

Newsletter of the Milltown Superfund Site Redevelopment Working Group

Fall, 2006

301 W Alder, Missoula MT 59802

Dear Community Friends and Neighbors,

More than two decades in the making, work at the Milltown Reservoir Superfund site has begun. As the work commences, a group of volunteer citizens and stakeholders have already spent more than three years focused on what happens at Milltown once the work is all said and done.

Redevelopment at Milltown aims to capitalize on the economic development and community revitalization opportunities offered by the Superfund cleanup and restoration efforts. The Milltown Redevelopment Working Group was formed in 2003 through joint action by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Missoula County Commissioners. Members are citizens and stakeholders from the Milltown area and Missoula. Through a collaborative process, the Working Group created a redevelopment plan that builds on remediation and restoration efforts and reflects local preferences and concerns.

So after three years, what do we have to show for our efforts? A lot. This newsletter explains what has occurred since the Missoula County Commissioners accepted the recommendations of the Working Group in February, 2005 and gave to the Working Group a new charge: to assist in implementing the redevelopment plan. (See "Working Group Charter and Goals, page 5)

Community Council Convenes

One of the Working Group's recommendations was to place the option of creating a community council on a general election ballot. A community council could offer residents greater local representation in helping shape not only redevelopment choices at the Milltown site itself but also the community growth choices that the redevelopment will bring.

The community voted in May, 2006 to form a community council. The Missoula County Commissioners accepted applications for council membership, interviewed applicants, and made selections in July, 2006. Appointees will be replaced by elected council members in the spring of 2007.

New council members Toby Dumont, Bob Greil, Gary Matson,

Ken Peers, and Jill Marie Max first met and were sworn in September 5.

The council is **an advisory body to the Missoula County Commissioners**. Regular meetings will be the **second Monday of each month at 7 PM at Bonner School**.

The Council invites **public participation** at each meeting. The area represented by the council is the **Bonner School District**.



Jill Marie Max, Gary Matson, Ken Peers, Toby Dumont, Bob Greil

Working Group Meetings Are Held Monthly

The Working Group meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30 - 9 PM in Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The public is welcome.

Working Group meetings are also shown on MCAT on Bresnan Cable Channel 11. Each monthly meeting will be telecast on the following Sun. at 10 PM; Mon. at 1 PM; & Tues. at 7:30 PM.

Working Group Proposes Parks, Trails, River Recreation and Historic Interpretation at the Superfund Site

The Working Group's focus is on the actual site itself and surroundings. The Working Group recommended that the Milltown Reservoir area be redeveloped using parks, trails, river accesses and an interpretive center.

The group believes the development of park and visitor facilities will have long-term, sustainable benefits for our communities. These facilities will increase quality of life, improve the desirability of the area, help attract new residents and commercial development, increase property values, and bring visitors to the area.

Senator Max Baucus strongly supports redevelopment at the site. Through his efforts funding for trails has been obtained.



Working Group member Cindy Jimmerson listens to Sen. Baucus during a visit to the reservoir site.

Pedestrian Bridge Preparations Continue

Pedestrian trail aspects of the redevelopment plan have gained ground, in some cases literally.

Funding has been obtained to replace Missoula County's pedestrian bridge in Milltown and to build a new Bonner-Turah Exchange Loop Trail. The new Milltown pedestrian bridge is expected to be completed by fall, 2007.

The County has hired HDR Engineering to complete final bridge design. Major funding for the project through the State Natural Resource Damage Program (Arco litigation settlement funds) has successfully passed through several stages in a granting process and awaits a final decision by Gov. Schweitzer in December.

Plans include removal of the old bridge and replacement with a new, durable bridge with walkway lighting. The new bridge design would enhance river restoration by removing concrete piers from the river channel.

The current bridge is the third bridge crossing the river at this site. It was built in 1921 and served as a state highway bridge until 1977, when it was closed by the State of Montana and turned over to the County for long-term maintenance as a pedestrian bridge. Extensive historical documentation is planned before removal of the bridge.



One possible design for a new pedestrian bridge

Bonner-Turah Exchange Loop Trail Planned

Safe pedestrian travel prompted selection of the Bonner-Turah Exchange Loop Trail as a top priority for trail construction. School children and residents of Piltzville and Bonner Pines frequently access school property from Hellgate Drive, crossing the railroad tracks behind the school. A new rail spur behind Bonner School, currently scheduled for construction in fall, 2007 will close that route forcing residents to use Hwy 210 to get to the school, churches, or Bonner and Milltown. This is unsafe due to the lack of pedestrian walkways and road shoulders.

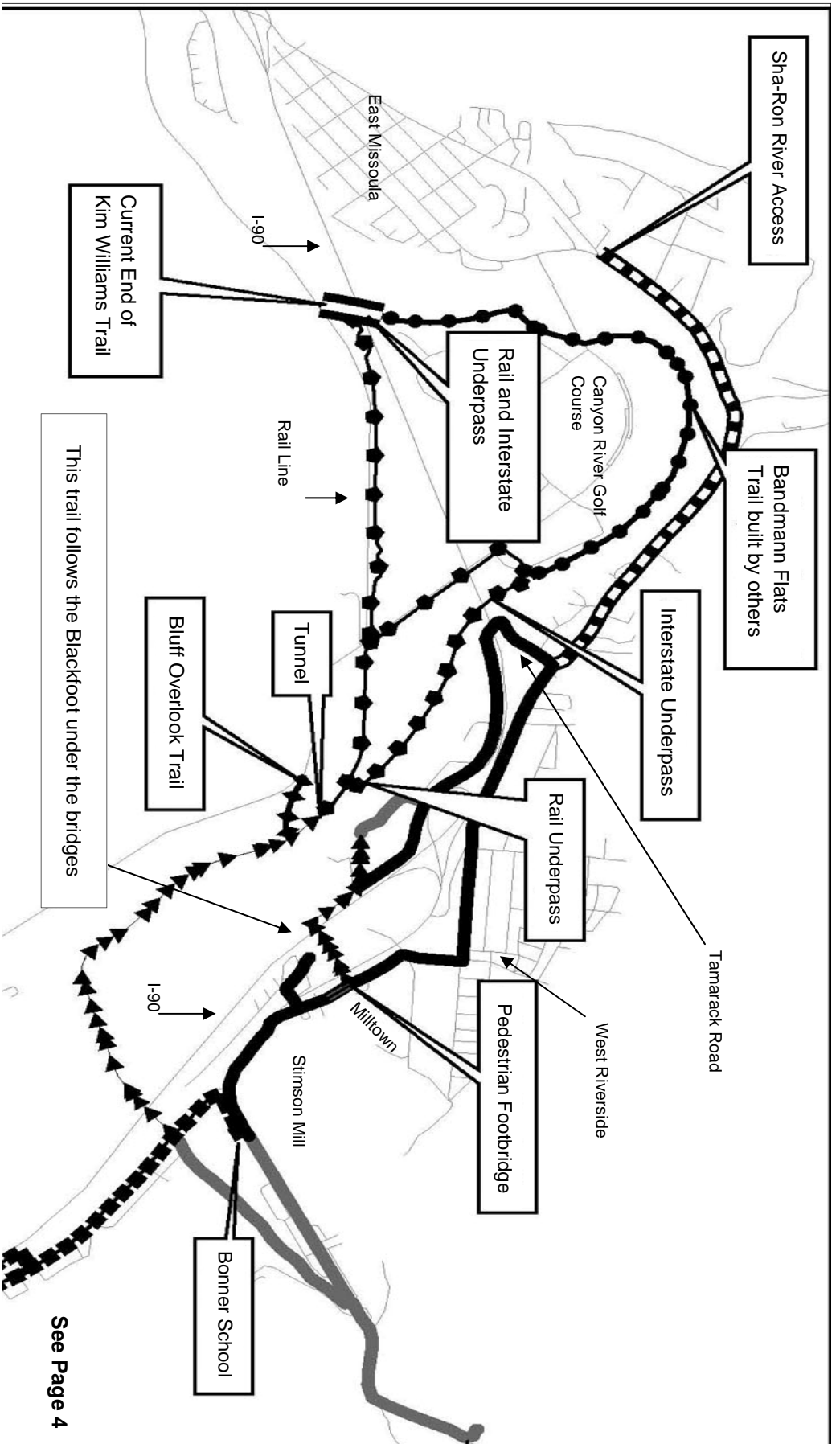
The County has also noted other hazards to be mitigated by the trail: Pedestrian safety for those who walk along Hwy 210 and Rustic Road for transportation or exercise, and safety for bicyclists and motorists along Hwy 210 due to increasing use of the roads for bicycle recreation.

This trail was requested at the Working Group public open house in winter, 2005 by Piltzville residents who currently walk along the route. Safety concerns were also expressed by other area residents. Traffic on these roads might increase by 5-10% during the Superfund cleanup.




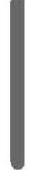





Public meetings about trail routes will be held this fall. Public input culminated in an EPA decision to provide major funding for the loop trail.

Kim Williams Trail Extension Advances

Extending the Kim Williams Trail to connect with the proposed trail system in the restored confluence area was highly favored by the public attending the winter, 2005 Working Group open houses. The extension is planned to the Canyon River Golf Course trail in 2007, with an underpass beneath railroad and Interstate bridges at the west end of Bandmann Flats. The City of Missoula is working with the County to complete this project, and is also working with developers of proposed subdivisions south of I-90 to complete extension of the trail to the east end of Bandmann Flats.



See Page 4

-  Hwy 200 to Sha-Ron Access - 2007-08
 -  Bonner Turah Exchange Loop - 2007
 -  Bluff Overlook Trail - 2007
 -  Future Trail & River Access Projects - 2008-10
 -  Bandmann Flats Trail - 2006
 -  Kim Williams Extension Options
 -  Restored Confluence Trail - 2009-10
 -  Milltown/W Rvrsid/Juniper Dr Segment 2007-08
 -  Kim Williams Extension - 2007
- Dates are estimates of when the trails might be completed.

History and Culture Projects Underway

During the late 1970's a large number of historical photos was collected by Bonner School Superintendent Jack Demmons. These photos, so useful in documenting conditions existing prior to Superfund designation, were cited for preservation under the Consent Decree. The History and Culture committee will oversee scanning of the 1500 photographs this fall/winter. The original photos will remain at Bonner School and copies of the digital collection for educational use will be at both Bonner School and the University of Montana Archives.

Throughout the year the History and Culture Committee has displayed portions of the Demmons Collection at public events for viewing and to collect information about the photographs.

A "Sense of Place" project is underway to collect residents' memories of places in the neighborhoods which are changing and will be impacted by the Superfund cleanup. Neighborhoods involved include Piltzville, Bonner, Milltown, and West Riverside.

Salvaging and storing historical artifacts from the powerhouse continues. Video and sound recordings were made of the powerhouse shutdown in April and these will be housed at UM Archives. Donated materials will be available for local use.

Planning for the interpretive center has begun. The County has submitted a grant application

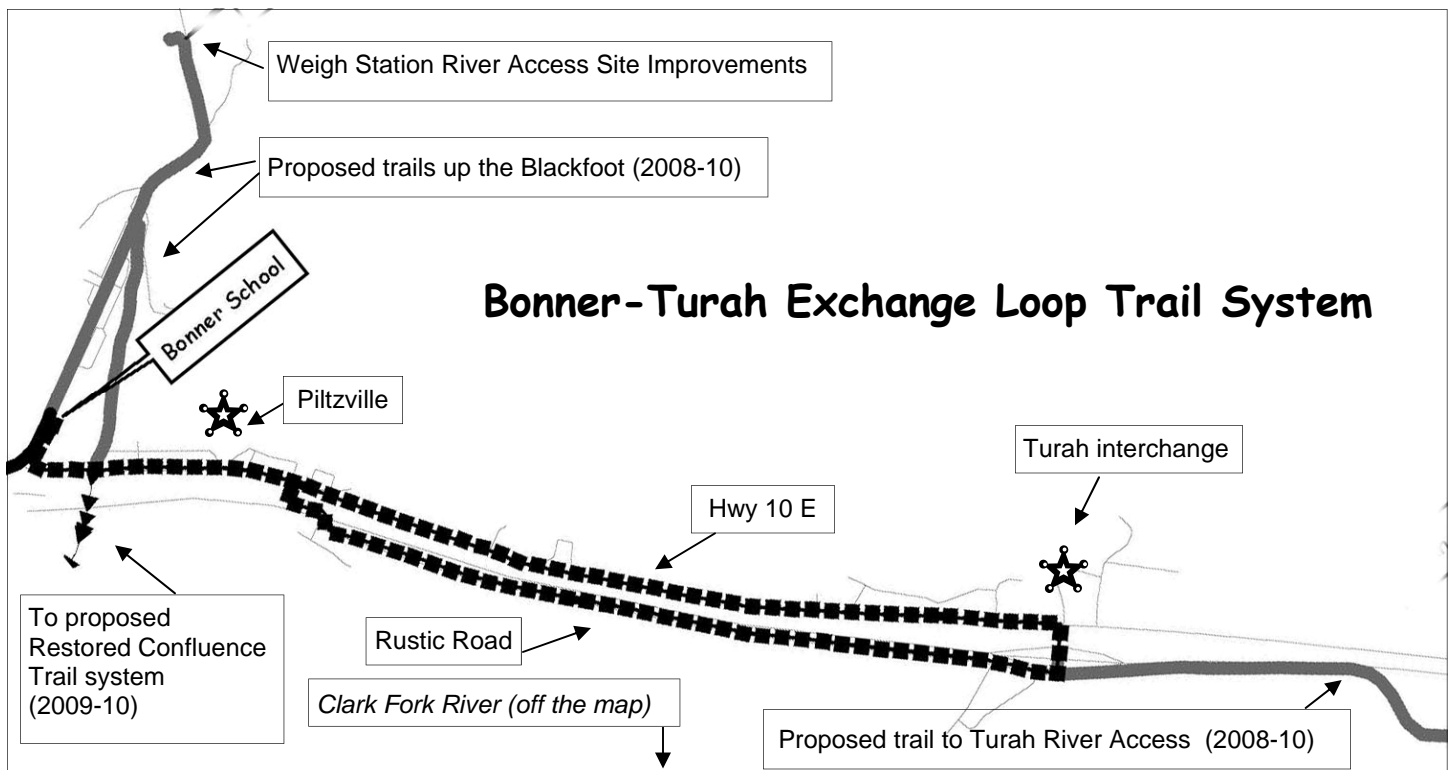
prepared by the Working Group to the National Endowment for the Humanities. A planning conference will be held in the spring.



Piltzville residents Paul and Peggy Layton look at Demmons Collection photos with Working Group member Mary Erickson.



Technical advisor Warren Hampton illustrates possibilities for an interpretive center in a park at the restored confluence.



Outreach Committee Seeks Ways to Engage Public Participation

The Working Group tries to “ensure ongoing public participation” by sharing its processes with local community residents. For example, the Group hosted two public meetings on the matter of establishing a

community council. With Bonner School, the Group co-sponsored an area-wide door-to-door literature distribution just before the vote on the council choice in spring, 2006. This newsletter is another example of community outreach, and was mailed to all area addresses from the East Rattlesnake to Turah.

The Group is continuing to work with Missoula Community Access Television (MCAT) to provide TV coverage of each meeting, an arrangement that

was begun through the initiative of the Bonner Development Group. Each Working Group meeting is publicized through public service announcements, sent to all area media, and by posters at each post

office, the River City Grill, Milltown Market, and the Two Rivers Bank.

Future outreach efforts are planned, including a TV documentary style tour of the Milltown site.

A “speakers bureau” will provide a presentation about redevelopment for any group, large or small.

These projects are aimed at broadening the awareness of redevelopment projects now underway and planned. To arrange for a presentation for your group, please call Gary Matson, 370-6584.



Working Group members meet from 6:30 - 9 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The public is welcome.

Updated Charter Reflects Role of Working Group

The Milltown Superfund Site Citizen Working Group brings together diverse interests and expertise from local and neighboring communities. The group will build on remedial and restoration plans, exploring how they can be implemented and supplemented to best benefit the public. Through a collaborative process, the group has created and recommended a redevelopment plan to Missoula County that strongly reflects local preferences and is compatible with the site remedy and restoration. Missoula County has adopted the group's conceptual plan. The redevelopment plan includes recreational, environmental, economic, historic, and infrastructure developments, and the formation of a local Community Council to enhance participation in local governance.

The Milltown Superfund Site Redevelopment Working Group will continue its work throughout the period of remediation and restoration design and implementation. The group will review and comment on remediation and restoration plans to ensure coordination with proposed redevelopment projects and to address community concerns throughout the process.

Process Goals Identified by Working Group

1. **Identify issues, constraints, and opportunities for current and future needs in the area.**
2. **Build upon and refine existing redevelopment conceptual plans.**
3. **Explore the intent of remediation, restoration and land use plans and the potential need for changes in those plans to accommodate the recommendations of the Working Group.**
4. **Ensure ongoing public participation.**
5. **Identify and develop funding sources and potential partners.**
6. **Advise Missoula County, State, and EPA on how best to implement projects for which funding is received.**



Many stories to tell.... Against the backdrop of the Confluence of the Big Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers, Salish Elder Louis Adams recounts the significance of the place to his people. The site has experienced the floods of Glacial Lake Missoula, ancient migrations of fish and wildlife, visits by indigenous peoples, exploration, industrial use, settlement by Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, and French-Canadian immigrants who came to work in the lumbering industry, and is the site of a remarkable remediation and restoration project. The Working Group believes that the Two Rivers story merits an interpretive center at the confluence, one located within a top-notch park complex.

Working Group Members

Doug Ardiana - Bonner School
 Trent Baker - River recreation stakeholder
 Ellen Buchanan - County resident
 Chuck Erickson - Friends of Two Rivers, Piltzville resident
 Mary Erickson - Convention & Visitors Bureau, Hotel & Motel Assn., Piltzville resident
 Sue Furey - Piltzville resident
 Bill Gollehon - Bonner Development Group, Local resident
 Mike Halligan - County resident
 Pelah Hoyt - Hellgate Hunters & Anglers
 Cindy Jimmerson - Blackfoot River resident

Michael Kustudia - Clark Fork River Technical Assistance Committee
 Ruth Jones - Milltown Water Users' Association, Milltown resident
 Tracy Stone-Manning - Clark Fork Coalition
 Gary Matson - Local business owner, West Riverside resident
 Judy Matson - Historic preservation stakeholder, West Riverside resident
 Jeff Patterson - Sheriff's Posse, County resident
 Dick Shimer - County resident
 Don Peters - Fisheries stakeholder
 Gwen Thibodeau - Marshall Grade resident
 Karl Uhlig - Piltzville resident
 Mike Whitman - Bonner Development Group, Turah resident

Inside... Trails, Historic Preservation,
 and Outreach

The Working Group has been assisted by Virginia Tribe, Facilitator, and the members of a Technical Support Team, drawn from Missoula County staff; the EPA; the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program; the Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks; the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes; the National Park Service; US Fish and Wildlife Service; and a volunteer local architect and landscape architects. For further information contact Peter Nielsen, Missoula County, 258-4968.

Milltown Redevelopment Working Group
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 Missoula, MT 59802

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