

# City of Missoula West Broadway Island Improvement Project Overview

October 2019

## Project Description

The West Broadway Island (WBI) project provided the City a unique opportunity to both conserve native habitat and provide public recreation in an area of town with few options for connecting with nature and accessing the river. Since the City acquired the parcel in 2013, the Missoula Redevelopment Agency and Parks and Recreation have worked to enhance public access, safety and riparian habitats on WBI.

The project includes three parts:

1. Rehab Burton St. Bridge: Repair and upgrade of the existing bridge across the irrigation canal at the south end of Burton Street.
2. New Pedestrian Bridge: A new pedestrian bridge has been constructed on City-owned land along West Broadway at the east end of the parking area associated with Imagine Nation Brewing.
3. South Bank Trail: A trail has been extended along the south bank of the irrigation canal between the two bridges. The trail improves access to the conservation lands and recreational enjoyment of the natural setting.

Phase 2 North Bank Improvements: Access improvements will be installed to the north of both bridges including a landing area, landscaping, and provision of better access between the bridge entrances and West Broadway. Also included are a small paved parking area at the west bridge and a short trail to the parking lot for the eastern bridge. Phase 2 construction date TBD.

## Project Benefits

1. Riparian habitat restoration in the downtown area, which benefits the Clark Fork River and the Missoula valley aquifer. The island is a significant aquifer recharge area, and there are very few natural areas left in downtown Missoula.
2. Provides at least two safe public accesses to the area to be used for quiet reflection, birding, wildland experience, and as an educational tool for area schools—only feet from Downtown Missoula.
3. Increased public use of the area, by making it more accessible and attractive. Using the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, in combination with increased police attention, the project should significantly reduce illegal camping and undesirable behavior on the island.
4. The project repaired a nearly annual breach in the irrigation ditch which affected the island and floodplain functioning.

## Project cost

Construction only: \$600,000. Engineering, studies, floodplain permits, riparian restoration plan: \$200,000.

Funded by: Tax Increment Financing in Urban Renewal District II

## Project Partners

Missoula Redevelopment Agency

Missoula Parks and Recreation

Missoula Police Department

Hellgate Valley Irrigation Company

Joe and Dorothy Hacker, who donated a portion of the land for the project