

Kalispell City Parks and Recreation



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2014 - 2015

"To provide recreational opportunities, programs, maintained green space and parks that enhance the quality of life for all within our community."

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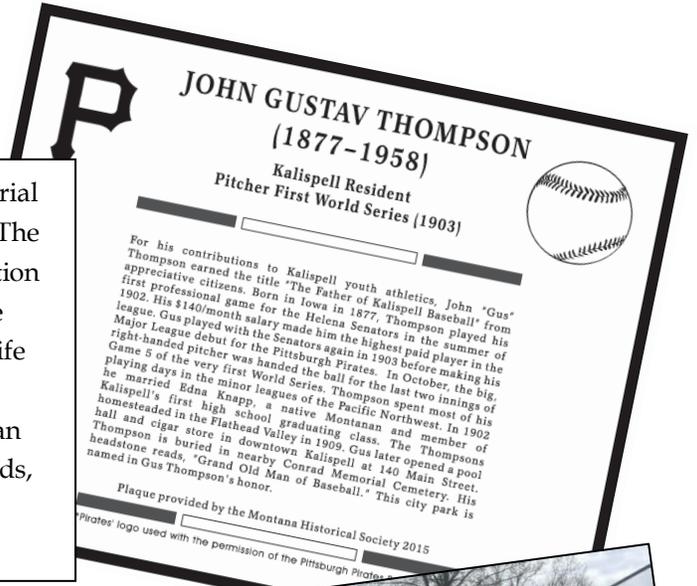
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Things that make you go OH...



On Saturday, April 25, Thompson Memorial Field was dedicated to Gus Thompson, "The Grand Old Man of Baseball." The dedication was well attended and included Bruce Thompson, grandson of Gus, and his wife Linda who came from Woodinville, Washington. Councilman Guiffreda, Dan Johns President of Kidsports, Betsy Woods, and Bruce Thompson all spoke at the dedication.



Does this bird aviary look familiar? Located at Woodland Park this use to house an assortment of birds including peacocks and black swans!



Lawrence Park, before and after



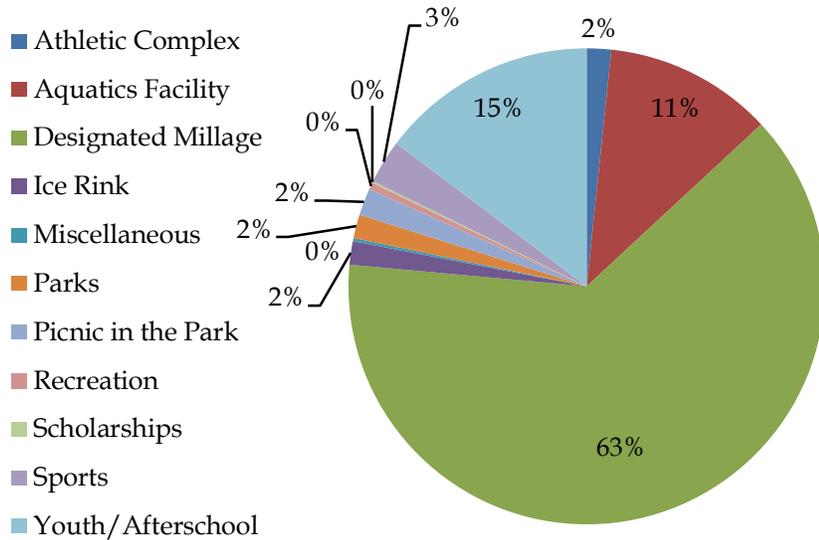
Department Overview

KALISPELL CITY PARKS AND RECREATION

Kalispell Parks & Recreation recognizes as a government entity the importance of striving to provide a high level of quality park lands, green spaces and recreational programming for the benefit of the community. Studies are proving that the closer you live to nature, the healthier you're likely to be. It has been shown that nature improves both physical and mental wellbeing. These studies are an important foundation for the City of Kalispell and the Kalispell Parks & Recreation Department to build upon when working towards providing the healthiest urban setting possible for its citizens.

Financial Highlights

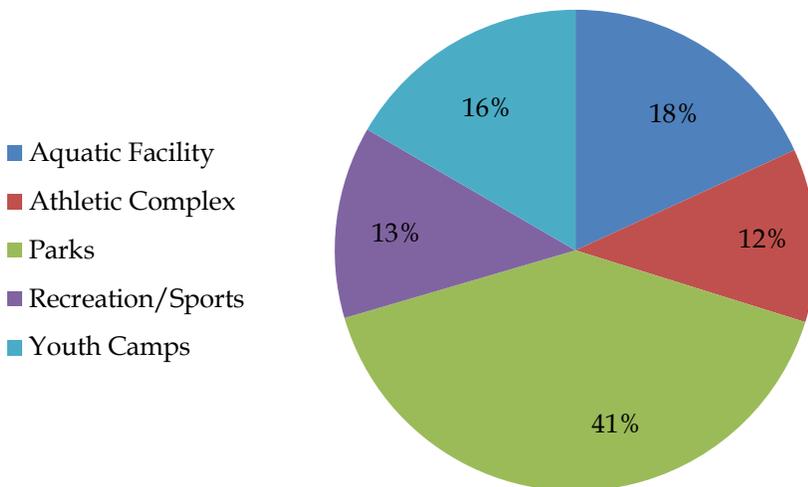
FY 14-15 Revenue



REVENUE

Athletic Complex	\$25,792
Aquatics Facility	\$178,017
Designated Millage	\$986,453
Ice Rink (utility reimbursement)	\$24,770
Miscellaneous	\$3,430
Parks	\$25,045
Picnic in the Park	\$28,538
Recreation	\$7,193
Scholarships	\$1,892
Sports	\$46,175
Youth/Afterschool	\$229,573
Total Revenue	\$1,556,878

FY 14-15 Expenses



EXPENSES

Aquatic Facility	\$266,237
Athletic Complex	\$171,078
Parks	\$595,911
Recreation/Sports	\$189,423
Youth Camps	\$243,745
Total Expenses	\$1,466,394

*Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Parks and Greenspace

Research and studies indicate that access, even if only visual to nature greatly effects and improves the mental and physical well-being of people. Living in an urban environment without parks, greenspaces and trees can decrease a person's mental health resulting in depression, stress and anxiety, increasing physical health risk factors. Additionally studies show a decreased level of violence in cities and neighborhoods with access to greenspace and nature. It is a goal of Kalispell Parks & Recreation to create and maintain parks and greenspaces that are inviting to the citizens and promote visitation and recreation.

Kalispell Parks & Recreation maintains 292 acres of parkland and natural open space. The Kalispell parks range from large urban and community parks to mini parks and each requires its own mode of maintenance which can vary greatly. Whether your recreation tastes trend towards a park with playgrounds and sports amenities, flower gardens, a free concert, walking trails or a quiet undeveloped place to enjoy trees and birds, Kalispell has something to offer everyone.

Currently it costs \$2,245 per acre to maintain parkland and open space. Above and beyond the per acre cost we are lucky enough to have help from volunteers; individual, business and organizations, who lend a hand to accomplish daily work or special projects. Quite possibly you've seen Rosie Olsen picking up garbage in Woodland or Depot Parks or perhaps you've seen Phyllis Snow, pulling or cutting invasive and noxious weeds in Lawrence Park. These two 80+ year old women provide countless volunteer hours working to improve our park system while getting nature infused physical exercise. Phyllis hosted and facilitated an Earth Day 2014, a volunteer invasive and noxious weed pull at Lawrence Park, at which she educated citizen volunteers on the plants and worked alongside of them pulling them. Teachers understand the importance of getting students outside into nature and expanding their minds through hands on community service projects. We often have school groups assist in or parks with landscaping projects and general clean up. Regardless of your age, you can always lend a hand in our park system benefitting both your community and your own mental and physical well-being. Volunteer hands on help and project fundraising is the cornerstone to keeping our parks system sustainable.

Park Improvements

- Installed Phase I @ Lawrence and purchased Phase II of the replacement playground
- Recycled old soccer goals from Meridian Park
- Repaired large irrigation break at Lakers Field
- Rebuilt infield at Thompson Memorial Park, installing 50 yards of new material
- Lions Club donated money to assist eagle scout in replacing fencing at Thompson Memorial Park
- Repaired fence behind Buffalo Hill golf course that was damaged by falling tree
- Memorial bench installed at Thompson Memorial Park
- Inside Park restrooms received a fresh coat of paint
- MT Conservation Corp. thinned understory brush, a portion of the Woodland Park hillside
- Bigfork Middle School Students replenished mulch around the state park and parking island
- Garden arbors were repaired and repainted at Woodland Park
- Edgerton 5th graders reapplied stain to Lawrence park restrooms; repainted picnic tables, and pulled weeds from gardens





Park Reservation Revenues vs. Park User Numbers



■ Park Reservation Revenues

■ Park User Numbers: User numbers is a reflection of formal park reservation use only and do not indicate general park visitation.

Kalispell Youth Athletic Complex

Since the public private partnership between the City of Kalispell and the 5013C Kidsports began in 1997, everyone involved in the Kalispell Youth Athletic Complex has been committed to building and maintaining a first class sports facility for Kalispell and the surrounding region. Originally the idea was to build 24 fields for baseball, softball and soccer. Due to demand and the success of the partnership, KYAC currently has 30 playing surfaces for children up to age 18 to participate in: Pee Wee Baseball; soccer; softball; football; Babe Ruth Baseball; cross country running and – the only one in Montana – Miracle League of Northwest Montana’s an adaptive field for handicapped players. The KYAC provides countless practices, games and tournaments attracting participants throughout the northwest region and Canada. In January 2015, the Montana Department of Tourism estimated that these tournaments had an economic impact to the Flathead Valley estimated at \$7,590,000 in 2014. It is very evident when you drive by during any sports season that this partnership has succeeded in developing a top notch multi-sport facility utilized and enjoyed by many.

In 2014 - 2015 the KYAC hosted:

- Three Blind Refs Soccer Tournament serving 156 teams
- Firecracker Pee Wee Baseball Tournament hosting 54 teams
- Babe Ruth Baseball Tournament of 30 teams
- Northwest Regional Cal Ripken Tournament of 43 teams

These summer tournaments attract 4,000 to 5,000 contestants, their families and also tournament officials. Kidsports is annually serving over 45 soccer, 26 football, 44 Pee Wee Baseball and 30 KYSA softball teams in addition to multiple regional tournaments.

Further expansion of the facility is being planned at this time to accommodate population growth, program demands and provide the opportunity to rotate fields for maintenance and rest during the height of the season.



The complex has gone from the priority replacement of softball and baseball fields to include:

KYAC Amenities
9 baseball fields
7 softball fields
2 Babe Ruth fields
Miracle Field (adaptive field for players with disabilities)
4 football fields
7 soccer fields
cross country track
Spring Prairie Park
Joel Heuscher Memorial Park
A pocket park
3300+ feet of paved bike/pedestrian trails

Accomplishments:

- Maintained 138 acres of sports fields, 3 parks, cross country track, and green spaces
- Purchased an easement with the State of Montana for the long term use of KYAC
- Once again, in October 2014, hosted the Pink Me Up Color Run event benefiting breast cancer awareness attracting 2500+ participants

Parks & Green Space by Mode

Parks Maintenance Program	
Mode I	State of art maintenance applied to a high quality diverse landscape. Usually associated with high traffic urban areas such as public squares, malls, governmental grounds, or high visitation parks.
Mode II	High level maintenance - associated with well-developed park areas with reasonably high visitation.
Mode III	Moderate level maintenance - associated with locations with moderate to low levels of development, moderate to low levels of visitation or with agencies that because of budget restrictions can't afford a higher intensity of maintenance.
Mode IV	Moderately low level - usually associated with low level of development, low visitation, undeveloped areas, or remote parks.
Mode V	High visitation natural areas - usually associated with large urban or regional parks. Size and user frequency may dictate resident maintenance staff. Road, pathway, or trail systems relatively well developed. Other facilities at strategic locations such as entries, trail heads, building complexes and parking lots.
Mode VI	Minimum maintenance level - low visitation natural area or large urban parks that are undeveloped.

Mode I: (195.52 acres) Depot Park, Hwy 93 & Hwy 2 - Four Corners, KYAC, Laker & Archie Roe, Streetscape, Woodland Park

Mode II: (127.42 acres) Begg Park, Buffalo Head Park, Cottonwood Park, Eastside Park, Empire Estates Park, Gallagher Park, Greenbriar Park, Hawthorne Park, Heritage Park, Lawrence Park, Lions Park, Meridian Park, Northridge Park, Park View Terrace, Spring Prairie Tree, Sunset Park, Tennis Court Complex, Thompson Memorial Park, Washington Park

Mode III: (32.59 acres) Courthouse Park, Dry Bridge, Western Park, Westview Park

Mode IV: (14.50 acres) Hwy 93 Trail & right of way

Mode V: (4.56 acres) Grandview Park

Mode VI: (54.90 acres) Lawrence Park Natural Area, Willow Glen Site

Total acres = 429.49

Cost Per Acre				
	Year	Operations & Maintenance Budgeted	Acres	Cost per Acre
Combined Parks and KYAC	2007-2008	\$539,903.00	429.74	\$1,256.35
	2008-2009	\$467,717.00	429.74	\$1,088.37
	2009-2010	\$486,205.00	429.74	\$1,131.39
	2010-2011	\$472,483.00	429.49	\$1,100.10
Parks	2011-2012	\$498,728.00	291.44	\$1,711.25
KYAC	2011-2012	\$145,524.00	138.05	\$1,054.15
Parks	2012-2013	\$574,754.00	292	\$1,968.33
KYAC	2012-2013	\$179,616.00	138	\$1,301.56
Parks	2013-2014	\$655,421.00	292	\$2,244.59
KYAC	2013-2014	\$195,552.00	138	\$1,417.04
Parks	2014-2015	\$655,422.00	292	\$2,244.59
KYAC	2014-2015	\$195,553.00	138	\$1,417.04



KYAC Development

FY Year	Item	Cost	Commitment
1998-2007	Collective Contributions	\$3,326,709	See Prior
2007	State Land Lease	\$40,625	KYAC
2007-2008	Construction of 7 new fields	\$445,602	KYAC
2008	PeeWee Minors/KYAC bleachers	\$44,900	KYAC
2008	PeeWee Minors Concession Stand	\$110,000	KYAC
2008	PeeWee Minors Concession Stand	\$31,000	City
2008	Soccer Concession Stand	\$90,000	KYAC
2008	State Land Lease	\$41,035	KYAC
2009	State Land Lease	\$41,651	KYAC
2010	State land Lease	\$42,275	KYAC
2011	State Land Lease	\$42,910	KYAC
2011	Hwy 93 Tunnel & Trail Improvements	-	MDOT
2011	Security fence around maintenance area	\$7,000	City
2012	State Land Lease	\$45,000	KYAC
2013	Field Rehabilitation	\$20,000	KYAC / City
	Total	\$4,328,707	
	City Contribution Total	\$1,374,645	
	Private Contribution Total	\$2,954,062	

Kalispell City Parks & Amenities



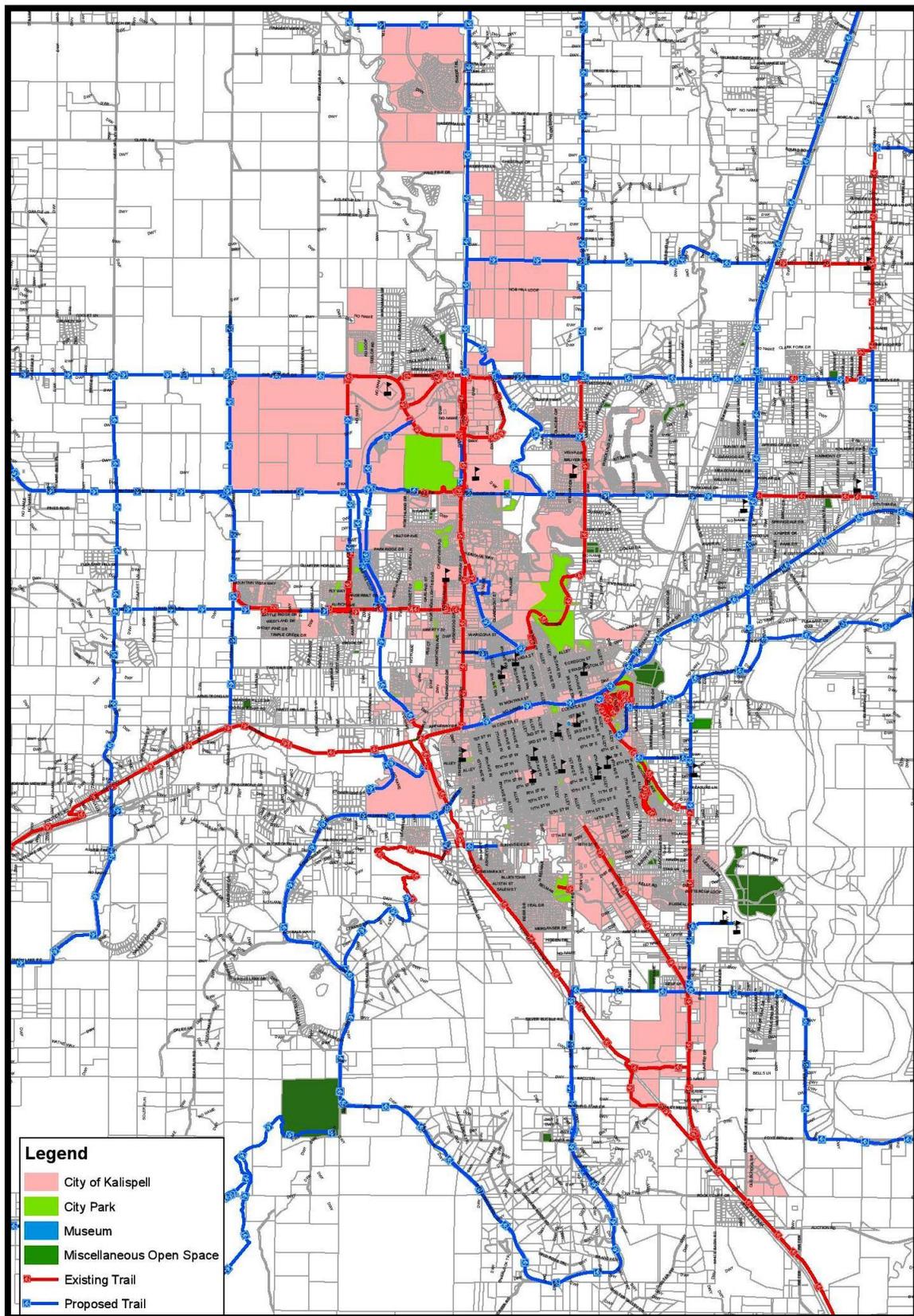
Site	Acres	Dog Waste Station	Picnic Tables	Gazebo	Restroom	Playground	Basketball	Soccer	Baseball	Football	Tennis	Fishing	Swimming	Ice Skating/ Hockey	Sledding	Wildlife Viewing	Walking/ Hiking	Disc Golf	Horseshoes	Skateboarding	Community Garden
Begg Park - Begg Park Drive	6.24	●	●	●		●	●														
Buffalo Head Park - Ponderosa St.	5.71											●				●	●				
Cottonwood Park - Flyway	1.69		●			●															
Courthouse Park - Main Street	1.66		●																		
Depot Park - Main & Center St	3.66	●	●	●	●																
Dry Bridge - Woodland Ave.	26.92	●										●			●	●	●				
Empire Estates Park - Empire Loop	1.75		●			●	●														
Gallagher Park - 4th St W & 4th Ave W	0.98					●	●														
Greenbriar Park - Greenbriar Drive	2.17		●	●		●	●														
Hawthorne Park - Hawthorne & Liberty Street	2.34		●	●		●	●				●										●
Heritage Park - Woodland Ave	3.47	●	●		●																
Kalispell Youth Athletic Complex - 4 Mile Drive	138.05	●						●	●	●							●				
Laker & Archie Roe - Begg Park Drive	10.5								●												
Lawrence Park - North Main	79.9	●	●	●	●	●		●				●				●	●	●			
Lawrence Park - North Main (natural open space)	37.61															●					
Lions Park - Hwy 93 S	2.21	●	●	●	●	●															
Meridian Park - Meridian Ave & 3rd St W	2.63					●															
Miscellaneous Green Space	32.26																				
Northridge Park - Northridge Drive	9.56		●			●	●				●										
Park View Terrace - Harrison Blvd.	0.32					●															
Spring Prairie Tree - Champion Way, 4 Mile Dr.	2.05	●	●			●															
Sunset Park - Garland Street	4.27	●	●			●											●				
Tennis Court Complex - Grandview Drive	3.38										●										
Thompson Memorial Park - 7th Ave E & 9th St E	2.2	●	●	●		●	●		●		●										
Washington St. Park - WA St & 6th Ave WN	1.11		●			●															
Western Park - At the end of Western Dr.	1.8															●					
Westview Park - Ali Loop	2.24					●	●														
Woodland Park - Conrad Dr. & Woodland Ave	42.81	●	●	●	●	●							●	●		●	●		●	●	
Total	429.49																				

Trails

Trails are a vital part of any community. Many adults as well as children love being able to have access to trails near where they live for exercising, walking a dog, riding a bike or just to get outdoors without having to drive. Kalispell currently has 8 miles of trails with more segments coming in the future.

2014 saw the beginning of engineering on two Transportation Alternative (TA) Trail Grants in Kalispell. One trail will travel along Three Mile Drive from Meridian road past the Kalispell Middle School and tie into an existing trail along Three Mile Drive. The existing trail going from Meridian Road up Northwest Lane to the Kalispell Middle School will be rebuilt to state and city standards as well. The second trail piece will be along Hwy 93 tying in with Conway Dr. and taking the trail to Bountiful Dr. Work continues with an expected completion date of fall 2016.

NAME	LENGTH (Feet)	GENERAL LOCATION
1997 Woodland Park Path	4500	Woodland Park
Woodland Park Access	2033	Woodland Park - connect gardens, north pond connect pool & parking lot
Meridian Road Walkway	4170	West edge of Kalispell, along Meridian Rd from 7th St West - US Hwy. 2
Meridian Trail Connection	5235	US 93 from Meridian Rd north to Grandview Drive and west on Grandview about 0.5 miles
N MAIN/Lawrence Park	3840	Intersection of US 93 & N Main & extends north along west side of Main and into Lawrence
1996 Lawrence Park Trail	1600	From Whitefish Stage Rd west across the Stillwater River into Lawrence Park
Woodland Connector - Phase I & II	3500	From Woodland Park - 2nd Street East to Sylvan Drive. Sylvan to Dry Bridge (Phase II)
Woodland Connector - Phase III	2735	Dry Bridge to Willow Glen Dr.
Willow Glen Trail	5889	Runs along east side of Willow Glen
Hwy 93 North Bike Ped path	1355	East Meridian to Conway Dr.
Hwy 93 (east side)	5244	Reserve to Grandview
KYAC trail	2648	Along north side of Four Mile
	TOTAL	
	42749	
	8.096	Miles



Winter Trails

Due to forestry demands on the parks crews during winter months, only a few trails are kept plowed.

Trails that are open in the winter include:

- Lawrence Park from North Main to the Stillwater River bridge
- Woodland Park trails from Woodland Park to Willow Glen Trail, 3.53 miles



Urban Forestry

Often times a community takes the health of their urban forest for granted, having always lived surrounded by trees and greenspace, which can be the case in Kalispell with its beautiful tree lined streets. The past 10 or so years have seen a dramatic change in Kalispell with the onslaught of Dutch Elm Disease and the tremendous loss of a substantial amount of mature American Elms. The Kalispell Parks and Recreation department's urban forestry division has struggled to stay abreast the necessary removals, while educating the public on the importance of diversifying the species in the replanting of our urban forest.

In July of 2014, KPR was pleased to welcome certified arborist Fred Bicha "Forester Fred" to their staff as Parks Superintendent. In addition to his duties as the Parks Superintendent, Fred brings to department vast knowledge and a love of the urban forestry program.



Fred has initiated a local Arborist's Breakfast, inviting arborists and tree minded business people to meet every few months to network, discuss tree issues and educate themselves through sharing of knowledge.

Kalispell Parks and Recreation was successful at securing grant funding through the DNRC Program Development and the Tree City of the Year 2015 grant programs. These grants were awarded towards the end of 2014, however the grant projects run throughout the year as the seasons allow. These grants allow the city to stretch its dollars further and complete substantial forestry projects. Through the 2015 Program Development grant, 48 (24 contracted, 24 in house in-kind match) hazardous trees were removed from city owned property and 12 new trees were planted through the development and implementation of a 50/50 tree planting cost share program in city right-of-ways. This 50/50 planting program will continue to be available to homeowners on an ongoing basis and as funds allow. In addition to the 50/50 program a new tree permit program was developed and implemented. This permit requires homeowners wishing to prune, treat, remove or plant a tree on city property to go through an official documented permitting process, allowing staff to approve or deny, inspect work and track progress in a digital inventory.

As the New Year starts, the Christmas tree pick up/recycling program begins. Many in the community take advantage of putting their trees out on their curb to be quietly whisked away for chipping into free materials available to the public. It is estimated 2500+ trees are picked up over the weekends in January. Although many citizens take advantage and appreciate this program, few realize it is being done by a group of dedicated volunteers serving their

community and providing a service over the past many years that would have disappeared in the budget cuts of 2008/09.

Education and knowledge share continues to be a vital component for staff and community alike. Kalispell hosted a MSU Extension service free Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) workshop in early April, providing attendees a chance to learn about a variety of topics spanning from keeping EAB out of Montana's urban forests to how to identify symptoms and infestation to treatment options for landowners. Kalispell has approximately 600 ash trees on city property and in right-of-ways that could be lost to EAB.

The Tree City of the Year grant award allowed Kalispell to host one of the best Arbor Day Celebrations, April 24, 2015, in recent history, themed "Growing up with Trees".

Organizations and businesses joined Street Tree board members and Parks and Recreation staff at Lawrence Park in hosting 330 School District #5 3rd graders in a full day of activities. High school student volunteers helped to guide the 3rd graders, teachers and chaperones through the educational booths hosted by volunteer organizations and businesses. Organizations such as Audubon, US Forest Service, Wild Wings Recovery, Flathead Electric and many more were on hand to help students learn about our environment through science experiments and demonstrations. Mayor, Mark Johnson was on hand to talk to students about the importance of Kalispell's Urban Forest and to participate in a formal tree planting before each individual classroom went to plant their class tree. FHS Woodshop had made tree placards naming each school's trees and local businesses helped to sponsor feeding the 75 volunteers' lunch. This community event was a great success and celebration of Arbor Day and Kalispell's commitment to educating the youth about the importance of trees and the urban forest.

While all these highly publicized, visual events and projects are happening, the KPR crew of 6 full time parks caretakers continue to work diligently on removal and pruning of hazard trees, pick up and chipping of fallen branches, downed trees from wind events and hauling of wood to both the high school for use in projects and the free wood lot. The crew is limited to mainly working urban forestry during the winter months; however they also are required to address immediate urban forest needs throughout the year.

The City of Kalispell with the support of the Street Tree Committee, Council, businesses and volunteers from all walks of life strive to improve the health of the urban forest through joint efforts.

Mayor Mark Johnson & Students

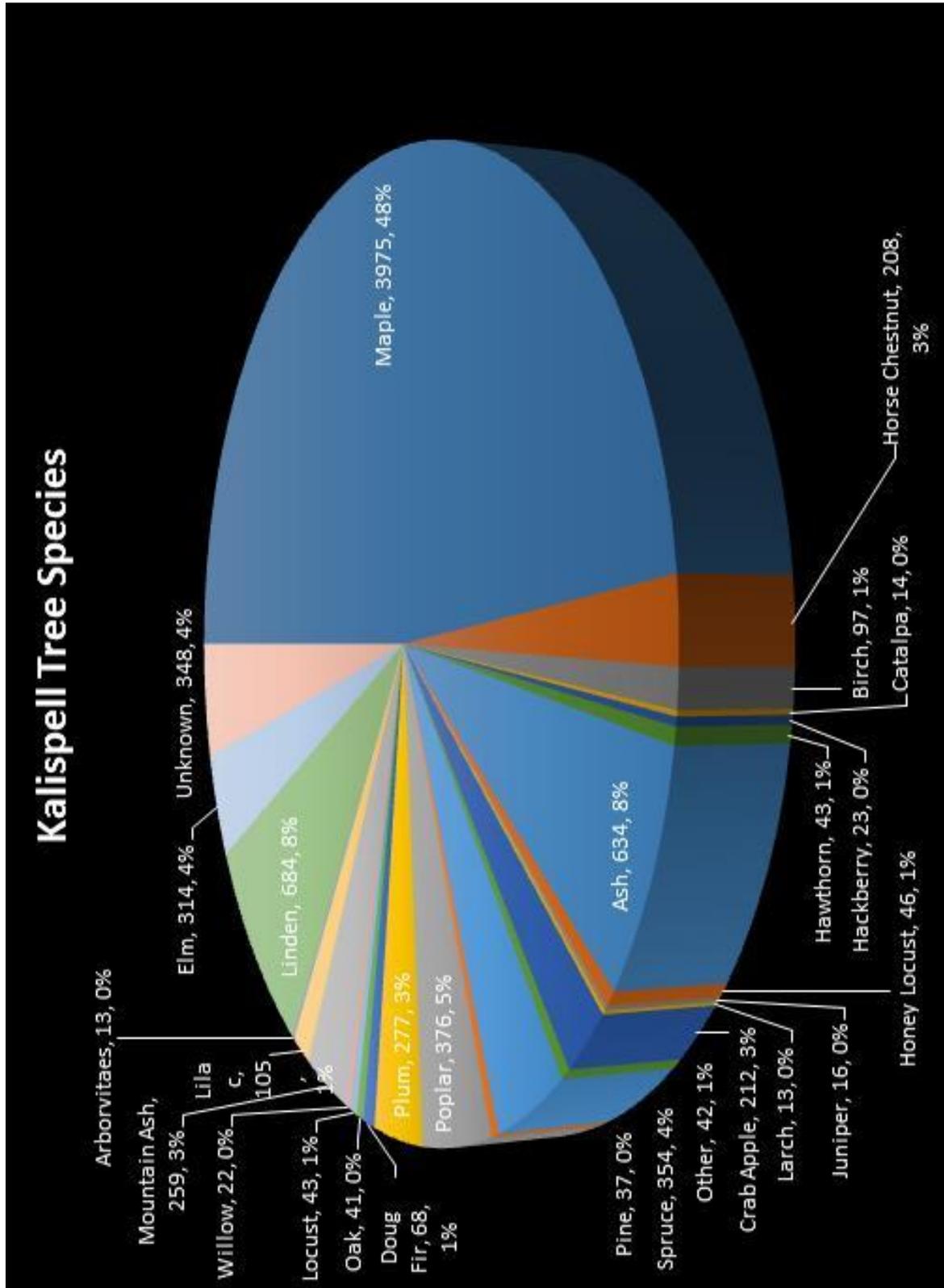


“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” – unknown

Kalispell Urban Forest Facts

- Tree City USA – 26 years
- National Arbor Day Foundation Growth Award recipient – 22 years (longest in Montana!)
- 2014 Tree City of the Year award recipient
- Approximately 8,264 trees currently reside on city property





Recreation

Recreation can happen every day and anywhere. Participating in something that is fun and enjoyable, whether it is active or passive, stimulating or relaxing has great benefits to individuals and communities. Everywhere you look in Kalispell there's opportunity for bring active and the Recreation Department tries to offer programs and activities that complement the lives of those living here. From Learn to Skate, Picnic in the Park, Santa's Calling and Punt, Pass & Kick we have activities and events for all ages to enjoy. We strive to offer enriching experiences that contribute to a healthier and more positive community and anticipate the changing needs within the community to develop new and exciting programs.



Recreation Statistics		
Program	Participants	Revenue
Cheer Camp	56	\$2,337
Cheerleading	25	\$768
Doggie Dayz	60	\$0
Ice Cream Social	500	\$0
Ice Skating Lessons	53	\$1,318
Little Explorers	66	\$382
Picnic in the Park	11,000	\$28,538
Santa's Calling	115	\$0
Valentines Dance	108	\$592
Total	11,983	\$35,731

Sports

With a variety of athletic activities offered for kids throughout the year and sports camps during the summer months, our programs focus on kids having fun and learning the basics of various activities while encouraging good sportsmanship. Our sports activities are formatted in a one hour time block weekly and broken into a 30 minute skill instruction practice and 30 minute non-competitive scrimmage session. Sports camps are designed to assist in a greater understanding of a specific sports fundamentals and skill development while fostering teamwork and physical activity.

Sports Statistics		
Program	Participants	Revenue
Kids Triathlon	120	\$200
Little Dribblers	360	\$11,536
Little Kickers	95	\$2,658
Little Squirts	143	\$4,600
Mini Sports Camp	11	\$306
Pee Wee Sports Camp	12	\$627
Punt, Pass & Kick	56	\$0
Rookie Soccer	119	\$3,536
Runnin' Rascals	84	\$2,033
Spring Soccer	474	\$15,600
UK Soccer Camp	68	\$640
Total	1,542	\$46,175



Youth Camp & Afterschool

The Afterschool Program and Youth Camps are a great way of providing a fun and safe environment for kids to play, learn, socialize, and gather new experiences.

During the school year we strive to provide an atmosphere where kids can do homework, engage in organized games or free play for physical activity and draw or create through various arts and crafts. Staff encourages fair play, observing rules for safety and appropriate behavior for the benefit of all. Being conscientious of parents who are working or on the go, our program runs until after normal working hours. No cost healthy snacks are available daily for all children at the Afterschool Program.

During no school days that result in multiple day breaks we offer Spring Out Camp, Skip Out Camp and Freeze Out Camp. These day camps often include multiple field trips and other exciting activities along with organized games, crafts and play time.

Summer Day Camp offers an abundance of opportunities for kids to be outside and active while gaining new experiences during field trips throughout the Flathead Valley. Staff members plan various daily activities and games that often have a problem-solving or educational component to keep the kids engaged and enthusiastic. Kalispell Public Schools summer food service is run from the Camp Center at Woodland Park offering a free healthy breakfast and lunch for camp participants.



Youth Camp & Afterschool Statistics		
Program	Participants	Revenue
Afterschool Program	9,700	\$65,112
Freeze out Camp	181	\$4,525
Skip out Camp	77	\$1,954
Spring out Camp	241	\$6,025
Summer Day Camp	4,387	\$120,757
Total	14,586	\$198,373

Woodland Water Park & Concessions

In FY 2015 Woodland Water Park was open for 62 days logging 312 hours of open swim and saw 18,586 patrons. Scheduled activities at WWP included daily open swim, swim lessons, and private parties along with KATS swim team practices. Special events included Family Nights, Father's Day Swim, Red, White & Blue July 4th party, Kids Triathlon, Water Carnival and Family Pizza Parties. There were 24 private parties hosted that brought in \$2,510 in revenue. The swim lesson program had 21% growth in signs ups from 2014, serving 863 participants. WWP also offers concessions for those enjoying the water park.



Partnerships & Volunteers

2014-2015 was marked by several new partnerships being formed and numerous volunteer projects. Two strong partnerships that were formed include Paws to Play and The Kalispell Boulder Project.

The Kalispell Boulder Project lead by community member Jandy Cox in conjunction with the Flathead Community Foundation has taken on the goal to raise \$100,000 to purchase and install two concrete synthetic rock climbing boulders in Lawrence Park. In March 2015 Burgers for Boulders was held at Five Guys restaurant to raise fund.



Build It... And They Will Run!!!

Paws to Play is a group of community members in partnership with the Flathead Community Foundation that have come together with a goal to raise a \$100,000 to build the first ever off leash dog park in Kalispell. In February of 2015 Paws to Play held its first event, a dog park rally at Lawrence Park, with 60 community members attending along with roughly 80 dogs. In March "Going for the Green" was the name of a fundraising event that occurred at Kalispell Center Mall. In May, McKenzie River Pizza held a fundraiser night for the dog park.

Our community has many generous citizens who have given their time and talents to make Kalispell's parks a more enjoyable place to live and recreate. Below summarizes some projects accomplished throughout the year.

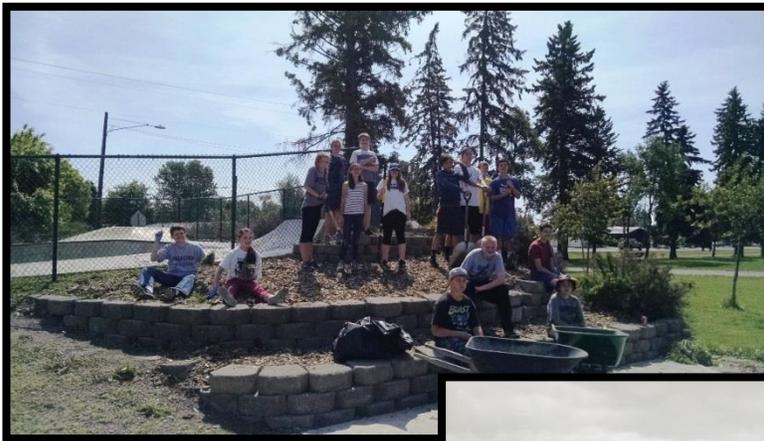
- Ten people from Fresh Life Church turned out for an event called, "Rock the City." Volunteers did an amazing job of pruning bushes and sprucing up the landscaping around the Woodland Water Park parking lot.
- 35 students from Youth Days; students volunteered a couple hours to help get the parks ready for winter; picking up trash, pulling vegetation from downtown planters, and filling in playgrounds with woodchips.
- Glacier Football team spent several hours volunteering their time to assist parks with the removal of tree guards and some tree



grates from downtown trees.

- The Lions Club donated funds to replace fencing around Thompson Memorial Park. The Eagle Scouts redid the dugouts and benches.
- On March 3, 2015 the Montana Conversation Corp (MCC) donated a day of labor to the city thinning out brush along the hillside behind the Woodland Water Park. This will help improve safety by opening vegetation up.
- On May 29, 2015 Parks and Recreation had a group of middle school students from Bigfork lending a hand to help improve the looks of the island between the pool and the skate park. Students pulled weeds and filled in areas with mulch that had been carried away by wind over the years.
- To celebrate the end of another school year, one hundred 5th graders from Edgerton Elementary came to Lawrence Park to spend several hours volunteering to help beautify the Park. Trees were mulched, picnic tables painted, flower beds weeded, and the bathroom received a new coat of stain.

Volunteers are an integral part of our parks system. They fill a much needed void and free up time for regular park staff to accomplish other tasks.



Summary

Nature and recreational programming in urban settings is particularly important as residents can easily get caught up in the day to day stress of life. KPR takes pride in providing urban parks, greenspaces, and recreational facilities and programs to promote healthy lifestyles in our city.

We hope you come see us to see what we have to offer in recreation programming, trails, parks and amenities!

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