## PRESS RELEASE

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The City of Deer Lodge is undertaking a planning process to create a Deer Lodge Parks and Trails Master Plan. Lead by the City's Parks and Recreation Committee, in consultation with Stahly Engineering & Associates, the plan will inform future decisions regarding improvements to existing park and trail facilities as well as possible new facilities.

Assisted by a grant funded by the Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Program, the Master Plan will be developed to include an analysis of existing facilities. The process will involve members of the community in generating ideas to improve parks and trails. Concept plans will be provided for facility changes or upgrades and any new facilities that may be envisioned for the future. The final plan will prioritize projects, determine permitting or other requirements, provide preliminary cost estimates, and define appropriate park and trail standards. Future funding mechanisms for projects will also be documented.

On Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, the City of Deer Lodge Parks and Recreation Committee will host an open house from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Powell County Community Center, 416 Cottonwood Avenue, Deer Lodge, Montana to allow comment on the planning activity. The public is encouraged to stop in any time during the open house to visit with representatives from the committee and the City's engineering consultant, Stahly Engineering & Associates.

A web site has been created for the project where the public can gain information and follow the progress of the Plan: <a href="https://www.stahlyprojects.com/dlparks">https://www.stahlyprojects.com/dlparks</a>. Additionally, an online survey is available to express opinions that will be valuable in the process. It can be accessed at <a href="https://www.stahlyprojects.com/dlsurvey">https://www.stahlyprojects.com/dlsurvey</a>. Hard copies of the survey are also available in a variety of places throughout the community.