

## Appendix C: Public Outreach Process Detail

### Part 4. Town Hall Meeting

#### Purpose:

The purpose of holding a Town Hall Meeting was to gather the needs and concerns of the general public regarding parks and trails infrastructure. The same questions asked of each stakeholder roundtable was asked of the Town Hall Meeting attendees; what is working, what is not, what are solutions, and who should be responsible.

#### Research Design:

The Town Hall Meeting was designed to solicit candid feedback from the general public. The attendees of the Town Hall Meeting received a short presentation explaining the public outreach process and findings to date. In addition, the attendees were briefed on the Levels of Service concept that the Parks and Trails Committee decided would be the best approach for recreation planning in the county. After the presentation, participants were asked to circulate to four tables, each one highlighting the information gathered for each question asked- what is working, what is not, what are solutions and who should be responsible. The participants were then asked to answer each question on a prepared form where county, regional, community and neighborhood levels of service were described and space provided for feedback on each level. A member of the Gallatin County Parks and Trails Committee was present at each table to answer questions and gather input. At the end of an hour the participants received a report from each of the table's representatives. The final phase of the town hall meeting was a question and answer period.

#### Sampling:

A concerted effort was made to in publicizing the event. The Parks and Trails Committee received basic training in how to hold an event, provided by M&R Strategic Services (Exhibit A). Each committee member took on a specific task and ensured its timely completion. News releases were sent to both radio and print news sources. A PSA was recorded and distributed and was played with regular frequency on several stations for a month prior to the meeting. A front page story the week of the event was run in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. The meeting was also covered on TV news the week of the event on local station KBZK. Emails were sent to all participants in the Interconnect Challenge and Stakeholder Roundtables as well as any other contacts. A mailing was sent to all Homeowners Associations inviting them to the event. Posters were hung in every town at appropriate public buildings. A total of 65 people attended the meeting from all of the County's five incorporated communities, except West Yellowstone.

#### Limitations:

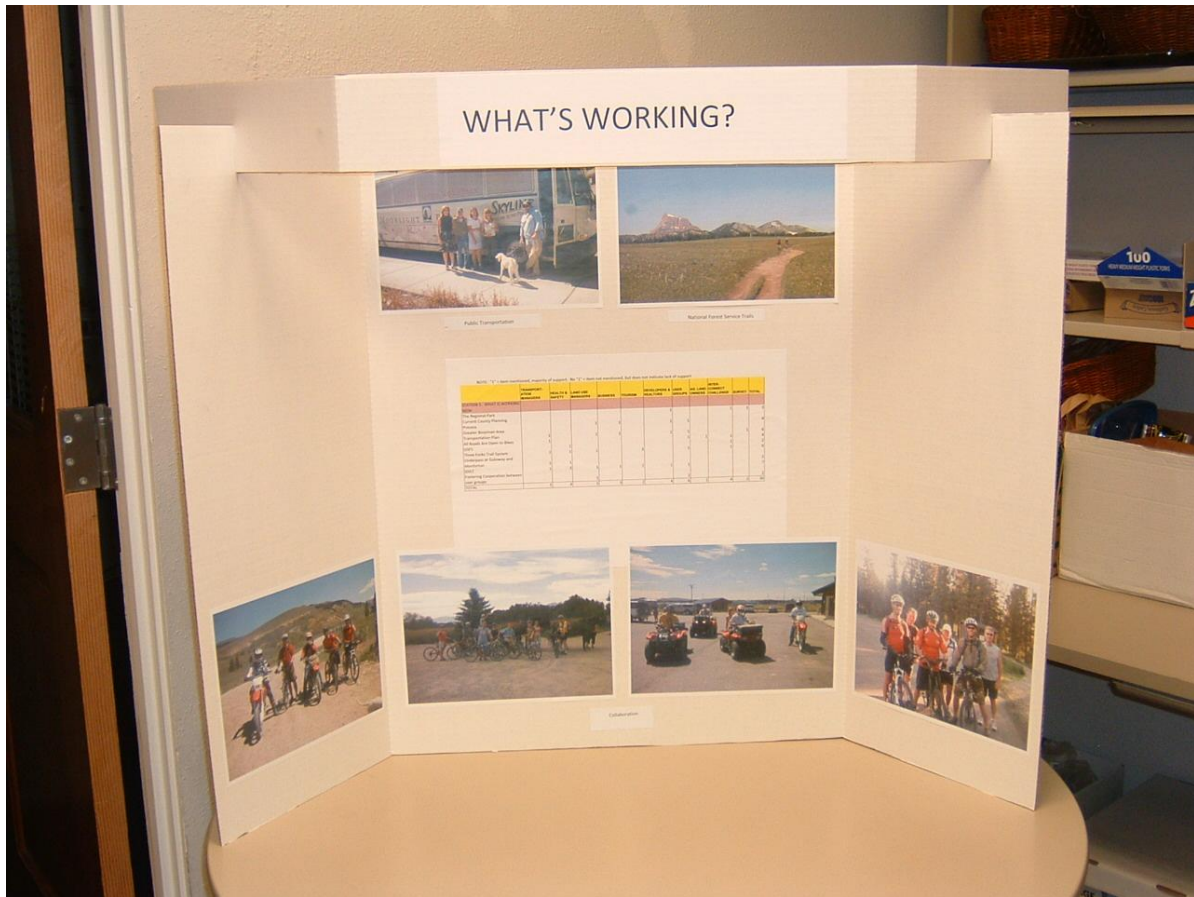
While the Town Hall Meeting aimed to gain input from as many people as possible, it was limited in the number of places where it could be held. It was decided that Bozeman would be the most appropriate due to its population density. The Committee researched holding the meeting via remote conferencing technology. However, the technology needed was prohibitively expensive. In order to overcome the obstacle, the Committee decided to follow the Town Hall Meeting with priority setting meetings in every community in the county, with community defined as any location with a school, fire station, and some kind of commercial activity.

#### Findings:

The Town Hall Meeting resulted in considerable feedback regarding the four questions asked. The following is a summary of the responses received:



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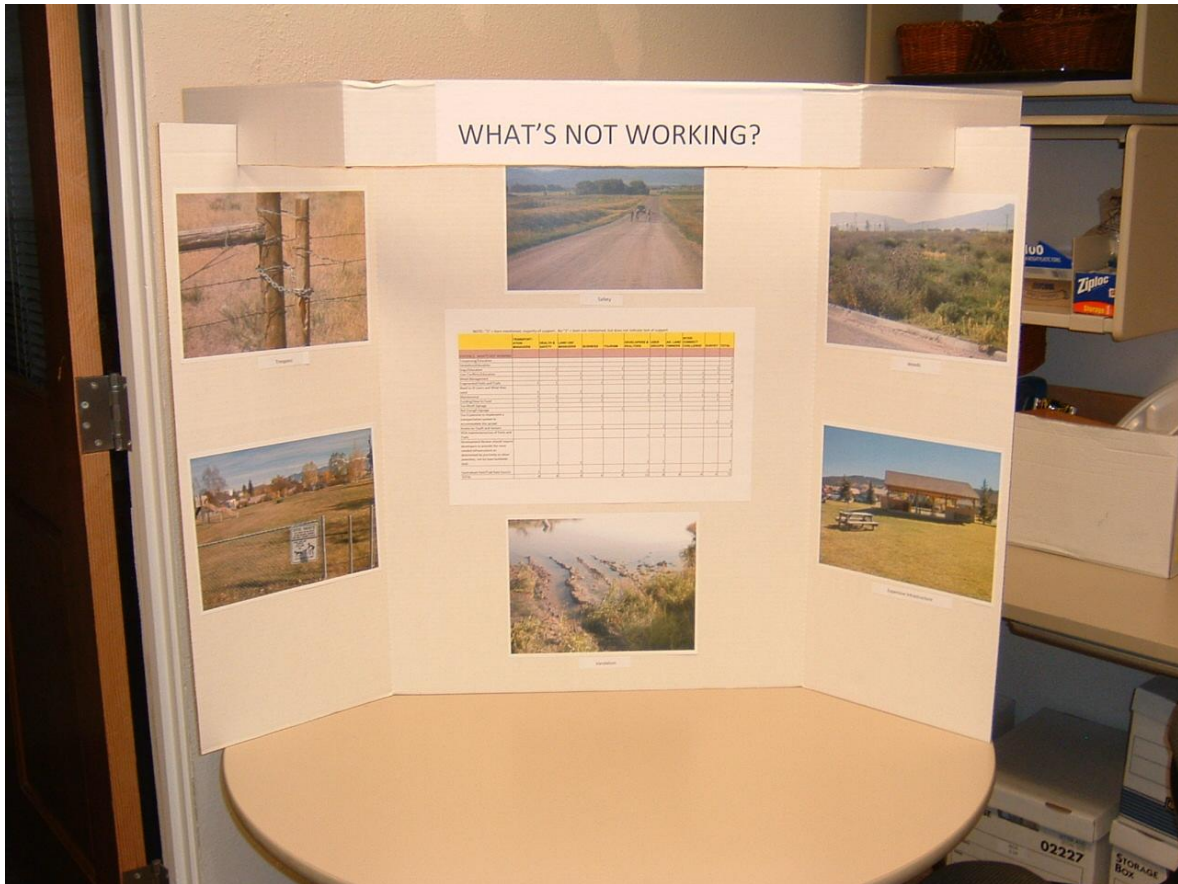


What's Working- User groups, fair ground events, open land program (but want more public access to lands preserved), great accessibility to Forest Service lands, fishing access sites seem sufficient, GVL, the Regional Park, fostering cooperation among users has increase awareness of various needs of all users, the County's parks and trails planning process, the Town Hall Meeting, The Greater Bozeman Area Transportation Plan, residents love to recreate, collaboration among County, Federal and State entities, public outreach efforts, where trail systems connect they provide excellent opportunities for exercise and getting around, the open space program is wonderful, Bozeman trail system, neighborhood parks, Bridger Bowl, Regional Park keeps getting better, Three Forks trail system, fostering cooperation has increased awareness for all uses, bussing is awesome, the slowing of real estate development, active organizations, GBAT, Gallatin National Forest trails system, state parks, public access where it exists, encouraging multi-use opportunities, including interested groups in building trails, landowner easements, developers creating parks, County residents love parks and trails, public outreach, Bridger Ski Foundation volunteers, BWAGS education and etiquette, Backcountry Horsemen trail maintenance and education, lots of multi-use access, maintenance of popular trails is good, fishing accesses are well-maintained, growing public transportation system, Main Street Bozeman is fun and safe for pedestrians, dog waste dispensers and waste stations, the Gallatin National Forest is used frequently by locals and visitors, really nice pockets for recreation and generally well balanced access for user groups, the start of a bus system, towns are incorporating trail systems as part of future development, Streamline Bus is great, the Big Sky Community Park is used daily in the summer, Ousel Falls and the Big Sky Spur road trail and 191 trail are very popular in the summer, nice pockets for recreation that are well-maintained and well-balanced with development, good connectivity within towns, trail system within Bozeman, Bridger Bowl, Bozeman parks with maximal street frontage is a good model for parkland development



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standards, highway underpass at Gallatin Gateway, dog parks, Main Street-to-Mountains Trail System, Burke Park, good playgrounds and access for kids, multi-use of Bogert Park, Community support such as volunteers for maintenance of local parks, neighborhood parks, developers creating parks works, landowner easements, smaller parks in neighborhoods that are accessible by bike or foot.

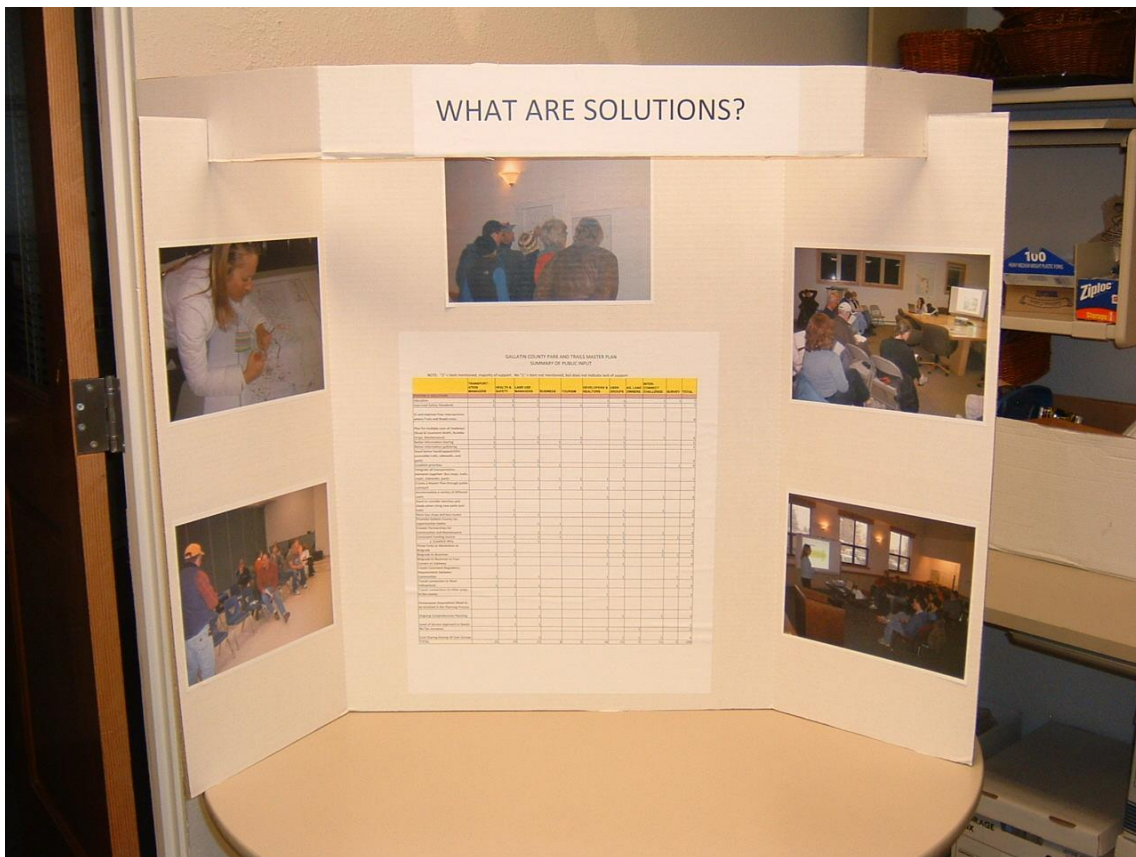


What's Not- need more bike access to rivers, Regional Park needs to be safer to access, need better parking at trail heads, need better parking for trailers in general, need to link West Yellowstone to Bozeman via Big Sky- seems impossible, but is also very important, there is no funding or staff support coming from the County to assist with development and maintenance, too many valuable park land areas are left to weeds, the Regional Park is not maintained enough, noxious weeds, fragmented parks and trails, dogs, Fairgrounds are not getting enough support for renovation, river access is limited by lack of trails along them, provide more ways to get involved, not enough places to go horseback riding, vandalism, bikers need safety training, County road dept. and weed dept. need to coordinate efforts better, need to account for recreational use along roadways when planning speed limits and shoulder width, better recreational programming, better education about restricted use areas, need to get better quality parkland out of subdivision review process, County needs to make a financial commitment to park and trail infrastructure, need better crossings or underpasses at busy roads, need better even facilities, better infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation, pedestrian access to the Regional Park, too much vehicular traffic on road popular for biking, Forest Service trailheads must be driven to, not enough coordination between the County and municipalities, dead end trails are unsafe and boring, opposition to user fees, insufficient education and lack of accountability, isolation of communities south of Four Corners, HOA management of parks and trails, public access to the Gallatin River, trail



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maintenance of less-used areas, unsafe biking conditions in highly populated areas, apathetic politicians, existing County lands are not being used, lack of impact fees, poor subdivision planning and review, land being set aside for development into parks and trails is not being done, inadequate public access, funding and investment in parks and trails, multiple speed users are not mingling safely, lack of leash law and enforcement, unsafe pedestrian access to schools, bicyclists do not obey rules, sidewalks are unsafe in the winter, misinformation regarding access for motorized users and public lands, better bike lanes and connectivity, provide better bike access to Hyalite, better information sharing, difficulty in acquiring trail corridors outside of subdivision review, respect for private property, need a bike lane to the "M", need more funding, Fairgrounds should transition into more of a Regional Use, noxious weed removal, lack of connectivity from Regional Park to recreation facilities, road closures to Hyalite does not work, better inter-agency coordination, weed control funding, pedestrian safety in commercial areas, need better bike safety on Main Street in Bozeman, inter-community communication, noxious weeds, safe routes to schools, areas are isolated from facilities, small communities are isolated from other communities, better bike lanes, Monforton School Road is unsafe, make sure streets accommodate all users, need more neighborhood open space and playgrounds, lack of coordination and organization of HOA's at the County level, noxious weeds, better sidewalks.



What Are Solutions- Good maps are important, work on improving what is already in existence, need a third open space bond, comprehensive planning, keep track of subdivision trails and where they can connect, comprehensive mapping, connect to Forest Service trail heads from towns and neighborhoods, concept of parks and trails as infrastructure, promote the granting of easements by private land owners, especially those bordering public lands, develop recreational opportunities out of open County property before it gets developed, need to measure the value of parks and trails, promote trails as a recreational

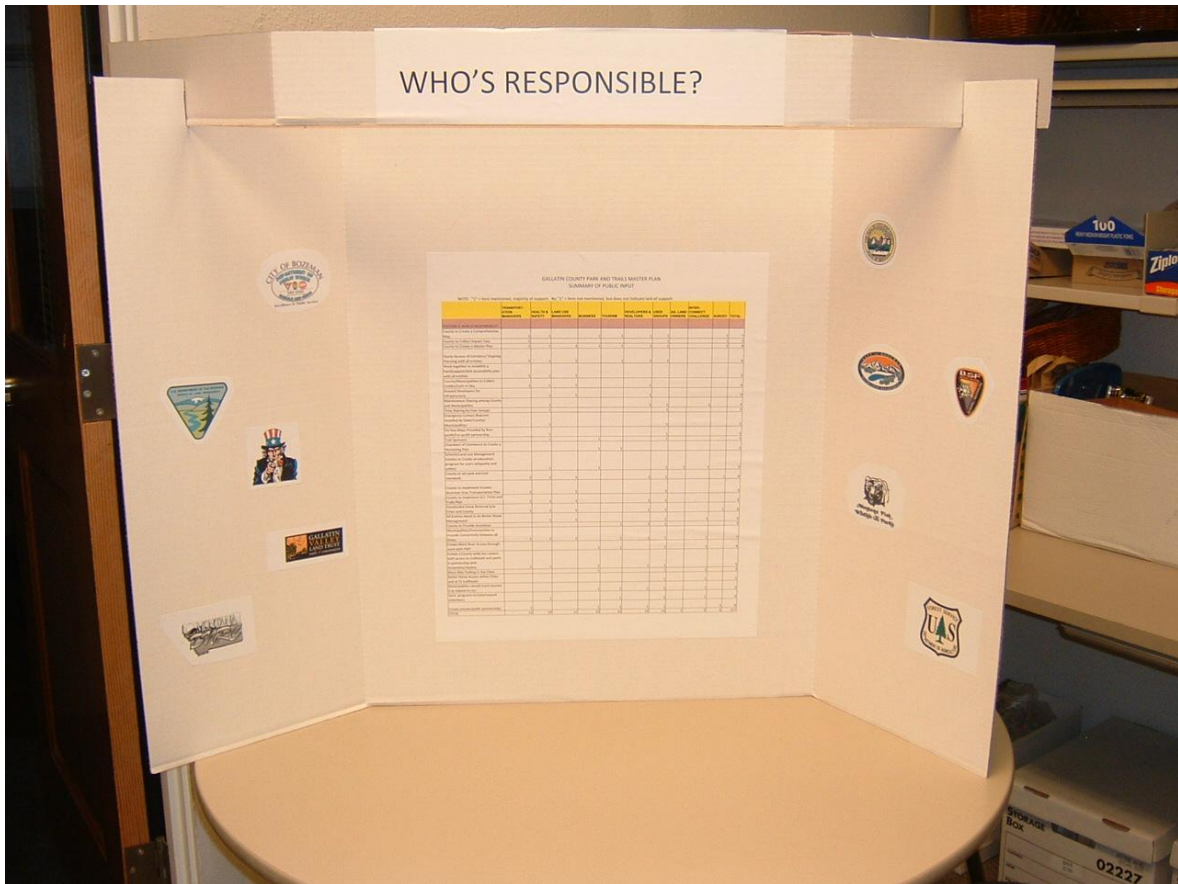


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resource that bring visitors to the area, create reliable funding sources, maintain existing infrastructure before creating more, more involvement by local businesses, better coordination with the National Park and Forest Services, create a County Recreation department, create reliable funding, do not allow sprawl, prohibit light pollution, create more dog waste stations, continue to get user groups together for fun events so they work together more, complete the Main Street-to-Mountains trail system, connect Bozeman to Belgrade to Headwaters State Park, user friendly trails along the rivers, raise taxes, prevent gated communities, education and outreach, complete a comprehensive inventory, provide more user friendly interactive mapping like Google Maps, improve safety through larger right-of-ways with extensive signage, speed limits and well planned intersections like Jackson Hole, WY., collaboration between government, landowners, developers, HOA's and user groups, plow and sweep bike lanes, license bikes and use money generated to pay for bike improvements, work with State or other Southwest Montana counties and towns to create a marketing campaign highlighting "key" trails, routes, parks, tourist locations and services, invest in city/county sponsored events which promote education coupled with volunteer work, raise awareness of existing trails through education, create incentives for landowners who donate land for public use by collaborating with cities, and state and federal govt., raise these issues during political voting processes, hold fundraisers, work more closely with federal agencies to identify opportunities for co-investment in new parks/trails (eg. Linking fishing access sites along streams through trails), create a Complete Streets plan, map gaps and fix them, create a County-wide bond, any re-paving or re-striping of roads should be required to include a multi-use lane, create a County-wide park improvement district, use bus routes to improve connections, create a database or social networking site for interested parties to exchange ideas, create a County-wide sales tax, establish priorities, create a master plan for parks and trails, improve information gathering techniques, create a bus route to Hyalite, foster partnerships between government and businesses to close the funding gap, begin with the neighborhood LOS and gradually increase in size, "bottom up" planning, promote trails as an economic resource, change state law so landowners cannot opt out of Park Districts, more transparency in planning and communications will build trust and community, put a recreational department in place to manage facilities properly, be more aggressive with developers and official in getting parks and trails implemented, have one or two days/month when auto traffic is restricted on (1) rural roads popular for other forms of recreation, and (2) areas popular for pedestrian use like Main Street, connect County trails to regional and national ones, no more development without more trails, tourism tax to support county recreation, incorporate bike trails and sidewalks into road building, keep ridges and foothills open, take more advantage of user groups willing to maintain and build infrastructure, don't forget about bike parking, create east-west trails from Three Forks to Bozeman, make a concerted effort to include ag. land owners in any planning process, involve GVLT, create larger more one-stop type parks, seek trail easements, contribute to municipal recreation maintenance coffers, link subdivisions by walking paths, need regional recreational routes, Bozeman to Belgrade route, Monforton Trail needs to be extended to Baxter to take kids off of the 45 mph road. Connect urban corridors to pocket parks, incorporate Bozeman Creek with downtown Main Street, trails along the Madison and Gallatin (east and west) rivers, encourage revitalization of small commercial zones in outlying communities through non-auto access routes, Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Trail programs, create a greenspace belt around the Fairgrounds for mixed use.



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Who is Responsible- County should be responsible for organizing HOA's and user groups to develop and maintain parks and trails, empower interested citizens, partner with local businesses, County staff to create and maintain working relationships with municipal and community leaders with an interest in parks and trails planning, user groups who use certain areas more should be more responsible for maintenance, funding and improvements, County should be responsible for weed maintenance in partnership with user groups, HOA's and businesses, reward volunteers, GVLTA for trail development, maintenance, signage, and volunteers, BWAGs for trail clean up, County should create a master plan for parks and trails, all citizens should be called upon to contribute money and time to our collective resources much like jury duty, have Gov. Schweitzer announce a new focus on Southwest Montana for trails and recreation, citizens and interested politicians need to raise awareness of this issue with others, County needs to make better maps, County needs to ensure cash-in-lieu is being distributed fairly, State to set standards and develop plans for county's to implement, County should work with other jurisdictions to achieve success, County should maintain and improve the Regional Park, Chambers of Commerce should assist with the distribution of information, each community should care for their own parks and trails, Community Planning groups to help with existing trails, transit, routes for bikes, horses, walkers, etc., volunteer labor and time for maintenance and information sharing, Big Sky Community needs more support to continue being the "cash cow" for the County, HOA's should be responsible for maintenance unless a parks district is formed, businesses or club adoption of trails, developers to provide easements and facilities at the development phase, HOA's should implement their own master plans for their parks and trails.