



**CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA  
PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 29, 2025

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**HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NEW GAZEBOS  
AT GREAT FALLS ANIMAL SHELTER**

**The gazebo installation marks the next phase in the expansion  
of GFAS's outdoor kennel and play spaces**

**Great Falls, Montana** – Work is underway at the Great Falls Animal Shelter to create an enhanced outdoor space designed to improve the quality of life for dogs in our care. Two custom gazebos—funded by The Home Depot Foundation and built with the help of Team Depot volunteers—will be installed in August as part of a larger outdoor kennel and play yard project.

Construction began Monday, July 28, with fencing contractors starting installation of the first section of the expanded outdoor area. Once fencing is complete, Team Depot volunteers will assist with the construction of the gazebos, which will be located in the dog yards and provide essential cover and shade for staff, volunteers, and dogs during training, playgroups, and meet-and-greet sessions.

“These gazebos will provide much-needed shade and comfort for our team and volunteers, creating a welcoming space where staff and animals can train, play, and simply enjoy the fresh air together,” said Joseph Parchen, Community Relations Specialist for the shelter.

The overall outdoor project includes:

- Multiple 10'x10' kennels
- Two medium-sized meet-and-greet kennels with seating for prospective adopters to interact with shelter animals
- Two large play yards equipped with benches, retired fire hydrants, and two 12'x20' gazebos that provide protection from the elements so staff, volunteers, and dogs can enjoy outdoor time in all weather

Funding for the project was made possible through a combination of local donations and a \$20,000 grant from the ASPCA Northern Tier Shelter Initiative, which supports projects aimed at improving outcomes for medium and large breed dogs—populations that make up the majority of shelter intakes in Great Falls.

The expanded space will provide dogs with more consistent access to the outdoors, enriching their lives through socialization, behavioral training, and increased opportunities to bond with potential adopters.

**Construction is expected to continue for 4–6 weeks, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony tentatively planned for September 2025.**

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### **About The Home Depot Foundation**

The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, support communities impacted by natural disasters, and train skilled tradespeople to address the labor shortage. Since 2011, the Foundation has committed more than \$550 million to veteran causes, improved over 65,000 homes and facilities, and logged more than 2.5 million volunteer hours through its Team Depot volunteer force.

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**For additional information, photos, or interview opportunities, please contact:**

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