

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND
RECREATION PROJECT**

APPLICATION FORM 2009

Project Name: **Black Eagle Memorial Island Improvement Project**

Reservoir or River Segment: **Black Eagle Reservoir, Missouri River, Great Falls Area, Cascade County**

Site Name and/or Legal Location: **Black Eagle Memorial Island Recreation Area, PPLM**

Applicant Name **Matt Marcinek**

Position (if applicable) **Giant Springs State Park Manager**

Address **4600 Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls, MT 59405**

Telephone # **(406) 454-5858**

E-mail Address **mmarcinek@mt.gov**

Project Sponsors:

A submitted application will need a Project Sponsor. Project sponsors serve on Missouri-Madison Regional Working Groups, and include representatives of the U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; local government; Madison, Gallatin, Broadwater, Chouteau, Lewis and Clark, or Cascade Counties; PPL Montana and the Bureau of Reclamation. See page 1-9 of the Comprehensive Recreation Plan for a list of 2009 members of the Regional Working Groups (www.ableco.com/mmcrp.asp).

Project Sponsor Name **MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks**

Position (if applicable) **Matt Marcinek, Park Manager**

Address **4600 Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls, MT 59405**

Telephone # **(406) 454-5858**

E-mail Address **mmarcinek@mt.gov**

	<u>Financial Support</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$ <u>18,250</u>
Applicant Contributions (FWP):	\$ <u>1,000</u>
Other Contributions (Please list by source):	
<u>Recreational Trails Inc.(RTI)</u>	\$ <u>1,000</u>
<u>Assphalt Kickers Running Club</u>	\$ <u>1,000</u>
<u>Local Plumber Install Discount</u>	\$ <u>500</u>

Special Note: FWP and RTI are currently coordinating with PPLM to have the underground water supply line from the powerhouse to the fountain site installed as part of another construction project (transformer installation) at the site. This would eliminate the need to install the water line within the River Fund project request, saving approximately \$1000 or more.

PPL Montana Match Request: \$ 1,000

River Fund Request: \$ 13,750

Proposed Project Period: Spring 2010

Please note: Document all in-kind support and contributed services from project partners under Scoring Criterion #1 on page 3.

Has this project been previously submitted for funding consideration by the River Fund Board, either as a separate project or part of another project? ___ Yes ___ No. If "Yes," please identify which years the application was submitted and, if the project was previously funded, list the amount funded by year.

Project Description

The Black Eagle Memorial Island (BEMI) Improvement Project has two components:

The first component of this project is a safety improvement to the PPLM access road to Black Eagle Dam and Powerhouse, which also serves as the public's access to BEMI Day Use Area. A partnership effort by PPLM, City of Great Falls, Cascade County, and RTI developed this road access in 2005. Due to budget constraints at that time, a 90' section of railroad track, imbedded in the old road, was left in place. This project proposes an asphalt overlay of these tracks to allow for safe passage for bicycles and runners, as well as safe plowing of the road in the winter.

The second component of the project is to add a handicap accessible public drinking fountain in the area of the existing picnic shelter and vault toilet, near the ADA parking area just north of the bridge to the island. PPLM Visitor Surveys conducted in 2008 indicate the public would like more drinking fountains on the trail, and the BEMI Day Use Area is an excellent site. City water is available nearby at the powerhouse and will be piped to this proposed fountain.

Scoring Criteria

1. Collaboration

There has been considerable collaboration between PPLM, the City, County, and RTI during the funding and creation of the access road into this PPLM recreation site, including a repaired retaining wall, 12' widening of the lower road including parking and a turnaround. Donors provided a comprehensive area cleanup and new guardrail for the road. Cascade County continues to sand and plow the road in the winter, but has problems hooking blades on the imbedded tracks, and thus plowing is not as complete as possible on this stretch of road, which is located at the bottom of a steep grade. Recreational Trails, Inc (RTI), with the help of the Asphalt Kickers Running Club is pleased to contribute \$2,000 towards the project. RTI looks forward to coordinating this project with PPLM, Region 4 Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Cascade County.

2. Need

The imbedded track section is located at the merge of the access road and the River's Edge Trail. The skew tracks present a hazard condition for bicyclists and runners who attempt to make the tight turn at this merge area. Additionally, young and/or inexperienced riders encounter this obstacle at the bottom of the steep hill. The tracks create a slippery condition on the smooth steel rail for cyclists and runners, and create a potential for catching wheels along the raised tracks. In addition, the County Road Dept. has visited with some PPLM staff about problems encountered by snowplow equipment catching on the exposed skew tracks. The need for the smooth asphalt overlay is to improve safety.

In the 2008 Missouri-Madison Visitor Surveys conducted by Pinnacle Research, the second highest need reported for the Great Falls trails was availability of drinking water. The addition of this fountain to Black Eagle Memorial Island directly addresses this issue.

3. Benefit to Public Recreation

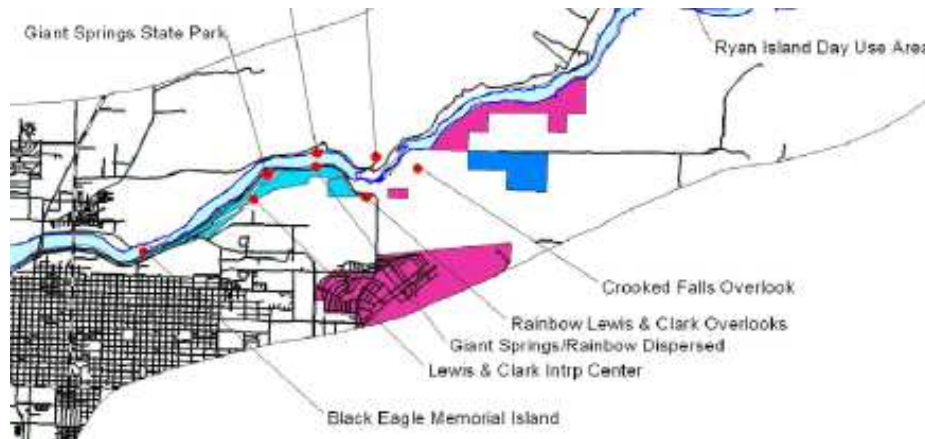
As stated above, additional public drinking fountains was noted as a need by those using the River's Edge Trail and recreation sites such as Black Eagle. The proposed fountain will be handicap accessible, providing a valued benefit to those with disabilities. Currently the nearest drinking fountain on the north shore trail is near the Waste Water Treatment Plant near West Bank Park. Since there is a nice, shaded park area with picnic facilities and a vault toilet already in place at Black Eagle, which is the turn around point for the urban north shore trail, this is an ideal location to add a drinking fountain.

4. Operation and Maintenance

The operation and maintenance of the access road will benefit from the asphalt overlay component of the project. In particular, better winter maintenance will result. On the operations side, overlaying the exposed steel tracks will enhance public safety. The addition of the drinking fountain will add to maintenance efforts at the public recreation area by FWP and RTI, but is well within capabilities. The fountain will be designed and constructed to be low maintenance.

5. Protecting Resource Values

The overlay portion of the project supports safe public access to the popular Black Eagle Memorial Island Day Use Area. The fountain provides another amenity that the recreating public has stated they would like to have.



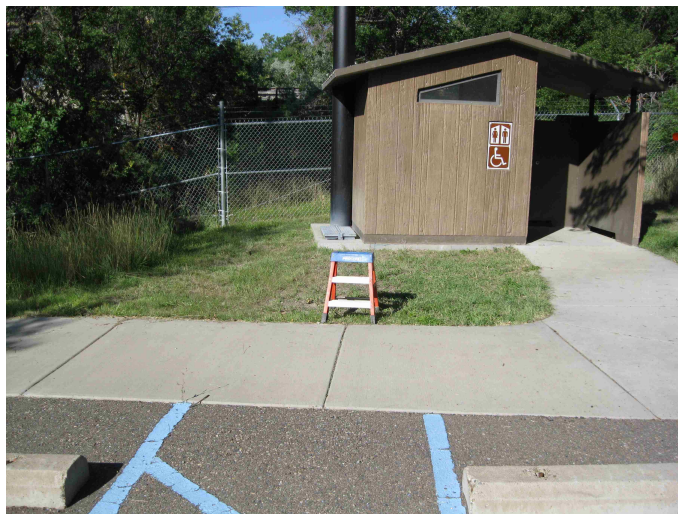
Map Showing Location of Black Eagle memorial Island Near Great Falls, MT



Photo of Railroad Tracks in Access Road



Photo of Accessible Water Fountain With Dog Water Station Desired
This Photo Was Taken at the Trailside Dog Park in Great Falls, MT



Proposed Location of Fountain
(Shown by Step Ladder)