

## **July 2008: City of Missoula adopts master site plan for Memorial Rose Garden**

*This packet includes: Master Site Plan, Aerial Views, Guiding Principles, Council Resolution, examples of potential design elements.*

After 13 months of public process and historical research, the City of Missoula has adopted a master site plan for Memorial Rose Garden Park. The plan was adopted on July 28, 2008 and includes guiding principles for park design, a Design Review Committee, and a master site plan.

The plan serves as a long-range (20-to-30-years) vision for future development and programming. The plan is conceptual in nature and not intended to address detailed issues related to engineered site design or park operations. A park master plan is a general guide for appropriate park uses and their approximate location within a specific park site.

The planning process, which began in May, 2007, included extensive public input, research of historical documents, and a site survey. The adopted plan emphasizes the importance and significance of the memorials and monuments, including the Rose Garden itself. It also allows for future monuments honoring those who have lost their lives for our safety, protection and freedom. The site plan allows for ADA access, a restroom, and a gathering space for special events such as the Memorial Day ceremony. The plan enhances the memorial experience in the park with walkways and contemplative spaces, and creates separate spaces for remembrances, small gatherings and casual neighborhood use. Following several public meetings and requests for public comment, the draft Master Site Plan was extensively edited to reflect citizen input and then was presented to the City Parks and Recreation Board and City Council for adoption.

Because of the Park's visibility and popularity, Parks and Recreation receives numerous requests for memorial trees, benches, statues, pavers, and other improvements. The Park is also frequently requested for public events and special ceremonies. In creating the Master Site Plan, the Parks and Recreation staff sought guidance from citizens and park stakeholders, like veteran's groups, the neighborhood, and the Missoula Rose Society.

Memorial Rose Garden Park was established in 1944 by the city and the Missoula Rose Society to commemorate members of the armed forces killed in World War II. It has since become the site for memorials dedicated to casualties of America's conflicts including Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf and Korea. In addition, there are a variety of other memorials throughout the park, including the Missoula Law Enforcement Memorial. The Missoula Rose Society purchases and maintains over 2000 roses in several beds throughout the park. In April 1999, the Missoula Memorial Rose Garden was designated as a "State Veteran's Memorial Rose Garden" and the Korean War Memorial as a "State Korean War Memorial." Both are shown on official Montana State Highway maps.

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# MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN PARK MASTER PLAN

## DESIGN ELEMENTS

- A** ROSE MEMORIAL GARDEN
- B** MEMORIAL PROMENADE
- C** EXISTING PLAYGROUND
- D** FLAG COURT/ SPECIAL FEATURE
- E** SOUTH ENTRY
- F** EAST ENTRY
- G** ARBOR WALK
- H** OPEN LAWN
- I** PICNIC AREA
- J** FORMAL PARK SIGN & ENTRY VIEWSHED
- K** RESTROOM

## MATERIALS KEY

-  **Garden Paths**  
(ADA Accessible, Permeable Surface)
-  **Concrete**
-  **Rose Beds**
-  **Landscape Beds**
-  **Lawn**

## MEMORIAL LOCATIONS

- 1** WORLD WAR TWO
- 2** KOREAN WAR
- 3** VIETNAM
- 4** PERSIAN GULF WAR MARKER
- 5** MULTIPLE CONFLICTS MARKER
- 6** BLUE STAR HIGHWAY MARKER
- 7** POLICE MEMORIAL
- 8** FUTURE MEMORIAL SITE OPPORTUNITIES
- 11** SITE OPPORTUNITIES
- 12** LIVING MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITY



Plan prepared by:  
Missoula Parks & Recreation  
With the help of:  
Wonderland Landscape Architecture  
Rocking M Design  
WGM Group

Please see the "Guiding Principles" document  
for more detailed explanations of park elements  
and Master Plan implementation strategies





Aerial View A: Rose Garden and Arbor Walk



Aerial View B: East Entry





Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe  
Image NASA

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Pointer 46°51'23.57" N 114°00'19.28" W elev 3201 ft

Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye alt 3209 ft

Aerial View C: Police Memorial



Aerial View D: World War II Monument



## Examples of Potential Designs of Arbor/Pergola Features



Figure 1 ARBOR WITH SEAT



Figure 2 PERGOLA WITH BENCH



Figure 3 PERGOLA WITH BENCH #2



Figure 4 ARBOR WALK WITH ROSES



# **Guiding Principles for the Memorial Rose Garden Park Master Plan**

June 2008 – Guiding Principles and narrative information regarding the Master Site Plan

## **Master Plan Concept & Purpose**

The design gently organizes the site into a dedicated Memorial area and Park Visitor area. Walkways and Landscape Beds define user areas, enhance views and provide enclosure. Design iconography of built structures and site details unite the overall park, and strengthen the user experience. The purpose of the Master Plan and Guiding Principles is to preserve and enhance the park's original intended use. The documents act as a tool to guide growth within the park in response to continuing community desire to acknowledge those who have given their lives in service, and the need to provide places of rest, reflection and natural beauty for all citizens. While fundamental aspects of this Master Plan and Guiding Principles should be respected, final design should be undertaken within an appropriate context of time, and meaning for each particular element.

## **General Park Policy**

Regulatory policies addressing acceptable activities and behavior in the park may include: prohibiting alcohol use, regulating the size of groups for special events, acceptable levels and amounts of amplification, and limiting hours of use to standard hours of park operation.

## **I. DESIGN ELEMENTS**

### **Key Points**

**Note:** All proposed enhancements represent potential memorial opportunities.

- A. **Rose Memorial Garden:** Encourage restoration of WWII memorial, improve access, facilitate ease of maintenance, improve sun exposure, and provide seating.
- B. **Memorial Promenade:** Introduce grand walkway encompassing existing and future memorials in a contiguous area.
- C. **Existing Playground Area:** Retain the area as a gathering and play space for neighborhood children and residents.
- D. **Flag Court / Special Feature:** To serve as promenade focal point, potential for flag display and/or highlight landscaping.
- E. **South Entry:** Erect focal point structure opposite the Flag Court to further enhance and define the Rose Memorial Garden space. Architecture to complement iconography.
- F. **East Entry:** Design to accommodate small gatherings; provide space for temporary chair seating.
- G. **Arbor Walk:** Develop major north-south connection between Memorial Promenade and Rose Pavilion. Utilize arbors for visual strength and iconography.
- H. **Open Lawn:** Large open area with shade trees to support park visitation and provide space for event gatherings and/or seating.

- I. **Picnic Area:** Adjacent to the open lawn area. Provide picnic tables, and other landscape amenities to support park visitation.
- J. **Formal Park Signage & Entry Viewshed:** Create attractive setting with park sign, orient to intersection. Screen and enclose Picnic Area and frame view into park.
- K. **Restroom:** Provide ADA accessible permanent facility, or portable toilet in architectural enclosure.

### **Memorial Locations**

1. **World War II**
2. **Korean War**
3. **Vietnam**
4. **Persian Gulf War Marker**
5. **Multiple Conflicts Marker**
6. **Blue Star Memorial**
7. **Police Memorial**
- 8 – 11. **Future Large Memorial Site Opportunities** (In addition, each arbor, trellis, walkway, and entry may be a memorial opportunity. Benches, trees, garden beds, and small landscape features could serve as memorials to individuals or smaller events.)
12. **Living Memorial Opportunity**

### **Materials Key**

- **Rose Beds:** Expand rose beds, improve soil conditions for rose health, facilitate ease of maintenance, and improve sun exposure.
- **Landscape Areas:** Plant substantial, contiguous mixed tree and shrub beds to provide spatial separation, visual relief and continuity.
- **Open Lawn:** Provide space for formal and informal gatherings.
- **Garden Paths:** ADA accessible, permeable surface.
- **Concrete Walks:** Provide paved surface for accessibility.
- **Existing Trees:** As existing trees fail, provide new trees as shown to maximize sun exposure to rose beds, provide shade for other park use, and frame views.

## **II. DESIGN DETAIL**

### **Memorial Development**

**New memorials** shall strive to capture the power of the time and event being remembered, engage multiple generations of visitors, and increase knowledge and awareness of the event through innovative and unique design. Memorials designed to educate, evoke emotion, and transcend politics to honor the nature of human sacrifice will benefit from continuing stewardship by ensuing generations.



**Landscape Design** is critical to the success of the memorial experience. The landscape component should be strong and simple, enhance the contemplative experience, and be integrated meaningfully into any built structure. The design of 'living memorials' that rely primarily on plant materials is encouraged as it is consistent with the original dedication of the park and invites participation in the experience of the park by a wide variety of users.

**A Design Review Committee** shall be established to provide a method to facilitate the professional review of proposed memorial designs. Installations should meet the criteria and requirements of the Master Site Plan and Guiding Principles. This committee would be appointed by the City Park Board and must consist of neighborhood stakeholders, memorial stakeholders, one Council member, and Parks Department representatives.

### **Materials Selection**

**Walking Surfaces** must meet accessibility guidelines as stated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All primary walkways must include a paved surface (concrete is preferred) of at least 5 feet in width to facilitate wheelchair travel. The majority of walkways within the park should be permeable and promote a garden aesthetic. Locally available materials should be given preference. Compacted, decomposed or crushed granite is the preferred material for internal walks. In areas of concentrated use, such as around entryways, monuments and the Rose Pavilion walks may be augmented with unit pavers or concrete. In areas that experience regular vehicular use for maintenance and service, judicious use of concrete may be appropriate. Apart from concrete walkways, impermeable pavements should be minimized and used in a manner that reduces their impact on the natural character of the site.

**Constructed Features** in Memorial Rose Garden Park must be designed and constructed of materials that are timeless and durable. Elements should be designed to withstand at least a 100 year lifespan. Quality materials and detailing contribute to the sense of honor and respect inherent in the park. A design development plan that elaborates on the design vocabulary and materials selection for all amenities should be developed to assure continuity of the built environment. Material choices should be viewed as a mechanism to unite the site; however, a variety of complementing materials is appropriate.

**Plant Materials** should be selected to maximize symbolic relationships to the memorial experience, minimize water and maintenance requirements and enhance the visual and ecological quality of the site. Plants should be considered "place" and "space" makers and used for a range of sensory benefits, including: bloom, foliage and stem color, sound; movement; texture; seasonal variety; and fragrance.

### **Design Iconography**

Arbors, benches, other built structures, and landscape elements should incorporate a shared set of elements, or "icons", that work to lend a sense of character and continuity to the park. Icons may be a shared stylistic detail, a unique use of material or combination

of materials, a unique planting design, or repeated use of a logo or other visual symbol, among other things.

### **Design Quality**

Professional design services are required for the design of built structures and landscape beds. Include at least one licensed architect and/or landscape architect in the final design of all new spaces, landscape beds and built structures in the park.

## **III. PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION**

Ultimately, the undertaking of any enhancement outlined in this Master Plan shall be opportunity-driven, as the City and involved parties access funds and demands arise for implementation of various elements of the plan. It is intended that the Master Plan will be fulfilled as stakeholders' requests are received, planned, reviewed and implemented. Any proposed installation will occur under full collaboration with any immediately affected interest and by the direction of the Design Review Committee. *The phases listed below address lowest cost and attainable outcomes first, but should be viewed with flexibility to accommodate opportunities as they arise.*

### **Phase 1**

Phase 1 focuses on improvements that can be done in the course of standard maintenance practices and planning. This includes developing and implementing a Vegetation Management Plan that will improve the health of existing vegetation, simplify maintenance, and begin to develop the prescribed Landscape Areas to enhance spatial definition, views, and enclosures within the park.

### **Phase 2**

Phase 2 concentrates on implementing the major place-making and circulation elements on the ground plane. These include building new aggregate walkways comprising the Memorial Promenade, Arbor Walk, and Rose Garden grid; constructing the boulevard sidewalk on Mount Avenue, and the entry point circles; and reconstructing the Park Entry Statement area at the corner of Brooks and Mount Avenue. New Landscape Beds should be laid out as hard improvements are placed. The restroom enclosure and portable toilet should be installed as soon as feasible.

### **Phase 3**

Phase 3 work fleshes out Phase 2 structure, with new amenities. Along with completion of any remaining walkways and Landscape Beds, icon elements such as arbors, benches, tables, and signage should be installed. As required by demand for space, or driven by opportunities, the Memorial Expansion Area may be converted for additional memorials during this development stage,



#### **Phase 4**

Phase 4 will accentuate and complete Memorial Rose Garden Park's transformation with capital improvements of the South Entry, permanent restroom facility, and any remaining ancillary park structures.

**Relocation or changes to any current improvements or monuments** shall require support of the immediate stakeholders. Any requests to relocate or significantly enhance a current installation or improvement shall be reviewed and approved by the Design Review Committee and process developed by the Committee. Changes or improvements shall comply with the Master Site Plan and guiding principles. Changes not clearly in compliance with the Master Site Plan and Guiding principles may require additional public process or approvals.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING A MASTER SITE PLAN FOR MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN PARK PER EXHIBITS A & B**

WHEREAS Memorial Rose Garden Park was established in 1944 by the City and the Missoula Rose Society to commemorate members of the armed forces killed in World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Park is home to memorials or monuments to conflicts including Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf and Korea; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Rose Garden Park was designated the State Veterans' Memorial Rose Garden and the State Korean War Memorial by the Montana State Legislature in 1999; and

WHEREAS, a master site plan sets a vision for approximately 20 years allowing for implementation of the communities' vision for the park; and

WHEREAS the Parks and Recreation Department has conducted or hosted the following tasks and processes over the past 13 months in an effort to gain public input in developing a vision for Memorial Rose Garden Park: site survey, professionally conducted historic documents research, title report, citizen and stakeholder surveys, design consultation, public open house workshops in October 2007 and March 2008, neighborhood council meetings, solicitation and compilation of public comment throughout the 13 month period, and assimilation of all processes, research, and best practices to create a Master Site Plan; and

WHEREAS the primary goals of the master site plan process were to preserve and protect the current character and original intent of the park, enhance accessibility to the park and monuments within the park, provide guidelines for future improvements or installations in the park; and

WHEREAS the Missoula Parks and Recreation Board adopted the proposed Master Site Plan on June 10, 2008 and recommends City Council adoption of the Plan; and

WHEREAS the Master Site Plan including guiding principles and implementation strategies, as well as a Design Review Board appointed by Park Board for each new installation to ensure adherence to the Guidelines for the Master Park Plan;

NOW THEREFORE, the Missoula City Council formally adopts the Master Site Plan for Rose Memorial Garden Park per Exhibits A&B.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of June, 2008.

ATTEST

APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Rehbein  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Engen  
Mayor

(seal)