

Park Purchase and Initial Construction

100 acres for the first Gallatin County Regional Park was purchased in 2002 with Open Space Bond Funds for \$2.3 million. The Park is located in northwest Bozeman between Baxter Lane (north side), Oak Street (south side), Davis Road (east side), and Ferguson Road (west side). The purchase and initial development of the Park was due to the support of a non-profit group named FORParks, Inc. Approximately 16 acres on the north end of the Park is leased to the YMCA.

The buy-sell contract for the Park included construction of two lakes, an amphitheater, two parking lots, and a trail system surrounding the two lakes. Final work on that buy-sell contract was completed by the sellers in July 2007. A large portion of the Park is permanently deeded wetlands to mitigate wetland destruction offsite.

Master Plan Adoption

A conceptual park schematic was developed in 2005 by FORParks with input over several years from many community groups and the assistance of two landscape architects. This schematic was never formally adopted by Gallatin County. In 2007, the newly formed Gallatin County Board of Park Commissioners (BOPC) contracted with Bill Pond, a Montana State University Assistant Professor in Landscape Design, to update and finalize a Master Plan for the Park. After an extensive planning process including two public planning charrettes, the Gallatin County Park Commission plans to adopt a Master Plan for the Regional Park in a public meeting on November 28, 2007. Currently, the BOPC is accepting comment on a [Discussion Draft](http://www.gallatin.mt.gov/public_documents/RegionalPark) http://www.gallatin.mt.gov/public_documents/RegionalPark that was approved on October 24, 2007. It is anticipated that the Master Plan will continue to be refined and revised in upcoming years, as funds, other park facilities in the county, and necessary planning is completed. At this time, some phases of the Master Plan may remain conceptual (e.g., active recreation components such as baseball or soccer fields) until such time as the County completes an updated County-wide parks plan.

Those reviewing the Discussion Draft of the Regional Park Master plan should be aware that two park elements have already received approval. The combined Bozeman Fire Station/911 Center has been approved for location in the Park through BOPC action, because the

Commission felt that a 24-hour safety presence was beneficial to the park's function. FORParks, Inc. has approval to build a Dinosaur Playground. This approval dates back several years prior to formation of the BOPC. FORParks has been leading the way in the public partnership to make the regional park a place we and future generations can use, love, and be proud of.

Future Park Development

Limited County dollars exist for development and maintenance of the Regional Park. The Master Plan will act as the guide for the development of various community-based park projects for the park site. It is anticipated that community groups will also maintain active recreation components of the park until a fund is established for county park maintenance. Development and maintenance proposals will be approved by the Board of Park Commissioners using the Master Plan to guide decisions.