

# Park County Planning Board Meeting Talking Points

## 8/17/23

The Park County Planning Board is holding a discussion of the County Growth Policy on Thursday.

The Park County Growth Policy was passed in 2017. The county is supposed to update the Growth Policy every five years. The county said they would consider a Growth Policy update this year.

Now, we are asking you to share your concerns with the planning board at the August 17 meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the City-County Complex or on Zoom here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88696392196>

### Talking Point 1: Park County Needs to Prepare for the Future

- Park County is like nowhere else, and we've worked hard to build businesses, raise families, and protect our rural way of life. Growth is important, but we need to ensure the amenities that attract so many to this region are safeguarded for years to come. Greed should not guide how we grow.
- A strong county growth policy gives us more local control in decision-making.
- Our local economy is based on tourism and agriculture and both depend on natural resources – clean water, public lands, and beautiful vistas.

### Talking Point 2: We need guardrails on development like glamping and gravel pits

- Local residents have come together over and over again to stop bad ideas and controversial developments fueled by developers that don't care about how their projects impact their neighbors. These are long, and tiresome fights.
- Right now, unchecked growth is happening in Park County. Out-of-state developers are putting in luxury glamping operations. A gravel pit is proposed near Emigrant, and we have no say in how these commercial and industrial uses are approved.
- With the pace of growth escalating, we need to involve the community in making decisions for the good of the whole. Many industrial projects require state and/or federal permits but miss local input. We are asking for guardrails to identify and prevent conflicts before they spin out of control.
- Activities like gold mines, gravel pits, oil and gas development and high-end gas stations would require a public process that takes place in Park County and is decided by local decision-makers.

### Talking Point 3: Protect Our Water, Wildlife, and Working Lands.

- I care about the integrity of our small farms and ranches, the Yellowstone and Shields river valleys, and protecting our outdoor opportunities for the next generation to enjoy.
- Unchecked development will impact drinking water supplies and the long-term health of the Yellowstone and Shields rivers.
- Unchecked development will harm our world-class wildlife, deteriorate our hunting and fishing heritage and the small businesses that rely on it.

- Unchecked development will harm our farms and ranches, and the families and wildlife they support. Those operations are being jeopardized by nearby incompatible land uses.