

LHC dedicates new Alpenglow Trail

By **Samantha Hill**
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Livingston HealthCare celebrated the opening of the new Alpenglow Trail with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on a windy morning Friday.

The trail starts at the hospital and extends one-half mile southeast from the facility.

The hospital anticipated the opening of the trail for the past three years, before even breaking ground on the new hospital, LHC Development and Volunteer Coordinator Ashley Peterson said.

The footpath was a collaboration between the city and LHC. In the pro-

cess of developing the Alpenglow Trail, the two institutions created the Trails RX program to encourage more healthy lifestyles through use of city trails.

Peterson said the hospital was originally hoping to develop a trail across from U.S. Highway 89 on Montana Department of Transportation land but ultimately decided it would be unsafe. The hospital was able to get an easement from the neighboring property and received \$30,000 worth of grants from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to make the Alpenglow Trail a reality.

The ceremony was held near Lori's Bridge, a trail structure dedicated to Lori Smith, a hospital employee who

died in 2014. Her husband, Clark Smith, donated his in-kind services to build the bridge.

Livingston City Commissioner Dorel Hoglund, who serves on the city's Parks and Trails Committee, and LHC CEO Bren Lowe talked about the importance of trails.

"This is a very good health and wellness opportunity to visitors and residents alike," Lowe said at the ceremony.

LHC Board Chairwoman Michelle Becker, Livingston Public Works Director Shannon Holmes, Hoglund, Smith and Lowe cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the trail.

Lowe said LHC plans to create a hospice healing garden near the trail.