

Silver Bow Creek / Butte Area

Granite Mountain Memorial Area

(GMMA)

Bulletin #3

May 26, 2010



Memorial Facts

- EPA funds for work at Granite Mountain were obtained by the community in September, 1994.
- Memorial construction started in fall, 1995.
- The base Monument was completed in 1996.
- The basis for the grant was a state historical preservation requirement.
- The Memorial serves as a cap, preventing exposure to underlying metals.
- EPA personnel have been involved with the Granite Mountain Memorial Board since its inception.

The Butte Priority Soils Operable Unit 2006 Record of Decision included provision for addressing the Granite Mountain Memorial Area. Reclamation activities were divided into two phases. Phase I activities began in June 2008 and were completed in August 2009. Implementation of Phase II began in August 2009 and will be completed in spring 2011. The following summarizes Phase I and II remedial activities at the Memorial Area. These actions make the area safe and usable for public visitation.

Phase I

- Thirty acres of waste rock dumps and other adjacent areas were graded, capped and re-vegetated.
- A half-mile multi-use trail links the Memorial to Center Street.
- A multi-use trail leads to Top of the World Area.
- One mile of channels run from the Moose, Corra, and Green Mountain Shafts to act as storm water controls for the Memorial Area.
- A sediment basin at the North Kelley Mine Yard and a drop structure at the Kelley Mine Shaft serve as storm water controls.
- Fencing and barricades provide access control in the area.
- An over flow parking lot acts as a cap and serves the Memorial area.

Phase II

- The Memorial now includes completed south and west quadrants, a granite sign, benches, trash receptacles, a flag pole, ethnic flags and core installation, new signage, audio system, and parking lot. (Complete June 6, 2010)
- Twenty acres at the Mountain Con Yard and adjacent areas will be graded, capped, and re-vegetated.
- One mile of multi-use trails system will run from the Mineyard & Butte Hill.
- The former Foreman's House area will be converted to a park, including a gazebo, public restroom, picnic tables, benches, and barbeque grills.
- Water, sewer, and electrical lines now support park amenities.
- Historical features will be preserved and interpretive signs installed.
- Four additional parking lots will be constructed at Wyoming Street, Buffalo Street, Center Street, and the Mountain Con.
- East Pacific Street extends into the Mountain Con parking lot.
- Walking trails for guided tours will be constructed.
- A trail to the Center Street parking lot runs north from the Mountain Con.

For details on the construction activities associated with the Granite Mountain Memorial Area, please consult the Final Granite Mountain Memorial Area Phase I and Phase II Remedial Action Work Plan/Final Design Reports.



The Granite Mountain Mine Disaster



On the night of June 8, 1917, a group of men descended into the Granite Mountain mine to inspect an electrical cable that had fallen loose while being strung by a crew from an earlier shift. When the assistant foreman accidentally touched his carbide lamp to the frayed paraffin paper that wrapped the cable, it caught fire. The fire and deadly smoke quickly fanned through the stopes and shafts of the well ventilated mine to connecting mines including the Speculator. Despite heroic measures to rescue those trapped below ground, 168 miners died.

On June 8, 1996 the Granite Mountain Memorial was dedicated to those 168 men who lost their lives in the most deadly metal mining disaster in U. S. history.

Butte and Walkerville have a very strong mining heritage. The Granite Mountain Memorial Interpretive Area helps preserve the mining history. The community commemorates the 168 men who died in the fire by purchasing engraved bricks that are placed in the Memorial Floor and each year around the 8th of June there is a public service at the Memorial to remember all those that were impacted by the terrible fire.

This year's Memorial Service will be at 1:30 pm on Sunday, June 6, 2010 at the Monument. President of the Board, Gerry Walter will host the gathering.

- Speakers from EPA, ARCO, BSB and the GMM Board are expected along with color guard presentation of the Flag, opening prayer and closing prayer.
- Service at the Memorial is scheduled for 30-45 minutes.
- No more than 5 minutes of presentation per speaker.
- Reception will be held immediately thereafter at the Mother Lode Theatre.
- A movie produced by ARCO (The Original) about Butte will follow the reception.

Do you Need More Information?

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:** Sara Sparks, Remedial Project Manger, 782-7415 or Wendy Thomi, Community Involvement Coordinator, 406-457-5037
- **Montana Department of Environmental Quality:** Joe Griffin, Project Officer, 560-6060
- **Butte Silver Bow County Planning Department:** Tom Malloy, 497-6257
- **Butte Silver Bow County Health Department:** Eric Hassler, 497-5042
- **Citizens Technical Environmental Committee:** Janice Hogan, TAG Administrator, 723-6247
- **Atlantic Richfield Company:** Marci Sheehan, 723-1831, Trey Harbert, 723-1816

Documents Can Be Found At These Butte Locations

Citizens Technical Environmental Committee
27 West Park Street
Monday - Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm

U.S. EPA Butte Office
155 W. Granite (basement of the Courthouse)
Monday - Friday 9 am to 4 pm

www.buttectec.org

www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/mt/sbcbutte