

The Battlement Mesa Service Association

“Parks, Open Space and Trails Committee: Tails of More Trails”

By Keith Lammey, President, Battlement Mesa Service Association

Historically, the Battlement Mesa Service Association (BMSA) has played the primary role in maintaining the Battlement Mesa trail system. During the winter, we hire a contractor to remove snow from our trails so residents can walk safely through our neighborhoods. In the summer months, we mow the weeds and grass that grow up along the side of these trails and, periodically, the BMSA conducts crackseal and sealcoat maintenance on the asphalt trail surfaces.

In addition to maintaining the actual trails, the BMSA maintains the benches that are strategically located along some of the trails. We understand that our trails are important to our active citizens.

You may know that the BMSA's Trails Committee has an expanded role and is now called the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Committee. Although the committee's name has changed and their focus has broadened the committee certainly hasn't forgotten the trail system and its importance to our community.

Perhaps you've seen the evidence of this continued commitment to the trail system. Have you seen the construction crews working near the river bridge and along 300 road? Have you been delayed by the alternating single lane of traffic near the river bridge? If so, you've seen the beginning of the Library Trail.

The Library Trail, which has been in various planning stages for the past few years, is finally under construction. When it is completed, the Library Trail will connect to our trail that runs along West Battlement Parkway and the Golf Course and will provide a safe and convenient connection to the Parachute Branch of the Garfield County Library. From the existing Parkway/Golf Course trail, the Library Trail will cross the Parkway and continue west bound along the north boundary of the Lyons' property, then follow the old 300 Road and connect to the walkway on the south side of the river bridge.

The portion of the Library Trail that is currently under construction is being funded by Garfield County and is the lower section, known as phase 1. The upper section of the trail, phase 2, will be funded by the BMSA. Currently construction on phase 2 has been delayed due to some land right of way issues. Despite this delay, we believe that construction on phase 2 will be completed by fall.

In addition to the Library Trail, the BMSA's POST Committee is in the early planning stages of an “improved” but not initially paved trail that will run along the west side of Spencer Parkway between First Eagles Point and North Battlement Parkway. Although some planning has been done on this trail, more planning is needed before the BMSA board of directors can make a decision about if and when the proposed trail would be completed.

As I reported last month, the Library Trail is one of the BMSA's 2011 Goals, thus I am pleased to report that real progress has been made toward achieving this goal. It is important, however, to note that our other committees are also hard at work and that progress is being made on several other 2011 goals. Stay tuned!

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