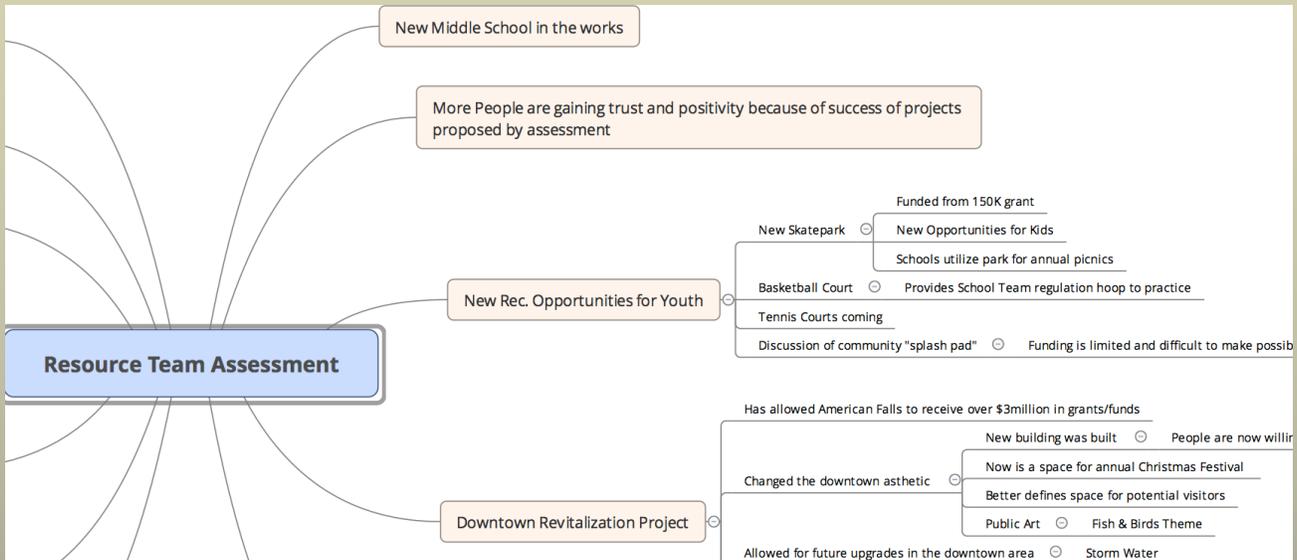


# Ripple Effect Mapping to Capture Impacts of Wyoming Resource Team Assessments



Wyoming Business Council and University of Wyoming are partnering with organizations in Idaho and Montana to evaluate and redesign the Resource Team Assessment process

Several Wyoming communities that have had an assessment have been selected to participate in Ripple Effects Mapping (REM), a fun and engaging evaluation activity based on storytelling

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Communities participating in this evaluation are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 community project grant!

## Purpose of Ripple Effects Mapping

The impact of community focused work is notoriously difficult to measure. Community focused programs may have immediate and direct benefits but also may have related indirect benefits beyond initial steps taken. Work done by communities like yours may have ripples of impacts that change culture, policy and people's lives in sometimes unanticipated ways. Ripple Effects Mapping is a way to capture all the intended and unintended benefits of programs while harvesting rich, detailed stories that illustrate those benefits.



## Procedure

The first activity is interviews where participants pair off and describe things that happened as a result of the Resource Team Assessment. After the interviews, things that happened are "mapped" on butcher paper on the wall. Mapping continues until the group is satisfied that the map captures everything known to have happened as a result of actions taken as a result of the assessment.

The messy hand-drawn map will be transferred to a software program and results will be organized in various ways for Wyoming Business Council and your community use. The resulting products can be distributed electronically and in print format and / or you can schedule a follow-up meeting with the facilitator to discuss the results and how best to use and share them.

## Summary

This particular form of Ripple Effects Mapping (and the term) was developed by Debra Hansen (Washington State University Extension), then adopted in North Dakota and Idaho, where Extension organizations delivering a poverty reduction through leadership training program called Horizons mapped impacts with communities. In all cases, communities found the process itself to be rewarding. It is a way to visually show all that has been accomplished, making people feel more positive about their work and is a way to analyze accomplishments and recognize work that still needs to be done. The resulting products and materials can be used in grant proposals and presentations, facilitating communication to the community and decision makers. It is an easy tool to use and with free mapping software programs out there, Ripple Effects Mapping can be used to both evaluate and plan many community programs and projects!

