

**Great Falls/Cascade County
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (HPAC)
Program Goals & Objectives for Calendar Year 2020**
Approved: February 5, 2020

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission is to provide leadership in the preservation of cultural, historic, and prehistoric sites, structures, buildings and districts within the City and County.

To achieve our mission, HPAC, in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Officer, will work towards the following goals and objectives in calendar year 2020.

Identify, evaluate and protect significant historic buildings, pre-historic sites, and districts that contribute to the historic fabric, cultural diversity, visual character and economic vitality of the City and Cascade County through the following actions:

1. Assist the Big Sky National Heritage Area board in their effort to create Montana's first National Heritage Area. Create a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines future cooperation between the two entities.
2. Continue to monitor potential threats to the Great Falls Portage National Historic Landmark (NHL) and the related Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.
3. Continue to support the reuse of the Rainbow Powerhouse.
4. Develop a priority list for potential National Register sites/districts, including historic residences, apartment buildings, schools, industrial buildings, military history sites, and others.
5. Encourage the School District to comply with standards and guidelines for preservation best practices as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.
6. Continue maintenance of the Vinegar Jones Cabin. Create a Memorandum of Understanding that defines the roles of the HPAC and the City's Parks & Recreation Department.
7. Work with the Monarch-Neihart Historical Group, Inc. to preserve Monarch-Neihart area resources.
8. Monitor and assist with projects in Sun River Valley and continue to work with the Sun River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS) to preserve the Fort Shaw Historic District. Monitor and assist preservation of the J.C. Adams Stone Barn.
9. Continue to promote and support the preservation of the National Historic Landmark First Peoples Buffalo Jump.
10. Continue the collaboration with the Black Eagle community the Smelter Hill site and its potential to become a public recreation area.

11. Collaborate and foster partnerships with Fort Benton to enhance preservation efforts.
12. Establish and implement a local Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Property Register.
13. Initiate development of a comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan for Great Falls and Cascade County.
14. Work with the City Park and Recreation Department to stabilize the Boston and Montana Barn.

Participate in the process of nominating Historic Places according to the Montana State Regulations for Certified Local Governments. This includes reviewing and commenting on any National Register nominations within Cascade County, using the National Register of Historic Places criteria for designation of historic and prehistoric properties.

Educate by undertaking programs that foster public appreciation of, and civic pride in, the beauty of the community, respect for the accomplishments of the past and practical knowledge about both the economic, and the aesthetic value of preservation.

1. Participate in, promote and conduct public informational, educational and interpretive programs pertaining to historic preservation.
2. Update the preservation information on the City's website with monthly updates and/or success stories.
3. Maintain an inventory of identified historic districts, sites and/or structures within Cascade County and the City of Great Falls. Make this information available to the public by working towards making this information available electronically.
4. Prepare, update and/or reproduce the Historic District walking tour brochures as needed, including making them available electronically.
5. Render advice and guidance upon request of property owners as to the restoration, alteration, decoration, landscaping or maintenance of historic buildings, structures or sites.
6. Update the City's website to provide information for owners of property, buildings and structures of potential tax incentives and federal, state, and private grant sources that might be obtained to facilitate the preservation of historic resources.
7. Develop a preliminary set of design guidelines that are related to historic properties to integrate into and be used within the City's Design Review Process.
8. Work with the Business Improvement District to develop a set of appropriate historic building façade guidelines and to include HPAC in the façade review process.
9. Identify a potential brochure celebrating notable historic resources in Cascade County.
10. Increase the collaboration with other organizations, particularly VisitGreatFalls.org, to promote historic resources through the greater usage of digital media platforms.

Cooperate with other agencies, offices and organizations with similar goals and **integrate** historic preservation into local, state and federal planning and decision making processes by:

1. Working with NeighborWorks Great Falls, the City Department of Planning and Community Development, Preservation Cascade, Inc., the Great Falls Museum Consortium, the Community Beautification Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Improvement District (BID), the Downtown Great Falls Association (DGFA), the Belt Theatre, the Montana Community Foundation, the Sun River Valley Historical Society, the Monarch-Neihart Historical Group, the Montana Office of Tourism, the Tourism Business Improvement District, and other local and rural agencies and organizations to ensure the inclusion of historic preservation concerns.
2. Monitor opportunities for Technical Assistance Grants that are designed to provide architectural services promoting adaptive reuse of historic buildings.
3. As a permanent board member, work with the Downtown Development Partnership to implement objectives of the Downtown Master Plan.
4. Maintain an active partnership with the Preserve America and Montana Main Street programs.
5. Consult with City, County, State, Federal, and tribal agencies, as required, on all applications, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, and other documents pertaining to historic districts, sites, landmarks or properties.
6. Develop specific preservation policy and action program recommendations to be incorporated into the City's Development Code.
7. Work with State, County and City to remain a viable Certified Local Government.

Motivate and Celebrate by conducting activities directed towards stimulating private and public investment in historic preservation and by recognizing and celebrating successes.

1. Plan and execute annual events during National Historic Preservation Month, including an annual awards reception to recognize worthy preservation projects and individuals for awards.
2. Track and publicize private and public restoration activities to increase community awareness of progress, including improvement of the city's web presence
3. Identify a significant resource for the Official City of Great Falls, limited edition, Christmas ornament and plan for its production, promotion and marketing.