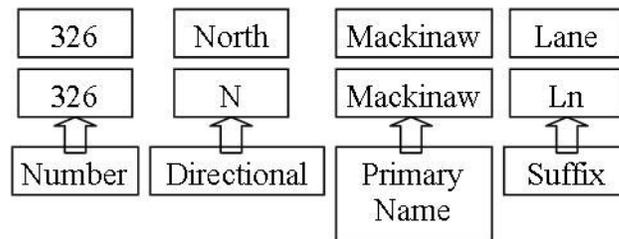


# Flathead County Road Naming Conventions

## Selecting a Road Name

Unique road names must be selected to enhance the easy and rapid location of properties in the event of an emergency. The primary goal is to prevent duplicate street names in the future and allow only approved suffixes. Because computerized addressing systems tend to use component parts, it is necessary to limit the variations in road names. For most road names it is important to understand the three main component parts: the directional, primary name, and suffix.



A **new** road name or **renaming** of a road will only be considered for adoption if it complies with the following standards:

- ❑ Duplicate primary names of existing roads or reserved road names are not allowed (i.e. if there is an existing DEER CREEK RD, then DEER CREEK TRL, LN, WAY, etc. would not be allowed). Duplicate primary names will not be allowed within the County or within 25 miles of the road of same name in an adjacent county. A list of all partial and complete names that are in use, restricted, or reserved is maintained by the County and available in the Plat Room or online at:

<ftp.co.flathead.mt.us/addressing/unavailablenames.pdf>

Continuations of existing streets should maintain the existing name in most cases. For continuations of existing streets, consult with the Address Coordinator prior to proceeding.

- ❑ A directional (North, South, etc.) prefix or suffix cannot be used except when in accordance with an established grid numbering system (existing portions of Kalispell, Whitefish, and Columbia Falls). For example, WEST DEER CREEK RD cannot be used.
- ❑ Cardinal directions (north, south, northwest, etc.) cannot be used within a primary name (i.e. North Fork Road, Northstar Drive, Northwest Lane).
- ❑ All names shall be simple to pronounce and spelled according to a standard dictionary.

# Flathead County Road Naming Conventions

- Only accepted suffixes can be used according to the guidelines in the table below. Accepted suffixes can only be used as such and not in the primary name. (i.e. Wagon Trail Road would NOT be acceptable, but Wagon Trail or Wagon Road are otherwise okay).

| Suffix                  | Usage Guideline   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Avenue (AVE)</b>     | Urban streets generally running north/south.  |
| <b>Boulevard (BLVD)</b> | A broad two way street with a landscaped center divider.  |
| <b>Circle (CIR)</b>     | Discouraged but allowed at the discretion of the Address Coordinator. Specifically, a looped street that terminates on the same road at two points is discouraged, particularly in situations where confusion may arise to emergency responders due to duplicate intersection descriptions. |
| <b>Court (CT)</b>       | Any cul-de-sac with a circle at one end, and less than 1000 feet in length. This suffix should be avoided if there is the possibility that the road could be extended, thereby requiring that it be renamed.  |
| <b>Drive (DR)</b>       | A curvilinear street.   |
| <b>Lane (LN)</b>        | A minor street within a subdivision.  |
| <b>Loop (LOOP)</b>      | See Circle.   |
| <b>Parkway (PKWY)</b>   | A thoroughfare designated as a collector or arterial, with a median reflecting the parkway character implied in the name.   |
| <b>Place (PL)</b>       | Permanently dead-end street or short through street.  |
| <b>Road (RD)</b>        | Tends to collect and distribute through traffic between the arterial network and local roads.   |
| <b>Street (ST)</b>      | Urban streets generally running east/west.  |
| <b>Terrace (TER)</b>    | No guidelines.  |
| <b>Trail (TRL)</b>      | No guidelines.  |
| <b>Way (WAY)</b>        | No guidelines.  |

- No personal first names or personal pronouns (Jeanne Lane or My Way). Signs of this type are frequently stolen and are expensive to replace.
- Street names cannot contain any punctuation or special characters (including apostrophes). Only alphabetical symbols A through Z and blank spaces may be used in street names. In the event proper grammar and usage would require a special character, the name shall NOT be allowed (i.e. O'Brien Way or Hide-a-Way Lane would NOT be acceptable).
- Names shall NOT contain numbers or spelling out of numbers (i.e. 150 Mile Trail or Two Bear Lane).
- Names cannot begin with articles (a, an, the, or, of). (i.e. The Lakes Drive would NOT be acceptable).
- Names cannot be duplicate homonyms or phonetically similar to existing names. (Chute, Shoot; Beech Street, Peach Street)
- Names cannot contain initials, abbreviations, or single-letters. (Diamond T Lane or LM Lane)
- Names must use the common spelling for a word. (Dakota v. Dakotah)

# Flathead County Road Naming Conventions

- ❑ Names cannot be a description of a place or feature that could be mistaken on a map or when giving directions (i.e. DIRT RD, JEEP TRL, TENNIS CT, or UP THE CREEK RD would NOT be acceptable).
- ❑ Other names may be determined unacceptable by the Address Coordinator on a case-by-case basis.

## Geometric Guidelines

All roads that serve two or more properties, or are ¼ mile or longer in length, shall be named regardless of whether the ownership is public or private. A “road” refers to any highway, road, street, avenue, lane, private way, or similar paved, gravel, or dirt thoroughfare. “Property” refers to any property on which a more or less permanent structure has been erected or could be placed. A road name assigned by Flathead County shall not constitute or imply acceptance of the road as a public way.

The following criteria shall govern the naming system:

- ❑ Roads to be named shall be accessed by roads that are already named. If not, the entire access route will need to be named simultaneously.
- ❑ A named road should be essentially continuous, without gaps.
- ❑ If a road has more than one branch at the end, separate names shall be used for the multiple branches.
- ❑ Each road shall have the same name throughout its entire length, except that a road name may change when, and only when, there is a substantial intersection or at municipal boundaries.
- ❑ In the event that a road name change is required due to a duplicate road name, the road first using the name will retain its name or, if the County cannot determine which road used the name first, the road with the most addresses will retain its name and the road with the fewer addresses will be changed.
- ❑ When naming a road or renaming a road with two existing names in different sections, the name of the road that is used for the longest distance or is most heavily traveled should be kept.