

Contact:

Jeff Gicklhorn, Conservation Lands
Manager
gicklhornj@ci.missoula.mt.us
(406) 552-6691

600 Cregg Lane
Missoula, MT 59801
www.missoulaparks.org



MISSOULA PARKS AND RECREATION PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release through November 3, 2023

City Conservation Lands Program Seeks Public Input on Resource Management

Parks and Recreation's Conservation Lands Management program (CLM) invites residents to help refine management plans for natural, cultural, and recreational resources on City conservation lands. To get involved and share your input on coniferous forest management, visit www.engagemissoula.com by November 3.

In the coming months, conservation lands managers will collaborate with the [Conservation Lands Advisory Committee](#) and residents to develop management plans for coniferous forests, grasslands, riparian and aquatic areas, recreational infrastructure, and user access resources on City conservation lands.

According to Conservation Lands Manager Jeff Gicklhorn, these resource-specific plans will complement the [2010 Conservation Lands Management Plan](#). "The 2010 plan provided a broad framework for conservation lands management. After implementing it for the past 13 years, we've gained valuable insights and strong community support for safeguarding our community resources on City conservation lands. Now, we're seeking to enhance our management approach by addressing each resource's unique challenges, approaches, and priorities."

Gicklhorn explained that resource planning evaluates each resource across all locations rather than on a site-specific basis. "This approach allows land managers to identify challenges and opportunities for each resource, create strategies based on the best available science, and incorporate valuable public input and community values into the stewardship of our conservation lands."

Most importantly, Gicklhorn stressed that resource-specific management plans empower residents to be part of the decision-making process and ensure alignment with community priorities for stewardship, access, and recreation.

"We want to encourage residents to actively shape the management of their natural assets, resulting in more effective, informed, and sustainable conservation efforts. With the approval of the 2018 Open Space Bond and Conservation Lands Stewardship Mill Levy, residents expressed their commitment to the long-term sustainability of open space resources, ensuring community benefits for future generations."

The first phase of resource management planning focuses on coniferous, or evergreen, forests on Mount Sentinel, Mount Jumbo, Mount Dean Stone, and other forested areas across City conservation lands.

Parks and Recreation invites residents to learn more about conservation lands resource management and participate in a public scoping survey at www.engagemissoula.com through November 3.