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## **RESOLUTION NUMBER 8758**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION, *MISSOULA DOWNTOWN SAFETY AND MULTIMODAL CONNECTIVITY, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY AND URBAN FORESTRY***

**WHEREAS**, the City of Missoula, is applying for funding from the US Department of Environmental Protection Agency grant in order to provide measurable ecosystem benefits and greenhouse gas reductions through planting trees within appropriate soil volumes; repairing sidewalks to increase multimodal use and connectivity to community centers as well as improve access to transportation resources and food establishments; make complete street improvements along Front and Main Streets; improve access along Pattee and Ryman streets to the downtown parks; improve access to and from the Riverfront trail; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy, vigorously growing trees provide numerous environmental benefits including: carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction, removal of particulates from the air, interception of precipitation and reduction in runoff, removal of pollutants from stormwater before they reach the Clark Fork River, and reduction of heat island effects; and

**WHEREAS**, trees in downtown Missoula provide social and community benefits including: passive cooling of hardscape and adjacent structures through shading, traffic calming, improved community walkability, positive impacts on residents' physical and mental health, increased sales performance for adjacent businesses, reductions in noise pollution, and increased patronage to downtown businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Missoula adopted the strategic goals of Community safety, health and well-being, Community design and livability, Economic health, and Organizational excellence, as well as the Operational Lenses of Climate and Resilience, Equity and Housing in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1983, Missoula City officials invested in a large-scale tree planting effort to beautify, cool, and improve pedestrian conditions through increases in tree canopy in Downtown Missoula; and

**WHEREAS**, trees in downtown Missoula have outgrown their available rooting area, are heaving sidewalks, are in decline, and annually provide decreasing environmental benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, current science and best management practices provide guidelines for tree planting that did not exist 40 years ago, planting trees in appropriate soil volumes, and with appropriate soil structure allows for achievement of maximum social and environmental benefit, while also minimizing conflicts with traditional, built infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a demonstrated but unfunded need for installation of the infrastructure that will allow for Missoula to grow healthy, vigorous trees downtown; and

**WHEREAS**, this project will address a need for improvements to key networks that will provide attractive, active and connected urban transportation facilities within an existing mixed-use community area, reducing the need for future vehicle trips on congested roadways; and

**WHEREAS**, this project will support economic activity by providing improved shopping accessibility to businesses through nonmotorized and motorized safety improvements and increased downtown circulation; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed improvements will enhance multi-modal transportation by providing tree-lined, safer, more convenient options for walking, biking and transit, thereby supporting the City's mode split and sustainability goals; and


**WHEREAS**, the project will build upon the Missoula Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP) and Missoula Connect 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) by creating an urban forest adjacent to and in conjunction with the City's RAISE 2023 Downtown Safety And Mobility multimodal project; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Missoula, Montana that the City Council and Mayor support the intent of, and project contained in the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction grant application.

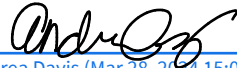
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

  
[Claire Trimble \(Mar 29, 2024 10:14 MDT\)](#)

Claire Trimble  
City Clerk

  
[Andrea Davis \(Mar 28, 2024 15:03 MDT\)](#)

Andrea Davis  
Mayor











# RES8758 In Support of Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Final Audit Report

2024-03-29

Created:	2024-03-26
By:	Anneliese Brown (BrownA@ci.missoula.mt.us)
Status:	Signed
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## "RES8758 In Support of Climate Pollution Reduction Grant" History

-  Document created by Anneliese Brown (BrownA@ci.missoula.mt.us)  
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2024-03-29 - 4:14:53 PM GMT



# United States Senate

March 21, 2024

Michael S. Regan, Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

*Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition*

Dear Administrator Regan:

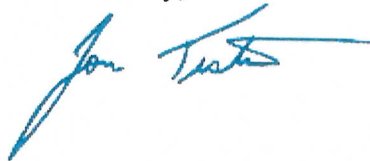
I write in support of the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for their urban forestry project.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area. This initiative will also be critical in creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will increase the forest's ability to sequester carbon in the atmosphere, reduce impacts of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and provide economic benefits by attracting businesses and residents.

Thank you for your attention to this application. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also appreciate you informing my office of the eventual decision on this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator

25 March, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460



Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of Climate Smart Missoula, a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to build and accelerate climate solutions for Missoula and beyond. One of our signature programs is Trees for Missoula, a program promoting a healthier, sustainable, equitable, climate resilient urban forest through community planning, planting, stewardship, education, and advocacy.

We strongly support the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Via our Trees for Missoula program, we are committed to actively participating in and directly assisting in the design and performance of this project. We believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns perfectly with our organizational values and the community's shared objectives of reducing carbon pollution, adapting to climate change, and prioritizing an equitable urban forest.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse for myriad reasons, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological and human health of the area. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a showcase sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations, one that reduces pollution and the urban heat island effect, particularly in an underserved Missoula community.

This project is situated entirely in one of Missoula's disadvantaged neighborhoods (as identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool) and addresses the inequitable distribution of trees in the community. Expanding tree canopy in this neighborhood will ensure the benefits of urban trees can be enjoyed by all Missoulians, including low-income residents.

Specific contributions or assistance provided by our Trees for Missoula program include:

- Assist with or lead community outreach and engagement regarding the benefits of this project and a healthy urban forest.
- Educate various local government and community partners regarding the importance of green infrastructure and how these efforts intersect with other community priorities.
- Bring our volunteers to help with plantings and tree care.
- Extend urban forestry outreach to other nearby disadvantaged neighborhoods.

We anticipate this project will:

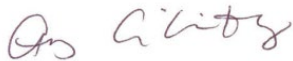
- Increase our urban forest's ability to sequester carbon in the atmosphere and remove pollutants, including sulfur dioxide and ozone, reduce the impact of air pollution on human health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improve storm water runoff mitigation and help filter pollutants from stormwater runoff.

- Reduce the demand for energy-intensive cooling systems in warmer months by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect.
- Reduce energy costs by providing shade in the summer and windbreaks in the winter.
- Promote walkability and bike-ability in the downtown area by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect.
- Increase connectivity between downtown and other underserved neighborhoods (i.e. Northside) by improving bike and pedestrian transportation options.
- Increase tree canopy and community engagement in one of Missoula's disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- Improve human health and well-being, as access to trees has been linked to improved mental health, well-being, and overall improved quality of life.
- Enhance social connectivity and community benefits via welcoming and shaded areas downtown.

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated co-benefits, Climate Smart Missoula is enthusiastic about the opportunity to support and assist with this critical initiative.

Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,



Amy Cilimburg

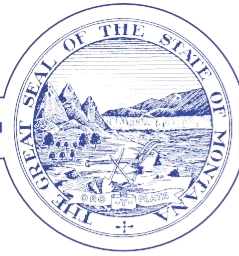
Executive Director, Climate Smart Missoula

C: 406-465-1141; amy@climatesmartmissoula.org

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Forestry and Trust Lands Division

2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3199 Phone: (406) 542-4300 Fax: (406) 542-4217



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

## STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074  
FAX: (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

19 March, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)'s Urban and Community Forestry Program to express our strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns seamlessly with our organizational values and the community's shared objectives of addressing and adapting to climate change.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will:

- Increase our urban forest's ability to sequester carbon in the atmosphere.
- Remove air pollution (like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone), help reduce the impact of air pollution on human health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce the demand for energy-intensive cooling systems in warmer months by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect
- Promote walkability and bikeability in the downtown area by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect
- Improve human health and well-being, as access to nature has been linked to improved mental health, well-being, and overall improved quality of life

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated co-benefits, DNRC's Urban Forestry Program is enthusiastic about the opportunity to support this critical initiative.

Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,

**Jamie Kirby**

Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator; Tribal Assistance  
MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation  
2705 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804  
DESK: 406-542-4288 EMAIL: jamiekirby@mt.gov



March 20, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: FY 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Missoula Urban Forest Revitalization Project

Dear Administrator Regan,

On behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), please consider this letter as written confirmation of our support of the City Missoula County's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application for the Missoula Urban Forest Revitalization Project (Project). The main goal of the Project is to invest in restoring a healthy, robust, urban forest within downtown Missoula, specifically in those areas impacted by the DowntownSAM project. Improvements include restoring or replacing street trees in MDT's right-of-way (ROW), installing irrigation and structural soils to support healthy tree growth, and repairing tree-caused impacts to sidewalk accessibility and condition.

This Project meets the intent and spirit of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, specifically by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. This Project is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest, but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations. The Project also aligns with TranPlanMT, which is Montana's policy-based, long-range planning effort and partnership between MDT, transportation stakeholders, and the public. Three goals within TranPlanMT - Safety, Mobility and Economic Vitality, and Accessibility and Connectivity - are addressed within the proposed Project.

In addition, MDT has also created a Montana Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) to align with the National Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) created under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). MDT's CRS provides critical information to assist transportation officials in making project and program decisions to reduce transportation carbon emissions. This Project aligns with the CRS' Energy Efficiency and Carbon Emissions Offsetting section, which promotes projects involving alternative uses of highway ROW, such as renewable energy generation facilities and biologic carbon sequestration practices. Additionally, FHWA supports biologic carbon sequestration maintenance and management practices, such as planting and maintaining woody vegetation, such as trees and shrubs, to increase the amount of carbon that is absorbed from the atmosphere and stored in the soil.

On behalf of the community and the traveling public of Montana, I thank you for your consideration of this important Project and look forward to its completion.

Sincerely,



Malcolm D. Long, Director

# Parks & Recreation

City of Missoula • 600 Cregg Lane • 721-PARK

March 12, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of Missoula Parks and Recreation] to express our strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns seamlessly with our organizational values and the community's shared goals of addressing and adapting to climate change, while increasing equity for all residents.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture and age, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will:

- Increase our urban forest's ability to sequester carbon in the atmosphere.
- Help with storm water runoff mitigation and help to filter pollutants from stormwater runoff
- Remove air pollution (like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone), help reduce the impact of air pollution on human health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce the demand for energy-intensive cooling systems in warmer months by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect
- Promote walkability and bike-ability in the downtown area by reducing temperatures, slowing traffic, and mitigating the urban heat island effect.
- Provide economic benefits by attracting businesses and residents, and by reducing energy costs by providing shade in the summer and windbreaks in the winter.
- Improve human health and well-being, as access to nature has been linked to improved mental health, well-being, and overall improved quality of life
- Improve ADA compliance and accessibility for all users.
- Add beauty, form, function, structure, and economic vitality to the downtown area.

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated co-benefits, Parks and Recreation is enthusiastic about the opportunity to support this critical initiative.

Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,

*Donna Gaukler*  
Donna Gaukler, Director  
Missoula Parks and Recreation



March 20, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

Please accept this letter as evidence of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency's strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The MRA has been instrumental in the transformation of downtown Missoula over the past four decades and we believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns seamlessly with our Agency's goals for the urban core and the community's shared objectives around addressing and adapting to climate change.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will:

- Help filter pollutants from stormwater runoff in an area that impacts the Clark Fork River, Downtown Missoula's greatest asset;
- Reduce the demand for energy-intensive cooling systems in warmer months by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect;
- Promote alternative transportation methods by enhancing walkability and bikeability in the downtown area through the reduction of temperatures and mitigation of the urban heat island effect;
- Aid in noise reduction, acting as a natural barrier to noise pollution, creating more peaceful and comfortable urban environments;
- Enhance the desirability of living downtown in denser developments and thus reducing suburban sprawl;
- Provide economic benefits by attracting businesses and active outdoor spaces through the reduction of energy costs by providing shade in the summer and windbreaks in the winter;
- Add beauty, form, and structure to the downtown area.

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated co-benefits, the Missoula Redevelopment Agency is enthusiastic about the opportunity to support this critical initiative.

Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application. If we can provide additional information or answer any questions, please feel free to contact me at [buchanane@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:buchanane@ci.missoula.mt.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ellen Buchanan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ellen Buchanan, Director  
Missoula Redevelopment Agency  
(406) 552-6156



March 19, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

The Missoula Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) guiding board Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee (TPCC) formally supports City of Missoula in their application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The proposed improvements to Missoula's urban forest within our downtown core right-of-way will meet a number of MPO goals, such as mitigating carbon emissions, improving air quality, supporting increased non-vehicle modes of transportation, and enhancing the quality of place within our public spaces.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area. This initiative is not only about rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also about creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The project will build upon the Missoula Community Transportation Safety Plan (CTSP) and Missoula Connect 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) by creating an urban forest adjacent to and in conjunction with the City's RAISE 2023 Downtown Safety and Mobility multimodal project. The proposed urban forest also aligns with the MPO's mode split goals by creating even safer and more comfortable spaces for people to increase non-vehicular travel, while decreasing their roadway vulnerability. Benefits extend beyond increasing walkability and environmental benefits to include making the pedestrian and bicycle spaces safer by creating a physical barrier that encourages vehicles to slow down by design. The urban forest will also remove air pollution, help with storm water runoff mitigation and help to filter pollutants, and aid in noise reduction, acting as a natural barrier to noise pollution.

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated transportation goals and benefits, TPCC is enthusiastic about the opportunity to support this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

Mirtha Becerra  
Chair, Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee



25 March, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of 5210 Let's Move! Missoula to express strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. I believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns with our organizational values and the community's shared objectives of addressing and adapting to climate change.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will:

- Promote walkability and bikeability in the downtown area by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect; this is essential to the mission of 5210 Let's Move! Missoula.
- Aid in noise reduction, acting as a natural barrier to noise pollution, creating more peaceful and comfortable urban environments, thus making healthy, human-powered transportation a more attractive option for residents
- Improve human health and well-being, as access to nature has been linked to improved mental health, well-being, and overall improved quality of life

5210 Let's Move! Missoula is enthusiastic about the opportunity to support this critical initiative.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy Schmidt, MS  
she / her / hers  
Senior Community Health Specialist  
5210 Let's Move! Missoula Coordinator  
Office Phone: (406) 258-3895  
[5210letsmovemissoula.org](http://5210letsmovemissoula.org)



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Mailing: 200 W. Broadway  
Physical: 127 E. Main, Suite 2  
Missoula, MT 59802  
P: 406.258.4657 | F: 406.258.3920  
E: pds@missoulacounty.us



22 March, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of Missoula County to express our strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns seamlessly with our organizational values and the community's shared objectives of addressing and adapting to climate change.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

Climate Ready Missoula, our county-wide climate resiliency plan that was adopted in 2020, highlights Missoula's urban forest as a critical component of our community's health and resilience. This project directly advances plan strategies across two sectors, including:

- Address urban heat island effect and maintain and grow healthy, diverse urban forests that account for social equity considerations
- Pursue complete streets policies and programming that incorporates urban forestry and stormwater management
- Preserve water quality through improved stormwater management, prioritizing green infrastructure

Strengthening our green infrastructure as outlined in the proposed urban forestry project will increase the amount of absorbent landscape in our community thereby removing air pollution, sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, soaking up stormwater runoff and increasing groundwater recharge, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and reducing the demand for energy-intensive cooling systems.

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated co-benefits Missoula County is enthusiastic about the opportunity to support this critical initiative.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Mailing: 200 W. Broadway  
Physical: 127 E. Main, Suite 2  
Missoula, MT 59802  
P: 406.258.4657 | F: 406.258.3920  
E: [pds@missoulacounty.us](mailto:pds@missoulacounty.us)



Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Bean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

---

Caroline Bean

Climate Action Program Manager

Missoula County

[cbean@missoulacounty.us](mailto:cbean@missoulacounty.us) | (406) 258 3445

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Kane". The signature is cursive, with "Allison" and "Kane" clearly legible.

---

Alli Kane

Climate Action Program Coordinator

Missoula County

[akane@missoulacounty.us](mailto:akane@missoulacounty.us) | (406) 258 - 3424



March 28, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

**Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition**

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of Mountain Line, Missoula's public transit authority, to express our enthusiastic support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The proposed urban forestry project is deeply aligned with our commitment to working toward a sustainable, connected Missoula and with our community's shared goal of addressing and adapting to climate change.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the area's overall ecological health. This initiative is crucial not only for rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

Among numerous other benefits for native wildlife and residents' quality of life, the proposed urban forestry project will also:

- Remove air pollution (like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone), help reduce the impact of air pollution on human health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Promote walkability and bike-ability in the downtown area by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect;
- Provide economic benefits by reducing energy costs and attracting businesses and residents by providing shade in the summer and windbreaks in the winter;
- Improve ADA compliance and accessibility for all users; and
- Add beauty, form, and structure to the downtown area.

Mountain Line is committed to connecting our community through safe, sustainable, and innovative transportation solutions, and the urban and natural environment in which we operate has a significant impact on accessibility, safety, and our riders' quality of life. In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated benefits, Mountain Line is eager to support this critical initiative.

Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,



Corey Aldridge  
CEO & General Manager, Mountain Line



March 22, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of the University of Montana (UM) Office of Sustainability to express our strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We believe that the proposed urban forestry project reflects the forward-thinking and climate-focused values upheld by many in our community, including those of the University of Montana.

Located in the core of Missoula, UM's main campus is the state of Montana arboretum. The city's efforts to invest in a diverse and healthy urban forest benefit all UM affiliates and community members in numerous ways. As the state arboretum, we appreciate the educational and aesthetic values of a robust urban forest. We often hear from current and prospective students that our lush, green campus, access to open space, and walkable community are key factors in their selection of UM for their college experience. Healthy trees are a cornerstone in maintaining those attributes. As a university committed to addressing climate change and building a more resilient campus and community, we also appreciate the role of urban trees in reducing urban heat island effect and as an energy conservation strategy. As partners in the city's efforts to improve Missoula's storm water quality, we also support a robust urban forest for the role it plays in runoff mitigation and easing the pressure on our storm water infrastructure.

A vibrant and healthy urban forest is a key element in making Missoula the climate resilient, equitable, and beautiful community it currently is and strives to be into the future. We are enthusiastic supporters of this critical initiative and appreciate the city's leadership on this issue. Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,

3/22/2024

X Eva Rocke

---

Eva Rocke

Sustainability Director

Signed by: c580cfcb-2ef4-4dd3-aabf-a441ac884611

Office of Sustainability

University Hall | Missoula, Montana 59812 | P: 406-243- | F: 406-243-4323 | E: [eva.rocke@umontana.edu](mailto:eva.rocke@umontana.edu)



MISSOULA DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
MISSOULA DOWNTOWN FOUNDATION

March 7, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan,

The Downtown Missoula Partnership is a collaborative of three distinct non-profit organizations dedicated to making Downtown Missoula, Montana the best it can be. We represent 550 businesses, 600 Downtown property owners, and 300 donors who invest significantly in building and sustaining a vibrant city center that benefits our community, our residents, and the greater State of Montana.

We want you to know that we fully support (and appreciate) the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We are vested in a healthy urban forest and support the City of Missoula's work to replace and improve the urban forest in Downtown Missoula while we have multiple transportation projects under construction in the coming years. We want to ensure the problems with our urban forest (dying trees, empty tree holes, rising concrete slabs, tripping hazards) are corrected and improved. We understand this includes investment in suspended pavement systems, expansion of the urban canopy, and replacement of dead and dying trees.

This project is essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of Missoula. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest, but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

Significantly aligned with the grant program goals, the proposed improvements to Missoula's Urban Forest will:

- Help filter pollutants from storm water runoff
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Remove air pollution
- Reduce temperatures and mitigate urban heating
- Improve economic activity by attracting and retaining consumers and businesses
- Promote walkability
- Create a more peaceful and comfortable urban environment

- Improve ADA compliance and accessibility for all users
- Add beauty, form, and structure to the downtown area

Additionally, the improvements to our urban forest aligns well with the Downtown Missoula Master Plan 2019 and the North Riverside Parks & Trails Plan 2020.

The urban forest is extremely important to our community and our Downtown stakeholders. The opportunity to replace dying trees and add trees to new areas will play a significant role in climate pollution reduction and associated benefits.

The Downtown Missoula Partnership is enthusiastic about this grant application. Thank you for considering the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,



Linda K. McCarthy

Executive Director

[linda@missouladowntown.com](mailto:linda@missouladowntown.com)



March 5, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of Destination Missoula and the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District to express our strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns seamlessly with our organizational values and the community's shared objectives of addressing and adapting to climate change. The mission of our organizations is to promote responsible and sustainable year-round tourism by helping to create a vibrant and inclusive quality of life, place and experience for our community and visitors. Travelers are increasingly seeking ways to have more meaningful and conscientious travel experiences, from searching for and booking more sustainable options to identifying opportunities to improve their impact on the destinations and communities they visit. Nearly 3 in 4 consumers will choose a destination that is committed to supporting the local community and culture. Social and environmental considerations have become critical drivers of consumer decision-making. Enhancing our ecological health and creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment which, among other things, addresses climate change, speaks loudly in the visitor economy.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, necessitating the revitalization and enhancement of the area's ecological health. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will:

- Increase our urban forest's ability to sequester greenhouse gas emissions in the Heart of Missoula.
- Help with storm water runoff mitigation and help to filter pollutants from stormwater runoff.
- Remove air pollution (like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone), help reduce the impact of air pollution on human health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Reduce the demand for energy-intensive cooling systems in warmer months by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect.
- Promote walkability and bikeability in the downtown area by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect.
- Support biodiversity through providing habitat and food for various species, contributing to urban biodiversity.
- Aid in noise reduction, acting as a natural barrier to noise pollution, creating more peaceful and comfortable urban environments.
- Provide economic benefits by attracting businesses and residents, and by reducing energy costs by providing shade in the summer and windbreaks in the winter.
- Improve human health and well-being, as access to nature has been linked to improved mental health, well-being, and overall improved quality of life.
- Provide social and community benefits, as the urban forests can serve as community gathering spaces.
- Improve ADA compliance and accessibility for all users.
- Add beauty, form, and structure to the downtown area.

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated co-benefits, Destination Missoula and the Missoula Tourism Business Improvement District are enthusiastic about the opportunity to support this critical initiative.

Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,

DESTINATION MISSOULA/TBID



Barbara Neilan  
Executive Director

March 22, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of Bike Walk Montana to express our strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns seamlessly with our organizational values and the community's shared objectives of addressing and adapting to climate change.

Through embracing the overall ecological health of the area, also allows for a sustainable and resilient urban environment. Prioritizing this initiative will allow for the health of the urban core which is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture. This project is essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area, in addition to creating a healthy environment for individuals who are walking, biking and rolling. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will:

Remove air pollution (like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone), help reduce the impact of air pollution on human health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As we strive for more individuals to bike, walk, and roll, creating an urban environment that curbs air pollutants will benefit individuals engaging in active transportation.

In promoting a stronger urban forest, not only do we increase the access to nature, improving the mental health, wellbeing, and overall quality of life of the community but make communities more attractive and comfortable to engage in active transportation.

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated co-benefits, Bike Walk Montana is eager to support this critical initiative.

Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Logan Smith', with a stylized, cursive script.

Logan Smith  
**Executive Director**  
[logan@bikewalkmontana.org](mailto:logan@bikewalkmontana.org)

Free Cycles Missoula  
Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation

March 20, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Administrator Regan:

I am writing on behalf of Free Cycles Missoula and the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation to express our strong support for the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We believe that the proposed urban forestry project aligns seamlessly with our organizational values and the community's shared objectives of addressing and adapting to climate change.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will:

- Increase our urban forest's ability to sequester carbon in the atmosphere.
- Help with storm water runoff mitigation and help to filter pollutants from stormwater runoff
- Remove air pollution (like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone), help reduce the impact of air pollution on human health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce the demand for energy-intensive cooling systems in warmer months by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect
- Promote walkability and bikeability in the downtown area by reducing temperatures and mitigating the urban heat island effect
- Support biodiversity through providing habitat and food for various species, contributing to urban biodiversity
- Aid in noise reduction, acting as a natural barrier to noise pollution, creating more peaceful and comfortable urban environments
- Provide economic benefits by attracting businesses and residents, and by reducing energy costs by providing shade in the summer and windbreaks in the winter
- Improve human health and well-being, as access to nature has been linked to improved mental health, well-being, and overall improved quality of life



- Provide social and community benefits, as the urban forests can serve as community gathering spaces
- Improve ADA compliance and accessibility for all users
- Add beauty, form, and structure to the downtown area

In recognition of the pivotal role this urban forestry project will play in climate pollution reduction and associated co-benefits, Free Cycles and MIST is enthusiastic about the opportunity to support this critical initiative.

Thank you for considering our support for the City of Missoula's application.

Sincerely,

Bob Giordano, Executive Director, [mist@strans.org](mailto:mist@strans.org), 406.830.7676

Free Cycles Missoula,

Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation



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## CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT – MISSOULA URBAN FOREST

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March 27, 2024

Michael S. Regan  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

Dear Administrator Regan,

On behalf of the Missoula Organization of REALTORS® (MOR), I am writing to express our wholehearted endorsement of the City of Missoula's application for the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. MOR strongly supports the right of every Montanan, as enshrined in Montana's Constitution, to a clean and healthful environment for present and future generations. The proposed urban forestry project resonates deeply with our organizational values and the community's collective goal of addressing and adapting to climate change.

The urban forest in Missoula's urban core is currently at risk of collapse due to monoculture, making this project essential for revitalizing and enhancing the overall ecological health of the area. This initiative is crucial for not only rectifying the present state of the urban forest but also for creating a sustainable and resilient urban environment for future generations.

The proposed urban forestry project will:

- Mitigate air pollution, including carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and ozone, thereby safeguarding human health and curbing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Aid in stormwater runoff management and act as a natural filtration system for pollutants.
- Enhance human health and well-being by providing access to nature, which has been correlated with improved mental health and overall quality of life.

Given the pivotal role of this urban forestry endeavor in reducing climate pollution and its associated benefits, MOR is enthusiastic about extending our support to this vital initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brint Wahlberg", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Brint Wahlberg  
Board President  
Missoula Organization of REALTORS®