

At its meeting on February 26, 2020, the Livingston Parks & Trails Committee voted to offer additional recommendations for inclusion in the growth policy. It wants to reinforce the importance of recognizing and incorporating the community's interest in respecting Livingston's culture, history and environmental characteristics into growth planning.

The Committee also calls attention to previous efforts to assess and document community priorities with respect to parks and trails including the 2012 [Parks & Trails Master Plan Summary of Findings/Recommendations map](#) (page 75 of the Master Plan), the [2007-2008 Livingston Park County Trails Plan](#), and the October 2019 outdoor recreation survey ([results](#) and [comments](#)).

Additional growth policy recommendations:

Funding, maintenance and need for dedicated funding

- Pursue partnerships with private landowners, businesses, nonprofits, public land agencies and others to expand opportunities for multi-use spaces.
- Institutionalize long-term, dedicated and sustainable funding for maintenance and construction of parks and trails.
- Minimize maintenance needs and expenses by maximizing, to the greatest extent possible, areas of naturalized or native landscapes, emphasizing hardy, drought-tolerant plantings and low-grow grass mixes and minimizing lawn plantings to areas where necessary and appropriate for the uses.
- Carefully consider significant infrastructure components that require long-term operations and maintenance commitments.

Standardized development

- Develop and implement consistent community-wide standards for benches, tables, trail signing and information systems with consistent branding.

Developing a renowned parks and trails system

- Establish Livingston as a community recognized for its parks and trails system.
- Actively promote and develop parks and trails that feature Livingston's historic, natural and cultural attributes.
- Make non-motorized transportation a primary design consideration.
- Pursue national designations and certifications that recognize Livingston's parks and trails system and its facilitation of non-motorized transportation.
- Protect open space, natural beauty, key environmental areas, wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat and wildlife migration pathways.
- Encourage innovation and social, environmental and sustainable best practices in development, design and maintenance of parks, trails, park facilities and programming.
- Minimize to the greatest extent possible damaging uses and treatments that can impact waterways, wildlife and public health.
- Manage landscapes for a diversity of age classes and species so that infestations affecting certain species (such as ash trees) do not decimate the landscape.

- Acquire and expand public access along and to the Yellowstone River while protecting the river habitat.
- Manage for invasive species.

Subdivision development

- Restrict subdivision parkland dedications from including areas such as stormwater collection areas, floodplains and other areas that are not readily available for public use or otherwise need to be protected.