

# Missoula Parks & Recreation, Missoula County

## Media Release

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## Parks & Recreation



### Missoula County Approves 23 Bid Packages for Fort Missoula Regional Park

This morning the Board of Missoula County Commissioners approved 23 bid packages and three early procurement items, totaling \$13,476,300 for Fort Missoula Regional Park. The total construction budget of Phase I is \$16,271,212. The entire west side of the regional park will be constructed within Phase I and will include 11 multi-use sports fields, one synthetic all season turf field, a central events plaza and large pavilion, an overlook picnic shelter, landscaping, access roads into the park to connect to adjacent properties, playgrounds, trails, historic interpretation, parking and restrooms.

“I am pleased with the good work of our design team, construction manager and staff,” Missoula Parks and Recreation Director, Donna Gaukler said. “They have worked well together and have continuously kept value and users in mind. With the exception of a specialty synthetic turf provider, all bids were awarded to local businesses. The park will be a destination for all area residents as well as guests.”

Construction is set to begin in the early spring of this year. Phase I will bring sports fields, welcoming limited events in the late fall, with full competitions scheduled for April, 2017. The goal is to have the pavilion, plaza, paths, and playgrounds ready for public enjoyment in the fall of 2016.

City and County staff, along with the project design team, will continue to refine the design for Phase II which encompasses the east side of the park. Construction for Phase II will begin in October, 2016 and will include playgrounds, a dog park, sport courts, a teen pod, inclusive playground, more trails and interpretation, and seven softball diamonds with support facilities.

“With the completion of the regional park in 2017 we look forward to welcoming a wide variety of opportunities that will enhance our recreation economy,” Commissioner Nicole ‘Cola’ Rowley said. “Missoula County, in partnership with City staff, diligently worked to ensure that every dollar spent will provide long-term, community-wide benefits.”

The park will be constructed in phases to minimize impacts on current activities, including youth, high school and adult sports. When complete, FMRP will be a county 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 was approved by voters in November, 2014 and funds the development of the Fort Missoula Regional Park, 10 new or improved City playgrounds, and a new trails program for Missoula County. Residents can learn more about the bond projects at [www.missoulaparksandtrails.org](http://www.missoulaparksandtrails.org).