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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release through December 1, 2015

Parks and Recreation invites youth to help plan bike skills facilities

Missoula kids and adults are invited to help plan new bike skills courses in two neighborhood parks on Tuesday, December 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Southgate Mall Community Meeting Room. The workshop, hosted by Parks and Recreation and Missoula County Parks and Trails, will be a creative, interactive event where bike enthusiasts of all ages can share their ideas. In addition, the two agencies are hosting a Syringa Park master park plan workshop on November 30.

The new bike skills features will be constructed in two undeveloped parks: Bellevue Park, located at 3925 Paxson St., and Syringa Park on Lower Lincoln Hills Dr. Construction on the facilities could start as early as Spring, 2016. The projects are funded by a combination of impact fees, City and County park funds and in-kind services, donations from the Tanner Olson Memorial Foundation, and a grant from the International Mountain Bicycle Association. Detailed project budgets will be available after the design process is complete.

A bike skills course is a dedicated parks and recreation facility that includes mountain bike trails, jumps and progressive skills areas for all ages and abilities. Generally a bike park's natural vegetation and terrain is left in place to minimize impacts on the environment and the neighborhood. The citizen demand for bike skills parks has risen substantially in the last decade, and bike parks offer children and adults yet another way to play outside and stay active.

The December 1 workshop includes a light dinner served at 5:15 p.m. Children and adults are encouraged to attend. Representatives from the International Mountain Bicycle Association (IMBA) will be on hand to help design high-quality bike skills amenities within a neighborhood park setting. IMBA is a leader in bike park development with experience from projects around the world.

Syringa Park neighbors and all interested citizens are also invited to a planning workshop on Monday, November 30 to help draft a master park plan for the park. A park master plan provides a framework for planning, design, development and maintenance of the park. Through a collaborative and open public design process, a master plan establishes a shared vision within the community and guides future park development. The Syringa Park workshop will meet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Missoula Public Library, Large Meeting Room. Light refreshments will be served. Residents and City staff completed a master park plan for Bellevue Park in 2014.

For more information on these projects, please visit Missoula Parks and Recreation's website at www.missoulaparks.org.

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