

Missoula Parks and Recreation Public Service Announcement

For immediate release through April 9, 2018

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Public Comment Sought for Rattlesnake Dam Project

The public is invited to view and comment on restoration options for the lower Rattlesnake Creek Dam, located just south of the Rattlesnake Recreation Area. The dam was built in 1904 and played a role in Missoula's water supply until 1983, when the water supply was transferred to solely groundwater wells. The dam is now inoperable and not essential. Since assuming ownership of the water utility, now Missoula Water, the City has formed a partnership with Trout Unlimited and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to investigate a mitigation and restoration project at the dam to address fisheries, public recreation, public safety and liability.

The project partners have released a [project overview and a public comment questionnaire](#) to solicit feedback on proposed options to enhance Rattlesnake Creek and the creek corridor in the area of the dam; including options for preservation and recreation opportunities. Responses will be accepted through April 9, 2018.

Based on the results of public comments, the project partners will continue to refine design and costs focusing on the alternative and goals that gain the best value per community input and per best practices in science and engineering.

Rattlesnake Creek is one of the major sources of trout for the Clark Fork River and a highly popular recreation area for the public. Removal of the dam would reduce Missoula Water's work on maintenance and operations, reconnect 26 miles of habitat for fish and wildlife, create new opportunities for trails and other recreation and reestablish a natural river connection between the Rattlesnake Wilderness at the headwaters and the Clark Fork River for the first time in more than 100 years.

For more information, visit Missoula Parks and Recreation's website www.missoulaparks.org.