



BOZEMAN^{MT}

Parks & Recreation



Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs
2015 Annual Report

From the Director



Local trails.



Evening curling games.



Biking local trails.

Dear Fellow Community Members:

The Bozeman Parks and Recreation Department is proud to present to you our 2015 Annual Report. Your Parks and Recreation Department consists of five Divisions:

1. Cemetery
2. Forestry
3. Parks
4. Aquatics
5. Recreation

Additionally, we manage the six Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) Bond projects currently underway around the City. This Report attempts to condense, highlight, memorialize and make readily available the 2015 calendar year success and challenges while looking ahead to 2016.

Your Parks and Recreation Department strives to offer something for everyone, from each of our Divisions. We value the opportunity we have to contribute to the high quality of life here in Bozeman. With a community as dynamic as ours we count on volunteers, supporters and the general public to help shape our direction. Please read over the 2015 Annual Report and feel free to comment back to us on suggestions that you may have to help us serve our growing community in every way possible.



Mitchell J. Overton, MS, CPRP
Parks and Recreation Department Director

Parks Division



Bogert Park.



Lindley Park.



Cooper Park.

The City of Bozeman Parks Division is responsible for the overall development and maintenance of 42 public parks, 52 miles of trails and associated sports fields and open space within the City limits. Many HOA's are responsible for basic maintenance of their neighborhood city parks.

Much of our parks, trails and open spaces are managed in partnership with local groups, which helps to maximize every dollar. We partner with the Sunrise Rotary Club to improve the East Gallatin Recreation Area, Breakfast Optimists Club is our partner at the Bozeman Ponds, and trails are maintained and developed in partnership with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. There are many other local groups that help as well.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued installations of the new park entrance signs.
- Assumed all maintenance responsibilities for Lerner, Ainsworth, and Oak Springs Parks. 18 additional acres, and one additional playground.
- Successfully implemented the CityWorks asset management software.
- Replaced fence with a higher fence around the baseball field at Kirk Park (south field), allowing older kids to utilize the field.
- Increased number of tournaments throughout the spring and summer at Bronken, Heroes Park, Christie Fields, and the Softball Complex. (This years "Battin' in the Bridgers" youth baseball tournament is expected to bring 44 out of town teams to the City in late June.)

BY THE NUMBERS

Total number of city-maintained parks 42 (up one from 2014)

Parkland maintained 474 acres (up from 465 in 2014)

Parkland maintained by HOAs and the county 295 acres

Private parkland in City limits 12 acres

Trails maintained 52 miles

Sidewalks maintained 16+ miles

Playgrounds maintained . . 37 (up from 36 in 2014)

Dog waste stations 41

Picnic tables 117

Park picnic shelters 10

Ice rink area (4). . . . 2.7 acres

ON THE HORIZON

- Discussion and feasibility study pertaining to creating a citywide park maintenance district. The topic is one of eight high priority goals set forth by the City Commission.
- Establish policy and procedures for expending Cash In-Lieu-of of Parkland money and establishing criteria for Improvements In-Lieu-of Parkland.
- Assist MSU Engineering and GVLT in establishing a bridge replacement program throughout the trail and park system.
- The acquisition of the Boy’s and Girl’s Club will add additional park acres to maintain, playground areas to inspect and maintain, and parking lots to plow in the winter.
- Open the Bozeman Pond expansion TOP project.
- Continue to draw large numbers of sports teams into town due to tournaments – direct result of field quality.
- Completing an aggressive tree planting and irrigation expansion in coordination with the Forestry Division at Rose Park.



New entrance signage for Softball complex.



One of many local trails.

We work in partnership with several community organizations, service clubs, and non-profits to develop and maintain the parks.

Some of the groups that we partner with include (there are many more!):

- *Optimist Club*
- *Sunrise Rotary Club*
- *Gallatin Valley Land Trust*
- *Run Dog Run*
- *Bozeman Sports Park Foundation*
- *Trust for Public Land*
- *Gallatin Watershed Council*
- *Bridger Ski Foundation*

TOP (Trails, Open Space, and Parks)

The \$15 million Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOP) bond initiative was passed with 73.4% voter approval in 2012.

HIGHLIGHTS

- To date, three major acquisitions of new parkland have been completed, including:
 - 55 acres for Story Mill Community Park
 - 80 acres for the Bozeman Sports Park
 - 9 acres for Bozeman Pond expansion
- The Front Street Connector Path was added to the five previously approved projects funded by the TOP bond.
- Progress on these projects in 2015 included:
 - Consultant design teams were selected and additional public input workshops were held to produce preliminary Master Plans for Story Mill Community Park and Bozeman Sports Park.
 - A preferred alignment for the Path to the M and Drinking

Horse Mountain was identified and preliminary layout drawings were completed.

- Additional funding for public infrastructure and a final site plan approval was obtained for the Bozeman Pond Park expansion project.
- Final design and hydraulics were completed and permit applications were submitted for the Bozeman Creek Enhancements at Bogert Park project.
- Preliminary design and coordination with adjacent property owners progressed for the Front Street Connector Path.

ON THE HORIZON

Continue work on approved TOP projects, including:

- Begin construction of Bozeman Creek Enhancements at Bogert Park

- Begin construction of Phase I of the Bozeman Sports Park
- Complete design of Story Mill Park
- Complete design of the Trail to the M and Drinking Horse Mountain
- Complete design of the Front Street Connector Trail
- Complete 9 acre Bozeman Ponds Expansion Project. The new addition includes a restroom, dog park, picnic shelters, and a natural playground.

BY THE NUMBERS

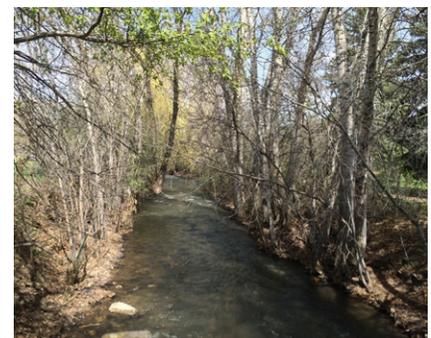
Community funding and in-kind donations totaling over \$9 million has been leveraged to date with \$14,513,106 allocated from the Trails, Open Space and Parks bond fund with partner cash and in-kind contributions of \$5,691,400 and grants totaling \$3,550,600 for a total value of nearly \$24 million in improvements being added to the City of Bozeman park system.



Bozeman Sports Park Master Plan.



Story Mill Community Park Conceptual Illustration.



Bozeman Creek enhancement at Bogert Park project site.

Cemetery Division

The 73-acre Sunset Hills Cemetery, the only City owned and maintained cemetery, is a virtual arboretum of stately pine, fir, spruce, ash, maple, cedar and various ornamental trees (maintained by the Forestry Division). The site currently contains over 16,000 burial sites with nine dedicated affiliation areas and room for expansion.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Managed increase in user group contracts in adjoining open space.
- Memorial Garden is now operational and the Memorial bench installation is complete.
- Cemetery irrigation project design phase is complete, with preferred options for build-out pending an engineering report.
- New road construction complete around blocks 78, 79, 80, and 81.
- Installation completed of the sidewalk behind the Veteran’s Memorial Wall.
- Continued aggressive tree plantings and replacement program with 178 trees added to the cemetery grounds.
- Continued conceptual design of the Southwest Montana Veteran’s Cemetery.

BY THE NUMBERS

Number of burial sitesover 16,000
Number of standard/traditional burials. 44
Number of ash burials. 81

ON THE HORIZON

- Continuing to move forward with the design of the Southwest Montana Veteran’s Cemetery.



New turf at Sunset Hills Cemetery.

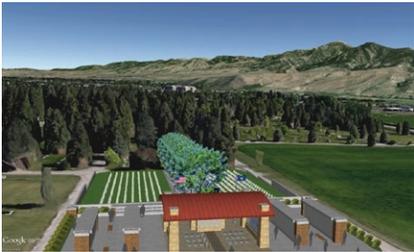


Illustration of proposed Veterans Cemetery.



Memorial Garden.

Forestry Division



Local signage.

Bozeman is a Tree City USA Community The National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes cities and towns across America that meet the standards of the Tree City USA program by effectively managing their public tree resources and encouraging the implementation of community tree management. 2015 marked the 22nd year that the City of Bozeman has applied for recertification and received this designation.

The City of Bozeman Forestry Division is committed to providing a healthy, safe, and aesthetically pleasing community forest for residents and visitors. By maintaining, managing, and preserving its trees, the City raises its citizen's standard of living and maximizes the benefits offered by its urban forest.

The Forestry Division is responsible for the maintenance of trees on city property, including those on street boulevards, in parks and cemetery, along trails, and in landscapes surrounding city buildings. The division also offers many community services, such as sidewalk snow removal, Christmas tree recycling, Christmas decorations, hanging the ice rink curtain, alley clearance, and public education.

Tree maintenance, planting, removal, and community service were the focus in 2015, with a greater emphasis on public education and interdepartmental connections in managing the urban forest.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Moved to the new location at the Vehicle Maintenance Building
- Pursued and awarded DNRC Program Development Grant for Rose Park
- Pursued and awarded 2016 Arbor Day Grant
- Planted new trees in Pete's Hill parking area and boulevard
- Planted memorial trees at the Library and Cooper Park
- Assisted with stream reclamation project on Bozeman Creek
- Trimmed small trees in new subdivisions for structure and to eliminate encroachments
- Continued to provide prompt service for tree trimming, site inspections, and public information
- Worked with Solid Waste Division and Allied Waste to clear alleys for garbage trucks
- Provided clearance for Street Improvement projects
- Continued sampling for Emerald Ash Borer
- Began inventory of Cemetery Trees
- Finalized the development of the Urban Forest Management Plan and Emerald Ash Borer Course of Action Plan
- Installed Christmas decorations on Main Street and at the Story Mansion

- Staff attended educational conferences to gain knowledge and maintain ISA certifications.
- Provided advice and recommendations for trees in newly developed parks, open space, and trail systems.

ON THE HORIZON

- Continue the inventory of cemetery trees (began in September 2015).
- Implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Plan.



Forestry crew at work.

BY THE NUMBERS

Publicly owned trees maintained	20,000+
Small trees trimmed	790
Aerial lift trimming	130
Tree removals.	111
Tree replacement vouchers issued	125
Costshare trees planted.	175
Arbor Day trees planted.	4
Memorial trees planted	4
Stumps ground.	75
Christmas trees recycled (tons)	40
Trees inventoried.	544



Forestry crew planting trees.

Forestry staff participates each holiday season in the decorating of Main Street, installing the large “spiders” and hanging wreaths. Forestry also installs Christmas lights at the Story Mansion and decorates the two large spruce trees in Soroptomist Park.



Downtown Christmas decorations.



Forestry crew lift trimming.

Recreation Division



Music at the Story Mansion.



T-Ball in the spring.



Meeting Santa.

In 2015 the Recreation Division experienced significant increases in programs and services as a result of our growing community. Existing recreation programs were enhanced, special events were added, and new partnerships were formed.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted the Montana and Idaho Trails, Recreation, and Parks Association Annual Conference with 142 Park and Recreation professionals attending from both states.
- Youth Triathlon added for 13-15 year olds.
- Added weekly open play Badminton sessions to the Active Aging program offerings.
- Enhanced existing programs through partnerships.
- Increased program offerings at the Story Mansion.

ON THE HORIZON

- Expand existing programs into additional city parks through the use of the new 15-passenger van.
- More robust Outdoor Adventure Program for 11-14 year olds.
- Expand youth athletic program offerings.
- Develop a sponsorship program and seek sponsors to help offset program costs.
- Concert series at the Story Mansion.
- Increase Cultural Arts programming for all ages.

BY THE NUMBERS

Different program options offered	168
Special events offered	20
Number of participants in recreation programs and events	6,382
Recreation program revenue	\$118,734
Volunteer hours dedicated to recreation programs.	2,947 (up 552 hours from 2014)
Amount donated to programs.	\$1,096

Facility Rentals

The Recreation Division manages three popular community buildings that are home to many of our recreation programs and events. The Lindley Center, Beall Park Recreation Center, and Story Mansion are available to the public to rent for weddings, reunions, meetings, and other events.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased recreation programs at the Story Mansion.
- Increase in public rentals at Story Mansion.

BY THE NUMBERS

Beall Park
Recreation Center rentals. . .321

Lindley Center rentals . . . 320
(up 102 over 2014)

Story Mansion rentals . . . 297
(up 110 from 2014)

Facility Revenue \$75,166
(up \$12,119 over 2014)

ON THE HORIZON

- Acquisition and management of the Boys and Girls Club building
- Story Mansion Carriage house clean up
- Online facility reservation option
- Update risk management and emergency action plans for all recreation facilities
- Installation of sound dampening material in Beall

Pavilions

Seven City parks are home to pavilions of varying sizes that are available to the public to rent for their private events. Pavilions include picnic tables and in some, power outlets. The Recreation Division works with community members on their reservation requirements, which often include special permits. The Parks Division maintains the pavilions.

BY THE NUMBERS

Pavilion reservations
made441
(up 55 from 2014)

Pavilion rental
revenue \$19,600



Annual Easter Egg hunt.

Volunteers play an integral role in community recreation program implementation and the Recreation Division is grateful for the time that our devoted volunteers provided in 2015. Opportunities included t-ball coaches, ice skating instructors, skate camp instructors, Sweet Pea Children’s Run and Youth Triathlon course supervisors, Little Explorer Tour hosts, instructors for pickleball, badminton and curling, Pickin’ In The Park supervisors, and more!

Community members, local business owners, parents, and even former Parks and Recreation Department employees volunteered more than 2,947 hours of their time to recreation programs in 2015.

Recreation Division



Curling at Southside Park.



Kids Triathlon event.

2015 User Groups

- Farmer's Market
- SLAM
- Sweet Pea
- Bozeman Baseball
- Blitz
- Bozeman Lacrosse
- Gallatin Valley BMX
- Gallatin Valley Softball
- Girls Fast Pitch Softball
- Gallatin Valley Volleyball
- Lions Club Football
- Bridger Ski Foundation
- AYSO Soccer

Garden Plots

The Recreation Division manages 83 garden plots that are available to community members for a fee. 100% of these plots were reserved in 2015.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Parks and Recreation Department took over the management of the City Hall garden plots.

BY THE NUMBERS

Plots reserved at City Hall	20
Plots reserved at Westlake Park	23
Plots reserved at Langhor Park	40
Number of additional garden plots reserved in 2015	23
Percentage of plots reserved.	100%
Garden plot revenue	\$2,840

ON THE HORIZON

- Garden plot management plan will be enhanced to improve efficiencies and better track revenues.

User Group Agreements

Community organizations and athletic clubs offer recreation opportunities to thousands of people in city parks each year through use agreements. The Recreation Division manages the agreements ensuring that all of the necessary requirements for use are met, including insurance and permits. The Parks Division maintains the fields and determines use fees by assessing the above and beyond maintenance costs that result from the impact of each group's park use. We continue to see an increase in requests for use each year.

BY THE NUMBERS

User group revenue . . \$22,662
(an increase of \$11,579 over 2014)

ON THE HORIZON

- Develop a plan for managing onetime special events in city parks.

Aquatics Division

The Aquatics Division manages the Bozeman Swim Center and Bogert Pool. The Swim Center is open year round and Bogert during summer months only.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Swim Center aquatic activities included family swim, recreation swim, lap swim, water fitness, swim lessons, inflatable pool toy, open boating, youth triathlon, snorkeling, professional lifeguard classes, and a water safety instructor course.
- The Swim Center hosted recreation groups and special events.
- The Swim Center coordinated with a Fire Training Officer to train City of Bozeman firefighters in water safety and water rescue skills.
- Bogert Pool swim lesson instruction time increased.
- Bogert Pool family swim time increased.
- Bogert Pool hosted a water expo for the Stingrays Synchronized Swim Team.
- Broken and deteriorated gutter tiles were replaced at Bogert Pool.
- Hours open to the public at both facilities were expanded.

BY THE NUMBERS

Swim Center visits . . . 63,695

Bogert Pool visits . . . 14,964

Number of major sources of water loss identified and repaired at Bogert Pool 8

Number of swimming lessons104

Number of user groups 6

Number of high school PE swimmers 23,549 (included in the yearly total)

Swimming facility revenue \$180,022

ON THE HORIZON

- Evening swim lessons added at Bogert, creating more options for the public and increasing the number of lessons offered.
- Currently working on a water testing program with the Gallatin County Health Department to test the water at East Gallatin Recreation Area beginning June 2016.
- Expanding our water safety programs for the public.
 - First water safety event in April 2016 (will make this an annual event)
 - Developing a program to teach water safety to school aged children



Water games at the Swim Center.



Summer fun at Bogert Pool.



Swim lessons at Bogert Pool.

Montana and Idaho Trails, Recreation, and Parks Associations Annual Conference



Mayors welcome and conference kick off.



Turf management field day.



Bike tour.

The 2015 MTRPA/IRPA Conference “Main Street to the Mountains” was held in Bozeman October 26-28. The conference highlighted methods for developing quality parks, trails, pools, programs and healthy built communities and provided insight into the long-term maintenance of these amenities through dynamic breakout sessions and tours.

142 people attended the conference with 58 presenters, 19 exhibitors and eight major sponsors. A conference app was launched to keep attendees connected and informed throughout the week as they attended conference tracks such as Operations and Maintenance, Aquatics, Partnerships and Communities, Programming, and Wildlands, Open Space, and Trails.

The conference took over a year to plan by a committee of nine dedicated professionals from the Bozeman Parks and Recreation Department, Montana State Parks, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, and Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation Department.

Advisory Boards and Committees

Each of the advisory boards and the TOP Committee are comprised of representatives of the community and a City Commission liaison. Meeting schedules and agendas are posted on the City of Bozeman website: www.bozeman.net

RECREATION AND PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Makes recommendations to the City Commission on policy and procedural matters in the field of recreation and parks as well as parkland dedications and cash-in-lieu proposals forwarded during the subdivision review process. The Board consists of up to fourteen members who serve three-year staggered terms and two student members, who serve on-year terms. Members represent as many facets of recreational programs as possible.

CEMETERY ADVISORY BOARD

Makes recommendations to the City Commission and the Department Director regarding operation of the Sunset Hills Cemetery. The Board consists of seven members appointed by the City Commission to staggered three-year terms with a majority being residents of the City. Whenever practicable, one of the members of the Board is a representative of an active, recognized veteran's organization.

TREE ADVISORY BOARD

Provides guidance to the City Commission regarding the

City's urban tree program and develops and updates the City Tree Master Plan. This Board is comprised of five members appointed by the City Commission to staggered two-year terms. Members are residents of the City and either own property or are employed at an establishment within the City limits. Whenever possible, at least two members are from the following disciplines: real estate, commercial lending, civil or environmental engineering, landscape architecture, or landscape construction.

TRAILS, OPEN SPACE, AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Created to review applications and make recommendations to the City Commission for funding projects from the voter-approved Trails, Open Space, and Parks bond via Resolution 4368, utilizing the Application Procedure and Evaluation Criteria approved by the City Commission. In 2015, the TOP Committee recommended funding in the amount of \$178,106 for the Front Street Connector Trail.

Recreation & Parks Advisory Board

- Beth Thorsen
- Bob Wade
- Brian Close
- Jade Sobek
- Matt Hausauer
- Matthew Parsons
- Richard Shanahan
- Salal Huber-McGee
- Stephanie Gray
- Steve Roderick
- Steve Schnee
- Tony Thatcher

Cemetery Advisory Board

- Don Derby
- James Korth
- Katherine Ball
- Katie Tennille
- Lynn Flansaas
- Marypat Zitzer
- Russ Tuckerman

Tree Advisory Board

- Elisa Boyd
- William Hoch
- Patrick Cross
- Rebekah VanWieren
- Scott Makoutz

TOP Committee

- Bob Hawks
- Don Beeman
- Doug Chandler
- Stephanie Gray
- Tom Starnier

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