


Elevating Steamboat



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND YAMPA RIVER MASTER PLAN

DRAFT FOR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ENDORSEMENT
| JULY 2019



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ENTIRE
COMMUNITY FOR THEIR INPUT
THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT AND
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF PARKS,
RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS,
AND THE YAMPA RIVER.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2019 City of Steamboat Springs Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails, and River (PROSTR) Comprehensive Master Plan planning effort began in 2017 with the hiring of Logan Simpson, an Environmental Consulting, Cultural Resources, Community Planning, and Landscape Architecture Design Firm and completed with a detailed internal City review and a citizen and staff guided Review and Implementation Committee. This project was made possible by a 50% (\$75,000) grant contribution from Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO).

The first chapter of the PROSTR Comprehensive Master Plan provides an overview of the plan and summarizes the plans findings. The plans next five chapters reviews the plans purpose and process, provides a department overview, evaluates the City of Steamboat Springs and Routt County demographics and evaluates existing conditions of the City's park land and services. The final two chapters outline recommendations and a strategy for funding and implementation of the plan.

Key findings of the plan include:

- The highest priority recommendations of this plan, as identified by the statistically valid community survey and independent evaluation and prioritization by the Review and Implementation Committee include: Maintaining what we have prior to expanding the current parks and recreation system and implement deferred projects list for existing park improvements (restroom and playground replacements, irrigation systems, shelters, bridge repairs, skate park equipment replacement etc.) and; Extend the Core Trail west along river corridor with multi-modal connections, north to Slate Creek, connecting Steamboat proper to Steamboat II areas.
- Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation system is essential to Steamboat Springs' economic health because they attract visitors, especially during the summer, who spend money in the community. As such, the Parks and Recreation Department provides critical services that should warrant substantial investment. Therefore, fiscal sustainability goals are to increase funding that is allocated to maintain existing assets, and do not add elements to the PROSTR system without funding to maintain them and further explore community support for a sales tax increase to fund high priority projects and their operations and maintenance.

The City of Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Department looks forward to maintaining and improving Steamboat Springs' parks and recreation system through the recommendations of this plan, and would like to thank the community for their engagement throughout the process, the Review and Implementation Committee and numerous City employees for their thoughtful guidance and attention to detail, and the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council for their support and input.

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CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW

PLAN OVERVIEW

The 2019 Steamboat Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails and Yampa River Master Plan (PROSTR Master Plan) is an update of previously separate master plans. This plan addresses the overall system in a holistic manner, and the recommendations were developed through extensive input from residents, staff, elected and appointed officials, partner organizations and agencies, and other stakeholders. Through the ten-month process it became clear that residents and tourists alike place high value on the natural beauty of Steamboat Springs, the abundant outdoor recreational opportunities, Howelsen Park and Ski Hill, and the recreation programs and special events that are offered throughout the year. Residents also would like more indoor recreational facilities, but they are expensive to construct and maintain.

Steamboat Springs is facing critical funding challenges to continue to maintain its assets in a high quality condition. Additionally, the City lacks the resources necessary to add and maintain new elements that are desired by the community. While there are site-specific master plans for improvements to various parks, trails and open space areas, many of the recommendations in those master plans are unfunded.

This 2018 PROSTR Master Plan focused on identifying the highest priority projects, as identified by residents, and outlining potential new funding mechanisms. A master plan map was prepared that shows proposed trail links, as well as the locations of existing parks, open spaces and recreational facilities. No new parks are proposed, but improvements are recommended at many. Opportunities for additional open space area are described, and the plan includes minor changes to the Yampa River Management Areas (RMAs) regulations, as well as the creation of a new RMA downstream of Bear River Park.

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The document is organized into seven chapters that follow this chapter, Chapter 1: Overview:

Chapter 2: Plan Purpose and Process is a summary of the need to update the existing plans and what they contain, other relevant plans and current planning efforts, and a description of the activities that occurred during this master planning process.

Chapter 3: Parks and Recreation Department Overview contains the department's mission statement as well as how the department is organized, staffed and funded.

Chapter 4: Background includes information on Steamboat and Routt County demographics, population, and tourism, national and local recreation trends, and key results from recent community-wide surveys.

Chapter 5: Existing Conditions documents all of the assets that are currently the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department, and summarizes community recreation programs and tournaments.

Chapter 6: Community Priorities contains a list of projects that have been previously identified by

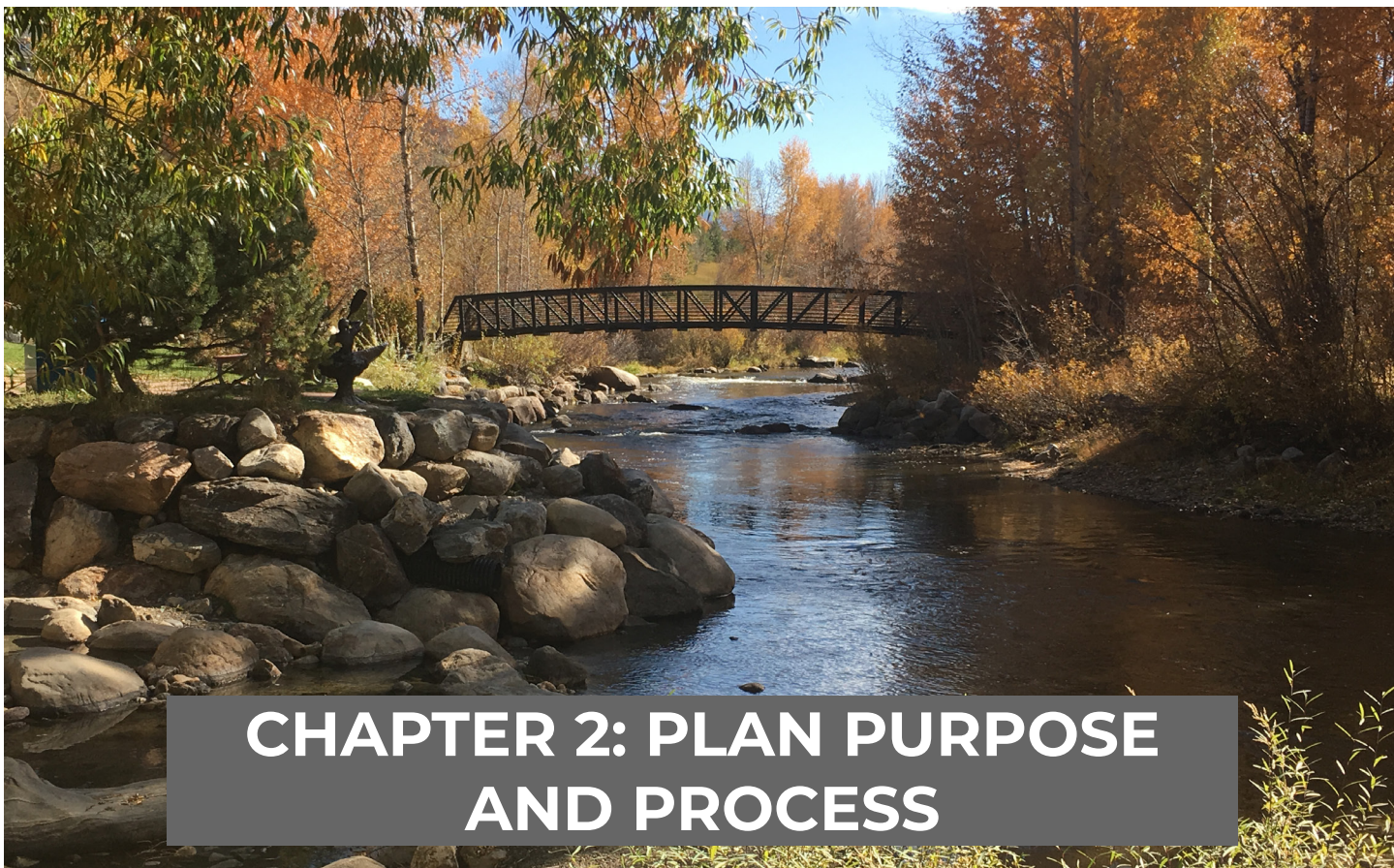
the Parks and Recreation Department as necessary for maintenance and upgrades, and results of the community survey that was conducted as part of this master planning process.

Chapter 7: Recommendations includes the overall city-wide master plan, vision, goals, strategies and specific actions associated with parks, recreational facilities, open space and natural areas, trails and the Yampa River.

Chapter 8: Funding and Implementation lists the highest priority projects and costs, financial sustainability goals, and contains information on many different funding tools and grants that are available to the community.

PLAN APPROVAL

This plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on ----- 2019, and adopted by City Council on ----- 2019.



CHAPTER 2: PLAN PURPOSE AND PROCESS

PLAN PURPOSE

The City of Steamboat Springs boasts a regionally significant and extensive system of parks, recreation, open space, and trails. Through the planning process for this Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails, and River Master Plan (PROSTR Plan), the team worked with the community to affirm goals and objectives, analyze trends and demographics, evaluate supply and demand, and provide recommendations and priorities for improvements throughout the parks and recreation system. The PROSTR Plan provides a 10-year vision for the City's park and recreation facilities and amenities, as well as an action plan for implementing this vision.

The PROSTR Plan updates and consolidates what is currently three separate documents into a comprehensive plan for parks, recreation, open space, river, and trails for the City of Steamboat Springs. The City has completed and adopted the following

recreation planning documents: the 2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the 2008 Open Space & Trails Master Plan, and the 2003 Yampa River Management Plan.

Each of these is in need of updating to reflect current usage, demand, and sustainability of the underlying recreational asset. The PROSTR planning process also included an analysis of the City's cost recovery levels for programs and services, called PASS™.

Individual master plans were previously prepared for specific parks and open space areas, including the Rodeo Grounds, Emerald Mountain Park Conservation Easement, and Bear River Park. These plans were not updated as part of the PROSTR process because they were recently completed and were developed with extensive public processes.



This PROSTR Plan comes at a critical time. With expanded and diversified recreational use, limitations on funding and staffing, and growth of adverse impacts to the river, it is timely to discuss the overarching needs and desires of the community as well as the opportunities and limitations of the City's resources. Steamboat Springs is facing added pressure to the system and operations from more open space and extended trail system, such as Emerald Mountain Open Space, and Spring Creek Mountain Park and their trail systems; more tourist use of the trail system, sports facilities, and the Yampa River; and more community events and festivals. In addition, each of the original master plan documents were created at a time when the City had significantly more resources than are available today and for the foreseeable future. The PROSTR Plan is needed to prioritize projects as adequate funding for capital improvements, operations, and maintenance has been a challenge.

The combined Master Plan will help to prioritize and streamline land management decisions and funding that overlap. For example, recreational growth in water based recreation, which is managed by the Yampa River Management Plan, has significant impacts on trails and open space areas along the Yampa River, which are managed under a different plan. Staffing levels, which are lower than in 2008 while lands, trails, and facilities have increased, are organized into one Parks and Recreation Department budget.



PREVIOUS PLANS

The City's previous master plans have provided critical guidance to the City. Over the past 8-14 years, the Parks and Recreation Department has accomplished many of the elements listed in these plans. The City has added new river corridor areas and new miles of trail, acquired over 1,000 acres of open space, and master planned two new parks in the system. Conversely, land management personnel and resource allocations were severely cut during the economic downturn in 2009.

The following plans were combined to create a holistic vision for the community. The vision, goals, and recommendations were reviewed and affirmed.

The **2003 Yampa River Management Plan** provides a framework to implement the vision of the Yampa River by providing management direction on the types, amount, and location of recreation activities and focuses on the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment. The plan has served the community well since it was adopted, although tensions do remain surrounding usage levels. This is the ongoing challenge of managing the river – to a fly fisherman, some segments of the river occasionally take on the atmosphere of a theme park, while others see it as an appropriate level of use and an essential part of the Steamboat Springs experience. The 2003 plan was based on recognition of competing uses and the need for balance in allocating use by activities and river segments. When combined with other efforts to restore habitat, augment flows, and protect water quality, the result is a healthy river that many people enjoy.



The **2008 Open Space and Trails Plan** and **2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan** have guided the success of increasing the developed parkland from 566 acres to more than 1,000 acres, and open space from 1,946 acres to over 2,600 acres. There is now an endowment fund for trail maintenance in Routt and Moffat counties for federal, state, and local non-motorized trails, and a one percent accommodations tax with portions dedicated to the 2A Trails Alliance Proposal and other opportunities approved by City Council in compliance with the ballot language. While the City is making great progress, challenges remain in taking care of existing areas and finding the resources to continue to meet community needs through the provision of new parks, trails, and conservation areas.

Various **Howelsen Park and Ski Hill Plans** and proposals have been developed throughout the years (1999, 2002, 2005, 2014, and 2017). Various studies and concept plans illustrated improvements; however, consensus regarding priorities or a future vision for the facility has yet to be reached.

The adjacent rodeo grounds have also been subject to master planning. The **Rodeo Ground Master Plan 2009** illustrated a conceptual master plan for reorganizing and enhancing the site. As part of the 1989 bond improvements, the arena underwent a renovation including construction of bleachers, new arenas, pens, and seating areas. Since that time, in the past three years, the main and practice arenas have been replaced and all animal pens updated as part of the 2009 MP improvements.

CONCURRENT PLANNING PROCESSES

In addition to previous planning efforts, parallel planning efforts occurring during this PROSTR Plan process included the development of Howelsen Park and Ski Hill Vision 2040 and the Yampa River Streamflow Management Plan. The public had opportunities to participate in both efforts; however, the campaigns worked to eliminate duplication, share information, and maximize public participation in an integrated manner.

Howelsen Park and Ski Hill Vision 2040 was a process to develop a 20-year vision for the entire ski hill and park complex. The process, beginning in October of 2017, was combined with the PROSTR Plan process in January 2018.

The **Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan, 2018** City Council adopted the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan in August 2018. The plan focuses on improving the health and resiliency of the Yampa River near Steamboat Springs. It includes a river health assessment, identifies overall goals and management objectives, and prioritizes 15 actions for implementation in the short term by the City and its partners. The planning process involved the participation of a wide range of stakeholders and the public with the intent of understanding diverse interests and developing solutions supported by the community. See the Yampa River section in Chapter 7 for more information on how this plan and the Streamflow Management Plan work together to manage and protect the Yampa River.

PASS™. In a separate yet parallel process, the City's recreation programs and special events were evaluated through an automated software tool called PASS™ developed by EPrep Solutions. The analytical process was used to identify the true cost of doing business and all costs (direct and indirect) associated with the provision of each individual program, event, facility, park, etc., to the community. This assessment was used to identify which recreation programs and events are "sustainable", and can be used to prioritize which programs and services could be expanded, eliminated, or maintained based on the City's philosophy regarding level of subsidy and ability to fund the services.



Phase 1 began in October 2017, and established the foundation of the plan by data analysis, site visits, and level of service analysis. It began by evaluating and documenting the community's recreation resources, assets, and programs, and included visits to all of Steamboat's parks, trails, and open space areas. Interviews were conducted individually and in groups with more than 20 community members representing a wide array of community, recreation, and conservation interests, needs, and concerns. An analysis of recreation trends, demographics shifts, and tourism impacts laid the ground work establishing demands and needs of the community and visitors. The project was introduced to the general public when community members were invited to provide input on their needs and desires at a workshop in December 2017.

Phase 2 identified opportunities and engaged stakeholders to make choices. Based on the initial analysis and public input, vision, goals, and potential improvements were presented to the public for input. This phase included two community workshops and included the feedback obtained in the fall of 2017 through meetings associated with the Howelsen Park and Ski Hill Vision 2040 process. During this time potential projects were identified, cost estimates developed, and potential funding mechanisms outlined. Concepts for potential improvements were prepared and illustrated in a site plan for Howelsen Park and Ski Hill to show how various improvements could be configured.

3

MARCH - MAY 2018

PHASE 3: DRAFT MASTER PLAN

FORMULATE
RECOMMENDATIONS, SET
PRIORITIES, AND IDENTIFY
IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS IN A
DRAFT PLAN DOCUMENT.



PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND SURVEY

4

JUNE 2018 - JULY 2019

PHASE 4: REVIEW & ADOPTION

REVIEW PLAN WITH
COMMITTEE AND PRESENT
THE FINAL PLAN TO THE
PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION AND ADOPTION

Phase 3 involved the compilation of all the data analysis, community input, and formulation of recommendations. A public workshop was conducted and a community-wide survey was used to assess community priorities and input on key recommendations. Results from the survey and other stakeholder input became the basis for initial recommendations regarding projects, policies, and funding strategies. The results of the survey are discussed in Chapter 6.

Phase 4 focused on developing specific recommendations, creating and meeting with the Review and Implementation Committee and preparing the PROSTR Plan document and presenting the recommendations for approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission and adoption by City Council.



CHAPTER 3: PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

MISSION

We plan, partner, and provide superior services and a safe environment in our thriving and authentic Community.

VISION

Creating unparalleled parks and recreation experiences for our Community.

TAG LINE

Elevating Steamboat

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND STAFFING

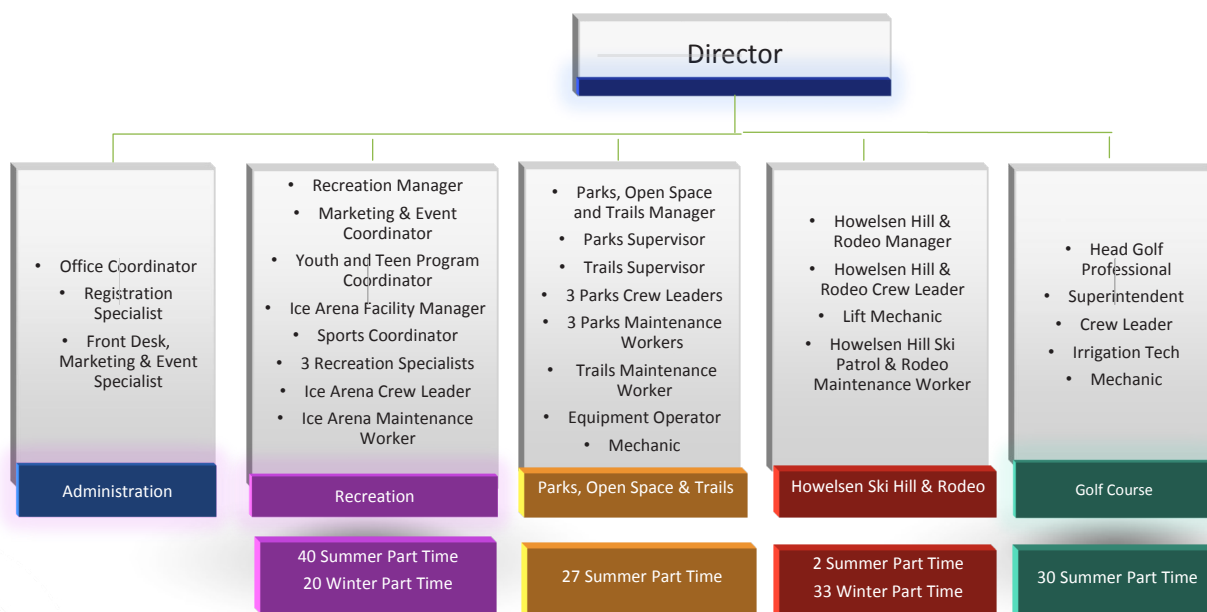
The Parks and Recreation Department is led by a Director, and has five basic divisions: Recreation; Parks, Open Space and Trails; Howelsen Ski Hill and Rodeo; Office/Administration; and Golf Course. Golf Course is an Enterprise Fund associated with Haymaker Golf Course that has a separate budget that is managed by a five person Golf Management Committee. The Parks and Recreation Department has 35 full time employees and 164 part-time employees annually with responsibilities associated with administration, operations, programming, and maintenance. The total full-time equivalent for all staff is 66.

The demands on the Department to provide a high level of service outweigh its capabilities at times, primarily due to thousands of hours spent annually supporting special events. Staffing levels are still lower than they were in 2008 (78.8 versus 66) while the number of acres and events has continued to increase.

The Parks, Open Space and Trails Division has extensive maintenance plans for all its parks, which details daily/weekly/monthly/annual tasks to be performed. Existing maintenance plans provide the basis of park maintenance standards for which true costs can be applied if tracked.

Maintenance responsibilities include:

- Parkland/athletic fields
- Playground maintenance
- City Building and Park and Recreation Facility Landscapes:
 - City Hall, Centennial Hall, Community Center, Library, Botanical Gardens, Tennis Center, Ice Arena, Howelsen Lodge, Rodeo Grounds, Fire Station, Public Works Shop, Elkins House, Transit Shop, Airport, Urban Renewal, URA Base Area Improvements, Parks and Recreation Office/Shop.
- Street medians
- Urban forestry rights-of-way
- Building maintenance (Tennis Center, Park & Recreation Office/Shop)
- Special event set up and tear down





The park maintenance staff provides manpower, equipment, and trucks for special events and works closely with Recreation Division's Sports Coordinator to effectively address athletic field schedules.

The 2017 Citizen Survey did not specifically address satisfaction levels for the maintenance of parks and facilities. A large number of respondents (41 percent) felt spending on maintenance was about right, 15 percent said too little was being spent, five percent said too much was being spent, and 39 percent did not know.

The City is divided into three maintenance districts and has varying sizes of parks with varying functions and amenities. All parks receive a consistent level of maintenance, regardless of the size of the parks. However, it should be noted that athletic fields, in general, receive a higher level of maintenance service than do parks. With the exception of higher park usage on major holidays such as Memorial Day and Labor Day, capacity (overuse) is not an issue. On the other hand, athletic fields are currently being used beyond their capacity, due primarily to the combination of the City's "short season" and a demand that sometimes reaches seven days/nights a week. Keeping athletic fields properly maintained and having the ability to close them for major renovation is a constant struggle for the Division.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND FUNDING SOURCES

The Department has a budget of approximately \$6 million for programs, operations, maintenance, and minor repairs and \$1.6 million for golf operations. The City does not have a property tax, and is primarily funded through sales and use taxes. The cost of providing existing City services is going up faster than the growth in sales and use tax revenue, which reduces what the City can actually accomplish. The City historically has spent about 14 percent of general fund operating budget on parks and recreation, with additional funding for new recreational amenities occurring through the capital improvement budget.

Additional funds from the Accommodations Tax help fund capital improvements of new specific trails (up to \$600,000), Haymaker Golf Course, promotion of outdoor recreation and other parks and recreation projects. The tax collects one percent of short term rentals and lodging. This fund accrues approximately \$950,000/year.



CHAPTER 4: BACKGROUND

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS AND ROUTT COUNTY OVERVIEW

The Parks and Recreation Department oversees the City's park land, open space, trails, and a variety of recreational facilities, programs, and activities. The City has a strong commitment to provide quality parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs for its citizens and visitors.

The City of Steamboat Springs is located in Routt County on the western edge of the Yampa Valley. Over a hundred years ago, one of the mineral springs was known for making a chugging sound similar to the sound of a steamboat, giving the town its name. Though the chugging noise stopped with the addition of the railroad through the valley, the name remained.

Steamboat Springs is the county seat of Routt County. The central part of the City sits in the river valley at an elevation of about 6,700 feet above sea level, amidst Mt. Werner, and offers world-class skiing at the Steamboat Ski Resort. Howelsen Hill, named after an early resident, also provides alpine and Nordic skiing in the heart of City. Steamboat Springs is not just a winter resort. It is the year-round home for an active outdoor oriented population, and the summer destination

for many travelers. Among these are thousands of visitors who come for special events, such as sports tournaments, rodeos, and concerts, many of which are held within the City's parks and other facilities. Further, the community's ranching heritage is very prominent through the on-going summer events at the Rodeo Grounds and the preservation of agricultural lands.

The Steamboat Springs area is an ecologically diverse, culturally rich community located in one of Colorado's most spectacular river valleys. Its relatively remote location has allowed the area to embrace its heritage in a way that few other mountain communities have, yet it is only 150 miles northwest of Denver - less than a half-day's drive from the state's urban areas.

Steamboat Springs has managed to set itself apart from resort towns along the I-70 corridor by providing an experience many say is reminiscent of the ‘old’ Colorado.

The City of Steamboat Springs has 10 square miles of land area and is the largest municipality in Routt County. Routt County covers 2,231 square miles, 49 percent of which is publicly-owned. Nearby state parks include Stagecoach Reservoir, Elkhead Reservoir, Pearl Lake, and Steamboat Lake. These public lands provide recreational opportunities year-round. The Steamboat Springs area’s geomorphology is responsible for its spectacular views, abundant water resources, and namesake hot springs. Situated at 6,695 feet in the Yampa River Valley, the area is surrounded by the Gore Range and the Rabbit Ears Range to the west, and the

Sierra Madre and Park Range to the north. There are seven marked springs found within the City and one larger spring, Strawberry Park Hot Springs, seven miles north of the City.

The Yampa River flows through the heart of Steamboat Springs and provides the backbone for the Yampa River Core Trail. Additionally, Spring Creek, Fish Creek, Walton Creek, Soda Creek, and Butcherknife Creek provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Steamboat Springs has four developed areas: the “Mountain” area which includes the Steamboat Ski Area; the narrow two-mile long “Mountain-Town Corridor” between the town and mountain; historic “Old Town”; and West Steamboat, a newer affordable residential, commercial and industrial area.



DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2015 Census, the City of Steamboat Springs has a full-time resident population of approximately 12,600 people. On average, the resident population doubles with second homeowners. As the primary urban center of Routt County, the parks, open space, and recreation amenities and programming serve the larger region and smaller communities such as Oak Creek, Yampa, and Hayden. Approximately 23,600 people live in Routt County, with about 3,000 of those people living in the unincorporated areas just outside of City limits.

The City of Steamboat Springs has an estimated 4,880 households of which nearly 3,400 are for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use (Census 2015). Also according to the 2015 Census, Steamboat Springs median household income is estimated at \$56,000; however, Routt County's is significantly higher at \$65,000 (Table 1). The average age is 38.2, slightly older than the US and Colorado populations (Table 2).

TABLE 1. INCOME

	STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO	ROUTT COUNTY, CO	COLORADO	U.S.
Per Capita Income (2015 \$s)	\$37,209	\$36,472	\$32,217	\$28,930
Median Household Income^ (2015 \$s)	\$56,125	\$64,963	\$60,629	\$53,889

Source: Census 2015

A build-out analysis performed in 2014 calculated a total of 4,000 additional dwelling units that could be built within the City, which could eventually add 10,000 or more people to the community as permanent or temporary residents, or as visitors who occupy short-term rentals. A small proportion of these new dwelling units may be built in the planning time frame of 10 years that is associated with the PROSTR Plan given the recent rate of development in the community. There are no projections for population growth that may occur if new lands are annexed into the City limits, and Steamboat Springs has not approved annexation of additional lands in many years. One large annexation proposal west of Steamboat Springs has been approved by a vote of the residents of Steamboat Springs and is near completion.

TABLE 2. AGE

	STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO
Under 18	17.2%
18-34	28.2%
35-44	15.0%
45-64	29.7%
65 and over	9.9%

Source: Census 2015

The Department of Local Affairs forecasts the population for Routt County to grow. Population growth along the North Front Range (Denver-Boulder and Greeley-Fort Collins regions), in particular, is fueling more traffic and visitation (Table 3). These trends are further discussed in the next section.

TABLE 3. POPULATION FORECASTS

YEAR	ROUTT COUNTY	COLORADO	NORTH FRONT RANGE DENVER-BOULDER AND GREELEY-FORT COLLINS REGIONS
2015	24,310	5,448,055	3,687,091
2020	26,461	5,907,198	4,015,720
2025	29,190	6,391,239	4,368,238
2030	32,916	6,892,192	4,720,243
2035	36,582	7,352,841	5,031,442
2040	39,900	7,773,481	5,310,724
2045	42,999	8,134,846	5,539,177
2050	45,998	8,461,295	5,741,948

Source: DOLA 2017

RECREATION TRENDS, PARTICIPATION AND VALUES

A number of factors including recreation trends at the local, state, and national level; shifts in demographics; and market forces contribute to the future demand of recreation amenities in Steamboat Springs. In addition, the community survey highlights the community's needs and desires. Steamboat Springs is facing increased demand from visitors and residents alike for the types of experiences provided by the community's parks, open spaces, and trails. This growth creates challenges as well as opportunities. The needs of the permanent and temporary residents, as well as those of visitors (the primary drivers of the economy), must all be considered. Visitors and residents intensively use the Yampa River area, the Yampa River Core Trail and sports facilities. Trails on Emerald Mountain and nearby US Forest Service lands are also popular and heavily used.

State and National Trends and Values

Across the nation, outdoor recreation is a powerful economic sector. State and national recreation trends are tracked on a yearly basis through industry organizations. The Outdoor Industry Association tracks nature-based experiences such as hiking, camping, mountain biking, water activities, and snow sports, as well as the economic impact contributed to this industry. Approximately 80 percent of consumer spending nationally is spent on trip and travel spending, which can be mostly applied to the local economy in which the travel takes place. Trail sports, camping, water sports, wheel sports, and snow sports make up the top five activities for trip-related spending which translates into the top five state and local taxes.

The Outdoor Industry Associations' 2017 Report highlights that 71 percent of Colorado's population participates in outdoor sports contributing to \$2.0 billion in state and local tax revenue and creating 229,000 direct jobs. In addition, recreation - and in particular, outdoor recreation - is increasingly linked to attracting employers and jobs and creating healthy economies and communities. These positive community changes contribute to reduced crime rate, improved education outcomes, and lower long-term individual and public healthcare costs (OIA 2017).

Colorado's Outdoor Recreation Economy

71% participate in outdoor recreation.

\$28 billion in consumer spending annually

229,000 direct jobs

\$9.7 billion in wages and salaries

\$2.0 billion in state and local tax revenue

Outdoor Industry Associations' 2017 Report

The Topline Report is a publication by the Physical Activity Council, which includes six of the major trade associates in US sports, fitness, and leisure industries. The 2017 Topline Report shows an increase in participation in physical activities with fitness sports and team sports having the most gain. Approximately 42 percent of the population ages 6 and over participate at least once a week in a high calorie burning activity. Trends show an increase in high caloric burning activities such as cross training workshops, stair climbing machines, triathlons, and climbing. Racquet sports still see a steady increase. The report highlights:

1. Correlation between inactivity and income.
2. Spending is down on equipment but up on travel to take part in sports and recreation, outdoor recreation, and gym memberships.
3. Ways to get non-participants involved, including improving their health, and having friends and partners provide encouragement and support.

The demographics of the United States are changing, and shifts are occurring most rapidly in urban areas. The nation's two largest demographic segments - Baby Boomers and Millennials - are guiding this shift toward urban living and are seeking compact, social environments that offer diversity, culture, and easy access to outdoor recreation. Millennials are waiting longer to buy a house, and both Millennials and Baby Boomers are showing a preference for smaller housing units; spending more time and money on experiences and travel.

Recruiting a highly educated workforce is now crucial to business attraction and the economic health of cities. As Baby Boomers continue to retire, there will be opportunities for younger people to seek good mid-to-high wage jobs. Educational institutions and healthcare facilities are strong industries that both attract and demand high- and mid-skilled talent.

Transportation preferences are shifting, with car ownership dropping overall, particularly among Baby Boomers and Millennials. Both groups prefer walkable environments and are becoming increasingly less dependent on the automobile as their primary mode of transportation. Walkable communities also experience economic benefits such as higher property

values and higher net incomes for office, retail and industrial businesses.

“88% of residents rate the recreational opportunities and amenities as good or excellent; 85% for the availability of paths and walking trails.”

2017 Community Survey, NRC

The obesity epidemic and rising health care costs in the United States have given rise to demand for better access to healthy and local foods and more opportunities for active living. Local policy makers are increasingly paying attention to the connection between health and the way communities are designed and branded.

People are increasingly first choosing where they want to live and then seeking employment there. In today's economy, the ability to attract and retain creative human talent is the key to economic growth. The cities that are most successful in attracting workers are the ones that offer unique amenities, including parks and recreation facilities and exciting art and cultural offerings.

Local Values and Participation Rates

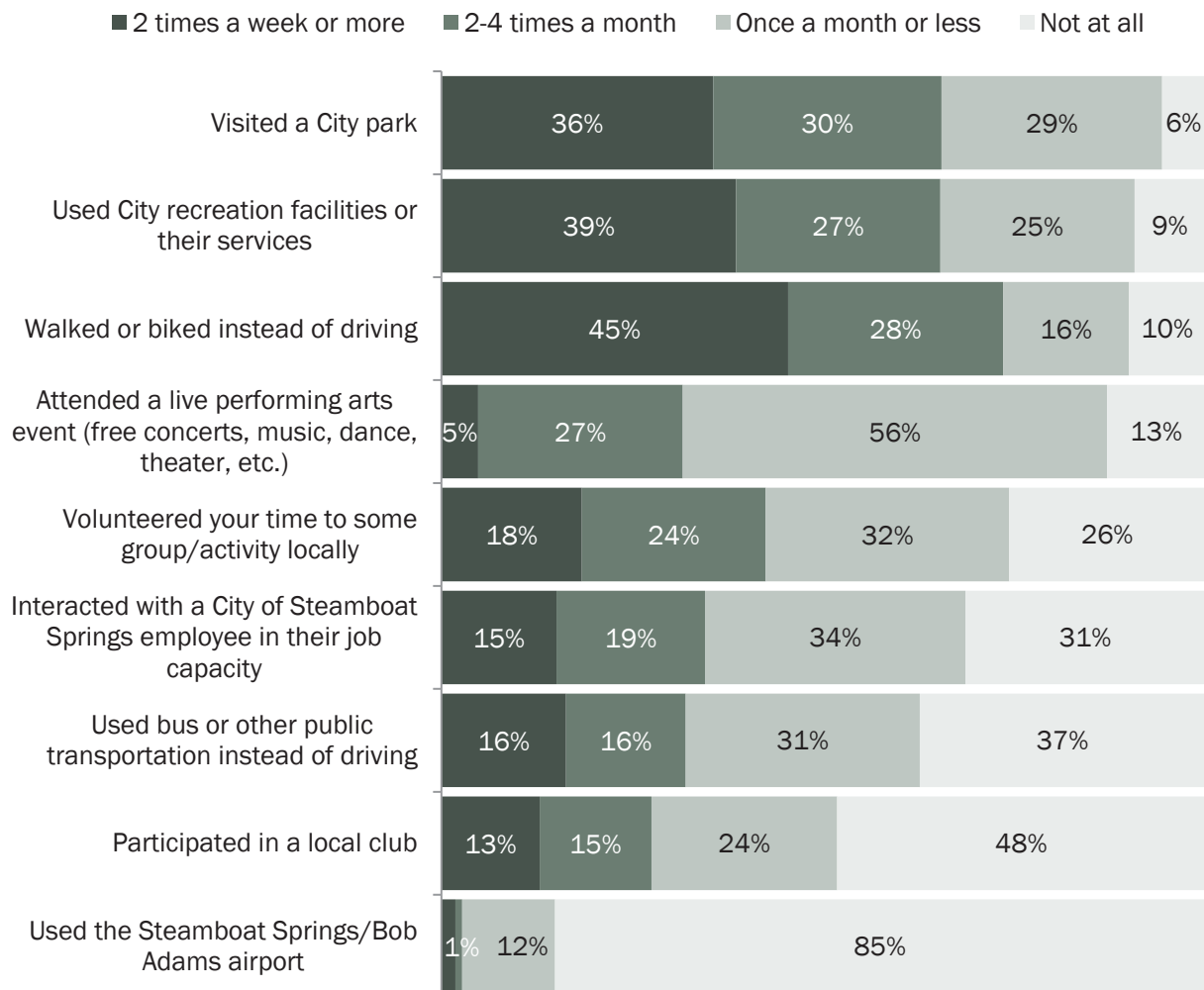
The Steamboat Springs community is very active with a large demand for outdoor recreation. The importance of the community's natural and scenic attributes, including the Yampa River and outdoor recreation, remains highly recognized as a community priority. Clearly, Steamboat Springs residents support the Department's mission and programs. The 2014 Supplement to the Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan highlighted that 92 percent of the community rated environmental stewardship as important, the highest of any of the 10 vision statements addressed in the plan. Further, 90 percent of the respondents rated open space and the need for adequate park, recreation, and trail opportunities as important, receiving the second highest rating among the 10 vision statements.

The 2015 and 2017 Community Surveys completed by the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) show that community members place a high priority on parks, trails, recreation and the natural environment. In response to funding priorities, 82 percent of respondents rated City parks maintenance and capital improvements as medium or high priority, second behind maintaining fire and EMS service levels. However, when asked about top three funding priorities, Howelsen Hill maintenance and capital improvements ranked above City parks maintenance. Regarding the importance of City services, 84 percent

rated preservation of natural areas and open spaces as essential or very important.

Residents are frequent users of parks and recreation services. The 2017 Community Survey found that 91 percent of residents used City recreation facilities or their services and that 94 percent of residents visited a City park, with 36 percent responding that they visited a City park two or more times per week.

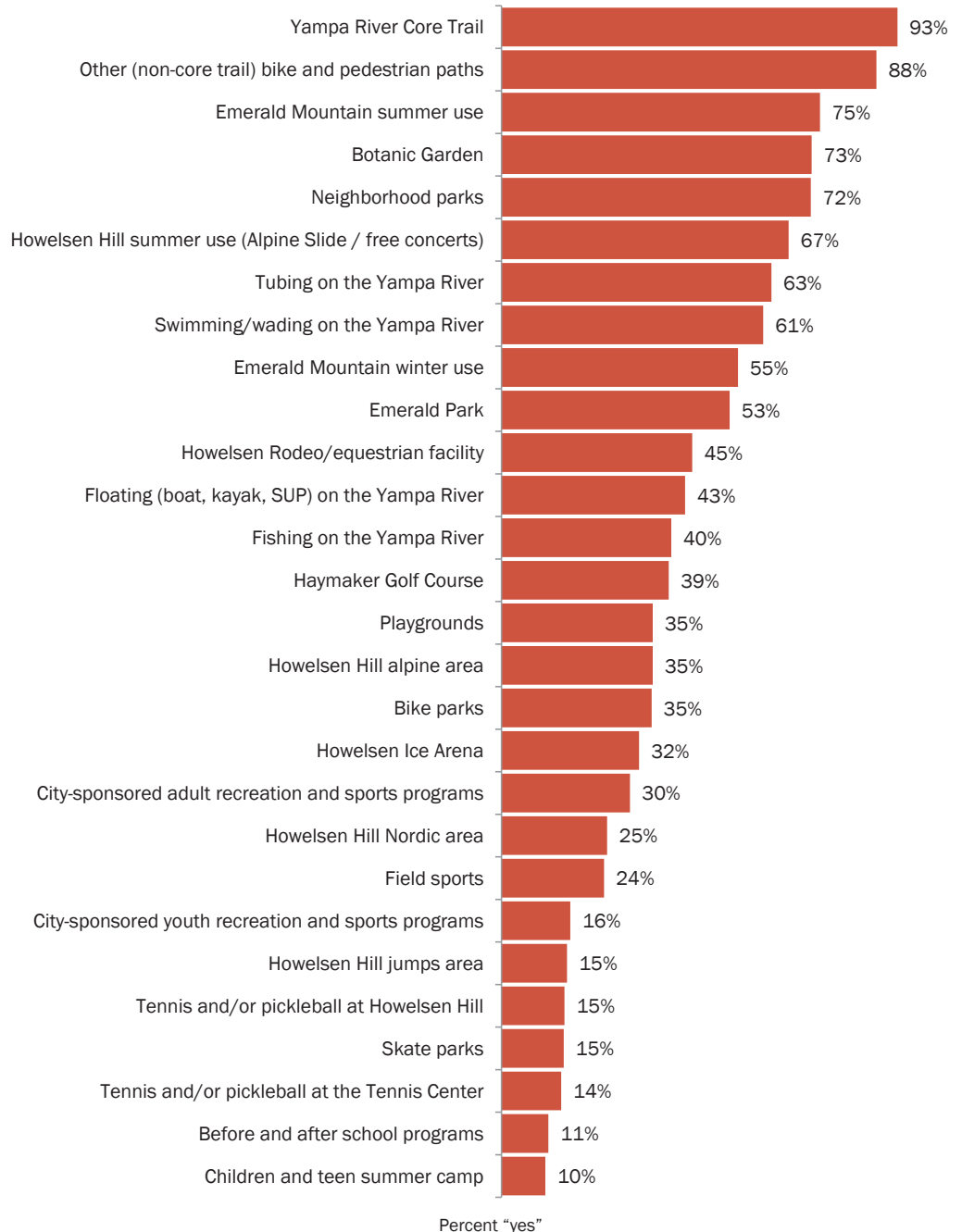
In the last 12 months, about how many times have you or other household members done each of the following in Steamboat Springs?



2017 Community Survey, NRC

Ninety-three percent of people said they had used the Yampa River Core trail in the last year; with 88 percent using other bike and pedestrian paths. Two-thirds to three-quarters of Steamboat Springs residents used Emerald Mountain in the summer, visited the Botanic Garden and neighborhood parks, and participated in Howelsen Hill summer events. One-half or more tubed or swam in the Yampa River, used Emerald Mountain in the winter, and used Emerald Park.

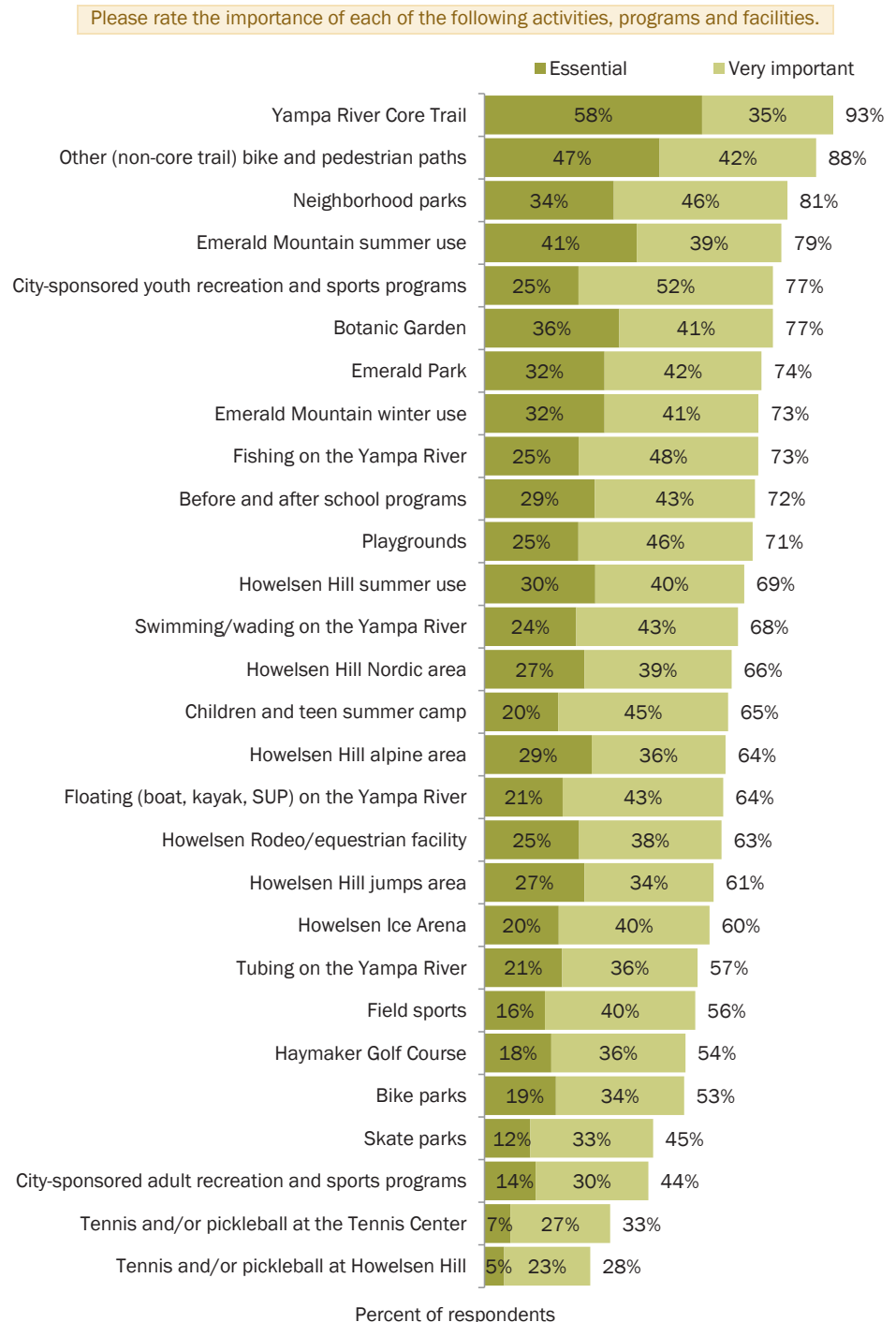
Please indicate whether or not you or anyone in your household has participated in or used each (either actively or as a spectator) in the last 12 months.



2017 Community Survey, NRC

The importance of 28 different parks and recreation activities and facilities was assessed on the 2017 survey as well. The Yampa River Core Trail was seen as the most important, with 93 percent of respondents feeling this was essential or very important. Nearly 9 in 10 felt that other (non-core trail) bike and pedestrian paths (88 percent) were important, while about 8 in 10 rated neighborhood parks (81 percent) and Emerald Mountain summer use (79 percent) as essential or very important. One-third or fewer respondents believed that tennis and/or pickleball at Howelsen Hill or at the Tennis Center were important; at least 2 in 10 said these were not at all important.

Of the 14 items for which comparisons to 2015 importance ratings were available, six increased in importance (City-sponsored adult recreation and sports programs, children and teen summer camp, before and after school programs, Howelsen Rodeo/equestrian facility, Howelsen Ice Arena and other (non-core trail) bike and pedestrian paths); the importance of Emerald Mountain winter use declined; and the rest were rated similar in 2017.



2017 Community Survey, NRC

TOURISM TRENDS

Steamboat Springs hosts approximately 500,000 to 700,000 guests to the Yampa Valley annually, which is a primary driver of the economy (2017 City Budget). Visitors come for a number of reasons; to enjoy the natural beauty, mountain atmosphere and vast local, state, and federal public lands in the area; to participate in sports tournaments; and attend festivals and events (Summer 2016 Visitors Report, RRC Associates).

Colorado is home to twenty-five ski areas. According to Colorado Ski Country USA, Vail, Aspen Mountain, Breckenridge, and Steamboat ski areas rank in the top ten ski areas in North America. However, Steamboat Springs is not just a winter destination; it is a year-round activity center for sporting and art and cultural events. Lodging figures provided by the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association show that an additional 5,000 to 15,000 visitors are in Steamboat Springs any given time.

While there was a dip during the recession between 2008 and 2012, summer lodging in mountain communities has reached record highs for the fifth consecutive year. The 2016 Summer Visitors Report showed an estimated 12,600 visitors came to Steamboat Springs on a recent July weekend and some 250,000 visitors are estimated to visit over the summer season (mostly in June, July, and August). These visitors more than double the permanent resident population.

The 2016 Report also showed that 40 percent of visitors are in-state, six percent are from Texas and Florida, Illinois, California, and Utah make up small portions. Of the in-state visitors 19 percent are from Jefferson County, 14 percent from Larimer County, 10 percent from both Denver and Arapahoe and 8 percent from Douglas. The average visitor stays four nights in paid/rented lodging and travelers are primarily couples (63 percent) or families (26 percent). Further, satisfaction rates have increased strongly.

As a result of growing visitation, sales tax revenues were up 3.5 percent in June 2017 compared to the prior year. Additionally, the accommodations tax, which is dedicated to parks and recreation amenities that drive tourism such as the Yampa Core Trail, Haymaker Golf Course, and downtown improvements, increased 4.3 percent during the same period. An estimated 35-40 percent of the local economy is attributed directly or indirectly to the tourism industry. Approximately 55 percent of City sales-tax revenue is generated in the winter months of November through April. The remaining 45 percent is collected May through October (2017 City Budget).

The 2015 Yampa Valley Data Partnership study on the economic impact of Triple Crown tournaments states that more than \$400,000 in sales tax was generated (directly or indirectly) for the City over the summer of 2014 by the spending associated with 16,500 guests. An additional \$36,000 is generated by Triple Crown tournaments through the Accommodations Tax.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

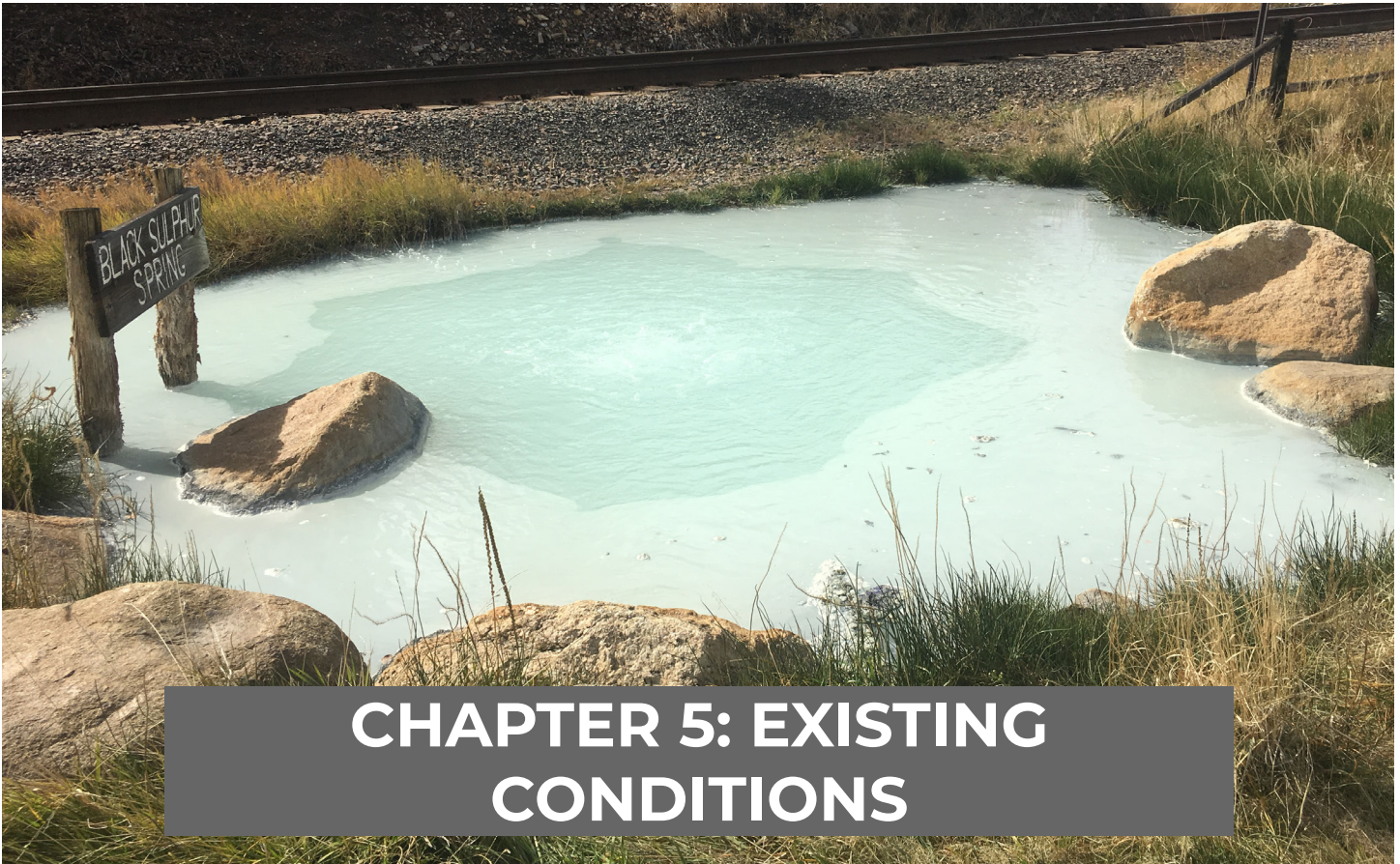
The City of Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Department plays a large role in the economic development and activity of the community. The operational and capital spending generate significant economic impacts in our community.

In addition, the Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Department contributes to the economic development process through:

- Business retention and expansion: Active engagement with companies and workers can influence business expansion decisions and attract new residents to a community, as well as retain local employees.
- Business attraction: The Parks and Recreation Department strengthens product development (e.g., building trail infrastructure) and enhance community “curb appeal”.
- Talent attraction: Many business owners first learn about places as visitors or tourists; positive recreational experiences can influence both business and talent recruitment.

Lastly, in addition to the key areas listed, the Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Department helps influence the community’s economic development and overall economic health through a number ancillary activities. On-site business activity (e.g., concessions) and tourism related spending (e.g., festivals, sports tournaments and events) have a strong economic impact. Also, increased physical activity through parks and recreation programs help improve the physical and mental health of residents, in turn, lowering health care related expenses for members of the community.





INVENTORY OF EXISTING LANDS AND FACILITIES

The City manages and maintains a large developed parks and trails system that offers a variety of recreational experiences. It also provides natural areas and open spaces for recreation as well as preservation of important habitat areas. Table 4 is a summary of the lands, trails and facilities in Steamboat Springs. Each of these assets are described in more detail later in this chapter.



Table 4 describes park classifications.

TABLE 4. PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL SIZE	LEVEL OF SERVICE
<i>Mini/Pocket Park</i>	Mini and pocket parks provide passive recreational opportunities with limited amenities. These small parks may contribute to meeting the parkland needs in neighborhoods by providing small play areas, shade pavilions, and open play areas.	<1.5 Acres	Not Applicable
<i>Neighborhood Park</i>	Neighborhood parks provide mostly active recreational opportunities and generally contain many diverse amenities, such as restrooms, shelters, small pavilions, horseshoe pits, playgrounds, open turf areas, and possibly athletic fields that can be used for practices.	1.5-8 Acres	Maximum ½ mile walking distance of population served. Provide minimum of 2 acres per 1,000 population
<i>Community Park</i>	Provides opportunities for community- wide activities and facilities. Should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas, such as urban forests, gardens, historic features, water features, performance areas, festival spaces, plazas, etc., and have features that appeal to the broader community. Community parks may also serve as the local neighborhood park for residential areas within ½ mile. Direct access to the community trail system is desirable.	8-40 Acres	Maximum 3 mile distance between parks (1.5 mile service area) Provide a minimum of 6 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 populations
<i>Regional Park</i>	Provides facilities and recreational amenities intended to serve City residents as well as the surrounding region. As such, regional parks typically involve partnerships with agencies and organizations that come together to provide a service or benefit, which they cannot individually afford or which they can provide more economically through a partnership. Typically, regional parks contain a mix of active sports fields, open space, and other amenities.	>40 Acres	Not applicable, but some park acreage may be used to satisfy community park needs and therefore be calculated into the total community parkland available in the City.
<i>Sports Complex</i>	Sports complexes are not always considered complete community parks as they are very special-purpose. However, they contribute to the overall level of service for community parks. They provide opportunities for community- wide programmed and self-directed sports such as baseball, softball, soccer, and tennis in higher intensity use facilities. They offer only limited areas for passive recreation uses and other features that appeal to the broader community. Sports complexes are strategically located to fill service gaps for specialized sports facilities. They should be relatively flat to accommodate sports fields and located away from residential areas to avoid traffic, light, and noise conflicts.	varies	Not Applicable
<i>Special Use Facility</i>	Serves a singular or very focused community need, such as a horticulture center, environmental education center, performance area, indoor sports and recreational facilities, or golf course.	Varies	Not Applicable

TABLE 5. EXISTING LANDS AND FACILITIES INVENTORY

SITE	ACRES	BALLFIELDS	MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEYBALL COURTS	SHELTER	PICNIC TABLES	BBQ	CORE TRAIL ACCESS	FISHING POND	NATURAL SPRING	NATURE/HIKING TRAIL	OPEN PLAY AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	OFF-LEASH DOGS	RIVER ACCESS	OTHER FACILITIES / NOTES
<i>Mini (M) , Neighborhood (N), and Pocket (P) Parks</i>																		
Brooklyn Park (N)	0.66						x						x	x				
Stehley Park (N)	7.74						x					x	x					
Eagle Scout Park (M/P)	0.66																	Primarily a parking lot
Steamboat Springs Park (M/P)	0.35						x				x						x	
West Side Park (N)	2.06													x				
Workman Park/Lions Park (M/P) / (M/P)	0.51						x		x								x	
Total Mini, Neighborhood and Pocket Parks	11.98																	
<i>Community (C) and Regional (R) Parks</i>																		
Dr. Rich Weiss Park (C)	0.4						x	x	x		x		x		x		x	
Iron Springs Park (C)	2.42						x				x							
Little Toots Park (C)	2.09					x	x	x	x				x	x	x		x	Horseshoe pits
Memorial Park (C)	7.63		x				x	x				x	x					
Rita Valentine Park (C)	37.09						x					x				x		
Stockbridge Park (C)	3.02						x		x					x	x		x	
West Lincoln Park (C)	5.76					x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	3 springs in the park. Visions for the park include: gateway park to downtown Steamboat Springs and the Creative District, addition of shelter for added shade, community rentals, and events, enhancing and/or emphasizing river access and views, incorporation of art and natural elements.
Whistler Park (C)	14.8		x				x	x					x	x	x	x		5.6 acres owned by city and 9.2 leased from the school district through 2037.
Bear River Park (C)	18.8						x	x	x						x		x	Skatepark and bike skills/ jump park. Park design approved but not funded.
Fetcher Park (C)	10.94						x	x	x	x		x	x		x		x	Leased from Mt. Werner Water
Howelsen Park and Ski Hill (R)	160.08	4		2	3	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			Ski hill and jumps, lodge, rodeo grounds, stables, alpine slide, skate park, BMX track, horseshoe pits.
Total Community & Regional Parks	263.03																	

TABLE 5. CONTINUED

SITE	ACRES	BALLFIELDS	MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEYBALL COURTS	SHELTER	PICNIC TABLES	BBQ	CORE TRAIL ACCESS	FISHING POND	NATURAL SPRING	NATURE/HIKING TRAIL	OPEN PLAY AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	OFF-LEASH DOGS	RIVER ACCESS	OTHER FACILITIES / NOTES
Sports Complexes																		
Heritage Park	6.80		2				x							x				leased through 2019
Ski Town Park	7.93	2	2			x	x						x					
Emerald Park	32.39	x	x			x	x	x	x				x	x	x		x	
Strawberry Park Field (School District)	2.85	1																leased through 2020
Total Sports Complexes	49.97																	
Special Use Facilities																		
Community Center/Transit Center	4.50						x		x								x	Buildings managed by other organizations and City departments
Haymaker Golf Course																		Nordic center in winter
Howelsen Ice Complex																		One indoor ice rink. Located in Howelsen Park
Rodeo Grounds						x									x			Located in Howelsen Park
Tennis Center	7.00			x		x									x			Adjacent to Ski Town Park
Yampa River Botanic Park	6.20								x			x						Operated and maintained by others. Amphitheater. Facilities can be rented.
Total Special Use Facilities	256.53																	

TABLE 5. CONTINUED

SITE	ACRES	BALLFIELDS	MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEYBALL COURTS	SHELTER	PICNIC TABLES	BBQ	CORE TRAIL ACCESS	FISHING POND	NATURAL SPRING	NATURE/HIKING TRAIL	OPEN PLAY AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	OFF-LEASH DOGS	RIVER ACCESS	OTHER FACILITIES / NOTES
Natural Areas (NA) Park/Natural Areas (P/NA)																		
Casey's Pond (P/NA)	6.50									x								
Lithia Springs Park (P/NA)	10.18						x				x	x						
River Creek Park (P/NA)	16.54								x	x							x	
Spring Creek Mt Preserve (NA)	739.62																	Backcountry trails
Spring Creek Park (P/NA)	41					x	x			x		x				x		
M&H (NA)	29.62																	Backcountry trails
Rotary Park (P/NA)	9.26					x	x	x	x								x	Wetlands boardwalk
Sleepy Bear Park (P/NA)	3.85													X				
River Creek Pinic Park (P/NA)	1.64																	
More Barn Park (P/NA)	4.3																	
Emerald Mountain Natural Park Areas																		
Baxter Property (NA) (unconserved)	35											x						Backcountry trails
Gossard Property (NA)	120											x						Backcountry trails
Murri Property (NA)	159.49											x						Backcountry trails
OCCRA Parkland (NA)	20.63											x						Backcountry trails
Smilkstien (NA)	10											x						Backcountry trails
Total Natural Areas	1207.63																	
Open Spaces (Conservation Easement)																		
Yampa River Parcels																		
Trafalgar Conservation Easement	13.6																x	
Steamboat Springs State Wildlife Area (CPW)	8.8																x	
Mt. Werner State Wildlife Area (CPW)	46.7																x	
UPRR Yampa River Open Space	14.53																x	Along the Yampa River through downtown
Snake Island	11.15					x	x		x								x	
Fournier Open Space	13.11																x	Future Core Trail Access
La Farge Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area	102.8																x	Managed by CPW

SITE	ACRES	BALLFIELDS	MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEYBALL COURTS	SHELTER	PICNIC TABLES	BBQ	CORE TRAIL ACCESS	FISHING POND	NATURAL SPRING	NATURE/HIKING TRAIL	OPEN PLAY AREA	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	OFF-LEASH DOGS	RIVER ACCESS	OTHER FACILITIES / NOTES
<i>Emerald Mountain</i>																		
South Howelsen Hill Recreation Area	35								x									
Emerald Mountain North	586.37											x						Winter Nordic Trails
Baxter Property	103.2											x						Winter Nordic Trails
Combs Property	21.87											x						Winter Nordic Trails
<i>Historic/Agricultural Properties</i>																		
Legacy Ranch	134.78																	No public access. Building leased to Yampatika.
Williams Preserve	93.16																	No public access
Mesa School house	.46																	Available to rent for events
Total Open Space	1185.53																	
<i>Streetscapes</i>																		
Medians	7.5																	1.9 miles of medians
Total Medians	7.5																	
Total Acreage	2982.17																	

PARKS

There are 17 mini, neighborhood, pocket, community and regional parks, and four sports complexes, which total more than 297 acres. Table 6 briefly describes each park.

TABLE 6. PARK DESCRIPTIONS

MINI / NEIGHBORHOOD /POCKET PARKS	
Brooklyn Park	This park is located adjacent to the historic Brooklyn neighborhood immediately south of Howelsen Park
Stehley Park	This site has a small informal turf area but is mostly natural area with trailhead access to the Butcherknife Canyon Trail.
Eagle Scout Park	This site has riparian improvements along Butcherknife Creek with a parking lot.
Steamboat Springs Park	This little park is unique if for no other reason than it contains the City's historical namesake. Here is the original "Steamboat Spring." It is easy to miss this little gem because it is on the far side of the river from the main greenway and most activities, but it serves as a reminder of the natural geologic features that make this City special.
West Side Park	This small park has a playground and open space next to West Acres Mobile Home Park.
Workman Park/ Lions Park	This park is a linear park on Yampa Street in the downtown and was recently developed. It provides primary river access points in Downtown, with some turf and picnic tables.

TABLE 6. CONTINUED

COMMUNITY /REGIONAL PARKS	
Dr. Rich Weiss Park	This small park is an urban oasis just south of Downtown along US 40. It has a grassy lawn area and access to the Yampa River, which is very popular in the summer. Outflows from the Old Town Hot Springs enter here. The Core Trail crosses the river just south of this park, and Snake Island is adjacent to the property.
Iron Springs Park	This small park includes a picnic area and access to a natural spring.
Little Toots Park	This park is centrally located between Downtown, the river, and the library. It is heavily used by families and others as a place to picnic and play and provides ample shade. It is also heavily scheduled for special events. While a small single stall restroom exists in an adjacent building, an accessible full service restroom is needed to accommodate the level of visitors to this park.
Memorial Park	This park provides a small soccer field near the High School and a small picnic area, Kastors Cove on the creek. Spring Creek, and the Sailors Way trail run adjacent to the park.
Rita Valentine Park	Rita Valentine recently became an off-leash dog park with future improvements possible. It is not currently fenced. It also does not have typical neighborhood park amenities, like a picnic shelter and play area.
Stockbridge Park	Stockbridge Park is located just west of the downtown core, and is the location of the City's Community Center and a popular playground. It has numerous parking spots, and contains the Transit Center which is a major stop for the Greyhound line and local and regional buses. The Yampa River and the Yampa River Core Trail also travel adjacent to this park.
West Lincoln Park	This is a relatively large but passive park along the main road west of Downtown that is home to several special events. It is the access point for the "D" Hole, a popular play hole for kayakers on the Yampa River. To accommodate this, there are changing rooms built into the restroom facility here. West Lincoln Park also contains several natural springs, including Sulphur, Soda, and Sweetwater.
Whistler Park	Whistler Park is located in the southern part of Steamboat Springs along Walton Creek, and is programmed for a variety of field sports. Access to the park is through a residential neighborhood. Nonetheless, it serves an important role in the programming needs of the City for active recreation. Land adjacent to the City's property is owned by the school district and is leased to the City for use as multi-purpose field area and an overflow parking area.
Bear River Park	This park has been partially developed to include a skatepark, pump track, and bike jumps. It is accessed by the Yampa River Core Trail on the west end of town. Bear River Park Master Plan includes formal river access for boats, and other park amenities.
Fetcher Park	Located adjacent to the Yampa River, this park has fishing ponds, restrooms that are open year-round, a small picnic area, and river access. It is owned by Mt Werner Water.
Howelsen Park and Ski Hill	Howelsen Park is situated immediately across the river in Downtown Steamboat Springs, and is accessible from the vehicle bridge at 5th Street and a pedestrian bridge at 9th Street. Howelsen Park includes a variety of amenities including alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding, baseball/softball fields, tennis and volleyball courts, a skate park, rental shade pavilion, playground and an alpine slide. The park also accommodates tournaments and special events. Many of the Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival events are located here including the fireworks show and skiing demonstrations. Howelsen Hill is the home of the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club (SSWSC), which provides training for a wide range of winter sports and hosts national ski jumping events. The City maintains the Nordic trails through the winter, and operates the ski area lifts. The ski area is open to the public, and on Sundays is free to community and visitors. Howelsen Park also serves as the gateway to miles of hiking and mountain biking trails south and west of the City on the Howelsen Open Space and Emerald Mountain Conservation Easement properties. The Rodeo Grounds and Ice Arena are adjacent to the developed park area and are described later.

SPORTS COMPLEXES

Strawberry Park Field (School District)	Strawberry Park Field is located on the Middle School property and is an important field for recreational programming and tournaments. The City maintains the field through the summer via a lease agreement.
Ski Town Park	Ski Town Park is an active park primarily focused on tennis and field sports. It has a turf field area that is heavily programmed for a variety of sports. The Department's maintenance staff works hard to manage and maintain this as a facility for a tournament and recreational use. Parking tends to flow into adjacent neighborhoods.
Emerald Park	Emerald Park accommodates a large amount of active recreation. It is a prime location for soccer and other field sports, as well as baseball and softball. It also serves as the gateway to the Yampa River Botanic Park. The Yampa River Core Trail runs adjacent to the park, providing good access for pedestrians and bicyclists. The recent completion of vehicle access directly to the park helps to improve connectivity.
Heritage Park	This soccer complex is located far west of downtown near the Heritage Park neighborhood. Though this site is privately owned, the City has a 20-year lease on the property until the end of 2019. The Steamboat Soccer Club uses the fields for young children and also for its annual tournament, but the facility is underutilized and the City must determine whether or not to renew the lease.

Park Service Areas

Service areas represent the immediate neighborhood that has access to a developed park without crossing a major arterial roadway, river, or other barrier that prevents easy pedestrian or bicycle access. Map 1 shows the locations of parks and the 1/4 and 1/2 mile areas around them that they serve based on walking routes. The Downtown area and areas near Whistler and Bear River parks are well served by neighborhood and community parks. Areas on the “mountain” are less served by developed park amenities, as Rita Valentine Park currently only has trails and functions as a dog park.

Steamboat Springs currently provides 23.6 acres per 1,000 residents of developed mini, neighborhood, community, and regional parks (based on population of 12,600). The calculated level of service includes the acreage associated with the rodeo grounds and the Howelsen Ice Complex, as well as several parks, like Rita Valentine, that contain little or no turfgrass or developed recreational facilities. Also, the facilities that take the most space in the park system are ballfields and multi-purpose fields (and associated parking), which are heavily scheduled for tournaments throughout the summer, and which are used by the visitors who stay in lodging and temporary rental homes during the tournaments. The large number of fields in the community is directly related to the high level of service for parkland.

There are a total of six large and five smaller ballfields, which results in a level of service of one ball field per 1,145 residents. There are eight large and four medium size multi-purpose fields, for a total of 12 multi-purpose fields, which results in a level of service of one multi-purpose field per 1,050 residents. Both the parkland and sports fields levels of service are at least twice that provided by most other Colorado communities, and more than three to four times the national average. Clearly, Steamboat Springs has built parks and sports complexes that are equipped to host tournaments, and as stated earlier, benefit from the economic development that results.



SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Steamboat Springs has six facilities that are different than typical parks and open space areas. They are described below in Table 7.

TABLE 7. SPECIAL USE FACILITIES DESCRIPTIONS

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES	
Community Center/ Transit Center	The Community and Transit centers are located at the northwest end of Downtown adjacent to Stockbridge Park. The facilities are scheduled and managed by other city departments and local agencies.
Haymaker Golf Course	Located just south of the City, Haymaker is a public golf course that is managed by the Golf Management Committee, and operates as an enterprise fund. It offers a clubhouse, leagues, and pro instruction, and in the winter is a Nordic center used for cross country skiing, skate skiing and fat biking by a private concessionaire.
Howelsen Ice Complex	The Howelsen Ice Complex contains an Olympic sized sheet of ice with four locker rooms. Activities include bumper-cars-on-ice, public skating, drop-In hockey and adult and junior hockey leagues. The ice is used often by local non-profit organizations including the Steamboat Springs Youth Hockey Association, the Steamboat Springs Skating Club and other Hockey clubs.
Rodeo Grounds	The Howelsen Rodeo Grounds and Brent Romick Arena host the Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo Series Friday and Saturday nights through the summer. The first documented rodeo to take place at this location was in 1898. The rodeo grounds represents Steamboat Springs' classic identity as a traditional western town that differentiates it from other resorts in Colorado. The Rodeo Master Plan outlines desired improvements to upgrade the facilities and parking areas. Nordic trails are groomed through the parking areas in the winter, and connect to the Nordic trail system on Howelsen Hill.
Tennis Center	Located within Ski Town Park, this facility includes indoor and outdoor competition tennis and pickleball courts that are both clay and hard surfaced, a conference room, lounge, and other amenities. It is operated through a private concessions that is periodically renegotiated.
Yampa River Botanic Park	The Botanic Park is located adjacent to Emerald Park and is operated by the Yampa River Botanic Parks Board through an endowment and memberships. This facility offers visitors a chance to experience a quiet and elegant horticultural garden that is also the site of special events.

PARK/NATURAL AREAS, OPEN SPACES, STREETSCAPES, AND TRAILS

The City maintains passive resource areas in addition to the developed parks, sports fields, and special use facilities. Totaling approximately 2,300+ acres, these areas are used for limited recreation, wildlife habitat protection, floodplain connectivity, water quality, neighborhood/wildland buffers, and agriculture. Some properties have more developed park-like features but are predominately used for passive recreation, and others do not have public access. "Open Space" is limited to those properties that have been protected by a conservation easement. "Natural Areas" and "Park/Natural Areas" are properties that are owned and managed by the City. "Streetscapes" consist of landscape areas that do not have developed parkland or natural landscapes, and include patches of landscaping that enhances the aesthetics of the community.

The City has an extensive trail system highlighted by the community's crown jewel, the Yampa River Core

Trail. The Core Trail extends approximately 6 miles north to south along the Yampa River, and is used extensively for both recreation and transportation. The Core Trail, and Secondary Trails, which together total approximately 20 miles, provide non-motorized recreation activities and opportunities for commuting to school and work. The Backcountry Trail system is extensive, and totals approximately 26.5 miles. These trails are used for hiking, trail running, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and in some locations, for Nordic skiing.

TABLE 8. PARK/NATURAL AREAS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND STREETSCAPES DESCRIPTIONS

OPEN SPACES (CONSERVATION EASEMENTS)	
Trafalgar Conservation Easement	These properties along the Yampa River protect the ecological, wildlife habitat, open space, aesthetic, scenic, visual and recreational value, in particular fishing, that are worthy of preservation.
Steamboat Springs State Wildlife Area	
Mt. Werner State Wildlife Area	
La Farge Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area	
South Howelsen Hill Recreation Area	These properties on Emerald Mountain possess natural, scenic, open space, wildlife habitat and public recreation values that are worthy of preservation. Summer and winter non-motorized trails are enjoyed by many locals and visitors on these properties.
Emerald Mountain North	
Baxter Property	
Combs Property	
Mesa School House	This 1916 schoolhouse is one of the oldest school houses in Routt County and is available to rent for events.
Emerald Mountain	Located adjacent to Howelsen Hill, this large property provides extensive trail-based recreation experiences for non-motorized multi-use. It connects to the BLM trail system on the east side.
Fournier Open Space	This site is a small parcel on the west side of the City between the Yampa River and US 40. There is a small parking lot for fishing access.
Williams Preserve	Located west of the Yampa River near Rotary park, this site is administered as an agricultural lease.
Legacy Ranch	It is managed by the City for hay leasing, wildlife habitat/corridor, and visual green space. Ranch buildings are leased by local non-profit.
Rotary Park	This unique property provides river access and also contains an extensive boardwalk system, a shelter and a large sculpture.
Snake Island	This site is accessible via the Yampa River Core Trail and provides areas for picnicking, wildlife viewing, and hiking.
UPRR Yampa River Open Space	Located along the Yampa River near Howelsen Park through downtown.
STREETSCAPES	
Downtown Streetscape and Medians	The downtown area provides recreational opportunities beyond those of shopping and dining. It also provides a traditional “main street” experience for strolling, window shopping, etc. The Department plays a role in providing this experience through the plants and other amenities it maintains in the public right of way Downtown. Other medians and tree lawns through the City are also managed by the Department.
TRAILS	
Yampa River Core Trail	This is the system located along the Yampa River. It is the City’s most heavily-used trail and it currently extends from Dougherty Road through Downtown to Bear River Park. The Core Trail consists of a 10-foot wide paved surface with a variety of amenities such as signage, overlooks, and benches. Some sections have parallel soft surface trail where feasible. This trail can accommodate a wide variety of users including bicyclists, pedestrians, and in-line skaters.
Secondary Trails	Secondary trails are dispersed throughout the community. Currently secondary trails consist of both hard and soft surface trails 8 feet in width. Many of these trails are found within neighborhoods and provide linkages between parks, backcountry trails, and the Core Trail.
Backcountry Trails	These are natural or soft surface trails with a typical corridor width of 3-4 feet. Primary users are hikers and mountain bikers in summer and snowshoers and cross-country skiers in winter. The majority of these trails are located in the Howelsen Open Space, Emerald Mountain Open Space, and Spring Creek Mountain Park, often connecting to adjacent federal public lands.

PARK/NATURAL AREAS

Casey's Pond	This site is located along US40 and has a fishing pond, small irrigated turf area, and perimeter trail.
Lithia Springs Park	The natural springs in this park are historic and unique.
River Creek Park	This site along the Core Trail and Walton Creek is adjacent to Rotary Park and is primarily used for river access for fishing and launching water craft.
Spring Creek Park	This park is located along the creek and has a small reservoir that is planned for reconstruction. It is currently being used as an off leash dog park.
Spring Creek Mountain Preserve	This property provides scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and hiking and mountain biking trails just northeast of the City.
M&H	This property is adjacent to Rita Valentine Park and has trails used to connect neighborhoods to access Rita Valentine Park.
Rotary Park	This small park provides access to the Yampa River, Core Trail and has a boardwalk and pavilion that can be used by the public but is not rentable.
Sleepy Bear Park	This small park serves as green space for the neighborhood.
River Creek Picnic Park	This park is adjacent to Fish Creek and provides access to Sanctuary Trails.
More Barn Park	This park is home to the famous Steamboat Barn and has access to neighborhood trails.
OCCRA Parkland	This property on Emerald Mountain is adjacent to Fairview neighborhood and provides access to trails.
Smilkstein	This property on Emerald Mountain is adjacent to Fairview neighborhood and provides access to trails.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife resources and habitat include the combination of landform, vegetation, and water resources within the valley and the surrounding areas. Many of the lands within the valley provide migration corridors for large mammals, while other areas include reproductive habitat and areas of winter range critical for the survival of individual species.

While there is an abundance of publicly-owned land within the county, property divisions do not necessarily conform to natural system boundaries and therefore, it becomes critical to develop a system for protection of both public and private lands.


Map 2, which was prepared as part of the 2008 Open Space and Trails Master Plan, illustrates some of the more important habitat types and features that occur in the Steamboat Springs vicinity, each of which is briefly discussed below:

Elk Production Areas. These are areas where elk calve, which generally occurs from May 15 to June 15. Calving areas are widely distributed, most notably along much of Emerald Mountain, Blacktail Mountain, and scattered upland areas along the eastern edge of the Yampa Valley.

Elk Winter Concentration Areas and Severe Winter Range. As the name implies, these are areas where elk concentrate during the winter. Severe winter range includes those areas where 90 percent of the herd concentrates in extreme conditions.

Mule Deer Winter Concentration Areas and Severe Winter Range. Deer use this habitat in the same way as was described for elk. Relatively little of this habitat type occurs in the Steamboat Springs vicinity; those that do occur are generally located along lower elevation, south and west-facing slopes above the Yampa River.

Yampa River Corridor. Riparian habitat is one of the most valuable habitat types in Colorado, providing habitat for a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial species. In addition to its overall habitat values, the Yampa River corridor supports two active bald eagle nesting sites within the study area and provides winter habitat and concentration



areas for this species. The river corridor also contains a series of great blue heron nesting areas.

The Important Wildlife Habitat Map also shows a series of conservation sites designated by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). Though not within this plan's study area, two primary CNHP sites are located nearby, the largest of which is Pleasant Valley south of the study area. This site is rated by CNHP as having a high biodiversity significance and is described as being a part of the extensive Yampa River riparian corridor, which is "one of the last remaining intact riparian systems in the west." In addition to montane riparian forest, cottonwood riparian forest, and riparian shrub communities, the Pleasant Valley site has a documented occurrence of boreal toad (a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973). Historically, the area has also been used as a great blue heron nesting site.

Soda Creek at Strawberry Park is the other primary CNHP site in the Steamboat Springs vicinity. This site is also ranked as having high biodiversity significance and includes montane riparian forests and willow carrs. Several other CNHP sites are located just outside of the planning area, including a tributary to Walton Creek that contains Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, which is listed as a Colorado Species of Special Concern.

YAMPA RIVER

The Yampa River is a largely free flowing river with limited dams and a relatively natural hydrograph making it a rare yet critical tributary to the Colorado River system. It flows through the heart of the Steamboat Springs community providing recreation, environmental, and economic benefits. The Yampa River and its corridor are heavily used by recreationists for activities including boating, tubing, kayaking, swimming, and fishing. The 2015 Community Survey found that 78 percent of residents said “Recreation on the Yampa River” was “Essential” or “Very Important” to them.

Recreational Use

Since the Yampa River Master Plan was created in 2004, recreational use of the Yampa River has increased. More than 60 percent of residents swim, wade or tube on the river, and floating the river has become more and more popular with tourists, attracting more people to Steamboat. An estimated 3,000 or more tubers are on the river during a typical summer weekend day. The current Yampa River Master Plan limits commercial tubing to 915 on weekend days, but does not limit private tubing. While the unregulated private tubing use continues to increase, the City must continue to balance these uses with resource protection and the costs of trash removal.

The Yampa River is also used for kayaking, rafting,

and fishing both privately and through commercial outfitters. The River provides a series of river features that are popular with kayakers and tubers. In addition, new floating devices, such as stand up paddleboards (SUPs) have emerged, increasing the activity level on the river. River access is provided at numerous locations, with the level of improvements varying by location. The City has been gradually implementing the recommendations from the 2008 Yampa River Structural Plan, including improved river access, bank stabilization measures and in-stream recreational features.

Land Use

A variety of land uses exists along the Yampa River corridor. Fortunately, much of the River is adjacent to the Core Trail and other parks, natural areas, and open spaces managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. However, residential, commercial, and industrial areas line the river in some areas. In a few cases, adjacent land uses have resulted in the channelization of the Yampa River and a reduction of the adjacent floodplain, wetland, and riparian areas. The City’s Community Development Code requires a 50-foot building setback from the ordinary high water mark of the Yampa River, except along Yampa Street where a 30-foot building setback is required. This setback only applies to structures and does not limit the development of roadways, parking, patios, and other non-structure features within the setback. City

Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

The Yampa River and its riparian corridors provide important habitats for aquatic invertebrate species, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.



Floodplain Regulations deter development within the 100-year floodplain, but do not prevent development that complies with FEMA floodplain standards.

Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

The Yampa River and its riparian corridors provide important habitats for aquatic invertebrate species, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. A wide variety of bird species, particularly neotropical songbirds and waterfowl, rely heavily on the water habitats provided along the Yampa River. Many wildlife species utilizing these water habitats depend entirely on the availability and quality of these habitats for their necessary life cycles, specifically dietary, and reproductive specialization. Throughout history the River has been dramatically altered from its natural state. Channelization, riprap, diversions, dams, and other man-made features have altered the hydrological regime of the river and its floodplain, affecting both aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

For the first time, in December 2015, the Yampa River was classified as a “303(d) Impaired” water body by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for temperature and arsenic. As development in the

study area continues, threats to water quality increase. Non-point sources, such as stormwater, discharge to the river with limited treatment. Floodplain areas that act as a pollutant filtering system for the river continue to be lost. In addition, a number of tributary drainages converge within the study area. Upstream uses along these drainages influence water quality in the Yampa. Finally, natural and accelerated erosion continues along the banks of the Yampa, adding sediment and further reducing water quality.

The protection and enhancement of the natural environment along the river is a primary planning objective. Increasing recreation levels on the river’s natural environment has been identified as a community concern. Informal trails, invasive weeds, trash, dog feces, and human activity including residential and recreational development, can negatively affect the habitat of the river. The level and extent of human activity may also affect sensitive wildlife habitats that support a wide variety of species, including big game and small game species, as well as numerous non-game amphibian, mammal and bird species, including critical raptor nesting and roosting sites.

RIVER MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Yampa River corridor is divided into six River Management Areas (RMAs) that were defined to provide a framework for management of the river corridor. Each RMA represents a reach of the river with somewhat distinct qualities, issues, and management opportunities. The boundaries of the RMAs were defined after considering land use, the types of recreational amenities that are available, aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and other resources. The following is a description of each reach and its appropriate uses. More detailed management policies and maps of the river are contained in Chapter 7 – Recommendations.

RMA 1 Walton Creek. This upper reach is the most undeveloped reach and travels through conserved areas in the study area and it has the highest level of natural and aesthetic qualities. This RMA begins approximately ½ mile below the parking lot at Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area. Maintaining this RMA’s highly natural condition requires that it be managed for lower levels of recreational use. The primary uses are fishing and rafting/kayaking/SUPing with the goal of providing a high quality experience with limited encounters with other visitors and a perceived lack of crowding. Tubing is discouraged until Fetcher Park. In addition to managing the quality of the recreational experience, access and use levels should be monitored

to prevent impacts to sensitive wildlife areas. Although RMA 1 is largely undeveloped, its riparian area has been degraded by decades of various land use activities. This riparian forest should be restored with an emphasis on protecting its cottonwood canopy cover to provide shade for the river and terrestrial habitat. Where possible, additional lands or conservation easements should be acquired to further protect this area from development and clearing of vegetation. Additional public access points should be assessed on case by case basis to minimize impacts and use in this RMA.

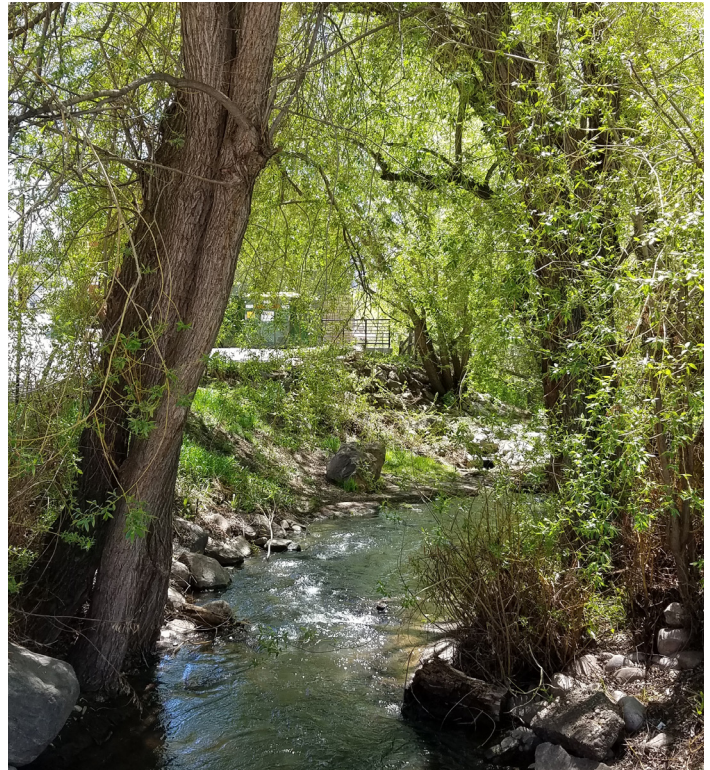
RMA 2 Fish Creek. This RMA is located between Fetcher and Weiss Park, travels through conservation easements, past Emerald Park, and contains a mix

of land uses. The RMA's semi-natural condition and accessibility make it suitable for moderate levels of recreational use. Uses should be managed to minimize impacts to aquatic life, angling and residential areas, especially within the designated quiet zone.

RMA 3 Snake Island. This RMA is a relatively short section approximately 0.5 miles long. The downstream limit of the reach is Weiss Park. The RMA's easy access, high visibility to visitors, complementing land uses, and recreational amenities make it suitable for moderate to high levels of use. Appropriate uses include kayaking, rafting, swimming, and tubing. The area needs intensive management to reduce visitor conflicts and resource damage. Opportunities to enhance riparian vegetation on Snake Island exist.

RMA 4 Downtown. The RMA is located in downtown Steamboat Springs and extends from the vicinity of the Howelsen Ice Complex downstream to the 13th Street Bridge. The RMA's easy access, recreational amenities, high visibility, proximity to downtown, and complimenting land uses makes it the most suitable RMA for high levels of recreational use. Appropriate uses include fishing, kayaking, rafting, swimming, and tubing. However, maintaining these high use levels requires intensive management to ensure safety, and to avoid land use and transportation conflicts. Stormwater runs off of the US40 and Downtown Corridor, carrying pollutants from the roadway and commercial areas and discharging them into RMA 4. Continued implementation of the City's Stormwater Management Program, including retrofitting streetscapes with nature-based solutions for stormwater treatment is warranted. Continued protection and restoration of the riparian forest will also benefit the health of the river through RMA 4.

RMA 5 Stockbridge. This RMA is located between 13th Street and was extended through Bear River Park during this planning effort because of the planned river take-out point at the park. The RMA's easy access, recreational amenities, and land uses make it suitable for high levels of use. Appropriate uses include kayaking, rafting, fishing, swimming and tubing. However, quiet zone guidelines, and other restrictions need to be maintained in order to avoid impacting residential areas. Industrial uses are most



concentrated in RMA 5, so the integration of nature-based solutions for stormwater treatment coupled with the implementation of the City's stormwater regulatory program will help to preserve its water quality. Planting larger trees to screen out residential and industrial uses could enhance the user experience while preserving and restoring the health of the Yampa River.

RMA 6 Slate Creek. This RMA was identified as a part of this planning process and is located from Bear River Park to Slate Creek. Therefore, the management prescriptions are the same as for RMA 1. Uses should be limited to fishing, rafting, and kayaking/SUPing, and the goal should be to provide a high quality experience with limited encounters with other visitors and a perceived lack of crowding. Opportunities for public put-in/take-out are limited to Fournier Open Space; however, boats can continue to float to Steamboat II or further down river to other public access points. In addition to managing the quality of the recreational experience, access and use levels should be strictly controlled to prevent impacts to sensitive wildlife areas. Where possible, additional lands or conservation

easements should be acquired to further protect this area from development and clearing of vegetation. Additional public access points should be assessed on case by case basis to minimize impacts and use in this RMA.

TOURNAMENTS

Steamboat Springs is the location for many sports tournaments through the summer, and every available field is scheduled, which requires a high level of maintenance and staffing to keep the facilities in playable and safe condition.

Triple Crown Sports, based in Fort Collins, Colorado, conducts large youth baseball, and youth and adult softball tournaments from June through the first week of August, which utilizes all of the ballfields in the City. They also use fields in Hayden, Craig, and Oak Creek. The tournaments bring in thousands of visitors from across the state and country, filling lodging units and vacation homes, and contributing significantly to the health of local businesses. Sales and lodging taxes are also generated for the City, and are estimated to be more than \$450,000 each year. While in Steamboat Springs, families also tube on the Yampa River, attend the rodeos and summer concerts, utilize the trail systems, and participate in many other activities.

The City has an agreement with Triple Crown for use of the fields, which expires in 2020. The City pays Triple

Crown a graduated fee based on the number of teams in tournaments, which ranges between \$65,000 and \$80,000. The City is also obligated to invest \$75,000 annually for field improvements and/or development. Triple Crown pays a minimum of \$15,000 per year for field and other improvements.

Steamboat Mountain Soccer Tournament is hosted by the Steamboat Soccer Club in mid-July, has up to 160 teams from all over Colorado, as well as teams from Utah, California, Iowa, Missouri, Texas, and Georgia (to name a few). It is an invitational tournament that uses fields throughout the City for competitive and recreation teams for ages 9 through 19.

Steamboat Doubles Volleyball Tournament is held in mid-July, and has 22 divisions and over 550 teams in attendance. It is the second largest adult volleyball 2x2 tournament in Colorado, and one of the largest in the nation. The tournament utilizes open turf areas across the City, including multi-purpose fields and the outfields of ballfields at Howelsen Park. Steamboat Springs Rugby and Steamboat Youth Lacrosse also host a tournament during the summer, and utilize Whistler and Ski Town Park primarily.





Creating Champions

“The SSWSC seeks to “Create Champions, on and off the Mountain” and provides year-round training and youth development to approximately 1,000 athletes every year in the disciplines of Alpine, Cross Country, Freestyle, Freeskiing, Nordic Combined, Special Jumping, Telemark, Snowboard Freestyle, Alpine Snowboarding, Strength and Conditioning, Cycling, and Skateboarding. Serving tens of thousands of youth for more than a century, the club is one of the oldest and most successful clubs in North America, producing 96 Olympians with 166 Olympic appearances.”

Source as of June 2018: www.SSWSC.org “

The SSWSC warrants further description because of their longstanding relationship to the City of Steamboat Springs and use of Howelsen Ski Hill. The City has a contractual Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with the SSWSC that expires in 2027 and specifies respective responsibilities. The SSWSC operates the alpine slide with the goal of generating revenue for the club. They have dedicated space in Howelsen Lodge, have a separate training building, have exclusive use of the ski jumps, and establish ski and snowboard training courses on the slopes and base of the ski hill. The JUA specifies SSWSC will use reasonable commercial efforts to restrict funds on its balance sheet, or provide \$100,000 annually for capital improvements to the Howelsen Hill Ski Area.

In addition to the non-profit organizations, there are many private, for-profit businesses that offer summer camps, sports camps, fitness programs, aquatics, and other programs. Examples of these businesses include:

- Steamboat Ski Area (summer and winter camps, and mountain biking)
- The Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs (operates under a concessionaire agreement at Ski Town Park)
- Old Town Hot Springs (aquatics and fitness)

- Rocky Mountain Hockey Schools (hockey training)
- Steamboat Soccer Academy (soccer training)
- Anytime Fitness
- Peak Fitness Centers
- Steamboat Pilates and Fitness
- Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The following sections were written by staff and reviewed and edited by the Review and Implementation Committee.

Adult Sports

The City of Steamboat Springs offers a wide variety of Adult Sports leagues and events throughout the year. The 2017 Community Survey found that 30% of residents have participated (either actively or as a spectator) in a City sponsored adult recreation or sports program in the past year. In addition, 44% of those surveyed indicated that City sponsored adult recreation and sports programs were either essential, or very important elements of the community.

City of Steamboat Springs' Adult Sports leagues are offered year-round, with the majority of the leagues being coed. Historically, the summer leagues have had the highest level of participation, with over 100 teams and 700 adult athletes registered for summer Adult Sports leagues in 2018.

TABLE 9. ADULT SPORT LEAGUES

SEASON	LEAGUES OFFERED
Summer	Sand Volleyball
	Outdoor Soccer
	Softball
	Ice Hockey
Fall	Kickball
	Outdoor Soccer
	Indoor Volleyball
	Ice Hockey
Winter	Indoor Soccer
	Indoor Volleyball
	Ice Hockey
Spring	Ice Hockey

To provide these recreation opportunities to the community, the Adult Sports division utilizes a number of City owned outdoor facilities, but also relies heavily on partnerships to secure indoor athletic space. The City-owned Howelsen Hill Sports Complex, Howelsen Ice Arena and Ski Town Park, serve as the

sites for the majority of the Adult Sports programs during the summer and fall seasons. Currently, the City of Steamboat Springs does not own any dedicated indoor gym space, making winter and spring leagues challenging, as indoor facilities are in high demand and very limited. In the past, winter and spring Adult Sports leagues have been held at the Steamboat Springs Middle School, Colorado Mountain College, Mountain Village Montessori School at Heritage Park and the Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs. The Adult Sports leagues and other adult recreation opportunities offered in the winter and spring continue to be dictated by facility availability, which has resulted in the elimination of several long standing programs, including indoor volleyball (winter 2018/2019) and open gym basketball. Facility availability during all seasons continues to effect Adult Sports programming.

Youth Programs

The City of Steamboat Springs hosts a number of School Year programs and Summer Camps for local youth ages 5 to 16 years old throughout the year. School Year programs include Afterschool Action, ASSET Clubs (Art, Socialization, Sports, Education and Teamwork), School Days Off, Teens on Tour and Middle School programs. These are licensed by the State of Colorado and are housed at Soda Creek Elementary School. The school year is split into four sessions in an effort to provide variety and unique seasonal activity options for participants. In addition to these programs, the department also partners with outside organizations to spearhead the local Teen Council and SOS Outreach programs. During the summer break, the department hosts three distinct Summer Camps, and several specialized ASSET Camps focused on skill building. Summer Camps are also licensed and are housed at Soda Creek Elementary School and the Howelsen Hill Lodge Fireplace Room. All of the programs offered are inclusive for children with special needs.

TABLE 10. YOUTH PROGRAM DESCRIP-

YOUTH PROGRAM	OVERVIEW
Afterschool Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Part-time childcare program offered for children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. •Available from 3 PM to 5:45 PM daily. •Children who attend Strawberry Park Elementary are transported by City staff to Soda Creek Elementary
School Days Off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Full-time childcare program offered for children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. •Available from 7:45 AM to 5:45 PM on days when school is not in session.
ASSET Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Part-time skill building clubs that work in conjunction with Afterschool Action. •Options include activities such as Swim Lessons, Intro to Hockey, Gymnastics, Karate and Theater.
Middle School Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Similar to ASSET Clubs, these programs are geared towards Middle School age children and include activities like Archery, Red Cross Babysitting and Indoor Rock Climbing.
Teen Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The City of Steamboat Springs partners with the Boys and Girls Club to help facilitate this local group of High School students. •The group is mostly self-directed, and chosen members plan substance-free events, learn valuable leadership skills, and partake in community service projects. •The group is also dynamic in effecting local policy change and actively participates in local government.
SOS Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The City of Steamboat Springs is the referral agency for SOS Outreach, a non-profit agency that targets their programs towards low income or at risk youth. •Participants are taught positive core values and community stewardship through outdoor experiences.
Special Events/Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Single day and overnight events are offered throughout the year, including Parents Night Out, Kids Night Out, Middle School Ski Night and Teens on Tour regional trips.
Summer Camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Three distinct, licensed daily summer camps are offered during summer break: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mountaineers – Kids entering 4th, 5th & 6th Grades -Explorers – Kids entering 2nd & 3rd Grades -Adventurers – Kids entering Kindergarten & 1st Grades
ASSET Camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unique skill building opportunities that consist of a four or five day camp during the summer. •ASSET Camps change each year, but have included activities such as kayaking, theater, art programs, tennis overnight campouts and soccer.
Therapeutic Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All City of Steamboat Springs Youth Programs are inclusive for children with special needs. •On average, 3 to 5 kids are enrolled daily in programs. •Staff works collaboratively with several local organizations to help provide training, staff, and oversight to those working with children enrolled in the T-Rec program.

Youth Programs utilize several facilities to host programs and events. Soda Creek Elementary is a public school building that is currently licensed for up to 120 children ages 5 through 16 years old. The City has a 20 year Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Steamboat Springs School District that will expire in 2027. This agreement gives the City priority use of designated space after school and on days when school is not in session, along with exclusive use of an 800 square foot room that is used for storage, food

preparation, and arts and crafts space. Soda Creek Elementary is currently home to Afterschool Action, School Days Off, some ASSET Clubs and Special Events, as well as the Adventurers and Explorers Summer Camps. The Fireplace Room at the Howelsen Hill Lodge is a City-owned facility that is home to the Mountaineers Summer Camp and ASSET Camps.

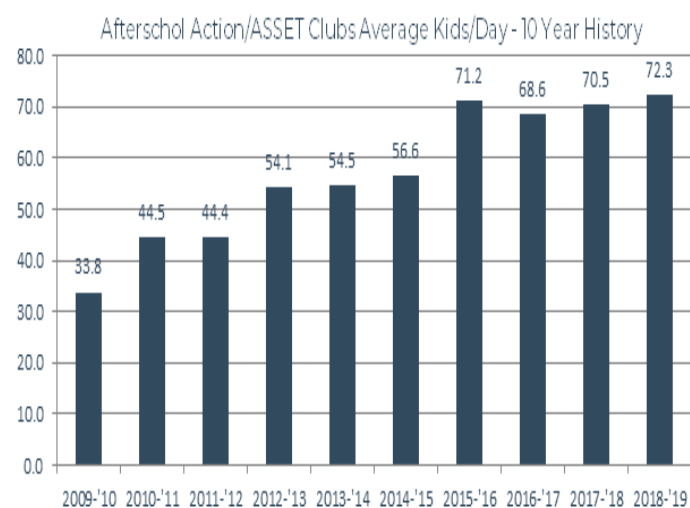
The building was formally re-licensed for this purpose in May 2019. At this point in time, there is no dedicated space for youth programs that is owned and operated by the City of Steamboat Springs. All of the space currently being utilized is shared with other organizations or the general public, often limiting access and certain uses.

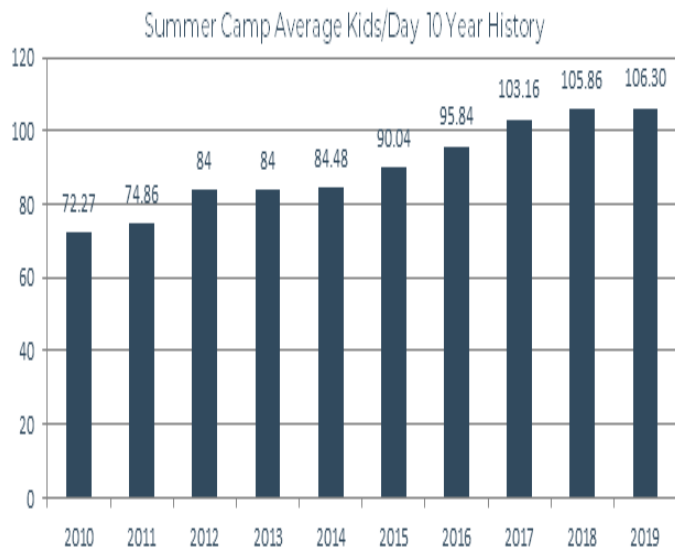
Currently, the City of Steamboat Springs offers the only school-aged, licensed youth program during the School Year. Other community organizations help alleviate the strain on capacity, but do not accommodate school-aged children under the age of six. Demand for childcare continues to grow, and City-facilitated youth programs have shown a steady increase in participation over the past 10 years. Enrollment in Afterschool Action and ASSET Clubs has increased from an average of 34 kids/day during the 2009-2010 school year, to 72 kids/day during the 2018-2019 school year. Similar increases can be seen in School Days Off and Summer Camp enrollment. All youth programs are currently running at capacity, and the majority of these programs have significant waitlists.

Prior to 2018, several youth programs were housed in the City owned Igloo Building, located adjacent to the Howelsen Ice Arena. The building was licensed for 15 children and was home to several ASSET Clubs, Kids Night Out, Pee Wee Adventures Preschool Program, and the Thrill Seekers Summer Camp for Kindergartners. During the summer of 2018, the Igloo Building was removed to make way for the proposed Howelsen Ice Arena expansion. The loss of the Igloo Building in 2018 led to the consolidation and elimination of several programs. Regardless, enrollment continues to increase despite the reduction in programmable space. In 2019, all Summer Camp programs filled to capacity within four minutes of registration opening, and some camp days had waitlists with as many as 25 kids. According to results from the 2017 Community Survey, 72% of respondents indicated that before and after school youth programming was either essential or very important, indicating that this service is a priority to the community.

In addition to the space limitations, staffing has proven to be difficult. Full-time staff includes a Recreation Coordinator plus three Recreation Specialists, who oversee staffing and programming. Hours available

for additional part-time staff are minimal and do not combine well with other part-time employment opportunities in the community. In 2018, Youth Programs had 48 seasonal staff transition through 13 Summer Camp and 6 School Year positions, creating a constant strain to full-time staff and sometimes limiting the number of children that could be accommodated.





Senior Programs

The City of Steamboat Springs offers several summer activities and trips for anyone 55 years and finer. Trips include outings to Denver to enjoy Colorado Rockies baseball games, sailing tours in Frisco, historic train rides in Leadville, and an overnight trip to the casinos in Blackhawk and Central City. The cost to participate in these programs is minimal, primarily covering the cost of transportation and admission fees. Over the past three years, senior programs have seen a steady increase in participation, due in part to increased outreach efforts to local senior groups and organizations. While these programs are not huge revenue drivers for the department, they provide a service that is greatly appreciated by the senior members in the community, giving them the opportunity to experience new activities, socialize, and spend time outside of the Yampa Valley. The same full-time Recreation Coordinator and one of the full-time Recreation Specialists help plan and facilitate Senior Programs, no additional seasonal staff are utilized.

Howelsen Ice Arena

The Howelsen Ice Arena first opened in 1988 as an open-air, seasonal skating arena. The arena has since transformed into an enclosed facility, featuring a slab refrigerated ice sheet that is operational year-round. The facility includes a 200'x 100' Olympic-sized ice sheet, four team locker rooms with two additional locker rooms servicing officials and handicap patrons, two leasable offices, and three leasable storage bays above the bleachers. Total facility capacity is 974 people, with bleacher capacity at 600 people and an on-ice capacity of 374 people.

During peak season (September – March), Howelsen Ice Arena is scheduled to capacity, with operations beginning as early as 5:30 AM, and often ending well after midnight. During this period, the only ice time available to the public is from 9 AM to 12 PM, when most people are either at work or in school. Ice time for partners, such as the Steamboat Skating Club, is often limited and the rink has to turn these customers away because additional ice time is not available. During the “off-season”, hours are slightly reduced, yet demand remains steady. The arena is host to multiple youth hockey and figure skating camps throughout the summer and fall, and experiences a high volume of public skate, drop in hockey, and bumper car admissions from June through the end of August. In 2018, Howelsen Ice Arena had 138,117 patrons enter the building (includes repeat/non-unique customers).



TABLE 11. ICE ARENA PROGRAMS AND PARTNER DESCRIPTIONS

ICE PROGRAMS & PARTNERS	OVERVIEW
Bumper Cars on Ice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fleet of 15 Bumper Cars •Over 9,000 Bumper Car rides sold per year @ \$13/ride
Drop In Hockey & Public Skate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Offered most days when ice time is available •Approximately 10,000 to 15,000 admissions per year
Additional Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Skate Rentals, Concessions (Beverages and Snacks) Professional Skate Sharpening, Riveting and Molding
Steamboat Wranglers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Junior Hockey Club in the Western States Hockey League (WSHL) with 25-30 rostered athletes •22 home games per season (typically held on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays) •8 hours of practice ice per week
Steamboat Springs Youth Hockey Association (SSYHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Staff leases one of the office spaces inside the arena •3 weekend tournaments per season averaging 14-16 teams and 25-30 hours of ice time per tournament •180-200 registered athletes ages 5 to 18 years old •90-100 home games scheduled per season •20-25 hours of practice ice time per week
Steamboat Skating Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Local figure skating program with approximately 40-50 athletes •6 hours of practice ice time per week on average •Hosts an annual holiday event "Skate with the Grinch" that includes 3 hours of purchased ice time, Howelsen Ice Arena donates the skate rentals for the event. •Hosts an annual spring ice show that includes 7 hours of purchased rehearsal ice time, Howelsen Ice Arena donates 15 hours of additional rehearsal ice time.
Adult League Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •4 seasons per year – Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall •175-200 adult athletes per league on average •Over 400 total adult league games played annually •Approximately 500 total ice hours scheduled annually
Steamboat Springs High School Varsity and Junior Varsity Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Averages 25-35 athletes •15 total combined home games per season •7 hours per week of practice ice time
Women's Adult Hockey Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chix with Stix, Bobcats and Panic •Approximately 40 total athletes across 3 teams •Cumulative 20 home games per season •Cumulative 3 hours of practice ice time per week
Learn to Skate and Intro to Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Three 7-8 week long sessions per season •Unique and successful partnership between the City of Steamboat Springs afterschool program (ASSET Club), Steamboat Skating Club, Steamboat Springs Youth Hockey Association and the Howelsen Ice Arena, aimed at introducing youth to the sport. •City of Steamboat Springs provides transportation from school to the arena, the Howelsen Ice Arena provides ice time, and the Steamboat Skating Club and Youth Hockey Association provide instruction. •Combined average of 90 participants per session •4-5 sessions held annually •Approximately 45 to 55 ice hours scheduled annually
Summer Camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Howelsen Ice Arena hosts 4-5 private hockey camps and 1 figure skating camp during the summer •Over 100 hours of camp ice sold per summer



Haymaker Golf Course

Haymaker Golf Course is a municipal course located approximately five miles south of downtown Steamboat Springs. The course is an 18-hole, Scottish links style golf course, with practice facility and full service restaurant and bar, the Haymaker Patio Grill. While the course is owned and operated by the City of Steamboat Springs, operations and staffing for the Haymaker Patio Grill are contracted through the Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation. Haymaker's design is suited for both novice and professional golfers alike. This is a unique trait that allows Haymaker Golf Course to market the facility to a broad customer base.

Haymaker Golf Course is home to the Steamboat High School Sailor's boys and girls golf teams, Boys and Girls Club activities, and many other youth and player development programs. Haymaker also hosts many adult leagues and events throughout the summer. Haymaker sees between 21,000-23,000 rounds played annually, with 30%-45% of those rounds coming from out of town guests.

The course's winter programs are managed by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, along with a concessionaire who runs the Haymaker Nordic Center. Winter programs include a full service Nordic Center, Haymaker Patio Grill, and Sleigh Ride Dinners.

Haymaker Golf Course was originally built in 1997, using funds from the City's accommodations tax, and is operated entirely as an enterprise fund. Now 22 years old, the irrigation system and much of the bunkering is approaching the end of its lifespan, and Haymaker Golf Course is considering long-range funding options for

these major projects in the coming years. The facility operates on a break-even budget, with a small amount of accommodations tax (\$30,000) allocated through 2023 for capital improvement projects. These funds help with small projects on an annual basis. Haymaker's operating and reserves budget is able to cover some of the larger CIP's (bunker replacement), but the facility will likely need to find additional funding for the impending irrigation replacement that is needed.

TABLE 12. GOLF PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

GOLF PROGRAMS	OVERVIEW
Leagues Offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mens 18 Hole League • Ladies 9 Hole League • Ladies 18 Hole League • Junior Interclub League
Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 different Junior lesson programs to choose from which run all season long • Host of the Steamboat Junior Championship • Host of the Steamboat Springs Junior League • Ladies beginner clinics running year-round • Beginner Get Golf Ready Clinics • Free practice with the pros sessions bi-weekly June – September
Adult Tournaments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Adult tournaments throughout the year

Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs

The Tennis Center is part of the larger Ski Town Sports Complex, located at 2500 Pine Grove Road. There are six cushioned indoor hard tennis courts, five outdoor hard tennis courts, three hydro-court outdoor clay tennis courts and eight outdoor hard pickleball courts. The facility has a pro shop, men's and women's locker rooms, office space, small conference room, and several indoor and outdoor social areas.

The Tennis Center, owned by the City of Steamboat Springs, has been operated by a concessionaire since opening in November of 1991. The concessionaire is in charge of all programming, scheduling and staffing of the facility and pays for the utilities. The City is in charge of maintenance of the building, landscaping outside and snow removal during the winter. The Center is open 363 days per year for 10 hours per day. The Center has had several major renovations over its life and these renovations have historically been supported with private and public funds. Two non-profit organizations, the Steamboat Tennis Association (STA) and the Steamboat Springs Pickleball Association (SSPA) call the Center their home.

Both organizations have raised money to build or improve the facility. The STA and SSPA financially support many youth, senior and community programs and projects at the Center annually. The Center is also supported by over two dozen corporate sponsors. The Center offers free and ½ price court rentals to area non-profits.

The Steamboat Tennis and Pickleball Center Maintenance Fund, held at Yampa Valley Community Foundation, was created in 2017. The goal is to grow this Endowment Fund to \$1 million by 2029. The endowment fund will ensure that the Center remains strong and vibrant in the future and reduces the financial support needed from the City of Steamboat Springs.

The following Mission, Vision and Core Values were created in 2016:

Mission Statement: Our mission is to educate, inspire and enrich the lives of our players, partners and employees.

Vision Statement: We are a leader in the industry; always evolving while striving for excellence and innovation. We are part of a global community that celebrates health, happiness and the unique experience that is Steamboat Springs.

Core Values: Community, Integrity, Inclusion

The sport of Pickleball has grown significantly in Steamboat Springs and around the world since 2010. There have been requests and efforts for designated indoor pickleball as the 65 and over population is the fastest growing segment in Steamboat Springs. In planning for indoor pickleball, the communities' need for indoor sports' practice areas is causing leaders to look at a bigger picture for the Tennis Center. As funding is identified, both privately and publicly, the Tennis Center will work to meet the growing need for more indoor sports' areas.



TABLE 13. TENNIS PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

TENNIS PROGRAMS & PARTNERS	OVERVIEW
Adult Tennis Leagues	•Three seasons per year 350 or more participants per year
Weekly Adult Tennis and Pickleball Tournaments	•8-10 drills per week •Average 60 participants per week
Annual Adult Tennis and Pickleball Tournaments	•14 annual tournament per year •Close to 1,000 participants per year
Partially supported by STA and SSPA	•Approximately 35% visitors
Adult Socials and Special Events partially sponsored by STA and SSPA	•10-12 events per year •Attracting 700 or more participants per year
Men's summer drop-In Tennis on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays	•May - August •35 participants per week
Open Drop-In Adult Pickleball four to five times per week depending on season	•Summer participation around 60 participants •Winter participation 35-45 participants •Mostly attracting ages 50 and over
After school ROGY Mountain Tennis for youth ages 5-18	•3 seasons per year •Average of 75 unique youth per season with many attending 2-3 times per week
STA's In-School Tennis followed by Free "Try Tennis" camps at the center	•4-6 schools per year •500-700 youth per year
SSPA's In-School Pickleball Program	• Just approved in 2019
STA's Sharon Paulus Adaptive Tennis	•3 five week sessions per year •12-18 youth participating per year
Steamboat SERVES Program supported by STA	•Free and very low cost program for underserved families of Routt County •50 youth participated in 2018
STA's Wheelchair Tennis Program	•STA has 2 athletic wheelchairs •Collaboration with high school to provide 2 wheelchair trainings per year
STA supported Girls' and Boys' High School Tennis Teams	•Provides discounted practice and match space
STA's Individual Youth Grant & Scholarship Program and New Pathways Program	•Provides 20-30 individual youth grants to help pay for group lessons, shoes, racquets and for college scholarships.
Giggle Gang Camps, Pre-school Tennis and small group tennis for tots...ages 3-	•Attracting 100 or more little ones per year

Marketing, Communications and Events

In addition to managing numerous programs and facilities, the Recreation Division is also responsible for Marketing, Communications and Events for the Parks and Recreation Department. The majority of these efforts are managed by one full-time Marketing, Communications and Events Coordinator, with support from the Front Desk and Events Specialist. Additional personnel is occasionally utilized to assist onsite during department initiated events and programs.

Marketing and communication efforts include developing strategies and campaigns to help promote internal programs, as well as providing important information to the community on public meetings and department projects. These efforts include collaborating with Parks and Recreation facility managers, committees and concessionaires on joint initiatives that help promote the facilities, drive traffic and increase revenue.

Prior to 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted two proprietary events, the Steamboat Pentathlon and the Town Challenge Mountain Bike Race Series. The Steamboat Pentathlon was a one-of-a-kind winter event featuring five athletic disciplines in one race, including Alpine Skiing/ Snowboarding, Snowshoeing, Nordic Skiing, Mountain Biking and Running. The event was held for 27 years, but was canceled in 2019 due to a steady decline in participation and sponsorships while event costs continued to rise.

The department continues to manage the local Town Challenge MTB Race Series each summer. This series includes six races, typically beginning in June and ending in August. In addition to the races, participants enjoy a pre-season kickoff event where discounted registration is offered for season passes, post-race parties after each of the races, and an end-of-season community ride and BBQ. Races take place at several locations throughout the Yampa Valley, including Marabou Ranch, Howelsen Hill/ Emerald Mountain, Mt. Werner and Buffalo Pass. Each race averages between 100 and 130 participants, and are held on alternating Wednesday evenings. A total of 26 different divisions/age brackets are offered, each with a unique course that is both age and ability appropriate, providing unlimited options for participants.

While participation numbers have remained steady over the past few years, there has been a decline in youth, female and entry level participants. Similar to the Steamboat Pentathlon, costs continue to increase year-over-year, while registration fees have remained the same or have been reduced. Increases in base area activities and construction at Mt. Werner have made hosting races at this location difficult, and finding alternative race locations and permitting have proven to be a challenge over the past five years as more and more user groups are utilizing local trails and land managers are starting to limit their commercial use.

Other events that the department either manages or assist with include, but are not limited to, Ski Free Sundays at Howelsen Hill, Winter Carnival, 4th of July Fireworks Show, and the annual Yampa River Clean-Up. Ancillary duties include vetting and approving all Parks & Recreation-related special events permits, assisting in larger multi-agency events, and managing department-related volunteer programs such as the Nordic Ambassador program at Howelsen Hill

TABLE 14. MARKETING, COMMUNICATION & EVENTS AREAS OF FOCUS

AREA OF FOCUS	OVERVIEW
Program Marketing & Advertising	•Develop strategies and campaigns to help promote internal Parks & Recreation programs (School Year Programs, ASSET Clubs, Adult Sports Leagues, etc.).
Facility Marketing & Advertising	•Collaborate with all Parks & Recreation facilities and concessionaires to develop advertising elements and campaigns that help promote the facility, drive attendance, and increase revenue (Howelsen Hill Ski Area, Howelsen Ice Complex, Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs, Haymaker Golf Course, etc.).
Department Communications	•Develop communications strategies to help promote and educate the public on various department related initiatives (public meetings, community surveys, master planning, program info, recreation guides, bi-monthly newsletter, etc.).
Marketing, Advertising and Communication Elements	•Magazine ads, newspaper ads, press releases, radio promos, flyers and brochures, banners and signs, television ads, coupon books, social media, special events, newsletters, recreation guides, etc.
Websites	•Develop/manage content and perform general maintenance for the City of Steamboat Springs website and EngageSteamboat.net website – Parks & Recreation specific pages and content.
Specials Events	<p>•Proprietary Events – Develop, manage, and execute internal special events such as Ski Free Sundays and the Town Challenge MTB Races Series.</p> <p>•Community Events – Work with community partners to develop, manage, and execute specialized community events such as the annual Yampa River Clean-Up.</p> <p>•Multi-Agency Events – Act as the department liaison and coordinate logistics for larger scale events such as the USA Pro Challenge, Ride the Rockies, etc.</p> <p>•Event Permitting – Manage the event permitting process of any event taking place at a City owned park, trail or open space area.</p>
Volunteer Programs	Manage department related volunteer programs including the Howelsen Hill Nordic Ambassadors, special event volunteers, community service workers, etc.



POPULATION PROJECTIONS, LEVEL OF SERVICE, AND PARKLAND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the Steamboat Springs Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), potential growth can occur through redevelopment of existing properties, infill of vacant parcels, and the annexation of new development and developable land into the city limits. The 2006 West Steamboat Plan and the 2014 Community Plan supplement, or “Compass” plan, provide information on potential population growth that could result from new residential development. The West Steamboat Plan, which covers the unincorporated area west of the Bob Adams Airport, describes the vision for the buildout of the majority of the undeveloped land within the UGB. The estimated buildout is between 1,100 and 2,600 dwelling units (DU). The median of this range is 1,850 DU, and the plan does not differentiate between single family and multi-family units. The 2014 Compass document estimates that the potential DU that could be built within the existing city limits according to current zoning regulations is 1,400 single family and 2,600 multi-family DU for a total of 4,000 additional DU.

TABLE 15. POTENTIAL NEW DU IN THE STEAMBOAT SPRINGS UGB

POTENTIAL NEW DU WITHIN EXISTING CITY LIMITS	POTENTIAL NEW DU PER THE 2006 WEST STEAMBOAT PLAN	TOTAL POTENTIAL NEW DU WITHIN UGB
4,000	1,850	5,850

The estimated population of the city of Steamboat Springs was 12,520 in 2017 (US Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates). The population in the future based on projected DU at buildout within the existing city limits and in the undeveloped portion of the UGB depends on how many of the units will be occupied by residents, versus

seasonal or vacation rentals, as well as the number of people who live in each of the occupied DU. The Compass document estimated a total of 9,966 DU in Steamboat Springs with 52% of the units occupied year-round and 48% considered “vacant” (including vacation rentals, second homes, seasonally-occupied units, and other units for sale or rent).

Table 16 shows the potential number of new DU occupied by permanent residents at buildout and the resulting population growth (based on average household size) for three scenarios of permanent occupancy rates: 52%, 60% and 70%. The average household size in Steamboat Springs is estimated to be 2.53 (2010 US Census). Based on the current permanent occupancy rate of 52%, Steamboat Springs could add 7,696 new residents, for a total of 20,216 residents at buildout within the UGB.

TABLE 16. POTENTIAL POPULATION GROWTH IN UGB BASED ON PERMANENT OCCUPANCY RATES

OCCUPANCY RATE BY PERMANENT RESIDENTS	NEW DU OCCUPIED BY PERMANENT RESIDENTS AT BUILDOUT	POTENTIAL POPULATION GROWTH (2.53 PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD)	TOTAL POPULATION AT BUILDOUT
52%	3,042	7,696	20,216
60%	3,510	8,800	21,320
70%	4,095	10,360	22,880

FUTURE PARKLAND NEEDS AND LEVELS OF SERVICE

The number of existing and future residents is important when calculating the existing level of service for parkland, trails, and specific recreational facilities, as well as future needs. Table 17 shows the existing parkland acreage and level of service and the additional park acreage needed to maintain the existing level of service at buildout. In addition, the table includes additional acres needed to meet recommended level of service standards for the future.

TABLE 17. ADDITIONAL PARK ACRES NEEDED TO MEET LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

	EXISTING PARKLAND	2017 LEVEL OF SERVICE	ADDITIONAL ACRES NEEDED TO MAINTAIN 2017 LEVEL OF SERVICE*	RECOMMENDED FUTURE LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD	ADDITIONAL ACRES NEEDED TO MEET FUTURE STANDARD
Mini/ Neighborhood Parkland	69.33 acres	5.5 acres/1,000 population	42.33 acres	2.5 acres/1,000 population	19.24 acres
Community Parkland	74.38 acres	5.9 acres/1,000 population	45.41 acres	6 acres/1,000 population	46.18 acres
Total Parkland	143.71 acres	11.5 acres/1,000 population	88.50 acres		65.42 acres

*2017 level of service based on population of 12,520. Additional acres needed based on population growth of 7,696 at buildout.

Applying a parkland standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 population for mini/neighborhood parkland results in a need for 19.24 acres of mini/ neighborhood parkland in the future. This level of service is less than the existing level of service, but more in line with what may actually be needed in the future development areas, and what could be achieved in existing developed areas.

Increasing the amount of neighborhood and community parkland within the existing city limits to meet the needs of future residents is difficult because most of the land is already developed. The approximately 5,000 or more new residents that could potentially live in redevelopment or infill residential units within the existing city limits will be primarily served by the existing inventory of neighborhood and community parks, as well as underdeveloped parks and park/natural areas.

Bear River Park is underdeveloped, and should be completed so that it serves not only the local residents that are currently underserved, but the rest of Steamboat residents. Residents within the existing city limits will have to travel west to use new community parks and recreational facilities that should be developed in the West Steamboat area.

Because neighborhood parks are intended to serve residents who live within approximately ½ mile of the park, and a 10-minute walk, all 42 acres of new mini/neighborhood parkland will not be necessary in the West Steamboat area. The estimated population in West Steamboat is 2,434 new residents. Using the existing level of service of 5.5 acres/1,000 population, this translates into a mini/neighborhood parkland need of 13.4 acres. Applying a 2.5 acres per 1,000 population standard to new residents in West Steamboat results in a need for 6.1 acres of neighborhood parkland. A 6- to 7-acre neighborhood park would be adequate, as long as a community park is also developed in West Steamboat, because a community park would serve as the neighborhood park for residents that are in close proximity.

The neighborhood park should be located on relatively level ground so that it can accommodate a large multi-purpose sports field, as well as other amenities such as picnic and play areas, gardens, or other features that are desirable in a neighborhood park. The park should also be centrally-located so that residents are within a ¼ to ½ mile walk via sidewalks or trails. The developer of the property may also be required to provide mini-parks in addition to the neighborhood park, per the City of Steamboat Community Development Code.

To continue to provide the same level of service for community parkland as existed in 2017, which is similar to the recommended level of service standard (6 acres per 1,000 population), there would need to be one large multi-purpose community park constructed that is at least 46 acres in size. This park would serve the entire community, and should be developed on land that does not exceed 5% in slope so that large fields can be constructed. A 46-acre park is large enough to contain a multi-purpose recreation center, four-field ballfield complex, additional multi-purpose sports fields, parking, community amenities such as a large playground, group picnic shelters, and few sports courts for basketball, tennis or pickleball.

PARKLAND PLANNING ACTION

1. Work with the Planning and Community Development Department to evaluate the effectiveness of the Parks and Open Space Standards in the Traditional Neighborhood Zone District for achieving goals for parkland needs and level of service in future growth areas.





CHAPTER 6: COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

The Parks and Recreation Department has a running six-year list of projects that are needed for basic maintenance, repair and replacement of park and recreational facilities, and for select river improvements however funding to complete projects has not been identified or approved.(Table 18).

TABLE 18. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	EST. CAPITAL COSTS
<i>Parks and Recreation Facilities</i>	
Brooklyn Park – Playground Replacement	\$96,000
Dr. Rich Weiss Park- Restroom and Decking Replacement	\$175,000
Emerald Park – Emerald Park trail connection to Yampa and flood mitigation	\$104,000
Emerald Park – Playground Replacement	\$99,000
Emerald Park – Parking Lot expansion	\$392,000
Howelsen Park- Restroom/Concessions- 10th Inning	\$500,000
Howelsen Park – Install new Batting Cage by Adams Field	\$90,000
Howelsen Park – Install new irrigation on Vanatta Field	\$90,000
Howelsen Park – Stables Stabilization	\$150,000
Howelsen Park – Skate Park replacement	\$350,000
Howelsen Park – Tennis and Volleyball Lights	\$143,000
Howelsen Ice Complex – Skid replacement	\$180,000

TABLE 18. CONTINUED

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	EST. CAPITAL COSTS
Lithia Springs – Springs Restoration	\$260,000
Little Toots Park – Refurbish Historic Storage Shed as Community Building with Restrooms	\$200,000
Little Toots Park and Bud Werner Memorial Library – Design/construct raw water pump house; irrigation conversion	\$170,000
Little Toots Park – Playground Replacement and walks	\$118,000
River Creek Park – Restroom Replacement	\$150,000
Ski Town Park – Replace old irrigation system	\$150,000
Spring Creek Park – Restroom Replacement	\$80,000
Stehley Park – Design and Construct raw water pump house and irrigation conversion	\$170,000
Parks and Recreation Facilities Total	\$3,667,000
Howelsen Ski Hill and Lodge	
Howelsen Ski Hill - Chair Lift Replacement	\$3,500,000
Howelsen Ski Hill - Lodge Renovation (modernize/improve concessions)	\$450,000
Howelsen Ski Hill - Ongoing Hill Slide Mitigation (\$50k/year)	\$300,000
Howelsen Ski Hill - Magic Carpet	\$95,000
Howelsen Ski Hill and Lodge Total	\$4,345,000
Medians and Core Trail	
Medians - Renovate US40 and other medians to remove sod	\$1,500,000
Core Trail - Fish Creek Bridge Decking	\$75,000
Core Trail - Soda Creek Bridge Decking	\$60,000
Core Trail - Snake Island North and South Bridges Decking	\$150,000
Medians and Core Trail Total	\$1,785,000
Yampa River	
Yampa River Depot Kayak Hole - Design and construct river channel realignment above structure to reach optimal performance and rebuild failing wing walls to RICD structure. Additional bank re-vegetation and stabilization. Iron Horse design improvements to open space and stabilize river banks.	\$150,000
Yampa River- Construct Iron Horse improvements. Design Emerald/Botanic/Model T improvements.	\$135,000
Yampa River -Construct Emerald/Botanic Park/Model T improvements to address bank erosion, wide channel, aquatic habitat, and Model T whitewater feature. Design Shield Drive River Access to address bank erosion and safety concerns.	\$107,000
Yampa River - Construct Shield Drive improvements. Fetcher Pond/River Road - Design improvements to address bank erosion, channel shape, and aquatic habitat.	\$60,000
Yampa River - Fetcher Pond/River Road - Construct planned improvements. City Infiltration Gallery - Design improvements to address bank erosion, channel shape, and aquatic habitat.	\$145,000
Yampa River - City Infiltration Gallery improvements.	\$85,000
Yampa River Total	\$707,000
TOTAL PARKED PROJECTS	\$10,419,000

2018 PROSTR SURVEY

Steamboat Springs' historic funding levels have not been sufficient to implement the various master plans that have been created for parks and open space properties. As explained above, there is also very limited funding to stabilize the ski jumps, stabilize the ski lifts and slopes, or invest in desired parks, trails, and open space improvements that were identified in public workshops. City Council has been discussing for years regarding the future of Howelsen Park and Ski Hill. Surveys have indicated that the ski hill is a very important asset to residents and part of the City's heritage. The cost of operating, maintaining, upgrading, and enhancing the facilities is significant and not necessarily considered in context with other needs. The 2018 PROSTR Survey focused on identifying community priorities for improvements at Howelsen Park and Ski Hill specifically, as well as priorities between Howelsen and other potential park, trail, and open space projects.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted via U.S. Postal Service in late March and April 2018. The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,300 registered voters in Steamboat Springs and 700 surveys to second homeowners. People were also given the opportunity to respond electronically through a URL printed on the survey. The same electronic survey was conducted through a link on Steamboat Springs' webpage. Responses to this survey were compiled separately because the results cannot be defended as being representative of residents.

Completed surveys were returned in a postage-paid envelope directly to Left Brain Concepts, a Denver-area market research and consulting firm. The survey was written and finalized by senior staff at the City of Steamboat Springs and staff at Logan Simpson. Left Brain Concepts compiled and analyzed the results and prepared a summary report.

A head of household 18 years or older was asked to complete the survey. A total of 603 surveys were completed; 503 via mail, and 100 electronically. Because some responses came in after the cut-off date 574 surveys are included in the results. The maximum margin of error for a sample of 574 is + 4.1 percent at the 95 percent level of confidence. Results were analyzed (cross tabbed) by the following variables:

- Renters vs. owners
- Full-time vs. part-time residents
- Four categories of age
- Gender
- Four categories of household income
- Single-person households vs. those with 2 or more people
- Households with children under 18 vs. no children under 18 in the household
- People over the age of 65 in the household vs. no people 65+ in the household

To assure that only one survey was tallied from any one household, a code was printed on the front of the survey. People who responded electronically were required to enter the survey code to complete the survey. Any respondents that did not have a valid survey code were eliminated.

HOWELSEN PARK AND SKI HILL CONCEPTS

To address the expressed desires of the community to make Howelsen Park and Ski Hill more attractive and multi-functional for community uses with improved vehicular circulation, a conceptual plan was created. The conceptual plan illustrates that the park area cannot be improved without effecting some of the ballfields. They occupy the majority of space in the park and limit the multi-functional capabilities due to fencing (Map 3). Four concepts and the costs for their implementation were explained in the 2018 PROSTR Survey in order to understand the level of support for the ideas, as well as how these ideas compared in priority to other community needs.

Concept A and Concept B Combined: Basic Maintenance and Repair and continuation of implementing the Rodeo Master Plan, \$7.6 million. The park elements remain where they are today.

Action Item #1:

- Upgrade ski lifts, Howelsen Lodge and concessions.
- Replace old restrooms and park concessions near the ballfields, irrigation systems, and skate park.
- Provide new signs, landscaping, main entry plaza with vendor tents and a food court, and shelter and lawn for pre-rodeo events and performances.
- Construct paved parking for spectators, paved walks, and new contestant entry on Howelsen Parkway.
- Upgrade hillside bleacher seating, reconstruct barns in the stable area

Action Item #2: Land for Growth

- Begin to acquire land for multiplex sport complex: Minimum of space for a 4-plex, possible 8-plex; additional volleyball courts; soccer/lacrosse/rugby fields

Action Item #3: Parking and Wayfinding

- Realign the intersection of Howelsen Parkway, the access road at the north end of the rodeo area, to reduce paved area and clarify circulation.
- Reconfigure vehicular circulation and parking and provide a drop off/pick up lane for cars or buses. This may include reconfiguring Vanatta Field to allow for one-way traffic through the complex.

Once land is acquired for sporting fields, Concepts C &/or D can move forward; reevaluating constantly for best implementation with cost and funding.

Concept C: Multi-purpose Community Facilities, \$4.0 million.

- Remove two ballfields to create a multi-purpose grass area for free play, festivals, and concerts/performances.

Construct a covered performance stage that can also be used as a rental picnic pavilion for families, groups, and weddings.

- Add a rental picnic shelter near the parking lot
- Reconfigure vehicular circulation and parking and provide a drop off/pick up lane for cars or buses. Provide electric and water pedestals to accommodate festival booths.
- Provide clear and safe paths and trail connections.
- Construct a special plaza near the lodge that acknowledges the site's legacy and future in developing Olympic athletes.
- Consolidate City maintenance sheds and SSWSC structures into new buildings to reduce their visual impact, and improve function.

Implementing Concept C requires reconstruction of existing large ballfields at a new sports complex site in order to replace the fields that are heavily used by local sports leagues and tournaments. Land for a sports complex has not yet been acquired. Impact to downtown businesses needs to be assessed when considering moving ballfields and programs out of the downtown area.

Concept D: Additional and Enhanced Community Facilities, \$3.7 million.

- Remove two ballfields for a multi-purpose grass area for free play, festivals, and concerts/performances.
- Construct a covered performance stage that can also be used as a rental picnic pavilion for families, groups, and weddings and add a rental picnic shelter near the parking lot.
- Reconfigure vehicular circulation and parking and provide a drop off/pick up lane for cars or buses.
- Provide electric and water pedestals at parking lot edge to accommodate festival booths.
- Provide clear and safe paths and trail connections.
- Construct a special plaza designed to acknowledge the site's legacy and future in developing Olympic athletes.
- Consolidate City maintenance sheds and SSWSC structures into new buildings to reduce their visual impact and improve function.

If Concept D is desired and Concept C is not, implementing Concept D requires reconstruction of existing large ballfields at a new sports complex site in order to replace the fields that are heavily used by local sports leagues and tournaments. Land for a sports complex has not yet been acquired.

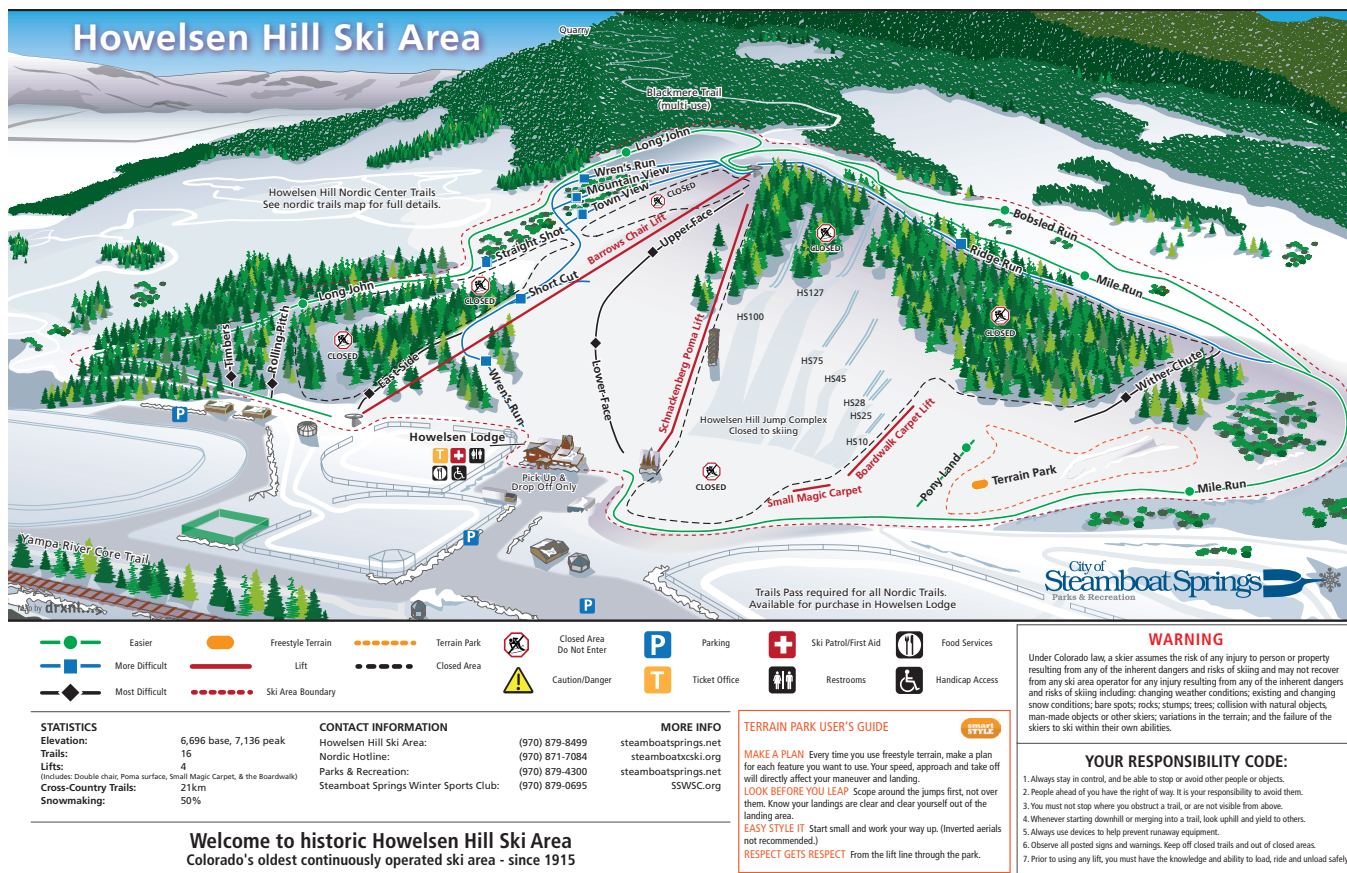


Table 9 shows the results of the survey regarding the level of support for the four Howelsen Park and Ski Hill concepts. The community overwhelmingly supported basic maintenance of the facility, with over three-fourths of respondents indicating moderate or strong support.

The other concepts received some support, but the results indicate that the community is not united in supporting major renovations that would require removal of ballfields. Removing two ballfields to provide better parking, circulation, and multi-purpose facilities received support from one-half of the community.

TABLE 19. SUPPORT FOR HOWELSEN PARK + SKI HILL CONCEPTS

	STRONG OR MODERATE SUPPORT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	MODERATE SUPPORT	LOW SUPPORT	DO NOT SUPPORT	NO OPINION
Concept A – Basic Maintenance (ski lifts, lodge, concessions, restrooms, trees)	76%	47%	29%	14%	9%	1%
Concept B – Rodeo Master Plan	42%	18%	24%	30%	26%	2%
Concept C – Re-purpose two ballfields for multi-purpose space, events, and parking/circulation improvements	50%	27%	23%	21%	29%	-
Concept D – Re-purpose remaining two fields for multi-purpose space, and move courts	43%	21%	22%	27%	29%	1%

The importance of specific elements at Howelsen Park and Ski Hill was also assessed, as shown in Table 20.

TABLE 20. IMPORTANCE OF ELEMENTS AT HOWELSEN PARK + SKI HILL

	VERY OR SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	LOW IMPORTANCE	NOT IMPORTANT	NOT SURE
Restroom replacements / upgrades	75%	28%	47%	14%	9%	2%
Better paved pedestrian and bicycle connections	75%	28%	47%	14%	9%	2%
Stabilize ski jumps	73%	47%	26%	11%	13%	1%
More trees	58%	26%	32%	24%	17%	1%
Farmer's Market infrastructure	56%	22%	34%	21%	21%	2%
Vehicular circulation and parking improvements	56%	22%	34%	21%	21%	2%
Upgrade existing lodge and concessions	56%	20%	36%	29%	13%	2%
General aesthetics upgrades	56%	18%	38%	28%	14%	2%
Permanent performance stage / rental pavilion	56%	18%	38%	28%	14%	2%
Additional restrooms	55%	20%	35%	28%	13%	4%
Multi-purpose festival and events area	51%	22%	29%	21%	26%	2%
Trailhead amenities (benches, bike repair station, map, shaded area, etc.)	49%	14%	35%	32%	19%	-
Pedestrian lighting upgrades	49%	14%	35%	28%	19%	4%
Consolidate multiple small maintenance and Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club buildings	40%	12%	28%	31%	23%	6%
Multi-purpose play fields	39%	12%	27%	34%	24%	3%
Improve / upgrade rodeo grounds	38%	12%	26%	33%	27%	2%
Expand food service / dining at lodge	37%	11%	26%	36%	25%	2%
Signage / wayfinding improvements	38%	10%	28%	37%	22%	3%
Maintain and upgrade existing softball / baseball fields	36%	10%	26%	31%	28%	5%
More picnic shelters	32%	4%	28%	36%	29%	3%
Remove and relocate existing softball / baseball fields to new site	31%	15%	16%	22%	40%	7%
New community-scale adventure playground	30%	11%	19%	29%	38%	3%
Upgraded skate park	26%	7%	19%	30%	38%	6%
Outdoor basketball court	25%	9%	16%	29%	41%	5%



Level of Support for Projects and Project Priorities

People were presented with a list of 18 possible community recreation projects along with the amount of new taxes that would be required for each project and asked to rate each one on a scale of strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose and strongly oppose. Nine of the projects are supported by more than half of the respondents and can be grouped into five categories:

- Upgrading existing facilities and stabilizing the ski jumps at Howelsen Park and Ski Hill,
- Improvements to the recreation and health of the Yampa River,
- Conserving open space,
- Extending the core trail, and
- Constructing parking at Emerald Mountain.

Projects that would modify Howelsen Park to incorporate many of the elements that were considered important (Concepts C and D) did not receive support by a majority of the respondents (43 percent and 46 percent), and improving the rodeo grounds received

a similar level of support (46 percent). Approximately one-half supported preserving and enhancing the ballfields (52 percent).

Survey recipients were asked to identify five projects that are their highest priorities. The community has very diverse opinions. Only two of the 18 projects were selected as in their top five priorities by more than one-half of the respondents: The Yampa River Structural Master Plan to improve river health (52 percent), and basic repair and maintenance of Howelsen Park and Ski Hill (51 percent). Forty to 45 percent of respondents chose Howelsen ski jump stabilization (45 percent), extending the core trail to Slate Creek (45 percent), conserving new open space lands for public recreation and trails (44 percent), and open space lands for habitat conservation and environmental purposes (40 percent) as one of their top five priorities. The lowest priority projects are: preserving and enhancing the ballfields at Howelsen Park (18th); adding yurts or cabins at Emerald Mountain Open Space (17th); Bear River Park construction (16th); and constructing a new four-field ballfield complex (15th).

LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR NEW TAXES

The level of support for funding projects through additional taxes was also asked on the survey. In order to determine the amount that may be needed, the team developed a total cost for all projects (approximately \$68 million plus the \$3.5 million for basic Howelsen improvements that could be funded through existing revenues). Then the revenue potential associated with various levels of sales, property, and accommodations taxes were calculated, and money was allocated to bonding the projects (30 percent), and endowing operations and maintenance costs (20 percent) that would be needed for their long-term maintenance. The funds left after those were deducted became the net revenue that would be available for designing and constructing the projects. An example of the calculation for sales and accommodations taxes is shown in Table 21.

TABLE 21. CALCULATION FOR SALES AND ACCOMMODATIONS TAXES

	EXISTING	POTENTIAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE			
<i>Sales tax (percent)</i>	<i>4.00</i>	<i>+1.00</i>	<i>+0.75</i>	<i>+0.50</i>	<i>+0.25</i>
Revenue generated	\$24,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$1,500,000
O&M + programs (-20%)		-\$1,200,000	-\$900,000	-\$600,000	-\$300,000
Gross Capital		\$4,800,000	\$3,600,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,200,000
Bonding (-30%)		-\$1,440,000	-\$1,080,000	-\$720,000	-\$360,000
Net Capital Annual		\$3,360,000	\$2,520,000	\$1,680,000	\$840,000
Net Capital 20 years		\$67,200,000	\$50,400,000	\$33,600,000	\$16,800,000
<i>Accommodations tax (percent)</i>	<i>1.00</i>	<i>+1.00</i>	<i>+0.75</i>	<i>+0.50</i>	<i>+0.25</i>
Revenue generated	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$712,500	\$475,000	\$237,500
O&M + programs (-20%)		-\$190,000	-\$142,500	-\$95,000	-\$47,500
Gross Capital		\$760,000	\$570,000	\$380,000	\$190,000
Bonding (-30%)		-\$228,000	-\$171,000	-\$114,000	-\$57,000
Net Capital Annual		\$532,000	\$399,000	\$266,000	\$133,000
Net Capital 20 years		\$10,640,000	\$7,980,000	\$5,320,000	\$2,660,000

The property tax levels presented in the survey were based on a 9 mil increase and used 2017 land use data to calculate the amounts. An example of those calculations is shown in Table 22.

TABLE 22. PROPERTY TAX REVENUE POTENTIAL WITHIN STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CITY LIMITS – (9 MILS)

	ACTUAL VALUE	% OF ACTUAL VALUE THAT IS TAXABLE	ASSESSED VALUE	PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	% OF TOTAL REVENUE
Vacant Land	\$ 245,144,960	29%	\$ 71,092,220	\$639,830	10.9%
Residential Property	5,177,438,400	7.20%	372,774,750	3,354,973	57.3%
Commercial Property	803,214,290	29%	232,932,440	2,096,392	35.8%
Industrial Property	23,882,520	29%	6,925,930	62,333	1.1%
Agricultural Property	31,570	29%	9,140	82	0.0%
Natural Resources Property	68	29%	20	0	0.0%
Oil and Gas Property	-	N/A	-	-	0.0%
State Assess Property	37,334,570	29%	10,827,090	97,444	1.7%
Exempt	341,837,880	0%	-	-	0.0%
LESS Tax Increment Financing URA			(43,479,083)	(391,311.75)	-6.7%
Totals	\$ 6,628,884,258		\$ 651,082,507	\$ 5,859,743	100.0%
20 Year Net Revenue for Capital Improvements					
Total Annual Revenue					\$5,859,743
20% maintenance endowment					\$1,171,949
Annual Capital Fund					4,687,794
20 years Capital Gross					\$93,755,881
20 years Capital Net after Bonding (70% of gross)					\$65,629,117

Source: Routt County Assessed Valuation as of 12/31/2017

The question on the survey asked for the level of support for six different tax alternatives. The property tax alternatives were translated into the increased cost per month for residential properties of varying value. Increasing the Accommodations Tax by one percent and City Sales Tax by one-half percent were “somewhat” or “strongly supported” by two-thirds of the respondents. The other alternatives did not receive support by a majority of respondents (Table 23).

TABLE 23. LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

	TOTAL \$ GENERATED FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS	STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPOSE	STRONGLY OPOSE	NOT SURE
Additional 1% increase in Accommodations Tax	\$10.6 million	66%	44%	22%	11%	18%	5%
Additional 1/2 cent dedicated sales tax (50 cents on a \$100 purchase)	\$33.6 million	67%	34%	33%	10%	21%	2%
Additional 1 cent dedicated sales tax (\$1 on a \$100 purchase)	\$67.2 million	46%	24%	19%	17%	37%	3%
New property tax (\$15 per month for \$500K home, \$22.50 per month for \$750K, \$30 per month for \$1 million home)	\$36.5 million	44%	24%	20%	12%	41%	3%
New property tax (\$27 per month for \$500K home, \$40.50 per month for \$750K home, \$54 per month for \$1 million home)	\$65.6 million	26%	15%	11%	14%	56%	4%



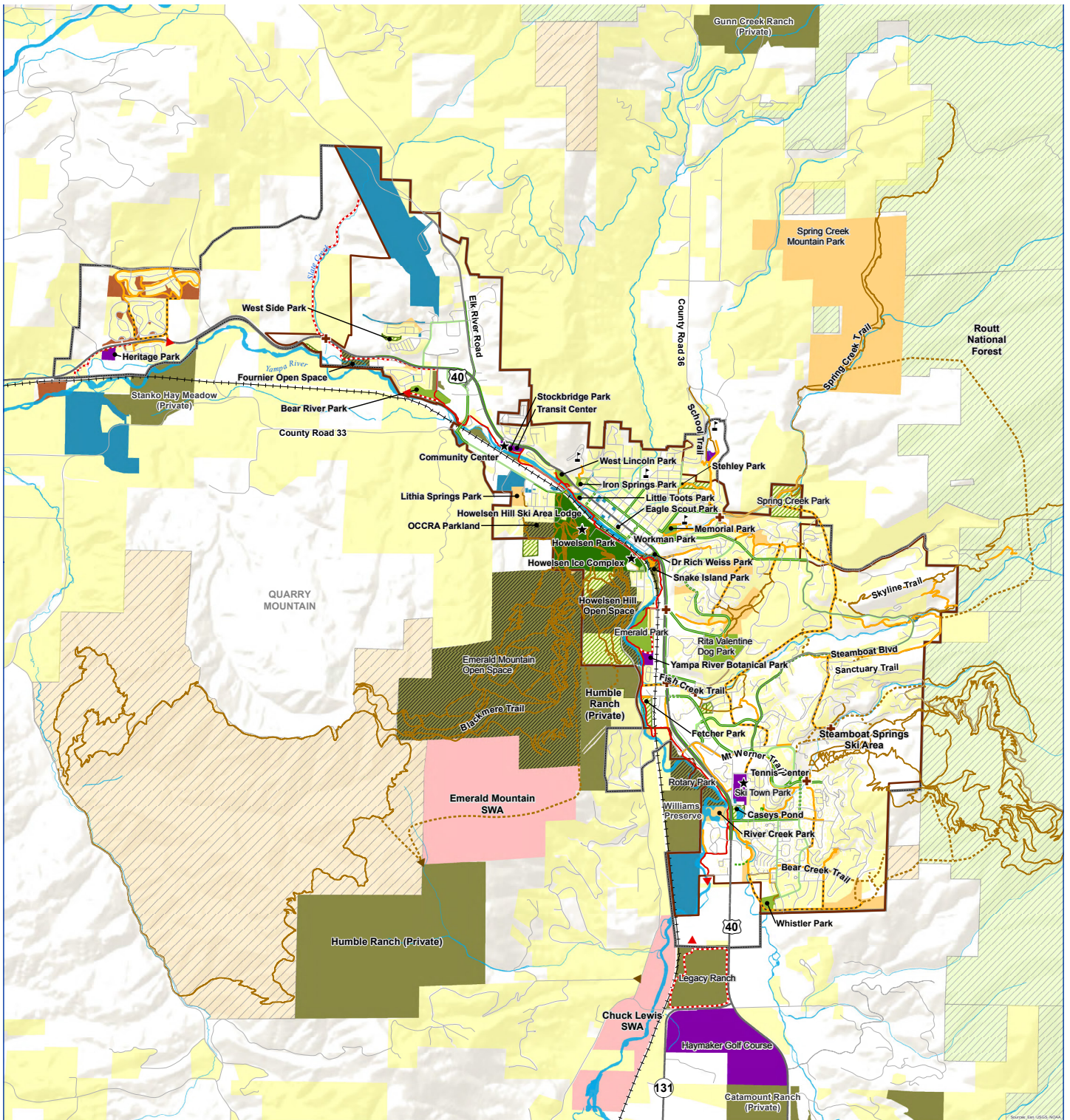
CHAPTER 7: RECOMMENDATIONS

This section outlines the master plan recommendations for the parks, recreation, open space, and trail facilities, as well as the Yampa River, through the City of Steamboat Springs. The first section provides the overall vision for the system in the next 10 years, illustrated by a conceptual map. The master plan map is followed by a series of vision, goals, and strategies for each component of the plan. Classifications of parks, open space, and trails are included in the respective subsections along with management recommendations for the Yampa River. Recommended projects and actions are also contained in each subsection.

These vision and goal statements provide the basis for level of service standards and project specific recommendations. A list of implementation actions and capital projects are provided.

MASTER PLAN

Map 4, the Master Plan Map, shows the locations of existing open space and natural areas and existing and proposed parks and trails. New open space areas and Yampa River improvements are not specifically shown and should be preserved based on the priorities outlined in the Open Space and Natural Areas and Yampa River sections of this chapter.



MAP 1. MASTER PLAN

- ★ Recreation Facility
- ⛶ Proposed Trail Underpass
- 🏫 School
- ▭ City Limits
- ▭ Urban Growth Boundary
- Existing On-street Bike Lane
- ⋯ Proposed On-Street Bike Lane
- Sharrow
- Existing Core Trail
- ⋯ Proposed Core Trail
- Existing Secondary Trail
- ⋯ Proposed Secondary Trail
- Existing Backcountry Trail
- ⋯ Proposed Backcountry Trail

- Residential Future Land Use
- Mini Park
- Community/Neighborhood Park
- Regional Park
- Special Use/Sports Complex
- Natural Area
- Park/Natural Area

- Open Space /Conservation Easement (No Public Access)
- Open Space /Conservation Easement (Public Access)
- City Property-Other
- CPW- State Wildlife Area
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Steamboat II Metro District

City of
Steamboat Springs



0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile
June 2018

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

VISION, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Vision: Our community will enjoy a well-maintained parks system and a diverse range of core recreation services and facilities that meet community needs and continue to enhance the lives of a growing community.

Goals and Strategies:

- Educate and promote the stewardship of Steamboat Springs' historic, cultural, and natural heritage.
 - Educate the community and visitors through interpretive signage and wayfinding.
 - Evaluate education and enforcement opportunities for resource and wildlife protection.
 - Work with art groups, such as Steamboat Creates, to follow the established public art policy that has been established by the City of Steamboat Springs.
- Invest in upgrades to existing facilities to maintain a high quality, safe, and accessible park system.
 - Meet department and City sustainability goals by developing and managing parks and recreational facilities that are environmental and fiscally sustainable.
 - Work with planning, engineering, etc. on future developments.
 - Prioritize funding for basic system-wide repairs and replacements.
 - Assess current use, expenses, and revenues at facilities to determine if existing agreements meet the goal of financial sustainability.
- Promote the conservation of natural and cultural resources through parkland acquisition, stewardship, and environmentally sensitive planning.
- Provide for a wide range of public amenities distributed throughout the community.
 - Develop a land dedication/ fee-in-lieu policy that requires land is set aside for parks and trails (or the fee equivalent) for parks and trails within City limits.
 - Maintain parks level of service standards as residential growth occurs within the urban growth area.
- Provide a variety of recreation facilities and programs that meet the needs for all ages and abilities.
 - Develop policies associated with level of subsidy and implement a cost recovery model for programs and services.
 - Continue to assess options for partnerships/ volunteer maintenance of bike jump/pump area at Bear River Park and the Howelsen BMX Track.
 - Implement ADA accessible facilities and amenities during facility replacement and on all new projects.
 - Identify location(s), partner(s), and funding source(s) for an indoor gym with multi-purpose courts.
 - Identify location(s), partner(s), and funding source(s) for a Field House with indoor sports turf field and locker rooms.
 - Identify location(s), partner(s), and funding source(s) for site acquisition or development proposals/annexations for a new sports complex/ community park. Develop specific criteria for site evaluation including steepness, size, cost, etc.

- Maintain Howelsen Park and Ski Hill as an important and unique feature for town residents.
 - Celebrate the winter sports heritage of Howelsen Ski Hill, which is highly valued by residents and integrally linked to the image of Steamboat Springs.
 - Partner with clubs and tournament/event sponsors to construct, upgrade, and maintain facilities that they use.
 - Enhance and diversify the Rodeo Grounds as a more multi-purpose year-round space, Nordic skiing staging area, entertainment venue, and community amenity.
 - Continue to improve vehicular circulation, parking, and the multi-purpose functionality of the park as feasible, which in the future could entail removal of some ballfields.
 - Improve the landscape aesthetics of the park and provide additional trees for shade.
 - Coordinate with police department and city manager's office to evaluate and improve Howelsen Hill Park and Ski Area's functionality and safety for special events and activities.
- Design, build, and maintain a sustainable, high-quality parks and recreation experience.
 - Track and establish park maintenance standards to understand if current standards are realistic or should be reduced or expanded and to also understand future maintenance cost of future facilities.
 - Determine and set a maximum number of hours for field use to ensure that the quality does not degrade with overuse.
 - Encourage sustainable, efficient, and resilient use of environmental resources, thereby reducing impacts on financial resources, through conservation efforts, including:
 - » Working with other City departments to maximize stormwater and flood management through park and greenway features.
 - » Developing facilities with green infrastructure practices and long-term maintenance costs in mind as facilities are replaced or built.
 - » Investing in greener equipment and transportation methods.
 - » Implementing adaptation strategies/mitigation activities for climate change, such as prolonged periods of drought or insect outbreaks.
 - » Planting native and regionally appropriate species to reduce maintenance costs and water usage; further track water usage.
 - » Following integrated pest management practices.
 - » Providing recycling bins and water fountains with bottle fillers for the public, and requiring the provision of recycling at special events.
 - » Providing water fountains to reduce plastic bottle waste.
 - » Composting.
 - » Investigating opportunities for renewable energy sources.



Table 24 describes park classifications.

TABLE 24. PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL SIZE	LEVEL OF SERVICE
<i>Mini/Pocket Park</i>	Mini and pocket parks provide passive recreational opportunities with limited amenities. These small parks may contribute to meeting the parkland needs in neighborhoods by providing small play areas, shade pavilions, and open play areas.	<1.5 Acres	Not Applicable
<i>Neighborhood Park</i>	Neighborhood parks provide mostly active recreational opportunities and generally contain many diverse amenities, such as restrooms, shelters, small pavilions, horseshoe pits, playgrounds, open turf areas, and possibly athletic fields that can be used for practices.	1.5-8 Acres	Maximum ½ mile walking distance of population served. Provide minimum of 2 acres per 1,000 population
<i>Community Park</i>	Provides opportunities for community- wide activities and facilities. Should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas, such as urban forests, gardens, historic features, water features, performance areas, festival spaces, plazas, etc., and have features that appeal to the broader community. Community parks may also serve as the local neighborhood park for residential areas within ½ mile. Direct access to the community trail system is desirable.	8-40 Acres	Maximum 3 mile distance between parks (1.5 mile service area) Provide a minimum of 6 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 populations
<i>Regional Park</i>	Provides facilities and recreational amenities intended to serve City residents as well as the surrounding region. As such, regional parks typically involve partnerships with agencies and organizations that come together to provide a service or benefit, which they cannot individually afford or which they can provide more economically through a partnership. Typically, regional parks contain a mix of active sports fields, open space, and other amenities.	>40 Acres	Not applicable, but some park acreage may be used to satisfy community park needs and therefore be calculated into the total community parkland available in the City.
<i>Sports Complex</i>	Sports complexes are not always considered complete community parks as they are very special-purpose. However, they contribute to the overall level of service for community parks. They provide opportunities for community- wide programmed and self-directed sports such as baseball, softball, soccer, and tennis in higher intensity use facilities. They offer only limited areas for passive recreation uses and other features that appeal to the broader community. Sports complexes are strategically located to fill service gaps for specialized sports facilities. They should be relatively flat to accommodate sports fields and located away from residential areas to avoid traffic, light, and noise conflicts.	varies	Not Applicable
<i>Special Use Facility</i>	Serves a singular or very focused community need, such as a horticulture center, environmental education center, performance area, indoor sports and recreational facilities, or golf course.	Varies	Not Applicable

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ACTIONS

Both the public and staff identified the need to focus on improving the parks that already exist in the community. Improvements system-wide include playground replacements to meet safety and accessibility standards, ADA parking, restroom upgrades, improved wayfinding and signage, and irrigation improvements, along with implementation of existing park/facility master plans. Furthermore, many neighborhood parks are used for events and scheduled for field use, which may not have adequate parking for these higher intensity uses. The public also identified the need for new facilities and recreational opportunities.

Specific to Howelsen Hill, the key themes included keeping the ski hill and rodeo as integral to Steamboat Springs' heritage and image. The nordic trails, jumping, and Olympic legacy were expressed as important. Summer use is equally as important as winter use, particularly the summer concerts and trailheads for hiking and mountain biking. It was clear that upgraded facilities and circulation, parking, landscape, and signage improvements are needed, along with more shade trees. Many expressed an overall desire to make the park more multi-functional and attractive.

The following is a list of actions related to parks and recreational facilities.

1. Implement "deferred projects" list for existing park improvements (restroom and playground replacements, irrigation systems, shelters, bridge repairs, skate park equipment replacement, etc.)
2. Heritage Park - Consider the cost versus benefits, and potential for increasing revenues and level of use when considering the Heritage Park lease renewal. Don't let lease expire, request a 1 year extension.
3. Bear River Park – Eventually implement the master plan, with focus on river access improvements and maintaining existing facilities in the shorter term. Consider adding an off leash dog park.
4. Howelsen Park and Ski Hill
 - Vision Statement: "Iconic Howelsen Park and Ski Hill is an integral part of Steamboat Springs'

heritage, image, and quality of life for residents of the community. It will remain a City-owned asset for current and future generations to enjoy year-round recreational and community activities."

- High Priority Projects
 - » Repair or replace ski lifts and jumps and stabilize the hill as needed.
 - » Maintain and upgrade existing facilities, including restrooms, the lodge and concessions, pedestrian and bike connections, pedestrian lighting, aesthetics, landscaping, and skate park replacement.
- Longer Term Goals – requires park reconfiguration and removal of two ballfields.
 - » Improve vehicular circulation, parking, and pedestrian/bike connectivity.
 - » Make the park more multi-functional by creating space for multi-purpose play, community events, and group picnicking.
 - » Develop a new site to replace ballfields.
- 5. Dog Parks – Construct at least one fenced dog park. While desired, wait to designate additional off-leash dog areas until existing areas can be evaluated over several years for potential impacts (e.g. loss of vegetation, water quality).
- 6. Rodeo Grounds – Implement the master plan.
- 7. Gym Space and Indoor Fields – If funding partners emerge and/or the community supports a new funding source that could cover its cost, after funding other higher priority projects, a multi-purpose facility should be constructed should long term funding arise.

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS

VISION, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Vision: The community will develop well-financed and well-maintained open lands program to protect the physical beauty, the open spaces, the special places, and the healthy ecosystem of the valley in perpetuity. Our open lands and natural areas will serve to not only seek to protect our open space resources, but also to educate our citizens on the treasures in their community.

Goals and Strategies:

- Create an open space system comprising of different types of permanent open space such as community preserve, natural areas, special resource areas, and agricultural lands.
 - Preserve and/or manage open space to protect the agricultural, rural, and recreation-based nature of the community and to preserve wildlife habitats and view corridors.
 - Establish a permanent and constant revenue source dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of open space.
 - Where appropriate and acceptable to landowners, provide access to open space resources as long as conservation values are protected.
- Continue to consider other city-wide and county plans when planning for open space.
 - Continue to integrate our open space areas directly into urban areas of our community.
 - Identify critical wetland areas and critical wildlife habitats, and enhance and conserve these areas for future generations.
 - Work with CPW to manage human-wildlife interactions, especially for big game and species of concern.
- Target acquisition of open space contiguous to existing open space/park properties for addition of recreational trails and habitat connectivity.
- Improve river health through floodplain connectivity, bank restoration, river shading, and riparian improvements.
 - Encourage sustainable, efficient, and resilient use and management of natural resources, thereby reducing impacts on financial resources, through conservation efforts including:
 - » Working with other City departments to maximize stormwater and flood management through park and greenway features.
 - » Restoring native landscapes to reduce annual maintain costs, provide native habitats, and increase natural ecosystem services, such as air and water quality.
 - » Inventorying, controlling, and managing invasive species.

OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITY AREAS

The following table identifies open space opportunity areas that, if acquired or protected through conservation easement, would meet the vision and goals set forth in this plan. These properties are generally described and do not preclude other areas if opportunities arise. Any and all conservation activities would be strictly on a willing landowner basis.

Lands protected as open space can continue to be used for a variety of purposes, including agriculture and other historic uses. Recreational opportunities, such as trails and environmental education, could be integrated, depending on the property's intended use and other agreements. "Table 25. Open Space Opportunity Areas" on page 60 lists high priority opportunity areas for open space preservation.

TABLE 25. OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITY AREAS

OPPORTUNITY AREA	RESOURCE VALUES	IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS	OTHER COMMENTS
Upper Yampa Valley	Highway 131 foreground zone, riparian areas, and key segment of Yampa corridor. Also includes great blue heron nesting areas.	Wetlands and floodplain limit development potential in some areas.	This corridor provides an important link to other conservation lands in the south valley area.
South Valley Gateway	Highway 131 foreground zone and gateway to Yampa Valley.	NA	NA
South Valley Edge	Key winter habitat for elk and mule deer. Also foreground zone for Highway 40 and key gateway to the Yampa Valley.	Majority of this area has 30% or greater slopes.	Adjacent to USFS land and links other conserved areas (Lake Catamount and Storm Mountain Ranch).
South Emerald Mountain	Elk winter concentration area and production areas. Also contains a visually prominent ridgeline.	Portions of the area are subject to Routt County's skyline development guidelines.	Adjacent to Emerald Mountain.
North Emerald Mountain	Elk production area as well as elk severe and winter conservation areas. Contains portions of a visually prominent ridge.	Most of the area consists of a few large parcels. Portions of the area are subject to Routt County's skyline development guidelines. Nearly a third of the area has 30% or greater slopes.	Adjacent to Emerald Mountain.
Spring Creek	Most of the area is elk winter concentration area.	Western edge of area has 30% or greater slopes.	Adjacent to USFS. Smaller parcel present.
Soda Creek	Riparian habitat. Area is designated as a potential conservation area by CNHP due to its high biodiversity significance.	NA	Area is not contiguous with other conserved areas.
Copper Ridge	Elk severe and winter concentration area. Contains a visually prominent ridge.	The majority of this areas has 30% or greater slopes.	Links to USFS land at northern edge.
Steamboat II Ridge	Elk winter concentration area and visually prominent ridge.	As provided in West Steamboat Springs Area Plan, may be accomplished through TDR. Portions of the area are subject to Routt County's skyline development guidelines. Some areas also have 30% or greater slopes.	This area has limited linkage with other conserved areas.
Yampa River West	Bald Eagle winter concentration area, great blue heron nesting area, and other riparian habitat values.	Much of this area is within the 100-year floodplain.	Provides an important link on the Yampa River Core Trail.
West Yampa Valley	Bald Eagle winter concentration area and great blue heron nesting area. Also contains riparian corridor and foreground zone along Highway 40. This is a key gateway into the Yampa Valley.	As provided in West Steamboat Springs Area Plan, portions of the area may be conserved through TDR. Portions of the area have floodplain and other development limitations.	Area has limited linkage with other conserved areas except along the Yampa River corridor. Portions of the area are subject to Routt County's skyline development guidelines.

Table 26 shows the three classifications of open space and natural areas.

TABLE 26. OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREA CLASSIFICATIONS

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL SIZE
Open Space	Open Space properties are held in conservation easements and preserved and managed to sustain the natural values, historical land uses, and passive recreation activities characteristic of the Yampa Valley for current and future generations. These properties are permanently designated or protected as open space and may or may not include public access. These lands are formally protected through conservation easements or by Council.	Varies
Natural Area	Protects natural values on smaller parcels. Often located along stream corridors. Provides opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation, which may include multi-purpose trails. Emphasis on resource protection or preservation with some public access provided. Limited site area can be dedicated to park-like uses, such as roads, parking areas, trails, environmental education/interpretive areas, picnic sites, and visitor support facilities.	Varies
Park/ Natural Area	Steamboat's park and recreation system has many parks that provide a variety of functions. Portions of these parks may be managed as more developed parks while the other portion is managed as a natural area. The park areas normally provide similar functions as a neighborhood or community park.	8-20+ Acres

OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS ACTIONS

As funding sources, long term maintenance and management plans are established, proceed with the following actions, in no particular order, but as seen fit by funding:

1. Expand the open space system by acquiring/preserving additional lands. As the City boundary expands, target open space areas with priority on lands adjacent to existing lands to provide additional trails and habitat connectivity.
2. Partner with Yampa Valley Land Trust, Routt County, and other conservation-oriented groups to conserve land.
3. Develop management plans, alongside Routt County and other partners, for all open space and natural areas properties with the goal of balancing resource values with public use.

TRAILS

VISION, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Vision: Our community will take a comprehensive and regional approach to development of a trail system, linking existing trails, giving neighborhoods access to trails, and connecting urban and rural trails to public lands.

Trails Goals and Strategies:

- Develop a network of multi-use, nature trails, greenways and linear linkages that connect to parks and popular destinations.
 - Continue working on new signage from core trail to access points.
 - Establish constant revenue sources dedicated to the acquisition and maintenance of trails supported by an adequate staff and maintenance activities.
 - Continue to identify opportunities to connect to Steamboat West via an off-street trail connection.
- Provide for a wide-range of summer and winter trail activities.



- Create a bicycle friendly community by creating an on-street trail system that connects to other trails, schools, neighborhoods, and commercial areas.
- Identify a network of trails that are suitable for winter uses, such as cross-country skiing and fat biking, and manage those trails to accommodate winter use.
- Consider and leverage current and future land uses and transportation systems.
 - Apply context sensitive and sustainable trail design in order to protect sensitive habitat areas, integrate trails with existing and future land uses, and reduce maintenance costs.
 - Support Routt County's consideration of bicycle use in the planning and design of future road improvements.
- Design, build, and maintain a sustainable, high-quality trails and recreation experience.
 - Make education and enforcement opportunities for resource and wildlife protection part of trail management.
 - Encourage sustainable, efficient, and resilient transportation systems, thereby reducing impacts on financial resources through the development and maintenance of trail facilities including:
 - » Developing interconnected trails, sidewalks, and transit facilities to increase multi-modal commuting and transportation options thereby reducing the community's carbon footprint.



Table 27 contains specific information on the three types of trails in the community

TABLE 27. TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

	PRIMARY TRAILS	SECONDARY TRAILS	BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS
Uses	Connects community destinations, parks and open space Recreation destination for pedestrian, bicyclists and other non-motorized users Commuting	Connects community destinations, neighborhoods, parks and open space Recreation Commuting	Recreation destination for pedestrian, bicyclists and other non-motorized users
Preferred Location	Open space, greenway, or drainage corridors	Open space, greenway, or drainage corridors Roadway corridors Detached sidewalks	Undeveloped backcountry, open space or rural areas Natural setting
Preferred Corridor Width	30 feet Min. 20 foot easement width	25 feet Min. 20 foot easement width	Varies with hand build vs. machine build and terrain
Trail Width	10 feet min Parallel soft surface 3 foot min path Two foot shoulder required on both sides	Eight feet min Two foot shoulders required on both sides	Three foot min 10 foot corridor where maintenance vehicle access required
Trail Surface	Concrete (soft surface parallel trail where appropriate) Crushed gravel path	Concrete Crushed gravel may be used as determined by staff	Crushed gravel or native soil with dust inhibitors and soil hardener when required
Vertical Clearance	10 feet	10 feet	Eight feet
Horizontal Clearance	Min. bridge width 10 feet Min. three feet both sides	Min. bridge width 8 feet Min 3 feet both sides	Min two feet both sides
Landscape	Urban, Native, naturalized	Urban, Native, Naturalized	Native, naturalized
Guardrails and Handrails	Per AASHTO	Per AASHTO	Per AASHTO
Lighting (where possible and required for safety)	At trailheads and access points At underpasses At crosswalks and intersections	At trailheads and access points At underpasses At crosswalks and intersections Utilize adjacent roadway lighting where appropriate	At trailheads and access points
Trail Waysides	Major waysides one per mile or as utilities are available Minor waysides every ½ mile Combine with trailheads where possible	Minor waysides every ½ mile Combine with trailheads where possible	Minor waysides at areas of visual or interpretive interest, no utilities

Grade	Up to 8.3% with targeted 5% where feasible	Up to 8.3% with targeted 5% where feasible	(IMBA Guidelines) 5% or less for beginners, Average 10% or less for intermediate, 15% or less for advanced – if ADA accommodation is unreasonable Up to 8.3% for ADA accessible trails Steps may be required on hiking only slopes with grades steeper than 10%
Signs	Per MUTCD	Per MUTCD	Per MUTCD
Markings	Four inch center stripe per AASHTO, where volumes and geometry dictate	None	None
Trailheads	At major access points Use parks and open space parking areas and facilities where possible Restroom, shaded seating, and picnic areas Regulatory information and entry signs	At major access points Use parks and open space parking areas and facilities where possible Shaded seating and picnic areas Regulatory information and entry signs	At major access points Use parks and open space parking areas and facilities where possible Restroom, shaded seating and picnic areas Regulatory information and entry signs

TRAIL ACTIONS

As funding sources, long term maintenance and management plans are established, proceed with the following Actions, in no particular order, but as seen fit by funding:

1. Extend Core Trail west along river corridor with multi-modal connections, north to Slate Creek, connecting Steamboat proper to Steamboat II areas.
2. Extend Core Trail South to Legacy Open Space
3. Designate additional directional and single use trails at Emerald Mountain/Howelsen Open Space, and Spring Creek Open Space. Utilize existing facilities, develop a clearly marked trail head at the base of Howelsen Hill, designating entrance of the Blackmer Trailhead within the Emerald Mountain trail system, easing congestion of Fairview neighborhood.
4. Continue to improve on-street connectivity by providing bicycle lanes/routes, walks and improved crossings/underpasses at US40.
5. Seek opportunities to implement other trail connections where needed or with development and/or road improvements.
6. Assess social trails on City owned lands to determine if they should be brought into the system and legitimized or closed and revegetated and be a resource to the community and partners to address social trails on private land.

YAMPA RIVER

VISION, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Vision: The Yampa River will always be a flourishing, vibrant, biodiverse natural river corridor that is enjoyed by recreationalists, respected, and supported by its community with commitment, education, and sensible regulation.

Goals and Strategies:

- Support the goals and management objectives of the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan adopted in 2018 and coordinate future management strategies to align with other river health planning efforts.
- Promote water activities and programs and improve access to waterways while being sensitive to the Yampa River's aquatic health.
- Maintain and expand the Yampa River Core Trail to provide a recreational amenity, river access, and an alternative mode of transportation.
- Ensure development and improvements are constructed in a way that protects the riparian corridor and prevents adverse impacts.
- Actively monitor and manage river use to help provide an enjoyable and safe experience for all river users.
- Educate river users on protecting the health of the river and riparian areas and on responsible river etiquette and safety.

Yampa River Steamflow Management Plan Goals

1. Build upon existing information to develop a science-based assessment of river system conditions and needs to inform decision-making and long-term monitoring
2. Preserve and enhance healthy aquatic and riparian habitat
3. Meet regulatory responsibilities including water quality and temperature standards
4. Protect a strong local economy, particularly the agriculture and recreation sectors
5. Establish integrated and flexible management strategies that align with other planning efforts and strengthen resilience and sustainability
6. Foster a culture of shared stewardship of the Yampa River among stakeholders and community members

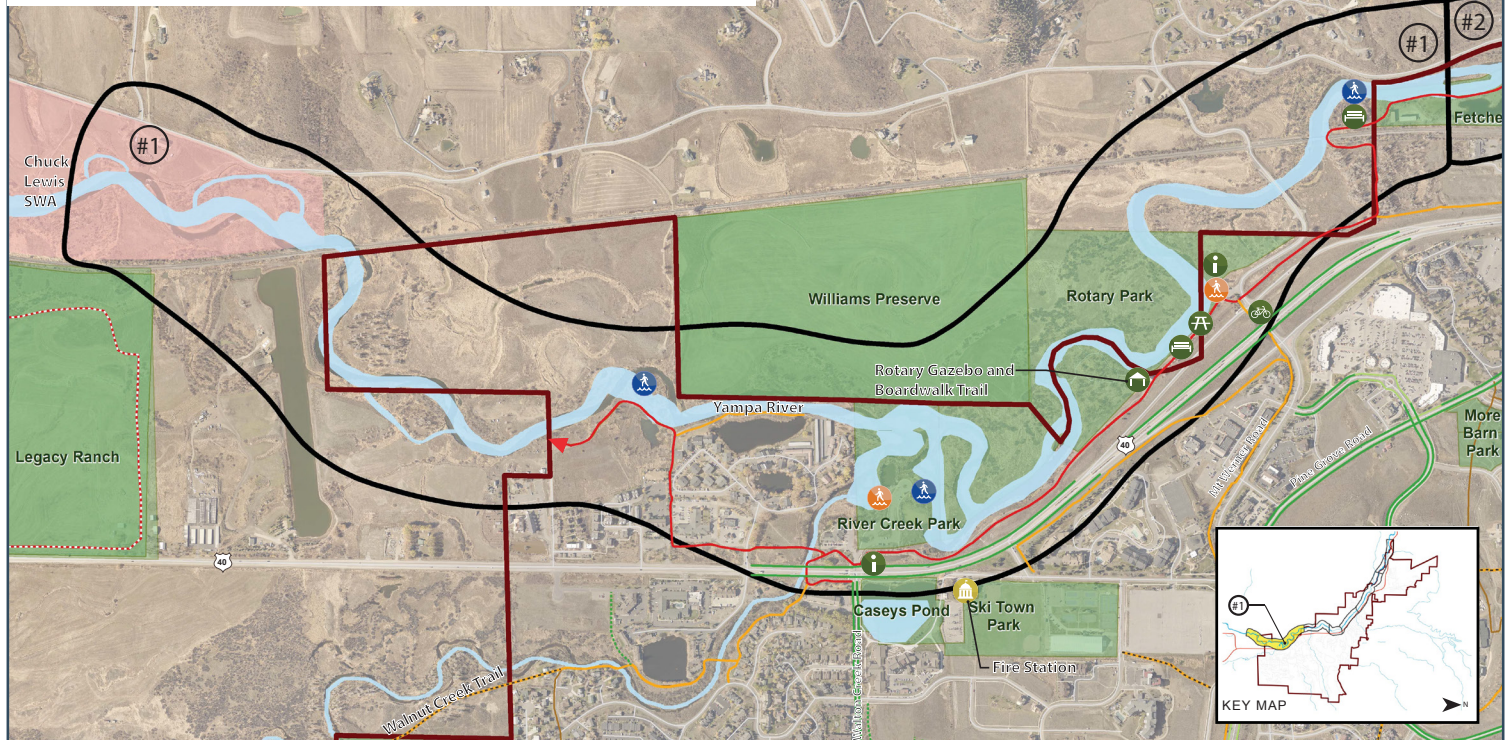
RECREATION INTENSITY LEVELS OF RIVER MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Yampa River should be managed in a manner that preserves a range of recreational opportunities. A recommended Recreational Intensity Level (RIL) has been defined for each RMA. The RIL is based on the land use, recreation, terrestrial, and aquatic resources present. As shown in Table 28, the classes that make up this spectrum are differentiated from each other by degree of naturalness, types of social experience, and other considerations. Three RIL classes have been determined to assist in river management — Low, Medium and High. The maps of the Yampa River that follow show each RMA and the features that are located along them.

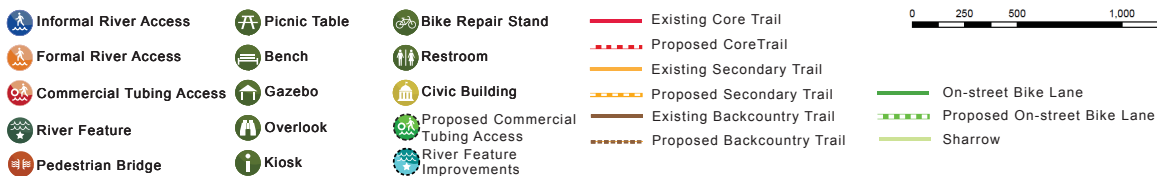
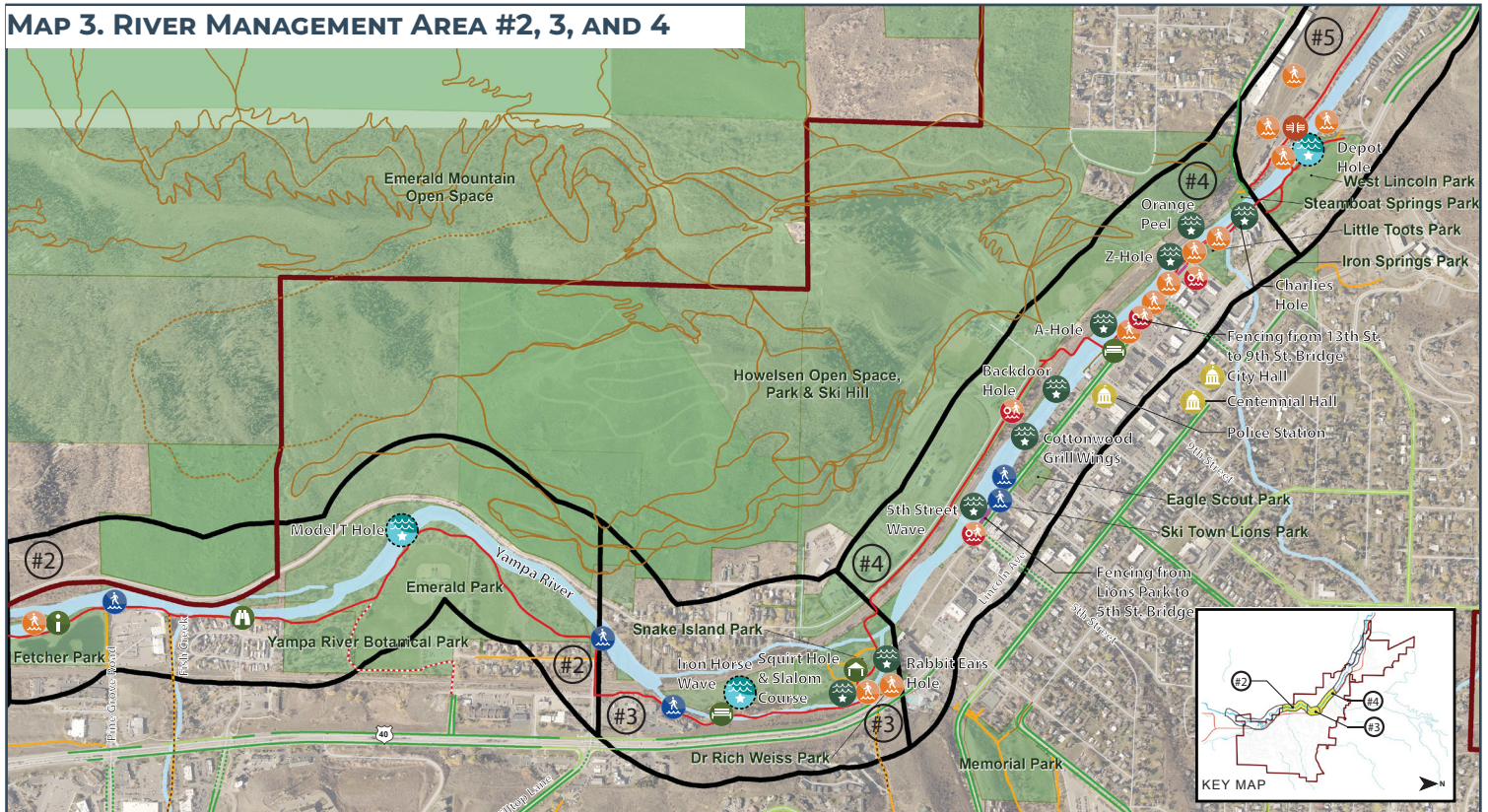
TABLE 28. RECREATIONAL INTENSITY LEVELS

CLASS	RMA	CONDITIONS
<i>Low</i>	RMA 1 RMA 6	High degree of naturalness High quality habitat Areas sensitive to human disturbance Man-made development rare Little on-the-ground evidence of other people Higher opportunity to experience solitude, closeness to nature, and wildlife education
	RMA 2 RMA 3	Moderate degree of naturalness Moderate to high quality habitat Some areas sensitive to human disturbance Structures may be present and more highly developed Some on-the-ground evidence of other people Low to moderate opportunity to experience solitude, closeness to nature
<i>High</i>	RMA 4 RMA 5	Very low degree of naturalness Low quality habitat Few areas sensitive to human disturbance Highly developed, numerous structures, urban development Obvious on-the-ground evidence of other people Very low opportunity to experience solitude, closeness to nature High interaction with other people

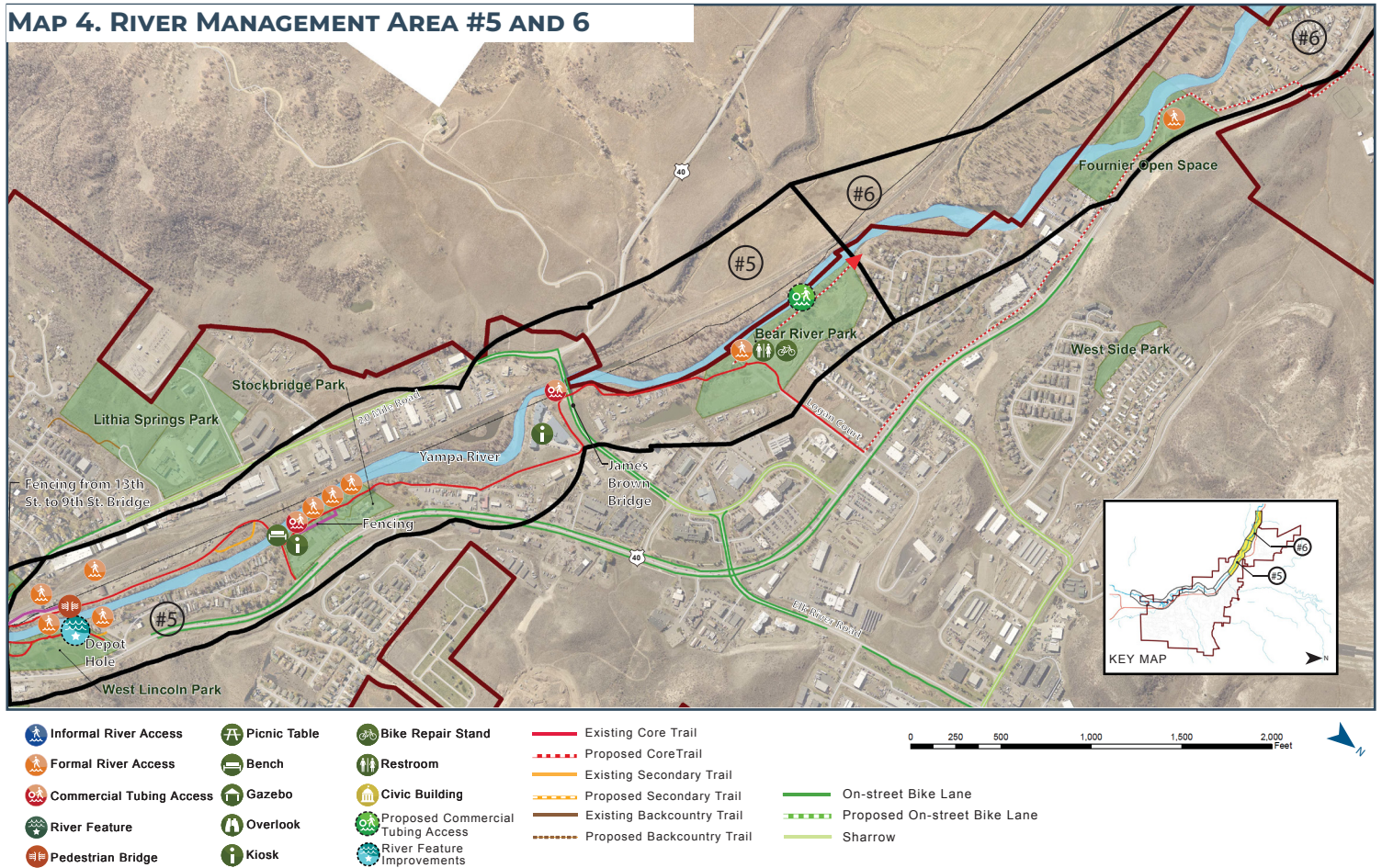
MAP 2. RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA #1



MAP 3. RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA #2, 3, AND 4



MAP 4. RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA #5 AND 6



COMMERCIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Commercial recreational uses on the Yampa River should be managed in a manner that supports the vision and planning objectives. Table 29 lists the commercial recreation restrictions.

TABLE 29. YAMPA RIVER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS

ACTIVITY	RESTRICTION	Weekdays		
		Weekdays	Fridays	Weekend
Commercial Tubing/ Flotation Device Rental Services	Total Maximum # of Tubes Allowed	433	500	915
	Commercial tubing/flotation device rental companies must be authorized to provide services on the Yampa River within City limits. The Parks and Recreation Department manages commercial numbers on a vendors-by-vendor basis through an annual permit system. Vendors that were grandfathered in during the original YRMP have permits until such time changes are made to the permit system.			
Commercial Fishing Guide Services	Commercial fishing guides must be authorized to provide services on City owned stretches and access points on the Yampa River within City limits. The Parks and Recreation Department manages commercial numbers on a vendors-by-vendor basis through an annual permit system. Vendors that were grandfathered in during the original YRMP have permits until such time changes are made to the permit system.			
	Use limits: Four (4) clients per day on the downtown river corridor. Half-day guide trips will be counted as a full day of usage.			
Kayak/Rafts/ SUP/Canoe Rentals	No limits. The Parks and Recreation Department manages commercial numbers on a vendors-by-vendor basis through an annual permit system. Vendors that were grandfathered in during the original YRMP have permits until such time changes are made to the permit system.			
Private Rec. Use	No limits			

Table 30 shows the allowed uses for the six Yampa River Management Areas through Steamboat.

TABLE 30. ALLOWED USES FOR RIVER MANAGEMENT AREAS

RMA	RECREATION INTENSITY LEVEL	COMMERCIAL TUBING	PRIVATE TUBING	SWIMMING	PADDLING	FISHING	EDUCATION/ WILDLIFE VIEWING
RMA 1	Low	Prohibited	Allowed Monitor	Discouraged	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
RMA 2	Medium	Prohibited	Allowed Monitor	Discouraged	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
RMA 3	Medium	Prohibited	Allowed Monitor	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
RMA 4	High	Allowed Monitor	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
RMA 5	High	Allowed Monitor	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
RMA 6	Low	Prohibited	Discouraged	Discouraged	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed



YAMPA RIVER ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

1. Continue to implement the conceptual recommendations of the Yampa River Structural Plan and monitor and maintain existing river features for form and function.
2. Continue and expand education of river users, protecting the riparian and aquatic habitat, and exhibiting respectful behavior through the following.
 - Yampa River signage
 - River Ranger program
 - Friends of the Yampa/Yampa River Clean Up Days
 - Guest education (brochures, videos, local TV ads)
 - City website and social media
3. Evaluate the effectiveness and funding costs of the River Ranger program and identify future direction and actions.
4. Implement policy limiting recreational use of the river when habitat and river health could be negatively impacted, in consultation with CPW (e.g. water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and/or low flows).
5. Continue to monitor key indicators, including:
 - Annual counts of the number and type of users
 - Weed monitoring
 - Bank Erosion
 - Stream temperature
 - Water quality parameters
 - Macroinvertebrate counts
6. Work with partners to monitor river health management objectives and indicators identified in the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan
7. Lead and Partner on designated actions in the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan, including
 - Establishing a native riparian revegetation program
 - Improving City-owned diversion structures to increase efficiency and to reduce fish passage barriers.
 - Participating in the City Stream Team
 - Identifying high priority parcels for acquisition for open space
 - Restoring streamflows during drought conditions thorough voluntary, market-based water leases and releases from reservoir storage.
8. Protect, use and maintain the city's Recreational Instream Channel Diversion (RICD) water right by maintaining the C and D Hole structures, and maintaining the 13th Street gauge.
9. Monitor and control invasive species.
10. Create a boating take-out point at Bear River Park.



RECREATION PROGRAMS

VISION, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Vision: Create unparalleled recreational experiences for our community and visitors through superior customer service and offering a wide variety of quality, safe, enjoyable, and affordable recreation based programs that are both inclusive and responsive to the needs and desires of the community.

Goals and Strategies:

- Provide a variety of affordable recreation facilities and programs that meet the needs of all ages and abilities.
- Partner internally and with community organizations to identify additional shared, multi-use, and dedicated programmable facilities to help meet current and growing areas of demand.
- Meet or exceed established cost recovery objectives for recreation facilities and programs.
- Maintain awareness of growing trends in recreation and actively pursue opportunities to implement alternative and unique sporting options.
- Improve adult health and wellness opportunities in a safe and social environment through team sports, open gym/field programs, and local tournaments.
- Expand the use of Steamboat Springs School District facilities for recreation programs.



ADULT RECREATION ACTIONS

1. Expand sand volleyball courts at the Howelsen Hill Sports Complex and upgrade volleyball and tennis court lighting (repair failing service lines, reposition light locations and upgrade to new energy efficient LED bulbs).
2. Continue to work with local partners and organizations to obtain indoor gym space to host sports programming during the fall and winter months.
3. Identify potential locations, partners, and funding sources to construct an indoor gym with multi-purpose courts and field house with indoor sports turf field.
4. Evaluate how programming can better target and increase involvement of aging and casual adult sports participants.

YOUTH PROGRAM ACTIONS

1. Proactively take part and collaborate with community groups that are also looking to expand youth/childcare space including, but not limited to, First Impressions and Routt County Youth Services Coalition.
2. Collaborate with partners to regularly update City Council, and the community as a whole, on the current childcare landscape so they are aware of capacity issues and facility limitations.
3. Explore licensing additional City facilities as they become available to increase City-owned programmable space to house current and future programs.

HOWELSEN ICE ARENA ACTIONS

1. Develop lobby area at the Howelsen Ice Arena to existing footer, adding an additional 1,140 square feet to build a designated women's locker room. With a consistent increase in the volume of female athletes using the facility, the current space is not sustainable long or short term without providing additional exclusive change space for females.
2. Design and develop a second floor addition to the Howelsen Ice Arena to include an additional 2,965 square feet of programmable space. The additional space would be developed as a shared, multi-purpose area. The space could be dedicated to the City of Steamboat Springs Youth Programs and Summer Camps, or be considered for other activities such as, off-ice dryland training space, conference rooms, leasable office space and concessions.
3. Alleviate capacity demands at the Howelsen Ice Arena through one of the following:
 - Option I: Installation of an outdoor, seasonal, refrigerated ice sheet, OR
 - Option II: Completion of the Youth Sports Arena addition
4. Continue to expand Howelsen Ice Arena programming during slower seasons or when ice time is available. Opportunities include:
 - Hosting concerts and special events during shoulder seasons.
 - Introducing the sport of curling and provide opportunities for weekly play.
 - Introducing of speed skating with opportunities for weekly practice.
 - Expanding tournament dates and teams throughout the year.
 - Expanding the Learn to Skate program by allocating additional ice hours, increasing the number of sessions, and providing more focused coaching.

HAYMAKER GOLF COURSE ACTIONS

1. Continue to improve Haymaker Golf Course conservation efforts including:
 - Replace aging irrigation system including directional sprinkler heads for better water management.
 - Maintain Audubon certification by implementing sustainable management practices, including water conservation, recycling programs, enhancing wildlife habitats and maintaining biodiversity.
 - Continue waste-water treatment and clean maintenance practices.
 - Purchase new, environmentally friendly, maintenance equipment.

2. Improve golf affordability for Routt County residents by continuing and implementing the following:
 - Affordable season pass and punch card options.
 - Twilight and last-minute deals and offers.
 - Subsidizing lower resident rates with more expensive out-of-town play.
3. Replace Haymaker Golf Course bunkers.

TENNIS CENTER ACTIONS

1. Increase available indoor Pickleball courts.
2. Evaluate whether Ski Town Park Complex is an appropriate location to meet gym space and indoor fields action reference in facility section #8.
3. Continue working to grow the Endowment Fund
4. Offset or reduce maintenance money needed from the City.





CHAPTER 8: FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION

The following section focuses on implementing the recommendations. The historic level of funding does not cover the costs of current and deferred capital improvement projects needed to maintain existing facilities, implementing current master plans, changes to Howelsen Park and Ski Hill, or additions to the system. The City must realize clear priorities, develop a citizen approved funding strategy, and leverage additional implementation tools to meet the vision and goals outlined for the parks, recreation, open space, trails, and river system.

SUMMARY OF DEFERRED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

The Parks and Recreation Department has a running six-year list of projects that are needed for basic maintenance, repair and replacement of park and recreational facilities, and river improvements. These deferred and unfunded projects are referenced in Chapter 6: Community Priorities and have current total estimated cost of \$10,479,000.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY PROJECTS

The community involvement process and the Review and Implementation Committee process resulted in a list of top priorities, and continuing to invest in maintenance and upgrades of the existing system is at the top of the list. In addition, specific priority projects are identified below.

Estimated costs are provided for capital projects. These cost estimates are very preliminary and must be updated when the projects are actually designed. Increased costs of maintenance, design and engineering fees, necessary permits, and other potential costs have not been assessed, though it is common to budget 10% of construction costs for design and permitting of projects. Costs will also need to be escalated over the years to adjust for inflation and current market conditions.

HIGH PRIORITY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Total Cost Approximately \$31 to \$58 million

1. Implement deferred projects list for existing park improvements (restroom and playground replacements, irrigation systems, shelters, bridge repairs, skate park equipment replacement etc.). – \$15 million
2. Extend Core Trail west along river corridor with multi-modal connections, north to Slate Creek, connecting Steamboat proper to Steamboat II areas. – \$6-12 million
3. Maintain and upgrade existing Howelsen Hill facilities including restrooms, the lodge and concessions, pedestrian and bike connections, pedestrian lighting, aesthetics, landscaping and skate park replacement. – \$5 – 10 million
4. Utilize existing facilities, develop a clearly marked trailhead at the base of Howelsen Hill designating entrance of the Blackmer Trailhead within Emerald Mountain trail system, easing congestion of Fairview neighborhood. – \$35,000-500,000
5. Stabilize the Howelsen Hill Ski Area. –\$ 5-20 million

If a larger funding source becomes available, or substantial partnerships are formed, the community should consider the following projects. All but the Rodeo Grounds and Bear River Park would require a separate master planning process to better define the projects, and develop community consensus regarding the specifics of their design.

OTHER PRIORITY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Total Cost Approximately \$10 to \$41 million

- Implement the Bear River Park Master Plan, but focus on river access improvements and maintaining existing facilities in the shorter term. \$1-3.5 million)
- Protect the City's Recreational Instream Channel Diversion (RICD) water right by maintaining the C & D Hole structures, and maintaining the 13th Street gauge. \$50,000-100,000
- Repair or Replace ski lifts and jumps at Howelsen Hill. \$5-25 million

- Continue to improve on-street connectivity by providing bicycle lanes/routes, walks and improved crossings/underpasses at US40. \$50,000-10 million
- Replace aging irrigation system at Haymaker Golf Course, including directional sprinkler heads for better water management. \$ 1.4-2.2 million

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Community surveys over the years clearly document that the parks, trails and recreation system and outdoor recreational activities are a critical component of the quality of life for Steamboat Springs residents. They are also essential to Steamboat Springs' economic health because they attract visitors, especially during the summer, who spend money in the community. As such, the Parks and Recreation Department provides critical services that should warrant substantial investment.

Fiscal sustainability goals are as follows:

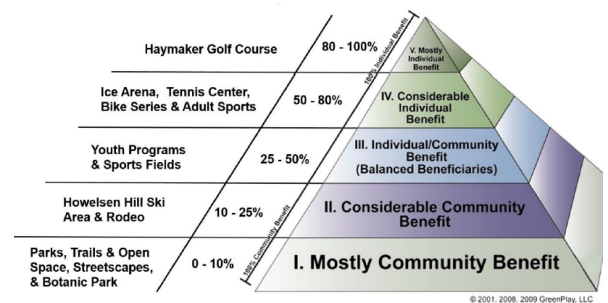
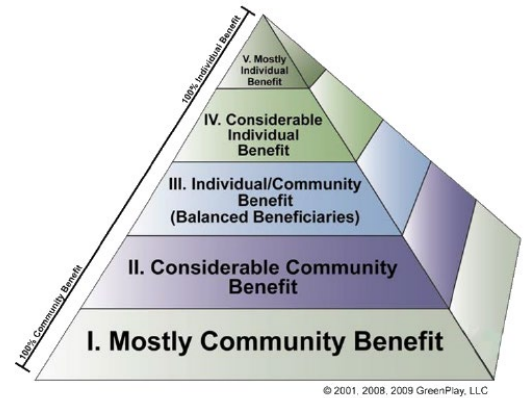
1. Increase funding that is allocated to maintain existing assets, and do not add elements to the PROSTR system without funding to maintain them.
2. Further explore community support for a sales tax increase to fund high priority projects and their operations and maintenance.
3. Maximize partnerships with the school district, Yampa Valley Land Trust, CPW, Triple Crown and others to provide and manage recreational facilities, and conserve and manage public lands.
4. Assess the value Parks and Recreation Department facilities and programs bring to the area's economy through lodging, sales and job creation.

COST RECOVERY MODEL

Prior to 2019 the City of Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Department did not have a cost recovery model and strategy in place that would help in guiding the department in resource allocation, decision making and long term performance benchmarking. Thus, part of the overall 2018-2019 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails, and River Master Planning process was a cost recovery fee analysis conducted by Matt Hickey, owner and founder of ePRepSolutions LLC. The analysis was based on a software system called “Pass”, a software tool specifically designed for finding the “true cost of doing business” of parks and recreation operations. Users of the software could then implement various cost recovery scenarios to determine subsidy levels. This assessment provided highly detailed cost recovery information for all Parks and Recreation programs, events and facilities, and final recommendations were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on May 9, 2018 and also to City Council on June 12, 2018.

During the City Council work session on June 12, 2018, City Council recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission and Parks and Recreation Staff, evaluate the recommendations of the 2018 Pass User Fee Study, and develop a long-term Cost Recovery Strategy. The Commission, with guidance and recommendations from Parks and Recreation Staff, choose to develop cost recovery categories and cost recovery goals utilizing the GreenPlay LLC., community benefit vs. individual benefit pyramid strategy and methodology.

Over the course of five Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, which included valuable community input from the public as well as key stakeholders, the Parks and Recreation Commission came to consensus on the cost recovery strategy, methodology, service categorization, and cost recovery goals for each service category. Consensus was also reached to keep the developed service categories and cost recovery calculation methodology consistent year over year, for the purpose of consistency, and the ability to benchmark long term. City Council formerly adopted the Cost Recovery Model through a resolution on April 2, 2019.



The adopted cost recovery resolution contains the following key elements that will define how the department allocates its resources in the future:

1. Utilize the Greenplay LLC., community benefit vs. individual benefit pyramid strategy and methodology as a general cost recovery framework and decision making tool.
2. Keep the recommended Parks and Recreation Department service areas consistent year over year from an accounting perspective for the purpose of consistency and the ability to benchmark long term.
3. Keep the recommended cost recovery calculation methodology consistent year over year for the purpose of consistency and the ability to benchmark long term.
4. The Parks and Recreation Commission shall review and make recommendations on cost recovery ranges for each service area as well as the placement of each service category within the Cost Recovery Pyramid on an annual basis.
5. City Council shall have final authority on cost recovery ranges for each service area as well as the placement of each service category within the Cost Recovery Pyramid.
6. Parks and Recreation staff shall make a clear distinction between adult user fees and youth user fees during the annual budget process wherein adult user fees shall always be higher than youth user fees for a particular service or program.
7. Parks and Recreation staff shall utilize the cost recovery strategy as a general framework and decision making tool in order to adjust user fees for specific programs within a service category.

TABLE 31. COST RECOVERY CATEGORIES

SERVICE AREA	REVENUE	TOTAL COST	2019 COST RECOVERY	PYRAMID CATEGORY
Haymaker Golf Course	\$1,455,625	\$1,830,840	79.5%	80-100%
Adult Sports	\$68,000	\$119,552	56.9%	50-80%
Howelsen Ice Arena	\$711,725	\$881,137	80.8%	50-80%
Bike Series	\$19,500	\$67,887	28.7%	50-80%
Tennis Center	\$42,579	\$199,304	21.4%	25-50%
Sports Fields	\$46,289	\$522,789	8.9%	25-50%
Youth Programs	\$395,536	\$854,754	46.3%	25-50%
Howelsen Ski Area	\$244,500	\$1,567,171	15.6%	10-25%
Rodeo	\$38,000	\$292,216	13%	10-25%
Botanic Park	\$193,037	\$266,860	72.3%	0-10%
Streetscapes	\$0	\$182,710	0.0%	0-10%
Parks	\$18,289	\$1,208,522	1.5%	0-10%
Trails & Open Space	\$42,000	\$466,715	9%	0-10%

FUNDING TOOLS

It is not possible to raise fees high enough to cover the cost of capital construction and maintenance. Partnerships, grants, and donations by philanthropists are not predictable, long-term funding sources. Implementing improvements to the parks and recreation system will require multiple tools, which are described below.

TAXES

One of the most viable funding alternatives is a dedicated sales, property, or accommodation tax. These funding strategies provide a relatively predictable outcome versus grants and other sources which could vary significantly between year to year, or become non-existent. The community-wide survey assessed the appetite for the level of support of various funding alternatives. The survey results showed strong support for an accommodations and sales tax increase, but the community did not support a property tax increase.

Sales Tax. The City currently has a 4.5% City sales tax, of which 0.5 percent goes to the Education Fund Board, along with a 2.9% State of Colorado sales tax and a 1% Routt County sales tax. Based on the current sales tax revenues, a ½ cent increase would yield approximately \$33.6 million for capital projects over the next 20 years, and would also cover bonding, and additional operations and maintenance costs.

Accommodations Tax. The City currently has a 1% accommodations tax. The tax is collected and remitted on all accommodation rentals within the City limits of Steamboat Springs where the rental period is for a term of less than thirty (30) days. The accommodations tax is currently used to fund specific regional trail development, tourism marketing, and the Haymaker Golf Course. The dedication to trails and Haymaker expires in 2023. The City will continue to collect the tax which must be spent on tourism amenities based on the 1986 ballot language. Based on the current accommodations tax (illustrated in the table below), a 1% increase would yield approximately \$10.6 million for capital projects over the next 20 years.

If both a ½ cent sales tax and a 1% accommodations tax was approved, approximately \$44.2 million would be available for capital construction over the next 20 years.

DEVELOPMENT IMPACT REQUIREMENTS

At this time, land dedication policies require that 15 percent of proposed development be set aside for open space. There are currently no requirements for parks through land dedication, impact fees, or fees in lieu, although the 2008 Open Space and Trails Master Plan recommends trail dedication or cash-in-lieu from developers for future trail development. Sidewalk and trail connections that are necessary to link developments with other properties or to provide a connection to a larger pedestrian network are required in certain cases such as multi-family developments and phased subdivisions. The 2004 Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan also recommended the establishment of a park land dedication/fee in lieu policy to be guided by the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

City and County Departments

Other City departments have a role in implementing this plan. The Planning & Community Development Department should integrate recommendations into the City's land use code and comprehensive plan updates, and the Public Works Department should make on-street improvements along with planned repaving or construction projects. In addition, regional trail planning should be coordinated with Routt County's comprehensive and transportation plans.

School District Partnership

Existing shared use facilities between the City and the School District include Strawberry Park Field at the Middle School and Whistler Park. Additional partnerships should be assessed for indoor facilities such as a gymnasium and/or field house. These agreements should be continued to be evaluated as the City grows and new recreational facilities are developed.

Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club

The SSWSC is a youth athletic training organization for alpine, Nordic, and jumping winter sports. It operates out of Howelsen Park and Ski Hill through a joint use agreement with the City. The City should continue to evaluate this agreement and other partnerships to improve, maintain, and operate facilities at Howelsen Hill. The SSWSC could also be a partner in other facilities that may be of interest for training purposes, such as a field house.

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

The City works with the **United States Forest Service, the Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management** partnering on grant and other projects to improve public access and conserve public lands including forest restoration and wildfire fuel mitigation, trail improvements, and river access and restoration projects.

TOURISM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The **Steamboat Springs Chamber, Main Street Steamboat Springs, ,** and the **Economic Development Council** play a role in marketing the recreation amenities, services, and events within the City of Steamboat Springs as well as the surrounding vast public lands and recreation amenities to potential visitors and employers. Partnerships could be strengthened by working collaboratively and communicating on tournaments and other large recreation events.

HEALTH INDUSTRY

Partnerships with local hospitals and health care providers who promote healthy lifestyles and active aging could support development of additional facilities and increase participation rates of residents.

YAMPA VALLEY LAND TRUST

The **Yampa Valley Land Trust** (YVLT) provides opportunities to partner in the conservation and stewardship of open, scenic, agricultural, and recreation lands throughout Northwest Colorado. The YVLT holds many conservation easements along the Yampa River through and adjacent to the City. It holds conservation easements on City owned properties totaling approximately 1,200 acres. They work with communities throughout Routt, Moffat, Jackson, and Rio Blanco counties to open new areas for nature-based recreation access.

ROUTT COUNTY RIDERS

Routt County Riders (RCR) Advocates to implement positive change for cyclists in Northwest Colorado. They achieve their mission through community outreach, volunteer trail maintenance days, civic engagement, and by advocating for connectivity and diversity of cyclist amenities. RCR values partnerships with the BLM, CDOT, the City, the County, CPW, USFS and others.

FRIENDS OF THE YAMPA

The **Friends of the Yampa** (FOY) is a river advocacy group and movement based on one common passion, a shared love for the Yampa River. Established in 1981, FOY has a long standing history of working for the river by organizing clean ups, holding discussions about the Yampa's important and rare attributes, funding and helping build river features/habitats, and taking part in a local, regional, and national policy efforts and campaigns.

STEAMBOAT DIGS DOGS

Steamboat Digs Dogs is a coalition of local community members that joined together to advocate for dogs and their caregivers in Steamboat Springs, and bring dog friendly lifestyle opportunities to the community. Current Steamboat Digs Dogs projects and partnerships with the City include, improvements to Rita Valentine Park, the establishment of several new off-leash parks and areas, and reducing the carbon paw print in our area through community education and action.

YAMPATIKA

Yampatika was established in 1992 and continues to be the only non-profit organization that offers a continuum of outdoor educational services to children, adults and seniors in Routt, Moffat and Jackson Counties. Yampatika's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship through education, and the organizations primary goal is to develop environmental learning opportunities that serve the children and adults in Northwest Colorado. Yampatika partners with the City on numerous programs, projects and educational initiatives throughout the year, and also manages the Environmental Learning Center at the City of Steamboat Springs' owned Legacy Ranch.

RECREATION PROGRAMS AND FRIENDS GROUPS

In addition to groups mentioned above, a number of other local sports organizations and friends groups exist for a particular sport or facility. Sports organizations such as soccer, lacrosse, rugby, volleyball,

baseball, and softball manage leagues on City park properties. The Tennis Center, Haymaker Golf Course, Howelsen Hill, Howelsen Ice Arena, Yampa River Botanic Park, and Howelsen Rodeo Grounds all have "friends of" stakeholder groups that provide input into the operation of that specific facility.

GRANTS


Various organizations provide assistance for planning and capital costs related to outdoor recreation. These grants often require local matches and are not guaranteed, and therefore should not be considered a steady source of revenue.

THE COLORADO LOTTERY - GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO)

This is a source of grant funding that is generated from Colorado Lottery proceeds. The types of projects GOCO funds vary widely. The GOCO web site lists these types of projects, which are directly related to Steamboat Springs' needs:

- Athletic fields
- Disc golf courses
- Land acquisitions for future outdoor recreation facilities
- Land preservation along river corridors
- Master plans for outdoor parks and recreation, trails, or site-specific plans (A GOCO grant is providing funding for the creation of this plan)
- Outdoor classrooms and natural areas to be used for environmental education
- Pavilions and shade structures
- Picnic areas
- Playgrounds
- Protection of urban open-space parcels
- Skateparks
- Species protection and wildlife education
- Trails
- Wildlife habitat conservation

There are several types of grants that GOCO offers, each with a slightly different focus.



The **Inspire Initiative** aims to connect youth and their families with the outdoors. The Nature Connection has recently included the Gear Hub, trail connection to Fort Uncompahgre, and pre-manufactured play equipment that is focused on building climbing skills in a larger regional grant application.

The **Connect Initiative**'s purpose is to increase access to the outdoors in Colorado communities by filling trail gaps, building new trails, and providing better walkable and bikeable access for youth and families. Applicants may request up to \$2 million for trail construction projects.

GOCO's **Habitat Restoration Grant** programs funds habitat restoration to improve and restore Colorado's rivers, streams, wetlands, and critical habitat. The program offers \$500,000 of funding each grant cycle.

Local Park and Outdoor Recreation grants are also available from GOCO. These are up to \$350,000 per project, and mini grants are up to \$45,000 per project that costs \$60,000 or less. These grants fund new park development, enhancement of existing park facilities, parkland acquisition, and environmental education facilities (new build or enhancement of existing facilities).

Youth Corps Grants are a partnership with the Colorado Youth Corps Association. GOCO offers \$500,000 in funding each year to local governments to hire youth conservation corps for land, water, and energy conservation projects on permanently conserved properties.

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Fishing is Fun involves local communities in a three-way partnership with the CPW and Federal Sportfish Restoration Act monies. Eligible applicants can apply and compete for financial assistance for specific projects. Applicants must match their Fishing is Fun award with non-federal cash or in-kind services.

The **Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program** funds projects for recreational trail grants, trail planning, and trail support grants for non-motorized activities.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The **Transportation Alternatives Program** (TAP) allocates federal funds for transportation improvement projects that expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve quality of life, and protect the environment. Many TAP projects enhance non-motorized forms of transportation like biking and walking. TAP was authorized in 2012 by federal transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and is now continued under the current federal transportation legislation, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST).

Colorado Safe Routes to School (SRTS) uses a comprehensive approach to make school routes safe for children when walking and bicycling to school. The program is used to both fund education and safe infrastructure and to encourage safe, healthy walking and bicycling options for our children.

COLORADO CONSERVATION TRUST

Since its founding in 2000, the Colorado Conservation Trust (CCT) has contributed to the protection of more than 30,000 acres and has raised nearly \$10 million from foundations and individuals. The Yampa Valley/Routt County region is one of eight priority areas the CCT has identified in the State. In the past, the trust has contributed \$50,000 to the City of Steamboat Springs for purchase of a parcel along the Yampa River, and has funded a study to determine the potential benefits of establishing a transfer of development rights program in Routt County. While the Trust does not have the resources of GOCO, it can be an important partner on certain projects.

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

CWCB Healthy Rivers Fund has grants for up to \$50,000 for constructing projects related to improving water quality, and \$20,000 for planning them. This source requires a 20 percent local match.

Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program provides grants for watershed/stream restoration and flood mitigation projects throughout the state.

OTHER TOOLS

PARKS FOUNDATION

Establishing a parks foundation to support and supplement the Parks and Recreation Department is another opportunity to expand external fundraising. As budgets get tighter, a foundation can rally a group of interested people to raise dollars for a specific or broad area that needs improvements. These incorporated, tax-exempt organizations can collect money from organizations and the general public, fill out grant applications, and complete general support of the City's organization.

NAMING RIGHTS

Naming rights is an opportunity to provide name recognition to an organization or company on a sports facility such as a field, court, or complex. The process usually involves a bid process for a specific facility, with naming rights given to the highest bidder. The winning bid has their name/logo placed on the facility for a certain duration of time and can be used in promotional or map materials.



APPENDIX A - ACTIONS IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Actions	Target Completion	Cost	Funding Sources	Project Lead / Support / Partners
Trails							
Extend Core Trail west along river corridor with multi-modal connections, north to Slate Creek, connecting Steamboat proper to Steamboat II areas.		6-9 years	Determine alignment options. Secure easements where possible/needed. Engineer plans. Engineers estimate. Secure funding. Execute. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	2029	\$6 -12 million	CIP, Grants (GOCO, Federal Transportation, etc.)	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Public Works Engineering, Project Supervisor (Contractor)
Extend Core Trail south to Legacy Open Space.		6-9 years	Determine alignment options. Secure easements where possible/needed. Engineer plans. Engineers estimate. Secure funding. Execute. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	2029	\$1,500,000 for concrete trail, \$500,000 for adjacent soft surface	CIP, Grants (GOCO, Federal Transportation, etc.), Yampatika, STARS	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Public Works Engineering, Project Supervisor (Contractor)
Designate Additional directional and single use trails at Emerald Mountain/Howelsen Open Space, and Spring Creek Open Space.		10-15 years	In progress/ongoing. Determine location and need. Identify pros/cons and cost. Take proposals through public process. Order signs and update maps.	ongoing	\$1000 - 10000 per trail	Annual Budget Process, Grants	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Routt County Riders, Trail Running Series, equestrian groups
Utilize existing facilities, develop a clearly marked trailhead at the base of Howelsen Hill designating entrance of the Blackmer Trailhead within Emerald Mountain trail system, easing congestion of Fairview neighborhood.		1-2 years	Currently exists. Improvements to be made to existing trails making them easier from 9th Inning Trailhead and 13th Street. Consider new trail alignment opportunities. Budget and execute. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	ongoing, 2020	\$35,000 - \$500,000	Annual budget process, 2A Trails Funds	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Routt County Riders, Trail Running Series, equestrian groups
Continue to improve on-street connectivity by providing bicycle lanes/routes, walks and improved crossings/underpasses at US40.		10-15 years	In progress/ongoing. Prioritize need, location and implement existing master plans. Identify cost. Take proposals through public process. Budget and execute. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	ongoing, 2029	\$50,000 - \$100,000,000	CIP, Grants, Annual budget process	Public Works Engineering, Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor
Seek opportunities to implement other trail connections where needed or with development and/or road improvements		10-15 years	In progress/ongoing. Participate in Technical Advisory Committee project review to identify project requirements for developer to design, build and maintain planned trail connections identified in adopted plans.	ongoing	\$0 - \$500,000	Developer and Grants (for City owned property)	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Public Works Engineering, Planning Staff
Assess social trails on City owned lands to determine if they should be brought into the system and legitimized or closed and revegetated and be a resource to the community and partners to address social trails on private land.		10-15 years	In progress/ongoing on public lands. Assess trail function, need and design. Bring through public process to determine if public wants trails formalized or closed. Execute work to improve/close and sign as needed. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	ongoing	\$0 - \$500,000	Annual Budget Process, CIP	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor and Staff, Routt County Riders, Trail Running Series, equestrian group
Open Space							
Expand the open space system by acquiring/preserving additional lands. As the City boundary expands, target open space areas with priority on lands adjacent to existing lands to provide additional trails and habitat connectivity.		10-15 years	In progress/ongoing as funding allows. Identify key parcels and prioritize. Secure funding and purchase. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	ongoing	\$25,000,000 - 50,000,000	CIP, Grants, Conservation Easements, partners	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Grants Division, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Routt County, Yampa Valley Land Trust
Partner with Yampa Valley Land Trust, Routt County, and other conservation-oriented groups to conserve land.		10-15 years	In progress/ongoing as funding allows. Identify key parcels and prioritize. Secure funding and purchase. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	ongoing	\$25,000,000 - \$50,000,000	CIP, Grants, Conservation Easements, partners	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Grants Division, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Routt County, Yampa Valley Land Trust
Develop management plans alongside Routt County and other partners, for all open space and natural area properties with the goal of balancing resource values with public use.		10-15 years	In progress/ongoing. Management plans or policies are currently established for all City open space and natural area properties. As proposals and/or new issues arise, schedule public meetings to identify process moving forward. Budget and execute. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	ongoing	\$5,000 - \$100,000	Annual budget process	Parks, Open Space Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Routt County, Yampa Valley Land Trust
Adult Recreation							
Expand number of sand volleyball courts and upgrade volleyball and tennis court lighting (repair failing service lines, reposition light locations and upgrade to new energy efficient LED bulbs).		1-2 years	Reach out to Tom Davenport (Volleyball of the Rockies) and discuss expansion and costs of one new sand court at the Howelsen Complex. Talk with Parks about location and logistics for adding a fourth court.	Summer 2020	\$100,000	Volleyball of the Rockies, Grants, Budget Process, CIP	Parks, Local input
Continue to work with local partners and organizations to obtain indoor gym space to host sports programming during the fall and winter months.		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Continue to reach out to the school district and other indoor facilities to solidify indoor use during the Spring & Fall seasons.	Ongoing	Time & Energy	Local Sponsorships	League Coordinators, Local Sponsorships and collaboration

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Actions	Target Completion	Cost	Funding Sources	Project Lead / Support / Partners
If funding partners emerge and/or the community supports a funding source that could cover construction and operational cost (after funding other higher priority projects), a multi-purpose indoor facility should be constructed. * This Action is also referenced in the Tennis Center, Ice Arena, and Adult Sports section.		3-5 years	Seek City Council direction for approval of next steps. Develop scope of work and hire consultants. Meet with user groups to determine community needs. Conduct space needs analysis. Assess options for location of facility. Identify partners. Identify funding opportunities and timelines. Budget and execute. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	Ongoing	\$15 - 35 million	CIP, Budget Process, Grants, Private Donors	Parks, Open Space and Trail Manager, Parks Supervisor, Planning Staff, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Evaluate structure of programming to specifically target and increase involvement of aging and casual adult sports participants							
Youth Programs							
Proactively take part and collaborate with community groups that are also looking to expand youth/childcare space including, but not limited to, First Impressions and Routt County Youth Services Coalition.			In Progress/Ongoing - Currently on the board of First Impressions, and part of the Workforce recruitment and retention task force. Currently serving on the Executive board for Routt County Youth Service Coalition. Continue working on community groups and actively participate in actions that could help expand availability.	ongoing	staff time only	general budget	Youth/Teen program Coordinator
Collaborate with partners to regularly update City Council, and the community as a whole, on the current childcare landscape so they are aware of capacity issues and facility limitations.			I think that this was struck from the list of Actions				
Explore licensing additional City facilities as they become available to increase city owned programmable space to house current and future programs.			In Progress/Ongoing - As the city looks for expansion, or relocation of current facilities; explore the possibility of creating dedicated youth space; I.E. Police Station, Fire Station, City Hall	ongoing	staff time only	general budget	Youth/Teen Program Coordinator, Parks & Recreation Director, other city managers as needed
Consider meeting the communities needs and requests for early childhood care by establishing programs that service youth five years of age and younger.			This was not in the plan as far as I know, and I am not in support of this at this time.				
Haymaker Golf Course							
Replace aging irrigation system at Haymaker Golf Course, including directional sprinkler heads for better water management.		3-5 years	Review strategies to replace entire irrigation system. Discuss options pro/cons for directional sprinkler heads and upgraded software support. Explore funding sources and strategy for this impending project.	3-5yrs	1.4-2.2mill	Haymaker reserve fund/ additional funding options	Project Lead: Golf Course Superintendent Support: Head Golf Professional
Consider options such as an endowment fund or dedicated portion of user fees to build and sustain a capital reserve fund or to offset operational costs.							
Replace Haymaker Golf Course bunkers.		1-2 years	Contract company to re-do bunkers, close down portion of the course	Fall 2020	\$400,000-450,000	Haymaker reserve fund	Project Lead: Golf Course Superintendent Support: Head Golf Professional
Tennis Center							
Increase available indoor space for Pickleball courts.		3-5 years	Concessionaire and staff to identify opportunities to raise funds to build a dedicated indoor Pickleball facility. Pros and Cons to be evaluated. Funds raised to build and additional funds raised for the endowment fund. Budget and execute.	2023	\$3.5 - 6 million	Private Fundraising/Grants	Parks, Open Space and Trail Manager, Parks Supervisor, Concessionaire, Steamboat Tennis Association, Steamboat Pickleball Association
Consider if the Ski Town Park Complex is an appropriate location to meet the gym space and indoor fields action referenced in facility section action #8.		1-2 years	Seek City Council direction for approval of next steps. Develop scope of work and hire consultants. Meet with user groups to determine community needs. Conduct space needs analysis. Assess options for location of facility. Identify partners. Identify funding opportunities and timelines. Budget and execute. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	2021	\$50,000 - \$150,000	Annual operating budget, CIP, grants, concessionaire	Parks, Open Space and Trail Manager, Parks Supervisor, Planning Staff, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Concessionaire, Steamboat Tennis Association, Steamboat Pickleball Association, community sports/user groups
Continue to grow the Tennis Center Endowment fund.		10-15 years	In progress/ongoing. Concessionaire to build fund as possible. Contract requirements apply. City to assist as necessary.	ongoing	private donations	private donations	Concessionaire, tennis/pickleball players
Offset or reduce maintenance money needed from the City.		10-15 years	In progress. City and concessionaire to assess facility maintenance that can be reduced and/or paid for by Tennis Center Endowment Fund.	ongoing	success depends on private donations	Annual budget process, CIP, Tennis Center Endowment Fund	Parks, Open Space and Trail Manager, Parks Supervisor, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Concessionaire

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Actions	Target Completion	Cost	Funding Sources	Project Lead / Support / Partners
Parks							
Implement deferred projects list for existing park improvements (restroom and playground replacements, irrigation systems, shelters, bridge repairs, skate park equipment replacement etc.).		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Staff to continue to prioritize and request funding through annual CIP and budget process to accomplish park projects. Funding priorities to be ranked by management team and funded by City Council. Consider alternate funding sources to accomplish goals.	ongoing	\$15 million	CIP, Grants, partners	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Parks Supervisor, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, contractors, various user groups
Heritage Park - Do not let lease expire; request a 1 year extension		1-2 years	In progress. Agreement to extend through 2019. Increased use of facility by Steamboat Soccer Club requested by City. Assess use versus cost to maintain facility. Consider options to renew lease and/or purchase property if use increases or allow others to take on lease and maintenance of fields. Consider options to make more multi use.	2020	\$40,000	Annual Budget process, CIP, private	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Parks Supervisor, Property Owners, Steamboat Youth Soccer, user groups
Implement the Bear River Park Master Plan, but focus on river access improvements and maintaining existing facilities in the shorter term.		3-5 years	In progress as funding allows. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance for existing facilities. Develop scope of work for contractor and budget. Identify CDOT requirements from Highway 40 access. Identify City requirements for road improvements and parking. Refine cost estimates for highway/street, parking and river access improvements and continue to request funding through City CIP process.	2024	\$3.5 - \$5 million	CIP, Grants, Annual Budget Process, Private (FOY)	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Parks Supervisor, Public Works Engineers, CDOT, Friends of the Yampa
While desired, wait to designate additional off-leash dog areas until existing areas can be evaluated over several years for potential impacts (e.g. loss of vegetation, water quality, impact to wildlife).		3-5 years	In progress. Staff to continue discussions with Steamboat Digs Dogs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Police Services and other interested parties to assess impacts at off-leash areas annually and document. Annual updates to be provided to Parks and Recreation Commission	2024	\$1,000 - \$10,000 annually	annual budget process	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Parks Supervisor, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Police Services, Steamboat Digs Dogs, Routt County Humane Society, other interested parties
Construct at least one fenced dog park.		3-5 years	Resolution passed acknowledging a construction and maintenance agreement with Steamboat Digs Dogs. Finalize cost estimates. Identify grant opportunities and cash match required. Apply for grant(s) when matching funds available. City staff to oversee all funded improvements. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	2021	\$700,000	CIP, Grants, SDD, Annual Budget Process (City maintenance)	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Parks Supervisor, Grants Division, Steamboat Digs Dogs
Rodeo							
Implement the Rodeo Master Plan.		10-15 years	Restroom Upgrades, Plaza Re-Design, Parking Lot Improvements Visitors, Parking Lot Improvements Contestants, Competition Services Building	2035	4.3 Mil.- 6 Mil.	CIP, CMAC, Grants, New Tax	Howelsen Ski and Rodeo Complex Manager/Facilities Manager/Public Works Engineers/ Rodeo Board
Howelsen Ski Hill							
Repair or Replace ski lifts and jumps at Howelsen Hill.		10-15 years	Replace the Drive and Gearbox on the Poma- 2019, Replace Barrows Chair- 2020-2021, Replace Small Surface Lift- 2020, Re-configure Large Surface Lift- 2021-2022, Perform Annual Maintenance on HS 75 and HS 45, Rebuild/ Reconfigure HS 100 and HS 127, Re-grade Small Hills as Necessary	Ongoing	5 Mil. - 25 Mil.	Operating Budget, CIP, SSWSC Fundraising, New Tax, Grants, HH Endowment	Howelsen Ski and Rodeo Complex Manager/ Consultants/ SSWSC
Stabilize the Howelsen Hill Ski Area.		6-9 years	Re-grade, install Ground Anchors, Bridge Instability	Ongoing	5 Mil. - 20 Mil.	CIP, SSWSC Fundraising, Grants, New Tax	Howelsen Ski and Rodeo Complex Manager/ Facilities Manager/ Soil Engineers/ SSWSC
Maintain and upgrade existing Howelsen Hill facilities including restrooms, the lodge and concessions, pedestrian and bike connections, pedestrian lighting, aesthetics, landscaping and skate park replacement.		10-15 years	Maintain and Upgrade Buildings and Restrooms. Re-design and Construct Sidewalks, Trail Connections, Install Lighting, Replace Skate Park	2035	5 Mil.- 10 Mil.	CIP, SSWSC Fundraising, Grants, New Tax	Howelsen Ski and Rodeo Complex Manager/ Facilities Manager/ Public Works Engineers/ SSWSC
Howelsen Ice Arena							
Develop lobby area at the Howelsen Ice Arena to existing footer, adding an additional 1,140 square feet to build a designated women's locker room.		1-2 years	Expand lobby to existing foundation adding 1140 square feet of usable space for an additional or designated women's locker room, restrooms, and showers	2021	\$300-\$400K	CIP, Fundraising, Private/Public Partnerships, and Grants	RINK STAFF/YOUTH PROGRAMS/PRIVATE PARTNERS/IRAC/SSVHA/SSC

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Actions	Target Completion	Cost	Funding Sources	Project Lead / Support / Partners
Design and develop a second floor addition to the Howelsen Ice Arena to include an additional 2,965 square feet of programmable space.		2-4 years	Develop second level (3000 square feet) above women's locker room addition and existing lobby for dedicated youth program and summer camp space, leasable office space, concession/ lounge area and potential off-ice training center (seasonal)	2023	\$750-1 Mil.	CIP, Fundraising, Private/Public Partnerships, and Grants	RINK STAFF/YOUTH PROGRAMS/PRIVATE PARTNERS/IRAC/SSYHA/SSC
Alleviate capacity demands at the Howelsen Ice Arena by installing an outdoor, seasonal, refrigerated ice sheet.		1-5 years	Purchase and seasonally install a portable NHL sized sheet of ice surrounded by a skating oval in rodeo arena during winter months to help mitigate ice capacity issues currently faced at the exiting Howelsen Ice Arena and to offer more public access	2024	1 Mil.-1.2 Mil.	CIP, Fundraising, Private/Public Partnerships, and Grants	RINK STAFF/PRIVATE PARTNERS/IRAC/SSYHA/SSC/SSWC/Rodeo Board
Alleviate capacity demands at the Howelsen Ice Arena by completion of the Youth Sports Arena addition.				TBD	5 Mil	CIP, Fundraising, Private/Public Partnerships, and Grants	RINK STAFF/PRIVATE PARTNERS/IRAC/SSYHA/SSC
Continue to expand Howelsen Ice Arena programming during slower seasons of when ice time is available.		2-4 years	Purchase flooring system and stage to accommodate shoulder season concert series and non-ice special events and showcases, tournament expansion, curling, speed skating, Learn to Skate	2023	\$150-250K	CIP, Fundraising, Private/Public Partnerships, and Grants	RINK STAFF/PRIVATE PARTNERS/IRAC/SSYHA/SSC
Yampa River							
Lead and partner on designated actions in the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a native riparian revegetation program Improving City-owned diversion structures to increase efficiency and to reduce fish passage barriers Participating in the City Stream Team Identifying high priority parcels for acquisition for open space Restoring streamflow during drought conditions through voluntary, market-based water leases and releases from reservoir storage. 		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Annually meet to discuss and prioritize action items. Budget funds to execute projects. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	annually	\$150,000 - \$500,000	Annual budget, grants, partners	Water Resources Manager, Routt County, USGS, Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY
Work with partners to monitor river health management objectives and indicators identified in the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan.		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Continue to collect data (established parameters and funding needed), meet with partners and evaluate.	annually	\$1,000 - \$50,000	annual budget	Water Resources Manager, Routt County, USGS, Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY
Continue and expand education of river users regarding protecting the riparian and aquatic habitat and exhibiting respectful behavior through the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yampa River Signage River Ranger Program Friends of the Yampa / Yampa River Clean Up Days Guest education (brochures, videos, local TV ads) City website and social media 		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Review conditions, meet with partners, discuss opportunities, budget, execute.	annually	\$75,000- \$100,000	annual budget	Police Services, River Rangers, Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Water Resources Engineer, Public Relations Manager, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, River partners
Evaluate the effectiveness and funding costs of the River Ranger program and identify future direction and actions.		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Assess annually. Discuss opportunities. Fund as necessary.	annually	staff time <\$5,000 annually	annual budget	Police Services, River Rangers, Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, River partners
Establish yearly monitoring program to assess impacts (e.g. increased trash, riparian vegetation damage) of recreation users to determine if management policies should be changed to protect resources (e.g. limits on number of tubers and permits required) and consider increasing commercial tube allowances and promote their use to decrease negative impacts to the river system from private tubers.		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Updates provided annually to Parks and Recreation Commission. Opportunities discussed. Staff to move forward on recommendations. Budget as necessary to implement new programs.	annually	\$25,000 - \$100,000 annually	annual budget	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Water Resources Engineer, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, commercial outfitters, River partners
Continue to implement policy limiting recreational use of the river when habitat and river health could be negatively impacted, in consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (e.g. water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and/or low flows).		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Ordinance has clear language. Work with partners, Communicate. Implement	annually as needed	staff time <\$5,000 annually	Annual Budget	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Water Resources Engineer, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, Commercial Innertribe River partners

Recommendation	Page	Timeframe	Actions	Target Completion	Cost	Funding Sources	Project Lead / Support / Partners
Continue to implement the conceptual recommendations of the Yampa River Structural Plan, and monitor and maintain existing river features for form and function.		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Identify priority projects with partners. Budget/hire contractor for design/permitting. Budget/hire contractor to execute project. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	annually	\$75,000 - \$200,000 annually	CIP, Grants, River related funding, Friends of Yampa, annual budget	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Water Resources Engineer, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, River partners
Protect the City's Recreational Instream Channel Diversion (RICD) water right by maintaining the C & D Hole structures, and maintaining the 13th Street gauge.		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Monitor annually. Evaluate. Budget for design/permitting. Budget for repairs. Execute.	annually	\$6,000 annually, \$50,000 - \$150,000 as necessary	CIP, Grants, River related funding, Friends of Yampa, annual budget	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Water Resources Engineer, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, River partners
Monitor and control invasive species.		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Monitor annually. Evaluate. Treat weeds.	annually	<\$1000 annually	Annual Budget, volunteers, partners	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, River partners
Monitor and maintain existing river features for form and function		1-2 years	In progress/ongoing. Monitor river annually. Evaluate. Determine next steps.	annually	staff time <\$5,000 annually	Annual Budget, volunteers, partners	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Water Resources Engineer, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, River partners
Create a boating take-out point at Bear River Park.		3-5 years	Budget/hire contractor, develop scope to identify CDOT requirements and City requirements for streets/access/parking, estimates for highway/road/parking and river improvements. Design and permit. Budget for work and execute. Budget adequate funding for annual maintenance.	2025	\$50,000 - 1 million	CIP, Grants, River related funding, Friends of Yampa	Parks, Open Space and Trails Manager, Open Space and Trails Supervisor, Water Resources Engineer, City Engineers, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, FOY, River partners



APPENDIX B - PEER COMMUNITIES

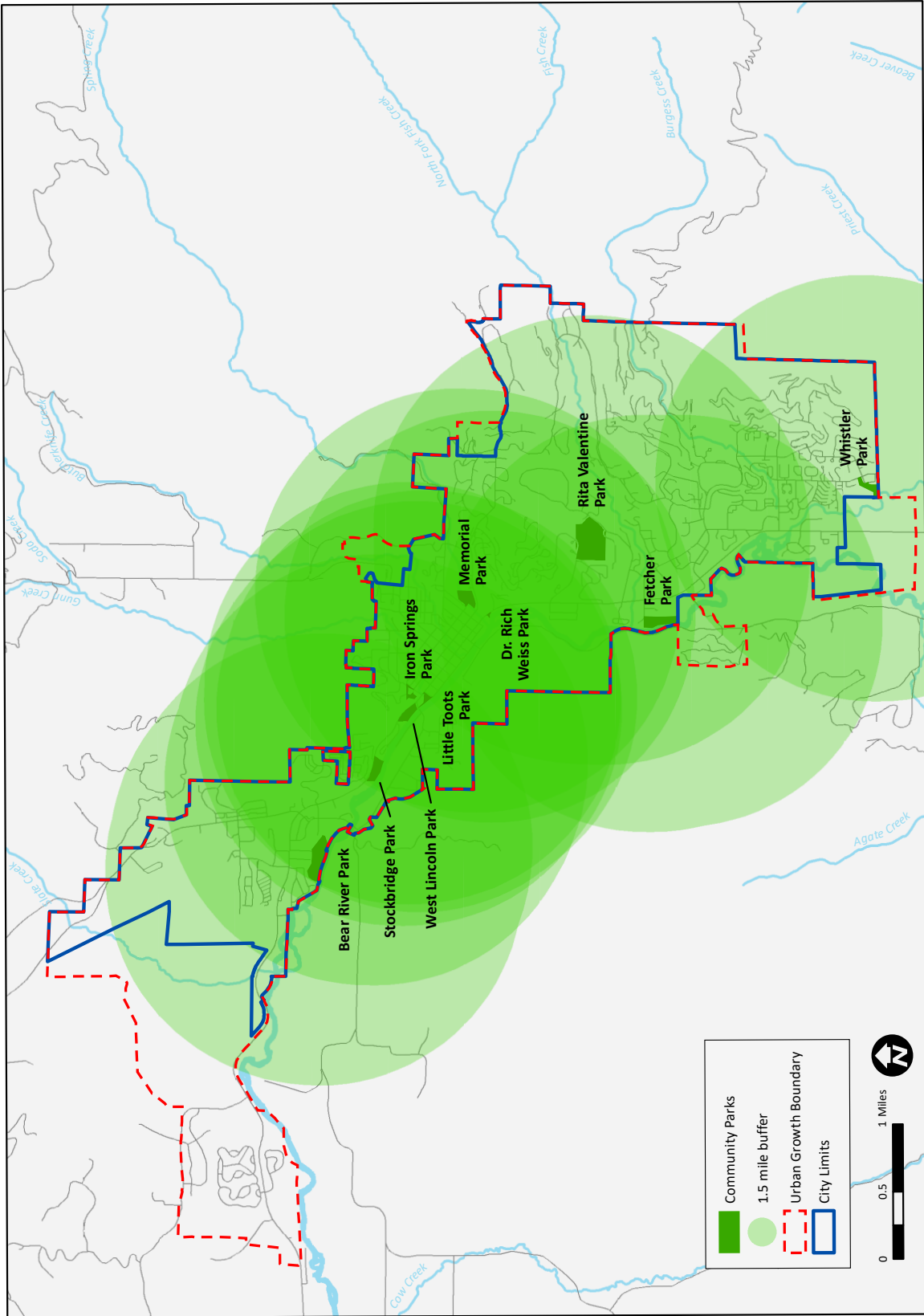
City of Steamboat Springs, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails and River Master Plan Peer Communities Overview

	Durango Parks and Recreation	Glenwood Springs Parks and Recreation	Jackson Parks and Recreation	Golden Parks and Recreation	Steamboat Springs Park and Recreation
Service Area	13.93 sq. mi	5.69 sq.mi	2.95 sq. mi	9.98 sq.mi	10.16 sq.mi
Service Area Population	18,465	9,962	10,532	20,571	12,690
Operations Model	City Department	City Department	Joint Department with County and Town- operate under the County.	City Department	City Department
Park sites managed	33	19	19, total park acres 241 (town) plus 116 (county)	24	32
Land Managed	5,300 acres (Parks and Open Space/natural areas maintained)	7,053.9 acres	Parks acres- 241 in town and 116 in the county	655 acres of parks and open space	3193.5 acres Parks, Open Space, Natural Areas
Miles of trails managed	15.5 miles of hard surface and 96.3 miles of soft surface	10 miles of paved trails and paths. New single-track- 8 miles opening next spring.	Paved pathways- little over 57 miles. Winter trail grooming- 10 miles on FS land (cooperative agreement with FS)	24 miles	46.5
Park facilities	Chapman Hill Ski Hill- skiing and tubing, river sports, adult and youth sports, tennis courts, trails, parks, lakes, outdoor amphitheater, cycling, bmx, mountain bike, backpacking.	picnic areas, playgrounds, horseshoes, community garden, tennis, Covered outdoor ice rink (November-March), skateboard park, athletic fields, whitewater activity area, sledding hill, paragliding launching and landing areas	Picnic area, horseshoe pits, 4 outdoor ice rinks (seasonal), playgrounds, basketball courts, bouldering wall, bbq pits, baseball fields, pickleball courts soccer field, river access.	Camping, dog parks, bike park, outdoor water park/pool, cemetery services, river access	10 playgrounds, 2 skate parks, 6 mineral springs, 3 volleyball courts, horse shoes, 22 athletic fields, picnic areas, BMX track, pump track, Dirt Jump Park, Botanic Park, tennis/pickleball courts, Tennis/pickleball facility, golf course, alpine and Nordic ski area, summer/winter ski jump complex, rest rooms, rodeo grounds, whitewater park, river access, multi use non motorized trails, streetscapes
Indoor Facilities	Recreation center; pool, hot tub, water slide, racquetball courts, indoor track, aerobics studio, gymnastics, climbing wall, babysitting room, Ice rink- winter skating and summer rollerblading, whitewater park	Community rec center- Rock climbing ages 5-12, aquatics, art class, dance class, ice rink, gymnasium, fitness facility, locker rooms.	Aquatic center, gymnasium, lap pool, water slide.	community center, gymnasium, indoor pools, museums	Ice arena, tennis center, ski area lodge/rental
Recreation programs	Swimming lessons, gymnastic classes, special events, ski lessons, afterschool programs, summer camps, senior programs	Parent and Child classes, Preschool, Dance and Art programs, Adventure Tours, Day Camps, Educational Seminars, Therapeutic Recreation, Adaptive programming, and Senior Services, Special events, aquatics, athletics, ice skating, fitness, sport leagues, water safety instructor and lifeguard training.	After-school programs, camps, fitness classes, sports, outdoor programs, youth programs, adult programs, special events.	Athletics, climbing & adventure, creative arts, dance, specialty classes, swimming/aquatics, tykes, wellness & fitness, youth & teen programs, senior programming	School year programs, middle school programs, summer camp, senior programs, adult sports programs.
Number of employees	38	8 full time in the parks, 8-12 seasonal	36 full time, total FTEs about 52	46 full time, 361 part-time, 289 volunteers (from 2017 annual report)	35 full time including Golf Course and total FTE's with part-time/seasonal is 66
Operating budget	\$8.2 M- Parks and Rec Dept., \$2.5 M Rec Center Operations	\$1.5 M for Parks and Cemetery and 2.6 M for Recreation Programs	Operating budget- total expenses 5.515 M	Still waiting on this info from staff	\$6 M and \$1.6 Golf Budget
Other funding sources	90% cost recovery with their rec center. 2 dedicated sale taxes brings in 6 M a year that helps pay for trails, parks, open space acquisitions, facilities.		Operations- 55/45 split, town and county. Town pays 45%. Operate under the county. All from the general fund. 250,000 from a lodging tax as well.		Grants (mostly for Capital projects), 2A accommodation tax to build some trails, Trails Endowment Fund for some maintenance

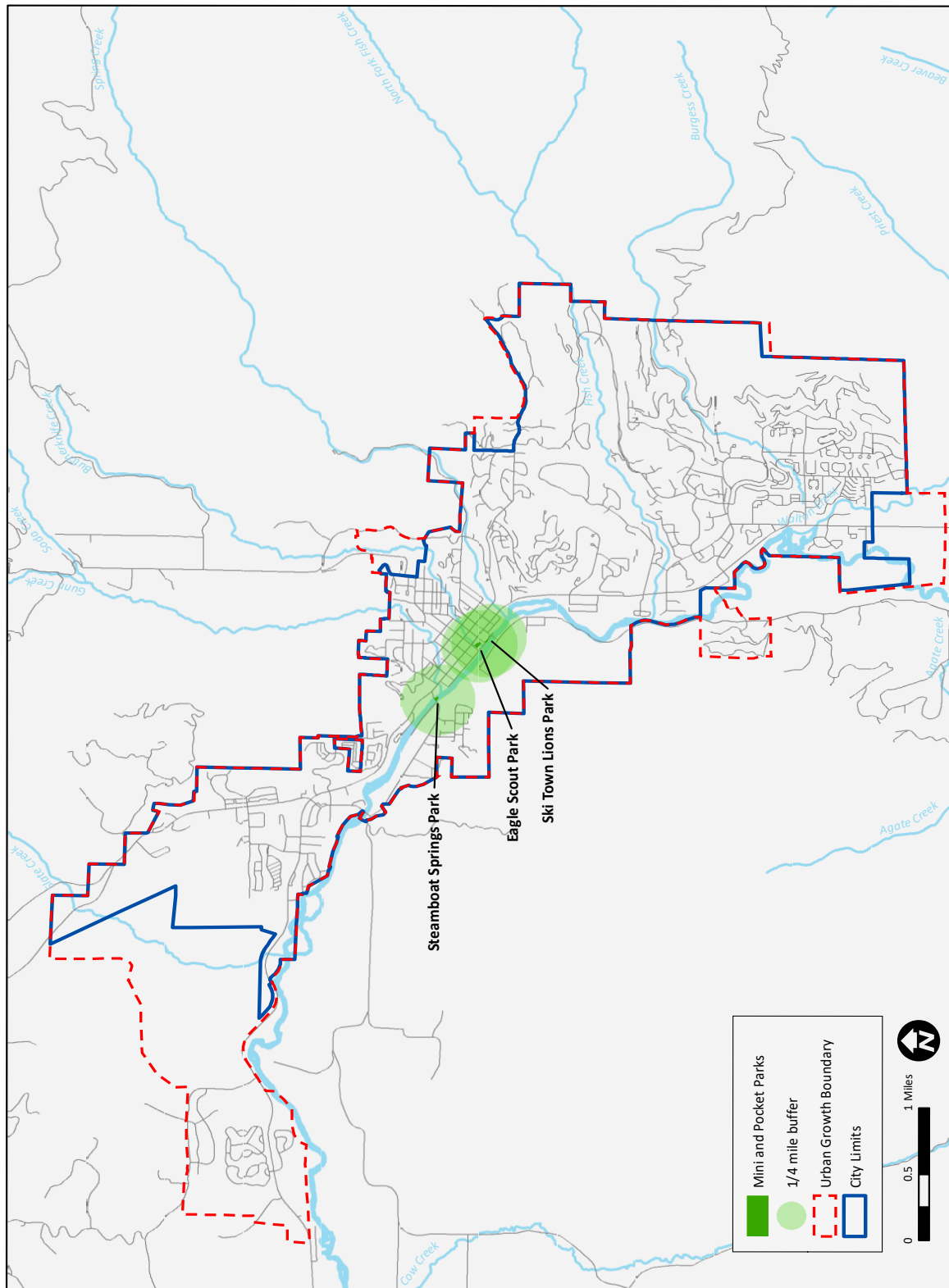
City	Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation	Durango Parks and Recreation	Glenwood Springs Parks and Recreation	Jackson Parks and Recreation	Golden Parks and Recreation
Population (US Census, Estimates July 1, 2016)	12,690	18,465	9,962	10,532	20,571
County Population	25,178	55,619	59,167	23,265	575,193
# or acres	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres	# or acres
Multi-purpose Fields					
Multi-purpose Fields Small (50 yds x 80 yds or less)	1		0	2	3
Multi-purpose Fields Large (60 yds x 100 yds or greater)	9	7	2	7	6
Total Soccer/Multi-purpose Fields	10	7	2	9	9
Residents per Facility (Rectangular fields: multi-purpose)	1,269	2,638	4,981	1,170	2,286
Dedicated Football Fields (not multi-purpose)					
Football Fields Small (150 ft x 240 ft or less)	0		0	1	0
Football Fields Large (180 ft x 360 ft)	0	1	0	1	0
Total Football Fields	0	1	0	-	0
Residents per Facility (Rectangular fields: football)	-	18,465	-	-	-
Ballfields					
Non-game Practice Baseball Fields (backstops in parks)	0	3	0	1	
Youth Baseball / Small Softball Fields (200-299 ft centerfields)	5	3	3	3	
Teen Baseball / Large Softball Fields (300-360+ ft centerfields)	6	5	1	1	
Total Ballfields (Game and non-game)	11	11	4	5	12
Residents per all Ballfields	1,154	1,679	2,491	2,106	1,714
Total Ballfields (Game only)	11	8	4	4	12
Residents per Game Ballfield	1,154	2,308	2,491	2,633	1,714
Outdoor Basketball Courts					
Full Court		11	0	1	4
1/2 Court	2		5	1	1
Total Soccer/Multi-purpose Fields	2	11	5	1	5
Residents per Facility (Basketball courts)	6,345	1,679	1,992	10,532	4,114
Skate Parks	2	1	1	1	1
Residents per Skate Park	6,345	18,465	9,962	10,532	
Disc Golf Courses (18 hole equivalent, 9 hole = 1/2)	0		0	0	1
Residents per Disc Golf Course			-		
Bike Challenge Courses, BMX or other Bike-specific Facilities	3	1	0	1	1
Residents per Bike Course	4,230	-		10,532	
Tennis Courts	16	14	7	7	5
Residents per Tennis Court	793	1,319	1,423	1,505	
Pickleball Courts (Striped on Tennis Courts and Shared Use)	2	0	2	2	0
Residents per striped Pickleball Court	6,345		4,981	-	
Pickleball Courts (Dedicated)	8	0	1	4	0
Residents per dedicated Pickleball Court	-	-	-	-	
Residents per Pickleball Court (all types)	1,269		3,321	-	
Recreation Center (Sq Foot)	0	116,867	65,000	36,000	63,761
SF Recreation Center per resident	-	6.3	6.5	3.4	
Public Splash Pads	0	1	0	0	0
Residents per Splash Pad	-	-	-	-	
Swimming Pools	0		1		
Outdoor Swimming Pool (Lap)		-	-	1	1
Residents per Outdoor Swimming Pool (Lap)		-	-	10,532	
Outdoor Wave Pool		-	-	-	
Developed Parkland (acres)					
Mini/Pocket Parks < 1 acre (HOA or private)	0		0.0	1.0	
Mini/Pocket Parks (city owned and maintained)	1.3	3.1	2.2	1.0	
Neighborhood Parks 1-7 acres (HOA or private)	0		1.5	10.0	
Neighborhood Parks 1-7 acres (county)	0		0.0	11.0	
Neighborhood Parks 1-7 acres (city owned and maintained)	11.2	36.5	12.0	43.0	
Community Parks (county)	0.0		0.0	0.0	
Community Parks (city owned and maintained - developed recreation area)	390.8	835.7	28.0	11.0	
Total Developed Parkland (public and private)	403.3	875.3	28.4	77.0	254.0
Other Public Sites (acres)					
Visual Green Spaces (landscape only)	7.5		4.8	8.0	
Plazas, Recreation Center Sites, Museums and Special Use Areas	0.0	34.6	0.0	5.5	
Total Other Public Sites	7.5	34.6	4.8	13.5	0.0
Total Publicly-Maintained High Maintenance Parks and Public Facilities	410.8	910.0	47.1	79.5	0.0
City and County Open Space/Natural Areas (non-irrigated acres of community parks and dedicated open space areas, etc.)					
City Open Space/Natural Areas	2538.0	4343.3	1871.0	60.0	402.0
County /Other Open Space/Natural Areas				560.0	
Total Open Space/Natural Areas	2538.0	4343.3	1871.0	620.0	402.0
Total Acreage Maintained	2948.8	5253.2	1918.1	699.5	402.0
Other (acres)	14				
County Fairgrounds			0.0	8.0	0.00
Cemeteries		46.6	16.0	7.0	50.00
Golf Courses	238.0		0.0	0.0	200.00
Multi-purpose Trails (miles)					
Soft Surface Multi-purpose Trails	14.0	96.3	2.5	2.3	100.00
Paved Multi-purpose Trails	6.0	15.8	1.7	52.0	24.00
Singletrack Trail	26.5		21.0	2.0	0.50
Total Trails (miles)	46.5	112.1	25.2	56.3	
Staffing (# FTE equivalent)					
FTE (Parks Maintenance)	9.0	13.0	9.0	15.0	18.00
FTE (Other Facility Maintenance e.g. rec centers, pools, comm. centers, etc.)	19.0	16.0	7.0	2.0	14.00
FTE (Admin, Operations, Rec Centers, and Programming)	7.0	9.0	10.0	35.0	
Total FTE	35.0	38.0	26.0	52.0	
High Maintenance Acres per FTE Parks Maintenance Staff	45.6	70.0	5.2	5.3	
Total Acres Maintained per FTE Maintenance Staff	327.6	404.1	213.1	46.6	
FTE Maintenance Staff per 10,000 residents	22.1	15.7	16.1	16.1	
FTE Parks and Recreation Dept. per 10,000 residents	27.6	20.6	26.1	49.4	
Parkland Level of Service (LOS)					
Existing LOS Public Neighborhood Parkland (acres/1,000 pop.)	1.0	2.1	1.4	5.2	0.0
Existing LOS Community Parkland (acres/1,000 pop.)	30.8	45.3	2.8	1.0	0.00
Total Existing Community and Neighborhood Parkland (acres/1,000 pop.)	31.8	47.4	4.2	6.3	0.00
Adopted Neighborhood Parkland LOS Standard (acres/1,000 pop.)	2.0	n/a	n/a	2.0	2.00
Adopted Community Parkland LOS Standard (acres/1,000 pop.)	6.0	n/a	n/a	4.0	4.00
Adopted Total Parkland LOS Standard (acres/1,000 pop.)	8.0	10.0	n/a	6.0	6.00

APPENDIX C - MAPS

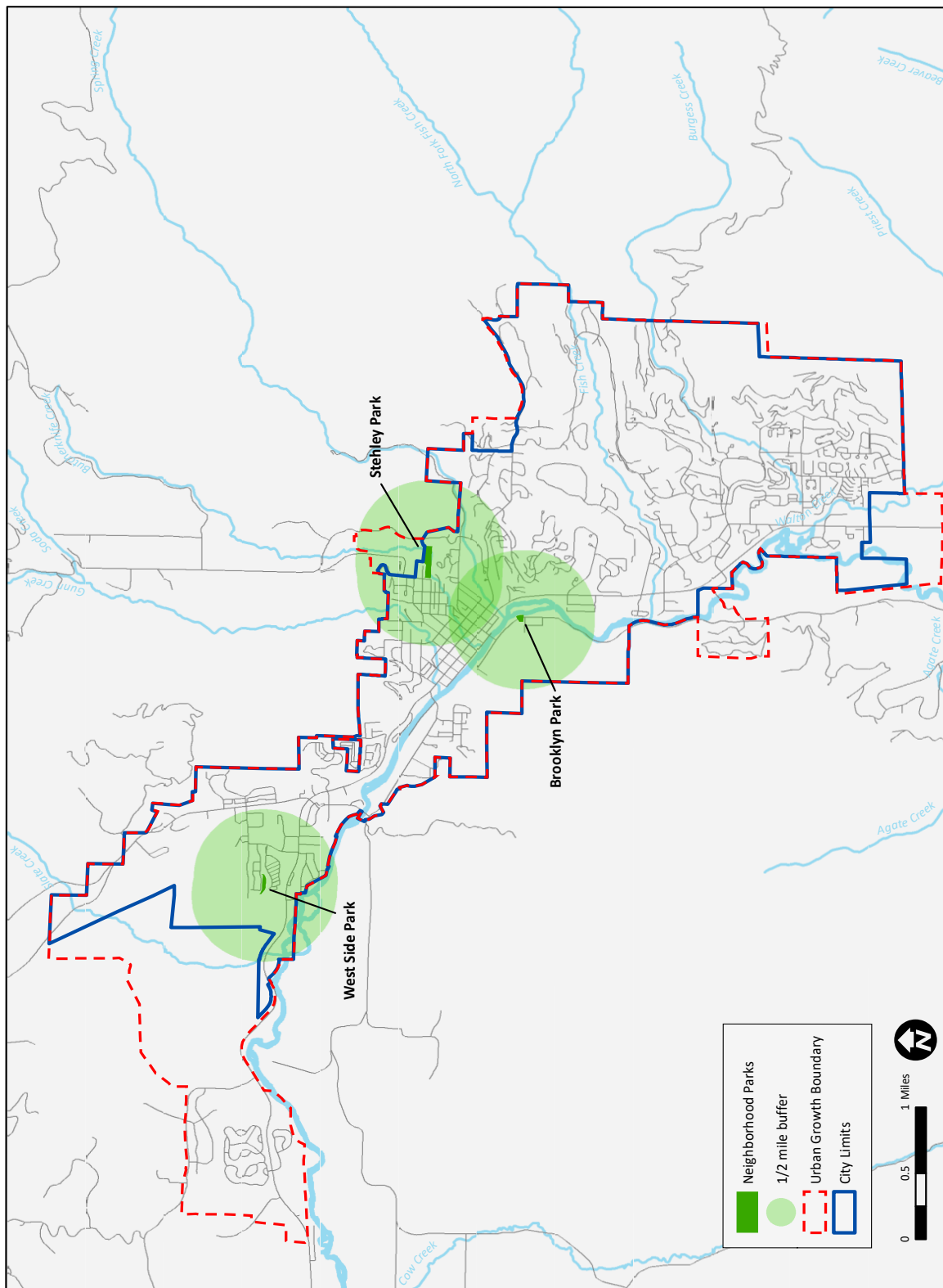
COMMUNITY PARK BUFFER ZONES



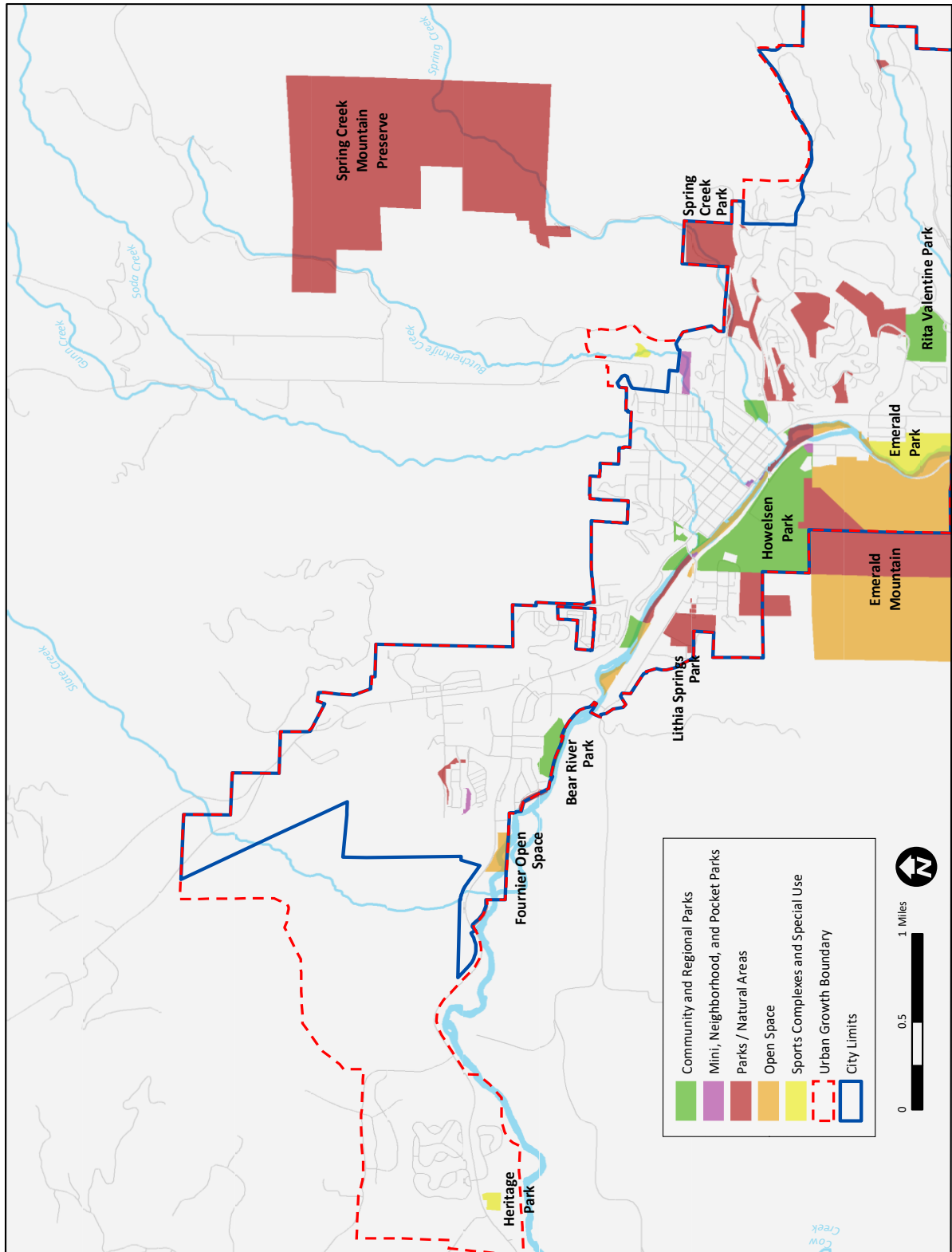
MINI AND POCKET PARK BUFFER ZONES



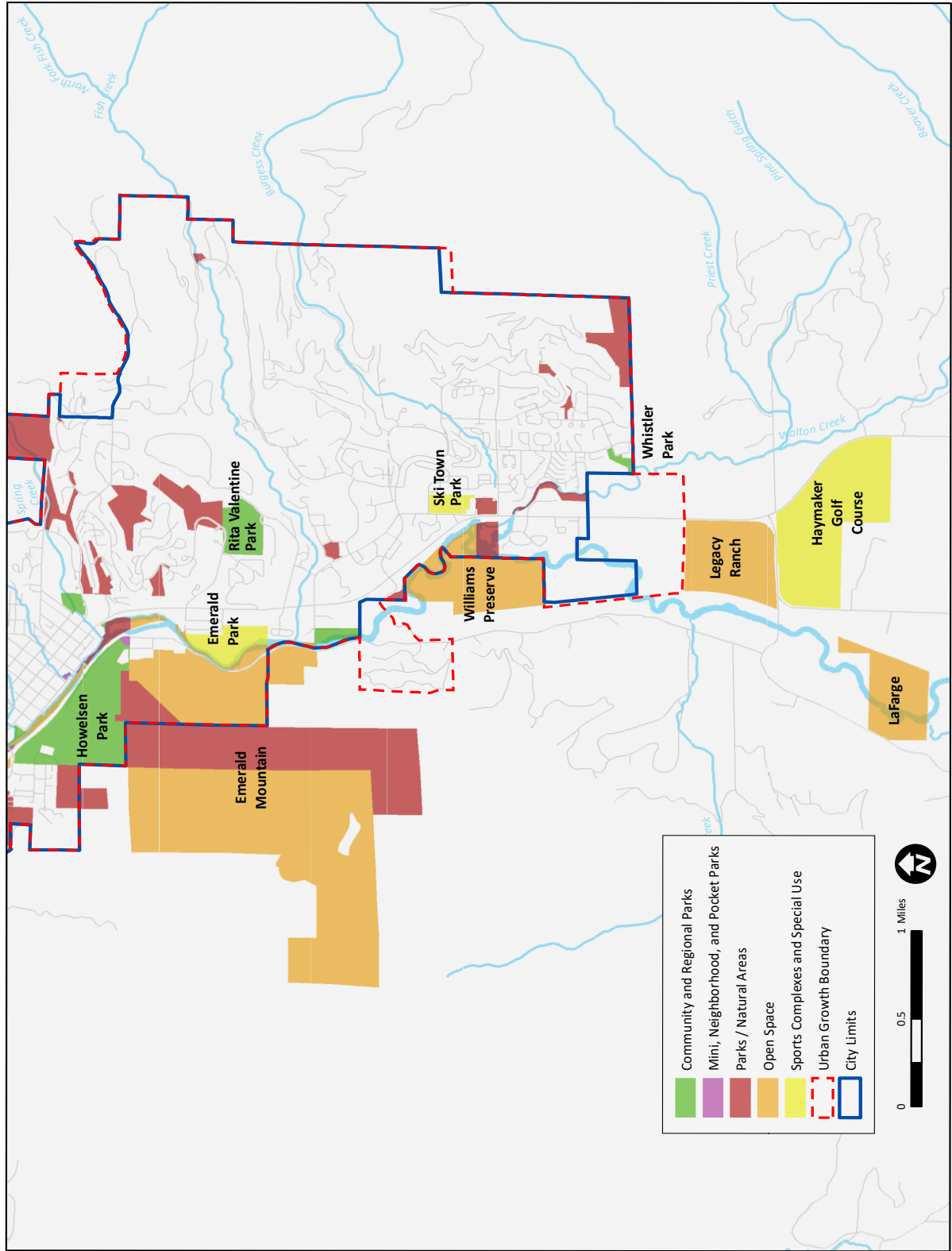
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK BUFFER ZONES



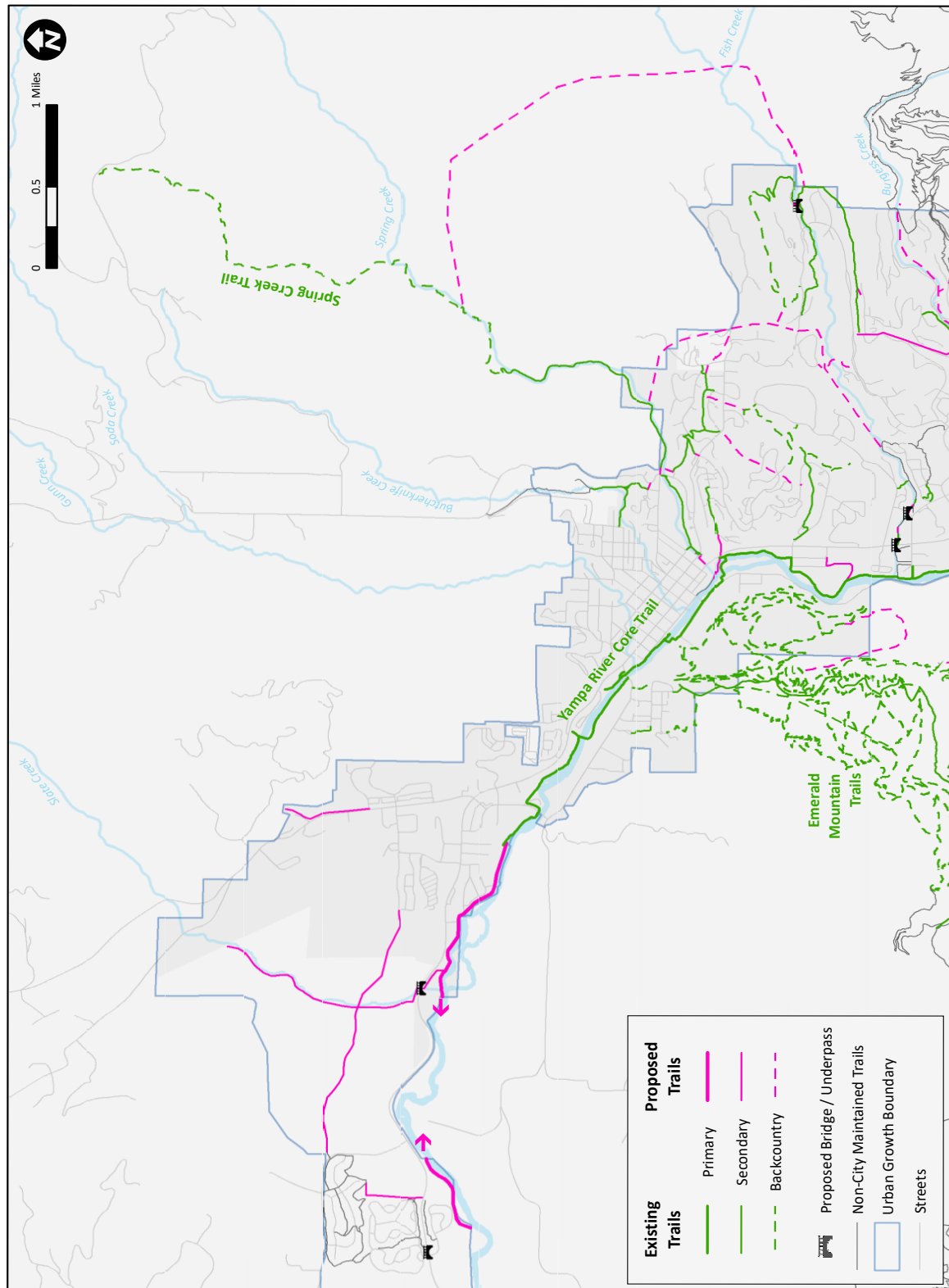
NORTH STEAMBOAT SPRINGS PARKS



SOUTH STEAMBOAT SPRINGS PARKS

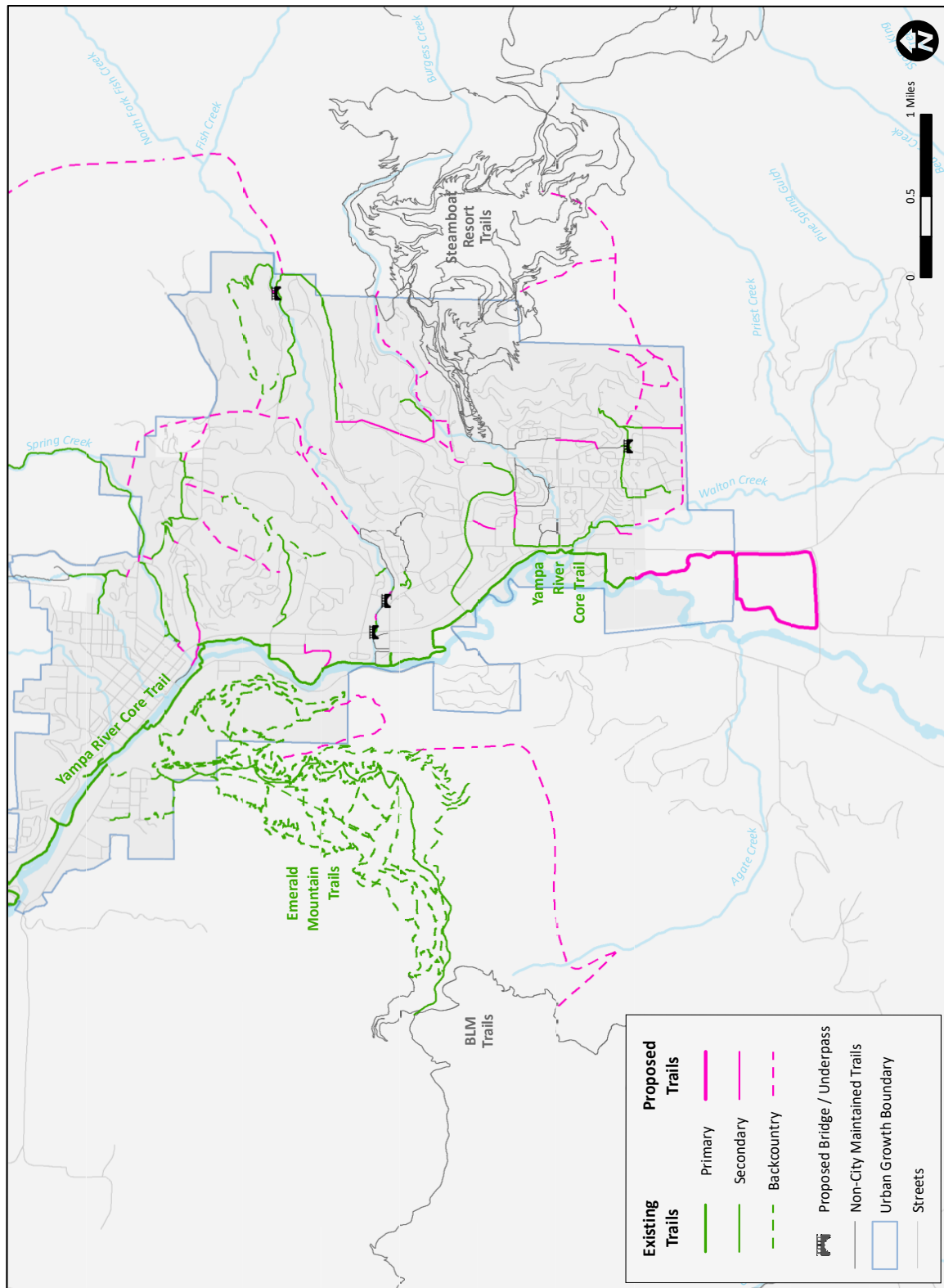


NORTH STEAMBOAT SPRINGS TRAILS



PROPOSED TRAIL LOCATIONS REPRESENT DESIRED CONNECTIONS FROM POINT TO POINT. ACTUAL ALIGNMENT MAY VARY.

SOUTH STEAMBOAT SPRINGS TRAILS



PROPOSED TRAIL LOCATIONS REPRESENT DESIRED CONNECTIONS FROM POINT TO POINT. ACTUAL ALIGNMENT MAY VARY.

HOWELSEN PARK + SKI HILL CONCEPTS





APPENDIX D - COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO

PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS and YAMPA RIVER MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Prepared by:

**Left Brain Concepts, Inc.
Lakewood, Colorado**

May 5, 2018

Howelsen Park and Ski Hill

The community has expressed a strong desire to keep Howelsen as a City-owned community ski hill (Nordic and Alpine) and jump facility, rodeo venue, as well as to upgrade park facilities and make the park more multi-functional and community-oriented. There is no space to add community facilities without removing something that exists today. To illustrate how the site could become more of a multi-purpose area for community gatherings, concepts were developed based on community input to date. **The four concepts are not final plans** – they are simply tools to facilitate a dialogue regarding choices that residents of Steamboat Springs can make regarding the future of the park. Enhancement or changes to the park would require new tax revenues.

The descriptions below describe the Howelsen Park and Ski Hill Concepts as depicted on the graphic on page 3. Please review the graphic and the descriptions before responding to the following questions.

Concept A – Basic Maintenance and Repair - Park elements remain where they are today

- Upgrade ski lifts, Howelsen Lodge, and concessions
- Replace irrigation systems, skate park, and restrooms and park concessions near the ball fields
- Add trees

Concept B – Implement Rodeo Master Plan - Other park elements remain the same

- Provide new signs, landscaping, main entry plaza with vendor tents and a food court, and shelter and lawn for pre-rodeo events and performances.
- Construct paved parking for spectators, paved walks, and new contestant entry on Howelsen Parkway.
- Upgrade hillside bleacher seating, reconstruct barns in the stable area, and realign the intersection of Howelsen Parkway and the access road at the north end of the rodeo area to reduce paved area and clarify circulation.

Concept C – Multi-purpose Community Facilities

- Remove 2 ball fields for a multi-purpose grass area for free play, festivals and concerts/performances.
- Construct a covered performance stage that can also be used as a rental picnic pavilion for families, groups and weddings and add a rental picnic shelter near the parking lot.
- Reconfigure vehicular circulation and parking, and provide a drop off/pick up lane for cars or buses. Provide electric and water pedestals at parking lot edge to accommodate Farmers Market and festival booths.
- Provide clear and safe paths and trail connections.
- Construct a special plaza designed to acknowledge the site's legacy and future in developing Olympic athletes.
- Consolidate City maintenance sheds and Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club (SSWSC) structures into new buildings to reduce their visual impact, and improve function.
- Implementing Concept C requires reconstruction of existing large ball fields at a new sports complex site in order to replace the fields that are heavily used by local sports leagues and tournaments. Land for a sports complex has not yet been acquired.

- Remove 2 western ball fields. Redevelop the area as a large multi-purpose grass field, and relocate the existing tennis courts and volleyball courts in order to expand the multi-purpose area in the center of the park. Includes a large multi-purpose grass field in the former courts area that can also have Nordic trails in the winter.
- Construct an outdoor basketball court next to the relocated tennis courts, and add a picnic shelter.
- With removal of ball field fencing a tubing hill is possible, and Nordic trails or other skiing or snowboarding features could be accommodated on the multi-purpose field during the winter.
- Reconfigure the western parking lot to better define its edges, and provide paved walks.
- Upgrade the existing playground to be a community-scale adventure play area. Construct an additional restroom and rental picnic shelter nearby.
- If Concept D is desired and Concept C is not, implementing Concept D requires reconstruction of existing large ball fields at a new sports complex site in order to replace the fields that are heavily used by local sports leagues and tournaments. Land for a sports complex has not yet been acquired.

SUPPORT FOR HOWELSEN PARK + SKI HILL CONCEPTS						
	Strong or Moderate support	Strongly support	Moderate support	Low support	Do not support	No opinion
Concept A – Basic Maintenance (ski lifts, lodge, concessions, restrooms, trees)	77%	47%	30%	14%	8%	1%
Concept B – Rodeo Master Plan	41%	17%	24%	31%	25%	3%
Concept C – Repurpose 2 ballfields for multi-purpose space, events, and parking/circulation improvements	49%	26%	23%	21%	29%	1%
Concept D – Repurpose remaining 2 fields for multi-purpose space, and move courts	43%	20%	23%	27%	29%	1%

Question: Please tell us how important each of the existing or potential elements at Howelsen Park and Ski Hill are to your household, as illustrated on the Concepts graphic on page 3. (Circle one response per element)

IMPORTANCE OF ELEMENTS AT HOWELSEN PARK + SKI HILL						
	Very or Somewhat important	Very important	Somewhat important	Low importance	Not important	Not sure
Stabilize ski jumps	73%	47%	26%	12%	13%	2%
Restroom replacements / upgrades	75%	27%	48%	14%	9%	2%
Better paved pedestrian and bicycle connections	61%	27%	34%	23%	15%	1%
More trees	57%	26%	31%	24%	17%	2%
Multi-purpose festival and events area	50%	23%	27%	21%	27%	2%
Farmer's Market infrastructure	55%	23%	32%	21%	22%	2%
Vehicular circulation and parking improvements	56%	20%	36%	28%	14%	2%
Additional restrooms	55%	20%	35%	28%	13%	4%
Upgrade existing lodge and concessions	55%	19%	36%	29%	13%	3%
General aesthetics upgrades	56%	17%	39%	28%	14%	2%
Permanent performance stage / rental pavilion	41%	16%	25%	27%	29%	3%
Remove and relocate existing softball / baseball fields to new site	31%	15%	16%	21%	40%	8%
Trailhead amenities (benches, bike repair station, map, shaded area, etc.)	50%	14%	36%	31%	19%	-
Pedestrian lighting upgrades	47%	13%	34%	28%	20%	5%
Consolidate multiple small maintenance and Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club buildings	40%	11%	28%	30%	24%	7%
Improve / upgrade rodeo grounds	36%	11%	25%	34%	28%	2%
Multi-purpose play fields	37%	11%	26%	34%	25%	4%
Expand food service / dining at lodge	35%	10%	25%	36%	25%	4%
Signage / wayfinding improvements	37%	10%	27%	37%	24%	2%
New community-scale adventure playground	28%	10%	18%	29%	39%	4%
Maintain and upgrade existing softball / baseball fields	35%	10%	25%	30%	29%	6%
Outdoor basketball court	24%	8%	16%	29%	42%	5%
Upgraded skate park	24%	7%	17%	31%	39%	6%
More picnic shelters	33%	4%	29%	34%	31%	2%

Question: The community has suggested the following policy concepts through public input. Please rate your level of support for the following policy ideas. (Circle one for each idea)

LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR POLICY IDEAS						
	Strongly or Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not sure
Protect Yampa River water quality and aquatic/wildlife habitat by restricting river recreation when necessary	88%	69%	19%	8%	3%	1%
Designate "hiking-only" trail(s) at Emerald Mountain	79%	41%	38%	9%	7%	5%
Regulate the number of private tubers on the Yampa River	65%	38%	27%	14%	16%	5%
Designate one-way "directional" trails at Emerald Mountain and/or Spring Creek Open Space	74%	33%	41%	11%	6%	9%
Restrict sections of the Yampa River that private tubers are allowed on	56%	31%	25%	18%	19%	7%
Designate additional off-leash dog areas	58%	30%	28%	14%	23%	5%
Construct a fenced dog park	53%	23%	30%	17%	24%	6%
Make Emerald Park available for Triple Crown use	37%	13%	24%	13%	32%	18%
Modify Howelsen Hill chairlift to accommodate bicycles year-round	33%	10%	23%	24%	31%	12%

LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

Question: Current funding will not cover desired changes or additions to the system. The total cost for all of the new options presented is approximately \$71 million. New funding to implement any desired changes or additions will need to come from new taxes – other communities have utilized Sales Tax, Property Tax, and/or other special taxes such as the Accommodations Tax. What is your level of support for new taxes for enhancements or additions to the existing system?

LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR FUNDING ALTERNATIVES							
	Total \$ generated for capital projects	Strongly or Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not sure
Additional 1% increase in Accommodations Tax	\$10.6 million	67%	42%	23%	11%	19%	5%
Additional 1/2 cent dedicated sales tax (50 cents on a \$100 purchase)	\$33.6 million	67%	34%	33%	10%	21%	2%
Additional 1 cent dedicated sales tax (\$1 on a \$100 purchase)	\$67.2 million	42%	23%	19%	17%	38%	3%
New property tax (\$15 per month for \$500K home, \$22.50 per month for \$750K, \$30 per month for \$1 million home)	\$36.5 million	42%	23%	19%	13%	41%	4%
New property tax (\$27 per month for \$500K home, \$40.50 per month for \$750K home, \$54 per month for \$1 million home)	\$65.6 million	26%	15%	11%	12%	57%	5%

Question: It is important to understand the community's highest priorities. The following items are only possible with new funding sources. Please rate your level of support for each of following projects.

LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS							
	New Tax \$ Needed	Strongly or Somewhat Support	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not Sure
Implement the Yampa River Structural Master Plan recommendations to improve river health	\$3.0 m	82%	52%	30%	8%	5%	5%
Concept A. Howelsen Park basic maintenance and repair of the lodge, ski lifts and existing park facilities	\$3.2 m	83%	50%	33%	7%	7%	3%
Howelsen ski jumps stabilization	\$3.9 m	76%	46%	30%	11%	8%	5%
Extend the Core Trail west to Slate Creek	\$1.5 m	76%	46%	30%	9%	7%	8%
Conserve new lands as open space for public recreation + trails	\$3.0 m	80%	44%	36%	8%	8%	4%
Conserve new lands as open space for habitat conservation + environmental purposes	\$3.0 m	73%	41%	32%	12%	11%	4%
Extend Core Trail south to Legacy Open Space	\$4.4 m	67%	39%	28%	14%	10%	9%
Implement the Yampa River Structural Master Plan recommendations to improve river recreation	\$0.3 m	67%	30%	37%	16%	10%	7%
Construct Emerald Mountain Blackmere Trailhead parking lot and define trail entrance	\$0.5 m	68%	23%	45%	15%	14%	3%
Concept C. Redevelop central portion of Howelsen Park for multi-purpose community uses, which requires construction of a new, off-site ball field complex	\$4.0 m	42%	19%	23%	22%	31%	5%
Concept D. Increase the multi-purpose festival and field space available in Howelsen Park beyond what is possible with Concept C	\$3.7 m	45%	18%	27%	19%	31%	5%
Preserve and enhance the ball fields at Howelsen Park	\$0.3 m	51%	17%	34%	21%	19%	9%
Improve the rodeo grounds (Concept B)	\$4.4 m	45%	15%	30%	31%	21%	3%
Indoor gyms / multi-purpose courts	\$8.1 m	31%	14%	17%	27%	34%	8%
Construct a four-field ball field complex at a new site (required to replace fields removed with Concept C or D)	\$14 m	35%	12%	23%	23%	35%	7%
Bear River Park construction	\$3.4 m	37%	12%	25%	21%	18%	23%
Field house (indoor sports turf field and locker rooms)	\$9.7 m	29%	12%	17%	26%	37%	8%
Add yurts or cabins to Emerald Mountain open space, per the Master Plan	\$0.5 m	27%	9%	18%	27%	37%	9%

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Question: Please select up to 5 projects as your top priorities.

PRIORITIES IN THE COMMUNITY		
	Priority Ranking	% of respondents
Concept A. Howelsen Park basic maintenance and repair of the lodge, ski lifts and existing park facilities	1	52%
Implement the Yampa River Structural Master Plan recommendations to improve river health	2	49%
Conserve new lands as open space for public recreation + trails	3-4 (tie)	46%
Howelsen ski jump stabilization	3-4 (tie)	46%
Extend the Core Trail west to Slate Creek	5	43%
Conserve new lands as open space for habitat conservation + environmental purposes	6	41%
Extend Core Trail south to Legacy Open Space	7	34%
Construct Emerald Mountain Blackmere Trailhead parking lot and define trail entrance	8	24%
Implement the Yampa River Structural Master Plan recommendations to improve river recreation	9	23%
Concept D. Increase the multi-purpose festival and field space available in Howelsen Park beyond what is possible with Concept C	10-11 (tie)	18%
Concept C. Redevelop central portion of Howelsen Park for multi-purpose community uses, which requires construction of a new, off-site ball field complex	10-11 (tie)	18%
Improve the Rodeo Grounds (Concept B)	12	17%
Indoor gyms / multi-purpose courts	13	14%
Field house (indoor turf field and locker rooms)	14	13%
Construct a four-field ball field complex at a new site required to replace fields removed with Concept C or D)	15	7%
Bear River Park construction	16	7%
Add yurts or cabins to Emerald Mountain Open Space, per the Master Plan	17	5%
Preserve and enhance the ball fields at Howelsen Park	18	2%

	New Tax \$ Needed	Strongly or Somewhat Support	Priority Ranking
Implement the Yampa River Structural Master Plan recommendations to improve river health	\$3.0 m	82%	2
Concept A. Howelsen Park basic maintenance and repair of the lodge, ski lifts and existing park facilities	\$3.2 m	83%	1
Howelsen ski jumps stabilization	\$3.9 m	76%	3-4 (tie)
Extend the Core Trail west to Slate Creek	\$1.5 m	76%	5
Conserve new lands as open space for public recreation + trails	\$3.0 m	80%	3-4 (tie)
Conserve new lands as open space for habitat conservation + environmental purposes	\$3.0 m	73%	6
Extend Core Trail south to Legacy Open Space	\$4.4 m	67%	7
Implement the Yampa River Structural Master Plan recommendations to improve river recreation	\$0.3 m	67%	9
Construct Emerald Mountain Blackmere Trailhead parking lot and define trail entrance	\$0.5 m	68%	8
Concept C. Redevelop central portion of Howelsen Park for multi-purpose community uses, which requires construction of a new, off-site ball field complex	\$4.0 m	42%	10-11 (tie)
Concept D. Increase the multi-purpose festival and field space available in Howelsen Park beyond what is possible with Concept C	\$3.7 m	45%	10-11 (tie)
Preserve and enhance the ball fields at Howelsen Park	\$0.3 m	51%	18
Improve the rodeo grounds (Concept B)	\$4.4 m	45%	12
Indoor gyms / multi-purpose courts	\$8.1 m	31%	13
Construct a four-field ball field complex at a new site (required to replace fields removed with Concept C or D)	\$14 m	35%	15
Bear River Park construction	\$3.4 m	37%	16
Field house (indoor sports turf field and locker rooms)	\$9.7 m	29%	14
Add yurts or cabins to Emerald Mountain open space, per the Master Plan	\$0.5 m	27%	17