

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 56,503 according to the U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.

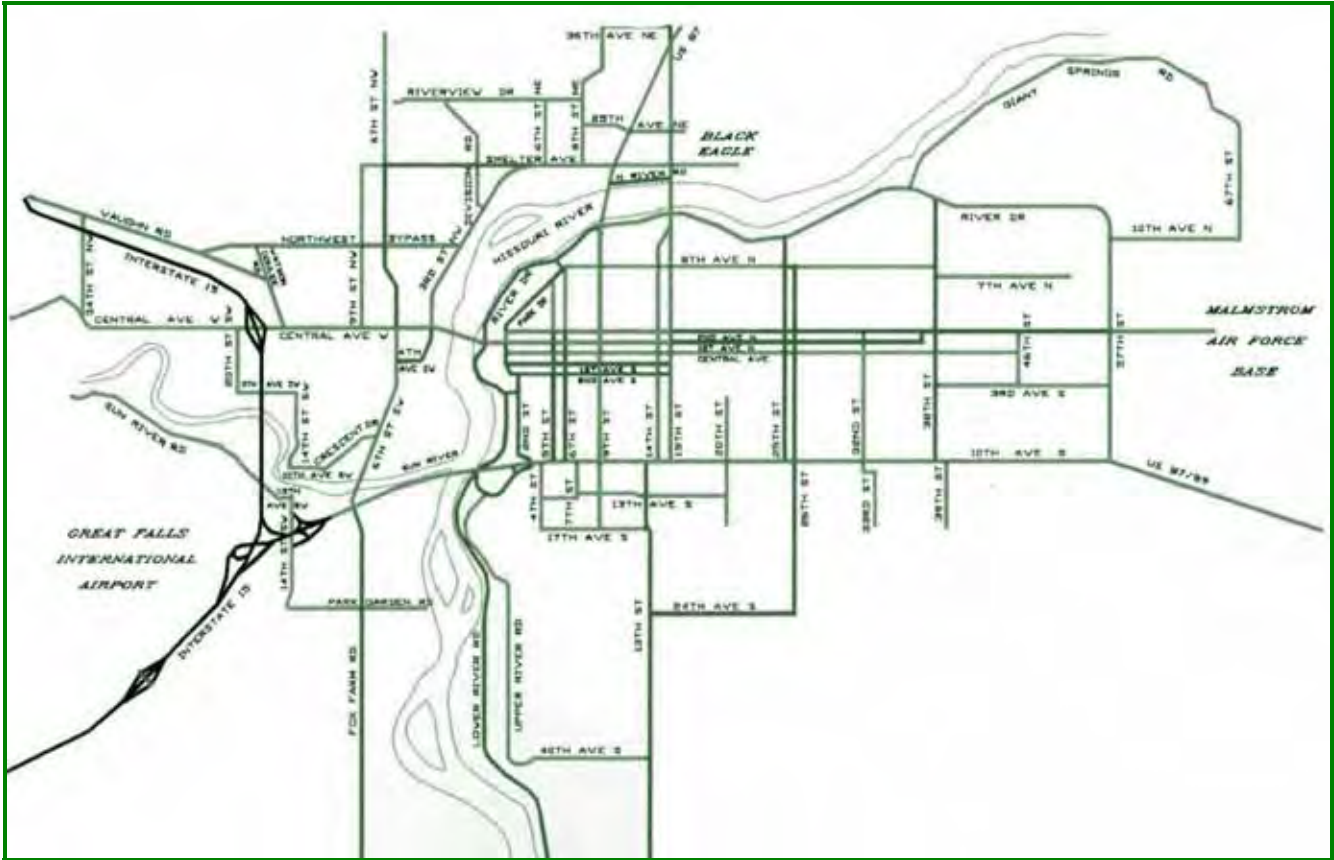
The present Great Falls townsite was first noted in the journals of Lewis and Clark in 1805 as they portaged around “the thundering Great Falls of the Missouri”. In 1882, Paris Gibson, a Minneapolis City planner and engineer, recognized the potential of the area’s abundant resources and central location.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

The City of Great Falls 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 which is composed of a mayor and four commissioners. The Mayor is elected at-large for a term of two years and the Commissioners serve overlapping four-year terms. The City Manager serves as the appointed Chief Executive Officer carrying out the policies established by the City Commission and overseeing all operations.

Services provided by the City of Great Falls include police, fire, planning, library, street repair and maintenance, water, sanitary sewer, storm drain, sanitation, electricity, and economic development.

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  | 35,523             |
| Population         | 56,503             |
| Form of Government | Commission/Manager |



Land Area – Square Miles<sup>1</sup>

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 2005 | 22.45 |
| 2004 | 22.09 |
| 2003 | 21.83 |
| 2002 | 21.78 |
| 2001 | 21.74 |
| 2000 | 21.67 |
| 1999 | 21.59 |
| 1998 | 21.57 |
| 1997 | 21.52 |
| 1996 | 21.30 |

Climate-Seasonal Average<sup>2</sup>

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 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    |

Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Planning Department

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

**Demographics**

|      | <u>Population</u> <sup>1</sup> | <u>Personal Income</u> <sup>2</sup> | <u>Per Capita Income</u> <sup>2</sup> |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2005 | 56,503                         | 2,195,749                           | 27,523                                |
| 2004 | 56,155                         | 2,112,966                           | 26,546                                |
| 2003 | 56,046                         | 2,033,430                           | 26,016                                |
| 2002 | 56,690                         | 1,968,099                           | 24,661                                |
| 2001 | 56,993                         | 1,875,979                           | 24,463                                |

|      | <u>Median Age</u> <sup>1</sup> | <u>Unemployment Rate</u> <sup>4</sup> | <u>School Enrollment</u> <sup>3</sup> |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2005 | N/A                            | 3.9%                                  | 10,727                                |
| 2004 | N/A                            | 3.9%                                  | 10,891                                |
| 2003 | N/A                            | 4.3%                                  | 11,007                                |
| 2002 | 37.8                           | 4.0%                                  | 11,643                                |
| 2001 | 36.7                           | 5.0%                                  | 11,889                                |

Sources: <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce  
<sup>3</sup> Great Falls School District No. 1  
<sup>4</sup> Montana Department of Labor & Industry

**Park & Recreation**

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Developed Parks            | 54     |
| Undeveloped Parks          | 10     |
| Park Acres Maintained      | 1,150  |
| Trees                      | 46,139 |
| Pools                      | 4      |
| Golf Courses               | 2      |
| Skate Park                 | 1      |
| Tennis Court Complexes     | 11     |
| Basket Ball Courts         | 12     |
| River's Edge Trail (miles) | 25     |

**Library**

|      | <u>Yearly Patrons</u> | <u>Yearly Circulation</u> | <u>Books Purchased</u> |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2005 | 207,205               | 384,019                   | 11,080                 |
| 2004 | 187,912               | 383,839                   | 10,625                 |
| 2003 | 181,276               | 384,207                   | 9,529                  |
| 2002 | 183,257               | 367,871                   | 10,018                 |
| 2001 | 175,982               | 339,733                   | 9,610                  |

**Housing Authority**

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

**Parking**

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

**City Planning (\*Formerly City-County)**

|       | <u>Annexation</u> | <u>Subdivision</u> | <u>Zoning</u> |
|-------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2005  | 10                | 17                 | 9             |
| 2004* | 22                | 19                 | 30            |
| 2003* | 13                | 19                 | 17            |
| 2002* | 11                | 10                 | 15            |
| 2001* | 22                | 16                 | 13            |

**Building Permits**

| <u>Residential</u> |               |              |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                    | <u>Issued</u> | <u>Value</u> |
| 2005               | 395           | \$34,440,315 |
| 2004               | 465           | 40,853,101   |
| 2003               | 537           | 32,912,658   |
| 2002               | 509           | 44,664,032   |
| 2001               | 540           | 31,481,830   |
| <u>Commercial</u>  |               |              |
| 2005               | 121           | \$31,833,901 |
| 2004               | 29            | 31,453,650   |
| 2003               | 21            | 14,264,095   |
| 2002               | 25            | 44,007,013   |
| 2001               | 26            | 19,030,864   |

**911 Center Calls**

|      | <u>Police</u> | <u>Fire</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Medical</u> | <u>Rural Fire</u> |
|------|---------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2005 | 32,823        | 5,162       | 8,585         | 4,412          | 708               |
| 2004 | 35,522        | 5,027       | 8,786         | 4,346          | 701               |
| 2003 | 36,143        | 5,070       | 9,199         | 4,327          | 697               |
| 2002 | 36,400        | 5,012       | 9,076         | 4,180          | 664               |
| 2001 | 35,294        | 4,749       | 8,969         | 3,874          | 681               |

**Fire Department**

Fire Calls

|      | <u>Structure</u> | <u>Vehicle</u> | <u>Other</u> |
|------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2005 | 79               | 44             | 82           |
| 2004 | 62               | 30             | 91           |
| 2003 | 79               | 36             | 94           |
| 2002 | 100              | 46             | 85           |
| 2001 | 118              | 42             | 106          |

Other Calls

|      | <u>Medical</u> | <u>Haz-Mat</u> | <u>Other</u> | <u>Out of City</u> |
|------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 2005 | 2,787          | 101            | 1,739        | 132                |
| 2004 | 2,706          | 106            | 1,723        | 95                 |
| 2003 | 2,699          | 146            | 1,585        | 139                |
| 2002 | 2,804          | 130            | 1,455        | 106                |
| 2001 | 2,813          | 108            | 1,182        | 108                |

**Sanitation**

Customers

|      | <u>Residential</u> | <u>Commercial</u> | <u>Recycling</u> |
|------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 2005 | 14,018             | 1,471             | 19,000           |
| 2004 | 13,743             | 1,466             | 17,800           |
| 2003 | 13,626             | 1,447             | 16,166           |
| 2002 | 13,415             | 1,450             | 17,115           |
| 2001 | 13,295             | 1,522             | 14,593           |

Solid Waste

|      | <u>Landfill Tonnage</u> | <u>Recycled Tonnage</u> | <u>Motor Oil Gallons</u> |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2005 | 36,446                  | 897                     | 6,400                    |
| 2004 | 36,545                  | 1,100                   | 6,800                    |
| 2003 | 37,198                  | 664                     | 5,975                    |
| 2002 | 38,265                  | 811                     | 6,205                    |
| 2001 | 36,250                  | 850                     | 5,795                    |

**Streets**

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Miles of Streets/Alleys   | 361    |
| Miles of Street Stripping | 50     |
| Street Signs              | 11,000 |
| City/State Street Signals | 89     |
| Weed Violations           | 2,660  |

**Sewer Utility**

|      | <u>Residential Customers</u> | <u>Commercial Customers</u> |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2005 | 18,308                       | 2,164                       |
| 2004 | 17,095                       | 2,227                       |
| 2003 | 17,084                       | 2,216                       |
| 2002 | 16,929                       | 2,195                       |
| 2001 | 16,680                       | 2,144                       |

**Water Utility**

|      | <u>Residential Customers</u> | <u>Commercial Customers</u> |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2005 | 18,460                       | 2,231                       |
| 2004 | 18,480                       | 2,262                       |
| 2003 | 18,488                       | 2,237                       |
| 2002 | 17,062                       | 2,255                       |
| 2001 | 16,675                       | 2,141                       |

Water Main Breaks

|      | <u>Number</u> | <u>Value</u> |
|------|---------------|--------------|
| 2005 | 63            | \$200,215    |
|      | 74            | 212,086      |
| 2003 | 77            | 254,008      |
| 2002 | 90            | 206,590      |
| 2001 | 76            | 179,966      |

**Central Garage**

|      | <u>Vehicles</u> | <u>Equipment</u> | <u>Fuel Dispensed</u> |                 |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
|      |                 |                  | <u>Diesel</u>         | <u>Unleaded</u> |
| 2005 | 188             | 263              | 144,460               | 135,147         |
| 2004 | 186             | 254              | 136,652               | 128,087         |
| 2003 | 183             | 247              | 138,200               | 126,562         |
| 2002 | 183             | 247              | 134,645               | 126,725         |
| 2001 | 183             | 247              | 123,603               | 120,127         |