

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

February 6, 2026

1. **Utility Payment Update** - All utility billing water cycles have completed the shut-off process and have restarted with Cycle 3 customers. Operations have largely returned to normal; however, staff are managing a significantly higher volume of payment plans. Currently, there are 866 accounts on active payment plans with an additional 49 customers having breached their payment arrangements within the last month. Of those, 12 have since made payment and are no longer in breach status.

Prior to the conversion when weekly shut-offs were in effect, there were an average of 20 active payment plans at any given time and approximately one breach per month.

2. **Council Orientation** – Monday's orientation session will focus on Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, 360 N. 23rd Street (Billings Community Center). The purpose of the orientation meeting is to provide newly elected council members with an overview of city operations, including familiarity with city facilities and locations, and to introduce the functions, responsibilities, and organization of city departments. No formal action will be taken.
3. **Quarterly Updates** – Please see the 4th Quarter Updated attached.
4. **Annual Reports** – Attached please find the Annual Reports for PCSD and PRPL.
5. **Park and Recreation News** – The Amend Recreation Center weekly update is attached.
6. **2026 Council Meeting Schedule** – Please review the attached draft agendas and provide any feedback regarding the order of business, modification of agenda items, or other changes to the consent or regular agendas. City code requires a specific order of business as it relates to certain items on meeting agendas, e.g., placement of public hearings first on the regular agenda, so your feedback will be incorporated with those code requirements in mind. ([BMCC 2-214](#)) Work session agendas are more flexible and can also easily be modified by the mayor with the consensus of Council during those informal meetings.
7. **Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces**
 - a. Budget & Finance Committee, Wednesday, February 11th 9:00 AM, Rimrock Meeting Room, 316 N. 26th Street.

Weekly Delinquent Utility Bill Update

Upcoming Shut-Offs

All utility billing water cycles have completed the shut-off process and have restarted with Cycle 3 customers. Operations have largely returned to normal, with the exception of the increased number of payment plans staff are managing.

Below are the current shut-off figures as of 10:00a.m. on February 6, for the upcoming week:

	Accounts	Total \$	Average \$
Total	31	\$ 5,325	\$ 172
Residential	30	\$ 4,669	\$ 156
Commercial	1	\$ 656	\$ 656
Multi-Family	0	\$ -	n/a

Delinquent Account Summary

	12/12/2025		1/2/2026		1/16/2026		2/2/2026	
Account Status	Count	Total Amount Due	Count	Total Amount Due	Count	Total Amount Due	Count	Total Amount Due
Delinquent Accounts	5,894	\$3,584,689	5,079	\$3,097,502	4,503	\$2,618,362	4,494	\$2,240,380
Delinquent accounts on active payment plans	99	\$157,210	385	\$474,638	786	\$957,997	866	\$917,841
Delinquent accounts that meet turnoff criteria*	2,959	\$2,340,622	1,945	\$1,726,192	896	\$698,005	428	\$247,891
Payment Plans Breached	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	37	\$12,031

*Accounts that do not meet criteria include accounts with a balance <\$100, inactive accounts, accounts with a payment plan, and non-water accounts.

	12/12/2025	12/19/2025	12/26/2025	1/2/2026	1/9/2026	1/16/2026	2/6/2026
Past Due Amount	# of Accounts	# of Accounts	# of Accounts	# of Accounts	# of Accounts	# of Accounts	# of Accounts
<\$100	1,625	1,602	1,750	1,464	1,612	1,475	1,790
\$101-\$500	2,418	2,288	2,166	1,949	1,717	1,565	1,458
\$501-\$1,000	889	877	839	764	753	667	571
>\$1,001	962	969	941	902	882	796	675

Billings Adopted Goals and Objectives 2025-2030 (adopted Nov. 2024)

4th Quarter Updates

February 2026

Vision: The Magic City - A diverse welcoming community where people prosper, and business succeeds.

Core Values: (SEE GOAL 5)

- ❖ Collaboration: We commit to provide opportunities to achieve common goals through positive communications and interaction with individuals, and with public and private organizations.
- ❖ Integrity: Through accessibility and transparency, we earn the trust of the community to which we are responsible.
- ❖ Service: We deliver services with courtesy and respect while meeting our customers' needs.
- ❖ Stewardship: We plan and manage resources effectively, responsibly, and efficiently.

Mission: To deliver cost effective public services that enhance our community's quality of life.

Goal #1: Improve the safety of Billings for all citizens

Objectives:

- A. Reduce Violent Crime
 - See attached Q4 Report.
- B. Reduce escalation of domestic violence
 - See attached Q4 Report.
 - This is a long-term objective, and we are working now with partner agencies to establish a baseline to measure from going forward. (BPD, YCSO, YCAO, YWCA, MBCC). Because this is a time-intensive project, it may take several months to complete.
- C. Reduce repeat victimization by the same or different offender
 - This is a long-term objective, and we are working now with partner agencies to establish a baseline to measure from going forward. (BPD, YCSO, YCAO, YWCA, MBCC). Because this is a time-intensive project, it may take several months to complete. We now have two full years of recidivism data (2023-2024). A brief synopsis: In 2023, 82% of those convicted of a 2nd offense PFMA reoffended within 10 years. 100% of those who reoffended in less than one year did so against the same victim. In 2024, 81% reoffended within 10 years and 40% did so against the same victim. We are continuing to collect data and will provide additional updates as information is gathered.

D. Reduce property crime

- See attached Q4 Report.

E. Reduce the number of kids in the juvenile justice system through legislative action

- HB 191 was signed by the governor April 7, 2025, and will go into effect October 1. This bill provides for a new criminal offense of endangering the welfare of a child when a person commits an assault against a partner or family member in the presence of a child less than 18 years of age.
- Statistically, 25% of children today will witness domestic violence in their lifetime. Once we determine the general number of child witnesses in Billings, we should see a gradual decline in delinquency filings within about 5 years, according to the Family Justice Alliance. Since October 1, 2025, 47 children have been identified as victims under §45-5-622(4), which is the codified version of HB 191. Besides validating the trauma young children witness in these cases, the statute has proved to be a very useful tool in favorable case resolution. Based on best practices and guidance from the Family Justice Alliance, particularly with non-participating victims, is to secure convictions under either the underlying PFMA or the new statute.

F. Reduce gaps in mental health services for victims/children through legislative action

- By creating a new class of victims through HB 191, child witnesses will now be eligible for crime victim services, including mental health counseling, which is funded by the state. This was one of the major secondary benefits of passing that legislation. With HB 191 going into effect on October 1, some of these cases are reaching resolution. The short-term impact of this legislation has resulted in significantly more coordination with DPHHS case workers who are identifying at-risk and vulnerable children who are now primary victims of this offense.

G. Reduce/eliminate victim self-harm, suicide and overdoses

- See attached Q3 Report.
- This is a long-term objective, and we are working now with partner agencies to establish a baseline to measure from going forward. (BPD, YCSO, YCAO, YWCA, MBCC, RIVERSTONE). Because this is a time-intensive project, it may take several months to complete. The City is waiting for Riverstone Health to procure this data. The City requested statistics on suicide victims who were also experiencing domestic violence. Because this information requires a case-by-case analysis and is accessible only by Riverstone Health staff, I do not expect to get this information until the summer at the earliest.

H. Reduce/eliminate intimate partner homicide

- See attached Q3 Report.
- This is a long-term objective, and we are working now with partner agencies to establish a baseline to measure from going forward. (BPD, YCSO, YCAO, YWCA,

MBCC, RIVERSTONE). Because this is a time-intensive project, it may take several months to complete. Two domestic violence homicides occurred in Billings in 2024. Neither victim sought domestic violence services and neither reported previous incidents of domestic violence to law enforcement, though later investigation revealed ongoing, escalating violence prior to each murder. These tragedies reveal an immediate need to educate the public on how to identify potential warning signs, especially outside the confines of the criminal justice system.

- I. Maintain code enforcement compliance rate of 90% or higher
 - Code Enforcement was at 93% compliance at close of 2025.
 - Continue to implement proactive nuisance property abatement procedures to efficiently increase neighborhood safety – Ongoing.
 - Continue progression of the multi-discipline, multi-jurisdictional nuisance property team to improve neighborhoods – Continuing to coordinate and meeting as needed to address critical nuisance properties.
 - Implement graffiti reduction program – Started 2024 and shared report with City Council in early 2025. Utilized seasonal for City property maintenance again in 2025 and will evaluate the program for FY27. Continuing private property and (MDT) cleanups and murals, including a major cleanup of the Montana Avenue Overpass in 2025 and coordination with MDT for a mural project with a target date of summer 2026 based on grant awards.
 - Propose ordinance amendments – Ongoing with amendments already approved by Council in 2024 and 2025. Implementation of MOU with RiverStone Health underway to support RSH licensing enforcement for establishments that are not licensed by RSH – motels and body art businesses. Currently, Motel 6's on West End are under court order to work with RSH to obtain licenses.
 - Conduct 10 or more community outreach programs increasing community awareness of city codes – 2025: CE participated in the 4th Annual Earth Day Downtown cleanup, a Neighborhood Safety Meeting in the Central Terry Neighborhood in August, the Phillips 66 Meet and Greet in September, and presented at the MT League of Cities and Towns Conference. Code Enforcement Statewide Group – monthly meetings with code professionals from around MT.
 - Increase web, social media-based, neighborhood task force presence and information sharing on CE activities and seasonal concerns to improve compliance – CE Blog post is updated monthly with topics and information, and blog link is being shared with the PCSD Facebook Page.
 - Achieve division and individual staff development/training through AACE accreditations – Training and testing to be completed in early 2026. CE Manager completed Professional Development Academy Leadership Training in December 2025.
- J. Enhance downtown safety

- New solar flashing crosswalk beacons on Montana Ave were installed in November just in time for the holiday season (N 26th St, N 25th St, N 24th St, N 23rd St, and N 22nd St). This safety project is a collaboration between the Historic Montana Avenue Association, Downtown Billings Alliance, Downtown Billings Partnership, City of Billings, and the Montana Department of Transportation.
 - Seven key intersections in Downtown Billings were updated in October to give pedestrians a 3-second head start to step into the crosswalk and establish their presence before drivers get the green light, making it safer for everyone. The feature called Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) is a low-cost signal timing update that uses existing equipment to reduce close calls between drivers and pedestrians and provide extra crossing time for those who need it most. They are located at 2nd Ave N @ N Broadway, N 29th St, and N 30th St, 3rd Ave N @ N Broadway, N 29th St, and N 30th St, and 6th Ave N @ N 31st St.
 - Installation of Downtown two-way cycle tracks were completed in early November along N 31st St and 3rd Ave N. The upgrade separates bikes from vehicle traffic with a physical barrier like flexible delineators and let cyclists travel in both directions on the same path.
- K. Enhance traffic safety, increase traffic law compliance, and reduce traffic accidents
- Traffic calming projects are in design for Spring/Summer 2026 construction
 - Added additional traffic detector at Rimrock and Shiloh to improve intersection operating efficiency
 - Increased heat tape use which provides longer lasting, safer crosswalks and pavement markings including 24th St W & Central Ave, Central & Santa Fe, Central & 32nd St W, Broadwater Ave & Zimmerman, Grand & Zimmerman, Poly & Zimmerman, Rimrock & Zimmerman, King & Olympic, King & 32nd St W, Meadowlark School crosswalks, Wicks Ln & Gleneagles, Governors & Nutter/Aronson, Shared Lane Symbols on Lewis Ave & Bench Blvd, Overland Ave / S 20th St W & King Ave W, 36th St W & Central roundabout, 38th St W & Central roundabout etc.
 - BIL Airport Police issued 62 traffic and parking warnings and citations this quarter, the lowest in any quarter in 2025, suggesting better traffic compliance by motorists at BIL.
 - BIL Airport Police Crash Reports/Property Damage Response reduced to 7 this quarter. This compared to 17 in the first quarter of 2025.
 - MET held its quarterly safety meeting for all staff including review of vehicle inspection procedures and updates on safe vehicle operations.
 - MET completed bi—annual PASS (Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity) training and recertification of 15 staff members.

- MET implemented a minor routing change to route 16 – Heights to Downtown to improve passenger safety when transferring between Heights area routes; Passenger transfer location was moved from Lake Elmo to Hanson Dr.

L. Improve quality and resilience of medical response services

- Ongoing discussions with Riverstone Health to reimplement CRU. As this work is in progress, we have our CRU EMT conducting follow-up work on the high utilizer. This has paid dividends to keep our units in service. We are assisting these users in getting the correct help they need. **Until a partnership comes to fruition, the dollars spent on our CRU EMT's is invaluable.**
- The final Draft of the AMR Agreement is complete and signed by all parties. This agreement addresses all the concerns we had with our partnership. This document will be reviewed annually and amended as needed. This agreement benefits both the city and AMR, ensuring that EMS delivery is as efficient and highly effective as possible. **The agreement included fee increases for our Firefighter ride-ins, which help generate more revenue to support our EMS operations.**
- Focusing on working with legal on a draft proposal to update a very dated EMS city ordinance. The goal is to have something before the council in the next few months. **The goal is to have something before the council prior to the end of FY26.**
- Intermountain Health is responding to some area within the county wide EMS system with helps with AMR Response in our jurisdiction. Discussions with Billings Clinic to follow this same model. **Communications with Billings Clinic indicate they intend to follow this same model.**
- Initial discussions are ongoing with both hospitals to form a Community Paramedicine partnership to decrease call recidivism. **AMR has brought forward a proposal for possible funding options to slowly implement programs that would support this program. It's called 911 Nurse Navigation. Our EMS division is exploring what this might look like and how it could benefit the system.**
- Added equipment to increase cardiac care capabilities. Replaced 6 cardiac monitors that were no longer supported by the manufacturer. This was approved in the 2026 budget. **BFD is also implementing a new CPR training program for our crews to deliver high-quality CPR when needed.**
- Updated protocols to better meet state and national standards. Annual QA/QI of the protocols is in place.
- Increased State influence at the Board of Medical Examiners (BOME).
- Ongoing discussions with other County agencies as it pertains to EMS delivery outside of our response area to reduce the impact on EMS services in our response area.
- **The Rural Health Transportation Program committee is meeting at the legislative level. Governor Greg Gianforte and Department of Public Health and**

Human Services (DPHHS) Director Charlie Brereton announced in December 2025 a historic \$233 million investment from the Trump administration to stabilize and modernize rural health care delivery throughout Montana. Awarded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), these funds will support Montana's rural health care providers in delivering sustainable, high-quality, affordable care.

Goal #2: Sustain and Upgrade Critical Infrastructure

Objectives:

A. Expand capacity and improve resiliency of water system

- Billings Transportation Corridor Plan public engagement events were held at Harvest Fest, Boo @ the Zoo, Rose Park Elementary School, MSUB City College, Oasis in the Heights, and Billings Career Center throughout October and November to encourage public participation.
- Completed the 36-inch transmission water main connection from the west-end water plant to King Avenue
- Installed the new membrane filtration treatment systems at the west-end water plant.
- Completed street reconstruction of 9th and 10th Avenues South with ADA upgrades
- Completed the sewer replacement in the "Highlands" neighborhood, and rehabilitated the trunk sewer within 5th Avenue South and 7th Avenue south west of South 27th Street.
- Completed water main replacement in Grand Avenue from Division to Virginia Lane and, at the same time, replaced a critical component of the storm drain system at Grand and Division so as not to dig up the street twice.
- Improved Mary St and Bitterroot Dr intersection with flashing stop signs for enhanced safety

B. Increase the number of airport passengers

- BIL celebrated the first "Millionth Passenger" in a calendar year on December 22nd. Significant positive media coverage of the event.
- Completed construction of BIL Runway 7-25 Reconstruction and Extension project to support larger general aviation and business aviation aircraft.
- Initiated a project to construct a 600-space shuttle parking lot to expand passenger auto parking capacity during peak holiday travel and ultimately to facilitate the construction of a parking structure.
- Acquired 123 acres to protect the airport from encroachments, protect critical airspace, and allow for additional aeronautical development.

C. Increase BIL's air cargo nationwide position

- Continue to participate in 2026 Air Cargo Conference planning committee.

D. Optimize efficiency of the transportation system

- Grand Avenue from 43rd to 62nd – Project is funded and added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the City is working on project management agreements with MDT.
 - Complete Transportation Corridor Plan Phase I – Consultant contract approved on June 9, 2025.
 - Implement safe routes to school, traffic calming, intersection capacity improvements, missing sidewalks and other projects to improve safety and quality of transportation network – Planning/MPO working with Public Works in multiple capacities – TA Grant Award for SRTS projects, SS4All Grant, SRTS programmed projects in CIP, CIP Trail and SRTS feasibility analysis work underway per approved 2026 UPWP.
 - Developing alternatives for improvement to the 21st Street Underpass through approved Feasibility Study, which will be completed and brought to the Council Spring 2026.
 - Reconstruction of 9th and 19th Avenues South are well under way and should be paved by the end of October.
 - Completed construction of paving overlay on King Avenue West, Monad Road, Broadwater Avenue, and chip sealing of Alkali Creek Road, Pierce Parkway, and the Central Heights subdivision area.
 - Kicked off a transportation corridor plan working group with Engineering, Planning, and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to better understand which road design elements the Billings community would like us to prioritize and invest in. The first round of public engagement events is underway to inform the Billings Transportation Corridor Plan.
 - MET implemented minor routing change to 16 – Heights to Downtown that resulted in improved on time performance by utilizing Hanson Dr to connect to Main St.
 - MET completed a technology system update to allow for cellular data connection with onboard announcements and destination sign systems on the fixed-route buses, allowing for real-time updates to the passenger support systems.
 - MET completed signage updates to its Stewart Park Transfer Center to improve passenger usability and identification of fixed-route buses.
 - MET developed multiple scenarios for south side fixed-route bus service and infrastructure area upgrades (crosswalks) to potentially address access concerns for area social services; neighborhood survey to be published in early Q1 2026.
- E. Build and upgrade effective storm sewer system
- Prevented 4,340 total yards of material from entering the Yellowstone River during Fall sweeping

- Miscellaneous storm improvements were completed at Wicks Lane/Broadmoor, Holiday/Cordova, Hardrock Lane, 36th Street West north of King Avenue, and Broadwater/10th

Goal #3: Foster Economic Vibrancy through Quality Designed Neighborhoods and Business Districts

Objectives:

A. Stimulate infill and redevelopment

- Implement the 2023 Montana Land Use Planning Act (Billings 2045) – Orion Planning and Design leading consultant team, **Interim Planning Commission (IPC) meeting, Community Planning Week conducted November 17-21 and more than 1,100 surveys were returned. Staff, consultant team, and IPC are working through the public input and beginning to draft plan elements.**
- Continue to implement Infill Policy and review policy strategies – **Staff continues to use Policy in evaluating applications and projects but there is no capacity at this time to update policy. Considering review in late 2026.**
- In partnership with architects, builders, developers and private and public utility providers, host education opportunities to make redevelopment in the downtown core less intimidating and more understandable – **Launched listening session with development community in late 2024. Ongoing, but staff capacity limited activity in 2025. Working with development community to test new development and permitting software expected to roll out in early 2026. Continuing to hold quarterly meetings with the Billings Homebuilders Association.**

B. Improve multi-modal transportation system

- **MET ridership growth FY26 compared to FY25. October ridership 61,110; up 10.45% compared to October of previous year. November ridership 49,062; up 3.68% compared to November of previous year. December ridership 50,713; up 7.44% compared to December of previous year.**
- **FY26 total ridership to date is 311,489 up 11.50% compared with the same period in FY25.**
- **Calendar year 2025 ridership totaled 609,068.**
- Complete two-way street conversion – Construction 2025.
- Complete road diet on Montana Avenue – Coordinating with MDT on improvements (**4 more RFB's for crosswalks were installed in late 2025**), but no exact timeline determined for project work by MDT.
- Complete multi-use path installation along 6th Avenue North to connect Heights and Downtown areas – Not started.
- Examine improvements to 4th Avenue North and 6th Avenue North to meet safety and redevelopment goals – Not started.

- Continue implementing Complete Streets Policy – Policy Progress Report underway with staff and a consultant team, including an economic and financial analysis on transportation infrastructure.
 - Safe Routes to Schools Phase I and Phase II – Projects underway in 2026 per CIP, SS4All Grant, TA Grant.
 - Complete Transportation Corridor Plan.
- C. Update subdivision regulations
- Completed in 2024.
- D. Update neighborhood plans
- Neighborhood Planner Tate Johnson will advance neighborhood plan priorities and updates in 2026. Position has helped on West Billings and Heights Neighborhood plans and Montana Land Use Planning Act compliance work.
 - Completing West End and Heights in early 2026.
 - Contract approved in December 2025 to complete economic analysis of the Skyway Drive corridor in 2026.
- E. Develop new land use plan and future land use map of Billings (Billings 2045)
- Orion Planning and Design is leading the consultant team, Interim Planning Commission (IPC) meeting, Community Planning Week conducted November 17-21 and more than 1,100 surveys were returned. Staff, consultant team, and IPC are working through the public input and beginning to draft plan elements.
- F. Develop housing strategies to address strengthening and stabilizing neighborhoods
- Support HomeFront's development of a housing strategy – Project status and schedule unknown.
 - Ensure proposed housing strategy aligns with the housing outcomes of Montana Land Use Planning Act and the City's Land Use Plan and City's HUD 2025 Consolidated Plan.
 - Housing support programs were incorporated into the City's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan, guiding the use of CDBG and HOME funds approved by City Council in 2025. As a result, the Mitchell Court project will deliver 32 new rental units, and the LB Lofts project – approved by Council in late 2025 – will add 101 new rental units, with construction anticipated to begin in summer 2026.
 - Support resource and program expansion to address housing needs and neighborhood stabilization – Council approved FY26 Budget Amendment to research applicability of a city housing/community innovations team. CM Rupsis is leading effort with staff and community stakeholders through a series of meetings in late 2025. CD Staff provided Billings Housing Market SWOT Analysis, Existing Housing Studies Matrix, and Examples from Other Cities (Missoula and Great Falls) to support this effort. Former CM Rupsis provided a report that should be shared with City Council through Administration.
 - Continue home buyer assistance and housing development programs that housing opportunities for low-income households.

- G. Determine application of cost-of-service study findings
 - City Finance, Administration and GIS staff meeting to advance this, but other priorities have slowed progress.
- H. Determine economic development, land use and infrastructure to serve Skyway Drive and the Billings bypass
 - Contract approved in December 2025 with SB Friedman to complete economic analysis in conjunction with Billings 2045, Skyway Drive/Hwy 3 area plan.

Goal #4: Provide Exceptional Educational, Recreational, and Cultural Services and Amenities

Objectives:

- A. Activate parks and public spaces to improve a sense of community, improve health and reduce crime.
 - Apply CPTED principles in parks – Lack of alignment with park areas identified for improvements and areas qualifying for CDBG funds budgeted in FY26 – No Council FY26 Budget allocation for CPTED. Public Safety data demonstrates CPTED improvements positive impact in North Park to be shared during budget discussion for FY27.
 - Build new pool and community center in South Park – SBBURD Expansion process complete and waiting for MT Department of Revenue to confirm and set 2025 as base year for expansion area.
 - Skate Park lights installed and activated per CPTED analysis highlighting the addition of lights to facilitate and promote appropriate park use.
 - New basketball court constructed at Pioneer Park.
 - Coulson Park master plan implemented with construction of a new shelter, restroom, boat ramp amenities, and parking areas.
 - Automation of Millice Park irrigation system started. When completed, the park will water at night instead of during the day allowing park users access to all areas (4.4 acres) of the park.
 - Rec2U had a total of 2369 children participate in July and August. The program averaged 296 children per week and was offered M-F at Hawthorne, Castle Rock, South, Optimist, Veterans, Terry, Rose, Yellowstone Family and Pioneer Parks. Each park is visited once a week with the Recreation Staff providing free games and activities for children for 90 minutes at each location.
 - Picnic Shelter Rentals for July, Aug and Sept totaled 202
 - Park Permits / Events held in July, Aug and Sept totaled 64
 - Swimming Pool Attendance (July 1 – Aug 30) 38,639 at Rose and South Park Pools.
 - Annual Dog Day at Rose Pool on Aug 31st (12-3pm) included 293 dogs.

- Western Heritage Center – Voices of the Past: Two events were held in Mountview Cemetery, drawing 109 visitors over two weekends to learn about notable individuals interred there.
- Public Art Policy adopted by Council in September 2025 and Public Art Committee to be seated in January 2026 so that public art installations may be reviewed.
- Yellowstone Historical Society – History’s Mysteries: This event highlighted the stories of Billings’ early Chinese residents, attracting 200 participants who explored Mountview Cemetery and its cultural history
- MET continued discussions and planning with Parks Department regarding potential development of Lutheran Park to support a Heights Transfer Center and improved park amenities.

B. Maximize useful life of parks, recreation, and trail assets

- Dehler Park baseball protective netting installed along first and third baseline seating areas. Netting will help prevent baseballs from leaving the playing area.
- Replacement of 25+ year old irrigation pump station at Central Park. New pump station is more energy efficient and allows remote access and monitoring.
- Replaced worn out slide and swing components in playgrounds at Pioneer and South Park.
- Cemetery Entry Improvements: Installed two new entry signs at Mountview Cemetery to replace those destroyed in last November’s vehicle accident, which also damaged several veteran headstones.
- Tree Planting Initiative: Ten new trees were planted at Mountview Cemetery to support beautification, shade, and long-term sustainability of the site.

C. Increase trail network

- Plans are underway to connect missing trail segments across the city, making our trail system easier to use.
- Started design on the Safe Streets for all projects under the federal grant, focused on Safe Routes to school elements and a neighborhood bikeway.

D. Increase recreation participation

- Below are participation totals during Oct, Nov and Dec.
- Adult Men’s and Women’s City League Basketball – 54 teams with over 500 participants utilizing all six Middle Schools.
- Adult Coed Volleyball League on Sundays at Castle Rock Middle School– 28 teams (max capacity 28) with over 250 players
- NFL Flag Football League was offered at Optimist, Veterans, Castle Rock, and Country Manor Parks with games held at Centennial Park which included 159 boys and girls.

- Girls' 3rd - 5th Grade Basketball at Will James and Medicine Crow Middle Schools – 78 participants
- Senior Wellness Program and Activity Participation in Oct, Nov and Dec – 4440 active senior citizens.
- 899 Lunches Served in Oct, Nov and Dec at Community Center through the Allies in Aging.
- 211 Meals Served at the Community Center during Holiday Celebration's for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

E. Create a 5-year growth plan for the Billings Public Library

- A professionally designed annual report is in development to highlight usage trends, community impact, and strategic priorities – demonstrating the library's value, support transparency, and engaging stakeholders.
- The annual report is scheduled for completion in late summer 2025.
- Researching consultants who specialize in library planning and collecting pricing and other relevant details for a market segmentation analysis (MSA), environmental scan, and potential feasibility study.
- Working with a Montana State Library (MSL) consultant to explore best practices for growth planning, feasibility studies, and long-term facility needs.
- Connecting with similar sized libraries that have recently renovated or expanded to gather insights on their processes and seek recommendations for consultants and project planning.
- Partnering with the MSL consultant to support the library's strategic planning process beginning in September 2025.
- Work on the BPL Strategic Plan is currently underway. The library is actively seeking community input through multiple channels, including:
 - A community-wide survey
 - Outreach to local service organizations, nonprofits, educators, and community partners
 - Advertising, online promotion, and additional engagement efforts

Goal #5: Cultivate a High-Performance Organization

Objectives:

A. Refine the City's vision, mission, core values

- A contract with Bridge Group is under review to facilitate a multi-step process to help build and strengthen relationships, update the City's vision, mission & core values and to be followed with a strategic planning process in the fall of 2026.
- A team of 8 volunteers across the city have identified:
 - Dedication: We work diligently to earn the trust of our community and provide excellent public service.

- Collaboration: We build connections and use all available resources to solve problems.
- Innovation: We embrace new ideas that create value and drive improvement.

These DRAFT values and their descriptions are being shared throughout the organization for feedback resulting in adjustments. I will approach the city council after the election for your review and adoption.

- We have had four HPO team meetings to improve communications, train and improve collaboration across the organization. During last meeting we broke into groups to rewrite the mission statement.

B. Strengthen citizen trust through effective communication and transparency

- Led public works facility tours for Billings business leaders as part of the Leadership Billings program.
- Successfully hosted City Hall Open House and Dedication before Christmas 2025, including the unveiling of the COVID Memorial Plaque to be installed in 2026.
- Hosted Rose Park Trail ribbon cutting on November 12 to celebrate another connection trail making school zones safer for students and families. The trail was funded through a Recreational Trails Program Grant from Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks. The City/County Planning Division submitted the grant application, with matching funds provided by Billings TrailNet. Motion-activated solar lights donated by Partners for Parks ensure the trail will stay lit all year long, and the City of Billings Engineering Division pitched in to help design the trail and manage construction. The City of Billings Parks Division and Billings Public Schools will maintain the trail to keep it safe and accessible year-round.
- Hosted the NEW Billings lakes naming contest during the month of October. Among 600+ submissions, a short list of 5 names is being considered by a committee represented by Billings Human Relations Commission, Public Works Board, Parks & Rec, and Billings Public Works. Final naming will be decided by city council in 2026.
- Continued to promote Downtown safety since 2-way conversion and collaborated with Alberta Bair Theater to notify the public when theater events bring additional students & families and school buses from the Montana Wyoming region.
- Everbridge messaging expanded to neighborhood specific notifications of traffic and water service interruptions caused by water main breaks and road construction work.
- Participated in bi-monthly Billings CoC Air Service Development Committee meetings to keep the business community informed on investments and activities in air service development to increase commercial passenger flight and air cargo opportunities at BIL.

- MET maintained consistent communication with passengers and the public through social media and other platforms regarding service interruptions, detours, service changes, and other operational issues.
 - MET Transit presented to the Southside Task Force regarding potential area service changes in response to requests from area social services agencies.
 - Finalized partnership with DBA to utilize one of their Placer A1 licenses to gather park usage data. This agreement is for 24 months.
 - Establishing Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Trail program.
 - Communicated extensively about progress on the downtown two-way conversion project via social media, earned media, and ad placements in the Billings Gazette to keep the public informed.
 - Launched the Cone Zone safety campaign in partnership with ZooMontana in July, introducing Winston the sloth as the “Cone Zone Slow Down” ambassador. Installed cone zone at Winston’s habitat and secured earned media coverage as the social media campaign continues through construction season.
 - Providing opportunities for public feedback on the Transportation Corridor Plan through online surveys, in person events (Strawberry Festival, Big Machine Petting Zoo, Saturday Live, HarvestFest, and Boo @ the Zoo, etc.), presentations to community groups, and direct engagement with large employers.
 - Rolled out new utility bill template to increase rate and billing transparency on the bill.
- C. Digitize records for proper storage, organization and retrieval.
- Digitization of Public Works essential records is ongoing.
- D. Increase city general fund reserves to 33% of GF expenditures, less capital.
- The City added \$1.8 million to General Fund Reserves in FY2025. This was a result of unspent budgeted funds. The ending fund balance in the General Fund is \$13.4 million at FYE2025. This equates to about a 29.9% reserve, relative to the adopted budget.

January 15, 2026

Re: Fourth Quarter 2025 Statistical Report

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Billings Police Department, I am honored to submit the statistical report for the fourth quarter ending December 31, 2025. This report provides an overview of crime trends, service demands, and operational activity, and is intended to support informed decision-making and continued collaboration on public safety priorities.

The department remains committed to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. Interactive crime dashboards and mapping tools are available on the department's website, offering detailed breakdowns by crime type, date, and location. Static examples of these tools are included at the end of this report for your reference.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fourth-quarter data was compared with the same period over the past four years to identify trends and operational impacts. For clarity, "incidents" include all calls for service and officer-initiated activity, while "cases" represent confirmed criminal offenses requiring investigation.

Findings and Observations

- **Incidents decreased 7%** from Q4 2024, marking the fourth consecutive year of decline.
- **Cases decreased 16%**, driven in part by a **19% reduction** in the "other" category, which includes petty crime and quality-of-life issues.
- **In-custody rates increased to 79%**, a 10% rise from last year, reflecting improved jail capacity and the positive operational impact of the Short-Term Holding Facility.
- **Arrests increased 2.4%** compared to Q4 2024. Warrant arrests accounted for **49%** of all arrests, underscoring the prevalence of repeat offenders.
- **Traffic enforcement declined 28%** from Q4 2024, despite traffic-related citations and warnings comprising **92%** of all enforcement activity. This remains an area of focus for improvement.

P.O. Box 1554
Billings, MT 59103

P 406.657.8460
F 406.657.8417

- Crime hot spots¹ persist downtown and near shopping centers, with emerging activity on the west end near Shiloh and King. These patterns are typically driven by a small number of problematic addresses.
- Seasonal trends remained consistent, with lower crime in the winter months. This year's summer increase was shorter and less intense than in previous years, and November–December crime levels were lower than last year's winter period.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Q4 2025)

- **7.39% decrease in total incidents** compared to Q4 2024
 - 18.75% decrease in quality-of-life offenses
 - 41% decrease in unwanted persons/trespass
- **3,335 criminal cases**, a **20% decrease** from Q4 2024
- **164 violent crimes** (4.9% of all cases)
- **0 homicides**
- **300 family/Partner Family Member Abuse (PFMA) cases** (9% of all cases)
- **33 strangulation cases**, a 27% decrease from Q3. **20% of Q4 violent crime**
- **1,908 total arrests** (adult and juvenile), a **2.4% decrease**
- **3,349 citations and warnings**, a **38% increase**
 - 1,400 traffic citations (33% decrease)
- **15% reduction in theft** across all categories

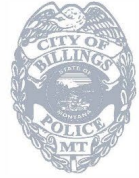
¹ Hot Spot (policing). Hot spot policing is a crime prevention strategy that allocates police resources to specific, small geographic areas ("hot spots") where crime is highly concentrated. It's based on the idea that a disproportionate amount of crime occurs in a small number of locations, and by targeting these areas, law enforcement can more effectively reduce overall crime rates.

Q4 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Specialized units, crime analysts, and partner agencies employed targeted² data-driven strategies³ to disrupt several gangs and drug trafficking organizations. The Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative prioritized gun violence, resulting in multiple arrests of gang-affiliated offenders.
- The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) arrested suspects involved in armed robberies and drive-by shootings, recovering **23 firearms**.
- Officers responded to two mutual-aid requests outside Yellowstone County, demonstrating regional capability and cooperation.
- Eastern Montana High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (EMHIDTA) interdiction efforts resulted in arrests and seizures of methamphetamine and fentanyl. One public health alert related to Carfentanyl was issued this quarter.
- Traffic enforcement focused on aggressive and dangerous driving. While some residents reported improvements, two traffic fatalities occurred.
- Quality-of-life enforcement downtown and in several parks, supported by overtime details and enhanced jail cooperation, resulted in an **18% reduction** in related offenses and a **79% incarceration rate** following arrest.
- Officers effectively managed a “No Kings” protest and a Charlie Kirk memorial gathering.
- Officers handled several complex and sensitive cases, including co-sleeping deaths, a middle school suicide, and a hate crime at Mayflower Church.
- **No homicides** occurred this quarter.
- The department hosted or sent **45 officers** to training, totaling **1,408 hours** (31.2 hours per officer).

² Targeted policing refers to a law enforcement strategy that focuses police resources and activities on specific locations, individuals, or groups believed to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime. This approach aims to be more efficient by concentrating efforts where they are most needed, rather than distributing resources evenly.

³ Data-driven policing, also known as intelligence-led policing, is a law enforcement strategy that utilizes data analysis and interpretation to inform decision-making, optimize resource allocation, and improve public safety. This approach involves collecting and analyzing data from various sources, including crime reports, social media, surveillance systems, and community feedback, to identify patterns, predict future crimes, and develop targeted interventions.



We appreciate your continued support of the Billings Police Department. Should you require additional information or wish to discuss these findings further, we stand ready to provide a formal presentation.

Respectfully,

Rich St. John
Chief of Police

P.O. Box 1554
Billings, MT 59103

P 406.657.8460
F 406.657.8417

Rich St. John
Police Chief

Shawn Mayo
Assistant Chief

E bpd@billingsmt.gov
billingsmt.gov

BPD Crime Stats

Q4 2025 Incidents

Total Incidents

18.93K

Count of Incident Number

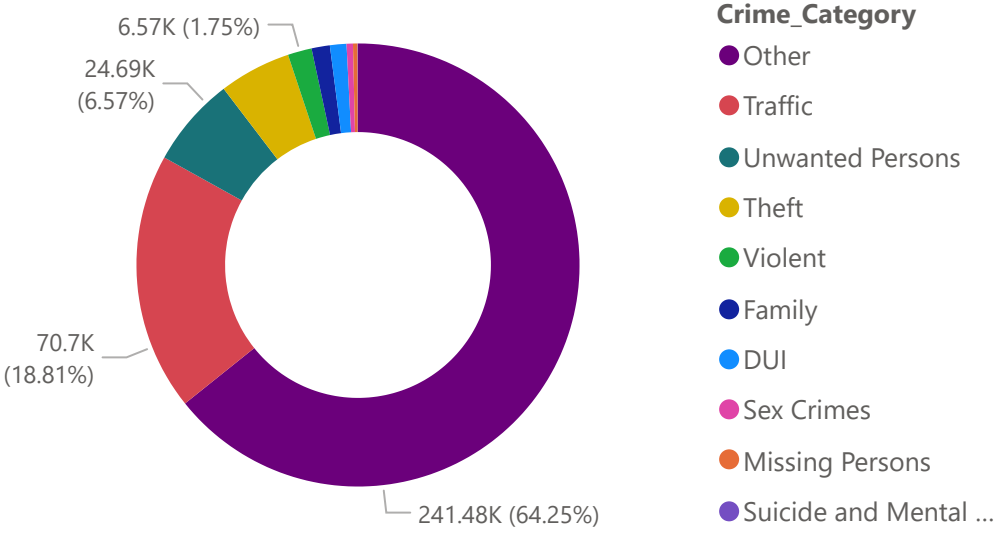
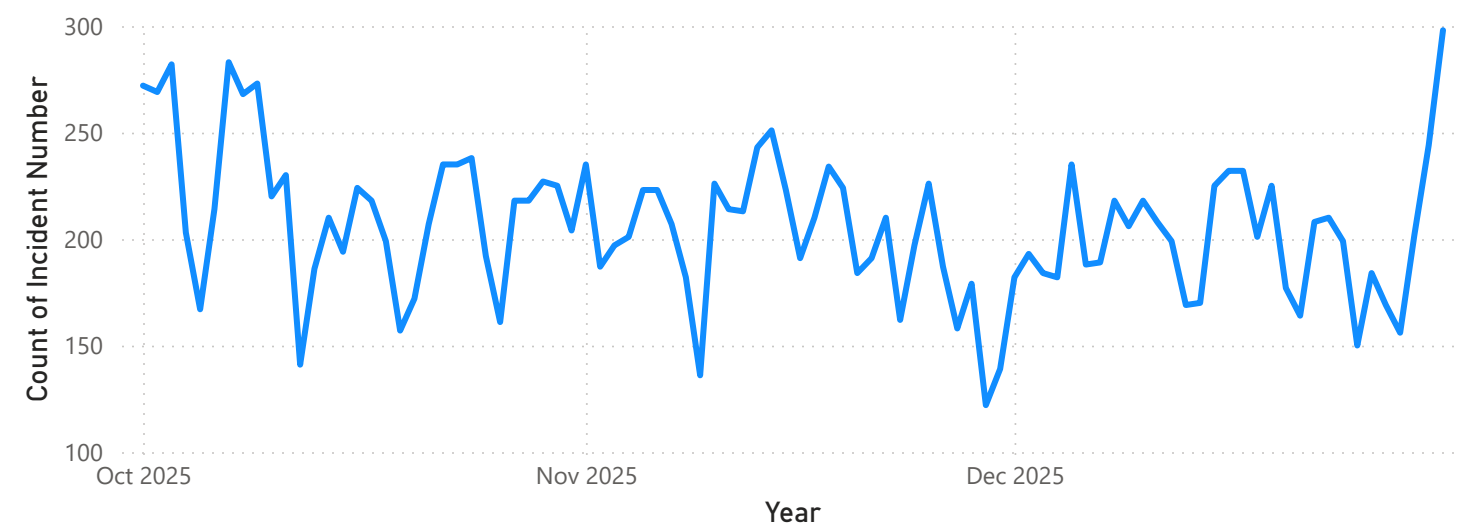
Total Officer Initiated

5437

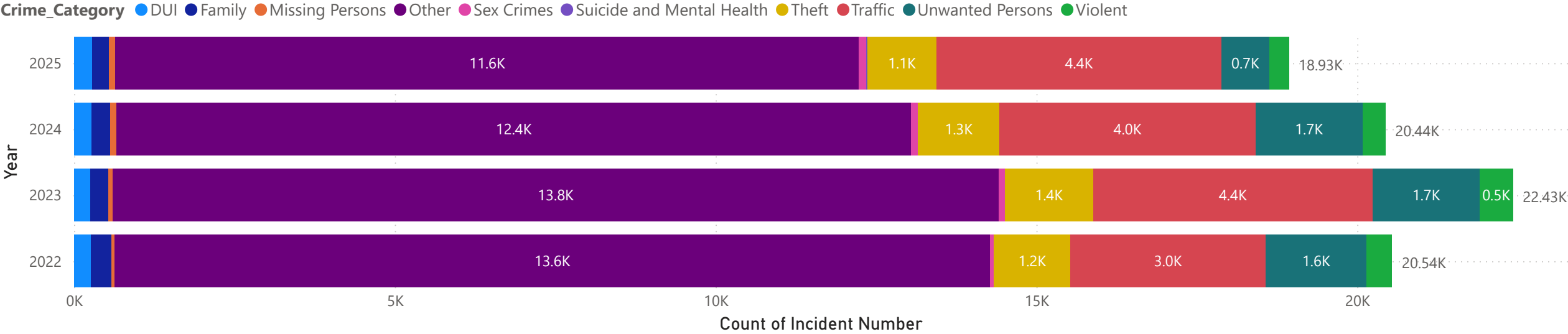
Count of Incident Number

Incidents by Crime_Category

Count of Incident Number by Year, Quarter, Month and Day



Count of Incident Number by Year and Crime_Category



BPD Crime Stats

Q4 2025 Cases

Total Cases

3335

Count of Case Number

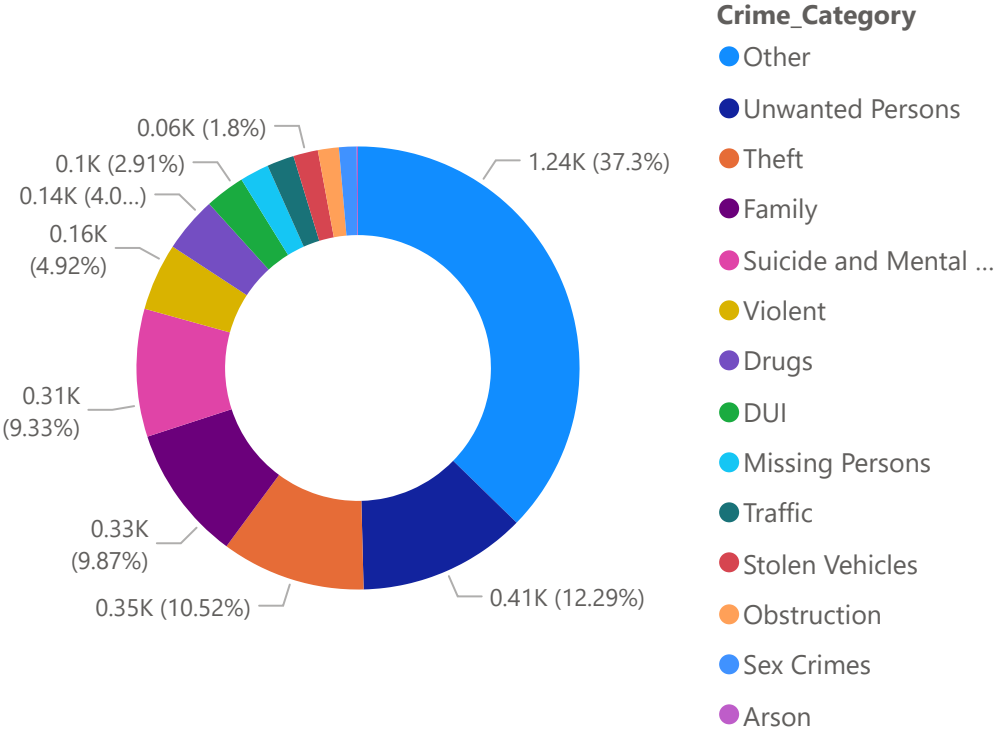
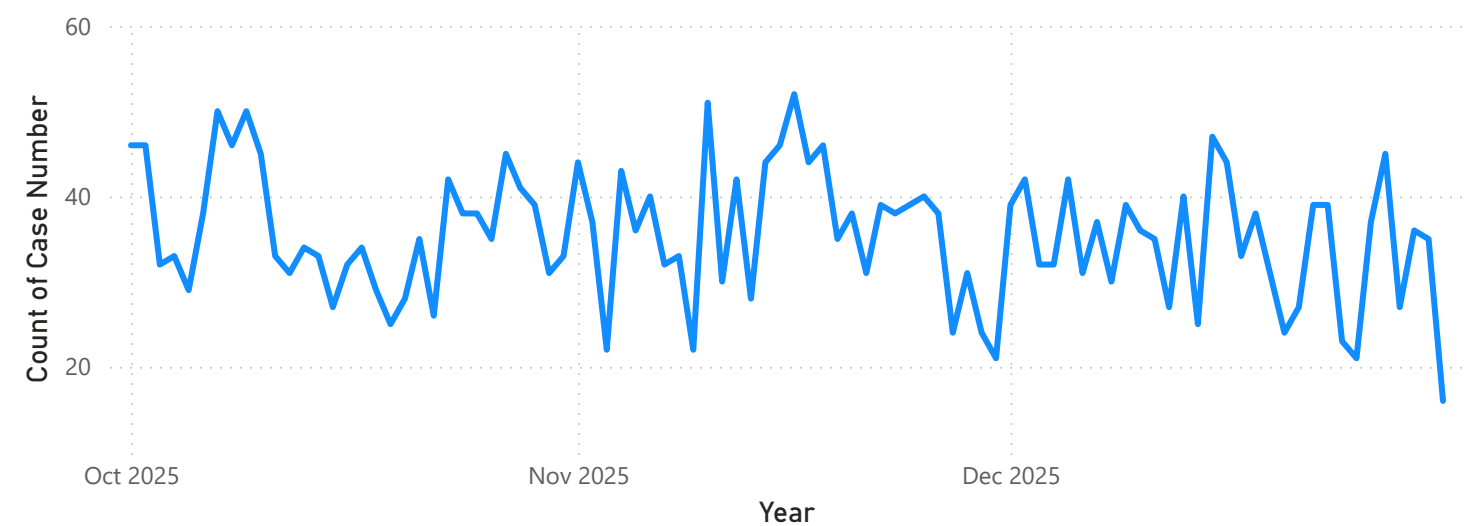
Total Violent Cases

164

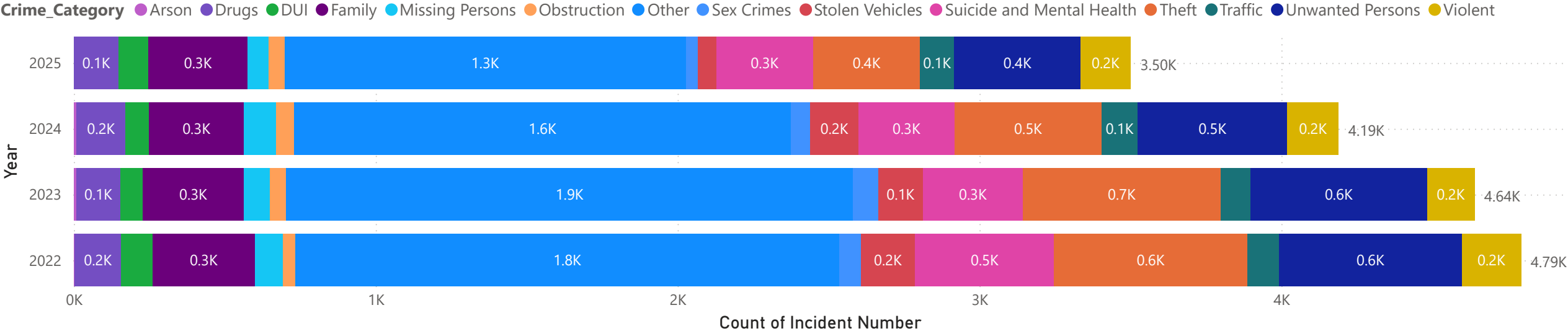
Count of Case Number

Cases by Crime_Category

Count of Case Number by Year, Quarter, Month and Day



Count of Incident Number by Year and Crime_Category



BPD Crime Stats

Q4 2025 Arrests

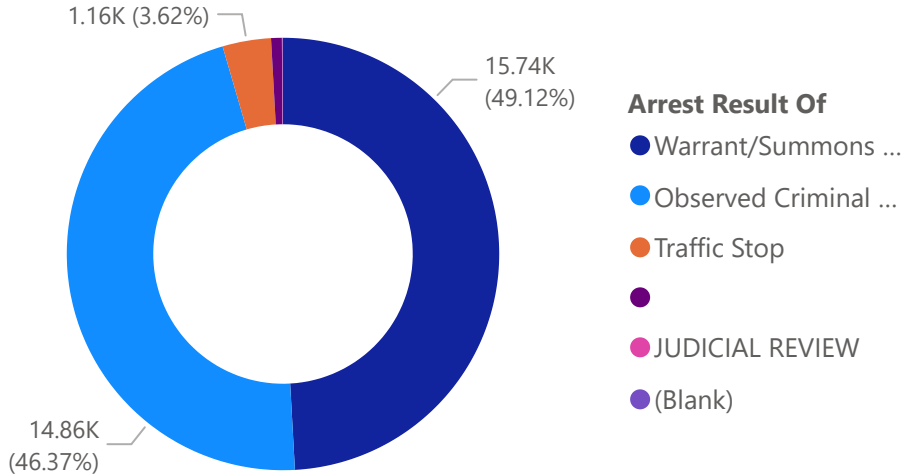
Total Arrests

1908

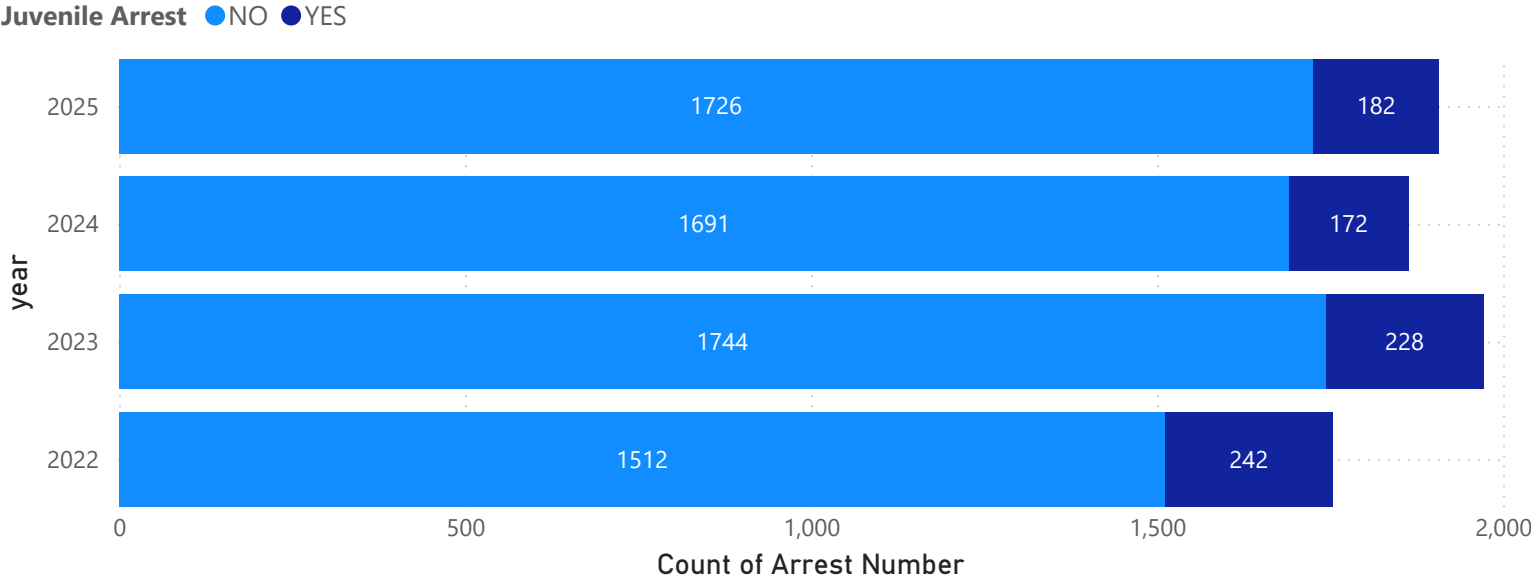
Count of Arrest Number

Count of Arrest Number by Arrest Result Of

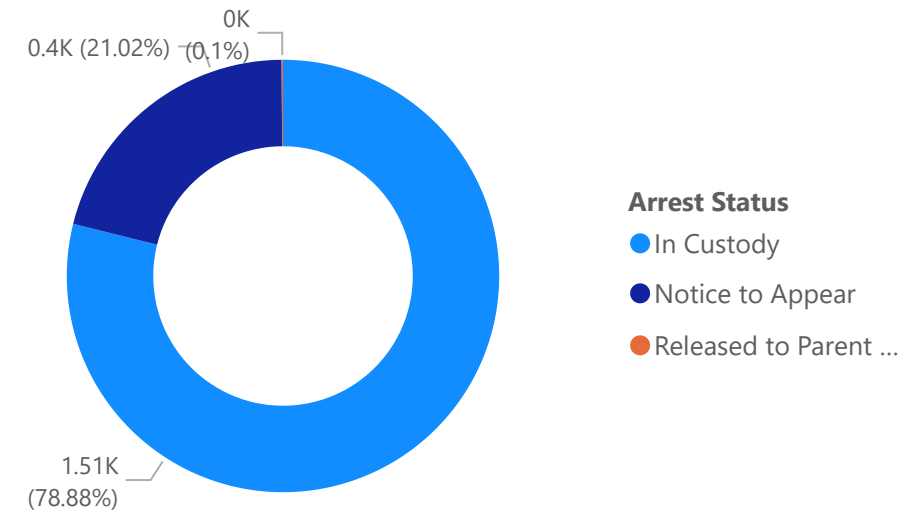
Count of Arrest Number by Year, Quarter, Month and Day



Count of Arrest Number by year and Juvenile Arrest



Count of Arrest Number by Arrest Status



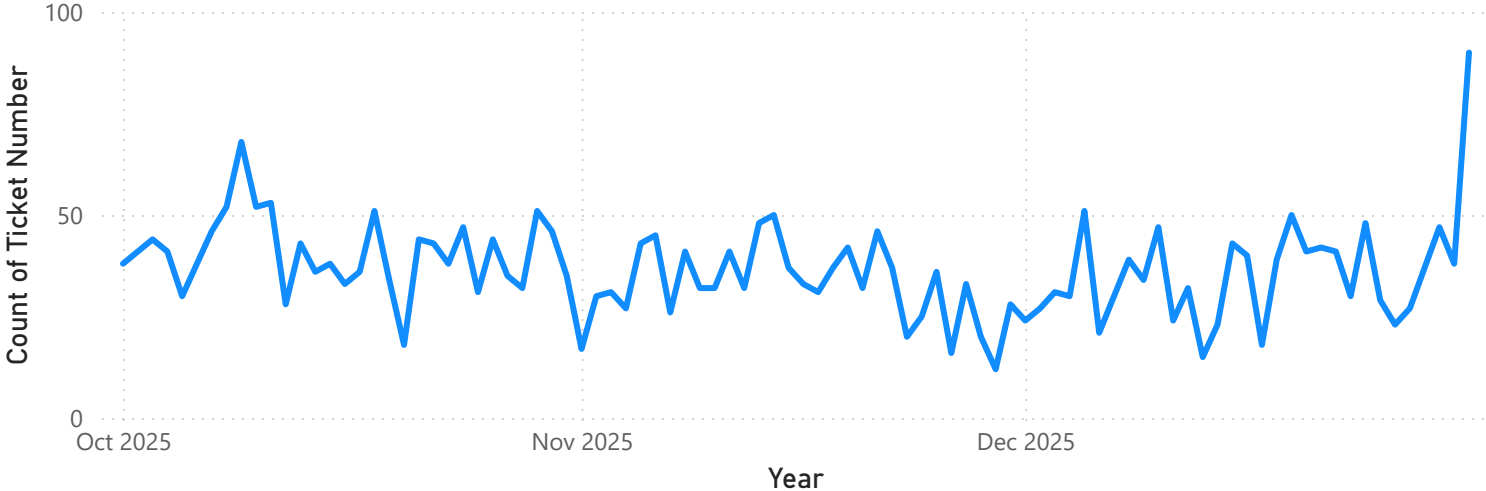
BPD Crime Stats

Q4 2025 Citations/Tickets

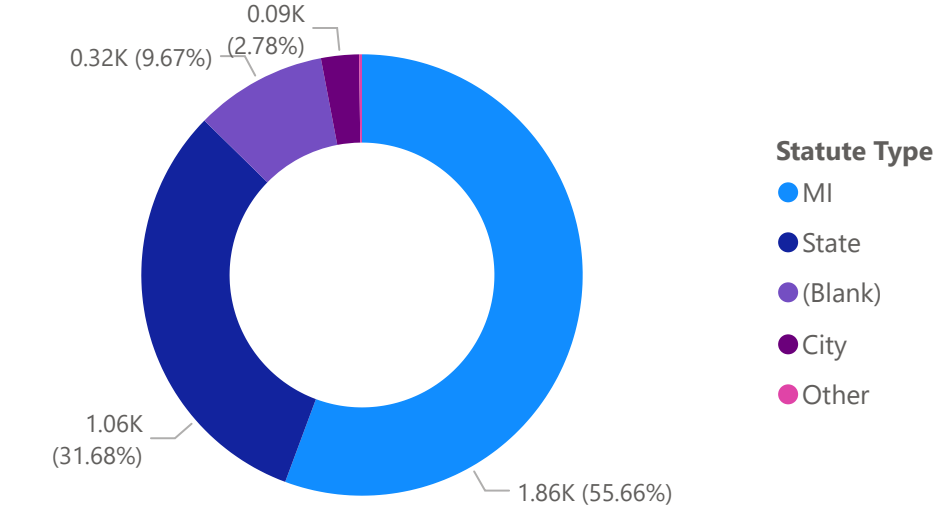
3349

Count of Ticket Number

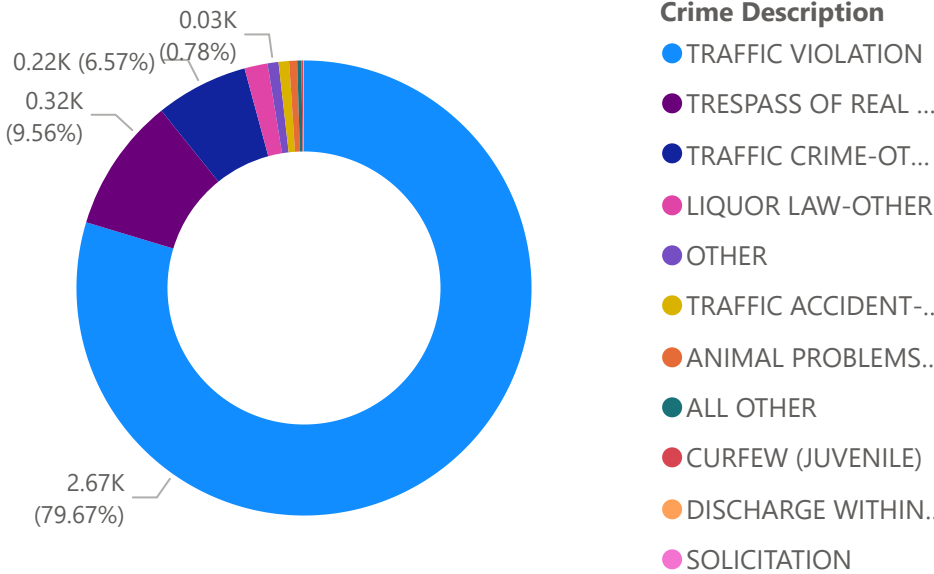
Count of Ticket Number by Year, Quarter, Month and Day



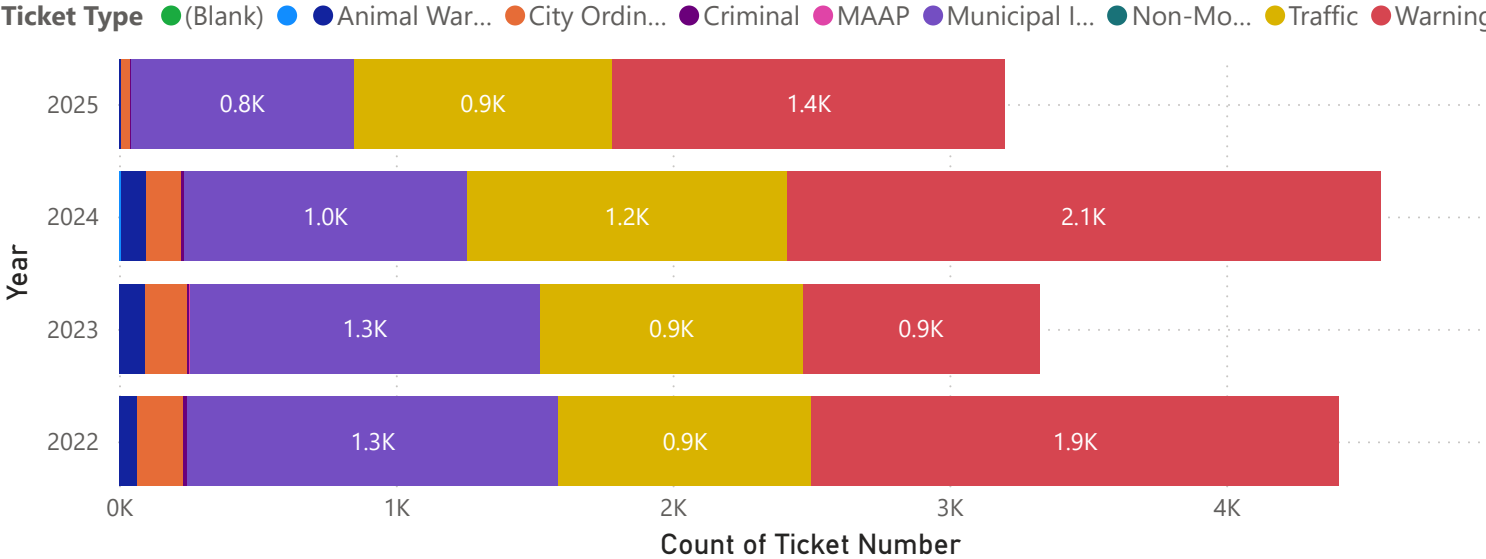
Count of Ticket Number by Statute Type



Count of Ticket Number by Crime Description



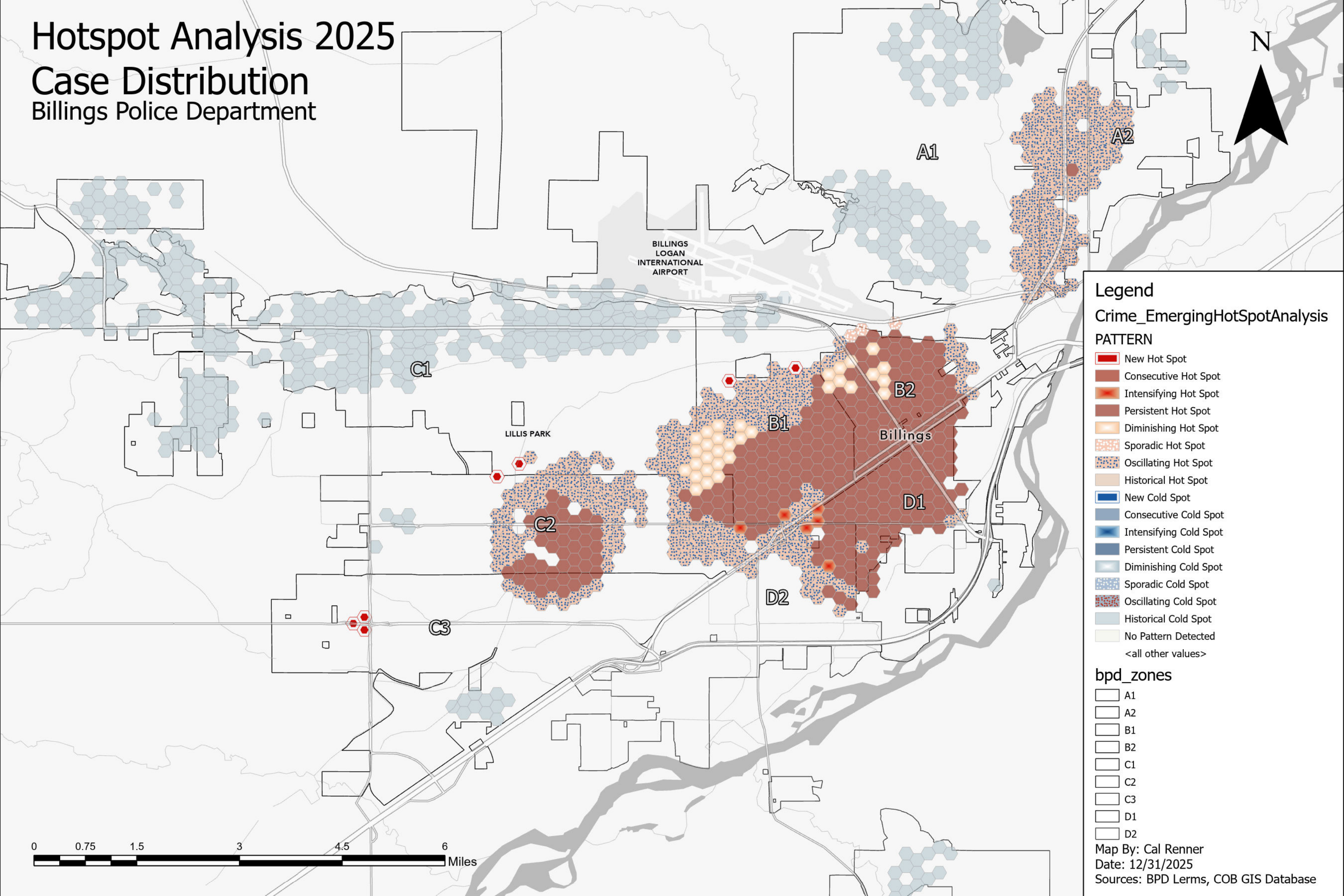
Count of Ticket Number by Year and Ticket Type



Hotspot Analysis 2025

Case Distribution

Billings Police Department



Legend

Crime_EmergingHotSpotAnalysis

PATTERN

- New Hot Spot
- Consecutive Hot Spot
- Intensifying Hot Spot
- Persistent Hot Spot
- Diminishing Hot Spot
- Sporadic Hot Spot
- Oscillating Hot Spot
- Historical Hot Spot
- New Cold Spot
- Consecutive Cold Spot
- Intensifying Cold Spot
- Persistent Cold Spot
- Diminishing Cold Spot
- Sporadic Cold Spot
- Oscillating Cold Spot
- Historical Cold Spot
- No Pattern Detected
- <all other values>

bpd_zones

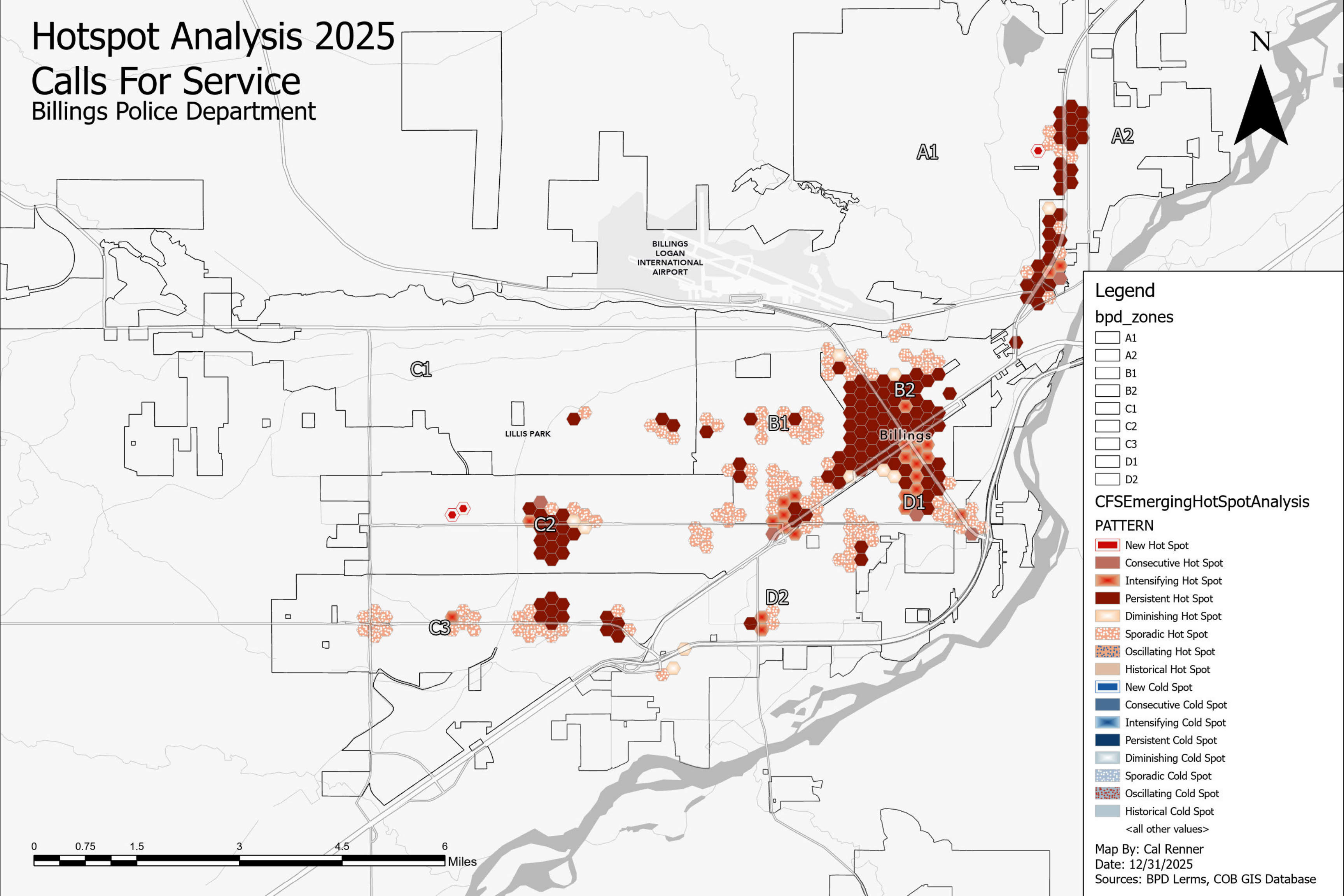
- A1
- A2
- B1
- B2
- C1
- C2
- C3
- D1
- D2

Map By: Cal Renner
Date: 12/31/2025
Sources: BPD Lermis, COB GIS Database

Hotspot Analysis 2025

Calls For Service

Billings Police Department



Legend

bpd_zones

- A1
- A2
- B1
- B2
- C1
- C2
- C3
- D1
- D2

CFSEmergingHotSpotAnalysis

PATTERN

- New Hot Spot
- Consecutive Hot Spot
- Intensifying Hot Spot
- Persistent Hot Spot
- Diminishing Hot Spot
- Sporadic Hot Spot
- Oscillating Hot Spot
- Historical Hot Spot
- New Cold Spot
- Consecutive Cold Spot
- Intensifying Cold Spot
- Persistent Cold Spot
- Diminishing Cold Spot
- Sporadic Cold Spot
- Oscillating Cold Spot
- Historical Cold Spot
- <all other values>

Map By: Cal Renner
Date: 12/31/2025
Sources: BPD Lermis, COB GIS Database



ANNUAL REPORT

PCSD

2025

The City of Billings Planning & Community
Services Department reflects on 2025, a year
of community successes and changes on the
horizon.





One Mission

The Magic City

A diverse, welcoming community where people prosper and business succeeds.



About Us

Most citizens seek the services of the Planning and Community Services Department when they need information on property, buildings, or land uses. Landowners, realtors, builders, and developers rely on our fast and customer-friendly service. Qualified homebuyers and not-for-profit community organizations enjoy the programs we offer. All residents benefit from the Code Enforcement Division's efforts to enhance public safety.

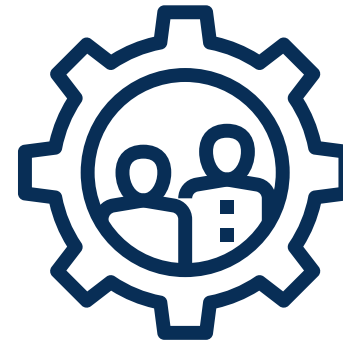
The Planning and Community Services Department is committed to building a safe community that uses its resources wisely. Our services and programs help maintain a high quality of life while providing a variety of housing and businesses choices for all residents. Consisting of three Divisions, we are happy to be at your service.

PCSD DIVISIONS



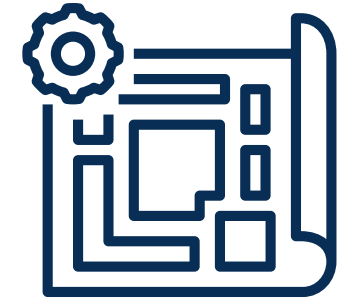
CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement is a complaint-based response program for violations of zoning, building codes, business regulations, nuisance codes, sign codes and specific parking regulations. With the implementation of the Public Safety Mill Levy, responsibilities including massage facility licensing, marijuana business licensing, and graffiti removal have been added to the division. Additionally, the division has grown from four officers to seven. Five residential officers divide the city into enforcement areas. A commercial code officer was added to staff and covers the entire city. The existing nuisance property officer covers the entire city as well and serves on the city's nuisance property team.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Division joins local partners with resources to increase access to housing, support capacity building for local non-profit organizations, create a sustainable community, and to promote neighborhood revitalization. The Division is primarily responsible for managing federal grant programs, including the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).



PLANNING

The Planning Division provides community planning and development services to Yellowstone County, the City of Billings, and the Town of Broadview. It provides the community with a broad service base that consists of current planning, neighborhood and community planning, and transportation planning. The Division provides services to residents and developers by reviewing proposed projects and processing subdivision applications, applications for requests for zoning changes and variances, and special use permits.



Director Message

The Planning and Community Services Department (PCSD) staff and all of you, our customers, had a very busy 2025 improving and supporting our community.

Wyeth Friday
Director
PCSD

The Planning and Community Services Department (PCSD) was busier than we have ever been in 2025 serving you through projects like Billings2045 (Pgs. 13-14), the West Billings Neighborhood Plan (Pg. 11), the Heights Neighborhood Plan (Pg. 12), expansion of the South Billings Boulevard Urban Renewal District, supporting a new low-income housing development (Pg. 23), working on transportation plans and projects, and processing many subdivision, zoning and permit applications. Here are some highlights:

- Continued development of the West Billings Neighborhood Plan, Heights Neighborhood Plan, and the overarching project that ties it all together – Billings2045. This involved a massive public outreach and engagement effort including public meetings, stakeholder meetings, online interactive opportunities, social media and marketing programs, transportation system analysis and development of land use categories to inform a future land use map. (Pgs. 11-14)
- Cleaned up graffiti at a rate not seen before in Billings through a Code Enforcement Division coordinated effort with City Public Works, Parks, and Police. The effort focused on City-owned or public property but also partnered with private property owners for some graffiti mitigation work. (Pg. 26)
- Brought more than \$1 million in CDBG and HOME program support to the HomeFront housing development in the Billings Heights for our low-income residents. The project is set to begin construction in May 2026 (Pg. 23)
- Our building and development community was very active in 2025 as demonstrated by the Planning Division reviewing 1,297 building permits of all types, more than 18 zone change applications in the City and County zoning jurisdiction, and our City-County Planning Board reviewing and recommending 13 preliminary subdivisions to the City Council and County Commission. (Pgs. 9, 10, 19)

As we enter 2026, we will be completing and implementing (the most exciting part!) major community planning and development efforts across the City and urban area of the County. Our services, community partnerships and programs will move Billings and Yellowstone County further ahead as a leader for Montana and the region in 2026. Please join us in making our community stronger, healthier and safer in the New Year!



What We Do

Current Planning

The Planning Division handles numerous application types for projects like Subdivisions, Exempt Subdivisions, Special Reviews, Variances, and Zone Changes. We also review permits like zoning compliance, fences, and signs.

Permits

Projects

Long-Range Planning

The Planning Division is responsible for development and implementation of long-range plans like neighborhood plans, growth policies, and sub area plans.

Policies

Plans

Transportation Planning

The City of Billings and Yellowstone County are designated a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This designation allows for federal funding of transportation specific plans.

MPO Administration

Plans

Meet Our Team



Anna Vickers
Planning Division Manager
Started: June, 2024
From: Prairieville/Gonzales, LA – Jambalya Capital of the World
I'm excited for the implementation of Billings 2045 and the shared community vision.



Lora Mattox, AICP
Transportation Planning Coordinator
Started: November, 2003
From: Burlington, IA – Home of Snake Alley.
I'm most excited about making transportation planning more transparent and accessible to the public.



Karen Husman
Zoning Coordinator
Started: October, 2002
From: Napa Valley, CA – where there are acres and acres of vineyards and not a grape to eat.
I'm excited for the completion of the Billings 2045 Plan and the implementation of legislative updates.



Elyse Monat, AICP
Transportation Planner II
Started: June, 2018
From: Indianapolis, IN – nicknamed is the "Circle City" as there is a traffic circle at the center of original 1821 plat of the city.
I am looking forward to starting the household travel survey.



Tate Johnson, AICP
Neighborhood Planner II
Started: July, 2023
From: Boca Raton, FL – Known for Spanish Revival architecture.
I am looking forward to watching the Billings 2045 plan become part of everyday planning work.



Dave Green
Planner II
Started: June, 2006
From: Ririe, ID – Small Farm Town
I am looking forward to working together to get all the new processes up and running.



Mike Hayes
Multi-Modal Planner I
Started: June, 2025
From: Billings, MT – The Magic City
I'm looking forward to the Stagecoach Trail construction.



Hunter Kelly, AICP
Planner I
Started: October, 2021
From: Huntington Beach, CA – Home of the annual US Surf Open.
Even if it is a long way out, I'm excited for the full opening of the Billings Bypass.



Makayla Paul
Planner I
Started: August, 2025
From: Great Falls, MT – home to 6 electric dams making it known as the "Electric City"
Looking forward to continuing to learn more about planning and the continuation of the Billings2045 project.



Ben Jackson
Planner I
Started: September, 2025
From: Sydney, Australia – Nicknamed the harbour city.
I'm looking forward to seeing how implementation of MLUPA affects development in the City.



Brenda Berns
Planning Clerk
Started: July, 2023
From: Lakewood, CA – also known as the "Instant City".
Would enjoy seeing a distinctive character throughout Billings, a unifying visual element that clearly represents the city.

Planning Division

Subdivisions

Subdivision activity in 2025 was slightly higher compared to 2024. There was a significant increase in proposed lots in 2024 and over 100 additional lots were created compared to 2024 figures. The subdivision regulation amendments that went into effect in October of 2024 do not appear to have had a significant effect on subdivision creation. Changes in state law earlier in 2025 prioritized the taking of a cash-in-lieu contribution for parkland over physical dedication, which has had a significant impact on subdivision layout.

The City of Billings experienced slightly higher growth in 2025 than the previous year. In 2024, the City of Billings received over 625 proposed lots during pre-application, but only 15 lots made it to preliminary plat approval and 295 lots were created through approved final plats. In 2025 there were 597 lots proposed in pre-applications, 770 lots receiving preliminary plat approval and 411 lots created with final plat. Compared to 2024, 2025 saw a 39% increase in the number of lots created through final plat approval.

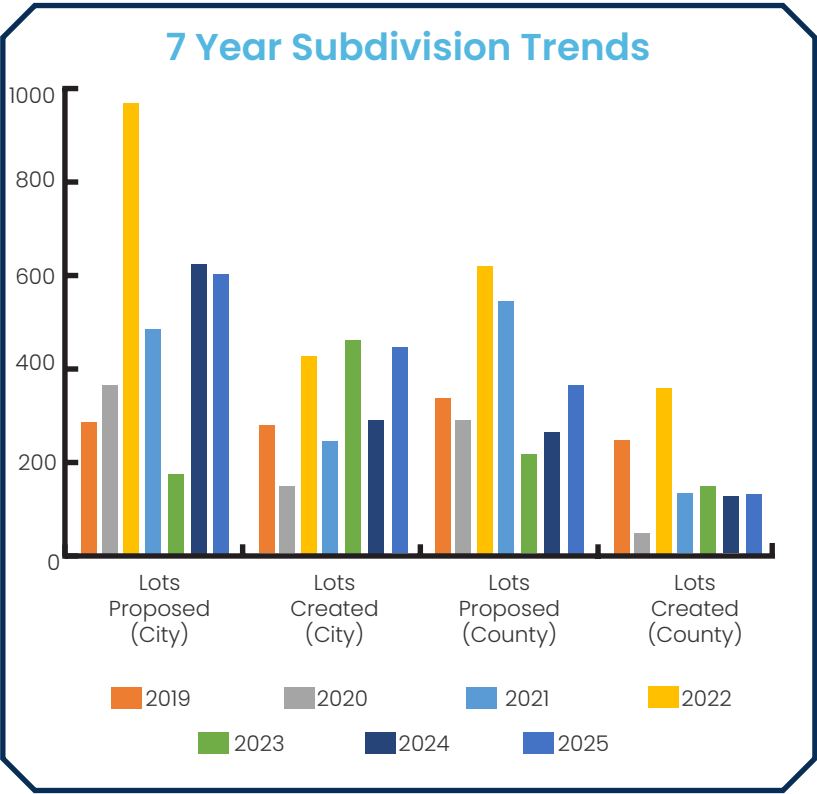
Yellowstone County followed similar trends to the City of Billings. In 2024, 240 lots were proposed with 24 lots getting preliminary plat approval, and only 98 lots created through final plat approval. In 2025, 360 lots were proposed with 114 lots getting preliminary plat approval, and 105 lots created through final plat approval. Yellowstone County saw an increase of 7% between 2024 and 2025 for lots created through final plat approval.

411

LOTS CREATED IN
BILLINGS FOR 2025

105

LOTS CREATED IN
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY
IN 2025



7 Year Subdivision Trends

Annexations

Annexation activity continues to play an important role in guiding the orderly growth of the city and ensuring the efficient extension of public services and infrastructure. From 2015 through 2025, the City processed a range of annexation requests varying in both number and acreage, reflecting fluctuations in development patterns, market conditions, and infrastructure readiness.

In December 2025, the Annexation Committee began meeting to review and discuss updates to the City’s Annexation Policy and Annexation Map. The committee is composed of representatives from Planning, Fire, Police, Parks, MET Transit, and Public Works, ensuring that annexation decisions are evaluated comprehensively across service, safety, and infrastructure considerations. The committee’s role is to assess long-term growth patterns, service capacity, and policy alignment, and to make recommendations to City Council.

The updated Annexation Policy and Map are intended to provide clear guidance for future annexation requests, support coordinated infrastructure planning, and promote fiscally responsible growth. Recommendations from the Annexation Committee will be forwarded to City Council for consideration and approval in Spring 2026.

Historic Preservation

The Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board (YHPB) requested that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) carry over unspent funds from last fiscal year’s grant, 2024–2025, to the 2025–2026 fiscal year so they could have a larger pot of money to complete a project that had begun in 2024–2025.

The project, also funded by SHPO, focuses on developing a Multiple Property Documentation associated with properties whose buildings were designed by Architect Chandler Cohagen. Cohagen’s properties are scattered throughout Billings downtown and the North Elevation Neighborhood. Upon completion of this project, it will contribute to the creation of an enriching walking tour experience.

The Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board has transitioned to a different way of hiring consultants for projects they wish to pursue, moving to a project-by-project mode. It will be a more efficient way to use funds and the ability to hire consultants as needed for projects.

The board looks forward to the many opportunities in the future to identify and highlight the great historic buildings and sites within Yellowstone County.

10 Year Annexation Trends

YEAR	NUMBER OF ANNEXATION REQUESTS	TOTAL ACERAGE ANNEXED
2015	15	286.352
2016	5	72.791
2017	4	111.045
2018	6	416.752
2019	2	57.451
2020	5	49.793
2021	15	306.022
2022	7	178.248
2023	11	244.554
2024	3	129.333
2025	5	91.446

10 Year Annexation Trends

West Billings Neighborhood Plan

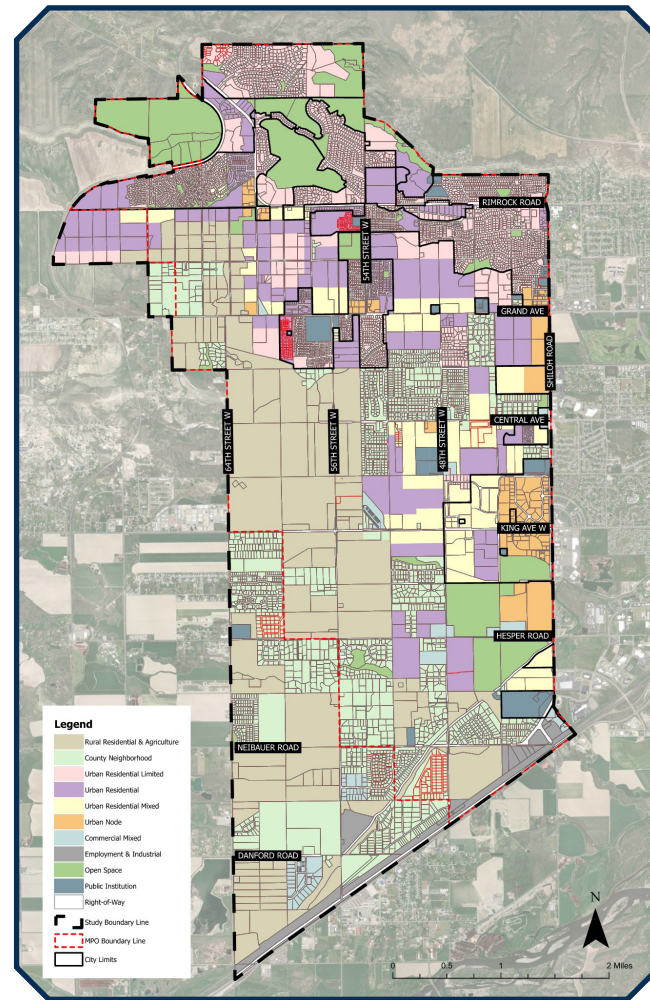
Over the past year, the city continued work on updating the West Billings Neighborhood Plan with our consultant Sanbell (formerly Sanderson Stewart) to guide growth, transportation, and infrastructure in one of Billings' fastest-growing areas. The Plan is intended to support development review, long-range planning, and coordination across City departments to ensure future growth needs are considered as the area continues to develop.

A key focus this year was continued development of the future land use map, which illustrates how residential, commercial, and public areas are expected to evolve over time. The map provides a framework for aligning land use decisions with planned transportation connections, access management, and infrastructure investments.

The Neighborhood Plan remains a foundational tool for prioritizing improvements, supporting coordinated development, and guiding long-term investment to promote safe, efficient, and sustainable growth in West Billings.



West Billings Neighborhood Plan Open House Held in August 2025



Future Land Use Map for West Billings

The information in this neighborhood plan will help inform and shape the City of Billings Comprehensive Land Use Plan and will be incorporated into the final adopted document.

Information and documents regarding this update can be found at: <https://sanbell.com/engage/west-billings-plan/>

Billings Heights Neighborhood Plan

Similar to the West Billings Neighborhood Plan, the City continued development of the Billings Heights Neighborhood Plan with consultants from Dowl Engineering and Planning to guide growth, redevelopment, and infrastructure investment in the Heights area. The Plan supports development review, transportation planning, and coordination among City departments and regional partners to ensure planned improvements align with long-term community goals.

Work this year also included continued development and refinement of the future land use map, which illustrates how residential, commercial, and mixed-use areas are expected to evolve over time. The map provides a framework for coordinating land use decisions with transportation connectivity, access management, and infrastructure planning, particularly along key corridors and neighborhood centers.

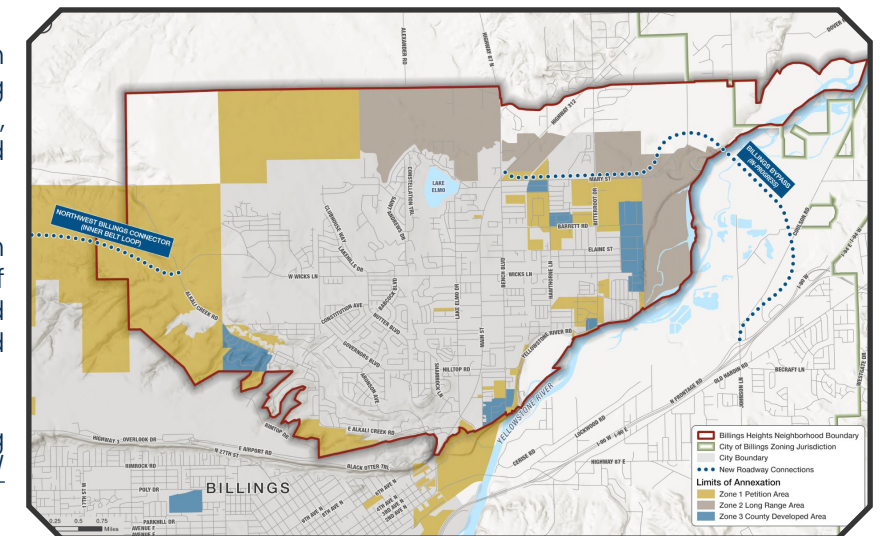
The Billings Heights Neighborhood Plan remains an important tool for guiding coordinated growth, prioritizing investments, and supporting safe, efficient, and sustainable development in the Heights.

The information in this neighborhood plan will help inform and shape the City of Billings Comprehensive Land Use Plan and will be incorporated into the final adopted document.

Information and documents regarding this update can be found at: <https://billingsheightsplan.com/>



Heights Neighborhood Plan Open House
Held in September of 2024



Heights Neighborhood Plan Boundary

Billings2045

Billings 2045 is the City of Billings' land use plan and long-term guide for future growth. The plan is being developed in response to Senate Bill 382, adopted by the Montana Legislature in 2023. Senate Bill 382 established the Montana Land Use Planning Act (MLUPA), which requires communities to update how land use policies are created and implemented. Under MLUPA, communities such as the City of Billings are required to replace their existing growth policy with a comprehensive land use plan and update zoning and subdivision regulations to align with this new planning framework.

Billings 2045 is being shaped through extensive public engagement, with community voices helping set the foundation early in the process and remaining central as the plan continues to evolve. This is consistent with MLUPA's emphasis on front-loaded and ongoing public involvement. Public outreach began in the summer of 2025 and continues today, with Planning staff engaging residents at community events throughout the city, including the Downtown Strawberry Festival, the Phillips 66 South Park Picnic, Harvest Festival, and various neighborhood meetings and events.



Planning Staff Tabling at Strawberry Festival in Downtown Billings on July 12, 2025



Planning Staff Tabling at Harvest Festival in Downtown Billings on October 11, 2025

In August 2025, Planning staff held a series of stakeholder meetings with key groups and organizations from Billings and the surrounding region. These meetings provided an opportunity to gather early input from community partners, agencies, and interest groups on shared priorities, challenges, and long-term growth considerations.

In November 2025, Planning staff completed the primary public engagement phase of the project, highlighted by Community Planning Week. This effort featured five community workshops focused on key land use topics such as housing, transportation, commercial development, the natural environment and future growth patterns. Each workshop included a brief, informative presentation followed by interactive stations where community members were invited to share input on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities,

and challenges facing Billings. Planning staff were joined in person by the project's consultants, Orion Planning and Design, allowing for direct collaboration with the public and deeper discussion of planning concepts. In addition, a community-wide survey was open from September through December 2025, generating more than 1,100 responses.



Planning Division Manager Anna Vickers Introducing the Billings2045 Plan at the Rose Park Elementary Workshop



Conversations Around an Interactive Mapping Station at Planning Week at the Career Center Workshop



Planning Division Manager Anna Vickers Introducing the Billings2045 Plan at the Oasis Workshop



Conversations Around an Interactive Mapping Station at Planning Week at the Oasis Workshop



Consultant Allison Mouch of Orion Planning and Design Introducing the Billings2045 Plan at the MSUB City College Workshop



Conversations Around an Interactive Mapping Station at Planning Week at the Oasis Workshop

Following the completion of the public engagement phase, Planning staff and the project team are now incorporating community input and analyzing data to draft the Billings 2045 Land Use Plan. This next phase will focus on developing plan policies, a future land use framework, and implementation strategies that reflect community priorities and align with the Montana Land Use Planning Act. Additional opportunities for public review and feedback will be provided as draft materials are released, prior to formal consideration and adoption by the City Council in Spring 2026.

Transportation

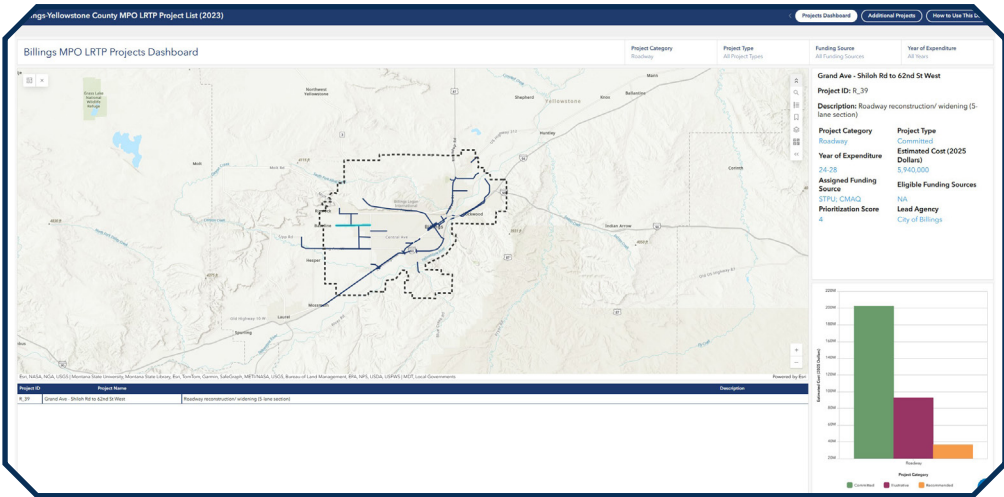
Metropolitan Planning Organization Staff Updates

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is very happy to announce two staff additions this year. Mike Hayes, who most recently acted as the Traffic Technician for the MPO has moved into the Multi-modal Transportation Planner position. This position will oversee multi-modal transportation systems, policies, plans and programs that include walking, biking, public transit and vehicular travel. This role focuses on creating a balanced transportation network that enhances mobility, accessibility, and safety for all users. Mike will engage with community stakeholders, conduct analysis, and collaborate with the City and County to create innovative and sustainable transportation solutions.

David Bargsten comes to the MPO as the Traffic Technician replacing Mike Hayes. This position supports the City's MPO transportation and traffic planning efforts through both office and field work. Duties include collecting and analyzing data for traffic, parking, safety, and multimodal studies. The role helps develop data-driven recommendations that are shared with City and County staff, school districts, partner agencies, and the public. This position also works closely with Engineering, Planning, and County Public Works staff and helps maintain strong working relationships with community partners.

Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment with Dashboard

Curious about the future of transportation in the Billings urbanized area? As part of an amendment to the 2023 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Billings MPO developed an interactive LRTP Projects Dashboard. This map-based tool allows the public to explore transportation projects identified in the 2023 Billings Long-Range Transportation Plan, which was adopted in 2023 and updated in 2025.



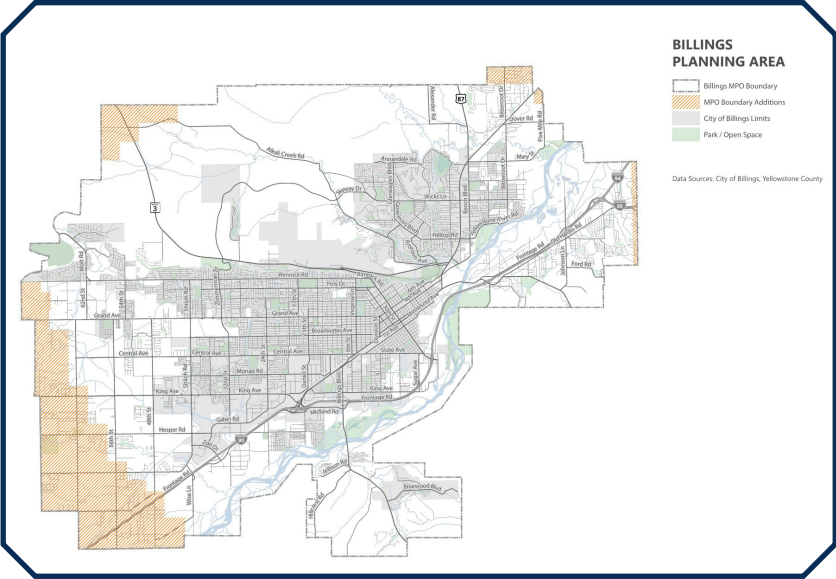
New LRTP Dashboard Displaying Projects

The dashboard lets users view detailed information for each project and zoom in on specific locations. Project details include the project name, Project ID and description; project category (such as congestion management, roadway, intersection, bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and Safe Routes to School); project type (committed, recommended, or illustrative); estimated cost, year of expenditure, and funding sources; as well as the lead agency and prioritization score.

The site can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/2pu3tatn>

Metropolitan Planning Organization Planning Boundary Amendment

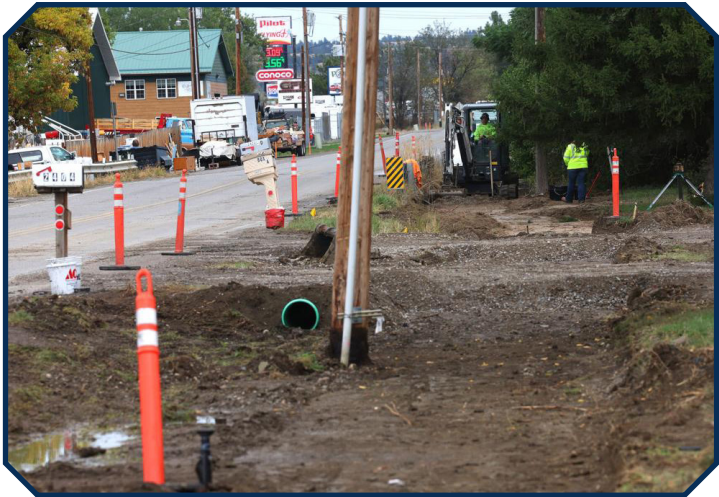
In 2025, the Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) completed an important update to its planning boundary to better reflect the region's current urbanized area and ensure that federal transportation planning and funding decisions accurately serve our rapidly growing community. This update was part of the MPO's work under its 2023 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and was undertaken following a review of the 2020 Census, which showed changes in population and development patterns that expanded the urbanized area. By aligning the Metropolitan Planning Area boundary with this most recent data, the MPO helps ensure compliance with federal requirements and improves long-range planning for transportation projects—from roads and transit to walking and biking networks—across Billings and surrounding areas.



New Expanded MPO Planning Boundary

Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Grant Funds More Than \$1.5 million in Projects

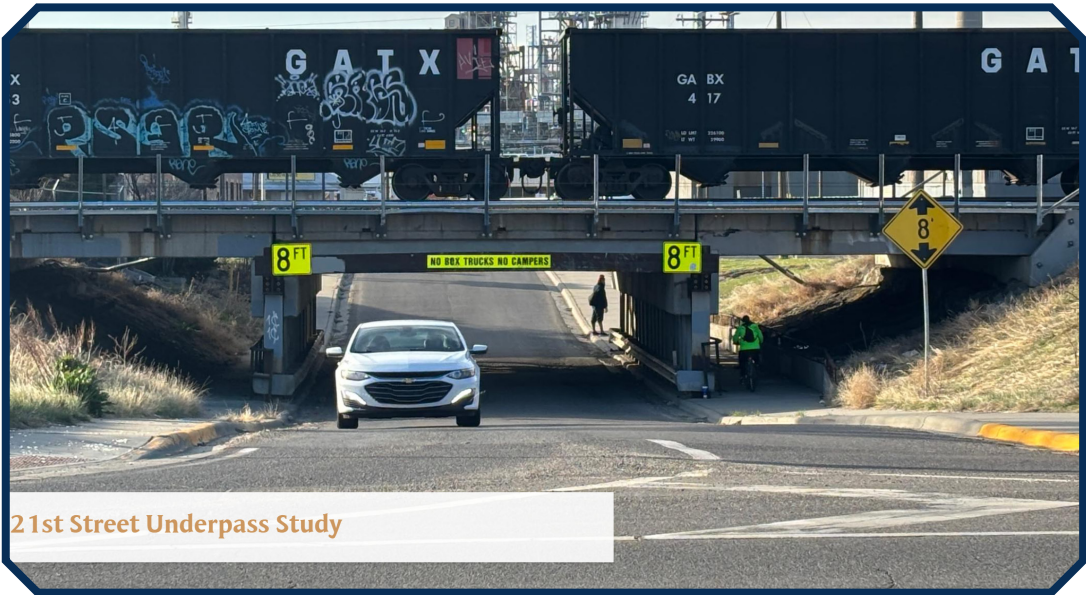
The Transportation Alternatives Program (TA) is a set-aside program from the federal government that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) can administer with oversight from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). The funding is designated for a variety of pedestrian and bicycle projects. The Billings MPO, located within the Planning Division, received \$1,784,111 in the 2025 grant round. This funding could be awarded to applications with a local, federal, or state sponsoring agency. The MPO received two applications which were funded in full. One came from the City of Billings for a suite of Safe Routes to School Projects (\$1,292,030 in TA funds awarded) and the other came from Yellowstone County via the Lockwood Pedestrian District for the Johnson Lane Sidewalk Connector Project (\$217,021 in TA funds awarded). After signing a contract with MDT, the City of Billings and Yellowstone County will design and construct their respective projects, leading to increased safety for all community members!



Lockwood Sidewalk Work (Photo Credit: Larry Mayer Billings Gazette)

21st Street Underpass Study

The Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is conducting the 21st Street Underpass Study. The 21st St. underpass is one of two grade-separated railroad under crossings that link downtown Billings to the industrial and residential areas south of the railroad. The 21st Street crossing is unique because it is the only grade-separated crossing that serves the central downtown area — making it one of the critical railroad crossings in Billings. However, there are significant limitations to the current use of the 21st Street underpass including lack of vertical clearance for large vehicles, narrow lanes and sidewalks, and periodic roadway drainage problems. The consultant team developed four alternatives for the underpass and engaged the community through two separate survey periods. The final study is expected in early 2026 and will provide the community with possible improvement options for the underpass.



The 21st Street Underpass

Upcoming Planning Studies

The Billings Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has a busy year coming up with several transportation planning studies starting soon. In early 2026, the MPO will be publishing requests for proposals for two new studies. One will evaluate the feasibility of three trail connections. The three trails under consideration include the Downtown to Heights Connector, which could connect Lillian Ave. to the existing Jim Dutcher trail and eventually to the Heights; the Alkali Creek Trail Connector which could connect two existing portions of trail and eliminate the need to use a sidewalk close to fast moving traffic on Airport Rd.; and the Aronson Ave. to Annandale Rd. Trail, utilizing a path lane corridor for safe travel.

The second study with a planned start in early 2026 will include further study and public engagement of Safe Routes to School projects near St. Francis Elementary, Poly Dr. Elementary and Medicine Crow Middle School.

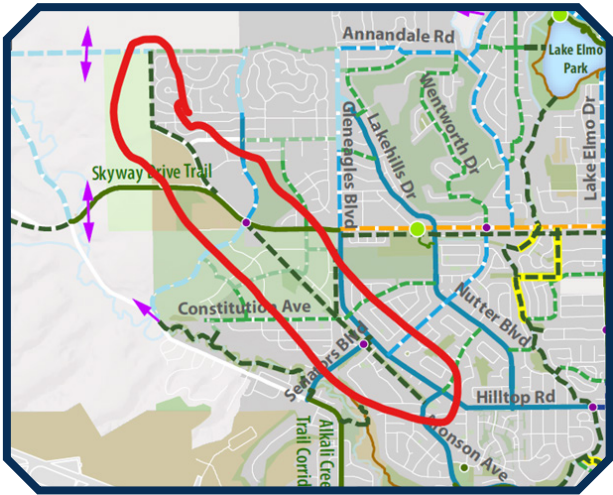
The final new project that the MPO will undertake in 2026 is the Household Travel Survey. A Household Travel Survey is a statically valid survey of how residents travel around Billings’ urbanized area. The Household Travel Survey was last completed in 2017. The recommendation is to update this survey every 10 years. Travel patterns have changed quite a bit in the last 10 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the updated data will provide a better understanding of how residents travel today. The updated data will feed into the Billings Travel Demand Model, and eventually the Billings Area Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which is due for an update in 2028.



Downtown to Heights



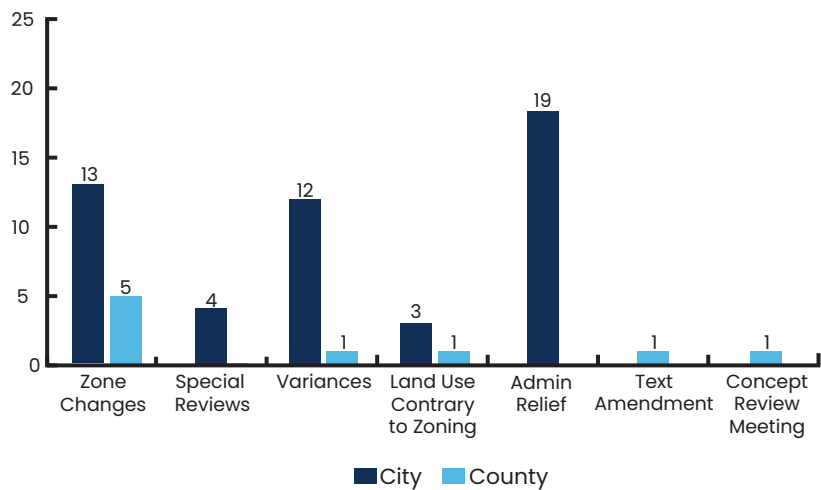
The Alkali Creek Trail Connector



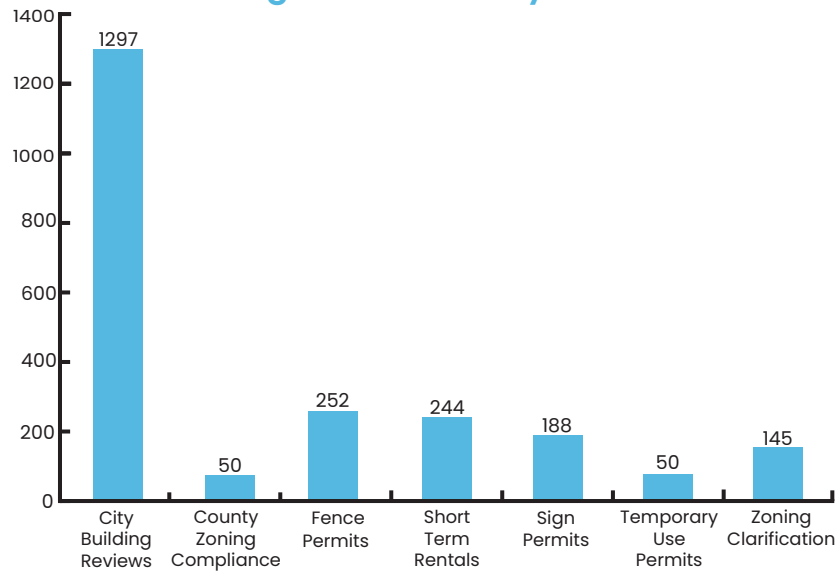
The Aronson to Annandale Trail

Planning Division

Zoning Application Activity for 2025



Zoning Permit Activity for 2025



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Staff

Brenda Beckett
Division Manager

Carly Collins
Program Coordinator

Jordan Langton
Program Coordinator

First Time Home Buyer & Foreclosure Acquisition and Rehabilitation

Parkhill Drive Home

Community Development Division staff acquired and rehabilitated a historically significant home on Parkhill Drive and renovation was completed in December 2025.

From the 1950s onward, the home was owned by real estate developers, a railway engineer, a scales serviceman, a postal service employee, a secretary for Rocky Mountain College, and a reverend. The fully renovated home will be sold to an income-eligible first-time homebuyer, helping revitalize the neighborhood while creating an opportunity for long-term housing stability and generational wealth.



Before



After



Renovated Entryway and Dining Room



Renovated Kitchen



Renovated Living Room

First Time Home Buyer & Foreclosure Acquisition and Rehabilitation

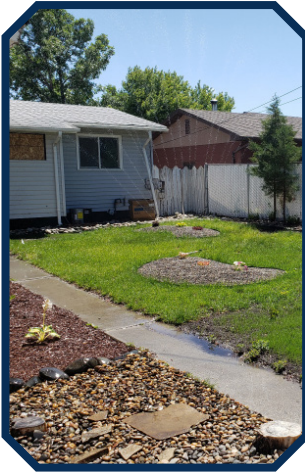
Saint Johns Avenue Home

In 2025, six (6) first-time homebuyers achieved homeownership in Billings with the help of down payment and closing cost assistance. One of these homes, located on Saint Johns Avenue, was purchased and rehabilitated using funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant program. The home was sold to a family of five (5) who relocated to Billings from Glendive, Montana.

AmeriCorps NCCC completed xeriscape landscaping at the property, resulting in reduced water use, lower utility costs, and decreased maintenance demands for the low-income homeowner.



AmeriCorps NCCC Members



Finished Backyard Xeriscaping



Finished Exterior Renovation



Newly Planted Garden



AmeriCorps NCCC Members Working on Landscaping



Finished Kitchen Renovation

Affordable Housing Development

Mitchell Court

The Community Development Division invested \$1.2 million in HOME Investment Partnership funds to support the development of this 32-unit affordable housing project. Staff continued to monitor construction of Mitchell Court, an affordable apartment complex developed by GL Development. Construction is nearing completion, and the one-, two-, and three-bedroom units are expected to be available for rent to income-eligible households at affordable rates in early 2026.



Mitchell Court Apartments



Mitchell Court Apartments



Apartment Bathrooms



Apartment Kitchens

Affordable Housing Development
LB Lofts

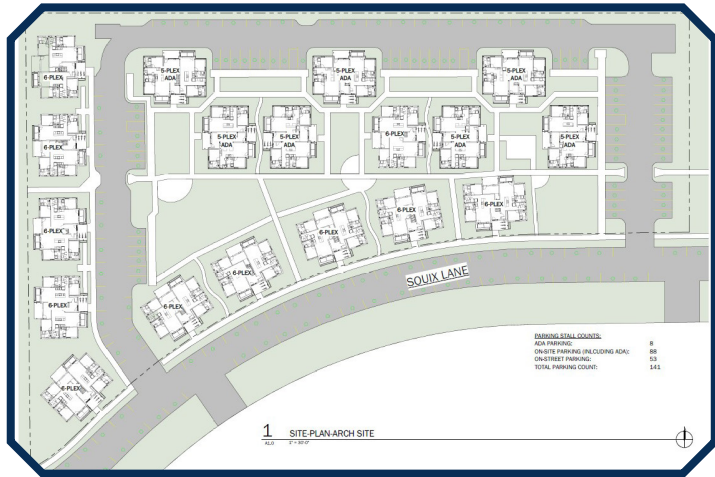
HomeFront and Homeword partnered on a funding application for LB Lofts, an affordable housing development in the Billings Heights. The project will repurpose modular “pods” from North Dakota to create 101 two-bedroom affordable apartment units. City Council committed \$1.545 million in HOME Investment Partnership and Community Development Block Grant funding, enabling construction to begin in summer 2026.



Building Mock Up



Conceptual Layout



Site Plan

AmeriCorps VISTA
Billings Metro VISTA Project

In 2025, 11 AmeriCorps VISTA members served with the Billings Metro VISTA Project (B-MVP), strengthening local nonprofit capacity and advancing poverty-alleviation efforts across the community. Collectively, VISTAs generated \$36,160 in cash and in-kind resources and recruited 84 volunteers who contributed 377 hours of service to support critical programming.

VISTA projects included developing preventive health programs, expanding food security initiatives, increasing youth academic engagement through volunteerism and recreational opportunities, improving access to health resources for veterans, and enhancing pathways to economic mobility for underserved communities.



VISTA Orientation in August 2025



VISTA’s Attending City Council in March 2025



VISTA’s Jenasea and Melanie in October 2025

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Staff

Tina Hoeger
CE Division Manager

Trina Adams
CE Clerk

Code Enforcement II

Todd Morgan
Commercial & Graffiti

Clayton Gudmundson
Nuisance Property

Residential Officers

Justin Anderson
(North Side)

Akard Eli
(West End 2)

Mark Guy
(South Side)

Tanya Card
(West End 1)

Drew Miller
(Heights and Rehberg)

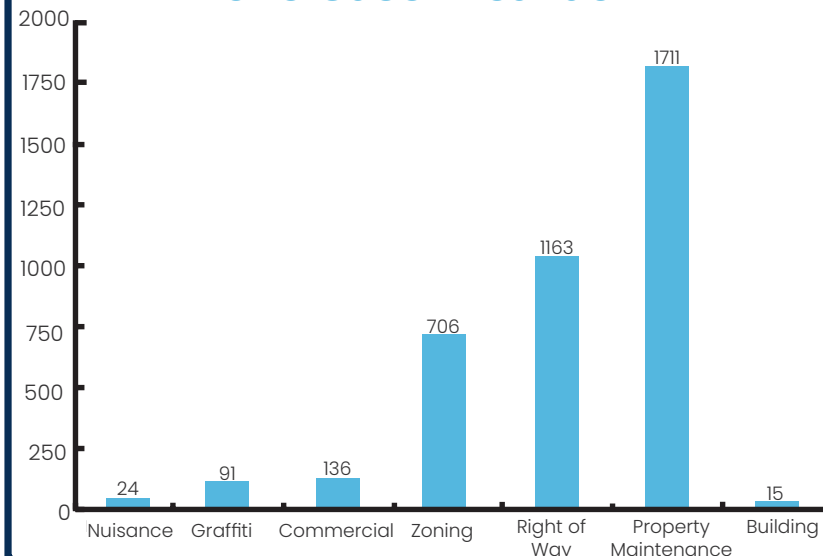
The Code Enforcement Division protects and enhances the quality of life in neighborhoods by responding to citizen complaints about violations of city codes. These range from property maintenance issues such as tall grass, to public nuisances, open storage, as well as violations pertaining to commercial businesses.

2025 CASE OVERVIEW

4,483
CASES

93%
OF CASES
ACHIEVED
COMPLIANCE
IN 30 DAYS

2025 Case Breakdown



15

BUILDING CASES

This category includes building without a permit or in violation of an approved permit.

91

GRAFFITI CASES

This category includes residential and commercial graffiti removal by the property owner.

85

ZONING CASES

This category includes building setbacks, uses, and fencing issues.

85

BPD REFERRALS

This category includes referrals from the police department to code enforcement via the dispatch center.

24

NUISANCE CASES

This category includes improper or extended boarding of vacant buildings, dangerous, burned out or abandoned buildings.

136

COMMERCIAL CASES

This category includes Short Term Rentals, sober living homes, massage facility inspections, and marijuana licensing inspections.

1163

RIGHT OF WAY CASES

This category includes signs obstructing sidewalks, parking violations, trees too low over the sidewalk or street, snow removal and leaving an unattached trailer on the street.

213

PARKING TICKETS ISSUED

This category includes parking tickets issued by all seven code officers across the city.

1711

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CASES

This category includes storing junk and debris outdoors, junk vehicles, not mowing, improper storage of RVs, boats, and campers.

Code Enforcement Division 2025 Highlights

It has been another productive year in the Code Enforcement Division. In February, we moved into our new offices on the second floor of the New City Hall.

Our graffiti abatement program continued to make a significant impact around the city. Over 30 sites were abated in 2025 representing approximately 112 staff hours to complete. Abating graffiti is a major deterrent to reduce criminal activity in and around properties that helps reduce future Police Department involvement.

There were 13 property abatements completed in 2025, resulting in 110 combined staff hours. During these abatements, code enforcement recycled metal from the properties. These properties yielded a combined 24,600 pounds of metal that did not end up in our landfill. Code Enforcement partners with adult treatment court to conduct some of these abatements. We had 19 participants in 2025, reflecting 57 combined volunteer hours to assist with our abatements.

The Code Enforcement Division has been responsible for unattached trailers on the street for the past several years, which has removed that responsibility from the Police Department. In 2025, code enforcement had 814

trailer complaints, 15 of which had to be towed. In 2024, there were 710 trailer complaints, so this has reduced those calls for service for the Police Department. Additionally, the Police Department referred 85 calls to Code Enforcement through the dispatch center for a variety of reasons, again helping us share responsibilities and reduce the call volume for Police.

City right of way and public property cleanups are also referred to Code Enforcement from other City Departments. Last year, we completed 26 such clean ups, resulting in 83 combined staff hours to complete.

All of this work, coordination and cooperation with the Police Department and other City Departments contributes to promoting a safe community and improving the quality of life in the city .

802 Yellowstone Avenue – Meat House and Lockers

The Code Enforcement Division initiated the case on this property in 2022 for a nuisance structure. The building was collapsing, attracting criminal activity, and was a danger to the neighborhood. After a long process, the City acquired the property at the end of 2024. In collaboration with Big Sky Economic Development and Granite Peak Environmental, the City was able to demolish the building through the US EPA Brownfields program. As part of the demolition effort, more than 21,400 pounds of metal were recycled from the property. The lot was cleared and leveled and is ready for improvement. Demolition was completed in September 2025.

CASE CLOSED

Before



After



Interior of Building Prior to Demolition



Demolition of 802 Yellowstone Avenue

Boards and Commissions

The Planning and Community Services Department Supports many Boards and Commissions. Below is a roster of board members and summary of applicable Board action that occurred in 2025.

Interim Planning Commission – Provides recommendations on the adoption of Billings 2045 and updates to the City Zoning Code and City Subdivision Regulations to ensure compliance with the Montana Land Use Planning Act.

Jim Ronquillo, Roger Gravgaard, Dennie Stephenson, John Staley, David Nordel, Daniel Brooks, Josh Sayer, Kim Welzenbach, and Amber Parish

City County Planning Board – 11 Subdivision Applications and 6 Transportation Planning Recommendations

Jim Ronquillo, Roger Gravgaard, Dennie Stephenson, John Staley, David Nordel, Scott Reiter, Troy Boucher, Dennis Cook, Woody Woods, Alexis Bonogofsky, and Morgan Tuss

City of Billings Zoning Commission – 13 Zone Changes Requests and 4 Special Reviews

Greg McCall, Daniel Brooks, David Goss, Beau Mulvaney, and Andy Megorden

City of Billings Board of Adjustment – 12 Variance Requests

Chris Hayes, Michael Bruschwein, Oscar Heinrich, Brian Roush, George Warmer, Josh Sayer, and David Hagstrom

Yellowstone County Consolidated Zoning Commission – 5 Zone Change Requests and 1 Variance

Tyler Bush, Todd Hewett, Pam Ellis, and Carlotta Hecker

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Provides direct report to City Council, BOCC, and Planning Board

Stephaine Donovan, Kristy Halderman, Anna O'Donnell, and Dave Coppock

Yellowstone County Historic Preservation Board – Provides annual work plan report to City Council with grant renewal and supports preservation activities across Yellowstone County

Rebecca Jeter, Keith Edgerton, Ginger Aldrich, Zachary Garhart, and Linda Lien

Community Development Board – Provides annual report to City Council during Consolidated Plan Update and advises the City Council in allocation of CDBG, HOME, and VISTA programs

Kathleen Candelaria, Hans Abbey, Ali Pistora, James Allen, Erica Doornek, Donald White, Rebecca Noell, Joe Stockburger, James Corson, and Adam Toland

Policy Coordinating Committee – Provides local oversight of MPO Program and Projects

Mayor Bill Cole, County Commission Chair Mark Morse, Planning Board President Roger Gravgaard, MDT District Administrator Michael Taylor, MDT Planner Samantha Wood, and FHA Division Administrator Katie Potts







Billings
PARKS
AND RECREATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

406-657-8371

www.billingsparks.org

390 N 23rd St. Billings, MT

RECREATION



Aquatics

The Recreation Division oversees the staffing and operations of Rose Park and South Park pools, as well as Pioneer Park and Hawthorne Park wading pools. The pools opened for the summer with 51 lifeguards, all of which received American Red Cross Lifeguard and CPR/AED training. In total, over 100 seasonal aquatic employees (lifeguards, instructors, managers, cashiers, concession workers) are employed to operate the aquatic facilities each year. This summer, 40,000 visitors attended Rose and South Park pools, with thousands more at Pioneer Park and Hawthorne Park wading pools.

To complement recreational open swim, the Recreation Division also provides popular aquatic programming. The American Red Cross Learn to Swim program served 422 children across seven-weeks, 138 children enrolled in all-day aquatic camps, and 61 adult lap swimmers.

Youth & Adult Sports

The Recreation Division had a year of growth regarding Rec2U, a free summer recreation program, which was held Monday-Friday from June 16th-August 22nd. Rec2U was hosted across 9 different parks: Hawthorne, Castle Rock, South, Optimist, Veterans, Terry, Rose, Yellowstone Family, and Pioneer.

Rec2U staff members make weekly visits to each of the parks, bringing yard games, sports, arts & crafts to each community. No signups are required and all ages are welcome. In total, 3,187 youth visitors joined Rec2U program throughout summer 2025. This was a remarkable 140% increase from 2024 participation.



RECREATION

Tennis Is Elementary (T.I.E.), a K-5th grade tennis program, had 97 participants learn the sport in 2025 at Eagle Cliffs, Alkali Creek, and Meadowlark Elementary Schools. T.I.E. is a 16-session instructional program during the school year, focusing on technique, basic play, skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The program is led by a staff of six instructors all certified in NetGen, a training program through the United States Tennis Association.



Senior Programs

Senior Recreation and Wellness programming supports the health, independence, and social connection of older adults through inclusive and accessible offerings designed to meet participants at all stages of their health and wellness journey. Programs serve a wide range of abilities, from chair-based movement to standing strength classes, and extend beyond the Community and Senior Center through partnerships with Allies in Aging.

Classes are offered in the Heights, South Side, and West End, increasing access and reducing barriers to participation. Recreation staff offers 28 distinct programs, totaling 42 classes per week. The Strong & Stable program is offered twice weekly and has seen increased attendance, with participants showing notable improvements in mobility and confidence in daily movement. Participants who previously required assistance are now able to move more independently, meeting the goal to reduce fall risk and support aging in place.

Strategic partnerships, including collaboration with Allies in Aging, further extend program reach while maximizing resources. Together, these efforts position senior programming as a preventive, community-centered investment that enhances long-term health, social connection, and quality of life for older adults, while supporting continued growth and innovation.

PARKS

Maintenance

The Parks Division completed the installation of three irrigation pump stations at Central, Ironwood, and High Sierra Parks. Each station site features variable frequency drive (VFD) controls, which reduce electrical costs by 25%. The upgraded pump stations also provide remote telemetry and programming capabilities, reducing unnecessary travel for maintenance staff.

Licensed Parks staff as Certified Playground Safety Inspectors performed 530 playground safety inspections over 43 individual playgrounds. To improve safety at several playgrounds, engineered wood-fiber fall protection was refreshed in 20 playgrounds to maintain critical fall height attenuation to prevent serious injury or death.

Special-use park events in 2025, included Symphony in the Park, Big Sky Ballon Rally, Renaissance Fair, Shakespeare in the Park, Big Sky State Games and more. Maintenance staff worked closely with organizers to ensure successful events. Irrigation, garbage pickup, restroom cleaning, mowing, and after-hours overtime schedules require adjustment before, during, and after these large events.



Forestry & Natural Resources



Veterans, Stewart, and Clevenger Parks saw an upgraded recycling program in conjunction with Billings Solid Waste Department. The new program is called Recycle to Reforest and will collect aluminum cans to pay for new trees in Parks. Special thanks to Solid Waste for refabricating roll-off dumpsters to make donations more efficient and safer.

The Department also has a new weed management solution created through the City's GIS. This program helps staff track invasive species in parks and provides valuable data that can be used for future grant opportunities, mitigation efforts, and research.

PARKS

During the December severe storm, the Department lost 35 trees. Storm protocol plans functioned as planned allowing staff to address the damage in a safe and timely manner.

Cemetery

Mountview Cemetery completed the installation of two new entry signs at the main entrance. The previous sign was destroyed in 2024, following a vehicle collision that also damaged several veteran headstones.

By selecting durable sandstone quartzite, the City was able to install signage on both sides of the entrance, with one stone etched "Mountview Cemetery" and the other "Billings Cemetery" to reflect the site's historical significance. Each stone weighs approximately 7,500 pounds, improving durability and enhancing safety at the entrance. The City extends its appreciation to First Interstate Bank and Bright 'n Beautiful volunteers for their financial support and assistance with landscaping.



In November, Mountview Cemetery hosted the 3rd-annual Patriot Run, welcoming 120 participants across the 5K and 2K events. Through sponsorships, entry fees, and donations, approximately \$4,000 was raised to assist families with burial costs in the Veterans section of the cemetery and to support ongoing maintenance of those areas.



On December 17, a severe wind event with gusts approaching 70 mph damaged several trees at Mountview Cemetery, with seven trees blown over, resulting in damage to the cemetery office, a staff restroom facility, and several grave sites. City staff coordinated with utility providers to address power and communication impacts and initiated repairs to affected facilities; two displaced headstones were safely reset. One veteran headstone was destroyed, and a replacement has been ordered through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BY THE NUMBERS

Volunteer Hours in 2025 – 4,305 hours!

- Approximately 2.0 FTE worth of volunteer hours
- Refresh the Rims Hours – 184
- Senior Center Hours – 2,577
- YOUTH Volunteer Corps Hours – 323
- Adopt-a-Park Groups – 7
- Adopt-a-Trail Groups – 5

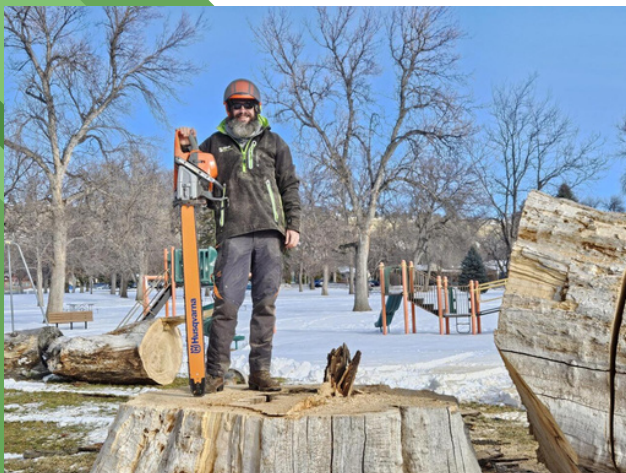
Amend Community Garden

- 36 gardeners, not including children
- 16 new gardeners
- 4,070 lbs of produce harvested
- Estimated value: over \$10K in produce direct to families and community organizations



Parks by the Numbers:

- Playground fall protection installed by cubic yards – 530
- Irrigation winterization labor hours – 1,463
- Renaissance Fair attendance at North Park – 8,900
- Big Sky Balloon Rally attendance at Amend Park – 28,000
- Celebrate Freedom attendance at Castle Rock Park – 19,300
- Restrooms cleaned daily – 51
- Irrigation ditch water gallons pumped – 268,851,000
- Visits across all parks – Over 2.7 million



Parks Pruning Cycle Completed in 2025:

N. Broadway	Yellowstone Family
Burg	Streeter
Comanche	Rock Island
Kiwanis-Durland	Arrowhead

**Pruning Cycle 5-7 years*

Mountview by the Numbers:

Total Burials – 130
Green Burials – 2
Grave Sales – 70

BY THE NUMBERS



Aquatics:

Rose and South Admissions: 42,370

Daily Waterslide Passes Sold: 11,336

Season Passes Sold: 359

Concession Items Sold: 29,008

Learn to Swim Participants: 422

REDUCED Price Pool Pass Scholarships: 208

Recreation Participants:

Adult Programs: 1,410

Summer Camps: 1,404

Youth Programs: 1,470

Rec2U: 3,187

Total: 7,471

Billings Community & Senior Center in 2025:

- 23,589 total visits
- 2,372 individuals enrolled in programs
- 8,366 participants in games and activities
- 28 distinct programs
- 10 new programs were added

Partnerships:

9 nursing students in health promotion/clinical hours

Allies in Aging - 3,776 meals served

2 new program locations:

- King of Glory Lutheran Church
- South Park Senior Center



ADMIN

Wilson Park – LWCF

Wilson Park was acquired by the City in 1972 with assistance from a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant and is therefore subject to LWCF use restrictions. The City is proposing a conversion to transfer the LWCF restriction from Wilson Park to a 10-acre parcel associated with the West End Reservoir. Appraisals for both properties are currently underway, a historical file search of the West End property found no concerns, and Public Works is completing the required environmental survey. Once all requirements are met, the City will submit a formal conversion application to the National Park Service (NPS), with the West End property required to have equal or greater Yellow Book appraised value than Wilson Park.

Placer.AI

In November 2025, in partnership with the Downtown Billings Association, Parks, Recreation and Public Lands (PRPL) entered into an agreement with PlacerAI. PlacerAI uses anonymized mobile device data to estimate park visitation patterns. This information will support more data-driven decisions related to park planning, investments, and future improvements.

Trunk or Treat

The All-Inclusive Trunk or Treat returned to Poly Vista Park this year on October 26th. The event is designed to accommodate youth with disabilities. Families came from all over Billings for safe and accessible trick-or-treating and an afternoon of fun. Community partners and local businesses came out to support the event with a range of decorated trunks. After all that candy, families stayed to play at the new ADA-accessible playground at the park.



Amend Recreation Center: Weekly Update

2-6-2026

VP-Eastern District: Jason Hubbard jhub@langlas.com
Project Manager: Rachel Guisti rachelb@langlas.com
SR. Project Superintendent: Lane Huffman lhuffman@langlas.com

Progress Summary: Week of February 2nd

- Langlas:
 - Quality Control and Schedule
 - Cleaning Gym Slab
- J & B Erectors: (True North)
 - Starting to Install the I.T.P. (Insulated Translucent Panel)
 - Installing Window Trim around all Storefront Windows
- Central Electric:
 - Roughing In Gym Ceiling
 - Setting Light poles in the South Parking Lot
- Air Controls:
 - Roughing In Administration Area
- Silver Peak Framing:
 - Framing of Lobby Soffits
- Weave:
 - Poured Sidewalks in Front of the Ice Rink
- Tiensvold Fire
 - Gym Rough In



Schedule: Upcoming week of February 9th

- Langlas:
 - Sheathing Interior Fur out walls
 - Tenting the building inside for heat
 - Interior Backing
 - Flashing at Openings
- Air Controls:
 - RAU installing and hook ups
 - Crane Day Wednesday to set the top of the RAU
- Central Electric:
 - Pulling wire to panels in the Admin. Area
 - Trenching the Northside of the Ice Rink for Food Truck and Light poles
- J & B Erectors
 - ITP Installation at Northside
- Tiensvold Fire
 - Air Testing all the Gym
- Weave
 - Working on East Parking Lot
 - Starting to Pour Concrete Sidewalks around the Site

2026

**UPCOMING DRAFT AGENDAS
FOR COUNCIL / LEADERSHIP**

Please review the draft agendas below and provide any feedback regarding the order of business, modification of agenda items, or other changes to the consent or regular agendas. City code requires a specific order of business as it relates to certain items on meeting agendas, e.g., placement of public hearings first on the regular agenda, so your feedback will be incorporated with those code requirements in mind. (BMCC 2-214) Work session agendas are more flexible and can also easily be modified by the Mayor with the consensus of Council during those informal meetings.

Thank you for your feedback!

February 9, 2026 REGULAR BUSINESS

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon January 22nd/Final due January 29th

CONSENT:

1. Boards and Commissions
2. Professional Services Contract with Great West Engineering for W.O. 26-19: Landfill Cell 6 Expansion
3. Service Agreement with Red Tail Communications for Radio Communication System for Water Treatment Plant
4. Purchase of One (1) 2027 Single Axle Truck and Chasis
5. 2023 Long Range Transportation Plan Project List / Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Boundary Amendment
6. Donation from Rimrock Credit Union for Anti-Graffiti Program

REGULAR:

2. Council appointment to Yellowstone County Behavioral Health Coalition

February 17, 2026 (Tues) – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon February 12th

1. Stagecoach Trail Update – WO 24-37 (Mac) (15 Min.)
2. Montana Avenue Update (Mac) (10 Min.)
3. Review Proposed Building Permit Fees (Jessica)
4. Babcock Theater Discussion (Tricia Mae)

February 23, 2026 REGULAR BUSINESS

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon February 5th/Final due February 12th

CONSENT:

1. BID AWARD: Household Hazardous Waste Services Contract (not submitted in AQ)
2. BID AWARD: W.O. 26-29: Green Valley Drive Culvert Replacement (not submitted in AQ)
3. 3 Year Contract with KnowBe4 License for (FY2027–FY2029)
4. Annual Renewal for Mimecast Email Security Services – Critical Protection Tier
5. Agreements with Billings Schools for Career Center and Central High for SRO's
6. Confiscated Guns Storage Fee – Airport
7. MET - 2026 Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan Update
8. MET- 2026 Public Transit Agency Safety Plan Update
9. Donations to Billings Public Library
10. Donation to Parks for Youth and Senior Scholarship Fund from Scheels
11. Donation to Parks for Youth and Senior Scholarship Fund from Mark Nicholson
12. Annual Resolution for MET Transit Grant Funds and Related Documents

13. Preliminary Plat - Homestead Acres Subdivision

REGULAR:

1. Public Hearing and Resolution approving 2026 Budget Amendments
2. Public Hearing and Resolution setting Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fire System Permit Fees

March 2, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon February 26th

1. Provisions for Water/Sewer and Annexations
 - a. Meadowlark Billings, LLC - Provision for Water and Annexation (Mac)
 - b. Gary Blain Property – YVAS - Provision for Sewer and Annexation (Mac)
 - c. McDougall Street Manufactured Homes - Provision for Water/Sewer and Annexation (Mac)
2. Draft Disposition Report – Parks Department (Gavin)
3. Citizen's Police Advisory Board (Kennedy) (St. John)

March 9, 2026 REGULAR BUSINESS

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon February 19th/Final due February 26th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

2. Public Hearing and 1st Rdg. Ordinance - Aggressive Traffic and Excessive Noise (Rupsis Initiative) (Rich) If this is going it needs to be advertised 3 weeks ahead. **not submitted in AQ**

March 16, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon March 12th

1. Airport Authority Presentation
2. Rimrock Road – 30% Design Update (Mac) (15 Min.)
3. Amendment No. 1, Northern Lights Family Justice Center (pulled from 1.26.26 Regular Agenda)
4. 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3 (Lora Mattox)
5. Council Meetings (potential changes)
6. Proposed Revisions to Article 2-200, BMCC, Mayor and City Council

March 23, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon March 5th/Final due March 12th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

April 6, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon April 2nd

April 13, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon March 26th/Final due April 2nd

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

April 20, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon April 16th

April 27, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon April 9th/Final due April 16th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

May 4, 2026 – WORK SESSION (Budget Only)

Staff memos due Noon April 30th

May 5, 2026 – WORK SESSION (Budget Only)

Staff memos due Noon April 30th

May 11, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon April 23rd /Final due April 30th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

May 18, 2026– WORK SESSION (Budget Only)

Staff memos due Noon May 14th

May 19, 2026– WORK SESSION (Budget Only)

Staff memos due Noon May 14th

May 26, 2026 (Tues) **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon May 7th /Final due May 14th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

June 1, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon May 28th

June 8, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon May 21st /Final due May 28th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

June 15, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon June 11th

June 22, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon June 4th /Final due June 11th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

July 6, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon July 2nd

July 13, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon June 25th /Final due July 2nd

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

July 20, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon July 16th

July 27, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon July 9th /Final due July 16th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

August 3, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon July 30th

August 10, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon July 23rd /Final due July 30th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

August 17, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon August 13th

August 24, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon August 6th /Final due August 13th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

September 8, 2026 (Tues)– WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon September 3rd

September 14, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon August 27th /Final due September 3rd

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

September 21, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon September 17th

September 28, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon September 10th /Final due September 17th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

October 5, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon October 1st

October 12, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon September 24th /Final due October 1st

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

October 19, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon October 15th

October 26, 2026 **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon October 8th /Final due October 15th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

November 2, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon October 29th

November 9, 2026 REGULAR BUSINESS

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon October 22nd /Final due October 29th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

November 16, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon November 12th

November 23, 2026 REGULAR BUSINESS

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon November 5th /Final due November 12th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

December 7, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon December 3rd

December 14, 2026 REGULAR BUSINESS

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon November 25th (WED.)/Final due December 3rd

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

December 21, 2026 – WORK SESSION

Staff memos due Noon December 17th

December 28, 2026 REGULAR BUSINESS

Prelim Staff Memos due Noon December 10th /Final due December 17th

CONSENT:

REGULAR:

CLERK'S NOTES

**Annual Items shown in Blue*

January (First Work Session) after an election: Swearing in of new Councilmembers

January (First Regular Business Meeting): Nominations and Elections of Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore

January: Amend Park Development Council Proposed Budget

January: Beartooth RC&D MOU

February or March: Legislative Updates (ODD years only)

March: Budget Calendar

March: Council Priorities

September: City Administrator's Annual Review

October: TRP, ERP and CIP

October: Council Holiday Schedule for December

November (First Regular Business Meeting) after an election: Nominations and Elections of Deputy Mayor