Dear friends:

Putting together our annual report is always a gift. It gives us the chance to reflect on how fortunate we are to live and play in this wonderful community. This past year, our GVLT friends and family turned out in so many ways -- providing necessary funds, volunteering on the trails, and getting out the vote on the incredibly important Open Lands Levy. Our accomplishments this year were truly amazing and we couldn’t have done any of it without you. Thank you.

All of us share a love of this place. The Gallatin Valley is like no other, and because of that, we all want it to shine. We all want to preserve the things that make it special -- the rich agricultural heritage, abundant wildlife, and beautiful trail system.

In these tumultuous times, working together is what matters. Reaching across fence lines -- that's what makes this work possible. That's what will keep this Valley, this community, what it is.

On behalf of all of us at GVLT, thank you for being a part of this marvel.

Warmly,
We believe an important part of creating a shared conservation ethic for the future is developing the next generation of conservation leaders. Our NextGen Advisory Board members are passionate ambassadors for GVLT to their peers, connecting their quality of life to our mission. They also provide us with an opportunity to listen and learn from new and diverse perspectives to ensure that our work remains relevant to future generations.
Encouraging Exploration & Discovery Outdoors

The trails are places for community and connection. Our 36 Discovery Walks invited the community to explore and discover the many ways to enjoy and experience the outdoors. From bird watching and history to bugs and meditation, we hosted 410 individuals and helped expand the idea of what it means to be outside and who can benefit. Our partnership with Montana Outdoor Science School and Roots Family Collaborative encouraged families and young children to spend time with nature.

Promoting Trail Etiquette & Care: Trail Projects & Trail Ambassadors

The trails are busier than ever. Our volunteer Trail Ambassadors share resources and promote good trail behavior with friendly peer-to-peer encouragement. Hundreds of volunteers from school groups to businesses joined us on the trails for maintenance and lessons in trail stewardship practices. Our volunteer program is building a sense of shared responsibility and ownership of our public trails.

1,327 VOLUNTEERS
2,714 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Two hundred seventy-five 6th graders from Sacajawea Middle School volunteered to resurface portions of Peets Hill.

MT Outdoor Science School taught orienteering on the "Summer Survival" walk at the East Gallatin Recreation Area.
Sharing Resources & Empowering Landowners

We have built strong working partnerships with our 105 conservation easement landowners through our yearly monitoring visits. We connect our landowners with resources that allow them to effectively steward the habitat, water, soils, and views they protect. This year we partnered with 22 of our landowners to implement $140,000 of stewardship enhancement projects. This included facilitating the installation of a grazing management fence on 8.5 miles of stream banks to prevent erosion, promote vegetation restoration, and protect water quality. We educated 55 local students on stream health by planting 1,600 trees on conserved lands.
For the past 28 years we’ve been protecting special places in our region and expanding our community’s access to the outdoors. This year was no exception; we’re not slowing down on our work to safeguard the working farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, healthy rivers and streams, scenic vistas, connected trails, quiet spaces, and recreational opportunities that define our landscape and our quality of life.

Conserved Land
We partnered with local families to conserve highly productive agricultural land, wildlife habitat and sweeping scenic views on Gooch Hill and the rapidly developing Big Sky area.

“...This easement is in honor of my mother who loved this land. She took joy at turning to see every mountain range that surrounds the valley, of sitting in the shade of the massive cottonwood groves that were fed by the mountain stream, of gazing over the waves of grain, of seeing lush hay fields and cattle grazing. This preserved land is to remind us of the productivity & beauty that open space gives.”

- DAPHNE GILLAM

10 ACRES  
Habitat added to the Pea’s existing 190-acre easement.  
Big Sky

549 ACRES  
Fertile, legacy farmland protected by the Oliver Family.  
Gooch Hill

253 ACRES  
Agricultural-open space conserved by the Dogterom Family.  
Gooch Hill

CLICK ON PHOTOS TO LEARN MORE
Completing the Main Street to the Mountains Vision

When Chris Boyd founded GVLT in 1990, he had a vision to connect Bozeman’s Main Street to the mountains, north and south. We made great progress since then but there had always been an elusive gap in the trail system between the Painted Hills Trail and Triple Tree Trail. After years and years of perseverance, GVLT finally secured the necessary trail easements to cross private and state land to complete the connection. Construction of 1.5 miles of new trail took place this summer and now our community can hike, ride, or run 8.2 miles from the Bozeman Public Library on Main Street to the top of the Triple Tree Trail in the Gallatin Range, all on a trail.
Renewed Funding for the Gallatin County Open Lands Program

Since 2000 the Gallatin County Open Lands Program has provided critical funding to increase the pace of conservation and leverage local dollars to access additional funding. When the money from the program was fully allocated, GVLT led a coalition that put a request for renewed funding on the ballot. Thousands of community members joined the campaign to endorse, canvas, and support the program and in June the levy passed with 62% of the vote. The levy guarantees critical funding to the Open Lands Program with $20 million over the next 15 years. With the rapid pace of development and a growing list of interested landowners, this funding ensures we can continue to secure conservation easements on working agricultural lands.

Facelift for the Gallagator Bridges

The decking and railings on the three bridges along the Gallagator Trail were old and in desperate need of repair. We partnered with the City of Bozeman to improve safety and viewing of the stream below by replacing the decking and railings. Did you know? Trail counters have shown that the Gallagator gets 800-1,000 trail users per day during certain parts of the year. The Gallagator is an old railway line that carried passengers, mail and cargo from Bozeman to Salesville (now Gallatin Gateway).
We welcomed new faces to the staff and Board this year including Matt Marcinek, Community Trails Program Manager and Karin Boyd, Cathy Costakis and Dr. Tracy Fairbanks as members of the Board of Directors.
GVLT received a generous bequest at the end of the fiscal year. Planned giving can help you leave a lasting legacy and make an incredible impact on the trails and open lands of the Gallatin Valley. We welcome you to have a conversation about planned giving to GVLT. Please contact Matt Parsons, matt@gvlt.org.
Thank you for your generous support.

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