



City of Gunnison

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

DRAFT 1

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City of Gunnison Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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Figure ES-1: Gunnison's skate park at Jorgensen Park



City of Gunnison

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Executive Summary

The City of Gunnison has established an impressive Parks and Recreation System over many years that includes parks, playgrounds, trails, sports complexes, and a community center. The City of Gunnison Parks Department provides a number of services to the community. It owns and operates twelve parks sites and recreation facilities (11 parks and the community center) as well as provides programming for all ages and a variety of interests. In addition, the City hosts a number of special community events throughout the year.

Since Gunnison is a small western slope community with a population of 5,800 and a county population of 15,500, addressing the community as a whole is a necessity. At an elevation of 7,700 feet Gunnison is located at the intersection of Highways 50 and 135, 35 miles south of Crested Butte ski area and 45 miles east of Monarch Pass. Locals in general tend to be exceptionally active and reside here mainly because of the multitude of outdoor recreational opportunities available within Gunnison County. Tourism is the City's major economic engine. Visitors are drawn to the area to enjoy the pristine mountains, lakes, rivers, and streams in Gunnison County which is comprised of 85% federal public lands.

Due to Gunnison's geographic isolation, the nearest city is 65 miles in any direction; the community is highly dependent upon the cooperation that exists between governments, businesses, friends and neighbors. Gunnison's energetic and highly motivated citizens possess a unique understanding of the importance of providing recreational opportunities to all of our citizens. Although Gunnison County ranks 27th in median household income, our citizens recently have successfully past bond issues for both recreational amenities and school facilities.



Figure ES-2: Gunnison is known for (and is proud of) its great access to outdoor recreation opportunities as well as its friendly, active community.

Through the development of the Gunnison Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the community has acknowledged the quality of the system as well as the Parks and Recreation Department. Since the adoption of the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City of Gunnison has implemented the majority of the recommendations of the plan including:

- Trails: 18 of 31 miles have been constructed
- Phase I and II of the Community Center was constructed
- The covered ice rink was completed and a second rink constructed
- Van Tuyl Ranch was acquired and trails established
- Land along the Gunnison River was preserved at West Tomichi Riverway
- Over 120 acres of parks and open lands added
- Over 250 recreation programs have been offered to the community

With the implementation of the 1996 plan near complete, a new plan is necessary to determine priorities for the next 10 to 15 years. For this update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City intends to build on the past successes and further meet the needs and desires of the community. However, the City also recognizes its limited funding abilities that are available to address those needs and desires. Therefore, an implementation strategy has been developed to provide the highest priorities.

In addition to the many completed facilities, parks, and trails, the City has been successful in meeting its commitment to the 2007 City sales tax initiative for trails. The obligation for maintenance into perpetuity still remains and the funds for the pool and ice rink still are allocated to those areas. However, the trail fund now is able to be used for other recreation amenities in addition to trails if it were desired by the community.



Figure ES-2: The Gunnison Community Center pool was built as a result of the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The priorities established for this plan are based on the community input received as well as the goal criteria established during the process. Other feedback was collected during the Comprehensive Plan process occurring concurrently with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. The results of the community outreach on how to direct Parks and Recreation funding over the next 10 to 15 years strongly indicated focusing on 2 areas: the Community Center Phase III expansion and continuing the trail plan.

Other potential amenities and programs also come to the forefront for the timeframe of this Master Plan. Those amenities include enhancements to the recreational programming, a dog park at Jorgensen, enhancements at Jorgensen Park and Legion Park, additional parkland in select areas of the City, and pickleball courts. The other projects and amenities that were gleaned through the process remain in the plan so that if funding becomes available or opportunities arise, these items may be considered. The intention is to provide direction over the next 10 to 15 years, but allow for flexibility of the plan as trends shift and various opportunities arise.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a full inventory of the City's parks and recreation system, an assessment of the Community Center and of the City's programming. Recommendations for the Community Center and programming are providing along with recommendations for additional operations and management to support the recommendations of the Master Plan.

The update to the Master Plan included extensive community outreach to create that list of needs and desires. This outreach included a community-wide mail-back survey sent to nearly every house in the City and then opened as an online survey. The outreach also included stakeholder meetings with local and regional parks and recreation advocates, three community meetings, and a work session with middle school students.



Figure ES-3: 18 of 31 miles of planned trails have been constructed over the past 15 years.



Figure 1-1: The gazebo at Jorgensen Park, a Regional Park in the Gunnison Parks and Recreation System

Chapter 1: Introduction

Plan Purpose

The City of Gunnison has a strong commitment to provide the highest quality parks and recreation facilities, and recreation programs possible for its citizens and visitors to the city. Gunnison's parks and recreation system is the result of decades of commitment to serving the needs of the Gunnison community. This commitment is particularly seen with the implementation of the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Since the adoption of the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City of Gunnison has implemented the majority of the recommendations of the plan including:

- Trails: 18 of 31 miles have been constructed
- Phase I and II of the Community Center was constructed
- The covered ice rink was completed and a second rink constructed
- Van Tuyl Ranch was acquired and trails established
- Land along the Gunnison River was preserved at West Tomichi Riverway
- Over 120 acres of parks and open lands added
- Over 250 recreation programs have been offered to the community

Built on a foundation of community engagement, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan presents a continued commitment to care for Gunnison's valued parks, trails, and recreation offerings, a strategy for preserving existing assets, and direction for adding new resources. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan builds on the great success experienced over the past 20 years and determine on what the Parks and Recreation Department should focus on over the next 10 to 15 years.

The primary purpose of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to create a clear, concise set of goals, policies and objectives that will provide direction to City staff and the City Council for future development, re-development and enhancement of the City's parks system, recreation facilities, recreation programs and services. The Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan will become an element of the City of Gunnison's Comprehensive Plan.



Figure 1-2: Gunnison Community Recreation Center was a concept from the 1996 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Plan Process

The Parks and Recreation Plan process included developing a comprehensive inventory, an analysis of current and forecasted needs and implementation strategies. The planning process for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was conducted over four phases, beginning in October 2014 and concluding with adoption of the plan in the summer of 2015. Figure 1-3 diagrams the phases, which are described in more detail below.

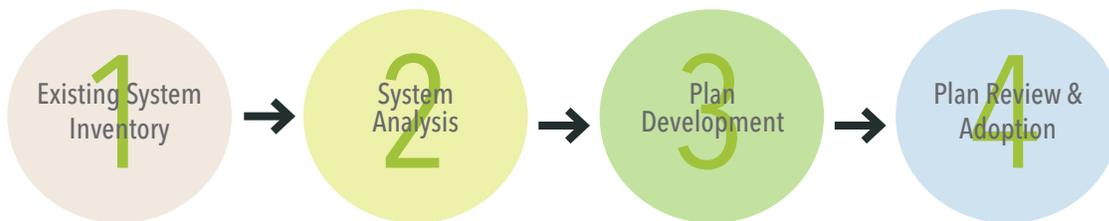


Figure 1-3: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Process

Phase 1: Existing System Inventory

The first phase included an examination of existing parks and facilities, a review of relevant plans and studies and discussions with City staff to provide a firm understanding of the planning context and to create a strong base for the plan process. During this phase, the project team inventoried, mapped and evaluated City recreation facilities and park land. Key public involvement tasks during this phase included stakeholder interviews, a community visioning workshop and the community survey.

Phase 2: System Analysis

The focus of the second phase was the needs assessment that looked critically at the parks, recreation and trails system from a variety of perspectives. The analysis drew criteria and priorities from the public involvement results, the existing financial capacity (maintenance and capital budgets), and the actual condition of the system. A second Community meeting was held to review and provide feedback on the needs assessment and begin to prioritize identified needs.

Phase 3: Plan Development

The third phase included the refinement of a vision for Gunnison's park system and identification of the types of projects and funding sources needed to achieve the vision and fill needs identified during Phase 2. The planning team developed and refined the elements of the plan and worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to review and provide feedback on the plan directions and recommendations.

Phase 4: Plan Review & Adoption

During the final phase, the full Parks and Recreation Master Plan document was presented to the public for review and comment. The draft was then revised based on the community input and then taken through the City's public review, refinement and adoption process.

Plan Overview

Following this introduction (Chapter 1), the Plan is organized as follows.

Chapter 2: What We Have: the Parks and Recreation System provides a background on the community, summarizes the existing park and recreation system, and identifies recreation service providers and opportunities in the region.

Chapter 3: How We Get What We Have: Funding explains the funding sources that are utilized to achieve the current, and future, parks and recreation system.

Chapter 4: What We Want: the Needs Assessment identifies the amenities the community would like to have in the parks and recreation system.

Chapter 5: Where We Go First: Prioritization of Future Amenities reviews the trade-offs of each identified amenity, estimates costs for each, and establishes a set of prioritization criteria.

Chapter 6: How We Get There - Recommendations and Strategies establishes an implementation strategy, direction for plan stewardship, and immediate next steps for achieving the plan vision.

Supplemental materials to accompany the plan include:

Appendix A: Community Outreach provides an overview of the public input that informed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and includes a description of the public involvement and the resulting summaries including stakeholder meetings, community meetings, and the community survey.

Appendix B: Park, Facility, and Open Lands System Inventory provides more detail on each of the City's park land and facilities.

Appendix C: Community Center Analysis contains initial impressions of the Community Center and sets the stage for recommendations for the Master Plan.

Appendix D: Recreation Programming Analysis provides a review of the existing recreation programming as a baseline for plan strategies.

Appendix E: Comparative Community Analysis compares the Gunnison parks and recreation system with those found in the municipalities of Alamosa, Avon, Cortez and Durango, Colorado.

Appendix F: 2015 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan lists amenities considered for funding between 2005 and 2019.

Appendix G: Capital Improvement List and Costs provides costs for all of the amenities proposed in the Needs Assessment.

Appendix H: Park Deficiency Punch List displays the upgrades identified in the Park, Facility, and Open Lands System Inventory (Appendix B) and that should be addressed over the next few years.

Appendix I: Resources displays sources used in the preparation of the existing conditions for the plan.



Figure 2-1: The City has an agricultural tradition that is still seen today.

Chapter 2: What We Have - The Parks and Recreation System Existing Conditions

This chapter provides a baseline on the current state of Gunnison’s park and recreation system as an initial step in the development of the City of Gunnison Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Review of the existing conditions helps the community to identify park system characteristics, issues, and opportunities that have implications for the parks and recreation system in Gunnison. This chapter also summarizes the City’s setting and the community’s demographics to get a better understanding for future needs and desires.



Figure 2-2: The welcome sign at the east entry to town

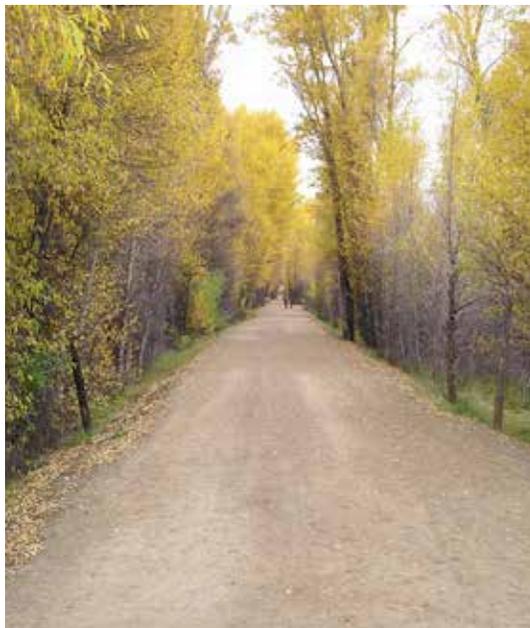


Figure 2-3: Gunnison is known for its easy access to the regional outdoor amenities.

Gunnison at a Glance

2010 Census Population: 5,854

Estimated Population 2012 (American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate): 5,892

Estimated 2015 Population (1.2% annual growth rate): 6,107

Projected Population in 2025 (1.2% annual growth rate): 6,880

The largest employment sectors are associated with **tourism and education**.

The estimated 2012 **median age** in the City of Gunnison is **23.7** years (2012 ACS), the youngest in Colorado.

Since 1990, Gunnison has had **more "nonfamily" than "family" households**.

The **average number** of persons per household since 1990 has remained constant at **2.2 persons per household**.

49 percent of the families in Gunnison with children under the age of five are living **below the poverty level**.

Between 2000 and 2010, the **Latino population grew by 80%**.

The percentage of the **population over the age of 65** remained stable between 2000 (7.5%) and 2010 (7.7%) but is estimated to have decreased to **5.9%** in 2012.

Sources: U.S. Census, American Community Survey; City of Gunnison Comprehensive Plan Community Analysis 2014

Setting

Gunnison is located at a major crossroads connecting the Front Range and the Western Slope. The community also serves as a gateway to mountain resorts and major recreation areas.

Topography

The City of Gunnison is located in a high mountain valley and encompasses approximately 3.2 square miles. The Tomichi Creek runs south of the City and the Gunnison River runs west of the City. The majority of the City is on the valley floor and relatively level. The northern portion of the Gunnison Rising Annexation (eastside of the City) does include steeper terrain.

Regional Resources

The Gunnison area is in close access to many mountains, rivers, and lakes that provide abundant opportunities for recreation. Blue Mesa Reservoir, 10 minutes west of town, is the largest body of water in the State of Colorado. The 20-mile (as a bird flies from end to end) long reservoir has a 96-mile shoreline. The reservoir is enjoyed by anglers, boaters, wind surfers, and ice skaters. Taylor Reservoir is also a popular destination. Gunnison is surrounded by mountain ranges and the West Elk, Raggeds, Maroon Bells, Fossil Ridge, Powderhorn, Uncompahgre, and La Garita wilderness areas, and the Gunnison and Uncompahgre National Forests. These areas provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, jeeping, four-wheeling, and skiing. Nearby communities include Montrose (64 miles west of Gunnison), Crested Butte (27 miles north of Gunnison), and Salida (64 miles to the east).

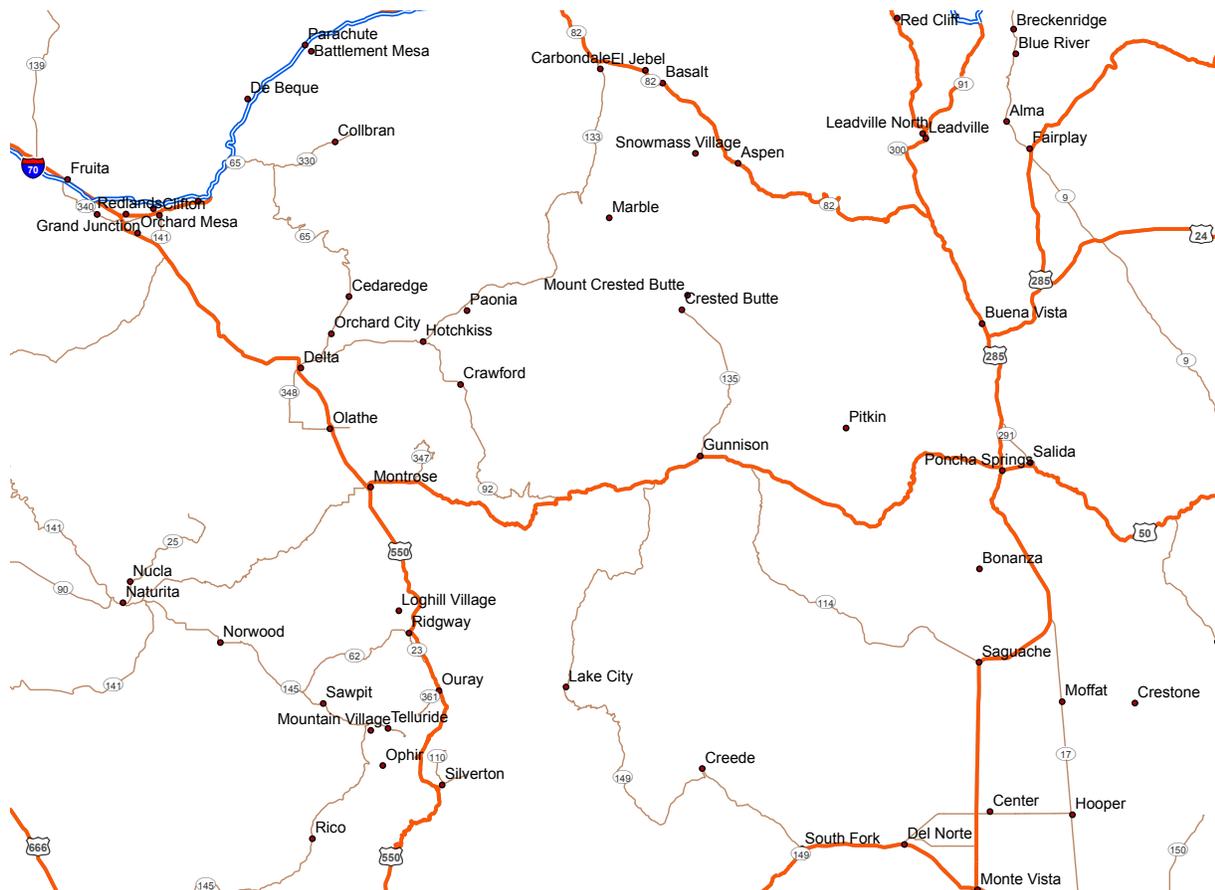


Figure 2-4: Gunnison's location in the region

Gunnison Demographics

The City of Gunnison has been evolving over the past few decades from an agricultural community to one more supported by the education and tourism industries. Population has remained steady even through the economic downturn in the late 2000s. The community continues to retain its young median age. However, the community has become more diverse with an increasing percentage of the population being Hispanic.

Population

- **Steady Growth Rate:** Growth and development in the City has been slow and steady over the past couple of decades. Building on this trend, the projected growth rate is 1.2 percent annually for next 25+ years.
- **Young Community:** The median age in the City of Gunnison is 23.7 years, the youngest in Colorado. The influence of Western State Colorado University (WSCU) is likely a factor for this figure as well as the resort lifestyle. Approximately 90 percent of the population has been less than the age of 65 years since 1990.
- **Decrease in Seniors:** Unlike many areas in the country, the portion of residents over 65 years has not increased. The percent of residents aged 65 and older has decreased over the past 15 years, from 7.5 percent in 2000 to 5.9 percent in 2012.

Households

- **Non-Family Households:** Since 1990, Gunnison has had more “non-family” households than “family” households. This figure is partially due to the presence of WSCU. Gunnison also provides housing stock for a portion of Crested Butte employees who tend to be younger in age and unmarried and, therefore, living with other young, unmarried residents.
- **Household Size:** The average household size has remained steady since 1990 at 2.2 persons per dwelling unit.

Range of Income Levels

- **Increase in Household Income:** Between 2000 and 2010, the median household income rose from \$25,768 to \$39,181.
- **High Poverty Rate:** Approximately 19 percent of families and 30.6 percent of the population are below the poverty line. This includes 49 percent of the families in Gunnison with children less than the age of five who are living below the poverty level.

Housing Values

- **Increasing housing value:** The median housing value in the area has increased faster than wages at a rate of approximately 42 percent. The median housing value in 2000 was \$143,500; in 2010, the median housing value had risen to \$246,300.

Cultural Diversity

- **Increasing Diversity:** The population is becoming more culturally diverse with the Latino population growing by 80% between 2000 and 2010. However, the majority of the population, approximately 80%, is Caucasian.

Economy

- **Evolving Economy:** The region is shifting toward a more tourism based economy. Traditional employment sectors include agriculture, education, and hunting / fishing. Over the past few decades, the ski industry and other tourism related service employment have become a significant contributor to the local economy. Today, a high percentage of jobs are related to tourism (Crested Butte, Blue Mesa Reservoir), Government (NPS, USFS, BLM, Gunnison County seat), and education (WSCU, Gunnison Watershed School District).

Future Development

- **New Growth Areas:** Planned and zoned residential areas are to the west and to the east of the City. The current vacant residential lands at designated densities can accommodate the projected growth over the next 10 – 25 years.
- **Services to a Greater Population:** County growth management policies have attempted to focus development within and adjacent to the municipal limits. Residents in the unincorporated area around the City rely upon many municipal services including recreation.



Figure 2-5: Gunnison is a popular tourist destination - particularly in the summer months.



Figure 2-6: Western State Colorado University is a major employer for the town; many residents attended the university.

Existing City Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Programs

The City of Gunnison Parks Department provides a number of services to the community. It owns and operates twelve parks sites and recreation facilities (11 parks and the community center) as well as provides programming for all ages and a variety of interests. In addition, the City hosts a number of special community events throughout the year.

Existing System Map

Map 1: Existing System Map (see Figure 2-11 page 11) shows the location of existing parks, recreation facilities, and schools, as well as streets and trails.

City Park Land

The City of Gunnison Parks and Recreation Department operates and maintain approximately 1,000 acres of parks and open space in and around the City of Gunnison. The park system offers a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors.

Park Classification

City parks are categorized into five classifications:

- Regional Park (e.g. Van Tuyl, Taylor Mountain Park, Jorgensen)
- Community Park (e.g. Meadows Park)
- Neighborhood Park (e.g. Legion Park, CharMar Park)
- Mini Park (e.g. Bill's Park, I.O.O.F. Park)
- Special Use Area (e.g. Hartman Rocks, Tomichi Riverway, Cranor Ski Hill)

Park Classification Definitions:

Regional Parks:

- Tend to be **more than 8 acres**
- Contain **large areas for a diverse range of active and passive recreational activity areas**, such as lighted ballfields and field game areas, organized group activity areas, family aquatic facilities, playgrounds, game court complexes, walking and jogging paths, hockey facilities, family group picnic areas, natural areas for outdoor recreation such as fishing, biking and hiking paths, sports complexes, regional recreation centers, and large outdoor festival areas
- May contain a **special use facility** or single purpose recreational activity, such as an equestrian facility, fairground, or festival areas
- Provide for **organized sport group facilities** and other **programming**
- Emphasize **family and organized group activities**



Figure 2-7: Taylor Mountain Park is a Regional Park in the City's system.



Figure 2-8: Meadows Park is an example of a Community Park.

- Provide **convenience (restrooms, concessions, etc.) facilities**
- Serve a **variety of ages**

Community Parks:

- Tend to be **2 acres or larger**
- Provide for **organized sport group activities** and other **programming**
- Contain lighted field areas and facilities used for **competitive sports venues**
- Provide **convenience (restrooms, concessions, etc.) facilities**
- Serve **various ages**, with emphasis on **organized sport group activities**
- Offer a **combination of recreational activity areas**, game courts, playgrounds, walking/jogging paths, spray pools and aquatic facilities, skate facilities, and/or picnic areas
- Contain **large outdoor festival areas**
- Tend to be located **within a one-mile radius of residential neighborhoods and business areas**

Neighborhood Parks:

- Tend to be **2 - 5 acres**
- Offer a **combination of passive and active recreational activity areas**, such as grass areas, playground, picnic areas, and open play areas
- Tend to be located **within a third-mile radius of residential neighborhoods**
- Tend to be located **near schools**
- Allow for **limited non-organized sport group activities**
- Have **limited lighting** (for security only if any)
- Tend **not to provide parking or convenience facilities**
- Serves **various age groups** with emphasis on the **youth**

Mini Parks:

- Tend to be **less than an acre in area**
- Are often a **walk-to facility** (no-parking provided)
- Provide **recreation for residents in the immediate vicinity**
- Can contain a **picnic area, grass area, and/or community gardens**

Special Use Areas:

- Have **focused amenities** that vary for each site and can include both active and passive activities
- Are **unique in seasonal events**
- Focus on **community-wide or regional need**
- Can **range in activities** offered from being the site for mountain biking, skiing, kayaking, and other non-sport group activities



Figure 2-9: One of the City's Neighborhood Parks: Legion Park



Figure 2-10: Horseshoe pits at Bill's Park - an example of a Mini Park

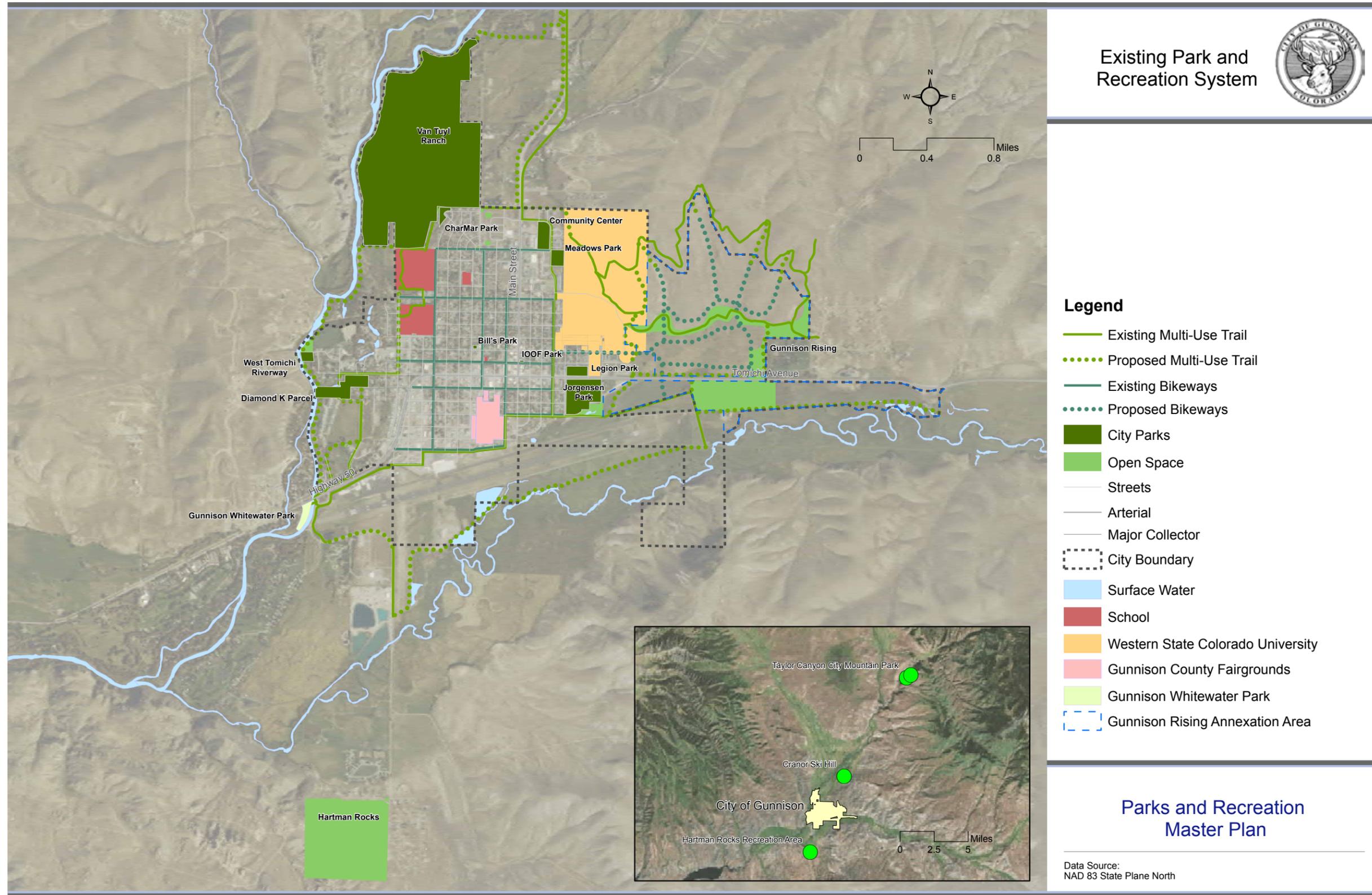


Figure 2-11: Map 1 Existing Park and Recreation System Map shows the City of Gunnison's existing parks and recreation system



The Community, Neighborhood, and Mini Park types are listed in the following table:

Table 2-1: Community Neighborhood and Mini Parks

Park	Classification	Acreage
Meadows Park	Community Park	4.5
CharMar Park	Neighborhood Park	3
Legion Park	Neighborhood Park	4.5
Bill's Park	Mini Park	0.27
I.O.O.F. Park	Mini Park	0.14
Total		12.41

Regional Parks and Special Use Areas include:

Table 2-2: Regional Parks and Special Use Areas

Park	Classification	Use	Acreage
Cranor Ski Hill	Special Use Area	Downhill skiing	55
Hartman Rocks	Special Use Area	Trails, mountain biking	160
West Tomichi Riverway	Special Use Area	Picnic area, fishing	2.63*
Jorgensen Park	Regional Park	Sports Complex	21
Taylor Mountain Park	Regional Park	Preserve, picnic area, trails	160
Van Tuyl Ranch	Regional Park	Preserve, river access, trails	460
Total			858.63

* The Bureau of Reclamation owns approximately 5.36 additional acres to make up the overall West Tomichi Riverway

Park Type Per Capita**:

Table 2-3: Park Type Per Capita**

Classification	Total Acreage	Acreage per Capita**	Square Feet per Capita**
Regional Park	641	.11	4,769.7
Community Park	4.5	0.0008	33.58
Neighborhood Park	7.5	0.001	55.8
Mini Park	0.41	0.00007	3
Special Use Area	217.63	0.037	1,619
Total Park Land ***	871.04	0.15	6,481

** Per capita =2010 Census Population of 5,854

***Does not include maintained medians or other non-park land



Figure 2-12: The City has a number of Special Use Areas such as Cranor Ski Hill and the West Tomichi Riverway (shown above).

- **Park Acres Per Capita:** Based on the 2010 Census population of 5,854, Gunnison has approximately 0.15 acres (6,481 square feet) of parks per capita – 0.002 acres (92.38 square feet) per capita for Community, Neighborhood, and Mini Parks, and 0.15 acres (5,388 square feet) for Regional Parks and Special Use Areas.
- **Open Land Consideration:** The park area per capita is higher than most communities. However, a large portion of the acreage is open lands and not active programmed areas. For example, residents can only access Van Tuyl Ranch on the designated trail and much of Taylor Mountain Park is open lands. Typically, the levels of service for open lands and for active park areas are considered separately. Therefore, the numbers of park area per capita is somewhat misleading to determine the overall service to the community.
- **Numerous Specialized Parks:** Many of Gunnison’s parks have a specific focus, a specific use, and/or are largely open space. Examples include the Cranor Ski Hill and Taylor Mountain Park. Although these parks are popular, they do not offer the variety of recreation facilities, such as sport fields, ball courts or playgrounds. As a result, the total number or total acreage of parks does not tell the complete story of how well the system is serving its users.
- **Potential Park Sites:** Two areas in the City are planned for the majority of the future growth and development. Future park sites are reserved in Gunnison Rising, an approved development on the eastern portion of the City. Additional park areas are conceptually identified in the West Gunnison Area Plan. A dog park south of Jorgensen Park is also being planned.
- **City-Maintained Properties:** In addition to the maintenance of City-owned parks and open space, there are several properties that are maintained by the City Parks and Recreation Department. These include undeveloped lots in the northwest quadrant of the City as well as the median and some planting strips along North and South Boulevard Street. The City also maintains the Community Center site.

Park, Facility, Open Lands System Inventory

The table (Figure 2-15: Table 2-4 - Park, Facility, Open Lands System Inventory) on page 17 displays a summary and comparison of the parks, open lands, and properties that are owned and/or maintained by the City of Gunnison. Detailed inventories of the recreation, parks and amenities available at each City of Gunnison park can be found in Appendix B. The summary contains the following information for each park:

- Park name and classification
- Size (in acres)
- Notable existing facilities

General Observations

Many of the parks in the City of Gunnison shared common characteristics:

- Most of the parks in the system feature good quality restrooms with flush toilets and wash sinks.
- The majority of the parks utilized a standardized park identification sign.
- Annual flower beds are included in many of the parks, especially in conjunction with park identification signs.
- A number of the parks visited did not provide bike racks.
- Picnic shelters in most of the parks are timber construction, which is consistent with Gunnison's setting and character.
- All of the play bays used engineered wood fiber (EWF) as the resilient surfacing.
- Additional study would be required to determine if the EWF is placed and maintained at the proper depths. In a number of installations, this did not appear to be the case.
- Bench sculptures that are carved from large tree trunks are common features in many of the parks creating a distinctive character that is unique to Gunnison.
- The parks in the system were generally well maintained.
- Compliance with ADA guidelines is a common deficiency in the system. Completing an ADA audit and transition plan should be considered as a long-term goal.

Multi-Use Trail System

There are approximately 18 miles of hard-surfaced multi-use trails developed in and around the City to accommodate non-motorized travel. The City has the 2013 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (which replaced the 2008 Trails Master Plan) to guide trail development. The developed trail segments provide access to recreational amenities for residents of the City, as well as a safe route to the schools and the City core for residents of outlying neighborhoods. These segments include the Twin Bridges; Whitewater Park; West Gunnison Neighborhood; Railroad Grade; Van Tuyl Ranch; County Road 13; and North Bridge multi-use trails.



Figure 2-13: The City has approximately 18 miles of trails throughout the area.

City Recreation Facilities

The City has five specialized facilities: the Community Center, the Jorgensen Park Rink, the Jorgensen Sports Complex, the Jorgensen BMX/skate area, and the Cranor Ski Hill.

Gunnison Community Center

The Community Center (sometimes referred to as the Recreation Center) is located on a 7.5 acre site. The center opened in 2005 and the pool addition was completed in 2009. In addition to the organized events, the Community Center is heavily used by members of the community. In 2013 there were 71,974 patron visits to the facility. This includes people using membership cards, drop-ins, people involved in programs and the Young at Heart group. A seniors' addition is planned for 2015 and Phase 3 of the Community Center is also being planned. Phase 3 may include a fitness area, racquetball court, indoor track, and / or other amenities.

Jorgensen Park Ice Rinks

The outdoor ice rink at Jorgensen Park is an Olympic-sized, non-refrigerated rink that was covered in 2001. The indoor refrigerated rink was constructed in 2008.

Jorgensen Sports Complex

The Sports Complex at Jorgensen Park includes a multi-use field (used for open play, soccer, lacrosse and football), four softball fields, and a baseball field that was recently revamped with new fencing, dugouts, and backstop.

BMX/Skate Facility

The BMX/skate facility at Jorgensen Park includes a built BMX track and a separate skateboard facility built in 2012.

Cranor Ski Hill

Cranor Ski Hill is located northeast of the City. The facility has one tow (POMA) lift that was constructed in 1962, a warming hut, and a parking area.

The Gunnison Area Facilities Matrix (Figure 2-16: Table 2-5) summarizes the City's facilities.



Figure 2-14: Cranor Ski Hill is a highly valued amenity to the community.

PARKS	ACREAGE				SPORT FIELDS			SPORT COURTS				OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES								TRAILS		WATER ACCESS			OUTDOOR AMENITIES			OTHER				
	TOTAL ACRES	DEVELOPED ACRES	UNDEVELOPED ACRES	GIS ACRES	BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL	FOOTBALL/ SOCCER	SYNTHETIC TURF	BASKETBALL COURT	HORSESHOE PITS	TENNIS COURT	SHUFFLEBOARD	BIKE PARK	OPEN GRASS AREA	PAVILION, SHELTER	PICNIC AREA	PLAYGROUND	SKATE PARK	OUTDOOR ICE RINK	ICE SKATING POND	SWIMMING POOL	TRAILS	TRAILHEAD	FISHING	WATER ACCESS	WATER VIEW	CONCESSIONS	COMMUNITY GARDENS		PARKING LOT (Off-Street / # of	RESTROOM		
COMMUNITY PARKS																																
Bill's Park	0.27	0.27		0.27				1		1			1														Y					
CharMar Park	3.00	3.00		2.43			1		3			1	2		1						Y							40	M/W	Trailhead for Van Tuyl Ranch		
I.O.O.F. Park	0.14	0.14		0.14										Y															M/W	Water Feature		
Legion Park	4.50	4.50		4.57			3	6					1	Y	1														M/W	Climbing boulder, sculpture benches		
Meadows Park	4.50	4.50		4.70		Y	1					1	1		1												38	M/W				
Subtotals	12.41	12.41	0.00	12.11	0	Y	0	5	7	3	1	0	2	5	Y	3	0	0	0	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	Y	78	Y			
REGIONAL PARKS / SPECIAL USE FACILITIES																																
Boutchers (part of Jorgensen Park)	0.22			0.22																												
Community Center	7.50	7.50		7.50																						Y					Graded for future pond	
Cranor Ski Hill	55.00	0.50	50.00	55.00									1	Y												1		30	M/W	Base area developed		
Gunnison Rising	59.16		59.16	59.16																												
Hartman Rocks Recreation Area	160.00	5.00	155.00	149.99							1		1	Y						Y								125	M/W	Multi-Use trails (Horse, ski, bike, etc.)		
Jorgensen Park	21.00	21.00		23.51	5	Y					1	1	3		1	1	1					Y		Y		2		190	M/W+	Concessions at baseball and softball		
Taylor Canyon City Mountain Park	160.00		160.00	160.00									1	Y						Y		Y	Y					45	M/W	Camping / short interpretive trail		
Van Tuyl Ranch	460.00		460.00	393.13																Y		Y	Y								Open space; agricultural lease	
West Tomichi Riverway	2.63	2.00	0.63	2.63									1	Y						Y		Y	Y	Y				15	M/W			
Subtotals	925.51	36.00	884.79	851.14	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	7	Y	0	1	1	1	0	Y	0	Y	Y	0	3	Y	405	Y				
OPEN SPACE / CITY MAINTAINED AREAS / COUNTY																																
Van Tuyl Village Open Space	1.25		1.25	1.25																											3 parcels in Van Tuyl Village SD	
Recreation and Open Space	53.00		53.00	53.00																												Gunnison Rising south of Hwy 50
Open Space Near Tomichi Riverway	5.36		5.36	5.36																		Y	Y	Y								
Open Space Near Jorgensen	5.78		5.78	5.78																				Y							Potential site for dog park	
Triangular Open Space Near CharMar	0.14		0.14	0.14																												
Boulevard Street Median	1.20		1.20	1.20																												Median for 1.25 miles of road
West End Greenway Median	0.25		0.25	0.25																												Median for 1.25 miles of road
Gunnison County Fairgrounds	27.16	27.16		27.16																												
Whitewater Park (County)	1.00	1.00		1.00																Y	Y		Y	Y					M/W	Restroom, picnic areas		
Subtotals	95.14	28.16	66.98	95.14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	0	0	0	Y				
Total for Entire Park System	1033.06	76.57	951.77	992.04	15	Y	0	5	7	3	1	2	5	12	Y	3	3	3	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	Y	483	Y				
Total for CITY Park System	999.12	48.41	945.99	924.45	5	Y	0	5	7	3	1	2	3	12	Y	3	1	1	1	0	Y	Y	Y	Y	3	Y	483	Y				

Y = Facility present but not quantifiable. (e.g. dispersed throughout the site) or a multi-use facility

Figure 2-15: Table 2-4- Park, Facility, Open Lands System Inventory



RECREATION FACILITIES	LOCATION	AQUATICS	SPORT COURTS				FITNESS					OTHER								
		POOL & AQUATIC FACILITIES	SPORTS FIELDS	SPORTS COURTS	TRACK & FIELD SPORTS	GYMNASIUM	AEROBICS / DANCE STUDIO	EXERCISE TRACK	FITNESS EQUIPMENT	FREE WEIGHT / AREA	GYMNASTICS STUDIO	SKIING	NORDIC SKIING	ICE SPORTS	SKATEBOARDING	BMX TRACK	MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM	CLASS / CONFERENCE ROOM	GOLF FACILITIES	ROCK CLIMBING
City Facilities																				
Community Center	Northern center	•		•		•					•					•	•		•	
Cranor Ski Hill	Northeast of city											•								
Jorgensen Park Ice Rink	Southeast quadrant												•							
Jorgensen Park Sports Complex	Southeast quadrant		•																	
BMX/Skate Park Facility	Southeast quadrant													•	•					
Public Facilities																				
Gunnison County Fairgrounds	Northeast quadrant															•	•			
WSCU Mountaineer Fieldhouse	Northeast quadrant	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•			•	•	•	•	foam pit
Private Fitness Clubs																				
Colorado Fitness	City center						•		•	•										
Curves	City center						•		•	•										
Gunnison Peak Fitness	Northern center								•	•										
Other Facilities																				
Dos Rios Golf Course	Southwest of city																		•	

Figure 2-16: Table 2-5 - The Gunnison Area Facilities Matrix

City Programming and Special Events

The City of Gunnison Parks and Recreation Department operates youth and adult recreation programs. In 2012, 3,938 people participated in 105 programs, in 2013 there were 3,436 participants, and in 2014, there were 4,191 participants. The City has programming for a number of areas including:

Table 2-6: Programs

Program Service Area	Example Programs	
Aquatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Swim instruction o Water aerobics o Water safety classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Drop-in swim, lap swim, master’s swim, drop-in roll o Aqua therapy
Senior Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Social programs (dances, lunches, support groups) o Outings (hiking, museum visits) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Senior weight and band fitness classes o Pickleball o Book club, game clubs
Adult Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Leagues (softball, basketball, soccer) o Classes (aerial) o Activities (roller hockey, hula hoop, skate boarding) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Teams/clubs (flag football, basketball, indoor soccer, pickleball) o Clinics (tennis) o Triathlon training
Children/Youth/Teen Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Leagues (baseball, football, soccer, and basketball) o Activities (swimming, volleyball, tackle football, flag football, soccer, basketball, Play 60, tee ball, OTA, roller hockey) o Triathlon training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Clinics (tennis, cheerleading, soccer, lacrosse, cross fit) o Classes (aerial, gymnastics, rock climbing) o Clubs (swimming, wrestling, gymnastics)
Special Interest Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o CPR, Red Cross classes o Cooking classes o Martial arts (Tae Kwon Do) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Dance classes (Square Dancing) o Fundication
Adventure Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Kayak lessons / roll sessions o Rock climbing o BMX / mountain biking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cross country skiing o Downhill skiing
Ice Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Figure skating lessons o Hockey skill clinics o Drop-in sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adult hockey o Youth hockey (run through West Elk Hockey Association)
Special Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Annual dog swim (at the Community Center pool) o Middle school night o Holiday events (Fright Night, Rudolf Roundup, Breakfast with Santa, Eggquatics) o Youth camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Skill challenges (Nuggets, Avalanche) o Gatherings (Winter Carnival, Fishing and Outdoor Sports Derby, Growler Weekend) o Triathlon (adult and youth)

The Gunnison Area Programs Matrix (Figure 17: Table 2-7) summarizes the programs offered in the area by all regional providers.

PROVIDER	CITY OF GUNNISON PROGRAM AREAS								ADDITIONAL LOCAL PROGRAM AREAS								
	AQUATICS	SENIOR RECREATION	ADULT ATHLETICS	CHILDREN /YOUTH/ TEEN ATHLETICS	SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES	ADVENTURE SPORTS	ICE SPORTS	SPECIAL EVENTS	FITNESS & WELLNESS	GOLF PROGRAMMING	GARDENING	FISHING	CAMPS	CAMPING	SPECIALIZED RECREATION	BEFORE /AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS	DROP-IN ACTIVITIES
City of Gunnison																	
Parks and Recreation Department	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•	•
Local Public Agencies																	
Gunnison School District - RE1J				•	•	•	•	•							•		
Western State Colorado University	•		•		•	•			•	•					•		•
Other Local Providers																	
West Elk Hockey Association							•										
Crested Butte Mountain Resort						•											
Boomer's Senior Citizen Organization		•									•						
Gunnison Valley Mentors						•						•					
Colorado Fitness									•								
Curves									•								
Gunnison Peak Fitness									•								

Figure 2-17: Table 2-7 - the Gunnison Area Programs Matrix

Recreation Collaborations

Gunnison is an active community and recreation is, in many cases, supported through collaborative efforts. Due to Gunnison’s geographic isolation (the nearest city is 65 miles in any direction) the community is highly dependent upon the cooperation that exists between governments, businesses, friends, and neighbors. Gunnison’s energetic and highly motivated citizens possess a unique understanding of the importance of providing recreational opportunities to our youth as well as to the rest of the community.

Park Maintenance

Gunnison Whitewater Park

Gunnison County has a whitewater park southwest of the City of Gunnison along the Gunnison River. The area includes a restroom and picnic areas as well as put-ins and take-outs for the section of river with enhanced drop structures. The site is owned and maintained by the County and the City helps maintain the restrooms.

West Tomichi River Park

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) owns property adjacent to the West Tomichi River Park while the City maintains and manages both its property and the BOR property as one park site.

Recreation Maintenance

Gunnison Nordic

Gunnison Nordic grooms Nordic tracks in a variety of areas including the Van Tuyl Ranch, Hartman Rocks, and various urban park facilities.

Gunnison Trails

Gunnison Trails is another important partner collaborating with the City on trail system development and other recreation endeavors.

Gunnison County Trails Commission

Gunnison County’s Trails Commission also plans for, develops, and manages trails throughout Gunnison County to promote alternative modes of transportation, to provide access to public lands, and to promote recreational economy of Gunnison County.

Programs

West Elk Hockey Association

The West Elk Hockey Association officially runs the hockey programs for youth and adults. The Association rents the Jorgensen Ice Complex for their programs. The City participates by scheduling the youth and adult hockey games and practices and assists with tournament preparation and coordination. The hockey programs were formerly administered through the Gunnison Valley Hockey Association.

Boomer’s Senior Citizen Organization

The Parks and Recreation department is working with the Boomer’s Senior Citizen organization to obtain funding for an addition to the Community Center to facilitate increasing needs.

Gunnison Schools

The Gunnison Watershed School District – RE1J offers a number of recreation programs for students including golf, cross country, dance, gymnastics, football, softball, volleyball, basketball, swimming, wrestling, baseball, and track and field. Gunnison High School also offers a number of activities for students such clubs for dance, climbing, mountain biking, and hockey.

Gunnison Valley Mentors

Gunnison Valley Mentors is a mentoring foundation that offers summer camps and a community group; both include recreation activities for youth participants.

Young at Heart

The City's Community Center houses the Young at Heart senior meals program. The Young at Heart organization socializes during the lunch events. Over 6,000 meals (including a meals on wheels program) are served annually.

Recreation Facilities

Swim Team

The community youth competitive swim program uses the college's pool for practice and swim meets.

WSCU Sports

A number of WSCU sports teams and clubs use City facilities. The WSCU men's hockey club uses the Jorgensen ice rink for games, tournaments, and practice. The baseball team and the inter-mural softball league use the Jorgensen Park ball fields.

Gunnison County Fairgrounds

The Gunnison County Fairgrounds includes an arena and open areas that are used for a variety of community events. The fairgrounds buildings also contain multi-purpose meeting rooms.



Figure 2-18: The City Gunnison and Gunnison County work together to provide the Gunnison Whitewater Park - located just west of the city.

Other Partners

Powerstop is a local sports shop in Gunnison that helps provide affordable gear to the community.

Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project offers recreation passes to members of the program.

Mountain Roots is a local non-profit group with the mission to cultivate a resilient food system in Gunnison Valley. The group works with the City, County, and private property owners to locate community gardens and also provides some educational classes on gardening and sustainable living.

Other Community Recreation Offerings

In addition to the City of Gunnison, there are other recreation facility and program providers in or near the City.

Fitness and Wellness

Fitness Clubs

Three private companies - Curves, Colorado Fitness, and Gunnison Peak Fitness - offer fitness and gym facilities. The facilities include fitness machines, weights, and fitness classes.

Western Colorado State University

Western Colorado State University's (WSCU) Mountaineer Field House offers membership to non-students. The facility has batting/golf cage; climbing wall; foam pit; a fitness center; group fitness classes; a multi-use court area for basketball, volleyball, and/or pickleball; an indoor track; and an aquatic center. The university also offers other intramural events.



Figure 2-19: Federal lands make up approximately 86% of Gunnison County - including areas around Hartman Rocks.

Outdoor Recreation

Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR)

Crested Butte Mountain Resort is a destination ski resort north of Gunnison. The mountain provides ski facilities easily accessed by Gunnison residents. The area also has many associated recreation based tour companies that offer snow mobile riding, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing.

Dos Rios Golf Club

The Dos Rios Golf Club is a privately-owned 18-hole course located just east of the City near the confluence of the Gunnison River and Tomichi Creek. The Club offers memberships but is open to the public on certain days.

Federal Lands

Approximately 86% of Gunnison County is federal land. Agencies include the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

- **National Park Service:** The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and the Curecanti National Recreation Area are in close proximity to the City of Gunnison. Although both areas receive many visitors from outside the region, they provide opportunities for local recreation. The areas offer hiking, picnicking, camping, and wildlife viewing.
- **Bureau of Reclamation:** The BOR also owns approximately 5 acres of property adjacent to the West Tomichi Riverway Park. Although the property is owned by the BOR, the City maintains it.
- **U.S. Forest Service:** Much of the land in the Gunnison Valley is within the Gunnison National Forest. The area allows for hiking, biking, camping, and other outdoor recreation. The US Park Service also maintains the Blue Mesa Reservoir area.
- **Bureau of Land Management:** Like the Forest Service, the BLM is the custodian of considerable acres of land in the Gunnison region – particularly in close proximity to the City. Many City trails cross BLM land and a large portion of the Hartman Rocks trails are on BLM land.

Table 2-8: Regional Public Lands

Regional Public Lands	
U.S. Forest Service	Gunnison National Forest
National Park Service	Curecanti National Recreation Area Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park Blue Mesa Reservoir
Bureau of Reclamation	West Tomichi Riverway Park extension
Bureau of Land Management	Hartman Rocks Regional BLM land

Commuting / Connectivity

Beyond recreation facilities and parks, the City's transportation infrastructure influences overall activity and recreation access. The City's street system is configured in an efficient grid pattern and there are approximately forty miles of streets existing today. In April 2013, the City adopted the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan which contains recommendations for bikeways, pedestrian routes, and multi-use trails to make the transportation network of the City safer and more accessible for all users. Many of these issues will be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan as well as the implementation of the Non-motorized Transportation Plan and the Upper Gunnison Valley Transportation Plan.

Sidewalks

In many instances historic development in the City precluded the development of continuous sidewalks in the developed neighborhoods. This makes improvements challenging because of varying right-of-way widths and private use of the rights-of-way where sidewalks do not exist.

Bike Lanes

A Focus on Bicycle Facilities

In May 2012, the League of American Bicyclists designated Gunnison as a Bicycle Friendly Community. This is due in part to the development of bike lanes on designated streets in the City. The existing 8.5 mile bike lane network serves every neighborhood in the City.

Complete Streets Policy

The City has adopted a Complete Streets policy, which embodies the development of street corridors to serve all transportation modes with equal emphasis placed upon non-motorized and vehicular facility needs.

Transit

Limited Transit Opportunities: The 2008 Upper Gunnison Valley Transportation Plan contains recommendations for a transportation system in the Gunnison Valley. It was determined that Gunnison does not have enough population density to support a circulator transit system. The plan does contain a recommendation that the City or the Gunnison Valley Regional Transportation Authority should explore the provision of social service transportation for people who cannot use the traditional transit service.

Summary

The City of Gunnison serves a supporting role in the regional economy as a jobs hub and transportation crossroads. The City is home to an increasingly diverse population and has access to a number of local parks and unique regional sites. Residents also have access to a number programs and educational opportunities at local facilities.

Chapter 3: How We Get What We Have: Funding

Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommendations utilize all current sources of funding at existing levels. New funding sources for operations and programming should be explored as new parks and facilities are brought online. This may include alternative funding sources such as gifts, grants, and partnerships to increase and enhance available resources.

Current funding for the Gunnison Parks and Recreation system comes from five main areas: 1) charges for services, 2) the City's General Fund, the Conservation Trust, 3) a 1 percent sales tax designated for funding trails, 4) the ice rink and the pool, and 5) successful grant applications. Existing funds for parks and recreation include:

Charges for Service

The Department recovers some expenditures with revenues from charges for service where possible and within market conditions. Revenues from use of the Community Center have increased from \$187,934 in 2010 to \$209,800 in 2013, an 11.6% increase in revenues since the Pool opened in 2009. The fee was increased in 2015 to recover more of the gap between expenses and revenue. However, note that fees charged for services cannot be increased beyond what the market will bear.

General Fund

Some programs and facilities funded by the City's General Fund do not completely fund themselves through user fees so the City provides a "subsidy" or additional investment in parks and recreation in these areas for the benefit of the community. These General Fund dollars used to fill this gap support critical services such as parks and public grounds operations and maintenance, recreation administration, recreation programming, and maintenance and operations for parks / public grounds, Van Tuyl Ranch, and Cranor Ski Hill.

Conservation Trust (Lottery Proceeds)

The Parks and Recreation Department receives revenues derived from State Lottery Funds, which are earmarked for parks and recreation sites, facilities and projects. The Conservation Trust funds currently are being used to maintain existing recreation sites.

Parks and Recreation Fund (1% sales tax)

In 2008, the City passed a bond measure for the funding of the Jorgensen ice rink facility, the Community Center pool, and City trails. For every dollar spent in Gunnison, one cent was collected and contributed to the dedicated fund. Each target project – trails, pool or rink – was projected an input of \$1,000,000 over time. The original allocations, until funding obligations are met, are: 64.91% for the pool, 22.81% for the rink, and 12.28% for trails. Bond proceeds are split between the pool and rink, 73.93% and 26.07% respectively. The bond is to be paid off in 2032. The obligation for the trails piece has been met and a new division – "other recreation improvements" – has been created where excess revenue will accumulate and be dispersed for parks and recreation projects.

Grants, Donations and Other Sources

The Parks and Recreation Department utilizes grants and donations to enhance or leverage its funding for projects in meeting community needs.

Funding Strategies

From a financial perspective, all Master Plan recommendations identified for the first 5 years can be incorporated into the Department's 5-Year (2015-2020) Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). This plan is updated and approved annually by the City Council as part of the budget process, including operating costs identified within the scope of each project. For the purpose of this master plan, current revenue sources and funding levels are assumed to continue throughout the 5 year plan, as well as into the future.

Based on these assumptions:

- Current funding sources are not adequate to fund all of the needs and desires identified in this planning effort, therefore, trade-offs will need to be made.
- Building and operating new parks and facilities will require additional operating funding for Parks and Recreation facilities, services and programs to meet community needs.
- At some point, the City may need to consider other funding sources to support its park and recreation system or change its standards to match available funding. These may include new tax measures, additional development fees, or increasingly involving partners, volunteers, and business sponsors in meeting needs for new development, operations, maintenance and programming.

Over time, fewer newer parks and facilities will need to be added to the parks and recreation system; instead, capacity, safety, and accessibility enhancements will need to occur at existing parks, and more resources will need to be devoted to renewing existing parks. New parks that are developed will also need a secure funding source for operations and maintenance. Potential funding sources are discussed in the following sections.

Potential Funding Sources

Although the current funding sources are working well for Gunnison, there are other means that the City can consider over time if they are found to be necessary to reach community goals.

Grant Programs

Grant programs can be an important tool in achieving the goals of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This works in two ways: applying for grants and offering grants to community groups for small local priority projects. Colorado grant programs will continue to be an important source of funding for Gunnison's park system. In order to benefit from this resource, the City will need to identify matching funds and continue to devote staff time to tracking, applying and managing grant programs. The grant program information matrix that is part of the Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides the most current information on state grants, and is a tool that should continue to be used by the City.

Use of Volunteers

One great way to reduce construction costs and potentially maintenance costs is to use local volunteers for design, construction, and/or maintenance of a parks and recreation amenity. A current example is the Gunnison Trails group that assists in construction and maintenance of local trails. Potential groups include Boy Scouts, local Youth Corps, special interest groups (for example the West Elk Hockey Association), WSCU classes, and community service candidates.

Funding Recommendations

Over the next 10 to 15 years, the City of Gunnison should:

- Seek stable operations and maintenance funding to ensure adequate resources are available for long-term sustainability. Building and maintaining community support for an ongoing funding source will require the City to clearly communicate the impact of these funds and how they are targeted to the park, recreation and trails system.
- Develop a budgetary mechanism to collect funds for future renewal of park sites, such as a sinking fund or operating reserve.
- Account for the revenue generated by recreation facilities to balance the investment in building and maintaining high quality or specialized facilities.

Meeting Multiple Objectives

This plan lays out a number of goals and a number of criteria for parks and facilities. Meeting only one or two of these goals and/or criteria will not be adequate to accomplish the vision for the park system. At the same time, addressing each goal independently will likely result in duplication of effort and unnecessary cost. The key to maximizing the resulting park system is identifying projects that meet multiple goals and gain public support from multiple angles.

With projects stemming from different plan goals and related planning efforts, it will be important to establish logical packages of projects to save on the overall cost of implementing this plan. Where a number of small projects can be combined into one renewal package (similar to a complete phase of a new park project), the City should be able to realize efficiencies in management as well as mobilization expenses for construction.

Another type of project combination will also be important. While some projects will have the attention of voters and decision-makers (typically very tangible projects such as a new ball field, updated playground or new trail), less visible but necessary enhancements such as utility work or irrigation system upgrades will still need to be done with those new projects.



Figure 4-1: Legion Park

Community Outreach

During the plan process, several means were applied to gain community input on what the Parks and Recreation Department should focus. A variety of amenities were proposed through the Stakeholder Meetings and Community Meetings. In addition a community survey was conducted to allow for a statistically valid measure of community desires. The following charts show a snapshot of the survey. It should be noted that the City Parks and Recreation Department received high ranking for the majority of amenities now offered as well as high marks for the service that the department provides.

Community Survey

A survey was sent to over 2,264 households in Gunnison. When the community was asked the importance of Gunnison Parks and Recreation facilities to one's household, community parks (like Jorgensen Park), trails, the Community Center, and regional/neighborhood/special use parks rated highest. When asked what the top 3 most important priorities were for additions, expansions, and/or improvements of City facilities, the results reflect those that were rated important to the community. The Community Center received the highest ranking followed by trails and Van Tuyl Ranch. Hartman Rocks Jorgensen Park and Legion Park also received high ratings. The top 3 priorities where the City should focus funds were expanding the community center, providing more trails, and adding a dog park.

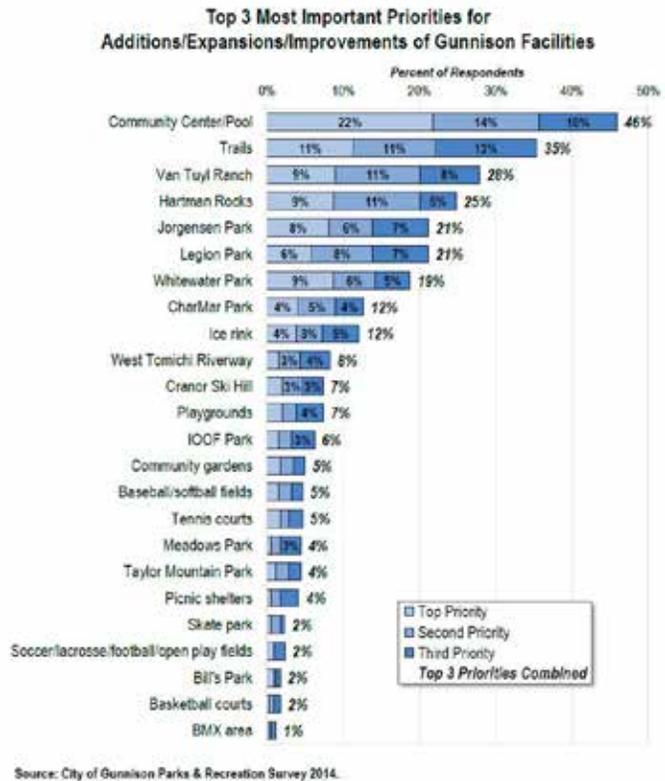
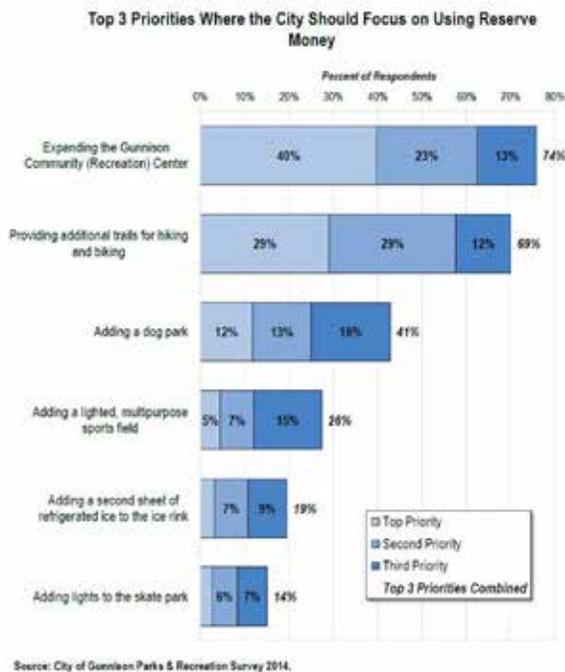
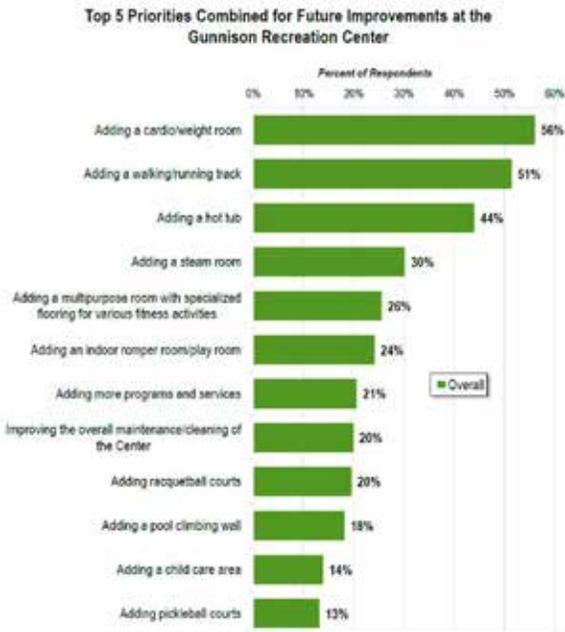


Figure 4-3: Results of the Community Survey (graphs on both pages)

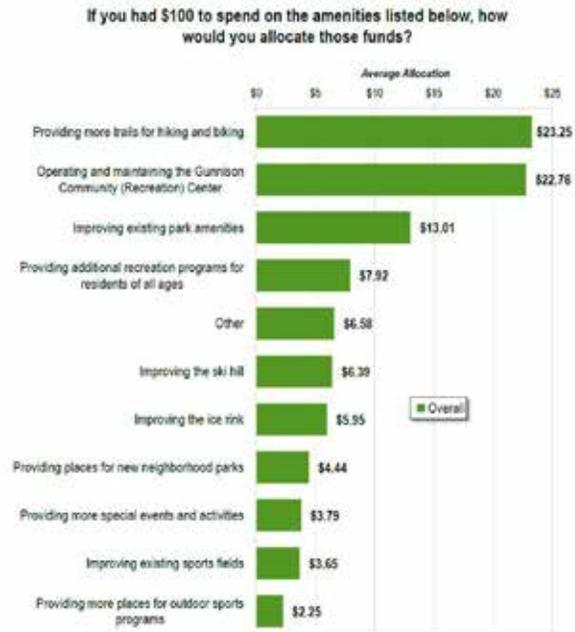
As for programming, the highest rated areas for importance were swimming pool activities, community events and fitness classes.

Top priorities for future improvements at the Community Center included a walking/running track, a cardio/weight room, a hot tub, and a steam room.

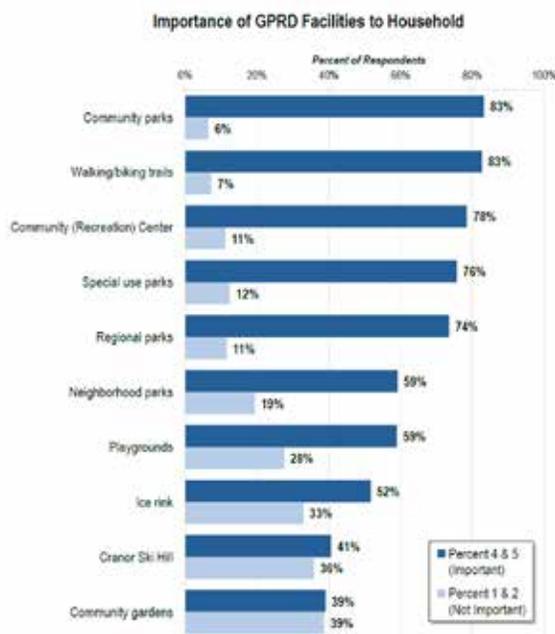
Additional survey results can be found in Appendix A. A full report is available under a separate cover at the Parks and Recreation Department,



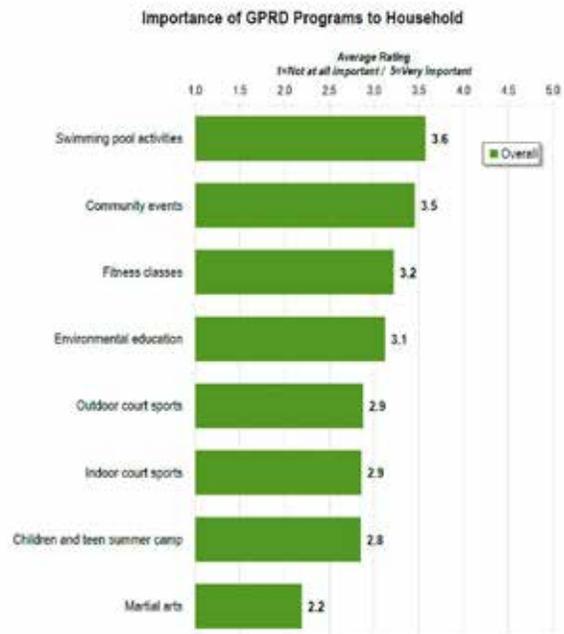
Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

Stakeholder Meetings

Over 50 local recreation stakeholders provided a long list of desired amenities. When asked where the City should focus funds, comments included:

- Transportation (bus) – for youth and seniors
- Improvements to Cranor Ski Hill – snow making, lights, night hours, ski storage, rails
- Improvements to perimeter of skate park; add lights, water fountain, shade, grills
- Lighted, artificial turf, multi-purpose field
- Ice climbing tower
- Expansion of rock climbing facilities
- Trail spur across river from Van Tuyl Ranch
- Completion of trail loop – particularly in Van Tuyl Ranch area and south side
- Dog park
- Splash pad and/or outdoor pool
- Restrooms
- Designated pickleball courts (for tournaments)

Other items relayed can be found in Appendix A.

Community Visioning Meeting

At the Community Visioning Meeting, the wish list for the parks and recreation system included:

- Dog park (either at CharMar Park, south of Jorgensen)
- Trails, trail link through Van Tuyl Ranch
- Sports complex
- Community Center expansion
- Pickleball courts
- Tennis facility
- Multi-use fields
- Expansion of non-traditional sports (life/adventure sports)
- Green gateway on west end of town
- Formal trail head at northeast corner of college site
- Expanded ice arena
- Lights for skate park
- Bike course

Prioritization of the wish list resulted in:

- Community Center expansion
- Greening of west entrance to town
- Maintenance of what we have now (parks, trails, facilities)
- Second refrigerated ice rink
- Sports complex
- Trails



Figure 4-4: Participants at Community Meeting #3

Key Findings by Area

Based on the input gathered, the key findings are summarized below by category.

Land Acquisition and Development

Parkland

Parkland in Southwest Gunnison

As illustrated on Figure 4-5: Map 2 - Service Areas (found on the following page), there is a gap in park coverage in the southwest area of town. A future park here could allow for trail head, river access, and/or special use, as well as general recreation for the neighborhoods on the west end of Gunnison. A few park areas are identified in the West Gunnison Neighborhood Plan (approximately 10.9 acres total). The City is in negotiations to purchase the former Diamond K property in the west Gunnison area. The property would add 15 acres of parkland to that area of town.

River Access

According to Community Visioning Meeting participants, increased river access is an important improvement needed in the Gunnison Parks and Recreation system. Although the community has some river access at West Tomichi Riverway, additional access is desired and would allow expanded use of the natural amenity for tubing, wading, fishing, rafting, and kayaking. Water access provides another opportunity to enjoy nature and the outdoors – an identified important benefit of the parks and recreation system. An opportunity exists to work with the Bureau of Reclamation on increased access to the Gunnison River in the vicinity of West Tomichi Riverway and Van Tuyl Ranch. Another opportunity may exist in the West Gunnison area. It should be noted that the Needs Assessment occurred prior to the purchase of property in the area. Until recreation facilities are developed, the area remains underserved for the purposes of this plan.

Dog Park

Recreation trends show an increase in the development of dog parks in Colorado and nationwide over the last several years. According to the community survey, the addition of a dog park in Gunnison is one of the top 3 funding priorities (after additional trails and the expansion of the Community Center). It also was a need identified during Stakeholder Meetings and the Community Visioning Meeting. A few of the parks in the system may have adequate area to locate a dog park area. These options will be further reviewed in the recommendation phase of the master plan process.

Other Parkland Opportunities

There are a couple of property purchase opportunities to augment the Community Center site and Meadows Park site to allow for additional uses to be accommodated. These select land purchases would allow future expansion of both facilities. Many new uses are requested for the expansion of the Community Center. Adding land to the site may accommodate more facilities. The addition to Meadows Park may allow for expanded soccer/open turf uses.



Service Areas

- Legend**
- City Parks
 - Open Space / Lands
 - Area served by future park (1/4 mile)
 - Gunnison Rising Annexation Area
 - Area served by small parks (1/4 mile)
 - Area served by large parks (1/2 mile)
 - Streets
 - Arterial
 - Major Collector
 - City Boundary
 - Surface Water
 - School
 - Western State Colorado University
 - Gunnison County Fairgrounds

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Data Source: NAU 83 State Plane North

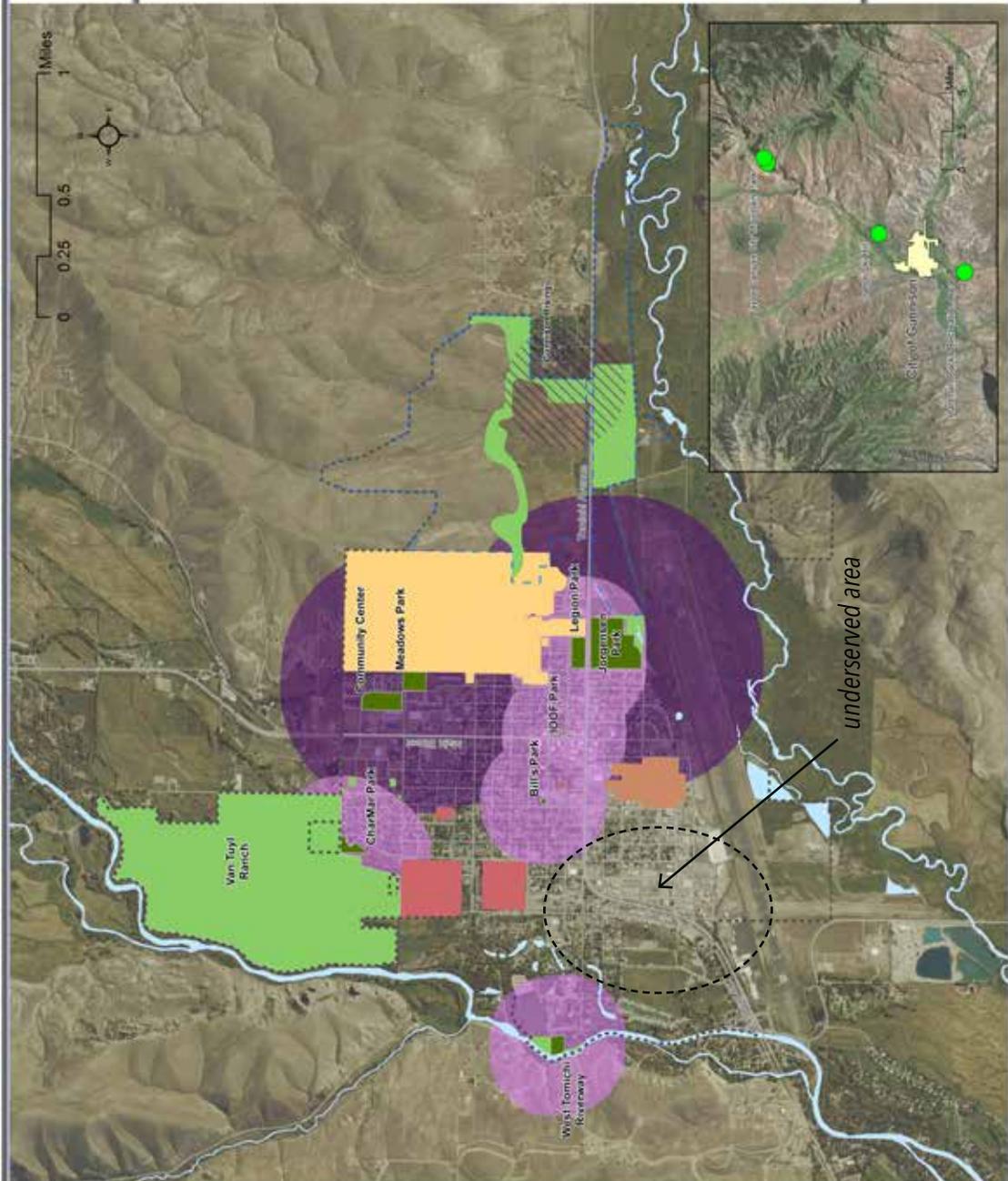


Figure 4-5: Map 2- Service Areas: existing park service areas and the gaps of underserved areas

Trails

The acquisition of key trail corridors through easement or purchase remains an important need for the Community. Trails were identified as one of the top 5 amenities frequently used in the Gunnison Parks and Recreation system and one of the most important to households. Trails were also the second top priority identified for expansion and one of the top areas on which the City should spend funds. The 2013 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) notes long-term need for the off-street trail system. Priority needs in the next 10 years are noted below:

Short Term Improvements (1-5 years) (per the NMTP)

- 5th Street Multi-Use Trail. The 5th Street Multi-Use Trail will be an alignment from the existing Thornton Way Trail to the paved West Tomichi.
- 3rd Street Connector. The 3rd Street Connector is planned as a hard surface, detached trail on Third Street, south from West Tomichi and east on Gunnison to Thornton Way.
- Highway 135 Multi-Use Trail. The Highway 135 Multi-Use Trail is a future connection between the North Bridge to the Van Tuyl subdivision and the Van Tuyl Ranch.
- Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail. The Rock Creek Trail will be a connection to the existing paved path along Highway 135. It will provide access to the Contour Loop Trail, the Colorado Trail spur, and the Gunnison Rising area.
- The University Multi-Use Trail. The University Multi-Use Trail is a connection around the university from the south leg of the Contour Loop Trail to the Highway 50 Underpass.
- Highway Frontage Multi-Use Trail. The Highway Frontage Multi-Use Trail will be a trail extending to the east along Highway 50 and Gunnison Rising and then looping to the north to tie into the south leg of the Contour Loop Trail.
- The Highway 50 Underpass Multi-Use Trail. The Highway 50 Underpass is a planned trail connection through an existing box culvert under Highway 50 that will connect to the Airport Maintenance, University, and Highway Frontage Multi-Use Trails.
- Gold Basin Multi-Use Trail. The Gold Basin Trail will be a detached trail following Gold Basin Road (CR 38) connecting to the existing detached trail that terminates at Mergleman Pond.

Long Term Improvements (6-10 years) (per the NMTP)

- Gunnison River Multi-Use Trail. This connection will be from the existing Twin Bridges underpass and run through the West Tomichi Riverway to the Van Tuyl Ranch. (Acquisition of easements along this segment is necessary for completion.)
- The West Gunnison Connector. The West Gunnison Connector will be a trail connection from Brookside Drive to Thornton Way.
- Van Tuyl Ranch to BLM Land. This is a planned connection from the Van Tuyl Ranch to federal lands on the west side of the Gunnison River.
- Riverwalk Estates Multi-Use Trail. This easement and trail connection will be between the Railroad Grade Trail on the Van Tuyl Ranch and the North Bridge and bicycle path along Hwy 135.
- The Contour Loop Multi-Use Trail. The improvement of an existing small path that connects the existing Contour Trail and the south leg of the Contour Loop will provide linkage to Signal Peak and federal land managed by the BLM.
- The Airport Maintenance Multi-Use Trail – This segment connects the eastern portion of the City southwest around the airport to Gold Basin Road

The once planned Discovery Center Multi-Use Trail, a segment extending from the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport to the east along the southern portion of Gunnison Rising, is no longer an option due to a change in property ownership and land use.

Facility Expansions and Additions

Community Center Expansion

Through the process, the Community Center remains a highly valued amenity and its expansion is rated as one of the top focus areas for the next 10 years. The Community Center was identified as one of the top 5 frequently visited amenities in the Gunnison Parks and Recreation system. Although 70% of survey respondents indicated that the center currently meets their needs, its expansion was also identified as the top priority for Gunnison facilities and one of the most important to households. The high level of interest and participation at the Community Center indicates that residents utilize the facility and take advantage of the indoor recreation space that is available. The City has plans for the expansion of the Community Center; however, some of the planned contents may be reassessed. Popular identified amenities to consider include:

- Space for programs
- Cardio/weight room
- Fitness classrooms (fitness classes rated in the top 3 important programs)
- Unprogrammed play room – foam pit, laser tag
- Teen center
- Child care area
- Hot tub and steam room
- Walking/running track

Sports Facilities

A number of sports facility needs were identified by community outreach participants. The following were frequently noted:

Second Refrigerated Ice Rink

The desire for second refrigerated ice rink has been discussed in the community to support increased play. The City does have one refrigerated sheet of ice as well as a second sheet that is not refrigerated. The idea is to convert the second sheet of ice to one that is refrigerated in order to expand the months that the ice can be used as well as allow tournaments to occur. This effort would need to include a dehumidification system to allow for year-round use.

Outdoor Volleyball Courts

According to the results of the Comparison Community Study, Gunnison has fewer volleyball courts than comparable communities. A need for the facility was noted in Stakeholder Meetings and at the middle school student group session. It has also been considered as a potential addition to the Community Center site. Although the City does not offer outdoor volleyball courts, outdoor volleyball courts are available to the community at the middle school.

Soccer/Multi-Purpose Fields

Stakeholders and middle school students identified the desire for a soccer/multi-use field that could also be used for unprogrammed activities. Stakeholders indicated that this facility could benefit both Western State Colorado University (WSCU) as well as the City and, therefore, may be a good opportunity to partner with the college on such a project.



Figure 4-6: Through the community engagement process, the Community Center (left), trails (center), and Van Tuyl Ranch (right) were considered priorities for additions and improvements in the parks and recreation system.

Pickleball Courts

Pickleball courts were a frequently requested facility in the Community Visioning Meeting and stakeholder Meetings. Interested parties conveyed the desire to have Pickleball tournaments in Gunnison and add to the traveling league on the Western Slope. Pickleball is a new recreation activity. While trends show the sport is increasing, current demand in Gunnison is not very high according to the results of the Parks and Recreation Community Survey. Despite this, the addition of outdoor courts on the Community Center property may be a relatively cost-effective addition that would provide a new type of low-impact recreation opportunity for families, seniors, and other groups. Indoor courts may be combined with future gymnasium and / or racquetball areas.

Park and Open Space Renovation/Improvements

ADA Access

All parks and facilities in Gunnison must become ADA compliant over the next 10 years to abide by ADA regulations. The Existing Resources Summary Report noted some accessibility issues that should be addressed when sites are renovated. However, a comprehensive ADA assessment and transition plan is needed to identify specific deficiencies and priorities for access improvements.

Van Tuyl Ranch Development

In the Parks and Recreation Community Survey, the Van Tuyl Ranch ranked as one of the top 5 visited sites in the Gunnison Parks and Recreation System. It also was identified as one of the top 3 facilities / sites to expand or improve as well as one of the most important amenities to households. Van Tuyl Ranch currently has a trail through it but the majority of the site is leased for agricultural practices. There is an opportunity to expand the site amenities to allow for more passive and active use of the property. Potential amenities to consider for the site include:

- Community gardens
- Dog park
- Shelter/outdoor classroom/event space
- Additional trails and a new trail head
- Restrooms

Jorgensen Park

Jorgensen Park is already a highly popular and highly valued sports complex. In the Parks and Recreation Survey, Jorgensen Park was one of the top visited parks in Gunnison; 92% of respondents indicated that they use this park. It also meets over 81% of respondents needs. However, the site has room for improvements and facilities could be expanded to increase participation and add economic value to the City. To increase its usage and to expand on the economic benefits of parks and recreation, there is adequate space to make select improvements to the site. Improvements needed include:

- Lighted ball fields
- Multi-use / soccer field
- A second refrigerated ice rink
- Upgrades to or replacement of the BMX track

More information on some of these facilities is discussed in the New Facilities section of this report.

Legion Park

Legion Park also was identified as a top visited site in the Gunnison Parks and Recreation system and meets 79% of survey respondents needs. Legion Parks is used often for community events. The existing restrooms are in need of repair to allow the site to continue to support community events and park use.

Taylor Mountain Park

Taylor Mountain Park is also in need of an upgrade to its restroom facilities. To maintain what Gunnison has today, the upgrade will keep the mountain park attractive and functional.

CharMar Park

Additional amenities in CharMar Park are desired to increase its function to provide park and recreation opportunities to the community. CharMar was identified as a frequently used park and valued by the community. Some of the modifications include the expansion and resurfacing of the basketball court, the addition of a new shelter or a pavilion, and added pickleball courts. The existing restroom facilities could be upgraded in the future and there also may be a need to upgrade the play equipment in the future.

Cranor Ski Hill

Cranor Ski Hill is currently partially subsidized by the City. However, the ski hill is a beloved community asset, and its continued operation is desired by many. The current lift will need to be replaced to support park use beyond 10 to 15 years. Another improvement would be an upgrade to the water service / water storage so that snowmaking could be added. Expanding the site's year-round use to include other activities – such as zip-lines, ropes course, bike trails, and tubing - can increase the recreation value of this site. Other needs include expanding the warming hut and adding equipment storage at the ski hill.

West Tomichi Riverway

In the vicinity of the West Tomichi Riverway is an ideal place to gain additional water access. Working with the Bureau of Reclamation may allow for the increased access close to town. One concept proposed during the public outreach for the plan is to add a lazy river area for tubing during summer months.



Figure 4-7: Opportunities exist to expand uses at Jorgensen Park.



Figure 4-8: Over time, existing equipment will need to be upgraded or replaced.

I.O.O.F. Park

I.O.O.F Park is a small park near the downtown programmed occasionally to support downtown events. Although the site does attract a lot of parks users as noted by results in the Community Parks and Recreation Survey, there is an opportunity to redesign or expand the park as an event site and attractive downtown urban plaza. Improving this site as an events plaza has been discussed in the Comprehensive Plan process that is being undertaken concurrently with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process.

Basketball Courts

Although basketball courts were identified as not frequently used, the assets are still valuable for the overall recreation system. Upgrading surfaces and striping is a relatively inexpensive task to keep what Gunnison has at a quality condition.

Greening of West Entry to Town

There is a desire to improve the entry into the City on the west side of town. The entry into the City from the east includes open space, park areas, and green space on the WSCU campus. The entry from the west has much less landscaping and no real “point of entry”. Although not technically a park, a landscaped area near the west end of town would add a more attractive approach to Gunnison, one that is more similar to what is found on the east side. These landscaped areas are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department and therefore is included in this needs assessment.

Recreation Activities (Programs and Unprogrammed)

Family/Multi-generational

Stakeholders and meeting attendees indicated a desire for more activities that could be shared by the entire family or that are scheduled concurrently. The availability of activities serving different ages at the same time makes recreation more efficient and attractive for family members. For example, simultaneously programmed adult/youth activities at community center (fitness classes) while children are swimming or rock climbing.

Middle School / High School Tweens and Teens

One age group identified as not present at the Community Center is the middle school / high school tweens and teens as most of the programming at the center is focused on the younger children. Middle school and high school students are in need of better opportunities. Providing a variety of programs and unprogrammed areas, in addition to sport-oriented programs – may interest more tweens and teens to use the City's facilities. Programming could address sports not offered by the School District or that are more drop-in oriented / intra-mural like soccer. Drop-in / hang-out social space that provide non-sport activities such as gaming or a fun room may also attract this age group.

Seniors

An expansion to the Community Center is planned in 2015. The new area will serve as a Seniors Center. The new area expands on the existing space used for senior programs and will add indoor meeting and program space at the Community Center. Many participants in the process have expressed the desire to expand the opportunities for seniors even further than currently planned.

Outdoor/Environmental Education

Stakeholders and participants at the Community Visioning Meeting expressed the need for the addition of environmental education programming. Additional programs could focus on fishing, gardening, nature walks, and habitat/wildlife/ plant recognition seminars.

Non-Sport Programming

Similar to catering to a variety of interests other than sports, there has been interest in expanding programming at the Community Center and Citywide to include activities such as a book club, cooking classes, gardening, and crafts.

Lifelong Learning/Playing

Many of participants in the Stakeholder Meetings, Community Visioning Meeting, the Community Parks and Recreation Survey, and the Comprehensive Plan Survey indicated the active lifestyle was one of the outstanding reasons why Gunnison is an attractive place to live. More programs can be focused around activities that encourage lifelong playing, social and physical activity, and skill development. Programs could include a non-competitive adult soccer club, cycling groups, fishing trips, rafting outings and other fun activities for all ages and life stages.

Other Services and Needs

Consolidated Recreation Information

Although 65% of survey respondents indicated that the availability of information about community recreation offerings was either “good” or “excellent”, there is still concern that certain groups are not informed of what’s offered. Other stakeholders indicated that more coordination with regional offerings and activities was desired. A one-stop shop on the City’s website that has links to other recreation opportunities and services may fulfill this gap of knowledge. Email blasts to interested parties may also increase awareness of what Gunnison and the region has to offer.

Marketing

The City has provided quality marketing efforts for what the City has to offer. However, there is the perception that there are still residents that are not receiving the message. A more targeted marketing program and branding may help reach those groups and attract more participants for programs and wider use of facilities and parks.

Partnerships

The City recognizes the importance of partnerships in order to best fund park and recreation assets as well as avoid duplicate efforts. Many of the participants at the Stakeholder Meetings were current or potential partners in providing parks and recreation opportunities to the community. There is a need to continue to work with Gunnison School District, WSCU, the Bureau of Land Management, and Gunnison County to explore opportunities to expand park and recreation opportunities. Essential to the continued growth of programs and services to the greater Gunnison community is continuing to build on the many existing partnerships with other organizations and expand these opportunities to other potential partners in the future. As part of this, the City will need to define their role in providing recreation services to the community.

Parks and Recreation Shuttle

Transportation was a repeated need by participants in the public outreach to date. There was thought that more people would participate in programs if there was a more convenient transportation system to get people to and from the Community Center and other key facilities in the city.

Bicycle Racks

A number of the City’s parks and facilities do not have bicycle racks. The convenience of bicycle racks can promote more use as well as the use of non-motorized transportation.

This chapter presents more community needs for park land, recreation facilities, and programs than can be addressed by the City of Gunnison in the next 10 years, even if partners are involved in providing support. However, some of the needs identified in this chapter are better aligned with community priorities. The next step is to prioritize the items so that community desires are met to the best possible level within the funding available.

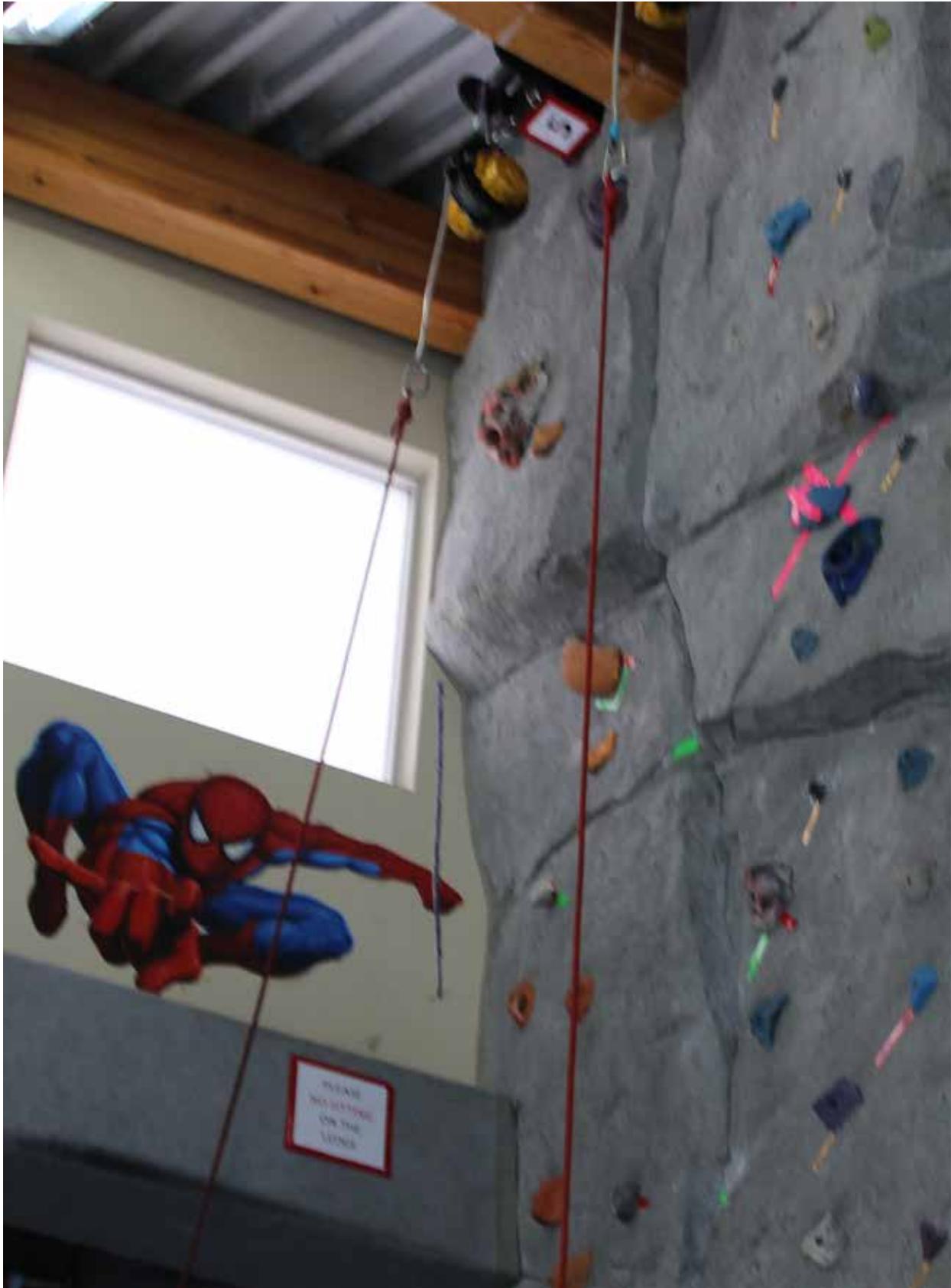


Figure 5-1: The climbing wall at the Community Center

Chapter 5: Where We Go First - Prioritization of Future Amenities

Introduction

This report presents a list of potential projects to address community needs for parks, recreation facilities, programs, and open spaces. It organizes and evaluates these potential projects based on the findings of the Community Survey, project prioritization criteria, and projects currently in the City's 2015-19 Capital Improvement Plan. Based on the evaluation of each project, it prioritizes projects for inclusion in the recommendations for the park and recreation system over the next 15 years.

Potential Capital Projects

As noted in the Needs Assessment, the following projects are needed to achieve the community's vision for parks and recreation in the future. Not all of these projects will move forward in the next 10-15 years. These are presented here and evaluated in next sections of the document to identify recommended priorities for implementation. The following is an abbreviated list of what is presented in the Chapter 4: What We Want - the Needs Assessment. For more detail on each item, see the project description in Table 4 of this report.

Land Acquisition

Parks

- River access
- Dog park at Jorgensen Park
- Meadows Park expansion
- Community Center site expansion

Trails (from Non-Motorized Transportation Plan)

Short Term Improvements (1-5 years)

- 5th Street Multi-Use Trail
- 3rd Street Connector
- Highway 135 Multi-Use Trail
- Rock Creek Multi-Use Trail
- The University Multi-Use Trail
- Highway Frontage Multi-Use Trail
- The Highway 50 Underpass Multi-Use Trail
- Gold Basin Multi-Use Trail

Long Term Improvements (6-10 years)

- Gunnison River Multi-Use Trail
- The West Gunnison Connector
- Riverwalk Estates Multi-Use Trail
- The Contour Loop Multi-Use Trail
- Van Tuyl Ranch to BLM Land
- The Airport Maintenance Multi-Use Trail

Facility Expansions and Additions

- Community Center Phase III (cardio/weight room, track, fitness room)
- Pool improvements (hot tub, steam room, climbing wall)
- Soccer/multi-purpose fields
- Pickleball courts
- Basketball court
- Outdoor volleyball courts (It should be noted that there are outdoor volleyball courts at the middle school that can be used by the community.)
- Bike racks

Park and Open Lands Renovation/Improvements

- Parkland in Southwest Gunnison
- ADA access
- Van Tuyl Ranch
 - Community gardens
 - Dog park
 - Shelter/outdoor classroom/event space
 - Restrooms
- Jorgensen Park
 - Lighted ball fields
 - Multi-use soccer field
 - Second refrigerated ice rink
 - BMX track upgrades
 - Lighted and shaded skate park
- Legion Park restrooms
- Taylor Mountain Park restrooms
- CharMar Park
 - Basketball court (3/4 size)
 - Shelter
 - Play equipment upgrades
- Cranor Ski Hill
 - Lift fund
 - Water service / storage to allow for snow making
 - Jib park
 - Zip-lines
 - Ropes course
 - Mountain bike trails
 - Tubing course
 - Warming hut expansion with ski equipment storage
- Greening of west entry
- Shuttle

Additional projects that might be considered in the future include:

- Bowling alley
- Multi-field youth baseball (maybe relocate soccer field in Jorgensen and replace?)
- Hartman Rocks: more trails, more variety, parking lot maintenance, camping at base, pump track, improved development process
- Out of town transportation
- Trail to Blue Mesa Reservoir and Crested Butte (These projects would likely be a joint venture with Gunnison Trails and not a city-led project.)
- Signage for the marble courts at Jorgensen Park

Projects mentioned in the Needs Assessment that are considered less important at this time include:

- Lazy river course - A lazy river course may not be feasible due to high anticipated costs and the amount of permitting and maintenance necessary.
- Van Tuyl Ranch trail head - A trail head already exists at the middle school - a short distance from Van Tuyl Ranch where parking is already available. A restroom could be added that is shared by the School District and the City.

Projects listed in the Needs Assessment that would be better addressed by another department include:

- Shuttle - This amenity would be stronger if offered through the Transportation Authority so that it can be coordinated better with other local and regional transportation systems.
- West end greening - the landscaping at the west end of town is more of a Comprehensive Plan goal rather than a parks and recreation priority.

Potential Programs and Services

In addition to capital items, a number of non-capital items were seen as important to establish within the department. These items include additional programming for:

- Families and/or multiple generations (either in the same program or concurrent programming)
- Tweens/teens
- Outdoor / environmental education
- Lifelong (non-sports) learning / playing

In addition, a consolidated site for information on community-wide recreation and improved/targeted marketing rose as important areas to address over the coming years.

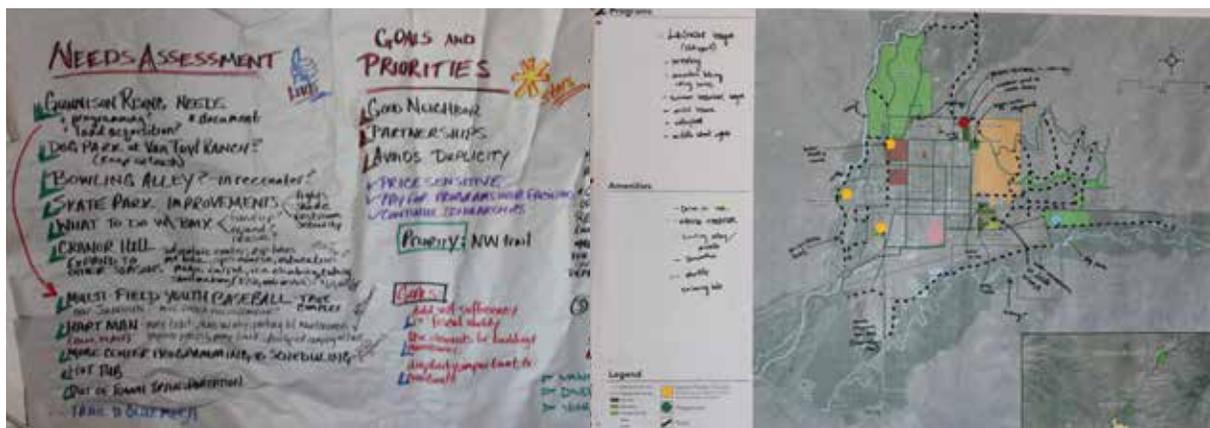


Figure 5-2: A wall graphic (left) depicting participants' comments at Community Meeting #2 and a map exercise from Community Meeting #1 (right)

Project Prioritization Factors

The clear message from the community is that there is a desire to increase the level of service for parks and recreation opportunities in the community. This is not a push for a costly expansion in acreage, facilities and programs, but a targeted approach to provide affordable, family-oriented opportunities that contribute to a cohesive community, economic vitality, and active lifestyle for all residents and park users.

In order to identify that targeted approach, the recommended projects, programs and services were evaluated against the following:

- Prioritization criteria developed for this planning process (including the Community Survey results)
- The City's annual 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for 2015-19

These are described below and followed by a table that rates projects according to these elements.

Prioritization Criteria

Nine prioritization criteria were developed with input from the community to help define how the City will move forward with its parks and recreation services. These criteria are noted below:

- **High return on investment and self-sufficiency** – Strive toward parks and recreation facilities and programs that can pay for themselves and not rely on subsidies from other sources.
- **Preservation of existing recreation opportunity** – Maintain and renew parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas to protect existing investments, enhance user safety and accessibility, support recreation programs and events, maximize efficiency, and protect revenue-generating resources for the long term.
- **Service to an underserved area** – Ensure all neighborhoods have access to nearby park and recreation facilities.
- **Service to an underserved group** – Offer recreation programs and facilities that respond to all user groups and needs.
- **Provision of new desired recreation opportunity** – Provide an accessible, safe and attractive parks and recreation system that responds to changing demographics and meets community needs.
- **Contributes to economic vitality** – Support special events that make use of the capacity of existing City facilities and achieves financial goals for direct (e.g. user fees, concessions revenue, event fees) and indirect revenue (e.g. sales tax, lodging tax).
- **Popularity and high rate of participation** – Continue popular programs and facilities that are well-used and valued by the community.
- **Enhancement of community connectivity** – Strive toward a more connected community by providing trail links and improved access to facilities throughout the community.
- **Service to multiple ages** – Offer recreation programs and facilities that support multiple age groups and allow a variety of ages.

Community Survey Results

In addition to the prioritization criteria and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) information, the community survey results (available under a separate cover) also are useful to help prioritize recommended projects. The survey results most relevant to priority projects are noted below.

Top Priorities for Additions/Improvements

The following parks, amenities, and facilities were identified as top priorities for additions and improvements.

- Community Center/pool
- Trails
- Van Tuyl Ranch
- Hartman Rocks
- Jorgensen Park

Of the parks, amenities, and facilities listed, the following received lowest priority.

- BMX area
- Basketball courts
- Soccer/lacrosse/football/open turf fields
- Skate park
- Taylor Mountain Park
- Meadows Park
- Tennis courts
- Baseball/softball fields
- Community gardens
- Picnic shelters

Priorities for Community Center

The top priorities for community center include:

- Cardio/weight room
- Walking/running track
- Hot tub
- Steam room

The lowest priorities for the Community Center include:

- Pickleball courts
- Child care area
- Pool climbing wall
- Racquetball courts

Items in the Capital Improvement Plan

A number of items have already been earmarked in the 2015-19 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). These previously identified priorities are noted below:

Items identified in the CIP and the Needs Assessment include:

- Community Center Phase III
- Jorgensen lighting 3 fields
- Pickleball courts (4)
- Legion Park restroom
- Taylor Mountain Park restroom
- Jorgensen dog park
- Trail connections

Additional Items identified in CIP:

- Community Center Seniors Addition
- Community Center Park landscaping / gardening
- Van Tuyl Subdivision drainage swale park
- Jorgensen Park picnic shelter
- Jorgensen Park restroom
- Replacement chain link fence – softball fields
- Fleet replacement
- Snowblower
- Mowers
- Pool – equipment replacement
- Rink – Zamboni
- Rink – equipment replacement

Priority Projects

Figure 5-4 on the following page rates all recommended projects against the prioritization criteria, also noting which projects were included in the CIP and were rated high by residents in the community survey. Items that meet 6 or more of these factors are highlighted. Items that rated high on the survey received 2 marks and items meeting criteria 1 – 5 also received 2 marks.

Items receiving a 9 or higher rating:

- Trails
- Community Center Phase III
- Jorgensen dog park
- Consolidated recreation information

Items receiving a ranking of 6 to 8:

- ADA audit
- Family/Multi-generational
- Cranor Ski Hill expansion of uses (jib park, snow making, zip line, ropes course, tubing, mountain bike trails)
- West end greening
- Jorgensen ball field lights
- Pickleball courts
- Park in SW Gunnison
- Legion Park Restroom

Projects, Timing and Costs

Appendix G presents preliminary cost estimate for all of the projects in the Needs Assessment. The total cost is approximately \$15.5 million dollars. Total project costs are identified, recognizing that several different funding sources will be utilized for project implementation. As each new project is completed, additional operating funds will be needed to manage, maintain, and program sites and facilities. Funding is updated and allocated by City Council annually through the City's budget process to implement planned projects. Consequently, these projects and costs will be updated with each budget cycle and incorporated into the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan for the Parks & Recreation Department. If grant funding is successful, an additional project list is presented to substitute for grant funded projects.

Funding Considerations Over the Next 15 Years

To project funding over the next 15 years, the annual revenue from the 1% sales tax for recreation funding is approximately \$500,000 per year. In addition, the City has a surplus of approximately \$780,000 as of the start of 2015.

The Trails Fund, Pool Fund, and Rink Fund monies are specifically allocated to those areas. These funds have very limited amounts going to those capital needs, so those areas may need more financial support in the future.

It should be noted that the General Fund monies are used for equipment and materials and are shared among all departments without a set amount per year per department. Items such as replacement vehicles and equipment will come from General Fund dollars over time. Although, some special projects will also receive General Fund money, the allocation here is solely for the Recreation Fund.

Community Priorities												
Identified Need	Serves underserved area	Serves underserved group	Supports multiple ages	Preserve existing recreation opportunity	Provides new desired recreation opportunity	Enhances community connectivity	High return on investment	Supports economic vitality	Popular/high recreation participation	CIP	Survey	
Land Acquisition and Development												
Trails	XX		X		XX	X		X	X	X	XX	11
Park in SW Gunnison	XX		X		XX			X				6
River access			X						X			2
Dog Park		XX	X		XX				X	X	XX	9
Additional land for Community Center			X		XX			X	X			5
Additional land for Meadows Park			X	XX	XX							5
New Facilities												
Community Center expansion		XX	X	XX	XX		X	X	X		XX	12
• Pool climbing wall			X	XX						X		4
• Cardio/fitness room		XX	X		XX		XX				X	8
• Walking/running track		XX	X		XX						X	6
• Hot tub		XX	X		XX					X	X	7
• Steam room		XX	X		XX					X	X	7
Second refrigerated ice rink			X	XX				X	X			5
Outdoor volleyball court		XX	X		XX							5
Multi-purpose / soccer field(s)		XX	X									3
Pickleball courts		XX	X		XX			X				6
Park Renovations / Improvements												
ADA Access Audit		XX	X	XX		X						6
Jorgensen Park lighted ball fields			X	XX				X	X	X		6
BMX track upgrades				XX								2
Lighted skate park				XX						X		3
Legion Park restroom			X	XX				X		X		6
Taylor Mountain Park restroom			X	XX						X		4
CharMar												
• Basketball court			X	XX	XX							5
• Pavilion			X	XX								3
Cranor Ski Hill												
• Lift fund			X	XX								3
• Expansion of uses			X	XX	XX			X				6
• Warming hut / locker expansion			X	XX								3
West Tomichi Riverway – lazy river				XX	XX				X			5
West end greenway	XX	XX	X					X				6

Figure 5-3: Prioritization matrix (if an item scored high on the survey or met one of the first 5 criteria, it received double markings)

Community Priorities												
Identified Need	Serves underserved area	Serves underserved group	Supports multiple ages	Preserve existing recreation opportunity	Provides new desired recreation opportunity	Enhances community connectivity	High return on investment	Supports economic vitality	Popular/high recreation participation	CIP	Survey	
Park Renovations / Improvements continued												
Van Tuyl Ranch												
• Restroom (shared with CharMar Park)			X	XX					X			4
• Community garden			X	XX								3
• Trail head (shared with CharMar Park)			X	XX		X			X		X	6
• Trails			X	XX		X			X		X	5
• Shelter/event space			X	XX				X				3
Recreation Activities (Programs and Unprogrammed)												
Family/Multi-generational		XX	X	XX	XX				X		X	8
Middle School: Tweens, Teens		XX			XX							4
Senior				XX	XX				X			4
Outdoor/environmental education		XX	X		XX							5
Lifelong learning/playing			X		XX		XX					5
Other Services and Needs												
Consolidated recreation information		XX	X	XX	XX	X	XX					9
Shuttle	X	XX	X			X						5
Marketing			X	XX								2

Recomendations

The following are specific Park and Recreation items prioritized through community input for funding for the years 2016 through 2026. The plan must remain flexible to take advantage of any funding opportunities that become available for items that are projected farther along the time table. Trail development will be funded from the Park and Recreation Fund, Other Recreation Improvements, rough a special reserve account established specifically for Trails. The community concern of continued maintenance of facilities is addressed through an annual dedicated allocation of \$50,000. Park and Recreation projects on the current Capital Improvement list will continue to seek funding through the general fund. Projects specific to the Pool will be funded through the Community Aquatics Center reserve.

2016-2021

- Jorgensen Dog Park
- Community Center Phase III revised plan
- Community Center Phase III construction
- Pickleball Courts
- Southwest Gunnison (Lazy K) Park Planning
- Parks ADA Audit
- Trail Development
- Facility maintenance

2016-2021

- Southwest Gunnison Park Development
- Meadows Park Site Acquisition
- Meadows Park Development
- Cranor Hill Lift Replacement
- Cranor Hill Expansion of Uses
- Trail Development
- Facility Maintenance

Summary

The Gunnison Parks & Recreation Department provides effective, efficient and high quality recreation facilities, sites, services and programs for it citizens and community visitors. Public engagement findings noted a high level of community satisfaction with the Parks & Recreation Department and validate this new direction for parks, recreation and facilities in the future.

Given the fact the City has implemented its previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan and given changes in funding realities and recreation trends in the last ten years, this plan sets a new check list for future amenities for the community over the next 15 years.

Project	Total Project Cost	Proposed Year and Recommended Funding Source														
		Prior Years	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Future (2021-2025)			
			City	Other	City	Other	City	Other	City	Other	City	Other	City	Other		
Jorgensen Dog Park Amenities	125,000	25,000	75,000													
Community Center Phase III	3,850,000															
Pickleball Courts at Char Mar	85,000															
Trail Development	1,970,000			20,000	65,000											
SW Gunnison Park Planning	80,000			200,000	200,000											
SW Gunnison Park Development	483,333			40,000	40,000											
Parks ADA Audit	75,000															
Cranor Hill Lift Replacement	500,000															
Meadows Dog Park	50,000															
Meadows Park Site Acquisition	150,000															
Cranor Hill Expansion of Uses	200,000															
Facility Maintenance	500,000	50,000		50,000												
Totals	8,068,333	25,000	75,000	310,000	305,000	165,000	58,333	430,711	134,289	2,608,410	939,832	1,965,879	975,879			
Funding Availability Calculations																
Totals		834,121	1,280,121	1,491,121	1,897,121	2,037,410	(0)									
2007 Bond Refinancing Savings	400,000															
Less: Uses																
Facility Maintenance	(400,000)															
Small Projects																
Funds Availability																
Other Parks & Recreation Sales Tax	6,044,121	834,121	521,000	521,000	521,000	521,000										
Less: Uses																
Trail Development	(1,000,000)															
Community Center Phase III	(2,850,000)															
Facility Maintenance	(100,000)															
Small Projects	(1,205,000)															
Funds Availability		834,121	1,280,121	1,491,121	1,897,121	2,037,410	(0)									
Other:																
Other Grants and Contributions	10,000															
Department of Local Affairs	1,040,000															
Great Outdoors Colorado	1,438,333															
Totals	2,488,333	75,000	75,000	305,000	58,333	208,410	1,841,590									

Figure 5-4: Capital Improvement Plan recommendations (costs are in 2015 dollars)



Figure 6-1: West Tomichi Riverway

Chapter 6: How We Get There - Next Steps, Recommendations & Strategies

Introduction

The City of Gunnison has established an impressive Parks and Recreation System over the past 20 years that includes parks, playgrounds, trails, sports complexes, two ice rinks, and a community center. Through the development of this Master Plan, the community has acknowledged the quality of the system as well as the Parks and Recreation Department. For this update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City intends to build on the past successes and further meet the needs and desires of the community. However, the City also recognizes its limited funding abilities that are available to address those needs and desires. Therefore, an implementation strategy has been developed to address the highest priorities.

The update to the Master Plan included extensive community outreach to create that list of needs and desires. This outreach included a community-wide mail-back survey sent to nearly every house in the City and then opened as an online survey. The outreach also included stakeholder meetings with local and regional parks and recreation advocates, three community meetings, and a work session with middle school students.

The priorities established for this plan are based on the survey results as well as the goal criteria established during the process. The results of the community outreach on how to direct Parks and Recreation funding over the next 10 to 15 years strongly indicated focusing on 2 areas: the Community Center Phase III expansion and continuing the trail plan.

Other potential amenities and programs also come to the forefront for the timeframe of this Master Plan. Those amenities include enhancements to the recreational programming, a dog park at Jorgensen, enhancements at Jorgensen Park and Legion Park, additional parkland in select areas of the City, and pickleball courts. The other projects and amenities that were gleaned through the process remain in the plan so that if funding becomes available or opportunities arise, these items may be considered. The intention is to provide direction over the next 10 to 15 years, but allow for flexibility of the plan as trends shift and various opportunities arise.



Figure 6-2: Expanding the Community Center was established as a priority for the next 10 years through the Community Survey and community outreach feedback; more pool amenities were also desired.

Community Center Recommendations

The following includes the specific recommendations for the Community Center over the next 10 years. The Community Center expansion is considered in the context of other desired projects to determine which elements are recommended for implementation.

A number of improvements are currently planned for the Community Center. This includes the Seniors Addition, pool improvements (a climbing wall, hot tub, and steam room), and community gardens. In addition, the Phase III expansion of the center is identified by this planning effort as a priority to implement over the next 10 years. The components of Phase III will be determined through a public process on the design of the addition.

Funding for the Phase III expansion will come from a combination of sources including the City's bonding ability, General Fund, and the Other Recreation Fund receiving a portion of the 1% recreation tax. Other funds may come from grants from the State and other foundations.

Community Center Expansion Size and Components

The following are the recommendations for the Parks and Recreation Department as it moves forward with design of Phase III.

- Commit to moving forward with the addition of Phase III of the Community Center. Developing a plan to fund the project will be paramount. This process should begin with a reassessment of the 2009 study to determine the final building program, update the capital cost estimate and the operations plan. There should be a concerted effort to reduce the original 20,000 square feet (SF) by approximately 20% to ease not only capital but also operational costs.
- Key elements, based on the community input and cost recovery potential of the amenity, to include in Phase III are:
 - o Fitness area - The key space in the building expansion is the fitness area. This aspect of the center will not only generate the most use but also will be the greatest source of new revenue. Within the fitness area, the following specific spaces need to be included:
 - Weight/cardio area
 - Stretching area
 - Functional fitness space
 - Fitness assessment/personal trainer room
 - Group exercise room
 - o Walk/jog track (elevated)
 - o Child watch room (to support the fitness spaces) - An important amenity that is needed to support the use of the fitness elements in a center is the Child Watch space where young children can be watched.

In the community survey, when asked what amenities should be added to the Community Center, a fitness area (with weights and cardio equipment), and a walking/running track were the top two choices.

- Spaces from the original Phase III plan that may be adjusted during the community design process include:
 - Racquetball courts
 - Multi-purpose room
 - Bouldering wall
 - Play room (for youth)
 - Casual lounge area
- In addition to these spaces, making small improvements to the pool will help increase utilization of this area of the center. Specific improvements that need to be considered include:
 - Hot tub
 - Climbing wall
 - Steam room
 - Inflatables

A hot tub and steam room ranked high on the community survey as amenities to add to the Community Center. It should be noted, however, that the maintenance of a steam room and hot tub may be in excess of the revenues gained for such an amenity.

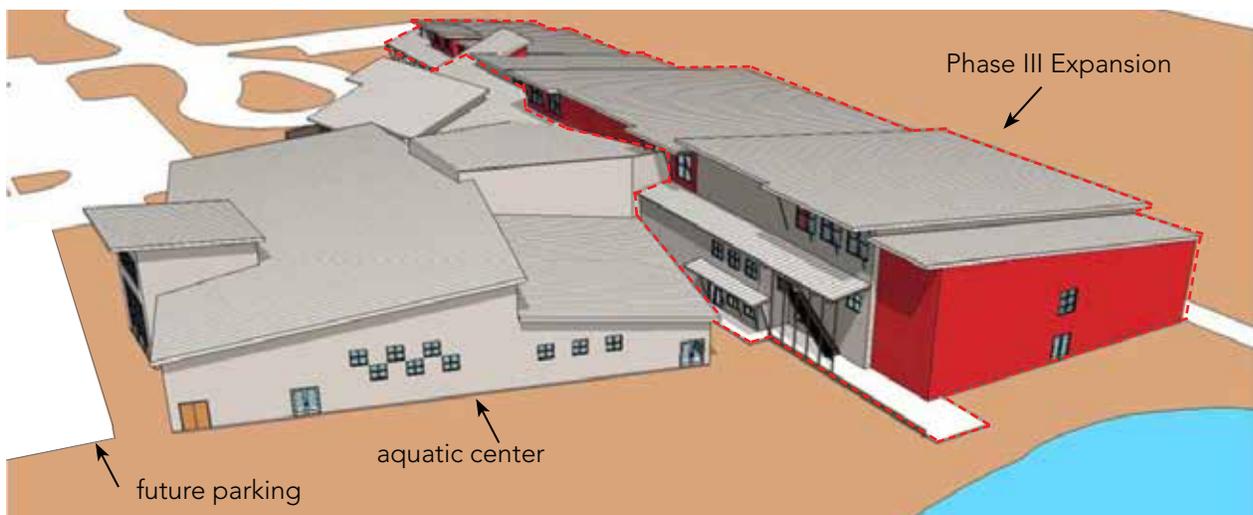


Figure 6-3: The components for the Phase III Addition to the Community Center was analyzed in 2009; new conditions should be considered to supplement and update the 2009 recommendations.

Fees and Cost Recovery

The following includes strategies and actions to fund the Phase III addition to the Community Center.

- The City has identified a number of possible funding sources for the proposed Phase III expansion of the center. This includes:

Funding Source	Amount
DOLA	\$750,000
Other Recreation Reserves	\$2,500,000
General Fund Reserves	\$500,000
Foundation Grants	\$100,000
Total	\$3,850,000

- The capital cost for the center will depend on the final program that is established for the facility (amenities and square footages of space) and the concept plan that is developed. The City will work to determine adequate bonding capability and research grant opportunities.
- With the expansion of the center in Phase III, there should also be an approximate 20%-25% increase in the center's fees. It should be anticipated that even with this fee increase the center will operate at a slightly higher level of subsidy (estimated to be under \$50,000 annually) but a new operations plan is needed to identify a more exact number. It is possible that the center could be able to actually cover its increased operating costs with new revenues generated by the expansion.
- The center should have an across the board fee increase of approximately 5% at least every two years to match increases in operating costs. However the center's fees must be benchmarked against other providers in the market.
- The existing fee structure for the Community Center has a significant number of options for facility use. With the addition of Phase III, there should be a concerted effort to reduce the fee options to a more workable number and simplify the process.
- Basic fitness classes (this would exclude specialty programs and personal training) should be included as a benefit of 3 month, 6 month and annual memberships. This is now the norm for most public recreation centers.
- A minimal fee (usually \$2-\$3 an hour) would be charged at a Child Watch space. However, most centers now include this service as an included benefit for annual and 6 month memberships. As a result, this service usually operates at a financial loss and the Department will need to factor this into their future operating budget.
- Costs are in 2015 dollars. Inflation, change in demand of the market will influence the actual future cost of the project. Therefore, costs will need to be adjusted as the project comes to fruition.
- Monies earmarked for the project will be allocated to a special fund over the next several years. The accumulated amount will allow the City to avoid bonding for the project.

Operations and Maintenance

The following strategy outlines steps for the Department to take to ensure appropriate operations and management of the Phase III addition.

- The Parks and Recreation Department should establish a formal, separate and complete, community center budget that covers all the operational costs for the center (minus programs). This should be matched with the revenue numbers that are generated by the center (minus programs) to determine a realistic cost recovery number.
- The Department should develop a formal, internal, 5 year capital improvement budget for the center. This budget is updated annually.
 - Consider the establishment of lifecycle cost estimates for all major capital assets associated with the center.
 - Once the Community Center adds a weight/cardio area, the Department should adopt a formal budget plan to replace its cardio equipment on a 4-year staggered schedule where one-fourth of the equipment is turned over every year. It will be important that this plan is followed to keep equipment current and in good working condition.
- The center needs to continue to track use of the center in general and by specific area as well, on a day and time basis, to determine heavy use times, as well as slower times of use. This should also be analyzed by season of the year. This information can then be utilized to adjust hours of operation.
- The Parks and Recreation Department should develop specific priorities of use for each space in the center to determine priorities for both internal uses as well as use by outside groups.
- It is important to have an on-going, up to date, inventory of all tangible assets in the center.
- Consider the development of an energy management plan (or energy audit) for the center that attempts to control energy costs and promotes energy conservation. There are often grants that are available for this type of study.
- It is critical that the Department develop a comprehensive maintenance plan that deals not only with day to day care, but also with facility and equipment maintenance tasks and frequency. This plan should serve as the guide for long term upkeep and maintenance of the center. In addition, the plan should focus on specific measures that are needed in the area of preventative maintenance.
- A comprehensive operations plan needs to be developed for the center and this should include a safety and security plan as well as an emergency action plan.

Seniors Center Area

The following strategy outlines steps for the Department to take in regard to the Seniors Center addition.

- With the new senior space in the center, it should be expected that all users will pay (senior rate for seniors) for the use of this area based on the established rates for the Community Center at the time.
- It is important that a formal MOU is in place with Boomers and Beyond and Young at Heart (as well as any other user group) before the addition is completed. This document should identify the roles and expectations for the City as well as these organizations in the programming and scheduling and use of this space.
- While the priority of the new senior space should be seniors, it is important that this space also be utilized for other areas of programming as well as events and rentals to maximize the overall return on investment.

Property Acquisition

The City currently does not have a park dedication requirement or park in-lieu of dedication fee for development. The City should consider and plan for the acquisition for additional park land using the Other Recreation Fund. The following sections outline the approach for key property acquisitions.

Southwest Gunnison

Map 3 in Figure 6-4 shows the area of town that is currently underserved: southwest Gunnison. For social equity and equal access and levels of service, the acquisition of property in the southwest Gunnison area is seen as a priority. The opportunity exists to locate the park near the west entryway in to the community to augment the efforts to “green up” the area and create an entry similar to the feel (in the sense of vegetation, open land, and parks) of the east entry.

The City is in negotiations to purchase the Diamond K property on West Tomichi Avenue. Title on the site does need to be cleared before the acquisition is complete and any recreation facilities can be developed. The 15.9 acre parcel has area for the development of active parkland for residents in the area plus other future amenities. The parcel also has over 300 feet of river frontage and access, both highly valued by community.

Meadows Park & Community Center Site Expansions

There may be an opportunity to purchase a lot adjacent to the Meadows Park. The City should consider the purchase within the first 5 years of the plan to have a site for additional amenities to the recreation system. This additional land for the park could be used for a number of amenities including a dog park in close proximity to multi-family housing, pickleball courts, and an expansion of the soccer fields.

Similar to the opportunity adjacent to Meadows Park, an opportunity may exist to acquire additional property adjacent to the Community Center site. Amenities that might be accommodated on this property include pickleball courts, community gardens, outdoor volleyball courts, and/or multi-purpose field.

The City should track the status of the properties to determine the feasibility of the acquisition. The first property to consider is the land adjacent to Meadows Park. This strategy will allow the City to expand system facilities and amenities in the next 6 to 10 years. The land near the Community Center is recommended to occur between 6 and 10 years from the date of this plan.

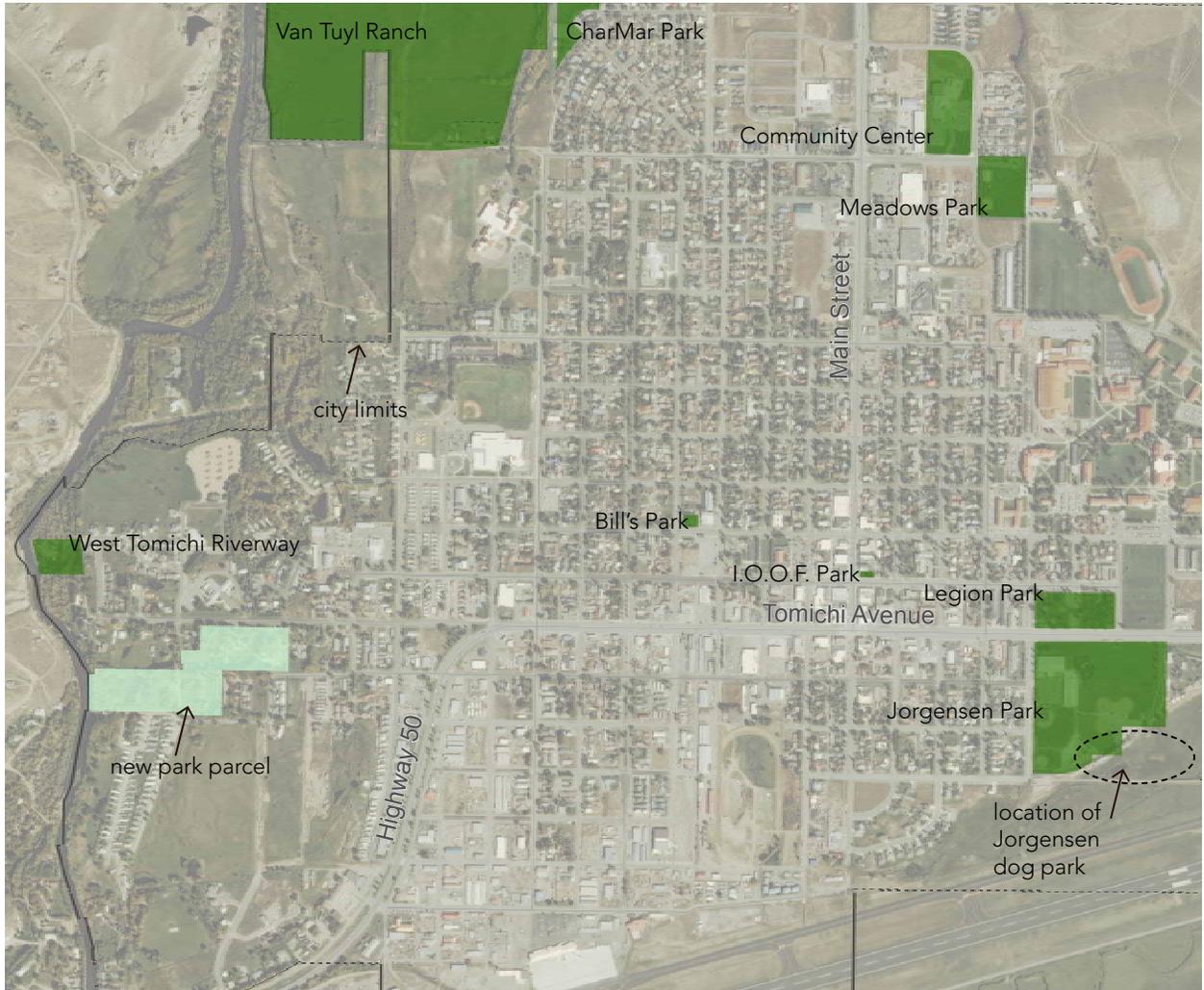


Figure 6-4: The City is in negotiations to purchase a 15.9 acre parcel in the southwest quadrant of the city that will be used for park and recreation activities; other parcels that may be considered for acquisition are near the Community Center and Meadows Park.



Figure 6-5: The West Gunnison Plan recommends parks and green spaces in the area.



Figure 6-6: The Gunnison Rising Plan includes trail easements and park land dedications.

Approach for Gunnison Rising

Through the Gunnison Rising Annexation, the City secured the dedication of 17.4 acres for public park land. The locations, general size, and configurations of the dedications are included in the Planned Unit Development plans approved by the City. However, construction of the parks will be paid by the City. The timing of development is unclear at this time so the park development is not considered for at least 6 to 15 years.

New Parks

The map (Map 3) in Figure 6-4 also illustrates recommendations for the development of new parks and park expansions in the next 10 years based upon projected growth locations and population densities as specified by the Community Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan.

Southwest Gunnison

The park in southwest Gunnison is the short term target (within the next 5 years). The City is in negotiations to purchase a 15-acre parcel in the southwest quadrant of the city. The City should reserve approximately 2-4 acres for a new neighborhood park in southwest Gunnison that ideally can be connected to the proposed trail system (to the Gunnison River and / or the West Gunnison segment). The opportunity also may exist to place the park near Highway 50 so that it can become a piece of the planned green entry into town from the west. The City should plan for the development of a playground, a picnic area, and shade areas shortly after purchase of the property.

According to the West Gunnison Plan, a few other parks are proposed for the west Gunnison area. When development interest occurs, the City should work with developers to ensure park land and possibly the addition of park amenities.

Gunnison Rising

In the long term when development occurs in the Gunnison Rising Annexation area, the City will need to plan for the construction of new parks. It is unlikely that park construction is necessary within the next 10 years. If development does occur sooner than that, the City should consider a new park in Gunnison Rising as a potential capital improvements item within 5 years of the new construction. Regardless, a developed park in southwest Gunnison is a higher priority.

Jorgensen Dog Park

The City has the development of a dog park on a city-owned site south of Jorgensen Park Dog Park earmarked for 2015 – 16. However, initial funding covers basic fencing. Over time, the City should consider adding additional amenities to the site including water access, shade/shelter areas, benches, and additional trash receptacles. Below (Figure 6-8) is a concept for the park. Prior to park development, the City will have public input meetings on what the actual design of the park will be.

Figure 6-7: (right) Location for a new dog park south of Jorgensen Park



Figure 6-8: (below) Potential design for the new dog park



LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| ----- | property boundary | ----- | dog park fence | | fenced vegetation corral |
| — | countour lines | | shade shelter | | dog and human fountain |
| | vestibule dog park entry | | bridge or culvert | | trash and dog waste bag receptacles |
| | slope (8'-10' elevation change) | | dog play features | | |

New Facilities

Pickleball Courts

One new facility that is planned is a set of four to five pickleball courts that may be used for tournament play in the region. Potential locations of the pickleball courts include CharMar Park or the expanded Community Center site if and when it occurs. If the CharMar site prevails then the School District can use the pickleball courts for tennis lessons and practice.

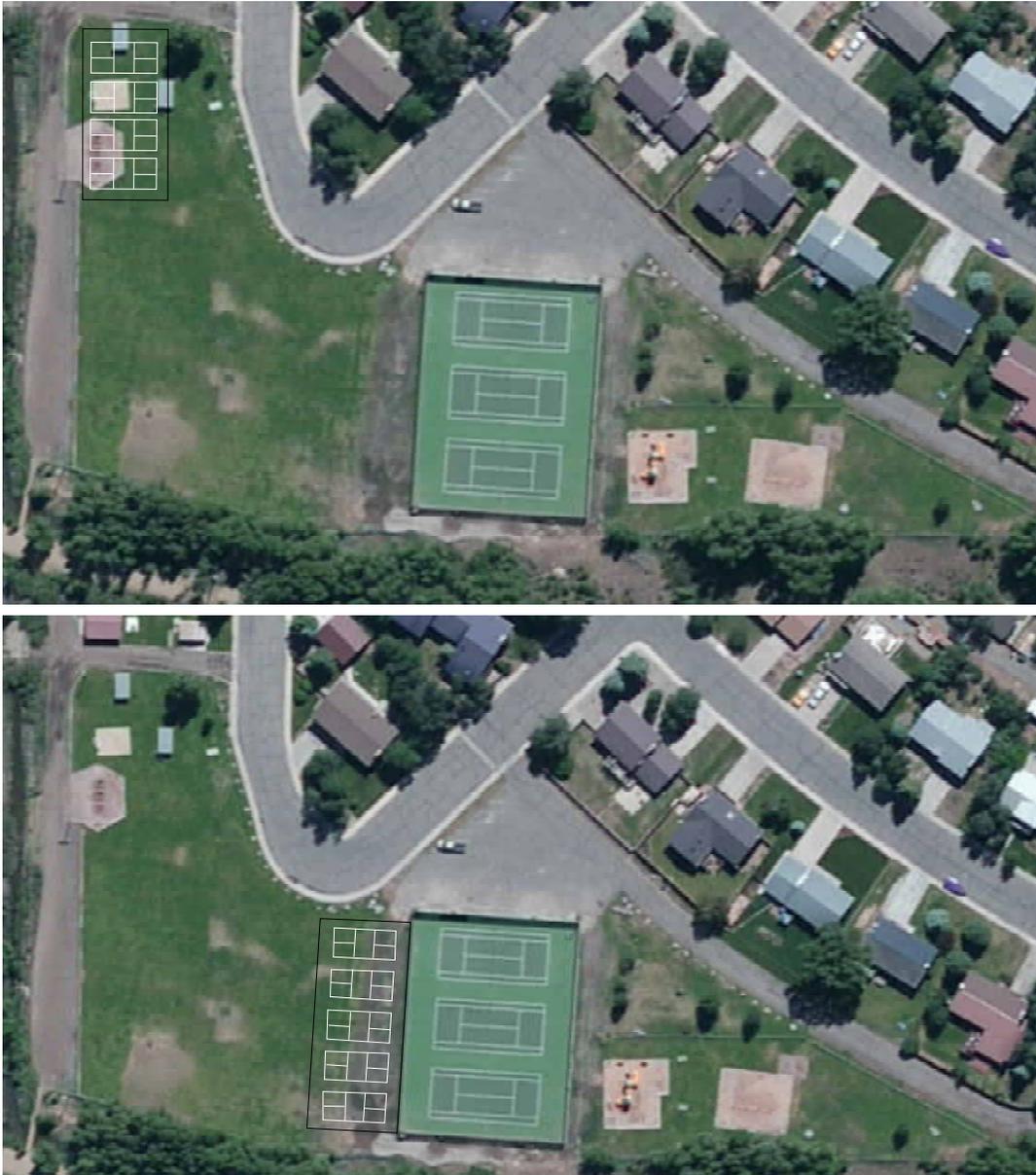


Figure 6-9: Potential locations for pickleball courts at CharMar Park

Priority Park & Facility Expansions and Improvements

A number of specific improvements have been recommended for a number of existing parks within the system. These will occur over time although improvements to restrooms at Legion Park and Taylor Mountain Park as well as many of the improvements to Jorgensen Park will occur within the next 1 to 3 years.

Legion Park

The 2015 Capital Improvements Plan has funds earmarked for the replacement of the restrooms at Legion Park. The improvement of these facilities will allow Legion Park to continue as a major event space for the community.

Taylor Mountain Park

The 2015 Capital Improvements Plan also has funds earmarked for the replacement of the restrooms at Taylor Mountain Park. The well-used area should have functioning restrooms to reduce impacts to the open land/natural area.

Jorgensen Park

Projects planned for Jorgensen Park per the 2015 Capital Improvements Plan include new field netting, fencing, lighting for the ball fields, picnic shelters, and restrooms. The additions allow for an improved sports complex.



Figure 6-10: Recommendations for Cranor Ski Hill include a lift fund and expansion of uses: tubing area, jib park, and/or ropes courses may be created.

Cranor Ski Hill

The ski hill is a beloved community asset, and its continued operation is desired by many. The current lift will need to be replaced to support park use beyond 10 to 15 years. Another improvement would be an upgrade to the water service / water storage so that snowmaking could be added. Expanding the site's year-round use to include other activities – such as zip-lines, ropes course, bike trails, and tubing - can increase the recreation value of this site. In the short term (within 5 years), a non-lift-access tubing facility may be added to the site. Over the following 5 to 10 years, additional amenities of zip-lines, ropes course, and additional mountain bike trails can be planned. A strategy for a lift fund is planned between 2020 and 2030. If the existing lift meets the end of its lifetime prior to 2030 (15 years from the date of this plan), the City should consider moving up the purchase.

School District / City Partnerships

The High School has some land on which a bike park / pump track could be located. An opportunity exists where the City and School District could partner on the facility. Discussions have begun between the School District and the City on how to make the bike area a reality.

The School District also has plans for a multi-purpose field to be developed at the Middle School. This presents another potential partnership between the City and the School District where community use of the field may be allowed when the School District is not using the field. For the partnership, the City may be able to assist with field maintenance.

A third opportunity for partnership between the City and the School District is the construction of a restroom. The Middle School serves as the trail head for Van Tuyl Ranch where parking exists in the immediate area. The School District could use the facility during the school year - particularly for sport practice and the City could help maintain it for Van Tuyl Ranch users.

American Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements

The City should develop an ADA Transition Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department that identifies necessary improvements in parks, open lands, recreation facilities and trails. As a baseline, the current Park and Recreation inventory notes needs for ADA improvements. This action should occur within the next 1 to 5 years. ADA compliance can be an important factor in receiving future grant funding and achieving compliance is often a good candidate for funding as well.

General Enhancement of Parks Where Needed

Currently, the community considers the amenities provided as high quality. However, over time these amenities will need to be upgraded which can be expensive. Using park inspections and information compiled for this planning process, the City should improve and enhance parks where needed. Funding sources for upgrades and replacements should be included in the Capital and Operations plans that can also be used to ensure visible park signage, upgrade restrooms at select sites, add sports field and court lighting, and address other needed improvements. The City should continue monitoring park conditions, replacing old, worn or damaged facilities or equipment, upgrading old parks periodically, and updating facilities and landscaping as per new recreation trends and needs. Appendix H has a punch list of deficiencies noted in Appendix B: Park, Facility, Open Space System Inventory.

Future – Second Tier - Projects

A number of projects were considered for the Gunnison Parks and Recreation Plan. The top priorities based on the survey and the prioritization criteria have been described. As time goes by and priority projects are completed or preferences change, the other potential projects can advance. Additionally, if specific opportunities – such as additional funding or donations - arise over time, the potential projects provide a go-to list.

Van Tuyl Ranch

A number of items should be considered for Van Tuyl Ranch. These include community gardens, a shelter/event space, and vaulted toilets along the trail. Another amenity that may be considered in the future is a small off-leash dog area (or park). This plan recommends short term projects to include the trail head, as a priority over the other items at this time. The other items become second tier items that can advance as other priorities are addressed, an opportunity arises that facilitates the development of the amenity, or additional funding is secured.

CharMar Park

The refurbishment and expansion of the basketball court to a ¾'s size court may be needed in the near future if the court is not replaced with pickleball courts.

Jorgensen Park

An additional recommendation is the construction of a second refrigerated sheet of ice. This project would resurface the current un-refrigerated ice rink and a covered (or roofed) connection to the current refrigerated ice rink. Possible amenities included in the connection area may be a concession stand, equipment area, and/or lockers (all which may benefit the City financially). The second sheet of refrigerated ice would allow for expanded hockey tournaments and other ice sports that may bring people from outside Gunnison to the town. Other options would be to install a dehumidification system so that the rink may be used the year-round or add dehumidification system and radiant barrier to allow for the extension of the season into September and May. Funding for the second sheet of refrigerated ice is earmarked for the funding time period from 2021 – 2025 (under other improvements). Funds allocated to the rink may be leveraged with the other recreation facility funds and / or grants to see the improvements to the rinks come into fruition.

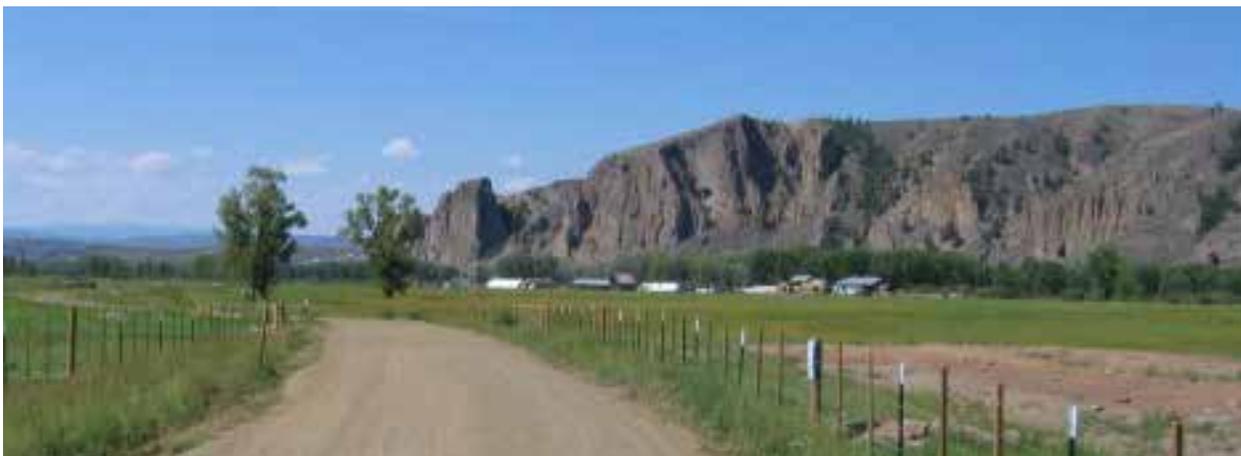


Figure 6-11: Improvements to Van Tuyl Ranch - such as community gardens and an events space - may happen in a shorter time frame if funding or other opportunities become available.

Future – Third Tier - Projects

Additional projects that may be considered in the future as opportunities arise include:

Land Acquisition

- River Access along the Gunnison River – may need acquisition or easement permitting with BOR

Park/Facility Improvements

- Skate park lighting
- Signage for the marble courts at Jorgensen Park announcing the unique amenity
- Van Tuyl Ranch restrooms, event space, community gardens
- Cranor Ski Hill warming hut
- Outdoor Volleyball Court
- Multi-purpose field
- BMX track upgrades
- Pump track
- CharMar Park pavilion
- Additional trails at Hartman Rocks (The BLM is planning camping amenities in the near future.)



Figure 6-12: Additional trails at Hartman Rocks may be potential future projects.

Trails Approach

The 2013 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (NMTP) notes desired off-street trail system improvements. Future City trail improvements should be programmed with Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant funding and other related opportunities. Large GOCO grants usually focus on thematic criteria, such as providing connectivity to open spaces, and flexibility in capital planning is necessary in order to take advantage of grants and other opportunities as they arise. Additionally, capital construction projects are subject to funding allocations approved by City Council as part of annual city budget adoption – timing for new trail construction is subject to these future decisions. The following is a summary of priority trail improvements to be constructed in the next 10 years.

SHORTTERM IMPROVEMENTS (1-5 Years)

Ridges to Rivers GOCO Grant (June 2015)

The Rivers to Ridges grant award focuses on three new trails segments to be constructed as summarized below:

- **Tenderfoot-Signal Peak Trail.** This new segment ($\pm 2700'$) will provide non-motorized connectivity between the Tomichi Creek Wildlife area, south of Highway 50 and the eastern fringe of the Western State Colorado University Campus, located north of the highway. This segment will include improvements of a highway underpass. Construction will occur in 2015 and 2016.
- **Gunnison-Tomichi Valley Ditch Trail.** This proposed 7,181' trail intersects with the northern termination point of the planned Tenderfoot-Signal Peak trail. It will follow the irrigation ditch from the eastern edge of the university campus and terminate at Tomichi Heights. The trail will include a new 24" wide single track spur (2884') connecting to the City's Contour Trail easement. This single track connection will complete a 4.2+ mile loop system on the eastern edge of the city. Construction will occur in 2015 and 2016.
- **Gunnison River Access Trails.** A new trail segment located on the VanTuyl Ranch will provide connectivity to the Gunnison River State Wildlife Area, owned and managed by the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW). A $\pm 1,238'$ long (8' wide) trail on the southern fringe of the Ranch will be extended to the river's floodplain fringe. This new trail will cross two major irrigation ditches and four wetland complexes. A boardwalk system will be constructed to span the existing wetlands. Construction will occur in 2016 and 2017.

VanTuyl Ranch River Access Trail

This trail was proposed in the Ridges to Rivers GOCO grant. It was removed from the grant because of grant funding limitations. It is a 500 foot segment extending to the floodplain of the Gunnison River and includes a wildlife observation deck. Construction will occur in 2018.

Connectivity between Highway 50 the VanTuyl Ranch

Improved connectivity between the Gunnison River Whitewater Park and the VanTuyl Ranch is another priority project. The following trail extension improvements are contemplated.

- **5th Street Connectivity.** This segment will be provide connectivity through the Lazy K PUD property and will complete the linkage between the Highway 50 Frontage Road and Tomichi Avenue. Construction will occur in 2019. It is anticipated to be a detached gravel facility.
- **3rd Street Connector.** This segment is planned as a hard surface, detached trail to be located in the 3rd Street alignment and New. Construction will occur in 2019.
- **Other.** In April 2015 the City of Gunnison went under contract to purchase the Lay K Resort, but the purchase was not completed at the time of this Park and Recreation plan adoption. Acquisition of this property will provide opportunities that have not yet been contemplated. It is anticipated. Construction will occur in 2019 and 2020.

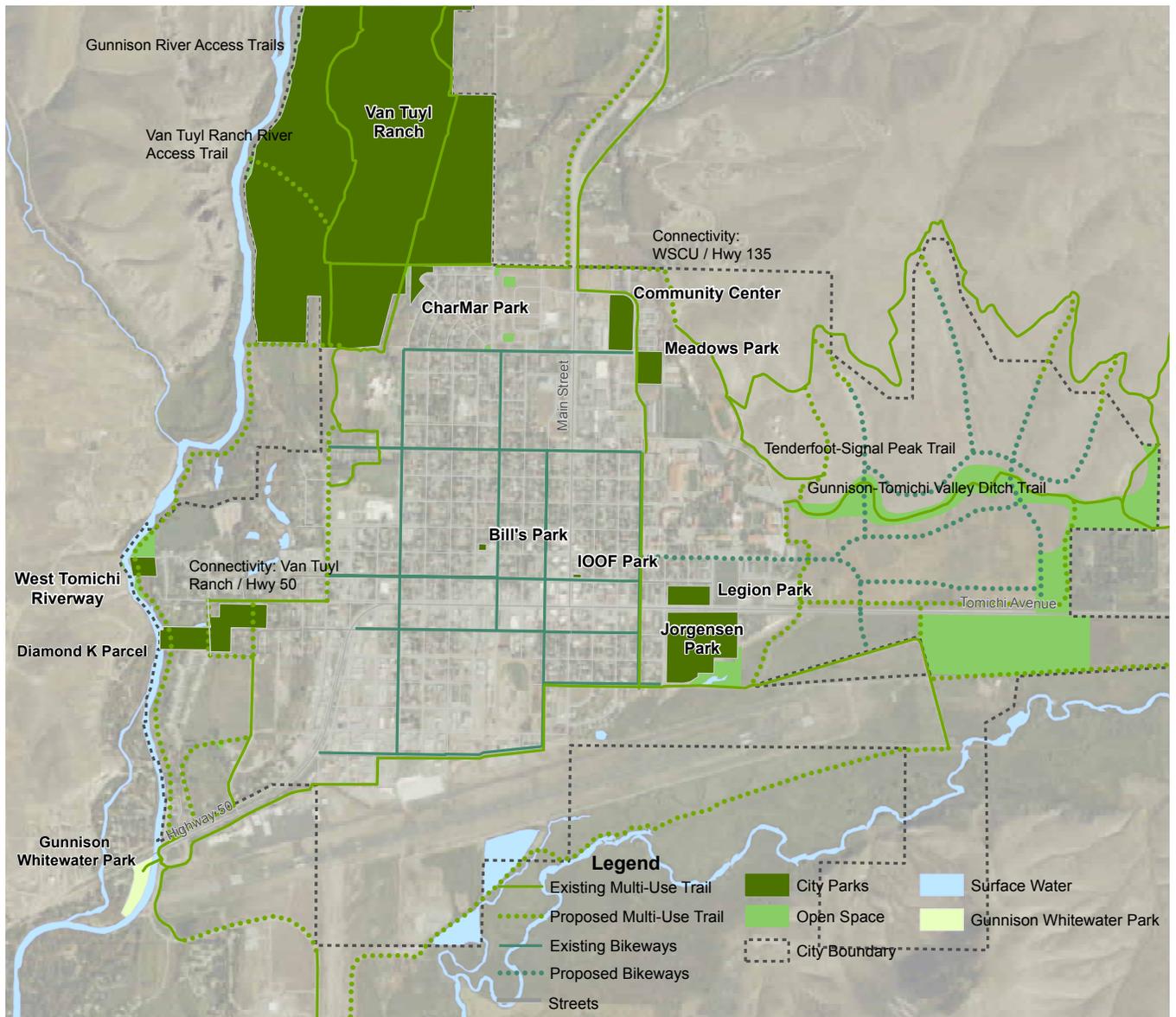


Figure 6-13: Trail Priority Map

Urban Highway Complete Streets Plan

The City is implementing a design project for developing pedestrian facilities along the urban highway system. Multiple use trails and sidewalks improvements will be identified. One priority project is the segment connecting Jorgenson Park to the Tenderfoot-Signal Peak Highway underpass. Construction will occur in 2017 or later.

Connectivity between WSCU and Highway 135

A multiple purpose trail is contemplated from the Mountaineer Bowl and Highway 135 is contemplated under this project. Easement acquisitions are required for this project to be implemented. Construction will occur in 2020.

LONG TERM IMPROVEMENTS (6-10 Years, per the NMTP)

Connectivity between VanTuyl Ranch and Riverwalk Subdivision

This trail segment would connect the Highway 135 Bridge to the northeast corner of the VanTuyl Ranch. Implementation requires acquisition of an easement and construction of a boardwalk facility to cross wetlands.

Tomichi Creek Corridor Trail -Wilson Ranch

This trail would connect the Tomichi Creek Wildlife area to Gold Basin Road. It would traverse property under the control of the Gunnison Crested Butte Regional Airport and approval from the Federal Aviation Administration is needed. Additionally, this trail will cross several wetland complexes and is in Gunnison Sage-Grouse Occupied Habitat.

Gunnison Rising Highway Frontage

This would be a multiple use trail along the north side of Highway 50. It would traverse north near the Gunnison Cemetery and connect to the Gunnison Tomichi Ditch Trail.

VanTuyl Ranch to BLM Land

This will entail the construction of a bridge across the Gunnison River. The bridge and trail will extend from the northern river access segment to be constructed in the short term cycle.

West Gunnison Connectivity

The adopted West Gunnison Neighborhood Plan contemplates a street grid system connecting to the existing developed streets in the community. Trail and sidewalk facilities will be developed as infill development occurs in this neighborhood.

Discovery Center Trail

This proposed trail would connect from the Airport perimeter road (County Road 49) to the eastern properties in Gunnison Rising that are located on the south side of Highway 50.

Highway 135 Multi-Use Trail

This is proposed to be a hard surfaced multiple use trail providing connectivity from the Highway 135 Bridge (Gunnison River) and the VanTuyl Subdivision. Since this segment provides connectivity to unincorporated subdivisions on the northern fringe of Gunnison, funding coordination should be established with Gunnison County.

Planning for Future Large Ticket Items

Many of the identified needs will take a considerable amount of funds to enable the projects to be realized. Some of these items include the second refrigerated ice rink, the replacement of the Cranor Ski Hill lift, the completion of the trail system, and Phase III expansion of the Community Center.

The proposed Capital Improvements Schedule includes the earmarking of funds over time to reserve necessary funding for future projects. Grant funding and other sources can augment the reserve and advance the projects.

Major special use facilities should only be considered after detailed operations and market studies have been completed. The decision to move forward should be tied to identified ongoing operational support to avoid drawing resources away from other park, recreation and trail operations. Operational support can come in different forms: a commitment to a level of ongoing operational funding by the City Council, a revenue target from user fees, a concessionaire agreement, or a mix of multiple sources. A public-private partnership is an option for the City to explore to provide new facilities or services but the partnership should be with a stable, strongly-supported outside organization.

Long Term Programming and Service Recommendations

The following list presents several specific recommendations for programming. The provision of specific types of recreation programs and special events will be determined, in part, by the capital projects targeted for implementation.

- The Parks and Recreation Department should conduct a lifecycle analysis for major activities where program registrations by interest area are tracked and reviewed on a seasonal basis. Programs should be slotted into the following categories:
 - o New – programs in the start-up phase that are just starting to build in popularity.
 - o Mature – programs that have consistent high levels of registrations and are still growing in popularity.
 - o Old – programs that are seeing a decline in popularity.

Ideally programming should be evenly split between the three categories to ensure a well- rounded and robust set of program offerings.

- Once each program or service is completed a program report should be completed that itemizes the exact cost and revenues that were generated by the program and the number of individuals served. This will determine if the program or service met its financial goals and also its service goals.
- Each program should also have a calculation of the cost per participant to determine the value that is received for the cost. By subtracting the revenue generated by the program from the cost, an overall cost for providing the program can be determined (this could be a positive number if revenues were higher than the cost). This number (amount) is then divided by the number of people that signed up for the class or program to determine the overall net cost to the city to provide the service. For programs that have a high cost per participant on a consistent basis, the city may want to decide if the program or service is worth continuing.
- The Department should also track program trends on a regional and national basis to ensure that program offerings are current and reflect the opportunities that are available.

- There is a national movement to integrate social services and education offerings with more traditional recreation programs.
- The Department needs to have a basic marketing plan developed that guides promotional efforts. The first priority must be the establishment of a concise and pointed annual marketing plan as well as a more visionary five year plan. The yearly plan should be a simple document that is built on an overall promotional philosophy and contains bullet points for specific goals. This straight forward document should identify 3 to 4 areas of program/facility focus for the year, the specific marketing tasks that will be completed, a timeline for implementation, a cost estimate, the responsible staff, and a way to measure success.
- Establish the Parks and Recreation Department as a clearinghouse for community wide recreation programs and services. Integrate information regarding other providers with City marketing efforts. Further marketing of events should be driven by the annual marketing and promotion plan, which will be focused on helping events succeed using the resources the City has available. Some key strategies are:
 - o List all events occurring on/in Gunnison venues and those that are designed to achieve the events objectives on the City website.
 - o Utilize and expand online and social media promotion to increase local attendance at events (email blasts, Facebook, Twitter, photosharing).
 - o Increase the appeal of local ads to encourage local residents to attend events, especially new events.
 - o Utilize more dollars in “Out of Market” media to encourage more tourism.
 - o Evaluate media buys and align them with best practices for successful events
 - o Promote Gunnison as a tourist destination, noting other recreation and event opportunities (either in the City or nearby) to attract visitors and to encourage visitors to use/reserve other City recreation facilities (e.g., pool, picnic shelters, ice rink, Hartman Rocks).
- Develop a transportation plan to improve access to individuals and families to Parks and Recreation Department facilities or programs. This plan should attempt to utilize other resources (school district, etc.) currently available in the Gunnison Valley and determine whether a shuttle service should be implemented.
- Review program offering times, days and schedules on a yearly basis in an attempt to improve the availability of programs and services to the public and targeted age groups (youth, teen and seniors).
- With the anticipated expansion of the Community Center to include weight/cardio and group fitness space, plan to develop a complete offering of fitness and wellness programs. Some of these programs could be offered by other organizations in the community on a contract basis to the center. In addition, the Department should target fitness areas that are not in direct competition to private businesses (e.g. cross fit).
- With the new senior program space addition to the Community Center, increase the level of programming available to seniors with a special emphasis on the younger senior market. Establish a formal agreement with Boomer’s Senior Citizen Organization for use and programming. The responsibility for coordinating and scheduling senior programs and services should reside with the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Other areas of program focus for the Department should be the teen/tween and family market. This will require specific programming to be developed that is designed to support these market segments.

- The Gunnison Parks and Recreation Department should consider developing programming in the following interest areas:
 - o Outdoor recreation with an emphasis on environmental education.
 - o General interest activities with some integration of cultural arts programming
 - o Lifelong activities or sports
 - o Non-sports programming
- Programming should be developed to serve other population groups identified as high priority by City Council and residents, including Latino/Hispanic residents, low income families, at-risk families, and youth. The growing number of senior participants will continue to be served by Boomers and Beyond and Young at Heart.

Operations and Maintenance of New Parks and Facilities

With the addition of new park land, new facilities and expanded facilities, operations and maintenance of these amenities will need to be considered.

Additional staffing is recommended to properly service the Community Center Phase III expansion. In order to support the planned Phase III expansion of the Community Center and its emphasis on fitness, it is recommended that the City add the following staffing positions to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Full-time

- Recreation Coordinator – Fitness
- Community Center - Maintenance

Part-time

- Weight/Cardio Attendant – approximately 55 hours a week.
- Child Watch Attendant – approximately 66 hours a week
- Front Desk Attendant – approximately 30 hours a week
- Fitness Program Instructors – (could be contracted)

The addition of this level of staffing will assure the expanded center is properly managed and its revenue potential is maximized.

The City may justify a full time fitness instructor position because the potential exists to bring in an existing local instructor. This would bring in clients to the Community Center as well as relieve costs of equipment maintenance and business operations for the instructor. The details for the staffing will occur with the process for determining the components of the Phase III expansion.

With the addition of 15.9 acres in west Gunnison and the Jorgensen dog park to the City's parks and recreation system, an additional maintenance person is recommended. This position may be adequate to address any expansion of the Meadows Park site or Community Center site. An opportunity might exist to add one full-time employee to provide maintenance to all City facilities including the Community Center.

Part time employees will also be necessary if the ice rink and the amenities at Cranor Hill become year-round facilities.



Figure A-1: Hockey game at Gunnison's ice arena

Appendix A: Community Outreach

Stakeholder / Focus Group Interviews

November 5 and 6, 2014 | 47 participants

Purpose

As a step in the preparation of the City of Gunnison Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City interviewed key stakeholders to discuss the opportunities and challenges the City may face in providing park and recreation facilities and expanding events and programs. The stakeholders also identified what is working within the existing system, ways to improve parks and recreation services in Gunnison, and what future public projects should be. The stakeholder responses are summarized collectively to assess priorities for future parks and services. The following questions were prompts for conversations.

1. What are the best parts of Gunnison or living in Gunnison?
 - Great place to raise children
 - Many recreation opportunities (programs) for children
 - Many recreation opportunities in region
 - Very active, vibrant community
 - Very collaborative community
 - Beautiful setting; surrounded by the great outdoors, pristine environment
 - Safe community
 - Quality of life, lifestyle
 - Clean, well-maintained community
 - Nice parks
 - Self-sufficient community
 - Energy conscious community

2. What do you value most about parks, recreation, trails and programs in Gunnison? What don't you like?
 - Great amount of offerings for a community the size of Gunnison
 - Offerings for all ages
 - Comparatively affordable program pricing
 - Proximity of offerings to town and in region
 - Chainsaw art
 - Ease of access
 - Professional staff
 - Trail system
 - Collaboration with school district and WSCU
 - Community (Recreation) Center and pool

3. What do you think are the most pressing community needs in the Gunnison area? (Note: These could be general community needs as well as those specifically related to parks and recreation.) How can parks and recreation help address those needs?
 - High school soccer team (Crested Butte has soccer, not Gunnison; Gunnison has football, not Crested Butte)
 - Many households that cannot afford programs; large proportion of families living in or near poverty line
 - Limited local food sources
 - Provisions for greenhouses, soft-sided structures for gardens
 - Safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing of Highways 135 and 50
 - Indoor facilities due to long, cold winters

- Safety of some recreation offerings such as climbing routes
- Community growth - link to parks and recreation, quality of life
- Promotion of an active lifestyle

4. What improvements in parks and recreation assets or services are needed? What improvements will have the greatest impact for local residents and/or visitors? What's missing in the system?

- Better recreation communication with Spanish speakers / Hispanic families
- More seniors' programming
- More leadership for seniors' program by City; unite seniors' groups
- More adult programming
- More opportunities for middle school youth
- Offering of outdoor and environmental education programs
- Assistance with equipment
- Coordination of various activities and programs around town and scheduling
- Expansion of gymnastic space; existing conditions limit time for each competitor
- Improvement of soccer field
- More leaders and coaches (particularly consistent one from year to year)
- Expansion of types of social recreation – not just physical sports – skill building, gaming, role playing, etc.
- Expansion of time of use of existing facilities
- Safety information for skate park
- Higher pool temperature
- Outdoor pool
- Indoor playground
- Hot tub
- Stream room
- Community gardens
- Classes for hunting and gathering
- Non-programmed, non-structured play
- Increase river access
- Dedicated pickleball courts (indoor and outdoor)
- Dog park
- Bicycle safety clinics
- Addition of un-programmed play areas
- More synergy with Crested Butte teams

5. What are the most critical priorities for the City to address in the coming years (across all topics and services) in regard to parks and recreation? What 2 projects would you choose to fund first?

- Completion of trail
- Indoor amenities
- Improvement of in-town connections
- Improvement of city-wide mobility
- Expansion of local food resource
- Expansion of Community (Recreation) Center with planned phases
- Dedicated sports fields with all the amenities – bleachers, concession area, dug outs
- Coordination of programs
- Coordination and conveyance of location and specifics of various offerings
- Move ski hill to W Mountain; add ski jump
- Expansion of fairgrounds
- Expanded skate park facility (covered pavilion, restroom BBQ pits, water fountain, shade trees, lights)

6. What are the biggest challenges that the plan needs to be aware of and/or needs to address?
- Difficulty in getting Hispanic youth to participate if they are responsible for sibling care; perhaps more programs for very young at same time for older youth
 - Increasing middle school participation
 - Decline in users at Cranor Ski Hill over the years
 - Difficulty in recovering costs at Cranor Ski Hill
 - Difficulty in recovering all recreation costs
 - Coordination of various programs and offerings around town
 - Too many offerings at the same time – particularly for youth – thins all programs
 - Overcoming perception that there is nothing to do in Gunnison
 - Competitive programs span large area (travel time and costs can hinder participation)
 - Achieving a higher skill level for individual sports (in order to compete regionally)
 - Private property issues with trail extension at Van Tuyl
 - Increasing cooperation among car drivers, pedestrians and bicyclers
 - Sage grouse, FAA, and private property issues in regard to trail system expansion
 - ADA compliance
 - Not exceeding tolerance for public support, funding
 - The high amount of inactive children
 - Creating a “wow” factor for sports
 - Obtaining grant funding
 - Promoting safety (helmets, proper gear)
 - Not to compromise good aspects of department for new ideas

7. Should the City continue dedicating a large portion of its funding sources on trail development now that the tax obligation has been met? On what areas should the City spend its surplus dollars?

- Transportation (bus) – for youth and seniors
- Improvements to Cranor Ski Hill – snow making, lights, night hours, ski storage, rails
- Improvements to perimeter of skate park; add lights, water fountain, shade, grills
- Lighted, artificial turf, multi-purpose field
- In-town connections among facilities
- Ice climbing tower (facility shared with college?)
- Expansion of rock climbing facilities
- Bolts and general safety for climbing facilities
- Trail spur across river from Van Tuyl Ranch
- Completion of trail loop – particularly in Van Tuyl Ranch area and south side
- Dog park
- Splash pad and/or outdoor pool
- Restrooms
- Designated pickleball courts (for tournaments)
- More scholarships
- B-cycle system
- Seniors activity director

8. What partners or stakeholders should be involved in working with the City to carry out plan recommendations?

- Immigration Amigos at O’Leary School
- Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project (Choice Path Program)
- Powerstop – private business helps with recycled equipment
- Western State Colorado University
- School district
- Craig Hospital (safety measures)
- BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service

- Gunnison Trails volunteer group
- Gunnison County Trails Commission
- Mountain Roots (community gardens organization)
- West Elk Hockey
- Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley
- Gunnison Valley Mentors
- Gunnison County

Other comments:

- Use expanded seniors' programming to attract more retirees to Gunnison.
- Bring in middle school youth for focus group meeting to determine needs and ways to get participation.
- Pursue option for potential site at the high school for a mountain bike trail course
- Create a community with a lifelong healthy habits

Community Meeting #1: Visioning

January 7, 2015 | 10 participants

Overall Purpose

The City of Gunnison is in the process of updating its Parks & Recreation Master Plan. This plan will identify strategies to improve parks and recreation services in Gunnison and identify future public projects. This includes identifying community programming priorities and discussing potential sustainable levels of investment in future recreation services.

Notes and Key Concepts

Key pad polling exercise

- Quality of life, setting, and recreation opportunities were top reasons people lived in Gunnison.
- Offerings for all ages, comparatively affordable program pricing, and the community center were highly valued in Gunnison's parks and recreation system.
- Top pressing needs included safe pedestrian and bike crossings, promotion of an active lifestyle, links among facilities, and indoor facilities.
- Top needed improvements to assets included expansion of trail connections, increased river access, hot tub/steam room, and expanded gymnastics space.
- Top needed improvements to services included more adult programming, more activities for middle school youth, more leaders/coaches, and offering of outdoor/environmental educational programs.

Station prioritization exercise (3 activities)

Assets and issue identification

- Assets: staff, year-round rec center, number of programs, parks, cooperation with college and school district, WSCU, kids' programs, pool, willingness to adapt and change with trends, community support, trail system, Hartman Rocks

- Issues: budget, maintenance, cost recovery, crossing highways, fitness competition with private businesses and college, trail connections, separate gymnastics room, lack of City Council support, program staffing, separate indoor play area, meeting demands of all age groups, marketing, facility maintenance, lack of dog park, need for more ice, need for expansion of non-traditional sports, need for trail head connections to public lands, lack of outdoor pickleball courts

Wants for the parks and recreation system

- Dog park (either at CharMar Park, south of Jorgensen), trails, trail link through Van Tuyl Ranch, sports complex, rec center expansion, pickleball courts (on rec center site or at Jorgensen), tennis facility, multi-use fields, expansion of non-traditional sports (life/adventure sports), green gateway on west end of town, formal trail head NE corner of college site, expanded ice arena, lights for skate park, bike course on HS property

Prioritization of wish list

- Group 1: Recreation Center expansion, greening of west entrance to town, maintenance of what we have now (parks, trails, facilities)
- Group 2: Second refrigerated ice rink, sports complex, trails, pedestrian bridges

Community Meeting #2: Prioritization of Identified Needs

February 26, 2015 | 16 participants

Overall Purpose

The City of Gunnison is in the process of updating its Parks & Recreation Master Plan. This plan will identify strategies to improve parks and recreation services in Gunnison and identify future public projects. This includes identifying community programming priorities and discussing potential sustainable levels of investment in future recreation services.

Notes

Additional needs:

- Programming and land/easement acquisition in Gunnison Rising
- Dog park at Van Tuyl
- Bowling alley
- Skate park improvements
- BMX improvements / reuse
- Cranor Hill adventure center; expansion of uses: tubing, zip lines, ropes course, outdoor education, biking, magic carpet, ice climbing; snow making
- Multi-field youth baseball (maybe relocate soccer field in Jorgensen and replace?)
- Hartman Rocks: more trails, more variety, parking lot maintenance, restroom, camping at base, pump track, improved development process
- More center programming and scheduling
- Out of town transportation
- Trail to Blue Mesa

Potential priorities:

- Be a good neighbor
- Avoid duplicity
- Use of stewards for maintenance and construction
- Diversity of offerings and improvements

Middle School Group

February 26, 2015 | 15 participants

The plan team met with 15 middle school students to hear what they thought the priorities should be for Gunnison.

The group first noted what they thought was good in the current system:

- Ice rink
- Basketball at Jorgensen Park
- Legion Park
- Open space / lands
- Van Tuyl Ranch
- Climbing wall at Community Center
- CharMar Park
- Pool at Community Center

Things that they would like to see include:

- Fitness/gym area
- New surfaces for basketball courts
- Foam pit
- Fun house
- Bigger climbing wall
- Game room
- Hotter and bigger pool
- More tennis courts
- Bowling alley
- Movie theater

Community Meeting #3: Draft Master Plan Review

May 20, 2015 | 11 participants

Overall Purpose

The purpose of the third community meeting was to allow participants to review the draft master plan and its key concepts.

Comments Received

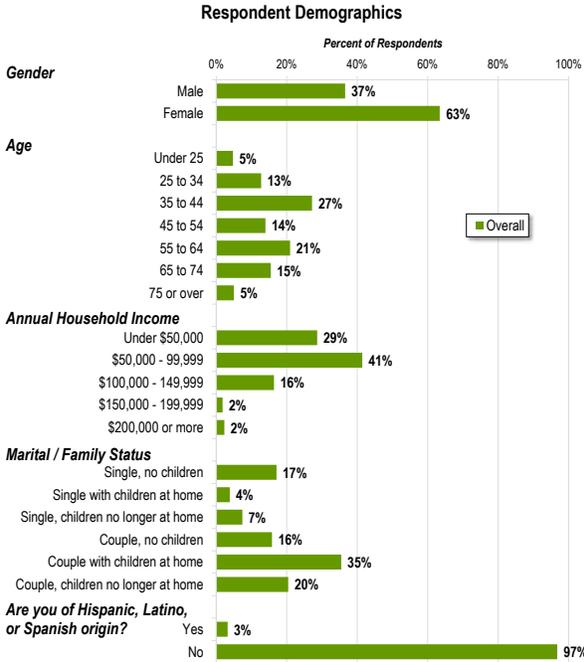
- It would be difficult to make a year-round ice rink facility profitable. The amount of costs associated with energy required, water needs, and other resources would likely deplete any profit gained over the year. This may impact the affordability of the ice time and / or the amount the City has to subsidize the facility.
- An option for the rinks is to expand the season into September and May. A radiant barrier and dehumidification system can be added to allow the expansion into the shoulder season.
- Concessions and locker rentals at the ice rink can benefit the City financially.
- Signage for the marble courts at Jorgensen Park would bring attention to the unique amenity.
- Check to see what amenities other facilities do not have and include them in Phase III of the Community Center.
- Include racquetball in Phase III of the Community Center.
- Add outdoor lights to the skate park.
- Consider the Dark Skies initiative when selecting and lighting all outdoor fields, facilities, and amenities. Do not allow outdoor lighting to impact the observatory.



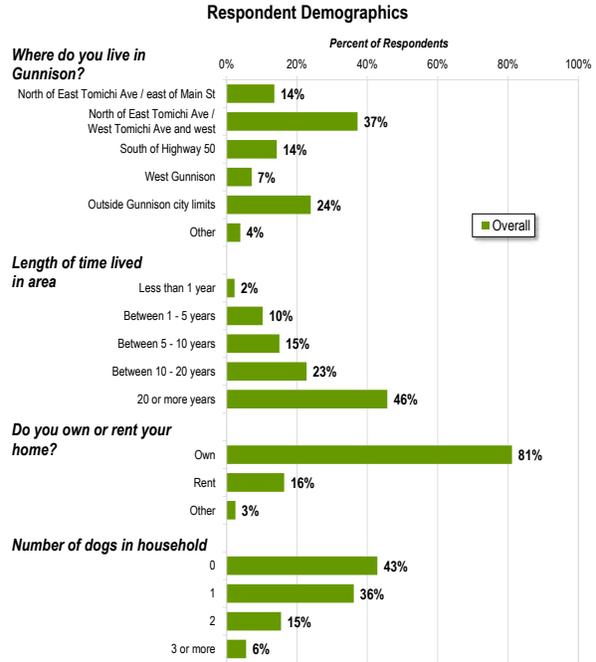
Figure A-2: Participants at Community Meeting #3

Community Survey Summary

The following are the graphs from the Community survey. A complete report on the survey results can be found under a separate cover at the Parks and Recreation Department.



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

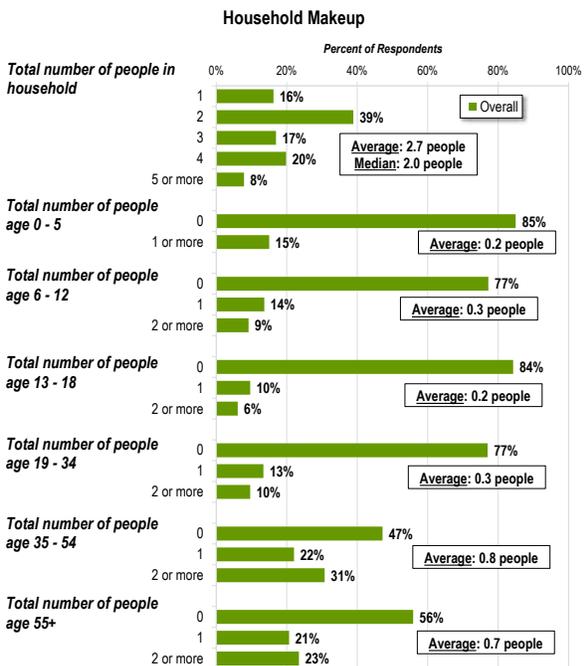


Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

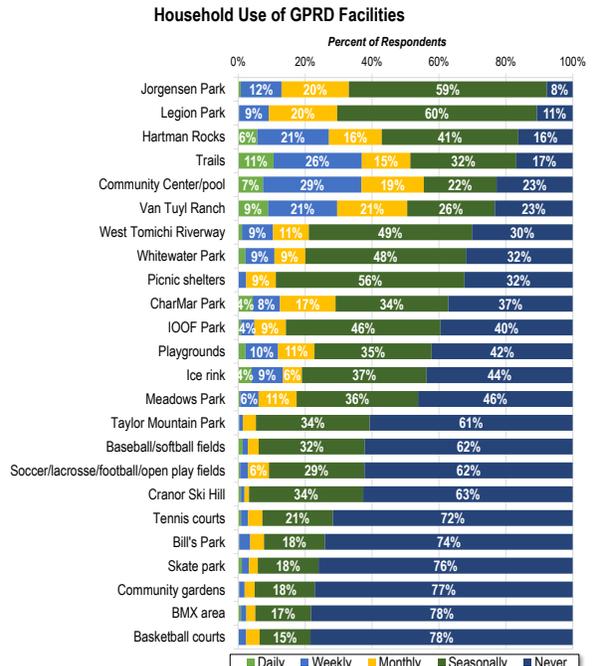
RRC Associates

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Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

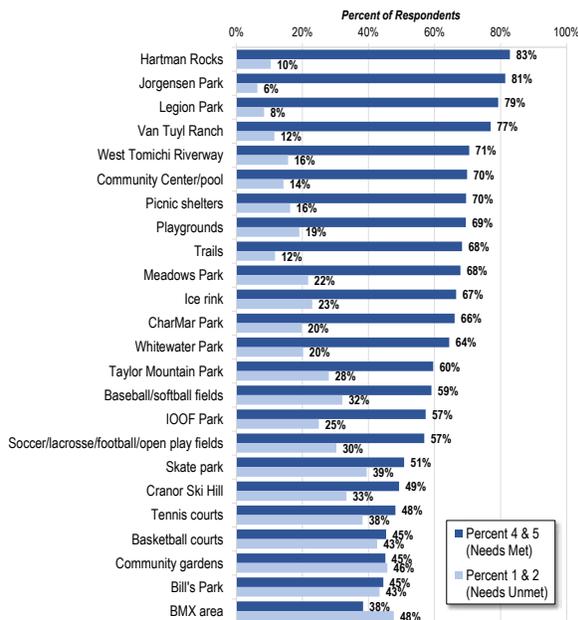
Figure A-3: Community Survey result graphs

5 RRC Associates

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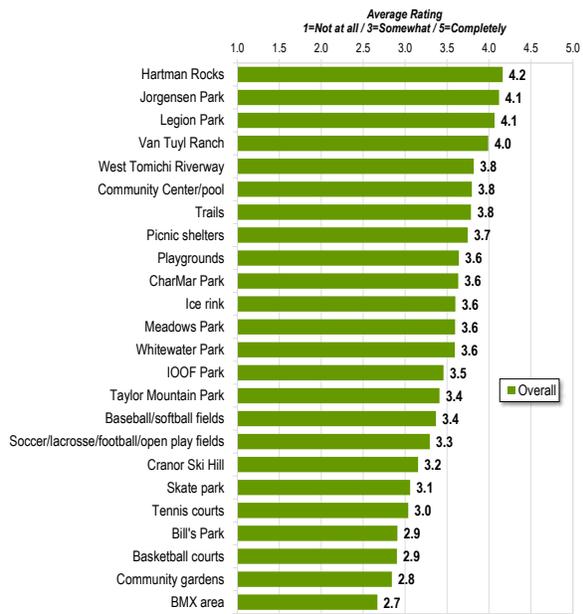
Community Survey results continued

Degree to Which GPRD Facilities Currently Meet Household Needs



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

Degree to Which GPRD Facilities Currently Meet Household Needs



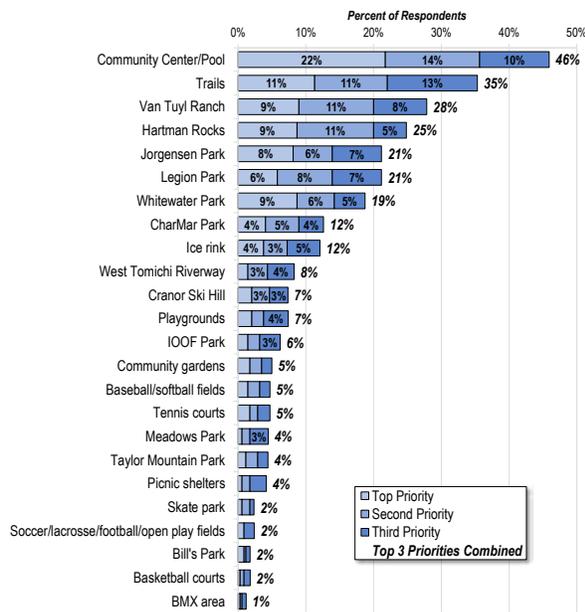
Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

RRC Associates

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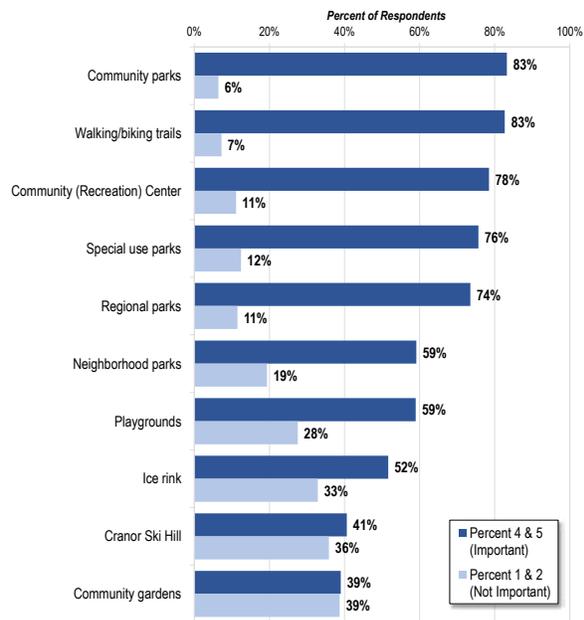
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Top 3 Most Important Priorities for Additions/Expansions/Improvements of Gunnison Facilities



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

Importance of GPRD Facilities to Household



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

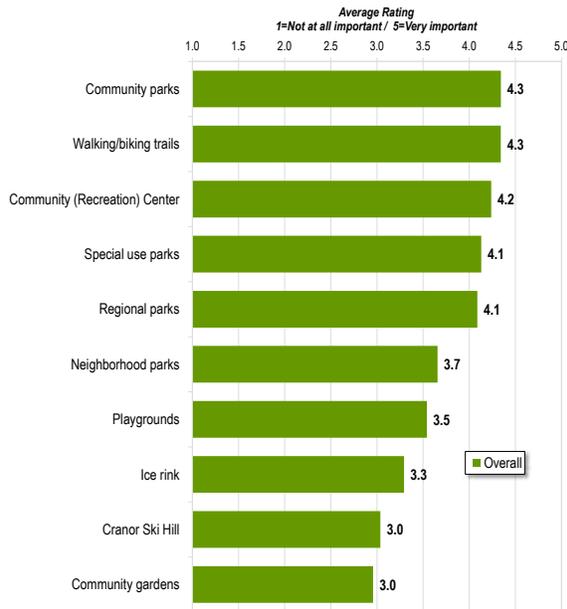
Figure A-3: Community Survey result graphs continued

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Community Survey results continued

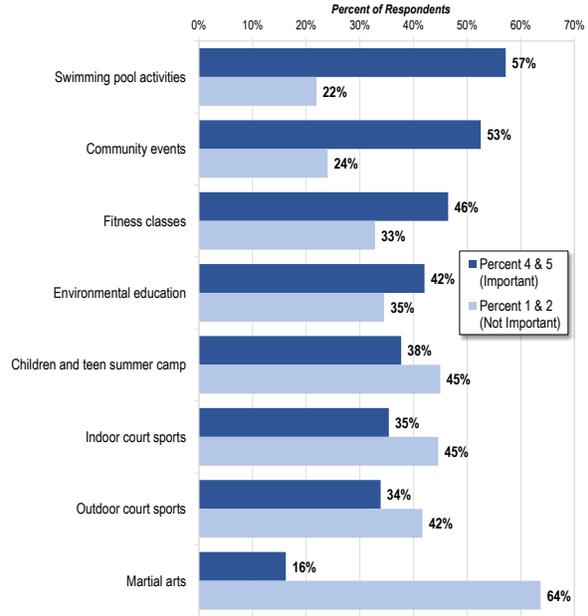
Importance of GPRD Facilities to Household



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

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Importance of GPRD Programs to Household

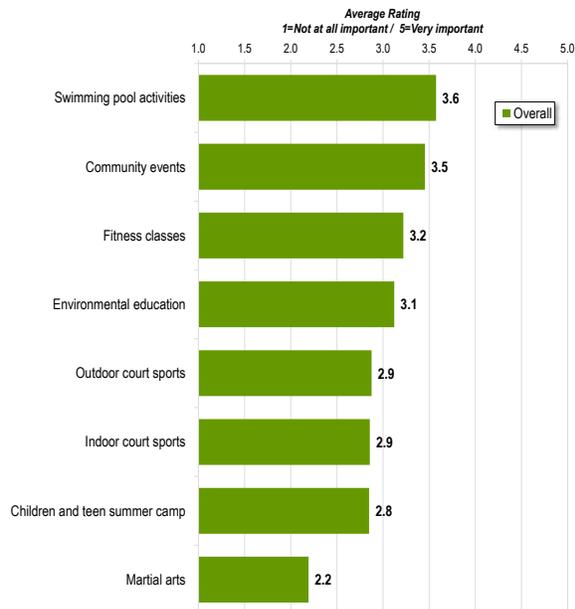


Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

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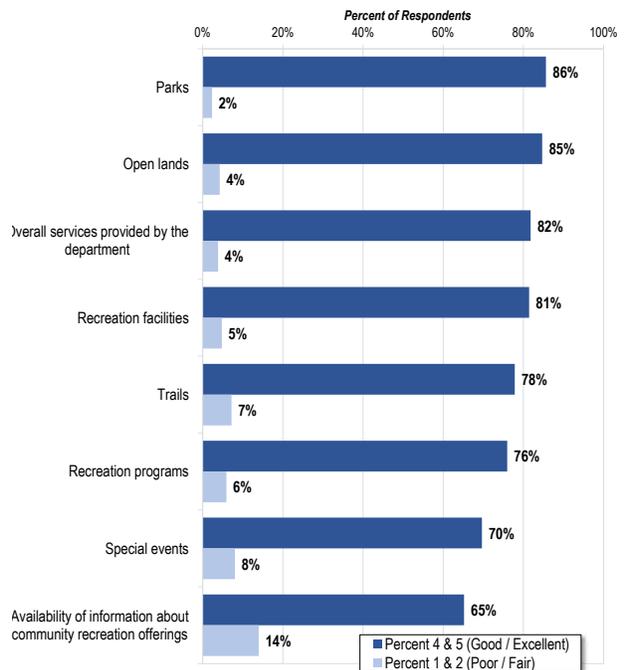
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Importance of GPRD Programs to Household



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

Quality of Amenities Provided by GPRD



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

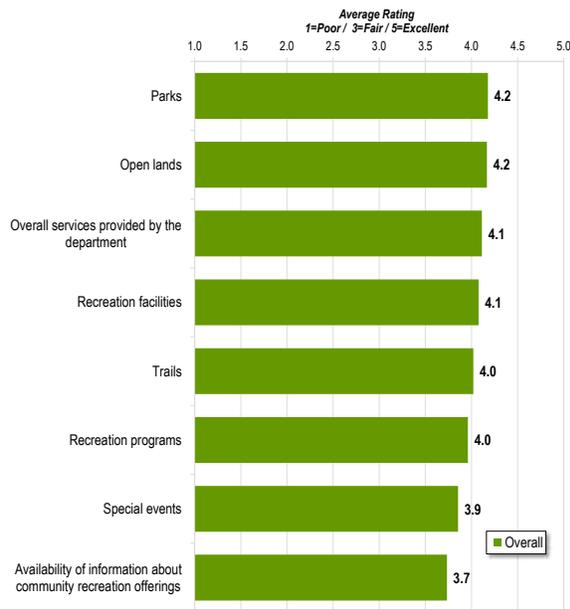
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C Associates

Figure A-3: Community Survey result graphs continued

Community Survey results continued

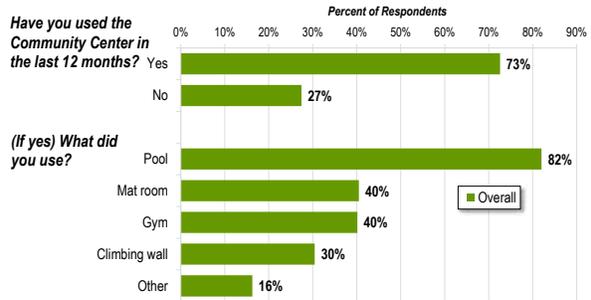
Quality of Amenities Provided by GPRD



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

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Recreation Center Use

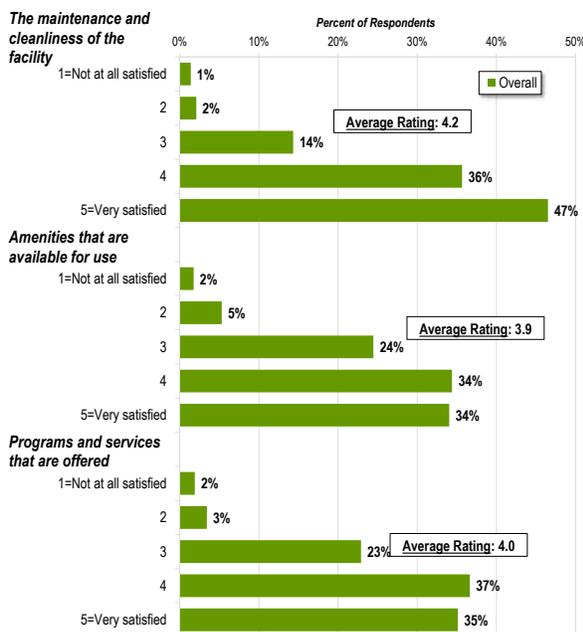


Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

19 RRC Associates

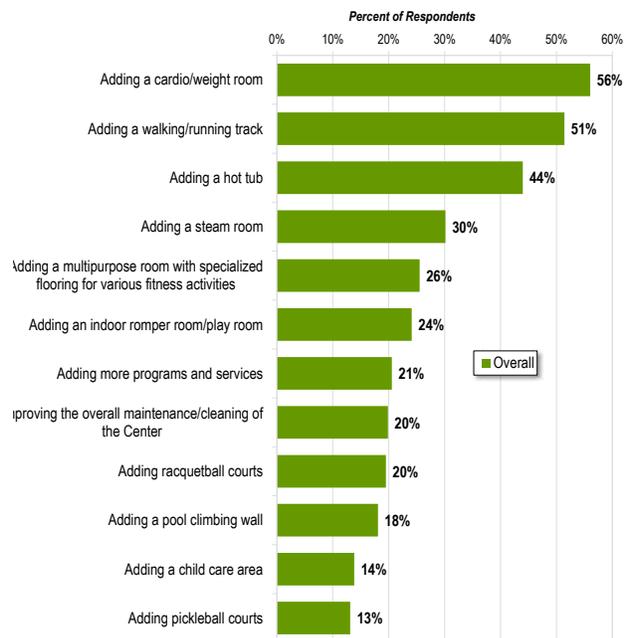
21

Satisfaction with Aspects of the Recreation Center



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

Top 5 Priorities Combined for Future Improvements at the Gunnison Recreation Center



Source: City of Gunnison Parks & Recreation Survey 2014.

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RRC Associates

Community Survey results continued

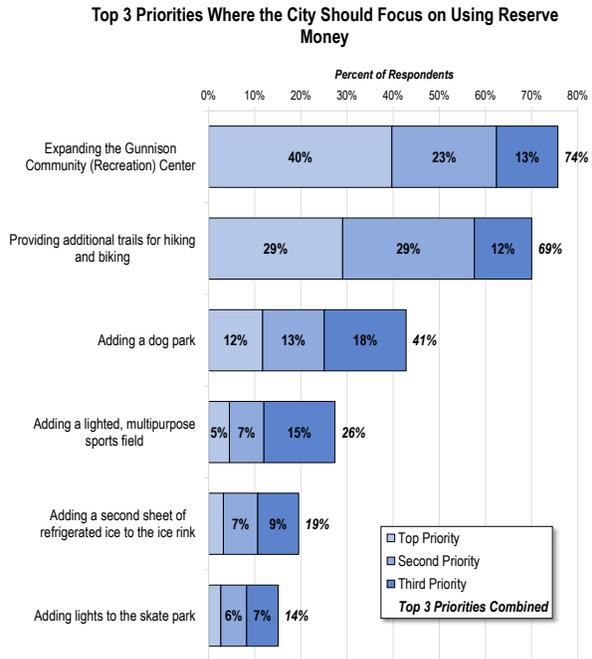
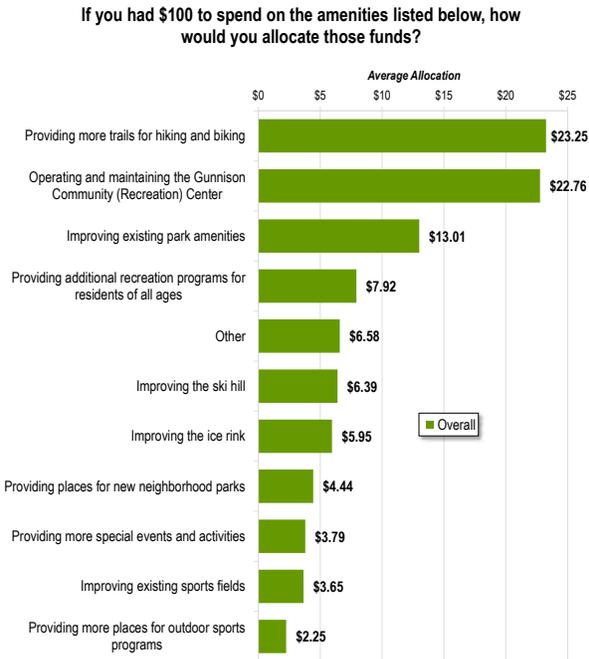


Figure A-3: Community Survey result graphs continued

Appendix B: Park, Facility, Open Space System Inventory

The following pages include the Park, Facility, Open Space System Inventory that provides a summary and comparison of the parks, open space, and properties that are owned and/or maintained by the City of Gunnison. Detailed inventories of the recreation, parks and amenities available at each City of Gunnison park follow the table. The summary contains the following information for each park:

- Park name and classification
- Location within the City
- Size (in acres)
- Ownership
- Overview of the park's character and appearance
- Notable existing facilities
- Strengths
- Deficiencies
- Planned improvements (if any)

General Observations

Many of the parks in the City of Gunnison shared common characteristics:

- Most of the parks in the system feature good quality restrooms with flush toilets and wash sinks.
- The majority of the parks utilized a standardized park identification sign.
- Annual flower beds are included in many of the parks, especially in conjunction with park identification signs.
- A number of the parks visited did not provide bike racks.
- Picnic shelters in most of the parks are timber construction, which is consistent with Gunnison's setting and character.
- All of the play bays used engineered wood fiber (EWF) as the resilient surfacing. Additional study would be required to determine if the EWF is placed and maintained at the proper depths. In a number of installations, this did not appear to be the case.
- Bench sculptures that are carved from large tree trunks are common features in many of the parks creating a distinctive character that is unique to Gunnison.
- The parks in the system were generally well maintained.
- Compliance with ADA guidelines is a common deficiency in the system. Completing an ADA audit and transition plan should be considered as a long-term goal.

REGIONAL PARKS

Taylor Mountain Park

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Regional Park

Location: CR 742 (10.5 miles northeast of town) **Size:** 160 acres

Developed Areas: Rustic park improvements

Overview: This 160 acre parcel is northeast of the Town of Almont and is in the scenic Taylor Canyon. It is a traditional mountain park with rustic camping, vault toilet, picnic shelter, an interpretive trail, and parking lots. The property was gifted to the City in the 1920s and was last renovated in the 1970s.

Notable Facilities: Rustic park facilities are sited at several locations along the river including two parking lots, two vault toilets, picnic facilities with tables and grills, a large group picnic shelter, and eight camping spaces (plus a host space).

Strengths:

- Dramatic canyon setting with 1.25 miles of stream frontage.
- The camp sites feature raised tent pads, fire pits, picnic tables, grills, vault toilet, and hand pump well.
- The day use picnic area features a picnic shelter which can accommodate large groups, a vault toilet, and hand pump well.
- The 0.4 mile loop trail includes interpretive signage.

Deficiencies:

- Camp hosts are difficult to find.
- Many of the park's amenities and site furnishings are aging and will need to be upgraded in the future, especially the vault toilets.
- While the facility generates some revenue, it does not cover maintenance costs.

Planned Improvements: The vault toilets are scheduled for replacement in 2015 with two-sided structures (men's and women's).



Figure B-1: Taylor Mountain Park picnic area

Van Tuyl Ranch

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Regional Park

Location: Northwest quadrant of the city **Size:** 460 acres

Overview: Van Tuyl Ranch is a large parcel with 1.5 miles of frontage on the Gunnison River. The property is currently functioning as open space. All of the land is currently leased for agricultural uses except for the 5K soft surface recreational trail. Although Van Tuyl Ranch is owned by the City, only the trail is accessible to residents. The remainder of the property is used for hay fields and livestock.

Notable Facilities:

- The river frontage and oxbow remnant meadows represent a valuable landscape setting for the City.
- The 5K recreational trail is the only facility open to the public.
- The river can be accessed at several location along the 5K trail.
- Primary public access is from Gunnison Middle School which is south of the ranch property.
- The western boundary of the Van Tuyl Ranch fronts on dramatic rock formations that contain the views to the west.

Strengths:

- The property is a valuable open space parcel / agricultural preservation area with 1.5 miles of frontage on the Gunnison River.
- Preserving the property protects a diminishing resource in the Gunnison area.
- The soft-surface recreational trail (fenced on both sides) provides controlled public access, allowing the agricultural uses to continue.
- Fishing access is provided at several locations along the river via the 5K trail.

Deficiencies: From a public use standpoint, leasing the majority of the property for agricultural uses limits its value to the community as a recreation resource.

Planned Improvements: None



Figure B-2: A trail going through Van Tuyl Ranch

Hartman Rocks Recreation Area

Ownership: City and County of Gunnison **Classification:** Regional Park
Location: Golden Basin Road (2.7 miles south of town) **Size:** 160 acres
Developed Areas: 5 acres

Overview: Hartman Rocks is a multi-use foothills recreation area with an extensive trail system for mountain bikes, motocross, equestrian users, joggers, and hikers as well as cross country skiing and snowmobiles in the winter. The trail system sees heavy use due to the extent of trails provided and the varied terrain. The 160-acre City/County-owned parcel serves as the “base area” for the 8,000 acre federally-owned and BLM-managed parcel that makes up the remainder of the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area. Parking and support facilities are located on the east side of the 160-acre base area. User groups regularly request that additional trails be constructed. A process for trail planning and management is needed.

Notable Facilities:

- A picnic facility with a timber construction group picnic shelter has six tables. Additional picnic tables are located on a concrete slab / mulch area surrounding the shelter.
- Vault toilet men’s and women’s restroom building with one fixture per side is located adjacent to the picnic area.
- A 350’ x 125’ gravel parking lot accommodates around 125 cars if parking bays are marked.
- Hand pump well water source also can be found on site.

Strengths:

- This unique recreation resource for the region offers a wide range of trail-based recreation activities.
- The dramatic setting includes rolling hillsides and exposed rock formations along the ring dike ridgeline.
- A small dirt jump area is provided north of the main access road.

Deficiencies:

- The wide range of trail users can create conflicts, especially on trails that allow both motorized and non-motorized users.
- Overuse and trail users cutting unauthorized trails can create management issues from erosion and rutting of trails.

Planned Improvements: None



Figure B-3: The wayfinding sign at Hartman Rocks

Jorgensen Park

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Regional Park

Location: Southeast quadrant of the city **Size:** 21 acres

Overview: Jorgensen Park is the City's flagship competitive sports facility with a ballfield complex (softball and baseball), multi-use sports field, and two ice facilities. The park also features a BMX track, a recently upgraded skateboard park, and a competitive marbles ring arena. The park provides a wide variety of recreation uses for the City from hosting special events (car show, fireworks festival, tournaments, etc.) to hockey / ice skating. The sports fields are leased by WSCU for some of its programs. The Parks Department Maintenance facility is also located in the park.

Notable Facilities:

- The indoor ice arena sees heavy use during the hockey season.
- The ice rink is an economic generator for the City on weekends.
- The multi-use turf, softball, and baseball fields are good quality and are well used.
- The parking lots are in good condition and near key use areas.
- Bleacher seating is located adjacent to the covered outdoor ice rink
- The central pond features a fishing dock and gazebo and is a popular destination for ice skating.

Strengths:

- The park makes maximum use of the available acreage with a three-field softball complex at its center, which is well designed and suitable for tournament play.
- The recently expanded skate park (2012) is well reviewed by the skating community and features a number of deep bowls.
- There are two baseball fields (a full-size field and a youth field) and a good quality multi-use grass sports field.
- "Pac Man Pond" is used for fishing, open skating in the winter months, and as irrigation water storage.
- There are three parking lots on-site (approximately 105, 68, and 16 spaces each) and an additional 75 angled parking spaces on South Teller Street.

Deficiencies:

- Even with the 190 on-site parking spaces and 75 on-street spaces, there is not enough parking for peak use periods.
- The BMX track has seen a decrease in use and would benefit from refurbishment and landscape enhancement.
- The stockpile of waste ice from the Zamboni machines can occupy a large area near the pond by end of winter.
- While there are accessible routes to the ice facilities and the softball complex, other facilities would not be considered accessible. An ADA evaluation should be completed for the park.

Planned Improvements:

- The City has recently taken ownership of an approximately 5 acre parcel that is southeast of Jorgensen Park.
- The current plan is to plan and construct a dog park in this location.
- The City would like to find ways to better program the indoor and outdoor ice rinks during the summer months and maintain better ice quality during the winter months (extreme cold degrades ice quality).



Figure B-4: Jorgensen Park's ice rink (top) and ball fields (bottom)

Community Parks

Meadows Park

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Community Park
Location: Northeast quadrant of the city **Size:** 4.5 acres

Overview: As the City’s newest community park (although West Tomichi Riverway and I.O.O.F. Park are more recent acquisitions), Meadows Park provides a critical multi-use turf area for organized sports, basketball, along with neighborhood park facilities along its west side. The park also serves the WSCU student population by providing an open turf area for pick-up field sports. Residents in nearby multi-family housing also use the park to walk dogs.

Notable Facilities:

- The multi-use field offers a good quality playing surface.
- The picnic shelter can accommodate six picnic tables.
- The fully plumbed men’s / women’s restroom supports the active uses in the park.

Strengths:

- The park is very functional with a well-crowned multi-use sports field, an asphalt parking lot and three on-street parking spaces (for a total of around 40 cars), a large play bay with newer equipment and room for expansion, a restroom, and a timber construction picnic shelter near the play equipment.
- Trees are planted along the west property line, parking lot, and margins of the park.

Deficiencies:

- The handicap spaces are not properly marked and there is no accessible line of travel to the park’s facilities.
- While the basketball court features four goals, the court’s slope is steeper than normal and may contribute to it not being well used.
- Parking cannot always accommodate peak use levels. Users will park at the end of cul-de-sac and along the road thus reducing width of the travel lanes.
- Dog waste in the park is an issue.

Planned Improvements:

- A trail segment is proposed along the east property line that will connect the park to WSCU’s sports fields/campus, residential areas, and the Rock Creek/Contour Loop trails.
- A vacant +/- 1.8 acre parcel south of the park would accommodate a combination of one to two U-8 soccer fields, additional parking, and/or dog park if it was purchased.



Figure B-5: Meadows Park’s soccer field and play structure

Neighborhood Parks

CharMar Park

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Neighborhood Park

Location: Northwest quadrant of the city **Size:** 3 acres

Overview: CharMar is a well balanced neighborhood park surrounded by mature trees in an established residential area. The park provides an open turf area, tennis courts, play equipment, and picnic opportunities for the neighborhood as well as a trail head for adjacent trails.

Notable Facilities:

- The park includes three new (2007) tennis courts with light poles in place for future lighting fixtures.
- The 1.0 acre open turf area has a good quality playing surface.
- Asphalt off-street parking and additional park / trail head parking along the north property line is provided.
- The older play equipment is still in serviceable condition.

Strengths:

- The park is within walking distance of the City's northwest neighborhoods.
- It includes very good quality tennis courts and open turf area, as well as a fully plumbed men's / women's restroom.
- The trail head provides access to Van Tuyl Ranch's 5K trail and the regional trail extending to the south.

Deficiencies:

- The picnic shelters and basketball court at the northeast corner of the site have reached the end of their useful life and should be upgraded.
- No handicap spaces are provided in the parking lot and there are no accessible routes to the park's amenities.
- The asphalt of alley access from the south is in poor condition.
- The 1990s play equipment will need to be upgraded in the future.

Planned Improvements: The park may provide an opportunity for pickleball courts.



Figure B-6: CharMar Park tennis courts (left) and playground (right)

Legion Park

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Neighborhood Park

Location: Southeast quadrant of the city **Size:** 4.5 acres

Overview: Legion Park is a classic City park with full complement of traditional park uses, war memorials, and semi-public entities such as the Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center and an American Legion post. The mature tree canopy gives the park a memorable character and makes it a popular picnic destination.

Notable Facilities:

- The park has the largest play equipment installation in the City with a distinctive, multilevel play structure as its centerpiece.
- It includes a large handicap accessible, group picnic shelter with 10 picnic tables.
- Other amenities include a climbing boulder, competitive horseshoe pit complex, and three lighted basketball courts.
- Approximately 50 angle parking spaces on the north frontage of the park.

Strengths:

- A sculpted bench and a number of distinctive chain saw sculptures (carved out of large tree trunks) can be found throughout the park.
- The group picnic shelter is elevated, well designed, doubles as a stage for the Gunnison Arts Center Summer Concert Series, and is accessible.
- The range of play equipment in the central play bay serves a variety of ages.
- There are a number of annual beds and war memorials in the park as well as Victorian style light fixtures along Highway 50.
- Picnic tables are scattered throughout the park.
- 90% of the park equipment (including play equipment) has been recently updated.

Deficiencies:

- The restroom building and some (approximately 10%) of the play equipment is aging and may need to be upgraded in the future.
- Road noise from Highway 50 detracts from the park users' experience.
- The asphalt paving for the basketball court needs to be resurfaced and re-striped.
- The 8' wide sidewalk on Highway 50 is the only walkway for the park.
- Irrigation ditches on the west and north frontages limit pedestrian access.
- Accessibility is a concern for parking and access to the park's amenities.

Planned Improvements: A new restroom structure, similar to the size of the existing one, is planned to be constructed in 2015.



Figure B-7: Picnic/event shelter at Legion Park

Mini Parks

I.O.O.F. Park

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Mini Park

Location: Downtown **Size:** 0.14 acres

Overview: I.O.O.F. Park is a small downtown mini park with a water feature, mature trees, and turf area that is used as a venue for special events. It is located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Virginia Avenue, which allows Virginia Avenue to be closed to vehicular traffic to accommodate larger events (Growler Bike Race, Farmer's Market).

Notable Facilities:

- The park features a newer, accessible, fully plumbed men's / women's restroom building that provides a public restroom for downtown shoppers and visitors.
- Ample on-street parking is located adjacent to park.
- The large wall mural on the adjacent building adds color to the space.

Strengths:

- The park provides open space in the downtown and a place for shoppers and visitors to rest and relax.
- The accessible restroom provides an important amenity to the downtown.
- The mature canopy trees provide shade.
- The water feature and annual beds can add seasonal interest.

Deficiencies:

- I.O.O.F. Park is not specifically designed to support large events therefore does not function well as a support facility. It can also be difficult to maintain due to heavy use.
- The bluegrass turf can be degraded due to booths, vendor tents, and foot traffic during events. Compacted soils are an on-going problem.
- The eclectic mix of benches and picnic tables are not accessible and do not contribute positively to the park's overall character.
- An updated master plan for the park could be beneficial to create an event space that integrates the park with Virginia Avenue and includes facilities / spaces to better support special events.

Planned Improvements: There have been proposal to permanently close Virginia Avenue for the full or half-block near the park. The goal would be to create a space that can more easily accommodate festivals and special events.



Figure B-8: Mural and seating area at I.O.O.F. Park

Bill's Park

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Mini Park

Location: Center city **Size:** 0.27 acres

Overview: Bill's Park is a small park in an established neighborhood that provides recreation amenities for residents in the immediate area. Mature spruce and cottonwood trees create a comfortable space for users.

Notable Facilities:

- Recently expanded community garden plots occupy the north edge of the park.
- Other amenities provided include a sculpture, Victorian-style pedestrian scale lighting, an accessible picnic shelter with timber framing, four picnic tables, horseshoe pits, community gardens, and shuffleboard.

Strengths:

- Bill's Park is a very nice mini park that maximizes the available space to provide park amenities for the neighborhood and a nearby assisted living facility.
- Ample on-street parking is available.
- The "Mountain Roots" community gardens are well used and have raised beds.

Deficiencies:

- The horseshoe pits and shuffleboard are not accessible.
- The fencing for the community gardens does not have the same level of finish as the remainder of the park.
- No accessible picnic tables are provided.

Planned Improvements: None



Figure B-9: Community gardens at Bill's Park

Special Use Areas

West Tomichi Riverway

Ownership: City of Gunnison (and Bureau of Reclamation*) **Classification:** Special Use Area
Location: West / central city **Size:** 2.63* acres
Developed Acres: +/- 2.0

Overview: West Tomichi Riverway is the City's most distinctive park due to its proximity to the Gunnison River, mature riparian forest habitat, and a fishing pond. A sense of enclosure is provided by the hills to the west. The site was designed so that all facilities are accessible, is a popular picnic facility with local residents, and it also serves as a river put-in / take-out.

*There are two land owners – the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the City of Gunnison - involved in the ownership of West Tomichi Riverway. The City owns the 2.63 acre parcel where the pond and restrooms are located. The BOR owns approximately 5.36 acres of the overall West Tomichi Riverway along with a 50 foot easement along the river on the property south of the City-owned parcel. However, the City manages the total area (including the BOR land).

Notable Facilities:

- The fishing pond has a new construction, accessible fishing pier.
- A fully plumbed men's / women's restroom building and group picnic shelter (six picnic tables) are located on the site.
- The asphalt access road ends in a cul-de-sac with +/- 15 parking spaces (although parking spaces were not striped at time of visit).
- While there are no formal trails, fishing access is allowed at any point along the river. The Bureau of Reclamation also holds an access easement (between normal high water mark and the river) along the river on the property south of the park.

Strengths:

- This is a well-designed park that takes full advantage of the dramatic setting.
- The fishing pond is a nice recreation / visual amenity for the park.
- The group picnic shelter, seating opportunities, river overlooks, and restrooms address user comfort.
- The park provides a recreation resource for the nearby assisted living facility.

Deficiencies:

The number of parking spaces provided may not be adequate for peak use periods and there are no designated accessible parking spaces provided. There are no grills provided at the picnic shelter, although they may be considered a fire hazard given the location.

Planned Improvements: None



Figure B-10: West Tomichi Riverway pond overlook

Cranor Ski Hill

Ownership: City of Gunnison **Classification:** Special Use Area
Location: CR 10 (3.25 miles northeast of town) **Size:** 55 acres
Developed Acres: +/- 2.0

Overview: Cranor Ski Hill is a small ski area owned and operated by the City. It is a unique recreation facility for a small community park department. The ski hill is well used by the residents when there is adequate snow to operate the facility (+/- 16" minimum base required).

Notable Facilities:

- A small +/- 1,500 SF structure provides a warming hut // concession / restroom building (served with well water), a south facing concrete sun deck, and picnic tables.
- The ski hill is served by a Poma single platter pull lift.
- All facilities are 1960s vintage and require increased ongoing maintenance to operate.
- A gravel parking lot is located on site.

Strengths:

- The affordable ski hill is convenient for residents.
- The 305 feet of vertical is well suited to beginner skiers/riders.
- Some residents will "climb and ski" when lift is not operating.
- During summer months, the site is used as an archery range.
- The warming hut can be used for community meetings.

Deficiencies:

- The equipment is aging. Finding parts for the Poma lift is getting increasingly difficult.
- The restrooms are not ADA accessible.
- The facility is only able to open one or two years out of four. This makes staffing with seasonal workers difficult and places much of staffing burden on the existing parks staff.
- There is no designated handicap parking and no accessible route to the warming hut.



Figure B-11: Cranor Ski Hill warming hut

Planned Improvements: None. However, so that the ski hill can continue to operate, parks staff would like to implement the following improvements:

- Improve water service / water storage so snow making could be added.
- Upgrade lift equipment.
- Increase summer use / programming.
- Programming for children.

There have also been discussions of adding or converting the ski hill into a snow tubing facility similar to those operating in Frisco or Copper Mountain.

Appendix C: Community Center Analysis

The recommendations for the City of Gunnison's Community Center are based on the following background information.

The Gunnison Community Center opened in 2005 and the facility included the following elements in its 26,000 SF:

- Gymnasium
- Multipurpose Sports Room (gymnastics studio)
- Climbing Wall
- Game/Room Lounge
- Multi-purpose Room w/Kitchen
- Administrative Offices
- Locker Rooms

In 2009, Phase II was added to the center and this included the following in its 19,000 SF:

- Leisure Pool
- Water Slides
- 6 Lane, 25 Yard Lap Pool
- Locker Room Expansion

With a 45,000 SF community center in place, attention turned to adding the final phase to the center. A Phase III report was completed in late 2009 that identified the following key elements that could be added in a 20,000 SF addition.

- Walk/Jog Track (elevated)
- Weight/Cardio Equipment Area
- Racquetball Courts (2)
- Bouldering Wall
- Play Room (for youth)
- Babysitting Room
- Multi-use Room (to primarily be utilized as a group exercise room)
- Conference Room
- Casual Lounge Area
- Support Amenities (massage/fitness evaluation rooms and stretching area)

Finally in late 2014, the City of Gunnison committed to add an approximate 1,623 SF senior meeting room to the center. While the City would own the space and Parks and Recreation would operate it, Boomers and Beyond and Young at Heart would provide a significant number of programs and services for the space.

The Community Center, with the addition of the aquatic center and the senior area, is now only missing the fitness element. This amenity is now commonly found in most public community recreation centers in the United States. It is often the most used space in a center and is often undersized for the demand.

The following table tracks Community Center usage for the last 5 years.

Year	Memberships/PunchCards/Daily	YAH Meals	Programs	Total
2009	41,296	6,285	N/A	47,581
2010	56,292	6,474	N/A	62,766
2011	42,397	6,884	N/A	49,281
2012	43,326	6,489	16,682	66,497
2013	38,220	5,578	21,153	64,951
2014	39,238	5,796	23,454	68,488

Note: Program participation numbers have only been included in the center usage numbers since 2012. 2010 marks the first full year that the new aquatic center was open.

It is interesting to note that overall use numbers (not including programs) has declined since 2010.

Center revenues have also been tracked for the last 4 years.

Year	Daily Fees	Memberships	Pool Revenue	Total
2010	\$62,486	\$84,636	\$40,812	\$187,934
2011	\$60,212	\$110,934	\$27,274	\$198,421
2012	\$64,070	\$109,349	\$30,173	\$203,592
2013	\$66,428	\$106,076	\$37,296	\$209,800
2014	\$66,299	\$98,869	\$40,850	\$207,018

Note: Center revenue numbers for 2009 were incomplete and have not been included as a result. 2010 marks the first full year that the new aquatic center was open.

While overall use numbers have declined since 2010, overall revenue has increased.

In addition to serving the indoor recreation needs of the Gunnison Valley, the Community Center also houses most of the Parks and Recreation Department offices.

There are strong records of use and revenues for the center but these figures are not linked directly to expenses for the operation of the center itself.

Appendix D: Recreation Programming Analysis

For a small town with a limited population base there are a significant number of programs that are offered in a variety of areas.

The Community Center is the hub for most indoor recreation programming.

The Parks and Recreation Department has some unique programming opportunities based on its location and amenities. This includes outdoor recreation programs, adventure sports, and ice.

Programs are able to cover their direct cost of operation/delivery.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently has a number of partnerships with other organizations in the Gunnison Valley including:

- West Elk Hockey Association
- Boomer's Senior Citizen Organization
- Gunnison Schools
- Gunnison Valley Mentors

Most parks and recreation agencies offer programs and services in the following areas:

- Sports (youth and adult)
- Fitness
- Cultural Arts
- Aquatics
- General Interest
- Special Needs
- Special Events
- Outdoor Recreation
- Seniors
- Teens
- Self Directed

Current program strengths include:

- Youth athletics
- Adult athletics
- Aquatics
- Adventure sports
- Special events

Current program weaknesses include:

- Teen/Tween
- Fitness/Wellness
- Cultural arts
- Special needs

Appendix E: Comparable Community Analysis

Introduction

This study compares the parks, recreation, trails, and open space amenities for the City of Gunnison, Colorado, to four benchmark communities: Alamosa, Avon, Cortez, and Durango. The information provided is based upon internet searches, master plan reviews, and discussions with city/town staff. Data have been updated for the City of Gunnison based upon the inventory completed as part of the 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan update.

The summary contains the following information for each city:

- City/town name
- Estimated population for 2013
- Acres of parkland
- Miles of recreational trail
- Number of various recreation facilities
- Acres of open lands

The intent was to find communities with similar population, settings, and budgets. While this benchmarking study presents and compares numbers across the board, it is important to recognize the following:

- This is not an apples to apples comparison for park land. Many departments include natural areas within their park system. For example, many community parks, city parks and regional parks are a mix of developed and natural areas. In addition, this comparison does not include other park and recreation offerings in the region for the comparison communities.
- Different communities have different department structure. For example, some of the staff persons that work on parks and recreation planning for the City of Durango are technically under the Community Development Department.
- Different communities have different budget system. Depending on how the community keep its books, the entire story of funding may not be represented in the budget allocation for its parks and recreation department. For example, the City of Durango's allocated tax for trails and open space is not reflected in the department's budget.
- Population varies among the communities. The population in Durango is nearly three times as large as that of Gunnison. This means that Gunnison could provide the same per capita service level as Durango with less than half as many facilities/acres.

Key Findings

Key findings from this benchmark comparison are as follows:

- All of the communities integrate open lands and natural areas into their existing park system. This reflects a growing trend in park land acquisition to protect natural areas within parks, provide close-to-home opportunities to experience nature, and develop natural areas in parks with amenities and facilities to support outdoor recreation.
- Gunnison owns more open lands per 1,000 residents than Cortez and Avon and nearly the same as Alamosa.

- By the numbers, Gunnison has more miles of recreation trail than three benchmark cities: Alamosa, Avon, and Cortez. Durango has nearly twice as many trails per 1,000 residents than Gunnison.
- For developed park land, Gunnison has fewer acres per capita than Alamosa, Cortez, and Durango. However, only Durango exceeds the amount of open lands per capita. For total park land (developed parks and open lands), Gunnison has similar per capita acreage as Alamosa has but more acreage than both Avon and Cortez.
- Gunnison meets or exceeds the benchmark cities' highest numbers of recreation facilities in the following categories:
 - Skate parks
 - Indoor pickleball courts
 - Outdoor basketball courts
 - Cross country skiing area
 - Ski hill
 - Climbing wall
 - Community center
 - Senior center
 - Outdoor ice rink
 - Indoor refrigerated ice rink
 - River park
- Gunnison falls between the benchmark cities' highest and lowest numbers of recreation facilities in the following categories:
 - Baseball/softball fields
 - Soccer/football fields
 - Outdoor pickleball courts
 - Indoor pool
 - Outdoor pool
 - Indoor basketball courts
 - Indoor volleyball court
 - Outdoor tennis courts
 - Indoor racquetball courts
 - Playgrounds
 - Splash pad
 - Disc golf
 - Indoor ice rink
 - Mountain bike park
- Gunnison has fewer than the benchmark cities' lowest numbers of recreation facilities in the following categories:
 - Weight / fitness rooms
 - Indoor track
 - Outdoor Volleyball Courts
 - Dog park

Benchmark Comparison

The Table E-1 below displays the park, facility, and open land comparison with the benchmark comparable communities of Alamosa, Avon, Cortez, and Durango. Other notable amenities each community has includes:

- Gunnison: Horseshoe pits, shuffleboard, marbles, disc golf course at college; planned trails: 2.23 miles hard surface and 11.66 miles of soft surface trail; outdoor volleyball court at middle school
- Alamosa: BMX track, horseshoe pits, golf course, use of college pool for swim lessons, private outdoor swimming facility (Splashland)
- Avon: Beach, cabin, boating
- Cortez: Tree farm, horseshoe pit, golf course, BMX track
- Durango: Golf course, college has disc golf course, BMX track, horseshoe pit, planned community park (tennis courts, dog park, softball complex, playground, basketball court, volleyball courts, multi-use fields, synthetic field)

Table E-1: Comparable Community Evaluation

	Gunnison	Alamosa	Avon	Cortez	Durango
Estimated 2013 Population	5,854	8,780	6,410	8,568	16,887
Total Acres of developed Park Land	35.94	120	23	174	285
Total Acres Park Land per 1,000 residents	6.14	13.67	3.59	20.31	16.88
Total Miles of Recreation Trail	18	10.5	18+	10.5	107.7
Miles of Paved Trail	6.5	1.5	5+	2.5	14.5
Miles of Unpaved Trails	11.5	9	13	8	93.2
Miles of trail per 1,000 residents	3.1	1.2	2.8	1.2	6.4
Facilities					
Baseball Fields	5	7	0	4	3
Softball Fields	*	*	1	4	*
Soccer/Football Fields	2	5	2	4	5
Skate Park	1	1	0	1	1
Outdoor Pickleball Courts	0	0	2	4	0
Indoor Pickleball Courts	2**	1**	2	2	2
Outdoor Pool	0	0	0	1	0
Indoor Pool	1	0	1	2	1
Outdoor Basketball Courts	5	5	2	4	3
Indoor Basketball Courts	2**	1**	1	1	3
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	0	3	2	2	2
Indoor Volleyball Courts	2**	1**	1	2	1**
Outdoor Tennis Courts	3	5	3	8	4
Indoor Racquetball Courts	0	0	0	2	2
Weight and Fitness Rooms	0	1	1	1	1
Community/Recreation Center	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Center	1	1	0	0	1
Playgrounds	3	8	4	4	19

	Gunnison	Alamosa	Avon	Cortez	Durango
Estimated 2013 Population	5,854	8,780	6,410	8,568	16,887
Dog Park	0	1	1	1	1
Splash Pad	0	0	0	1	1
Disc Golf	0	1	1	1	0
Outdoor Ice Rink	1	1	1	0	0
Indoor Refrigerated Ice Rink	1	0	0	0	1
River Park	1	0	1	0	1
Mountain Bike Park	1	0	1	1	3
Ski Hill	1	0	0	0	1
Cross Country Skiing Area	1***	1***	0	1***	1***
Indoor Track	0	1	0	1	1
Climbing Wall	1	1 (boulder)	0	1	1
Total Acreage Open Land	835	1,200	614	173	2,867
Open Land per 1,000 Residents	143	137	96	20	170
Total Acreage Park Land	871	1,320	637	347	3,152
Park Land per 1,000 Residents	149	150	99	40	187

Population estimates source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2014 data were not available

*Softball fields are shared with baseball fields ** Gym facilities have capacity/equipment for basketball, pickleball, and volleyball courts ***Golf course or other park area during winter

Appendix F: 2015 Capital Improvement Plan

Table F-1: 2015 Capital Improvement Plan Budget (costs are in 2015 dollars)

Project Name	Total Cost	City Cost	Timeframe
General Fund			
Community Center seniors addition*	\$3,250,000	\$25,000	2015
Legion Park restroom	\$150,000	\$150,000	2015
Taylor Mountain Park restroom**	\$45,000	\$45,000	2015
Dog park (south of Jorgensen Park)	\$45,000	\$25,000	2015
Entry sign**	\$14,500	\$14,500	2015
Protective netting – NW field	\$10,000	\$10,000	2015
Van replacement	\$25,000	\$25,000	2015
Pick up replacement	\$40,000	\$40,000	2015
Tractor replacement (2)	\$35,000	\$35,000	2015
Message kiosk	\$25,000	\$25,000	2015
Pick up replacement	\$40,000	\$40,000	2016
Jorgensen Park complex lighting (3 fields)(from cash reserves)	\$660,000	\$660,000	2016
Softball field chain link fence	\$26,060	\$26,060	2016
Jorgensen Park picnic shelters	\$37,000	\$37,000	2016
Van Tuyl Ranch Subdivision drainage swale park	\$16,000	\$16,000	2016
Replacement mower	\$12,000	\$12,000	2016
Bobcat skidsteer parts	\$13,305	\$13,305	2016
Replacement mower	\$25,000	\$25,000	2017
Community Center Phase III** (from cash reserves)	\$4,000,000	\$200,000	2017
Pickleball courts (4)*	\$260,000	\$260,000	2017
Jorgensen Park restroom	\$55,000	\$55,000	2017
Bobcat skidsteer replacement	\$35,000	\$35,000	2018
Pick up replacement	\$30,000	\$30,000	2018
Pool Fund			
Energy monitoring system	\$10,500	\$10,500	2015
Sanitation controls	\$10,600	\$10,600	2015
Tools and parts	\$10,000	\$10,000 / yr	2015-2016
Rock climbing feature	\$14,262	\$14,262	2016
Steam room	\$120,000	\$120,000	2018
Hot tub	\$100,000	\$100,000	2018
Rink Fund			
Zamboni	\$94,000	\$94,000	2015
Trails Fund			
Trail construction	\$100,000	\$100,000 / yr	2015-2016

*Dependent on grant funding
 ** Depending on other funding sources

Appendix G: Capital Project List and Costs

Table G-1 below and on the following pages presents the cost estimates for the proposed projects established during the plan process. Costs shown are in 2015 dollars.

Table G-1: Cost Estimates

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CAPITAL PROJECTS							Estimated Capital Cost	STAFFING & OPERATIONS REQUIREMENT		
		Acquisition	Planning	Development	Renovation / Restoration	Added Facility	Other	Non-capital Project		Maintenance	Management/Admin.	Programming
Land Acquisition and Development												
Park in SW Gunnison	Acquisition of land for a Neighborhood Park in the southwest quadrant of Gunnison; the land may also serve as an entry gateway into the city from the west	•							\$48,940	•		
River access	Land or easement acquisition for property along the Gunnison River - particularly within the vicinity of West Tomichi Riverway	•							\$500,000	•		
Community Center site expansion	Land acquisition north of the Community Center to increase site area	•							\$200,000	•		
Meadows park site expansion	Land acquisition south of Meadows Park to increase park size	•							\$100,000	•		
New Facilities												
Seniors center	Add an addition to the Community Center to allow for a Senior's area – only city contribution cost shown		•	•		•			\$25,000	•		
Community Center Phase III	Add an addition to the Community Center to allow for a fitness/cardio/weight area		•	•		•			\$3,850,000	•	•	•
Jorgensen dog park	The development of a dog park with fencing, benches, and improved access			•		•			\$45,000	•		
Playground, park in SW Gunnison	Development of a playground and the inclusion of benches, trash cans, shade structure in southwest Gunnison	•	•	•					\$50,000	•		
Second refrigerated ice rink	Building renovations to enclose ice rink, add a refrigeration abilities, covered connection		•	•	•				\$1,500,000	•		
Outdoor volleyball court	The development of an outdoor sand volley ball court, nets (unidentified location - possible location at expanded Community Center site)			•		•	•		\$30,000	•		
Meadows dog park	The development of a dog park with fencing, shade structure, benches on the acquired property	•	•	•		•			\$45,000	•		
Multi-purpose field	The development of a multi-purpose field (soccer, lacrosse, football) - possible location at Meadows Park	•	•	•		•			\$128,610	•		•
Pickleball courts	The development of 4 pickleball courts (unidentified location - possible location at expanded Community Center site)		•	•		•			\$85,000	•		•
Park Renovations and Improvements												
ADA access audit	An ADA audit for citywide parks and recreation facilities						•		\$75,000		•	
Pool amenities	Add a climbing wall, steam room and hot tub to the pool area		•	•		•			\$179,262	•		
Jorgensen lighted fields	Lights and electrical equipment added to the softball complex (3 fields) at Jorgensen Park		•	•	•				\$660,000	•		
Jorgensen restroom	New restroom facility at Jorgensen Park		•	•	•				\$55,000	•		
Skate park lights	Lights and electrical equipment for the skate park at Jorgensen Park		•	•	•				\$80,000	•		
Legion Park restrooms	New restroom facility at Legion Park			•	•				\$150,000	•		
Taylor Mountain Park restrooms	New restroom facility at Taylor Mountain Park			•	•				\$45,000	•		
CharMar Park basketball court	Expansion of basketball court at CharMar Park to a 3/4s size court			•	•				\$70,000	•		
CharMar pavilion	Addition of a shade pavilion at CharMar Park			•		•			\$15,000	•		

Table G-1: Cost Estimates (continued)

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CAPITAL PROJECTS							Estimated Capital Cost	STAFFING & OPERATIONS REQUIREMENT			
		Acquisition	Planning	Development	Renovation / Restoration	Added Facility	Other	Non-capital Project		Maintenance	Management/Admin.	Programming	
Park Renovations and Improvements (continued)													
Cranor Ski Hill lift fund	A fund established to reserve monies for the eventual replacement of the Poma lift at Cranor Ski Hill							•	•	\$2,500,000			
Cranor Ski Hill expansion of uses	The addition of a zip line, jib park, ropes course, tubing area, and mountain bike trails		•	•				•		\$200,000	•		
Cranor Ski Hill warming hut expansion	The expansion of the existing warming hut - would include equipment storage area		•	•	•					\$240,000	•	•	
Van Tuyl Ranch community garden	An addition of a community garden area on the Van Tuyl Ranch property			•				•		\$5,000	•		•
Van Tuyl Ranch events space	A shelter or pavilion where events could occur on the Van Tuyl Ranch property			•				•		\$30,000	•		•
West end landscaping	The landscaping of the Highway 50 right-of-way to create a more pleasant entry into the community - could be combined with the proposed park in the West Gunnison area		•	•						\$25,000	•		
Trails													
5th Street	A trail alignment (0.16 miles) from the existing Thornton Way trail to the paved West Tomichi (identified in the West Gunnison Neighborhood Plan)	•		•						\$364,213	•		
3rd Street Connector	A 0.29 mile hard surface, detached trail on Third Street, south from West Tomichi and east on Gunnison to Thornton Way to enhance the West Gunnison Neighborhood by providing residents with a year-round walking and biking route for exercise, and access to the downtown area as well as to the Twin Bridges underpass and outlying recreation areas			•						\$137,319	•		
Hwy 135 Trail	A 1.4 mile trail alignment on the west right-of-way of Highway 135 will connect the North Bridge to the Van Tuyl subdivision and the Van Tuyl Ranch; it will also allow an "out and back" loop for riders utilizing the North Bridge underpass			•						\$171,437	•		
Rock Creek	A 0.4 mile trail that connects the existing paved path along Highway 135 and provides access to the Contour Loop Trail, Colorado Trail spur, and Gunnison Rising			•						\$85,524	•		
University	A 1.04 mile trail that will connect the system around the WSCU from the south leg of the Contour Loop Trail to the Highway 50 Underpass Segment and follow the property fence line of Western State Colorado University and Gunnison Rising			•						\$154,589	•		
Highway Frontage	A 1.09 mile trail will extend to the east along Highway 50 and Gunnison Rising and will tie into the south leg of the Contour Loop Trail			•						\$135,207	•		
Highway 50 Underpass	A 0.3 mile segment that will consist of an existing box culvert under Highway 50 and will connect to the Airport Maintenance, University and Highway Frontage Multi-Use Trails			•						\$140,795	•		
Gold Basin Road	A 0.46 mile detached trail that will follow Gold Basin Road (CR 38) and will connect the existing detached trail that terminates at Mergleman Pond, to the painted bike lane on Gold Basin Road			•						\$43,560	•		
West Gunnison	A 0.4 mile trail that will provide a connection from Brookside Drive to Thornton Way			•						\$52,976	•		
Contour Loop	A 0.41 mile trail that will follow an existing small path that connects the existing Contour Trail and the south leg of the Contour Loop			•				•		\$40,929	•		

Table G-1: Cost Estimates (continued)

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CAPITAL PROJECTS							Estimated Capital Cost	STAFFING & OPERATIONS REQUIREMENT		
		Acquisition	Planning	Development	Renovation / Restoration	Added Facility	Other	Non-capital Project		Maintenance	Management/Admin.	Programming
Trails (continued)												
Airport Maintenance	This large segment will connect the eastern portion of the City southwest around the airport to Gold Basin Road (Gold Basin Road provides access to Hartman's Recreational Area, the Whitewater Park and the western border of the city)		•	•				•	\$947,979	•		
Gunnison River	A connection between the existing Twin Bridges underpass, through the West Tomichi Riverway, to the Van Tuyl Ranch (acquisition of easements along this segment is necessary for completion)	•		•				•	\$710,466	•		
Riverwalk Estate	A 1.01 easement along the southern boundary of the Riverwalk Estates that would allow the trail to connect the Railroad Grade Trail on the Van Tuyl Ranch with the North Bridge and bicycle path along Hwy 135; an alternative alignment would be along the west right-of-way of Hwy 135 to County Road 13	•		•					\$515,026	•		
Van Tuyl to BLM land west of river	A 0.32 mile connection between Van Tuyl Ranch to federal lands on the west side of the Gunnison River. This segment will require cooperation between the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, the Army Corp of Engineers, and the Bureau of Land Management.	•		•					\$274,466	•		
Recreation Programming and Other Services												
Recreation Programming												
Lifelong Learning	Addition of non-sport activities and classes at the community center or other facilities							•			•	•
Family / Multi-generational	Addition of programs that cater to multiple generations or programs for different generations programmed concurrently							•			•	•
Middle School / Tweens / Teens	Addition of programs at the Community Center that are focused on tweens and teens							•			•	•
Outdoor Education	Addition of seasonal and year-round outdoor education programs for both youth and adults							•			•	•
Other												
Shuttle	A shuttle bus to transport seniors and school students within the City to and from the Community Center and other city facilities	•							\$50,000	•		•
Consolidated recreation information	Creation or modification of a web site and activities board that includes recreation and programming opportunities within the city							•			•	
Total									\$15,436,298			



Appendix H: Park Deficiency Punch List

The following is a punch list for park deficiencies based on the Park, Facility, Open Space System Inventory (Appendix B).

Regional Park

Hartman Rocks

Capital Improvements

None

Operations and Management

- Management of unauthorized trails

Jorgensen Park

Capital Improvements

- Additional parking for peak periods
- BMX track upgrade and landscaping
- ADA improvements

Operations and Management

None

Taylor Mountain Park

Capital Improvements

- Site furnishing upgrades

Operations and Management

- Camp Host contact

Community Park

Meadows Park

Capital Improvements

- Marking of handicap parking spaces
- Accessible line of travel to facilities
- Re-grade of basketball court
- Additional parking for peak use

Operations and Management

- Dog waste management

Neighborhood Park

CharMar Park

Capital Improvements

- Replacement of picnic shelters
- Upgrade of basketball court
- Handicap parking spaces
- Assessable routes to facilities
- Resurfacing of alley access
- Upgrade of play equipment

Operations and Management

None

Legion Park

Capital Improvements

- Reduction of road noise (landscaping)
- Resurfacing and striping basketball courts
- Increase of walkways and access
- Assessable routes to facilities

Operations and Management

None

Mini Park

Bill's Park

Capital Improvements

- Assessable routes to horseshoe pit and shuffleboard
- Upgrade of fence finish
- Assessable picnic tables

Operations and Management

None

Mini Park (continued)

I.O.O.F. Park

Capital Improvements

- Assessable benches and picnic tables
- Updated park master plan

Operations and Management

- Lawn maintenance (due to high use)

Special Use Area

Cranor Ski Hill

Capital Improvements

- Upgrade Poma lift
- Restroom upgrade to ADA accessible
- Addition of designated handicap parking
- Assessable route to warming hut

Operations and Management

None

West Tomichi Riverway

Capital Improvements

- Additional parking for peak use
- Addition of designated handicap parking
- Addition of grills

Operations and Management

None

Appendix I: Resources

The following are resources used in the preparation of the 2015 City of Gunnison Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

American Community Survey 2012.

City of Gunnison Community Analysis, 2014 Working Draft (2014).

City of Gunnison Parks and Recreation Master Plan stakeholder/focus group meetings (Nov 2014).

Duncan Callahan, WSCU Club Spots/Field House.

Gunnison Parks and Recreation Program Offering Guides (2014).

MIG site visits

US Census 2010, 2000, 1990.

www.bvfitness.com/devel/gunnison

www.CityofGunnison-co.gov/parks_and_rec/index

www.coloradofitness.com

www.curves.com

www.gunnisoncounty.com

