

## Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

December 22, 2021

- 1. Outdoor Ice Rink** - The Parks Division has begun construction of the ice rink at Veterans Park. The ice rink is a very popular program when the weather allows for a rink. The process is very slow at the start as water can only be added in small amounts until a two-inch layer has been created. This requires multiple small applications per day. Once a thick base has been achieved water can be added at a faster rate to increase the ice thickness and smooth out the surface. The weather can be a considerable issue also, a 20-degree day with the sun doesn't freeze the water fast enough and causes the process to backup. The weather after Christmas looks very promising and should allow the rink to be completed and ready for use by January 7th.
- 2. New Playground Equipment Coming to Terry Park** - The Parks Division began the removal of the old playground equipment at Terry Park. Staff also is preparing the location for the install of new equipment in early 2022. The old equipment and concrete supports were dug out and disposed of. The existing fall protection must be removed, and the site must be excavated to 15 inches. This ensures that once the new equipment is installed there is enough depth so that the correct amount of fall protection can be added to meet all safety standards. A large Green Ash tree was also removed to make more space for play equipment and improve safety.



- 3. Road Condition Information** - The City has installed road condition cameras in a couple of areas along Shiloh Road. The cameras also measure precipitation, wind speed, air and road temperature and many other parameters. The parameters are not shown on the website yet but are being added. The intent of the cameras is to help Public Works be more efficient and effective during storm events. As people are aware, we may see an inch or two of snow in one part of town and three or four in another area. By looking at the camera, the staff will be able to decide when and how much equipment to deploy to certain areas of the city. Also, the products that we use have differing effectiveness in various situations and the data that we collect will ensure we use the correct product for the conditions. We have two cameras installed along Shiloh road now but will be adding more. The next location is Zimmerman Road north of Rimrock Road. Many commuters want to know the condition of Zimmerman before they leave their home or office, and these

cameras will allow them to look and decide the best route for their commute. The location on the website of the camera link ([Shilo Road Camera | Billings Public Works, MT \(billingsmtpublicworks.gov\)](https://billingsmtpublicworks.gov/Shilo-Road-Camera-Billings-Public-Works-MT)) is shown below.

The screenshot shows the City of Billings Public Works website. At the top, there are links for 'PUBLIC ALERTS', 'City Office Closures', 'COVID-19 City of Billings Webpage', and a 'Sign In' button. Below this is a navigation bar with icons for Employment, Agendas & Minutes, Online Payments, Watch Meetings Online, Transportation, and Traffic Advisor. The main content area features a 'MAGIC CITY SPOTLIGHT' section with a camera icon (circled in red) and four other items: 'Snow & Ice Management/Plowing', 'Snow Buddy Assistance and Volunteer Program', and 'Adjustments to the Residential Collection Extras Program'. The left sidebar contains a list of services: Boards & Commissions, Connect with Public Works, Construction Projects, Contractor & Permit Services, Drinking Water, Education Outreach & Facility Tours, Garbage Collection, How Do I..., Maps, Payments & Utility Account Services, Resource Library, School Zones & Recommended Routes, Snow & Ice Management, Stormwater Systems, Street-Traffic Repairs & Maintenance, and Traffic Engineering. The 'Helpful Information' section (circled in red) includes links for 'Road Closures Map', 'Traffic Engineering' (which is bolded), 'Shiloh Road Web Cam Cam 1 South Cam 2 North', and a thumbnail image of a street scene.

4. **Questions and Answers Section** – This new section of the Weekly is to compile the questions our staff receives from council members. City staff is including responses to emails received this week, so other city council members have the information. (No Q & A this week.)