

Park Activity

Department Overview

The Park Activity is overseen by the Conservation and Parks Director. The parks and recreation activities of the County Parks Program are administered through the Board of Park Commissioners. Primary funding is from \$72,000 in taxes, grants, private contributions, and subsidies from the Open Lands License Plate funds and the County Commission. The Board of Park Commissioners oversees all park and recreation projects within unincorporated Gallatin County and is responsible for the administration of the Park Fund. The Park Commission is an administrative board with the authority to make ordinances and enforce rules with one member from each of the five municipalities and two at large members for a total of 7 members.

State statute authorizes local governments to require developers to dedicate park-land or make a payment in lieu of parks that equals the value of a land being developed. In the last five years the roll of the Parks Department has expanded into the construction, operation and maintenance of the County Regional Park and other smaller park and trail projects around the County.

Within the Park Fund there are separate accounts for the money received from Payment in Lieu of Parkland Dedication from Subdivisions; the Regional Park operations account which is where all grants, donations and funds are expended from; and general park administration account for all other park and recreation related activities. The Park Fund will receive a transfer of up to \$71,539 from the County General Fund. The transfer from the Open Space Administrative Fund has been eliminated.. Other grants, donations, fees, and rents are deposited there as well.

A majority of park activity occurs on the Gallatin Regional Park which receives the greatest number of visitors. Through the use of an ocular reconnaissance survey it was established that an average of 20 cars per hour visit the park over an eight hour period. Users are at the park 365 days a year with times varying from dawn to after dark. It is estimated that 58,400 cars per year visit the park and that each vehicle visit equals two people and one dog equating to roughly 116,000 visitors and 58,400 dogs each year. The Regional Park users, like most County parks, are passive recreation and therefore cost the users and taxpayers very little since they do not have to pay entry fees or user fees. The Regional Park construction, operation and maintenance is supplied almost entirely by private contributions and not by the General Fund therefore equating to a high level of service for the taxpayer dollar.

Mission Statement

To provide a system of interconnected parks and trails for a wide range of recreational opportunities.

Department Goals

- Address safety and liability on County owned and Subdivision parks.
- Address long term funding initiatives required to meet the recreational needs of the public.

Recent Accomplishments

- Awarded Land and Water Conservation Grant for improvements to Regional Park.
- Completed Master Plan and approved cooperative use agreements with the Gallatin Valley YMCA.
- Applied for grants from the State of Montana for the completion of a bridge to finish the Dog Park.
- Completed design and contracts for improvements to the Regional Park.

RECREATION AND OTHER

Park Activity

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2015	Final FY 2016	Actual FY 2016	Request FY 2017	Preliminary FY 2017	Final FY 2017
Personnel	\$ -	\$ 10,987	\$ 5,494	\$ 10,987	\$ 11,015	\$ 11,015
Operations	21,970	88,261	37,671	80,775	80,747	80,747
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	5,000	5,000	4,900	35,000	32,000	32,000
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 26,970	\$ 104,248	\$ 48,064	\$ 126,762	\$ 123,762	\$ 123,762

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Debt Service Funds	Capital Project Funds	Enterprise Funds	Internal Service Funds	Trust & Agency Funds
\$ -	26,970	-	-	-	-	-
\$ -	104,248	-	-	-	-	-
\$ -	48,064	-	-	-	-	-
\$ -	126,762	-	-	-	-	-
\$ -	123,762	-	-	-	-	-
\$ -	123,762	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 26,970	\$ 104,248	\$ 48,064	\$ 126,762	\$ 123,762	\$ 123,762

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ -	\$ 36,539	\$ 36,174	\$ 74,539	\$ 71,539	\$ 72,000
Non-Tax Revenues	23,454	10,500	38,924	11,539	11,539	49,291
Cash Reappropriated	3,516	57,209	(27,034)	40,684	40,684	2,471
Total	\$ 26,970	\$ 104,248	\$ 48,064	\$ 126,762	\$ 123,762	\$ 123,762

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2015	FTE 2016	FTE 2017
0	Part-Time	Temporary staff	0.00	0.25	0.25
Total Program			0.00	0.25	0.25

