

**City of Missoula, Montana
New Business Item**

Item: West End Farms Park Test Well

Council Meeting Date: December 10, 2025

Sponsor(s): Andy Schultz

Department or Function: Public Works & Mobility-Utility Operations & Maintenance

Prepared by: Logan McInnis

Ward(s) Affected:

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

Action Required: Approve a Professional Services Agreement with RPA Engineers in the amount of \$85,720 to design and oversee bidding and construction of a test well at the West End Farms Park.

Recommended Motion(s): I move the City Council:
Authorize the Mayor to sign the Professional Services Agreement with RPA in the amount of \$85,720.

Background and Alternatives Explored:

Missoula Water has identified a need to increase its groundwater production capacity north of the Clark Fork River. Municipal wells can be difficult to site due to separation requirements from sources of contamination like sanitary and storm sewers. The proposed West End Farms Park has been identified as a potential site for a new municipal well for several reasons, including 1) Adequate separation from sources of contamination, 2) Existing wells in the area demonstrate a likelihood that a well could produce in the desired range of 1,500-3,000 gallons per minute, 3) Electric supply in this neighborhood is provided by Missoula Electric Cooperative, which offers a nearly carbon-free source of power. A well in this area will allow Missoula Water to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by reducing production from other wells that are served by Northwestern Energy's grid that is more reliant on fossil fuels. The need for increased well production north of the Clark Fork River is a result of the significant growth the system is seeing in the Sxwtpqyen neighborhood. Another driver for increasing capacity north of the river is that the North pressure zone currently relies on a well located south of the river pumping through a single pipe buried in the Clark Fork River bed. In the event of a failure of that pipe, the North Zone would not have adequate water supply.

RPA's work will include observing construction of the test well in order to characterize the water bearing zones and using that information to design a future municipal production well. The test well will also serve as the supply well for Parks and Recreation's irrigation system for the West End Farms Park. RPA's work will also include coordinating a 72-hour pump test that will be used to determine the long term yield of a municipal production well and will also be used by Parks and Recreation in the water rights application for their irrigation well.

RPA was shortlisted by the City as part of its FY26 Engineering Services Request for Proposal (RFP) Process, in the area of Water Production.

Financial Implications: The West End Farms Park Municipal Well was approved and funded in Missoula Water's FY26 budget. The source of funds for the project are Water System Development Fees.

Links to external websites:
n/a