

Schmidt Road Public Access Easement Project - Milwaukee Trail to Mullan Road Connector

Landowner and Agency Identification:

Landowner: Delbert Fox

Sponsoring Organization: City of Missoula

Figure 1: Overview map of Schmidt Road property

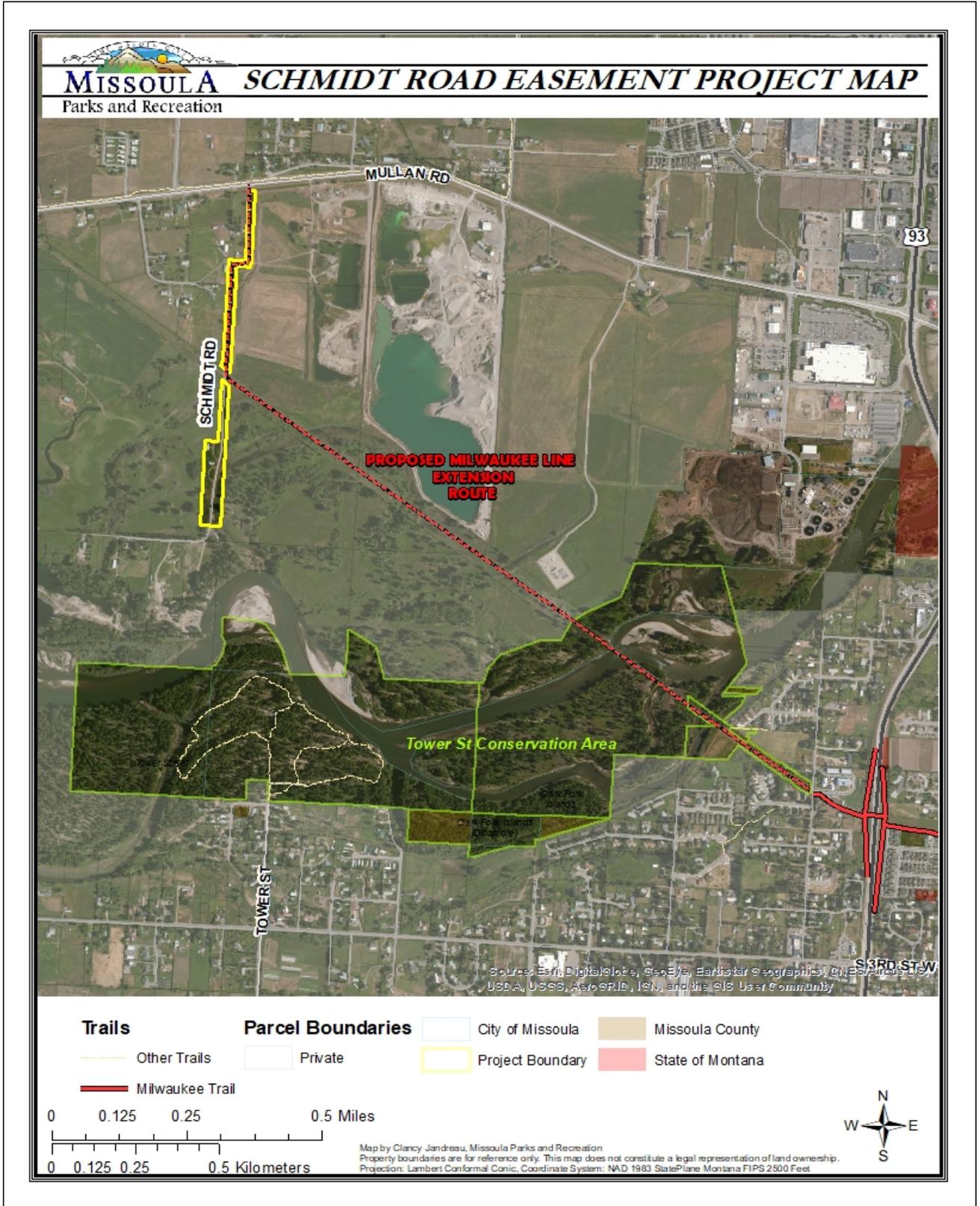
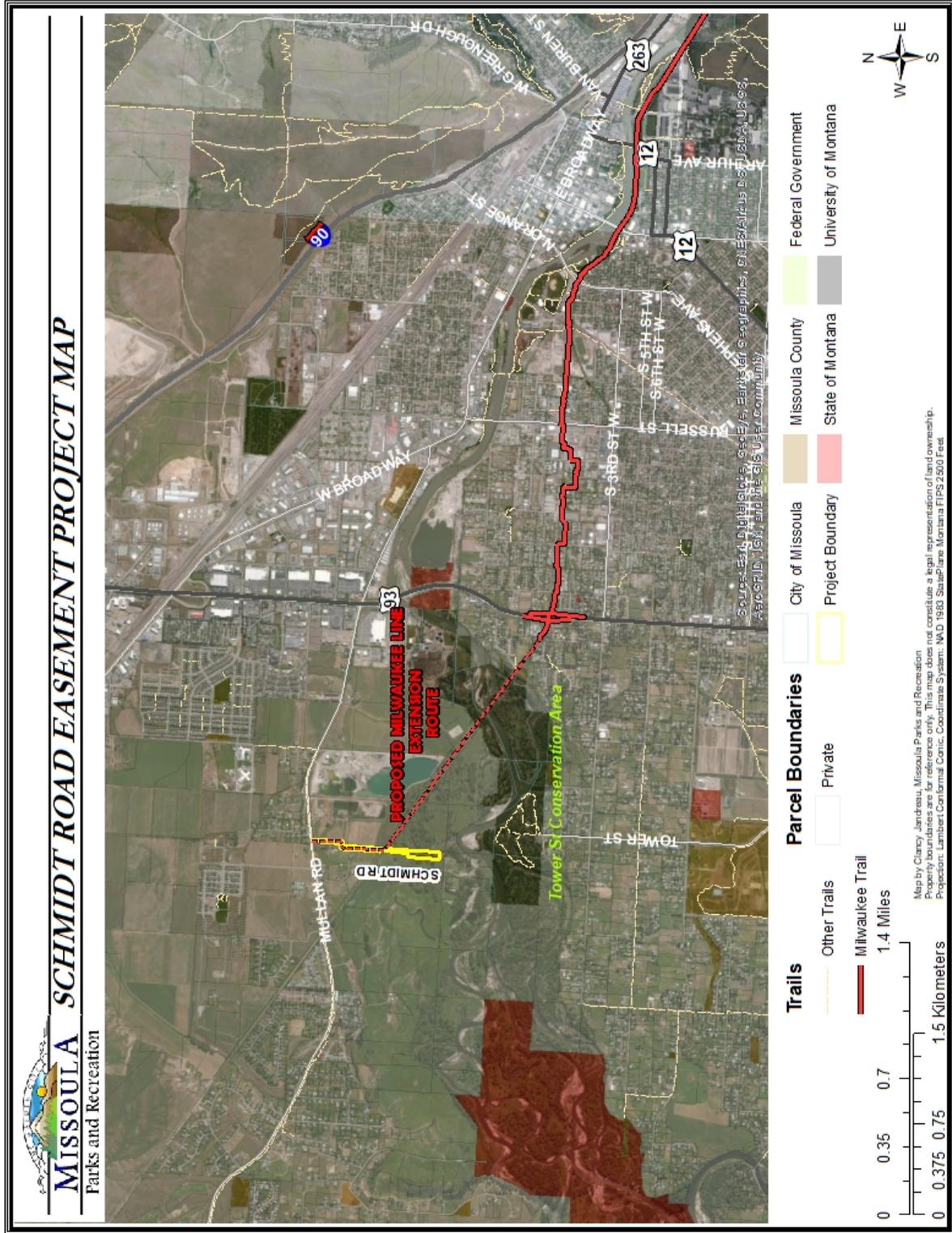


Figure 2: Context map of Schmidt Road property



1. Site Description

a) Size and location of the property

The Schmidt Road parcel consists of approximately 8.5 acres of land owned by Delbert Fox. The property is bisected by an unimproved section of the Milwaukee Trail and extends to Mullan Road west of Reserve Street and north of the Clark Fork River.

b) Open space proposal for the property

The City desires to purchase a perpetual public access easement across the Schmidt Road property that will connect the Milwaukee Trail to Mullan Road. The ultimate vision entails development and construction of a shared use path in line with City specs.

2. Public Access/Non-Motorized Trails

The Schmidt Road parcel provides a critical connection that will allow future trail users to travel from the Milwaukee Trail corridor to Mullan Road. The developed portion of the Milwaukee Trail is a vital and highly used non-motorized transportation and recreation shared use path in Missoula. It currently provides an artery that extends from downtown Missoula to the Clark Fork River near Reserve Street. As Missoula, and especially the Mullan area, grows, it is becoming increasingly important to provide non-motorized transportation infrastructure and recreational opportunities that connect Missoula's urban center to growing neighborhoods outside the urban center.

The City has prioritized completing a shared use path along the Milwaukee Trail and has several on-going projects on various parcels along the corridor, including plans for the construction of a bridge over the Clark Fork River to the east of the Schmidt Road parcel. There is also a national Rails-to-Trails effort to re-establish connectivity along the old Milwaukee Road. There is currently a planning effort in process for the Mullan area (Mullan Area Master Plan) and significant growth and development is planned for the area.

Table 1: Easement Acquisition Budget

2006 Open Space Bond Request	
Public Access Easement Acquisition	\$15,000
Transaction Costs*	\$10,000
Total	\$25,000

*Transaction costs are estimated at this time, but are not expected to exceed \$10,000.