Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1400 So. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

September 14, 2000

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O.200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Director's Office
- Parks Division
- Fisheries Division
- Wildlife Division
- Lands Section
- Design & Construction Bureau
- Legal Unit
- FWP Commissioners
- Dennis Flath

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624
Gallatin County Commissioners, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 West Main, Bozeman, MT 59715
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715
Skyline Sportsman's Assoc., Box 173, Butte, MT 59701
Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711
Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Assoc., P.O. Box 663, Whitehall, MT 59759
Prickly Pear Sportsman's Assoc., 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601
Jack Atcheson, State Land Coalition, 3210 Ottawa St., Butte, MT 59701

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the East Gallatin Recreation area beach rehabilitation and improvement proposal for your consideration.

The comment period will be from September 14, 2000 until 5:00 p.m. October 14, 2000. Send any comments you may have to: Fish, Wildlife & Parks, East Gallatin Beach Rehabilitation, 1400 So. 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers
Regional Supervisor

Gallatin

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action:** To grant authority to the City of Bozeman and the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club to perform a beach rehabilitation/improvement project to the East Gallatin Recreation Area.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has management authority for the site.

3. **Name of Project:** Bozeman Beach Rehabilitation

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**

   Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club and City of Bozeman
   c/o Doug Chandler
   Allied Engineering Services, Inc.
   101 E. Main, Suite A
   Bozeman, MT 59715
   (406) 582-0221

5. **If Applicable:**

   Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: October 2000
   Estimated Completion Date: October 2000
   Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 20% (design & planning is complete)

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**

   SW ¼ Sec 31, T1S, R6E, Gallatin County Montana

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently**

   (a) Developed:
   residential ..... 0 acres
   industrial ..... 0 acres

   (b) Open Space/Woodlands/
   Recreation ..... .46 acres

   (c) Wetlands/Riparian
   Areas ..... .16 acres

   (d) Floodplain..... 0 acres

   (e) Productive:
   irrigated cropland ..... 0 acres
   dry cropland ..... 0 acres
   forestry..... 0 acres
   rangeland ..... 0 acres
   other..... 0 acres

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

See attached USGS map, East Gallatin Recreation Area Master Site Plan, and Detailed Beach Rehabilitation Plan.

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

The proposed project is a renovation of the existing beach area that is heavily used by Bozeman residents. The existing beach was constructed on an abandoned gravel pit bank by placing imported beach sand over a geotextile fabric. Currently the beach slope is too steep and the covering of imported sand sloughs into the pond, exposing the underlying geotextile separator. Also, the near-shore underwater slope materials include fine-grained silts that tend to become suspended sediment during heavy use by the public.

Our project would strip the existing sand from beach, remove and dispose of the geotextile, regrade the beach area to reduce the grade of the beach, construct a low (2' high) segmental block retaining wall along the top of the beach slope, and then cover the beach area with one-foot of new beach sand. The regrading would involve cutting approximately 1100 cubic yards from the beach area, approximately half of which (the granular portion) would be placed in the former gravel pit to flatten the near-shore underwater beach slope. To prevent excessive sedimentation both during construction and during long-term use as a beach, placement of fill in the water would be limited to sand, gravel, and cobbles. All fine-grained soils would be hauled to an offsite location and stockpiled for future use as topsoil by the city or the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

By reducing the grade of the beach, the existing sloughing problems from the steep areas would be eliminated. The beach would also be improved by clean sand being placed over existing cobbles and silt that comprise the near-shore underwater portion of the beach. In addition, the low retaining wall would be architecturally pleasing and would provide a place to sit. The project would begin the fall of 2000 and be completed in about three weeks.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#
USCOE	404	7/24/00 (pending)
MDEQ	3A	7/24/00 (evaluated with 404)

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
City of Bozeman	$10,090
Sunrise Rotary Club	$10,090

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility
City of Bozeman	Site Administration – through memorandum of Understanding

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

City of Bozeman (partner in proposed project)
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
State Historic Preservation Office (Response from previous EA for East Gallatin Park Project enclosed)
Natural Resource Information Center (Response from previous EA for East Gallatin Park Project enclosed)
US Army Corps of Engineers (404 permit review)
Montana Department of Environmental Quality (3A permit review)

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the Impacts of the Proposed Action Including Secondary and Cumulative Impacts on the Physical and Human Environment:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

LAND RESOURCES **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				See 1a
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				See 1b
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				See 1c
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				See 1d
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1a The project will improve stability of beach slope both above and below water level.

1b The present soil exposed at the surface is infertile sand and/or pit run sandy gravel with cobbles.

1c The site is an abandoned gravel pit. The project will correct the present beach slope which was constructed too steep.

1d The project will improve the stability of the beach slope.

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
< a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Àfor P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other _____		X				

* Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. WATER **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
< a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X		yes	See 3ajk
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?						
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?			X		yes	See 3ajk
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?			X		yes	See 3ajk
l. ÀÀFor P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ÀFor P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)			X		yes	See 3m
n. Other: _____		X				

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Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3ajk. There will be a short-term impact to the water quality (turbidity) near the beach during construction when fill is placed underwater. However, this effect will be relatively minor and short-lived because the fill placed in water will be limited to granular materials with little fines. The mitigation measures proposed also include timing the construction when the beach is receiving little use from recreationists. For the long-term, the clean sand cover material will decrease turbidity caused by beach users.

3m. A short-term exemption from water quality regulations (3A permit) may be required for the duration of the placement of fill underwater.

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				See 4abc
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				See 4abc
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				See 4abc
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ÀÀFor P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?			X		yes	See 4f
g. Other: _____		X				

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Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4abc This portion of the shoreline is already developed and used heavily as a recreational beach. There is very little to no plant life on the existing beach including the underwater portion of it.

4f. While the underwater portion of this project may technically be considered wetland, the surface soils are non-organic sand and gravel; it is heavily used (trampled) by beach users, and has little to no wetland habitat value. The existing underwater beach slope is a cut slope from the previous gravel pit, and the soil materials are primarily gravel and cobbles with some silt. The proposed changes will result in a similar situation, except that the near shore portions of the beach will be covered with clean sand.

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				See 5a
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ÀÀFor P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ÀFor P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish/Wildlife Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5a The existing beach area is poor habitat for fish or wildlife.

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			See 6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

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Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a Some noise will be generated during the construction activities. There may also be an increase in noise due to the increase in future use. These are minor impacts in our opinion.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				See 7a
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a The area is presently a heavily used recreational beach.

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. Àfor P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.
Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
< e. Define projected revenue sources			X		yes	See 10e
< f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X		yes	See 10f
g. Other:_____		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10e Construction costs shared by City of Bozeman and Rotary Club. Maintenance provided by City of Bozeman Parks Dept.

10f Maintenance should be minor and similar to present (occasional replenishment of sand, etc).. Estimate $500/year.

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)				X		See 11c
d. ÀFor P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.
Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11c This project will improve recreational opportunities and quality for beach users.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ÀÀFor P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? **Attach SHPO letter of clearance.** (Also see 12.a)		X				See 12d
e. Other: _____		X				

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.
Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12d See attached SHPO letter from past project at East Gallatin Recreation Area.

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources, which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)			X		Yes	See 13a
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ÀFor P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ÀÀFor P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						See 13g

* include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluation.
Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if need

13a The minor individual impacts discussed in this EA are still minor when considered cumulatively.

13g Other permits required: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, MDEQ 3A short term exemption to water quality

de a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
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PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (Continued)

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

The proposed project purpose is to rehabilitate the existing beach area that is currently heavily used by Bozeman residents. The existing beach was constructed by minor grading and placing imported beach sand over a geotextile fabric. Currently the beach slope is too steep and the covering of imported sand sloughs into the pond, exposing the underlying geotextile separator. . In addition, the underwater portion of the beach slope drops steeply starting at about four-foot-depth and the exposed materials are cobbly, silty gravel that is uncomfortable for bare feet and generates suspended sediment under heavy use. All of our alternatives (except the no action alternative) would include: a) reducing the grade of the beach by excavation; b) construction of a low (2' high) segmental block retaining wall along the top of the regraded beach slope; and c) replacing the beach sand with a combination of the old and some new imported sand.

The preferred alternative also includes:

d) Extend the covering of beach sand approximately 15 to 20 feet out into the water. The sand would be about one-foot-thick and would result in about 250 cubic yards of sand placed in the water.

e) Placement of the granular excavated subsoils in the water to flatten the existing underwater portion of the beach slope. This would result in more favorable and stable near-shore underwater grade.

Alternative 1 (the preferred alternative) would include items a through e above. This alternative would include placement of the granular portion of the cut materials out in the water (estimate 500 to 750 cubic yards). The fine-grained portion of the excavated materials would be stockpiled in a city stockpile area for future use as topsoil by the City or the Fish, Wildlife & Parks. This alternative would also include placing about 1 foot of sand on underwater portions of the beach out to about 20 feet from the existing shoreline (total sand in water approximately 250 cy.

Alternative 2 would include items a through d above, but not e. The only fill material placed in the water would be the sand cover, which would be about one-foot-thick and would extend about 20 feet into the water (approximately 250 cy). All materials excavated to flatten the above-water beach area would be wasted on the nearby overburden pile (left over from the gravel pit operation) or would be hauled to a nearby city stockpile area for later use.

Alternative 3 would limit the work area to the above water portions of the beach, thereby eliminating the need for an individual 404 permit because the work could be completed under a nationwide permit for minor fill. The disadvantage of this alternative is that it does not improve the existing underwater portion of the beach slope, which is currently a combination of cobbles, gravel and mud.

Alternative 4 is "no action". This alternative would propagate the existing situation which includes: a) erosion of sand off an oversteepened beach slope thereby exposing the underlying geotextile fabric; b) underwater beach slope of cobbles, gravel and mud that tends to be uncomfortable to beach users and tends to generate suspended sediment in the water during high use.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Alternative 1 is the preferred alternative. However, due to the placement of approximately 250 cubic yards of sand and up to 750 cubic yards of pit run gravel underwater, this alternative requires an individual permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Placement of this material will flatten and stabilize the near-shore underwater slope, and would cover the existing underwater slope materials which tend to generate suspended sediment under heavy traffic by beach users. We believe by limiting fill placed in water to granular materials, the short-term water quality impacts during construction will be minimal.

Alternative 2 would limit the fill placed underwater to the beach sand covering of about 250 cubic yards. An individual Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit would still be required for placement of this quantity of fill in water.

Alternative 3 would limit the work area to the above-water portions of the beach, thereby eliminating the need for an individual 404 permit because the work could be completed under a nationwide permit for minor fill. The disadvantage of this alternative is that it does not improve the existing underwater portion of the beach slope, which is currently a combination of cobbles, gravel and silt.

Alternative 4 (no action) would require no mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency.

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

No EIS required. The proposed action is a relatively minor improvement that would reduce erosion and sedimentation presently occurring on this man-made beach and water body. We expect no public opposition to the project, and no significant short-term or long-term negative effects.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

The Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club has elicited help on this project from the City of Bozeman, numerous local businesses, and numerous members of the public, all of whom support the project whole heartedly.

Advertisements of an opportunity to review this EA will be placed in the Bozeman and Helena newspapers. Copies of the EA will also be sent to agencies and organizations listed in item 11.

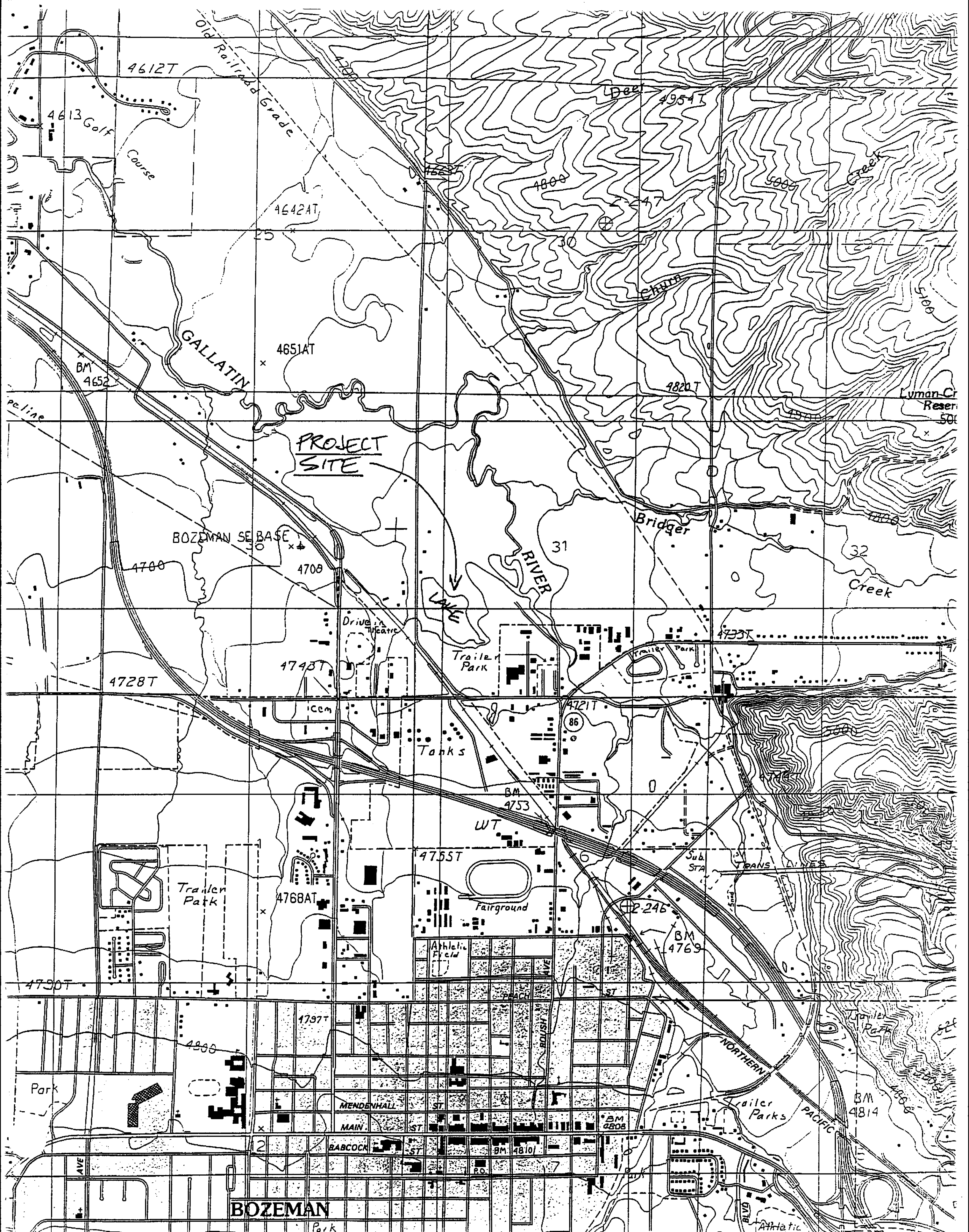
The work will be accomplished largely by volunteers and donated professional time. The project will be advertised in the local papers and radio stations to let beach users know that the beach will not be accessible during the construction period, and also to solicit help from the public on the construction work to be done. We feel the above-described level of public involvement is appropriate.

6. Duration of comment period if any: Comment period will be from September 14, 2000, until 5:00 p.m. October 14, 2000.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club
c/o Doug Chandler, PE
Allied Engineering Services, Inc.
101 E. Main, Suite A
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-0221

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT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4613 Golf
Course
4642AT
25
Deer
4954T
4800
Z-247
30
5000
Creek
Churn
GALLATIN
4651AT
BM
4652
Pipeline
4820T
Lyman Cr
Reser
PROJECT
SITE
BOZEMAN SE BASE
30
4700
4708
Bridger
31
RIVER
32
Creek
LAKE
Drive in Theatre
Trailer Park
4743T
4728T
4733T
Trailer Park
Cem
4721T
86
Tanks
5000
BM
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WT
4755T
Sub. STA
TRANS LINES
Trailer Park
4768AT
Fairground
2-246
BM
4769
Athletic Field
4730T
PEACH
ST
BOUSH
AVE
4797T
4800
NORTHERN
Trailer Park
Park
MENDENHALL
ST
MAIN
ST
BM
4808
Trailer Parks
PACIFIC
BM
4814
2
BABCOCK
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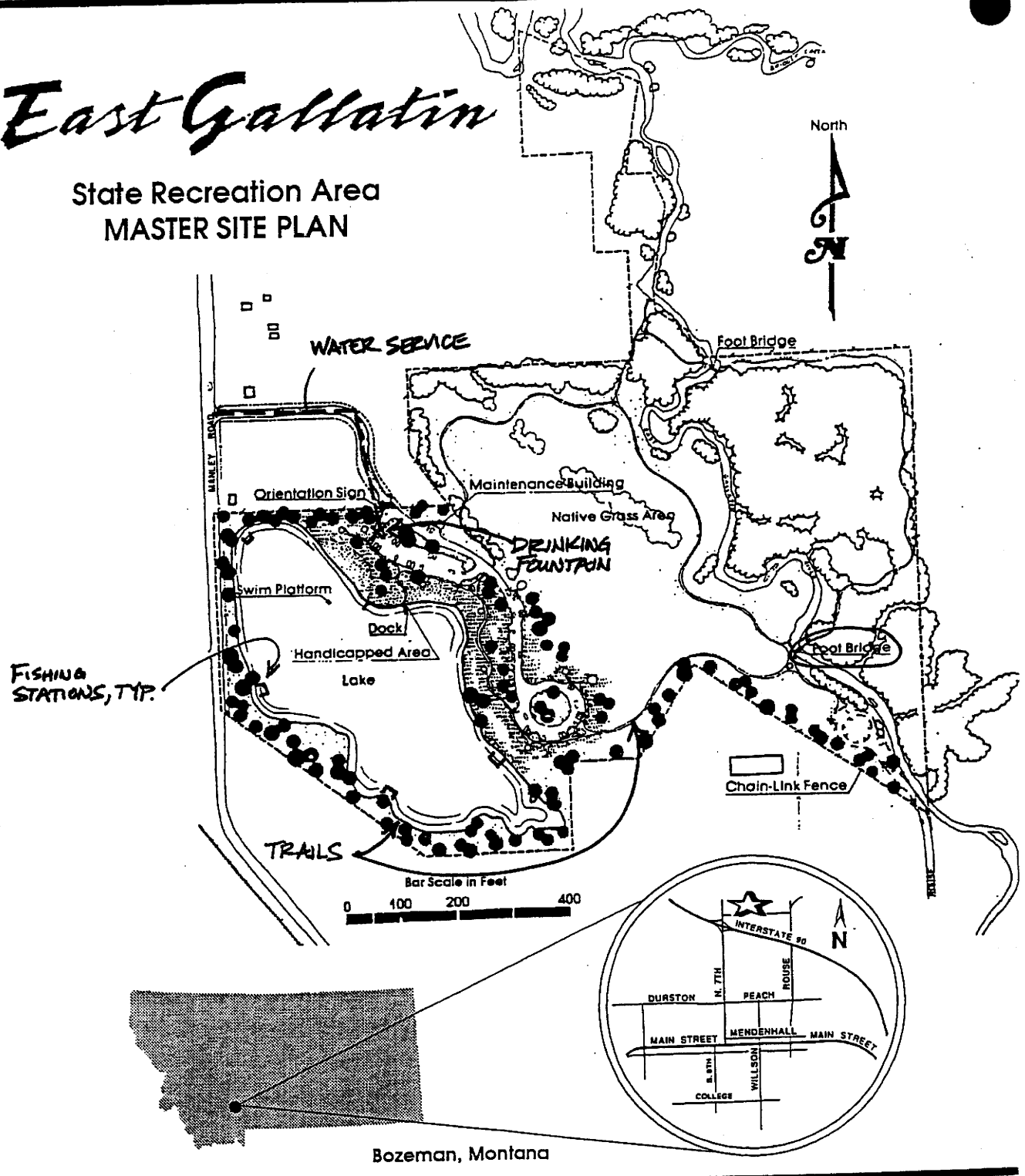
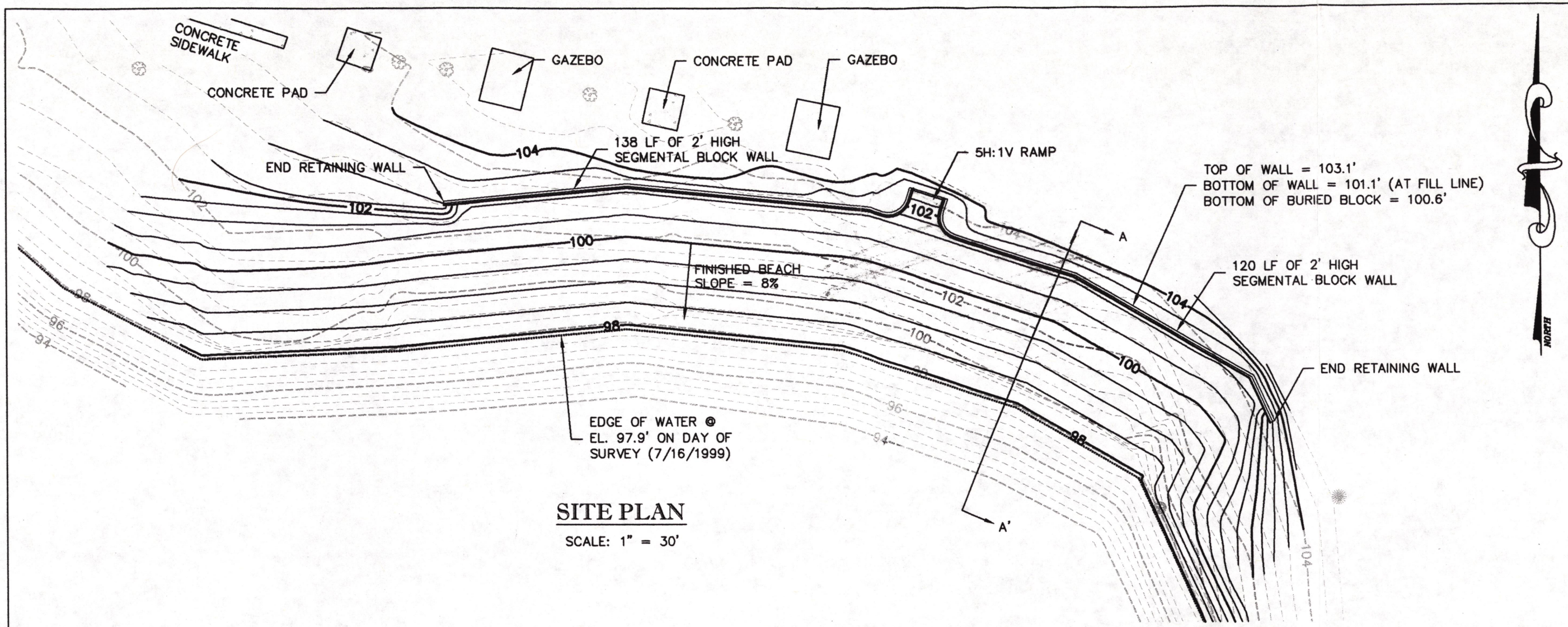
P.O.
7
AVE
BOZEMAN
Park
BLVD
Athletic

East Gallatin

State Recreation Area
MASTER SITE PLAN

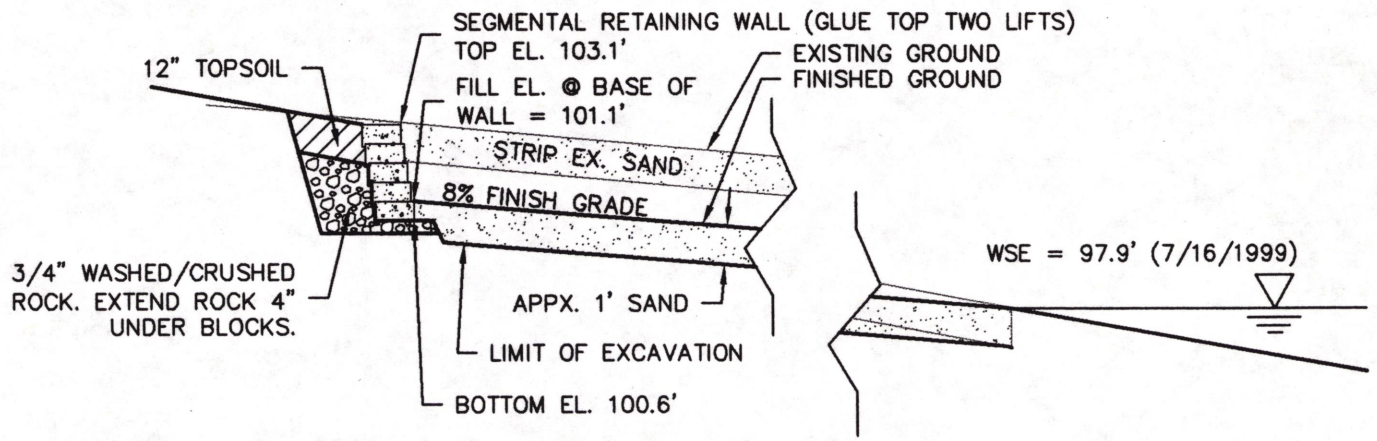


SW ¼ SEC 31, T1S, R6E



SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 30'



TYPICAL SECTION A-A'

SCALE: 1" = 5'

NO.	REVISIONS	BY	DATE	REV.
1	SITE PLAN	PJS	8/1999	DSC

MONTANA — DOUGLAS S. CHANDLER 7403 PE — REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

ALLIED
Engineering Services, Inc.
101 E. MAIN, SUITE A
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
PHONE (406) 582-0221
FAX (406) 582-5770

EAST GALLATIN RECREATION AREA
BOZEMAN BEACH REHABILITATION
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

SHEET 1 OF 1

PROJECT 99-123

BOZEMAN BEACH.DWG

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
HELENA REGULATORY OFFICE
301 SOUTH PARK, DRAWER 10014
HELENA, MONTANA 59626-0014

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

August 28, 2000

Helena Regulatory Office
Phone (406) 441-1375
Fax (406) 441-1380

Subject: Action ID 200090527

Mr. James Goehrung
City of Bozeman
411 E. Main
Bozeman, MT 590715

Dear Mr. Goehrung:

We have reviewed the application submitted by Allied Engineering Services, Inc., for the regrading of a public beach that has developed from an abandoned gravel pit and is known as the East Gallatin Recreation Area Pond in Section 31, Township 1 South, Range 6 East, Gallatin County, Montana.

Based on the information provided, we have determined that the proposed work is authorized by Department of the Army Nationwide Permit 42, found in the March 9, 2000 Federal Register, Final Notice of Issuance and Modification of Nationwide Permits (65 FR 12818). Enclosed is a fact sheet that fully describes this nationwide permit and lists the General and/or Section 404 Only Conditions which must be adhered to for this authorization to remain valid.

Although an Individual Department of the Army permit involving a public interest review will not be required for the project, this does not eliminate the requirement that you obtain any other applicable Federal, state, tribal, and local permits as required. Please note that deviations from the original plans and specifications of your project could require additional authorization from this office.

You are responsible for all work accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of the nationwide permit. If a contractor or other authorized representative will be accomplishing the work authorized by the nationwide permit on your behalf, it is your responsibility to provide a copy of this letter and the attached conditions to them so they are aware of the limitations of this authorization. Any activity which fails to comply with all the terms and conditions of this authorization will be considered unauthorized and subject to appropriate enforcement action.

In compliance with General Condition #14, the attached Compliance Certification form must be signed and returned to this office upon completion of the authorized work and any required mitigation.

This verification will be valid until August 28, 2002.

Should you become aware that an endangered and/or threatened species or its critical habitat exists within the project area, you must immediately notify this office.

If you have any questions concerning this determination, please contact Bob McInerney at (406) 441-1375 and reference Action ID 200090527.

Sincerely,

Allan Steinle

Allan Steinle
Montana Program Manager

CF:w/enclosure

Allied Engineering Services, Inc.
101 East Main, Suite A
Bozeman, MT 59715

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620
(406) 444-3009

October 15, 1999

Dave Crawford
218 Lindley Place
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Dear Dave:

In response to your request, we checked our data bases for information on species of special concern occurring within a 1.5-mile radius of T1S, R6E, section 31 (Gallatin County, north of Bozeman). Enclosed are three records for species that have occurred in this area. I've also included an explanation of the various terms used in our species reports.

As you can see, these three records are all quite old. Given the amount of change in the Bozeman area it is doubtful they would be present at your site, but there is always the possibility. None of these species have any official status with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Endangered Species Act; however, we consider them to be of "special concern" because of their rarity or vulnerability within the state.

I'll put additional information about the two plant species, printed from our on-line plant guidebook, in Monday's mail. In the meantime, keep in mind that additional biological data for this area may be available from other sources. You may want to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any information on threatened and endangered species (406-449-5225). Also, significant gaps exist in our fisheries data, and the Montana Rivers Information System can provide information related to this area (406-444-3345).

Also, the results of a data search by the Montana Natural Heritage Program reflect the current status of our data collection efforts. These results are not intended as a final statement on sensitive species within a given area, or as a substitute for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental assessments.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me at (406)-444-0914 or via my e-mail address, below, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Margaret Beer
Information Manager
mbeer@state.mt.us

State Historic Preservation Office

Montana Historical Society

1410 8th Avenue • PO Box 201202 • Helena, MT 59620-1202 • (406) 444-7715 • FAX (406) 444-6575

October 14, 1999

David J. Crawford
Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club
218 Lindley Place
Bozeman, MT 59715

RE: Cultural Resource File Search - East Gallatin Recreation Area EA, Sec. 31 T1S R6E GA Co.

Dear Mr. Crawford:

I have conducted a cultural resource inventory of the above cited project area. There is currently one previously recorded historic site in the area. The site 24GA1096 is the Northern Pacific Railroad and is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It appears that this site is well outside the boundaries of the project area and it will not be impacted by this project. According to our records we have no record of any previous cultural resource inventories in the area.

We feel that because the only previously recorded site in the area is out of the area and the proposed project location has been extensively disturbed that there is a low likelihood of unknown or unrecorded cultural properties being impacted by this undertaking. However if cultural materials are encountered during the course of the project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated. Thank you for consulting with us.

If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact me at (406)-444-7767 or by e-mail at pmelton@state.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Phillip E. Melton
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/1999