

Silver Gate Park



Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020



A collaboration between Park County and the communities of Colter Pass, Cooke City and Silver Gate.
Accepted by the Park County Commission on 1/25/2016.

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Executive Summary

Whether on a national level, where large tracts of land are set aside to preserve special places, or at a local level, where smaller landscapes serve as recreation outlets for specific neighborhoods, parks and open spaces are vitally important to communities. They often serve as place for families and friends to meet and enjoy unique places and each other's company while also providing multiple health, economic, environmental and social benefits.

Access to local parks and open areas has been linked to increased visitation and use. As worsening statistics related to inactivity and obesity continue to be of concern, parks offer places to alleviate these issues for all walks of life. Significant evidence shows that park availability increases exercise of those living close to the area and reduces many ailments such as heart disease, diabetes and depression. Visiting a park also improves moods, cultivating a healthy mind as well as body. As research continues, the health benefits of nature and park areas are further highlighted, and the need for such areas is emphasized.

In 2014, the communities of Silver Gate and Cooke City launched their first Silver Gate Park (SGP or the Park) strategic planning activities. The objective of formalizing a Strategic Plan for SGP is to create thoughtful interrelationships, prioritize community goals and opportunities, as well as to maximize resources. The development of the Plan also establishes a course of action to create a sustainable SGP with services that promote recreation, health and environmental conservation as integral elements of the communities.

This planning document describes the area, history and demographics, discusses the planning process and current SGP amenities, summarizes recommended needs for the Park and proposes funding and maintenance strategies. It is the intent of the SGP Committee, Park County and other concerned citizens to review this plan annually (or as needed) and provide a full update and revision of the Plan every five years.

Planning Process

As is a critical component for all Park County planning documents, throughout the process, the development of the Plan was guided by community input. The initial step in the strategic planning process was to involve as many Silver Gate and Cooke City community members as possible and research other Montana planning documents related to rural parks. By providing multiple opportunities and ways for community members to engage, the planning process has achieved a balance of strong quantitative data and robust qualitative detail. The Plan was also formed through the dedicated work of the SGP Committee to oversee the planning activities at key points during the process. This committee was able to offer additional perspectives to ensure that the Plan was aligned with community and jurisdictional realities.

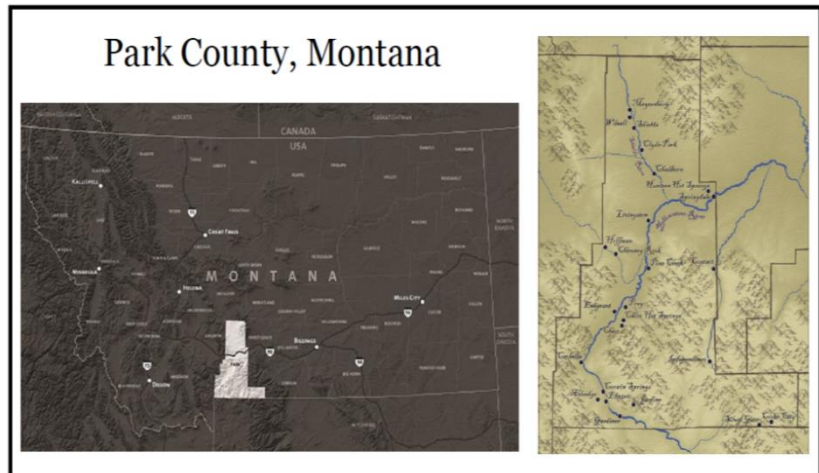


On November 6, 2015 the first of three strategic planning sessions was held and the outline for the plan was discussed and revised; on November 23, 2015, a meeting was arranged with National Park Service Deputy Superintendent, Steve Iobst, to discuss cooperation with the National Park Service related to acquisition of bear-proof receptacles and vault toilets and future maintenance of those amenities; and, on December 14, 2015, the draft plan was discussed and edited. The revised document was then sent electronically to planning committee members for final edits and comments. Once those edits were received and incorporated, the draft plan was finalized and presented to the Park County Commission on January 26, 2016.

County Demographics and Background

Park County is located in south central Montana and is surrounded by the Absaroka/Beartooth Range, the Crazy Mountains and the Gallatin Range. Comprised of 2,814 square miles of dramatic mountains and scenic valleys, Park County includes the

highest point in Montana (Granite Peak) and the original and only year-round access to the nation's first national park – Yellowstone National Park. The world-famous and longest undammed river in the lower 48 states – the Yellowstone River - runs through Paradise Valley. Park County has a rich history of agriculture; cattle and sheep ranching and



farming has long been central to the County's history and economy. Farming activities were further encouraged by railroad activities that emerged in the area in 1883.

The original residents of the area were Crow Indians who roamed the entire Yellowstone River basin. The first non-natives to enter the local area were Lewis and Clark along with their expedition party, accompanied by Lehmi Shoshone Indian, Sacagawea. Jim Bridger - a famous scout and mountain man – wintered with the Crow Indians near present day Emigrant in the 1844 – 1845. Gold was discovered in Emigrant Gulch in 1863 and by the fall of 1864, several hundred men were working claims in the area. That same year, John Bozeman opened a new road to shorten the route between Fort Laramie and the gold localities of western Montana. The road passed through present-day Livingston and over the Bozeman Pass.

By 1880, the population of the County was only about 200. In 1881, the Northern Pacific Railroad, building a line westward, entered the State of Montana. Livingston was reached November 22, 1882 where a settlement of 500 people had sprung up, awaiting the railroad. In 1883, the National Park branch of the Northern Pacific Railroad was completed and the east-west sections of the railroad joined together near Garrison, essentially opening up the entire country. In February 1887, Park County was created from the “east side” of Gallatin County and included large portions of present day Sweet

Grass, Stillwater and Carbon Counties. By 1890, the local area had a period of rapid growth and reached a population of 6,900. Railroad services, along with extractive industries related to precious metals, coal and timber remained an early economic focus of the new County, but tourism and agriculture rapidly emerged. Today, Park County's diverse economy ranges from agriculture, logging, mining, art and recreation to internet service providers and other digital technologies. In addition to the County seat of Livingston, the County includes the incorporated town of Clyde Park and the unincorporated communities of Cooke City, Emigrant, Gardiner, Jardine, Pray, Silver Gate, Springdale and Wilsall.



As of the 2010 census, Park County had 6,828 households of which 28.10% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 51% were married couples living together, 7.3% had a female householder with no spouse present and 38.2% were non-families. Just over 32% of all households were made up of individuals and 11.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.27 and the average family size was 2.88. The median income for a household in the County was \$31,739, and the median income for a family was \$40,561. Males had a median income of \$28,215 versus \$19,973 for females. The per capita income for the County was \$17,704. About 7.20% of families and 11.4% of the population were below the poverty line, including 13.1% under age 18 and 10.1% age 65 or over.

A population of 15,682 (2013) mostly resides in a half-dozen small towns, including the County seat of Livingston. Total population growth for Park County between 1970 to 2000 increased by 43%, from 11,364 to 15,587 people. From 2000 – 2011, the population grew just 2% with 160 new residents. The median age is 41 years.

In Cooke City and Silver Gate, the combined population reaches 375 in the summer and often falls to about 100 residents during the winter months. US Highway 212 runs through both communities, which are separated by a distance of three miles. Silver Gate is located just one-half mile from the northeast entrance into YNP which sees an estimated 200,000 vehicles each year. US Highway 212 east of Cooke City is closed to wheeled vehicles from November through April but snowmobiling and other outdoor winter activities contribute to the local economy. The communities are tightly integrated with most citizens sharing many resources including SGP, fire services, Emergency Service Technicians, Mount Republic Church, Cooke City Community Council and Cooke City Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Cooke City, Silver Gate and Colter Pass often combine efforts to host various community events including Shakespeare in the Park (staged at SGP), Cycle Yellowstone, the Fourth of July picnic, parade and fireworks display, Beartooth Motorcycle Rally and many other festivities.

Previous Assessments and Recommendations

In 2014, as part of county-wide strategic planning for public works projects, CTA Engineers and Architects prepared a *Facility Assessment, Safety Audit and Potential Improvements Report* of two Park County Parks. The report detailed the existing conditions of the two parks and the amenities present, the playground safety audit

results and recommendations for future improvements. Relevant portions of the Assessment - as they pertain to Silver Gate Park - are included as **Appendix A**.

In addition to Park County staff, community and committee member input, the following data sources were also referenced in order to guide strategic planning for the SGP:

- Community Health Profile – Park County – 2012
- CTA Parks Inventory and Assessment for Park County – 2014
- DPHHS Plan to Improve the Health of Montanans
- Getting from Here to There – A Trails, Roads and By-way Report – 2014
- Livingston Park County Trails Plan – 2008
- Park County Active Transportation Plan – 2015
- Park County Atlas – 2013
- Park County Capital Improvements Plan – 2015
- Park County Growth Policy – 2008 with update in progress
- Park County Transportation Standards – 2014

Existing Park Amenities

Silver Gate Park is centrally located within the small community of Silver Gate – the gateway community to Yellowstone National Park from the northeast. SGP is unique in that it not only serves the communities of Silver Gate and Cooke City but also serves as a focal point and featured rest area for motorists entering and exiting Yellowstone National Park and traveling the world-famous Beartooth Highway.

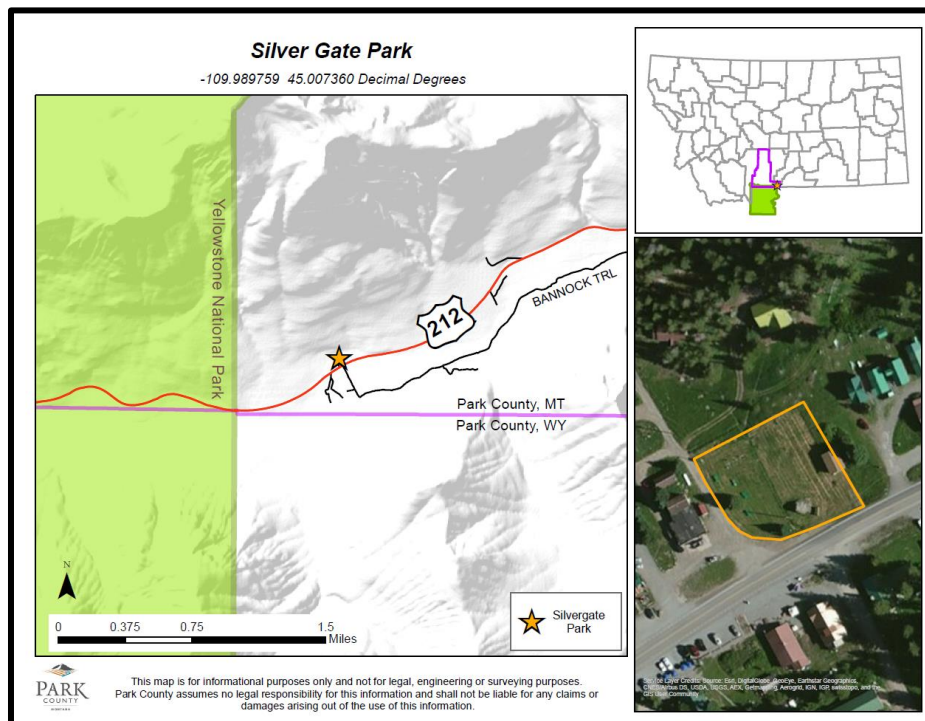


Figure 1. Silver Gate Park Area Map

The Park is located on the north side of US Highway 212 with gravel access at the west boundary of the park. The north end of SGP is delineated by a small drainage ditch running east/west; another small drainage ditch bisects the Park into eastern and western sections, running north/south. Two mature coniferous trees, a welcome sign and a large boulder are all included within the park area boundaries. Four picnic tables – purchased through funding from the Cooke City Area Resort Tax – also allow community members and visitors to picnic and participate in other leisure activities. From August 2014 to present, portable latrines have occupied an area to the north of US Highway 212 along the SGP boundary and are currently maintained by Park County. There is no delineated parking area around the park.

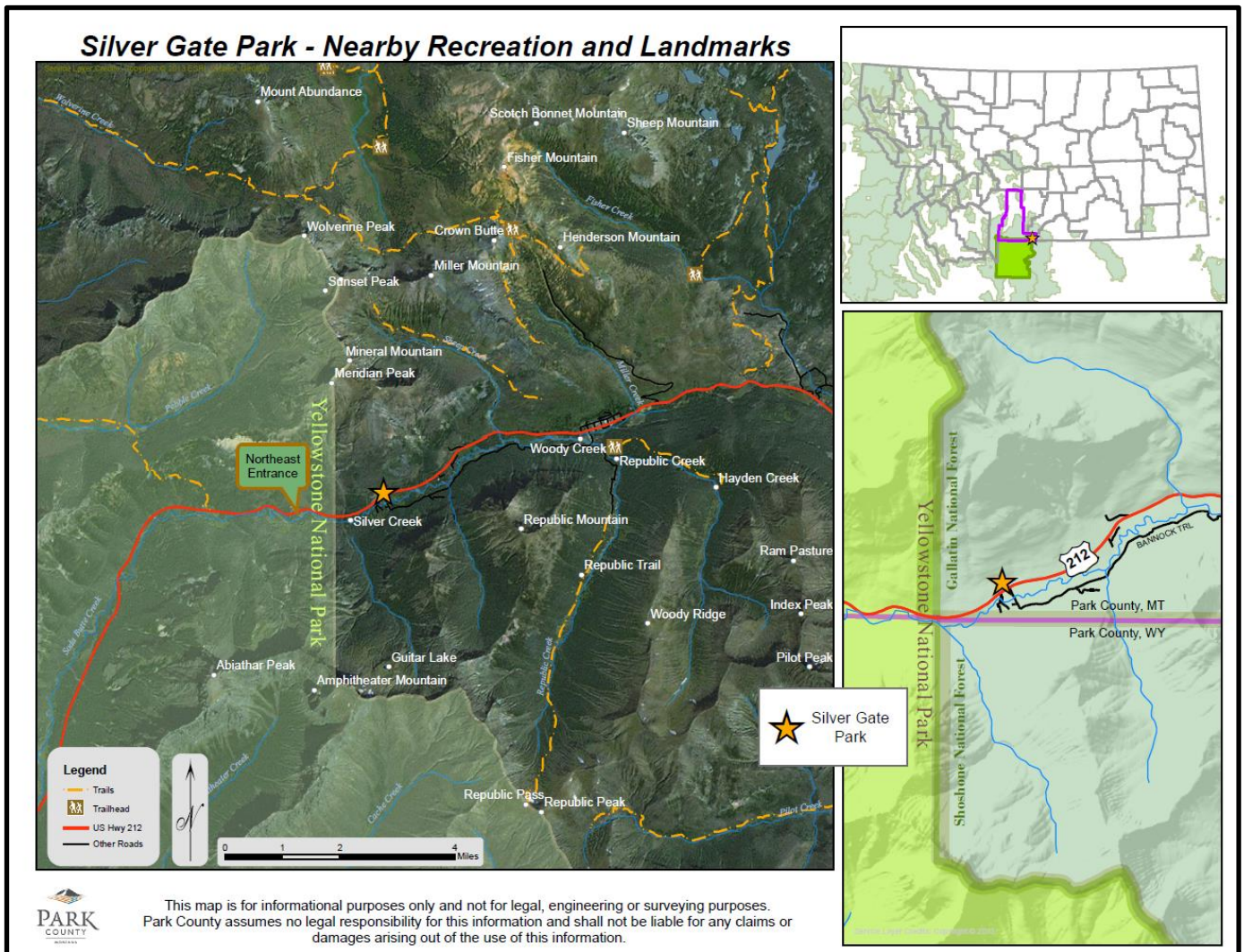


Figure 2. Cooke City / Silver Gate Area Recreation Opportunities

Silver Gate Park Strategic Priorities

Based on community input, recommendations from local and relevant planning documents and several planning meetings, the following needs have been determined as priorities for SGP:

Vault Toilet(s)

As per the previously described CTA Facility Assessment, the addition of a permanent restroom facility on-site would be ideal for SGP as “currently, no such amenity is in place and the lack of a public restroom puts a strain on local businesses.” The SGP Committee also noted that “the restrooms must be adequate to service the above-average traffic that SGP sustains due not only to its location directly outside the northeast entrance into YNP, but also its proximity to businesses and other amenities offered in the town of Silver Gate.” Benefits of vault toilet installation include:



- ADA compliance.
- Minimal displacement of soils, rocks and other materials for installation.
- Larger capacities than traditional porta potties, resulting in reduced pumping needs, saving on overall maintenance costs over time.
- Precast vaults typically have steeper slopes than traditional porta potties which helps solid waste slide to the bottom of the vault where they are covered by the liquids, helping to prevent flies from breeding.

The addition of vault toilets is ranked as the most important priority by the SGP committee.



Bear-Proof Refuse Receptacles

The most significant way to minimize human-bear conflicts is to keep garbage away from bears. Unsecured landfills and commercial and residential garbage bins attract bears and once a bear gets a taste of human garbage, it will routinely approach communities and other developed areas in search of food. Ideally, receptacles placed at SGP would be properly

secured and emptied on a regular basis, more often during the spring/summer/fall season, when many more tourists are traveling through the area and utilizing the Park.

Looped Trail

Today, for millions of Americans, trails are a link to the outdoors, providing opportunities for recreation, exercise and transportation. Many citizens realize the benefits from having trails and greenways close to home. One of the most direct benefits of community trails are the proximal and accessible recreation opportunities they provide. A looped trail system constructed within SGP and connecting to the other area streets and recreational



opportunities would provide additional outdoor walking and exercise options for community members and the many tourists that visit the area annually. A trail system in SGP could serve as a future connection to the historic Bannack Trail (along the adjacent Monument Road), running west into YNP and east up to a pristine waterfall. Additional connections from the trail and SGP could link to the existing roadside pullout to the west of SGP, which features historic signage and additional trails leading to the Soda Butte.



Playground Equipment

As per recommendations from the CTA Facility Assessment, all unsafe playground equipment was removed by Park County Public Works staff in the spring of 2015. The Assessment also recommended the replacement of the equipment, preferably with a fall surface. The SGP Committee recognized the need for this removal and is very much in favor of installation of new and safe playground facilities and equipment. Replacement equipment styles would consider the aesthetics of the area and the wild and natural beauty of the area and nearby national park.

Picnic/Shade Shelter

Considering that exposure to the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays is the leading cause of skin cancerⁱ, it's hard to overstate the importance of having strategically placed shade structures in parks, school playgrounds or other recreation facilities. Installation of shade structures sometimes encourages people to stay longer at facilities where they feel safe and more comfortable, thus contributing to the local economy and increasing community revenue. Shade structures can also reduce the deterioration rate of plastics and powder-coat finishes, thereby actually extending the life of the playground or recreational equipment it covers. Since most outdoor equipment represents a substantial investment, extra years of life actually help pay for the relatively economical cost of a shade structure. The installation of a picnic shelter was one of the potential improvement recommendations identified in the CTA Facility Assessment and recognized as a need by the SGP Committee.



Seating Areas

As pedestrian as benches can seem, they support positive lingering and contribute to additional outdoor recreation experiences. Tourists have places to sit and read maps, community members have places to eat lunch and other have a comfortable point for relaxation or a rendezvous.

Designated Parking Areas

In an effort to attract and retain some of the increased traffic traveling on the Beartooth Highway and in and out of Yellowstone National Park and likely seeking rest break areas, more clearly delineated parking areas would be a beneficial addition to SGP. With space limitations, the recommendation is to create an extended graveled shoulder along the existing gravel drive on the west side of the Park. This would increase parking capacity to at least five to six vehicles.

Other Considerations

Of lesser priority but just as important to address long-term SGP needs and promote beneficial outdoor activities, the following considerations are also included as necessary as part of the five-year improvements:

- **Landscaping/Trees**

SGP has two mature evergreen trees but the desire is to incorporate additional landscaping and trees. The addition of “green infrastructure” will help to filter pollutants and dust from the air, provide shade and reduce erosion of soil at nearby waterways. By using trees to modify temperatures, the amount of fossil fuels used for cooling and heating is reduced. Landscaped and grass-planted areas can be up to 30 degrees cooler than asphalt and close to 15 degrees cooler than bare soil in the heat of the summer.ⁱⁱ

- **Interpretive Signage**

SGP currently has one sign on the west side of the Park near the trees. This sign quotes the Portuguese “Prayer of the Woods”. While this sign would be incorporated as part of the new amenities at the Park, a three-panel sign structure with panels describing the Yellowstone National Park area, the history and origin of Silver Gate and a description of area wildlife and area attractions, is desired. The new interpretive sign would incorporate the existing sign. Planning with the Cooke City Museum is currently taking place and would include three historical interpretation signs to be staged within SGP, most likely along the looped trail system.

- **Culvert Crossing Area**

Addressed in the CTA Facility Assessment as a priority, a new culvert crossing over the ditch within the SGP would be an ideal addition. Since the new designated playground area would be in the eastern portion of the Park with a proposed vault toilets and picnic areas on the western side of the Park, a safe crossing over the ditch has been prioritized.

Cost Estimates and Funding Strategies

Based on recommended improvements and pricing estimates provided in the CTA Facility Assessment, current cost estimates for prioritized and long-term goals are summarized as follows:

Prioritized Improvements	Quantity	Estimated Cost	Total
Vault Toilets - Double Structure	1	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
Bear-Proof Garbage Receptacles	3	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,200.00
Playground Equipment	1	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Looped Trail	1	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 9,200.00
Landscaping/Trees	1	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Picnic Shelter	1	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Benches/Seating Areas	4	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,600.00
Parking Area	1	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Interpretive Signage	1	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Ditch Culvert	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total of Prioritized Improvements			\$ 83,000.00

Grants and other funding sources often become available as a result of a change in the political climate or a change in the thinking of an individual, organization or foundation. It will be important for the communities of Silver Gate and Cooke City, as well as Park County, to research funding opportunities and be ready to apply for resources that will support SGP upgrades or maintenance. Funding resources available at the time of plan development include:

Cooke City Resort Area Tax Funds

The Cooke City Area (including the communities of Colter Pass, Cooke City and Silver Gate) assesses a 3% resort tax on all tourism-related charges. The tax was implemented in 2006 and will continue until at least 2026. Revenue from this tax is appropriated by the Park County Commission and expended for various concerns including merchant collection fees; property tax relief; capital improvements; emergency services; tourism development; and, other local projects as identified that provide for the public health, safety and welfare within the resort area. Applicants must associate the needs of the funding request with social, economic and environmental impacts (negative or positive) that the project/program will have on the Cooke City resort area. Resort tax applications are typically due in January of each year.

Montana Department of Commerce Tourism Infrastructure Grant (TIG) Program

TIG awards fund projects that strengthen Montana’s economy through the development and enhancement of tourism infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include (but are not limited to) project “brick and mortar” costs associated with new, remodeling old or

preserving existing tourism and recreation attractions, historical sites and artifacts; project costs associated with purchasing new or existing tourism and recreation attractions, historical sites and artifacts; and, visitor way-finding signage production and installation. TIG grant applications are typically due in July of each year.



Montana State Parks Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Montana State Parks administers the RTP, a federally funded grants program that supports Montana’s trails. The RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and off-highway light trucks.

In July 2012, Congress passed and the President signed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). MAP-21 is a two-year transportation bill providing funding for federal highway, transit, alternative transportation and safety programs, recently reauthorized through 2020. RTP funding is completely separate from all Montana State Park revenues, camping fees and related funding sources.

RTP applicants can include federal, tribal, state, county or city agencies, private associations and clubs. Examples of eligible projects include: urban trail development, basic front and backcountry trail maintenance, restoration of areas damaged by trail use, development of trailside facilities and educational and safety projects related to trails.

RTP grant applications are typically due in the spring of each year.

Maintenance and Sustainability

Well-designed parks, especially when they’re part of a comprehensive community plan, can add greatly to the pleasant atmosphere of a community. Residents spend more time in the community, and therefore are more familiar with one another, and contribute to a sense of community. As a result, they may be more likely to pay attention to the maintenance of the community – keeping it clean and free of vandalism, supporting community events and generally helping to create a vibrant and satisfying living environment. Public facilities like SGP should be sustainable and well managed over time. The Park should be able to sustain the use it’s expected to get without damage – playground, eating and seating equipment, for instance, should be resilient enough to stand up to years of use. It should also be sustainable through the inevitable changes in needs and social norms that come with time – a park designed in 2015 should be adaptable enough to still be



useful in 2050.

Improving SGP has already become a community effort. Volunteer committee members have donated time, labor and materials and have led an initiative for joint action by the communities of Silver Gate and Cooke City – as well as Park County – to make changes to the Park. The SGP Committee is initiating a fundraising effort to secure private contributions to benefit the Park; and, the Cooke City Area Community Council is working with the SGP Committee to assist with funding and has made the Park a priority goal for its 2016 fundraising efforts. Donations will be applied toward Park improvements, maintenance and grant matches. Currently, discussions are underway for the negotiation of Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) between the SGP Committee, Park County, the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service addressing future maintenance and improvements associated with SGP.

ⁱ <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/sunanduvexposure/sun-and-uv-exposure-landing-page>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.greenroofs.com/aboutus.htm>

Appendix A
Relevant Sections of
Parks Inventory and Assessment

Park County, Montana
Parks Inventory and Assessment

Facility Assessment, Safety Audit and
Potential Improvements Report



PIONEERING ENVIRONMENTS

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Introduction

Parks Assessment Report Intent

The intent of the assessment of two Park County parks, Green Acres Park and Silver Gate Park, is to detail the existing conditions of the parks and the amenities present, perform a playground safety audit and provide recommendations for future improvements.

Scope of Assessment

The assessment has been compiled through an investigation of existing conditions based on travel to the park sites. An on-site inventory of park amenities was used for preparation of facility assessment report. The scope of the assessment includes:

- Site visit to inventory amenities (overall park area, play equipment, sanitary facilities, parking, ball fields, etc.) Include photos of said features.
 - Playground safety audit - a comprehensive audit of playground equipment, condition and installation.
 - Preparation of a facility assessment report for each site.
- Report will document the existing amenities including a discussion of the general condition of the amenities present. It will also include a safety audit of playground equipment present at each site. Based on findings of this inventory/assessment and safety audit, potential improvements will be identified with a general discussion and estimated cost presented for each of these potential improvements.



Silver Gate Park

Part I: Inventory of Existing Amenities

1.1 Context and Location

Centrally located within the small community of Silver Gate, MT just outside the northeast boundary of Yellowstone National Park. Silver Gate Park is situated on the north side of Hwy 212. Hwy 212 provides the only access to and from Silver Gate from either the east or the west.

1.2 Overall Site Conditions

A gravel access drive borders the west boundary of the park. There is no fencing present along any of the park's boundaries. The north end of the park is delineated by a small drainage ditch that runs east/west. The ditch running north/south bisects the park into eastern and western halves. Small wooden planks provide access across ditch.

Two mature coniferous trees are the only vegetation present within the park. A "Welcome to Silver Gate" sign is situated along Hwy 212 in the southeast corner of the park. A large rock conglomerate is also located in the southeast corner. This natural feature provides a nice focal point and an excellent photo opportunity location.

1.3 Sanitary Facilities

No sanitary facilities exist on-site. Park users typically frequent one of the area businesses or use the facilities at the Chamber of Commerce in Cooke City.

1.4 Parking

Parking is not properly delineated around the park and can lead to confusion and inefficiencies. Residents of the area typically walk or bike to the park. The real need for vehicular parking is to capture the tourist passing through in a safe and efficient manner.



Silver Gate - aerial



Silver Gate - main entry



Silver Gate - "welcome" sign and rock feature



Silver Gate - north boundary ditch

Part II: Playground Safety Audit

2.1 Play Equipment

The four (4) picnic tables that are aligned north/south through the length of the park appear to be in good working order. These seem to be the newest addition to the space and a welcomed amenity.

The list of play equipment includes:

- monkey bars
- curved monkey bars
- failing seesaw
- tire swing
- swing set
- failing basketball hoop

2.2 Condition

Complete lack of fall surfacing at all play equipment locations. Failure to comply with ASTM F-1292-04 concerning critical fall heights. With closer examination, concrete footings were located at all current play structures. However, the equipment itself is severely outdated and in most cases poses a serious threat to the health, safety and welfare of the general public. Rusted metal, sharp corners, exposed metal fasteners and hardware and splintering wood are issues of the highest concern.



Silver Gate - play equipment and picnic tables



Silver Gate - sign and rock feature in southeast corner of park



Silver Gate - dangerous hardware on tire swing



Silver Gate - dangerous hardware and splintering wood on swings



Silver Gate - rock feature



Silver Gate - picnic table



Silver Gate - monkey bars - remove immediately



Silver Gate - tire swing - remove immediately



Silver Gate - curved monkey bars - remove immediately



Silver Gate - failing seesaw - remove immediately



Silver Gate - swing set - remove immediately



Silver Gate - failing benches - remove immediately

Part III: Recommendations

3.1 Potential Improvements

Silver Gate Park has been neglected over the years, but holds a special place in the hearts of local residents. With some overall improvements to the space, this park has the opportunity to not only serve the people of Silver Gate/Cooke City, but also create a focal point and feature for motorists coming and going from Yellowstone National Park.

Through the on-site inspections and playground safety audit, CTA is recommending immediate removal of all existing play equipment. These features include: swing set, monkey bars, curved monkey bars, tire swing, seesaw, basketball hoop and benches.

- *Swing set* - appears to have been neglected for sometime. No fall surface present and the wooden swing seats are splintering and unsafe. The chains and fasteners are also dated and hazardous. Recommend removal.

- *Monkey bars* - no fall surface present. Structure is old and has sharp corners of metal tubing. Recommend removal.

- *Curved monkey bars* - no fall surface present. Dated and dangerous materials. Sharp and jagged corners on the steel. Recommend removal.

- *Tire swing* - No fall surface. Dangerous hardware protruding from steel frame and tire connection. Recommend removal.

- *Seesaw* - No fall surface. Structure already failing. Recommend removal of remainder of structure still present.

- *Basketball hoop* - Equipment is failing. Recommend removal.

- *Benches* - Splintering wood and exposed hardware. Benches are failing. Recommend removal.

With the recommended removal of all play equipment, a new play structure with proper fall surface becomes high priority. The new structure could be located on the east side of the ditch near the current tire swing. This feature would be come the highlight of the park, and provide a safe and fun atmosphere for all.

Also of high priority would be the installation of a picnic shelter. Currently no shade exists on-site and the need for a gathering space within the park has been a desire for local residents. This shelter could also serve as a stage area for concerts and other events at the park. A great location for the shelter would be on the north end of the park where the benches and swing set currently are.



Silver Gate - welcome sign



Silver Gate - culverts at south end of park



Silver Gate - ditch running north/south through park



Silver Gate - wooden planks crossing north/south ditch



Silver Gate - existing swings



Silver Gate - basketball hoop



Silver Gate - existing benches



Silver Gate - sign in park

Another high priority item would be the addition of a permanent restroom facility on-site. Currently no such amenity is in place and the lack of a public restroom puts a strain on local businesses. A unisex restroom with water and sanitary sewer extensions would be a great option.

Lesser priority items that are still very much needed are things like site signage and site amenities. New benches, trash receptacles and bike racks are practical amenities that are currently lacking and would help maintain the quality of the park. Signage explaining the area and history would be welcomed, as well as the inherent dangers of wildlife in the area and precautions to take to mitigate wildlife encounters.

Parking is very limited around the park. In an effort to retain some of the busy motorist traffic in the area, more clearly defined parking is necessary. Since space is limited, one solution would be to create an extended gravel shoulder along the gravel drive on the west side of the park. This could provide parking for 5-6 vehicles in a safe and organized manner.

The last item would be a new culvert crossing over the ditch within the park. Since the new play area would be on the eastern portion of the park, and the restroom and picnic shelter would be on the west, a safe crossing over the ditch would be a priority. Currently two wooden planks serve as the crossing points. This new culvert crossing would be much safer and sturdier.

3.2 Costs

Recommended Improvement Item	Quantity	Units		Cost	=	Total
<i>Silver Gate Park</i>						
New play equipment (fall surface and drainage)	2	EA	@	\$10,000.00	=	\$20,000.00
Remove old play equipment	5	LS	@	\$2,500.00	=	\$2,500.00
Remove old basketball hoop	1	EA	@	\$250.00	=	\$250.00
Remove old benches	2	EA	@	\$250.00	=	\$500.00
New picnic shelter	1	LS	@	\$12,000.00	=	\$12,000.00
Site amenities (trash, benches, bike racks)	5	EA	@	\$500.00	=	\$2,500.00
Park signage (gen info/history/wildlife)	2	EA	@	\$500.00	=	\$1,000.00
Culvert ditch crossing	1	EA	@	\$1,500.00	=	\$1,500.00
Gravel parking area (3-5 vehicles)	115	SY	@	\$35.00	=	\$4,025.00
New unisex restroom	1	LS	@	\$7,500.00	=	\$7,500.00
New water service extension	1	LS	@	\$12,100.00	=	\$12,100.00
New sanitary sewer service extension	1	LS	@	\$10,350.00	=	\$10,350.00
<i>Lawn mower/maintenance contract (locally)</i>						
						\$74,225.00

