

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

December 22, 2023 - This is our last Weekly report for 2023.

- 1. Strategy Partner All Board Planning Meeting** – Big Sky Economic Development's, the Chamber's, Downtown Partnership's and the City's boards and staff all came together with community leaders to review our successes and setbacks over the past two years. The group answered a series of questions to provoke a meaningful community dialogue on the future of our community. Kaleidoscope's Karen and Michelle facilitated the discussion and will work with the Partnership on the next steps.



2. **City Council Orientation** – we held our second orientation session with the councilmembers Kennedy and Aspenlieder covering administration (Clerk, PIO and CA), finance and information technology. Future sessions will be scheduled in January and February.
3. **City of Billings Grant Funding Update** – Please see the attached update on the Stagecoach Trail at Zimmerman Park.
4. **Park News** - It's that time for end of the year reviews – even for parks! While we don't have visitor data, sometimes the internet can give us clues. According to Google Trends, South Park was the most searched park in Billings throughout the year! Now, some might say that's a coincidence because of the television show, but we know in our hearts that our South Park is a gem. According to Google Reviews, Pioneer Park sits at the top with a 4.6/5 rating.

Check out the results for the top parks below! Your park isn't there? Well, you might just have yourself a hidden gem in your neighborhood.

Google Ratings

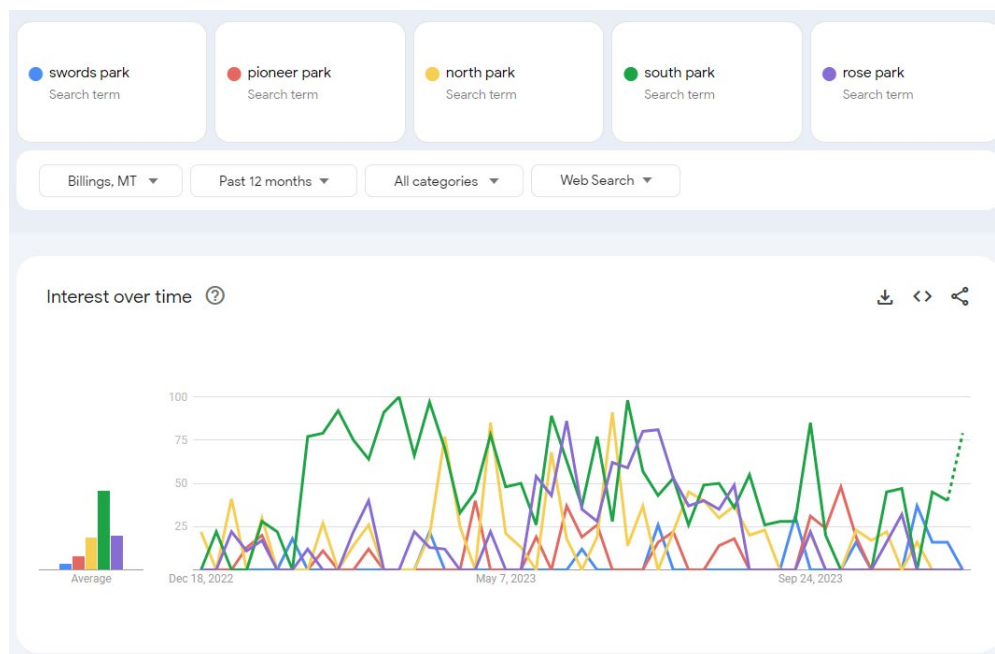
South – 3.9 ★s – 498 reviews

North – 3.9 ★s – 477 reviews

Pioneer – 4.6 ★s – 1,389 reviews

Rose – 4.4 ★s – 545 reviews

Swords – 4.6 ★s – 432 reviews



Please see the attached Park Project Progress Report.

5. Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces

- a. Heights Task Force – Tuesday, December 26th 7:00 PM, Oasis.

6. 2024 Council Meeting Schedule – Please see the attached Council Meeting schedule for upcoming items on the agenda.

7. New City Hall Update –

5th Floor

Casework delivery and install.
Finish framing north council chambers wall.
Wire in light fixtures and overhead trim out.
Finish home run wire pull back to electrical panels.
Paint touch up on walls and hollow metal frames.
Wall tile in main restroom group.
Grout wall tile in single use restroom.
Set and grout floor tile in single use restroom.
Window replacement north wall moving east.
Put storefront frames together for install.

4th Floor

Delivery of new windows.
Finish painting existing electrical and data rooms.
Lighting control, light boxes and home run wire pull.
Low voltage wiring.
Head of wall spraying.
Caulking penetrations above hard lids.
Install ceiling grid from south side of building moving north.

2nd Floor

HVAC overhead rough in.
Existing HVAC that was demoed hauled out of the building.
Hang sheetrock.
Taping and sanding on south end of building.
Prefill and tape joints on north end of building.
Hydronic piping to VAV's.
Finished plumbing wall rough in.
Run overhead conduit and cable tray.
Install grid system for ceilings around monument stair.

1st Floor

HVAC overhead rough in.
Electrical wall rough in.
Existing temp electrical demo.
Plumbing wall and waste rough in at restroom group.
Metal stud framing.
Hollow metal door frame install.



8. City Communications –

Billings PD hosts Getting Through the Grind course

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2554>

4th annual Shop with a Cop hosted by Billings PD a success!

<https://www.billingsmt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2555>

Billings PD weekly brief

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=748146274013820&set=a.226302889531497>

PD gives out hams donated by local businesses

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=749354507226330&set=a.226302909531495>

Minnesota Avenue fatal crash press release

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=746833327478448&set=a.226302889531497>

Your City – MET Transit

<https://youtu.be/Ab3Xob7ZiZU?si=ReAB1gWgel7M-Khl>

Your City – City Communications

https://youtu.be/qnhupM5Qge4?si=B8qL8jasWXE3e_NU

Nature Nick w/ PRPL installs downtown sculpture

<https://www.facebook.com/DowntownBillings/posts/pfbid0i5atGHTpYikPG5mnA9GxsDsPYqWX1xg3W7rN4vrxCJo9GouF7K3BR8DNkfzEUbMYI>

Billings community to benefit from Safe Streets for All grant

<https://www.facebook.com/billingsmtpublicworks/posts/pfbid0e6w4M1phzWamNweXxdsnMTgmhut8J9CLNmqwETrXTzBjAt3rdR4PRLlNy9bYAiNSI>

PD

The Billings Police Department gives away hams instead of tickets for the holiday season

https://www.nonstoplocal.com/billings/news/the-billings-police-department-gives-away-hams-instead-of-tickets-for-the-holiday-season/article_a85aa61a-f78a-50bd-aaed-b49067d83fc7.html

Billings businesses show appreciation for law enforcement after taxing year

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/billings-businesses-show-appreciation-of-law-enforcement-after-taxing-year>

'Smiling ear to ear': Billings police host fourth annual 'Shop with a Cop' event

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/smiling-ear-to-ear-billings-police-host-fourth-annual-shop-with-a-cop-event>

Four teens of fatal crash in Billings ID'd

https://www.kulr8.com/news/four-teens-of-fatal-crash-in-billings-idd/article_ee7bdf0-9c47-11ee-bdf8-773a56fcda56.html

PW

Billings receives \$3.56 million for safer streets for kids

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-receives-3-56-million-for-safer-streets-for-kids/article_3f143a26-9f71-11ee-a20e-a7a5ab410408.html

BIL

Beacon Air Group brings private charter and hangar services to Billings airport

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/business/beacon-air-group-comes-to-billings/article_8ecbf8fe-9b9a-11ee-8add-7f497983d8f3.html

BPL

'Longmire' author Craig Johnson visiting Billings library

https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/walt-longmire-craig-johnson-billings-library/article_c504968e-9f59-11ee-9639-7fd0c8257558.html

FD

Firefighters responding to house fire in west end of Billings

https://www.kulr8.com/news/firefighters-responding-to-house-fire-in-west-end-of-billings/article_5d16e47e-9e77-11ee-aab4-e357118c6dae.html

Council

Billings among latest communities to support proposed Southern Montana passenger rail plan

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/montana-news/passenger-rail-study-planned-for-southern-montana-more-communities-jump-on-board>

In other news....

Billings Public Schools Responds to Safety Audit with Comprehensive Action Plan

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-public-schools-responds-to-safety-audit-with-comprehensive-action-plan/article_01b14832-9f89-11ee-a341-8301890a73fb.html

Billings School District 2 will now start the school year in September

https://www.kulr8.com/news/billings-school-district-2-will-now-start-te-school-year-in-september/article_344911a8-9eda-11ee-8ae3-07c461133e63.html

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings December 2023

Stagecoach Trail at Zimmerman Park



Zimmerman Trail automobile connection from Rimrock Road to Highway 3. Stagecoach Trail will parallel Zimmerman to the east and below the road.

Image credit: LightcrafterArtistry

This project is funded through multiple funding sources. Cost of construction is estimated to be \$5.5 million. Parks and Recreation received \$4.7 million in grant funding from the Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Alternatives Program. This program is currently funded by federal pass-through money authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The grant requires a local non-federal match of about \$805,000. TrailNet has already committed around \$100,000 to the project, and is continuing to fundraise. The City of Billings is preparing a grant application to the Montana State Trail Stewardship Program for another \$100,000, and is looking at other resources to close the funding gap. The project is currently scheduled to get underway in FY25.

More About This Project

The Stagecoach Trail as currently planned will:

- be 9/10 of a mile in length, running from Rimrock Road to the top of the Rimrocks.
- climb 400 feet in elevation as the trail parallels the Zimmerman Trail automobile route just to the east and below the roadway.
- connect to the newly completed Skyline Trail and Northwest Connector trail.
- allow pedestrian and bicyclist access to Zimmerman Park for West End, downtown, and southside trail users.
- provide an important Marathon Trail connection between Skyline and the Northwest Connector and West End trails (including the shared-use path on Shilo, and future trails near the Zoo and Yellowstone River).
- provide connection for west end trail and multi-use paths to the top of the Rimrocks (the other connection is through Swords' Park on the east end).
- Residents and visitors alike will have access to the beautiful Billings skyline on the Rimrocks, and have the opportunity to bike/run/walk/roll along the nearly mile-long trail any time of the year.

To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:

Ted Wilson
City of Billings Grants Administrator
406-869-3997
wilsont@billingsmt.gov

December 21st, 2023 progress report

Park	Progress	Project	Status	*updated information for this week
	Started ----->	Completed		
Arrowhead playground replacement	<div></div>		Playground punch list in progress	
Castle Rock playground addition	<div></div>		Slide replacement parts installed and completed, manufacture warranty work on going for swings and zip line	
*Castle Rock parking lot & restroom	<div></div>		*Met with consultant 12/20/23, consultant working to finalize design	
Central tennis courts replacement	<div></div>		Submitting LWCF paperwork for project reimbursement	
Comanche playground replacement	<div></div>		Playground complete and open to the public	
Cottonwood Park masterplan	<div></div>		Presented at November 8th Park Board meeting and approved for recommendation to City Council	
Coulson Park South Improvements	<div></div>		Received approval from US Army Corps of Engineers, proceeding with design	
Gorham irrigation automation	<div></div>		Pump station being shipped by manufacture for installation	
Grandview irrigation automation	<div></div>		Advertised twice, no bids both times, rebid at a later date	
Highland playground replacement	<div></div>		Playground equipment was delivered, installer under contract for Fall completion	
Millice irrigation automation	<div></div>		Sealed bids opened, project over budget, rebid at a later date	
*North Park adult exercise & shelter	<div></div>		*Building permit application was returned 12/21/23, working with consultant on corrections	
North Park playground replacement	<div></div>		Old playground equipment removed, sight cleared in preparation for install of new playground	
North Park restroom replacement	<div></div>		Concrete restroom placed on pad 12/8/23, Contractor continuing work to connect all services to building	
*Pioneer Park tennis courts replacement	<div></div>		*Portion of fenced removed from courts, boring for core sampling conducted 12/19/23	
Poly Vista inclusive playground and parking lot	<div></div>		Final bid documents reviewed, posted for bid on 12/7/23	
Ponderosa irrigation automation	<div></div>		Final walkthrough complete, system fully operational	
Rose Park pool spray equipment replacement	<div></div>		Spray equipment delivered, contractor being scheduled for installation	
Skypoint sail replacement	<div></div>		Structural Engineer's report completed, proceeding with recommended repairs prior to painting	
Aquatic Facility Assessment	<div></div>		Consultant performed on site visits and are compiling information for assessment	

2024 COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE

(Year to date listing appears at the end of this schedule)

**Judge Kolar would like to be first during budget meetings

January 2, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION

1. Administration of Oaths and Affirmations of Office for new Councilmembers
2. DES Emergency Management Update (K.C. Williams)
3. Ordinance Amendments to Water and Wastewater Utilities (Debi)
4. Stormwater Billing (Debi) Keep with Water and Wastewater
5. Council Discussion

January 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

- A. Bid Award: W.O. 24-03: Contract 2 Chip Seal / Scrub Seal
- B. Bid Award: W.O. 23-46: Compost Facility Waterline
- C. Bid Award: 2024 Gravel Streets (not in AQ)
- D. Library Hail Repairs Change Order No. 1
- E. New City Hall Asbestos Abatement, Change Order No. 1
- F. Purchase Water Reclamation Facility Equipment – Disinfection parts
- G. New City Hall elevator modernization contract
- H. W.O. 19-42: WE Water Treatment contract - Dick Anderson
- I. Donations to Library
- J. MT FWP trail stewardship grant application
- K. Northwest Energy easement for Mountview Cemetery
- L. Resolution Authorizing Release of Easements North 28th Street

REGULAR:

2. PH and 1st reading ORD – Cemetery Code changes
3. PH – ZC 1040 - 1404 and 1406 Avenue B
4. PH – Special Review 998 – 1406 Avenue B
5. Nomination and Election of Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore

January 16, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION **at the Library!**

1. Family Violence Response Unit Update (St. John per Owen's Initiative)
2. Continuing Public Safety Strategy – focused on Crime Prevention
3. Council Discussion

January 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. Bid Award: W.O. 24-03: Contract 2 City Chip/Scrub Seal
2. Scanning services with DIS Technologies
3. Airport Master Plan update
4. MT Dept. of Commerce Infrastructure Grant Application
5. 2nd/ Final Reading ORD. – ZC 1040 – 1404 and 1406 Avenue B

REGULAR:

1. Sale of City Hall, South Parking Lot, and North Parking Lot

February 5, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1. MRM update – Matt Lundgren
2. CRU and MRT Updates (Pepper)
3. Local Government Review – Resolution for June Ballot
4. Tax Abatement Policy (Dianne, BSEDA/Chris)??
5. Council goals and strategies
6. Council Discussion

February 12, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. Adoption of Council Goals and Strategies

REGULAR:

- 1.

February 20, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION

1. Billings Mustangs??
2. PMD Assessment Approval Discussion (Per Rupsis's question) (Schedule Staff Prep meeting to discuss the impacts of Rupsis's questions)
3. Council Discussion

February 26, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. Local Government Review – Resolution for June Ballot
2. Amend Park Development Council budget

REGULAR:

- 1.

March 4, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1. Council Discussion

March 11, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

- 1.

REGULAR:

- 1.

March 18, 2024 – WORK SESSION

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM

1. Council Discussion

March 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

April 1, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1.

2. Council Discussion

April 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

April 15, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1.

2. Council Discussion

April 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

May 6, 2024 (BUDGET) – WORK SESSION

1.

2. Council Discussion

May 13, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

May 20, 2024 (BUDGET) – WORK SESSION

1.

2. Council Discussion

May 28, 2024 (Tues.)- REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

June 3, 2024 – WORK SESSION

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM

1.

2. Council Discussion

June 10, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

June 17, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1.

2. Council Discussion

June 24, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

July 1, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1.

2. Council Discussion

July 8, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

July 15, 2024 – WORK SESSION

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

July 22, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

- 1.

REGULAR:

- 1.

August 5, 2024 – WORK SESSION

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

August 12, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

- 1.

REGULAR:

- 1.

August 19, 2024 – WORK SESSION

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

August 26, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

- 1.

REGULAR:

- 1.

September 3, 2024 (Tues.) – WORK SESSION

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

September 9, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

- 1.

REGULAR:

1.

September 16, 2024 – WORK SESSION

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

September 23, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

October 7, 2024 – WORK SESSION

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM CA Annual Review

1. Council Discussion

October 15, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

October 21, 2024 – WORK SESSION

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

October 28, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

November 4, 2024 – WORK SESSION

- 1.
2. Council Discussion

November 12, 2024 (Tues.) - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

November 18, 2024 – WORK SESSION

1.

2. Council Discussion

November 25, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.

December 2, 2024 – WORK SESSION

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION 4:30 – 5:30 PM

1.

2. Council Discussion

December 9, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1. Beartooth RC&D MOU

REGULAR:

1.

December 16, 2024 – WORK SESSION (Vacate?)

1.

2. Council Discussion

December 23, 2024 - REGULAR BUSINESS

CONSENT:

1.

REGULAR:

1.