



Press Release

October 5, 2015

Community Workshop Launches North Reserve | Scott Street Master Plan

The Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) and its consultants will host a Community Workshop for the North Reserve/Scott Street Urban Renewal District Master Plan on Wednesday, October 14. The workshop will be an interactive opportunity to help shape the future of the district.

**Community Workshop #1: Existing Conditions and Visioning
Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Ruby's Inn, 4825 N. Reserve St., Missoula**

Fifty years ago, Missoula's north side was a bustling center of activity. The working-class neighborhoods that sprang up around the Northern Pacific Railroad at the turn of the century were home to railroad workers, merchants, shops, and warehouses.

The timber industry flourished. Lumber production and paper manufacturing were Missoula's mainstay industries. Many Missoula residents found jobs in the mills of White Pine Sash, Clawson Manufacturing, and Van-Evans Plywood. The railroad and the burgeoning highway system provided transportation for finished lumber to markets across the country.

Today, the area is in transition. The decline of the timber industry was punctuated by the Van-Evans fire in 1985, the largest structural fire in Montana history. White Pine Sash shut its doors in 1996. Still, the Northside and Westside neighborhoods proved resilient. The close proximity to downtown, historic flavor, and a renewed sense of community are attracting new residents, investment in historic homes, and new construction. Efforts are underway to clean up the former White Pine Sash site for redevelopment.

Industry remains a vital part of the neighborhood. Roseburg Forest Products manufactures high-density particle board in a modern facility. The Conoco Phillips bulk terminal is a major distribution point for petroleum products by rail, truck, and pipeline.

New uses are finding their way into the area as well, influenced by the commercial growth along North Reserve Street, including new hotels, restaurants, and professional office buildings. The area was included in a new Urban Renewal District in 2014. The district, which includes the area bounded by Reserve Street, Scott Street, I-90, and the railroad, provides funding to facilitate economic development, address blight, and construct public infrastructure.

While it is clear that public infrastructure improvements will be needed as new development occurs, there is not yet a clear plan in place to guide these changes. To address this, the Missoula Redevelopment Agency is preparing a master plan for the area. The master plan will provide a comprehensive study of the area, work with community members and stakeholders to define a vision, and ultimately create a roadmap for future development of the area.

The plan will explore ways to protect and enhance traditional industry, redevelop underutilized properties, transition to residential neighborhoods, and provide appropriate open spaces, streets, trails, and utility infrastructure to support desired land uses.

Creation of the plan will be a community-driven process that reflects the needs and ideas of area residents, businesses, and landowners. The public is invited to attend the first Community Workshop on October 14 to discuss the community's goals, identify issues that need to be addressed in the process, and begin identifying potential improvements.

For more information and to view a map of the district, visit the City of Missoula's website at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/1791/District---North-ReserveScott-Street> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NRSSmasterplan>.

Contacts:

Chris Behan
Missoula Redevelopment Agency
cbehan@ci.missoula.mt.us
406.552.6155

Nick Kaufman
WGM Group, Inc.
406.728.4611
nkaufman@wgmgroup.com

Jeremy Keene
WGM Group, Inc.
406.728.4611
jkeene@wgmgroup.com

#