

**DRAFT RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

**A resolution of the Missoula City Council approving the expenditure of up to \$112,700, including due diligence and related costs, from a combination of 2006 and 2018 Open Space Bond funds, for the acquisition of the Tipp Clark Fork River property of approximately 16.5 acres adjacent to the Kim Williams Trail.**

**Whereas**, on June 25, 2018, the Missoula City Council passed Resolution 8276 in support of the Missoula County Commissioners placing the question of a county-wide open space general obligation bond before the voters in the 2018 general election;

**Whereas**, on July 9, 2018, The Missoula County Commissioners passed Resolution 2018-111 submitting to the electors of Missoula County the question of issuing general obligation bonds in the amount of up to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) for the purposes of conserving, enjoying, and enhancing the open-space lands in Missoula County;

**Whereas**, in November 2018, 63% of Missoula County voters approved the Open Space Bond measure, which authorizes the Missoula County Commissioners to use the bond monies for the purposes of “conserving, enjoying, and enhancing open-space land, to include providing public access to water and land; conserving agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and rivers, lakes, and streams; protecting scenic views; and making improvements to lands acquired or designated as open space that are accessible to the public”, with \$7,500,000 of the \$15,000,000 total bond being allocated to the City of Missoula within the Missoula Urban Area Open Space Planning Region, as guided by the Open Space Plan;

**Whereas**, the Open Space Bond ballot measure authorizes the County Commissioners of Missoula County to sell and issue general obligation bonds “to pay the costs of purchasing land, easements, or other interests in land from willing landowners and of improvements and costs related to or serving lands acquired or designated as open space, including transaction and project costs and fees, all with citizen input”;

**Whereas**, Article II, Section 2.1 of the May 20, 2020 Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and the County of Missoula Related to Use of 2018 Open Space Bond Proceeds (Interlocal Agreement) establishes the general purposes, roles, and administration of the open space bond, including the allocation of half of the total bond (\$7,500,000) to the City for projects in the Missoula Planning Region;

**Whereas**, the 2020 Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and Missoula County lists river access, recreation trails, wildlife habitat and movement corridors, river and stream corridors, scenic viewsheds, and access for residents and underserved populations as open space acquisition priorities;

**Whereas**, in November 2006, Missoula County citizens voted to approve a \$10,000,000 Open Space Bond that authorizes the Missoula County Commissioners to use the bond monies to protect open space lands and acquire commuter and recreational trails throughout the County

with \$5,000,000 being allocated to the City of Missoula for open space and trails within the Missoula Planning Region, as guided by the Open Space Plan; and

**Whereas**, Article II, Section 2.1 of the April 5, 2007 Interlocal Agreement between the City of Missoula and the County of Missoula Related to Open Space Acquisition and Use of Open Space Bond Proceeds (Interlocal Agreement) establishes the general purposes of the open space bond;

**Whereas**, Chapter 12.56 of the Missoula Municipal Code, which generally governs open space, references the protection of valuable ecological lands, trails, greenways, views and vistas, riparian lands, public recreation access, and trails as open space priorities for the City (MMC 12.56.030);

**Whereas**, on February 13, 2025 the City of Missoula's Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) voted to recommend use of 2006 and 2018 Open Space Bond funds to protect the Tipp Clark Fork River property;

**Whereas**, the City of Missoula adopted the 2019 Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan ("Open Space Plan"), which provides a vision for continuing to expand upon community open space and trail systems throughout the greater Missoula area and identifies wildlife habitat and movement corridors, river corridors and riparian areas, recreational trail connections, scenery and viewsheds, surface and groundwater resources, carbon sequestration, air quality, climate resiliency, , and places for residents to find respite from the urban environment, all of which will be protected through conservation of the Tipp property;

**Whereas**, the City conducted a valley-wide statistically representative survey in 2024 on parks, recreation, open space, and trails needs and values, and strategies which help maintain clean air and water were one of the top five policies that residents support by 87% of the population, 92% of local residents support policies that protect river corridors, and 90% support protection of land for wildlife habitat and environmental reasons;

**Whereas**, the City of Missoula adopted Strategic Goals in 2024 which include the pillars of Community Safety, Health and Well-Being and Community Design and Livability, each of which are supported through increased access to recreational areas via public trails, as well as the protection of local river corridors and riparian areas;

**Whereas**, the City of Missoula is guided by the three strategic decision-making lenses of climate, equity and housing, and this project protects the Clark Fork River corridor and adjacent riparian area in the face of climate change while providing increased public access and recreational lands for use by local residents;

**Whereas**, protecting the Tipp property along the Clark Fork River corridor protects local floodplains while still allowing for compatible public recreational use in areas not generally suitable for development;

**Whereas**, through use of 2006 and 2018 Open Space Bond funds, the 16.5 acres of the Tipp property being protected is hereby designated as open space pursuant to § 76-6-106, Mont. Code Ann., and may not be converted or diverted from open space except as may be specifically provided herein and pursuant to applicable law; and

**Whereas**, following the acquisition of the property, the parties mutually agree to the naming of the property to honor the late Ray Tipp;

**Now therefore, be it resolved that the Missoula City Council hereby approves the expenditure of up to \$112,700, including due diligence and related costs, from a combination of 2006 and 2018 Open Space Bond funds, for the acquisition of the Tipp Clark Fork River property of approximately 16.5 acres adjacent to the Kim Williams Trail.**

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Claire Trimble  
Legislative Services Director/City Clerk

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Andrea Davis  
Mayor

(SEAL)