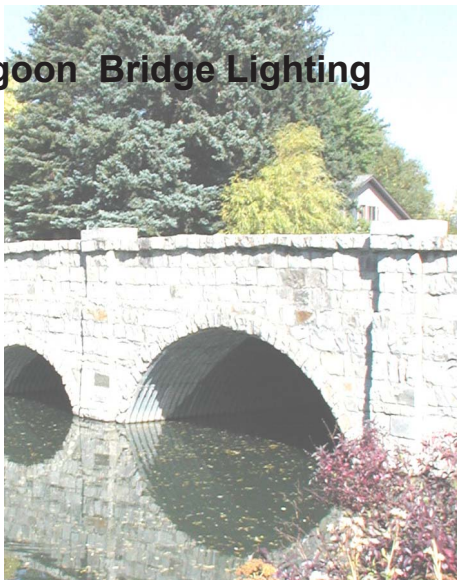


## Lagoon Bridge Lighting



The stone bridge carrying Yellowstone Street over the lagoon and into Sacajewa Park, built by the WPA circa 1938, originally sported light fixtures on each of sixteen stone pedestals. The fixtures were removed sometime in the 1950's, their fate unknown. You can however still see the anchor bolts, and the electrical conduits remain buried in the stonework.

**catalyst** intends to replace the lost fixtures as a public art project. Initial parameters:

- + Work within broad historical context.
- + Encourage individual artistic expression for each pair of fixtures.
- + Offer design and construction of some of the fixtures to Park High students.

The project will be completed with support and approval of the City of Livingston and the School District.

**catalyst** is currently seeking funding for this project. Please contact us at [raffety@mcn.net](mailto:raffety@mcn.net) or call 406-222-8718.

Livingston is a diverse and unique community, and we've described a future for ourselves that will require maintaining and expanding our special attributes.

*Reference Livingston Urban Design Plan  
Sections 3 & 4*

*Reference Livingston Patterns Downtown  
[www.raffety.net/patterns](http://www.raffety.net/patterns)*

We as a community are lacking effective tools to make this happen. **catalyst** is focused toward changing that situation.

**catalyst** is a private effort intending to accomplish two things:

- + Stimulate diverse expression within public space, particular to this community.
- + Provide young people an opportunity to participate.

How **catalyst** will function:

- + Identify potential permanent improvements within public space.
- + Attract private donors to support individual projects.
- + Leverage other resources whenever possible.
- + Integrate artists and technical expertise to design, construct and install projects.
- + Offer certain projects as special subjects to selected Park High student teams.
- + Work within the support and approval of the City of Livingston, the School District and private donors.

All donations will have 501c3 status through the Livingston Center for Art and Culture.

For more information visit [www.raffety.net/catalyst](http://www.raffety.net/catalyst) or contact:

Larry or Ellie Raffety [raffety@mcn.net](mailto:raffety@mcn.net)

Robin Ebinger [info@livingstoncenter.org](mailto:info@livingstoncenter.org)

Lois Huntzicker [lhuntzicker@livingston.k12.mt.us](mailto:lhuntzicker@livingston.k12.mt.us)

Jamie Isaly [jisaly@livingston.k12.mt.us](mailto:jisaly@livingston.k12.mt.us)

Kevin Fochs [kfochs@livingston.k12.mt.us](mailto:kfochs@livingston.k12.mt.us)

December 13, 2004

Re: Donor Information

Thank you for expressing an interest in supporting Catalyst's Lagoon Bridge Lighting Project.

Particulars of funding required:

- a. The first work requiring completion is mapping, cleaning and rewiring the existing electrical conduit system to suit current building code. The City of Livingston has agreed to provide new power service to the bridge at their cost.

Item Budget: \$3,000. Covers an estimate of \$2,880 plus a minor contingency. The work will make all sixteen of the bridge pedestals ready to receive new fixtures. This amount also includes installation of completed fixtures.

- b. A pair of fixtures completed by Park High student teams requires the following budget. We anticipate completing one pair of fixtures per semester, depending upon faculty advice as to current student capability/interest. As this is a student project, please be aware there is a possibility we may incur expenses yet fail to complete a pair of fixtures.

Item Budget: \$1,000. Covers materials and luminaires for one pair of fixtures.

- c. A pair of fixtures privately commissioned requires the following budget, aimed toward attracting local artists and spending our resources as effectively as possible.

Item Budget: \$5,000. Covers the entire commission including luminaires.

We will accept donations in any amount, and combine funds as necessary for specific item budgets. Please note any particular funding distribution request you may have:

If costs are below budget, do you want the left over funds to be:

☐ Applied to further work on this project.

☐ Reimbursed to you.

☐ Applied to another Catalyst project. Anything specific? \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation is deductible to the full extent of the law. Please check with your tax accountant. Checks should be written to the Livingston Center for Art and Culture, clearly identified for "Catalyst Lagoon Bridge Lighting" and mailed to 115 East Callender, Livingston, MT 59047. You will receive a receipt from LCAC, and an accounting of expenditures will also be available from LCAC.

Each light fixture will have donor information engraved on a small brass plate. Rewiring of the bridge will be acknowledged in a similar manner. Please specify how you wish your name to appear, or if you wish to remain anonymous:

November 3, 2004

Re: Lagoon Bridge Lighting

## SITUATION

The stone bridge carrying Yellowstone Street over the lagoon and into Sacajewa Park, built by the WPA circa 1938, originally sported light fixtures on each of sixteen stone pedestals. The fixtures were removed sometime in the 1950's, their fate unknown. You can however still see the anchor bolts, and the electrical conduits remain buried in the stonework.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Primary: To replace the lost fixtures as a public art project. Initial intentions:

- + Work within broad historical context (reference *Livingston Patterns Downtown* #2, 5, 16, 17) .
- + Encourage individual artistic expression for each pair of fixtures (reference *Livingston Patterns Downtown* #4, 14, 15) .

Secondary: To offer design and construction of some of the fixtures to Park High students.

## MANAGEMENT

Primary decision makers for this endeavor will be:

- a. Larry & Ellie Raffety.
- b. 501c3 - Livingston Center for Art & Culture.
- c. Individuals providing funding for projects in progress.
- d. PHS Art - Lois Huntzicker.
- e. PHS Industrial Technology - Jamie Isaly.
- f. PHS Agricultural Education - Kevin Fochs.

The project will be completed with support and approval of the City of Livingston and the School District.

## FUNDING

catalyst is currently seeking funding for this project. Please contact us at [raffety@mcn.net](mailto:raffety@mcn.net) or call 406-222-8718.

cst041103lbl-back



December 30, 2004

Re: Lagoon Bridge Lighting

PHS INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To offer to selected Park High Student teams the opportunity to design and construct light fixtures for the Lagoon Bridge on Yellowstone Street.

- + Each student will be able to improve/exhibit individual skills.
- + Each student must work in collaboration with partners.
- + Completed projects will become permanent fixtures within the community.

WHO'S IN CHARGE

Primary Park High decision makers for this endeavor will be:

- a. Faculty members directly involved (currently Lois Huntzicker, Jamie Isaly & Kevin Fochs).
- b. Park High administration.

Other decision makers for Catalyst will be:

- a. Larry & Ellie Raffety.
- b. 501c3 - Livingston Center for Art & Culture.
- c. Individuals providing funding.

Others who will have influence over this project:

- a. City of Livingston.
- b. School District.
- c. Installation subcontractors.

FUNDING

Catalyst will provide complete funding including:

- + Materials allowance.
- + Luminaires.
- + Installation of completed fixtures.

TIME LINE

By end of week 1:

- ☐ Introductory presentation by Catalyst to interested students.

By end of week 4:

- ☐ Design presentation prepared, including student team's illustration of proposed fixture and preliminary specifications.
- ☐ Public display.

By end of week 5:

- ☐ Review of design presentation by Catalyst and PHS teachers.
- ☐ End public comment period.

By end of week 6:

- ☐ Completion of any adjustments requested by Catalyst and PHS teachers.

December 30, 2004

Lagoon Bridge Lighting

PHS INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

Page two

#### TIMELINE (cont.)

By end of week 9:

- ☐ Completion of all documents required for construction.

By end of week 12:

- ☐ Meeting to review progress.

By end of week 15:

- ☐ Meeting to review progress.

By end of week 17:

- ☐ Fixtures completed and ready for installation.

#### STUDENT PARAMETERS

Initial thoughts regarding students selected:

- a. Focus on seniors.
- b. Perhaps juniors as assistants.
- c. By invitation only.
- d. Teams of 3-6 students, depending on interest.
- e. If initial effort proves successful, and generates more interest, may have to use application process subsequent years, with students applying as teams.

#### REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Catalyst Background Summary (cst041103back)

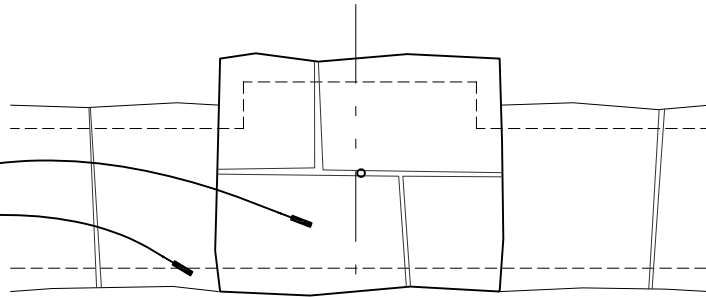
Lagoon Bridge Background Summary (cst041103lbl-back)

Lagoon Bridge Design Parameters (cst041230lbl-doc)

cst041230lbl-phs

DRESSED SANDSTONE CAP

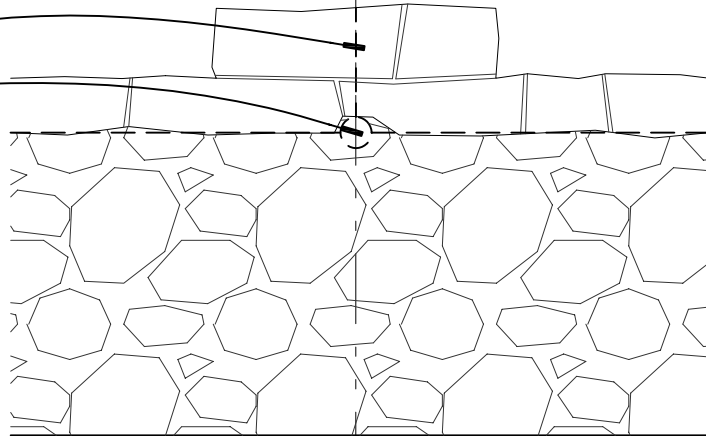
LINE OF WALL BELOW



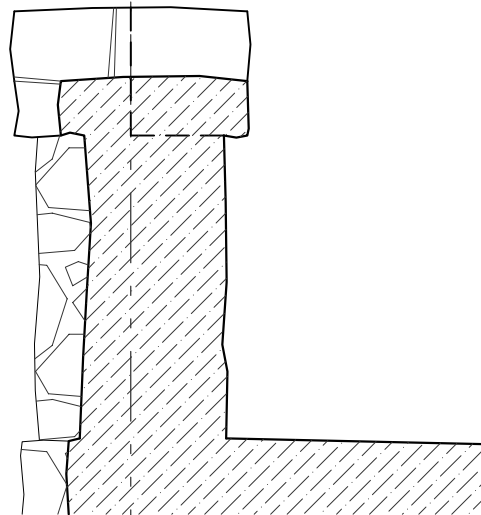
PLAN @ TOP

EXIST ELECT CONDUIT

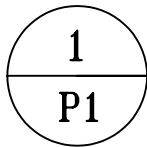
EXIST ELECT BOX



INSIDE ELEVATION



SECTION

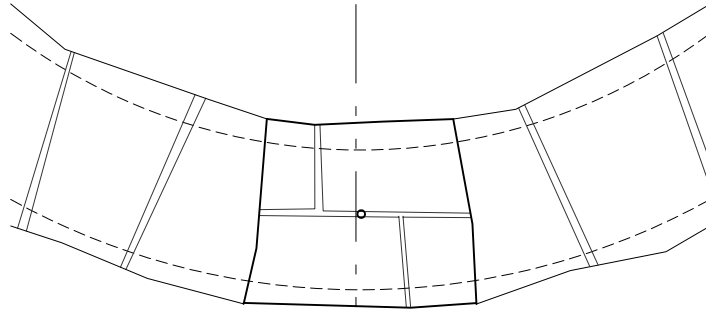


EXIST. STRAIGHT PEDESTAL

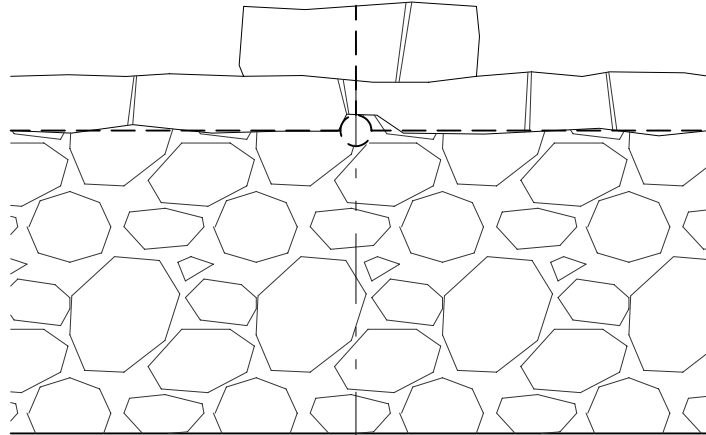
1/2" = 1'-0"

Lagoon Bridge Lighting

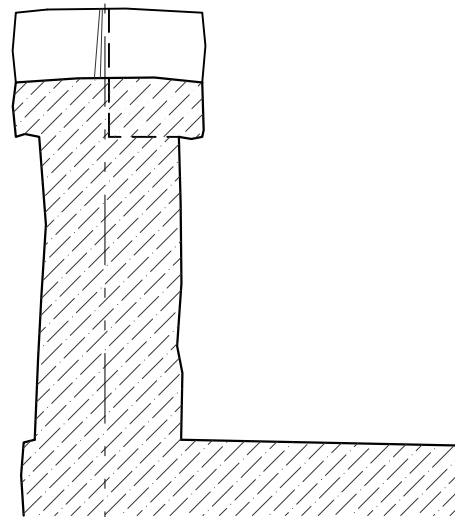
BASIC DESIGN PARAMETERS 12/30/04



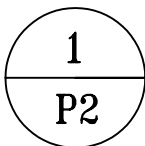
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INSIDE ELEVATION



SECTION



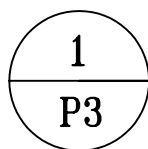
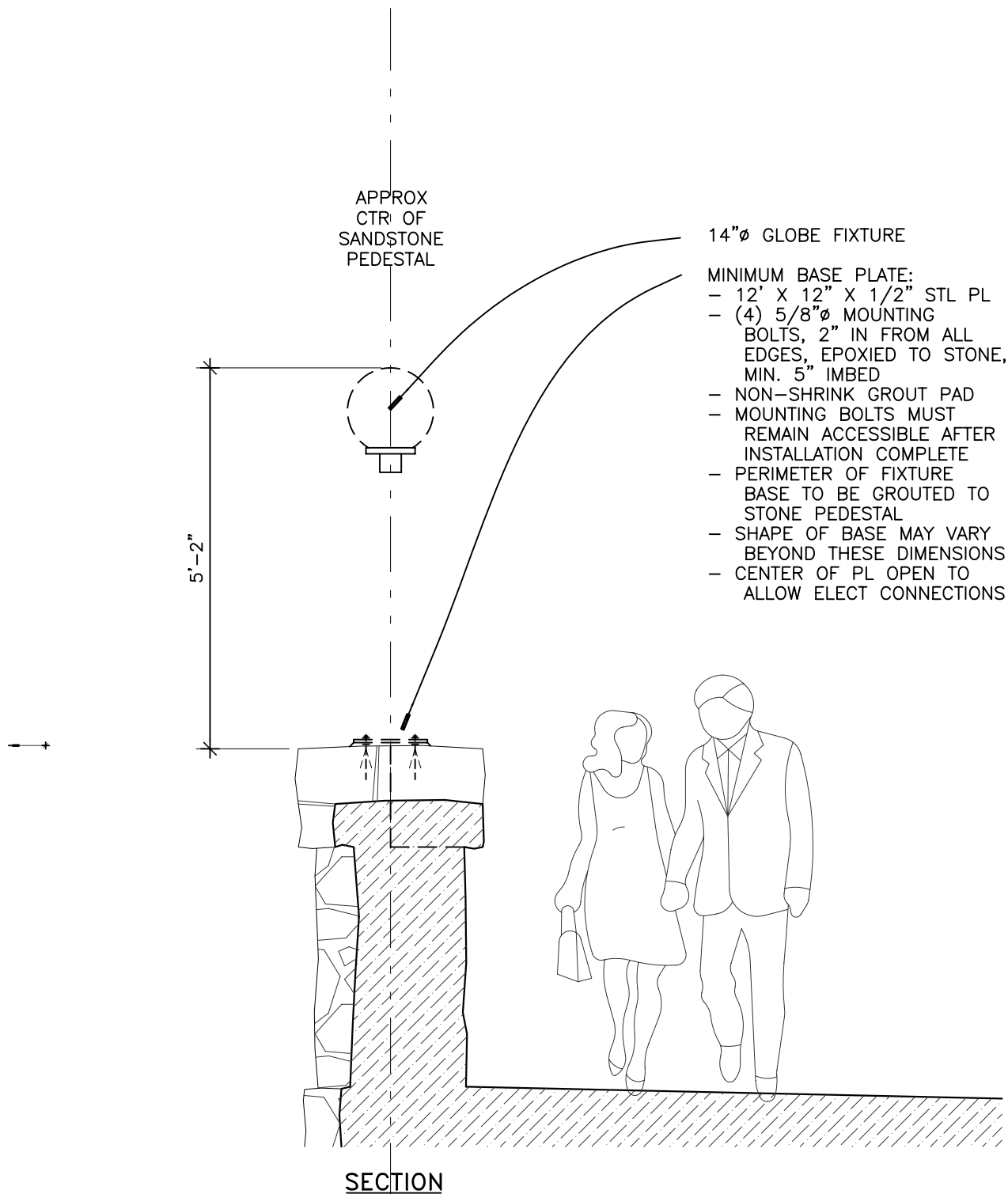
# EXIST. CURVED PEDESTAL

1/2" = 1'-0"

Lagoon Bridge Lighting

BASIC DESIGN PARAMETERS 12/30/04





## BASIC DESIGN PARAMETERS

1/2" = 1'-0"

**Lagoon Bridge Lighting**

BASIC DESIGN PARAMETERS 12/30/04

## GENERAL CONDITIONS & SPECIFICATIONS

### CODE COMPLIANCE

ALL WORK TO SATISFY CURRENT MONTANA BUILDING CODES. INSTALLING ELECTRICIAN TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL WIRING.

### SCOPE OF WORK

SCOPE OF WORK CONSISTS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF LIGHT FIXTURES SATISFYING THESE SPECIFICATIONS. ALL FACETS OF THE PROJECT FROM DESIGN THROUGH INSTALLATION MUST BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY CATALYST.

### PATTERNS

DESIGN OF THE FIXTURES SHALL USE CRITERIA ILLUSTRATED IN "LIVINGSTON PATTERNS DOWNTOWN".

### MATERIALS

THESE FIXTURES ARE MEANT TO LAST GENERATIONS. BASIC MATERIAL SHALL BE METAL. ALL MATERIALS SHALL BE OF A PERMANENT, LONG LASTING NATURE. NO MATERIAL MAY BY WEATHERING STAIN THE STONWORK OF THE BRIDGE. NO MATERIAL MAY DEMAND CONTINUAL MAINTENANCE, OTHER THAN A MINIMUM TO BE EXPECTED FOR PERMANENT PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE. VANDALISM MUST BE ANTICIPATED, AND THE FIXTURES DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND THE SAME WITH NO PERMANENT DAMAGE.

### COLORS

PREDOMINANT COLOR OF FIXTURES SHALL BE A DARK TONE. THIS REQUIREMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO RESTRICT THE USE OF ANY COLOR, ONLY TO ENSURE THE FIXTURES APPEAR DARK IN CONTRAST TO THE STONWORK, AND RELATIVELY UNIFORM AS A GROUP.

### SYMMETRY

THE FIXTURES WILL BE INSTALLED IN MATCHED PAIRS, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE BRIDGE. GENERAL SYMMETRY SHALL BE MAINTAINED, CENTERED ON THE CENTER LINE OF THE STREET AS IT CROSSES THE BRIDGE.

### LUMINAIRE

LUMINAIRE SHALL BE:

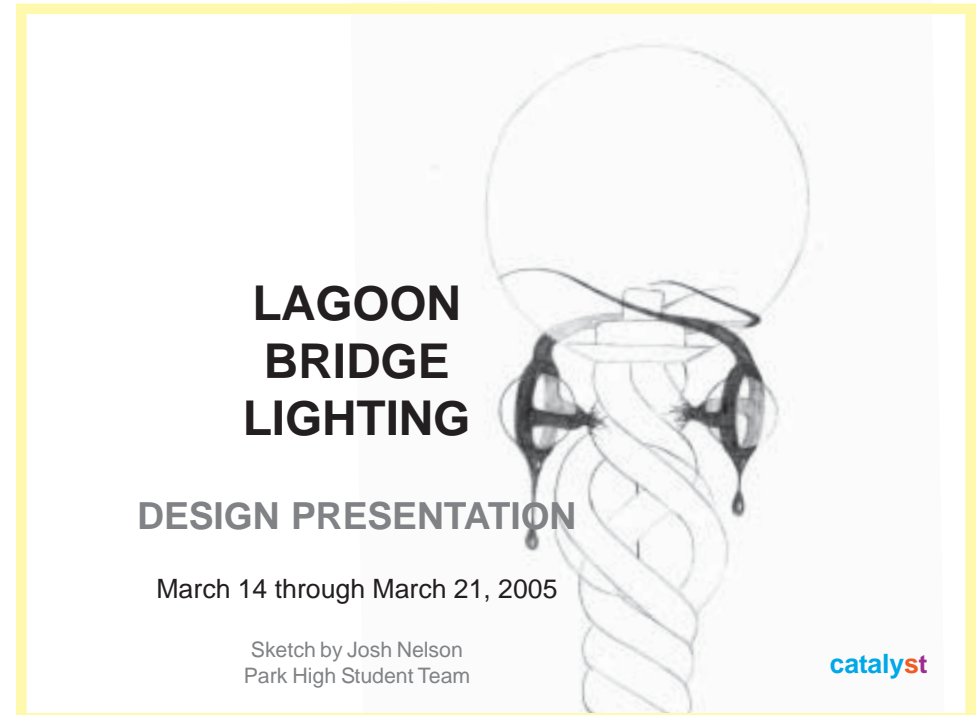
- "LURALINE PRODUCTS COMPANY", 2388 N.W. 150TH STREET, OPA LOCKA, FL 33054  
800-940-6588 FAX305-685-6500 [www.luraline.com](http://www.luraline.com). LOCAL REP. LUMEN FX  
800-735-6795.
  - SP14 WPC BL.
  - 14"Ø POLYCARBONATE GLOBE W/ BLACK FITTER, INCANDESCENT.
  - LAMP GE#105A23/12.
  - ALL FIXTURES ON CIRCUIT WITH LOCKED DIMMER CONTROL.
- DESIGN OF FIXTURES MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONS TO THIS LUMINAIRE THAT DO NOT IMPAIR ITS FUNCTION OR REGULATORY ACCEPTABILITY.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

DESIGN OF THE FIXTURES SHALL INCLUDE WITHIN THE BASE A SOLID BACKED MOUNTING POSITION FOR AN IDENTIFICATION PLATE AS FOLLOWS:

- FACING THE SIDEWALK.
- 3" WIDE X 2" HIGH BRASS ENGRAVED PLATE.
- MOUNTED WITH BRASS SCREWS AT EACH CORNER.
- PLATE WILL INCLUDE "CATALYST", NAME OF FINANCIAL DONOR(S) AND IDENTIFICATION OF ARTIST OR STUDENT TEAM.

# Newsletter: Lagoon Bridge Lighting Student Work - March 24, 2005



The following pages illustrate student work for the lagoon bridge lighting project. After spring break, the student team will undertake construction of the first two light fixtures for the bridge.

We have funding for rewiring the bridge and a commitment from the City of Livingston to provide new power services. That work should hopefully commence this spring or summer.

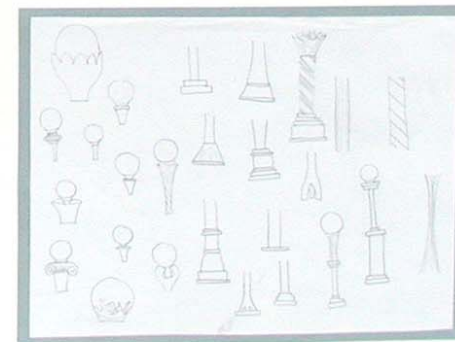
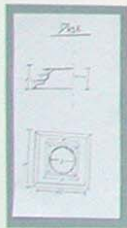
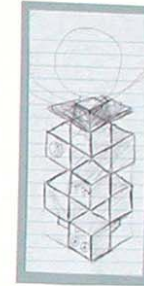
Funding for future light fixtures is still needed. Please check out the web site [www.raftety.net/catalyst](http://www.raftety.net/catalyst) for further information, or email us at [raftety@mcn.net](mailto:raftety@mcn.net).

**Thank you** all who have contributed funds and countless hours to this effort.

# LAGOON BRIDGE LIGHTING

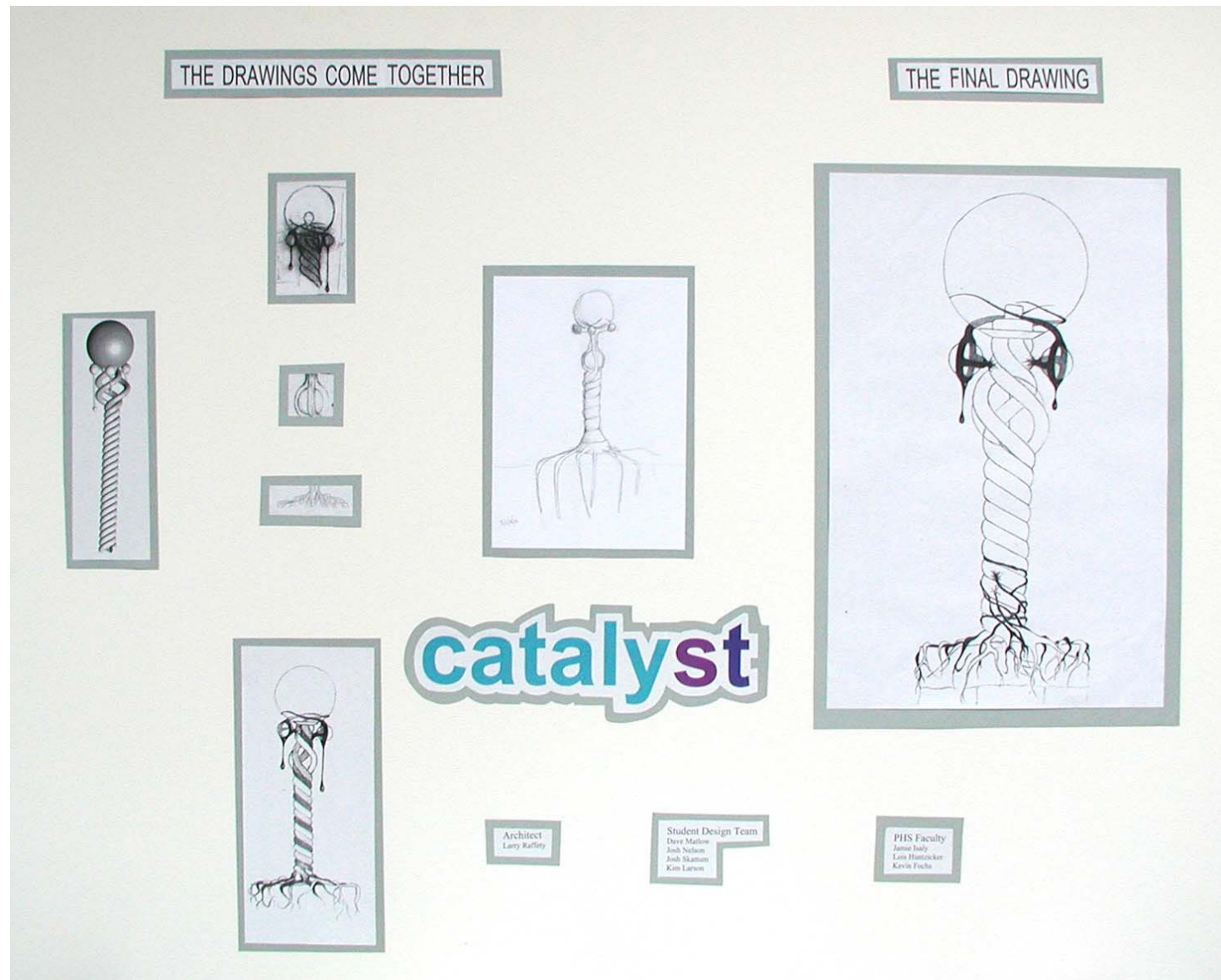
Technical drawing of a mechanical assembly, likely a valve or pump component. The drawing includes several views and dimensions:

- Top View (Left):** Shows a circular component with a central hole and a flange. Dimensions include  $\phi 100$  for the outer diameter,  $\phi 40$  for the inner hole, and  $10$  for the flange thickness. A dimension of  $100$  is also indicated for the overall width.
- Side View (Top):** Shows the component from the side, with a dimension of  $100$  for the overall height.
- Front View (Bottom):** Shows the component from the front, with a dimension of  $100$  for the overall width.
- Detail View (Right):** A detailed view of a small component, possibly a valve or pump, with a dimension of  $100$  for the overall height.
- Other Views:** Several other views are shown, including a cross-section and a perspective view, illustrating the internal structure and assembly details.



2

# Newsletter: Lagoon Bridge Lighting Student Work - March 24, 2005



display board no. two

## Newsletter: Lagoon Bridge Lighting Student Work - March 24, 2005



first model



final model



## Newsletter: Lagoon Bridge Lighting Student Work - March 24, 2005



model construction

# City approves light project for bridge, annexes Glenn addition

By Paula Clawson  
Enterprise Staff Writer

A project to put lights on the Sacajawea Lagoon bridge got the go-ahead Monday night from the Livingston City Commission.

The proposal is to put 5-foot-tall light poles with 14-inch globe lights in the same 16 places where the bridge originally had lights from 1938 to the 1950. The bridge crosses the lagoon on South Yellowstone Street.

The project will be privately funded, although the city may be asked to contribute to the cost of powering the lights in future years.

Catalyst, the name of a private effort to integrate art and historic design into public spaces, is putting the project together. A team of Park High School students will design, construct and install the projects. Other skilled community members, such as artists and metalworkers, might also be involved.

"This will have the city, the schools and the art community working together," said Larry Raffety, who presented the proposal to the City Commission during Monday's regular meeting.

Several audience members asked that the city withhold its approval of the project until design sketches can be presented and the public can comment.

Raffety argued that people are going

to want to see a completed project.

"I think people are going to say, 'Show me,'" Raffety said. "The lights on the bridge will be very noticeable and people will see it and say they like it, or say they don't like it."

The commissioners approved the project, but asked Raffety to keep interested citizens updated on the design as it moves forward. The goal is to have the lights ready for installation by late May.

The bridge lights will be designed in pairs — one of each pair on either side of the bridge — in eight stages. Catalyst has already raised most of the money for the first pair of lights. Future pairs will be designed by other high school teams.

The lights are not meant to illuminate the bridge, Raffety said. Each will be a "glow light" with a 60-watt bulb — about as much light as a reading lamp. The lights will also be on dimmer switches, he said.

*On the Net:*

[www.raffety.net/catalyst](http://www.raffety.net/catalyst)

## Glenn Addition annexed

Also, during Monday's City Commission meeting, the Glenn Addition on Carol Lane behind Clark's Crossing was annexed into the city.

None of the residents of the 11 lots spoke against the annexation, although an adjoining lot owner asked the city to

delay its decision until Park County finished updating the zoning regulations for property just outside the city limits.

But Glenn Addition landowner Jerry LaValley said he'd spoken to all the landowners in the affected area and they all seemed to accept the annexation.

The annexation includes three homes that are already on city sewer. All the lots receive city water. The homes with city sewer were put on the sewer system about two years ago after they had septic system failures.

It will cost the average homeowner in the Glenn Addition an additional \$348 a year in city taxes. In addition to the taxes, the houses that do not yet have city sewer service will pay \$380 a year for 15 years to pay for sewer extensions.

## Outgoing commissioner

At the end of Monday's meeting, outgoing City Commissioner Frank Horiel thanked his fellow commissioners and the city staff as well as community members.

"It's been eye-opening to see the level of involvement of citizens as volunteers. Without them the city could not work as effectively," Horiel said.

Patricia Grabow won Horiel's Commission seat in the November elections for 2005-2007. Grabow will be sworn in Jan. 3.



# Catalyst hopes to spark useful public art projects in city

By Paula Clawson  
*Enterprise Staff Writer*

Livingston doesn't look like any place else and shouldn't look like any place else, according to some folks who have developed "catalyst," a private effort to create public art.

"There's a growing understanding in the community that downtown Livingston is an incredible asset. But that has nothing to do with it having a historical purity from one particular time," said Larry Raffety, a local architect who was one of the brainstormers to create catalyst.

Hillary Johnson, also involved with catalyst, described Livingston as a town with "a lot of diversity and a lot of unpredictability," in its design.

The purpose of catalyst is to incorporate art, where appropriate, in Livingston's unique places, Raffety said. It plans to pursue goals for community art outlined in the city's Urban Design document.

The effort is not really a group or an organization, but rather a way to bring existing organizations together to accomplish the projects.

"I think in a lot of people's minds they isolate public art as having nothing to do with their day to day life," said Raffety. "Some of the things I've seen (in other communities) are very utilitarian, such as bus stops, bicycle racks and park benches."

The first catalyst project will be to put lights on the Sacajawea Lagoon bridge on

South Yellowstone Street.

The low wattage "glow lights" will be designed by a team of Park High School students, including those interested in art and those with manufacturing and metal work abilities. The team can invite local artists, welders and other skilled professionals to assist them in completing the project.

The city of Livingston public works department will help wire the lights using the conduits that remain from when the bridge had lights from 1938 to the mid-1950s.

"The school system is here, the art community is here, the city department is here — we didn't have to create any of that," Raffety said.

The Livingston Center for Art and Culture is involved with catalyst because part of the nonprofit organization's mission is to advocate making art accessible to the public, said Johnson, a LCAC board member.

"Catalyst dovetails very well with our goals," Johnson said. "We want to share artists' skills and talents with Park County and surrounding counties, and especially want to involve youth."

The lagoon bridge lighting project is the "experiment" to see if catalyst can work and be used in the future.

"When the downtown roads and sidewalks are reconstructed, that is going to be a lot of change," Johnson said. "We're (catalyst) preparing ourselves to be more experienced for when that comes along."





Enterprise photo by Garrett Cheen

Park High School junior C.J. Clarke blow-torches three 20-foot steel rods, while fellow students help bend them around the new catalyst light pole, Thursday morning in Kevin Foch's agriculture education class. The new lamp-

post, which will be done in about three weeks, is planned to be put up on the Yellowstone Street bridge leading into Sacajawea Park. Five Park High students are currently working on the project.

# Light poles spark debate

## Push is on to list lagoon bridge on Historic Register

By Paula Clawson  
Enterprise Staff Writer

The stone bridge over the lagoon in Sacajawea Park has been getting a lot of attention of late.

A group of Park High School students are manufacturing two new light poles for the bridge, and close to 400 people have signed a petition asking to list the bridge on the National Historic Register.

"The bridge is in need of repair on the east end and I feel the repair should be taken care of now," said Ruth MacDonald, who lives near the bridge and helped get the petition circulated. "The (petition) showed how much interest there is in protecting the historic value.

"The bridge is beautiful in its simplicity," she said.

MacDonald and her family members have objected to the light pole project since it first was presented to the Livingston City Commission in December 2004.

During that commission meeting, MacDonald's daughter Sally MacDonald cautioned the city against approving a project for which there were not yet any designs.

But the point of the project, according to local architect Larry Raffety, is to support new public art efforts and the designs will develop along with

each phase of the project.

The sketches of the light poles, as well as a small model of the pole, were on public display in March at the Livingston Center for Arts and Culture.

The lighting project is being funded through catalyst, a private effort to support public art. The bridge, built in the late 1930s by the WPA, originally had 16 light poles, eight on each side. The lights were removed in the 1950s.

Catalyst hopes to support and inspire students and artists to replace the lights a pair at a time with designs that reflect each of the involved people's vision of public art.

The first pair of lights have met with some resistance because the design does not match the the general look of the 1930s-1940s, according to several letters to the editor written recently to The Livingston Enterprise.

But the students are proud of the design of a triple twist of gray metal abstractly reminiscent of tree roots.

"We did a bunch of individual sketches and we were all consistent with wanting something twisting," said Josh Nelson, one of two students working on the project for an independent study credit.

Josh Skattum, the other independent study student, said he doesn't expect everyone to like the design but, "I think most people are going to."

Two other students — Kim Larson and David Matlow — also contributed significantly to the design and decision making process.

"The inspiration for the design I drew was a Wadsworth poem I was reading that talked about the twisting of roots," said Matlow, who refers to the final design as a "growing metal fixture."

The 4-foot-tall lampposts will be topped by 14-inch-radius white lamp globes. The light bulbs will be on a dimmer system controlled by the city parks department and are not meant to illuminate the bridge.

The light poles should be completed by the end of the school year, under the manufacturing leadership of Skattum with the assistance of Park High student C.J. Clark and several other students. Materials cost about \$1,000 which was raised privately through catalyst.

The specific date for installing the light posts depends on when the city parks department and a volunteer electrician can update the wiring on the bridge, Raffety said.

The petition to list the bridge on the National Historic Registry is a three-step process of local, state and federal approval that will take at least 18 months, according to Gregory Legge, the Livingston Historic Preservation officer.

In the meantime, the lights can go on the bridge and even if the bridge is accepted on the Historic Registry that won't necessarily stop further lights through the catalyst project.

"The Historic Registry doesn't prohibit renovation and its guidelines only apply if federal funds are being used," Legge said. "Something like the light poles does not change the structure of the bridge and probably wouldn't go against the federal guidelines.

"I appreciate people's concern with the design of the light poles, but there is value in having students in the process. And if you don't like what it looks like, maybe they'll be replaced by other students down the road," Legge said.



# Bridge lights discussion to continue

By Paula Clawson  
Enterprise Staff Writer

Although the Livingston City Commission agreed in December to allow an artistic lighting project on the bridge at the Sacajawea Lagoon bridge, they are now having second thoughts.

About a half dozen people spoke during Monday's regular commission meeting asking that the light project be abandoned. Most suggested the 5-foot tall metal light posts designed and manufactured by Park High School students be put somewhere else in town, such as the Seventh Street bridge in Sacajawea Park or the bridge at the south end of Main Street.

"I've lived next to the bridge for 36 years and lights will destroy its serene beauty and give it a carnival appearance," said Bettilee Hallin, who suggested other locations for the lights.

Lindie Gibson spoke enthusiastically about the students' twisted metal design of the 5-foot tall light posts, but also urged another location.

The bridge, built in 1939, had lights until the 1950s. The student-designed lights are approximately the same dimensions as the original lights and would be placed in the same location on the bridge.

Several people complained there was no process to let the community know about the project or accept input. The agenda for the Dec. 20 meeting in which the project was accepted was published on Dec. 17.

A few people who live near the bridge spoke against the project at the December meeting, but the commissioner's gave unanimous approval to the effort.

Only one person Monday asked the commissioners to honor the agreement for the light project. That was Lar-

ry Raffety, a local architect who spearhead the project under the efforts of "catalyst," a privately funded effort to bring public art to Livingston.

"What is the commission going to say to our young people? They've been working within a clear directive; is that directive now to be withdrawn?" Raffety asked. He said if the commission changed their mind about the project, they would send a message that anyone working with the city may not be able to trust its decisions.

The community members spoke early in the meeting, during a time on the agenda set aside for pre-scheduled public comment. Following the comments, Commission Chairwoman Vicki Blakeman said time would be scheduled on the June 6 agenda for more comment.

At the end of the 2-1/2 hour meeting, when most of the 16 to 18 people who showed up to hear the light project discussion had left, the commissioners weighed in with their thoughts.

Commissioner Mary Beebe pointed out the agenda does not allow the commissioners to respond to public comment until the end of the meeting.

"I think in all good faith we did what we thought was in the community interest," Beebe said of the decision in December to approve the project. "I do think the concerns about the process by which we decided to support catalyst has some real merit."

Her sentiments were echoed by commissioners Steve Caldwell and Vicki Blakeman. Those three voted for the project in December, as did Commissioner Bob Ebinger, who was absent Monday.

Commissioner Patricia Grabow was not on the commission in December but on Monday urged reconsideration of the project.

Sacajawea Park bridge

# Arty light poles get nod from city

By Paula Clawson  
Enterprise Staff Writer

Adding sculptured light poles to the Sacajawea Park Lagoon Bridge will go forward, the Livingston City Commission decided on a 3-2 vote Monday night.

The project was originally approved by the commission in December on a unanimous vote. But some neighbors objected, saying the bridge did not need lights and the public art project should be installed some-

presented Monday. Last month a petition with more than 400 signatures was given to the city asking that the bridge be listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Gregory Legge, the city's Historic Preservation officer, said the city is moving forward with trying to get the bridge listed, and that adding the sculptured lights to the original light fixture locations won't affect the ability to get the bridge on the historic registry.

Frank Horiel, a former City Commission member who voted for the project in December, encouraged the commissioners to stick with the original decision.

"To even consider rescinding the vote is to take three steps backwards. If the lights on the bridge become an absolute disaster, it's not going to be hard to fix," Horiel said.

Sally MacDonald, whose parents live near the bridge, said she appreciates the students' efforts, but there was not adequate public input before the project was approved.

"When it's a decision about placing public art, the public absolutely should be involved," MacDonald said.

Several echoed MacDonald's sentiments, asking that the lights be placed somewhere else in the city.

Commissioner Patricia Grabow, who was not on the commission when the original vote was taken, said the city should stop the catalyst project and form a public arts commission to consider all public art requests.

"The (public arts) commission would be an arena for these discussions," Grabow said.

Commissioner Mary Beebe agreed with Grabow, and the two voted in favor of reconsidering the project.

Commissioners Ebinger, Steve Caldwell and Vicki Blakeman voted in favor of allowing the sculptured lights on the Lagoon Bridge.

"Why not allow the students of today to create the history of tomorrow?"

— Jamie Isaly

where else. They asked the City Commission at a May 16 meeting and again at Monday's regular meeting to rescind the project.

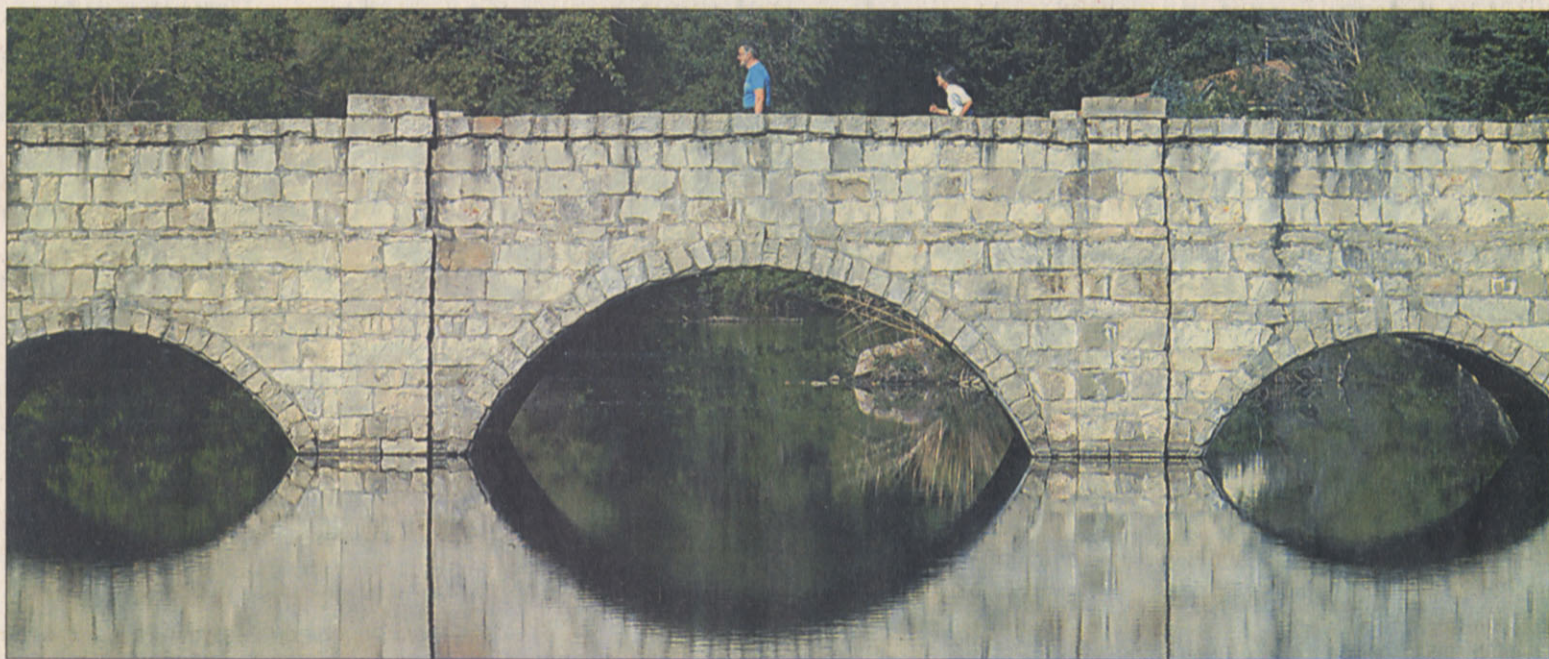
The bridge, built in 1939, originally had 16 light poles, which were removed in the 1950s. Now, a public-private effort to promote public art, called catalyst, is trying to have eight sets of two poles designed and manufactured over the next several years. Park High School students and/or area artists would be involved in the creation of the poles.

Four Park High students have designed and are manufacturing the first two poles. Although each pair of poles will be unique, they all will have a certain consistency in meeting the same height and material use standards, said Park High teacher Jamie Isaly, who is working with the students.

"Why not allow the students of today to create the history of tomorrow?" Isaly said. "Give them something they can come back to years from now and say, 'Look at what our generation did.'"

A petition with nearly 200 signatures favoring the lagoon sculpture lights was





Enterprise photo by Garrett Cheen

A pedestrian and a jogger cross the Sacajawea Lagoon bridge at the end of South Yellowstone Street, Thursday morning.

# County claims rights to bridge

## Move by County Commission could stop sculptured light project

By Paula Clawson  
Enterprise Staff Writer

After twice approving a public art project of sculptured lights on the Sacajawea Park Lagoon bridge, the Livingston City Commission has been told it can't make that call.

The Park County commissioners are in charge of the bridge, they say. "We're responsible for all bridges, culverts and ditches in Park County," said Park County Commission Chairman Larry Lahren.

The county commissioners sent a letter to Livingston City Attorney Bruce Becker Wednesday requesting the city take "no further action ... in terms of the Sacajawea Bridge until we can fully address all the issues."

The letter did not mention the light project, but Lahren said in an interview Wednesday the project is now on hold.

"I was pretty upset at the (City Commission) meeting by the way it was handled," Lahren said of a June 6 City Commission meeting in which

the light project was reaffirmed on a 3-2 vote.

After that meeting, a "former county commissioner" told Lahren the county was responsible for the bridge. That point was affirmed through County Attorney Tara DePuy before the letter was sent to the city.

City Attorney Bruce Becker has not had time to research the legality of who owns the bridge, but will be looking into it.

"I'm aware of the (state) statue the county cites, but I am also aware of one that says the city can build bridges," Becker said.

The bridge lights, first approved by the city in December, have been the center of controversy between people who want the bridge to remain as is and people who want the public art project. More than 400 people signed a petition to list the bridge on the National Registry of Historic Places and about 200 signed a petition supporting the lights.

The 1939-built bridge originally had lights, which were removed in

the 1950s. The new sculptured lights would be the same height and use the same brackets and electrical conduits as the original lights.

The first pair of lights, in a proposed series of eight pairs, was designed and is being manufactured by Park High School students.

Livingston Historic Preservation Officer Gregory Legge said at the June 6 city meeting that the lights would not effect the historic registry listing because they use fixtures already on the bridge and can be removed.

Lahren disagrees.

"(Legge) gave completely inaccurate information about the National Historic Registry. Those lights could keep it from being listed," said Lahren, who, as an archaeologist, has worked on historic registry listings.

Lahren is concerned the "intense action" of adding lights to the bridge could damage the sandstone structure that already has some crumbling and weakening.

Legge reaffirmed in an interview

Thursday that the state historic preservation office has said the lights as proposed should not affect the historic listing. State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumler could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Lahren also believes city commissioners Bob Ebinger and Vicky Blakeman have conflicts of interest and should not have voted on the lights.

Ebinger was a founding member of the Livingston Arts and Culture Center, which supports the light project. Ebinger said during the June 6 meeting that he did not have a conflict because he won't financially gain from it.

"But a conflict of interest can be personal as well as professional," Lahren said Thursday.

Blakeman's brother-in-law, Jamie Isaly, is the Park High teacher working with the students who designed the lights. Lahren said that creates a personal conflict for her. She could not be reached for comment Thursday.

# Troubled bridge over lagoon waters causes flap

By Tahlia Ganser  
Enterprise Staff Writer

As parts of the historic Sacajawea Park Bridge crumble into the lagoon below it, how a proper repair will be completed is still up in the air.

And it all started with a Park High School student project to place lights on the iconic structure.

It's estimated restoring the deteriorating bridge will cost \$24,000, but it's unclear who will foot the bill for the work.

The \$24,000 is nearly \$20,000 more

than the original estimate Park County expected for the repair.

Park County is responsible for bridges and culverts within the county, but the cost of improvements could be given over to the City of Livingston, County Commissioner Larry Lahren said Monday.

Friction between the city and the county about the bridge began in 2005 when the City Commission was promoting a Park High School project to place lights on the bridge.

"The county informed us that they had jurisdiction over the bridges,"

said City Commission Chairman Steve Caldwell, "and at that point, the project went away."

In a letter written to City Attorney Bruce Becker in 2005, the county commissioners wrote, "Park County is responsible for maintaining all public bridges in the City of Livingston. Because of this mandatory responsibility, and as the lead governing body, we thus consider all previous actions null and void. We herein request that no further action be taken by the city in terms of the Sacajawea Bridge."

Lahren said the county's reaction to the student's lighting project was in response to a "large number of community members" who didn't want a "New Age lighting system put on a historic structure."

In a Montana State law, provided by Park County Attorney Brett Lineweber, it states, "The city or town in which any such bridge is situated shall pay the whole or such part, not less than one-half, to be determined by the board, of the (county commissioners), of the cost of planking, replanking, paving, or repaving the

bridge. The city or town shall construct and maintain in good repair the bridge approaches."

Meanwhile, City Manager Ed Meece said "it is (the administration's) position that Park County, by their own assertion of state law, is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of bridges and culverts within the entire county (including Livingston)."

Neither he nor Caldwell had been contacted Monday regarding the possibility of the city paying any part of the \$24,000 bridge repair.





# Chickens home to roost on local bridge

The chickens, as the old saying goes, always come home to roost.

This is something the Park County Commission is learning all too well this week.

Several years ago, behind the urging of local architect Larry Raffety, a group of dedicated Park High School students designed and began to build street lights for the iconic Sacajawea Park bridge at the end of Yellowstone Street.

When the bridge was originally constructed, it had lights, but they have been gone for decades.

The project was supported by the Livingston City Commission and the students were spending many of their after-school hours working on the lights.

The plan was to have two lights constructed and placed on the bridge each year by different groups of students.

Some neighbors in the area were worried the street lights would shine in their windows and it was suggested, as a compromise, that the lights be turned off later in the evening, or, if they caused too much of a nuisance, removed — something that could have been easily done.

The whole project was ambushed by the County Commission when they discovered a state law that appears to give them control over *all* bridges in the county, even those within city limits.

Acting on behalf of a few city residents, they immediately killed the bridge lighting project.

The city, worried about legal costs if they got in a spitting match with the county over the bridge, acceded to the county's power grab.

Many people in Livingston, including the disappointed students, were left with the taste of chicken coop in their mouth.

Now, the south side of the bridge is crumbling and, according to published reports, it will cost about \$24,000 to put it back in good repair — and the county is balking.

County commissioners are now pointing to another law they say requires the city to pay for the repairs or at least split the cost.

**What nonsense.**

Why should the city take money out of its budget to pay for what a couple of years ago was claimed as a *county* bridge?

The underhanded way the county killed the lighting project is the chicken, and the cost of maintaining one of the most beautiful stone bridges in Montana is the roost.

It is time for the county commissioners to admit they are wrong, pay for the bridge repairs and sign a pledge that, when it comes to Livingston affairs, they'll mind their own business.

— Stephen Matlow  
Enterprise Managing Editor