

Aimee McQuilkin
Clark Fork Yacht Club
Betty's Divine
509 S Higgins Ave
Missoula, MT 58901
aimee@bettysdivine.com

EDA Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of the Missoula Downtown Foundation I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a project ready to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

As the founder of two businesses that thrive along the banks of the Clark Fork River, the vibrancy and accessibility of our City's river are of utmost importance. It is the heartbeat of town, the centerpiece, the magnet that draws us all together. The more we can do to enhance and protect it, the more opportunities community members and entrepreneurs such as myself have to build livelihoods for ourselves and others around it. I opened a clothing store called Betty's Divine 16 years ago ½ a block from the river and just last year launched a river tube rental and shuttle outfit that caters to the needs of both local and visiting river users, cutting down on theft and overcrowding at the upriver put-in sites, as well as providing shared transportation and much needed social infrastructure for our city. Both businesses...the former in a more indirect way than the latter, will by and large benefit from this project.

In addition, this project would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and a wide variety of tourism-related events. Studies have shown that the resilience of a community can be directly linked to the number and quality of parks and open spaces...in these times, investment in our parks has never been more important.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

Aimee McQuilkin
Business Owner



January 21, 2022

EDA: Denver Office
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO 80204

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of my business, Big Dipper Ice Cream, and our employees, I am writing to share our support for the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a shovel-ready project to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in Downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

Our business, Big Dipper Ice Cream, is located at 631 S. Higgins Avenue, and we have been there since 1995. Our business benefits significantly from the activities that take place on and around the Clark Fork River. During the summer, the river is host to hundreds of people tubing, paddling, rafting and fishing. There is significant need to develop a formal access site to the waterfront in the Downtown core to help guide intensive use and reduce the level of embankment erosion. Providing ADA access will open the door for folks with disabilities to access and connect with the water. Improved access and wider riverfront trails will help accommodate the growth we are seeing from both residents and tourists.

If awarded, these funds will help with Phase 2 implementation of the North Riverside Parks & Trails Plan and will contribute to the economic vitality of our community. Construction will bring short-term jobs, and enhancements will increase river recreation activities and customers for Downtown Missoula businesses.

When the weather is warm and folks are playing in the river, ice cream sales climb dramatically. I own a small business with two separate locations in Missoula. If these riverfront improvements move forward, I anticipate we will need to add 2-4 more full-time seasonal employees to accommodate the projected increase in customer traffic.

As a Board Member for the Downtown Business Improvement District, I know our property owners and business owners are vested in implementation of the community's vision for Downtown Missoula and have contributed thousands of dollars into improving the ribbon of parks and trails along the riverfront. Your investment in this project will have a dramatic impact on our community and our Downtown businesses, especially those that have been so dramatically impacted by the COVID pandemic: food & beverage, retail, arts & entertainment, and hospitality.

If you haven't been to Missoula, Montana recently, I invite you to come see the collaborative work we are doing in our community. You will have a wonderful and memorable experience as a visitor. Come visit Brennan's Wave and Caras Park – Missoula's Town Square – and enjoy live music, food vendors, river surfing, tubing and community. You Big Dipper Ice Cream is on us!

The COVID-19 pandemic has really highlighted the value of tourism and outdoor recreation in the Rocky Mountain West. This project will attract new and returning tourist to Missoula and provide additional opportunities for us to host more river recreation activities, festivals, and general visitors in the core of our community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this project and our community for your investment.

Charlie Beaton

Charlie Beaton

Owner, Big Dipper Ice Cream
Chair, Downtown BID Board of Trustees

Brennan's Wave

c/o Trent N. Baker
Central Square Building
201 W. Main Street, Suite 201
Missoula, MT 59802

Phone: 406.728.0810
Fax: 406.543.0134

January 20, 2022

EDA Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO, 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of Brennan's Wave, a Montana nonprofit company, I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave, the structure in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a shovel-ready project to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

Brennan's Wave, the Organization, was formed to promote and raise funds for the construction of Brennan's Wave, the structure. The mission of the Organization and purpose of the structure was to remove a dilapidated and hazardous irrigation diversion from the River and replace it with a modern diversion structure engineered to be safe and provide a whitewater feature for public enjoyment. However, Brennan's Wave has become so much more and is now one of the most iconic and recognizable features in downtown Missoula, constantly appearing in advertisements and publications relating to the Missoula community and businesses.

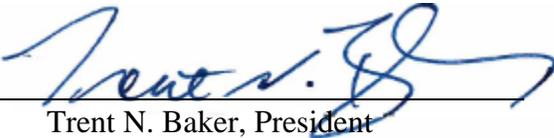
The City's proposed project will enhance the mission and purpose of Brennan's Wave by further enhancing the safety of access to, and public enjoyment of, the structure. The project would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

Tourism is very important to Montana and Missoula. The United States Census Bureau lists Montana as one of the top five states with the largest employment share in travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation. Missoula is located between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and is a significant tourist draw. According to the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, tourism spending throughout the state was down 16% in 2020. See: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/06/initial-impact-of-covid-19-on-travel-tourism-outdoor-recreation-varied-widely-across-states.html>.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and a wide variety of tourism-related events.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,
Brennan's Wave

By: 
Trent N. Baker, President



EDA Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO, 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of the Clark Fork River Market (CFRM) I am writing in strong support of the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a project ready to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

The Clark Fork Market has a very successful symbiotic relationship with Caras Park. Since 2005, the Market has been located in Caras Park and has become one of the most popular weekend events in downtown Missoula – connecting Missoula residents and visitors with fresh, local agricultural products, and providing livelihood for local agricultural producers. The Market benefits from our proximity with Brennan's Wave; improvements to the trail network would improve access to the Market.

The Brennan's Wave access improvement project would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and a wide variety of tourism-related events.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling

service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annette R. Marchesseault".

Annette R. Marchesseault, President



P.O. Box 7593, Missoula, MT 59807 ph. 406-542-0539

EDA Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO, 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of the Clark Fork Coalition, I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a shovel-ready project to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

The Clark Fork Coalition is a river conservation organization of some 2,700 members, dedicated to protecting clean water and restoring healthy rivers throughout the Clark Fork watershed for the past 30 years. After more than a century of degradation, the Clark Fork has recently undergone a renaissance thanks to extensive cleanup of mining wastes and the removal of Milltown Dam upstream of Missoula, and is now a recreation hotspot for Missoula. More than half of our members live in Missoula and enjoy the Clark Fork River as it flows through town for a variety of recreational uses, including fishing, wading, swimming, and boating and they would benefit tremendously from the City of Missoula's proposed access project.

In addition, this project would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and a wide variety of tourism-related events. It would also help to prevent the proliferation of informal user trails and the erosion and sediment loading they cause along the banks of the Clark Fork River.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best

River Towns” by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana’s tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

John DeArment

John DeArment
Science Director
406.542.0539 ext 211
john@clarkfork.org



January 18, 2021

Barbara Neilan
Executive Director
Destination Missoula/Missoula TBID
140 North Higgins, Suite 202
Missoula, MT 59802

EDA Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of Destination Missoula and the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District, I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a project ready to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

As the official Destination Marketing and Management Organization for Missoula, MT, our vision is "a vibrant and inclusive quality of life, place and experience for our community and visitors", and our mission is "promoting responsible and sustainable year-round tourism." We believe this project couldn't fit any better into that vision and mission.

Missoula is perfectly situated between Montana's two national parks, Glacier and Yellowstone, and benefits from visitation to both parks. Tourism is a large economic driver for Missoula and its surrounding areas. After a 20% decline in visitation during 2019, Missoula received approximately 3.41 million visitors in 2020, rebounding near normal visitation. Western Montana destinations were fortunate to be viewed as safe due to lower populations and paramount outdoor recreational opportunities. But it also sparked first time recreators that required education around responsible recreation and increased time in management of our resources. Our recreational opportunities, both in-town and in our surrounding five valleys, are the major tourism draw to Missoula. But Missoula is also set apart by its large arts, culture, culinary, and entertainment scene that people can enjoy after spending time in our great outdoors. Caras Park and the Clark Fork River are Missoula's heart. This is where community members and visitors alike gather to enjoy myriad events and festivals, and to enjoy kayaking, river surfing, tubing, paddleboarding and rafting. The increased use of our riverfront trails has created a great need to expand their width and true accessibility for everyone to the river. It is also a major attraction that our sales team uses to bring large conferences and events to Missoula, helping to stabilize the economy. The commitment by the Missoula community to improve and protect our natural resources is long-standing as can be seen by our open space and river protection projects. Destination

Missoula will also be leading a community-wide Destination Stewardship Master Plan process to help the community vision sustainable, accessible and inclusive tourism over the next 10 years. This project is an integral piece of that vision.

This project would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events, a wide variety of tourism-related events, and expand Missoula's accessible recreation.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

DESTINATION MISSOULA



Barbara Neilan
Executive Director

MEMO TO: BRENNAN'S WAVE RIVER ACCESS

JANUARY 17, 2020

FROM: CHARLES D. McDERMID, OWNER
HOLIDAY INN in DOWNTOWN MISSOULA

In the six years that I have owned and operated the Holiday Inn, I have recommended innumerable times to our hotel guests that they walk the short trail to Brennan's Wave, access the observation deck, check out the action below, watch the surfers cresting the wave, and then step on down to the river's edge and actually feel the water for themselves..

Almost invariably, when I'm in town, I love to walk the river trail and stop at Brennan's Wave to see for myself how much the local residents seem to enjoy the surfing. The Wave is a great attraction to visitors and residents alike, but it can be improved and made even better.

I strongly support the North Riverside Parks and Trails plan to upgrade this key attraction.

Charles D. Mc Dermid



120 Hickory Street, Suite B
Missoula, MT 59801
406.549.0755 fvl.org

EDA Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO, 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of Five Valleys Land Trust, I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If funded, the City's proposal will provide the first all-abilities access to the Clark Fork River in Missoula and dramatically improve the community value of Caras Park and Brennan's Wave.

At Five Valleys, we are a regional land trust that has worked to conserve approximately 100,000 acres over the last 50 years. An essential focus of this mission is to improve and expand equitable access to community open spaces within our service area. Supporting this shovel-ready project to improve resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River aligns with our core mission.

If funded, this project will improve the ability of one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites to serve the whole community, regardless of ability. Brennan's Wave runs through the heart of downtown Missoula, and the manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and a wide variety of tourism-related events.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant

Board of Directors:

David Banks • Jim Cusker • Julie Fogarty • Mike Foote • Allan Frankl • Denny Iverson • Addrien Marx
Rachel McDonough • Dan Pletscher • Shaun Radley • John Rimel • Jeff Roth • Stanley Senner • Rick Wishcamper



community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Whitney Schwab". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Whitney Schwab
Executive Director
Five Valleys Land Trust



Lewis & Clark Trail Adventures
912 E Broadway
Missoula, MT 59801

January 25, 2022

EDA Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO, 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of Lewis & Clark Trail Adventures, I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a shovel-ready project to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River. Our office is located across the street from the Clark Fork River.

As a 30+ year business owner, who's customers utilize the river and trail system AND a private citizen user. I hugely support this project. I have traveled to many cities across the US that have sustainable river access & trail systems and Missoula has great need for this. Over the years, we have seen increased use of the river and trails, making Missoula a great place to live & work. However, managing foot traffic and access is crucial.

This project would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and a wide variety of tourism-related events.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gia Wayne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gia" and last name "Wayne" clearly legible.

Gia Randono & Wayne Fairchild

Lewis & Clark Trail Adventures

The United States Census Bureau lists Montana as one of the top five states with the largest employment share in travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation. Missoula is located between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and is a significant tourist draw. According to the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, tourism spending throughout the state was down 16% in 2020.

<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/06/initial-impact-of-covid-19-on-travel-tourism-outdoor-recreation-varied-widely-across-states.html>



January 14, 2022

EDA Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency, I am writing in strong support of the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve access to the Clark Fork River at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in downtown Missoula. Caras Park, located on the banks of the Clark Fork, directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, includes a large events pavilion and performance stage and hosts a wide variety of community and tourism-related events throughout the year.

The Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) is a public agency with a mission to foster economic development and public infrastructure in its urban renewal districts and Caras Park and Brennan's Wave are located in MRA's Front Street Urban Renewal District. MRA was fundamental in the creation of Caras Park and is delighted that it has become an outdoor jewel that arguably can be considered the heartbeat of downtown, often referred to as Missoula's Living Room. MRA was also a major contributor to the effort to develop Brennan's Wave as one of many features to draw people into the park and into downtown Missoula. Brennan's Wave has become extremely popular for spectators as well as those who come down to "ride the wave."

If received, this grant would be dedicated to a shovel ready project to construct a more sustainable and accessible trail system at Brennan's Wave, and to develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River. As a major funder during the creation of Caras Park, a repeat funder of improvements to the park over the years and the single largest funder of Brennan's Wave, MRA stands ready, to the extent that funds are available, to commit funding to this project to help provide the required matching funds.

The Brennan's Wave Access project will increase access and capacity to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave is a nationally recognized manufactured whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River which has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006.

This project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating, viewing areas, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians, and people with disabilities. The improvements will increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports

events and a wide variety of tourism-related events – activities that are essential to the economic vitality of downtown Missoula.

The U.S. Census Bureau lists Montana as one of the top five states with the largest share of employment in travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation. Missoula is located between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and is a significant tourist draw. According to the University of Montana’s Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, tourism spending throughout the state was down 16 percent in 2020, largely due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic has evolved, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. Voted one of the nation’s “Best River Towns” by *Outside Magazine*, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana’s tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry.

The Brennan’s Wave River Access project has significant community support, and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Western Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,



Ellen Buchanan, Director



January 28, 2022

Angela Belden Martinez
Regional Director
U.S. Economic Development Administration
1244 Speer Boulevard
Suite 431
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Director Martinez:

On behalf of the Missoula Economic Partnership, I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a project to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system and river access in downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

Missoula Economic Partnership works to expand prosperity and improve quality of life for residents of Missoula County, Montana. This project accomplishes several goals outlined in our 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Specifically, this project will increase physical infrastructure in Missoula's downtown corridor and serve the expansion of Missoula's recreation and tourism industry, which is one of 5 industry clusters identified in the CEDS as a key industry poised for growth and investment in our region. Tourism and outdoor recreation are a key aspect of Missoula's quality of life, and draw both visitors, key workers, and new businesses to our region, enabling increased economic vitality and continued recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This project would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase

downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and a wide variety of tourism-related events.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and the workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole".

Nicole Rush
Business Initiatives Director



Bob Burns
Stockman Bank of Montana
P.O. Box 7789
Missoula, MT 59807-7789

Office of Economic Development Administration
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO, 80204

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Stockman Bank, I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave and Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to construction of a more sustainable, accessible trail system in downtown Missoula and development of a resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

Stockman Bank is dedicated to our communities and the people we serve by providing both financial and volunteer support to worthwhile community endeavors. We believe this project will significantly contribute to the vibrancy of downtown Missoula and enhance Western Montana's status as a tourist destination.

The planned improvements would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Adjacent to Brennan's Wave and located on the banks of the river is Caras Park - a large events pavilion and performance stage, home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project encompasses riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians, and people with disabilities. The improvements will increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and provide a more desirable venue for performing arts. Our community will benefit from growth in recreational opportunities and resident engagement.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly enhances Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will provide economic stimulus in Western Montana. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by *Outside Magazine*, Missoula is known for its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. Our community will continue to play an essential and vital role in Montana's tourism and economic recovery.

The Brennan's Wave/Caras Park project has significant local support and will attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to rebound from the global pandemic. Your consideration and support of Missoula's grant application would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bob Burns

Bob Burns
Missoula Market President

Strongwater Surf
1401 Cedar St. #5
Missoula, MT 59802
1-24-22

EDA Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard Suite 431
Denver, CO, 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of the Strongwater Surf I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a shovel-ready project to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

Strongwater Surf's mission is to enhance environment, community, culture and family in Montana through river surfing programs, projects and events. As an organization which provides outdoor recreation opportunities, we believe this project will greatly benefit the entire community of Missoula. This project will enhance Missoula's environment, aquatic life, wildlife and economy. This project will solve issues such as: bank erosion, over crowding, no access for people with disabilities and lack of event space. This project would increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitions and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to Brennan's Wave, and its large events pavilion and performance stage are home to a wide variety of community and tourism-related events.

The project includes riverbank stabilization, expanded riverfront entrances, seating and viewpoints, and improved access for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. The improvements would increase downtown Missoula's capability to host national watersports events and a wide variety of tourism-related events.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity

EDA Denver Regional Office

Date

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and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery. Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

KB Brown

Strongwater Surf



January 18, 2022

Todd Frank
Owner, The Trail Head and Trail Head River Sports
221 East Front Street
Missoula, MT 59802

EDA: Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Economic Development Administration:

On behalf of The Trail Head and Trail Head River Sports, I am writing to support the City of Missoula's Competitive Regional Tourism Grant application to improve Clark Fork River access at Brennan's Wave in Caras Park in Missoula, Montana. If received, this grant would be dedicated to a project ready to construct a more sustainable, accessible trail system in Downtown Missoula and develop resilient, natural infrastructure on the banks of the Clark Fork River.

As an organization which supports river use and paddle sports in the region, we believe this project will help our community address the increased use and impact this community treasure has seen since the removal of the Milltown Dam and the development of Brennan's Wave. The increasing use has impacted the stream bank and access is currently challenging. Getting a grant will allow for needed improvements at the site and will help accommodate the growing use of the river. Based on census information and trends we see in our business, we expect increased use of the river corridor and access sits. As a community that cares about outdoor recreation and tourism, we want to be ready to accommodate increased use of the river at Caras Park and throughout Downtown Missoula.

In addition, these improvements will increase capacity and accessibility to one of Montana's most popular outdoor recreation sites. Brennan's Wave, a nationally-recognized whitewater feature on the Clark Fork River, runs through the heart of Downtown Missoula. The manufactured wave structure has attracted national competitors and thousands of kayakers, surfers and standup paddleboarders since it was completed in 2006. Caras Park is located on the banks of the Clark Fork directly adjacent to

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As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, outdoor recreation has become an increasingly important component of the tourism industry. This project directly impacts Missoula's outdoor recreation capacity and will play an integral role in Western Montana's economic recovery.

Voted one of the nation's "Best River Towns" by Outside Magazine recently, Missoula will be an essential element of Montana's tourism and economic recovery with its striking natural features, exemplary parks and trails system, and bustling service industry. This project has significant community support and will help attract the visitors, new businesses, and workforce Montana needs to recover from the global pandemic.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Todd Frank

Todd Frank, Owner
The Trail Head and Trail Head River Sports
