

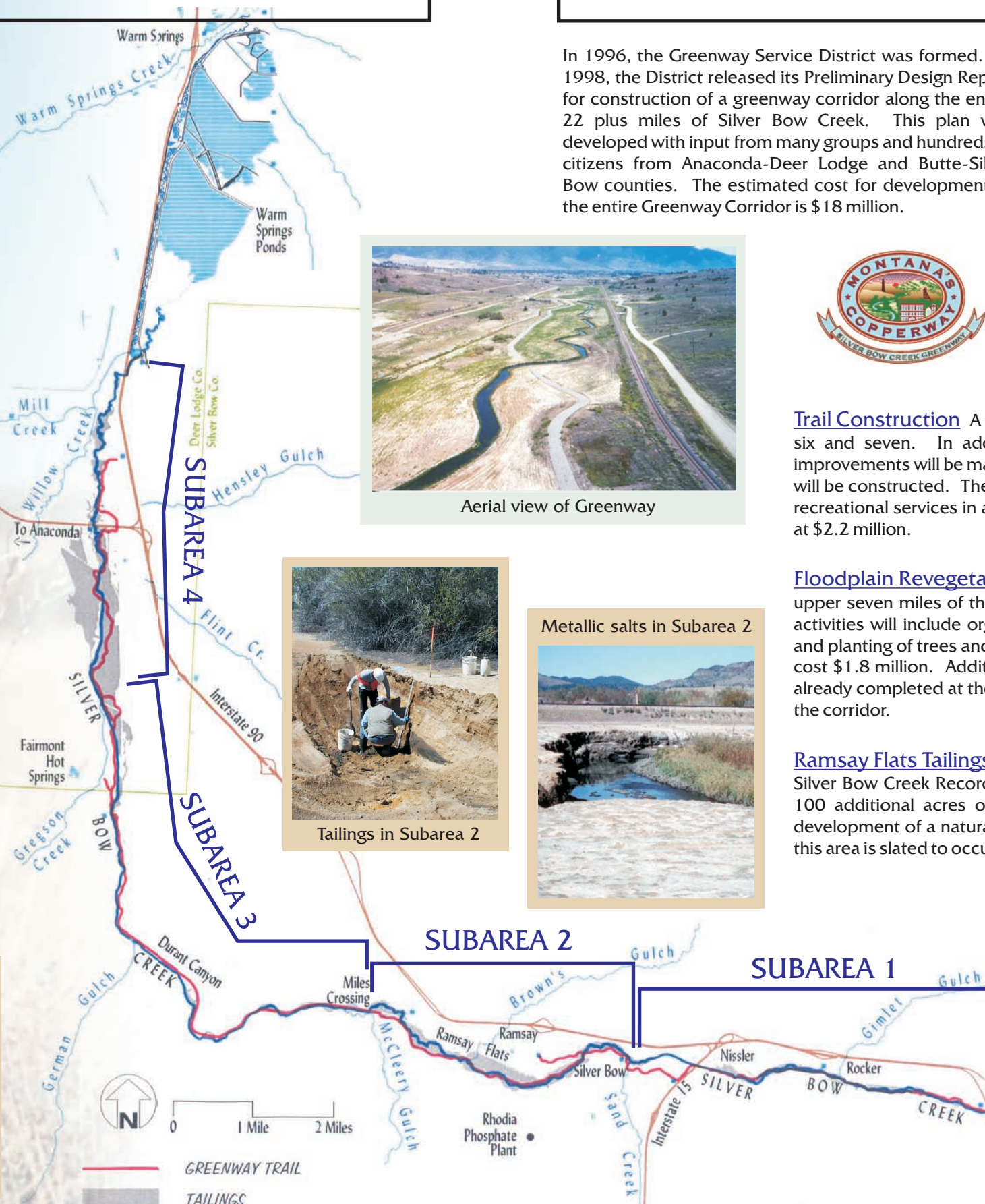
Project Status Today

The Silver Bow Creek cleanup is proceeding as planned:

- ▶ Of the 22.6 miles of Silver Bow Creek within the operable unit, the first three miles are reconstructed, the next two miles are currently under construction, and five additional miles are in the design process.
- ▶ Of the 1,400 acres of contaminated tailings and soils alongside the stream, approximately 110 acres of tailings impacted area have been remediated and enhanced.
- ▶ So far, over 650,000 cubic yards of tailings have been removed from the floodplain, which amounts to over 16 percent of the tailings volume present in the entire site.
- ▶ The time frame for removing the estimated 4,000,000 cubic yards of tailings is 12 years, inclusive of what has been completed thus far. DEQ started work along the stream in 1999 and expects contractors to complete the cleanup by 2010.
- ▶ Approximately 95 percent of the \$15 million spent so far in completing Superfund remediation has been paid to Montana contractors; the remaining funds have been for DEQ and EPA project oversight and out-of-state material suppliers.
- ▶ To date, about \$500,000 has been spent for natural resource damage restoration actions along the stream; another \$7.5 million will be spent over the next two to three years. All restoration and remedial expenditures are accounted for as separate funds.



Tailings deposits in Subarea 4



Aerial view of Greenway



Tailings in Subarea 2

Metallic salts in Subarea 2



The Silver Bow Creek Greenway

In 1996, the Greenway Service District was formed. In 1998, the District released its Preliminary Design Report for construction of a greenway corridor along the entire 22 plus miles of Silver Bow Creek. This plan was developed with input from many groups and hundreds of citizens from Anaconda-Deer Lodge and Butte-Silver Bow counties. The estimated cost for development of the entire Greenway Corridor is \$18 million.



Since 2000, the governor of Montana approved three Greenway Service District grant applications, totaling nearly \$8 million. The major goals of the Greenway Service District are to:

- ▶ Restore aquatic, riparian/wetland, and upland ecosystems within the Silver Bow Creek corridor;
- ▶ Implement remediation activities under Superfund and restoration activities under NRD grants as one project; and,
- ▶ Acquire and provide public access to a passive recreational corridor along Silver Bow Creek.

The major Greenway restoration activities for 2000, 2001, and 2002 grants fall in the following categories:

Trail Construction A trail will be paved along the first five miles and graveled along miles six and seven. In addition to construction of the trail, rest areas will be installed, improvements will be made to railroad bridges to provide trail access, and stream crossings will be constructed. The cost for these community access features, which will replace lost recreational services in a way that will protect natural resources and cleanup, is estimated at \$2.2 million.

Floodplain Revegetation Enhancements Several features will be installed along the upper seven miles of the stream to enhance the ecological character of the area. These activities will include organic matter placement on the floodplain, wetland construction, and planting of trees and shrubs throughout the floodplain. These efforts are estimated to cost \$1.8 million. Additional floodplain revegetation efforts will enhance remedial efforts already completed at the site and will help to restore severely injured wildlife habitat along the corridor.

Ramsay Flats Tailings Removal Beyond the remedy identified under Superfund in the Silver Bow Creek Record of Decision, it is proposed to remove tailings on approximately 100 additional acres of Ramsay Flats. Removal of all tailings in this area will allow development of a naturally functioning stream and floodplain system. Tailings removal in this area is slated to occur in 2003 and 2004 and will cost approximately \$2.7 million.

Aquatic Habitat Enhancements Aquatic habitat will be enhanced by constructing a stream that exhibits a higher channel sinuosity, installing a series of pools, varying stream widths, and placing logs at key locations in the stream. These features will not only augment remedial actions but will also enhance the recovery of aquatic resources to a near pre-disturbance condition. Expenses for these aquatic enhancements are estimated to be \$650,000.