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Media Advisory:
Montana State Parks to Honor the City of Billings with “Trail of the Year Award”
— Sunday, June 10, 2012 at 12:30pm —

(Helena, MT) – Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that in honor of ‘National Trails Day’, the City of Billings and its Swords Park Trail will be recognized with the “Trail of the Year Award” on Sunday, June 10 at 12:30pm in Billings.
*see photo of Swords Park Trail below

What: Montana State Parks/ Recreational Trails Program “Trail of the Year Award” will be given to the City of Billings and its Swords Park Trail.

When: Sunday, June 10 at 12:30pm (immediately following the Trail Trek event that includes a tour of the trail system)

Where: Two Moon Trailhead by Centennial Ice Arena, 427 Bench Blvd and Two Moon Park access off of Bench Blvd in Billings.
Who: Tom Hanel, Mayor of Billings
Beth Shumate, Trails Program Coordinator, Montana State Parks
Doug Habermann, Regional Park Manager, Montana State Parks
Candi Beaudry, Director of Planning & Community Services Department, City of Billings
Mike Whitaker, Director of PRPL (Parks Recreation and Public Lands), City of Billings
John Brewer, CEO, Billings Chamber of Commerce
Darlene Tussing, Alternate Modes Coordinator for City/County Planning Department, City of Billings

The City of Billings has made continuous contributions on its extensive hard-surface trail system. The Swords Park Trail will be recognized for its unique, yet significant connections that provide seamless connectivity between existing routes, neighborhoods, schools and businesses throughout the community.

The “Trail of the Year Award” is given annually by Montana’s Recreational Trails Program which is administered by Montana State Parks, a division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Selection for the Award is based on successful project completion, collaborative efforts with multiple partners and compliance with federal and state regulations.

“IT is important and special that Swords Park Trail is being recognized with this award,” said Darlene Tussing with the Planning Department for the City of Billings. “This is one of the jewels of our trail system because its placement on the Rimrocks lets you see out over the whole community.”
The Swords Park Trail has received approximately $60,000 in Recreational Trails Program federal funds over various grant cycles. The City of Billings, Yellowstone County, and Bikenet, a trail advocacy group, have received $155,000 in federal funds over several funding cycles from the RTP for various trail projects throughout Billings.

*Montana’s Recreational Trails Program (RTP)* ([http://fwp.mt.gov/recreation/grants/rtp/default.html](http://fwp.mt.gov/recreation/grants/rtp/default.html)) is a federal grants program, administered by Montana State Parks. These grants provide key funding for trails projects in local Montana communities. Examples of eligible projects include urban trail development near homes and work places, basic front- and backcountry-trail maintenance, restoration of areas damaged by trail use, development of trailside facilities, and educational and safety projects related to trails.

*National Trails Day* ([http://www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx](http://www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx)) will be celebrated on Saturday, June 2 and will be the 20th Anniversary of America’s Largest Trail Celebration. It was founded by the American Hiking Society to recognize and celebrate trails, the many benefits to our citizens and the individuals and organizations who have made trails possible in local communities.
Swords Park Trail 2012

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