



## TENMILE CREEK PARK ADDS WHEELCHAIR CHARGING STATION



PHIL DRAKE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

A wheelchair charging station is located at Tenmile Creek Park near Fort Harrison in Helena.

**PHIL DRAKE**  
phil.drake@helenair.com

In the northwest corner of Tenmile Creek Park sits a small wooden structure equipped with something that will help everyone enjoy the great outdoors.

A wheelchair charging station is in the park's parking lot at 1505 Williams St. and in the shadow of Fort Harrison.

It is free to users.

Mary Hollow, executive director of Prickly Pear Land Trust, which joined with the Montana National Guard to develop the 558-acre park, said funding for the station came from PPLT and the Land Trust Alliance, but the majority of the funds came from an AARP grant that PPLT received last year with the purpose of making the park more accessible.

It was completed at the end of April. The cost of the project was about \$25,000, Hollow said. All funds came from PPLT — \$20,000 in grant dollars and the rest from the nonprofit's individual support.



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Please see **TENMILE**, Page A2 Tenmile Creek Park in Helena

## Trump plans to merge wildland firefighting efforts into one agency

**MATTHEW BROWN**  
Associated Press

President Donald Trump's administration is trying to merge the government's wildland firefighting efforts into a single agency, a move some former federal officials warn could increase the risk of catastrophic blazes and ultimately cost billions of dollars.

Trump's budget would centralize firefighting efforts now split among five agencies and two Cabinet departments into a single Federal Wildland Fire Service under the U.S. Interior Department.

That would mean shifting thousands of personnel from the U.S. Forest Service — where most federal firefighters now work — into the new agency with fire season al-

ready underway. Budget documents do not disclose how much the change could cost or save.

The Trump administration in its first months temporarily cut off money for wildfire mitigation work and sharply reduced the ranks of federal government firefighters through layoffs and retirement. That resulted in the loss of more than 1,600 qualified firefighters in the Forest Service — an arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture — and hundreds of people at Interior, according to the National Association of Forest Service Retirees and Democratic lawmakers.

Please see **FIREFIGHTING**, Page A2



KENT PORTER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Forest Service firefighters from Stonyford, Calif., from left, Vivian Perez, Emma Nieforth, Jonny Connelly and Nick Bonnie watch as a BAE-146 air tanker is used to go indirect on the Ridge Fire, as a secondary contingency line, July 20, 2024, east of Clearlake, Calif.