



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

**Committee:** Parks and Conservation

**Item:** North Riverside Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Date:** November 9, 2020

**Sponsor(s):** Nathan McLeod

**Prepared by:** Nathan McLeod

**Ward(s) Affected:**

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

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**Action Required:**

I move the City Council: Adopt the North Riverside Parks and Trails Master Plan including narrative as shown on Exhibit "A."

**Recommended Motion(s):**

I move the City Council: Approve a Resolution Adopting The North Riverside Parks And Trails Master Plans for Caras, East Caras, Bess Reed, Downtown Lions, and Kiwanis Parks, and Ron's River Trail, Including The Plan Narrative per Exhibit "A" and amending the 2019 Downtown Master Plan and the Master Parks and Recreation Plan for the Greater Missoula Area.

**Timeline:**

City Council New Business:	November 23, 2020
Committee discussion:	N/A
Council action (or sets hearing):	November 23, 2020
Public Hearing:	n/a
Deadline:	n/a

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**

Following adoption of the new Downtown Master Plan in August 2019, the Downtown Missoula Partnership and Missoula Parks & Recreation partnered together to take a deeper dive on the planning and design of the parks and trails north of the Clark Fork River from Russell Street to Missoula College. Dover, Kohl & Partners, alongside the Leadership Team and the Blue-Ribbon Committee, have spent the last 14 months developing the community's vision for the ribbon of parks on the northside with intense focus on Caras Park, East Caras Park and Bess Reed Park, while also including Downtown Lions Park and Kiwanis Park. More than 2,000 Missoulians participated in the process to develop the plan with the goals to:

- Enhance functions and programming
- Celebrate the River
- Improve sustainability and environmental quality
- Increase park space and reorganization/relocate surface parking

More specifically, the plan will help to:

- Improve year-round utilization of Caras Park and the riverfront corridor

- Improve access to the water and reduce erosion of the riverbank
- Improve, widen and connect the riverfront trail system
- Upgrade and reorganize infrastructure to better serve the public, both residents and tourists
- Improve access to the corridor

The plan was initially revealed to the public in May 2020 on the Engage Missoula website. DKP pivoted the presentation to the digital platform and created several videos to help communicate the concepts. With feedback from the community, the plan was fine-tuned over the summer. In October the final plan was posted for public consumption and multi-agency adoption.

The plan consists of a 115-page document with incredible renderings, as well as a six-minute video that offers a three-dimensional view of the proposed park improvements.

On behalf of the Blue Ribbon Committee, the Leadership Team, Missoula Parks and Recreation and the Downtown Missoula Partnership, we are seeking formal adoption of the North Riverside Parks & Trails Master Plan from City Council.

#### **Financial Implications:**

The Master Plan represents an investment of \$141,500, and includes contributions from the Missoula Redevelopment Agency (\$5,000), Parks & Recreation (\$75,000), the Downtown Missoula Partnership (\$50,000) and Missoula Public Works (\$10,000). Pending adoption of the plan by City Council, the next step is to begin design development which will include cost estimates for the various phases of the project. At this time funding for implementation has not been identified but will likely consist of a combination of public and private contributions to implement the vision. The master plan vision can begin implementation soon with opportunities related to existing projects, including the Higgins Avenue renovation and installation of the infiltration gallery by Storm Water in Caras Park,

#### **Links to external websites:**

<https://www.engagemissoula.com/north-riverside-parks-trails>