

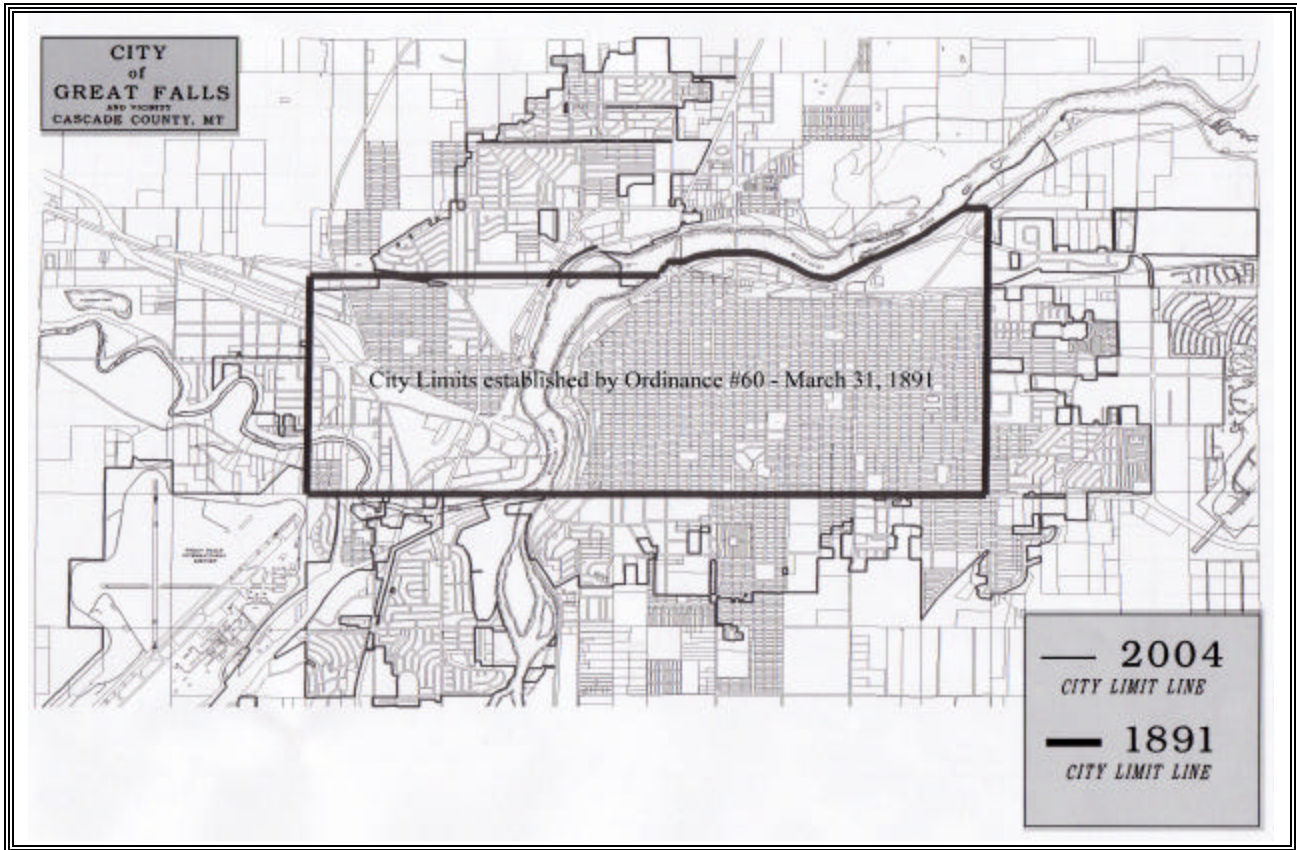
The City of Great Falls is the county seat of Cascade County and is the third largest city in Montana. Situated on the Missouri River, the City is approximately 50 miles east of the Continental Divide, 120 miles south of the Canadian border and 219 miles northwest of Billings, the largest city in Montana. The City serves as a gateway to the Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park and is on a main thoroughfare to Yellowstone Park. Great Falls is home to the University of Great Falls, MSU College of Technology, Montana School for the Deaf & Blind and the White Sox Baseball Farm Team. Great Falls is fortunate to have several pedestrian/bicycle facilities including the nationally recognized River’s Edge trail system which follows the Missouri River from Gibson Park to Giant Springs. The 25 mile trail wanders through the City of Great Falls area, connecting parks and other points of interest along the Missouri River including Black Eagle Falls, Rainbow Falls, Crooked Falls and “The Great Falls of the Missouri” just below Ryan Dam. Malmstrom Air Force Base is the state’s largest military installation and the Montana Air National Guard is located near the Great Falls International Airport. The City encompasses an area of over 21 square miles with a population of 56,690 according to the 2000 census report of the United States Census Bureau.

The present Great Falls townsite was first noted in the journals of Lewis and Clark in 1805 as they portaged around “the thundering Great Falls of the Missouri”. In 1882, Paris Gibson, a Minneapolis City planner and engineer, recognized the potential of the area’s abundant resources and central location. Gibson’s legacy was a carefully planned City incorporating fifty three parks, a heritage of beauty that makes Great Falls unique today.

The City is a municipal corporation, organized in 1888 under the laws of the State of Montana. The City operates under the Commission/Manger form of government with a self-governing charter which became effective July 1, 1986. The City's executive, legislative, and policy-making body is the City Commission composed of a mayor and four commissioners who serve overlapping four-year terms. The mayor is elected at-large for a term of two years.

Great Falls has nine neighborhood councils comprised of five members each. Members are elected to two-year terms. The councils act in an advisory capacity to the City Commission, the City Manager and to other City advisory bodies.

Class of City	First Class
County located in	Cascade
Year Incorporated	1888
Registered Voters	43,000
Population	56,690
Form of Government	Commission/Manager



Land Area – Square Miles¹

2003	21.83
2002	21.78
2001	21.74
2000	21.67
1999	21.59
1998	21.57
1997	21.52
1996	21.30
1995	21.13
1994	20.69

Climate-Seasonal Average²

Comfort index	65.8
Inches of rain	15
Inches of snowfall	63
Days with some precipitation	103
Sunny day each year	187
Average January temperature	11 °F
Average July temperature	83 °F
Elevation	3,460
Days less than 32°F	155
Days greater than 90 °F	18

¹City County Planning Department

²Great Falls Development Authority

Building Permits

<u>Residential</u>		
Year	Issued	Value
2003	135	\$21,851,858
2002	114	\$17,934,137
2001	125	\$17,544,798
2000	84	\$11,989,460
1999	90	\$11,819,371
<u>Commercial</u>		
2003	21	\$14,264,095
2002	25	\$44,007,013
2001	26	\$19,030,864
2000	22	\$22,380,159
1999	28	\$19,779,343

Fire Department

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Structure Fires	79	100	118
Vehicle Fires	36	46	42
Other Fires	94	85	106
Medical Calls	2,699	2,804	2,813
Haz-Mat Calls	146	130	108
Other Calls	1,585	1,455	1,182
Out of City	139	106	108

Housing Authority

Affordable Housing Units	16
Public Housing Units	490
Housing Choice Vouchers	200

Library

<u>Monthly Patrons</u>			
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
	182,766	185,121	180,554
<u>Circulation</u>			
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
	384,896	388,737	346,517

34,438 Registered Patrons - 2000 census
 Population of Great Falls is 56,690

City County Planning

Annexation Applications	13
Subdivision Applications	19
Zoning Applications	17

Sanitation

Residential Customers	13,626
Commercial Customers	1,447
Recycling Customers	16,302
Landfill Tonnage	33,868
Recycled Tonnage	600
Recycled Motor Oil (gallons)	6,800

Streets

Miles of Streets/Alleys	353
Miles of Street Stripping	50
Street Signs	10,591
City/State Street Signals	84
Weed Violations	2,055

Water Main Breaks

	<u>No. of Breaks</u>	<u>Break Cost</u>
2003	77	\$254,008
2002	90	\$206,590
2001	76	\$179,966
2000	85	\$208,151
1999	91	\$218,890

911 Center Calls

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Police	36,143	36,400	35,294
GF Fire	5,070	5,012	4,749
County	9,199	9,076	8,969
Medical	4,327	4,180	3,874
Rural Fire	697	664	681

Park & Recreation

53 Parks	475 Acres
Trees	32,835 (Approximately)
Pools	4
Golf Courses	2
Skate Park	1

Parking

Parking Lots	6
Parking Garages	2
Off Street Parking Spaces	1,143
Metered Parking Spaces	1,050