



**HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
August 10, 2021**



**GENERAL MEMBERS**

- Karen Reese, Chair
- Claudia Clifford
- Eric Feaver
- Vacant
- Vacant

**CITY OF HELENA STAFF**

- Brad Langsather, Open Lands Manager
- Kristi Ponzoso, Director, P & R, Open Lands
- Jennifer Schade, Recorder

**CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD**

- David McGuire

**HELENA CITIZENS COUNCIL**

- T.J. Lehmann

**ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS**

**Helena Tourism Alliance Representative**

- Andrea Opitz

**PPLT Representative**

- Nate Kopp

**Meeting Location**

- + Date // Time: HOLMAC to meet on August 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm
- + Location: Eastern Gate Junction - Silverette and LeGrande Cannon Boulevard

**Call to Order**

**Welcome/Introductions/Visitors**

**Minutes Approval**

- None.

**HOLMAC Action Items**

**Reports from City / Subcommittees**

**New Business**

1. Next steps on E-Bike and E-Scooter Initiative
  - + See Attached
2. Update on Projects:
  - + Current Projects
  - + Major Projects
3. Fall Process for Major Projects Proposals
4. PPLT Presentation:
  - + PPLT will present information regarding existing trails on the West LeGrande Cannon Boulevard Property that they are analyzing for retention/modification, and closure.

## **Public Comment**

## **Future Agenda Items**

## **Adjournment**

### **ADA NOTICE**

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Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in the city's meetings, services, programs, or activities should contact Sharon Haugen, Community Development Director, as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange for the requested accommodation, at any of the following: Phone: (406) 447- 8490; TTY Relay Service 1-800-253-4091 or 711 Email: [citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov](mailto:citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov), Mailing address & physical location: 316 North Park, Avenue, Room 445, Helena, MT 59623.



**PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN LANDS DEPARTMENT**

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**From:** Kristi Ponozzo  
**Subject:** Update on E-bikes

**Presented at the City Commission Administrative Meeting on 08.04.2021:**

The Helena Open Lands Management Plan Identifies specific goals and objectives for Recreation, one of those being to develop an e-bike policy for Helena Open Lands. Helena City code, ordinance and resolution is silent on e-bike use and does not contemplate or define e-bikes. In April, the Helena City Commission determined e-bikes should be defined as motorized and prohibited from use as noted in Helena City Code 7-12-3 C., or by land deed. This predominantly pertains to Helena Open Space Lands on Mount Helena and Mount Ascension. It does not prohibit use on city streets and sidewalks. Additionally, the Commission provided direction for City staff to engage in a broader discussion, to be completed by December, around commuting and e-bike use in the remaining portions of the City.

The City has launched a public engagement initiative related to e-bikes and private use e-scooters. The initiative does not include commercial e-scooters. The City is exploring the potential benefits and challenges that e-bikes and private use e-scooters pose. The goal of this information gathering campaign is to inform future decisions on appropriate locations and uses for e-bikes and e-scooters within the City. The City completed a public survey earlier this summer where we received more than 800 responses to questions about e-bike use and interest. Staff is currently reviewing those results and researching and analyze options and different alternatives.

The City also installed no-E-bike signs at all of our major and minor trailheads throughout our open lands system. This has brought about some questions from trail users, specifically on trails like Le Grande Cannon. This is a trail that comprises City right-of-way, County right-of-way, Helena Open Lands, some private lands, and is also used to access many open lands trailheads. Many of our open lands trails are complex in that they are made-up of different ownership, so it is difficult to parse different parts of different trails for purposes of defining them in terms of motorized or non-motorized for e-bike management.

The City will continue to follow the process laid out here:

Public Engagement & Analysis, April → June 2021  
Development & Synthesis, July → August 2021  
Public Comment, September 01 → September 30 2021  
Review & Recommendation, October → November 2021  
City Commission Presentation, December 2021

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