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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release through October 10, 2015

Public invited to Open House for Fort Missoula Regional Park

Citizens are invited to a ground breaking celebration for Fort Missoula Regional Park on Saturday, October 10 at 10 a.m. Grading and site preparation for the new park will begin later this month. The \$36 million project is funded by the 2014 County Parks and Trails Bond.

The event will feature brief remarks by community leaders, a chance for kids and their families to break ground on the project with ceremonial shovels, and refreshments for all. The celebration will take place at the Rx Trail trailhead, just north of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. Speakers include Mayor John Engen, Missoula County Commissioner Jean Curtiss, Barb Neilan of Destination Missoula, Tate Jones, director of the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History and Dr. Kristin Anderson, Community Medical Center. Visit www.missoulaparks.org for a map to the event site.

The park will be constructed in phases to minimize impacts on current activities, including youth, high school and adult sports. Phase I construction, beginning this month, includes playgrounds, picnic areas, a large pavilion and plaza, trails and multi-use sports fields. Phase II construction, includes playgrounds, a dog park, sport courts, more trails and softball diamonds, is projected to begin in 2017. When complete, FMRP will be a county-wide and regional destination with 156 acres of trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, historic interpretation, a variety of sports facilities, a dog park and support facilities.

The \$42 million County Parks and Trails general obligation bond, which was approved by voters in November, 2014, funds the development of Fort Missoula Regional Park, 10 new or improved City playgrounds, and a new trails program for Missoula County. Citizens can learn more about the bond projects at www.missoulaparksandtrails.org.

Sign up for the Parks and Trails Bond newsletter at www.missoulaparks.org email list. For information about the Missoula County Parks and Trails Program, visit <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/mccaps/Parks.htm>.

(end) Media – Please see attached background information.

Media Notes - Additional background

- Jackson Contractor Group, a local firm, has been selected as the Construction Manager At Risk for the project.
- The Land Group, Inc., with local partners, has been selected to finalize the design and construction documents. Local partners and their areas of collaboration include:
 - Oz Architects, PC – Architecture, LEED Review and Application
 - DJ&A, PC – Civil Engineering, Land Survey
 - Associated Construction Engineering, Inc. – Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and Plumbing
 - Beaudette Consulting Engineers, Inc. – Structural Engineering
 - Tetra Tech, Inc. – Geotechnical
- FMRP is a collaborative project, with the Projects Team overseeing Park development made up of both County and City employees. Oversight is provided by a team made up of City and County leadership. An inter-local City-County agreement provides the guidelines for the joint efforts.

Projected Project Phasing

- Phase 1 – Projected Opening Fall, 2016
 - October 2015 – Mass Grading and Site Utilities bids are due
 - October 2015 – 65% Construction Document (CDs) Review Complete
 - January, 2016 – 100% CDs Complete, Bid Phase 1 Park construction
- Phase 2 – Projected Opening Fall, 2017
 - October 2015 – 35% CDs Submitted for Staff Review
 - Winter 2016/17 – Bid Project
 - Spring 2017 – Construction Begins

Fort Missoula Regional Park Planning Timeline

- 1995: Open Space Plan and Bond – Acquire lands for additional playing fields at Fort Missoula.
- 1997: City Acquires 100 acres from UM.
- 2001-2002: Extensive public process leads to Adoption of conceptual master plan and guiding principles by Board of County Commissioners, City Council and both City and County Park Boards.
- 2002-2008: Western Cultural, Inc. completes the following efforts:
 - Jan. 2003: Preliminary historical & archaeological investigations phase one.
 - April 2005: Mitigation Plan for FMRP.
 - April 2008: Historic Resources and the Park Design.
 - June 2008: Public Open House.
 - Sept 2008: State Historic Preservation Office Letter of Concurrence.
- 2008: City Adopts Master Plan including design development detail and cultural resources plan.
- 2012: County Adopts Master Plan including design development detail which continues the cultural resources theme. Includes expansion of the Historic District.
- Nov. 2014: County Parks and Trails GO Bond Passes providing funds (~\$36 million + bond related costs) for development of FMRP.
- April 2015: Public Open House & Kick-Off to full design & construction.
- July 2015: Fort Missoula Regional Park is annexed by the City of Missoula to facilitate park management and emergency services coverage.
- Oct. 2015: Phase One construction breaks ground.