



October 6, 2023

TO: Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board

FROM: Tam Rodier, CD Program Coordinator

**Community
Development
Division**

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**SUBJECT: PROPOSED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS FOR INSTALLATION OF AN ART
SCULPTURE IN PIONEER PARK, BILLINGS**

We come before you today to review the above mentioned property according to the Programmatic Agreement and the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which requires identification, evaluation and treatment of historic resources associated with the expenditure of federal assistance.

The City has received a proposal to install a large art structure over the Heritage Trail section within the boundaries of Pioneer Park in Billings using CDBG funds allocated to the City of Billings. Because federal funding is involved, the project is considered a "federal undertaking." A federal undertaking is any project carried out by or on behalf of a federal agency; any project funded in whole or part by a federal agency; a project that occurs on federal land; or a project that requires a federal permit. All federal undertakings require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other interested parties under Section 106 of the NHPA.

Pioneer Park was included on the National Register of Historic Places In 2021. My understanding is the park's "historic integrity" must be maintained and the City needs to ensure compliance with the NHPA.

Consulting Parties:

The City of Billings, Montana SHPO, Mobilize the MAGIC City Advisory Group, Western Heritage Center.

Undertaking Defined:

The design, construction and installation of a 46' long x 20' tall x 16' wide art sculpture over a section of the Heritage Trailing within the Pioneer Park boundaries in Billings, Montana (see attached drawing).

Area of Potential Effect:

Pioneer Park; general boundaries are 3rd Street West, Parkhill Drive, Virginia Lane, and Senior High School (see attached map).

Effects to Historic Properties:

Pioneer Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2021 (123 page hard copy of the **National Register of Historic Places Registration Form** to be shared at the meeting). No existing structures are on the Heritage Trail section where the art sculpture is proposed. It is not expected that the art sculpture will be visible from areas outside the park boundaries. The addition of the proposed art sculpture is expected to enhance the park and encourage additional park usage.

Area of Direct Effects:

Heritage Trail section from 3rd Street West to the installation site will likely include vehicle traffic and construction activities.

Area of Indirect Effects:

May include visual intrusions, noise, vibration, and dust during construction activities.

Please let me know if the YHBP concurs with the above. If the YHPB does not concur, please provide and explain each area of disagreement, suggested changes, and/or proposed mitigation recommendations.

Sincerely,

Tam Rodier
CD Program Coordinator

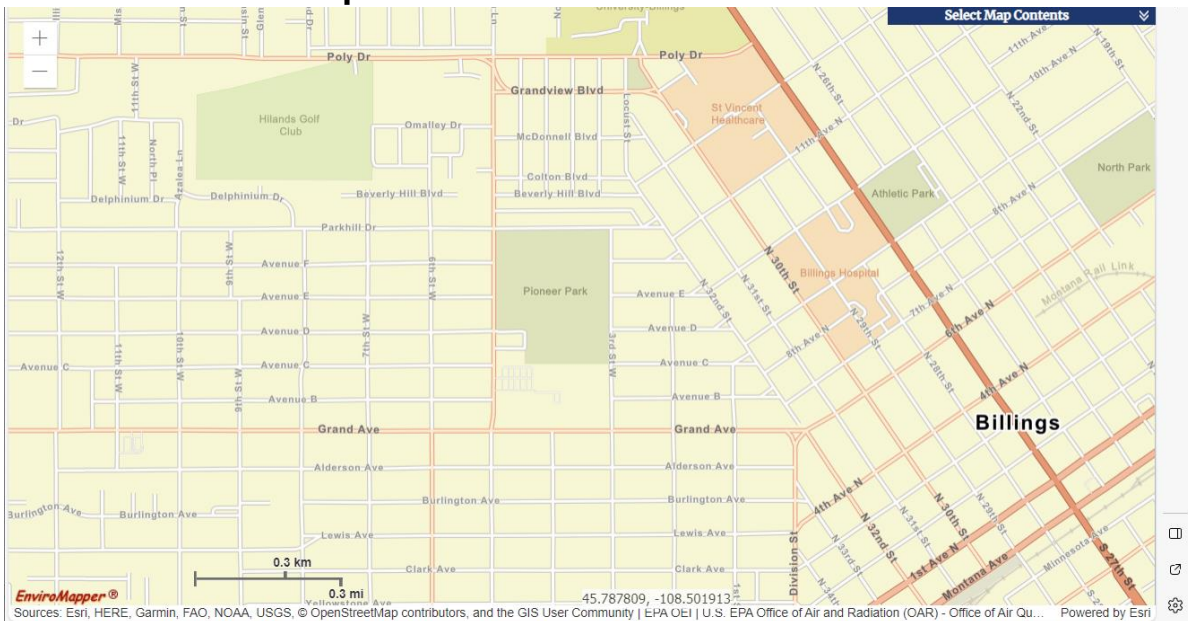
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Attachments

Artist's Sculpture Rendering:



Pioneer Park Street Map:



Heritage Trail (yellow line) / Proposed Art Sculpture Location (red/yellow X)

