

Friends of Park County

P.O. Box 23, Pray, Montana 59065

Promoting thoughtfully planned growth in order to protect and enhance Park County's vibrant communities, sustainable working lands, and healthy natural resources.

Greetings from Friends of Park County

[<http://friendsofparkcounty.org/>]

Friends of Park County is a nonprofit organization focused 100% on a single issue – protecting the communities, lands and resources of Park County from unmanaged growth. We need your help to meet this challenge.

Growth is accelerating in Park County. We can see what our future may be if we look west to Gallatin County and across the Mountain West – sprawling subdivisions and ranchettes on what used to be working ranches and farms, unaffordable housing, disappearing wildlife, crowding at the local fishing holes, more lives and property at risk from fire and floods and sure enough, increased taxes to meet the demands for more rural facilities and services.

Other communities like ours that have dithered or drifted or simply hoped that it couldn't happen to them have been overwhelmed by unmanaged growth. And then it's simply too late. Those clear bright night skies start looking like any other metropolitan area.

To keep Park County, Livingston and all our communities we and generations to come will be proud to call home, we need a nonprofit organization dedicated to working on a single issue – thoughtfully planned growth. Growth is such a big and complex challenge it requires a full-time effort that integrates many areas of expertise and requires constant monitoring, action and education.

That is Friends of Park County.

Our mission is *promoting thoughtfully planned growth in order to protect and enhance Park County's vibrant communities, sustainable working lands, and healthy natural resources.*

In our first 100 days we have addressed concerns in regard to [Livingston's draft Growth Policy](#), by providing practical and specific [recommendations for improvements](#).

And in response to the [County's draft Conflict Mitigation Zoning District Regulations](#), we have [urged the County to consider the need to manage rural residential development](#).

You can learn more about our principles and our work on our new webpage [here](#).

In 2021 we will continue those efforts by offering educational programs and supporting research efforts that will be useful to our members, fellow residents and officials interested in finding ways to reap the benefits of growth while avoiding its negative impacts.

Here is how you can help:

Endorse our work. Just send us an email confirming that you support our principles and recommendations and allow us to list you on our website and in our communications as one of our supporters. (No cost!)

Tell your friends about us. Forward this email to friends of yours who will be interested in supporting our work.

Testify. Our county and city officials need to hear from you that you share Friends of Park County's concerns about how to manage our growth. If you have never testified before we can help prepare you to be effective in your remarks. Now that testimony is being presented online, you don't have to leave your home to watch the hearings and to testify. [Send us an email if you want to be on our testimony notification list.]

Donate. Our organization is small and lean, but we need funding for minimal administrative support and to take advantage of the knowledge of consultants who have decades of experience addressing growth management issues in the West. You can contribute through our webpage [here](#). We will send you regular updates about the work we are doing with your support.

Volunteer. From time to time we benefit from concerned citizens' time and expertise. This can range from sharing your knowledge about natural resources, urban development patterns, local government finance, event staffing,

accounting, list management and webpage administration. [Send us an email if you are interested in volunteering, describing your skills and what you would enjoy doing].

We are eager to engage you in our work and in continuing our progress in keeping Park County the place we are proud to call home.

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