

New Meadows Park Master Planning Process
Facts, Answers and Questions
Generated from the February 24, 2016 Neighborhood Design Workshop

Site Planning & Design Questions

- 1) What does “dog park” / “dog area” mean?
Dog parks have grown in popularity throughout the Country as more people have pets and are asking their communities to provide recreational opportunities for their pets. Recreational pet areas are frequently referenced as “dog parks” or “dog areas”. A dog park is a controlled environment typically enclosed by a 4’ to 6’ fence where canines can exercise and play under supervision of their owners. Dog areas are frequently referred to as unfenced dog parks where pets are permitted to be off-leash and under voice restraint. Dog areas can be defined by using vegetation, a change in ground treatment, boulders, natural features or constructed features such as a path or section of fence.
- 2) Will vehicle access be allowed from Mullan Road into New Meadows Park?
Current New Meadow Park conditions allow for authorized service vehicle and emergency vehicle access. Service vehicle and emergency vehicle access will be considered in design of the New Meadows Park master plan.
- 3) Will a parking lot be part of the proposed New Meadows Park master plan?
Traditionally, public vehicle access and parking in County Parks is not allowed due to safety, construction costs and on-going long term maintenance costs. The 2012 County Parks and Trails Master Plan classifies New Meadows as a neighborhood park with recommendation to upgraded park classification to a community park. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residents within a one mile radius of the park or a 10 minute walk. Community parks are intended to serve residents who live within a three to five mile radius. The 2012 County Parks and Trails Master Plan calls for parking in community parks to be sufficient to support optimal park use. Vehicle access and limited parking within New Meadows Park will be considered during master planning for future accommodations if needed with park reclassification from a neighborhood park to a community park.
- 4) Could there be a land swap with Sunset Cemetery?
There are no current plans or conversations between the County and Sunset Cemetery for a possible land swap.
- 5) Is New Meadows Park connected to Elmar Estates?
New Meadows Park is not connected to the development of Elmar Estates.

- 6) How did New Meadows Park become part of the County Park system?
New Meadows Park was dedicated as public parkland in 1980 with the development of New Meadows Subdivision.
- 7) Is there a power source available in New Meadows Park?
Yes, there is a power source available for development of New Meadows Park if needed for future park amenities.
- 8) What is the ownership of parcels surrounding New Meadows Park?
The northern and eastern boundaries of the park abut Sunset Memorial Gardens with private land ownership on both the western and southern boundaries. There are three park access points: The northeast corner of the park connecting to Mullan Rd. and the shared use path; a public right-of-way walkway on the south side connecting to New Meadows Drive; and a public walkway right-of-way at the southwest corner of the park connecting to New Meadows Drive that is currently inaccessible.
- 9) What is the purpose of the existing well on site?
The existing well on site provides drinking water to the surrounding neighborhoods.
- 10) Why interest for a New Meadows park master plan now?
The County Parks and Trails 2012 master plan recommends the development and adoption of a master plan for New Meadows Park to enhance park amenities, site access and park signage. Prior to the addition of two staff in April of 2015, there was not enough capacity to complete the public process to create a master plan.
- 11) Are there examples of County parks with private residents on one side?
New Meadows Park is not unique with private residents on one or more sides of a County park. Syringa Park (Currently a County Park to be transferred to the City) is similar to New Meadows with private residents on three out of the four sides. Syringa Park is currently going through a similar public process to design a master plan for a neighborhood bike skills park in the upper Rattlesnake.
The benefit to our public design process are the values and interests that are identified during the initial neighborhood workshop. The outcomes from the initial neighborhood workshop establish the guiding principles to advance park design and development. Throughout the design process, the design team works to minimize negative impacts to immediate neighbors by implementing the guiding principles and paying attention to site layout, circulation patterns, site lines and areas of high activity.

Park Safety Questions

- 1) When does a neighborhood park become an asset or a liability?

People seek out parks because they improve communities and provide a benefit to personal wellness. Parks offer a range of opportunities for meeting with friends, watching others and being seen, all of which help create a secure environment.

Well designed and well-used parks are great neighborhood assets that improve property value and build a sense of community. A park can quickly become a liability when park assets become unsafe, losing their value and benefit to the community. Park maintenance has a direct relationship to retaining a parks asset and park usage rates.

The design of a park can have a direct impact on a parks success and a neighborhoods willingness to use the park. A good park design is typically based on: meeting the needs of its users; diverse and interesting; connects people with place; and provides users with a positive experience. Overall success to create and maintain park assets requires designers, park operations, park staff and neighborhood citizens to have a vital role in creating/managing park assets.

- 2) Will a pedestrian crossing be provided at Mullan Road and Grassland Drive for a safe neighborhood connection from the north side of Mullan Road?

County Parks, Trails and Open Lands continues to work with the Montana Department of Transportation, County Public Works and Missoula City-County Metropolitan Planning Organization on the update of the Long Range Transportation plan to continue on-going efforts to improve non-motorized transportation and pedestrian safety along the Mullan Road corridor.

- 3) How will New Meadows Park be managed for security?

Park security is a working partnership with local law enforcement agencies, park users and adjacent neighborhood residents to keep eyes on the park and report criminal behavior. We can support a secure and comfortable environment for park users by working together in partnership to report criminal activity and park maintenance/repairs to maintain a high quality of park assets.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles will be implemented to promote a safe park that residents will want to visit. These standards include:

- Preserving open sight lines in and out of the park (natural surveillance)
- Designing for a sense of natural access and control (direct flow while decreasing the opportunity for crime)
- Design a park that clearly communicates a sense of ownership by utilizing site programing, clear signage and landscaping.
- A routine maintenance plan for the park. This helps communicate ownership and pride.

- 4) Will the Mullan Road speed limit be reduced adjacent to New Meadows Park?
Speed reduction or speed limit modifications on Mullan Road will not be part of the master planning process. Speed limit modifications will require a speed study.

Park Management Questions

- 1) Will New Meadows Park be annexed into the City?
There are no current plans to annex New Meadows Park into the City.
- 2) How will the park be maintained? What will be the frequency of maintenance?
County Parks, Trails and Open Lands Program utilizes partnerships with neighborhood groups, service and non-profit organizations to help maintain our current system. Partners also promote the development of new recreational opportunities. The County Parks and Trails Advisory Board assists partnerships and groups with funding through its Capital and Maintenance Matching Grants, and its Noxious Weed Grant Partnership Program with the Missoula County Weed District.
- 3) Who is responsible for the management and maintenance of the shared use paths on Cote Ln. and Mullan Rd?
Missoula County Parks, Trails and Open Lands Program is responsible for management and maintenance of the shared use paths on Cote Lane and Mullan Road.

Funding and Partnership Questions

- 1) How could private donations be donated toward the development of New Meadows Park?
The best way to donate a financial contribution toward the development of New Meadows Park is through a 501c3. This could be an existing non-profit or a new non-profit created to support the development of New Meadows Park. For example, Friends of Missoula Parks is a possible 501c3 that has successfully supported fundraising efforts of some City parks, for example Silver Summit All Abilities Playground.
- 2) What are potential funding sources?
Funding sources include and are not limited to: Identifying and divesting of local County Parks within proximity to New Meadows Park as per the 2012 master plan and reinvesting into development and maintenance of County Parks within the same neighborhood, Partnership fund raising efforts, private donations, granting writing, County Parks and Trails Matching Grant Program and the Parks and Trails Bond for development of a perimeter walking path. Pending the funding source and requirements, financial resources could be used to funding design development, construction or on-going maintenance costs.
- 3) Are funds for planning and development of New Meadows Park coming from the Parks and Trails Bond?
No. However, funds from the Parks and Trails Bond could be applied for and used to help finance the development and construction of a perimeter walking path through the County Trails Bond Program.

4) Is there current funding available for New Meadows Park or the neighborhood?

There is no funding available at this time for further design development work beyond a master plan. After a design and vision are complete for New Meadows Park and adopted, the master plan will support County funding efforts, private fund raising efforts and grant writing opportunities.