

Blacktail Creek and Confluence Area

The area where Blacktail and Silver Bow Creeks meet today has been impacted by past activities that disposed of mining, milling, smelting, and other wastes in the creek corridor area. However, Blacktail Creek and its tributaries continue to provide a natural source of fresh water flowing from the mountains into Silver Bow Creek.

The proposed remedy for this area would remove tailings, wastes, and contaminated soils from Blacktail Creek and the confluence area, reconstruct the creek channel, and revegetate the surrounding land. Groundwater controls would be installed to prevent contaminated groundwater from discharging to and adversely affecting surface water and sediments. The proposed remedial construction activities would be performed in part by Atlantic Richfield Company (groundwater controls and any future sediment removals) and in part by the state of Montana through MDEQ (waste removal and stream reconstruction). The activities would include:

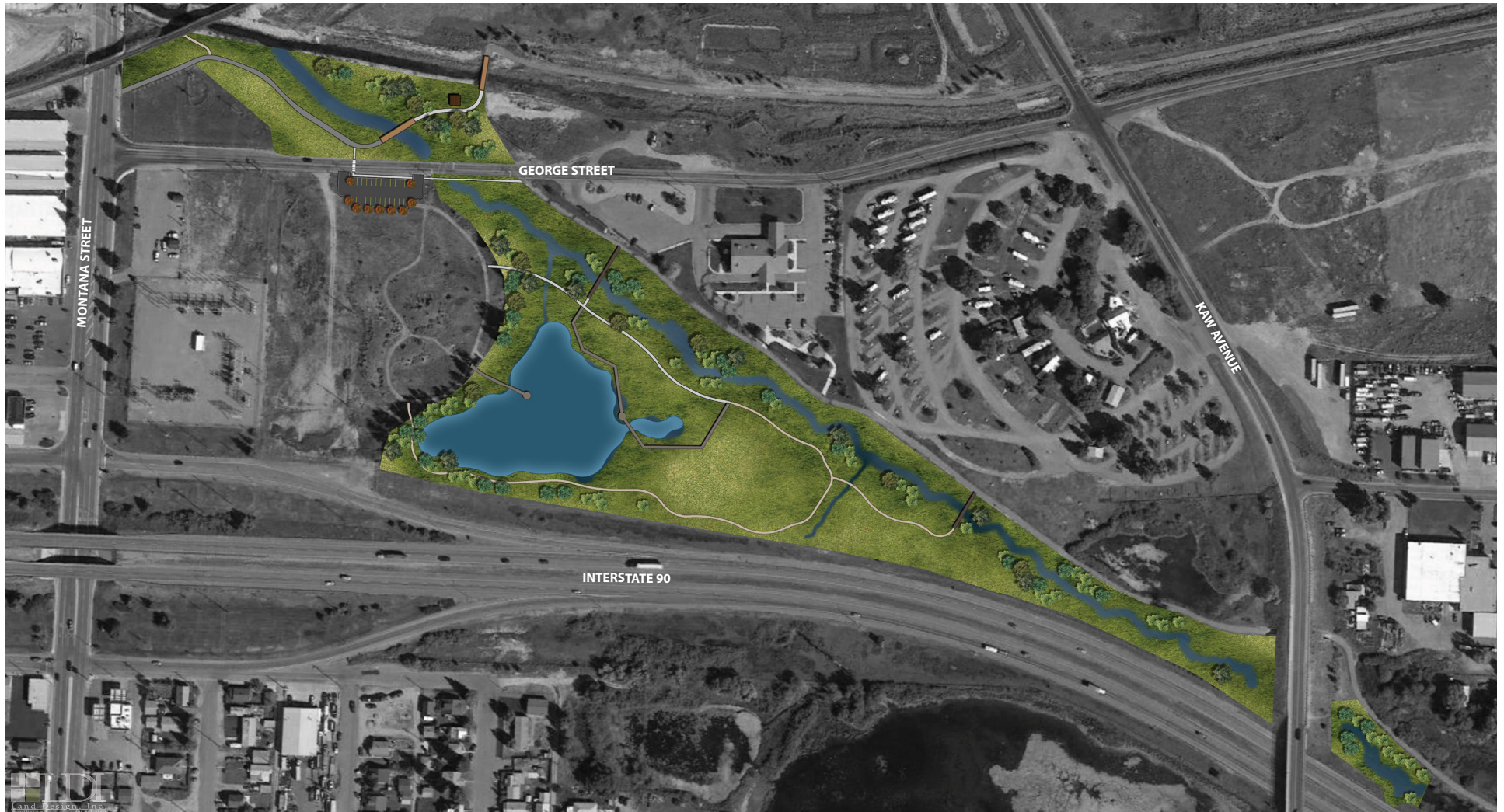
- 1) Hydraulic Control** – Atlantic Richfield Company would install an underground system to capture contaminated groundwater and prevent groundwater from discharging to and adversely affecting Blacktail and Silver Bow Creeks. This captured groundwater would be transported to the Butte Treatment Lagoons (BTL). At the BTL, metal contaminants would be removed, and clean water would be discharged to Silver Bow Creek.
- 2) Excavation and Disposal** – MDEQ would excavate tailings, wastes, and contaminated soils along Blacktail Creek and near its confluence with Silver Bow Creek. All excavated mine wastes and contaminated soils would be disposed of at the proposed repository at Timber Butte, if developed, or the Butte Mine Waste Repository. The final depth of excavation would be determined during the design phase of the project. The proposed work in the confluence area would be considered as an integrated restoration and remedy activity.
- 3) Stream Reconstruction** – Following excavation work, MDEQ would reconstruct Blacktail Creek and the confluence area. Blacktail Creek would be reconstructed within a riparian floodplain south of the Ulrich-Schotte Nature Trail, while Silver Bow Creek would be reconstructed near its existing alignment, north of George Street.
- 4) End Land Use** – The project area is located within the proposed Silver Bow Creek Conservation Area and would be reconstructed in a manner that supports future community use of the site.

Site-specific Details:

- Mining waste, tailings, contaminated soils, and in-stream sediments would be disposed of at the proposed repository at Timber Butte, if developed, or the Butte Mine Waste Repository.
- Municipal waste, household waste, timbers, and other construction debris not suitable for re-use would be disposed of at an appropriately permitted facility.
- The BTL may be modified or expanded to provide sufficient capacity to treat additional groundwater captured from the Blacktail Creek area.



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ALL RENDERINGS AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES ARE CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND INTENDED TO FACILITATE REMEDY IMPLEMENTATION IN CONSIDERATION OF DESIRED END LAND USE. FINAL SIZE AND POSITIONING OF REMEDY AND END LAND USE FEATURES TO BE DETERMINED DURING REMEDIAL DESIGN PHASE.

