



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW BIGFORK GREEN BOX SITE

CFBB was successful in convincing the Flathead County Commissioners and Solid Waste Board to build a new Green Box Sites in Bigfork. Our new Site opened last September! It has two recycling bins and a cardboard compactor. It is gated and landscaped to minimize its visual impact.

DOWNTOWN STORM WATER RUNOFF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

After seven (7) years of effort by the CFBB, the County completed the final phases of our new downtown storm water runoff system. The construction was completed late last year. The new system is significantly reducing pollutants flowing into the Bigfork Bay and Flathead Lake via its state-of-the-art filtering systems. In addition, the project added significant benefits to downtown with the addition of new curbing and sidewalks on the north and south sides of Bridge Street.

SLITER PARK

CFBB worked with the County and PacifiCorp to get the County's lease for Sliter Park extended for another 5 years through the year 2021. We have agreed to pay PacifiCorp for the 5 year lease extension amounting to \$1250.00, and pay \$3500.00 to the Park Department to help offset some of their costs to operate the Park. CFBB is also paying a private contractor to help the county keep the park maintained and the bathrooms clean and supplied throughout the summer months. We will also undertake other improvements as funding allows.

Many thanks to the Sliter family for donating nearly \$5,000.00 to help us keep this beautiful Bigfork asset that honors Bigfork's founding family.

BRIDGE STREET ONE-LANE BRIDGE

The one-lane bridge on Bridge Street is over 100 years old and is one of the very few metal bridges remaining in the State. Last year the CFBB was successful in getting the bridge placed on the National Register of Historical Places.

The State is now working on plans to upgrade the bridge to increase its load capacity and therefore safety. Members of CFBB have had a series of workshop meetings with the State and County in the planning process. Our goal is to make sure the bridge keeps its historical look and one lane feature when it is upgraded.

HARRY HORN PARK

The CFBB and several other concerned community members were successful in convincing the Montana State Park staff to revise their plans regarding changes to Harry Horn Park's use and the access it provides to Wayfarers State Park.

Based on our input, the State developed a much better plan that was reviewed by the public and approved. Work was completed late last year and includes a new bathroom, playground equipment, an improved entry way to Wayfarers State Park and a permanent host station.

NORTH SHORE LAKE ACCESS

Improving access to the north shore of the Flathead Lake is an important goal of CFBB. We have developed plans and engineering drawings to add about 10 extra parking places on Holt Drive leading to the public access trail to the north shore of the Flathead Lake. This is the only public access point to the north shore of the lake east of the Flathead River. The County has our plan the ability to move forward.

BIGFORK ART AND CULTURAL CENTER

We are continuing to maintain the Art and Cultural Center which houses the Bigfork Art Center and a branch of the Flathead County Library. This year both organizations underwent major interior remodeling to improve their visitor's experiences. Our reorganizing of the lobby entrance is offering our visitors more information on what Bigfork and its surrounding communities have to offer our visitors. We also developed a map pointing out important spots and services in the Bigfork region.

DOWNTOWN PUBLIC BATHROOMS

We have increased the hours of access to the Art and Cultural Center bathrooms so they can continue serving as public bathrooms when the Library and Art Center are closed. We installed signage, and added automatic locks to the entry doors so the doors open and lock automatically. We clean and restock the bathrooms daily in the summer months.

CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE BUILDING

In January, we entered into an agreement with the Bigfork Playhouse Children's Theater, Inc. to sell them our 53.12% ownership interest in the building. When we bought into the building in 2014, we did so to help ensure both the success and permanence of a Children's Playhouse in Bigfork. We also made the commitment to sell our interests in the building to them when funding was available.

The agreement calls for a purchase price of \$85,000.00 for our full interest if purchased on or before January 31, 2017. This amount is well below our cost basis and investment in the building. This reduction in price will be the largest “donation” ever made by CFBB to any single group.

SWAN RIVER NATURE TRAIL

We are in the process of building a new entry way to the west side of the Nature Trail. It will be a wood and rock archway that will dignify this magnificent trail. In addition we will repave and seal the road leading to the entrance, put in new signage and improve parking.

We continued managing the use of the trail for special events. This July 4th, we are again providing the trail for a fundraiser by Grateful Nation Montana for their efforts to pay for a college education for the children of Montana soldiers that have fallen in Iraq or Afghanistan. The trail will be used to support the Bigfork River Run/Walk Fundraiser to raise money for the Bigfork Cross-country team, and a run/walk fundraiser for Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).

Our efforts also include maintaining and protecting the trail and the amenities we have installed (dog pollution stations, picnic tables, and bike racks).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

As Bigfork is an unincorporated community, the CFBB has been devoted to building our community’s cultural opportunities, economic base and infrastructure. In 2015 alone, we spent nearly \$80,000.00 just to maintain Bigfork and its current amenities.

This included, among many other things,

- Maintaining and improving the Art and Cultural Center
- Overseeing and maintaining the Town Clock
- Landscaping and upkeep of the town’s entry way signs
- Paying rent for Sliter Park and paying to help keep it clean
- Maintaining downtown benches
- Keeping the community clean by installing and emptying downtown’s decorative garbage cans
- Paying insurance for the “Bigfork Elves”;
- Snow plowing sidewalks on Grand Ave;
- Weekly sweeping of downtown streets during the summer months;
- Re-striping downtown parking spaces including handicapped parking areas
- Maintaining the “Historical Downtown Walking Tour” display and brochures
- Installing and maintaining several doggie pollution stations in town and on the river trail
- Maintaining several bike racks in downtown and on the River Trail

COMMUNITY SUPPORT (continued)

- Maintaining downtown security cameras
- Helping to keep Harry Horn Park clean and safe
- Wasp and insect eradication during the summer months

In addition to the above, the CFBB continued its financial support for several community activities.

We continued our Community Service Grants Program. The Program encourages our youth to become active in the community by undertaking service projects serving Bigfork. Previous grants have focused on recycling efforts, cleaning up the Fork and Harry Horn Park, helping with the Festival of the Arts and assisting the Bigfork Elves in light bulb twisting for our holiday decorations.

CFBB also made donations to several groups including Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts, The Crown of the Continent Guitar Foundation, Nordic Ski Center, ACES After School program, to name a few.

ANNUAL AUCTION & FALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Last year's auction was very successful, thanks to one and all! This year will mark our 16th annual auction! It will be held at the Garden Bar, Wednesday September 7th at 5pm. Last year we raised nearly \$40,000.00 to support our work. Mark you calendars now and join in the fun!!