



GATE BUTTRESS PROJECT

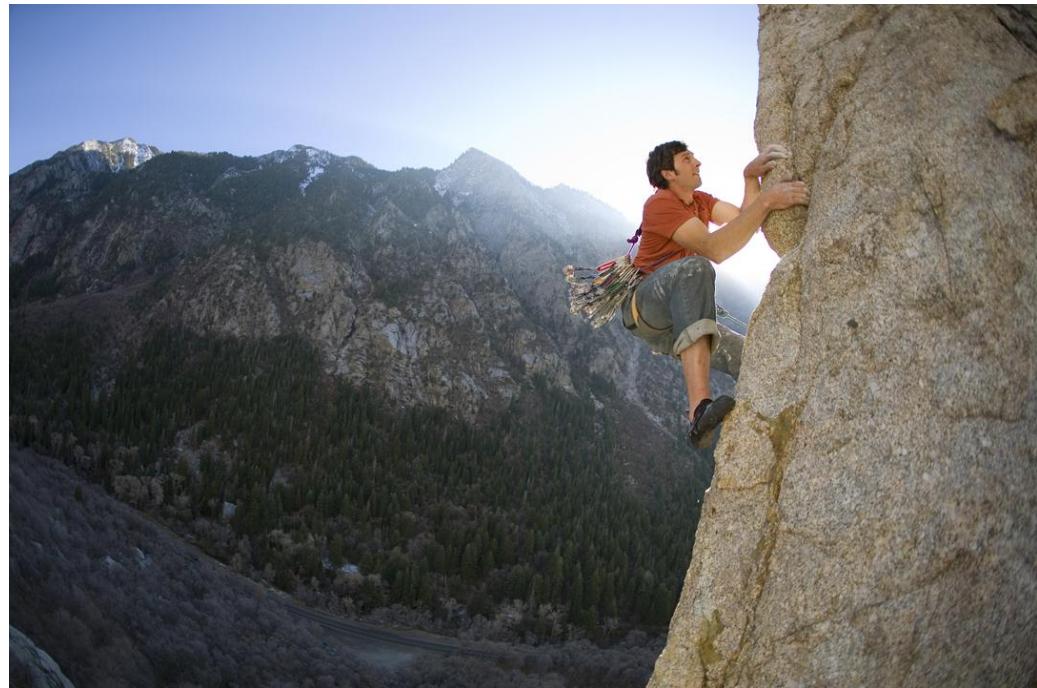
Phase Two
2019-2020

Little Cottonwood Canyon
Salt Lake City, Utah

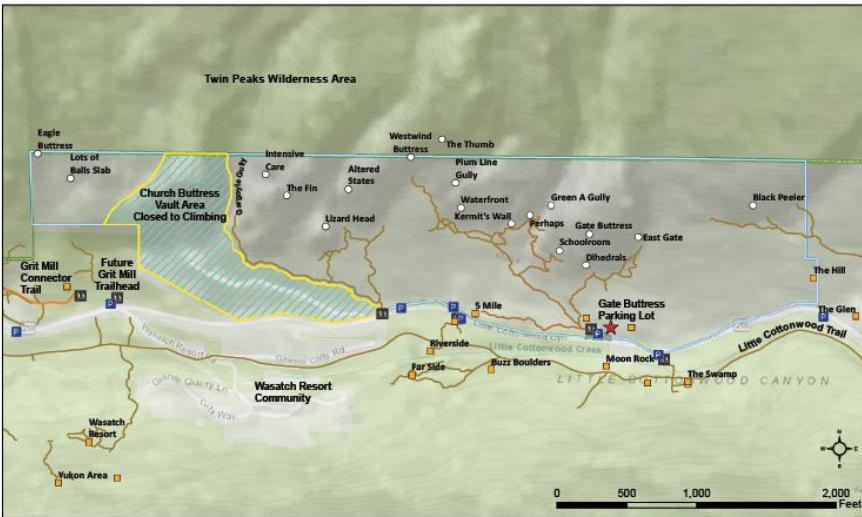
Play the VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/ByNuHlsEwmw>

SaltLakeClimbers.org



WELCOME TO THE GATE BUTTRESS



Legend

- Parking
- Trailhead
- Bouldering Area
- Climbing Area
- You Are Here
- Hiking and Climbing Access Trails
- Climbing Access Trail
- Alpenbock Trails
- Twin Peaks Wilderness
- United States Forest Service Ownership
- Closed to Climbing - Vault Area
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Private Ownership

Stewardship of this property is brought to you by a collaborative public private partnership comprised of, but not limited to the following entities:





Gate Buttress Project Overview

The Gate Buttress Project is designed to address 60 years of recreational impact on a 140-acre parcel of land located in lower Little Cottonwood Canyon. This parcel is privately owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Church).

In 2017, the Salt Lake Climber Alliance (SLCA) and the Access Fund signed a recreational lease with The Church and were named active stewards of the Gate Buttress parcel. The lease legitimized public access to the land for recreation, predominantly rock climbing. The Gate Buttress contains approximately 588 rock climbing routes and 138 boulder problems spread out over 38 climbing areas. The first route was established in the early 1960s and the property hosts a myriad of user created social trails that are not only confusing, but also highly eroded and unsustainable for the increasing number of users. This rock climbing resource is deeply loved by Salt Lake climbers and is internationally renowned for its' excellent Granite rock. As the entrance to Little Cottonwood Canyon, the resource deserves to be well cared for.

The long-term stewardship goal for the property is to create sustainable recreation infrastructure, protect Salt Lake City's watershed, and deepen the relationship and sense of caring for nature through volunteerism within the climbing community and supporting outdoor industry. This stewardship effort will be a phased approach with phase one already completed in 2018. See full recap of phase one [here](#). The scope of work for phase two is as follows and will be completed by fall of 2020.



Phase Two Scope of Work - 2019 - 2020

The SLCA completed a lot of work during Phase One in 2018 at the Gate Buttress, however much more work is needed to provide for sustainable recreation infrastructure on this 140-acre parcel. Phase Two will start in the spring of 2019 and will address climbing access trails to: The Fin, Altered States, The Thumb, and Black Peeler climbing sites. Professional trail crews expert in stone masonry work will be hired again and supported by volunteer labor. Fixed anchor replacement will continue to be replaced to provide for safe ascension and descension of routes.

2019 - 2020 Objectives

- **Continued Fixed Anchor Replacement**
- **Sustainable Approach Trails to:**
 - **The Fin & Gargoyle Gully**
 - **Altered States & Lizard Head**
 - **The Thumb**
 - **Black Peeler**



Phase Two Gate Buttress Budget

INCOME

Grant - Access Fund
Grant - American Alpine Club
Grant - Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation
Grant - Petzl Foundation
Grant - Recreational Trails Program
Grant - REI
Grant - Eccles Foundation
The Church Foundation
Private Donors/ Fundraisers
Salt Lake County

EXPENSES 2019/2020

\$1k Kiosk & Signs
\$20k Fixed Anchor Replacement
\$186k Trail Crew, Field Coordinator, Project Manager
\$5k Tools

**\$206k Total Gate Buttress Project Expenses
2019-2020
~\$50,000+ Additional In - Kind Contributions**

Fixed Anchor Replacement

The mission of the SLCA's Wasatch Anchor Replacement Initiative is to remove fixed anchors that are aging, corroding, or improperly installed and replace them with stainless steel anchors. The ultimate goal is to replace all plated steel anchors with new stainless steel anchors. The initiative prioritizes its efforts on replacing aging anchors on the most popular climbing routes. Stainless steel anchors have an expected service life of over 50 years and will provide a safe climbing experience for the climbing community for many years to come with little follow up maintenance.



Fixed Anchor Replacement

The Gate Buttress parcel contains approximately 588 rock climbing routes, spread over 35 areas. Each climbing route can be thought of as a “vertical trail”, or a unique pathway that one can use to climb up the cliff face. Each of these routes leads the climber up a pathway until they reach the top of the cliff or a convenient stopping location, such as a ledge. The majority of these routes have fixed hardware necessary to ascend and descend the route. Fixed anchors have been installed by climbers throughout the years, some of them put in as early as the 1960s. Anchors now require replacement because the non- stainless steel hardware is starting to show signs of corrosion that could eventually lead to failure.

The implementation of an anchor replacement initiative for a climbing area is a major undertaking in terms of time and expense. During the course of a full day, one person may replace 10 or 12 fixed anchors. On especially long routes with sporadically placed anchors, as is often the case in Little Cottonwood Canyon, one person may replace as few as two to four anchors in a full day. Thus, the replacement process becomes iterative, with multiple days required to upgrade all of the fixed anchors in one area. The goal for 2019 - 2020 is to replace approximately 100-150 fixed anchors at the Gate Buttress parcel per year. Currently these anchors are replaced by volunteers who serve on the SLCA’s Wasatch Anchor Replacement Initiative Committee. A long term goal for the SLCA is to hire professional vertical crews to conduct this work supplemented with volunteers.

Fixed Anchor Replacement

Examples of fixed anchor replacement work.

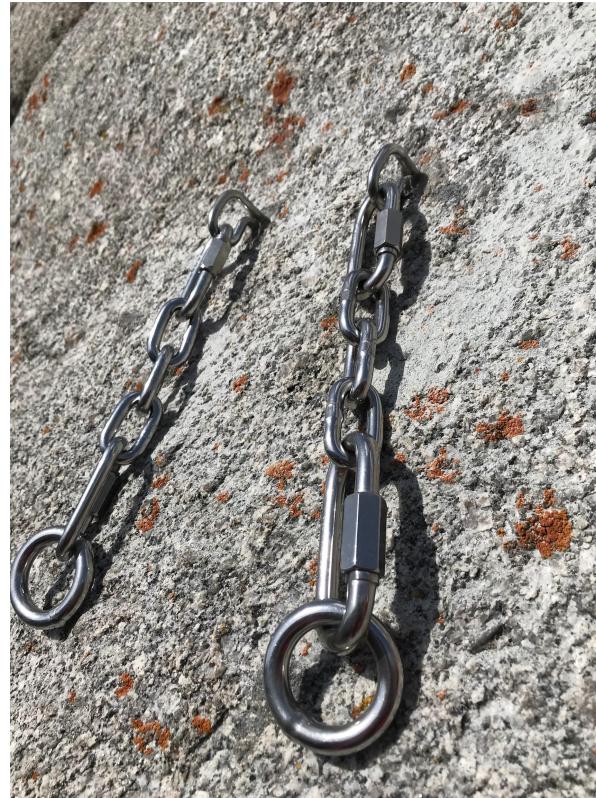
BEFORE



Fixed Anchor Replacement

Examples of fixed anchor replacement work.

AFTER



Climbing Access Trail Work

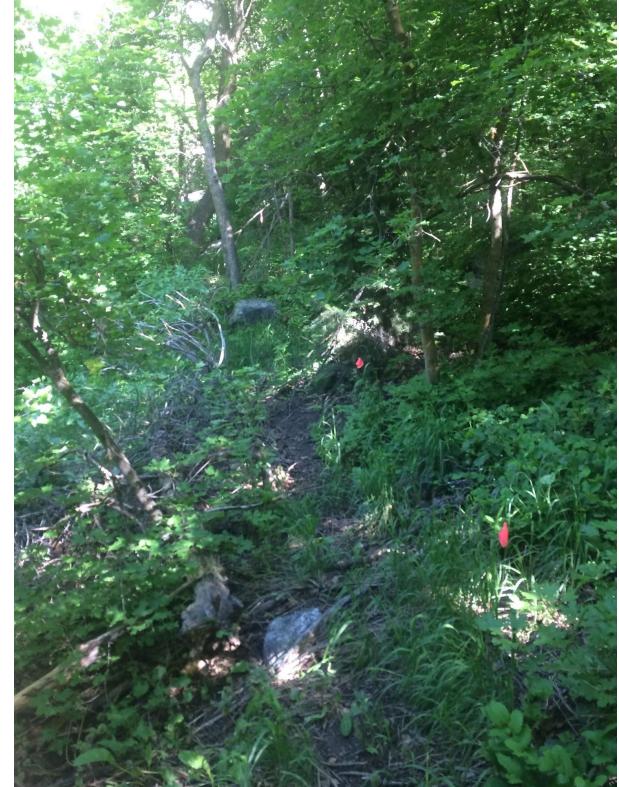
The Gate Buttress is located within the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, whose visitation numbers are higher than all five of Utah's national parks combined. As outdoor recreation and rock climbing specifically continues to grow in popularity, overcrowding is stressing outdoor landscapes beyond their ability to recover naturally. Soil erosion and compaction along with degradation of vegetation create run off and dirties waterways, hence negatively impacting the watershed health. The area's spider web of social trails hinders search and rescue operations. Lack of signage and unofficial trails also confuse hikers and other visitors to this property.

The Gate Buttress Project is designed to address 60 years of recreational impacts on the 140-acre private parcel. The steep and rocky terrain of the property requires the trails be built by hand using technical stone masonry skills. Professional trail crews will be hired and supported by volunteer labor.

Climbing Access Trail Work

Examples of climbing access trail work.

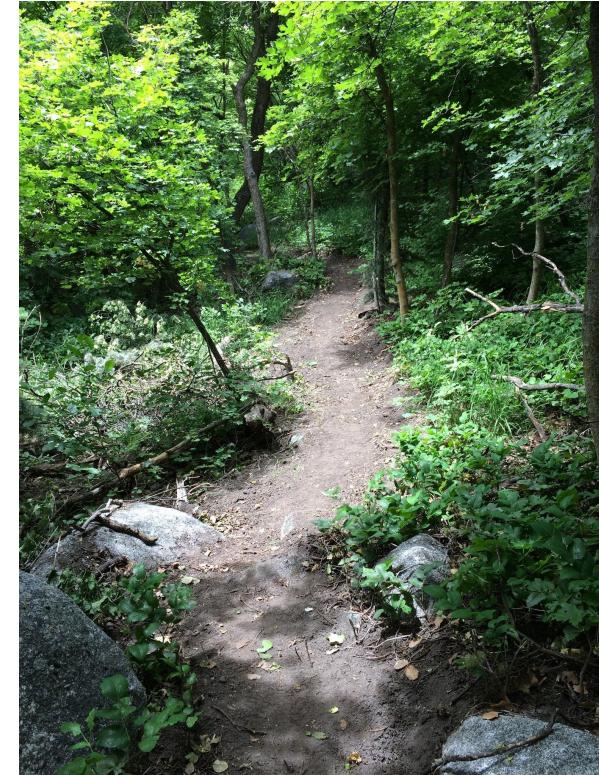
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Climbing Access Trail Work

Examples of climbing access trail work.

AFTER





Signage

Directional signage will continue to be placed as climbing access trails are completed and the braided network of social trails are closed and rehabilitated. A kiosk will be designed and installed at the trailhead. The photos here are examples of signage implemented in phase one.

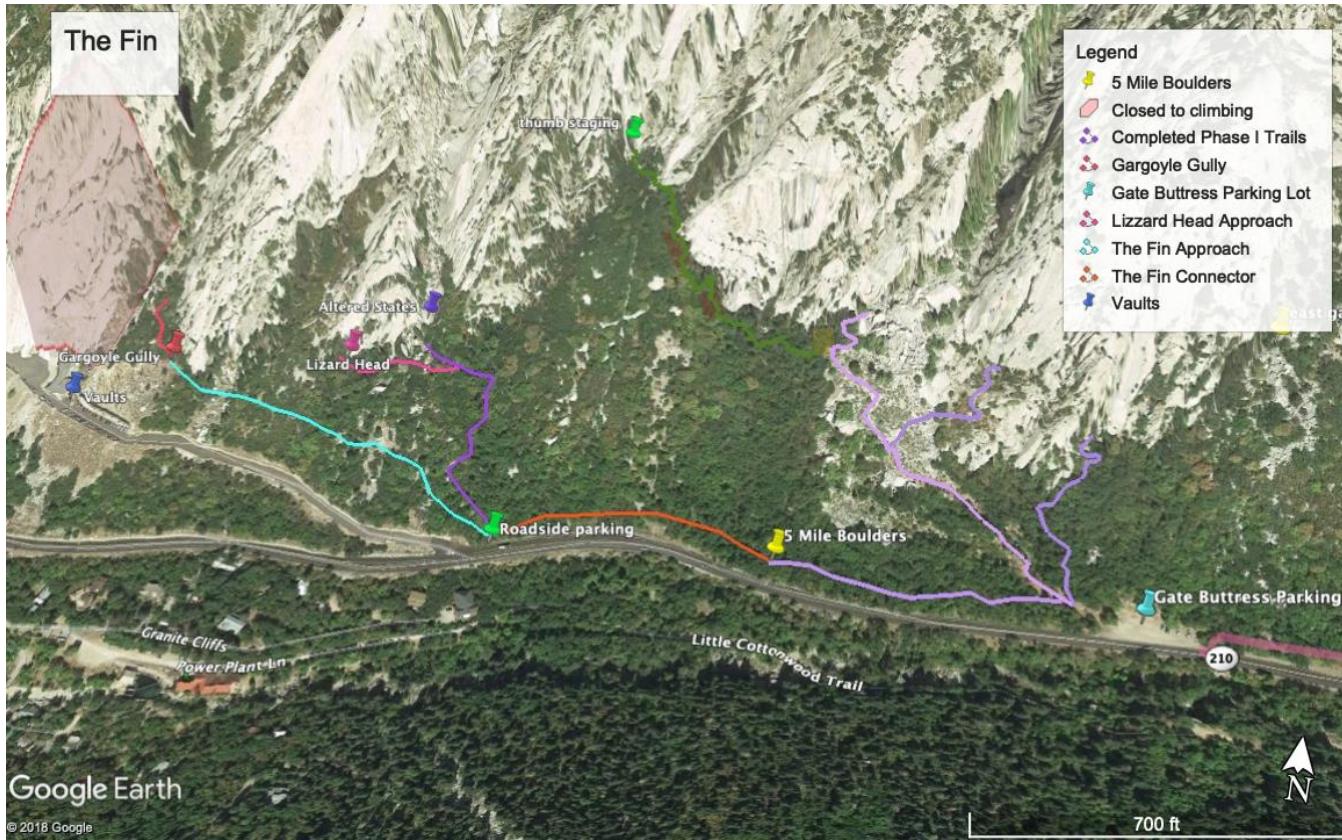


Climbing Access Trail Work

Stone masonry specific trail work.



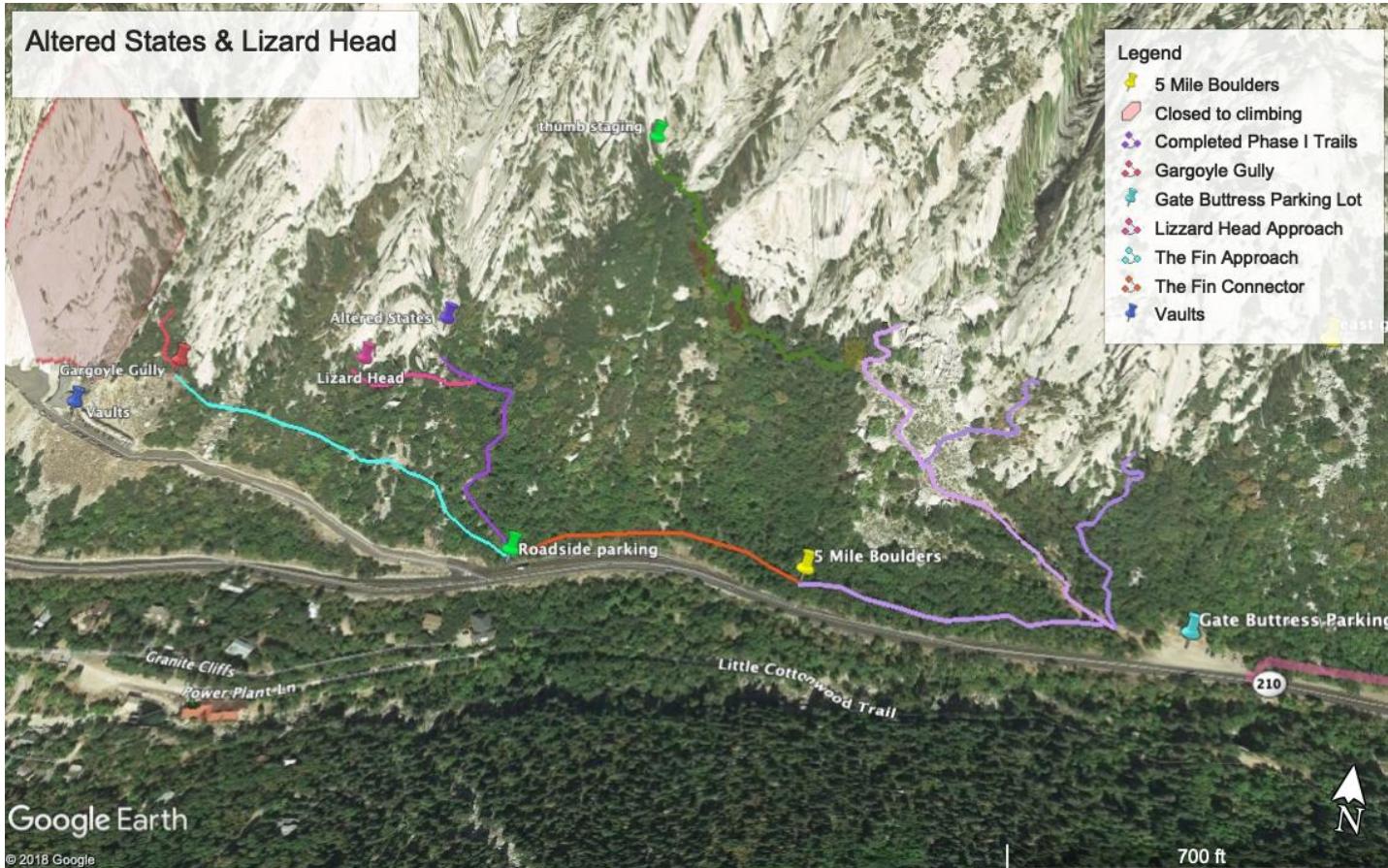
Climbing Access Trail Work: The Fin



Spring of 2019 construction will focus on the approach trail shown in teal from roadside parking to Gargoyle Gully. This scope includes ~1,200 feet of trail and restoration work. The goal is to better define climbers access to The Fin in order to avoid the Church's vault and start to stabilize Gargoyle Gully.

The Fin Connector trail shown in red is about 700 feet and will connect to the Gate Buttress parking lot. This connector will be built in 2020. The goal of this trail is to alleviate roadside parking.

Climbing Access Trail Work: Altered States & Lizard Head



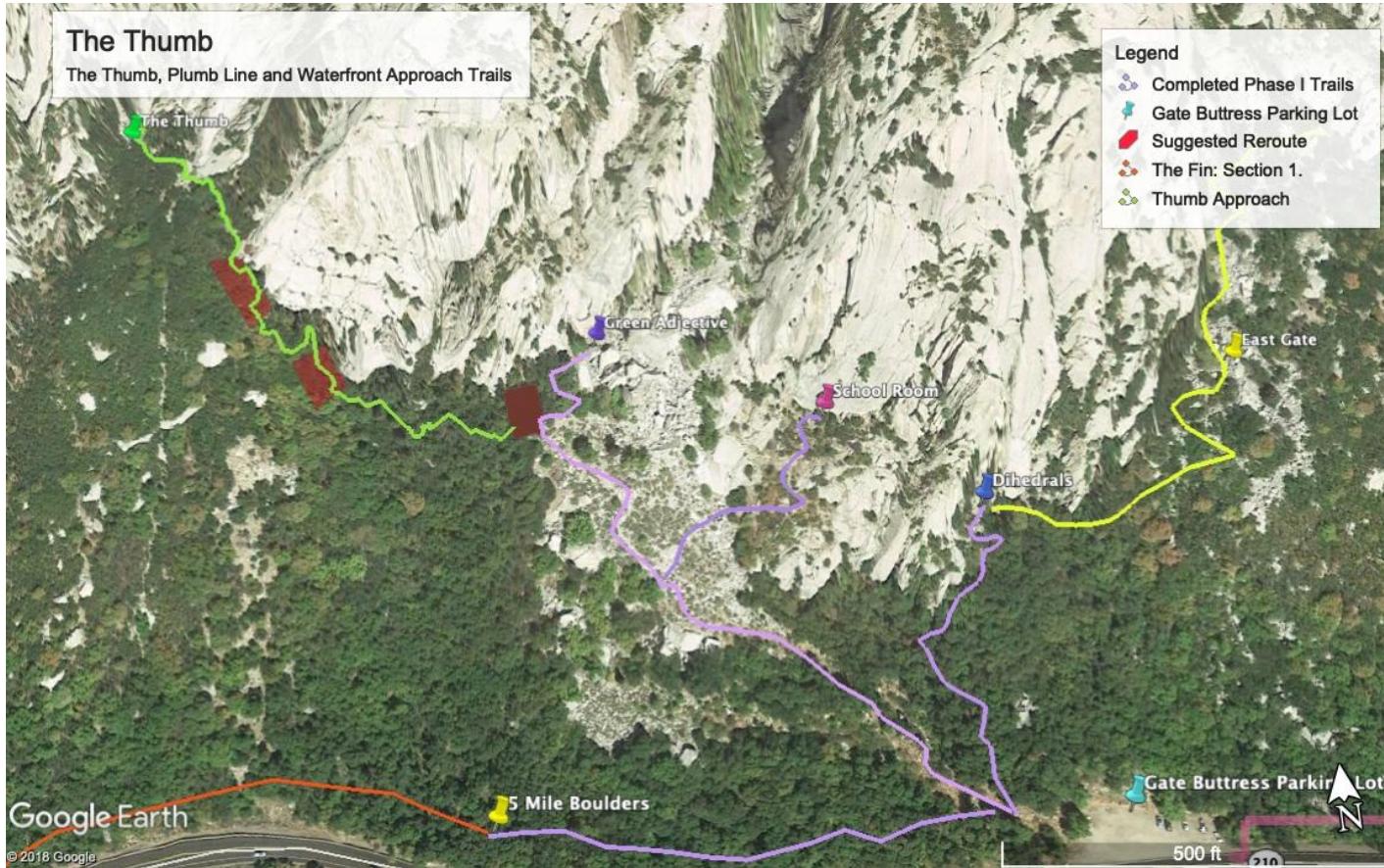
Altered States and Lizard Head climbing areas are currently accessed from roadside parking shown by the green pin point. This climbing area will connect to the Gate Buttress parking lot in 2020.

Construction will involve re-aligning sections of the current user created trails and hardening sections that can not be re-routed with stone staircases and retaining walls. This includes ~700 feet of trail and restoration work.

The Thumb



Climbing Access Trail Work: The Thumb



The Thumb climbing area is accessed from the Gate Buttress parking lot by using the Green Adjective Trail that was completed in 2018 during phase one. The Thumb approach branches off of the Green Adjective Trail and is shown in green.

Construction in 2019 would involve re-aligning unsustainable grades and hardening drainage points to access the Thumb. This includes ~1,500 feet of trail and restoration work.

Black Peeler Buttress & The Hill Bouldering



Climbing Access Trail Work: Black Peeler & The Hill Bouldering



Access to the Black Peeler climbing area is currently on private land owned by Perpetual Storage, but most of the cliff is on the Gate Buttress parcel. Access to this formation through the Perpetual Storage land has become problematic. Perpetual Storage has asked if it would be possible to build an access trail starting at the Gate Buttress parking lot to the Black Peeler.

2019 trail construction is shown in dark purple and will be from the roadside parking to the Black Peeler via the The Hill Boulders (~700 feet of trail). The connector trail shown in pink will be built from the Gate Buttress parking lot to The Hill boulder (~1,300 feet of trail) in 2020 to alleviate roadside parking.

Staging Areas

Example of Staging Area Improvements



A “staging area” is where a rock climb starts at the base of the cliff. Staging areas become highly eroded because climbers put their gear down in this area as they prepare to climb. Staging area improvements aim to contain the footprint of where climbers stage for a climb and eliminate impacts on vegetation.

The scope of work for 2019 -2020 include improvements to staging areas at highly impacted climbing areas at the Gate Buttress.



Thank you for your interest and consideration in supporting the Gate Buttress Project and the SLCA's efforts to provide for sustainable recreation infrastructure in lower Little Cottonwood Canyon. Opportunities for outdoor recreation promote positive lifestyle choices that increase quality of life for all Utahns. This project will be a model for other climbing areas across the Wasatch and the nation. For any questions, please contact SLCA Executive Director, Julia Geisler at Julia@SaltLakeClimbers.org.



Julia Geisler, Executive Director



Lindsay Anderson, Field Coordinator