

## The Historic Northside, Historic Southside Neighborhoods and Downtown

The residents and neighbors of Historic Great Falls have a wonderful invitation for you. Come see the amazing sights in the neighborhood.

The historic area runs north to south from River Drive to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and east to west from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to River Drive. Our neighbors are creating, in the words of the Neighborhood Council, "a place where people walk for the history and stay for the future."

This neighborhood is the hub of Great Falls: every bridge crossing the Mighty Missouri touches it. It is home to some of Great Falls' premier parks, including Gibson, Elks Riverside, Whittier, Oddfellows, Carter, Broadwater and Morony Parks. It is a main artery to access the River's Edge Trail. There is a mix of industrial, commercial and residential properties that are fascinating to explore.

The History Museum, at 422 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South, is housed in the original International Harvester Building, on what used to be called Machinery Row. The museum features exhibits celebrating Central Montana's heritage and houses 75,000 historic photographs and 250,000 pieces of historical memorabilia. The Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, at 1400 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, has contemporary art by local, regional and international artists. Classes and workshops are available for all ages in an 1896 building. The Children's Museum of Montana, at 22 Railroad Square, exists to ignite a lifelong passion for learning. Don't forget to stop by the C. M. Russell Museum, celebrating the work of cowboy artist Charles M. Russell, including his log cabin studio. As the Museum notes, "Some historians work in watercolors and oils." Changing exhibitions by Russell's contemporaries are also on display.

There are several walking tours, complete with informational brochures, for the Historic Districts. The Central Business Historic Walking tour showcases buildings from 1886 to 1951. The River's Edge History Tour highlights amazing places where history happened, including the 1805 confrontation between Meriwether Lewis and a grizzly bear. The Historic Lower North Side Residential Walking Tour features the wonderful architecture of the homes built and occupied by the movers and shakers of Great Falls' early days. Brochures for all of these Tours are available at the Great Falls Public Library (201 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North), the Great Falls Visitor Center, and the Chamber of Commerce (both at 100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North).

In 1996, the voters in Great Falls authorized nine Neighborhood Councils to provide advisory input in all the areas of city government. Neighborhood Council #7 fulfills this authorization for the Historic Northside, the Historic Southside, and Historic Downtown Great Falls. All our neighbors, spearheaded by Neighborhood Council #7, are creating a place where people walk for the history and stay for the future: a place people are proud to say "We live here."

Your Neighborhood Council #7 members are: Linda Daggett, Troy Lane, Lisa Meyers, Trevor Mikkelsen, and Sandy Rice. Contact information can be found on the City Website: [greatfallsmt.net](http://greatfallsmt.net), under local government/Neighborhood Councils.