

## **City of Livingston, City Parks and Trails Committee**

### **June 23, 2021 Meeting Agenda**

The regular meeting of the Livingston Parks & Trails Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2021, starting at 6 pm in the Community Room of the City County Complex, 414 East Callender St. Jeanne-Marie Souvigney, Chair, will facilitate this meeting.

#### **1) Roll Call**

#### **2) Approval of Minutes – 5 minutes**

- Review and approval of May 26 regular meeting minutes (*attachment*)

#### **3) New Business**

- Reservoir Park draft ‘bubble diagrams’ and image boards for public outreach – Eric Meadows, BYLA Landscape Architects (*attachment*)

#### **4) Old Business**

- Mayors Landing (*attachment*) – next steps
- NorthTown – proposed letter to Planning Board (*attachment*)
- Updates: 45 mins.
  - Skate Park Ranger Station (*attachment*)
  - Growth Policy (*attachment*)
  - North side trails (*attachment*)
  - NoMowMay – Clay
  - Trails and AT Plan
  - Sacket Park
  - Woodlot - Rachael
- Sacajawea Park improvements
- Social and other media
- Funding options – next steps
- July meeting status

#### **5) Public Comments**

#### **6) Committee Comments**

#### **7) Adjourn meeting**

## City of Livingston Parks & Trails Committee Draft Minutes

May 26, 2021

### 1) Roll call

Members present: Sarah Stands, Jeanne Souvigney, Clay Bolt, Rachael Jones, Carol Goosey, Connor Cavigli, Alison Shannon-Lier; member absent – Dorel Hoglund

Identified guests: Dale Sexton, Kathy Pisa, Debbie, Carla Reichs, Anna Simons

### 2) Site visit

Committee members joined 5-6 residents at Mayors Landing; two of those residents also came to our subsequent meeting at the City County building.

### 3) Approval of Minutes

- *Sarah requested we correct the spelling of Karrie Kahle*
- *Sarah motions to approve with correction, Alison seconds*
- *Unanimously approved*

### 4) New Business

- Mayor's Landing
  - We need to address parking in some way shape or form
  - We also need to improve fencing and signage
  - Questioned status of E coli contamination and wanting clarification from city
  - Ensure multi-use friendliness for the new area
  - Address need for more soil
  - Sarah asked for consideration for the LBC proposal for bike trail features
  - ◇ Public comment:
    - Debbie - suggested adding a fenced in dog area for dogs that aren't under verbal command or need more separation
- Skate Park Ranger Station (Dale Sexton with public update)
  - Basic idea is to use a school-owned trailer at the skate park during the season and off location off-season as a mobile store that sells skate equipment and food as a school-to-work program
  - Dan Bailey's would assist with ordering and payroll and operational concerns but eventually it would be a self-sustaining "store"
  - The goal would be to have it open by spring of 2022
  - *Sarah recommends to write a letter of support for the idea behind the Ranger Station, Clay seconds, unanimously approved*

## 5) Old Business

- Growth policy next steps
  - Sarah suggests that we express our support for the final growth policy
  - One concern is the fact that most parks and trails planning and execution starts in years 3, 4, or 5 of the plan
  - Sarah suggests committee members familiarize themselves with the plan and review it to ensure our priorities align with it for planning purposes
    - *Sarah motions to write a letter of support for adoption of the growth policy with a a thank you/congratulations, and encouragement for continuing this level of public input for this process, Alison seconds, unanimously approved*
    - Sarah will draft the letter
- Northside trails
  - Connor and Sarah presented their ideas on the HRDC trail easement
  - We need to simplify the document and send to the city for review
  - Also need to clarify that two of the entry points are city/HRDC and the other two are hoped-for future connection points for the trail to other properties
  - *Rachael moves to recommend we send the modified request to Shannon, Clay seconds, unanimously approved*
  - Sarah and Connor will redraft the letter and Jeanne will assist
- No Mow May - Clay
  - All 48 yard signs were given out and the overall impression is that lots of positive conversation has been happening about it
  - Clay would like to create an iNaturalist page for Livingston to allow people to track the bugs they see and track on that page
- Trails & AT Plan
  - Survey is ongoing, second steering committee meeting was this week
  - Next consultant visit is in July, the goal is to have a document produced by September
- Reservoir Park
  - Alison detailed progress to date and plans for moving to public outreach
  - ◇ Public comment:
    - Carla Reichs – asked for clarified on placement of kids structures and size of the dog park
    - Debbie - asked about hours of use and had concerns about the usage up at the octagon house (not at Reservoir), also really wants to see a playground there
    - Anna Simons - has concerns about having public input from the neighbors and ensuring their voices are heard and also wants to make sure that there is sufficient parking for people who drive there
- Branding and signs
  - Commission approved funding the Eubank contract

- Jeanne met with Megan today and she's moving forward
- Wishberry Hollow
  - No updates on this - will start on July 31 and will promote on social and elsewhere
- Jack Weimer Memorial Park
  - Sent a letter to the commission and they gave the signs to the team managers the next day
- P&TC letter of support for TA grant
  - The letter went out
- Flagpole letter
  - Sent on April 30 to commission but has not hit Commission agenda yet
- Pedestrian Bridge over Yellowstone
  - Engineering study is approved and moving forward with a vendor
  - Will be done in August
- Woodlot
  - Meeting about it was today that was not attended by anyone on the P&TC, will be updated next meeting
- Sacket Park ownership
  - No clear record of who owns that land (clerk and recorder)
  - We'll proceed on the assumption that the city owns the land as that is the city's position, which is also reflected in Montana cadastral
- Harvat Flat trails
  - The county and Livingston Bike Club are working together to figure out trails in that area and they will follow up soon once conversations go further
- Funding options
  - The city manager forwarded a suggestion that no more money be spent on new parks and trails for the near term
  - The city is having trouble getting seasonal help
  - Committee members questioned how we could get creative and suggest actions that can save the city money on parks and trails creation and maintenance

## **6) Public Comments**

## **7) Committee Comments**

## **8) Adjourn Meeting**

- *Rachael moved to adjourn, Sarah seconded*
- *Unanimously approved.*





Residential

Blue Heron Drive

Blue Heron Dr

Bike Trails

Residential

Shade Structure

Overlook + Shade Structure

Dog Park

Entrance

Residential

Grove / Passive

Entrance

High Ground Ave

Wind Protection

Utility Area

Picnic Shelter

Toilet

Community Garden

Parking

E Reservoir Street

E Reservoir St

Sports Field

Sports Court

Residential

HRDC Housing

Picnic Shelter

Play

E Summit St

Church

N Main St

N B St





Residential

Blue Heron Drive

Blue Heron Dr

Bike Trails

Residential

Overlook

Shade Structure

Dog Park

Entrance

Residential

Grove

Community Garden

Entrance

Utility

E Reservoir St

Utility Area

Toilet

Parking

High Ground Ave

Wind Protection

Skills Park

Passive + Lawn

Wind Protection

E Reservoir Street

Residential

HRDC Housing

Play

E Summit St

Church

N Main St

N B St





Residential

Blue Heron Drive

Blue Heron Dr

Bike Trails

Residential

Overlook

Dog Park

Entrance

Utility

Entrance

Shade Structure

Parking

Toilet

Utility Area

E Reservoir St

E Reservoir Street

Residential

High Ground Ave

Wind Protection

Passive + Lawn

Play

Residential

HRDC Housing

Community Garden

Church

N Main St

E Summit St

ND St



May 27, 2021

To: Shannon Holmes  
Eric Schneider

Fr: Livingston Parks & Trails Committee

Re: Recommendations for wooded area behind roping arena by Mayors Landing

On Wednesday, May 26, the Parks & Trails Committee met at Mayors Landing to hear ideas from the public about use of the wooded area behind the former roping arena. About 5-6 members of the public joined us, two of whom also came to our subsequent meeting at the City County building.

In summary, the Committee agreed:

- We support replacing the fencing, for which Kris King said she could help raise funds;
- We would like the City to clarify the status of the presence of E. coli;
- We will continue the discussion about whether to recommend a bike skills park after more public outreach and consideration of the LBC proposal; and
- Our immediate attention is the wooded area behind the old roping arena but we support the addition of soil/compost over glass-exposed areas in the main Mayors Landing area.

The area is already heavily used by the public and there is clear interest in continuing to access it. Everyone expressed strong appreciation for the natural setting, and dog owners in particular mentioned the value of the availability of shade. We discussed the boundaries of the area, adjacent to the Girls Scout property and the driving range, and there is strong support for replacing the fence to clearly delineate the public area. Kris King mentioned that some users of Mayors Landing had started a fundraising drive a while ago to assist with the cost of fence replacement and she was willing to continue that effort.

We discussed the groundwater and presence of E. coli. In subsequent discussion at our meeting at the City-County building, the Committee agreed that they ask for clarification of the situation with the E. coli-contaminated water and whether it was safe for the public to have their dogs near that water.

While some indicated they wanted the area left pretty much as it is, Robin Barker with the Livingston Bike Club also presented a proposal for a small bike skills park in the wooded area. Others expressed concern about mixing a bike track with off-leash dogs. The Committee continued that discussion at its meeting where members expressed concern about impacts of bikes on the natural areas but also recognized there might be a way to accommodate both dog users and bicyclists. Members confirmed they were not ready to make a recommendation on specific uses until there had been more chance for public comment and the Committee had an opportunity to review the LBC proposal they had received earlier that evening.

We discussed the parking area that is now leased by the Rodeo Association. Cathy Pesa suggested perhaps that could be made available to FAS users at other times to relieve crowding



in the oval that makes access for dog owners difficult. Later at our Committee meeting, it was also suggested that the parking area might be used as a fenced dog area when not being used by the Rodeo Association.

There was also a suggestion to add this area to the designated Mayors Landing Park. It would be helpful to understand that process.

Residents also discussed other suggestions for improvements at Mayors Landing, including signage, covering up the glass, minimal landscaping, a potential bridge across Fleshman Creek, etc. We suggested those issues would be deferred until we could have a larger discussion of plans for Mayors Landing but agreed to forward to you the request for more soil/compost to cover some of the glass that continues to percolate up from the landfill to help improve safety of park users and their dogs. We understand that may already be happening and appreciate that action.

Jeanne-Marie Souvigney  
Chair, Livingston Parks & Trails Committee





Mayors Landing

New Area



DRAFT

June 24, 2021

To: Livingston City Planning Board  
CC: City Planning Dept.

From: Livingston Parks & Trails Committee

RE: Northside trails

Dear Planning Board,

The Parks & Trails Committee would like to reiterate its interest in developing a connected trail system on the city's north side and we ask the Planning Board to consider the public interest in such a system as it reviews developments in that area.

Many, many city residents are currently using the informal north side trails system. The Parks & Trails Committee is in the process of working with the City and landowners such as HRDC to formalize some of those pathways and figure out ways to connect various locations extending from Reservoir Park, which the City is in the very early stages of developing with a fenced dog area and other community amenities, to the soccer fields and beyond. We expect this to be a priority trail project area in the Trails and Active Transportation Plan to be released later this year.

At the time the Planning Board approved the first phase of the Northtown subdivision application in 2018, one of the conditions for the plat approval was that the developer must collaborate with the Parks & Trails Committee to determine parkland dedication. Our initial communications with the developer prior to approval centered around our interest in having connecting trails from that development to other north side areas. However, that trail/park collaboration on the initial phase did not occur and we are not aware of any trail connection being established.

We understand that there will be future north side development proposals and are anxious to not miss opportunities to connect neighborhoods on the north side. We recognize our advisory role and appreciate the Planning Board's consideration of Parks & Trails Committee priorities in its development evaluations and decisions.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss any potential locations for trails on the north side that recognize public demand, current use and Parks & Trails Committee priorities and ask the Planning Board's support in that regard. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeanne-Marie Souvigny  
Chair, Livingston Parks & Trails Committee



## P&TC Support of Ranger Station Skate Shop concept

May 2021

**From:** jsouvigney@gmail.com <jsouvigney@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 8:48 AM

**To:** Shannon Holmes <sholmes@livingstonmontana.org>; Maggie Tarr <mtarr@livingstonmontana.org>

**Cc:** 'Dale Sexton' <sexton@montana.com>

**Subject:** P&TC support for Ranger Station Skate Shop

May 27, 2021

TO: Shannon Holmes  
Maggie Tarr

FR: Livingston Parks & Trails Committee

On Wednesday, May 26, the Parks & Trails Committee unanimously supported the idea presented to us by Dale Sexton (copied here) for a 'Ranger Station Skate Shop'. Attached is the revised Ranger Station proposal.

We had a thoughtful discussion about the School to Work/Work-Based Learning program, opportunities for mentorship and benefits to the skate park users. We also discussed the ability to monitor behavior and whether any added security was necessary. We're encouraged about the interest in providing healthy snacks.

Dale asked about insurance requirements and the possibility of acquiring insurance through the City. We are not familiar with the City requirements and said we would forward his question to you.

We understand this project is still evolving and look forward to working with Dale and skate park users on this project.

Thank you.

Jeanne

Jeanne-Marie Souvigney  
Chair, Livingston Parks & Trails Committee  
(406) 581-8942  
[jsouvigney@gmail.com](mailto:jsouvigney@gmail.com)



June 3, 2021

To: Livingston City Commissioners  
CC: City Planning Dept. and City Planning Board

From: Livingston Parks & Trails Committee

RE: City of Livingston Growth Policy

Dear City Commissioners,

The Livingston Parks and Trails Committee (P&TC) voted unanimously at its last meeting to recommend the adoption of the proposed Growth Policy. The policy will be our community's comprehensive plan to guide decisions about development and public investments, as well as ensure our citizens have a voice in our future. This document results from a remarkably robust and successful public process that sets a Livingston benchmark for which we can all be proud.

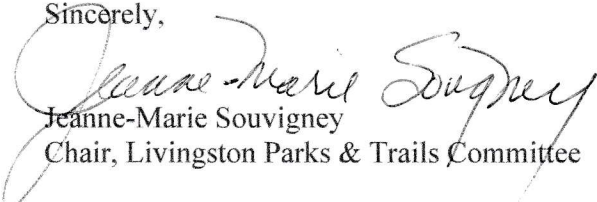
The Committee commends the Planning Board, Planning Department and other City staff, the public, NGOs and all those involved. The policy captures a community vision that would not have been possible without the diligent efforts of all stakeholders upholding a transparent and inclusive process.

As a committee, we appreciated the many opportunities to provide input and are pleased to see that many of our suggestions in five sets of comments are incorporated throughout the policy. We recognize the immense amount of work that has gone into this vision for growth and believe that the additional time and effort will reciprocate positive impacts for generations to come. Developing a common vision necessitates time, patience and intentional public leadership, and for this we are grateful to the Commission for creating this platform.

Some themes and outcomes have emerged we feel are worth noting. First, it is clear our community is passionate about upholding opportunities to enjoy quality parks, trails, open space, the river and natural areas. Second, our community is more confident and more prepared for growth and development decisions. Third, having established a common language and vision, we are now more united as a community.

We recognize that the bulk of the work is ahead of us. Implementing the ambitious goals, objectives and strategies outlined in our Growth Policy will take sound partnership and creative solutions. We are ready to roll up our sleeves to ensure our Committee priorities and the goals from the upcoming Trails and AT Plan are aligned with this Policy. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

  
Jeanne-Marie Souvigny  
Chair, Livingston Parks & Trails Committee



**From:** jsouvigney@gmail.com <jsouvigney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 7:46 AM  
**To:** Shannon Holmes <sholmes@livingstonmontana.org>  
**Subject:** Proposed HRDC gully easement

Good morning, Shannon.

You indicated that the Parks & Trails Committee's next step regarding obtaining a public access easement with HRDC through the gully on the north side was to identify a proposed location and width for the trail easement. Connor and Sarah developed the attached proposal, which the Committee discussed at our meeting last week and approved unanimously.

Please let me know if you have questions. Our understanding is that once the City approves a proposed easement, it will draft documents for City Commission and HRDC approval. As we noted in the attached, we are happy to make a site visit. We very much appreciate HRDC's support of a public access easement for trails in the gully area and look forward to working with them. Our immediate goal here is to develop connected public access trails across the north hillside, in areas where heavily-used informal trails already exist, between Reservoir and the soccer fields and beyond.

I have also contacted Bill Muhlenfeld to see if he can meet with the Committee about potential trails connecting to the Northtown development. He had intended to meet with us for a site visit in October but a snowstorm made travel over the pass difficult. I'll let you know when that occurs.

Thanks.

Jeanne

Jeanne-Marie Souvigney  
(406) 581-8942  
[jsouvigney@gmail.com](mailto:jsouvigney@gmail.com)



## **Parks & Trails Committee Recommendation: HRDC Trail Easement**

The Parks & Trails Committee appreciates the willingness of HRDC to consider a trail easement in the gully area. We discussed this opportunity at our meeting on May 26 and recommend a trail easement along the full length of the gully with at least three entry/exit points and which incorporates the steep side slopes that are not conducive to future affordable housing development.

Given the steep terrain, we propose that instead of one set standard width across the gully, the easement should allow the topography to determine the width and include an added standard set-back. As an analogy, we suggest setting the easement at the 'highwater mark' then include an additional 10'-15' set-back on each side. The end result will be a tapered easement rather than one set width determined by the widest point of the gully.

The easement should allow for a minimum of two trails, one through the center/low point of the gully and another that traverses the steep side slope and/or travels along the top of the gully. Two trails allow for multimodal usability, reduces opportunity for user conflict and creates a looping opportunity (rather than the limitations of out and back).

**Entry/exit points:** We recommend three primary entry and exit points (see Figure 1 below). Accesses to Highground Avenue and Reservoir Street are the priorities, along with a spur trail that leads to and connects with the Northtown development and towards Bitterroot Trail. A future option, if another easement can be obtained, would be to continue the trail east up the extent of the gully and connect with Watertower Avenue.

To ensure that the easement enables future trail connectivity (see Figure 2), we suggest additional entry/exit points onto the easement on the west end corner of the HRDC property (see dotted lines in Figure 1).

**Proposed Next Steps:** Once a draft outline of the easement has been established, we are available to make a site visit with HRDC, the City and other necessary stakeholders to discuss the implications on site.





Figure 1 HRDC property highlighted in orange, the red line indicates priority trails and connectivity, dotted lines represent future opportunities for connectivity.



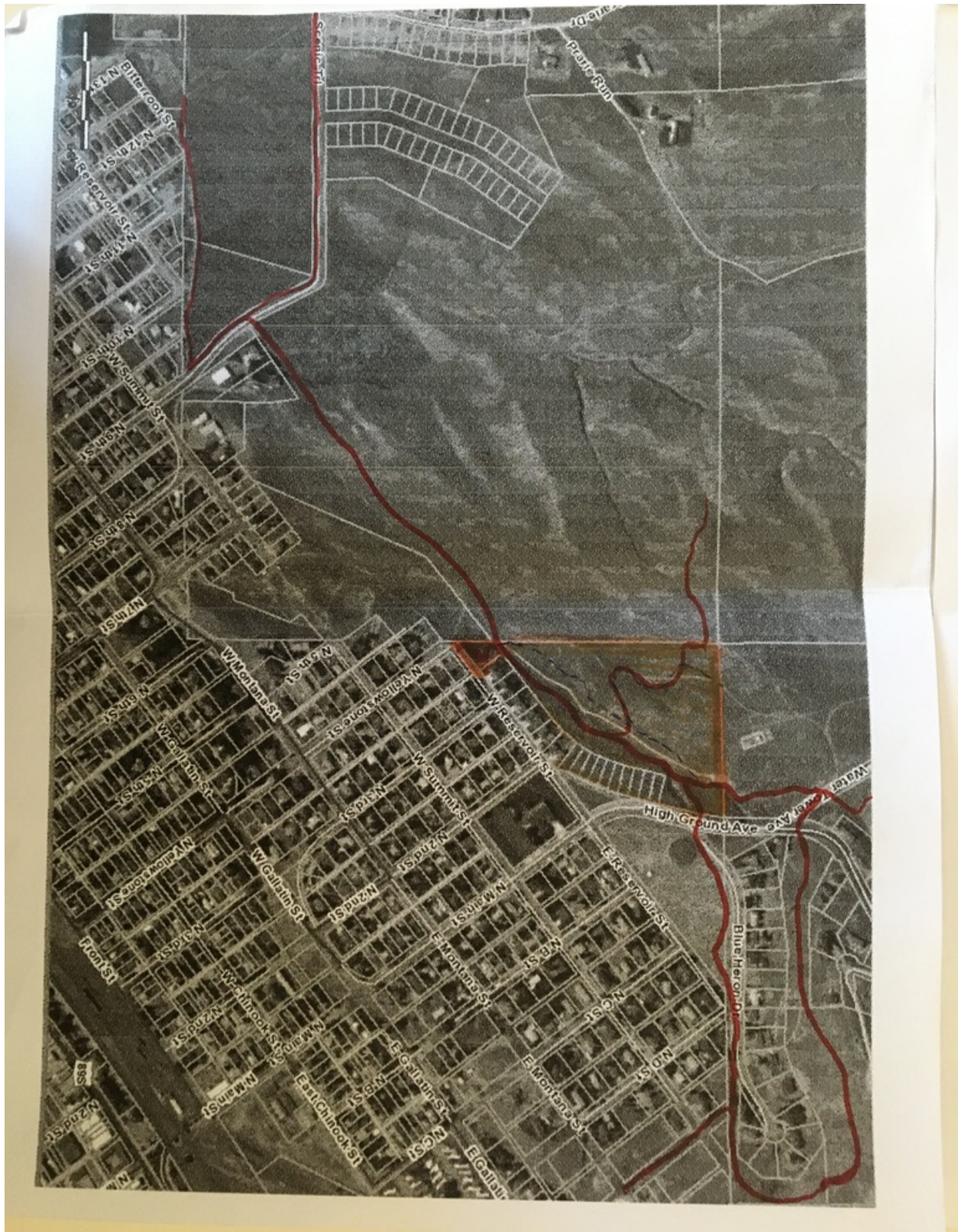


Figure 2 Trail connectivity along COL right of way and some private property. Orange indicates HRDC property.