



Now

Today, the Ravalli County Fair is still a much looked forward to event. Instead of tent, there are now rides and more attractions. 4-H plays a big part in this, entering projects and animals into the fair. Many exhibits featuring said projects and animals are set up, becoming one of the main attractions.

There is also a price to get into the fair. After you pay a price around \$10, you either buy tickets or a wristband. The price for tickets depends on how many you buy. A wristband costs \$20, a hefty sum of money if you compare it to back in the day.

The trees, which were cut down in 2009 due to the fact that they were rotting on the inside, used to be a big icon for the fairgrounds. Without the trees, the fairgrounds just aren't the same any more.

Over the course of time, the Fairgrounds still remains a place full of memories and fun times.

By Chelsea Reichard

Then

The Hamilton Fair Grounds started out as a plethora of multicolored canvas tents in 1913.

The fairgrounds soon became Ravalli County Fair Grounds after Ravalli County purchased it from the Stock Farm for a price of \$9,750. This happened on June 6, 1913.

The first fair was scheduled for October. A grandstand and a racetrack were to be constructed. This project was managed by J.E. Totman, James F. Torrence, and H.H. Grant. A two-year loan of \$3,000 was borrowed from the nearby bank in Hamilton and construction soon began.

Five large tents, each measuring over 300 feet in length, were put up a week before the fair.

Called by locals "The Great Ravalli County Fair", the fair was quite a sight. A four day pass was \$1.50. If you couldn't afford it, you could get a day pass for 50 cents.

The first fair ended as a success.

