



February 27, 2024

Inanna Hencke, AmeriCorps VISTA
Amend Park Community Garden / Billings Parks & Recreation
390 N 23rd St
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Linda Brun,

On behalf of the Amend Park Community Garden, thank you for considering our project. Our garden was established in 2014 through a collaboration between Billings Parks & Recreation and the Billings Metro VISTA Project. Our mission is to help alleviate poverty and build healthy futures by providing the space, tools, and resources for individuals and families to grow their own produce.

We are located in Amend Park, in Billings' Southwest Corridor. All three tracts on Billings' South Side were identified by the U.S. Census as food deserts, meaning that people who live in the area have limited access to fresh food and suffer from worse health outcomes as a result. This makes the work of our garden especially important. Just last year, we are proud to have produced over 5,700 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables for the community.

This year, we hope to increase our impact by adding six (6) elevated beds before the growing season begins. These beds will make our garden more accessible to people with mobility issues who can't bend over or crouch to maintain a plot. The beds will also protect more delicate crops, such as lettuces, which are a favorite for our local rabbit and ground squirrel neighbors. Unwanted grazing can be very discouraging to gardeners, preventing them from growing the foods they are most excited to eat.

The estimated price of materials and soil for all six (6) garden beds is just under \$900 (see attached addendum for materials and pricing). We have selected materials, such as cedar, to withstand the weather and serve our garden for years to come. The beds will be assembled on-site by community volunteers.

Would the First Interstate Bank Foundation consider a gift of \$900 for materials to construct and install six (6) elevated beds in the Amend Park Community Garden?

To express our gratitude, Billings Parks & Recreation and Amend Community Garden will recognize First Interstate Bank as the sponsoring entity of the project across our social media platforms, reaching over 12,000 followers.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your generous investments in the health of the Billings community.

Sincerely,

Inanna Hencke

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Parks Revitalization Assessment & Planning VISTA