



2008 Award of Excellence
AIA Montana Design Awards Program
Honor Award



Photography by Derek Olson

Architects of Record:

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Meyers Park Valley West Neighborhood

Meyers Park lies in the Valley West Neighborhood on the west side of Bozeman. Dedicated as a public land, this linear park is naturally defined by a small waterway at its center, a 5 acre pond and associated wetlands. Providing pedestrian access to open space, Meyers Park acts as a datum to neighborhood activity as well as passive and active recreation.

To provide greater access, safety, and further enhancement of this central park a comprehensive package of park amenities were designed. A corresponding series of amenities including twin pedestrian bridges, an entrance pavilion and a lake pavilion, along with a collection of benches, bollards, and bike racks were designed and constructed to accentuate an extensive trail system.

Bridges: Two covered bridges act as sheltered gathering spaces and iconic landmarks within the park landscape and neighborhood, while celebrating water crossing points. The material palette of wood and rusted steel references historical agricultural structures and blends with the native plants along the wetland corridor. Integrated benches offer a unique over water perspective and resting point. Inspired by traditional covered bridges, the design is an actual truss system that you pass through, as each member is imperative to the bridges structural system.

Entry Pavilion: As a variation of these two bridges, an entrance pavilion/bridge defines the origin of the Meyers park watercourse along West Babcock Street. Acting as a marquee for the neighborhood, this pavilion opens its roof to the main Valley West approach, while providing seating and shelter for bus passengers and passersby.

Meyers Lake Pavilion: As a landmark on the northern end of the site and on access with streets and trails, four structures form a central community pavilion. The layout of the buildings allows for shade, shelter and flexible use by small or large groups while maintaining open vistas with the adjacent neighborhood, pond and trails. The architecture and materials are designed to compliment the covered bridges and continue the unique character of the park.

Benches, Bike Racks and Bollards: Throughout the parks extensive trail system, custom light bollards, park benches, and bike racks mark point of interest to accentuate the park landscape. Acting as 'fireflies' in the night, these subtly L.E.D. illuminated forms and structures activate an otherwise dark park common with typical neighborhood open space.