Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings February 2024

Urban Forestry in Disadvantaged Areas

The City Parks and Recreation Department received a $1 million grant to improve urban forestry in disadvantaged areas around Billings. Generally, the grant supports the pruning and/or removal of existing trees that aren't well suited to the area, as well as the planting of new trees in areas predominated by impervious (paved or hard surface) areas. The grant work will take place over the next 5 years.

The City of Billings Parks and Recreation Department received a $1 million grant from the U.S. Forest Service to undertake urban forestry activities in disadvantaged areas around Billings. Those areas, generally, are South Billings, the EBURD district just east of the downtown core, and portions of the area between Grand and Central Avenues and 5th Street West to 24th Street West, and extending to I-90 south of Central near Monad Road and Moore Lane.

More About This Project

Urban Forestry Activities will include:
- pruning existing trees as needed to provide for their health and safety of drivers and pedestrians.
- removing undesirable trees - defined as either unsafe, unhealthy, or improper type for the area.
- planting of trees, especially in neighborhoods and pedestrian areas with a high percentage of impervious (paved or hard surface) surfaces compared to trees and other vegetation. The selected trees would be of appropriate species for the area.
- collecting tree inventory and plant site data in disadvantaged areas.
- engaging the community to support and sustain urban forestry by providing input and ideas on planting locations and picking up shovels and rakes to help plant, mulch, water and care for neighborhood trees. Certain elements of the planting and immediate care of trees will be contracted or carried out by City staff.

To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:
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