



Montana News



Main Street to the Mountains trail bridge spans Bozeman Creek.
Photo: NPS/Gary Weiner

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

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

Bozeman Creek Restoration in the Middle of the City

After years of planning, a \$600,000 project to improve Bozeman Creek in Bozeman's heavily used Bogert Park is under way. Final design and permitting are set for completion in the fall of 2014 and winter of 2015. Construction will follow in the fall of 2015 when park activities slow down for the season. This project will restore many of the functions of a healthy stream corridor to a highly degraded, 800-foot reach of the creek in the heart of the city.

The project will rebuild and restore the creek channel to a more natural and ecologically sound condition. Meanders, riffles, and pools will be built to enhance hydraulic complexity and habitat diversity for fish and other aquatic organisms. The creek's floodplain will be re-established to slow the flow, filter runoff, and improve safety. Banks will be regraded to reduce erosion. More native vegetation will be restored, widening the riparian zone and improving species diversity. This revived riparian zone will in turn attract and support more varied and numerous resident and migrant wildlife. Park amenities such as an improved stream access site, asphalt and gravel trails, and a new, distinctive footbridge will attract visitors to a valuable and renewed area of Bogert Park without harming streamside resources. The results will include walking, fishing (especially for kids), wildlife watching, outdoor education, and simple enjoyment of wild nature in the middle of town.

Current Projects

1. Bogert Park

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

Project Goal

Restore 820 feet of the Bozeman Creek corridor through Bogert Park, located two blocks off downtown Main Street. The project will provide ecological, recreational, and educational benefits, with a focus on creating a healthy aquatic environment and a productive community fishery.

NPS Role

Assist project partners to raise implementation funds, contract with a design team, and assure quality control in construction of the planned creek corridor enhancement project.

2. East Gallatin River

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

Project Goal

Reclaim/restore impacted streambanks of the East Gallatin River and improve and add stream access sites. Enhance the stream corridor through the East Gallatin Recreation Area and connect this park with the Story Mill park (in planning) and with other nearby parks and trails.

NPS Role

Enlist appropriate project partners, provide planning guidance, provide expertise in stream restoration best practices, assist in improving stream access, and assist with locating funding.

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

“The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is an invaluable asset for community groups with limited resources but grand ideas.”

- Michael Kustudia, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks



A reach of Bozeman Creek in proper functioning condition. Photo: NPS/Gary Weiner

Current Projects cont.

4. Powell County Trails

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

Project Goal

Create a trail system connecting existing parks, trails, and community assets in and around the city of Deer Lodge to encourage physical activity, provide an alternative means of transportation for residents, and add an important amenity to attract visitors.

NPS Role

Provide planning assistance leading to development of a community trails plan, including connections with Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site.



Steep, eroded banks and sparse riparian vegetation along Bozeman Creek through Bogert Park. Photo: NPS/Gary Weiner



Fishing pond at Skyline Park. Photo: NPS/Gary Weiner

We're Here For You.

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



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2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and
Parkland Protected

Find more information online
at

www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

The Bogert Park project grew from a two-year community planning effort to improve Bozeman Creek's six-mile corridor through town. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program was instrumental throughout every phase of this project, helping a diverse group of partners identify issues and opportunities, solicit community ideas and responses, design projects, and write a concise Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan. Adopted as policy by the city in 2012, the plan sets goals, objectives, and strategies for 22 potential creek enhancement projects. The Bogert Park project became top priority because of its high visibility in the center of town, its value as a demonstration project and as a site for environmental education, and very strong public support.

New Outdoor Recreation Area for Butte

The area formerly known as the Hillcrest Natural Area had been degraded by years of unrestricted off-road vehicle use, creek channel diversion, weeds, and neglect. Now, the newly constructed 57-acre Skyline Park has become a signature outdoor recreation facility for Butte.

The centerpiece of the park is a half-acre fishing pond constructed to provide fishing opportunities for kids and people with disabilities. The pond has a wetland fringe and is supplied by both surface flow and groundwater. The bottom contours were designed to provide habitat for various life stages of fish while ensuring the safety of young recreationists. Mature cottonwoods shade the water and the pond is regularly stocked with native westslope cutthroat trout.

In addition, 600 feet of Reese Creek were restored by re-constructing eroded creek banks, revegetating floodplains, and improving hydrology. Upland area soils were ripped and amended with compost and vegetation was 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, playground, hang-glider landing area, fenced dog area, benches, and picnic tables. National Park Service staff assisted project partners with community involvement and in developing project plans and designs.

“The success of the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Project is a direct result of Gary’s [Gary Weiner] leadership and expertise. The experience he brings from his many successful past projects is invaluable. It is likely that this collaborative effort of local stakeholders and volunteers would have stalled without the guidance and dedicated staffing that Gary has provided.”

- Ted Lange, Bozeman Creek Enhancement Committee