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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 14, 2012

2013 NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT FUNDS WORKSHOPS BEGIN

Have you noticed the new playgrounds at Franklin School and Lewis and Clark School? These are examples of projects that used Neighborhood Project Funds to help make dreams come true. Other projects include the traffic signal boxes that have been transformed with public art and the Walnut Street Pocket Park. There are many other projects, such as trails and amenities, park surveys and even a bear awareness project and an "apple share," an information clearinghouse of apple harvesting resources to keep ripe fruit from attracting bears in the Rattlesnake neighborhood. For the past 16 years, the Neighborhood Project Funds have helped Missoula become a more beautiful and livable place, with help from the neighborhood volunteers who make it all happen.

Any Missoula resident can gather a group of volunteers and apply for funding to do something noteworthy in their own parts of town. The new grant cycle for Neighborhood Project Funds begins Aug. 22 with a pre-application workshop to help shape projects. Community members may submit grant applications for up to \$3,000. A total of \$20,000 is available this year. Applications are reviewed by neighborhood members, City Council representatives and City staff and are awarded on a competitive basis. Funds are approved by the Community Forum, a representative body of Neighborhood Councils, and the City Council.

Neighborhood Project Funds are set aside to build a sense of community and pride through neighborhood improvement, neighborhood planning and neighborhood outreach. The grants seek to improve the physical dynamics of the neighborhood. Other funded projects have taken on city inventories, such as seeking out areas needing complete sidewalks and parks. These inventories may then be used in larger city plans.

"Neighborhood Grants provide citizens an opportunity to add to larger or ongoing projects in their neighborhoods; this builds a sense of ownership and pride that lasts well beyond the capital improvement installation itself," Donna Gaukler, Director of Parks and Recreation.

This year's grant cycle for Neighborhood Project Funds will begin with two workshops:

<p>Wednesday, Aug. 22</p> <p>Pre-application Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get ideas for projects• Read through a successful application• Identify the committee review process & use of funds• Answer questions about your application• Gain technical assistance for grant writing	<p>Details</p> <p>Jack Reidy Conference Room 140 W. Pine St. 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Sept. 12</p> <p>Question & Answer with City Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come to this workshop with an application for review• Bring specific questions for City staff• Identify any gaps in your application• <i>Application deadline Oct. 3, 2012</i>	<p>Details</p> <p>Jack Reidy Conference Room 140 W. Pine St. 7 p.m.</p>

Citizens interested in applying for funds are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings. Application deadline is Oct. 3 at 5 p.m. Application and guidelines are posted at www.missoula-neighborhoods.org.