

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

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

Parks & Recreation
City of Missoula • 600 Cregg Lane • 721-PARK

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release through November 11, 2016

Fort Missoula park facilities to close for Phase 2 construction

Beginning November 7, the existing Fort Missoula Regional Park (south of Community Medical Center) will be closed for Phase 2 construction. The closure includes the fitness trail, picnic area, soccer fields, softball diamonds, tennis and pickleball courts and dog park.

For fitness walkers, [1.5 miles of new trails](#) in Phase 1 of the park are projected to open November 11 (weather permitting.) Parks and Recreation will remove snow and ice from these trails during the winter months. FMRP's new lighted synthetic turf field will be open for reservation in mid-November, weather permitting. The remainder of FMRP Phase 1 is slated to open next spring.

The [Milwaukee Trail](#), [Bitterroot Trail](#), [Riverfront Trails and Playfair Park trails](#) are recommended alternatives for fitness walkers and are included in the City's winter snow removal routes.

Walkers and runners can find additional alternate routes at [Historic Fort Missoula](#), the [DNRC Seedling Nursery](#) at 2705 Spurgin Road, the [County Equestrian Park at 3500 North Av. West](#), [Maclay Flat Nature Trail](#) off of Blue Mtn. Road, and the [paved bicycle-pedestrian trails on Clements and 7th streets](#). The DNRC asks that dogs be leashed on the nursery paths.

For dog park alternatives, pet owners can visit [Jacob's Island Bark Park and Playfair Park Pup Pen](#); visit [missoulaparks.org](#) for more information.

Parks and Recreation is working with user groups to relocate tennis, softball, fall soccer programs and other sports while Phase 2 of the park is under construction.

Phase 2 construction includes playgrounds, a dog park, trails, seven new softball diamonds, tennis and pickleball courts, volleyball and basketball courts, public event spaces, picnic shelters and areas for bocce ball, horseshoes and croquet. Phase 2 is projected to open in 2018.

(more)

When complete, FMRP will be a regional destination with 156 acres of parkland, playgrounds, picnic areas, historic interpretation, state-of-the-art sports facilities, a large pavilion and events plaza and more. The park will also include over 5 miles of trails.

Next spring, tennis players will find open courts at Playfair, Bonner, Kiwanis, Gregory and Pineview Parks. Pickleball will move indoors for the fall and winter to the Sports and Wellness Center, 1515 Fairview. Parks and Recreation is exploring alternative sites to install temporary outdoor pickleball courts until FMRP Phase 2 opens in 2018.

Parks and Recreation appreciates your patience while the project is completed. For more information and directions to alternative fitness trails, visit missoulaparks.org.

(end)