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Parks & Recreation
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Press Release

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Citizens invited to comment on new playgrounds funded by stimulus

The state legislature has awarded the City of Missoula \$380,000 in stimulus funds for four new playgrounds in city parks, and Missoula Parks and Recreation is seeking public comment on the project through Friday, February 5. The project, called Playgrounds 4 Missoula, will replace deteriorating playgrounds at Boyd, Sacajawea and Marilyn Parks and build one new playground at Lafray Park. Visit www.ci.missoula.mt.us/playgrounds for more information, photos and site plans and a public comment questionnaire.

Three of the four new playgrounds are located in densely-populated neighborhoods and all four parks have been identified as priority areas for playground replacement or installation. CTA Architects Engineers of Missoula has been selected by the City as the design and engineering firm for the project.

Parks and Recreation and CTA held a workshop on January 16 to work with citizens on playground design. The session, led by Parks and Recreation Director Donna Gaukler and Wayne Freeman of CTA, brought out a wealth of creative ideas from adults and children alike to help shape the future of play in Missoula. Workshop attendees requested that each playground be unique, accessible to all citizens, and built with sustainability in mind. Those who were unable to attend the workshop are encouraged to complete the public comment questionnaire [on the City's website](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us), or phone 721-PARK for a comment form. Comments may also be emailed to <mailto:dgaukler@ci.missoula.mt.us>.

CTA will collect the comments and design ideas from the workshop and public comment to help the Parks and Recreation Department develop master plans for each park. The city has established a goal of having Missoula children playing on their new playgrounds this summer.

The City is seeking partners to expand the new playgrounds by sponsoring additional play features or amenities in order to serve more of Missoula's children. For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation Director Donna Gaukler at 552-6265.

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