

Deputy Director's Message



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Deputy Director, Utilities
Public Works &
Mobility Department

Happy Spring! The old adage that “there are two seasons in Montana—winter and construction” is becoming less and less true. For the first time, we kicked off a water main replacement project in late February and four more started April 1. In total, we have eight water main projects planned for construction this year totaling more than \$7 million. (See list of projects on page 2.) The \$45 million the City of Missoula has spent on water system improvements since 2017 has started to pay dividends as our most recent study shows a 16 percent reduction in leakage over the last two years. This equates to about 1,500 gallons per minute and 2.2 million gallons of water saved each day!

While our newsletters often focus on water main replacement or streets projects that will impact traffic, equally important is the work we do behind the scenes to keep our major facilities running. Our department is responsible for maintaining hundreds of millions of dollars of street, utility, and cemetery infrastructure. I encourage you to read the story below about the work being done that most people don’t see and don’t hear about. You can go about your daily life with our assurance that we will continue to operate and maintain all these facilities at the optimal levels our community relies on.

Infrastructure Improvements, Cost Reduction Measures Continue

As the weather warms, some Public Works & Mobility staff start to think about all the projects we will get done before the snow flies again. Our wastewater plant operators, however, did not let the winter weather slow them down as they contracted to rebuild a clarifier mechanism that has been turning continuously since our treatment plant was built in 1963! Plant staff also performed an incredible task of taking our anaerobic digester offline for several weeks so that a contractor could clean it, which had not been done for more than 20 years. After a number of sleepless nights for our plant staff, the digester is back online and producing 50 percent more biogas than it was prior to cleaning. Biogas is converted into heat and electricity by our Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine, which reduces the amount of energy we purchase and decreases our greenhouse gas emissions.

On the water side, many of our 60+ well and booster pumping facilities are in need of some TLC. Our crews took on the task of replacing two 100-horsepower vertical turbine lineshaft pumps that have been in service for decades. We are replacing them with highly efficient pumps and motors, which will also help reduce the City’s greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, we are in the process of refurbishing or rebuilding three pump houses. These structures protect



Missoula Water staff and contractor crew combine forces to remove lineshaft turbine pump from water well site.

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Safe Driving and Biking Tips to Remember



Spring is here! And that means more people are out biking and walking for transportation. Here are a few reminders from Missoula In Motion to help us all navigate safely this season:

Crosswalks

According to Montana law, every intersection, including trail crossings, is a crosswalk whether or not the intersection is painted or marked with signs. That means people on bike or foot have the right of way. If you're driving, slow down and be aware of your surroundings. If you're on bike or foot, clearly demonstrate your intent to cross and give drivers the chance to stop.

Safe Passing

Montana law allows for people on bikes to use the full traffic lane. To create a safe distance between your vehicle and the person biking, cars can legally cross the double yellow line when safe to do so. And remember - always look for bicyclists and wait for them to pass before turning or opening your vehicle door.

As a community, let's ensure all street users can safely reach their destinations.

2024 Infrastructure Projects

Public Works & Mobility engineering staff have been busy preparing for this year's construction projects. Work will be scheduled through the fall. Once project information is available, anticipated start and completion dates as well as other details will be added to our Projects web page at www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2649/Projects.

Water Main Projects

- S. 4th St.—Russell St. to Ivy St.
- E. Beckwith Ave.—Higgins Ave. to Arthur Ave.
- Edith St.—Mount Ave. to E. Crosby St.
- E. Front St.—Madison St. to Van Buren St.
- W. Pine St.—Owen St. to Woody St.
- Lower Rattlesnake (Jackson & Monroe Sts.—Vine to Cherry Sts. & Poplar St.—Monroe to Jackson Sts.)
- Dearborn Ave. – Kemp St. – Livingston St.—water main extension (Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) Urban Renewal District (URD) III project)
- Harlequin Ct.—water main extension & Momont #2 Lift Station—decommission & install gravity sewer main

Street Maintenance Work

- Chip and seal work on various streets

Transportation Improvement Projects

- Turner & Worden—Curb, sidewalk, bike lane striping & other mobility improvements
- Ivy & Franklin—Curb, sidewalk, traffic calming & other mobility improvements
- Montana & Dakota streets—sidewalk & surface improvements & Montana St.—water main extension funded by MRA URD II

Wastewater Project

- Kelly Island Lift Station—replacement

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the critical water infrastructure inside and are built to blend into their surroundings because they are mostly located in residential neighborhoods.

These are just a few examples of the work done by our incredible maintenance staff to extend the lifespan of the City's critical infrastructure and to provide essential public services.

Missoula City Cemetery Flower Program and Memorial Day Information

Spring is in the air at the Missoula City Cemetery! The crew has been busy cleaning up the grounds, trimming trees, and getting the lawn mowers fired up.

Cemetery office staff recently mailed the Flower Program information to previous participants, and soon the grounds will be covered with all the pretty colors of Spring and Summer. If you have family residing with us at the Cemetery and are interested in sponsoring a flower box or a flower bed on their grave, please reach out to the Cemetery staff, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 406-552-6070 or cemetery@ci.missoula.mt.us. Flower Program orders must be submitted by May 10.

With warmer weather on the horizon, we encourage you to bring a friend or your dog (leashes please) and walk through these hallowed grounds, where you will find Missoula founders, fascinating Missoula citizens, notable monuments, and Cemetery history.

As we approach Memorial Day, we would like to remind visitors that the Cemetery's office and grounds will be open Saturday, Sunday, and

Monday during Memorial Day weekend. So, if you have questions, need assistance, or would like to just say "hi" and grab a cookie, please stop at the office over Memorial Day weekend. We also want to remind anyone wishing to leave flowers or decorations that our grounds will be cleared of all items except authorized flower beds, boxes, or vases beginning June 3. If you have any questions, please contact the cemetery office.



Yard Maintenance and Water Pollution

Stormwater washes pine needles, pine cones, grass clippings, and other yard debris to nearby storm drains, which can not only plug them and cause flooding but also contributes to water quality issues. When yard debris enters our stormwater system, it contributes higher than normal levels of nitrogen and phosphorus that result in increased algae blooms, which reduce oxygen levels in our waterways. Frequently clearing your curb line of any yard debris helps.

The City's street sweepers will be working all spring and summer to pick up leaves and pine needles that naturally fall into the street, but they do not pick up yard waste. Sweeping or pushing litter (including yard waste) from sidewalks, boulevards, and yards into the street is a violation of [Missoula Municipal Code 8.28.080](#). City code violations can be reported to Code Compliance at 406-552-6630.

Landscaping deliveries. Do not store landscaping materials in the street. Put a drop cloth down on your property where the material will be placed. This protects the storm drains and allows for easier cleanup!

Over broadcasting fertilizer. When fertilizers (even organic) are over broadcast and end up on streets, sidewalks, and driveways, they are just waiting to be washed

away in the next storm. These excess nutrients negatively affect water quality and aquatic habitat. Sweep up any over broadcast fertilizer and redistribute it onto the intended vegetation.

Permeable hardscapes. Installing a new patio or parking area? Consider environmentally-friendly permeable pavers or stones or other permeable hardscape that allows water to filter into the ground instead of running off.

Rain garden. While Montana typically boasts hot and dry summers, rain gardens are still a smart option (especially when using native plants) to enhance landscaping, improve stormwater runoff, and create a water conservation oasis in your own yard! Find out more at groundwater.org/rain-gardens/.



Right: Do not place landscaping or other materials in the street.

Recycle Your Compostable Materials at Garden City Compost



Open Saturdays

Hours

Monday - Saturday

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(products loaded until 4 p.m.)

Closed on Sundays & all legal holidays

1125 Clark Fork Lane • 406-552-6619

www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2089/Garden-City-Compost

Present this coupon for:

\$5 off any cubic yard purchase of Compost or Topdress

May not be combined with any other offers



Stay Safe in Construction Areas!

Here are a few tips to remember when navigating the streets in and around construction areas:



Water Line Loan Program

Missoula Water offers low-interest loans to water customers who need to repair or replace their service lines or internal plumbing, install a meter and meter pit, or connect to the municipal water system. For more information, visit Missoula Water's website at www.ci.missoula.mt/1983/Missoula-Water or email us at wllp@ci.missoula.mt.us.

Contact Us

Utility Emergencies

Water Lines: 406-552-6700

Sewer Lines or STEP Systems: 406-552-6600

Stormwater: For threats to public health or safety, call 911

Utility Bill Payment

Online: www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2716/Pay-Your-Utility-Bill



Drop Boxes: 435 Ryman St. & 1345 W. Broadway

Mail: P.O. Box 5388, Missoula, MT 59806

Phone: 866-790-7218

Customer Service: 406-552-6700 or email watercs@ci.missoula.mt.us

Division Contacts

Missoula Water: 406-552-6700

Stormwater: 406-552-6379



Wastewater: 406-552-6600

Garden City Compost: 406-552-6619

Missoula City Cemetery: 406-552-6070

Street Maintenance: 406-552-6360

Engineering: 406-552-6769

Transportation Planning: 406-552-6670

PWM Administration: 406-552-6769

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