



NEWS ADVISORY

June 4, 2014

For immediate release

Silver Park Grand Opening Friday, June 6, at noon Ribbon-cutting, speeches, tours

Missoula's beautiful new riverfront park is set for celebration on Friday, June 6, at noon at the park's timber frame pavilion. Mayor John Engen, the staff and board of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) and Missoula Parks and Recreation, with guests Tracy Stone-Manning of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Shaun McGrath from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, will dedicate the park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. It will be followed by tours of the improvements in the 14.5-acre park, the surrounding new trails, the new railroad trestle, new Wyoming Street extension, new landscaping and the pending private Old Sawmill District development.

"Silver Park is a wonderful addition to our system of riverfront parks," MRA director Ellen Buchanan said. "The project has been long and complicated but well worth it."

The park is part of a new life for a former industrial site west of the Orange Street bridge that was a lumber mill operation for 100 years before being abandoned in the early 1990s. In 2002, the private developers Millsite Revitalization Project began a process to acquire the larger site and a partnership with the City of Missoula to clean up the vestiges of industrial use. The cleanup was financed by the U.S. EPA Brownfield Loan Program and was more than a decade in the works. It sets the stage for mixed-use development of the area.

The Missoula Redevelopment Agency developed the public infrastructure and amenities in the area. They include

- a new section of riverfront trail with a pedestrian bridge over the irrigation ditch to connect to California Street,
- the 14.5-acre park, which contains groves of trees, open lawns, nearly a mile of internal

pathways and timber frame structures built by the National Timber Framers Guild with local artisans,

- a new boat ramp on the Clark Fork River,
- a new parking lot with lighting,
- extension of Wyoming Street from Cregg Lane to California Street (which connects to Russell Street), with parking and sidewalks along it and pedestrian- and design-friendly lighting, linking neighborhoods and creating connectivity for traffic,
- a new railroad trestle at the east end of the Wyoming Street extension, and
- public restrooms.

The future development within the 45-acre larger site, the Old Sawmill District, will be an urban-density, multi-use residential and commercial neighborhood.

Following the ribbon-cutting, staff from HDR Engineering, WGM Group, Territorial Landworks, CTA Architects and the Old Sawmill District will be on hand to answer questions about each part of the project.

Questions?

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