

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

October 20, 2023

1. Parks Projects Updates -

Arrowhead playground - Contractor moved new play equipment on site to begin installation.

Central tennis courts - Courts completed, submitting for LWCF funding reimbursement.

Gorham irrigation - Underground irrigation lines being installed, pump station on order.

North Park playground - Play equipment being manufactured.

North Park restroom - Site work for new restroom in progress, delivery of new building this fall.

Pioneer tennis courts - RFP closed 10/13, reviewing consultant candidates for recommendation.

Poly Vista Phase II - Consultant working on design and budget to go out to bid for inclusive playground and completion of parking lot.

Skypoint - Structural Engineer completed their report on the steel structure, proceeding with recommended repairs (few minor cracks).

2. **Castlerock Playground Updates** - To provide some background when the playground equipment shipped the wrong slide was included. Once the error was realized the correct slide was ordered. The manufacturer of the slide told us it could take up to 14 weeks for the new slide to ship. We have been waiting for the arrival of the slide ever since. The manufacturer sent notice on 10/18 that the slide has shipped. The installer on the project has been notified and will be ready to install once the slide arrives.

The swings were in use for about 3 months when a defect in the manufacturing caused a problem making the swings unsafe. Staff took them out of service to ensure no one was injured. The manufacturer is working on a fix for the situation and will be traveling to Billings to make the repairs.

The zip-line broke on 10/21 and has been taken out of service until the damaged parts can be shipped. When the manufacturer arrives to fix the swings, they will be inspecting the zip-line to determine why it failed after only a few months of service.

Staff is working with the Legal Department to draft a letter to both the supplier and manufacturer of the equipment. The goal is to have them become more responsive and provide quicker warranty service,

- 3. Multigenerational Recreation Center Questions** - Clark Johnson has posted some questions about the operation and management of the proposed Multigenerational Recreation Center that is part of the bond proposal. The consultant on the master plan for the Multigenerational Recreation Center is A&E Architects and Ballard*King. They were asked to review Clark Johnson's questions and provide a response. The response explains the operations and management of the Multigenerational Recreation Center so thoroughly I have shared it below. I have also included a link to the 2022 Recreation Center Operations Analysis done by Ballard*King.

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/50275/Billings-Recreation-Center-Operations-Analysis>



Billings Response
BK 10102023 Final.pdf

- 4. 2023 Engagement With Parks Report - Now Available** – Please see the attached Parks Report from the National Recreation and Parks Association.
- 5. Coc/SAC Leadership Meeting** – Progress is being made to bring the two coalitions together. Dean Wells from the United Way continues to facilitate the meetings. We are working to expand the executive committee to include one or two members of the city council. Several board members including myself and also councilmember Rupsis will be attending a site visit to Boise, ID to better understand how their model can be used to help Billings. The visit is being paid for through a grant.
- 6. Jail Prep Meeting** – Gina, Chief St John, Kevin, and I met with councilmembers Owen and Boyett in preparation for their next meeting with the county.
- 7. New Veterans Memorial** – We held a follow-up meeting with Hoodies for Heroes. They are planning a beautiful memorial honoring Montana's fallen heroes from the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns near Dehler Park. Check out their web site at <https://hoodiesforheros.org/>
- 8. CGL Safety Review** – Facilities, court, legal, admin and councilmembers Boyett and Owen met over Teams with CGL to go over their recommendations on safety upgrades for the new city hall. The most impactful consideration is to require all visitors entering city hall to be screened. This would undoubtedly improve safety but have a significant impact on visitors' experience and costs. City council will make the final call if we want to add this feature.
- 9. Parks, Recreation and Trails Bond Presentations** – Educational presentations on the PRT Bond were given to the Parking division, Billings Kiwanis, city council candidates, Heights Optimist Club, Billings Clinic leadership team, West End Neighborhood Task Force, Rimrock Neighborhoods Task Force, Central-Terry Task Force, and the Breakfast Flakes radio.
- 10. Recreation News** – Please see the attached memo.
- 11. Library** – Please see the attachment for the Billings Public Library First Quarter Statistics.

12. Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces

- a. Heights Task Force, Tuesday, October 24th 7:00 PM Oasis Conference Room
- b. City of Billings Boards & Commission Volunteer Dinner, Thursday, October 26th, 6:00 PM

13. New City Hall Update – Good progress was made this week at City Hall.

Fifth Floor:

The north half of the 5th floor is complete with sheet rock finishing with the exception of the council chambers. The 5th floor soffits are being framed around the elevator lobby and will be complete except for at the coiling door. (Need coiling door to complete, which is mid-November). Soffit framing will move into the council chambers early next week. Lighting controls are being roughed in and wire is being pulled. HVAC control is wrapped up on the south side and moving onto the north next week. Painting is complete on the south half of the building and door frames were primed and painted on the north half. Painting of walls on the north will begin next week. Ceiling grid wires and interior wall angle started this week for ACT ceilings. Hydronic piping is complete with air testing to follow on Monday. The SFRM application was tested and passed this week, so the drywall on the upper walls in the council chamber can be complete.

Fourth Floor:

Drywall hanging is complete on the walls and taping began this week. Hydronic piping is coming along. Exterior drywall demo is complete. HVAC is working to wrap up some loose ends and complete the final duct and VAV install. Electrical overhead has made good progress. Floor prep completed today in the hard interrogation rooms, adjacent corridor, and the bathroom. The elevator lobby floor prep will be completed early next week.

Second Floor:

Electrical rough in is complete except for the changes/adds/corrections that came from the box walk on 10/11. Beginning next week, the box walk items will be worked on. Exterior drywall and framing started this week on the 2nd floor. Drywall was stocked this week for top out, which will begin next week. The storefront framing above the gallery stairs is complete. The courtroom wall material showed up for the storefront areas, and this framing will be completed next week. Plumbing rough in continues to show progress. HVAC rough in to begin next week.

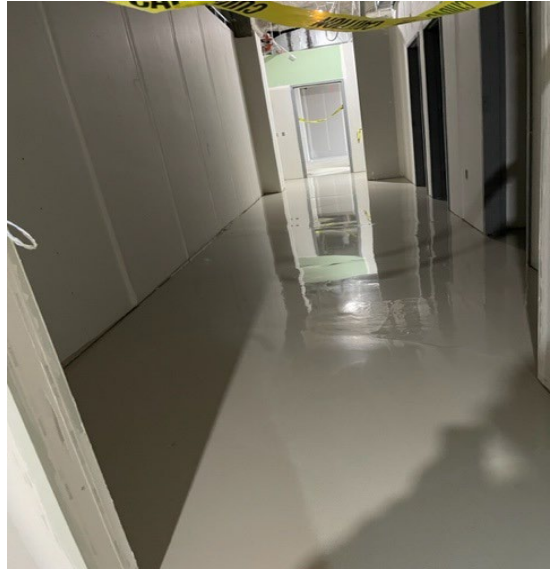
Additional:

The central bus duct is being "Cut over" this Saturday which is replacing panels (Cutting over from old panels to new panels).

5th Floor:



4th Floor:



2nd Floor:



14. From the PIO Desk –

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Bond podcast series

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2536>

From BIL: Billings will welcome Sun Country Airlines with a seasonal BIL-MSP route for summer travel

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2535>

PRPL

Parks, Recreation and Trails Bond

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/as-ballots-hit-mailboxes-parks-bond-has-billings-residents-divided>

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/impact-of-parks-and-rec-bond-on-your-wallet/article_11ec263d-78b0-5186-866e-27e095770fc1.html

<https://blubrry.com/chambercast/120863150/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-parks-rec-bond/>

BIL

Sun Country Airlines to offer flights from Billings to Minneapolis-St. Paul

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/business/sun-country-airlines-comes-to-billings-minnesota/article_999899ba-6e98-11ee-8c6f-2fa70046beca.html

New airline service announced at Billings airport

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/new-airline-service-announced-at-billings-airport>

Sun Country Airlines to offer direct flights between Billings and Minneapolis

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/sun-country-airlines-to-offer-direct-flights-between-billings-and-minneapolis-st-paul/article_8aca85f4-8efd-55dc-ac02-cfc5c683ce34.html

9 fun things to do in Minnesota with cheap airfare from Billings

<https://realnewsmontana.com/ixp/628/p/sun-country-airline-billings/>

Council

Get to know Billings City Council Ward 4 candidates

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/billings-city-council-ward-4-election-aspenlieder-hernandez/article_94137cf2-56a2-11ee-a4fd-b37da228066f.html

What are on the general election ballots in Yellowstone County?

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/what-are-on-the-general-election-ballots-across-yellowstone-county/article_d20190b9-615a-5ab0-9ad1-d91ca72dbe2c.html

Refugee resettlement

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/james-horan-busts-myths-about-refugee-resettlement/video_5d1139cd-07f9-511d-b710-1ceb81698b3a.html

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/nancy-van-maren-describes-self-sufficiency-of-refugees/video_473c4efe-e711-5c2f-b974-ddd08efc543e.html

PW

Billings adds two new leaf collection sites this fall

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/leaf-collection-billings-public-works-autumn-weather/article_cfe929ec-69ef-11ee-98ac-2325dec3deb5.html

Disposing leaves responsibly in the fall in Billings

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/disposing-leaves-responsibly-in-the-fall-in-billings/article_f632308c-698c-5c77-8cc6-28b8c2289c38.html

In other news...

MSUB says initiatives helping to boost student retention rate

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/msub-enrollment-retention-chancellor-stefani-hicswa/article_914b14c4-6c66-11ee-a48f-27171da371da.html

Billings school district planning to add three charter programs

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-school-district-planning-to-add-three-charter-programs>

Yellowstone Art Museum announces free admission for three years thanks to funding from nationwide access

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/yellowstone-art-museum-announces-free-admission-for-three-years-thanks-to-funding-from-nationwide-access/article_643cf80e-d473-5807-938d-2ccce0c1ddec.html



2023 Engagement With Parks Report Now Available

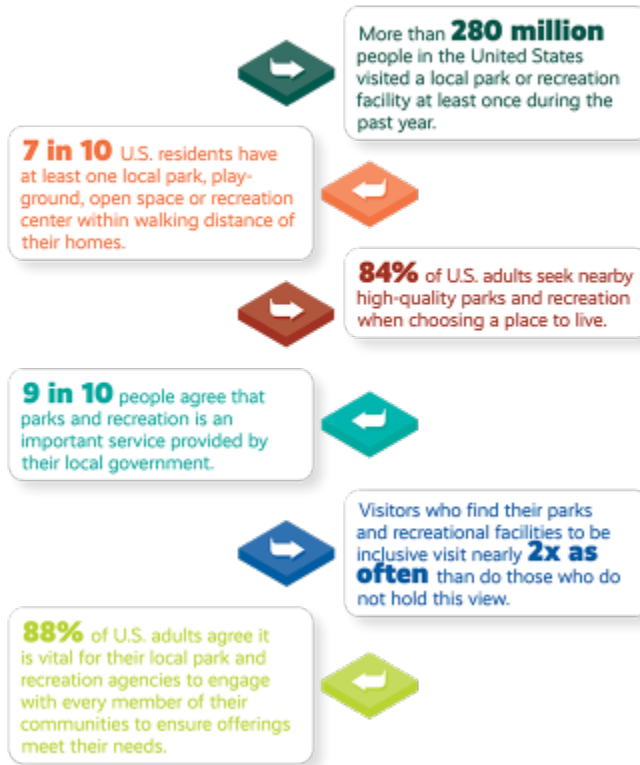
Mike,

More than 280 million people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility at least once during the past year. The [2023 Engagement With Parks Report](#) is part of an annual NRPA research series that tracks the general public's interaction with and support for public parks and recreation. The findings provide park and recreation professionals, policymakers and other key stakeholders with insights on the important role that local parks and recreation plays in the lives of all people.

Key findings from this year' s report:

- Seven in 10 residents have at least one local park, playground, open space or recreation center within walking distance of their homes.
- Eighty-four percent of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live.
- Visitors who find their parks and recreational facilities to be inclusive visit nearly two times as often than do those who do not hold this view.
- Eighty-eight percent of U.S. adults agree it is vital for their local park and recreation agencies to engage with every member of their communities to ensure offerings meet their needs.

Key Findings of the 2023 Engagement With Parks Report:



[Read the Report](#)

This year's study continues to show the public's affinity toward their local parks and recreation is strong, with many residents seeking high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. Local parks continue to serve as places for rest, relaxation, celebration and fellowship. The public's strong and broad-based support for parks and recreation solidifies the case made to local elected officials, stakeholders and the media for greater and more sustainable funding for this **essential** function.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's report.

Sincerely,

Kevin Roth (he/him)

NRPA Vice President of Research, Evaluation and Technology



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Memo

From: The Recreation Department

Billings Parks and Recreation has completed the first round of fall programing, and its time to move indoors. Our Winter Brochure will be out November 1st detailing all of our remaining programs for 2023 and for the start of 2024.

The Miracle League of Billings wrapped up on October 14th and ended a hugely successful season. Our 30+ Buddies (volunteers) donated roughly 150 volunteer hours to the program, and we consistantly had full stands of fans cheering on our athletes and providing an amazing atmosphere. We also completed our largest season of NFL Flag Football with over 160 kids and 33 parents volunteering a total of 700 hours of coaching. Our 2 main program offerings went better than we could have ever expected and hopefully indicate great things to come for the upcoming winter months.



The rest of our fall lineup has been going quite well also. A full class of Kids in the Kitchen, a full league of 24 Adult co-ed volleyball teams, and a jam packed pickleball indoor open play continuing for a few more weeks. Along with weekly table tennis league, youth martial arts, and many senior fitness and entertainment programs in full swing. Our Winter Brochure is completed and out for print, and will be in the hands of residents by November 1st with 22 pages of additional programing. Registration will be open on our website and app on November 1st as well.

Members of the Parks and Rec Department also attended the 2023 NRPA National Conference this month in Dallas, Texas. We took advantage of many classes, learning sessions, and team building opportunities to help us become better at what we do every day!

Billings Public Library

First Quarter Statistics

LIBRARY JULY STATS

Checkouts
45,512

Locker
Checkouts
404

Door Count
21,792

Program
Attendance
2,632

Charging
Station Uses
461

LIBRARY AUGUST STATS

Checkouts
42,051

Locker
Checkouts
475

Door Count
21,450

Program
Attendance
935

Charging
Station Uses
628

LIBRARY SEPTEMBER ST

Checkouts
41,275

Locker
Checkouts
551

Door Count
22,140

Program
Attendance
3,985

Charging
Station Uses
754