

Bonner Milltown Community Council
Bonner School Cafeteria and Via Zoom

September 14th, 2026, at 7:00 PM

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7489963769?pwd=c1p1YVcvR3pNUFYvM0ZlYVdteDJZUT09>

Meeting ID is: 748 996 3769 Password:

Bonner

Phone In: 1(253)215-8782 US (Tacoma)

About the Bonner-Milltown Community Council: Our Role & Responsibilities

The Bonner-Milltown Community Council exists to promote the interests and welfare of the residents of our area — the neighborhoods and communities within Bonner School District #14, including Bonner, Milltown, and West Riverside.

What we do:

- We serve as a liaison between residents and the Missoula Board of County Commissioners, carrying our community's concerns, comments, and suggestions to the County.
- We provide a forum for residents to discuss local issues, concerns, and opportunities.
- We share information back to residents about issues before the Commissioners that may affect our communities.
- We offer leadership and support for community efforts to guide orderly growth and development in our area.
- We serve as a channel of communication with local, state, and federal officials on matters of concern to our community.

What's important to understand about our role:

- The Council is purely advisory. We have no power to levy taxes, approve or deny projects, or impose decisions on residents. Our role is to inform and advise — the authority to decide rests with the County Commissioners.
- Because we are advisory to the Commissioners, we cannot directly comment to tribal, state, federal, or other agencies. When our community wishes to weigh in on a project, we forward our recommendations to the Commissioners, who may then act accordingly.
- Our seven members are appointed by the Commissioners, must live within the Council Area, and serve as volunteers without compensation.
- When the Council takes a position on an issue, it does so by majority vote at a properly noticed public meeting.

Our goal is simple: to listen, to inform, and to make sure our community's voice reaches the decision-makers who represent us. We encourage every resident to participate.

Additional Notes:

- On any action or discussion item, the Chair may limit public participation to one question and one comment per person, each limited to three minutes.
- The Community Council is not a debate forum. We ask the community members make statements to the Council rather than direct questions or responses to other members of the public.
- Expectation: All Community Council members and members of the public are expected to conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner toward all individuals present.

Call to order: (Please put cell phones on vibrate or silent)

Roll Call:

Approval of Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: July 13th, 2026

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda 1st Opportunity:

Bonner History Tidbit:

Announcements:

Guest Speakers:

- Missoula Parks and Recreation – West Riverside Park Survey and Update – Nick Zanetos
- Missoula Public Health – Community Health Assessment (CHA): what it is, how the report is used, and how community members can take part – Jeanna Miller, RS, MPH

Bouquet Period:

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda 2nd Opportunity:

Communications:

- West Riverside Park barn – closed for structural issues; the County is asking residents what its future should be (survey open through Oct. 30). [Take the survey](#)
- West Riverside Park – new playground for ages 2–12 coming summer 2027 (~\$65,000), and the Woody Mountain Overlook Trail with interpretive signs breaks ground this fall. [Community profile](#)
- Data center emergency zoning study – staff are drafting the study under the one-year moratorium, with public presentations planned for early November. [Follow the project](#)
- Missoula Rural Fire District impact fees – adopted Aug. 13 and effective now on new development in Bonner, West Riverside and Turah. [Impact fee details](#)
- FY27 County budget adopted Sept. 3 – new graduated state tax rates mean some property owners pay more and some pay less. [Budget documents](#)
- Rural grants open – Community Parks & Recreation Grants (\$90,000 available) close 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30; Micro Grants (\$100–\$500) are accepted monthly. [Parks grants](#) | [Micro grants](#)
- All Community Council Town Hall – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, on Microsoft Teams, with a commissioner and all seven councils. [Community council agendas](#)
- Voter registration – update your registration if you have moved; the federal general election is Nov. 3. [Voter services](#)
- Bear aware – bears are in hyperphagia this fall; secure garbage if you live in the expanded bear buffer zone. [Bear Smart Missoula](#)
- Wildfire readiness – free home assessments from the County wildfire mitigation team, plus location-based emergency alerts. [Wildfire prepared](#) | [Smart911](#)

Treasurer's Report:

Action Items:

- **Motion:** Accept the community statement about the Data AI Center – see Appendix A
- **Motion:** Formation of a Community Development Sub-Committee.
- **Motion:** Vote to fill the Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer positions.

Discussion Items:

1. Blackfoot Crossing – Wastewater Treatment Plant
2. Missoula County AI Center Moratorium
3. City / Community Signage (add additional signs)
4. Milltown State Park – River closures this summer and next
5. Discuss community development steering group and past effort there

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda Final Opportunity:

Next Meeting: October 12, 2026

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Adjournment:

Council Members: Jessica Glebke, Chair; Members at Large: Cassie Hemphill, Emily Herndon, Keturah Huisken, Kaaren James, Brett Stevenson, John Wilke; email bcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Appendix A

AGENDA REQUEST — COVER NOTE

For submission to the Bonner Milltown Community Council ahead of the September 2026 meeting

To the Bonner-Milltown Community Council,

I am Breeann Adam, and I am submitting this letter as a Bonner resident to request that the Council place an action item on the September 2026 meeting agenda: a vote on whether to send the attached letter to the Missoula County Commissioners on behalf of our community, regarding future data center proposals within Missoula County. We understand there is a current data center moratorium for the county, however, at some point that moratorium will end, and we want our concerns about potential new data center construction to be relayed to the Commissioners well ahead of that date. This letter was a collaborative effort among a group of concerned citizens.

Thank you for considering this request.

Breeann Adam, Troy Adam, Gary Matson, Justin Bailey, Nathan Stephens, and Jenn Stephens

Bonner Milltown Community Council

Bonner, Montana

August 19th, 2026

Dear Missoula County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Bonner Milltown Community Council and the communities we represent, we are writing regarding future data center proposals within Missoula County. We understand there is a current data center moratorium for the county, however, at some point that moratorium will end, and we want our concerns about potential new data center construction to be relayed ahead of that date.

Bonner and Milltown residents have significant concerns about any data center sites and their potential impacts on nearby homes, schools, public health, water resources, energy demand, property values, and long-term character of the community. We are concerned about data centers' plans to infiltrate communities that house families, children, workers, elders, residences, schools, daycares, businesses, water sources, and wildlife – all with no regard as to the consequences or wishes of those most affected.

We understand there are no active plans for data centers within the county, however, any future plans should strongly address cooling-system chemistry, water use, discharge scenarios, and backup evaporative cooling. The burden should remain on the applicant to demonstrate that their project protects the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Our community's specific concerns include:

- **Proximity to residents and schools.** The people most likely to experience data centers' noise, traffic, heat, lighting, vapor, safety, or property-value impacts are residents, families, and children who live, learn, and work nearby.
- **Noise and vibration.** Often, these facilities operate continuously, and once brought online, the servers and cooling systems are never turned off. Residents are concerned that standard dBA measurements may not fully capture continuous, low-frequency mechanical noise, especially at night.
- **Heat island effects.** Residents remain concerned about waste heat, outdoor cooling equipment, and localized heat impacts.
- **Public health risk from Legionella.** Residents ask that any evaporative component, backup unit, pad-wetting system, or water aerosolization pathway be fully evaluated under real-world operating and maintenance conditions to assess potential health risks.
- **Water use and the surrounding rivers and water sources.** Residents need clear, consistent information about how much water would be used, when peak use would occur, what chemicals would be added, where spent fluids would go, and how the river systems would be protected. We specifically request clarification on cooling-loop chemistry, discharge scenarios, blowdown, flushing, disposal methods, and water-quality mitigations. We should not lose sight of the fact that the water available to us is a limited resource. The Missoula 2045 Land Use Plan ^[1] anticipates average annual population growth rates of 1.2% to 1.4%, while at the same time our area has experienced drought conditions for 8 of the last 10 years according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ^[2]. Over the past 80 years Northwest Montana's snowpack has experienced long-term structural declines. Compounding this issue is how quickly Northwest Montana has reached average high temperatures in recent years, melting out snowpack quickly. Summer flows in our rivers and streams have continued to decrease year-over-year due to these factors, in addition to increased water usage. Adding a data center to the system creates only additional strain to our unbalanced water system which is already under threat.
- **Lack of long-term job creation.** While Missoulians may benefit from short-term employment during the construction phase of the data center, most who are already struggling with the rising cost of living will not see a long-term benefit once the data center is fully operational. Recent studies conducted by the University of Michigan (UoM) suggest that data centers do not bring in high paying tech jobs, which the majority of Missoulians would be gatekept from anyway due to a lack of technical and formal schooling. Most jobs that are created locally "are typically low-wage, term-limited, non-technical positions such as security, maintenance, and janitorial work" ^[3]. The UoM research paper then states that these roles are often filled by contractors, which removes the benefits associated with full-time employment. The research conducted by UoM has been corroborated with industry research conducted by the highly respected and reputable consulting firm, McKinsey. Therefore, it would be unwise to factor significant long-term job growth resulting from data centers as part of the City's and County's plan to employ the population increase anticipated in the Missoula 2045 Land Use Plan.
- **Backup power and hazardous materials plans.** Residents remain concerned about any backup power, fuel storage, emissions, fire risk, coolant chemistry, biocides, corrosion

inhibitors, glycol mixtures, and disposal procedures described within data centers' proposals.

- **Energy Use.** When the County is evaluating its data center regulations, it will be important to specify how the data center can comply with the current regulation stating they match their energy use with new, renewable energy. The new renewable energy required should replace the data center's energy use with new renewable energy providing the same number of annual Megawatt hours, not just a nameplate capacity. That is, if a data center continually uses 5 MW it should replace that use with $5\text{ MW} \times 24\text{ hours} \times 365\text{ days} = 43,800\text{ MWh}$ of new, renewable electricity. Compliance could not be, for example, a 5 MW data center replacing its use with a solar facility having a 5 MW nameplate capacity. Such a facility would replace only a small fraction of the data center's energy use.
- **Property values.** Residents have expressed serious concern about the impact of a large-scale industrial data center on neighboring home values. This concern is not abstract. At public meetings, residents have described fear and distress about what data center projects could mean for their homes and their ability to remain in their own communities. For many residents, a home is their largest financial asset and the foundation of family stability. We cannot afford to increase the cost of living and strain our infrastructure by adding a data center to the community and thereby pricing out our current and future neighbors, friends, and constituents.
- **Impact on the local economy.** Angling tourism represents an approximated \$1.5 billion in total economic output according to a 2024 study conducted by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) and the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research ^[4]. Interrupting the landscapes that tourists come to enjoy, namely the Blackfoot River, which hosts approximately 90,000 angler days per year according to FWP ^[5], along with reduction of water quality due to concentration of pollutants, will inevitably drive the economic impact of tourism down in the local area.

Despite the current moratorium, Bonner and Milltown residents remain deeply concerned about whether future proposed data centers are compatible with our surrounding community, and we encourage thoughtful, intentional, wise, and future-thinking care in discussing this issue going forward.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

The Bonner Milltown Community Council

on behalf of the Bonner and Milltown communities

Research & Citations

^[1] City of Missoula. (2026, February 2). *Missoula 2045 Land Use Plan*. Land Use Plan | Missoula, MT - Official Website.
<https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/74281/Our-Missoula-2045-Land-Use-Plan>

^[2] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Integrated Drought Information System. (n.d.). *Missoula County Conditions*. Drought.gov.
<https://www.drought.gov/states/montana/county/missoula>

^[3] Nguyen, T., & Green, B. (2025, July). July 2025 | 1 stpp.fordschool.umich.edu what happens when data. tpp.fordschool.umich.edu.
<https://stpp.fordschool.umich.edu/sites/stpp/files/2025-07/stpp-data-centers-2025.pdf>

^[4] Michael, Dr. J., Sheehan, D., & Baldrige, J. (2025, August 19). *Economic Contribution of Cold-Water and Warm-Water Fishing in Montana*. bber.umt.edu.
https://www.bber.umt.edu/pubs/econ/MT-Fishing-Econ-Impact.pdf?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Daily%20Roundup%20for%20October%206&utm_campaign=Newsletter%3A%20The%20Daily%20Roundup%20-%202025-10-03%20%28Copy%29

^[5] Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. (n.d.). *Blackfoot River drainage*. fwp.mt.gov.
https://fwp.mt.gov/binaries/content/assets/fwp/conservation/fisheries-management/statewide-fisheries-management-plan-2023-2026/2.07_blackfoot-river-drainage.pdf