



**HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA
December 14, 2021**



GENERAL MEMBERS

- Karen Reese, Chair
- Claudia Clifford
- Eric Feaver
- Grant Jackson *excused*
- Joel Peden

City of Helena Staff

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

City-County Parks Board

- David McGuire *excused*

Helena Citizens Council

- T.J. Lehmann

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

Helena Tourism Alliance Representative


- Andrea Opitz

PPLT Representative

- Nate Kopp

Meeting Date and Time: December 14, 2021 // 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Meeting Location

-  Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92360344431?pwd=NU1ocWJiQkRCsmVJbDlpaENudWp1QT09>

OR

-  Phone:

Meeting ID: 923 6034 4431

Passcode: 806006

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,92360344431# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,92360344431# US (Houston)

Call to Order

Welcome/Introductions/Visitors

Minutes Approval

- None. Time-Stamped Minutes have been posted.

HOLMAC Action Items

New Business

-  2021 Work Plan Update (*See Attachments*)

Public Comment

Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

ADA NOTICE

The City of Helena is committed to providing access to persons with disabilities for its meetings, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Montana Human Rights Act. The City will not exclude persons with disabilities from participation at its meetings or otherwise deny them the City's services, programs, or activities.

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, Mailing address & physical location: 316 North Park, Avenue, Room 445, Helena, MT 59623.

2021 HELENA OPEN LANDS MAINTENANCE PLAN – UPDATED: 12.06.2021

PRINCIPAL GOAL OF THE HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HOLMAC) WORK PLAN: To outline land management activities scheduled for implementation in 2021. The recommended work plan will be updated each year to address land management needs that have emerged as a result of input from the citizens of Helena, HOLMAC, and/or city staff. In accordance with the goals and objectives defined within the Helena Open Lands Management Plan, land stewardship activities shall be designed and implemented in a manner that will preserve, restore, and enhance the natural character of Helena's open lands and provide accessible natural open lands.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE ITEMS (PRICKLY PEAR LAND TRUST):

1. Complete a comprehensive condition inspection of all designated trails occurring within the city of Helena Open Lands System (reference EXHIBIT A, B, C, D, and E).
Completed.
2. Repair all natural earth and granite covered, designated trails located on City of Helena ownership as depicted on EXHIBITS A, B, C, D, and E and listed within EXHIBIT A and maintain existing drain dips and/or install new drainage features where opportunities to intercept and divert continuous surface water runoff occur, replace decomposed granite as needed, and prune/remove vegetative growth within trail corridors (stems-branches-roots).
Completed.
3. Respond to trail maintenance situations as directed by the City liaison.
Completed.
4. Complete a comprehensive inspection of all trailhead kiosk, animal control, and trail identification signage occurring within the open lands system (reference EXHIBITS A, B, C, D, E) and shall complete Trail Inspection Forms. Inspections shall include identification of unsigned trails and/or trail junctions. Completed Trail Inspection Forms shall be delivered to the City on or before July 1, 2021.
Completed.
5. Draft sign templates, purchase signs as determined by contractors 2021 City of Helena open lands system, trail sign inspection/inventory, and install said sign posts (City will provide Contractor with sign posts).
Completed.
6. Purchase and install a maximum of twenty-five (25) carsonite trail closure signs where designated trails intersect non-designated trails and where said trails originate/terminate.
9 of 25 Signs were installed.
7. Purchase five hundred (500) trail etiquette brochures and eight (8) brochure holders and distribute the printed brochures at eight (8) trailheads.
Completed.

8. Purchase and install a maximum of thirty (30) Permanent metal trail etiquette signs on T-posts.
Incomplete.
9. Purchase and install a maximum of twelve (12) temporary trail etiquette signs on wooden stakes. The temporary trail etiquette signs shall be rotated to new locations, every two weeks, over a twenty (20) week season.
Completed (metal stakes were used instead of wooden).
10. Complete two youth focused trail related outreach efforts and facilitate two youth focused events related to the South Hills trail system and trail etiquette.
Completed.
11. Locate and construct the Pay Dirt Trail reroute as approved by the City of Helena Commission.
Completed.
12. Develop a designated trail system plan for the City's recently acquired property in the West LeGrande Cannon Area. The designated trail plan shall include mapped trail routes, trail reroutes locations, new trail construction segments, and recommended trail closures. All trails recommended for addition to the City's open lands trail system shall be assigned names.
Completed.
13. Map all new designated trail routes and deliver the shape files to the Lewis and Clark County GIS Department.
To be transferred to 2022 contract.
14. Purchase and deliver updated trailhead maps, complete with the "YOU ARE HERE" notation for the following Trailheads (Beattie Street, DeFord, Dump Gulch, Reeder's Village, South Hills Disc Golf Course, West LeGrande Cannon Boulevard, Old Shooting Range. Additionally, Lewis and Clark County's open lands trail map shall be examined for errors and all disclosed errors shall be corrected with shape files that are to be delivered to the Lewis and Clark County GIS Department.
To be transferred to 2022 contract.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE/CONSTRUCTION (PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF):

1. Construct an ADA trail on Mount Helena commencing at the lower tier of the Reeder's Village Trailhead parking area and proceeding generally westward for a distance of ½ mile to an eventual intersection with the Ambrose Trail. The Mount Helena trail construction project will include the installation of a pedestrian bridge spanning approximately 20 feet and a short overlook trail near its western terminus.
Completed items include the trail, bridge, picnic area, and kiosk access. Uncompleted items consist of the scenic overlook, bench installation (3), and interpretive sign installation.

2. Implement those Helena City Commission approved items related to the recommendations of the DeFord Trail Working Group.

Pending approval.

3. Approve and oversee the construction of a connecting trail from the bottom of the Mount Ascension Directional Trail to the Eddy West Trail.

Completed.

FACILITIES (PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF):

1. Construct and Install two informational kiosks, one of which will be located adjacent to the DeFord Trail parking area and a second that will be placed at or near the West LeGrande Cannon Boulevard, eastside parking area. The new kiosks will be intended for the display of Helena's, South Hills trails system map, and any additional information deemed necessary.

Both kiosks have been constructed and await installation.

2. Install a Trailhead Identification sign at the Beattie Street Trailhead.

The sign is constructed and awaits installation.

3. Install two new picnic tables and two new benches at the Mount Helena Trailhead (Reeder's Village).

One picnic table/area has been installed.

4. Contract the restriping and accessibility symbolization of the Mount Helena (Reeder's Village) and Dump Gulch Trailheads.

Rescheduled for 2022 due to parking area usage conflicts.

5. Reconfigure both the Mount Ascension (Junction Arrowroot and 2006 Trails) and Lime Kiln (Winne Water Tanks Road) trailhead parking areas for safety and efficiency.

Rescheduled for 2022 due to schedule conflicts.

6. Install a pet waste station at the southern end of Holter Street and analyze the potential installation of second pet waste station at the westernmost road barricade on the eastern closed portion of the LeGrande Cannon Boulevard right-of-way.

The LeGrande Cannon pet waste station has been installed and a trash receptacle for the Holter street location has been ordered.

7. Replace the southern door on the Donaldson Barn.

The new barn door has been constructed and awaits installation.

8. Install a park bench along the Daisy Hill Trail near the Clark Street trailhead.

Installed.

9. Administer a trail condition assessment contract for the 2006 Trail that analyzes various trail related elements including grades, tread condition, sight lines, obstacles, turn radius, braiding, widening, cupping, purpose and historical background.
Currently seeking a contractor.

FENCE CONSTRUCTION and REMOVAL (PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF):

1. Complete the installation of approximately 300 feet of post and rail fencing on the borders of the relocated Lime Kiln Parking Area (Winnie Water Tank Access Road), and approximately 100 feet at that point where the DeFord Trail intersects Davis Street, just north of the Old Shooting Range Parking area.
Delayed pending parking lot construction.
2. Identify sections of dysfunctional wire fence occurring upon the LeGrande Cannon Boulevard addition and schedule removal.
Several wire fence segments were removed during the course of the year.

FOREST MANAGEMENT (PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF and SELECTED CONTRACTORS):

1. Mount Helena North Face Fuels Reduction
 - Complete 100 acres of forest fuel reduction work on the north face of Mount Helena.
 - Complete 6 acres of slash pile burning between the 1906 and Powerline Trails
100 acres of tree thinning has been completed and the 6 acres of slash pile burning has been delayed until snow coverage conditions are realized.
2. Mount. Ascension Forest Fuels Reduction Project:
 - Complete 25 acres of forest fuel reduction thinning and hand piling adjacent to the Entertainment Alternate Trail.
 - Complete 30 acres of slash pile burning.
25 acres of tree thinning has been completed and the 30 acres of slash pile burning has been delayed until snow coverage conditions are realized.
3. Participating Agreement (Capital 360)
 - Prepare and complete approximately 60 acres of forest fuel and hazard tree treatment work on the Graham parcel.
Completed.
 - Prepare and complete approximately 36 acres of forestry maintenance work on USFS ownership located south of the McKelvey Trail.
Completed.
 - Prepare and complete approximately 100 acres of forestry maintenance work within previously thinned areas.
60 acres completed.

4. Forest Fuel Treatment Grants

- Complete applications as opportunities arise - individual grants require commission approval.

One grant application completed with the associated funding request denied.

5. Forestry Visuals

- Remove retention tree and boundary identification flagging from all forestry projects completed to date.

Volunteers have removed nearly 100 acres of flagging from completed thinning units.

- Respond to trash dumping and abandoned transient camps as needed.

Trash, shopping carts, etc. have been removed from several locations.

6. Forestry Education

- Participate in community forestry outreach efforts as opportunities arise.

Several speaking engagements were completed.

7. Firewood Distribution

- Harvest, forward, and process approximately 100 cords of firewood material for clients of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

Completed.

- Assist in the organization of volunteers involved in the splitting and distribution of accumulated firewood material during the September 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 timeframe.

Two wood splitting/distribution events have been completed to date.

BOUNDARY IDENTIFICATION (PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF):

1. Verify open lands boundaries as the budgets allow. Prioritize open lands boundary identification needs according to program of work and emerging management issues

Numerous boundaries were identified to facilitate vegetative treatment projects.

2. Install boundary identification posts at approximate 100-foot intervals where encroachment situations are identified.

No boundary signs were installed during calendar year 2021.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION/EXCHANGE (PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF):

1. Assist in the completion of property acquisition grant applications as opportunities become available.

No grant applications completed.

2. Respond to public and partnership requests regarding potential purchase/sale/exchange of open lands properties.

One property donation is currently in progress.

WEED MANAGEMENT (PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF and SELECTED CONTRACTORS):

1. Noxious Weed Treatment and Public Education

- Coordinate volunteers interested participating in the City's open lands system weed control program throughout the summer.

Volunteers worked on thistle control on Mt Ascension.

- Monitoring/mapping
 - Visit set locations and identify weed infestations for treatment.
 - Train volunteers on mapping and monitoring techniques.

Weed infestation locations were mapped in 2020 and treated in 2021. Additional weed mapping efforts will be undertaken in 2022.

2. Weed pulls

- Schedule and participate in weed pulls on open lands.

Several events completed.

- Look to continue the Department of Agriculture Adopt-A-Trailhead program.

Completed.

- Look to increase events per year with the assistance of PPLT.

Completed.

3. Herbicide

- Contractually treat approximately 400 acres of concentrated weed infestations occurring within the City's open lands system at the following locations: Mount Helena North Face (downslope from the Prairie Trail), Dump Gulch (Grizzly Gulch Road to intersection Hanging Draw Trail), Winscott/Crystal, Bull Run, South Hills Disc Golf Course, Nob Hill and South Beattie Street area (Between Little Moab and Meat Loaf Trails).

Completed.

- Implement a targeted spot treatment program with staff members focusing on remote locations and trail corridors.

Completed.

EXHIBIT A City of Helena, Open Lands System Designated Trails	Length (linear feet)	Surface
Mt Helena - McKelvey	6,353.00	Native
Mt Helena - Daisy Hill	3,471.00	Native
Mt Helena - Bitterroot Way	933.00	Native
Mt Helena - Bitterroot Way - Daisy Hill Connector	600.00	Native
Mt Helena - Mike Cormier	3,121.00	Native
Mt Helena - Powerline	3,777.00	Native
Mt Helena - Powerline to Prospect Shafts Connector	1,044.00	Native
Mt Helena - Andy	3,143.00	Native
Mt Helena - Hanging Draw	2,902.00	Native
Mt Helena - Hanging Draw to Dump Out Connector	1,207.00	Native
Mt Helena - Dump Out	6,045.00	Native
Mt Helena - Reeders	3,055.00	Native
Mt Helena - Reeders Connector	1,542.00	Native
Mt Helena - Reeders Villiage	463.00	Native
Mt Helena - Reeders Villiage Alternate	1,147.00	Native
Mt Helena - Reeders Villiage Cut-Off	1,552.00	Native
Mt Helena - Reeders Villiage - Carriage Lane to South Harrison	475.00	Granite
Mt Helena - Reeders Alley	1,072.00	Granite
Mt Helena - Prospect Shaft	7,022.00	Native
Mt Helena - Hogback	2,436.00	Native
Mt Helena - Backside	2,693.00	Native
Mt Helena - West End	1,819.00	Native
Mt Helena - Diretissima	6,044.00	Native
Mt Helena - Old Chevy	2,631.00	Native
Mt Helena - Road To Mars	2,123.00	Native
Mt Helena - Ambrose	7,226.00	Native
Mt Helena - Ambrose to West Side Watertank - East	758.00	Native
Mt Helena - Ambrose to West Side Watertank - North	275.00	Native
Mt Helena - Ambrose to Prarie	684.00	Native
Mt Helena - Panhandle	1,000.00	Native
Mt Helena - Swaney	4,311.00	Native
Mt Helena - No Trail	2,800.00	Native
Mt Helena - 1906	8,096.00	Native
Mt Helena - Prairie Trail	7,889.00	Native
Mt Helena - Le Grande Cannon	4,816.00	Native
Mt Helena - Westridge Trail	2,022.00	Native
Mt Helena - Quarry	1,766.00	Native
MT Ascension - DeFord	7,242.00	Native
MT Ascension - Old Shooting Range	751.00	Native
MT Ascension - Upper Davis Bike Skills Course	2,156.00	Native
MT Ascension - Archery Range	6,287.00	Native
MT Ascension - Easy Rider	6,283.00	Native

EXHIBIT A City of Helena, Open Lands System Designated Trails	Length (linear feet)	Surface
MT Ascension - Easy Rider to Prickly Pear	1,242.00	Native
MT Ascension - 2006	7,342.00	Native
Eddy McClure Trail - West	4,925.00	Native
MT Ascension - Loop	4,699.00	Native
MT Ascension - Capital View	1,555.00	Native
MT Ascension - Catch-Up	1,759.00	Native
MT Ascension - Pay Dirt	1,388.00	Native
MT Ascension - Prickly Pear	4,566.00	Native
MT Ascension - Rocky Road	7,324.00	Native
MT Ascension - Meatloaf	2,720.00	Native
MT Ascension - Eagle Scout	2,877.00	Native
MT Ascension - Eagle Scout Connector	403.00	Native
MT Ascension - Pail Rider	1,130.00	Native
MT Ascension - Directional Trail East		Native
MT Ascension - Directional Trail West		Native
MT Ascension - Entertainment	10,717.00	Native
MT Ascension - Entertainment Connector	1,710.00	Native
MT Ascension - Entertainment Alternate	2,773.00	Native
Mt Ascension - Aftershock	6,015.00	Native
Other - Nob Hill	4,997.00	Native
Other - Saddle Drive (Disc Golf Course)	3,140.00	Granite
Other - Far East	3,480.00	Native
Other - Little Moab	2,994.00	Native
Other - Acropolis Crest	2,692.00	Native
Other - Bull Run Trail - California to Saddle	1,910.00	Native
Other - Gold Rush to California	267.00	Granite
Other - Virginia Dale Trail	482.00	Native

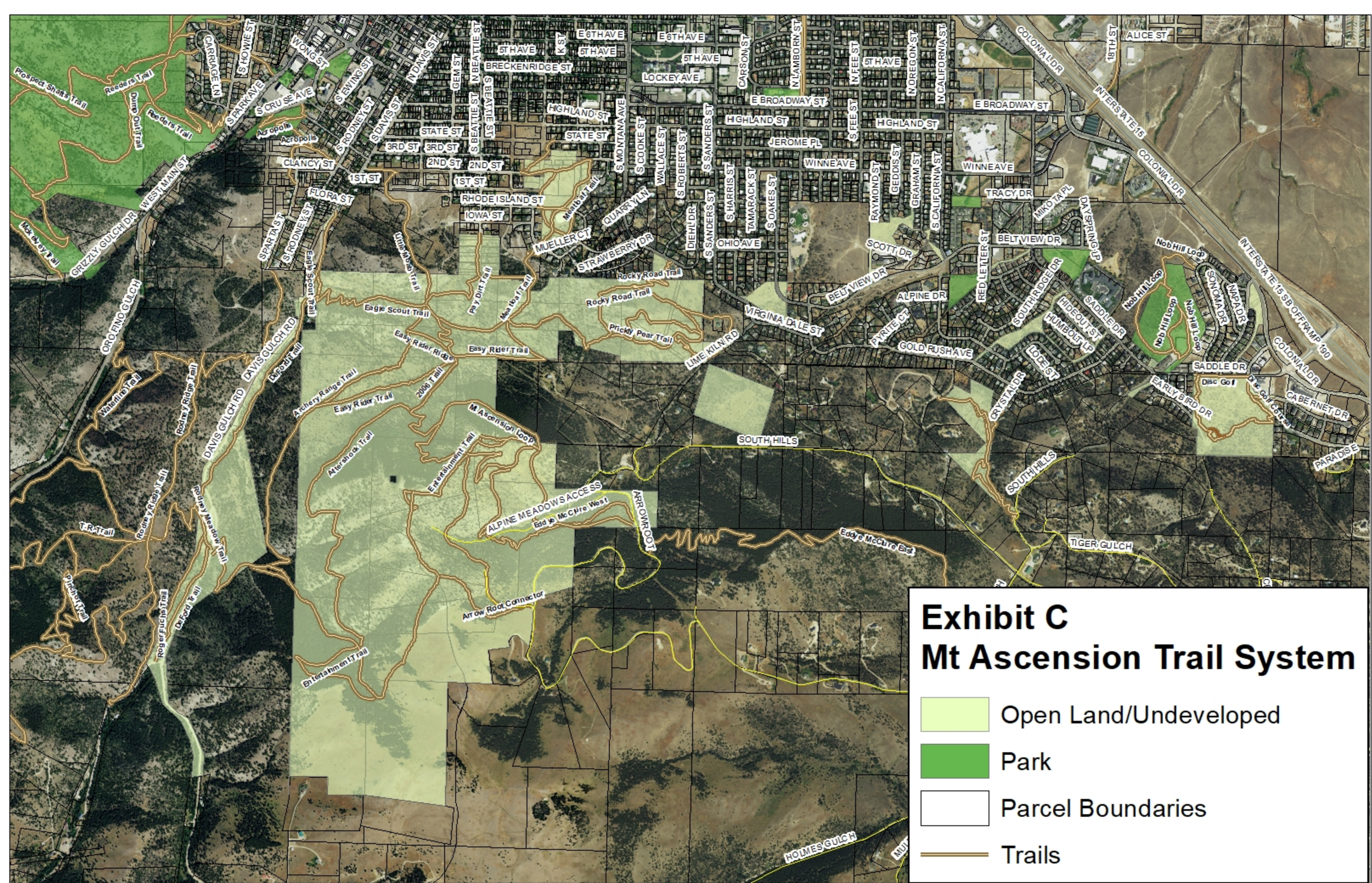


Exhibit C
Mt Ascension Trail System

- Open Land/Undeveloped
- Park
- Parcel Boundaries
- Trails



