



Our Missoula Growth Policy: 5-Year Review

APPENDIX A: List of Recommendations

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Introduction

The 5-Year Review of the Our Missoula Growth Policy concludes with a determination that a future growth policy updating process is warranted. The following list provides guidance and direction on which aspects of the Growth Policy were identified through the review that are deserving of modification.

This list is in no way binding or definitive. It is meant to be used as a guide and a resource for if and when amendments to the Growth Policy proceed. It is not exhaustive or binding; if modifications to the Growth Policy are identified as being deserving at a later date that are not contained in this list, there is no reason that they may not be considered or pursued.

It is important to note the City of Missoula's upcoming code reform initiative. This code reform work, one of Missoula's largest planning projects to date, will be comprehensive, detailed, and directly connected to an updated Growth Policy. Future updates to the Growth Policy will need to be closely tied to the work and findings associated with the code reform initiative, and will likely be further informed by the code and policy alignment audit process that will be the kickoff for that project around the beginning of 2022.

Technical/Maintenance/Document

- Update the Community Profile when most recent Census data is available.
- Reevaluate status of neighborhood plans for functionality and relevance.
- Refine the neighborhood plan template process in the context of ongoing neighborhood engagement improvement efforts through the Office of Neighborhoods.
- Revise/update Evaluation of Subdivision section based on most recent state law amendments, as well as recent local studies and planning efforts.
- Refine actions and prioritized actions list to reflect updated timelines and implementation timetables; update organizations that are involved with actions implementation.
- Streamline/reorganize Growth Policy document to be more organized around Element categories, especially regarding the actions/prioritized actions sections, and the community profile, and remove or consolidate redundant strategies.
- Update coordination and cooperation section for new organizations and partners. Update document for new department names, values, and mission statements.

Policy

- Review, consolidate and clarify vision, goals, objectives, and actions for extent of implementation and consistency with new policies and implementation timetable, and update document accordingly. Clarify existing policy language that is confusing/vague.
- Update and expand the Our Missoula Development Guide (OMDG report), and evaluate for an enhanced role in supplementing data and projections in the community profile, and supplementing the interpretation of land use designations.
- Evaluate and Consider Updates/Changes to the Future Land Use Map (FLUM)



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- Assess amendments to the FLUM based on consideration of recent policy updates such as the annexation policy and County LUTAC, and known or identified discrepancies between the FLUM and existing zoning.
- Pursue identifying an approach to mapping and identifying constrained lands, including hillsides, flood and channel migration zones, riparian areas, and areas of poor drainage.
- Conduct an equity analysis of the FLUM – linked to the proposed audit as part of the comprehensive code reform project.
- Consider conducting a fiscal Analysis for implications of the FLUM
- Refine the Focus Inward concept in the context of regional growth, and in the context of neighborhood planning. Reevaluate in relation to more recent planning efforts by both the City and County, as well as the MPO.
- Evaluate and Consider Updates/Changes to Land Use Designations
 - Consider simplifying what is prescribed in land use designations in relation to what is implemented through zoning-linked to the proposed audit as part of the comprehensive code reform project.
 - Consider incorporating flexibility into land use designations that allow commercial/neighborhood services in residential areas.
 - Address concurrency issues in growth policy land use designations.
 - Create guidance on height in land use designations.
 - Update Land Use Recommendation section for new applicable zones and any clarification on use of the tables.
- Clarify how issue plans and other specific plans should be synced up with the Growth Policy, inform how it is interpreted, and when they are appropriate to be used to supplement understanding of the Growth Policy.
- Consider how emergent issues, such as equity or pandemic response, or existing issues that are heightened, such as housing and climate change, should be reflected in the Policy document, and also interface with the audit of community values and alignment between policy and regulations included in the upcoming comprehensive code reform project.

Implementation/Useability

- Consider/explore enhanced web presence, or conversion of document to website.
- Assist with education and Interpretation through development of a Growth Policy User Guide
- Increase focus on implementation of Growth Policy by better coordination and tracking of action items; establish an ongoing implementation team that will help to prioritize actions and become team stewards of the plan.
- Improve tracking related to the Growth Policy, including implementation of actions related to biennial reporting, and development of key performance indicators (KPI's) that are integrated into the Community Profile.
- Improve data availability and useability.



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- Increase the amount and frequency of public participation and engagement with education of and amendments to the Growth Policy; use the upcoming Code Reform project and associated audit to align policy with action.