



September 1, 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Skypoint renovations scheduled for September,  
approaching streets will be closed to vehicle traffic*

390 N 23rd St  
Billings, MT 59101  
P 406.657.8371

**BILLINGS** - After more than 20 years of serving as the gathering place in downtown Billings, Skypoint will receive some much-needed repairs.

The touch ups include cleaning, new paint, new LED lighting, removal of the old sails, and installation of new sails.

Anyone who walks under Skypoint and looks up will notice the sails have a lot of wear and tear, caused over the years by exposure to wind, rain, sunshine and snow.

The first round of work will begin Tuesday, Sept. 12, and wrap up on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023.

Vehicle traffic will not be allowed through the intersection from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The closure includes 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North between North 27<sup>th</sup> Street and North 29<sup>th</sup> Street, and North Broadway Avenue between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North.

Pedestrian traffic is allowed during the closure. Barricades and caution tape will offer guidance and protection.

Visitors are encouraged to park along nearby streets and parking garages to access businesses located along the closure.

The City Hall parking garage will be accessible through the adjacent alley and by entering 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave North from North 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Directional cones will guide drivers in and out of the garage.

The work being done in September is the first of at least three phases that will take place over the next several months. The other phases will likely happen this year, but specific dates have not been decided.



The City of Billings Parks and Recreation department is leading the project with help and support from the Downtown Billings Alliance.

###

390 N 23rd St  
Billings, MT 59101  
P 406.657.8371

**Media Contact:**  
**Cole McQuillan**  
**Parks Superintendent**  
**Billings Parks and Recreation**  
[McQuillanC@BillingsMT.gov](mailto:McQuillanC@BillingsMT.gov)  
**(406)657-8367**

*Some Skypoint History...*

Late in 1998, the members of the Downtown Billings Partnership, Inc. (DBP) celebrated with the property owners on Montana Avenue to mark the completion of the Montana Avenue Streetscape Project. It didn't take long before the DBP began the process leading to a pedestrian friendly renovation of North Broadway.

By the end of 2000, the DBP began seeking support for a plan that would include a "defining element" to be located at the intersection of N. Broadway and 2nd Ave. North....marking the very center of the Magic City.

The intersection of 2nd Avenue N. and N. Broadway was established as the official gathering area for our growing city. Yellowstone Valley Farmers' Market had just established that footprint for their summer Saturday market, Strawberry Festival was only a few years old, and the Downtown Billings Association was developing plans for using that space for new and vibrant gatherings as described in the Downtown Billings Framework, an urban renewal vision plan completed in 1997-98.

The North Broadway Streetscape was slated as the first project of the vision plan implementation phase. The DBP cast the net towards local architects and challenged them to submit their ideas and concepts regarding the defining element.

*Beaconing Rim*, the original name of Skypoint, was submitted by A&E Architects as the Defining Element Competition winner. This important downtown feature was dedicated as "Skypoint" on May 31, 2002 by Mayor Chuck Tooley.