



Southwestern Heritage Center HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Southwestern Heritage Center Historical Society (swhchs.org)

Experiencing Our Heritage Outdoors

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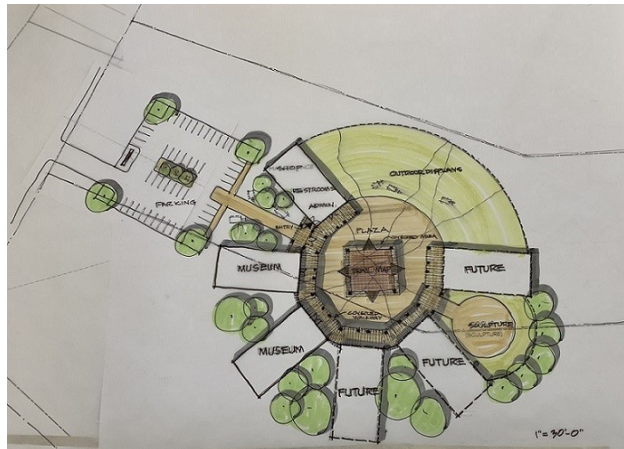
The Southwestern Heritage Center Historical Society was formed as a Nonprofit Corporation on November 23, 2021. The goal is to provide a safe, family friendly environment where citizens, new move-ins, children, youth, senior citizens, and tourists participate in hands-on experiences tied to different aspects of our southwestern heritage. A secondary goal is for every citizen in and tourist to the area to pay to visit the **Center**, with their family, by 2030. We believe the **Center** will become a repeat destination, helping individuals remember the trails, places, and people today's society is built on, while working on ways to improve the trails, places, and people tomorrow's society will be built on. This is our heritage.

Southwestern Utah, including Cedar City, is going through a third wave of population growth. The first wave was the pioneers in the 1850's. The second was following World War II, and the growth of mining and manufacturing. New population growth is bringing settlers to Southern Utah with a cultural heritage radically different from the pioneer heritage of the multi-generational residents here in Utah. In general, new move-ins appear interested to learn about the local heritage. The Cedar City area is awash in history. A majority of long-term citizens in the community and in Iron County are interested in documenting, sharing, and using local history to guide better decision making going forward. As we welcome new citizens, it is important to provide them ways to culturally integrate. **The Southwestern Heritage Center** will also enhance visits of tourists who come visit to the National & State Parks & Shakespeare Theater.

The Southwestern Heritage Center will be a destination where our heritage enhancement happens.

To the right is a possible configuration around a 165-foot wagon wheel plaza, including signs and descriptions of 28 historical trails, as well as the existing and planned trails for hiking, biking, equestrian, motorcycle, and OHV explorations. The best-known historic trail is The Old Spanish Trail, one of 19 National Trails.

The first building will be a 60,000+ square-foot barn, probably across the plaza from the entrance and southeast of the statue illustrated to the right.





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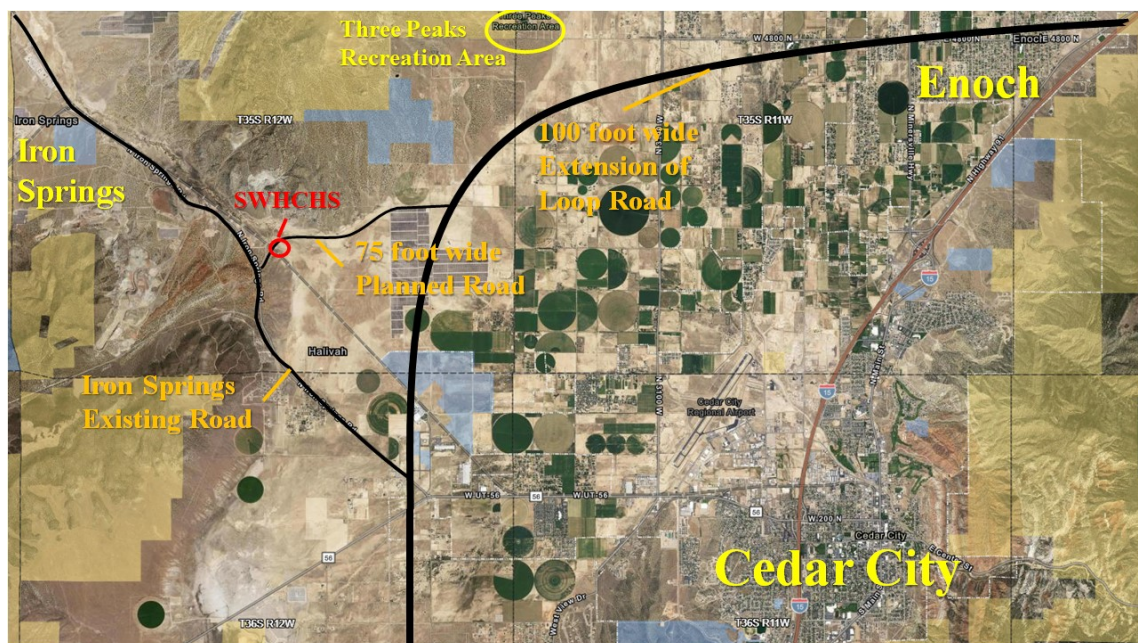
The land, gravel base and grading, water, power, and part of the building structure are being donated by Frank Nichols. The **Center** will be integrated into Frank's plans for Iron Springs Adventure Resort. The first building will hopefully house some of the 300 pioneer era wagons restored and owned by the Wagon Land Adventure Foundation, currently in Tremonton, Utah. The initial barn will be big enough to house OHV and bikes. Iron Springs Resort plans an equestrian center, west across from the Heritage Center.

The initial building will also house a pioneer era rifle and pistol collection, and several hundred engines rebuilt and collected by Al Matheson. Other pioneer and Indian artifacts will be included in the museum. This museum component of the **Southwestern Heritage Center** will also include rocks, minerals, and gems collected from Southwestern Utah by the Southern Utah Rock Club. SURC will move their rock cutting and polishing facility to the **Center**, where members and visitors will be able to cut and polish rocks found in Southwestern Utah. They will hold their monthly meetings of 300+ members at the **Center**, schedule monthly rock hounding trips through the **Center**, and coordinate bus tours to the Wray Mineral Collection in Milford, Utah, and possibly move their annual Rock Show to the **Center**.

Three historical groups, (1) the Cedar City Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers (SUP), (2) the Iron County Camps of The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers (DUP), and (3) the Iron County Historical Society will have offices, meeting rooms, space to store donated artifacts, and museum displays at the **Center**. Each group will provide docents to explain the heritage at and around the **Center**. The Paiute Indian Tribe is invited to hold Pow Wows and to participate in reenactments at the **Center**. An outdoor diorama will describe each of the historical trails going through Iron Springs, and point visitors to walking, equestrian, wagon, bike, motor cross, OHV (Off Highway Vehicle), and other trails and outdoor activities explaining and helping visitors experience and learn of Southwestern Utah heritage. Outdoor recreation activities will include a Petting Zoo, hiking trails, rock hounding, rock climbing, horse riding, and bicycle trails.

The remainder of this document provides additional background information on some of the above points.

Location



Location in Cedar Valley



Map of Trails through SWHC



Iron Springs Adventure Resort plus trails through SWHC

Paiute Indian Tribe

The Paiute Indian tribe has lived in the area for centuries. Their culture was dramatically impacted when the explorers arrived 250 years ago and especially when the pioneers arrived 170 years ago. The Paiute, and other American Indian Tribes in the area have a rich heritage, which needs to be remembered and celebrated. There are literally thousands of petroglyphs in the Cedar City area. The **Southwestern Heritage Center** will take interested parties on field trips to see and learn about these earliest settlers and to ensure this heritage is remembered and protected. There are also many other southwestern tribes, and cultures to be celebrated at the Heritage Center, including the Navajo, Ute, and Hopi Indian Tribes.



Parowan Gap Petroglyphs



“Kokopelli:”



Petroglyphs Accessed from Walmart Parking Lot in Cedar City



Ancient "Rodeo" Man

N 37 deg, 39 min, 10 sec
W 113 deg, 5 min, 16 sec

Many petroglyphs of unknown significance are common in the desert regions, usually pecked into lava patina. Sometimes they are humorous in light of today's images, but many had sacred significance to Native people. Some petroglyphs and pictographs may have been family or clan symbols, others most likely fetishes for good luck or recording events. In every event, however, they warrant protection from abuse, touching or disturbance. Many of the pre-historic and historic petroglyphs are accessed from the Walmart parking lot in Cedar City, UT. Please help reduce or eliminate the rampant vandalism evident at this location

28 Historic Trails through Iron Springs

Changes to the local Indian culture started when the Dominguez-Escalante expedition came through Cedar Valley and Iron Springs in 1776. Since then, over 20 different significant historical trails were built through Iron Springs, where the **Southwestern Heritage Center** will be located. Each of these trails will be mapped, and displays generated to teach visitors, tourists, and students about the unique local heritage and history of the area. Of specific interest is The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, which supported six decades of international trade between Mexico and the United States. In 2002 this trail was designated by Congress as part of the National Trails System. There are 15 segments of this trail in Iron County. Sheep, hides, and woolen products from New Mexico were traded for mules and horses from California.

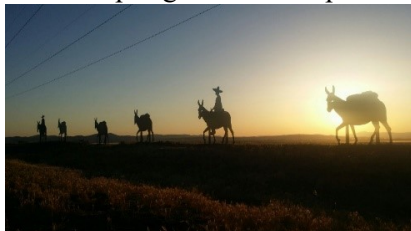
The Old Spanish Trail Association [OSTA] has the following Mission Statement:

“To study, preserve and protect, interpret and educate, and promote respectful use of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and closely related historic routes. OSTA promotes public awareness of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and its multicultural heritage by encouraging research and publication and partnering with governments and private organizations.”

Old Spanish Trail Markers Summit, Cedar City, Newcastle; Enoch, Utah Silhouettes:



Old Spanish Trail Silhouettes at Iron Springs and Antelope Road and Utah Hill looking east:





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Historical Trail Elements include: Historical Markers; Inscription; Silhouettes; Directional Signage; Petroglyphs; Pictographs; Interpretations; Campgrounds; Trail Museums; Existing Trail Trace or Swale; Multi-Use Trails; Waysides; Trailheads & Hiking Trails; Equestrian Trails; Parking & Day Use; Reenactments; OHV [Off Highway Vehicles] High Desert Trails; OHV Staging Areas; Railroads, etc.

The **Southwestern Heritage Center** will promote these activities for all historical trails, including:

1. 0001-1300 Great Basin Native American Culture: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fremont_culture
2. California Trail: <http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/californiatrail.htm> http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_02_California_Trail.pdf
3. Baker Trail
4. 1849 Jefferson Hunt: <http://mojavedesert.net/people/hunt.html>
5. 1849 Death Valley 49r Trail http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_05a1_Death_Valley_49r_Trail_from_Trouadour_on_the_Road_to_Gold_by_Leroy_Jean_Johnson-scaled.jpg
6. Gold Trail to California
7. 1830 - Arrowhead trail: <https://digital-desert.com/historic-roads/arrowhead-trail/>
8. 1821 - National Historic Old Spanish Trail http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_Early_Trails_of_the_West_from_California_a_history_by_Andrew_Rolle_p170.jpg
9. Civilian Conservation /WPA
10. 1848-1854 Salt Lake Trail http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_10a_Salt_Lake_Trail_from_Gatesways_to_Southern_California_by_John_W.Robinson.jpg http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_10b_Salt_Lake_Trail_Discovering_Mormon_Trails_by_Stanley_B.Kimball-scaled.jpg
11. 1905-1915 Union Sheep Trail http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_11-and-22_wool_Janet_Segmiller_p10-12.pdf
12. Halliday Stage Stop/trail http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_12_Holladay_Stagecoach_Ben_Holladay_the_Stagecoach_King_by_J_V_Frederick.pdf
13. 1843-1844 John C. Fremont expeditions http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_Early_Explorers_of_the_West_from_California_a_history_by_Andrew_Rolle_p171_Fremont.jpg
14. Solomon Nunes Carvallho: American Painter who joined the 5th expedition of John C. Fremont http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_14_Solomon_Nunes_Carvallho_Fremont.pdf
15. March 1848 Mormon Battalion trail: return to Salt Lake City <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/timeline/historic-sites/mormon-battalion/?lang=eng> http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_15_Mormon_Battalion_Trail.pdf
16. 1857 Fancher Trail http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_16_Francer-Party_from-Blood-of-the-Prophets_by_Will_Bagley.jpg
17. 1923 06 17 Union Pacific Terminal http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_17_Union_Pacific_Terminal_from_Iron_County_History_by-janet-Seegmiller_p107-108.pdf
18. 1849-1859 Parley P. Pratt Expedition http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_18_Parley_P_Pratt_from_Over_the_Rim_by_Willam_and_Donna_Smart.jpg
19. Orson Pratt route
20. 1869 Wheeler Expedition: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4350.cws00182> book: SpColl QE74 .W6 1875 v.3 http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_20_Wheeler_Expedition.pdf
21. Butterfield Stage Station
22. Wool Loading depot http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_11-and-22_wool_Janet_Segmiller_p10-12.pdf
23. Railroad load out terminal http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_24-25_001_Branch_Railroad_Iron_County_History_by_Janet_Seegmiller_p330-333.pdf
24. Geneva Steel terminal http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_24-25_001_Branch_Railroad_Iron_County_History_by_Janet_Seegmiller_p330-333.pdf



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25_002_Branch_Railroad_Iron_County_History_by_Janet_Seegmiller_p329.pdf

25. Utah Construction mining activity http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_Early_Transport_Routes_of_the_West_from_California_a_history_by_Andrew_Rolle_p171_Freemont.jpg

26. 1829-1848 BLM Spanish Trail Park: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/old-spanish-national-historic-trail>

http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_26_BLM_Spanish_Trail_Park.pdf

27. Principal Explorers [http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_Principal_Explorers_1601-](http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_Principal_Explorers_1601-1844.png)

1844.png zoom 1831 Bonneville [http://swhchs.org/wp-](http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_Principal_Explorers_zoom_1601-1844.png)

[content/uploads/2022/02/220202_Principal_Explorers_zoom_1601-1844.png](http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_Principal_Explorers_zoom_1601-1844.png) 1826 Jedediah Smith 1826-27 1826

[http://swhchs.org/wp-](http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_Early_Explorers_of_the_West_from_California_a_history_by_Andrew_Rolle_p170_Jedediah_Smith.jpg)

[content/uploads/2022/02/220204_Early_Explorers_of_the_West_from_California_a_history_by_Andrew_Rolle_p170_Jedediah_Smith.jpg](http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220204_Early_Explorers_of_the_West_from_California_a_history_by_Andrew_Rolle_p170_Jedediah_Smith.jpg)

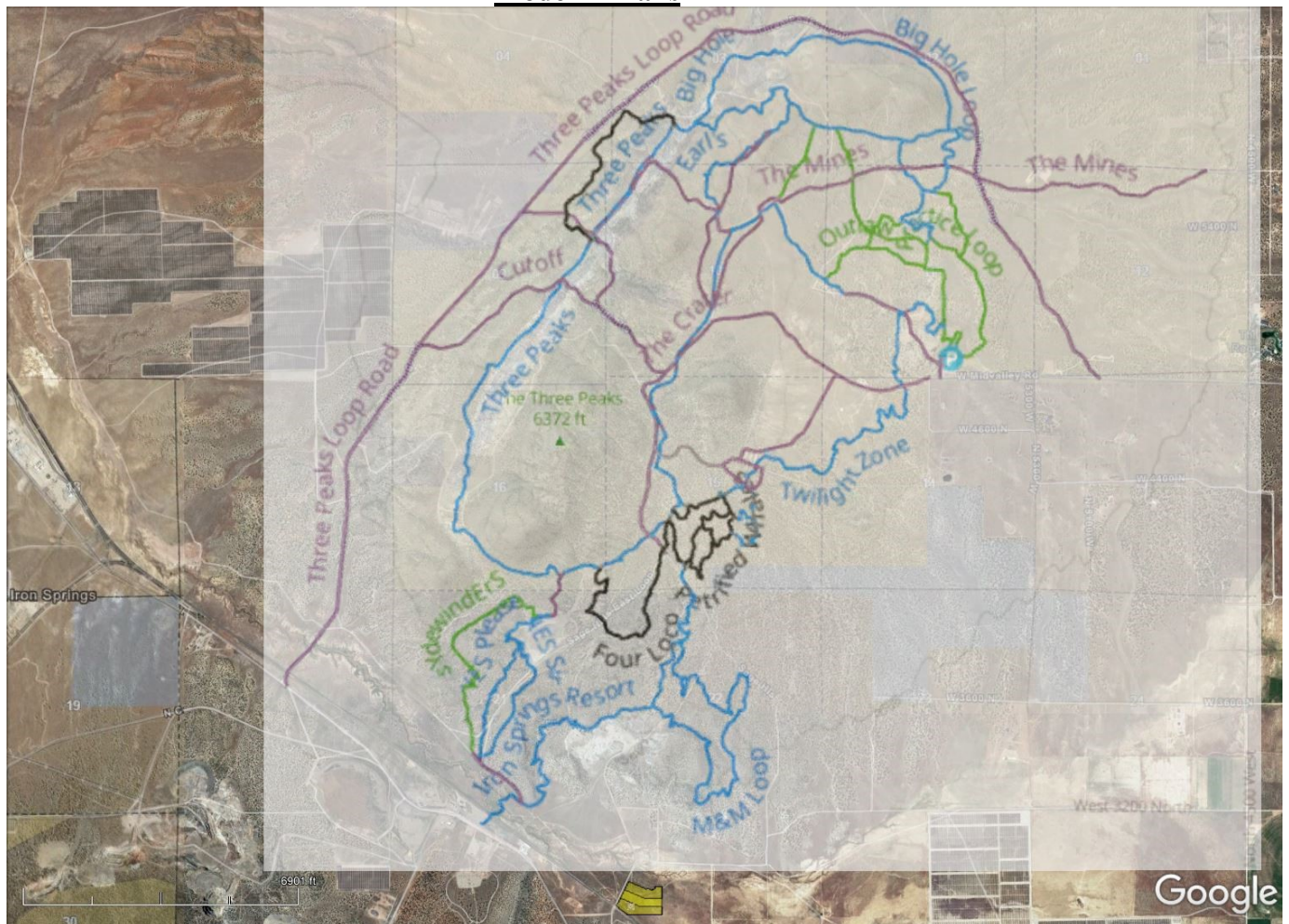
28. 1775 Escalante 1854 Freemont Trails West [http://swhchs.org/wp-](http://swhchs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220202_Trails_West.png)

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Modern Trails

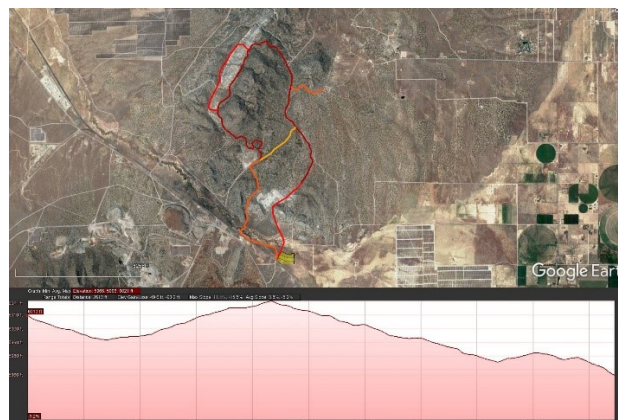
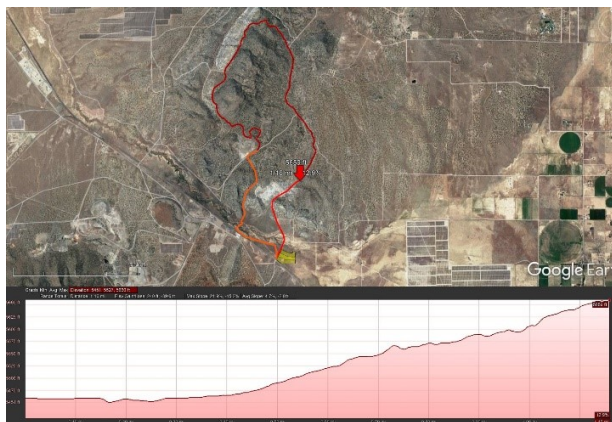


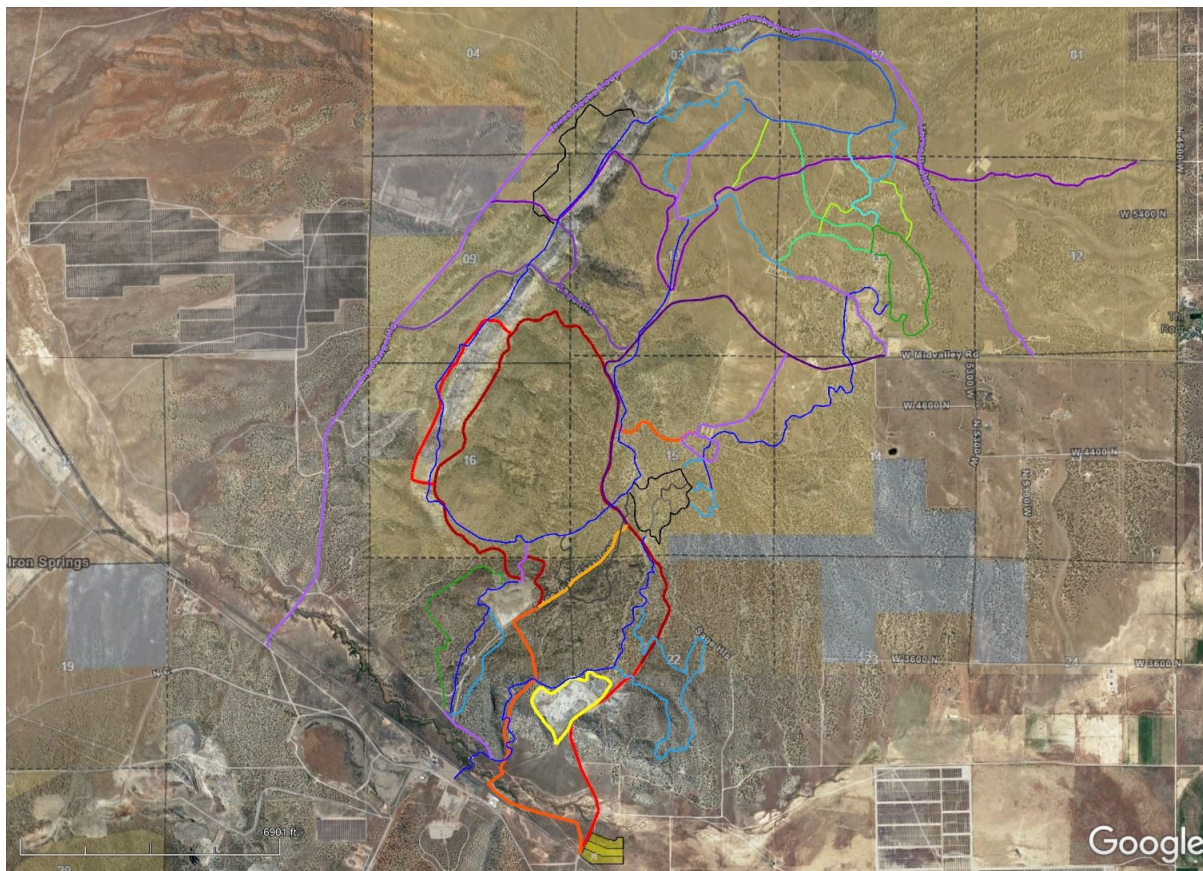
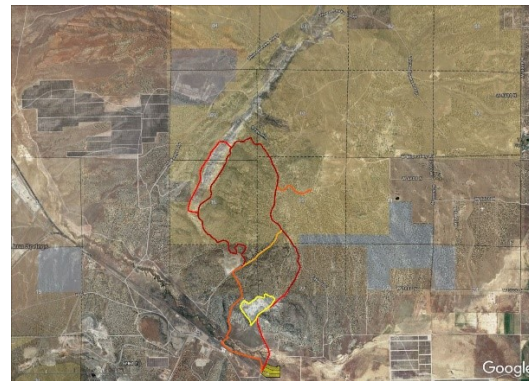
Existing Trail Fork Trails



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Below are 7 proposed new equestrian trails:





Trail Fork Trails, New Trails, and BLM Land

SUP Cedar City Chapter

The first issue of **The Pioneer Magazine** by **Sons of Utah Pioneers (SUP)** was in June of 1836 (<https://archive.org/details/SUPPM19361/mode/2up>). Volume 68 Number 4, celebrating the history of Utah's National Parks and Monuments was published in December of 2021. These magazines are among the best historical accounts of the west. In 2021, SUP's Cedar City Chapter Board unanimously voted interest in the **Southwestern Heritage Center** plans. There are 110 members of the **Cedar City SUP Chapter**. It is anticipated the **Cedar City Chapter of SUP** will take the lead in managing the **Heritage Center**. SUP regularly sponsors historical treks, and visitors to the **Heritage Center** will have an opportunity to participate in these treks, as well as in social activities and fireside discussions for **Cedar City SUP Chapter** members.



The Vision Statement of the Cedar City Chapter of SUP is: “Extending the Utah Pioneer Heritage into the Present and the Future.” The Cedar City Chapter Mission Statement is:

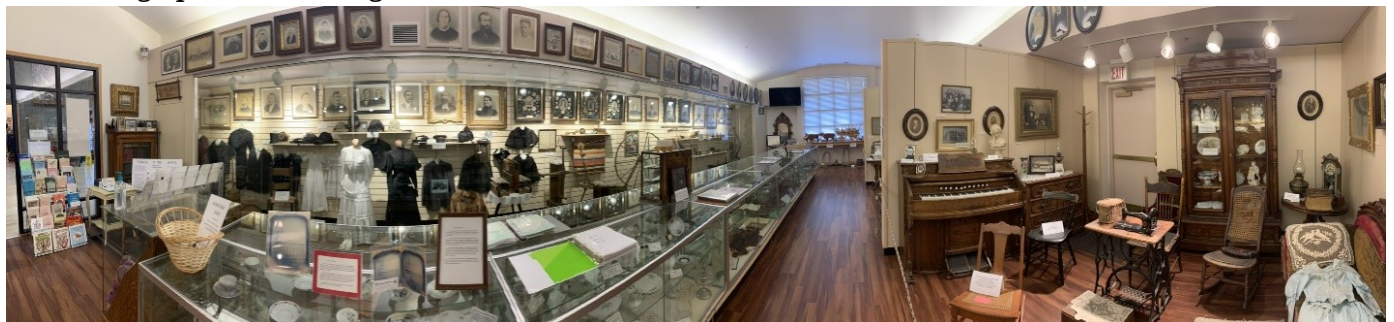
“We strive to keep the Utah pioneer legacy alive by:

- Remembering and preserving our history
- Inviting men of all heritages to join with us in working to create better communities
- Following our ancestor’s example of trail building and service
- Uniting people with their own ancestral heritages”

Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Iron County Camps (DUP)

Daughters of Utah Pioneers (“DUP”) was organized April 11, 1901

(http://www.dupinternational.org/dyn_page.php?pageID=43). DUP has an excellent museum in Cedar City they own. They have arranged for docents to be at their museum weekdays for many years, and will help the **Center** learn how to optimally provide service opportunities. However, the facility is only large enough to show a small percentage of donated historical items. DUP is very interested in having a larger satellite museum, synergistic with their existing and other museums in Iron County, and a place to store other artifacts they have already collected and do not have a place to display. The storage problem is of great concern.





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Southern Utah Rock Club (SURC)

SURC is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization with 300 members. The rock club meets monthly, with speakers, a show & tell, drawings for rocks, demonstrations, rock hounding trips, video presentations, lapidary instruction, mineral & gemstone identification, jewelry making classes, and an Annual Cedar City Rock Show (see southernutahrockclub.org or www.facebook.com/groups/utahrocks). The SURC needs a new larger facility for saws, rock polishing tools, meetings, displays of rock collections for schools, tourists, and citizens, etc.



SURC is connected to the William Wray Mineral Collection in Milford, 40 miles to the north. The Wray collection has more displayed minerals than any other museum except the museums in Moscow, Russia and Vienna, Austria. It is a world class display, better than the Houston Rock and Gem Museum, with all of their oil and gas donors. We envision buses of tourists coming to Zion and Bryce Canyon being brought the **Southwestern Heritage Center**, and then going to Milford to see the Wray Collection.



Top Floor of Wray Mineral Collection:



Bottom Floor of Wray Mineral Collection:



3 examples of displayed mineral, Aquamarine:



Matheson Family Museum

Al Matheson has one of the best early western U.S. gun collections available. This collection needs a home and a place where people can visit and learn about early western U.S. guns. This material was displayed at Iron Mission Museum (now Frontier Homestead Museum), prior to their mission being readjusted to be a hands-on teaching museum. The Matheson Family has been looking for a permanent home for this material, most collected by Alva Matheson. The Mathesons also have an extensive engine collection. This is more than a museum collection; it is an active hands-on experience with restoring and repairing old engines. We believe this sets an example for other collections to be housed at the **Center**: there could be an art museum, with an on-site artist or artists that visitors can watch; there could be ceramics with on-site wheels and ovens; there could be weavers and spinning wheels where local groups could get together and pursue their hobby; there could be a place for quilters, as this is an important southwestern heritage; there could be a petting zoo, which Elementary Schools and visiting youth could visit; and, of course, the SURC will house their rock saws, grinders, and polishers and will hold classes on wire rapping, casting, and making cabochons in their active museum area. The Mathesons are interested in all of these activities and have expressed willingness to sell property to help fund the **Center** and to ensure their material stays private.



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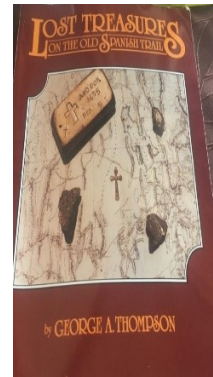
Historic Gun Collection:



Pistol Collection:



Lost Treasures on the Old Spanish Trail:



Engine Collection (1 of 3):



Engine Collection (2 of 3):



Engine Collection (3 of 3):



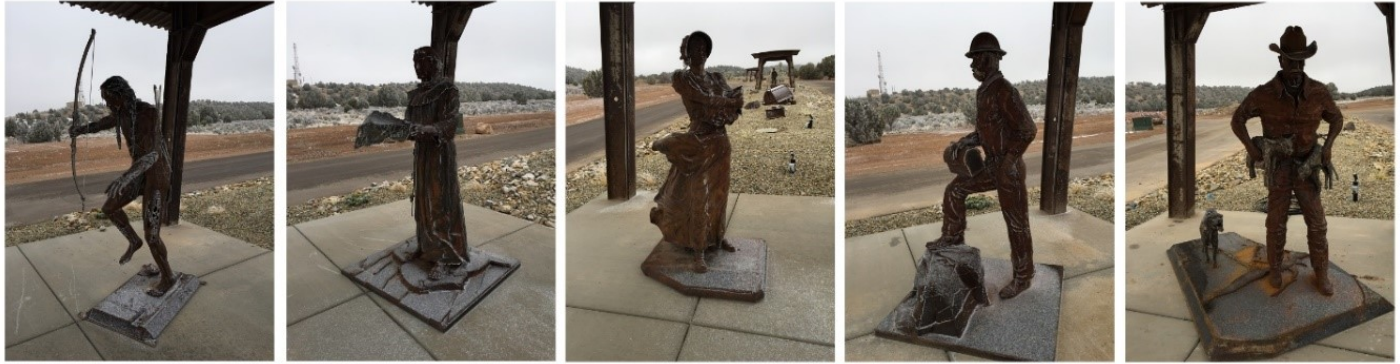


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Iron Springs Adventure Resort

Frank Nichols and his family have spent decades developing the statues, trailer park, motel, conference center, and residential community plans that make up Iron Springs Adventure Resort. They want to have more visitors. Frank and Celeste Nichols are willing to provide the power, water, gravel, land (zoned industrial), and a bunch of iron to build a framework for a 20,000 square foot facility to house the **Southwestern Heritage Center** and other groups interested in and which are appropriate to being associated with the **Southwest Heritage Center**, including DUP, SUP, SURC, Matheson Family, and Eli Anderson's Wagon Land Adventures.

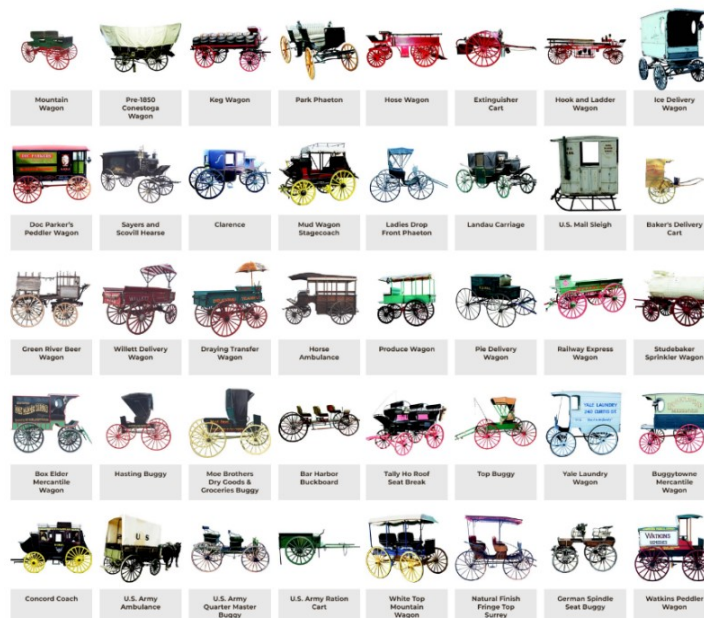
Existing Statues: Indian, Father Escalante, first pioneer woman at Iron Springs, Iron miner, and Sheep Rancher.



There will be a green pasture across the railroad. There will be a horse road circling Iron Springs Bottoms, which can be used to take wagons out for rides. The idea is this can eventually be expanded to include stagecoach and other wagon rides to Cedar City and Enoch and Kanarrville and back. There will be a wildlife zone in the center of the Iron Springs Bottoms, which is right next to the location of the **Southwestern Heritage Center**. Note, the location is in an Enterprise Zone, adjacent to an Inland Port, and all of these things will drive visitors to the **Center**.

Wagon Land Adventure Foundation (<http://www.wagonland1996.wixsite.com/mysite>)

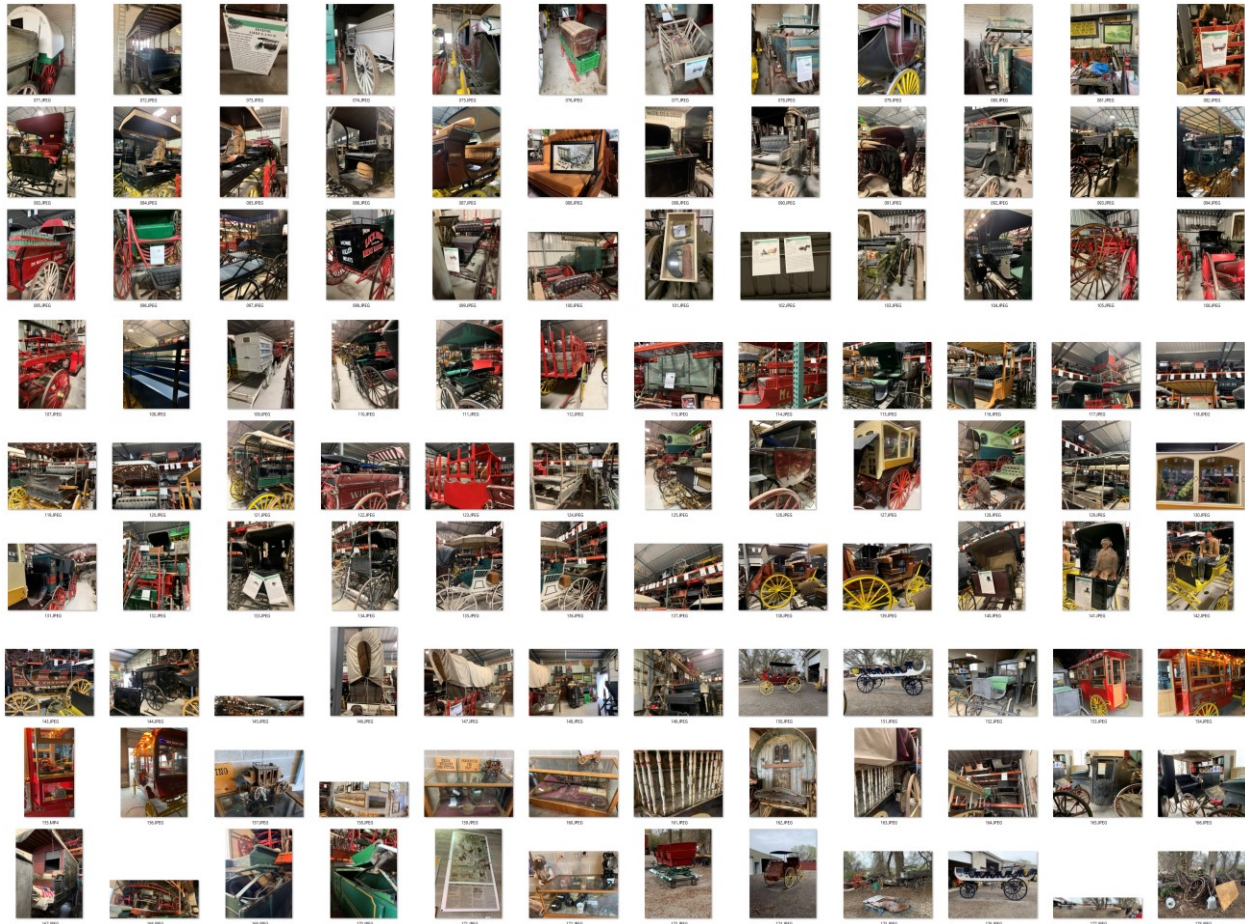
Eli Anderson is currently located in Tremonton, Utah and at least part of his collection will hopefully be a focal point of the **Southwestern Heritage Center**. Eli has spent 50 years restoring and building original wagons to preserve the history of the west. This world class exhibition is not getting viewed. Eli is interested in moving his collection to Iron Springs Adventure Resort and the **Southwestern Heritage Center**, because he believes the collection will be more viewed and appreciated in Iron County. The central part of Phase 1 will be dedicated to storage, viewing, and taking these wagons and carriages on trail rides. Image below captures ~10% of the collection:





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Some photographs of the wagons in Tremonton:



We believe this collection deserves to and needs to be available for the public to see and to use.

The Facility

The **Southwestern Heritage Center** will develop a business model to turn the new facility into a positive cash flow entity, based on entry fees, a visitor's center movie, coach and wagon and horse and mule rides, the gun museum, a shooting and archery range experience with various guns and bows, pioneer historical museums, rock hounding trips, gemstone and jewelry cutting and polishing, lectures, conferences, reunions, trail rides, wagon rides, hiking trails, bike trails, motor cross trails, OHV trails, a petting zoo, etc.

The Nichols family already has places for motor home and motel stays. This includes a drive-by statue museum for the statues shown at the beginning of this document. Wagonland Adventure Foundation is in discussions with groups in Idaho, Wyoming, and Tremonton for first class facilities to house all of the wagons. **swchcs.org** is also in discussions with Eli Anderson, who restored all of the wagons, to move them to Iron Springs. His vision creates quite a hurdle, and yet there are definite advantages to an Iron Springs location. Advantages include the opportunity to create a new type of drive-by wagon museum.

Phase 1 plan is there will be rooms for SUP, DUP, SURC, the Matheson Gun Collection, various trail organizations, Cedar City OHV Group, and other groups which into the mission of the **Southwestern Heritage Center**.

Thank you for your interest in and support of this project.



Southwestern Heritage Center

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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To schedule an appointment: <https://paulamitchell.youcanbook.me/>

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