in Science.

**BILINGUAL STORY TIME**

The library continues to offer bilingual story time every Saturday morning. Vail is the only library in Eagle County that offers such a bilingual program on weekends. All stories, songs, games and crafts are presented in English and Spanish.

**EVENINGS OF ENGAGEMENT @ your library\***

These programs entertained and informed over 3,000 attendees in 2018. Programming included living history performances, book talks and signings, Celtic & acoustic musicians, Sensational & Super Seniors and a professional pumpkin carver.

**HEALTHY LIFESTYLE SERIES**

These offerings included: Gentle Yoga, Meditation, Zumba, Country Western Dance and a Walking/Skiing Book Club, depending upon the season.

**ONE BOOK ONE VALLEY**

The seventh year of the county-wide community reading initiative One Book One Valley took place as community members joined together to read "Underground Airlines" by author Ben Winters. In April, the author appeared in person at Colorado Mountain College in Edwards.



Members of the Eagle River Youth Coalition-Youth Leaders Council have been actively sharing their voices in the Civic Area Master Plan process. A top priority of the Vail Town Council is to inform and engage community members, including youth, in matters of public interest and community planning endeavors.

## MORE WAYS TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION

- [EngageVail.com](https://engagevail.com) - Online discussion forum with ongoing feedback and information-sharing opportunities
- [8150 Vail Podcast](#) - Monthly in-depth exploration of town focus areas. Visit iTunes Store, Stitcher, Google Play, Tunein or Spotify. Enter **Vail 8150**
- [Televised Board Meetings](#)  
Vail Town Council, Design Review Board Planning and Environmental Commission | [Highfivemedia.org](https://www.highfivemedia.org)
- [Twitter](#) - Gavel-to-gavel [@VailTownCouncil](https://twitter.com/VailTownCouncil)
- [Facebook](#) - People, projects, events and more



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