

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT
FY2024 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Name: River Drive Connection

Reservoir or River Segment: Black Eagle Reservoir County(ies) Cascade

Site Name (or project location): River's Edge Trail – Great Falls

Applicant Name: Kevin Vining

Position and Agency: Park Supervisor, City of Great Falls Parks and Recreation

Telephone: (406) 771-1265

Email: kvining@greatfallsmt.net

Project Sponsor Name: Steve Herrig

Position and Agency: Director, City of Great Falls Parks and Recreation

Telephone: (406)761-1265

Email: sherrig@greatfallsmt.net

Project Cost Breakdown and Financial Request:

Complete the financial section below by providing total project cost (to the nearest dollar), contributions by applicant and cooperators, request for NorthWestern Energy match of agency funds (see detailed instruction), and River Fund Grant request. Document in-kind contributions by public agencies for determination of NorthWestern Energy match request. A description of funding sources and in-kind contributions should be included in the Project Description.

Total project cost:	<u>\$167,200</u>	
Applicant Contributions – cash	<u>\$3,500</u>	
Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:	<u>\$2,000</u>	
Other Contributions – Please list by source:		
<u>River's Edge Trail Foundation</u>	<u>\$16,700</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	Percentage of Total Project Cost:
Total Applicant and Other Contributions:	<u>\$22,200</u>	<u>13.3%</u>
NorthWestern Energy Match Request:	<u>\$5,500</u>	<u>3.3%</u>
River Fund Grant Request:	<u>\$139,500</u>	<u>83.4%</u>
Proposed Project Implementation Period:	<u>2024 Construction</u>	

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1. Has this project been previously submitted for funding consideration by the River Fund Board, either as a separate project or part of another project? Yes X No

If yes, please identify which years the application was submitted and, if the project was previously funded, list the amount funded by year.

2. **Project Description:** Provide a description of the proposed project. Be sure to include specific project elements that are planned, and any associated cost detail.

▶ This project would replace a 700 LF segment of the existing River’s Edge Trail. The existing 32 year old asphalt is to be replaced with more durable reinforced concrete. The project would bridge the gap between trail segments that have already been replaced (2021 MMRF project) or are programmed to be replaced (MDT UPN 9762000). Specifically, 7020 SF of existing badly deteriorated asphalt trail surfacing would be replaced in its current location with 7020 SF of 5” thick reinforced concrete. The replaced trail would connect to new concrete trail on the north end and will match new concrete trail planned for construction in 2025 on the south end.

Additionally, a handicap accessible concrete picnic table and concrete access pad would be added along this very scenic, visible, and easily accessible trail.

A detailed construction cost estimate is included with this application.

3. **Project Phasing:** Briefly discuss whether the project could be phased over more than one year or construction season.

▶ The project would be completed within one year. Design would commence upon grant award. Construction is anticipated for the summer of 2024.

4. **Cultural Resource Management:** Cultural Resource Management (CRM) requirements for any activity related to this Project must be completed and documented to NorthWestern Energy as a condition of awarded River Fund grant funds or NorthWestern Energy matching funds. Grant and matching funds may not be used for any land-disturbing activity, or the modification, renovation, or removal of any buildings or structures until the CRM consultation process has been completed. Agency applicants must submit a copy of the proposed project to a designated Cultural Resource Specialist for their agency. Private parties or non-governmental organizations are encouraged to submit a copy of their proposed project to a CRM consultant they may have employed. Private parties and non-governmental organizations may also contact the NorthWestern Energy representative for further information or assistance. Applications submitted without this section completed will be held without any action until the information has been submitted.

Summarize how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management.

▶ The CRM requirement will be met by documenting consultations with SHPO and the City of Great Falls Historical Preservation Officer.

5. **Scoring Criteria.** Respond to the following Scoring Criteria. Put answers in the cell after ▶.

5.1 Does the project occur at a 2188 license site?

▶ Yes

5.2 Project is for operation and maintenance of an existing recreation site. Describe if the project will meet operation and maintenance needs. Higher points awarded to projects that are higher priority and are not a recurring expense. Lower points awarded to projects that are low priority and/or have been previously funded. It is unlikely that the timeframe of River Fund would address emergency

operation and maintenance needs but could support non-emergency operation and maintenance needs.

- ▶ The project reduces maintenance requirements for Parks and Recreation. The City maintains and “operates” the River’s Edge Trail. Pavement maintenance is a significant annual and long term capital expense obligation. Replacing this 32 year old asphalt with more durable concrete will help meet the City’s operation and maintenance requirements for the Trail for many years to come.

The trail pavement replacement directly correlates with reducing maintenance costs for this 2188 project site. Concrete trail replacement is a one-time cost that will have a life expectancy of fifty to one hundred years. The River’s Edge Trail Maintenance Plan stresses the need to replace the aging asphalt trails with concrete in order to improve operations and maintenance needs.

5.3 Project involves collaboration with other agencies or organizations. Identify project partners other than NorthWestern Energy or River Fund, if any, and describe their participation. Document all funding sources and all in-kind support and services to a project, because all are sources of partnerships and in-kind contributions from public agencies qualify for calculation of NorthWestern Energy matching funds. If there are no project partners, explain why.

- ▶ Development, maintenance, and operation of the River’s Edge Trail is carried out through a strong, long term partnership between many stakeholders including, among others, several City departments, MDT, Montana State Parks, the River’s Edge Trail Foundation, local advocacy groups, many volunteers, and Northwestern Energy. Partner and participation in this project include:
 - The River’s Edge Trail Foundation is providing \$16,700 cash and public support.
 - MDT is providing right-of-way permission and funding for the upstream segment of the Trail that this project connects to.
 - City Agencies provide \$3,000 in cash and \$2,500 of in-kind planning services, engineering support, and administration of the 2188 Project.
 - Local advocacy groups are providing grant writing services and broad public support.

5.4 Project provides a benefit to public recreation in the Project Area and addresses specific issues and goals of the Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Plan (CRP). Identify how the project provides a benefit to public recreation and describe how the project specifically addresses issues and goals in Chapter 2-1 of the CRP.

- ▶ By restoring the trail to a smooth, durable surface, the River Drive Connection project aligns with CRP goals including:

1. ***To provide safe and well-managed recreation sites and dispersed use areas that provide enjoyable user experiences across a spectrum of opportunities and seasons.***

This is a popular, all-season trail segment that many types of trail users enjoy frequently. The upgrade will enhance the recreational experience and safety. Concrete trails are proven to be easier to maintain the winter and eliminate costly and time-consuming maintenance associated with asphalt trail surfaces.

2. ***Continue to improve and expand recreation opportunities that offer universal accessibility.***

Universal accessibility is at the forefront of all Park and Recreation operations and project. This project will enhance ADA accessibility as well as bicycling walking, rollerblading, strollers, and scooters. Adding the handicap accessible concrete picnic table will help open this scenic and popular location to wheelchair bound people.

5.5 Project responds to a clearly identified need. Describe and document the need for this project and how the project would address that need. Cite specific sources, as possible, to establish need and

support the project. Discuss consequences if the funding request is unsuccessful. For a new construction or acquisition project, identify how post-project, long-term costs (such as site maintenance and management) will be provided.

- ▶ This project must be completed in the next year or this badly deteriorated trail segment will be “landlocked” between new concrete trails on both ends. MDT’s 2025 project on the south end will extend new concrete trail upriver of the proposed improvements segment, effectively cutting off easy construction access to the deteriorated asphalt. The 2021 River Fund project that enhanced safety and trail quality by replacing old asphalt north of the proposed segment needs to be extended northward now that MDT’s design on the south end has been finalized.

The 32 year old asphalt surfacing proposed to be replaced is so rough that it is unsafe. Trail users will sometimes even avoid the rough pavement by crossing 1st Ave North at the stoplight rather than using the trail’s safer pedestrian underpass. Potholes, root intrusions, alligator cracking, thermal cracks and raveling of the asphalt are evident and shown in the attached photos

The City of Great Falls Park and Recreation Master Plan included a statistically valid survey with input from over 3,000 residents. Among all Park and Recreation facilities in Great Falls, Trails scored the highest in usage (68%), need (77%), and priority (48%). This project will address the clear demand to improve the River’s Edge Trail as identified in the Master Plan.

The project area will be maintained by the Park and Recreation trail crew and park staff year-round. Efforts will follow the City’s adopted River’s Edge Trail Maintenance Plan. The Trails Division budget currently supports routine maintenance of the trail system.

If grant funds are not awarded, the Department will not have sufficient funds to complete the project and would have to seek alternative funding.

5.6 Project design options have been considered, estimated, and a preferred design selected. Well-designed projects reduce occurrences of budgetary overages, design changes, and additional complications. Discuss the current design phase for this project, demonstrate that the project has been well vetted, and include cost estimates.

- ▶ A Conceptual Design of the project is included in the application. Detailed design would proceed upon award of project funding. This design was developed in consultation with all project stakeholders identified in paragraph 5.3 above. The unanimous direction is being pursued. Cost estimates were prepared from recent similar project bid results. Those estimates are included with the application.

The chance of possible additional complications or design changes is very limited considering the project requirements. Right-of-way is available. Permitting requirements are similar to the adjacent project successfully completed in 2021.

5.7 Project supports or protects other resources and is consistent with or supports resource plans in the Project Area. Describe how this project will protect resource values (such as public access, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources) and support other resource and agency plans, including Project 2188 License plans and land use and land management plans in place in the Corridor. Management plans should provide justification for the project.

- ▶ Along with a National Recreation Trail designation, the Trail is documented in the Montana State Trails Plan and supports the goal of:
 2. URBAN TRAILS -Goals: 1) More local trails, greenways, and trail connections for recreation and transportation in, around , and between Montana’s populated urban areas; 2) Develop urban

trail linkages between residences, parks and other recreational facilities, schools, historic and cultural sites, open space, shopping areas, and other important community destinations.

The River’s Edge Trail offers users access to hiking, bicycling, cultural interpretation, artwork displays, cultural interpretation, fishing, hunting, water sports, and a non-motorized transportation network through the City. Many amenities including restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic areas, and interpretive signs help make the user experience more enjoyable.

The Missouri-Madison Recreation Visitor Use Counts shows that the Trail system continues to be one of the most used recreational facilities, region wide.

6. Insert map(s) showing the location of the proposed project, drawings and design work related to the project, and a reasonable number of photos (as available) here.

PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE

River Drive Connection


ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	ESTIMATED TOTAL PRICE
101	Mobilization	1	LS	10,000.00	10,000.00
102	Traffic Control	1	LS	4,000.00	4,000.00
103	Remove Existing Asphalt	7020	SF	2.00	14,040.00
104	Reinforced Concrete Trail - 5" Thick	7020	SF	13.00	91,260.00
105	Tree Protection	1	LS	1,000.00	1,000.00
106	HC Picnic Table and Slab	1	LS	2,400.00	2,400.00
107	Site Restoration	1	LS	3,500.00	3,500.00
108	Miscellaneous Work	1	LS	16,000.00	16,000.00
109	Design and Construction Engineering	1	LS	25,000.00	25,000.00

Total Estimated Construction Cost **\$167,200.00**

Prepared By: John Juras, P.E.

Date: 7-Sep-23



FIGURE 1 <small>PROPOSED TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS</small>	RIVER DRIVE CONNECTION RIVER'S EDGE TRAIL, GREAT FALLS MT PROPOSED TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS	DRAWN BY: JPL DESIGNED BY: JPL QUALITY CHECK: JPL DATE: 2023-04-08 PER: 050000	 406.761.3010 • tdshengineering.com 1800 RIVER DR. NO. • GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>REV</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>REVISION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	REV	DATE	REVISION													NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
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Current asphalt trail surface condition photos



Trail segment surroundings and deteriorated pavement conditions