

Contact:
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www.missoulaparks.org



MISSOULA PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release through March 31, 2021

Residents invited to share ideas for downtown river access improvements

Missoula Parks and Recreation invites residents to share their ideas to improve river access in downtown Missoula via a brief [online public opinion survey](#) through March 31.

The survey, posted at www.engagemissoula.com, is part of the City's [Clark Fork River Restoration and Access Project](#), funded by the 2018 Open Space Bond. The [online survey](#) is the first step in an extensive public process to develop a master plan to restore compromised riverbanks and improve river access through the heart of Missoula.

Recreational use of the river has increased dramatically over the last 15 years, says Nathan McLeod, Missoula Parks and Recreation's Parks and Trails Design/Development Specialist. The extra visitors have had a significant impact on the river's banks and beaches.

"Increased river traffic has created a network of informal river access trails which have caused erosion and destroyed stream-stabilizing vegetation. Erosion degrades water quality, destabilizes the banks and threatens adjacent City infrastructure," McLeod says. The Restoration and Access Project, which was started in 2014, builds on years of research and planning including river user surveys, ecological monitoring and inventory, preliminary restoration and access site selection criteria and design concepts. It addresses the need for improved, more sustainable user access and seeks to balance recreation needs with the health of the river ecosystem.

The project includes about 30 specific sites selected for restoration or improvement in a 4-mile stretch of the Clark Fork between Riverside Park west of Russell Street and Ben Hughes Park in East Missoula. Project partners include Parks and Recreation, the City's Storm Water Division, the Clark Fork Coalition, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Missoula Water Quality District.

In the coming months, the City will host open houses and stakeholder meetings to gather additional public input on the project's design. Project partners will work closely with residents to design an intuitive system of walk-in river access points to meet the community's diverse needs. The new access points, which may include features like stairs, accessibility ramps, boulder seating and beach improvements, will encourage

responsible recreation and promote the health and aesthetics of the Clark Fork. Project partners will also design and implement a riverbank restoration program throughout the project area.

The selected design and engineering consultant, RESPEC Company, will develop site restoration plans and prescriptive treatments, initiate the permitting process and produce preliminary construction plans for the improved river access points. Construction could begin in Fall 2022, as funding allows.

Take the survey by March 31 and learn more about the project at www.engagemissoula.com. The [Engage Missoula site](#) includes conceptual drawings of proposed improvements, a map of the project area, and access site definitions and selection criteria. For more information, email Nathan McLeod at Missoula Parks and Recreation, mcleodn@ci.missoula.mt.us or phone 721-PARK (7275.)

ATTACHMENTS:

Clark Fork River Access Improvement and Restoration Plan

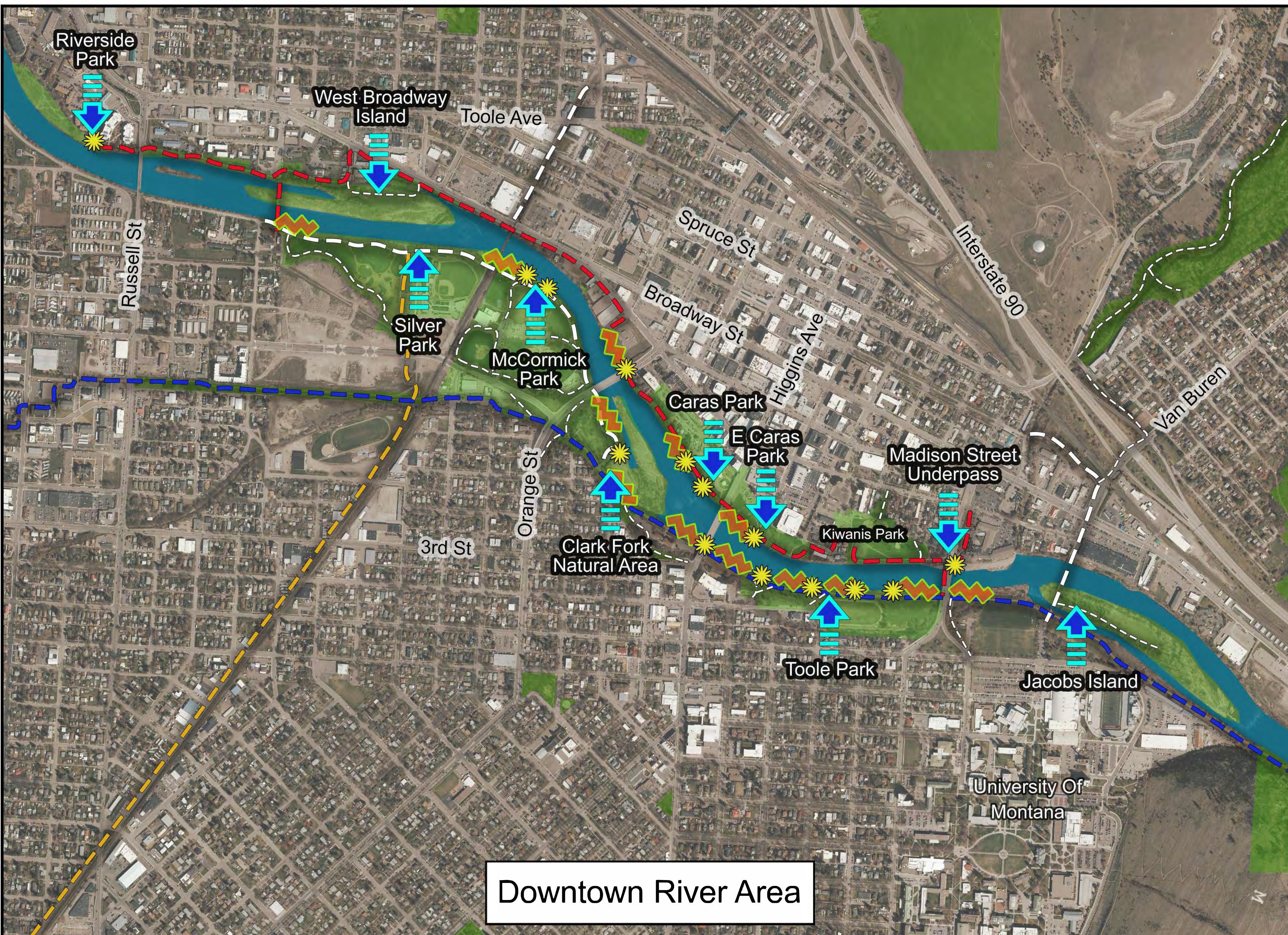
Clark Fork River Restoration & Access Survey

March 3, 2021 Presentation to City Council Parks and Conservation Committee

(END)

Clark Fork River Access Improvement and Restoration Plan

February 24th 2021

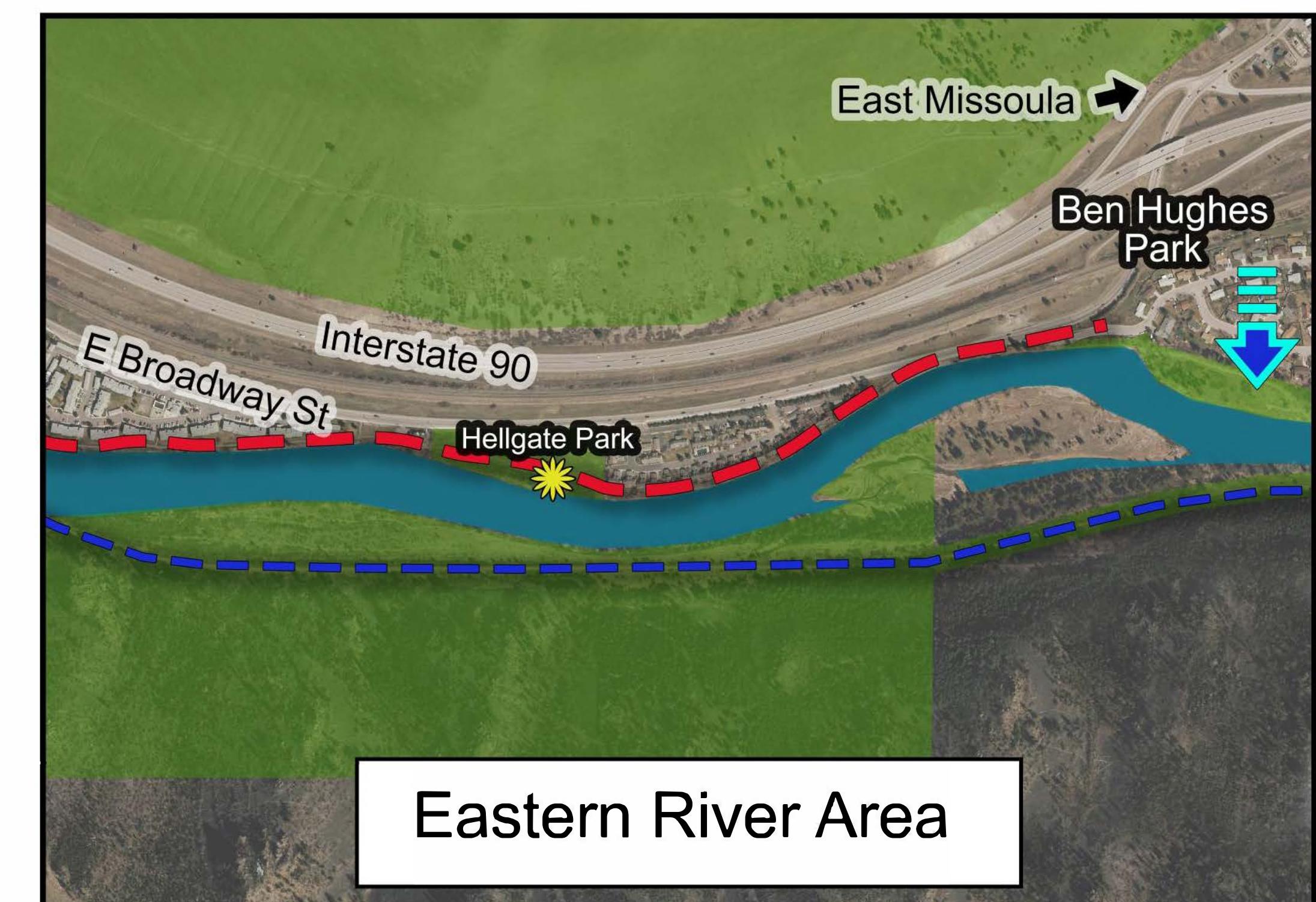


LEGEND

- 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

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Locations are approximate

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

0 $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{2}{10}$ $\frac{4}{10}$
Miles



Clark Fork River Restoration & Access Project

Engage Missoula

Clark Fork River Restoration & Access Survey

Please refer to the [Preliminary Selection Criteria](#) and the [Preliminary Access Improvements and Restoration Plan](#) as well as other documents located on the project page sidebar, and complete the following 5 minute survey.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback!

How do you like to enjoy the Clark Fork River (choose all that apply)

(Choose all that apply) (Required)

- Boating/Tubing/SUP
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Surfing (kayak or Board)
- Sun bathing/lounging
- Walking along the river
- Watching the river
- Swimming my dog
- I don't enjoy the river
- Other (please specify)

How often do you go to the river in Downtown Missoula (in summer)

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- Daily
- 2-3 times a week
- Weekly
- Monthly
- A couple times a summer
- Almost never
- Wait, there's a river in Missoula?

What is your preferred location to visit the river in Missoula? (pick up to 3) [River Access Map](#)

(Choose any 3 options) (Required)

- Riverside Park
- Silver Park
- West Broadway Island
- McCormick Park
- Caras Park (Brennans Wave)
- East Caras Park (Pattee Street)
- Clark Fork Natural Area
- South bank of the river, near Toole Park
- Madison Street underpass
- Jacobs Island Park
- Ron's River Trail

Clark Fork River Restoration & Access Project

Engage Missoula

- Milwaukee Trail
- Ben Hughes Park
- Sha-ron/ East Missoula
- I prefer to visit the river outside of town
- None, I don't go to the River
- Other (please specify)

When I visit the river in Missoula I usually arrive by:

(Choose all that apply) (Required)

- Walking
- Biking
- Bus
- Personal Vehicle
- Other (please specify)

The top three amenities I look for at river access points are (pick up to 3)

(Choose any 3 options) (Required)

- Free Parking nearby
- Restroom nearby
- Trash Can/Recycling nearby
- Dog Waste Station nearby
- Bus Stop nearby
- "Beach" along the river
- Adjacent to a non-motorized trail
- Shady places to sit
- River overlook
- Bicycle parking nearby
- ADA Accessible route down to the river
- Other (please specify)

The [Access Site Definitions and Selection Criteria](#) meet my expectations

(Required)

Questions	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
The Access Site Definitions and Selection Criteria meet my expectations for the Clark Fork River Restoration & Access Project.						

What I would change about the [site selection criteria](#)

Based on The [Preliminary River Access Improvement and Restoration Plan](#) my top 3 sites for **Access Improvements** are:

(Choose all that apply) (Required)

- Riverside Park
- McCormick Park
- Caras Park at Brennan's Wave
- East Caras Park
- South Bank near the Clark Fork Natural Area
- South Bank at the Higgins Ave bridge

Clark Fork River Restoration & Access Project

Engage Missoula

- South Bank near Toole Park
- North Bank at the Madison Street Underpass
- Hellgate Park
- Other (please specify)

Based on The [Preliminary River Access Improvement and Restoration Plan](#) my top 3 sites for **Bank Stabilization and Habitat Restoration** are:

(Choose all that apply) (Required)

- South Bank near the California Street Pedestrian Bridge
- McCormick Park
- Clark Fork Natural Area
- Caras Park
- East Caras Park
- South Bank near Higgins Ave bridge
- South Bank near Toole Park
- South Bank near Madison Street Underpass
- Other (please specify)

What I would change about the [Preliminary River Access Improvement and Restoration Plan](#)

Questions about the project that need to be addressed:

Is there anything else you would like to share regarding this project?

What neighborhood do you live in? [Neighborhood Map](#)

(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Captain John Mullan
- Farviews/Pattee Canyon
- Franklin to the Fort
- Grant Creek
- Heart of Missoula
- Lewis and Clark

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- Moose Can Gully
- Northside/Westside
- Riverfront
- River Road
- Rose Park
- South 39th Street
- Southgate Triangle
- Two Rivers
- University District
- Lower Rattlesnake
- Upper Rattlesnake
- Miller Creek
- Out of Town

What is your age?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Under 12 years old
- 12-17 years old
- 18-24 years old
- 25-34 years old
- 35-44 years old
- 45-54 years old
- 55-64 years old
- 65-74 years old
- 75 years and older

Please keep me up to date on this project, my email is:

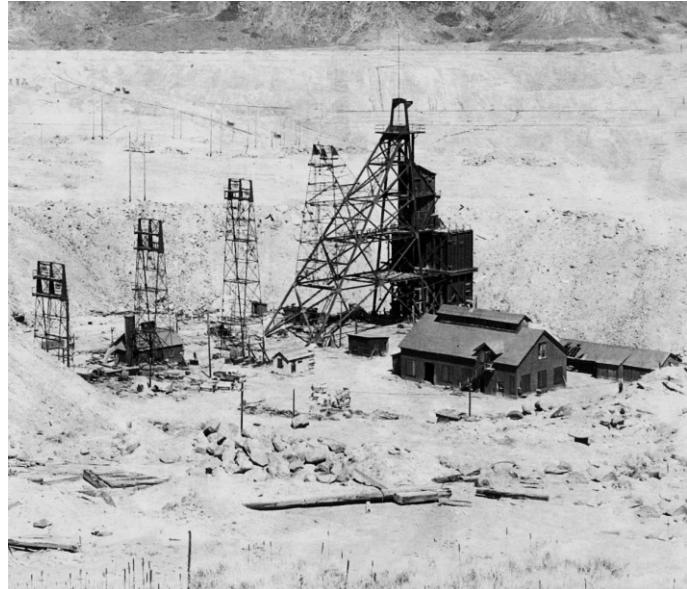
Clark Fork River Restoration and Access



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**.



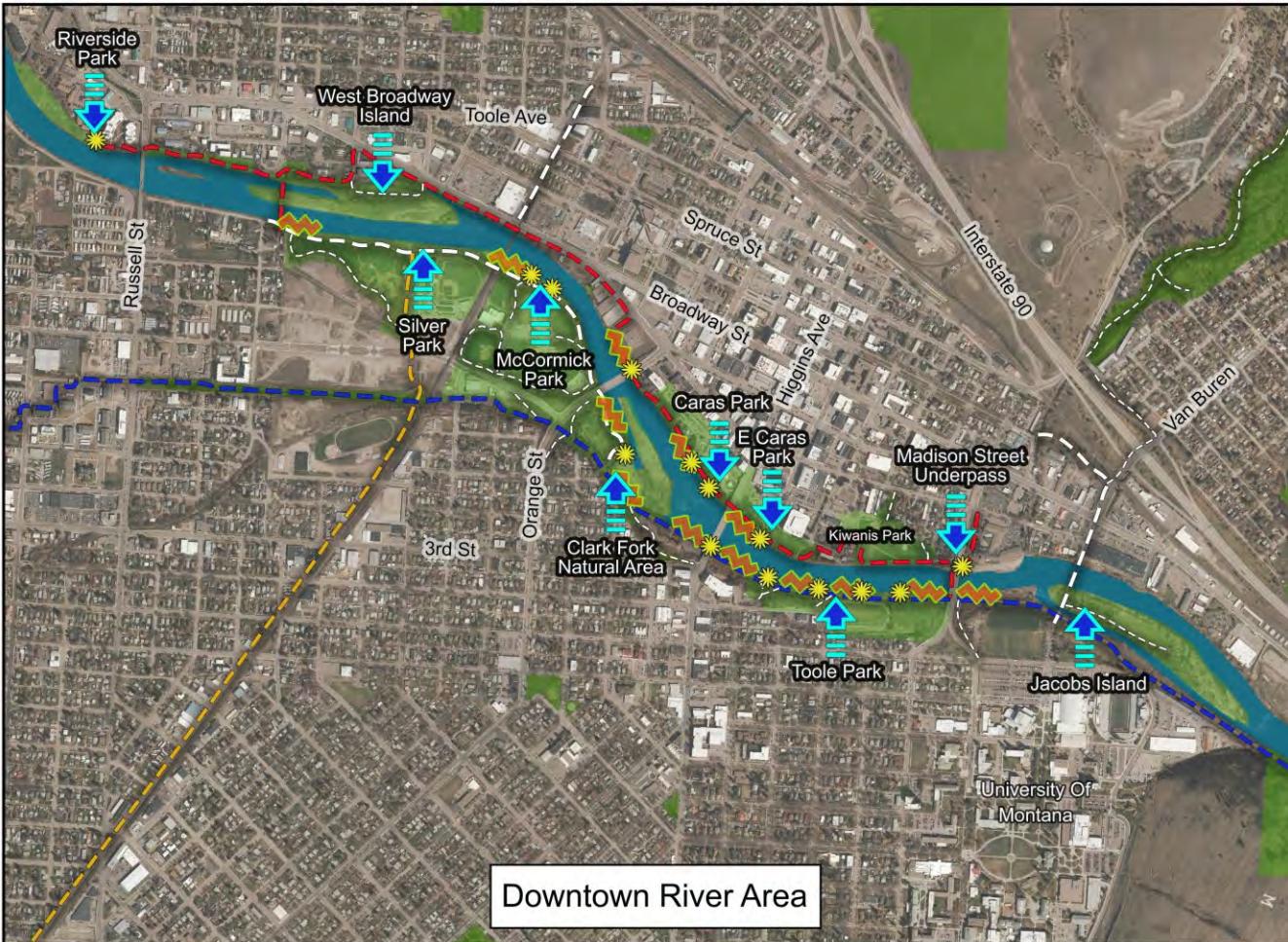
Building On Past Progress

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



Locations are approximate

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

LEGEND

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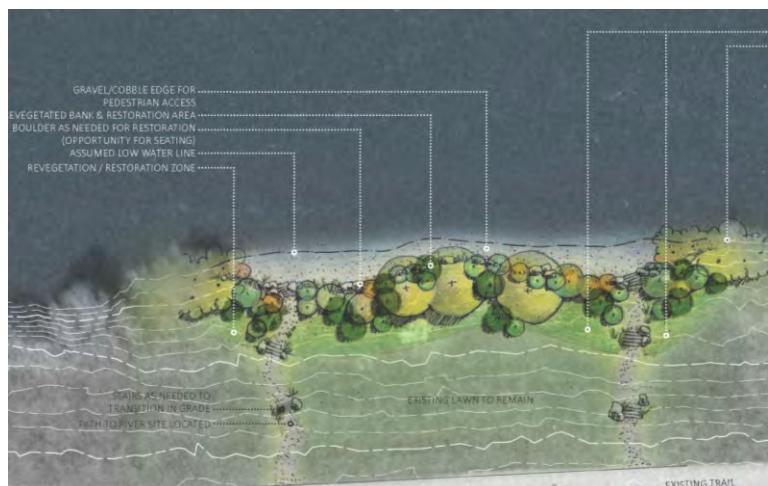
0 $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{2}{10}$ $\frac{4}{10}$ Miles



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.



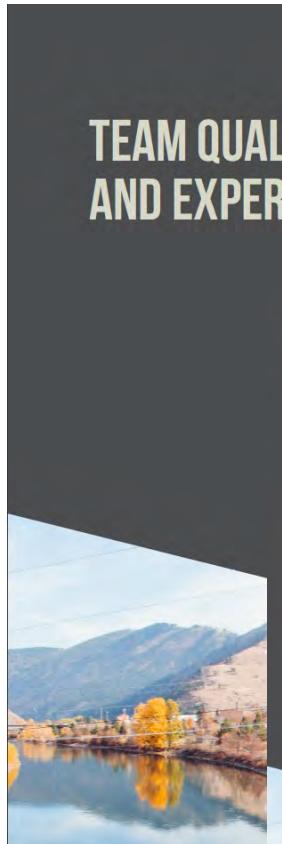


Toole Park River Access Concept



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

Moving Forward



TEAM QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERTISE

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
**DESIGN SERVICES FOR
CLARK FORK RIVER
RESTORATION AND ACCESS**
IN MISSOULA, MONTANA

SUBMITTED BY:
RESPEC COMPANY, LLC

815 E. Front St, Suite 3 3810 Valley Commons Dr, Suite 4
Missoula, MT 59802 Bozeman, MT 59718

CONTACT: Michael Rotar, PE, CFM
Mike.Rotar@respec.com / 406.570.1035

DJ&A

2000 Maple St
Missoula, MT 59808

CONTACT: Paul Druyvestein, PE
pauld@djanda.com
406.426.2331

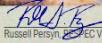
**FIELD STUDIO
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

600 N. Wallace Ave, Suite 1
Bozeman, MT 59715

CONTACT: Charlie Kees
CKees@fieldstudioia.com
406.551.2098

December 17, 2020
RSIP-4490




Russell Persyn, PE Vice President

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