

Missoula County Media Release

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Missoula County on Track to Update Growth Policy with New Land Use Map

For the first time since its adoption more than 40 years ago, Missoula County's land use map is nearing its first comprehensive update.

After three rounds of public outreach and a year of gathering feedback from local neighborhoods and stakeholders, Community and Planning Services is proposing an amendment to incorporate the [Missoula Area Land Use Map](#) and [Land Use Element](#) into the Missoula County Growth Policy, which houses the current land use map.

The [Missoula Consolidated Planning Board](#) will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, in the Missoula City Council Chambers, located at 140 W. Pine St. in Missoula. Members of the public and media are encouraged to attend. Drafts of the proposed land use map and land use element are available online at www.MissoulaAreaMapping.com.

Central to the strategic development of the community, the land use map is an element of the [Missoula County Growth Policy](#), which guides growth, infrastructure and delivery of services. When the current map was adopted in 1975, Missoula County's population was 58,000 people. Since then, the county's population has doubled to more than 117,000 and is expected to grow to over 140,000 people by 2040. Most of that growth will happen in the Missoula Valley.

"The public engagement process zeroed in on several key values important to our communities: housing, existing infrastructure, agriculture, open space, multi-modal transportation, water quality and community identity," said CAPS Planner Andrew Hagemeyer. "The map reflects those values and will help drive the decision-making process as the county continues to grow."

In addition to the updated land use map, which encompasses the Missoula urban area outside the city limits, the proposed amendment includes recent population projections, 15 new land use designations (pared down from the original 64), and implementation strategies. After considering any additional feedback, the Board of County Commissioners will hold a final hearing to vote on whether to approve the proposed amendment to the Growth Policy. Once adopted, the map will be used to inform regulation updates such as zoning and subdivision regulations, plan for and extend infrastructure, and guide coordination with partners.

Comments can be emailed to CAPS@missoulacounty.us or mailed to CAPS, 200 W. Broadway St., Missoula, MT 59802. For more information, call Hagemeyer at 406-258-3707, email ahagemeyer@missoulacounty.us or visit www.missoulaareamapping.com.

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