

# Livingston Parks & Trails Committee 2021 Report to City Commission

December 31, 2021

Below are summaries of significant activities in which the PTC engaged in 2021. Members are Jeanne-Marie Souvigny, Chair; Rachael Jones, Vice-Chair, Connor Cavigli, Secretary; Carol Goosey, Alison Shannon-Lier, Sarah Stands and Clay Bolt, along with Commissioner Dorel Hoglund.

## *Projects funded by the Commission*

- **Trails and Active Transportation Plan**: Last year, the PTC identified the Trails and Active Transportation Plan as the most significant project moving forward. Throughout 2021, the PTC Chair, on behalf of the PTC, served on the T&AT steering committee, provided significant comment and reviewed draft chapters of the report. The PTC expects to review the full draft in late January.
- **Reservoir Park**: Pursuant to an allocation to develop Reservoir Park approved by the Commission, during the summer and fall of 2021 PTC members solicited public comment on the development of the park area, using the 2012 Parks & Trails Master Plan recommendation as an initial starting point. The PTC subsequently unanimously recommended to the Commission in November that the City develop Reservoir Park with consideration for the expressed public priorities (natural kids play space, natural open space, a fenced dog park, a kids bike skills course), over a multi-year period, with appropriate attention paid to areas of concern raised by the public. The PTC looks forward to working with the City on this project, including exploring ideas for funding ongoing maintenance and improvements.
- **Parks and Trails System Branding and Signing**: The PTC worked with a local contractor, approved by the Commission, on development of a parks and trails system-wide logo that would easily identify Livingston's outdoor recreational assets. A PTC recommendation is expected to go to the Commission in early 2022.
- **Pedestrian bridge across the Yellowstone River**: The PTC recommended, and the Commission approved, joining Park County and LHC in funding a Preliminary Engineering Report for a pedestrian bridge across the Yellowstone River at Mayors Landing. The PER includes background research, environmental level compliance activities, a topographical survey, preliminary hydraulic analysis, design and cost alternatives.

## *Other significant activities*

- **No Mow May**: The PTC, with support and funding from the City, launched a No Mow May (NMM) initiative to support Livingston's pollinator species—particularly spring bees and butterflies—in the form of dandelions and other naturally occurring wildflowers on public and private grounds. NMM test plots were located in several local parks. Flyers were passed out to local businesses and some yard signs were available to residents interested in participating by not mowing their yards for the month of May. Livingston is the first city in Montana to designate a NMM initiative, helping to position Livingston as a leader in native bee conservation in the state of Montana. The PTC hopes to continue this program in subsequent years. A separate report is available.
- **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). We currently have seven AAT teams. We hope to develop Adopt A Trail/Park recognition signs in 2022 for teams that are meeting the program requirements. A more detailed AAT report will be forthcoming.

## **We had significant community involvement in 2021:**

- The PTC forwarded recommendations on certain issues following requests from the City and/or Commission:
  - The PTC received a presentation about replacing the **flagpole** in the triangle area at Sacajawea Park from the City Manager and was subsequently asked for a recommendation by the Commission. After a public meeting in April and consideration of public comment, the PTC unanimously recommended an illuminated flag and flagpole of the same size be placed at the same location if a flag was to be installed there, improvements to the triangle area and noted a discussion with the American Legion of the nearby military services memorial.
  - The City asked the PTC for a recommendation on the proposed abandonment of a section of **Summit Street** ROW. After a public meeting in August, at which there was unanimous public opposition to the abandonment, the PTC recommended the Commission deny the abandonment.
  - We provided a requested letter of support for the City's **TA grant application** for pedestrian improvements to downtown Livingston.
  - In June, the PTC made its unanimous recommendation that the Commission approve the **Growth Policy**, following our submission of five sets of comments during the drafting phase in 2020.
- Several entities were advised by Public Works to speak with the PTC and in each case, we received a presentation at public meeting and provided PW with our recommendations:
  - In April, we heard from the manager of the **American Legion** team about challenges at **Jack Weimer Park**. We provided our recommendation regarding restricting dog access to the park, signing, security and fundraising.
  - In May, supporters of a proposed **Ranger Station Skate Shop** near the skate park made a presentation. We provided a letter of support for the concept to the City, noting opportunities for mentorship, benefits to skate park users, questions about whether added security was necessary and questions from supporters about insurance requirements.
  - In June, residents of **Green Acres** presented at our meeting, which we summarized for PW, noting areas where residents requested clarification (dogs, curfew, speed limit) and identified potential park priorities (bathroom, playground equipment and trees).
- After **HRDC** indicated support for a PTC-proposed **trail easement** on their property on the north side, City staff invited PTC to suggest a location for a trail. PTC provided that information to City staff and a couple PTC members were recently asked to join City staff and HRDC to discuss the trail.
- We conducted a noticed public meeting, held onsite and at our regular meeting, to solicit public comment on the future of the wooded land behind the roping arena at **Mayors Landing**. The PTC forwarded its recommendation, which focused on cleaning up the water contamination, fencing and maintenance of the natural area, to City staff.
- The PTC supported **Wishberry Hollow** fairy village at Myers River View Trail in August and members helped with planning and management of the event.
- PTC supported LHC's successful revised grant request to pave **Alpenglow Trail** to meet ADA requirements and create two ADA-accessible parking spots at the Myers River View Trail parking lot. That project is expected to proceed in 2022.
- We participated in discussions about the future of the **woodlot** by PHS and the skatepark.
- We communicate with members of the **Tree Board** on work along trails and in parks and will continue that work in 2022.
- We received a presentation from the **Park County Fairgrounds and Parks Board**, continuing the discussion of areas where cooperation among our two boards could occur.
- We distributed our **parks and trails map**, which again was printed in the summer visitor guide.
- We continually engage in **social media** which generates substantial support.