

Our Big Sky

COMMUNITY VISION & STRATEGY

- 2022 UPDATE -



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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN IS THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.**

**THE PLAN CHALLENGES EACH OF US TO HOLD
DECISION-MAKERS ACCOUNTABLE BY STEPPING UP,
PLAN IN-HAND, AND MOVING FORWARD.**

Executive Summary

March 16, 2022

In late 2019, the Our Big Sky Community Vision & Strategy was released to the public. A proactive group of community leaders assembled and organized themselves as the Coordinating Council of Big Sky, responsible for the implementation of this community-led vision. Just as momentum was building, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and life as we knew it was suspended. Seemingly overnight, our already bustling community surged with unprecedented growth and transition. Cost of living and housing prices soared as urban dwellers fled to more remote outdoor destinations. Two years down the road and years of focused Big Sky Relief efforts, we return to this community-led plan.

There have been a few changes to adapt the pre-COVID plan to meet current community needs. What remains the same, is the steadfast truth, that the future of Big Sky is directly shaped by our ability to act now for future generations. The strategies and initiatives outlined require a high-level of coordination and collaboration across public and private sectors. This plan implementation is reliant on the community leaders responsible for coordinating community needs within outlined strategic focus areas. Without further ado, we proudly reveal Our Big Sky 2022 Update – a working vision for the future.

We welcome your feedback and rely on your participation,

The Coordinating Council of Big Sky



Our Big Sky Implementation Framework

The following serves as a framework for executing the Our Big Sky plan. Coordinators work diligently to insure strategies are executed with key partners. Key metrics are being developed for measurable progress, including **OUTCOMES** for strategies, **KEY RESULTS** for initiatives, and **GOALS** for projects. Community members who wish to learn more detail, are encouraged to contact coordinators associated with individual strategies.



Sample Strategy (Sky)

- **Name:** The safest and most secure mountain town.
- **Statement of Need:** Emergency call volume has skyrocketed 300% in the past 3 years and crime rates have increased x% resulting in a higher demand of emergency services.
- **Success Outcome(s):** Traffic collisions, education level, cost of living, unemployment, and crime rate.

Sample Initiative (Trees)

- **Name:** Increase backcountry skills and knowledge.
- **Key Result(s):** By 2025, offer year-round wilderness safety training classes and certifications for all recreationists and responders and have x% of residents certified.

Sample Project (Ground Level)

- **Name:** Avalanche Safety Education and Outreach
- **Description:** Avalanche risk in Big Sky is high. To reduce human-triggered avalanches this program will provide critical education to skiers and snowboarders. Five in-person classes will be offered to residents of Big Sky free of charge.
- **Deliverables:** Five in-person classes, certifications of class participants.
- **Goal(s):** x% of season pass holders to be certified, x% of snowmobile guides certified, etc....
- **Milestone(s):**
 - o First class to be held in January 2022
 - o Completion of the first round of classes in March 2022





Big Sky Is an Arts & Culture Hub



Big Sky's rapid growth is producing more artists and more patrons, increasing the demand for expanded arts and cultural opportunities.

Initiatives:

- Expand Educational Offerings
- Promote Big Sky as a Year-round Arts & Cultural Destination
- Diversity, Inclusion, Equity & Sustainability

406.995.2742 
brian@bigskyarts.org 

Coordinator: **Brian Hurlbut**



Positive Climate Where Businesses Can Prosper

Not unlike other mountain towns, Big Sky is challenged with recruiting and retaining a viable workforce. Lack of benefits, limited housing and the cost of living contribute to the shortage of available workers in Big Sky.

Initiatives:

- 🌱 Create Educational Opportunities for Businesses
- 🔥 Provide Tools for Recruitment & Retention
- 🌱 Advocate for Businesses & Non-Profits to Partner & Collaborate



Coordinator: Brad Niva



406.995.3000



brad@bigskychamber.com



Quality Visitor Experience That Is Balanced with Local Needs

Manage the increased impact of visitors on the Big Sky community and develop a year round visitor economy.

Initiatives:

- 🌱 Manage the Visitor Experience with Clear Information
- 🔥 By 2024, Produce a Destination Development Plan Encompassing Visitors & Local Needs
- 🌱 Inform & Educate Local Businesses to Support a Good Visitor Experience. (Data, Front-Line Training, DEI, etc.)

Robust Social Services Exist for a Thriving Workforce & Livable Community

Many in Big Sky struggle to make ends meet, even while fully employed; wages do not match cost of living for many working households. Access to social services and resources is limited for many in the workforce.

Initiatives:

- 📍 Increase Access to & Utilization of Federal, State, & Local Social Service Programs
- 🔥 Create New Access Points to Services for Both English & Spanish Speakers
- 🌱 Develop Coordinated Entry & Increase Collaboration Among All Service Organizations & Increase Advocacy

Coordinator: **Sarah Gaither Bivins**



406.995.3088



sarah@bigskyfoodbank.org



406.995.3696



laura@bigskyhousingtrust.com



Coordinator: **Laura Seyfang**



A Variety of Affordable Housing Options for All Local Workers

In recent years, local housing prices have skyrocketed, and increased short-term vacation rentals have dramatically reduced stock of local rentals. Nearly 80% of workers commute to Big Sky and because of this local businesses are suffering.

Initiatives:

- 📍 Increase the Supply of Rental Housing for Local Workers
- 🔥 Increase the Supply of Ownership Housing for Local Workers
- 🌱 Preserve Housing Stock for Local Workers

A Connected Community Through Trails, Parks, & Open Spaces

Trail connectivity and open spaces are restricted by growth and private land causing dependence on automobiles that lead to congestion and unsafe pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Initiatives:

- Additional 20 Miles of Trails & Paths in District by 2025
- Create ADA Compliant Trail & Open Space Along Gallatin River, Middle Fork, & Town Center to Community Park by 2025
- Increase Park & Open Spaces by 35 Acres by April 2024

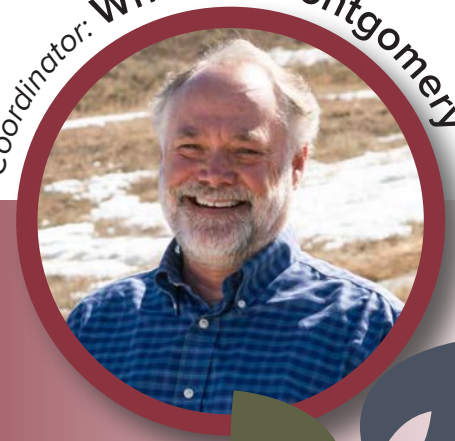
406.993.2112



whitney@bscomt.org



Coordinator: Whitney Montgomery



World Class, Year-Round Recreational Opportunities for Big Sky

Year-round recreational opportunities are limited by access, cost, and availability of athletic playing fields and indoor facilities.

Initiatives:

- Open BASE as an Accessible Recreational & Community Center
- Provide Accessible & Affordable Behavioral Health & Wellness Opportunities Through Recreation & Programs
- Expand Youth & Adult Athletic Playing Fields for the Residents of Big Sky That Meet Regulations to Host Tournaments & Visiting Teams



High-Quality Public Safety

The development and growth in the Big Sky community over the past 5 years have increased the demand for emergency services for Big Sky Fire Department, Gallatin County Sheriffs, and Search & Rescue

Initiatives:

- Enhance Radio Communications for All Emergency Responders in Big Sky & Surrounding Areas by July 2022
- Develop Emergency Evacuation & Safety Zones for the Big Sky Community to Access by June 2022
- Annually Ensure Sufficient Public Safety Staffing for Big Sky Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Search and Rescue, and Emergency Management.

406.995.2100

gmegaard@bigskyfire.org



Coordinator: Greg Megaard



Healthy Populations with Access to Local High-Quality Healthcare Services

Big Sky's resident and visitor populations continue to grow and healthcare service demand continues to increase. 2021 alone saw a 100% increase in demand across most healthcare services in Big Sky.

Initiatives:

- 🍃 Improve Behavioral Health in Big Sky
- 🍃 Reduce the Community Needs to Travel for Healthcare

Coordinator: **Taylor Rose**



801.898.2274



trose@bozemanhealth.org



A Quality Education for All Children

Ensure that quality education is prepared in facilities and programming for growth.

Initiatives:

- 🍃 Increase Affordable Options for Students
Aged 3 & 4 in the Community
- 🍃 Increase Affordable Housing Options for
Educators
- 🍃 Increased Opportunities for Students in
Summer & Non-School Days

406.995.4281
ex 503



dshipman@bssd72.org



Coordinator: **Dustin Shipman**



Big Sky & the Region Have World-Class Transportation Infrastructure & Services

Vehicle-miles-traveled and congestion are increasing which impacts the roadways and increases maintenance costs. Additionally, increased vehicle use impacts the environment.

Initiatives:

- Big Sky is a Car-Free Community
- Travel to Big Sky from within the Region Can Be Accomplished without a Car
- Appropriate Multi-modal Infrastructure that Helps to Reduce Transportation's Environmental Impact is Built & Maintained in the Community

Coordinator: **David Kack**



406.994.7526



dkack@montana.edu



A Community-Based Solution to Develop Sustainability & Climate Neutrality

Socio-ecological indicators have suggested that to preserve, protect, and enhance the qualities of this area that make Big Sky unique, significant steps must be taken to ensure human and ecological welfare.

Initiatives:

- 🌿 Improve Building Efficiencies
- 🌿 Increase “Green Energy” Supply
- 🌿 Reduce Transportation Emissions
- 🌿 Increase Sequestration of Carbon in Ecosystems
- 🌿 Develop Sustainability Education
- 🌿 Expand Civil Society by Building Networks & Coalitions



406.570.7938

marne.hayes@gmail.com



Improve & Maintain Water & Sewer Infrastructure

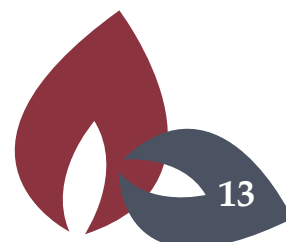
Initiatives:

- 🌿 Expand Sewer Treatment & Disposal Capacity
- 🌿 Expand Water Capacity
- 🌿 Water Conservation
- 🌿 Stand-Up Canyon & Water Sewer District



406.995.2660

ron@wsd363.com



Our Natural Resources Are Protected & Enhanced for Future Generations

Rapid population and visitor growth in the Big Sky area has damaged and will continue to threaten the health of our natural resources that are integral to our quality of life and visitor experience.

Initiatives:

- 🌿 Increase Awareness of Residents & Visitors of Local Natural Resources
- 🌿 Improve Water Quality of Local Streams & Aquifers
- 🌿 Enhances & Protect Critical Habitat for Wildlife & Water
- 🌿 Build Resilience of Water Resources to Future Growth & Drought
- 🌿 Improve Ecological Condition & Management of River Access Sites on the Gallatin
- 🌿 Continue collecting Critical Scientific data Required to Effectively Guide Natural Resource Management Actions

Coordinator: **Kristin Gardner**



406.539.2350



kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org





**OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU, THE BIG SKY
COMMUNITY, IS THAT THIS PLAN WILL NOT
SIT ON A SHELF FORGOTTEN.**



OUR BIG SKY

COMMUNITY VISION & STRATEGY



This updated plan was made possible with facilitation and administrative support from BSRAD and YCCF staff.

Ruthi Solari

707.206.8993 

ruthi.solari@yellowstoneclub.com 



Jenny Muscat

 406.995.3234

 jenny@resorttax.org

