

DRAFT MATERIAL

The following draft goals and objectives have been compiled from the November and December focus group meetings along with feedback from listening session worksheets. Please note that similar statements/concepts have been combined and some statements have been sorted into either broad goal statements or more specific objective statements. Also, some statements may have been edited to clarify the meaning, provide consistency in style and format or to conform with legal concepts. Further refinement, consolidation, and even shifting of statements to other focus groups is anticipated.

Livability Topics, Goals & Objectives

Topic 1: Culture, Arts & Historic Preservation

A vibrant community creates an environment with a wide range of cultural activities for people to enjoy. Arts and cultural activities boost the local economy by attracting visitors and businesses. Missoula already has a vibrant and diverse arts community but there is a shortage of venues to meet a growing demand for performance space and cultural programs. There is a need to rehabilitate existing space and construct new venues to accommodate a variety of small and large events/programs.

Goal 1: Missoula will have a diverse and vibrant arts community that fosters growth and development of cultural activities including music, visual arts and performance arts.

Goal 2: Ensure that cultural opportunities are affordable and accessible to the entire community.

Objectives:

1. Increase cultural opportunities and outreach to underserved demographic groups in the community such as youth, elderly, and minorities.
2. Conduct outreach to build support for arts and culture and to obtain input from the community on needed programs and venues.
3. Develop arts programs that will extend from the schools to the community and visitors.
4. Provide adequate venues, educational opportunities and funding for visual and performing arts.
5. Coordinate historic preservation and cultural efforts to strengthen these assets.
6. Continue to expand efforts to implement the historic preservation plan.
7. Incorporate arts and cultural activities into recreation planning.
8. Support efforts to create public art in Missoula.
9. Encourage partnerships between businesses, volunteers, private collectors and non-profits to enhance arts and culture in the community.

Topic 2: Growth Pressures/Land use/Zoning

Missoula should consider the long term consequences of unharnessed growth. It is important that growth should be fiscally and environmentally sustainable and maintain community character while accommodating the needs of an expanding and diverse population. Residents value their existing residential neighborhoods and desire to preserve the integrity of the neighborhood from encroachment of incompatible development. Existing and new residential areas should be quiet, safe, walkable and aesthetically pleasing with low pollution and access to natural areas. Development processes should be fair and should balance property rights with health, safety and wellness concerns.

Goal 1: Missoula makes thoughtful decisions about land use planning that supports neighborhood and community character, parks, trails & natural resources appropriate and accessible services and a diverse and engaged population.

Goal 2: Neighborhoods should have easy accessibility to amenities and local services to meet the needs of an expanding diverse population.

Objectives:

1. Identify appropriate areas for new housing, mixed-use developments, multi-family development and commercial nodes to provide convenient access to commercial and local services.
2. Encourage in-fill development that is compatible with surrounding area.
3. Locate higher density developments along transit corridors and near trails.
4. Require new development to contribute its proportional share of cost to improve local services and infrastructure.
5. The road network should accommodate new growth and redevelopment while maintaining adequate capacity to avoid congestion and minimize traffic hazards
6. Support an adaptable land use and zoning process that protects individual rights and creates opportunities for sustainable growth.
7. Plan for and consider the effects of parking, transportation and mass transit on the city's character and built environment.
8. Provide incentives to redevelop older, underutilized commercial properties.
9. The built environment should accommodate people of all physical abilities.
10. Establish a thorough, open and fair development review process.
11. Public infrastructure and facilities should incorporate sustainable features and be designed to encourage growth in desired areas.
12. Encourage agriculture land use preservation in appropriate areas.

Topic 3: Community Character/Sense of Place/Diversity/Open-Minded/Family Friendly/Community Involvement

Missoula has unique characteristics that define the community and give it a strong identity. Attributes such as the surrounding open space with scenic vistas, natural areas such as the river, a vibrant downtown and traditional neighborhoods all contribute to this “sense of place.” A diverse community, open-minded attitudes, an involved community and a family friendly atmosphere are other aspects that citizens value and want to preserve. There is concern that as the community grows, Missoula will change and lose the features that make the community a livable and desirable place to live.

Goal 1: Missoula’s growth will be ever mindful of the unique characters and sense of place that define and establish our community.

Goal 2: Missoula will have an involved citizenry that participates in decision making processes, volunteers, take pride in their neighborhoods and respects a diverse population.

Objectives:

1. Identify resources such as funding, programs, events and awards to support and celebrate the sense of place and unique community character.
2. Programs and planning processes should respect the diverse population within the community and should provide for an environment where citizens can freely express a diverse range of ideas to address city issues.
3. Identify, document and nurture the assets and features that contribute to Missoula’s unique character.
4. Promote new development and urban design that emphasizes the pedestrian scale and considers the interaction of the development with the street system.
5. Encourage development that preserves community character and the character of neighborhoods.
6. Promote transportation improvements that are designed with “context sensitive” features.
7. Promote community involvement through a range of civic engagement, education and volunteer activities.
8. Identify appropriate areas to adopt neighborhood conservation standards so that development in these districts is compatible with the neighborhood.

Topic 4: Local Services/Social Services/Education

Social services and education should encourage and create an environment for learning, growth, independence and a sense of purpose as well as fostering a responsibility for ourselves and to others. Quality educational opportunities are the foundation for a community that can attract both new businesses and new employees.

Goal 1: Local municipal and social services will ensure a sustainable and livable community.

Goal 2: The basic needs of the community are met and people have opportunities for meaningful work, stable income and an excellent education.

Goal 3: Missoula will encourage, care for and create an environment for learning, growth, independence and a sense of purpose and engagement.

Objectives:

1. Improve social services to create a range of services to address the needs of a diverse population and including the needs of the underserved population.
2. Maintain an educational system that permits children and adults from all backgrounds to achieve their potential.
3. Invest in continuing education for all people and all ages.
4. Encourage the creation of a cooperative association of local government, k-12/higher education and local businesses so all become stakeholders for mutual benefit.
5. Provide greater support for children from kindergarten through grade twelve.
6. Support investment in technology at schools so students have access to resources and can acquire skills for the 21st century jobs.
7. Provide a system of mental health services that meets the needs of the community.
8. Provide a range of aging services to meet the needs of the senior population.
9. Support early childhood development and programs to create strong families.

Topic 5: Parks & Recreation

Parks and trails provide green space and open space that contributes to the community's identity. Additionally, parks offer opportunities for play, gathering and recreation. Such activities promote healthy lifestyles, provide a means for citizens of all abilities to be involved in their community and enable residents to enjoy and connect with the outdoors. Recreation events and activities in the parks attract visitors and support the local economy.

Goal 1: Missoula will have a well-distributed, connected and sustainable network of parks and trails system for the benefit and enjoyment of the community.

Goal 2: Missoula will meet the diverse interest and abilities of the community through a wide range of recreational activities and programs.

Objectives:

1. Ensure that each neighborhood has adequate access and opportunity to use parks and open space.
2. Develop a complete hierarchy of parks and open spaces from pocket parks to large open spaces.
3. Increase the amount of public open/green spaces to avoid over-crowding in these areas.
4. Increase recreational activities and programs to accommodate the wide range of interests and schedules of the population.
5. Provide opportunities for access and recreational activities to people for all ages and abilities.
6. Maintain and improve parks to provide accessible, safe and clean public spaces.

7. Update and redesign park and recreation facilities to meet current recreation trends and needs.
8. Create and maintain a trail system that connects parks and connects neighborhoods.
9. Identify opportunities to connect parks and open space through trails and green space.
10. Plan for parks as part of a green infrastructure system that will help manage stormwater run-off and improve water quality.
11. Find opportunities to add open space in all neighborhoods.

Topic 6: Downtown

Missoula's vibrant downtown is a hub for arts, culture, food and local business. The historic structures and vitality that come from the mix of businesses is a key component of defining and celebrating Missoula's unique character. New development should be context sensitive and should consider preserving the historic character of downtown. Employers and visitors are attracted to the vitality of downtowns that offer amenities and activities during the day and at night. The influx of business and people to downtown, however, can create issues regarding parking, traffic congestion and negative impacts on adjacent neighborhoods. It is important to develop sustainable strategies to address these issues.

Goal 1: Missoula will have a vibrant and sustainable downtown with a diverse mix of businesses, housing and cultural activities.

Goal 2: The unique identity of downtown will be maintained by preserving the historic and cultural elements that define the area and appropriate design of new development.

Objectives:

1. Provide adequate parking to meet the needs of businesses and visitors in downtown.
2. Preserve historic elements and cultural institutions that contribute to the unique and vital downtown.
3. Support development in and around downtown that will meet employment needs and support the needs of downtown workers, visitors and residents.
4. Include public spaces and a healthy environment in downtown for people to live, work, create and interact.
5. Support development in downtown that has a positive fiscal impact for the community.
6. Support downtown as a vibrant 24-hours a day place with a variety of uses and social services.
7. Encourage redevelopment of vacant sites, vacant buildings and historic buildings.
8. The downtown transportation network should accommodate alternative means of transportation including pedestrian and bicycle friendly improvements.
9. Allow for higher density development in downtown that is designed to be compatible with the community historic character of the downtown.
10. Develop a clear direction and process to maintain the quality, development and history of our downtown historic district.

11. Maintain downtown as an identifiable place with identifiable edges.
12. Develop mix-used developments and downtown housing to offer live/work opportunities and support downtown businesses.
13. Work with University of Montana on facility planning and to coordinate on projects that will strengthen the downtown.
14. Create transitions areas between downtown and adjacent traditional neighborhoods to minimize potential negative impacts from higher intensity uses.