



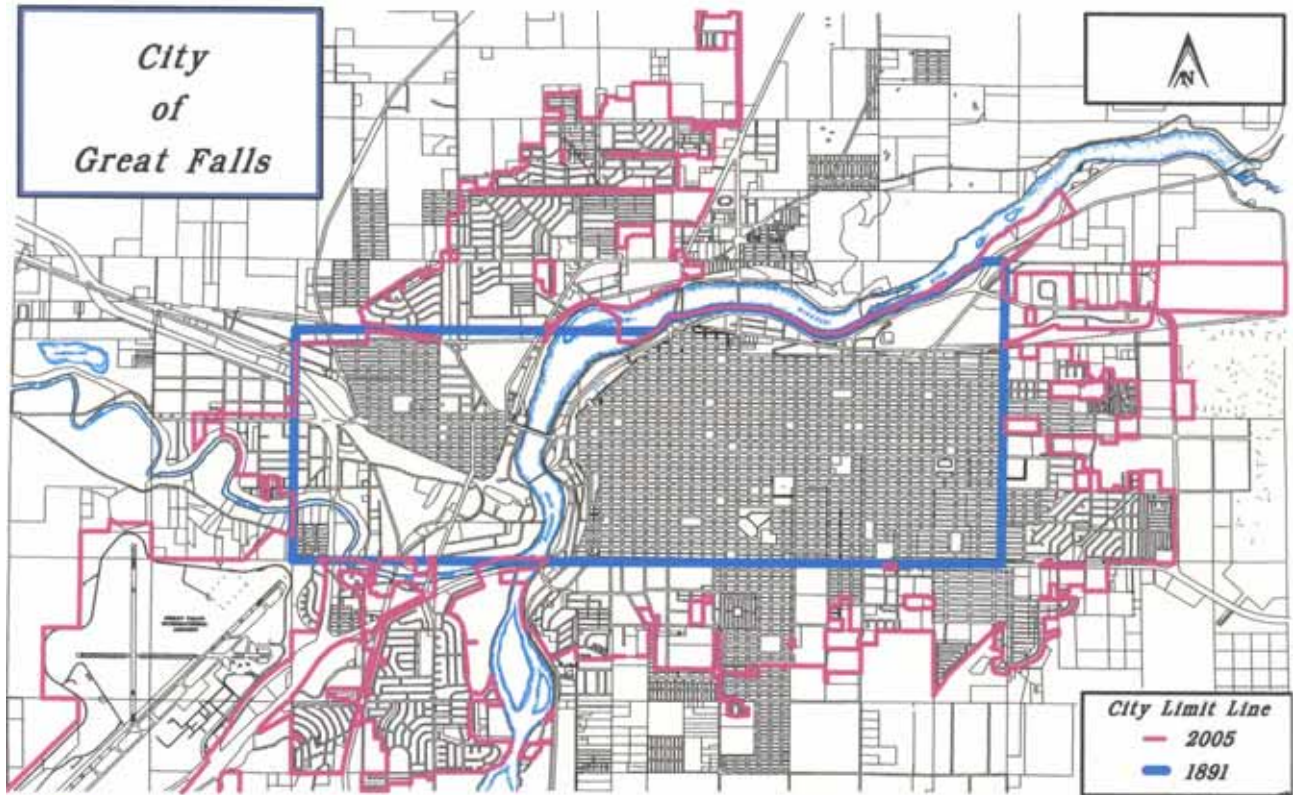
The City of Great Falls is the county seat of Cascade County and is the third largest city in Montana. Situated on the Missouri River, the City is approximately 50 miles east of the Continental Divide, 120 miles south of the Canadian border. The City serves as a gateway to the Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park and is on a main thoroughfare to Yellowstone Park. Great Falls is 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 22 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 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	56,503
Form of Government	Commission/Manager



— City Limits established by Ordinance #60 - March 31, 1891

<u>Land Area – Square Miles<sup>1</sup></u>		<u>Climate-Seasonal Average<sup>2</sup></u>	
2003	21.83	Comfort index	65.8
2002	21.78	Inches of rain	15
2001	21.74	Inches of snowfall	63
2000	21.67	Days with some precipitation	103
1999	21.59	Sunny day each year	187
1998	21.57	Average January temperature	11 °F
1997	21.52	Average July temperature	83 °F
1996	21.30	Elevation	3,460
1995	21.13	Days less than 32°F	155
1994	20.69	Days greater than 90 °F	18

<sup>1</sup>Planning Department

<sup>2</sup>Great Falls Development Authority

# Statistics



## Building Permits

### Residential

Year	Issued	Value
2004	465	\$40,853,101
2003	537	\$32,912,658
2002	509	\$44,664,032
2001	540	\$31,481,830
2000	451	\$32,972,543

### Commercial

2004	29	\$31,453,650
2003	21	\$14,264,095
2002	25	\$44,007,013
2001	26	\$19,030,864
2000	22	\$22,380,159

## City County Planning (FY 2004)

Annexation Applications	22
Subdivision Applications	19
Zoning Applications	30

## Fire Department

	2004	2003	2002
Structure Fires	64	79	100
Vehicle Fires	32	36	46
Other Fires	15	94	85
Medical Calls	2,747	2,699	2,804
Haz-Mat Calls	70	146	130
Other Calls	1,740	1,585	1,455
Out of City	95	139	106

## Housing Authority (FY 2004)

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

## Library

Yearly Patrons	2004	2003	2002
	187,912	181,776	183,257
Circulation	2004	2003	2002
	383,839	384,207	367,871

## Sanitation

Residential Customers	13,743
Commercial Customers	1,466
Recycling Customers	17,800
Landfill Tonnage	36,545
Recycled Tonnage	1,100
Recycled Motor Oil (gallons)	6,800
Number of Collection Trucks	21

## Streets

Miles of Streets/Alleys	365
Miles of Street Stripping	50
Street Signs	12,000
City/State Street Signals	87
Weed Violations	3,059

## Water Main Breaks

	No. of Breaks	Break Cost
2004	74	\$212,086
2003	77	\$254,008
2002	90	\$206,590
2001	76	\$179,966
2000	85	\$208,151

## 911 Center Calls

	2004	2003	2002
Police	35,522	36,143	36,400
GF Fire	5,027	5,070	5,012
County	8,786	9,199	9,076
Medical	4,346	4,327	4,180
Rural Fire	701	697	664

## Park & Recreation

Parks (74)	1,138 Acres
Trees	1,817
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