

Missoula Parks and Recreation Board Referral

Citizen or Organization Name: Glacial lake Missoula Chapter of the Ice Age Institute

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Parks & Recreation Staff Contact: Morgan Valliant

Referral to: Missoula Parks and Recreation Board

Requested date for Board consideration: September 8, 2020

Referral Item: The Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter is proposing to place an engraved permanent stone marker at approximately the 4200'-4250' elevation high water level of Glacial Lake Missoula (GLM) at the overlook/viewpoint of the South Hills Spur trail. This site is an excellent location to view some of the lake's features (eg, the strandlines on MT Sentinel and Jumbo), sits approximately at the lake's highest filling, is on a well-used trail and would be our 5th stone in the Missoula valley. (A photo and description of the stone is included in the Attachments section below.) The stone would be easily incorporated into the earthen and rock berm that is at the end of the viewpoint. (see photos of this location in the Attachments section below).

We would like to place the stone sometime in October of 2020. Installation would utilize existing roads (the private road at the intersection of Whitaker Dr. / Rimel Rd. / Dean Stone Dr, if permissible), and we would request transport of the engraved stone via the Parks and Recreation lift truck that we used at a previous stone setting along the Pengelly trail on Mt Sentinel. Installation would include securing the stone in place with rebar and concrete.

Motion/Action requested:

I move the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board approve the following item:

Placement of the GLM stone on the South Hills Spur overlook with exact location to be determined by Missoula Park and GLM staff.

Brief Statement regarding the action you want taken by the Park Board.
(see above)

Background information:

We believe the placement of the rock provides a perspective of size, scope and magnitude of Glacial lake Missoula. It provides and enhances the publics' knowledge of the natural history of the Missoula valley. It also coordinates with the four other GLM high water markers placed on Mt Sentinel and Jumbo in coordination with Missoula City Parks and Recreation.

Attachments:

A guide to Ice Age Floods in Montana:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MFRct_zd9i6Swob3mPWgYYOcOipU8ugk/view

South Hills Spur trail map:

https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/43707/South_Hills_Spur-Trail-Map



GoogleEarth photo with pin marking approx. stone marker location



Photo looking WNW over the Missoula valley from South Hills Spur overlook berm



South Hills Spur overlook area and approx. potential location of the GLM stone marker placement

Staff report – The City has a good working relationship with GLMIAI and has partnered on 3 other installations (pre-approved by MPRB) of GLM boulders on City Conservation lands. These GLM boulders are low-profile, non-intrusive, educational installments which fit well with design standards and management goals adopted for Missoula’s Conservation Lands. GLM boulders on Mt. Jumbo and Mt. Sentinel have been in place for almost 10 years with no vandalism, degradation or issues. The adopted South Hills Spur Recreation Management Plan allows for installation of educational infrastructure at the this overlook. Addition of a GLM boulder at this location would comply with the adopted rec. plan for this site.

Staff recommendation to Parks Board: Approve placement of a GLM boulder on the Shout Hills Spur Overlook. City Staff will work with the GLMIAI to coordinate transport install and final location of the boulder at the overlook.