



OUR MISSOULA

Looking inward. Moving forward.

GROWTH POLICY PROJECT OPEN HOUSE SET City Planners and Volunteers to Share Progress with Public April 30

The City of Missoula Development Services planning staff, along with the Our Missoula Project citizen volunteers, invites the public to an open house to learn about draft policy language and future land use scenarios for the City of Missoula's Growth Policy. The open house is a landmark in the project and is an opportunity to review and comment on the goals, objectives and actions of the six citizen focus groups who have met over the last six months to create community policy directions for the City of Missoula. The open house will be held Thursday, April 30, from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 100 Madison St. Citizens can drop by at their convenience.

The public will also have the opportunity to view a 15-minute summary slideshow report on the Missoula Asset Mapping Project, a partnership between the City and the Sonoran Institute's Community Builders program. The report will be presented at the open house as a recorded continuous slide show lasting 15 minutes. For project details, please see <http://communitybuilders.net/missoulaassets/>.

Citizens can also visit with Hellgate High School students who have followed the work of the focus groups and developed their own concepts for the new 20-year growth plan in each of the focus group areas. Students will be set up throughout the venue to display project ideas and answer questions.

This comment and check-in portion part of the City's growth policy public process is crucial, and this open house is the public's best opportunity to see all the information in one place and to share comments and questions with staff and volunteers. As well as commenting on policy

language, the public will be asked for comments on two future land use scenario maps, ... will be on display.

Since June 2014, the Planning Division of Development Services has been working on a new Growth Policy for the City. Planners collected hundreds of comments from community members during outreach activities that included markets, festivals and presentations. They hosted 28 listening sessions focusing on topics ranging from economic development to emergency services and taking on arts and culture as well as aging (older adult) needs. This also included four neighborhood-focused listening sessions. In total, staff members have reached out to more than 1,500 people during 65 events to gather community perspectives.

City government is required by law to operate with a growth plan and has had a plan since 1961, with updates along the way. Currently, Missoula is working under a growth plan adopted in 2006. The resulting policy for growth will serve as a visionary blueprint for all aspects of future growth and development in Missoula.

Learn more about the project at www.ourmissoula.org.

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Contacts for interviews:

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Note: The City makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in this meeting. Persons needing assistance should provide advanced notice to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. Please call 552-6630 or write to Development Services, 435 Ryman Street, Missoula, Montana 59802, to make your request known.

