



Honoring Our Legacy. Embracing Our Future.

This is a time of significant change for us. Our founding director, Mayre Flowers, has retired after 26 years of indefatigable commitment to the principles that have made Citizens strong – stewardship, open government, community, and active citizenship.

Transitions from long-term leadership such as Mayre’s can offer much uncertainty. I assure you that our work will remain strongly committed to empowering the citizens of the Flathead Valley to participate in and effectively advocate for sustainable solutions that will keep the Flathead ecologically and economically healthy.

I’m excited to lead Citizens for a Better Flathead. I am honored and grateful to be entrusted with the rich legacy you and Mayre have built. Citizens has become a go-to resource for the community on planning issues and respected as a well-informed and fierce advocate for the greater good of this community, for sustainable solutions, and for the world-class resources of this region.

We will continue to take on issues that would fundamentally change the character of the valley.

We will continue to empower people willing to take the lead on issues – big or small – and be there to guide and support them.

And we will continue to ensure that local government policies and decisions give meaningful consideration to the well-being of the whole community, the environment, and future generations.

I ask for your continued support as we move forward. I ask you to invest with our dedicated staff and board in our common future in this uncommon place. In return, you can still count on us to promote best practices and innovative tools, hold decision-makers accountable, keep you informed, and imagine the impossible.

It’s been said that all politics are local. While national politics may continue to vie more and more for our attention, Citizens brings it back home where you live, work, and play. Together, we have important work to do to achieve our shared goal of keeping the Flathead the “last best place.”

Thank you,

Richard Turbiak
Executive Director



It's All About We the People. It's All About Our Home.

At Citizens for a Better Flathead, we see the entire community working together to ensure the Flathead Valley retains its unique character and remains special forever. Through that vision we join you in championing sustainable solutions needed to keep the Flathead Valley ecologically and economically healthy.

Citizens Leads

Citizens provides effective leadership, expertise, and continuous advocacy in the local decision-making processes shaping the Flathead's future and quality of life.

The City of Kalispell revised its growth policy in June 2017 and Citizens was there with you to assure it best aligned with your wishes as community members. On the horizon are updates to the Flathead County Growth Policy, as well as the municipal growth policies of Columbia Falls and Whitefish. There are also neighborhood plans and development regulations ripe for review and updating.

We continue to champion new highway corridor standards to limit sprawl. We will work to collaborate with the three cities – Kalispell, Whitefish, and Columbia Falls – and the county to establish comprehensive corridors plans to limit the current pattern of haphazard growth occurring along major highways between these cities and towns. Such standards are important tools for keeping our natural environment and communities ecologically and economically vibrant.



Citizens Empowers

Citizens equips you and decision-makers with the policy research and practical tools you need to advance long-term solutions to our valley's significant challenges.

Citizens has a long and successful history of encouraging essential grassroots neighborhood leadership in our region. We are pleased to support the work of yet another newly formed neighborhood group called the *West Glacier Community Preservation Association* in their efforts to better organize in response to growing development pressures in the Glacier National Park western entrance corridor.

Further, we continue to collaborate as an advisor with *Water for Flathead's Future*, a citizens group that advocates sustainable use of our local water resources. This valley-wide effort seeks to address impacts from the first proposed industrial-scale water-bottling plant in the Flathead. We'll continue to provide active technical and organizing support for this effort.



We are also supporting the efforts of *Yes! For Flathead Farms and Water*, a county-wide coalition of residents and property owners in the Creston area working to protect this agricultural heartland. They successfully placed on the June 5th, 2018 ballot an initiative to expand the Egan Slough zoning district – in the area of the proposed bottling plant – to support property owners in this area who have petitioned the county to zone their property for agricultural, as opposed to industrial and commercial uses, to protect some of the richest farmland in the valley.

Citizens Conserves

The **WasteNot Project** is the foundation of our efforts to build sustainable practices that reduce waste and conserve energy – an aspect of our work we want to continue to grow. The WasteNot Project now educates over 3,700 students in city and county schools each year on recycling through our classroom educational programs. The school program provides hands-on activities on composting and landfill-related waste reduction learning activities.

WasteNot also offers a recycling bin loan program, supplying recycling bins for many large-scale community events including the annual county fair, and advocates for a goal of zero waste events. With our WasteNotProject.org website and publications we make recycling and waste reduction a valley-wide priority.

We will be supporting the efforts of the City of Whitefish to establish a curbside recycling program citywide over the coming year, and continue to collaborate with Climate Smart Glacier Country efforts to find local solutions that will conserve resources and foster a thriving community for ourselves and future generations.

Our valley's unique character is defined in part by the creativity, hard work, and resilience of our local entrepreneurs. That's why since 2009 we've published the **Go Local Flathead Guide** – to celebrate them and their businesses and to showcase their stories and trade.

This season we begin with a newly designed appearance to freshen the guide with a contemporary look. And we've steered our articles to focus more on the local business owner – who they are, and why and how they support our community. Every person who runs a local business in the Flathead Valley adds personal and economic vibrancy and vitality to our community. Supporting them supports us all.

Citizens Builds

Citizens attracts, retains, and grows community support for steering change through active community involvement. Our largest annual event, the valley-wide community Earth Day celebration, brings together almost 50 non-profit organizations and businesses to engage and educate our community about conservation issues and sustainable practices they can adopt in their everyday lives.

In an effort to maximize our effectiveness and engagement, over the next year, we will reach out to you directly. What do you see as priorities? How can we continue to grow our work? Our base of support? There is much to be done and we look forward to hearing from you.





Citizens Sustains

Citizens is moving forward. Together we have the creativity, resolve, and know-how to tackle our communities' greatest challenges and enhance the places we love. We can and must find ways to balance and bridge our differences in order to maintain the unique quality of life in the Flathead Valley. Because of you, we can reach for excellence and grow the organization's capacity needed to achieve bold visions and ambitious plans.

Your strong financial support is of course as always essential. None of what's written on these pages is possible without it – and there's a lot more we do between the lines. We are a community-supported non-profit who relies on your individual donations to make this work possible, not just for you, but for your grandchildren and their children. So please give today and invest in our shared future.

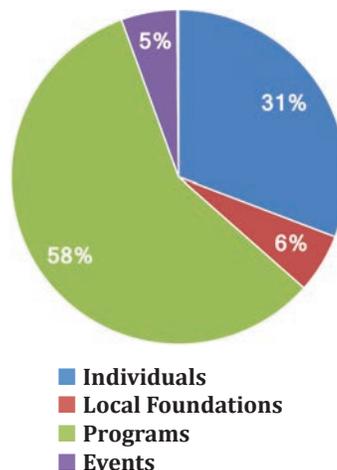
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In 2016: Where Our Support Came From



How That Support Was Invested

