



**City of Missoula, Montana
Item to be Referred to City Council Committee**

Committee: Parks and Conservation

Item: 2018 Open Space Bond expenditures

Date: October 3, 2019

Sponsor(s): Donna Gaukler

Prepared by: Betsy Willett

Ward(s) Affected:

<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Action Required:

Set a public hearing to consider a Resolution approving the use of 2018 open space bond funds for initial capital improvement project.

Timeline and Recommended Motions:

Referral to committee: October 7, 2019

Committee discussion: October 9, 2019

Council sets public hearing: October 21, 2019

Recommended motion: Set a public hearing for November 4, 2019, to consider a Resolution approving use of 2018 Open Space general obligation bonds for the initial capital improvement projects to certain open space lands as described in exhibits attached to the resolution

Public Hearing: November 4, 2019

Recommended motion: Adopt a resolution approving use of 2018 Open Space general obligation bonds for the initial capital improvement projects to certain open space lands as described in exhibits attached to the resolution.

Deadline: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Background and Alternatives Explored:

1) Clark Fork River Sustainable Access and Restoration Project

The 2018 Missoula County Open Space Bond measure included up to \$1.5 million for development of sustainable river access within the Open Space planning boundaries. Population growth within these planning boundaries has greatly impacted our local rivers. This is especially evident throughout downtown Missoula where bank erosion and destabilization from river access is harming local riparian areas and threatening public infrastructure.

The Clark Fork River Sustainable Access and Restoration Project involves developing and/or improving multiple hardened river access sites and closing and restoring dozens of unsustainable river access sites on both the North and South banks of the Clark Fork River from Ben Hughes Park to Riverside Park. Significant public scoping has occurred along the majority of this CFR

Project area. A preliminary engineering report was completed within a section of the project area, along the South bank of the Clark Fork River from the Madison St. and Orange St. Bridges. The proposed bond expenditure includes expanding upon the scope of the engineering reports and engineering in preparation for construction.

2) Open Space Reforestation Project

The 2018 Missoula County Open Space Bond measure included up to \$250,000 for tree planting within City parks and open space areas. Open Space bond funds are allocated to plant trees in parks and dedicated open space areas where none existed and to renew tree plantings in parks where existing trees have reached the end of their useful lifespan. Approximately 456 new trees will be planted in 15 parks and along two greenways, and 65 aging trees will be removed. Irrigation systems were essential in this undertaking.

3) Missoula Conservation Lands Trailhead Improvement Projects

The 2018 Missoula County Open Space Bond measure included up to \$.5 million for improving Trails and Trailheads across Missoula's Open Space and Conservation Lands System.

This proposal describes two distinct projects to upgrade existing trailheads on City Conservation Lands:

- 1) Waterworks Hill Trailhead and Interpretative trail: construct appropriate parking area, upgrade trailhead signs and infrastructure to meet standards, build accessible loop trail and connections to existing North Hills trail system, and provide site-specific interpretative education and education on responsible recreation.
- 2) Upgrade existing primary, secondary, and local access points: standardize all rules and regulations signage, provide bear-resistant trash cans where needed, upgrade all trail maps, and provide informational kiosks (as per adopted 2010 Trailhead standards) at all Primary Access points.

Financial Implications:

The total request is for \$775,000 in 2018 Open Space Bond proceeds for three projects, which are leveraged at a ratio of nearly one to one with \$752,900 in matching funds as follows:

- 1) \$225,000 request for the Clark Fork River Sustainable Access and Restoration Project carrying a match of \$25,000;
- 2) \$250,000 request for the Open Space Reforestation Project carrying a match of \$159,700; and
- 3) \$300,000 request for the Missoula Conservation Lands Trailhead Improvement Projects carrying a match of \$568,200.