

-  Existing Hard Surface Trails
-  Existing Soft Surface Trails
-  Existing Social Trails

## EXISTING TRAILS

# Issues at East Vail Trailheads

- Parking and Transportation
  - Trespass parking/use of private property
  - Illegal parking on frontage roads
  - Neighborhood impacts – traffic/congestion
  - Safety conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles (especially along Booth Falls Rd.)
- Sanitation
  - Human waste
  - Garbage
  - Dog waste



Typical weekday at Gore/Deluge Trailhead

- Wilderness Character Degradation
  - Reduced opportunities for solitude
  - Trail crowding
  - Resource impacts to soil, water, wildlife, plants etc.
- Trail Infrastructure
  - Trail widening
  - Erosion
  - Tree carving
  - Campfire impacts

# History

Complaints over the years increased during the mid 20teens

Due to

- Increased population
- proliferation of Social Media/Apps regarding trail promotion
- our own success of marketing summer business with the number one activity of visitors being hiking

Began meeting with the USFS in 2016 to address problems.

- 4 trailheads which access the wilderness.
- 3 of the 4 accesses are from residential roads with parking on Town of Vail land

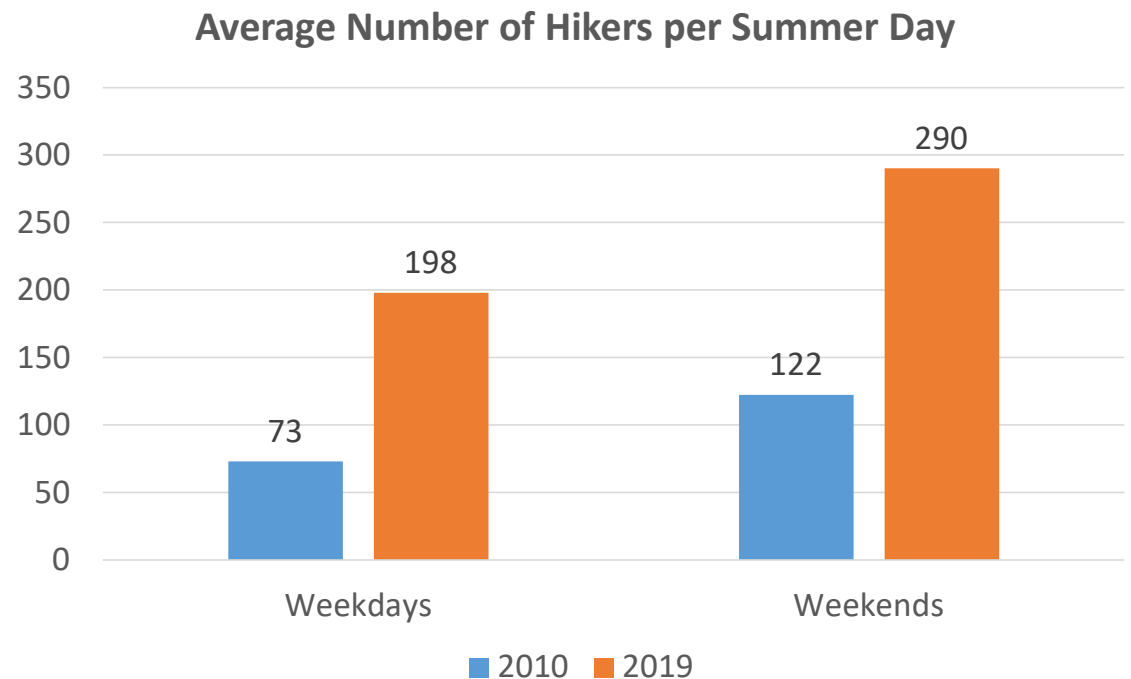
## **2017**

- increased bus service from hourly to 30-minute service
- Forest Service created an alternate hiking trails brochure to encourage use of other trails verses the east Vail Trails

- 
- Where can I hike in Vail Colorado?
  - **10 of the Best Vail Hiking Trails**
  - Booth Falls/Lake (East Vail) ...
  - Gore Creek/Lake Trails (East Vail) ...
  - Deluge Lake Trail (East Vail) ...
  - Lake Constantine (Minturn) ...
  - Notch Mountain Trail (Minturn) ...
  - Grouse Lake Trail (Minturn) ...
  - Davos Trail (West Vail) ...
  - Shrine Ridge (Vail Pass)

# Hikers on Booth Creek Trail

- Comparison of the number of hikers at Booth: 2010 to 2019
- Includes 104 days from June 23 to Oct. 4
  - 2010: 9,082 hikers
  - 2019: 23,308 hikers



## **2019**

- **Town formed a stakeholder group in 2019 to develop a plan to help work on solutions to alleviate the problems.**
- **Town and USFS brought in Volpe Center to assist with the development of potential Solutions**
- **Front Country Rangers and Vail Trail Hosts were implemented along with promotion/education.**
- **Intercept Survey was undertaken to provide insight of users**

# Trailhead Use Task Force Activities

- Identified and implemented summer/fall 2019 management activities (next slide)
- Examining immediate (next year), short/medium term (1-4 years), and long-term (5+ years) management strategies for each trailhead
  - Booth Creek has only immediate management strategies (subsequent slide)



# Management Activities: Summer/Fall 2019

- Trail Host Volunteer Program
- Forest Service Front Country Rangers
- Hiker Survey (523 responses between August and September)
- [www.HikeVail.net](http://www.HikeVail.net) & outreach to other trail websites/apps
- Notices to concierge & front desk staff to avoid busy times on popular trails
- Portable toilets
- Signage improvements





# Management Strategies for Booth Creek

- Status: determining which strategies to move forward with

Strategy	Immediate/ Next Year	Short/ Medium Term (1-4 years)	Longer Term (5+ years)
Prohibit parking at Trailhead area	A	D	
Create shuttle/drop-off area in VMS parking lot	A	D	
Close Booth Falls Rd. and Trailhead area to shuttle/concierge/drop-off access	A	D	
Charge for parking at Trailhead area	B		
Reduce parking at VMS	B, C		
Charge for parking at VMS	C		
Prohibit parking at VMS		D	
Provide bus-only access, service level as-is, to Booth Falls stop		D	
Perform capacity determination		E (3-4 years)	
FS analyzes Forest Plan compliance in Eagles Nest Wilderness area			E

## **2020**

- **Promotions was the plan Covid exasperated the issues**
- **Transit was hardly used due to Covid transit restrictions**
- **Limited Hosts contacts due to Covid**
- **Limited Concierge educations**
- **Use increased by nearly 50 %**

## **2021**

- **Town closed the Booth Creek Trailhead parking( 20 spaces) during the heavy summer use period but used the Vail Mountain School parking (80-100 spaces) to reduce neighborhood traffic**
- **Promotion of of Bus it to Hike it**
- **Heavy Vail Trail Host and Front Country Ranger presence**
- **Adopted a parking enforcement zone with increased fines of \$100 first violation with increasing penalty for repeat violators**

## **2022**

- **Town reopened the trailhead parking lot for drop off only to alleviate issues of nearby private properties**
- **Had the Vail Mountain School close their parking lot at all times**
- **Doubled down on Bus it to Hike it**
- **Implemented a stronger towing policy Added e-bike share station at the trailhead**
- **Use dropped by more than half**

# BUS IT TO HIKE IT

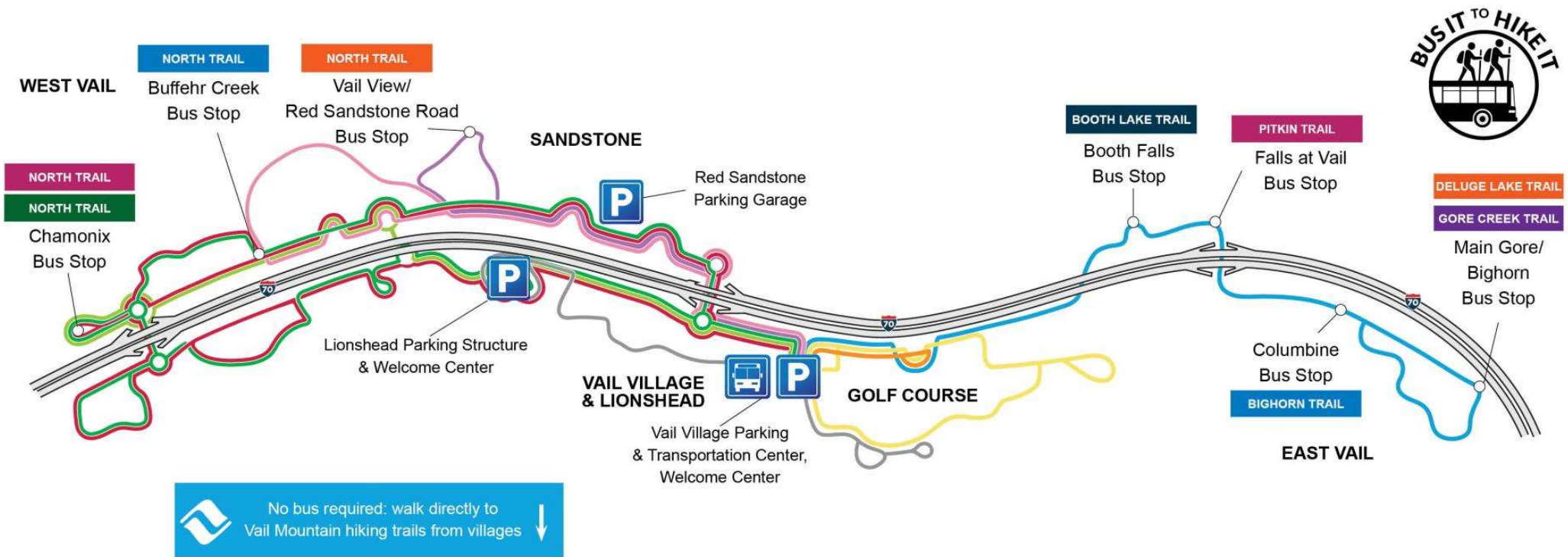




● WEST VAIL RED  
● SANDSTONE

● VAIL VILLAGE  
& LIONSHEAD

● EAST VAIL  
● GOLF COURSE





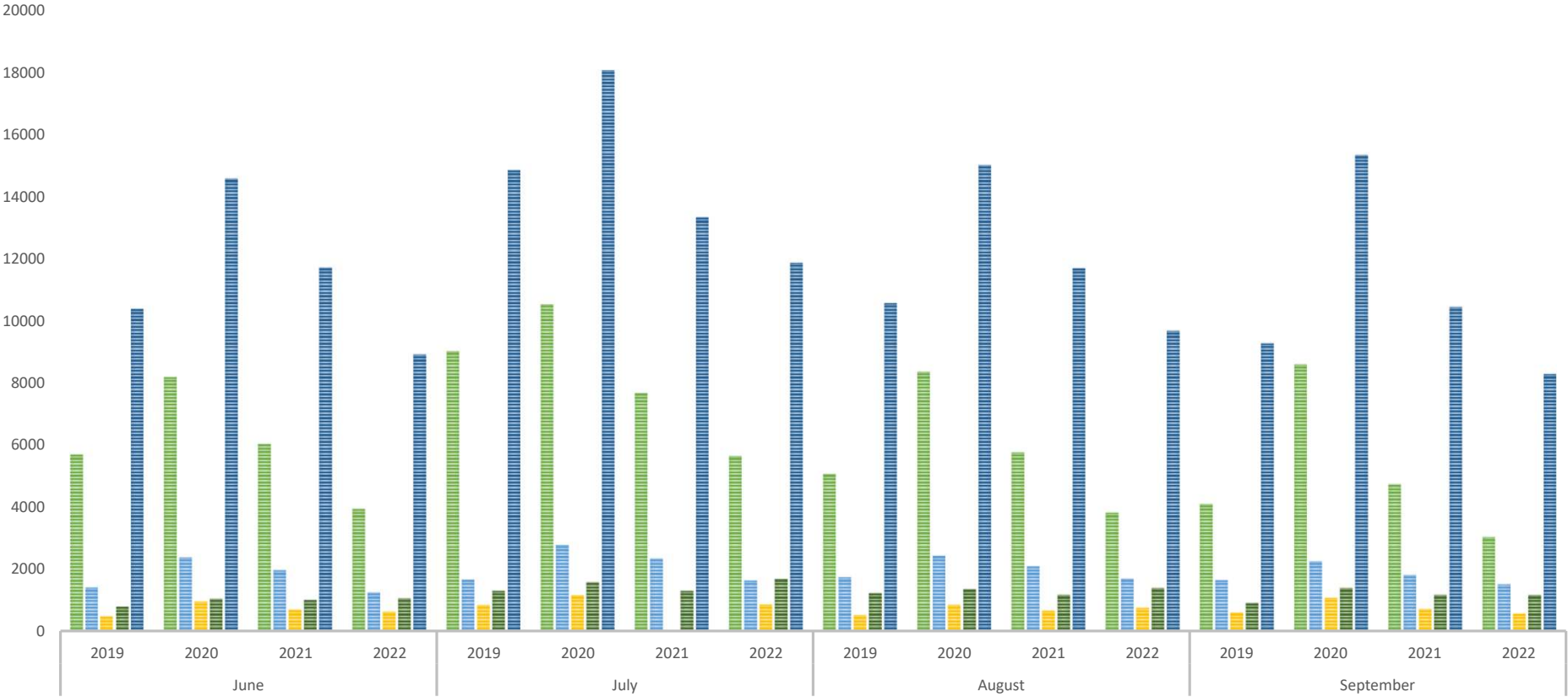


<b>Jun-Sept Totals</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Booth</b>	23,828	35,628	25,155	16,405



# MONTHLY TRAIL USE

Booth Gore Bighorn Pitkin Total



June					Totals
	Booth	Pitkin	Bighorn	Gore	
2021	6,020	1,002	697	1,963	9,682
2022	3,935	1,058	629	1,251	6,873
July					
	Booth	Pitkin	Bighorn	Gore	
2021	7,661	1,298	750	2,336	12,045
2022	5,633	1,700	859	1,632	9,824
August					
	Booth	Pitkin	Bighorn	Gore	
2021	6,753	1,169	697	2,081	10,700
2022	3,813	1,384	749	1,694	7,640
September					
	Booth	Pitkin	Bighorn	Gore	
2021	4,721	1,808	712	2,081	9,322
2022	3,024	1,158	558	1,506	6,246
Total June-Sept					
	Booth	Pitkin	Bighorn	Gore	
2021	25,155	5,277	2,856	8,461	41,749
2022	16,405	5,300	2,795	6,083	30,583

Manns Ranch Rd./Booth Creek Park	Towed Vehicles	Warnings	Citations
May 2022	1	2	35
June 2022	28	2	13
July 2022	50	2	5
August 2022	21	2	1
September 2022	6	2	5
October 2022	20	8	6
Total	127	18	110

Booth Fall Trailhead	Towed Vehicles	Warnings	Citations
May 2022	0	11	2
June 2022	1	3	18
July 2022	8	6	6
August 2022	3	1	4
September 2022	5	0	4
October 2022	2	3	4
Total	19	24	38

## 2022 Transit Use

Month	Westbound	Eastbound	Total
June	1,543	578	2,121
July	2,264	889	3,153
August	1,684	625	2,309
September	1,374	574	1,948

- Transit use before full closure was about 5% capture rate of hikers
- Eliminating parking options all together transit captured 35 -42 % of users
- Hotel shuttles were still encouraged to provide their services
- Biking and drop off were also encouraged
- Neighborhood walking access was still encouraged

	June				July				August				September			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Booth	5679	8175	6020	3935	9007	10522	7661	5633	5057	8350	5748	3813	4085	8581	4721	3024
Gore	1407	2370	1963	1251	1662	2793	2336	1632	1736	2422	2081	1694	1640	2249	1808	1506
Bighorn	477	960	687	629	843	1158	n/a	859	521	851	652**	749	595	1074	712	558
Pitkin	785	1037	1002	1058	1299	1568	1298	1700	1219	1349	1169	1384	912	1390	1166	1158
Total	10367	14562	11693	8895	14830	18061	13316	11846	10552	14992	11019	9662	9251	15314	10428	8268