

Margie Bland Receives 2023 Missoula County Parks and Trails Steward Award

The Missoula County Parks and Trails Advisory Board and the Missoula County Board of County Commissioners will present the 2023 Missoula County Parks and Trails Steward Award to Margie Bland at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, October 19th. The ceremony is open to the public and will be hosted at Schmautz Park, located in the Target Range neighborhood, located at 1793 42nd Ave. The annual award recognizes individuals and organizations who have dedicated years of service to creating and improving public facilities across Missoula County.

Margie has a storied, decades long history of caring for Schmautz Park. Working alongside family and neighbors, Margie is creating a legacy of a more vibrant and connected park where community is celebrated. From a hand-carved entrance sign to memorial trees thoughtfully placed around the park, she exemplifies the value of sustained acts of community service.

“Schmautz Park may not be the most recognized park in Missoula County, but it is certainly one that has benefited from the attention and care of local neighbors. For over 35 years Margie Bland, along with her husband Bill and neighbor Pat Keffeler, have spent uncountable hours maintaining and improving this unique space,” said Missoula County Parks and Trails Advisory Board Member Jeff Koch. “As Bill and Pat have both passed, Margie finds herself taking on the tasks alone. Her contributions, both financial and physical, have kept this bit of Missoula County available and inviting to all. I am humbled by her efforts. This recognition is well deserved.”

For more information or questions about the 2023 Missoula County Parks and Trails Steward Award, email Jackson Lee at jlee@missoulacounty.us

The Missoula County Parks and Trails Steward Award has recognized previous recipients for their critical on the ground efforts supporting parkland and trail networks throughout the County. A list of past recipients can be found at: <https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/community-development/community-planning-services/parks-trails/past-steward-awardees>