



# City-wide Park District Proposal

*You can learn more about a man in one hour of play than in a lifetime of conversation. ~Plato*

# What we provide!

- 2,700 Acres of Parkland
- Skate Park
- 2 Outdoor Pools
- 39 Playgrounds
- 2 Wading Pools
- 24 Picnic Shelters
- 32 Tennis Courts
- Minor League Baseball Stadium
- Par 3 Golf Course
- 6 Neighborhood Centers
- Senior Community Center
- 26 Outdoor Basketball Courts
- 26 miles of hard surface trails
- 4 spraygrounds



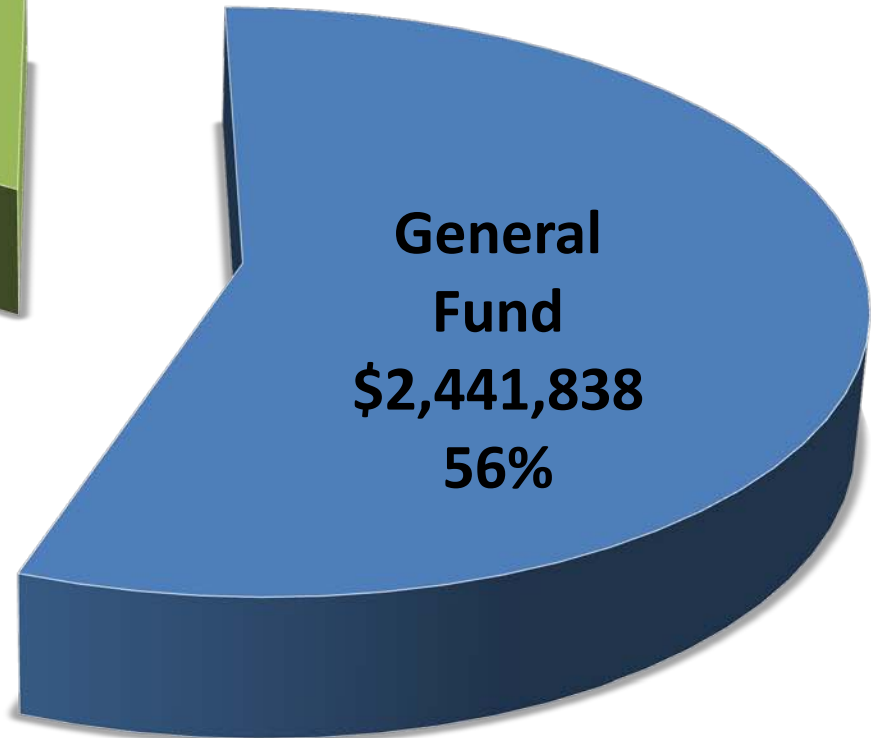
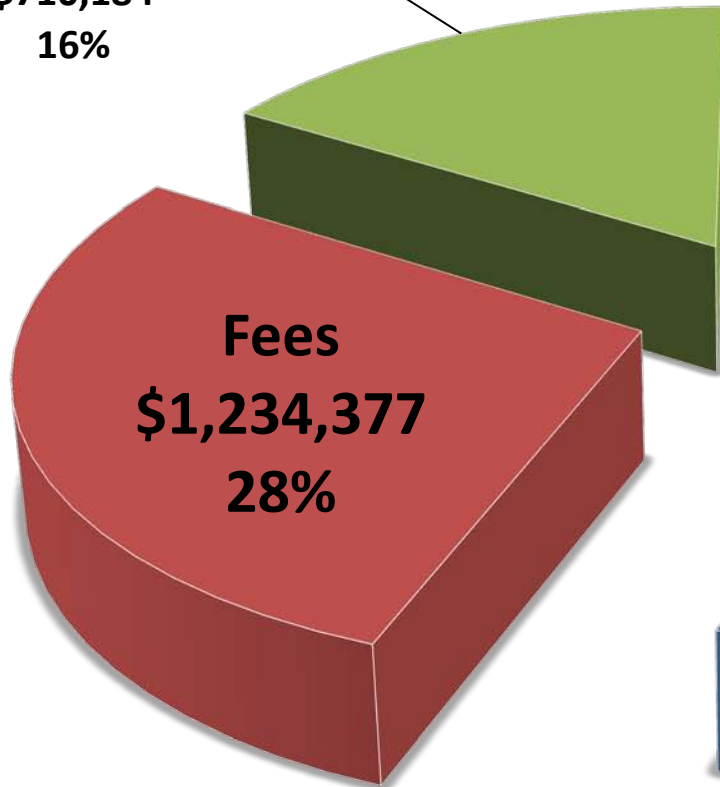
# **What people think about parks and recreation in Billings**

- **97% of the households in Billings believe that well maintained parks add to the quality of life in the community.**
- **83% of the households in Billings believes that parks and recreation is an essential service.**

**(SOURCE: 2009 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment)**

# How we fund parks? (FY2011 \$4,386,399)

Park Maintenance  
Assessments  
\$710,184  
16%



# Park funding issues?

- **The City's general fund can not adequately fund parks and recreation.**
  - Parks has over \$9,000,000 in deferred maintenance projects
  - Maintenance levels continue to decrease in general fund parks (South Park, North Park, Pioneer Park, etc.)
- **No mechanism to fund capital projects.**

# Recent Closure/Removal



## South Park wading pool

New swimming pool regulations and an aging facility caused the closure

# Recent Closure/Removal



**South Park  
gazebo**



# Recent Closure/Removal



**Castle Rock Park  
tennis courts**



# Possible Closure/Removal

## Park Restrooms

- 50% (10 out of 20) of our park restrooms do not meet current ADA requirements.
- The majority of our restrooms need major upgrades.



# **What is the solution?**

- **What is the funding solution to provide safe parks and prevent closures?**
  - **A city-wide park district**

# How will current park maintenance districts be handled?

- We will continue to study and provide City Council a plan in three years on how to dissolve/reduce current PMDs that are not funding unique enhancements.

# City-wide assessment at \$2 million

(Assessments based on taxable value)

## **Yearly Amount**

- Market Value \$100,000                      \$16.00
- Market Value \$150,000                      \$24.00
- Market Value \$200,000                      \$32.00

# How will the money be spent?

- A three-year spending plan was developed.
- The spending plan will be updated annually during the City's budgeting process.

# Top Projects & Estimated Costs

(Identified by staff, user groups and citizens)

Projects	Estimated Cost	Department Priority	User Group Priority	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5
				Safety, Health & Welfare	Preventing Closures/ Removals	State & Federal Compliance (ADA)	Survey Responses/Public's Priorities	Efficiency Savings
Pioneer Park playground renovation	\$200,000	X			X	X		
Waterslide renovations	\$300,000	X		X	X			
Trail maintenance Program	\$94,000	X					X	
New shelter at Pioneer Park	\$200,000	X					X	
South Park playground renovation	\$180,000	X				X		
Castle Rock tennis courts	\$275,000	X	X (Billings Tennis Assoc.)		X (Closed 2009)			
Weed management in general fund parks	\$245,000	X					X	
Upgrade playground fall protection at 36 sites	\$360,000	X		X	X	X		
9 three-season restrooms (Renovations/Replacements)	\$450,000	X	X (Little League)	X	X	X	X	X
75 Picnic tables annual replacement	\$52,500	X				X	X	
Stewart Park Infrastructure Improvements (roads, parking, etc.)	\$1,200,000	X	X (Billings Softball Assoc.)					
Pioneer Park Tennis Courts	\$355,000	X	X (Billings Tennis Assoc.)		X			
Amend Park water service upgrade	\$250,000	X	X (Amend Park Dev. Council)					
South Park sprayground	\$500,000	X			X (Removed in 2010)			

# What does a \$100,000 homeowner get for \$16 a year? (First year of assessments)

- **One time park improvements**

– Replace existing water slides at Rose Park	\$300,000
– Replace South Park playground equipment	\$180,000
– Rebuild Castle Rock tennis courts	\$275,000
– Replace batting cage equipment	\$50,000
– Emergency and general maintenance (roofs, pumps, irrigation systems, etc.)	\$248,500
– 9 three-season restrooms (renovations/replacements)	\$450,000

**Sub Total** \$1,503,500

- **Ongoing improvements**

– Trail maintenance (Includes Volunteer Coordinator)	\$94,000
– Improved park maintenance (Includes 2 maintenance staff)	\$90,000
– Keep park restrooms open 3 months longer a year (three seasonal employees)	\$15,000
– Weed management in general fund parks	\$245,000
– Annual picnic table replacement (75 tables)	<u>\$52,500</u>

**Grand Total** **\$2,000,000**

# What does a \$100,000 homeowner get for \$16 a year? (Second year of assessments)

- **One-time park improvements**

– South Park Sprayground	\$500,000
– Rebuild Pioneer Park tennis courts	\$355,000
– Amend Park water service upgrades	\$250,000
– Upgrade playground fall protection (36 sites)	\$360,000
– Emergency and general maintenance (roofs, pumps, irrigation systems, etc.)	\$38,500

**Sub Total** \$1,503,500

- **Ongoing improvements**

– Trail maintenance (Includes Volunteer Coordinator)	\$94,000
– Improved park maintenance (Includes 2 maintenance staff)	\$90,000
– Keep park restrooms open 3 months longer a year (three seasonal employees)	\$15,000
– Weed management in general fund parks	\$245,000
– Annual picnic table replacement (75 tables)	<u>\$52,500</u>

**Grand Total** \$2,000,000



# What does a \$100,000 homeowner get for \$16 a year? (Third year of assessments)

- **One-time improvements**

– A large event shelter at Pioneer Park	\$200,000
– Cemetery Restroom	\$50,000
– Emergency and general maintenance (roofs, pumps, irrigation systems, etc.)	\$53,500
– Stewart Park infrastructure improvements (roads, parking, etc.)	\$1,200,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b><u>\$1,503,500</u></b>

- **Ongoing improvements**

– Trail maintenance (Includes Volunteer Coordinator)	\$94,000
– Improved park maintenance (Includes 2 maintenance staff)	\$90,000
– Keep park restrooms open 3 months longer a year (three seasonal employees)	\$15,000
– Weed management in general fund parks	\$245,000
– Annual picnic table replacement (75 tables)	<u>\$52,500</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>

# **City Wide Park District Timeline**

- **November 14th Public hearing and Council action on intent to create**
- **December 19th Public hearing and Council action on creation**

# When would the department start receiving funds?

- If the district is approved December 19, 2011 then the parks and recreation department would start receiving funds December 2012.

Questions?

# Project Ranking Criteria

- **Priority 1 Safety, Health & Welfare**
- **Priority 2 Preventing Closures/Removals**
- **Priority 3 State & Federal Compliance (ADA)**
- **Priority 4 Survey Responses/Public's Priorities**
- **Priority 5 Efficiency Savings**

(source: PRPL Advisory Board, 9/2010)

# Top Projects & Estimated Costs

(Identified by staff, user groups and citizens)

- Rose pool waterslide renovations \$300,000
- Trail Maintenance Program (Includes a trail coordinator) \$94,000
- New Shelter at Pioneer Park \$200,000
- South Park playground renovation \$180,000
- Repair Castle Rock tennis courts \$275,000
- Weed management in general fund parks \$245,000
- Upgrade playground fall protection \$360,000
- 9 three season restrooms \$450,000
- Picnic tables annual replacement \$52,500
- Stewart Park Infrastructure Improvements \$1,200,000
- Pioneer Park tennis courts \$355,000
- Amend Park water service \$250,000
- South Park sprayground \$500,000
- Pioneer Park playground renovation \$200,000