

## CHAPTER 5

### Open Space Existing Conditions

#### 5.0 INTRODUCTION

Open space protection and preservation in Montana may seem like a contradiction in terms. However, rapid urban development in many parts of the state threatens the beautiful and pristine landscapes that make Montana unique. The Bozeman area is one of these locations where the rapid conversion of open lands to urban and suburban development threatens remaining open lands.

The term “open space” refers to conservation lands, recreation and agricultural lands, forest lands, greenways or green buffers along streets, or any other open lands. Open space can also include water bodies such as lakes or ponds. Open space provides numerous benefits to society, direct and indirect, short-term and long-term, including:

- Everyday life can be busy and stressful, and open spaces can provide the opportunity for escape, exercise, and relaxation.
- Open space helps to maintain healthy natural systems which play an important role in environmental and ecological protection.
- Open space and scenic areas are a primary factor in attracting and retaining economic investment.

#### 5.1 HISTORY/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Most of the public and natural open lands in the City of Bozeman, such as Burke Park or Tuckerman Park, are categorized as natural parks and not as open space. Most of the non-park open space in the Bozeman area is private open space, often in planned unit developments (PUDs) or clustered developments. The City has long allowed PUDs where regulatory standards, such as setbacks or lot sizes, can be relaxed in exchange for public goods. Historically, the public good obtained through the PUD process consisted of protecting at least 30 percent of the development as open space. In addition, development regulations in the Bozeman area have allowed density bonuses in exchange for the clustering of homes and the protection of open space. Frequently, there are public access easements, most often for trail corridors, across or through these private open spaces.

The City of Bozeman currently does not have a public open space acquisition and management program like other Montana cities such as Missoula and Helena. Both Missoula and Helena have urban open space plans, and funding from open space bonds for urban open space acquisition and management.

The Bozeman area does benefit from close proximity to an abundant amount of public lands, primarily National Forests. Some of the most-loved and often used open lands in the Bozeman area, such as the “M” Trail and Hyalite Canyon, are located in National Forests. The City of Bozeman does own a significant amount of open space up Sourdough Canyon; however this area is managed primarily as a public drinking water resource. The road is used extensively for non-motorized recreation: hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding.

## 5.2 INVENTORY OF OPEN SPACE

In 2005, there were approximately 127 acres of non-park open space within the City of Bozeman, with another 55 acres in the County but within the planning area. The open space within the City is shown on Figure 3. An inventory of open space within the City is presented in Table 5-2 on Page 5-4 through 5-9, and an inventory of County open space within the City is presented in Table 5-3 on Page 5-9.

In addition, there are approximately 1,600 acres of conservation easements in and near the Planning Area. These properties are privately owned without public access, but provide important benefits such as aesthetic views, wildlife habitat and protection of on-going agricultural operations.

**Table 5-1: Conservation Easements In and Near the Bozeman Planning Area**

<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>EASEMENT ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Private Land	156	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	South of Fort Ellis and west of Mount Ellis
Private Land	69	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Huffine Ln
Private Land	40	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Gooch Hill
Private Land	78	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Durston
Private Land	23	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	East of Saber and west of Tayabeshockup
Private Land	1.5	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Kagy Blvd and Sourdough Rd
Private Land	1.0	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Between South Rouse Ave and Church Ave
Private Land	312	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Sourdough
Private Land	50	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Frontage Rd
Private Land	141	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Sourdough
Private Land	66	Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	Sourdough Canyon Rd
Private Land	162	Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	Sourdough Canyon Rd
Private Land	295	Montana Land Reliance	Bridger Canyon Rd
Private Land	189	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	Nash Rd
Private Land	44	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	Nash Rd
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,628		

Source: Natural Resource Information System, State of Montana, 2005.

## 5.3 OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

### 5.3.1 Acquisition

As stated previously, most of the open space in the Bozeman area is created through the PUD process, the clustered development process or the placement of conservation easements. These open spaces are private; however some have public access easements. Lands acquired by the City that meet the definition of open space (i.e., Burke Park or Tuckerman Park) are currently labeled as parks and not as open space.

### 5.3.2 Development

The quality that typically defines open space is the lack of development. Open space is defined as land or water area devoid of buildings and other physical structures except where accessory to the provision of recreation, including but not limited to benches, picnic tables and interpretive signage. Typically, improvements such as trails or benches are installed by and paid for by the private property owner.

### 5.3.3 Maintenance

Because most of these open spaces are privately owned, they are also privately maintained. However, most have maintenance plans in place that have been reviewed and approved by the City or County. Maintenance usually addresses noxious weeds, water quality, range management and fuels suppression.



**Table 5-2: Inventory of Open Space within the City of Bozeman**

LOCATION	ACRES	ACCESS	OWNERSHIP	TYPE	COMMENTS
Laramie Dr	0.5328	Private	Private	Parcel	
Fallon St & Laramie Dr	0.4982	Private	Private	Parcel	
Laredo Dr & Fallon St	0.9833	Private	Private	Parcel	
Laredo Dr	0.0766	Private	Private	Parcel	
Laredo Dr & Golden Valley Dr	0.0817	Private	Private	Parcel	
Huffine Ln & Fowler Ave	0.8314	Private	Private	Parcel	
Durston Rd & Michael Grove Ave	0.1882	Private	Private	Parcel	
Hunters Wy	0.0380	Public	City	Parcel	Drainage area
Durham Ave	0.0371	Public	City	Parcel	Drainage area
Durham Ave & Springbrook Ave	0.3867	Public	City	Parcel	Drainage area
Springbrook Ave & Harmon Wy	0.0653	Public	City	Parcel	Drainage area
Harmon Wy & New Holland Dr	0.0653	Public	City	Parcel	Drainage area
Durston Rd & Mineral Ave	0.1041	Private	Private	Parcel	Stormwater detention
Mineral Ave & Toole St	0.1125	Private	Private	Parcel	Stormwater detention
Cascade St & Mineral Ave	0.1115	Private	Private	Parcel	Stormwater detention
Ferguson Ave & Toole St & Durston Rd	0.3186	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space for stream & ditch
Ferguson Ave & Toole St & Cascade St	0.3156	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space for stream & ditch
Ferguson Ave & Cascade St & W Babcock St	0.4895	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space for stream & ditch
Ferguson Ave	0.3660	Private	Private	Parcel	60' utility/public access easement
Kimball Ave	0.1740	Private	Private	Parcel	60' utility/public access easement
Cascade St & Clifden Dr & Stafford Ave	0.0947	Private	Private	Parcel	30' utility/public access easement
Cascade St & Clifden Dr & Stafford Ave	0.0944	Private	Private	Parcel	30' utility/public access easement
Fowler Ave & Ravalli St	0.2190	Public	Private	Easement	10' wide pedestrian & bicycle trail easement
W Babcock St & Clifden Dr & Stafford Ave	0.1022	Public	Private	Parcel	
W Babcock St & Clifden Dr & Stafford Ave	0.6197	Public	Private	Parcel	
W Babcock St & Hanley Ave & Kimball Ave	0.3765	Public	Private	Parcel	
Alexander St & Clifden Dr & Stafford Ave	0.0971	Public	Private	Parcel	
Alexander St & Clifden Dr & Stafford Ave	0.0983	Public	Private	Parcel	
Ferguson Ave & W Babcock St	0.3519	Public	Private	Parcel	
Kimball Ave & W Babcock St	0.0699	Public	Private	Parcel	
Mountain Ash Ave & Brentwood Ave	0.0251	Public	Private	Parcel	10' wide walkway trail easements (its a parcel)
Mountain Ash Ave & Brentwood Ave	0.0294	Public	Private	Parcel	10' wide walkway trail easements (its a parcel)
Brentwood Ave & Woodland Dr	0.0531	Public	Private	Parcel	10' wide walkway trail easements (its a parcel)
Rogers Wy & Annie St	1.4967	Public	Private	Parcel	Common open space
Rogers Wy & Rose Ct	0.0727	Public	Private	Parcel	Common open space & public access easement
Rogers Wy	0.0370	Public	Private	Parcel	Common open space & public access easement
Peace Pipe Dr & Graf St & Little Horse Dr	13.8732	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space
Morning Sun Dr & Peace Pipe Dr	3.3576	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space

**Table 5-2: Inventory of Open Space within the City of Bozeman**

LOCATION	ACRES	ACCESS	OWNERSHIP	TYPE	COMMENTS
Peace Pipe Dr & Little Horse Dr & Rain Roper Dr	12.0484	Private	Private	Parcel	20' perpetual public easement; pedestrian use only
N 19th Ave & Tschache Ln	0.8191	Public	Private	Easement	50' public greenway common open space waserment
N 19th Ave & Commerce Wy	0.6876	Public	Private	Easement	50' public greenway common open space waserment
Simmental Wy and Dead Man's Gulch	0.6375	Public	Private	Parcel	
S 22nd Ave & Remington Wy & W Kagy Blvd	0.7101	Private	Private	Parcel	Ditch
Huffine Ln & Auto Plaza Dr	3.1321	Public	Private	Parcel	15' wide public access trail & bike path easement
Competition Dr	0.1709	Public	Private	Easement	Open space
Auto Plaza Dr & Competition Dr	0.6515	Private	Private	Parcel	Open space
Auto Plaza Dr	0.4348	Private	Private	Parcel	Open space
Cottonwood Rd & Auto Plaza Dr	0.3028	Private	Private	Parcel	Open space
Cottonwood Rd & Fallon St	0.2315	Private	Private	Parcel	Open Space
S Black Ave & E Story St	0.1360	Private	Private	Parcel	Private open space
S Black Ave & E Story St	0.0552	Public	Private	Easement	Private open space
Farnall St & Annie St	0.0393	Public	Private	Parcel	Pedestrian easement
Annie St & Farnall St	0.0401	Public	Private	Parcel	
Annie St & Lily Dr	0.0391	Public	Private	Parcel	
Lily Dr & Annie St	0.0398	Public	Private	Parcel	
Lily Dr & Rose St	0.0389	Public	Private	Parcel	
Rose St & Lily Dr	0.0377	Public	Private	Parcel	
Rose St & Oliver St	0.0496	Public	Private	Parcel	
Oliver St & Rose St	0.0472	Public	Private	Parcel	
Durston Rd & New Holland Dr	0.0237	Private	Private	Parcel	
Durston Rd & New Holland Dr & Springbrook Ave	0.0655	Private	Private	Parcel	
Durston Rd & Springbrook Ave & Hunters Wy	0.1036	Private	Private	Parcel	
Wagonwheel Rd & Concord Dr	0.0595	Private	Private	Parcel	
Concord Dr & Fieldstone Dr	0.0919	Private	Private	Parcel	
S Tracy Ave & Hoffman Dr	1.2465	Private	Private	Parcel	
Hoffman Dr & S Black Ave	0.9035	Private	Private	Parcel	
S Black Ave & Accola Dr	0.6750	Private	Private	Parcel	
S Black Ave & E Mason St	0.5784	Private	Private	Parcel	
S Black Ave & E Mason St	0.4272	Private	Private	Parcel	
S Black Ave & E Mason St	0.0733	Private	Private	Parcel	
S Tracy Ave & E Mason St	0.9535	Private	Private	Parcel	
Fairway Dr	0.8532	Public	Private	Parcel	
Fairway Dr	0.8333	Private	Private	Parcel	
Ivan Ave	0.2950	Private	Private	Parcel	
Ivan Ave	0.2477	Private	Private	Parcel	
Cornell Dr & Stanford Dr	0.2533	Private	Private	Parcel	
Cornell Dr & Wagonwheel Rd	2.6169	Private	Private	Parcel	

**Table 5-2: Inventory of Open Space within the City of Bozeman**

LOCATION	ACRES	ACCESS	OWNERSHIP	TYPE	COMMENTS
Stanford Dr & Wagonwheel Rd	1.3388	Private	Private	Parcel	Drainage easement
Oxford Dr	0.1275	Private	Private	Parcel	
Oxford Dr & Cambridge Dr	0.0934	Private	Private	Parcel	
S 3rd Ave & Alder Creek Dr	0.1649	Private	Private	Parcel	
Heritage Dr & Wagonwheel Rd	0.0595	Public	Private	Parcel	
Lexington Dr	0.1132	Private	Private	Parcel	
Wagonwheel Rd & Lexington Dr	0.0595	Public	Private	Parcel	
Lexington Dr	0.1236	Private	Private	Parcel	
S 3rd Ave & Brookdale Dr	0.1710	Private	Private	Parcel	
S 3rd Ave & Wagonwheel Rd	0.9141	Private	State	Parcel	
Wagonwheel Rd & Fieldstone Dr	0.0561	Private	Private	Parcel	
Fieldstone Dr	0.0701	Private	Private	Parcel	
Hunters Wy	0.0380	Public	Private	Parcel	
Greek Wy & S 5th Ave	0.0224	Public	Private	Parcel	Easement for walking
Greek Wy & Faculty Ct	0.0239	Public	Private	Easement	Easement for walking
Greek Wy & S 3rd Ave	0.0184	Public	Private	Easement	Easement for walking
Greek Wy	0.0160	Public	Private	Easement	Easement for walking
Gallatin Park Dr	0.1558	Private	Private	Parcel	Utility easement
Gallatin Park Dr	1.7074	Private	Private	Parcel	
Gallatin Park Dr	2.0979	Private	Private	Parcel	Utility easement
E Valley Center Rd & N 19th Ave	1.5692	Private	Private	Easement	50' public greenway corridor
Westridge Dr	0.1800	Public	Private	Easement	15' trail easement
Evergreen Dr	5.5332	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space with private road within the open space
W College St	0.9763	Public	Private	Parcel	Common area
Blackbird Dr & Catron St	0.7008	Private	Private	Parcel	
Blackbird Dr & Downy Ln & Savannah Dr	0.4098	Private	Private	Parcel	
Cattail St & Blackbird Dr	0.4223	Private	Private	Parcel	
Catron St	1.0213	Private	Private	Parcel	
Warbler Wy	0.4906	Private	Private	Parcel	
Broadwater Ct & Broadwater St	0.0634	Private	Private	Parcel	
Broadwater Ct	0.0471	Private	Private	Parcel	
Broadwater Ct	0.0729	Private	Private	Parcel	
Broadwater Ct & Sanders Ave	0.0133	Private	Private	Easement	8' wide pedestrian access easement
N 15th Ave	0.7269	Private	Private	Parcel	
Oak St & N 19th Ave	2.2125	Public	Private	Easement	50' greenway easement
McIlhattan Rd	0.4549	Public	Private	Easement	Trail easement
Par Ct & Birdie Dr	0.4844	Public	Private	Parcel	20' common open space & public linear trail corridor easement
Boylan Dr	0.3366	Public	Private	Easement	20' public linear trail corridor easement
Boylan Dr & Story Mill Rd	0.1730	Private	Private	Parcel	

Table 5-2: Inventory of Open Space within the City of Bozeman

LOCATION	ACRES	ACCESS	OWNERSHIP	TYPE	COMMENTS
Equestrian Ln	0.0175	Public	Private	Easement	Utility easement & pedestrian walkway
Equestrian Ln	0.0185	Public	Private	Easement	Utility easement & pedestrian walkway
Equestrian Ln & Vaquero Pkwy & Caballo Ave	0.0105	Public	Private	Easement	Utility easement & pedestrian walkway
Equestrian Ln & Vaquero Pkwy & Caballo Ave	0.0113	Public	State	Easement	Utility easement & pedestrian walkway
Baxter Ln & Vaquero Pkwy & Caballo Ave	0.0114	Public	Private	Easement	
Baxter Ln & Vaquero Pkwy & Caballo Ave	0.0121	Public	Private	Easement	
Riata Rd & Ford Ct	1.0905	Private	State	Parcel	
Riata Rd & Kimberwicke St	2.6564	Private	Private	Parcel	
Equestrian Rd & Riata Rd	0.1276	Private	Private	Parcel	
Donna Ave & W Babcock St	0.2234	Private	Private	Parcel	
Westridge Dr & Arnold St	0.3763	Public	Private	Parcel	20' recreational & utility easement
Research Dr	1.8373	Private	Private	Parcel	Parking lot
Ravalli St & E Granite Ave	0.0711	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space
Granite Ave & Fallon St	0.0559	Public	Private	Easement	10' pedestrian walkway trail easement
Huffine Ln & Ferguson Ave	1.1285	Public	Private	Easement	Pedestrian easement
Valley Common Dr & Ginnella Wy	0.2397	Private	Private	Easement	40' common open space easement
Mathew Bird Cir & Graf St	4.0517	Private	Private	Parcel	Detention ponds, 20' public pedestrian access easement
Graf St & Mathew Bird Cir	0.1574	Private	Private	Parcel	
W Fieldview Cir & Graf St	3.6338	Private	Private	Parcel	Detention ponds, 20' public pedestrian access easement
Graf St & W Fieldview Cir	0.1899	Private	Private	Parcel	
E Fieldview Cir	2.4727	Private	Private	Parcel	20' public pedestrian access easement
Graf St & E Fieldview Cir	0.1843	Private	Private	Parcel	
Meriwether Ave & Carnealwait St	0.3875	Private	Private	Parcel	Detention pond, open space
N 14th Ave & N 15th Ave	0.4642	Private	Private	Parcel	Access/parking/landscaping
Oak St & N 14th Ave & N 15th Ave	2.0714	Private	Private	Parcel	Access/parking/landscaping
N 14th Ave & N 15th Ave	1.2704	Private	Private	Parcel	Access/parking/landscaping
Matheson Wy	0.3018	Private	Private	Parcel	
Jessie Wy & Roy St	0.6694	Private	Private	Parcel	
Matheson Wy & Roy St	0.6460	Private	Private	Parcel	
N 15th Ave & Durston Rd	0.1491	Private	Private	Parcel	
Matheson Wy & Durston Rd	0.0749	Private	Private	Parcel	
Matheson Wy & Durston Rd	0.1259	Private	Private	Parcel	
Matheson Wy & Roy St	0.0165	Private	Private	Easement	15' pedestrian easement
Matheson Wy & Roy St	0.0142	Private	Private	Easement	15' pedestrian easement
Village Downtown Blvd	1.0749	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Crossing Wy	0.0577	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd	0.0298	Private	Private	Parcel	

**Table 5-2: Inventory of Open Space within the City of Bozeman**

LOCATION	ACRES	ACCESS	OWNERSHIP	TYPE	COMMENTS
Village Downtown Blvd & Village Crossing Wy	0.0482	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd & Village Crossing Wy	0.0478	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd	0.0307	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd	0.0292	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd	0.5281	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Crossing Wy	0.0503	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd	0.0295	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Crossing Wy	0.0647	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd	0.2108	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Crossing Wy	0.6123	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd & N Broadway Ave	0.1070	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd & Front St	0.1135	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd	0.1108	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd	0.0529	Private	Private	Parcel	
Village Downtown Blvd & Front St	0.6462	Private	Private	Easement	25' linear park/trail easement
N 19th Ave & W Stevens Wy	1.2348	Public	Private	Easement	50' public greenway corridor/common open space easement
W Stevens Wy & N 19th Ave	0.4571	Public	Private	Easement	50' public greenway corridor/common open space easement
N 19th Ave & N 22nd Ave	0.1743	Public	Private	Easement	50' public greenway corridor/common open space easement
N 19th Ave & N 22nd Ave & Durston Rd	1.0691	Public	Private	Easement	50' public greenway corridor/common open space easement
Oak St & Maplewood St	0.1183	Public	Private	Easement	35' public stream corridor/common open space easement
Maplewood St & Windsor St	0.8545	Public	Private	Easement	35' public stream corridor/common open space easement
Windsor St & N 22nd Ave	0.2498	Public	Private	Easement	35' public stream corridor/common open space easement
Fallon St & Ferguson Ave	1.0903	Public	Private	Easement	30' linear park/trail easement
Fallon St & Ferguson Ave	2.4110	Public	Private	Easement	30' linear park/trail easement
Stillwater Creek Dr	0.7386	Public	Private	Easement	30' linear park/trail easement
Overbrook Dr	0.2321	Public	Public	Easement	25' transportation pathway easement (Gallagator Trail)
Overbrook Dr & S 7th Ave	0.0355	Public	Private	Road	10' public pedestrian trail easement centered over existing trail
Baxter Ln & Tschache Ln	1.7246	Public	Private	Easement	70' waterway & pedestrian trail easement
N 19th Ave & Tschache Ln & Baxter Ln	1.9479	Public	Private	Easement	50' greenway
Highland Blvd	0.1708	Public	Private	Easement	10' pedestrian access
Gallatin Center development	0.2578	Public	Private	Easement	75' public open space/linear trail
Max Ave & Burke St	0.1352	Public	Private	Easement	25' public utility & sidewalk access easement
Max Ave & Burke St	0.3463	Public	Private	Easement	25' public utility & sidewalk access easement
Catron St	1.2444	Public	Private	Easement	75' public open space/linear trail easement
Gallatin Center development	0.5778	Public	Private	Easement	20' utility/linear trail easement
Valley Center Rd & Catron St	0.7705	Public	Private	Easement	50' public open space/linear trail easement
Valley Center Rd	0.8757	Private	Private	Parcel	Common area for stormwater retention facilities
Valley Center Rd	0.4524	Public	Private	Easement	12' pedestrian easement to be within 50' of Valley Center ROW

**Table 5-2: Inventory of Open Space within the City of Bozeman**

LOCATION	ACRES	ACCESS	OWNERSHIP	TYPE	COMMENTS
N 15th Ave & Oak St	0.2921	Public	Private	Easement	25' pedestrian easement
Sourdough Rd	0.2277	Public	Private	Easement	20' trail corridor easement
Broadwater St & Meagher Ave	0.0575	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space
Meagher Ave	0.0521	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space
W Babcock St	0.1244	Private	Private	Parcel	10' wide access easement between common open spaces
Broadwater St & Chouteau Ave	0.0493	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space
Meagher Ave	0.0843	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space
Meagher Ave	0.0402	Private	Private	Parcel	Common open space
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127.4649</b>				

Notes:

Open space acreages were obtained from subdivision final plats on file in the Bozeman Engineering Department. Where no final plat figures were available, the City's GIS system was used to calculate open space acreages. This inventory includes all open space in the City on December 31, 2005.

**Table 5-3: Inventory of County Open Space within the Planning Area**

NAME	ACRES	ACCESS	LOCATION	PARKING	COMMENTS
Franklin Hills Subdivision	5.0200	Public	Brandon Trail Rd & Dulohey Ln		Access is not obvious
Manley Meadows	0.0000	Public	McIlhattan Rd		
Meadowbrook Estates	0.7386	Public	Dogwood Dr	Paved	Subdivision buffer
Myers	18.2000	Public	Triple Tree Rd	Gravel	
Rae Subdivision	0.0847	Public	Chestnut Grove Ave		Condo's backyard
Rae Subdivision	0.0000	Public	Dogwood Dr		Wall location
Stonegate Subdivision	3.0590	Public	McIlhattan Rd & Barclay Dr		
Valley Center Subdivision	6.3890	Public	Stubbs Ln & Durango Ln		
Walker Property	21.2050	Public	Campbell Rd & Springhill Rd		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54.6963</b>				

Notes:

Open space acreages were obtained from Gallatin County's open space inventory that was prepared in 2005 by County staff. This inventory includes all County open spaces within the Planning Area that were included in the 2005 inventory.



*Private open space in Sundance Springs, a residential planned unit development subdivision*



*Private open space in the Valley Commons Business Park, a commercial planned unit development subdivision*

## 5.4 OPEN SPACE GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS

### 5.4.1 Gallatin County

The Gallatin County Open Space Bond was passed by the voters in the fall of 2000. The bond, in the amount of \$10 million dollars, is for the purpose of preserving open space in Gallatin County by purchasing land and conservation easements from willing landowners for the following purposes: managing growth, preserving ranches and farms, protecting wildlife habitat and water quality of streams and rivers, providing parks and recreation areas. The Gallatin County Commission has appointed a 15 member citizens' advisory committee, (Gallatin County Open Lands Board) to oversee the grant program. The Open Lands Board reviews all applications and makes project funding recommendations to the County Commissioners, who have the authority to spend the bond money.

By County resolution the Commissioners must appoint a majority of ranchers and farmers to serve on the Open Lands Board. The mission statement of the Open Lands Board is to work with the citizens of Gallatin County to preserve natural lands and encourage the economic viability of agriculturally productive lands. This is accomplished through voluntary programs that ensure the protection of open-space lands, either in perpetuity or for a term of years; and through the identification or establishment of funding sources, tax measures and other incentives. By law the County Commissioners must hold public hearings explaining what projects have been recommended for funding from the bond money. This process allows full public disclosure and input.

### 5.4.2 Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

This state agency works with property owners to protect and enhance critical wildlife habitat. They negotiate and administer conservation easements. The Bozeman Ponds and East Gallatin Recreation Area are both owned by FWP, but are managed by the City of Bozeman as City parks.

### 5.4.3 Gallatin Valley Land Trust

GVLТ is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to the conservation of open space, agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and the creation of public trails in southwestern Montana.

### 5.4.4 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is an international, nonprofit wildlife conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat. Land protection projects include land acquisitions and conservation easements.

### 5.4.5 Montana Land Reliance

The MLR is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan land trust that strives to provide permanent protection for ecologically and historically important private lands. MLR works with Montana's private landowners, both one-on-one and in neighborhood-based groups, to provide long-term conservation strategies to protect the economic and natural elements of their land and their neighborhoods. Conservation easements are the primary tools used by MLR to achieve these goals.

## 5.5 PARTNERSHIPS

The partnership with the GVLТ is critical for the expansion of the City's trail system. Often important trail corridors and connections lie on private property, and GVLТ's expertise and experience is critical

for negotiating with the landowner and securing the needed easements. GVLT also contributed significantly to the maintenance of trail easements.

The City also partners with property owners associations for the maintenance of private open space and trail easements. The City's development regulations contain requirements for the development and maintenance of common areas, including common open space, by property owners associations. However, there is always room for improvement in ensuring that private open spaces, and trail corridors with public access easements, are adequately maintained.

## **5.6 PROST PLAN SURVEY RESULTS**

As noted in Chapter 1, a community survey was conducted as part of the preparation of the PROST Plan. Of the 315 survey respondents, 106 listed parks as one of the recreational facilities that are most often used by members of their household; this is 34 percent of the respondents. Open space was the third most often used recreation facility after trails and parks. When asked which recreation activity and related facility should be the highest priority for the City, open space was the third most often listed facility after trails and parks.