

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

February 7, 2020

- 1) Council Orientation Sessions** – We held two city council orientation sessions this week covering Parliamentary Procedures and Tax Increment Finance Districts. Next week we will be covering the Metropolitan Planning Organization (Regional Transportation Planning) from 3:30 -5:00 pm on Monday afternoon in the Miller Building 1st Floor Conference Room. On March 2nd there will be a council orientation on Land Use from 3:30 – 5:00 pm in the Miller Building 1st Floor Conference Room. All council members are welcome to attend, I would encourage any of you who have not had orientation on these subjects to attend.
- 2) Public Safety Presentation** – This morning I presented our public safety challenges to the Morning Exchange Club alongside Daniel Brooks from the Billings Chamber. There was a good crowd of approximately 75.
- 3) Reports** – the November 2019 DUI Stats, PCSD 2019 Annual Report and Public Works January Newsletter are attached.
- 4) Presentation** - Vacation of Alleys within Block 81 and 120, Original Town of Billings slide.
- 5) NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS/TASK FORCES/PRESENTATIONS ETC.**
 - a. New City Council Orientation – Metropolitan Planning Organizations 3:30 pm Monday, February 10th at the Miller Bldg – 1st Floor Conference Room

Have a great productive weekend!

ALLEY VACATION

2ND AVENUE NORTH

6000 sqft

1ST AVENUE NORTH

3000 sqft

MONTANA AVENUE

NORTH 18TH STREET

NORTH 17TH STREET

NORTH 16TH STREET

NORTH 15TH STREET





Billings Police Department

Monthly DUI Statistics



FROM: Sergeant Tony Jensen

YEAR TO DATE DUI STATISTICS FROM THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2019

	Oct '19	Sep '19	Aug '19	July '19	June '19	May '19	Apr '19	Mar '19	Feb '19	Jan '19	Dec '18	Nov '19
DUI Days (0600-1600)	6	7	4	6	3	11	6	6	13	3	7	4
DUI Noons (1400-0000)	23	12	10	8	17	15	25	15	8	8	17	19
DUI Nights (2130-0730)	27	24	26	30	24	26	19	46	39	25	23	20
Total:	56	43	40	44	44	52	50	67	60	36	47	43
Samples	44	26	32	39	39	44	35	45	29	21	25	35
Refusals	19	17	17	12	14	25	19	22	26	11	16	13
% Refusals	34%	40%	43%	27%	32%	48%	38%	33%	43%	31%	34%	30%

YTD-Refusals: 36.45%

NOVEMBER 2019 RESULTS:

Of the 23 compiled breath samples, the **average** breath analysis result was **0.194 BrAC**.

Of the 14 compiled blood samples, the **average** blood analysis result was **0.204 BldAC**

The **highest breath/blood alcohol concentration** test result was **0.321 BrAC**.

The following is the compiled test results for certain parameters:

- Below .08 BAC **1**
- .08---.20 BAC **15**
- .20---.30 BAC **15**
- .30---.40 BAC **3**
- .40---.50 BAC **0**

There were no reported issues with the Intoxilyzer 8000 during the month of November.

There were seven voluntary blood draws and four drug DUI investigation.

Officers completed eight telephonic search warrants that were granted by judges.

Sergeant Tony Jensen - Billings Police Department Supervising Senior Operator

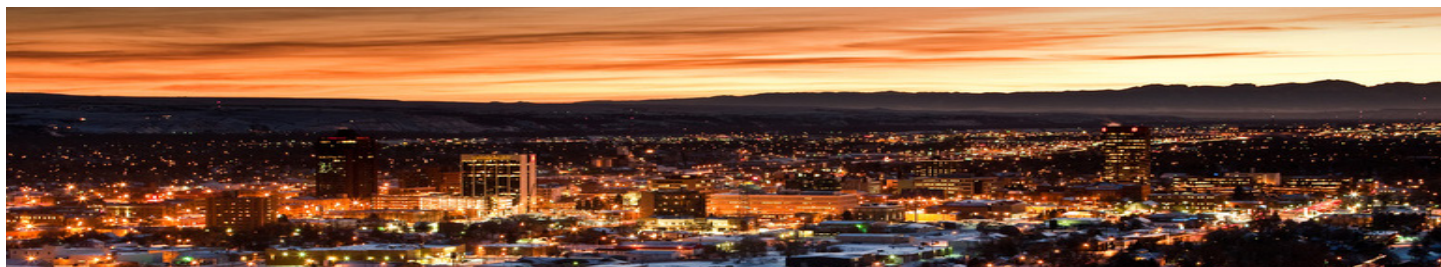
CITY OF BILLINGS
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2 0 1 9 | 2 0 2 0

ANNUAL REPORT



T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S



HELLO AND WELCOME	4
BUILDING DIVISION	6
CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION	8
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	10
PLANNING DIVISION	12
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING	14

H E L L O & W E L C O M E

On behalf of all of us here at the Planning and Community Services Department (PCSD), I am excited to bring you front page news from our past year as well as some previews of where we are going in 2020. Before you turn the page, I want to share a few examples of what we are working on here at the PCSD:

The community will be concluding Project Re: Code in 2020 – a total rewrite of the City and County zoning regulations. This 2.5 year effort has engaged more than 50 dedicated volunteers giving more than 6,000 hours of their time, as well as hundreds more community members participating via email, meeting, website, and in person. Together, we have drafted a zoning code for our community to carry us into the years ahead well equipped to support and enhance our community for businesses, residents and visitors. The formal adoption process will be starting this spring.

Our Building Division staff are gearing up for adoption of the 2018 International Building Code in March after participating in a multi-year process lead by the Montana Building Codes Bureau to complete the adoption process at the state level. Billings must adopt the building codes Montana adopts, and this is significant as the state and Billings had been operating under the 2012 International Building Code for the last 7 years.

We are using social media and web-based tools more than ever to communicate with you – our PCSD Facebook page has about 800 followers, a 100% increase from last year! Utilizing boosting of posts and more strategic notification of Department activities has resulted in driving more people to our events, and websites. Examples – In 2019 we reached more than 6,000 people for our Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study Meeting and almost 2,000 people for our new Bike Rack Ribbon Cutting.

We are going to make it even easier in 2020 to utilize the community's trail system by rolling out an updated Heritage Trail Tour Map and an App to go with it for your smartphone, so your phone you can help you and your dog take a walk or hit the trails on your bike! (see page 17)

Now, flip through our annual report and see what else we've been working on. Learn what major construction projects were completed in 2019 (page 7), see before and after photos of some major Code Enforcement cleanup success stories (page 9), and check out the new bike racks installed in Downtown Billings through a MT Department of Tourism Grant (page 15).

Enjoy and join us in making our community an even greater place in this new year, and new decade!



Wyeth Friday, AICP
Director

BUILDING

DIVISION STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

The Building Division has 7 inspectors, 2 plan reviewers, 1 office administrator, 2 permit technicians and is managed by the Building Official, Brian Anderson. Deputy Building Official Jessica Iverson left the Division in January 2020 to take a position as the City Facilities Manager. Jessica had been with the Division for 4 years before accepting the new position. We will miss her in the PCSD but are glad she's part of the greater city team.

The Building Division staff collectively earned more than 60 certifications and 200 hours of training in 2019. Continuing Education and staying up to date with changing building codes and standards is always an important goal for the Division.



Cody Gunn, Plans Examiner accepting an award at the ICC Annual Business meeting for outstanding performance in Region II.

This year, two Division members had the opportunity to attend the International Code Council (ICC) Annual Business meeting in Las Vegas, NV. Cody Gunn, former Combination Inspector accepted a new position as Plans Examiner, and in 2019 was able to attend through a 'Code of Honor' scholarship from ICC. We enter 2020 with a vacancy in our Deputy Building Official position we are working to fill. Also, Pete Castellano was promoted to Senior Combination Inspector in 2019. Pete will help inspectors adapt to new policies and procedures.

STATE BUILDING CODE ADOPTION

The State of Montana adopted the 2018 building codes in December of 2019. Since the state adopted the code, all local building code enforcement agencies must follow suit. The City of Billings will adopt the 2018 codes on March 5, 2020. There will be significant work for the division to update standards and provide public information and education for the upcoming code changes.

NATIONAL TRENDS

Housing statistics remain consistent locally, with fewer permits, but increased valuation for new construction. The national trends show signs of a stronger demand for housing with continued affordable mortgage rates into 2020.

D I V I S I O N



NOTABLE PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2019

- Winco Foods (2424 Central)
- A Rehabilitation Hospital (3572 Hesper)
- A new 105,000+ Sq Ft facility for Northwest Pipe (1725 Majestic Lane)
- Two new Dialysis Clinics (720 Saint Mary's Way & 616 N 25th)
- A new Pizza Ranch, the company's largest store in the country (1327 Main)
- New 'Stillwater Parking Garage' across the street from the 'Stillwater Building'. The new parking garage has 6 tiers of parking and sky bridge to the Stillwater Building (2549 3rd Ave N).



NOTABLE PROJECTS INITIATED IN 2019

- Alberta Bair Theatre (2801 3rd Avenue North)
- Airport Expansion (1901 Terminal Circle)
- REI (711 Henry Chapple)
- Starner Gardens Retirement Center - Billings Heights (230 Starner Ln.)
- "At Home" located in the old Shopko (905 S 24th Street W)
- Panera Bread (110 S. 24th Street)
- 4-story residential addition at St. Johns (3940 Rimrock Road)

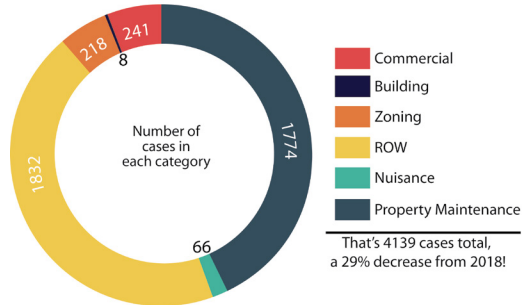


CODE ENFORCEMENT



The Code Enforcement Division protects and enhances quality of life throughout Billings' neighborhoods by responding to citizen complaints about violations of city codes. These range from property maintenance issues such as tall grass, to public nuisances such as vacant, abandoned or burned out buildings.

Code Enforcement Division Cases 2019



Code Enforcement Officers respond to complaints in six different categories, including:

Property Maintenance: Storing junk and debris outside, junk vehicles, unmowed grass, and improper storage of RVs, boats, and campers.

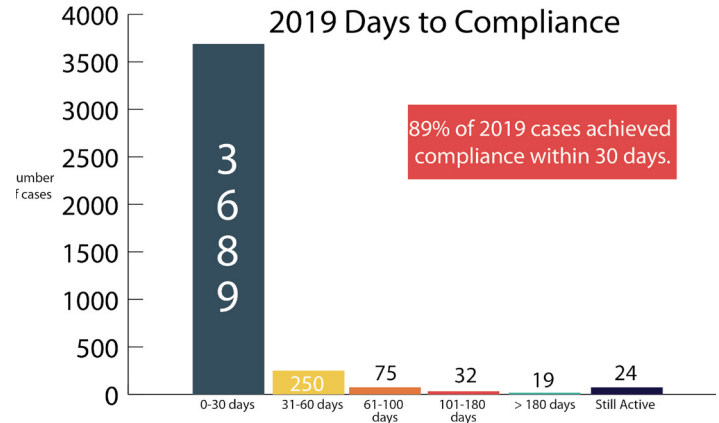
Nuisance: Improper or extended boarding of vacant buildings, dangerous, burned out or abandoned buildings.

Right-of-Way: Signs obstructing sidewalks, parking violations, trees too low over the sidewalk or street, snow removal, and leaving an unattached trailer on the street.

Zoning: Building setbacks, uses, and fencing issues.

Building: Building without a permit or in violation of an approved permit.

Commercial: Operating without a business license, failing to maintain landscaping, or sign code violations.



DIVISION

Code Enforcement Officers handled more than 4,100 cases and over 8,000 property inspections in 2019. Below are highlights of property brought back from the brink in 2019, helping to restore neighborhood integrity.

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION STAFF

BRENDA BECKETT
DIVISION MANAGER

TAM RODIER
CD PROGRAM COORDINATOR

DINA HARMON
CD PROGRAM COORDINATOR

CARLY COLLINS
GRANTS TECHNICIAN

The Community Development Division joins local partners with resources to increase access to housing, support capacity building for local non-profit organizations, to create a sustainable community, and to promote neighborhood revitalization. The Division is primarily responsible for managing federal grant programs.

HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The purpose of the program is to preserve and improve existing housing and to eliminate health and safety issues. Secured, deferred payment loans up to \$25,000 are available to income-qualified homeowners for eligible home improvements. There are no payments during the deferment period and no interest is assessed on the loan at any time. The loan is due in full if the property is sold or there is a title transfer, under certain refinance conditions, or if the property is rented or is no longer owner-occupied.

FORECLOSURE ACQUISITION/REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The purpose of the program is to purchase foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within our community, rehabilitate and/or redevelop them, and then offer them for sale to City-approved First Time Home Buyer applicants.

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER PROGRAM

The FTHB Program provides down payment and closing cost assistance loans to low income households purchasing their first home in the City of Billings city limits. The loans are deferred and zero percent interest that are repaid to the City at the time the homeowner sells the property, refinances, or uses the property as a rental. Interested applicants must meet the income requirements, have less than \$15,000 in assets, and be a first time homebuyer. The property must be considered in city limits, be vacant or owner occupied, meet the minimum health and safety standards requirement and the purchase price cannot exceed \$221,000.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Affordable Housing Development Program provides low interest loans to Developers and grants to Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's) to build and/or rehabilitate multi-family and single-family housing in the City Limits for low income households.

DIVISION



VISTA MEMBERS SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

A total of 18 new AmeriCorps VISTA members began service terms throughout 2019. The VISTA members served at 13 non-profit organizations that work to empower the community and reduce the effects of poverty.



VISTAs worked to create sustainable projects that focused on increasing access to healthcare, food security, housing, education, economic opportunities, veteran services, and more! Members generated over \$160,000 of cash and in-kind donations to support their projects and individual organizations!

BILLINGS METRO VISTA PROJECT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Billings Metro VISTA project in 2019 recognized its tenth year of serving nonprofit organizations in our area! In August VISTA Alumni and current members gathered together in Billings to celebrate the event. Attendees shared their accomplishments throughout service and the impact that VISTA service had on their lives.



VISTA Alumni members, Lisa, Aundi, Jessie & Wendi, met in Billings to celebrate the anniversary of B-MVP.

P L A N N I N G

DIVISION STAFF

MONICA PLECKER, AICP
DIVISION MANAGER

NICOLE CROMWELL, AICP
ZONING COORDINATOR

SCOTT WALKER
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
COORDINATOR

LORA MATTOX, AICP
TRANSPORTATION PLANNER

DAVE GREEN
PLANNER II/SUBDIVISION

KAREN HUSMAN
PLANNER I

ELYSE MONAT
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
PLANNER

JEANNETTE VIEG
PLANNING ASSISTANT

TAMMY DEINES
PLANNING CLERK

2019 PLANNING STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

PLANNING STAFF MEMBER RECEIVES STAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The City of Billings encourages employees to improve the customer service, efficiency and effectiveness of all services provided to the public. The City also recognizes the power of teamwork and the higher level of service teamwork provides to the citizens of Billings. The STAR Award commends those employees for providing outstanding service.

CONGRATULATIONS! Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner

Elyse was nominated and recognized with the STAR award for her successful grant application efforts in which funding was obtained for decorative downtown bike racks. We look forward to her growth and development as a grant writer.

DAVE DRENNAN COMPLETES VISTA YEAR OF SERVICE

PROJECT FOCUS: PROJECT RE:CODE



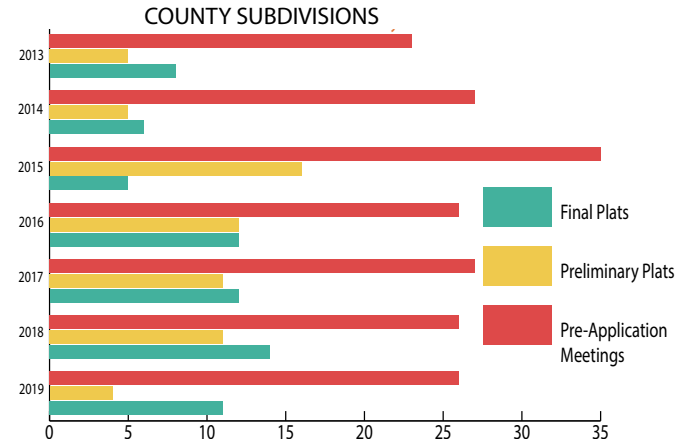
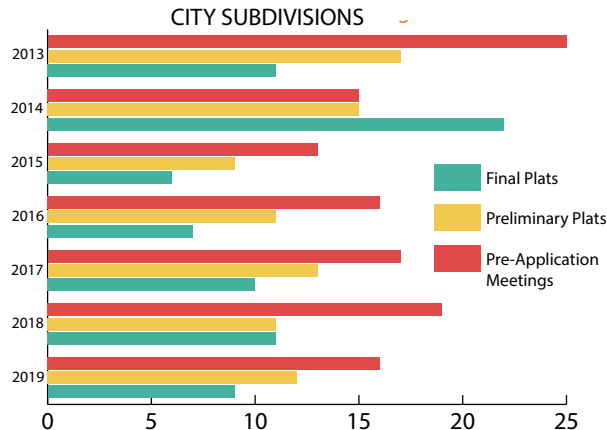
Dave Drennan joined the Planning Division specifically to focus on Project Re:Code in January 2018. This last year he dedicated his time and attention to affordable housing tools and strategies that could be implemented as part of the Planning Division's comprehensive update of the Zoning Code. An effort better known as Project Re:Code.

Dave is pursuing a career in environmental planning in the mid-atlantic region. We wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors.

DIVISION

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY FLUCTUATES

Subdivision activity in the City of Billings and Yellowstone County ebbs and flows with the market and what is in demand in the housing market. Some years, there is a higher number of lots platted within the City limits and other years the County has more lots platted by developers. The biggest observation of subdivision development in 2019 is that overall subdivision activity is down in the county but not the city. Many subdivisions that were developed as multiple filings or master plans in Billings are building out or receiving final approvals.

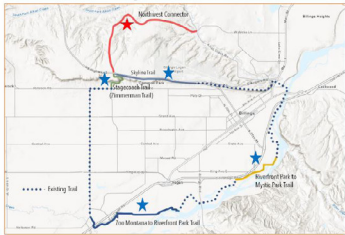


TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING EFFORTS

**CITY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA
2019 BUILD GRANT APPLICATION
INFORMATION**

Project Locations



Project Goals

- 1 ENHANCE**
Movement of Goods, Services
and People
 - 2 CREATE**
Emergency Route for
Billings Heights
 - 3 STRENGTHEN**
Multimodal Transportation
Infrastructure
 - 4 INCREASE**
Tourism and Recreation
Economic Activity
 - 5 REDUCE**
Congestion and Transportation
Carbon Footprint
 - 6 PROVIDE**
Safe Biking and Walking Options
 - 7 ENRICH**
Quality of Life and Livability by Increasing Direct
Access to Nature and Outdoor Activity Recreation
Leading to Better public Health

Partners



The City of Billings submitted one of the community's biggest grants to the Department of Transportation in July 2019. The BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Transportation Discretionary Grant program provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in local road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives.

The application requested the following elements:

- Northwest Billings Connector: 2-lane roadway with termini at Highway 3/Zimmerman Trail and Alkali Creek/West Wicks Lane.
- Marathon Trail Final Elements: Completion of a 26-mile loop around Billings. Approximately 16.5 miles of trail are already completed.

Unfortunately, the BUILD grant was not funded. The City will consider resubmission when future funding opportunities are available.



Billings TrailNet Executive Director Kristi Drake, Billings Chamber Business Advocacy Manager Dan Brooks, Planning and Community Services Department Director Wyeth Friday, Big Sky Economic Development Executive Director Steve Arveschoug and Mayor Bill Cole traveled to Washington, DC in October to meet with Montana's Congressional Delegation and US Department of Transportation staff about the City's 2019 BUILD Grant application.

P L A N N I N G

39 NEW BIKE RACKS INSTALLED DOWNTOWN



Photo Credit: Mel Barbour

Thanks to a Montana Department of Commerce Tourism Grant, Billings installed 39 new branded racks in downtown. Downtown businesses can request the racks for only \$50. With the Billings, Montana's Trailhead community logo, it serves the dual purpose of giving tourists and residents a safe place to park their bikes and branding Billings as a tourist destination. Businesses received the racks warmly, with some requesting up to five racks. Facebook comments from the public were enthusiastic with users calling the racks "awesome" and "beautiful." One commenter even said that when he got a lock, he would start riding his bike to his destination!

Thank you to all those who contributed to these racks!



TRANSPORTATION

2019 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING EFFORTS



In 2019 transportation planners initiated the **Inner Belt Loop Corridor Study**. This study provides a vision for the future corridor, including recommendations on land development, access management, multi-modal safety and operations, corridor aesthetics, stormwater management, and feasibility of public utilities service. In order to develop that vision, the project team and Sanderson Stewart, performed extensive research, met with a variety of key project stakeholders (including adjacent property owners), held a public meeting to solicit input, and applied technical and planning-level analysis techniques prior to developing recommended steps for moving forward. The plan is in its draft form and available for view here: <http://sandersonstewart.com/projects/innerbeltloop>



The **Wayfinding Signage Plan** is wrapping up and should be approved at the Policy Coordinating Committee meeting in February 2020. Wayfinding benefits bicyclists and pedestrians and is defined as an information system that helps people orient themselves in a physical space and navigate from place to place. In the built environment, it typically takes the form of signage, maps, or environmental graphics such as pavement markings, and is all around us, whether we consciously recognize it or not. Wayfinding is so much more than the strategic placement of messages in the built environment to guide an individual from A to B.

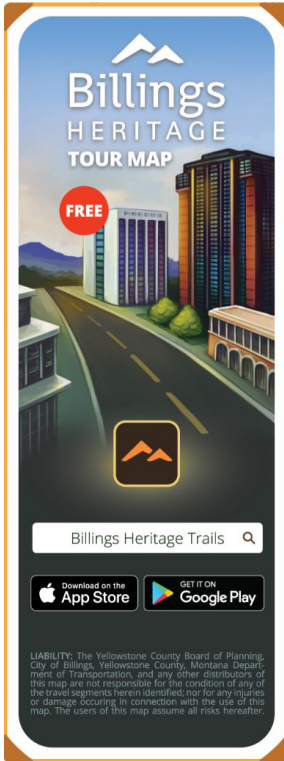
P L A N N I N G

NEW WAYS TO NAVIGATE BILLINGS - WALKING AND ROLLING

The MPO worked with a consultant to develop a new map app for bikeways and trails. The app will help people walking and biking navigate to their destinations on their smart phone. Users will be able to select the fastest route, the most scenic route, or the best workout. The app provides voice announcement for directions. Users will also be able to save their trips to see how far they have biked or walked and how many calories they have burned.

Compatible with both iPhone and Android, we are expecting to release the app in early 2020. The updated printed Heritage Bikeway and Trails Map is available now.

Contact monate@billingsmt.gov to request one or more copies.



TRANSPORTATION

LOOKING FORWARD: 2020 TRANSPORTATION PLANS

The 2020 Unified Planning Work Program includes a variety projects for the upcoming year. After its adoption in October, staff has been in the early stages of initiating the following projects:

Complete the **Downtown Billings Traffic Study**: Alternative Prioritization and Public Preference Plan. The goal of this project is to take the identified transportation network alternatives completed in the Downtown Traffic Study, completed by the City of Billings Engineering Division, and create a robust and thoughtful public outreach process to develop an implementation and project prioritization strategy. DOWL was the successful consultant to complete this plan and we anticipate it will begin in February.

Every three years, the Planning Division working with the City of Billings Engineering Division, MET Transit, Healthy By Design and other partners update the **Complete Street Progress Report**. This report will analyze up to date data to gauge the ongoing effectiveness of the Complete Streets Policy.

North Billings Bypass Corridor Study: This study will evaluate transportation needs along the proposed alignment of the North Bypass. This study could include future access options as development occurs along the roadway, potential intersections, storm water management, bicycle and pedestrian access and transportation safety along the corridor.

Later this spring, the **5th Avenue North Feasibility Study** will be initiated. This study will review potential connections, non-traditional motorized and non-motorized systems along the 5th Avenue North corridor between North 32nd Street and Main Street through downtown Billings.

Bicycle/Scooter Share Feasibility Study: This study will assess if Billings can support a shared micromobility device program to include, but not limited to, bike share, e-bike share, and e-scooter share. The study will include research into elements that can make any shared device program successful, such as marketing, education, enforcement, and policies that will produce a beneficial relationship for users, pedestrians, residents and visitors, the City, and service providers.

THANK YOU



THE NEWSLETTER

January 2020



Letter from the Director

Dave Mumford

Reflecting back over the past year, I am always impressed by the work the staff of Public Works has accomplished. We take our responsibility to our customers very seriously and work hard to maintain their trust and wisely spend their money. The Public Works Department over the years has grown to include 35 facilities and over \$6.0 billion in assets. Looking back on 2019, Public Works has had many accomplishments. To ensure that the community, Mayor, and City Council are receiving quality services, Public Works has implemented new technologies to enhance our operational services.

The Solid Waste Division implemented a Routeware program to improve customer service, ensure correct billing of customers, and develop efficient collection routes. Solid Waste Services continues to increase the number of CNG collection trucks in their fleet. The CNG vehicles are saving the City approximately \$10,000/year in fuel and maintenance costs per vehicle. The **Trash to Gas** program with MDU have exceeded 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas processed from the landfill. The annual natural gas production is equivalent to heating 2,200 homes.

(continued on page 5)

PAGE 2

Water Treated & Pumped
Tours Available Soon

PAGE 3

Welcoming the New Year

PAGE 4

Odor Control

PAGE 5

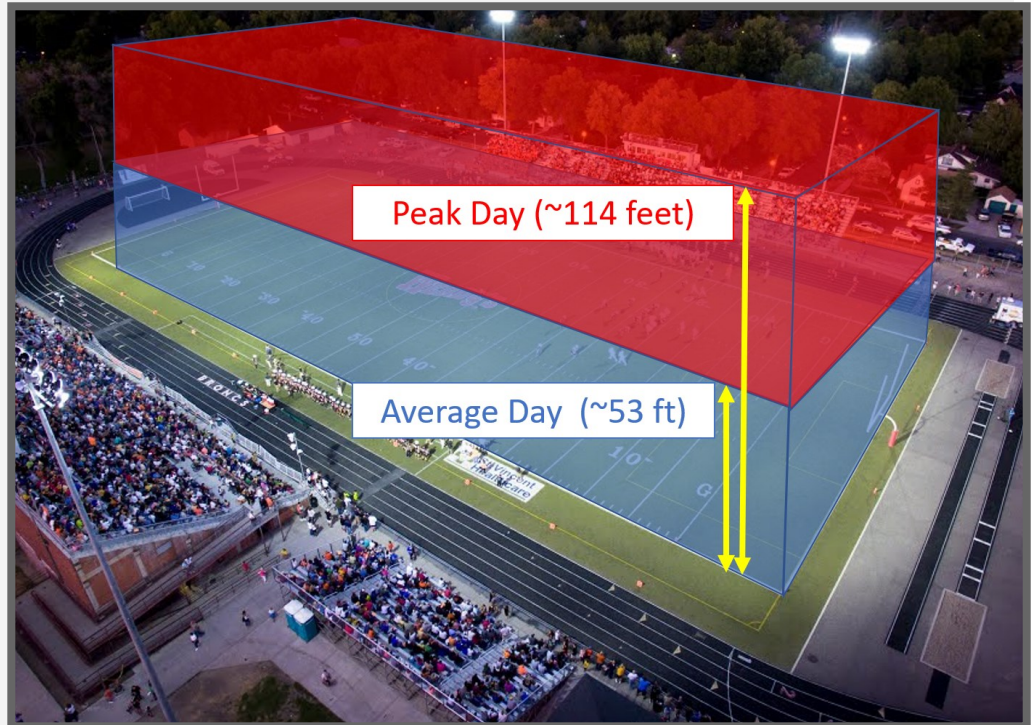
Landfill Project Update
Letter from the Director -
Continued from page 1

PAGE 6

Contact Information

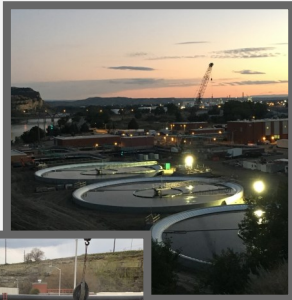
Water Treated & Pumped...

The City of Billings Water Treatment Plant pumped over 7 billion gallons of water to our customers in 2019. That's a lot of water! To put it in perspective, that's the equivalent of football field with 53 ft high walls around it that is filled with water every single day! On the peak day of the summer that wall of water was 114 ft high!



Tours Available Soon...

The Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) tours have been closed due to the Nutrient Upgrade Project which has been going on for the last three years. The project included \$75.4M worth of investment into the facility which includes the new nutrient removal process, state of the art energy efficient equipment, odor control, and more. Below are some photos over the course of construction. We are proud to showcase the improvements and will allow tours again as soon as construction concludes. Construction is estimated to complete in late spring or summer. Stay tuned for more details and exact dates.



Welcoming the New Year...

The Public Works Department is looking forward to the coming year and have planned some meaningful ways to engage with our community.

Want to learn more about the services offered by Public Works? Don't miss our new educational meeting series. Our experts will host quarterly meetings at the Billings Public Library throughout the year on various topics. Our first meeting will feature Water Main Breaks & Street Maintenance. These events will be spotlighted on our web page calendar and our Facebook page.

Save the date: February 19, 12:00pm start time

Join us in our support of the Walk or Bike to school initiative implemented by the Safe Routes to School Committee of Yellowstone County. All area elementary schools are invited to participate in a countywide competition and encourage students to be more active in a fun way. Follow us on Facebook to find out how to register your school and receive a helpful toolkit.

Save the date: May 6

In case you couldn't make it to our previous open house events at the Water Treatment Plant, we are hosting our third annual event during Drinking Water Week. This event is fun and educational for children of all ages! Check us out on Facebook for details about the open house event, and to enjoy fun online activities for the whole week.

Save the Date: May 3-9

Celebrate with us during a very special time- Public Works Week! Watch our dedicated website and Facebook page for more information.

Save the date: May 17-23

We use our Facebook page throughout the year to communicate important information and alerts about activities like water main repairs. There will be a list of projects with timelines and updates, as well as helpful tips and information about being water wise shared during the summer months. Currently, we are focused on keeping the community updated on winter maintenance activities, and are preparing to launch our new website and online utility account services. At Public Works are always looking for ways to improve our customer's service experience. It is our VISION is to *exceed expectations through innovation, integrity and service to the community.*

CITY OF BILLINGS
PUBLIC WORKS
EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION • INTEGRITY

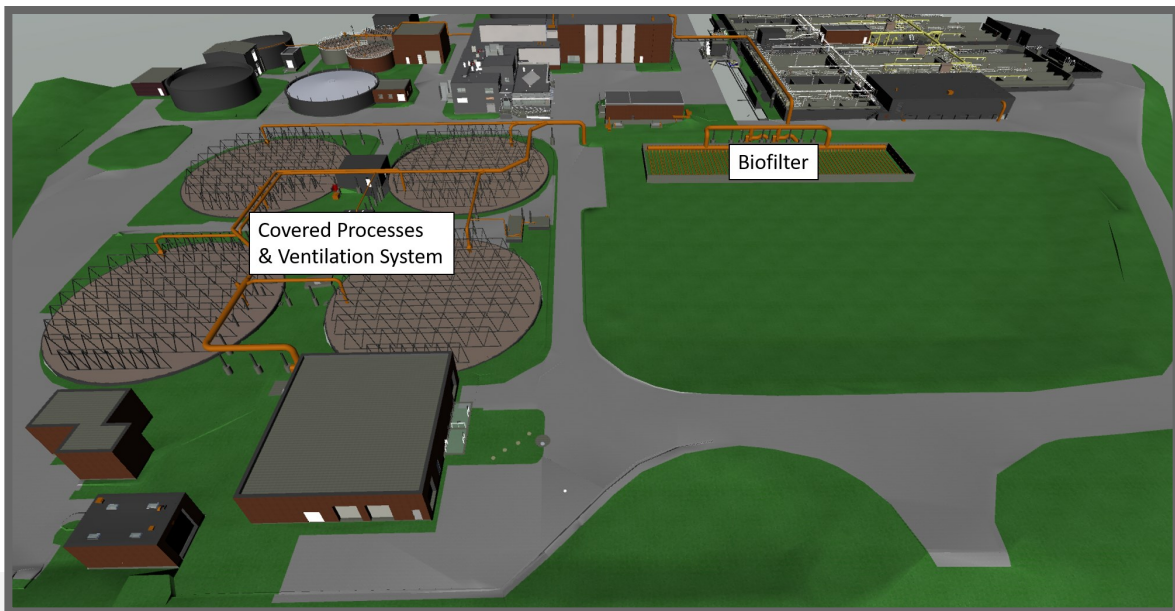
DISCOVER YOUR PUBLIC WORKS
public education meeting to learn about
Water Main Breaks & Street Maintenance
at the Billings Public Library

Join us at 12:00pm
on Wednesday
February 19, 2020
NEW EDUCATION SERIES!
QUARTERLY MEETINGS!

Public Works Department
406-657-8230
2224 Montana Avenue
Billings, MT. 59101
billingsmtpublicworks.gov

Visit us online to learn more
about our Facility Tours and
Education Outreach Programs

@billingsmtpublicworks

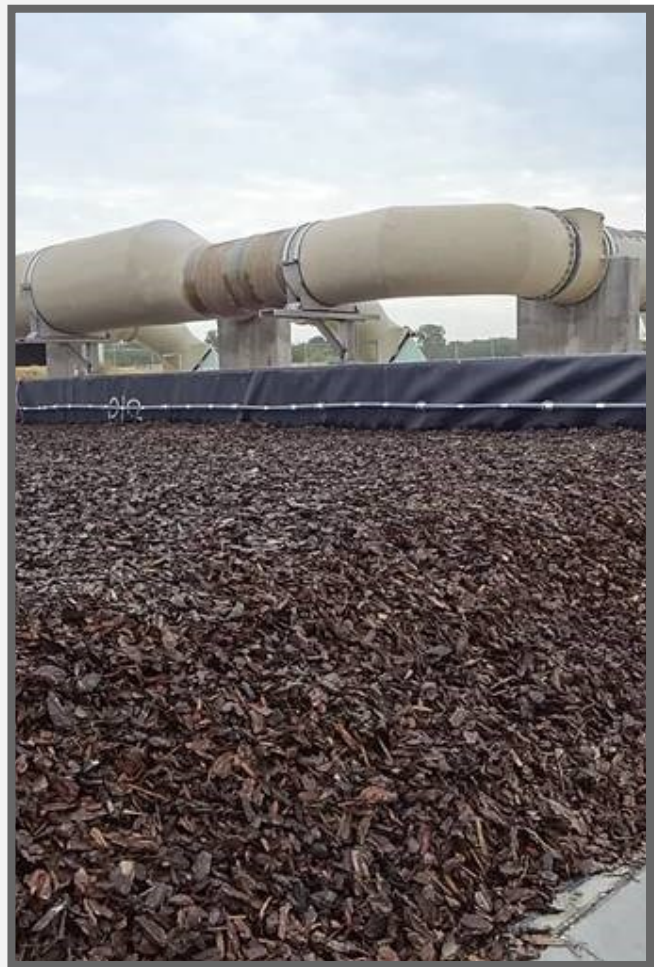


Odor Control...

For many years, odor complaints have been common near or around the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). For obvious reasons, Water Reclamation Facilities (a.k.a. wastewater plants or sewage treatment plants) are not known for their aromatherapy. Especially during hot summer days, the odor in the vicinity of the WRF can be quite offensive. But that all changed this winter! The odor control treatment is now online at the WRF and the benefit is already tangible or should we say smellable.

The process works by covering the odor emitting processes, collection of the odor using a large air ventilation system, and passing the air through a biofilter made of wood chips (see pictures below). Bacteria grow on the wood chips which process the noxious gases and keep the area smelling great. Additionally, there is a safety and financial benefit to treating the gas. The primary nasal offender is hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) gas. Not only does H_2S smell bad, but in large enough concentrations, it can be a safety hazard to staff. It is also hard on electrical components because it promotes corrosion.

Electronic devices were especially prone to damage due to their fine electrical circuits. But with treatment, this results in equipment lasting longer and requiring less maintenance which means a cost savings for you, the customer. Smells like a win to me! So next time you are walking the bike path near the WRF or shopping at Target in the Heights or at the Metra, see if you notice a difference. We sure do.



Landfill Projects Update...



The upgrades and additions for the Landfill Facilities are on track. These improvement projects will include a new transfer station, a new composting facility and already boast a completed new scale house and improved access road.

Public Works Crews achieved

100%

on their first safety audit of 2020!

Thank you to our staff for being mindful of safety while working. What a wonderful example for our peers and our community.

Keep up the good work!

Letter from the Director...

continued from page 1

City Engineering staff designed and managed \$4.5 million of in-house projects last year. This work saved approximately \$0.5 million in design fees. Engineering managed \$62.8 million in projects overall during 2019 with construction change orders under **0.25%**. The \$65 million upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant was substantially completed and staff are currently operating the Biological Nutrient Removal treatment at the plant. We have purchased the land required to build the West End Reservoir and Water Treatment Plant and preliminary design layout is completed. These accomplishments and more were completed while staff continued regular operations. They collected over 330,000 tons of solid waste, produced 7 billion gallons of water, maintained 501 miles of water & sewer pipe, treated 6 billion gallons of wastewater, maintained 1,160 miles of streets, and 266 miles of storm sewer.

Over the next year, Public Works staff will continue to improve how we provide services to the community and other City Departments. We will complete the design of the West End Reservoir to ensure Billings has a redundant and sufficient water supply. Implementing a new Asset Management Plan will allow us to improve our decision making process and will provide the Mayor and Council the knowledge and justification for decisions. The Solid Waste Division will have a very exciting year with several new programs. They will be developing new collection routes using data from Routeware to improve customer service, safety, and reduce costs. Additional CNG fueling stations will be added allowing us to increase the CNG vehicle fleet. The landfill will be developing a permanent composting facility. The facility will be a collaboration between Solid Waste and Wastewater Treatment to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous from the wastewater plant and provide Parks & Recreation & Street Maintenance compost to improve the City's landscaping. Public Works staff will continue working on improving Department efficiency, public outreach and education. WaterSmart, will provide our customers transparency and control of their water use. We will also be completing the integration of City Works software for task and resource tracking practices.



Stay Informed....

@billingsmtpublicworks

EXCELLENCE • INNOVATION • INTEGRITY

Contact Us

Division

Administration

Engineering

Environmental

Solid Waste

Street/ Traffic

Utilities Customer Service

Utility Emergency (*After Hours*)

Utility Emergency (*Daytime*)

Water Reclamation Facility

Water Treatment Plant

Phone

406-657-8230

406-657-8231

406-247-8517

406-657-8260

406-657-8250

406-657-8315

406-657-8353

406-657-8305

406-657-8356

406-657-8353

Community Partners

Billings Heights Water District

Montana-Dakota Utilities

Northwestern Energy

Phone

406-252-0539

406-896-4250

888-467-2669



Do You Have What it Takes to be a Buddy?...

The Snow Buddy Program helps those who need assistance getting their sidewalks cleared after a snowstorm in Billings. Call 406-237-6146 to get your name added to our Snow Buddy list, and be there for a neighbor that needs help.

