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MISSOULA PARKS AND RECREATION  
MISSOULA COUNTY PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN LANDS  
**JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release through June 30, 2022

**MEDIA ADVISORY: Please join us for a media-only sustainability tour and brief presentation hosted by Parks and Recreation Director Donna Gaukler at FMRP on Wednesday, June 29, 11:30 a.m. Meet at the entrance to the CCC Prairie Interpretative Trail, P4 on the attached map.**

**Fort Missoula Regional Park first in state to receive national sustainability award**

The City of Missoula and Missoula County have received a national award for innovative sustainable design at Fort Missoula Regional Park (FMRP). The park has been awarded SILVER Level certification under the Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES®) rating system. The 156-acre park is the first SITES-certified project in Montana and the largest SITES-certified developed park to date.

SITES is a comprehensive rating system that defines sustainable land development and management. SITES-certified landscapes like FMRP help reduce water demand, filter and reduce stormwater runoff, provide wildlife habitat, reduce energy consumption, improve air quality, improve human health and increase outdoor recreation opportunities. Just as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) transformed the built environment, SITES has transformed land development and use.

Parks and Recreation Director Donna Gaukler said FMRP was constructed using nationally recognized standards for safety and environmental sustainability, from energy-efficient lighting, resource-saving irrigation systems, soil restoration and innovative stormwater treatment to the use of local contractors and locally sourced materials. FMRP's SITES recognition demonstrates the City and County's commitment to a sustainable system of parks, trails and open space that protects diverse habitats and accessible open space.

"SITES principles provided a comprehensive framework for park design, construction, operations and management that will continue to benefit the environment, our local and regional economies, and our community's health and wellbeing by connecting people to nature, to their communities and to each other," Gaukler said.

An important SITES criterion is whether a project protects and maintains cultural and historic places. FMRP is adjacent to the original Fort Missoula established in 1877 by the U.S. Army and is within the Fort Missoula Historic District. From 1933 to 1941, Fort Missoula served as Northwest District Headquarters for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Over 17,000 corpsmen were processed and trained at the Fort over the course of the Depression decade.

Fort Missoula's CCC heritage was integrated into park architecture, materials and historic interpretation. History is preserved for future generations throughout the park, including a .5-mile interpretive loop with trail connections to Historic Fort Missoula museums. The park fosters a strong sense of stewardship, sustainability and quality of life through the preservation of the historic and cultural landscape.

SITES is used by landscape architects, designers, engineers, planners, ecologists, architects, developers, and policymakers to align land development and management with sustainable design. "The Fort Missoula Regional Park project team recognizes that land is a crucial component of a sustainable built environment and can be planned, designed, developed and maintained to protect and enhance the benefits of healthy functioning landscapes," said Mahesh Ramanujan, president and CEO, U.S. Green Building Council and Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI). "Through their SITES certification, Fort Missoula Regional Park is reducing water demand and improving air quality and human health while connecting people to nature."

Owned and administered by GBCI, SITES is the most comprehensive program for designing, developing and maintaining sustainable landscapes. 250 projects are participating in the SITES program, covering more than 1.18 billion square feet of outdoor space in 40 U.S. states, Washington, DC, and 15 countries.

FMRP opened in 2018 and is operated jointly by the City of Missoula and Missoula County. Voters approved a countywide Park and Trails Bond in 2014 to fund park development. For more information, visit [www.missoulaparks.org](http://www.missoulaparks.org).

(END)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/BACKGROUND**

### **SITES-CERTIFIED PROJECTS MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- Benefit the environment, property owners and local and regional communities and economies.
- Provide ecosystem services and create ecologically resilient communities that are better able to withstand and recover from floods, droughts, wildfires and other catastrophic events.
- Reduce water demand by requiring less maintenance and filtering and reducing stormwater runoff
- Involve no—or limited—pesticide use, reduce energy consumption, help sequester carbon and improve air quality.
- Preserve wildlife habitat, conserve natural resources and offset development impacts.
- Promote human health and wellbeing.

### **FMRP KEY PROJECT AREAS:**

- **Water:** Efficient irrigation system to conserve water by automatically adjusting irrigation rates with the use of rain and soil sensors. Use of bioswales instead of concrete gutters and storm sewers to filter stormwater runoff.

- **Soils:** Soil restoration is the parks' foundation for sustainability, resiliency and on-going operations and maintenance. The park includes 30 acres of revegetated soils, 24.7 acres of restored soils, 40.2 acres of athletic and sport fields and .8 acres of bioswales.
- **Local contractors and locally sourced materials:** Park construction supported approximately 350 construction jobs, and nearly all 150 subcontractors were based in Western Montana. Many of the materials for construction were locally sourced including: recycled plastic bottles from Yellowstone National Park for the synthetic turf, locally salvaged timber for park shelters and local river stones.
- **Park design and construction were based on community-defined values:** Through an extensive public process, residents and the design team developed the following guiding principles: protect and enhance unique historic values, encompass diverse activities, serve people of all abilities, ages and income groups, environmental sensitivity should drive design and construction, balance developed parkland and undeveloped parkland to support wildlife and open space, maintain natural views and vistas, be sensitive to surrounding neighborhoods.

**PROJECT TEAM:**

**Owner:** City of Missoula & Missoula County

**Construction Manager:** Jackson Contractor Group, Inc.

**Landscape Architect / Civil Engineer:** The Land Group, Inc.

**Civil Engineer | Survey:** DJ & A, PC

**Architect:** Oz Architecture

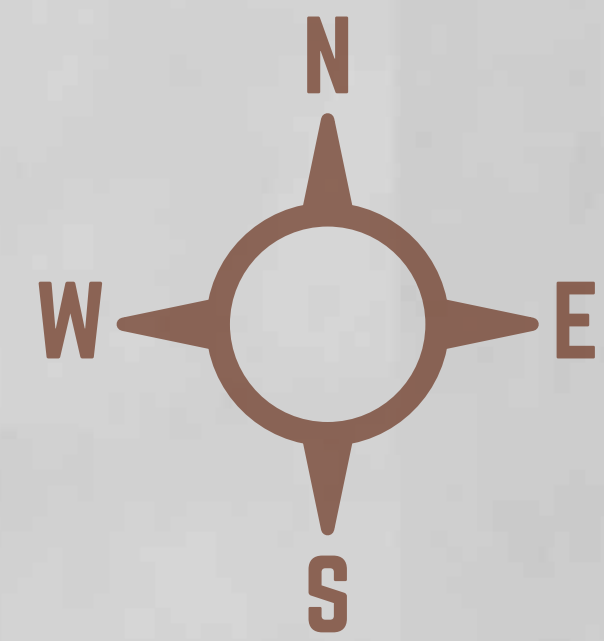
**Electrical | Mechanical | Plumbing:** Associate Construction Engineering, Inc.

**Irrigation:** Baer Design Group, LLC

**ABOUT GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION INC:**

Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) is the premier organization independently recognizing excellence in green business industry performance and practice globally. Established in 2008, GBCI exclusively administers project certifications and professional credentials and certificates within the framework of the U.S. Green Building Councils LEED green building rating systems, as well as the PEER standard for power systems, the WELL building standard, the Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES), Parksmart, EDGE and the GRESB benchmark, which is used by institutional investors to improve the sustainability performance of the global property sector. Through rigorous certification and credentialing standards, GBCI drives adoption of green business practices, which fosters global competitiveness and enhances environmental performance and human health benefits.





SOUTH AVENUE

36TH AVENUE

33RD AVE

SOUTH AVENUE

SOUTH AVENUE

FORT MISSOULA ROAD

### MAP KEY



BELLA VISTA PAVILION



BELLA VISTA SYNTHETIC FIELD



THE PITCH



GREEN GUIDON BOWL



FORT BOWL



CONCESSIONS



THE COMMONS



PLAYGROUND



WORKOUT STATION



THE GREENS



FORT COURTS



PONDEROSA PINE PLAZA AND MEETING ROOM AT HEADQUARTERS



PICNIC SHELTER



SGT BOZO'S DOG PARK



RESTROOMS

P1

36TH STREET PARKING

P2

GREEN GUIDON PARKING

P3

THE PITCH PARKING

P4

CCC TRAIL AT THE NATIVE PRAIRIE PARKING

P5

SOUTH AVENUE PARKING

P6

FORT MISSOULA ROAD PARKING

P7

POST CEMETERY PARKING

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FORT LOOP - 2.5 MILES

- - -

GUARDSMAN LANE LOOP - 1.3 MILES

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BOWL LOOP - 1.0 MILES

.....

RX TRAIL - 1.0 MILES

.....

CCC TRAIL - 0.5 MILES

.....

SGT BOZO'S LOOP - 0.4 MILES

.....

MAC'S LOOP - 0.3 MILES

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF  
MILITARY HISTORY

THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT  
FORT MISSOULA

F

G

P1

P2

BV

P3

RP

P7

POST  
CEMETERY

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS  
INTERPRETIVE TRAIL AT THE  
NATIVE PRAIRIE

P4

RESTROOMS

DOG PARK

P5

CONCESSIONS

RESTROOMS

PLAYGROUND

CONCESSIONS

RESTROOMS

PLAYGROUND

2

3

4

5

7

6

RESTROOMS

C

P6

HQ

**FORT MISSOULA**  
REGIONAL PARK  
GENERATIONS AT PLAY







12/22/2021

Neil Miner  
Project Manager  
Missoula Parks and Recreation  
Missoula, MT 59804  
US

Dear Neil,

It gives me great pleasure to send congratulations to your team for achieving SITES v2 certification. The Fort Missoula Regional Park has achieved 86 points and a silver level certification. This is an impressive accomplishment that visibly demonstrates your leadership and commitment to high performing landscapes!

The SITES rating system was designed to define sustainable sites, measure their performance, and ultimately elevate the value of landscapes. Projects like yours are leading the way in addressing land development and management practices and addressing increasingly urgent global concerns such as climate change, loss of biodiversity and resource depletion. We applaud you for strengthening the connection between land and people, improving the quality of our built environment and strengthening our planet and its people. Congratulations again, and thank you for your partnership in working with our organization towards a common goal of building a healthy, sustainable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Templeton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "K" at the end.

Peter Templeton, President and CEO  
Green Business Certification Inc.

**GBCI.ORG**

GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION INC.  
2101 L Street NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20037

# FORT MISSOULA REGIONAL PARK

MISSOULA, MONTANA

HAS FULFILLED THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE SITES V2 RATING  
SYSTEM, AS VERIFIED BY GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION INC.

## SILVER

DECEMBER 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Templeton", with a stylized flourish at the end. The signature is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

**Peter Templeton**  
President & CEO, Green Business Certification Inc.