

Parks & Beautification Board and City Staff,

I hereby tender my official resignation from the Parks & Beautification Board, effective July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I appreciate the opportunity afforded me by the City Council and Mayor Murphy, to serve the community of Gillette in the preservation and improvement of our amazing parks and pathways system. I was recently offered a competitive architecture job in the city of Portland, Oregon, and after much thought and discussion with family and friends, I have decided that this is the correct move at this point in my architecture career. This will not be the first time I have departed Gillette for a new adventure. Gillette has always been and will always continue to be my home, and I look forward to seeing the great strides this Board, this government, and this community will take in the coming years.

I want to leave with a commendation and a recommendation. I commend the Parks & Beautification Board for fulfilling its role as both a sounding board for community concerns and an advocate for the Parks and Pathways as a valuable institution for the betterment of our community. My recommendation is that the City Council and Mayor consider the use of similar city boards as advocates for other valuable community resources, such as the Downtown small-business district or for the enhancement of neighborhoods throughout the City. Provide the citizens with a stable and permanent forum to voice their urban revitalization concerns, and also provide the city with a board empowered to enforce and inform City policies on urban and suburban revitalization. Not for the purpose of new growth, but the maintenance and enhancement of the City we have already built. That's my 2 cents.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to work for our Community and our Parks!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James R. LaManna Jr.", is positioned above the printed name. The signature is stylized and cursive.

James R. "Jake" LaManna Jr.