



**Call for Artists for:  
Design and Construction of Environmental Art Activation  
Story Mill Community Park, Bozeman, MT**

*Seeking artists to design, fabricate and install art elements in the nature sanctuary at Story Mill Community Park to enhance the visitor experience and connection to the theme of ‘water in the urban setting’. Up to two proposals will be selected. Partially funded by a creative placemaking grant through the National Endowment for the Arts, this opportunity includes a \$30,000 stipend for the selected artists.*

**Introduction**

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the City of Bozeman (City) are partnering to create Story Mill Community Park serving the City of Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley of Montana.

This Call for Artists invites professional artists to submit proposals to design, fabricate and install an artistic element at Story Mill Community Park. The element will be situated within the park’s nature sanctuary. The selected work will enhance the park visitor experience and connection to place, focusing on the myriad values of water as a shared natural and cultural resource throughout the park and surrounding community.

**Story Mill Community Park - Project Overview**

The 60-acre Story Mill Community Park is located in northeast Bozeman and will provide an arrayed palette of active and contemplative park visitor experiences. Park design is complete and construction will begin this spring.

The northern portion of the park includes ‘active’ park amenities -- a park community center, picnic pavilions, centerpiece adventure playground, grand lawn, outdoor amphitheatre and climbing boulder, to name a few. In the southern half of the park, a 30-acre nature sanctuary provides a nature-based park experience. There, a light footprint of trails will allow visitors to enjoy the nature sanctuary year-round for walking, bird and wildlife

viewing. A ‘homestead’ pavilion will provide a central gathering space and outdoor classroom, with benches and interpretive signage along trail routes and overlooks.



Water is the lead actor in the park story. Park hydrology is defined by a wetland complex bordered by two important urban streams – the East Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek, which define the east and west boundaries respectively of the nature sanctuary area. An award-winning site restoration (completed in 2016) improved wetlands and wildlife habitat, restored stream banks, and reconnected historic floodplains.

The nature sanctuary shelters over 125 species of birds including nesting Sandhill Cranes, many mammals from bear to muskrat, and a blue ribbon trout fishery. Park visitors will observe the restored landscape seasonally and over time, seeing firsthand how healthy wetland and floodplain function builds resilience, mitigates flooding and buffers stream and ground water quality.

Along with its natural abundance, the site offers strong connections to the agricultural history of the Gallatin Valley. Located in the shadow of the old Story Mill, the area was the center of early commerce and settlement in Bozeman. The rivers powered the Nelson Story mill which attracted early railroad lines, cattle stockyards, a slaughterhouse, and housing for mill and railroad workers and their families in the historic northeast neighborhood. Predating white settlement, the Blackfeet, Crow, Flathead, Shoshone and other tribes shared hunting grounds across this plentiful and water-rich valley.

Once the industrial fringe of northeast Bozeman, today, the town is growing around the site. The decision to create Bozeman’s flagship park here reflects the great value the community places on connecting to its natural and cultural history. This RFP seeks to develop one - two artistic elements to be situated in the park’s nature sanctuary. The selected piece/s shall reflect these shared values and the importance of water in shaping the shared history and future of Bozeman.

*More information about Story Mill Community Park is available at [tpl.org/storymill](http://tpl.org/storymill). See these hyperlinks and the attached map for the four potential location sites: Site 1 – [East Gallatin Stream Restoration](#);*

*Site 2 – [Wetlands and Aspen Grove](#); Site 3 – [Pond Ecology](#); and Site 4: - [Bozeman Creek Floodplain Overlook](#)*



## Intent of Artistic Contributions<sup>1</sup>

Respondents are asked to envision one artistic element to be sited within the park nature sanctuary that will elevate the public's understanding of the important role that water plays in the park ecosystem and across the Gallatin Valley.



Today, as Bozeman faces strong growth and development, water quality and quantity are formative to the community discussion. The site's rivers and wetlands represent the largest protected riparian complex in the Gallatin Valley, providing vital linkages to wildlife, soils, plants and ecological systems.

This Call for Artists asks respondents to reflect on 'water in the urban setting' to inform an artistic element inspired by the rich natural and cultural past, present and future of the area. Respondents are free to use any artistic medium or creative expression, or mixture of expressions, to address this intent and interest, so long as that proposal is mindful of the site's constraints and project's budget.

### Call for Artists

The language of art will engage and amplify the visitor experience at Story Mill Community Park exploring the abundant park water resources to connect them to the natural and cultural history of the site and the Gallatin Valley. Applicants will provide a preliminary concept design and budget for an artistic installation at one of four sites located along planned pathways within the park nature sanctuary at: the Story Mill Pond, the East

---

<sup>1</sup> This project seeks to frame its artistic contribution as creative placemaking, a process that, "*animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired... strategically shaping the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities.*" –the National Endowment for the Arts

Gallatin River, a wetlands overlook, or the within the Aspen Grove. See the attached map and coordinates identifying the four sites. Each site has a distinct feel and multiple stories to tell.

Through a competitive selection process, one - two proposals will be selected and the artists engaged to complete the design, fabricate and oversee installation of an artistic element within Story Mill Community Park.

The Trust for Public Land will request artist participation in a community engagement event either during the design process or on site following the art element installation.

Proposals must not exceed ten single sided pages on 8.5 x 11 paper and shall include the following:

- Artist's Statement of Interest to create an installation that engages park visitors and is inspired by the site's natural and cultural qualities through the lens of rivers, wetlands and water resources at Story Mill Community Park;
- Resume and work samples demonstrating quality and relevance of artist's past work;
- Preliminary Concept Design for the piece including descriptions of materiality, aesthetics, impacts on the visitor experience and the relationship to water as a shared community resource;
- Design considerations for durability in the Montana climate material durability, low impact and low maintenance to the environment.
- Submissions should include concept description and conceptual plan drawing or some type of visualization as well as a budget for design, fabrication and installation not to exceed \$30,000.

#### Partners and Roles:

**The Trust for Public Land** (TPL)'s Parks for People-Northern Rockies Program, located in Bozeman, MT, works with communities to help create parks. TPL is leading the development of Story Mill Community Park through a community-inspired design process that celebrates the values of Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley.

**City of Bozeman** owns the land and will assume long-term management and maintenance of the Story Mill Community Park including ownership of the art element. The City has contracted with TPL to design and construct the park.

This creative placemaking project is partially supported through a **National Endowment for the Arts** 'Our Town' grant.

Eligibility: Applicants should have demonstrated experience in creating art or art elements for public spaces. Local artists are encouraged to apply. One design concept submission per artist please.

Selection Process & Criteria: A committee headed by TPL staff and comprised of a volunteer artist, a historian, a faculty member from the Montana State University art department, and a community member will utilize a pre-determined scoring criteria to judge the selections on the quality and comprehensiveness of the submission package as it relates to, and demonstrates, creativity, artistic merit, conceptual innovation, design, and compatibility with the Story Mill Community Park project.

Selection will be based upon the following criteria:

- Creative vision in relation to this unique natural and cultural setting
- Demonstration of artistic excellence and/or capability
- Artistic impact on the visitor experience at Story Mill Community Park
- Connection to the community and historic context
- Ability for the project to be delivered, given budget and site constraints

Technical and Legal Considerations: Artwork must be durable, require low maintenance, be designed for a public space and northern climate, and comport with standard specifications for placement in an outdoor setting. Selected materials should have no potential negative impacts to the environment and require minimal maintenance.

Because this artistic element will be funded with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the applicant understands that federal grant provisions will apply.

- Budget per element: \$30,000 includes design, fabrication and installation including base construction. To the extent possible, budget should break-out costs of design, fabrication, structural installation requirements and other process considerations.

References: Please provide the names of two references that can speak to the experience of the applicants with similar projects. Please include their name, organization, relationship with your previous work, telephone and email.

Timeline:

- Release of RFP: Monday April 2, 2018
- Site field tour - *optional*: Wednesday, May 2, 9-10:30 am (rsvp to [maddy.pope@tpl.org](mailto:maddy.pope@tpl.org) for details)
- Submittals due: Tuesday May 15, 2018
- Project Selection & Artist notification: Monday June 4, 2018
- Design Concept Review: July 13, 2018
- Delivery/Installation of Work: Fall 2018 or Spring 2019 (to be determined)

Please submit any questions to [maddy.pope@tpl.org](mailto:maddy.pope@tpl.org) by April 18th with Call to Artists in the subject line please.

Please submit six printed proposals and one digital copy by 4pm on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 to:

Maddy Pope, Project Manager  
The Trust for Public Land  
1007 East Main Street, Suite 300  
Bozeman, MT 59715





## Art Element Site Options & Google Map Coordinates

### 1 - E. Gallatin Stream Restoration

N 45 41.869 W 111 01.330

### 2 - Wetlands and Aspen Grove

N 45 41.802 W 111 01.351

### 3 - Pond Ecology

N 45 41.786 W 111 01.496

### 4 - Bozeman Creek Floodplain Overlook

N 45 41.759 W 111 01.559

## Story Mill Community Park – Nature Sanctuary