



# *your* **CITY LINK**

SUMMER 2022

*Official news and information from the City of Billings*

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

How the department is going  
above and beyond

## **EARLY FALL FUN**

NFL Flag Football

## **RECORD REPAIRS**

Kids give KIM its busiest  
season yet

## **MAPPING THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS**

A partnership between Public  
Works and IT

# CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH CODE ENFORCEMENT



Volunteer repair work began at 503 Cook Ave. in June to get the home removed from Code Enforcement's dirty dozen list.

What comes to mind when someone says “code enforcement”?

Is it citations? Enforcement? Regulations? Codes?

After a glimpse at some of the cases opened by the City of Billings Code Enforcement Division and learning about their approach, your word list

might fall more along the lines of “caring,” “enthusiasm,” “compassion,” and “initiative.”

“I’ve always been the type of person who believes if you can help someone, you should.”

Those are the words of City of Billings Code Enforcement Manager Tina Hoeger.

And that reflects the overall perception of her current team of four code enforcement officers.

The latest example of this is a house at 503 Cook Ave.

It has broken and missing windows, the roof needs to be replaced, there are large cracks on the exterior of the stucco home, a

tree on the property needs to be removed, and the garage has similar issues.

The home has been listed on the division's dirty dozen list and it even has a judge's order for abatement.

"That's not the direction she wanted to see us go. She challenged us basically to come up with a solution, and me, stepping in brand new to the position, I was like, ok, let's find a solution," said Hoeger, who joined the division at the start of 2022 after working for the Billings Police Department for 29 years.

Living inside the home on Cook Avenue is 71-year-old Bill Wagner.

Hoeger got to work brainstorming with her team, but the wheels really started turning when they found out Wagner is a U.S. military veteran.

"So immediately, I was like ok, there has to be something out there for that. I know the VA has the ability to help. But I didn't know what that was going to be. I didn't know if it was going to be repairing his home, finding him a new safer place to live," Hoeger explained.

That's when she reached out to Warrior Wishes Montana, a nonprofit that helps veterans and active service members.

Founded by Iraq war veteran Miguel Gonzalez, the organization also collaborates with community organizations and businesses to make projects come to fruition.

Through his connections, Gonzalez began working with the Home Depot Foundation, which has donated \$50 million nationally to building and repairing homes for those who have served.

The veteran brotherhood continued when contractors Ryan Kovach and Tim Kirby signed on to help without expecting a single penny in return.

Hoeger couldn't believe everything was falling into place.

"For the longest time I was waiting for the other shoe to drop, or I was waiting for someone to say 'no' or 'this isn't going to happen,' or 'it can't be done.' I pinch myself every day. This is really going to happen," Hoeger said.

The damage to the home goes beyond

what you can see on the surface. Due to the holes in the roof, Wagner has been living in the basement because the upper level is uninhabitable.

Hoeger's hope is he will no longer have to travel up and down the stairs to leave the house or go to sleep at night.

By code enforcement's standards, Wagner's home is considered a "dangerous or decaying structure."

But once the repairs are made, he will have a home that's in compliance and it will be removed from the Dirty Dozen list.

"I'm excited because it's not only going to benefit Bill, it's going to benefit his neighborhood. It's going to benefit other veterans who may not have been aware that these programs are out there. Maybe it will help some more people who are in a similar situation where they now know there's resources and they know where to go," Hoeger said.

Since she began interacting with him, Wagner has opened up, putting his trust in Code Enforcement and others who have stepped up to help.

"I think this has been a good experience for him. He's so appreciative, very grateful for everything the City is doing, Miguel is doing, and the contractors," Hoeger said.

The contractors plan to tackle the project in phases and finish up this summer.

As for Hoeger, she acknowledges taking on this challenge goes above and beyond her team's duties, but she asks, 'why not?'

"I'm still in a line of service and that's who I am, so it's hard for me to stop."



Warrior Wishes MT and the Home Depot Foundation along with contractors Ryan Kovach and Tim Kirby have stepped forward to assist with Wagner's home repairs.

# NFL FLAG FOOTBALL RETURNS FOR 7TH YEAR WITH BILLINGS PARKS AND RECREATION

It's summer, but it's never too early to start planning for fall activities.

That's where Billings Parks and Recreation comes in, offering its first fall program at the start of the school year.

The NFL Flag Football program begins the week of August 29th and wraps up on October 22nd.

"We order NFL replica jerseys so that's exciting, and then we play games at Centennial Park, which is our newest city park," said Kory Thomson, Superintendent of Recreation for the City of Billings Parks and Recreation department.

The sport is available at seven different parks across Billings, including Country Manor, Veterans, Optimist, Hawthorne, Gorham, Castle Rock, and Centennial.

Sign up is open now at [BillingsParks.org](http://BillingsParks.org) and costs \$95 for the season.

NFL Flag Football is broken up into two age groups, 7 to 9 and 9 to 11, and practices are held two days a week, either Monday, Wednesday, or Tuesday, Thursday.

Games will begin on Saturday, September 24th,

which allows the children a month of practice before their first game.

The younger group practices from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the older kids practice from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

The program begins with guidance from recreation staff but relies on parent volunteer coaches later in the season.

Any parents interested in volunteering can attend a meeting on Wednesday, August 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation office located at 390 N. 23rd St.

Later in the fall, October brings girls basketball, tennis, and kids in the kitchen.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball begins in September and runs through December, with games on Sunday afternoon at Castle Rock Middle School.

There's also a variety of wellness programs for seniors 55 and older that range from physical wellness to social wellness and mental wellness.

"There's something for everybody," Thomson said while reflecting on the range of age groups served by Billings Parks and Recreation.

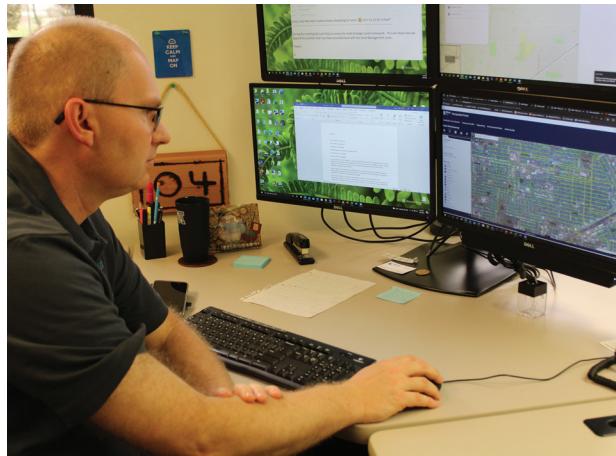


Children play a game of NFL Flag Football through Billings Parks and Recreation. The athletes are provided with an NFL replica jersey and a flag belt.



Volunteer coaches pose with students representing the Denver Broncos in NFL Flag Football.

# BRINGING PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY TOGETHER: CITY RECEIVES MAPPING AWARD BASED ON PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC WORKS AND IT



GIS Coordinator Jeff Srock shares an interactive map created to assist Public Works with its work flow.

Your basic map can help you navigate around town, but the city's Geographic Information System (GIS), can do so much more.

The GIS Team worked closely with Public Works for more than 20 years, building base maps and hundreds of asset management layers.

"The city's GIS is a powerful series of maps, applications, and dashboards, allowing users to quickly access information from a spatial perspective. These tools are based on collaborative efforts amongst city departments and allow the staff and public to access specific information," explained Jeff Srock, GIS coordinator for the City of Billings.

That's why the city received the Significant Achievement in GIS award in San Diego last month.

Srock traveled to California to accept the award on behalf of the City from Jack Dangermond, the president and founder of Esri, which is an international supplier of geographic information system software.

"The GIS team has done an outstanding job in bringing GIS Technology forward in the past few years," said David Watterson, City of Billings IT director.

The GIS team is made up of six IT Department employees, but Srock gives credit to the directors and managers of IT and Public Works.

"They had the vision to build the city's GIS and then modernize it by increasing access to software and expanding the system's capabilities," said Srock.

And now with a few clicks of a mouse, city project managers can do things like look up how many fire hydrants are in a specific neighborhood, their age, and when they have to be replaced.

"The excellent working relationship between Public Works and the GIS team is leveraging a solid GIS foundation that will help set the City up for long term success by increasing efficiencies and fostering collaboration among work groups," said Jennifer Duray, deputy director of Public Works.

The GIS team is available to assist all City of Billings departments, but its biggest supporter has always been Public Works.

Public Works has made financial and staffing commitments over the past 20+ years to advance GIS technology for the city, which in turn, helps the GIS team work toward its goals.

With assistance from Esri's business partners HDR, Jacobs, and Cityworks, these efforts will improve service delivery to the residents of Billings.

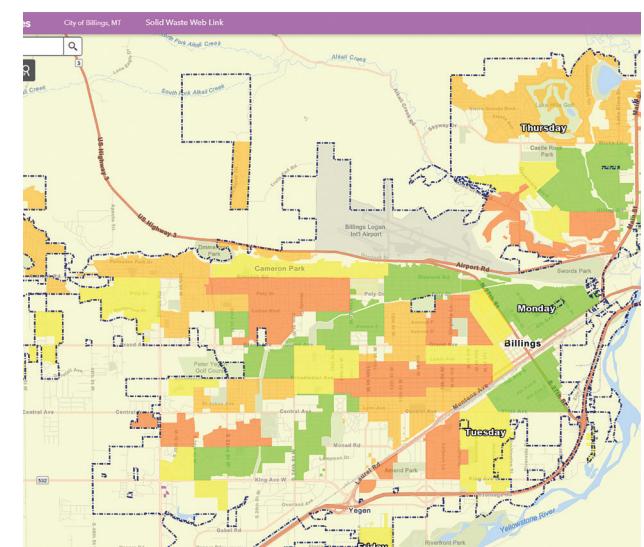
"The GIS team provided invaluable professional services to ensure the years of investment by Public Works and the GIS Team in infrastructure data was identified

and used as a foundation for moving forward. They have been actively engaged with Public Works and the contractors on the development of a roadmap that embraces changes necessary for advancing the use of GIS technology. The GIS team also played a critical leadership role in the successful implementation of the plan focused on meeting the needs of Public Works," Watterson said.

The maps created by the City of Billings GIS team are used for data management, planning and analysis, field mobility, operational awareness, constituent engagement and more.

A few examples of the maps include trail maps, City Council election wards, city limits boundary, land use planning, Billings crime mapping, and much more.

To see the maps available to our community, visit BillingsMT.gov and click on "maps" in the orange banner at the top of the home page.



There are dozens of maps available on the City of Billings and Public Works websites. This map displays Solid Waste garbage collection routes.

# WHAT IS NEXT ON THE AIRPORT TERMINAL PROJECT?

With the airlines and passengers now using the newly completed Concourse A, a lot of questions are swirling around about what is next.

Over the next few months, getting to the new Concourse A and great room area will be a bit interesting.

Initially, passengers will still go through the existing Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screening area, up the stairs, and then veer to the left to a new opening in the construction wall that will spill out into the new empty screening area.

During June and early July, the TSA will bring in new CT baggage scanners that will be installed and calibrated in the new screening area.

Since this is a new style of bag scanner, the local TSA agents will spend several weeks training on this new equipment to get ready for its use.

In early September, the rest of the TSA equipment will be moved into the new screening area and it will become the functioning TSA screening location.

While all that is going on, the contractor, Sletten Construction, will be working to connect the old building

with the new building and will remove and replace the floor between the new TSA area and the existing pre-security restaurant.

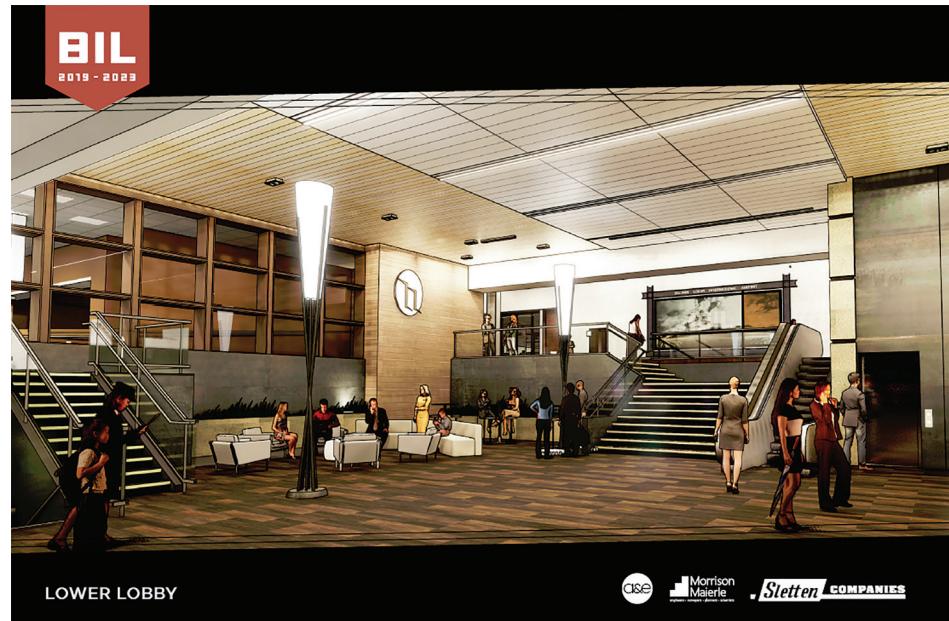
Additionally, they will also be constructing a taller roof to connect to the new concourse roof area. This work has to be completed this Summer so that the queuing area is available for the new screening location to begin operating in early September.

Also, while all that is going on, the old passenger loading bridges will be disconnected and removed from the old Concourse B. Once that is complete, the demolition work on the old Concourse B can get started and the new Concourse B construction can begin.

Back inside the old screening area, an access ramp and construction wall will be built so that demolition work can get started on the old stairs, escalator, and elevator, all of which get moved to the south and rebuilt, providing the future entrance lobby area in front of Door 2.

Meanwhile, passengers will use the new ramp to access screening through the pre-security restaurant.

With all this fun going on, the Airport asks its visitors



An artist rendering shows what the lower lobby at Billings Logan International Airport will look like once its complete.



An interior rendering of the East Concourse shows a continuation of the style and design used in the new Concourse A.

to keep abreast of all the construction changes via the Airport's Facebook page and Web page [FlyBillings.com](http://FlyBillings.com).

It is anticipated that by the end of 2023 all the expansion

and renovation work will be completed.

# KEEPING KIDS IN MOTION: PROGRAM EXPERIENCES BUSIEST SEMESTER OF BIKE REPAIRS IN 7-YEAR HISTORY

Summer is here and kids across Billings have tuned up bikes to ride around town on thanks to Kids in Motion.

Also known as KIM, it's an active transportation educational program that offers tune-up clinics for students in Billings Public Schools, with a focus on low-income students.

It's available at no charge to the students.

This past spring semester, the program saw its busiest season yet, with 170 repairs.

"The best part is when the kids say 'Mom, I'm going to ride my bike home today from school,' and that's why we're doing it, to help kids get a reliable mode of transportation and allow them to be more self-reliant," said Elyse Monat, active transportation planner for the Billings Planning and Community Services department.

KIM is housed in an enclosed cargo trailer and makes a stop at five schools every semester.

The program was launched in 2015 with a grant from presenting sponsor, St. Vincent Healthcare.

The Billings Planning and Community Services Department helps organize events and Billings Public Schools and the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools help facilitate the program.

Those repairs wouldn't be possible without the mechanics who volunteer their time and donations from community partners.

Initial funding for the program was expected to run out after three years. But six years later, KIM is still operating on that original grant.



Volunteers with Kids in Motion pose for a photo with some of the bikes repaired at a clinic. The cargo trailer pictured in the background travels to schools and events throughout the year to offer free bike repairs.

"The fascinating part about Kids in Motion is, for the number of kids it serves on a semester basis, and the money it takes to keep going, the return on investment is huge. And a lot of that happens because of the volunteers who contribute, and that helps to keep cost down," said Monica Plecker, planning division manager for the City of Billings.

Students are notified during the school

year when KIM will be making a stop at their school.

Beyond the tune-ups, KIM also offers teachers curriculum on safely biking and walking around town.

The trailer is also available for rent if another business or organization wanted to host a tune-up clinic of their own.

You can find KIM on Facebook at [@kidsinmotionbillings](https://www.facebook.com/kidsinmotionbillings)



# Picnic or Play?

## HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS AT TERRY PARK!

A place to play.

A place to picnic.

A place to cool off at the spray grounds.

A place to run in the grass or lounge in the shade.

Terry Park in Midtown Billings has it all, thanks to some updates and upgrades like the new 20-by-28-foot picnic shelter.

"That makes it really nice because people will have more of an opportunity to picnic in that park and it'll be close to the playground, so parents can still picnic and visit and watch the kids too," said Mark Jarvis, City of Billings park planner for the Parks and Recreation department.

When passing by Terry Park, you can't miss the playground.

A pop of blue and red, the newly installed playground is the perfect place for endless play.

Of the city's more than 90 park sites, Terry Park received some TLC because the timing was right.

"The equipment was very old and there wasn't very much play factor there, so it came up on our list for replacement," Jarvis explained.

However, the picnic shelter came about in a rather unusual way, when a cell tower company approached the City of Billings about placing a tower at Terry Park.

"They offered us funds for doing that, and we asked them to front-load those funds to us, so we were able to do the shelter," Jarvis said.

With ADA compliance in mind, the plans also included an ADA accessible path between the playground, picnic shelter, and restrooms.

Already a popular destination in the summer, Terry Park's features can all be found adjacent to one another, on the west side of the park.

"We have a lot of people using the park that live nearby and also people with

The new playground at Terry Park allows children to explore their adventurous side. The picnic shelter in the background gives them a place to rest and recuperate in the shade.

daycares because there's so many great park amenities that are close together," explained Paul Reinhardt, City of Billings community outreach and engagement coordinator for the Parks and Recreation department.

The playground was the vision of our community.

A poll was posted on social media last spring, and participants were given several playground equipment options and could vote for their favorite concept.

"It's a popular way to get people excited about the projects and let them know that it's coming, but also give them some say in what actually gets installed," Reinhardt said.

Planning for the Terry Park project started early 2021.

Neighbors of Lillis Park at Broadwater Avenue and 28th Street West are also celebrating a new playground after voting for their favorite concept last spring.



The BPL bicycle library is decorated with the theme of this year's summer reading program "Oceans of Possibilities".

# THE BILLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY: MORE THAN BOOKS!

The BPL Bicycle Library is back on the road!

This summer, we're heading to the skate park, hosting book groups, offering yoga classes for all ages, and so much more!

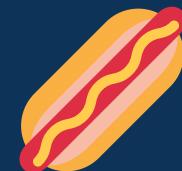
Visit our website at: <https://billingslibrary.org/455/Pedal-Powered-Library> for more information and a full schedule of events.

Billings Public Library is partnering with the Billings Community Seed Library to bring access to local varieties of garden and wildflower seeds to the citizens of Yellowstone County.

The seed library is housed in cabinets located in the Montana Room of the Billings Public Library.

The seeds within the cabinets are free, and come with educational literature to help guide gardeners.

The cabinets is maintained by the Billings Seed Library Community volunteer core consisting of Master Gardeners, community garden volunteers, and other associated local growers and producers.



## The Billings Mayor and Council encourages you to... Organize a neighborhood BBQ!

Billings is special, lets keep it that way,

one barbecue and neighborhood at a time!

Enjoy great food while getting to know your neighbors.

Building strong neighborhoods makes

Billings a safer and more enjoyable place to live.



CITY OF

**Billings**

If you would like to organize a BBQ and need help, or want to support others who do, contact any of the city council members listed below.

Mayor Bill Cole - (406) 657-8296

Councilmember Denise Joy - Ward 3 - (406) 647-0337

Councilmember Ed Gulick - Ward 1 - (406) 698-2747

Councilmember Mike Boyett - Ward 5 - (406) 694-2436

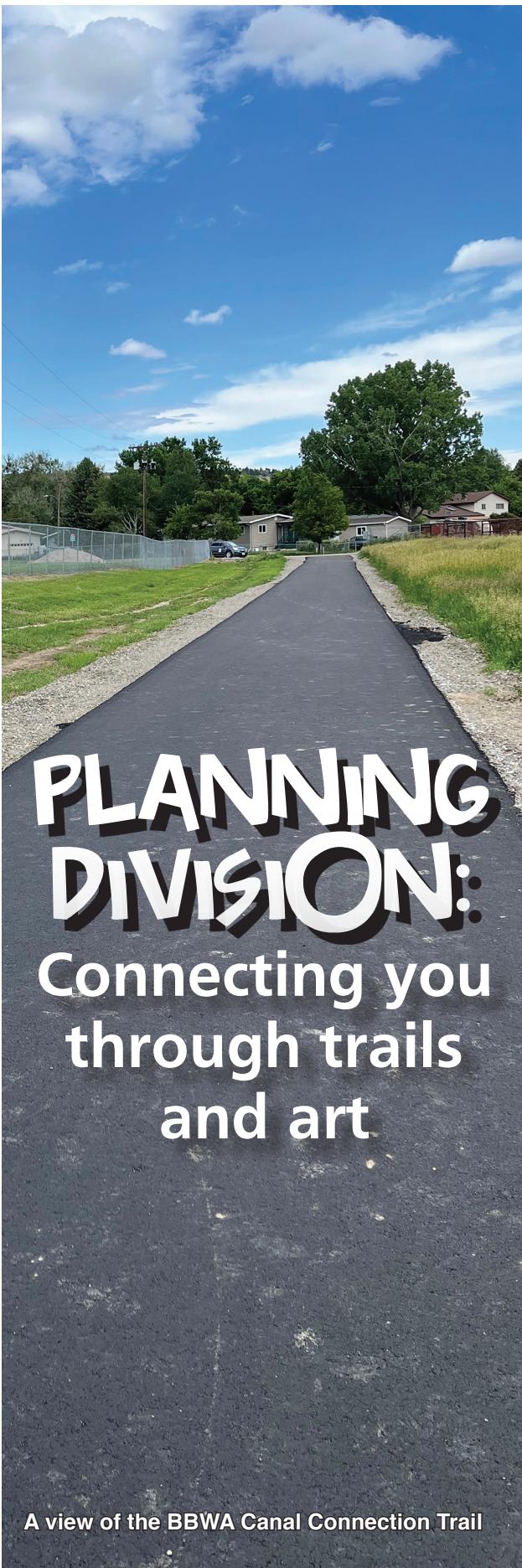
Councilmember Kendra Shaw - Ward 1 - (406) 670-7772

Councilmember Tom Rupsis - Ward 5 - (406) 545-0701

Councilmember Danny Choriki - Ward 3 - (406) 748-6116

Or email [Council@BillingsMT.gov](mailto:Council@BillingsMT.gov)

\*If you want to use the street for a BBQ, please contact Susan at 657-8231 for a free permit



## PLANNING DIVISION: Connecting you through trails and art

Whether it be by bike, foot, wheelchair, skateboard, or another mode of motorless transportation, the Planning Division is making it easier for you to get from point A to point B, one trail at a time.

The most recent addition – the BBWA Canal Connection Trail north of Rose Park.

This new trail connects 21st Street West to Woody Drive. The trail is north of the ditch and south of Saint Francis School.

“It’s a short connection there, but it’s going to help people more easily get to Rose Park,” said Active Transportation Planner Elyse Monat with the City of Billings Planning & Community Services Department.

Monat noted there are senior living facilities and affordable housing located northwest of Rose Park.

“It’s a really good connection because it will help those residents get to Rose Park, as well as walk around and enjoy the community,” she said.

Between a grant from the Recreation Trails Program, contributions from the Public Works Department, the Parks and Recreation Department, and Billings TrailNet, the project has come to fruition.

Another project located just east of Riverfront Park will provide a short connection between two trails - a northern trail for transportation and a southern trail for recreation. The northern and southern trails will be built later by different funding sources. The connector between these two trails is funded by the Recreational Trails Program grant. The Parks Department will also be building a trailhead near the connector with funds they received through an oil spill settlement.

In addition, the Planning Division was able to secure a \$75,000 grant from the Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program to help pave a portion of a new trail the Parks Department is building in Riverfront Park. The trail, and a bridge across the City/County Drain at the eastern edge of Riverfront Park, is being built by oil spill settlement funds. However, the Parks Department was short of funding to pave the trail. The Planning Division was able to apply for funding to pave the trail to supplement the Parks Department’s budget. The trail will stretch from the eastern parking lot of Riverfront Park to Washington Street, with a bridge across the city-county drain.

And starting next summer, thanks to another grant, anyone traveling along the Neighborhood Bikeway will be greeted by the creativity of an artist. A neighborhood bikeway is a local street where cyclists are prioritized, the number of motor vehicles is expected to be low and they will drive at slower speeds.

This art is possible through a \$50,000 Our Town award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Named “Mobilize the MAGIC City,” an artist-in-residence will be hired to integrate arts, culture, and design activities into community spaces.

“The goal is to work with the community and figure out what they want to see,” said Monat.

MAGIC stands for Making Art Grounded in Community.

“This person will work on creating at least two placemaking hubs along the neighborhood route and a placemaking playbook so we can document those efforts, and if we want to use them in the future, we can duplicate them,” Monat said.

The artist will also be tasked with looking into a public arts commission through a feasibility study.

The goal would be to create a process for public art, which currently doesn’t exist.

“So if a neighborhood came up with an idea, they would know where to go. They wouldn’t be starting from scratch or trying to figure out an approval process and what’s appropriate,” Monat explained.

An artist will likely come on board this September with the first signs of art popping up in the summer of 2023.

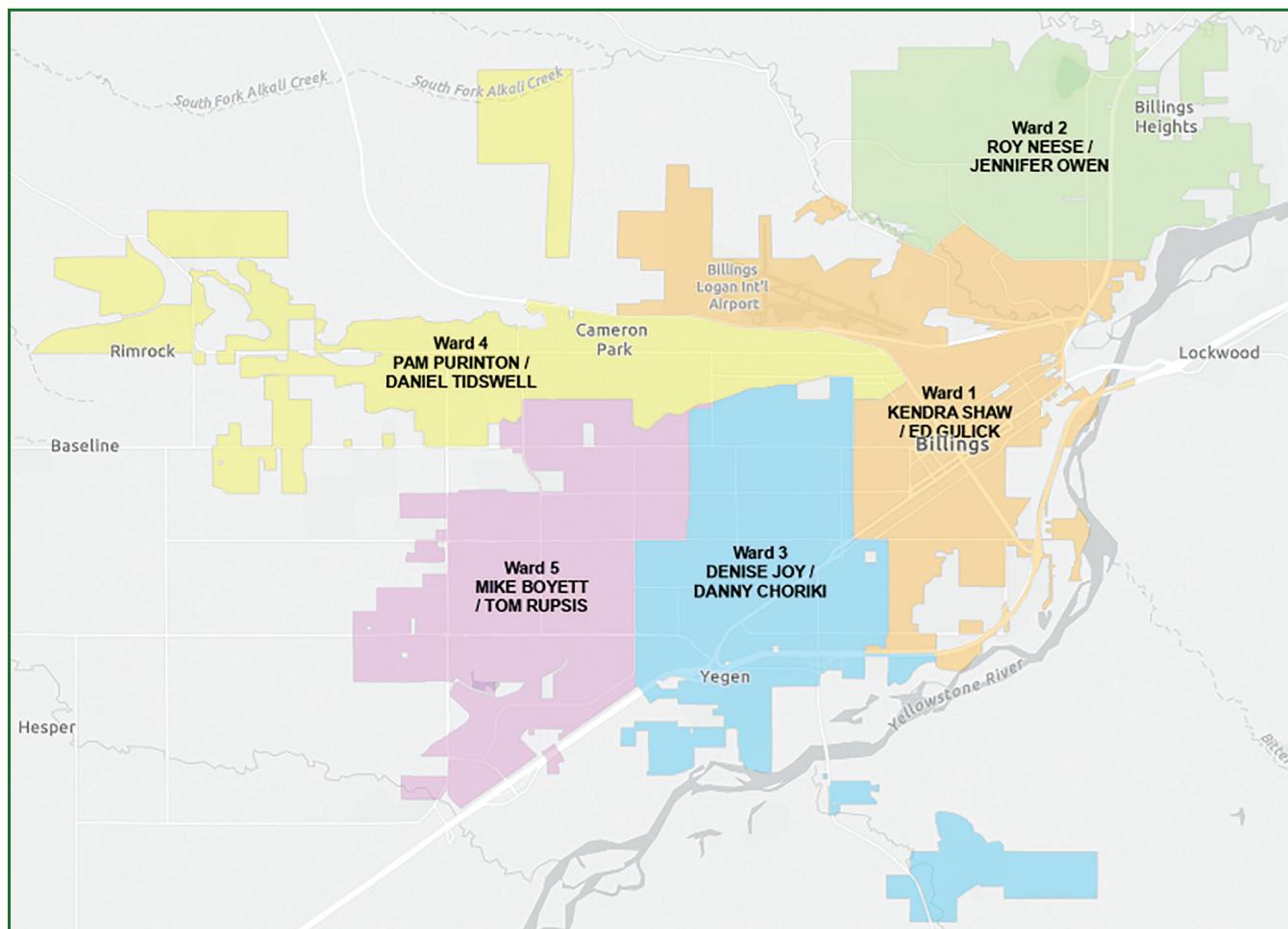


# WHAT'S YOUR WARD?

Not sure which ward you reside in? Curious about your councilmembers? Have ideas or concerns about your neighborhood? Your city council is here for you!

The map to the right outlines our five wards. For a closer look, Visit BillingsMT.gov, navigate to "Maps" in the orange bar near the top of the screen, select "View Map" for City Hall Administration and you can zoom into your specific ward.

Your councilmembers can be reached by phone or email. Find their contact information below:



<b>Mayor</b>	Bill Cole	(406)657-8296	ColeB@BillingsMT.gov
<b>Ward 1</b>	Kendra Shaw	(406)670-7772	ShawK@BillingsMT.gov
	Ed Gulick	(406)698-2747	GulickE@BillingsMT.gov
<b>Ward 2</b>	Roy Neese	(406)794-3318	NeeseR@BillingsMT.gov
	Jennifer Owen	(406)876-3428	OwenJ@BillingsMT.gov
<b>Ward 3</b>	Denise Joy	(406)647-0337	JoyD@BillingsMT.gov
	Danny Choriki	(406)748-6116	ChorikiD@BillingsMT.gov
<b>Ward 4</b>	Pam Purinton	(406)656-9495	PurintonP@BillingsMT.gov
	Daniel Tidswell	(406)690-4534	TidswellD@BillingsMT.gov
<b>Ward 5</b>	Mike Boyett	(406)694-2436	BoyettM@BillingsMT.gov
	Tom Rupsis	(406)545-0701	RupsisT@BillingsMT.gov

If you would like to email the mayor and all councilmembers, send a message to [mayorandcouncil@BillingsMT.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@BillingsMT.gov)

# CDBG-CV FUNDED ACTIVITIES



Example of adult exercise area that will be installed at North Park.

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$909,126 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding (CDBG-CV). The funding must be used exclusively to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, primarily benefit low-income individuals and families in Billings, and avoid duplication of other local, state, or federal service or support to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

In the fall of 2020, Community Development (CD) staff released two Coronavirus Surveys to gather community feedback and glean insight on how the pandemic was affecting the lives of Billings residents. Data collected suggest low-income residents were experiencing gaps in services or a lack of basic needs regarding employment, housing, food security, and mental health. Based on the survey results,

the CD Board directed staff to focus funding resources on increasing access to employment opportunities, food and housing security, computers and internet service, and mental healthcare.

Staff developed and released CDBG-CV applications online. Two eligible applications were received and the CD Board subsequently made award recommendations, which the City Council approved. Grant agreements were executed and both projects are in progress:

- **Salvation Army** (\$55,000) for food delivery, food boxes, etc.
- **Downtown Billings Business Improvement District** (\$117,715) for a new public handwashing station / restroom in downtown Billings.

The CD Board then recommended a fast-tracked public service application process

for awards up to \$15,000 per organization to expand social services to meet the needs of low-income residents impacted by the coronavirus. The City Council approved up to \$150,000 for fast-track grants. CD staff developed an application process and the following applications have so far been approved:

- **Alternatives, Inc.** (\$15,000) for improved access to mental health services through information technology development for low-income residents of Billings impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Chinook Horses** (\$15,000) for mental health equestrian therapy for low-income residents of Billings impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Head Start Explorers Academy** (\$15,000) for Information technology software and support to facilitate distance

learning for children in Billings impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Education Foundation** (\$12,000) for childhood literacy programming and backpack meals for children in Billings impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Family Promise** (\$15,000) for Emergency diaper assistance for families experiencing homelessness and impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Gratitude in Action** (\$10,000) for housing subsistence payments for low-income individuals impacted by the pandemic to live in a sober living home and to provide Wi-Fi access to facilitate employment services for low-income families impacted by the pandemic.

The online CDBG-CV application process was reopened and three more eligible applications were received. The CD Board recommended grant approvals for each, which the City Council approved. Grant agreements for these projects are currently being developed:

- **Alternatives, Inc.** (\$47,000) to strengthen information technology and app development to provide mental health treatment options, at a distance, to low-income clients. The ability to provide distance services will protect both the clients and Alternatives staff from the spread of the coronavirus.

- **Boys & Girls Club** (\$140,000) to renovate an insufficient front reception area at the Boys & Girls Club in order to provide room for social distancing. At present, the

front reception area does not provide room for social distancing.

- **School District 2** (\$313,000) for replacement of an insufficient HVAC system at Washington Elementary School to improve indoor air quality and ventilation to improve public health and prevent spread of coronavirus to ensure the building's continued usefulness during an outbreak.

Because parkland usage in Billings greatly increased during the pandemic, the CD Board also recommended, and the City Council approved, allocating up to \$1 million in CDBG and CDBG-CV funds for improvements to low-income area parks. The following park improvement projects are moving forward:

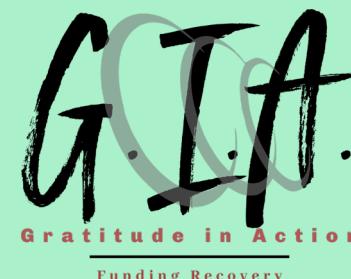
**North Park:** The restroom in the center of the park will be replaced with an upgraded 4-room unit that will include touchless fixtures. The project will also add a new adult exercise area and equipment, a new shade / picnic shelter near the playground, and sections of the walkway in the center of the park will be widened to address tripping hazards. The North Park Center will also receive ventilation upgrades and accessibility improvements.

Creating a new adult exercise equipment area will encourage parents to use the park and they can supervise their children on an existing playground. Current seating places at the park are insufficient for providing seating while social distancing. The provision of adult exercise equipment will

provide opportunities for outdoor exercise and promote wellness while maintaining social distance. North Park has been designated as a Park Rx, where health and social service providers encourage people to spend time at the park and in nature to improve their health and well-being. These improvements would strengthen the park's amenities and encourage usage in this low-income neighborhood.

**Comanche Park:** Replacement of the old playground equipment will provide suitable outdoor fitness and social space where insufficient facilities are available to support social distancing guidelines. The play pod footprint will increase slightly to accommodate new equipment with more play value. One or more handicap parking spaces and a new accessible walkway to the playground will also be constructed with the project.

**Pioneer Park:** The Heritage Trail is a 4-mile route connecting residents to everyday needs such as schools, health care, healthy foods, jobs, etc. The route runs from the North Park area to a little north of Rose Park and connects three community parks. The Heritage Trail section within the Pioneer Park boundaries is in poor condition and will be replaced. The restrooms near the tennis courts will also receive upgrades to improve conditions and install touchless features. Upgrades to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities will also be made to the Zimmerman Center.



# WATER SAVING INSIGHT AND MONEY SAVING TIPS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The Yellowstone River has been an extremely reliable water source for our community for generations. The summer of 2021 resulted in the first significant water supply hiccup in recent decades. Before the much-needed West End Reservoir becomes a reality, Billings has between 8 and 12 hours of reserve water. The water restrictions in August 2021 received overwhelming community wide compliance and the system saw a 40% decrease in water usage. It's reassuring that we can count on our citizens to come together and be part of the solution during trying times. For that, we are grateful!

By now you might be asking, is there a way to pay better attention to our daily water usage moving forward? So glad you asked. The answer is YES!

The WaterSmart Self-Service Portal is a FREE water management resource to Billings water utility customers. The Self-Service Portal helps you monitor water usage, provides customized water saving recommendations, and even sends "Leak" Alerts, "Burst" Alerts, and Bill Forecasts. Sign up now and start making informed decisions about conserving water and saving money! Sign up at [billingsmst.watersmart.com](http://billingsmst.watersmart.com).

GET TO KNOW YOUR EASY TO USE, FREE & SECURE SELF-SERVICE PORTAL

English Logout

Billings Public Works WaterSmart Program

Home Billing Track Take Action Settings

SERVICE ADDRESS ACCOUNT NUMBER

Monitor Use & Compare

Pay Online Auto Pay Go Paperless

View & Pay Bills

\$41.99 Due Jan 28, 2022

View Bill

Compare your current bill to recent past bills.

Bill Nov 2021 \$46 Dec 2021 \$42 Jan 2022 \$42

My Daily Use

32 Gallons Per Day

View use

Compare your past use for this billing period.

GPD Nov-Dec 2020 77 Nov-Dec 2021 32

Alert: January 18

Unusual Use Notification

Your use on Mon., Jan 17, 2022 was 344 Gallons Per Day. That's 4.8 times higher than normal for this time of year.

Track your use

Announcement

Internet Explorer Not Supported

Microsoft is encouraging custo... read more

Announcement

Add a shortcut to the Portal on your mobile phone

Did you know that you can ad... read more

Announcement

Get help understanding if your bill is higher than normal

Follow Along on Social Media

City of Billings Public Works 8,209 followers

Follow Page Share

Billings Landfill is OPEN regular hours, 8am-5:30pm today. Please know that service time may be longer. We thank you for your concern and understanding! 1-20-22

City of Billings Public Works on Thursday

Recommended

Wash Dishes Efficiently

Savings up to 8 GPD \$18/year

See more

WaterSmart SOFTWARE

WaterSmart gives Billings water customers the modern self-service and communications experience that you expect from your Public Works Team.

Your information is secure & backed up. Web & mobile compatible interface.

Estimating Your End Uses: 2020 - 2021

# 2022 HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Labor Day	Monday, September 5	Delayed one day
Veteran's Day	Friday, November 11	On Schedule
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24	Delayed one day
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 25	Delayed one day
Christmas	Sunday, December 25 (Observed Monday, December 26)	On Schedule
New Year's Day 2023	Sunday, January 1 (observed Monday, January 2)	On Schedule



**CITY OF Billings**

**WE ARE HIRING!!!**

Join team Billings and serve the community where your family, friends and neighbors live!

You can make a difference with a rewarding career at the City of Billings.

**SEE CURRENT JOB OPENINGS AT: [BILLINGSMT.GOV/JOB](http://BILLINGSMT.GOV/JOB)**

Excellent benefits include:

- Medical, dental, vision and life insurance
- Retirement plan with generous employer contributions
- Vacation, sick and personal leave

# 2022 SERVICE DIRECTORY

## ADMINISTRATION

City Administrator.....657-8222  
Assistant City Admin.....657-8478  
City Clerk .....657-8210

## AIRPORT-BILLINGS LOGAN INTERNATIONAL

Airport Information.....247-8609  
Airport Administration .....657-8495  
Airport Police .....657-8498  
Airport Operations .....657-8496  
Edwards Jet Center.....252-0508  
Parking – SP Plus.....259-8545  
Gateway Restaurant & Lounge.....256-8446  
TSA-24/7 Customer Service.....877-846-5737

## ANIMAL CONTROL ...657-8226

## ANIMAL SHELTER & LICENSING

Yellowstone Valley  
Animal Shelter.....294-7387  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.: Noon - 7pm  
Wed.: Closed  
Sat. & Sun.: Noon - 5pm  
Lost Pet Hotline .....294-1138

## BUILDING DIVISION

Building Permits .....657-8270  
Building & Plumbing Inspections .....657-8277  
Plan Review.....657-8271  
Business Licenses.....657-8364

## CITY ATTORNEY .....657-8205

## CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION .....657-8433

## CODE ENFORCEMENT – ZONING & WEED COMPLAINTS .....237-6146

Community Development .....657-8281  
AmeriCorps VISTA.....247-8675  
Home Repair Program .....657-8284  
First Time Homebuyer Program.....657-3045

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT .....237-6294

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Accounts Payable.....657-8224  
Business Tax Information.....657-8364  
City Tax Information-SID's ..657-8223  
Municipal Bonds .....657-8363  
Purchasing.....657-8216  
Other Finance Services.....657-8207

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only .....911  
Non-Emergency  
8 am to 5 pm weekdays:  
Fire Department  
Administration .....657-8423

## FLEET SERVICES .....657-8407

## GIS SERVICES .....247-8512

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

123 S. 27th .....247-3200

## HUMAN RESOURCES

210 N. 27th .....237-6210

## JAIL .....256-6881

## LIBRARY (BILLINGS PUBLIC)

Information Services .....657-8258  
Children's Services.....657-8256  
Bookmobile .....657-3091  
Senior-Homebound.....657-8255  
Hours.....657-8259  
Website: [www.billingslibrary.org](http://www.billingslibrary.org)

## MAYOR .....657-8296

## MET TRANSIT

Information & Schedules .....657-8218  
MET Special Transit Reservation.....248-8805

## MUNICIPAL COURT

(City Hall Second Floor)  
Bond & Traffic Citation Info .....657-8490  
Juror Information (24 Hrs) ..247-8653

## PARKING DIVISION

Enforcement, Parking Tickets & Meter Repair .....657-8412  
Park One Garage .....657-8212  
Park Two Garage .....657-8279  
Park Three Garage.....657-8212  
Empire Garage .....657-8279

## PARKS-RECREATION & PUBLIC LANDS

Administration .....657-8371  
Community & Senior Center .....657-3050  
Cemetery Division .....657-8299  
Forester/Natural Resources.....237-6227  
Fax .....247-8641  
Website .....[www.BillingsParks.org](http://www.BillingsParks.org)

## PLANNING .....247-8676

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Emergencies Only .....911  
Non-Emergencies .....657-8200  
PD Records .....657-8460  
(Open 8am-6pm weekdays & 10 am - Noon Saturday)  
Detective Division .....657-8473  
Public Relations .....657-8464  
Crime Prevention Center ....247-8590  
(Open 9 am to 4 pm weekdays)  
Fingerprinting  
- Call Crime Prevention Center  
Montana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) .....839-9070

## PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT

Public Works  
Administration .....657-8230  
Engineering Division .....657-8231  
Right-of-Way Permits &.....657-8231  
Inspections  
Environmental Affairs.....247-8517  
Meter Shop .....657-8331  
Solid Waste Division & Landfill .....657-8260  
Street/Traffic Division .....657-8250  
Utility Billing Office – Payments  
(Open 8am-5pm weekdays)....657-8315  
Utility Emergencies  
(Open 8am-5pm weekdays)....657-8305  
Utility Emergencies  
(After 5pm, weekends & holidays) .....657-8353  
Wastewater Reclamation Facility.....657-8356  
Water Treatment Plant.....657-8353

## ZONING .....657-8246

## We Want to Hear From You

Please provide us with input for our next newsletter.

What did you like most about the newsletter?

What would you like to see in upcoming newsletters?

Mail or e-mail your comments to us at:

[hilv@billingsmt.gov](mailto:hilv@billingsmt.gov)

Your City Link

P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59101