

Listening Session Analysis - Values

From July through September, the City of Missoula conducted 29 listening sessions to obtain input for the Growth Policy update. Notes for each of these listening sessions have been posted to the OurMissoula.org. This summary was prepared as a discussion tool to provide an overview of the input that was received from the listening sessions. Comments from all of the listening sessions were coded and sorted to determine common themes/topics. The descriptions for each of these topics have been paraphrased to reflect common concerns that were expressed by listening session participants and do not reflect individual comments.

November 7, 2014

Common Topics	Description	#
Natural areas - Outdoor Recreation	A range of natural amenities. Protected open spaces (i.e. Mount Jumbo & Mount Sentinel) Abundant outdoor recreation opportunities. Public land. Easy to access natural areas. Natural beauty. Green spaces. Access to wilderness.	42
Community Involvement	People care about the community and there is a strong sense of community pride. They are willing to help out and volunteer. Citizens are involved and engaged. There is a lot of public participation. Residents are generous in fundraising efforts and in offering pro bono services. Activism.	34
Sense of Place	Established neighborhoods. Historic areas. Still has a small town feel for its size. Mountain setting. Open views. Unique community character. People want to live here. Sense of pride. Big city amenities without big city problems.	34
Culture - arts	There is an active arts community. The city has a variety of cultural assets and entertainment options. Access to cultural/humanities events are affordable. Missoula has a creative population and high quality of artist. There is public appreciation of the arts community. There are a lot of music venues and community events. Theater – library – lots of cultural offerings.	32
Bikable – Walkable – Good pedestrian/bike trail System	Good bike & pedestrian trail system. Good access to trails. Trail connectivity is getting better (but still needs improvement). Trails promote active lifestyle and promote alternative transportation to the automobile. Sidewalks and lighting promote walking (but this can be improved in some neighborhoods). Trails are designed to be accessible for disabled population.	31



Friendly – Family oriented	Welcoming – friendly community. Ability to raise children in safe, affordable, livable environment. Easy to get around with children. Lots of activities for families. Great place to raise kids. Safe community.	28
Parks & Recreation	Good park and open space system. Quality and variety of recreational opportunities. Positive aspects of parks include healthy lifestyles, economic impacts, youth development and environmental benefits. Caras Park. Fort Missoula.	26
Downtown	Vibrant. Close downtown community. Easy to access. Core of community. Quality – older buildings. Lots of activities and events. City commitment to downtown. Active downtown organization.	22
Diversity	There is diversity in culture, ethnicity, lifestyles, attitudes, political spectrum, careers and income levels. Diverse neighborhoods. The university contributes to the diversity. Diversity translates to a vibrant community. Tolerance.	22
University of Montana	The Missoula community has an educated populace. Economic engine. Brings events, concerts, sports, and cultural activities to community. Adds vibrancy and diversity to Missoula. Higher education offerings.	18
Natural resources	Clean air & water. Wildlife habitat. Streams and riparian areas. Urban forest and native plant communities. Sand and gravel resources. Dark skies.	18
River	River is an amenity. Offers recreation opportunity. Community focal point. Has become more accessible via trails & green space. (More can be done.)	16
Health Care	Quality health care. Wide range of services. Attracts high quality health care professionals.	16
Local business	Growth opportunities for business. Supportive of entrepreneurs and small local businesses. University grads want to stay and start businesses.	16
Open-minded	Progressive values. Forward thinking. Willingness to be creative and try new solutions. Problem solving attitudes. Innovative. Acceptance of different ideas.	15



Infrastructure	Good highway network for transporting goods. Reliable utilities. Good system of fire stations.	13
Labor pool	Quality work force. Good work ethic. Missoula is attractive community for recruiting professionals.	12
Cooperation between agencies	There is cooperation and collaboration among agencies on a variety of issues and to get things done for the community. Cooperation between public agencies and among social service providers. Good relationships between the city and the university and the city and businesses.	11
Transit	Good transit system offers alternative to owning a car. Affordable.	9
Good Education	Good public schools and education system	9
Compact	Convenient to get around - can bike anywhere in about 15 minutes. There is a focus on urban density - In-fill. City hasn't sprawled in size.	8
Local Services	Responsive city government. Good police & fire department. Good senior/aging services.	7
Local food	Farmer's markets and community gardens.	6

