



MISSOULA OFFICE OF PLANNING & GRANTS
435 Ryman
MISSOULA MT 59802-4292
PHONE: (406) 258-4657



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 11, 2012

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: TOM ZAVITZ, PLANNER
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND GRANTS, 258-4983**

**CITY COUNCIL SEEKS PUBLIC OPINION
IN ADU DISCUSSION
Open house set for Oct. 24**

Planners in the Office of Planning and Grants are helping the Missoula City Council gather public opinion to help inform their discussion about Accessory Dwelling Units. The public can participate in two ways.

First, log on to <http://adumissoula.net> and fill out the online questionnaire. The website also provides information about definitions and resources.

Second, interested citizens can attend an open house on Oct. 24 at the Holiday Inn Downtown from 5-8 p.m. The open house will provide information about the options Council members are considering and will also provide another opportunity to take the questionnaire and offer comments.

Accessory Dwelling Units, called ADUs, are a housing option that consists of housing units that are subordinate to their primary residences and are subject to design standards, required owner occupancy, parking requirement and size restrictions. An ADU may be a smaller interior apartment or a separate backyard cottage associated with a single-family house.

ADUs have been considered in Missoula as a tool for easing the shortage of affordable homes and the very low rental vacancy rate. Also in Missoula, census information indicates that the population is aging, and the household size is shrinking. Considering ADUs takes a look at alternative housing types that could meet the needs of an aging population and allow people to remain within their neighborhoods as their housing needs change over time.

Currently, the City Council is considering a policy that will expand the use of ADU to all single family zoning districts in the city. This means that people who own and occupy their homes may be allowed to add small rental units to their properties regardless of the zones they live in and dependent on meeting certain standards.

City Council members have been talking about this issue in committee for some time and exploring the various elements and options that could be used to regulate an Accessory Dwelling Unit project. Now, they are wishing to broaden the dialogue into a community-wide discussion. Collectively, through the many avenues described, OPG planners hope to provide background regarding this project and gain feedback from the community. Planners will present a summary of the feedback to the City Council Plat Annexation and Zoning (PAZ) sub-committee in November, and the committee will consider how to proceed.

The questionnaire and background material are available at the Office of Planning and Grants as well as online.

#

If anyone attending the Open House needs special assistance, please call 258-4657 48 hours in advance. The City of Missoula will provide auxiliary aids and services.