

# Front Street Connector Pathway



**Application for City of Bozeman TOP Funding  
March 9, 2015**

Submitted by:



212 S. Wallace, Suite 102, Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-587-8404, [www.gvlt.org](http://www.gvlt.org)



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**1. Please give a brief description of your project that includes location, budget, amount requested and amount contributed from other sources.**

The proposed project will create a separated, 10-foot wide, paved bicycle and pedestrian pathway within the existing city-owned Front Street right-of-way. The path will be approximately ¼ mile long and begin at the intersection of Birch (Oak) and Rouse and travel southeast to terminate at North Wallace Avenue (see enclosed maps). The total project cost is expected to be \$156,300. We are requesting \$137,700 in TOP Bond funds, which equates to 88% of the total project cost. Project expenses totaling \$18,600 will be covered by the Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLTI). (See attached budget.)

**2. Briefly describe how the project creates or enhances Open Space/Natural Areas, Parks, Trails, Water Quality, or Multi-Use Recreational Fields.**

Trails. Although less than a quarter-mile long, this critical pathway enhances Bozeman's existing trail network by connecting a gap between heavily used segments of trail and providing a safe route removed from busy roads that currently lack bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. In addition, trails that connect our system east to west are currently lacking and this segment will help develop a logical, easy-to-use, and safe trail system in North Bozeman, which is generally underserved by trails. The primary goals of the project are to:

- Improve public safety by creating an accessible shared-use path linking existing trail and sidewalk networks, and helping to separate bicycle/pedestrian use from vehicular traffic on Rouse Avenue and Tamarack Street, which currently lack adequate multi-modal facilities.
- Link highly-used public trails and provide access to important community destinations and businesses. The pathway will fill a gap in the existing *Main Street to the Mountains* trail system that will be critically important for both transportation and recreation. The path will connect the existing paved pathway on Oak Street with the Story Mill Spur Trail and Depot Park Connector Trail. This link will help create a safe connection between important community destinations, including Story Mill Park, Path to the M (both funded by TOP), downtown Bozeman, the Cannery District businesses, Gallatin County Fairgrounds, and businesses on Oak Street, North 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., and North 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. It will be an economic stimulus by increasing bicycle/pedestrian access and traffic, and will help stimulate tourism by creating a seamless, integrated trail system linking businesses and hotels in west Bozeman all the way to the "M".
- Develop variety and balance in our trail system with the addition of a new shared-use path. Bozeman currently has very few shared-use asphalt paths (just ~12 miles out of the more than 70 miles of trails). It will also provide new recreation and transportation opportunities for the north side of Bozeman, which is generally underserved by our existing network of trails and parks.
- Create an opportunity to enjoy and restore Bozeman Creek, with a bridge spanning the creek. There are few locations north of Main Street where Bozeman Creek is visible to the

public, and this bridge crossing – while not providing direct creek access – will provide a place where trail users can pause and enjoy the sights and sounds of this important waterway. The bridge siting will also create opportunities for interpretive signage and education about water quality issues associated with Bozeman Creek.

Water Quality. A key component of the proposed pathway is a new 10-foot wide bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Bozeman Creek. The 60-foot wide bridge span will completely clear the existing stream channel. This longer than necessary bridge length will provide an opportunity to expand the existing channel and provide more capacity in a high water event. The placement of the bridge also creates the opportunity to improve the stream bank, which has been disturbed and filled to accommodate commercial use on the adjoining properties. Currently, the stream banks are heavily infested with common tansy, and large concrete blocks and yards of fill have narrowed the floodway. When placing the bridge, we will pull back the fill, re-contour the banks, and replant them with riparian shrubs, trees, and grasses. This reclamation work could also offer a site for interpretive signage to educate users on water quality issues.

### **3. Has the exact site been identified? If so, please detail here.**

The proposed pathway would be constructed within the existing right-of-way for Front Street, which is owned by the City of Bozeman. The right-of-way is approximately 50 feet wide and has been encroached into by the adjoining property owners. They have been contacted by the City and are aware of the encroachment. Conservations are currently underway to explore how we can develop the pathway while minimizing disturbance to their business. Fencing will be utilized to demark the right-of-way and keep trail users out of the adjoining business to the west/south, and active railroad right-of-way to the east/north.

The City's Public Works Department expects that the Front Street right-of-way will someday be used for a vehicular roadway, but anticipates that construction for that purpose is at least ten years in the future. To accommodate use of the right-of-way for a pathway now, and to leave room for a future vehicular road, the path would likely be located to either the far eastern or far western side of the existing right-of-way. In addition, we will use a pre-fabricated, one-piece bicycle/pedestrian bridge that is lowered into place with a crane. If the future road construction dictates removal of the bicycle/pedestrian bridge, we can simply relocate the bicycle/pedestrian bridge to a new location on our trail system, ensuring that we don't waste funds on a temporary bridge.

The specific location of the pathway will be determined through engineering and design work, currently underway as a part of the Oak Street pre-design contract within the Public Works Department, paid for with impact fees. Utilizing this design work will further leverage TOP Bond funds, ensure coordination and compatibility with design for the rest of the Oak Street corridor, and save City resources.

### **4. Briefly explain how the project creates long term value for the residents of Bozeman.**

The public benefits of this pathway are significant, despite its relatively short length. The pathway will help to achieve the following goals:

- Resolve safety issues by providing separated facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, moving them off of the busy roadways with inadequate bicycle/pedestrian facilities.
- Connect a gap in our existing *Main Street to the Mountains* community trail system, helping to develop a continuous and logical system of pathways from the “M” all the way to North 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Remove a barrier for persons with disabilities by providing improved connections and safe trail access.
- Provide new options for non-motorized transportation, helping to reduce traffic.
- Help meet priority goals set in existing regional planning documents:
  - *Bozeman Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space (PROST) Plan (2007)*. This path connection is explicitly identified in the PROST Plan (Trail Plan Map) as a proposed shared-use path, and aligns with recommendations for trails by expanding the existing trail system in a logical, convenient and safe manner (Recommendation 10.7.3).
  - *Bozeman Community Plan (2009)*. The proposed path is supported by this plan because it helps to connect the community using trails (Objective R-1.5), improves the safety of trail facilities (Objective R-1.9), encourages transportation options that reduce consumption and increase social interaction (Goal T-3), and helps to integrate a system of recreational and transportation pathways (Goal T-4).
  - *Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan (2007 Update)*. The proposed pathway helps to establish an integrated system of pathways, an identified priority in the Transportation Plan.

With significant public benefit, this project is an economical investment for the City, leveraging TOP Bond funds through:

- Commitment of \$18,600 from GVLT in the form of cash and in-kind support.
- Use of existing city-owned property for an important trail connection, rather than acquiring new property.
- Utilizing impact fees to pay for a portion of the path design.

**5. Please list all groups/organizations involved or contributing to this project and what their short and long term commitments will be.**

The Gallatin Valley Land Trust is the lead partner on this project. In the near-term, GVLT will provide technical assistance for trail layout and design. GVLT is also committed to helping make the pathway infrastructure consistent and compatible with the remainder of the *Main Street to the Mountains* trail system with the installation of trail totems, information kiosks, and other infrastructure as needed/possible. GVLT pledges \$18,600 in support for these efforts in the form of in-kind staff support, signage, and cash for path construction. With 25 years of experience building and maintaining trails, enhancing trail infrastructure, and coordinating volunteers, GVLT is committed to the success of this project.

In addition, the project is supported by numerous individuals and the following organizations, as evidenced by the enclosed letters of support.

- ALTA Planning & Design
- Bozeman Area Bicycle Advisory Board
- Bozeman Area Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee
- Bozeman Economic Development Office
- Bozeman Northeast Urban Renewal Board
- Bozeman Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
- Bridger Ski Foundation
- Cannery Development
- Collin's Coalition
- Downtown Bozeman Partnership
- Eagle Mount
- Gallatin Valley Bicycle Club
- MSU - Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program
- National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program
- Outside Bozeman Magazine
- Run Dog Run
- Trust for Public Land

**6. Please describe the anticipated maintenance requirements for the site and who will be responsible for the maintenance.**

The City of Bozeman will assume maintenance responsibility. This will not be a significant commitment, as they can extend their maintenance of the Oak Street Path across Rouse Ave. to this new pathway. In addition, the Gallatin Valley Land Trust is committed to providing maintenance support. Using volunteers and our professional staff, GVLTT can assist with removing brush in the trail corridor and installation and upkeep of infrastructure such as signage.

**7. Are you aware of any mitigation needs on any part of a proposed property? If so, please explain.**

There are no known mitigation needs associated with the project.

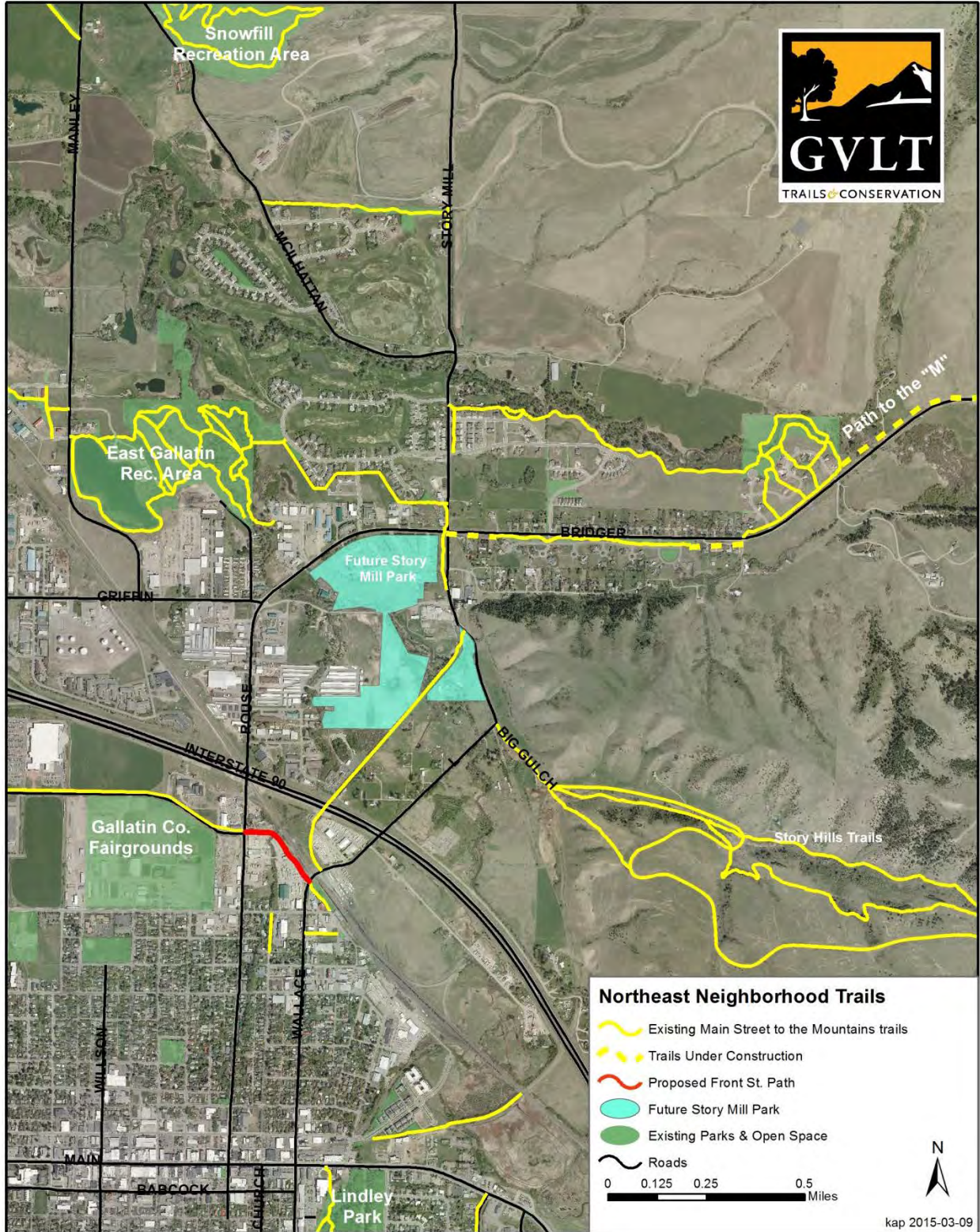
## Proposed Budget

Project Component	Item	Detail	Expenses	Funding	
				TOP Proposal	GVLT**
Engineering and Design	Engineering and design	Design and construction specs*	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge	Bridge structure	60' x 10' clear-span, prefab from Contech	\$52,200	\$52,200	
	Bridge abutments	poured concrete	\$7,500	\$7,500	
	Stream improvements	excavation pulling back banks, removing debris	\$3,000	\$3,000	
	Building permit	City of Bozeman	\$600	\$600	
	Engineering & stream permits	including floodplain, 310, 318, 404	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Paved path	Path excavation and paving	Asphalt and excavation for 1250 ft x 10 ft at \$2/sq. ft	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
Site Finishes	Fencing	6 ft. tall chain link, 780 ft. x 14 ft	\$11,000	\$11,000	
	Landscaping/ site reclamation	planting, reseeding, site finishes	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Signage	Kiosk	standard kiosk and maps	\$2,000		\$2,000
	Totem structure	standard totems and signage	\$600		\$600
Management	Project management	100 hrs @\$60/hr	\$6,000		\$6,000
	Contingency	at 15%	\$20,400	\$20,400	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$156,300</b>	<b>\$137,700</b>	<b>\$18,600</b>
<b>Project Proportion</b>				<b>88%</b>	<b>12%</b>

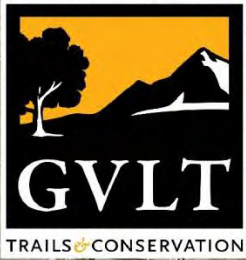
\* Pre-design work may come from existing contract with Public Works, paid for with Impact Fees. Additional construction engineering and design will be necessary, but there may be cost savings by using the same engineering firm.

\*\*GVLT sources include in-kind, Recreational Trails Program Grant, Collin's Coalition grant, signage sponsorships, and neighborhood support.

# Maps

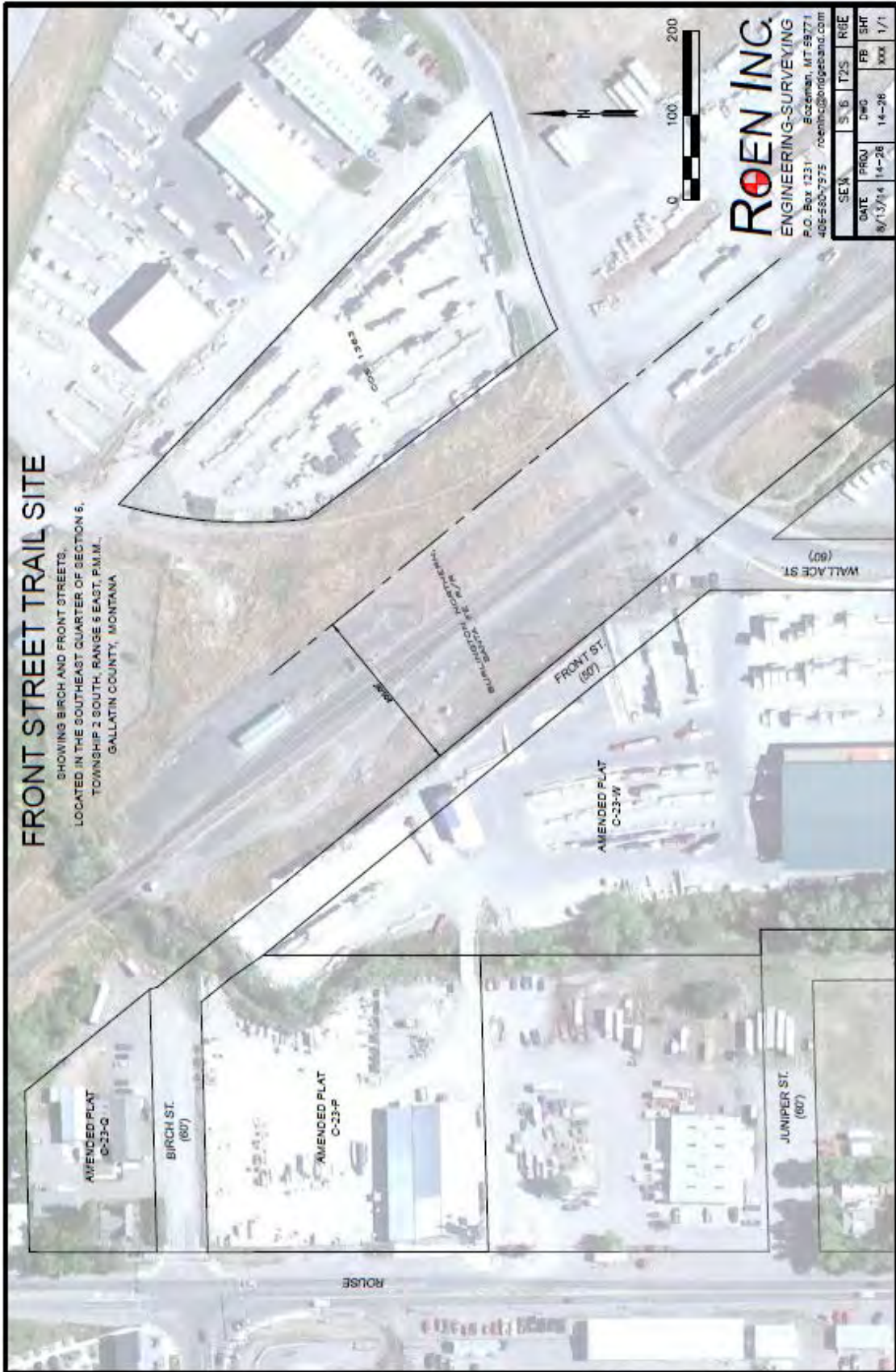






# FRONT STREET TRAIL SITE

SHOWING BIRCH AND FRONT STREETS,  
 LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 6,  
 TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, P.M.M.,  
 GALLATIN COUNTY, MONTANA



**ROEN INC.**

ENGINEERING-SURVEYING  
 P.O. Box 1231  
 Bozeman, MT 59711  
 406-580-7975 / roeninc@roengeo.com

DATE	PROJ	SWG	FB	SHT
8/13/14	14-28	14-28	XXX	1/1

## Photographs



*Looking north/west from Wallace Ave. onto the Front Street right-of-way and main line railroad right-of-way. Tracks in the snow show that the demand for this pathway exists - the public is already using this area as trail.*





*Above: Looking west from Birch St./Oak Street to the Cannery District (right side) and intersection with Rouse Ave. The Oak Street Path continues on the south side of Rouse all the way past the Fairgrounds to North 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Below: Looking east from the intersection of Rouse with Birch St./Oak Street. This would be the northern terminus of the proposed pathway.*





*Proposed bridge site over Bozeman Creek. Above: looking west, concrete in foreground and other fill in the floodplain would be removed and reclaimed as part of this project. Below: looking south from the railroad property into the City right-of-way.*



## Letters of Support

- ALTA Planning & Design
- Bozeman Area Bicycle Advisory Board
- Bozeman Area Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee
- Bozeman Economic Development Office
- Bozeman Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
- Bridger Ski Foundation
- Cannery Development
- Collin's Coalition
- Downtown Bozeman Partnership
- Eagle Mount
- Gallatin Valley Bicycle Club
- MSU - Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program
- National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program
- Outside Bozeman Magazine
- Run Dog Run
- Ben Alexander
- Taylor Lonsdale



125 West Main Street  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 624-6117  
[www.altaplanning.com](http://www.altaplanning.com)

3/3/2015

**Re: TOP application for the Front Street Connector Trail**

Dear Selection Committee,

On behalf of Alta Planning + Design, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's (GVLТ) application to the City of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) bond program for the creation of a Front Street Connector Trail in northeast Bozeman.

Alta prepared the previous version of the Bozeman Area Transportation Plan update and feels strongly that this project achieves a tremendous connection that leverages previous investments into a more complete and cohesive network. In fact, with future improvements including the 'M' trail connector along Bridger Drive/Rouse this connection will serve as a nexus joining five different non-motorized corridors.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Gilpin".

Joe Gilpin, Principal



**Bozeman Area  
Bicycle Advisory  
Board (BABAB)**

**CITY OF BOZEMAN**

**Mayor**

Jeff Krauss

**Deputy Mayor**

Carson Taylor

**Commissioners**

Cyndy Andrus

Chris Mehl

I-Ho Pomeroy

121 N. Rouse  
P.O. Box 1230  
Bozeman, MT 59771

Phone: (406) 582-2320

Fax: (406) 582-2344

TDD: (406) 582-2301

[www.bozeman.net](http://www.bozeman.net)

**Core Values**

**Integrity:** Be honest, hard-working, reliable and accountable to the public.

**Leadership:** Take initiative, lead by example, and be open to innovative ideas.

**Service:** Work unselfishly for our community and its citizens.

**Teamwork:** Respect others, welcome citizen involvement, and work together to achieve the best result.

Gary Vodehnal  
Gallatin Valley Land Trust  
Bozeman, MT

March 4, 2015

Dear Mr. Vodehnal,

The Bozeman Area Bicycle Advisory Board (BABAB) promotes bicycling and recommends policies and practices that improve the safety and convenience of bicycle transportation.

BABAB fully supports the Gallatin Valley Land Trust Community Trails program to create safe connections for bicyclists and pedestrians in the Bozeman area. GVLT's work to improve the Main Street to the Mountains trail system contributes immensely to our quality of life.

We believe the City of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space and Parks bond program should fund a new east/west trail in northeast Bozeman, connecting the Oak Street Path at Rouse Ave. to the Story Mill Spur Trail.

BABAB supports this key connection that will provide a safe route between the paved path along Oak Street and the northeast neighborhood district, the Story Mill Spur Trail, and the new Story Mill Park.

This trail corridor has been identified as a key connection by the public as identified in the Bozeman Parks, Recreation, Open space, and Trails (PROST) Plan, and the Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan.

BABAB fully supports TOP funding for this important connection that will improve safety for people walking and biking in Bozeman.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gleason  
Bozeman Area Bicycle Advisory Board Chair



# **Bozeman Area Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee**

**Created by, Responsible to, and Serving**

**The City of Bozeman, County of Gallatin, and School District 7**

**Mailing Address: c/o City Clerk, City of Bozeman, P.O. Box 1230, Bozeman MT 59771-1230**

**Ralph W. Zimmer, Chairperson, (406) 586-9152, RalphZimmer@mcn.net**

**Gary Vodehnal, Vice Chairperson**

**Danielle Scharf, Secretary**

**February 27, 2015**

Trails, Open Spaces, and Parks Bond Program

City of Bozeman

c/o Gallatin Valley Land Trust

P.O. Box 7021

Bozeman, Montana 59771

Dear Program Administrators:

The Bozeman (Area) Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee was created approximately forty years ago by an official interlocal agreement between the three governmental bodies listed in our letterhead. The committee's assigned role is to advise those three bodies on pedestrian and traffic safety matters and to advocate for those causes.

At our March 11 meeting, GVLТ described to us in some detail the work they are hoping to fund with this grant from the TOPS bond program. We examined aerial photos showing how the proposed project would tie into other trails and pathways and GVLТ satisfactorily answered all the questions we asked. For recreational, exercise, and necessary transportation needs, we believe safe sidewalks, pathways, and trails are essential and for all those purposes there also is a need for those routes to be easy to use and inviting. We are excited that the proposed work will address all those objectives. GVLТ has earned our respect, admiration, and gratitude for the work they have done over the years in promoting non-motorized travel throughout the community, and we are confident GVLТ would do an excellent job with these grant funds.

With the exception of one member who abstained because of a potential conflict of interest, **the committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to support this grant application. We urge you to approve it.**

Gratefully,

Ralph W. Zimmer  
Chairperson

**CITY OF BOZEMAN**  
**Bozeman, Montana**  
**Economic Development Office**



March 2, 2015

**Re: TOP application for the Front Street Connector Trail**

Dear TOP Committee,

On behalf of the City of Bozeman's Economic Development Department, I write this letter in support of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's (GVLT) application to the City of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) bond program for the creation of a Front Street Connector Trail in northeast Bozeman.

This new trail will create an important link in the *Main Street to the Mountains* trail system. The proposed paved 10 foot wide paved path with a bridge over Bozeman Creek, will link a paved path along Oak Street adjacent to the Gallatin County Fairgrounds with the Story Mill Spur Trail, Depot Park, and eventually with the planned Story Mill Park and paved trail to the "M" and Drinking Horse Mountain trails.

This trail will provide a safe way for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel between neighborhoods in northeast Bozeman and the Cannery District, North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and west side neighborhoods. Not only will it provide an economic stimulus for businesses in the area by increasing bike/pedestrian access and traffic, but it could stimulate tourism by providing a worthy destination trail for visitors to our area.

All of these projects are very worthwhile and contribute meaningfully to the City's economic development efforts. Please consider fully funding GVLT's grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brit Fontenot", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Brit Fontenot  
Director of Economic Development

Street address: 121 N. Rouse Ave.  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1230  
Bozeman, MT 59771-1230

Phone: (406) 582-2258  
Fax: (406) 582-2263  
TDD: (406) 582-2301

To: Trails, Open Space and Parks Committee

From: Bozeman Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Dear Committee Members

The Bozeman Recreation and Parks Advisory Board voted to support the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's application for TOP funding to connect the Oak Street Path to the Story Mill Spur Trail. This short section of proposed trail will connect trails from the west side of Bozeman to trails in the north and east of town. This section of trail would be a vital piece in the Main Street to the Mountains trail system.

This trail would allow safer bike and pedestrian access to Story Mill Park and the proposed trail to the "M".

Sincerely

Robert L Wade; RPAB Chair



# Bridger Ski Foundation

February 17, 2015

Gary Vodehnal  
GVLТ Community Trails Coordinator  
212 S. Wallace, Suite 102  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Gary:

Bridger Ski Foundation (BSF) strongly supports the City of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) Grant Program application submitted by the Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLТ) for improvements to the Main Street to the Mountains trail system.

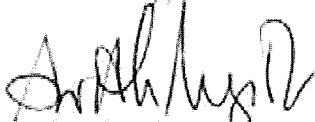
One of our organization's top priorities is caring for and improving Bozeman's community cross-country ski trail system, investing more than \$50,000 a year and thousands of volunteer hours annually to maintain and groom over 70 km of Community Nordic Ski Trails for the people of the Gallatin Valley. GVLТ's proposed project dovetails with the work we do, and greatly enhances Bozeman's community trail system and the overall livability of our community by creating trail connections and improvements, specifically at the Oak Street Path to the Story Mill Spur Trail, at Burke Parke, and at Snowfill Recreation Area.

In order to make these valuable improvements for our community, GVLТ will be requesting approximately \$150,000 of TOP bond funding. We believe this will be a very worthwhile contribution to the community, especially for BSF skiers who range from five year-old beginners up to elite Nordic athletes.

In addition, hundreds of Bridger Ski Foundation members of all ages train year-round, using Bozeman's trails in the non-winter months for running, hiking and biking. We believe that this grant will help resolve potential dangers associated with accessing trails, help ensure the safety of our athletes and all users in the valley, and help expand the trail system we all love.

Thank you for considering this funding application.

Sincerely,



Swithin McGrath  
Executive Director  
Bridger Ski Foundation

Gary -

Let this email serve as a letter of support for the RTP Grant and TOP Funding requests for GVLТ relating to the trail connector off Oak Street, Snowfield Park improvements, Burke Park access improvements and your general signage upgrades.

As you know we are developing a 14 acre site that fronts Oak Street near Rouse commonly referred to as the Cannery District. An important element of our project is the proximity to open space & parks within the community along with being within the greater downtown district. Our user base likes the fact we are pedestrian friendly with easy access to the buildings within our project, by both foot & bicycle. They also like to commute to work on their bikes and during the day get a workout in &/ or bike to their appointments. That said, having a safe accessible trail network to allow them to do so is not only good for our project users but the public at large.

Snowfield & Burke Parks are two other well utilized parks within the City. Both will continue to see increased use as the community expands. We must ensure the public safe access with amenities that are allow them to enjoy these public areas. This proposed funding is both reasonable and prudent to do so.

As a member and manager of Cannery District Partners and Montana Avenue Partners we urge you to consider funding these important investments in our community.

Sincerely,

Scott Dehlendorf & Barry Brown



Committed to Improving the Safety of  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and Supporting Local Programs  
That Improve People's Lives

-----  
In Loving Memory of Collin James Keck

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March 6, 2015

Collin's Coalition of Hopa Mountain  
411 N. Third Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Re: GVLT's application for TOP funding of the Front Street Connector Trail

Dear Trails, Open Space, and Parks Selection Committee,

Collin's Coalition wishes to express our strong support for the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's application to use a portion of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space, and Parks Bond funding for construction of the Front Street Connector Trail in northeast Bozeman. As you know, GVLT's Main Street to the Mountains program has had a tremendous positive effect on the community of Bozeman. The trail system is extensively used for non-motorized travel by both pedestrians and bicyclists and provides a network of safe routes that are essential to local non-motorized transportation. One of Collins Coalition's top priorities at this time is the fill in the gaps that remain in our trail system so that we can reach a goal of "Safe, Continuous Trails and Bicycle Routes throughout Bozeman".

The Front Street Connector Trail will provide a vital, safe connection between the existing, heavily used Story Mill Trail and the recently constructed, separated bike-ped path along East Oak Street for both bicyclists and pedestrians. The current route between these trails is along East Tamarack St. with no sidewalk and no shoulder and along North Rouse, currently with no sidewalk and no shoulder. Clearly, this is an unsafe route, made even more so by the frequent use of these roads by large trucks and buses. When the North Rouse road re-construction is complete, bicycles will have bike lanes along North Rouse suitable for experienced bike riders. It will still not be suitable, however, for young families or other inexperienced bike riders who are more comfortable with greater separation from cars and trucks. We strongly support construction of the Front Street Connector Trail for the benefits it will bring to the safety of bicycle riders and pedestrians and for improving the access of our trail system to all non-motorized users.

Collin's Coalition is in large part a safety organization. Our main focus is on the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians who want to use our public trails and roadways. We believe strongly in the benefits the Front Street Connector Trail proposed by GVLT will provide. Strongly enough that all funds raised during this year's Collins Coalition Bike Ride at The Ridge fundraiser on April 11<sup>th</sup> will be used as a match in their Recreational Trails Program grant proposal for this project.

Respectfully yours,

*Thomas J. Keck*

Thomas J. Keck – Co-founder and Acting Chairman  
Collin's Coalition of Hopa Mountain



25 February 2015

City of Bozeman  
TOP Bond Committee  
P.O. Box 1230  
Bozeman, MT 59771

Dear TOP Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Bozeman Partnership which represents over 150 property owners and 250 business owners in Bozeman's historic downtown district. For many years, Downtown Bozeman has strongly supported the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's "Main Street to the Mountains" trail system. GVLТ has a long and very successful track record of building, improving and maintaining Bozeman's Main Street to the Mountains Trail system. Our community's trail system is hugely popular and heavily used for recreation and non-motorized transportation by both residents and visitors.

The "Main Street to the Mountains" trail system is a critical component to downtown's multi-modal transportation network. The trails provide a quiet, calm non-motorized transportation option that is highly valued by our downtown residents, employees, and customers.

Therefore, please support GVLТ's application for funding to establish a new east/west trail in northeast Bozeman, connecting the Oak Street Path at Rouse Avenue to the Story Mill Spur Trail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Naumann  
Executive Director



DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN PARTNERSHIP  
222 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 302  
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715  
p. 406.586.4008  
f. 406.586.3882  
[www.downtownbozeman.org](http://www.downtownbozeman.org)



*Everybody Has Challenges. We Have Adventures.*

March 4, 2015

City of Bozeman Trails, Open Space and Parks  
*Delivered electronically*

RE: GVLT proposed TOP bond funding

On behalf of Eagle Mount Bozeman, I want to express our strong support for the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's proposed Front Street Connector Trail.

Eagle Mount Bozeman provides therapeutic and adaptive recreation for people with disabilities and children with cancer. According to the most recent census, there are some 8,000 people in Gallatin County who are living with a disability. Making our well-used and much-loved community trail system more fully accessible is an important step toward building a more inclusive community, and we applaud GVLT's efforts.

The new proposed trail will create an important connection in the Main Street to the Mountains trail system. Perhaps more importantly from our perspective, it will *remove a significant barrier* to use of the now disjunctive trail system. The proposed paved 10 foot wide paved path with a bridge over Bozeman Creek, will provide a safe way for pedestrians and bicyclists to reach a paved path along Oak Street adjacent to the Gallatin County Fairgrounds that links with the Story Mill Spur Trail, Depot Park, and eventually with the planned Story Mill Park and paved trail to the "M" and Drinking Horse Mountain trails.

We appreciate having community partners like GVLT to work with, and we urge you to provide the funding needed to support this important project.

Sincerely,

Mary Peterson  
Executive Director



Feb. 24, 2015

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of Gallatin Valley Land Trust's application for funding a number of new projects. Gallatin Valley Land Trust has become a proven steward of trails and public spaces in the Bozeman and Gallatin Valley area.

Of the projects proposed, two of them are particularly needed. The proposed trail connector from Oak Street to Story Mill Spur Trail would fill a gap in an important east/west trail. Presently people have to travel on the rough shoulder of a busy arterial street, and turn at an intersection lacking safe pedestrian amenities, and travel 3 more blocks on streets lacking sidewalks.

The other project, proposed improvements to Snowfill Park, is needed due to overuse. This little park is so successful that on many days overflow parking extends onto the access road, which has no room for parking. The overflow parking is dangerous for both cars driving by and for people walking in the middle of the road. Every feature proposed for improvement will help accommodate park users and is long overdue.

Greg Beardslee  
Board member, Gallatin Valley Bicycle Club



February 15, 2015

City of Bozeman, Trails, Open Space and Parks Bond

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity (NAPA) Program I am writing this letter in strong support of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's (GVLT) request for the City of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) funding. The NAPA program is a statewide program of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. NAPA aims to prevent and reduce overweight and obesity and related chronic diseases among Montanans through a variety of ways including increasing physical activity. We support policy and environmental approaches, such as this project, to increase access to places for children and adults to be active.

The Gallatin Valley Land Trust is an essential non-profit organization in the Bozeman community. Their work to develop and maintain the *Main Street to the Mountains* trail system has been strategic and tireless. Bozeman would not be the community it is today without GVLT's vigilance in not only making sure the trail system is well planned and connects community members and visitors to recreational opportunities but that it is well maintained.

A new east/west trail in northeast Bozeman, connecting the Oak Street Path at Rouse Avenue to the Story Mill Spur Trail is vitally important. It will connect the new Oak Street Path to a dense neighborhood on Bozeman's northeast side and then to a major new recreation area, the Story Mill Park. Creating a safe trail access to this new park is critical and will allow children and adults to arrive at the park on their own power, providing for increased physical activity and decreased traffic congestion. Story Mill Park's success hinges on safe multi-modal access. This connector trail will play an important role in the network of facilities needed to access this park.

Please support and fully fund GVLT's request for TOP funding. Your support will make an important contribution to the *Main Street to the Mountains* trail system which is well used by community members and visitors statewide. GVLT has a proven track record and will ensure your funding is used in the most effective manner possible.

Sincerely,

Cathy Costakis  
Senior Consultant-Built Environment

**Office of Rural Health**

**Montana Nutrition  
& Physical  
Activity Program**

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*In cooperation with the  
Montana Department of Public  
Health & Human Services*

**Mountains & Minds**



# United States Department of the Interior

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION  
4030 Sourdough Road  
Bozeman, Montana 59715**



City of Bozeman  
Trails, Open Space and Parks Committee  
Bozeman, MT 59715

February 13, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program (RTCA) supports the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's application for Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOP) bond funding to add an important component to the Main Street to the Mountains trail system. GVLT's proposal will provide a safe connection between the Oak Street bike/ped path, the County Fairgrounds, and Rouse Avenue with the northeast neighborhood district, the Story Mill Spur Trail, and the new Story Mill Park. The project will include a bridge over Bozeman Creek. This trail corridor was identified in the Bozeman Parks, Recreation, Open space, and Trails (PROST) Plan, the Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan, and the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan.

Bozeman's Main Street to the Mountains trail system is a very important asset for the community, providing non-motorized recreation and transportation opportunities and linking neighborhoods and recreation facilities throughout the community. GVLT has been the key driver in creating and expanding this system, and once again has identified a number of enhancements that will improve the trail system and its value to the community.

NPS-RTCA has worked with the City of Bozeman and Gallatin County on a number of recreation and resource conservation initiatives over the years. The Main Street to the Mountains trail system has always been an important component of these initiatives, as the trail system has become integral to the community's identity and sense-of-place.

I encourage your favorable review of GVLT's application for TOP bond funding funding.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Weiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gary Weiner  
Rivers and Trails Program  
National Park Service  
Bozeman, Montana

TAKE PRIDE<sup>®</sup>  
IN AMERICA 

February 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I can think of no organization more important to the recreational public of Bozeman—and that's darn near everyone that lives here—than the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. The work they do is vital to our way of life and standard of living, which is why I and my business have supported them for the past decade and a half, moreso than any other nonprofit in southwest Montana. Their value to the community cannot be overstated.

Specifically, the *Main Street to the Mountains* trail system provides an accessible, convenient, and scenic network for recreation, exercise, commuting, and communing with nature. It also offers a safe pathway for children and adults alike to move through town. The trail system has always been a work in progress, limited by funding. As our community grows, with an increased population, new neighborhoods, infrastructure development, and other changes, *Main Street to the Mountains* must be continually maintained, improved, and updated to accommodate these new realities.

Which is why I urge you to support GVLT and their tremendously important work by awarding them the grant(s) they seek. They are a wonderfully modest and hardworking group, with compensation lower than many of their nonprofit counterparts in Bozeman—it's clear that to them, the community comes first. They have very reasonable overhead and rely on volunteers for much of the legwork. What all this means is that any grant money you award would be money well-spent. It will not disappear into a cloud of indeterminate administrative expenses and exorbitant staff salaries, but rather go directly to members of the Bozeman community, by way of maintaining and improving community trails they love and use on a regular basis, to remain happy and healthy citizens of the great state of Montana.

Sincerely,

Mike England  
Editor, *Outside Bozeman* magazine  
mike@outsidebozeman.com  
406-582-8068



**A Montana-Based 501 (c) 3 Not-For-Profit Corporation**

February 10, 2015

Gary Vodehnal  
Gallatin Valley Land Trust  
212 S. Wallace Ave. Ste. 102  
Bozeman, MT 59715

**Re: Birch / Front Street Connector Trail Application**

Dear Gary:

The purpose of this letter is to support the application that Gallatin Valley Land Trust (“GVLТ”) is submitting to the City of Bozeman’s Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) bond program for the creation of a Birch/ Front Street Connector Trail including a Bridge over Bozeman Creek.

Run Dog Run is a Bozeman-based not-for-profit organization that has worked closely with GVLТ on a number of trail and park-related projects - and we whole-heartedly support your bond program application for improvements to the Main Street to the Mountains trail system, specifically for the Birch / Front Street Connector Trail. Here’s why:

- The proposed trail – and the bridge over Bozeman Creek – fills in a vital gap in the trail system. The current gap in the northeast neighborhood trail system forces dog walkers, bicyclists and joggers into busy streets if they wish to travel to the Fairgrounds or connect to Oak Street.
- The creation of the new Story Mill Community Park will undoubtedly increase the usage of the northeast neighborhood trails and filling in the gap in this trail system is wise community planning.
- The location of the trail – particularly the segment that borders the railroad right-of-way – will provide trail users with expansive views of the Bridger Mountain Range, which will enhance the trail experience for users.
- The newly created Oak Street trail is a wonderful addition to the trail system, but it ends abruptly at North Rouse Avenue. By creating the Birch / Front Street Connector trail, the true potential of the Oak Street trail can be realized and its function greatly enhanced.

We request that the City of Bozeman’s Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) Committee consider fully funding GVLТ’s grant request.

Sincerely,

Terry Cunningham - President

**Run Dog Run, PO Box 11508, Bozeman, MT 59719-1508**

March 4, 2015

Ben Alexander  
2251 Powder Park Ct  
Bozeman, MT 59715

To: City of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) selection committee  
Re: TOP application for *Main Street to the Mountains* 2015

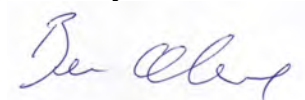
I am writing this letter in strong support of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's (GVLT) application to the City of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space and Parks program for improvements to the *Main Street to the Mountains* trail system in Bozeman.

My wife and I live in Bozeman with our two young girls, ages 8 and 10. We regularly use the trails here to get to school, our public library, shop for groceries, and run errands. Our biggest concern with the current the *Main Street to the Mountains*, especially for our kids, is unsafe connections/intersections and the lack of connections that would allow us safely to reach our destinations. In addition, my father, who is 82 years old and disabled with muscular dystrophy, has trouble using our trails with his walker and would greatly benefit from design and connectivity improvements.

Grant funding will be instrumental in helping to complete the Front Street Connector Trail - A proposed 10-foot wide paved path with a bridge over Bozeman Creek that will provide a safe way for pedestrians and bicyclists to reach a paved path along Oak Street adjacent to the Gallatin County Fairgrounds that links with the Story Mill Spur Trail, Depot Park, and eventually with the planned Story Mill Park and paved trail to the "M" and Drinking Horse Mountain trails.

This project is very worthwhile and would be of great benefit to our community, neighborhood, and family. I request that the City of Bozeman's Trails, Open Space and Parks selection committee consider fully funding GVLT's grant request.

Sincerely,



Ben Alexander

Taylor Lonsdale  
426 N 9<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59715

February 28, 2015

Carolyn Poissant, Trails, Open Space and Parks Program Manager  
415 N. Bozeman Ave  
P.O. Box 1230  
Bozeman, MT 59771

Carolyn,

I am writing to express my STRONG support for the use of Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOP) funds for the proposed trail connection between the Oak St path and the Story Mill Spur Trail. This is a critical and long missing connection in our community. It is a connection with growing importance. With the completion of the Oak St path CTEP project, the forthcoming Rouse Ave reconstruction and the plans for the Story Mill Park, this trail is an essential link for Bozeman's trail network. I am grateful to GVL for working diligently to make this connection a reality.

As a community we have strongly supported TOP funding and Bozeman is already seeing the benefits of that bond. The Path to the "M" project is a shining example of that. However, I have personally been disappointed that such a large percentage of that bond has gone to a limited number of large park projects. While I certainly support the development of parks in our community, I feel that we have critical path, sidewalk, and trail connections that are missing. These missing links reduce the availability of non-motorized options for transportation and recreation in many areas of Bozeman. I think that it is vital that we commit the remaining TOP funds to the completion of these missing links and this is the perfect opportunity to start that process.

This proposed trail connection from the Oak St. path to the Story Mill Spur Trail is vital in providing non-motorized access to the Story Mill Park. Additionally it will connect the NE neighborhood with the Fairgrounds, the N 7<sup>th</sup> corridor, and all the way along Oak St to the regional park and the future sports complex. This is a prime example of the critical projects that can connect our community by path and trail. We need to invest the remaining TOP funds in projects like this one. I strongly encourage you to commit TOP funds to this proposed trail connection.

Sincerely,



Taylor Lonsdale