

Whitaker & Ninkpata Open House

Guiding Principles

We will adhere to the following principles:

- Listen to Each Other
- Be Open Minded
- Be Willing to Compromise
- Be Creative
- Show Respect for Each Other
- Be Non-Judgmental



Assumptions

- Sustainable, economically feasible to construct & maintain
- The parks are Public Parks
- Accessible (ADA, equity, roads/trails)
- Safe (meets Park standards, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Manage risk and safety)

Whitaker

USFS Radio Building to be removed with interpretation remaining on site

Ninkpata

Missoula Water will remove tanks prior to construction (likely 2022)

Site Context & Existing Conditions

Whitaker & Ninkpata parks are ¼ mile apart, each are approximately 2.5 acres in size and both offer areas of relatively flat topography. The defined service area of a neighborhood park is all parcels within ½ mile of the park. Ninkpata and Whitaker Parks service areas overlap by 32%.



Whitaker Park

Whitaker Park is the most developed park in the system. The park consists of irrigated turf, and contains a small basketball court, and a playground. 15% of the park has mature shade trees in good condition. Throughout the park are good views of Mount Sentinel and the Missoula Valley. Two park access points to the north, off W Crestline Dr are overgrown and unmarked.

In the uppermost portion of the park is a 1936 USFS Radio Building also known as the “little white house”. The National Park Service lists it as a historic site. In 1975 the USFS gave the structure to the City of Missoula for \$1. The city is working with the neighborhood and historic preservation office to find a new home for the building and interpret it’s history on site.

In 2016 funding through the 2014 City/County Parks and Trails Bond was used to upgrade the playground in Whitaker Park. The original playground was removed, and a new ADA accessible playground designed for ages 2-10 was installed.

Ninkpata Park

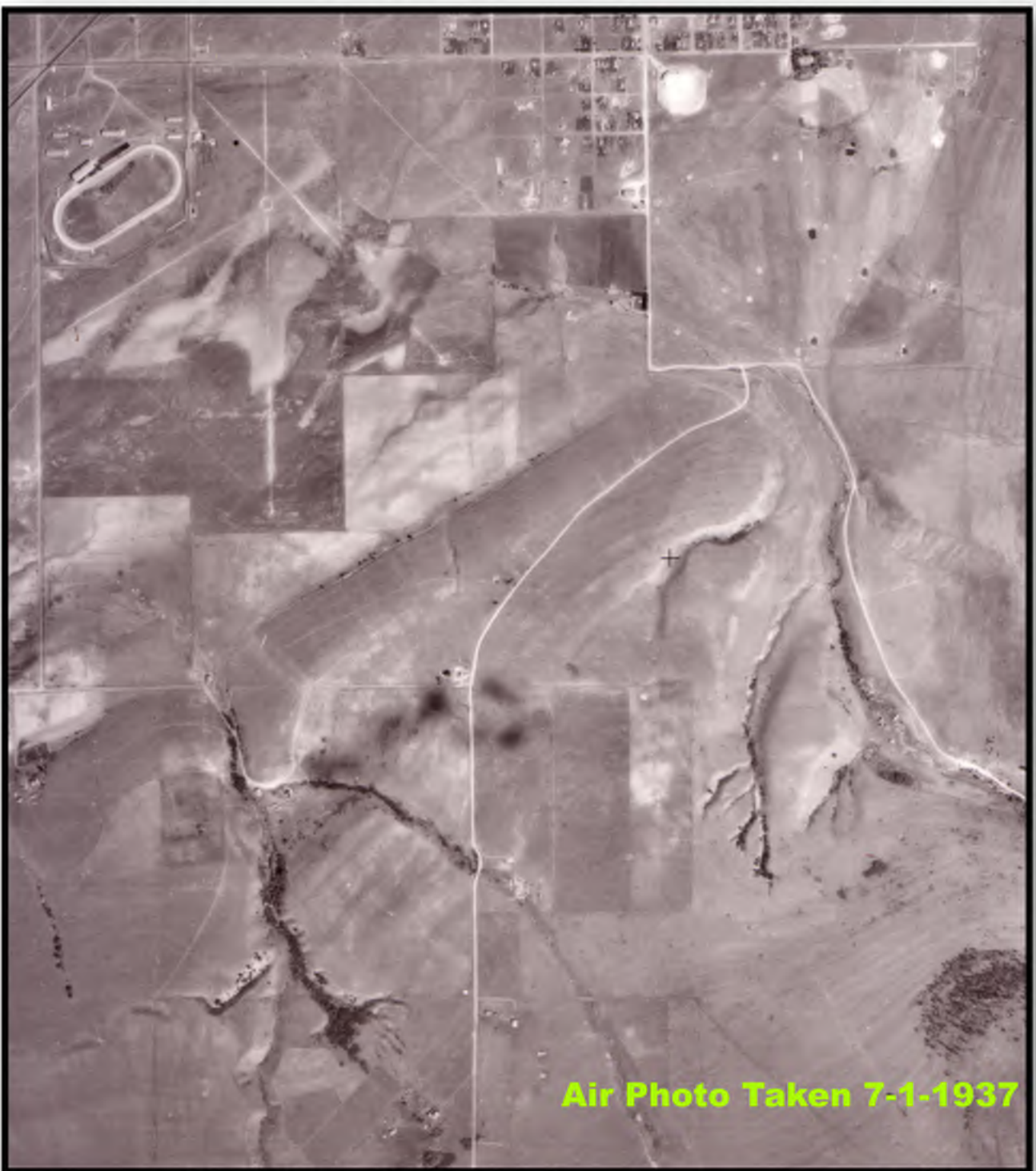
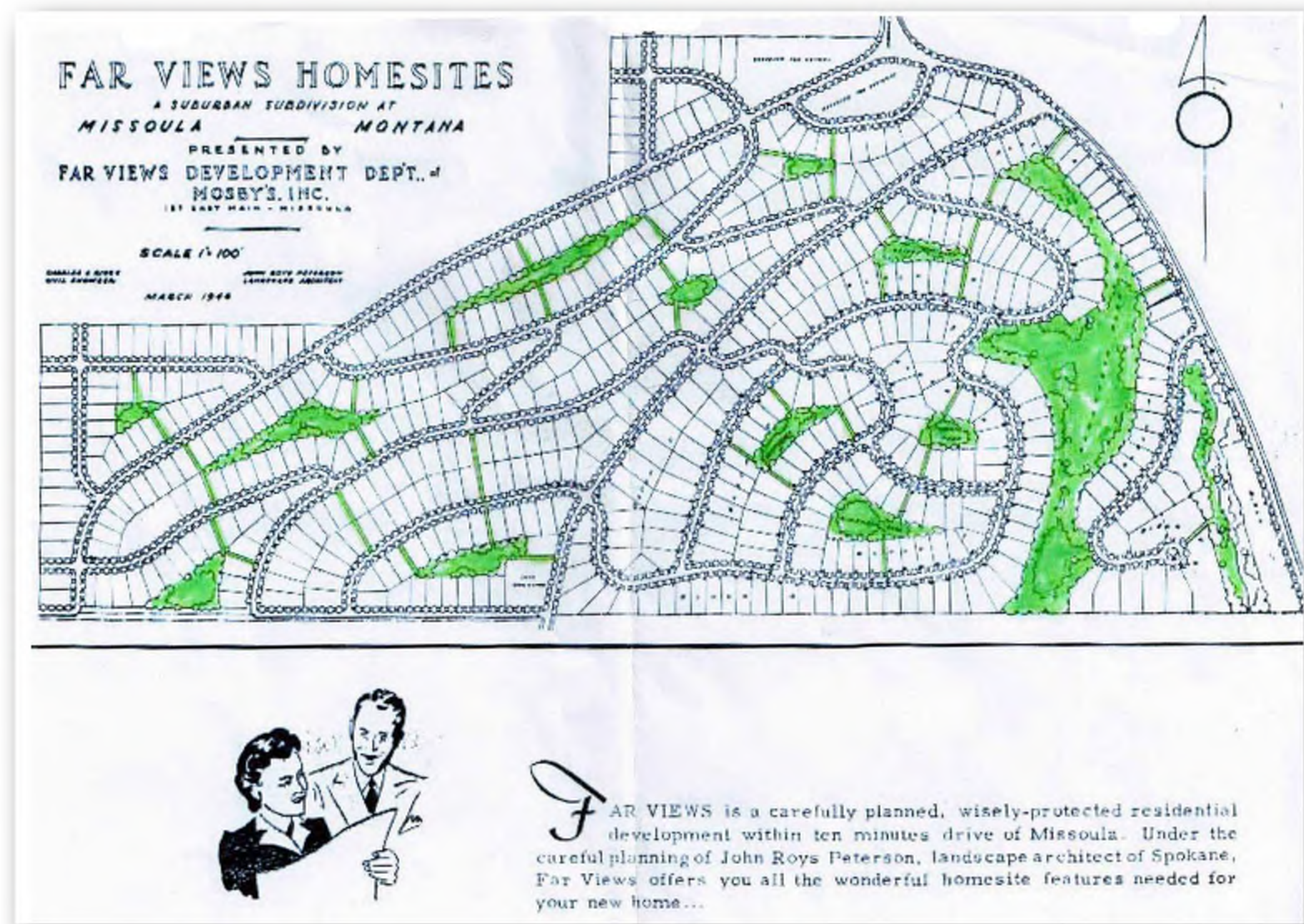


Ninkpata Park is currently undeveloped, and minimally used. The park contains three water tanks previously used by Mountain Water. Upon the city's acquisition of the water utility the tanks were deemed redundant and are scheduled to be removed. Removal will likely happen by 2022. The park offers a large area of flat ground in a neighborhood with mostly steep topography. Throughout the park there are excellent views of the Rattlesnake Mountains, Mount Sentinel, and Mount Dean Stone. There is one unmarked access easement off Pineridge Dr to the north.



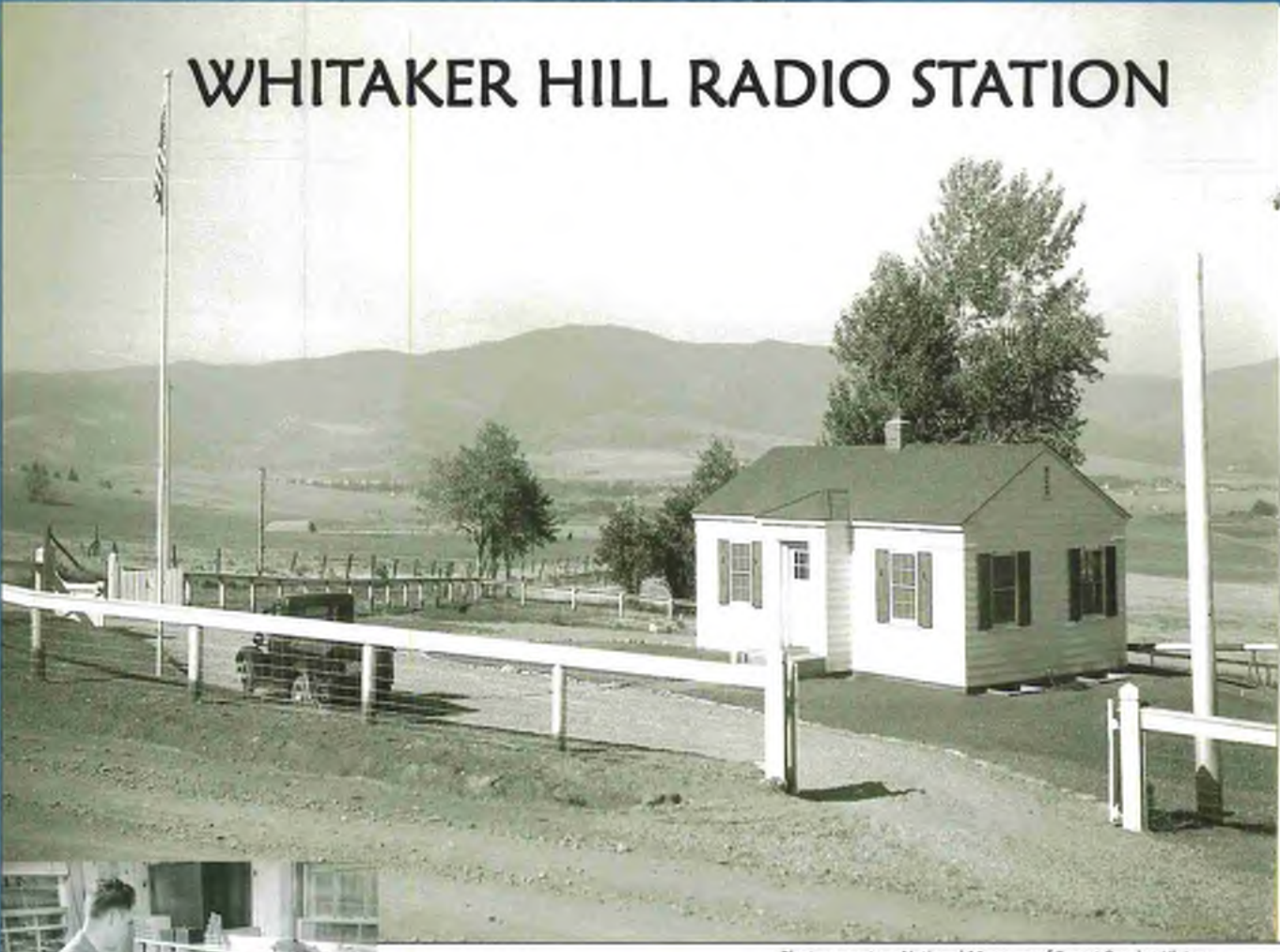
History

In 1948 The Farviews neighborhood was designed with the help of Landscape Architect John Roys Paterson, who created the plan and vision for the neighborhood park system. A brochure for the then county sub-division tells that, "Farviews is a carefully planned, wisely-protected residential development within ten minute's drive of Missoula." Eventually annexed by the city, the sub-division became part of the the Farviews Pattee Canyon Neighborhood. The parklands were designated, but development of the parks was left to be done by the neighborhood. The majority of the parks within the neighborhood remain in a "natural" state, and contain only primitive trails. Many of the original easements designed for park access are overgrown, have no signage, and are unused.



A 1936 USFS Radio Building also known as the "little white house" is located in the upper south east corner of Whitaker Park. The National Park Service lists it as a historic site. In 1975 the USFS gave the structure to the City of Missoula for \$1. The city is working with the neighborhood and historic preservation office to find a new home for the building and interpret it's history on site.

WHITAKER HILL RADIO STATION



**U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
RADIO STATION**

1936 - Long before homes climbed from the valley floor, few lived on this hillside except a few ranchers, their cattle and the Forest Service Radio operators who worked and slept here at the Whitaker Hill Radio Station.

In 1975 when no longer needed, the building was gifted to the City of Missoula for \$1.

Photos courtesy National Museum of Forest Service History

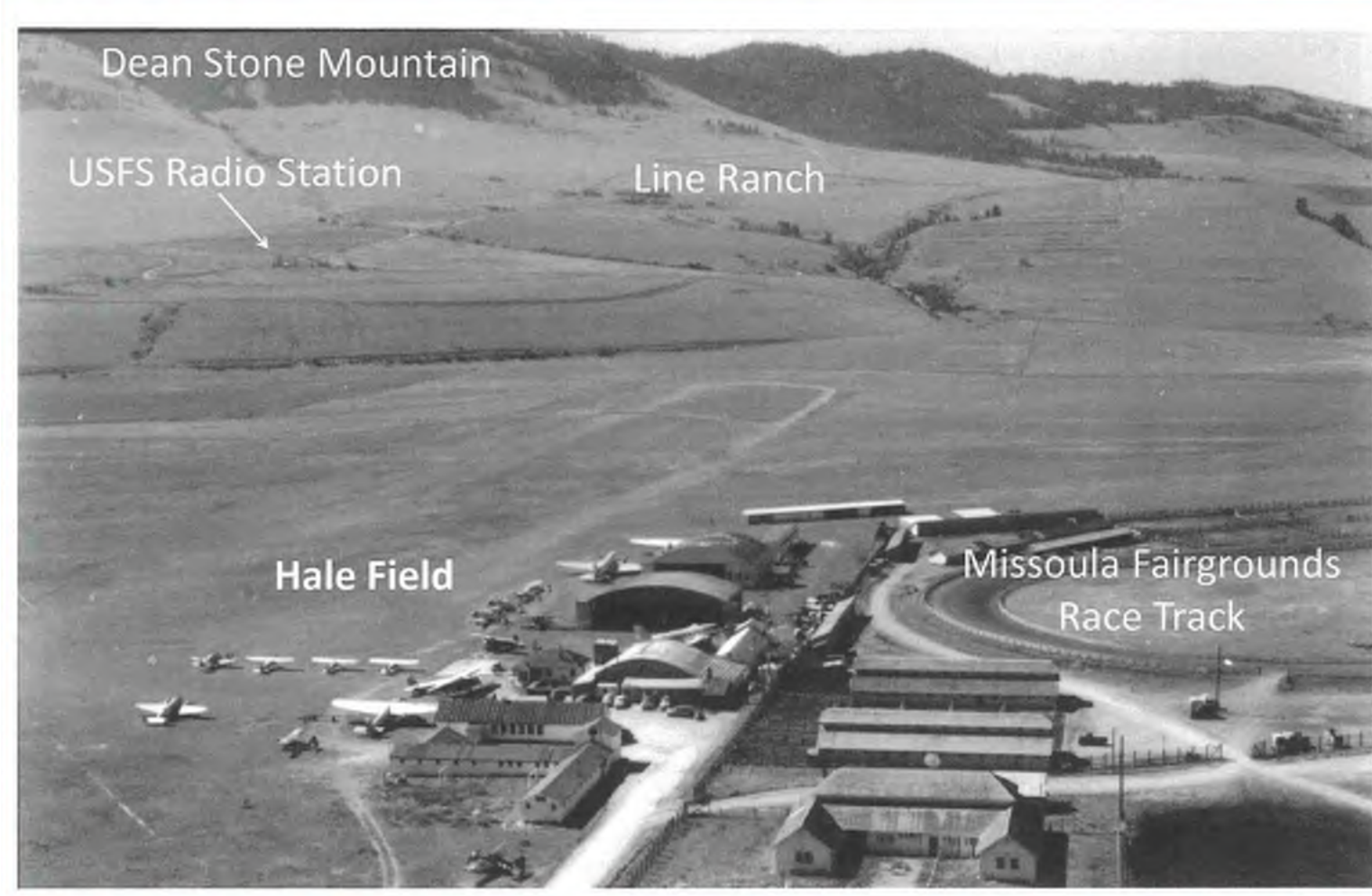
Faced with maintaining contact between far flung ranger stations and fire crews in three states, the USDA Forest Service invested in the most modern radio equipment available in 1936.

Constructed by the radio operators and CCC crews, the radio station was staffed 24 hours a day during fire season. Radio equipment filled the upstairs with living quarters below.



FARVIEWS HISTORY

View of Dean Stone Mountain from Hale Field - 1939



The Slopes of Dean Stone Mountain offered quiet ranch life on the Line Ranch until the city of Missoula expanded to this area. Within a few short years the airport was moved west of town. Farviews Subdivision was platted in 1944.

The Forest Service Radio Station became part of Whitaker Park in 1975.

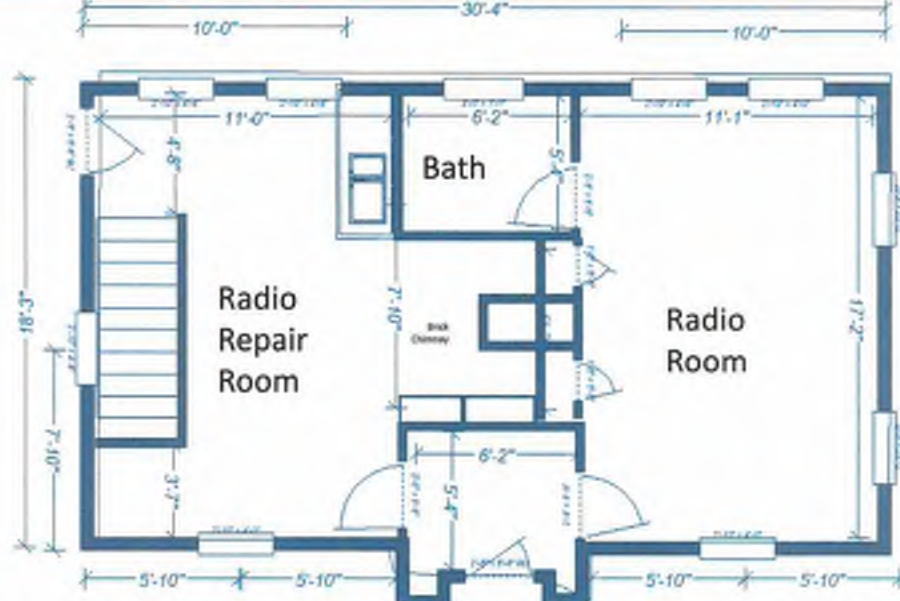
Missoula County Records Center

FARVIEWS HISTORY

Whitaker Park – USFS Radio Building



1936



1940



Radio Repair Room

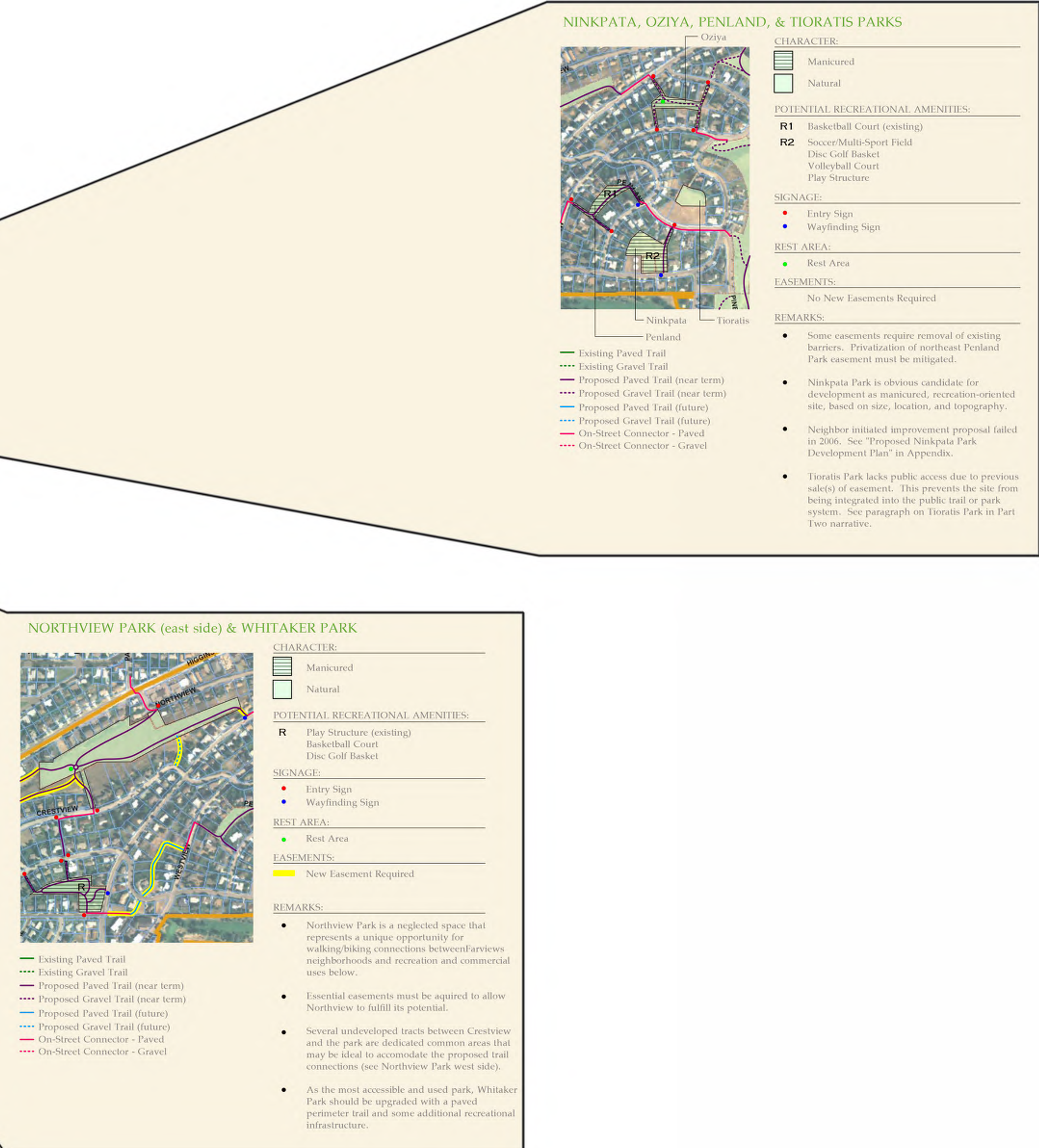
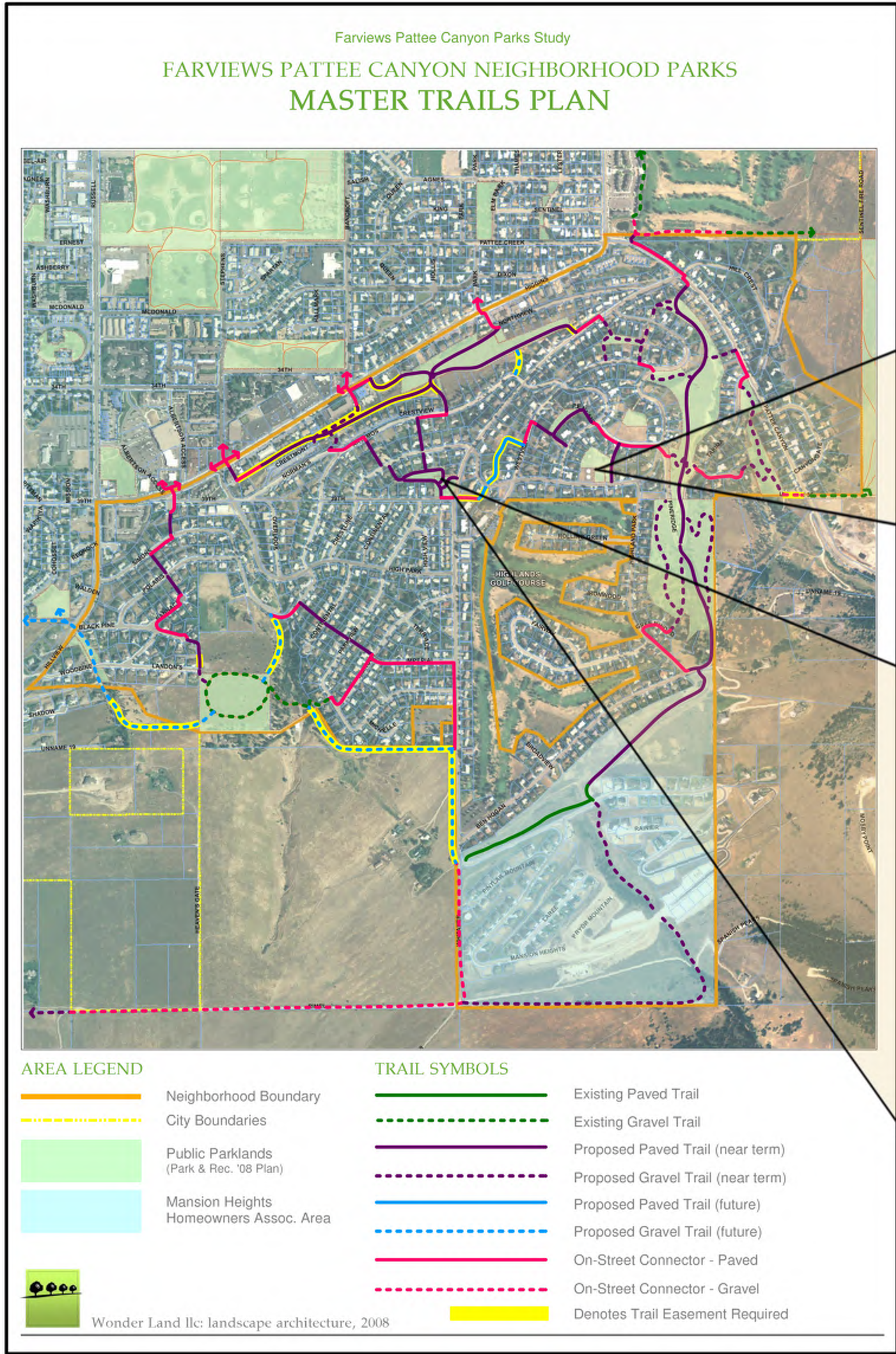


Radio Room

FARVIEWS HISTORY

2008 Park Study

In 2007, the FPC Neighborhood Council secured a neighborhood grant from the City of Missoula to initiate a study of the existing park system. The study reviewed the existing conditions and potential for improvement of park lands, and the sentiments of residents towards the potential changes. Those efforts led to the award of a second grant, in 2008, to translate this work into a master plan for park and trail improvements within the neighborhood. The 2008 FPC Park Master Plan consists of a trail map showing neighborhood connectivity, and conceptual plans for all 11 parks.



Workshop Summary: Group Exercises

Ninkpata & Whitaker Parks Neighborhood Planning Workshop

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Approximately 30 participants. Per sign in...

Mostly from Farviews & Pattee Canyon Neighborhood
+ 7 kid's workshop participants



The first public design workshop for Ninkpata & Whitaker parks was held on September 12, 2018 at University Congregational Church. The goal of the workshop was to introduce the public to the park sites and to gather input from the public about the development and design of the parks.

After an introduction from City Staff, the workshop participants divided themselves into small groups and participated in a series of exercises designed to gather input on the participant's vision for the park.



Question 1: What Do you value most
about the Park area?

Common answer themes:

- Views
- Openness
- Quiet
- Gathering Space

Question 2: It is in the interest of _____
to _____.

Common answer themes:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Neighbors - Quiet | Users - Blend with nature |
| Homeowners – Privacy | Neighbors - Preserve darkness at night |
| Older children – Play Space | Adults - Activity space |
| All Users - Preserve views | Everyone - Enhance community |
| All Users - A shady place to sit | |

Questions 3: Words that describe the space
(when parks completed) include _____.

Common answer themes:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Nature | Peaceful |
| Open Space | Fun |
| Gathering Space | Active |
| Attractive to all ages | Safe |

Questions 4: Important questions that must be
answered include _____.

These questions were considered during design:

- Irrigation?
- Age Demographic?
- Individual park Identity?
- Parking?
- Cost?
- Impact to neighbors?
- Signage?

Workshop Summary: Citizen Designs

Ninkpata Park

The second part of the small group exercises consisted of arranging a selection of scaled park amenities on a plan. Not all the amenities provided would fit in the space so the participants chose their preferred amenities based on the group exercises and arranged them on the base map.

Highest Priority- All 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

- Multi-Use open space
- Playground for older Children

High Priority- 3 of 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

- Walking Path
- 40 person Pavilion
- Small Playground
- Benches
- Shade Trees
- Basketball Court

Medium Priority- 2 of 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

- Large Playground
- Rest Rooms
- Open Space/Passive Recreation 1/2 acre

Lower Priority- 1 of 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

- Natural Playground
- Pickleball Court
- Ice Rink
- Exercise Stations
- Splash Pad
- Chess/Checkers Tables
- Cement Bike/Skate Loop
- Educational Stations

Very Low Priority- 0 of 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

- Dog Park
- Volleyball Court
- Baseball Diamond



Walking/biking path
We ♥ shade trees scattered throughout.



trees/plants that are deer friendly and don't block view

game area chess checkers tables

mound so court can be flooded in winter for ice rink

Along path exercise stations Educational Stations

lots of benches

w/ Rock climb area

natural grasses

Shawn Howell

Shade trees



→ bench

Benches - lotsa benches
Dog waste bags Trash cans

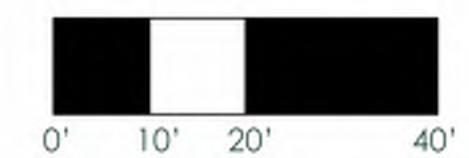


LEGEND

- ① Open Recreation Lawn
- ② Multi-Use Pathway
- ③ Secondary Bike Skills Path
- ④ 5-12 yr Playground
- ⑤ Multi-use Pickleball/Basketball
- ⑥ 40 person Pavilion
- ⑦ Information Kiosk
- ⑧ Native Vegetative Buffer
- ⑨ Portalet Enclosure



North



Topography is Illustrative

Workshop Summary: Citizen Designs

Whitaker Park

The second part of the small group exercises consisted of arranging a selection of scaled park amenities on a plan. Not all the amenities provided would fit in the space so the participants chose their preferred amenities based on the group exercises and arranged them on the base map.

Highest Priority- All 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

20 Person Pavilion
Open Space/Passive Rec 1/2 Acre

High Priority- 3 of 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

Existing Playground
Small Playground for Older Children
Basketball Court

Medium Priority- 2 of 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

Sledding Hill
Tennis Court
Community Garden
Natural Landscaping
Contemplative Space

Lower Priority- 1 of 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

Ice Rink
Exercise Path
Rest Rooms
Trash Cans

Very Low Priority- 0 of 4 groups placed the following amenities in their park design:

Dog Park
Volleyball Court
Baseball Diamond



Community lighting - no fire appropriate equip
Zoop for all ages
Play area
Natural landscape
Openness
Improved 1/2 basketball court/pickle
Exercise walking path





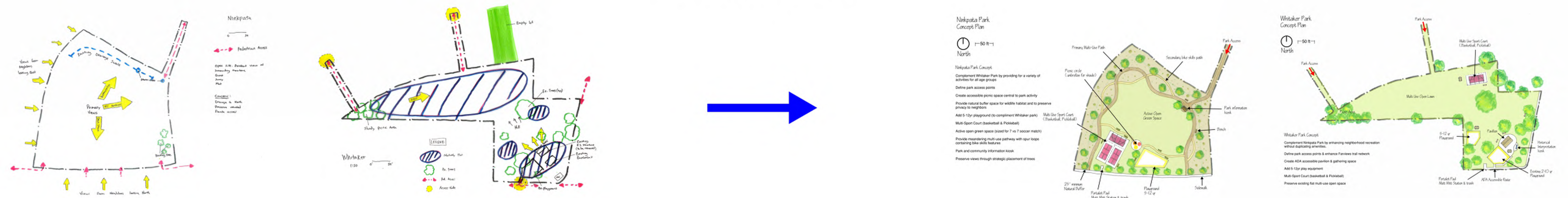
Public Process & Next Steps

Public Design Workshop



The Master Plan for Ninkpata and Whitaker Parks is a result of a public process with the Farviews Pattee Canyon Neighborhood. In September 2018 Missoula Parks and Recreation and the FPC Neighborhood Council held a public design workshop to develop master plans for Ninkpata and Whitaker Parks. The following Plans are a result of this public process.

Design Process



Information gathered from the September design workshop was compiled to prioritize amenities the neighborhood desires for each park. Those priorities along with a detailed site analysis of each park led to the development of a concept plan for each park. These concepts were reviewed by the FPC neighborhood design working group which gave approval to designers to further develop and present these plans to the public.

Next Steps

After the open house and public comment period, Parks & Recreation staff will review the comments and make changes to the plans as needed to fulfill the neighborhoods desires for the parks. Once these master plans receive neighborhood support they will be advanced to Park Board for approval. Upon adoption by Park Board the master plans will then be considered final and fundraising and planning will begin for implementation.