

MEMO TO: Livingston City Commissioners

FROM: Livingston Parks & Trails Committee

RE: Proposed recommendations and topics for inclusion in the Growth Policy

DATE: January 10th, 2020

The overarching goal of Livingston Parks and Trails Committee recommendations is to enhance the character and unique culture of Livingston, encourage personal interconnection, increase active transportation, promote healthy active lifestyles, provide a network of outdoor recreation activities for citizens of all ages, physical abilities, and neighborhoods and maintain and improve universal access to our unique natural and scenic resources.

As quoted by the American Association of Landscape Architects, “communities should be beautiful places, reflecting the time-honored tradition of civic commitment to high quality and lasting public works. They should protect and enhance natural, cultural and scenic resources and avoid environmental degradation by respecting ecological systems and landscape character.”

We suggest that our recommendations are not siloed and honor the interconnected nature of livable communities, thus including other aspects of the growth policy recommendations. For example preservation/restoration of natural ecosystems, increased public enjoyment and experience of Livingston’s scenic resources and open spaces, as well as elements of education, jobs, economic development, health and wellness, safety, security and transportation.

The Livingston Parks and Trails Committee provides the following recommendations for the 2020 Growth Plan.

- 1. Foster a culture of community collaboration involving parks and trails;**
- 2. Maintain and improve existing city parks and trails; and**
- 3. Plan for an expanded network of parks, trails and other outdoor recreational areas.**

Each recommendation includes a list of strategies, below, where additional goals and measurable outcomes can be structured in subsequent iterations.

Recommendations are supported by Addendum I: Parks & Trails Committee's 2019 Strategic Plan and Addendum II: Supporting Information.

Recommendation 1: Foster a culture of community collaboration involving parks and trails.

Strategies:

- Update the Livingston Parks and Trails Master Plan with set priorities and create S.M.A.R.T. goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely) - based on surveys, comments and community resources
- Establish regular and transparent communication among all stakeholders - e.g. quarterly meetings, more regular communication, committee chair meetings, regular attendance across at other committees
- Prioritize parks, trails, open spaces and recreational fields as the city continues to grow and expand
- Increase community participation in parks and trails-related activities
- Promote parks and trails as community assets
- Maintain an up-to-date PTC webpage
- Explore public/private partnerships in developing, maintaining and revitalizing parks and trails
- Provide opportunities for deeper city/county/community relationships, events, and projects
- Educate and involve the community to drive support for parks and trails in Livingston
- Maintain an open community process and conduct outreach for addressing parks and trails priorities
- Provide opportunity for involvement and interconnectedness of all segments of the community and acknowledge and respond to community demands

Recommendation 2: Maintain and improve existing city parks and trails

Strategies:

- Increase resources for maintaining and improving parks and trails infrastructure
- Provide a variety of parks and trails accessible to citizens of all ages, physical abilities, neighborhoods and incomes
- Acknowledge and incorporate the importance of urban agriculture in the parks and trails network
- Safeguard and enhance natural habitats
- Provide safe and inviting recreational spaces, including natural areas, playgrounds and sites for special events
- Plan for areas will be inviting and safe, offer a sense of belonging and incentivize green infrastructure
- Incorporate trees, plantings, permeable pavement, etc. into parks, trails and parking lots as an integral part of the city's green infrastructure
- Maintain and improve parks and trails in ways that are aesthetically pleasing, inviting and reflect positively on the community
- Incorporate environmentally sound materials in infrastructure to the greatest extent possible
- Incorporate naturalistic and native urban park design elements and materials

- Provide safe and maintained travel routes, trails and sidewalk connections within the city and into other parts of the county

Recommendation 3: Plan for an expanded network of parks, trails and other outdoor recreational areas.

Strategies:

- Ensure that new developments include parks and connecting trails that maintain Livingston's historic, natural and cultural attributes
- Have a well-distributed, connected and sustainable network of parks and trails that will provide people throughout the community with an opportunity to experience and explore nature, engage in physical activity, increase fitness and socialize
- Create development plans for new projects
- Increase opportunities for non-motorized and public transportation access around town and to community parks, trails and other community sites
- Integrate parks and trails guidelines and interests within the design process of all new developments
- Retain and prioritize areas of natural beauty and vistas for public access in the form of parks and trails
- Incorporate parks and trails features that highlight unique Livingston attributes, so that Livingston is seen as a primary destination for parks and trails activity - as one of the best features of Livingston
- Ensure that land use decisions consider the long-term needs for neighbourhood parks and interconnected trails so that the City does not remove from public ownership and use corridors and lots that might be needed for future public access.
- Tailor parks and trails needs towards Livingston's unique dynamic arts community and historical background

Repeated strategies from recommendations 2 that are relevant to new parks and trails development

- Increase resources for maintaining and improving parks and trails infrastructure
- Provide a variety of parks and trails accessible to citizens of all ages, physical abilities, neighborhoods and incomes
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Addendum I:

Livingston Parks & Trails Committee 2019 Strategic Plan

Introduction

The purpose of the Livingston Parks and Trails Committee (PTC) is to assist the Livingston City Commission (Commission) in the long-term planning of parks and trails. The major themes of this three-year strategic plan is to (1) build community support, (2) create a solid base for effective communications, and (3) cultivate resources to create a sustainable and interconnected system of parks and trails.

Mission

To advocate on behalf of the public to create and maintain parks, trails, open space and other outdoor recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for all of Livingston's residents.

Vision

Enhance community through a system of interconnected parks and trails that offer diverse, healthy outdoor experiences within a rich variety of landscapes and natural habitats.

Values

- Collaboration
- Environmental stewardship
- Commitment to the public good

Goals

- Actively engage with the Commission, primary stakeholders and city departments to ensure that parks and trails are regularly considered and addressed in their decisions, including through the City's Growth Plan.
- Educate and involve the community to drive support for parks and trails in Livingston.
- Expand and improve the current network of parks, trails and other outdoor recreational areas.

Strategies

1. GOAL: Actively engage with the Commission, primary stakeholders and city departments to ensure that parks and trails are regularly considered and addressed in their decisions, including through the City's Growth Plan.

Strategies:

- Design and implement a communications plan to communicate to stakeholders and enable outreach and cultivation of partners.
- Increase presence in all forms of local media

- Participate in relevant community and civic organization events and meetings, attend pertinent Planning Board and City Commission meetings
 - Invite City stakeholder employees to attend PTC meetings on a regular basis
 - Work with the City to maintain an up-to-date PTC webpage
2. GOAL: Educate and involve the community to drive support for parks and trails in Livingston.

Strategies:

- Create community partnerships and make explicit connections to the Active Transportation Coalition, Bike Club and Park County Parks & Recreation Board
 - Provide opportunities for deeper city/county/community relationships, events, and projects
 - Engage the community including conducting a PTC survey
3. GOAL: Expand and improve the current network of parks, trails and other outdoor recreational areas

Strategies:

- Collaborate and provide input to long term city and county planning processes
- Identify and promote potential new and existing parks and trails projects
- Create a multi-faceted fundraising plan that includes grants, donors, sponsorships and events that support outreach efforts
- Partner with the community in development of a new wellness center and/or pool

Outcomes

By 2022...

- PTC will regularly consult with and be consulted by the City regarding matters affecting parks, trails and open space, including outreach opportunities.
- Citizens of Livingston will be able to clearly identify PTC and its efforts on behalf of the city.
- There will be a strong coalition of coordinated and active supporters of parks and trails in Livingston.
- The Livingston City Growth Plan will reflect the vision of the PTC.
- Sackett Park exists and a 7-8 mile loop trail connects the existing city parks and trails.

Addendum II: Supporting Information

Center for Disease Control and Prevention Parks and Trails Health Impact Assessment Toolkit

https://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/parks_trails/

Metrics for creating healthy communities, American Planning Association, May 2017, Anna Ricklin, aicp | Sagar Shah

<https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/document/Metrics-Planning-Healthy-Communities.pdf>

Improving Public Health through Public Parks and Trails: Eight Common Measures

<https://www.americantrails.org/resources/improving-public-health-through-public-parks-and-trails>

American Association of Landscape Architects Statements

Urban Growth and Development:

https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/Public_Policies/Urban_Growth_and_Development_Statement_Only.pdf

Visual Resources:

https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/Public_Policies/Visual_Resources.pdf

Livable Communities:

https://www.asla.org/uploadedFiles/CMS/Government_Affairs/Public_Policies/Livable_Communities.pdf

Open Space:

https://www.asla.org/CMS/Government_Affairs/Public_Policies/Open_Space.pdf

Missoula Growth Policy:

https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/34746/OurMissoulaGP_full?bidId=

Portland 2035 Comprehensive Plan

<https://beta.portland.gov/comp-plan/2035-comprehensive-plan-and-supporting-documents>