Livingston Adopt-A-Trail/Park Program

Livingston Parks & Trails Committee Jeanne-Marie Souvigney

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Several years ago, Livingston established an Adopt A Trail/Park program at the request of the Parks & Trails Committee (PTC). The program, which currently has seven volunteer teams, involves the City Parks Department and is facilitated by the PTC.

In 2022, seven teams made more than a dozen cleanups, involving more than 75 individuals who contributed over 100 hours of volunteer time and picked up close to two dozen trash bags full of litter, trash and dog feces, along with about 500 pounds of green waste from the O Street Connector trail. Access to and cleanup of some locations was complicated by the June flooding and subsequent temporary closure of some of the public sites. Volunteers, primarily led by Park County Environmental Council, one of the Adopt A Trail teams, also coordinated efforts with the City to remove, cut and dump sandbags along Sacajawea Trail and at Mike Webb Park.

These numbers likely greatly underestimate the actual time, trash and volunteer hours because some teams did not report actual amounts. Teams ranged in size from one person to more than 20 volunteers and included very young children to seniors. Volunteers, particularly along the O Street Connector, noted the presence of noxious weeds, while others noted graffiti on some of the benches along Sacajawea Trail. Confusion about disposal of accumulated trash is being worked out with the City.

Teams are expected to commit for two years and complete at least three clean-ups each year. The PTC revised the program in 2021 to solicit additional information from the teams about their cleanups and offer them a chance for recognition signs if such signs become available. The AAT/P application is available on the City Parks & Trails Committee website (https://www.livingstonmontana.org/bc-ptc).

The PTC has proposed the AAT/P teams who meet the requirements of the program be recognized with a sponsor sign at their adopted trail or park, similar to the signs used along Montana's highways for highway cleanup sponsors. The Commission approved a PTC signage funding request in 2021 that anticipates proceeding with such recognition signs.

The current AAT/P teams, with photos of some of their cleanups (below), are:

- Emma's Mom Sacajawea Trail between 9th Street and the Bandshell
- Fairfield by Marriott Bozeman Connector Trail
- Livingston Bike Club O Street Connector Trail
- Livingston HealthCare Alpenglow Trail and Myers River View Trail
- Park County Democratic Central Committee Water Plant Park and Riverside Park
- Park County Environmental Council Highway 89 S Bike Path
- Park County Homeschool Nature Adventure Club Sacajawea Trail east of the Bandshell

The PTC is excited to assist with this volunteer program and looks forward to expanding the number of teams and team responsibilities and thanking these teams with recognition signs.

