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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Orange Street Underpass Pedestrian Walkway Gets Much Needed Facelift

On Wednesday, July 11, Parks and Recreation and volunteers from a local firm will help make the Orange Street Underpass safer and more pleasant for pedestrians and cyclists.

Employees of Spectrum Aquatics, a local commercial pool supply company, will volunteer to help Parks and Recreation whitewash the inside of the pedestrian walkway to improve visibility and cover graffiti. To prepare for the underpass facelift, Parks and Recreation has spent the last week cleaning and power washing the walkway and the Montana Department of Transportation has repaired the walkway lighting. The murals on the outside of the underpass will remain untouched.

Jason Pignanelli, Outdoor Recreation Specialist with Missoula Parks and Recreation, says more volunteers are needed for tomorrow's mission. "The more, the merrier on this project," Pignanelli says. "We'd like to invite the public to come on down to help us paint from 1:30 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday." Paint and tools are provided, but Pignanelli asks volunteers to bring a paint roller and roller pan if available. Youth under 18 who'd like to volunteer must have a parent or guardian on hand to sign the City's volunteer waiver. For more information about volunteering, phone Pignanelli at 552-6271 or just show up at the underpass on Wednesday.

Parks and Recreation has partnered with the Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula, Missoula Police Department, Missoula Office of Neighborhoods and Montana Department of Transportation to provide on-going maintenance and graffiti control inside the walkway. "This walkway is an important link between downtown and the Northside," says Pignanelli. "We (Parks and Recreation) saw a need to provide a cleaner, safer route for citizens, so we looked around for partners to help us maintain the walkway long-term. We're grateful to the volunteers from Spectrum Aquatics and the local agencies that have committed to support this community project."

Funding for the project comes from an Office of Neighborhoods grant and contributions from project partners. For more information, contact Jason Pignanelli, Missoula Parks and Recreation, 552-6271 or jpignanelli@ci.missoula.mt.us.