

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release through March 28, 2012

Parks and Recreation Seeks Public Input on New Playground for White Pine Park

Fast Facts:

- Children and adults are invited to a Playground Vision Workshop on Wednesday, March 28.
- The workshop will meet at Missoula Community Food Co-op, 1500 Burns St., from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- The new playground is slated to be installed later this year.

Missoula Parks and Recreation invites citizens to a Playground Vision Workshop for White Pine Park on Wednesday, March 28, at the Missoula Community Food Co-op from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The workshop will give children and adults an opportunity to share their ideas for a new playground to be constructed later this year in White Pine Park, located at 1551 Scott Street.

At the workshop, children and adults will engage in fun activities to spark discussions about how the playground will be used, how the playground can help meet the physical and developmental needs of children in the neighborhood and what types of play features will fit the character of the neighborhood. The Vision Workshop will include a brief presentation about the park and the playground project.

Parks and Recreation will use the information gathered at the workshop to select a playground theme and equipment. The park's development is guided by the [Master Plan for White Pine Park](#). Parks and Recreation is committed to designing playgrounds which reflect the character of and meet the needs of neighborhoods. Public input is an essential part of the planning process.

The 3-acre park was developed in 2010 by Missoula Parks and Recreation and funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant, a \$50,000 donation from the Watkins family and Zip Beverage, a \$40,000 donation of topsoil from Mark Bretz, and other donations and in-kind services from UM College of Technology, several local businesses and the City of Missoula. The playground project is funded by a new Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The workshop will be held at the Missoula Community Food Co-op, 1500 Burns St. For more information about the project, visit www.missoulaparks.org or phone Dave Shaw, Parks and Trails Development Manager, 552-6264, dshaw@ci.missoula.mt.us.

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White Pine Park Playground Project: Frequently Asked Questions

For more information: www.missoulaparks.org

Dave Shaw, Parks and Trails Development Manager, 552-6264, dshaw@ci.missoula.mt.us

Q. What is the White Pine Park Playground project?

A. White Pine Park, located at 1551 Scott Street, was developed in 2010 by Missoula Parks and Recreation at former White Pine Sash mill site. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality supervised an environmental cleanup of the site from 2007 to 2010, and has certified the park site as meeting “residential standards”—the EPA’s most stringent standard of environmental cleanup.

After the cleanup, Parks and Recreation began Phase 1 development of the 3-acre park, including the Master Park Plan and a sports field, trees, fencing and sidewalks. Phase 1 development was funded by a previous federal Community Development Block Grant, a \$50,000 donation from the Watkins family and ZIP Beverage, a \$40,000 donation of topsoil from Mark Bretz, and other donations and in-kind services from local businesses, UM College of Technology, and the City of Missoula.

Now, Parks and Recreation is ready to begin planning for Phase 2—a playground for White Pine Park.

Q. What’s the budget for the project?

A. The total budget for the playground is \$75,000. This will cover purchase and installation of play equipment (the fun stuff), fall-zone material (wood chips for safe landings), play area curbing, landscaping and connecting pathways and sidewalks. This budget will provide a playground similar to the ones installed in 2011 at Boyd Park (3131 Washburn) and Sacajawea Park (6th and Orange.)

Q. How is the project funded?

A: The playground project is funded by a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) secured by Parks and Recreation. These grants fund projects which enhance the livability of communities and are focused on low-to-moderate income areas. To comply with the grant, Parks and Recreation will meet a variety of requirements set by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) who administers the funding.

Q. How will playground design and equipment be chosen?

A. Parks and Recreation is committed to designing parks which reflect the character of their neighborhoods and meet the needs of neighborhood residents.

Neighborhood input and guidance is essential to the planning process. Parks and Recreation is hosting a “Vision Workshop” for neighborhood children and adults to tell us what type of play experience they’d like to see in White Pine Park. The information gathered at the workshop will be used to guide the selection of specific playground equipment. Development of the site is guided by the [Master Plan for White Pine Park](#). The Playground Vision Workshop will meet on Wednesday, March 28, at the Missoula Community Food Co-op from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Q. Wasn't that site used for industrial and lumber work a long time ago? Are there any environmental issues there?

A. The White Pine Sash and Door facility, on the Northside in Missoula, operated as a sawmill and window and door manufacturer from approximately 1920 until 1996. The City of Missoula obtained a portion of the mill site in 2000 for the City Central Maintenance facilities off Scott Street.

The former mill site was determined to be a “brownfield” or an urban site that has had some environmental contamination as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Missoula’s Office of Planning and Grants (OPG) worked with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the EPA to clean and remediate the site and make it productive part of the Northside neighborhood.

The City of Missoula elected to restore the 3-acre park site to the EPA’s most stringent cleanup standards. These “residential standards” ensure that park users are protected from exposure to toxic chemicals and the site has been deemed appropriate for residential development. For more information about the site cleanup, visit the Missoula Office of Planning and Grants website at <ftp://www.co.missoula.mt.us/opgftp/Grants/Brownfields/WhitePineSash.htm>.

Q. When will the playground be open?

The project timeline includes neighborhood input, playground design, equipment purchase and construction. The project schedule could change depending on several factors, but here’s a preliminary timeline:

1. Design workshop with the neighborhoods: TBA
2. Design phase: April to late May
3. Bidding and contractor selection: June to July
4. Equipment lead-time (selection and requisition): July to September
5. Playground construction and installation: September
6. Playground opens to the public: Late-September

fun health community together
 active explore
 jump play family dream imagine
 swing learn skip friends climb run
 connect grow fitness

A New Playground for White Pine Park

What's Your Vision?

- How do you like to play?
- What's unique about your neighborhood?
- What kind of playground fits your neighborhood best?

**Wednesday,
 March 28
 6 to 7:30 pm
 1500 Burns St.**

**Parks
 &
 Recreation**

City of Missoula • 600 Cregg Lane • 721-PARK

White Pine Park

Playground Vision Workshop

Missoula Community Food Co-op

1500 Burns Street

*Hosted by Missoula Parks and Recreation
 And Northside/Westside Neighborhood Council
 Tentative Playground Grand Opening: Fall, 2012*

For more information:

721-PARK, www.missoulaparks.org

- **Brief project presentation**
- **Fun activities for children & adults**
- **Refreshments**

