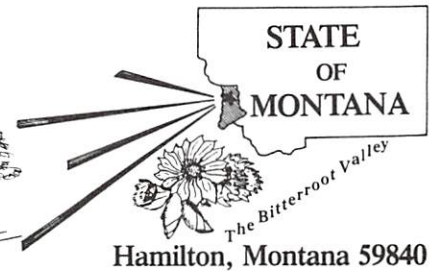


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



March 24, 2026

To the Rural Tourism Asset Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Ravalli County Board of Commissioners, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Hamilton Downtown Foundation's proposal to construct the Hamilton Community Ice Rink at Big Corral Park. This project represents an important opportunity to activate a growing county park while creating a unique winter recreation amenity that will serve residents and attract visitors from across the Bitterroot Valley and surrounding region.

Big Corral Park has long been envisioned as an important recreational asset for Ravalli County. During the county's community feedback open houses related to the park's planning process, residents of all ages and backgrounds expressed strong interest in seeing the park become a family-friendly recreational space, including enthusiasm for the possibility of an ice rink on the grounds. While the county continues working toward the resources needed to fully implement the park's long-term development plans, the proposed refrigerated ice rink provides a practical and achievable way to begin bringing activity to the site in the near term.

Ravalli County has approved a lease agreement allowing the Hamilton Downtown Foundation (HDF) to develop and operate the community ice rink within Big Corral Park, demonstrating the county's support for the project and its compatibility with the park's long-term vision. The rink allows the community to begin using and enjoying the park while remaining aligned with future park improvements as they are implemented.

Importantly, the Hamilton Community Ice Rink will fill a significant regional gap in winter recreation infrastructure. There is currently no refrigerated outdoor ice rink anywhere in the Bitterroot Valley, and while several outdoor rinks exist in the greater Missoula area, none are refrigerated and were usable for less than a week this year due to unseasonably warm weather. By contrast, a refrigerated rink in Hamilton will provide consistent, dependable ice conditions throughout the winter season, serving residents from communities across the Bitterroot Valley while encouraging winter visitation that supports restaurants, shops, and other small businesses in Hamilton and the surrounding area.

The Ravalli County Commissioners appreciate HDF's leadership in developing a thoughtful, feasible project with strong community support. We believe the Hamilton Community Ice Rink will become a valued community asset and an important first step in bringing the long-term vision for Big Corral Park to life while strengthening winter recreation and tourism opportunities in the region.

We strongly encourage your support of this project.

With gratitude,

Dan Huls, Chairman
Ravalli County Board of Commissioners