

**From:** [Livingston Montana](#)  
**To:** [webmaster](#)  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Contact Us  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 10:09:48 AM

---

Submitted on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 - 10:09am

Submitted by anonymous user: 97.121.202.138

Submitted values are:

First Name Mark  
Last Name Rehder  
Email  
Question/Comment  
315 South 8th ST  
Livingston, MT 59047  
July 18, 2023

Livingston City Commission  
Livingston, MT 59047

Dear City Commissioners and Mr. Gager:

Livingston is close to constructing a new swimming pool. This concept has been in process for over 50 years, with many groups of citizens dedicating time and money to create a new facility. Of all the previous attempts, none have come close to our current situation. Thanks to the dedicated work of 4 Ranges Community Recreation Foundation, the City of Livingston and many community citizens, we are close to building a vitally necessary new civic building. It will become an important year-round destination for the people of Park County and can provide a centerpiece for community pride.

This facility is close but is at a critical juncture. Before it can become a place of pride, it must not become a point of division. From the beginning I have felt that the location, location, and location of the facility is the single most important factor to gaining community buy-in. Of the four locations currently under consideration, I believe the Civic Center Site and Katie Bonnell Park will create more problems than solutions due to community division and environmental hazards.

The Katie Bonnell Park is a tiny triangle of property located in a polluted brownfield superfund site, is dependent upon an agreement with the railroad or other landholders, would look out at industrial metal buildings, a covered asbestos pile, chain-link fences and the railyards. I am completely in favor of developing brownfields, but a strategy to develop this site is immense and will need to include many other factors that will quickly exceed the New Market Tax Credit. The entire brownfields of the railyard are a huge project itself and attempting to put a pool in that location will likely become an expensive experiment in environmental remediation.

The Civic Center location would be ideal except for two problems, flooding and community

division. With enough money and engineering the pool could be built to withstand the 1000 year or even the 10,000 year floods that will likely happen sooner than expected, but I doubt if a portion of the community will ever support dismantling the Civic Center. In my opinion, find another site and emphasize the history and importance of the Center and don't let it become a community division right from the start.

While the other two potential locations are not within the New Market Tax Credit, they both present a variety of positive factors. The Washington school site is a highly visible location that is the most central for the community and has buildings that can be part of the facility. Additionally, the buildings currently need rehabilitation and the school system is open to using this property for a community facility. The Northside Park has land that is owned by the city and is in an area already developed for recreation. Both of these locations present many factors that favor a new pool facility and avoid complex issues of the other two sites.

This project needs deep community support from the start and even with the current funding (congratulations to the 4 Ranges Community Recreation Foundation for this major accomplishment), the debate of these four locations could quickly derail the process. Please choose a location that gathers our community in support and use this project to give Livingston something we vitally need, an indoor pool with whatever other indoor amenities we can afford.

And eventually, maybe, this will facilitate the other most important project...the Northside Railroad crossing.

Sincerely,  
Mark Rehder  
Phone Number

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.livingstonmontana.org/node/7/submission/1658>