



WEST YELLOWSTONE PARKS & RECREATION



SUNFLOWER PEAK
PLANNING

**PRESERVING ROOTS &
PLANNING THE FUTURE:**

ADOPTED:
XXXXX,

2026

WEST YELLOWSTONE PARKS PLAN

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**MANY PHOTOS THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT WERE PROVIDED BY WEST YELLOWSTONE
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THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS WHO CONTRIBUTED FEEDBACK TOWARDS THIS PLAN!



FOREWORD

West Yellowstone is a unique community. As the gateway to Yellowstone National Park, we welcome millions of visitors each year who come to experience one of the world's most remarkable natural treasures. Living in a gateway community brings both opportunities and challenges. It is important that we continue to invest in the parks, trails, and recreational opportunities that contribute to a healthy and vibrant community. Access to quality parks and green space has been shown to improve overall quality of life. These benefits are especially important in a community where outdoor recreation, natural beauty, and a strong sense of place are central to our way of life. At the same time, quality parks and recreational amenities enhance the visitor experience and help showcase the spirit of West Yellowstone. These spaces contribute to the welcoming character that makes our community special. Parks encourage visitors to spend more time in town, discover what makes West Yellowstone unique, and experience our community beyond the park gates. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as a roadmap for the future. Through continued investment in existing assets such as Pioneer Park, Linear Park, and our tennis courts, along with exciting projects like Greenway Park, new pickleball courts, and the vision of a future skate park, we are creating opportunities for people of all ages and interests to stay active. By thoughtfully planning for the future, we can ensure that West Yellowstone remains a place where people of all ages can play, connect, explore, and thrive for generations to come. On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board, Town Council, staff, and community members who contributed to this process, thank you for helping shape the future of parks and recreation in West Yellowstone. Together, we are building a community that values health, connection, recreation, and the outdoor experiences that make this place feel like home.

Rachel Spence

Recreation Coordinator

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

The West Yellowstone Parks Plan is a practical guide for the future of our Town's outdoor spaces. By combining Town data with direct feedback from residents, we've built a clear plan of action. This document shifts our focus from simply fixing what is broken to actively building what our growing community actually needs.

➔ A GROWING COMMUNITY

West Yellowstone is growing, with estimates projecting a year-round population of nearly 1,840 residents by 2030. West Yellowstone is a community with an increasing median age, and kids under 18 make up nearly 28% of the Town. The median household income (\$58,839) is below county and state averages. Providing high-quality, accessible, and affordable public recreation is a priority for residents. By offering spaces for the community to recreate, the Town can capture the attention of tourists passing through. Turning these visitors into active park users not only helps to bring more tourism dollars to local businesses, but opens the door for new revenue generating options that can work to fund and maintain parks year-round.

➔ EXISTING ASSESSMENTS

Before looking forward, the consulting team established a clear baseline of what West Yellowstone currently offers. We reviewed all past planning efforts and ongoing projects related to parks. Next our team visited every city-owned property, including active spaces and future parklands.

At each location, we conducted a thorough on-site inventory. We documented trail mileage, accessible sidewalks, parking capacity, total acreage, and every

existing amenity. We also evaluated strengths and opportunities for each space to see what is working well and what can be done to improve. To make this data actionable and quantifiable, each developed park was given a grade based on Inclusivity, Integration, Atmosphere, Functionality, and Facilities.

The park spaces evaluated and considered within this plan include:

- Dunbar Park
- Electric Street Courts
- Greenway Linear Park
- Madison Addition Trail
- Pioneer Park
- Undeveloped Parkland
 - + 80 Acres Parkland
 - + Pie Parkland
 - + Grouse Ct Parkland

➔ WHAT WE HEARD

Sunflower Peak Planning was retained in January, 2026 to guide the West Yellowstone Parks Plan. To ensure every resident had a seat at the table, our consulting team launched an all-encompassing engagement campaign. We used physical advertisement and a social media campaign to build awareness and promote the project's dedicated online project platform. This was organized around four main tools:

1. Awareness & Education: Accessible information explaining the 'why' and the 'how' of a planning process.
2. Project Schedule: A transparent timeline keeping the public informed of all phases and upcoming milestones.
3. Inclusive Online Survey: A comprehensive questionnaire designed for all. Compatible with multiple languages, braille keyboards, and available in print for residents without computer access.
4. Interactive Feedback Map: A digital tool allowing residents to drop pins and provide granular spatial data about specific park improvements, favorite spots, and local concerns.

Beyond the digital space, the consulting team met with the Town of West Yellowstone Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Town Staff multiple times throughout the process. There were also two in-person community events. The first was an interactive open house at the Povah Center, followed by a second gathering hosted at Yellowstone Brewing Company in collaboration with the annual Town Cleanup.

By combining the digital and physical outreach efforts, our team successfully gathered feedback from 138 total participants. This represents nearly 10% of West Yellowstone's population.



➔ CORE THEMES

Throughout this entire process we worked along with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Town Staff. By bringing together our background research, the thorough existing site assessments, and all feedback gathered from the community, we were able to translate these ideas into a unified vision.

Moving forward, future developments, funding decisions, and park improvements in this Master Plan are anchored by five core themes:



**FOUR-SEASON
RECREATION &
WINTER USABILITY**



**SEAMLESS
CONNECTIVITY &
SAFE ACCESS**



**ELEVATED
ESSENTIAL
INFRASTRUCTURE &
MAINTENANCE**



**DIVERSE OFFERINGS
FOR ALL AGES &
ABILITIES**



**VIBRANT
COMMUNITY HUBS
& PRESERVED
CHARACTER**

➔ THE ACTION PLAN

To bring these five core themes to life, this plan outlines 40 specific, actionable recommendations. To ensure progress is realistic and financially manageable, these projects are organized into four distinct timelines: Phase 1 (1-3 years), Phase 2 (4-6 years), and Phase 3 (7-10 years). Finally, Phase 4 captures 10+ year transformational goals that the Town should continually consider and actively build toward throughout the entire life of the plan. The projects below are not organized by priority and could be completed in any order.

Phase 1: 1-3 Years

1.1 - Add dog waste stations and bear proof trash bins at park entrances.

1.2 - Build outdoor restrooms and drinking fountains at Electric Street Courts and the Greenway Park.

1.3 - Build the community Skatepark at on available parklands.

1.4 - Extend the Linear Park to connect with the Frontier Trail.

1.5 - Begin construction on the Greenway Pilot Project.

1.6 - Plant shade trees and native flowers to improve aesthetics.

1.7 - Introduce adult focused recreational programming.

1.8 - Add benches and shaded seating options throughout the park system.

1.9 - Improve the maintenance and safety for the sledding hill, ice rink, mowing and weed controls.

1.10 - Install horseshoe facilities for low cost recreation.

1.11 - Update standard operating procedures for marketing and communication.

Phase 2: 4-6 Years

2.1 - Install a centralized Town Bulletin Board for park notices.

2.2 - Develop safe crossing infrastructure for Highway 20 and Highway 191.

2.3 - Build out of the Historic District Greenway, Dunbar Park, and Electric Street Courts.

2.4 - Upgrade playground equipment to be larger and safer.

2.5 - Publish a quarterly Parks and Recreation event booklet.

2.6 - Integrate public art and murals into park facilities.

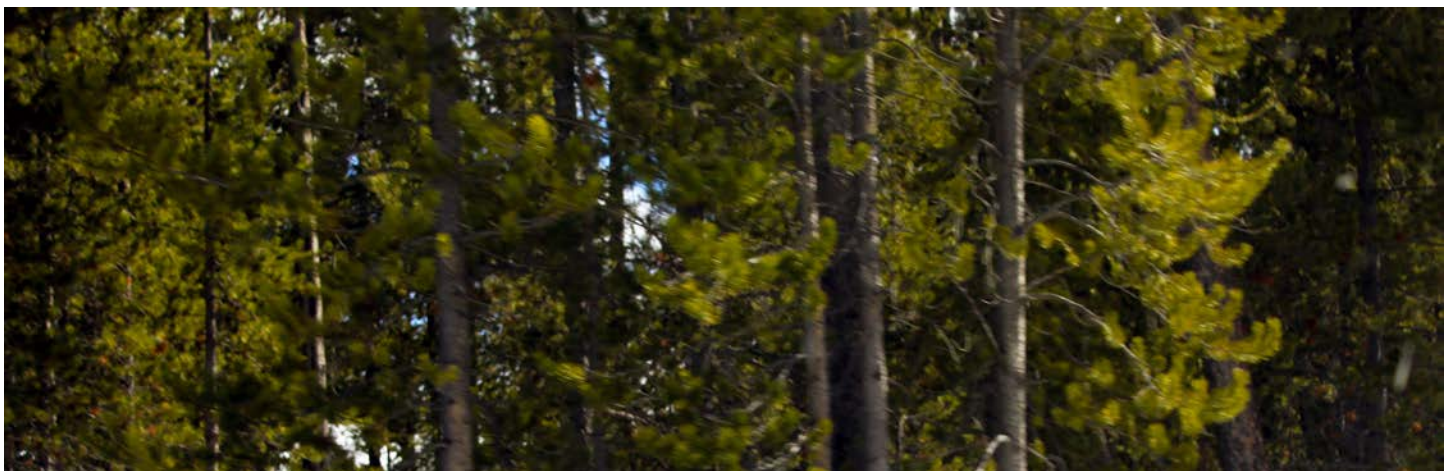
2.7 - Connect the Frontier trail to the Rendezvous ski trails.

2.8 - Install a workout course with outdoor exercise equipment.

2.9 - Construct dedicated trailhead parking lots with amenities.

2.10 - Expand paved walking and biking trails to bridge gaps.

2.11 - Conduct a feasibility study to relocate the maintenance garages.



Phase 3: 7-10 Years

3.1 - Develop small neighborhood pocket parks.

3.2 - Perform comprehensive upgrades to Electric Street Courts and Dunbar Park.

3.3 - Initiate design and funding for the Indoor Community Center.

3.4 - Relocate maintenance garages out of the historic district.

3.5 - Expand the ice rink into a partially enclosed or covered pavilion.

3.6 - Construct a BMX Pump Track or Bike Park.

3.7 - Develop a dedicated Off Leash Dog Park.

Phase 4: 10+ Years

4.1 - Transform the former garage corner into a landscaped gathering spot/Pocket Park.

4.2 - Establish a formal Disc Golf Course.

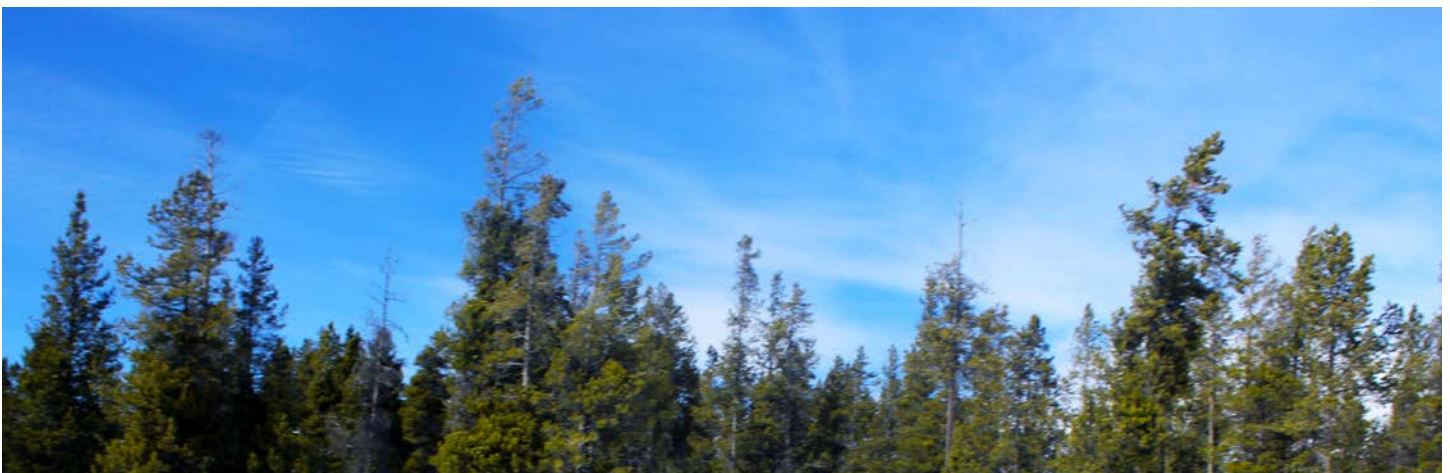
4.3 - Conduct a 10 year Master Plan update and community needs assessment.

4.4 - Construct and open the Indoor Community Center.

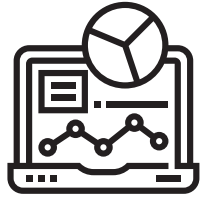
4.5 - Develop a central park within the new 80 Acres residential development.

4.6 - Connect the 80 Acres park trails to the broader West Yellowstone trail network.

4.7 - Create a botanical garden or native plant preserve.



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DEMOGRAPHICS



INTRODUCTION

To plan for the future of West Yellowstone's parks, open spaces, and recreational programs, it is necessary to understand the people who live here. A Town's demographic makeup helps the community get a clear picture of its residents and translate that into potential amenities and improvements for everyone.

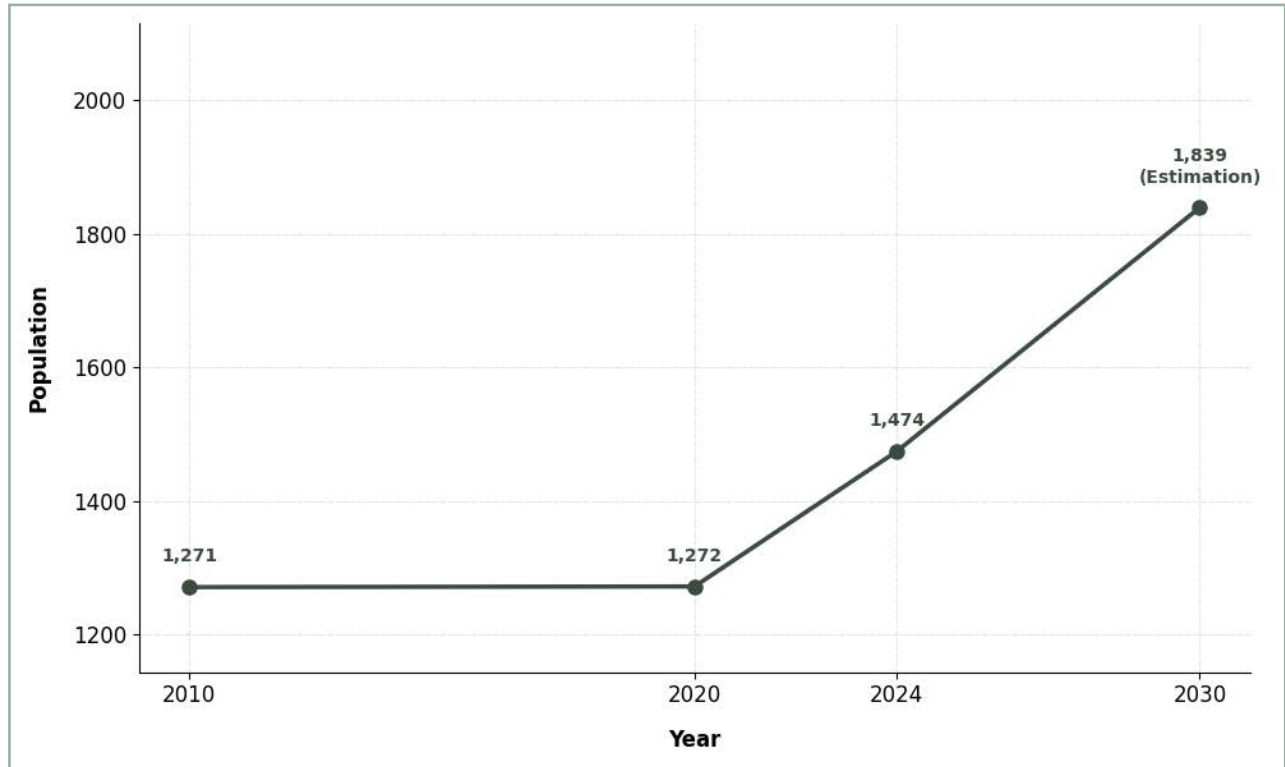
Using census data and comparing West Yellowstone's information to Gallatin County, and the State of Montana, helps us to establish a baseline. This information creates a background understanding and potential approach to projects.

Population & Growth Trends

West Yellowstone is growing. The population showed no growth between the 2010 Census with 1,271 residents and the 2020 Census with 1,272 residents. Things have shifted recently though. The 2024 American Community Survey estimates show a jump to 1,474 year-round residents.

If the estimates are accurate that gives the Town a growth rate of about 3.75 percent. To put that in perspective, Gallatin County grew by 1.06 percent, and the State grew by just 0.74 percent over the same period. Future projections using the PERT method show the Town could hit 1,839 residents by 2030.

Population Growth Graph



Population Growth Chart

	West Yellowstone	Gallatin County	Montana
2010 - Census	1,271	89,513	989,415
2020 - Census	1,272	118,960	1,084,225
2024 - ACS 5-Year	1,474	124,074	1,116,875
2030 - Estimation	1,839	132,160	1,167,703

What This Means:

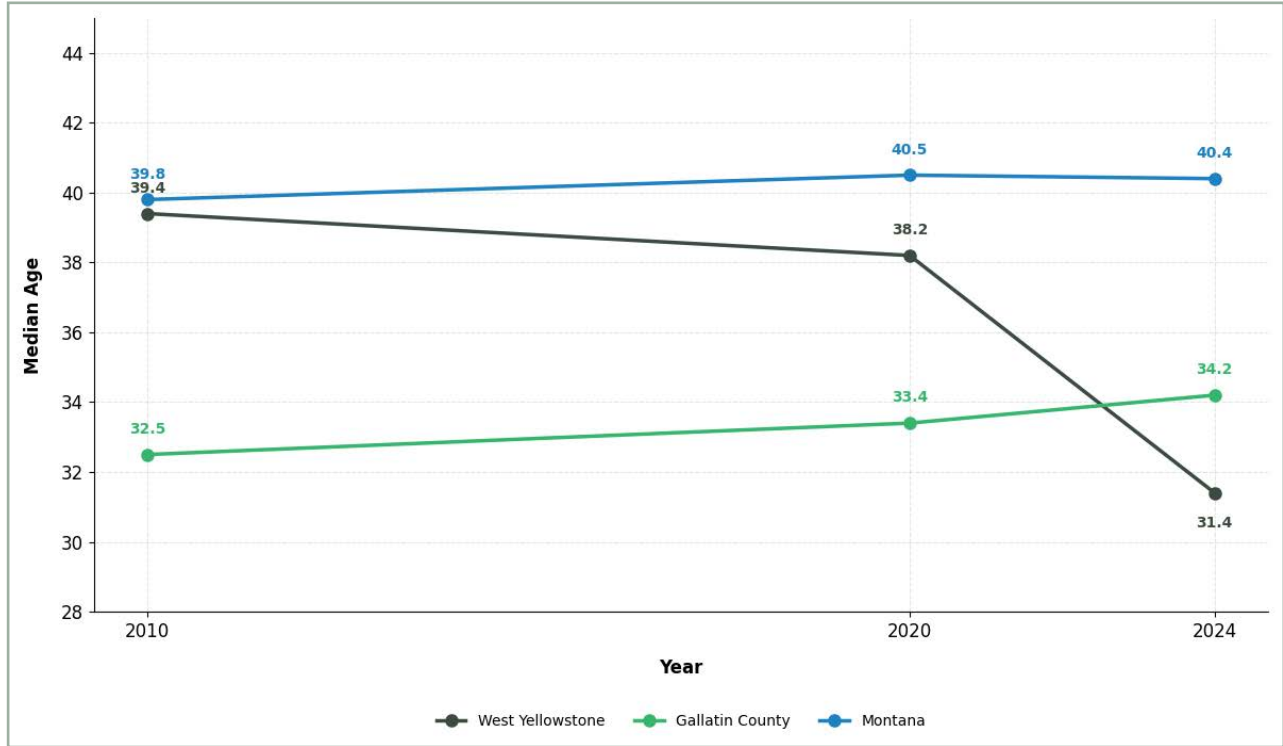
With the year round population approaching 2,000 park usage will increase over the next decade. This growth trend suggests this master plan must address the conditions of current facilities and look for potential expansion to match the growing population base.

Age Breakdown

West Yellowstone has a more youthful population when compared to the surrounding Gallatin County and the state. The median age of West Yellowstone is 31.4 years old. That trends much younger than the county at 34.2 and the state average of 40.4.

Adults between 18 and 64 make up 63.4% of the Town. Kids under 18 account for 28% of the population. That compares to only 18.8% in Gallatin County and 21% statewide. On the other side, seniors aged 65 and older make up just 8.7% of the Town, compared to 20.1% statewide.

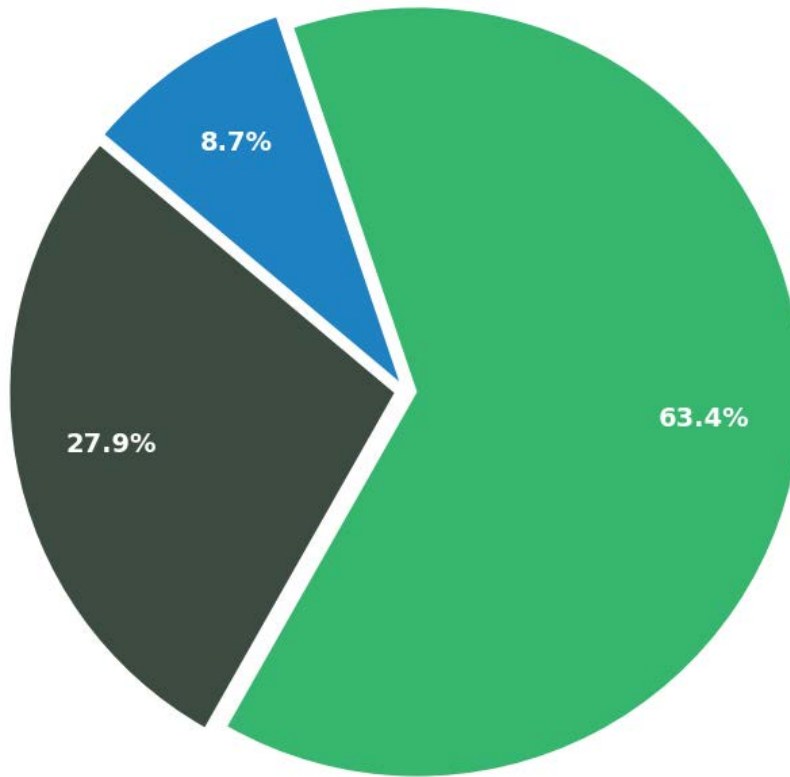
Median Age Trends Graph



Median Age Trends Chart

	West Yellowstone	Gallatin County	Montana
2010 - Census	39.4	32.5	39.8
2020 - Census	38.2	33.4	40.5
2024 - ACS 5-Year	31.4	34.2	40.4

Average Age Pie Graph

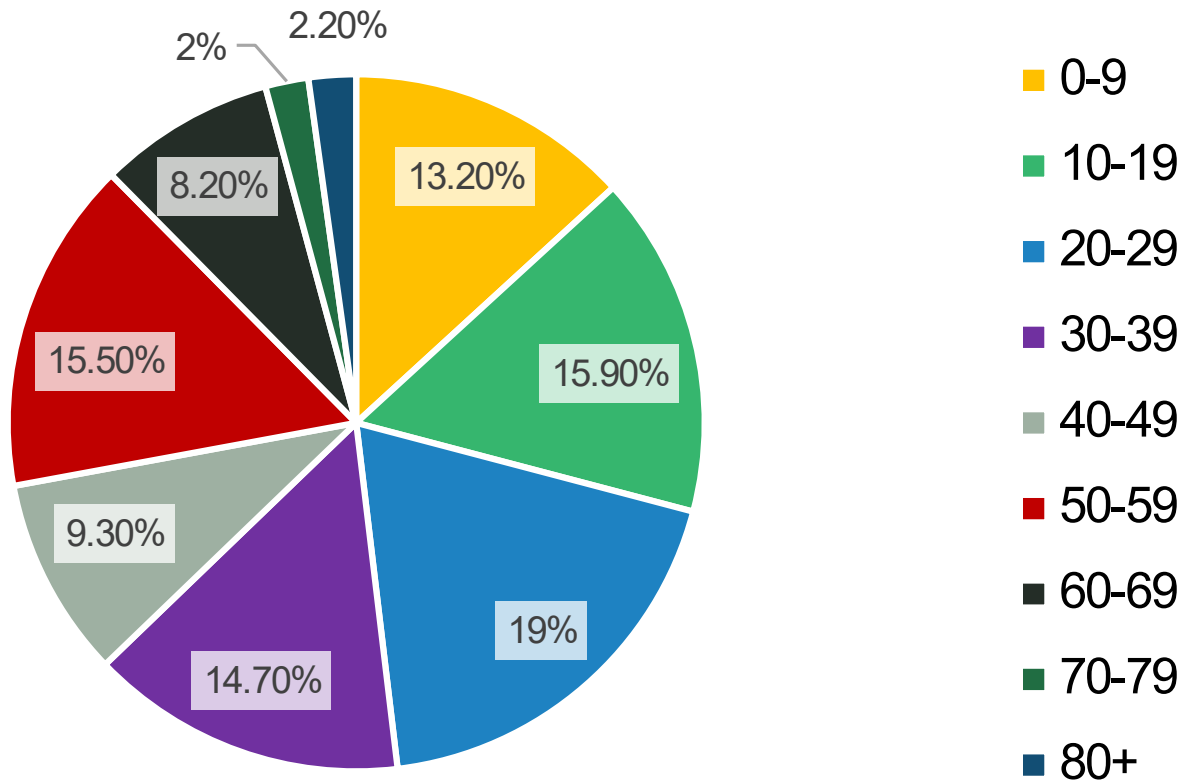


Under 18 (411)
 18 to 64 (935)
 65 and over (128)

Average Age Chart

	West Yellowstone	Montana
2010 - Census	39.4	39.8
2020 - Census	38.2	40.5
2024 - ACS 5-Year	31.4	40.4

Age Group Pie Graph



Age Group Chart

	West Yellowstone		Montana	
0-9	13.20%	194	11%	122,874
10-19	15.90%	234	12.40%	138,743
20-29	19%	280	13%	144,788
30-39	14.70%	217	13%	145,595
40-49	9.30%	137	11.90%	133,408
50-59	15.50%	229	11.50%	128,004
60-69	8.20%	121	13.80%	153,724
70-79	2%	30	9.30%	103,946
80+	2.20%	32	4.10%	45,793

What This Means:

The high percentage of children and working-age adults point to a demographic base that typically uses active recreation spaces. This data suggests a potential community focus on amenities like playgrounds, sports courts, and youth programs. At the same time, the smaller senior population shows that specialized senior facilities might see lower overall demand right now compared to youth-oriented spaces.

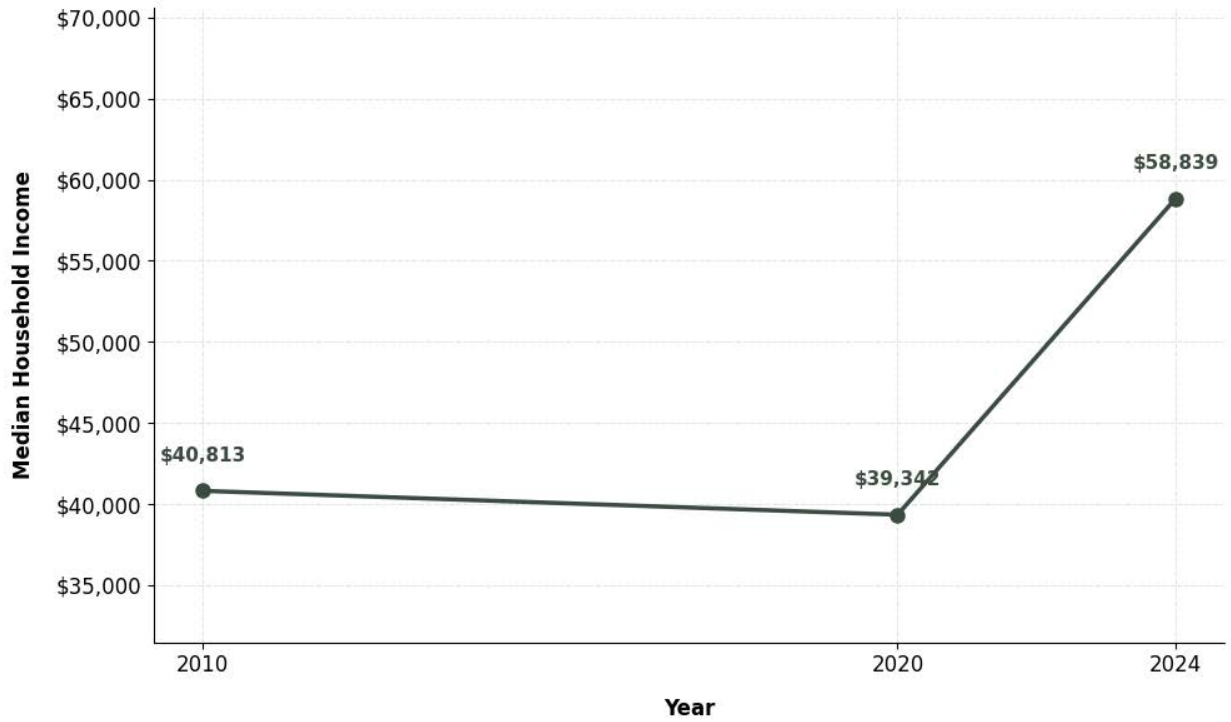
Economics & Households

The Town currently has 493 occupied housing units with an average household size of 2.79 people. This runs slightly larger than the state average of 2.37.

The median household income sits at \$58,839. This trails far behind the Gallatin County median of \$93,528

and the state median of \$72,509. We also see 13.1 percent of West Yellowstone residents living below the poverty line. This poverty rate is higher than the state rate of 11.5 percent. Child poverty specifically sits at 9 percent, while senior poverty drops all the way to 0 percent.

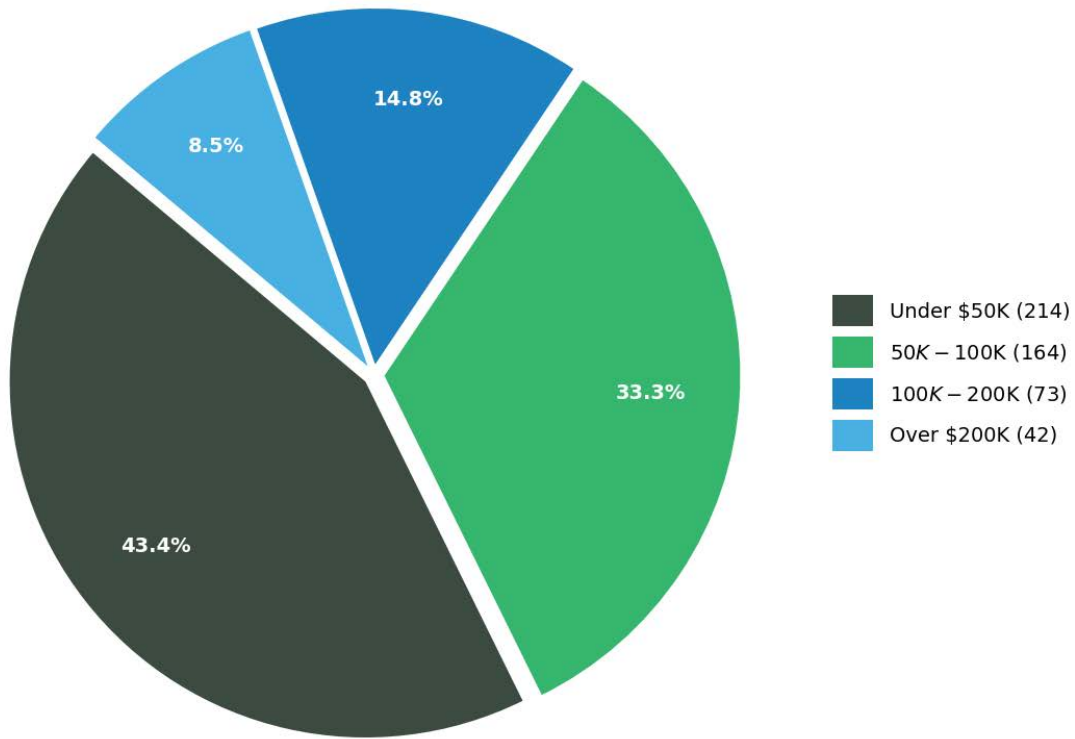
Median Household Income Graph



Median Household Income Chart

	West Yellowstone	Montana	United States
2010 - ACS 5 Year	\$40,813	\$43,872	\$51,914
2020 - ACS 5 Year	\$39,342	\$56,539	\$64,994
2024 - ACS 5 Year	\$58,839	\$72,509	\$80,734

Household Income Distribution Pie Graph



Household Income Distribution Graph

	West Yellowstone		Montana	
Under \$50K	43.40%	214	34.40%	157,725
\$50K - \$100K	33.30%	164	31%	142,102
\$100K - \$200K	14.80%	73	25.60%	117,634
Over \$200K	8.50%	42	9%	41,398

What This Means:

This economic data suggests that free access to parks, low-cost community events, and fee assistance for youth sports may be highly relevant to a significant portion of the Town's residents.

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03



DATA GATHERING



INTRODUCTION

The “Data Gathering” chapter serves as the critical foundation for the Master Plan, establishing a comprehensive baseline of current park offerings and community priorities. This section begins with detailed park assessments, which evaluate the physical condition and overall function of every park currently operated by the Town of West Yellowstone. To complement this inventory of existing assets, this chapter also details our extensive community outreach efforts, including insights gathered from two in-person engagement events used to build project awareness and capture resident feedback, as well as continuous public input collected through our online Project Hub since February. By synthesizing the reality of our current physical assets with the expressed wants and needs of our residents, this data gathering phase creates a robust, evidence-based foundation that directly informs all future recommendations in this plan.

Park Assessments

A successful parks system starts with a clear understanding of its existing assets. This chapter provides a comprehensive look at every park and recreational facility currently managed by West Yellowstone. Before proposing new investments or expansions, we first need to evaluate the physical condition and overall function of the spaces the community already uses. This inventory serves as the baseline for all future planning and helps prioritize maintenance, upgrades, or new developments.

To capture a complete picture of the system, each park was evaluated using both quantitative data and qualitative observations. The assessment catalogs basic spatial references like total acreage and trail mileage for each site. Beyond the raw numbers, every park was considered across five key categories. These include usability, the condition of current amenities, comfort and character, connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods, and overall accessibility. Looking at the parks through these detailed lens highlights exactly what is working well and where the Town has clear opportunities to improve the user experience.

Basis for Assessments

The park assessment process begins with a comprehensive inventory of all existing physical assets present within each park. Following this baseline inventory, every park is systematically evaluated across five core categories:

- Inclusivity
- Integration
- Atmosphere
- Functionality
- Facilities

This structured analysis results in an overall performance score for each park. By breaking down these scores and examining the weaker categories, we can clearly illuminate specific gaps in service and identify targeted, practical ways to improve each space moving forward.

Parks	Inclusivity 1-20	Integration 1-20	Atmosphere 1-20	Functionality 1-20	Facilities 1-20	Total Score
Dunbar Park	11	13	16	7	16	63
Electric Street Courts	12	17	11	12	14	66
Greenway Linear Park	13	20	17	16	12	78
Madison Addition Trail	17	20	18	14	16	85
Pioneer Park	16	18	20	20	19	93

Dunbar Park

LOCATION: NORTH OF 10 YELLOWSTONE AVE, WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT 59758

ACREAGE: 3.3 | ~.36 MILES OF SIDEWALK ALONG STREET FRONTAGE | PARKING: 66 SPOTS



Summary:

Dunbar Park is situated on a 3.3-acre shared parcel that also houses the National Smoke Jumper Center, Yellowstone Nature Connection, the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center, and a large shared parking lot. The active parkland occupies approximately a quarter of the total property, tucked into the farthest northeastern corner, though it offers some sidewalk frontage along the adjacent roadway. Shaded by surrounding trees, this pleasant pocket park serves primarily as a passive rest area, featuring benches, picnic tables, interpretive signage, and a Union Pacific System monument honoring "The Overland Route." While it offers a comfortable and historic atmosphere, the park currently lacks diverse usability beyond simple seating and presents limited access opportunities outside of driving and parking in the shared lot.

Inventory of Amenities:

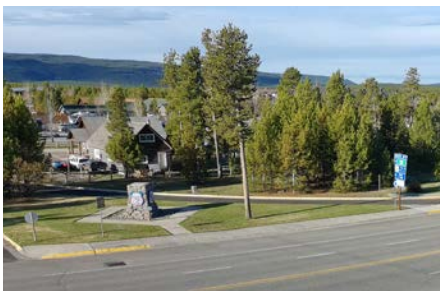
- Bear-Proof Trash Receptacle
- Benches (4)
- Interpretive Signage
- Monument
- Picnic Tables (2)
- Public Art
- Town Gateway Signage

Strengths

- **Natural Comfort:** Mature trees provide pleasant, shaded seating areas and a clear connection to nature.
- **Convenient Access:** Highly accessible for travelers visiting the adjacent Visitor Information Center and other on-site amenities.
- **High Visibility:** Prominently located along the route to the West Entrance of Yellowstone National Park, capturing passersby.

Opportunities

- **Multi-Modal Upgrades:** Install high-visibility crosswalks and bike racks along Yellowstone Ave to promote safety and active transportation.
- **Gateway Signage:** Add prominent Dunbar Park signage to clearly identify the space to passersby as a Town of West Yellowstone park.
- **Improved Accessibility:** Pave the picnic areas and create a hard-surface path to the parking lot to ensure access for mobility-impaired users.



Electric Street Courts

LOCATION: NORTH OF 400 N ELECTRIC ST, WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT 59758

ACREAGE: 2.1 | PARKING: ON-STREET + ~8,000 (SQFT) GRAVEL LOT



Summary:

Electric Street Courts is situated on a 2.1-acre parcel, with the northern half of the site dedicated to housing the Town's electrical grid. The southern portion of the property serves as a hub for active recreation, currently featuring a lighted basketball court and two tennis courts. Supported by a gravel parking lot and adjacent on-street parking, the site provides surrounding neighborhoods with convenient access to active recreational amenities. While current programming is primarily limited to tennis and basketball, the facility's offerings are expanding, with the Town currently in the process of adding new pickleball courts to the park.

Inventory of Amenities:

- Basketball Court
- Bear-Proof Trash Receptacle
- Benches (4)
- Picnic Table
- Portable Restroom
- Regulatory Signage
- Sports Lighting (3)
- Tennis Courts (2)
- Trash Receptacle

Strengths

- **Active Recreation Hub:** The presence of multiple sports courts provides excellent, dedicated space for athletic activities.
- **Community Proximity:** Ideally located near West Yellowstone Elementary School, a local church, and single-family residential neighborhoods.
- **High Accessibility:** Entrances on both N Electric Street and De Lacy Avenue ensure easy access for residents on multiple sides of the park.

Opportunities

- **Enhanced Accessibility:** Install a paved loop trail around the courts with both east and west access points for improved mobility.
- **New Amenities:** Add a gateway sign, bike rack and a public water fountain to improve user comfort and support multi-modal transportation.
- **Basketball Court Upgrades:** Repave the deteriorating basketball court surface and install new, upgraded goals.
- **Parking Improvements:** Create a small, dedicated paved parking lot or formalize the existing on-street parking along N Electric Street.



Greenway Park

LOCATION: GREENWAY HISTORIC DISTRICT, WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT 59758

ACREAGE: 23.8



Summary:

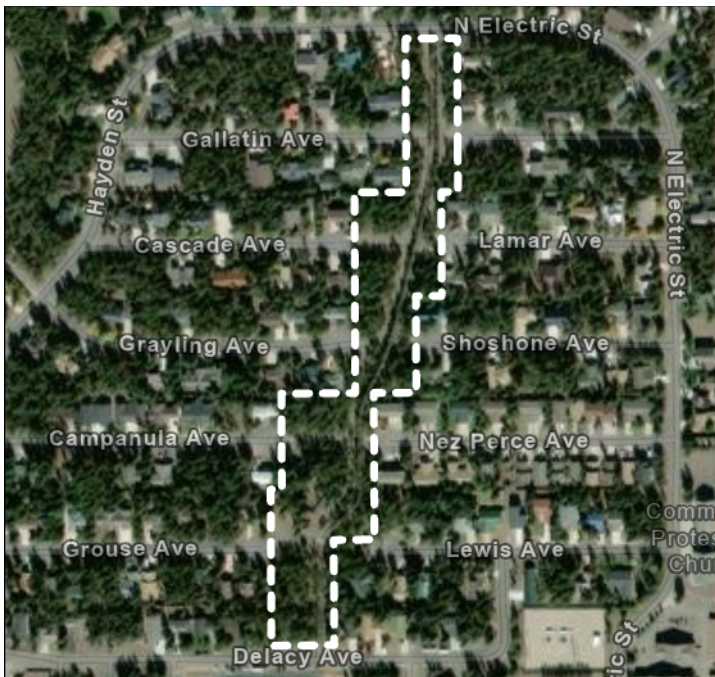
Greenway Linear Park is a proposed 23.8-acre space composed of a conglomeration of Town-owned parcels. While currently largely undeveloped, the site does feature a few existing picnic tables that see active community use. The long-term vision for this space involves transforming the portions of these parcels not occupied by civic buildings into a cohesive, active linear park. This development will be directly guided by the recommendations outlined in the 2025 West Yellowstone Historic District Greenway plan by 3FWILD. Spanning from Boundary Street to Iris Street, the overarching vision for this project is to create a vital greenway corridor that connects the existing trail networks of Yellowstone National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest directly through the Town of West Yellowstone. This East-West spine would enhance connectivity and access to active amenities.



Madison Addition Linear Trail

LOCATION: MADISON ADDITION WALKING PATH, WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT 59758

ACREAGE: 7.3 | .45 TRAIL MILEAGE | PARKING: ON-STREET



Summary:

The Madison Addition Trail is a 0.45-mile paved path running north and south through the northern portion of West Yellowstone, an area home to the majority of the Town's single-family residences. Serving as a crucial pedestrian spine for the northwest quadrant of Town, the trail is uniquely situated between five cul-de-sacs on both its east and west sides. This layout provides seamless, direct access points for residents on every adjacent street. The trail's southern terminus conveniently ends at the elementary school field on De Lacy Avenue, offering a safe, off-street route directly to the Electric Street Courts. Along the path, visitors will find seating areas and several dog waste receptacles, making it a highly accessible and functional community asset for daily walks, dog walking, and active transportation.

Inventory of Amenities:

- Bench
- Dog-Waste Receptacles (5)
- Regulatory Signage (2)

Strengths

- **Paramount Connectivity:** Serves as a vital link connecting the majority of northern residents directly to the elementary school and the Electric Street Courts.
- **Safe Student Routes:** Provides a protected, off-street path for students walking or biking to school, supported by multiple bike racks available on the school campus.
- **Everyday Recreation:** Offers highly accessible daily use for residents, functioning as a convenient and well-utilized route for pedestrians and dog walkers.

Opportunities

- **Gateway Signage & Kiosk:** Install gateway signage and a community information kiosk at the southern terminus to increase awareness of Town events and gatherings.
- **Expanded Seating:** Add more benches and potential picnic areas along the route to provide resting spots and encourage residents to spend more time on the trail.
- **Landscaping & Beautification:** Integrate landscaped areas and native plant gardens to beautify portions of the trail and enhance the natural environment.
- **Access:** Providing bridges or other pedestrian friendly crossing at culverts and throughout the park to increase access.
- **Continuing the Trail:** Working to connect the trail through existing town right of way to access Forest Service lands.

Pioneer Park

LOCATION: THE CORNER OF HIGHWAY 20 & HIGHWAY 191, WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT 59758

ACREAGE: 7.3 | ~.55 MILES OF SIDEWALK ALONG STREET FRONTAGE |

PARKING: ON-STREET 70 SPOTS, 45 SPOTS IN PARKING LOT



Summary:

Pioneer Park is the largest park in West Yellowstone, centrally located on the eastern side of Town at the southeast corner of the Highway 20 and Highway 191 intersection. Serving as the premier venue for most of the Town's major community events, this expansive park offers a comprehensive mix of active and passive recreational amenities. The site features extensive athletic facilities, including a ball diamond, two basketball courts, three rectangular fields, bleachers, and sports lighting. Beyond sports, the park functions as a major community gathering space equipped with a playground, a large picnic shelter, multiple shade structures, grills, and numerous picnic tables and benches. This robust programming is fully supported by essential infrastructure, including a dedicated parking lot, pedestrian lighting, bear-proof trash receptacles, a maintenance shed, and permanent restroom facilities.

Inventory of Amenities:

- Ball Diamond
- Basketball courts (2)
- Bear-Proof Trash Receptacles (4)
- Benches (9)
- Bleachers/Grandstands
- Dog-Waste Receptacle
- Gateway Signage
- Grills (7)
- Maintenance Shed
- Parking Lot
- Pedestrian Lighting
- Picnic Tables (16)
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Rectangular Fields (3)
- Restrooms (2)
- Shade Structures (6)
- Sports Lighting (22)

Strengths

- **Diverse Amenities:** Offers a wide variety of facilities that cater to users of all ages and backgrounds, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy.
- **Regional Capacity:** Functions as a major regional hub with ample parking, easily accommodating residents driving in for daily recreation or large community events.
- **Prime Tourist Proximity:** Strategically surrounded by numerous hotels, motels, and restaurants, making the park highly visible and accessible to travelers.

Opportunities

- **Playground Upgrades:** Update the playground surfacing to ensure the play area is fully ADA accessible for all visitors.
- **Pedestrian Safety:** Install high-visibility crosswalks at all intersections bordering the park and implement traffic calming measures along the adjacent highways to protect parkgoers.
- **Multi-Modal Amenities:** Add bike racks to encourage active transportation and improve multi-modal access for both residents and visiting tourists.



Undeveloped Parkland

TOTAL ACREAGE: 7.9



80 Acres Parkland

The 80 Acres Parkland is a 6.5-acre parcel of currently undeveloped park space that presents long-term potential for the community. Although this property offers high opportunity, the strategic recommendation is to leave it undeveloped for the time being. As the surrounding 80 Acres development takes shape, this parkland is envisioned to eventually serve as a community hub, featuring a playground and acting as a central convergence point for multiple trails. However, to ensure the park's features accurately serve the future neighborhood, the design and construction process should be intentionally paced, beginning only when more concrete details are known about the adjacent residential development.



Pie Parkland

Pie Parkland is a compact, 0.4-acre parcel nestled between existing residential homes that currently serves as a heavily wooded natural area. For the foreseeable future, the recommendation is for this space to remain completely undeveloped. Due to its decentralized location and dense natural state, activating this parkland would require extensive excavation and site clearing. Such intensive groundwork would not justify the loss of the land's inherent natural properties and would likely face strong opposition from adjacent neighbors. Due to its location Pie Park could be evaluated for a land swap for more centrally located parkland if the opportunity presents itself in the future.



Grouse Ct Parkland

Grouse Ct Parkland consists of a natural wooded area situated in the center of a large cul-de-sac, along with an adjacent slice of land, totaling approximately one acre. Located near Pie Parkland, the overarching recommendation for this space is similarly to preserve its natural state for the time being. While there is potential to selectively clear a small section to introduce low-impact recreational amenities, such as picnic tables, this should not be considered a near-term priority. Before any physical changes are considered, it is essential that the Town prioritizes extensive outreach and communication with adjacent residents to ensure any future improvements align directly with the neighborhood's desires.

Ongoing/Past Planning Efforts

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan does not exist in a vacuum. It builds upon decades of intentional community planning, feasibility studies, and economic strategies driven by the Town of West Yellowstone and its federal partners. To map a successful future for our parks and trails, we must first understand the groundwork that has already been laid.

2004 Parks Master Plan - Dyer Group

Adopted on February 19, 2004, this foundational document served as the Town's first comprehensive attempt to categorize and formalize its green spaces. While acknowledging that West Yellowstone is "land rich," the plan identified a severe shortage of developed recreational opportunities for residents, noting that only 6.4 of the Town's 14 acres of parkland were developed at the time.

- **Established Park Identities:** The plan formally proposed working names and dedicated uses for key parcels, transforming the "Big Town Park" into Pioneer Park and the "Historic District" into Heritage Park.
- **Active Recreation Focus:** It identified a strong community need for active sports facilities, laying the conceptual groundwork for a dedicated Recreation Park on the southwest corner of Town to accommodate a skate park, basketball courts, and baseball fields.
- **Natural Preservation:** The plan strongly advocated for keeping certain spaces, such as the Hayden Street Woods and Grouse Court, in their natural state with minimal high-impact development.

West Yellowstone Connector Trail Planning and Design Study (2023) - FHWA

Completed in June 2023, this study was a collaborative effort between the Town of West Yellowstone, the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and the Federal Highway Administration. It addresses the unique challenge of having world-class trail networks dead-end at the municipal boundaries.

- **Network Connectivity:** The primary goal of the study was to design a 10-foot wide paved trail that links the Yellowstone Shortline, Frontier, Boundary, Rendezvous Nordic Ski, and Riverside trails into a single, cohesive network.
- **Highway Crossings and Safety:** To address severe pedestrian safety and traffic flow issues, the study recommended installing a roundabout at the intersection of US 20 and Iris Street, and a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at US 191 and Boundary Street.
- **Future Expansions:** The study laid the groundwork for future connections to the newly annexed 80-acre parcel and the West Yellowstone School system.

West Yellowstone Historic District Greenway Vision (2025) - 3FWILD

Building directly on the goals of the 2023 Connector Trail Study, this 2025 vision plan reimagines the corridor between Boundary Street and Iris Street. It proposes transforming the site of the historic Oregon Short Line Terminus into a vibrant, multi-use community hub.

- **A New Community Hub:** The plan utilizes a corridor spanning 1,100 feet in length and 100 to 140 feet in width, providing ample space for gathering, walking, and historical interpretation.
- **Layered Experiences:** The greenway design incorporates a direct shared path for commuting, a wooded path through a lodgepole pine forest, a dedicated "Play Hill," and a viewing area for the existing casting pond.
- **Phased Implementation:** Acknowledging the high cost of full build-out, the plan recommends starting with a smaller-scale Museum Plaza pilot project—estimated at \$200,000 to \$300,000—to test design goals and activate the space immediately.

Destination Yellowstone DMO Strategy (FY26) - Chamber of Commerce

Parks and recreation are intrinsically tied to West Yellowstone's economic engine. The Destination Marketing and Management Organization (DMMO) strategy, spearheaded by the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce, outlines how the Town manages its massive influx of visitors while protecting local resources.

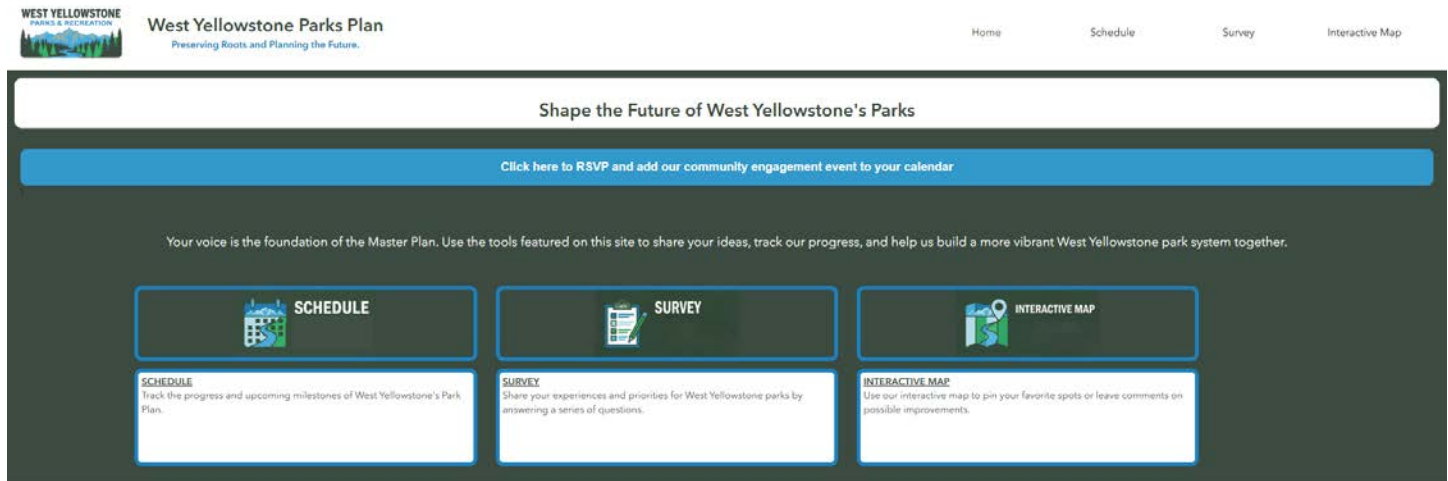
- **Managing Volume:** During the peak summer season, the Town's population of 1,200 swells to serve approximately 12,000 visitors per night. The DMO strategy focuses heavily on improving the visitor interface to efficiently manage this volume.
- **Targeting High-Value Users:** The strategy shifts focus toward high-value, low-impact travelers who prioritize outdoor recreation and respect natural resources.
- **Shoulder season and winter occupancy** by promoting events and trail networks, ensuring our recreational assets support a year-round economy.

Online Engagement Platform

We wanted to make sure everyone could participate in the planning process, even if they could not make it to our in person meetings. To make this happen, we launched a dedicated online project platform that serves as the digital home base for the West Yellowstone Parks Plan.

The website was designed to be easy to use and gives the community a few clear ways to get involved:

- What is a Plan? - Why do we Plan?
- Schedule of the Parks Plan
- Online Survey
- Interactive Feedback Map



What is a Plan?

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as a long-range vision and strategic roadmap for a community's public spaces, trails, and facilities. It is a comprehensive document that analyzes existing assets, identifies gaps in service, and establishes a clear set of priorities for the next 10 to 20 years. More than just a checklist of repairs, the plan acts as a blueprint for growth and investment, ensuring that land acquisition and recreational programming keep pace with population changes. By blending technical data with direct community feedback, the Master Plan ensures that every dollar spent aligns with the residents' needs for health, wellness, and environmental stewardship, ultimately creating a vibrant and sustainable park system for future generations.



Why do We Plan?

We plan to ensure that the future of West Yellowstone isn't left to chance. As our community grows and evolves, our recreational needs change with it. Systematic planning allows us to move beyond reactive maintenance and toward proactive growth. By creating a Master Plan, we can identify underserved areas, protect our natural resources, and ensure that every tax dollar is invested in projects that provide the highest value to our residents. Ultimately, we plan to build a legacy. This process allows us to align our budget with community values, ensuring that our parks and trails remain safe, accessible, and vibrant spaces for health and connection for decades to come.



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Introduction to the Planning Process

Building a transparent relationship with the community starts with making sure everyone understands what a master plan is and why we are creating one. Educating the public about the planning process helps residents feel comfortable and empowered to share their feedback. To set the stage, the online hub begins by breaking down the core purpose of the project. It

explains that a master plan is a strategic, long term roadmap for our parks and facilities, designed to move the Town from reactive maintenance to proactive growth. By letting people look behind the curtain and understand this foundation, we can clearly show how their direct input helps align future investments with the community's actual needs and values.

Schedule

Keeping the community informed every step of the way is a major priority. We included a clear project schedule on the platform so residents always know exactly where we are in the master plan process. This section highlights all upcoming milestones and lists the

dates and times for our public engagement events. By making this information easily accessible, we want to give everyone plenty of notice so they never miss an opportunity to show up and share their voice.

SCHEDULE

The following timeline outlines the development of the Master Plan, this process began in January 2026, and will conclude in Early June with Final approval from the town of West Yellowstone.

Existing Conditions (January - March)

This phase consists of inventorying all current amenities and assets available in West Yellowstone, understanding the planning context, and setting the foundation for the phases to come.

Engagement (March - April)

This phase of our planning process involves multiple different engagement methods including the launch of the online platform, consisting of a survey option, and interactive map, and the in-person engagement event on March 11th.

Planning for the Future (April - May)

This phase involves data interpretation and translating all information gathered from our existing condition as well as organizing all engagement information to create a comprehensive vision for West Yellowstone Parks.

Implementing the Future (May - June)

This phase involves methods to turn the town's vision to a reality, including concrete action steps that lead to physical change and improvements in West Yellowstone's park properties.


June

Final Approval

Online Survey

Gathering detailed feedback from as many stakeholders as possible is a key piece of the planning process. For this reason the online hub features an accessible public survey. This digital questionnaire asks residents about their current park usage and what they

hope to see in the future. The answers we collect are used to inform our recommendations and keep the plan moving forward with real community priorities leading the way. This Survey received 44 responses spanning from February 2026 to May 2026.



West Yellowstone Parks Plan Survey

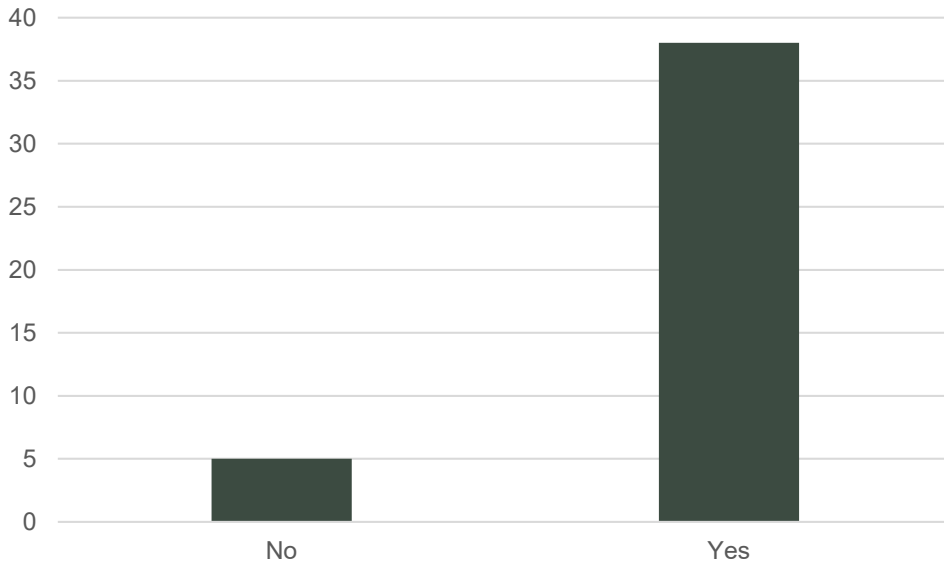
Help us shape the future of parks and recreation in West Yellowstone. Your feedback is vital!

* Indicates required question

Survey Results

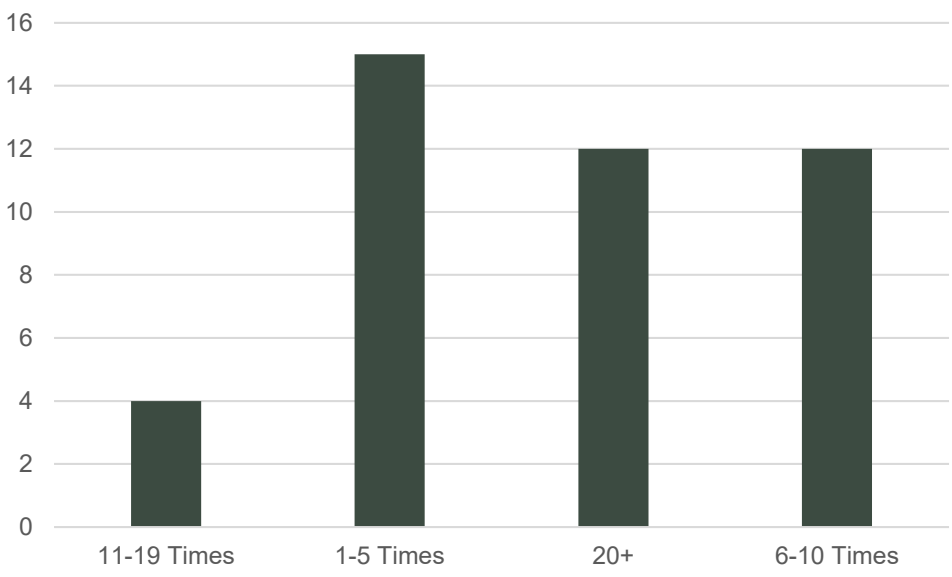
The questions below are not all of the questions asked in the survey, these are the questions that are most pertinent to our master planning process. The survey in its entirety will be featured in the appendix.

Q1: Are you a West Yellowstone Resident?



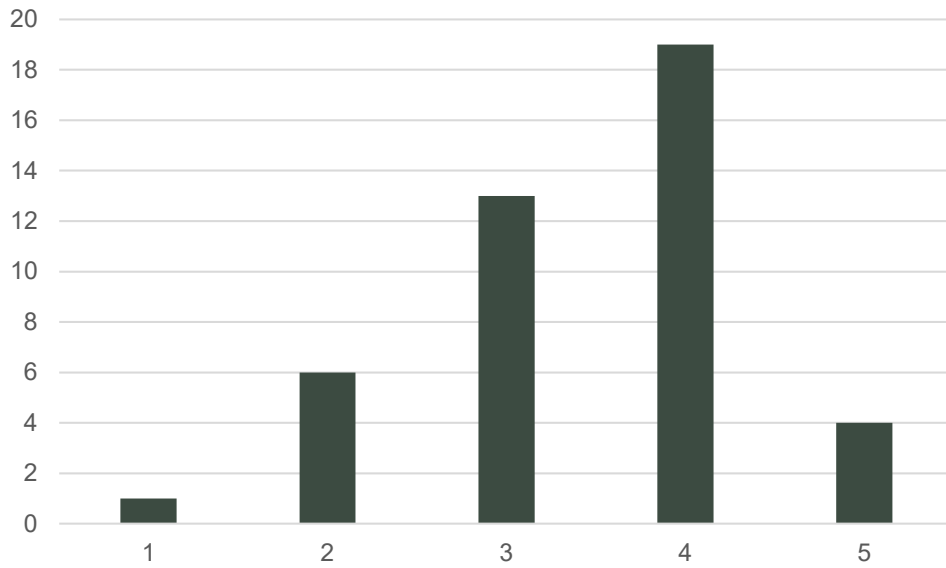
Row Labels	Count of Are you a West Yellowstone Resident
No	5
Yes	38
Grand Total	43

Q2: In the past 12 months how often have you visited a West Yellowstone park property?



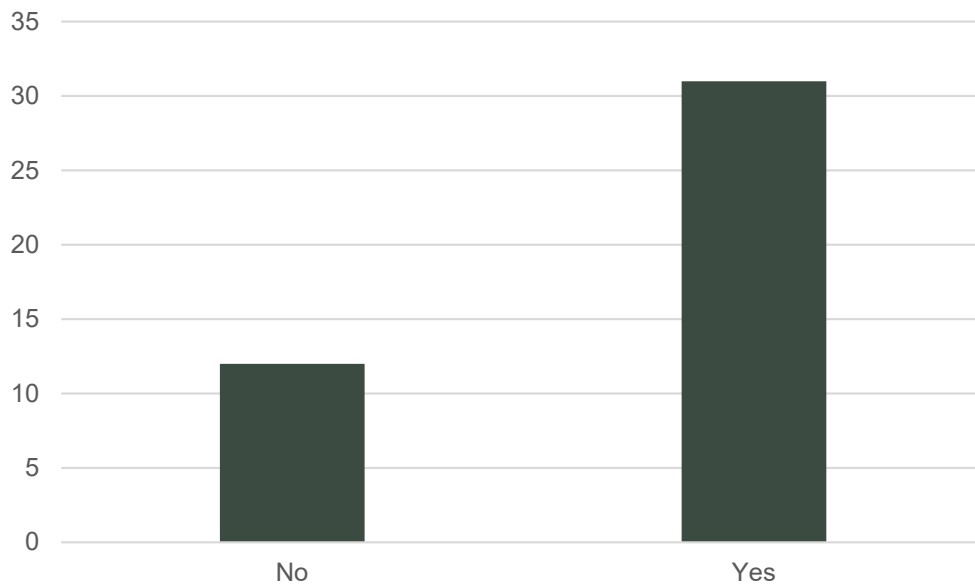
Row Labels	How often have you visited a West Yellowstone park property?
11-19 Times	4
1-5 Times	15
20+	12
6-10 Times	12
Grand Total	43

Q3: How would you rate the physical condition of all the West Yellowstone park properties you have visited?



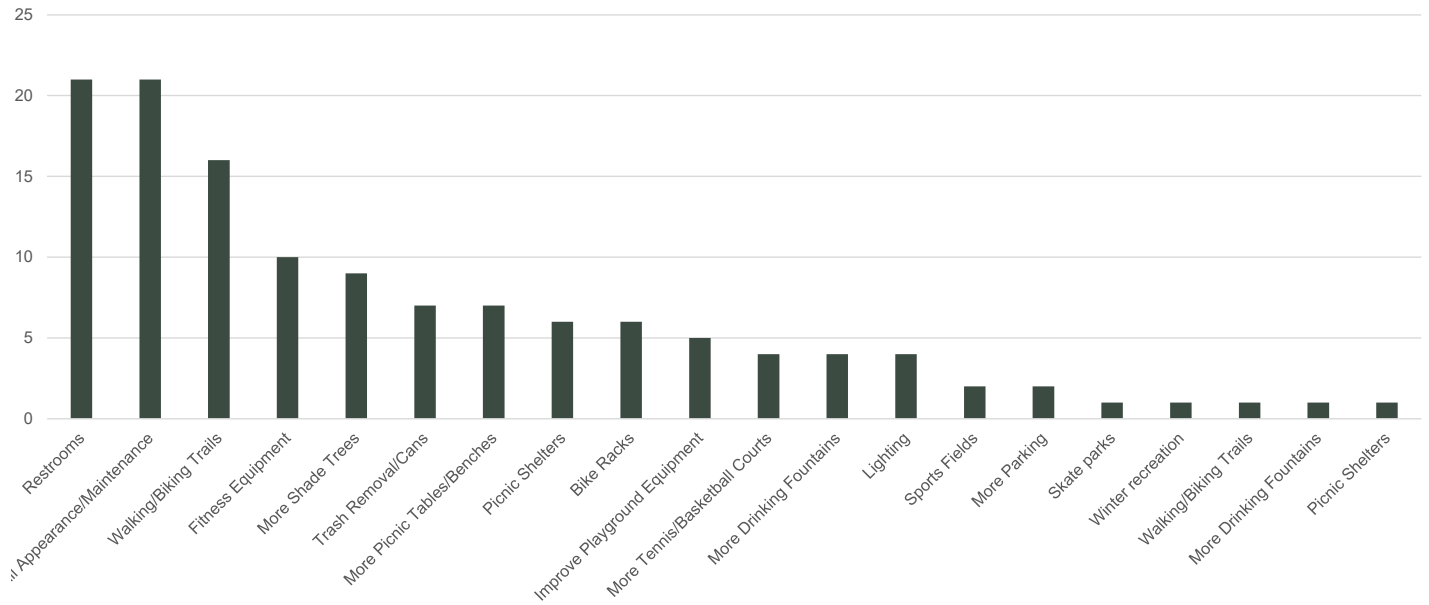
Row Labels	Rate the physical condition of all the West Yellowstone park properties?
1	1
2	6
3	13
4	19
5	4
Grand Total	43

Q4: Are you able to walk to a West Yellowstone park property?



Row Labels	Are you able to walk to a West Yellowstone park property?
No	12
Yes	31
Grand Total	43

Q5: Please select the top 3 amenities you would most like to have available in the park you visit most often.



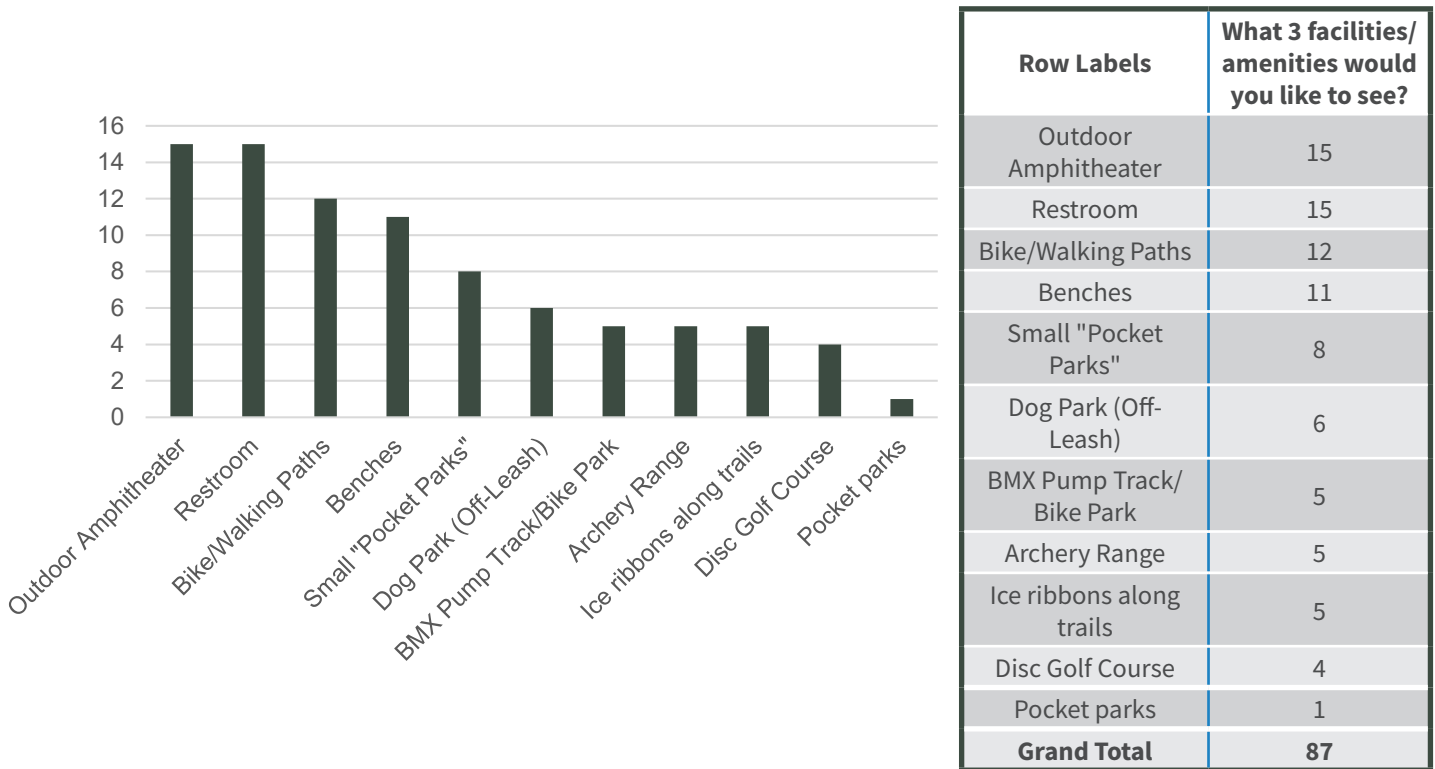
Row Labels	Please select the top 3 amenities
Restrooms	21
Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance	21
Walking/Biking Trails	16
Fitness Equipment	10
More Shade Trees	9
Trash Removal/Cans	7
More Picnic Tables/Benches	7
Picnic Shelters	6
Bike Racks	6
Improve Playground Equipment	5
More Tennis/Basketball Courts	4
More Drinking Fountains	4
Lighting	4
Sports Fields	2
More Parking	2
Skate parks	1
Winter recreation	1
Walking/Biking Trails	1
More Drinking Fountains	1
Picnic Shelters	1
Grand Total	129

Q6: What are the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using parks, trails, or programs offered by West Yellowstone?

This question had an open response, of those who responded here are the most popular trends:

- **Lack of Time & Busy Schedules: 7 Mentions** - (e.g., Work schedule, multiple jobs, school/sports activities, "too tired")
- **Lack of Engaging Amenities & Aesthetics: 6 Mentions** - (e.g., "Not much available," no restrooms, lack of adult activities, wanting flowers/art)
- **Accessibility, Connectivity & Safety Concerns: 6 Mentions** - (e.g., Crossing Highway 20/191, proximity/living out of Town, lack of parking, previous playground injury)
- **Park Environment & Crowding: 3 Mentions** - (e.g., Courts already in use, summer crowds, dog waste, unsupervised children)
- **Personal Health, Age & Weather: 3 Mentions** - (e.g., Age, weather, personal health/access limitations)

Q7: What 3 facilities/amenities would you like to see come to West Yellowstone?

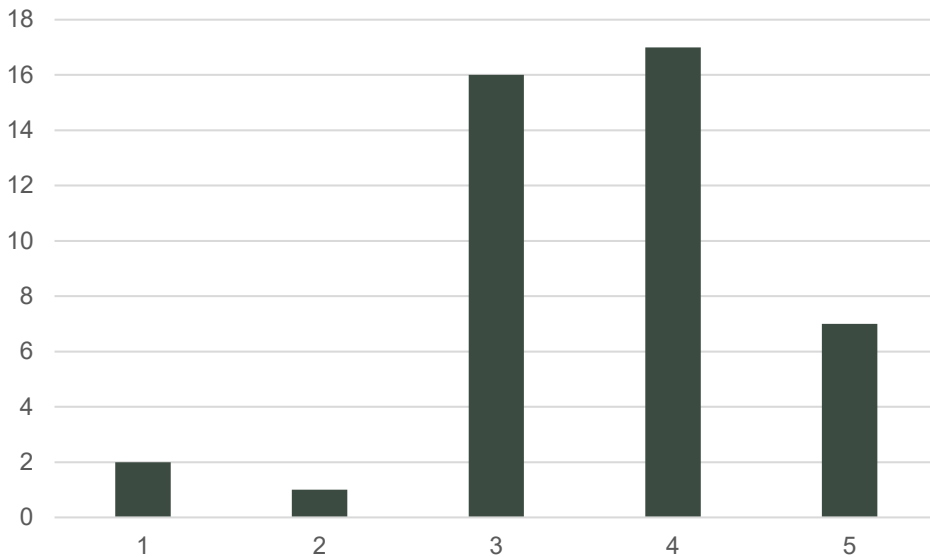


Q8: How do you and your family currently learn about West Yellowstone parks, programs and activities?

This question had an open response, of those who responded here are the most popular trends:

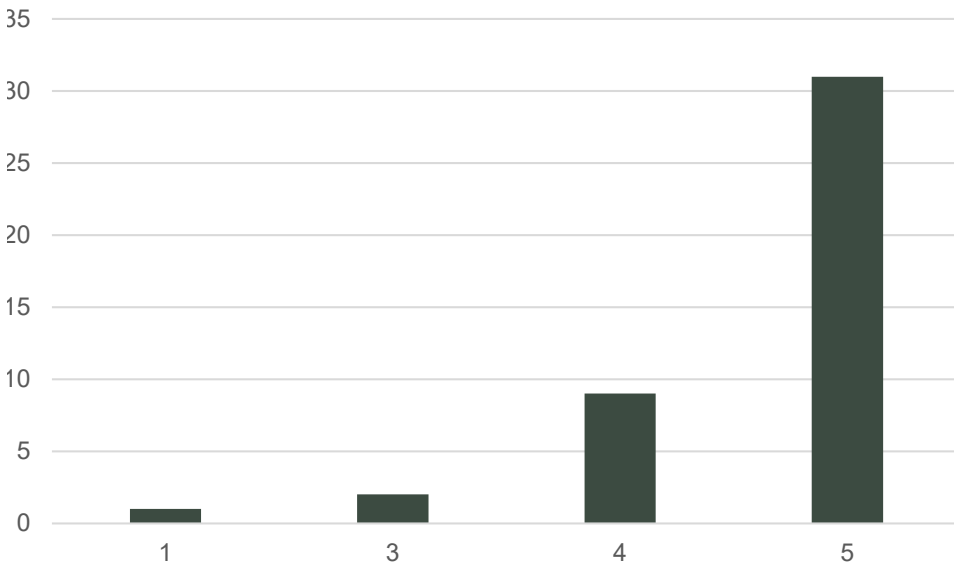
- **Social Media: 22 Mentions** - This is by far the most common way residents get their information, with Facebook being specifically called out in almost every mention. (Examples: "Facebook," "Social media," "Community Facebook posts")
- **Physical Flyers & Bulletin Boards: 11 Mentions** - Traditional, physical postings around Town are still highly utilized by the community. (Examples: Post Office cork boards, flyers at the library, banners, posters, the Buff Bar)
- **Word of Mouth & Direct Connections: 6 Mentions** - Many residents rely on their neighbors, friends, and family to stay in the loop. (Examples: "Word of mouth," "gossip around Town," "my father is on the board")
- **Lack of Communication / Do Not Know: 5 Mentions** - A notable group feels disconnected or frustrated by how information is shared, often finding out too late or not at all. (Examples: "We don't," "Nothing," "Usually days after," "The Town doesn't share this information very well")
- **Websites & General Internet Search: 5 Mentions** - Some users rely on web browsing or official sites, though one respondent specifically noted that current online information can be inaccurate. (Examples: "Town website," "Online," "Internet")
- **General Knowledge / Just Living Here: 4 Mentions** - A few respondents indicated they do not actively look for information but naturally know what is going on simply because they are locals. (Examples: "Just by living here," "prior resident," "I live here so I know where they are")

Q9: Please rank your overall satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from West Yellowstone Parks?



Row Labels	Rank your overall satisfaction with West Yellowstone Parks
1	2
2	1
3	16
4	17
5	7
Grand Total	43

Q10: How important do you feel it is for West Yellowstone to provide high quality parks and trails?



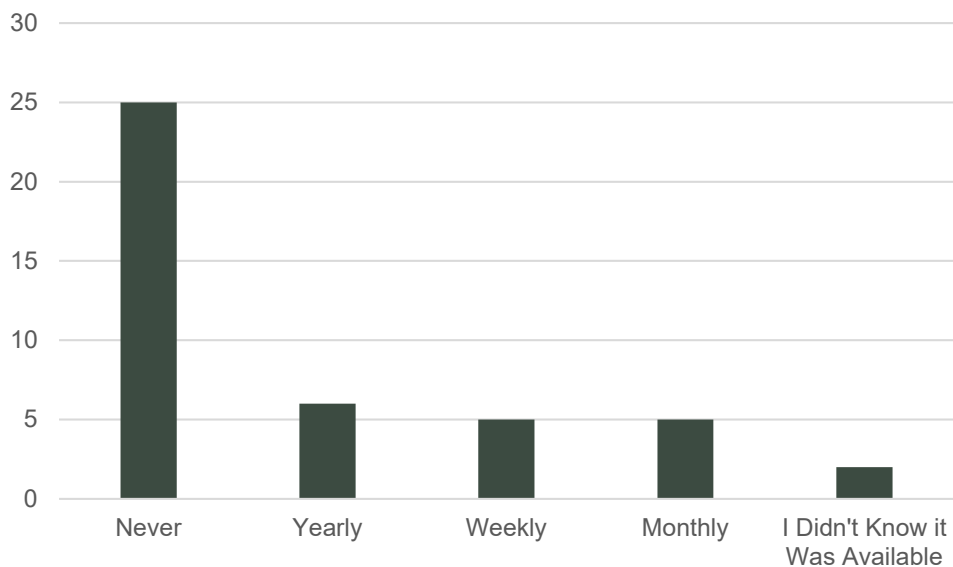
Row Labels	How important is it for West Yellowstone to provide high quality parks and trails?
1	1
3	2
4	9
5	31
Grand Total	43

Q11: What winter activities or amenities would you like to see offered in city parks?

This question had an open response, of those who responded here are the most popular trends:

- **Ice Skating & Rink Upgrades: 12 Mentions** - Residents are strongly advocating for a better, more reliable ice skating experience. Examples: "Better ice rink," "Covered ice skating," "Ice rink MAINTAINED and OPERATIONAL," adding hockey boards, and keeping the current rink but improving it.
- **Sledding & Snow Play: 6 Mentions** - There is a clear desire for more places to sled, especially for younger kids. Examples: "More sled hills in park instead of just one huge one," "Sledding Hill," and "Snow hill."
- **Trails & Connectivity (Skiing & Walking): 6 Mentions** - Residents want better winter connectivity through Town, both for cross-country skiing and regular walking. Examples: "Ski trails in Town that I can hop on to get to the rendezvous ski trails," "longer plowed walking trails," and "More groomed trails for non-motorized use."
- **Skate Rentals, Lessons & Programming: 4 Mentions** - Closely tied to the ice rink, several people specifically requested the ability to rent gear locally and have programmed activities at the rink. Examples: "availability to rent skates somewhere local," "skate rentals, music," and "lessons."
- **Unsure / No Preference: 4 Mentions** - A few respondents did not have specific ideas or were already content with their current winter routines. Examples: "I'm not sure. We are busy skiing in the winter," "N/A," and "I don't know."
- **Niche Winter Sports & Ice Arts: 4 Mentions** - Some residents suggested bringing in specific winter events or unique sports. Examples: "Curling!!!" (Mentioned twice), "Ice Carving Contest," and "Ice sculpture."
- **Warming Features & Social Spaces: 2 Mentions** - Having a place to get out of the cold while still enjoying the parks is a priority for some. Examples: "Fire pits, igloos" and "Warming stations."
- **Indoor Recreation Facilities: 2 Mentions** - A couple of residents are looking for indoor options during the harsh winter months. Examples: "Indoor public lap pool" and "indoor rec center."
- **General Maintenance & Other Ideas: 4 Mentions** - A few responses touched on general upkeep and miscellaneous activities. Examples: "Emptying the trash cans on linear park more often so people are more enticed to pick up their dog poop," "Kids snowmobile tracks," "Racing," and "duck duck goose."

Q12: How often do you use the city ice skating rink?



Row Labels	How often do you use the city ice skating rink?
Never	25
Yearly	6
Weekly	5
Monthly	5
I Didn't Know it Was Available	2
Grand Total	43

Q13: What is your favorite thing about West Yellowstone parks?

This question had an open response, of those who responded here are the most popular trends:

- **General Appreciation and Existence (6 Mentions)** - Many residents are simply grateful that the Town has designated park spaces available to the public. Examples: "That we actually have a park," "That they exist," "That they're here!," and "That we have them in this beautiful place we call home."
- **Events, Music, and Activities (6 Mentions)** - The programmed events and lively atmosphere are a major draw, with the summer concert series being a clear community favorite. Examples: "Music in the park in the summer," "Live music," "Events," and "Always activities going on."
- **Safety and Social Gathering (5 Mentions)** - Residents value having a dependable, secure environment where they can comfortably meet up with neighbors and friends. Examples: "Gathering place for families and friends," "Safe outdoor space for activities," "Safe space to recreate and socialize," and "A nice place to hang out."
- **Kid-Friendly Amenities and Playgrounds (5 Mentions)** - Families highly appreciate the specific features built for children to burn off energy and play outdoors. Examples: "The sled hill, playground," "Covered areas, park play structure," "Swings," and "My kids spend time outside at the parks!"
- **Open Green Space and Multi-Use (5 Mentions)** - The sheer amount of unstructured, open land is a huge asset, allowing people to use the parks in whatever way suits them best. Examples: "It's the only green grass in Town," "I appreciate the large green space at Pioneer Park," "Wide open multi use park," and "Open space can be used for many different things."
- **Natural Beauty and Town Aesthetics (5 Mentions)** - People love that the parks complement the natural environment and local culture of West Yellowstone rather than feeling overly developed. Examples: "The access to unparalleled natural beauty," "They aren't too commercial looking," and "They fit with the style and culture of West."
- **Accessibility and Convenience (3 Mentions)** - The ease of getting to the parks without a hassle is a major plus for those who live in or visit the area. Examples: "Ease of getting to them," "Availability/location," and "Easy access, no fuss."





Q14: Is there anything not asked in this survey that you want us to know?

This question had an open response, of those who responded here are the most popular trends:

- **New Amenities and Facility Upgrades (8 Mentions)** - Many respondents used this space to request specific physical additions or upgrades to the current parks. Examples: A larger and improved play structure, an event venue for expos, outdoor fitness equipment (Par Course), Wi-Fi, an ice rink with chillers, completing the approved horseshoe pits, and adding benches and shade for older residents.
- **General Appreciation, N/A, or None (6 Mentions)** - A good portion of the responses simply expressed gratitude for the planning process or indicated they had nothing else to add. Examples: "Thank you for your efforts," "thanks!," "can't think of anything right now," and "N/A."
- **Trails, Trailheads, and Connectivity (4 Mentions)** - Improving the trail system and the infrastructure that supports it was a clear priority for several residents. Examples: Connecting the Frontier Trail to the Rendezvous ski trails, adding dedicated trailhead parking with restrooms and dog bags, planning future snowmobile trails, and relocating access to the Two Top trail.
- **Communication, Programming, and Volunteering (4 Mentions)** - Residents want better ways to find out what is going on and more organized activities to participate in. Examples: A quarterly booklet or saturation mailer from the Rec Department, creating a physical Town bulletin board, offering more summer programs, and providing volunteer opportunities.
- **Aesthetics, Art, and Landscaping (3 Mentions)** - There is a desire to make the parks look more beautiful and intentional, rather than just functional. Examples: Adding fountains, flowers, and murals around Town, and specifically replacing the maintenance garages on the northwest corner with a beautifully landscaped community focal point.
- **Strategic Planning and Park Locations (3 Mentions)** - A few respondents offered higher-level strategic advice for the park system as a whole. Examples: Building a new large park away from the noisy highway, prioritizing "quality over quantity," and creating small, impactful projects for the park board to tackle.

Interactive Feedback Map

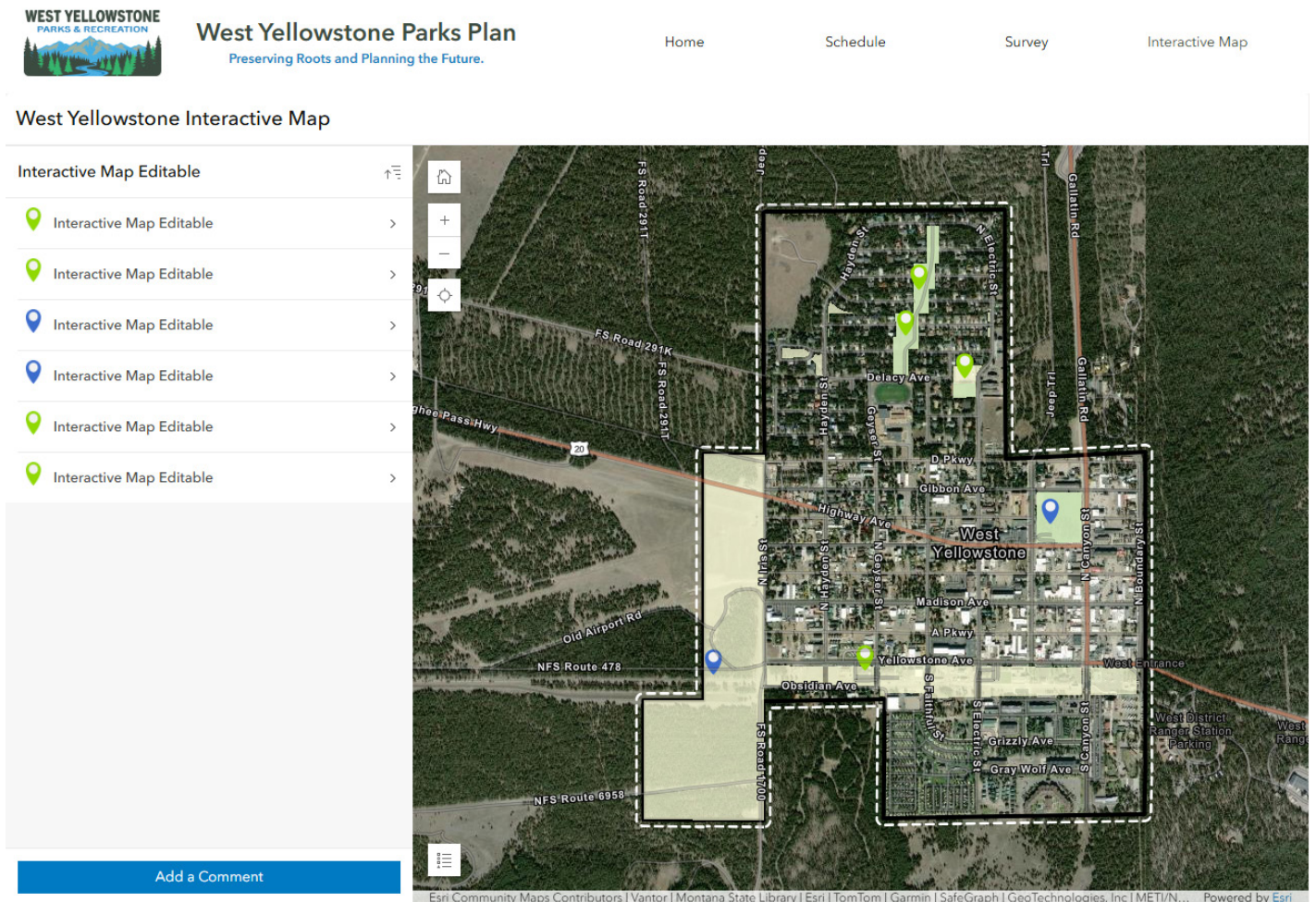
The interactive map gave another method to leave more specific suggestions for the West Yellowstone Parks system. This is map allows for the users to select a point on a map and choose from four options:

- Things You Like! 
- Things You Dislike! 
- Ideas for Improvement! 
- Potential Threats! 

This map was not as popular as the online survey, but it is important to our consulting team to give citizens as many options for feedback as possible. A diverse way to capture feedback ensures our data gathering process is truly inclusive and accessible.

The projects interactive map received 6 total comments, these comments were:

- (Pin at the Povah Center) Things You Like - "Our Engagement Event will be here March 11th!"
- (Pin at the Madison Bike Path) Things You Like - "I love the trail!"
- (Pin at the Madison Bike Path) Things You Like - "I love the availability of this trail and smart design for people who live here. It's nice that it feels like it's just for the community members."
- (Pin at the Electric Street Courts) Things You Like - "Upcoming pickleball courts, lots of great parking available."
- (Pin at Pioneer Park) Ideas for Improvement - "Better benches at Pioneer Park and more benches."
- (Pin out of Town near the Shortline Trail) Ideas for Improvement - "If the Town is going to do a skate park, put it down here so it doesn't take space in our existing parks."



Community Engagement Event #1 (3/11/2026)

The first in-person community engagement event was hosted at the Povah Center to introduce the Master Plan process and invite residents to help shape the future of West Yellowstone's recreational spaces. To gather actionable feedback, attendees were provided with a series of interactive boards designed to capture their daily experiences, priorities, and long-term vision. 33 participants came to give feedback.

The engagement stations included:

- **Park Access & Connectivity:** A large Town map where residents were asked to draw the actual routes they use to access parks, as well as sketch out their ideas for new pathways and improved trail connections moving forward.
- **SWOT Analysis:** A collaborative board prompting community members to identify the current Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats facing the Town's parks and recreation system.
- **Resource Allocation:** A prioritization exercise where attendees ranked where they most want to see future funding, time, and resources focused.
- **Amenity Preferences:** A dedicated feedback station asking residents exactly what specific amenities and park features they want to see added or upgraded in the community.
- This initial event established a crucial baseline of community desires, ensuring that the foundational goals and future recommendations of the Master Plan are directly rooted in resident feedback.



Results

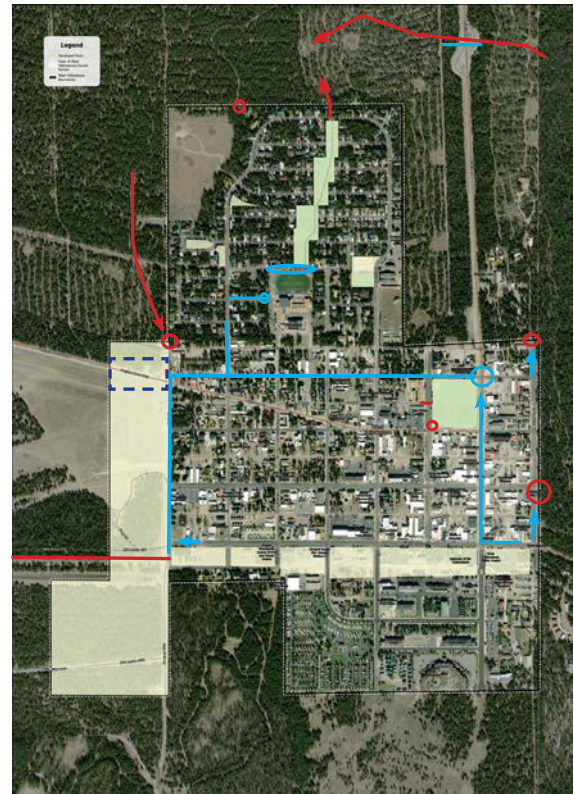
Board #1 Park Access & Connectivity

A lot of conversation on this board revolved around dangerous intersections, commonly used pathways to parks and opportunities to tie together trail networks outside of the City's limits.

Through this process we gathered these highlights.:

- The intersection of Highway 20 and Highway 191 is dangerous, traffic calming measures should be installed.
- The trails surrounding the Town are major assets, how can we connect them within the Town.
- Almost every corner of Pioneer Park needs some sort of enhanced crosswalk feature and traffic calming measures.
- Short connectors and crosswalks on the west and south side of the school will help connectivity for students.

How do You Access Parks?



West Yellowstone Parks Plan



Board #2 SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

Greenway Historic + Frontier Trail

Surrounded by Public Land With Natural Scenic Opportunities

Our Landscape/ Nature

Strong Community Collaboration

Weaknesses:

Connectivity/ Continuity

Funding For Development and Long-Term Maintenance

Lack of Safe Pedestrian Crossings on HWY 20 & 191

Lack of Community Green Spaces For Locals

Difficult Access to Forest Service Lands

Need things for Residents and Visitors to do

Ensure users know what's available	Develop Historic District	Capitalize on low hanging fruit away from highway
Capture Yellowstone Users at these Parks	Maintain Access + Availability	
Shortline Trailhead	Lots of Recreation Opportunities	Funding to work on new trailhead
Change for Commercial Uses	Shortline Trail Trailhead	
Pedestrian Scale Signage	Gallatin Co. 1st County Park in West Yellowstone	

Opportunities:

Not having community buy in

Snow Storage Issues

Fear of Change

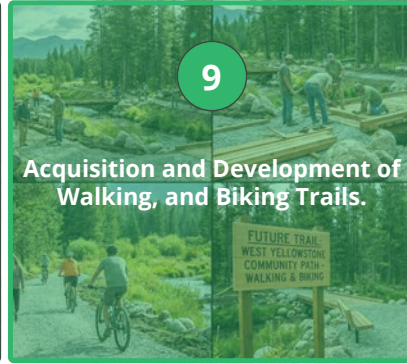
Not Keeping Public land Public and Accessible

Lack of Hierarchy for recreation needs in relation to commercial needs

Threats:

Board #3 Resource Allocation

Resource Allocation



Connector Paths 3

Signage 1

Encourage More Use 1

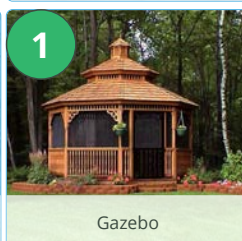
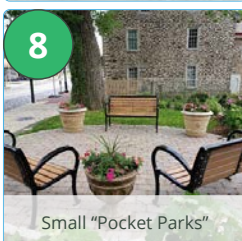
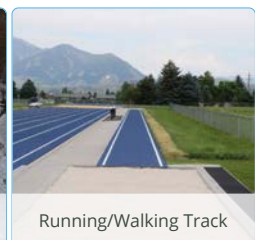
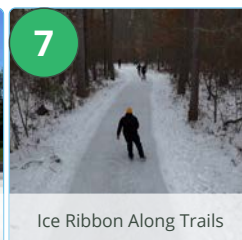
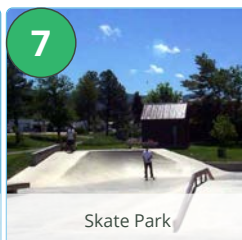
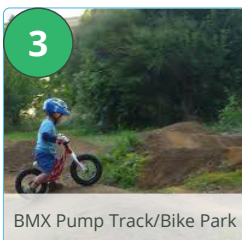
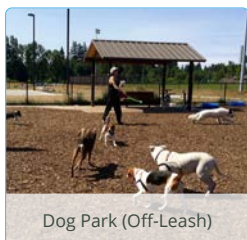
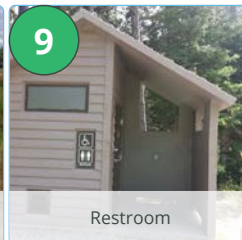
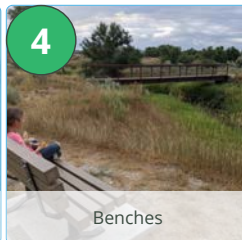
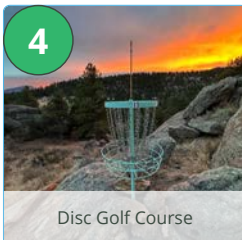
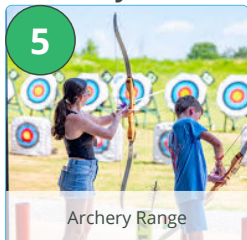
Other Ideas?

West Yellowstone Parks Plan



Board #4 Amenity Preferences

What do you want to see in Parks?



Tourism Friendly 1

More Playground Equipment 1

Splash Pad 2

Community Pride 1

Community Rec/ Fitness Center 4

Underpass on HWY 20 Near Iris St. 2

New Play Structure at Pioneer 2

Passive Rec Space 1

Others?

West Yellowstone Parks Plan



Community Engagement Event #2 (5/16/2026)

To maximize community participation and meet residents where they are at, the second engagement event was held in conjunction with the Town's annual clean-up. Following the clean-up efforts, the consulting team invited the community to Yellowstone Brewing Company for a feedback session. This had a turnout of 55 attendees total.

At this event, the public was encouraged to interact with the Master Plan through two main avenues: utilizing provided computer stations to submit feedback directly to the online Project Hub, and participating in a hands-on review of potential future recommendations displayed on presentation boards.

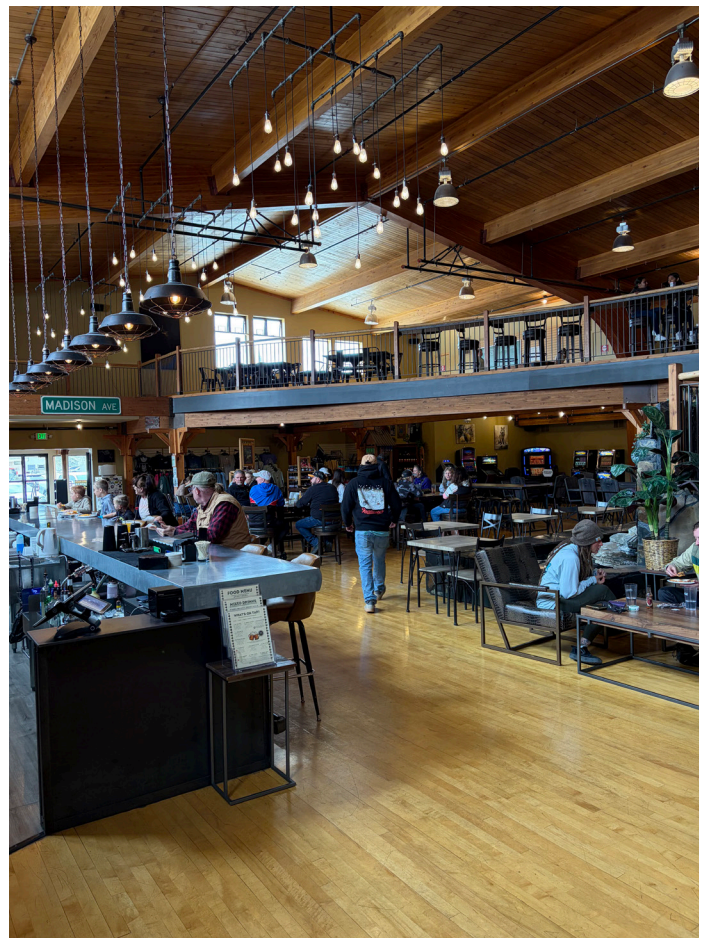
These boards presented the overarching plan goals from all previous community input and introduced specific action steps organized into four implementation timelines:

- Phase 1: 1-3 Years
- Phase 2: 4-6 Years
- Phase 3: 7-10 Years
- Phase 4: 10+ Years

To see how favored these timelines were, attendees were given a specific "voting" system to critique the proposed action steps:

- Green Sticker: Indicated support for the action item and agreement with its currently assigned priority phase.
- Yellow Sticker: Indicated support for the recommendation, but a desire to see it moved to a different priority phase (either sooner or later).
- Red Sticker: Indicated a lack of support for the recommendation, signaling it should not be included in any phase of the plan.

This methodology allowed the planning team to understand what the community wants to see built or improved, and when they wanted to see it happen.



Results

Introduction Board

Overarching Goals

The overarching goals presented in this master plan are the direct result of comprehensive collaboration and research. They have been illuminated through community feedback, ongoing communication with Town staff and the Parks and Recreation Board, diverse online engagement methods, and an analysis of current national recreational trends. Together, these broad objectives serve as the foundational motivations for all park and trail improvements moving forward. By anchoring future development in these priorities, West Yellowstone can ensure that its recreational spaces effectively serve the diverse needs of both residents and visitors for years to come.



FOUR-SEASON RECREATION AND WINTER USABILITY

West Yellowstone requires park properties that are active and usable regardless of the season. To provide true year-round fun, the town must improve winter amenities like the community ice rink, sledding hills, and groomed trails. Designing facilities that can withstand and embrace winter conditions ensures residents have constant access to outdoor activities.



SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY AND SAFE ACCESS

Safety and accessibility are paramount, especially given the community concerns about crossing busy highways to access recreational areas. This goal focuses on creating safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between town parks, schools, and surrounding public lands. Comprehensive wayfinding signage and improved crosswalks will physically and visually tie the entire system together.



ELEVATED ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE

A park system is only as good as its basic amenities. The community clearly identified a need for fundamental upgrades, including accessible restrooms, shaded seating, and improved trash and dog waste removal. Prioritizing high-quality maintenance and foundational infrastructure ensures that existing and future parks remain clean, safe, and inviting for daily use.



DIVERSE OFFERINGS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

To combat the perception of limited activities, the parks system must offer something for everyone. This includes developing high-demand active recreation facilities like the skatepark. It also requires expanding programming to include adult activities, youth sports, and ADA-compliant spaces so all residents and visitors can participate fully.



VIBRANT COMMUNITY HUBS AND PRESERVED CHARACTER

West Yellowstone parks should serve as central gathering places that celebrate the town's unique history and natural beauty. By developing spaces like the Historic District Greenway, the town can create welcoming environments for both locals and tourists. Integrating public art, native landscaping, and historic elements will transform simple green spaces into true community centerpieces.


Phase 1 Board


Phase 1 Implementation Matrix (1-3 Years)


Welcome to the West Yellowstone Parks & Recreation Master Plan Open House!




On the first board, you will see our high-priority recommendations for the first three years of the plan. We need your help to determine if these ideas are realistic and prioritized correctly.

Please use the provided sticker dots to share your feedback:

 Green Dot: Love it as-is, This dot means you like the recommendation and agree with its current priority phase

 Yellow Dot: (Change the Priority) You like the recommendation, but want it in a different phase. Write your preferred phase (1,2,3, or 4) directly on the dot

 Red Dot: (Not a Fan) You do not like the recommendation for any phase.




Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Feedback
1.1	Build the community Skatepark.		8  5  1 
1.2	Construct outdoor restrooms in high traffic parks.	 	8 
1.3	Begin construction on the Greenway Pilot Project.	 	6  1 
1.4	Install horseshoe facilities for low cost recreation.	 	4  2 
1.5	Add dog waste stations and bear proof trash bins at park entrances.		9 
1.6	Update standard operating procedures for marketing and communication.	 	2 
1.7	Publish a quarterly Parks and Recreation event booklet.	 	2  2 
1.8	Install a centralized Town Bulletin Board for park notices.	 	2 
1.9	Improve the maintenance protocol for the community ice rink.	 	2 
1.10	Add benches and shaded seating options throughout the park system.	 	5  2 
1.11	Design and implement the comprehensive Signage and Wayfinding Package.	 	1 
1.12	Introduce adult focused recreational programming.		6 
1.13	Improve the maintenance and safety of the local sled hill.	 	2 
1.14	Plant shade trees and native flowers to improve aesthetics.	 	6  1  1 
1.15	Install more drinking fountains in parks.		2  1 




















































Phase 2 Board

Phase 2 Implementation Matrix (4-6 Years)

Moving on to the next board, you will find our recommendations for Phase 2 (4-6 Years).

These are our medium-priority goals for the Master Plan. Just like the first board, we want to know if these ideas hit the mark and if the timing makes sense for West Yellowstone.

 Green Dot: Love it as-is, This dot means you like the recommendation and agree with its current priority phase
 Yellow Dot: (Change the Priority) You like the recommendation, but want it in a different phase. Write your preferred phase (1,2,3, or 4) directly on the dot
 Red Dot: (Not a Fan) You do not like the recommendation for any phase.

Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Feedback
2.1	Upgrade the Ice Rink facility with boards and lights.	  	 
2.2	Extend the Linear Park to connect with the Frontier Trail.		  
2.3	Build small scale community ampieater.		 
2.4	Install a Par Course with outdoor exercise equipment.		  
2.5	Install warming stations or fire pits for winter recreation.	 	
2.6	Construct dedicated trailhead parking lots with amenities.	 	
2.7	Integrate public art and murals into park facilities.		
2.8	Develop small neighborhood pocket parks.	 	 
2.9	Incorporate cross country ski trails within city parks.	 	
2.10	Upgrade playground equipment to be larger and safer.	 	 
2.11	Conduct a feasibility study to relocate the maintenance garages.	 	 
2.12	Expand paved walking and biking trails to bridge gaps.	 	
2.13	Add pedestrian lighting to parks and trails for safety and extended use.	 	
2.14	Install new permanent picnic shelter at Electric Street Courts.	 	
2.15	Reassess mowing and weed control protocols across all parks.		 

West Yellowstone Parks Plan





























Phase 3 Board

Phase 3 Implementation Matrix (7-10 Years)

Next up is the board for Phase 3.

These represent our longer-term goals for the Master Plan. We need your feedback to see if these future projects align with your vision for West Yellowstone.

 Green Dot: Love it as-is, This dot means you like the recommendation and agree with its current priority phase
 Yellow Dot: (Change the Priority) You like the recommendation, but want it in a different phase. Write your preferred phase (1,2,3, or 4) directly on the dot
 Red Dot: (Not a Fan) You do not like the recommendation for any phase.




Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Feedback
3.1	Develop a dedicated Off Leash Dog Park.	 	4 2 4
3.2	Initiate design and funding for the Indoor Community Center.	  	5 2 2
3.3	Complete the full build out of the Historic District Greenway.	 	6 1 1
3.4	Construct a BMX Pump Track or Bike Park.		4 1 1
3.5	Develop safe crossing infrastructure for Highway 20 and Highway 191.	 	8 1
3.6	Relocate maintenance garages out of the historic district.		5 2 2
3.7	Transform the former garage corner into a landscaped gathering spot.		2
3.8	Construct a permanent park Gazebo.		1
3.9	Establish a formal Disc Golf Course.		1 3 2
3.10	Develop a dedicated archery range facility.		2 3 2
3.11	Expand the ice rink into a partially enclosed or covered pavilion.	 	4 1 1
3.12	Develop a Running or Walking Track.		2
3.13	Connect the Frontier trail to the Rendezvous ski trails.	 	3 1 2
3.14	Perform comprehensive upgrades to Electric Street Courts and Dunbar Park.	 	2 1 2
3.15	Expand active sports fields.		2 1











































Phase 4 Board

Phase 4 Implementation Matrix (10+ Years)

Next up is the board for Phase 3.

These represent our longer-term goals for the Master Plan. We need your feedback to see if these future projects align with your vision for West Yellowstone.

 Green Dot: Love it as-is, This dot means you like the recommendation and agree with its current priority phase
 Yellow Dot: (Change the Priority) You like the recommendation, but want it in a different phase. Write your preferred phase (1,2,3, or 4) directly on the dot
 Red Dot: (Not a Fan) You do not like the recommendation for any phase.

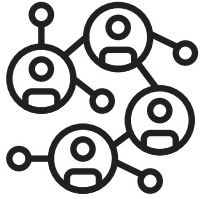
Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Feedback
4.1	Construct and open the Indoor Community Center.	  	
4.2	Develop a central park within the new 80 Acres residential development.	 	 
4.3	Connect the 80 Acres park trails to the broader West Yellowstone trail network.		 
4.4	Partner with USFS for a major expansion of groomed winter trails originating in town.	 	 
4.5	Establish a town operated outdoor gear library.		
4.6	Implement town wide smart park technology like Wi Fi and trail counters.		
4.7	Establish a dedicated municipal parks maintenance facility.		 
4.8	Develop a regional sports tournament complex.		
4.9	Create a botanical garden or native plant preserve.	 	 
4.10	Construct a grade separated pedestrian bridge network over major highways.	 	
4.11	Develop a dedicated environmental and outdoor education center.	 	
4.12	Execute a complete redesign and modernization of heritage park.	 	
4.13	Develop a large scale outdoor event venue or festival grounds.		
4.14	Secure a dedicated Parks Special District tax to ensure long term maintenance.		 
4.15	Conduct a 10 year Master Plan update and community needs assessment.	 	 

West Yellowstone Parks Plan



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04



USFS CONNECTIONS



INTRODUCTION

West Yellowstone occupies a highly unique geographic footprint: we are essentially a community completely enveloped by public lands. While Yellowstone National Park defines our eastern boundary, the north, west, and south edges of Town transition directly into United States Forest Service (USFS) territory. These USFS lands aren't just a scenic backdrop; they are a direct extension of our local parks and recreation network. The physical trail connections bridging our municipal limits with the broader USFS system are vital to our local culture, our winter recreation economy, and the daily lives of residents. Ensuring seamless access between Town infrastructure and these federal lands is a major priority for this master plan.

USDA Forest Service Map

West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce

- Please Follow These Rules:**
 from the **USDA Forest Service**
1. Speed limit 45 miles per hour.
 2. Stay on designated trails while traveling through restricted areas.
 3. Pack out all trash.
 4. Be aware of oncoming traffic.
 - KEEP RIGHT, two-way traffic.
 5. DONT DRINK and DRIVE!
 6. Beware of moose, elk, and bison on trails.

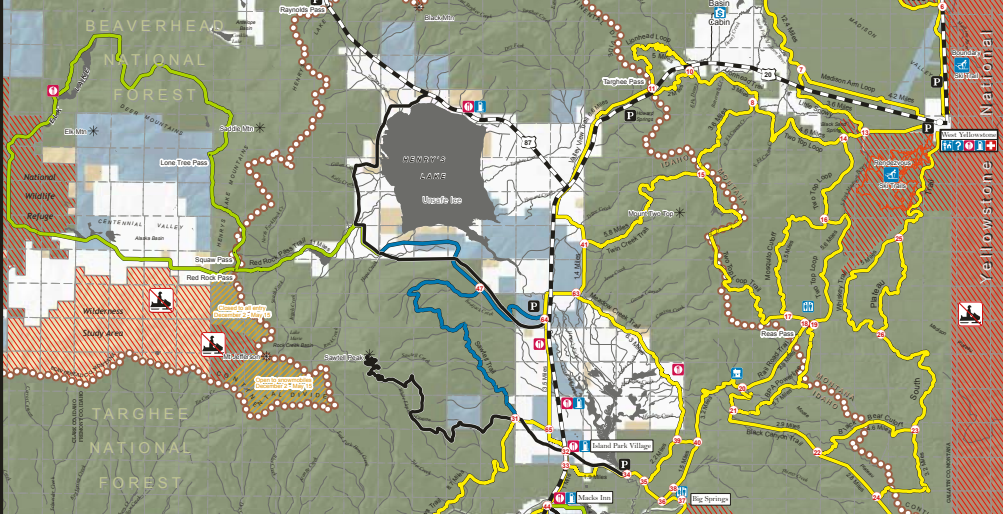
LEGEND

- SNOWMOBILE TRAILS**
 Trail grooming occurs December 1 thru March 31
- Groomed Trail
 - Infrequently Groomed Trail
 - Ungroomed Marked Trail
 - Snowmobile Trail Junction
- OFF-TRAIL SNOWMOBILING**
- National Forest Land Open to Snowmobiles
 - Seasonal restrictions (see map for dates)
 - NO SNOWMOBILING
- OTHER TRAILS**
- Cross-Country Ski or Snowshoe Trail
- ROADS**
- Highway - US or State
 - Plowed Road
 - Intermittently Plowed Road
 - Unplowed Access Route
- AMENITIES**
- Winter Parking - Intermittently Plowed
 - USFS Winter Rental Cabin
 - Warming Hut (Day Use Only)
 - Restrooms
 - Gas
 - Food
 - Clinic
- INFORMATION**
- USFS Ranger District Office
 - Visitor Center
 - Mountain Summit
 - USDA Forest Service
 - State Government
 - USDI Bureau of Land Management
 - USDI National Park Service

CAUTION
 Natural or man-made obstacles may be encountered on ungroomed roads and trails!

IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE INHERENT RISKS TO THE SPORT OF SNOWMOBILING AND THE PRUDENT SNOWMOBILER SHOULD BE AWARE OF SUCH RISKS AND TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS

Map projection: UTM Zone 12N, NAD 83
 Scale: 1:112,000 1 inch equals 1.77 miles



TRAIL JUNCTIONS



JUNCTION #	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	JUNCTION #	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	JUNCTION #	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
2	44° 45.318'	111° 12.103'	16	44° 37.264'	111° 10.378'	33	44° 30.955'	111° 19.582'
3	44° 44.679'	111° 9.954'	17	44° 34.787'	111° 11.659'	34	44° 30.729'	111° 17.394'
4	44° 44.851'	111° 11.493'	18	44° 34.606'	111° 10.990'	35	44° 30.563'	111° 16.790'
5	44° 43.441'	111° 6.258'	19	44° 34.597'	111° 10.927'	36	44° 30.040'	111° 16.343'
6	44° 42.695'	111° 6.164'	20	44° 32.952'	111° 13.287'	37	44° 30.078'	111° 15.427'
7	44° 41.086'	111° 11.207'	21	44° 32.374'	111° 13.599'	38	44° 30.379'	111° 15.732'
8	44° 40.243'	111° 12.944'	22	44° 31.320'	111° 10.604'	39	44° 29.629'	111° 15.666'
9	44° 40.967'	111° 6.759'	23	44° 31.889'	111° 7.113'	40	44° 31.563'	111° 14.878'
10	44° 41.040'	111° 15.203'	24	44° 30.178'	111° 9.489'	41	44° 36.617'	111° 18.948'
11	44° 40.592'	111° 16.601'	25	44° 36.779'	111° 7.705'	44	44° 29.924'	111° 20.238'
13	44° 39.491'	111° 8.920'	26	44° 34.323'	111° 8.344'	47	44° 18.478'	111° 20.677'
14	44° 39.328'	111° 9.685'	31	44° 32.145'	111° 21.400'	64	44° 34.686'	111° 20.365'
15	44° 38.402'	111° 14.777'	32	44° 31.312'	111° 19.581'	65	44° 31.869'	111° 20.187'

www.westyellowstonechamber.com

To better understand how the community interacts with these adjacent lands, the following sections outline the primary USFS trail connections and recreational assets bordering West Yellowstone, organized by their geographic location.

Northern and Northeastern Access

The northern edge of Town serves as a critical gateway for winter sports enthusiasts, linking directly to groomed trail networks:

- **Boundary Ski Trail:** Located on the northeast side of Town, hugging the boundary near the national park line, this trail provides immediate access for cross-country skiers looking to transition from Town to the adjacent forested areas.
- **Madison Arm Loop Groomed Trail:** Connecting directly to the north side of West Yellowstone, this trail acts as a primary artery into the wider USFS system. It immediately feeds into the Madison Arm Loop, serving as a popular route for users heading out from the northern Town limits. Notably, this loop also loops back to provide a secondary connection point on the western side of Town.

Western Corridors

The western boundary of West Yellowstone features multiple access points that tie into some of the region's most popular long-distance trail systems:

- **Western Madison Arm Loop Connection:** As mentioned above, the Madison Arm Loop touches back down on the western side of Town, creating a convenient ingress/egress point for users on this side of the community.
- **Two Top Loop Connection:** Further south along our western boundary, another major connection point links Town users to the Two Top Loop. This is a highly utilized access corridor that acts as a gateway to the continuous, expansive USFS trail system extending far beyond the municipal borders.

Southern and Southwestern Gateways

The southern edges of West Yellowstone are heavily defined by world-class cross-country skiing and deep-woods trail access:

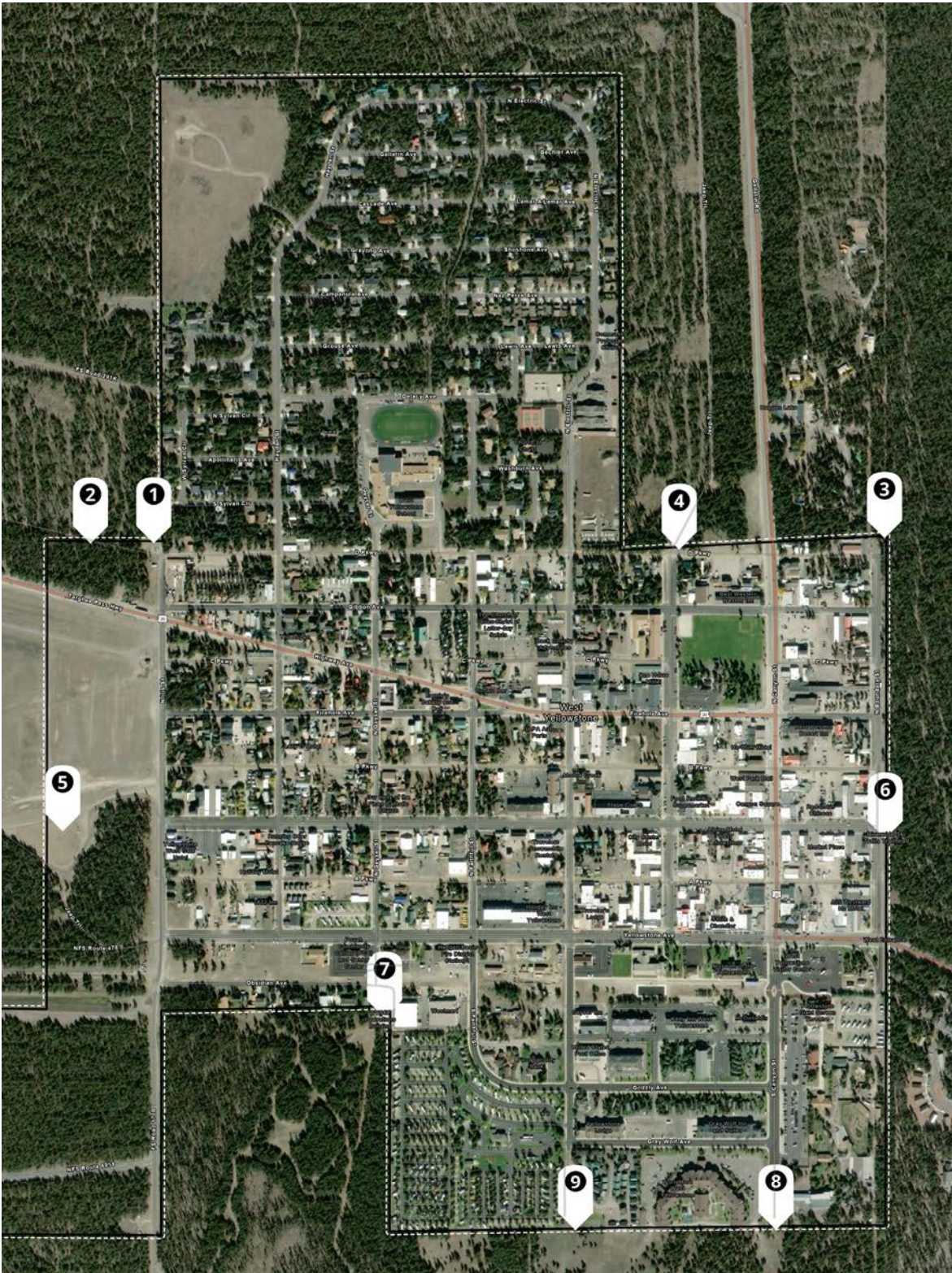
- **Rendezvous Ski Trails:** Situated in the southwestern portion of Town, this area is a massive asset for West Yellowstone. It is a large, professionally managed cross-country skiing complex that relies heavily on the seamless integration between Town property and the surrounding USFS land.
- **Whiskey Trail Connection:** Along the direct southern boundary, we have a vital trail connection that ties into the Whiskey Trail. Like our western access points, this southern gateway feeds directly into the total, continuous USFS system.

Broader Snowmobile Access and Dispersed Recreation

While the Boundary Ski Trail to the north and the Rendezvous Ski Trails to the southwest represent dedicated non-motorized/ski-focused zones, the recreational character changes just outside of these specific areas. Beyond the immediate footprints of the ski trails and the national park boundary to the east, the vast majority of the USFS land surrounding the rest of West Yellowstone is open for snowmobiling.

This widespread motorized access effectively turns the perimeter of West Yellowstone into a porous boundary for winter recreation. The master plan must treat these borders not as the end of our local parks system, but as the starting lines for the hundreds of miles of accessible USFS snowmobile terrain that define our winter identity.

USFS Existing Conditions



- 

1 Frontier Trail Access
- 

2 Public Access to USFS
- 

3 Eastern End of Frontier Trail
- 

4 Motorized Snowmobile Trail
- 

5 Snowmobile Trail
- 

6 Riverside Trail Access
- 

7 Rendezvous + USFS Access Points
- 

8 USFS Right of Way, but no infrastructure
- 

9 Snowmobile Trail

05



EXISTING UNDEVELOPED ASSETS



INTRODUCTION

Maintaining current parks is essential, but the future of West Yellowstone's recreation lies in the strategic development of existing, underutilized land. This chapter focuses on two major opportunities: integrating a robust park system into the new 80-Acre Housing Project and expanding the Greenway Project through the Historic Railroad District. By proactively planning these spaces today, the Town can seamlessly connect neighborhoods, preserve foundational history, and create vibrant spaces for generations to come.

Developing a Park System in the 80-Acre Housing Project

The 80-acre parcel on the west side of Town is currently undergoing a phased major subdivision aimed at addressing local housing needs while fostering community growth. The Town set aside specific areas dedicated to Parks and Open Space. To maximize the impact of this new park system, the Town should focus on the following strategies:

CENTRALIZED OPEN SPACE

Phase 1 of the preliminary plat, focusing on 26.5 acres, already establishes an “Open Space Park Dedication” as a core requirement. This park will connect the southern portion to the northern portion serving as a recreational meeting area, providing connections to the Shortline Trail and eventually the Greenway Trail. This area could be used for a community recreation center, playground area, horseshoe area, or simply maintained open space. The area is large enough to incorporate multiple uses and should receive further study and design work.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY

The park should not exist in isolation. The Town should aim to seamlessly connect the 80-acre development to the existing Town street grid. By incorporating paved pathways and sidewalks into the phase-specific grading and drainage plans, residents can easily walk or bike from their homes to the central park and adjacent public lands.

CO-LOCATING FUTURE PUBLIC FACILITIES

Strategic planning suggests holding portions of the 80 acres for future municipal needs. The Town should align the park system with potential future developments, such as a school expansion or relocated city shops. Co-locating the park near a future school maximizes land use and provides students with immediate access to recreation.

Expanding the Greenway Project Through the Historic Railroad District

The Oregon Shortline Terminus Historic District encompasses 10 acres of West Yellowstone’s foundational history, featuring 1900s-era Union Pacific buildings like the Depot and the Dining Lodge. The Town is already connected to the Yellowstone Shortline Trail, which utilizes the abandoned railroad bed. The Town commissioned a plan for the Greenway project focusing on phasing the large scale project into bite-sized pieces. The work previously completed should continue to grow focusing on the procedural and grant portions of this plan. This project will likely take multiple years and lots of volunteer hours but represents the opportunity to have a beautiful connection east to west across the Town.

INTERPRETIVE WAYFINDING AND HERITAGE TOURISM

The greenway should serve as a living museum. The Town should install historical markers and interpretive kiosks along the trail. These markers can educate visitors about the district’s distinctive architecture and history.

EVENT-DRIVEN ACTIVATION

The greenway should be programmed with community events to drive engagement. The Town can leverage the trail for guided walking tours, art exhibits highlighting student creations, and community gatherings and events. Just because it will take time to fully develop the project, the greatest investment the Town can make now is getting community investment. The best way to develop that community investment is to invite people to the Greenway area and share the plan.

MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIONS

The greenway should serve as the connective tissue between the historic district and the new 80-acre development. Ensuring a continuous, safe route for pedestrians and cyclists from the 80-acre housing project, through the historic district, and into the commercial core will reduce vehicular traffic and promote active transportation.

06



VISIONING



INTRODUCTION

Visioning is the process of taking data gathered and distilling clear direction and goals that are realistic and worth pursuing. It requires starting with smaller scale, individual needs before attempting massive, long term investments. While major capital improvements demand targeted strategic oversight, the bulk of this master plan is built upon the smaller, everyday enhancements that directly impact how residents and visitors experience the Town. By synthesizing extensive public feedback and professional analysis, a definitive list of priorities has been established to guide the development of recreational spaces in West Yellowstone over the coming years.

Overarching Goals

The overarching goals presented in this master plan are the direct result of comprehensive collaboration and research. They have been illuminated through community feedback, ongoing communication with Town staff and the Parks and Recreation Board, diverse online engagement methods, and an analysis of current national recreational trends. Together, these broad objectives serve as the foundational motivations for all park and trail improvements moving forward. By anchoring future development in these priorities, West Yellowstone can ensure that its recreational spaces effectively serve the diverse needs of both residents and visitors for years to come.



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West Yellowstone parks should serve as central gathering places that celebrate the Town's unique history and natural beauty. By developing spaces like the Historic District Greenway, the Town can create welcoming environments for both locals and tourists. Integrating public art, native landscaping, and historic elements will transform simple green spaces into true community centerpieces.

Overarching Goals

The following section translates those broad objectives into visual concepts. The projects and images presented here showcase potential future projects and park improvements that emerged directly from community engagement feedback and ongoing discussions with the Town Park and Recreation Advisory Board. These visual examples serve to bridge the gap between high-level planning and tangible reality, demonstrating exactly what these prioritized community needs could look like as they are brought to life in West Yellowstone.

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

Before breaking ground on new facilities, the Town must ensure the public can successfully locate and utilize existing assets. West Yellowstone offers a wealth of amenities, but making residents and visitors aware of these offerings is essential for their continued use.

The primary initial requirement is an accurate, comprehensive signage and wayfinding package. This package will include gateway signage for all Town parks alongside clear wayfinding markers on popular streets. Establishing a clear visual hierarchy will safely guide users between municipal parks, the historic district, and the surrounding United States Forest Service trail networks.



SKATEPARK

The Board unanimously ranked this as the top capital priority, this was also a very popular topic throughout community engagement. The community has demonstrated long standing demand for a skatepark, and the Town is fully committed to advancing this project.



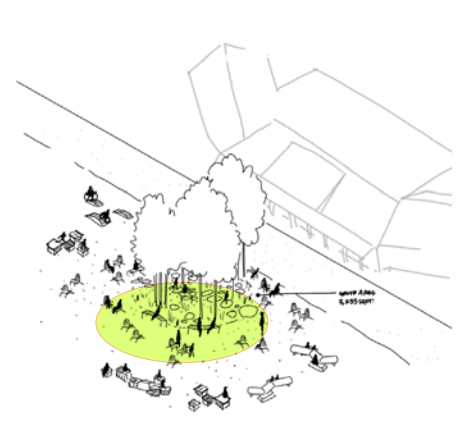
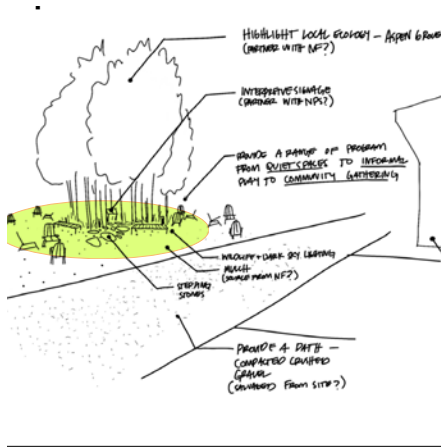
OUTDOOR RESTROOMS

Throughout the engagement process, residents consistently highlighted the need for better outdoor restrooms. Prioritizing the funding and construction of these facilities is critical to improve park usability.



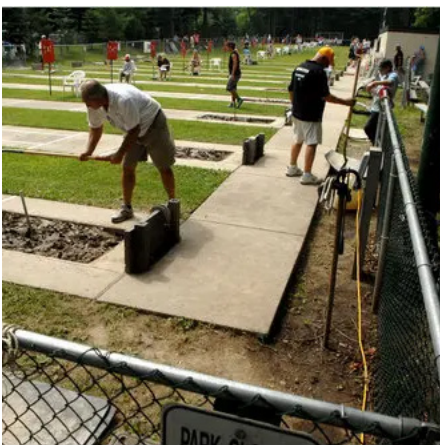
GREENWAY PILOT PROJECT

The initial phase of the Historic District Greenway is considered ready for implementation and remains a major capital priority moving forward. This initial plan was completed by 3FWILD



HORSESHOE FACILITIES

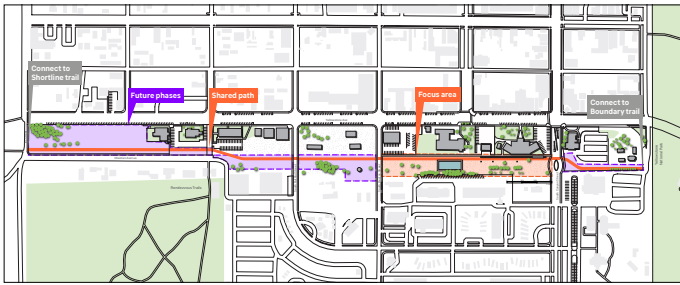
This project was approved as a highly effective, low cost addition. It requires minimal maintenance and offers strong potential for regular community use.



GREENWAY FULL BUILD-OUT

While the pilot project serves as the starting point, the complete Historic District Greenway will be integrated into the master plan as a long term, ongoing effort. Initial planning efforts completed by 3FWILD.

We don't need to do everything at once!



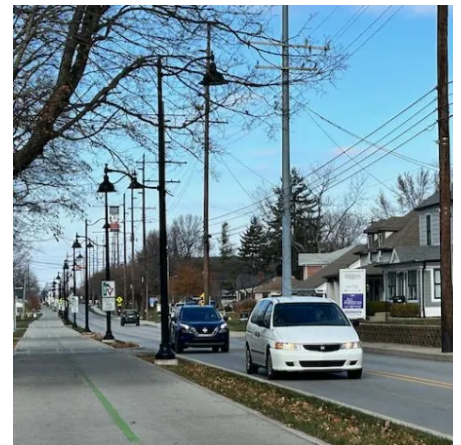
2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway



BRIDGES AND LINEAR PARK DEVELOPMENT

The Town intends to expand current trail infrastructure by extending the Linear Park to connect directly with the Frontier Trail and Boundary Trail.



ICE RINK IMPROVEMENTS

Plans include expanding the physical footprint of the existing ice rink and improving winter maintenance capabilities to ensure better ice quality.



COMMUNITY CENTER AND INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY

This capital vision was refined based on demonstrated community needs and realistic financial constraints. The swimming pool concept was removed from the plan. Instead, the focus has shifted to an indoor facility featuring a walking track, a weight room, and hardwood courts. This long term goal may align with future development at the 80 Acres site.



07



GRANTS



INTRODUCTION

To achieve the goals of this Master Plan, West Yellowstone must leverage a proactive, diversified funding strategy. While local resources provide a foundation, realizing a vision of inclusive playgrounds and regional trail connectivity requires strategic use of state, federal, and private grants. By pairing funding mechanisms and leveraging grant dollars, the Town can amplify its purchasing power and accelerate project delivery.

This framework identifies potential opportunities for transformational change alongside more accessible grants for immediate impact, serving as a roadmap to navigate the recreation and infrastructure funding landscape for the future.

Major Community Assets & Infrastructure

These programs represent "big swing" opportunities. They are designed for large-scale, high-impact projects that define the Town's character and serve its core residents.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Administered by Montana FWP, this fund targets the acquisition, development, and renovation of major public outdoor recreation areas like parks, pools, and playgrounds. It requires a 50% match and offers maximum awards around \$500,000. In West Yellowstone, the LWCF could fund a major overhaul of Pioneer Park to feature a fully inclusive, Yellowstone-themed playground or a new aquatic feature. Applications typically open in late spring.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Managed by the Montana Department of Commerce, CDBG Public & Community Facilities grants focus on infrastructure that benefits low-to-moderate income areas. Offering up to \$750,000 with a roughly 25% match, this grant is perfectly suited for essential structural upgrades. This could include renovating a community center to provide affordable after-school programs or making older public buildings fully ADA accessible. Applications are usually due in September.

USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant

This federal program provides funding for essential services like healthcare, public safety, and community halls in Towns with fewer than 20,000 people. Because West Yellowstone fits this rural profile, this rolling application cycle could support constructing a year-round indoor recreation complex or other large-scale community recreation assets.



Regional Connectivity & Trail Stewardship

These grants focus on the Town's greatest economic asset: outdoor access. They bridge the gap between motorized and non-motorized use while ensuring the trail system remains high-quality and safe.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Utilizing federal gas tax revenue, this versatile MT FWP grant funds the construction and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized trails. It offers up to \$100,000 with a 20% match and is ideal for rehabilitating existing pathways or building a connector trail that links Downtown hotels to the forest, reducing traffic on city streets. Applications are typically due in late January or early February.

Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program

Run by the Montana Department of Transportation, this highly competitive, biennial program prioritizes pedestrian and bicycle facilities, as well as Safe Routes to School projects. With a required match of 13.42%, it could fund major safety infrastructure like a protected multi-use path paralleling Highway 20 or high-visibility crosswalks near the West Entrance.

Montana Trail Stewardship Program (TSP)

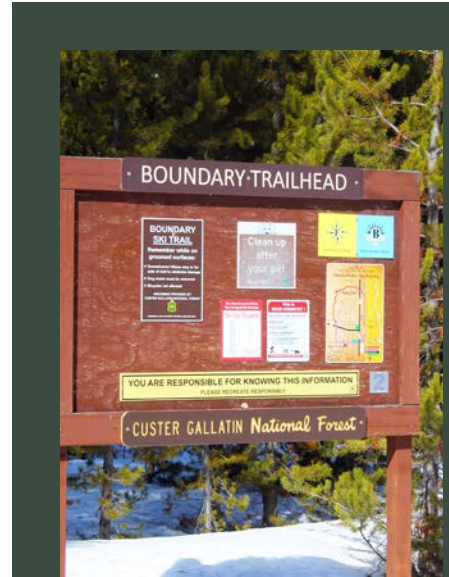
Administered by MT FWP, this grant strictly funds the maintenance and improvement of existing trails, prohibiting new construction. Requiring a 10% match with a winter application window, it is excellent for funding spring trail maintenance.

Snowmobile and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program Grants

Both programs are managed by MT FWP. Snowmobile grants (due in the fall) fund grooming, trail maintenance, and essential equipment like high-efficiency snow groomers, as well as education campaigns. Summer OHV grants (due in February, no match required) focus on trail maintenance, drainage repairs on popular forest access routes, and wayfinding signage to keep rentals on designated paths.

Targeted Trail Gaps: Doppelt Family & PeopleForBikes:

For specific network gaps, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Doppelt Family Trail Fund offers \$5,000 to \$50,000, perfect for connecting the historic rail line to the Town grid. PeopleForBikes Community Grants offer smaller awards (under \$10,000 with a 50% match) for infrastructure like bike lanes, a local youth pump track, or visual signage and striping.



Planning, Economic Development & Conservation

This category focuses on the “soft” infrastructure—the professional expertise and niche amenities that manage the relationship between the Town, the tourists, and the landscape.



Tourism Grant Program

From the Montana Department of Commerce, this program invests in projects that boost the visitor economy. With a 2:1 match requirement and a November deadline, it is suited for niche amenities like unified digital wayfinding systems or interpretive sculptures that educate tourists on wildlife safety.

Federal Technical Assistance: NPS RTCA & EPA/USDA

The National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program provides free, expert planning staff to help design initiatives like a “Town-to-Park” connectivity master plan, with applications due by March 1st. Additionally, the EPA/USDA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program offers technical assistance to help revitalize Main Streets by packaging local dining with outdoor recreation.

Landscape & Wildlife Conservation

The independent Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust focuses on enhancing outdoor recreation and acquiring public access, making it useful for projects near the Town boundary. The National Forest Foundation (NFF) MAP requires a 1:1 match and funds conservation and recreation projects on or adjacent to National Forest land, such as developing USFS access point parks near the 80-acre development.



Immediate Impacts & Long-Term Stability

These opportunities are for projects that can be completed quickly to provide immediate visible benefits, and long-term maintenance that is required for a stable funding base.

T-Mobile HomeTown & AARP Community Challenge Grants

Awarding up to \$50,000 on a quarterly basis, these grants focus on “shovel-ready” small capital projects, tech upgrades, and beautification efforts, such as creating a DownTown pocket park.

AARP Community Challenge

This program targets fast-action livability improvements. It is an excellent source for funding quick upgrades like installing park benches, shade structures, signage, and accessibility enhancements.

Local Funding Mechanisms: Tax Structures

Resort Tax & Special Districting

A dedicated Parks Special District is a potential tool that transforms the ability of West Yellowstone to provide high-quality parks on a regular basis. The Resort Tax is constantly under pressure to fund water, sewer, police, and roads. When an emergency strikes, parks and recreation are often the first item cut. Relying solely on the Resort Tax leaves the most valuable economic asset (your outdoor access) vulnerable to the volatility of tourist seasons and competing priorities.

A Special District creates a specific fund. It establishes a baseline of funding that cannot be used for other Town expenses. It provides financial stability. Additionally, investment in Town recreation increases the Town’s ability to capture tourist dollars. Investment in new parks and trails can highlight and guide people to the DownTown area, increasing time spent in the DownTown, and increasing dollars spent.

Creating a taxing district is a significant project that impacts property owners and requires adherence to state statutes. This proposal requires additional study that is beyond the scope of a master plan, but could prove important for the community.

Grant Table

Program Name	Agency	Eligible Projects	Match/Max Award
State Grants			
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	MT FWP	Acquisition, development, and renovation of public outdoor recreation areas (parks, pools, playgrounds).	Match: 50% Max: ~\$500k
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	MT FWP	Construction/maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails and trailside facilities.	Match: 20% Max: \$100k
Montana Trail Stewardship Program (TSP)	MT FWP	Maintenance/improvement of existing trails and facilities (no new trail construction).	Match: 10% Max: Varies
Transportation Alternatives (TA)	MDT	Pedestrian/bicycle facilities, safe routes to school, and paved community paths.	Match: 13.42% Max: High
CDBG Public & Community Facilities	MT Commerce	Community centers, parks, and facilities benefiting low-to-moderate income areas.	Match: ~25% Max: ~\$750k
Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants	MT FWP	OHV trail maintenance, signage, and ethics education.	Match: None Max: Varies
Snowmobile Program Grants	MT FWP	Grooming, trail maintenance, and equipment for snowmobile trails.	Match: Varies Max: Varies
Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust	Indep. Trust	Acquiring public access to public lands and enhancing outdoor recreation.	Match: None Max: Varies
Tourism Grant Program	MT Commerce	Projects that increase tourism (wayfinding, trail signage, niche amenities).	Match: 2:1 Max: Varies
Federal/National Grants			
Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant	USDA	Essential infrastructure in rural areas (<20k pop), e.g., community centers, pools.	Loan/Grant Focus: Rural
Rivers Trails & Conservation (RTCA)	NPS	Planning assistance (not cash) for trails, parks, and conservation.	Benefit: Expert Staff Cost: Free
Rec Economy for Rural Communities	EPA/USDA	Planning assistance to revitalize Main Streets through outdoor recreation.	Benefit: Tech Assist. Focus: Economy
T-Mobile HomeTown Grants	T-Mobile	Small capital projects (tech upgrades, beautification, pocket parks).	Award: <\$50k Freq: Quarterly
AARP Community Challenge	AARP	Quick-action livability projects (benches, signage, accessibility).	Award: Small Timeline: Fast
PeopleForBikes Community Grant	PeopleForBikes	Bike paths, trails, lanes, and bike parks.	Award: <\$10k Match: 50%
Doppelt Family Trail Fund	Rails-to-Trails	Support for rail-trail projects and filling gaps in trail networks.	Award: \$5k-\$50k Focus: Gaps
NFF MAP	Nat. Forest Fdn.	Conservation/recreation projects on or adjacent to National Forest land.	Match: 1:1 Focus: USFS

08



PROCESS



INTRODUCTION

This chapter bridges the community's vision with physical development. To successfully turn concepts into reality, the Town will utilize a six step approach: Initiation, Funding, Securing the Site, Design & Construction, Opening, and Stewardship.

The accompanying Implementation Matrix serves as the comprehensive checklist for all proposed tasks. To guarantee manageable progress, every project is prioritized into a realistic timeline: Phase 1 (1 to 3 years), Phase 2 (4 to 6 years), Phase 3 (7 to 10 years) and Phase 4 (10+ years).

Steps to Implementation

Step 1: Initiation

Every great trail or park begins with a question: Who is this for? In West Yellowstone, where a path might need to serve a snowmobile in January and a stroller in July, you cannot answer this alone. The process starts by assembling a Project Management Team, a coalition of Town staff, Forest Service rangers, and representatives from key user groups like the snowmobile expo or Nordic skiers. Ideally, the Park's Board will host an open house to ask the community questions about usage, location, and unexpected issues. This early engagement ensures that when you finally propose a route or a new park, the Town sees it as a community-driven process.

Step 2: Funding

This process largely depends on the decisions of the Town. Will the Town be allocating a portion of the Resort Tax for recreational asset development, will the Town create a Park's Special District, or will the Town be putting resources or matching funds towards drafting a grant application? An initial step in developing the funding package for a recreational asset is determining which of these sources of funds the project will spring from. Relying on the information presented in the funding chapter, the Park's Board and the Town will work together to determine the best path to fund the project. It would be prudent to get initial project cost estimates from Town Staff if possible, to match funding amounts with relevant grant programs.

Step 3: Securing the Route or Ground

Once the vision is clear, the Board faces the potentially most complex hurdle, securing the route or the land.

Trails

The Board must overlay the proposed route with a parcel map to determine ownership. If the trail crosses Town land, the path is easy. If it crosses private land, the Town will need to negotiate easements. This involves a good neighbor pitch to landowners, explaining that a defined trail boosts property value and creates an opportunity for the landowner to access the recreational network quickly. Ideally, the Town is able to operate within previously secured Right-of-Ways or existing easements. Typically, easements and right-of-ways for trails can be secured through the development and subdivision process. Due to West Yellowstone's unique situation, being landlocked by Forest Service land, the acquisition period will be more complex, as subdivisions have largely already occurred. This plan includes a preliminary review of the existing Town Easements and ROWs available for trail development.

Parks

Due to the value of land in West Yellowstone, new acquisitions for Parks are unlikely unless the Town already owns the land. The 80-Acres development presents a unique opportunity for the Town. Phase 1 of the 80-Acres development includes a part dedicated as park space. This is an opportunity for the Town to develop a park for new residents of the 80-Acres. The opportunity for the development of a new park in West Yellowstone requires that the Town be thoughtful and deliberate in its design and programming of the park. The park should connect to existing Town recreational assets through trails and pedestrian connectivity. The park should also connect Phase 1 to subsequent phases of the 80 acres, operating as the recreational center of the development.

Step 4: Design & Construction

Now, the project moves from paper to dirt. You must hire an engineering firm to produce Construction Documents that respect the unique realities of a West Yellowstone winter. These soft costs can be a large portion of the budget and should be accounted for early in the project. Also, when developing funding packages, it is important to note whether the grant covers design expenses. Once designed, the project goes out for public bid to find a contractor. As construction begins, communication shifts from planning to anticipation. This is the time to get the community excited about the new community asset!



















Step 5: Opening

A trail is only a success if it is used. A trail or park Grand Opening that is more of a festival gets people excited about the Board's likely months of work. To cement the trail's use in the Town's daily life, the Board should program it with events. These events turn a piece of infrastructure into a community hub. These types of events do not just apply to new assets but should tie existing assets to new assets.

Step 6: Stewardship





















Finally, the work shifts to protection. The moment the ribbon is cut, maintenance begins. To ensure the trail remains an asset and not a burden to the Town, a proper maintenance budget is required. The Board and the Town need to ensure that trails and parks stay well-kept. The biggest barrier to people using parks is the condition of the park. If the park or trail is not maintained, people are less likely to use it. Factoring and planning for maintenance and thinking about the responsibility of maintenance requirements from Phase 1 can ensure that the new park or trail remains an asset for the community for the long term.

Phase 1 Implementation Matrix (1-3 Years)

Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Cost
1.1	Add dog waste stations and bear proof trash bins at park entrances.		\$7,500 - \$9,000
1.2	Build outdoor restrooms and drinking fountains at Electric Street Courts and the Greenway Park.	 	\$145,000 - \$225,000
1.3	Build the community Skatepark at on available parklands.		\$450,000 - \$475,000
1.4	Extend the Linear Park to connect with the Frontier Trail.		\$400,000 - \$500,000
1.5	Begin construction on the Greenway Pilot Project.	 	\$125,000 - \$200,000
1.6	Plant shade trees and native flowers to improve aesthetics.	 	\$15,000 - \$25,000
1.7	Introduce adult focused recreational programming.		\$1,000 - \$4,000
1.8	Add benches and shaded seating options throughout the park system.	 	\$40,000
1.9	Improve the maintenance and safety for the sledding hill, ice rink, mowing and weed controls.	 	\$100,000 - \$215,000
1.10	Install horseshoe facilities for low cost recreation.	 	\$1,500 - 10,000
1.11	Update standard operating procedures for marketing and communication.	 	\$2,000 - \$5,000











Total Phase 1 Cost: \$1,287,000 - \$1,708,000

Phase 2 Implementation Matrix (4-6 Years)

Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Cost
2.1	Install a centralized Town Bulletin Board for park notices.	 	\$2,000 - \$5,000
2.2	Develop safe crossing infrastructure for Highway 20 and Highway 191.	 	\$125,000 - \$200,000
2.3	Build out of the Historic District Greenway, Dunbar Park, and Electric Street Courts.	 	\$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000
2.4	Upgrade playground equipment to be larger and safer.	 	\$35,000 - \$75,000
2.5	Publish a quarterly Parks and Recreation event booklet.	 	\$5,000 - \$7,000
2.6	Integrate public art and murals into park facilities.		\$10,000 - \$45,000
2.7	Connect the Frontier trail to the Rendezvous ski trails.	 	\$275,000, \$400,000
2.8	Install a workout course with outdoor exercise equipment.		\$25,000 - \$50,000
2.9	Construct dedicated trailhead parking lots with amenities.	 	\$85,000 - \$115,000
2.10	Expand paved walking and biking trails to bridge gaps.	 	\$550,000 - \$700,000
2.11	Conduct a feasibility study to relocate the maintenance garages.	 	\$10,000 - \$25,000













Total Phase 2 Cost: \$2,122,000 - \$3,622,000

Phase 3 Implementation Matrix (7-10 Years)

Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Cost
3.1	Develop small neighborhood pocket parks.	 	\$75,000 - \$125,000
3.2	Perform comprehensive upgrades to Electric Street Courts and Dunbar Park.	 	\$275,000 - \$400,000
3.3	Initiate design and funding for the Indoor Community Center.	  	\$150,000 - \$225,000
3.4	Relocate maintenance garages out of the historic district.		\$500,000 - \$650,000
3.5	Expand the ice rink into a partially enclosed or covered pavilion.	 	\$250,000 - \$400,000
3.6	Construct a BMX Pump Track or Bike Park.		\$70,000 - \$125,000
3.7	Develop a dedicated Off Leash Dog Park.	 	\$50,000 - \$65,000

Total Phase 3 Cost: \$1,370,000 - \$1,990,000

Phase 4 Implementation Matrix (10+ Years)

Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Cost
4.1	Transform the former garage corner into a landscaped gathering spot/Pocket Park.		\$175,000 - \$225,000
4.2	Establish a formal Disc Golf Course.		\$15,000
4.3	Conduct a 10 year Master Plan update and community needs assessment.	 	\$45,000
4.4	Construct and open the Indoor Community Center.	  	\$5,000,000 - \$6,500,000
4.5	Develop a central park within the new 80 Acres residential development.	 	\$800,000 - \$950,000
4.6	Connect the 80 Acres park trails to the broader West Yellowstone trail network.		\$375,000- \$500,000
4.7	Create a botanical garden or native plant preserve.	 	\$75,000- \$125,000

Total Phase 4 Cost: \$6,485,000 - \$8,360,000

GRANT MATRICES

To turn the community's vision into reality, the Town must pair its prioritized projects with a proactive and diversified funding strategy. The following Implementation and Funding Matrix bridges the gap between planning and execution. By directly matching our recommended action items with the most viable local, state, federal, and private funding sources outlined in the Grants chapter, this matrix serves as a practical roadmap for securing the resources needed to bring these improvements to life across all four phases of development.

Phase 1 Grant Matrix (1-3 Years)

Numbering	Action Item	Applicable Grant(s)
1.1	Add dog waste stations and bear proof trash bins at park entrances.	T Mobile, AT&T, Tourism
1.2	Build outdoor restrooms and drinking fountains at Electric Street Courts and the Greenway Park.	T Mobile, AT&T
1.3	Build the community Skatepark at on available parklands.	PeopleforBikes, CDBG
1.4	Extend the Linear Park to connect with the Frontier Trail.	TA, RTP, TSP, Doppelt Family
1.5	Begin construction on the Greenway Pilot Project.	TA, TSP, Tourism
1.6	Plant shade trees and native flowers to improve aesthetics.	Conservation Grant, Tourism
1.7	Introduce adult focused recreational programming.	NA
1.8	Add benches and shaded seating options throughout the park system.	Tourism, T Mobile, AT&T
1.9	Improve the maintenance and safety for the sledding hill, ice rink, mowing and weed controls.	Additional funds could be available, USDA, CDBG
1.10	Install horseshoe facilities for low cost recreation.	Internal Implementation, T Mobile, AT&T
1.11	Update standard operating procedures for marketing and communication.	TA

Phase 2 Grant Matrix (4-6 Years)

Numbering	Action Item	Applicable Grant(s)
2.1	Install a centralized Town Bulletin Board for park notices.	Tourism, TAG
2.2	Develop safe crossing infrastructure for Highway 20 and Highway 191.	TA, TSP, RTP
2.3	Build out of the Historic District Greenway, Dunbar Park, and Electric Street Courts.	Tourism, T Mobile, AT&T
2.4	Upgrade playground equipment to be larger and safer.	Internal Funding
2.3	Improve the maintenance and safety of the local sled hill.	Internal Funding
2.4	Install drinking fountains in the Electric Street Courts and Pioneer Park.	Tourism, ATT, TMobile
2.5	Publish a quarterly Parks and Recreation event booklet.	Internal Funding
2.6	Integrate public art and murals into park facilities.	Utilize Local Artists or High School, Tourism
2.7	Connect the Frontier trail to the Rendezvous ski trails.	TA, RTP, TSP
2.8	Install a workout course with outdoor exercise equipment.	CDBG, USDA
2.9	Construct dedicated trailhead parking lots with amenities.	RTP
2.10	Expand paved walking and biking trails to bridge gaps.	TSP, RTP
2.11	Conduct a feasibility study to relocate the maintenance garages.	CDBG, Planning Grant

Phase 3 Grant Matrix (7-10 Years)

Numbering	Action Item	Applicable Grant(s)
3.1	Develop small neighborhood pocket parks.	T Mobile
3.2	Perform comprehensive upgrades to Electric Street Courts and Dunbar Park.	TA, RTP, USDA, CDBG, LWCF, Tourism
3.4	Initiate design and funding for the Indoor Community Center.	LWCF, USDA, CDBG
3.5	Relocate maintenance garages out of the historic district.	LWCF, USDA,
3.6	Expand the ice rink into a partially enclosed or covered pavilion.	LWCF, USDA, CDBG
3.7	Construct a BMX Pump Track or Bike Park.	PeopleforBikes
3.8	Develop a dedicated Off Leash Dog Park.	TMOBILE

Phase 4 Grant Matrix (10+ Years)

Numbering	Action Item	Applicable Grant(s)
4.1	Transform the former garage corner into a landscaped gathering spot/Pocket Park.	LWCF, USDA, CDBG
4.2	Establish a formal Disc Golf Course.	LWCF, USDA, CDBG
4.3	Conduct a 10 year Master Plan update and community needs assessment.	Internal budgeting, CDBG Planning Grant
4.4	Construct and open the Indoor Community Center.	LWCF, USDA, CDBG
4.5	Develop a central park within the new 80 Acres residential development.	LWCF, USDA, CDBG
4.6	Connect the 80 Acres park trails to the broader West Yellowstone trail network.	LWCF, USDA, CDBG, TA, RTP
4.7	Create a botanical garden or native plant preserve.	LWCF, USDA, CDBG, Conservation Grant

09

APPENDIX

INTRODUCTION

This appendix provides a deeper dive into the raw data, including the following:

- **Park Assessment Templates**
- **West Yellowstone Historic District Greenway (prepared by 3FWILD)**
- **West Yellowstone Historic District Greenway - Museum Plaza Pilot Concept Plan**
- **Online Survey Results**
- **Interactive Feedback Map Results**
- **Original Community Engagement Materials**
- **Additional Feedback**

Park Assessment Templates

Park and Facility Assessment Tool

Park/Facility Name: _____ Total Score: _____ (0-49=Poor; 50-69=Fair; 70-84=Good; 85-100=Excellent)

Street Address: _____

Total Area (Acreage or Square Feet) : _____

Classification (circle one):

Undeveloped Neighborhood Park Community Park Regional Park Trail Aquatic Center Indoor Facility

Adjacent Land Uses (check all that apply):

Single Family Residential _____ Commercial/Retail _____ Civic/Institutional _____ Federal/Public Lands _____

Multi-Family Residential _____ Mixed-Use _____ Industrial _____ Lodging/Hospitality _____

Park and Facility Amenities (number all that apply):

Diamond Fields _____	Lobby/Reception _____	Public Art _____
Bleachers/Grandstands _____	Control Desk _____	Park Loop Trail _____
Dugouts _____	Offices _____	Multi-Use Trail _____
Rectangular Fields _____	Meeting/Party Rooms _____	Natural Trail _____
Concessions _____	Multi-Purpose Rooms _____	Parking Lot _____
Scoreboard _____	Shower/Locker Rooms _____	Parking Lighting _____
Sports Lighting _____	Kitchen _____	Pedestrian Lighting _____
Sand Volleyball Courts _____	Gyms/Courts _____	Bicycle Racks _____
Tennis Courts _____	Fitness Equipment _____	Playground _____
Pickleball Courts _____	Indoor Pool _____	Restroom _____
Basketball Courts _____	Mechanical Room _____	Shade Structures _____
Skate Park _____	Storage Rooms _____	Picnic Shelter _____
Disc Golf Course _____	Staff/Guard Room _____	Drinking Fountain _____
Warming Hut _____	Audio/Visual _____	Grills _____
Zero-Depth Entry Pool _____	Wi-Fi Network _____	Picnic Tables _____
Snowmobile Parking _____	Security Cameras _____	Benches _____
X-Country Ski _____	Information Kiosk _____	Trash Receptacles _____
Bear Proof Amenities _____	Pond _____	Gateway Sign _____
Ice Rink _____	Bridge _____	Wayfinding Sign _____
Vault Toilet _____	Fishing Access _____	Regulatory Sign _____

Date of Visit: _____

Time of Visit: _____

Weather Conditions: _____

Park and Facility Assessment Tool

Inclusivity

Criterion Score: _____

Ease in Walking to Park or Facility

1 being a park or facility with poor access to and from adjacent streets or neighborhoods due to lack of plowed paths, snow storage blocking routes, shade trees, or limited street crossings, versus 5 being ADA accessible on shaded sidewalks with pedestrian street crossings, an interconnected sidewalk system, and multiple street frontages.

1 2 3 4 5

Clarity of Signage

1 being a park or facility which features no signage, versus 5 a park or facility having a hierarchy of signage (gateway, regulatory, wayfinding, etc.) which is visible above snowpack legible, attractive, and well-maintained.

1 2 3 4 5

ADA Compliance

1 being a park or facility that offers no accessible routes between the public right-of-way and the amenities, versus 5 being a park or facility that offers clear ADA-compliant routes and winter accessibility to and between all amenities.

1 2 3 4 5

Lighting

1 being a park or facility that is not appropriately lit for its classification, versus 5 being a park or facility that is well lit by fixtures which are energy efficient and contribute to the overall aesthetic.

1 2 3 4 5

Comments or Observations:

West Yellowstone, MT Parks Master Plan

Park and Facility Assessment Tool

integration

Criterion Score: _____

Visibility from a Distance

1 being a park or facility with poor visibility to the main entrance(s) from surrounding streets and major zone(s) of activity and use which are difficult to find, versus 5 a park or facility which offers clear lines of sight to all entrances and major areas of use and activity which are easy to find and access from surrounding streets and neighborhoods.

1 2 3 4 5

Multi-Modal Capacity

1 being a poorly connected park or facility that relies solely on automobile access, versus 5 being a park or facility that facilitates multiple modes of transportation the provision of bike racks, ski racks, snowmobile access or sidewalks that lead to transit stops, as well as interconnected access routes to and within the park or facility.

1 2 3 4 5

Relationship to Adjacent Land Uses

1 being a park or facility which provides no acknowledgement to its surrounding neighbors whether through pedestrian connections, landscaped buffers, gateway features, walls, or fences, versus 5 being a park or facility that “talks to” or celebrates its connections to adjacent land uses through architectural features, landscaping, pedestrian connections, fences, walls, or berms.

1 2 3 4 5

Feeling of Safety

1 being a park or facility which induces the feel of danger due to poor visibility, wildlife hazards, limited access, tall and opaque fences, and unmaintained spaces, versus 5 being a park or facility that evokes feelings of safety through the promotion of “eyes on the park,” well-positioned access points, low and transparent fencing, and well-maintained spaces.

1 2 3 4 5

Comments or Observations:

West Yellowstone, MT Parks Master Plan

Park and Facility Assessment Tool

atmosphere

Criterion Score: _____

Overall Attractiveness

1 being a park or facility which is perceived to be uninviting, unsafe, abandoned, and dilapidated, versus 5 being a park or facility which is perceived to be inviting, safe, and impeccably well-maintained.

1 2 3 4 5

Overall Maintenance

1 being a park or facility distinguished by dirty or damaged structures, pavements, and site furnishings; damaged and unmaintained landscaping; plainly visible bait stations or traps, and the presence of litter, versus 5 being a park or facility which features impeccably maintained structures, pavements, and furnishings; healthy fire-wise landscaping, and no litter.

1 2 3 4 5

Pleasant Places to Sit

1 being a park or facility which offers no seating or that which is uninviting, dirty or damaged, versus 5 being a park or facility which provides inviting, tidy, and attractive seating options.

1 2 3 4 5

Protection from Weather

1 being a park or facility which provides no structures, natural shade, or protection from the wind, rain, and sun, versus 5 being a park or facility which offers an easily accessible covered structure, entry vestibule, shaded playground equipment or bleachers, or numerous shade trees, wind breaks, warming huts, or 3 sided shelters providing complete coverage and protection from the elements.

1 2 3 4 5

Comments or Observations:

West Yellowstone, MT Parks Master Plan

Park and Facility Assessment Tool

functionality

Criterion Score: _____

Mix of Things to Do

1 being a single-use park or facility that can only be used in specific weather conditions, versus 5 being a park or facility that offers activities for a variety of users throughout the year that tourists are respectful of.

1 2 3 4 5

Level of Activity

1 being a park or facility with only a few visitors during the average day, versus 5 being a park or facility that attracts a variety of people of different ages and abilities throughout the average day.

1 2 3 4 5

Programming Flexibility

1 being a park or facility which offers limited use due to topography, size, access, physical limitations, and seasonality, versus 5 being a park or facility with a large range of options due to flexible topography, open spaces, structures, and utilities.

1 2 3 4 5

Sense of Ownership

1 being a park or facility showing misuse, lack of maintenance, litter, and vandalism, versus 5 being an actively- used park or facility showing evidence of maintenance, upkeep, volunteerism, and “patrolling” users.

1 2 3 4 5

Comments or Observations:

West Yellowstone, MT Parks Master Plan

Park and Facility Assessment Tool

facilities

Criterion Score: _____

Playground and Sports Equipment

1 being a park or facility with damaged, dirty, or dilapidated playground, exercise, or athletic equipment, versus 5 being a park with clean, attractive, and well-maintained equipment. Parks or facilities with no such equipment receive a 3.

1 2 3 4 5

Built Structures

1 being a park or facility with restrooms, shelters, etc. in obvious visual need of repair, versus 5 being a park or facility with buildings that appear well-maintained and in good operating order. Parks or facilities with no such structures receive a 3.

1 2 3 4 5

Sidewalks, Streets, Parking Lots and snow storage

1 being a park or facility with damaged or decaying, as well as an inadequate or inappropriate amount of pavement versus 5 being a park or facility with well-maintained paved surfaces and snow storage appropriately designed to serve the park and its users. Parks or facilities with no pavement receive a 3.

1 2 3 4 5

Energy and Sustainability

1 being a park or facility which features outdated and poorly functioning lighting, irrigation, and other energy-dependent systems, versus 5 being a park or facility which appears to make use of dark sky compliant lighting and bear proof infrastructure. Parks or facilities with no such systems receive a 3.

1 2 3 4 5

Comments or Observations:

West Yellowstone Historic District Greenway (prepared by 3FWILD)

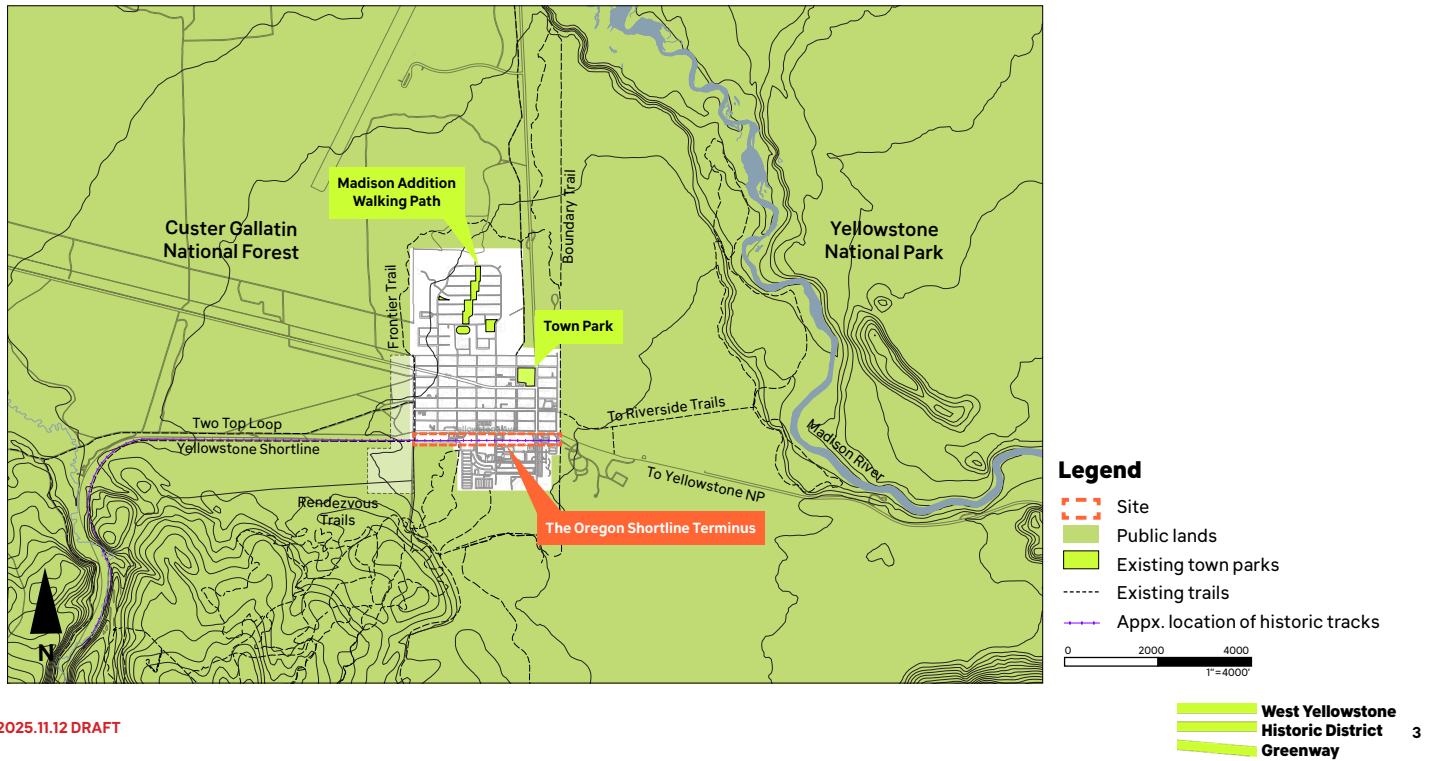


3FWILD

Vision (From Boundary St to Iris St)

Big idea: a greenway that connects existing trails in Yellowstone National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest through the Town of West Yellowstone.

West Yellowstone, surrounded by public lands, offers great outdoor access but few gathering spaces in town.



2025.11.12 DRAFT

The site of the Historic Oregon Shortline Terminus can bridge this gap..

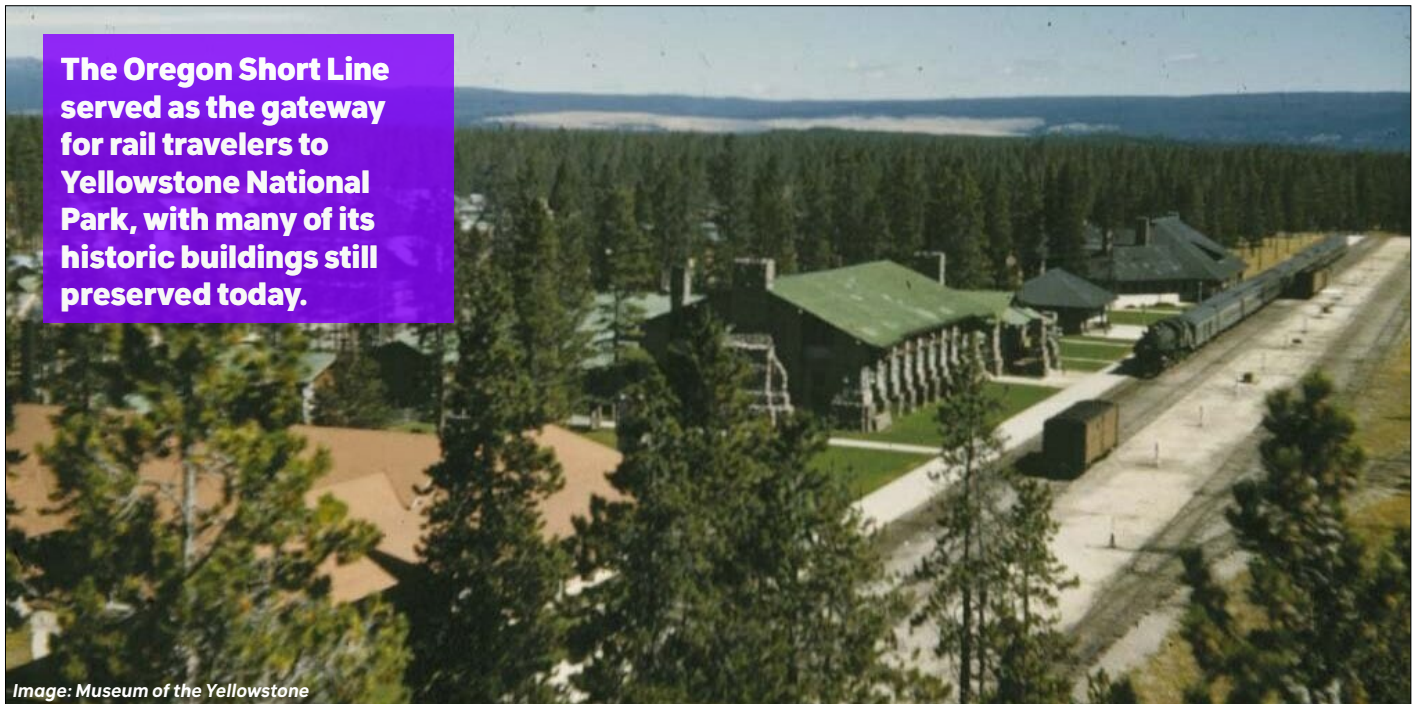


Image: Museum of the Yellowstone

The Oregon Shortline Terminus in the 1950s

2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

..offering an opportunity to create a new community hub.



The site is already used for gathering, walking, biking, casting and winter snowmobiling.



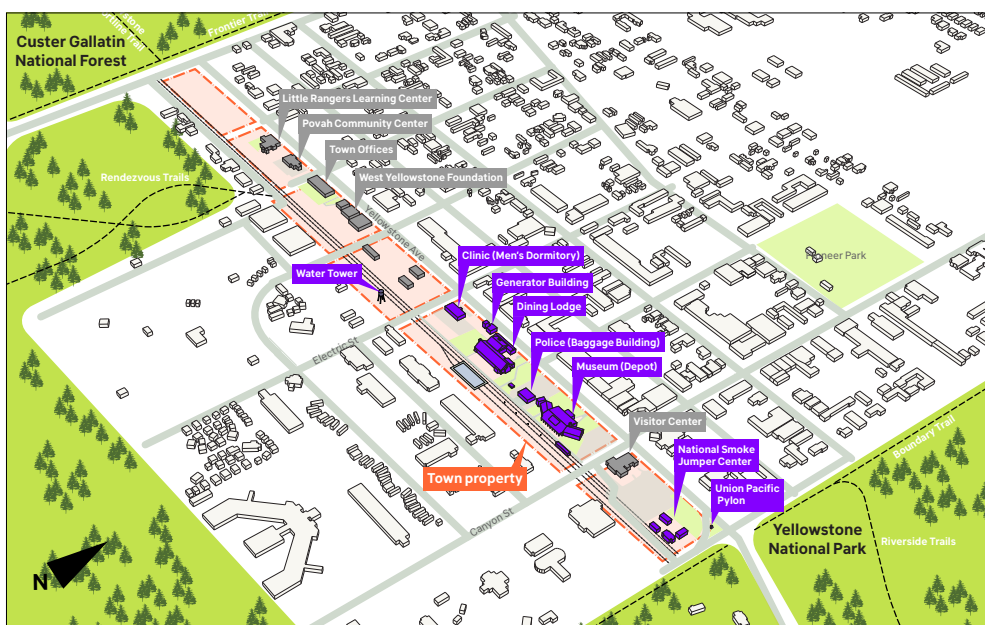
Images(left & top right): Wretched Mess Fest

The Oregon Shortline Terminus today

2025.11.12 DRAFT

- West Yellowstone
- Historic District
- Greenway

Town property spans the length of town and includes community destinations, historic buildings, and tourist attractions.



Existing view - Summer



Existing view - Winter

Legend

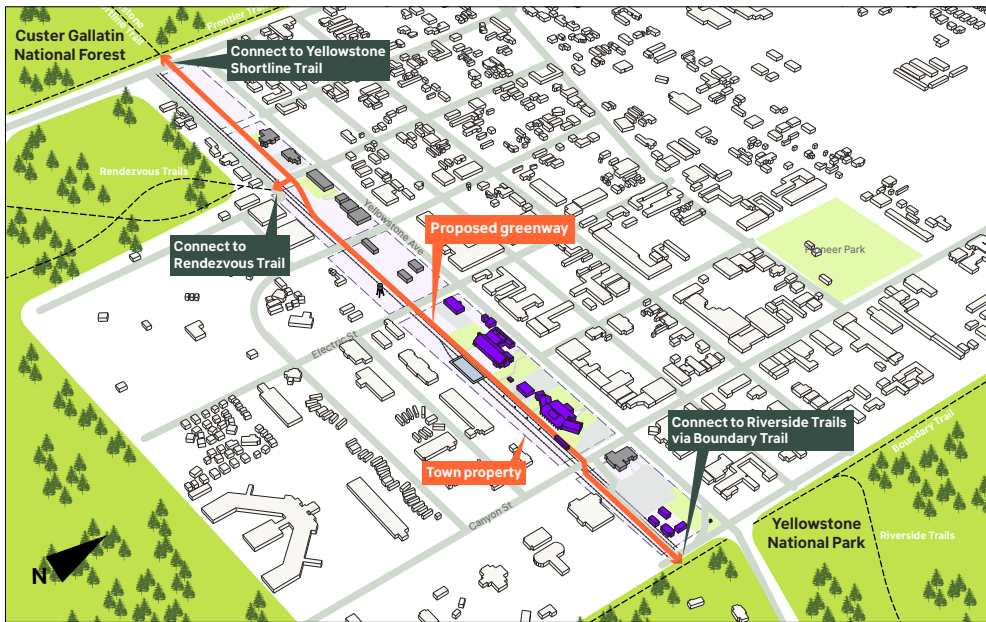
- Town property
- Historic buildings
- Community/tourist destinations
- Existing trails
- Appx. location of historic tracks

Existing conditions

2025.11.12 DRAFT

- West Yellowstone
- Historic District
- Greenway

The site can become the town Greenway, connecting the National Forest to the National Park and tying into a network of existing trails.



(Image: YST)
Yellowstone Shortline Trail



Riverside Trails (Yellowstone NP)

Legend

- Town property
- Historic buildings
- Community/tourist destinations
- Existing trails
- Appx. location of historic tracks

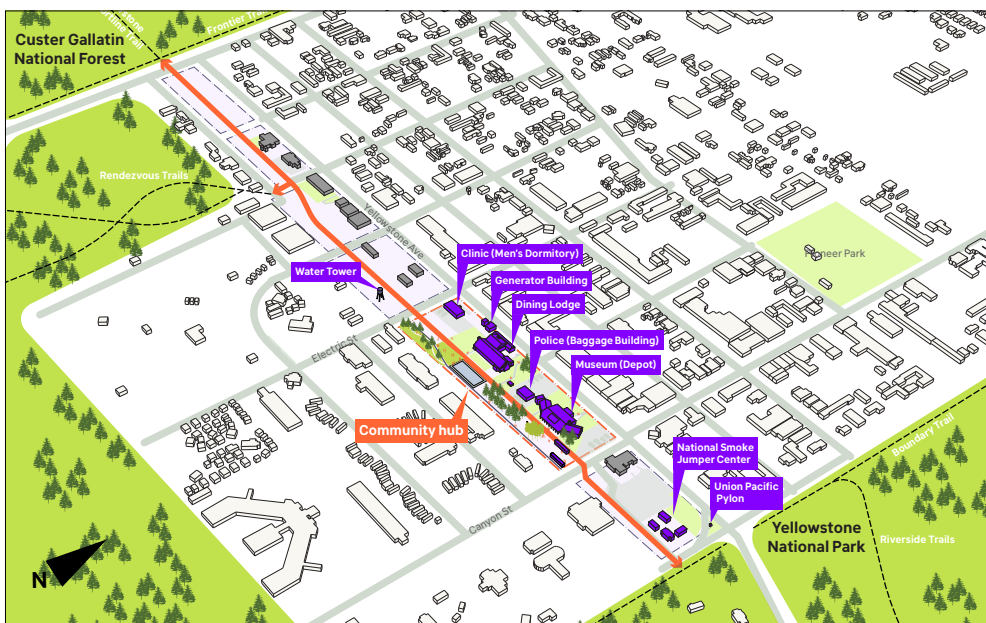
Proposed path alignment

2025.11.12 DRAFT

- West Yellowstone
- Historic District
- Greenway

7

At about 140 feet wide, it can be more than a trail—becoming a true community hub.



Existing Historic Museum



Existing Dining Lodge & Casting Pond

Legend

- Focus Area
- Historic buildings
- Community/tourist destinations
- Existing trails
- Appx. location of historic tracks

Proposed community hub

2025.11.12 DRAFT

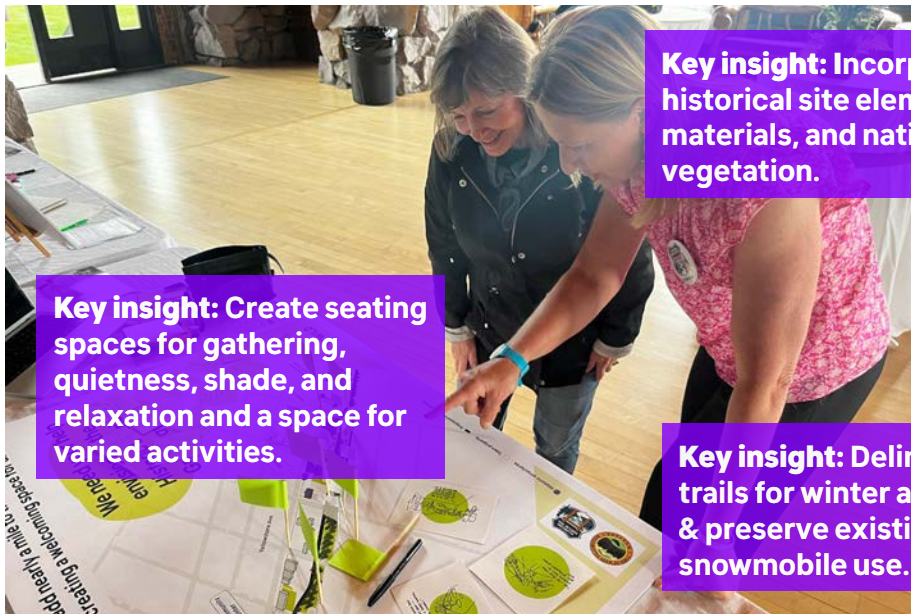
- West Yellowstone
- Historic District
- Greenway

8

Vision - Focus area (From Canyon to Electric St)

The greenway is more than a trail—it's a community hub that begins in the Historic District.

The residents would like to see a space for gathering, quietness and shade, incorporating historic site elements and native vegetation.



Key insight: Create seating spaces for gathering, quietness, shade, and relaxation and a space for varied activities.

Key insight: Incorporate historical site elements, materials, and native vegetation.



2025.04.21 Park & Rec Board Community Meeting



2025.05.08 Give Big Event

2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

10

Insights from the community guided the design goals for the vision.

1. Provide a direct shared path that connects to existing trails
2. Create welcoming spaces for residents & visitors for both summer & winter use
3. Create a variety of experiences along the way while highlighting views to historic buildings



2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway 11

Once a rail terminus, today, the block behind the Historic Museum already serves as a place for community gathering but lacks amenities.



In the past, the Oregon Short Line terminus served as the gateway for rail travelers to Yellowstone, with its depot, dining lodge, and log-and-stone buildings forming the core of today's Historic District.



Today, the site hosts summer activities ranging from daily walking and biking to community events at the Dining Lodge and the vibrant Wretched Mess Fest—a celebration of art, music, fly-fishing, and local heritage.



In winter, the site serves as a snowmobile connector and provides snow storage for adjacent properties.

2025.11.12 DRAFT

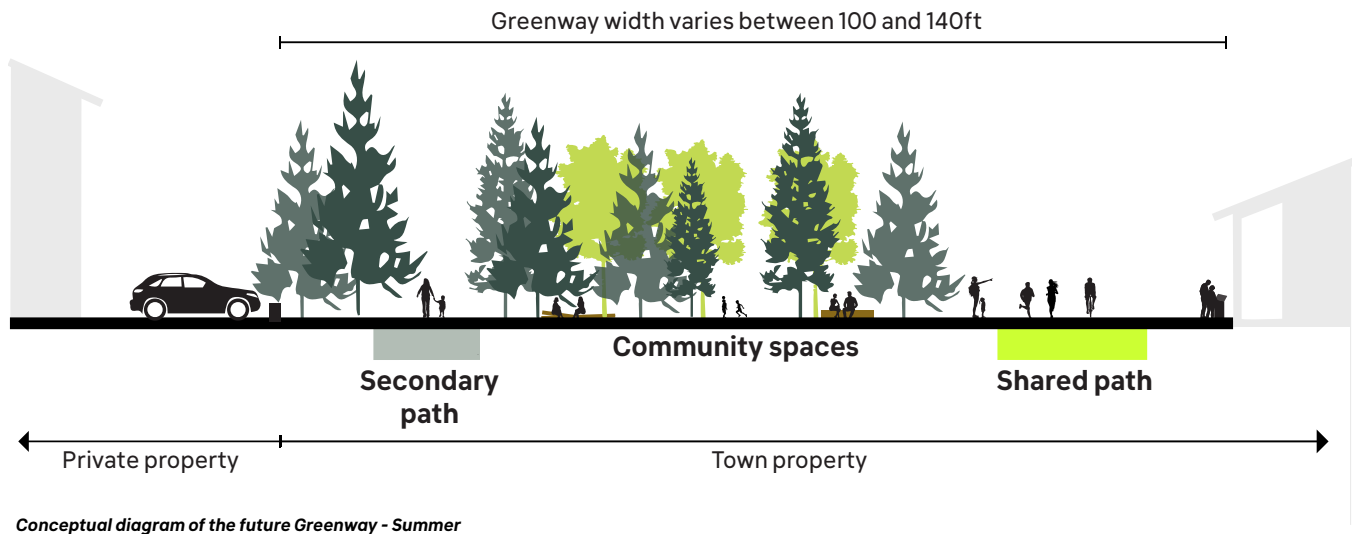
West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway 12

Historic District Greenway

The future greenway will build on existing community use with new walking and biking paths, inviting public spaces, and improved views of the historic buildings.



Spanning 1,100 feet in length and between 100 and 140 feet in width, the Greenway offers ample space for a range of community programs.

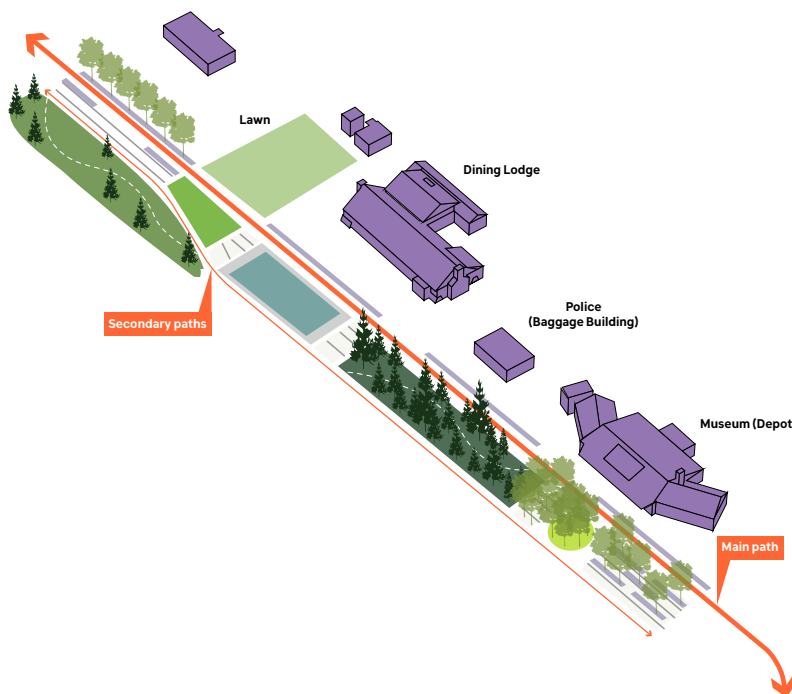


Conceptual diagram of the future Greenway - Summer

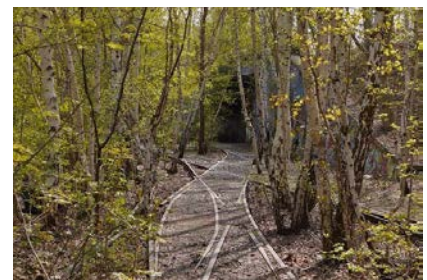
2025.11.12 DRAFT

15

The future greenway has room for a layered experience, with both direct routes and more meandering paths..



Direct shared path for biking, running, and walking.



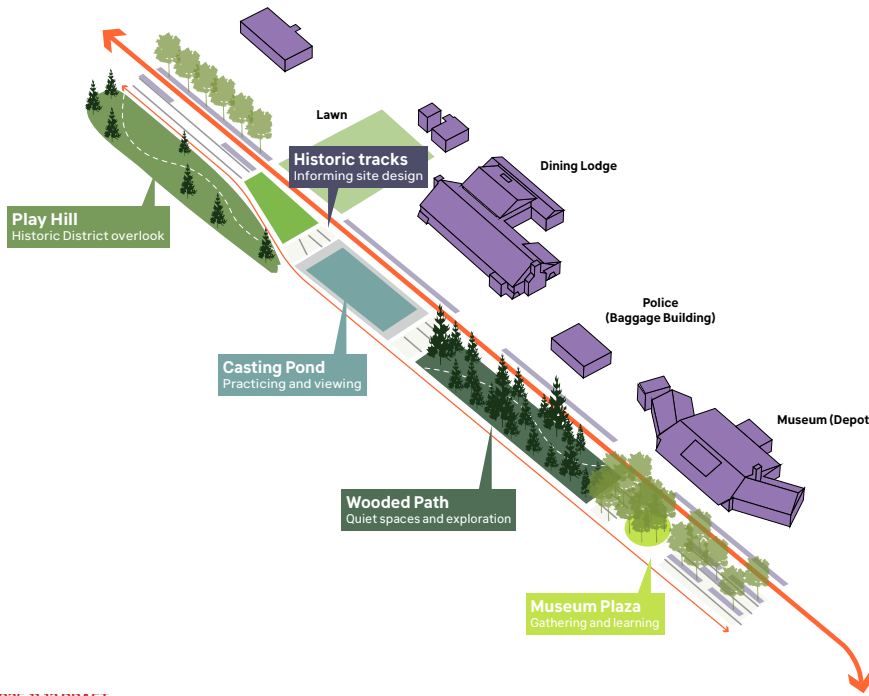
Trails for relaxed walks and discovery.

2025.11.12 DRAFT

16

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

..and a variety of community programs that enhance how the historic district is used today.



2025.11.12 DRAFT



Yellowstone NP, WY
Gathering & learning



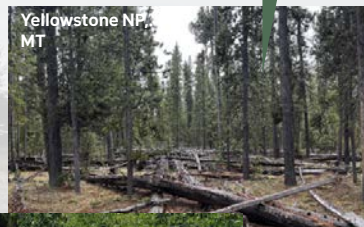
Rose Run Park, New Albany, OH
Informal play & exploration

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway 17

Community program and local ecology come together to shape diverse experiences.



Gallagator Trail, Bozeman, MT



Yellowstone NP, MT

Wooded Path
Lodge pole pine forest



Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Center, (Image: HDLA)



Greenspace on the Block, Jackson, WY



Grand Teton NP



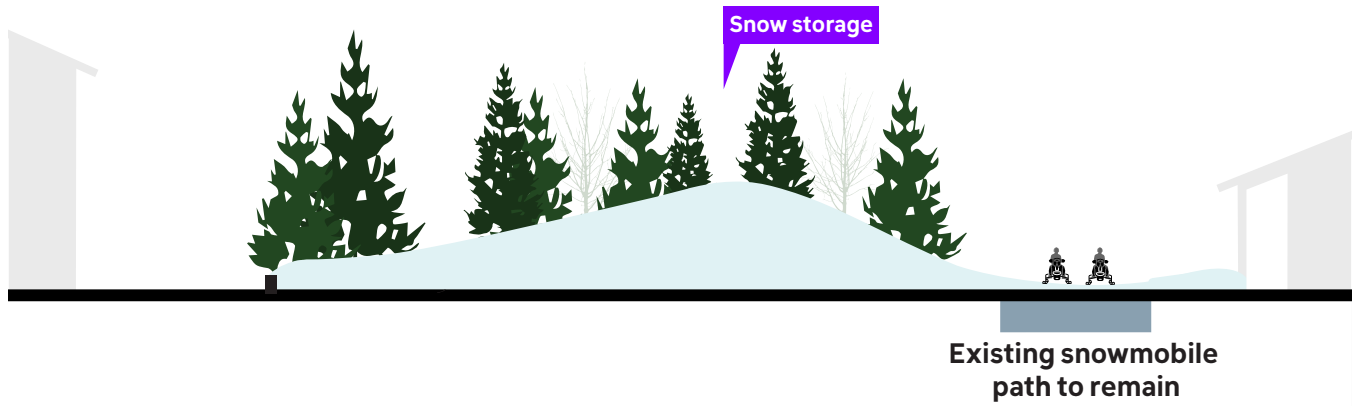
Grand Teton NP, WY

Play Hill
Sagebrush steppe & rocky hillside

Museum Plaza
Aspen groves & understory

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

The new summer program will be designed so that existing winter uses can continue.



N.T.S.

Conceptual diagram of the future Greenway - Winter

2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
 Historic District
 Greenway

19

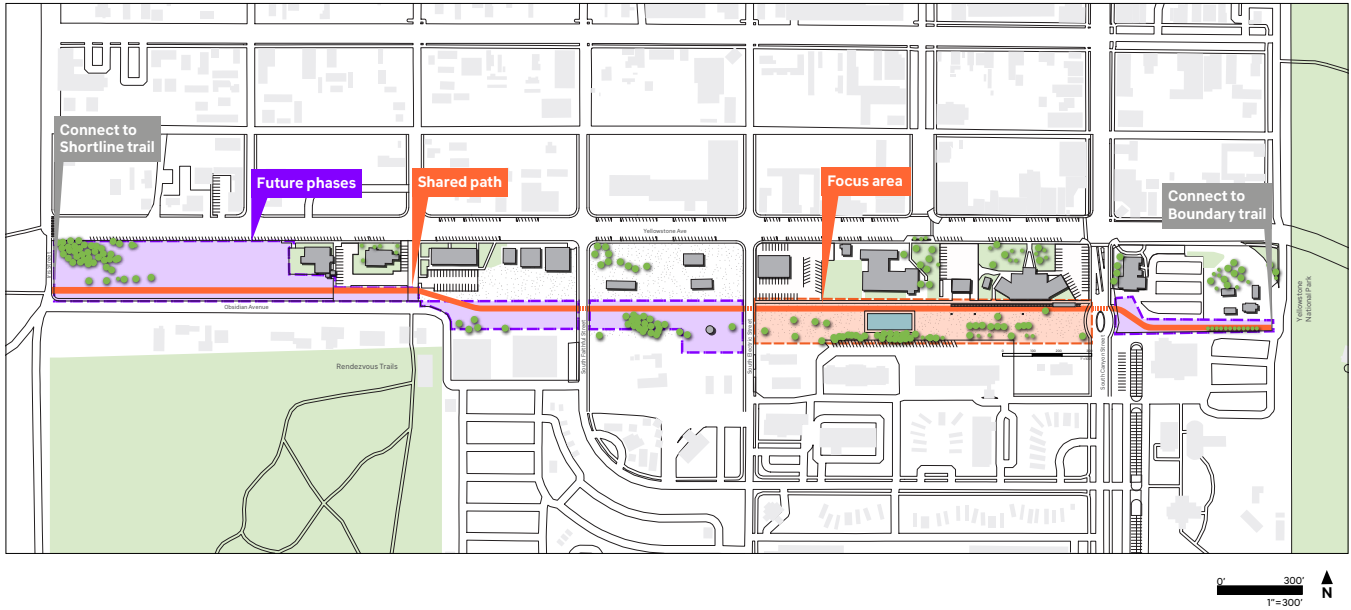




How do we bring this project to reality?

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

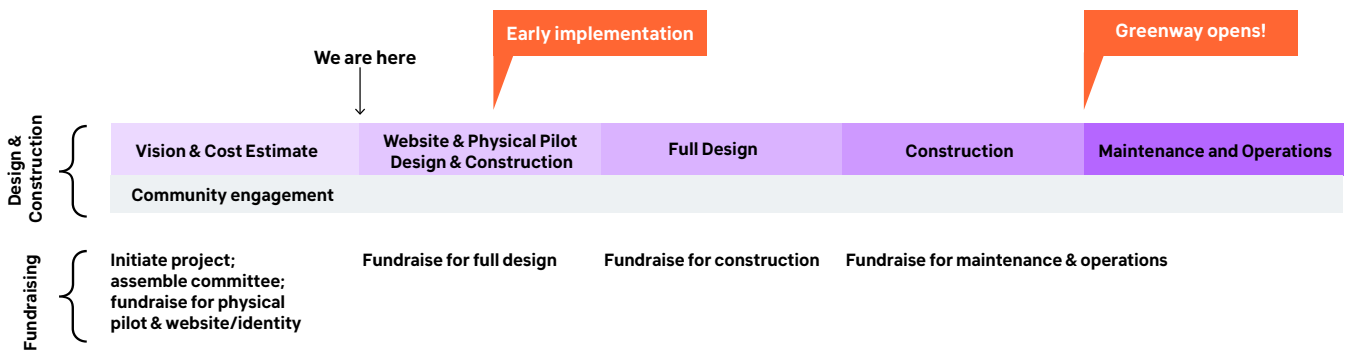
We don't need to do everything at once!



2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
 Historic District
 Greenway

Timeline & Next Steps



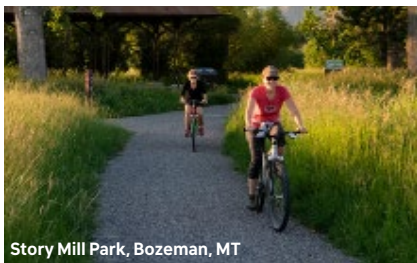
2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
 Historic District
 Greenway

The physical pilot can serve as a prototype for the main path and the Museum Plaza.



Combined with the project branding and website, this will become an early implementation step of the project.



Story Mill Park, Bozeman, MT

Crushed compacted gravel path to connect from Shortline Trail to Canyon St

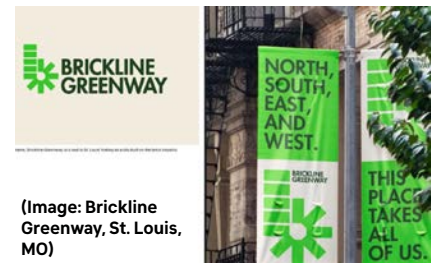
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Rose Run Park, New Albany, OH

Small-scale site activation during Summer 2025 (around casting pond, or in front of museum, may include paving/ planting/furnishings)

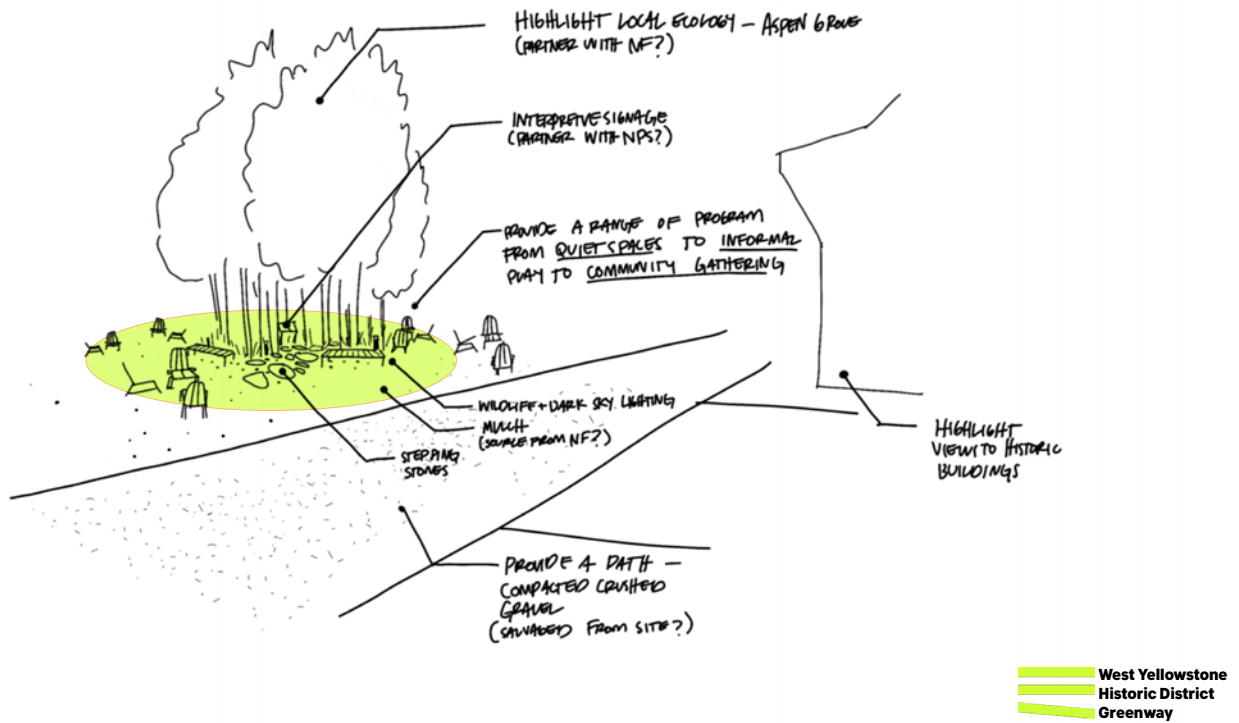
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(Image: Brickline Greenway, St. Louis, MO)

Project branding

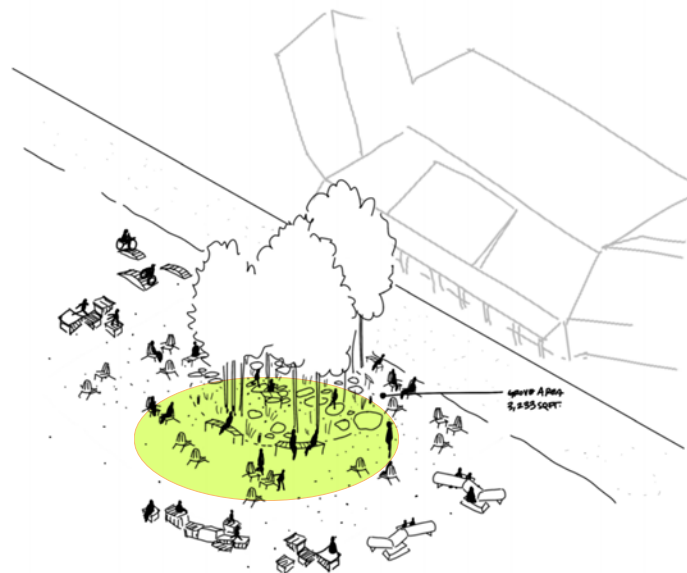
The museum plaza pilot will help prototype design goals, materials, planting and partnership at a small scale.



The pilot area may be relatively small, but a larger zone can be activated using movable furnishings and flexible elements.

Path
\$200-300k

Plaza Pilot
\$200-300k



Next Steps & Discussion

1. Branding & project identity:

Building on the design vision, should we create a strong project identity and website with vision information?

3. Museum Plaza Pilot & Path:

Can we start by building a museum plaza pilot & a crushed gravel path to test our design goals, materials, planting and partnerships?

4. Fundraising strategy:

How do we establish a process for both short-term & long-term fundraising?
Who will champion fundraising efforts?

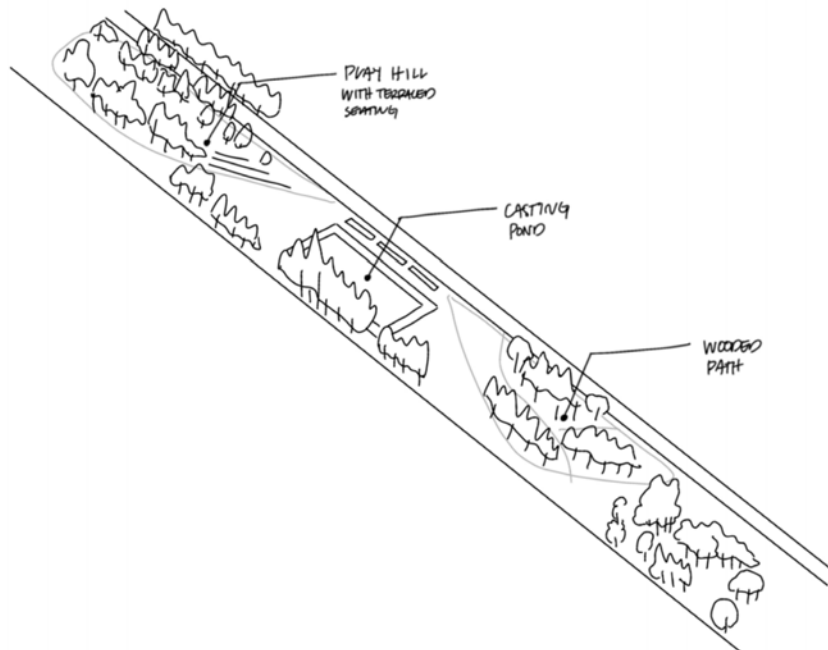
2025.11.12 DRAFT

 West Yellowstone
Historic District 29
Greenway

Appendix

 West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

Alternative design needs to be studied to better support casting pond use.



2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway 31

Cost estimate (full implementation) - Key elements

Key elements	Relative cost
Removals & General Conditions	\$
Site Work	\$ Consider sourcing of fill, soil, etc.
Paving (Shared Path - Full Length)	\$\$\$ Consider re-using existing & recycling materials
Paving (Focus area - secondary paths/seating area)	\$\$ Consider re-using existing & recycling materials
Planting	\$ Consider sourcing trees and seed from NF
Furnishings	\$
Electrical/Plumbing	T.B.D.
Design	\$\$

2025.11.12 DRAFT

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway 32

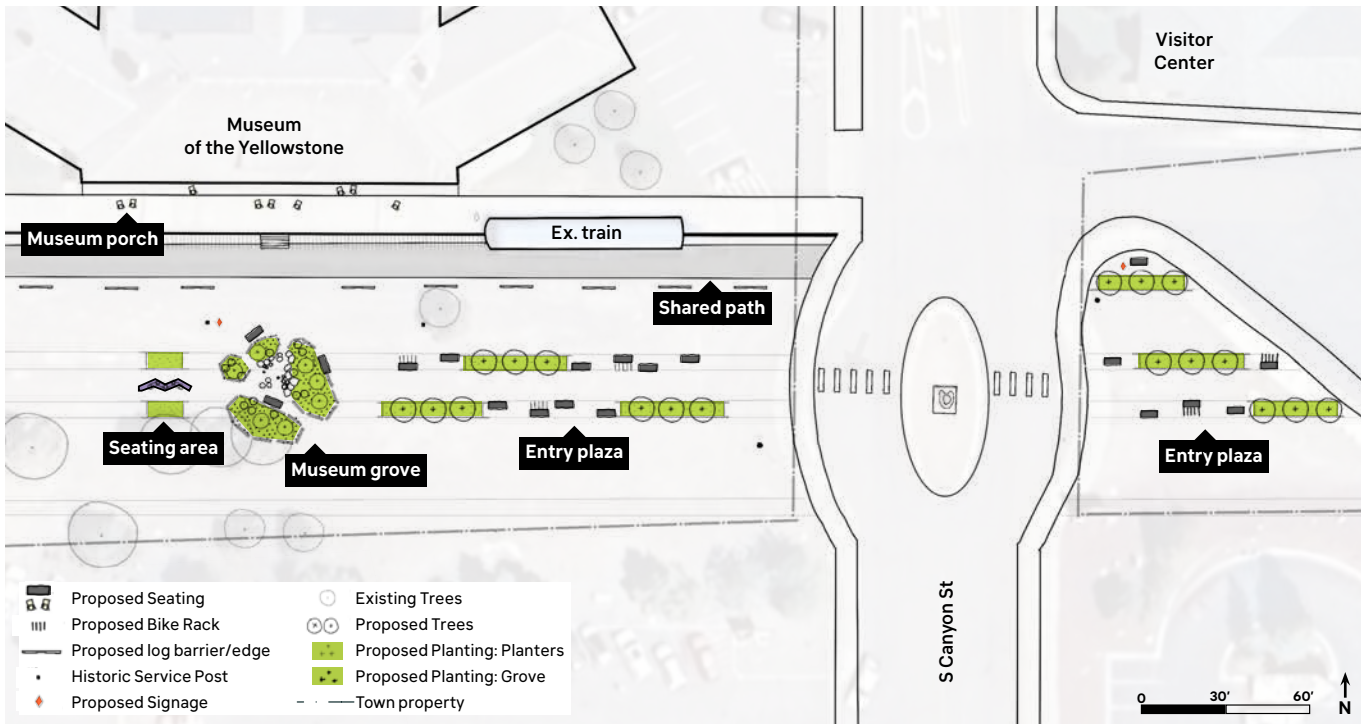
ITEM	UNIT	PRICE	APPX. QTY	AMOUNT	SUBTOTAL FOR
WEST YELLOWSTONE GREENWAY					
Removals & General Conditions					
Construction fence	LF	\$23.00	496.00	\$11,408.00	\$114,906.65
Mobilization	LUMP			\$34,882.00	
Tree Protection fence	EA	\$85.00	6.00	\$510.00	
Remove existing concrete pathway	SF	\$8.50	1394.00	\$11,849.00	
Remove existing gravel (to be reused)	SF	\$0.33	162205.00	\$53,527.65	
Remove existing trees	EA	\$455.00	6.00	\$2,730.00	
Site Work					
Existing Aggregate Regrading for Shared Path and Secondary Paths	CY	\$7.80	48591.00	\$379,009.80	
Fill (estimated CY for mound of Aspen Grove)	CY	\$8.73	331.93	\$2,897.71	
Granite boulders for mound min size 3'x3'x3'	EA	\$380.00	13.00	\$4,940.00	
Fill (Estimate cubic feet for the hill, HP 20ft)	CY	\$8.73	40000.00	\$349,200.00	
Moving of Existing Tracks & Train car - TBD	EA	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00	
Paving					
Paving Area 1 - Shared Path (Primary) (In Entirety) - 10 ft wide	SF	\$15.00	42000.00	\$630,000.00	
Paving Area 1 - Shared Path (Primary) (In Entirety) - 10 ft wide margins	SF	\$12.00	42000.00	\$504,000.00	
Paving Area 2 - Seating Areas General	SF	\$18.00	6591.00	\$118,638.00	
Paving Area 2 - Accent Paving	SF	\$18.00	967.00	\$17,406.00	
Paving Area 3 (Secondary Paths)	SF	\$12.00	40000.00	\$480,000.00	
Planting					
Planted Area - Type 1 (Open Hillside) 18,443 sqft area					
Planting soil & Soil amendment	CY	\$95.00	1364.78	\$129,654.29	
Plant Material (Perennials&Grasses&Small shrubs @ 1 gallon or seeded)	SF	\$6.50	18443.00	\$119,879.50	
Evergreen Trees (Lodge Pole Pine)	EA	\$650.00	10.00	\$6,500.00	
Deciduous Trees	EA	\$780.00	5.00	\$3,900.00	
Mulch	CY	\$58.00	113.85	\$6,603.05	
Planted Area - Type 2 (Lodgepole Pine Forest) 9,435 sqft area					
Planting soil & Soil amendment	CY	\$95.00	713.43	\$67,776.23	
Plant Material (Perennials&Grasses&Small shrubs @ 1 gallon or seeded)	SF	\$6.50	9641.00	\$62,666.50	
Evergreen Trees (Lodge Pole Pine)	EA	\$650.00	30.00	\$19,500.00	
Mulch	CY	\$58.00	59.51	\$3,451.72	
Edging	LF	\$9.80	944.00	\$9,251.20	
Planted Area - Type 3 (Grassland/meadow) 8,522 sqft area					
Planting soil & Soil amendment	CY	\$95.00	630.63	\$59,909.66	
Plant Material (Perennials&Grasses&Small shrubs @ 1 gallon or seeded)	SF	\$6.50	8522.00	\$55,393.00	
Deciduous Trees	EA	\$750.00	24.00	\$18,000.00	
Deciduous Trees in seating areas	EA	\$850.00	12.00	\$10,200.00	
Mulch	CY	\$58.00	52.60	\$3,051.09	
Steel Edging	LF	\$9.80	0.00	\$0.00	
Planted Area - Type 4 (Aspen grove) 3,233 sqft area					
Planting soil & Soil amendment	CY	\$95.00	239.24	\$22,727.99	
Plant Material (Perennials&Grasses&Small shrubs @ 1 gallon or seeded)	SF	\$6.50	3233.00	\$21,014.50	
Deciduous Trees (Aspen)	EA	\$850.00	8.00	\$6,800.00	
2" cal					
3" cal					
5" cal					
4" cup <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> (Tufted Hairgrass)	EA	\$13.00	440.00	\$5,720.00	
Seed - <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> (Tall Fescue)	SF	\$0.43	1693.00	\$727.99	
Steel Edging	LF	\$9.80	207.00	\$2,028.60	
Lawn 6,935 sf					
Plant Material (Sod)	SF	\$1.55	6935.00	\$10,749.25	
Wall (stone / concrete)					
Boulders	LF	\$0.00	457.00	\$60,000.00	
Furnishings					
Furnishings Type 1 - Seating Grove	EA	\$355.00	17.00	\$6,035.00	
Furnishings Type 2 - Moveable Furniture	EA	\$355.00	44.00	\$15,620.00	
Furnishings Type 3 - Benches	EA	\$650.00	7.00	\$4,550.00	
Furnishings Type 4 - Social Seating	EA	\$780.00	8.00	\$6,240.00	
Furnishings Type 5 - Bike parking, etc.	EA	\$1,560.00	7.00	\$10,920.00	
Furnishings Type 6 - Nature Based Furniture (logs)	EA	\$790.00	12.00	\$9,480.00	
Boulders	EA	\$385.00	40.00	\$15,400.00	
Interpretive Signage	EA	\$1,850.00	10.00	\$18,500.00	
Trail Signage	EA	\$450.00	3.00	\$1,350.00	
Electrical					
Lighting	EA	\$0.00	150.00	TBD	
Outlets	EA	\$0.00	0.00	TBD	
Plumbing					
Drinking fountains	EA	\$3,850.00	2.00	\$7,700.00	
Subtotal Direct Costs					
				\$3,402,297.73	
Design Contingency				\$1,020,689.32	
Total Direct Costs				\$4,422,987.04	
Mobilization & Demobilization				\$265,379.22	
Escalation				\$953,181.35	
Total Construction Cost				\$5,641,547.62	
Construction contingency				\$564,154.76	
Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, MEP, Project Management				\$1,105,746.76	
TOTAL WEST YELLOWSTONE GREENWAY				\$7,311,449.14	

West Yellowstone Historic District Greenway - Museum Plaza Pilot Concept Plan (prepared by 3FWILD)



West Yellowstone Historic District Greenway - Museum Plaza Pilot Concept Plan
May 8, 2026

DRAFT



Museum Grove - Pilot materials



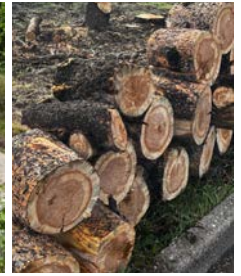
Trees & planting



Informal play - boulders



Informal play - logs



Log edging



Mulch

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

DRAFT Museum Plaza Grove Pilot | 2026.05.07

3FWILD 3

Shared path - Pilot materials



Log barrier to delineate shared path



Compacted / infilled aggregate

West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

DRAFT Museum Plaza Grove Pilot | 2026.05.07

3FWILD 4

Entry plaza - Pilot materials



Trees & planting



Informal seating - block stones or logs



"Rail" planters with steel & wood edging



Greenway Signage



Bike racks



DRAFT Museum Plaza Grove Pilot | 2026.05.07

3FWILD 5

Seating area & Museum porch - Pilot materials



Trees & planting / demonstration garden



"Rail" planters with steel & wood edging



Individual seating



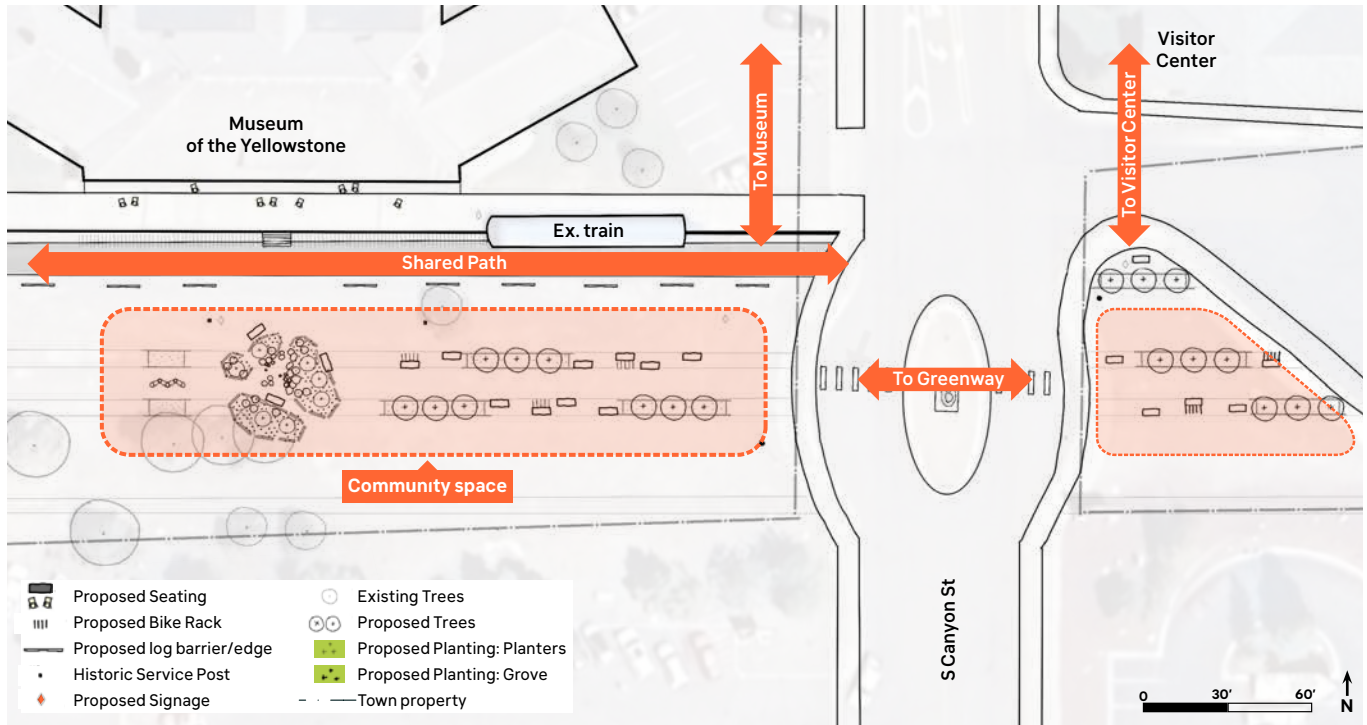
Social seating



DRAFT Museum Plaza Grove Pilot | 2026.05.07

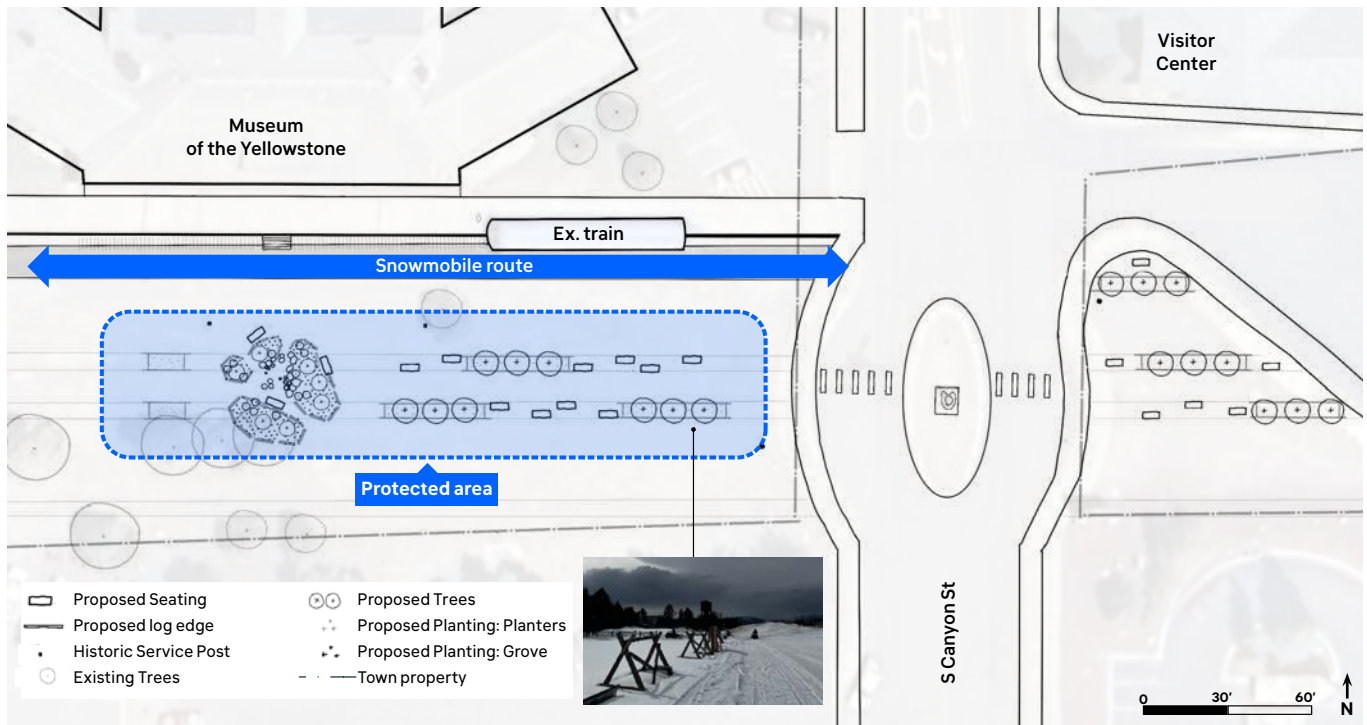
3FWILD 6

Summer Use Diagram



West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

Winter Use Diagram



West Yellowstone
Historic District
Greenway

Online Survey Results

Timestamp	What is your age	What is your zip code?	Are you a West Yellowstone Resident
2/27/2026 11:42:25	45 - 54	59758	Yes
3/4/2026 15:01:40	35 - 44	59758	Yes
3/4/2026 18:46:00	35 - 44	59758	Yes
3/4/2026 19:50:02	55 - 64	59758	Yes
3/5/2026 11:25:29	55 - 64	59758	Yes
3/5/2026 12:15:34	35 - 44	59758	Yes
3/5/2026 12:30:08	35 - 44	59758	Yes
3/6/2026 17:10:33	55 - 64	59758	Yes
3/10/2026 12:30:51	45 - 54	59758	Yes
3/10/2026 13:42:15	65+	59758	Yes
3/10/2026 13:42:58	25 - 34	59758	Yes
3/11/2026 18:50:07	45 - 54	59758	Yes
3/17/2026 11:25:40	35 - 44	59758	Yes
3/17/2026 11:39:09	65+	59758	Yes
3/17/2026 12:26:49	45 - 54	59758	Yes
3/17/2026 13:15:27	55 - 64	59758	No
3/17/2026 14:02:19	55 - 64	59758	Yes
3/17/2026 16:38:21	35 - 44	59758	Yes
3/17/2026 16:55:30	45 - 54	59758	Yes
3/17/2026 21:41:43	55 - 64	59030	No
3/17/2026 21:56:17	65+	59758	Yes
3/18/2026 15:49:18	55 - 64	59758	Yes
3/18/2026 15:51:22	Under 18	59758	Yes
3/18/2026 21:08:21	55 - 64	59758	Yes
3/20/2026 1:21:25	35 - 44	59758	Yes
3/21/2026 0:24:11	55 - 64	59758	Yes
3/21/2026 8:08:10	65+	59758	Yes
3/23/2026 14:58:14	35 - 44	59758	Yes
3/31/2026 18:45:21	35 - 44	59758	Yes
4/2/2026 7:55:19	45 - 54	83429	No
4/3/2026 11:54:16	25 - 34	59758	Yes
4/15/2026 12:28:53	65+	59758	Yes
4/15/2026 20:45:54	25 - 34	59758	Yes
4/18/2026 16:49:29	35 - 44	59758	Yes
4/18/2026 21:56:30	25 - 34	83429	No
4/20/2026 23:33:55	45 - 54	59758	Yes
4/23/2026 9:51:18	55 - 64	59758	Yes
4/23/2026 22:10:59	55 - 64	59758	Yes
4/25/2026 10:43:36	45 - 54	59758	Yes
4/30/2026 11:14:42	65+	59758	Yes
5/14/2026 20:50:51	65+	59758	Yes
5/16/2026 13:30:14	65+	59758	Yes
5/16/2026 14:02:24	45 - 54	59758	No
5/27/2026 19:02:00	65+	59758	Yes

How many of your immediate family members live	How many years have you been a West Yellowston	In the past 12 months how often have you visited a e.g. N. Electric Basketball and Tennis Courts, Pione
3	25	20+
2	10	20+
4	13	1-5 Times
2	31	20+
1	25	1-5 Times
1	6	1-5 Times
3	24	6-10 Times
3	30	6-10 Times
1	10	20+
3	52	6-10 Times
5	32	1-5 Times
4	10	11-19 Times
2	18	6-10 Times
1	67	1-5 Times
2	11	20+
		6-10 Times
3	50	20+
3	9	6-10 Times
2	5	6-10 Times
		1-5 Times
1	35	11-19 Times
2	13	20+
3	14	20+
1	18	1-5 Times
3	14	6-10 Times
3	7	1-5 Times
3	23	20+
5	3	20+
5	25	6-10 Times
		1-5 Times
1	7	20+
1	21	11-19 Times
1	1	1-5 Times
1	4	11-19 Times
		1-5 Times
1	11	1-5 Times
4	24	6-10 Times
2	1	1-5 Times
2	3	6-10 Times
4	50	1-5 Times
6	66	20+
2	51	1-5 Times
		6-10 Times
6	66	20+

How would you rate the physical condition of all the trails? Are you able to walk to a West Yellowstone park property? Listed below are park amenities. Please select the		
4	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, More Tennis/Basketball Courts
2	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, Fitness Equipment, Trash Removal
1	No	Walking/Biking Trails, Improved Overall Appearance
3	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, Improved Overall Appearance
4	Yes	Bike Racks, Fitness Equipment, Sports Fields
2	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, Fitness Equipment
4	No	Walking/Biking Trails, More Drinking Fountains, More Shade Trees
3	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, Improved Overall Appearance
4	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, More Shade Trees, Restrooms
3	Yes	Lighting, Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance
4	Yes	Bike Racks, Walking/Biking Trails, Fitness Equipment
3	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, More Shade Trees
4	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, More Picnic Tables/Benches, Restrooms
3	No	Lighting, Picnic Shelters, Trash Removal/Cans
4	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, Better Mowing/Weed Control
4	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, Restrooms, Trash Removal/Cans
5	Yes	Bike Racks, Restrooms, Trash Removal/Cans
2	No	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, Restrooms
4	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, More Picnic Tables/Benches, Restrooms
5	No	More Parking, Picnic Shelters, Restrooms
3	Yes	Lighting, Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance
2	No	Lighting, More Drinking Fountains, Restrooms
3	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, Restrooms
3	Yes	More Playground Equipment, Fitness Equipment, Restrooms
4	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, More Picnic Tables/Benches, Restrooms
2	No	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, More Shade Trees
3	Yes	Bike Racks, Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance
4	Yes	More Playground Equipment, More Shade Trees, Picnic Shelters
4	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, Fitness Equipment
3	No	Walking/Biking Trails, More Parking, Restrooms
2	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, Picnic Shelters
5	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, More Picnic Tables/Benches, Restrooms
4	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, More Shade Trees
3	No	Bike Racks, Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance
3	No	Walking/Biking Trails, More Playground Equipment, Restrooms
4	Yes	Bike Racks, Fitness Equipment, Restrooms
5	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, More Shade Trees
4	No	Picnic Shelters, Restrooms, Trash Removal/Cans
4	Yes	Walking/Biking Trails, More Drinking Fountains, More Shade Trees
3	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, Picnic Shelters
4	Yes	More Drinking Fountains, More Tennis/Basketball Courts
4	No	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, Better Mowing/Weed Control
4	Yes	Improved Overall Appearance/Maintenance, More Shade Trees
3	Yes	Lighting, Walking/Biking Trails, More Picnic Tables/Benches

What are the reasons that prevent you or other members from using the courts?	What 3 facilities/amenities would you like to see added to the courts?	How do you and your family currently learn about the courts?
If the courts are being used	Restroom	Social media
Time I work to many jobs to enjoy the area	Archery Range	The cork boards at the Post Office and Buff Bar
Not much available.	Can't select three only one. Just a better overall fee	We don't. The town doesn't share this information
	Bike/Walking Paths	Nothing
	Public inside lap/play pool. Partially enclosed ice-sl	Facebook
Lack of adult activities. Chess, archery, nicer appear	Small "Pocket Parks"	We don't
living out of town.	it only allows me to chose 1 option, but the 3 would	the post office flyers
none	more dog poop bags/signs/trash	live here
wild unsupervised children and high volume of dog	bathrooms at tennis court park	Facebook
Age	Outdoor Amphitheater	Facebook
having to cross the busy hwy 20 to access park lar	Ice ribbons along trails, outdoor amphitheater, bike,	Word of mouth
crossing highway 191	Pocket parks, improved play structure for kids, benches	Social media, word of mouth
working full-time, not prioritizing it, too tired	Benches, Restroom, Dog Park (Off-Leash)	social media or word of mouth
time	Benches, Restroom, Skate Park	gossip around town
N/a	Ice Ribbons Along Trails, Bike/Walking Paths, Small	Usually days after via Facebook or Post Office flyer
Time	Bike/Walking Paths, Dog Park (Off-Leash), Running	Flyers
Lack of time	Restroom, Dog Park (Off-Leash), Running/Walking	Facebook
My son broke his arm playing on the playground	Restroom, Bike/Walking Paths, Running/Walking Tr	Facebook posts
Not much going on in them	Restroom, Bike/Walking Paths, Outdoor Amphitheater	from banners or town hall
usually, there is nowhere to park.	Ice Ribbons Along Trails, Restroom, Gazebo	Facebook and prior resident
	Disc Golf Course, Running/Walking Track, Outdoor	
N/a	Restroom, Skate Park, Outdoor Amphitheater	N/a
nothing	Archery Range, BMX Pump Track/Bike Park, Skate I	my father is on the board
	Restroom, Skate Park, Running/Walking Track	
	Archery Range, Bike/Walking Paths, Skate Park	Online or posters
There's nothing to do at them in particular and they	Archery Range, Disc Golf Course, BMX Pump Track	We don't or facebook
	Benches, Outdoor Amphitheater, Gazebo	facebook or bulletin board at PO or library
	Ice Ribbons Along Trails, Disc Golf Course, Benches	
None	BMX Pump Track/Bike Park, Running/Walking Track	Via Facebook or flyers at the post office
Nothing prevents me from using the trails	Restroom, Bike/Walking Paths, Dog Park (Off-Leash)	Town website and community Facebook posts
None, we are at one park at least twice daily.	Outdoor Amphitheater, Small "Pocket Parks", Gazebo	Just by living here. Even when you Google West Yel
	Disc Golf Course, Running/Walking Track, Outdoor	Internet
Work schedule	Benches, Restroom, Outdoor Amphitheater	Social media, website
What is an ice ribbon? Often visit FS instead of city	Dog Park (Off-Leash), Outdoor Amphitheater, Small	Flyers at post office and Facebook
Crowded in summer	Archery Range, Bike/Walking Paths, Outdoor Amph	Social media
None	Archery Range, Bike/Walking Paths, Outdoor Amph	Facebook and post office
weather, health/access	Ice Ribbons Along Trails, Benches, Small "Pocket P	Facebook, post office bulletin boards
Proximity to my home	Bike/Walking Paths, Dog Park (Off-Leash), Small "P	Social media
Work/School and sports activities in the evenings. I	Benches, BMX Pump Track/Bike Park, Outdoor Am	Word of mouth or social media
	Benches, Restroom, Outdoor Amphitheater	
No restrooms	Benches, Restroom, Gazebo	I live here so I know where they are
Age	Benches, Restroom, Bike/Walking Paths	Facebook
	Restroom, Bike/Walking Paths, Small "Pocket Parks	
To many rules	Benches, Restroom, Running/Walking Track	we live here

Please rank your overall satisfaction with the overall winter recreation program, how important do you feel it is for West Yellowstone, and what winter activities or amenities would you like to see added?		
5	5	More sled hills in park instead of just one huge one
3	5	Curling!!!
1	5	Better ice rink.
3	1	Covered ice skating
3	5	Partially enclosed ice-skating rink that is staffed - h
2	5	Fire pits, igloos
4	5	ice skate rental
4	4	keep the ice rink and sled hill
4	5	hockey rink /lessons /groom short line trail
3	4	Ice sculpture
3	5	Ski trails!! I want ski trails in town that I can hop on
4	5	Sledding and ice skating
5	5	More funding to improve the ice skating rink, availa
3	3	duck duck goose.
5	5	Ice skating, longer plowed walking trails
3	5	
4	5	
3	5	
4	5	LOVE the XC ski trails. Curling or indoor rec center
5	5	Ice Carving Contest
4	5	
3	4	N/A
3	4	i dont know
3	4	
5	5	
1	5	
4	4	
3	5	
3	5	
3	5	More groomed trails for non-motorized use
4	5	Emptying the trash cans on linear park more often :
5	5	
4	5	Hmmm uncertain
4	5	Ice rink with boards and better maintenance
4	5	Sledding Hill
3	3	Better ice skating, music and skate rentals
4	5	Ice rink MAINTAINED and OPERATIONAL
4	5	Warming stations
4	4	I'm not sure. We are busy skiing in the winter.
3	4	Racing
5	5	Kids snowmobile tracks and sledding hills
4	4	Snow hill
4	5	
3	3	Sledding hill

how often do you use the city ice skating rink during the winter	What is your favorite thing about West Yellowstone	Is there anything not asked in this survey that you would like to see at the park
Yearly	Ease of getting to them	
I Didn't Know it Was Available	Its the only green grass in town.	Yes, I'll say it in the meeting
Weekly	Events	The northwest corner with the maintenance garage
Yearly	Gathering place for families and friends	
Never	They are beautiful and offer a wide range of activities	It would be great to have another larger park that is
Never	Safe outdoor space for activities	
Never	the sled hill, playground, they're kept pretty clean, simple	
Weekly	simple and safe	thanks!
Monthly	I don't have a favorite thing.	it would be nice to have horseshoes pits in park or
Never		Need a venue for large events such as Expo
Yearly	That we actually have a park. I'd love more park options	Connect the frontier trail to the rendezvous ski trail
Monthly	Covered areas, park play structure	Really interested in larger, improved play structure for
Never	safe space to recreate and socialize	Thank you for your efforts in support of our local park
Never	that we have them in this beautiful place we call home	can't think of anything right now.
Yearly		
Never		
Never	Attractive to visitors	
Never		
Never	They aren't too commercial looking. They fit with the town	Would love to see more activities and programming
Never	Always activities going on	
Never		
Never	N/A	N/A
Monthly	swings	you should have the wifi at the park
Never		
Never	My kids spend time outside at the parks!	
Never	Not to much. Music	Make it more beautiful with fountains, flowers, art, etc
Yearly	That we have them!	Yes, it would be nice to have a town bulletin board
Weekly		
Monthly	Music in the park in the summer.	
Never	That they exist	Dedicated trailhead parking lots with a restroom (e
Never	Availability/location	Quality over quantity is important to me.
Never	A nice place to hang out	I'd like to see a Par Course with pullup bars, sit up b
I Didn't Know it Was Available	The access to unparalleled natural beauty.	Are there are there volunteer opportunities available
Weekly	I appreciate the large green space at Pioneer Park.	I think parks and green space are extremely important
Yearly	Good for kid	
Never	Live music	We need more summer things. Winter is cold, stay
Monthly	Easy access, no fuss	E-bikes are essential for older people, as are bench
Never	They exist!	
Never	That they're here!	I would love to see some beautiful murals in the park
Never		Future snowmobile trails
Weekly	Variety	we would like to see the horseshoe pits that were a
Never	Wide open multi use park	no at this time
Never	Open space can be used for many different things	Need to create small impactful projects for park bo
Monthly	They are natural	who makes the decisions on what is the priorities

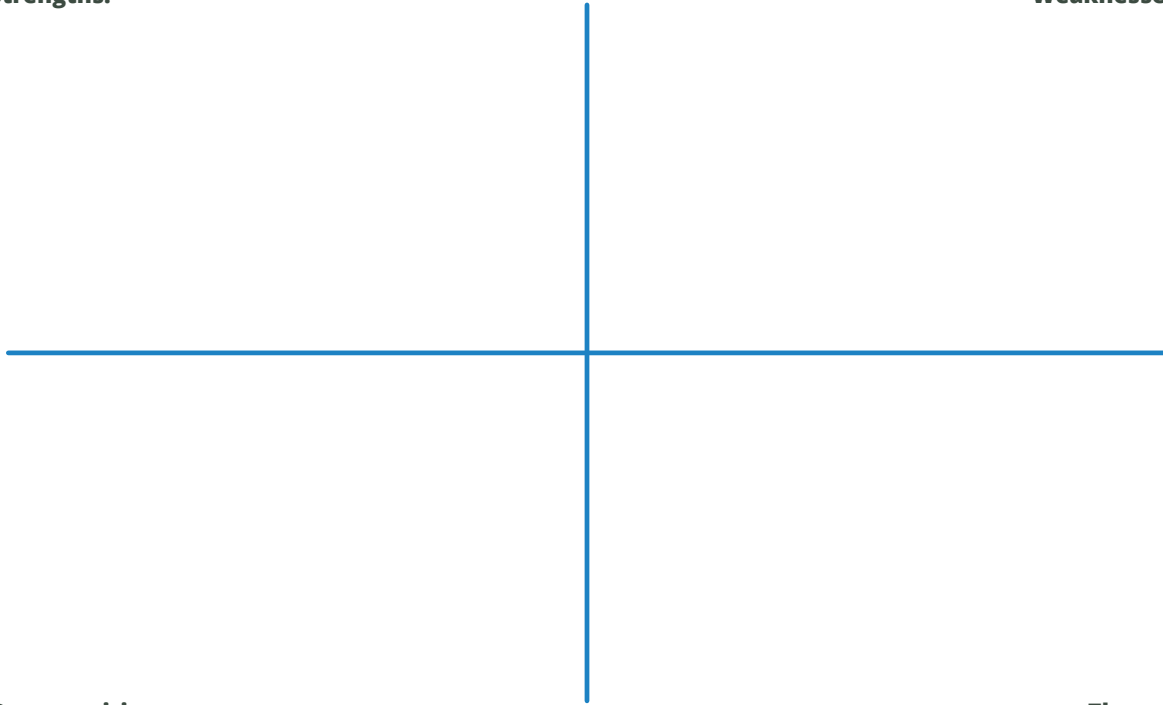
Interactive Feedback Map Results



Original Community Engagement Materials Event #1

Strengths:

Weaknesses:



Opportunities:

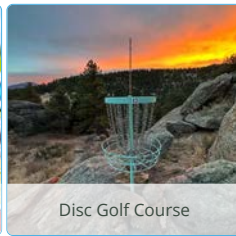
Threats:



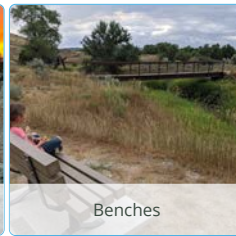
What do you want to see in Parks?



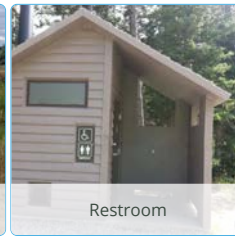
Archery Range



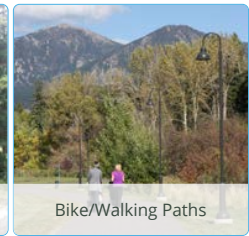
Disc Golf Course



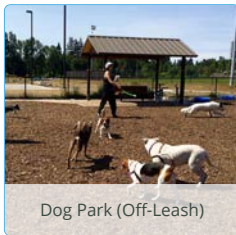
Benches



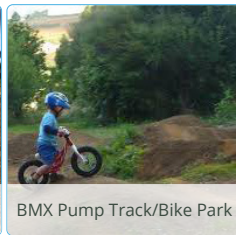
Restroom



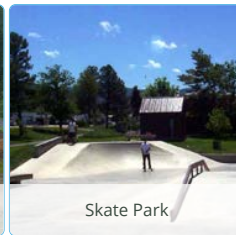
Bike/Walking Paths



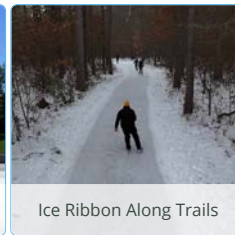
Dog Park (Off-Leash)



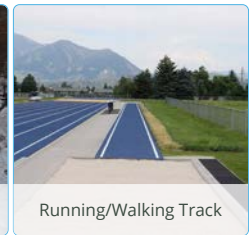
BMX Pump Track/Bike Park



Skate Park



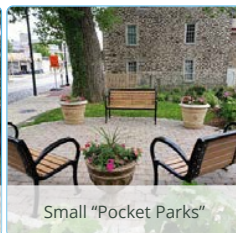
Ice Ribbon Along Trails



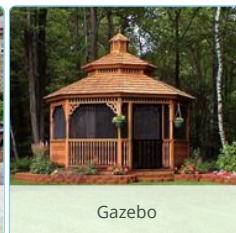
Running/Walking Track



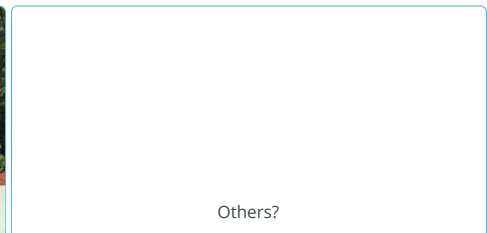
Outdoor Amphitheater



Small "Pocket Parks"

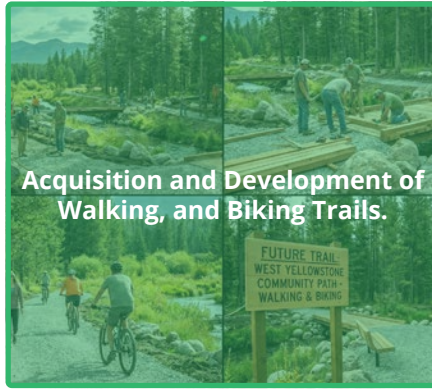


Gazebo



Others?

Resource Allocation



West Yellowstone Parks Plan



How do You Access Parks?



Original Community Engagement Materials

Event #2

Overarching Goals

The overarching goals presented in this master plan are the direct result of comprehensive collaboration and research. They have been illuminated through community feedback, ongoing communication with Town staff and the Parks and Recreation Board, diverse online engagement methods, and an analysis of current national recreational trends. Together, these broad objectives serve as the foundational motivations for all park and trail improvements moving forward. By anchoring future development in these priorities, West Yellowstone can ensure that its recreational spaces effectively serve the diverse needs of both residents and visitors for years to come.



FOUR-SEASON RECREATION AND WINTER USABILITY

West Yellowstone requires park properties that are active and usable regardless of the season. To provide true year-round fun, the town must improve winter amenities like the community ice rink, sledding hills, and groomed trails. Designing facilities that can withstand and embrace winter conditions ensures residents have constant access to outdoor activities.



SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY AND SAFE ACCESS

Safety and accessibility are paramount, especially given the community concerns about crossing busy highways to access recreational areas. This goal focuses on creating safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between town parks, schools, and surrounding public lands. Comprehensive wayfinding signage and improved crosswalks will physically and visually tie the entire system together.



ELEVATED ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE

A park system is only as good as its basic amenities. The community clearly identified a need for fundamental upgrades, including accessible restrooms, shaded seating, and improved trash and dog waste removal. Prioritizing high-quality maintenance and foundational infrastructure ensures that existing and future parks remain clean, safe, and inviting for daily use.



DIVERSE OFFERINGS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

To combat the perception of limited activities, the parks system must offer something for everyone. This includes developing high-demand active recreation facilities like the skatepark. It also requires expanding programming to include adult activities, youth sports, and ADA-compliant spaces so all residents and visitors can participate fully.



VIBRANT COMMUNITY HUBS AND PRESERVED CHARACTER

West Yellowstone parks should serve as central gathering places that celebrate the town's unique history and natural beauty. By developing spaces like the Historic District Greenway, the town can create welcoming environments for both locals and tourists. Integrating public art, native landscaping, and historic elements will transform simple green spaces into true community centerpieces.

Phase 1 Implementation Matrix (1-3 Years)

Welcome to the West Yellowstone Parks & Recreation Master Plan Open House!

On the first board, you will see our high-priority recommendations for the first three years of the plan. We need your help to determine if these ideas are realistic and prioritized correctly.

Please use the provided sticker dots to share your feedback:



Green Dot: Love it as-is, This dot means you like the recommendation and agree with its current priority phase



Yellow Dot: (Change the Priority) You like the recommendation, but want it in a different phase. Write your preferred phase (1,2,3, or 4) directly on the dot






Red Dot: (Not a Fan) You do not like the recommendation for any phase.



























Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Feedback
1.1	Build the community Skatepark.		
1.2	Construct outdoor restrooms in high traffic parks.		
1.3	Begin construction on the Greenway Pilot Project.		
1.4	Install horseshoe facilities for low cost recreation.		
1.5	Add dog waste stations and bear proof trash bins at park entrances.		
1.6	Update standard operating procedures for marketing and communication.		
1.7	Publish a quarterly Parks and Recreation event booklet.		
1.8	Install a centralized Town Bulletin Board for park notices.		
1.9	Improve the maintenance protocol for the community ice rink.		
1.10	Add benches and shaded seating options throughout the park system.		
1.11	Design and implement the comprehensive Signage and Wayfinding Package.		
1.12	Introduce adult focused recreational programming.		
1.13	Improve the maintenance and safety of the local sled hill.		
1.14	Plant shade trees and native flowers to improve aesthetics.		
1.15	Install more drinking fountains in parks.		

Phase 2 Implementation Matrix (4-6 Years)

Moving on to the next board, you will find our recommendations for Phase 2 (4-6 Years).

These are our medium-priority goals for the Master Plan. Just like the first board, we want to know if these ideas hit the mark and if the timing makes sense for West Yellowstone.

 Green Dot: Love it as-is, This dot means you like the recommendation and agree with its current priority phase
 Yellow Dot: (Change the Priority) You like the recommendation, but want it in a different phase. Write your preferred phase (1,2,3, or 4) directly on the dot
 Red Dot: (Not a Fan) You do not like the recommendation for any phase.

Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Feedback
2.1	Upgrade the Ice Rink facility with boards and lights.	  	
2.2	Extend the Linear Park to connect with the Frontier Trail.		
2.3	Build small scale community amphitheater.		
2.4	Install a Par Course with outdoor exercise equipment.		
2.5	Install warming stations or fire pits for winter recreation.	 	
2.6	Construct dedicated trailhead parking lots with amenities.	 	
2.7	Integrate public art and murals into park facilities.		
2.8	Develop small neighborhood pocket parks.	 	
2.9	Incorporate cross country ski trails within city parks.	 	
2.10	Upgrade playground equipment to be larger and safer.	 	
2.11	Conduct a feasibility study to relocate the maintenance garages.	 	
2.12	Expand paved walking and biking trails to bridge gaps.	 	
2.13	Add pedestrian lighting to parks and trails for safety and extended use.	 	
2.14	Install new permanent picnic shelter at Electric Street Courts.	 	
2.15	Reassess mowing and weed control protocols across all parks.		

Phase 3 Implementation Matrix (7-10 Years)

Next up is the board for Phase 3.

These represent our longer-term goals for the Master Plan. We need your feedback to see if these future projects align with your vision for West Yellowstone.


























Green Dot: Love it as-is, This dot means you like the recommendation and agree with its current priority phase



Yellow Dot: (Change the Priority) You like the recommendation, but want it in a different phase. Write your preferred phase (1,2,3, or 4) directly on the dot



Red Dot: (Not a Fan) You do not like the recommendation for any phase.

Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Feedback
3.1	Develop a dedicated Off Leash Dog Park.	 	
3.2	Initiate design and funding for the Indoor Community Center.	  	
3.3	Complete the full build out of the Historic District Greenway.	 	
3.4	Construct a BMX Pump Track or Bike Park.		
3.5	Develop safe crossing infrastructure for Highway 20 and Highway 191.	 	
3.6	Relocate maintenance garages out of the historic district.		
3.7	Transform the former garage corner into a landscaped gathering spot.		
3.8	Construct a permanent park Gazebo.		
3.9	Establish a formal Disc Golf Course.		
3.10	Develop a dedicated archery range facility.		
3.11	Expand the ice rink into a partially enclosed or covered pavilion.	 	
3.12	Develop a Running or Walking Track.		
3.13	Connect the Frontier trail to the Rendezvous ski trails.	 	
3.14	Perform comprehensive upgrades to Electric Street Courts and Dunbar Park.	 	
3.15	Expand active sports fields.		

Phase 4 Implementation Matrix (10+ Years)

Next up is the board for Phase 3.

These represent our longer-term goals for the Master Plan. We need your feedback to see if these future projects align with your vision for West Yellowstone.



Green Dot: Love it as-is, This dot means you like the recommendation and agree with its current priority phase



Yellow Dot: (Change the Priority) You like the recommendation, but want it in a different phase. Write your preferred phase (1,2,3, or 4) directly on the dot



Red Dot: (Not a Fan) You do not like the recommendation for any phase.

Numbering	Action Item	Goal Alignment	Feedback
4.1	Construct and open the Indoor Community Center.		
4.2	Develop a central park within the new 80 Acres residential development.		
4.3	Connect the 80 Acres park trails to the broader West Yellowstone trail network.		
4.4	Partner with USFS for a major expansion of groomed winter trails originating in town.		
4.5	Establish a town operated outdoor gear library.		
4.6	Implement town wide smart park technology like Wi Fi and trail counters.		
4.7	Establish a dedicated municipal parks maintenance facility.		
4.8	Develop a regional sports tournament complex.		
4.9	Create a botanical garden or native plant preserve.		
4.10	Construct a grade separated pedestrian bridge network over major highways.		
4.11	Develop a dedicated environmental and outdoor education center.		
4.12	Execute a complete redesign and modernization of heritage park.		
4.13	Develop a large scale outdoor event venue or festival grounds.		
4.14	Secure a dedicated Parks Special District tax to ensure long term maintenance.		
4.15	Conduct a 10 year Master Plan update and community needs assessment.		

Additional Feedback

On May 15, 2026, at 7:42 AM, Scott Hazelton <shazelton@sunflowerpeakplanning.com> wrote:

Hi Jerry,

Your comment is received. Will you be attending tomorrows open house/clean up day?



Scott Hazelton, AICP, CFM, Civil Mediator

Principal Planner | Sunflower Peak Planning

[\(406\) 475-2969](tel:40614752969) | [Location](#) | [Website](#)

On Thu, May 14, 2026 at 8:18 PM Jerry Johnson <westmayor@aol.com> wrote:

Evening Scott,

Dan gave you the heads up that I would be emailing you about the relocation of the Two Top Trail. I will make this short and sweet. The Two Top Trail should be relocated to trail 478. This location will allow the trail to connect to the existing trail along Yellowstone Avenue. This is the common sense choice.

Thank you

Jerry Johnson

Backcountry Adventures Inc.

West Yellowstone trails Grooming Committee.

Sent from my iPad



**SUNFLOWER PEAK
PLANNING**

