From: Jillian M
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Missoula Rivers
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 4:15:09 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to you in regards to our rivers in Missoula, MT and the tent cities popping up along them. I've noticed an increase in tents and transients living along the rivers in Missoula and this is concerning in many ways.
First I want to know what the Montana Dept of Transportation is doing to address the contamination that is happening to the land because of these unsanitary living conditions. Instead of flowers and healthy green foliage we are now seeing "toilet paper blooms". These yellow and brown carelessly left behind wads of toilet paper are affecting Missoula's pure landscape. It also tempts animals like bears and deer to seek out these salty, stinky "blooms" even though paper and defecation are not good for them! Toilet paper should also be put in a bag and packed out. However that is not happening.
Also when peeing in the outdoors you should be AT LEAST 200 feet from a water source. Peeing should also be done on a hard surface like rock. This is so salt-starved deer won't dig for that salty liquid. Can you honestly say these people are?
I would also like to point out the amount of trash that is being left. Not only is that attracting animals and very unhealthy for them and can kill them but it is also polluting our water systems, slowly ruining the rivers we all like to enjoy and take pride in.
Lastly this is becoming a huge safety concern. I have lived in this town my whole life and now no longer feel safe walking along the bridge and can no longer enjoy taking my young child with me.
These once a year cleanups are NOT doing the trick. Things continue to get worse - 1600lbs of garbage, NEEDLES, and DEAD bodies. So I am writing to you and asking you what you plan to do about this increasing problem and how you plan to protect our wild animals, foliage, water and safety.

Regards,
Jillian M.