

City of Livingston, City Parks and Trails Committee Meeting Agenda – November 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Livingston Parks & Trails Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 6 pm. The meeting will be held by Zoom video conferencing. Jeanne-Marie Souvigney, Chair, will facilitate this meeting.

To join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89340389215?pwd=aWdyRFdCR3FUNWY0a1BTTE1mYzVwdz09>

Meeting ID: 893 4038 9215

Passcode: 518882

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,89340389215#,,,,*518882# US (San Jose)

1) Roll Call

2) Agenda Review

3) Approval of Minutes – 5 minutes

- Review and approval of October 27, 2021, regular meeting minutes (*attachment*)

4) New Business

- Recommendation to City Commission on PTC vacancy (*three attachments*)
- Myers River View Trail trees - Sarah

5) Old Business

- No Mow May report – Clay (*attachment*)
- Process for developing PTC priorities for 2022 budget cycle
 - See also [City Commission Strategic Plan update and Growth Policy Priorities work session](#) Monday, Nov. 15 - 5:30pm to 7:00pm, via Zoom
- Updates:
 - Reservoir Park recommendation forwarded to Commission (*attachment*)
 - Logo design
 - Status of Trails and Active Transportation Plan
 - [Commission discussion of City Communications Policy](#), Nov. 16
- Decision on December meeting
- New officers selection in January
- Social and other media

6) Public Comments

7) Committee Member Comments

8) Adjourn meeting

Note: Emails to the Parks & Trails Committee should be addressed to webmaster@livingstonmontana.org.

City of Livingston Parks and Trails Committee Meeting

Approved Minutes

November 17, 2021

The Parks & Trails Committee met over Zoom video conferencing.

1) **Roll Call**

- Jeanne-Marie Souvigney, Alison Shannon-Lier, Carol Goosey, Clay Bolt, Sarah Stands, Rachael Jones; Connor Cavigli, excused. Dorel, absent.
Public: Jessica Haas, for Livingston Bike Club and as an interested private citizen

2) **Agenda Review** – no changes.

3) **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from October 27, 2021 meeting: *Motion to approve by Clay Bolt, seconded by Carol Goosey, unanimously approved*

4) **New Business**

- Recommendation to City Commission on PTC vacancy
Clay met with each candidate for approximately 30 mins and believes Tim Stevens' current short and long term goals as well as experience would be an asset to the Parks and Trails Committee at this time and recommends Tim for the open seat. *Sarah motioned to recommend Tim Stevens' appointment to the City Commission; Carol seconded, approved unanimously.* Jeanne will send recommendation to Commission.
- Myers River View Trail trees
 - Sarah communicated with Mike Kardoos regarding concerns about trees marked for removal along the trail. Mike stated it was part of regular park maintenance and pedestrian safety. The tree removal was flagged by Wendy with Montana Freshwater Partners who spoke with Shannon regarding the removal of the trees. He confirmed the trees are being removed for pedestrian safety and indicated the City would leave as many of the dead trees as possible. Clay shared work being done in Europe related to water infiltration and animals and value of leaving trees for insect use and decay benefits. Jeanne recommended we reach out to the Tree Board and noted annual use of the trees by nesting birds. Sarah suggested a round robin with different stakeholders on different ways to manage the situation. Clay questioned the goal of this management tool and suggested a discussion of not just the benefits to the community but also the ecological benefits. Sarah agreed to reach out to the Tree Board.
 - Public comment from Jessica Hass: she works for the Forest Service, which has similar discussions about tradeoffs. She recommended speaking with the local Forest Service office about the tools that they use. She acknowledged that safety of pedestrians often will trump other concerns.
 - Rachael suggested this is another example of a systemic problem of communication between all the arms and branches of City government. She recommends better understanding how local government comes to these decisions so we can in turn better communicate with the public. Jeanne noted that Sarah reached out to the City

Manager for that specific reason. Rachael suggests communication could improve if we make a recommendation to the City to get the board chairs together regularly.

5) Old Business

- No Mow May report
 - Clay shared the success of No Mow May, which established Livingston as a leader in bee conservation. It generated much conversation throughout the City. He had planned a bioblitz but weather did not accommodate. He recommended moving forward and asked about making Livingston a Bee City USA community; expects our next step is to communicate with the City and see if they are on board with making this an annual event. Rachael recommended connecting with the schools and coming up with a list of potential businesses or partners to begin advertising for the program sooner than later for 2022. We agreed to ask the City when we meet with them about 2022 priorities.
 - Public comment from Jessica Hass – suggested approaching ag master gardeners.
- Process for developing PTC priorities for 2022 budget cycle
 - Sarah recommended we ask to meet with Michael Kardoes and Shannon Holmes to go over 2022 budget cycle and the City’s plans for projects. Jeanne will follow up.
- Updates:
 - Reservoir Park recommendation was forwarded to Commission.
 - Logo design – Jeanne reported the design came in today but PTC is unable to take a vote today. Committee agreed to meet in December to vote on a design.
 - Status of Trails and Active Transportation Plan - Sarah noted that the final draft should be coming out in late November or so.
 - Commission discussion of City Communications Policy – Sarah and Alison summarized the City Commission conversation on Nov 16 regarding the City Communication Policy and noted that Dorel was a wonderful advocate and very positive, wanting a policy that encouraged instead of discouraged. Melissa Nootz as well. Sarah mentioned likely conflicts between our bylaws and the communication policy. There is a potential upcoming training for board members and new city commissioners; Jeanne recommended we come up with a list of what we would like to see in communications training in our December meeting.
 - Public Comment – Jessica Haas touched on the difficulty sometimes of learning when the boards are meeting and the topics to be talked about. Recommends the City be even more transparent on this information.
- December meeting – Jeanne will send out a Doodle poll.
- New officers, selection in January
- Social and other media – nothing to update

6) Public Comments

- Jessica Haas mentioned concerns about the Bitterroot Trail and how citizens can be assured the trail will be placed back where it was and asked how citizens could better participate in this conversation. Jeanne advised that the public can always go to the City Manager regarding topics like this and the PTC can also keep this topic on the agenda for further updates. Jessica asked the PTC to please keep her in mind if there is anything she can do and please request that the City Manager and City Staff be more communicative about future changes and more transparent so it is not such a shock in the future.

7) Committee Member Comments

- Anne Fuller reached out to Jeanne regarding the discussion of a trail from Mayors Landing to O St and the easement along her property. Jeanne advised her this topic is before Park County and there is no action currently before the PTC on this topic but that she could reach out to the City Manager.
- Sarah and Connor were invited for a site visit with Mathieu Menard and Martin Johnson from HRDC regarding the HRDC gulley and potential future plans related to a trail through the gulley. Mathieu plans to touch base with the other north side property owner for further information. Positive feedback on our previous recommendation.
- Jeanne was contacted by a member of the Tree Board regarding further tree placement. Sarah noted that Martin Johnson from HRDC loves the idea of a park in the Reservoir triangle area. He shared he doesn't have concerns about children in the area and that he thought the triangle area belongs to HRDC. This will need to be clarified.

8) **Adjourn meeting** - *Alison motioned to adjourn the meeting and Clay seconded, unanimously approved at 7:17 pm.*

November 17, 2021

Recommendation that the Parks & Trails Committee recommend Tim Stevens for an opening on the Parks & Trails Committee

To City Commission:

The Parks & Trails Committee recommends that Tim Stevens be appointed to fill an opening on the Parks & Trails Committee, effective January 1, 2022, for a term of four years.

Tim, one of two applicants interviewed for the vacancy, is a long-time resident of Livingston and noted that he considers parks and trails to be a vital social and economic asset for the community. He is a former City Commissioner, served on the Livingston Youth Soccer Board for about 16 years and was involved in the development of the Northside Soccer Park and the cleanup and reclamation of Mayors Landing. He has a long history in fundraising and managing grants. At his interview, he indicated his strong interest in helping to improve hiking, biking and walking trails within the city, the potential for a larger trail network and safety for residents accessing our parks and trails system through town. He is committed to being an active member of the Parks & Trails Committee, and is knowledgeable, friendly and excited to get on board.

We urge the Commission to approve Tim's appointment to the Parks & Trails Committee.

City of Livingston
Application for Appointed Office
(Revised 3/20/20)

Appointed Position Seeking: Parks and Trails Committee

Date of Application: 10/20/21

Name: Tim Stevens

Signed: Tim Stevens

Address: 315 N. 3rd St.

Telephone: daytime 406-223-3137

after 5:00 p.m.: 406-223-3137

Fax Number: 406-333-2123

e-mail address: tstevensmt4@gmail.com

1. Are you a resident of the City of Livingston? yes
2. Are you a registered voter? yes
3. Will you be at least 18 years of age at the time of the appointment? yes
4. Describe the reasons you are interested in this appointment: Parks and trails are a vital asset to our community.

They are our gathering places; they weave our community together. They are an economic asset. I like what the committee is doing and would like to be part of it.

5. Describe any background, experience and interests that you have which may assist you in performing the responsibilities of this appointment:

A. Occupation: I worked for a National Parks focused organization for 11 years. I now work for a charitable foundation that exposes me to a lot of similar work going on in MT.

B. Education: Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management; Colorado State

C. Experience: Involved in development of Northside park and Mayors Landing.

(please attach a detailed resume if desired)

6. Have you served on any previous boards or in any governmental positions in the past? yes

I served on the Livingston City Commission for a term in '99-2000(ish). Livingston Youth Soccer Board for about 16 years.

7. Are you currently serving on any Community Boards? no

A. If yes, please describe those boards. n/a

8. Current Employer? The Kendeda Fund

9. Are you available for night meetings? yes

10. Are you available for daytime meetings? yes if I have a heads up

11. Do you foresee any potential conflicts of interest that you might have in executing the duties of this appointed office? No

12. If conflict of interest arose for you, how would you deal with it as an appointed member of this board? Recuse myself from voting on the matter in which there's a potential conflict.

THIS APPLICATION WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR 6 MONTHS AND THEN DISCARDED.

Return completed applications to Faith Kinnick at fkinnick@livingstonmontana.org or drop off in person at the City/County Complex 414 E. Callender St.

Timothy R. Stevens

315 N. 3rd St.

Livingston, MT 59047

406-223-3137

tstevensmt4@gmail.com

Experience

2015-Present The Kendeda Fund
Livingston, MT

Montana and Veterans Fund Advisor

- Oversee all grants and grant activities for Montana, Veterans and Civic Engagement Funds. Manage 80+ grants; About \$10 million in philanthropy annually.

2008-2015 National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)
Livingston, MT

Senior Regional Director, Northern Rockies Region

- Supervise all NPCA programs, staff and campaigns in NPCA's Northern Rockies Region (MT, WY, ID, ND)
- Oversee staff of 8 in Montana and Wyoming
- Develop, implement conservation programs, campaigns and strategies for region
- Lead collaborative conservation efforts and engage wide variety of stakeholders and interests in local and national priority work
- Implement and oversee comprehensive strategy to engage and ally with new and diverse partners across the range of backgrounds and interests in priority issues and work
- Oversaw creation and application of Yellowstone Pronghorn restoration program, focused on engaging park-adjacent landowners in voluntary pronghorn habitat restoration projects
- Lead staff in execution of key national programs, including NPCA's Landscape Conservation program

2004-2008 National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)
Livingston, MT

Senior Manager, Yellowstone Program

- Managed all aspects of the successful launching, management and operation of one of NPCA's most productive and highest profile field offices.
- Initiated and led 'Gateways to Yellowstone,' an educational/outreach project focused on developing new collaborative partnerships with non-traditional allies in Yellowstone's gateway communities.
- Responsible for securing all financial support for office from a combination of grants, donors, members and events. Successfully grew budget by over 60% in three years.
- Developed strong working relationships with state and federal agency partners, researchers, elected officials and their staffs, area business and community leaders,

landowners, local citizens and other non-profit organization representatives.

- Facilitated and led multi-organizational coalitions on a variety of issues and projects. Within NPCA, both led and participated in many team-based efforts and projects.
- Designed and implemented science and fact-based NPCA programs addressing many of the most complex natural resource issues facing our region.
- Gained substantial experience in the area of communications through extensive work with the media, writing, conducting outreach programs in communities and one on one meetings.
- Developed new field office positions, hired, trained, mentored and supervised staff. Oversaw the successful initiation of both an endowed internship program as well as a 2-year Fellowship program.
- Gained substantial experience working independently, crafting and implementing program and fundraising plans, developing and managing budgets and contracts.

1994-2004 Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Bozeman, MT

Issues and Outreach Coordinator

- Designed and implemented science-based conservation programs geared toward solving many of the region's most complex and pressing conservation challenges.
- Developed strong working relationships with many local, regional and national organizations, state and federal land managers, area landowners, local citizens and regional leaders.
- Gained significant experience in public speaking, communications, coalition building, campaign planning and execution.
- Extensive experience gained in working with non-traditional allies, such as the religious community and hunters and anglers.
- Served as acting Program Director for nearly two years. Supervised staff of seven, oversaw development and implementation of all program-related efforts and crafted and implemented annual program plans for the entire organization.

1991-1994 National Wildlife Federation Boulder, CO

Endangered Species Program Western Regional Coordinator

- In a team environment, developed and implemented a national conservation program for the nation's largest conservation organization.
- Worked autonomously in field office, successfully coordinating campaign with staff spread throughout the U.S. Responsible for region that included 17 western states.
- Valuable experience gained in outreach and organizing, working with diverse interests, working in coalition and teams, building scientific understanding, working with Congressional staff and knowledge of the legislative process.
- Organized numerous events and trainings across the country, helped initiate local student and citizen groups. Extensive public speaking experience gained (over 200 public presentations given). Worked closely with state-based hunting organizations.

1989-1990 National Wildlife Federation Boulder, CO

Cool it! Campus Program Western Regional Coordinator

- With team of five, designed and implemented a national campus-based outreach and organizing program focused on climate change.
- Responsible for organizing diverse set of campus-based groups, events and projects in 17 western states. Gained extensive public speaking and media experience.
- Assisted and trained groups in organizational development and strategic and campaign planning and implementation.

Education

1991 Colorado State University Ft. Collins, CO

- B.S., Natural Resource Management
- President and co-founder, Student Environmental Action Coalition

Interests

Mountaineering, hunting, running, hiking, camping, skiing

Activities

- 2001-2017- Livingston Youth Soccer Association- Held many titles over the years- Board Chair, Vice Chair, Competitive Committee chair, Rec Committee Chair, coach, referee
- 2004-2010- Chair- Restoring Eden, a faith-based conservation organization.
- 1999-2001- Vice-Chair, Livingston City Commission. Received highest vote tally in 1999 city-wide election.

City of Livingston
Application for Appointed Office
(Revised 3/20/20)

RECEIVED
10/29/21

Appointed Position Seeking: PARKS & TRAILS COMM.

Date of Application: 10/27/2021

Name: Doug Melius

Signed: Doug Melius

Address: 115 S. 9th

Telephone: daytime 307-752-7926 after 5:00 p.m.: _____

Fax Number: _____ e-mail address: dougjmelius@gmail.com

1. Are you a resident of the City of Livingston? YES

2. Are you a registered voter? YES

3. Will you be at least 18 years of age at the time of the appointment? YES

4. Describe the reasons you are interested in this appointment: AVOID WALKER AND HIKER. WISH TO SEE MORE FOLKS OUT ON THE TRAILS

5. Describe any background, experience and interests that you have which may assist you in performing the responsibilities of this appointment:

A. Occupation: RETIRED - HERE IN 2017

B. Education: B.S. GEOLOGY MA. GEOLOGY, M.P.H., MT. MASTER NATURALIST

C. Experience: LOTS OF OUTSIDE LEADERSHIP.

LOTS OF WORKING IN COMMITTEES

(please attach a detailed resume if desired)

6. Have you served on any previous boards or in any governmental positions in the past?

~~8 YEARS~~ 8 YEARS IN CORPORATE AMERICA (CHEVRON) 25 YEAR PASTOR IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

7. Are you currently serving on any Community Boards? NO

A. If yes, please describe those boards. _____

8. Current Employer? _____

9. Are you available for night meetings? YES

10. Are you available for daytime meetings? YES

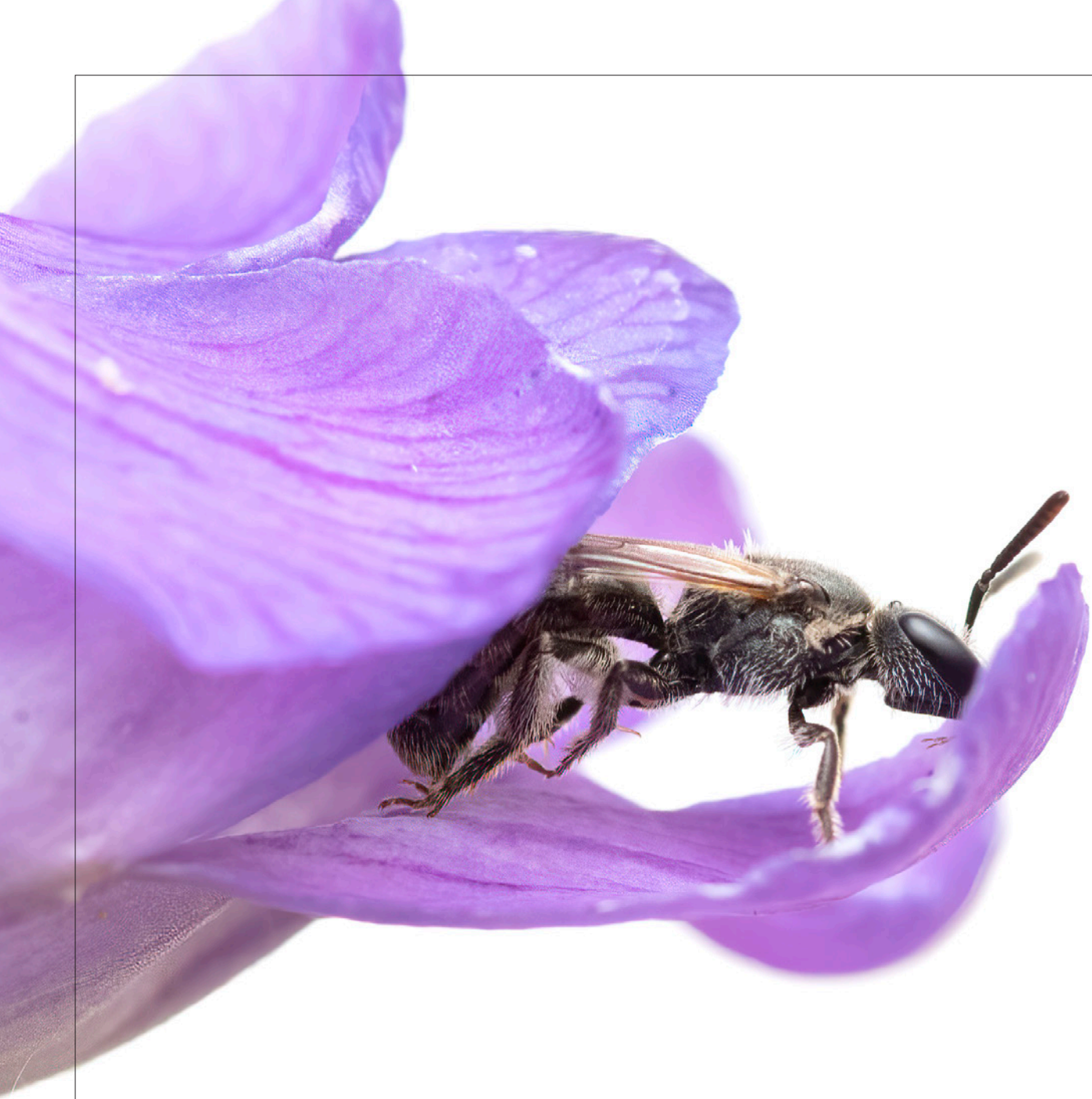
11. Do you foresee any potential conflicts of interest that you might have in executing the duties of this appointed office? NO

12. If conflict of interest arose for you, how would you deal with it as an appointed member of this board? 1. TALK IT OVER WITH MY LEADERSHIP

2. RESUSE

THIS APPLICATION WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR 6 MONTHS AND THEN DISCARDED.

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10/27/2021

PROJECT BRIEFING:

**Inaugural “No Mow May” Provides Important Step Toward
Positioning Livingston as a Leader in Pollinator Conservation**

Prepared by the Livingston Parks and Trails Committee for the City of Livingston

On May 1, 2021, the Livingston Parks and Trails Committee (PTC), with the support of the City of Livingston, launched a new No Mow May (NMM) initiative to support Livingston’s pollinator species—particularly spring bees and butterflies—with much-needed food in the form of dandelions and other naturally occurring wildflowers on public and private grounds. This relatively simple undertaking is helping to position Livingston as a leader in native bee conservation in the state of Montana. Livingston is the first city in Montana to designate a NMM initiative.

In 2017, Montana State University estimated that Montana is home to the greatest number of bumble bee species in the nation, and many of these are threatened, including the western bumble bee, a once-common species, which is found throughout the town of Livingston,” Bumble bees are some of the most important pollinators in Montana, pollinating a broad range of crops, local gardens, and native plants. Unfortunately, one out of every four species of North American bumble bee is at risk of extinction.

No Mow May test plots were located in Mars Park, Mike Webb Park field area, Mayors Landing and the former roping arena area, the Livingston-Park County Library, and along the Hwy 89 S bike path. Flyers were also passed out to local business. A limited number of yard signs were also available for residents who were interested in participating by not mowing their yards in May. The PTC hopes to continue this program in subsequent years.



No Mow May signage was placed in designated locations throughout the City of Livingston, and a small amount was also provided for use by community members free-of-charge.



© Clay Bolt

No Mow May banner at the Livingston-Park County Library



© Clay Bolt

No Mow May signs were placed along the Hwy 89 South bike path

2021 Livingston No Mow May Project Briefing



© Clay Bolt

No Mow May signage at Mayors Landing



© Clay Bolt

No Mow May signage at Mike Webb Park



© Clay Bolt

No Mow May banner on the corner of Hwy 89 South and Hwy 90



© Clay Bolt

No Mow May flyers were passed out to local businesses for display

OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS:

A total of 48 16”x 12” No Mow May (NMM) yard signs and two large NMM banners were printed with the support of the City of Livingston. This signage was printed with generous support by the City of Livingston, which donated \$500.00 to cover the expense. Both banners, and approximately 15 signs, were distributed in designated public areas throughout the City of Livingston. The remainder of the yard signs were utilized by community members who wanted to participate in their own yards.

The NMM initiative, which seems to have been favorably received by the Livingston community, was a topic of conversation among community members on social media, in local business such as coffee shops, and other gathering places. The initiative was featured in an article in the Livingston Enterprise, and by the International League of Conservation Photographers, a Washington D.C. based non-profit organization.

Initial plans included a field day for community participants, but due to inclement weather, a sudden cold snap after blooms had opened, followed by warm temperatures, local bee populations were slower than usual to emerge this year. Due to these events, a decision was made to cancel the event for the 2021 field season.

The Livingston Parks and Trails Committee would like to encourage the City of Livingston to designate NMM an annual tradition. It is good for our local pollinators, saves the city on early spring park maintenance fees, and it offers a cost-effective way for community members to get involved with citizen science and pollinator conservation. It also saves the city money on groundskeeping fees in designated parks.



© Clay Bolt

A rare western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*) visits a flowering cherry tree in Livingston, Montana