

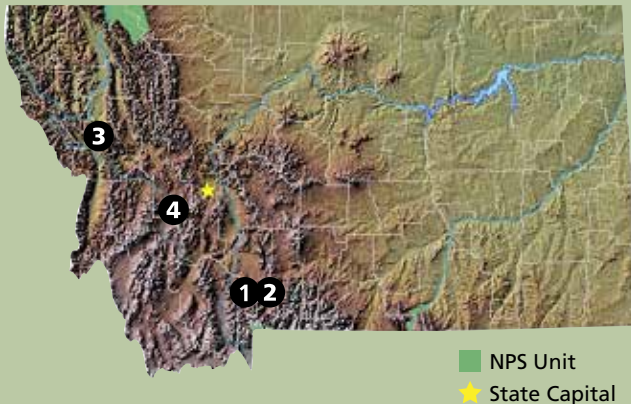


Montana News



Reflection on Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Bogert Park**
Gallatin Valley Land Trust
- 2. East Gallatin River**
Gallatin Valley Land Trust
- 3. Milltown State Park**
MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- 4. Powell County Parks and Trails**
Powell County

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Recent Successes

Projects Underway to Improve Bozeman Creek

The NPS led a diverse group of community partners in the development of the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan, adopted by the Bozeman City Commission as policy in 2012. The plan seeks to improve the natural resource and recreational value of the 6-mile reach of Bozeman Creek through the city. During the 3-year process of soliciting community input and writing the enhancement plan, several high-priority projects were identified, funded, and completed:

- Conceptual designs were developed to rebuild a downtown creekside parking lot to improve the creek environment, treat on-site stormwater, and bring parking up to code
- Streambanks were restored along a short reach by removing concrete bank armor, re-grading slopes, and installing bioengineering to stabilize and revegetate the floodplain
- An hydraulic model was created to pro-actively assist with planning, design and permitting for projects in the highly-degraded, one-mile creek reach through the downtown business district
- An ongoing effort to monitor water quality in Bozeman Creek was expanded

The highest priority project identified in the plan is larger in scope and will take longer to implement, however great strides already have been made. The Bozeman Creek at Bogert Park Enhancement Project will restore many of the functions of a

Current Projects

1. Bogert Park

Project Partner: City of Bozeman
NPS Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: Bozeman
Congressional District: MT - 1

Project Goal

Restore 800-feet of a degraded stream corridor in the heart of Bozeman. The project will provide a range of ecological, recreational, and educational benefits, with a focus on creating a healthy aquatic environment and a productive community fishery.

NPS Role

Assist project partners in selecting and contracting with a design team, raising implementation funds, and assuring quality control in design, construction, and post-construction monitoring of the project.

2. East Gallatin River

Project Partner: Gallatin Valley Land Trust
NPS Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: Gallatin County
Congressional District: MT - 1

Project Goal

Reclaim and restore impacted streambanks on the East Gallatin

River, as well as improve and add stream access sites. Provide important recreational and conservation linkages in the Bozeman and Gallatin County parks and trails system, provide new and/or improved community assets, clean up streambank areas impacted by riprap and landfill debris, and develop or improve stream access sites.

NPS Role

Enlist appropriate project partners, provide planning guidance and expertise in stream restoration best practices and the establishment of water trails, and assist with fundraising.

3. Milltown State Park

Project Partner: Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
NPS Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: East of Missoula, at the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers
Congressional District: MT - 1

Project Goal

Create several miles of arterial trails and trail connectors within the new Milltown State Park, providing within-park connectivity as well as park access

“The NPS is an invaluable asset for community groups with limited resources but grand ideas.”

- Michael Kustudia, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

to surrounding communities. The state park trails will provide close-to-home recreational and healthy physical activity opportunities, along with a living classroom interpreting the transition of a Superfund site to a state park.

NPS Role

Provide planning assistance to the Montana State Parks Division to help design trail and visitor facilities in the new state park, particularly at Bandmann Flats, the Milltown Bluff, the Clark Fork River floodplain, and the lower Blackfoot.

4. Powell County Parks and Trails

Project Partner: Powell County
NPS Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: Deer Lodge and surrounding county lands
Congressional District: MT - 1

Project Goal

Establish connectivity between existing parks and trails in and around the city of Deer Lodge. Connecting these parks will expand the existing trail system, make it more useful, and will encourage the use of parks throughout the city.

NPS Role

Provide planning assistance leading to development of a community trails plan, and help to identify implementation funding.



Clark Fork River near Milltown State Park. Photo: Missoula County

We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



Gary Weiner

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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

healthy stream corridor to a highly degraded 800-foot reach of the creek in the heart of Bozeman. Along with improvements to fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, enhancement of the stream through Bogert Park will greatly heighten the park's value for nature-based recreational and environmental educational purposes, while improving safety for park users. To date, \$136,000 has been raised to design and permit the project, and funding sources for the additional \$440,000 needed to construct the project has been identified. The NPS was instrumental throughout every phase of this project, from bringing partners together to securing funding.

New Outdoor Recreation Area for Butte

The Hillcrest Natural Area is well on its way to becoming a signature outdoor recreation facility for Butte, Montana. Many of the amenities planned for this natural area, located adjacent the Hillcrest Middle School in southeast Butte, were constructed during this past year. Formerly degraded by unrestricted off-road vehicle use, creek channel diversion, and weeds, this 57-acre site now provides a valuable community asset.



Footbridge and fishing pond in Hillcrest Natural Area. Photo: NPS

The centerpiece of the natural area is a one-half acre fishing pond constructed with islands to serve as natural fishing platforms for kids and people with disabilities. The pond has wetlands at inlet and outlet and is supplied by both surface flow and groundwater. The bottom contours were designed to provide habitat for various fish while ensuring the safety of young recreationists.

In addition, six hundred feet of Reese Creek was restored by re-constructing eroded creek-banks, re-vegetating the floodplain, and improving hydrology. Upland area soils will be ripped and amended with compost, and vegetation will be augmented with native species. Paved and gravel walking and biking trails encircle the area and connect area features. Other park amenities include a parking area, bathrooms, hang-glider landing area, benches and picnic tables. The NPS assisted project partners project plan development and design.

Prescription Trails Connect Fort Missoula Regional Park and Community Medical Center

One and a half miles of flat, compacted gravel trails now provide the Missoula community with an easy, accessible walking experience at Fort Missoula Regional Park. Laid out in two loops, the trails connect the regional park with the neighboring Community Medical Center. Medical providers provide patients with a written plan to visit these "prescription trails" on a regular basis and walk for health. The trails offer beautiful views of south Missoula and the Bitterroot Mountains, areas to enjoy watching youth and adult sports, and quiet spots to relax and enjoy nature.

Some of this trail system was constructed as part of the official kickoff of the \$20 million Fort Missoula Regional Park project, and inaugurated on National Public Lands Day 2012. Fort Missoula Regional Park is one of Montana's two America's Great Outdoors signature projects. The NPS assisted with planning, interagency cooperation, and partnership-building; pilot project development; project promotion; and fundraising.