

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Jon Henderson, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Bozeman Creek Vision Plan - Engagement Summary & Community Priorities

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Plan/Report/Study

RECOMMENDATION: Bozeman Creek Vision Plan - Engagement Summary & Community Priorities

STRATEGIC PLAN: 6.6 Habitat: Work with partner organizations to identify at-risk, environmentally sensitive parcels contribute to water quality, wildlife corridors, and wildlife habitat.

BACKGROUND: The Bozeman Creek Vision Plan was approved as a City Commission priority on August 6th, 2024 via [Resolution 5626](#) and further recognized in the [2025-2026 City Commission Priorities Work Plan](#) adopted on June 23, 2026, in support of the following goals:

- Enhance flood mitigation efforts
- Improve water quality & ecological health
- Increase access and connectivity to parks & trails
- Support economic vitality opportunities
- Strengthen community connection to a vital resource

This project builds on previous work such as the [2012 Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan](#), the [2020 Bozeman Creek Analysis Technical Assistance Grant Report](#), the [2023 Gallatin Valley Sensitive Lands Protection Plan](#), and the [2025 Bozeman Creek Flood Mitigation and Reclamation Preliminary Engineering Report](#), among other important efforts.

On December 9th, 2025, the City Commission adopted a [Resolution](#) approving a formal [Community Engagement Plan](#), incorporating feedback received during an introduction to the project through a Special Presentation on [October 7th, 2025](#).

[PORT Architecture and Urbanism, LLC](#) was selected following a competitive [Request for Proposals](#) and subsequently contracted under a [Professional Services Agreement](#) approved on January 27, 2026.

Furthermore, the City of Bozeman has partnered with [SeeBozemanCreek](#) in an effort to leverage the power of community-led interests towards a

holistic approach to achieving shared goals among a wide range of constituents.

A series of work sessions were held in February and April of 2026 with a wide variety of constituents, including Neighborhood Association representatives, Downtown Board members, Downtown property & business owners, Watershed Council leadership, SeeBozemanCreek Advisory Committee members, City staff, and others to begin exploring a number of project and policy options. Key takeaways included:

- A vision for Bozeman Creek should be in alignment with broader ecological context
- Emphasize quality of life improvements tied to enhanced ecosystem services
- Bozeman is becoming amenitized, which is not always aligned with community needs/goals
- The state and local legislative context is unique and nuanced
- A catastrophic flood event is not an 'if', but a 'when'

On June 2, 2026 a public [open house](#) was held at Soroptimist Park to give the community an opportunity to provide feedback on a number of "[big ideas](#)" that were generated through previous engagement, as described above. Moving forward, four distinct categories have begun to take shape, further described in the attached memo titled "Bozeman Creek Vision Plan Status".

The July 14, 2026 City Commission Work Session will provide a summary of efforts completed to date, including a review of the proposed recommendations, and an opportunity to provide guidance in response to the following questions:

- Do you have specific feedback regarding the proposed recommendations, and are there any projects or policies that you would like to prioritize, add, or remove?
- What should our target level of service be when considering the extent of flood mitigation (i.e., solving for a 100-year flood versus a 500-year flood, per FEMA regulations)?
- How should we consider tradeoffs as it relates to prioritizing ecological health of the creek versus community needs (i.e., removal of parking, increased access to the creek, etc.)?

On August 8, 2026 the public will have an opportunity to review a Draft Vision Framework Plan during the SLAM and Sweet Pea Festivals. Feedback gathered during this event will inform final refinements prior to development of the pre-final plan, which will be presented to a number of Citizen Advisory Boards in the month of September. A final public event will be held in November to provide an opportunity for clarification and affirmation prior to the City Commission's consideration of approval of the Bozeman Creek Vision Plan in December.

Beyond the Vision Plan, several strategies will be considered for implementation, further described in the attached memo titled "Bozeman Creek Planning Next Steps Guidance".

Additional information can be found on the City's [Engage Bozeman](#) website, where citizens can subscribe to regular updates.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As directed by the City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: Funding for this effort has been allocated in the FY26 approved budget as a three-way split between the Parks Maintenance District, the Stormwater Fund, and the Public Works Administration Fund for a total of \$150,000.

Attachments:

[Bozeman Creek Vision Plan Status.pdf](#)

[Bozeman Creek Planning Next Steps Guidance.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: June 29, 2026