



## JACKSON HOLE LAND TRUST NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Jackson Hole Land Trust to Complete Rendezvous Park for Community**

*Support from the LOR Foundation will fund completion of the 40-acre community park by July 2019.*

Jackson, WY – The Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$1.7 million grant from the LOR Foundation to realize the vision established for Rendezvous Park (R Park) by and for the community. The LOR Foundation and JHLT partnered in 2011 to purchase the 41-acre property which is located to the north and west of the Highway 22 Bridge over the Snake River and includes the Wilson boat launch, a popular community access point for boating, angling, swimming, and pedestrian paths along the levee.

Over the past five years, R Park has been reclaimed from a private commercial gravel pit into a public-access natural park visited by over 5,000 people a year. The new grant from the LOR Foundation will allow JHLT to complete the park's transformation, providing visitors with a better park experience including a welcome pavilion, connected pathways and bridges, permanent restroom facilities, trail signage, a picnic shelter, bike racks, benches and additional landscaping and reclamation. JHLT and the LOR Foundation have been collaborating closely since the conception of R Park to uphold the community's vision of developing the property into a natural park for the public. Both organizations are excited to finalize and execute a construction plan that reflects the community's feedback and passion for open space.

“As a foundation that is founded on the idea that small, rural communities ought to have the resources, tools, and support they need to create thriving, beautiful places to live, we are proud to help usher the transformation of R Park into an invaluable community asset,” said LaMonte Guillory, Chief Communications Officer at the LOR Foundation. “We are confident in having JHLT manage the completion of the construction for R Park as we believe in their commitment to the park's success for the benefit of the community.”

The park will be completed in three phases over the next 24 months and will remain open as construction is occurring, but portions of the property may be closed or inaccessible during certain phases. The community is welcome and encouraged to regularly visit R Park during construction, and JHLT will focus on gathering feedback from users regarding future park

programming and activities for visitors of all ages.

When asked what she liked about R Park, an 8 year old frequent park visitor said, “I think it’s really adventurous, to look around and see the mountains and trees and stuff, I think it’s a fun place.”

The Land Trust currently holds a conservation easement on the property, which guarantees public access to open spaces, riverfront trails and other recreational amenities in a natural setting, and preserves the possibility for boat launch and pathway improvements, including the Snake River pathway bridge landing that was completed in 2014. JHLT is committed to upholding the values of the current conservation easement and will continue to monitor the health of wildlife and the habitat R Park provides to them.

Pete Lawton, Chairman of the Board of the Jackson Hole Land Trust said, “We are honored to accept this grant from the LOR Foundation and excited to take on the task of creating a community space that is designed to connect people to land and nature. Conservation is our primary focus, and we are thankful to the LOR Foundation for understanding that protecting public access lands is integral to livability and that open spaces contribute significantly to our quality of life.”

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### **About the Jackson Hole Land Trust**

The Jackson Hole Land Trust is a private, non-profit organization that was established in 1980 to preserve open space and the critical wildlife habitat, magnificent scenic vistas, and historic ranching heritage of Western Wyoming. By working cooperatively with the owners of the area’s privately owned open lands, the Jackson Hole Land Trust has ensured the permanent protection of over 55,000 acres in and around Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone Area including Fremont and Sublette counties.

### **About the LOR Foundation**

The LOR Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing livability and quality of life in the Intermountain West. We partner with rural communities in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming to be a regional resource and co-creator of solutions to problems identified by communities.