

The Public Outreach Process:

In the interest of creating a comprehensive parks and trails plan for Gallatin County, it was recognized the effort should be well-informed by County residents. A public outreach effort was held from March 2009 - March 2010. Funding from “Blueprint America,” a national, multi-lateral effort to understand infrastructure issues across the country made possible eight different data collection processes, each one with the goal of gathering quality input from many different perspectives. The entire public outreach process consisted of (1) a general public survey “The Interconnect Survey,” (2) a user group sponsored community tour called “The Interconnect Challenge,” (3) a series of eight stakeholder roundtables, (4) a town hall meeting, (5) ten community meetings to discuss local priorities, (6) a mailing to every Home Owners Association (HOA) to gauge interest, (7) a user group survey, and (8) the production of ten public service announcements providing information and education about parks and trails. This report will provide an overview of each method and then present the feedback provided. The resulting information represents the participants’ needs, wants, and solutions on recreation through qualitative and quantitative analysis. Furthermore it forms the foundation of a locally informed future for parks and trails planning in Gallatin County.

The resulting information is organized as follows in this report:

Part 1. The Interconnect Survey

Part 2. The Interconnect Challenge

Part 3. Stakeholder Roundtables

Part 4. Town Hall Meeting

Part 5. Community Priority Meetings

Part 6. HOA Mailing

Part 7. User Group Survey

Part 8. Public Service Announcement Scripts