BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
PUBLIC HEARING TIME IS 6:30 PM AT BRIDGER TOWN HALL, 108 S D STREET

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN OF BRIDGER'S GROWTH POLICY:

ADJOURN:

Conduct at Public Meetings

The public is invited to speak on any item under discussion by the Council, after recognition by the presiding officer.

The speaker should stand, and for the record, give his/her name and address, and, if applicable, the person, firm or organization he/she represents. Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes unless approval by the presiding officer, and citizens requesting to speak shall limit him or herself to matters of fact regarding the issue of concern.

Prepared statements are welcomed and should be given to the Clerk of the Council. Prepared statements that are also read, however, shall be deemed unduly repetitious. All prepared statements shall become part of the hearing record.

While the City Council is in session, those in attendance must preserve order and decorum. A member shall not delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council, nor disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its presiding officer.

Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous or disruptive during the Council meeting shall be forthwith barred from further presentation to the Council by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue be granted by the presiding officer or a majority vote of the Council.

The Bridger Town Council reserves the right to amend these rules of procedure as deemed necessary.



Town of Bridger
Montana

Growth Policy 2026

Adopted:
November 4, 2026

Town of Bridger

Growth Policy

November 2026
FINAL

Prepared by: Great West Engineering, Inc.
Reviewed by: Carbon County Town-County Planning Board
Town of Bridger, Montana

Prepared for: Town of Bridger
108 S D St.
Bridger, MT 59014

Adopted by Resolution: November 4, 2026

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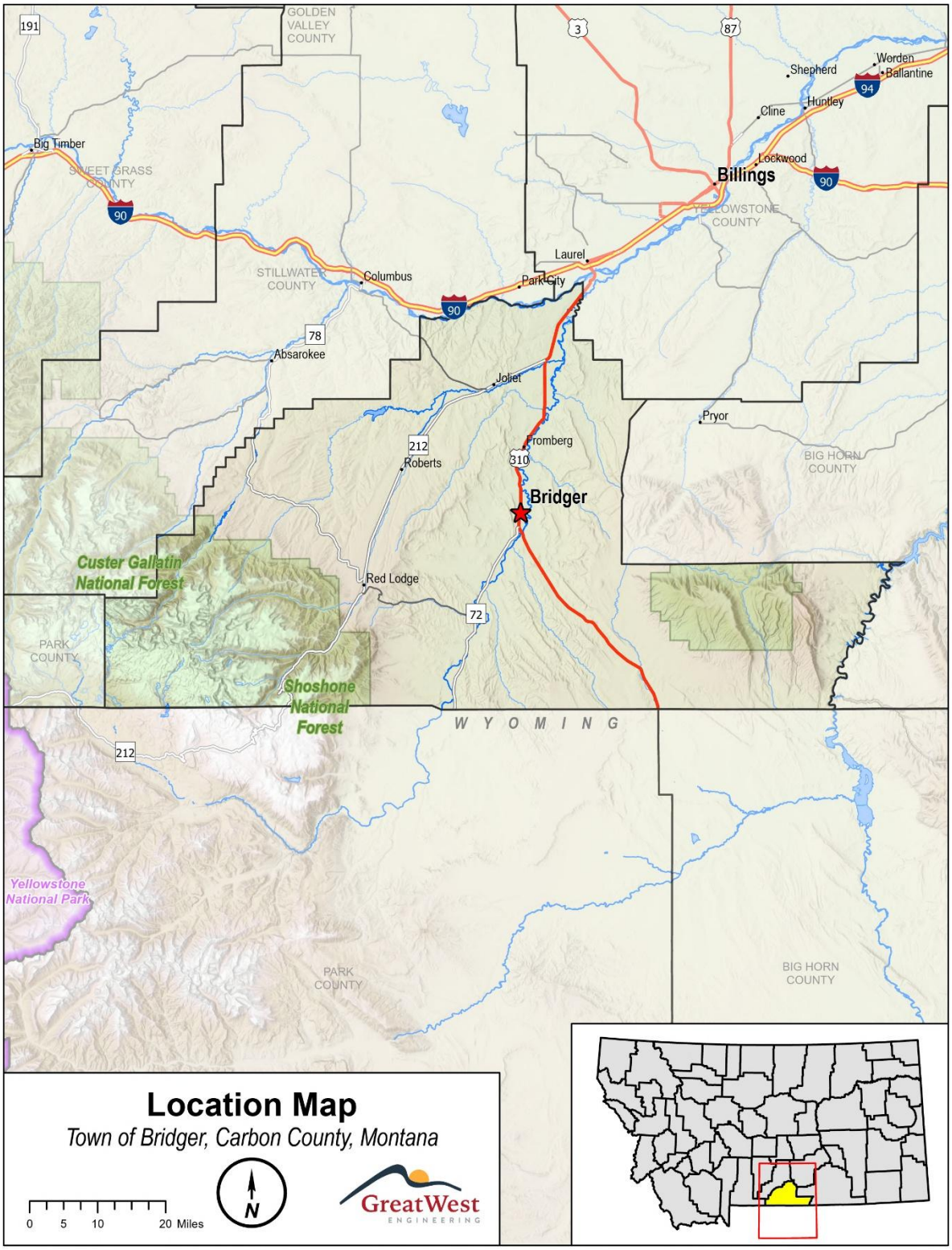
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Map 1. Location of Bridger, MT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is a Growth Policy?

A Growth Policy is a guidance document adopted by a municipality or county that outlines the community's vision for its future. Its contents and development are guided under Montana Code Annotated (MCA) *Title 76, Chapter 1, Part 6*. Like a master plan, local governments use a Growth Policy to guide decision-making regarding the community's land use and development. A Growth Policy is not a regulatory document and does not require regulations to be adopted and utilized. However, other regulations must be consistent with and supported by the Growth Policy for consistency and clarity.

A Growth Policy is also a plan that encapsulates projections and trends that determine growth, and allows a community to identify its strengths and weaknesses and outline plans for improvement. The Town Council can then implement these plans through thoughtful consideration and referencing the Growth Policy when making decisions or taking regulatory actions. A Growth Policy can also prepare a community for competitive grant funding opportunities, as it demonstrates a commitment to an intentional and planned future.

What Data is Used?

American Community Survey (ACS) Data

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely social, economic, housing, and demographic data every year. Most local governments represent relatively small geographic areas that must rely on ACS 5-year estimates. This is because most local governments are small, serving geographic areas with fewer than 20,000 people.

The 5-year estimates for an area have larger samples and smaller margins of error (MOE) than the 1-year estimates. However, they are less current because the larger samples include data collected in earlier years. The main advantage of using multiyear estimates is the increased statistical reliability for smaller geographic areas and small population groups. However, it is more challenging to capture rapid change in areas where only ACS 5-year estimates are available. For example, it was very difficult for local officials and planners to accurately assess changes in socioeconomic characteristics accompanying expanded drilling in the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota—where there was a large influx of male workers starting in the early 2000s—because the affected counties only received 5-year, rather than 1-year, ACS estimates.

Much of the data provided in this plan is census data derived from ACS 5-Year estimates. "ACS 5-Year, 2023" would mean that the data included in the estimate is from 2019 to 2023. Where feasible, multiple estimates are presented to show general trends.

Snapshot of Bridger

Bridger is a tight-knit community located in Carbon County, Montana, situated along the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. The Town was named after the legendary frontiersman, Jim Bridger. Established in the late 19th century, the community has been able to maintain its rural charm throughout the years.

Bridger is known for its historical significance as well as strong cultural celebrations. There are a variety of historic structures throughout the Town, and the annual Bridger Summer Celebration is known for bringing the community together and attracting visitors to the community.

The community benefits from its location off Highway 310 and often has many travelers passing through, or stopping in town while on their way either from Wyoming to Montana, or vice versa.

The area is also attractive to outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy fishing, hiking, rockhounding, visiting cultural sites, and wildlife viewing, thanks to its proximity to the Pryor Mountains and the Clarks Fork River.

History

The history of the Bridger area is deeply rooted in the native territory of the Apsáalooke (Crow) people. Long before permanent European-American settlement, this region of the Clarks Fork River Valley was a vital part of the Crow Tribe's extensive homeland in what is now south-central Montana. The Crow were known to utilize the area for hunting and travel.

The establishment of the Town of Bridger, and the rapid influx of settlers, was directly enabled by a series of land cessions. Most significantly, the land on which Bridger sits was part of the territory ceded by the Crow Tribe to the United States government in 1892. This act, which reduced the size of the Crow Reservation, opened the land for non-Native American settlement, mining (particularly for coal), and the construction of the Northern Pacific Railway branch line. Following the cession, the Bridger Post Office was officially established in October 1898, accelerating the town's development.

The town's name is an eponym for the explorer and mountain man Jim Bridger, who operated in the region and married three Native American women highlighting the deep, if often complex, early interactions between different cultures in the Montana frontier.

Planning Area

The Town of Bridger planning area includes all land and community areas within the Town's incorporated boundaries. Development of this document may include collaboration and consistency with Carbon County.

Planning Efforts

Due to its small population, much of the planning for Bridger has been incorporated into Carbon County's planning efforts. It is important to note that Bridger has been actively working to improve the quality of life for residents through thoughtful planning. These efforts include:

- Zoning Regulations, 2016
- Carbon County Growth Policy, *2026*
- Carbon County Subdivision Regs, *expected adoption 2026*
- Carbon County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2020) and Eastern Montana Update (2023)
- Carbon County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, *expected adoption 2026*
- Carbon County Workforce Housing Study, 2022

This Growth Policy update is Bridger's comprehensive effort to tie many different planning projects together into one document and to define objectives that will help the community achieve a five-

year vision. The document contains eight sections, all of which provide the basis for achieving the goals developed by the residents and the Town Council. These sections include:

Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan: This section provides a succinct list of the Town's goals and objectives, collated from public outreach and work sessions, and the steps the Town may take to achieve these goals.

Population Characteristics and Economy: An analysis of the Town's population characteristics and local economy, including demographics, employment, income, and poverty.

Community (Local) Services: A description of the services the Town provides, including local government, law enforcement, fire protection, health care, transportation, libraries and museums, and schools.

Public Facilities and Infrastructure: A description of the Town's public facilities and the infrastructure it maintains, including the status of water, wastewater, stormwater, streets, solid waste, parks, and utilities.

Natural and Cultural Resources: Discussion of present natural and cultural resources within the Town, including climate, water resources, floodplains, wildlife, hazard areas, sand and gravel resources, wildfire risk (WUI), and cultural resources.

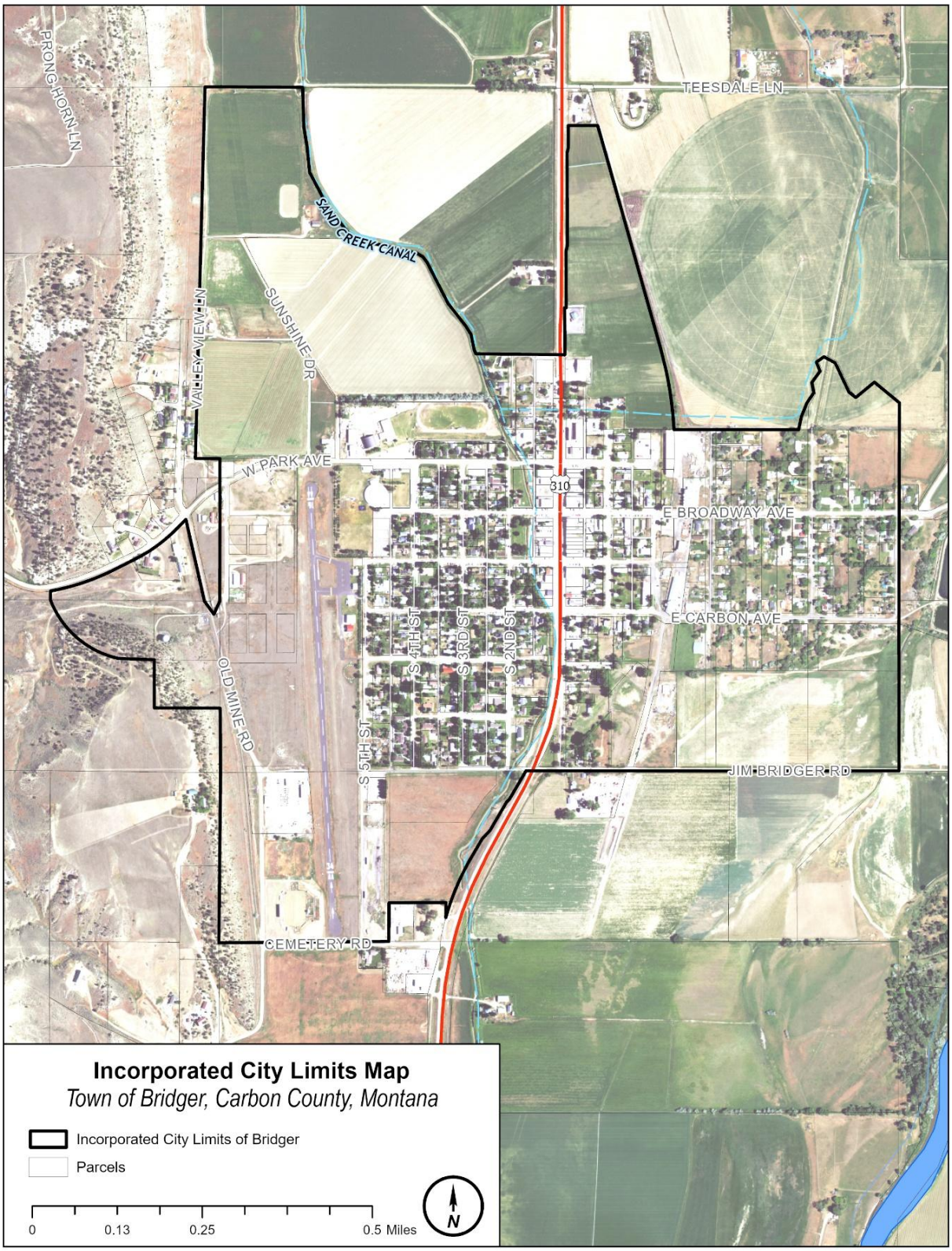
Land Use: This section includes a discussion about current land use.

Housing: The status of the Town's current housing stock, including availability and affordability.

Implementation: Discussion on resident outreach, adoption and implementation of this document, timing for review and revision, interjurisdictional coordination, and subdivision review criteria.



Map 2. Incorporated Town Limits of Bridger, MT



Process for Developing the Growth Policy

This Growth Policy utilizes population, economic, and housing data that were compiled by the United States Census Bureau. The U.S. Census Bureau's most recent data for the Town of Bridger was from the 2020 Census. Though the data is out of date, it can still provide a general understanding of demographic trends and community characteristics. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data being presented in this document; however, users should understand that Census data may be subject to limitations, including time lags, sampling errors, and under or overcounts. Additionally, projects utilizing past census data may not reflect the current or future conditions with complete accuracy. For planning and decision-making purposes, this data should be supplemented with local knowledge.

Additional data sources will be indicated within the document accordingly.

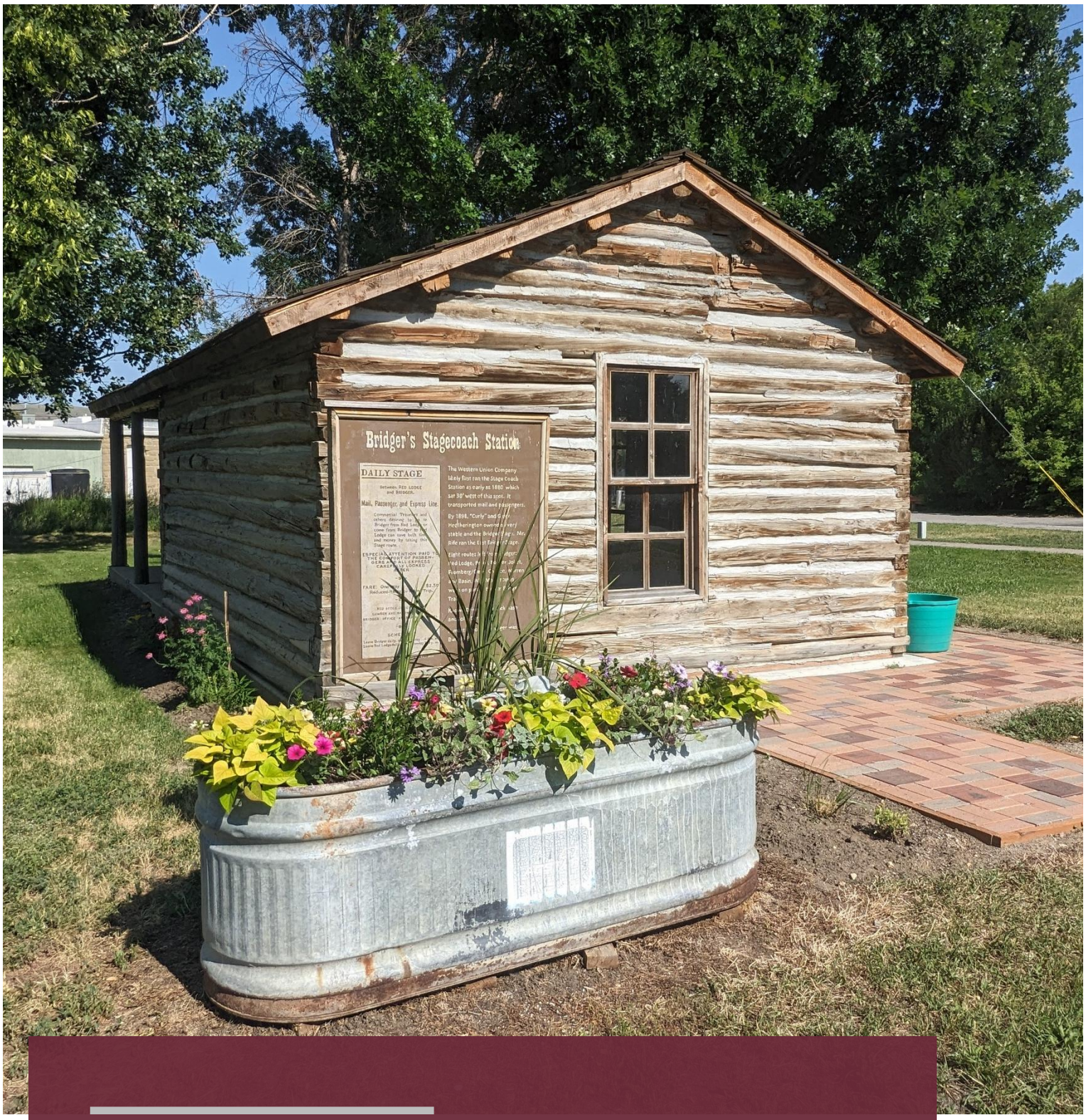
High-Level Vision

The Town of Bridger has embodied a lifestyle of pastoral charm and an intimate community. The Town Council and Town-County Planning Board want this updated Growth Policy to reflect this vision. The goal of this updated Growth Policy is to provide steps the community can take to enhance the quality of life for residents. This document explores ways to enhance services and upgrade infrastructure, promote pride in the community's agricultural heritage, and foster a vibrant economy that meets the people's essential needs. Through proactive planning, Bridger seeks to ensure a bright and sustainable future for its residents.

Coordination with Carbon County

Carbon County's incorporated and unincorporated communities exhibit diverse challenges, needs, and opportunities. When necessary, Bridger will work with the County to implement this Growth Policy in the following ways:

- Coordinate with the County to encourage developers to develop within the Town where they will be serviced by municipal water and sewer.
- Work with the County on any upgrades to the water and sewer system that cross County jurisdiction.
- As needed, consult with the County on the annexation of properties into the incorporated town limits.
- Manage all agreements between the Town and the County to ensure that all local services continue, such as fire protection, weed control, and emergency services.
- Cooperate with the County on all land use decisions via the interlocal agreement with the County Planning Board.



Goals, Objectives, and Actions

SECTION 1. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

This section summarizes the Town's developed goals, objectives, and actions to address the opportunities and needs identified through the entire planning process. In addition, Bridger should continue to work with the County to address land use issues and local services within the area of impact near the town-county boundaries.

GOALS
A 'goal' is an aimed, aspirational result the community wishes to achieve.

OBJECTIVES
The 'objectives' are tangible deliverables or intangible milestones that can be used to identify the steps needed to achieve goals.

ACTIONS
Action items are the activities or approaches that support the execution of objectives.

The timetable for implementing these actions varies. Many actions are ongoing or only as needed in case a situation arises. However, nearly all actions could be completed within the five-year timeframe before this Growth Policy is updated.

Implementation of the goals identified in this Growth Policy will take time, resources, and engagement with other agencies, non-profits, and volunteers. More importantly, it will require commitment by residents and the Town Council to follow through on the guidance provided by the document. With limited staffing resources, the Town should identify a partnering organization that can help facilitate steps and actions to accomplish these goals.

The goals, objectives, and actions will need to be revisited minimally annually and updated to reflect changing priorities, funding availability, and momentum within the community.

Economy

To be successful, Bridger must provide its residents with opportunities to prosper. Therefore, the Town will work to maintain and diversify its economy. Achieving economic goals will involve several entities and stakeholders, such as Beartooth Resource and Conservation District, Montana Economic Development Association (MEDA), the Chamber, Montana Department of Commerce, Carbon County, current business owners, and others as needed.

Economic Goal: The Town of Bridger fosters a resilient and diverse local economy that supports sustainable growth, attracts a broad range of businesses and industries, and ensures a stable, robust tax base to fund essential services and community development	
Economic Objectives	**Economic Actions**
Strengthen local business support.	a. Partner with local and/or state economic development organizations (like Beartooth RC&D) to provide local businesses with access to resources, business counseling, and state grants for job creation and workforce training. b. Coordinate and promote free training opportunities for residents to build the necessary skills to seek new employment or entrepreneurial opportunities. These trainings may also be focused on filling in gaps, such as childcare services by providing in-home daycare training and certifications.
Diversify the local tax base.	a. Apply for grants, such as the Department of Commerce's Opportunities for Rural Economies Planning Grant, to develop a market study for businesses that provide essential services (e.g. pharmacy). b. Encourage and facilitate new light industrial and commercial development within designated areas to reduce the reliance on residential property taxes and create a broader, more stable revenue stream for the Town.
Invest in the resiliency and vitality of the core commercial area.	a. Develop downtown strategies to identify and implement streetscape improvements (e.g., better signage, landscaping, lighting, pedestrian amenities) that make the central business district more attractive for visitors and new business investment.
Attract high-wage employment.	a. Actively market the Town's available commercial land and infrastructure readiness to companies in high-paying sectors, such as manufacturing or utilities, that align with existing local industry strengths.
Leverage sustainable tourism and recreation.	a. Promote Bridger's role as a gateway or service center for the outdoor recreation and tourism industry in eastern Carbon County, focusing on encouraging visitors to stop, shop, and use local services.
Support the local workforce housing objectives.	a. Use local government resources and incentives (as outlined in the Housing objectives) to

Economic Goal: The Town of Bridger fosters a resilient and diverse local economy that supports sustainable growth, attracts a broad range of businesses and industries, and ensures a stable, robust tax base to fund essential services and community development	
Economic Objectives	**Economic Actions**
	directly address the shortage of housing that is affordable to the local workforce, ensuring key employers can recruit and retain staff.
Improve the competitiveness of Bridger as a place to work.	a. Provide daycare and other services for the workforce not available in other areas. b. Improve recreation access within and beyond town limits. c. Develop financial assistance programs for investments on commercial properties that reduce the appearance of blight and decay.

Housing

To maintain its quality of life, Bridger is committed to understanding the housing needs of all its residents. To achieve its housing goals, the Town will need to engage with potential partners and stakeholders such as the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, Montana Department of Commerce's Housing Team, lenders and realtors, Montana Board of Housing, NeighborWorks Montana, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Action for Eastern Montana Human Resource Development Council, and others as needed.

Housing Goal: Bridger promotes sustainable housing development that meets the needs of all residents, enhances quality of life, and preserves the town's character.	
Housing Objectives	**Housing Actions**
Work with Workforce Housing Group to meet future housing demand as identified in the 2022 County Housing Plan.	a. Support and enable the development of units needed (as projected in Table 3) over the next decade to address existing demand and anticipated growth within Carbon County.
Increase affordability for working families.	a. Prioritize and incentivize the construction of new units that are affordable to households in the 30% to 60% Area Median Income (AMI) range, which is where the greatest need for housing exists.
Address deteriorating housing conditions.	a. Implement and enforce a Nuisance Abatement program to systematically clean up, repair, or remove dilapidated and abandoned structures, thereby opening up valuable space for new housing opportunities.
Diversify the housing stock with a range of suitable housing types.	a. Encourage development of multi-family units and long-term rentals at scale to increase the supply of non-single-family housing options that are currently limited and strongly needed based on income ranges.

Housing Goal: Bridger promotes sustainable housing development that meets the needs of all residents, enhances quality of life, and preserves the town's character.	
Housing Objectives	**Housing Actions**
	b. Develop pre-approved architectural plans for Accessory Dwelling Units and duplexes that match the character of Bridger.
Support the local workforce.	a. Aim housing development toward key employment sectors, such as healthcare, education, public administration, and food service, and assist employers with financial assistance to build units for their workers. b. Address local, affordable daycare shortages.
Ensure new housing integrates with the community.	a. Utilize design standards to ensure new housing projects maintain and develop simple, effective connections from housing to employment and community life, ideally making them walkable within 15 minutes.
Identify and address the needs of all residents.	a. As a foundational commitment, dedicate efforts to identifying the housing needs of all residents to retain the overall quality of life in the community. b. Continue to develop and support programs that address barriers to renovations and retrofits for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Land Use

To be successful, Bridger must continue to attract visitors while inspiring more people to live and work in Bridger. The Town will strive to address growth while preserving the surrounding agricultural farm and pastureland. To achieve their land use goals, the Town will need to engage in partnerships with entities and stakeholders such as land management agencies, recreation managers, Carbon County, the Carbon County and Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES), landowners, and others as needed.

Land Use Goal: A balanced and sustainable land use is promoted that supports community growth while preserving agricultural lands, protecting natural resources, and maintaining the rural character and economic vitality of town.	
Land Use Objectives	**Land Use Actions**
Address public concerns over community decay.	a. Consider adopting building codes and a code enforcement program per *MCA 50-60-3*. b. Consider developing and actively enforcing a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance to systematically address dilapidated structures, abandoned houses, and excessive junk,

Land Use Goal: A balanced and sustainable land use is promoted that supports community growth while preserving agricultural lands, protecting natural resources, and maintaining the rural character and economic vitality of town.	
Land Use Objectives	**Land Use Actions**
	prioritizing the cleanup, repair, or removal of properties that create safety concerns or detract from the Town's welcoming image. c. Develop programs and/or apply for funding to address barriers that prevent residents from maintaining property (e.g. financial, physical, etc.).
Create an objective, streamlined, and predictable environment for new and redevelopment.	a. Maintain and update Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations that provide clear guidance on setbacks, densities, and design standards to ensure new residential and commercial growth is compatible with Bridger's small-town character. b. Create and publish a straightforward, user-friendly document or checklist that clearly outlines the steps, timelines, and requirements for all land use applications (e.g., zoning permits, subdivision requests) to ensure an efficient and transparent review process.
Continue the relationship with Carbon County to discuss and address land use issues.	a. Establish a formal, routine mechanism (e.g., quarterly joint meetings) with the Carbon County Planning Board to coordinate land use planning, especially for areas adjacent to the Town's boundaries and for major infrastructure planning. b. Ensure the County Subdivision Regulations are aligned with the Town’s Growth Policy.
Encourage infill and redevelopment.	a. Identify vacant, underutilized, or blighted parcels within the existing town limits and develop incentives to encourage their productive reuse for housing, commercial, or mixed-use purposes. b. Ensure zoning districts and standards allow for appropriate densities and uses, and update as needed.
Preserve agricultural and open spaces.	a. Utilize zoning tools and work with county partners to protect critical agricultural lands and areas designated as floodplains or significant natural resource areas from encroachment by incompatible residential or commercial development.
Develop community resiliency to natural hazards.	a. Integrate findings from the Carbon County Hazard Mitigation Plan into land use ordinances to regulate development in areas

Land Use Goal: A balanced and sustainable land use is promoted that supports community growth while preserving agricultural lands, protecting natural resources, and maintaining the rural character and economic vitality of town.	
Land Use Objectives	**Land Use Actions**
	prone to natural hazards (e.g., wildfire) and require appropriate mitigation measures for new construction.

Infrastructure

Well-maintained infrastructure encourages both residential and commercial growth and, most importantly, is necessary to ensure residents' health and safety. Infrastructure managed by the Town ranges from the essential utilities of water and sewer to streets, buildings, and equipment such as loaders and snowplows. The Town will need to work with stakeholders and entities such as Carbon County Road Department, Montana Department of Transportation, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and others as needed.

Infrastructure Goal: Bridger develops and maintains reliable, efficient, and resilient infrastructure that meets current needs, supports future growth, and enhances the health, safety, and quality of life for all residents.	
Infrastructure Objectives	**Infrastructure Actions**
Invest in capital improvement projects and planning.	a. Apply for state or federal planning grants (e.g., CDBG Planning Grant) to develop a formal Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to strategically prioritize and fund the development, maintenance, and replacement of all public infrastructure.
Maintain the integrity of the water system.	a. Perform routine Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) analyses and sewer line cleaning to prevent sanitary sewer overflows, maintain system capacity, and ensure compliance with Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards.
Develop strategies for ongoing maintenance of streets and roads.	a. Develop and implement a Pavement Management Program to assess and rank all Town roads, and allocate Wind Impact Fee funds to purchase necessary gravel for the Bridger Road District to support ongoing maintenance.
Develop strategies and partnerships for ongoing assessment and maintenance of bridges and culverts.	a. Coordinate with Carbon County and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to regularly inspect, repair, and develop a long-term replacement schedule for all bridges and culverts within the Town's service area.
Invest in steps to understand and manage stormwater.	a. Inventory and map the existing stormwater system to identify areas with inadequate

Infrastructure Goal: Bridger develops and maintains reliable, efficient, and resilient infrastructure that meets current needs, supports future growth, and enhances the health, safety, and quality of life for all residents.	
Infrastructure Objectives	**Infrastructure Actions**
	drainage and high flood risk, prioritizing improvements to mitigate property damage during heavy rain or snowmelt events.
Maintain, improve and expand the Town's sidewalk network for safety and accessibility.	a. Develop a Sidewalk Plan that prioritizes the construction of new sidewalks and the repair of existing ones, particularly along high-traffic routes and leading to the school and central business district.
Develop modern methods to maintain records of infrastructure.	a. Convert existing paper maps of water, sewer, and stormwater lines into a digital, centralized Geographic Information System (GIS) to improve record-keeping, maintenance planning, and utility coordination.
Invest in maintenance and upgrades of town-owned equipment and buildings.	a. Create a dedicated Town Asset Inventory and a five-year scheduled replacement fund for critical public works equipment (e.g., snowplows, loaders) and essential municipal buildings.
Ensure a reliable, affordable solid waste service for residents.	a. Ensure the collection system generates sufficient revenue for operation, maintenance, and the establishment of appropriate financial reserves. b. Consider alternatives to current waste collection program before next bid cycle. c. Explore cost-effective options to reduce volume of waste sent to the landfill (e.g., recycling programs).

Community (Local) Services

The quality of life in Bridger depends on many factors, but it is particularly dependent on the provision of services, including healthcare, education, emergency services, and recreation. Bridger will continue to encourage adequate and diverse community services. To achieve these goals and objectives, the community will need to work with entities and stakeholders such as emergency services, public health officials, the Council on Aging, non-profits, community groups, and state and federal funding programs.

Local Services Goal: The services delivered are of high quality, promoting the health, safety, and overall well-being of all residents of Bridger.	
Local Services Objectives	**Local Services Actions**
Strengthen community engagement and communication.	a. Increase the frequency and variety of public communication (e.g., newsletters, social media, community meetings) to provide transparency and solicit resident input on major projects and policy changes.
Maintain and upgrade essential Public Works.	b. Develop and implement a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to prioritize and secure funding for the maintenance and necessary upgrades of the water and sewer systems, including multi-year rate increases to cover the cost of operation and replacement.
Ensure public health, safety, and accessibility for all residents.	a. Maintain adequate staffing and volunteer levels and provide appropriate training and equipment for the Police and Fire Departments to ensure they can effectively protect residents, particularly the high senior citizen population, and respond to emergencies. b. Conduct an audit of all municipal facilities and public spaces (sidewalks, crosswalks, public restrooms) to identify barriers, and create a phased plan to achieve full ADA compliance, prioritizing essential services and high-traffic areas.
Improve public facilities and resources.	a. Explore grant funding (such as CDBG Public and Community Facilities grants) to support the construction or rehabilitation of community facilities like the Senior Center or Library to better serve residents, especially those in the low-to-moderate income bracket. b. Identify a location for a new Town Hall and apply for grants to complete a Preliminary Architectural Report for the feasibility of reuse of an existing structure or development on a new building. c. Revitalize the Civic Center as a central gathering place, with improved accessibility, upgraded equipment, and flexible function. d. Identify underutilized public resources and facilities (e.g., rodeo grounds, library) and develop strategies to invest in improvement projects and activities.

Local Services Goal: The services delivered are of high quality, promoting the health, safety, and overall well-being of all residents of Bridger.	
Local Services Objectives	**Local Services Actions**
Support and expand services for seniors and individuals living with disabilities.	a. Work with local and state partners to increase resources for the Bridger Senior Center, ensuring programs are available to support the health, security, and well-being of the elderly population. b. Support the CART transit program. c. Invest in strategies that improve accessibility of programs.
Promote active transportation and pedestrian safety.	a. Dedicate funding for the construction or repair of deteriorating sidewalks and crosswalks. b. Develop a cost-share program to support residents with financial barriers to maintaining sidewalks. c. Improve outdoor recreation access with interconnected trail systems within town and to recreation areas outside of town.

Natural and Cultural Resources

The Town recognizes the importance of preserving the natural and cultural resources that contributed to the community's rural character and are attributed to its sense of place. To achieve these goals and objectives, the community will want to work with agencies and partners involved in land management, natural resource conservation, private entities, and more.

Natural and Cultural Resources Goal: There is a proper balance ensured between community growth and development, while protecting the abundant natural resources outside of Bridger and the cultural heritage surrounding the town.	
Natural & Cultural Resource Objectives	**Natural & Cultural Resource Actions**
Protect and conserve natural landscapes and features.	a. Identify and map critical areas, including within 1-mile of town limits, for open space conservation, including wetlands, prime agricultural land, and high-value ecological sites b. Pursue voluntary conservation easements with private landowners.
Safeguard water quality and quantity.	a. Implement best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater and wastewater to minimize run-off and pollution into local water bodies, and develop a long-term plan to monitor and sustain the local water supply.

Natural and Cultural Resources Goal: There is a proper balance ensured between community growth and development, while protecting the abundant natural resources outside of Bridger and the cultural heritage surrounding the town.	
Natural & Cultural Resource Objectives	**Natural & Cultural Resource Actions**
Preserve significant historic assets.	a. Conduct a comprehensive inventory of the town's historic buildings and sites, and nominate eligible properties for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places to enable access to preservation funding.
Mitigate environmental hazards, such as invasive species.	a. Develop and implement an integrated noxious weed control program across public and private lands, and provide resources and education to assist landowners with eradication efforts.
Support and promote cultural heritage.	a. Through zoning, consider adopting a historic overlay district and affiliated development standards that preserve architectural character. b. Apply for grants that support renovations of historic commercial buildings and remove barriers for new businesses.
Manage for responsible growth.	a. Incorporate natural resource constraints (such as slope, soil, and fire risk) into the land use planning and permitting process to steer development away from sensitive environmental areas.
Enhance community access to natural environments.	a. Expand and improve the network of trails and public access points to local rivers and open spaces for passive recreation, ensuring sustainable and low-impact use.
Foster public environmental stewardship.	a. Develop educational materials and workshops for residents and property owners on topics such as native landscaping, water conservation, and the importance of resource protection.
Strengthen resiliency to natural disasters.	a. Continue to participate in Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings. b. Host annual tabletop exercises with a disaster scenario specific to Bridger.
Address visual pollution and blight.	a. Develop and enforce ordinances to encourage or mandate the cleanup, repair, or removal of abandoned and dilapidated structures to improve the town's visual appeal and property values. b. Consider Brownfields and similar programs for property clean-up and redevelopment.



Population and Economy

SECTION 2. POPULATION AND ECONOMY

Population

Population trends are of vital importance as a community begins comprehensive planning. Growth in the population is a key indicator of healthy economic conditions. Population growth, decline and stagnation can all have profound impacts on a community and can lead to planning and economic challenges for a community.

Population Characteristics

The American Community Survey's (ACS) 5-Year estimates main purpose is to gather socioeconomic data for small sample sizes within the United States, yearly. Since this data collection method involves sample surveys, there is a degree of uncertainty associated with them because they are not a full sample of the population, unlike the Decennial Census. For this reason, population estimates may differ from those of other population estimate programs, such as the Population and Housing Unit Estimates Program (PHUEP). .

For example, the ACS 5-Year estimates that the population of Bridger in 2024 was 788, whereas PHUEP estimated 716. The PHUEP is the preferred program to report population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Montana Department of Commerce. For this reason, the PHUEP is reported for this section for purposes of establishing population trends and projections.

Trends and Projections

Population trends are vital as a community begins comprehensive planning. Changes to a community's population generally indicate the health of the economy, including services, housing availability/affordability, and business/work opportunities. Population growth, decline, and stagnation can all have profound impacts on a community and can lead to planning and economic challenges. Data from the Montana Community and Economic Information Center suggests that Bridger's population was generally in a period of decline between the years 2000 and 2019, but has since been increasing.

Table 1. Historic Population Trends and Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR)

Town of Bridger Historic Population Trends and AAGR- Population and Housing Unit Estimates Program				
	2010	2015	2020	2024
Bridger	706	678	664	716
AAGR	--	-0.8%	-0.4%	2.0%

Although many models may be used to predict population changes, the Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) is a simple way to plan for growth, such as infrastructure capacity and housing needs. Estimates have been provided in Table 2 with a conservative growth rate of 0.5% and a moderate growth rate of 1.0% for planning purposes. The projections are used to estimate the number of housing units needed to support the population in the "Housing" section of this plan.

Table 2. Po**pulation 20-Year Projections for Bridger**

	2024	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Population Estimate at 0.5% AAGR	716	720	738	757	776	795
Population Estimate at 1.0% AAGR	716	723	760	799	840	883

It should be noted that these projections do not take into consideration real-world events and constraints that may impact population growth, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or temporary major construction projects. The pandemic had dramatic impacts on the population growth of many Montana communities, particularly in Carbon County.

Many communities aim to increase their population to build their tax base and provide more efficient and cost-effective services. For long-term sustainability, the Town of Bridger can consider ensuring essential services are being provided to attract new residents.

Age Classes

As a community's age range shifts, there is an increased need for a shift in local services to accommodate the population's needs. This could take the form of increased senior services due to a rise in age or youth services due to a decrease in the average age. When planning public services, understanding who is benefiting from the services should be considered in the design. For example, upgrading a pool facility may need to include discussions on who may not be benefiting from the pool's current conditions and why.

The median age of Bridger is 40.6 years, which is comparable to the state's median.

The most populous age group in Bridger is the 45-64 age group. This age group has held steady since 2010, with an estimated decrease of only one person from 274 to 273 people. Bridger saw an increase in the 18-34 year old age group between 2010 and 2023. This was an approximate increase from 12.5% of the overall population to 26.7% of the total population.

A full age breakout can be found below in Figure 1.

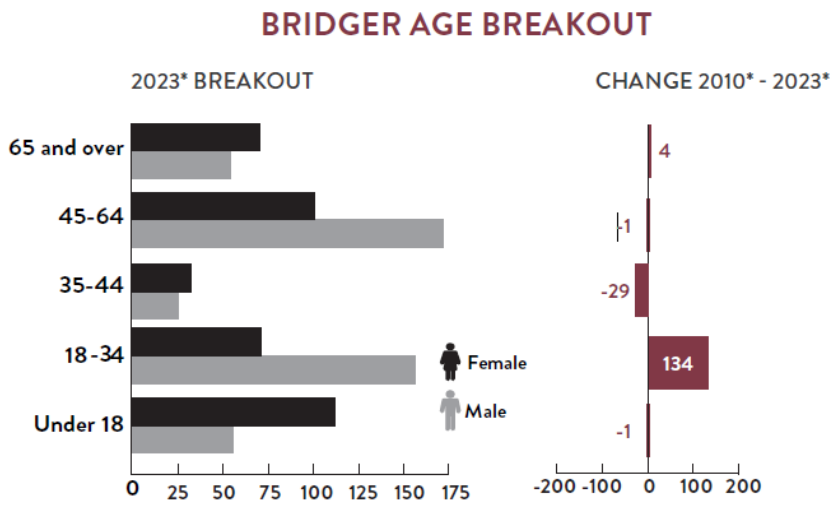


Figure 1. Age Breakout for Bridger, MT (2023)

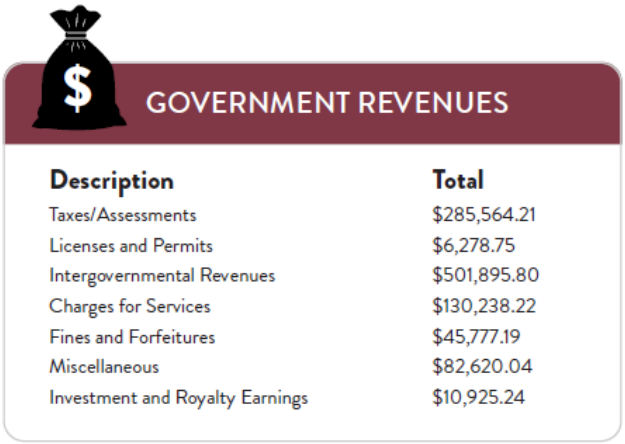
ECONOMY

Economic analysis is essential for creating an effective Growth Policy. It provides a clear understanding of a Town's current economic conditions. By effectively reviewing the current economic condition of Bridger, decision makers can utilize the data to make informed decisions and create policies and regulations.

Local Government Financial Outlook

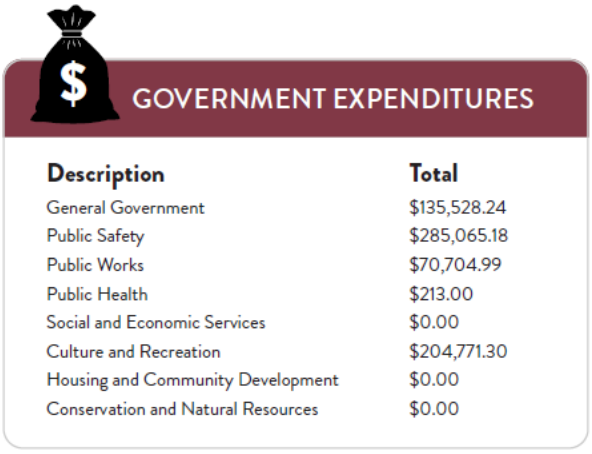
Revenues and expenditure are the core components of a town's financial health. Revenues refer to the income a town generates, typically from sources like taxes, service fees, grants, and fines. Expenditures represent the money the town spends to provide public services, maintain infrastructure, and support community development. Analyzing revenues and expenditures is crucial for effective municipal management. It ensures that the town lives within its means, allocates resources efficiently, and plans for future needs. The table below details the revenues and expenditures for the Town of Bridger from fiscal year 2024.

Figure 2. Government Revenue and Expenses for Bridger, MT (FY 2024)



GOVERNMENT REVENUES

Description	Total
Taxes/Assessments	$285,564.21
Licenses and Permits	$6,278.75
Intergovernmental Revenues	$501,895.80
Charges for Services	$130,238.22
Fines and Forfeitures	$45,777.19
Miscellaneous	$82,620.04
Investment and Royalty Earnings	$10,925.24



GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

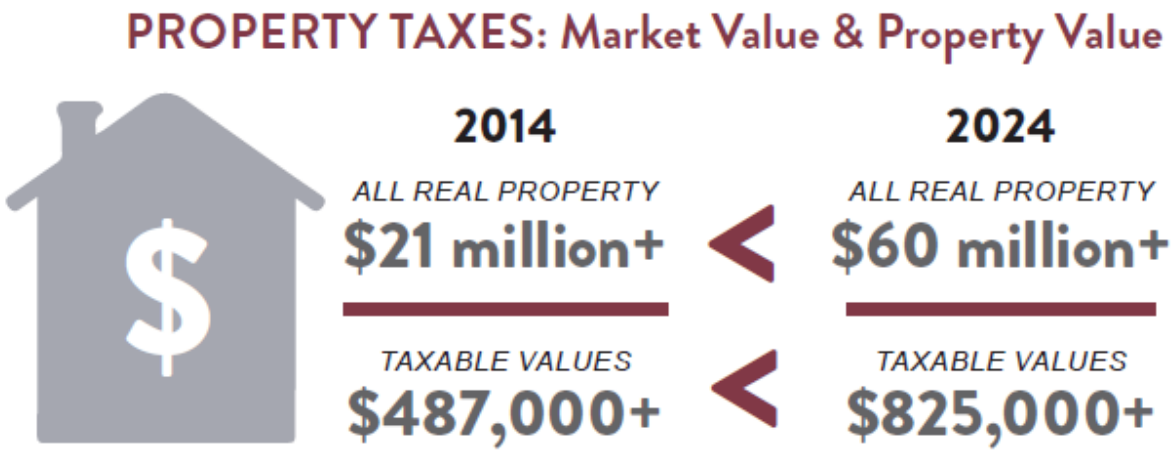
Description	Total
General Government	$135,528.24
Public Safety	$285,065.18
Public Works	$70,704.99
Public Health	$213.00
Social and Economic Services	$0.00
Culture and Recreation	$204,771.30
Housing and Community Development	$0.00
Conservation and Natural Resources	$0.00

Property Taxes: Market Value and Property Value

Based on figures from the Montana Department of Revenue, the market value and taxable value of real property in the Town have increased steadily.

In 2014, the total market value of all real property in the Town of Bridger was over $21 million. By 2024, this figure had increased to over $60 million, an approximately 185 percent increase. During the same period, taxable values in the Town only increased from over $487 thousand to over $825 thousand.

Figure 3. Changes in Property Taxes for Bridger, MT (2014 & 2024)



Property taxes are the primary source of funding for the Town. Thus, the property taxes fund streets, water, sewer, police, fire protection, and other services provided to residents of Bridger.

Employment

There were 425 Town of Bridger residents employed in 2024, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This was approximately 64% of the labor force (population ages 16 to 64). Of this labor force, approximately 60% work full-time (more than 35 hours per week). Within town limits, there were 204 jobs in 2023. Data shows that jobs have increased over a 20-year period, when there were 148 jobs in 2003 (*OnTheMap Work Area Profile Analysis*).

The figures below break down job trends by selected industry sectors in 2003 and 2023. In community planning, it is essential to identify which sectors are consistent and which are volatile. This data may also be used to address volatility and develop strategies to stabilize certain industries (e.g. retail trade), or attract more stable industries.

The inflow and outflow of employed citizens is an important trend to review (Figure 5), as it indicates the source of the workforce for Bridger. Census data shows that in 2023:

1. 166 people were employed within Bridger, but lived outside of the Town;
2. 38 were employed and lived in the town, and;
3. 247 people lived in the Town but were employed outside of the Town.

This data set includes individuals aged 16 years and older, who are considered working age. Additionally, the mean travel time for workers is 18 minutes. The figure below displays the inflow and outflow of those employed

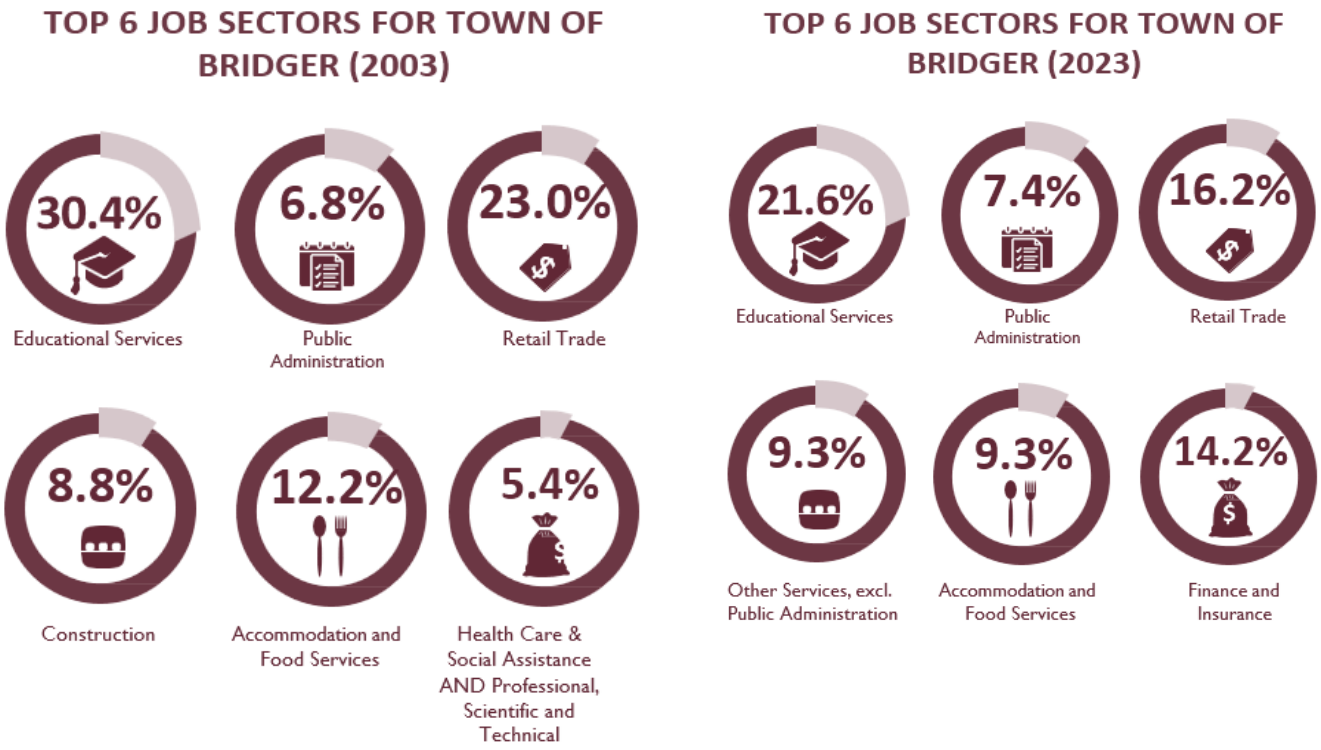


Figure 4. 20-Year Comparison of Top 6 Job Sectors

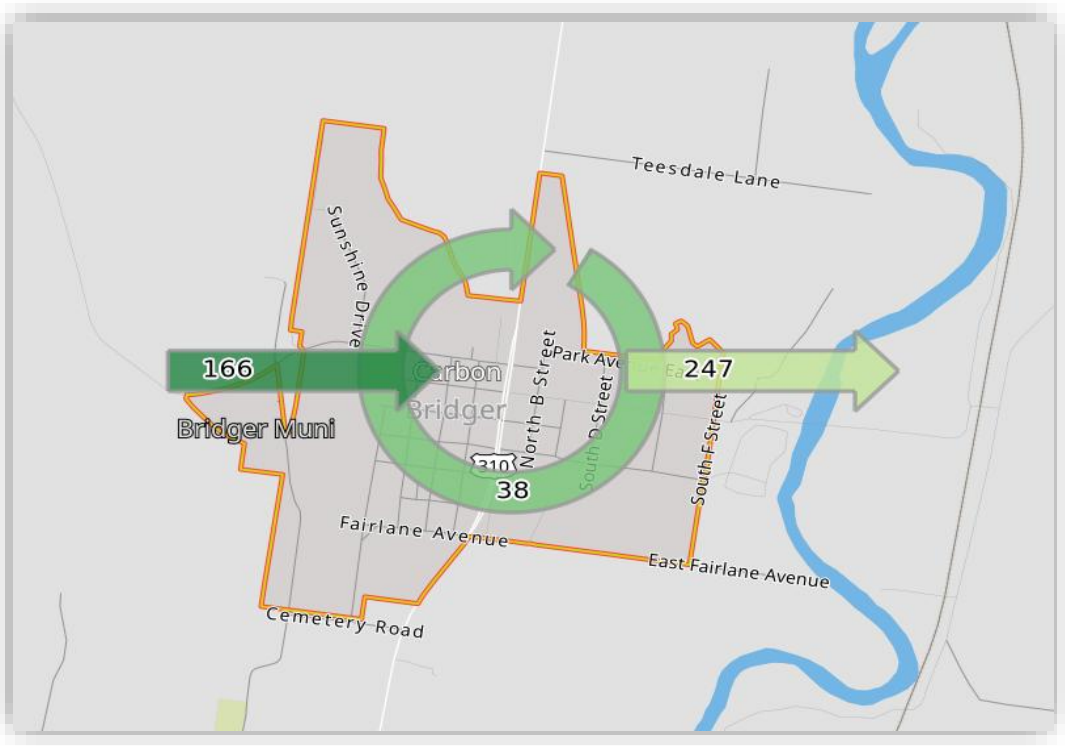
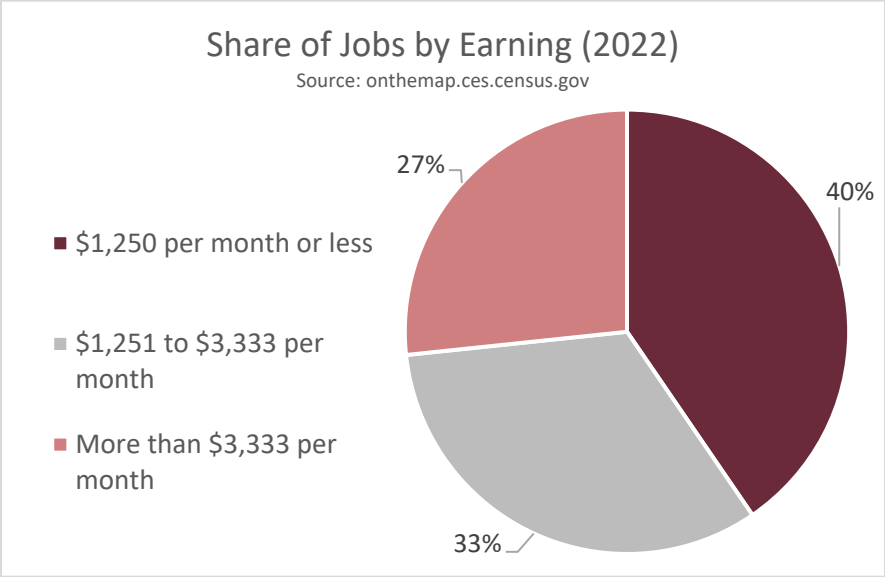


Figure 5 - Inflow and Outflow of Bridger, MT Jobs (2023)

Income

Figure 5 breaks down the share of jobs by earnings. Income contributions help communities understand residents' ability to stimulate local businesses and their accessibility to local services.

Figure 6. Share of Earnings for Bridger, MT (2022)



Data for the Town of Bridger indicates a decrease of approximately 19% in median wages between 2018 and 2023. Nearly 30% of households are in the $15,000 and $24,999 income level. However, the gender income gap has been reduced, with women earning more than they did in 2018.

Per Capita Income

Per capita income is a measure of income per person. Total personal income (from labor and nonlabor sources) is income divided by total population. Per capita income is considered one of the most important measures of economic well-being for communities. However, the measure can be misleading. Because this total personal income includes non-labor income sources (dividends, interest, rent and transfer payments), it is possible for per capita income to be relatively high due to the presence of retirees and people with investment income.

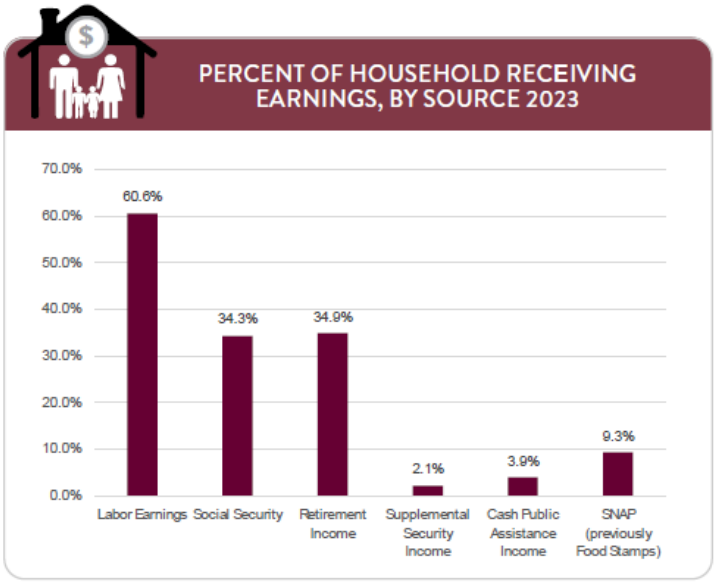
Personal Income

Household earnings are not directly related to one source of income. There are approximately four different income sources available to individuals and households. In Bridger, the most prominent form of income is through labor earnings (60.6%), according to the American

Community Survey 5-year 2023 estimate. Labor earnings are the wage or salary income that an individual earns.

The full breakdown of the percentage of household earnings can be found in the figure below.

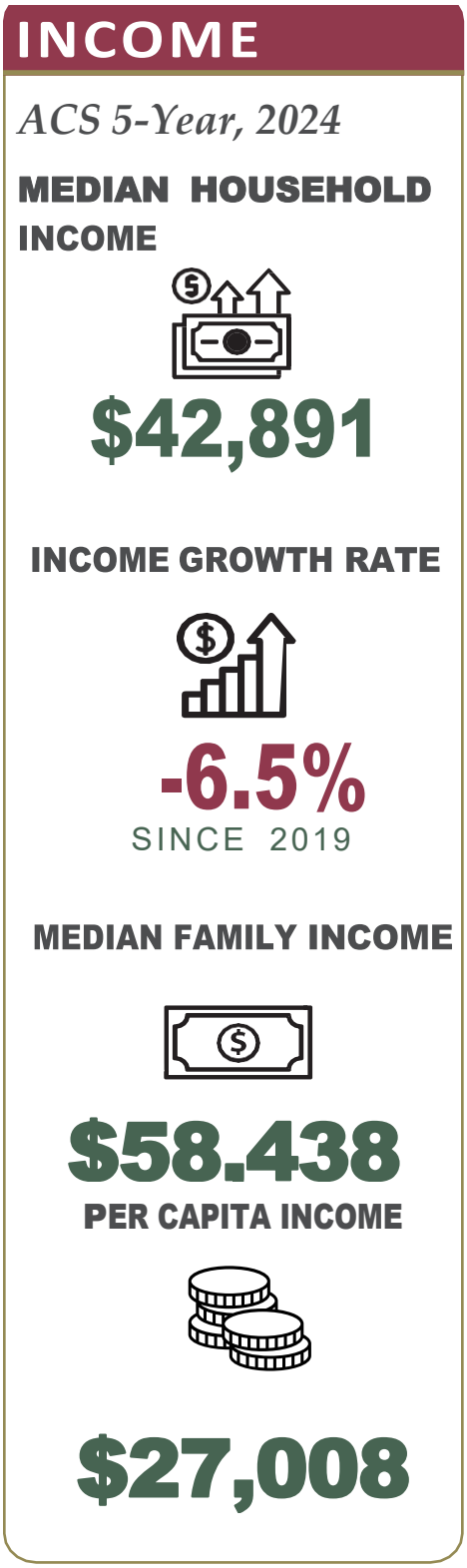
Figure 8. Household Earnings (2023)



Poverty

Poverty is calculated by evaluating a set of income thresholds in relation to family size and composition, and then classified according to directives set forth by the federal Office of Management and Budget. This is important for community planning, as it's not only an indicator of the Town's economic well-being but also reflects the different needs and values of residents. Additionally, poverty is experienced differently by individuals, children, and senior citizens. This information should not only be considered in future planning efforts but also in the development and implementation of policies and ordinances.

Figure 7. Income Estimates for Bridger, MT (2024)



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines poverty as an individual or family annual income that does not exceed 30% of the area's median income. According to the American Community Survey, Bridger had an individual poverty rate of 16.6% and a family poverty rate of 5.5%. Families are groups of two or more people who reside together and are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.



Downtown and Economic Redevelopment

It is a familiar story across Montana, where the downtown areas of small cities and towns have experienced the closure of retail businesses, an increase in vacant storefronts, and aging buildings in need of maintenance. Small towns often rely on federal, state, and even local assistance opportunities in order to compete with the larger profit margins of chain stores. For example, independent grocery stores typically have profit margins of less than 1% and have declined rapidly across the United States, particularly in the Great Plains region.



Loss of retail trade and essential services is due to many factors, such as population loss, and competition with retail establishments in larger communities. Bridger finds itself in this situation, particularly in relation to the City of Billings and the resort community of Red Lodge. This loss can also hinder growth, as potential residents seek communities that meet their specific needs.

There is no simple way to address these issues, but Bridger does have several advantages that could help it revive downtown and attract new businesses. One such advantage includes vehicular traffic through town, as Highway 310 bisects the town and makes up Bridger's core commercial area. According to the Montana Department of Transportation, the average annual daily traffic count entering and leaving Bridger has steadily increased. Location #05-3-024 counted 4,505 vehicles in 2024, representing a 19% increase over the previous 10-year period.

These strengths, combined with the natural beauty surrounding Bridger and the high quality of life experienced by its residents, create a strong foundation for downtown revitalization efforts and can be leveraged to increase economic opportunities.

Conclusion and Economic Strategy

According to survey results, economic development is highly valued by the community. A pharmacy, improving lodging accommodations, and a family-friendly or sit-down restaurant were

all specifically identified by respondents. When asked to list up to three ‘dream big’ projects, many answers included economic activities. Renovating historic or commercial structures, as well as recreation-related businesses and services, were noted by residents. These included a bowling alley, a new or renovated Civic Center, and indoor private recreation or fitness facilities.

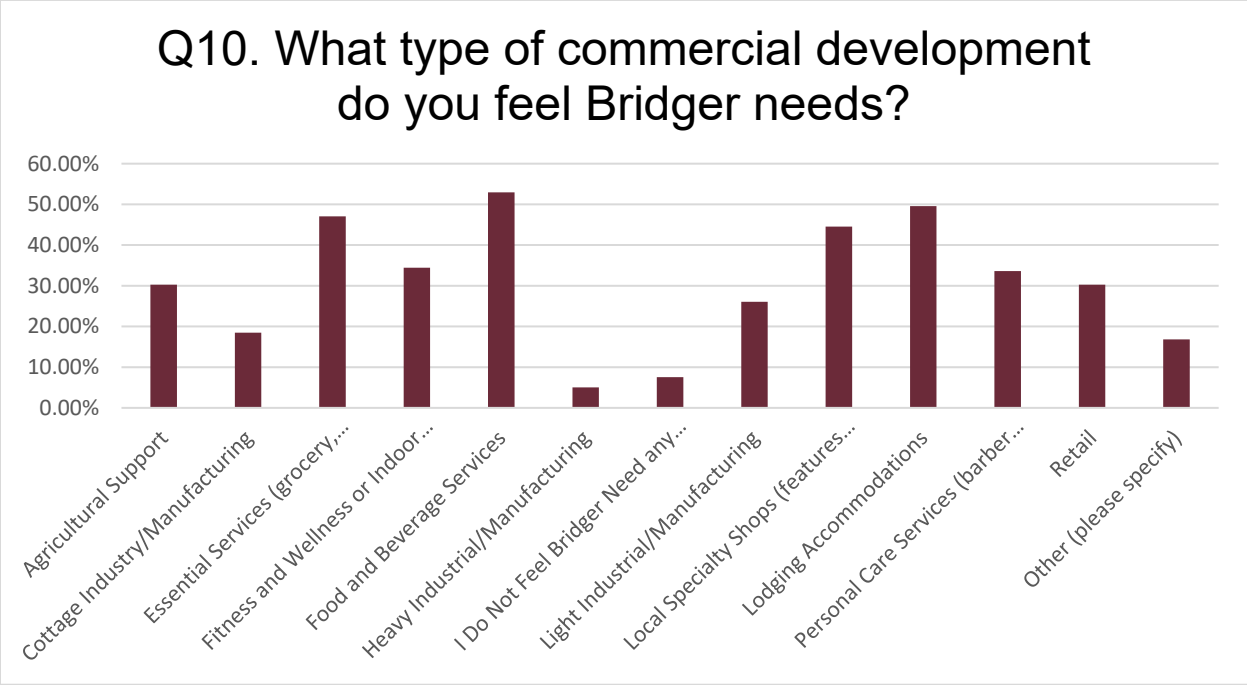
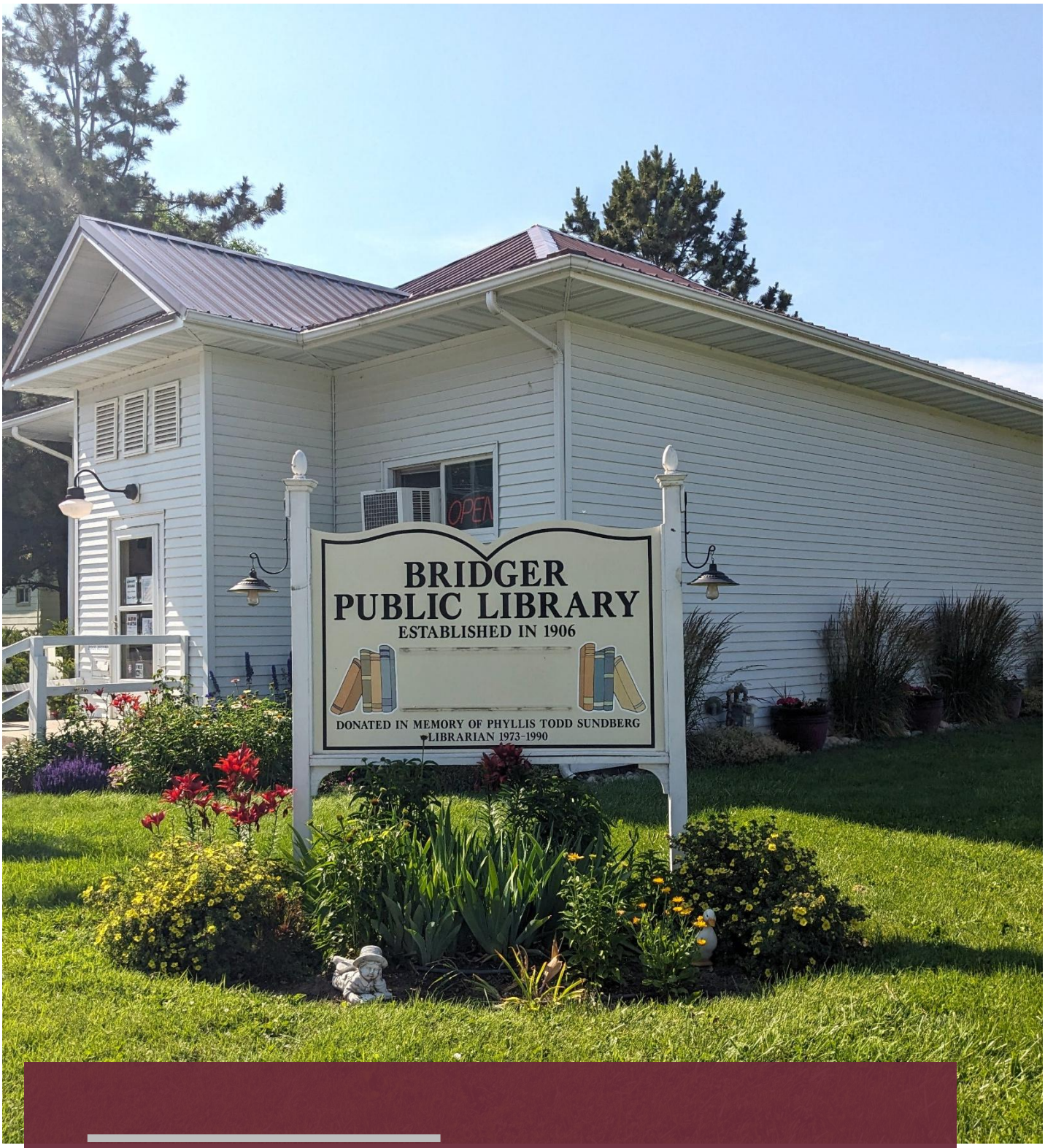


Figure 9. Question 10 from the community survey

The Town of Bridger will need to work proactively with local and regional economic development groups to attract key businesses, lower start-up costs (e.g., façade renovations), and continue to support local businesses so that they may thrive. Engaging in community planning with a focus on downtown revitalization could be a starting point for the Town of Bridger to identify and prioritize projects and funding opportunities. Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. is the County’s regional economic development agency that can support these efforts.

A few initiatives that Bridger could utilize for their redevelopment efforts are the Main Street Program through the Montana Department of Commerce, adoption of a wayfinding plan, and investment in placemaking. Communities of all sizes adopt wayfinding plans that utilize signage and branding to direct visitors to amenities and showcase the community's history and unique attributes.

Adoption of a C-PACE District by the County would enable building owners to make improvements to their structures, which would be paid off through energy savings. Being engaged in public policy at the state level can lead to the appropriation of funding for programs that support independent businesses, which often require updating and repairing aging facilities and equipment.



Local (Community) Services

SECTION 3. LOCAL (COMMUNITY) SERVICES

The primary functions of the town government include providing services and maintaining infrastructure efficiently and economically. Services include, but are not limited to, providing drinking water, treating wastewater, maintaining streets, emergency services, solid waste disposal, and parks. Policies and regulations that Bridger adopts can impact the ability of community organizations to provide services, both positively and negatively.

Local non-profit organizations also provide services to residents and visitors. Due to the town's small size, several local services are provided through Carbon County and are available to all residents.

Community Events and Entertainment
Community events are crucial for the overall social well-being of residents. Events offer residents the chance to come together over a shared interest, socialize, and foster relationships. Although the Town may not always organize or fund these events, they are often hosted on or near public use areas, such as parks or streets. Survey results suggest that more family-friendly after-school activities, events, or places to spend time would be beneficial.

Emergency and Medical Services (EMS)
The Town of Bridger is served by the Clarks Fork Valley (CFV) EMS, which also covers Fromberg and Belfry areas. The CFV typically receives and answers less than 200 calls a year. In 2024, Carbon County voters approved a $1.1 million levy to support the three EMS services for the county. The CFV, which typically operates with 12 volunteers, has used the extra funding to attract new volunteers and offer scholarships and stipends to EMT students and volunteers.



Fairgrounds
The Bridger Rodeo Complex is situated within town limits, adjacent to the airport, and south of the Carbon County Road Department facilities. The complex is owned and maintained by the Town with occasional support from user groups and high school volunteers. Approximately five acres have been developed with infrastructure to host events. The site hosts a few public fundraiser events, such as the demolition derby and tractor pull during Jim Bridger Days. Otherwise, the complex is generally underutilized.

Needs at the site include investments in infrastructure and improvements that allow the complex to be used throughout the year. Expansion of any facilities is limited by airport infrastructure to the east, the County Road Department to the north, agricultural land to the south, and steep slopes to the west. Facility improvements could be addressed in a Capital Improvements Plan

or through community-driven planning with regional economic development partners and state community development assistance programs.

The Carbon County Fairgrounds, located outside of Red Lodge, are important to mention within this Growth Policy because they serve the Town of Bridger. The Fairgrounds offers a rental agreement that residents of Bridger can utilize to request event space if needed. Typically, this could be used to rent show barns for 4-H events, as well as stalls for the various animals being shown. Carbon County has a fair board that involves a member from Bridger.

Fire Protection

The Bridger Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) is located in town limits and serves Bridger and the surrounding rural area, encompassing approximately 600 square miles. The BVFD provides assistance to the Clarks Fork Ambulance personnel when necessary. The BVFD receives its funding for services through the Town of Bridger, the Clarks Fork Rural Fire District #2, and through fundraising efforts. The figure details the BVFD equipment inventory.

BRIDGER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Vehicle	Year and Model	Primary Use
City Engine	1994, International Becker Body	City structure fires
Rural Engine	1987 F-7000	Rural structure fires
Rescue vehicle	1999 F-450	Extraction unit for automobile accidents
Engine 22	1983 F-350	Grass fires
Engine 23	2007 F-450	Grass Fires

The BVFD is highly involved in community events throughout the year- hosting Easter Egg Hunts, escorting Santa door to door delivering goodie bags, and participating in a Guns v. Hoses softball tournament.

Food Security

Many rural communities dependent on commercial agriculture are ironically situated in 'food deserts', where residents lack access to fresh, healthy, or affordable food. Compared to surrounding counties, in 2019 Carbon County has a low percentage (15%) of residents that are low access to a store[1]. Bridger residents have access to a grocery store, a Family Dollar, and seasonal markets and fruit stands that offer fresh, locally sourced produce.

Additionally, the Bridger Community Food Bank supports residents with donations twice a month.

Law Enforcement

The Town of Bridger currently has three full-time officers on the police force. There is a Chief of police, a sergeant, and a patrol officer. There are also three reserve officers in the force. The dispatch services for the Town of Bridger are conducted through the County.

Library and Museums

The Bridger Public Library, according to the Montana State Library Public Libraries Survey, had an operating revenue of $120,934 in 2024 and $107,874. The library has a total staff of two full-time employees. The library's collection comprises over 9,000 books, supplemented by additional eBooks and audiobooks. The library offers a variety of programs, and in 2024, there were

[1]https://gisportal.ers.usda.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?page=Overall#widget_269=active_datasource_id:dataSource_7

approximately 287 people who attended the 37 programs offered, including 115 children. The library had 3,619 visits in 2024

There is community support for the expansion or relocation of the library. One option is to integrate the new library with a new town hall. Additionally, the library offers numerous community services that are often unknown to residents. Some of these include assisting residents with setting up emails, applying for benefits, checking out life jackets, mobile hot spots, etc. Upgrading and acquiring new equipment, along with an awareness campaign, could increase the use of library services. There are currently no museums within the Town of Bridger.

Local Government

Bridger functions under the Commission-Executive form of local government structure, consisting of an elected commission (also referred to as the council), and one elected executive (also referred to as the mayor), who is elected at large. The Council, Mayor, and other Town employees provide services from their offices located in the Bridger Town Hall.

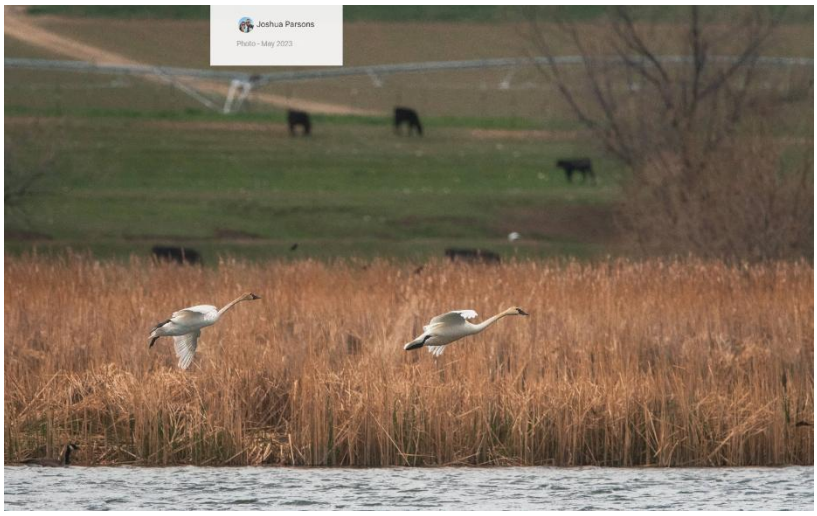
Medical and Public Health Services

Riverstone Health Clinic operates a medical facility within the Town of Bridger.
The clinic in Bridger offers primary care services Monday through Thursday. The site is a participating site of the VA Community Care Program for veterans eligible for VA benefits.

Recreation

The Town of Bridger's geographic location enables residents to utilize public lands for outdoor recreation. To the east of the Town, there is a fishing access to the Clarks Fork off of East Broadway Avenue. This provides not only fishing but also swimming and water recreational opportunities to the community. To the north, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns and manages a Waterfowl Protection Area that affords birdwatching, hunting, walking, and other opportunities. There is also a substantial amount of Bureau of Land Management public land and State of Montana public land within a short drive of Bridger. Though the drive may be a little further away, the residents have easy access to the Custer National Forest, particularly the Pryor Mountains.

Within town limits, there is a variety of well-maintained parks for the residents to use. There is Jim Bridger Park, where the Town of Bridger's original stagecoach station building. The park abuts the canal and is a beautifully maintained green open space park. West of the airport, there are three town-maintained baseball and softball fields that offer opportunities for organized sporting activities. The outfield of these ball fields could be used for various other sports such as soccer and football.



Bridger also operated an RV campground with water, sewer, and electricity hookups for RVs and campers, but also offers tent camping sites as well. The Town can generate some revenue from this campground, as it costs $35 a night for an RV site, and $10 a night for a tent camping site.

The Town pool is located in the same park as the campground. The pool offers open swim and adult swim, where it is mainly used for lap swim.

Schools
The Bridger K-12 School District manages three different school levels: elementary, middle, and high school. Total enrollment for the 2024/25 school year was 190 students: 58 high school, 31 middle school, and 101 elementary school. The student-to-teacher ratio is 9:1. The participation rate in special education is 18.4%. According to the Office of Public Instruction, per-pupil revenue is $20,750, while expenditure is $21,286.

Senior Services and People with Disabilities
The Bridger Golden Age Society, Council on Aging (or Bridger Senior Center) provides meals on Tuesday and Thursday, Bingo nights, and other special events and activities throughout the year.

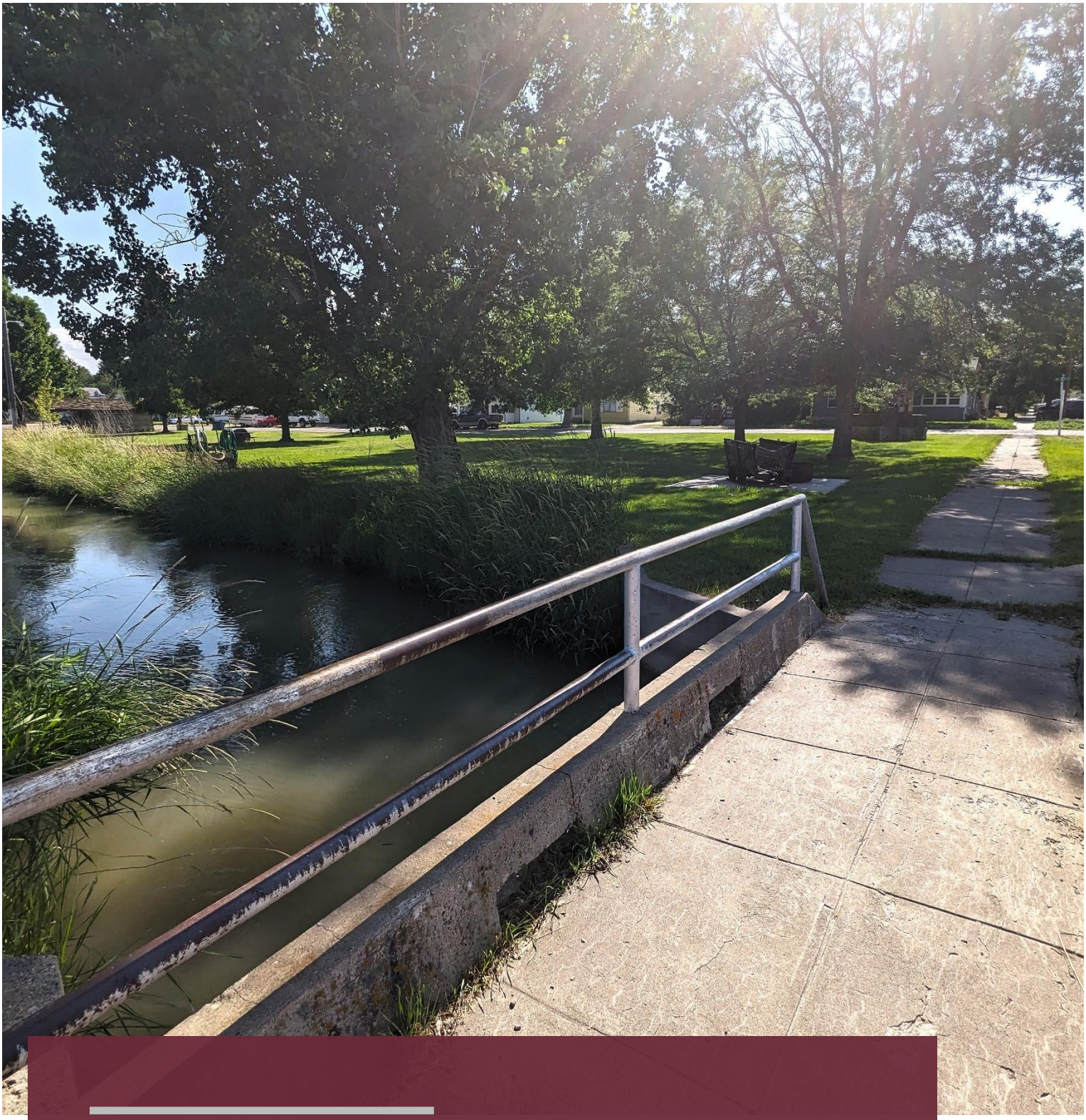
The Carbon County Area Ride and Transit (CART) program, which is operated under the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, provides free services to all residents of Carbon County by reservation. CART operates Monday through Friday with 2 passenger vans and one 13-passenger bus, all of which are ADA accessible. Medicaid reimburses CART for the transport of those on Medicaid. The CART team regularly facilitates Bridger seniors to medical appointments, social events, and grocery shopping. The CART program regularly seeks support from governing bodies to continue to provide this service free of charge and to be able to expand services in the future.

In general, Carbon County lacks adequate assisted living facilities for seniors or adults with disabilities. In Bridger, the Campbell Courts Apartments provide 1-and-2 2-bedroom, pet-friendly apartments for the elderly and disabled living. The Town of Bridger can reduce its reliability on these facilities through programs that provide assistance to retrofit homes for lifestyle changes, supporting co-op style housing forms, and ensuring the housing market includes a diversity of styles and sizes.

Youth Services
A lack of childcare services or high costs are often cited as primary reasons employers are unable to hire or retain staff. Access to childcare can also influence where young families live. Lack of childcare near Bridger is a concern for many residents. Many small communities have had to develop creative strategies to initiate affordable and sustainable childcare programs. This may involve co-locating daycares with assisted living facilities, or incorporating a program with the high school.

Strategies for Community (Local) Services
Bridger can strengthen community services by improving communication and engagement, such as increasing public outreach through newsletters, social media, and community meetings to ensure transparency and gather resident input. Enhancing partnerships with nonprofits, schools, senior programs, and state or federal agencies can increase service capacity while reducing the burden on limited local resources.

Developing shared-use facilities and integrating services, such as youth programs or childcare, can also maximize community benefit and address identified gaps. Globally, small communities have overcome these challenges by combining uses to shared spaces, leveraging funding, and integrating services as part of curriculum standards. For example, some shared spaces include senior living facilities that are tied to childcare services.



Infrastructure

SECTION 4. INFRASTRUCTURE

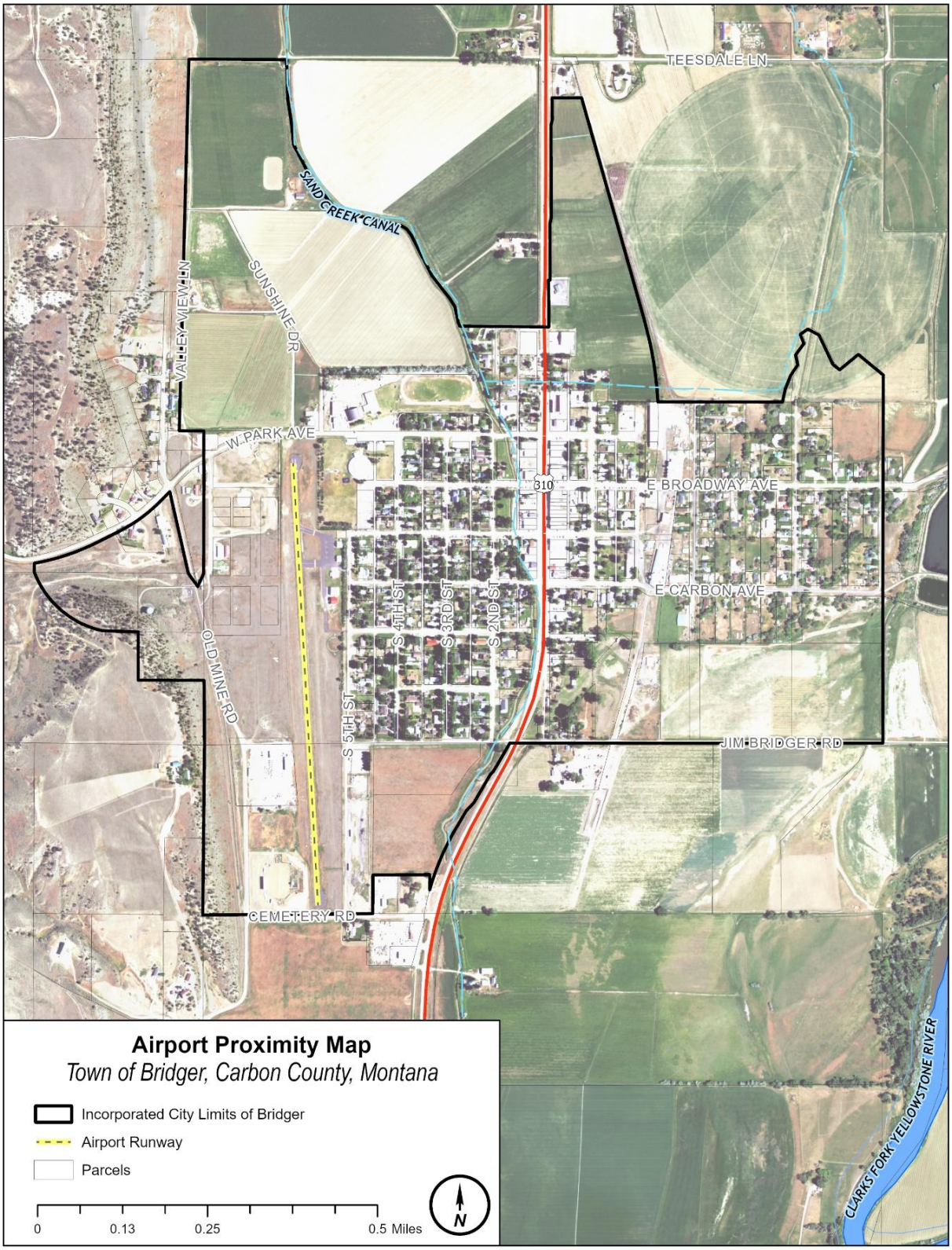


Airport

The Town of Bridger has a small municipal airport located on the west side of the Town with a 3,400 foot airstrip. The runway surface is asphalt, and the airport is non-towered. The airspace surrounding the Town is Class E. The land use in vicinity of the airport consists of low-density development, public schools, and open space used for agriculture and recreation. Not all types of development are appropriate around airports, particularly in zones where planes take off and land, known as Runway Protection Zones or Accident Potential Zones.

Through its zoning regulations (Town of Bridger, Chapter 30), the Town can regulate development compatible with the airport through density, use, and height restrictions. Many communities address this through an overlay district within a certain buffer area (e.g., 1,000 feet) from airport runway boundaries.

Map 3. Location of the Town of Bridger Airport



Bridges



The Town of Bridger has five vehicle bridge crossings over the Sand Creek Canal. As they are located on Town-maintained streets, the town is responsible for maintaining them. The canal crosses under West Park Avenue, West Broadway Avenue, West Sunnyside Avenue, West Carbon Avenue, and Fairlane Avenue.

The Town's public works department has conducted a bridge assessment to determine each bridge's condition. Additional engineer input would assist in replacement prioritization and ensure that the bridge load capacity is met. The Fairlane box culvert has been replaced as it was in the poorest condition. The Town has secured funds from the County to assist with replacing the remaining bridges. The weight limit should be determined and posted to ensure that none of the bridges are compromised by large vehicles.

Additional pedestrian bridges cross the canal where they connect with the sidewalk network. These bridges are in varying conditions. Appropriately sized box culverts could support pedestrian and vehicular crossings.

The west side of the Town currently has one evacuation route in the event that the canal overtops or bridges fail, and residents cannot get from the west side of town to Main Street. Residents would be able to get to Park Avenue and loop to the south on Old Mine Road, before turning onto Cemetery Road, leading to the Highway.



Buildings

The Town of Bridger owns and actively uses seven (7) buildings, including the Town Hall/Bridger City Court/Police Department, Library, three Well Houses, Civic Center, Emergency Services complex, Pool, Bridger Town Shop. Several other miscellaneous structures, such as the historic town hall, are vacant and not in use.

Bridger's highest building priority is a new town hall, police department, and city court building at a location more centralized within town or in close proximity to downtown. Memorial Park, the location of the town hall and community building built in the 1940s, is a potential site for a new town complex. Although renovation of the existing structure may be cost-prohibitive, funding may be available for abatement of hazardous conditions. Alternatively, the town owns several lots that could be redeveloped, or potentially used for a land swap to develop in a more ideal location.

Other buildings owned by the town are in decent condition. The public library may eventually need to expand its current facility, build a new structure, or be incorporated within a new town hall complex.

Parks, Trails, and Recreation



Bridger Swimming Pool

The Town of Bridger supports a swimming pool through a Parks District. This levy supports operations and maintenance funds for upgrades to the bathhouse, plumbing, and new flooring, among other improvements. This levy also helps to keep the entrance cost low at $1 per person. The Town hires 12-14 lifeguards during the short operating season of June -August.

Many Montana community pools face challenges due to harsh winter conditions affecting pool infrastructure, retaining experienced staff year after year, and high operational costs during a short revenue window. Bridger may eventually need to address these issues if they arise, and plan for the eventual overhaul of the existing pool.



Memorial Park

Memorial Park is approximately one acre in size and features historic structures and monuments adorned with stone/petrified wood. The park is the site of the 1940s town hall, shop, and community gathering space. Other facilities at the park include well pump houses, horseshoe pits, covered picnic tables, and a small playground.

The playground should be removed or upgraded to a commercial-grade one. The property has been suggested as a potential future location for a new town hall.



RV Campground

The Bridger campground is located at 301 East Broadway Avenue. Spots are available for $35 per night, or $10 for tent camping. There are six hookups with water, sewer, electricity that are available as first come, first served. The campground is within walking distance of downtown, and the Bridger pool and other park amenities.

Jim Bridger Park
Jim Bridger Park is an approximately 1-acre green space along the canal and south of the public library. The park consists of the stagecoach cabin, a Jim Bridger memorial arch, and shade trees.

Entrance Park
The community maintains a welcome park at the southern entrance into town. The park features picnic tables, a metal sculpture, and a recently completed water feature.



Legion Complex
The baseball fields on West Park Avenue are less than a 10-acre complex. This park is the proposed site of the improvements designed for creation of the "Carbon County Cavaliers," a high-school baseball team. Improvements to the site include parking areas, a Little League/softball field, a youth field, a play area, a concession building, and a high-school field.

Strategies for Parks, Trails, and Recreation
The town is working on developing a succession plan, which would identify the operations and maintenance needs for the park facilities. This will ensure the parks will continue to be maintained as staff changes occur. A digital asset management system would also aid in maintaining parks and recreation infrastructure.

Montana's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's recent update lists connectivity between the communities and public lands, walking/jogging/biking paths, bike lanes, and open spaces as Region 5's top outdoor recreation needs. Montana residents seek places to live that offer close-to-home recreation opportunities with easy accessibility. Opportunities may include incorporating paths through and around public lands, such as the western side of town, or along Sand Creek Canal. The Town of Bridger can collaborate with private landowners, ditch companies, trail organizations, and the County to identify and develop new trails.



Sidewalks
Sidewalk conditions vary throughout town. The state repaired sidewalks along Highway 310 through downtown in 2025 and 2026. Otherwise, sidewalk maintenance and repair are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Although a common strategy, many communities experience unsafe sidewalk conditions as repairs get deferred.

A well-connected sidewalk network provides pedestrians with safe routes to public facilities and key services within a community. Mapping the sidewalk network would identify gaps in the system and could help the town facilitate improvement projects. High-priority sidewalks should be identified and potentially include safe routes to schools and public parks.



Finding funding resources to share costs in sidewalk improvements, with priorities on popular or essential routes, should be considered by the community. Communities that front the costs of and lead sidewalk maintenance projects are more successful in updating their sidewalk network.

Streets/Road

The Town utilizes a few funding mechanisms to maintain and repair roads. The general fund supports patching of roads, while the gas tax is used for larger paving projects. Through House Bill 355, the State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act of 2023, Bridger is eligible for up to $64,566 in allocations. The funds are expected to pave two full streets. A partnership with the County also alleviates costs.

Efforts to repave high-volume streets in the last decade have substantially improved Bridger's road conditions. Carbon Avenue, although in fair condition, may require repaving in the near future. As funding and resources allow, low-volume streets and avenues should be repaired.

Existing partnerships and management of funds have reduced the need for a Special Improvement District and reduced the cost to taxpayers. However, in the future, any street improvements for stormwater management and/or pedestrian networks may require long-term planning to prepare for costs.

Stormwater

The Town of Bridger has an older stormwater system in place with piping underground. Overtime, much of the pipes have been filled with sediment. The Town has begun the process of uncovering the system. The current system likely does not extend throughout all of Bridger.

Flooding from the Sand Creek Canal poses a threat to flooding due to heavy rain events, its use for snow storage, snowmelt, and ice jams. Ditch maintenance and monitoring have prevented flooding in the last 20 or so years.

Stormwater system planning, such as a Stormwater Preliminary Engineering Report, may aid the community in mapping the stormwater system, identifying gaps, addressing problem areas, prioritizing future projects, and identifying funding strategies.

Solid Waste

The Town of Bridger's solid waste services are provided by Republic Services. Trash collection is once a week and typically includes common household trash. However, the contract the Town has with Republic Services allows for larger items such as furniture and other waste to be marked with a sticker for pickup. Residents are allowed to use three free stickers for larger refuse removal per year. Temporary dumpsters are offered to residents for yard cleanups, remodeling projects, and garage purging.

Many rural communities struggle with the high costs of solid waste services. It is therefore essential for community leaders to develop alternative management measures that enhance efficiency, minimize costs to taxpayers, and facilitate flexibility. Alternatives may include:

- Developing a transfer station
- Operating pick-up and transfer services in-house
- Reducing pickup to twice a month
- Incentivizing waste reduction strategies through recycling and composting partnerships

Water and Sewer

The Town of Bridger has taken many steps in recent years to maintain its water quality and capacity. These include replacing fire hydrants, gate valves, and pumps with check valves. As a result, the town's water supply system is currently in good condition. Water is not metered, as use has not demanded the need. If Bridger ever experienced growth booms and increased water usage, installing meters could be a long-term solution for monitoring and conserving water usage. As it stands, Bridger can support growth and increased use of its water.

There are three well houses, all located in Memorial Park. Recent improvements to the well houses include new roofs and full electrical upgrades.

Similarly, the Town's sewer system is in good condition. The current discharge is less than 5% of the allowed amount. Some residents report sewer backups as issues the Town should address.

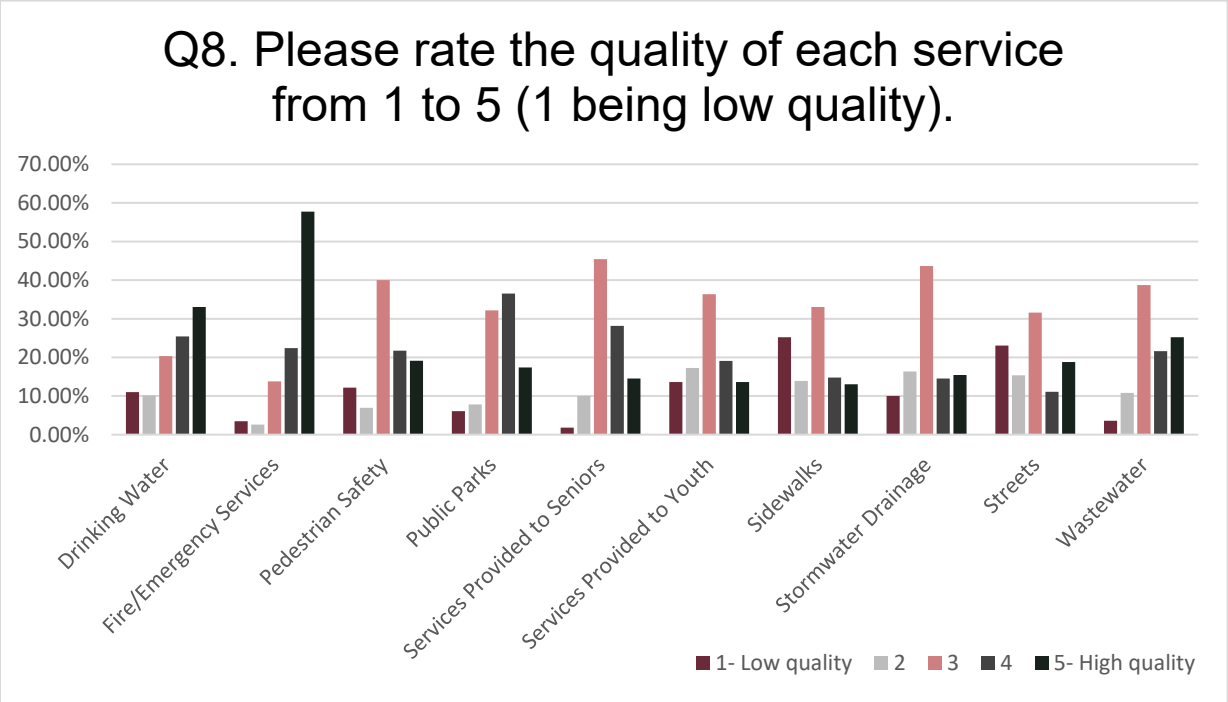


Strategies for Infrastructure

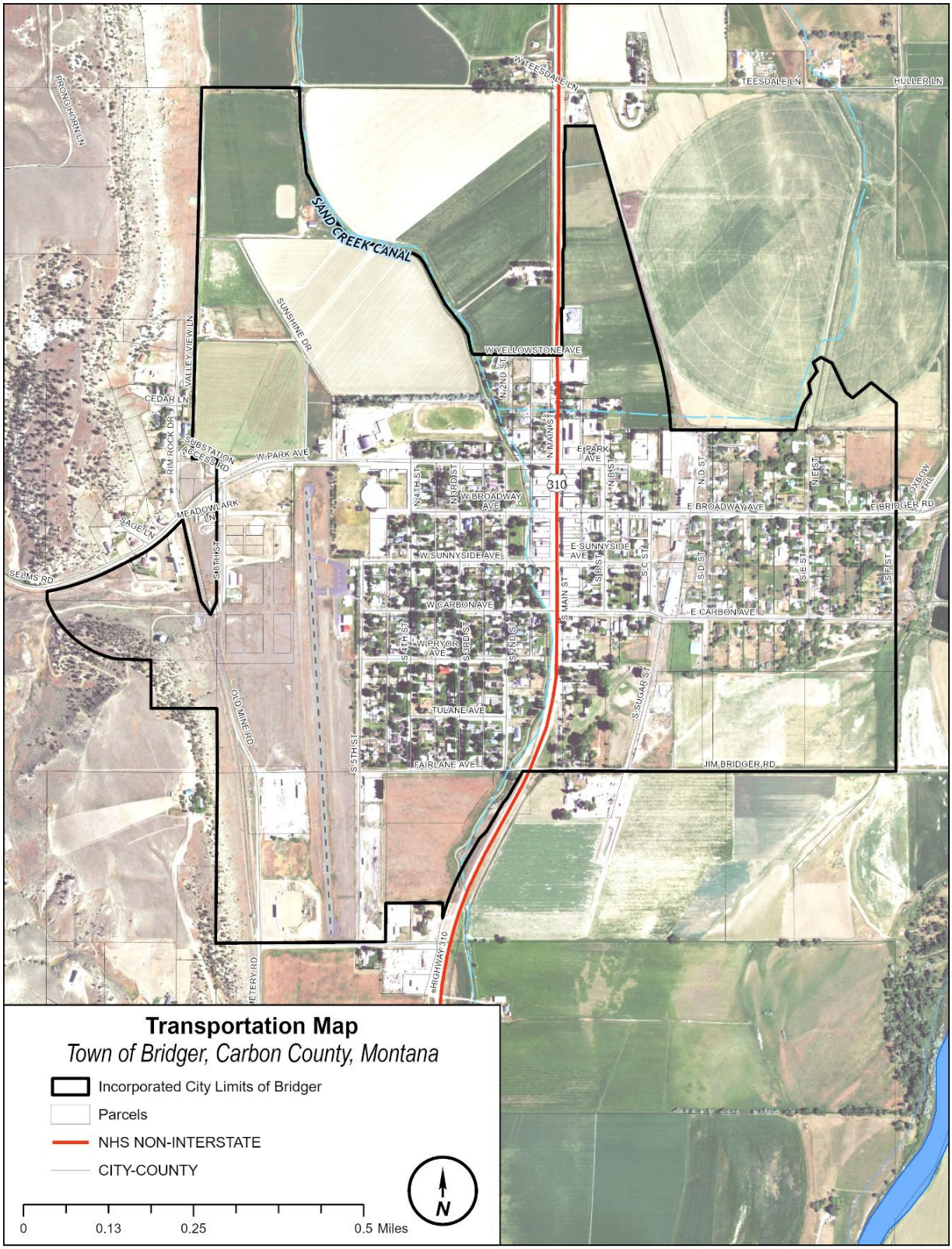
The Town of Bridger would benefit from applying for a planning grant to develop a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). A CIP would develop strategies for expansion, maintenance, and funding for key projects in the community. Similarly, Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) would benefit infrastructure-specific projects such as stormwater management.

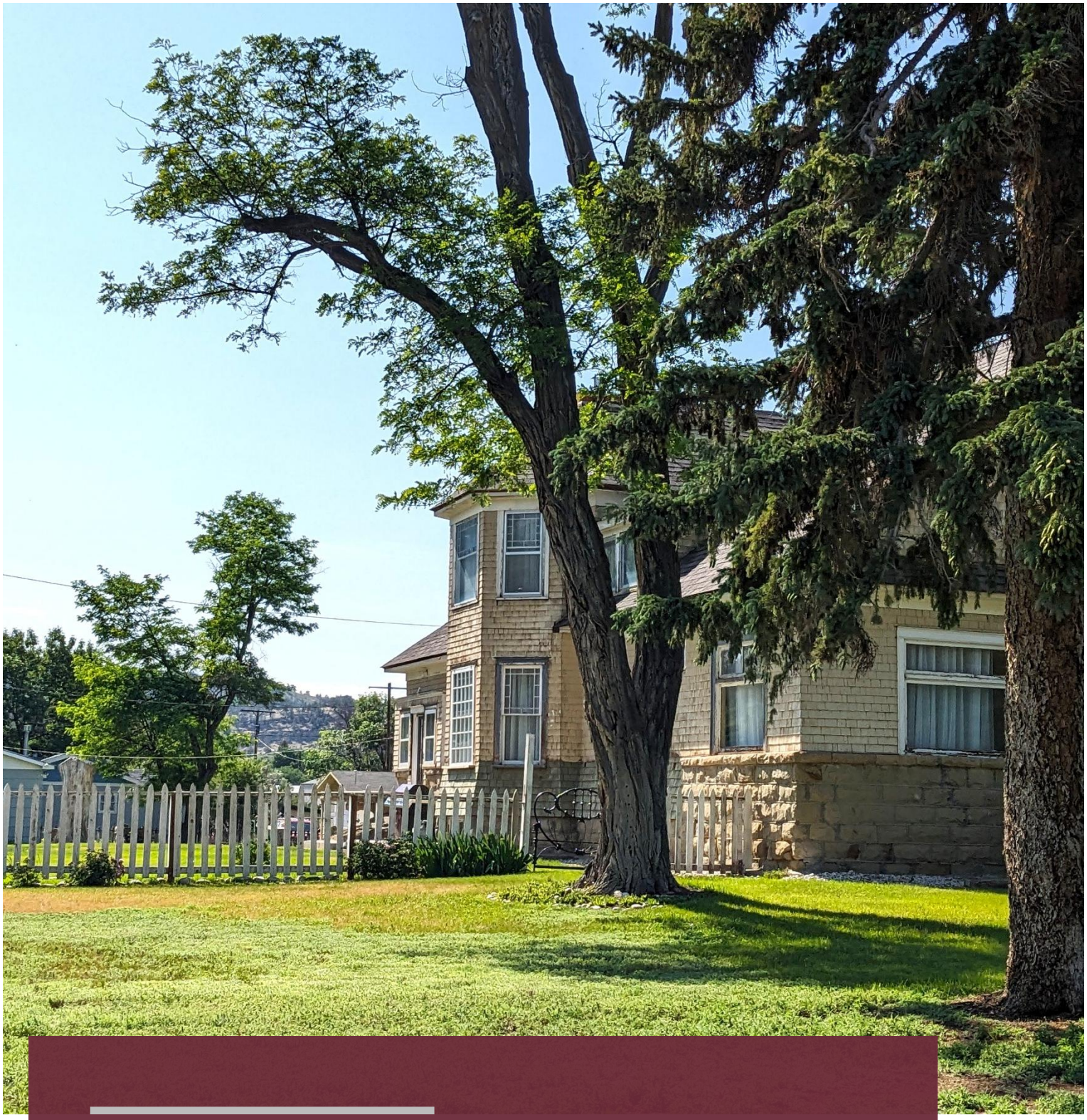
Bridger would also benefit from digitizing its public infrastructure. Many of the water or sewer lines are on older, paper maps. The Town has worked with Montana Rural Water to map shut-off valves. Mapping all the infrastructure would identify maintenance needs, help report issues, and could be easily shared with Public Works staff and contracted services.

Figure 10. Question #8 from the Town of Bridger Community Survey



Map 4. Transportation Map of Bridger, MT





Housing

SECTION 5. HOUSING

Analyzing the housing situation within town limits is essential for ensuring that current and future residents have access to safe, affordable, and appropriate housing. This analysis helps identify gaps in supply, affordability issues, and changing demographic needs, enabling informed planning decisions that support sustainable growth, economic development, and community well-being.

Number of Units

According to the American Community Survey (ACS), the Town of Bridger had 352 total housing units as of 2024.

Housing Costs

Housing affordability can be a key indicator for the current state of the local, state, and federal economy. High housing affordability can indicate rising inflation, low wage growth, or a potential housing bubble. Those same attributes can be spun in a positive light when inflation is decreasing, and wage growth is rising, housing tends to be more affordable for a wider range of incomes.

In 2023, median value of the owner-occupied units was $232,900. The median rental cost was $657. Over time, Bridger has experienced a significant shift in housing costs. Where majority of units were valued at less than $200,000 in 2018, 58% of the market is now valued between $200,000-$499,999.

Short-term rentals (STRs) have had a significant impact on the Montana housing market. STRs often can impact the cost of long-term rentals due to a reduced inventory and increased demand. It is recommended that the Town address tracking STRs to fully understand the impact that they may have on the housing inventory of Bridger.

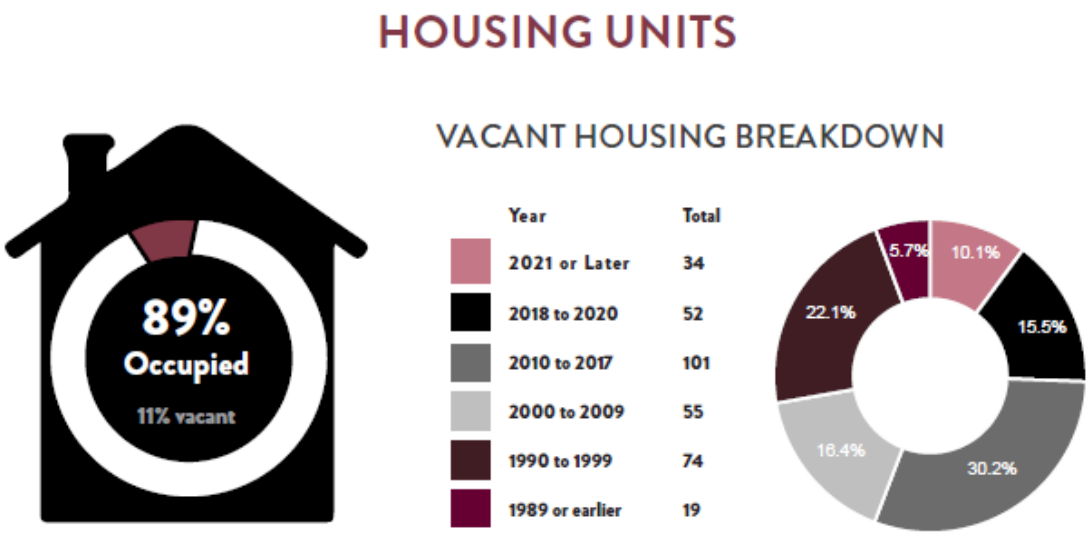
Housing Tenure- Occupied v. Vacant Units

Breaking down the housing tenure of structures in a community leads to insights into the relationship between social and financial factors and living arrangements. For Bridger, it should be noted that this ACS 5-Year data has low reliability.

The Town has an estimated total of 352 housing units, 309 of which are considered occupied and 43 vacant as of 2024. Vacant units are defined as those that are either used seasonally, as short-term lodging, are for sale, abandoned, etc.

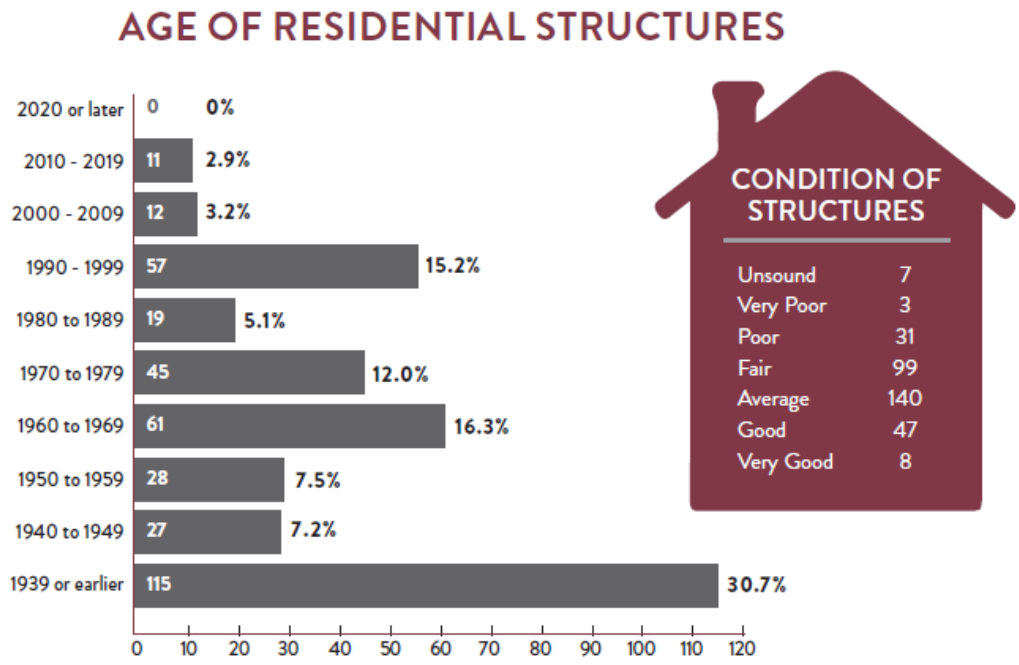
Of those 309 occupied housing units, 230 were occupied by the owner and 79 by a renter, or a 74% and 26% share, respectively.

The average household size for owner-occupied units is 2.4, and for renter-occupied units, it is 3.0 persons. Household size has decreased over time for owned units, but it has nearly doubled for rentals since 2019.



Condition and Age of Structures

The figure below shows the breakdown of housing units' age and condition. Older housing units tend to have higher maintenance costs for the householder.



According to the Montana Department of Revenue, which determines the condition of dwelling structures for tax purposes, the Town of Bridger's housing stock is generally in good condition. The majority of housing units in this data are considered to be in average or fair condition. This

data does have its limitations, however, as the Department of Revenue does not take into consideration multi-family housing units, such as apartment buildings, because they are listed under commercial property types for tax purposes. Also, when there is more than one dwelling structure on a property, the DOR will use the dwelling in better condition for this data. Though this data can be used to determine the status of the housing condition in a town, it is more advisory than anything. If Bridger would like to better understand the housing stock as a whole, it is recommended that the Town conduct its own housing condition survey.

Housing Needs

Housing Projections

To estimate the number of housing units needed in order to support population growth, population projections from Table 2 were used to calculate the net number of units needed.

1. Subtract the population estimate from the 2024 population to get net gain in population.
2. Divide that number by Bridger's average household size of 2.54 persons to get the additional number of housing units needed.
3. Add this to the 309 current occupied households to get a total number of housing units needed.

Table 3. Housing Units Projections

Projected number of housing units needed to support growth for the Town of Bridger.					
	2024	*2030*	*2035*	*2040*	*2045*
Net Housing Units Needed for 0.5% AAGR	--	9	16	24	32
Total No. of Housing Units	309	318	325	333	341
Net Housing Units Needed for 1.0% AAGR	--	18	33	49	66
Total No. of Housing Units	309	327	342	358	375
There is a total of 352 housing units in the Town of Bridger in 2024 (ACS 5-Year).					

At a conservative 0.5% annual growth rate, the Town of Bridger's current housing stock would be able to support growth through 2045, assuming 100% of the housing stock was occupied. At a slightly more aggressive growth rate, the community will need to add housing by 2040. It should be noted that due to Bridger's proximity to higher-priced areas, adding housing units that are affordable to the workforce is likely to attract County residents seeking more affordable options.

Conclusion and Strategies for Housing

Strategies for housing are ever-changing and dynamic. More and more resources and housing forms are being utilized to address aging housing infrastructure, affordability, and lack of units. The Montana Department of Commerce provides a portal for current housing projects and resources. Carbon County benefits from an active Workforce Housing group that operates under the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation. This is a vital resource for Bridger that can bring forward opportunities or help the community explore innovative solutions.

Map 5. Montana DOR Physical Conditions of Residential Structures in Bridger, MT

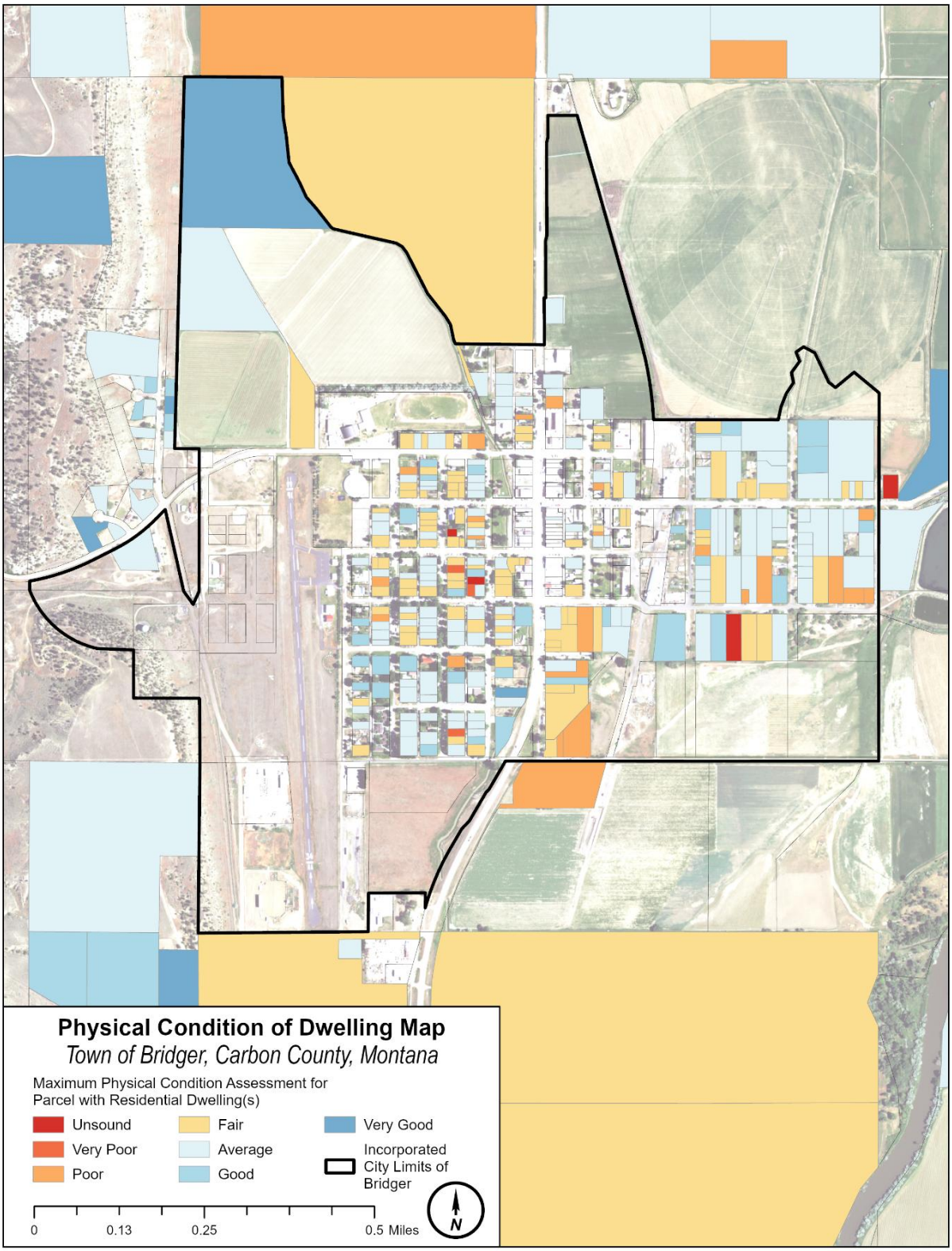
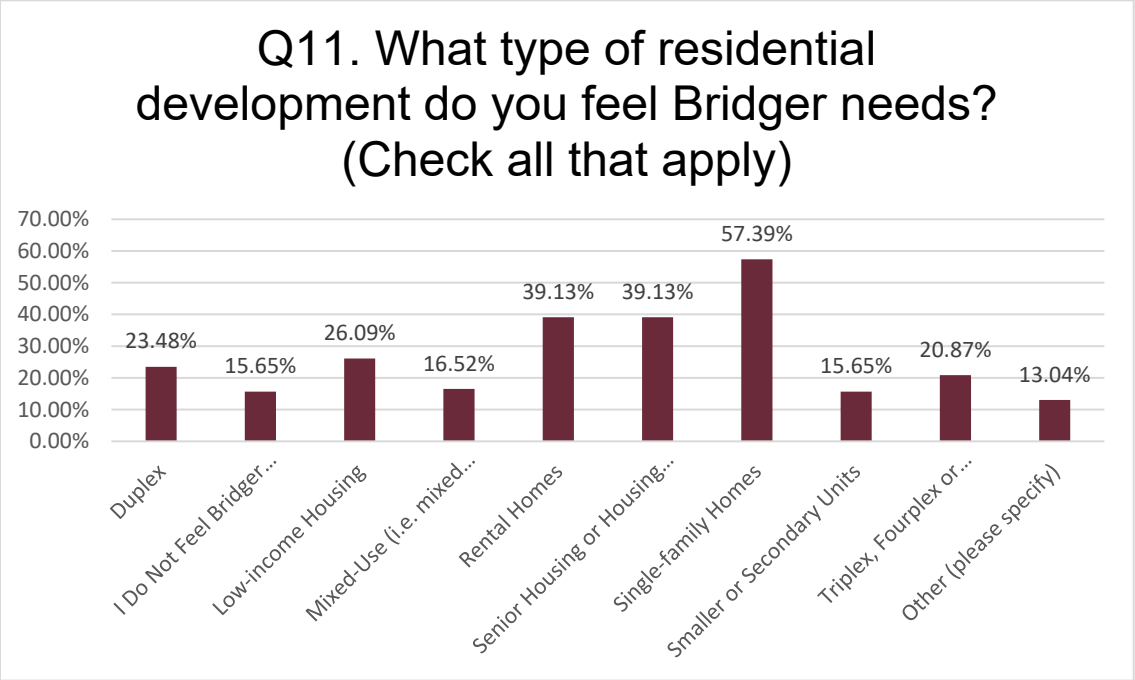
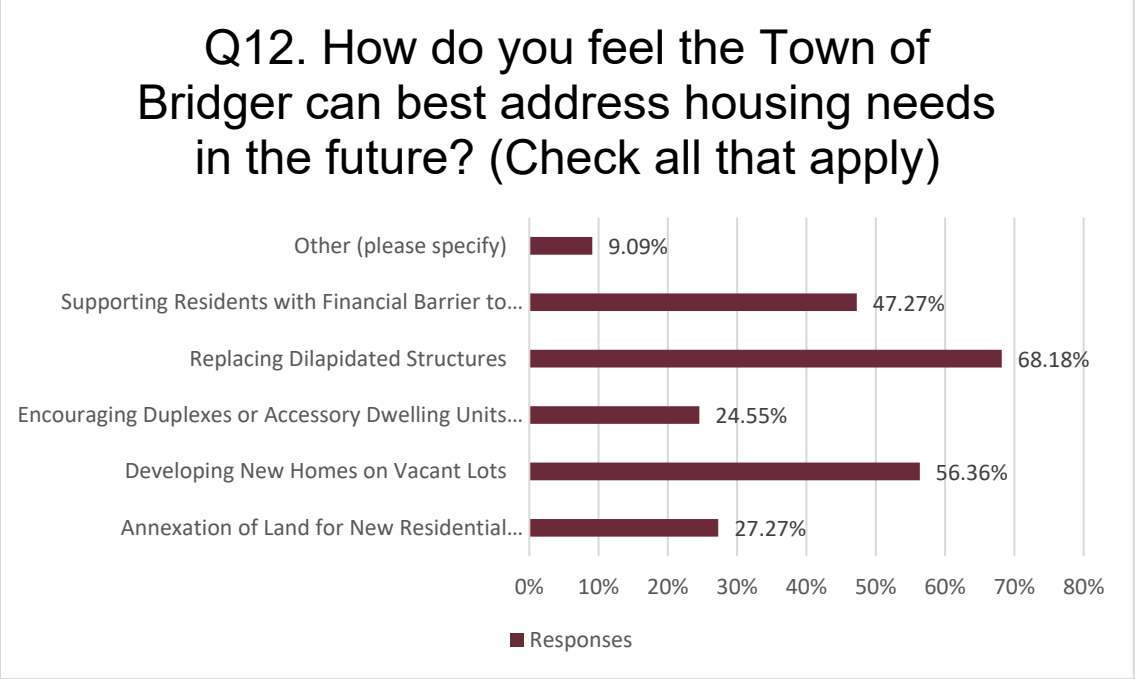


Figure 11. Questions #11 and #12 from the Town of Bridger Community Survey







Natural and Cultural Resources

SECTION 6. NATURAL RESOURCES-CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Natural and cultural resources significantly influence how humans shape the built environment and determine an area's attractiveness for future growth. Municipalities must carefully consider these resources when developing land use plans, as the natural environment often guides development patterns. Identifying effective strategies to mitigate environmental degradation is crucial for ensuring sustainable growth. Equally important is the preservation of a town's cultural character, which helps maintain its historical identity and sense of place.

Geography

Bridger is within the Clarks Fork Yellowstone watershed, with the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River running south to north outside of town. The area surrounding Bridger is characterized by irrigated croplands, sagebrush steppe and shrubland, river riparian and wetlands, and rocky cliffs. The elevation is 3,675 feet.

Ecoregion

Ecoregions are areas where ecosystems (and the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources) are generally similar. The Town of Bridger lies withing the Northwestern Great Plains and is characterized by the Montana Central Grasslands (43n) ecoregion and surrounded by Pryor-Big Horn Foothills (43v) ecoregion.[2] These established ecoregions consider a variety of natural phenomena, including geology, physiography, vegetation, climate, soils, land use, wildlife, and hydrology.

Vegetation

Vegetation in and surrounding Bridger consists primarily of species within Big Sagebrush Steppe, Great Plains Floodplain and Riparian, and Great Plains Mixedgrass Prairie.

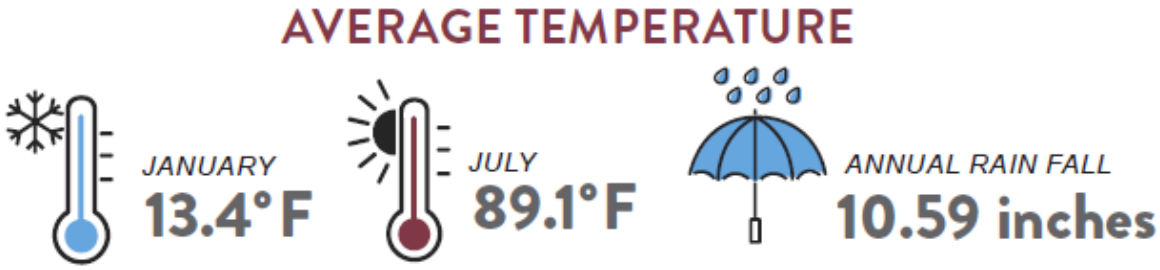
In the absence of natural fire, periodic low intensity prescribed burns can be used to maintain and restore the Big Sagebrush Steppe system to similar pre-settlement conditions. Low intensity prescribed fire is used to reduce sagebrush cover; in order to increase herbaceous forage and improve habitat quality for sage grouse and other wildlife by creating a mosaic of burned and unburned patches. Excessive grazing can result in the demise of the most common perennial grasses in this system and lead to an abundance cheatgrass or Japanese brome.[3]

Climate/Weather

Bridger is located in what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) calls the Moist Continental Mid-Latitude climate zone. This zone typically experiences warm to cool summers and cold winters. Winters can be severe in this climate zone with snowstorms, strong winds, and bitter cold from continental polar or Arctic air masses.

Bridger is semi-arid and typically receives 10.59 inches of precipitation annually, with May being the wettest month. The hottest month of the year is typically July, with an average maximum temperature of 89.1 degrees, and the coolest month of the year is February, with an average low temperature of 13.4 degrees.

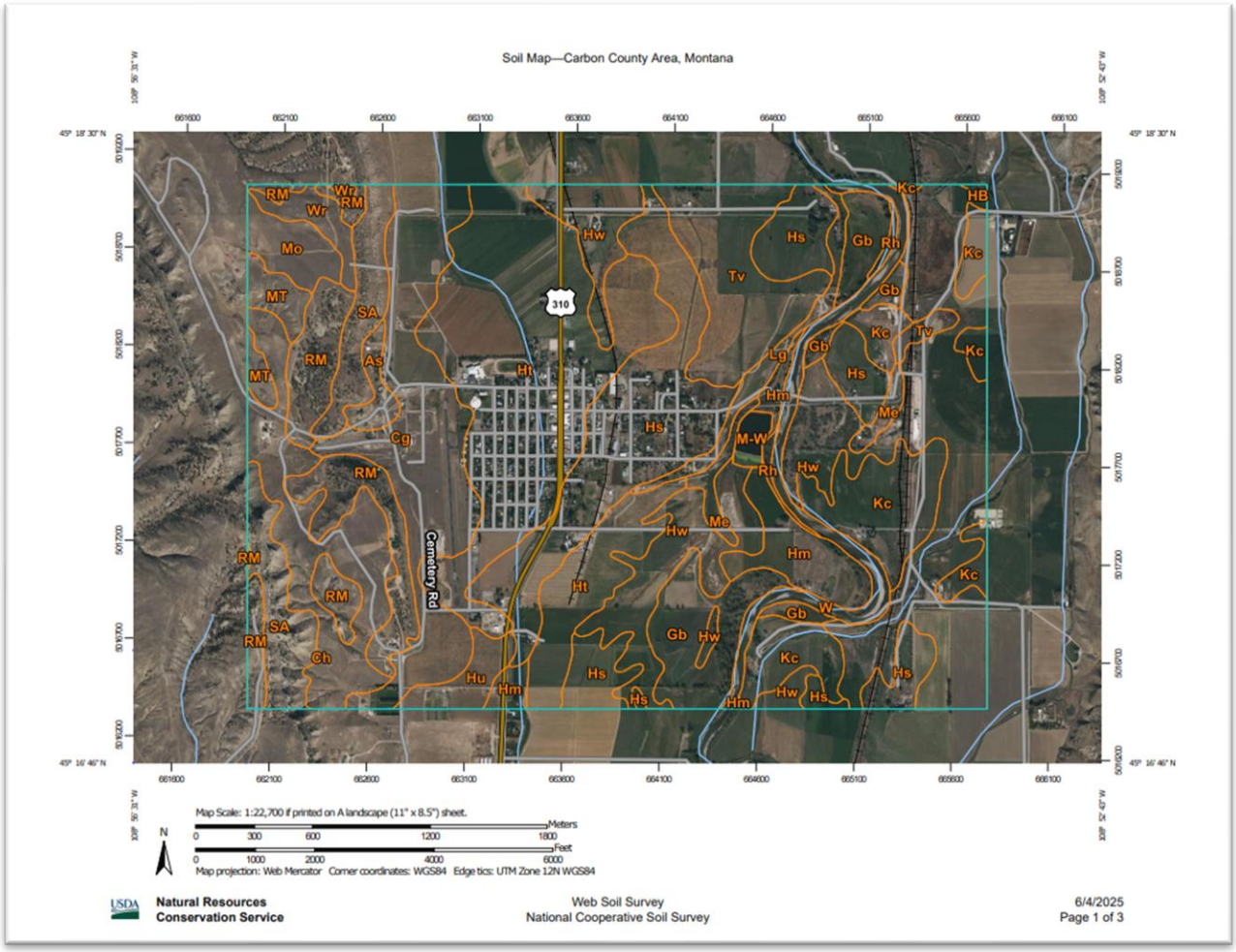
[2] https://bplant.org/region/1370
[3] https://fieldguide.mt.gov/displayES_Detail.aspx?ES=5454



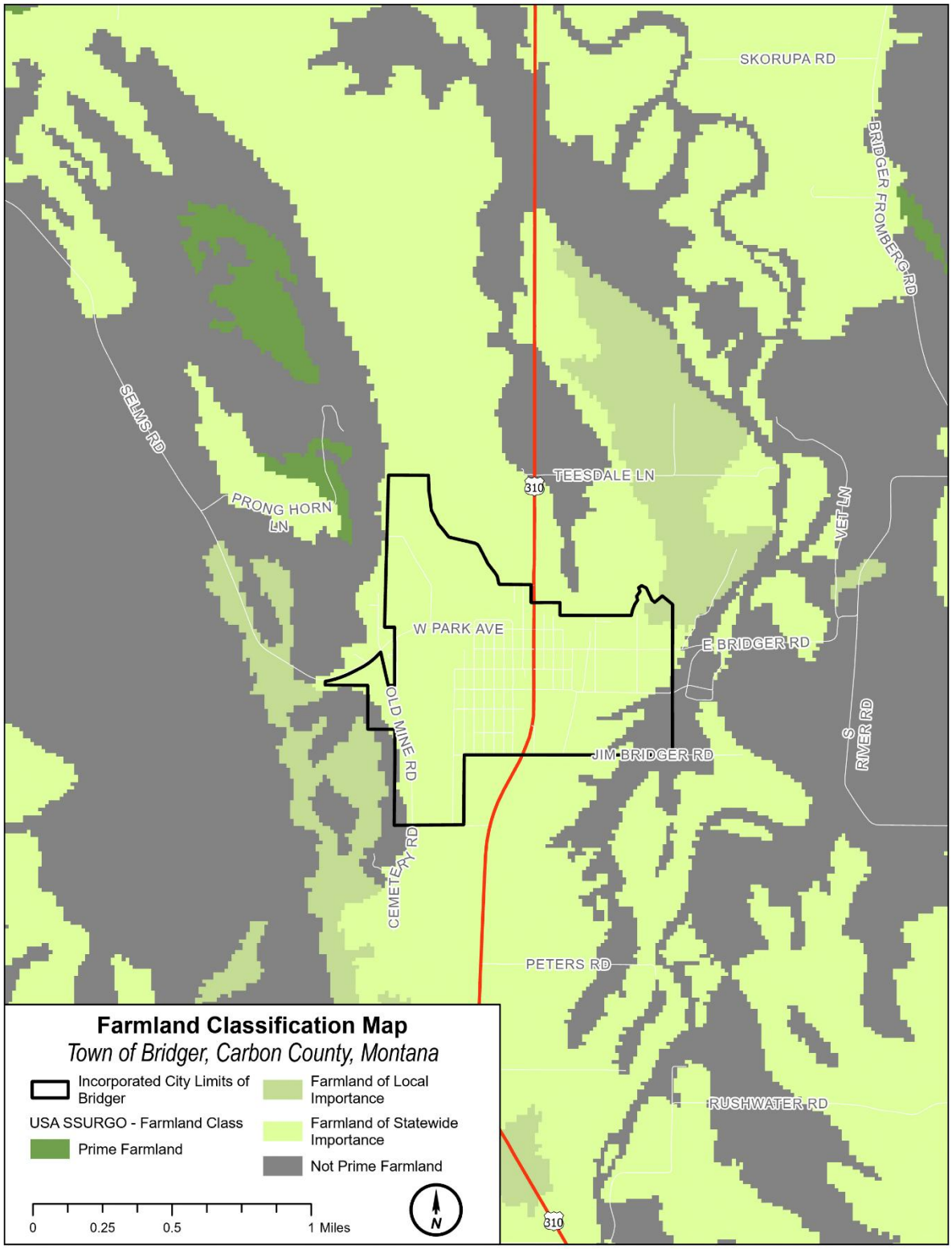
Soils

The Town of Bridger has a diverse range of soil types located within and around the Town. There are approximately 21 different soil types within the area of interest produced in the USDA's Web Soil Survey (See Figure #10). The most prominent soils within the Town are Heldt Silty Clay Loam, with 0 to 2 percent slopes (Hs) and Heldt Silty Clay Loam 2 to 4 percent slopes (Ht). The soil type categorized in the map below as "Ht" is considered farmland of statewide importance. This is especially important for the Town to take into consideration as the Town reviews annexations of statewide important farmland.

Figure 12. Soils Map

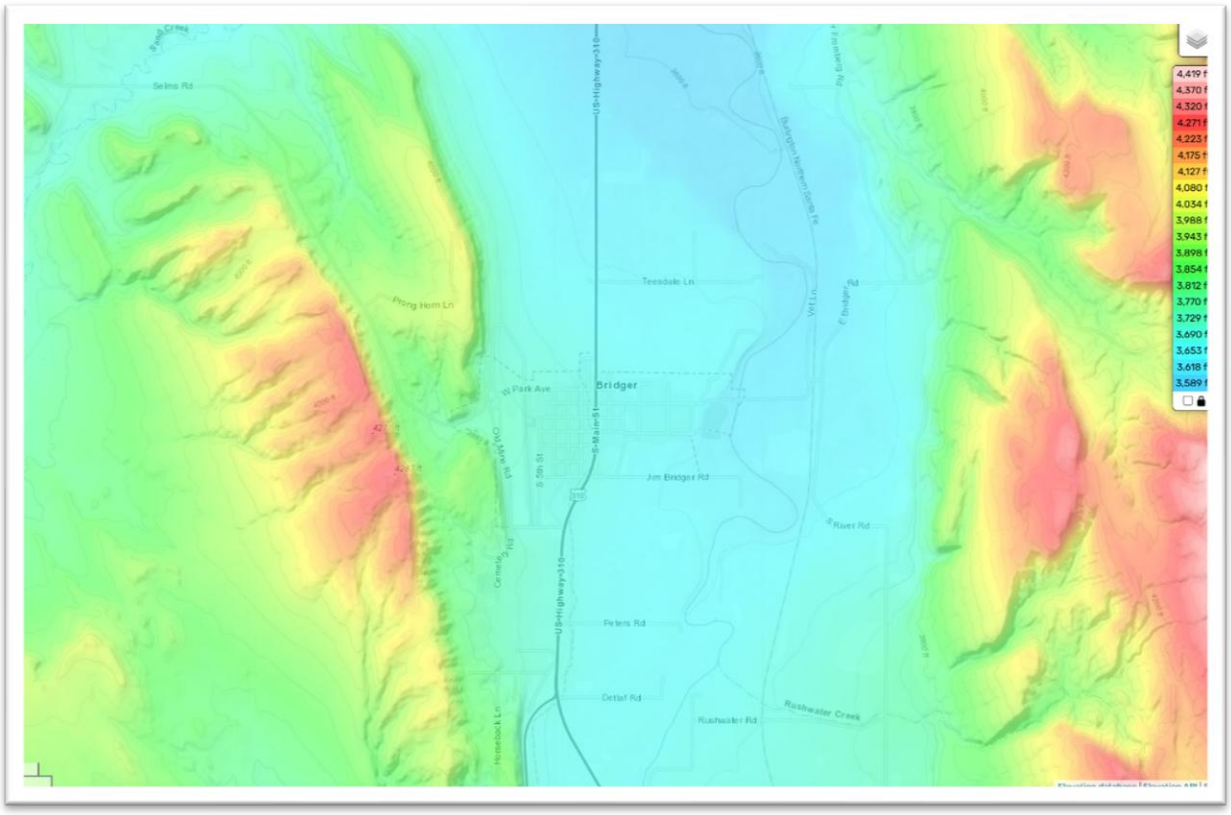


Map 6. Classification of Farmland in Bridger, MT



Topography
The Town sits in the river valley and could be considered generally flat. The west side of the Town has more sloping coming off of the foothills to the west by the airport. The north, south, and east sides have a gentle slope towards the Clarks Fork River. The Town loses 120 feet of elevation from the airport to the river, sloping from west to east.

Map 7. Topographic Map of Bridger, MT



Wildlife
Bridger's proximity to natural resources such as wetland and grassland habitats is inviting to human residents and its wild ones. Hunting, fishing, and exploration are key attractions to the area. Managing wildlife near urban areas can reduce the risk of the spread of diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease in cervids (deer, elk, and moose), mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, and ensure a healthy wildlife population that continues to attract recreationists.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program's Map View indicates that land west, south, and east of Bridger is an important bird area.

Traffic calming measures could be implemented by the Town and Montana Department of Transportation to reduce the impact of traffic on the abundant deer, pheasant, and other wildlife in the area.

Water Resources

Floodplain

The Clarks Fork Yellowstone River is the most prominent water source adjacent to Bridger. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approximated the flood boundary for the area. Per the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) the floodplain does not extend into the Town limits. However, a more detailed study in the future could potentially expand the floodplain. The Clarks Fork Yellowstone River floodplain is a key contributor to the fertile agricultural soils in and around Bridger.

The USGS topographic map of Bridger shows intermittent streams in and around town. These could be irrigation ditches used during the summer months, or small intermittent streams that convey water during rain and snowmelt events. These water sources could be susceptible to flooding during high-intensity rain events and large snowmelt events.



The Sand Creek Canal runs south-north through Bridger. In previous years, this canal has led to localized flooding from lack of maintenance and snowmelt. The Town is working with Carbon County DES to improve the canal's capacity and mitigate flooding risks in the future.

Watershed Quality

According to EPA data, the waterbodies within this watershed are considered impaired or in unknown condition.[4]

Wetlands and Riparian Areas

According to the National Wetland Inventory from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Town of Bridger does not have any identified wetlands within its limits.

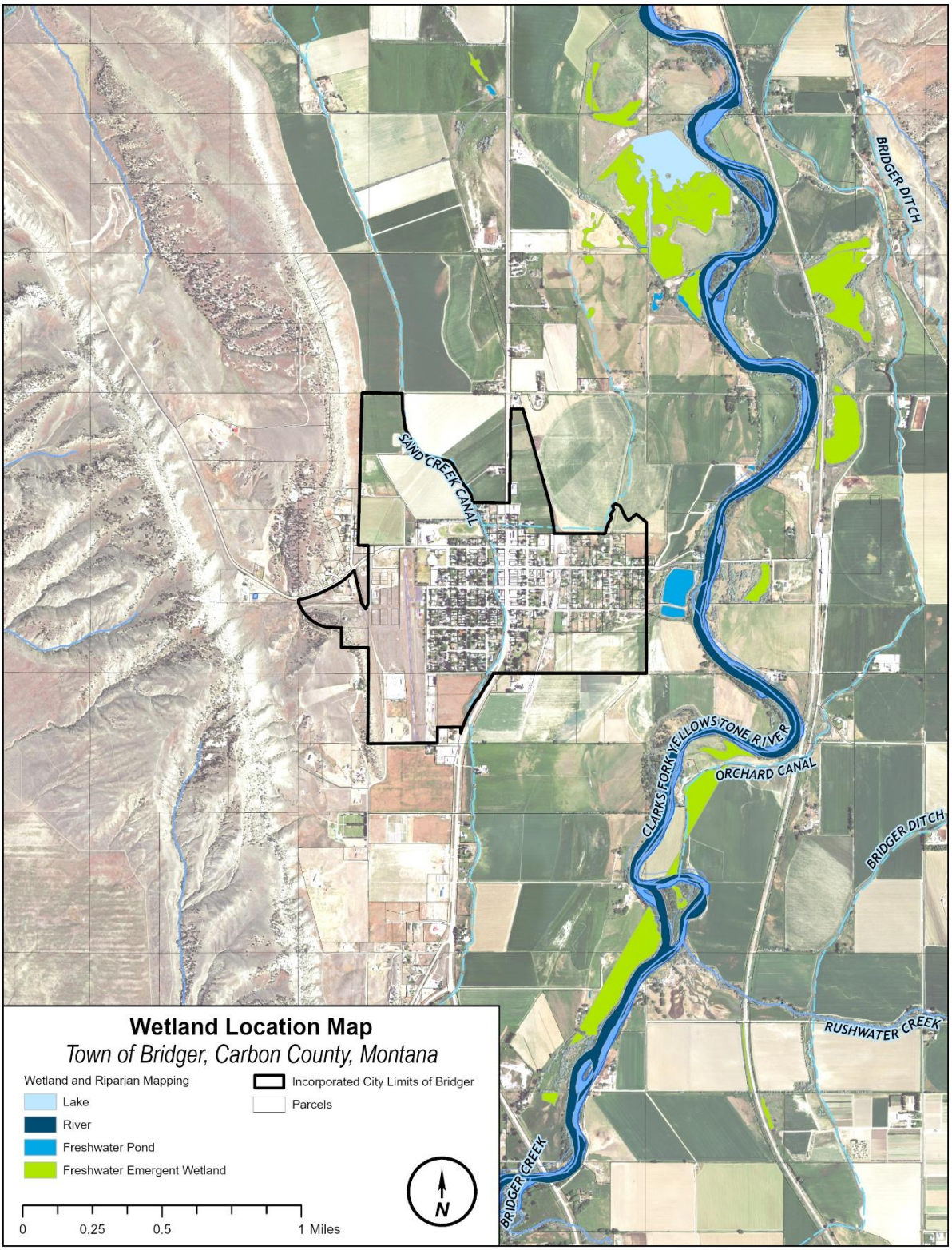
Sand and Gravel Resources

Natural resources, such as sand and gravel, play an integral role in the development of a town. The materials are key components in infrastructure projects, such as the construction of roads, bridges, buildings, and other public works. Local mining operations can reduce transportation costs, generate employment opportunities, and contribute to tax revenue.

There are currently 7 DEQ-permitted sand and gravel operations located near the Town of Bridger (See Map 11).

[4] https://mywaterway.epa.gov/community/Bridger,%20MT,%20USA%20(Carbon%20County)/overview

Map 8. Wetlands located within Bridger, MT



Natural Hazards

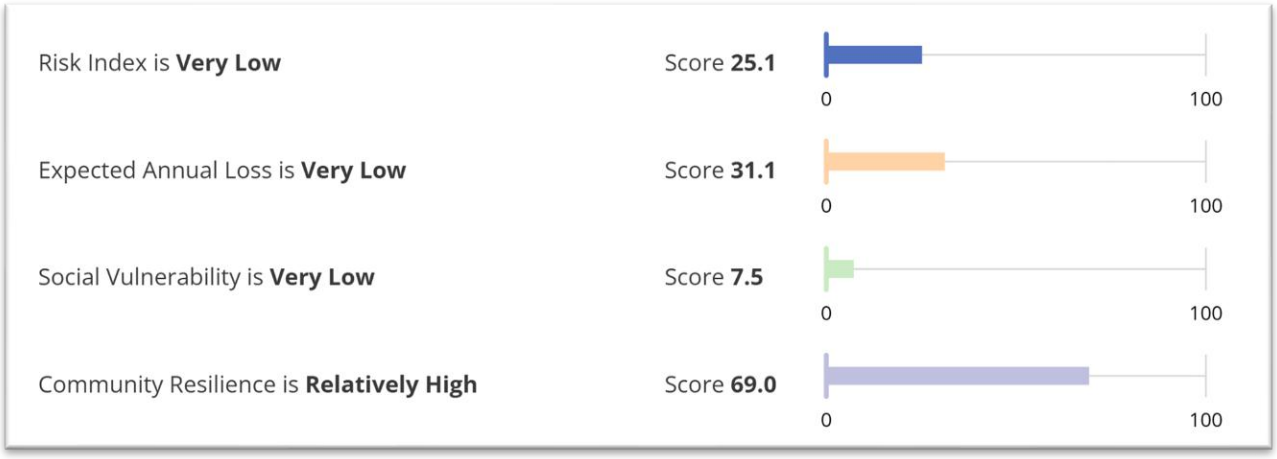
Hazard Areas

The Town of Bridger is included in the County's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and the Montana Hazard Mitigation Plan (2025) for the Eastern Region. This mitigation plan includes 22 counties and the Crow Agency. The purpose of the plan was to guide hazard mitigation planning in the region to protect people and property. The plan lists a variety of hazards that would impact the region. Some of the hazards identified within the plan include:

- Communicable disease
- Cyber-attack
- Dam Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Hazardous Incidents
- Severe Summer Weather
- Severe Winter Weather
- Human Conflict
- Tornadoes
- Transportation Accidents
- Volcanic Ash
- Wildfire

The FEMA National Risk Index ranks Carbon County as "Very Low" risk, driven by lower loss due to natural hazards, lower social vulnerability, and higher community resilience.

Figure 13. FEMA National Risk Index Summary for Carbon County, MT

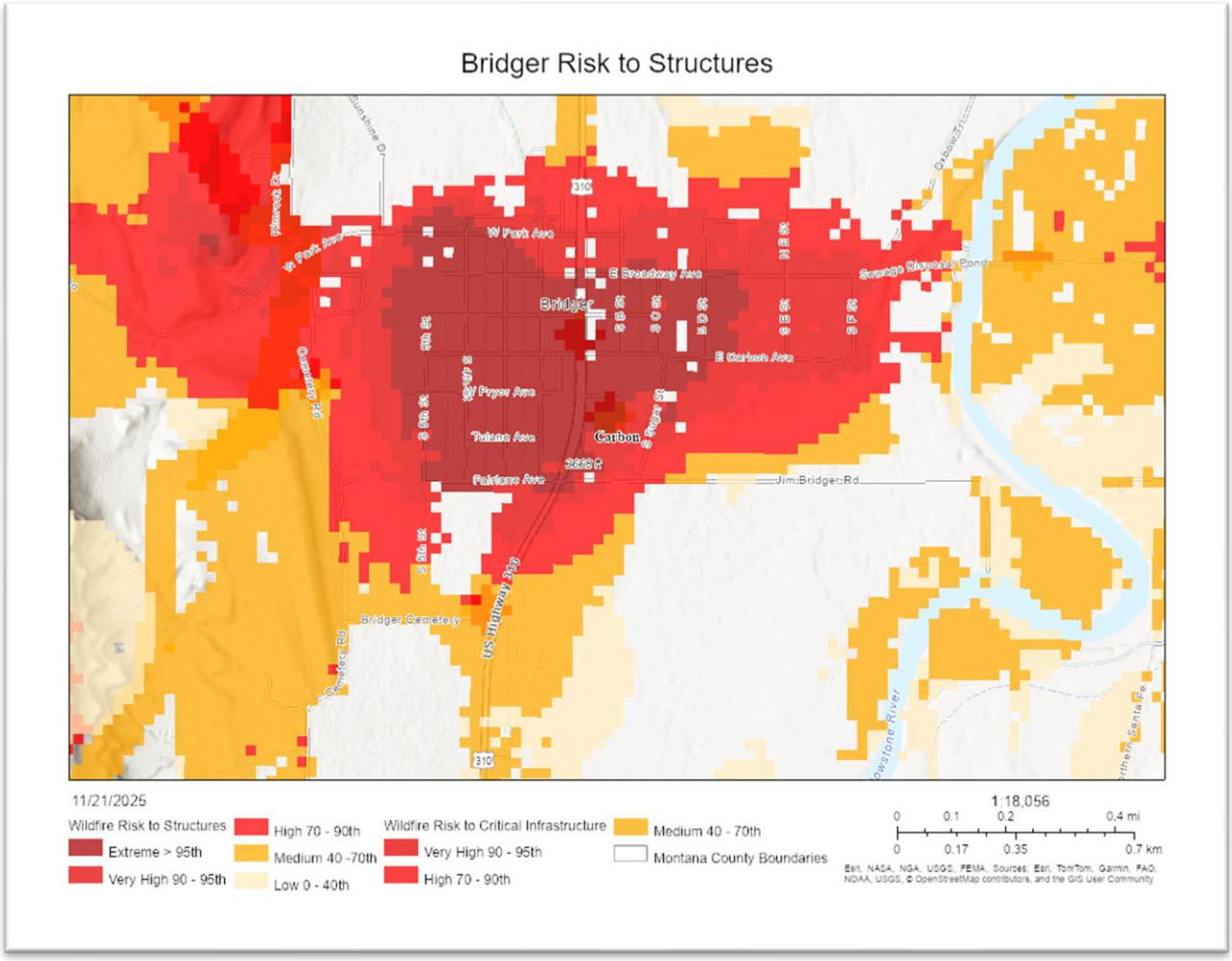


Wildland-Urban Interface and Fire Risks

The wildland-urban interface, or WUI, is defined by Montana Code as the "line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels." The Town of Bridger is not located within the County's identified WUI, and has a low wildfire hazard potential, according to the United States Forest Service's online risk mapping tools.

The Carbon County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies drought and windy conditions as fire risks. As previously mentioned, grazing practices surrounding Bridger may alter the risk to large-scale fire events. Montana DNRC's Risk Explorer tool maps risk to structures and infrastructure.

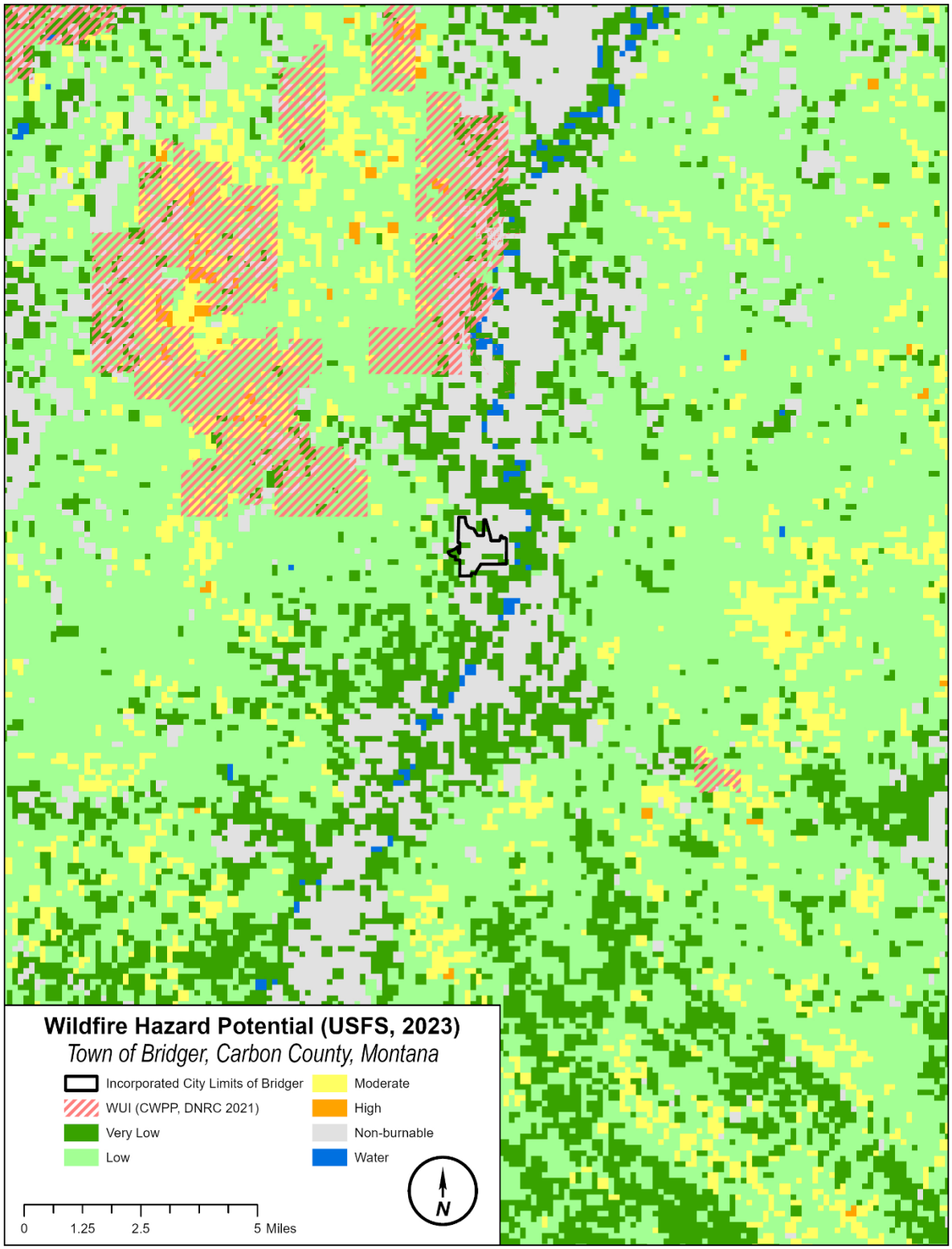
Map 9. Montana DNRC Risk to Structures in Bridger, MT



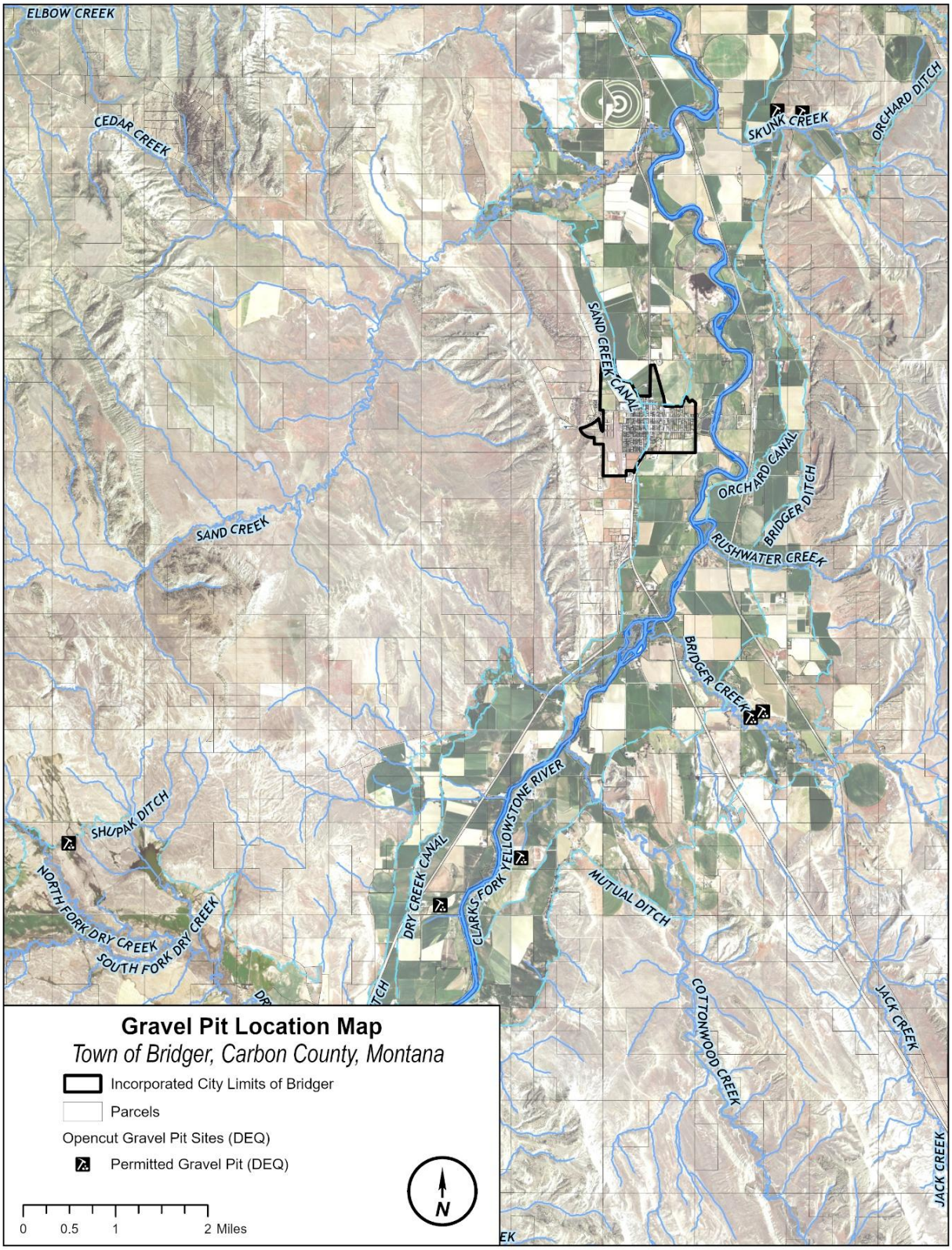
Understanding the WUI and fire risks to structures and critical infrastructure can prepare a community to implement Ordinances that mitigate risk to fire. These may include zoning codes for building setbacks for new structures from one another, or standards for the development and construction of streets that facilitate adequate ingress and egress. The Town does not currently have or require defensible space standards for residential or commercial structures from wildland vegetation.

A community's water system that includes fire hydrants located throughout the Town and ensuring adequate water pressure is also a way a community can be prepared to protect life and structures.

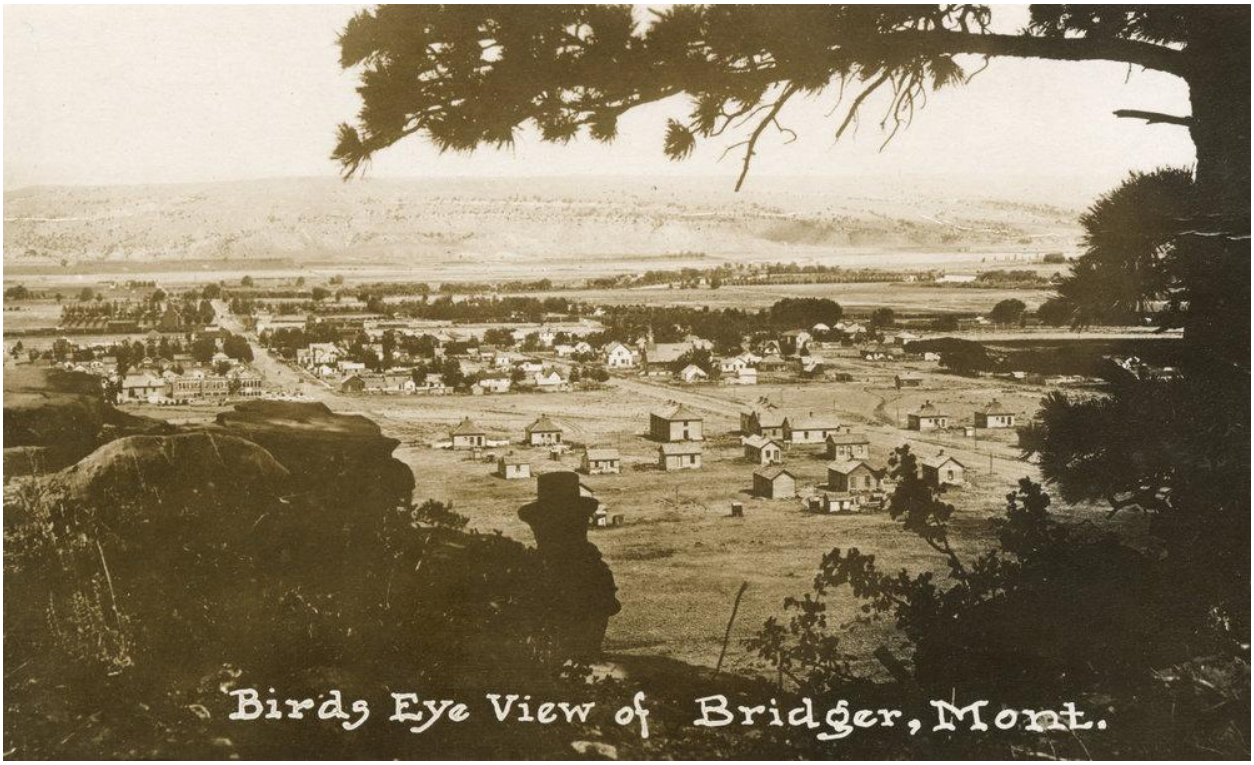
Map 10. Wildfire Hazard Potential in Bridger, MT



Map 11. Gravel Pits near Bridger, MT



Cultural Characteristics



The cultural history in and around Bridger is vast, as the area is rich in tribal history. Several culturally and geologically significant and sacred sites exist within an hour's drive from Bridger. Some of these sites include more pictographs than any other location in the country.

The Town of Bridger itself preserves more recent history, with 13 properties and one (1) district registered in the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks Program (see Map 12). While the historic district was established in 1974, most of the listings were registered in 1987, and one in early 2025. Historic resources include the Carbon County Historic Preservation Office and the Bridger, Montana Historical Society. The society is an active group of members that organizes historic tours, field trips, fundraising, and upkeep of historic structures. A comprehensive list of historic places within town limits can be found in Appendix C.

Strategies for Natural and Cultural Resources

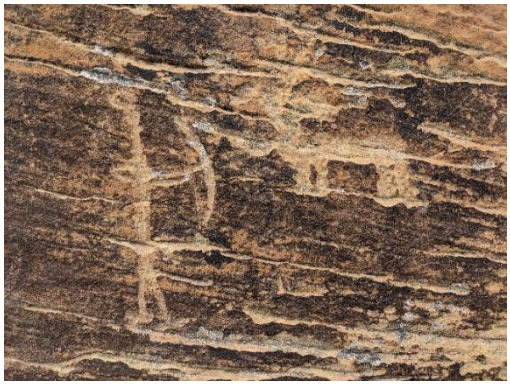
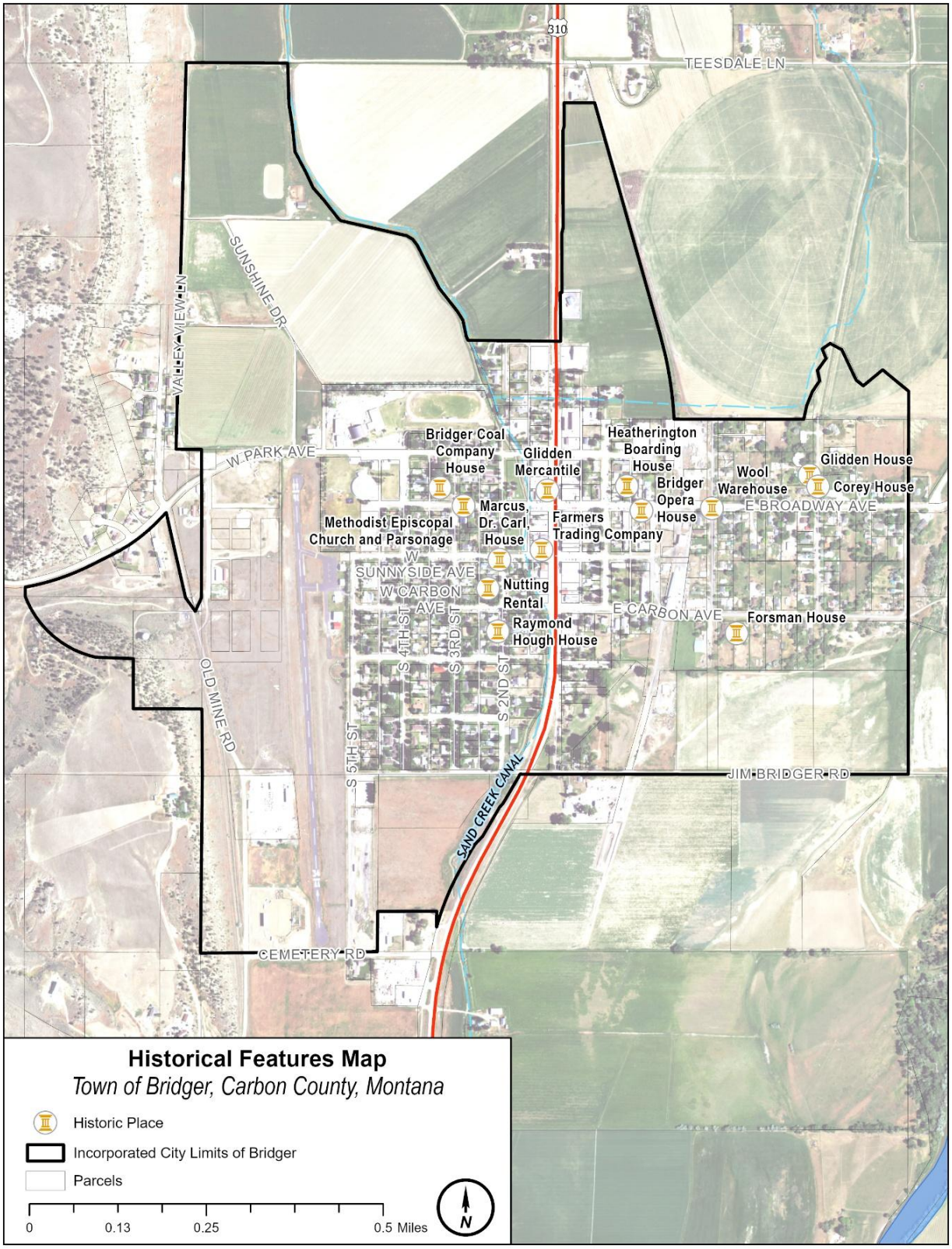


Image 1. Petroglyphs south of Bridger, MT

Bridger is rich in natural and cultural resources. Identifying which of these are priorities for preservation and implementing an action plan through updating and creating planning documents would be beneficial, especially as the Town and County continue to grow in population. Engaging in communications and planning with local conservation, historic preservation, agricultural leaders, and emergency mitigation personnel will ensure natural and cultural resource preservation stays at the forefront of development.

Map 12. Historic Registered Places in Bridger, MT





Land Use

SECTION 7. LAND USE

Existing Land Use

Residential
Bridger's residential areas primarily consist of single-family homes that are distributed uniformly throughout Town, except along the primary commercial district. Multifamily dwelling units are allowed in residential zoning districts B and D. In general, residential development in Bridger has been limited in the last several years. The Town Code does not indicate any lot size standards. However, residences west of Main Street appear to be laid out in traditional block forms, with lots approximately 0.186 acres (~8,100 square feet). Residential lots east of Main are less uniform in layout and vary in dimensions. The eastern half of Bridger and the northwest area have a larger potential for infill on larger, undivided lots.

Commercial
The location of Bridger's core commercial area is influenced by the state highway that runs north-south through town. This area features some unique architecture. The downtown area includes a mixture of traditional commercial uses and services, such as a bank, hardware, bars and restaurants, art galleries, gas station, a motel, and specialty retail and service shops. Other commercial services blend with residential, public service, and open space uses along East Broadway Avenue.

Industrial
There are a few facilities that can be considered as manufacturing or industrial located in and outside of Bridger. Industrial uses are typically categorized as cottage, light, or heavy and are dependent on the impacts of the intended use. For example, cottage industries are typically small-scale operations that are contained within one's residential property. Heavy manufacturing and industrial facilities may not be suitable for Bridger due to their potential impact on natural resources, such as water and air, and conditions that could affect agriculture and quality of life.

Open Space
Per the Zoning Regulations, all lots or parcels annexed into the Town are initially zoned as Open Space. Open spaces are suitable to provide protections or buffers for natural resources, such as the Sand Creek Canal, wastewater treatment facilities, sensitive environments, etc. Interspersed throughout the community, open spaces contribute to the overall health and well-being of residents.

Land Use Constraints
Bridgers's incorporated town limits are primarily surrounded by agricultural use, creating an "agropolitan" form of land use. There are relatively few topographical constraints as Bridger is relatively flat. If town limits expanded, potential constraints would include the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River floodplain to the east, the airport to the west, higher fire potential areas, and slopes greater than 30% to the west. These constraints may also require consideration of land use type and intensity so as to meet the goals and objectives of this Growth Policy.

These existing and potential land-use constraints support a focus on revitalizing dilapidated structures, developing vacant land within the Town, supporting higher-density residential development, and creating an annexation plan/policy to direct new development.

Future Land Use

To guide land-use decisions before any annexation, the Town is encouraged to develop a Future Land Use Map (FLUM). While often misunderstood, a FLUM is not a zoning map and does not apply zoning to properties in the county. Instead, in addition to on-the-ground conditions, it serves as a planning tool to help the Town visualize and communicate its preferred land use patterns for future annexation and development scenarios.

The FLUM can be as detailed or as general as needed, based on the community's goals. In towns similar in size to Bridger, typical FLUM designations might include:

- Residential/Neighborhood: Low-Density Residential and/or Medium/High Density Residential
- Commercial/Employment
- Industrial
- Public
- Agricultural Transition

For example, where development is occurring south of Bridger along Highway 310, the FLUM may show continued development of commercial uses on the west side of the highway, and residential on the east.

Future land use designations may consider land use constraints, natural and cultural resource goals, and support efficient local services by mitigating sprawl.



Table 4. Future Land Use Designations

Residential	Public	Commercial	Industrial	Ag Transition
Residential designations allow for single-family dwellings of a variety of lot sizes, as well as multi-family dwellings. These areas generally include platted subdivisions and established neighborhoods. Neighborhoods may allow for some small-scale commercial use. Increased intensities and uses, such as places of worship and certain public facilities, may require or be allowed by special permit.	Public designations are facilities or parcels of land owned and/or operated by governmental entities or intended for use by the public. Uses may include government offices and facilities, parks, schools, post offices, libraries, and facilities associated with first response.	Commercial designations generally follow major transportation corridors and may include hospitality, retail, office, some mixed residential, as well as public facilities and entertainment establishments. These areas encourage denser, more intense land use, sometimes by special permit. Commercial uses may include a Core Commercial overlay in the downtown.	Industrial designations are often high employment areas, and may include manufacturing, warehousing, agricultural facilities, and processing and assembling facilities. These areas are generally located adjacent to commercial areas and away from environmentally sensitive areas. Special permit may be required to ensure appropriate screening and mitigation for impacts on surrounding uses.	Ag Transition designations allow large lots with single family residences and a variety of agricultural uses. These areas are located at the edge of or outside of town limits but inside the area of town impact. Property owners desiring urban uses (residential subdivision, commercial, industrial) should apply to the Town for annexation through a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance amendment.
Examples	**Examples**	**Examples**	**Examples**	**Examples**
				
				
				

**Example photos are from Shutterstock and Unsplash, not taken of Bridger.*

Land Use Regulations

Land use regulations are essential tools for implementing the goals and vision outlined in the Growth Policy. They provide the legal framework for guiding development in a way that supports the community's values, protects natural resources, ensures public health and safety, and promotes orderly growth.

This section outlines how the Town's regulatory tools, such as zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and development standards, can be used to align future growth with the community's long-term objectives.

Annexation Policy

Annexations play a vital role in shaping the growth and development of a community. For that reason, it is essential for the Town to establish a strong and comprehensive annexation policy that takes into account infrastructure, land use, topography, and natural resources.

One of the most important considerations in annexation planning is infrastructure, specifically, the cost and capacity of existing systems. A key question to ask is whether the current water, wastewater, and transportation infrastructure can accommodate additional users. At the same time, it's important to consider the desired land use pattern in potential annexation areas, as different land uses can place varying demands on infrastructure. For example, water consumption and system strain from single-family residential development will differ significantly from that of industrial uses. This evaluation also supports determining an appropriate zoning classification when an annexation petition is submitted.

Collaboration with the County is also strongly recommended when forming an annexation plan. For instance, if the County prioritizes preserving high-quality agricultural soils, and the Town seeks to promote commercial or industrial growth that supports agriculture, their goals may align. In such cases, it would be in both parties' interests to protect those productive soils. The Town could incorporate this shared priority into its annexation policy, ensuring that any petitions involving these valuable agricultural areas receive closer scrutiny.

Buildings for Lease or Rent

The Town of Bridger has a zoning ordinance and, because of this, does not need to adopt Building for Lease or Rent Regulations.

Floodplain and Flooding Risk

The Town of Bridger is not located in FEMA's Special Flood Hazard Area. The Regulated Flood Hazard Area does not extend past the wastewater treatment lagoons on the east end of Town. Since there is no regulated floodplain in Bridger, it does not have any adopted floodplain regulations. In the event that any remapping of the floodplain is done and possibly extends the floodplain into Town, Bridger should adopt floodplain regulations as needed.

Although the town is not located within a regulated floodplain, shallow flooding may still pose a risk to some properties due to poor stormwater management and overtopping of the ditch. Areas of risk should be identified and mitigated through appropriate management and coordination with Carbon County DES.

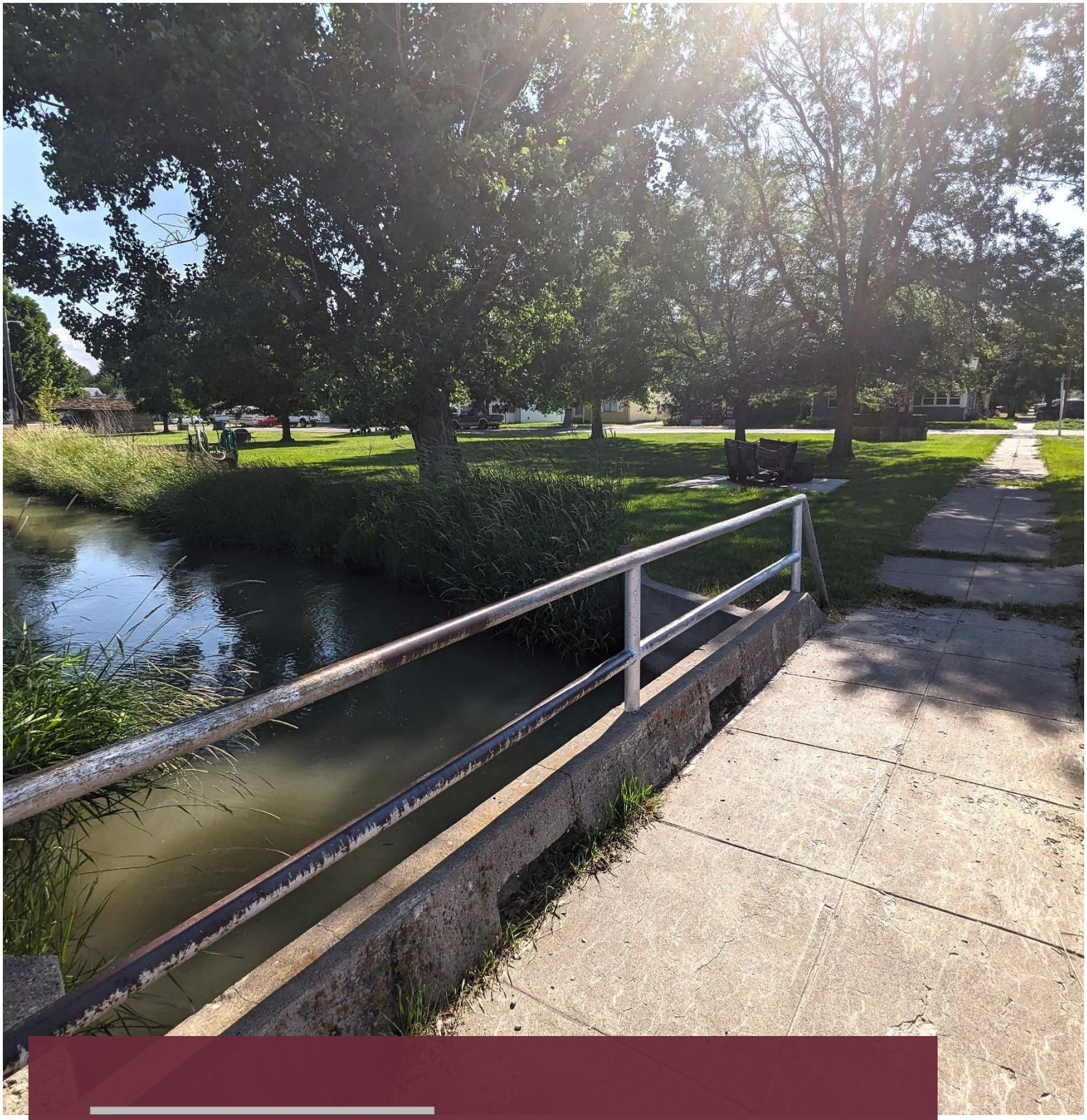
Subdivision
The Town of Bridger utilizes the adopted subdivision regulations from Carbon County. These regulations were created for not only the County, but also Bridger, Fromberg, Bearcreek, and Joliet. Subdivision regulations are heavily driven by state statute. Local communities have full control over their design standards, however. The Town should review and update the regulations to address any legislative changes that were made during the 69th legislative session.

Zoning
The Town of Bridger has an adopted zoning code and zoning map that was originally established in the 1980's and has had a number of revisions throughout its existence. The zoning code classifies 8 different zoning districts. They are as follows:

- Open Space District
- "A" Residential
- "B" Residential
- "C" Residential
- "D" Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Not Classified

Each zoning district has a detailed list of permitted uses and subsequent regulations, such as building area, setbacks, and height restrictions.

Bridger is encouraged to initiate the public review process of the zoning regulations to ensure that the current ordinance complies with all applicable state statutes and accurately reflects the current needs of the town's residents.



Implementation

SECTION 8. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GROWTH POLICY

Resident Outreach

Gathering the ideas and advice of Bridger residents was a critical step in updating this Growth Policy. The creation, objectives, and action plan have been based on the residents' advice and guidance.

The Town developed and marketed a community survey to ask residents to prioritize the opportunities and issues in the Town, identify what they like/dislike about living in Bridger, and what they think the community's future should look like. The survey was available to residents in a hardcopy format and online. 120 people participated in the survey. Some of the more notable results of the survey showed the following:

- Respondents like the rural lifestyle, safety, access to recreation, and quality of life in Bridger
- Although economic development and historic preservation are important to residents, the three most important priorities that respondents thought should be addressed include:
  - Community services
  - Infrastructure
  - Youth Services
- The lowest ranked quality of services were:
  - Streets
  - Sidewalks
  - Stormwater drainage
- The majority of respondents support additional residential and commercial development.
- Many residents noted support for renovating the Civic Center and a recreation/community center
- The top four types of commercial development respondents support are local specialty shops, food & beverage, lodging, and essential services (pharmacy).
- The top three residential types respondents support are additional single-family homes, rentals, and housing options for seniors or residents living with a disability.

Growth Policy Adoption

- The Carbon County Town-County Planning Board, on behalf of the Town of Bridger, held a public hearing on August 18, 2026, to hear further input on the Growth Policy document and recommend adoption to the Town Council.
- The Council held a public meeting on November 4, 2026, to consider the Planning Board's recommendation. The Council passed Resolution No. 307, a Resolution of Intent to adopt the Growth Policy and providing a 30-day comment period.
- The Council voted on November 4, 2026 to formally adopt the 2026 Town of Bridger Growth Policy.

Conditions and Timing for Review and Revision

This document will be reviewed every five years from the date of its adoption. The Planning Board will be responsible for reviewing the Growth Policy and making any recommendations regarding revisions or changes to the Town Council. Future reviews will include an evaluation of every section. It is anticipated that a full update of the Growth Policy will be necessary within ten years

of its original adoption. Additionally, wherever possible in keeping with State statute, the development and revision of future planning documents should adhere to the goals and objectives of the Growth Policy.

The Growth Policy may also be revised when a situation or issue that necessitates changes has been identified by the public or when changes are deemed to be in the public interest by either the Planning Board or the Town Council. It is also possible that Legislative changes to policy statutes may require significant amendments or changes. Finally, amendments to the Growth Policy may also be necessary when litigation elsewhere in Montana establishes a legal precedent that conflicts with the stated goals, objectives, or detailed implementation strategies

A template has been provided to guide the implementation and review of this Growth Policy.

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TEMPLATE FOR ANNUAL REVIEW AND TRACKING GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Priority (Low, Medium, High)	**Objective**	**Action Item**	**Status (Complete, In Progress, Deferred, Not Started)**	**Barriers/Challenges Encountered**
ECONOMY				
HOUSING				

LAND USE				
INFRASTRUCTURE				

		LOCAL SERVICES		
		NATURAL & CULTURAL		

APPENDIX A
Subdivision Definitions

The Montana Code Annotated requires that the Town provide information in this plan explaining how they will:

- Define the review criteria found in 76-3-608 (3)(a) M.C.A. i.e., impacts upon agriculture, local services, public health, and safety etc.; and
- Evaluate and make decisions regarding proposed subdivisions with respect to the criteria in 76-3-608 (3)(a) M.C.A.

Definition of 76-3-608 Criteria

The Town of Bridger will use the following definitions, as referenced in the Town of Bridger Subdivision Regulations, effective April 30, 2018.

- Agriculture: The practice of cultivating the ground, raising crops, and/or rearing animals.
- Agricultural Water User Facility: Any part of an irrigation system used to produce an agricultural product on property used for agricultural purposes.
- Local Services: All services and facilities that local government entities are authorized to provide.
- Natural Environment: The physical conditions which exist within a given area, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic considerations.
- Public Health and Safety: A condition of optimal well-being, free from danger, risk, or injury for a community at large, or for all people, not merely for the welfare of a specific individual or a small class of persons.
- Wildlife: Living things which are neither human, nor domesticated nor plant.
- Wildlife Habitat: Place or type of site where wildlife naturally lives and grows.

Evaluation of Subdivisions Based Upon 76-3-608 Review Criteria

Subdivision applications and subdivision review by Town staff will include documentation and an analysis of as to whether and to what extent the proposed subdivision will impact agriculture, agricultural water user facilities, local services, the natural environment, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and public health and safety as defined in this Growth Policy.

The Town will evaluate each proposed subdivision with regards to the expected impacts upon each of the criteria, and the degree to which the subdivision applicant proposes to mitigate any adverse impacts. This evaluation will be based upon the subdivision application, staff review and reports and information gathered from public hearings and other sources of information as deemed appropriate.

Upon completion of its review and evaluation, the Town will render a decision on the proposed subdivision with respect to the requirements of the Town of Bridger Subdivision Regulations, the Town of Bridger Growth Policy, and the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act.

Additional Review Criteria

In addition to review for the primary review criteria discussed above, the Town also considers a subdivision's compliance with the survey requirements in MCA 76-3-401 through 76-3-406, the subdivision review procedure provided for in MCA 76-3-601, the provision of easements for the

Working Draft

location and installation of any planned utilities to and within the subdivision, and the provision of legal and physical access to each parcel within the subdivision and required notation of that access on the applicable plat and any instrument of transfer concerning the parcel.

1. ***Evaluation Criteria for Effects on Agriculture***
    a. The number of acres that would be removed from the production of crops or livestock. Acreage will be obtained from Department of Revenue tax records.
    b. Removal of agricultural lands critical to the Musselshell County's and Bridger's agricultural base. Maps and land capability classifications developed by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation shall be used to determine the agricultural significance of land.
    c. It will be determined whether the un-subdivided parcel is part of a continuing farm or ranch unit by evaluating the use of the remainder and adjoining properties.
    d. Potential conflicts between the proposed subdivision and adjacent agricultural operations shall be evaluated including:
        - Interference with the movement of livestock or farm machinery
        - Interference with agricultural production and activities
        - Maintenance of fences
        - Proliferation of weeds
        - Increased human activity
        - Harassment of livestock by pets

2. ***Evaluation Criteria for Effects on Agricultural Water User Facilities***
    a. Location and proximity to a ditch, canal, headgate, sprinkler system, watering tank or developed spring shall be considered.
    b. Potential subdivision nuisance complaints or problems due to agricultural water user facilities such as safety hazards to residents or water problems from irrigation ditches, headgates, siphons, sprinkler systems or other facilities shall be considered.

Working Draft

c. Ownership of water rights and the historic and current use of facility on the proposed subdivision shall be examined. Easements to protect the use of water user facilities on or accessed through a subdivision shall be considered.
d. Allocation of water rights within a subdivision shall be considered.

3. Evaluation Criteria for Effects Upon Local Services

a. Increased demand on services and need to expand services for a proposed subdivision:
   - Ambulance Service
   - Drinking water sources and distribution system
   - Fire Department
   - Parks and recreation
   - Police protection
   - Schools
   - Solid waste management
   - Streets and stormwater management
   - Wastewater treatment and collection system

b. Cost of services
   - Current and anticipated tax revenues
   - Cost of services for the subdivision
   - Evaluate the need for special improvement districts

4. Evaluation Criteria for Effect on Natural Environment

a. Expected alteration of any streambanks. Any draining, filling or alteration of any wetland.
b. Needed cuts and fills on slopes as a result of road or building construction.
c. Significant removal of vegetation contributing to potential soil erosion or bank or slope instability.
d. Evaluate whether the subdivision design maintains significant open space.

5. Evaluation Criteria for Effect on Public Health and Safety

a. Potential hazards to residents of subdivision from high voltage lines, high-pressure gas lines, highways, roads, railroads or railroad crossings, nearby industrial or mining activity.
b. Evaluate existing activities taking place in the vicinity of the subdivision.
c. Evaluate traffic conditions.
d. Presence of natural hazards such as flooding, high winds, wildfire, or difficulties such as high water table, expansive soils or excessive slopes.

Working Draft

6. ***Evaluation Criteria for Effect on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat***
    a. Location of subdivision streets with respect to critical wildlife areas such as big game wintering range, calving areas, migration routes, nesting areas, wetlands, or habitat for endangered or threatened species.
    b. Expected effects of pets and human activity on wildlife.
    c. Upon completion of its review and evaluation, the Town will render a decision on the proposed subdivision with respect to the requirements of the Town of Bridger Subdivision Regulations, the Town of Bridger Growth Policy, and the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act.

Public Hearing Procedure for Subdivision Proposals

Public hearings on proposed subdivisions will be conducted by the Town-County Planning Board for subdivision proposals in the Town. Hearings shall be structured according to the following procedures:

1. Planning Board President opens the public hearing.
2. Planner provides a summary of the subdivision application and staff report.
3. Subdivision applicant is given an opportunity to make comments.
4. Planning Board members are given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions of the subdivision applicant and planning staff.
5. Members of the public have an opportunity to make comments. [1]
6. Public comment is closed and Planning Board discussion takes place.
7. If Planning Board members feel prepared to make a decision on the application, they will vote to either recommend project approval, conditional approval, or denial.
8. If Planning Board members feel they need more information or time to consider the project before voting, or if the subdivision applicant wishes to modify the project and bring a revised proposal back to the Planning Board, the Board may opt to extend the public hearing in accordance with the review period outlined in statute. An extension of the public hearing must take place with the concurrence of the applicant.
9. Once all public comments have been received within the allowable timeframe, and once the Planning Board has taken its vote, the Planning Board President closes the public hearing.

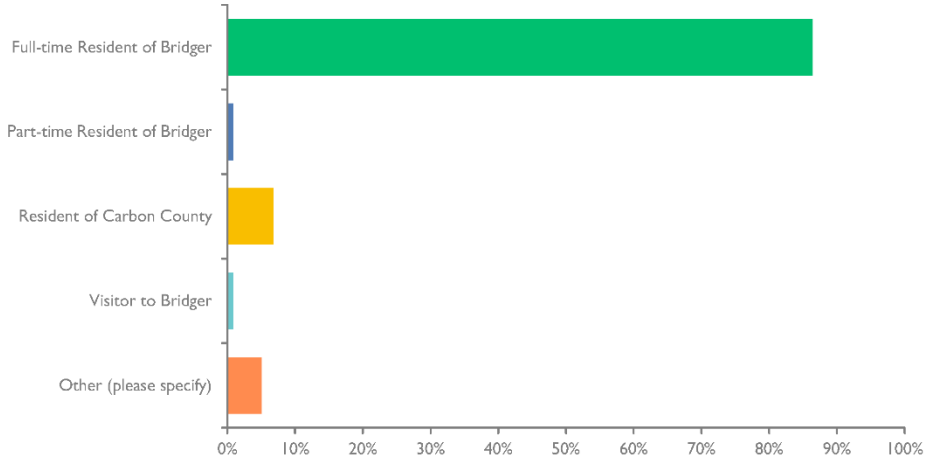
APPENDIX B
Survey Results



- Mailed out to residents in September
- Closed October 31, 2025
- Complete Responses: 120

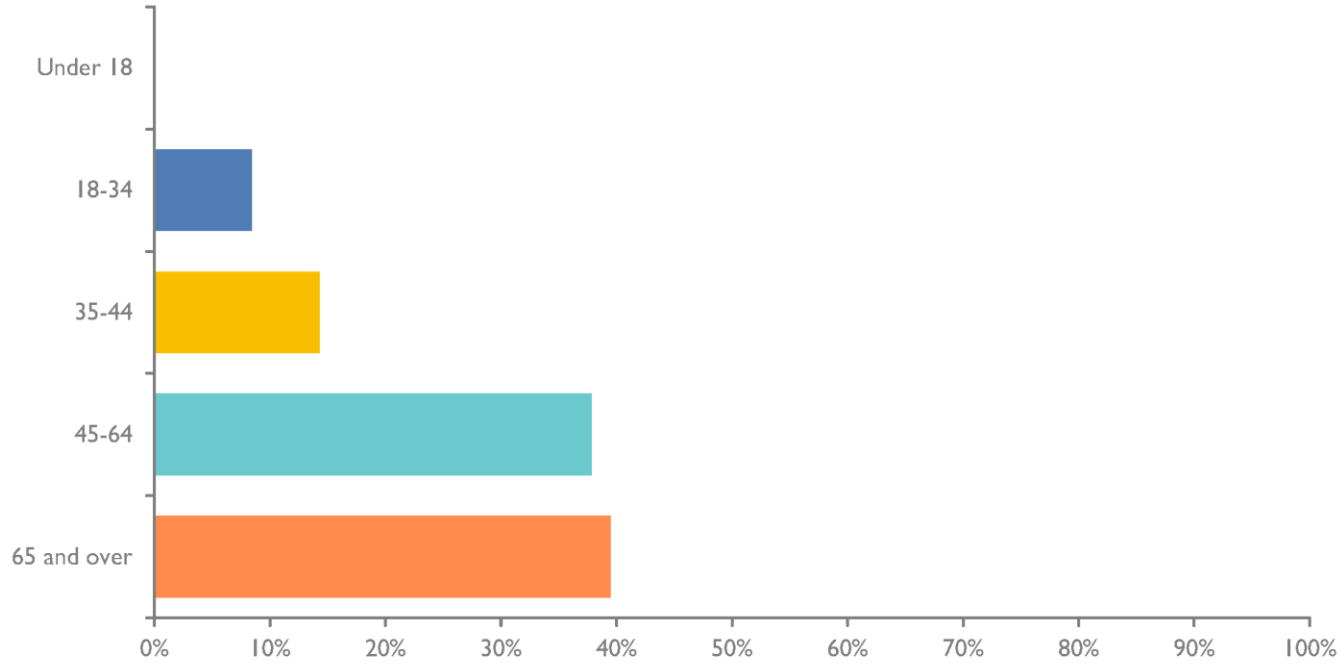
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Q1: I AM A...



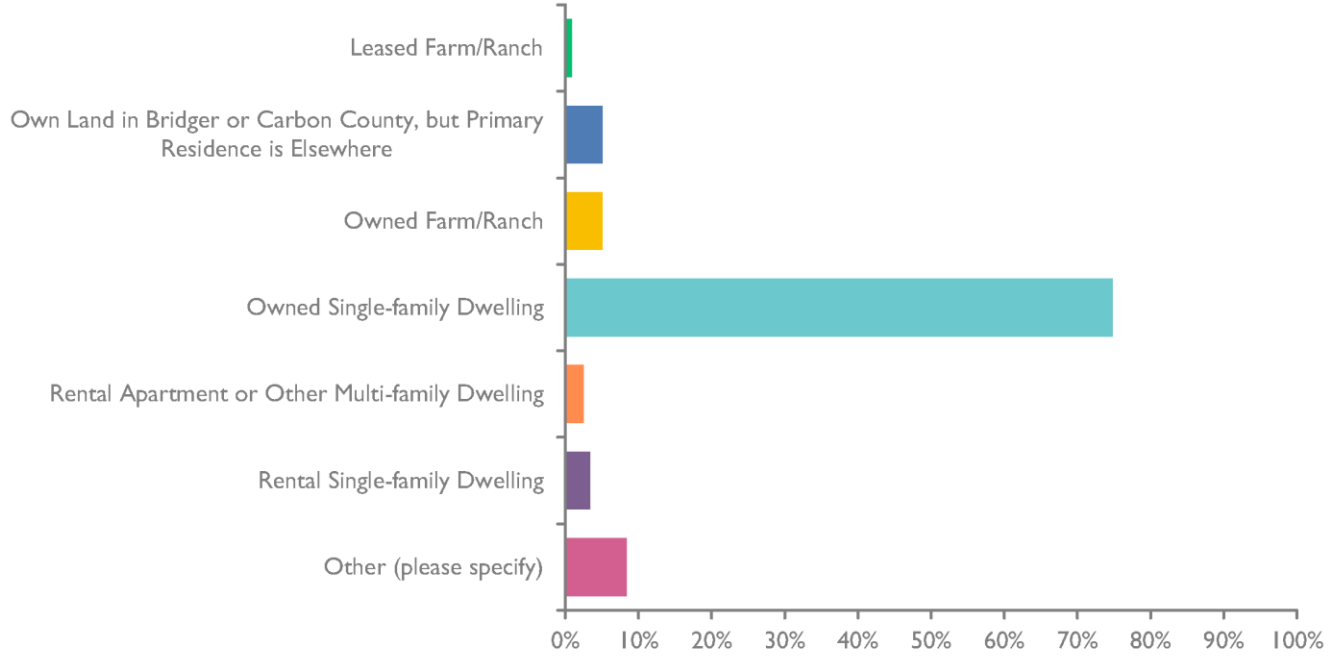
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Q2: WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



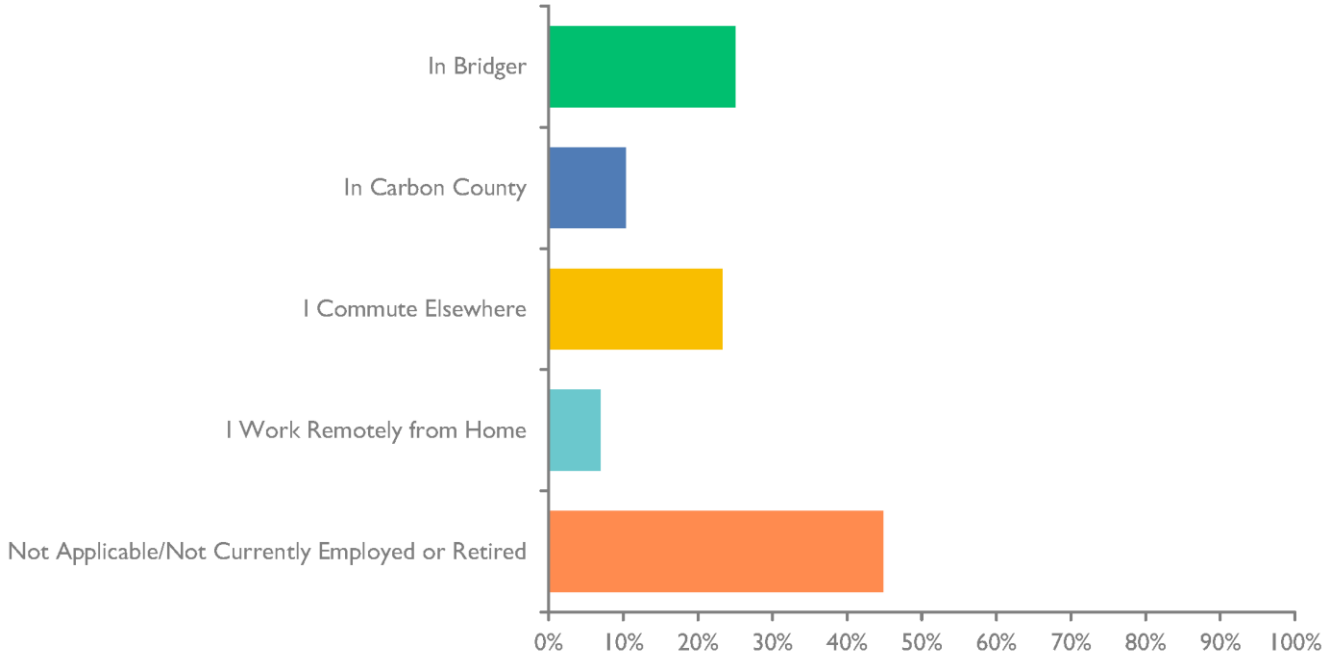
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Q3: WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PRIMARY PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN BRIDGER OR CARBON COUNTY?



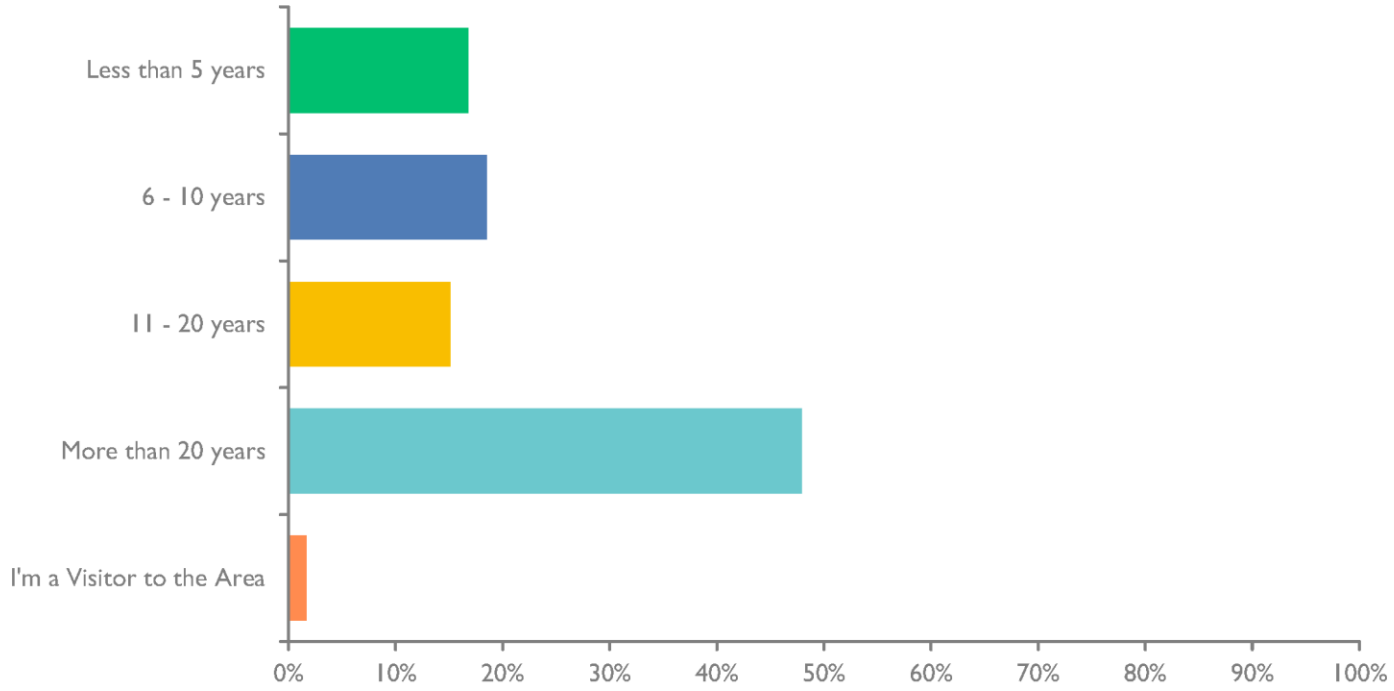
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Q4: IF YOU ARE EMPLOYED, WHERE DO YOU WORK?



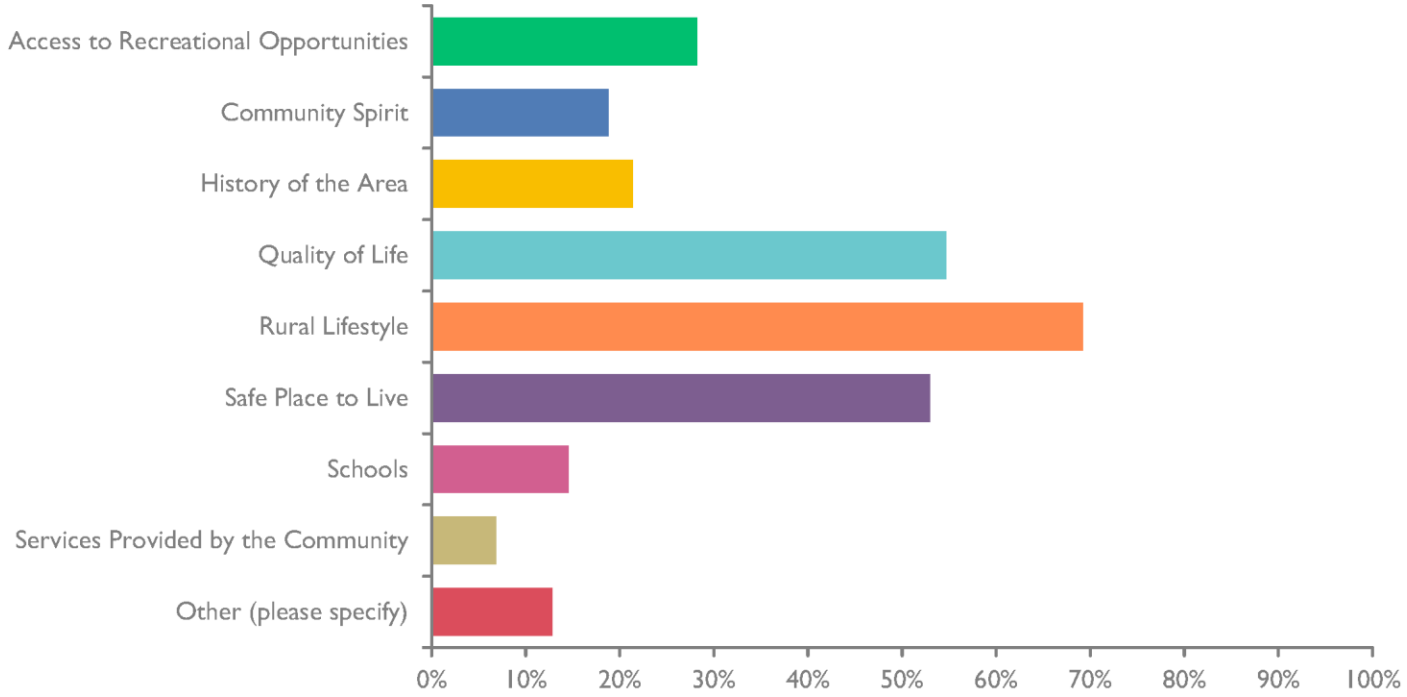
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Q5: HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN OR NEAR BRIDGER?



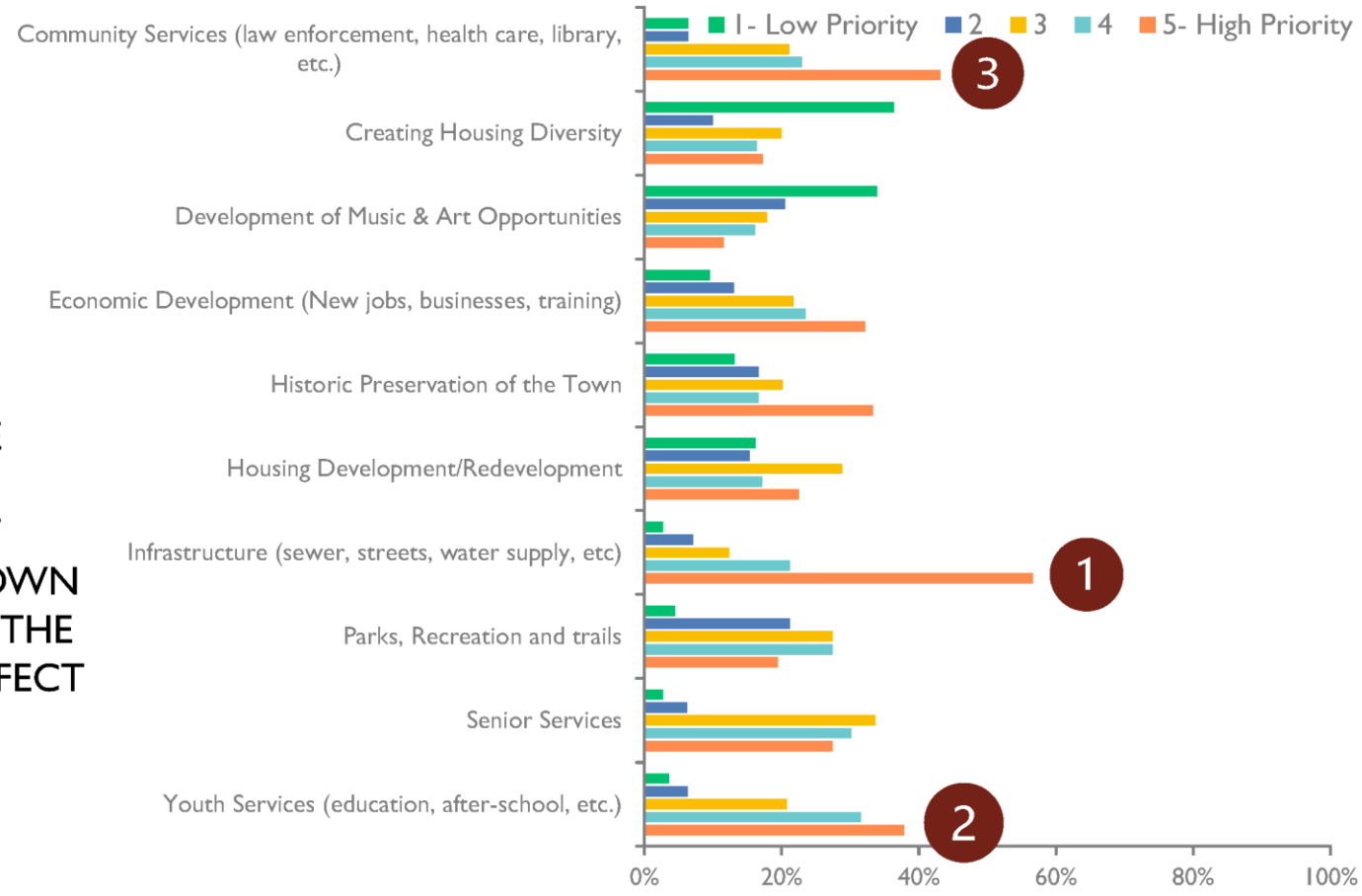
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Q6: WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE REASONS YOU LIKE ABOUT LIVING IN BRIDGER?



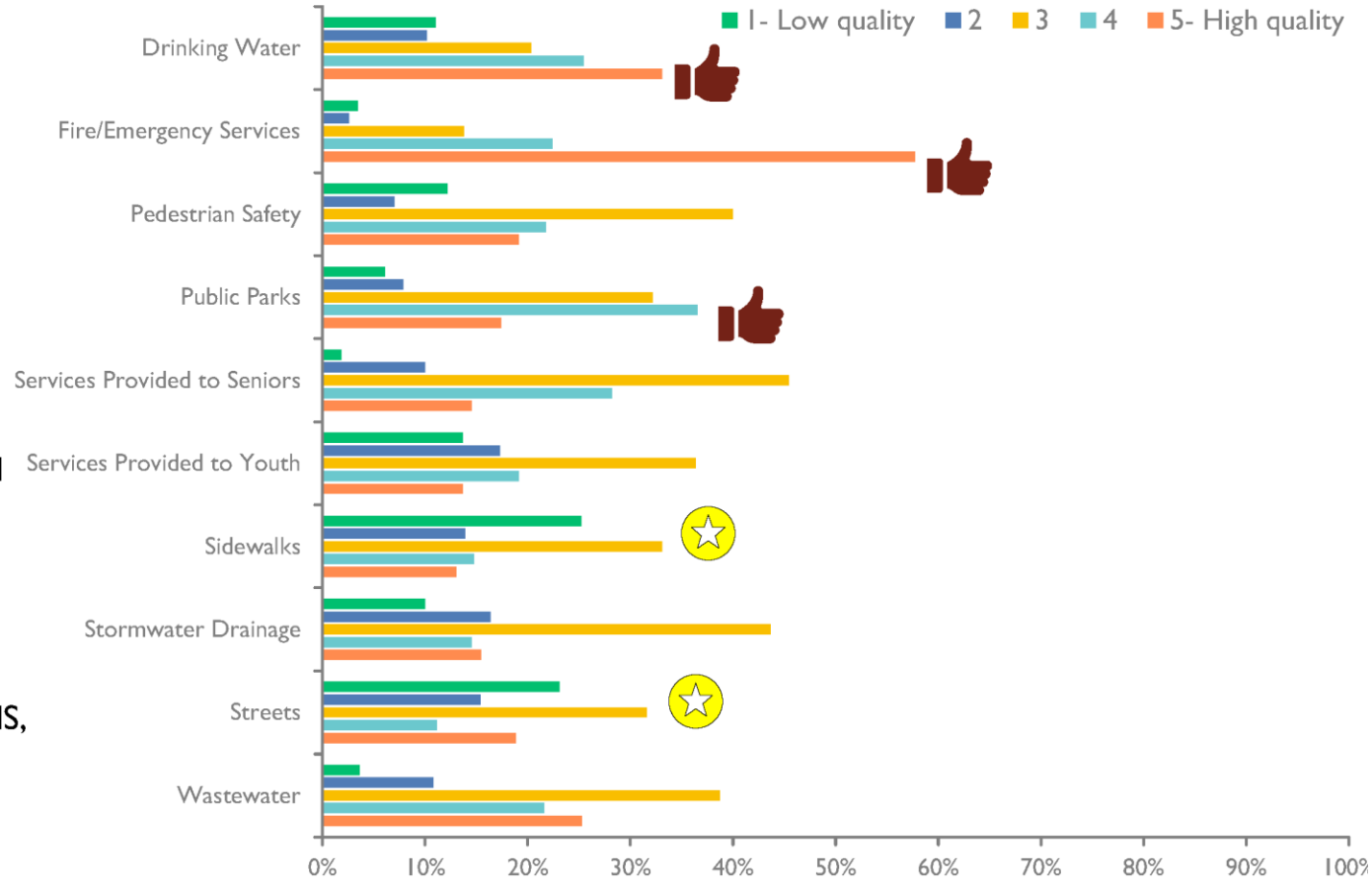
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Q7: PLEASE RATE THE PRIORITY FOR EACH POTENTIAL PROJECT BELOW THAT THE TOWN COULD ADDRESS IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS TO AFFECT THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS POSITIVELY.



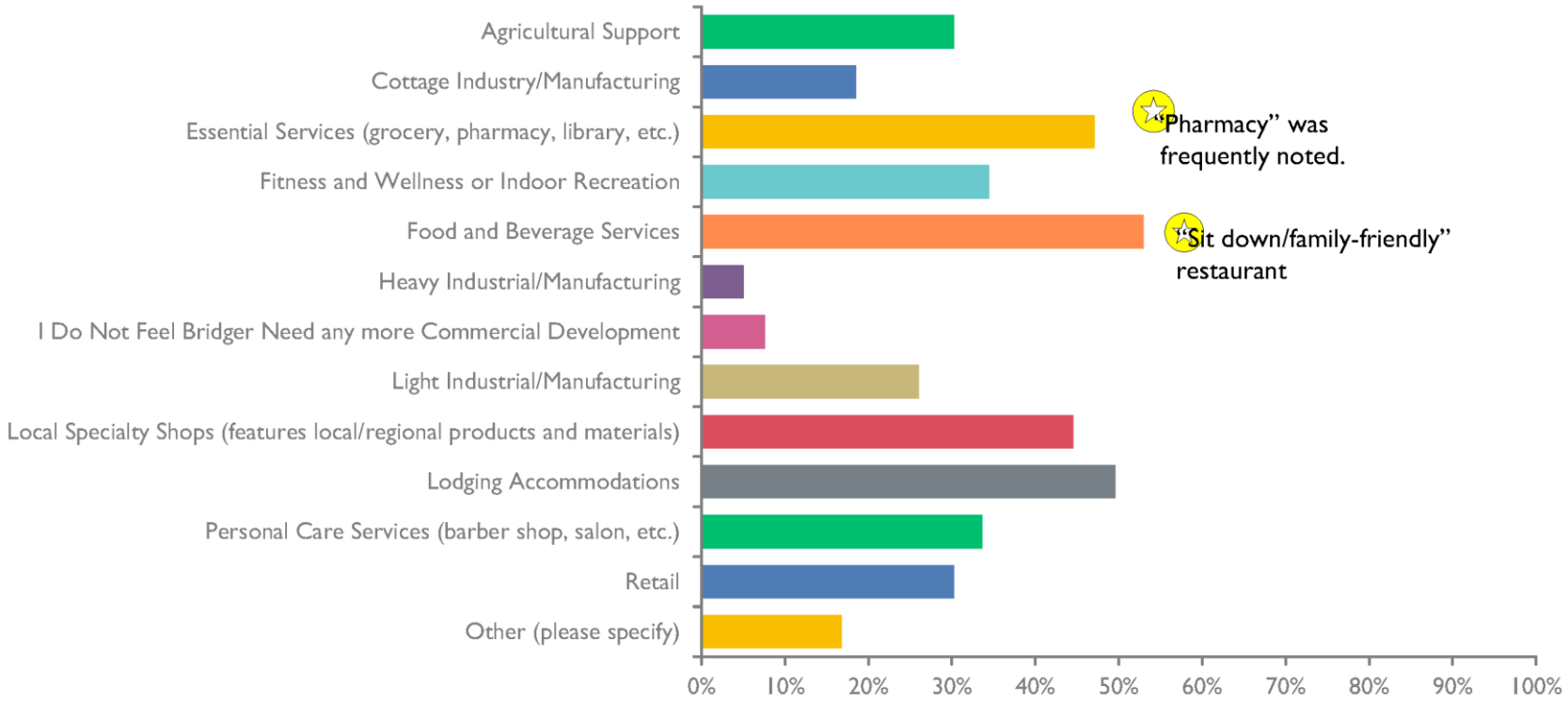
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Q8: PLEASE RATE THE QUALITY OF EACH SERVICE FROM 1 TO 5 (1 BEING LOW QUALITY). FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION MAY INCLUDE COST OF SERVICES, AVAILABILITY, PHYSICAL CONDITIONS, ETC.



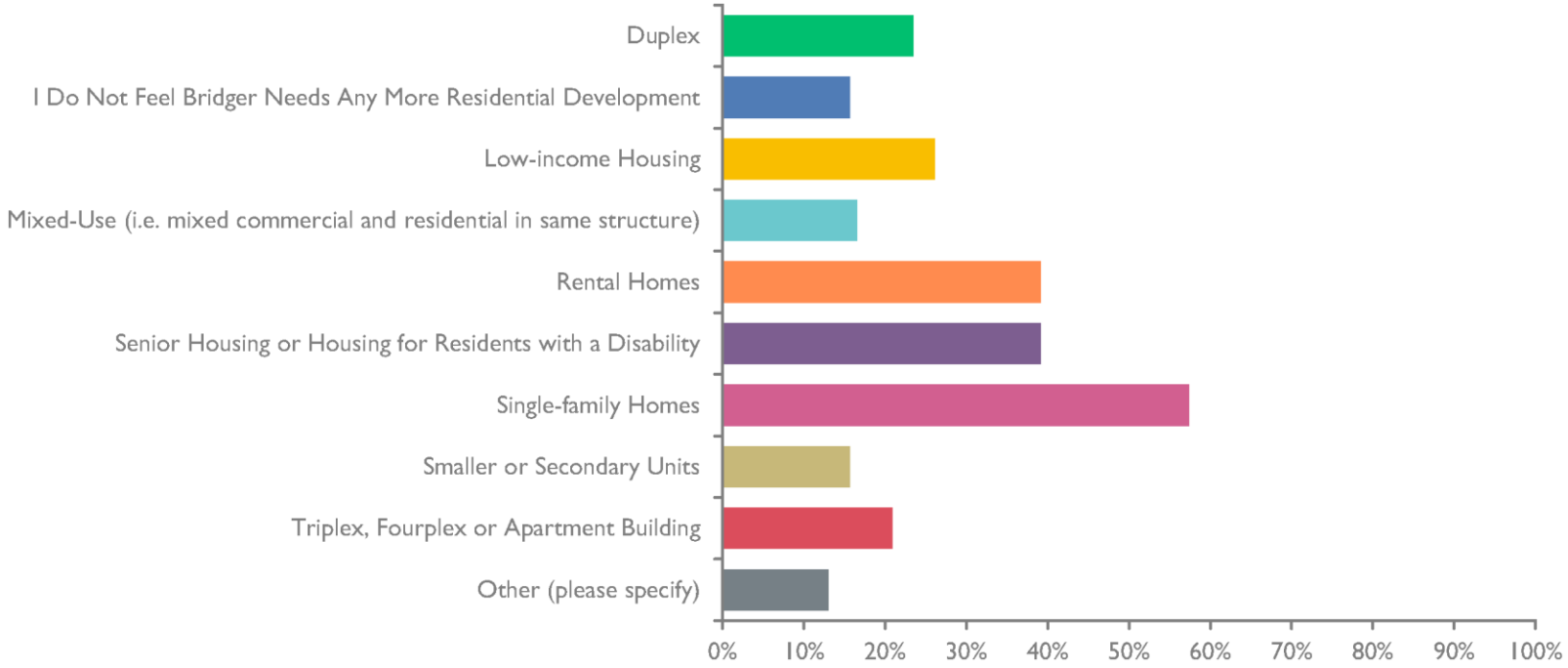
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Q10: WHAT TYPE OF COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT DO YOU FEEL BRIDGER NEEDS? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)



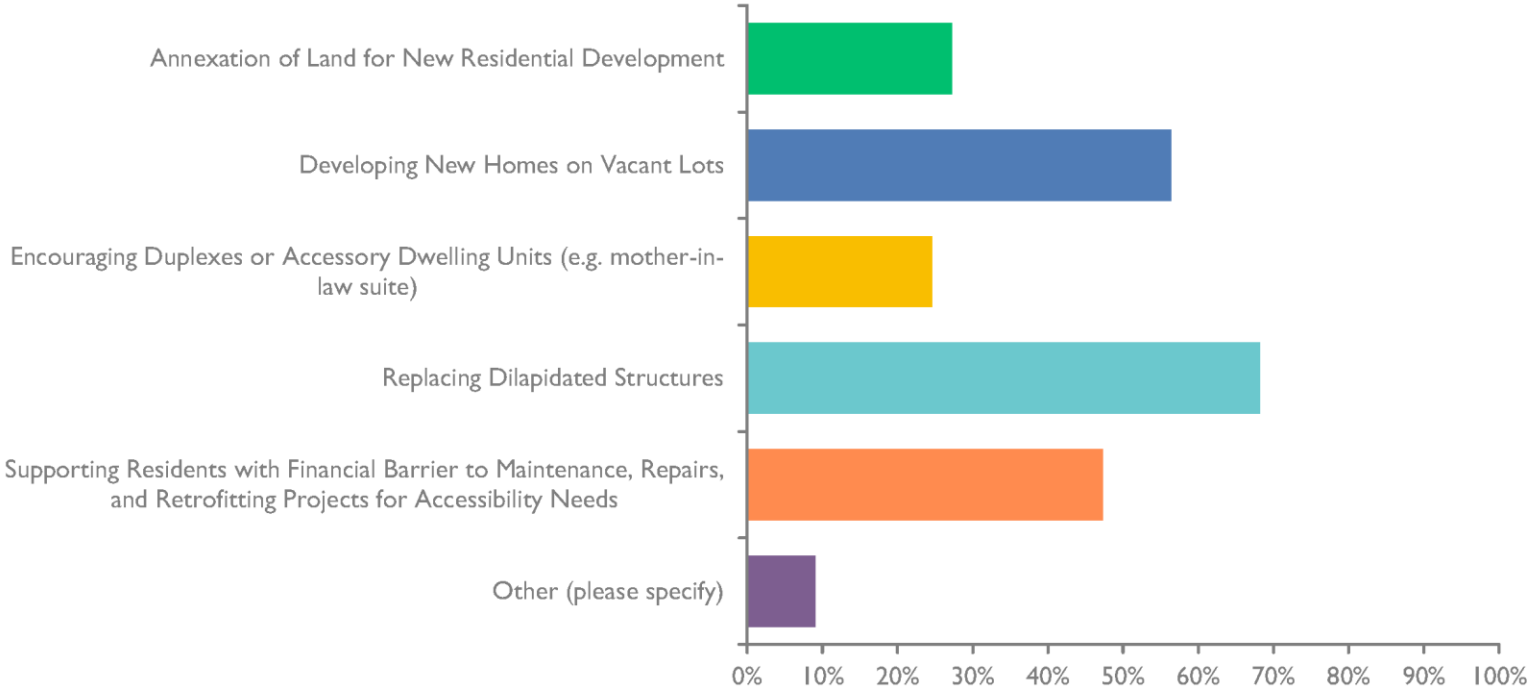
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Q11: WHAT TYPE OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DO YOU FEEL BRIDGER NEEDS? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)



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Q12: HOW DO YOU FEEL THE TOWN OF BRIDGER CAN BEST ADDRESS HOUSING NEEDS IN THE FUTURE? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)



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Appendix C
List of Historical Places

Bridger Historic Places - the incorporation limits of Bridger

(From the National Register of Historic Places Inventory- Nomination Form and Bridger Historical research)

Encompasses all properties located within the incorporated city limits of Bridger, Montana as well as buildings and structures located just east of town.

1892- coal seam discovered.

1898- branch of railroad from Rockvale to Bridger was put in to Bridger, followed by Calamity Jane

Structure/buildings:

1. 1898 Charles (Curly) and Grace Hetherington Boarding House - one of the few original Bridger structures left; 2-story, wood frame building. Located on Broadway
2. Mainstreet from Park to Carbon Street, and the alley to the east of mainstreet - the initial commercial core of Bridger. Stone and Brick 2-story buildings. The alley once was the main street where the first buildings/shacks were built along with the tents. This was once called Stringtown until the ceded strip (from the reservation) was opened for homesteading.
3. Glidden Mercantile 1905 - Mainstreet Hwy 310 and Broadway on the Northwest corner
4. 1909 Veteran's Park (Park west of Mainstreet by the Sand Creek Canal
5. Stage Coach Station in Veteran's park. Operating in 1898, structure built sometime prior to that.
6. Nutting Rental - L-shaped, one story building 1905
7. L.A. Corey House 1906, Broadway, Arts and Crafts style, trimmed in sandstone
8. Samuel Glidden House 1907 1 house north of Broadway, with river cobble
9. Archibald McLean house 1907, Craftsman style
10. Samuel Gebo house, 1909 Queen Anne Style/Colonial revival transition
11. Raymond Hough house, 1910, Queen Ann/Colonial Revival
12. Stehen Hughes home_1.918_. Craftsman bungalow
13. Dr. Marcus House 1921, frame construction with river cobble battered columns.
14. Eric Forsman House, 1907 (Carbon Ave.) first story of cut sandstone from the Bridger rims.
15. Farmers Trading Company, 120 Main Street, cut sandstone commercial style building

from the Bridger rims.

16. Methodist Episcopal Church and parsonage, 1905-6 foundation by Eric Forsan stonemason.
17. Bridger Opera House, 1907, gambrel roof double door- like a barn. NOW DEMOLISHED
18. Bridger Creamery, formerly Ice House. 1895
    - Calamity Jane's husband helped haul ice here in 1898. NOW DEMOLISHED
19. NPRR Wool Warehouse, 1900, board and batten, only structure indicating Bridger's importance as a shipping point. (Maybe demolished)
20. Norther Pacific Railroad depot-1st story north end. Now the Senior Center
21. Honey Factory, 1920s, cement block construction - across from the Bridger Airport.
22. Teesdale House, log cabin and Barn, 1 mile N. of Bridger
23. Attorney Merrill home, first lawyer of Bridger, on Sunnyside st.
24. Ammoreti and Barclay bank, Mainstreet, Stone with stained glass, originally 1 story, now 2. On the southwest corner of Main and Broadway.
25. Stockman Bar, on the south east corner of Main and Broadway. Once the site of the Emporium bar owned by Shupaks. The wooden bar was moved into the street and operated as a bar, while the new stone/brick building was erected.
26. Baldwin Lumber Company- southeast corner of main and Sunnyside. Now Carquest
27. Memorial Park and Memorial Park Town Hall Building- cement block and petrified wood/stone chimney, stucco building and park gazebo and fountain. 1940's. Site has the 3 pump houses for the town as well as the old air-raid siren tower.
28. Pioneer School, Sunnyside and 2nd.
29. 2nd Bowler School, the library on Broadway 1899?
30. Foust School, Jog cabin 1 mile north of town on the east side of Hwy 310 1897ish
31. Bank of Bridger- now the Grocery store, on the Northeast corner of Main and Broadway
32. Livery Stable, the Buckeye Bar on Hwy 310
33. Francis (Shorty) Jennings and Mahr cabin 2 miles south of Bridger on Ridgeway road.
34. Mountain View cemetery (once the Bostic cemetery- very early settlers/squatters family) on Pryor Mountain road.
35. Dowdle Barn, on Jim Bridger road, last road in Bridger on the south end. Sandstone 1st story and silo.
36. John Forsman house - now the Sherburn house
37. Wennemar Homestead cabin - now the Amy Craft cottage
38. Vicky Quintrel blue cottage
39. Rodeo Grounds

There are small, miner's houses throughout the town, and in the area. (Like the Curt Peters home moved from Bearcreek). Some were from Bridger, some Bearcreek. The Diz Kroll home was a little country school as well. Maybe have been used as a school for Bridger high schoolers in early days. The Barrow homestead cabin is owned by Doug Parker 1 mile south of town.Several cabins throughout the town were built by early settlers as houses, barns, or outbuildings. They are fewer and fewer each year.

APPENDIX D
Sources of Information

- Carbon County, Montana
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Headwaters Economics' Economic Profile System
- Montana Department of Administration's Local Government Services Bureau
- Montana Department of Commerce's Census and Economic Information Center
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Opencut Mining Map
- Montana Department of Revenue
- Montana Department of Natural Resources Conservation Service's AgACIS Climate Data
- Montana Department of Transportation
- Montana Natural Heritage Viewer
- Montana State Library's Montana Cadastral
- Montana State Library Montana History Portal
- National Park Service- National Register of Historic Places
- Office of Public Instruction's School and District Profiles
- On the Map (Census.gov)
- Town of Bridger, Montana
- United States Census Bureau American Community Survey (data.census.gov)
- United States Census Bureau's Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics
- United States Geological Survey
- United States Department of Agriculture

BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
PUBLIC HEARING TIME IS 6:45 PM AT BRIDGER TOWN HALL, 108 S D STREET

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC HEARING ON A VARIANCE APPLICATION: Submitted for property described as Bridger Original Townsite, S21, T06 S, R23 E, Bridger OP N 6' LT 9 & All LT 10 Blk 15. Also known as 102 S 4th Street

ADJOURN:

Conduct at Public Meetings

The public is invited to speak on any item under discussion by the Council, after recognition by the presiding officer.

The speaker should stand, and for the record, give his/her name and address, and, if applicable, the person, firm or organization he/she represents. Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes unless approval by the presiding officer, and citizens requesting to speak shall limit him or herself to matters of fact regarding the issue of concern.

Prepared statements are welcomed and should be given to the Clerk of the Council. Prepared statements that are also read, however, shall be deemed unduly repetitious. All prepared statements shall become part of the hearing record.

While the City Council is in session, those in attendance must preserve order and decorum. A member shall not delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council, nor disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its presiding officer.

Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous or disruptive during the Council meeting shall be forthwith barred from further presentation to the Council by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue be granted by the presiding officer or a majority vote of the Council.

The Bridger Town Council reserves the right to amend these rules of procedure as deemed necessary.

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE
Town of Bridger, Montana

*** Under Ordinance No. 43, when a proposed construction project does not conform to the zoning regulations contained in the Zoning Title, the applicant may apply for a variance as set forth below. ***

Name: CHARLES HARDIN

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 173 BRIDGER MT. 59014

Phone Number: 406-426-4155 406-662-9860

Physical Address: 102 SOUTH 4TH STREET BRIDGER MT. 59014

Zoning Classification of Property: RESIDENTIAL A

Description of Variance: ADDITION TO HOUSE THAT ENCROACHES ON SETBACK TO INCLUDE REMOVAL OF EXISTING DECK

Provide with application the following documentation:

- A legal and general description of the property lot upon which the construction, addition, relocation of a structure, or erection of fence or permanent sign will take place.
- A site plan, project description, to-scale diagram with measurements of proposed building, etc. These materials must clearly set forth the nature of the requested variance. A legal survey may be requested if setbacks are in question.

After completing this application, submit the application and accompanying documentation to the Town Clerk at the Bridger Town Hall and pay the application fee. The Clerk will forward the application to the Zoning Administrator for investigation and recommendation. The Town Council shall hold a public hearing on each application for variance. Notice of the hearing on the property in question shall be posted in three public places within the town at least seven days prior to the hearing. **The applicant is responsible for sending notice of the requested variance to the adjoining landowners.** At the hearing, the Town Council shall take testimony from persons interested in the application.

The undersigned agrees that the information provided in this application is true and correct. The applicant understands that if any of the information is false, misleading or in error, this may be grounds for denial of the zoning variance application.

Signature

19 OCT 26
Date

102 S 4th Street
Bridger, MT 59014

Geocode
10-0449-21-3-15-05-0000

Lot Size 36' x 135'

Lot SF 4860

Existing Building SF 1916

Proposed addition SF 222

Total Building SF 2138

N

Bridger Original Townsite
S21 T06 S,
R23 E, Bridger OP N 6' LT 9
and All Lot 10 BLK 15

N. 4th Street

Proposed 6' encroachment into Eastern Setback

Proposed Addition

12' 24'

Broadway Ave

Set Back 30'

16' 14' 9' 12'

135'

1" 1-3"

1' 2'-6"

Existing Shop 660 SF

30'

Existing Home 1,256 sf

Covered Porch

6'

Proposed addition 222 SF

19'-6"

23'-6"

1'-6"

5'-1"

7'-9"

22'

5'

36'

36'

S. 4th Street

An application for a setback variance of 6 ft. for a small construction project at 102 South 4th street in Bridger has been submitted to the Town of Bridger. Relevant homeowners and the Bridger School District are required to be informed and invited to the November 4th Town Council meeting at 6:45 PM for comment.
Homeowners and the school superintendent are requested to sign this document as proof that notification has been given. Thank you, Charles Hardin, 102 South 4th street Homeowner.

Residence
106 South 4th Street Homeowner : Jeffry Clark

Signature: 10/21/26

103 South 4th Street Homeowner : Brent Lehman

Signature: 20 OCT 26

101 North 4th Street Homeowner : Spring Spear

Signature: 20 OCT 26

Bridger School District Superintendent : Nick Gallagher

Signature: 20 OCT 26

RECOMMENDATION OF ZONING ADMINISTRATOR AFTER INVESTIGATION:

_____

_____

_____

_____

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR NAME: _____

ACTION OF THE BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL:

After a public hearing, the Variance Application was:

☐ Approved.

☐ Approved with the following conditions:

_____

_____

_____

_____

☐ More information needed:

_____

_____

_____

_____

☐ Denied.

_____ _____

Mayor Date

BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA
MEETING TIME IS WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2026 AT 7:00 PM,
BRIDGER TOWN HALL, 108 S D STREET

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CALL TO ORDER:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- Area Parks & Recreation District Report
- Planning Board
- Historic Preservation Commission Board
- Carbon County Conservation District
- Beartooth RC & D

VARIANCE APPLICATION
- Charles Hardin, 102 S 4th St

RESOLUTION #309: Adopt the Town of Bridger Growth Policy

APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CARBON COUNTY FOR ADDRESSING AND ROAD NAMING SERVICES:

RENEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR CITY JUDGE:

DISCUSSION / DECISION REGARDING THE OLD TOWN HALL:
- 201 S B St – old town hall/shop
    - Review Scope of Work for Land Revitalization Technical Assistance

CONSENT AGENDA:
- Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
    - October 6, 2026
- Approve Claims
- Approve Payroll Summary
- Approve Journal Vouchers

TOWN ATTORNEY: Ray Kuntz

TOWN JUDGE: Bert Kraft

LIBRARY DIRECTOR: Krystal Zentner

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Randy Novakovich

POLICE REPORT: Jordan Webb

TOWN CLERK: Kirstin Sweet

MAYOR / TOWN COUNCIL:
- This is a time when the Mayor or the Council members can bring a concern before the council that is not otherwise listed on the agenda. No action can be taken at this time. If action is necessary, the item will be put on the next meeting agenda.

ADJOURN:

Conduct at Public Meetings

The public is invited to speak on any item under discussion by the Council, after recognition by the presiding officer.

The speaker should stand, and for the record, give his/her name and address, and, if applicable, the person, firm or organization he/she represents. Comments should be limited to three (3) minutes unless approval by the presiding officer, and citizens requesting to speak shall limit him or herself to matters of fact regarding the issue of concern.

Prepared statements are welcomed and should be given to the Clerk of the Council. Prepared statements that are also read, however, shall be deemed unduly repetitious. All prepared statements shall become part of the hearing record.

While the City Council is in session, those in attendance must preserve order and decorum. A member shall not delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council, nor disturb any member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its presiding officer.

Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous or disruptive during the Council meeting shall be forthwith barred from further presentation to the Council by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue be granted by the presiding officer or a majority vote of the Council.

The Bridger Town Council reserves the right to amend these rules of procedure as deemed necessary.

RESOLUTION NO. 309

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGER, MONTANA TO ADOPT THE TOWN OF BRIDGER GROWTH POLICY 2026

WHEREAS, §76-1-6, MCA states a governing body may use growth policy as a resource management tool to define a community's goals and objectives to address the social, cultural, economic, and physical conditions and aspirations; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridger received a grant from the Department of Commerce to create a growth policy. The Town of Bridger hired Great West Engineering to create the Growth Policy.

WHEREAS, at the August 18, 2026 meeting of the Carbon County Planning Board held a public hearing, public comment was taken in support of, and in opposition to, the draft Growth Policy. A motion was passed unanimously to approve the Town of Bridger's Growth Policy; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of The Town of Bridger that it hereby approves this resolution to adopt the Growth Policy.

DULY passed and adopted at the Regular Meeting of the Bridger Town Council on this 4th day of November 2026. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage.

_____
Cliff Shultz, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk / Treasurer

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

CARBON COUNTY, MONTANA

AND

TOWN OF BRIDGER

Addressing and Road Naming Services

This Interlocal Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between Carbon County, Montana ("County"), acting through its Board of Commissioners, and Town of Bridger, Montana ("Municipality"), pursuant to the Montana Interlocal Cooperation Act, Title 7, Chapter 11, Part 1, Montana Code Annotated.

WHEREAS, the Carbon County Board of Commissioners adopted the Carbon County Addressing and Road Naming Standards and Policies ("CARNS") as Resolution 2026-14, establishing formal standards and procedures for site address assignment and road naming within Carbon County; and

WHEREAS, the County has designated the Carbon County GIS Department as the administrator of addressing and road naming services within the county; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridger desires to utilize the County's addressing services within its municipal limits to ensure consistency with countywide addressing standards and to support accurate 911 emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to formalize the County's provision of addressing services to the Town of Bridger through this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to authorize Carbon County to provide site address assignment and road naming coordination services within the municipal limits of the Municipality, consistent with the CARNS policy. The Municipality shall retain final authority over address assignment and road naming within the municipal limits of the Municipality.

2. COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Subject to the Municipality retaining final authority over address assignment and road naming within the municipal limits of the Municipality, the County, through its GIS Department, shall:

DRAFT

a. Assign and maintain site addresses for structures within the municipal limits of the Municipality in accordance with CARNS;

b. Coordinate road naming within the Municipality to avoid duplication with existing county road names and to maintain consistency with countywide naming conventions;

c. Maintain official addressing data for the Municipality within the County's GIS and NG911 systems;

d. Coordinate dissemination of official address data to 911/Emergency Communications, the United States Postal Service, and the Montana Department of Revenue as applicable; and

e. Provide notice to the Municipality of any address assignments or corrections made under this Agreement and obtain the Municipality's advance consent to the same.

3. MUNICIPALITY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Municipality shall:

a. Recognize addresses assigned by the County and agreed to by the Municipality under this Agreement as the official addresses of record within the Municipality for all municipal purposes; and

b. Residents and property owners seeking address assignments shall first contact the Municipality which shall then contact and coordinate with the Carbon County GIS Department.

4. AUTHORITY TO MODIFY ADDRESSES

Subject to the Municipality retaining final authority over address assignment and road naming within the municipal limits of the Municipality, the County GIS Department has authority to assign, modify, or correct addresses within the Municipality as necessary to maintain compliance with CARNS, to correct errors, or to support 911 addressing accuracy. The County shall provide advance notice to the Municipality of any such changes in a timely manner and obtain the consent of the Municipality.

5. COST

Addressing services provided by the County under this Agreement are provided at no cost to the Municipality.

6. TERM AND TERMINATION

This Agreement shall be effective upon execution by both parties and shall continue for a term of one year, renewing automatically for successive one-year terms unless terminated by either party. Either party may terminate this Agreement upon thirty days written notice to the other party.

7. AMENDMENT

This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument signed by authorized representatives of both parties.

8. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

DRAFT

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter herein and supersedes any prior understandings or agreements, whether written or oral, relating to the provision of addressing services by the County to the Municipality.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF

The parties have executed this Agreement as of the date last signed below.

CARBON COUNTY, MONTANA
Board of Commissioners

Chair, Board of County Commissioners

Date

TOWN OF BRIDGER, MONTANA

Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

Town of Bridger Clerk

DRAFT

TOWN OF BRIDGER

108 South D Street
Bridger, MT 59014
(406) 662-3677

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This employment agreement (the Agreement) is made and entered into this 1st day of January 2027 by and between Bert Kraft, hereinafter called the **Judge,** and the Town of Bridger, a Montana municipal corporation, hereinafter called the **Town,** referred to collectively as the **Parties.**

Whereas, the Judge was appointed the presiding City Court Judge for the Town of Bridger by the Town Council effective January 1, 2015. He served a four (4) year term which ended December 31, 2018; and

Whereas, the Judge has served a second four (4) year term beginning January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2022; and

Whereas, the Judge has served a third four (4) year term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2026; and

Whereas, the Judge will serve a fourth four (4) year term beginning January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2030. He may be removed from office by the Town of Bridger for cause during that term;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing, the mutual covenants and promises contained below, and for other good and valuable consideration, the Parties agree to the following:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated into this Agreement and made a part of it by this reference.

2. During the term of this Agreement, the Judge will have the powers and perform the duties of the presiding City Court Judge as set forth in the Town's charter and the Town's Municipal Code, and will perform other legally permissible and proper duties and functions.

3. The Judge is paid bi-weekly on a salaried basis. His position is "unclassified" and exempt from overtime and compensation time.

4. The Judge will be compensated for his services as the presiding City Court Judge, during the term of this Agreement, as follows:

    a. Monthly salary of $2,704.00, plus salary increases as approved by the Town Council and set by resolution. The Judge will receive increases in salary in accordance with the increases approved for other department heads pursuant to resolutions for increases for Capped Employee Wages as passed by the Town Council.

b. Vacation and sick time provided to all Town employees.

c. A Public Employee Retirement System (P.E.R.S.) contribution by the Town of Bridger.

5. The effective date of this contract shall be January 1, 2027.

6. Any modification of this Agreement or additional obligation assumed by either party in connection with this Agreement shall be binding only if evidenced in writing signed by each party or an authorized representative of each party.

_____
Bert Kraft, Judge

_____
Clifford Shultz, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Kirstin Sweet, Bridger Town Clerk / Treasurer

EPA Brownfields and Land Revitalization Technical Assistance
Abt-ICF Team Scope of Work
October 2026 – Final

Community Requesting Assistance: Bridger, MT

Project: Old Memorial Building Community Visioning

Project Team Members:

Beartooth Resource Conservation & Development (Beartooth RC&D) – Nan Knight, Tina Wilson
Town of Bridger – Kirstin Sweet
Bridger Historical Society – Dana Zier
EPA OBLR HQ – Chip Gurkin, Sam Sigal
EPA Region 8 – Stephanie Shen, Kate Gregory
ICF – Emily Blanton, Kevin Palaia
Abt Global – James Schroll

Project Background: Bridger, MT, is a rural town of about 660 residents located within the Billings Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The town has a strong frontier and traditional western legacy, and the Old Memorial Building is a true representation of its past. Built in partnership with the Bridger Commercial Club, private citizens, the Works Progress Administration, and the Town of Bridger in the late 1940s, the building formerly held the town's offices and maintenance shops. This more permanent town hall replaced the earliest log town hall of Bridger. Ornamented with massive chunks of petrified wood from nearby areas, the building also includes a large fireplace inside. However, conditions of the building have deteriorated, and municipal staff have moved to another location. Through Beartooth's existing Assessment Grant, the building has undergone some environmental investigation and structural analysis, indicating the presence of asbestos. Given the local significance of the building, the town, and their partners at the Historic Society and Beartooth RC&D are looking for assistance in understanding the current conditions, possible reuse of the building, and potential case study examples to illustrate a potential vision.



Figure 1: Former Town Hall/Old Memorial Building

Technical Assistance Requested: The Technical Assistance requested includes:

- Site reuse assessment that considers site constraints and opportunities, cost of remediation and redevelopment, and town and community desires.
- Community visioning to identify possible reuse scenarios.

Abt-ICF Team Scope of Work: The Abt-ICF Team will provide assistance to the Town of Bridger, Beartooth RC&D and the Historical Society to support a reuse assessment and community visioning, as described below:

1. **Scoping and Planning:** Attend up to two (2) scoping/kickoff calls with the Town, Beartooth, the Historic Society, and EPA to discuss project objectives, priorities, and overall scope.

2. **Document Review:** Request and review existing information/documentation from the Town, Beartooth and the Historic Society, including:
    a) Environmental reports and analyses of the site, including available Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments.
    b) Any information regarding structural conditions, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, roof conditions, and if possible, existing floor plans for the building.
    c) Reuse feasibility and cost analyses prepared for the building.
    d) Relevant Town planning documents, including any comprehensive planning documents and park plans.
    e) Any information regarding the historic designation of the building, either locally or with the National Parks Service.

3. **Site Visit and Stakeholder Meetings:** Attend one (1) day site visit to tour the site and the surrounding area. The visit will include meetings with local stakeholders, Beartooth RC&D, Historic Society, town staff, EPA, and others determined to be interested parties. The site visit will also include an in-person community engagement event to inform the community and gather feedback on potential reuse ideas. The date, location, and event format will be determined in partnership with Beartooth and local staff.

4. **Old Memorial Building Reuse Assessment Report:** Conduct site reuse assessment that considers site characteristics, opportunities, constraints, and local feedback. Tasks to prepare the report will include:
    i) Characterize the site, including limitations, costs, challenges, or opportunities to inform future redevelopment options.
    ii) Summarize existing conditions, community feedback, and potential ideas for reuse.
    iii) Develop 3-4 case studies to highlight successful redevelopment ideas in similar communities and contexts.
    iv) Identify potential funding options if the community decides to rehabilitate the building.

5. **Additional Meetings:** Participate in up to two (2) virtual meetings with EPA (Region 8 and OBLR), the Town of Bridger, Beartooth, Historical Society, and other stakeholder groups as needed, to discuss project status, review draft findings, and present the final deliverable.

Deliverables

- **Report –** Described in Task 4 above, including a summary of the site visit, community feedback, and building opportunities and constraints.
- **Slide deck –** PowerPoint deck to communicate findings to stakeholders and community members.
- **Site Visit Photos -** 4-6 photos from the site visit to document TA activities.

Schedule:

Activity	Duration/Due Date
Task 1 – Scoping and Planning	
Initial scoping/planning call	October 19, 2026
Draft Scope of Work	October 2026
Final Scope of Work	November 2026
Task 2 – Document Review	November 2026 – January 2027
Task 3 – Site Visit and Stakeholder Meetings	February 2026
Task 4 – Reuse Assessment Report	February – March 2027
Draft Report	March 2027
Final Report	April 2027
Task 5 – Additional Meetings	TBD, as needed

Suggestions for Next Step Activities (Not Included in this Scope of Work): Below are suggestions for next steps in the project that may be helpful when considering what occurs after the Technical Assistance project. These activities are beyond the scope of work for this project and require additional funding to complete.

1) Prepare detailed conceptual site designs for reuse of the site using information gathered by the community visioning. The conceptual design could include renderings of future development aligned with the recommendations provided under the current TA project to be used for outreach to engage potential partners as well as for further community engagement.

BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2026

The October 6, 2026, meeting of the Bridger Town Council was held at 108 South D Street in Bridger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Shultz. Other council members present were Ryan Carson, Angela Kallevig, Mark DeRudder and Tyler Anthony. Others present were Dana Zier, Danielle Egnew, Rebecca Douglas, Melissa Scianna, Sarah Douglas, Assistant Public Works Director Dale Bemis, Library Director Krystal Zentner, Attorney Ray Kuntz, Chief of Police Jordan Webb, Public Works Director Randy Novakovich and Clerk Kirstin Sweet.

The next item on the agenda was public comment. Danielle Egnew commented on the leased Town property on the east side of Sugar Street. She is concerned about the noise that it creates all hours of the day, from 7am -10pm. She is suggesting a community garden could be placed there when the TCT lease is done. She also commented on the light on the town shop. She feels that it needs a shade so that the light is directed downward.

Next on the agenda was the committee reports. Angela Kallevig gave a brief report for the planning board.

Resolution #307, an intent to adopt the growth policy was next on the agenda. Discussion was had regarding why this resolution is being repeated, the deadline for the public hearing notice was missed and thus the public hearing could not be held. A motion to pass the resolution was made by Councilman DeRudder, seconded by Councilwoman Kallevig. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig– aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Anthony – aye.

Resolution #308, to set the boundary for the joint airport board agreement. A motion to pass the resolution was made by Councilman Anthony, seconded by Councilwoman Kallevig. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig– aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Anthony – aye.

Grant opportunities for the Town was next on the agenda. Dana Zier was present and asked to be a grant writer for the town. The council is agreeable to her writing grants, but they must be submitted under the Town's name and will be administered by the Town. There are also constraints with matching funds and council approval in the appropriate time frame. Dana Zier will put together a list of grants.

Next on the agenda was a request from the historical society regarding a flagpole in Veteran Park. Dana Zier stated the president of the society has not reached out to her, and we can remove this from the agenda until he reaches out to the Town again to be on the agenda.

The next agenda item was discussion / decision regarding the old town hall. Clerk Sweet updated the council on an opportunity that Beartooth RC&D is pursuing for community involvement sessions regarding the decisions that will be upcoming

The consent agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman DeRudder and seconded by Councilman Anthony. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig– aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Anthony – aye. Minutes included were the September 8, 2026 regular meeting. Claim checks #36012 to #36044. Electronic checks #-97828 to #-97821 for September. Payroll electronic checks #-84089 to #-84047 for September.

Attorney Kuntz updated the council on items he is working on.

Judge Kraft was not present.

Library Director Zentner presented some grant ideas for additional library space.

Public Works Director Novakovich updated the council regarding projects he is working on.

Chief Webb presented his stats for the month of September.

Clerk Sweet had nothing to report.

Mayor and Town Council: Nothing

There being no further business Councilman DeRudder motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kallevig. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Carson – aye, Councilwoman Kallevig – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Anthony – aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

_____
Cliff Shultz Mayor

Attest:

_____
Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk

Total for Payroll Checks

	Employee	Employer	Amount
COMA HOURS (Comp Time Accumulated)	11.63		
COMP HOURS (Comp Time Used)	37.38		860.52
HOL HOURS (Holiday Pay)	74.44		1,844.84
REG HOURS (Regular Time)	1,312.75		33,390.27
SICK HOURS (Sick Time)	82.62		2,159.68
TRMS HOURS (Termination Sick Pay)	6.34		127.18
TRMV HOURS (Termination Vacation Pay)	19.18		384.75
VACA HOURS (Vacation Time Used)	77.50		1,963.04
GROSS PAY	40,730.28	0.00	
NET PAY	31,458.73	0.00	
DENTAL	0.00	472.00	
FIT	1,451.49	0.00	
GROUP HEALTH	530.00	13,448.00	
LIFE INSURANCE	0.00	21.60	
MEDICARE	590.59	590.59	
P.E.R.S.	3,164.57	3,633.23	
SIT	1,009.60	0.00	
SOCIAL SECURITY	2,525.30	2,525.30	
UNEMPL. INSUR.	0.00	142.55	
VISION HEALTH	0.00	108.80	
WORKERS' COMP	0.00	1,022.11	
ALTANA FED CRED	6,266.26	0.00	
BANK OF BRIDGER	11,600.60	0.00	
FIRST INTERSTAT	3,164.76	0.00	
SEGFCU	1,887.06	0.00	
STOCKMAN BANK	3,358.20	0.00	
WELLS FARGO BAN	5,181.85	0.00	
FIT/SIT BASE	37,565.71	0.00	
MEDICARE BASE	40,730.28	0.00	
PERS BASE	40,057.87	0.00	
SOC SEC BASE	40,730.28	0.00	
UN BASE	40,730.28	0.00	
WC BASE	40,730.28	0.00	
Total		21,964.18	

Total Payroll Expense (Gross Pay + Employer Contributions): 62,694.46

Check Summary

Payroll Checks Prev. Out.	$425.03
Payroll Checks Issued	$0.00
Payroll Checks Redeemed	$0.00
Payroll Checks Outstanding	$425.03
Electronic Checks	$61,489.80

Deductions Accrued	Carried Forward From Previous Month	Deduction Checks Issued	Difference	Liab Account

Social Security	5,050.60		5,050.60		212000
Medicare	1,181.18		1,181.18		212001
P.E.R.S.	6,797.80		6,797.80		212203
Unempl. Insur.	142.55			142.55	212202
Workers' Comp	1,022.11			1,022.11	212201
FIT	1,451.49		1,451.49		212002
SIT	1,009.60		1,009.60		212200
DENTAL	472.00		472.00		212502
LIFE INSURANCE	21.60		21.60		212502
VISION HEALTH	108.80		108.80		212502
GROUP HEALTH	13,978.00		13,938.00	40.00	212502
Total Ded.	31,235.73	0.00	30,031.07	1,204.66	

**** Carried Forward column only correct if report run for current period.

Electronic Checks: -84046 to -84010

End of Period Disbursement Detail

Bank Account: Bank of Bridger - 110582
From 10/27/2026 to 10/27/2026
Total Only

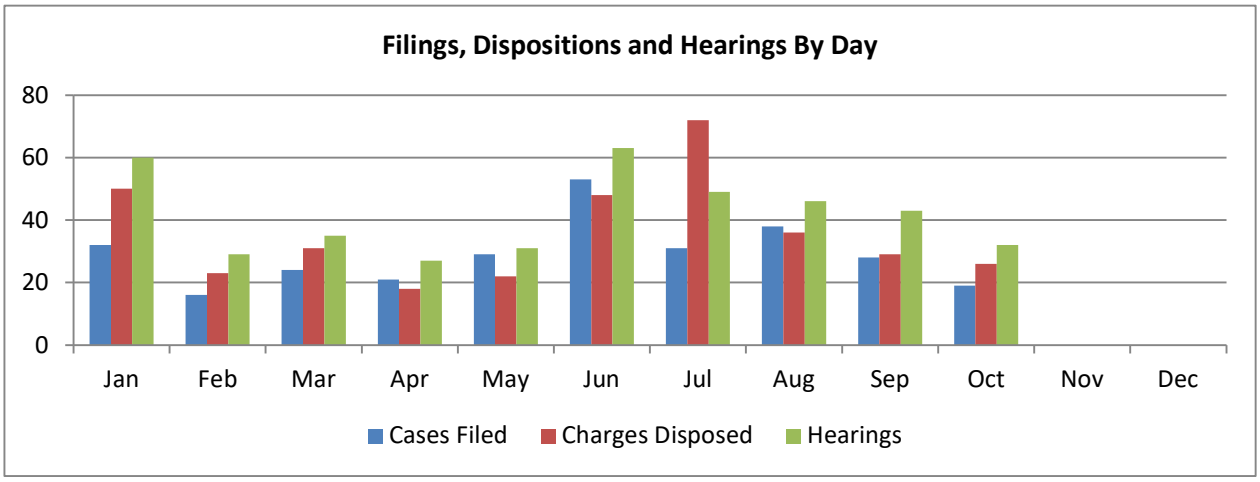
Check Number: 2148

Date	Description	Case Number	Payer	Citation No.	Amount
Account 200-177 - Criminal Conviction Surcharge 7467 MCA 3-1-318					
				Account 200-177 Total:	$45.00
Account 200-210 - Fines / Forfeitures - 1000 & 7451 (50/50 Split)					
				Account 200-210 Total:	$1,387.37
	Bank Reconciliation Journal Entry: Interest on 9/30/2026				
Account 200-250 - Misdemeanor Surcharge					
				Account 200-250 Total:	$15.00
Account 200-340 - Technology Surcharge - 7458					
				Account 200-340 Total:	$12.38
Account 200-390 - Victim Witness Surcharge - 7699					
				Account 200-390 Total:	$30.00
				Check Total:	$ 1,489.75
				Report Total:	$1,489.75

Bridger City Court
2026 Summary Report

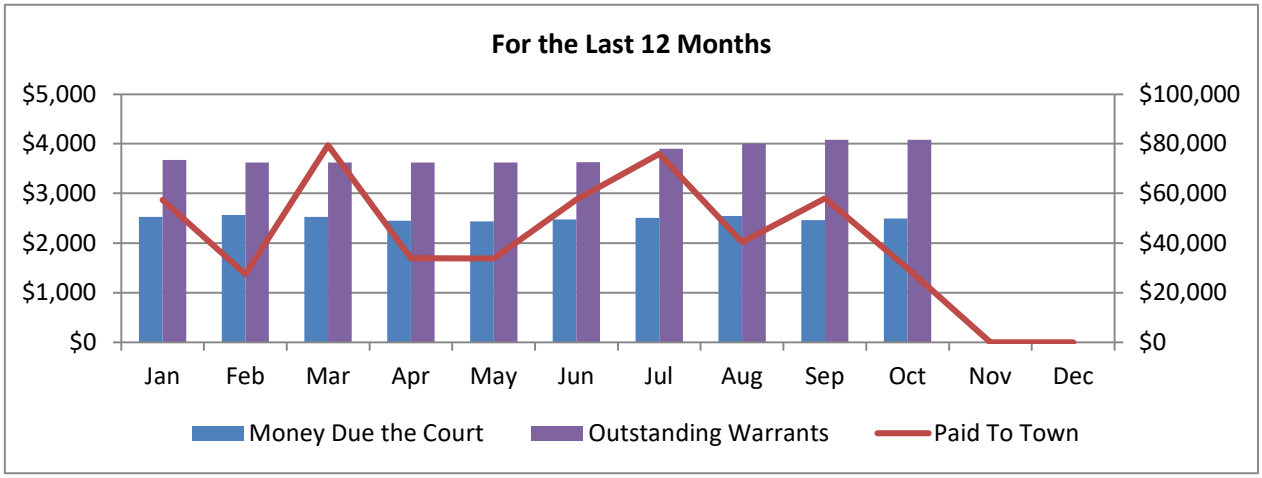
November 2, 2026
by Bert Kraft, Bridger City Judge
CW2: 646 H: 415

Activity



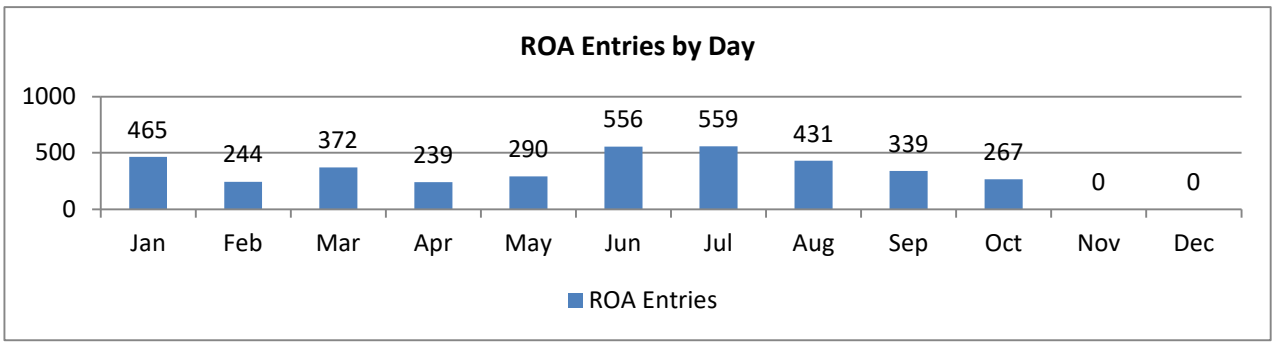
Financials

PAID: $24,670.32



Docket

TOT: 3762



Bridger City Court
October 2026 Summary Report

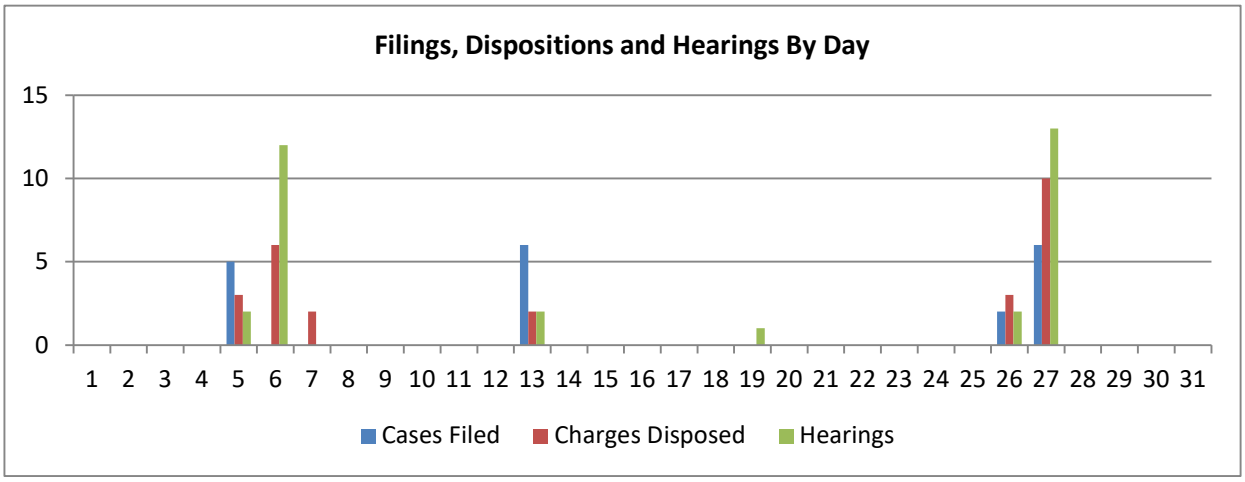
November 2, 2026

by Bert Kraft, Bridger City Judge

Activity

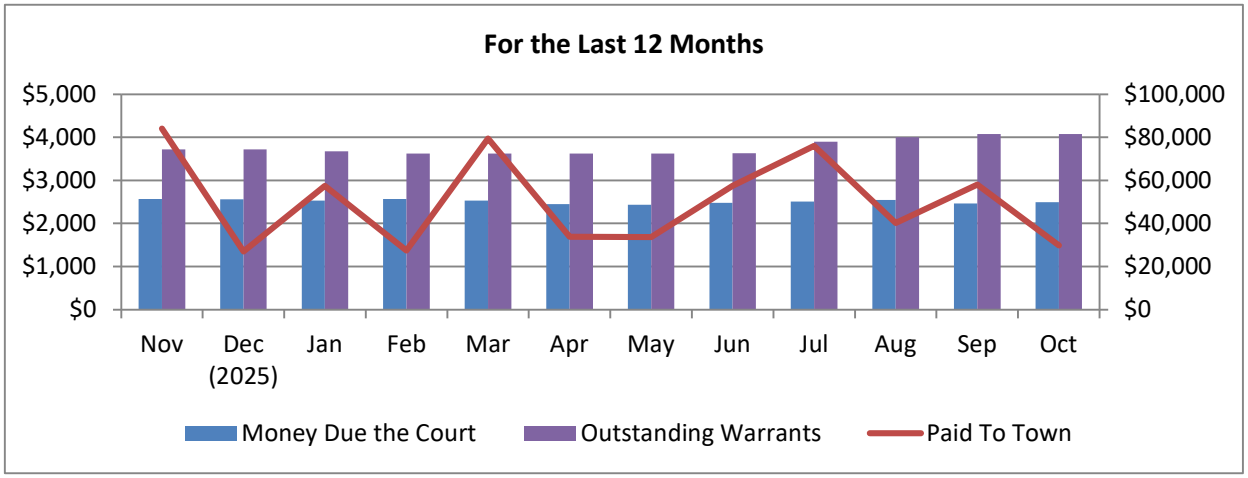
CW2: 45 H: 32

P: 276 D: 218 W: 36



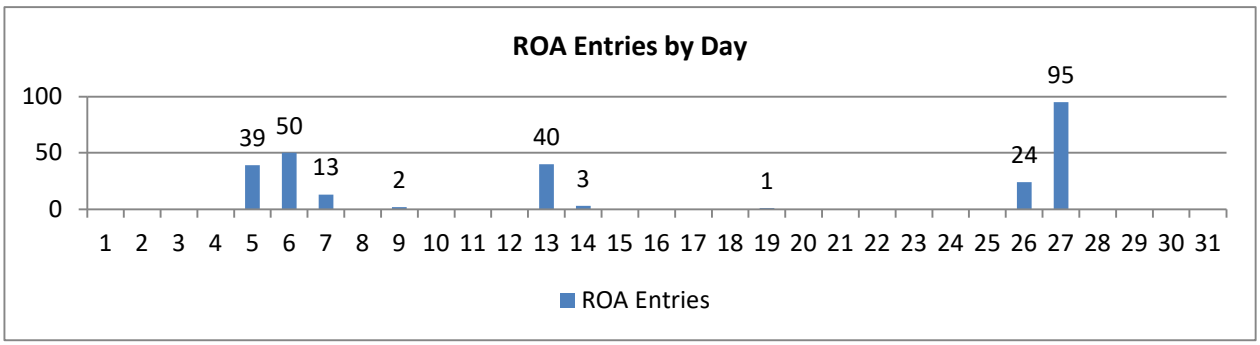
Financials

PAID: $1,489.75 DUE: $49,907.39 W: $81,559.00



Docket

TOT: 267



Journal

Entry		Hours	56
10/5/2026	Office	7	
10/6/2026	Open Court	7	
10/7/2026	Compliance Court	7	
10/13/2026	Open Court	7	
10/14/2026	Compliance Court	7	
10/23/2026	Office	1	
10/26/2026	Office	7	
10/27/2026	Open Court	6	
10/28/2026	Compliance Court	7	