

# Livingston Parks & Trails Committee 2020 Report to City Commission

January 5, 2021

## Significant Ongoing Activities

- **Trails and Active Transportation Plan**: The Trails and Active Transportation Plan is the most significant project moving forward. The Committee has advocated for a trails plan for quite some time as a way to identify, recognize, promote and secure funding for community priorities, take advantage of development opportunities, and secure community support and dedicated funding. The RFP was noticed in December, with proposals due January 8th. We will participate in the plan development with City Planning and Public Works departments and expect to conduct a robust public involvement process. That plan may be completed in 2021 but could extend into 2022.
- **Parks and Trails System Signing and Branding**: The significant increase in people using our parks and trails during COVID restrictions highlighted the need for consistent parks and trails signage. The Committee intends to pursue developing such signs in 2021 along with system-wide branding that would easily identify the City's outdoor recreational assets.
- **Parks Plans**: The Committee is interested in developing individual plans for the various city parks that would include outreach to neighbors and the larger community. This will be a multi-year process.
- **Funding**: The Committee took an active role in developing ideas for funding community parks and trails, including having a meeting with the Trust for Public Lands. TPL subsequently developed a Technical Assistance Agreement that will be considered by the City and presented to the Commission shortly, with the goal of helping the City identify feasibility of various trails and park funding mechanisms. We met with Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Park County Environmental Council about developing additional partnerships and funding opportunities and are considering options for applying for grants in 2021 to fund identified trail priorities.
- **Adopt A Trail/Park**: This fall, we revised the Adopt A Trail/Park program to provide team accountability (regular reporting) and opportunity for recognition (signage). Existing teams have re-applied under the new program. We added two new Adopt-A-Trail teams to help clean up Sacajawea Trail from 9<sup>th</sup> St. to the end at the ball fields. We would like to develop Adopt A Trail/Park recognition signs in 2021.
- **Dog Park**: A Committee member developed a three-phase proposal for a fenced dog park at Reservoir Park, a location originally suggested in the Parks & Trails Master Plan. She has received commitments of funding, fencing and help with development and maintenance, and the Committee is exploring ideas for initiating this project and funding ongoing maintenance and improvements.

## Other significant projects already addressed by the City Commission

- **Policy for Naming Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities**: The Commission adopted our recommended policy in December.
- **Growth Policy**: We submitted five sets of comments during the ongoing development of the Livingston growth policy and will maintain our involvement in the process.

**We had significant community involvement in 2020:**

- PHS and LYBSA met with us in January to discuss challenges associated with **managing the ballfields**. We expect to identify a possible Committee role and conduct additional outreach to **sports park partners** in 2021, in conjunction with the Recreation Dept. and Public Works.
- We received a presentation in February on a proposal to develop a **local disc golf course**. That proposal is currently on hold until in-person outreach can be pursued safely.
- Two Committee members spoke with the Invasive Species Action Network in September about actions we could take to elevate **weed education and management** along our trails and in our parks. We intend to make this a focus of **Trails Day 2021**.
- The Committee conducted a field visit in October with Rod Lee about his interest in asking the City to **abandon** part of **North 11th Street** in an area where the P&TC has previously explored trail options. We agreed to continue consideration of opportunities to locate trails in the area. This could be addressed in the **Trails and AT Plan**.
- Two Committee members spoke with Andrew Field (PFL) in November about a possible **trail to the PFL campus**. This could also be addressed in the **Trails and AT Plan**.
- We supported LHC's grant request to **pave Alpenglow** Trail to meet ADA requirements and create two ADA-accessible parking spots at the parking lot. That request was not successful; we will be supporting an amended effort in 2021.
- We have been in close contact with members of the **Tree Board** to coordinate work along trails and in parks and will continue that work in 2021.
- We worked with Public Works to have the **Moja Dog Park** sign reinstalled along with signs reminding people the area is off leash and to clean up after their dogs. Future public use of **Mayors Landing** needs to be explored with residents in 2021. This could be part of our Parks Planning effort.

**We communicated and coordinated with Park County:**

- We submitted comments to the **Park County Commissioners** in November about a proposed **abandonment of the Grandview Blvd.** county road/ROW, noting local resident interest in accessing Sacket Park and the City of Livingston property nearby. We will continue to monitor this request.
- We presented select committee priorities and ongoing projects to the **Fairgrounds and Parks Board** in November, identifying several areas where cooperation among our two boards could occur, including the **Trails and AT Plan, north side trails, a bike track and historic trail development**. One such project is the **Bozeman Trail**, for which there is currently a multi-state effort to gain recognition; a committee member met with a local resident about development of the Bozeman Trail and we subsequently received a significant cache of associated materials from her.
- We will continue to research the **history of Livingston's parks, trails and islands**. We supported Yellowstone Gateway Museum's successful Montana History Grant request to archivally preserve Warren McGee's collection of railroad and Montana history research materials. This follows our receipt of a McGee notebook of notes and photographs documenting some of the development of Sacajawea Park, Mayors Landing, Miles Park and other projects.

**Other projects:**

- We are considering opportunities to repair and repaint the **bandshell**.
- We reached out to landowners about **Green Acres** park after city annexation.
- We continue to participate in **LiveWell 49** meetings.
- We continue to distribute our **parks and trails map**, which was printed in the summer visitor guide.
- We continually engage in **social media** which generates substantial support.