

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Planning staff has prepared the Findings of Fact for the preliminary plat of Copper Ridge Subdivision, 8th Filing. These findings are based on the preliminary plat application and supplemental documents and address the review criteria required by the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act (76-3-608, MCA) and the Billings Subdivision Regulations (Section 23-303(H), BMCC).

A. What are the effects on agriculture, local services, the natural environment, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and public health, safety and welfare? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (a) and BMCC 23-302.H.2.]

1. Effect on agriculture and agricultural water user facilities

The subject property is currently used for agricultural purposes and about 35.99 acres of agricultural land would be taken out of production with this subdivision filing proposal. Perimeter ditches and drains shall remain in place and not be altered by the subdivider or subsequent owners. The subdivision should not affect agricultural water users' facilities but it will take land out of agricultural production.

2. Effect on local services

- a. **Utilities** – Water service will be provided by the City of Billings. The developer will install new water mains in all of the new local streets, new individual services to all of the lots, and new fire hydrants in accordance with design standards, specifications, rules and regulations of the City of Billings Public Works Department, Fire Department and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The water service will be provided by an existing 12-inch water line located in 70th Street West and Copper Sunset Drive. The subdivider will extend the existing 12-inch water main from the existing terminus at 70th Street West / Copper Sunset Drive west to street within the proposed subdivision. The subdivider will install all new water lines in the local streets and individual services for each lot in accordance with design standards, specifications, rules and regulations of the City of Billings Engineering/Public Works Department and MDEQ.

Sanitary sewer service will be provided by connecting to the existing City of Billings' sewer mains. There are existing 8-inch sanitary sewer stubs located in streets that will be built as part of the Copper Ridge Subdivision, 7th Filing. A sewer main will not be installed in Rimrock Road at this time but will be with future filings. The subdivider will install new sewer mains in the local streets and individual services for each lot in accordance with design standards, specifications, rules and regulations of the City of Billings Public Works Department and MDEQ. **(Condition #1)**

MDU will provide gas services and Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative will provide electric services to the subdivision. Easements have been shown on the face of the plat that are acceptable to these utility providers.

Stormwater – Stormwater drainage for the public streets is proposed to be provided by curb and gutters that discharge into storm water pipes and eventually to retention areas in the proposed detention basins along Rimrock Road. These and all other drainage improvements shall satisfy the criteria set forth by the *City of Billings Stormwater Management Manual* and will be subject to review and approval by the City Engineering Department. The developer is proposing to construct 1 detention basin along the southern boundary of the subdivision. A Stormwater Report will be submitted and approved by City Engineering before final plat. **(Condition #1)**

The subdivider may direct runoff from this filings and future filings to a proposed City of Billings storm water detention facility to be built on property at the intersection of Rimrock Road and 62nd Street West. The subdivider shall make a cash contribution to the City of Billings for the stormwater management facility based on a square foot of net residential lot area.

- b. **Solid waste** – The City of Billings will provide solid waste collection and disposal. The City’s landfill has adequate capacity for this waste.
- c. **Streets** – Rimrock Road is identified as a collector street to 70th Street West, it is believed that at the location of this filing it will continue as a collector road. The applicant will be providing a 74-foot wide right of way for Rimrock Road but it will not be constructed at this time.

The lots within the subdivision will be served by the construction of Copper View Way, Copper Bend Boulevard, and Bronze Boulevard. They shall all be 34 feet back of curb to back of curb and shall be built to City of Billings street standards. They shall be built to grade with a satisfactory subbase, base course, curb and gutter with asphalt surface. 70th Street West shall be completed to have a road that is 39 feet wide back of curb to back of curb.

Copper View Way, Copper Bend Boulevard, and Bronze Boulevard are proposed to be built to City standards by providing a 34-foot width, curb/gutters, and boulevard sidewalks. The sidewalks will be installed by the home builder on a lot-by-lot basis, as lots develop. The developer will also install all ADA required ramps at the intersections within the proposed subdivision. Also the section of sidewalk along the edge of Lot 9, Block 3, which is the lot that has the detention pond. **(Condition #2)**

A Traffic Impact Study (TIS) update was completed with this filing in order to evaluate the subdivision’s impact on the street network in the surrounding area. Cash contributions will be made for future intersection improvements as identified in the SIA under Transportation D. Traffic Control Devices. A proportionate contribution will be made for this 8th filing as described in the SIA.

- d. **Emergency services** – The Billings Police and Fire Departments will respond to emergencies within the proposed subdivision. The nearest fire station is located at 54th St. West and Grand Ave. (Station #7). The subdivision is located within the ambulance service area of American Medical Response (AMR).
- e. **Schools** –School District #2 provides educational services to elementary through high school students. Schools serving these students are Boulder Elementary, Ben Steele Middle School, and West High School. At the time of the writing of this staff report all schools are shown as being over capacity. The subdivision is currently on a bus route.
- f. **Parks and Recreation** – Residential subdivisions creating lots with housing densities less than one dwelling unit per ½-acre are required by State and local laws to dedicate 11% of the net land area (or provide an equivalent cash contribution) for parkland. With the acreage of the 76 residential lots being created with this filing the required parkland acreage would be 1.52 acres. The applicant is proposing to provide a cash in lieu contribution. **(Condition #3)**
- g. **Mail Delivery** - The United States Postal Service will provide postal service to the subdivision and has indicated that centralized mailbox units will be required as were installed for the previous filings of this subdivision. The developer will need to coordinate mailbox locations with the postal service. **(Condition #4)**

3. Effect on the natural environment

The subject property is currently farmland slightly sloping to the south toward Rimrock Road from the rimrocks near Phipps Park. The property of the 8th Filing is not located within any floodplain. During development, storm water pollution prevention best management practices are required to be used and monitored to prevent erosion on exposed ground. Overall, the effect on the natural environment should be minimal.

4. Effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat

There are no known endangered or threatened species on the property. There is a paragraph in the SIA that warns future lot owners of the presence of deer in the area, which may cause damage to their landscaping. This subdivision should have a minimal effect on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

5. Effect on the public health, safety and welfare

There will be no impacts to public health, safety and welfare as a result of this subdivision.

B. Was an Environmental Assessment required? [(MCA 76-3-616 and BMCC 23-302.H.1.)]

The proposed subdivision is exempt from the requirement for an Environmental Assessment pursuant to Section 76-3-616, MCA.

C. Does the subdivision conform to the City of Billings 2016 Growth Policy, the 2014 Transportation Plan, and the Billings Area Bikeway and Trail Master Plan? [BMCC 23-302.H.4.]

1. City of Billings 2016 Growth Policy

The proposed subdivision is consistent with the following goals of the Growth Policy:

Strong Neighborhoods (livable, safe, sociable and resilient neighborhoods):

Neighborhoods that are safe and attractive and provide essential services are much desired (p.8). Zoning regulations that allow a mixture of housing types provide housing options for all age groups and income levels. (p.8)

Home Base (healthy, safe and diverse housing options) A mix of housing types that meet the needs of a diverse population is important. (p.9) Planning and construction of interconnected sidewalks and trails are important to the economy and livability of Billings.

2. Urban Area Transportation Plan 2014 Update

The proposed subdivision adheres to the goals and objectives of the 2014 Transportation Plan and preserves the street network and street hierarchy specified in the plan.

3. Billings Area Bikeways and Trail Master Plan

The proposed subdivision is just outside the jurisdiction of the Billings Area Bikeways and Trail Master Plan. A trail corridor exists within parkland dedicated to the City in the previous filings of this subdivision. This trail network will eventually connect the subdivision to a future trail identified in the plan along Cove Ditch to the south and east.

D. Does the subdivision conform to the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and to local subdivision regulations? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (b) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.a.]

The proposed subdivision satisfies the requirements of the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and to the design standards specified in the local subdivision regulations. The subdivider and the local government have complied with the subdivision review and approval procedures set forth in the local and state subdivision regulations.

E. Does the proposed subdivision conform to all requirements of the zoning in effect? [BMCC 23-302.H.3.e.]

The subject property is located within R-50 zoning. The lot sizes conform to the requirements of this zone. Other building setbacks and structure specific requirements will be reviewed for compliance at the time of building permit review.

F. Does the proposed plat provide easements for the location and installation of any utilities? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (c) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.b.]

The subdivider has provided utility easements as requested by MDU and YVEC on the face of the plat.

G. Does the proposed plat provide legal and physical access to each parcel within the subdivision and notation of that access on the plat? [MCA 76-3-608 (3) (d) and BMCC 23-302.H.3.c.]

Legal and physical access is provided to the proposed lots from 70th Street West, Bronze Boulevard, Copper Bend Boulevard, Shiny Penny Way, Copper View Way and Copper Sunset Drive.

CONCLUSIONS OF FINDINGS OF FACT

- The preliminary plat of Copper Ridge Subdivision, 8th Filing does not create any adverse impacts that warrant denial of the subdivision.
- The proposed subdivision conforms to several of the goals and policies of the 2016 Growth Policy and does not conflict with the Transportation or Bikeway/Trail Plans.
- The proposed subdivision complies with state and local subdivision regulations, local zoning, and sanitary requirements and provides legal and physical access to each lot.
- Any potential negative or adverse impacts will be mitigated with the proposed conditions of approval.

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Board is forwarding a recommendation of conditional approval of the preliminary plat of Copper Ridge Subdivision, 8th Filing to the City Council, and adoption of the Findings of Fact as presented in the staff report.

Approved by the Billings City Council, October 22, 2018.

William A. Cole, Mayor