



[Regenerating riparian habitat – Gore Creek stream bank restoration underway.](#)

Letters to Vail

V a i l H o m e o w n e r s A s s o c i a t i o n

VHA Report: 0727251120a

2025 VHA Annual Membership Meeting

1-3 pm, Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Vail Public Library – Community Room

White Paper Report – Vail Looking Forward

Environmental Sustainability

July 30, 2025

The TOV's Environmental Sustainability Department is tasked with the clean-up of Gore Creek. The health of Gore Creek is an essential asset, amenity, and survival resource for the community. Water supply and stream quality are fundamental to carrying capacity functions. State water authorities have declared Gore Creek an impaired (polluted) waterway. Pollutants are damaging the Gore Creek fishery. The stream's reputation as Gold Medal Fishing Waters now lies under a cloud.

[A recent evaluation of Gore Creek, by the TOV's Sustainability Department, found](#), after years of testing at multiple locations along the valley's waterways: When property owners reduce the use of chemical treatments and counter-productive behaviors, the restoration of waterways will occur more rapidly. At the current pace, it will take many more years to restore the health of Gore Creek and its tributaries.

Non-invasive treatments are available that are effective in dissuading troublesome plants and pests. A strong media message campaign demonstrating best practices for landscape maintenance and pest control could help spread the message. Sustainability efforts would also be of assistance in restoring wildlife habitat and reducing the risk of damage from a natural disaster.



Love VAIL
GORE CREEK

FREE EVENT

July 22

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Light Apps & Drinks
Vail Golf Clubhouse

More Info? Contact:
Peter Wiedlon
Town of Vail Watershed Specialist
pwiedlon@vail.gov
970-479-2144

LoveVail.org/gorecreek

TUESDAY, JULY 22
GOLF COURSE
GORE CREEK
VEGETATION PLAN

Love Gore Creek? Love Vail Golf Course?
We want your input!

Town of Vail and Vail Recreation District invite you to a public meeting to discuss proposed changes to course management and design aimed at improving the health of Gore Creek. Proposed changes range from simple adjustments in chemical use near waterways to major re-routing of sections of the Gore Creek stream channel.

This event is sponsored by:



Additional important stream restoration projects are occurring. A portion of the channelized section of Gore Creek, passing through the Vail Golf Course, is being considered to be restored as a meandering stream bed. The Gore Creek stream bed was channelized for construction of 1-70 in the 1960s. Opposition litigation failed to halt construction. As a result, extensive damage to the Gore Creek wetlands occurred.



What Next for the Big Horn Sheep and the valley’s wildlife?

The **Big Horn Sheep Habitat** issue has come to a positive conclusion. With the East Vail Bighorn Sheep Habitat going under a conservation easement, a larger area above the Booth Creek neighborhoods has been added to the land acquired from Vail Resorts (VR). The transfer of ownership of what became known as Booth Heights sheep habit took over eight years to reach a settlement. A tipping point was an agreement between the TOV and VR to cooperate in developing a West Lionshead portal, previously identified as Ever Vail. The planning for West Lionshead is underway, concepts are being shared. Redevelopment of the area has been under consideration for decades. This is an opportune time to collaborate and enhance an alliance among the parties involved

Serious consideration should be given to the question, is Vail is growing-itself-to-death? This has been the fate of many globally renowned classic resorts and spas throughout human history. Some have endured, retaining their purpose and charm. What steps were taken by iconic resorts to ensure their existence over the centuries?

Preservation of privately owned open space: Ongoing litigation regarding a property owner's dispute over an alleged infraction of Tract E protective covenants involving Mill Creek Circle and Hanson Ranch Road owners.

I-70 and roadway wildlife crossings: The Vail Pass wildlife crossing remains unfinished. It is one among an estimated 2000 unfunded projects waiting for State and Federal monies. As it has with other visionary projects, Vail has pursued the planning, design and approval processes that involve institutional funding. Several Interstate crossing locations through the Vail area creating passage for humans and wildlife have been identified.

VHA has distributed notice to members and readers about the need to curtail private fencing in residential neighborhoods so that wildlife can more freely circulate among dwellings on annual migration routes. Migration areas need to be more appropriately signed to advise recreationalists to avoid trespassing on wildlife sensitive areas by using established roads and pathways.

VHA [invites letters of interest](#) to assist in its membership and reader development efforts.

VHA is a member and reader-supported non-profit funded by voluntary annual dues and contributions of its paid subscribers and readers. Many members are part-time resident property owners from Vail’s founding generation, their children, and succeeding generations of first-time owners who have discovered the intangible qualities that Vail brings to their lives. As Vail grows, traditional assumptions of political activism have become more complicated and costly.

Memberships and contributions fuel the VHA Reports, Letters to Vail, and help VHA respond to important issues, expand its reach, and ensure transparency. VHA is thankful for the support and participation of the Vail community. We pledge to remain at the forefront of advocating for the mutual interests of full and part-time residents and property owners.

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