



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2019

CONTACT: Lisa Horowitz
Community Development director
788-9815, ext. 13
lisa.horowitz@haileycityhall.org

Hailey Initiates Southern Area of City Impact Discussions

The City of Hailey has reopened discussions with Blaine County and the City of Bellevue regarding the South Hailey Area of City Impact (ACI), which includes unincorporated lands between the cities of Hailey and Bellevue. Hailey previously requested that the County initiate this process in December, 2017, citing shared values between jurisdictions and Hailey's goal of a permanent open space buffer defining the two cities.

"We have a fifteen-year history of discussions between Hailey, Bellevue and Blaine County regarding the land between our two cities. It is time for us to bring those conversations to fruition, and firmly develop an Area of City Impact to the south of Hailey." states Mayor Haemmerle. "Land use decisions in this area should include an open space buffer between the cities; they should protect the Wood River Trail as a valued community asset, and, they should respect the Airport Critical Zones as areas unsuited for all but limited development."

Hailey and Blaine County have been working cooperatively under an ACI Agreement, dated November 14, 1994 and amended June 14, 1999. These ACI Agreements have allowed for orderly development and ongoing cooperative joint planning between Hailey and Blaine County. However, these adopted agreements only address lands to the north, east and west sides of Hailey. Over the last five years, Hailey has undertaken planning efforts to the east, west and north of town with land use actions that are supported by the Comprehensive Plan. These actions include:

- To the east of Hailey, protection of 1,600 acres of permanent open space in exchange for approximately 200 homesites within Hailey City limits has been accomplished. The Quigley annexation met the goals of the Hailey Comprehensive Plan and permanent protection of open space for public benefit has been realized.
- To the west of Hailey, the City has adopted a Hailey Greenway Master Plan to strategically plan the river corridor. A key goal of that Plan includes a new snow storage site 1-mile east of the current Lions Park site, allowing the City to retire the current snow storage site and pursue more compatible land uses adjacent to the river in the Lions Park area. To compliment these actions, the Wood River Land Trust is in the process of securing 118 acres between Lions Park and the new Mountain Humane Complex for public open space, solidifying most ACI land use decisions west of Hailey.



- To the north, a recent annexation proposal has brought to the City’s attention the need for a water pressure study for this part of the Hailey ACI. This study is scheduled to be complete this fall.

The City is now ready to focus planning efforts to the south, the only remaining area not currently in the adopted Hailey/Blaine County ACI. Much of the land to the south of Hailey is under the Friedman Memorial Airport flight path, or is considered within the various airport protection zones. The Draft Land Use Map prepared by the City reflects these key airport constraints.

Hailey has sent a letter to the Board of Commissioners dated September 19, 2019, formally re-opening ACI discussions between jurisdictions. This letter included a Draft South Area of City Impact Map, illustrating possible land uses suitable for Hailey. “This map is a first draft, and reflects Hailey’s values.” States Mayor Haemmerle. “We are open to input from Blaine County and Bellevue regarding the development of the Land Use Map. Staff from Hailey, Bellevue and the County are anticipated to meet in the coming weeks. Hailey has scheduled a public hearing before the Hailey Planning and Zoning Commission on October 22, 2019 to discuss the Area of City Impact Draft ordinance and map.

#