BELGRADE
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

Prepared by: CTA Architects Engineers
Prepared for: The City of Belgrade

December 2019
Letter of Recommendation and Resolutions for Adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

On September 10, 2019, the Belgrade Parks and Recreation Board recommended the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Belgrade City Council for approval.

On January 14th, 2020, the Gallatin County Commission adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

On January 21st, 2020, the Belgrade Mayor and City Council of the City of Belgrade adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

To: Belgrade City Council  
From: Belgrade City Park Board  
Date: September 10, 2019

RE: 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Belgrade City Park Board recommends the following:

Approval by the Belgrade City Council to approve the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Diana Perry  
Park Board Chairperson
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gallatin County Commissioners that the Gallatin County Commission hereby adopts the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan with amendments as stated in the memo from the Belgrade Planning Director dated January 6, 2019. A copy of the Planning Director’s memo and a copy of the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan being considered herein and attached hereto are made a part of this Resolution.

Dated this 16th day of January 2020.

GALLATIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Don Sefelt, Chairman

ATTEST:

Eric Samardzic, Clerk and Recorder
RESOLUTION NO. 2019–21

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE
BELGRADE GROWTH POLICY AND PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City Council of Belgrade, Montana met in its regular meeting place in the Belgrade City Council Chambers, 91 East Central Avenue, Belgrade, Montana on October 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, Section 76-1-601, et seq., Montana Codas Annotated, establishes the requirements for adoption of the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, on the 30th of September 2019, the Belgrade City-County Planning Board, after having deemed the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan to be in the public interest, adopted a Planning Board Resolution, and recommended the Belgrade City Council and the Gallatin County Commission adopt the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, on the 14th of January 2020, the Gallatin County Commission passed a Resolution to Adopt the Belgrade Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, on the 7th of October 2019, the City Council passed the Resolution of Intent to Adopt the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a properly noticed public hearing on the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan, at a regular scheduled meeting on October 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in its Chambers at 91 East Central Ave., Belgrade, MT; and

WHEREAS, notice of passage of the resolution of intent to adopt the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan was published in the Belgrade News on October 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, all necessary procedures have been followed and notice has been given regarding adoption of said Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Belgrade that the City hereby adopts the Belgrade Area Growth Policy and Parks and Recreation

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE
BELGRADE GROWTH POLICY AND PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN
Page 2 of 2
Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the citizens and community groups who provided input, contributing to the vision for parks and pathways in Belgrade. The Master Plan is meant for city staff and community members alike.

City of Belgrade
- Director of Public Works, Steve Klotz
- Belgrade City Manager, Ted Barkley
- Belgrade Planning, Jason Karp
- Belgrade Park and Recreation Board, Adam Thuen, Keith Fuge, Diana Perry, Jim Simon, Patrick Farretta
- Belgrade City Council, Anne Koentopp, Ken Smith, Kristine Menicucci, Jim Doyle, Jim Simon, Brad Cooper

Gallatin County Groups
- Gallatin County Parks and Trails, Mike Harris
- Gallatin Valley Land Trust, EJ Porth, Matt Marcinek

Local Entities and Collaborative Groups
- Belgrade School District, Paul Lamb
- Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, Brian Sprenger
- River Rock HOA, Carrie O’Neil, HOA Board Members
- Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, Kristi Gee, Local Businesses and Organizations
- Belgrade Community Coalition, Tiffany Maierle, Ali Vasarelli, Kali Vergeront
- Belgrade Community Market, Christine Stoppa

Local Sports and Recreation Groups
- AYSO Region 536, Jason Kovensky
- Belgrade Youth Baseball, Jeremy Olson
- Gallatin Valley Lacrosse, Lorelyn Mayr

Master Plan Team from CTA Architects Engineers
- Wayne Freeman, PLA
- Stephanie Donovan, PLA, CPSI
- Stephanie Ray, AICP
- David Dixon, AICP
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01. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Main outcomes and findings of the Master Plan

Purpose and Content
The 2019 Belgrade Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a guiding document to achieve improved park and recreational facilities in the Greater Belgrade area for the next 10 years. The primary goal of the Master Plan is to equip the City of Belgrade and local community organizations with a set of recommendations and maps as a tool for implementing change. The findings of this document are derived from a community-based investigation — information discovered during assessment of recreational facilities and needs voiced during community outreach efforts. Main deliverables of the Master Plan include:

• Inventory for repair and improvements to existing recreational facilities
• Proposed recreational programs and events
• Maps of identified future parks and pathways
• Operational and budget recommendations
• Prioritized needs and financial strategies

A review of how much progress has been made on completing the Master Plan is recommended in 2024, and an update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is recommended in 2029.

The Master Plan is meant to be a catalyst for change in Belgrade. The rapid growth of Belgrade and the surrounding area has contributed to the creation of its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Process
Beginning in February 2019, data for the Master Plan document was derived from the following investigations: inventory and assessment of existing conditions, engagement with the public and community groups, and population projections based on the 2019 Growth Policy, which was developed simultaneously with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Strategies and methods to achieve the financial, operational, and capital improvement recommendations was the final step in the Master Plan. Figure 1 graphically summarizes the planning process:
Belgrade has a growing and young population. • Belgrade population is expected to expand to 10,423 people in 2020 and somewhere between 13,795 and 14,703 people in 2030.
• The largest age groups in Belgrade are people aged 20 to 39 and children under 15 years of age.
• 38% of Belgrade residents commuted to Bozeman for work in 2015.
• An estimated 21,000 people live in the school

Summary of Key Findings and Key Recommendations
The City of Belgrade has approximate 112 acres of parkland, with some nearby county parks. Pedestrian and bicycle paths are very limited. Interstate 90 and the railroad bisect the city, causing traffic congestion, and noise. However, there are notable views of the Bridger Mountains from many areas in Belgrade and existing parks in most neighborhoods.

A. COMMUNITY BACKGROUND & COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Community involvement was the most significant influence for the recommendations in the Master Plan. The “Community Needs Assessment” chapter feeds into subsequent chapters. After a series of meetings with local groups and organizations, a public online survey, and public meetings, community feedback was integrated into the park and recreation assessments. A draft of the Master Plan was provided to the public in May 2019, and after incorporating additional comments, revisions were made and the plan was finalized in June 2019.
district and come to Belgrade for events and activities. Parks, trails, and programs will need to be strategically planned to accommodate an increased population and weighted towards the largest age groups. Due to a need for more businesses and density downtown and a high level of commuters entering Belgrade, it is clear that park and recreation funding will need to shift accordingly.

Existing planning documents for or relating to Belgrade provide some background about parks and recreation in the area. Compared to other communities, Belgrade is falling short in budget and staffing. Nationally and in Montana, popular activities are walking, biking and trail use, water play, and playground use. Outdoor recreation spending accounts for approximately 18% of consumer spending in Montana. In addition to community input, national and state trends can help predict future recreational programming needs in Belgrade.

B. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Information was collected from a public survey, public meetings, and focus groups in March 2019 to assess community needs. Trends from the multiple choice questions of the public survey are:
- Respondents are visiting Belgrade parks to warrant increased investment
- Park visitors are likely to be social and stay long enough to use the restroom
- 41% of respondents said they usually walk to a park and are more likely to visit a park if they live nearby one
- 86% responded that they would contribute $1-30 or more to a park maintenance district and are willing to try a variety of funding strategies
- 86% of respondents would contribute to a tree fund for increased trees in Belgrade

Main themes from open-ended questions in the public survey and focus group discussions include:
- Increased connectivity across the community, additional sports fields
- More entertainment and community programs
- A swimming pool
- A versatile indoor community space
- Improved park amenities
- A variety of funding ideas

In May 2019, a second public survey was launched to confirm public opinion on the results of the March 2019 survey. The results of the second survey showed public desire for recreational programming, a parks district, and a parks department.

C. SITE INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT, AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Belgrade parks were assessed through mapping park service areas, playgrounds, and regulation playing fields to see if they were geographically equitable across the city. Fewer parks, playgrounds, and playing fields were found on the west side of the city, which informed the proposed parks and pathways map.

Through field observations, the park amenities were inventoried and each park was assessed individually. Recommendations were prioritized in Chapter 7, Growth and Capital Improvements. Recommendations for most parks included safe crossings and sidewalks, inspection from a Certified Playground Safety Inspector with correction for compliance, signage, bike racks, and trail connection. Belgrade has several parks with mailboxes that could be better accessed and landscaped as a feature. The Proposed City of Belgrade Parks and Pathways Map illustrates additional trails and sidewalks, a dog park, and linear parks. Linking parks and developments was achieved through a looped shared use pathway around the perimeter of the city. As Belgrade is in an interdependent region, trails and river access were explored past the city limits. Trail access to the Gallatin River, Bridger Mountain trailheads, and nearby communities were proposed on the Proposed Regional Parks and Pathways Map. The Great American Rail Trail is planned to pass through Belgrade, and a proposed route is shown on the regional map. With anticipated future growth, park and trail design resources are listed.

D. PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT & VISION
The Belgrade Parks and Recreation Program does not currently offer any programs or events, but needs for programs were found in the survey results and from conversations in focus groups. Cultural events in Belgrade like the Farmer’s Market and the Festival of Lights are hosted by local non-profits or local organizations, and can be used as a starting point for determining what programs or events are missing in the community and could be offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.

A parks director and maintenance staff is recommended to be hired to begin a parks
9.6 miles to Manhattan
19.5 miles to Madison River

9 miles to Amsterdam
Churchill

7.6 miles to Four Corners
25 miles to Madison River

11.3 miles to Truman Gulch Trailhead
11.5 miles to Sypes Canyon Trailhead
13.3 miles to Middle Cottonwood Trailhead

*Parks and pathways outside of city limits are outside of the impact fee area.
department. Newly launched event programs are suggested, including a family event, an outdoor movie series, an after school program, senior focused programs, adult sport leagues, fitness program, summer youth camps, special events for youth focused on outdoor education, a dog-friendly event, and winter sports. Other programs and campaigns suggested include park amenity campaigns, tobacco-free parks, national park programs, and walking programs. The new director is recommended to form a marketing plan and lead the creation of department goals and objectives to achieve the successful launch of programs.

E. OPERATIONAL AND BUDGET ASSESSMENT
Belgrade parks are maintained by the Public Works Department. After the formation of a parks department, additional services and management plans are recommended to be put into place. With a dedicated park staff member preparing proposals for park and trail improvements, substantial revenue could be gained through applying for matching grants from a parks district and philanthropists. Consultants are recommended to be hired to complete feasibility studies, park designs, trail designs, and recreational facilities.

F. GROWTH AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
Belgrade is expected to keep growing and expanding. Economic studies show the positive effect of parks and trails on nearby users, and should always coincide with new development. According to Headwaters Economics, a independent, nonprofit research group, trails can benefit businesses through increased revenue and jobs, consumers through intrinsic value of a trail, property owners through increase property values, and residents through adjacent trail access. As Belgrade and the surrounding areas are growing, it is expected that a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will form. MPOs receive federal transportation funding, which could benefit trails and the connection of parks. When an MPO forms, recommended actions relating to parks and recreation include:
- Establishing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees (BPAC)
- Following “Complete Streets”
- Developing a bicycle master plan
- Coordinating on parks and recreation with neighboring cities

Belgrade has very limited park requirements for subdivisions, and currently no subdivision regulations for trails exist. Zoning regulations relating to parks, trails, and landscaping should be updated. Recommended subdivision regulations include:
- New developments are required to follow the Belgrade Parks and Recreation Master Plan, including the placement and development of trails and parks
- Require minimum improvements for parks and trails including irrigation and planting
- Form a Belgrade Park and Trail Committee to review parks and trails in new subdivisions to ensure compliance with the Master Plan and recent standards for park and trail design
- Require higher quality open space standards, and restrict certain areas from becoming a part of the required park area, such as stormwater collection areas, floodplains, or other environmentally sensitive areas
- Tighten regulations to reduce the number of cash in lieu transactions
- Bolster landscaping requirements in municipal code, including boulevard landscaping and streetscaping for subdivisions and commercial projects
- Create standard planting and irrigation details for city projects
- Require more stringent application requirements, including documentation and drawings for park and trail designs
- Require professional stamps on drawings for parks and trails
- Transfer scanned pages of municipal code to digitally searchable format on website
- Provide recommended street tree list, while testing tree species survival and condition at Belgrade parks

G. FUNDING AND COLLABORATION STRATEGIES
To meet maintenance and development needs of the parks and trail system, major steps need to be taken to fund a parks department and the planned improvements. A large number of people living outside city limits travel to Belgrade and use the parks but are not paying taxes toward park upkeep. The formation of a parks district is recommended.
to financially support existing parks and to acquire land for new parks and recreation facilities. A parks district could financially support the hiring of a parks and recreation director and maintenance staff, who could in turn establish a revenue flow through programming.

Precedence for a parks district in Montana exists in Billings, Great Falls, and Colstrip. In early 2019, the approximate total of assessed property value in the Belgrade School district was $2,450,110,999, which includes both residential and commercial properties. The estimated revenue is a potential base annual revenue from a parks district, amounts which could be eligible for matching grants and bonds.

<table>
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<th>Property Value</th>
<th>$30 annual fee</th>
<th>$40 annual fee</th>
<th>$50 annual fee</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Potential base revenue amounts from a parks district

In Belgrade and the surrounding area, a public education campaign could inform the public of the proposed district projects and the potential financial capacity. The Proposed Parks District matches the footprint of the school district, which includes county land. Exact boundaries should be studied for feasibility and vetted in a public process. Partnership between the City of Belgrade and Gallatin County would be advised for the long-term future of a parks district. If a parks district was established, a parks district board would be formed, and a Gallatin County representative is recommended to participate on the board.
02. COMMUNITY BACKGROUND & COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Studying community characteristics, comparing Belgrade park data to similar communities, and identifying park and recreation trends

As a part of mapping the future of Belgrade Parks and Recreation, the local community was studied from a demographic and comparative perspective to provide context and inform the results from community outreach efforts. Current and projected demographic data for Belgrade was studied to find trends and population characteristics that could influence the Master Plan. The existing park and trail system is identified along with relevant recreation data in local planning documents. Comparing the existing Belgrade park system and operations with similar communities provides insight into areas where goals and benchmarks could be raised. Using recognized national and state data about parks and recreation reveals how Belgrade’s matches up to accepted recreation standards. Overall this chapter provides background information that supports the community outreach process and recommendations for Belgrade parks and pathways.

Demographic Analysis

For Belgrade citizens, it is well known that their city has seen large growth over the years. As the population grows, it’s important to understand age, employment, and economic factors to plan for parks and recreation.

POPULATION

Belgrade is in the top five of the fastest growing populations in Montana, along with Whitefish, Kalispell, Bozeman, and Manhattan. The 2010 census reported a population of 7,389 in Belgrade, and the estimated growth rate is 14.7% from 2010 to 2017. The estimated 2017 population of Belgrade is 8,556. Persons in each household from 2013 to 2017 is 2.65, almost matching the 2017 U.S. average of 2.6 persons per household. According to the 2019 Growth Policy, the Belgrade population is expected to expand to 10,423 people in 2020 and somewhere between 13,795 and 14,703 people in 2030. Implications of a growing population are increased parks and recreation programs to accommodate more people, strategically located and sized parks in relation to the density of new housing developments, and accommodations for increased visits to the most popular parks holding large community events.

AGE

When it come to age, Belgrade has a considerable number of young people. Belgrade has a younger median age (32.9) compared to Gallatin County.
The largest age groups in Belgrade are people aged 20 to 39 and children under 15 years of age. These trends indicate that the number and type of recreational facilities and programs could be weighted towards the largest age groups.

**ECONOMY**

Belgrade's economy has a history of agriculture and a culture of commuters, who benefit from close proximity to the airport, Bozeman, and recreational resources. Employment areas in Belgrade are clustered in the city core, schools, the airport, and busy roads like Jackrabbit Road. However, in 2015 an estimated 38% of Belgrade residents commuted to Bozeman for work. An estimated 21,000 people live in the school district, which means many people are coming into town for events and activities. The 2019 Growth Policy recommends putting efforts toward a more dense and walkable downtown that satisfies unmet needs and better balances living and working in Belgrade, which would lead to improved quality of city parks. Relating to parks and recreation funding, the people who come into Belgrade city limits are using parks but are not taxed on park maintenance or expansion. If steps are taken to improve tourism and business downtown as the 2010 Growth Policy suggests, then there will be in increase in use and demand for parks.

Information was gathered from US Census Bureau and the 2019 Growth Policy.

**Existing Planning Documents and Local Studies**

This document is the first Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Belgrade. To gain an understanding of existing local efforts and visions for parks and non-motorized pathways in the Belgrade area, many existing planning documents and studies relating to parks and were examined.

**2017 BELGRADE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)**

Existing and proposed non-motorized pathways were mapped and assessed in the 2017 Belgrade Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Main recommendations regarding pedestrian and bicycle paths were identified:

- Belgrade has limited bike and pedestrian facilities, and there are several opportunities for improvement (page 23)
- Walking and biking pathways can be improved or added to connect to the Streamline bus stop at Smith and Missoula (page 25)
- Much of the major street network does not have on-street bicycle facilities and has a poor score for traffic stress (page 36)
- Non-motorized crashes were primarily at intersections on Belgrade's arterial and collector streets. Future improvements could include a focus on intersection safety and bicycle boulevards and arterial crossings on local streets (page 42)

Specific improvements for sidewalks, bike lanes, and underpasses are listed in the LRTP and integrated into the parks and pathways maps. General guidelines for transportation demand management and traffic calming are described in the LRTP, which are important to properly designing and implementing the Master Plan. The LRTP mentions the likelihood of Bozeman and Belgrade area becoming a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which could financially support non-motorized improvements.

**GALLATIN TRIANGLE PLANNING STUDY (2014)**

Due to growth in the Belgrade and Bozeman region, this study identifies existing and proposed partnerships between governments and local organizations. Regional collaboration is stressed. Under the list of existing partnerships, no park or trail related agreements were noted. However, growth policies for cities in the region identify the need for open space and public park lands.

**BELGRADE TO BOZEMAN FRONTAGE ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY (2017)**

The study examined Frontage Road improvements between Belgrade and Bozeman. Support was
expressed for a shared-use path between Belgrade and Bozeman in public meetings. References to parks or a pathway included:

- Recommended investigation to determine the feasibility of installing a shared use path along Frontage Road
- Recommended reconstruction of Frontage Road to include one travel lane in each direction with a center-turning lane and 8-foot shoulders, regardless if there is a separated path
- Land acquisition, easements, and coordination with the railroad is needed to build a separated shared-use path
- 12 crash history reports from 2010 to 2015 at Oregon Street and Main near Lewis and Clark Park
- Lewis and Clark Park is protected under 4(f) and 6(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Federally funded transportation projects cannot impact Section 4(f)-protected properties

The Belgrade/Bozeman/Gallatin County Planning Coordination Committee (PCC) is actively creating policies to require bicycle pathways and trail connections. The shared-use path will be included in the Master Plan.

**BELGRADE COMMERCIAL CENTER URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICT PLAN**

The City of Belgrade plans to create an Urban Renewal District (URD) to revitalized the downtown. The proposed boundaries of the URD include Lewis and Clark Park, Clarkin Park, and Triangle Park. Under §7-12-4101, and §7-12-4102, MCA, cities and towns can create special improvement districts for a number of activities including the acquisition and improvement of land to be designated as public park or open-space land.

**Comparative Analysis of Similar Communities**

Estimated park data in Figure 2 was collected from Montanan communities that are similar to Belgrade in population for a comparative analysis. Belgrade offers more parkland acres than the national average, but less parkland than similar cities in Montana. Belgrade’s total park expenditures per capita per parkland acre are below the national average and lags behind comparable cities by more than half in most cases. Full-time equivalent employees (FTE) for Belgrade parks is far below the national average and similar Montanan communities. It is recommended that Belgrade increase expenditures and FTE to match their community counterparts before acquiring more parkland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NRPA U.S. Average</th>
<th>Belgrade, Montana</th>
<th>Livingston, Montana</th>
<th>Whitefish, Montana</th>
<th>Lewistown, Montana</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Population (estimated 2017)</strong></td>
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<td>8,556</td>
<td>7,529</td>
<td>7,608</td>
<td>5,918</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Parkland in Acres</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>111.94</td>
<td>170.00</td>
<td>158.6</td>
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<td><strong>Parkland Acres per 1,000 Residents</strong></td>
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<td>13.08</td>
<td>22.58</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures (Fiscal Year 2019)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Capital Outlay (Fiscal Year 2019)</strong></td>
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Sources:
2019 NRPA Agency Performance Review, Park And Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks
2018 NRPA Americans’ Engagement With Parks Report

Figure 2: Belgrade park data compared to national averages and similar cities.
NATIONAL PARTICIPATORY TRENDS IN RECREATION

The average American visits their local park and recreation facilities 27 times a year according to the 2018 Americans’ Engagement with Parks Report, survey results produced by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The report found that most people visit parks to be with family or friends and to exercise and be physically active. Having a nearby park, playground, open space or recreation center was an important factor in deciding where to live for 85% of respondents. As seen in Figure 3, for 74% of Americans, the most popular park and recreation activity is to visit a local park, playground, dog park, or some other local open space. Hiking, biking, or walking on a local trail was the second most popular response at 51%. More than nine in 10 Americans agree that parks and recreation is an important local government service.

At a national level, parks and recreation are strongly supported and sought after. According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), the activity with the highest participation is fitness walking. Recently, fitness tracking devices have grown in popularity. Participation continues to grow slowly in outdoor and adventure activities such as day hiking and traditional climbing. The 2018 Outdoor Participation Report found that running, jogging, and trail running were the most popular outdoor activities, followed by various types of fishing at 17%, various types of biking at 16%, and hiking at 15%. Spending related to outdoor recreation activities has increased recently, more than fitness and sports related spending. Overall in the U.S., outdoor recreation has a steady participation rate without a major prevalence in one activity.

Youth participation in sports is tracked by the Aspen Institute through Project Play. Their report, State of Play 2018 Trends and Developments, found that children aged 6 to 12 are steadily becoming more active. In 2017, the SFIA found that 17% of children were sedentary, compared to 19.5% in 2014. In the same age group, children play an average of 1.85 team sports in 2017, down from 2.11 sports in 2011, indicating that families are often under pressure to focus on one sport for their child. Fewer kids in homes with incomes of less than $25,000 are participating in sports. While trends are promising that children are becoming more active, equity remains an issue.

The Physical Activity Council (PAC) annually tracks American participation and inactivity through a survey. In the 2019 Physical Activity Council’s Overview Report on U.S. Participation, participation rates in physical activity are steady and fitness and outdoor based activities have increased the most since 2013. Over a quarter of Americans reported inactivity since 2013. Of the respondents to the SFIA survey, 43% said fitness or sports would be more enjoyable if there were someone to take part with, and 31.3% said non-participants would engage in physical activities if a friend joined. The PAC found that soccer, camping, stand-up paddling, bicycling, and bird/wildlife viewing are the top interests in various age groups. From the reports, it is clear that physical activity is steady, often a social activity, and interests change with age.

Figure 3: American’s Favorite Park and Recreation Activities from the 2018 Americans’ Engagement with Parks Report, by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).
Information was gathered from the 2018 NRPA Americans’ Engagement with Parks Report, the 2018 Outdoor Participation Report, the State of Play 2018 Trends and Developments, and the 2019 Physical Activity Council’s Overview Report on U.S. Participation.

MONTANA TRENDS IN RECREATION
The 2014-2018 Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) “advocates for proactive and engaged interagency coordination, cooperation and service provision for recreation” in the State of Montana. The plan describes outdoor recreation in Montana as diverse, nationally known and attractive to tourists, and vital to state and local economies. Close access to outdoor recreation draws many people and keeps them living in Montana. Meanwhile, recreation providers are facing growing demand, decreasing or flat lining budgets, backlogged maintenance, and a lack of interagency coordination. In 2012, a survey was sent to recreation managers at the federal, state, and local levels in Montana about their facilities. Key results are listed in the SCORP, including:

- 51.4% of managers indicated walking, jogging, and biking paths should be increased, and 4 of 6 top needed facilities were related to trails for hiking or biking
- Adding new bike facilities was a top desire of managers, including bike lanes (37%), mountain bike trails (30.5%), and BMX and mountain bike skill parks (26.5)
- Water resources were indicated as facilities in high demand, including water access (44.8%), boat launches (37.5%), splash/spray decks (26.3%), and water parks (26.0%)
- For quality of facilities, 90% of managers rated golf courses as good to very good, followed by football fields (76%), baseball fields (70%), and softball fields (59%)
- Poor to fair condition of sports facilities that managers rated included basketball courts (49%), tennis courts (44%), and soccer fields (41%)
- Managers rated playgrounds, hiking/biking trails, and aquatic facilities as top needed facilities for youth
- Top needed facilities for adults, seniors, and ADA accessibility were hiking/biking trails and campgrounds
- 90% of managers said their funding stayed the same or decreased, and 10% of managers said their funding increased

For Montanan participation trends, active team sports are popular for young adults, activities that require equipment like hunting, snow sports, and OHV are popular among middle age adults, and more passive activities like walking, fishing, gardening and golf are popular among adults 50 and over. Montanans participate in fishing and hunting activities more than the national level, but participation is generally declining. Due to higher participation in these recreational activities and Montana’s weather and landscape, Montana is a top state for fatalities related to avalanches and boating. The SCORP lists survey results from Montana residents gaining an understanding of outdoor recreation preferences:

- 88% of Montana residents participated in any form of outdoor recreation in the past 12 months
- The top statewide need reported by all residents to
Top 10 Facilities and Recreation Areas used by Montanan Households in 2012

- 77% Walking/Jogging/Biking Paths
- 72% Hiking Trails
- 62% Picnic Areas
- 60% Heritage/Historic Areas
- 59% Campground without hook-ups
- 58% Natural or Wild Areas
- 58% Scenic Byways
- 55% Wildlife Viewing Areas
- 43% Motorized Boating Areas

SUMMARY

- Belgrade's population has rapidly outgrown its current park and recreation capacity, budget, and operations.
- Trail use is popular at the national and state level, and Belgrade lags behind in trail access and availability.
- Projected growth positions Belgrade in a place for needing increased and improved park and recreation space, and could benefit from recreation tourism in Montana.
Ryen Glenn Park

Belgrade Youth Sports Complex

Kiwanis Park

Prescott Park

Kathy Hollensteiner Memorial Park

Kiwanis Park

Quinella Park

Clarkin Park

McMillan Park

Children's Park

Winter Park

Lewis and Clark Park

Triangle Park

Memorial Park

Prairie View Park

Sunnyside Park

Miller Park

Las Campanas Park

Legend

Existing Park

Existing Sidewalk

Existing Bike Lane

Existing Natural Surface Trail

Existing Shared Use Path

Existing City of Belgrade Parks and Pathways
Existing Regional Parks and Pathways

*Parks and pathways outside of city limits are outside of the impact fee area.
Information about community needs was collected from an online public survey, focus groups, and public meetings. The needs are assessed by recognizing trends and high priorities, identified as part of this outreach effort and highlighted in this chapter. Specific suggestions from the public are organized into respective topics in chapters 4-8. Full survey results are listed in Appendix A, and notes from focus groups are listed in Appendix B.

Survey Process
Data relating to parks and trails was collected from an online survey, which was available to the public from March 14, 2019 - April 12, 2019. The survey included questions relating to both the 2019 Growth Policy and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, but only parks and recreation questions are discussed as part of this plan. The survey was comprised of multiple choice questions and open-end questions. Content of questions was based on:
- National standards from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- Preliminary conversations with the community and early assessment of park maps
- Known operational and budget data

Multiple Choice Question Results
Many of the multiple choice questions were created to gain an understanding of where citizens are going for recreation, how the public uses Belgrade parks, how people travel to the parks, and how the parks can be funded.

WHERE ARE PEOPLE RECREATING?
During the warm months, approximately 27% of respondents said they are recreating in Belgrade when they are not at home, work, or school during the warm months, and approximately 20% recreate in Belgrade during the cold months. A significant amount of respondents are recreating in Bozeman or elsewhere in Montana. Despite under 50% of citizens recreating outside of Belgrade, there is a...
Considerable number of citizens visiting Belgrade parks. Only 8% of respondents have never been to a Belgrade park. About 46% of respondents visit Belgrade parks 1-5 times per year, and 54% visit Belgrade parks 6+ times per year. Approximately 12% of respondents visit Belgrade parks 50+ times per year. Almost half (42%) of respondents say they use private property or school fields for recreation. The frequency of visits to the City’s parks is substantial to warrant continued investment and improvement of the parks.

How are people getting to the parks?
Results showed 2 out of 4 respondents are within walking distance to a park, whereas 3 out of 4 Americans say they live within walking distance of a park or recreational facility. When asked how you travel to Belgrade parks, 41% of respondents said they usually walk to a park, 49% usually drive to a park, and the remainder travel to a park by some other means. As new parks in Belgrade are developed and constructed, the number of people within walking distance of a park is expected to increase.

How are people using Belgrade parks?
Nearly half (41%) of respondents answered that they visit parks in Belgrade to spend time with family or friends. When asked what mostly affects how much you use the parks in Belgrade, the park’s activities or facilities was selected by 44% of respondents, followed by proximity at 26% and dog-friendliness at 13%. When asked what types of amenities are most needed in the parks, 16% responded with “More or improved playgrounds or specialized play area” followed by restrooms at 15% and pet friendliness at 11%. Some conclusions from these responses are that park visitors are likely to be social in the parks, desire more and improved play areas, stay long enough to use the restroom, and are more likely to visit a park if they live nearby one.

Open-ended question results
Two open-ended questions were put in the survey to allow citizens the opportunity to voice additional thoughts and opinions. The questions were:
• What programs, events, or facilities do you think Belgrade Parks and Recreation should offer?
• Any other thoughts on growth or parks and recreation facilities?

Suggestions ranged from one-word requests for a pool, to paragraphs explaining specific situations. Main themes included:
• Entertainment and Programs
• Trails and Sidewalks

Results of the park and trail funding question
Various strategies for park funding were presented to the public in one of the survey questions, see Figure 6. Most responded “All of the above,” while a park maintenance district and non-profit fundraising were the next most popular response, both at 13%. Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Trail was selected by 12% of respondents. When it comes to adding trees, an overwhelming 74% responded that they would contribute to a tree fund to plant more trees in Belgrade. When asked, “How much would you be willing to contribute to a Park Maintenance District per year to fund park and trail improvements?” 86% responded that they would contribute $1-50 or more, while only 14% of respondents said they would contribute $0. Approximately 20% responded that they would contribute more than $30 annually. This percentage of support to fund park projects speaks strongly of the community commitment to local recreation and trail connectivity of Belgrade.

Table: Results of the park and trail funding question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Park Maintenance District</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Non-profit fundraising</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Private-public Partnerships</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Trail programs</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Sponsorship through advertising</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Facility rental fees</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Volunteers</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Sales tax</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Revenue from concessions</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6: Results of the park and trail funding question

The funding question
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• Entertainment and Programs
• Trails and Sidewalks
• Swimming and Water Play
• Indoor Community Space
• Park Activities and Amenities
• Funding

ENTERTAINMENT AND PROGRAMS
From outdoor movies to new sports leagues, many respondents voiced the need for things to do in Belgrade. Family activities and youth programs comprised a large number of responses. Descriptions of family activities included events and recreational activities such as riding bikes together. Bowling, family days or nights, roller skating, and outdoor movies were among the ideas for community gatherings. Activities for children was stressed as a substantial need in the responses. Summer camps, classes, sport lessons and leagues, educational events, crafts, after school programs, and workshops were suggested ideas for youth programs.

Outdoor music was mentioned approximately 43 times in the responses, as well as suggestions for concert venues and theater. Several existing events were mentioned, such as the farmer’s market, the Festival of Lights, and Fall Festival. Respondents suggested new events ideas such as fairs, car shows, races, competitions, and block parties. Food trucks, concessions, and bathrooms were described alongside the event requests. Entertainment and programs needs were the most described by the community. Existing community events have much support, but the responses make it clear that more and improved events are needed in Belgrade.

TRAILS AND SIDEWALKS
Bike lanes, walking paths, sidewalks, or trails were mentioned approximately 103 times out of 375 open-ended responses. Repeat suggestions about internal pathways included installing sidewalks where none exist in neighborhoods, improving or adding bike lanes, and separating trails from busy roads or widening shoulders. Requests were made to connect areas within or near Belgrade, and destinations included subdivisions, parks, schools, downtown, workplaces and businesses, and recreation facilities.

Specific areas were mentioned, such as River Rock subdivision and its main roads as needing a safe pathway. Trails connecting Belgrade to surrounding communities such as Bozeman, Three Forks, and Manhattan was noted. A trail connecting Belgrade and Bozeman along Frontage road was specifically described, and the Belgrade / Bozeman / Gallatin County Planning Coordination Committee is currently supporting efforts to install the connection. Nordic trails or cross-country ski trails were listed as a desired recreational opportunity. Trails and sidewalks were one of the most popular topic in the open-ended responses, which demonstrates a likelihood that future pathway projects will be backed by the community.

SWIMMING AND WATER PLAY
A pool was mentioned 83 times out of 375 open-ended responses. Reoccurring feedback about the pool included requests for year-round access and a facility that has an indoor and outdoor pool.

Some responses mentioned a swim center, and the Belgrade Aquatic Center is currently fundraising for an indoor swimming facility, which is envisioned to provide recreational and competition level swimming. The existing splash park in Lewis and Clark Park was described as loved, yet crowded. Overall, there is very strong support for a public pool in the community.

INDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE
Another trend in the responses was the lack of indoor recreational and event space in Belgrade - it is difficult to find or non-existent. Several respondents described the need for a versatile venue for community events such as an enlarged farmer’s market, community gardens and outdoor learning, family reunions, youth programs, and athletic center with gym space. A multi-use facility was mentioned, including the need for indoor sports. From the responses, it is clear a community facility has public support could meet the needs of many groups in Belgrade.

PARK ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES
Responses about specific park activities and amenities varied greatly, but some trends emerged. There were many requests for dog parks or dog friendliness, improved and more playgrounds, improved ice rinks, an outdoor roller skating rink, flexible green space, and more parks. Adding various activities and sports in the parks were among the
responses. Basketball, softball, baseball, tennis, pickleball, volleyball, and increase field space were among requests for sport fields and courts. Sports leagues or group fitness for adults was mentioned several times. There were very few suggestions for adventure courses, disc golf, and a golf course.

Naturalized park features were suggested, including ponds for fishing and swimming and native landscaping for drought tolerance and wildlife habitat. Additional trees were requested in both naturalized areas and in open play areas. Cleaned existing bathrooms and added bathrooms was the most popular amenity requested in the responses. Other added or improved amenities with fewer mentions include fencing along Main Street and expanded event parking at Lewis and Clark Park, picnic areas, and more seating and shelters. The responses demonstrate a desire for new sports facilities with recreational programs, as well as support for basic amenities, with bathrooms being the most popular request.

**FUNDING**
Ideas for funding parks included grass roots organizations, private donations, taxing for parks outside of Belgrade city limits, and proceeds from recreational programs. Some responses called for an improved road system before improvements to parks. There were also suggestions for developers to pay for new parks and trails. The variety of responses on funding shows the possibility of exploring all the funding options available.

*Focus Group and Public Meeting Input*
Many discussions were held with local individuals or groups in the Belgrade community, beginning
in mid-March 2019. Feedback was provided by representatives from schools, sports clubs, boards, non-profits, and local recreation groups. Some individual conversations took place at public meetings. Main themes included:

- Connectivity
- Sports Field Space

CONNECTIVITY
Overall, better circulation was the most voiced issue in the community during focus group conversations. The need for sidewalks and bike lanes within Belgrade city limits was stressed for increase safety and connection. Several discussions led to stories about people walking on the street for work, dragging luggage to the airport, or darting across traffic during sports games. Outside city limits, trails were the biggest topic. Trails were discussed primarily for walking or hiking and biking. Groups described a desire to connect between neighborhoods, nearby cities, and parks.

SPORTS FIELD SPACE
Many groups explained that open green grass is at a premium in Belgrade and the surrounding communities. Limited green space for club practices and games was expressed, and some focus groups described youth sports as one of the most important activities in the community and contributes to Belgrade's character, making it a destination for family recreational activities. Many sport clubs search the whole region for field space, especially since their participants are from various cities in the area. Local games and tournaments bring people to Belgrade and provide an economic boost to local businesses. This economic factor was identified as a major contributor to Belgrade and part of the community's identity.

May Community Outreach
In May 2019, an open house was held at the Belgrade Public Library to provide the opportunity for public comment and discussion. Discussions were positive, and inquisitive visitors asked about uniting the two “halves” of Belgrade, ways to get involved in building future parks and trails, and how to connect to nearby cities and subdivisions outside of city limits.

To confirm the results about parks and recreation from the public survey offered in March 2019, a second public survey was launched on May 21, 2019 until May 31, 2019. The results of the second survey are listed in Appendix C. The results confirmed recreational programming choices and the public's desire for park improvement, trail building, the creation of a parks district, and the formation of a parks department.

Application of Survey Responses
It is the intent of this document to summarize the community needs as heard in the survey and focus groups. The collected responses will be a starting point for the City of Belgrade, Gallatin County, and local non-profits to help Belgrade meet the needs of the community. The trends and patterns found in the responses will be used in the forming recommendations in the remaining chapters of this document. There are currently non-profit organizations based in Belgrade and Gallatin County that are actively pursuing new recreational trails, parks, and facilities. These groups include:

- Belgrade Aquatic Center
- Belgrade Community Coalition
- Gallatin Valley Land Trust

Identifying gaps or needs is the first step for government entities, non-profits, and other local organizations to develop specific projects that further connect Belgrade and improve the social fabric of the community.

A swimming pool, trails, entertainment/music venue, and youth/family activities were some of the most requested recreational items in the public survey. Please rank these recreational items and press submit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth/family activities!</th>
<th>1st</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An outdoor pool!</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails!</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment!</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 7: A survey question asked participants to rank recreational items.
04. SITE INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT, & RECOMMENDATIONS

Investigating ways to meet community needs through studying local recreation sites and national standards.

Community outreach results revealed priorities, park and program ideas, and a general sense of public sentiment and desire. Using field observations and national park and recreation standards, detailed park recommendations and networks for parks and pathways are presented in this chapter. Public feedback shaped the recommendations for each park and the overall park system in Belgrade. National standards were primarily taken from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), which researches parks and recreation and is an essential source for comprehensive data and national standards in the Unites States. Site visits to each park in Belgrade led to a list of suggested improvements specific to each park and a connected system of existing and proposed parks. Trails are minimal inside and outside the City - new trails are proposed to connect Belgrade internally and to desired destinations, including the Bridger Mountains, nearby cities, and rivers. Park design principles are discussed to guide future park site plans and the evolution of the park system.

Park Classification and Equity Mapping

Using park classifications is one method for finding how much and where a population is served. Mapping park classifications help make decisions on the quantity and location of new park facilities, features, or amenities, parks. Based on use and size, each Belgrade park was assigned a classification, which has an assumed service area. Though the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) does not have recent publications on park classification, it is a traditional way of measuring equity between neighborhoods or populations served. Under-served areas are found when service areas and amenities are placed on a city map, creating an equity map. The shortcomings of this method include a disregard for ecological areas, barriers like highways and railroads, and nuances of local activity. Finding gaps between residential areas and park service areas are useful in starting to map future improvements, while cross referencing with public feedback. See Figure 8 for the Park Classifications for Belgrade. Park classifications in Belgrade include pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, sports complexes, and special use parks. Pocket parks are typically the smallest type of park, between .25 and 1 acre, and
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK NAME</th>
<th>SIZE (ACRES)</th>
<th>LAND OWNER</th>
<th>CLASSIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Belgrade Youth Sports Complex</td>
<td>57.60</td>
<td>DNRC (easements by City / School District / Airport)</td>
<td>Special Use/Sports Complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Children’s Park</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Clarkin Park</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>City of Belgrade/State of Montana</td>
<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Kathy Hollensteiner Memorial Park</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Kiwanis Park</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Las Campanas Park</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Special Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Lewis and Clark Park</td>
<td>7.66</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Community/Special Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Lions Park</td>
<td>11.89</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Sports Complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. McMillian Park</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Memorial Park</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Miller Park</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Prairie View Park</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Prescott Park</td>
<td>4.82</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Neighborhood (undeveloped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Quinella Park</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Ryan Glenn Park</td>
<td>12.25</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Sunnyside Park</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Triangle Park</td>
<td>0.13</td>
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<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Winter Park</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>City of Belgrade</td>
<td>Pocket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>111.94</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acreage data gathered from Montana Cadastral.

Figure 8: Park Classification of Belgrade Parks. See Park Service Area Maps and Equity Maps for locations.

usually provide small play areas or comfortable spaces with minimal activity and amenities. Neighborhood parks are normally 3 to 10 acres, but can be classified by their function and not by size alone. Safe pedestrian access, neighborhood identity, and at least one unique amenity often characterize neighborhood parks. Community parks often serve multiple neighborhoods and contain diverse recreational opportunities and some revenue generating facilities. Size of community parks range from 10 to 100 acres on average. Active and passive activities, public restrooms, safe access, trail connectivity, landscaping, and designed signage are typically seen at community parks. Sports complexes can offer between 4 and 16 fields or courts in one park. Multiple sport types, competitive games, and tournaments are normally held at sport complexes, with a means for maintenance revenue through ticketing and concessions. Special use parks usually serve a single purpose and can be located inside another park. For example, the Belgrade Skate Park is a special use park that is located within Lewis and Clark Park. Other special use park examples include aquatic parks, disc golf, cemeteries, historic sites, or dog parks.

**PARK SERVICE AREA ASSESSMENT THROUGH EQUITY MAPS**

Service areas were mapped to determine if park proximity is equitable across Belgrade. The central portion of Belgrade city limits are generally covered by park service areas, with many neighborhoods having close proximity to parks. This roughly aligns with the public survey results showing that 54% of respondents said they live within walking distance to a park and 41% of respondents said they normally travel to a park by walking. Some of the service areas reach across barriers like Interstate 90 and the railroad. Residential and commercial areas not
Playground Equity Map

Legend
- Existing Park
- Service Area

- Ryan Glenn Park
- Belgrade Youth Sports Complex
- Kiwanis Park
- Prescott Park
- Kathy Hollenstein Memorial Park
- Quinella Park
- Clarkin Park
- McMillan Park
- McMillan Park
- Memorial Park
- Miller Park
- Sunnyside Park
- Las Campanas Park
- Children's Park
- Winter Park
- Lewis and Clark Park
- Triangle Park
- Memorial Park
- Prairie View Park
- Salmonside Park
- Miller Park
- Kathy Hollenstein Memorial Park
- Prescott Park
- Kiwanis Park
- Belgrade Youth Sports Complex
- Ryan Glenn Park
covered by park service areas include the northern and western city limits, a small portion of the southeast city limits, and western parts of the Ryen Glenn subdivision. Future parks and expanded parks are recommended in under-served areas.

For measuring equity of playgrounds, areas with only swings or minimal equipment were given a quarter-mile radius, medium-sized playgrounds were given a half-mile radius, and larger playgrounds with frequent visits were given a one-mile radius. The playground equity map does not consider conditions of the play equipment, but helps identify areas where new playgrounds could be planned. Barriers such as the railroad and Jackrabbit Lane limit the service areas shown. Gaps are seen in the western neighborhoods, south of the railroad, and the western part of Ryen Glenn subdivision.

For mapping play field equity, the size of an adult soccer field was used to estimate whether a park holds a regulation sports field, since many other field sports like football, lacrosse, or rugby can fit within the footprint of a soccer field. Regulation sports fields are limited to the Belgrade Youth Sports Complex and Lewis and Clark Park. The fields at Prairie View Park and Sunnyside Park are not large enough for a regulation soccer field, but are considered practice fields. The western neighborhoods and Ryen Glenn are seen to be under-served in regard to proximity to sports fields. Due to community feedback for more field space, additional sports fields are recommended.

In all three equity maps, the western portion of the city limits and the western portion of the Ryen Glenn subdivision were under-served.

**AREAS OF CHANGE AND GROWTH**
The 2019 Growth Policy identifies areas of change through a future land use map. The Areas of Anticipated Change map illustrates Belgrade parks and the future land uses from the Growth Policy, which are properties that are expected to grow or change use. The shortcomings of the western half of Belgrade found in the equity mapping can be addressed when properties are developed according to the future land use map. When planning and designing the areas of anticipated change, high standards for parks and trail systems should be used. Improved park and trail standards are recommended in the Belgrade subdivision regulations. Recommendations for updated subdivision regulation can be found in Chapter 7.

**Individual Park Assessment**
Park inventory included gathering site-level information on existing park amenities, including the capacity, condition, and connectivity of site features. The facility inventory listed in Figure 9 shows amenities, features, and various activities available at each park in Belgrade. Items that are both listed in the facility inventory and mentioned as a need in community feedback were mapped for equity, including play equipment and regulation sports fields.

Each park was assessed through an on-site visit for safety and accessibility as a high priority. Comfort of spaces, poor condition of items, wayfinding, and circulation were considered in each individual park assessment. The recommendations shown on the park aerials are a minimum for the next 10 years. Undeveloped parks or heavily used parks with programmatic change require a designed site plan by a Landscape Architect. Cost estimates for improvements of each park are listed in Chapter 7, Growth and Capital Improvements.
| PARK NAME                                         | SHELTER / WARMING HUT | RESTROOMS | TRASH CANS | SEATING | DOG STATION | WATER FOUNTAIN | PLAY EQUIPMENT | SPLASH PAD | BASEBALL FIELD | SOFTBALL FIELD | SOCCER FIELD | BASKETBALL COURT | MULTI-USE SPACE / PRACTICE FIELD | ICE SKATING | PARKING LOT | SKATE PARK | CONcessions Stand | TREES | MAILBOXES | BIKE RACKS |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Belgrade Youth Sports Complex                    | 1                     | 1         | 4          | 3        | 1           | 1              | 2              | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Children's Park                                  | 1                     | 1         | 1          | yes      | 1           | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Clarkin Park                                     | 1                     | 1         | 3          | 1        | 1           | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Kathy Hollensteiner Memorial Park                | 1                     | 1         | 7+         | 1        | 1           | 1              | yes            | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Kiwanis Park                                     | 1                     | 1         | 1          | 2        | 1           | 1              | yes            | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Las Campanas Park                                | n/a                   | n/a       | n/a        | n/a      | n/a         | n/a            | n/a            | n/a        | n/a             | n/a             | n/a          | n/a            | n/a            | n/a            | n/a        | n/a         | n/a        |                  |       |           |           |
| Lewis & Clark Park                               | 2                     | 1         | 12+        | 17+      | 3           | 1              | 1              | yes        | 1               | 1              | 1            | 1              | 2              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 60+        | 1                |       |           |           |
| Lions Park                                       | 2                     | 1         | 12+        | 17+      | 3           | 1              | 2              | yes        | 5               | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1          | 1           | 15+        | 1                |       |           |           |
| McMillian Park                                   | 1                     | 2         | 1          | 1        |             | 1              | yes            | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 15+        |                  |       |           |           |
| Memorial Park                                    | 1                     | 2         | 1          | yes      | 1           | 1              | yes            | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Miller Park                                      | 1                     | 1         | 1          | yes      | 1           | 1              | yes            | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Prairie View Park                                | 1                     | 5         | 5          | 4        | yes         | 1              | yes            | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 16+        | 1                |       |           |           |
| Prescott Park (undeveloped)                      | n/a                   | n/a       | n/a        | n/a      | n/a         | n/a            | n/a            | n/a        | n/a             | n/a             | n/a          | n/a            | n/a            | n/a            | n/a        | n/a         | n/a        |                  |       |           |           |
| Quinella Park                                    | 1                     |           |            |          |             |                |                | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Ryen Glenn Park                                  | 1                     | 1         | 4          | 4        | 1           | yes            | 1              | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 15+        | 1                |       |           |           |
| Sunnyside Park                                   | 1                     | 2         | 2          | yes      | 1           | 1              | yes            | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Triangle Park                                    | 1                     | 1         | 1          |          | 1           |                |                | 1          | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| Winter Park                                      | 1                     |           |            |          |             |                |                |            | 1              | 1              | 1            | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1          | 1           | 1          |                  |       |           |           |
| TOTAL                                            | 11                    | 6         | 42+        | 70+      | 24          | 4              | 4              | 10         | 1               | 5              | 2            | 3              | 3              | 2              | 7          | 2           | 6          | 2                |       |           |           |

*Figure 9: Facility inventory of park amenities, features, activities.*
EXISTING AMENITIES:
• 5 tennis courts
• 1 softball field
• 2 full-size soccer fields
• 1 shelter
• Concessions
• Restrooms
• Partial parking lot
• Storage sheds

RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Complete park Master Plan provided by school district
• Add park signage
• Add shared use path along Dry Creek Road, weaving between seating
• Add safe crossing at Spooner Road and Softball Complex
• Add safe crossings at Spooner Road and Medina Park
• Perform intersection and crossing study for safe crossings at Cruiser Lane
• Add sidewalks along Spooner Road
• Future expansion to consider airport height and light limitations
• Add dog stations
• Add bike racks
• Add additional trash cans
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- Basketball hoop, partial court
- Swings
- Spring rockers
- Seating
- 1 dog station
- Vegetative buffer along alley

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Remove non-compliant spring rockers
- Plan to upgrade equipment
- Remove pea gravel and install concrete edging with engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
- Remove wooden picnic table and add new seating near play equipment
- Add sidewalk along Bridger View Drive, connecting to new seating
- Add crosswalk striping at north corner
- Add trash can
- Add fencing along alley and street
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- Gazebo with seating
- Seating
- Mature trees
- Signage
- 1 dog station

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Add sidewalk along parking and along Madison Avenue
- Add safe crosswalks across northern and eastern driveways
- Update seating
- Add vegetative buffer along Jackrabbit Lane and West Madison Road
- Plan to treat wood on gazebo or replace
- Relocate sign with organizations listed to gateway area to Belgrade
- Update or refinish park sign on corner
- Add park sign at gazebo
- Collaborate with shopping center to provide safe crossings through parking lot with landscaped islands
**EXISTING AMENITIES:**
- 1 shelter with seating
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Signage
- Play equipment
- Seating
- Shaded seating
- Climbing rock
- Partial buffering
- Perimeter fencing
- Dog station
- Grill

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**
- Replace sidewalk at entry to meet ADA standards
- Install additional vegetative buffers near housing
- Install concrete edging and add more engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
- Add trash can at shelter
- Install playground signage
- Add bike racks
**Kiwanis Park**

**EXISTING AMENITIES:**
- Warming hut
- Depression for ice rink
- Play equipment
- Seating
- 1 dog station
- 1 trash can

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**
- Remove pea gravel and plastic edging, install concrete edging with engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
- Add crosswalk and sidewalk at Homerun Drive
- Improve turf at south end of park
- Add ADA compliant sidewalk from parking to playground
- Install signage for park
- Install bike racks
- Install fencing at southern property line
- Pave parking lot
Las Camapanas Parks

EXISTING AMENITIES:
• 4,000 feet of natural surface trail

RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Pave existing surface trail to upgrade to shared use path
• Portion of existing surface trail is in highway right of way - coordinate with Montana Department of Transportation for paving section of trail
• Connect trail to undeveloped park
• Connect trail to existing berm trail
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- 2 shelters with grills and picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Skate park
- Splash pad
- Signage
- Open space for sports such as soccer and lacrosse
- Parking
- Dog stations
- 1 bike rack
- Concession stand
- Seating

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Upgrade bathrooms
- Remove pea gravel and install concrete edging with engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
- Add sidewalks around perimeter
- Add vegetative screens around perimeter and pump buildings
- Safe crosswalk across Main Street, a study and design is required
- Add fencing along Main St across from playground
- Remove tennis courts, install irrigation and turf
- Repair weathering wood on shelters
- Replace signage along Main St
- Fire station ownership is transitioning and is an opportunity for a community building for the farmer's market and parks programs

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Plan to update play equipment due to high frequency of visits
- Install additional bike racks
- Pave parking lot

- Utilize concession stand
- Buffer fire station depending on future use
- Relocate parking at fire station off of Main St due to high traffic on Main St

Lewis & Clark Park

EXISTING AMENITIES:
- • 2 shelters with grills and picnic tables
- • Restrooms
- • Playground
- • Skate park
- • Splash pad
- • Signage
- • Open space for sports such as soccer and lacrosse
- • Parking
- • Dog stations
- • 1 bike rack
- • Concession stand
- • Seating

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- • Upgrade bathrooms
- • Remove pea gravel and install concrete edging with engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
- • Add sidewalks around perimeter
- • Add vegetative screens around perimeter and pump buildings
- • Safe crosswalk across Main Street, a study and design is required
- • Add fencing along Main St across from playground
- • Remove tennis courts, install irrigation and turf
- • Repair weathering wood on shelters
- • Replace signage along Main St
- • Fire station ownership is transitioning and is an opportunity for a community building for the farmer’s market and parks programs

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- • Plan to update play equipment due to high frequency of visits
- • Install additional bike racks
- • Pave parking lot

- • Utilize concession stand
- • Buffer fire station depending on future use
- • Relocate parking at fire station off of Main St due to high traffic on Main St

Lewis & Clark Park
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- 5 baseball fields
- 2 batting cages
- Play equipment
- Restrooms and concessions
- Shelter, grills, and tables
- 2 scoreboards
- 4 storage sheds

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Add crosswalks at North Weaver Street and Dry Creek Road
- Install sidewalk along West Cameron Ave
- Remove pea gravel and install concrete edging with engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
- Add sidewalk along east edge of parking lot
- Remove dome climber, add additional play equipment
- Add vegetative buffer at west property line
- Install bike racks
- Add additional scoreboards
- Install shared used path along Dry Creek Road
- Design efficient parking layout and pave parking lot
EXISTING AMENITIES:
• Flexible green space
• Seating with trees
• 1 dog station

RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Add tree buffers near homes
• Work with local residents to determine future activities or uses
• Add signage
• Possible space for movie nights or events or programs held by the parks department
EXISTING AMENITIES:
• Play equipment
• Perimeter fencing
• Seating
• 1 dog station
• Mailboxes

RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Add perimeter sidewalk
• Add crosswalks
• Remove pea gravel and install concrete edging with engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
• Remove non-compliant spring rockers and dome climber
• Update play equipment, add more equipment
• Add signage
• Add trees around playground for shade
• Design pull-off area for mail boxes and landscaping
• Replace picnic table
• Improve turf
EXISTING AMENITIES:
• Play equipment
• Evergreen buffer

RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Remove sand as playground surfacing, add engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
• Add crosswalks
• Add sidewalk to playground
• Add concrete edge at fencing
• Add park signage and playground signage
• Add bike racks
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- Newer play equipment
- Trees near shelter
- Practice field
- Turf in good condition
- 1 shelter
- Seating
- Play equipment
- Dog stations
- Perimeter fencing

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Add perimeter and access sidewalks, culvert required
- Add crosswalk
- Centrally locate new restrooms for access from practice field and playground/shelter
- Add water fountain
- Remove pea gravel and install concrete edging with engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
- Add accessible sidewalks from streets to playground and shelter
- Add trash can near shelter
- Add park signage and play equipment signage
- Repair bent fence posts
- Design pull-off area for mail boxes, with landscaping
- Install bike racks
EXISTING AMENITIES:
• Basketball hoop in parking lot
• Well building
• Vista of Bridger mountains to the east

RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Hire consultants to design and engineer park plan
• Vegetative buffer around perimeter near housing
• Collaborate with irrigation company to create sidewalk connections along irrigation ditch easement
• Green space for practice fields and smaller regulation fields
• Play equipment
• Expanded parking
EXISTING AMENITIES:
• Wood bridge across drainage swale
• 2 mailboxes
• Some shade near bridge

RECOMMENDATIONS:
• Add pull-off near mail boxes
• Add perimeter sidewalks
• Add sidewalks connecting both sides of park, bike lane, and cul-de-sac
• Crossing irrigation ditch requires another bridge - collaborate with irrigation company
• Design potential playground area
• Add vegetative buffer near homes
• Add signage if activities or features are added
• Irrigation ditch is potential place for native plantings to encourage urban habitat - collaborate with irrigation company
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- New playground
- Restrooms
- Shelter
- 3 bike racks
- 3 dogs stations
- Seating
- Mailboxes
- Natural surface walking loop
- Trees
- Parking lot

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Continue developing park, adding topsoil, seeding, and trees
- Add water fountain
- Add grills to shelter
- Add wood chips under swings
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- Basketball court
- Swings
- Apple and pear orchard
- Linear pathway
- Practice field

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Add sidewalks from Stiles Ave and Jeanette Pl to park
- Remove pea gravel and install concrete edging with engineered wood fiber or other compliant surfacing
- Add natural surface trail along highway and connect to Las Campanas Park trail
- Add signage
- Add edging and wood fiber to swings
- Add bike racks
- Update seating and add more seating
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- Mature trees
- Dog station
- Mail boxes
- Seating
- Vista of the Bridger Mountains from South Davis Street

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Add crosswalks at all corners
- Add perimeter sidewalks
- Add pull-off and landscaping at mailboxes
- Remove one tree to frame view for vista
- Add 3 trees at northeast side
- Add signage
EXISTING AMENITIES:
- Warming hut
- Depression for ice rink
- Perimeter fencing
- Seating

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Update seating
- Add gates
- Add trash can and dog station
- Add perimeter sidewalk and safe crosswalks
- Add signage
- Add fencing and vegetative buffer along alley and property line
Recommendations for All Parks

Improvements to park maintenance and operations are needed in addition to individual park recommendations. Playground inspection and maintenance, irrigation assessment, and standardized construction details are recommended.

PLAYGROUND DESIGN AND SAFETY

Playground safety is standardized through national requirements, and one Belgrade staff member is recommended to become a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) to help Belgrade playgrounds meet these standards. Ideally any entity that owns playground equipment on public property would have an in-house CPSI or a contracted CPSI. The certification is valuable for learning how to reduce risk and maintaining awareness of how playground safety standards are evolving.

For example, a CPSI is trained to help design new playgrounds, audit and inspect play equipment, create playground inventory and maintenance plans, and keep records of playground documents. All Belgrade playgrounds require auditing or inspection.

IRRIGATION ASSESSMENT

An irrigation assessment is recommended to inventory existing systems and determine future growth and need for future repairs. As Belgrade grows, new parks will be added to the City footprint and require increase capacity over time. A consulting irrigation professional is recommended to perform the assessment.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Maintenance standards for existing and newly designed parks are recommended to streamline the time and labor needed to maintain the parks. Maintenance recommendations for all parks include:

- Standard planting and irrigation details and specifications
- Standard mulch rings around trees for easier mowing
- Standard concrete band along fencing for reduced weed whacking

Further maintenance and operation recommendations are found in Chapter 6.

Proposed City Parks and Pathways

New parks and trails at the city level are proposed on the Proposed City of Belgrade Parks and Pathways Map. Routes were created considering community feedback, undeveloped park land, and known future growth. Subdivision parks proposed by developers and proposed linear parks are shown. A shared used path called the City Loop was located around the perimeter of the city with intentional links to parks, and additional shared use paths were place along Jackrabbit Lane and Broadway. Bike lanes were located primarily as a network inside the City Loop.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Connectivity, trails, a pool, an indoor recreational facility, a dog park, and more youth-centered activities were among the top requests during community outreach. Many of these items are addressed through additional trails, sidewalks, a dog park, and additional parks. A proposed pool and indoor recreational facility would require a feasibility study and community education and engagement to learn about financial and developmental impacts. Many items were placed on the western side of Belgrade to address gaps found in the equity maps. Linking the parks with a shared use pathway also achieves desired connectivity voiced by the community. Perforating safe crossings through the railroad and the highway for pedestrian and recreational use is key to success in Belgrade’s recreational system.

UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Undeveloped areas require site planning and design. Undeveloped subdivision parks in Belgrade include:

- Prescott Park
- Quinella Park

Potential city-owned property that could become a park is the historic landfill on Yellowstone Avenue and Wyoming Street. As an unofficial dog park and sledding area, a feasibility study should be performed with community engagement. With the popularity of mountain biking in Montana, the landfill could be an ideal place for a pump track. Some cities have converted railroad land into linear parks, and Belgrade is positioned similarly to unite the two halves of the city divided by the tracks.

FUTURE GROWTH

Parks in new subdivisions should have designed site plans and drawings at a level of detail for construction, which are to be provided by the developers in coordination with the City of Belgrade. Immediate action should be taken to incorporate shared use paths and bike lanes in unbuilt, but planned neighborhoods.

Proposed Regional Parks and Pathways

Belgrade is in an interdependent region, which makes parks and recreation a regional topic. Items
that influenced the placement of regional parks and pathways include:

- Community feedback
- Recreational resources
- Neighboring planning efforts
- The Great American Rail Trail
- Future growth

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK
Trails were a popular topic in the open-ended responses of the public survey. Strong support for trails led to the map of possible parks and pathways in the Belgrade region. Many respondents indicated they recreate outside of Belgrade and Bozeman. In response to this, proposed shared use paths leading to trailheads of the Bridger Mountains were placed on the map.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES
The Gallatin River, the Madison River, and the Bridger Mountains are all natural resources that are popular destinations. Routes to fishing access points, proposed natural surface trails, and shared use paths to trailheads were proposed so that they might become maintained trails, whether citizens use them unofficially or they connect people to valuable natural resources.

NEIGHBORING PLANNING EFFORTS
Connecting neighboring towns such as Four Corners, Manhattan, and Bozeman is a long-term goal in the region. The Frontage Road Corridor Study and the Belgrade Bozeman Planning Coordination Committee demonstrates much support for a shared use path between Belgrade and Bozeman. The Gallatin Valley Land Trust advocates for trails and works with many groups that could help Belgrade fulfill the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In addition to physical trails, trail signage, maps showing access, and education about trail etiquette and safety are critical to a successful trail system. Public education can help prevent user group conflicts and assist in maintenance.

THE GREAT AMERICAN RAIL TRAIL
The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has been involved in planning the Great American Rail Trail, which will run from Washington D.C. to the State of Washington. The route is currently planned to go through the Belgrade area, but the exact route has not been finalized. Through collaboration with the City of Belgrade and conversations with community members, the suggested route would run from Jackrabbit Lane to Amsterdam Road towards the Gallatin River, heading north. The northern connection would link to the pedestrian bridge on West Dry Creek Road, which crosses the Gallatin River. Bringing the Great American Rail Trail along Frontage Road was discussed, but the route along the river would be preferred due to less traffic, the adjacent river, less noise, and better air quality.

FUTURE GROWTH
Based on areas of anticipated change and growth identified in the 2019 Growth Policy, regional parks and trails in the Belgrade area should be prioritized in new development. New subdivisions should connect to surrounding areas and provide regional parks and trails. Collaboration with the Belgrade City County Planning Board to form improved park and trail requirements is recommended. After trails are developed, growth in Belgrade and the use of trails should be studied in more detail. Installing trail counters to find frequency and fluctuations in seasonal use can be helpful in future trail planning. Bike lanes or shared use paths that lead to the trailheads of the Bridger Mountains should be explored in future developments.

Park and Trail Design Principles
The improvement of existing parks and the development of new parks should have a set of guiding principles in addition to municipal code. Each undeveloped and developed park should have an individual visionary site plan that aligns with the Park and Recreation Master Plan. The following list is not comprehensive, but are nationally recognized documents that are progressive sources for park design, primarily from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA):

- NRPA Report: Park and Recreation Sustainability Practices
- NRPA Resource Guide for Planning, Designing and Implementing Green Infrastructure in Parks
- Complete Parks by ChangeLab Solutions
- NRPA Safe Routes to Parks
- NRPA Park Metrics

The quantifiable data about trails as a part of public health, safety, and economic drivers is substantial. Trails are a critical infrastructure investment. Nationally recognized resources for trail design include:

- Rails to Trails Conservancy, Trail-Building Toolbox
- National Association of City Transportation Officials, Urban Bikeway Design Guide
Proposed Regional Parks and Pathways Map

- Parks and pathways outside of city limits are outside of the impact fee area.
05.
PROGRAM ASSESSMENT & VISION

Existing community events and community feedback can inform future programs offered by the Belgrade Parks Department, as well as vision, goals, and objectives for a more robust department.

The City of Belgrade currently offers no programs through Parks and Recreation, as there is no staff solely dedicated to parks and recreation. Events that are regularly held in the City of Belgrade are a starting point to understand where programming might be lacking so that a future parks and recreation program can meet community needs.

Existing Community Events
The following events are currently held in the City of Belgrade:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Belgrade Community Market - Thursday nights July through September
- Fall Festival
- Festival of Lights

These events are hosted by either the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce or local non-profits.

Community feedback indicated that these events are well liked.

Trends and Community Input

National and regional trends are found in the 2019 Agency Performance Review produced by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). Programs should be weighted according to age groups found in demographic trends - Belgrade has a relatively young population. Together with popular requests from the Belgrade community, trends were used to form program recommendations.

NATIONAL TRENDS

Trending park and recreation programs in the United States and the state region that Montana falls into include team sports, social recreation events, fitness enhancement classes, themed special events, and health and wellness education. Programs for children outside of school time are commonly offered by agencies, but most especially by those that serve populations of at least 20,000 residents. Most park and recreation agencies offer programs for other groups, including seniors, teens, disabled persons.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Family friendly activities, youth activities, entertainment, and sports leagues were some of the most mentioned programs in the public survey. From one-time events to regular programs, Belgrade stressed the need for things to do together in the community.

Program Recommendations

A new parks and recreation director and maintenance staffing is recommended to lead the launch of new parks and recreation programs in Belgrade. Currently there is no staff capacity within the city to coordinate programs. A gradual introduction of programs is recommended for several reasons:

- Advertising new programs requires trial and error to meet local expectations. Building advertising, web interaction, and marketing plans take time. People are not accustomed to seeking out events and programs hosted by parks department, but a marketing plan is needed to promote what the department can offer.
- Building a revenue base will allow new programs to begin. After a few programs have become steady and provide a regular and expected source of income, new programs can be launched for testing.
- Some programs could require collaboration with local groups, and partnerships take time to form.
to offer programs.

A suggested list of events and programs to consider for the short-term future include:
- Large community-centered family event
- Outdoor movie series in the summer
- After-school program
- Senior-focused program
- Adult sport league
- Fitness program
- Summer youth camps
- One-time special events for youth focused on outdoor recreation and education
- Dog-friendly event
- Winter programs such as cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, or broomball

Recommended events and programs to plan for in the long-term future include:
- Outdoor aquatic programs (contingent upon a pool facility)
- Class or lecture series
- Ongoing craft events or workshops

NATIONAL INITIATIVES
The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) offers a series of initiatives that serve as programming ideas and resources. Initiatives include:
- Water Management and Conservation (events for stormwater infrastructure design and building)
- Commit to Health
- 10-Minute Walk
- Parks for Pollinators
- Healthy Aging in Parks
- Parks for Inclusion
- Wildlife Explorers
- Park Improvements
- Climate Resilient Parks
- Heart Your Park

MARKETING
Building a basic marketing plan is recommended when programs are formed for the parks and recreation department. The return on investment for marketing programs should be studied for strategic efforts and spending. Main items in a marketing plan could include:
- Developing consistent storytelling that is beyond informational and is inspirational
- Compiling a list of contacts
- Hiring a consultant to design a logo and branding material
- Prioritizing programs to inform planning and spending
- Launching social media outreach

The future director of the parks department is recommended as the main creator and administrator of the marketing plan.

BELGRADE PARKS AND TRAILS MAPS
Some Belgrade parks and trails are incorrectly listed or missing on online maps such as Google and the trail map offered through the Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT). A high priority recommendation is to correct park and trail information on Google Maps, which requires GIS information to be uploaded to Google through an account and ongoing management for updates. A coordinated effort between a City of Belgrade employee with GIS software experience and the parks department is required.

An ongoing relationship with GVLT and the GIS departments of Gallatin County and the City is highly recommended to update and manage the park and trail information on the trail map on the GVLT website. Scheduling updates, using compatible software, inventorying similar GIS data categories, and sharing data are minimum tasks to coordinate.

Walking Routes and Walk Audits
Walking initiatives and campaigns could become programming ideas offered by a future parks department. Walking programs for school children, such as a walking school bus or Safe Routes to School program, and adult walking classes are opportunities to collaborate with the school district and local health organizations. The 2017 Belgrade Long Range Transportation Plan documented a limited pedestrian network, where many residential areas lack sidewalks and sidewalks are missing between existing subdivisions and destinations. To confirm and build on the recommended pedestrian network, walking audits performed by community members are recommended. Walking audits are typically an assessment of comfort, conditions, barriers, high priority problems, and any issue that affects walkability. Specific routes or whole
neighboring areas can be audited. Walking audits for access to parks is recommended and could be supported by the Belgrade Mayor through the 10-Minute Walk Campaign.

**Park Amenity Campaigns**

Basic, low-cost amenities in the parks can improve a visitor’s experience and could be accomplished through small campaigns, such as fundraising and volunteering. Recommended items to add or upgrade include:

- Designed trash wraps
- Bike racks
- Park and playground signage
- Seating
- Mailbox landscaping
- Landscaping at signage or seating

The design and aesthetic of these amenities could become a part of the campaigns. Local groups interested in these amenities could partner with the parks department on implementation.

**Tobacco-free Parks**

Studies show that secondhand tobacco smoke poses health risks. Smoking and vaping in parks contributes toward normalizing the behavior for both adults and children. Banning tobacco use in parks could contribute towards community building and creating a welcoming and equitable space for all people to access to clean, fresh air. Features of a tobacco-free park program could include:

- Signage
- City code updates describing the ban of tobacco in parks
- Citizen led accountability
- Partnerships with local health organizations for campaigning and public education

**Belgrade Park Department Vision and Goals**

The process of creating goals and objectives for a future parks department is to be led by the future director. To stimulate ownership and contribution of citizens, the community should be engaged while forming the goals and objectives. As Belgrade grows and evolves, the vision and goals of the future parks department should shift accordingly.
06. OPERATIONAL & BUDGET ASSESSMENT

Belgrade parks are managed by the Public Works Department and funded by the general tax fund. When the future parks department forms and a Parks District is created, park maintenance divisions and lines of service should be expanded based on an increased budget.

Operational Assessment

Existing operations include maintenance of parks and special facilities. Existing divisions and lines of service within Public Works that serve the parks include:

- Citizen Inquiries
- Equipment Maintenance
- Facility Grounds Maintenance
- Furniture, Fixtures, Systems (lighting, etc) and Equipment Maintenance and Repair
- Irrigation Systems
- Landscape Beautification
- Park Building Maintenance
- Park Permit/Special Event Facilitation
- Playground Maintenance
- Restroom Custodial Services
- Snow and Ice Removal
- Turf Management

With the individual park findings in Chapter 5, future improvements, and the expected formation of a parks department, recommended areas for expansion include:

- Athletic Field - Game Preparation
- Athletic Field Maintenance (Diamond and Multi-Purpose Fields)
- Department Special Event Support
- Dog Park Maintenance
- Integrated Pest Management
- Maintenance Yard Management
- Natural Resource/Open Space
- Sport Courts (Basketball, Tennis, Sand Volleyball Courts)
- Trails

Management plans that describe maintenance standards, staffing responsibilities, and schedules would be beneficial in the formation of a parks department. Recommended management plans include:

- Playground Inspection and Management Plans
- Shelters and Restroom Management Plan
- Athletic Field Management Plan
- Noxious Weed Management Plan
- Park Asset Management Plan
- Trash Removal Management Plan

The future parks department director should consider using a similar Work Order Management System as used by Public Works. Following management plans can limit number and seriousness of breakdowns through preventative maintenance. Work order management plans can also help track actual costs for work being performed especially if third-party contractors are utilized.

Volunteering programs could help maintain Belgrade parks. Adopt-a-park or adopt-a-trail are typical programs where local groups clean up trash, perform landscaping, and paint or maintain structures.

Department Revenue

The current parks revenue is derived from the general tax fund as approved by the City Council, and from miscellaneous revenue from field rental
fees. With a dedicated park staff member preparing proposals for park and trail improvements, substantial revenue could be gained through applying for matching grants from a parks district and philanthropists.

Local sports groups often reserve field space in Belgrade, as flexible green space is difficult to secure in the region. To a lesser degree than grants or a park district, fees from field space rental, concessions, and pavilion rentals could be a future source of revenue from the parks in Belgrade.

**Staffing Recommendations**

Parks in the City of Belgrade are currently maintained by Public Works. Due to growth, community feedback, and the understaffing found in a comparative analysis, a dedicated full-time Parks Department Director and maintenance staffing is recommended to be hired by the City of Belgrade. The Director would launch programs, focus on park maintenance and improvements, collaborate with neighboring communities, and facilitate park and trail planning. The director is recommended to work with a grant writer to pursue key improvements in Belgrade. Consultants are recommended to be hired to complete feasibility studies, park designs, trail designs, and recreational facilities.
07.
GROWTH & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Projected Growth
With growth areas and opportunity sites identified by the 2019 Growth Policy, Belgrade will require additional parks and trails to align with projected growth. New development can affect frequency of park visits and park condition. Economic studies show the positive effect of parks and trails on nearby users, and should always coincide with new development. According to Headwaters Economics, an independent, nonprofit research group, trails can benefit businesses through increased revenue and jobs, consumers through intrinsic value of a trail, property owners through increase property values, and residents through adjacent trail access.

As Belgrade and the surrounding areas are growing, it is expected that a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will form. MPOs receive federal transportation funding, which could benefit trails and the connection of parks. When an MPO forms, recommended actions relating to parks and recreation include:

- Establishing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees (BPAC)
- Following “Complete Streets”
- Developing a bicycle master plan
- Coordinating on parks and recreation with neighboring cities

The Belgrade Long Range Transportation Plan made suggestions relating to alternative transportation to help relieve traffic congestion:

- Hosted bicycle education classes and been part of public awareness campaigns
- Programs that help residents find alternatives to their cars

Capital Improvement Recommendations
Current capital improvement plans for the parks are seen in Figure 10. After park inventory and assessment, recommendations are provided in addition to the current plans for capital improvements. To fulfill the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, recommendations are prioritized into critical, short-term, and long-term recommendations. Prioritization was based on safety, ease of circulation, community input, and completion or enhancement of park design. Critical recommendations focus on basic safety issues primarily regarding playgrounds and circulation.

Safe pedestrian paths and intersections are essential to parks and reduce liability. Short-term items relate to comfort, aesthetics, and achieving the full potential of existing park spaces. Long-term recommendations should begin the planning process immediately, as more complex projects often require a longer investment period, effort, coordination.
Critical Recommendations: Maintaining What We Have

Manage the existing park system through completing high priority items such as safety issues and repairs or replacement of items in parks or facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK/LOCATION</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Intersections</td>
<td>Improved crossings at middle school and high school per Long Range Transportation Plan</td>
<td>$560,000 to $644,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackrabbit Lane</td>
<td>1 underpass across railroad per Long Range Transportation Plan</td>
<td>$17,000,000 to $19,550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad Downtown</td>
<td>3 underpasses or overpasses across railroad</td>
<td>$51,000,000 to $58,650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crucial Pathways</td>
<td>30,000 linear feet of shared use path, 17,700 linear feet of bike lane</td>
<td>$4,770,000 to $5,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgrade Youth Sports Complex</td>
<td>Dog park and parking, 2 soccer fields, 2 softball fields, park signage, shared use path, sidewalks, crossing study, and crosswalk striping</td>
<td>$2,763,600 to $3,178,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Park</td>
<td>Remove non-compliant spring rockers and playground surfacing per playground safety code, add compliant playground surfacing and edging, and perimeter walk</td>
<td>$23,500 to $27,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarks Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalk along West Madison Street and safe crossing at entry northern and eastern driveways</td>
<td>$17,900 to $20,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Hollensteiner Memorial Park</td>
<td>Replace sidewalk at entry to be ADA compliant, and add compliant edging and engineered wood fiber in play areas</td>
<td>$21,425 to $24,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiwanis Park</td>
<td>Remove playground surfacing per playground safety code, add compliant playground surfacing and edging, add crosswalk and sidewalk</td>
<td>$21,200 to $24,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis and Clark Park</td>
<td>Crosswalk striping, complete crossing study at Main Street for improved crossing treatment, remove playground surfacing per playground safety code, add compliant playground surfacing and edging, upgrade bathrooms, add perimeter sidewalks, and add fencing along Main Street across from playground</td>
<td>$218,100 to $250,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lions Park</td>
<td>Remove dome climber, remove playground surfacing per playground safety code, add compliant playground surfacing and edging, add sidewalk along West Cameron Avenue, add safe crossings at North Weaver Street and Dry Creek Road</td>
<td>$41,800 to $48,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, install crosswalk, remove non-compliant spring rockers and playground surfacing per playground safety code, add compliant playground surfacing and edging</td>
<td>$102,250 to $117,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller Park</td>
<td>Remove playground surfacing per playground safety code, add compliant playground surfacing and edging.</td>
<td>$11,800 to $13,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie View Park</td>
<td>Add perimeter sidewalks, crosswalks, remove playground surfacing per playground safety code, add compliant playground surfacing and edging</td>
<td>$71,550 to $85,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks to access the park before development</td>
<td>$97,500 to $112,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinella Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks along Quinella Street</td>
<td>$17,400 to $20,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyside Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, remove playground surfacing per playground safety code, add compliant playground surfacing and edging</td>
<td>$37,175 to $42,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triangle Park</td>
<td>Add perimeter sidewalks and crosswalks</td>
<td>$33,300 to $38,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, fencing, and crosswalk</td>
<td>$22,800 to $26,220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRITICAL RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TOTAL $76,834,285 to $88,359,428
**Short-term Recommendations: Strengthening What We Have**

Enhance the existing park system through expansion or addition of items through capital improvements when funding is available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK / LOCATION</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT</th>
<th>COST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackrabbit Lane and Interstate 90</td>
<td>2 crosswalks at highway ramps, and western pedestrian connection along overpass per Belgrade Long Range Transportation Plan</td>
<td>$3,000,000 to $3,450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Madison Ave and Nevada St</td>
<td>Crosswalk per Belgrade Long Range Transportation Plan</td>
<td>$100,000 to $115,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam Road and Clovehitch Road</td>
<td>Uncover existing pedestrian tunnel and connect to existing shared use path per Belgrade Long Range Transportation Plan</td>
<td>$850,000 to $977,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Pathways</td>
<td>23,000 linear feet of shared use pathways, 22,000 linear feet of bike lanes</td>
<td>$4,195,000 to $5,169,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgrade Youth Sports Complex</td>
<td>Add 50 parking spaces, 2 softball fields, 2 crosswalk traffic lights, new play equipment, seating, and trees</td>
<td>$2,195,000 to $2,324,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Park</td>
<td>Add perimeter fencing, trash can, new seating, park signage, sidewalks, and new play equipment</td>
<td>$75,900 to $87,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkin Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, park signage at parking, parking lot crossing and landscaped islands, vegetative buffers and gazebo maintenance, new seating, relocate organization sign, and update corner sign</td>
<td>$124,100 to $142,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Hollenstein Memorial Park</td>
<td>Add vegetative buffer, bike racks, and trash can at shelter</td>
<td>$25,200 to $28,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiwanis Park</td>
<td>Install sidewalk, fencing, paved parking lot, and park signage, and improve turf</td>
<td>$106,905 to $122,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Campanas Park</td>
<td>Pave surface trail</td>
<td>$420,000 to $483,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis and Clark Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, vegetative screens, remove tennis court and replace with turf, repair shelters, replace signage, update play equipment, pave parking lot, utilize concessions stand</td>
<td>$561,500 to $645,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lions Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalk, new play equipment, vegetative buffer, bike racks, additional scoreboards, and shared use path along Dry Creek Rd</td>
<td>$934,200 to $1,074,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMillan Park</td>
<td>Add vegetative buffer, park signage, and coordinate with local residents for added features or activities</td>
<td>$32,500 to $37,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Park</td>
<td>Add new play equipment, park signage, playground signage, trees, mailbox pull-out area with landscaping, new seating, improve turf</td>
<td>$104,720 to $120,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, concrete edge, park signage, playground signage, and bike racks</td>
<td>$104,000 to $127,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie View Park</td>
<td>Add restrooms, water fountain, sidewalks, trash can, park signage, playground signage, and mailbox pull-out area with landscaping, and repair fencing</td>
<td>$114,020 to $165,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Park</td>
<td>Add vegetative buffer adjacent to homes</td>
<td>$165,000 to $189,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinella Park</td>
<td>Add sidewalks, mailbox pull-out area with landscaping, new playground, vegetative buffer, park signage, native plantings, and bridge over drainage swale.</td>
<td>$290,420 to $344,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Glenn Park</td>
<td>Finish park development, add water fountain, grills at shelter</td>
<td>$10,400 to $11,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyside Park</td>
<td>Add natural surface trail, park signage, bike racks, and seating</td>
<td>$37,900 to $43,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triangle Park</td>
<td>Remove tree, add trees, mailbox pull-out area with landscaping, and park signage</td>
<td>$24,670 to $28,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Park</td>
<td>Add vegetative buffer, trash can, park signage, mailbox pull-out area with landscaping</td>
<td>$50,420 to $57,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeveloped Park (abandoned landfill)</td>
<td>Hire consultant to design master plan through community engagement</td>
<td>$20,000 to $23,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TOTAL**  
$13,792,255 to $15,861,093
**Long-term Recommendations: Developing What We Have**

Implement the complete vision for the park system through building new parks, facilities, and trails. These improvements demonstrate recreational desires and interests of the community and can provide policy guidance during funding constraints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARK / LOCATION</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Close proximity to school or downtown</td>
<td>Indoor recreational facility and community center, size to accommodate the estimated 2050 population size, conduct feasibility study, building and site design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near new school on Bollinger Road</td>
<td>Outdoor pool facility, size to accommodate the estimated 2050 population size, conduct feasibility study, building and site design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad and highway in western Belgrade area</td>
<td>3 tunnels or bridges to accommodate pedestrians and vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackrabbit Lane and W Custer Ave</td>
<td>1 pedestrian tunnel per Belgrade Long Range Transportation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgrade Youth Sports Complex</td>
<td>2 soccer fields and 3 junior soccer fields, 5 tennis courts, 30 parking spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescott Park</td>
<td>Develop master plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinella Park</td>
<td>Develop master plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Parks</td>
<td>Land acquisition, develop individual site plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Conduct vehicle traffic studies to help implement trail system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Park and Trail Subdivision Regulations**

New subdivisions often have designated parks and/or pathways as part of the development. Belgrade has very limited park requirements for subdivisions, and currently no subdivision regulations for trails exist. Updates to zoning regulations relating to parks, trails, and landscaping are recommended.

**SUMMARY OF EXISTING PARK SUBDIVISION REGULATION**

Belgrade municipal code section 11-6-7 currently requires parks to be formed in new subdivisions depending on the size of the parcels. There is flexibility for parks based on community need if the subdivision is in an area with density requirements identified by a growth policy. Parks are not required for a minor subdivision, parcels that are 5 acres or larger, nonresidential parcels, property with no parcels, and single parcel subdivisions. Per Belgrade code, developers are allowed to provide the City of Belgrade a cash donation in lieu of a land donation for a park.

**RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO MUNICIPAL CODE**

Parks and trails are a vital piece of infrastructure to all types of development including neighborhoods, schools, and commercial areas. The following is a list of recommended updates to the subdivision regulations regarding parks and trails:

- New developments are required to follow the Belgrade Parks and Recreation Master Plan, including the placement and development of trails and parks
- Require minimum improvements for parks and trails including irrigation and planting
• Form a Belgrade Park and Trail Committee to review parks and trails in new subdivisions to ensure compliance with the Master Plan and recent standards for park and trail design

• Require higher quality open space standards, and restrict certain areas from becoming a part of the required park area, such as stormwater collection areas, floodplains, or other environmentally sensitive areas

• Tighten regulations to reduce the number of cash in lieu transactions

• Bolster landscaping requirements in municipal code, including boulevard landscaping and streetscaping for subdivisions and commercial projects

• Create standard planting and irrigation details for city projects

• Require more stringent application requirements, including documentation and drawings for park and trail designs

• Require Landscape Architect to provide professional stamp on drawings for parks and trails

• Transfer scanned pages of municipal code to digitally searchable format on website

• Provide recommended street tree list, while testing tree species survival and condition at Belgrade parks

The municipal code recommendations are not comprehensive. Progressive standards in cities of similar size to Belgrade should be reviewed and catered towards the local community.
08. FUNDING & COLLABORATION STRATEGIES

List of funding sources and local groups for potential collaboration

To meet the maintenance and development needs of the parks and trail system in Belgrade, major steps need to be taken to fund a parks department and the planned improvements. A collaborative effort is needed for planning, fundraising, and public education.

Funding Options

Special Improvement Districts (SID) and grants could be a major funding source for the City of Belgrade. Revenues from programs, concessions, and rental fees often aren’t large enough to match expenditures of a department, capital improvements, and maintenance. SIDs and grants are the main focus of the funding options. A park district, a type of SID, would open up opportunities for matching grants and bonds.

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

A Special Improvement District (SID) is a collection of properties where owners make payments for public improvements. The Montana Annotated Code (MCA) describes how SIDs can be used in local government in section 7-12-41. Belgrade can use SIDs to fund parks and recreation according to the MCA.

PARKS AND TRAILS DISTRICT

Maintenance and improvements for Belgrade parks is currently funded through the city’s general fund. A large number of people living outside city limits travel to Belgrade for shopping, school functions, and other activities. City parks have been receiving wear over the years and need increased maintenance due to growth. There has been an influx of people who are using the parks yet not paying taxes toward the general fund which helps service the parks. The formation of a parks district is recommended to financially support existing parks and to acquire land for new parks and recreation facilities. A parks district could financially support the hiring of a Belgrade parks and recreation director, who could in turn establish a revenue flow through programming. With funding from a parks district, matching grants could help fund capital improvements.

Precedence for a parks district in Montana exists in Billings, Great Falls, and Colstrip. The City of Billings parks maintenance district generates $1.9 million annually and the Great Falls Parks District Number 1 generates $1.5 million annually for the first three years. Parks districts is a special improvement district per the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) that can be effective for up to 20 years. In early 2019, the approximate total of assessed property value in the Belgrade School district was $2,450,110,999, which includes both residential and commercial properties. The estimated revenue chart in Figure 11 illustrates potential base annual revenue from a parks district, amounts which could be eligible for matching grants and bonds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Value</th>
<th>$30 annual fee</th>
<th>$40 annual fee</th>
<th>$50 annual fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$490,022</td>
<td>$653,363</td>
<td>$816,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$367,517</td>
<td>$490,022</td>
<td>$612,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$294,013</td>
<td>$392,018</td>
<td>$490,022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 11: Potential base revenue amounts from a parks district

In Belgrade and the surrounding area, a public education campaign would be beneficial to inform the public of the proposed district projects and the potential financial capacity. The Proposed Parks District matches the footprint of the school district, which includes county land. Exact boundaries should be studied for feasibility and vetted in a public process. Partnership between the City of Belgrade and Gallatin County would be advised for the long-term future of a parks district. If a parks district was established, a parks district board would be
formed, and a Gallatin County representative is recommended to participate on the board.

**POOL AND RECREATION FACILITY**
The public survey showed strong support for a public pool and some mentions for the ability to recreate indoors. The Montana Annotated Code (MCA) has a provision for creating a Special Improvement District (SID) to fund a “municipal swimming pool and other recreation facilities” per 7-12-4102. To gain a pool facility in Belgrade, a separate SID is recommended to fund a feasibility study, land acquisition, design and construction, and maintenance. A feasibility study or a public campaign about the costs, liability, and potential location is recommended.

**GRANTS**
 Local projects could be eligible for grants, which often match the amount that is already dedicated toward a project. Possible future grants for Belgrade parks, programs, and trails include:

- Federal Land Access Program (FLAP)
- NPS Challenge Cost Share Program
- NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance
- Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD)
- Non-Motorized Safety Grant
- Transportation Alternatives (TAP or TA Set-Aside)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund- State Side
- Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust
- People for Bikes Community Grants
- American Greenways Grants
- National Trails Fund Grants
- Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund
- BF Goodrich Tires Outstanding Trails Grant
- NFF Matching Awards Program (MAP)
- REI Stewardship Grants
- Meet Me at the Park Play Spaces Grant
- Substance Misuse Community of Practice
- Safe Places to Play Grants
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Sports Award Program
- Best Buy Community Grants Program
- EPA Smart Growth Funding Opportunity
- Sprouts Neighborhood Grants Program
- Pool Safely Grant Program
- Rural Community Development Initiative Grant Program
- Tony Hawk Foundation Skatepark Grants
- Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTW) Grants
- Baseball Tomorrow Fund/ Major League Baseball Field Maintenance Education Program
- Looking Out Foundation Grants
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. Grants
- Surplus Real Property and Personal Property Donation Programs
- Common Counsel Foundation: Still We Rise Fund
- CAN’d Aid Crush It Crusade Grants
- Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program – Rural Communities
- Keep America Beautiful’s Community Restoration and Resiliency Fund
- United States Tennis Association (USTA) Facility Assistance Program

Funding from a parks and trails district would increase the likelihood of success for grant applications. The Belgrade parks and trails system will need bolstered funding to first address deferred maintenance and current needs and then plan for expansion due to population growth.

**OTHER FUNDING SOURCES**
 Funding can come from a variety of sustainable sources or even one-time donations. Possible funding options include:

- Public-private partnerships
- Corporate and private donations
- User fees and program fees
- Advertising sales
- Irrevocable remainder trusts
- Bonds
- Sales tax
- Lease backs
- Franchise fee for utility rights of way
- Catering permits and services
- Private concessionaires operating with a land lease
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district

**Collaboration**
The planning, fundraising, and public education for parks and trails will need to be a collaborative effort between local groups and government entities. Groups that can collaborate with the City of Belgrade on carrying out the Parks Master Plan include:
• Belgrade Aquatic Center
• Belgrade Community Coalition
• Belgrade Farmer’s Market
• Belgrade Garden Club
• Belgrade Parks Board
• Belgrade Senior Center
• Belgrade / Bozeman / Gallatin County Planning Coordination Committee (PCC)
• Gallatin Valley Land Trust
• Gallatin County Conservation and Parks
• Gallatin County GIS
• Gallatin Health Coalition
• Local sports clubs

This list is not exhaustive, but a starting reference point for interested parties to connect with each other.
APPENDIX A:
MARCH 2019
PUBLIC SURVEY
RESULTS

The following survey data was collected from an online survey, which was available to the public from March 14, 2019 - April 12, 2019. The survey included questions relating to the 2019 Growth Policy and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, but parks and recreation questions are only listed in this section. The results include responses from multiple choice questions and open-end questions. Discussion about trends, high priorities, and implications of the results are included in Chapter 3, Community Needs Assessment.
Multiple Choice Questions

1) Would you let your children bike or walk to school, parks, or local shops alone if there was a safe route?
   - a. Yes 432 (79.12%)
   - b. No 114 (20.88%)

2) Where do you go for recreational fun when you are not at home, work, or school during the WARM months?
   - a. Establishments in Belgrade (gym, indoor rec facilities) 19 (3.46%)
   - b. Establishments in Bozeman (gym, indoor rec facilities) 45 (8.20%)
   - c. Outdoors in Belgrade 129 (23.50%)
   - d. Outdoors in Bozeman 118 (21.49%)
   - e. Elsewhere in Montana 195 (35.52%)
   - f. Other 43 (7.83%)

3) Where do you go for recreational fun when you are not at home, work, or school during the COLD months?
   - a. Establishments in Belgrade (gym, indoor rec facilities) 60 (11.07%)
   - b. Establishments in Bozeman (gym, indoor rec facilities) 191 (35.24%)
   - c. Outdoors in Belgrade 50 (9.23%)
   - d. Outdoors in Bozeman 64 (11.81%)
   - e. Elsewhere in Montana 120 (22.14%)
   - f. Other 57 (10.52%)

4) When was the last time you or your household used any Belgrade area parks?
   - a. In the past week 67 (12.25%)
   - b. In the past month 60 (10.97%)
   - c. In the past 2-3 months 55 (10.05%)
   - d. In the past 6 months 111 (21.76%)
   - e. In the past year 119 (21.76%)
   - f. More than a year ago 63 (11.52%)
   - g. Never 42 (7.68%)

5) How often do you or your household visit Belgrade area parks?
   - a. 1-5 visits per year 243 (45.85%)
   - b. 6-10 visits per year 72 (13.58%)
   - c. 11-20 visits per year 86 (16.23%)
   - d. 21-50 visits per year 67 (12.64%)
   - e. 50+ visits per year 62 (11.70%)

6) I visit parks in and around Belgrade___________.
   - a. To be close to nature 17 (3.20%)
   - b. To exercise and be physically active 50 (9.42%)
   - c. To spend time with family or friends 231 (43.50%)
   - d. To attend an event, class, or sports game 113 (21.28%)
   - e. To spend time with or exercise my dog(s) 84 (15.82%)
   - f. Other 36 (6.78%)

7) Do you use any private property or facility (school ball fields, empty private lot) for recreation?
   - a. Yes 227 (41.58%)
   - b. No 319 (58.42%)

8) Your home is ____________to a public park.
   - a. Within walking distance? 296 (54.41%)
   - b. Within biking distance? 74 (13.60%)
   - c. Too far away to walk or bike? 174 (31.99%)

9) How do you usually get to a public park?
   - a. Walk 222 (41.12%)
   - b. Drive 264 (49.25%)
   - c. Bike 38 (7.09%)
   - d. Public transportation 1 (0.19%)
   - e. Jog/run 3 (0.56%)
   - f. Taxi/carpool 0 (0.00%)
   - g. Rollerblade/skate 2 (0.37%)
   - h. Other 6 (1.12%)
10) What mostly affects how much you use parks in the Belgrade area?
- Proximity: 139 (26.18%)
- The park’s activities or facilities: 255 (44.26%)
- Dog friendliness: 67 (12.62%)
- Crowds: 64 (12.05%)
- Unaware of park location/activities: 26 (4.90%)

11) What types of amenities and improvements are most needed in Belgrade area parks?
- Shelters and Seating: 40 (7.72%)
- Restrooms: 68 (13.13%)
- Pet friendliness: 56 (10.81%)
- Cleanliness/Maintenance: 33 (6.37%)
- Accessibility for wheelchairs: 0 (0.00%)
- More or improved playgrounds or specialized play area: 82 (15.83%)
- Better lighting and walks for safety: 18 (3.47%)
- Parking: 15 (2.90%)
- All of the above: 206 (39.77%)

12) Trees have many health and community benefits. Would you contribute to a tree fund to plant more trees in Belgrade?
- Yes: 400 (73.94%)
- No: 141 (26.06%)

13) In addition to federal, state, and grant funding, what strategy would you support the most to fund park and trail improvements?
- Park Maintenance District: 269 (51.04%)
- Non-profit fundraising: 268 (50.83%)
- Private-public Partnerships: 256 (44.78%)
- Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Trail programs: 264 (50.09%)
- Sponsorship through advertising: 218 (41.37%)
- Facility rental fees: 214 (40.61%)
- Volunteers: 227 (43.07%)
- Sales tax: 206 (39.09%)
- Revenue from concessions: 217 (41.18%)

14) How much would you be willing to contribute to a Park Maintenance District per year to fund park and trail improvements?
- $0: 72 (15.38%)
- $1-10: 118 (22.26%)
- $11-$20: 125 (23.58%)
- $20-$30: 107 (20.19%)
- More than $30: 108 (20.38%)
Open-ended Questions
What programs, events, or facilities do you think Belgrade Parks and Recreation should offer?

1. Clean bathroom facilities
2. Signage to parks would be great, kids after school program like YMCA, swimming pool, off leash dog parks, cross country skiing trails, sidewalks from the airport to downtown Belgrade, signage from the airport to points of interest in Belgrade
3. Kid friendly activities, group sports for all ages, an indoor play space for winter
4. Organized rec sports for all ages. Community events, music, theater, etc.
5. Group fitness classes in the park in the summer after work
6. We need a swimming pool!!!
7. Swim center. We love Lewis and Clark park, Bigger splash park area.
8. Clean bathrooms, family activities
9. I wish I could have chosen more than one response on some of these. I would support fundraising of any kind in addition to advertising. What Belgrade parks need most are fences! Something besides a berm between Lewis and Clark park and Main Street.
10. Swimming pool
11. More athletes based park, but not sports like soccer or baseball. Like a spartan training park
12. Dog parks are needed. We have to drive to Bozeman to get the dog outside
13. Public pool, children play structures
14. Paintball, group activities,
15. Belgrade needs a swimming pool.
16. Just having a place for people to use as they like would be great. A dog park would also be so great.
17. Outdoor concert venue
18. Farmers market, craft fairs, lecture series,
19. Outdoor summer concert series and a trail that circumnavigates the city (connecting the parks). I would love to see the city land along Yellowstone be planted full of trees and maybe a pond or something plus a sheltered picnic venue for larger groups.
20. It would be fantastic if Belgrade would offer youth programs like the Bozeman parks and rec department offers. I would rather support my community with my money rather than Bozeman!
21. Offer just specific parks for people with kids and a separate park for people with dogs. There have been to many people allowing their dogs off leash, not cleaning up after them, and allowing them to run up to people when they aren’t friendly! Personally, I hate using a park that allows dogs because the owners are so inconsiderate and then get mad when you say something.
22. Swimming pool
23. Co-Ed Softball league
24. A Community Event Center that can be used for family reunions or such like celebrations
25. Weekend family friendly events
26. Expand skate park
27. Trails!!!
28. Indoor basketball and soccer facilities and outdoor baseball fields
29. The Belgrade community Market has been such an asset to Belgrade that I hope that continues this summer again. Also I feel that some of the smaller parks are lacking shade whether it’s from a shelter or trees, and some of them don’t have any seating.
30. With young kids it’s hard to walk to the parks that don’t have bathrooms because a long walk home isn’t a reasonable solution when a child has to go “now”. I was also very disappointed in how Sunny Side Park was changed after the on-ramp was built.
31. Many trees were cut down, the walking trail was taken away, and a path from Idaho Street to the park was never made once a condo was built on the existing path.
32. Concerts
33. Outdoor concert venue
34. A pool for competition and recreation!
35. Public pool, dog park
36. I would love to see more walking trail available
37. A public swimming pool
38. Pool, amphitheater, basketball courts, running trails
39. Outdoor Music
40. The focus should be kids and not dogs. Park maintenance is key. Many of the play structures have nothing under them for fall mitigation.
41. A city pool!!!
42. More park equipment and amenities
43. Music on Main
44. Pickleball (fast growing and this could be a regional draw for tournaments), dog park, cross country skiing, swimming pool for older kids, community gardens.
45. Swimming
46. Swimming pool
47. Ice skating rink either indoor or outdoor
48. A children’s rec program like Bozeman has (classes, field trips, sports, etc). Also the park areas should be fenced for safety, especially near main roads (Lewis & Clark park seriously needs a fence by the busy Main Street!!)
49. Belgrade needs a pool. The trails by the airport need to be paved. A trail to Bozeman needs to be constructed. People need to get off their butts and go out and enjoy what is already there.
50. Traditional youth and adult sports programs such as coed softball, basketball, volleyball and others.
51. Music in the park, basketball courts,
52. Food truck gatherings
54. Kids camps
55. Movie in the park
56. Kids camps, cross country skiing activities (the new Ryan Glenn park would be good for that), cameras at parks to deter vandalism
What programs, events, or facilities do you think Belgrade Parks and Recreation should offer? Continued

57. Movie night in the park, Community pool. Bigger ice rink. Golf course.
58. Better playgrounds, Pool.
59. Trail system, bigger water park, more basketball courts
60. Bathrooms and the city should look into managing the recreation type events to provide more access to the whole community instead of clubs
61. Entertainment, updated playground equipment and seating
62. Attractive landscaping and cleanliness.
63. Pools!! Swimming lessons along with a recreation area like Splash Montana in Missoula and the one that opened last summer in Butte. Belgrade is in DESPERATE need of a pool!
64. Dog park, pool, trail system, community garden and summertime children’s activities.
65. Family friendly events. A dog park in Belgrade.
66. Outside music events
67. Bike trails / Swimming pool
68. City organized events such as city league basketball, softball, football, and other events that families can participate in
69. We go to the park for the car show and fair-type thing in the warmer months
70. We need a better skate park for the kids.
71. Music
72. Swimming pool
73. Music in the parks, family night, movie nights.... all w/ vendor type snacks or food.
74. Age appropriate recreational & outdoor learning activities, community gatherings, craft shows, splash park...
75. Swimming pool
76. Swimming pool
77. Belgrade could really use a recreation program for youth similar to what Bozeman offers. A one stop shop, per see, where we can sign our kids up for activities outside of school. A swimming pool would be amazing! As many of us tire of having to go into Bozeman for these activities. A community center that isn’t subject to the school districts calendar would also be nice but the Special Events center seems to do ok hosting our community for now.
78. It would be great to have local summer recreation programs/camps that kids of all ages can take part in. We also really need a pool ;-) (which I know is going to be commented by more than just myself).
79. A community pool.
80. Green grass.....Lots of green grass
81. Tennis frisbee golf
82. Kids sports (like soccer in the summer)
83. Fitness opportunities (Pull up bars, etc.)
84. pool
85. Dog park
86. More than bozeman
87. More softball fields; sand volleyball courts, basketball courts
88. Pool
89. Skate swim tennis
90. Better side walks, parks on the north end of jackrabbit. Dog park in town, any indoor play area open on Sundays.
91. Larger baseball fields
92. Music events
93. A swimming pool!!
94. Belgrade Summer Nights!!!
95. Outdoor recreation classes, outdoor music events, craft teaching events.
96. Better farmers market, concert or music venue, dinners on the lawn complete with various food trucks,
97. Music in the park, food truck Friday and more kids activities
98. Pool
99. Swimming pool
100. More ball fields, Softball and baseball. So many kids are involved and we don’t have enough fields
101. More bike and walking paths throughout the city. Shakespeare in the Parks.
102. More runs/races in and around Belgrade. More festivals in downtown would be nice as well
103. Live music, movies in the park, dog training and competitions, off leash dog park with pond they can cool off in.
104. Softball and baseball fields. The local program depends on the kindness of the school and the arbitrary lease amount the current Athletic Director decides to charge.
105. Trails
106. Indoor/ outdoor swimming pool. Open year round
107. public pool
108. Yoga. Kids days. Pets day.
109. Pool, roller and skating rink, bowling, rock climbing kid park outdoors
110. Youth programs
111. Theatre and symphony
112. There is a large area near Wyoming St in Las Campanas that everyone in the neighborhood uses to throw frisbees or play with their dogs. It’s just a field of weeds and gophers. It would be great to have grass and trees but keep it mostly open.
113. Clean bathrooms and maintained parks.
114. Theater or musical events
115. Lewis and Clark Park is the closest to where we live and we enjoy going there in the summer. The splash park is great but it gets too crowded at times. Perhaps if we also had a public pool in Belgrade, that would help with the crowding. The same goes for River Rock Pond. For the winter months, we love the ice rink and have had no issues or concerns there.
116. Children 2 and under activities
117. Family fun
118. Pool
119. Community pool. Movie night in the park
120. A pool
What programs, events, or facilities do you think Belgrade Parks and Recreation should offer? Continued

121. Belgrade needs a city owned Softball complex and a swimming pool.
122. Music in the park evenings, plays etc
123. Summer camps, athletics for young ones
124. More music in the parks, similar to Linch on the Lawn at the Emerson. Open mics, comedy shows, skateboarding lessons and events, family events! Love the Farmers Market and the Fall festival!
125. Dog parks, movie in the park, Farmers markets with lots of food /veggie options, game nights
126. Concerts
129. Water features for kids. Better restrooms
130. More community events would be nice. A bike path from the River Rock area would be a nice addition.
131. Lessons for dog owners on how to clean up after their pets and smokers on how to properly dispose of cigarette butts.
132. Youth facility, music performances, age appropriate play equipment at Lewis and Clark park, outdoor pool.
133. I honestly think we need a pool. The splash park is amazing in the summer and I know costly. But if we had an indoor pool it could be year round and at say 15 $/person it could pay for itself. The splash park is packed all summer...the pool would be too.
134. Swimming pool
135. Children's enrichment park
136. More kid friendly activities
137. A trail system for running and walking
138. Swimming pool!
139. We don't need any parks
140. Trails.
141. At least fence existing “dog park”
142. Public pond for fishing and swimming. More softball/baseball fields
143. HRDC free lunch in River Rock during the summer
144. A pond for kids/families to fish and recreate. Possible event space. Hiking/ski trails that allow for better outdoor recreation in all seasons. Would be cool to have a place where people can learn about native plant and trees, history of Belgrade, and have a place to learn and spend time outdoors.
146. None, parks are way over rated in this area, people would rather go to nearby mountains
147. LARGE farmers market
148. The youth sports complex is a great start, as is Lewis & Clark. Some thing like Bogert park with multiple amenities - pool, covered blacktop for skating (wheels in summer, ice in winter), playground, bandshell, open space, walking path, parking area.
149. Baseball, soccer, basketball, and rugby
What programs, events, or facilities do you think Belgrade Parks and Recreation should offer? Continued

184. Music venues
185. Festivals
186. Community events
187. Belgrade needs a SMART and coherent urban plan growth system. Parks & Recreation areas should be MANDATORY for new developments to make more kind the urban fabric. New developments in large scale are rising from the ground (Prescott, and Hensen Subv.), and they have the infrastructure I can't see them offering much. I think they need to start small. Concerts, outdoor movies, more places to ice skate, roller skating rink.
188. Swimming, trails
189. Better and more baseball fields. Baseball tournneys being in revenue for the town as well. Pool
190. More softball/baseball fields. Maybe a volleyball courts or indoor gyms
191. A public pool
192. Organized sports, summer camps and workshops.
193. Swimming, trails
194. Off leash dog Park
195. Dog park, walking trails
196. I'm not sure this falls under 'parks,' but I think bike trails are the biggest thing Belgrade needs. Especially a safe way to bike to Bozeman. If I had a safe way to commute on my bike I would never drive a car.
197. Establish themselves as a an actual department first. They don't seem to have much gravitas in the local government and it shows when they can't maintain what they have or make considerable decisions about the future.
198. Would be nice if we had a pool
199. Connector trail to Bozeman
200. Tennis courts, organized sports facilities
201. Off leash dog Park
202. Trails
203. Trails! Trails that connect to other trails - Bozeman, Four Corners, Manhattan, etc. TRAILS, TRAILS
204. A public skating area that can be roller skating in the summer and ice skating in the winter.
205. Off leash dog Park
206. Softball fields, and walking paths
207. A seminar to explain how the growing town has no money for schools, and first responders, let alone parks. Mills are not intended to be a yearly ballot issue to offset mismanagement.
208. We need accessible sidewalks down Thorpe and Amsterdam
209. Art fairs, farmer's markets, free music events
211. Swimming, trails
212. Music venues
213. Pool
214. Water park
215. More ice skating rinks on the east side
216. An outdoor movie night. I take my dog to the Heart of the Animal dog park a lot (more than the 20-50 I answered) because I wasn't sure if it was considered a Belgrade park. A park with a pool, an indoor park, a roller skating rink. I'd really like to see more things to do in the Belgrade area.
217. Public pool, market, outdoor movies
218. Kids sports, music pavilion, trails
219. More softball/baseball fields. Maybe a volleyball courts or indoor gyms
220. Trails for walking, running, and biking.
221. We do not need more parks in Belgrade we need to improve our road system.
222. dog park
223. More ice skating rinks on the east side
224. A public skating area that can be roller skating in the summer and ice skating in the winter.
225. Off leash dog Park
226. Public pool, market, outdoor movies
227. Water park-pool
228. Music in the park
229. A public skating area that can be roller skating in the summer and ice skating in the winter.
230. Adventure course, comedy in the park, something for all ages
231. Lewis & Clark Park and the Splash Pad need a major overhaul/upgrade. That one park would make a huge difference in the feel of downtown Belgrade!
232. A dog park
233. Music venue
234. A dog park
235. A public skating area that can be roller skating in the summer and ice skating in the winter.
236. More ice skating rinks on the east side
237. A public skating area that can be roller skating in the summer and ice skating in the winter.
238. Music venue
239. Thank you!
Any other thoughts on growth or parks and recreation facilities?

1. With the way that the town is growing, more parks will really enhance the childhood experience of our young people.
2. We need both badly
3. Walking trails
4. Bike trails
5. Trails!!!
6. More trails outside city limits
7. We have so many dog parks in this valley. Can we take care of the kids?
8. Would love more biking walking trails
9. The land on Jackrabbit that used to be owned by Louisiana Pacific should by a big Central Park with a community center.
10. require developers to install neighborhood parks and make a plan for trails that developers have to include and incorporate. Install sidewalks in all neighborhoods.
11. Plan safe passage for kids to schools. Include bike lanes on main routes.
12. Traffic congestion must be addressed, quickly
13. Connect parks through trails!
14. Safe trail between belgrade and 4Dot for walking or biking. Highway too narrow and unsafe.
15. We need summer programs for kids.
16. It would be great to have a space that could be used for events such as the farmers market that has more parking. Lewis & Clark Park is a great venue, but the parking aspect is an issue. After working with the current farmers market (so, personal experience) a new park or an upgrade to an existing park that includes functional bathrooms, good parking, space for a couple food trucks, and convenient access to electricity I think is necessary in our growing community. We need parks, and we need events in those parks, to improve the sense of community here (and save people from going to Bozeman for everything). Another thought, could the old fire station be used as offices for community services such as a Parks & Rec Department, the BCC, or the Farmer’s Market? It would be nice to keep that as a public building, and not private if possible since it’s in such an ideal location next to the park.
17. Biking and walking trails with some shade would be fantastic. There is no way to walk or bike anywhere in this town without ever almost being run over. I would never let children bike to any location by themselves. Would be nice to have some food/concessions at parks to make it fun.
18. Waist dispensers, walking paths, pickle ball courts.
19. bozeman shouldnt hold monopoly on live music. create a venue for live shows. local hands will start, over time bigger names with come
20. Required open park space in new subdivisions
21. It would be nice to have a bowling alley or something more since the areas around us are growing with activities for families and youth.
22. Need to broaden the financial net and require users such as SOCCER to pay their fair share.
23. We need more gym space for youth athletics and an event center
24. Keep up on infrastructure (roads and such) with growth of population. Commercial growth to the north and south would be great as well.
25. Additional taxes is not the answer. We are in Belgrade not Bozeman because of their massive taxes. Recently Bozeman City is considering another significant tax to help maintain for all the parks and trails. Let it be done through private-nonprofit fundraising.
26. Thank you for listening to the community!
27. My taxes are way out of control. I will not pay another dime more than I have to to live here. And you think I’m going to pay for a tree??!
28. HOPEFULLY WITH THE PARKS IDEA, IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO SIDEWALKS, STREETS, AND STOP LIGHTS.
29. The streets infrastructure is what turned me away from living in Belgrade. If there is a way that the streets can be upgraded to support the amount of traffic in and out of the city, I believe it would be attractive for small businesses to move in especially in city center.
30. More lights
31. Swim center
32. Additional thoughts on growth or parks and recreation facilities?
33. Thanks for all of the hard work going into this process and intentionally making Belgrade a great place in the future.
34. Belgrade’s downtown has some really cool things, but the train side of main looks kind of ghetto. Is there any way to clean it up a bit (maybe add a park instead of the vacant lot at the intersection of main/frontage and broadway)?
35. I would like to see new parks developed with all the new construction
36. I love Lewis and Clark Park - the wading pool is wonderful and I take my grandchildren often. I also like that the skateboarders have a place to go - it should probably be expanded. Nice picnic area and I love the community events (i.e. farmers market, fall festival). Play area could use some TLC, but is still good. Parking is good, except during the bigger events (but, we walk over anyway). We need more practice fields to encourage kids in sports (i.e. soccer). We need a "summer in the parks" program to get kids outdoors in the summer months. Would love to see more entertainment in our parks (music, theater).
37. Belgrade needs a better road system. At the current rate of growth Belgrade at 5pm is a nightmare. I avoid going anywhere in Belgrade because the road system is horrible.
38. and for a young family there is no source of entertainment. no bowling, roller skating etc for clean fun.
39. It would be wonderful to have activities for older kids like a pool or roller skating.
40. Keep a completely separate park for people to take their dogs and make it completely enclosed so they can let them run off leash. That would help to keep the parks for kids cleaner and you wouldn’t have to worry about a possible bite incident!
41. Just that we would love more outdoor places especially trails in the area. I travel to Bozeman to use their trails very frequently.
42. Try to make as many multi use facilities as possible that can be used different times of the year. I live near softball fields and they sit empty the majority of the time.
43. Belgrade needs some recreational activities for after school, year round (a swimming pool comes to mind).
Any other thoughts on growth or parks and recreation facilities? Continued

44. We put a high value on good park space. When searching for a house to buy, we looked at nearby parks before making a decision. We like open space, but we also like space with trees and water. We also like kid play places and soccer fields (so long as the fields are flat and maintained). The Ryen Glenn park is pretty good, but it keeps being vandalized and the field area is not flat and would not be safe for running on. When that park fully transitions to a city park, it will need continued work.

45. Golf course, camping area, new sports complex for softball, baseball and picnic area.

46. Bike trail between Belgrade and Bozeman!!!

47. I do not live in Belgrade but I work in Belgrade so my priorities are probably different. I would love more lunch options and happy hour options to contribute economically to this area. I usually head to Bozeman as soon as I'm out of work.

48. Needs more shops and restaurants downtown to attract visitors, real estate offices don't attract visitors or make people want to head to Main in Belgrade to spend time and browse.

49. A foot/running/biking path along the frontage road into town would be awesome and we would use it ALL the time. We live on Timothy :)  

50. It would be nice to see an attempt to better connect the community, ie schools, parks and recreation facilities, neighborhoods and major employers with the use of bike paths and trails.

51. Creative funding solutions are mandatory, the town will only accept so much tax, the city only has so much staff and money in the coffers. The gaps will need to be filled from grass roots organizations and private individuals, companies, or trusts for public partnerships.

52. More sports areas- b-ball, tennis courts, walking and running areas, nature sanctuaries, community gardens, roller and skateboard areas, more fallfest type events.

53. So much building going on with no thoughts to roadways.

54. Housing NEEDS to be affordable. Belgrade also needs larger businesses that would also bring traffic to us from Bozeman, etc.

55. movie theater, bowling alley.

56. movie theater, bowling alley. 


58. The Dotted i is a great nonprofit fundraiser if that route is pursued.

59. I really appreciate the idea of gathering money for the parks from a larger area of Belgrade.

60. More equipment is needed at parks. A small pool similar to frog pool park in miles city. A center for indoor rental from public/private events

61. Make the huge open space by Las Campanas a dog park.

62. Hire more law enforcement to get the drug dealers out

63. As Gallatin County grows, is like to see Belgrade maintain its personality with an increase in outdoor community offerings and trail system for community cohesion

64. Belgrade is not the red-headed step child of Bozeman. We need more people who treat this place like home. Make this town a hometown.

65. Traffic is a problem so growth can't happen until the traffic flow is taken care of.

66. Trails connecting the outer subdivision to the parks

67. Would love more running and biking trails

68. Use the space for affordable housing not parks!

69. I would love to have walking trails in Belgrade

70. The parks need to be upgraded with new equipment all ages can safely play on. Also need more trash cans around the skate park.

71. I think our Parks board has done a wonderful job! We have a lot of great parks!

72. Safer bike riding areas.

73. Better side walks and trail system would be a huge help. Even an alternative walking route over the interstate ,down jackrabbit, and especially down frontage road in both directions

74. It would be great if we had larger shoulders on the roads to encourage biking and more trails for walking and running. Also, I think it would be wonderful to groom a nordic ski trail on the new soccer fields(I see ski tracks there regularly during the winter).

75. Live far enough away that this isn't an issue. Have our own park away from hustle and bustle of city. Too many weirdos that hang out at belgrade parks anymore. Wouldn't feel safe there anyways.

76. Please don't use precious outdoor athletic space for a dog park!

77. The Greenview Estates SUB PH1 Park Area needs to be developed into a park, it has been neglected for decades and money was put in by the homeowners for a park space. This should be addressed and no longer ignored.

78. I've heard there will be 1,700 new units built between Jackrabbit and Bollinger. Belgrade does not offer the infrastructure for this kind of growth. Belgrade should seriously look at getting a new off/on ramp across from Bollenger if that new school is going in down there. Traffic already gets backed up well past 15th St. during rush hour traffic or when there's a train. Sometimes it takes 1/2 an hour to get from my house to the interstate when this is only a 6 minute drive. When people drop their kids off at school they can just access the interstate to get to work from there if they work out of town. This will prevent further back up for people trying to get out of there. I also think Belgrade should look at more affordable housing. Single parents can't survive with the cost of rent around Belgrade. I know there is the farm house apartments as I have a sister with a disabled daughter that lives there, however, these are apartments are not well-maintained and the walls are paper thin. I'm tired of seeing single parents that I know getting pushed out of Belgrade and having to uproot their children because they can't afford to live here anymore.

79. Need STREET MAINTENANCE!! Quit annexing land without infrastructure!!!!

80. The Belgrade Aquatic Center is a must have.

81. I wish that Belgrade had more shopping options

82. Better side walks and trail system would be a huge help. Even an alternative walking route over the interstate ,down jackrabbit, and especially down frontage road in both directions

83. Anything will be an improvement

84. Movie theater, another grocery store would be nice too.

85. Belgrade has a large population of school age children that need a place to play. Trails for soccer fields(I see ski tracks there regularly during the winter).

86. Live far enough away that this isn't an issue. Have our own park away from hustle and bustle of city. Too many weirdos that hang out at belgrade parks anymore. Wouldn't feel safe there anyways.

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92. Anything will be an improvement

93. Movie theater, another grocery store would be nice too.

94. Belgrade has a large population of school age children that need a place to play. Trails for families and older citizens could run through athletic fields.

95. Safer bike riding areas.
Any other thoughts on growth or parks and recreation facilities? Continued

87. Having trails and walkways from surroundings neighborhoods to Downtown Belgrade would be nice.
88. Too many new subdivisions going in that are causing problems to an already stressed infrastructure.
89. Dog friendly, more community entertainment (Not just family entertainment). Less Police involvement (Their aggression has truly ruined the downtown area).
90. I would love to see more bike paths leading to parks and downtown. I live off of Amersterdam and find that road to be way too scary to ride my bike on. If a path was available I would ride downtown way more often.
91. We need safe commuter/recreation routes that are separated from the roads, particularly, a safe way for people to get from the developments that are South of the freeway to the school zones and parks. We also need a new freeway exit around the Thorpe / I-90 / Frontage road intersections.
92. An indoor or outdoor swim pool would be great. Even little Townsend has one. I know that's probably a pipe dream. I hope Belgrade is very cautious about the street light issue. Increasing lightening is expensive, causes light pollution and has not been shown to prevent crime. It might prevent falls. Many towns are joining the Dark skies initiative.
93. It would be nice to have some sort of rec center with a gym as well! Somewhere that is affordable for families, teens, elderly etc... and the entire family can participate at once.
94. More native and drought tolerant plants and less Kentucky bluegrass please!
95. Safe bicycle paths from River Rock / Landmark subdivision to the High School.
96. Consider adding bird-friendly/native plantings to current or new parks. They will provide much-needed habitat for our feathered friends.
97. Needs to be well lit. 911 emergency land line. Bathroom for our little kids and trees.
98. Need to have more/improve on the trail system in Belgrade much like what Bozeman has been doing.
99. Gallatin Valley Land Trust should maybe check their NAME - they only fund trail projects in Belgrade.
100. Would love to see more parks or areas where kids can play sports. And run around and have fun. Something like the skate park, only for volleyball/softball.
101. Let's keep the small town feel, make Belgrade a cute town.
102. Not sure parks need much, we just need better pedestrian and bike options. i.e. better(or any) sidewalks and trails.
103. A walking path on the railroad property along Northern Pacific Ave connecting Belgrade to the new gravel pit development and surrounding neighborhoods would be great.
104. I think 'urban' bike trails and trails connecting communities are the top priority. But wouldn't it be great if I could get to trailheads on my bike, too? If we had non-driving trail access, Missoula would have nothing on us!
105. A pool and aquatic center would be great, indoor and outdoor use, great and affordable for all ages and all families!!!!
106. Provide safe bike routes to recreation, more trails similar to Bozeman
107. Belgrade is severely lacking in trails to walk on.
108. We love the Belgrade splash park. Even Bozeman doesn't have one. Three Forks puts Belgrade and Bozeman to shame with their paved bike path system. Belgrade and Bozeman need a connecting paved bike path and in and around Belgrade. Many Belgrade streets don't even have a sidewalk let along a bike path.
109. More shelters to picnic.
110. I would personally love to see a great dog park here in Belgrade. My dog loves running around and meeting new friends and driving in to Bozeman can be a pain.
111. Important to maintain green spaces/open multi-use areas rather than have them filled up with commercial enterprises.
112. Outdoor and indoor Swimming pool!!!!
113. I've been surprised at how infrequently it seems that private parties invest in the growth of the community. The Albertsons, Simplots, and Morrisons have donated so much into the growth of Boise and Meridian over the years, and have put a lot of focus on the arts and family. Bozeman and Belgrade have families with funds as well, and I just wonder if those resources aren't being utilized. Obviously tax incentives would be available to those families.
114. BELGRADE NEEDS A SWIMMING POOL!!!!!!!!
115. Food trucks lunch on the lawn kids activities
116. Replacing old and broken equipment
117. It would be nice to have a place to take my dog in town. Before I had my own yard, I definitely wanted a community garden.
118. Upgrade bathrooms at public parks, build a stage at Lewis and Clark park
119. More benches and we really need better trails connecting areas of Belgrade.
120. I would like to see a community center that can be used during the cold months. Rec sports could be offered or open gyms.
121. We need to improve the roads and develop traffic patterns which will accommodate for future growth in and around the Belgrade area. This should be the priority, not an expanded park system.
122. We need trails, trails and more trails.
123. sidewalks in all subdivisions
124. Out of town users dont pay
125. Belgrade infrastructure in general is extremely poor and never seems to improve. Speed limits on Amsterdam Road and Jackrabbit lane are too high. More lanes are needed on these roads. A turn lane into the Town Pump truck stop on Amsterdam Road is necessary. Also, paving the rest of Hub Road. My concern is far more focused on the poor roadways than the parks and recreation of Belgrade.
126. Our family has to go outside of Belgrade to ride our bikes, unless we want to use the sidewalks, as I mentioned in the last question. It would be so awesome to have a bike trail system that led you to different parks throughout Belgrade, so you could get out and ride bikes as a family. A YMCA or similar facility would be amazing and rec classes for preschool aged kids-like intro to different sports or other classes that are offered in Bozeman but not Belgrade.
127. Belgrade needs to deal with there traffic issues before they worry about these parks.
Any other thoughts on growth or parks and recreation facilities? Continued

128. Need to think about long term tax base. More single family homes (affordable, not just low income), sidewalks/trails, athletic center (similar to the ridge or YMCA), less chain restaurants, better traffic flow. People need another reason to come here other than “it’s all I can afford”. We truly do need more amenities.

129. As ugly as it sounds the towns growth should be focused on young families buying homes not developers building hovels. Belgrade needs to build a tax base as well as a community instead of being the “it’s all I can afford location” it’s becoming.

130. Community pond, similar to the river rock pond

131. A trail system to walk and bike on. To more easily get around town. And an area to gather for music in summer months.

132. Cross country skiing

133. A better farmers market! More vendors!

134. Bozeman seems to have at least a small public green space (“park”) for every few blocks of new development. It would be awesome to see Belgrade follow suit and have required parks for new developments. That way my dog doesn’t have to pee on the neighbor’s beautiful flowers that wilt anytime a dog walks near them (their words). And my kids have places to run around that I don’t have to drive 20 minutes for.

135. Summer monthly car shows, art walks, scarecrow competition, summerfest (bands, food), beer/wine fest.

136. Running trails, fat

137. Music, farmers markets, art markets
APPENDIX B:
FOCUS GROUP NOTES

Individual conversations were had with sports clubs, local non-profits, and other community organizations. Main topics of conversation are listed here.
March 5, 2019, 9am
Gallatin Valley Lacrosse - Lorelyn Mayr

- Lacrosse is not just Bozeman, but in Manhattan, Three Forks, Belgrade, Livingston
- Always looking everywhere for field options, including field space in Belgrade
- Really hard to get field space in Bozeman, it’s booked or expensive
- This is the only lacrosse in the valley
- Belgrade Special Events Center is an ideal place for tryouts - there is a track up above gym to watch
- Club team - hard to get field space for boys lacrosse
- New Sports complex in Bozeman is getting booked already and is competitive to book space
- Belgrade lacrosse is petitioning the school district to use the new fields at new high school

March 5, 2019, 4pm
Belgrade Youth Baseball - Jeremy Olson

- It’s a growing program
- Use parks in Belgrade often
- Use park near American Legion Park
- Use middle school fields
- Field space is at a premium - need more field space
- Would like to use the Belgrade Youth Sports Complex
- School and City own the park - future playing space
- More need for 60-70’ fields (4)
- Need full size field (1)
- Responsible for putting own dugouts in the fields, including porta potties
- They do not pay fees to rent the field - they manage and pay for garbage pick up and toilets on their own
- Running tournaments/leagues - nice that fields are close together

March 11, 2019
Belgrade High School - Activities - Paul Lamb

- The school uses the Belgrade Youth Sports Complex. A teacher might jog through a public park for scenery. The school uses the tennis courts and soccer fields at the complex. The school is self sufficient for the most part
- Gym space is at a premium
- Do you see a lot of use of your outdoor fields by the public? Yes and no - in the warm weather we get people walking on track, at night after practices.
- During summer, kids play soccer/baseball on the fields, and you see dog walkers
- Do you charge a rental fee for organized events? The school does rent fields to the softball association and little league - they put money into upkeep on the fields
- Do you see a lot of public interest in your indoor facility - is it underused, overused? It is used from sun up to sun down every day of the week - club volleyball, club basketball, lacrosse, softball, city league basketball games
- An auxiliary gym opens Aug 15, at the high school, and expect it to fill up immediately
- The special event center is the biggest and nicest indoor space.
- Middle school has two gyms, and each elementary has one gym
- Do you collaborate with any organizations in town to provide field space for events? YMCA rents space. United Way partners for after school at 3 elementary school, and there are other partners are using their gym space

March 12, 2019, 4pm
Gallatin Valley AYSO Soccer Region 536 - Jason Kovnesky

- There are spring and fall leagues
- Play all over the valley, and practice in Belgrade
- Spring league games are at Belgrade Youth Sports Complex
- Teams practice at Lions Park
- They are looking for long term fields to play on
- April - June there are 300 kids, and September - October there are 700 kids
- In the spring, they use 6 fields (30’x60’) and 2 fields (60’x90’)
- AYSO pays the school to use the Belgrade Youth Sports Complex, including fees to clean the bathrooms
- At the Adam Bronken Memorial Sports Complex, AYSO is charged $18,000 for full day use of one field, for 8 weeks. $2,250 for one full day use of one field
- AYSO pays $1000 per season in Belgrade
- AYSO lines their own fields, and can store items at the school if needed
- Would like more support from the City of Belgrade
- Looking for space to practice 1 or 2 times a week, and one dedicated field for games
- There is growth in soccer participation in Belgrade, and all spring games are in Belgrade
- Would prefer to have one location for soccer games and tournaments - very difficult to line and manage fields in Three Forks, Manhattan, Belgrade, and Bozeman
- There are so many entities competing for space - there needs to be some coordinated effort as people are territorial about using fields
- There is a lot of collaborative strength - the volunteer base overlaps between sports
- There is congested traffic at Medina Field and the Softball complex at Spooner Road
- School fields are better taken care of than the city fields

March 12, 2019
Belgrade Parks Board
- Inquire if the school bond projects identify ball fields
- Is there an opportunity for PPP?
- School ballfields are well taken care of
- City fields are not well taken care of (staffing)
- Bohlinger and Cruiser streets are going to be heavily impacted by the new school traffic
- School is proposed to open 2020

- Look at trends in Montana for park use / activities
- Make sure we are incorporating public comments into the plan
- City boards/staff would like comment cards that include survey site and ways to comment
- Contact Senior Center regarding GP & MP
- Bing maps and Google maps are not accurate with park locations
- Roads or sidewalks to nowhere – need to be connected
- Identify weak spots in subdivision regulations related to connectivity (sidewalk and trails)
- Familiarize ourselves with the new development going on around Prescott Park
- Would like to incorporate or identify locations for new playground equipment
- Look for new ball space areas/land acquisition

March 13, 2019
Belgrade Community Coalition (BCC)
- Non profit volunteer board, not membership based, 7 on board
- Aim for stronger sense of community in Belgrade
- Met with strategic planner a few years ago – biggest need is connectivity, with trails, or person to person with events or getting to know neighbors
- 150-200 volunteers
- Funded by grants, donations, sponsorships
- Not a lot of outside entertainment in Belgrade
- When you live in Belgrade it is tough to meet people, unless you have kids, but not much to do if you are young
- Partner with a lot of different groups, or groups find them
- Well respected by city council / assume some of role from chamber
- Seen as next generation of leadership for Belgrade
- Help with Festival of Lights and Farmer’s Market
- Want to help with trails
Skate Park - main focus was to find activities for kids. Mountain Sky Guest Ranch grant received for Skate Park required matching grant. Took a number of years to get all funding. Gallatin Valley Skate Society. Required more community support and involvement. So Tiffany stresses involvement.

Need community driven projects - diverse people from different organizations

Would like to connect River Rock and Belgrade City Proper. River Rock pond / travel not safe. Need separated path. Informal conversations with GVLT. Have not had conversations with River Rock. Connecting Belgrade to Manhattan and Belgrade to Bozeman. Group is raising money specifically for Belgrade to Bozeman.

Give big fund raising blew record for fundraising. Trails focus raised funds best year ever. Contributing toward planning effort. Community giving seems to be high for trails. Businesses have money and don't get approached by Belgrade often so asking for money easier than Bozeman. Construction companies donation. Time, material, labor, cash. $160K Skate Park.

Trident out in 3 Forks would like to help in Belgrade

If financial giving isn't possible, manpower is available

Focus on connecting projects

There are a lot of families moving here. 9,000 city 21,000 school district

501 c3 Non profit can apply for a lot more than the city – co align and focus on projects.

As BCC identifies projects, they meet with Jason Karp

Long time ranchers are concerned about growth

Belgrade used to be the place for affordable housing

School board information for the bond was very successful. Much better prepared.

Trails would be a big draw more than parks

GVLT looking for their next project. Bridget is ED for Bozeman Area Community Foundation.

May be a cultural issue and need partnering to get into the community in the past

Big connectivity gaps include between Airport and Ryan Glen Development along Dry Creek. Penwell Bridge Road

Gaps include along Amsterdam Road from Jackrabbit past River Rock to the Gallatin River fishing access

Snow maintenance on the trail Jackrabbit to Valley Center

Need to connect subdivisions that are already built through trails

Landmark & Cobblestone have great trail systems

Signage of existing trails

Connectivity to the sidewalk system E. Belgrade Interchange needs to be identified. Been working on this for 4 years with no resolution. This is not in the City limits.

Examples include Lewistown signage for parks / trails, Polson/Ronan/Arlee, Bozeman, Victoria British Columbia

Paint the picture – visuals and how that is going to connect and what they are going to look like for safety and recreation

More restaurants would help the community. Liquor license is a major detriment to additional growth.

HRDC/Streamline: Relationship is established. Need bus that goes to the airport. Funding may help promote getting them to add another line. Can’t charge because if they do they lose some of their grant money. March 28th - transportation meeting – Streamline will be talking.

Need to connect airport to the City, which is a public safety issue

Would like to work with Gallatin County - just haven't had the opportunity to work with the County on sidewalks/trails connectivity.

March 14, 2019, 10am
Bozeman International Airport, Brian Sprenger

1,000 FTE employees

No additional land acquisition planned

Less concerned with commercial development than residential

Watch for height restrictions - has traded land at end of runways for clearance

There are navigation easements, height restrictions
- Boundary of airport mostly will not change, but will see extension of runways, but no new runways
- Boise airport is a good comparison
- There are conflicts with the existing treatment plant (wastewater)
- Not going to interfere with private development at this time
- Airport and City share water rights
- Airport is responsible for all airport infrastructure
- Fully connected to city water and sewer infrastructure
- High school and airport are biggest water users
- Streamline stop is desired but there are not enough routes/demand. Need these at all times of the day particularly early in the morning and late at night. Before 8 a.m. and after 8 p.m.
- Parking garage will be 90% car rentals and 10% private rental
- 2009-2018 doubled use
- First two months of 2019 are up 21%
- Expecting 1.5 million passengers in 2019, 27% of airport passengers is pure tourism
- Local traffic is 39% of overall airport use
- Data sharing between airport and City would be helpful in collaboration
- There is an aviation easement on the Sports Complex
- Sports complex will need to be sensitive to lighting
- DRNC owns property Sports Complex
- City and School have a junior easement on the Sports Complex, airport has a senior easement. There's an agreement between city and school – school operates facilities there, shapes construction, help maintain undeveloped areas. Any development requires approval from School, DNRC, Airport, City
- Can't participate in funding outside of Airport property
- Airport can place millings as beginnings of a trail to help connect areas
- Construction staging – construction paving or abandoned roads could overlap with planned trails

- Airport is open to trading land

March 14, 2019

River Rock HOA

- 1,214 property owners
- Commercial areas are available for mixed use development
- 2010-2011 CIP needs to be updated
- Issues with maintenance / storm / fire hydrants / roads
- The HOA subcontracts some maintenance
- Would be open to parks district
- River Rock water and sewer district is separate entity and not associated with River Rock HOA
- Water and sewer district recently upgraded and has capacity
- River Rock does not pay for irrigation water (looking to drill wells) for parks or common open space
- Streets and sidewalks biggest concern
- Parks need more parking
- Public parks
- Wild Horse Trail area is a shared area
- Streamline use would be great – people walk to Flying J Truck Stop
- Fish pond is full of coy. Fish & Wildlife would stock if coy were removed
- Dues are $426 / year
- Look into annexation and incorporation MCA laws (distance from existing cities)
- Would entertain an Inter-local Agreement with the City for some services
- Some parks in River Rock are not named
- Would like to complete walking loop in North Park

March 14, 2019

Belgrade Chamber of Commerce

- Belgrade is NOT Bozeman, the small town feel is important
- School District is important
• Biggest softball tournaments in the State
• Large volunteer base in the community
• There are business challenges like lack of affordable space, and high rent
• Downtown is not overly defined
• Parking accessibility - need better parking, and they are trying to get business owners to not park in front of their stores so visitors can park there
• Would support safe downtown mixed use
• Affordable Housing is less than $1500 month
• Habitat for humanity has a growing wait list. Growing faster than anywhere in the county, and can’t find affordable land. There is the most need in Belgrade
• There are new habitat homes going in new the Sky Scope area (Idaho St.) by westbound ramp
• Singles and families need housing
• There is no recreation or tourism that brings people to Belgrade other than rec sports
• Need hotels and restaurants for sports, most tourism is for youth sports
• Would like to see a Sports Complex
• Dog park
• Belgrade Garden Club installing pollinator garden is going in Lewis and Clark park by Davis Street
• Community beautification is important
• Would like walkability, bikability, trees, bike lanes, consistent street lighting
• History of Belgrade is important
• Would like to see more signage, gateway signage
• Water Park is popular
• More retail is desired, need to incentivize businesses
• Railroad tracks hinder technology growth, utilities, safety, traffic
• Need a turn signal and turn lane at Madison and Jackrabbit, Main and Jackrabbit
• School on Bohlinger is going to add to congested traffic
• Would like an additional exit between Belgrade and Manhattan
• Would like parks with combined sports, for example, overlap soccer fields and softball fields
• Would like fields with lighting for evening play

March 14, 2019
Gallatin County Conservation and Parks - Michael Harris
• The 2010 Gallatin County park document was never adopted. Was too regulatory to be adopted. Need to update County parks and trails plan.
• Big Sky has updated theirs
• Gallatin County would update for construction and maintenance.
• There is an abandoned rail line outside of Belgrade

March 15, 2019
Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT)
• Historically does Bozeman work, has partnered with Bozeman on trails
• Works with DNRC and USFW
• Maintenance agreements with Bozeman, DNRC, USFW
• Have 1.5 FTE for trails
• Sit on a number of advisory boards including the Belgrade to Bozeman Board with Jason Karp
• Without a Parks Plan feel like they cannot assist Belgrade without their voice - need an idea of where the community wants to go with trails
• Will provide support via advisory position for expertise on trail design, support letters, grant applications, etc.
• Frontage Road is a desired trail corridor
• Alaska Road may be a good option for a trail
• County never adopted the Park/Trail plan
• MPO may form at next census
• Linear park concept will help connect communities faster, linear parks are encouraged versus postage-stamp shaped parks
• Valley West and Oak Meadow have linear parks
• Adopt a regional trail plan
• Bozeman is working on a Parks District
• Great American Trail Organization DC to WA is approximately 50% done, their long term desire to use abandoned rail line
• Need a regional parks/trails plan - is Main Street to Main Street a desire?
• MSU Student intern program may help Belgrade with GIS project
• City of Bozeman uses City Works software. Belgrade should use the same so the platforms communicate
• Could talk to County Health Department for information on walkability campaign, educational data, signage campaigns, etc
• Park district could fund new improvements, not just maintenance
• 160 acre conservation areas are desired
• MPO could help pay for GIS software and compatibility
• Headwaters Economics has trail research information

April 12, 2019 11:15pm
Belgrade Community Market - Christine Stoppa
• Market is 40 booths, less than 50 booths, don't want to get large. Vision is to be primarily a Farmers market, not craft market, and the goal is to get to half produce and half craft
• Would like a visitor to be able to grab food and groceries without going overboard on food trucks. Food trucks require a permit
• Use only 2 streets along the park. With 2 food trucks. Would like to prevent congestion and take up good parking spaces
• Another issue is the restrooms. There are no doors on the stalls. We put our own hand sanitizer in
• Space for outdoor music venue. Electricity is not convenient. Need set spot for electricity. Storage issue - no place to store items. Shelter was built for a food vendor. City doesn't want it for storage, but they want it for food. Dragging tables every week. More parking. People are running across Davis - people shooting in front of cars
• Old fire station could be an ideal community space for the market on rainy days
• Have to be careful of the underground sprinklers when carrying things and parking. Parking spots that back-in would be ideal
• Health Coalition working on walkability - already working with Chris Coburn. Pilot program with token. $2 in produce
• One purpose is to have a place for people to meet
A second public survey was available May 21, 2019 through May 31, 2019. The purpose of the survey was to confirm public opinion on parks and recreation programming, a parks district, and a parks department.
### Multiple Choice Questions

1) A swimming pool, trails, entertainment/music venue, and youth/family activities were some of the most requested recreational items in the public survey. Please rank these recreational items and press submit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Trails!</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Youth/family activities!</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Entertainment!</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. An outdoor pool!</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Lack of connectivity and inadequate field space were the most mentioned issues by community members in the focus groups. Do you agree that these items are the biggest problems related to parks and recreation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Just lack of connectivity</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Just inadequate field space</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. ALL of the above</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>63.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. NONE of the above</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11.34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3) Many respondents in the public survey indicated a need for some form of improvement to Belgrade parks and recreation. Do you agree that parks and recreation needs improvement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Our parks need improvement</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Leave the parks alone, create new trails</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Improve parks AND create new trails</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>55.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Forget parks and trails, fix the roads first</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>21.61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4) A Park District is a type of Special Improvement District (SID) where a group of property owners make payments towards public improvements. A Park District in the Belgrade area could match the school district boundary, capturing payments from those who are most likely to use park facilities in town. Do you agree that this is an appropriate boundary for a Parks District?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Yes! That's perfect</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>67.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. No, I don't want a Parks District</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Um, we need a larger footprint</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. That's too big, we need a smaller footprint</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5) The City of Belgrade has no parks department, but parks are managed by Public Works. Would you be in favor of a parks department forming, including additional staff funded by Belgrade taxes or a parks district?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Definitely yes - why don't we have a parks department now?</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>42.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Yes</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>35.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. No</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>16.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. No way - things are fine the way they are</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.05%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Open-ended Questions

Any other thoughts? Answers relating to parks, recreation, and trails.

1. Thank you for doing this. First, we already invest in some of these so my answers reflect my opinion that what’s needed most. We have tight city limits. We have to be mindful of what the City of Belgrade can promise and deliver. Growth is inevitable. Public safety is first -- kids travelling safe routes to schools, residents being encouraged to get around without vehicles. I think Belgrade is worried about lack of parking because we haven’t made it an ethic to walk and bike within the city limits. Perhaps education on when, where and at what times of year might be helpful and appropriate.

2. Thanks for the opportunity to voice our opinion. And thanks for all you do.

3. I think it’s great we have a skate park but at Lewis and Clark park but we need to have rules and someone enforcing them. Not all the people but most that use skate park are very obnoxious and behave inappropriately for other kids that are in area.

4. Lewis and Clark park (the splash & skate area) is an important hub for kids of all ages. However, the bathroom feels very unsafe. It would be wonderful if they were improved.

5. The City and School district need to work together as a common group. Belgrade lacks identity as a community due to the City limits. The City has an obligation to its taxpayers but these discussions don’t need to be fixated on tax districts in the best interest of all taxpayers. I think the school district boundary is a well described group for the parks

6. Loosooow what this group is trying to accomplish!!! So much respect and support!!

7. Thanks for your work on this! I would encourage the City to continue to communicate with the community so we continue to feel a part of the process and invested in the outcome. This would help a lot if/when a Parks District was adopted.

8. Belgrade is growing rapidly. Kids are bored. Build a pool, put in a movie theatre or bowling. Let's keep the kids in Belgrade for their fun. No need to drive to Bozeman!!!

9. Need a bike/walking path/trail from the River Rock/Cobblestone/Landmark Subdivisions into the City of Belgrade. There has been a significant effort to build these paths/trails between Bozeman and Belgrade, but the outlying communities of Belgrade should be connected to the City of Belgrade FIRST! Amsterdam is a very congested road and dangerous to travel on by foot or bike.

10. Traffic flow, especially around the schools, is a problem. We need more sidewalks.

11. Would be great to have a trail system! Improve existing commercial/ residential areas.

12. The focus on Belgrade Parks and Trails is fantastic. This combined with the recent announcement of the Rails to Trails path through the area, and the Bozeman Main Street to Mountains system will be GREAT! With Three Forks and Copper City already ahead of the game - our area is going to be a recreation HUB - Not to mention all the economic benefits that will come along with it!! Keep up the good work - and think PARTNERSHIPS!!

13. Thanks for trying to build a better Belgrade!!!

14. Thank you! Improving our town increases its “livability”

15. More/updated equipment in existing parks

16. Better roads, affordable housing, parks and trails

17. Parks and trails make a city desirable, bringing people and then businesses follow the consumers, bringing money to the community.

18. We need city programs!! Little leagues, community education programs, etc.

19. Gallatin already has a lot of public area and have numerous trails & recreational areas, we do not need to spend money on these like Bozeman did. Focus on improving Education and supporting Small business who support the community & improving without wasteful spending.

20. I would love to see a bike lane along dry creek road into Belgrade

21. Since we live in Montana we need more than just an outdoor pool. We need a full aquatic facility that includes an outdoor pool along with the indoor pool.

22. These are tough issues for sure. Although I’d really like to see more recreational opportunities in Belgrade I think infrastructure to reduce high traffic areas and improve Belgrades economy are possibly higher priorities, but will need to be addressed in time.

23. Trails would be great.

24. Thank you! This has been a great process. Very insightful!

25. The current park equipment is outdated and needs to be replaced before new parks are built.

26. Thank you for including residents in these conversations! We all benefit when everyone works together.

27. Maintain the sidewalks better

28. I appreciate that the time is being taken to work through this and offer the public a chance to give opinions. Belgrade growth is a good thing but it needs to happen correctly and carefully while also supporting current residents. I will say safety, education, and availability of resources for our youth is my primary concern in Belgrade right now.

29. A pool would be so awesome for Belgrade, but it needs to be indoor/ outdoor because we have so much winter.

30. Invest in making Belgrade a stand-out community with excellent livability because of a healthy business sector, good schools, recreation & transportation. It would be nice to shed the reputation of a being a lower cost doormat to Bozeman.

31. Do not add in more taxes for something like this. It is already too expensive here and a ton of people, including my family are having to consider moving as we can barely afford the current taxes we are charged.

32. Thank you for your hard work. I went to the open house at the library last night. The print and maps were way too small. Our aging eyes need big, colorful, easy to read graphs, pictures, maps. Thank you again.

33. Connectivity to parks is vital and then having some core larger parks that are developed with more activities and amenities for kids and adults to share he space.

34. As a Belgrade family who does not live in city limits, a parks and recreation district is CRITICAL to attracting and keeping families in Belgrade. PLEASE work with the committee to get a pool built. Give or lease land to let that happen. Let’s support all of the people who would use those facilities. Also, Belgrade needs more businesses. The city should be attracting more industries, service businesses, technology, activity based businesses, tourism based businesses. We are missing out on HUGE tax revenue due to our lack of businesses.

35. would love to see a big/wide bike/pedestrian trail connecting Belgrade to Bozeman. Wide enough to accommodate multiple uses, with shaded rest stops along the way for children and seniors. Drinking fountains and restrooms would be a PLUS++

36. Bring a MSU or other community college campus to Belgrade
APPENDIX D: TYPICAL DETAILS

The following details are general and not site specific. An engineer or landscape architect is recommended to review and customize the details for projects.
Typical Trail Section

NOTES:
1. LAY DOWN FABRIC ALONG ENTIRE DRAINAGE TRENCH, OVERLAPPING 12" AT SEAMS AND STAPLING ON EACH SIDE OF THE TRENCH.
2. STAPLED STAPLES TO BE COMMERCIAL GRADE, STEEL STAPLES 6" IN LENGTH.
3. NONWOVEN GEOTEXTILE FILTER FABRIC POLYPROPYLENE OR POLYESTER FABRIC, 3 OZ./SQUARE YARD, COMPRESSED OR BLENDED FORMED INTO A STABLE NETWORK SO THAT SEEDS EMBED/UPTAKE RELATIVE POSITION, FABRIC SHALL BE INSERT TO SUPERFICIAL DEPTHS OF A MAXIMUM 4 INCHES.
4. COORDINATE INSTALLATION OF DRAINAGE FABRIC WITH OTHER SITE ELEMANTS.