

City of Deer Lodge Parks and Trails Master Plan

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Invaluable to this master plan's preparation was the input received from the City of Deer Lodge's engaged citizens and community groups.

City of Deer Lodge Park & Recreation Board

Amanda Bohrer, Chair
John Molendyke
John Skibsrud

Parks & Trails Master Plan Steering Committee

Diana Solle, Mayor
Jordan Green, City Manager
Brian Bender, Previous City Manager
Trent Freeman, Public Works Director
Sean Herrick, City of Deer Lodge Recreation Program
Cyndi Thompson, City of Deer Lodge Clerk
Michelle Christnacht, Deer Lodge Medical Center
Julie Croglio, Grant-Kohrs Ranch
Scott Hazelton, Powell County Planning Director
Bob Rase, Powell County Parks & Trails Board
Aubree Bohrer, Powell County High School



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Introduction

Nestled in a vast meadowland, with the Flint Creek Mountain range to the west and the Boulder Mountains to the east, Deer Lodge lies in a valley surrounded by natural beauty. Situated on the banks of the Clark Fork River, as well as Cottonwood Creek, the valley offers a variety of recreational activities for residents and visitors alike.

Established as Deer Lodge City when the Montana Territory was designated in 1864, the city became the county seat of Deer Lodge County and grew rapidly as an economic center and supply base for gold miners striking gold in the surrounding mountains. Anaconda took the county seat away from Deer Lodge in 1896, which culminated in the creation of Powell County in 1901, with Deer Lodge as its county seat.

In addition to gold mining, the northern plains became popular for open range cattle ranching. The grazing lands in Montana were highly prized by cowboys from the south, looking for their opportunity for fortune. Although the open range cattle industry lasted only a short time, its legacy is captured at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch, which is the only national historic site dedicated to the history of ranching in the west.

Residents of Deer Lodge continue the spirit of the outdoor traditions that formed the culture of the region with use of the established parks and trails, and the importance of these amenities to their daily lifestyle. Parks, trails and other recreational facilities are crucial for lively communities, influencing the natural landscape and quality of life for citizens and visitors alike. As with most community amenities, these resources require both planning and fiscal commitment.

The 2021 City of Deer Lodge Parks and Trails Master Plan will serve to preserve and promote existing and additional parks and trails within the City. This master plan is a guiding document to plan for and accomplish improved parks and trails within the City over the next 10 years. The primary goal of the Plan is to provide recommendations and maps as a tool for implementing improvements to the system.

It is the intention of the plan to provide the City with a logical and achievable approach to the development of improved parks, connectivity of trails, and an overall system that takes advantage of the natural and cultural amenities Deer Lodge has to offer. In addition to providing recreational opportunities and attracting economic development opportunities, benefits such as community health improvement and greater community pride in an aesthetically pleasing atmosphere will be attained.



Master Plan Overview

The vision of a master plan provides the foundation for goals and action items to guide decisions on budgeting, partnerships, facility upgrades and parks and trails development. It is a dynamic document that establishes priorities to meet community needs for the next 10 years.

This master plan provides a planning document that outlines goals, objectives, and a recommended course of action for the future. The plan encompasses the following components:

Public Involvement

Throughout the development of the Plan, the engineering consultant and the City of Deer Lodge Park & Recreation Committee have met in work sessions and provided opportunity for public input on concept level plans for inclusion in the Master Plan, as well as the feasibility of the concepts and



designs proposed. Public open house workshops were advertised through the Silver State Post and posted on the City's web site and Facebook page and were attended by engaged community members. A project specific web site was also created to keep the community abreast of the progress of the Plan and included an ability for individuals to take the community survey regarding the Plan and make comment. Meetings were held December 10, 2020 and May 11, 2021. Comments and input expressed by the community were received and integrated into this master plan.

A draft City of Deer Lodge Parks & Trails Master Plan was provided to the City for review in April 2021. The draft plan was also available in electronic form on the City's web site and on the project web site hosted by Stahly Engineering & Associates with opportunity for the public to comment on its contents. With those comments delivered, the consultant completed the final Master Plan in June 2021 and the plan was recommended to the Deer Lodge City Council by the Park & Recreation Committee. The Plan was adopted XXXXX.

Field Work and Data Gathering

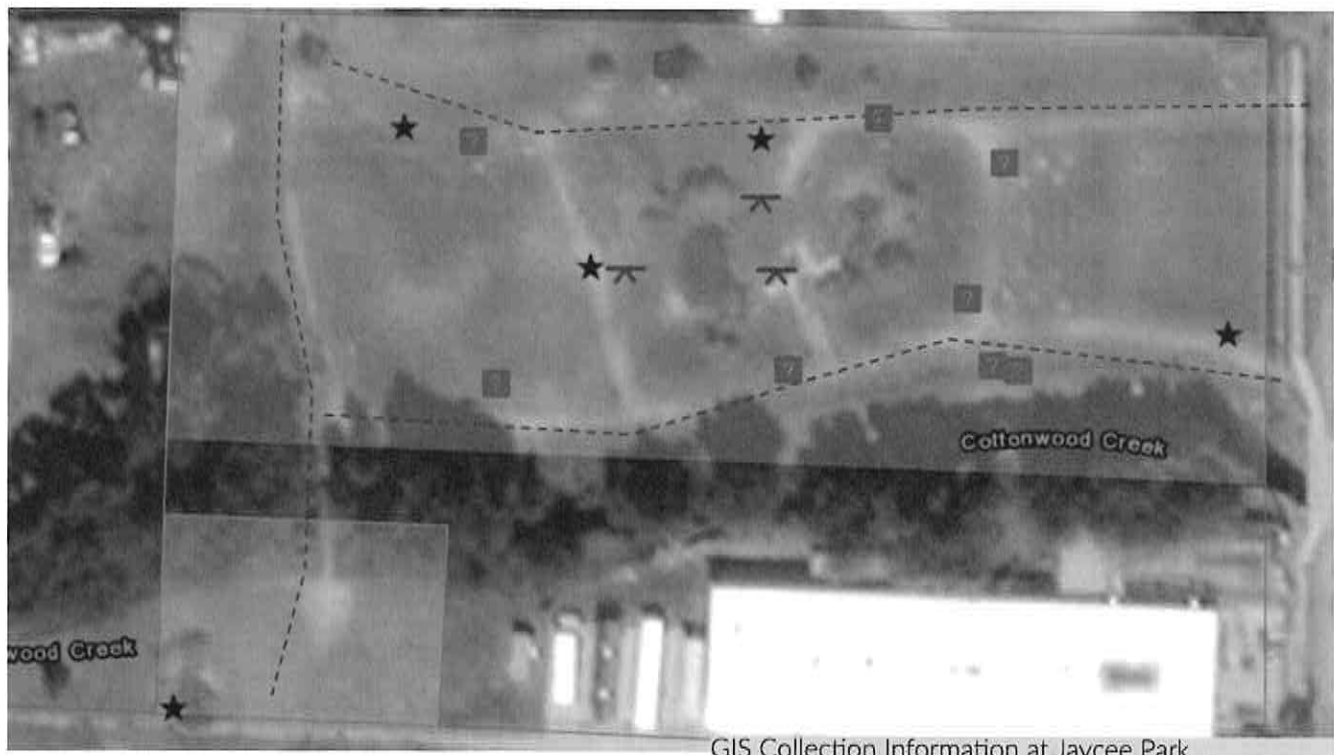
This Master Plan considers the existing trails, parks and other recreational facilities in Deer Lodge, along with the general environmental conditions present that may affect decisions regarding trail design and trail and park location. Geographic Information System (GIS) data collection was used to map the existing facilities and photographs were taken to document the condition of the existing facilities. The evaluation of potential trail routes used both cadastral maps and Google Earth to

determine land ownership, stakeholder groups, and topography that assisted in determining the feasibility and design components of each proposed facility. The focus was to develop options for parks and trails that would allow for recreational activities in and around the community that interconnect.

Park and Trail Corridor Mapping

Maps of the proposed parks and trail routes are provided in the Master Plan section of this document and are provided in electronic form, compatible with GIS mapping standards, for the City. The maps show:

- Jurisdictional boundaries
- Public roads in the vicinity of the proposed trail that could potentially be used for public access to the trail
- Existing and planned trails that could provide connectivity
- The results and recommendations of other related planning and design studies



GIS Collection Information at Jaycee Park

Identification of Sites for Trailheads, Public Access, and Recreation Areas

This Master Plan has identified connectivity of the City of Deer Lodge Trails to existing and potential County and State Park trails and City sidewalks that also provide public access to parks and trails. In addition, it illustrates connectivity with local businesses and the downtown business district that will benefit from access to a multi-use trail system. The City of Deer Lodge Growth Policy supports connecting trails as it is an essential element of the downtown revitalization effort and provides a pedestrian link between City attractions.

Facility Design

Design guidelines and facility classification for both parks and trails are included within this Master Plan. As future projects are prioritized and planned by the Committee, appropriate design standards will be drafted for each project with consideration given to environmental conditions of each trail segment location, park location and use, future maintenance requirements, and cost.

For the purpose of this Plan, path or pathway may refer to either a sidewalk or a trail. A sidewalk is defined as a portion of a highway, road, or street intended for pedestrians. A trail is defined as a path of travel for recreation and/or transportation within a park, natural environment, or designated corridor that is not classified as a highway, road, or street. A shared-use path is defined as a trail permitting more than one type of user, such as a trail specifying both pedestrians and bicyclists as designated users. An equestrian-only trail would not be considered a shared-use path.

Cost Estimates and Phasing

As part of the Implementation section of this document, preliminary cost estimates are provided for each identified park or trail project. These estimates include all anticipated construction components

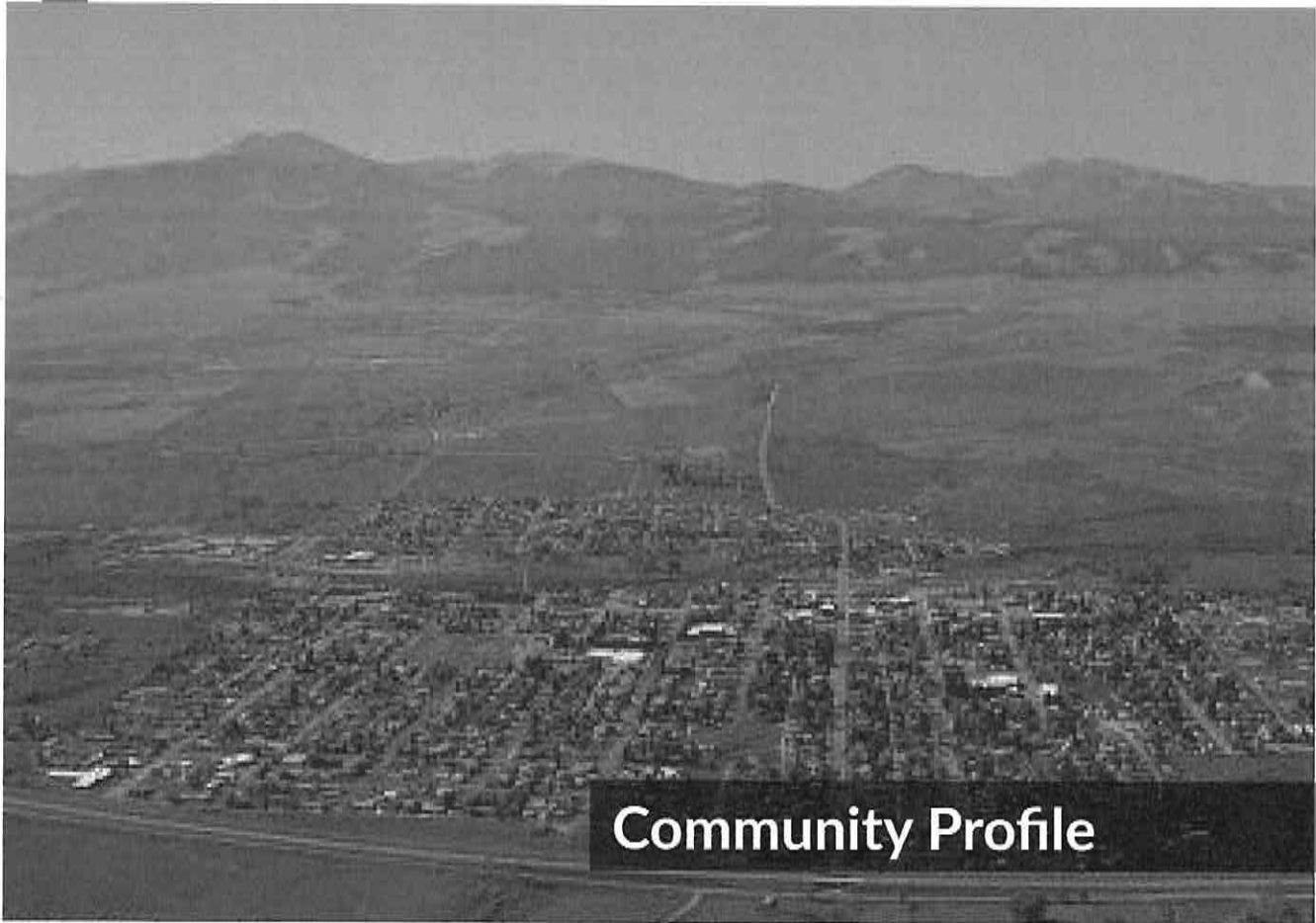


of each section identified in the plan. Engineering and other administrative costs anticipated are also included. The cost estimates and funding information will aid in the community's prioritization of projects proposed as part of this Plan.

Funding, Timeline, and Administration Recommendations

Funding each proposed project will require careful planning to meet local budget constraints and grant funding agency deadlines. Potential sources of funding or local mechanisms for generating revenue to build projects are included in this Master Plan. Embarking on this effort to plan for the City of Deer Lodge's future park and trail projects is a first step in acquiring outside funding. Most funding applications request a history of planning efforts that involve the community in the decision-making process. Having preliminary plans and cost estimates will provide the information needed to request financial assistance and implement the Master Plan.

The success of completing all segments of the Parks & Trails Master Plan is dependent on the City's financial commitment, including a commitment to future maintenance. It will also depend on the cooperative nature of local landowners and stakeholders, and the success of receiving outside funding to assist in planning for these improvements. It is recommended that the Park and Recreation Committee continue their work to gain support and provide planning guidance to the City Council as they work toward achieving the goals of the City of Deer Lodge Parks & Trails Master Plan.



Community Profile

Geography and Climate

Deer Lodge, Montana is located in the west-central portion of the state in Powell County and is the second oldest town in Montana. The City is located adjacent to Interstate 90, which provides effortless connection to larger communities, such as Missoula to the west and Butte to the east. In addition, this allows for easy access by tourists and travelers, who would greatly benefit from usable parks and trails to enjoy the natural surroundings of the City, as well as the local attractions and businesses.



The Clark Fork River flows through Deer Lodge, creating distinct west and east neighborhoods, and providing exceptional recreation opportunities and beautiful scenery. Cottonwood Creek flows through the northern portion of the City, spanned by 13 vehicular and several pedestrian bridges. The Creek has a significant history of flooding, resulting in

damage to public infrastructure and private property. The City is currently working with a number of partnering agencies to actively manage the stream, as well as to acquire property located within the Cottonwood Creek floodplain, which could be used to develop additional parks and trails.



The climate surrounding the City of Deer Lodge is categorized by warm to hot summers and cold winters, with large seasonal temperature differences. The average yearly precipitation is 10.8" and the average snowfall is 35.7".

Demographics

According to information gathered by Headwaters Economics, the population of Deer Lodge has been steadily declining since 1970, with a 5.4% decline in population since 2010. This is compared to a 3.1% population decline in Powell County, and a 7% increase in population statewide. Powell County population numbers are impacted by the Montana State Prison as inmates are counted as county population. In addition, outmigration of households from the City to more rural property in the county may contribute to the difference in population decline between the City and County.

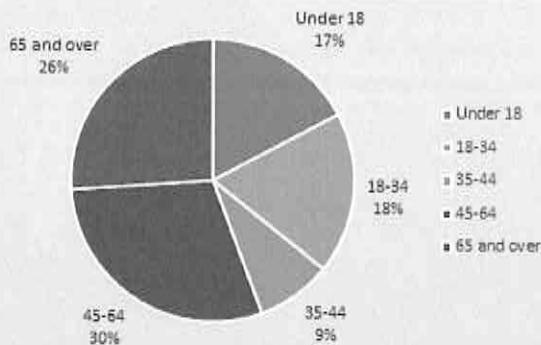
Table 2.1 Population, 2010-2018*

	Deer Lodge, MT	Powell County, MT
Population (2018*)	2,976	6,861
Population (2010*)	3,145	7,077
Population Change (2010*-2018*)	-169	-216
Population Pct. Change (2010*-2018*)	-5.4%	-3.1%

Source: Headwaters Economics' Economics Profile System (www.headwaterseconomics.org)

Loss of population reflects the need for a continued effort by the City to set tangible goals for improvement of existing and installation of new parks and trails. Improved recreational opportunities will encourage population retention as services improve, and potentially promote population influx and increased tourism.

Deer Lodge Age Distribution 2018



Source: Headwaters Economics' Economics Profile System

Deer Lodge Disabled Population 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Nationwide, communities are dealing with an aging population, and the City of Deer Lodge is no exception. The median age has increased from 42.8 in 2010 to 50.1 in 2018, and the number of residents over age 65 has increased nearly 8% in that same time frame. The largest age group, with 29.5% of the population, is from 45-64 years of age.

According to U.S. Census information, the population over age 65 is more likely to have a disability. An increasing number of individuals with disabilities are leading active, independent lives, and are requiring recreational facilities

that are accessible. Based on the percentage of the population in the City that is over 65, it is important that park and trail plans accommodate the aging population to ensure all age levels are able to utilize the public amenities.

In addition to the population over the age of 65, parks and trails should be designed to accommodate disabled citizens to encourage community engagement and physical activity. Census information identifies 17.2% of the total City population as disabled.

🏠 Household Characteristics

Based on information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, family households in Deer Lodge account for 66.8% of the population compared to 61.5% for the State of Montana. Approximately 22% of all households have children under the age of 18, while nearly 40% of households have an individual over 65 years of age. Non-family households account for 33.2% of the population, and there is an increasing number of single parent households and/or grandparents raising grandchildren. It is important that communities plan for and design parks and trails to accommodate the recreational needs of the variety of households in the city.

Table 2.2 Deer Lodge Household Characteristics 2018

	Number	Percentage
Total Households	1,379	100%
Family Households	921	66.8%
Non-Family Households	458	33.2%
Households with Children under 18 years of age	304	22.0%
Households with individuals 65 years and older	535	38.8%
Average Household Size	2.1	--
Average Family Size	2.5	--

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

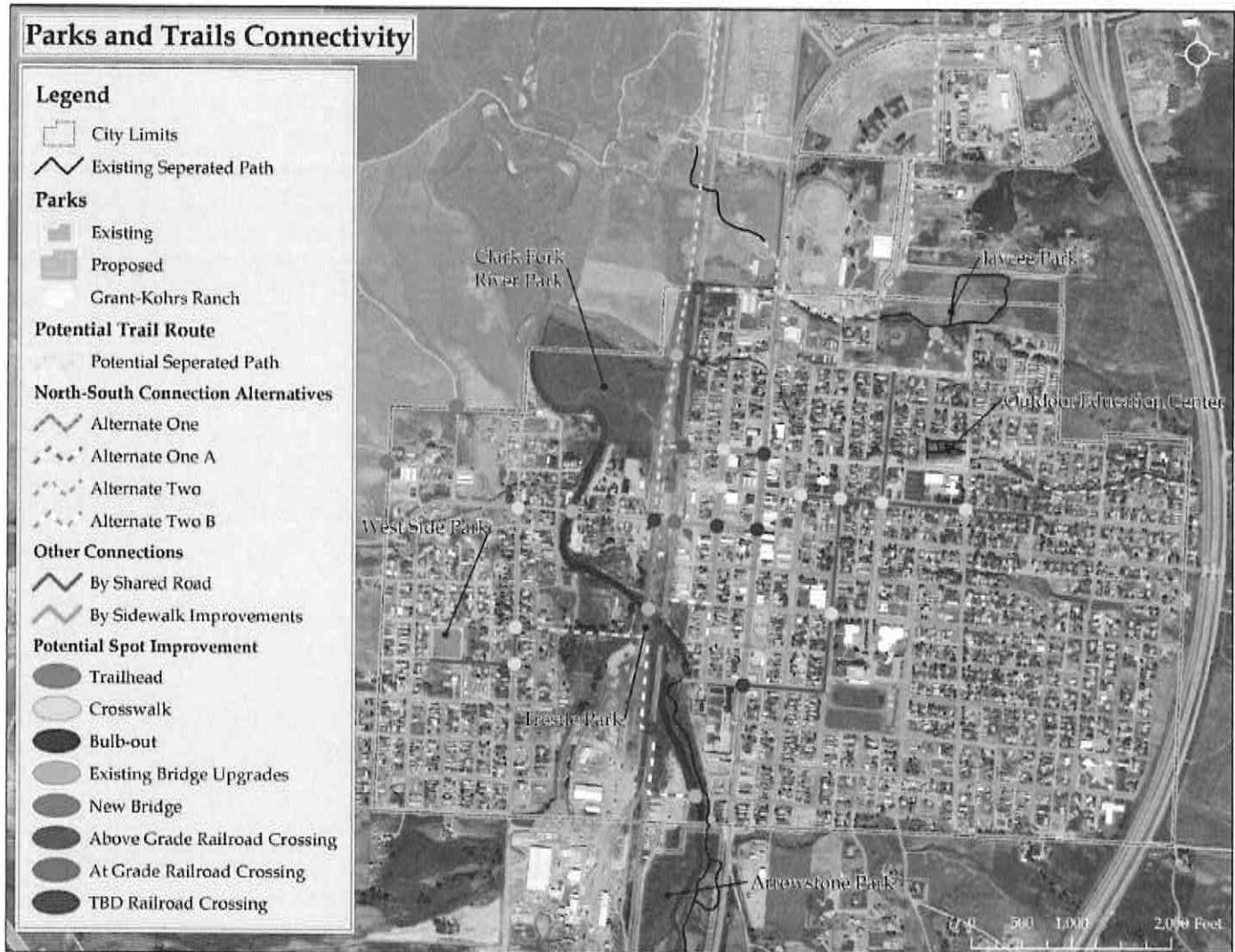
🔗 Relationship to Existing Planning Documents

CITY OF DEER LODGE GROWTH POLICY

In 2015, the City of Deer Lodge updated their 2008 Growth Policy. The document contains a number of objectives concerning Parks & Trails, but the overarching goal is for pedestrian connectivity. The Growth Policy includes a map of the conceptual bike-pedestrian infrastructure plan, which identifies locations for proposed trails, separated paths, improved sidewalks and shared roads for trail connectivity. The Growth Policy also identifies River Park as a proposed new regional park. Relevant portions of the Growth Policy can be found in Appendix A.

The primary goal identified for Parks and Trails within the Growth Policy is:

“Develop pedestrian connectivity between neighborhoods, parks, schools, historic sites, community attractions, the Clark Fork River and downtown.”



Connectivity Map from the City of Deer Lodge Growth Policy

Objectives tied to this goal include:

- Develop a north-south trail connecting Arrowstone Park to the south, Grant Kohrs to the north, the Old Prison, downtown, the proposed Clark Fork River Park, and recreational facilities.
- Build capacity to develop a parks and trails system to support downtown re-development and connectivity throughout the community.
- Develop a vision for a new park on City owned property along the Clark Fork River.
- Develop path and trail connections from the main north-south trail to neighborhoods, parks, schools, historic sites and community attractions.

These objectives will be used as the basis for developing the City of Deer Lodge Parks & Trails Master Plan.

CITY OF DEER LODGE COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CCIP)

The City of Deer Lodge adopted their current Comprehensive Capital Improvements Plan (CCIP) in 2017, which was written to provide planning assistance through 2021. The document evaluates Transportation Facilities, incorporating sidewalks and trails, as well as Community Service and Recreational Facilities. As one of the needs for City trails, the CCIP identified the creation of a Trails Master Plan to improve and expand non-motorized trails within the city. Additional projects identified can be seen in the CCIP, included in Appendix A of this document.

CITY OF DEER LODGE WAYFINDING PLAN

https://issuu.com/landsolutionsmt/docs/deer_20lodge_20wayfinding_20plan

This plan, drafted in 2019, is a guide for implementing visual signage in the City of Deer Lodge, which is used to help people navigate, market local assets, enhance the visitor experience and promote non-motorized travel. The Wayfinding Plan identifies five project goals: connect places, ensure visibility, economic growth, clear information and nonmotorized travel. The intended purpose of the nonmotorized travel goal is to encourage walking and bicycling through town, which directly relates to the Parks and Trails Master Plan. In addition, the Wayfinding Plan identifies sign guidelines and design standards for new signage, including the City logo, color, typeface and materials.



Sample of Sign Standard from the Wayfinding Plan

Phase 3 of the Wayfinding Plan includes installation of interpretive signs, park and trailhead signs and kiosks. The included sign schedule will be consulted as park and trail projects are identified and included in the Parks and Trails Master Plan. Excerpts from the Plan are included in Appendix A.

CITY OF DEER LODGE DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN

The City of Deer Lodge Downtown Master Plan was revised in November 2017 and serves as a guide for downtown improvements and revitalization. Objective 2 of the Downtown Master Plan is to "Develop a complete and connected nonmotorized transportation network" and includes the following actions related to a City Parks and Trails Master Plan:

- Develop a trail system through the City owned property northwest of downtown on the Clark Fork River, connecting Milwaukee Avenue with the Grant-Kohrs trail system.
- Create a pedestrian and bicyclist connection on Pennsylvania Avenue linking Main Street with the Arrowstone Park trail system.
- Develop a plan for installing wayfinding signs directing people to attractions in and adjacent to downtown.
- Install high visibility cross walks at Main Street intersections in downtown.
- Install safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings outside of downtown on Main Street and at other areas with bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Relevant sections of the Downtown Master Plan can be found in Appendix A.

CITY OF DEER LODGE RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT REPORT

In 2016, the City of Deer Lodge requested a resource team from the Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) to conduct a community assessment report. The purpose of this report is to develop implementation plans for the community. The report is the culmination of a community-based planning and assessment process that involves interviewing community members, documenting community suggestions and producing the implementation plan.

The Report includes a substantial discussion concerning Trails and Recreation, with identified issues such as utilizing community leadership to tackle community projects and building a connected trail system. Additional information about the issues identified in the Resource Team Assessment Report can be found in Appendix A.

CITY OF DEER LODGE SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

Subdivision regulations for the City of Deer Lodge were completed in 2016 and address the inclusion of sidewalks and trails in new subdivision proposals. A plan for sidewalks and trails is required to be submitted along with the preliminary plat application and is subject to review by City Council and City staff. Minimum standards for sidewalks and trails are included in the subdivision regulations (see Appendix A).

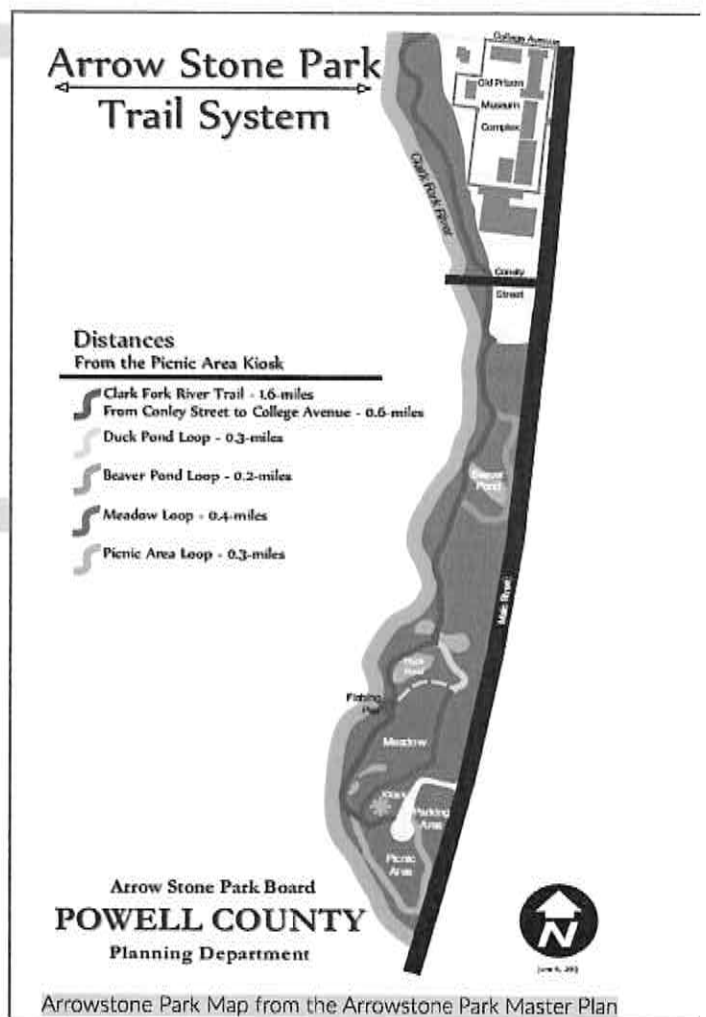
DEER LODGE VALLEY TRAIL PLAN

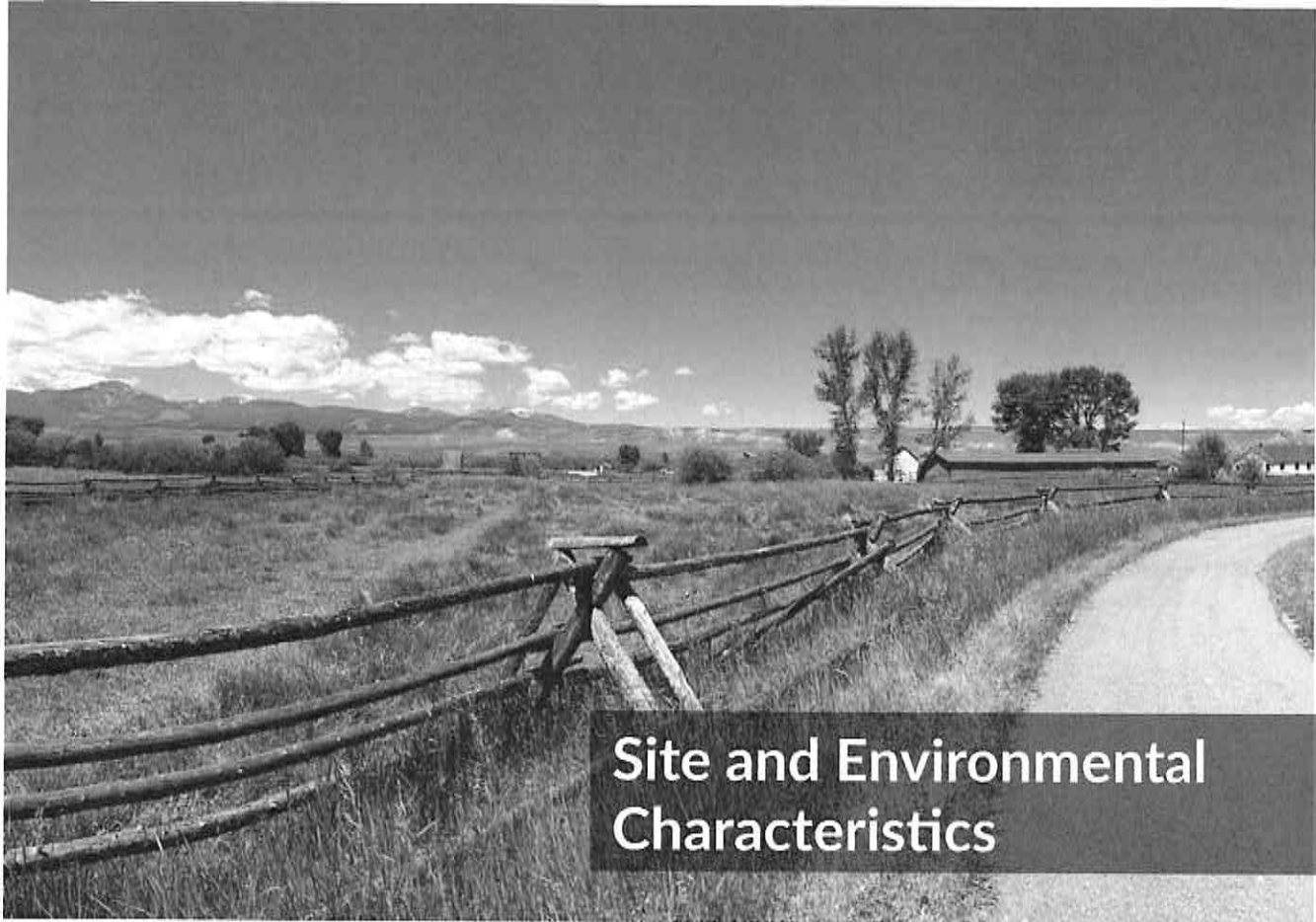
In 2016, Powell County developed a Deer Lodge Valley Trail Plan to examine the possibility of creating a county-wide pedestrian and bicycle trail system. The Plan focuses on three primary areas: Garrison to Deer Lodge, City of Deer Lodge, and Deer Lodge to Race Track. Within the City of Deer Lodge, the plan focuses on connectivity from Arrowstone Park to Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, providing trail access to points of interest in between, such as the Old Prison and downtown Deer Lodge. Excerpts from the Trail Plan can be found in Appendix A.

ARROWSTONE PARK MASTER PLAN

<http://www.powellcountymt.gov/boards/arrowstone-park-board/>

Arrowstone Park is adjacent to the City of Deer Lodge, on the southern boundary, and is an 85-acre natural and recreational park with more than 2.5 miles of recreational trails. Although the park is operated and maintained by the Powell County Park Board, connecting the recreational trails within Arrowstone Park to trails and sidewalks within the City will provide continuity for recreationists.





Site and Environmental Characteristics

Deer Lodge lies at an elevation of 4,540 feet above sea level and is located on the west and east banks of the Clark Fork River. The Deer Lodge basin, which generally trends north-south, is bounded on the west by the Flint Creek Range and on the east by the Continental Divide. The majority of the City is relatively flat with little slope, resulting in a wide, shallow flood plain.

Soils

A soil survey provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that the areas where recreational

improvements are anticipated consist of many different soil types; however, the majority of the area is comprised of loamy material with 0%-4% slopes. A typical soil profile shows loam to a depth of 30-inches, with gravelly loamy sand to a depth of 60-inches, and the material is classified as well drained. Depth to the water table is estimated at more than 80-inches.

In the area adjacent to Cottonwood Creek, although the soil profile is similar, the drainage is classified as somewhat poorly drained and depth to the water

table is estimated at 24-inches to 42-inches. Likewise, areas adjacent to the Clark Fork River also have poorly drained soil and water table depths from 12-inches to 24-inches.

This information is important to consider during concept design and preliminary design, as high-water tables and poorly drained soils can significantly impact design requirements, project permitting and longevity of constructed facilities.



Floodplain

Based on information provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), there are a number of flood zone designations within the City of Deer Lodge (see map, Appendix B).

Table 3.1 FEMA Flood Zone Designations

FEMA EXPLANATION OF ZONE DESIGNATIONS	
Zone	Definition
Zone A	Areas of 100-year flood, base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined.
Zone A#	Areas of 100-year flood, base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined.
Zone B	Areas between limits of the 100-year flood and 500-year flood; or certain areas subject to 100-year flooding with average depths less than one foot or where the contributing drainage area is less than one square mile.
Zone C	Areas of minimal flooding.

Areas along Johnson Creek, Peterson Creek, Tin Cup Joe Creek and Taylor Creek are primarily designated as general Zone A, without base flood elevations determined. Development of recreation facilities in these locations require adherence to local Floodplain Regulations, which may restrict the type of facilities that may be constructed.

Areas along the Clark Fork River and Cottonwood Creek are designated as Zone A with base flood elevations determined, requiring a more stringent design process as facilities located within these areas may not increase the base flood elevation. Development of recreation facilities in these areas also require adherence to local Floodplain regulations. The detailed flood study area surrounding Cottonwood Creek is currently being updated by FEMA and will be published in the near future.

Plants and Wildlife

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) is Montana's source for reliable, object information and expertise to support stewardship of the state's native species and habitats. The program collects and publishes data on plants and wildlife, which is useful in determining a projects potential environmental impact.

A search was performed through the MNHP database to identify any plant and wildlife species of concern within the planning area. Species of concern (SOC) are species which have been determined to be at-risk due to declining population trends, threats to their habitats, restricted distribution and a number of other factors. SOC's are ranked through a state system ranging from one to five, with one being the highest risk and greatest concern.

The search for the City of Deer Lodge provided 23 animal species of concern and 4 plant species of concern, as identified in the following tables.

Table 3.2 Species of Concern from MNHP

PLANT/ANIMAL SPECIES OF CONCERN		
Category	Species (Common Name)	Risk Factor
Mammals	Wolverine	S3
	Hoary Bat	S3
	Little Brown Myotis	S3
	Fisher Weasel	S3
	Grizzly Bear	S2S3
Amphibians	Western Toad	S2
Fish	Westslope Cutthroat Trout	S2
	Bull Trout	S2
Invertebrates	Boreal Whiteface	S1
Plant Species	Mealy Primrose	S3
	Whitebark Pine	S3
	Idaho Sedge	S3
	Giant Helleborine	S2S3

Birds	Northern Goshawk	S3
	Golden Eagle	S3
	Great Blue Heron	S3
	Veery	S3B
	Evening Grosbeak	S3
	Bobolink	S3B
	Pileated Woodpecker	S3
	Cassin's Finch	S3
	Lewis's Woodpecker	S2B
	Clark's Nutcracker	S3
	Long Billed Curlew	S3B
Brewer's Sparrow	S3B	

Species of concern are of importance as the designations provide a basis for resource managers to make decisions regarding species conservation in order to avoid additional extirpations. During any project inception, it is wise to consider this list and ensure the project will not further harm these species.

⊕ Points of Interest

OLD MONTANA PRISON

Built in the late 1800's, the Old Montana Prison was the first Territorial Prison in the western United States. The prison housed its first prisoners in 1871, the castle-like wall was constructed with convict labor and locally quarried granite in 1893, and the brick cellblock was constructed in 1912. The last prisoners were removed from the facility in 1979.



Today, the prison complex still stands at the south end of Main Street in the City of Deer Lodge and is home to five unique museums: the Old Montana Prison, Powell County Museum, Frontier Montana Museum, Yesterday's Playthings and the Montana Auto Museum. In addition to the museum exhibits, paranormal activity in the prison attracts those interested in the supernatural.

GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Located on the northern edge of the City, Grant-Kohrs Ranch commemorates the role of cattlemen in American History. This ranch was once the home to a 10-million-acre open range cattle ranch, which prompted the evolution of ranching as it is today.

The main house and its original furnishings have been preserved and guided tours are offered year-round. Other facilities still standing include the bunkhouse, blacksmith shop, horse barns, cattle sheds and outbuildings. In addition to tours, the ranch has seven miles of walking trails for visitors to enjoy, allowing them to experience the ranch and observe the cattle that continue to graze on the park grounds.



COTTONWOOD CREEK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

The Outdoor Education Center was designed to provide an educational experience to its users, whether educators, students, or the general public. The site is designed around a series of interpretive panels explaining and encouraging users to explore the environment around them. The Center was a cooperative project of Powell County, Powell County High School, the Clark Fork Watershed Education Program and the City of Deer Lodge. The "outdoor classroom" is a component of the Johnson Creek Trail System, which connects the City of Deer Lodge to the Upper Clark Fork River.



Cottonwood Creek Outdoor Education Center

JAYCEE PARK

Jaycee Park is located on the north side of the City, adjacent to the Powell County Fairgrounds and along the banks of Johnson Creek. The Park is utilized for a variety of recreational activities, containing walking trails and playground equipment, as well as five baseball/softball diamonds. The City recently completed a project to improve existing trails, add new trail sections, add parking areas and install interpretive signs.



Jaycee Park

ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST AND KEY DESTINATIONS

Public Amenities

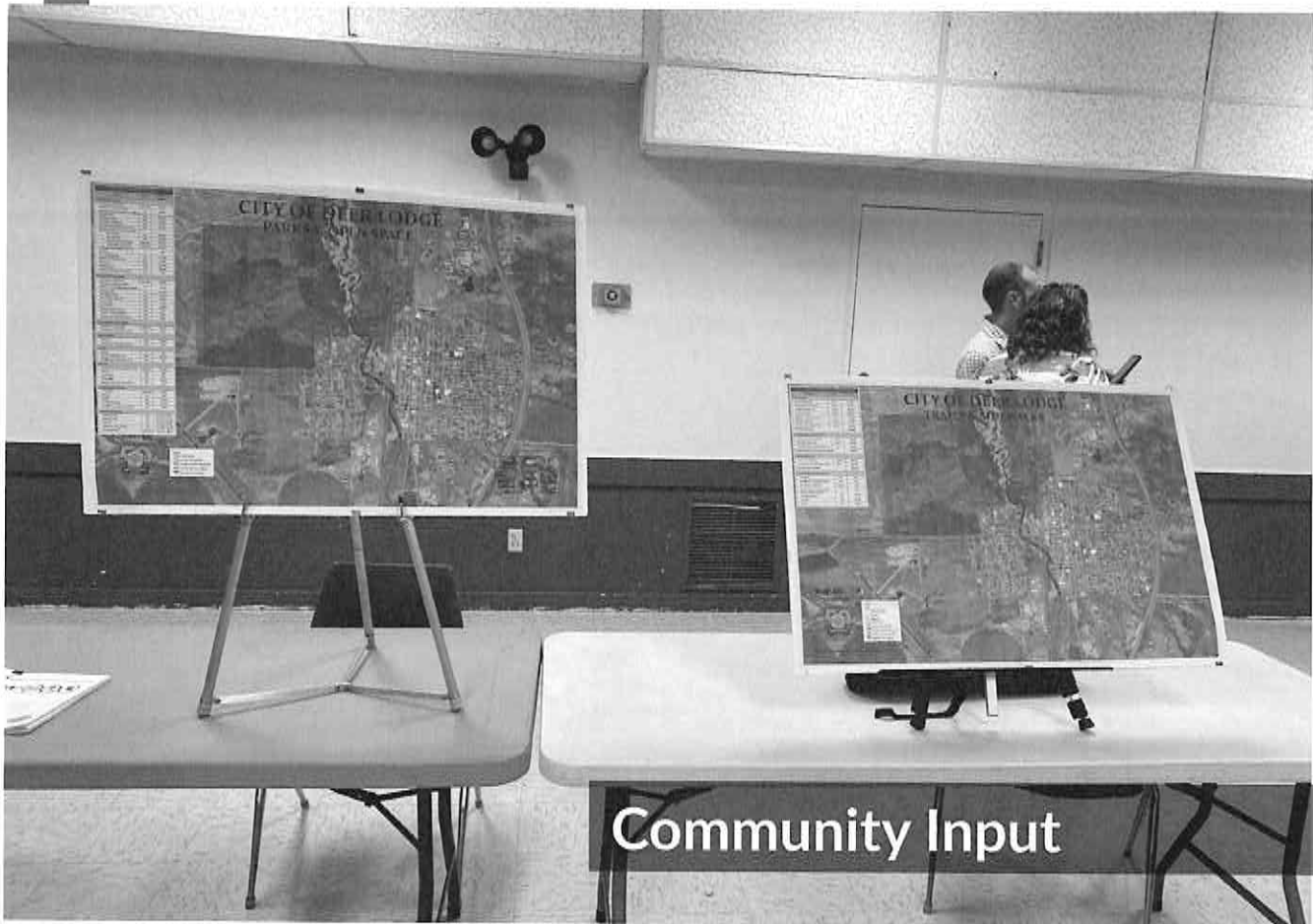
- Powell County High School
- Deer Lodge City-County Airport
- Hilcrest Cemetery
- Library
- County Courthouse

Area Services

- Golf Course
- Campgrounds
- Lodging
- Shops and Restaurants
- Theater
- Medical Center
- Chamber of Commerce

Trails and Recreation

- Arrowstone Park
- Trail Heads
- Clark Fork River



Community Input

Input from community members was gathered from a public survey, public meeting, and the City of Deer Lodge Parks & Recreation steering committee. The following is a summary of the public process that collected community input, identified the needs and priorities of the residents, and ultimately helped develop the Master Plan.

Parks & Recreation Steering Committee

In an effort to collect input from a broad range of interested parties, the City of Deer Lodge Park & Recreation Committee invited individuals from other community organizations to participate in

a Steering Committee for the development of the Parks & Trails Master Plan. The Steering Committee included individuals from Powell County, Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site, and the Deer Lodge Medical Center, just to name a few.

Public Open House

An open house was held on December 10, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center to provide the general public with an opportunity to offer input to the proposed park and trail improvements to be included in the Master Plan. When combined with the results from the

Public Opinion Survey, the results provide a strong basis from which the Master Plan can be developed.

Comments from the Public Open House

GENERAL COMMENTS

- » Maintain existing fields and features.
- » Expand the existing Park Street Campground to adjacent property.
- » Add skate, balance, Parkour, exercise elements to existing parks instead of building something big and new.
- » A park or place to roller skate, skateboard or ride scooters

or bikes.

- » Wayfinding signs on trails.
- » Existing sidewalk and trail repair.
- » Connect trails and provide signage.
- » Show existing sidewalks on the map
- » Track - signage, availability to public, new track



JAYCEE PARK:

- “ Toys closer to the ball fields (on basketball court area)
- “ Lighting
- “ New restored ball fields with better seating/stands
- “ Outdoor playground next to the ball fields
- “ Indoor recreation building
- “ Public restrooms
- “ Restrooms



WEST SIDE PARK

- “ Seating and shade
- “ Trees



HILLCREST CEMETERY

- “ Public restrooms



OUTDOOR EDUCATION TRAIL

- “ Provide a track map



CLARK FORK RIVER PARK

- “ Dog park and shelter
- “ Labeled parking
- “ Connect proposed and existing trails to Grant Kohrs. Love to walk and cross-country ski here!



ARROWSTONE PARK

“ Connect east and west side

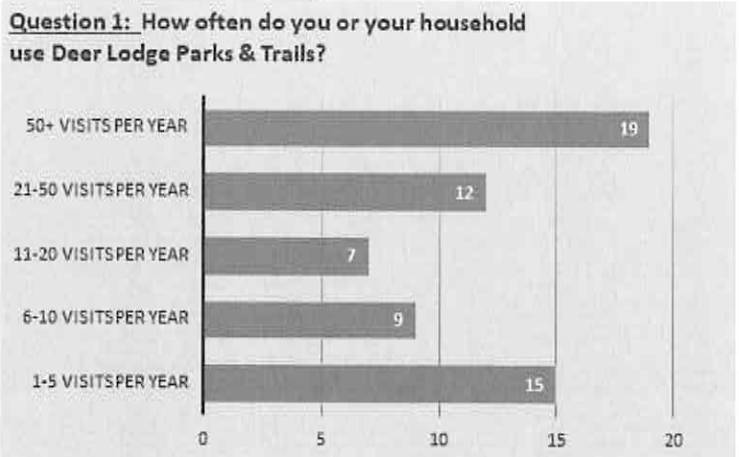
Public Opinion Survey

A public opinion survey was developed for gathering input from the community and was available as both a web-based survey and a paper survey to be submitted to the steering committee. The survey was first available November 13, 2020 and remained open to submission through December 31, 2020. Based on conversations with the steering committee and their knowledge of past community input efforts, it was determined that keeping the survey brief would encourage the greatest response numbers. The survey was comprised of four multiple choice questions and one open-ended question.

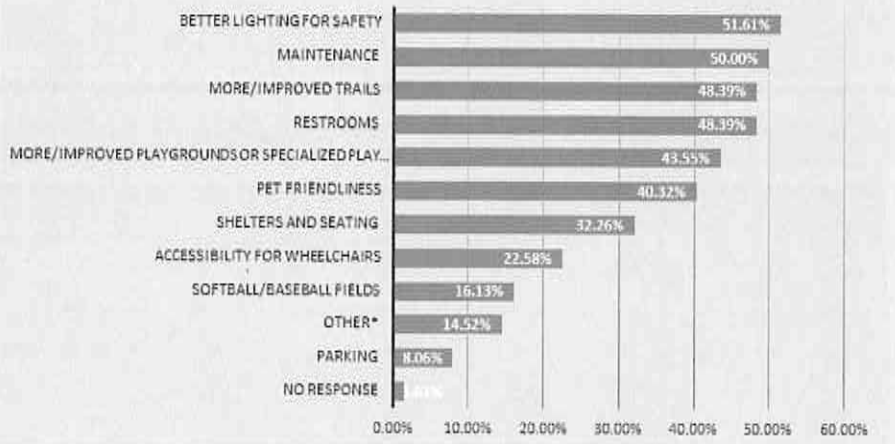
Approximately 62 individuals responded to the survey which resulted in the following recurring themes:

- Improved maintenance of the existing parks and trails is a priority need.
- Establishing connectivity of existing parks and trails is important to users.
- Respondents are not in support of a local bond issuance to financially support new or existing parks and trails.

Public Opinion Survey Results

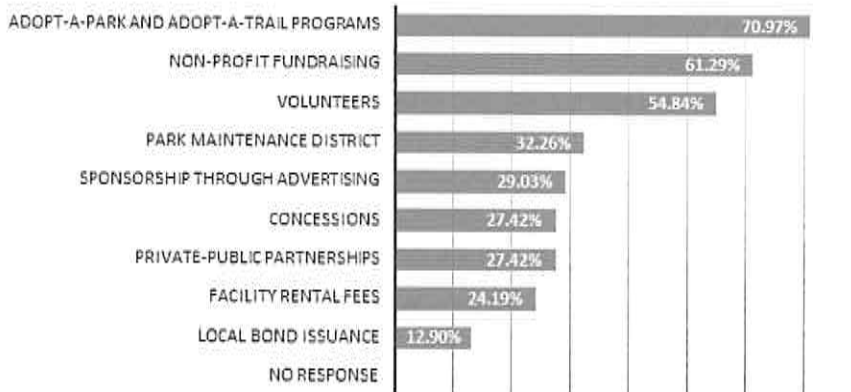


Question 2: What type of amenities and improvements are most needed in Deer Lodge area parks and trails?

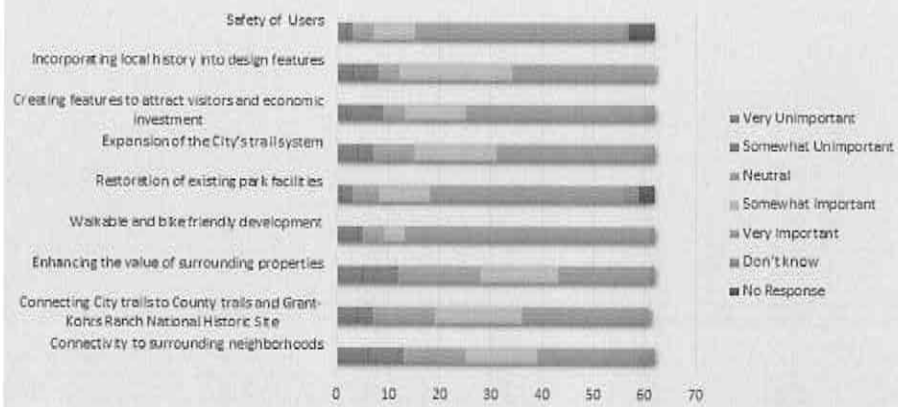


*Responses to "Other" will be included in the summary for Question 5.

Question 3: In addition to federal, state, local and grant funding, what strategy would you support the most to fund park and trail improvements?



Question 4: Please rank the importance of the following park and trail functions to be considered in the design of Deer Lodge's parks and trail system.



Question 5: Other Comments

“ A restroom halfway through would be nice as well as a few more poo bag boxes. Perhaps another garbage can or two to drop the bags into :). A dog park area would be awesome too :).

“ We need a dog park so people do not let their dogs just run on the trails.

“ Don't wait 20 years to get things done.

“ Need an archery range, one that the city would mow and keep in good shape, but ran by volunteers, we could do fund raising to replace targets as needed, then sell memberships to access a separate area to shoot 3d targets.

“ A fenced dog park would be great for the East Arrowstone park so they can run and enjoy the big field and not worry about cars. Also, it would be nice if the Yellowstone Trail North of town could connect with Deer Lodge or Grant Kohrs. I think more people would use the trails is they can get on them in Deer Lodge instead of driving to Rock Creek.

“ It would be wonderful if the existing parks could be improved to provide more opportunities for kids. Missoula, Helena, and Butte

all have amazing parks with updated equipment like zip lines and splash pads. Maintenance is also an issue. JC Park gets so overgrown around the playground equipment that I've considered bringing my own mower to fix it, but I didn't know if that is allowed. Westside Park is looking much better, but it doesn't offer much. All ballfields and courts need help, too.

- “ I greatly appreciate all the efforts to improve our home!!
- “ I honestly worry about allowing the public free reign to Grant Kohrs Historic site especially after dark.
- “ Thank you for doing this!
- “ When we moved back to Deer Lodge last winter the only trail I knew anything about was Arrow and I thought it was really small. Imagine my surprise to find out how long it is! It would be wonderful if it also went north along the river, as well. I recently heard about a trail that is planned for the old Milwaukee rail bed from Deer Lodge to Garrison. YAY! That could be a great bike trail.
- “ Equine use should be allowed on trails wherever feasible. It's part of the history of the valley. People currently ride at Grant Kohrs & it's a good location to use in early spring before the snow leaves the mountains
- “ We are in rural Montana. Trails should be open to responsible animal access. We should even have equine use as an option on some trails, especially those that are in remote areas or outside the city limits. We have a local Back Country Horseman group that volunteers tons of time to trail improvements. If horses are allowed on trails they could volunteer for things like hauling out litter or hauling in supplies for trail improvements. Thank you for your efforts to improve our community !
- “ Make some trails equine friendly!
- “ So happy to see continued commitments to trails and a healthy community!
- “ First of all, the City needs to prioritize basic maintenance to their existing parks and trails

and ensure they are safe for children and receive adequate mowing and watering. The play facility at Jaycee Park is a popular location for families with small children and is in need of improvement and maintenance. It would be great to see the City trails link up with existing County trails and Grant Kohrs through Arrowstone, Johnson Connector and Old Yellowstone Trail. We need more safe, walkable and bike friendly routes around our City. I am fully in support of finding ways expand our park and trail system in Deer Lodge. Cottonwood Creek for example has a lot of opportunity as well as the Jaycee Park and softball field area.

- “ Fines for people leaving dog waste
- “ Connecting the bike/walk trail through Deer Lodge should be top priority.
- “ The city and county need to work together (if possible) to join all trails together. This should be a priority for both entities. Do not duplicate the work or expense
- “ The current park system is not maintained well at all.
- “ I continue to see these projects and areas built, but then never maintained. If you aren't going to control the weeds and keep the areas mowed, don't build them at all. Just look at the "education area" next to the Vo-Ag building. Not only is it not maintained properly, it is hardly used for education.
- “ A dog park would be amazing!
- “ Longer bike friendly trails.
- “ So many mosquitoes in the summer.
- “ Security cameras
- “ Bike/skateboard park area
- “ Dog park
- “ A splash pad or water feature for kids
- “ We really enjoy Arrowstone. We use the east side park so the dogs can run. It would be nice if a fence could be put up near the road, so we don't have to worry about the dogs getting hit by a car. And if the field could be mowed a couple times a year that would be great!

Project Website

A website was published to provide project information to interested citizens, as well as allow individuals to complete the Public Opinion Survey and provide comments for the steering committee. The website allowed individuals to sign up for email updates, provided a project timeline, advertised upcoming project events, and displayed project maps and documents. In addition, visitors to the website were able to submit comments or questions for the steering committee.



Overview | Project Map | Timeline | Documents / Survey | Events | Contact



Overview

The City of Deer Lodge and the Parks and Recreation Committee - along with consultant, Stahly Engineering & Associates - is in the process of developing a Parks and Trails Master Plan. This plan will inform future decisions regarding improvements to existing park and trail facilities as well as possible new facilities. This plan will promote and enhance the user-friendliness, safety, and beauty of the trails and parks throughout the Deer Lodge community.

When complete, the Deer Lodge Parks and Trails Master Plan will serve as the region's blueprint for trail, greenway development, and park access for the coming years. As part of the study process, Stahly and the City want to hear from you! There are numerous ways you can get involved in the study, from attending open house events to filling out the online survey and reviewing draft documents as they are uploaded to this website. You can also use the contact form to share your ideas, concerns, or support for the study. Your input is important, so we encourage you to learn more about this study and provide your feedback to help build a safe, accessible, and connected parks and trail network throughout Deer Lodge.

This website will function as the central location for project information, including meeting

Latest News



Draft Document

May 11, 2021

The draft document will be presented at a Public Meeting on May 11. Check the events page for more details!





Facility Design Guidelines



This Master Plan provides guidelines for the design of a variety of improvements throughout the City of Deer Lodge.

These guidelines focus on the improvement's material and dimensions and consider the construction and maintenance of the recreational improvements suggested throughout this plan. Types of improvements proposed include concrete sidewalk, gravel trail, asphalt/millings trails, park improvements, pocket parks, and park amenities.

◆ Park Design Guidelines

Although park design and use vary based on location, intended use and landscape, it is helpful to have guidelines in place to assist in decision-making relevant to park development, land acquisition and recreation opportunities.

GENERAL PARK GUIDELINES

In general, parks within the City of Deer Lodge should follow these guidelines:

1. Parks should be developed in accordance with the goals and guidelines identified in other existing City of Deer Lodge planning documents.
2. Parks should be developed and improved in a manner that minimizes maintenance efforts. These items may include preserving areas of natural and/or native landscape, using drought tolerant plants, and minimizing lawn planting to areas that are appropriate.
3. Parks with significant infrastructure components, such as hard surface sport courts or trails, recreation facilities or restroom facilities, should be carefully considered regarding long term operation and maintenance commitments.



Park Classifications

Determining a park classification system facilitates the organization of recreation space, which can create a more cohesive, quality recreational experience that can be more efficiently and effectively maintained.

Park classification guidelines are intended for use at the local level and are for general purposes only. Development of a park site depends on a number of factors, including community goals and needs, availability of funding and staff, public access and partnership opportunities, which may limit or promote the use of any given site. The following park classifications are based on guidelines of the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) and consider types of use, size and relative service area of each park.

POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks are small lots generally less than 2-acres in size that may include both passive and active uses. These parks may consist of an open grass area, containing a playground or picnic area, or a more developed area, comprised of hardscape walkways, benches, artwork and/or interpretive signs. Design guidelines for pocket parks include:

1. **Easy access from the surrounding area, linked by pedestrian and bike trails and sidewalks.**



Example of a Pocket Park

2. **Consideration of lighting for safety and security.**
3. **Appropriate facilities include:**
 - Playground area
 - Open grass area
 - Picnic area
 - Benches and seating
 - Interpretive signs and/or public artwork
 - Hardscape and/or walkways
4. **Off-street parking is typically not required.**

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks are generally 5-10 acres in size and commonly serve non-organized recreation activities in a combination playground/park area. They are aimed at serving people who live within walking distance to the park and should incorporate both active and passive park uses. The intention of neighborhood parks is to provide recreational opportunities, enhance the neighborhood and preserve open space. Design considerations for neighborhood parks include:

1. **Accommodation for 7-10 parking spaces, either on-street or off-street.**
2. **Easy access from the surrounding area, linked by pedestrian and bike trails and sidewalks.**
3. **Active use may include:**
 - Playground equipment
 - Tennis/basketball courts, etc.
 - Horseshoe pits
 - Multi-use fields



Typical Neighborhood Park Amenities

4. Passive use may include:

- Internal trails
- Picnic shelters
- Benches/seating
- Open grass area

5. Consideration of lighting for security and safety.**6. Minimization of noise and lighting impact on adjacent homes by locating these areas at least 75-feet from the property line.****5. Passive use may include:**

- Internal trails
- Picnic shelters
- Benches/seating
- Open grass area

6. Consideration of lighting for security and safety.**7. Located on the edge of residential areas due to noise and traffic.**

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. They are generally 25-50 acres, and include facilities that support large group activities, sports fields, and other structured recreation opportunities. Because they have a larger service area, community parks often require support facilities, such as off-street parking areas and restrooms. Design considerations for community parks include:

- 1. Parking lot(s) for anticipated users.**
- 2. Easy access from the surrounding area, linked by pedestrian and bike trails. Also, easily accessible from an arterial or major road.**
- 3. Internal trails and amenities to connect different areas of the park.**
- 4. Active use may include:**
 - Ball fields
 - Swimming pools
 - Large playground equipment
 - Disc golf areas



NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS / OPEN LANDS

Natural resource areas and open lands are generally lands that have been set aside for the preservation of natural resources and open space. They may include land that is environmentally sensitive, located in a floodplain, or have unfavorable terrain, and often serve as conservation areas. Most often these areas provide passive recreational activities, such as trails, nature and wildlife viewing, and greenways, which provide pedestrian movement between parks within the community. Considerations for natural resource areas and open lands include:

- 1. Conservation of natural, open space.**
- 2. Promote connectivity to other public lands, greenways, and area parks.**
- 3. Internal trails and amenities to connect different areas of the park.**
- 4. Uses may include:**
 - Natural open space
 - Trails
 - Interpretive signs
 - Scenic/wildlife viewing areas
- 5. Creating isolated islands of natural areas is discouraged, unless it is an opportunity to acquire critical land.**

SPORTS COMPLEX

A sports complex consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities at larger and fewer sites that are strategically located throughout the community. The complex is intended for use by a variety of sports to accommodate more participants. These facilities often include large parking areas,

restrooms, lighting, concessions and multiple sports fields and/or courts. Additional consideration should be given to multipurpose buildings, group picnic areas and shelters, internal trails and common space. Sports complexes tend to increase tourism as they draw both tournament participants and spectators.

SPECIAL USE PARK

Special use parks are generally oriented toward single-purpose use, such as historic or cultural sites, community gardens, skate parks, farmers markets or memorials. These facilities should be viewed as community-wide facilities rather than facilities serving select neighborhoods or areas.

LINEAR PARKS

Linear parks, or greenways, tie park components together in a natural way utilizing corridors such as abandoned railroad rights-of-way, creeks, canals or power lines. They are intended to form a cohesive park and open space system that allows for safe pedestrian movement, outdoor recreation and connectivity. Linear parks can be used for a number of activities, including walking, cycling, equestrian use and cross-country skiing.

RIVER/WATER ACCESS PARKS

Designated river access parks are often developed to provide fishing, boat or swimming access in an effort to promote use of natural water features. These parks are



often in an environmentally sensitive area due to their proximity to natural water, and development should ensure the protection of water quality, wildlife habitat and natural ecosystems. Amenities to consider at river access parks are boat ramps, picnic areas, trailheads and natural open space.



CULTURAL/HERITAGE FACILITIES

Cultural facilities provide the opportunity for the community to share their local history and culture of the surrounding region. Items that could be considered for cultural facilities include interpretive signage along trails or seating and/or picnic areas at historically significant sites within the community.



Trail Design Guidelines

Sidewalks and trails are considered fundamental services to the public and enrich a community's quality of life on many levels. They provide essential pedestrian access to schools, government offices, businesses and recreational areas; therefore, they should be designed to meet the needs of the widest possible range of users and follow ADA accessibility guidelines.

Sidewalks and trails promote independence for people with disabilities and reduce the need for social services. Current ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) do not specifically address sidewalk and trail design; however, they do contain applicable provisions

to sidewalks and trails. The facilities proposed in this Master Plan have incorporated recommendations from the ADAAG, as well as best management practices recommended through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access.

TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Trail design specifications and recommendations vary based on the use of the facility, such as pedestrian, bicycle, wheelchair, equestrian or other non-motorized use. Similar to the classification of parks, trails can be classified by intended use. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) had adopted general guidelines for the construction of trails based on the intended user group.

PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE TRAILS

Trails that accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic may have either soft or hard trail surfacing. AASHTO recommends a minimum width of six feet for a one-way pedestrian/bicycle trail and a minimum width of ten feet for a two-way pedestrian/bicycle trail. Vertical clearance on this type of trail should be at least eight feet. These trails can be park trails, connector trails or on-street bikeways.



ADA ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

Accessible trails are typically constructed of a hard surface, such as asphalt or concrete, but may also be built of other materials that are firm enough to resist deformation by the indentation and rotation of wheels. Trail widths should follow the AASHTO recommendations provided above. Additional requirements define a maximum trail grade less than 5% and a maximum cross slope of 5%; however, steeper slopes are allowable with the inclusion of rest areas along the steeper trail section.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

The recommendation for trails built for equestrian traffic is only six feet wide; however, a multiple-use trail, with use by bicycles, joggers, and pedestrians should be a minimum of ten feet wide. The trail may be either soft or hard surfacing and have a vertical clearance of at least ten feet.



Multi-use Trail

HIKING TRAILS

For hiking trails, a minimum width of four feet is recommended, but trail width can be up to six feet depending on the anticipated use of the trail. Hiking trails are typically constructed of soft surfacing, such as aggregate, or may remain a natural surface trail, which incorporates the existing landscape and native materials.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Cross-country ski trails can be developed for traditional skiing or skate skiing, and are often located within existing greenways, community parks and special use facilities, such as golf courses. The trails are typically in a loop and may consist of a groomed or natural snow surface.

TRAIL DESIGN BY SURFACE TYPE

There are a number of factors to consider when selecting a trail surface, such as cost, maintenance and long-term durability, anticipated use, existing environmental conditions and aesthetics. Trail surface type can generally be categorized as soft surface and hard surface trails. The most common surfaces are gravel, asphalt and concrete; however, consideration may be given to some uncommon materials, such as crushed limestone, glassphalt (recycled glass in asphalt), or soil stabilizers.

SOFT SURFACE

Soft surface trails are generally suitable for hiking, walking and equestrian use, but tend to have limitations for bicycles and ADA accessible facilities.

Natural surface trails are often undeveloped or primitive trails and are most suitable for areas or users that aim to have a more natural experience and may have a lower volume of anticipated traffic. Depending on the environmental conditions, such as natural soils and ground slopes, these trails can be suitable for mountain bike and equestrian use.

Aggregate, or gravel, surface trails are more established than natural surface trails, but still have a more natural feel to them. Aggregate surfacing can provide a smooth and durable surface that accommodates a variety of uses, including ADA accessibility. The surfacing is typically constructed of aggregate, gravel, or asphalt millings that, when properly compacted, can provide a cost-effective solution with the same accessibility as asphalt surfacing. Aggregate trails should generally maintain a grade less than 5% and should never exceed an 8% grade.

Aggregate trails can act as a foundation for a hard surface trail as both asphalt and concrete can be placed over top of the aggregate. This may be beneficial if available funding does not allow for a hard surface as it allows the City to plan for a hard surface in the future without the need for additional subsurface work.



HARD SURFACE

Hard surface trails are a more developed trail option that can accommodate the widest variety of users and are well suited for heavy traffic. All hard surface trails should be designed to meet ADA requirements.

Asphalt surfacing has a lifespan of 15-30 years and is softer than concrete surfacing, making it a preferred alternative to walkers and runners. However, asphalt surfacing has a greater maintenance cost than cement trails, often requiring crack sealing and repair of damage due to frost/freeze cycles and water erosion. Asphalt surfacing requires a gravel subbase to stabilize the asphalt layer.

Concrete trails have a lifespan of 30-50 years and have lower maintenance costs than asphalt; however, the initial cost can be prohibitive. While this trail surfacing is also beneficial for a wide variety of users, it is not recommended for equestrian use. Concrete surfacing also requires a gravel subbase to stabilize the concrete layer.

In general, trail surfacing should be evaluated for each individual trail, and selected based on proposed trail alignment, existing subsurface conditions, and anticipated trail use.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

An important part of developing well-designed, appealing trails is routine trail maintenance. Routine maintenance will serve to ensure user safety, prolong the life of the trail and preserve the trail for user satisfaction.

Maintenance items that may occur on trails include the following:

Trail Item	Inspection Item
Hard Surface Trails	Cracking along edges, uneven surfaces that may create tripping hazards, such as cracks, ruts, heaving or spalling. Weeds/plants growing through cracks or spalling in the trail.
Soft Surface Trails	Uneven surfaces that may create tripping hazards, areas of erosion. Weeds/plants growing within the trail surface.
Drainage Structures	Debris in culverts and other drainage features that could prohibit proper functioning.
Signage	Faded or damaged signs.
Benches	Splinters, sharp edges or loose or rusted screws and bolts.

Maintenance costs should be included in construction cost estimates for financial planning purposes.



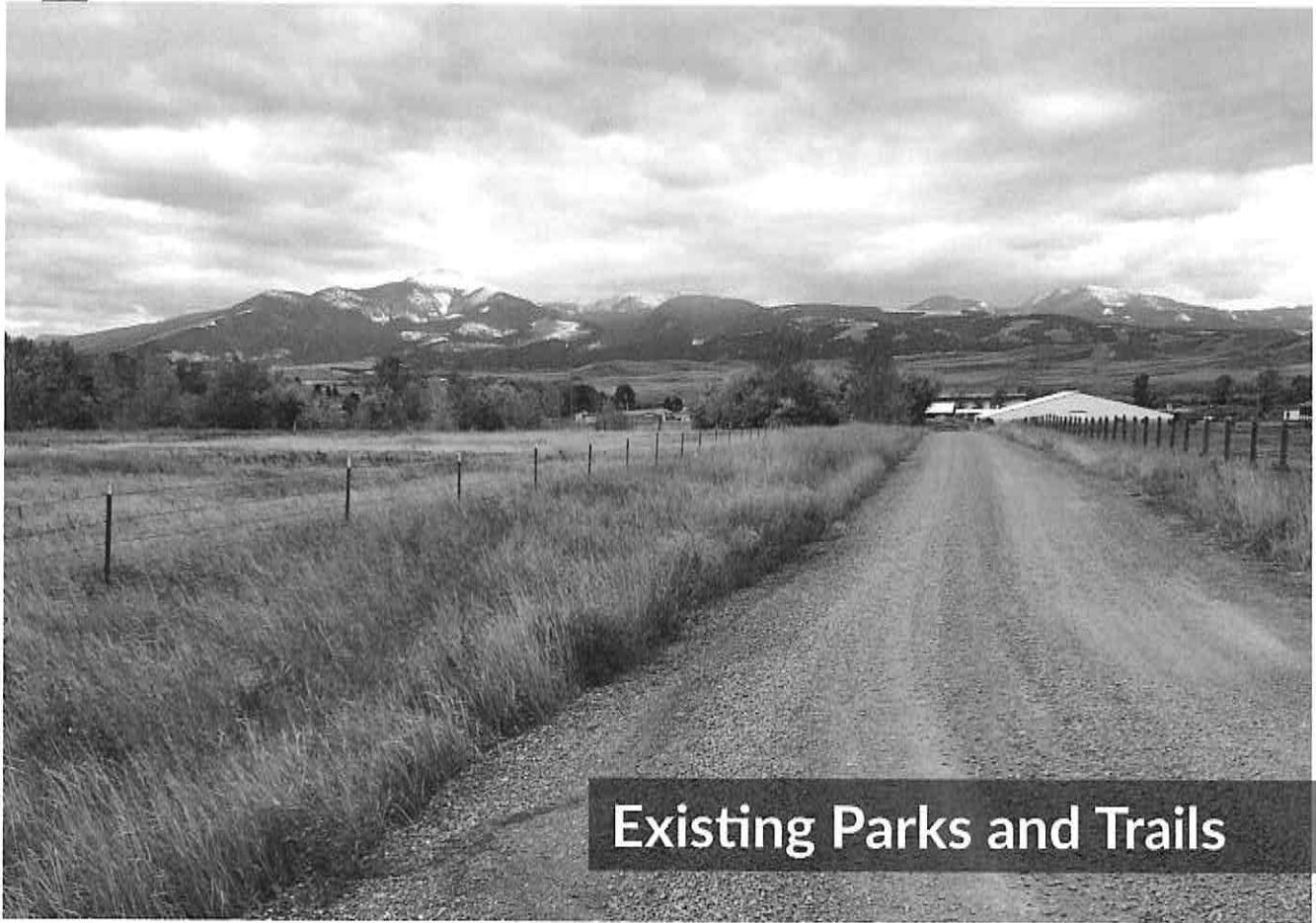
TRAIL SIGNAGE

Signage along trails may provide users with information concerning trail length, points of interest, or connectivity to additional trails.

The City of Deer Lodge Wayfinding Plan identifies sign guidelines and design standards for new signage, including the City logo, color, typeface and materials. In addition, Phase 3 of the Wayfinding Plan includes installation of interpretive signs, park and trailhead signs and kiosks. The included sign schedule will be consulted as park and trail projects are identified and included in the Parks and Trails Master Plan. Excerpts from the Plan are included in Appendix A.



In the event that a trail is shared with a roadway, adequate signage and marking are essential. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) provides information on sign standards for shared-use paths.



The City of Deer Lodge is home to a variety of parks and trails for use by local residents, recreationists and visitors to the area. These amenities provide tourists visiting the Old Montana Prison or Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture, as well as access to local businesses and additional recreation areas.

Parks

JAYCEE PARK



Existing playground equipment



Existing basketball/tennis courts

Location	North side of Deer Lodge, along Higgins Avenue and Berg Street
Connectivity	No current connectivity to other existing parks or trails.
Classification	Community Park
Vision	Improvements to existing facilities. Connectivity to other existing parks or trails.

Jaycee Park is a community park located on the north side of Deer Lodge along Higgins Avenue and Berg Street. The park encompasses approximately 27 acres, and is home to 5 baseball fields, basketball and tennis courts, horseshoe pits, playground equipment, walking trails, a community garden, picnic tables, benches, and restrooms. The park provides off-street parking for users and a pedestrian bridge connecting trails on either side of Johnson Creek.

The City of Deer Lodge recently received a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant to make improvements to Jaycee Park. These improvements include 16 new parking spaces, including two concrete ADA designated parking pads, and approximately 1,150 feet of additional trails within the park. The trails provide better access to the new parking areas, as well as better connectivity within the park.

WEST SIDE PARK



West Side Park Sign



New Playground Equipment

Location	West side of Deer Lodge on West Pennsylvania Avenue
Connectivity	No current connectivity to other existing parks or trails.
Classification	Neighborhood Park
Vision	Connectivity to existing sidewalks and trails.

West Side Park is a neighborhood park located along West Pennsylvania Avenue, approximately one block west of Kentucky Street. The park contains 2.25 acres and includes a baseball field, basketball court, playground equipment, picnic tables and off-street parking.

West Side Park recently received new playground equipment, a new concrete pad for one ADA accessible parking spot, and new concrete sidewalk, which extends from the ADA parking spot and encircles the new playground equipment area.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER



Trail Along Cottonwood Creek



Existing Interpretive Panel

Location	NW corner of Cottonwood Avenue and Clagett Street
Connectivity	No current connectivity to other existing parks or trails.
Classification	Special Use Park
Vision	Connectivity to existing sidewalks and trails.

The Outdoor Education Center could be considered a Special Use Park, as the intent of the park is to provide education through the use of interpretive panels, which encourage users to explore the environment around them. The park encompasses approximately 0.3 acres and 0.2 miles of trail, which leads the user to each interpretive panel. Other amenities of the park include picnic tables and a pedestrian bridge crossing Cottonwood Creek, which provides easy access by students from Powell County High School, located across Cottonwood Avenue from the park.

FRISBEE PARK



View of Frisbee Park from Main Street

Location	East of Arrowstone Park, between Main Street and Valley View Drive
Connectivity	No current connectivity to other existing parks or trails.
Classification	Open Lands Park
Vision	Connectivity to existing sidewalks and trails.

Frisbee Park, located east of Arrowstone Park, is an open lands park currently used as a disc golf course. Disc golf targets are located throughout the 13.5 acre property, and its proximity to Arrowstone Park make it a destination for local enthusiasts.

SLEDDING HILL/BASKETBALL COURT



Unimproved Trail / Sledding Hill



Existing Basketball Court

This Special Use Park is used primarily during the winter months as a destination for sledding. In the summer months, residents use the existing basketball court as well as the unimproved trail from Montana Avenue to Milwaukee Avenue.

Trails & Sidewalks

JAYCEE PARK TRAIL



Existing Park Trail



Pedestrian Bridge Over Johnson Creek

Location	Jaycee Park.
Connectivity	No current connectivity to other existing trails.
Classification	Urban, improved trail.
Vision	Connection to Outdoor Education Center, Deer Lodge Medical Center, Johnson Creek Trail

Existing Trail Analysis:

Within Jaycee Park, the existing trail system consists of an improved, gravel trail with access from Berg Street, Higgins Avenue and the south baseball field parking area. The trail crosses Johnson Creek with a pedestrian bridge, providing access from the south baseball fields to the north baseball fields. The current trail is approximately 0.5 miles long and is relatively level with only 15-ft of elevation difference from the beginning of the trail on Berg Street to the northeast reach of the path.

The City of Deer Lodge recently received a grant to improve the trails within Jaycee Park, as well as add additional trails, parking and ADA access. The new trails within the park will connect a new parking area on the northwest corner of the park to the north baseball fields, improve the trail from the Johnson Creek crossing south to Higgins Avenue, and connect the new parking area to the existing trail to the south. The new trail sections are designed with a gravel surface and a width of 8-feet.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER TRAIL



Pedestrian Bridge Over Cottonwood Creek



Existing Trail

Location	Outdoor Education Center property, at the intersection of Cottonwood Avenue and Clagett Street.
Connectivity	No current connectivity to existing trails.
Classification	Urban, improved trail.
Vision	Connection to Jaycee Park and existing unimproved trail along Cottonwood Creek, ending at Stark Street.

Existing Trail Analysis:

The existing trail at the Outdoor Education Center is an improved, gravel trail with access from Cottonwood Avenue, Clagett Street and Dixon Street. The looped trail is approximately 0.2 miles and is designed around a series of interpretive signs that provide educational information about items in the surrounding environment. The trail parallels Cottonwood Creek and, with the use of sidewalks and a crosswalk, has direct accessibility to Deer Lodge High School.

JOHNSON CREEK CONNECTOR TRAIL

Location	Indian Creek Campground to Aspen Lane
Connectivity	Jaycee Park along Aspen Lane (unimproved) and Hollenbock Lane (unimproved)
Classification	Unimproved trail
Vision	Improved connection to Jaycee Park, connection to Deer Lodge Medical Center

Existing Trail Analysis:

This primitive trail is approximately 0.25-miles long and connects Indian Creek Campground to Aspen Lane. From the trailhead on Aspen Lane, Jaycee Park lies an estimated 450-feet to the west. Guests of the campground, in Deer Lodge for activities at Jaycee Park, are able to use the trail for easy access to the Park.



GRANT KOHRS TRAILS

Location	Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site
Connectivity	None at this time
Classification	Improved and unimproved trail sections
Vision	Connectivity to River Park

Existing Trail Analysis:

According to the National Park Services, Grant-Kohrs currently has approximately 10-miles of roads and trails throughout the park. Connectivity to the City of Deer Lodge is most accessible at the north end of Washington Street. The portion of trail shown to the right is adjacent to City property proposed as the new River Park.



CLARK FORK RIVER TRAIL



Bench Located Along Trail



Existing Trail Condition and Trail Head

Location	Along the Clark Fork River, from Arrowstone Park to the west end of Pennsylvania Avenue.
Connectivity	Arrowstone Park to downtown Deer Lodge
Classification	Urban, improved trail.
Vision	Connection to Outdoor Education Center

Existing Trail Analysis:

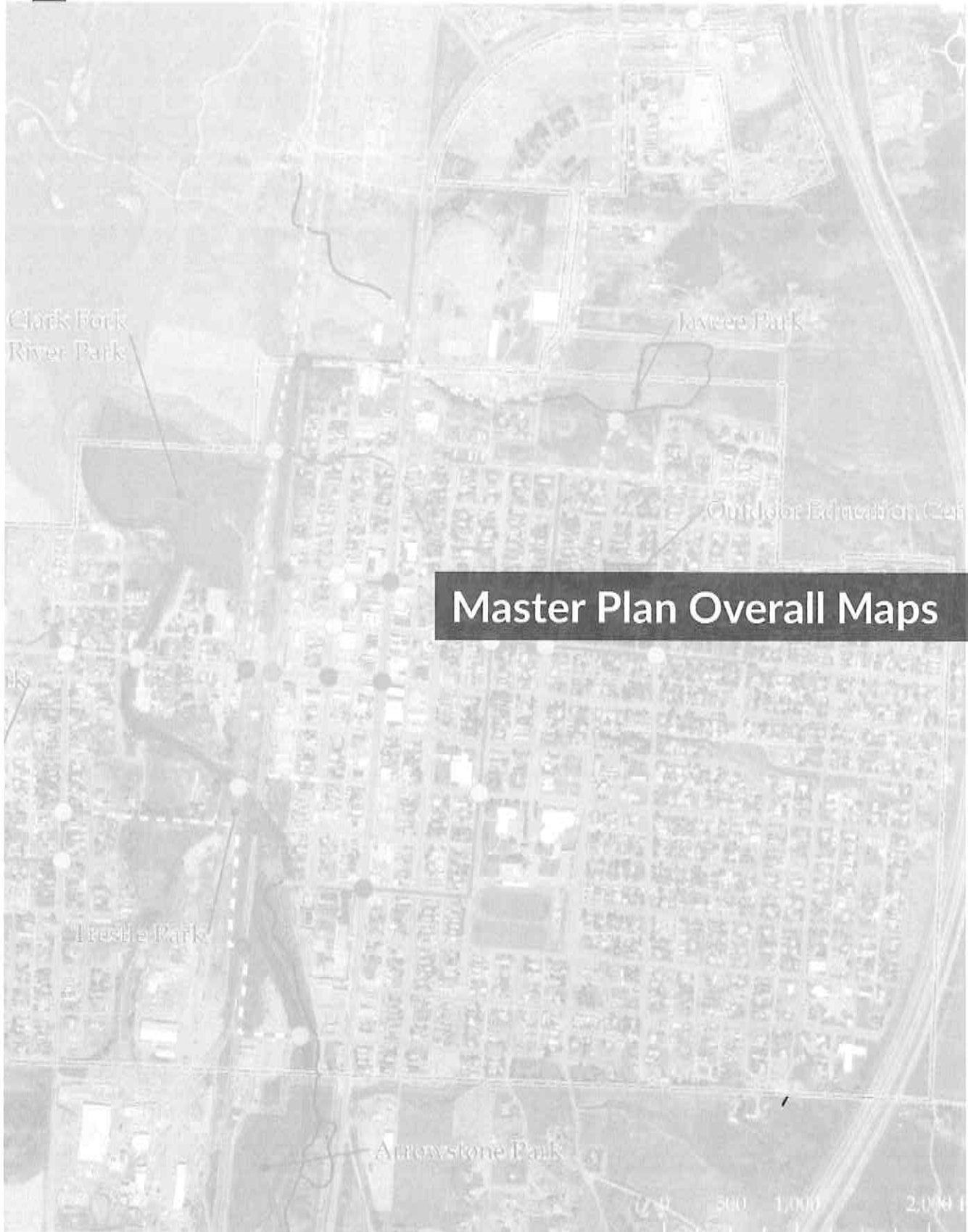
The existing trail is an asphalt path with a width of 8-feet and relatively level along the length of the trail. From the north end of Arrowstone Park to the west end of Pennsylvania Avenue the trail is approximately 0.3-miles and enables connection from the Park to downtown Deer Lodge. The north end of the trail is adjacent to the Old Montana Prison, allowing visitors to the attraction easy access to views of the Clark Fork River and Arrowstone Park to the south.

SLEDDING HILL TRAIL

Location	Connection from Montana Avenue to Kohrs Street
Classification	Primitive trail
Vision	None at this time

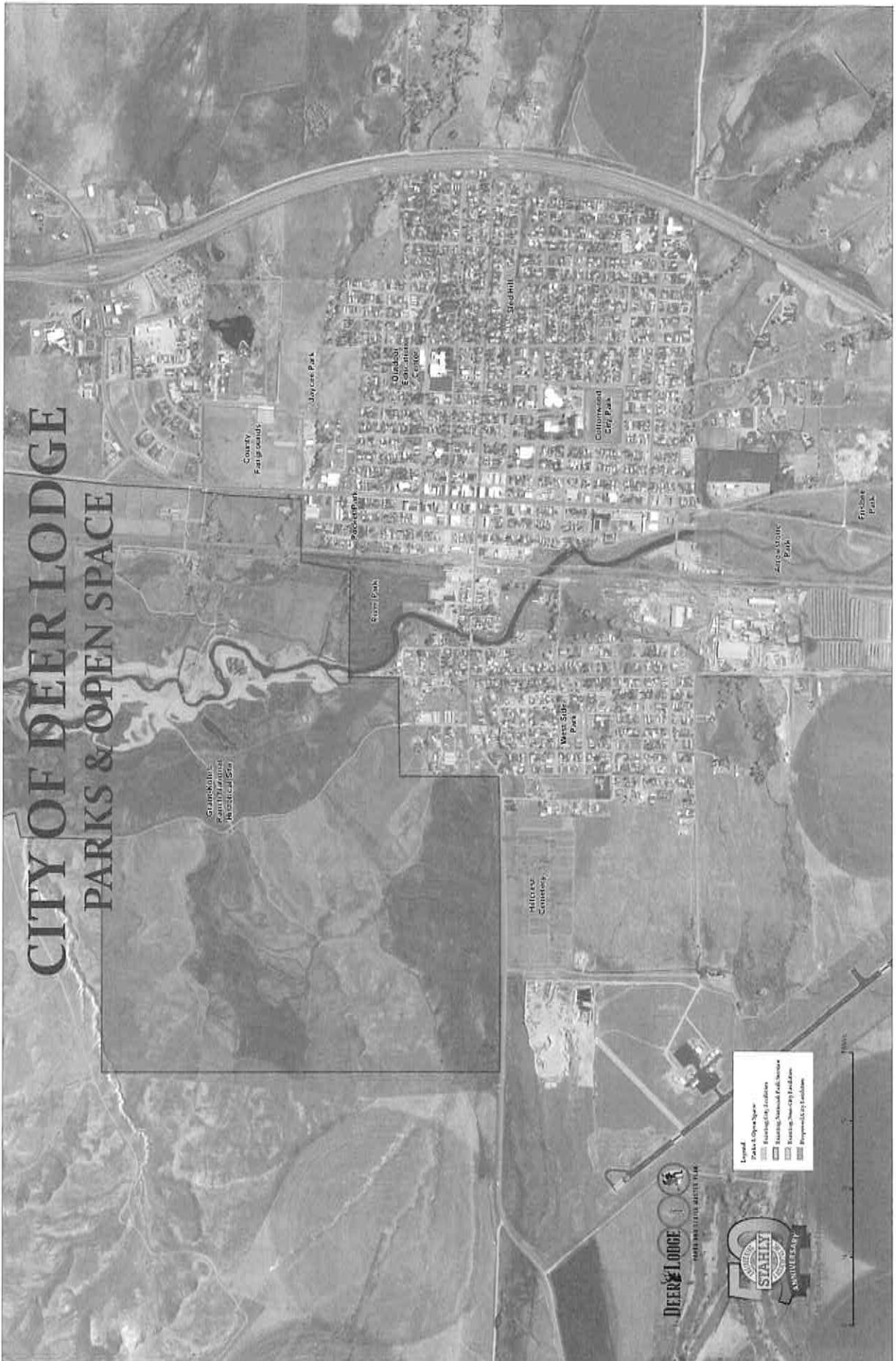
Existing Trail Analysis:

The trail at this location is a primitive trail used by local residents as a shortcut from Montana Avenue to Kohrs Street. In the winter months, this is used as a sledding hill. The trail is approximately 220-feet long.



Master Plan Overall Maps

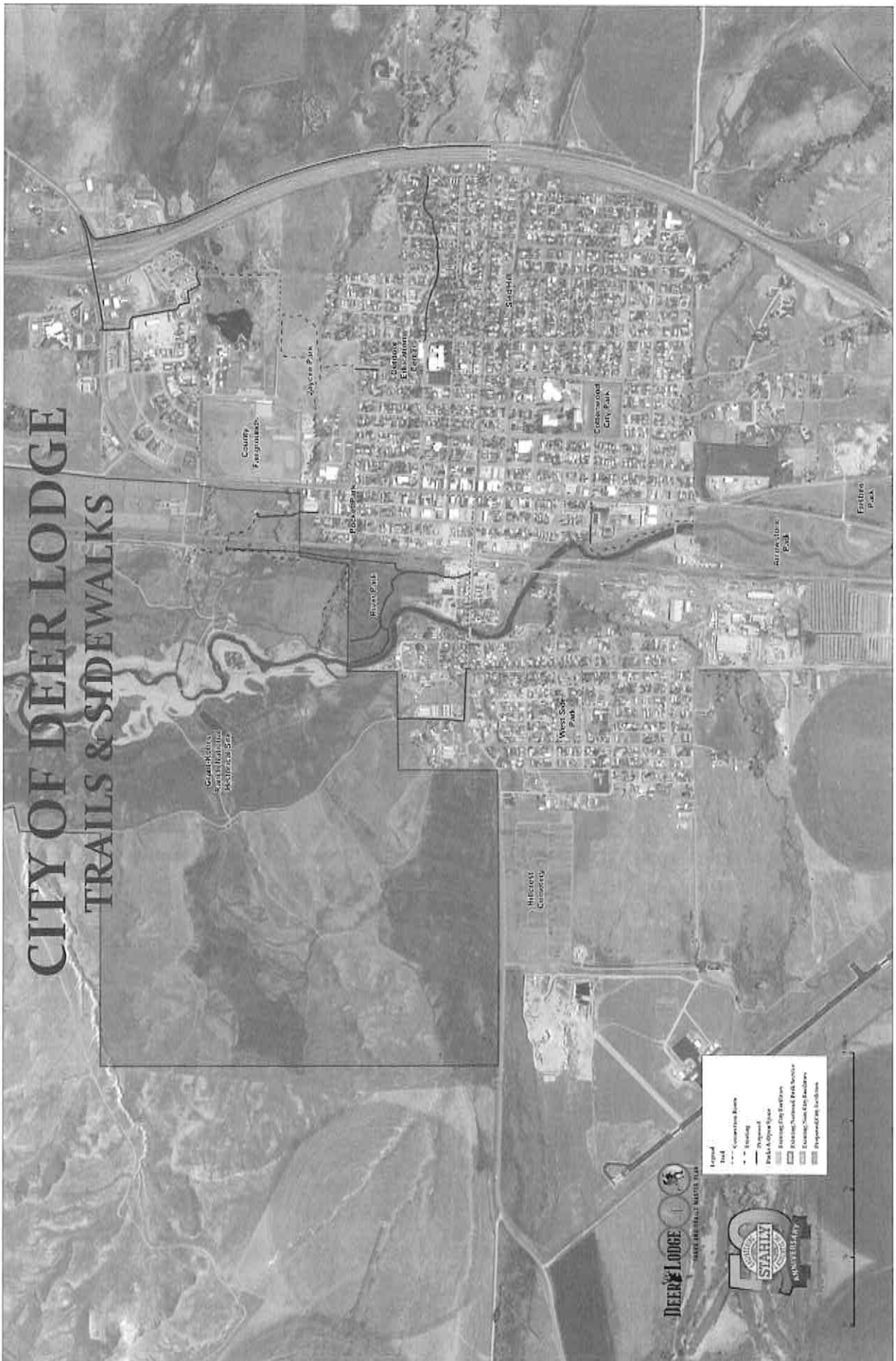
CITY OF DEER LODGE PARKS & OPEN SPACE



- Legend**
- Parks & Open Space
 - Existing City Jurisdiction
 - Existing National Park Service
 - Existing Non-City Jurisdiction
 - Proposed City Jurisdiction



CITY OF DEER LODGE TRAILS & SIDEWALKS



Legend

- Concession Route
- Existing
- Proposed
- Park & Open Space
- Existing City Sidewalk
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Existing City Sidewalk
- Proposed City Sidewalk





Master Plan

Existing Park Improvements

JAYCEE PARK

Currently, the Park and its amenities need significant maintenance and improvements. The south baseball/softball fields are often under water during spring months due to inadequate drainage and the dugouts require upgrades. Improved fields and amenities would allow the City to host tournaments, bringing economic benefits to Deer Lodge.



Recommendations for park upgrades, which have been identified in the City of Deer Lodge CCIP and through public input for this Parks & Trails Master Plan include:

- General park maintenance
- Installation of a sprinkler system to reduce manpower hours
- Security system to discourage vandalism
- Park lighting to discourage vandalism and provide additional security
- New and updated playground equipment located nearer to the ball fields
- Maintenance and improvements to the existing ball fields (fields, dugouts and stands)
- Hardscape barrier between the park and the parking lot to keep vehicles out of the park
- 24' x 24' garage shop
- Expansion of Community Garden
- Addition of Parkour/exercise elements
- Installation of additional restrooms
- Addition of Pickle Ball Courts
- Additional garbage cans/dog waste stations

WEST SIDE PARK



Improvements to West Side Park, identified in the City of Deer Lodge CCIP and through public input for this Parks & Trails Master Plan include:

- General park maintenance
- Security system to discourage vandalism
- Park lighting to discourage vandalism and provide additional security
- Installation of a sprinkler system to reduce manpower hours
- Storage shed
- Picnic gazebo to allow park utilization in inclement weather
- Addition of Community Garden area
- Addition of benches and shade elements
- Addition of Parkour/exercise elements
- Additional garbage cans/dog waste stations

PARK STREET CAMPGROUND

Improvements to the existing Park Street Campground, identified through public input for this Parks & Trails Master Plan include:

- Expansion of campground
- Additional garbage cans/dog waste stations

HILLCREST CEMETERY



Improvements to the Cemetery, identified through public input for this Parks & Trails Master Plan include:

- Installation of restrooms
- Installation of a sprinkler system to reduce manpower hours
- Additional garbage cans/dog waste stations

SLED HILL

Improvements to the Sled Hill park area, identified through public input for this Parks & Trails Master Plan include:

- Remove or replace fencing along Montana Avenue
- Resurface basketball court
- Additional garbage cans/dog waste stations



Pickleball Courts in Hamilton, Montana

PICKLEBALL COURTS

Pickleball is gaining popularity in Montana, with pickleball clubs in Helena, Billings and Kalispell, just to name a few. In addition, the number of pickleball courts and players in Montana is growing rapidly, continuing the demand for more places to play. The addition of pickleball courts to existing parks in the City of Deer Lodge has the potential to increase tourism and bolster economic activity. Pickleball can also be played on tennis courts, if they are striped accordingly, allowing the courts to be dual use. At this time, the proposed location for pickleball courts in the City is Jaycee Park and at Deer Park Golf Course.

SKATEBOARDING AREAS

The request for skateboarding amenities was provided through the community survey and the public open house for the Parks & Trails Master Plan. Amenities could consist of a "skate spot", which is a small skateboarding facility that features a



Skatepark in Anaconda, Montana



Example of a "Skate Spot"

single structural attraction, or a neighborhood skatepark, which is a larger facility that incorporates a mix of terrain styles and structural elements. Skateparks provide a safe environment for skateboarding, reduces damage to other public and private property, and tends to reduce undesirable behavior from the youth population.

New Parks

RIVER PARK



The City of Deer Lodge owns approximately 14 acres of undisturbed land adjacent to Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site and along the Clark Fork River. The proposed park location is within the Superfund Overlay District of the Clarks Fork Superfund Site, which is an area contaminated by mining and smelting waste from upstream areas in Butte and Anaconda. Development within the Overlay District requires soil testing to determine arsenic levels, as well as remedies for arsenic levels exceeding permissible levels as established by guidelines of the Overlay District. The information can be found in the Powell County Zoning and Development Regulations. This proposed new natural resource park would largely remain in its natural condition, with the addition of trails, shelter, and parking.

102 MAIN STREET POCKET PARK

Due to flooding issues with Cottonwood Creek, the City of Deer Lodge has purchased, and is pursuing additional purchases, of properties located within the flood plain. These properties are ideal for the creation of pocket parks, adapting the land for use by the community. The property located at 102 Main Street connects to Downtown Deer Lodge by existing sidewalks and is only three blocks west of Jaycee Park. At this time, the vision for the proposed park is to install a gazebo and/or benches, restrooms, a water fountain, and an informational kiosk.



DOG PARK

Many comments received at the public open house and through the community survey focused on the need for a fenced dog park and/or pet friendly areas at existing City parks. A dedicated dog park would allow for off-leash areas where dogs can play and exercise in a controlled environment, under the supervision of their owners. Dog parks promote safety as the pet owners are not walking on busy streets and allow dogs to run free without penalty or damage to private property. Costs associated with a dog park include grass, fencing, garbage removal, lawn maintenance, drinking water, benches, lighting and a dog waste station.



SPLASH PAD / WATER FEATURE

Comments from the community survey, as well as discussion during the steering committee meetings, determined that residents are interested in the addition of a splash pad or water feature in the City of Deer Lodge. A splash pad has little or no standing water, eliminating the need for a lifeguard or other supervision, as there is little risk of drowning. This feature could be located at an existing City park, or at a new park location. Costs associated with a splash pad include providing water supply, installation of the foundation and equipment, and operation and maintenance costs.

RECREATION CENTER

A community recreation center was proposed as an addition to the City of Deer Lodge during the steering committee meetings held for the development of this Parks & Trails Master Plan. A community rec center provides a number of benefits to the community, such as reduced crime rates, reduced juvenile drug use, increase in property values and an overall increase of community health. Costs associated with a rec center include initial building costs, operation and maintenance costs, and, potentially, staff costs.

Proposed Trail Projects

The following proposed projects describe trail or sidewalk recommendations identified as projects for the City of Deer Lodge. The goal of these trail segments is to provide connectivity to existing trails, parks and points of interest, provide safe routes for users and increase the recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the area. More specifically, one of the overarching goals of existing planning documents and of the Park and Recreation Committee is to provide pedestrian connectivity from Arrowstone Park to Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site. Many of the sidewalk and trail projects outlined below fulfill this goal.

Each proposed trail segment described below has been given a descriptive name for ease of identification; however, the names are not intended to be a formal designated name.

JAYCEE PARK LOOP

→Dixon Street Sidewalk (Jaycee Park to Outdoor Education Center)

Installation of new sidewalk along Dixon Street, between California Avenue and Higgins Avenue, will provide connectivity from Jaycee Park to the Outdoor Education Center. The Outdoor Education Center is located across Cottonwood Avenue from Powell County High School; therefore, this proposed sidewalk will also allow for safe connectivity from the High School to Jaycee Park.

↓Cottonwood Creek Sidewalk/Trail (Outdoor Education Center to Stark Street)

The addition of sidewalk along Cottonwood Avenue from the Outdoor Education Center at Clagett Street east to Kohrs Street will connect to an existing unimproved trail along Cottonwood Creek. This existing trail, from Kohrs Street to Stark Street, may remain a natural surface trail or improved to a soft surface gravel trail. To make this an improved trail, easements may need to be acquired from adjacent landowners.





←Boulder Road Trail

Many area residents use Boulder Road (Frontage Road) for walking and running due to the minimal traffic and length of the route. The road is easily accessed from the east end of Milwaukee Avenue or Sam Beck Road, near the interchange with I-90. The southern portion of the route is gravel surfacing, while the northern portion is paved. A shoulder widening along this route will provide a dedicated path for pedestrian users.

↓Hollenbock Lane Pedestrian Crossing

A pedestrian activated signaled crossing on Hollenbock Lane (I-90 Business Loop), located at Maverick Lane and crossing to the Deer Lodge Health Clinic, will increase pedestrian safety and provide connectivity from the north side of Hollenbock Lane to Jaycee Park. This route has high traffic counts with a 45-mph posted speed limit, and many pedestrians cross here for access to the clinic and hospital, places of employment, and to utilize the playground at the clinic. Due to the speed limit, a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon is recommended to assist pedestrians in crossing safely. This beacon system displays both flashing and solid lights, including a red light, which requires drivers to stop while pedestrians have the right of way to cross the street.



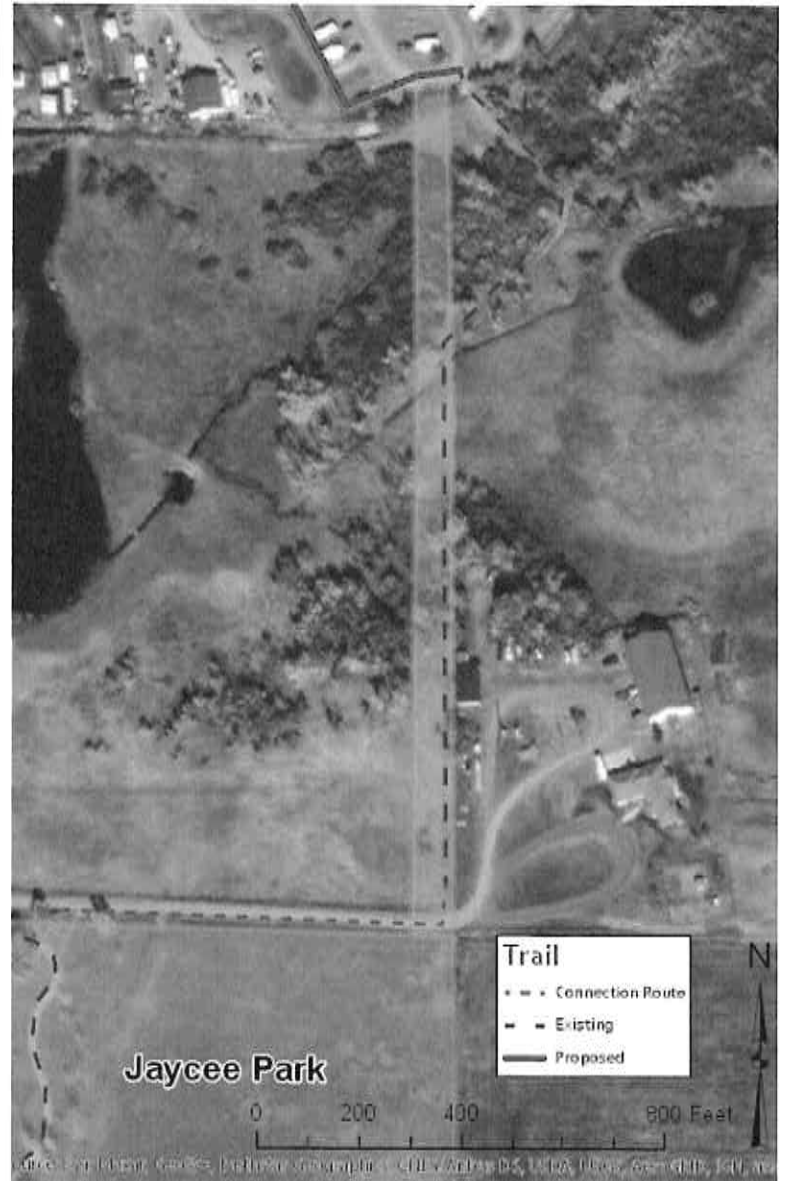


←Maverick Lane Trail

A dedicated multi-use trail along Maverick Lane, from Hollenbock Lane south to Indian Creek Campground, will provide connectivity to Jaycee Park via the Johnson Creek Connector Trail.

→Johnson Creek Connector Trail

Improvements to the existing unimproved trail to provide improved safety and serviceability to users of the route. The City of Deer Lodge has previously applied for grant funding to improve this trail; however, the funding was only approved for trail improvements and additions within Jaycee Park. The addition of wayfinding signs to guide users of the trail to Jaycee Park, and to guide users from Jaycee Park to the connector trail, is also recommended for improved connectivity.



ARROWSTONE PARK TO GRANT KOHRS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

↳ Pennsylvania Avenue Sidewalk

Installation of sidewalk from the east end of Pennsylvania Avenue to Main Street will allow for safer pedestrian conveyance from the end of the existing trail to Main Street, introducing users to amenities and businesses in the City of Deer Lodge. The existing hard surface trail originates in Arrowstone Park, winds along the Clark Fork River and terminates at Pennsylvania Avenue, which is adjacent to the Old Montana Prison. Although this is a very short section of sidewalk, it is a critical piece for the primary goal of trail connectivity.



← Washington Street Trail

Installation of multi-use trail along the north side of West Milwaukee Avenue from Kentucky Street to Washington Street, and continuing along Washington Street to the boundary of Grant Kohrs National Historic Site.

J West Milwaukee Avenue Pedestrian Crossing

An unsignalized crosswalk on West Milwaukee Avenue at Kentucky Street is proposed to provide safe pedestrian connectivity from the west side of Deer Lodge, across the Clark Fork River, and onto Main Street. Just east of Kentucky Street, the Milwaukee Avenue Bridge crossing the Clark Fork River has pedestrian sidewalk on the north side of the bridge; therefore, the crosswalk would allow users a safe route to access the sidewalk on the bridge.



RIVER PARK CONNECTIONS

←River Park Trail System

With the creation of River Park, an internal trail system will provide access through the Park to the Clark Fork River, as well as connection to Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site to the north and City of Deer Lodge trails to the south. As this is intended as a natural resource park, the trail system will likely be natural surface trails or gravel soft surface trails.

→River Park to West Milwaukee Avenue Trail

A defined multi-use trail from the proposed River Park to West Milwaukee Avenue would allow users to connect to both the west and east sides of Deer Lodge through existing sidewalks and trails.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL TRAIL PROJECTS

In addition to the above trail connectivity projects, maintenance items for existing trails are included in this Master Plan. Hard surface trails often require sealant application to extend the life of the surfacing, while soft surface trails may require additional gravel or regrading.

There are also a number of amenities that community members indicated would be beneficial for the addition to existing trails and proposed trails. These items include trail signage, garbage cans and dog waste stations, exercise equipment, restrooms, and benches.





Implementation

Residents of the City of Deer Lodge, in addition to seasonal tourists and recreationists, will benefit from the proposed park and trail system improvements and additions identified within this Master Plan. The trails will provide access to outdoor resources, improve access to popular area destinations, and connect users from Arrowstone Park, through downtown Deer Lodge, and north to Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site. In addition, the new parks and trails will help shape overall community growth. A non-motorized transportation network provides the community with safe and efficient bicycle

and pedestrian connections between downtown, residential neighborhoods, schools, the Clark Fork River, and Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site.



Cost Estimates

Cost estimates have been prepared to aid the community in establishing priorities for future trail construction and are summarized below. Cost estimates do not include any costs associated with right-of-way acquisition. More detailed cost estimates can be found in Appendix D.

SUMMARY OF PARK COST ESTIMATES

Trail Segment	Quantity	Cost Estimate per Quantity
Jaycee Park Improvements		
General park maintenance	Lump Sum	\$20,000
Installation of sprinkler system (does not include well/pump, if needed)	Acre	\$4,000
Security system	Each	\$20,000
Park lighting (solar)	Each	\$8,000
Park lighting (traditional)	Each	\$4,000
New/updated playground equipment	Each	\$17,000
Ball field maintenance & improvements		
• New dugouts	Each	\$18,000
• New bleachers	Each	\$12,000
• New fencing and backstops	Lump Sum	\$25,000
• Field grading and drainage	Lump Sum	\$25,000
Hardscape barrier between park and parking lot	LF	\$40
24' x 24' garage shop	Each	\$57,600
Expansion of Community Garden	0.25 Acre	\$7,500
Parkour / exercise elements (10 station system)	Each	\$7,500
Restrooms	Each	\$25,000
Pickleball courts	Each	\$49,000
Garbage cans / dog waste stations	Each	\$200

West Side Park Improvements

General park maintenance	Lump Sum	\$10,000
Installation of sprinkler system (does not include well/pump, if needed)	Acre	\$4,000
Security system	Each	\$20,000
Park lighting (solar)	Each	\$8,000
Park lighting (traditional)	Each	\$4,000
Storage Shed	Each	\$7,500
Picnic Gazebo	Each	\$20,000
Community Garden Area	0.25 Acre	\$7,500
Benches / Shade Elements	Each	\$500

Parkour / exercise elements (10 station system)	Each	\$7,500
Garbage cans / dog waste stations	Each	\$200

Park Street Campground Improvements

Expansion of Campground (Located on City property, improvements financed by lessee) (Potential for City revenue)	Lump Sum	\$0
Garbage cans / dog waste stations	Each	\$200

Hillcrest Cemetery

Restroom	Each	\$25,000
Installation of sprinkler system (does not include well/pump, if needed)	Acre	\$4,000
Garbage cans / dog waste stations	Each	\$200

Sled Hill

Fencing	LF	\$20
Resurface basketball court	Each	\$45,000
Garbage cans / dog waste stations	Each	\$200

River Park

Trailhead with ADA and Gravel Parking	Lump Sum	\$10,000
Benches	Each	\$500
Picnic Tables	Each	\$800
Picnic Shelter	Each	\$18,000
Garbage cans / dog waste stations	Each	\$200

102 Main Street Pocket Park

Landscaping	Lump Sum	\$5,000
Benches	Each	\$500
Gazebo	Each	\$10,000
Informational Kiosk	Each	\$1,500
Garbage cans / dog waste stations	Each	\$200

Additional Park Features

Skateboard Spot	Each	\$25,000-\$50,000
Skateboard Park	Each	\$120,000-\$150,000

Dog Park	Each	\$45,000- \$60,000
Splash Pad / Water Feature	Each	\$135,000- \$175,000
Recreation Center	Lump Sum	\$1.5-\$2.5 million

SUMMARY OF TRAIL COST ESTIMATES

Trail Segment	Quantity	Cost Estimate
<u>Jaycee Park Loop</u>		
Dixon Street Sidewalk	250 LF	\$21,250
Cottonwood Creek Sidewalk	650 LF	\$55,250
Cottonwood Creek Trail	1,500 LF	\$25,500
Boulder Road Trail	5,800 LF	\$206,000
Hollenbock Lane Ped Crossing	Each	\$60,000
Maverick Lane Trail	1,600 LF	\$56,000
Johnson Creek Connector Trail	2,000 LF	\$30,000
Total Jaycee Park Loop		\$452,500

<u>Arrowstone Park to Grant-Kohrs Ranch</u>		
Pennsylvania Avenue Sidewalk	250 LF	\$21,250
Washington Street Trail	1,500 LF	\$82,500
West Milwaukee Avenue Ped Crossing	Each	\$10,000
Total Arrowstone Park to Grant-Kohrs Ranch		\$109,500

<u>River Park Connections</u>		
River Park Trail System	5,000 LF	\$85,000
River Park to West Milwaukee Avenue	600 LF	\$21,000
Total River Park Connections		\$106,000

<u>Trail Maintenance and General Projects</u>		
Trail Signage	Each	\$400
Garbage Cans / Dog Waste Stations	Each	\$200

Hard Surface Trail Sealant	Square Ft	\$1.00
Natural / Gravel Trail Maintenance	LF	\$15
Exercise Equipment @ Trail (10 station system)	Each	\$7,500
Restrooms	Each	\$25,000
Benches	Each	\$500

☞ Priorities

Through a series of committee meetings and work sessions, the City of Deer Lodge chose not to prioritize the proposed projects at this time. The projects will be completed based on grant funding opportunities, available local funds, and importance of the project to the community. As funding is available, it is recommended that the City review results from the public opinion survey and take into account any recent or changing community needs to determine which project(s) to construct at any given time.

☞ Right of Way Acquisition

One of the challenges to developing new parks and trails is acquiring permission and right-of-way to locate facilities on private land. Easements that will allow public access need to be negotiated with each landowner involved and may require considerable time and effort to secure. For this reason, trails located on City land, or within public ROW, may be given higher priority over those crossing privately owned land. The table below indicates trail segments that require easements from private landowners or the State of Montana.

Trail/Sidewalk Segment	Land Ownership
Cottonwood Creek Sidewalk/ Trail	City of Deer Lodge, private landowners
Boulder Road Trail	State of Montana, existing street ROW
Hollenbock Lane Pedestrian Crossing	MDT ROW
Johnson Creek Connector Trail	Powell County, private landowner

Park and Trail Operation and Maintenance

The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of City parks and trails are an important part of protecting the recreational opportunities provided and ensuring safe and enjoyable use by the community. According to the Public Survey results, most respondents agreed that maintenance of existing facilities is a top priority.

Operational needs include items such as trash collection, watering, debris removal, restroom cleaning and overall condition monitoring. Maintenance activities include both recurring maintenance items and larger capital projects. Recurring maintenance items may include weed abatement, brush removal, tree care, drainage improvements, or repair of cracks on trails.

Larger capital projects would entail upkeep of park amenities such as shelters, picnic tables or sprinklers, seal coating of asphalt trails, asphalt overlays, or resurfacing of gravel trails. Major trail rehabilitation should be planned for on a revolving schedule.

For trails specifically, asphalt may require sealing or recoating at periodic intervals for maintenance and should be inspected for conditions that are likely to inhibit access or cause user injuries.

The following is a list of trail maintenance items:

- **Step Separation**
 - A Vertical displacement of 0.5-inch or greater at any point on the path that could cause users to trip or prevent the wheels of a wheelchair, bicycle, or strollers from rolling smoothly.
- **Badly Cracked Pavement**
 - Holes and rough spots ranging from hairline cracks to indentations wider than 0.5-inch.
- **Spalled Areas**
 - Fragments of pavement or other building materials detached from larger structures.

- **Settled areas that trap water**
 - Depressions, reverse cross slopes, or other indentations that make the path lower in specific areas. These depressions trap silt and water on the path surface.
- **Tree root damage**
 - Roots from trees growing in adjacent landscaping which cause the surface to buckle and crack.
- **Vegetation overgrowth**
 - Ground cover, trees, or shrubs on properties or setbacks adjacent to the path that have not been pruned can encroach onto the path and create obstacles.

Timing and Frequency of Inspections

In addition to maintaining the physical characteristics of a park or trail is the maintenance of information regarding facility conditions. Regular recreational inspections are essential in identifying maintenance needs and public safety concerns. Development of a system to catalog inspection assessments should be utilized and having a comprehensive list of sites needing maintenance aids managers to prioritize and budget for repair and improvement projects.

Parks and trails should be regularly assessed to verify that conditions haven't changed. It is also recommended to establish a method for citizens to provide maintenance input. Citizen report programs can provide agencies with an efficient way of maintaining facilities, as users can often identify issues quicker than agencies.



Funding Options

Local Options

A number of options are available to leverage local financing to fund portions of the proposed parks and trails projects identified within this Master Plan. In addition, these resources are important as most grant funding requires a match from the local government.



CITY GENERAL FUNDS

General funds, which are gathered from local and State taxes, are the most commonly used method of financing capital projects. Each year the City Council establishes a budget for the distribution and expenditure of general funds and can direct general funds towards implementing the City of Deer Lodge Parks and Trails Master Plan. The general fund is typically inadequate to fund large projects, however, it is a useful resource for funding small projects.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

The sale of general obligation bonds can be used to finance public improvements in the City of Deer Lodge, provided they follow state statute, as described below:

Montana Code Annotated 7-7-4201. Limitation on amount of bonded indebtedness. (1) Except as provided in 7-7-4201, a city or town may not issue bonds or incur other indebtedness for any purpose in an amount that with all outstanding and unpaid indebtedness exceeds 2.5% of the

total assessed value of taxable property, determined as provided in 15-8-111, within the city or town, as ascertained by the last assessment for state and county taxes.

The City of Deer Lodge currently holds a bond for indebtedness for the construction of the wastewater treatment facility and for the City Fire Hall, but has no other general obligations.



TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

Tax Increment Funding (TIF) is a tool used by municipal governments to finance investments using the anticipation of future tax revenue resulting from new development. The funds raised through a TIF district are invested in projects that will encourage development. This would primarily be appropriate for the improvement or installation of sidewalk segments of the proposed trail system.



SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

A Special Improvement District (SID) is a collection of properties where owners make payments for public improvements. The Montana Code Annotated (MCA) Section 7-12-41 describes SIDs in more detail. Relating to this Master Plan, SIDs may be used to acquire and improve land to be designated as a public park or open space land, or to acquire, construct or reconstruct sidewalks and crosswalks.

Grant Options

Proposed projects identified in this Master Plan may also be eligible for grant funds, which are often matched by local funds dedicated to the completion of a project.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA)

https://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/ta_application.shtml

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act provides funding for Transportation Alternatives

(TA) through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program.



These funds are available

for on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation, recreation trail program projects, safe routes to school projects, and projects for the planning, design or construction of boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways.

Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Consultant Design Bureau will administer most TA projects; however, some projects may be administered by in-house MDT Engineering staff. Traditional TA projects are capped at \$1.5 million, which includes all phases of the project. Projects with funding requests above this amount must secure additional funds to finance the project.

Entities eligible to apply for the funds include local governments, school districts, public land agencies, and other local government entities with the responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails. TA projects must benefit the general public and require a local cash match of 13.42% of the project cost.

MONTANA STATE PARKS RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT

<http://stateparks.mt.gov/recreation/rtpGrants.html>

A Recreational Trails Program

(RTP) grant, administered by

Montana State Parks, is available to federal, tribal, state, county or city agencies, private associations and clubs. RTP provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail related facilities in Montana. Eligible projects include urban trail development,



development of trailside facilities, trail restoration, and educational and safety projects related to trails. The RTP is a federally funded grant program, with funds obtained from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and is a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from nonhighway recreational fuel use. RTP grants require a local match of 20% of the total project cost, which may be captured in cash or documented volunteer hours.

There are two funding categories: Standard Grant Requests and Big Grant Requests. The Standard Grant category is for projects totaling \$10,000 to \$69,999, and the Big Grant is for projects totaling \$70,000-\$100,000, which is the maximum amount of the grant. The Committee may award up to six Big Grants per grant cycle.

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) GRANTS

<http://stateparks.mt.gov/recreation/lwcf.html>

The LWCF provides is a federal grants program established by the Land & Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 and provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.



The maximum grant per project is capped at \$250,000 and may be up to 50% of the total project cost. Typical projects that have been previously funded include facilities such as public parks, picnic facilities, walking trails and open space acquisitions, in addition to facilities directly supporting outdoor recreation areas such as restrooms and maintenance sheds.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS TRAIL STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

<http://fwp.mt.gov/grant-programs/trail-stewardship>

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) sponsors the Trail Stewardship Grant Program

to fund motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and

trailside facilities. Examples of projects include new trail and shared use path construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of existing trails and shared use paths, and construction and maintenance of trailside and trailhead facilities, such as fencing, parking, bathrooms, shelters, trail signs and weed management.



Applicants may request up to \$50,000 per project and are required to match 10% of the project costs. Each grant cycle, the program aims to fund 30% motorized projects, 30% non-motorized projects and 40% multiuse trail projects.

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS COMMUNITY POND PROGRAM

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/fish/communityPond/>

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) sponsors the Community Pond Program to enhance fishing opportunities in Montana communities by providing funds to construct or improve public fishing ponds. The funds may be used for design costs, construction, repair or enhancement of ponds for which public fishing is a primary purpose. Funds may not be used for acquisition of property.

Applicants are required to match 30% of the costs associated with the project with either cash or in-kind contributions, such as materials, equipment and labor. Program funding can vary but is typically \$25,000 annually.

MONTANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

<https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet>

The Montana Main Street Program was established in 2005 and is a collaboration between the Community Development Division and the Montana Office of Tourism at the Montana Department of Commerce. Grant funds may be used for planning or brick-and-mortar projects that support downtown revitalization efforts. Examples projects that relate to parks and trails may be public signage, lighting, or streetscape improvements.



Grants are generally capped at \$10,000 per application and require a 20% match by the applicant.

PEOPLE FOR BIKES COMMUNITY GRANTS

<https://peopleforbikes.org/our-work/community-grants/>

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program provides funding for projects that build momentum for bicycling in communities across the United States, including Helena, Missoula, Billings and Arlee in Montana. These projects include bike paths and trails, as well as mountain bike trails and bike parks. The program is funded by partners in the bicycle industry and will fund requests up to \$10,000 with at least 50% project match. There are typically one or two grant cycles per year.



peopleforbikes

NPS CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM

<https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp>

The Challenge Cost Share Program is intended to fund specific National Park Service projects that align with

the goals of local project partners. Projects should promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education, and engaging diverse youth participants in national parks, trails, heritage areas and wild and scenic rivers.

The maximum program grant is \$25,000 and requires a 50% match of cash or in-kind services.

BF GOODRICH TIRES OUTSTANDING TRAILS GRANT

<https://bfgoodrichtires.com/outstandingtrails>

The mission of outstanding trails is to respect access, keep trails clean



and keep trails open. The grants are geared towards motorized trails, and may be used for trail signage, repairs, maintenance or education. The maximum grant amount is \$5,000 and no match is required.

USDA COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

This grant program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, identified as areas with less than 20,000 residents. Funds can be used to purchase, construct and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses. Essential community facilities include those relating to public safety, transportation facilities, and community services. Required matching funds are on a graduated scale based on population and median household income.

GRANTS SPECIFICALLY FOR BALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

There are a number of grants that are to be used specifically for ball field improvements and may be most appropriately applied for by local community groups. These grants include:

- Safe Places to Play
- Baseball Tomorrow Fund
- Baseball Tomorrow Fund/Major League Baseball
- Scotts Field Refurbishment Program

GRANT FUNDING SUMMARY				
Funding Source	Funding Amount	Required Match	Park / Trail Element	Application Due Date
Transportation Alternatives (TA)	\$1.5 million	13.42% of the project cost, cash only	Trails, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, easement acquisition, landscaping, signals, lighting	Pending program funding
Montana State Parks Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP)	\$100,000	20% of the project cost, cash or volunteer hours	Trail development, trailside facilities, trail restoration and trail maintenance.	(Annually) January
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	\$250,000	50% of the project cost, cash or allowable supplemental grant funds	Trails, parks, picnic facilities, restrooms.	(Annually) Fall
FWP Trail Stewardship Program	\$50,000	10% of the project cost, cash or in-kind contributions	Development, renovation and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails	(Annually) Fall
FWP Community Pond Program	\$25,000	30% of the project cost, cash or in-kind contributions	Community ponds as part of the proposed Riverfront Park area	(Annually) February 1
Montana Main Street Program	\$10,000	20% of the project cost, cash or in-kind contributions	Planning or tangible projects that support downtown revitalization efforts	Open on a revolving basis
People for Bikes Community Grants	\$10,000	50% of the project cost	Bicycle trails and lanes, bike racks, bike parking, and bike repair stations.	(Annually) Spring
NPS Challenge Cost Share Program	\$25,000	50% of the project cost	National Park Service projects that align with the goals of local project partners	Anticipated May 2021
BF Goodrich Tires Outstanding Trails Grant	\$5,000	No match	Intended for motorized trails and may be used for trail signage, repairs, maintenance, or education	Anytime through local off-road groups
USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program	\$50,000, or 50% of the annual state allocation (whichever is greater)	Based on median household income	Transportation facilities, community services, public safety.	Year round

Additional Funding Resources

The public opinion survey included a question asking respondents what type of funding strategies they would support for parks and trails improvements in Deer Lodge. The results of this question, located on Page X of this plan, indicate that the majority of users would support the following options:

- **ADOPT-A-PARK AND ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAMS:** These programs rely on the volunteer work of individuals or groups to maintain, restore and protect park and trail resources by "adopting" a park, trail or section of trail. The program provides a way for businesses and individuals to take a leadership role in the community and allows residents to be active participants in preserving the facilities that Deer Lodge offers.

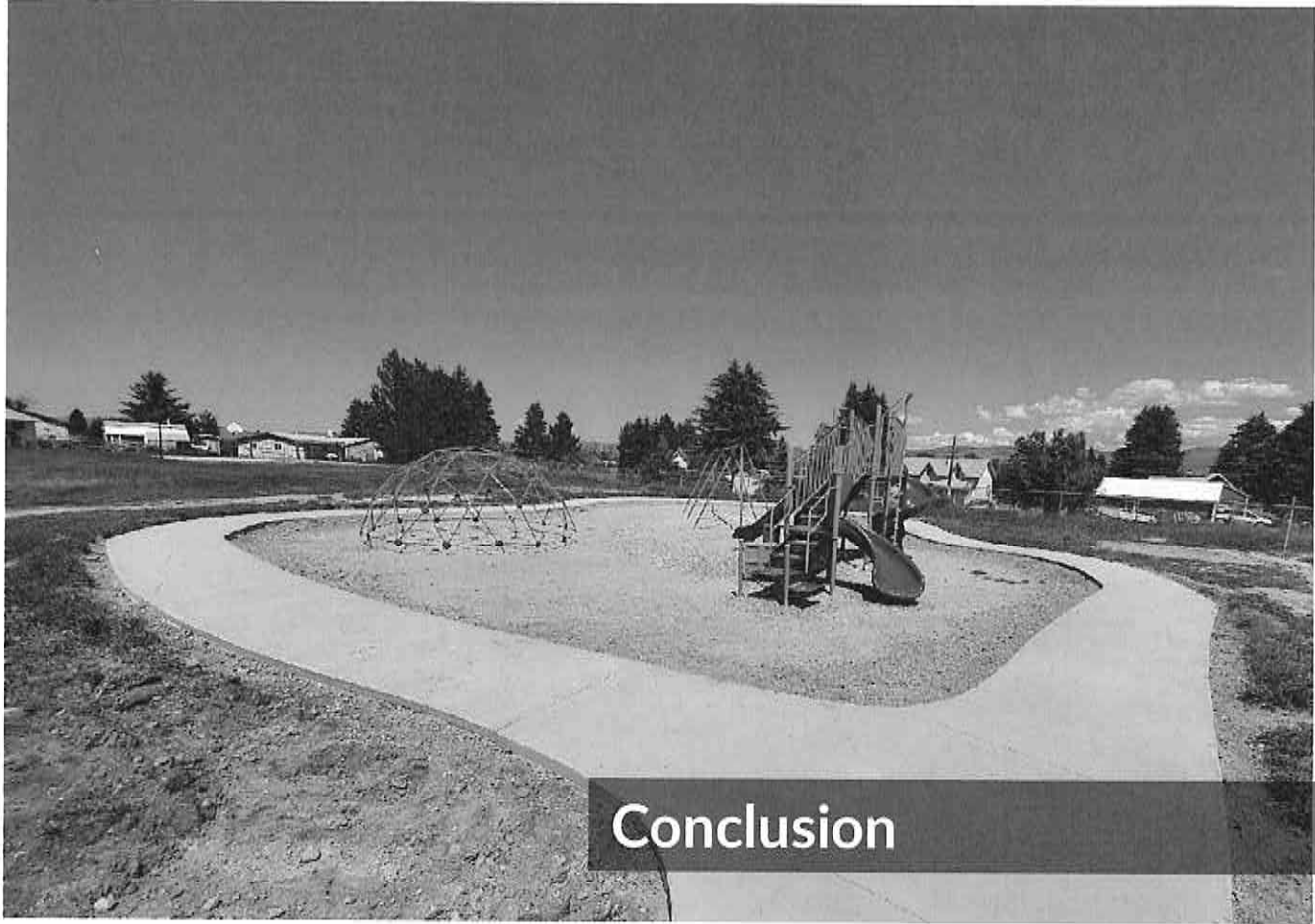


- **NON-PROFIT FUNDRAISING:** Fundraising is another way to bring in revenue for the mission of funding Deer Lodge park and trail facilities.



- **VOLUNTEERS:** While volunteers are needed for both of the previous funding mechanisms, they can also be used in a variety of other ways to assist with parks and trails within Deer Lodge. From a one-time service project to a longer-term mission, volunteers can make a tremendous impact on the condition of community facilities.





Conclusion

Following the design guidelines and implementation strategy outlined in this Master Plan, a successful park and trail system can be established for the City of Deer Lodge.

The trails will be designed with a wide range of users in mind, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrian use, and will be ADA compliant.

The existing park maintenance and improvements are intended to attract a wide variety of users and become a destination for residents and visitors alike. Proposed new parks will also appeal to a diverse population and are planned for connection to area trails and additional community attractions.

This Plan will serve as a guideline for future park and trail planning and

construction. It should be viewed as a living document that may be modified to coordinate with ever-changing budgets, grant funding, and public opinion.

While this study identified the feasibility of various park and trail segments for future construction, the **purpose is to provide the City of Deer Lodge a foundation to build a recreational park and trail system the City is proud of.**

