

## Livability

*The following is a list of pertinent existing policies extracted from current community planning documents including the 2005 Missoula County Growth Policy, and the 1998 Urban Area Comprehensive Plan, along with other general issue-based plans (like Transportation and Parks Plans as appropriate). The intent of this list is to provide an abbreviated and consolidated view of existing policies that relate to the focus group topic without necessarily having to sift through numerous plans. It is not an exhaustive list but is a quick reference and a resource. Full documents are available on the City's web site.*

Potential Topics associated with the Focus Group theme: Neighborhoods, History, Arts & Culture, Education, Social Services, Quality of Life.

### **2005 Missoula County Growth Policy**

#### CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES GOALS

1. Identify, evaluate, and develop ways to protect historic and cultural sites, structures, and trails.

#### CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage the preservation of historic buildings, historic landscapes, and cultural sites.
2. Protect and preserve archeological resources affected by or adjacent to development.
3. Provide education on area history, culture, and environment.

#### DEVELOPMENT PATTERN AND LAND USE GOALS

3. Preserve the diversity, integrity, and unique values of neighborhoods, communities, and rural areas.
4. Respect the different elements of neighborhood patterns and integrate them so as to form a functional, aesthetically pleasing, and livable whole.

#### DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS AND LAND USE OBJECTIVES

1. Accommodate growth, retain historical resources, and provide appropriate open spaces in the design of development so that areas of greater density remain healthy, safe, and livable.
6. Encourage a development pattern along major streets within and leading to the community that is visually pleasing.
7. Encourage the preservation and adaptive re-use of historic structures.
8. Encourage upgrading and maintenance of private property and structures.

### **1998 Urban Comprehensive Plan**

#### I. B. HUMAN RESOURCES -- COMMUNITY STRUCTURE, CHARACTER, AND HEALTH

We recognize the role of human interactions and sense of place in maintaining the livability of Missoula County. Our social structure and physical character are distinctive at the neighborhood level, at the small community level, in the larger urban community of Missoula, and in rural areas of Missoula County. Preservation of the diversity, integrity, and unique values of our neighborhoods, communities, and rural areas is one of the most important goals for well-managed growth. The protection and promotion of health for all Missoula citizens is fundamental to this goal.

#### Guiding Principles:

1. No single form or structure can ever define Missoula; diversity is the very essence of our place.
2. We can and should create a community life which includes the best of small town and big city life while avoiding the worst of each.
3. Urban area neighborhoods and surrounding communities are distinct from each other; each has its own integrity and role to play.
7. Our communities should be safe and healthy places for all ages.

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Considerations: In determining how best to preserve and enhance the diversity, integrity, and unique values of our neighborhoods, communities, and rural areas, we should consider the following:

1. Protect and encourage individual choice and initiative.
2. Neighborhood identity and integrity is as important as the big picture.
3. Recognize and foster conditions that improve the health of all Missoulians.
4. Reward initiatives that add to the charm and attraction of areas in Missoula City and County.
5. Recognize that there may be cultural as well as physical limitations on the ability of an area to accommodate growth.
6. Judge each individual action or decision in terms of this question: "Will this make Missoula a better place?" Consider how a particular action or decision will either threaten or protect and preserve our natural settings and surroundings.

Action: Identify the distinctiveness and strengths of our people and our physical and social places. Determine how we can preserve these strengths and unique characteristics. Foster community-building throughout.

*The following are related goal excerpts from existing issue-based plans*

## **The Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan (2006)**

2. Protect areas that reflect other community open space values, such as geologic, historic, archaeological, and other cultural resources.
  - Preserve scenic viewpoints and viewsheds.
  - Protect the visual reminders of our geologic history.
  - Spatially define the shape of our growing community in a way that honors its significant land forms and natural features.
  - Preserve significant agricultural lands in their historic use.