

## Safety and Wellness

*The following is a list of pertinent existing policies extracted from current community planning documents including the 2005 Missoula County Growth Policy, and the 1998 Urban Area Comprehensive Plan, along with other general issue-based plans (like Transportation and Parks Plans as appropriate). The intent of this list is to provide an abbreviated and consolidated view of existing policies that relate to the focus group topic without necessarily having to sift through numerous plans. It is not an exhaustive list but is a quick reference and a resource. Full documents are available on the City's web site.*

Potential Topics associated with the Focus Group theme: Recreation, Human Health, Bicycle/Pedestrian support, Fire, Police, Emergency Management, Water/Sewer, Local Food Systems.

### 2005 Missoula County Growth Policy

#### DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS AND LAND USE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

##### GENERAL

1. Accommodate growth, retain historical resources, and provide appropriate open spaces in the design of development so that areas of greater density remain healthy, safe, and livable.

#### LOCAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

##### GENERAL LOCAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES GOALS

1. Provide cost effective urban services such as sewer, police and fire protection, libraries, cultural activities, active recreation, and schools.
2. Encourage development to locate in areas where facilities are available and where the public costs of providing needed facilities and public services are lowest.
3. Ensure that the impacts associated with development are fully addressed and that the costs of mitigating those impacts are fairly distributed.
4. Encourage a land use pattern that facilitates use of all modes of transportation and provides for safe, healthy, affordable, efficient and convenient access to transportation connections for residential, commercial, industrial, and emergency traffic.

##### GENERAL LOCAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES OBJECTIVES

1. Provide adequate infrastructure to ensure a healthy natural, economic, and social environment in Missoula County. Ensure the availability and affordability of infrastructure such as sewer, water, transportation, public safety, health and social services, public lands, parks and other open spaces, cultural resources, and education.
2. Maximize use of present facilities and encourage joint use rather than expansion.
3. Develop infrastructure to accommodate present development and plan infrastructure to meet the needs of anticipated growth in accordance with public values and goals.
4. Coordinate infrastructure planning among government agencies, private sector groups, and the general public.
5. Refer to the Residential Development Allocation Map (Map 18) as a tool to inform infrastructure planning and investment within the Missoula Urban Service Area.

##### EMERGENCY SERVICES OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage a land use pattern that facilitates provision of emergency services.
2. Encourage an urban level of development in those areas that are or can be adequately served by emergency services as determined by the emergency service agencies and local governing bodies.

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3. Continue inter-jurisdictional cooperation between public safety agencies.

## RECREATIONAL RESOURCES OBJECTIVES

1. Provide community recreation opportunities that meet the needs of all citizens of the County.
2. Locate recreational open spaces (parks, ball fields, golf courses, etc.) near areas where development already exists or where it is desired, and where the need for recreational space is established.
3. Develop opportunities for public recreational use of rivers and lakes while protecting environmental quality and private property.
4. Provide neighborhood open space and public and semi-public spaces for recreation.
5. Provide access to adequate community centers for local activities, co-located where possible, to minimize costs and maximize joint usage.

## 1998 Urban Comprehensive Plan

### I. A. NATURAL RESOURCES -- THE ENVIRONMENT

We recognize the close connection between our development pattern and our environmental health. We also recognize the importance of a healthy environment to our sense of social, economic, and physical well-being. Preserving or enhancing the condition of our environment is one of the most important goals for well-managed growth.

Considerations: In determining how best to approach the integration of patterns of development and preservation or enhancement of the environment, we should consider the following:

2. Locate open spaces that are recreational (parks, ball fields, golf courses, etc.) near areas where development already exists or where it is desired.
3. Accommodate growth, retain historical resources, and provide appropriate open spaces in the design of development so that areas of greater density remain healthy, safe, and livable.
6. Consider the actual, measured, and desired levels of public health and environmental health.

### I. B. HUMAN RESOURCES -- COMMUNITY STRUCTURE, CHARACTER, AND HEALTH

We recognize the role of human interactions and sense of place in maintaining the livability of Missoula County. Our social structure and physical character are distinctive at the neighborhood level, at the small community level, in the larger urban community of Missoula, and in rural areas of Missoula County. Preservation of the diversity, integrity, and unique values of our neighborhoods, communities, and rural areas is one of the most important goals for well-managed growth. The protection and promotion of health for all Missoula citizens is fundamental to this goal.

#### Guiding Principles:

7. Our communities should be safe and healthy places for all ages.

Considerations: In determining how best to preserve and enhance the diversity, integrity, and unique values of our neighborhoods, communities, and rural areas, we should consider the following:

3. Recognize and foster conditions that improve the health of all Missoulians.
6. Judge each individual action or decision in terms of this question: "Will this make Missoula a better place?" Consider how a particular action or decision will either threaten or protect and preserve our natural settings and surroundings.

Action: Identify the distinctiveness and strengths of our people and our physical and social places. Determine how we can preserve these strengths and unique characteristics. Foster community-building throughout. Use information from other resource documents, including Vision 2020, Missoula Health Profiles and the Inventory of Conservation Resources, in planning for growth. Consider the development of several growth centers.

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## II. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

### II. A. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

We recognize the role of housing in supporting a combination of low, moderate, and high income households in Missoula County. A primary objective of managing growth is to achieve the overall mix and placement of housing needed to support a community rich in social, cultural, and economic diversity and an environment rich with natural resources.

#### Guiding Principles:

1. Healthy communities sustain diverse households and a combination of housing alternatives across all economic strata.

Considerations: In determining how best to work through housing issues, we should consider the following:

5. The increasing incidence of violence in the home indicates a need to reduce social isolation, the occurrence of conflict and other stresses.

### II. C. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

We recognize the role infrastructure plays in growth management by supporting existing development, directing new development to suitable locations, and protecting the environment. A primary objective of managing growth is to ensure the availability and affordability of infrastructure such as sewer, water, transportation, public safety, health and social services, public lands, parks and other open spaces, cultural resources, and education. An adequate infrastructure is essential to a healthy natural, economic, and social environment in Missoula County.

#### Guiding Principles:

1. Infrastructure should be developed to accommodate present development, and planned to meet the needs of anticipated growth.

2. Infrastructure should accompany new development and be part of the approval requirements.

3. Infrastructure includes more than sewers, transportation systems, water, and telecommunications. Included in a cultural infrastructure are libraries, museums, historical landmarks, government buildings, parks and other open spaces, and schools. Social infrastructure provides for the “public welfare” and includes health, safety, educational, and social services.

4. Infrastructure should be coordinated among governments at all levels, private enterprise, and the public.

5. Various scenarios must be examined in order to fully understand our choices.

6. We should be constantly aware of the likelihood of technological change and the directions it will take.

Considerations: In determining how best to work through infrastructure issues, we should consider the following:

1. Solicit and consider the values and goals of the community when determining the types and location of infrastructure.

2. Determine the location of infrastructure, document those decisions, and provide information about funding mechanisms through the planning process.

3. Consider how much of the community's future we are willing to invest in infrastructure.

4. Anticipate positive and negative impacts, both short- and long-term, through alternative scenarios suggested through the planning process.

5. Consider development design and site planning as elements of each broad or specific infrastructure decision.

6. Consider financing strategies and affordability of options.

Action: Identify those developed and developing areas that are served by inadequate infrastructure. Identify the most critical infrastructure needs. Explore alternative strategies to encourage new development to locate in areas close to

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existing service systems. Prevent development which does not have the infrastructure necessary to support it. Employ cost reduction strategies, including affordable financing programs.

*The following are related goal excerpts from existing issue-based plans*

## **The Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan (2006)**

3. More fully connect urban area open spaces, and link them to the other major open lands adjacent to the urban area.
  - Provide appropriate public access to natural areas and open spaces, including improved opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle access and interaction throughout our community.

## **2009 Master Parks and Recreation Plan for the Greater Missoula Area**

- Appropriate, high-quality, varied and equitably distributed parks, recreation facilities and trails.

## **2011 Missoula Active Transportation Plan**

- Increase non-motorized trips and the percentage of residents and visitors who choose non-motorized modes of transportation for work and school commutes, social and recreational trips.
- Further develop and maintain a well connected on-street and off-street non-motorized network that is safe, convenient, well maintained and universally accessible.
- Complete the sidewalk system throughout the City of Missoula
- Identify and secure more sustainable sources of funding to complete construction of needed sidewalks, curbs, and gutters within the City of Missoula and other MPO-area communities.
- Raise awareness of and encourage respect for the rights and responsibilities of all motorized and non-motorized transportation users through the use of education, outreach, and the enforcement of traffic laws.
- Further develop and maintain a trails/greenway network connecting Missoula to surrounding public open spaces and waterways.
- Identify and preserve non-motorized transportation corridors for future development.
- Decrease the number of bicycle and pedestrian related accidents by identifying and correcting existing unsafe conditions using the 4E approach to focus on Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Emergency Medical Services.