

Equestrian group to discuss adding horse paths, park to city trail plan

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With rural lands being lost to development, Bozeman-area horse owners want to safeguard riding trails in the city.

A new group called GalleP, the Gallatin Equestrian Partnership, will meet at 6:30 p.m. today at the Bozeman Public Library to discuss adding horse trails to the city's PROST plan.

The PROST, or parks, recreation, open space and trails, plan is a document city officials will use when considering new park and trail opportunities as the community grows. As of now, horse trails are not part of the plan.

Marianne Amsden, co-founder of GalleP, said she hopes to amend the PROST plan to include a horse trails corridor that bisects the city from Story Mill to the Gallatin County Fairgrounds to Montana State University to Hyalite Canyon Road.

"We'd like one trail that gets us all the way around the city," Amsden said.

Alongside current trails in the city are areas designated for landscaping, Amsden said. And those areas, she said, could instead be used for horse trails.

GalleP also would like to create an equestrian park. Amsden suggested it could be in the form of a 99-year lease on school land.

At least 150 people have signed a petition asking for horses to be included in the PROST plan.

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