

Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board Work Plan 2026-2027

Goals & Objectives:

- I. Promote the preservation of historic buildings, sites or neighborhoods.
- II. Increase community awareness on the benefits of historic preservation activities.
- III. Promote increased awareness of preservation activities and the work of the YHPB through the four governing bodies represented on the Board.
- IV. Comply with the duties and responsibilities of historic preservation organizations under the State Certified Local Government Program and the requirements of the Inter-local Agreement.

2026-2027 Projects

Install multiple signs at historic areas in Yellowstone County

Time Frame: Complete nominations and signs in the 26-27 fiscal year
Who: YHPB
Status: YHPB will have funding available to choose sites and create interpretive signs for the areas chosen.

Multiple Properties Documentation (MPD) Cohagen Houses

Time Frame: Complete review by Summer 2026
Who: YHPB, HPO/TBD, City of Laurel
Status: This project is under contract and underway for the Cohagen houses in Billings

Assess Wayman Chapel damages to determine repairs needed

Time Frame: Summer/Fall, 2026
Who: YHPB, HPO
Status: This is a short-term project to help the Wayman Chapel.

Complete an update to the YHPB Downtown Walking Tour Application. With funds from SHPO, this is currently being updated through the Western Heritage Center.

Time Frame: Summer, 2026
Who: YHPB, HPO
Status: This is on an ongoing, as able, with funding project.

Install signage at Riverside Park in Laurel.

Time Frame: Summer, 2027
Who: YHPB, City of Laurel
Status: Identifying what signage should be installed.

YHPB will look to develop a local program similar to the State Historic Preservation Offices' Montana Hidden History. Two suggestions have been a tour of the Lincoln Center Tunnels and a Cohagen House Tour. This would be an opportunity for the YHPB to generate some income towards historic preservation activities, such as funds for local match of grants, program development, limited survey and national register work, etc.

Time Frame: Throughout 2026-27 and beyond – Lincoln Center Tunnels during May (Preservation Month)

Who: YHPB, HPO

Status: Early stages of discussion and development

Update and improve the YHPB web presence. The YHPB would like to have a better face on the internet and provide those seeking information about the many historic items in Yellowstone County and Billings, an easy to navigate formatted page.

Time Frame: Through fall of 2026

Who: YHPB, HPO

Status: An additional page has been added to link with projects where the YHPB has been involved.

Annual Board Activities

1. Continue the review of building permits submitted for properties located within the designated historic district.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Who: Committee and HPO

2. Continue the review of Community Development Block Grant rehabilitation projects as needed.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Who: YHPB

3. To continually update the local governing bodies of the activities undertaken by the YHPB, annual PowerPoint Presentations will be made to the City of Billings, the City of Laurel and Yellowstone County.

Time Frame: Yearly

Who: Chair/ HPO

Status: The scheduling of these meetings will take place yearly during spring.

4. To provide up to date information to the general public, continually update the web site and social media sites on activities and programs.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Who:

- 5. Provide resources to property owners who are interested in listing a property to the National Register. Including State Historic Preservation Office contacts, literature and technical assistance.**

Time Frame: Ongoing
Who: YHPB Board/HPO

- 6. Expand YHPB meetings to alternate locations. To take advantage of some of our many historic venues, the board wishes to expand meetings to alternate locations.**

Time Frame: Ongoing
Who:

- 7. Due to a loss of potential historic buildings within the City of Billings, an effort is being made to notify WHC and a member of the board about upcoming demolitions. The Building Division notifies HPO on the release of demolition permits, HPO notifies members of the demolition and a determination is made to either document/photograph building.**

Time Frame: Ongoing
Who: HPO/ Board

- 8. Continue exploration of grant opportunities to provide additional funds to the YHPB for historic preservation projects.**

Time Frame: Ongoing
Who: HPO

- 9. Consultant, Historic Preservation Officer and YHPB will attend training meetings as needed. Historic Preservation Officer will attend the required annual Montana State Historic Preservation Conference.**

Time Frame: Ongoing
Who: HPO

- 10. To provide a forum for Historic Preservationist to share their successes and discuss projects and to present historic preservation awards, continue to host the Historic Preservation Roundtable yearly.**

Time Frame: Yearly
Who: HPO/Board
Status: Preservation Month - March

- 11. Celebrate National Historic Preservation Month. Board will decide on a program, speakers and other events to commemorate this event.**

Time Frame: Yearly
Who: Committee
Status: This event will occur yearly during May.

- 12. YHPB will investigate and identify opportunities to display the YHPB banners.**

Time Frame: Yearly
Who: YHPB, HPO