

**PARKS BOARD MEETING**  
**February 14, 2012**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**12:00 – 2:00 pm**  
**Currents @ 600 Cregg Lane**

**Attended by:**

**Park Board Members:** Dale Harris (Chair), Janet Sproull, Susan Ridgeway, John O'Connor, Ross Mollunhar, Johanna Eisemen, Norma Nickerson

**Staff:** Donna Gaukler, Morgan Valliant, Greg Howe, Jackie Corday

**Approval of minutes of meeting(s) from [January, 2012](#), [Planning](#)**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Announcements - none**

**Public/Guest comments**

**Action Items/Presentations:**

- [Conservation Lands Management Report](#) – Morgan Valliant provided an annual report on management of Conservation lands per the plan to the Park Board. Included in his presentation were the list of goals and priorities outlined in Chapter 6, implementation strategies and what was accomplished in each section.

**SECTION 6.1: GENERAL MANAGEMENT**

- In 2011, The Missoula Park Board disbanded the Mt. Jumbo Advisory Committee and the Conservation Land Technical Advisory Committee and appointed the Conservation Land Advisory Committee (CLAC). Currently the CLAC advises the Conservation Lands Manger and Park board on Implementation of the CLMP and management of the Conservation Lands System.

**SECTION 6.3: WILDLIFE**

- Removed .85 mi. of degraded barbed wire fence and rebuilt 1.15 mi. of degraded fence to reduce potentially negative impacts on wildlife.

**Section 6.3.8: Fisheries Habitat**

- To enhance riparian buffers, we planted approximately 800 native tree and shrub saplings along Rattlesnake Creek at: Greenough park, at Creek Crossing and the N. Duncan pedestrian bridge and along the Clark Fork River at: the Tower St. Conservation area, Ben Hughes park, and the Clark Fork Natural Area.

**SECTION 6.4: VEGETATION**

**Subsection 6.4.1 Treatments to Improve Forest Health and to Reduce Wildfire Risk**

**6.4.1.1: Tree Thinning and Pruning**

- In 2011, 218.5 ac. of coniferous forests on Mt. Jumbo's saddle were thinned to reduce ladder fuel and inter-specific competition, to promote larger, fire resistant trees, and to address wildfire threats along the WUI as per the specifications written in section 6.4.1.1 of the CLMP.

**6.4.1.2: Bark beetle Management**

- In 2011, 218.5 ac. of coniferous forests on Mt. Jumbo's saddle were thinned to the specifications written in section 6.4.1.2 of the CLMP. Almost 500 Verbenone packets were utilized to protect individual trees in: Greenough park, the Rattlesnake Greenbelt, Highland park and on the saddle of Mt. Jumbo from pine beetle attack.

**6.4.1.5: Funding (for Forest management)**

- In 2011, the parks department was awarded and additional \$24k onto an existing \$120k grant from the DNRC to address forest health issues in coniferous forests on Mt. Jumbo.

**Subsection 6.4.2: Restoration**

**6.4.2.1: Restoration Priorities**

- In 2011, 52 ac. of noxious weeds were sprayed across 571 ac. of land. All of these herbicide applications targeted low-density noxious weeds growing in communities dominated by native plants.
- Spread 2020lbs of native grass and forb seed across 141 ac. of severely degraded rangeland on the N. Hills, Jumbo and parks in the S. Hills. These seed additions occurred in areas dominated by

weeds but where past weed control practices have led to increased control of non-native invaders.

- In 6 of the 10 thinning units treated on Mt. Jumbo, in 2011, aggressive thinning and removal of conifers where they were encroaching on native grasslands occurred.
- Cleared 3.1 ac. of Norway Maple dominated cottonwood bottomland in Greenough Park. Removed +/- 92 Norway maples and Golden willows from Cottonwood dominated riparian areas along the Clark fork River.

#### **Subsection 6.4.3: Vegetation Management**

- Integrated Weed Management: applied herbicide to 52 ac. of noxious weeds across 571 ac. of land; Mowed 129 ac. of spotted knapweed infested land; Grazed leafy spurge, Dalmatian toadflax and Spotted Knapweed across 1085 ac. in 109 days; and hand-pulled Houndstongue across 105 ac. on Mt. Jumbo and in the S. Hills.
- New Invaders: removed +/- 346 invasive Siberian Elms and Norway Maples from the flanks of the N. Hills and Mt. Jumbo; Eradication of Yellow flag iris is almost complete at Bancroft Ponds.

### **SECTION 6.5: RECREATION**

#### **Subsection 6.5.1: Provide an Appropriate Range of Recreational Activities and Mitigate for User Impacts.**

- In 2011, we constructed 1 mi. of trail on the N. Hills Sunlight property and 1/2 mi. of trail on the Tower St. Conservation Area. The majority of these trails were constructed with volunteer labor. Both trails provided increased access and made adjacent user-created trails obsolete.
- Moved the trailhead and expanded the parking lot for recreational users at the N. Hills Sunlight property.
- Upgraded the trailhead in Marshall Canyon to include a bear-can, mutt-mitt, lend-a-leash station and appropriate signage.
- Dismantled and seeded bike jumps at Highland Park.
- Cleaned-up multiple transient camps on the Kim Williams Tr., Tower St. Conservation Area, The N. Hills, Greenough park, and in the Clark Fork Natural Area.

#### **Subsection 6.5.2: Use Lands for Educational Activities**

- Developed and implemented a protocol for public notification of vegetation management activities on Conservation Lands.
- Conservation Lands Management program was featured in 7 newspaper articles (Mt. Jumbo Elk, Jumbo thinning, volunteers on Tower ST. C.A., volunteers on N. Hills, Norway Maple removals in Greenough, Sheep deaths and Transient Camp Clean-ups) and interviewed twice on television (Jumbo Elk and National Public Lands Day).

#### **Subsection 6.5.4: Interpret and Protect Important Anthropological, Historical and Ecological Themes**

- Assisted with logistics and installation of three stone markers (2 on Jumbo, 1 on Sentinel) at high water marks for Glacial Lake Missoula.

### **SECTION 6.6: PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#### **Subsection 6.6.2: Bears**

- Installed a bear-resistant trash can at the Marshall Canyon Trailhead. Signed all trash cans within the bear areas described in Missoula's garbage ordinance as "Dog Waste Only" to reduce disposal of bear attractants in City trash cans.

### **SECTION 6.6: NECESSARY BUDGET FOR MISSOULA'S CONSERVATION LANDS**

- Awarded 24,000 grant for management of coniferous forests on Mt. Jumbo.
- Awarded 8,908 grant to continue research on sheep grazing and seeding to restore severely degraded grasslands.
- Awarded 15,000 grant for vegetation management on Conservation Lands.
- Awarded 4,700 grant for noxious weed control on Mt. Sentinel and the South Hills.
- Partners in Parks donations of 2,600 for management of trails and recreation.
- TOTAL: \$63,108

Morgan presented this report to the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee and will also give a report to the Conservation Committee this month.

- [Duncan Bridge Kiosk](#) – Jason Pignanelli (referral)

The four panels for the kiosk were originally approved by the Park Board in year, but due to delay in construction and installation there were some changes made to the design. This request is to approve the changes as well as the approval of a recognition plan and display for contributors to the panel.

**MOTION: It was moved to approve changes to the panels that are to be installed on the Duncan bridge kiosk. Panels were originally approved by the Park Board and to approval the recognition plan and display for contributors of the panel: Mountain Water, Missoula County Parks, and Scout Troop.**

[Adoption of 2012 Guiding Principles](#) – Dale Harris

After a brief review of the document, it was moved and seconded to adopt the 2012 Missoula Parks and Recreation Board Guiding Principles. All members voted in favor of the motion.

**Discussion items:**

Little League Baseball agreement for use of Playfair Park fields – In continued discussion with the leadership groups for Little League and has made progress and will continue to work to develop partnership and positive relationship.

Review of committees and terms

Donna reviewed the current membership and board terms for the following committees and boards.

Janet Sproull will be retiring from the Park Board in April.

Who is Park Board representative on the CLAC as Janet held that position on CLAC

- [Park Board](#)
- [CLAC](#)
- [OSAC](#)
- [GPAC](#)
- [Extraordinary Events](#)

**Park Board Liaison, Sub-committees, Updates and Staff Reports**

**([Director](#), [Recreation](#), [Projects](#), [Open Space](#), Operations, Urban Forestry, Greenways & Horticulture, Parks & Trail Design & Development, Conservation Lands Management, Administration, [Aquatics 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter](#))**

- Fort Missoula Regional Park (John O'Connor)
- Tree Board & FUF (Janet Sproull, Susan Ridgeway, Ross Mollenhauer)
- Extraordinary Events – (Bruce Micklus – Liaison) – No Report
- Conservation Lands Advisory Committee (Janet Sproull)
- Friends of Missoula Parks, Inc – (John O'Connor)
- Budget/CIP – [Project list](#)
- [Staff reports](#) – ([Greg Howe](#), [Urban Forester](#))

The Urban Forestry department is broken into two areas, Community Forestry and Greenways.

Urban Forestry is the art, science and technology of sustained planning and managing trees, green spaces and forest resources in and around urban community ecosystems for the physiological, sociological economic and aesthetic benefits proved to society.

A main objective of an urban forestry program is to plan and manage the tree resources to create a healthy and sustainable forest to enhance the benefits to the safety of citizens. There are many benefits of the urban forest including habitat and food for wildlife, reducing energy demand by 20-50%, a buffer for noise pollution. Studies on the effects of landscaping on humans, showed that a green area outside will help with concentration and has a positive psychology effect.

The urban forestry staff is responsible for

Greenways – maintenance of linear parks that contain commuter trails

- Inspection and reporting on surfaces and sign condition on or along trails
- Repair or replace trail infrastructure
- Pickup trash and refill mutt mitts
- Mow and edge parkland

- Plant, care and maintain trees, shrubs, greases along trails
- Inspect and repair irrigation systems

Horticulture – maintenance of medians and flower beds across the City including

- Planting grasses, flowers and other landscape in medians and flower beds
- Mow and edge medians
- Care for trees, shrubs, greased

In 2011 the Urban Forestry planted 185 trees, pruned 505 trees and removed 123 trees. The priorities for 2012 include developing a new street tree planting list, review ordinances related to trees for future updates, review tree technical manuals for updates, plant approximately 180 trees and monitor a contract to remove 55 tree stumps. A CIP for a stump grinder was requested this year so resources could be used for tree pruning and removals.

**Future items**

- Open Space Update from Park Board Representative to OSAC Beth Hahn – (Tentative – March)

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm