

Woods Creek Park MASTER PLAN



MARCH, 2025

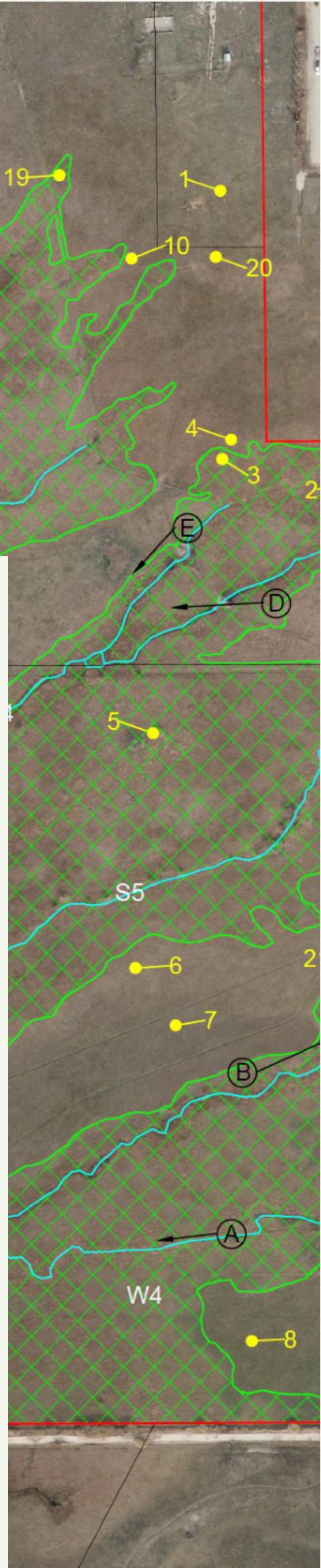


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Introduction

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In 2022, the City of Driggs acquired 5 parcels adjacent to the site of its current wastewater treatment plant with the purpose of reserving space for wastewater treatment, preserving open space for wildlife and public use, and creating a gateway boundary on the western entrance of the City. The site provided additional opportunities for municipal, public, and recreation uses, as well as valuable habitat and ecological assets.



Figure 1: Project Site Vicinity Map

Introduction

In August of 2024, the City initiated a master planning process to determine how to best use the property, then called 'Bates Road Park.' Over the next five months, an online survey, public open house, and online comment forum, as well as a design charette produced the preliminary list of uses and elements designed for the Park. City Staff, officials, stakeholders, and the public, came together to create a master plan that represents the desires of the community, includes necessary municipal facilities, and protects wildlife and their habitat, providing a common good and benefit for our city. Because of the presence of Woods Creek, the City has begun referring to the project as Woods Creek Park. A summary of public outreach and complete comments can be found in the Appendix.

The Woods Creek Park Master Plan contains an emergency services facility, parking and trailhead area, pond, trail network, future transportation connection, public employee housing, and snow storage area. Much of the site is intended to be left for habitat restoration and preservation, with 30 of these acres reserved for future wastewater reclamation expansion. The Master Plan is intended as a framework for appropriate uses and their placement on site. Each element may be implemented independently of one another as the City determines funding and demand for each amenity. Further studies are suggested to determine the actual extent and value of biological resources and a plan for environmental restoration/mitigation, prior to creating detailed implementation plans for the trail network and other development. Recommendations for implementation also include phasing elements beginning with habitat restoration and progressing through higher intensity of development as the natural amenities of the site establish and grow. The City can use this Master Plan to guide projects into the future, creating a valuable amenity and public good bolstered by community input, ecological data, and flexible planning.

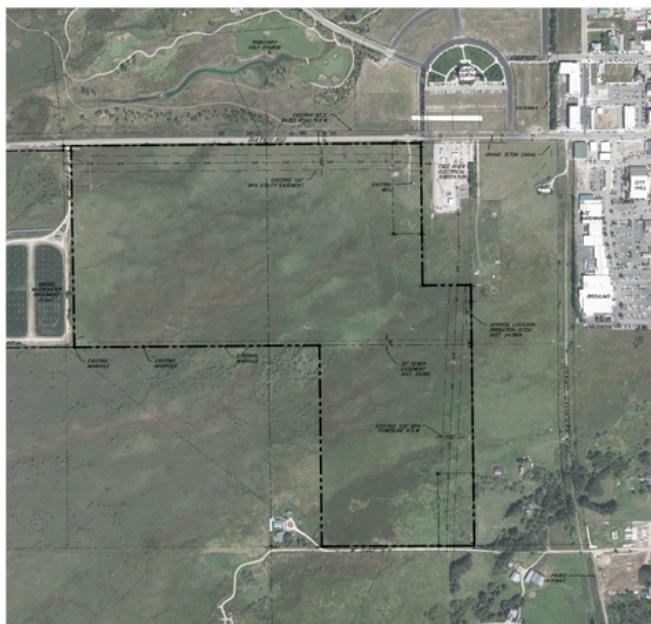


Figure 2: Project Site Base Map

Site Analysis

The 101-acre property is well known for moose sightings, sandhill cranes, raptors and other birds, as well as providing a large, unfragmented area for wildlife access to the Teton River. It contains wetlands recognized in the National Wetland Inventory on over 50% of the site. Some of these wetlands support the Woods Creek Fen, a state designated unique wetland containing peat soils that support several rare species and high biodiversity value. Wetlands are protected at both the local and federal levels; regulations limit the potential for development in these areas but opportunities exist for limited impacts and restoration or enhancement of wetlands at the site.

Because the property is flanked on the east by the electrical substation and on the west by the wastewater reclamation facility, and contains two overhead power lines along the north east boundaries, it is best suited to uses that are compatible with public utility infrastructure. A portion of the property is designated for future wastewater reclamation expansion and so will not contain permanent buildings or other development. Despite these constraints, there is ample opportunity to create value for the community.



Figure 3: Electrical Substation on the Eastern Border of the Project Site

Wetlands and Fen

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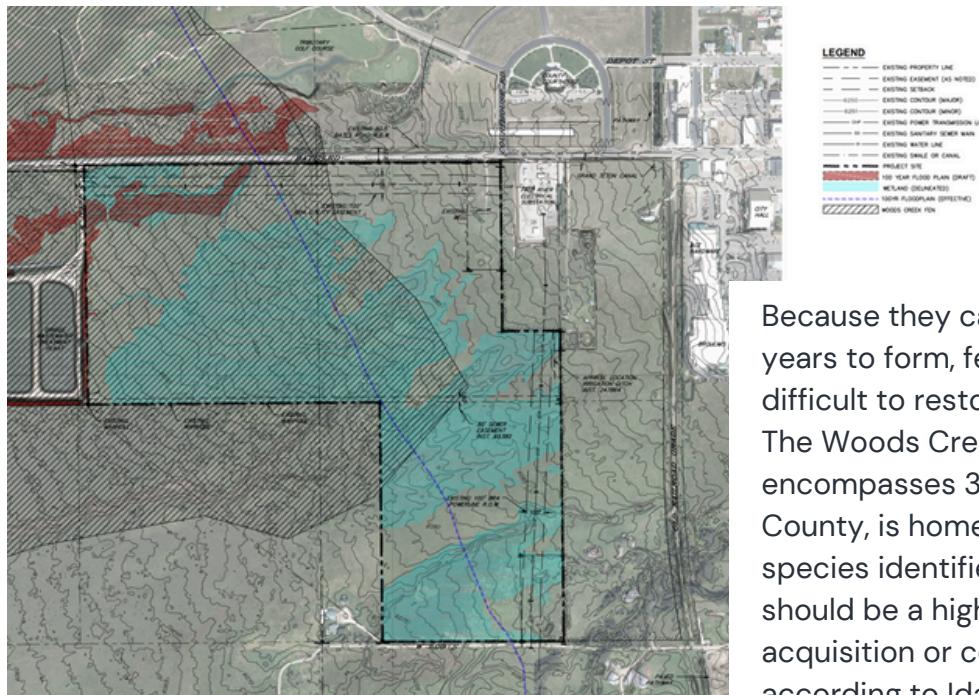


Figure 4: Woods Creek Park Wetlands and Fen Boundary

A wetlands delineation and aquatic resources inventory performed in 2023 mapped 61-acres of wetlands and 0.4-acres of streams on the Woods Creek Site. These valuable resources provide habitat for important animal and plant species, can contribute to controlling erosion, aquifer recharge, and filtering clean water. A heron rookery, sandhill crane migratory habitat, moose, and other wildlife have been observed on the site.

Part of the site is also within an area designated as a “fen”, which is a special type of wetland. Fens are groundwater-fed wetlands that accumulate organic matter as peat, requiring persistent anaerobic conditions and cold temperatures to limit organic matter decomposition.

Because they can take thousands of years to form, fens are sensitive and difficult to restore once disturbed. The Woods Creek Fen, which encompasses 3,962-acres in Teton County, is home to eight rare plant species identified for protection and should be a high priority for acquisition or conservation easement according to Idaho Fish and Game’s Wetland Conservation Strategies report from 1996.

The Woods Creek Park site has been used as pasture for livestock, and exhibits impacts from grazing. Livestock trampling and hoof action can result in soil compaction, exposure, and drying of the peat body, causing it to quickly decompose. Hydrologic alteration caused by livestock can also damage fens, which are sensitive to small fluctuations in the depth of the water table, affecting not only the rate of peat formation, but also the species composition of the fen. Livestock can alter the nutrient status of fens through manure deposition, causing changes in species composition, declines in biodiversity and loss of rare species.

MASTER PLAN

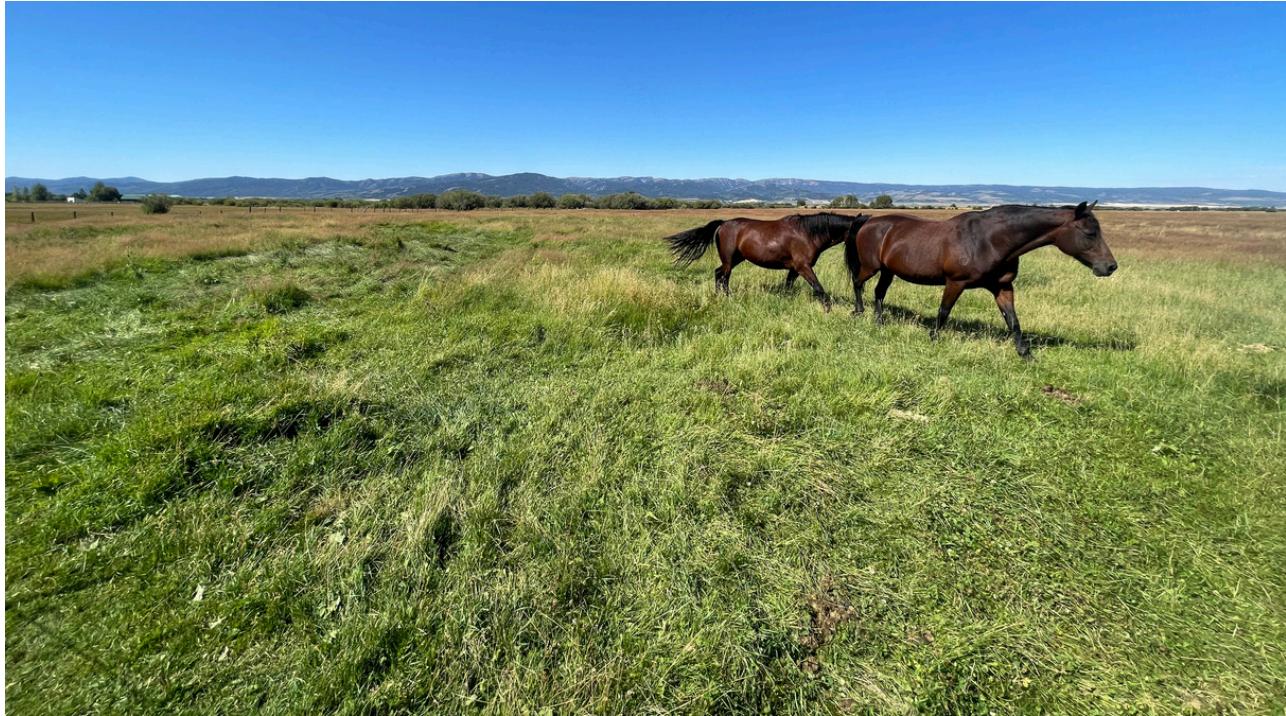
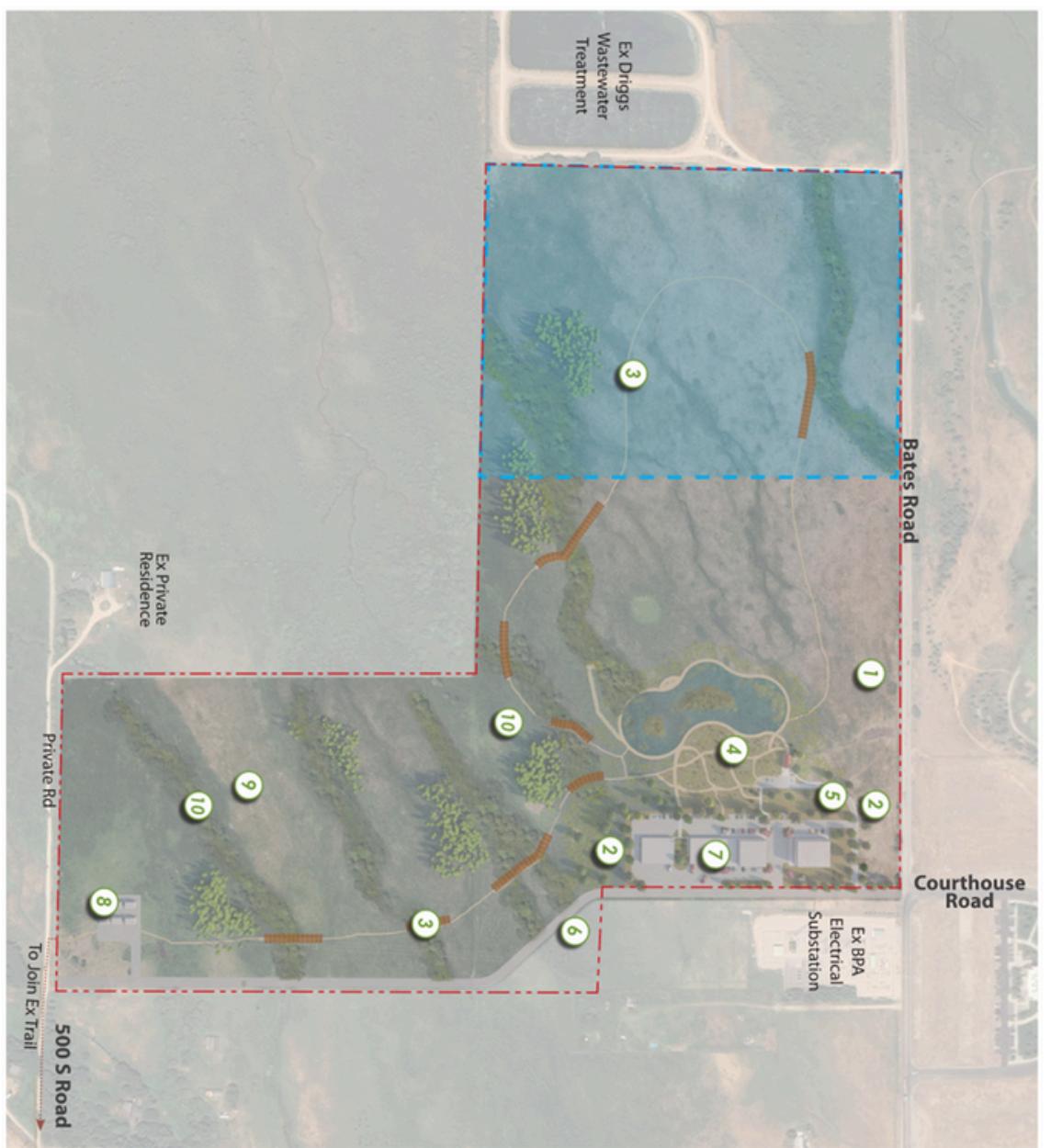


Figure 5: Horses Grazing at the Project Site, 2024

The Woods Creek Park Master Plan contains a combination of conservation, recreation, and public service uses, meeting the needs of the City and community desire expressed in public outreach results. The Master Plan is intended to be flexible. Each element shown on the master plan can be installed independently of the others and is not reliant on development of other plan elements, meaning that implementation of these uses can be dictated by priority, funding, and feasibility.

The Plan outlined below would rehabilitate natural elements initially, allowing plants to establish while other uses are developed. The ecological and esthetic value of the park would then increase for recreational users and natural areas could be applied as accessory uses such as stormwater treatment and shade for public service facilities. Each element of the Master Plan is described below.

Woods Creek Park - Master Plan



Legend

- Property Boundary
- Boardwalk*
- ~30 Acre - Area Reserved for City Utility Use, If Needed

- 1 Snow Storage
- 2 Landscape Buffer
- 3 Trail Network*
- 4 Woods Creek Trailhead Area
- 5 Public Access Road and Separated Pathway
- 6 Future Potential Transportation Connection
- 7 Emergency Services Facility **
- 8 Public Agency Employee Housing
- 9 Wetland Mitigation Area
- 10 Habitat Enhancement and Native Vegetation Restoration Areas

*Final gravel and snow trail network alignments, boardwalk placement, seasons of use, and recreational uses to be compatible with natural resources and wildlife conservation

**Subject to property lease/sale negotiation

Property may contain components of Woods Creek Fen, a unique and rare State designated priority wetland; extents need to be field verified.

Figure 6: Woods Creek Park Master Plan



Habitat Enhancement and Native Vegetation Restoration

Conservation of ecological elements and wildlife habitat were the most popular uses identified in comments and survey results from public outreach. The environmental value of the site is documented by the National Wetlands Inventory and delineated by Intermountain Aquatics, as well as the presence of the Woods Creek Fen. Animals are commonly observed using the area including moose and sandhill cranes. For these reasons, developed recreation and public use areas are limited in extent, with the remainder intended for restoration and enhancement of natural habitat.



Wetland Mitigation Areas

Areas of the park which are not within identified wetland boundaries may be utilized as mitigation areas, meaning that wetlands can be established there through planting and modifying the topography. Acres of established wetlands are used to replace or 'mitigate' wetlands areas disturbed by other uses such as pathways.

Enhancement and restoration activities should be focused initially on areas around the planned Trailhead Area and Pond. Established vegetation will begin to buffer the buildings and vehicular areas from the rest of the site, creating screening and wildlife security. A wildlife impact analysis, biological survey, and restoration plan can provide additional locations to focus initial revegetation to mitigate impacts from trails and other plan elements.



Figure 7: Example Restored Willow Riparian Habitat for Songbirds, Big Game, and Water Quality Improvement



Restoration Activities

Decades of grazing have degraded habitat value across most of the site. Fortunately, opportunities for restoring native vegetation and enhancing wetlands abound. Restoration of plant communities associated with Woods Creek Fen should be a top priority due to the sensitivity and State designated uniqueness of this wetland. Mapping completed by the Teton Regional Land Trust shows components of Woods Creek Fen on the site. However, this existing mapping is rudimentary and dated, and current maps likely overestimate the extent of fen components on the property. Therefore, soil and plant surveys to refine the fen boundaries should be a priority so that these areas can be conserved and impacts avoided. This research would go hand in hand with a restoration plan informed by the fen boundaries.. Groundwater is high in this landscape, resulting in several perennial and seasonal spring creek reaches that traverse the property. Riparian and palustrine scrub-shrub wetland restoration and enhancement activities should be focused in these areas to take advantage of the supporting hydrology. More functional riparian components just off the property provide good references for restoration potential. These habitats are characterized by riparian stringers dominated by robust willow communities with patches of aspen.

These habitats are structurally complex, aesthetically pleasing and can be very rich in bird diversity; cover and forage further provide critical winter range for moose. Development of ponds and emergent wetlands is also possible across much of the site. These habitats should be sited in areas of suitable soils and groundwater or surface water hydrology. Irrigation water with associated water rights may be required to implement such features. Finally, although low in extent, uplands on the site are extremely valuable both ecologically and for future infrastructure development. Restoration of these areas will involve replacing current tame pasture vegetation and noxious weeds with more resilient and higher functioning native vegetation components.

Restoration timing can happen immediately and phased over many years. Immediate actions may include removal, curtailment or more careful management of livestock grazing aimed at facilitating ongoing and future habitat restoration goals. Riparian plantings are relatively inexpensive and can be phased to track with budgets. Pond and wetland developments require more careful planning and typically involve longer timelines and greater investment.



Figure 8: Example Created Emergent Marsh Habitat for Waterbirds



Trailhead Area

The Trailhead Area will serve as the main recreational access point. Containing a garden, pond, pathways, trails, interpretive information, and picnic shelter, the Trailhead Area will be accessed by a small parking facility and multiuse pathway connections. Restrooms collocated with the adjacent Community Room will be available to park visitors.

Once habitat enhancement and native vegetation restoration have begun, recreational uses can be installed from least impactful to most impactful. A loop trail or designated trail alignment may be established to assist in locating restoration activities.

More trails may be added later once they can be served by the parking area and as demand allows.

When funding and demand allow, the access road and gravel parking area can be built to serve the new trail, with the paved pathway connection and a park sign.

The garden and shelter would be installed next, when funding allows for landscape design and maintenance of the plant demonstration areas. Since the pond will be the most costly and time intensive element, it would likely be installed later with accompanying path and boardwalk overlook built once the banks are established.



Trail Network

Opportunities for winter and summer trails exist on the large site and were a popular preference in public outreach responses. A multiuse gravel path may circle through the site and potentially connect to the south or be incorporated into the Right-of-Way footprint of the Future Potential Transportation Connection. Where the path crosses wetlands, it is preferred to install a boardwalk bridge to minimize impacts to the wetlands that would require mitigation elsewhere. The Master Plan shows preliminary trail alignment discussed during the Design Charrette. A final trail design should consider a wildlife habitat analysis, restoration plan, and perhaps

further public outreach to determine a balance between recreational utility and potential impacts. Gravel trails will allow for low maintenance costs and be accessible to a variety of users.

Winter trails should mirror summer trails, making them easier to navigate with familiarity. Teton Valley Trails and Pathways reports that the site is suitable for winter Nordic trails, which should be at least 5 kilometers total to warrant the investment required for grooming. Like summer trails, the length and alignment of Nordic trails should balance recreation demand with wildlife impacts.



Trailhead Parking

A small parking area containing approximately ten spaces plus ADA accessible spaces serves the Trailhead Area. The parking area is sized to allow user access while minimizing vehicular impacts to the natural elements of the park. Pathway connections to downtown encourage use of the park without vehicles. If demand for parking increases over time, there are opportunities for additional small parking areas nearby and elsewhere on the site.



Figure 9: Trailhead Area Master Plan



Paved Pathway Connection

A paved multiuse pathway will connect the site to Bates Road and the existing pathway network to the north. This pathway is planned as a separated pathway along the access road to the trailhead/garden area.



Picnic Shelter and Interpretation Kiosks

A picnic shelter can be available for public use and reservations. The shelter shown on the master plan contains approximately eight picnic tables and could be used in summer or winter. Interpretive kiosks at the garden can identify the type and utility of plants in each section, as well as provide ecological and historical contexts for the park.



Pollinator Garden and Native Lawn

A large demonstration garden will greet visitors as an entrance to Woods Creek Park. Paths through the garden will connect to interior park amenities and divide sections for different plant exhibits. Opportunities for the garden include sections dedicated to pollinators, native lawn, a native plants exhibit, and a bioswale stormwater management area which can pre-treat runoff from impervious surfaces in the parking and emergency services facilities before discharge into the pond.



Figure 10: Woods Creek Park Trailhead Perspective-Shelter View



Pond

A pond next to the garden will provide additional variety for habitat types in Woods Creek Park, as well as a pleasant addition to recreational uses. A 0.5-mile gravel path circles the pond, including a sitting/viewing area on the interior side. The path is intended to be ADA accessible, and connect to a boardwalk extension into the wetlands. The pond could be filled utilizing canal shares owned by the City, or potentially with clean water from the upgraded wastewater reclamation facility. In addition to providing wildlife habitat, the pond can support groundwater recharge. It is not intended to be utilized for swimming, however the City could work with Idaho Fish and Game to explore the benefit and cost of stocking and managing the pond for public fishing.



Boardwalks and Overlook

Utilizing boardwalks can minimize pathway impacts in wetland areas and allow visitors access to experience wetlands up close. A boardwalk extending from the pond trail with an overlook could contain interpretive signs and benches, providing a place to see wildlife and enjoy a view of the park.



Figure 11: Woods Creek Park Trailhead Perspective- Boardwalk Overlook



Public Services Uses

The area reserved for public service uses can be developed at any time, regardless of the timing of implementation for other plan elements. The snow storage area can be utilized immediately, with the creation of vehicular access from Bates Road. Final site planning for the emergency services facility will establish the size, orientation, and access for buildings, as well as the amount of required parking and any

additional amenities such as public restrooms. The tenants of this facility are yet to be determined and will require appropriate approvals, permits, and funding. The public agency employee housing and future transportation connection will be built if and when demand allows, similarly obtaining required approvals and permitting.



Snow Storage Area

Driggs' downtown has a number of public parking lots and City maintained streets and sidewalks. Space to store snow when it is removed from downtown is necessary as the City grows. Stored snow often carries contaminants like sand, sediment and chemicals, which can potentially pollute water sources without proper management.

This property offers many options for snow storage and contaminant mitigation. Stored snow can be filtered through a series of treatments designed to remove and attenuate contaminants and offer a valuable water source for constructed wetlands, contributing to enhanced ecological value and ground water recharge.



Wastewater Reclamation Expansion Area

30-acres has been reserved on the western portion of the site to accommodate future expansion of the Driggs wastewater treatment facility. This area can potentially be used for recreational or conservation purposes for many years, but no permanent improvements should be built here. Habitat restoration in this area is best

suited for wet meadow and emergent marsh components, which are characterized by herbaceous wetland plant communities interspersed with open water areas extremely valuable to resident and migratory waterbirds and other wildlife. These features may also play a role in future wastewater polishing, reuse and groundwater recharge.



Fire/EMS Facility

Information from the Fire Chief indicates that the current Driggs Fire Station is undersized and they are in need of an upgraded facility. A placeholder for a potential group of emergency services buildings that could contain a larger fire station, EMS facility, space for Search and Rescue, and other law enforcement facility

occupies the northeast corner of the site. This upland location is suited to such a facility which can separate the electrical substation from natural and recreational areas, and block it from view. The location also allows quick access to Bates Road for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles, and is centrally located in the Valley.



Community Room

The Fire Chief has suggested a multi-purpose room could be a component of the new fire station. This could be used as a public community room, available for rent or reservation. This facility would include public restrooms accessible to park visitors.



Figure 12: Charette Materials



Future Potential Transportation Connection

A road paralleling the overhead powerline easement on the east side of the site could provide a transportation connection from W 500 S to Bates Road. This road would likely be initially installed as a gravel road for shared multimodal and vehicular use. If demand dictates in the future, it could be improved to a higher road standard to accommodate more traffic and incorporate a separated pathway or bike lane. This connection is primarily seen as an alternative to the desired Front Street connection shown in the Driggs Transportation Plan.



Public Agency Employee Housing

A small area accessed from W 500 S is shown as a site that could provide housing for public employees. This site was chosen because there is an existing foundation from a previous homesite, and it is nearby existing homes, separated from the natural and recreational areas of the park. The City would likely need to complete a zone change or amend the Land Development code to allow for the type and density of housing being considered, given the current Recreation zoning applied to the site.

Recommendations

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Mapping of the fen boundaries is critical to any future infrastructure or habitat restoration planning and marks an important first step in the planning process. An accurate inventory and geographic extent will contribute to understanding the ecological value of the site and inform a restoration plan which can be applied in conjunction with a wildlife impact analysis.



While winter trails were a popular use identified in public outreach, a wildlife impact analysis should be conducted prior to establishing such use or considering the extent of the use.



The City should consider restricting dogs from Woods Creek Park to reduce wildlife conflicts and impacts to habitat.

Next Steps

The following is a suggested order of implementation activities for efficiency and use priorities identified throughout the Master Planning process.

- 1. Map the Fen boundary**
- 2. Initiate restoration activities**
- 3. Conduct a wildlife impact analysis of the proposed site development**
- 4. Negotiate with Fire District for potential land sale/exchange/lease**
- 5. Construct minor access improvements for winter snow storage**
- 6. Construct access road, pathway connection, parking, trails, park sign**
- 7. Activate Nordic trails**
- 8. Construct garden, pond, pavilion, and boardwalk**
- 9. Pursue public agency housing**
- 10. Construct transportation connection, dependent on Transportation Plan CIP priority and outcome of Front Street extension**

Appendix

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Public Outreach

Because the site has significant ecological value, as well as potential to provide necessary space to meet a variety of community needs, the City gathered information from the public to determine priorities and balance potential uses. Public outreach was divided into two phases, with a variety of methods utilized for gathering input.

A kick-off meeting with stakeholders and City Officials was held in August 2024.

Participants determined a list of potential feasible elements and uses for the site. A project website was created with background information and key dates. In September of 2024, the list of potential uses was included in a public survey on the website, which asked people to vote 'no', 'yes,' or 'maybe' for each potential use. Participants could also choose, 'other' and provide their own suggestions. A second question, "Tell Us Why You Chose Those Answers" illuminated people's feelings about the site.

On September 12, the City hosted an open house at City Hall with materials mirroring the project website content. Staff and consultants were available to answer questions, provide a paper copy of the survey, and direct people to the website. When the survey closed, over 160 individual responses had been recorded. A summary of responses is shown in Figure 1 below.

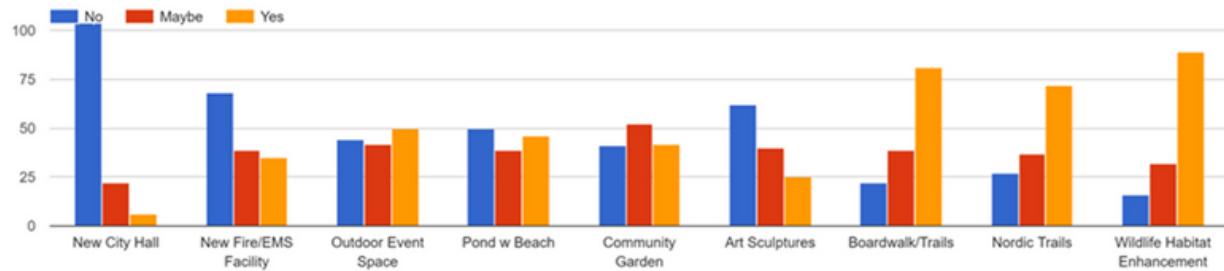


Figure i: Survey results from: "What site elements or uses would you like to see on the City's Bates Road property."

Out of 163 total responses, 104 people entered "no" to a new City Hall. This question had the most clear alignment of opinion, with only 6 respondents entering "yes." Wildlife Habitat Enhancement also indicated a clear public preference with 89 people responding "yes," 16 responding "no," and 32 responding "maybe." Outdoor Event Space, Pond w Beach, and Community Garden had mixed responses, with no clear preference indicated.

Boardwalk Trails and Nordic Trails received more “yes” votes than “no” or “maybe.” Art Sculptures and New Fire/EMS Facility received more “no” votes than “yes” or “maybe.”

In the ‘Other’ category, seven people entered ‘dog park.’ While the City has determined that other sites are better suited for this use due to wildlife conflict concerns, the responses recorded here can serve as evidence of the desire for a dog park in Driggs. Five people entered ‘leave it as is.’ These commentors said that the space should be left as is, either for wildlife, open space, or without additional details. Four entries referred to disc golf, and three people suggested an indoor community space. These included indoor space for winter programming or community activities, and housing non-profit services conveniently together in one location. Three people also suggested athletic fields. A new senior center, a new Forest Service facility, and an archery range were also suggested.

Most of the respondents also answered the question, “Tell us why you chose those answers.” Common themes from these responses are depicted in Figure 2, where larger circles denote more individual responses in that theme.

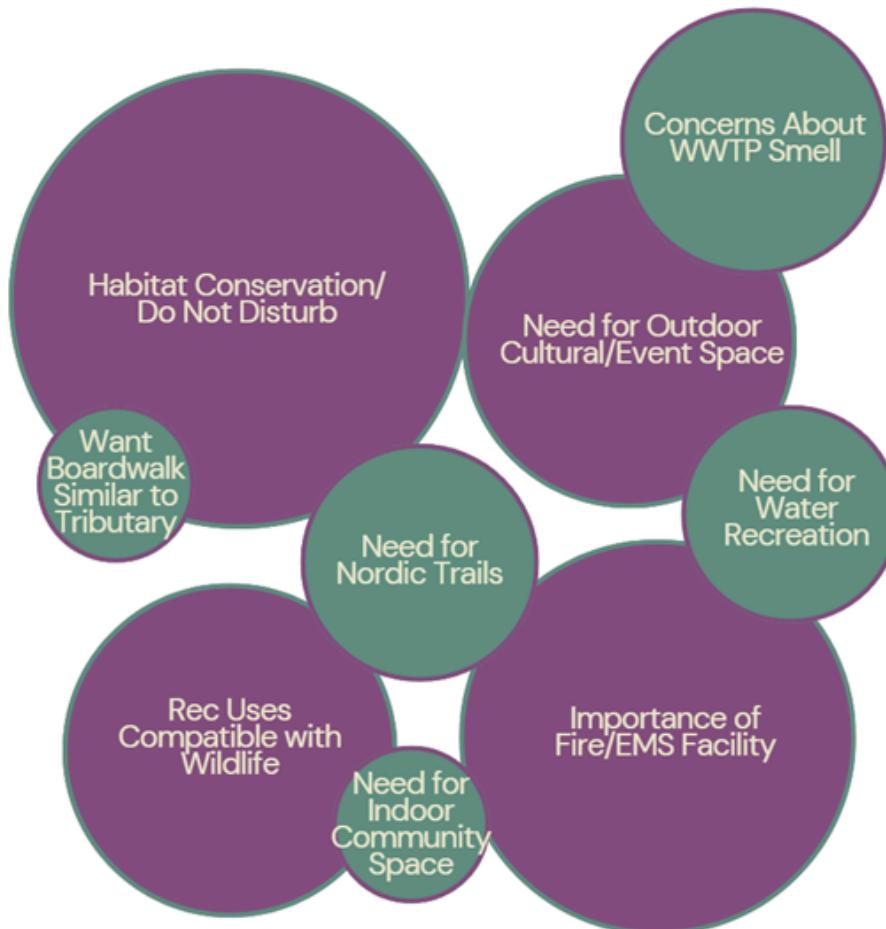


Figure ii: Themes from ‘Tell us why you chose those answers.’

On October 30, the City convened a design charette to create a preliminary master plan incorporating the results of the initial public outreach. Participants included Driggs Community Development Director, Public Works Director, Planning & Building Director, the Mayor, County Commissioner, Fire Chief, representatives from Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, and the consultant team including landscape architects and wildlife biologists.

Over the course of the day, elements were arranged and sized onto the site while an overall concept for priorities and timeframe were developed. The resulting preliminary concept sketch is shown in Figure 4 below.

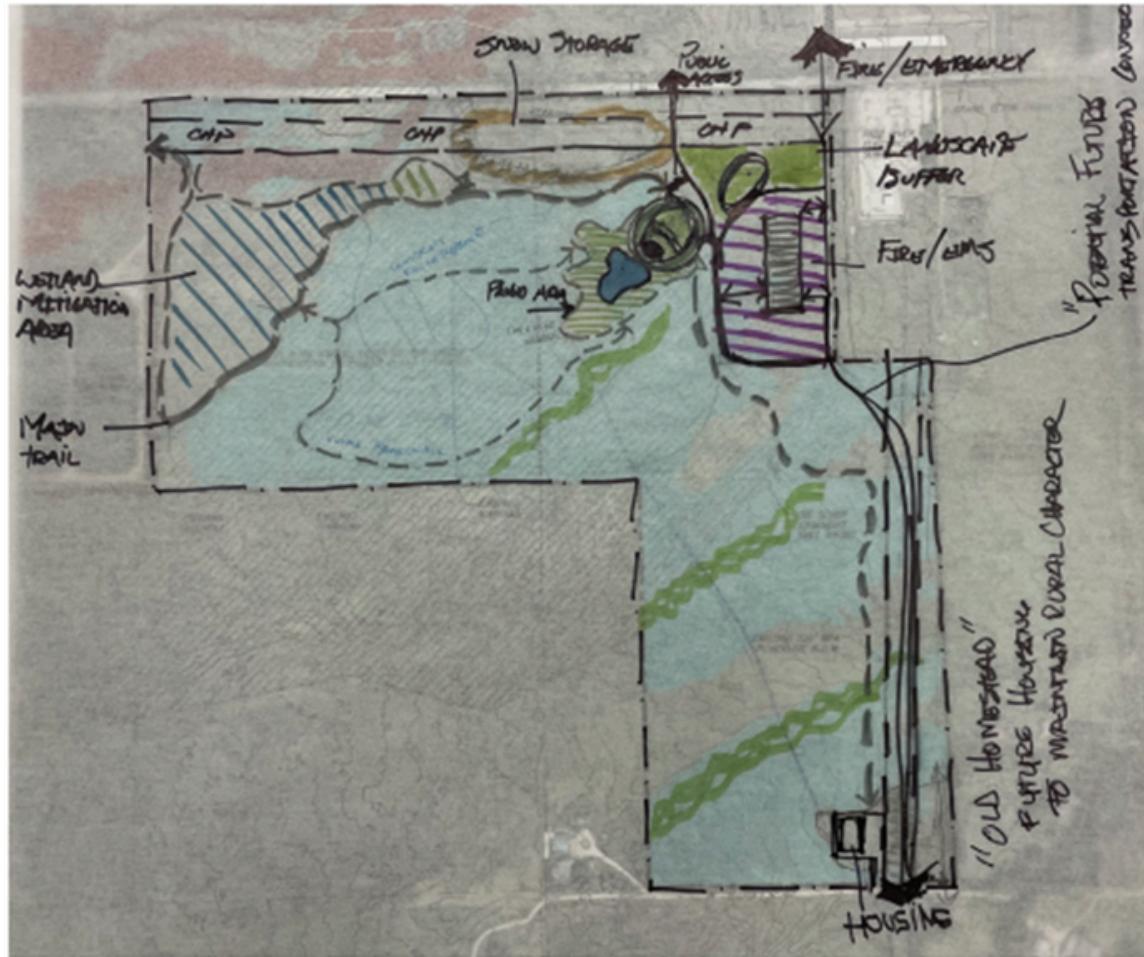
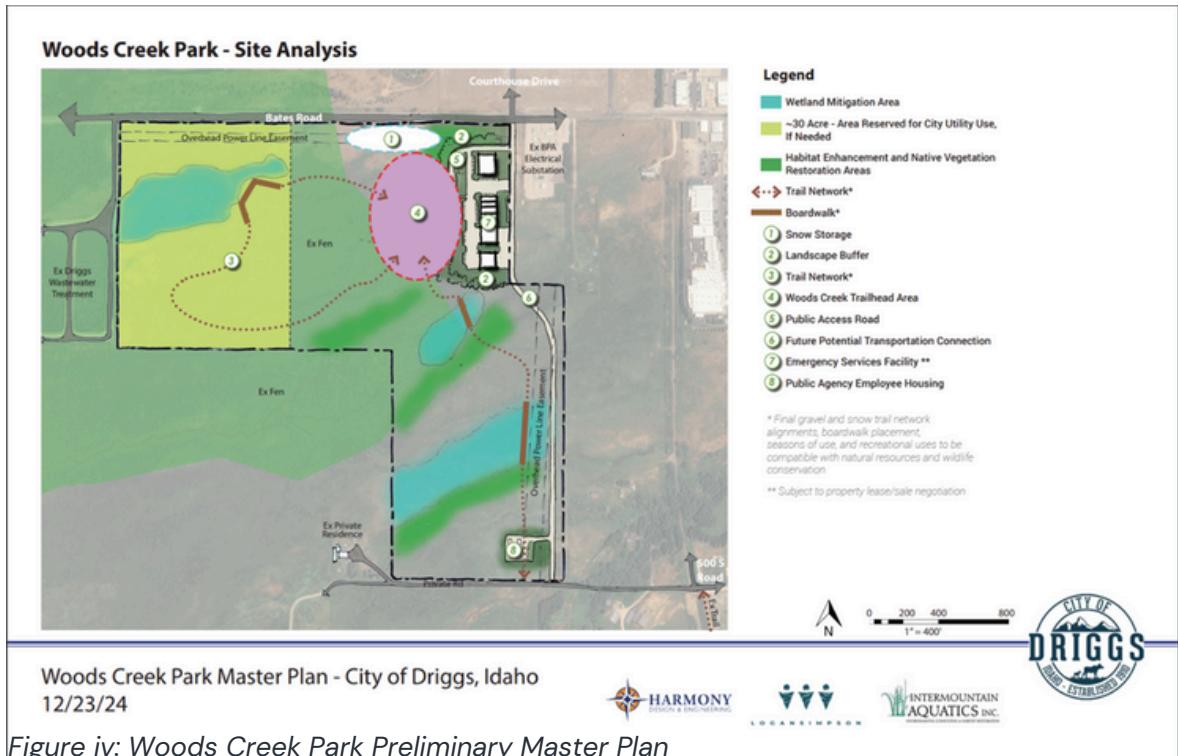


Figure iii: Charette Preferred Concept

Public Service uses include a fire station and emergency services facility, snow storage, future wastewater treatment area, and space for potential public employee housing. Community uses include wildlife habitat restoration, winter/summer trails, a pond, picnic area, and pathway connections.

Over the next few months, the preliminary concept was refined into a draft master plan and trailhead concept with input from City Officials and the Driggs Parks Committee. Once the draft was complete, it was posted on the project website for public review. A comment form asked, "What do you like, what concerns do you have, and what do you think is missing in this Preliminary Master Plan." Twelve individual comments were received. Topics from these comments include protecting/conserving wildlife habitat, restricting physical development to leave the site as natural as possible, restricting dogs to protect wildlife, and limiting and/or reducing parking, as well as separating parking from the natural area. Figures 5 and 6 show the plans that were posted for comment.



In response to the comments received, the trailhead area was updated to remove some of the parking, leaving about 10 spaces plus ADA accessible spaces and a pedestrian connection to the municipal facility. Other concerns from comments are addressed in the Recommendations section of this report.

The Draft Master Plan was submitted to City Staff for comment and presented to the Parks Committee. With their feedback, a final Master Plan was created for adoption.



Figure v: Preliminary Trailhead Concept

Full Comments Phase 1

Other:	Tell us why you chose those answers	Any additional comments?
	With so much growth within Driggs city limits, having this natural open space for wildlife (and limited human activity) would be nice, and appropriate.	
	Would love to see a swimming/kayak pond with a beach to use during the summer then a nordic trail and skating pond in the winter.	
Driggs needs more trail access close to town! This would be a great opportunity. And more community space, we lack community space outside of bars/restaurants.	This community needs trails close to town!!! And community spaces near downtown.	
	Not having access as a private citizen to the tributary trail system is sad but we could create something even better with this new space. A pond that we could go and paddle board or fish, trails and boardwalk throughout wetlands, an event space or two, all of this would be wonderful for life in the valley.	
	I would love more outdoor water spaces	
	Community use open space with priority for wildlife. Trails and Nordic trails are a must. A garden or a pond would be nice but need assurance that they will be	
Too small for nordic trails. Don't waste the effort.	Too visible of a space for city structures. Put those on a backstreet somewhere. (Like Victor did)	
Dog park	Keep it outdoors	FYI when I first opened the survey on my phone, the YES column did not show up. I had to manipulate it to see that column
	This site would be a great outdoor event space for concerts, plays and such. It would be enhanced with additions including art and trails. In the winter the nordic trails would be well used, I believe. And we should always be doing anything with an eye towards Wildlife Habitat enhancement. If some of my choices would preclude that last piece, I would opt for the wildlife and anything that supports that, with the potential to find a way to make this somewhat interactive for the community....	
	Without knowing a lot about this, I'd prefer to see this open space retained as open space and for recreation. I'd prefer new buildings be built closer into the city of Driggs instead of letting Driggs sprawl out. I'm a bit proponent of in-fill development but also understand that the city owns this land. Thank you!	
Archery range where 4H and public can practice.		
Dog friendly but dogs MUST be on leash at all times, including parking areas. Provide dog waste bags and disposal.	Would like to see a beautiful recreation area, with trees and landscaping. Would like a place to walk with my dog where other dogs are on leash. Dogs run wild on the local trails and I've had some bad experiences. A park in town shouldn't have that problem, and should be patrolled to keep it a peaceful place to enjoy. Community garden is a great idea, but would like to see that on a different property like the park in town - it can be problematic in a recreation area.	Would like bike/walk paths to get to this park from town. Bike/walk paths are essential to creating a beautiful Teton Valley, especially with the great increase in traffic and development.
soccer fields	I'm thrilled the city purchased this property and is looking for ways to enhance our town. As we grow, a large park for recreation and community activities seems essential. Soccer fields, a playground, pond and beach, trails, etc all sound great. Sounds like it's a natural space that shouldn't be disturbed.	If a new city hall and fire/EMS is a need, I'm not opposed. But if we're fine where we are, let's use the land for other purposes.
Dog park	Enhance outdoor activities	
	Nice options for people and animals	
	Seems like a suitable area to provide a public trail system compatible for wildlife viewing. A Nordic trail would be a wonderful amenity to the city of Driggs. Limit infrastructure to public service facilities.	
Anything to keep nature close as Driggs expands.	Driggs is a unique outdoor community with nature and art as a hub. Anything we can do to keep that culture as we expand will be highly prized in the future!	Thanks for asking!)
	Unsure if Fire/EMS is out of space at the current location. If they are, this would allow them space for growth. Otherwise, none of the other options are desirable. We currently have alternatives for all of the other options listed. I believe that placing some of the other options in this area would result in unattended consequences...for example, a community garden might be a "food buffet" for the wildlife.	Thank you for giving the community an opportunity to provide input. Although, sometimes I'm sure you're sorry you asked the question! Ha! Ha!
	Safety	
	public access, recreation, but not disturbing the wildlife	
keep as many outdoor activities as possible	I chose my answers because I feel our community needs an area to gather for outdoor cultural activities	

Other:	Tell us why you chose those answers	Any additional comments?
	I would love for this to be a green space.	
	I'm worried of the location next to the water treatment. Smell?	
This property doesn't seem conducive to a primary public use.	The city should no encourage wildlife to come closer to town, no ponds/beaches due to maintenance issues, community garden attempts have failed previously and not needed, the city needs a new/large city hall and expanded nordic trail system.	
Disc Golf Course	It being next to the WWTP I dont think outdoor event space is ideal however a new firehouse would fit great there.	
Athletic fields if no other location in Driggs	With the wetland delineation and wildlife habitat overlay, I would suggest the least impactful changes to the current environment.	
A community facility for sports with indoor arena/fields	This is sandwiched between the wastewater treatment and electrical substation, not the best place for a lot of outdoor activities. The wetland and environmental aspects should be considered.	A beach is an absurd idea here. I don't even know how this was an option for this site. I do think that a water feature would be great, somewhere else. I also don't understand how the City could get water permits for a lake/pond and beach while they can't provide water to homes and new due to lack of water rights and accessibility.
Dog Park	need more large multi use spaces close to town	
Outdoor amphitheater/pavilion for concerts would be awesome.	I believe the site should be preserved for raptors and wildlife, but certain outdoor/park elements could be a great benefit for locals.	
Not sure if this would be possible with the wildlife considerations, but allowing dogs off leash would be amazing. Fenced in for low worry.	I like the idea of preserving most of the open space - too many structures would detract from that.	
	Let's create a great outdoor event space and bring back MoM.	
	No blacktop no buildings	
	there's enough building going on around town already, leave it natural as much as possible	
	It wouldn't be ideal for a summer gathering space because of its proximity to the water treatment plant.	Boardwalk and wildlife habitat area for the win! Plus Nordic trails!
	City and Fire Department facilities are inadequate and we must prioritize critical infrastructure or "needs", then focus on "wants".	The community is in need of public gathering space for events. The more multi-use, multi-purpose facilities we can collaborate on, the further our resources can be stretched.
An indoor space available for winter programming would be nice		
	Preserve the openness as much as possible.	
	Please don't turn into Jackson. Protect the wildlife habitats and create an educational, fun space for everyone, and the wildflower, to enjoy.	
The county is in desperate need of a joint public safety facility which are more commonly used now to house all forms of First response. Fire,EMS,search and rescue and police	We live in an area with lots of wildlife and wilderness lack of future(30-50 year) planning has left this country constantly playing catch up. It's time to invest in infrastructure for future growth let alone getting relevant for the current population	It would be a huge mistake to not involve public safety as part of the master plan
Disc Golf Course	Kids, and therefore, entire families, love water!	
	I think it would be better to have things that feature wildlife and not city buildings.	I live in Victor not Driggs
	Is seasonal smell being taken into consideration?	
	A swimming hole, Nordic skiing, and a place to walk in nature safely and without paying a fortune in lift/resort/parking fees or being crammed in the car to drive across another mountain is recipe for heaven on earth.	
Leave it alone	Like you said, it is utilized by wildlife, so leave it alone	Spend your money elsewhere.
Leave it as it is.	We do not have to develop every inch of the Teton Valley	
	New Fire/EMS/ Emergency Services facility important for future community growth	
	I'm all for supporting wildlife and protecting their space!	
	And when the wind blows the wrong direction? It's not pleasant	
Leave it alone as natural habitat.	The animals and preservation of natural lands	Please keep Teton Valley as place that preserves its natural beauty
Rec fields? Nature trail allowing dogs? Dog park?	Too far from true city center for city hall. Other locations exist in city concentration for EMS buildings, etc. This is a quiet place currently and could be a nice natural spot like R park in Jackson, a larger functional rec field area with bathrooms and/or an outdoor event center! Is the Marriot still considering an event area? If not, Look at the Kettleshouse in Missoula for inspiration. Keep EMS on the Hwy and City hall in old town please!	Will the new WWTP facilities alleviate the seasonal smell at the site? That may play a big factor in choices for this land if not :-)
	Because if you take away the land and build more buildings then the wildlife will retreat and it would be sad not to see the animals. That's the beauty of the area.	
	I think EMS services are the most important of any else listed above. All other would be nice but not necessary until EMS/Fire are taken care of.	
	Driggs Fire station is in very poor condition and needs serious attention	
	The updates to the Fire/EMS services in Driggs (County) lag significantly behind other county services such as the Courthouse, Sheriff's Office, Road and Bridge, Schools, etc.	
	Keeping some of it for open space and wildlife habitat is always a plus.	
	I think it's important to preserve the natural habitat for wildlife and have a minimal impact.	
Frisbee golf course	Thanks for putting this together Doug It is my understanding Fire/EMS is outgrowing its facility and since this properties zoning allows a Fire/EMS building I find it appropriate to allow this into the Bates Master Plan. Assuming it would be built in a place that would minimize wildlife impact. We live in an active community and any trails would be well used and appreciated. As would a permanent home for nordic trails and a frisbee golf course. I am a home gardener and love homegrown food.. so let's have a community garden space! Not everyone has the resources or space to do so. The fragile wetland ecosystem should be considered alongside any proposed land usage.	
Non impact would seem most reasonable. Maybe dog park.	Community garden is a fun concept but NOT there! Ew. A bike path or Nordic trail for passing through while walking, running, biking, skiing. Seems logical.	The pond with beach idea seems like the last place anyone would want to go around here for a pond with beach. Not good location for that concept and we have so many natural ponds, rivers and lakes to enjoy.
		I'd love to be able to walk the Tributary boardwalk but that's off limits to most of us. Let's build one of our own! The Fens property is interesting but difficult to access unless you come prepared for a slog.

Other:	Tell us why you chose those answers	Any additional comments?
		Enough taxes paid to sustain this venture with out more taxing and levy
	EMS and Fire is extremely Vital to our community and the need for a new station is a high priority.	
	The only one I am sure should not happen is the pond with beach. This area is beautiful because it is natural and not a destination. It showcases how beautiful the valley is. If this turned out to be like R park in Wilson, I think it would look wildly out of place. Furthermore, I would never suggest anybody go to a beach that was in between an electric facility and water treatment plant. This pond would never be able to compete with the beautiful lakes and rivers we have naturally. Making it something like that would be a waste of resources and tax payer dollars.	
	The current fire station facility is inadequate for the around the clock staffing needed for fire and EMS coverage for our county.	
beautify the ugly substations and enhance the wildlife habitat. They're running out of space with all the development.	Wildlife and Rivers make Driggs a destination and that brings in money. If we overcrowd the rivers and don't give wildlife a place to roams without humans taking over, Driggs will become a nothing destination. A mere Pit Stop on the way to yellowstone where animals are freely roaming.	
	A new fire station is very much needed in this area	
	That fire station is old as hell.	
	It's important	
	need new fire station	
	Our station is outdated for the volume of calls we receive. Our first responders deserve a facility that meets their needs.	
	We need a modernized, centrally located Emergency Services Building that includes space for the future and houses our Emergency Services - County Fire, LAW, SAR and Emergency Management	
	why do we need a city hall when they are no employees - everyone quits	Driggs need to start leading by example - hard to expect developers and citizens to follow municipal code when the government/employees do not follow
	I would like to see infrastructure that supports community gathering and recreation outside.	
No building. You describe the natural habitat then turn around and suggest building on it?	I care about open spaces and habitat	
	The Fire Station in Driggs is not sustainable for a full time Fire and EMS staff. And the land would be a great strategic area for a Fire and EMS station for future growth in the Driggs area.	
	Don't build anything in wetlands. It will divert water. It happens every time.	
	I think my yes and maybe answers are the things that will most likely be beneficial to a large portion of the community	
interactive art - that kids can climb on and play with,Disc Golf Course, dog park, 1-3 miles running track loop	Space for the community to gather and be together outside in all seasons	
New Senior Center or multigenerational community center. If a new city hall facility then SWOT could stay put and enlargement for multi non profit functions	Dated present facility, need separate fitness area and space for bigger functions. BTB, Souper bowl, Snowball etc	If City Hall stays and new Community center or vice versus, both services would have improved space issues.
A kid's fishing pond!		
	Because the boardwalk at tributary is wonderful but not available to the public. It would be great to have a trail and/or boardwalk system that is open year round and accessible that allows people to enjoy and learn about the important habitat without damaging it. I've spent a lot of time on The Nature Conservancy and other land trust properties where there's an educational component to the pathways that I think would be wonderful for visitors as well. Another trail that could be used for xc in the winter would be lovely as us townies lost the trail next to the high school.	
Forest Service Facility	All are great ideas and think with that much space you may be able to do multiple enhancements.	Thank you for reaching out to the community.
	I think it's important to have wildlife corridors and appreciate that this would connect to Tributary in that vein. I am jealous of their boardwalks and think something public and so close to town would be a boon. Adding a pond with beach could alleviate pressure on the Teton River, Treasure Lake, and provide a welcome amenity close to town. The city fountain certainly gets a lot of action.	
	It would be nice to have more space for community and socializing.	
	Limited impact, no buildings, limited increase in traffic/need for parking	
	As a wet/riparian area and fewer and fewer places for wildlife as most of the valley is platted out, these large parcels will be invaluable for wildlife and can be balanced with some lower key human uses.	
	Wildlife habitat enhancement because I think that the best use of this property is to preserve it as is until it becomes clear what to do with it. Maybe the best use of the property is to trade it for somewhere else, or sell it for cash, or any of the things listed above. At some point there will be an urgent need for it. Until that time, preserve it for wildlife.	
	Outdoor event space could be interesting and bring larger events back to the City Center. Every use seems to have outgrown its space or have competing demands. Accessible walking trails that are not so short would be really nice. The Bates river access trail is nice but very short. Teton Creek Corridor is nice as well but very hot and exposed in the summer. And place more like a natural park with some shade/trees, benches, water feature/pond(s), etc would be wonderful. With creative paths, loops, etc there could be some safe walking terrain off of a road for those with mobility or health issues. Could be nordic in winter but we already have so many nice groomed paths. We have a lot of wildlife habitat! It's important but would be nice to see a different use here, while still preserving safety and natural habitat.	
	There is a significant amount of unused land at the Fairgrounds and perhaps infrastructure like Fire/EMS and event City Hall could move out there, keeping the core areas more public and community use friendly. Alternatively if that area could be developed with some of the options here that would be an option too.	
I'd love to see a community orchard.	Given the constraints currently on the property, I like the option of being able to use some of the land with trails. I'd love to see a wildlife friendly park, similar to R park in Jackson. I'd also love to see a community orchard and garden.	
indoor event space	no more trails or art, needs to be functional	FUNCTIONAL please, no wasted space unless it stays beautiful and undeveloped
Community focused Services Building	Placing Non-profits specifically Food Pantry, Community Resources, Mental Health and Family Safety Network under one roof to accommodate the needs of our citizens	
	Plenty of development opportunities around the courthouse horseshoe.	
None	TWR's property is to the east of the property in question. I spend a lot of time there and know how crucial it is for migrating birds and waterfowl. There are very few open spaces for birds to roams and nest and having a recreation area there will open it up to dogs as well as people and will disturb their habitats.	Please leave some room for just nature around our community, we are pressing animals out in a very rapid rate. It would be good if they had undisturbed areas, even within the rapidly growing city limits.

Full Comments Phase 2

Timestamp	Tell us what you like, what concerns you have, and what may be missing from the Master Plan.
1/9/2025 21:35:39	Move the parking further from the trail areas and bring the restrooms and emergency services closer. Idling cars, car storage, and impervious pavement generating runoff should be move away from the protected area, not closer to it. Additionally, prioritize pedestrian and biking connections to this park.
1/17/2025 17:01:49	Have you considered moving city offices to this site? Seems to make sense if emergency services are to be located there. Closeness between depts might offer benefits. Please also consider walking access to/from central business district.
1/18/2025 8:06:13	Love the winter trail idea!! Will it be groomed?
1/18/2025 14:35:24	It's really delightful. Thank you for working on this!
	I have read with interest the Driggs Master Plan for the Woods Creek property. Generally, I am very pleased with the emphasis on preserving habitat, open space and wildlife - which are long-standing community values. I appreciate that the built landscape is constrained to a small area in the northeastern portion of the property, maintaining large and connected areas of open space to the west and south. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- I would not like to see any further expansion of the built landscape with future draft plans. I believe that any increase in infrastructure footprint would negatively impact wildlife well-being.- Please do not add any additional trails to the plan. While trails are enjoyable and beneficial to the community, too many trails with too much or inappropriate utilization can very negatively impact wildlife. There need to be limitations to recreation.- Please do not be excessive with the amount of parking available at the trailheads. I envision the scene of 30 parking spaces with 30 cars full of people all heading out into a 100 acre space. Yikes. I believe that is too much.- Trails should be closed in the winter to allow undisturbed foraging for winter-stressed wildlife.- Domestic dogs do not mix with wildlife and have no place in an area that emphasizes wildlife well-being. Please prohibit pets and enforce that prohibition.
	Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Kathy O'Neil, Driggs, ID
1/20/2025 9:49:18	I want this property to remain open and managed for wildlife and outreach. In addition, I want this area to be off limits to pets, due to their propensity to disturb wildlife, and would encourage active enforcement. Trails should be closed in the winter to allow undisturbed foraging for winter-stressed wildlife. While I feel it would be best to leave this land as is, the plan as shown here looks reasonable. Adding more to this could be a mistake. The wastewater treatment
1/21/2025 8:38:23	system is not going to get smaller and technologies to treat water could change in the future. I think it would be a mistake to add any infrastructure that could not be removed without conflict or consequences.
1/23/2025 12:14:45	It is important that this Master Plan preserves the original vision for wildlife conservation and respect for the fragility of the Wood's Creek Fen, and so I would like to see a light and defined infrastructure footprint that fits with the character of preserving open space and habitat. A 30 space trailhead parking lot seems excessive for this small area. I am concerned about another Bates Bridge scenario where access is out of balance with resource sustainability. A small footprint of permanent infrastructure on the property that would allow for large areas of connected open space in the west and south portions of the property with a couple of trails would be reasonable and be more in keeping with the original vision. Constructing more buildings and creating more recreation opportunities would lead to a more built out park-like atmosphere, which is counter to the original vision. Also, trails should be closed in the winter to allow undisturbed foraging for winter-stressed wildlife.
1/24/2025 11:21:30	I would like the property to remain open and be managed for wildlife. If there is too much open access it will turn into another Bates Bridge. Dogs should also be kept away so they do not negatively affect wildlife. Less infrastructure is better, again manage for open space and wildlife.
1/24/2025 11:50:50	This area is predominantly open space and used by a variety of wildlife species. I would suggest the City of Driggs limit use of this property and not try to accommodate both an emergency services campus and a public park. Yes there is a lot of land, but most of it is wetlands and wildlife habitat. If it is going to continue to be used by wildlife (which should be a primary goal), it would be best to have less human use than is suggested by the current Master Plan. Keep the human footprint to a minimum. If you want a passive park with ADA boardwalks, then develop it that way. Create a small parking lot for wheelchair access, and encourage others to walk or ride bikes from town to access it. Call it your first "Driggs Open Space" (like Boulder Colorado). Manage it to allow for continued use by the wildlife species that currently use it. That would be my preference. If there is absolutely no other options for building an emergency services campus, keep the development footprint to a minimum (and outside of delineated wetlands) and do not also attract people to use it as a park. In my opinion, emergency services (fire, police, ambulance, etc) is NOT compatible with an open space park, especially since the parking will be limited to the same corner of the property outside of the delineated wetlands. Again, I urge the city to take an "either/or" approach to this project, not a "both/and" approach, in order to best protect the natural resource values of the property and keep it a little bit wild.
1/24/2025 13:13:54	I would like to see as much open space preserved as possible. If you'll look, the seal of the City of Driggs pictures a mother moose with her calf. This tells us all we need to know about the character of our town and what is valued here. We should continue to prioritize the setting aside of these critical habitats for these animals that we respect so much that we include their image on our city's seal. If this is a wetlands where wildlife like moose and cranes have thrived historically, then I would hate to see it developed in a way that ignores the fact that although the property lies close to town, it still remains critical habitat for the emblems of our great town: the wildlife. Winter and summer ranges for these species should be considered sacred as this development process moves forward. Any infrastructure built on this land should be concentrated toward the town-end and be as light as possible. Let the recreation on this property, if any, be given to educational purposes. Please no pets. Sandhill cranes produce only one chick per year and dogs pose a serious risk to a single flightless chick on the flats. So please be sure there is a no-pet policy and that there is adequate enforcement with a hefty fine attached to inhibit folks from bringing pets to access points and beyond.
1/24/2025 14:17:31	Seems like a unique opportunity to model balancing measured public access considerations while preserving open space and protecting historical wildlife use. With ongoing development pressures throughout the Valley, hopefully this land will become a space the Community will be proud for generations to come. Be cautious to not bow to pressure to overuse the land and compromise it's important ecological and wildlife values. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Tim Watters