

East Gallatin Recreation Area (EGRA)
Bozeman, Montana

CONCEPTUAL
Park Master Plan (CPMP)

Ver. 2.0

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Prepared for:
City of Bozeman

By: Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club, Community
Service Committee

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Executive Summary: Through steady, persistent, visionary community efforts, over the last 25 years, the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club (BSRC) has spearheaded, with help from many state, local, public and private volunteers and officials, conversion of a gravel pit, and adjacent donated lands, into the City of Bozeman's most visited, multi-use recreational park; East Gallatin Recreation Area (EGRA). In recent years, BSRC has gained an invaluable partner; the Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLТ). GVLТ helped integrate this park into an extensive, constantly growing, trails system and has contributed to this EGRA CPMP. BSRC is excited to gain the support and guidance of the Montana Outdoor Science School (MOSS) in development of the Kid's Learning Playground and meandering stream projects #3. and #4. below.

In 2007, the City of Bozeman published a Parks Recreation Open Space and Trails (PROST) plan. This EGRA CPMP incorporates guiding tenets of the City of Bozeman's PROST plan. The EGRA Conceptual Park Master Plan, with City of Bozeman guidance, will steer improvements and projects envisioned for the EGRA to facilitate increased access to recreational activities in and around the whole northwest part of Bozeman and as a complementary Park to the future Story Mill Park. In the long run, this Conceptual Park Master Plan will become a Park Master Plan.

The EGRA entry road runs through a privately owned 6.5 acre parcel. The owner intends to develop this property; building 18 to 20 residential and one or two commercial condominiums on 4 acres of the parcel. The developer is seeking annexation of this parcel into the City of Bozeman. This initiative presents benefits to all concerned parties. The City of Bozeman gets a new entrance and paved road plus two and a half additional acres, donated by the developer, which will be added to the Park. Design of projects #1 and #2 below will capitalize on this development to create a paved entry, additional paved parking, improved traffic flow and signage as well as an integrated, comprehensive, end-to-end storm water runoff system for the entire EGRA.

Paving the entry road and adding two more acres at the Park's entrance make several of the projects described below and in the EGRA CPMP easier and more affordable. This Executive Summary will describe four projects, envisioned for the EGRA, over the next ten years.

Project # 1 improves the rest of the road, trails, paths and parking in and through the EGRA. BSRC, with the help of the City of Bozeman, will plan, design, pave and line the rest of the road and parking as well as some paths in the Park. This project will facilitate an improved traffic flow pattern, improved storm water

runoff and add more, better placed parking as well as new and improved handicapped access to all of the Park's facilities

Project #2 is a second Park entrance. For security, capacity, safety, traffic loading and ease-of-access reasons, a second entrance makes a lot of sense. An extension of Project #1 will be designing, planning and building a second entrance around the south end of Glen Lake. BSRC will work with Northwestern Energy, the City of Bozeman, and Mergenthaler Transfer and Storage as beneficiaries and partners in the design and funding of this new entrance. Improving storm water runoff will be a significant design objective.

Project #3 is conversion of a channelized ditch, near the existing Park entrance, into a meandering stream accented with appropriate landscaping and integrated with existing Park landscaping and that of the adjacent developments. This stream will go through the 2.5 acres, donated by the developer. It will flow from Glen Lake to the East Gallatin River and will be designed to enhance Glen Lake's connection to the East Gallatin River as a spawning venue and as a community fishery.

Project #4 is a Kid's Learning interactive, playground, stream, and beach. This playground will incorporate a "Mountain and Mountain Stream" which flows from the "Mountain" top, over a series of falls, through a "Meadow" to the beach and into a fishery; Glen Lake.

The City of Bozeman is growing rapidly. BSRC, GVLT, MOSS, City of Bozeman planners, residential and commercial neighbors of the Park, and many other concerned community members realize the need to look far ahead in planning well integrated and creative out-of-doors recreational venues and facilities to serve this rapidly growing population. The EGRA CPMP, using the City of Bozeman's PROST Plan, is an attempt to leverage the type of growth and development in and around the Park to smartly steer evolution of the East Gallatin Recreation Area.

Introduction: The East Gallatin Recreation Area (EGRA) is a public use City Park in Bozeman, Montana; part of which is leased to the City of Bozeman by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MT FWP). A 30 year history of cooperative development involved MT FWP, the East Gallatin Recreation Area Task Force, the City of Bozeman, the Montana Legislature, the Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT) trails program and, to a significant extent, over the last two decades, the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club (BSRC).

The 83 acre EGRA Park is located on the north side of Bozeman, Montana, and is comprised of two City-annexed parcels of 30 acres and 53 acres:

- The 30 acre parcel, which is presently owned by the State of Montana, is leased to the City of Bozeman for a nominal fee. It encompasses Glen Lake plus existing park facilities, trails, roads, parking and a developed lawn with irrigation, and numerous trails. Bordering Manley Road, it includes Glen Lake and a variety of recreational facilities. It has graded gravel parking areas which are rough, dusty, and are now too small for the demands of the heavily used EGRA. All parties are interested in transferring this parcel from FWP to the City of Bozeman and BSRC has taken the initiative to seek support for the transfer in the Montana Legislature.
- The remaining 53 acre parcel is owned and operated by the City of Bozeman. This parcel is bordered on the East by the East Gallatin River. Part of it is a forested portion of the East Gallatin River floodplain with over one half mile of River. On the west side of the river, the land is primarily open-fields overlying a capped old City of Bozeman landfill (Closed in 1953). Several acres, at the southern end of these fields, are being used as part of the City's lower storage yards. On the east side of the river the land is primarily dense riparian vegetation. The northern portion of this parcel is a narrow, irregularly-shaped piece of land following the East Gallatin River. Lying primarily on the west side of the river, this section includes dense riparian vegetation and a field, bordered by residential properties to the west and by Bridger Creek Golf Course to the east and north. It currently has no public access and can be reached only by foot. It has no developed recreational facilities. This 53 acre parcel includes an extensive trail network and, at the north end of North Rouse Avenue, a small trailhead parking area. The City of Bozeman manages and maintains the Park and facilities. See **Figure 1**.



Figure 1. EGRA border (in red), Surrounding Properties and Access:

Manley Road runs along the western border of EGRA. The City of Bozeman is planning significant improvements to Manley Road including widening, turn lanes, bike lanes and a stop light at Griffin Road. Also on the western border is MAP Brewing Co. and their paved parking lots. To the west of Manly Road are a growing number of commercial businesses. To the immediate north is Sunfish Park (aka Turtle Way) Subdivision, a City of Bozeman residential cul-de-sac, with 5 homes.

The Park is accessed at the northwest corner from Manley Road via an 820 foot gravel entry road which enjoys a public right-of-way easement through an undeveloped private 6.5 acre parcel. The Park entrance road intersects Manley Road just north of the Sunfish Park Subdivision.

Immediately adjacent to the east side of Manley Road is an irrigation ditch that defines the eastern border between the Sunfish Park Subdivision and the privately owned 6.5 acre parcel. This ditch drains water from Glen Lake and flows into the East Gallatin River. The Park entrance road goes over this ditch.

Also on the northern Park border are large, county-zoned residential lots and the East Gallatin River. To the northeast and east are Bridger Creek Golf Course and City of Bozeman residential developments. The remainder of the park perimeter, to the southeast, south, and west, is comprised of commercial and industrial parcels including equipment and material yards, commercial offices, and MAP Brewing Co. (on the south and western shore of Glen Lake). An aerial photo showing present facilities (minus MAP Brewing Co.), is provided in **Figure 1** above.

Along the eastern border of the park is the old City of Bozeman landfill (Closed in 1953) which has a soil cap. Before the cap, the land was home to a thick covering of knapweed and tansy. To the southeast is a City of Bozeman

maintenance yard and to the south are Mergenthaler Transfer & Storage and Northwestern Energy; both are commercial enterprises with large, heavy-equipment yards.

History:

East Gallatin Recreation Area (EGRA) is located north of Griffin Drive and east of Manley Road. The late Glen Hash, a long-time Gallatin County resident, and founder of Bozeman Sand and Gravel, sold and donated parts of the 30 acre Glen Lake parcel to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MT FWP) with the intent of developing the gravel pit, into a city park. The Bozeman Sand and Gravel Pit is now Glen Lake and is fed from the south by natural springs. Glen Lake feeds a small spillway ditch that delineates the border between the Park and the Sunfish Subdivision and flows north to the East Gallatin River.

EGRA was initially adopted by a small group of volunteers which formed the East Gallatin Recreation Task Force and was given a *Take Pride in America* award by President Reagan. This group facilitated a landfill cap on the old Bozeman landfill. It was made possible by several generous contributions like donated topsoil from Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Fill and topsoil were hauled by Montana Ready Mix. Tom Pick obtained a grant from the Soil Conservation Service and the Task Force garnered help from local legislators, of that era, to make the landfill cap possible.

Several Task Force members were also members of the Bozeman Noon Rotary Club and became charter members of the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club which subsequently adopted, as its primary Community Service project, development of the East Gallatin Recreation Area (EGRA). BSRC has since developed a partnership with Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT). GVLT's focus has been on developing and maintaining an extensive and well-connected trails system, several of which traverse the old landfill cap.

Building on the EGRA Task Force's achievements, the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club (BSRC), with the City of Bozeman and many partners and contributors, made numerous improvements to the park over the last two and a half decades, including; 3 small picnic shelters; a pavilion, a 400 foot long beach with retaining wall; as well as a 1,482 square foot restroom and concession building with city water and sewer, flush toilets, water fountains, an outside shower, and changing and storage rooms. The building is designed to accommodate a concession stand and kitchen. Other additions include a 5,000 square foot patio, picnic tables, shades and several docks around Glen Lake. It is a goal to add more docks and a natural play area; while making all facilities ADA compliant. GVLT, Northwestern Energy and BSRC facilitated planning and placement of a climbing rock and a local Boy Scout Troop designed raptor nesting platform. There have been considerable landscaping and irrigation improvements to the original watering system.

Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT) has worked, in partnership with the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club (BSRC) and the City of Bozeman Parks Department,

to develop an extensive trail system throughout the park, with connecting trails outside the park boundaries. GVLT also developed the North Rouse trailhead parking area, and installed a large steel-span bridge over the East Gallatin River, as well as a number of trail information kiosks and benches along the trails. BSRC the City of Bozeman and GVLT share goals of making the EGRA and environs more bicycle accessible.

Goals: The evolution of the East Gallatin Recreation Area, from an old city dump and private gravel pit, has been a truly remarkable story of perseverance, compromise, creativity and community involvement. It is a great Park today.

However, rapid growth and infill necessitate a plan for improvement, addition, and acquisition of property and access rights to ensure the Park keeps pace with and enhances commercial and residential growth along Manley, N. Rouse, and Griffin.

Access to the Park will be greatly improved by adding a new Southern entrance and paving it all the way through to the north entrance. This will allow larger and better placed parking and improved traffic flow. Additionally, an integrated and comprehensive storm water runoff plan will be incorporated in the design, engineering and construction of the entrances, parking and road.

The EGRA's primary feature is Glen Lake and the popularly labeled "Bozeman Beach". These features are amenable to adults, teens and adolescents. However, few of the Park's features are designed for toddlers and younger children. The Park is in need of a playground.

The concepts, projects, and proposed acquisitions, described in this conceptual plan, reflect guiding tenets of the Bozeman Parks Recreation Open Space and Trails (PROST) Plan dated 2007:

Engaging Citizens in Their Community

- Create a sense of community.
- Provide places for people to connect and interact in a shared environment.
- Channel positive community participation by getting diverse people to work together toward a shared vision.

Improving Public Health

- Provide people with contact with nature, known to confer certain health benefits and enhance well-being.
- Engage children in health-promoting physical activity.
- Increase fitness and reduce obesity by providing physical activity opportunities.
- Mitigate climate, air, and water pollution impacts on public health.

Helping Children Learn

- Offer children the daily benefits of direct experience with nature—including access: to the use and dynamics of water, native

plants, soil and sand, rock and wood providing the motivation to explore, discover, and learn about their world.

- Offer children a sense of place, self-identity, and belonging as an antidote to social alienation, vandalism, and violence.
- Engage children in informal, experiential learning through passive and directed play and shared experiences with peers, laying the foundation for effective formal education.

Creating Safer Neighborhoods

- Provide access to nature adjacent to residential area to relieve stress, reducing aggression.
- Offer gathering places where neighbors form social ties that produce stronger, safer neighborhoods.

Revitalizing Community

- Revive distressed areas by creating central walking, resting, and meeting places.
- Attract investment through revitalization, including park and recreation improvements.

Developing the Economy

- Increase property value.
- Increase municipal revenue.
- Attract and retain affluent retirees.
- Attract knowledge workers and talent.
- Encourage homeownership.

Creating a Green Infrastructure

- Preserve essential ecological functions and protect biodiversity
- Shape urban form and buffer incompatible uses with a system of green infrastructure.
- Reduce public costs for built infrastructure for stormwater management, flood control, and transportation.

Providing for Arts and Cultural Programs

- Provide venues for artistic events and activities.
- Provide settings for in-depth and long-term partnerships between communities and artists.
- Develop or revitalize parks through arts and cultural activities.
- Develop new audiences for arts and cultural programs and arts organizations.

Promoting Tourism

- Provide sites for special events and festivals that attract tourists.
- Provide sites for sports tournaments, which can be major sources of tourism and economic benefits, especially for smaller cities.

Implementing Smart Growth

- Enhance mixed development and redevelopment strategies by offsetting higher density developments with accessibility to green space.

- Strengthen the urban core and protect the fringe from overdevelopment by creating green space.

CPMP Purpose:

The East Gallatin Recreation Area (EGRA) has become one of the most used parks in and around the City of Bozeman. To accommodate the growth and meet City of Bozeman infill goals, Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club (BSRC) and Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT) wish to propose a multi-year plan to leverage this growth in order to expand, improve, protect, and enhance EGRA as well as increase access for all to surrounding recreational venues and trails. The projects proposed in this plan will benefit adjacent commercial and residential properties and users.

The current Park entrance is a dirt and gravel right-of-way access through a privately owned 6.5 acre parcel. The owner purchased this property intending to develop it as a mixed residential and commercial project. The developer, Mr. Andy Ebbighausen, would like to build residential condominiums and one or two commercial lots on a portion of his 6.5 acres and has pledged to donate approximately 2.5 acres to the Park plus the necessary public right-of-way, paving, and landscaping to replace the present gravel entry road with an appropriately designed and engineered paved Park/Development entry way. The proposed development will be cited with consideration of the Bridger Mountains view from

the park and the Sunfish development.

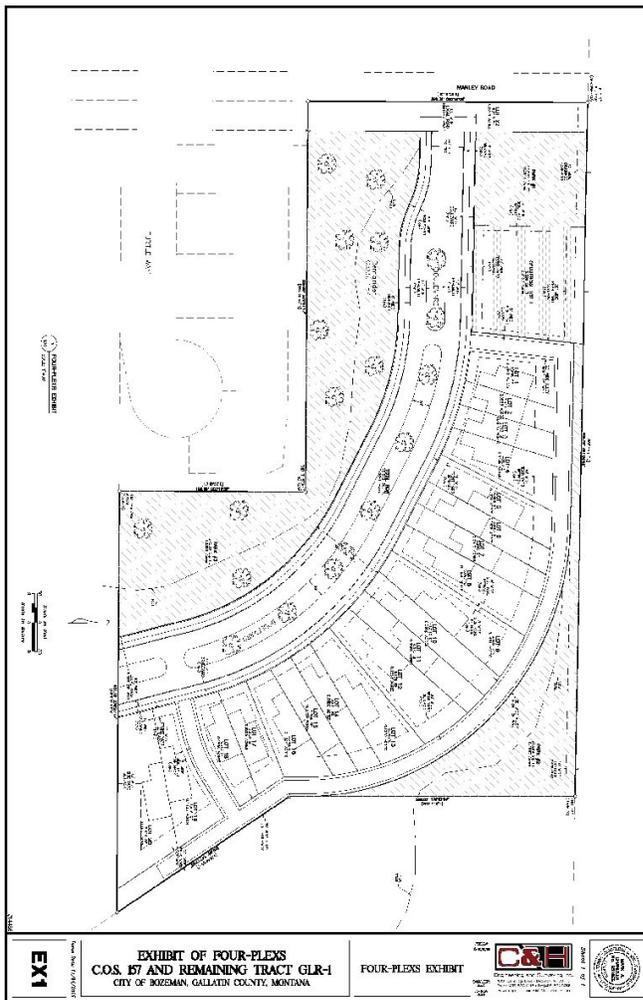


Figure 2. Proposed Commercial/Residential Development and new EGRA Park Entrance and Stream

The developer would like for this project to be incorporated into the City of Bozeman and has proposed naming it Bridger Vale Townhome Development. **Figure 3.** below depicts an Artist Rendering of the Bridger Vale Townhome Development.



Figure 3. - Proposed Bridger Vale Townhome Development

Building on the proposed Bridger Vale Townhome Development, BSRC and GVLTA are proposing four major projects. The locations and a generalized concept sketch of these projects are indicated on **Figure 4.** below. In no particular order, the projects are:

Project #1. Pave and line EGRA Park Road. Add/Improve Handicap Access Paths and Parking Spots. Design, pave and line EGRA roads, handicap paths and parking spots to improve flow, add parking, enhance utility and comfort, increase safety, and connect aesthetically with the paved north entrance road. Incorporate trail and bicycle facilities, as appropriate. Incorporate improved road, parking, speed limit and Park signage. With trails and paths, improve handicap access to all Park facilities. Design a comprehensive storm water runoff system for the Park.

Project # 2. Second EGRA Entrance. Design and build a new road and end-to-end Park storm-water system, around the south end and east side of Glen Lake that connects to Manley Road. This new road would be a second entrance/exit to EGRA thereby improving circulation and emergency access, while incorporating trails, bicycle facilities, handicap access paths and parking.

Project # 3. Kid's Learning Playground and Beach. In cooperation with MOSS (Montana Outdoor Science School) as well as with City of Bozeman maintenance

staff, design and build, an interactive, learning playground and beach that will be suitable for toddlers, adolescents and teens and accessible by those with physical limitations. The playground stream and beach will have several different hands (and feet)-on natural elements. These elements will consist of challenging, interactive structures which will incorporate physics and science principles into learning devices and landscaping.

There will be contoured landscaping, hills, rocks, waterfalls and a stream; all designed to facilitate participative learning. The playground elements and landscaping will be designed to mitigate maintenance, incorporate local natural environmental elements and provide an aesthetic transition from natural to manicured park aspects.

The focus is on kids, of all abilities, learning while playing on natural elements, learning about streams, water and fisheries, out-of-doors, in environments such as a mountain stream, a grove of trees, rocks and logs, and meadow grasses and wild flowers. All elements of this learning playground shall be adapted to both comply with a city accepted playground inspection criteria/policy while preserving the learning experience.



The Learning Playground
at EAST GALLATIN RECREATION AREA



Figure 4. Kid's Learning Playground artist rendering.

Project # 4. Convert Channelized Ditch to a Stream. Renovate the Glen Lake drainage ditch to make it a meandering stream with riparian accents and habitat. As much as possible convert the ditch to a spawning stream connected to the East Gallatin River. Landscape the donated 2.5 acre addition to the Park entrance with trees, lawn, riparian accents and trails. **Figure 5.** On page 17 below shows all four projects.

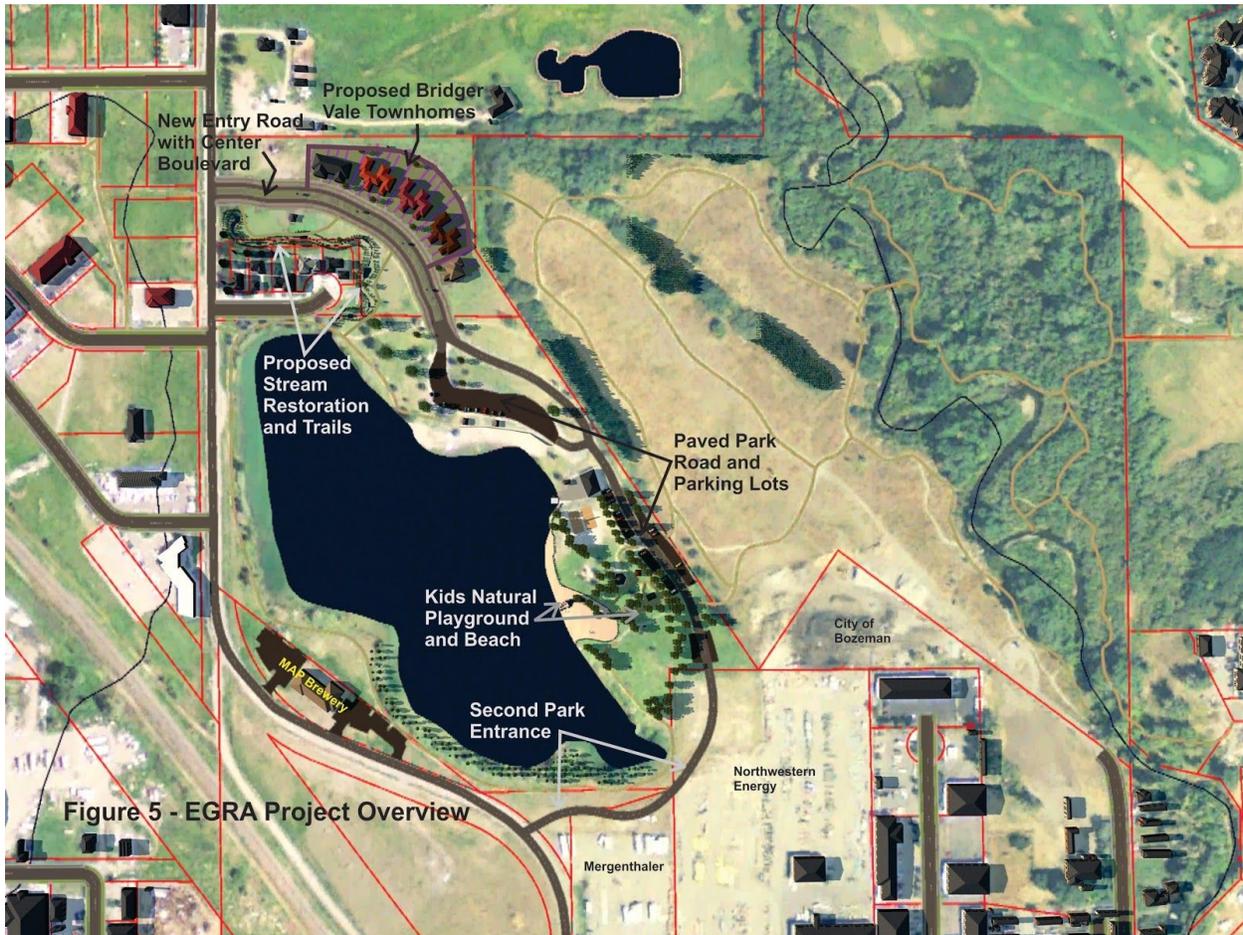


Figure 5. EGRA with proposed projects

The purpose of this Conceptual Park Master Plan (CPMP) is to seek consensus, approval and support for the four projects above, from the City of Bozeman, as well as surrounding residents and business owners. Other proposed near and longer term improvements and additions are described in the following pages of the CPMP.

Present Conditions and Needs: The park offers a wide variety of recreational and leisure options. Park users have unique access to a large body of water, Glen Lake, to fishing and a large family-friendly beach, volleyball courts, and a climbing rock. It is surrounded by varied properties and land uses which facilitate a range of opportunities and constraints for future park activities, improvements and expansion.

Visitors to the park enjoy vistas of the Bridger Mountain Range to the north and east, as well as distant views of the Gallatin, Madison, and Tobacco Root Ranges to the south and west. The EGRA Park has a number of features attractive to families, adults and teens, but lacks safe and accessible features suitable for toddlers and adolescents. It is also in need of paving, paths and designs which make the Park's attractions accessible by individuals of all abilities.

Surrounding Land Uses:

- **Northeast** - The Park is bordered to the northeast by Bridger Creek Golf Course. The golf course and adjacent riparian woodlands contribute to the quiet and scenic nature of the trails in this area of the Park. In winter an extensive network of Nordic Ski trails are groomed throughout the golf course, attracting a large number of skiers; a percentage of whom ski onto the trail system within the Park.
- **East** - A trail spur runs directly east towards Boylan Drive in the Bridger Creek subdivision. The spur continues along the subdivision's southern edge to connect with Bozeman's Main Street to the Mountains trail system at Story Mill. South of this trail spur, and immediately east of the Park, is a privately-owned, undeveloped 12-acre parcel that includes dense riparian vegetation, wetlands, a pond and an open field. The current owner has expressed a desire to develop the property, but has been unsuccessful due to limited access and other developmental obstacles. If this property could be added to the Park, acquisition would conserve this property's high quality wildlife habitat and could provide for expansion of the trail system.
- **Southeast** - Commercial and industrial uses in the Bridger Center Subdivision border the Park to the southeast. A trail spur connects the Park's trail system to Commercial Drive. The East Gallatin River exits the Park at its northeast corner. Future development and redevelopment in the Bridger Center Subdivision could present an opportunity to extend the existing Commercial Drive trail spur along the river to connect with future bicycle-pedestrian facilities on Bridger Drive.
- **South** - Industrial uses and a City gravel storage yard exist on the southeast edge of the Park area, creating an unaesthetic and noisy setting for activities in this area of the Park. Screening vegetation and/or berms could improve public enjoyment of this area of the Park. Next to the river and east of these industrial uses, a small trailhead parking area, at the north end of N. Rouse Avenue, provides public access to the Park's trail system. These industrial properties, as well as a small trail park to the east, are accessed from Griffin Drive. Griffin Drive experiences a substantial volume of residential and commercial traffic but has no bicycle or pedestrian

facilities or lanes. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are absent from N. Rouse as well, presenting a significant barrier to non-motorized access to the Park.

- **Southwest & West** - The Park is bordered to the southwest and west by Manley Road, developing commercial properties, and an eclectic mix of commercial businesses in the Gallatin Park Subdivision. MAP Brewing Co. sits along Glen Lake's western bank, between Manley Road and the EGRA. A trail through the Gallatin Park Subdivision connects the Park's trail system with the Cherry River Fishing Access, which is owned by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The Park's only vehicular entrance is a dirt road off of Manley Road. It is directly across from the Gallatin Park Subdivision. This entrance presents a safety challenge as the sole ingress/egress route for emergency response vehicles. No bicycle or pedestrian facilities currently exist on Manley Rd, though they are planned.
- **Northwest** - Immediately north of Glen Lake is the Sunfish Park Subdivision, a small, five-lot residential subdivision within the City of Bozeman. North of these residential lots, the Park entrance road bisects a 6.5 acre parcel of privately owned property. Bridger Vale Townhome Development is proposed for this area. North of this property, on the east side of Manley Road, are three Gallatin County residential properties.

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- **Parking Area** - Accessible off Manley Road, the gravel parking areas, while initially pleasing and useful, are now insufficient, poorly designed and badly placed for the current and growing volume of EGRA users and Park additions. Because the driveway and parking areas are gravel, dust is always a concern during the hot summer months, and poor site drainage leaves pools of water in the middle of the parking lots and roads. Existing roads and parking are not designed for traffic flow or storm water runoff. An integrated end-to-end plan for waste water runoff is part of the engineering of the roads, parking, paths, trails and other Park features. Additionally, an end-to-end effort will be undertaken to improve handicap parking and access to all EGRA Park features and venues. A redesign of the road and parking will incorporate bicycle facilities and signage.
- **Restrooms and Concession Building** - In 2010, BSRC finished a 1,428 Square Foot permanent building which replaced two pit toilets with large, heated, men's and women's restrooms. This building also has changing rooms, storage rooms and a room suited as a kitchen or snack bar. Installation required connection to City of Bozeman sewer and water. Subsequently, BSRC added a 5,000 square foot paver patio that slopes down to the beach. In 2014 BSRC added a dock and concrete picnic tables as a part of the patio. In 2015

BSRC added poles for sun shade sails. It would be advantageous to have a direct, gravity-flow connection to the City of Bozeman sewer system in lieu of the current grinder and lift station system. Infrastructure improvements for the Bridger Vale Townhome Development may afford an opportunity to connect this building directly to the City of Bozeman sewer system, through the development. The City Park Maintenance staff has asked BSRC to address deficiencies in the sewer pumping, plumbing, and fixtures as well as surface runoff/erosion issues between the building and Glen Lake. BSRC will prepare a proposal to upgrade those facilities and a timeline to accomplish these upgrades.

- **Picnic Shelters** - There are three small picnic shelters constructed by BSRC.
- **Pavilion** - There is one large pavilion, constructed by the EGRA Task Force, between the south end of the parking lot and the lake. In 2016 BSRC re-roofed and stained this pavilion. There is an expressed need for additional pavilions in EGRA.
- **Volleyball Courts** - Two volleyball courts are located adjacent to the pavilion. Excavation of **Project #3 Kid's Learning Playground and Beach** may produce excess fill which will be used for berms around the volleyball courts which would serve as seating for spectators and to keep errant volleyballs near the courts. Two additional volleyball courts are planned for EGRA as a part of **Project #2**.
- **Horseshoe Pits** - Horseshoe pits are located south of the pavilion.
- **Beach** - The Park has approximately 400 linear feet of artificial sand beach. A retaining wall separates the grassy areas from the beach. This beach will be expanded by 300 linear feet with addition of **Project #3 Kid's Learning Playground**. The existing park beach will enjoy an widened greenspace buffer between the beach and the new road/parking project planned as **Project #1**.
- **Trails System:** - The Park includes a network of approximately 3 miles of trails; most of which were built in the late 1990s. Most trails are six-foot wide and surfaced with natural fines. Flooding in 2008 required extensive trail repair in the East Gallatin River flood plain, however, most years' spring flooding only requires relatively minor trail maintenance. City Parks and GVLT staff and volunteers cut brush once or twice a season to prevent the trails from becoming overgrown. The trails connect to the Cherry River Fishing Access to the west and to Bozeman's "Main Street to the Mountains" trail system to the east. **Figure 6** below shows potential future trail corridors recommended in the City's Parks Recreation Open Space and Trails (PROST) Plan.

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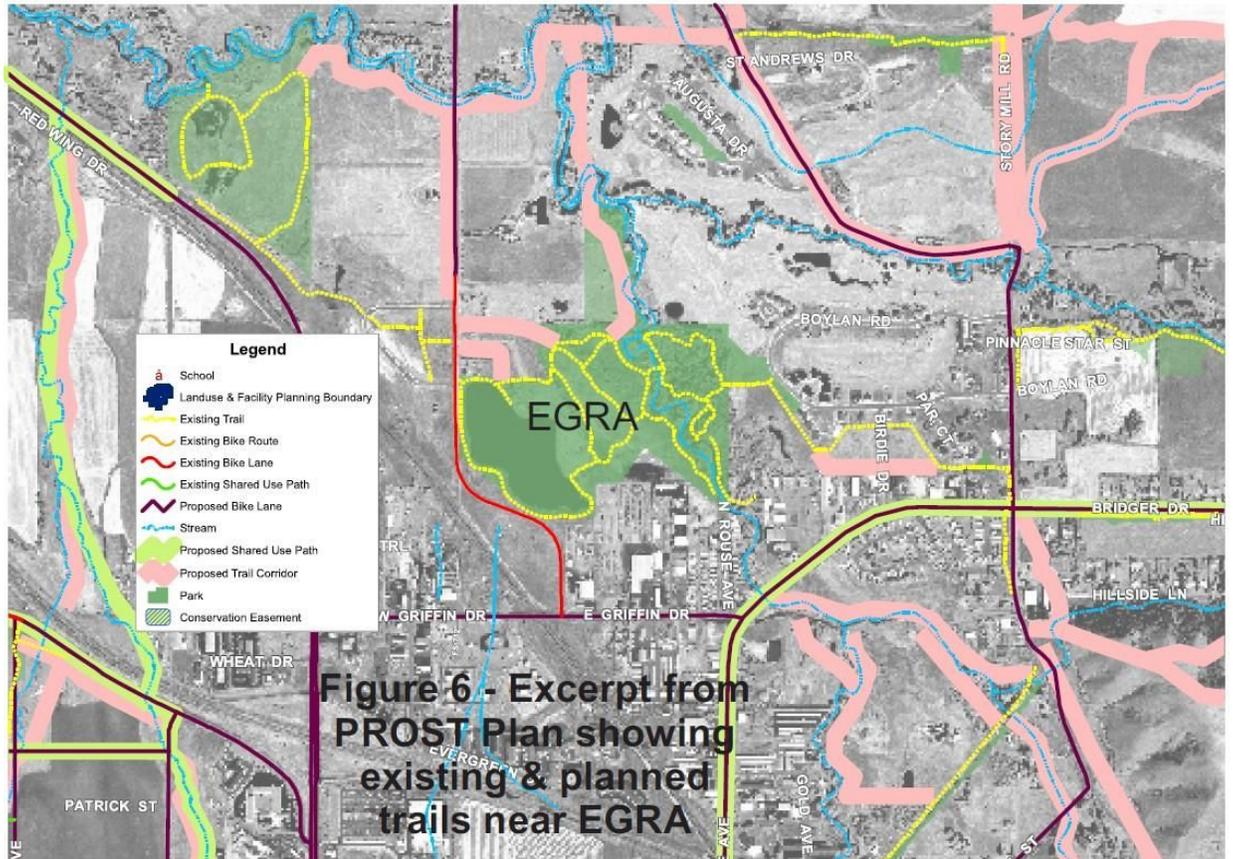


Figure 6. Proposed Trails near EGRA

- **Trailheads** - The Park's trails network can be accessed from the north and south ends of the main EGRA parking lot; the west side of the Manley/Gallatin Park intersection; the west end of the Boylan loop; the west end of Commercial Drive; and the north end of N Rouse Avenue. All trailheads are marked with directional signage maintained by GVLТ. Constructed in 2005, the N. Rouse trailhead includes a small parking lot with capacity for approximately eight vehicles. This trailhead also provides access for launching small boats on the East Gallatin River.
- **Bridges** - The Park's trails network includes two bridges. A 70-foot steel bridge, installed in 2001, spans the East Gallatin River in the center of the trail network. A 60-foot long, 6-foot wide wooden bridge spans a wetland slough on the northeastern section of the trails network. Constructed in the late 1990s, this bridge is showing signs of distress and will need to be replaced within the next several years.
- **Benches** - There are seven benches located along the trails system. All were funded through memorial donations and have memorial plaques on them.

They are standard park system benches with metal frames and wooden seats that require oiling every several years. There are good locations for several more benches to be added to the trails network and throughout the Park.

- **Trail Information Kiosks** - There are currently three trail information kiosks on the trails network. Two kiosks are located at the trailheads off the main parking lot and a third kiosk is located at the Boylan trailhead. The kiosk displays include detailed maps and trail etiquette and safety information. The kiosks and kiosk displays are created and maintained by GVL. Additional trail information kiosks are needed at the N. Rouse trailhead and at the East Gallatin Bridge.
- **Totems & Posts** - The trails network has eight, 10"x10" "Main Street to the Mountains" trail totems with signage providing directional information. Additionally, there are eight, 4"x4" posts with additional signage prohibiting motorized use.

Park Usage: Park visitors are as varied as Gallatin Valley's residents. According to City Recreation Department statistics, the East Gallatin Recreation Area received approximately 16,000 user visits during a two month period in the summer of 2005. The Park is increasingly used for Community sponsored events and general recreation during the winter months.

A summer afternoon or evening often plays host to volleyball games, barbecues, school or company picnics, fishing, rock climbing, sunbathing, swimming, boating, or strolls around the lake. The trail system sees a steady stream of users, including hikers, runners, bikers, and families with children, fishermen accessing the East Gallatin River and birders. This section of the East Gallatin River sees minimal boating, due to its many sharp bends, frequent snags and powerful, potentially dangerous current. Because this is one of the more extensive wooded areas around Bozeman homeless encampments are illicitly constructed with some frequency.

As the seasons change, so do recreational activities. East Gallatin Recreation Area is a wintertime favorite for ice-skating, and die-hard fishermen and women. Although the City presently doesn't control ice access or monitor ice thickness or safety, Glen Lake is well-used in the winter by skaters and ice fishers. Access, use, and recreational venues for bicycles are all in need of an improvement plan and goals.

Recommended Improvements: In order to bring East Gallatin Recreation Area (EGRA) closer to its full potential as a significant recreational focal point of the community, while ensuring the Park maintains its identity as a

community-supported, family-oriented recreational area, while complying with the PROST Goals, the following improvements, listed in no particular order, have been identified:

- **Signage Plan**
 - Entrance signs
 - Parking signs
 - Speed limit signs
 - Handicap Parking signs
 - Trail signs
 - Facility signs
 - Rules and etiquette signs
 - Maintenance contact signs
 - Security warning signs
 - No trespassing signs

- **Improve Security**
 - Install security cameras
 - Connect security cameras to police monitoring location
 - Improve locks
 - Add security warning signs and police/fire contact information
 - Add and repair fencing between Park and private or commercial property
 - BSRC will consult with Fire and Police representatives to enhance EGRA security.

- **Paved Roads, Parking Paths and New entrance/exit**
 - Widen and pave entrance road (Developer)
 - Develop road flow plan
 - Pave renovated roads and expanded parking areas
 - Develop new park entrance/exit on south end of Glen Lake
 - Include complementary landscaping and irrigation
 - Develop an end-to-end handicap access plan for roads, parking, paths, and trails in and around the EGRA

- **Kid's Learning Playground, Stream and Beach**
 - Design natural, interactive, educational playground and beach
 - Excavate area south of the existing beach to safely accommodate toddlers and teens alike of all abilities
 - Create elevation changes and rocks to stimulate active learning
 - Define wading area with rocks
 - Create play structures and facilities that are both educational and compliant with the city playground inspection criteria and standards. Create a re-circulating stream/water feature to

engage kids in learning how water flows, how it changes the shape of the land, rock and sand.

- **Landscaping**
 - Convert the Glen Lake drainage ditch to a meandering spawning stream with riparian habitat that will serve as an aesthetic buffer between the Park and the Sunfish development.
 - Integrate additional landscaping throughout the Park
 - Berms around the volleyball courts
 - Berms at the far end of EGRA to mask adjacent commercial facilities and mitigate noise
- **Second Park Entrance**
 - Extend the Park road around the south end of Glen lake and connect it to Manley Road
 - This would greatly improve safety response in the Park
 - It would improve runoff on that end of the Park and would reduce congestion and spread traffic out
- **Pavilion & Benches**
 - Provide additional or expanded picnic/multi-use pavilions as needed in the park.
 - Expand the number of Park benches
- **Volleyball Courts**
 - Add two Sand Volleyball courts where they will be compatible with the proposed park roads, trails, and parking.
- **Solid Waste**
 - Increase the number of trash cans
 - Locate them for ease of use and disposal
 - Replace existing trash cans with a new and improved system
 - Put pet rules and etiquette signs up at the Park north entrance and near the new southern entrance.
 - Place pet-waste trash cans as needed
- **Change Dog policy**
 - A change in policy will be needed when the entrance is developed with single family condominiums
 - Dogs on trails is a Bozeman cultural expectation
 - Allow dogs on-leash on trails
 - Allow dogs on-leash in the parking lot and on the roads
 - Restrict dogs from the beach, the kid's playground and all EGRA park areas other than trails, roads and parking lots.
- **Improve ADA Access**
 - Docks, trails, paths, pavilions and the beach can be made more accessible from an ADA perspective

- Handicapped parking will be incorporated in the parking renovation plans, projects #2 and #3.
- **Maintenance:** It is one thing to plan, fund, and build public use facilities like those at the EGRA and described in this plan. It is another thing to maintain these facilities year after year. There has been wear and tear as well as vandalism at the EGRA. BSRC & GVLT wish to work with the City of Bozeman to keep maintenance and security at an affordable level. We understand the City of Bozeman is advocating for a Maintenance District. We believe this would serve the EGRA well.
 - BSRC has undertaken an initiative to have an EGRA cleanup and maintenance day each Spring.
 - BSRC will also address upgrades and improvements to the existing restrooms and concession building that will try to remedy the list of current problems provided by the city park maintenance staff.
 - GVLT sponsors many trails maintenance events throughout the year
 - The City of Bozeman can call on BSRC or GVLT for help in EGRA maintenance.

Trail System and Bicycle-Pedestrian Accessibility:

- **New Trails (north)**
Acquire trail easements as shown in the PROST Plan, to extend the trail system to the north along the East Gallatin River with a goal of creating connections to both Manley and McIlhattan roads.
- **New Trail (southeast)**
Acquire trail easements as shown in the PROST Plan, to extend the trail system to the southeast along the east side of the East Gallatin River, to connect to the planned sidewalks on Bridger Dr.
- **Sidewalks & Shared-Use Paths**
As opportunities arise, sidewalks or 10-foot, paved, shared-use paths should be installed on Manley, Griffin, Rouse, Bridger, and Story Mill to facilitate safe pedestrian access to the Park and trail system for the growing residential population in this area as well as connectivity to the Story Mill Park.
- **Bike Lanes**
As opportunities arise, bike lanes should be installed on Manley, Griffin, Rouse, Bridger, and Story Mill to facilitate safe bicycle access to the Park and trail system for the growing residential population in this area.

- **Grooming for Nordic Skiing**

Work with the Bridger Ski Foundation to explore the potential to extend groomed cross country ski trails from Bridger Creek Golf Course into the Park.

Land Management:

- **Reclamation**

There is an area of the old city landfill in need of maintenance and noxious weed control. This area could be significantly improved through reclamation with topsoil and seeding, and cleanup of trash embedded in the stream bank.

- **Noxious Weeds**

Infestations of several species of noxious weeds including spotted knapweed, hounds-tongue, tansy, and Canada thistle are present in a number of areas around the park. Weed infestations should be mapped and a weed-management strategy developed and implemented.

- **Wildlife Habitat**

Wildlife habitat could be significantly improved on the west side of the East Gallatin River through plantings of shrubs, trees and grasses to provide food and cover for a variety of species. Throughout the Park, large dead trees should be left standing to provide bird habitat unless they pose a danger to Park users. A comprehensive yearly plan to determine which dead trees should be removed and which should be retained is needed.

Potential Acquisitions & Expansion:

This adjacent property should be acquired if possible to expand the Park:

- **Moche Property** - Acquiring this property would conserve its high quality wildlife habitat and could provide for expansion of the trail system.
- **Portion of Ebbighausen Property** - Approximately 2.5 acres of this property has been conditionally offered to the Park for a natural stream area with riparian habitat, a restored spring creek, and trails.
- **Hillman Property** - Acquisition of a small portion of the Hillman property would make it possible to extend a trail spur along the East Gallatin River on the currently inaccessible northern parcel of Park property.

- **GL 3** - Glen Lake 3 is a thin six acre parcel of land that extends north on both sides of the East Gallatin River. The objective is to return ownership to the City of Bozeman, add it to the EGRA and enhance hiking, fishing and birding uses of this small parcel

Conclusion: The proposed changes to the Park will meet the priorities listed above, and allow the Park to function as a better planned and more beautiful, more accessible community space. The goal is to continue to emphasize and enhance EGRA's primary features, Glen Lake, its beaches, and the meandering stream envisioned from Glen Lake to the East Gallatin River. These park features, including the proposed kid's learning playground, will be designed to compliment, not duplicate, other City of Bozeman Parks. Landscaping will be planned for and included as each of the above projects and acquisitions come to fruition.

Paving the roads and creating a new south entrance will greatly enhance the ease of use, safety, and ease of access for all Park users, regardless of abilities. It will allow additional parking and will balance the traffic flow to and through the Park. These paving projects will also allow a much needed integrated comprehensive storm water runoff plan and design.

The East Gallatin Recreation Area is maintained by the City of Bozeman Parks Department. Development of planned Park features is by cooperative effort between the City of Bozeman, citizens of Gallatin County, Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club and GVLТ. The Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club and GVLТ have successfully completed several major projects using limited club funds, matching grants, and volunteer labor as well as in-kind donations by club members, community philanthropists and other local businesses.

BSRC has created and cultivated several fund raising projects, donors and grants and expects to continue support for EGRA with GVLТ and the City of Bozeman for the foreseeable future. These funds, together with other private and public in-kind or cash donations, matching grants, etc. are the presently conceived funding mechanisms for the proposed improvements.