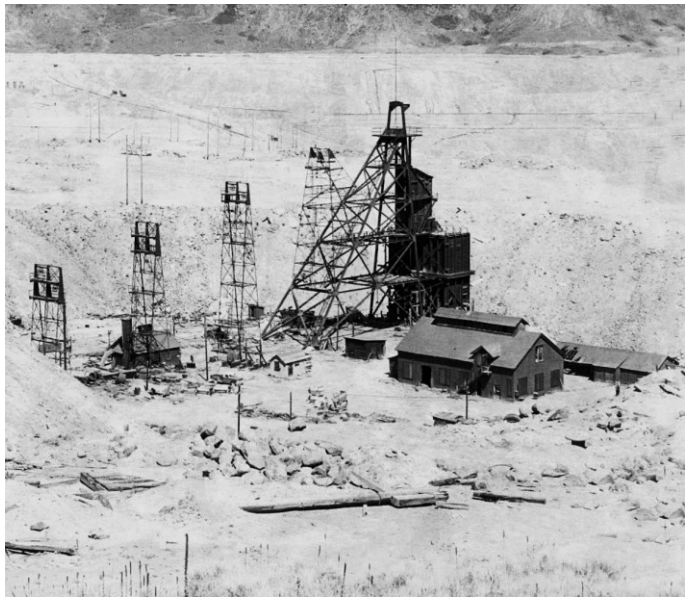
Clark Fork River Restoration and Access

Approve the professional services contract with RESPEC Company, LLC in the amount not-to-exceed $245,616

Background and History

For most of the 19th and 20 centuries, **the Clark Fork was a working river**, supporting industry, transportation, agriculture, and mining, all of which left their mark on the river.

With the removal of Milltown Dam, cleanup of mining wastes, and dramatic improvements in water quality, the Clark Fork has undergone a renaissance.



River Recreation

After many years of neglecting the Clark Fork, Missoula has turned to face the river, which to residents and visitors alike is now considered **one of our community's greatest assets.**

In 2018 surveyors counted an average of **58 floaters per hour** at the Madison Street Footbridge

Bank Erosion

Out of the city's newfound love of the river, a new potential threat has emerged. A dramatic increase in recreational use of the river, particularly through the urban stretch in Missoula, has **created significant erosion problems.**

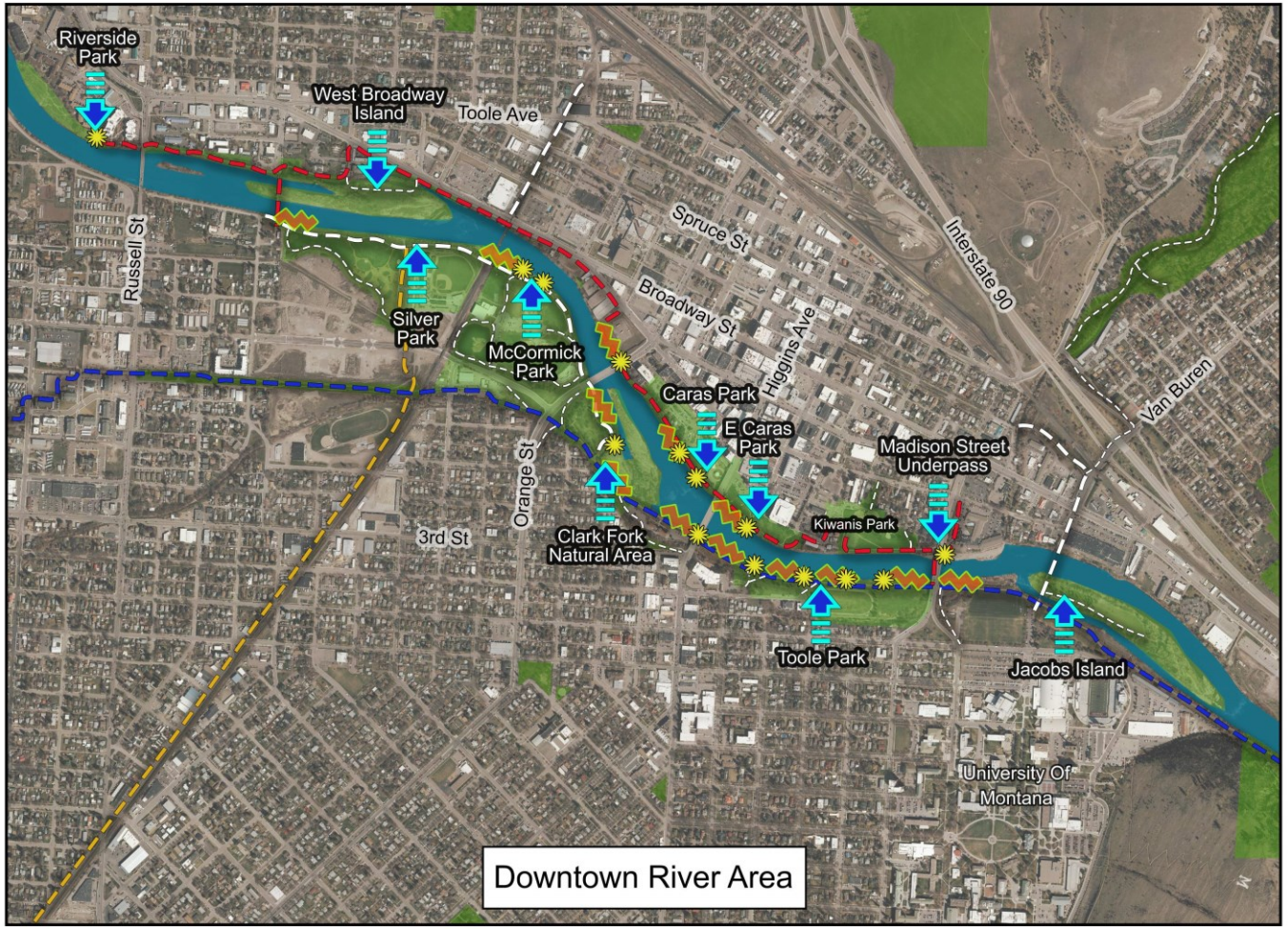
Building On Past Progress

A community river-visioning process was launched in 2014 with participation from multiple agencies and stakeholders, all of which agreed that river access and streambank health were at the forefront of community and environmental issues to be addressed.

In fall 2015, the City of Missoula, Water Quality Department, and Clark Fork River Coalition secured funding and hired RESPEC to evaluate and categorize riverbank and riparian conditions along the south bank of the Clark Fork River though downtown Missoula.

Clark Fork River Access Improvement and Restoration Plan

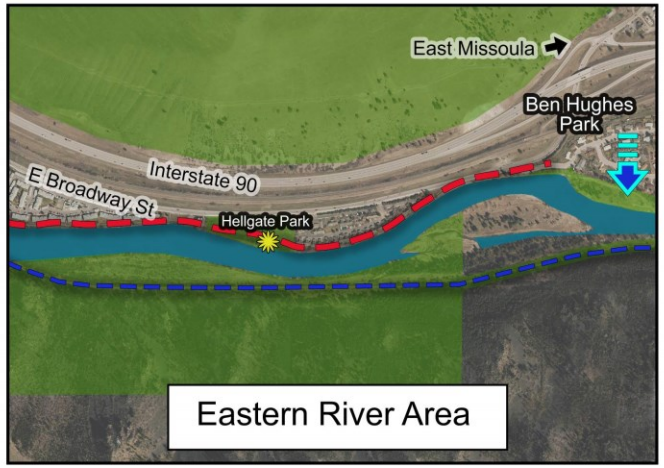
February 24th 2021



LEGEND

- Milwaukee Trail
- Ron's River Trail
- Bitterroot Trail
- Other Trails
- Existing City Parkland
- Existing Popular River Access
- Proposed River Access Improvements
- Proposed Bank Restoration

Parks&Recreation
City of Missoula • 600 Cregg Lane • 721-PARK



Locations are approximate

Proposed river access improvements and bank restoration sites were selected using the site definitions and selection criteria

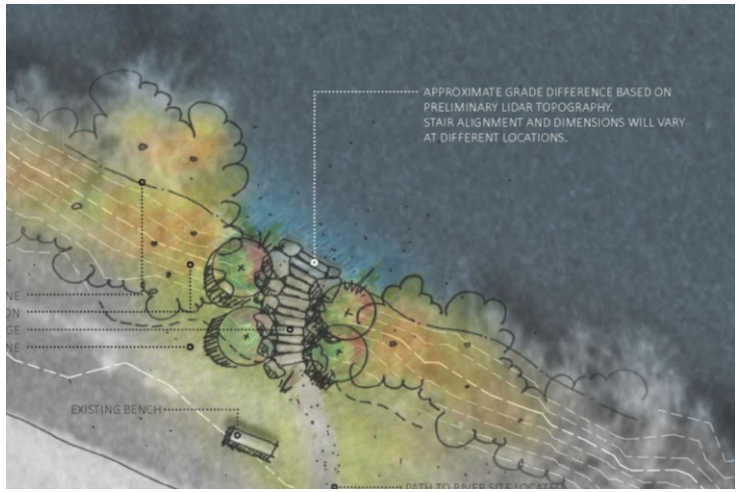
0 1/10 2/10 4/10 Miles

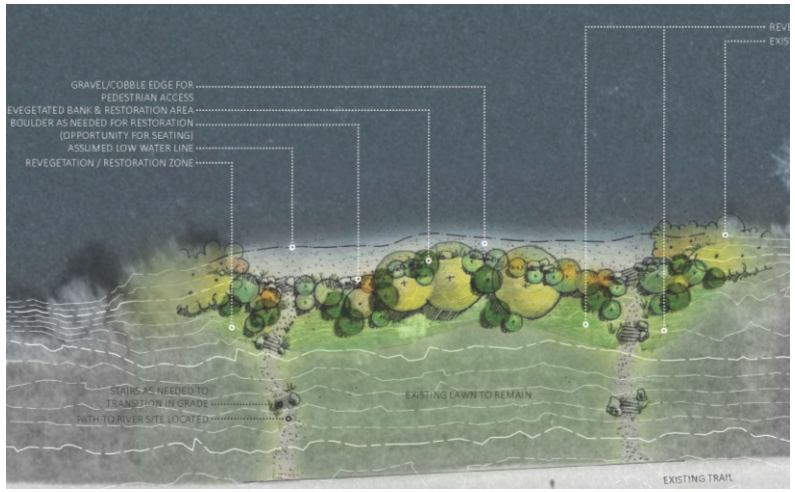
N

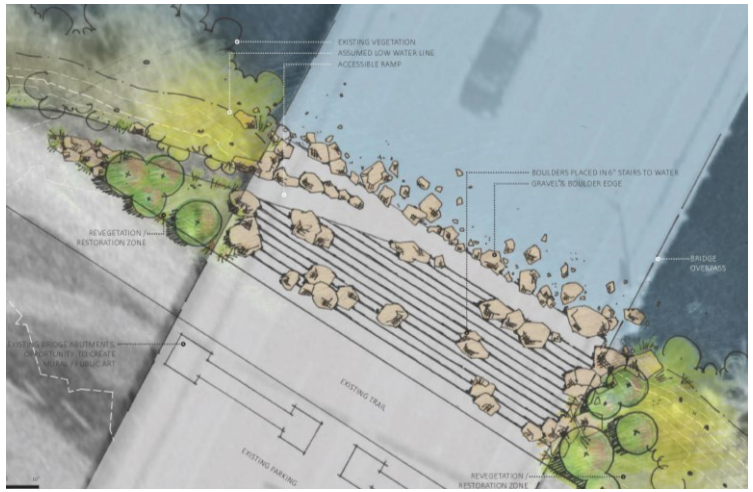
Building On Past Progress

Conceptual-level river access and restoration treatments were completed in 2016 for 34 identified sites

Expanding the project area to include the north bank of the river, design concepts from The North Riverside Parks and Trails Master Plan will be included.





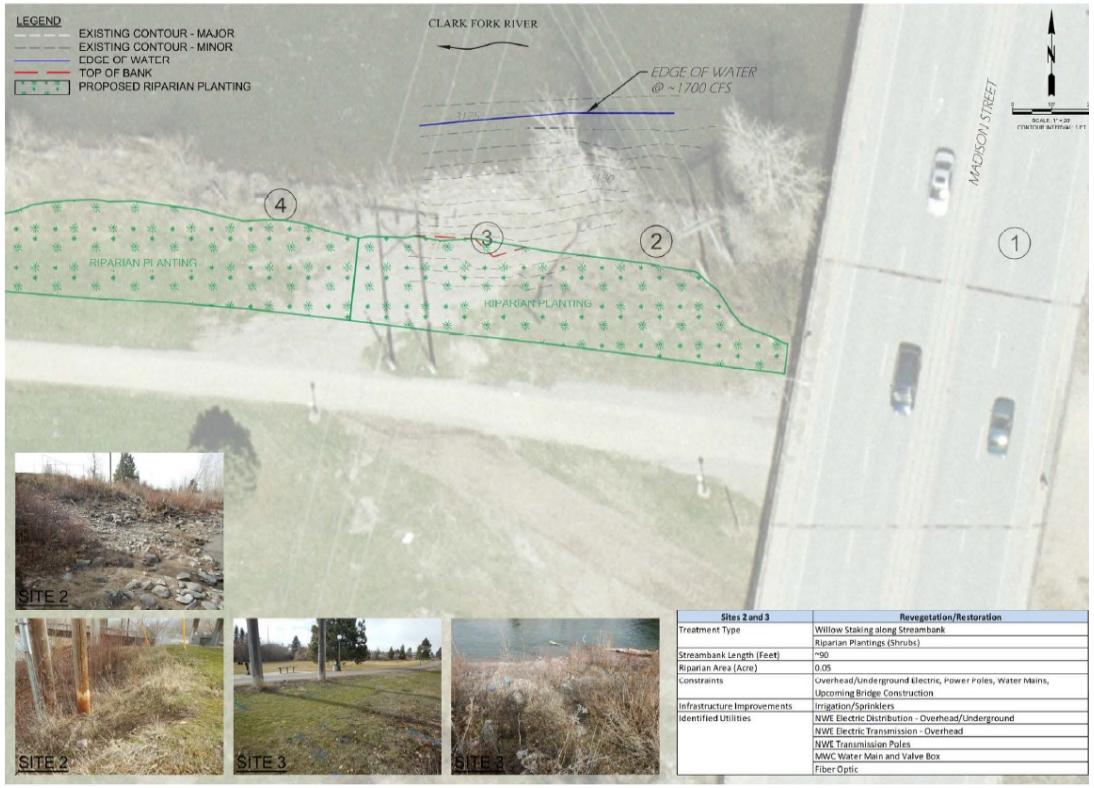


Building On Past Progress

Planning documents included bank stabilization and habitat restoration concepts for many locations within the project area.

Site 4	Revegetation/Restoration
Treatment Type	Riparian Plantings
Streambank Length (Feet)	N/A
Riparian Area (Acre)	0.05
Constraints	Power Poles, Water Mains
Infrastructure Improvements	Irrigation/Sprinklers
Identified Utilities	NWE Electric Transmission - Overhead
	NWE Transmission Poles
	MWC Water Main and Valve Box

Site 5	Revegetation/Restoration
Treatment Type	Willow Staking along Streambank
	Riparian Plantings
Streambank Length (Feet)	~15
Riparian Area (Acre)	0.04
Constraints	None Identified
Infrastructure Improvements	Irrigation/Sprinklers
	None Identified



Sites 2 and 3	Revegetation/Restoration
Treatment Type	Willow Staking along Streambank
	Riparian Plantings (Shrubs)
Streambank Length (Feet)	~90
Riparian Area (Acre)	0.05
Constraints	Overhead/Underground Electric, Power Poles, Water Mains, Upcoming Bridge Construction
Infrastructure Improvements	Irrigation/Sprinklers
Identified Utilities	NWE Electric Distribution - Overhead/Underground
	NWE Electric Transmission - Overhead
	NWE Transmission Poles
	MWC Water Main and Valve Box
	Fiber Optic

Toole Park River Access Concept

Caras Park River Access Concept (From North Riverside Parks and Trails Plan)

Moving Forward

Following a Request for Qualifications (FRQ) the RESPEC team was selected as the most qualified team to take the conceptual plans created in 2016 and develop the designs into a 100% bid ready, permitted project.

Project Goals

1. Inventory and monitor river bank erosion and identify user made access locations along the river
2. Create/Affirm the site selection criteria for river bank restoration and/or access enhancements that was developed in 2015
3. Design and construct an intuitive system of walk-in river access points for a variety of river users which encourage responsible recreation and promote the health and aesthetics of the Clark Fork river
4. Design and implement a restoration program to sustainably restore impacted river bank locations throughout the project area, and potentially beyond

Project Funding

The 2018 Missoula County Open Space Bond was approved by Missoula County residents during the November 2018 General Election. The bond measure included up to $1.5million for development of sustainable river access and riparian restoration along the Clark Fork River within the Open Space planning boundaries.

$225,000 was allocated for Phase 1 of the Clark Fork River Restoration and Access to develop construction ready and permitted designs.

The remaining bond funds will be leveraged for other potential funding sources and will be used for project construction.

Project Funding

Clark Fork River Restoration and Access Professional Services Contract Details

Design and engineering fees not to exceed: $198,080
Construction Administration and project Bidding in an amount not to exceed: $47,536 (optional)

Total Contract Not to Exceed Amount: $245,616