

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

Project Name: River's Edge Trail Water Fountain

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

Site Name (or project location): River's Edge Trail. Great Falls, MT

Applicant Name: Steffen Janikula

Position and Agency: Trails Coordinator, City of Great Falls

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Email: sjanikula@greatfallsmt.net

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>\$6,600</u>	
Applicant Contributions – cash	<u>\$500</u>	
Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:	<u>\$550</u>	
Other Contributions – Please list by source:		
River's Edge Trail Foundation (501C)	<u>\$500</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	Percentage of Total Project Cost:
Total Applicant and Other Contributions:	<u>\$1,550</u>	<u>23%</u>
NorthWestern Energy Match Request:	<u>\$1,050</u>	<u>16%</u>
River Fund Grant Request:	<u>\$4,000</u>	<u>61%</u>
Proposed Project Implementation Period:	<u>Spring 2023</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 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.

- ▶ Installation of an ADA drinking fountain with traditional fountain, bottle fill and dog bowl stations on the River’s Edge Trail in Great Falls, MT. Project includes a new monument plaque showing NorthWestern Energy dedication. This project will be replacing an existing fountain with single spout.
 - \$5,850- cost for purchase of water fountain.
 - \$550- installation (In-Kind)
 - \$200- Replacement of PPL monument plaque to Northwestern Energy dedication.

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.

- ▶ Project would fall under exclusion from CRM requirements as it will be replacing an existing amenity with no ground disturbance.

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?

- ▶ Project location is within the 2188 license designation. Project site is located approximately 300 feet SE of Black Eagle Dam.

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 proposed drinking fountain will be an upgrade to the existing amenity. The addition of a water bottle filling station will reduce trash and carbon footprint. The dog bowl station will be an appreciated new feature as the trail segment is heavily used by dog walkers.

There are five drinking fountains on the 18 miles of City owned hard surface, urban trails. All are maintained by the Park and Recreation Department. This project falls under regular operations and maintenance of the River's Edge Trail.

According to Law Insider, O&M is defined as “the functions, duties and labor associated with the daily operations and normal repairs, replacement of parts and structural components, and other activities needed to preserve an asset so that it continues to provide acceptable services and achieves its expected life.”

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 maintenance and development is supported and carried out through strong partnerships with the 501(C) River's Edge Trail Foundation, MDT, City of Great Falls Planning and Community Development, City of Great Falls Engineering, Montana State Parks, Northwestern Energy, Great Falls Bicycle Club, donors, and volunteers; all collaborating to provide the best trail system in the region. This project will partner Great Falls Park and Recreation and the River's Edge Trail Foundation. Strong partnerships are the backbone for the continued success of the River's Edge Trail, providing a “World Class” multi-use trail system in Great Falls.

- Great Falls Park and Recreation will provide \$500 cash towards purchase of the fountain and \$550 in-kind towards installation costs.
- River's Edge Trail Foundation contributing \$500 cash towards purchase of drinking fountain.

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 addition of an ADA water fountain upholds the primary CRP Goal: Continue to improve and expand recreation opportunities that offer universal accessibility.

The additional water dispersal options will increase the trail user experience within the corridor. Bottle filling stations have been gaining in popularity since their introduction approximately 10 years ago. Reducing plastic waste is an advantage of the proposed unit.

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.

- ▶ The proposed project was identified as a potential project in conjunction with the 2022 Visitor Use Study conducted on the River's Edge Trail. Drinking fountains are among the most frequently requested items from trail users. The proposed project was discussed internally within the Great Falls Park and Recreation Department staff as well as Trails Working Group and was agreed as a worthwhile project to seek funding. According to the Missouri-Madison 2021 Recreation Visitor Use Counts, the River's Edge Trail was the fifth most used facility corridor wide with 26,016 group user visits.

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.

- ▶ Several fountains were researched and priced. Chosen design was selected because of the three dispense options: (1.) ADA traditional fountain, (2) dog bowl, and (3) water bottle fill station. Two similar fountains are in place along the trail and have been functioning well, the "frost free" design is an admirable component.

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 City of Great Falls Park and Recreation Master Plan was established in 2016 and through a statistically valid survey of over 3,000 residents, trails scored the highest in usage (68%), need (77%), and priority (48%). These were ranked among all the Park and Recreation facilities in Great Falls. Furthermore, the River's Edge Trail was identified as a top priority for investment in the City of Great Falls Park and Recreation Master Plan.

KEY TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS from the Park and Recreation Master Plan are as follows:
Maintenance, repair, replacement, upkeep, installation, improvement, operational enhancement, construction, reconstruction, land acquisition.

As described in the MT STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP) 2020-2024:

"Municipal recreation often serves as an access and pathway to other outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. As such, we want to explicitly acknowledge the integral role municipalities have in promoting and enhancing outdoor recreation in Montana. We are fortunate to live in a state where local parks and recreation agencies and local organizations promote and utilize Montana's extensive public lands for outdoor recreation programming."

"Frontcountry outdoor recreation opportunities should be improved and expanded... in close proximity to urban centers."

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.



Existing Fountain



New Fountain