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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release from April 3, 2015 through April 9, 2015

Public invited to Open House for Fort Missoula Regional Park

Citizens are invited to an open house to learn more about the plan for Fort Missoula Regional Park (FMRP) on Thursday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m., at the Missoula Children's Theater. Construction of the new park is slated to begin early next year. The \$36 million project is funded by the 2014 County Parks and Trails Bond.

City and County parks officials will update citizens on the adopted plan for the Park and explain the design and construction process. The event will feature presentations on aspects of the Park's design, including sustainability, historic interpretation, sports facilities, trails and playgrounds, shelters, concessions and special events.

The park will be constructed in phases to minimize impacts on current activities, including youth, high school and adult sports. Phase I construction, which includes playgrounds, picnic areas, trails and multi-use sports fields, is projected to begin in March, 2016. Phase II construction, including playgrounds, a dog park, more trails and softball diamonds, is projected to begin in 2017. When complete, FMRP will be a county-wide and regional destination with 156 acres of trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, historic interpretation, a variety of sports facilities, a dog park and support facilities.

The \$42 million County Parks and Trails general obligation bond, which was approved by voters in November, 2014, funds the development of Fort Missoula Regional Park, 10 new or improved City playgrounds, and a new trails program for Missoula County. Citizens who can't attend the open house can learn more about the project at www.missoulaparks.org.

For more information about FMRP and the other Parks and Trails Bond projects, visit www.missoulaparks.org. Sign up for the monthly Parks and Trails Bond newsletter at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/list.aspx>. For information about the Missoula County Parks and Trails Program, visit <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/mccaps/Parks.htm>.

(end)

Media – Please see attached background information.

Media Notes - Additional background

- The Land Group, Inc., with local partners, has been selected to finalize the design and construction documents. Local partners and their areas of collaboration include:
 - Oz Architects, PC – Architecture, LEED Review and Application
 - DJ&A, PC – Civil Engineering, Land Survey
 - Associated Construction Engineering, Inc. – Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and Plumbing
 - Beaudette Consulting Engineers, Inc. – Structural Engineering
 - Tetra Tech, Inc. – Geotechnical
- FMRP is a collaborative project, with the Projects Team overseeing Park development made up of both County and City employees. Oversight is provided by a team made up of City and County leadership. An inter-local City-County agreement provides the guidelines for the joint efforts.

Projected Project Phasing

- June 2015 – Phase I, 65% design and construction documents completed.
- Fall 2015 – Complete Design and Permitting for Phase I.
- January 2016 – Complete Design and Permitting, Phase II.
- March 2016 – Begin Construction Phase I.
- September 2016 – Projected Opening Phase I for Use.
- September 2017 – Projected Opening Phase II for Use.

Project Timeline

- 1995: Open Space Plan and Bond – Acquire lands for additional playing fields at Fort Missoula.
- 1997: City Acquires 100 acres from UM.
- 2001-2002: Extensive public process leads to Adoption of conceptual master plan and guiding principles by Board of County Commissioners, City Council and both City and County Park Boards.
- 2002-2008: Western Cultural, Inc. completes the following efforts:
- Jan. 2003: Preliminary historical & archaeological investigations phase one.
- April 2005: Mitigation Plan for FMRP.
- April 2008: Historic Resources and the Park Design.
- June 2008: Public Open House.
- Sept 2008: SHPO Letter of Concurrence.
- 2008: City Adopts Master Plan including design development detail and cultural resources plan.
- 2012: County Adopts Master Plan including design development detail which continues the cultural resources theme. Includes expansion of the Historic District.
- Nov. 2014: County Parks and Trails GO Bond Passes providing funds (\$36 million) for development of FMRP.
- April 2015: Public Open House & Kick-Off to full design & construction.