

Contact: Donna Gaukler
Director
552-6265
721-PARK
dgaukler@ci.missoula.mt.us

600 Clegg Lane
Missoula, MT 59801
www.missoulaparks.org



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release through Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Parks and Recreation Seeks Public Input On Facilities Repair and Replacement Plan

Missoula Parks and Recreation is planning for the future and city officials want to know which park amenities, like playgrounds and sports fields, residents would like to see renovated or replaced. Citizens are invited to two public workshops next week to learn about the condition of the park system and share their priorities for renovation of park facilities throughout the City.

The department is developing a [Park Renovation, Replacement and Improvement Plan](#) to prioritize future park maintenance projects over the next five to ten years. "Missoula has a long history of supporting a quality park system, but some of the park infrastructure is aging and in need of repair or replacement," says Parks and Recreation Director Donna Gaukler. "Our goal, with citizen input, is to design a long-range renovation and replacement plan that's fiscally flexible, maximizes the life of existing amenities, proactively addresses future needs and is geared to meeting the greatest needs of the community at the least cost."

Gaukler says parks facilities are in high demand and points to the [2011 City-County Parks Needs Assessment](#) which indicates park and trail use in Missoula is significantly higher than the national average. "It's clear that parks are very important in Missoula and citizens are committed to maintaining a quality park system," Gaukler says. "We're hoping that residents will join us at the workshops or complete the questionnaire to let us know what's most important to them when it comes to maintaining parks, playgrounds, sports fields and other park amenities."

Public workshops will meet on Tuesday, February 26 from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. at the Missoula Public Library, and Wednesday, February 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Meadow Hill Middle School. Citizens only need to attend one of the workshops and will have a chance to review the age and condition of current park facilities, share their thoughts on priorities for park infrastructure renovation or replacement and help create the long-range plan for maintaining Missoula's park system. Those who cannot attend the workshops are invited to respond to a public opinion questionnaire online at www.missoulaparks.org.

For more information, visit www.missoulaparks.org or phone David Selvage, Parks Systems & Services Manager at 552-6252.

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