

PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS **MASTER PLAN**



SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

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City of Loveland

Parks, Recreation, Open Lands & Trails Master Plan

September 19, 2023

Prepared by:



MIG, Inc.

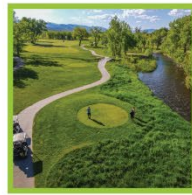
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City of Loveland Parks and Recreation

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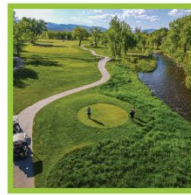
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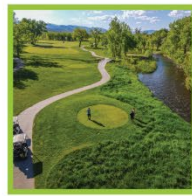
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RESOLUTION #R-108-2023

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2023 PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN OF THE CITY OF LOVELAND AND AMENDING THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN, KNOWN AS “CREATE LOVELAND” BY ADDITION OF THE 2023 PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN AS A COMPONENT PLAN

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2016, pursuant to a unanimous recommendation by the City’s Planning Commission, City Council adopted the City of Loveland 2016 Comprehensive Master Plan referred to herein as “Create Loveland,” by Resolution #R-65-2016. Said plan was subsequently amended on October 18, 2016 by Resolution #R-98-2016, on March 20, 2018 by Resolution #R-29-2018, on February 19, 2019 by Resolution #R-22-2019, on April 20, 2020 by Resolution #R-29-2020, on August 3, 2021 by Resolution #R-69-2021, and on July 11 by #R-48-2023”; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2014 by Resolution #R-43-2014, the City Council adopted the “Parks and Recreation Master Plan,” which was formally adopted as part of City’s Comprehensive Master Plan located in Table 2-2, Chapter 2, Page, 19 of Create Loveland; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Parks and Recreation Department has prepared an update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, now known as the “2023 Parks, Recreation, Open Lands and Trails Master Plan Update” (“PROLT Master Plan Update”); and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2023, the Open Lands Commission reviewed and provided a unanimous recommendation to the City Council for approval of the PROLT Master Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2023, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed and provided a unanimous recommendation to the City Council for approval of the PROLT Master Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, from early 2021 through the summer of 2023, numerous City Boards and Commissions had an opportunity to provide feedback and ultimately recommend approval of the PROLT Master Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to adopt the PROLT Master Plan Update and amend Create Loveland by addition of the 2023 PROLT Master Plan Update as a component plan, all of which is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Loveland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOVELAND, COLORADO:

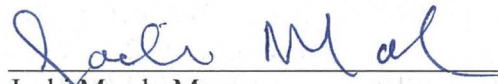
Section 1. That the 2023 Parks, Recreation, Open Lands and Trails Master Plan Update,

a copy of which is on file with the Loveland City Clerk, is hereby adopted and shall be used by the City to provide a framework to the growth, management, and development of parks, open lands, public grounds, golf courses, recreation facilities, trails, and programs. The 2023 Parks, Recreation, Open Lands and Trails Master Plan Update shall supersede and replace the Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted in 2014.

Section 2. That the 2016 Comprehensive Master Plan, Create Loveland, is hereby amended by the addition of the 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a component plan.

Section 4. That this Resolution shall take effect as of the date of its adoption.

ADOPTED this 19th day of September, 2023.



Jackie Marsh, Mayor

ATTEST:


Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk

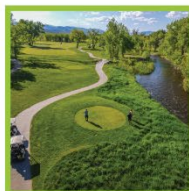


APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Deputy City Attorney

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2023 PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN OF THE CITY OF LOVELAND AND AMENDING THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN, KNOWN AS "CREATE LOVELAND" BY ADDITION OF THE 2023 PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN AS A COMPONENT PLAN

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PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Executive Summary

In late spring 2021, the City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Department began updating its Parks & Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) to provide community-supported direction for developing and enhancing its facilities, lands and assets in the future. The Master Plan presents a framework to the growth, management and development of parks, open lands, public grounds, golf courses, recreation facilities, trails and programs with a focus on a 7 to 10-year timeframe. The Master Plan includes projections for the remaining years through build-out to better frame long-term financial impacts.

Community Priorities

The Master Plan update included a strong public engagement process to ensure that plan recommendations would reflect community needs and priorities. As noted in Chapter 3, over 2,900 people participated in the planning and prioritization processes. Feedback revealed that Loveland residents highly value the services and amenities provided by the Parks & Recreation Department with 64%



of respondents indicating that parks, trails and natural areas are more important to them since the Covid pandemic. Respondents indicated that recreation is essential to their quality of life, providing important opportunities to enjoy nature and the outdoors and to improve their health, wellness and fitness. In fact, 65% of respondents stated that they visit a park at least once per week and 76% stated that they use Loveland's trails at least once per year.

According to outreach respondents, the most needed facilities in the future are trails and bike paths, accessible open lands and natural areas, and community-scale parks and facilities. Respondents would also like to see expansion of outdoor recreation

program offerings (e.g. hiking, camping, kayaking and archery) and community special events (e.g. movies in the park, festivals, etc.).

To maintain current standards of financial accountability, priorities must be set that balance provision of high quality parks, facilities and recreation services with a cost-effective approach that considers costs from initial implementation through each program or facility's life cycle. Community feedback indicated support for the same or increased levels of City funding to support parks and recreation services. Any expansion of services will likely require a greater City investment than is currently provided.

Park and Recreation Priorities

In addition to taking community priorities into account, the Master Plan included a technical analysis of community needs for the acquisition and development of new park land, open lands, golf courses, recreation facilities and trails. Needs assessment findings were used to update and customize City policies and guidelines and to right-size the future park and recreation system in terms of community priorities and City goals. This includes adjusting past standards and guidelines, and re-calculating numerical needs for land and facilities over the next 7 to 10 years and through build out. These updates were based on the following analyses:

- **A level of service analysis** found that Loveland provides fewer trails and pathways, less accessible open space acreage, and less indoor recreation space on average than Fort Collins, Longmont, and Boulder, but also more than communities such as Windsor and Greeley.
- **A GIS access analysis** evaluated the distance people must travel from their homes to reach different types of recreation opportunities. The study revealed a need for more than 40 additional acres of neighborhood parks and 60 additional acres of community parks by 2032, even when right sizing park standards and focusing future park provision to areas of higher residential density.
- **A recreation facility analysis** took into account changing recreation trends, noting a need for more sports fields and courts, indoor recreation space, aquatics opportunities, nature-based recreation, and specialized recreation opportunities (e.g., dog parks and pickleball courts).
- **A trail analysis** identified needs for an additional 27 miles of hard and soft-surfaced trails to support outdoor recreation, to provide connectivity within the city and between Loveland and adjacent towns, and to improve access to City parks and community destinations.
- **An open lands analysis** identified open land opportunity areas where access to water and nature could be provided through acquisition and/or development of

existing properties to meet resident's needs, and where significant natural resources could be protected by implementing conservation principals on city land. Approximately 1,325 additional acres of open lands will be needed to maintain current service levels through 2032.

Key Policies and Recommendations

By incorporating all aspects of the Parks and Recreation system – Parks, Recreation, Open Lands, Trails and Golf - the Master Plan provides a strong, unified approach to prioritize Parks and Recreation Department resources and address needs in a holistic and comprehensive way. Based on community priorities, the following guidance is proposed while also recognizing the need to maintain flexibility to respond to future desires and the economic health of the City:

- **Maintaining Existing Assets and Facilities:** The City already has a strong Parks and Recreation system, though existing facilities require consistent maintenance, renovation and improvements to continue to deliver the high services levels desired by the residents.
- **Integrated Planning and Development:** Synergies between parks, open lands, golf courses, trails and public grounds are identified to show where access, resource distribution, and management efficiencies can be improved by planning and developing sites jointly.
- **Community Park System:** The City's park system of the future is more focused on popular, larger scale parks and recreation facilities such as community parks, specialized facilities, and interconnected trails. More dispersed neighborhood parks will be planned where residential densities decrease on the fringes of the Growth Management Area
- **Interconnected Trail System:** Loveland will move beyond completing the single-loop City Recreation Trail and toward developing an interconnected system of city and regional trails that provide access to parks, open lands and other destinations within the City and beyond.
- **Accessible Open Lands:** The City will increase access to natural areas and open lands to provide more nature-based recreation opportunities and connect residents to the outdoors, while protecting sensitive natural areas and wildlife habitat from impacts.
- **Financial Feasibility:** The City will continue to maintain and enhance services in a fiscally conservative manner using available resources. This means:

- The City will prioritize maintenance of existing assets over the development of new amenities when funding for those improvements and/or their associated operational expenses has not been identified
- City recreation programs will have flexibility to respond to changing market conditions
- The future development of golf courses and specialized facilities will be based on financial feasibility and will explore the role of private providers and partnerships to meet service level guidelines
- New park standards will focus park resources where they are needed most, with a focus on provision of parks in underserved and higher density residential areas.

A full listing of standards, guidelines and policies may be found in Chapter 5. These translate into specific short and long-term recommendations identified in Chapter 6.

Implementation

To continue to provide service at the existing level of quality and consistency, all current funding sources must be renewed or expanded to implement Plan recommendations. Even with renewed funding, the City may need to consider alternative funding options for capital expansion to possibly include utilization of debt instruments such as bonds. Continued and expanded support from the City's General Fund and other potential funding sources such as grants, donations, and on-going support from the Department's special revenue sources for operations and programming will be of paramount importance in sustaining current service levels and as new lands and facilities are brought online.

Conclusions

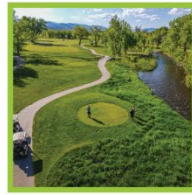
The Loveland Parks & Recreation Department provides effective, efficient and high-quality leisure facilities, sites, services and programs for its citizens and community visitors. The Department balances its ability to provide outstanding facilities and customer service with its desire to keep taxes and costs low for residents. As a result of the Department's successful cost recovery policies, it collects monies to offset and limit subsidy from the City's General Fund—creating an integrated, more financially sustainable system of parks, open lands, golf courses, recreation facilities, trails and programs that support a healthy, active and cohesive community.

Public engagement findings noted a high level of community satisfaction with the Parks & Recreation Department and its offerings. While guidelines for the provision of future lands and services have been aligned to right-size the park and recreation system,

community feedback indicates a desire for more amenities, especially trails, open lands, and community-wide facilities.

The success of this Plan hinges on future decisions by City leaders and residents to renew or increase the sources of funding that support parks, recreation, trails, and the protection of open lands. Clearly this is a community priority, integral to a high quality of life for today's residents and future generations.

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PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Chapter I: Introduction

Parks, open lands, recreation facilities, golf courses and trails have always been important to Loveland's identity as an active, engaged community. Now, in the post-COVID era, these resources have proven critical in supporting Loveland's health, community livability, sense of belonging, resilience, and vibrancy. The City of Loveland is planning for its parks and recreation system in an integrated way to ensure the coordinated benefits of its properties, programs, and facilities continue to support Loveland's high quality of life and economic development.

Purpose of the Plan

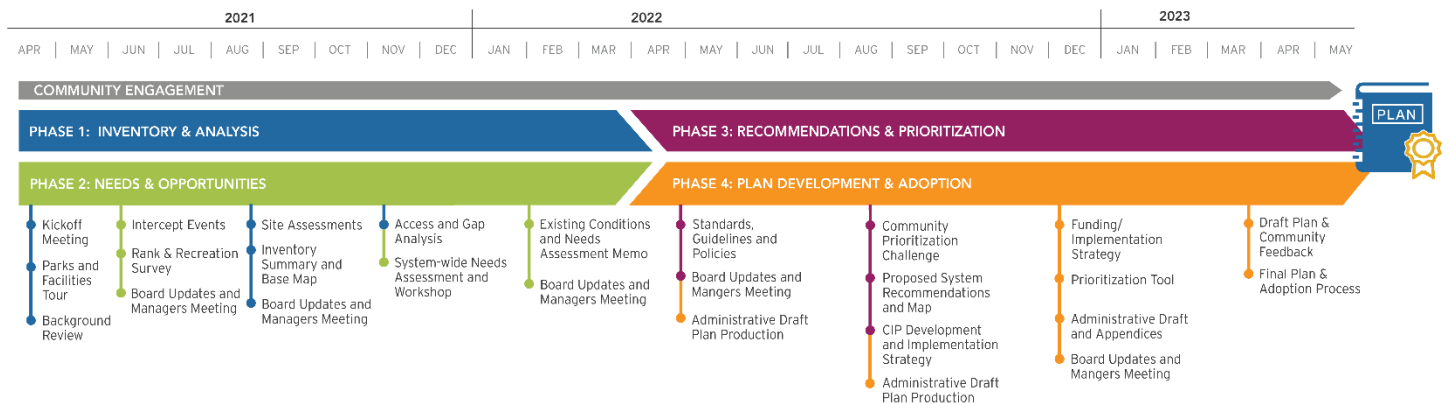
The City of Loveland is updating its Parks, Recreation, Open Lands & Trails Master Plan (Master Plan) to guide the City's investment in parks, open lands, golf, and public grounds (collectively referred to as greenspace), as well as recreation facilities, trails, and programs. The purpose of the Master Plan is to:

- Engage the community in identifying priority projects and programs;
- Build on City data and a Geographic Information System (GIS) access analysis to forecast needs over next 10 years;
- Update standards and policies to guide department asset, facility, and program development and management;
- Develop recommendations to guide the Department's 10-year capital improvement plan; and
- Prioritize projects to identify a short-term action plan while incorporating flexibility to adjust to unforeseen circumstances, trends, and events affecting the Department and the City.

Planning Process

Initiated in April of 2021, the Master Plan update process included four phases aligned with key tasks to ensure the plan achieved critical milestones (Figure 1-1). Community engagement was conducted at several points throughout the planning process. Outreach activities were designed to engage a wide selection of participants, including residents, businesses, visitors, and stakeholders, by implementing a combination of in-person and digital engagement tools. These engagement efforts included a park and recreation questionnaire, events held in parks, an online community prioritization challenge, and meetings and work sessions with the Parks & Recreation Department, City Council, and various resident-led commissions and committees.

Figure 1-1: Planning Process

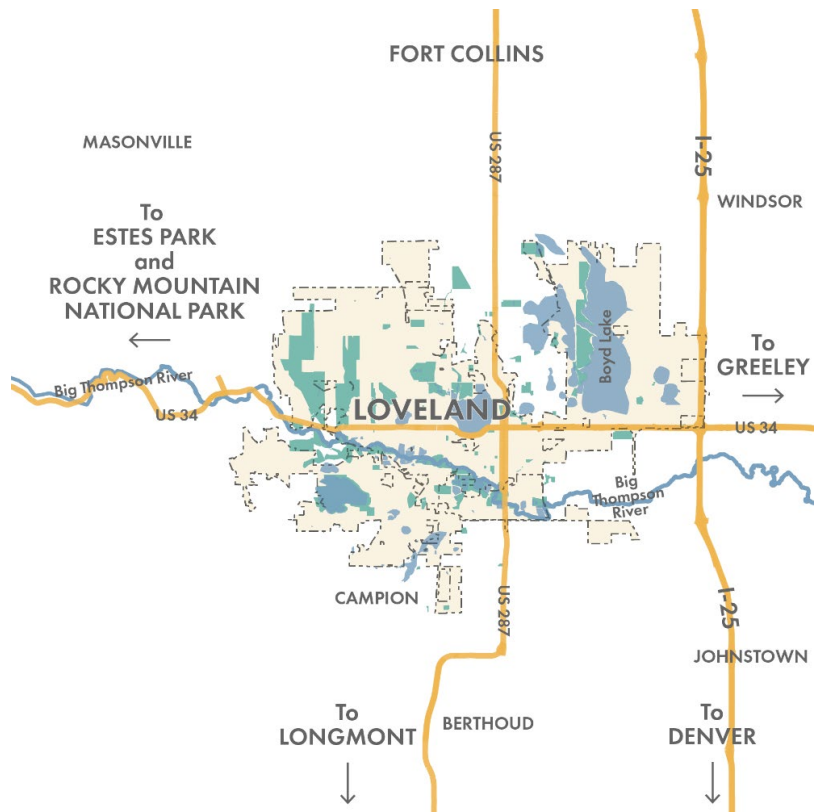


Planning Area

Loveland's location, topography, history, character, and natural features all contribute to a unique system of parks and recreation amenities. The City of Loveland is located in Larimer County in north-central Colorado, approximately 45 miles north of Denver, and situated between Fort Collins to the north and Berthoud to the south, the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the west and Interstate 25 to the east. The city includes a land area of more than 35 square miles with a Growth Management Area of approximately 67 square miles in size. Due to its proximity to Fort Collins, Loveland is included in the Fort Collins-Loveland Metropolitan Statistical Area and is associated with the Front Range Urban Corridor (Map 1-1).

As a major business center for Northern Colorado, the community has shifted from its early 1900's roots as an agricultural community to a modern and diversified economy boasting large

Map 1-1: Regional Map



manufacturing facilities and several medical facilities. Loveland also hosts a strong tourism market, significant retail development, and a robust food, restaurant, and lodging industry. The city offers ample office, technology, and professional services. Home to a large population of artists, the city has three foundries, an art museum, and an annual art and sculpture festival. Loveland also serves as a bedroom community for neighboring towns and cities. Parks and Recreation facilities and programming are a key factor in the attraction of businesses and citizens to the community.

Major highways provide regional access to Loveland, including Interstate 25 (I-25) which runs north-south on the east side of town and US Highway 34 which runs east-west through the city. This puts Loveland on the most direct route from I-25 to Estes Park, making it a gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park and bringing many visitors to the city. Additionally, the City's bikeways and recreation trail system, which includes on-street bike lanes as well as off-street trails, provides opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle travel throughout the city, and attracts eco-tourism.

Loveland's natural features contribute to the city's character. Notable features include several large lakes and reservoirs which provide opportunities for leisure, recreation, and conservation. The Big Thompson River runs through the south portion of the city, providing recreation opportunities but also posing a flood threat to areas of the city. Loveland is uniquely situated where the Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains resulting in scenic formations, amazing views, and unique recreational and tourism opportunities. To the west, the City of Loveland also enjoys Rocky Mountain vistas including views of Longs Peak and the Continental Divide.

Coordination with Other Plans

This document is an update to the 2014 Parks & Recreation Master Plan and draws on, and seeks to be consistent with, information presented in several other city, regional, and departmental documents, including those noted below.

- Loveland Open Lands and Trails Strategic Plan, 2023
- National Recreation and Park Association - Park Metrics 2022
- City of Loveland Performance Measures, 2022
- City of Loveland Strategic Plan, 2020
- Loveland Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan, 2019
- Big Thompson River Master Plan 2022
- Loveland Transportation Safety Master Plan 2022
- City of Loveland Annual Data and Projections Report, 2020 - 2022
- Loveland Recreation Facility Feasibility Study, 2015
- Create Loveland Comprehensive Plan Update, 2019
- Loveland Parks and Recreation Programming Plan, 2019
- North Front Range MPO 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, 2019
- City of Loveland ADA Transition Plan, 2017
- Our Lands Our Future- Regional Open Space Planning Study (2023 update underway)
- Connect Loveland Transportation Master Plan (in progress)

Strategic Plan Alignment

The City of Loveland's 2020 Strategic Plan identified eight focus areas to guide the initiatives of City departments and divisions in supporting a high quality of life (Figure 1-2). Parks & Recreation plays a critical role in helping the City achieve these desired outcomes. Table 1-1 defines several of the ways the Parks & Recreation Department supports City initiatives.

Figure 1-2: Loveland's 2020 Strategic Plan Focus Areas for a High Quality of Life



Table 1-1: Parks & Recreation Department's Contributions to Loveland's Quality of Life

Focus Area: PUBLIC SAFETY	
2020 Strategic Plan Desired Outcome(s) for which the Parks & Recreation Department plays a key role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our community is perceived as safe, attractive, and secure. • Lives and property are protected.
Key activities already being performed or planned by the Parks & Recreation Department in support of this focus area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department programming, facilities and amenities provide healthy recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages, fostering positive behaviors for youth and young adults and reducing juvenile delinquency. • Collaboration with Loveland Risk Management, Loveland Police Department and Loveland Fire Rescue Authority helps ensure residents feel safe and secure in parks, open lands, trails, and recreation facilities. • Encampment policies ensure public and staff safety on city lands while supporting services to unhoused populations. • Maintenance of parks and open lands reduces wildfire fuels, mitigates fire risk, and helps buffer development from potential flood risk. • The provision of parks, open lands, and outdoor recreation facilities supports community health while reducing COVID-19 and other communicable disease exposures. • The provision of non-motorized transportation, safe-crossings, and safe routes to parks and other city and community facilities supports City traffic safety goals. • Park and facility policies support anti-smoking and vaping prevention. • Implementation of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design methodologies and standards supports safer public access to facilities and amenities. • Snow removal on multi-use recreation trails and park pathways supports the City's Integrated Snow Removal Plan. • Management of the City's Snow Squad program provides assistance to residents physically unable to shovel and cannot afford to hire a service. • Regular maintenance, inspections and audits of parks and facilities in accordance with nationally recognized industry standards ensures safety for users. Vandalism, damage and graffiti are addressed in a timely manner to deter additional disruptive and undesirable activity. • Utilization of site security measures deter undesirable and disruptive activity. • In continued partnership with Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, management and maintenance of parks, open lands and natural areas in the Wildland Urban Interface zones of the city to help protect development from wildfire threats.

Focus Area: ECONOMIC VITALITY	
2020 Strategic Plan Desired Outcome(s) for which the Parks & Recreation Department plays a key role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our economy is healthy and resilient.
Key activities already being performed or planned by the Parks & Recreation Department in support of this focus area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loveland's parks and recreation system serves as an important component of the City's business attraction and economic development strategy. • Visitors to Parks and Recreation facilities, attractions and tournaments increase lodging and sales tax revenues from visitors to park events and tournaments, as well as from visitors to regional recreation attractions such as golf courses. • Workforce development, particularly for teens and young adults, is provided through relevant skill development and community enrichment and volunteer programs. • Collaboration with key community partners and stakeholders creates a unified regional vision for sustained economic growth. • Access and proximity to Parks and Recreation facilities are shown to increase property values and desirability of Loveland as a place to reside. • Utilization of grants reduces the use of taxpayer funds in the development of new properties and projects. • Maintenance, restoration and stabilization projects in parks and open lands support the implementation of the Big Thompson River Master Plan reducing flood risk, protecting homes and businesses from flooding, and enhancing recreational opportunities along the river corridor.

Focus Area: **INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION**

2020 Strategic Plan
Desired Outcome(s)
for which the Parks &
Recreation
Department plays a
key role

- People can travel reliably and safely via alternate modes.
- Existing public infrastructure is reliable and well-maintained to protect the public's investment.
- Resource needs are actively forecast, and action plans implemented, to ensure the city can support future growth.
- Regional collaboration is realized to maximize benefits and the investment of public dollars.

Key activities already
being performed or
planned by the Parks
& Recreation
Department in
support of this focus
area

- Park and facility access improvements align with the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Implementation Plan. Facility improvements and renovations will include upgraded ADA facilities to ensure equal access to department assets and amenities throughout the city.
- Coordination with City, County and regional development agencies ensures high quality infrastructure and transportation facilities.
- Coordination with other city departments helps ensure safe operation of city infrastructure on a daily basis, through storm events, and during construction activities.
- Recreation trails are integrated with street and bike lane networks to broaden the City's transportation system, ease traffic congestion, and promote active transportation.
- Trail development supports multi-modal transportation alternatives, increasing the percentage of residents favorably rating ease of travel by bicycle or walking in Loveland.
- The PROL&T Master Plan aids in planning for future infrastructure to support forecasted residential growth.
- Bridges, underpasses, and irrigation ditch crossings support and build on the city's existing transportation network providing safe, off-street alternatives

Focus Area: **FISCAL STABILITY & STRENGTH**

2020 Strategic Plan
Desired Outcome(s)
for which the Parks &
Recreation
Department plays a
key role

- The Department demonstrates accountability and responsible management of public funds and resources.

Key activities already
being performed or
planned by the Parks
& Recreation
Department in
support of this focus
area

- The Parks & Recreation Department prioritizes key community projects, and receives Council supported funding and approval for those projects, through the City's established budget process and Capital Improvement Program.
- Grants, partnerships, and IGAs will be utilized to minimize Department expense and maximize available resources and the impact of taxpayer dollars in and for the community.
- Where possible, utilize alternative funding methods outside of the General Fund, including special funds and CEF funding, to accomplish maintenance and capital project construction.
- Align programming efforts and price setting to cost recovery objectives and goals to ensure responsible use of tax subsidy for service areas, programs, and asset management.
- Asset depreciation tracking is utilized to ensure timely replacement of aging assets which may pose threats to safety and/or for which ongoing maintenance is cost prohibitive.
- Cost recovery, recreation program affordability, and asset management are balanced to maximize effectiveness of taxpayer dollars.
- Department special events and tournaments draw tourism and sales tax dollars to the City from participant and attendee food, lodging, gas and retail purchases.

Focus Area: LIVABILITY	
2020 Strategic Plan Desired Outcome(s) for which the Parks & Recreation Department plays a key role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People engage in diverse cultural and recreational opportunities. • City amenities, services and events are accessible and available to all community members.
Key activities already being performed or planned by the Parks & Recreation Department in support of this focus area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse, accessible, and affordable recreational opportunities increase resident participation in events, programs, and classes resulting in improved resident physical and mental health and a stronger sense of community. • A well-managed, engaging, and attractive parks and recreation system supports Loveland's quality of life. • Parks and Recreation facilities serve as the home of community and sporting events and community festivals which build on the character and attractiveness of our community and strengthen Loveland's image. • Park development guidelines help ensure residents have access to quality parks within a 10-minute walk. • Strong community support for Parks and Recreation in Loveland is evidenced through community survey and engagement feedback. • Ongoing collaboration with the Library and Cultural Services ensures integrated city educational, recreational, and cultural programming is available to all. • ADA and DEIB facility support. Park and facility access improvements align with the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Implementation Plan. Facility improvements and renovations will include upgraded ADA facilities to ensure equal access to department assets and amenities throughout the city. • The Department's work supports the three pillars of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) – Health and Wellness, Conservation and Social Equity.

Focus Area: SUSTAINABILITY	
2020 Strategic Plan Desired Outcome(s) for which the Parks & Recreation Department plays a key role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural resources are protected and sustainable practices are in place to protect our city's legacy.
Key activities already being performed or planned by the Parks & Recreation Department in support of this focus area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A systematic Open Space Buffer Plan will be developed and implemented to ensure buffers between Loveland and Fort Collins. The Department's Urban Forestry program will help ensure the health and safety of our urban forest, resulting in cleaner air and water, reduced noise pollution, improved aesthetic appeal and increased real estate values. Sustainable park and open land development and management practices, such as resource conservation measures and the reuse of materials, support the wise use of City resources. Preservation of open lands, natural areas, greenbelts, and the riparian corridor supports the quality of Loveland's natural environment, increases habitat and ecological functions, improves water and air quality, and allows future generations the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of Loveland's natural open spaces. Department properties will be managed in coordination with Wildland Urban Interface best management practices and in collaboration with the city's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Focus Area: **INNOVATION & ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

2020 Strategic Plan
Desired Outcome(s)
for which the Parks &
Recreation
Department plays a
key role

- We demonstrate accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement.
- Data and performance measures are tracked and used to make decisions and allocate resources.
- We deliver excellent service.
- Technology is leveraged to create efficiencies and deliver higher impact results.
- City employees are dedicated, high-quality, public service professionals.
- We value and appreciate our City employees.

Key activities already
being performed or
planned by the Parks
& Recreation
Department in
support of this focus
area

- Continued succession planning and adherence to the City's hiring guide and orientation process ensures quality Parks and Recreation employees.
- High-quality customer service, combined with high levels of interaction with the community and residents, resulting in a higher percentage of residents favorably rating City of Loveland customer service.
- Recreation facilities and programs support employee (as well as resident) mental health and wellness.
- Data and performance measures inform decision-making and allocation of resources.
- Accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement are key factors inherent in all Department-related decisions.
- CAPRA accreditation demonstrates that the Department meets or exceeds national standards of best practice for excellence in operations and service.
- Department facilities adhere to City facility safety protocols.

Focus Area: OUTREACH, COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT

2020 Strategic Plan Desired Outcome(s) for which the Parks & Recreation Department plays a key role	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have a comprehensive City-wide communication strategy and a coordinated, systematic implementation plan.• Timely, complete information is communicated to the public.• We collaborate to leverage resources and deliver higher impact results.• We actively seek citizen engagement.
Key activities already being performed or planned by the Parks & Recreation Department in support of this focus area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A timely, transparent, and accessible public information and registration process increases public satisfaction with City recreation opportunities.• Department commitment to working with key partners and stakeholders, leveraging resources to support park development and recreation programs.• Citizen and stakeholder engagement in Master Planning and site planning ensures integration of community priorities and needs into new recreation projects and initiatives.• Ongoing website and software improvements for the Parks & Recreation Department aids in effective communication with the public.• Volunteerism is supported as a critical leisure activity with volunteer options in Open Lands, Trails, Youth Recreation, Special Events and more.

Plan Organization

Following this introduction (**Chapter I**), this document is organized as follows:

Chapter II: Existing System provides an overview of the present-day state of the parks and recreation system, focusing on the critical issues impacting parks and recreation.

Chapter III: Community Needs and Priorities describes the local demographics, the common themes that emerged from community engagement, and an assessment of park distribution and service levels.

Chapter IV: Access and Needs evaluates community needs, facilities, and program to support recreation and resource protection. Provides a technical analysis of access, service levels and needs.

Chapter V: Standards, Guidelines and Policies establishes parks and recreation system service level standards and provides guidelines and policies concerning acquisition, distribution, development and management of lands and facilities.

Chapter VI: Recommendations responds to the community needs described in Chapter III and the standards established in Chapter IV by presenting short and long-term recommendations for system and service improvements.

Chapter VII: Implementation Plan presents preliminary cost estimates for Master Plan projects to be initiated or completed in the next seven to ten years. It notes potential funding sources for implementation, as well as longer term funding needs.

Six appendices provide additional details relevant to this plan. These include:

Appendix A: System Inventory documents all parks, open lands, specialized facilities, public grounds, and art installations in the Loveland system.

Appendix B: School District Recreation Facilities lists the sports fields and recreation facilities owned and managed by Thompson School District that are available for City use per the City/School District's Joint Use Agreement.

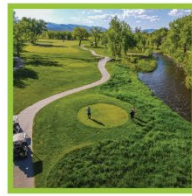
Appendix C: Access and Opportunities Analysis presents the results of 10-minute walk access and opportunities analysis that informs the summary of greenspace needs.

Appendix D: Development Guidelines for Parks and Open Lands documents City directions for planning, design, and development of parks and open lands, organized by site classification.

Appendix E: Open Lands Evaluation Criteria outlines City evaluation criteria for proposed open land acquisitions.

Appendix F: Guidelines for Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas defines City guidelines for protection of environmentally sensitive areas and guides development review standards.

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PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Chapter II: Existing System

Loveland's Parks & Recreation Department manages greenspace, recreation facilities and programming through six different divisions:

- Administrative and Business Services Division
- Golf Division
- Open Lands and Trails Division
- Parks Division
- Planning Division
- Recreation Division

In the past, parks, open lands and trails, golf, and recreation programs and facilities were inventoried and planned for separately by division. However, the Department has found that these divisions, working and planning together, can leverage resources to support similar community needs. For example, accessible open lands may help address park-deficient areas by providing park-like facilities and amenities. Park access can be supported by strategically developing trails. Recreation programming occurs across the department's inventory of facilities. This chapter describes Loveland's greenspace, facilities, and programs as an integrated system.

Land Classifications and Functions

The Parks & Recreation Department has begun categorizing its greenspace across a spectrum of uses to guide park and open lands management. Figure 2-1 provides an overview of the classification system. Appendix A presents the inventories of land, amenities, and facilities within these classifications. On the next several pages, the land use classifications are defined by division.

FIGURE 2-1 LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND FUNCTION									
	OPEN LANDS				PARKS			GOLF	PUBLIC GROUNDS
Classification	Nature Preserves	Natural Areas	Local Open Spaces	Community Open Spaces	Neighborhood Parks	Community Parks	Civic Spaces	Golf Courses	Beautification Areas and Cemeteries
Level of Development	No public access and no development	Access with no development	Limited development	Moderate development	Moderate development	Extensive development	Extensive development	Extensive development and landscape maintenance	Extensive landscape maintenance
Natural Resource Value	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Definition/Intent	Open lands with unique landscapes and high ecological value that protect or restore natural resources, agriculture and habitat.	Open lands that protect landscapes and open space from development, contribute to urban aesthetics, and provide habitat.	Open lands and corridors that are minimally developed to support habitat connectivity, self-directed recreation and access to natural areas.	City's most utilized open land destinations intended to support nature interpretation, environmental education, self-directed recreation, outdoor play, and other programs. These are typically large open land sites that also provide wildlife habitat and corridors.	Small parks that serve nearby neighbors with basic recreation opportunities and play space. They typically range in size from five to ten acres.	Larger, multi-purpose sites that support a variety of recreation opportunities and provide specialized facilities with appeal for the entire community. These parks typically support organized, active recreation activities (such as sports) and large-group gatherings. Community parks may include natural areas to support recreation and other benefits. They typically range in size from 30 to 100 acres.	Spaces that serve the entire community and contribute to the aesthetics of the City. These public spaces may have recreational value and vary in size depending on their function and use.	Developed golf facilities operated as an Enterprise Fund.	Manicured, maintained landscaped areas that support city aesthetics and cemetery operations. These public spaces include landscaped areas around buildings, street rights-of-way and medians, detention basins, and small pocket parks with little or no recreation value.
Essential Elements	N/A	N/A	Trails, kiosk, parking, interpretive signage	Parking, restrooms, kiosks, trails, benches, interpretive signage, picnic shelters, fishing piers and docks, outdoor classrooms, and nature play features.	Play equipment, open turf play area, small group picnic shelters, sports fields and courts	Large thematic play area, open turf play area, large group picnic shelters, lighted sports fields and courts (variety), small and large unique recreation features (e.g., splashpad, skatepark, disc golf, dog park), loop trail (walking/biking), art/Interpretive elements, restrooms	Depends on site use	Clubhouse, 9-hole course, practice green, maintenance area, parking, restrooms	Trees, plantings, and/or other ground coverings.
Examples	Boedecker West, Centennial	Trailwood Natural Area	Cottonwood Run, Emerald Glen Natural Area, Meadowbrook Natural Area, Boise Bend	River's Edge Natural Area/Jayhawker Ponds, Oxbow Natural Area, Morey Wildlife Reserve	Eagleview Park, Sunnyside Park, Namaqua Park, Garfield Park	Mehaffey Park, Fairgrounds Park (and Barnes Softball Complex), Loveland Sports Park, Kroh Park	Civic Center Park, Benson Park & Sculpture Garden, South Shore Parkway	Mariana Butte Golf Course and Clubhouse, Cattail Creek Golf Course and Clubhouse, The Olde Course at Loveland	1st & Tyler Detention, Fire Station #2, Service Center, Thompson Pocket Park, Loveland Burial Park, Lakeside Cemetery
Common Uses	Playing on Playgrounds/Drop-in Use				X	X	X		
	Playing Sports				X	X		X	
	Swimming/Water Play					X			
	Special Events					X	X	X	
	Family and Neighborhood Gatherings				X	X	X		
	Picnicking				X	X			
	Birdwatching			X					
	Photography and Art Viewing			X		X	X		
	Walking/Running			X	X	X	X		
	Biking			X		X			
	Dog Walking			X	X	X	X		
	Hiking			X					
	Skating/Skateboarding					X			
	Nature and Water Viewing/Interpretation			X		X			
	Fishing			X		X			
	Non-Motorized Boating								
	Educational Programming					X			
	Outdoor Programs					X	X	X	
	Concessions					X		X	
	Reservations and Rentals					X		X	
Focus Areas	Big Thompson River	X	X	X					
	Foothills/Mountains	X		X					
	Trail Corridors			X					
	Wildlife Corridors	X	X	X					
	Community Separators		X	X					
	Neighborhood Nature Areas		X	X					

Parks

The City of Loveland has approximately 600 acres of parkland at 34 sites ranging in size from 0.7 to 87.1 acres. These parklands consist of both developed and undeveloped lands. By the current classification, these sites are comprised of 19 neighborhood parks, 6 community parks, 5 civic spaces, and 4 undeveloped park sites as defined below.

- **Neighborhood Parks:** Neighborhood parks are small parks that serve nearby neighbors with essential recreation opportunities and play space. They typically range in size from 5 to 10 acres and serve an approximate travel distance of ½ mile or a 10-minute walk.
- **Community Parks:** Community parks are larger, multi-purpose sites that support a variety of recreation opportunities and provide specialized facilities with appeal for the entire community. These parks typically support organized, active recreation activities (such as sports) and large-group gatherings. Community parks may include natural areas to support recreation and other benefits. They typically range in size from 30 to 100 acres and serve residents the local and regional communities.
- **Civic Space:** Civic spaces serve the entire community and contribute to the aesthetics of the City. These public spaces may have recreational value and vary in size depending on their function and use. Loveland does not have a service guideline for civic spaces. Such spaces are not actively pursued by the city but are acquired or managed in connection with other development projects that present opportunities for creation of civic spaces.
- **Undeveloped Parkland:** These unimproved City-owned properties are held for future park development and recreation use. Sites may not allow current park access and are not shown on the spectrum of existing uses.

Table 2-1 summarizes the park inventory. Details are provided in Appendix A Table A-1 which presents the full park inventory by classification and site.

Table 2-1: City of Loveland Parks

Classification	# of Sites	Developed Acres	Undeveloped Acres	Total Acres	Examples
Neighborhood Parks	19	91.0	1.2	92.2	Eagleview Park, Loch Lon Park, Silver Lake Park
Community Parks	6	327.5	51.6	379.2	Centennial Park, Loveland Sports Park, Mehaffey Park
Civic Spaces	5	39.2	0	39.2	Benson Park & Sculpture Garden, Civic Center Park, South Shore Parkway
Undeveloped Parkland	3	0	80.0	80.0	Future Willow Bend Neighborhood Park parcel, Dakota Ridge Neighborhood Park parcel, Future Northwest Community Park parcel
TOTAL	34	457.7	142.8	600.6	

Open Lands

The City of Loveland inventories its open lands and categorizes them based on public access and level of development. Overall, the City owns approximately 5,566 acres. Of the 45 sites managed by the City, 7 sites contain portions owned or co-owned by other entities. In some cases, the City neither owns nor operates the site, but contributed to its acquisition or holds the conservation easement to assure resource values are conserved. Additionally, maintenance and management responsibilities vary site-by-site.

The open land categories are described below.

- **Nature Preserves:** Nature preserves are open lands with unique landscapes and high ecological value that protect or restore natural resources, agriculture, and wildlife habitat. These are typically sites with no public access and no developed features.
- **Natural Areas:** Natural areas protect landscapes and open space from development, contribute to urban aesthetics, and provide wildlife habitat. These are typically sites with public access, but no developed features.
- **Local Open Spaces:** Open lands and corridors that are minimally developed to support habitat connectivity, self-directed recreation, and access to natural areas are called local open spaces. These are typically sites with public access and some developed features.
- **Community Open Spaces:** Community open spaces are the City's most utilized open land destinations intended to support nature interpretation, environmental education, self-directed recreation, outdoor play, and other programs. These are typically sites with public access, highly developed features, and large open lands that provide wildlife habitat and corridors.

Table 2-2: City of Loveland Open Lands

Classification	# of Sites	Developed Acres*	Undeveloped Acres	Total Acres Including Partnerships**	Loveland Owned Acres	Examples
Nature Preserves	9	0	1,703.2	1,703.2	616.7	Boedecker West Parcel, Lazy J Bar S Conservation Easement (CE)
Natural Areas	8	1.7	193.9	195.6	173.9	Namaqua Natural Area and Oxbow Natural Area
Local Open Spaces	13	14.9	399	413.9	413.9	Boise Bend, Morey Wildlife Reserve, Cottonwood Run
Community Open Spaces	15	169.6	7,493.1	7,738.8	4,361.5	River's Edge Natural Area, Prairie Ridge Natural Area
TOTAL	45	186.2	9,789.3	10,051.5	5,566.1	

*Developed acres are those with features such as trails, shelters, parking, etc.

** Total acres includes acres owned by the City of Loveland as well as acres of land Loveland co-owned in partnership with other communities such as Fort Collins and Larimer County.

Golf

The City owns and manages three municipal golf courses. These include Cattail Creek Golf Course, a 9-hole course, and The Olde Course at Loveland and Mariana Butte Golf Course, both 18-hole courses. A "Start New at Golf" (SNAG) mini course is also located at Cattail Creek. Together, the courses total approximately 406 acres. Because these facilities are operated as an Enterprise, the lands are inventoried and classified separately from other types of parks and open lands.

Table 2-3: City of Loveland Golf Courses

Name of Golf Course	# of Holes	Total Acres
Cattail Creek Golf Course and Clubhouse	9	52.0
Mariana Butte Golf Course and Clubhouse	18	221.9
The Olde Course at Loveland (Golf Course and Clubhouse)	18	132.4
TOTAL	45	406.3

Public Grounds

The Parks Division maintains more than 90 acres of landscaped public grounds, which are inventoried by site in Appendix A, Table A-4. Public grounds are classified in two categories:

- **Beautification Areas:** Beautification areas are public spaces maintained as aesthetically pleasing landscapes, such as landscaped areas around City-owned buildings, street rights-of-way and medians, detention basins, and small pocket parks (less than 0.2 acres) with little or no recreation value. The City maintains approximately 27.6 acres of beautification areas.
- **Cemetery:** Lakeside Cemetery/Loveland Burial Park (47 combined acres) is operated as one site, separated by Highway 287, which is maintained and operated by the City. The City offers a wide array of services from cremain inurnments to full internment. It is also responsible for the Perpetual Care Fund and handles all cemetery grounds maintenance.

Table 2-4: City of Loveland Public Grounds

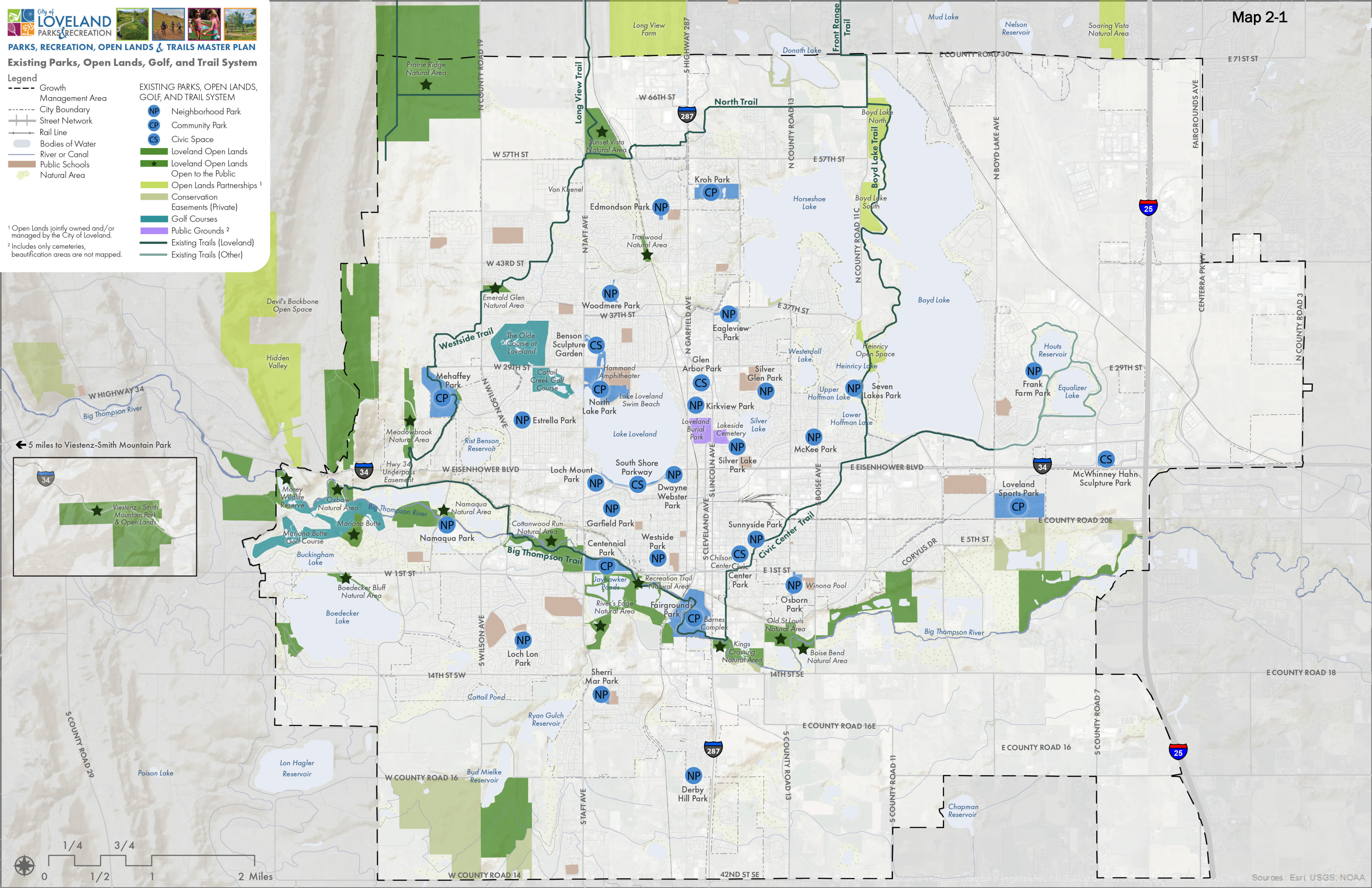
Classification	# of Sites	Total Acres	Examples
Beautification Area	27	27.6	Xeriscape Garden, Thompson Pocket Park, SW 14 th Street Median, 1 st Street & Tyler Avenue Detention
Cemetery	1	47.0	Lakeside Cemetery/Loveland Burial Park
TOTAL	28	74.6	

Legend

- Growth
 - - - - Management Area
 - - - - City Boundary
 - ++ Street Network
 - Rail Line
 - Bodies of Water
 - River or Canal
 - Public Schools
 - Natural Area
- EXISTING PARKS, OPEN LANDS, GOLF, AND TRAIL SYSTEM**
- NP Neighborhood Park
 - CP Community Park
 - CS Civic Space
 - Loveland Open Lands
 - ★ Loveland Open Lands Open to the Public
 - Open Lands Partnerships ¹
 - Conservation Easements (Private)
 - Golf Courses
 - Public Grounds ²
 - Existing Trails (Loveland)
 - Existing Trails (Other)

¹ Open Lands jointly owned and/or managed by the City of Loveland.

² Includes only cemeteries, beautification areas are not mapped.



Facility Types

Department amenities and facilities include a wide variety of developed features in parks, open lands, and golf courses, ranging from a small park bench to a large, multipurpose recreation center. Some of these facilities, such as meeting rooms and picnic shelters, are available for reservation. For planning purposes, recreation amenities and facilities are described in four categories: specialized recreation facilities, sports and outdoor recreation facilities, amenities, and trails. Table 2-5 summarizes the inventory of specialized recreation facilities, sports and outdoor recreation facilities, and amenities.

Specialized Recreation Facilities

Specialized recreation facilities include buildings and other major structures that are likely to generate revenue or support fee-based activities and require staffing. They may incorporate a variety of indoor recreation facilities and spaces. Examples of specialized recreation facilities include recreation centers, aquatic facilities, senior centers, golf course clubhouses and facilities, environmental education centers, amphitheaters, and historic buildings. Table 2-6 summarizes the indoor features within specialized recreation facilities.

Sports and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Sports and outdoor recreation facilities support different types of outdoor recreation opportunities, both active and passive. These facilities are located in parks and open lands where appropriate as per Development Guidelines. Examples include sports fields and courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds, spray parks, skate parks, dog parks, and fishing docks.

Amenities

Amenities are features provided in parks, open lands and facilities that support user activities or contribute to the character of the site. Examples include parking, restrooms, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles, signage, concessions, art, memorials, and flag poles.

Trails

Trails include off-street and on-street, hard or soft-surfaced recreation trails connecting parks, open lands, neighborhoods, commercial and civic spaces. More than access pathways, these amenities provide opportunities for walking, hiking, biking, dog walking, rollerblading, and other non-motorized activities. In addition to the 23.98 miles of paved trails associated with the City Recreation Trail System, there are 7.65 miles of other paved trails associated with park and open land areas and 28.05 miles of soft-surfaced trails at City sites throughout the community. Some trails, like the Round Mountain Trail, are not owned by the City but are managed by the City under a memorandum of understanding. The trail types are noted in Table 2-7 and in Appendix A Table A-6.

Table 2-5: Recreation Facilities Inventory (as of 12/31/2022)

Classification	# of Developed Facilities	Land Classifications			
		Open Lands	Parks	Golf Courses	Public Grounds
Specialized Recreation Facilities					
Golf Course/Club House	3			✓	
Recreation/Senior Center	1				✓
Outdoor Pool	1		✓		
Swim Beach	1		✓		
Environmental Education Center	1	✓			
Amphitheater/Stage	2		✓		
Batting Cages	1		✓		
Sports and Outdoor Recreation Facilities					
Athletic Fields (Soccer, Football)	43		✓		
Synthetic Turf Field	1		✓		
Baseball/Softball Fields	28		✓		
Basketball Courts	10		✓		
Volleyball Courts	2		✓		
Tennis Courts	25		✓		
Pickleball Courts	18		✓		
Disc Golf Course (9 Hole)	1		✓		
Outdoor Fitness Courts	1		✓		
In-line Hockey Rink	2		✓		
Spray Park	3		✓		
Skate Park	3		✓		
Dog Park	2		✓		
Horseshoe Pits	13		✓		
Fishing Access	18	✓	✓		
Traditional Playgrounds	29		✓		
Nature Play Areas	1	✓			
Pavilion, Shelter, or Gazebo*	27	✓	✓		
Amenities*					
Off-street Parking	32	✓	✓	✓	
Restrooms	37	✓	✓	✓	
Sites with Public Art**	14	✓	✓	✓	
Sites with Picnic Areas**	24	✓	✓		
Sites with Water Access	14	✓	✓		
Concessions/Vending	8		✓	✓	
Interpretive Signage	12	✓	✓		
Trails					
Paved Surface	20	✓	✓		
Soft Surface	17	✓	✓		
Trailhead	22	✓	✓		

*The numbers shown for amenities reflect the number of sites where these amenities are present, rather than the actual numbers of individual amenities across the system.

**Does not include facilities in open lands.

Table 2-6: Specialized Recreation Facilities

Indoor Facility	# of Facilities
Indoor Aquatic Facility	1
Gymnasiums	2
Racquetball Court	3
Aerobics / Dance Studio	1
Exercise Track	1
Fitness Atrium	1
Free Weight Area	1
Gymnastics Room	1
Multi-purpose Room	3
Indoor Lounge	3
Classrooms*	4
Rental/Conference Rooms	3

*Includes 3 rooms in Chilson Recreation Center & Senior Center, and 1 room in the Environmental Education Center

Table 2-7: Trail Inventory Summary

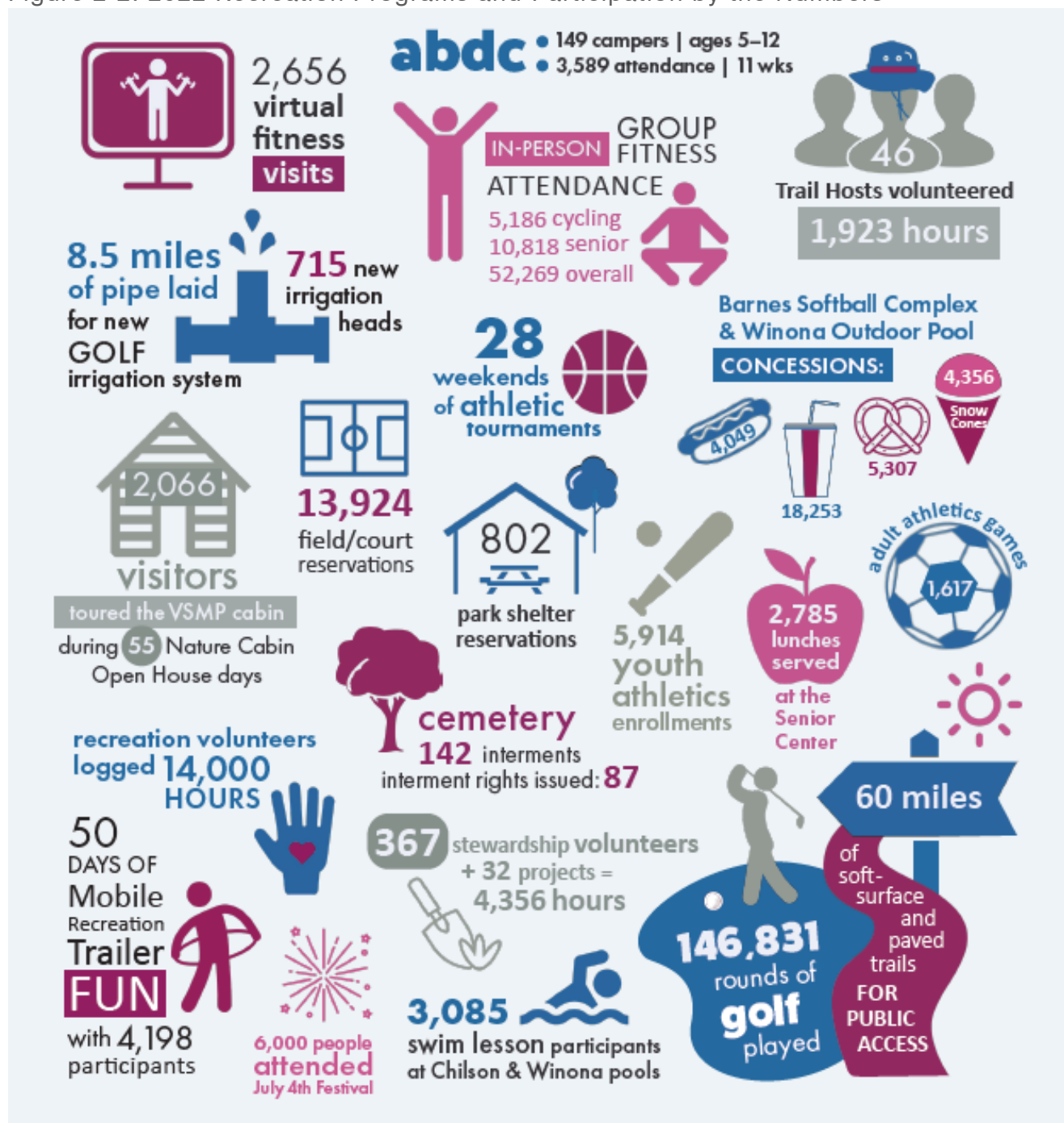
Classification	Paved Trail Miles	Soft Surface Trail Miles	Examples
Recreation Trail	23.98	0	Recreation Trail System, Front Range Trail
Trail Loops at Park Sites	3.67	0.57	Fairgrounds Park (and Barnes Softball Complex), North Lake Park
Open Land Properties and Other Department Owned Sites	1.89	23.14	Boedecker Bluff Natural Area, Sunset Vista Natural Area
Partnership Sites and Other Trails	2.09	4.41	McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park, Round Mountain Trail
TOTAL	31.63	28.05	

Recreation Programming

The City of Loveland offers a variety of recreation programs and events to the community. The Loveland Parks & Recreation Annual Report (2022) and Parks & Recreation Activity Guides (2022) illustrate the scope and variety of recreation programs and events offered. These include programs and events in the following service areas:

- **Athletics/Sports:** Leagues, camps and classes supporting youth and adult athletics, emphasizing skill development.
- **Aquatics:** Classes and programs such as Lifeguard Certification and Learn to Swim, special events and drop-in opportunities such as water fitness, lap swimming, water walking and open swimming.
- **Health, Wellness and Fitness:** Programs and classes such as personal training, Tai Chi, TRX and healthy eating/living, and drop-in opportunities such as yoga, indoor cycling and weight training.
- **Specialized Classes and Activities:** Specialized programs and classes for individualized groups, such as senior services and socials, adaptive recreation activities, youth and teen enrichment programs and camps, childcare, and preschool programs.
- **General Instruction and Recreation:** Programs and classes such as general instruction, general interest, cultural and fine arts, cooking, science.
- **Nature/Outdoor Recreation:** Programs, classes and trips supporting outdoor adventure, environmental education, nature interpretation and outdoor skill development.
- **Special Events:** Community events, farmers markets, fairs, mobile recreation, sports tournaments, holiday events, and festivals.

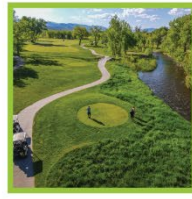
Figure 2-2: 2022 Recreation Programs and Participation by the Numbers



Other Land, Facility, and Program Providers

While the City of Loveland is the major provider of parks, recreation facilities, golf courses, trails and open lands in the planning area, other entities also play important roles. The planning process will consider amenities and facilities provided by others to avoid unnecessary duplication of services, to allow for a wider range of recreation opportunities in the region, and to identify partnership opportunities for parks, recreation, and open lands. In some cases, these partnerships already exist. Other major providers include:

- **Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW):** The State owns and manages Boyd Lake State Park as well as several State Wildlife Areas such as Simpson Ponds State Wildlife Area, Lon Hagler and Lonetree Reservoirs. CPW sets and enforces laws and regulations for site use, develops site management plans and surveys properties.
- **Larimer County:** The County manages The Ranch - Fairgrounds and Events Complex in the northeastern corner of the planning area. It also owns, manages, or partners on several open land sites, such as Devil's Backbone Open Space and Big Thompson Parks. Larimer County Division of Natural Resources also offers camping and RV facilities at a few sites near Loveland, including Carter Lake and Horsetooth Reservoir.
- **Surrounding Communities:** Loveland is located adjacent to several communities including Fort Collins, Windsor, Johnstown, and Berthoud. These communities offer varying levels of private and public leisure programs, open lands, trails and facilities. The regional use of services can be reciprocal, with residents of other communities who reside or work close to Loveland using Loveland facilities and programs and vice versa. This synergism will have an impact on the provision of and needs for services.
- **Homeowners Associations (HOAs):** Within Loveland and surrounding communities, several different Homeowners Associations provide parks, trails and/or open lands in many neighborhoods. HOA parks may meet close-to-home recreation needs in some areas even though their locations are not tracked and their facilities vary widely in terms of type, size, and quality.
- **Private Providers:** In addition to public entities, there are a wide variety of private providers in Loveland and surrounding communities that provide or support recreation opportunities. These include health and sports clubs, country clubs, indoor sports facilities, pools, and privately-owned fitness and entertainment centers that draw people from throughout northern Colorado.
- **Non-profit Providers:** The Boys & Girls Club, YMCA and other non-profit providers also offer summer camp programming, childcare, sports and other activities to help fill the need for out of school programs.
- **R2-J School District:** A long-standing Intergovernmental Agreement with Thompson R2-J School District allows both entities to utilize each other's facilities, thereby maximizing use of community recreation resources. This applies to sports fields, City golf courses, tennis courts, gymnasiums, select meeting rooms and classrooms, and the District's three indoor swimming pools.



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Chapter III: Community Priorities

The input of diverse groups of residents and stakeholders from across the City ensures that this Master Plan reflects community needs. This chapter includes a demographic profile of the Loveland community and a summary of its parks and recreation preferences and priorities as identified through outreach and engagement efforts.

The Loveland Community

Loveland's demographics affect park and recreation interests and priorities as well as participation in recreation activities. Loveland is the second largest city in Larimer County, with an estimated 2022 population of 82,785 residents.¹ However, Loveland's greenspace, recreation facilities, and programs serve far more people, including individuals who work or attend school in Loveland, special event visitors, and visitors from neighboring communities and surrounding unincorporated County areas. Located at the base of the Rocky Mountain foothills, the City also welcomes visitors on their way to Rocky Mountain National Park. These user groups take advantage of City parks, open lands, trails, recreation facilities, golf courses, programs and events provided by the city.

Demographic Profile

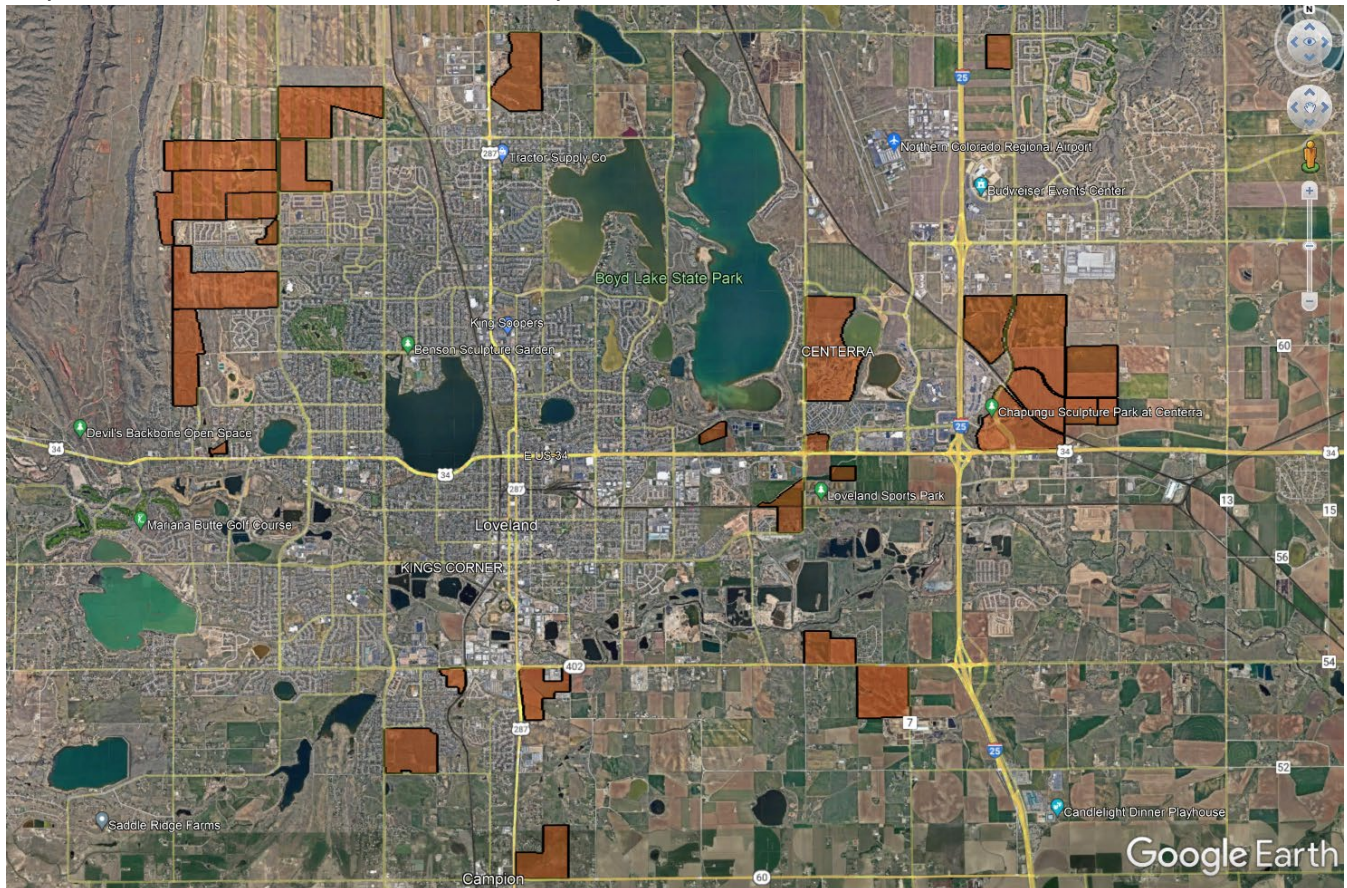
Loveland is a steadily growing community with significant new residential development forecasted for the next ten years. This growth--and the varying expectations of future new residents--is the greatest factor influencing Loveland's changing needs and priorities for parks and recreation.

New residential development areas include two major growth areas to the east and northwest, as well as several smaller growth areas throughout the city (Map 3-1). Given this new planned growth, the City of Loveland is forecasted to grow to 91,939 residents by 2027.²

¹ Source: City of Loveland Annual Data and Projections Report, December 2022

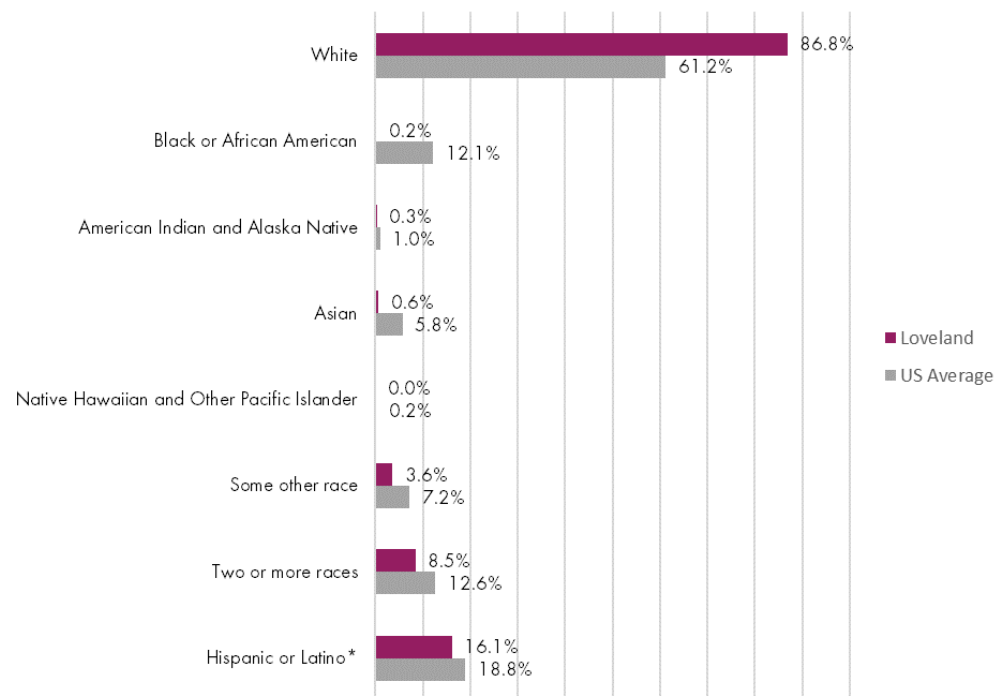
² Ibid

Map 3-1: Planned New Residential Development Areas in Loveland as of October 2022



Per 2021 United States Census Bureau data, although Loveland is less diverse than the United States on average, approximately 17% of residents identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color per (Figure 3-1). Loveland is also an aging community, with approximately 55% of its residents currently over the age of 40 (Figure 3-2). As shown by its 2021 household income, Loveland is a city of relative economic diversity—with 28% of households earning more than \$100,000 per year and 22.9% earning less than \$35,000 per year (Figure 3-3). Household income in Loveland is not as high as in Larimer County overall, resulting in less discretionary income to spend on recreation and leisure activities.

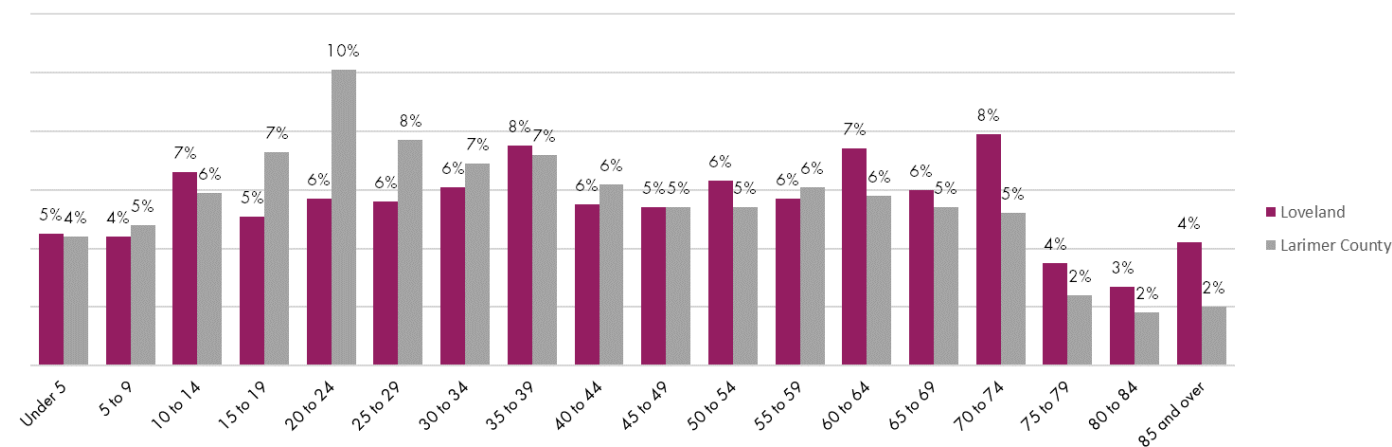
Figure 3-1: Race and Ethnicity in Loveland and U.S. (2021)



*Can be any race

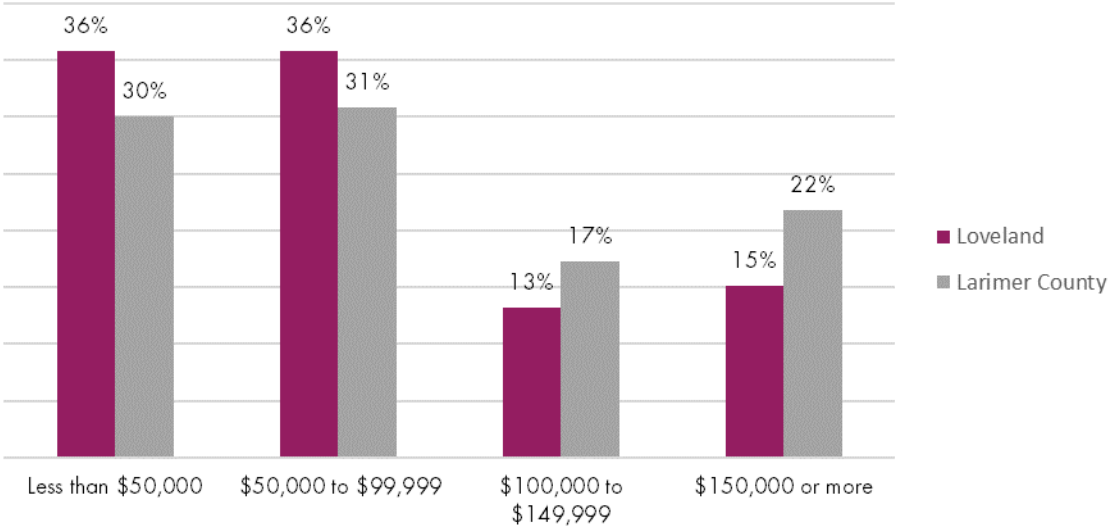
Source: US Census ACS 5-Year Survey (2021) Table B02001

Figure 3-2: Age Profile of Loveland and Larimer County (2021)



Source: US Census ACS 5-Year Survey (2021) Table S0101

Figure 3-3: Households by Income for Loveland and Larimer County (2021)



Source: US Census ACS 5-Year Survey (2021) Table S2503

Community Voices

Demographics, personal preferences, and community expectations all influence the development of priorities for parks, open lands, and recreation opportunities. Residents, City leaders, stakeholders, partners, and special interest groups were all invited to share their insights to inform the development of the Master Plan. A variety of meetings, surveys, and outreach activities helped ensure that a wide range of diverse voices were incorporated into new recommendations. Master Plan outreach activities are summarized below, along with the key cross-cutting themes that emerged from public comments.

Community Pop-Up Events

From July to August 2021, public officials, leaders, and Department staff engaged with residents at 11 community events, requesting feedback for the Master Plan. A series of display boards described the planning process and included interactive questions regarding park use, popularity of recreation facilities and activities, and desired features, facilities, and/or programs.

Parks, Recreation, Open Lands, and Trails Survey

From July to September 2021, an online parks, recreation, open lands, and trails (PROLT) survey was conducted, inviting community members to provide input on park and trail use, current needs, concerns, and preferences. The 30-question survey was posted on the City's website and distributed via email, social media, press releases, pop-up events, the City's Recreation Activity Guide, and other outreach methods. The online survey was open to anyone who wanted a voice in the planning process, ages 12 and over. While survey results should not be interpreted as being statistically representative, the results help identify common and shared themes, concerns, and priorities.

Prioritization Survey

In November 2022, the City conducted a 3-week survey to assess community priorities for various types of projects, programs, and services. The results informed the Implementation Plan outlined in Chapter 7.

Advisory Meetings and Workshops

Throughout the planning process, several advisory groups were involved providing direction, reviewing materials, and ensuring the Master Plan represents community needs and priorities. These include:

- Parks & Recreation Division Manager work sessions
- Loveland City Council Study Session and Public Meeting
- Parks and Recreation Commission (monthly updates 2021-2023)
- Open Lands and Trails Advisory Commission (monthly updates 2021-2023)
- Joint commission Prioritization meeting with (list commissions)

541 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC EVENTS.

956 PEOPLE RESPONDED TO THE PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS, AND TRAILS SURVEY.

1,356 PEOPLE RESPONDED TO THE PRIORITIZATION SURVEY

64 STAFF AND ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN ADVISORY MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Draft Master Plan Review

Before bringing the final recommended Master Plan to the City Council, the following opportunities were available for additional community input:

- Community Priorities Workshop – November 2022
- Public Review- Plan posted on the City Website for review and comment
- Parks and Recreation Commission- March 2023
- Open Lands and Trails Advisory Commission – March 2023
- Golf Advisory Board- March 2023

Throughout the community meetings, surveys, and outreach activities, seven over-arching themes emerged. These are discussed in detail in this chapter including highlights from survey findings shown below.

Increasing Visitation and Use

Engagement results show an extremely high and growing rate of visitation for City parks, facilities, and open lands. Increased visitation is resulting in a greater use of facilities, parks and open lands and an increasing importance on maintenance and expansion.

Over 65% of survey respondents reported using Loveland parks, open lands, and trails weekly, while 34% frequent them daily. Additionally, more than half of survey respondents visited the following types of parks and facilities at least once a year: City trails (76%), parks near their home (70%), open lands (67%), larger parks (66%), and the Chilson Recreation and Senior Center (51%). Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic increased visitation and the importance of access to outdoor recreation opportunities. A total of 64% of survey respondents agreed that parks, trails, and open land areas are more important now than they were before the pandemic. Nearly 50% of respondents reported spending more time at City parks and facilities in the last year than they did before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over-Arching Themes

- Increasing Visitation and Use
- Trail Connections
- Open Lands Preservation and Enhancements
- New Amenities and Facilities
- Diversified Golf Offerings
- Enhanced Programming
- Stewardship and Maintaining Assets

Figure 3-4: Park Use Frequency (PROLT Survey Findings)

Knowing last year was an unusual year, how frequently did you typically visit your favorite site or other parks, natural areas and trails in Loveland in the past year?

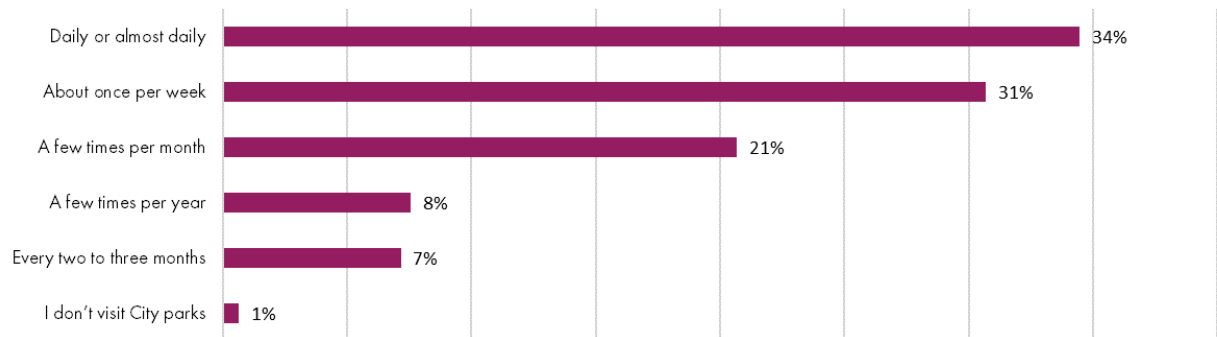


Figure 3-5: City Park and Facility Visitation (PROLT Survey Findings)

In a typical year, do you visit . . . ? (Check all that apply.)

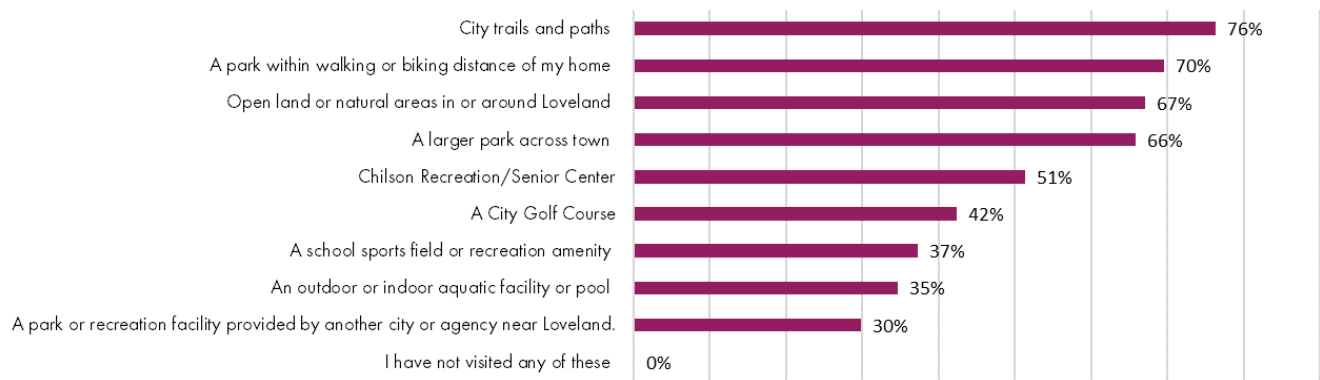


Figure 3-6: Importance of Parks and Recreation (PROLT Survey Findings)

Knowing 2021 was an unusual year, given those changes...

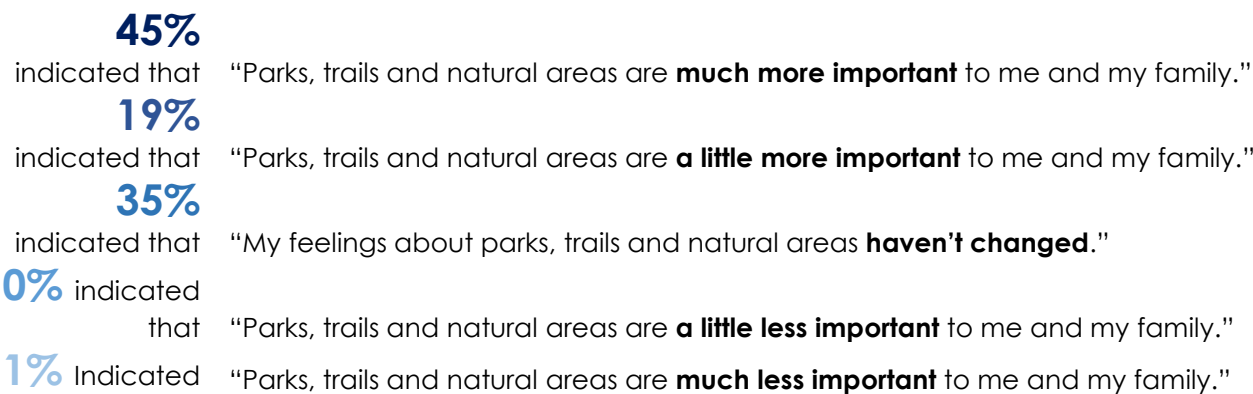


Figure 3-7: Favorite Places for Recreation in Loveland (Pop-Up Event Findings)

FAVORITE PLACES IN LOVELAND

Roughly scaled
by the amount
of participants
who voted for
the place



Note: This graphic includes lands and facilities owned by the City of Loveland, Larimer County and the State of Colorado. Loveland's residents enjoy easy access to and recreational use of these many amenities. The Master Plan aims to provide access and connections to and from these amenities, and operational synergy between the City and various local and regional partner providers.

Trail Connections

Most engagement respondents agreed that Loveland needs more trails, pathways, and bike routes (61%). Forty-four percent (44%) of survey respondents, and the majority of pop-up event respondents, reported that they currently enjoy walking and biking within Loveland. However, many also noted that trail enhancements are needed to improve safety (i.e., underpasses, crossings, and pedestrian/traffic separation). Respondents would use paths and bikeways more frequently if they safely linked from neighborhoods to parks, schools, and other community destinations (according to 32%), if there were more nature trails (according to 28%), and if there were additional parking/trailhead options (according to 25%). The largest percentage of survey respondents (26%) listed multi-use trails as the most needed park feature system-wide, followed by nature trails (24%). Thirty-five percent of respondents say that building more trails and paths should be a top funding priority.

Figure 3-8: Use and Need for Trails, Pathways, and Bike Routes (PROLT Survey Findings)

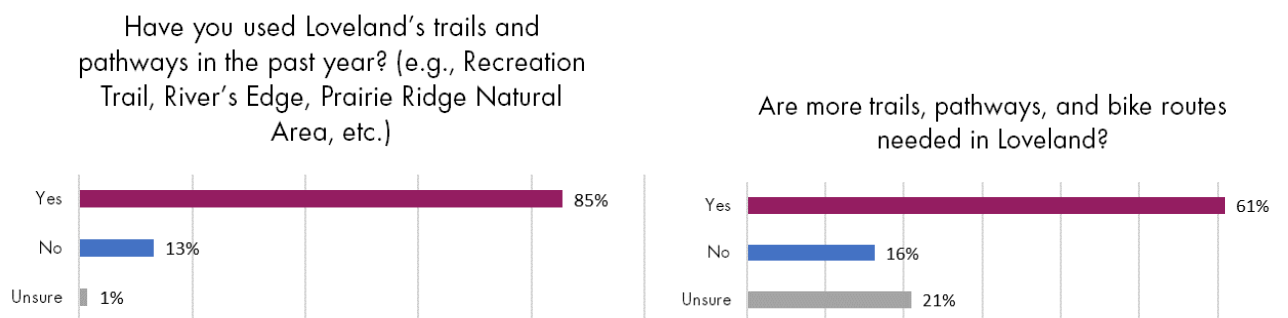
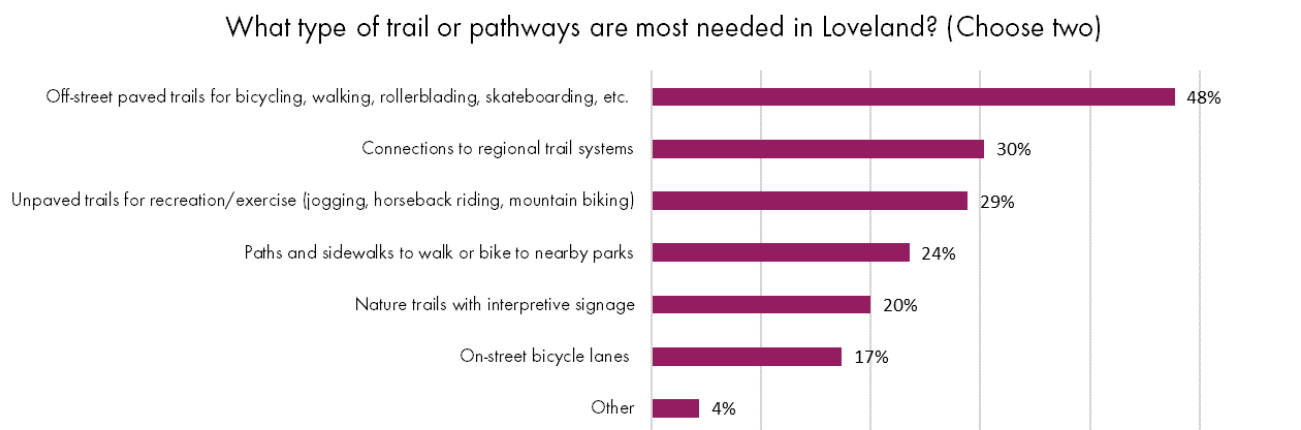


Figure 3-9: Needed Trail Types (PROLT Survey Findings)



Open Land Preservation and Enhancements

Loveland residents relish the opportunity to connect to nature. The most popular three activities identified at community pop-up events were outdoor activities that typically occur in open lands. It is also one of the priorities that many survey respondents (46%) would like to see the City prioritize through investments. Respondents noted that they would like to see an identity for Loveland as a place with abundant outdoor recreation opportunities (46% / #1). Community members agreed that protecting or enhancing open lands and natural areas is the top priority for them and their families (45%).

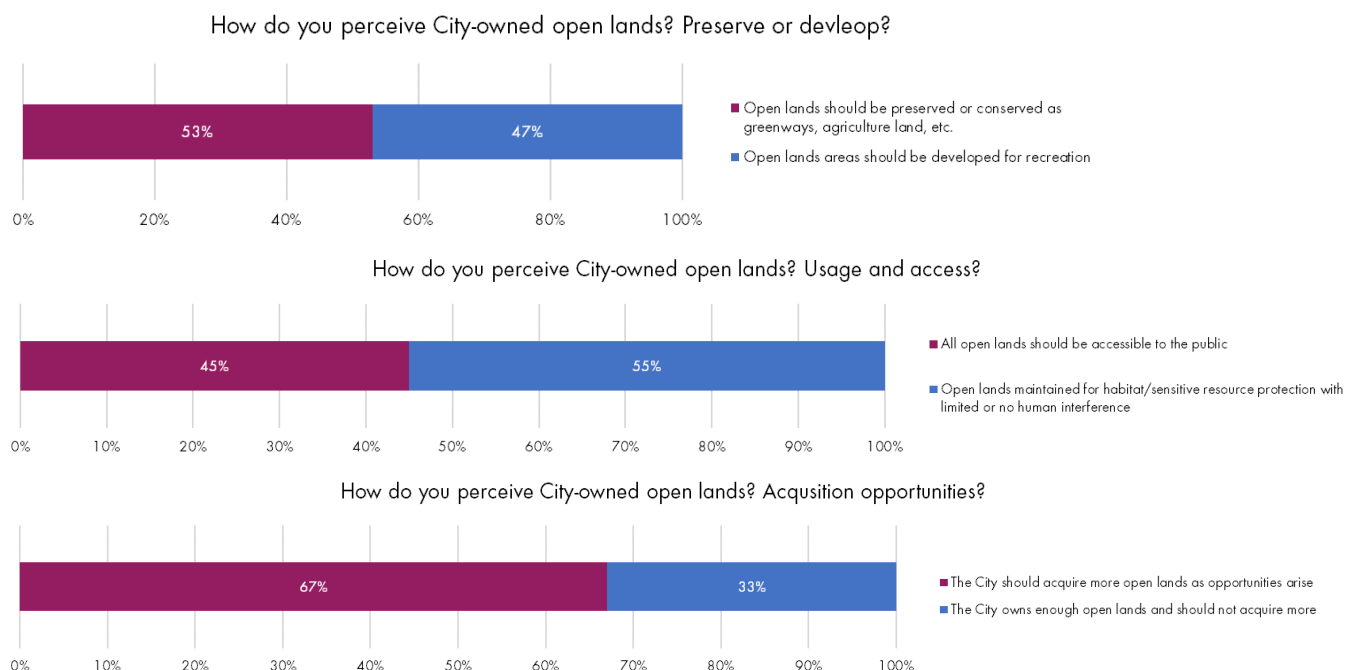
Survey respondents were somewhat split in their responses when considering whether open spaces should be preserved or developed as recreational park space. Likewise, the question about whether to provide public access or maintain sensitive habitat provided a balanced response, indicating residents value both options. More survey respondents indicated that they were in favor of acquiring more open lands as opportunities arise (an average of 66% of the responses were in favor of targeted acquisition).

Figure 3-10: Top 5 Park Activities (Pop-Up Event Findings)



Numbers provided represent the amount of participants who voted for the activity.

Figure 3-11: Perceptions of Open Lands (PROLT Survey Findings)



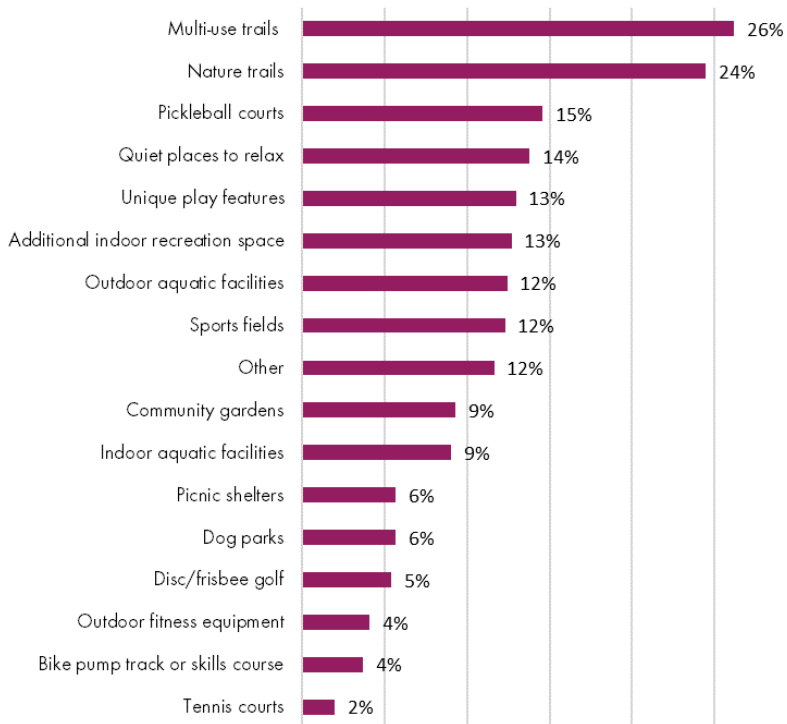
New Amenities and Facilities

When survey respondents were asked what features or facilities are most needed, their responses were divided among 17 different options, suggesting that a greater variety of recreation opportunities are needed. Apart from the top two responses about more trails, participants selected a variety of responses that were close in popularity, ranging from pickleball (15%) to outdoor aquatics (12%). Additionally, residents ranked a new community recreation and aquatics center well above other options for major recreation facilities (43% as top priority and 22% as second priority).

“As the City of Loveland's population ages, it would be wonderful to incorporate more adaptive facilities and parks.” - Survey respondent

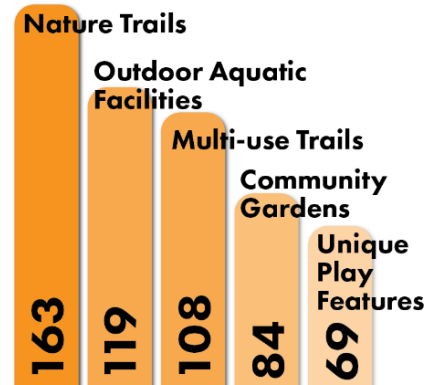
Figure 3-12: Frequency of Recreation Use (PROLT Survey and Pop-Up Event Findings)

What features or facilities are MOST needed in Loveland's parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and/or trails? (Choose your top two.)



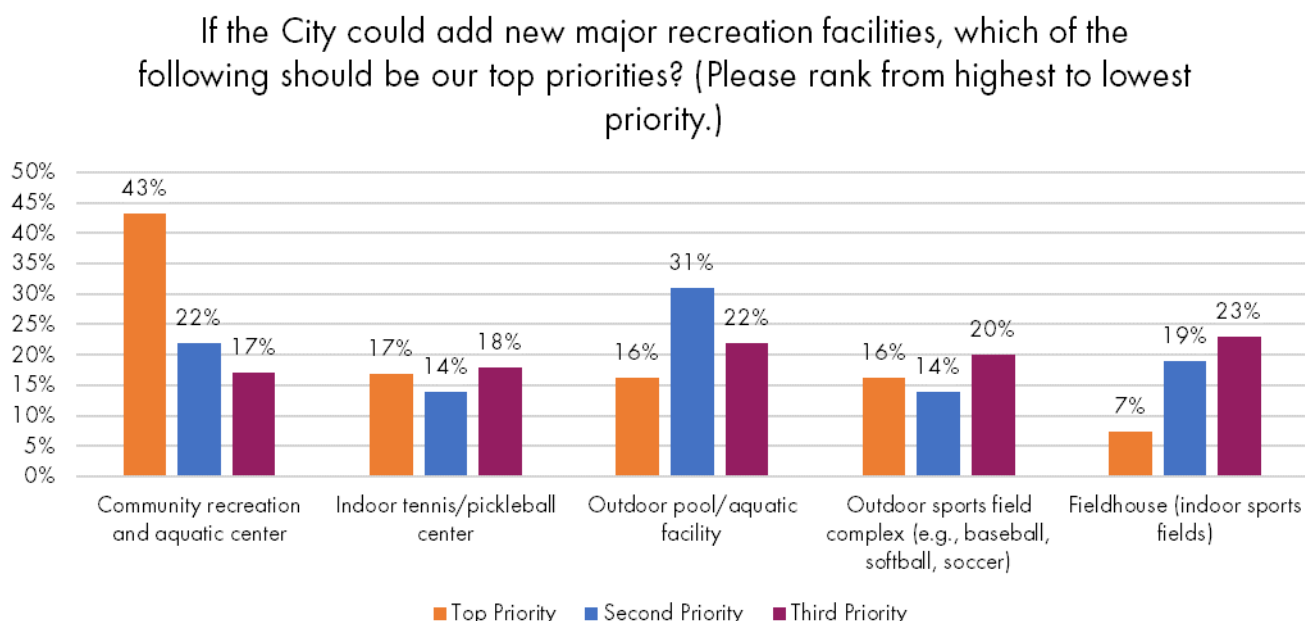
Survey results to the left,
pop-up events result below.

TOP 5 FACILITY NEEDS



Numbers provided represent the amount of participants who voted for the need

Figure 3-13: New Major Recreation Facility Priorities (PROLT Survey Findings)



Golf Offerings

A high percentage of survey respondents (46%) reported that they play golf at either the City's golf courses or others. Of those who golf, users noted that they would visit Loveland facilities more frequently with better pricing incentives (30%). Respondents indicated that Loveland golf courses could be improved by enhancing club houses and social spaces (35%), adding more golf courses or facilities (33%), and improving on-course amenities (23%). The survey reveals user priorities that suggest Loveland should consider quality, tee time access and affordable pricing when competing with courses outside of Loveland.

Figure 3-14: Golf Courses and Facilities Use (PROLT Survey Findings)

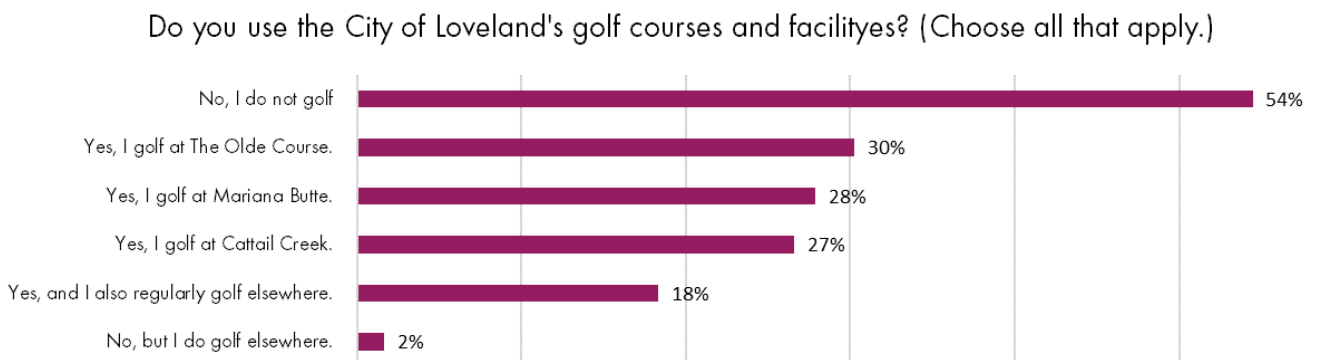


Figure 3-15: Enhancements to Golf Courses (PROLT Survey Findings)

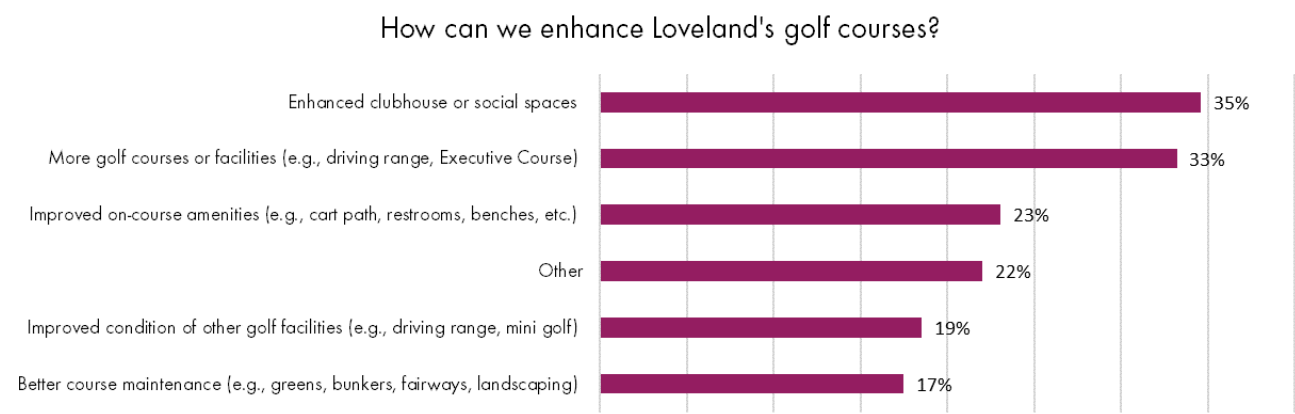


Figure 3-16: Attraction to Other Golf Courses (PROLT Survey Findings)



Programming

Survey results indicated that the City does an excellent job providing a variety of outdoor recreation program opportunities (42%) and special events (41%). Furthermore, most survey respondents rate the City's variety and availability levels of recreation classes, programs and events as very good (47%). The top five most needed types of program and activities included: before and after school programs for youth (15%), adult sports (14%), teen programs (13%), races or tournaments (11%), and childcare (8%).

Figure 3-17: Expanded or Added Programs (PROLT Survey Findings)

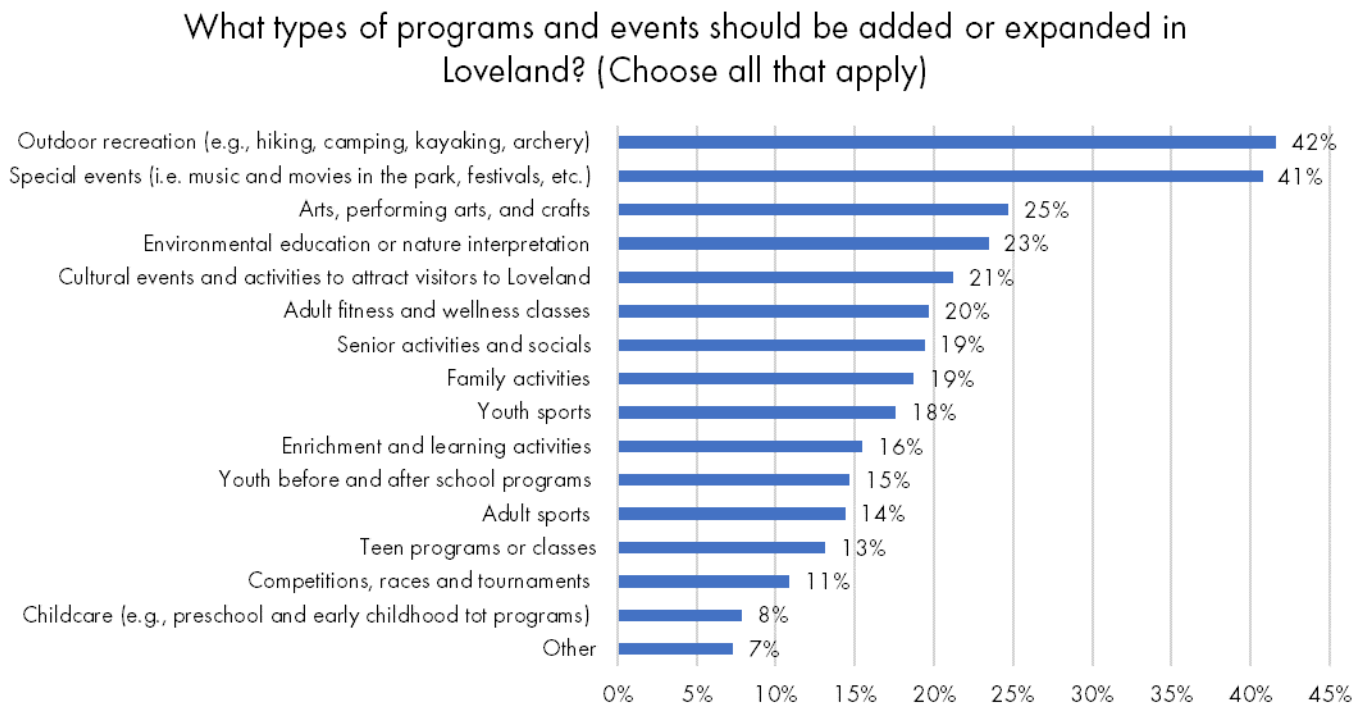
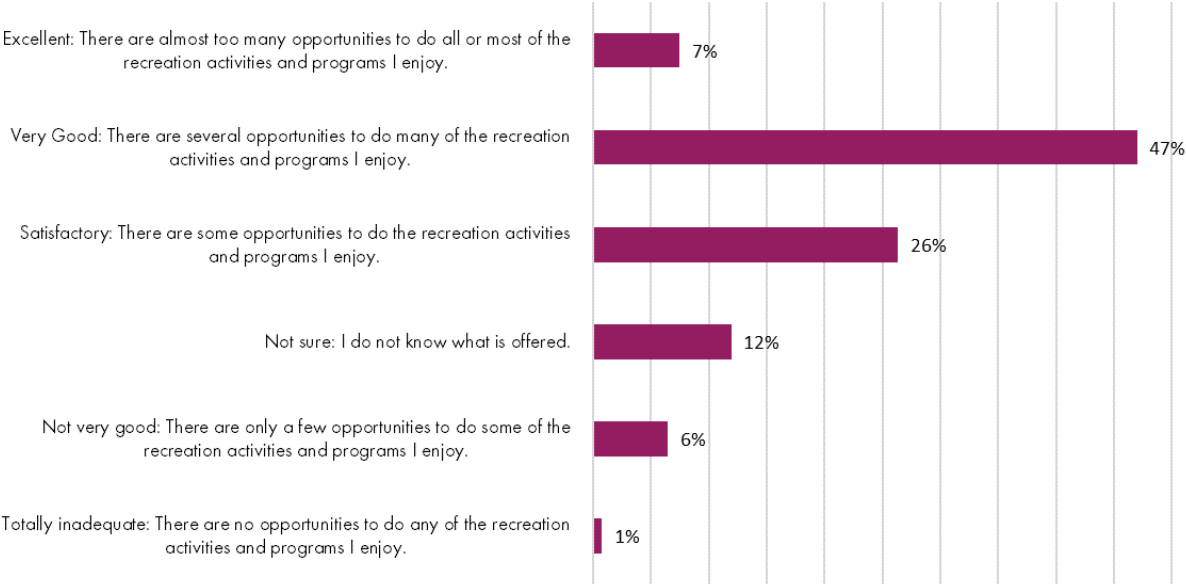


Figure 3-18: Recreation Classes, Programs, and Events Ratings (PROLT Survey Findings)

How would you rate the variety and availability of recreation classes, programs and events provided by the City? (Choose one)



Stewardship and Maintaining Assets

It is important for the Loveland community to have well-maintained park assets and protected natural areas. Maintaining, repairing, or replacing existing amenities and infrastructure was rated as the highest priority project from survey participants (33%). Survey respondents felt that protecting or enhancing open lands and natural areas (45%) should be the City's top priority. Respondents also identified priorities such as enhancing existing trails, paths, and play facilities (35%) and improving or building more sports fields and courts (19%). Fifty-eight percent of respondents agree the City should invest more money into parks, recreation facilities, natural areas, and trails.

Figure 3-19: Parks and Recreation Community Priorities (Pop-Up Event Findings)

Which of the following are most important to you and your family? (Choose 2)

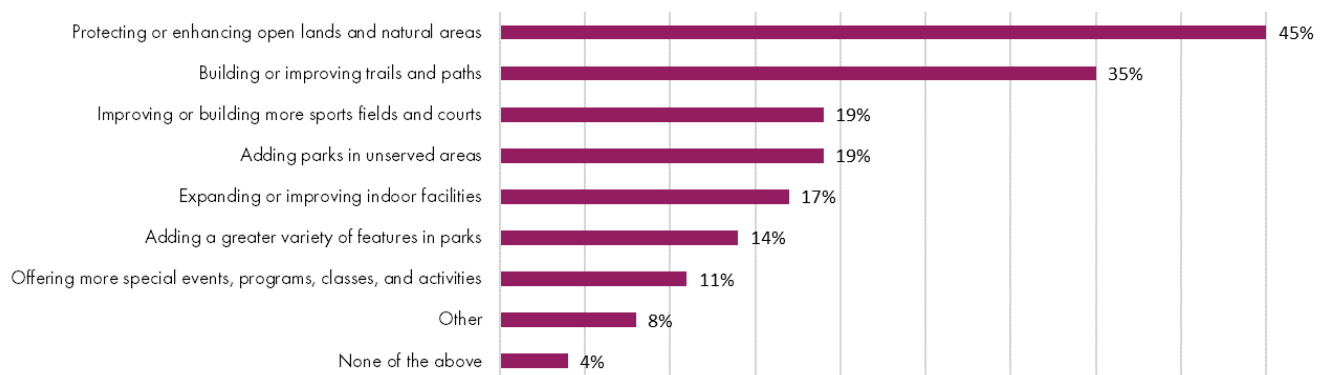
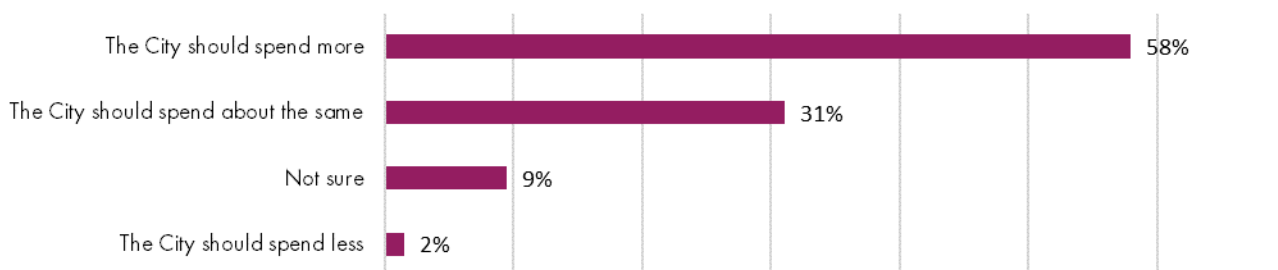
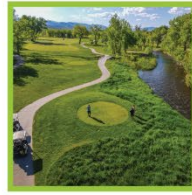


Figure 3-20: Parks and Recreation City Funding Investment (PROLT Survey Findings)

Should the City change how much it invests in parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and trails to reflect their value in our community?



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PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Chapter IV: Access and Needs

Chapter IV evaluates Loveland's community needs for land, facilities, and programs to support recreation and resource protection. A technical analysis of access, service levels, current demand and needs was conducted to better understand the spatial distribution, amount, and types of park and recreation opportunities provided and to identify gaps in service. These findings can be cross-checked against public outreach preferences (summarized in Chapter III) to identify needs for acquisition, development, and facility replacement over the next seven to ten years.

The chapter describes findings associated with:

- Park Access
- Land Needs (Parks, Open Lands, Trails, Golf, Public Grounds)
- Facility and Trail Needs
- Recreation Programming Needs

The methodology and additional details regarding the Access and Opportunities Analysis are presented in Appendix C.

Park Access

An important way to measure the sufficiency of parkland is based on the percentage of residents who have access to a park within convenient walking distance from home. This metric highlights whether the City offers the right number and distribution of parks to serve nearby neighbors. Research shows that park proximity improves park use and increases health benefits.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) have championed the industry standard of providing parks within a 10-minute walk (approximately ½ mile) of all residents. This distance is typically the farthest Americans will walk on average to get to a destination.

According to TPL's ParkServe data, approximately 71% of Loveland residents currently live within a 10-minute walk of a park. This is higher than the national average at 55% and higher than nearby cities and towns such as Windsor (52%), Berthoud (65%), but also lower than Greeley (72%), Fort Collins (72%), and Boulder (93%)¹. This includes access to Larimer County parks and publicly accessible but privately-owned parks in area housing developments.

¹ Trust for Public Land. <https://www.tpl.org/city/loveland-colorado>. Accessed February 2023.

In Loveland, city parks, golf courses and specific types of open lands such as Community Open Spaces, Greenways and Local Open Spaces provide close-to-home green space and recreation spaces that serve nearby residents. To determine where the City needs to provide additional parks, the access analysis evaluates which residential areas are served by City-owned parks, developed open lands, and golf courses within a ½-mile walking distance. This walking distance is based on actual paths of travel, taking into account barriers such as major roads, rivers and water bodies that impede pedestrian and bicycle travel.

Since the Master Plan is intended to forecast needs over the next seven to ten years, the analysis considers both existing residential areas and anticipated residential growth. The City's focus on equity suggests a reassessment of the existing park system is needed to see how well parks are distributed to meet the needs of all current residents. As the city's population grows, additional park and open space lands will be needed to accommodate the increase in residents. Understanding where there are gaps in the system can inform how the City improves park access and equity for residents. A full network analysis map showing served and underserved areas can be found in Appendix C: Access and Opportunity Analysis.

Areas of Need

Overall, Loveland's geography is well served by parks and open spaces. However, residents in 20 areas within the City either currently lack or will lack recreation access within a ½ mile of home, once anticipated residential development areas reach completion over the next ten years (Appendix C). Of these, 12 areas are near other opportunities, such as parks and recreation areas managed or provided by other entities, such as Larimer County, the State of Colorado, homeowners associations (HOA's), the Thompson School District, and private providers. The analysis identified 8 areas that lack any other type of nearby opportunity. These areas are shown in Map 4-1 and described below in Table 4-1. Because the City has already acquired (undeveloped) parkland in some underserved places, remaining gaps are identified as requiring some level of acquisition and/or development to serve current or future planned residential neighborhoods. For more information on the opportunity analysis and a detailed table of gap area characteristics, see Appendix C: Access and Opportunity Analysis.

Table 4-1. Categories of Gap Areas

Category of Gap Area	Category Details	# of Gap Areas	Gap Area Identifiers (see map 4-1)
Development Needed	These gap areas have parkland already acquired by the City. Development is needed.	3	B, D, G
Acquisition & Development Needed	These gaps areas have no alternate recreation opportunity. Acquisition and development of a new park is needed.	4	C, E, F, H
HOA Park (Developer to Build)	Future residential development in this area will include the addition of a neighborhood park built by the developer and managed by a Homeowners Association.	1	A

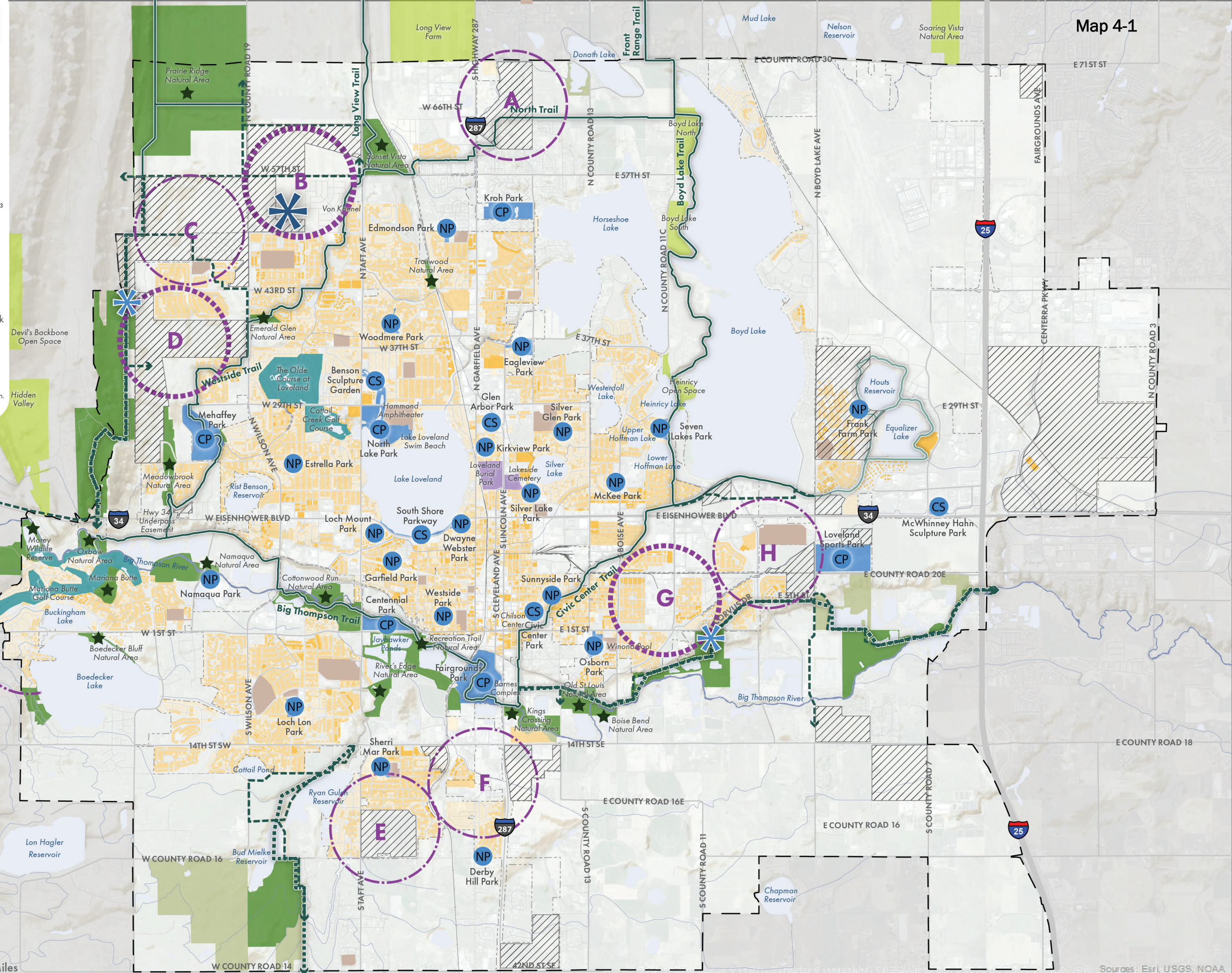
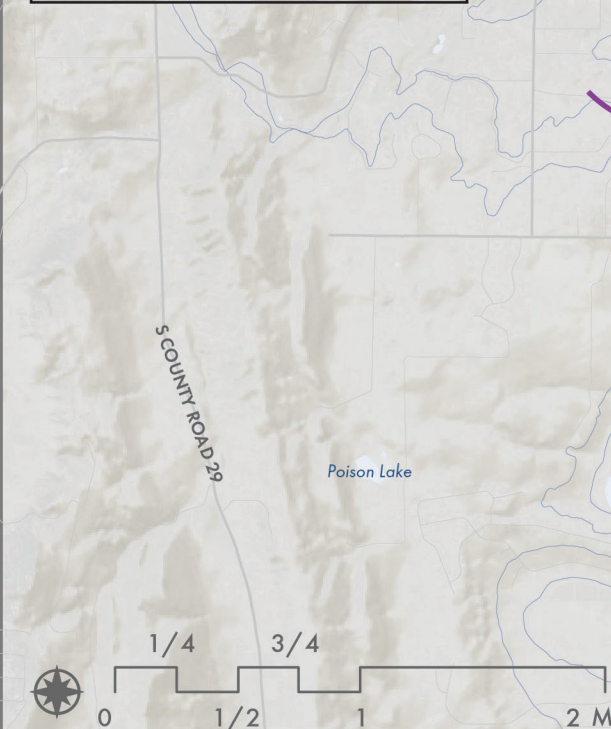
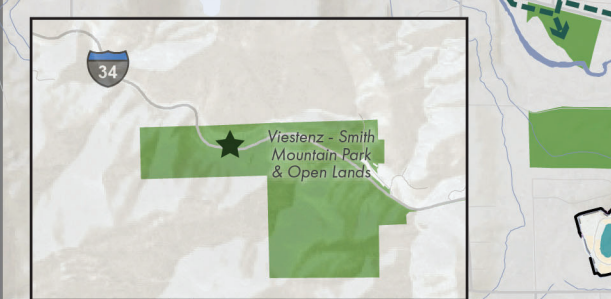
Park Acquisition and Development Needs

Legend

- Growth Management Area
- - - - City Boundary
- ++ Street Network
- Rail Line
- Bodies of Water
- River or Canal
- Public Schools
- PARK NEEDS AREAS**
- Development of Undeveloped Park Land ¹
- Acquisition and Development ¹
- Future HOA (Developer-Built) Park ¹
- ▨ Anticipated Residential Development and Growth Area
- Low Residential Density (2-4 DU/Acre) ²
- Medium Residential Density (4-10 DU/Acre) ²
- High Residential Density 10+ DU/Acre ²
- EXISTING PARKS, OPEN LANDS, GOLF, AND TRAIL SYSTEM**
- NP Neighborhood Park
- CP Community Park
- CS Civic Space
- Green Loveland Open Lands
- ★ Loveland Open Lands Open to the Public
- Open Lands Partnerships ³
- Conservation Easements (Private)
- Golf Courses
- Public Grounds ⁴
- Existing Trails (Loveland)
- Existing Trails (Other)
- POTENTIAL PARKS AND TRAILS**
- ★ Future Neighborhood Park
- ★ Future Community Park
- Potential Future Trails

¹ Identifies half-mile radii areas.
² Includes City of Loveland residents only. Excludes other municipalities and county population.
³ Open Lands jointly owned and/or managed by the City of Loveland.
⁴ Includes only cemeteries, beautification areas are not mapped.

← 5 miles to Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park



Land Needs

While access to recreation opportunities is important, parks, open lands, trails, golf courses, and public grounds also provide a variety of other community benefits. For this reason, these land needs are determined based on the following considerations:

- Level of Service (for City residents)
- Acquisition Beyond the Urban Growth Area
- Distribution and Access
- Natural Resource Value and Management

These metrics are described below. Table 4-2 summarizes service levels and standards by land classification to illustrate how service and needs vary across the spectrum of parks, open lands, trails, golf courses, and public grounds.

Land Metrics

Level of Service

As cities grow, infrastructure and protected greenspace should also increase to meet the growing demands and needs of residents. Parks, open lands, trails, golf, and public grounds can be measured proportionately to the city's population – in a ratio referred to as the Level of Service (LOS). LOS is a metric commonly used to guide the amount and types of parks and facilities provided in a community. It is calculated based on the current inventory, and either the current or forecasted future population, to identify acreage needs.

LOS is most commonly described as a ratio of acres per 1,000 residents. A higher LOS figure means there is more available land per resident; a lower LOS means there is less land per resident. To calculate the LOS, the following formula is applied:

$$\frac{(\text{Summed Acreage})}{(\text{Total Population} \div 1,000)}$$

In addition to acreage, LOS can be used to measure sports courts, fields, and other facilities against population.

Acquisition Beyond the Urban Growth Area

While level of service focuses on the needs of residents within the city, there are circumstances where the city provides recreation amenities that serve visitors beyond city limits or protect resources that are outside of the city and Urban Growth Area (UGA). These areas are typically open lands because of their resource value and partnership opportunities.

Distribution and Access

Similar to the 10-minute walk needs described in the first section, distribution and access are important for open lands, trails, parks, and golf courses, but at different travel distances based on the land type.

Natural Resource Value and Management

Open lands needs are based more on natural resource opportunities than population needs. They are guided by different criteria that determine the amount of development and types of access allowed. These determinations are based on the value of natural resources at each site and managed by categorizing the lands into various Management Zones. The Open Land Management Zones can apply to specific areas of a site or to the whole site.

Table 4-2: Service Levels and Standards by Classification

		OPEN LANDS				PARKS			GOLF	PUBLIC GROUNDS
Classification		Nature Preserves	Natural Areas	Local Open Spaces	Community Open Spaces	Neighborhood Parks	Community Parks	Civic Spaces	Golf Courses	Beautification Areas and Cemeteries
Current LOS Standard		59.8 acres per 1,000 residents				1.25 developed acres per 1,000	4.5 developed acres per 1,000 (guideline includes civic space)	Acreage contributes to community park guideline	No acreage standard 1 hole per 1,850 residents	No acreage standards.
Existing LOS		65.1 acres per 1,000 residents				1.1 developed park acreage per 1,000 residents	4.4 developed park acreage per 1,000 residents	0.5 developed civic space acreage per 1,000 residents	4.75 acres per 1,000 residents and 1 hole per 1,753 residents	0.9 acres per 1,000 residents
Proposed LOS Standard		65 acres per 1,000 residents				1.25 developed acres per 1,000 residents	4.15 developed acres per 1,000 residents	0.35 developed acres per 1,000 residents	N/A; existing courses are intended to serve city residents and visitors	N/A, but acreage may increase as community grows.
Acquisiton Beyond Urban Growth Area		Coordination with other jurisdictions is needed to proceed	Coordination with other jurisdictions is needed to proceed	Prioritize acquisition if meets community recreation needs. May require coordination with other jurisdictions	Prioritize acquisition if meets community recreation needs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Distribution, Access and Service Area Standards		None. Opportunity-based standards dependent on the value of natural resources and preservation of distinct natural features	None. Opportunity-based standards dependent on protecting open lands from development and contributing to urban aesthetics	Serves residents within walking distance as well as residents citywide and can provide regional connectivity.	May serve residents citywide and attract others from throughout the region	Serves low, medium and high density residential areas within a ½ -mile (or 10-minute) walk Not provided in estate residential areas	Serves approximately a 2- mile distance May help meet close-to-home park needs within ½ mile of residential areas Serves a portion of the community; may include specialized facilities that serve residents citywide	Serves approximately a 2- mile distance May help meet close-to-home park needs within ½ mile of residential areas Serves a portion of the community; may include specialized facilities that serve residents citywide	Existing courses serve the entire city and beyond	N/A; Needs for beautification areas are contingent on the City's development code. The expansion or addition of burial space is based on capacity and demand.
Management Zone	Zone 0 - Closed Natural Area	X	X			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Zone 1 - Closed Zone		X	X	X					
	Zone 2 - Resource Protection Zone			X	X					
	Zone 3 - Natural Experience Zone			X	X					
	Zone 4 - Focal Recreation Zone				X					

Open Lands Management Zoning System

Zone 0 - Closed Natural Area: This zone will be used for properties that are closed to the public because public access is not currently appropriate. The property would be managed to maintain or improve the natural resource values.

Zone 1 - Closed Zone: Portions of a Natural Area that are not open to the public due to one or more reasons specified below.

- Areas closed for conservation
- Areas closed due to public safety reasons
- Areas under long-term restoration

Zone 2 - Resource Protection Zone: Portions of a Natural Area that are primarily travel zone areas with limited development. Access is generally limited to on-trail.

Zone 3 - Natural Experience Zone: Portions of a Natural Area that allow for access that is off-trail. Some public facilities may exist.

Zone 4 - Focal Recreation Zone: Portions of a Natural Area that allow for full public access and use. These areas generally include facilities such as parking lots, picnic areas, and fishing access points

Park Needs

Table 4-3 compares the City of Loveland's current parkland standards -- derived from the 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan -- to the existing level of service provided. It factors in the results of the park access analysis and facilities analysis (see next section) to forecast parkland needs over the next 10 years. Currently, the City is meeting its adopted Level of Service (LOS) standard for parkland. While it owns land sufficient to provide 7.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, not all sites are currently developed, giving developed sites an existing LOS of 6.0.

Table 4-3: Park Land Level of Service and Needs

2022 Population Estimate: ¹		85,486					
2032 Population Estimate: ¹		106,036					
			Level of Service (LOS) ²				
Park Land Type ³	# of City Sites	City Acreage	Current Standard ⁴	Existing LOS	Proposed Standard	2022 Deficiencies	2032 Needs
Developed Parkland							
Neighborhood Parks	19	92.2	1.25	1.1	1.25	14.7	40.3
Community Parks	6	379.2	4.50	4.4	4.15	-	60.8
Civic Space	5	39.2	none	0.5	0.35	-	-
Developed Subtotal		510.6	5.75	6.0	5.75	14.7	101.2
Undeveloped Parkland							
Undeveloped Parkland	3	80.0	n/a	1.0	n/a	-	-
Undeveloped Subtotal		80.0	-	1.0	-	-	-
Parkland Total		590.6	5.75	7.0	5.75	14.7	101.2

¹Population Estimates sourced from the City of Loveland Annual Data and Assumptions Report (December 2020)

²LOS is measured as # of acres per 1,000 residents.

³Parks do not include HOA parks.

⁴The Current Standard is from the adopted 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Despite the park needs determined in the access analysis, the neighborhood park LOS standards from the 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan are carried forth in this Master Plan to maintain a consistent level of new park development based on existing funding. Should additional funding opportunities be identified and approved by City leadership, a higher LOS may be achievable. As an alternative to additional funding, the Department may seek to work with the development community to provide developer-built parks as an alternative to new park construction by the Department. Current levels of service suggest the following park needs including:

- The acquisition and development of three (3) new neighborhood parks (~5 acres each)
- The development of two (2) undeveloped sites as neighborhood parks (~10 acres each)

- The development of one (1) undeveloped community park site (~60 acres)
- No new planned civic spaces

Open Land Needs

Table 4-4 compares the City of Loveland's current open lands standards to its existing level of service by classification. It factors in identified open land opportunities, and guidelines for nature-based facilities (see next section), to forecast open land needs over the next 10 years. However, further open land evaluations and natural resources inventories will be needed to determine the appropriate levels of access and development for new open lands. Consequently, the proposed LOS standard and needs are not divided by type and are presented as a collective total.

The City of Loveland currently provides 65.1 acres of open space land per 1,000 residents. The City recommends maintaining the existing service level of 65 acres per 1,000 residents as the level of service standard, which translates to pursuing an additional 1,326 acres of open land by 2032 to meet population projections.

Table 4-4: Open Lands Level of Service and Needs

2022 Population Estimate: ¹ 85,486					
2032 Population Estimate: ¹ 106,036					
Open Land Type ³	# of City Sites	City Acreage	Level of Service (LOS) ²		2032 Needs
			Existing / Planned LOS ⁴	Proposed Standard	
Nature Preserves	9	616.7	7.2	-	-
Natural Areas	7	173.9	2.0	-	-
Local Open Spaces	13	413.9	4.8	-	-
Community Open Spaces	14	4,361.5	51.0	-	-
Open Lands Total		5,566.0	65.1	65.0	1,326.34

¹Population Estimates sourced from the City of Loveland Annual Data and Assumptions Report (Dec 2020)

²LOS is measured as # of acres per 1,000 residents. LOS is not broken down by Open Land type as acquisitions are opportunity based.

³Open Lands acreage only includes Loveland-owned acres.

⁴These numbers are based on the planned future classification of open lands based on projects currently underway.

Golf Course Needs

In the past, Loveland's golf course needs were measured in terms of a facility standard of 1 hole per 1,850 residents served. However, the City recognizes that its golf courses attract and serve a larger clientele beyond city residents. Consequently, this Master Plan no longer notes either acreage or facility LOS standards for golf.

Many other communities count golf course acreage towards their parkland level of service. If the City of Loveland compares on this front, its three golf courses provide 406.3 acres, which would translate into an existing LOS of 4.75 acres per 1,000 residents. Although improvements to these existing golf courses are needed, the City does not anticipate investing in additional new municipal golf courses in the future. Golf, as an Enterprise Fund, does not foresee a time where business needs will justify the cost to construct a new golf course. Additionally, new regional golf courses being considered and constructed by private entities will compete for players, putting much needed revenue at risk.

Needs for Public Grounds

The City currently provides 74.6 acres of public grounds in 27 beautification areas and one cemetery. These land needs are not determined in conjunction with the City's population and, therefore, are not measured in terms of level of service.

Needs for beautifications areas will be determined as new development occurs to meet the requirements of the City's development code.

While the cemetery is approaching capacity, the addition or expansion of burial space is a market consideration determined separately by the City. Considerations for expansion should include level of ongoing demand, market trends for funeral service options, and the City Council's interest in continuing municipal operations of a burial park.

Facility and Trail Needs

While the previous section of the chapter focused on land needs, the City of Loveland must also ensure it is providing enough, and the right types and variety of, recreational facilities to meet community needs. These include:

- **Recreation facilities**, such as sports courts, playgrounds, dog parks, and picnic shelters. These needs are determined through LOS standards and through park development guidelines that describe what is appropriate for the design and use of parks and open lands.
- **Specialized facilities**, such as recreation centers, nature centers and pools. These needs are determined through LOS standards, but—given facility costs—these are cross-checked through financial feasibility studies to determine size, types, and features.
- **Trails**, including hard- and soft-surfaced trails. These needs are determined through LOS guidelines and a connectivity analysis to identify key linkages.
- **Nature-based facilities**, such as fishing piers, environmental education stations, boat ramps, swimming beaches, nature viewpoints, and interpretive features.
- **Amenities**, such as benches, tables, drinking fountains and restrooms. These are determined through park development guidelines that describe what is appropriate for the design and use of parks and open lands.

Appendix D: Development Guidelines for Parks and Open Lands provides additional details on amenity and facility needs that should be addressed through design. This chapter focuses on facility LOS needs and trail connectivity, with notes on other unique needs.

Facility Level of Service (LOS) and Needs

The facility Level of Service (LOS) represents the number of residents served per 1 facility. For example, a Skate Park LOS of 30,000 indicates that there should be 1 skate park per 30,000 residents. A greater number means there are fewer facilities per population, which represents a lower level of service.

To calculate the facility LOS, the following formula is applied:

$$\frac{(Total\ Population)}{(Number\ of\ Facilities)}$$

Table 4-5 shows the current LOS Standard, the actual LOS, and the proposed LOS for key recreation facilities, specialized facilities, and trails.² The proposed LOS is based on facility demand, outreach findings, land needs and development standards to estimate facility needs. For example, the City of Loveland currently provides 1 basketball court per 8,549 people but aims to increase their service level and provide 1 basketball court per 7,000 people in ten years. This is consistent with the addition of several new neighborhood parks and a new community park.

To reflect evolving needs and recreational trends, the City of Loveland is responding in kind through adjusted service levels including the following:

- **High demand facilities** should be increased in quantity to respond to demand levels. Examples include rectangular sports fields, pickleball courts, dog parks, swimming pools, and trails.
- **Facilities with lower demand** may be repurposed as other facilities, and/or new ones should not be added as the community grows. Examples include volleyball courts, tennis courts, and inline hockey rinks currently exhibiting declining usage numbers.
- **Facilities with consistent demand** compared to the 2014 Master Plan Some facilities will continue to be provided at their current adopted LOS standard, such recreation centers, playgrounds, and splash parks.

² This table does not show LOS standards for the greater variety of facilities desired in parks and open lands. These are guided by the design and development guidelines in Appendix D.

Table 4-5: Facility Level of Service

2022 Population Estimate: ¹		85,486					
2032 Population Estimate: ¹		106,036					
			Level of Service (LOS) ²				
Facility Type	# of Facilities	Miles	Current Standard ³	Existing LOS	Proposed LOS Representing Community Trends	2022 Deficiencies	2032 Needs (Additional Facilities)
RECREATION FACILITIES							
Rectangular Sports Fields (soccer, football, lacrosse)	38		2,000	2,250	2,500	-	8
Diamond Fields (baseball /softball)	29		-	2,948	3,400	-	2
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	10		6,500	8,549	7,000	2	5
Volleyball Courts (outdoor)	2		35,000	42,743	45,000	-	0
Tennis Courts (outdoor)	25		3,000	3,419	4,000	-	(4) ⁵
Pickleball Courts (outdoor)	18		25,000	4,749	4,500	1	6
Splash Park	3		35,000	28,495	35,000	-	0
Skate Park	3		35,000	28,495	35,000	-	1
Dog Park	2		50,000	42,743	40,000	-	1
Playgrounds/Nature Play Features	28		-	3,053	3,000	1	8
SPECIALIZED FACILITIES							
Multi-Purpose Recreation Facility or Fieldhouse	1		60,000	85,486	60,000	-	1
Indoor or Outdoor Aquatic Facility or Pool	2		50,000	42,743	40,000	-	1
Environmental Education / Nature Center	1		70,000	85,486	70,000	-	1
TRAILS ⁴							
Paved Trails		31.2	3,000	2,740	2,750	-	7.4
Soft-Surfaced Trails		28.05	5,000	3,048	2,750	3.0	10.5

¹Population Estimates sourced from the City of Loveland Annual Data and Assumptions Report (December 2020)

²LOS is measured as 1 facility per [Amount of people served].

³Current Standards for Recreation Facilities are based on the adopted 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

⁴Golf paths and park access paths do not count as trails. Prioritized trail development should be based on local and regional linkages rather than a strict mileage-per-resident calculation.

⁵Excess tennis courts may be repurposed as different types of sports courts (e.g., pickleball, futsal, multi-purpose) or for other uses at the end of their lifecycle based on changing levels of demand.

Trail Connectivity and Needs

While trail standards show the increasing LOS needed to serve the growing population, trail needs are based on other factors as well. Soft-surfaced trail needs are based on opportunities to provide loop trails in parks, and hiking and mountain biking trails in open lands, connecting to hard-surfaced trails where appropriate. These needs are determined through development guidelines when designing new parks and open lands (see Appendix D).

Hard-surfaced (paved) trail needs are typically based on local and regional linkages rather than strict mileage-per-resident calculations. Map 4-2 illustrates existing and proposed multi-use paved trail connections. It includes:

- **Proposed Trails:** To improve access to parks and open lands, as well as extend existing trails, new proposals include:
 1. **East Big Thompson Trail:** A 5-mile hard-surfaced trail extension along the Big Thompson River, connecting open lands and extending eastward to I-25. This would enhance regional connectivity east to Johnstown and provide residents with more recreation options.
 2. **Prairie Ridge to Skyline Trail:** A 3.75-mile soft-surface trail along the city's northwestern edge to connect various open lands, new residential areas, and a proposed neighborhood park. This trail would extend south from Prairie Ridge Natural Area to Highway 34, connecting to the Big Thompson River Trail.
 3. **South Front Range Trail:** A 4-mile trail heading south from Loveland in the Ryan Gulch Reservoir area, enhancing regional connectivity to Berthoud.
- **Other Key Connection Opportunities and Spurs:** To address missing linkages and provide access to community parks, new proposals include:
 1. A 2-mile trail along 57th Street to connect the Recreation Trail westward to the developing area in NW Loveland including the new proposed community park and the Prairie Ridge trail system.
 2. A trail along the irrigation canal or street corridor connecting the proposed Front Range Trail to the Rivers Edge Natural Area or the Big Thompson River Trail.
 3. A westward trail extension along Highway 34 connecting the Big Thompson River Trail to open lands west of the city.
 4. A trail connection between the proposed East Big Thompson Trail and the Loveland Sports Park. This connection would make the Sports Park accessible to bicyclists and pedestrians via the Recreation Trail Loop, Civic Center Trail, and proposed extensions of the Big Thompson River Trail.
- **Other Trail Opportunities:** In addition to the proposed trails and opportunities mapped, spur connections will be needed to connect the Loveland Recreation Trail to neighborhoods and destinations along the street network (bike lanes and sidewalks). This applies within new developments, existing developments and to low-income areas (potentially through CDOT or other grants). Coordination with the Loveland Public Works Department will be needed to improve connections in rights-of-way and for construction of pedestrian underpasses. Pedestrian underpasses would significantly improve safety throughout the trail system as identified on Map 4.2.

- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Underpasses:** To support bicycle and pedestrian safety, and in light of documented accidents along major roads in Loveland, the City should consider construction of pedestrian and bicycle underpasses beneath high volume roadways at locations including:
 - Wilson Avenue at Emerald Glen Natural Area
 - St. Louis Avenue at the Big Thompson River
 - Boise Avenue at the Big Thompson River
 - Boise Avenue at the Greeley Loveland Irrigation Company ditch
 - Taft Avenue and 57th Street
 - County Road 11C at the intersection with the Recreation Trail
 - West Highway 34 between Rossum Drive and Skyline Natural Area
 - County Road 30 at the intersection with the Recreation Trail

- **Trail support features:** To support trail access, trailheads with parking and trail support amenities and facilities such as restrooms, bike racks, benches, water bottle filling stations, and bike repair stations are needed.

Proposed Trails and Connections Opportunities

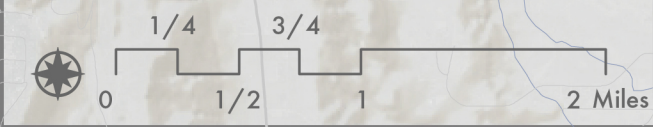
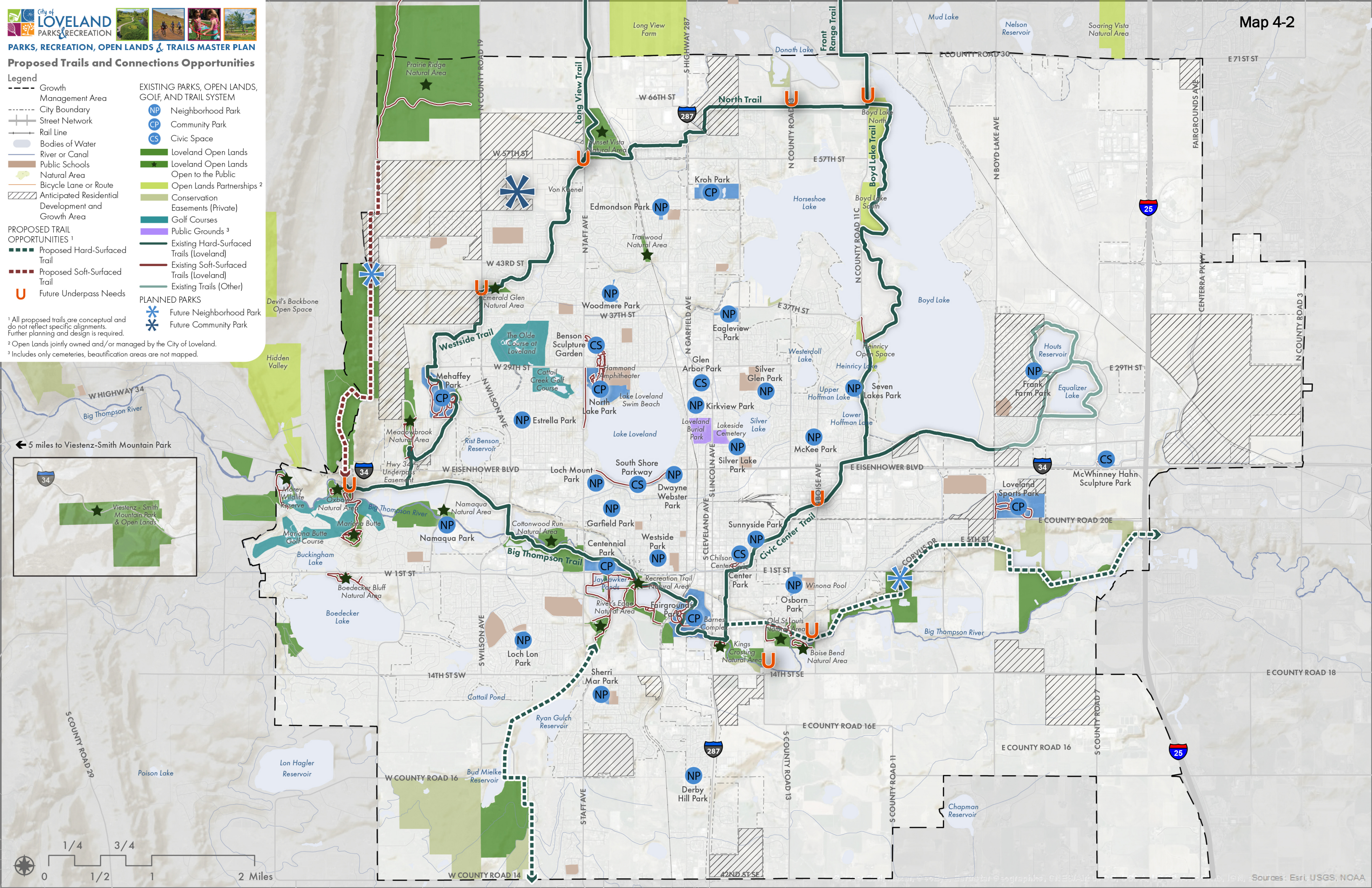
Legend

- Growth
- Management Area
- City Boundary
- Street Network
- Rail Line
- Bodies of Water
- River or Canal
- Public Schools
- Natural Area
- Bicycle Lane or Route
- Anticipated Residential Development and Growth Area
- EXISTING PARKS, OPEN LANDS, GOLF, AND TRAIL SYSTEM
 - NP Neighborhood Park
 - CP Community Park
 - CS Civic Space
 - Loveland Open Lands
 - Loveland Open Lands Open to the Public
 - Open Lands Partnerships²
 - Conservation Easements (Private)
 - Golf Courses
 - Public Grounds³
 - Existing Hard-Surfaced Trails (Loveland)
 - Existing Soft-Surfaced Trails (Loveland)
 - Existing Trails (Other)
- PROPOSED TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES¹
 - Proposed Hard-Surfaced Trail
 - Proposed Soft-Surfaced Trail
 - U Future Underpass Needs
- PLANNED PARKS
 - Future Neighborhood Park
 - Future Community Park

¹ All proposed trails are conceptual and do not reflect specific alignments. Further planning and design is required.

² Open Lands jointly owned and/or managed by the City of Loveland.

³ Includes only cemeteries, beautification areas are not mapped.



Additional Facility Needs

As noted in the outreach and engagement findings presented in Chapter III, key facility needs also include more developed, accessible open lands and parks that connect people to nature and nature-based recreation experiences, a greater variety of recreation facilities, and more indoor recreation space as the City's population grows. Golf facilities and cemeteries also have unique needs. These needs are described in more detail below.

Nature-Based Facilities

There is a strong demand and need for the City of Loveland to improve connections to nature via increased access to, and development of, parks and open lands. Following Appendix D guidelines for open lands needs for nature-based facilities, such as hiking and biking trails, outdoor classrooms, fishing piers, boat ramps, water-based recreation, swimming beaches, nature viewpoints, and interpretive features should be considered. These should be balanced with the need to protect sensitive natural areas.

Facility Variety

Residents desire a greater variety of recreation experiences that can be supported by adding different types of facilities to parks. Appendix D Development Guidelines describe opportunities to add:

- **Expanded play opportunities**, such as nature play, sand and water play, sensory play, adventure play areas, hill slides, climbers, and universal group swings.
- **Healthy living opportunities for all ages and abilities**, such as outdoor fitness equipment clusters or circuits, individual fitness courts, community gardens, etc.
- **Challenging features** that appeal to older youth and young adults such as ziplines, disc golf, climbing spire, skate park, freestyle BMX facility, bike pump track.
- **Activity hubs**, such as outdoor ping pong, giant chess, game tables, shuffleboard, badminton, tricycle tracks, etc.
- **Varied social gathering spaces**, such as long (family-style tables), outdoor stages, seating rings, food cart pods, market pavilions, benches with backrests, event spaces, elevated viewpoints, and more reservable facilities for group gatherings.

Specialized Facility Needs

Faced with overcrowding and increasing demands on the Chilson Recreation Center, the City of Loveland completed a Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study in 2015 that identified needs for a new indoor recreation center of approximately 60,000 square feet in size. While the City has acquired land for the recreation center in northwest Loveland, the anticipated facility cost was not supported through public funding (tax increase). Indoor facility needs have and will continue to grow until a new indoor facility is developed. Increased residential development in northwest Loveland is likely to increase the demand for indoor programs and activities that are more accessible to that part of the community. The study identified needs for the following spaces (Table 4-6):

Table 4-6: Recreation Facility Program Spaces

Space	Square Footage
Child Watch/Baby Sitting	878
Classroom (25 person x2)	1,342
Gym Single Court – Middle School	7,335
Walk/Jog Track	7,150
Weight/Fitness	4,270
Aerobics/Dance Studio (30 Person)	3,300
Yoga Studio	1,464
Aquatics Support	512
Leisure Pool	7,315
Lap Pool	5,740
Party/Pool Classroom	830
Catering Kitchen	403
Gymnastics	5,429
Bouldering Wall	370
Wellness/Fitness Testing	244
Administration Space	2,225
Childrens Indoor Playground	854
Required Building Support	10,699
Total	59,531

Source: Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study (2015)

In addition to the 59,531 sf of recreation space, the feasibility study also identified needs for additional square footage potentially to co-locate the recreation center with a new or expanded museum, a satellite library, leased clinic and/or activity space to support health, wellness, or therapy services, or leased space for appropriate retail sales for sports equipment and food services.

Since 2015, needs have grown for an additional swimming pool or aquatic facility as well as indoor sports space. Either in conjunction with the proposed recreation center or in a separate facility, an updated facility study is needed to determine if a fieldhouse or flexible indoor court space (for uses such as indoor soccer, pickleball, basketball, and fitness programming) is warranted. If an equity partner is identified to support with funding, a separate fieldhouse could be constructed in addition to a new recreation center. The fieldhouse may possibly be located on the 18-acre site of undeveloped City-owned land north of Mehaffey Park, or another location to potentially capitalize on the growing market for competitive sports in and beyond Loveland. Before pursuing a new recreation center facility and/or fieldhouse, completion of a new feasibility study is recommended to address growth in the community since the 2015 study.

Golf Needs

While Loveland's golf courses are in good condition, their facilities, landscaping, and course aesthetics must continue to be maintained at a high level to compete with nearby and regional private and public courses. Needs include improving and repairing existing infrastructure, such as cart paths and bunkers. Existing facilities should be expanded (clubhouse, outdoor patio space) to accommodate increased public and private event capacity, including events such as birthday parties, Ladies Wine and Nine, and weddings. Future exploration of virtual golf/golf simulators to support year-round play at existing courses is recommended to enhance both revenue and the golf experience.

Loveland Cemetery

The Loveland Burial Park and Lakeside Cemetery are considered community assets and are managed by the Parks and Recreation Department through City Council direction. While the cemetery is nearing capacity in the next 5-6 years, some improvements may include new types of burials and interments, such as columbarium, ossuary, scatter garden, and composting to extend service a number of years. Additionally, City Council has given direction to find new property suitable for future cemetery development.

Continued Asset Management

While the City focuses on meeting facility needs associated with new growth, the Parks & Recreation Department also needs adequate funding to continue the routine and preventative maintenance, asset management, repair, and replacement of all existing facilities—including any new facilities when these are brought online. The Department maintains a depreciation schedule for tracking, repairing and replacing park features. The City will need to expand this electronic system by tracking all park assets. An on-going capital improvements program to address deferred maintenance issues in older parts of the City is also needed. Asset management approaches must consider rising construction costs, inflation and other cost increase factors over time.

Recreation Programming Needs

To activate the parks and facilities described in this chapter, the City of Loveland will need to expand indoor and outdoor recreation programs. In 2015, the Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study conducted outreach that identified needs for additional programs in the following areas:

- Aquatics, including indoor and outdoor leisure pool programs and events
- Fitness, wellness, weight training, cardio, and aerobic exercise space, including indoor walking/jogging activities
- Indoor athletics and gym activities, including pickleball and gymnastics
- Indoor play programs

Since the 2015 study, the Department has heard additional public interest in increasing the following types of programs:

- Nature interpretation, environmental education, and self-directed learning
- Nature-based recreation including fishing derbies and classes, non-motorized boating programs, urban camping programs, survival, and orienteering classes, etc.
- Outdoor and indoor sports and tournaments, including growing sports such as pickleball and disc golf and sports lacking adequate facilities such as soccer.
- Trail safety and etiquette, including "safe routes to parks and schools" programs
- Public safety and risk mitigation, ranging from learn-to-swim, water safety, wildfire fuels reduction, Snow Squad management
- Parent-child, family, and multi-generational activities and special events
- Mental-health and expanded wellness programs
- Volunteer programs
- Golf programs and equipment such as golf simulators that continue to make golf more accessible (and marketable) to diverse ages and populations
- More diverse senior activities and adaptive, therapeutic recreation programming

Recreation Market

Given the variety of needs for recreation facilities, activities, and programs, market data are presented here to inform recreational resource allocation. The ESRI Market Potential Index (MPI) describes participation rates in various activities for households or adults (18 years or older) in Loveland. The Market Potential Index (MPI) identifies the expected demand for a particular activity based on consumer behavior or purchasing patterns when compared to other households in the U.S.³

The National Average MPI rests at 100. Therefore, a Loveland MPI with a score greater than 100 indicates a higher demand than the national average, and a score less than 100 indicates a

³ ESRI Market Potential data is based on MRI Survey of the American Consumer data from MRI-Simmons. For more information: <https://doc.arcgis.com/en/esri-demographics/latest/regional-data/market-potential.htm>

lower demand than the national average.⁴ Relevant recreational activities have been organized into three categories: General Sports, Fitness, Outdoor Activities (Figures 4-1, 4-2, and 4-3). While sports, and particularly golf participation, is higher than average in Loveland, the strongest scores are in fitness and outdoor recreation. Figure 4.4 compares activities across all markets to note activities high in demand and participation.

⁴ As a note, participation levels (and the corresponding MPI score) represents both interest and/or access. For example, a low MPI score on “walking” could indicate low demand, however it could also reflect secondary considerations such as unsafe or uncomfortable conditions, few walking paths, minimal rest points, etc.

Figure 4-1: General Sports Market Potential Index (MPI)

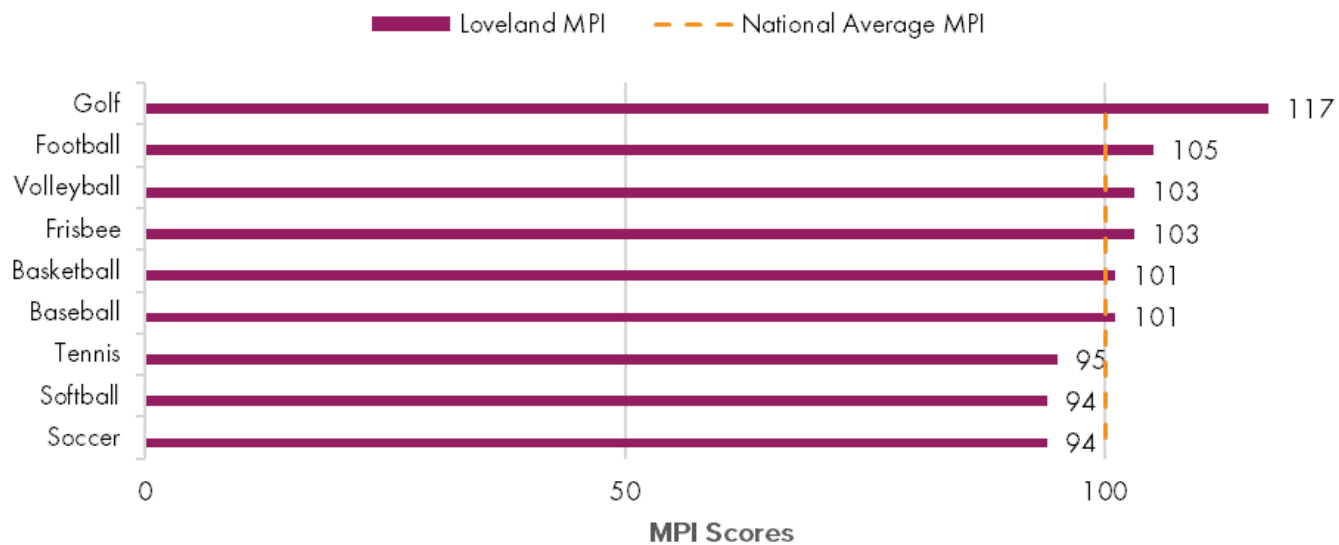


Figure 4-2: Fitness Market Potential Index (MPI)

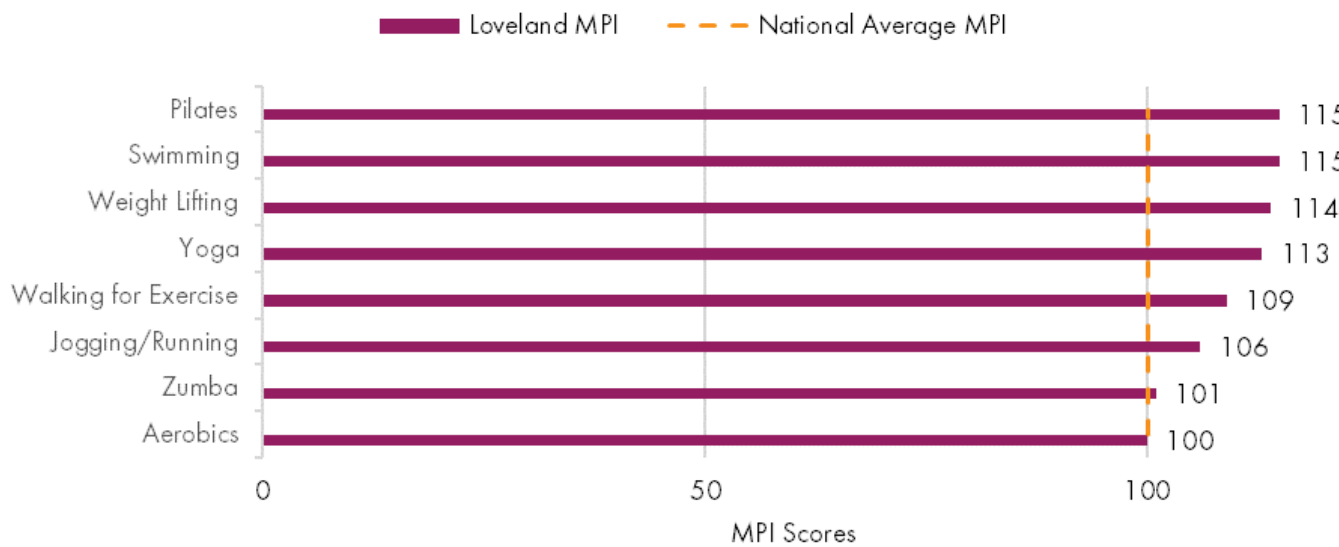


Figure 4-3: Outdoor Activity Market Potential Index (MPI)

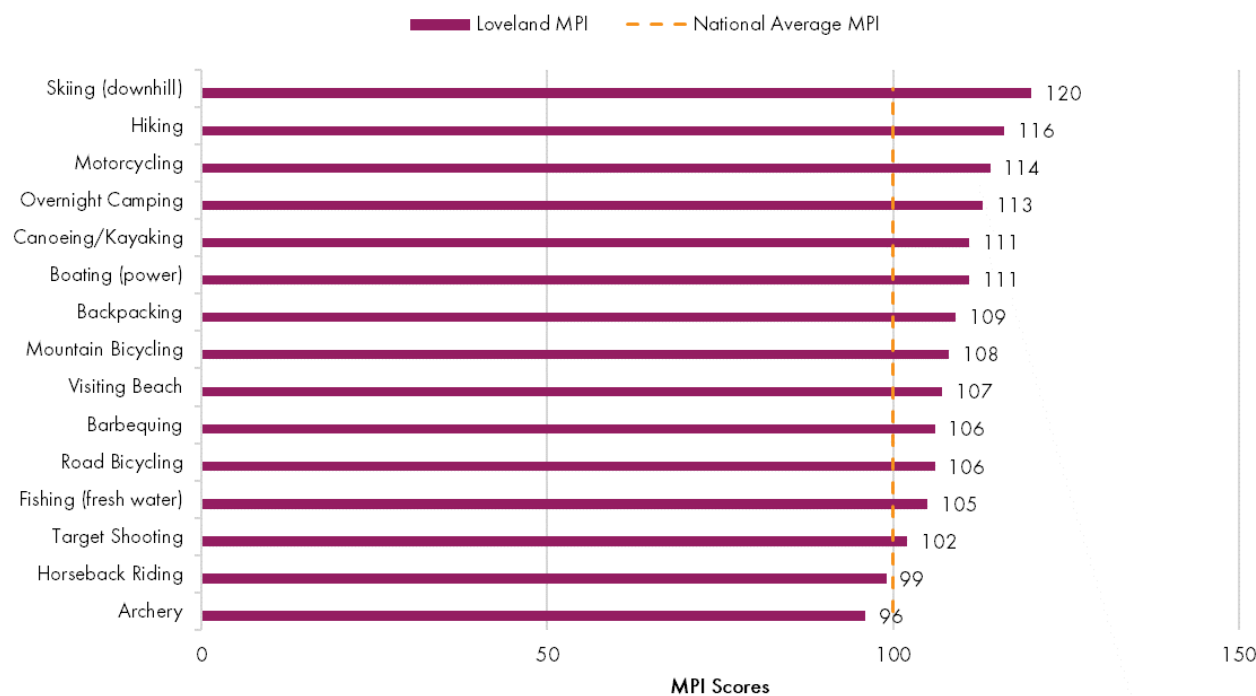
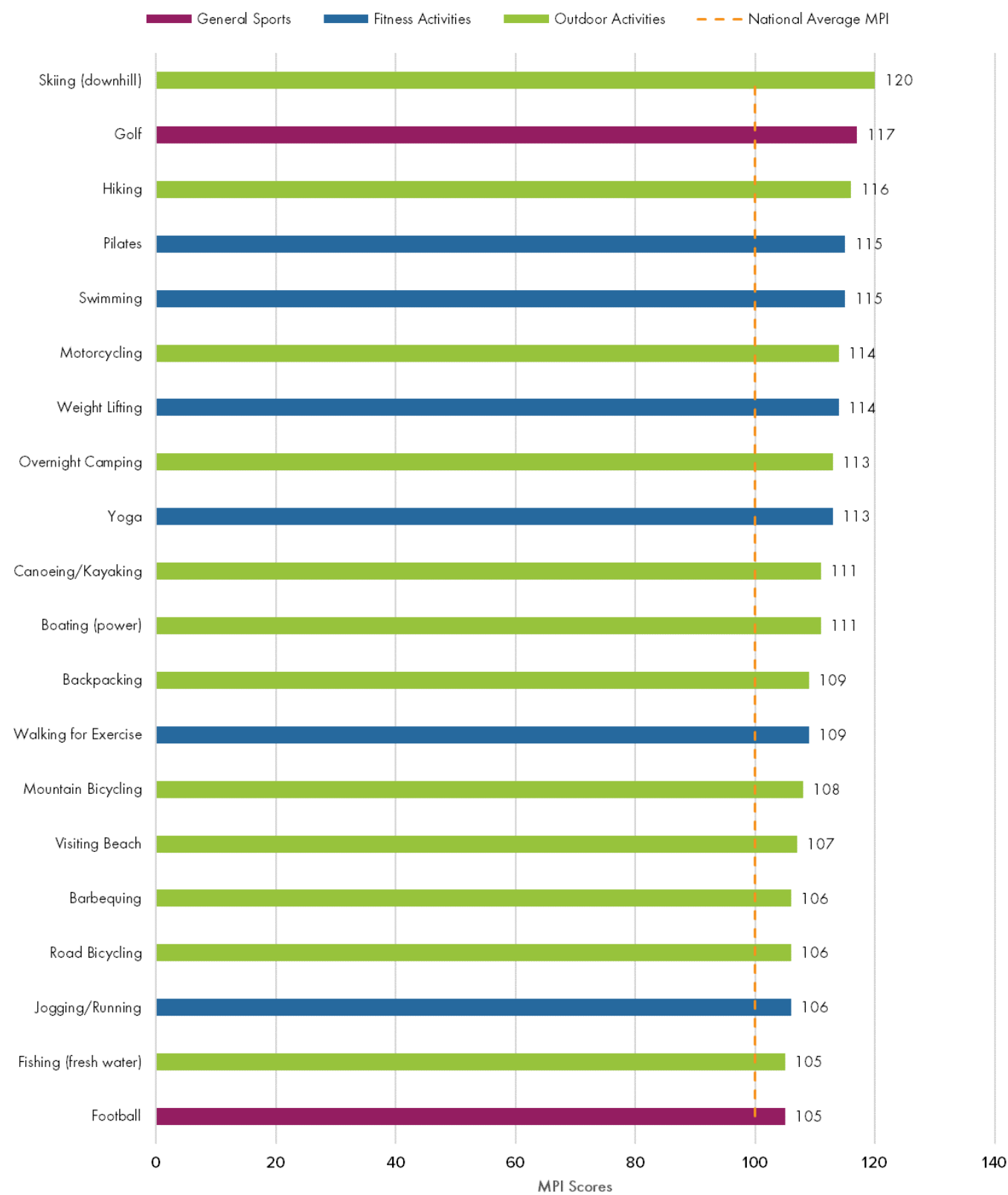
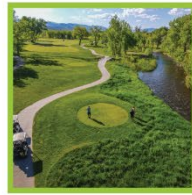


Figure 4-4: Top 20 Market Potential Index (MPI) Recreation Activities





PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN LANDS MASTER PLAN

Chapter V: Systemwide Policies

The Loveland community's aspirations and needs for the Parks and Recreation system are the guiding forces for the Master Plan. Building on outreach findings and the technical analysis of needs, this chapter identifies the systemwide policies that guide City staff in their strategic efforts to achieve the community's vision. These policies provide context for the site recommendations presented in Chapter 6. Together, the policies and site recommendations provide overarching direction for the development, programming, and management of Loveland's Park and Recreation system.

Alignment with Loveland's Vision and Strategies

In its 2020 Strategic Plan, the City of Loveland identified eight Strategic Focus Areas to achieve a high quality of life. As noted in Chapter 1, the Parks & Recreation Department plays an integral role in City efforts to improve the quality of life for Loveland's citizens and community. Many of the policies noted in this chapter further support the City's eight strategic focus areas including:

1. Public Safety
2. Economic Vitality
3. Infrastructure & Transportation
4. Fiscal Stability & Strength
5. Livability
6. Sustainability
7. Innovation & Organizational Excellence
8. Outreach, Collaboration & Engagement

Loveland's Vision

*A vibrant Community,
surrounded by natural
beauty, where you belong!*

For ease of implementation, the policies presented below are organized based on the Parks and Recreation Department's organizational divisions, with overarching Department-wide policies related to administration and management presented first. Since policies regarding outdoor recreation facilities and trails apply to parks, open lands, and golf, these policies are noted in their own category. Policies are numbered for reference only and do not appear in a prioritized order. Reference letters are based on the following organization:

- A. Department-wide Management
- B. Parks and Public Grounds
- C. Open Lands
- D. Golf
- E. Sports, Outdoor Facilities and Trails
- F. Specialized Recreation Facilities and Programs

Department-wide Management Policies (Policies A1-A75)

System-wide policies for the Parks & Recreation Department cover activities such as land acquisition and management, facility design and planning, maintenance, staffing, finance, Department operations, communications, partner/volunteer coordination, etc.

Acquisition and Planning

- A1.** The Loveland Parks & Recreation Department will provide an integrated system of parks, open lands, golf courses, public grounds, recreation facilities and trails.
- A2.** The Department will strive to increase the total amount of greenspace (park land and open lands) per the standards of this Master Plan to meet community needs as Loveland's population continues to grow.
- A3.** For areas included within the Growth Management Area, the Department will strive to secure greenspace in advance of annexation, subdivision, or development.
- A4.** The Department will participate in the City's review of new development proposals to evaluate opportunities and needs for greenspace and recreational facilities, and to establish mutually beneficial relationships between proposed development and department infrastructure. The Department will participate in updating the City's Unified Development Code (UDC), which sets standards for open space and green space dedications, to ensure these are consistent with Master Plan goals. The Department will utilize Capital Expansion Fees (CEF's) to meet the demands of growth on Loveland's parks, recreation, trails and open lands and to meet the needs of underserved areas.
- A5.** Potential property acquisitions will be evaluated against other City and regional long-range plans, such as transportation plans and regional trail plans, which may affect future site use and development.
- A6.** City-owned greenspace and recreation facilities adjacent to schools or on school property will be jointly planned and developed to maximize use, operational and economic efficiencies.
- A7.** The Department will engage citizens, stakeholders, Department staff, other City departments, and appropriate advisory groups (committees, commissions, and City Council) in master planning and review processes.

Design and Development

- A8.** Greenspace and facilities will be designed, developed, and managed on a spectrum ranging from no public access, such as lands with limited or no development in favor of conservation, to full public access including more intensive site development to ensure broad functionality and a diverse range of experiences.
- A9.** The Department will strive to ensure land acquisitions, renovations and new development adhere to the Master Plan's adopted design principles, design guidelines, and best practices. These Development Guidelines and Acquisition Criteria, outlined in Appendices D and E, identify required amenities and facilities, appropriate size, and site access.

- A10.** The Department will apply Master Plan design and development guidelines to ensure that developer-built parks, including those intended to be managed by Homeowners Associations, adhere to the City's adopted design principles, design guidelines, and best practices. HOA parks may exceed the City's development requirements. The Department will provide a staff member to the Development Review Team to review all developer submitted plans with implications to the Parks & Recreation Department.
- A11.** Greenspace and facilities will be designed and developed to reflect Loveland's heritage, art, natural character, and active community, along with community values for diversity, comfort, universal design, placemaking, flexibility, sustainability, and inclusivity.
- A12.** Greenspace and facilities will be designed and developed to minimize user conflicts.
- A13.** The Department will ensure that land and facility maintenance and stewardship needs are addressed during site planning, design, and the development of construction documents. Design modifications may be proposed where needed to support maintenance efficiencies.
- A14.** The Department will consider new and emerging trends as well as demand for traditional activities, when designing, developing, and programming facilities.
- A15.** The Department will engage residents, stakeholders, and greenspace users (including underrepresented groups) to participate in greenspace and facility design and planning processes.
- A16.** Department assets, lands and facilities will be designed in an inclusive manner that strives to limit access barriers. Focus areas include ADA compliance incorporating enhanced ADA features including but not limited to adult changing stations, charging stations for mobility devices, and amenities that extend user groups beyond physical disabilities.

Sustainability and Resiliency

- A17.** The Department will coordinate with future citywide sustainability plans, guidelines or policies as adopted and amended.
- A18.** The Department will implement best practices to support sustainability, climate resiliency, and green infrastructure in all greenspaces.
- A19.** The Department will strive to integrate drought tolerant or native plantings, waterwise irrigation, energy-efficient fixtures, design and maintenance efficiencies, and sustainable development practices to reduce water use and energy consumption.
- A20.** The Department will strive to implement environmental design practices such as integrating and maintaining native plants, pollinators, trees, bioswales, and other natural and green infrastructure at targeted sites to support sustainability, reduce water and maintenance costs, protect natural resources, and support environmental education, interpretation, and connections to nature.

- A21.** The Department will encourage the planting of native and diverse tree species in public and private spaces to reduce heat island effect, reduce energy consumption, contribute to carbon mitigation, and address shade equity.
- A22.** The Department will implement long-term climate adaptation strategies to prepare parks and natural resources for future climate change (e.g., increased extreme weather, warmer temperatures, wildfires, droughts, etc.). This may include establishing water-smart landscapes, incorporating drought-tolerant plants and native pollinator species, and reducing mown, irrigated lawn areas that do not support recreational use.
- A23.** The Department will continue to collaborate with partners to inventory, assess, protect, and restore habitat and significant natural resources in parks and open lands to preserve vital ecological functions, improve water quality, protect habitat, and increase biodiversity.
- A24.** The Department will strive to manage lands in accordance with the City's adopted Community Wildfire Protection Plan and in collaboration with the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority and regional partners to reduce wildfire risk.

Maintenance and Renovation

- A25.** Facilities, equipment, and grounds will be maintained to provide a safe, clean, well-functioning and attractive Parks & Recreation system.
- A26.** The Department will ensure that sufficient operational funding, staffing, and other resources are available to maintain existing greenspace and facilities, as well as new sites when added to the system.
- A27.** The Department will continue to implement a tiered maintenance system to align maintenance efforts with varying levels of site use, visibility, the presence of specialized amenities and facilities, and/or the presence of sensitive natural resources.
- A28.** The Department will determine the maintenance needs and costs for all new parks, open lands, and major public facilities prior to development, identifying funding mechanisms for preventive maintenance, routine maintenance, and life-cycle costs such as long-term renovation and capital replacement. These costs should incorporate escalators to address factors such as construction escalation, inflation, etc.
- A29.** Maintenance funding may be tracked and provided through separate budgets. Services may be contracted out where feasible or necessary.
- A30.** The Department will continue to ensure that public grounds are maintained through funding sources separate from other types of greenspaces. These services may be contracted out.
- A31.** The Department will integrate maintenance strategies systemwide to decrease costs and increase efficiencies, while balancing needs to create innovative parks that reflect community identity. This may include standardizing (within an acceptable

- range) park furnishings, incorporating low-maintenance and native plants, integrating non-turf (no-mow) areas, and using raw water for turf irrigation.
- A32.** The Department will incorporate design features that minimize vandalism and damage potential while making repair and replacement more efficient when needed.
- A33.** The Department will seek support for a park ranger or public safety program in parks and open land areas, investing preventative measures and greenspace safety by addressing issues such as graffiti, illegal dumping, encampments, facility break-ins, theft, vandalism, and clean-up of drug paraphernalia.
- A34.** The Department will continue to document and track facility lifecycles through depreciation schedules to plan for the ongoing needs and the increasing costs of renovations and replacement of amenities, facilities, and landscaping.
- A35.** The Department will systematically assess the condition of parks and facilities, identifying deferred maintenance needs, deficiencies, replacement needs, and costs to include in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.
- A36.** When replacing facilities, the Department will avoid "like-for-like" replacements and instead use Master Plan design and development guidelines, facility level of service standards, and site recommendations to guide decisions and incorporate new trends into facility replacement.

Safety

- A37.** The Parks and Recreation Department shall have the authority to establish and enforce the rules and regulations it deems necessary pertaining to the protection and safe use of greenspace owned or managed by the City. This includes the protection of amenities, facilities, landscaping, and natural resources at all sites.
- A38.** The Department will strive to ensure the safety of greenspace visitors and staff through facility upkeep, maintenance practices, surveillance, recreation and social service programs, and partnerships with public and private entities that address public safety and related issues in parks.
- A39.** When developing and renovating greenspace and facilities, the Department will strive to create safe environments by incorporating Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. Capital project budgets should be increased to support these additional safety features.
- A40.** The Parks & Recreation Department, in collaboration with the City's Public Works Department will promote walking and bicycling to greenspace and recreation facilities through infrastructure and access improvements, enforcement, tools, and safety education.
- A41.** The Department will collaborate with other city departments to create and implement a snow removal plan which identifies clear strategies and priorities for storm event response.
- A42.** The Department will conduct annual public safety audits with the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) to identify greenspaces or facilities

with higher levels of crime or safety issues. Funding, staffing (such as park rangers) and other resources should be identified to address recommendations from the audits.

- A43.** The Department may provide enhanced lighting, cameras, or other security features where needed to enhance the safety or perceived safety of parks, facilities, and open lands where lighting does not conflict with site or natural resource management goals.
- A44.** The Department will collaborate with public safety agencies including but not limited to private security companies, Loveland Police Department and the Larimer County Sheriff's Office to strengthen site security, address the safety needs of greenspaces and facilities, and enforce City and Department rules and regulations.
- A45.** The Department will consider the formation and/or strengthening of neighborhood watch groups, friends' groups, adopt-a-park or open land volunteer programs, and similar programs to increase eyes on green spaces.
- A46.** The Department will continue to provide processes and tools for greenspace visitors to report non-emergency park safety issues, facility condition issues, and maintenance concerns to staff.
- A47.** The Department, following the Loveland Parks & Recreation Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan, will strive to ensure ADA compliance across all Department owned and operated facilities. Where feasible, the Department will strive to provide additional universal and inclusive access opportunities.
- A48.** The Department will enforce City regulations at Department-operated properties and facilities regarding unauthorized encampments, including but not limited to removal, clean up and restoration activities.

Administration and Management

- A49.** The Department will utilize the 2023 Parks, Recreation, Open Lands & Trails Master Plan as a guiding document for department operations, management and growth throughout the document's 7-10 year planning period. The Master Plan shall be considered a "living document" and should be amended as needed to respond to changing trends in parks and recreation, in response to circumstances, conditions or events unforeseen at the time of the plan's adoption date, or as directed by city leadership.
- A50.** The Department will continue to utilize the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation process to ensure alignment with national best practices and standards for Parks and Recreation management.
- A51.** The Department shall follow established intergovernmental agreements, coordinating with Larimer County, adjacent cities and other entities when jointly planning for greenspace.
- A52.** The Department will continue to partner with the R2J School District in the joint planning, development, programming, and maintenance of sites as guided by the City-School District's Joint Use Agreement.

- A53.** The Department will invite and strive to increase community involvement, including underrepresented groups, through effective public and partner engagement and by encouraging residents, stakeholders, neighborhood groups, businesses, schools, social organizations, and public agencies to volunteer, partner, or provide feedback on Department activities, acquisitions and site operations.
- A54.** The Department will review and assess staffing needs and coordinate with Human Resources in the hiring, orientation, and onboarding of qualified employees.
- A55.** The Department will provide staff and volunteers with appropriate work environments including the provision materials, supplies, tools, equipment, and vehicles necessary to ensure safe, efficient, and effective maintenance and operations.
- A56.** Customer satisfaction and high-quality guest services are a priority for all Department facilities, programs, and operations.

Operations

- A57.** New technology will be incorporated when appropriate to support greater efficiency in the provision of facilities, programs, and services.
- A58.** The Department will establish standards, guidelines, and metrics to measure performance. Standards should be met or exceeded where practical, and guidelines will be implemented as financial circumstances and other situational factors allow.
- A59.** The Department will periodically update and review facility scheduling processes and procedures to ensure resource and facility allocation priorities are met.
- A60.** More specific policies and operational guidelines may be developed by Department divisions in their annual operational plans, as approved by the Director of the Parks & Recreation Department. These policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated on a recurring basis.

Funding

- A61.** The Department will operate on a modified user-pay philosophy for some facilities and services. Fees will be charged to help recover costs and reduce taxpayer subsidy. Fees will be set based on market conditions including supply and demand, program or facility availability and established cost recovery policies.
- A62.** Financial assistance programs will be made available for selected facilities and activities to ensure access for low-income individuals.
- A63.** The Department will strive to diversify the funding sources used to fund and enhance greenspace and facility acquisition, design, development, maintenance, operations, and programming.
- A64.** Capital Expansion Fees (CEFs) will be collected to support the acquisition, development, and expansion of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and open lands to maintain levels of service as the community grows.

- A65.** Enterprise and Special Funds may be established and/or revenues earmarked for specific purposes in accordance with City policies and regulations.
- A66.** Golf Enterprise Fund fees and revenues will be used for the planning, management, purchase, construction, operations, and maintenance of golf course facilities.
- A67.** The Parks Improvement Fund will be used for capital and maintenance projects at existing park locations.
- A68.** The Conservation Trust (Lottery) Fund will be used for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites, and/or for capital improvements and maintenance for recreational purposes.
- A69.** Revenues from the Larimer County Help Preserve Open Spaces Sales Tax (Open Space Tax Fund) will be used for acquiring ownership interests in, protecting, improving, and maintaining open lands, natural areas, wildlife habitat, and trails.
- A70.** The Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund will be used to maintain the cemetery in the future once lots are substantially sold.
- A71.** The Department will periodically update its capital replacement plan and costs with built-in escalators to ensure the funding and replacement of old or worn equipment and facilities.
- A72.** The Department may operate or contract for concessions in parks and at recreational facilities on an exclusive basis in accordance with City policies and regulations.
- A73.** Private and special event vending in parks, open lands, public grounds, and facilities shall require Department approval.
- A74.** Cash handling policies will be implemented to provide for the security of City funds. An annual review will be conducted to evaluate and update policies and procedures or as needed.
- A75.** The Department will pursue grants, sponsorships and donations to leverage existing resources for projects, programs, and operations.
- A76.** Before acceptance, donation offers will be reviewed to determine their value to the community and to identify any operational requirements as a result of the donation. The Department may require donations to include all or a portion of installation and/or other operational costs.
- A77.** The Department will continue to maintain partnerships with the Loveland Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Chilson Senior Advisory Commission to encourage the advancement of parks and recreation opportunities in Loveland through fundraising and assistance with donor requests.
- A78.** The Department may prioritize recreation participation and facility use for Loveland residents or apply special discounts for services offered to Loveland residents.

Division-Specific Policies

Division-specific policies for the Parks & Recreation Department establish guidelines for operations directly related to the Department's individual divisions, their associated land and facility types, and their related operational and maintenance needs.

Parks and Public Grounds (Policies B1-B19)

Park Service Levels and Distribution

- B1.** The Department will provide neighborhood parks, community parks, and civic spaces to serve residents as guided by the Master Plan (Appendix D).
- B2.** The Department will strive to provide parks to meet needs for close-to-home recreation opportunities balanced with needs for larger parks that support specialized and unique recreation options.
- B3.** Where feasible, parks will be centralized within the area they are intended to serve to avoid overlapping and duplication of service areas, maximize use of resources, and provide consistent levels of service.

Land Acquisition

- B4.** The Department will consider parks managed by Homeowners Associations (HOA Parks) to inform analyses of park land deficiencies and decisions regarding City park land acquisition and location.
- B5.** A title commitment and survey will be required for each potential acquisition. If the site is acquired, a title policy in the amount of the acquisition will be supplied to the City.
- B6.** The Department will acquire property for parks by warranty deed, where possible.
- B7.** Community Open Space may be developed to meet neighborhood park needs where land acquisition is not feasible, financially viable, or cost effective. Additional facilities may be added to a portion of a Greenway and Local Open Space to address needs in underserved areas.
- B8.** In underserved areas where no land is available for purchase, the Department may provide parks and recreation opportunities through partnerships (e.g., with the School District).
- B9.** The Department will prioritize park acquisition and development projects using the Master Plan prioritization tool.

Park Development

- B10.** Construction and project development will occur only if adequate funding has been identified for future project or facility staffing, maintenance, operations, and

programs. Adequate funding should be identified to achieve the desired level of service.

- B11.** The design and development of new parks and facilities shall comply with Federal, State, County, City and other mandated regulations, and will consider the City's vision, goals and guidelines for park maintenance, recreation programming, connectivity, sustainability, resource conservation and community development.
- B12.** Park land will be developed and managed primarily for recreation uses, but may also support natural or cultural resource protection.
- B13.** Department facility or site development will be coordinated with schedules identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program and the City's Strategic Financial Plan.
- B14.** The Department will strive to annex future park developments into the city's jurisdiction.

Public Grounds

- B15.** Public grounds do not count toward park level of service standards, but may be maintained to support community aesthetics, protect open space, provide environmental benefits, and buffer surrounding uses.
- B16.** The addition of beautification areas may be warranted in new public or private developments per Loveland's Unified Development Code requirements. Acquisition should not be based on level of service guidelines. Beautification areas shall only be taken on by the department with the guarantee of additional funds for their ongoing maintenance and stewardship. Beautification areas associated with development must be coordinated with and approved by the Department for ongoing maintenance and stewardship.
- B17.** The Department will continue to operate and maintain the public Cemetery and provide a variety of interment sites and services.
- B18.** Cemetery expansion or new acquisition should be determined based on Council direction to increase cemetery capacity or provide new types of burials and interment options.
- B19.** The Department may treat public grounds (cemetery) as potential passive recreation space (e.g., for walking, contemplative reflection) and/or programming space (e.g., historical programs, enrichment programs).

Open Lands (Policies C1-C25)

Open Lands Service Levels and Distribution

- C1.** The Department will acquire, develop, operate, and manage open lands using dedicated funding for this purpose.
- C2.** The Department will prioritize open lands acquisitions, based on natural resources values, willing sellers, community priorities, City goals, and regional goals. See Appendix E for additional information.

- C3.** Opportunities within the City's Growth Management Area will be considered first in the allocation of resources for open lands acquisition, development, restoration, and management to address the following:
- **Local and Community Open Spaces:** Provide open lands that enhance passive recreation, connectivity, and access to nature.
 - **Nature Preserves and Natural Areas:** Support resource and habitat conservation or protection in areas that provide an ecological or environmental benefit.
 - Special and unique opportunities outside of the City's Growth Management Area may be considered secondarily when allocating resources for open lands acquisition, development, restoration, and management. This may include:
 - **Regional Open Lands and Trails:** Support open lands that enhance connectivity to regional trails, protect view sheds or unique landmarks, or otherwise provide a unique benefit to City residents.
- C4.** The Department will support public access to open lands where compatible with resource conservation goals. Sites will be assessed in terms of capacity for public access and development prior to acquisition.
- C5.** The Department will regularly reassess priorities for open lands acquisition, discuss these with the Open Lands and Trail Advisory Commission, use this information to update long-range acquisition plans and guide the provision of services.

Open Lands Acquisition

- C6.** Open lands may be acquired through a variety of methods, including purchase, donation, warranty deed, conservation easement, right of-way dedication, easements, or partnership.
- C7.** The City may set aside up to 10% of annual open lands tax revenues for partnerships with other agencies primarily for properties outside the Growth Management Area.
- C8.** The City will attempt to acquire land before sites are annexed to the City or planned for development.
- C9.** A title commitment will be required for each potential acquisition. If the site is acquired, a survey and title policy in the amount of the acquisition will be supplied to the City.
- C10.** Potential acquisitions will be evaluated using the Open Lands Property Evaluation Form. This evaluation process will be updated periodically to account for changing open lands priorities.
- C11.** The Department will acquire any water shares or rights tied to open lands properties when feasible.
- C12.** The Department will consider options to acquire Local Open Spaces and Greenways along trails, providing recreation activity stations and social gathering space, especially in park deficient areas.

Open Lands Development

- C13.** The Department will provide and classify open lands along a spectrum to address factors such as levels of access and appropriate types and levels of development (Chapter 4 and Appendix D).
- C14.** The Department will strive to balance open land types and uses ranging from recreation to environmental protection and natural resource preservation.
- C15.** The Department may incorporate appropriate outdoor recreation opportunities in Community Open Spaces, including facilities and programs intended to support environmental education, nature interpretation, nature-based recreation, and connections to nature.
- C16.** The Department may provide open lands in four Master Plan development classifications – Nature Preserves, Natural Areas, Local Open Spaces, and Community Open Spaces - as well as consider other unique opportunities. The Department will define this opportunity-based approach to acquisition and discuss it with the Open Lands and Trails Advisory Commission.

Open Lands Management

- C17.** Loveland will set aside a minimum of \$1,000,000 of annual Larimer County Open Space Tax revenues for long-term management, maintenance, and operations of its open lands system.
- C18.** Intergovernmental agreements, memorandums of understanding, or negotiated contracts will be created and recorded to define management agreements for properties and conservation easements acquired with partner entities.
- C19.** Site management plans will be prepared prior to site development to ensure that critical natural resources are protected. The Department will provide citizens with an opportunity to be involved in the site management planning process. Management plans should:
 - C20.** Describe the overarching management philosophy for the property, permitted uses, targeted service levels for access, development and restoration, and appropriate strategies for operations, programming, maintenance, and enforcement.
 - C21.** Include a baseline inventory assessment of resources at the time of acquisition.
 - C22.** Be adaptive and updated over time based on changing resources, priorities, and site conditions.
 - C23.** Set forth additional site-specific rules and regulations for site uses compatible with management goals for the property and its resources.
- C24.** The Parks and Recreation Director may designate Parks and Recreation managed lands exempt from the City's weed ordinance (Section 7.16.040 of the Loveland Municipal Code). Noxious weed management and revegetation using native species will be addressed in site management plans.
- C25.** The Open Lands and Trails Division will review any proposed utility easements through open land properties to minimize potential natural resource impacts.

Golf (Policies D1-D7)

Service Levels, Distribution, and Development

- D1.** The Department will continue to maintain the existing City-owned golf courses as the City's population continues to grow.
- D2.** This Department will operate its golf courses as a government Enterprise Fund with a target recovery goal of 125% of operating costs.
- D3.** Golf Enterprise Fund fees and revenues will be used for the planning, management, renovation, operations, and maintenance of existing golf courses.
- D4.** The Department will continue to track golf participation and cost recovery, basing decisions for course expansion, renovation, and development on available data.
- D5.** Golf courses will be managed primarily for golf and associated uses, but also may secondarily support natural or cultural resource protection and compatible recreation opportunities.
- D6.** Golf courses should be managed and operated to provide special facilities, programming, and a welcoming environment to encourage and increase play for all demographics and abilities.
- D7.** The Department will build on efficient water use- practices already being implemented for its golf courses.

Sports, Outdoor Recreation Facilities, and Trails (Policies E1-E18)

Facility Service Levels and Distribution

- E1.** The Department will provide the following types of recreation amenities and facilities to serve residents:
 - **Sports Facilities:** Sports facilities may be provided in neighborhood and community parks to support athletics and fitness for individuals and teams. Examples include sports fields, sport courts, and fitness equipment.
 - **Outdoor Recreation Facilities:** Outdoor recreation facilities may be provided in parks and community open spaces as appropriate based on design and development guidelines, to support outdoor active and passive recreation opportunities. Examples include picnic shelters, play areas, splash parks, skate parks, dog parks, and fishing piers.
 - **Amenities:** Amenities may be provided in parks, developed open lands, golf courses, and public grounds to support user comfort and convenience or contribute to the character of the site. Examples include parking, restrooms, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash receptacles, signage, facility lighting, concessions, art, and memorials.
 - **Trails:** Off-street hard- and soft-surfaced trails for non-motorized, non-equestrian recreation uses may be provided in parks, open lands and golf courses to support recreation, non-motorized transportation, and access to

greenspace. Examples include multi-use pathways, nature trails, jogging trails, or hiking/mountain biking trails. E-bikes and similar mobility devices are allowed on city facilities.

- E2.** The Department will strive to distribute facilities and trails to ensure geographic equality, accessibility and to meet identified community needs. The proposed facility level of service (noted in Chapter 4) will be used as a guideline to inform decisions regarding the numbers and types of facilities to provide when developing and renovating parks and open lands.
- E3.** The Department will provide support and comfort amenities in parks consistent with the site's level of use, as noted in Design and Development Guidelines (Appendix D).
- E4.** The Department will annually inventory and evaluate the condition and capacity of recreation facilities to ensure the quantity of facilities and facility conditions are sufficient to meet community needs.

Sports and Outdoor Facility Development

- E5.** The Department will develop, improve, and provide safe, accessible, attractive facilities to meet the recreation programming needs of the community as priorities and resources permit.
- E6.** Recreation facilities should be designed to accommodate both drop-in and programmed uses.
- E7.** Where feasible, the Department will provide sports fields and courts for community-based, self-directed youth athletic groups and organizations. Groups will be responsible for costs associated with facility programming and preparations.
- E8.** Where feasible, the Department may provide facilities for use by community-based non-profit recreation organizations. Groups will be responsible for costs associated with facility programming and preparations.
- E9.** The Department will continue to develop traditional recreational facilities, such as athletic fields, sports courts, playgrounds, and recreation centers, throughout the community to meet growing recreation needs. Area service levels, financial feasibility, market characteristics, and local social and economic impacts will be considered.
- E10.** The Department may provide non-traditional, specialized or unique facilities in parks to respond to changing recreation trends and to address localized interests and needs.
- E11.** Park planning and review processes will include coordination with other City departments, commissions, advisory boards, the public and stakeholders.

Trail Development

- E12.** The Department will diversify trail experiences by providing a variety of interconnected neighborhood, community, park, open land and regional trails.
- E13.** The Department will coordinate with the Public Works Department to develop an integrated bikeway and pedestrian system, including bike and pedestrian connections to community facilities and specialized recreation amenities.
- E14.** The Department will seek conditions of approval to require that new private and public developments provide land, access, or easements for the City's trail system when development proposals are submitted.
- E15.** The Department will emphasize trail access for citizens inside the City's Growth Management Area. Future connections to regional or statewide trail systems will be coordinated in cooperation with partners, potentially including public, multi-agency and private entities.
- E16.** The Department will strive to construct pedestrian trail underpasses at highways and arterials to reduce pedestrian and vehicular conflicts and improve safety.
- E17.** The Department will encourage the development of neighborhood trail connections and/or sidewalks to open lands, parks, recreation facilities and the City's trail system.
- E18.** The development of trail linkages or spur connections will be the responsibility of new developments desiring a connection to the Recreation Trail system. Responsibilities for development and ongoing maintenance shall be documented in a maintenance agreement with the City. All private access points through City land will require an access easement.

Specialized Recreation Facilities and Programs (Policies F1-F21)

Specialized Recreation Facilities

- F1.** The Department will provide specialized recreation facilities to serve residents. These facilities may support fee-based activities and programs. Examples include recreation centers, aquatic facilities, senior centers, golf courses and clubhouses, environmental education centers, amphitheaters, and historic buildings.
- F2.** The Department will assess the financial feasibility of developing, operating, and programming specialized recreation facilities prior to development. Recreation centers will be developed as large, multi-purpose spaces for programming, sports, recreation, and social events.
- F3.** The Department will provide aquatic facilities, including outdoor and indoor pools, with a focus on recreational swimming, fitness and waterplay.
- F4.** Community needs for specialized facility space may be addressed through City-School District partnerships.

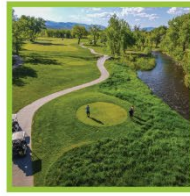
Program Service Levels and Provision

- F5.** The Department will provide a variety of programs in its community parks, civic spaces, community open spaces, and golf courses. This includes indoor and outdoor programs, active and passive recreation opportunities, and nature-based and traditional recreation programs where appropriate.
- F6.** The Department will provide educational, interpretive, and nature-based programming in Local and Community Open Spaces.
- F7.** The Department provides a mobile recreation unit to offer programs at City events and support programs for underserved areas or groups.
- F8.** The Department will provide specialized recreation facilities and programming to support outcomes including:
- Promotion of physical and mental health, wellness, and fitness
 - Connections to the outdoors and nature
 - Youth development, youth deterrence, and reductions in juvenile delinquency
 - Lifelong learning for all ages
 - Social cohesiveness and a strong sense of community
 - Loveland's economic vitality
 - Universal and ADA accessibility
 - Financial sustainability, cost recovery, and program affordability
 - Social equity
- F9.** The Department will provide recreation programs and events in service areas including:
- **Athletics/Sports:** Leagues, camps and classes supporting youth athletics, adult athletics, and skill development
 - **Aquatics:** Recreation programs, classes, and drop-in opportunities such as learn to swim, water fitness, lap swimming, open swimming, and pool events
 - **Health, Wellness, and Fitness:** Programs, classes, and drop-in opportunities such as aerobics, senior fitness, weight training and healthy eating/living
 - **Specialized Classes and Activities:** Specialized programs and classes for individualized groups, such as adaptive recreation activities, childcare, licensed preschool, and afterschool programs
 - **General Instruction and Recreation:** Programs and classes on topics such as general instruction and interest, fine arts, science, and learning
 - **Nature/Outdoor Recreation:** Programs, classes and trips supporting outdoor adventure, environmental education, nature interpretation, and outdoor skills
 - **Special Events:** Community events, fairs, and festivals
- F10.** The Department will facilitate programs that serve different skill levels, abilities, and interests. The Department will primarily focus on introductory level, inclusive programs, and skill development to support play and recreation for all. The

Department will look to local and regional self-directed groups to provide advanced skill development and competitive sports and recreation programs.

- F11.** The Department will strive to provide services for specialized populations, underserved or disadvantaged groups, and targeted ages and groups, including but not limited to youth, teens, and seniors.
- F12.** Program decisions should be based on citizen demands, the local market, available resources (staffing, budget, and facility), and the ability to meet cost recovery targets.
- F13.** The City will integrate Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) principles into decision-making practices.
- F14.** The Department will continue to facilitate special events provided by other community groups or event producers, charging appropriate fees to recover costs for facility use and associated event support services.
- F15.** The City will implement and periodically review and update the City's Memorandum of Understanding that outlines collaborative programming between the Cultural Services Department, Loveland Public Library, and Parks and Recreation departments.
- F16.** The Department will track recreation data (attendance, class participation, number of classes offered) by program service area to measure success in the provision of programs.
- F17.** Outdoor programming and sports practices will be dispersed in satellite locations throughout the community, including schools per the City-School District intergovernmental agreement for joint use.
- F18.** Game and tournament sites will be centralized as much as possible to increase quality control and efficient use of staff resources.
- F19.** Specialized recreation facilities will be operated to support both drop-in and scheduled/programmed uses.
- F20.** The Department will continue to balance local community programs with events and tournaments that attract out-of-town visitors.
- F21.** The Department may coordinate with other agencies, community groups, and regional partners in programming recreational facilities and outdoor spaces.

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PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Chapter VI: Recommendations

Based on existing conditions and established Department standards, this chapter defines recommendations to develop and enhance Loveland's Parks and Public Grounds, Open Lands, Golf, Recreation Facilities, and Trails over the next 10 years. Recommendation tables summarize guidance regarding site acquisition and development, the addition of new facilities, and ongoing site maintenance.

Systemwide Maintenance and Asset Management

The Loveland Parks & Recreation Department will prioritize maintenance and management of existing facilities over the next 7 to 10 years. The Department has seen significant growth and development of facilities in recent decades to keep pace with population growth within and surrounding the city. As a primary goal of this Master Plan, the Department intends to continue facility acquisition, growth and development at a moderate pace as dictated by population growth and resident demand for recreation opportunities, however, the Department intends to focus the next 7-10 years on upkeep and improvements to existing facilities and assets. This approach is in accordance with and supports the Foundational Pillars of the Loveland Strategic Plan including ensuring fiscal stability and strength by maximizing the value of facility investments made to date, supporting city livability and sustainability goals, and enhancing the city's already strong infrastructure system.

The Department maintains properties, facilities and assets by applying a tiered maintenance system to align resources and funding with varying levels of site use, site visibility, the presence of specialized amenities and facilities and/or the presence of sensitive natural resources. This approach ensures that the Department sets aside sufficient funding to provide the appropriate level of maintenance at each site. Table 6-1 describes the maintenance tiers that are referenced in tables throughout this chapter. Asset management including ongoing depreciation planning will also be required for all sites to ensure replacement of amenities, facilities, and landscaping to meet community expectations.

Table 6-1: Tiered Maintenance Levels

Maintenance Level Descriptions	Routine Tasks	Occasional Tasks	Applicable Sites
Basic Maintenance is required for sites with no or low visitor use and few-to-no recreational facilities and amenities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic site maintenance for safety • Encampment monitoring and removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and inspection • Tree pruning • Hazard removal • Weed management • Debris management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautification Areas • Undeveloped Park Land • Nature Preserves • Natural Areas
Standard Maintenance includes routine and preventive maintenance for sites with regular public use. Specialized care is not needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All tasks in the "basic" level. • Landscape maintenance for safety and aesthetics • Monitoring and inspection • Debris management • Routine and preventative care for site furnishings and facilities • Restroom cleaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti and vandalism removal or repair • Amenity and facility repair • Irrigation repair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood Parks • Local Open Spaces • Community Open Spaces • Cemeteries
Enhanced Maintenance is required for sites with specialized assets, heavy use, or programming and events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All tasks in "standard" level on a more frequent basis • Specialized facility maintenance • Sports field turf irrigation and management • Janitorial care of buildings • Care of floral and botanical plantings, weeding, pruning where applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of major facilities • Program/event/renservable facility preparation, setup, or cleanup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Parks • Civic Space • Golf Courses
Natural Resource Stewardship may include specialized care of natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine monitoring and inspection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree canopy protection • Invasive species removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parks and open lands with significant

resources and/or environmental restoration efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree / brush pruning • Mowing (where appropriate) • Trail clearing • Encampment monitoring and removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumping and hazards removal • Bank stabilization • Natural area restoration • Natural resource management • Fire prevention 	natural resources, substantial natural areas, and riparian corridors
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Parks and Public Grounds

Recommendations are provided for Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Civic Spaces, and Public Grounds. See Table 6-2 for site-specific recommendations for new parks.

Neighborhood Parks

- **Develop 2 new neighborhood parks** on land already acquired by the city, selecting amenities and facilities based on adopted development guidelines (Appendix D). Incorporate nature-based recreation into these sites to leverage their locations adjacent to natural areas including:
 - Willow Bend Neighborhood Park
 - Dakota Ridge Neighborhood Park
- **Explore opportunities for parkland acquisition for neighborhood parks in other underserved areas.** Capital Expansion Fees will serve as the primary source of funding for land acquisition.
- **Add, update or enhance facilities in existing neighborhood parks to ensure all sites support active recreation, social gatherings, and play.** Such facility upgrades should be coordinated with the Department's Depreciation Plan for scheduled asset replacement when feasible. See facility recommendations in Table 6-4.

Community Parks

- **Develop 1 new community park** on land already owned by the city and set aside for community park development between Wilson and Taft Avenues and south of 57th Street. Ensure this park is accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists by connecting it to a multi-use Recreation Trail.
- **Develop Phase 2 of Mehaffey Park** on the existing 18 acres of city-owned land that was set aside to for future recreational development. Development of this parcel may include a variety of recreational uses, facilities or amenities to be determined based on community need, market and feasibility analyses.
- **Expand outdoor recreation in community parks** to provide more variety for different uses and user groups. Consider new facilities in existing community parks on a case-by-case basis.

Civic Spaces

- **Maintain existing civic spaces and public grounds** to industry standards and community expectations. Resources will be allocated based on established demand and use patterns

Open Lands

Recommendations are identified below for open lands.

- **Identify sites requiring natural resource restoration** and schedule restoration projects in coordination with staff and volunteer stewardship opportunities.
- **Develop open land properties to accommodate future public access.** Development may include such amenities as trails, trailhead/parking, and nature-based recreation features. Priority sites for such development include:
 - Willow Bend Natural Area
 - Skyline/Dakota Ridge Natural Areas
 - Wild Natural Area
 - Ward West Open Space Parcel
 - Centennial Village
- **Utilize and develop existing open lands for connectivity of trail corridors. Loveland Parks & Recreation has strategically acquired open land properties along future trail corridors. Priority sites for trail corridor development and connectivity include:**

East Big Thompson Trail Corridor

- Martin Marietta
- Old St. Louis
- Osborn
- Willow Bend
- Kauffman Conservation Easement
- East Big Thompson Natural Area/County Road 20E Conservation Easement

South Front Range Trail (Loveland to Berthoud)

- Eagle Vista Natural Area
- Dunkin Conservation Easement/Heron Lakes Conservation Easement

Northwest Loveland Trail Corridor

- Prairie Ridge to 43rd Street
- Skyline and Dakota Ridge Natural Areas

- **Add social gathering space, event/programming space, and nature-based recreation opportunities to open spaces to accommodate future public access.** Priority sites include:
 - Dakota Ridge Natural Area
 - Eagle Vista Natural Area
 - East Big Thompson Natural Area
 - Medina's Crossing
 - Skyline Natural Area
 - Willow Bend Neighborhood Park and Natural Area
- **Acquire additional open lands** per acquisition priorities and available opportunities. Acquisition priorities should include:
 - A focus on parcels which provide connectivity and high resource value along the Big Thompson River corridor and foothills.

- Acquisition of properties which connect existing natural resources and protect wildlife corridors.
- Acquisition of properties with water-based recreation opportunities.

Golf

Recommendations for Golf operations are provided below and place an emphasis on maximizing use of existing facilities as opposed to construction of new or expanded facilities, and on incorporating operational efficiencies into existing division functions.

- **Maintain and enhance existing golf courses** to industry standards utilizing division operational and maintenance plans. Priorities should be given to maintaining a high standard of course play, guest experience, staff safety and efficiency of operations.
- **Research viability of year-round golf opportunities** such as simulators, to build additional revenue streams that offset operating costs of facilities and support the Golf Enterprise Fund.
- **Maximize existing facilities** with a focus on employee safety and operational efficiency including renovation or rebuilding of the existing Olde Course maintenance building.
- **Incorporate new irrigation technologies to enhance water efficiencies.** Continue to review water sources for golf course use and seek opportunities for water conservation and cost reduction in light of regional water scarcity issues.
- **Incorporate golf architect recommendations** into the ten-year plan including bunker renovation, mowing patterns, tree placement and tee leveling. Recommendations and improvements should be aimed toward improving the golf play experience while maintaining course longevity and efficiency of operations.
- **Review revenue opportunities to fund infrastructure needs annually.** Golf operations are funded by the Golf Enterprise fund and shall be self-sufficient.

Recreation Facilities

Systemwide and Major Facilities

Table 6-5 provides recommendations and guidance regarding the numbers and types of systemwide and major facilities to be provided as well as recommended facility classifications where appropriate. Recommendations are provided for Sports Fields, Sports Courts, Play Equipment and Play Areas, Social Gathering Spaces, Event/Programming Spaces, Trails, Nature-Based Recreation, Major Facilities, and Outdoor Recreation Facilities.

Recommendations include:

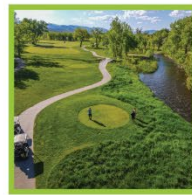
- **Increase sports field quantities, focusing on the greater demand for rectangular field space.** Integrate game-quality fields in the new community park location and practice fields in neighborhood parks.
- **Increase and diversify sport facilities** to support health, fitness, and a greater variety of recreation options. Expand facilities according to demonstrated demand.
- **Diversify amenities in parks and explore new trends** in recreation when adding or renovating facilities.
- **Add additional dog parks to meet community needs and demand.** Neighborhood outreach shall be conducted to ensure majority support for new dog park facilities.
- **Further explore needs for major facilities.** Determine support for a new multi-use recreation facility. Building on the previous recreation center study, conduct a financial feasibility and market study with an operating pro forma to assess options to fund and develop a new facility. Identify the best size, location, programming and use for this type of facility, considering funding options, revenue-generation and policies and guidelines in this Master Plan.
- **Repair/upgrade specialized facilities.** Continue monitoring and addressing improvements needed at specialized facilities. Plan ahead for significant repair and replacement expenditures through the depreciation planning process.

Trail Connectivity

Because of the importance of trails in supporting park access and connectivity, additional recommendations related to specific trail linkages are noted below and in Table 6-6 including:

- **Enhance community connectivity** by developing neighborhood and community connections to the existing City Recreation Trail. Priorities for connections include:
 - Paving of the Recreation Trail segment from Namaqua to Wilson Avenue along the Big Barnes Ditch road
 - Connecting new developments to existing trail corridors and trail systems

- **Development of loop trails in parks.** Provide hard-surfaced loop trails in all new community parks, in existing community parks where feasible, and in larger new neighborhood parks to support walking, biking, exercise, nature interpretation, and other non-motorized trail activities. Priorities include:
 - Development of trails at Willow Bend Neighborhood Park and Natural Area
 - Inclusion of trail loops in new park areas where feasible
- **Develop trails in targeted open lands.** Develop ADA accessible hard-surfaced and soft-surfaced trails, trail viewpoints and trailheads in existing or acquired open lands where these trails will not impact significant natural resources. Priorities include trails planned at:
 - Wild Natural Area
 - Ward West Natural Area
 - Skyline/Dakota Ridge Natural Area
 - Willow Bend Neighborhood Park and Natural Area
- **Enhance connectivity to parks, open lands, and community facilities.** Prioritize the acquisition and development of City and regional trails connecting Loveland parks, open lands, and recreation facilities to key destinations in the City and Growth Management Area. Align with the recommendations of the City of Loveland CONNECT transportation Plan (2022) prioritizing citizen access including:
 - Sidewalk and trail connections planned along 57th Street to connect the future community park site to Prairie Ridge and Dakota Ridge/Skyline Natural Areas.
 - Secure trail connections within new development through the City's Development Review processes including connections from new developments to trail corridors and the Recreation Trail.
- **Provide regional connectivity.** Support regional trail connectivity within Loveland's Growth Management Area as per recommendations in the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization Regional Bicycle Plan (2022). Regional connectivity priorities include:
 - East Big Thompson River Trail connecting downtown Loveland to Interstate 25
 - South Front Range Trail connecting Loveland and Berthoud
 - Prairie Ridge Natural Area to Highway 34 Trail



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN LANDS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Chapter VII: Implementation Plan

The recommendations noted in the last chapter will inform investment decisions for the next ten years and beyond. To support implementation, this chapter identifies an action plan to carry out capital projects for new development and system enhancement within the 10-year planning horizon. It provides the tools and information needed to prioritize projects and integrate these into the Department's annual workplan and budget. This information will help the City build an integrated system of parks, recreation facilities, open lands, and trails.

10-Year Action Plan

In addition to sustaining, repairing, and replacing existing site amenities, facilities and landscaping, the City of Loveland anticipates expanding the park, recreation, and open lands and trails system as the City grows. Table 7-1 provides a snapshot of these enhancements. Map 7-1 maps these recommendations.

Table 7-1: 10-Year Action Plan (Capital Projects for System Enhancement)

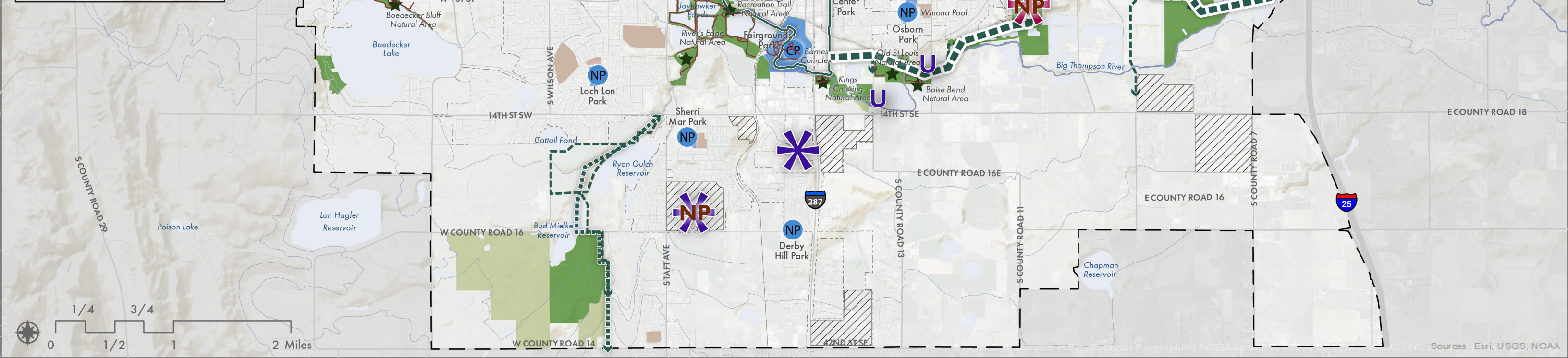
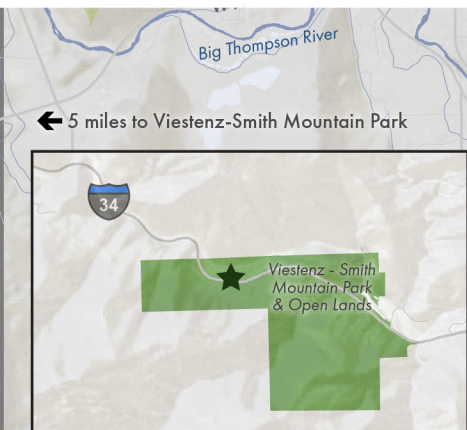
	Acres	Description
Existing parkland development – neighborhood park sites	20	Development of two new neighborhood parks on existing City-owned land including Willow Bend Neighborhood Park and Dakota Ridge Neighborhood Park
Existing parkland development – Community and other park sites	78	Development of one new community park on a 60-acre parcel of land between Taft Avenue and Wilson Avenue, south of 57 th Street. Development of 18-acres of existing land of Mehaffey Park for recreation facility or park purposed as determined by future community need.
Acquisition of new neighborhood park land	3	Acquisition of three new 5-10 acre parcels for future neighborhood park development. Priority for development to be based on demonstrated gaps in park service levels
New Open Lands	1326.3	Acquisition of new open lands (not including development)
Open Lands Development or Enhancement ¹	3056.8	Development of Loveland's portion of 6 future natural areas (119.5 ac), 3 future Local Open Spaces (137.9 ac), and 8 Community Open Spaces (2799.4 ac) (not shown on map)
Trail Development	N/A	7.4 miles of paved trails; 10.5 miles of soft-surfaced trails
New Public Grounds	TBD	TBD (not shown on map)
Underpasses		Addition of 8 new underpasses at key pedestrian/bicycle safety locations

Park, Open Lands, and Trails
Opportunities and Connectivity

Legend

- Growth Management Area
 - - - City Boundary
 - ++ Street Network
 - Rail Line
 - Bodies of Water
 - River or Canal
 - Public Schools
 - Anticipated Residential Development and Growth Area
- POTENTIAL PARK AND TRAIL DEVELOPMENT
- ✳ 10-Year Plan Development of Existing Undeveloped Parkland ¹
 - ✳ Consider Acquisition and Development as Parkland Becomes Available
 - Construct Proposed Hard-Surfaced Trail ²
 - Construct Proposed Soft-Surfaced Trail ²
 - U Future Underpass Needs
- EXISTING PARKS, OPEN LANDS, GOLF, AND TRAIL SYSTEM
- NP Neighborhood Park
 - CP Community Park
 - CS Civic Space
 - Loveland Open Lands
 - Loveland Open Lands Open to the Public
 - Open Lands Partnerships ³
 - Conservation Easements (Private)
 - Golf Courses
 - Public Grounds ⁴
 - Existing Hard-Surfaced Trails (Loveland)
 - Existing Soft-Surfaced Trails (Loveland)
 - Existing Trails (Other)

¹ Categorized as NP for neighborhood park and CP for community park.
² All proposed trails are conceptual and do not reflect specific alignments. Further planning and design is required.
³ Open Lands jointly owned and/or managed by the City of Loveland.
⁴ Includes only cemeteries, beautification areas are not mapped.



Funding Overview

Having sufficient funding for the maintenance, operations, asset management, and expansion of the park and recreation system will be critical as the community continues to grow. Historically, the City has preferred to operate on a debt-free basis but has more recently allowed debt-service to fund capital projects. The costs associated with capital expansion priorities identified in this Master Plan exceeds the funding available through current funding sources. New funding sources for operations and programming should be explored as new lands and facilities are considered. These may include new tax measures, additional development fees, or increasingly involving partners, volunteers, and business sponsors in meeting needs for new development, operations, maintenance and programming. It must be noted that funding for maintenance of Loveland's existing parks and recreation system should be prioritized over the addition of new projects and amenities.

There are several funding sources that feed Parks & Recreation Department funds. Because some funding sources are restricted in the type of expenditures they can support, it is important to consider capital costs separately from operations costs.

A few of the Department's funding sources are described below.

Charges for Service: The Department operates on a modified “user pay” philosophy and recovers expenditures with revenues where possible and within market conditions. Fees charged for services cannot be increased beyond what the market will bear.

General Fund Subsidy: Some programs and facilities do not fully recover costs through users fees and must be subsidized through the City's General Fund to benefit of the community. These General Fund dollars support critical services such as parks and public grounds maintenance and community benefit recreation classes and events.

Capital Expansion Fees (CEFs): Since 1984, Loveland has kept property and sales taxes low by relying upon residential impact fees, which are known as Capital Expansion Fees. CEF's ensure that new development cover its proportionate share of the impacts of residential growth on infrastructure and programs. This has provided a steady revenue source for new parks, recreational facilities, trails, and open lands preservation—all needed due to increasing demand caused by population growth. While revenues vary year to year depending on the amount of development, these funds are essential to support future expansion to meet community growth and demand.

Larimer County Open Lands Sales Tax: Open lands acquisition relies not only on CEFs, but also on the City portion of the current Larimer County Open Space sales tax. Because CEFs cannot be used for maintenance, the monies received via the Larimer County Open Lands Sales Tax are essential to fund the on-going maintenance of existing and future open lands.

Conservation Trust (Lottery Proceeds): The Parks & Recreation Department receives revenues derived from State Lottery Funds, which are restricted for parks and recreation sites, facilities and projects. In the early 1990s, City Council designated that these funds be used primarily to fund Loveland's Recreation Trail System, including maintenance and construction, and secondarily to contribute to other parks and recreation sites and facilities.

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

Level of Service Adjustments based on Funding Realities

Over the last ten years, available funding has been insufficient to achieve all recommendations in the 2014 Plan, and residents have not yet approved a bond measure to support the development of a new indoor recreation center, fieldhouse, or new aquatic facilities. Funding and staffing levels have also been insufficient to provide the level of service desired by the community. For this reason, the Master Plan:

- Decreases the proposed level of service for parkland from 6.0 acres per 1,000 residents (existing) to 5.75 acres per 1,000. That will leave residents in several areas without access to a neighborhood park within walking distance. Even with the reduction, the City will still add parkland which will require additional maintenance, operations, and asset management funds to support park maintenance and use.
- Relies on the Larimer County Open Lands Sales Tax to sustain the level of service for open lands at 65 acres per 1,000 residents as Loveland grows. Maintenance, restoration, development, and asset management funds from this source will support public access to these areas and the stewardship of natural resources.
- Recommends providing the same or higher levels of maintenance and operations funding for existing parks and recreation facilities and amenities.
- Proposes increasing Parks Capital Expansion Fund to meet the standard for new neighborhood and community park development.
- Proposes consideration of General Fund revenues or adding a levy or bonds to support development, maintenance, operations, and park activation/programming commensurate with expectations for new development.
- Recommends prioritizing the use of funding in the Recreation Capital Expansion Fund to develop or partially develop a new recreation facility within the next 10-years.

Even with these service level adjustments, the City will need to consider other funding sources to support its park and recreation system or should further lower its service standards to match available funding.

Prioritization Process

Community Identified Priorities

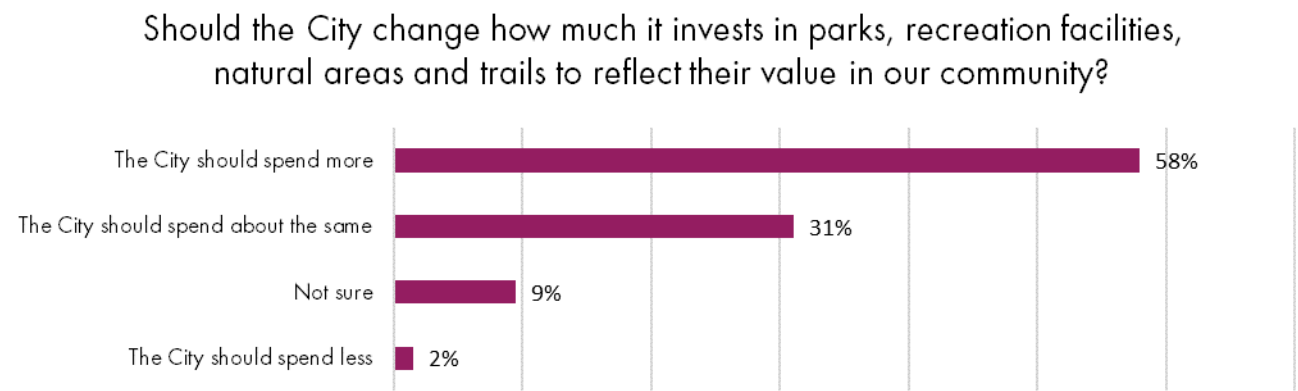
During the fall and winter 2022, outreach activities were conducted to gauge community priorities for investment in Loveland’s park and recreation system. A Parks, Recreation, Open Lands, and Trails (PROLT) Survey was completed by 956 people, voicing their current needs, concerns, and preferences. A prioritization survey then collected feedback from an additional 1,356 participants, further honing input related to community identified needs. Finally, a prioritization meeting gathered members of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Open Lands and Trails Advisory Commission, the Golf Advisory Board, the Parks & Recreation Foundation, and the Loveland Youth Advisory Commission.

Key Findings

The PROLT Survey (conducted from July-September 2022) identified the following key priorities:

- **More trail, pathway, and bike route connections.** The public wishes to see more trails with better links to key destinations, as well as improved trails with more trailheads and safety features. Thirty-five percent of respondents indicated that building more trails and paths should be a top funding priority.
- **Enhance open lands and natural areas.** Forty-five percent of respondents indicated this is a top priority and would like to see Loveland’s city identity tied to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- **New amenities and facilities.** Survey respondents indicated desire for more amenities and facilities but were split on which types were needed. This suggests a greater variety of recreation opportunities is needed, in order to appease a diverse population.
- **Diversify golf offerings.** Almost half of survey respondents reported that they play golf at a city course or other course, and suggest improving on-course amenities, enhancing club houses, and adding more courses.
- **Continue stewardship and maintenance.** Repairing, replacing, and maintaining existing amenities and infrastructure was rated as the highest priority project from participants.
- **Increase city investment in parks, recreation facilities, natural areas and trails.** Over half of respondents want the city to spend more money to protect, develop and maintain these assets (Figure 7-2).

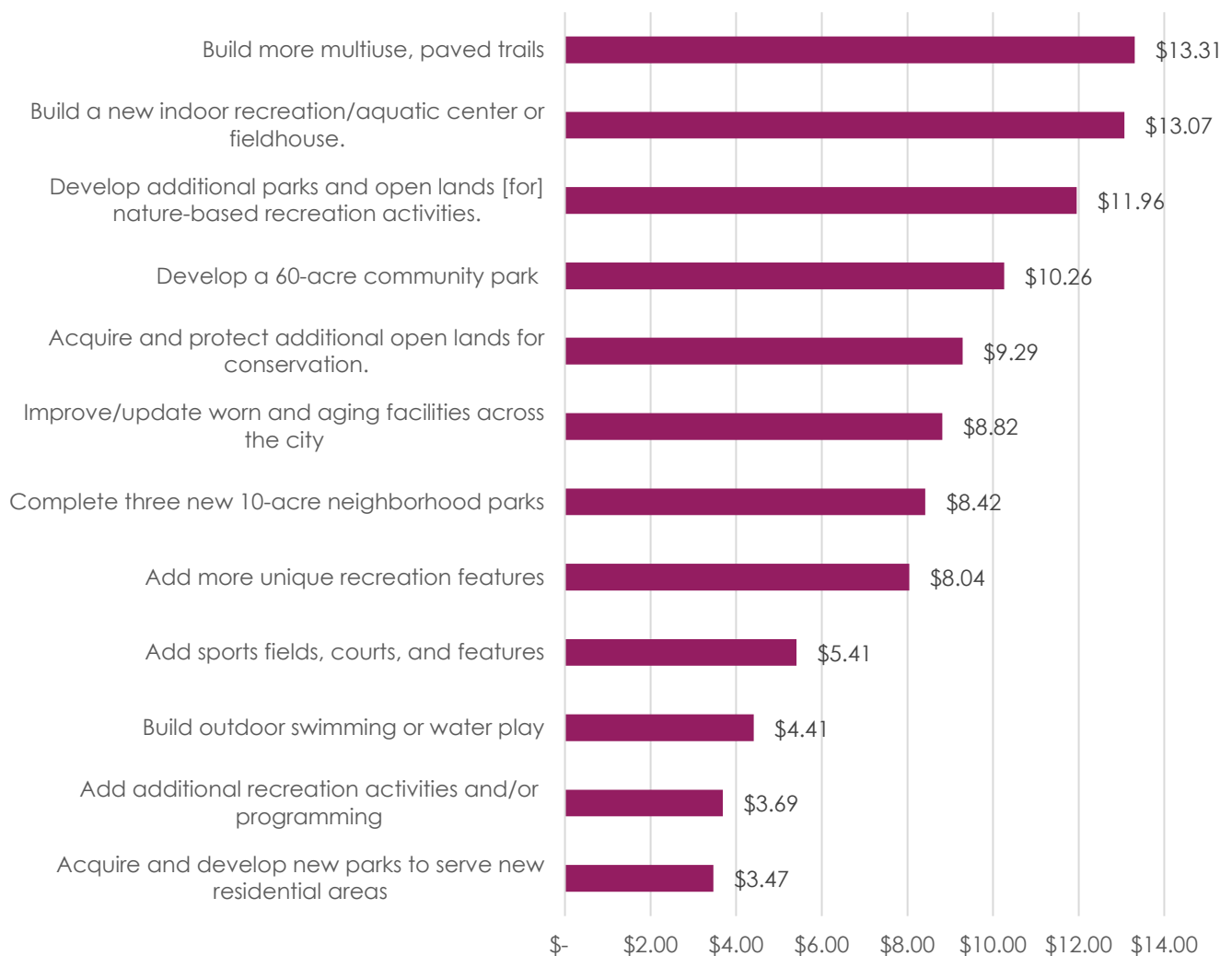
Figure 7-2: Parks and Recreation City Funding Investment (PROLT Survey Findings)



The Prioritization Survey (conducted in November 2022) identified the following key priorities:

- Top funding priorities focused on building **more trails**, building a **new indoor recreation center/aquatic center or fieldhouse**, and developing **additional parks and open lands** for nature-based recreation (Figure 7-3).
- When asked to indicate their support (0: not at all supportive, 10: very supportive), respondents indicated:
 - high support for developer fees to create parks (8.4 average score)
 - neutral support for a temporary tax increase for small parks and projects (4.9 average score)
 - neutral support for a temporary tax increase for large parks and projects (5.4 average score)
 - neutral support for a permanent tax increase to support maintenance and recreation programming (5.2 average score)

Figure 7-3: Projects by Average Budget Allocated (Prioritization Survey findings)
Participants were asked to prioritize the allocation/spending of a hypothetical \$100 budget over the possible uses shown below. A higher allocation indicates greater support for that use.



The Prioritization Meeting (held on November 29, 2022) identified the following key priorities:

- **Long term financial feasibility** must be incorporated into any funding proposal. Costs of staffing, maintenance, upkeep, and future renovations should inform funding decisions.
- **Developing partnerships is key.** Other community agencies, recreation organizations, and sports groups are valuable assets.
- **Provide the community with diverse recreational amenities**, especially those that center around nature and outdoor recreation.
- **The notion of accessibility must be expanded** to include not only ADA-accessibility, but also convenient access to parks and open spaces for all ages (consider transportation options), and recreational variation that appeals to diverse cultures and audiences.
- **Flexibility in how parks are planned and programmed** to allow for accommodation of future changes to the City and the community.

Figures 7-4 and 7-5 below provide additional feedback obtained from the November 29th Prioritization Meeting.

Figure 7-4: What should be added or what is missing from our Open Lands system



Figure 7-5: What should be added or what is missing from our Trails system



Aligning Strategic Plan Focus Areas, Master Plan Goals and Available Resources

Departmental Project Evaluation and Prioritization Scorecard

The City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Department makes decisions about projects and programs in conjunction with the City's annual budgeting process. While this Master Plan informs investment decisions, the capital and associated operations costs for all projects and programs recommend in the Master Plan may exceed what the City can afford to implement in the next ten years.

To assist the City in focusing on priority projects, the Master Plan introduces a two-step evaluation process for prioritizing and sequencing projects (Table 7-4). This evaluation framework can be applied to recommended projects in the Master Plan as well as any new projects that arise.

In Step 1, projects are evaluated against the City's eight Strategic Focus Areas (2020 Strategic Plan). The Strategic Focus Areas guide the initiatives of City departments and divisions in supporting the City's high quality of life standards, with Parks & Recreation playing a critical role in helping achieve these desired outcomes.

In Step 2, projects are evaluated for ease and urgency of implementation. Projects that meet multiple criteria in Step 2 are well aligned with park system realities, which make them greater priorities. For this reason, Step 2 is weighted more heavily, with each criterion counting as two points.

Table 7-4: Two-Step Project Evaluation and Prioritization Scorecard

Criteria	Check
Step 1: Alignment with Strategic Focus Areas: <i>Does the proposed project address any of the following Strategic Focus Areas?</i>	<i>Check if, Yes</i>
Public Safety: Does the project improve the safety of users?	
Economic Vitality: Does the project contribute to a healthy and resilient economy?	
Infrastructure & Transportation: Does the project improve public infrastructure or promote effective transportation choices?	
Fiscal Stability & Strength: Does the project demonstrate accountability and responsible management of public investments?	
Livability: Does the project improve access to services, opportunities, or experiences that enrich lives?	
Sustainability: Does the project protect natural resources or promote sustainable practices?	
Innovation & Organizational Excellence: Does the project promote excellent municipal services?	
Outreach, Collaboration & Engagement: Does the project actively seek citizen engagement?	
Step 2: Alignment with Park System Realities: <i>Does the proposed project address the following criteria?</i>	<i>Check if, Yes</i>
Function and Use: Does the project improve worn and aging facilities or restore use?	
Underserved or Underrepresented Groups: Does the project serve unserved geographic areas or underrepresented groups?	
Nature-based Activation: Does the project provide outdoor, nature-based recreation activities (e.g., hiking trails, nature play, water access) to respond to key public preferences?	
Conservation: Does the project provide conservation opportunities for unique natural features, valuable habitat areas, floodplain or viewshed areas?	
Existing Lands: Can the City implement the project using existing parks, open land space, or available public space (e.g., property already acquired, vacant lands)?	

Criteria	Check
Existing Resources: Does the project use or leverage available resources, such as existing staffing or volunteers, equipment, sites, and facilities?	
Funding Availability: Does the project leverage existing funding for implementation, such as City capital and operations funding, grants, partnerships, and donations?	
Cost Savings: Does the project reduce costs, increase revenues, increase sustainability, or increase maintenance and operational efficiencies?	
Ease of Implementation: Can the project be done quickly and easily (i.e., are advanced planning, feasibility studies, and permitting already completed)?	
Acquisition Urgency: Does the project acquire parkland or open space while the opportunity exists to do so? (Or before the opportunity is lost?)	
Connectivity: Does the project improve trail access or provide paved trail connections to key destinations?	
Numbers Served: Does the project benefit a large number of people or serve a medium- or high-density area where demand is greater?	
Value: Does the project deliver high value for the cost or resources needed, relative to other projects?	
Multiple Benefits: Does the support multiple or flexible uses?	
TOTALS	

This scorecard should be used as a tool to evaluate and sequence capital projects in annual capital improvement planning and budgeting. Use of the scorecard will help ensure prioritization of projects that closely align with City Strategic Plan Focus Areas and masterplan identified goals, and that are achievable given current system realities.

Appendix A: System Inventory

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Appendix A: System Inventory
Table A-1: City of Loveland Parks

	ACREAGE ¹			SPORT FIELDS			SPORT COURTS					OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES					SPECIALIZED RECREATION FACILITIES					TRAILS		WATER		OUTDOOR AMENITIES					OTHER							
PARKS	DEVELOPED ACRES	UNDEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL <i>B</i> = Backstop	FOOTBALL/ SOCCER <i>P</i> = Practice Goal	SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	HORSESHOE PITS	TENNIS COURT	PICKLEBALL COURT	VOLLEYBALL COURT	IN-LINE HOCKEY	PAVILION/ SHELTER/ GAZEBO	PLAYGROUND	SKATE PARK	DOG PARK	SPRAY PARK	RECREATION CENTER	SENIOR CENTER	OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL	SWIM BEACH	AMPHITHEATER/ STAGE	BATTING CAGES	TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	FISHING	WATER ACCESS	WATER VIEW	CONCESSIONS	PARKING (Off-Street)	PICNIC AREAS/TABLES	RESTROOM <i>PR</i> = Portable Restroom	PUBLIC ART					
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS																																						
Derby Hill Park	3.5		3.5		P			1						1																	•							
Dwayne Webster Veteran's Park	5.5		5.5				1*	1	2*				3	1																•	•	•	•	Veterans Memorial, Parks Storage				
Eagleview Park	11.3		11.3	B	P		1						1	1																•	•							
Edmondson Park	2.4		2.4					1	2*					1																	•							
Estrella Park	1.1		1.1		P									1																	•							
Garfield Park	1.8		1.8	B	P									1																•				Storage Building Leased to Library				
Kirkview Park	1.2		1.2											1																	•							
Loch Lon Park	10.7		10.7		3									1																	•	PR						
Loch Mount Park	0.7		0.7											1																								
McKee Park	4.2		4.2	B	1				2					1																	•	PR	•					
Namaqua Park	6.5		6.5					1					1	1										•		•		River		•	•	PR	•	Landscape sculpture				
Osborn Park	10.6	1.2	11.8	1	2					6*				1							1								•	•	•	•	PR					
Seven Lakes Park	10.2		10.2		1		1						1	1										•	•					•	•	•		Parks & Trails Storage				
Sherri Mar Park	2.7		2.7		P									1																	•							
Silver Glen Park	4.3		4.3	B	P									1																	•							
Silver Lake Park	4.2		4.2											1																	•							
Sunnyside Park	4.0		4.0	2B	1		1			4				1										•							•	PR		Parks/Rec Storage				
Westside Park	1.5		1.5					1						1																	•							
Woodmere Park	4.7		4.7	B	P									1																	•							
Subtotal of above Neighborhood Parks	91.0	1.2	92.2	8	15	0	4	5	6	10	0	0	6	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	1	6	17	7	3					
COMMUNITY PARKS																																						
Centennial Park	31.0	3.0	34.0	5*, 1						4			1	1									1	•	•	•	•	River	•	•	•	•	2/PR	•	Parks, OL&T, REC Storage			
Fairgrounds Park (and Barnes Softball Complex)	72.2	14.9	87.1	10*			1*						4	2	1	1	1						1	•	•	•	•	River	•	•	•	•	4/PR	•	Parks Shop/Batting Cages/Fitness Court			
Kroh Park	26.1	12.0	38.1	2	9								1	1												•		Pond		•	•	1	•	Parks Shop/Rec Storage				
Loveland Sports Park (LSP)	74.0		74.0		11	1*	2				2	2	5	1	1		1						•				Pond	•	•	•	•	4	•	Parks Shop/Rec & 3rd Party Storage				
North Lake Park	60.2		60.2	2	7		2*	8	12*				5	3							1	1				•	Pond & Lake		•	•	3	•	Parks Shop/Rec Storage, Mini-Train, Swim Beach					
Mehaffey Park	64.0	21.8	85.8		1		1*		7*	4*			4	1	1	1	1						•	•			Pond		•		2	•	Parks/Rec Storage, 9-Hole Disc Golf Course					
Subtotal of above Community Parks	327.5	51.6	379.2	20	28	1	6	8	19	8	2	2	20	9	3	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	3	4	2	7	3	6	5	16	6					
CIVIC SPACES																																						
Benson Park & Sculpture Garden	15.0		15.0										1															Pond			•	•	•					
Civic Center Park	14.3		14.3											1				1	1			1		•	•			Pond	•	•	•		•	Chilson Recreation Center, Senior Center, Library, and Senior Housing complex				
Glen Arbor Park	1.7		1.7																														•					
McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park	4.2		4.2																									Pond		•	•		•					
South Shore Parkway	4.0		4.0																				•	•	•		Lake		•	•		•						
Subtotal of above Civic Spaces	39.2	0.0	39.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	4	1	3	4	1	5					
Subtotal of all Developed Parklands	457.7	52.8	510.6	28	43	1	10	13	25	18	2	2	27	29	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	9	6	6	2	12	5	15	26	24	14					
UNDEVELOPED PARKLAND																																						
Northwest Community Park (unnamed)		60.0	60.0																																			
Willow Bend Neighborhood Park		10.0	10.0																															Joint Park & Open Lands Planned				
Dakota Ridge Neighborhood Park		10.0	10.0																																Joint Park & Open Lands Planned			
Boedecker East Neighborhood Park		10.0	10.0																																			
Subtotal of all Undeveloped Parkland	0.0	90.0	90.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Total for Park System	457.7	142.8	600.6	28	43	1	10	13	25	18	2	2	27	29	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	9	6	6	2	12	5	15	26	24	14					

Key:

- = existing amenity or facility present on site
- * = lighted facility

Notes:

¹ Park acreages calculated from recorded Plat documents

Last Updated: 10/28/2022

Appendix A: System Inventory

Table A-2: City of Loveland Open Lands (existing and future planned)

	ACREAGE						ACCESS & MAINTENANCE		SPECIALIZED REC FACILITY	TRAILS			WATER ACCESS (pond/lake/reservoir/river)			AMENITIES			PROPERTY TYPE		
	DEVELOPED ACRES for public access (trails, parking etc)	UNDEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	WATERWAY ACRES (20' buffer from edge)	LOVELAND ACRES	LOVELAND'S OWNERSHIP %	MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER	PAVED TRAIL	SOFT SURFACE TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	FISHING	WATER ACCESS	WATER VIEW	INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE	PARKING	RESTROOM	FEE SIMPLE PROPERTIES AND PARTNERSHIPS	CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	NOTES
OPEN LANDS ¹																					
NATURE PRESERVES - No public access and no developed features																					
Boedecker West	0.0	25.6	25.6	0.7	25.6	100%	Loveland	No Access							Reservoir				•		SW 14th St
Centennial Natural Area	0.0	1.3	1.3	0.1	1.3	100%	Loveland	No Access							River				•		W 1st St
Hopkins CE	0.0	59.8	59.8	0.0	59.8	100%	Owner	No Access											•		Co Rd 14
Horseshoe Lake / Coulson CE	0.0	5.3	5.3	0.4	5.3	100%	Owner	No Access							Reservoir				•		E Co Rd 24E
Lazy J Bar S CE	0.0	326.5	326.5	1.4	326.5	100%	Owner	No Access							Pond				•		Co Rd 16
Long View Farm	0.0	479.5	479.5	0.0	79.9	17%	Larimer County	No Access											•		Hwy 287
Sylvan Dale Ranch CEs	0.0	766.0	766.0	10.0	79.1	varies	Owner	No Access											•		Sylvan Dale, Hwy 34; CEs - Larimer Co
Trailwood Natural Area	0.0	8.0	8.0	0.0	8.0	100%	Loveland	No Access											•		Trailwood Dr
Walden West CE	0.0	31.2	31.2	2.2	31.2	100%	Owner	No Access							Lake				•		Co Rd 13
Subtotal for existing Nature Preserves	0.0	1703.2	1703.2	14.8	616.7	36.2%			0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	4	5	
Subtotal for future Nature Preserves	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Subtotal for Nature Preserves	0.0	1703.2	1703.2	14.8	616.7	36.2%			0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	4	5	
NATURAL AREAS - Public access with no developed features																					
Emerald Glen Natural Area	0.5	10.1	10.6	0.0	10.6	100%	Loveland	Rec Trail		•									•		Wilson Ave
Meadowbrook Natural Area	1.2	42.7	43.9	0.7	43.9	100%	Loveland	Rec Trail		•	•	•			Pond	•			•		Cascade Ave
Subtotal for existing Natural Areas	1.7	52.7	54.4	0.7	54.4	100.0%			0	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	
Centennial Village	0.0	21.0	21.0	0.0	21.0	100%	Loveland	Future Trail													Future connection to Cottonwood Run Natural Area- 1st & Taft
Dunkin CE	0.0	51.7	51.7	0.0	51.7	100%	Owner	Future Trail											•		Co Rd 14
Heron Lakes CE	0.0	43.3	43.3	1.2	21.6	50%	Owner	Future Trail							Reservoir				•		Owned by Berthoud; CE co-held w/ Larimer Co
Osborn	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.3	2.0	100%	Loveland	Future Trail							River				•		S Boise Ave, adjacent to WWTP on Big T
Probasco	0.0	12.9	12.9	0.0	12.9	100%	Loveland	Future Trail							River				•		RR Ave
Waterford Place CE	0.0	10.3	10.3	0.9	10.3	100%	Owner	Future Trail							River				•		Hwy 402
Subtotal for future Natural Areas	0.0	141.1	141.1	2.4	119.5	84.7%			0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	3	
Subtotal for Natural Areas	1.7	193.9	195.6	3.2	173.9	88.9%			0	2	1	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	4	3	
LOCAL OPEN SPACES - Public access with some development																					
Boedecker Bluff	1.8	15.4	17.2	2.0	17.2	100%	Loveland	Trail			•	•	•	•	Reservoir	•	on-street		•		Future parking; W 1st St; future neighborhood park inclusion
Boise Bend	0.5	12.4	12.9	1.0	12.9	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking			•	•	•	•	River				•		S Boise Ave
Cottonwood Run	2.0	79.3	81.3	2.0	81.3	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking		•		•	•	•	River		•		•		Parking at Wilson Ave
Kings Crossing	0.5	14.5	15.1	0.8	15.1	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking		•	•	•	•	•	River		•		•		S Lincoln Ave/Hwy 287
Mariana Butte Natural Area	1.7	22.8	24.4	0.3	24.4	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking			•	•			River		•	•	•		Through MB Golf Course
Morey Wildlife Reserve	1.3	26.2	27.5	0.3	27.5	100%	Loveland	Trail			•	•	•	•	River	•	on-street	•	•	•	Walk-in only; W Big T; CE - CO Open Lands
Namaqua Natural Area	0.0	5.9	5.9	0.3	5.9	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking					•	•	River		•	•	•	•	Parking at Namaqua Pk; CE - CO Open Lands
Old St. Louis Natural Area	2.9	35.8	38.7	1.0	38.7	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking		•	•	•	•	•	River	•	•		•		S St Louis Ave
Oxbow Natural Area	0.7	19.8	20.6	0.8	20.6	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking		•	•	•	•	•	River	•	•	•	•		On-street developed parking; Rossum Dr
Recreation Trail Corridors	3.5	29.1	32.6	6.0	32.6	100%	Loveland	Trail		•		•	•	•	River	•	•	•	•		Along Big T; at Hwy 34 E and W; other parcels
Subtotal for existing Local Open Spaces	14.9	261.1	276.0	14.4	276.0	100.0%			0	5	7	9	9	9	10	5	8	5	10	2	
Martin Marietta	0.0	28.5	28.5	1.2	28.5	100%	Loveland	Future Trail							River				•		Planned YE 2022; S St Louis Ave
Ward Trust	0.0	83.7	83.7	0.0	83.7	100%	Loveland	Future Trail											•	•	CE - Larimer Co
Wild Natural Area	0.0	25.7	25.7	0.2	25.7	100%	Loveland	Future Trail							River				•		Future parking; W Hwy 34
Subtotal for future Local Open Spaces	0.0	137.9	137.9	1.4	137.9	100.0%			0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	
Subtotal for Local Open Spaces	14.9	399.0	413.9	15.8	413.9	100.0%			0	5	7	9	9	9	12	5	8	5	13	3	
COMMUNITY OPEN SPACES - Public access with highest level of development																					
Boyd Lake Open Space (city portions)	3.3	132.9	136.1	2.8	56.4	varies	Loveland-CPW	Trail - Parking		•	•		•	•	Reservoir		•	•	•		Parking/restroom at Boyd L SP
Devil's Backbone (city portions)	11.8	589.6	601.4	0.0	239.4	varies	Larimer County	Regional OS/trail			•	•				•	•	•	•		W Hwy 34
Hermit Park Open Space	41.1	1316.8	1357.9	0.0	88.3	7%	Larimer County	Regional OS/trail			•	•				•	•	•	•	•	Hwy 36; CE - Estes Valley Land Trust
Prairie Ridge Natural Area	6.3	778.7	785.0	0.0	588.8	75%	Loveland	Trail - Parking			•	•					•	•	•	•	CE - CO Open Lands + Larimer Co
River's Edge Natural Area	12.9	150.8	163.6	7.3	163.6	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking		•	•		•	•	Lake-River	•	•	•	•		W 1st St
Sunset Vista	4.2	82.8	87.1	0.0	87.1	100%	Loveland	Trail - Parking		•		•				•	•	•	•		E 57th St
Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park ²	13.2	325.5	338.7	0.7	338.7	100%	Loveland	Regional	•	•	•	•	•	•	River	•	•	•	•		Big T Canyon, W Hwy 34
Subtotal for existing Community Open Spaces	16.6	3377.1	3469.7	10.8	1562.1	45.0%			1	4	6	6	3	3	3	5	7	7	7	2	
Chimney Hollow CE	0.0	1687.0	1687.0	0.0	1,687.0	100%	Larimer County	Future Access							Reservoir					•	Carter Lake area
Dakota Ridge	0.0	235.0	235.0	0.0	235.0	100%	Loveland	Future Access											•	•	CE - CO Open Lands + Larimer Co; also 10ac future neighborhood park inclusion
Eagle Vista	0.0	185.5	185.5	1.0	185.5	100%	Loveland	Future Access							Reservoir					•	Co Rd 16
East Big Thompson Natural Area	0.0	266.9	266.9	6.7	266.9	100%	Loveland-Owners	Future Access							Lake-River				•	•	SE Loveland; CE - CO Open Lands. TCM CE-Loveland
Heaven's Door Ranch Open Space	150.0	1397.0	1547.0	0.0	77.4	5%	Larimer County	Future Regional Access											•	•	Larimer County Management. Loveland & FC Co-held CE.
Medina's Crossing	0.0	58.5	58.5	1.8	58.5	100%	Loveland	Future Access							River				•		Namaqua Ave
Skyline	0.0	169.2	169.2	0.0	169.2	100%	Loveland	Future Access											•		W Hwy 34
Willow Bend	3.0	117.0	120.0	12.0	120.0	100%	Loveland	Future Access							Lake-River				•		10 acres future neighborhood park inclusion
Subtotal for future Community Open Spaces	153.0	4116.1	4269.1	21.6	2799.4	65.6%			0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7	4	
Subtotal for Community Open Spaces	169.6	7,493.1	7,738.8	32.5	4,361.5	56.4%			1	4	6	6	3	3	8	5	7	7	14	6	
Total for existing Open Lands	33.2	5,394.2	5,503.4	40.9	2,509.3	45.6%			1	11	14	16	12	12	19	11	15	12	23	9	
Total for future Open Lands	153.0	4,395.1	4,548.1	25.4	3,056.8	67.2%			0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	12	8	
Total for existing + future Open Lands	186.2	9,789.3	10,051.5	66.3	5,566.1	55.4%			1	11	14	16	12	12	30	11	15	12	35	17	
Notes:																					
¹ CO State Parks, CO Division of Wildlife, Colorado Open Lands, Fort Collins, Larimer County, Berthoud, and Estes Valley Land Trust have other community lands, trails and conservation easements.																					
² Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park undeveloped acres counted with Open Lands but not intended for future open lands or park development.																					

Appendix A: System Inventory
Table A-3: City of Loveland Golf Courses

NAME	ACREAGE			OUTDOOR AMENITIES				INDOOR AMENITIES			OTHER
	DEVELOPED ACRES	UNDEVELOPED NATURAL ACRES	TOTAL ACRES	CONCESSIONS	DRIVING RANGE	PARKING (Off-Street)	RESTROOM	PROSHOP	SNACK BAR	RESTAURANT	
GOLF COURSES											
Cattail Creek Golf Course and Clubhouse	52.0		52.0	•	•	•	•	•	•		9-hole, par 3 course, mini course
Mariana Butte Golf Course and Clubhouse	221.9		221.9	•	•	•	•	•		•	18-hole course
The Olde Course at Loveland (Golf Course and Clubhouse)	132.4		132.4	•	•	•	•	•	•		18-hole course
Total for Golf Courses	406.3	0.0	406.3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	

Updated: 10/14/2022

Appendix A: System Inventory

Table A-4: City of Loveland Public Grounds

PUBLIC GROUNDS	TOTAL ACRES	NOTES/ OTHER
BEAUTIFICATION AREAS		
1st & Dotsero Detention	1.0	
1st & Tyler Detention	1.3	
2nd & Jefferson Lot	0.1	
5th & Jefferson Parking	0.1	
SW 14th Median	0.7	
29th Street Median	0.2	
FAB	0.1	
Fire Station #2	0.6	
Fire Station #3	0.7	
Fire Station #4	0.3	
Fire Station #5	0.8	
Fire Station #6	1.1	
Fire Training (100 Fire Engine Red Road)	0.5	
Iron Shirt	0.2	
MOC/Streets	0.0	
Museum	0.0	
Museum Storage	0.4	
Police/Courts	4.5	
Pulliam	0.0	
and 3rd Street to 2nd Street)	0.5	
Service Center	4.5	
Thompson Pocket Park	0.0	4th and Lincoln
Waste Water Plant	7.3	
Waste Water Pump Stations	1.4	
Water Plant	0.8	
Xeriscape Garden	0.8	
Cemetery Median	0.1	
Subtotals	27.6	
CEMETERIES		
Loveland Burial Park & Lakeside Cemetery	47.0	Split by HWY 287
Subtotals	47.0	
Total for Public Grounds	74.6	

Appendix A: System Inventory

Table A-5: City of Loveland Parks Recreation Facilities

SPECIALIZED RECREATION FACILITIES	ATTRIBUTES		GOLF	AQUATICS	SPORT COURTS		FITNESS				OTHER		OTHER / SPECIALIZED SPACE	
	TOTAL SF	LOCATION	OUTDOOR GOLF FACILITIES	POOL & AQUATIC FACILITIES	RACQUETBALL	GYMNASIUM	AEROBICS / DANCE STUDIO	EXERCISE TRACK	FITNESS ATRIUM	FREE WEIGHT	GYMNASIUMS	LOUNGE	MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM	CLASS / CONFERENCE ROOM
BUILDINGS AND MAJOR FACILITIES														
Chilson Recreation Center & Senior Center	90,606	Civic Center Park		8-lane lap pool, leisure pool, water slide, lazy river, steam room and 2 hot tubs (indoor/outdoor)	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	6
Winona Pool	26,404	Osborn Park		All facilities within fenced area; including building, leisure pool, water slide, spray feature, etc.										This SF area included the pool, deck area, building footprint only. All other areas are included in the park acreage. Grass area, basketball court and volleyball court (within fenced pool enclosure)
Environmental Education Center	73,616	Viestenz-Smith Park											1	Area listed includes EE structure and immediate area only. Viestenz-Smith Mnt Park was severely damaged by the 2013 flood and is closed for public use at this time.
Clubhouse at Cattail Creek Golf Course	2,929	Cattail Creek Golf Course	9-hole, par 3 course, mini course, driving range											Pro shop and snack bar. Area = 2,929 sf (153 sf porch + 1,666 sf clubhouse + 710 sf covered patio).
Clubhouse at Mariana Butte Golf Course	6,547	Mariana Butte Golf Course	18-hole course, driving range									1		Pro shop, full service restaurant and pub. Main level floor plan = 6,547 sf.
Clubhouse at The Olde Course at Loveland	3,367	The Olde Course at Loveland	18-hole course, driving range											Pro shop, snack bar. Clubhouse area = 3,366.5 sf without patio areas.
Lake Loveland Swim Beach	4,000	North Lake Park		Outdoor Swim Beach										4000 sq ft beach & 4000 sq ft of bouyed water. Lease Agreement with Lake Loveland Recreation Club
Garfield Park Multi-Purpose Building	2,730	Garfield Park												Used for library storage
Hammond Amphitheater	14,213	North Lake Park												Stage, grassy bowl seating (capacity 300)
Barnes Batting Cages		Barnes Sports Park												multiple slow and fast pitch baseball and softball coin operated machines
Foote Lagoon Amphitheater	4,985	Civic Center Park												4175 sf seating + 810 sf stage and moat. Concrete spectator seating (capacity 300)
Total	229,396				3	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	7

Notes:

The Chilson Recreation multi-purpose room (capacity 450 theater or 350 banquet) can be divided into three separate rooms and is identified as such. The acreage associated with buildings and major facilities is inventoried with the park where it is located.

Last Updated: 9/29/2022

Appendix A: System Inventory

Table A-6: City of Loveland Off-Street Recreation Trails Inventory

	EXISTING TRAILS (mileage)		FUTURE TRAILS (mileage)		
	PAVED TRAIL	SOFT SURFACE TRAIL	PAVED TRAIL	SOFT SURFACE TRAIL	
OFF-STREET RECREATION TRAILS					
RECREATION TRAIL					
Boise to Willow Bend Natural Area (1st Street)			1.30		Future: 1.3 mi (WWTP, TCM & WB)
Centerra Trail	1.30				
East Big Thompson Trail to I-25			3.00		Future: 3 mi. (Willow Bend to I-25)
Front Range Trail	1.10				
Kings Crossing to Old St. Louis			0.75		Future: .75 mi trail
Long View Trail	0.75				
Recreation Trail System	20.83				
South Front Range Trail			4.00		Future: 4.0 mi (on-street & at Eagle Vista)
Subtotal for Recreation Trails	23.98	0.00	9.05	0.00	
TRAIL LOOPS AT PARK SITES					
Fairgrounds Park (and Barnes Softball Complex)	0.89				Fairgrounds = .62, Barnes= .27 (in addition to rec trail system)
Loveland Sports Park (LSP)	0.88				
North Lake Park	0.75				South=.29, North=.46
Mehaffey Park	1.15	0.50			
Subtotal for Trail Loops at Park Sites	3.67	0.50	0.00	0.00	
LOVELAND OPEN LAND PROPERTIES AND PARTNERSHIPS					
Boedecker Bluff Natural Area		1.00			
Boise Bend Natural Area		0.50			
Dakota Ridge				2.80	Future: 2.8 mi soft-surface-Morning Dr to Prairie Ridge
Devil's Backbone (City of Loveland portion)		4.92			
Hermit Park Open Space		3.00			
Kings Crossing		0.25			
Mariana Butte Golf Course/Natural Area/Hidden Hogback		1.30			
Meadowbrook Natural Area		0.65		0.40	Future: .4 mi soft-surface Solar Land connector to 29th
Medina's Crossing				1.2	Future: 1.2mi Soft-Surface Trail
Morey Wildlife Reserve		1.00			
Old St. Louis	0.75	0.71			
Oxbow Natural Area	0.67	0.49			
Praire Ridge Natural Area		2.50			
River's Edge Natural Area	0.20	4.35			(Soft Surface) Main= 3.94, Ryans Gulch Trail=.41
Skyline Natural Area				1.00	Future: 1.0 mi soft-surface trails
Sunset Vista Natural Area		0.90			
Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park	0.27	0.67			
Wagner/Bonsor/I-25 Underpass connection					
Wagner/Couslen Internal Trail				1.00	Future: 1 mi soft-surface Trails
Ward West				1.00	Future: 1 mi soft-surface Trails
Wild Natural Area				0.55	Future: .55 mi soft-surface trail
Willow Bend Natural Area Pond Trail		0.90			Pond only. Paved trail planned w/ development
Subtotal for Open Land Properties & Partnerships	1.89	23.14	0.00	7.95	
OTHER DEPARTMENT SITES					
Benson Park & Sculpture Garden	0.86				
Civic Center Park	0.29				
McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park	0.17				
Subtotal for Other Department Sites	1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	
OTHER TRAILS					
Round Mountain Trail		4.41			City and Forest Service Trail
South Shore Scenic	0.77				
Subtotal for Other Trails	0.77	4.41	0.00	0.00	
Total all Trails	31.63	28.05	9.05	7.95	

Other Potential Connectors

Glade Park to Wild Connection using CDOT ROW/Bridge UP
 CDOT ROW- Cascade to Glade Park
 Prairie Ridge to Coyote Ridge (on Wilson)
 Prairie Ridge to Sunset Vista
 Namaqua Ave Rec Trail to Park Connection
 Connector Trail to Devil's Backbone
 Round Mountain Expansion Trail

.28 Miles adjacent to Highway 34
 1.8 Miles adjacent to Highway 34
 1.5 mi Parking lot to parking lot
 1.5 mi PR Parking lot to Sunset Vista
 .4 mi ROW Trail/Sidewalk
 .75 from Skyline to DBB Parking
 1 Mile of trail on old water line alignment

Appendix B: Agreements for Joint Use of Recreation Facilities

This appendix provides key Intergovernmental Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding between the City of Loveland Parks and Recreation Department, other city departments, local school districts and regional and state entities regarding the shared use of properties and facilities including maintenance and cost responsibilities. Such agreements are listed below in summary and are available for review in full through the Parks & Recreation Department. A full list of recreation facilities programmed with the Thompson School District R2-J is also provided.

Key Intergovernmental Agreements

City of Loveland and Larimer County

- **Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning the Maintenance and Security of Viestenz Smith Park and Round Mountain Trailhead** dated July 25, 2018 between the City of Loveland and Larimer County outlining Term and Amendments, Improvements to, Maintenance and Security of the Properties, Funding, Termination, and Miscellaneous Provisions.

City of Loveland and Thompson School District R2-J

- **Intergovernmental Use and Improvement Agreement Concerning Public Park Use and Improvements at North Lake Park** between the City of Loveland and Thompson School District R2-J dated January 4, 2023 regarding improvements to North Lake Park baseball and softball complexes.
- **Facility Emergency Use Intergovernmental Agreement** between the City of Loveland and the Thompson School District R2-J dated May 16, 2022 regarding use of premises as a shelter in an emergency.
- **Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning Joint Use of Facilities** dated March 6, 2013 between the City of Loveland and Thompson School District R2-J outlining Principles and Goals of Cooperation, Scheduling Use of Facilities, Repair and Maintenance, Special Improvements, Insurance and Liability, Dispute Resolution Process, Term and Termination, Miscellaneous.

Key Memorandums of Understanding

City of Loveland Internal Department Coordination

- **Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Department and the City of Loveland Water and Power Department** dated

September 9, 2016 regarding the consolidation of raw water acquisition, management and reporting under one “organizational umbrella.”

City of Loveland and USDA, Forest Service Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland

- **Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Loveland and the USDA, Forest Service Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland** regarding the Round Mountain and Foothills Nature Trail Collaboration dated March 18, 2019.

Thompson School District R2-J Programmed Recreation Facilities

Elementary Schools

Big Thompson Elementary School

Address: 7702 W. Hwy 34, Loveland, Co 80538
Amenities: Accessible playground; small indoor gym
PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball practices
Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

B.F. Kitchen Elementary School

Address: 915 Deborah Dr., Loveland, Co 80537
Amenities: Athletic field, backstop; accessible playground; small indoor gym
PR Uses: Youth flag football, volleyball, basketball practices
Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Carrie Martin Elementary School

Address: 4129 Joni Lane, Loveland, Co 80537
Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym
PR Uses: Youth flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball practices
Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Centennial Elementary School

Address: 1555 W. 37th St., Loveland, Co 80538
Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym
PR Uses: Youth soccer, volleyball, basketball practices
Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Cottonwood Plains Elementary School

Address: 525 Truman Dr., Fort Collins, Co 80525
Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym
PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball practices
Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Coyote Ridge Elementary School

Address: 7115 Avondale Rd., Fort Collins, Co 80525

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Edmondson Elementary School

Address: 307 W. 49th St., Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Garfield Elementary School

Address: 720 N. Colorado Ave., Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

High Plains School

Address: 4255 Buffalo Mountain Drive, Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Athletic field; backstop; playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Lincoln Elementary School

Address: 3312 N. Douglas Ave, Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Namaqua Elementary School

Address: 209 N. County Rd. 19 E, Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Ponderosa Elementary School

Address: 4550 Florence Dr., Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Sarah Milner Elementary School

Address: 743 Jocelyn Dr., Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Stansberry Elementary School

Address: 407 E. 42nd St., Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth flag football, volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Truscott Elementary School

Address: 211 W. 6th St. Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Small artificial turf athletic field; backstop; accessible playground;

1 indoor junior high-sized gym

PR Uses: Youth basketball, volleyball practices; adult basketball, volleyball games

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Van Buren Elementary School

Address: 1811 W. 15th, Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Winona Elementary School

Address: 201 S. Boise Ave., Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; accessible playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Middle Schools

Bill Reed Middle School

Address: 370 W. 4th St., Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; large indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball games; adult volleyball, basketball games

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Conrad Ball Middle School

Address: 2660 N. Monroe Ave., Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; indoor junior high gym

PR Uses: Youth volleyball, basketball games; adult volleyball, basketball games

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

High Plains School

Address: 4255 Buffalo Mountain Drive, Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Athletic field; backstop; playground; small indoor gym

PR Uses: Youth flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball practices

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Lucile Erwin Middle School

Address: 4700 Lucerne Ave, Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; indoor junior high gym

PR Uses: Not currently programmed

Walt Clark Middle School

Address: 2605 Carlisle Dr., Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Large athletic field; backstops; indoor junior high gym

PR Uses: Not currently programmed

High Schools

Loveland High School

Address: 920 W. 29th St., Loveland, Co 80538

Amenities: Band practice/soccer field; practice football field w/track; two indoor gyms; public swimming pool

PR Uses: Track for CARA Track Program (summer), Occasional use of pool for fitness classes; use of gyms for youth basketball Seasons: Fall, winter, spring

Mountain View High School

Address: 3500 Mountain Lion Dr., Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Large athletic fields; practice football field w/track; baseball field; softball field; two indoor gyms; public swimming pool ; 6 non-lighted outdoor tennis courts

PR Uses: Tennis courts; occasional use of pool for fitness classes

Seasons: Fall, winter, spring, summer

Thompson Valley High School

Address: 1669 Eagle Dr., Loveland, Co 80537

Amenities: Large athletic fields; district football/track stadium; baseball field; two indoor gyms; public swimming pool ; 6 non-lighted outdoor tennis courts

PR Uses: Tennis courts; occasional use of pool for classes

Seasons: Summer

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Appendix C: Opportunities Analysis Matrix

Table C-1: Opportunity Analysis of identified Gap Areas

Appendix C: Opportunities Analysis Matrix

Gap ID #	Conclusions				Existing Housing Density			Future Housing	Other Opportunities ¹		
	Needs Category	No New Park Needed in Next 10 Years	New Park Needed in Next 10 Years	Notes	Low Density 2-4 DU /Acre	Med Density 4-10 DU /Acre	High Density 10+ DU /Acre	Name of Future Housing Development	Thompson School Dist Public School ³	HOA Park ⁴	CO State Parks and Wildlife Area
A	HOA Park (Developer to build)		✓	Developer should provide park.			X	Sugar Creek PUD			
B	Development		✓	Future Northwest Community Park to locate here.				Green Valley Ranch Plat; Taft Ridge PUD			
C	Acquisition & Development		✓	Developer to pay CEF's.		X		Elkader Sketch Plat	X	X	
D	Development		✓	Future Dakota Ridge Neighborhood Park to locate here.		X		Villages at Lee Farm GDP		X	
E	Acquisition & Development		✓	CEF's collected to build park.	X	X		Aspen Knolls Sketch Plat	X	X	
F	Acquisition & Development		✓			X	X	South Village Sketch Plat; Untitled			
G	Development		✓	Future Willow Bend Neighborhood Park to locate here.		X	X			X	
H	Acquisition & Development		✓			X	X	Pfieff Farm & Stuart Farm	X	X	

Notes:

¹ Identified assets that may be within or close to gap area.

² These Potential Resources are located within the gap.

³ Intergovernmental Agreement with Thompson School District allows both entities to utilize each other’s facilities under joint-use agreements.

⁴ Includes one or more HOA parks sites with park amenities that can serve gap full area.

⁵ All Proposed Parks or Open Lands are on city owned-land; None of the sites require acquisition.

⁶ Nature Preserves are mostly on conservation easments and do not allow public access or any development. Natural Areas do allow some development for public use.

Table C-1: Opportunity Analysis of identified Gap Areas

Appendix C: Opportunities Analysis Matrix

Gap ID #	Potential Resources ²				Private Resources					Additional Notes	
	Undeveloped Park (Proposed Type) ⁵	Nature Preserves or Natural Areas ⁶	Existing Trail (not on existing NP or CP land)	Future Trail (not on existing NP or CP land)	Health Club	Country Club	Private Pool	Church-Owned Green Space	Private School	Potential Opportunities to Improve Access to City-owned Spaces	Alternate Opportunities
A			X							Open lands development.	Trail runs through the center of the area.
B	CP		X								The future community park could serve the majority of the area depending where located; existing and future trails.
C	NP + CP			X							HOA parks w/ sand volleyball court, basketball court, playground; future trails
D	NP		X	X						Meadowbrook Natural Area access from north.	HOA parks; future neighborhood park can cover western portion of gap area.
E											Community pool; tennis courts; open space
F					X			X			Good Samaritan has park amenities.
G	NP		X		X				X		Small HOA parks w/ basketball court and playground.
H	NP			X							HOA clubhouses and pools; shared open space with trails; small HOA parks w/ a playgrounds and basketball courts.

Notes:

¹ Identified assets that may be within or close to gap area.

² These Potential Resources are located within the gap.

³ Intergovernmental Agreement with Thompson School District allows both entities to utilize each other’s facilities under joint-use agreements.

⁴ Includes one or more HOA parks sites with park amenities that can serve gap full area.

⁵ All Proposed Parks or Open Lands are on city owned-land; None of the sites require acquisition.

⁶ Nature Preserves are mostly on conservation easments and do not allow public access or any development. Natural Areas do allow some development for public use.

Last Updated: Nov 14, 2022

Appendix D: Development Guidelines for Parks and Open Lands

This appendix presents guidelines for the planning, design, and development of parks and open lands. These guidelines provide general directions that are intended to supplement the City's unified development code. These guidelines are also intended to provide more specific directions for enhancing the parks and recreation system than are noted in the standards, guidelines, and policies (Chapter V) of this plan.

Systemwide Guidelines

The ideal park and recreation system provides an array of parks and open lands with amenities and facilities appropriate to their size, scale, function, presence of natural resources, and unique surroundings. While the character of each site may be different, developed and landscaped areas in parks and open lands reflect specific standards and guidelines that address park safety, usability, maintenance efficiencies, sustainability, habitat protection, layout and location, and accessibility. Site selection, design, and development choices should support each site's function so that diverse opportunities are provided and sustained into the future.

The following guidelines provide criteria for renovations and new park, open land, and facility development. The guidelines address principles and best practices by promoting the design and development of parks and applicable open lands that are high quality, accessible, aesthetically pleasing, and sensitive to Loveland's natural resources and character. They are numbered as Guideline (G) 1, 2, 3, etc., for reference.

- G1. **Spectrum of Access and Preservation:** Provide sites on a spectrum of development, ranging from protecting and conserving sensitive natural resources (with no public access) to providing highly developed recreation uses (with full public access). Use acquisition, design, and development criteria to determine the appropriate level of development and access, as well as the site's land classification (for more information, see *Table 2-1, Spectrum of Land Development Types*, in Chapter 2 of the Master Plan).
- G2. **Inclusivity:** Ensure parks and publicly accessible open lands are welcoming and engaging for residents and visitors of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, sexual orientations, family configurations, and incomes.
- G3. **Diversity:** Throughout the park and open lands system, provide a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities to serve a variety of recreation interests, activities, and skill levels. Balance energetic, programmed active use sites with spaces designed for contemplation, conservation, and quiet social gatherings.

- G4. **Universal, All-Inclusive Access:** Create equitable use and experiential opportunities for people of different abilities and ages, considering all options of modality and accessibility. Meet, and where possible exceed, the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and State code to provide parks and facilities that accommodate multigenerational groups and people with mobility issues, sight and hearing impairments, allergies, and other special needs.
- G5. **Varied Group Spaces:** Vary the sizes and styles of seating, tables, shelters, restrooms, gathering areas, and other amenities to serve families of different configurations and groups of different sizes.
- G6. **Safety:** Implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies and enhance park safety through playground design, crime prevention technology, night lighting, unobtrusive landscaping, and increased staff, ranger program, police and community-based patrols if needed.
- G7. **Grass Turf:** Incorporate irrigated open grass turf areas in developed/landscaped parks and open lands to support recreation and leisure. Consider reducing expansive grass areas in parks where these do not support recreation or aesthetics to reduce water use. Seek opportunities for synthetic turf use or other low water use surfaces where appropriate.
- G8. **Natural Resources and Native Plantings:** Protect natural resources in parks and open lands, and balance the use of natural areas, native plantings, turf, trees, and landscaping to promote aesthetics, connect people to nature, reduce stress, preserve wildlife habitat, and improve site ecological function.
- G9. **Tree Canopy:** Plant and protect native or large canopy trees to provide shade, sequester carbon, filter the air, and reduce urban heat. Plant climate-adaptive plants that can withstand the region's forecasted hotter and drier temperatures. Coordinate tree species with City Forester recommendations.
- G10. **Shade:** Integrate shade shelters, sails, umbrellas, and canopies where natural shade is not present to support individual and community health and cooling that prevent sun related illness.
- G11. **Noise and Lights:** Minimize noise and light pollution by siting lighted facilities and noise-producing activities away from nearby residences, neighbors, and environmentally sensitive areas. Use "full cutoff" athletic field lights, screening, and sound barrier technology.
- G12. **Placemaking and Identity:** Integrate Loveland's heritage, culture, and identity through thematic site design, the use of materials, the inclusion of

public art and interpretive elements, and/or the choice of recreation elements and support features.

- i. Identify, preserve, and protect historic, cultural, and archaeological resources.
- ii. Incorporate interpretive elements that educate residents and visitors about community culture, heritage, history, and natural resources.
- iii. Include elements in parks and open lands that are inclusive of the community's indigenous heritage, pioneers, early residents, and evolving community and economy through the present.
- iv. Ensure that major park development projects incorporate art, focusing efforts at sites with high visibility and high visitation, including coordination with the City's Cultural Services Department and Art In Public Places Program

- G13. **Continuity in Furnishings and Site Amenities:** Establish and integrate a consistent furnishing and site amenities palette systemwide for ease of maintenance (including items such as seating, light fixtures, trash receptacles, bike racks, etc.), but allow for variations in the City's most visible, high-use parks to emphasize a unique park theme or identity.
- G14. **Maintenance:** Involve maintenance staff in park and facility design to incorporate maintenance efficiencies in parks and facilities. Ensure development of new facilities and properties includes budgeting for long-term maintenance, operations, and replacement of amenities.
- G15. **Sustainability:** Incorporate sustainable landscaping and amenities that limit water usage and energy consumption, such as drought-resistant landscaping, solar lighting in restrooms, and low impact development.
- G16. **Flexibility of Use:** Allow for a variety of programmed and self-directed activities to occur by not precluding activities with unnecessary physical constraints or regulations.
- G17. **Adaptability:** Design multi-use spaces and facilities to be easily adaptable to address changing community needs over time.
- G18. **Wayfinding:** Incorporate a systemwide wayfinding and signage template for all parks, open lands, and trails to promote the City's identity and the visibility of city parks and facilities.

Guidelines by Park and Open Land Types

Development guidelines are provided for Loveland's three types of parks (neighborhood parks, community parks and civic spaces) and four types of open lands

(community open spaces, greenways and local open spaces, natural areas, and nature preserves). For more information, see *Table 2-1, Spectrum of Land Development Types*, in Chapter 2 of the Master Plan.

These guidelines apply to the design and development of new sites, plus the renovation or expansion of existing sites. These guidelines are intended to provide general guidance to City staff, developers, partners, or others in the development and renovation of parks. The specific numbers and types of facilities will be determined in design and construction documents.

Loveland's parks and open lands are classified by types to ensure a variety of parks and open lands across the system. The guidelines by classification are organized in tables by type and specify:

- **Definition/Intent:** Overall intent and vision for the park or open land type
- **Level of Development:** The level to which the type is developed with man-made features
- **Natural Resource Value:** The overall value of natural resources within the park or open land type
- **Size:** The size range of the park or open land type
- **Service Level:** The desired amount of park or open land acres per 1,000 residents
- **Service Area Standards:** The standards for residential area served within a certain walking distance from the park or open land type
- **Location/Access:** Suitable park and open land type locations and guidance for public access
- **Co-location:** Opportunities for complementary adjacent uses for park and open land types
- **Common Uses:** Activities that parks and open land types are commonly used for
- **Design:** Considerations for site development and design
- **Essential Elements:** Amenities and facilities that are suitable for the park or open land type and should be considered during the site-specific design process
- **Elements to Consider:** Amenities and facilities that are suitable for the park or open land type and should be considered to provide diverse recreation opportunities
- **Elements to Avoid:** Amenities and facilities that are not suitable for the park or open land type

Parks

Neighborhood Parks

	Development Guidelines
Definition/Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small parks that serve nearby neighbors with basic recreation opportunities and play space
Level of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate development

Natural Resource Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of 5-10 acres in size • Smaller parks are allowable if co-located and co-developed with other sites • Larger parks may incorporate natural areas
Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.25 developed acres per 1,000 residents
Service Area Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves approximately a ½ -mile distance in low, medium, and high-density residential areas (10-minute walk) • Not provided in estate residential areas
Location/Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrally located and accessible to surrounding neighborhoods • Located within walking/biking distance of most users • Connected to the surrounding community by sidewalks, and where feasible, bike routes and trails • Fronts a local street, not an arterial
Co-location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be co-located adjacent to schools. Joint planning and development should be considered to maximize use and economic efficiencies. • May be co-located adjacent to open lands. Sites should be jointly planned and co-developed where (and if) open land access is desired.
Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing in playgrounds/drop in use • Playing sports • Picnicking • Family and neighborhood gatherings • Walking • Dog walking
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 85% of the site should be relatively level, developable, and usable • Responds to local conditions, including topography, site context, neighbor preferences, and neighborhood character • Considers impacts on adjacent land uses, including noise, traffic, and lights. Where possible, locates active amenities away from neighboring homes
Essential Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential recreation amenities for close-to-home play, including playground, open turf area, and active use facility (e.g., sports court or field) • Features that support family and small group gatherings, such as group seating, group tables, and uncovered picnic areas • Site identification signage and appropriate site furnishings (picnic tables, long tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, seat walls, etc.) for the intended size, scale, and use of the park
Elements to Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal ball field • Informal soccer/football field • Sport courts (volleyball, basketball, tennis, pickleball, futsal, badminton, bocce) • Thematic playground area • Unique outdoor games – chess, ping pong, etc. • Challenge elements such as climbing walls and low-level ziplines

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavilion, shelter, or gazebo (small or medium) • Outdoor fitness equipment or fitness courts • Walking loop • Native vegetation areas • Access points to open lands and/or trail system • Community gardens
Elements to Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale or high-use recreation facilities, such as game-quality fields, stadiums, sports complexes, swimming pools, significant outdoor or field lighting or indoor activity space • High-maintenance and/or high water use landscaping (e.g., floral beds, horticultural displays)

Community Parks

	Development Guidelines
Definition/Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger, multi-purpose sites that support a variety of recreation opportunities and provide specialized facilities with appeal for the entire community. These parks typically support organized, active recreation activities (such as sports) and large-group gatherings. Community parks may include natural areas to support recreation and other benefits.
Level of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive development
Natural Resource Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of 30-100 acres in size • Ideal size of 60-70 acres
Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.15 developed acres per 1,000 residents
Service Area Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves approximately a 2-mile distance • May help meet close-to-home park needs within a ½ mile of residential areas • Serves a portion of the community; may include specialized facilities that serve residents citywide
Location/Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located reasonably central and accessible to area to be served • Connected to the surrounding community via sidewalks, bike lanes, and off-street local or regional trail • Should front and be accessible via a collector or arterial street • Transit stop may be nearby or should be nearby if site includes specialized facilities such as recreation and aquatics facilities
Co-location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be co-located adjacent to schools • May be co-located adjacent to and co-developed with open lands
Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing in playgrounds/drop-in use • Playing sports (outdoor or indoor) • Swimming/water play • Special events • Picnicking • Photography and art viewing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking/running/biking • Dog walking • Skateboarding • Fishing • Water viewing • Educational programming • Outdoor programming • Concessions • Reservations and rentals
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 85% of the site should be relatively level, developable, and usable • Responds to local conditions, including topography, site context, natural resources, and community character • Designed via master planning process that includes input of community and stakeholders
Essential Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various specialized and multi-use facilities to support drop-in and programmed activities • Large thematic or destination play area, open turf play area, medium and large group picnic shelter or pavilion, lighted sports fields and courts (variety), small and large unique recreation features (e.g., splashpad, skatepark, disc golf, dog park), and a loop trail (walking/biking) • Art/interpretive elements • Accessible pathway connecting park elements • Sufficient off-street parking for intended uses • Site identification signage and appropriate site furnishings (restrooms, picnic tables, long tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, seat walls, etc.) for the intended size, scale, and use of the park
Elements to Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any neighborhood park feature • Universal, all-inclusive play area • Water play and nature play features • Splash Park • Sports fields (softball, baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse, cricket, multi-purpose) • Synthetic turf field • Sport complex, stadium • Multi-use sports courts, court complexes (e.g., tennis, volleyball, basketball, pickleball, badminton, bocce, futsal) • Batting cages • Recreation center • Fieldhouse • Aquatic center, swimming pool • Compatible active-use facilities (e.g., track, disc golf, par course, outdoor fitness equipment, climbing spire, skate park, freestyle BMX facility, bike pump track) • Pavilions, shelters, or gazebos (small, medium, or large) • Event space • Amphitheater/stage (outdoor) • Plaza, viewpoint • Off-leash dog area, dog beach • Display garden, community garden

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural areas, habitats • Hard and soft-surfaced trails (loop, jogging path, nature trail) • Access points to open lands and/or trail system • Interpretive signage, information kiosk • Water access (fishing pier, swim beach, non-motorized boat launch) • Water bodies (non-motorized boating) • Winter recreation areas (sledding hill, ice rink, winter trails) • Concessions
Elements to Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional-scale facilities • Small-scale restrooms or insufficient support amenities for site use

Civic Spaces

	Development Guidelines
Definition/Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public areas that contribute to the aesthetics of the city. Civic spaces may include areas with recreational value.
Level of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive development
Natural Resource Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varies
Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.35 developed acres per 1,000 residents
Service Area Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves approximately a 2-mile distance • May help meet close-to-home park needs within a ½ mile of residential areas • Serves a portion of the community; may include specialized facilities that serve residents citywide
Location/Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected to the surrounding community via sidewalks, bike lanes, and off-street local or regional trail • Should front and/or be accessible via a collector or arterial street • Transit stop may be nearby
Co-location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be co-located, adjacent to and co-developed with open lands, other public facilities or in coordination with private development
Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing/drop-in use • Special events • Social gatherings • Photography and art viewing • Walking/running • Dog walking • Outdoor programs • Unique or specialized recreation activities suited to the site
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 85% of the site should be relatively level, developable and usable. • Contributes to city image and identity • Design via master planning process that includes community and stakeholder input

Essential Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized facilities to support site's intended use • Accessible pathway connecting park elements • Sufficient off-street parking for intended uses • Site identification signage and appropriate site furnishings (picnic tables, long tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, seat walls, etc.) for the intended size, scale, and use of the park
Elements to Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, sculpture, memorial • Indoor facilities • Gardens, horticulture displays, arboretum, specialized landscaping • Pavilions, shelters, or gazebos • Amphitheater/stage (outdoor) • Event space or plaza • Off-street parking • Natural area or water body • Plaza, viewpoint • Hard and soft-surfaced trails (loop, jogging path, nature trail) • Access points to open lands and/or trail system • Interpretive signage
Elements to Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional-scale facilities • Small-scale restrooms or insufficient support amenities for site use

Open Lands

Community Open Spaces

	Development Guidelines
Definition/Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City's most utilized open land destinations intended to support nature interpretation, environmental education, self-directed recreation, outdoor play, and other programs. These are typically larger open land sites that provide wildlife habitat, ecological values and trail corridors.
Level of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate development
Natural Resource Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No size requirement • Should be large enough for intended natural area, recreation facilities, and education opportunities
Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65 acres per 1,000 residents for all open lands collectively (No individual guidelines are set by classification.)
Service Area Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May serve residents citywide and attract others from throughout the region • May help meet close-to-home park needs within a ½ mile of residential areas
Location/Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically within Growth Management Area • May be outside of Growth Management Area where unique opportunities or natural resources are present

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be connected to the surrounding community via sidewalks, bike lanes, and off-street local or regional trail • Should front and/or be accessible via a collector or arterial street • Transit stop may be nearby
Co-location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be co-located with schools or recreation centers for nature education, outdoor classrooms, and outdoor programming • May be co-located with parks to provide different type of recreation opportunities • May be connected to urban or rural trail corridors
Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Birdwatching • Nature viewing and interpretation • Photography and art viewing • Hiking • Walking/running • Dog walking • Cycling/mountain biking • Fishing • Non-motorized boating • Educational programming • Outdoor programs and events
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for highest level of public access to open lands • May accommodate large-group activities • Designed to support programmed and self-directed uses, including outdoor recreation, nature programs, and environmental education • Amenities provided should be limited to the numbers and types of visitors the area can accommodate, while retaining the resource value and natural character of site
Essential Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site identification signage and appropriate site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.) for the intended size, scale, and use of the park • Trailhead or entry with a kiosk • Trails (hard and/or soft surfaced), boardwalks where needed • Interpretive signage and kiosks • Off-street parking (gravel or paved) • Accessible pathway connecting trailhead elements • Shade shelter • Specialized facilities to support site's intended use
Elements to Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional soft-surfaced recreation trails (hiking, jogging, mountain biking, equestrian) • Multi-use hard-surfaced trails • Pavilions, shelters, or gazebos (small, medium, or large) • Viewpoint, viewing blinds • Water access (fishing pier, swim beach, non-motorized boat launch) • Bridge • Nature or adventure playground • Outdoor classroom • Environmental education or nature interpretation center (indoor or outdoor) • Outdoor fitness equipment • Bike agility course • Disc golf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small outdoor amphitheater or stage • Vault or flush toilets • Trail mileage markers • Bus parking or turn-around • Lighted facilities where appropriate
Elements to Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High impact facilities • Turf areas or ornamental plantings • Active use facilities (sports fields, sport courts, etc.) • Significant degradation of natural resources for the purpose of site development

Local Open Spaces

	Development Guidelines
Definition/Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open lands and corridors that are minimally developed to support habitat connectivity, self-directed recreation, and access to natural areas
Level of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited development
Natural Resource Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No size requirement • Should be large enough for intended amenities • Greenways width varies (minimum 30 feet)
Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65 acres per 1,000 residents for all open lands collectively (No individual guidelines are set by classification.)
Service Area Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves residents within walking distance as well as residents citywide • Provides local and possibly regional connectivity • May help meet close-to-home park needs within a ½ mile of residential areas
Location/Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically within Growth Management Area • May be outside of Growth Management Area where unique connectivity opportunities are present • Typically part of planned City or regional trail corridor • May be within City-owned corridor or easement • Accessible at trailheads, cross-streets, and access points with other pathways • May be connected to public sidewalks, bike routes, transit routes, and regional trails or other public/private trails
Co-location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be co-located with other open lands • May connect to existing parks, trails, open lands, schools, or other destinations
Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birdwatching • Photography and art • Hiking • Walking/running • Dog walking • Cycling/mountain biking

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water access/water viewing • Fishing
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development should avoid impacts to sensitive or high-value natural resources • Some of the site should be relatively level, developable, and usable to support an 8 -10-foot trail with buffers • Should consider impacts on adjacent land uses, including noise and lights
Essential Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site identification signage and appropriate site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.) for the intended size, scale, and use of the park • Trails (hard or soft surfaced), boardwalks where needed • Interpretive and directional signage • Trailheads (may be provided at connecting parks/open lands)
Elements to Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft-surfaced recreation trails (hiking, jogging, mountain biking) • Multi-use hard-surfaced trails • Off-street parking (gravel or paved) • Small shelter • Fishing spots • Trail mileage markers • Information kiosks with trail maps • Outdoor exercise equipment • Viewpoint, viewing blinds • Trail waysides (picnic tables, benches, etc.) • Spur trails to water/fishing access, viewpoints, etc. • Grass side strips, landscaping
Elements to Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouped recreation facilities that could cause congregating on trails, e.g., playgrounds, sports courts, etc. • Restrooms, water fountains (unless provided at trailhead) • High-maintenance landscaping (e.g., floral beds)

Natural Areas

	Development Guidelines
Definition/Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open lands that protect landscapes and open space from development, contribute to urban aesthetics, protect viewsheds and provide habitat
Level of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No development
Natural Resource Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No size requirement
Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65 acres per 1,000 residents for all open lands collectively (No individual guidelines are set by classification.)
Service Area Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not acquired for recreation service • Opportunity-based standards dependent on protecting open lands from development and contributing to urban aesthetics

Location/Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside or outside Growth Management Area • Restricted public access
Co-location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be co-located with parks and other open lands, but marked as restricted area
Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible, but not designed for use
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No development, avoiding impacts to sensitive or high-value natural resources
Essential Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undeveloped open lands • Regulatory/identification signage
Elements to Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate/fencing
Elements to Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation facilities • High and medium impact amenities, including parking • Lighting • Turf, ornamental, or non-native plantings

Nature Preserves

	Development Guidelines
Definition/Intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open lands with unique landscapes and high ecological value that protect or restore natural resources, agriculture, floodplains, viewsheds and habitat
Level of Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No development
Natural Resource Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No size requirement • Larger parcels provide more valuable habitat
Service Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65 acres per 1,000 residents for all open lands collectively (No individual guidelines are set by classification.)
Service Area Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not acquired for recreation service • Opportunity-based standards dependent on the value of natural resources and preservation of distinct natural features
Location/Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside or outside Growth Management Area • No public access
Co-location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be co-located with parks, but marked as restricted, ecologically sensitive area
Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for maximum ecological benefit
Essential Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undeveloped open lands • Regulatory/identification signage
Elements to Consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate/fencing
Elements to Avoid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any amenities or facilities • Lighting • Turf, ornamental, or non-native plantings

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Appendix E: Open Lands Acquisition Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria can be applied to properties proposed for open lands acquisition. These criteria reflect guidelines for evaluating and prioritizing open lands and can be used as a tool in determining which properties are best suited for acquisition. The scoring system is an index, not a precise measurement, based on a point scale. If a particular evaluation criterion is not applicable, the element will not be scored or ranked.

General Location

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Are inside Loveland's Growth Management Area (GMA)
- Are in an area underserved by recreation opportunities (no parks, golf courses, recreation trails or facilities)
- Are in a high or medium density residential area
- Are near schools, recreation centers or childcare facilities
- Serve as a community separator or buffer between land uses
- Are walkable from residences or businesses

Adjacency/Connectivity

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Are adjacent to or near other protected open lands
- Are adjacent to or near park
- Are part of planned trail network
- Are an extension of an acquired trail corridor
- Provide potential to acquire adjacent lands
- Are compatible with adjacent land uses

Ecological/Resource Value

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Include all or mostly native plant species
- Include rare or unique plant species or communities
- Provide habitat for protected or endangered wildlife or have protected or endangered wildlife present
- Are part of a wildlife corridor
- Have few or manageable invasive species
- Have older or mixed-age plant communities (some >80 years, some 40-80 years)
- Are of a large parcel size
- Provide significant ecological function (e.g., stormwater detention, water filtration)
- Are identified in the City of Loveland Natural Areas Sites Report (2008) ratings and data

Water/Hydrology

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Include or are adjacent to a water body, wetland or riparian area
- Provide significant buffer area around water body (50-300 ft)
- Include intact natural hydrology
- Protect flood plain areas
- Provide flood mitigation

Outdoor Recreation

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Provide potential for public access and use
- Provide development opportunities to meet facility guidelines (e.g., fishing access, swim beach, water access, nature center)

- Provide development opportunities to meet trail guidelines
- Provide opportunities for nature interpretation and environmental education
- Provide other recreation opportunities

Other Significance (Visual, Cultural, Historical, Geological)

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Provide vistas or scenic backdrops that enhance the visual quality of the Loveland area
- Have visual exposure from roads, trails, view points, etc.
- Contain significant archaeological or historic resources
- Contain significant paleontological sites
- Contain significant geological features such as faults, anticlines, rock formations, etc.
- Include farmland or support agricultural character or community
- Contain other unique landscape features

Site Quality/Development

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Are under development pressure
- Were not previously developed
- Lack buildings or other deteriorated infrastructure requiring improvement or removal
- Have legal site access
- Offer potential for site/habitat restoration
- Have intact water rights and/or irrigation possibilities

Political Factors

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Represent high-profile acquisitions from the public perspective
- Serve as a catalyst for other acquisition(s)
- Serve as a positive example for other landowners
- Contribute to a balance of property types for the Open Lands and Trails program

Price

Acquisition priority should be given to properties that:

- Can be acquired for a reasonable price given current supply and demand and net value
- Can be acquired for a reduced price for charitable tax purposes
- Offer opportunities for acquisition partnership (cost sharing)
- Will become more expensive or unavailable if not acquired now
- Offer affordable long-term management and maintenance costs

Appendix F: Guidelines for Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas

This section was originally included in the City of Loveland's 1996 Open Lands Plan. The protection techniques described, including setbacks and buffers for the Big Thompson River, other waterways, lakes, and ditches, remain valid and are recommended for the conservation of environmentally sensitive areas in and around Loveland. Several recommendations from the 1996 plan have been accomplished by the Open Lands and Trails Division, including the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of several focus areas identified along the Big Thompson River and other sites, as well as buffer areas, setbacks, and floodplain protection techniques recommended as development guidelines.

The Big Thompson River Corridor

The Big Thompson River is Loveland's only natural waterway and contains more than one-fifth of all the natural sites surveyed within the City of Loveland Natural Areas Sites (2008) report. These areas include forests, ponds, riparian and upland habitat rated from low to high. Numeric quality ratings were given to 14 attributes. The ratings ranged from 1 (low) to 10 (high). A rating of 1 indicates either that the natural area values are exceedingly low, or that the value is absent altogether. These ratings were based on professional judgment, rather than on quantitative field data. All told, some 18 sites along the Big Thompson received an overall habitat quality rating of 6 or higher as identified in the study. In particular, the river west of Taft Avenue obtained a very high habitat rating and is the only place along the river that combines an uninterrupted view of the Front Range with a completely natural foreground setting.

Other sites have high potential for habitat enhancement, as well as for new recreational opportunities. Thus, the river is an extremely important natural resource and this plan recommends protection techniques to improve and enhance the corridor for both wildlife and human use. Currently the corridor remains a patchwork of public (City/County) and private land holdings that include existing development, recreation lands, agricultural lands, and active and reclaimed gravel operations. The City should continue to explore opportunities to work with landowners, in particular along the eastern sections of the corridor. For example, the City may be able to offer incentives to gravel-miners to plan for long-range conversion to wildlife habitat and recreational uses. Conservation techniques to encourage these activities might include creative purchase, land exchanges, deed restrictions, conservation easements, purchase of

development rights, clustered or limited development, and restoration to natural conditions during reclamation activities.

Proposed Development Guidelines

This plan recommends that in the future, the area within the floodway not be developed, and the area within the 100-year floodplain remain in as undisturbed a state as possible to protect wildlife habitat, preserve water quality, and minimize flood damage. Specific recommendations are made for areas along the river corridor and for the area within the 100-year floodplain. This plan also proposes development guidelines within two areas along the Big Thompson River. The areas are designed to be flexible according to the river's natural characteristics, settlement, and land-ownership patterns along the corridor.

It is the intent of the City to work with landowners on a site-by-site basis. The primary focus is an innermost Resource Protection Area that includes the floodway plus important natural areas (those rated 6 or higher for overall habitat quality in the Natural Areas Sites report). The City of Loveland defines the floodway as the central part of the floodplain, which must be reserved as open lands to carry floodwater efficiently and without damage to life or property. Restrictions on development already exist within the floodway. The proposed Resource Protection Area expands upon these restrictions by proposing no new development within either the floodway or the identified natural areas with an overall habitat rating of 6 and above.

The second focus area is the Big Thompson Buffer Area, which is land within the flood fringe (located between the Resource Protection Area and the 100-year floodplain) plus all adjacent natural areas. All proposed new development within the Buffer Area should be located at least 50 feet beyond the Resource Protection Area. This 50-foot buffer is intended to minimize negative impacts on the Resource Protection Area. Ideally, the entire Buffer Area should remain in as "undisturbed" a state as possible to help preserve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, and minimize flood damage and erosion. Any new development within the Buffer Area should include provisions for natural restoration and enhancement within the corridor. Site-specific analysis is needed when a landowner desires to build within the Big Thompson River Corridor (outside of the floodway), in an area that is identified as containing a significant natural area rated 6 and above. For these areas, the City requires that the owner have an Environmentally Sensitive Areas Report (ESAR) prepared by a qualified expert that is mutually acceptable to the City and the landowner. This study will assist in determining both mitigation measures and development opportunities.

DEFINITIONS	
Floodway:	The central part of the floodplain, which must be reserved as open space to carry floodwater efficiently and without damage to life or property (FEMA).
100-Year Floodplain:	The area that has a 1 in 100 likelihood of flooding in any given year.
Fringe Area:	The area outside of the floodway but still within the 100-year floodplain.
Resource Protection Area:	The area that includes the floodway and natural areas with an overall habitat rating of 6 or above, where no development shall occur.
Big Thompson Buffer Area:	Within the fringe area and consists of any adjacent natural areas rated 5 and below for overall habitat quality and a 50-foot setback from the Resource Protection Area.

Restoration and Enhancement

The restoration of creeks, streams, and rivers back to a more natural state is an evolving science. Recognized scientists have pioneered river restoration techniques to revive channelized and degraded waterways throughout the West. Formerly degraded waterways have been returned to environmental health while providing community parks, recreational trails, fishing, swimming, and wildlife habitat and Loveland is learning from those example projects success stories. Urban waterways and their enhancement potential can be major rallying points for volunteer efforts creating a sense of ownership and community pride. There as many examples of volunteers planting thousands of trees along the river and riparian corridors, volunteers helping with patrol, providing interpretive opportunities, and helping to maintain the natural corridors.

General Recommendations

This section of the plan focuses on strategies for restoring the Big Thompson River and recommends both general and specific actions throughout the Big Thompson River Corridor. These apply to the entire river corridor and include:

- Working to restore the natural hydrologic processes of the river which may channel migration where the river moves back and forth over time.
- Acquiring precise mapping of the floodway and floodplain locations at the time that a specific parcel is being evaluated for development or protection.

- Where possible, building trails on upland areas and keeping development out of sensitive riparian areas and forest.
- Combining structural and non-structural bank stabilization methods including covering concrete and stone riprap with topsoil and planting with native cuttings such as willow, cottonwood, alder, and birch.
- Re-grading steep riverbanks to create riverbank “terraces,” which present a more natural means to control erosion. Moreover, the occasional flooding of terraces nourishes cottonwood seedlings, ensuring the continuance of groves.
- Re-grading pond and lake shoreline slopes to create undulations for wetland habitat and wading birds.
- Removing non-native weedy trees such as Russian olive and salt cedar (tamarisk).
- Restoring wetlands and restoring native wetland vegetation.
- Including the Big Thompson River in the area-wide trail connection plan.
- Requiring that a restoration and enhancement plan be prepared for the river corridor as part of any proposed development plans.
- Requiring tree protection measures during construction such as protective fencing around the drip line of existing trees.
- Protecting viewsheds and other resources in the corridor.
- Discouraging the placement of earth fill within the floodplain.

Site-Specific Recommendations

The plan addresses and makes recommendations for seven areas of the Big Thompson River corridor. These seven areas were chosen because they represent relatively distinct areas (locations) along the Big Thompson River through Loveland. Each has location-specific management and action recommendations.

Area A is the westernmost section of the Big Thompson River corridor and includes the highly ranked Natural Area Sites 69 and 137, both rated 9 for overall habitat quality. These natural areas consist of unusually large stands of mature cottonwoods and willows. In addition to providing a natural and dramatic western gateway to Loveland, this area also protects the Big Thompson's water quality by acting as a natural filtering system.

Recommendation:

- Protect this area through conservation easements, negotiated management agreements and land acquisition.

Area B is in the center of the river corridor next to the Mariana Butte Golf Course. The neighboring cottonwood forest provides high quality habitat for songbirds. The site compliments the open quality of the golf course and provides possible trail connections to surrounding open lands including Medina's Crossing, Oxbow and Skyline Natural Areas.

Recommendation:

- Protection techniques should be studied for this area.
- Management Plans should be developed for each site to conserve natural resources and provide recreational opportunities.

Area C includes the gravel mine and ponds near Namaqua Avenue. Portions of this area are still being actively mined and other portions include reclaimed ponds.

Recommendation:

- Plan for long-term protection and restoration. Work with the landowner to restore and protect this site through easement or installment purchase.

Area D includes the river corridor west of Taft and east of Wilson. This area includes quality wildlife habitat and an unusually clear and natural view of the Front Range.

Recommendations:

- Protection techniques should be studied for this area of key parcels west of the Macy Subdivision parcel.
- An open, rural feel of adjacent lands should be encouraged and, where possible, ensured through the purchase or donation of conservation easements.

Area E consists of large ponds including those owned by the City at River's Edge Natural Area. The area contains scenic views to the foothills, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for water access and passive recreation.

Recommendations:

- Protection techniques should be studied for this area with private landowners and the County.
- Work with landowners to regrade banks of ponds to prevent erosion and create nesting habitat for waterfowl.

Area F, directly east of Hwy 287 and north of Hwy 402, includes a development that incorporates high-density residential along an identified Resource Protection Area without harming the integrity of the river corridor, creating a positive amenity to this area.

Recommendations:

- Re-grade riverbanks to create terraces for natural erosion control, replace riprap containing exposed rebar, and other dangerous objects or hazardous situations. Remove weedy, non-native vegetation.
- Negotiate with the owner of the land (private or public) to achieve these restoration and enhancement measures.
- Work with the City's Public Works Stormwater Division to mitigate water flows during flood events to protect natural resources and infrastructure.

Area G, the eastern section of the Big Thompson corridor, winds east of Area F into the plains beyond I-25. Relatively undisturbed in comparison with the western section, and primarily surrounded by agricultural lands, this section includes 19 natural areas, 10 of which have an overall rating of 6 and above. Additionally, native vegetation should be used for any plantings within this buffer zone and access should be minimized or prohibited.

Recommendations:

- Use floodway mapping to maximize protection of riparian areas and plan for appropriate levels of public access.
- Encourage conservation easements or acquire lands to maintain the open, rural feel of adjacent lands.
- Provide incentives to private extraction companies to plan for and implement the restoration and enhancement of the river corridor.

- Work with adjacent landowners to voluntarily control erosion by maintaining vegetated buffer strips along the riparian corridor.
- Develop a regional trail corridor utilizing open lands, conservation easements and street infrastructure.

Techniques to Protect the Big Thompson Buffer Area

The ranges of techniques that can be applied to protecting the Big Thompson Buffer Area include the following:

- Include a setback requirement as part of existing open space, natural area, or park dedication requirements. This would include land that falls within the 100-year floodplain.
- A landowner could grant an easement to the City or to a qualified land trust with the potential for tax benefits of the donation.
- The City could utilize its open lands funds to acquire an open space easement on the setback and thereby compensate landowners for the incremental loss of value. That value would need to be determined by an independent appraisal. (It should be recognized that in some cases the easement may actually increase the value of the development.)
- The City could negotiate an increase in density on the development parcel in return for the easement on the buffer area.
- The City could negotiate a transfer of density within the parcel or to other parcels in return for establishing the buffer area.
- The City or County may be interested in purchasing a fee interest in the setback area from landowners.

Lake Edges and Ditches

Loveland is fortunate to have so many lakes and ditches in and around the community. Although many of these waterways are man-made, some of the most significant natural areas can be found on the edges of lakes and along some of the ditches. At lake edges and along ditches, there are two main open lands objectives:

- Protect natural areas from the impacts of development, especially wildlife habitat.
- Where appropriate, provide public access to lakes and along ditches.

This plan recommends several types of buffers to protect edges from development impacts. These are illustrated in the sections below. Development includes structures, roads, parking areas and all impervious surfaces. Development impacts of concern include water contamination from pollutants such as fertilizers, run-off from parking areas, and pesticides and other chemicals; increased erosion and siltation and loss of wildlife habitat caused by the removal of vegetation. Nearly all lakes and reservoirs identified in this plan are artificial or enhanced lakes created to store, control and distribute irrigation water. Typically, the lakes are privately owned and operated, with most surrounding land in private ownership. Many of these lakes have more than one high water level depending on the purpose to be served. Additionally, a high-water level may be adjusted up or down as a result of changes dictated by operational requirements of the lake owner, modifications to the reservoir, or regulatory agencies of the state or federal government.

In most instances, the operating high-water line can be defined as the statistical average over a 5-year period. This is defined as that elevation which is arrived at by taking the sum of the high-water elevation in the months of May and June for the last 5 years and dividing by 10. However, every lake and its surrounding area are unique, and actual lake shore configurations will need to be adapted to fit individual circumstance. The cross-sections below are illustrative of typical conditions existing for lakes shore edges and ditches.

Buffers

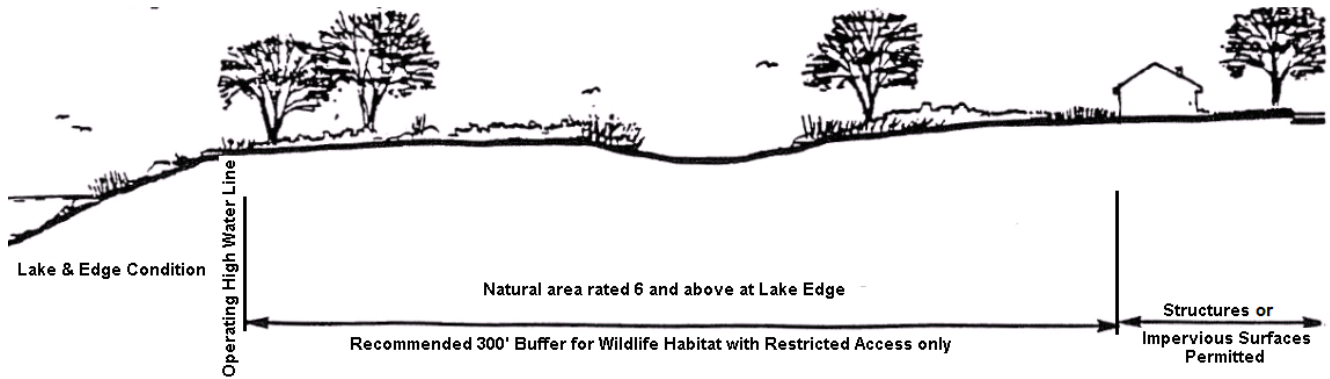
Establishing buffers along lake edges protects both water quality and wildlife habitat. The determination of appropriate buffer widths is dependent upon several conditions. For lakes that have natural areas along the shoreline, the Natural Areas Sites report must be consulted to determine the rating value for the overall habitat quality assigned to the particular site. Numeric quality ratings were given to 14 attributes. The ratings ranged from 1 (low) to 10 (high). These ratings were based on professional judgment, rather than solely on quantitative field data.

In areas that have natural areas rated 6 or above along lake edges, a buffer width of 300 feet is recommended. This translates to a development setback from the operating high-water line of 300 feet. The 300-foot dimension is based on extensive research and is the recommended standard.

******A decrease in the minimum buffer width may be justifiable based on site-specific conditions. The Plan recommends that reductions in the buffer width may be considered after site-specific research has been conducted. This can be accomplished by an independent consultant with appropriate credentials and mutually agreed upon by the City of Loveland and the private interest seeking changes to the recommended

buffer width. It is the intent of the City to work with landowners fairly and work on a site-by-site basis.

Cross-section showing the recommended 300-foot buffer for natural areas with an overall habitat rating of 6 and above, along lake edges:



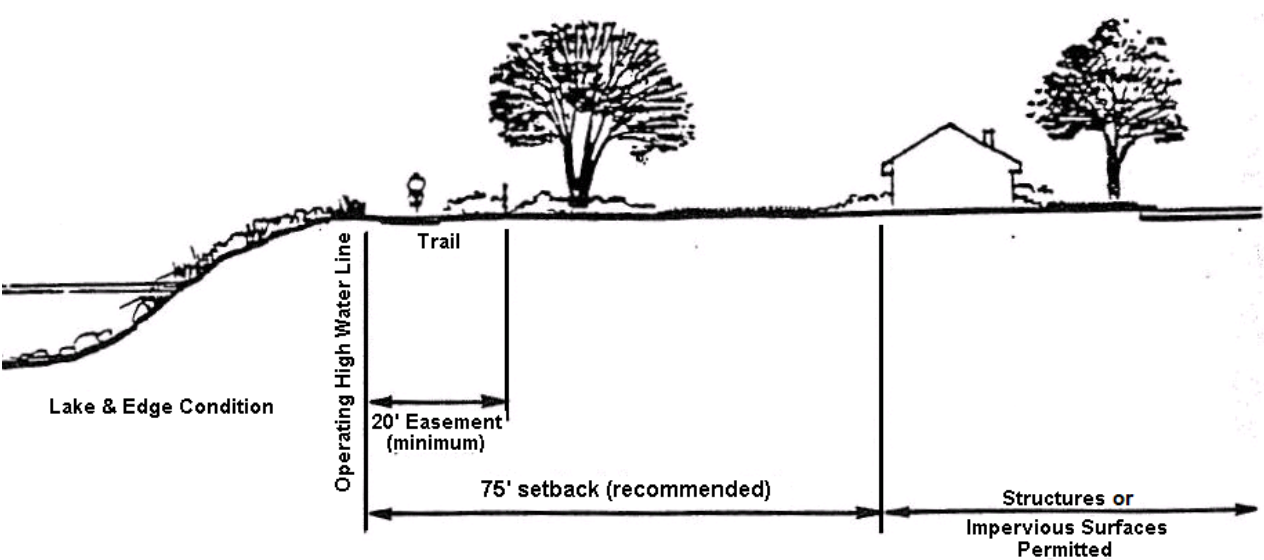
For lake edges that have natural areas rated 5 and below, development should be setback 75 feet to protect water quality by minimizing the impacts of sediment input. A naturally vegetated buffer zone of this width can usually catch and retain sediment containing metals and toxic substances that have been carried over land from developed areas. Native vegetation should be used for plantings in this buffer zone, with invasive and non-native species prohibited. In the case of lake edges without the 6+ rated natural areas (where a 75-foot setback is recommended), reduced buffers may be considered if adjacent developed areas have appropriately designed, constructed, and maintained storm water control systems.

Public Access Along Lakes

Public access along lakes and ditches has been a stated goal by Loveland citizens at many of the public meetings since the first Open Lands Plan in 1996. In areas where habitat protection is not the primary objective, public access may be appropriate.

Within the 75-foot setback for development as described above, easements for trails should be considered. These trails should provide a link between neighborhoods, parks, and other trails. Where a shoreline trail is not appropriate, but public access to the lake edge is still desired, the use of spur trails or other pedestrian access points can provide public access.

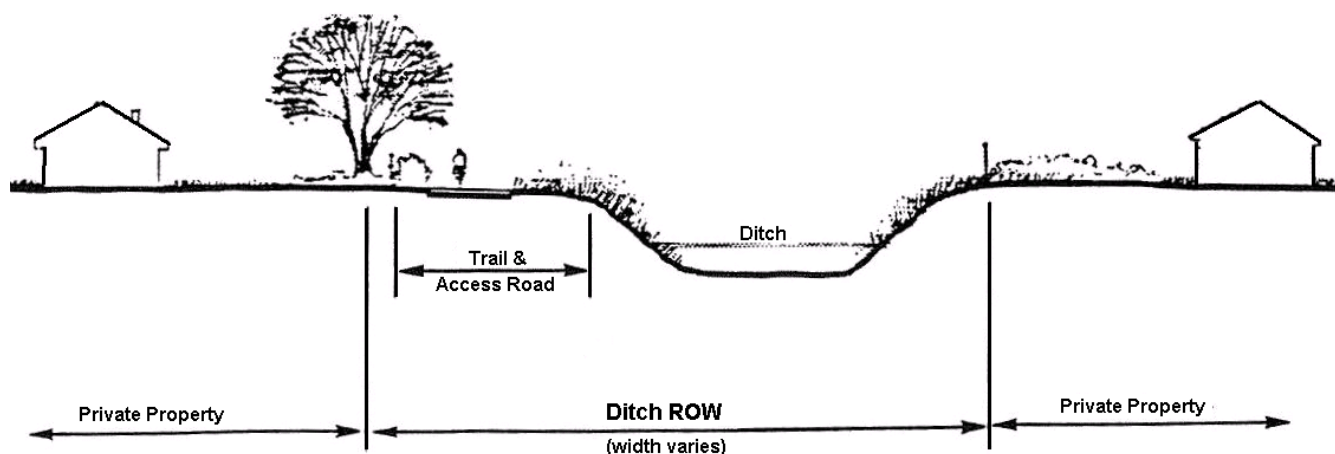
Cross-section showing the recommended 75-foot buffer with an easement for a trail:



Public Access Along Ditches

Ditches and their accompanying access roads crisscross the Loveland community. These ditches are often used by small species of wildlife as both habitat areas and movement corridors. They provide wildlife linkages amidst an increasingly urbanized area. They also provide an excellent opportunity for off-street trail connections that can link neighborhoods to parks, schools, and other trails. The primary function of ditches is agricultural in nature, supplying irrigation water to the farms surrounding Loveland and further east on the plains. This function must first and foremost be protected. This plan also recommends that some of the ditches serve as recreation/trail linkages and that a complete study be undertaken to determine which connections are most feasible and desirable as additions to Loveland's trail system. Similar to the Big Thompson River Corridor, any development proposals submitted to the City that involve lake edges or ditches should include a restoration and enhancement plan. As part of the City's review process, it is recommended that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) be given the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed development in identified significant natural areas. CPW staff have extensive experience and, in many cases, are very familiar with existing wildlife conditions in specific areas.

Cross-section showing a trail along a ditch:

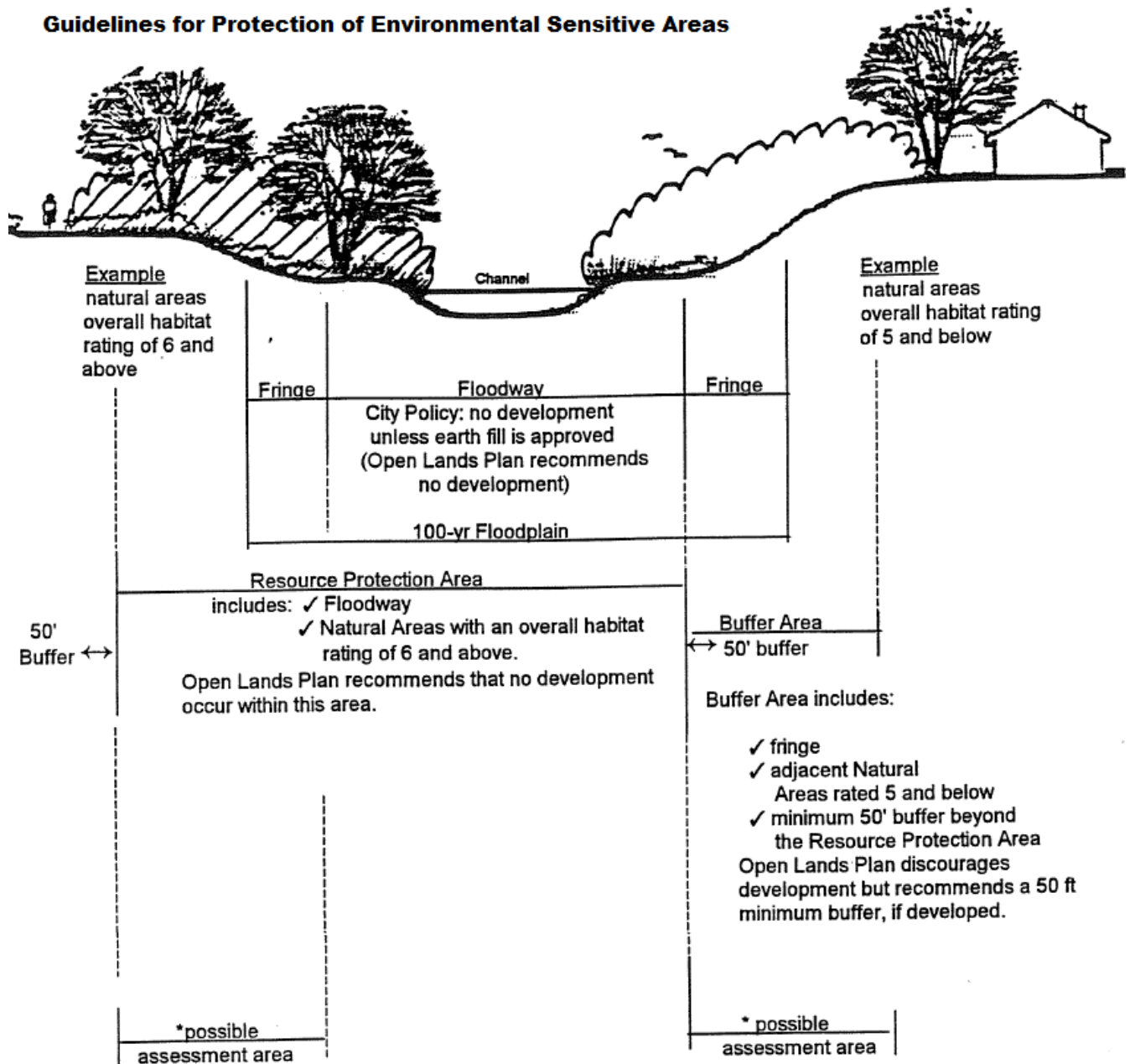


Techniques to Protect Lakeshore Setbacks

The range of techniques that can be applied to protecting the lake shore setback zone include the following:

- Include the lake shore setback guideline as part of existing open lands, natural area, or park dedication requirements. Landowners could meet these guidelines by counting that portion of the land that was included in the setback. This would include the land from the operating high-water line to the 300-foot or 75-foot setback mark.
- The City could utilize its open lands funds to acquire an open lands easement on the setback land, thereby compensating landowners for the incremental loss of value. That value would need to be determined by an independent appraisal. (It should be recognized that in some cases the easement may actually increase the value of the development.)
- The City could negotiate a transfer of density within the parcel or to other parcels of land in return for establishing the lakeshore setback area.
- The City, County, and State Parks may be interested in purchasing a fee interest in the setback area from landowners. In such instances, the purchase price would be negotiated and landowners would be encouraged to consider various land protection options when selling these lands (see Standards, Guidelines and Policies of 2023 Parks, Recreation, Open Lands and Trails Master Plan).

Guidelines for Protection of Environmental Sensitive Areas



*includes the completion of a natural areas impact assessment study

Back Cover