

Billings City Zoning Commission-

I am writing to ask for your consideration AGAINST the rezoning of the lots proposed by the Yellowstone Country Club (YCC) and surveyed by Performance Engineering from parks and open space to residential. The land in question is the last remaining open space under the lower rims in Billings city limits.

I attended the zoning meeting at the YCC on Wednesday January 21st and the majority of the sentiment from the YCC HOA was to leave the zoning as park and open space. The trails on this land connect the upper rims to the lower rims and is a corridor for wildlife and a loved trail by much of the neighborhood.

The #4 goal of the City Council is "To activate parks and public spaces, maximize useful life of parks, recreation, trail assets, and neighborhood plans. To increase trail network and recreation participation." Leaving this land zoned as Park and open space is congruent with this goal. It improves the city and the neighborhood.

West end growth is unstoppable. I understand this as I grew up on the west end, and now live in the YCC as a mom of three young boys. There is a 72 house subdivision being built just down the road on 54th and Rimrock. Many of these new neighborhoods put in the mandatory small "pocket park" and call it sufficient open space. This steady growth of houses and subdivisions is why it is so important to preserve what little natural space we have. Lets make Billings a more desirable place to live, lets give kids a place to run in nature, and lets as a community have the foresight to give future generations this gift.

Yes this is privately owned land, and perhaps the YCC can still sell this land, but for what it is currently zoned as. Maybe someday the city or the county will have the opportunity to permanently make this area a natural park.

I appreciate your consideration for a better future for Billings,

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