

2018 Open Space Bond Review Criteria for OSAC

1. What purpose(s) of the 2018 open space bond will the proposal accomplish? [purposes contained in 2018 bond ballot language]
 - a. list bond purpose(s)
2. Does the proposal meet the requirements of the City's open space ordinance (as amended...) [insert new City policy objectives related to open space, as articulated in updated ordinance]
 - a. Yes or no question
3. Does the proposal further a goal or objective of the PROST plan?
 - a. List goal or objective (or multiple goals/objectives)
4. Is the proposal/project in a geographically important area? (e.g. open space cornerstone, riparian land, area underserved by parks, trails or open space).
5. Is the project being accomplished using the smallest possible outlay of bond funds? (i.e. bargain sale purchase/landowner donation, significant matching funds, in-kind donations of time or materials, using a conservation tool such as easement where fee acquisition is too expensive, etc.)

Note: previously, the criteria for bond project review were weighted using a point system, so the more-essential criteria had a bigger impact on the results than the less-essential. This is a system that could be carried forward....

Also, each project was weighed against an additional set of criteria, based on the type of project. (e.g. developed parks had criteria related to developed parks.... Agricultural land had specific criteria related to soils or historic structures, etc.)

Criteria by type of open space:

Anchor Areas:

Implementation Strategies for Anchor Areas

- Protect key lands to improve wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.
- Preserve larger and/or high-quality tracts of agricultural land.
- Protect key lands to enlarge and connect anchor areas.
- Establish anchor areas in regions of the planning area that do not contain such areas.
- Provide public access to conservation lands.
- Provide more dirt trails for hiking, biking, and running.
- Balance demand for recreational access with need to protect habitat.

Urban Green Spaces:

Implementation Strategies for Urban Green Spaces

- Protect additional urban green spaces within neighborhoods that have insufficient acres of parks, trails and open space per capita.
- Work toward ensuring that the majority of citizens in the Missoula urban area have access to a park, trail or open space trailhead within a 10-minute walk from home.
- Protect lands to balance demand for recreational access with adequate buffer zones to protect wildlife habitat.
- Invest in agricultural lands and urban farming by creating more community gardens.

Corridors:

Implementation Strategies for Corridors

- Improve access and connectivity between parks, trails and open spaces by filling gaps in commuter trail networks.
- Expand existing commuter trail networks to connect with surrounding national forest recreation areas and under-connected areas of town.
- Provide safe and sustainable access points to rivers, to minimize impacts to riparian areas and protect water quality.
- Provide more paved trails for walking, biking, and running.
- Provide more dirt trails for walking, biking, and running.