

RESOLUTION NUMBER 8121

A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL TO EXPEND UP TO \$390,000 - THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE CITY'S 1995 OPEN SPACE BOND – FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN APPROXIMATELY 4.5 ACRE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK AND BITTERROOT TRAIL CONNECTION AS PART OF THE CITY'S ACQUISITION OF THE 12 ACRE JOHNSON STREET PROPERTY FROM MONTANA RAIL LINK.

WHEREAS, on November 7, 1995, Missoula citizens voted to authorize Missoula City Council to issue \$5 million dollars of Open Space Bonds to acquire open space land in or near the City;

WHEREAS, there remains approximately \$390,000 in the 1995 Open Space Bond. The City has reserved these funds for this very opportunity to acquire land for a neighborhood park in the Franklin to Fort Neighborhood;

WHEREAS, this project will carry out multiple purposes of the 1995 Open Space Bond by acquiring in fee open space land in the City of Missoula for recreational playing fields and by acquiring and establishing a community trail;

WHEREAS, the City of Missoula adopted the *Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan 2006 Update* (“Open Space Plan”), which provides a vision for continuing to expand upon our open space and trail systems throughout the greater Missoula Area;

WHEREAS, the Open Space Plan identifies the importance of neighborhood parks to the overall open space and parks system and states a vision of securing more neighborhood park land;

WHEREAS, public parks, trails and open spaces are community assets that promote social equality and are available to all citizens regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex, age, marital or familial status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression;

WHEREAS, in May 2004 the Missoula City Council adopted the *Master Parks and Recreation Plan for the Greater Missoula Area* (“Master Parks Plan”), which describes neighborhood parks as areas that offer spaces to play and quiet spots for residents of the immediate area;

WHEREAS, the Master Parks Plan states as a specific goal the need to acquire and develop additional lands as adequately sized neighborhood parks in underserved neighborhoods and identifies the Franklin to Fort Neighborhood as deficient in acres of parks, trails and open space land;

WHEREAS, in 2011 the City of Missoula adopted the *Missoula Active Transportation Plan*, which states as a priority connecting the Bitterroot Trail. This acquisition provides the land needed to connect the Bitterroot Trail from downtown Missoula to Hamilton;

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2016 the Open Space Advisory Council unanimously passed a motion recommending that the Missoula City Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$390,000, or the remaining portion of the 1995 City Open Space Bond, to contribute toward the purchase of approximately 4.5 acres of parkland and to connect the Bitterroot Trail, as part of the 12 acre Johnson Street property acquisition;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Missoula City Council authorizes the expenditure of up to \$390,000 of the 1995 City Open Space Bond to purchase approximately 4.5 acres of land for a neighborhood park and to connect the Bitterroot Trail, as part of the City's acquisition of the 12 acre Johnson Street property from Montana Rail Link.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of December, 2016.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

/s/ Martha L. Rehbein

/s/ John Engen

Martha L. Rehbein
City Clerk

John Engen
Mayor

(SEAL)