



Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance  
PO Box 3986  
Avon, CO 81620  
[www.vvmta.org](http://www.vvmta.org)

In 2011, a group of locals sharing a passion for trails realized there needed to be organized representation and care for soft surface trails in the Vail Valley. The number of locals and visitors drawn to the Vail Valley's trails was constantly increasing and causing increased use and demand. With that, they decided talk was cheap and formed the Vail Valley Mountain Bike Association (VVMBA).

Their passion for building and maintaining sustainable soft surface trails has led to hundreds of miles of trail maintenance, the West Avon Preserve, the soon to be opened Everkrisp Trail, thousands of hours of volunteer trail maintenance through the Adopt A Trail program, and most recently the Wildlife Trail Ambassador program.

Beginning Wednesday, April 10, the VVMBA is undergoing a name change to better fit its mission, vision, and programs that we are already successfully performing. We are pleased to announce our new name - Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA).

"We are aligning the organization with what we're already doing, which is maintaining and building sustainable multi-use soft surface trails." said Jamie Malin, one of the founders of the organization and current President of the VVMTA.

The VVMTA is excited to announce its re-focused mission, vision, and execution statements that better reflects our core values:

**Mission:** The VVMTA's mission is to maintain, educate, advocate for, and build sustainable non-motorized soft surface trails while conserving the natural environment of Eagle County and our public lands.

**Vision:** The VVMTA is the leading advocate for soft surface trails in Eagle County, CO. The VVMTA's vision is the creation of a sustainable multi-use soft surface trail network connecting communities and neighborhoods from Vail Pass to Basalt. We promote stewardship of our public lands, sustainable trail building practices and a balance between recreation and conservation. The VVMTA maintains that trails contribute to the quality of life and economic vitality of the community.

**Execution:** The VVMTA manages trail advocacy programs, coordinates and trains volunteers, educates outdoor recreational users, organizes events, and contributes its talents, guidance and time to support local land managers in various soft surface trail initiatives.



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In addition to the name change, the VVMTA is excited to announce the hiring of Ernest Saeger as its first full-time Executive Director. Ernest Saeger has been on the VVMTA's Board of Directors since 2016 and will be able to dedicate the time and effort needed to advance and address the important topics of recreation and conservation in our community.

"The programs we're managing and the grants we're receiving to improve our soft surface trail system and advocacy efforts, have grown exponentially over the last few years," Saeger said. "It's always been the goal to get to this point, but the Adopt A Trail program, for example, is just one of the programs we oversee, and has grown from 30 trails in 2016 to 50 trails in 2019 and now it has expanded to include the Trail Ambassador program to help with education on seasonal trail closures and why we need to respect wildlife." Saeger said.

The VVMTA has a full menu for the 2019 season including the Adopt A Trail and Wildlife Trail Ambassador programs, Annual Spring Kick Off at Vail Brewing Co. - May 7, the Eagle Outside FunDuro - June 1, two full days of trail work on the Everkrisp Trail - June 29 & 30, and our regular Wednesday Night Trail Crew kicking off in May.

To learn more about these programs, events and how to volunteer, join, and donate please visit our website - [vvmta.org](http://vvmta.org).