

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

December 2, 2022

1. **Army National Guard Facility Tour Helena** – The Montana Army National Guard hosted about a dozen leaders from our community to review a campus they are planning to build on approximately 135 acres adjacent to our airport. Ideally the project will break ground in 2024 and complete its first phase (est. \$52M) in 2026. This facility will be an exceptional asset to Billings and all of eastern Montana.
2. **COC First Church Emergency Winter Shelter Meeting** – Tuesday’s on-site tour and discussions resulted in solutions requiring limited capital investment in a smaller space. We are all hopeful that this additional option will be open soon. I will provide an update during Monday’s council work session.
3. **Exchange Club Presentation** – This morning I presented the City’s adopted priorities and progress on improving the safety of Billings at the American Legion.
4. **Thorn Run Update** – December 1, the House Republican Caucus took up the McClintock amendment to get rid of earmarks in the 118th (next) Congress. McClintock’s effort failed by a vote of 52 for and 158 against, meaning earmarks will continue in the next Congress (2023-2024). It was a secret ballot vote.
5. **Parks and Recreation Matching Grant Program** - In FY2023, Billings City Council established funds for a matching grant fund to promote private donations and incentivize small projects in our parks system that enhance public parks and trails, and to provide recreation facilities and lands for general public use by the citizens of Billings, Montana. The Billings Parks and Recreation Department was asked to administer this grant program and establish guidelines to determine which projects will be funded. A draft matching grant document was created and presented to the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Advisory board (Park Board) this past September. The Park Board provided significant input, which was used to improve and revise the program document. The revised version was then presented to the Partners for Parks foundation in which they also had an opportunity to provide input to improve the document. Lastly, the final version of the document was presented to the Parks and Recreation Board in October and the board recommended approval for implementation.

The matching grant program (see attached) is officially accepting applications and will require approval from the Parks and Recreation Department, the Park Board, and if necessary, approval from City Council. The minimum grant award amount is \$10,000 with a maximum grant amount up to \$100,000 and a minimum donor match of a 1:1 ratio.

Projects Eligible for Funding:

- Capital improvements to land, trails, and buildings
- Capital construction costs for utilities – water, sewer, electric, telephone
- Land acquisition

Applicants will fill out the grant application that will include relevant project information to describe, among other things, the type of project, how it supports current plans and initiatives, and the new types of recreational opportunities this project will create or enhance.

The matching grant document outlines six evaluation criteria used to help to evaluate the viability of the project and its alignment with the goals and needs of the community and our parks, recreation, and trails system. First review of project applications will take place at the Park Board meeting in January. Applications are due on January 3rd.

6. From the PIO Desk:

Billings becomes first LEED® certified city in Montana, scoring Gold

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2411>

AMR Billings & City/County dispatch center strengthens communications through streamlined system

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2409>

Park Two downtown gets a new name that reflects its location, and a little TLC

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2410>

11 new firefighters graduate from Billings Fire Department recruit academy

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2408>

Billings police surprise drivers with turkeys, not tickets

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2407>

From the PD: Billings Police Department introduces new Community Service Officers

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2406>

City of Billings in the news

City Council coverage

Billings city administrator gets OK for 3 more years; pay raised to \$206K

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-city-administrator-gets-ok-for-3-more-years-pay-raised-to-206k/article_cd841620-7031-11ed-9060-23228baf58c8.html#tncms-source=login

Billings grapples with how to pay to build out its new city hall after project doubles in price

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-grapples-with-how-to-pay-to-build-out-its-new-city-hall-after-project/article_d4690272-6f62-11ed-8ca0-b75e5203a158.html#tncms-source=login

In other news....

'Good ice making': Veterans Park ice rink in progress in Billings

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/good-ice-making-veterans-park-ice-rink-in-progress-in-billings>

Photo: Community Christmas Tree

https://billingsgazette.com/news/photo-community-christmas-tree/article_bcbe8e9c-6aaa-11ed-b729-0f82e5ec2e30.html#tncms-source=login

Can I smoke weed in my backyard in Montana?

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/local-news-2/can-i-smoke-weed-in-my-backyard-in-montana/>

Organizers race to get Billings low-barrier shelter open for the season

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/organizers-race-to-get-billings-low-barrier-shelter-open-for-the-season/article_61a974f2-66ba-11ed-a49c-c72e48c12532.html#tncms-source=login

Billings airport traffic inches up but not because of the holidays

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-airport-traffic-inches-up-but-not-because-of-the-holidays/article_f542ce74-6aa3-11ed-9da9-7ff40f4942eb.html#tncms-source=login

Holiday fun at the Billings Public Library

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/local-news-2/holiday-fun-at-the-billings-public-library/>

New walking school bus takes off in Billings

https://billingsgazette.com/news/new-walking-school-bus-takes-off-in-billings/article_324984e4-676f-11ed-b523-8749fd25eadb.html#tncms-source=login

The coolest Montana calendar for 2023 is out now

<https://kmhk.com/ixp/990/p/the-coolest-montana-calendar-for-2023-is-out-now/>

Free holiday parking downtown

Free parking returns to downtown Billings during holiday season

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/free-parking-returns-to-downtown-billings-during-holiday-season>

Photo: Free parking downtown

https://billingsgazette.com/news/photo-free-parking-downtown/article_1c4b238e-6ea2-11ed-843c-f7c2dfcd3204.html#tncms-source=login

Billings Fire recruit graduation

(Gallery) Families celebrate Firefighter graduations in Billings

<https://kmhk.com/gallery-families-celebrate-firefighter-graduations-in-billings/>

BFD graduation ceremony

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/b-f-d-graduation-ceremony/video_c49baebd-ccc0-5653-8296-68e7a64fbae3.html

Billings Fire Department welcomes new firefighters

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-fire-department-welcomes-new-firefighters>

Photos: Firefighter graduation ceremony

https://billingsgazette.com/news/photos-firefighter-graduation-ceremony/article_eaff50da-6aa9-11ed-999d-97111730d2c8.html#tncms-source=login

Crime

Billings man killed in South Side shooting identified

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-man-killed-in-south-side-shooting-identified/article_02fe8270-7034-11ed-9f67-638e521c9ad9.html#tncms-source=login

BPD continues intensive investigation after fatal shooting

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/bpd-continues-intensive-investigation-after-fatal-shooting/>

Police: Fatal Billings shooting involved 5 people; no arrests made

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/crime-watch/police-fatal-billings-shooting-involved-5-people-no-arrests-made>

Police release more info on shooting that left one dead, one injured in Billings

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/police-release-more-info-on-shooting-that-left-one-dead-one-injured-in-billings/article_bd3b6520-6d73-5ef9-85df-0a284e980858.html

One dead in overnight shooting on 2nd Avenue South in Billings

<https://kmhk.com/one-dead-in-overnight-shooting-on-2nd-avenue-south-in-billings/>

Photo: Woman stabbed on South Side

https://billingsgazette.com/news/photo-woman-stabbed-on-south-side/article_7f841a7a-6aa9-11ed-9cdd-2f00d738eb22.html#tncms-source=login

Stabbing on south side in Billings on Tuesday sends 1 to hospital

<https://kmhk.com/stabbing-on-south-side-in-billings-on-tuesday-sends-1-to-hospital/>

Woman hospitalized after a stabbing at 3rd S. and S. 30th in Billings

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/woman-hospitalized-after-a-stabbing-at-3rd-s-and-s-30th-in-billings/article_bcda79d4-b9f2-5adf-a1e3-2dbdf686bb55.html

Billings woman hospitalized after downtown Billings stabbing

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/billings-woman-hospitalized-after-downtown-billings-stabbing/>

Stabbing hospitalizes one person in Billings

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/stabbing-hospitalizes-one-person-in-billings/article_b24af906-3bc5-5748-9443-cbd2a2cac053.html

Fight ends with 1 being stabbed in Billings, suspect on the loose

<https://kmhk.com/fight-ends-with-1-being-stabbed-in-billings-suspect-on-the-loose/>

Thanksgiving

Billings firefighters offer tips for a safe Thanksgiving

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-firefighters-offers-tips-for-a-safe-thanksgiving>

'We're projected to have a record year of kitchen fires:' Billings Fire Dept. shares important tips for a safe Thanksgiving

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/were-projected-to-have-a-record-year-of-kitchen-fires-billings-fire-dept-shares-important/video_074ece60-0cba-5ef0-8cb1-ad6f2d4b8555.html

Turkeys not tickets

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/turkeys-not-tickets/video_ef606938-c990-5299-9a29-560f1d0817de.html

BPD Talk'n Turkey not Tickets!

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/billings-beat/bpd-talkn-turkey-not-tickets/>

Billings Police Department gives out turkeys, not tickets

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-police-department-gives-out-turkeys-not-tickets>

Billings police hand out free turkeys at traffic stops

<https://www.yourbigsky.com/local-news-2/billings-police-hand-out-free-turkeys-at-traffic-stops/>



Billings Parks and Recreation Matching Grant Program

Purpose

The Billings Parks and Recreation Department administers a grant program to promote and incentivize private donations for small projects that enhance public parks and trails, and to provide recreation facilities and lands for general public use by the citizens of Billings, Montana. This grant funding was designated by Billings City Council for FY23 to make available public dollars to match up to a 1:1 ratio.

The minimum grant award amount is \$10,000 with a maximum grant amount awarded may be up to \$100,000 depending on the number of other projects considered and criteria listed in this document. It is highly recommended that organizations/individuals discuss the project with the Parks and Recreation department prior to submitting a project for approval. Matching funds may be in any of the following forms:

- Cash
- Capital equipment, materials, or other permanent components
- Professional labor (general volunteer labor is not eligible for matching funds)

Applicant must have all contributions secured at time of application with the ability to provide proof of funds and/or letters of intent for donation of equipment, materials, and professional labor. All written estimates for work and materials must be current. All projects will require recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Department, and approval from the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board (Park Board) and if necessary, approval from City Council.

Application Cycles

Applications must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each quarter for review by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Park Board. The first applications will be reviewed on January 11th and quarterly thereafter. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered until the next scheduled Park Board meeting of the upcoming quarter. Applications will be accepted until all of the funding is allocated.

Projects Eligible for Funding

1. Capital improvements to land and buildings including, but not limited to: excavation and grading athletic fields, construction of structures or buildings to facilitate recreation programs or host public use, trail construction or improvements, sports courts, horticulture materials, parking, sports lighting, and restrooms.
2. Capital construction costs for utilities – water, sewer, electric, telephone.
3. Freight or delivery costs of equipment
4. Land acquisition.

Projects Not Eligible for Funding

1. Routine maintenance
2. Uniforms or other program supplies such as bats, balls, etc.
3. Land development as part of required parkland dedication or projects using funds generated through a neighborhood SID.
4. Membership fees
5. Awards, plaques, and monuments

6. Salaries (i.e. fees for coaches or referees)
7. Liability insurance

Project Application Information:

List all source(s) and amount(s) of financial match to the city share. Describe any additional sources of funding or resources, particularly if they are from partners in the project, which will be used to complete the project.

The Parks and Recreation Department requires that this grant be matched at a minimum ratio of 1:1 by the donor. This grant will favor projects that involve partnerships among that support the leveraging of resources and the extent of that leverage to allow the project budget to exceed the 1:1 match.

For acquisition projects, provide the reason(s) for the acquisition, the number of acres to be acquired, and a description of the property. Explain whether the acquisition creates a new public park or recreation area or expands an existing site and any types of resources and features on the site that make it unique, as well as any constraints.

For development projects, provide a description of the physical improvements and/or facilities that will be developed with grant assistance. Explain whether the project involves new development, rehabilitation, and/or replacement of existing facilities. Include a site sketch depicting improvements (or examples of similar projects).

For all types of projects, the project application should address:

1. How the project supports initiatives and long term plans within the city.
2. How the proposal implements recreation opportunities as presented in the Comprehensive Master Plan or a specific Park Master Plan, or Bikeway and Trail Masterplan and how this proposal was selected. If applicable, how the project implements or supports priorities of other relevant planning documents. Projects must be part of an existing Park Masterplan or relevant city planning document.
3. The new types of recreation opportunities and capacities that will be created as a result of the acquisition and/or development.

Project Location and Site Maps

An aerial map of the project location must be submitted showing the neighborhood/community indicating the general location of the project and any existing recreation resources adjacent to the project site.

Review

Applications for project funding will be submitted for review to the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board after initial review and approval from the Parks and Recreation Department. The project must not require any zoning action and must demonstrate public access. The project should demonstrate a clear need for financial assistance (factors such as all other available financial resources and the organization's total budget will be considered). Applications recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Department will be forwarded to the Park board, and if necessary, City Council, for final project approval and fund allocation.

Evaluation Criteria

1. The extent to which the project will improve recreational opportunities and address a neighborhood/community recreational deficiency

Higher priority will be given to projects that create opportunity in an area with no other such resources within a reasonable service area, or significantly rehabilitate or enhance an existing park/recreation opportunity in an area with no other such resources within a reasonable service area, or is otherwise severely underserved.

2. The extent to which the community participated in project development and the extent of support of government agencies and elected officials

Higher priority will be given to projects that have gone through a formal planning process or have significant support from citizens, neighborhood leaders, or community groups. Letters (or emails) of support from citizens, community organizations, and elected officials may be included as appropriate.

3. The extent to which the project will leverage financial or in-kind support from sources in the public, private, and/or non-profit sectors and addresses the match requirement of the grant

Higher priority will be given to projects involving multiple and diverse partnerships and that exceed the required 1:1 match, especially from non-public sources.

4. The viability and reasonableness of the project budget as it relates to the scope of work

Higher priority will be given to clear and detailed projects budgets that contain cost items that are reasonable and clearly related to the project's scope.

5. The strength of the project's alignment with the Billings Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan, Individual Park Master Plans, or other city planning documents

Higher priority will be given to projects that address a specific identified priority or goal as well as that of other city, community revitalization, and/or economic development plans.

6. The readiness of the project

Higher priority will be given to projects that exhibit a high degree of confidence that they can begin within one year and be completed in three. Lower priority will be given to projects with plans are still at the concept stage and/or the project seems to face implementation challenges, and where the timeline is scoped out only in broad terms.

Conditions

1. Grant funding must allow any citizen of Billings to participate in any program or use any facility that results or benefits from this grant. Citizens may not be able to participate or use a facility at the time of their choice due to scheduling conflicts. However, blanket restrictions or extraordinary fees may not be charged to restrict public access.
2. Matching funds must be committed before the City will enter any agreement.
3. Projects may not use other local public dollars as part of the match unless appropriated by City Council.
4. Projects must have a minimal impact on maintenance operations of the Parks and Recreation Department.
5. The grantee shall not discriminate against any person by refusing to furnish such person services or privileges offered to or enjoyed by all citizens of Billings, nor shall the Grantee or its employees publicize the facilities provided hereunder in any manner that would directly or influentially reflect on the patronage of any person because of race, creed, color, sex, religion, or national origin.
6. A legal agreement shall be signed by the organization/ individuals and the City Administrator, stating among other provisions; (1) if a reasonable project timeline for completion is not adhered to (2) that if the primary purpose of the project is changed without proper consent or (3) the public is denied reasonable access, the City has the option to pursue other uses of the funds as outlined in the agreement.
7. All projects must take place on city parkland or city-owned land otherwise used for recreation purposes and will be managed/overseen by City Staff in accordance with all outlined agreements, city ordinances, state or federal law.

BILLINGS PARKS AND RECREATION

MATCHING GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Name of Organization(s): _____

Name of Organization Representative: _____

Address _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Briefly describe the proposed project including park name and location.

How much money are you requesting for this project? \$ _____

How much money will your organization contribute to the project? \$ _____

What is the expected value of donated materials and professional labor? \$ _____

What is the total cost of this project? \$ _____

When do you estimate the project can be started and completed? _____

Please include all available items with your application:

- Project Budget and proof of funds
- Written cost estimates for work and materials
- Letters of intent for donated materials or professional labor
- Map(s) of the location
- Any letters of public support
- Organization's most recent year-end tax information or IRS Form 990 (if applicable)
- Organization's annual budget (if applicable)

PROJECT APPLICATION NARRATIVE

Describe the project in detail below. Use additional paper if necessary.

Be sure to highlight the expected impacts and benefits of their project and address all of the items described in the project application information and evaluation criteria sections of the Matching Grant Document.

Please describe:

- The type of project and the identified need this project addresses and how this will increase/diversify access to recreational opportunities.
- Whom the project will serve, be sure to describe how this will positively affect underserved areas/populations or the general population of the community.
- The extent to which the project will leverage financial or in-kind support from sources in the public, private, and/or non-profit sectors (include any information about partners and the extent of their contributions).