

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT  
FY2023 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Name: River's Edge Trail Maps

Reservoir or River Segment: Great Falls County(ies) Cascade

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

Applicant Name: Steffen Janikula

Position and Agency: Trails Coordinator, City of Great Falls

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Project Sponsor Name: Patty Rearden

Position and Agency: Deputy Director, City of Great Falls Park and Recreation Dept.

Telephone: (406)771-1265

Email: prearden@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>\$5,480</u>	
Applicant Contributions – cash	<u>\$500</u>	
Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:	<u>\$0</u>	
Other Contributions – Please list by source:		
<u>River's Edge Trail Foundation</u>	<u>\$500</u>	
<u>MT State Parks- Giant Springs</u>	<u>\$500</u>	
<u>Great Falls Tourism Bureau</u>	<u>\$500</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	<b>Percentage of Total Project Cost:</b>
Total Applicant and Other Contributions:	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>37%</u>
NorthWestern Energy Match Request:	<u>\$1,500</u>	<u>27%</u>
River Fund Grant Request:	<u>\$1,980</u>	<u>36%</u>
Proposed Project Implementation Period:	<u>Upon reward</u>	

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FY2023 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

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     No

*If yes, please identify which years the application was submitted and, if the project was previously funded, list the amount funded by year. **FY2018, River Fund Grant-\$3,550***

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

▶ Proposed project will be for printing and updating of 20,000 River’s Edge Trail maps. This small request will make a major impact on trail users in the Great Falls and surrounding areas. Updating will represent current surfaces, amenities, and new segments. The 26” X 17” foldable maps are distributed at Giant Springs State Park, First Peoples Buffalo Jump, Great Falls Park and Recreation, Chamber of Commerce, GF Int. Airport, local bike shops, recreational based retail stores and throughout the country by the GF Tourism Bureau.

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

▶ Project would not be applicable for phasing.

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.

▶ No Cultural Resource Management documentation would be required.

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?*

▶ Although portions of the River’s Edge Trail are within the 2188 designation, this proposal does not meet the 2188 license site criteria.

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.

- ▶ Currently the Trails Maintenance Division budget does not have funds dedicated to map printing. The map printing falls under the operations of the River's Edge Trail, not maintenance.

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.

- ▶ Along with Park and Recreation, all River's Edge Trail development is supported and carried out through strong partnerships with the non-profit River's Edge Trail Foundation, MDT, City of Great Falls, GF Tourism Bureau, Montana State Parks, Northwestern Energy, donors, community groups, and volunteers. All of which collaborate to provide the best trail system in the region. Partners in this project are contributing cash towards printing and include:
  - Great Falls Park and Recreation
  - River's Edge Trail Foundation
  - MT FWP- Region 4
  - Great Falls Tourism Bureau

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.

- ▶ The River's Edge Trail maps are the primary tool used for advocacy as well as in hand by trail users to navigate their way through the 55+ miles of trail. Locating trailheads, distinguishing trail surfaces, trail mileage, and locating amenities is critical for user safety and enjoyment. These elements support the CRP goals of providing “safe and well-managed recreation sites and dispersed use areas that provide enjoyable user experiences” as well as the goal to “maintain or proactively increase public safety for recreationists.”

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.

- ▶ River's Edge Trails is the most utilized, most loved public facility in our community, providing a wide spectrum of recreational opportunity as well as an alternative transportation alternative. Trail maps are the primary printed guide to navigate the 55 miles of the River's Edge Trail for local residents and visitors as well as a trail advertising instrument.

### **Goals and Strategies outlined in the MT State Trails Plan 2016**

**B) TRAIL MAPS:** Managing agencies at all levels of government should strive to produce accurate maps of significant trails and/or trail systems; information about how to find trailheads is also important. In addition, managing agencies should consider the following: 1) To the extent possible, managing agencies and especially regions within the same agencies should strive to produce

consistent, standardized maps and other trail information (e.g., similar map symbols, terminology, etc.) to avoid confusing trail users. All maps should be dated so that users know how current the information is. Agencies should make sure that all marked trails exist as indicated. 2) Work to ensure that a map of the trail or trail system is posted at major, high-use trailheads, along with other pertinent information (e.g., closures, hazards, degree of difficulty, additional recreation opportunities, etc.). Posting a topographic map of the area would also be of value to trail users. 3) Managing agencies should work to improve the extent to which property boundaries and private lands are identified on maps and along trails. In order to reduce trespassing and other private property impacts, trail users need to know where public-private boundaries are located. 4) It is important that primitive areas without established, signed or publicized trails continue to be available for users who prefer a more primitive experience or to find their own routes through the backcountry. However, this does not condone illegally established roads or trails, or illegal off-road or off-trail uses.

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.

- ▶ Quotes from Advanced Lithography in Great Falls have been acquired; \$5,480 for updating and printing 20,000 maps. This local company has been involved in the printing and design of the trail maps from the trail's origin. As the River's Edge Trail is expanding, amenities are added, and trail surfaces are upgraded, a need to update the maps is required to represent current trail conditions, alignment, trailheads, parking and amenities.

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.

- ▶ The maps provide users with information on trail manners such as safety, directions, "leave what you find", "leave no trace behind", and fishing and boating information. Also included is information on "help the Trail Managers", which has links to report emergencies, vandalism, and illegal vehicle use. These all help to ensure natural resource protection within the recreation area for the present and future.

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.

**RIVERS EDGE TRAIL**  
MOUNTAIN RIVER CANYON

**THE LEWIS & CLARK HERITAGE GARDEN**  
This garden is a tribute to the Lewis and Clark expedition. It features a variety of plants that were used by the explorers, including medicinal herbs, food crops, and decorative plants. The garden is located in the heart of the canyon and is a must-see for anyone visiting the area.

**WELCOME TO SOME OF THE BEST BIKING, FOOTING AND HIKING YET IN MONTANA**  
Explore the scenic, historic and challenging Mountain River Canyon along the reservoir.

**DIRECTIONS**  
From the town of Helena, Montana, head south on Highway 101 for 10 miles to the town of Great Falls. From Great Falls, head east on Highway 200 for 10 miles to the town of Cascade. From Cascade, head south on Highway 101 for 10 miles to the town of Helena. The trail is located just south of Helena.

**PARKING**  
There are several parking areas along the trail, including:  
- Lewis & Clark Heritage Garden  
- Mountain River Canyon  
- Great Falls  
- Cascade

**ATTRACTIONS**  
1. Lewis & Clark Heritage Garden  
2. Mountain River Canyon  
3. Great Falls  
4. Cascade  
5. Helena  
6. Great Falls  
7. Cascade  
8. Helena  
9. Great Falls  
10. Cascade  
11. Helena  
12. Great Falls  
13. Cascade  
14. Helena  
15. Great Falls  
16. Cascade  
17. Helena  
18. Great Falls  
19. Cascade  
20. Helena  
21. Great Falls  
22. Cascade

**TRAIL INFORMATION**  
The trail is a 2.1 mile loop that is suitable for all levels of hikers, bikers, and equestrians. The trail is well-maintained and offers a variety of scenic views of the canyon and the reservoir. The trail is open year-round and is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in Montana.

**HELP TRAIL MAINTENANCE**  
If you are interested in helping with trail maintenance, please contact the trail manager at [www.thetrail.org](http://www.thetrail.org). We are always looking for volunteers to help with trail work, including clearing brush, building bridges, and maintaining the trailhead.

**RIVERS EDGE TRAIL**  
URBAN TRAILS

**WELCOME**  
The Rivers Edge Trail is a multi-use trail that follows the course of the Missouri River through the heart of Montana. The trail is a mix of paved and unpaved sections and offers a variety of scenic views of the river and the surrounding landscape. The trail is open year-round and is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in Montana.

**DIRECTIONS**  
From the town of Helena, Montana, head south on Highway 101 for 10 miles to the town of Great Falls. From Great Falls, head east on Highway 200 for 10 miles to the town of Cascade. From Cascade, head south on Highway 101 for 10 miles to the town of Helena. The trail is located just south of Helena.

**3.5 mile Urban Loop**  
This loop is a great way to enjoy the city of Helena and the surrounding area. The loop is paved and is suitable for all levels of hikers, bikers, and equestrians. The loop is open year-round and is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in Montana.

**2.1 mile Great Springs Loop**  
This loop is a great way to enjoy the scenic views of the Great Falls area. The loop is paved and is suitable for all levels of hikers, bikers, and equestrians. The loop is open year-round and is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in Montana.

**PARKING**  
There are several parking areas along the trail, including:  
- Lewis & Clark Heritage Garden  
- Mountain River Canyon  
- Great Falls  
- Cascade

**ATTRACTIONS**  
1. Lewis & Clark Heritage Garden  
2. Mountain River Canyon  
3. Great Falls  
4. Cascade  
5. Helena  
6. Great Falls  
7. Cascade  
8. Helena  
9. Great Falls  
10. Cascade  
11. Helena  
12. Great Falls  
13. Cascade  
14. Helena  
15. Great Falls  
16. Cascade  
17. Helena  
18. Great Falls  
19. Cascade  
20. Helena  
21. Great Falls  
22. Cascade

**GROUP RIDES, BRAZIL, RUNS**  
The trail is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in Montana. It is a multi-use trail that is suitable for all levels of hikers, bikers, and equestrians. The trail is open year-round and is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in Montana.

**TRAIL MANNERS**  
Please follow these guidelines to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone on the trail:  
- Stay on the trail and do not cut across private property.  
- Do not feed or disturb wildlife.  
- Do not litter or leave any trash behind.  
- Do not use the trail for any illegal activities.  
- Do not use the trail for any commercial purposes.  
- Do not use the trail for any other activities that may be disruptive to other trail users.

**www.thetrail.org**  
For more information about the trail, please visit our website at [www.thetrail.org](http://www.thetrail.org). We are always looking for volunteers to help with trail work, including clearing brush, building bridges, and maintaining the trailhead.