

**Marble Concept Trails Plan**  
**April 29, 2022 Update from RFMBA**

**for May 5, 2022 Town of Marble Trustees Meeting**

Please see below for Role Descriptions for involved entities including RFMBA and STI.

1. Late 2021 / Early 2022: RFMBA worked with interested locals and STI to develop a "*Draft Marble Concept Trails Plan*". RFMBA worked with STI to evolve the proposal map and develop a report that considers opportunities, constraints, trail types, and more.
2. Feb. 7, 2022: "*Draft Marble Concept Trails Plan*" was presented by RFMBA to Town of Marble Parks Committee. Substantive feedback was provided that led to significant revisions to the Millsite Park area, Thompson/Children's Park area, and introduced the 'Public Alley Trails' trail type to potentially increase the safety and quality of trail experience available, compared to the initial focus of the 'Singletrack Sidewalk' trail type adjacent to the town's roadways. Draft plan was shared with CPW for future input.
3. March 3, 2022: "*Marble Concept Trails Plan*" was presented by RFMBA to both the Marble Charter School's board of directors, and to the Town's Board of Trustees during their monthly meetings. MCS board members voiced interest in the proposal given the focus on youth cycling with the proposed trails. Town Trustees each shared feedback on the overall proposal, as well as some specific recommendations and concerns. RFMBA requested Town Trustee support to enter a public feedback phase, and to develop the proposal further into an evolved version that would be subject to further review and public feedback before any approvals.

A majority of Trustees voiced support for developing the proposal further.

Recommendations discussed included a request that the proposal allow for phased or partial approval so that viable trail segments or areas may proceed towards approval sooner than others. Town Administrator Ron Leach offered to work with RFMBA to ensure that the upcoming process aligns with Town of Marble's planning and zoning, and other requirements. Concept plan was shared with CPW for future input.

4. March/April, 2022: A schedule for the planning process was proposed with Town's staff that included public feedback sessions and multiple rounds of review. Town published the *Marble Bike/Pedestrian Trail Survey* requesting feedback on proposed in-town trails/routes, and potential trails beyond the town's boundary. Since the March 3rd Trustee Meeting, this trail planning process has raised questions and concerns from many community members, increasing the need to accelerate public feedback and revisions to the concepts shared in prior months.

RFMBA & planning consultant Singletrack Trails Inc. recently performed on-the-ground assessment for the trail concepts that were added over recent months. All 'public alley trail' concepts, along with a majority of 'singletrack sidewalks' have been determined to be not viable, or not valuable. Concept Proposal maps are now revised to indicate a limited scope of concept trails, for presentation at May 5th Trustee Meeting. The focus

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indicated on the attached two maps remains on developing safe youth cycling opportunities for locals. The proposed routes are limited to:

- a. Millsite Park bike skills trail (0.8 miles currently, a shorter trail is also possible)
  - b. Marble Charter School to Millsite Park connector trail (0.1 miles)
  - c. Designated Route from Marble Charter School to Thompson/Children's Park, utilizing State Street's existing dirt roads, existing doubletrack, new way finding signage, 250' of potential soft surface singletrack sidewalk adjacent to one block of paved road, and a paved road crossing.
5. Results of the *Marble Bike/Pedestrian Trail Survey* (due ~May 2nd) should strongly influence any continued proposal for the above described trails and route designations. RFMBA values this public survey and anticipates future public feedback during meetings and surveys to determine what trails may be appropriate or valued by a majority of those living, and owning property, in the Town of Marble.
  6. The formation of the Marble Bike Association - MBA is a positive indication that trails, and time spent outdoors, are valued for contributing to the health and wellbeing of local community members. We value that MBA seeks to increase local feedback on any proposal, and will seek local consensus over time, as long as it may take.
  7. RFMBA is pleased to defer to the judgement of MBA's locally focused and experienced members when it comes to local trails. RFMBA aims to be of service to the Marble Bike Association's, and the Town of Marble's, goals and decisions as it relates to any version of a proposal for improved local trail access moving forward.
  8. RFMBA will only engage with continued public feedback to evolve this proposal upon direction from Town of Marble Trustees. Further, during any continued public feedback, we will transition to assisting upon request, not leading, MBA members on their efforts to secure approvals for any local trails proposal.

### **Roles**

#### Town of Marble

Public land manager, responsible for reviewing the trails proposal from concept through any final phases, for potential approval. The Town would be the owner of any trails constructed on park lands or public rights-of-way. The Town would be responsible for long term maintenance of trails it owns, but will rely on RFMBA, local volunteers, and others for annual maintenance needs. The Town is the applicant for the proposed trails given its land ownership.

#### Marble Bike Association - MBA

Recently formed organization comprised of Marble locals who believe in planning By Our Community, For Our Community. MBA members enjoy biking around town, but also aim to be inclusive of joggers, dog walkers, and others who enjoy similar experiences.

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#### Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association - RFMBA

Non-profit organization that advocates for creating and sustaining high quality mountain bike trails and experiences, as well as shared-use trails for hikers, runners, dog walkers, and others. RFMBA's capacity includes trail design, fundraising for trail construction projects, construction of trails with volunteers and staff, and maintenance of trails through group volunteer events, independent trail stewardship training (Trail Agent Program), and paid staff (Seasonal Trail Crew Program).

RFMBA initiated the proposal for the Marble Trails Plan, focused on developing a plan that will be seen as valued and successful by residents and private landowners in Marble. As noted above, RFMBA is pleased to defer to, and support as requested, the recently formed Marble Bike Association's locally focused trail efforts. RFMBA funding relationships allow for the current planning process and potential future trails to be constructed without dedicated funding from the Town of Marble or other sources. RFMBA intends for a thorough review and approvals process (in respect to the Town of Marble's requirements) and will provide oversight on the quality of the implementation of any approved trails.

#### Singletrack Trails, Inc. (STI)

Soft surface trail experts, headquartered in Grand Junction, CO, with extensive trail projects around the country. Contracted by RFMBA to provide trail planning services, cost estimations, and if trails are approved, construction of new trails. STI will also provide graphic design, fabrication, and installation for any approved signage related to new trails or designated routes. STI will apply for a permit to build trails within the Town of Marble. RFMBA will pay invoices for STI's services on this project.

#### Contacts:

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Annie McFarland, STI Planning Director, [annie.mcfarland@singletracktrails.com](mailto:annie.mcfarland@singletracktrails.com)

# TOWN OF MARBLE COLORADO

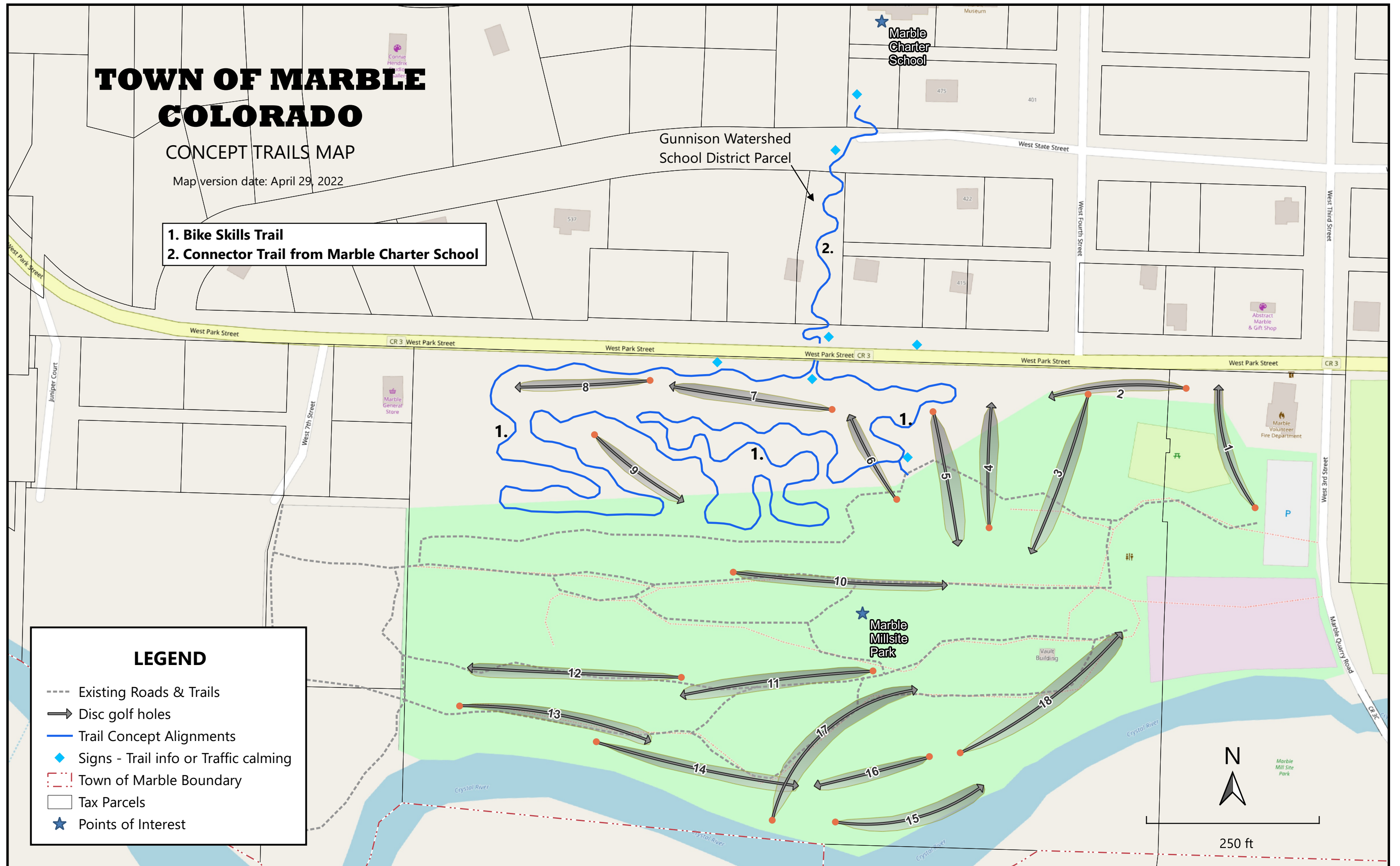
## CONCEPT TRAILS MAP

Map version date: April 29, 2022

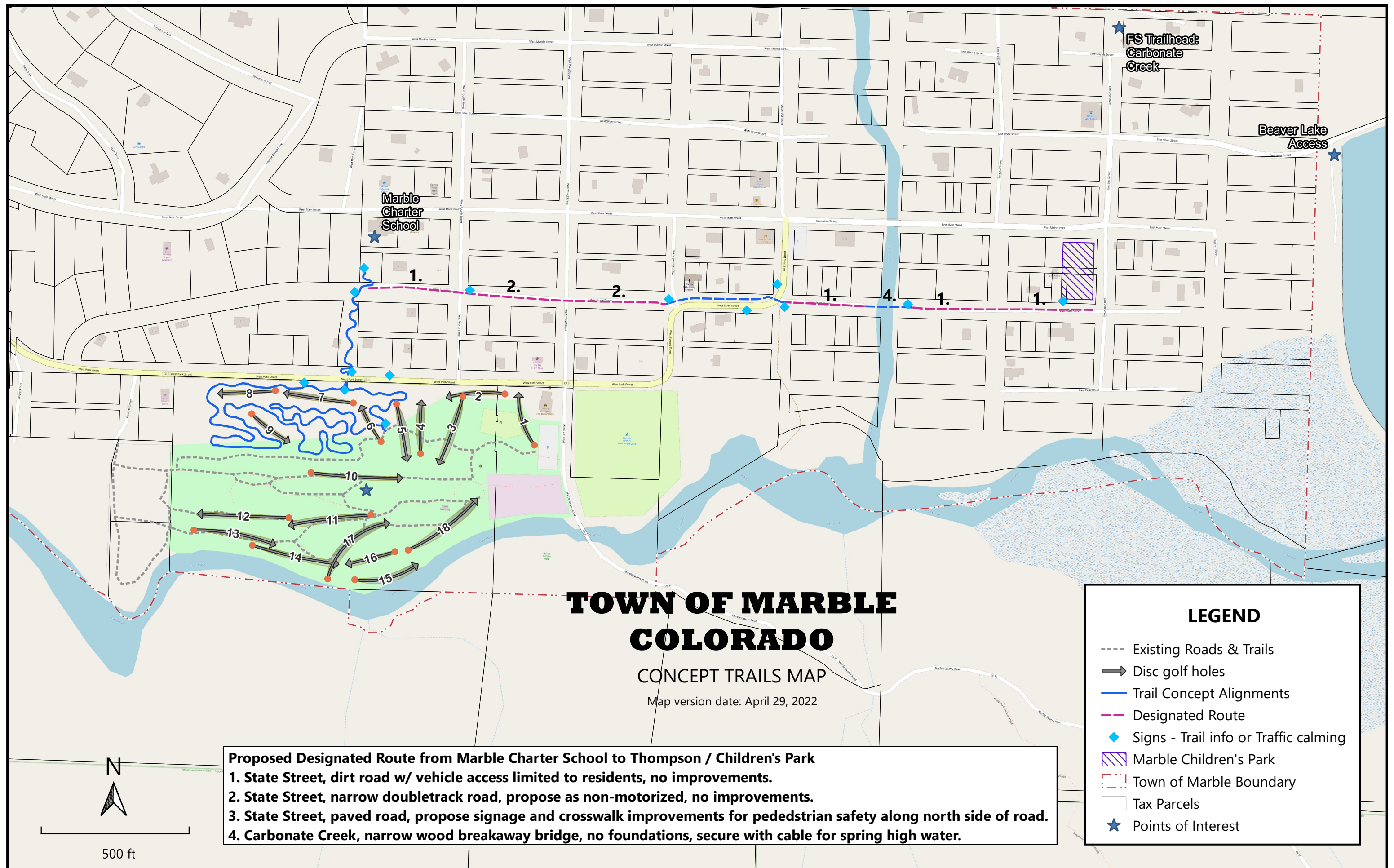
- 1. Bike Skills Trail
- 2. Connector Trail from Marble Charter School

### LEGEND

- Existing Roads & Trails
- Disc golf holes
- Trail Concept Alignments
- ◆ Signs - Trail info or Traffic calming
- - - Town of Marble Boundary
- Tax Parcels
- ★ Points of Interest







FS Trailhead:  
Carbonate  
Creek

Beaver Lake  
Access

Marble  
Charter  
School

1.

2.

2.

1.

4.

1.

1.



# TOWN OF MARBLE COLORADO

## CONCEPT TRAILS MAP

Map version date: April 29, 2022

### LEGEND

- Existing Roads & Trails
- ➡ Disc golf holes
- Trail Concept Alignments
- Designated Route
- ◆ Signs - Trail info or Traffic calming
- ▨ Marble Children's Park
- - - Town of Marble Boundary
- Tax Parcels
- ★ Points of Interest

**Proposed Designated Route from Marble Charter School to Thompson / Children's Park**

1. State Street, dirt road w/ vehicle access limited to residents, no improvements.
2. State Street, narrow doubletrack road, propose as non-motorized, no improvements.
3. State Street, paved road, propose signage and crosswalk improvements for pedestrian safety along north side of road.
4. Carbonate Creek, narrow wood breakaway bridge, no foundations, secure with cable for spring high water.



500 ft