



**Missoula Urban Growth Committee
January 2023
DRAFT Charter**

Purpose

The Missoula Urban Growth Committee (UGC) is a high-level strategic coordination group that provides joint city-county leadership on growth management efforts for the Missoula urban area. This effort includes coordination of infrastructure planning and development needed to carry out the community's growth management objectives.

Guiding Principles

1. We are one community and recognize that community members do not distinguish between the city and county jurisdictional areas in the Missoula urban area, but rather think of the entire area as "Missoula."
2. We recognize that growth management, community development, and infrastructure needed to support housing and economic opportunity and protect sensitive areas do not follow jurisdictional boundaries.
3. We acknowledge joint planning, community development, and provision of appropriate infrastructure are essential for tackling issues related to growth and development as well as opportunities that are necessary to continue to make Missoula a great place to live, work, and play.
4. We respect and understand the differences of our jurisdictions and communicate about independent initiatives of the city and county. We support independent initiatives that help achieve the UGC goals and seek to avoid having independent initiatives undermine joint efforts.
5. We must make choices in how the Missoula community grows and develops that demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable and equitable future.

Membership

- Community Planning, Development, and Innovation Director (city)
- Planning, Development and Sustainability Director (county)
- Public Works and Mobility Department Director (city)
- Chief Public Works Officer (county)
- Missoula Redevelopment Agency Director (city)
- Lands and Economic Development Director (county)
- City-County Health Officer

Members may have a designee attend, but any designee should be able to participate at the same level and with the same authority as the member. Other staff and subject matter experts in such fields as planning, housing, water quality, transportation, sustainability, parks and recreation, economic development, and schools, etc., may be invited to participate in discussions, as needed.

UGC Coordination and Administrative Support. The County and City will each designate a point person and this team will work together to help facilitate and coordinate the UGC and manage follow-up activities between meetings. Missoula County will provide administrative support for the UGC.

Expectations and Responsibilities

The Missoula Urban Growth Committee will:

- Provide a forum for entertaining and discussing ideas and issues related to promoting orderly urban development on the city's fringe that are innovative and ambitious, while also being realistic.
- Seek to proactively coordinate and collaborate on a range of growth management and infrastructure extension needs, which may involve other community development and resource protection activities such as provision of parks and trails, agricultural land conservation, redevelopment needs, and facilitating a healthy built environment.
- Help initiate and coordinate oversight for joint projects as appropriate, while allowing the two jurisdictions to pursue their individual goals and projects.
- Serve in an advisory capacity with the expectation that members will forward issues, opportunities, and recommendations to respective city and county departments and elected officials.
- Communicate about planning, infrastructure, and other community development and conservation efforts in the Missoula urban area.
- Coordinate work plans related to growth management and infrastructure planning and development between the city and county on at least an annual basis. Look for opportunities to leverage resources to address collective priorities, but also recognize that sometimes other priorities of a jurisdiction may override a joint project.

Sideboards

- This is not a decision-making body but rather a city-county strategic group that helps coordinate urban area initiatives and provide information for decisions to their respective governing bodies.
- As needed, recommendations from this group will be forwarded to the respective governing body(ies) for public review and decision.

Core Values

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| • Leadership | • Collaboration |
| • Teamwork | • Equity |
| • Innovation | • Sustainability |
| • Coordination | |

Goals

1. Provide forward-thinking, coordinated leadership regarding community development efforts on the edges of the City of Missoula.
2. Cultivate and support joint land use planning and community development efforts that:
 - a. Facilitate appropriate land use patterns and efficient use and extension of infrastructure.
 - b. Plan for the evolution of existing and emerging neighborhoods.

- c. Maintain the character of unique neighborhoods and places.
 - d. Protect public health and safety and steer growth away from hazardous areas.
 - e. Preserve working lands, agricultural areas, and naturally functioning systems.
 - f. Protect surface water and groundwater.
 - g. Protect open space for wildlife habitat, recreation, and agriculture.
 - h. Provide opportunities for additional housing throughout the urban area, specifically housing that is affordable for a range of income levels.
 - i. Focus development toward areas with existing infrastructure or toward those areas with the potential to expand or improve infrastructure to accommodate a mix of uses.
 - j. Integrate land use and multi-modal transportation options including road enhancements, bus service, pedestrian facilities, and bike facilities.
3. Coordinate joint infrastructure projects to support joint goals related to community development, housing, economic opportunity, and growth management.

Tasks

1. Meet at least quarterly, and more often as needed when there are joint projects underway.
2. Share information among members about land use planning, community development, infrastructure, redevelopment, transportation, conservation, and other projects in the Missoula urban area.
3. Receive and evaluate proposals for joint initiatives and recommend implementing joint initiatives to respective jurisdictions.
4. Provide input on and oversight for joint initiatives.
5. At least annually, coordinate on work plan and budget items for Missoula urban area projects, programs and initiatives, particularly for joint initiatives.
6. At least annually, hold a forum with the Missoula Consolidated Planning Board to share information about UGC initiatives and seek feedback and input.
7. At least annually, evaluate the role and work of the UGC and adjust better achieve goals.