

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 values its cultural heritage through historic preservation.

Goal 2: Missoula will have a diverse and vibrant arts community that fosters growth and development of cultural activities; including music, visual arts, and performance art.

Goal 3: 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. Foster cooperative arts programs between the community, educational institutions, and visitors.
3. Provide adequate venues, educational opportunities and funding for visual and performing arts.
4. Coordinate historic preservation and cultural programs.
5. Continue to expand efforts to implement the historic preservation plan.
6. Support efforts to create public art.
7. Encourage partnerships between businesses, volunteers, private collectors, and non-profits to enhance arts and culture in the community.

Action Items

1. Conduct outreach to build support for arts and culture, and to obtain input from the community on needed programs and venues.
2. Incorporate arts and cultural activities into recreation planning.

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 will make thoughtful decisions about land use planning that supports the needs and values of residents in regards to neighborhoods and community character, parks, trails, and natural resources.

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

Objectives

1. Locate areas for new housing, mixed-use developments, multi-family development, and commercial nodes to provide convenient access to commercial and local services.
2. Ensure that in-fill development and high-density development are compatible with the surrounding area.
3. Require new development to contribute its proportional share of cost to improve local services and infrastructure.
4. The transportation network should accommodate new growth and redevelopment by providing options and adequate infrastructure to avoid congestion and minimize traffic hazards.
5. Plan for -and consider- the effects of parking, transportation, and mass transit on the city's character and built environment.
6. Provide incentives to redevelop older, underutilized, commercial properties.
7. The built environment should accommodate and be welcoming to people of all physical abilities.
8. Ensure an open and fair development review process.
9. Develop public infrastructure and facilities to incorporate sustainable features and be designed to encourage growth in desired areas including high-density development.
10. Preserve and support sustainable farming, urban gardening, and open space in appropriate areas.

Action Items

1. Locate higher-density development along transit corridors and near trails.

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 citizen's 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 characteristics and sense-of-place that define and establish our community.

Goal 2: Missoula strives to involve community members to participate in decision-making processes, to volunteer, to take pride in their neighborhoods, and to respect a diverse population.

Objectives

1. Ensure adequate resources to support and celebrate sense-of-place and unique community character.
2. Programs and planning processes should respect the diverse population within the community and provide for an environment where community members 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 urban design that emphasizes pedestrian scale and considers the interaction of development with the built environment.
5. Encourage development that preserves community character and the character of neighborhoods.
6. Promote transportation improvements that are designed to reflect community character and surrounding natural areas.
7. Encourage neighborhoods to use tools and services to preserve neighborhood character.

Action Items

1. Define, identify, document, and nurture the assets and features that contribute to Missoula's unique character.
2. 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. A comprehensive social service network is the foundation for a compassionate community that provides opportunity for self-sufficiency and independence.

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

Goal 2: Missoula will encourage, care for, and create an environment for learning, growth, independence, and a sense of purpose and engagement.

Objectives

1. Ensure basic needs of the community are met and people have opportunities for meaningful work, stable income, and an excellent education.
2. Promote and advocate for sustainable measures that lead to a more livable, resilient community such as recycling, urban gardening, and other similar practices.
3. Invest in continuing education for all people and all ages.
4. Ensure cooperative relationships between local government, K-12 schools, adult education, higher education, and local businesses so all become stakeholders for mutual benefit.
5. Ensure equal, fair, and adequate services for all children from infancy to adulthood in order to allow them to thrive as Missoula citizens.
6. Invest in technology and other infrastructure at schools so students have access to resources and can acquire skills for 21st century jobs.
7. Provide aging services to meet the range of needs of the senior population, such as mobility and housing.

Action Items

1. Encourage providing support for parents through flexible work schedules, work from home opportunities, etc.
2. Promote early childhood development through access to preschool educational materials, educational park-and-rec programs within walking distance to home.
3. Focus social service programs to underserved populations.
4. Explore mechanism to fund social service to community members to have access to appropriate services.

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 trail systems for the benefit and enjoyment of the community.

Objectives:

1. Ensure that each community member and neighborhood has adequate access and opportunity to use parks and open space.
2. Develop a wide range of parks and open spaces from pocket parks to large open spaces to meet different functions within the park system.
3. Balance the amount of public open/green spaces with development to provide adequate access, preserve vistas, and provide recreational opportunities. .
4. Provide 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. Design adaptable park and recreation facilities to accommodate changing and current and long term recreation trends and needs.
8. Create and maintain a trail system that connects parks, neighborhoods and green space
9. Plan for parks as an integral part of a Missoula's green infrastructure system
10. Ensure that parks and trails recognize and be mindful of urban agriculture.

Action Items

- Identify opportunities to connect parks and open space through trails and green space.
- Identify opportunities for parks and open space to help manage stormwater run-off and improve water quality.
- Prepare urban agriculture plan

Topic 6: Downtown

Missoula's vibrant downtown is a hub for arts, culture, dining, transportation, housing, government offices and local business. The historic structures and the vitality that comes from the mix of activities are key components 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 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 cultural activities, housing and businesses.

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

Objectives:

1. Review parking as part of the transportation system that accommodates multiple means of transportation including pedestrian and bicycle friendly improvements as well as vehicular traffic.

And determine parking for downtown businesses and visitors in context of this system.

2. Preserve historic elements and cultural institutions that contribute to a unique and vital downtown.

3. Ensure development support the needs of downtown workers, visitors, and residents and contributes to healthy neighborhoods in and around downtown.

4. Include a safe and 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 place with a variety of uses and social services.

7. Encourage compatible reuse and redevelopment of vacant sites, vacant buildings, and historic buildings as a priority over outward expansion.

9. Support higher-density development in downtown that is compatible with the community/historic character.

11. Maintain downtown as an identifiable place with identifiable edges.

12. Develop mix-used developments and live/work opportunities in downtown.

13. Encourage coordination with University of Montana on projects that will strengthen the downtown.

14. Differentiate between high intensity central business district core and lower intensity downtown areas and approve development that is compatible with the character in these areas.

Action Items

- Develop a clear direction and process to maintain the quality, development, and history of our downtown historic district.
- Create inviting and safe public spaces in the downtown