From:	Corby Dickerson
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Missoula Parks and Recreation Fee Increase and Budget Considerations
Date:	Monday, January 24, 2022 5:19:36 PM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Corby Dickerson and I have been a Missoula County resident for over 16 years. During this time I have also been an active user of many parks, trails, soccer fields, and the softball fields at Fort Missoula and McCormick Park. Outdoor recreation and organized sports have been a significant part of my life since I was a very young child. That is one of the things I love most about this community. Never before have I lived in a place where such a priority has been placed on outdoor recreation. Not only are our parks and facilities truly impressive, but the natural beauty and splendor one can experience when actively recreating is truly magical. That's why the recent news of an impending increase to user fees for Missoula Parks and Recreation facilities has me very troubled and deeply concerned for the future viability of organized athletics in Missoula. To demand that users pay more for what brings unrivaled and unequaled joy to so many seems unconscionable during a time of unrivaled economic inflation, let alone the ongoing pandemic and I kindly request that a re-evaluation of the Parks and Recreation budget allocation be undertaken immediately.

I understand that the expense of maintaining our recreation facilities has to come from somewhere. But I sincerely question the legitimacy and logic of these rate increases in absence of a budgetary increase for Parks and Recreation. They have for far too long been underfunded, understaffed, and under appreciated for the impact they bring to everyone of any tribe, race, or tongue, in the Missoula area. It is time that the City Council places a higher priority on what makes our community one of the best places to live in Montana: our outdoor spaces and recreation facilities. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely I am,

C. Corby Dickerson IV
372 Cap de Villa
Lolo, Montana 59847