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Parks & Recreation
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release through November 16, 2017

Residents invited to review draft master plan for new MRL Park

The City of Missoula invites residents to an open house to review a draft master plan for the new Montana Rail Link Park on Thursday, November 16. The 4.5-acre park is planned for the corner of Johnson St. and South Ave.

The open house runs from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Sovereign Hope Church, 1919 North Ave. Parks and Recreation staff will make a presentation at 6:30 p.m. to summarize the design process to date, present the current plan, and explain the next steps in designing and building the park. For the greatest convenience, please use the entrance nearest W. Kent. Ave.

Neighborhood residents attended a public [Park Design Workshop](#) in August, 2017 to share their priorities and design ideas for the new park, and neighborhood feedback was incorporated into the draft master plan. Public comment on the draft master plan will be accepted from Nov. 16 through Nov. 30. Details will be posted at www.missoulaparks.org after the Open House.

A master park plan is a comprehensive, community vision for park which guides park future development. Earlier this year, the City acquired a 12-acre parcel at Johnson and South from Montana Rail Link for \$2 million, a price substantially below market value, using 1995 Open Space Bond funds for the park and urban renewal district funding through the Missoula Redevelopment Agency. The sale and donation by Montana Rail Link of the 12 acres made possible the major steps of filling in the last missing link in the Bitterroot Trail between downtown Missoula and Hamilton and building a 4.5-acre park at the junction of two neighborhoods that have a severe shortage of open space and parks. In addition, the railroad has agreed to support a bicycle-pedestrian railroad crossing at Central Avenue, adjacent to the new park, supporting citizen goals for active transportation, connectivity, access and parkland service.

View the [project overview](#) and [vicinity map](#), and learn more about the project at www.missoulaparks.org, or phone Parks and Recreation at 721-PARK (PARK.)

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