



Brian Sparks  
Director  
Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County

1. How long have you lived in Livingston and what brought you here?

I have been in Livingston since the Spring of 2001 and worked as the Cultural Resources Field Monitor when the Stillwater Mining Company put in its slurry pipeline over at Nye. I moved to Livingston to pursue the Museum Director job that was opening up. It was one of four jobs I held down until the museum job went full time in July of 2002. But the real reason, however, was to allow me to create a more optimal relationship with my now wife, Marla Bray. We had maintained a two and a half year, 350 mile relationship between Columbia Falls and Livingston. It was an incredible opportunity to combine two passionate loves at the same time, museum work and Marla!

2. How do you spend your time at work and play?

My time at work is coordinating, developing and running the museum with all its challenges and pleasures. I get to see incredible things, meet marvelous people with expertise across many interesting topics, but most importantly, get to work to help many highly committed volunteers build the museum to fulfill its incredible potential to benefit our area.

My favorite activities are area historical reading, hiking the “boondocks” whether they be badlands, deserts, mountains or plains throughout the Rocky Mountains and southwest. That hiking focuses on rock collecting, photography, appreciating historic sites, and the glory of communing with Creator/creation.

3. What do I like most about our community?

Wow! There are so many things. Our town is a Mecca for multiple outdoor activities. It has clean air, (sometimes force fed!) and clean water. It has an astonishingly rich history of geological, Native and historical themes that resonate with major national themes and my intellectual passions. The artistic community is also a highlight with its galleries, ballet company, and theatres. Marla and I have missed maybe four productions over our 10 years together between the Blue Slipper and Fire House Five. We are fortunate and grateful to have a home and employment we enjoy amidst such stimulating amenities!

4. Favorite movie and most recent book read.

I would have to say there are several "favorite movies." They include "The Mission" with Jeremy Irons and Robert DeNiro and "Dances with Wolves" with Kevin Costner and "Braveheart" for their delving into deep issues of human character and spirit. Then, for pure entertainment, the first Star Wars movie is hard to beat. A couple more would be the movies "Mississippi Burning" with Gene Hackman, "Saving Grace" that stars Tim Conti, "Driving Miss Daisy" with Morgan Freeman, "Himalaya: The making of a Chief," and the recently released "Defiance" for showing in incredible effort to maintain a civil society in the chaos of war and racial hatred.

5. Most pressing issue/need in our Community.

In order, I believe the most pressing needs in our community are a destination attraction that will act as a draw for people and economic development to the area and rest of the state which I believe our museum has the potential to fulfill and a west side railroad crossing from the north side of town.