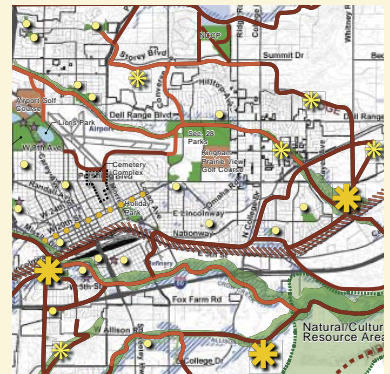


## Parks and Recreation

# Master Plan











# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT

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## Parks & Recreation Master Plan

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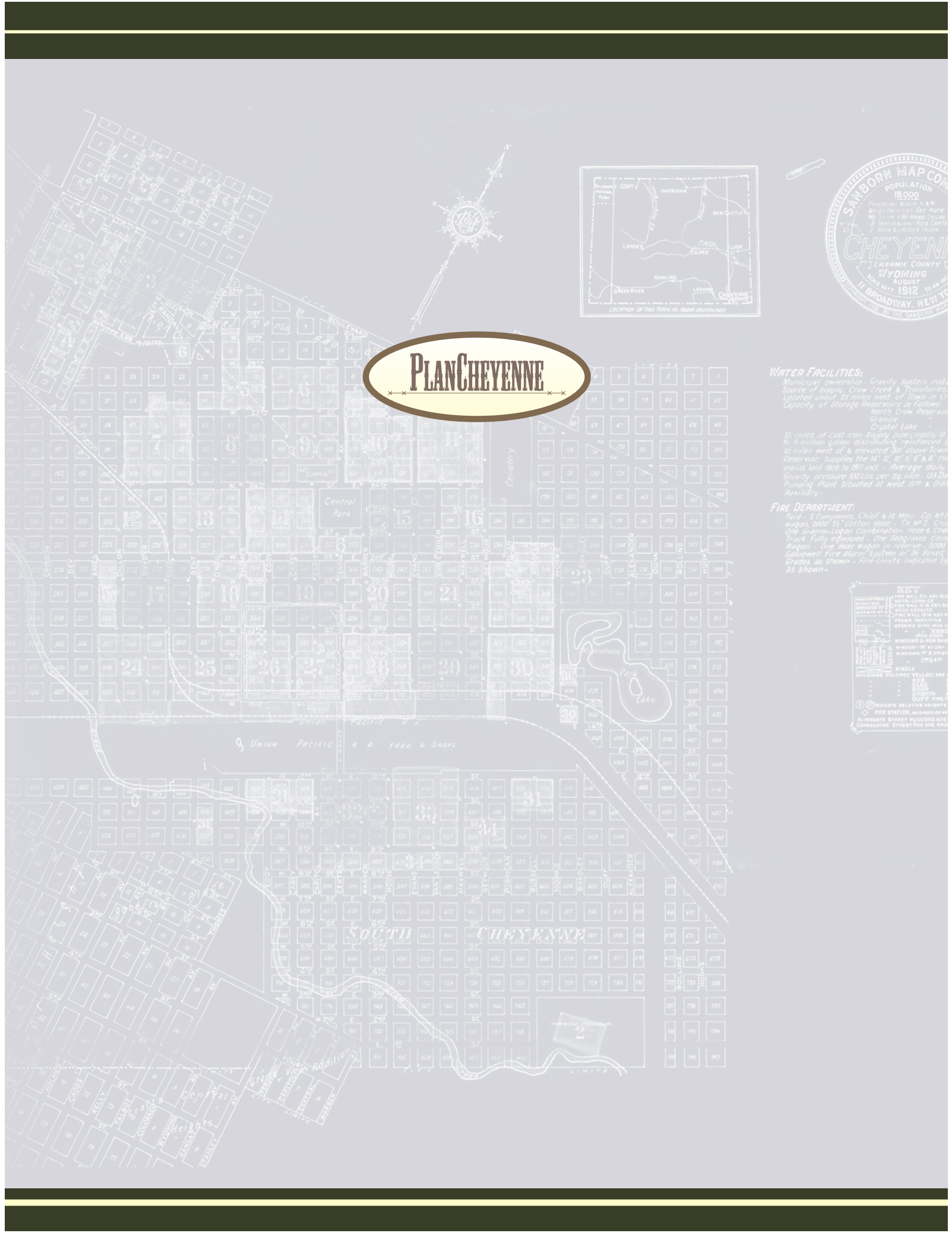


City of Cheyenne Parks & Recreation

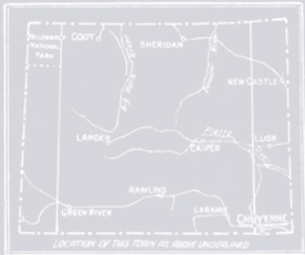
CHEYENNE MPO — CLARION — LSA — EDAA — AVI







# PLAN CHEYENNE



**WATER FACILITIES:**  
Municipal ownership - Gravity system installed.  
Source of Supply, Crow Creek & Trout Creek Reservoirs.  
Located about 25 miles west of Town in G.  
Capacity of Storage Reservoirs as follows:  
North Crow Reservoir  
Granite  
Crystal Lake  
35 miles of cast iron Supply line capacity 30 to 4 million gallon distributing reinforced 44 miles west of & elevated 301 above Town Reservoir. Supplies the 4' 6", 6", 8", 9", 6" & 4" the mains laid 808 to 811 incl. - Average daily Gravity pressure 100 Lbs. per Sq. inch. 1932.  
Pumping Plant Situated at west 15th & 10th Auxiliary -

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**  
Paid - 2 Companies, Chief & 14 Men. Co. No. 1 wagon, 2000 lb. Cotton Horse - Co. No. 2, City One, Grann-Lugan Combination Horse & Calf Truck fully equipped - One Seelye's Calf Wagon - One Horse Wagon in reserve - 5000 Gallon well fire alarm system or 30 Boxes.  
Grades as shown - Fire Limits indicated by as shown -





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## Section 1. Introduction

This section summarizes why the City of Cheyenne has prepared a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, key areas of focus for the plan, how the plan is organized and the public input process that occurred.



Lincoln Park

### Need for a Plan

The City of Cheyenne has been growing at a fairly stable rate of about 1% for the last several decades and currently has a population of 57,381.<sup>1</sup> (US Census) By 2030, the City is projected to grow at a rate of 2% and increase in size to 102,000. The need for parks, recreational facilities and programs, trails, cemeteries, and open space will continue to grow along with the City's developed areas. As Cheyenne grows the adequacy of the existing system needs to be evaluated.

The City last prepared a Parks System Master Plan in 1992 and now, 13 years later, has retained EDAW Inc. to develop a Master Parks and Recreation Plan that defines the 25-year vision for the City. The plan will provide a baseline and path that City leaders, staff and citizens can follow to realize this vision.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census

### Plan Focus

The specific focus of the plan is to:

- Develop a detailed inventory of parklands, including location, service areas and amenities.
- Develop classifications and level-of-service standards that become policies to direct the provision of parks within the urban area for the City and County.
- Document resources and needs of the Parks and Recreation Department and its seven Divisions.
- Identify parks and facilities needed based on existing future development patterns and growth, the expressed desires of the community, and demand for recreation programs and other Parks and Recreation Department services.
- Identify specific park and recreation-related projects.
- Document developmental regulations and financial resources, and identify potential funding and acquisition strategies.
- Identify implementation tools and actions.

The emphasis of this plan is on the developed park system within the urban area and includes indoor recreational facilities and community centers that fall within the scope, responsibility, and authority of the City Parks and Recreation Department. This Master Parks and Recreation Plan should be revisited and updated periodically, ideally every 5 years, to ensure that it accurately reflects current and future needs, changing conditions, and to adjust priorities within the community as appropriate.

### Document Organization

The City of Cheyenne has organized its comprehensive plan for the City and surrounding planning area into a document called PlanCheyenne that consists of four parts: Snapshot, Structure, Shape and Build. The philosophy of this overall process is described in detail in PlanCheyenne. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been developed parallel to PlanCheyenne and is similarly organized in the same four sections.

**Snapshot** – This section documents the facilities and services that the Parks and Recreation Department provides. The section provides a comparison of programs and facilities the City should be providing based on the opinions of Cheyenne citizens, non-profit recreation providers, and interest groups. Additionally this section evaluates the programs and facilities provided by comparable communities and estimates facilities and programs necessary to serve anticipated population growth.

**Structure** – This section identifies the visual and physical components that most influence the image and land use patterns of the City of Cheyenne.

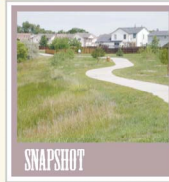
**Shape** – This section outlines policies to guide the provision of Parks and Recreation facilities for Cheyenne. The section makes up the body of the physical Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is based on the preferred land use plan developed for PlanCheyenne. It also includes descriptions and costs of specific projects.

**Build** – This section contains a summary of existing and potential tools for implementing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## Public Input Process

This section will be developed at the end of the planning process.

### Building Blocks

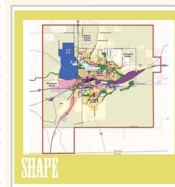
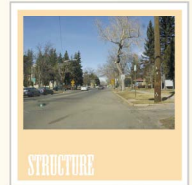


#### SnapshotCheyenne

Provides information and analysis about the state of the community today. The information will benchmark the community's population, employment, and other data for use throughout the planning process.

#### StructureCheyenne

Determines Cheyenne's architectural identity and describe the elements that make neighborhoods and districts (like downtown) livable and unique.

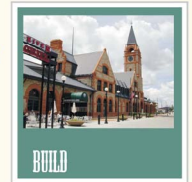


#### ShapeCheyenne

Will incorporate details about individual elements the community must consider in the future, including: neighborhoods, parks, economic development, transportation, and more. This component will contain the goals, policies, and physical plan directions to guide decisions in the future.

#### BuildCheyenne

will provide implementation tools to carry out the many ideas in the rest of PlanCheyenne.



## Section 2. History of the Parks System

This section summarizes the evolution of the parks system in Cheyenne and includes information on parks that have deep historic roots in the community or those that are named for prominent Cheyenne residents. Much of the information contained in this section directly references ‘Cheyenne’s Historic Parks – From Untamed Prairie to a City of Trees,’ published by the Cheyenne Historic Preservation Board in 2001.

### The First Parks Advocates

Early settlers in Cheyenne were very much aware of the need for trees and recreational space – Cheyenne was essentially a treeless prairie town surrounded by large ranches. Since few trees are native to the prairie, a lot of effort has always gone into establishing and maintaining them in the City’s parks and recreation areas.

In 1878, a local businessman named James Jenkins, originally from Wisconsin, planted his first tree in Cheyenne. Jenkins, his business partner and another Cheyenne businessman set out to raise money to establish a park in 1882. Many cottonwoods were planted on former Union Pacific Railroad land between Capital and Warren Avenues to create the Old City Park, Cheyenne’s first official park. Jenkins raised additional funds to fence the park in order to keep out the City cattle herd, and the trees were tended by citizen volunteers. Jenkins was named Park Commissioner in the early 1920’s, and worked with volunteers to plant trees, clear land, construct picnic tables and benches and beautify Sloan’s Lake. Jenkins was almost single-handedly responsible for laying the groundwork for the present park system. The City hired a German immigrant named Jacob Paulus to care for the Old City Park at its inception, and in 1923, he was made the first Superintendent of Parks.

In 1902, Senator Francis E. Warren donated a substantial brick and stone shelter house to Old City Park. When the property was turned over to the State in the mid 1930’s, the shelter was moved to Holliday Park where it still stands. Today, the Old City Park site is occupied by the Wyoming State Supreme Court Building and the Wyoming State Museum, but some of the original trees still remain.



Holliday Park Historic Shelter

### Historically Significant Parks

Most of Cheyenne’s larger community parks were developed in the late 1800’s and were sited around lakes or in undeveloped open areas on the outer edges of the original City. As Cheyenne grew, many of the larger parks were reduced in size as space was needed for other development. Many neighborhood parks are also named for prominent City or national citizens and have ties to a statue or other unique feature. Many were started by neighborhood citizens and eventually given over to the City, and some were initially adopted by local social organizations in their early days.

Two historic parks, though not currently part of the Cheyenne Park system, were significant recreation sites for many years: Union Pacific Park and American Legion Park. Union Pacific Park, at the site of the 1887 train depot, was a small but well-groomed area that catered to both tourists and citizens. It was displaced in 1940 by the Greyhound Bus Terminal.

The 40-acre American Legion Park was located at the north end of Kiwanis Lake and was cared for by American Legion members until 1975 when the property was exchanged with the State of Wyoming for 117 acres northeast of Cheyenne (now the site of North Cheyenne Community Park). At one time, the major purpose of American Legion Park was to provide a space for overnight camping. The area is now the site of the Governor’s Residence.



**Absaraca Park** occupies 21 acres north of Frontier Park and west of the Airport Golf Course. The park was founded in 1882 and surrounds a lake that was a key part of Cheyenne's water system at that time. Fishing is an important activity in the park and the park is leased to Cheyenne Frontier Days in July as a 'cowboy campground.'

**Brimmer Park** is located at the east end of the Veteran's Hospital north of Pershing Blvd. The 40-acre park was donated to the City in 1971, and was named for George E. Brimmer, a local attorney who was a strong advocate for community beautification. Brimmer and Senator Warren donated 30,000 saplings for planting at Fort D.A. Russell in 1928. The Women's Civic League adopted the new park, planted trees and raised funds to construct a tennis and ice skating facility, but unfortunately the tennis and ice facility were abandoned after wind and water damage. Brimmer Park continues to be a vital park in the City's active recreation programs with three softball fields used by City and for private leagues and tournaments. The park also has a new \$400,000 renovation to the softball fields and the former tennis and ice facility became the Clay Sturman Bike, Blade and Skateboard Park.



Brimmer Park

**Cahill Park** (formerly Friendship Park) is located north of Kingham Prairie View Golf Course. The park has 8 acres of parkland plus 23 acres in adjoining soccer fields. Park development began in 1965. It was named after T. Joe Cahill, a prominent local citizen who served as city clerk, chief of Cheyenne's first paid fire department, chief of police and radio operator in his lifetime.

**Frontier Park** (89 acres) is not an official City park, but plays a very prominent role in the recreation scene every summer for both citizens and tourists. From 1897 to 1907, Cheyenne Frontier Days was held at Pioneer Park. The event outgrew the park and in 1908 was moved to Frontier Park, north of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and west of Carey Avenue. The land was vacant and had been set aside by Union Pacific Railroad as parkland in the original City plat. The City owns Frontier Park but leases it to the Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD) organization, which has a standing agreement to develop the area for its own use. A grandstand and mile-long racetrack were constructed in 1908. Auto and horse races were held at the track beginning in 1910. In addition, the Cheyenne Frontier Days Museum, which opened in 1978, is within the Park and is open year round. The Museum has a vast collection of Western, railroad and Indian artifacts, including an expansive vintage carriage collection. The museum hosts fine Western art shows and other events throughout the year. The CFD organization and the Museum owe their existence to thousands of local volunteers. Currently, this park hosts as many as 380,000 visitors who come to see the largest outdoor rodeo in the world during the 10-day event.

**Holliday Park** (53 acres) was developed as 1882 as Minnehaha Park, when water from Sloan's Lake was brought down in a ditch to create Minnehaha Lake and Park. Ice skating and boating were popular activities, but as the years passed neglect and overuse began to take their toll on the park. A renovation of the park began in the late 1920's, spearheaded by Mayor Cal Holliday, and the park was renamed in his honor in 1930. The shelter house from the Old City Park was moved to Holliday Park in 1937. A house once owned by cattle baron R.S. Van Tassell is now occupied by the Cheyenne Artists' Guild; and the oldest Laramie County one-room schoolhouse, owned by the Cheyenne Frontier Days organization, is also on site. In addition, 'Big Boy,' one of the largest steam-powered locomotives ever built by Union Pacific Railroad, is on display at the park. A playground was donated by the Speight family in the late 1990's.

**Lincoln Park** occupies 2 acres between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets. It was deeded to the City in 1921, and park development began in 1923 after the completion of adjoining Johnson Grade School. The school children contributed pennies during Friday 'penny marches' and the funds were used to buy trees for the park. When the children were asked to name the park, they honored the president on the penny. The school building eventually evolved to a junior high and



was recently sold by Laramie County School District No. 1 to the First Assembly of God Church. Lincoln Park was renovated in the 1970's and in 2001 to update the playground, picnic shelter and basketball court. The Johnson swimming pool, the City's first and only outdoor swimming pool, was constructed in Lincoln Park in 1954 by city forces and continues to be used today.

**Lions Park** occupies 131 acres between 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kennedy Avenue, east of Carey Avenue. Soon after the founding of Cheyenne, a ditch was dug from Crow Creek to four natural basins in town, which filled and became Terry, Absaraca, Athabasca and Mahpalutah Lakes. A driving park was established near the lakes in 1880 and it has been a popular recreation area ever since. Lake Mahpalutah eventually became known through popular usage as Sloan's Lake, after dairy owner Johnnie Sloan. The aforementioned James Jenkins raised funds to plant trees around the lake in the early 1900's, and when the Lion's Club took responsibility for beautification, the park was named for them.



Lions Park

**Martin Luther King Park** (formerly Sunset Park) is between 19<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. Sunset Park began in 1971 and was originally only on the east bank of Crow Creek. In 1991 the area on the west bank of Crow Creek was added, and in 2000 it was renamed after the famous civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King. A section of the Greater Cheyenne Greenway runs through the park. The Coke Gonzales Baseball Field occupies the north part of the park and was completed in 1998. It was named in honor of a longtime friend of children's sports.



Martin Luther King Park

**Mylar Park**, located south of Melton Street and east of Seminole Road, was given to the City via a warranty deed from the Mylar family in 1971. The Wyoming Recreation Commission provided \$45,000 to begin development of the 26-acre park later that same year. Dry Creek and the Greenway both run through the park, which is designed with a dam to create a recreational lake and to serve as a flood detention area.



Mylar Park

**Optimist Park**, a 3-acre pocket park, is located between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets adjacent to the Crow Creek Greenway. It was originally the site of stockyards. Crow Creek was in very bad condition until the mid-1940's. It had been used as an open sewer and dump for decades. Local attorney George Brimmer and friend William Deming, the publisher of the *Wyoming State Tribune*, envisioned Crow Creek as the focal point of a drive or parkway through the City. Deming left \$10,000 to the City in his will to begin cleanup efforts to this end.



Optimist Park

In 1950, the Southside Community League went before the City Council and asked permission to develop a park. An outlet for water was installed at the site and trees were moved there from Old City Park. The Optimist Club donated playground equipment and the park was eventually named for them. The park was renovated in 1980 and 1982, and again in 1985 after the last major flood, when work was required to replace trees, sod and paths damaged by flooding. Sculpture was added to the park in 2004.

**Pioneer Park** was once 162 acres, but due to surrounding development is now around 13 acres. This park was the site of Cheyenne Frontier Days from 1897 to 1907, when the event outgrew the facilities and moved to Frontier Park. Pioneer Park was initially the property of Major John Talbot, who arrived in Cheyenne in 1867 before the railroad. He planted many trees that eventually became known as Talbot's Grove – a few of the old cottonwoods are still standing. A semi-professional baseball team, the Cheyenne Indians, played in Pioneer Park from 1910 to 1930. The baseball field is still the home of the City's Senior Babe Ruth baseball league.



Pioneer Park

**Robert A. Smalley Park**, approximately 6 acres in size, is located along Dry Creek. It was deeded to the City in 1959 by Otis Melton, the developer of the Indian Hills subdivision, and was named for Melton's friend Robert Smalley who died in 1958. The City used funds from the Wyoming Land and Water Conservation Commission to develop the park, which is across Seminole Drive west of Mylar Park.

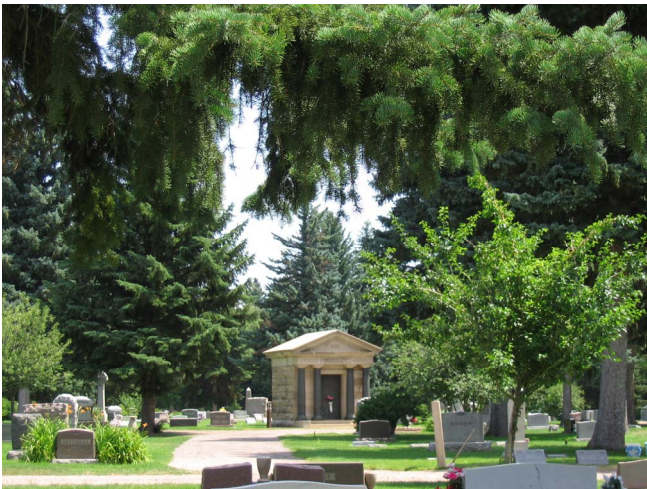


Smalley Park



**Lakeview Cemetery**, was first indicated on a map in 1868. The cemetery was in the northwest quadrant of the city and later closed due to a dispute about water rights on Crow Creek. A resolution from 1871 indicates the establishment of a temporary graveyard near the present location. In 1874 city officials approved an ordinance to preserve vital statistics and the city cemetery was platted into avenues and lots. Official operation of the cemetery began when the first burial permit was issued in 1875.

For 115 years Lakeview Cemetery has served not only as the final resting place for many Cheyenne residents but also as a repository for the city's social and cultural history. The cemetery's registers reveal not only how people died but how they lived as well.



Lakeview Cemetery



"City Cemetery" appeared on maps for many years. The name "Lakeview Cemetery" evolved gradually in the early 1900's when the publisher of the Wyoming State Tribune newspaper instructed reporters to use "Lakeview" when writing obituaries. He thought "City Cemetery" suggested a paupers' field. The lake referred to was part of a storm drainage system located east of the cemetery. The cemetery was enlarged in the 1920's and the lake no longer existed, but the name was adopted by City Council in 1932.



## Section 3. Previous Plans

Cheyenne has numerous documents that relate to the provision of parks and recreation services and facilities for Cheyenne area residents. These plans provide important background information and recommendations that were considered in the development of this plan. This 2005 Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Master Plan supersedes these documents in the event there are any conflicting recommendations or policies.

### Recent Plans

#### City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation: Facilities Master Plan, 1992

The purpose of this plan was to create a comprehensive roadmap for the continued redevelopment of the existing Parks and Recreational system, and to plan for expanded operations and maintenance needs. It also sets priorities for future facilities and proposed land acquisitions for the next decade and beyond. Major elements of the document included: site inventory; maintenance needs evaluation; implementation strategies for improvements; and analysis of potential recreation center sites and costs.

#### 1992 Greenway Development Plan

Cheyenne's Greenway is an evolving project that is planned to eventually encircle the City. Interest in recreational greenways and bikeways in Cheyenne extends back to the 1930's, when two Cheyenne businessmen retained a designer to create a scenic drive along Crow Creek. Since that time a series of other studies examined the idea in increasing detail. The 1992 Greenway Development Plan arose from a grassroots group called the Crow Creek Greenway Committee in 1990. This document integrated concepts and ideas presented in earlier studies with the goal of presenting consistent, unified design and quality parameters for the future Greater Cheyenne Greenway system. The plan included 15 miles of pedestrian and bicycle trails. It is partially funded by a Laramie County Sixth Penny Specific Purpose Tax, which is used to purchase land rights-of-way, for grading and landscaping, and for the installation of the path and associated amenities. A proposed cost analysis is included, as well as preliminary routing and trail dimensional standards.

The City has been implementing this plan and adding trail connections that go beyond the original vision. In 1999, the '35% Design - Cheyenne Greenway Extensions Plan' presented three proposed greenway extensions that were designed to expand the existing Greenway into three new areas not currently serviced: downtown Cheyenne, East Cheyenne including Sun Valley neighborhood, and the Avenues neighborhood north of Pershing Blvd. and east of Warren Ave. In 2002 preliminary plans were prepared for another Greenway extension along North College Drive. Approximately 16 miles of greenway trails have been constructed to date.



Crow Creek Greenway

#### 1992 Cheyenne Area Development Plan

This document, together with subsequent subarea plans, formed the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Cheyenne until the development of PlanCheyenne, which is to be completed in 2005. The comprehensive planning effort in the area was an ongoing program of looking at future needs of the City and County, and working to meet those needs prior to crisis situations. One of the stated goals of the plan included actively supporting and encouraging community beautification and amenities as a priority.

#### Cheyenne Subarea Plans

After development of the overall comprehensive plan for the City, the community prepared subarea plans for each area of the city that went into more detail and which were intended



to identify specific infrastructure improvements that were necessary for the realization of the plans. These 6 subarea plans are described below:

### 1992 Northwest Cheyenne Infrastructure and Development Plan.

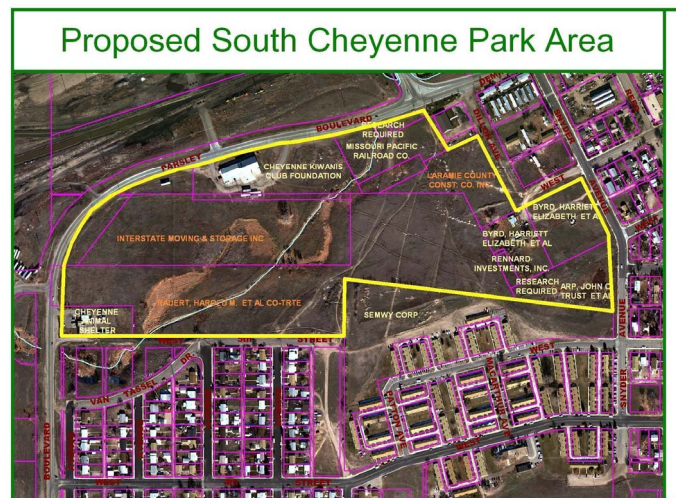
The purpose of this document was to create a vision, land use and transportation plan for Northwest Cheyenne as part of a 10-year action plan. The plan was designed to provide solutions to identified problems and to encourage development of the mostly unincorporated area. Existing parks totaled around 0.3% of the study area at that time, noted as insufficient for the number of residents. Objectives related to parks and recreation include:

- Develop a connected system of parks, greenways and trails;
- Work with Laramie County School District #1 to create a shared school/park area in the northern part of the study area;
- Encourage cluster development when possible to preserve open space;
- Protect sensitive areas (wetlands, wildlife habitat, riparian corridors) from development.
- Design parks to preserve natural amenities and locate adjacent to schools when feasible.

### 1994 South Cheyenne Infrastructure Improvement and Development Action Plan

The purpose of this plan was to create a specific action plan for unincorporated South Cheyenne that would, over a 10-year period, attract new commercial, industrial and residential land uses to the area. One of the goals for the plan was to create an integrated parks, trails and open space system. Some of the ideas presented include using floodplains as open space and trail corridors; working with the school district to ensure that school and park sites are coordinated; building parks adjacent to elementary schools and open space corridors when possible; and locating neighborhood commercial uses in close proximity to trails to encourage walking or bicycling. The plan recommended a large community park be constructed west of Watersheid Blvd. and north of College Drive, and several neighborhood parks of 8 to 12 acres each located strategically throughout the study area (near schools, trails and residential areas).

This area has been approved for private development, and a community park site has been acquired out of this study area within the Cole Neighborhood, north of I-80. This site is called David Romero South Cheyenne Community Park.



David Romero South Cheyenne Community Park

### 1995 Hebard, Cole and Goins Neighborhood Plan

The purpose of this plan was the similar to the South Cheyenne Plan: to create a specific action plan for the developed portions of south Cheyenne that would, over a 10-year period, attract new commercial, and residential land uses to the area. The study area was south of the Union Pacific Railroad yards and north of I-80. The plan noted that additional parkland would be necessary to meet the needs of neighborhood residents, particularly large turf areas for informal ballgames and large, covered



Norris Viaduct Plan



group picnic or meeting areas, which were lacking at the time. A park large enough to accommodate a multi-purpose playfield was recommended east of Cole Elementary School on currently vacant lands. The Crow Creek Greenway was noted as an excellent aesthetic and recreational aspect, but the addition of more adjacent multi-use or picnic areas would enhance its usefulness to nearby residents. The Norris Viaduct project currently being designed and constructed is a direct outcome of this plan. The Norris Viaduct project will result in a 1-block wide L-shaped parkway along 5th Street and Morrie Avenue near the refinery, which will be a great amenity to adjacent residents.

### 1998 East Cheyenne Infrastructure Improvement Plan

This plan was prepared in support of the Cheyenne Area Transportation Planning Process with the goal of developing a vision for East Cheyenne as part of a 10-year action plan. The purpose of the action plan was to identify problems, offer improvement suggestions, and create the best climate for development and redevelopment in the study area. During the public input process for this plan, the need for additional parks, recreation facilities and open space in East Cheyenne were mentioned several times. Using a neighborhood parkland standard of 2 ac/1,000 population, East Cheyenne was (at that time) short by approximately 21 acres.



Sun Valley Park

One of the goals detailed in the plan was to 'enhance the quality of life in existing residential neighborhoods.' Some of the ways suggested to do this were to provide additional neighborhood parks in underserved areas; add a large community park (Sun Valley, 17 acres, currently under construction); complete the Dry Creek Greenway trail, including extending it to the LEADS industrial park on

Campstool Rd.; provide secondary trail connections to the Greenway; and provide open space for passive recreation. Four additional neighborhood parks of 8-12 acres each were recommended, two of which were justified by current population levels at the time.

### 2000 East Central Cheyenne Infrastructure Improvements Plan

This plan was prepared in support of the Cheyenne Area Transportation Planning Process with the goal of developing a vision for East Central Cheyenne as part of a 10-year action plan. The purpose of the action plan was to identify problems, offer improvement suggestions, and create the desired climate for development and redevelopment in the study area.

The total amount of parklands and open space in the area was generally considered adequate; however, most parks tend to be very large city/regional facilities and aren't within walking distance of many residents. The challenge to correcting this was the lack of appropriately-sized vacant lands within existing residential areas. In response, the document recommended the addition of two neighborhood parks as vacant lands become available in the study area. The first park to be added is Sun Valley Park.

Sun Valley Park

### 2002 West Cheyenne Land Use and Infrastructure Improvement Plan

This plan was prepared to establish both a vision for the future of the West Cheyenne region and a strategy to achieve that vision. This document contains a summary of existing conditions, needs, influences, goals, proposed alternatives, and proposed land use and transportation plans for West Cheyenne. The West Cheyenne Plan was initiated by the Cheyenne Area Transportation Planning Process as part of a larger effort to update the 1992 Cheyenne Area Development Plan with a series of sub area plans.

Objectives that relate to parks planning included: preparing a greenway concept plan for the area that incorporates parks, views, and open space; connecting the gaps in the Greenway, and extending it west along Crow Creek; including neighborhood parks in new residential developments; ensuring the sustainable maintenance of parks and greenway facilities; integrating educational opportunities into the Greenway or trail system; preserving significant views and sensitive habitats.

### 2000 Cheyenne Old Town Mall Master Plan Report

The purpose of this plan was to identify opportunities for the Old Town Mall area and to develop a master plan for actions and physical improvements. Successful redevelopment of this area was seen as being an important component of the 1991 Master Plan for the Downtown Cheyenne Core Area. The report recommends opening the Mall to through traffic.

### 2001 Laramie County Comprehensive Plan

This document was intended as a 'roadmap' for the future development of the mostly-agricultural County. Goals relevant to City parks and recreation planning include: preservation of open space; protecting natural resources; encouraging new residential communities to provide adequate parks and recreation facilities; providing accessible recreation programs for all ages; supporting efforts of municipalities to acquire Federal and State grants for programs and improvements; and promoting the development of a regional greenway system in concert with similar municipal efforts.

### 2002 Vision 2020

This document describes the master vision for the Cheyenne area and provides direction for the update of the Cheyenne Area Development Plan (1992). Several of the key principles identified in Vision 2020 are relevant to parks and recreation, including quality of life, new residential neighborhoods, and transportation. Priorities include: better pedestrian and bicycle access to parks, schools and shopping with interconnected trails, especially for new residential neighborhoods; extending the Greenway; preserving natural areas within the greater Cheyenne area; and adding parks and recreation facilities where needed to meet current or anticipated deficiencies.



Lions Park

### Area-Specific Plans

Several plans have been developed for specific areas or projects associated with the Parks and Recreation Department. These include the 1994 North Cheyenne Park Master Plan, 1997 Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Master Plan, 2003 High Plains Arboretum Master Plan, 2001 Lions Park Master Plan, 2001 Pioneer Park Master Plan, 2001 Powers Field Plan, and various design plans for extension of the Cheyenne Greenway and specific park improvements. These plans are referenced as applicable in the sections that further describe these parks and facilities.

## Section 4 Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities

There are numerous types of parkland, open space, and recreational facilities and amenities that are available for public recreational use in Cheyenne. This section provides definitions for five categories of parks and recreation facilities including: Parkland, Open Space, Cemeteries, Golf Courses, and Recreation Facilities. Most of these categories are currently provided for and managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, but some may be provided by other city departments or are for future reference as the city's system grows and matures. Detailed classifications and standards which further explain Parks and Recreation facilities are located in the *Shape* section of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### Definitions

**Parkland** – Def.: *Constructed public landscapes in urban areas that are designed for people to use and enjoy.*

**Neighborhood Park.** Neighborhood Parks are parks that serve a residential neighborhood. They are located in developed areas and are intended to receive a high level of use. Neighborhood Parks typically have landscaping and walking surfaces that can withstand the impacts of heavy foot traffic. Amenities might include: playgrounds, play fields, backstops, basketball courts, horseshoe pits, etc. As such, neighborhood parks often appear more manicured than the surrounding natural landscape. They are spaces where neighbors can gather, children can play, people can watch other people, and engage in recreational activities. They should be adequately sized to provide space for a variety of activities. Ideally Neighborhood Parks are between 5 and 20 acres. They should be centrally located within the residential area they serve, which is commonly defined as homes within ½ mile walk of the park. Programmed sports activities in Neighborhood Parks should normally be limited to practices, as the need to be compatible with surrounding residential land uses limits the intensity of use in the park. Sun Valley, Mylar and Pointe Parks are examples of neighborhood parks.

**Pocket Park.** Pocket Parks are small Neighborhood Parks. This park type is very common in Cheyenne. The City's pocket parks average around 2 acres in size, which makes them more of an amenity for the immediate neighbors than for the larger neighborhood. Pocket parks are similar to Neighborhood Parks, except that they offer only a few amenities due to their limited size. Amenities might include playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, etc. While Pocket Parks supplement the neighborhood park system and provide visual relief within the urban landscape for the homes within ¼ mile, they are not substitutes for adequately sized Neighborhood Parks. Since the parcels are small, they have limited use for larger neighborhood gatherings, youth sports practices, self-directed activities such as kite-flying, and other activities that require larger open areas. The proliferation of small parks is important to note because it is very expensive to maintain the small parcels on a per-acre basis. Lincoln, Optimist, Jaycee and are examples of Pocket Parks.



Jaycee Park

**Community Park.** Community parks are larger parks that serve the entire community. They should be equitably distributed throughout the urban area and easily accessible by all residents, ideally via car, bicycle or by foot. They should be connected via the core commuter off-street trail system to reduce the need to drive to the park. Community parks are ideally 25 to 100 acres in size, and often combine developed parkland for self-directed or programmed activities (festivals, performances, fitness trails, sports



fields and courts, picnic shelters, etc.) with natural areas or other interesting elements (water features, forests or gardens). Lions Park and Holliday Park are examples of Community Parks.



Holliday Park Promenade and Lake

**Regional Park.** Regional Parks are large park and recreation areas that contain indoor and outdoor facilities that serve users from a region, such as all of Laramie County. Often they are developed in partnerships with other government entities. Cheyenne does not currently have any Regional Parks.

**Sports Complex.** Sports Complexes are a specialized, more intensively programmed Community Park, which provide opportunities for community-wide programmed and self-directed sports including: baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, in-line hockey, and skateboarding. They may be single purpose and will not contain the broad array of amenities and activities that are offered in Community Parks. Often Sport Complexes are needed in addition to Community Parks to fill service gaps for specialized sports facilities. Brimmer Park, Cahill Sports Complex and Dutcher Field are examples of Sports Complexes.



Dutcher Field Ballfields

**Special Purpose Park.** Special Purpose Parks are highly varied in size and character, which each serving a specialized function. Cheyenne has two such parks: the Saddle Tramps Riding Club area adjacent to Dutcher Field, which contains an equestrian riding arena; and the Depot Plaza next to the Historic Union Pacific Depot, which is scheduled and maintained by the City Special Projects Division and is used for festivals in downtown.

**Visual Green Spaces** – Def.: *Highly visible natural or manicured lands that typically have little or no public access or recreational purpose.*

**Visual Green Spaces** are intended to be areas of city-wide significance often associated with public road rights of way. In the past, the City has sometimes accepted ownership and maintenance of Visual Green Space that is special purpose and not of city-wide significance, such as neighborhood detention ponds. The Botanic Gardens staff and volunteers maintain flower beds in many Visual Green Spaces in medians around the city. Parks Department, Forestry Department and waterbug programs maintain the grass and trees in visual green spaces. Some visual green spaces include the 19th Street Parkway, Randall Triangles, and the Rodeo Avenue Detention Pond.





Rodeo Avenue Detention Pond

**Open Space** – Def.: *Lands in a primarily natural condition that are protected from development.*

Cheyenne’s open space areas are classified into four types - Natural Areas, Regional Open Space, Special Resource Areas and Visual Green Spaces. Natural areas include the corridors through which the Greater Cheyenne Greenway is positioned.

**Natural Areas.** Natural Areas are lands with natural characteristics and emphasis on resource protection. Some public access may be provided and areas may include multi-purpose trails. These lands protect natural values on smaller parcels, and are often located along stream corridors. Greenway land associated with the trails through Cheyenne are good examples of Natural Areas.



Dry Creek Greenway

**Regional Open Space.** Regional Open Spaces are large areas with significant natural resource values and which include opportunities for nature-oriented recreation. Portions of the Belvoir Ranch, which was recently acquired by the City, will likely become a Regional Open Space. The ranch may also contain Special Resource Areas, depending upon the recommendations of the Belvoir Ranch master plan, which will be developed in the near future. The USDA Grasslands Research Station west of FE Warren Air Force Base contains 2,140 acres, and is another example of a potential future Regional Open Space if this area were ever made available for public use.



Belvoir Ranch

**Special Resource Area.** Special Resource Areas are lands that protect areas with important cultural, natural or community values. Management of these areas emphasizes resource protection rather than recreation and public access for recreation may be prohibited. The USDA Grasslands Research Station is currently managed in this manner. Cheyenne does not have any other Special Resource Areas at this time.

**Cemeteries** – Def.: *Areas dedicated to the interment of the remains of the deceased.*

The City of Cheyenne has several cemeteries, including Lakeview, Beth El, Olivet, Mount Sinai, and Oddfellows. The cemeteries provide large green spaces in the city full of mature trees and established landscapes.

**Golf Courses** – Def.: *Lands designed for the sport of golf.*

The City of Cheyenne has two golf courses: Airport and Kingham Prairie View. Airport Golf Course leads 18 holes of play around a lake and covers 145 acres. Kingham Prairie View is a 9-hole course with a casual atmosphere close to many other recreation facilities.

**Recreation Facilities** – Def.: *Areas including sports fields, apparatus, amenities, and structures that accommodate recreational activities and programs provided by the City or not-for-profit organizations, or self-directed activities.*

**Community Center/Recreation Center.** Community Centers/Recreation Centers are structures and surrounding grounds that accommodate programs offered by the City. Centers include indoor recreation facilities such as courts, gyms and pools, and community gathering and meeting rooms. Community Centers are structures that are primarily for the purpose of meetings and social functions, while Recreation Centers include active recreation facilities. The City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House is an example of a community center. The Neighborhood Facility is an example of a recreation center, but it does not match the model for larger, full-service recreation centers that are provided in many communities.



Neighborhood Facility

These resources as they apply to the City of Cheyenne are discussed in more detail through the remainder of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## Section 5. Existing Public Parks and Recreation Lands and Public Facilities

This chapter documents the types of lands and recreational facilities owned and maintained by the City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department, Laramie County and Laramie County School District #1 facilities that are used by the City's recreation division or non-profit recreation providers. It should be noted that the School District also uses City facilities extensively for several of its programs, particularly the soccer fields and golf courses, as well as special field trips, cross country events, and picnics in various parks and the Botanic Gardens.

An overview of the existing City resources is provided first, followed by a detailed inventory of parks, open space, greenway trails, recreational and aquatic facilities, cemeteries, botanic gardens, golf courses and forestry facilities. The written descriptions of the properties include observations made during site visits, comments from City staff and sometimes include ideas that may be considered when the City develops renovation plans for the site or

facility. Laramie County and Laramie County School District #1 facilities are discussed at the end of this section.

The City of Cheyenne has over 400 acres of developed public parklands, 133 acres of reserve parkland, 111 acres of open space, 235 acres within 2 City-owned golf courses, 59 acres of cemetery lands and 16 miles of greenway trails within the study area boundary (Table 1). In addition there are a significant number of recreational facilities, including sports fields, lakes, community / recreation centers, botanic gardens, swimming pools, picnic shelters and restrooms within the Cheyenne area. The City owns another 16,360 acres of open space lands outside the study area at the Belvoir Ranch, to the southwest of the City.

Map 1 shows the locations of existing parklands, open space, Greenway trails, cemeteries, golf courses, community recreation centers and schools. Table 2 is a detailed inventory of City Parks and Recreation Department parklands, open space, and other properties, and the facilities and recreational amenities they contain.

**Table 1. Existing Parks and Recreation Department Resources**

	Total Acres	Functional Park Area (ac)	Natural Landscape Area within Property (ac)	Undeveloped Parkland (ac) <sup>1</sup>	Number of Sites
<b>Parks</b>					
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>					
Pocket Park	20.16	19.28	0	0.88	12
Neighborhood Park	75.75	50.91	19.04	6.60	6
<b>Total Neighborhood Parks</b>	<b>95.91</b>	<b>70.19</b>	<b>19.04</b>	<b>7.48</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Community Parks</b>					
Community Park	427.68	233.79	0	193.89	7
Sports Complex	136.09	100.14	22.04	11.18	5
<b>Total Community Parks</b>	<b>563.77</b>	<b>333.93</b>	<b>22.04</b>	<b>205.07</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Other Parks</b>					
Special Purpose Parks	6.97	6.97	0	0	1
<b>Total Parkland Acreage/Sites</b>	<b>666.65</b>	<b>411.09</b>	<b>41.08</b>	<b>212.55</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Open Space</b>					
Natural Areas/Natural Corridors	111.08	0	118.08	0	5
Regional Open Space <sup>2</sup>	19,140.00	0	18,500.00	0	2
Visual Green Space	25.13	1.95	0	23.18	28
<b>Total Open Space Acreage/Sites</b>	<b>19,276.21</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>18,618.08</b>	<b>23.18</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Other Properties</b>					
Cemeteries	58.90				3
Golf Courses	235.00				2
Miscellaneous					
<b>Total Other Property Acreage/Sites</b>	<b>293.90</b>				<b>5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Held in reserve for potential future development

<sup>2</sup> Belvoir Ranch site - actual acreage planned as open space to be determined after Master Plan is complete.





# EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

5

**Table 2. Existing Parklands Inventory**

28 JULY 2005

Name	Total Ac.	Functional Park Area	Natural or other area	Undev. Ac (Reserve)	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	Concessions	Flowerbeds	Horseshoe Pits	Native Landscaping Area	Parking Lot	Picnic Shelter/Tables	Play Field	Playground	Pond/Lake/Creek	Restrooms	Sculpture	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Comments
<b>PARKS</b>																						
<b>PARKS - NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>																						
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>																						
Martin Luther King Park	9.64	9.64			1B/S	2 F	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1		1 (L)		
Mylar Park	24.59	12.81	11.78			2 F	X			2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				1	One rental picnic shelter, 1.5 ac pond
Pointe Park	16.26	9.00	7.26				X				X		X	X	X							3 water areas, 1 aesthetic pond, 2 detention areas, remainder in developed neighborhood park.
Smalley Park	3.33	3.33				2 F	X						X		X	X					1	
Sun Valley Park	16.13	16.13					X			X	X	X	X	X	X							New elementary school adjacent. School District owns 12 acres of property. City has license agreement with District to use it.
Western Hills Park	6.60			6.60																		Detention facility
<b>Total Neighborhood Parks Acreage</b>	<b>76.55</b>	<b>50.91</b>	<b>19.04</b>	<b>6.60</b>																		
<b>POCKET PARKS</b>																						
Abbott Park	0.40	0.40							1				X									Gazebo
Bar X Park	2.28	2.28					X							X								Detention facility, good for soccer practice, crossed by trickle drainage
Civitan Park	1.25	1.25																				Turf only, no internal paths, no other amenities. Not flat enough for soccer. Adjacent Goins School may be rebuilt on this site, park may be relocated to school site.
Crow Creek Pocket Park	0.88	0.88					X				X					X						Small park and parking area along Crow Creek greenway
Jaycee Park	2.16	2.16				2 F	X						X	X	X					2		
Lincoln Park	1.96	1.96				2 F	X						X	X	X			1				Much-renovated Johnson Pool onsite, may be replaced by new facility at S. Cheyenne Community Park. Poolhouse needs to be replaced.
Optimist Park	2.67	2.67				1 H	X				X	X	X	X	X	X						Non-ADA play equipment, no internal sidewalks, turf with trees, Greenway adjacent.
Leo Pando Park	2.21	2.21					X		2					X				1		1		Detention facility but serves as neighborhood park
Timberland Park	2.08	2.08											X	X	X							Adjacent to Cole School and Neighborhood Facility. Cole School may be rebuilt and park moved to old school site. Parking at Timberland Park is available at the Neighborhood Facility.
Timberline Park	0.88			0.88																		No amenities
United Nations Park	2.85	2.85					X			X			X	X	X					2		Adjacent to Bain School - school may close and park could double in size. Detention pond, flat, good open space.
Windmill/Cactus Park	0.54	0.54														X						Turf with play equipment
<b>Total Pocket Parks Acreage</b>	<b>20.16</b>	<b>19.28</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.88</b>																		
<b>Total Neighborhood Parks Acreage</b>	<b>96.71</b>	<b>70.19</b>	<b>19.04</b>	<b>7.48</b>																		





# EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

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<b>PARKS - COMMUNITY PARKS</b>																						
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>																						
Cahill Park	33.37	33.37					X	X				X	X	X	X		X	1	5			Cahill soccer complex, Park includes 2 small backstops for 6-8 year old baseball. Hill overlooking fields is a good candidate for Rec Center.
Cahill Park Open Space Area	77.99			77.99																		
Holiday Park	38.89	38.89				2 F	X		8	12 (L)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2		4 (L)	2	"Big Boy" train, new large playground, Cheyenne Artists Guild, new 4-court lighted tennis facility, detention in lake, needs irrigation work and new restrooms. Historic shelter, historic schoolhouse. One rental picnic shelter. 7 ac lake.
Lions Park	119.80	119.80			1B/S (L)		X	X	39	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	6			2	Antique locomotive, Tree Walk, mini-golf course, fitness course, fishing and boating. Sloan Lake Beach for swimming. Botanic Garden. 2 rental picnic shelters, Municipal Pool. 32 ac Sloan's Lake.
North Cheyenne Community Park	116.90	35.43		81.47		2 F	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X		8			Tree farm, archery range, climbing wall, four 450'x450' soccer pods can accommodate 2 championship or 4 smaller fields each. Proposed softball fields. Climbing Wall.
Pioneer Park	13.00	6.30		6.70	1B (L)	2 F		X				X	X	X	X		X			1		Inline hockey rink, Pioneer Park Center.
David R Romero South Cheyenne Community Park	29.00			29.00																		Goal = 35+ acres
<b>Total Community Parks Acreage</b>	<b>428.95</b>	<b>233.79</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>195.16</b>																		
<b>SPORTS COMPLEXES</b>																						
Brimmer Park, Sports Complex	34.13	18.27	15.86		3S (L)		X	X				X	X	X	X		X	1				One playground not ADA-compliant. 2nd playground ADA-compliant. Lighted warmup/practice turf area, 4 batting cages, skatepark. Slope areas could use additional irrigation.
Converse Softball Complex	19.08	19.08			4S (L)		X	X	1			X	X				X					300' fences, 6 batting cages. Recent renovations.
Dutcher Field Baseball Complex	30.57	15.48	6.18	6.18	4B, 1 pr, 5 total 2 lighted		X	X				X	X				X					Saddle Tramps Riding Club currently meets here and leases a portion of the area, will be moving in 2005. Grass infields on most. 400' fences, much volunteer effort. City leases to Cheyenne Youth Baseball Inc. but maintains all. Needs ADA improvements to older structures. New practice field. Forestry shop.
Junior League Baseball Complex	41.31	41.31			9B		X	X	1			X	X		X		X					For Junior League baseball, 6 batting cages.
Powers Baseball Field	11.00	6.00		5.00	1B (L)		X	X				X					X					New minor league spec. field, 5 ac for future field. Collegiate baseball will also play here.
<b>Total Sports Complex Acreage</b>	<b>136.09</b>	<b>100.14</b>	<b>22.04</b>	<b>11.18</b>																		
<b>Total Community Parks Acreage</b>	<b>565.04</b>	<b>333.93</b>	<b>22.04</b>	<b>206.34</b>																		
<b>PARKS - SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS</b>																						
Saddle Tramps Riding Arena	6.97	6.97									X											Riding arena at Dutcher soon to come under city control
<b>Total Special Purpose Parks Acreage</b>	<b>6.97</b>	<b>6.97</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>																		
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE - ALL PARKS</b>	<b>668.72</b>	<b>411.09</b>	<b>41.08</b>	<b>213.82</b>																		



# EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

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**Table 2. Existing Parklands Inventory**

28 JULY 2005

Name	Total Ac.	Functional Park Area	Natural or other area	Undev. Ac (Reserve)	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	Concessions	Flowerbeds	Horseshoe Pits	Native Landscaping Area	Parking Lot	Picnic Shelter/Tables	Play Field	Playground	Pond/Lake/Creek	Restrooms	Sculpture	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Comments
<b>OPEN SPACE</b>																						
<b>OPEN SPACE - NATURAL AREAS/CORRIDORS</b>																						
Lake Absaraca Recreation Area	20.33		20.33								X	X	X			X	X					Boating, fishing, dump station available during Cheyenne Frontier Days. 23 ac lake.
Centennial Park	8.19		8.19								X											Natural hillside
Dry Creek Parkway	40.20		40.20				X				X	X	X		X	X						Disc golf course, two shelters, one trailhead/parking lot.
Dry Creek Greenway	36.50		36.50				X				X	X				X		1				13.7 miles of path, scaled solar system along path, educational route
Crow Creek Greenway	5.86		5.86				X				X	X				X						2.2 miles of path, educational route
<b>Total Natural Areas/Corridors Acreage</b>	<b>111.08</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>111.08</b>	<b>0.00</b>																		
<b>OPEN SPACE - REGIONAL OPEN SPACE</b>																						
Belvoir Ranch	17000.00		16360.00																			Remaining area dedicated to other uses. Master Plan to be developed.
USDA Grassland Research Station	2140.00		2140.00																			
<b>Total Regional Open Space Acreage</b>	<b>19,140.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>18,500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>																		
<b>OPEN SPACE - SPECIAL RESOURCE AREAS</b>																						
<b>Total Special Resource Areas Acreage</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>																		
<b>OPEN SPACE- VISUAL GREEN SPACES/DETENTION FACILITIES</b>																						
18th Street Parkway	1.97			1.97					2													Parkway
20th, 21st & Raylor	0.16			0.16																		Parkway
Activity Center Triangle	0.06			0.06																		
Airport & 8th Triangle	0.24			0.24																		Parkway
Alexander & 17th Triangle	0.32			0.32																		Parkway
Ames & 27th Triangle	0.19			0.19																		Parkway
Big Sky Park	1.84	1.84		0.00											X							Detention facility, a few pieces of non-ADA play equipment in naturalized turf area, drainage channels cross, not used by neighborhood.
Buck Rhone Park	0.11	0.11		0.00			X	1														Parkway, bench
Burns Statue	0.35			0.35				1														Parkway
Carey Av Triangles	0.63			0.63				1														Parkway, 5 triangles
Country Club & Cribbon Triangle	0.04			0.04																		Parkway
Crestridge Detention Pond	0.28			0.28																		Detention facility
Dry Creek Parkway Triangle	0.39			0.39																		
Essex Dr Island	0.10			0.10																		Parkway
Hugar & Pershing Triangle	0.04			0.04																		Parkway
Holly Court	0.30			0.30																		Serves 10 residences in center of loop road
Laurel & Spruce Triangle	0.06			0.06																		Parkway
Logan & Nationway Triangle	2.71			2.71					1		X											Parkway, detention area, non-irrigated, a few trees
Newton Dr Island	0.12			0.12					1													Parkway
O'Neil & 31st St. Triangle	0.06			0.06					1													Parkway
Pershing & Converse Triangle	0.57			0.57																		Parkway
Randall Avenue Triangles	1.95			1.95																		On major entry corridor to downtown, 8 triangles. Landscaping has deteriorated due to drought.
Reed & 5th Ave Triangle	0.04			0.04																		Parkway
Rodeo Ave. Detention Pond	0.58			0.58																		Detention facility
Snyder & 30th St. Triangle	0.03			0.03																		Parkway
Snyder & Foyer Triangle	0.09			0.09					1													Parkway
VA Parkland	10.90			10.90																		Portion of VA site leased by the City.
Westgate Parkway	1.00			1.00			X															Parkway
<b>Total Visual Green Space Acreage</b>	<b>25.13</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>23.18</b>																		



# EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

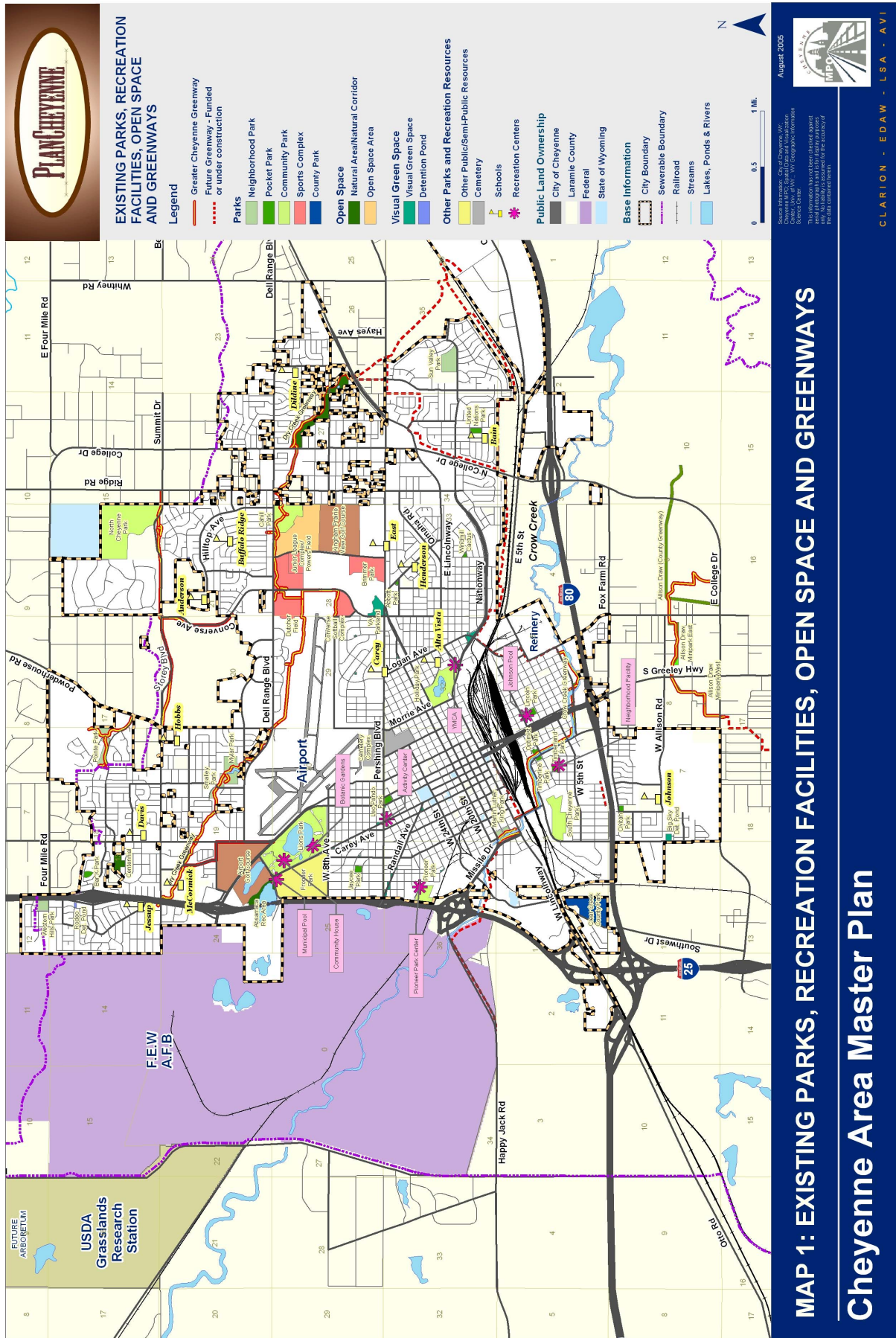
## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

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28 JULY 2005

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<b>OTHER RESOURCES</b>																						
<b>OTHER CITY PARKS &amp; RECREATION RESOURCES</b>																						
Airport Golf Course	145.00	145.00						X				X					X	1				
Prairie View Golf Course	90.00	90.00						X				X					X					Potential for driving range
Lakeview Cemetery	24.28	24.28																				Historic Walk
Beth El Cemetery	32.79	32.79																				
Oddfellows Cemetery	1.83	1.83																				
<b>Total Other City Resources</b>																						
<b>Acres</b>	<b>293.90</b>	<b>293.90</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>																		
<b>OTHER AGENCY PARKS &amp; RECREATION RESOURCES</b>																						
Clear Creek Park (County)	41.60	n/a		n/a								X	X		X		X				X	Train. Riparian area will remain undeveloped.
VA Parkland (Private)	50.20	n/a		n/a																		17 additional acres leased by City. May be used for memorial but no plans to develop.
Frontier Park (Private)	89.12	89.12										X										Owned by City, leased to Cheyenne Frontier Days organization. Off-season private tennis school.
Country Club (Private)	n/a	n/a		n/a								X								5		18-hole golf course, five lighted tennis courts, Olympic-sized swimming pool.
Alison Draw Greenway (County)	53.44	53.44																				
Alison Draw Pocket Park West (Cou)	0.25	0.25														X						
Alison Draw Pocket Park East (Cou)	0.83	0.83														X						
Airport									3													
City Building									1													
Lincolnway									6													
Neighborhood Facility									3													
Burke Hi-Rise									2													
Police Dept.									4													
Youth Alternatives									3													
Roncallo Bed									1													
<b>Total Other Agency Resources</b>																						
<b>Acres</b>	<b>54.52</b>	<b>54.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>																		
<b>TOTAL OTHER RESOURCES ACRES</b>	<b>348.42</b>	<b>348.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>																		





Map 1.  
Existing Parks, Recreation Facilities, Open Space and Greenways



## Parks

### Neighborhood Parks

Eighteen sites are Neighborhood Parks or Pocket Parks, which collectively have 70.19 acres of functional park area, 7.48 acres of reserve parkland for future development and 96.71 acres in total. Functional park area is land developed to allow public use. Functional park acreage is used to determine the existing neighborhood parkland level of service, described in a subsequent section.

The City's neighborhood parks are generally in good condition, with the exception of aging irrigation systems, a few playground upgrades, lack of or deteriorating walking paths, and other miscellaneous enhancements or renovations. A detailed inventory and evaluation of every facility in each park was not performed, but elements that were noticed during park visits or specifically noted by Parks and Recreation Department staff are noted in the descriptions of the parks below. The parks are listed in alphabetical order. For further information see the detailed park inventory table (Table 2).

**Abbott Park** (0.40 acres) is a triangular pocket park located at the intersection of Henderson Drive and Chestnut Drive. It contains turf, a gazebo, and mature trees including a unique columnar form Blue Spruce. Its location immediately adjacent to a high volume street and small size makes it more of a visual amenity for the neighborhood than a park that the entire neighborhood uses.



Abbott Park

**Bar X Park** (2.28 acres) is a detention pond on Stetson Drive with turf grass surrounded on three sides by the back yards of residences. Although the street frontage is less than what is considered optimum for neighborhood parks, the site has the potential to be a more functional pocket park with the addition of park amenities and some grading modifications. The potential size of the playfield (currently 100' x 150') is somewhat compromised with concrete drain pans that limit its usability for practices to the youngest age groups. The site could be more functional for youth sports practices if the basin were re-graded slightly to relocate the drain pans further south to enlarge the play field area. Adding trees, walks, seating and a playground would also improve the park.



Bar X Park

**Civitan Park** (1.25 acres) is on the corner of W. Leisher Road and S. Cribbon Avenue, adjacent to Goins Elementary School. This pocket park consists of turf and trees and may be used to reconstruct the elementary school. If this happens, the park would be relocated to the site of the existing school. Regardless of where the park ends up being located, it should be enhanced with amenities for the neighborhood, including a playground, playfield, walks, sculpture and a picnic table.

**Crow Creek Pocket Park** (0.88 acres) is adjacent to the Crow Creek Greenway and consists of a parking area along 1<sup>st</sup> Street in South Cheyenne. This pocket park functions primarily as a trailhead for the Greenway Trail.

**Jaycee Park** (2.16 acres) is located in the middle of an established residential area south of Lions Park on a gently sloping site between Foyer, Country Club, Dillon, and Dey Avenues. Abundant mature trees provide shade and interest to this pocket park. The tennis courts, basketball courts and

new playground are in good condition, but the playground area does not meet the requirements for accessibility according to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) because it does not have a walkway and barrier free access to the surfacing. The park is surrounded on four sides by residential streets and houses that front on those streets. This gives the park ample on-street parking, good visibility and easy access from all directions in the neighborhood. The turf areas in the park are not large enough or flat enough to accommodate any sports practices or lawn games.

**Leo Pando Park** (2.21 acres) was originally a pocket park called Central Park. The need for a stormwater detention pond in this established area of the city caused Cheyenne to completely regrade and reconstruct the site in 2000. The result is a detention basin below the level of the surrounding streets. The park includes include retaining walls, a tennis court, two flower beds, sculpture, a seating area and an open turf area. Its north-facing slopes are popular for sledding. Its location between Pershing, Central and Warren Avenues makes it highly visible, however the roads are extremely busy, creating somewhat of a barrier to access by pedestrians from adjacent residential areas.

**Lincoln Park** (1.96 acres) is an historic Cheyenne park originally constructed in 1923, located between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets just east of I-180. This pocket park is bordered on three sides by residential streets and on the fourth by the old Johnson Middle School, which is currently a church. The park was recently renovated with a new playground, basketball courts, sculpture, and turf playfield (90' x 110'). The playground area could be improved by adding ADA accessible walks and ramps to the surfaces Landscaping and berms could create areas that are intimately scaled and visually separated from adjacent streets. Additionally, approximately one-fifth of the park site is occupied by Johnson Pool, a 25-Yd pool.

**Martin Luther King Park** (9.64 acres) spans the Crow Creek Greenway, west of downtown on 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Ames Avenue. The park was recently renovated to include a restroom, trailhead parking, and overlook plaza with a bronze sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King. It contains picnic shelters, a playground, an open playfield and the Coke Gonzales Ballfield, which is used by the girl's competitive softball program and by competitive youth baseball for ages 8-12. The park, formerly Sunset Park, was renamed to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, the famous civil

rights leader, after it underwent a major renovation in 2000 to add a bridge over Crow Creek, a sculpture plaza and restrooms. The Coke Gonzales Ballfield was dedicated in 2000 in memory of a local proponent of children's' sports. The tennis court at the park was resurfaced and lighted in 2004. Due to minimal use of the tennis facility, conversion of the court to an alternate use, such as a skate park, in-line hockey rink, or other use that is desired by area residents should be considered. Additional improvements to meet the requirements of the ADA are needed to the picnic shelters and other park areas.

The turf area between Crow Creek and Missile Drive is irrigated and attractive to passing motorists, though it appears to be used for park purposes infrequently. The linear shape and the relatively heavy traffic on Missile Drive may contribute to the areas' limited usability. As the trees mature in this section of the park, it may become a more pleasant environment for general park uses. The Crow Creek Greenway trail crossing at Lincolnway at the south end of the park should be improved for pedestrian safety by clearly indicating where the crossing occurs. Eventually a grade-separated crossing for the trail under or over Lincolnway would be desirable.



Mylar Park

**Mylar Park** (24.59 acres) is located on the Dry Creek Greenway north of Dell Range Boulevard between Seminole Road and Prairie Avenue. Almost one-half of the park is in a naturalized condition with trees, shrubs, and native grasses along Dry Creek. A small 1.5 acre pond provides a permanent water body for wildlife habitat, fishing and relaxation, as well as functioning as a stormwater detention area. The Dry Creek Greenway trail runs through the park,

providing great access to the park from other areas of the City. The developed, functional park area is approximately 13 acres including a playground, horseshoe pits, a rental picnic shelter, a parking lot, restrooms, a volleyball court, and an open turf playfield, all of which are in good condition.

**Optimist Park** (2.67 acres) is a pocket park that was originally constructed in 1950. The Optimist Club donated playground equipment and the park was eventually named for them. The park was renovated in 1980, 1982, and 1985, after the last major flood when work was required to replace trees, sod and paths damaged by flooding. Sculpture was added to the park in 2004. The park is currently receiving new play equipment to replace outdated play equipment that does not meet safety or accessibility standards.

**Pointe Park** (16.26 acres) is a new neighborhood park constructed in 2004-2005 in a development west of Powderhouse Road between Storey Boulevard and Four Mile Road. When complete, the linear site will contain a playground, trees, walks, an open turf playfield and an attractive rock retaining wall that separates the park from the back yards of adjacent residences. Approximately 9 of the 16 acres will be functional park area. The other portions of the park will be occupied by steep-sided detention ponds.

**Smalley Park** (3.33 acres) is a small neighborhood park immediately adjacent to Mylar Park, upstream along Dry Creek and Melton Street. Like Mylar Park, Smalley Park has a pond and the greenway trail running through it. The trail provides good pedestrian and bicyclist access to the park. Smalley Park is classified as a neighborhood park because it functions as an extension of Mylar Park and it has a picnic shelter, volleyball court and basketball court. The swings are outdated and need replacement or removal.



Smalley Park

**Sun Valley Park** (16.13 acres) is located adjacent to a planned elementary school site on 12<sup>th</sup> Street in the east part of the city. This neighborhood park has been under construction in 2004-2005 and will contain an open play field, 2 playgrounds, parking lot, picnic shelter, horseshoe pits and 10 acres of naturalized landscape on a slope with looped walking paths that connect the park to the school.

**Timberland Park** (2.08 acres) is nestled between Cole Elementary School and the City of Cheyenne Neighborhood Facility. This pocket park contains a playground, picnic shelter and a small area of turf (70' x 110') that can be used as a playfield. The replacement of Cole school may affect Timberland Park in the future. Cole School may need to be rebuilt onto the park site with the park being relocated to the old school site.

**Timberline Park** (0.88 acres) is an undeveloped piece of property in the Cole neighborhood adjacent to Deming Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and across the street from the Crow Creek Greenway and Optimist Park. The potential uses for this site should be studied and designed in context with the other public lands in the area to determine how to capitalize upon their synergies and create a unified public recreational space. Additionally, Deming Boulevard is slated for reconstruction, which may yield additional property to associate with Timberline.



**United Nations Park** (2.85 acres) is a pocket park immediately east of and adjacent to Bain Elementary School, on E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison Avenue. The site is relatively flat with a 90' x 150' playfield. The park was renovated in 2002 when a playground, picnic shelter, tennis courts and horseshoe pits were improved. Laramie County School District #1 has discussed the possibility that Bain School may close. If this occurs, the park size could potentially double in the future.

**Western Hills Park** (6.60 acres) is an undeveloped detention pond on Brittany Drive in an 80% built-out residential neighborhood west of I-80. The master plan for this neighborhood park includes a picnic shelter, playground, and playfields, and tennis courts on the 2 lots across Michael Drive to the west. Development of the site is constrained by necessary stormwater capacity for the area. To maintain the area for stormwater flow, facilities must be elevated out of the frequent flooding zone of the basin, resulting in few areas where the core facilities can be located. Currently no funding is available to develop this park.

**Windmill Cactus Park** (0.54 acres) is an attractive small pocket park at the intersection of Windmill and Cactus Hill Roads. The site is gently sloping and contains a playground and mature shade trees. The play equipment appears to meet current standards, however the site requires modifications to meet the requirements of the ADA.

### Community Parks and Sports Complexes

There are 12 properties classified as Community Parks or Sports Complexes, totaling 564 acres. Of this acreage, 334 acres are developed, 16 acres are considered to be in a permanent natural condition (steep northern and eastern slopes of Brimmer Park and northern area of Dutcher Fields) and 145 acres are reserve for future park development.

The City is fortunate to have such a large land reserve of Community Parkland as well as a collection of parkland in the middle of the City in what is known as "Section 28". Seventy-eight acres of the Community Parkland reserve is located in Section 28, between Kingham Prairie View Golf Course and Cahill Park. In addition, Section 28 has over 100 acres of land owned by the Airport Authority that may remain undeveloped because of restrictions associated with take-offs and landings of aircraft at the Airport. In total, there is almost one complete square mile of park and open space land that is in the heart of the City and well-connected with Greenway trails. The current parks in Section 28 are

primarily sports complexes, including Brimmer, Cahill, Converse, and Dutcher Sports Complexes, and Powers Field. Kingham Prairie View Golf Course is also located here. Section 28 has potential to become a much more significant and cohesive park and open space resource than it is currently by developing a plan that integrates and links all the sports facilities and park elements. Its central location and undeveloped lands also make it a potential candidate for a future recreation center. The parks within Section 28 are discussed in more detail below.

The outdoor amenities and fields in Cheyenne's Community Parks and Sports Complexes are generally in good condition, with the exception of some declining irrigation systems. Many restrooms and picnic shelters are substandard, and accessibility to play areas and other use areas should be evaluated in more detail for each park. The parks and needed facility upgrades are noted in the descriptions below in alphabetical order and on the detailed park inventory table (Table 2).

**Brimmer Park** (34.13 acres) is a Baseball/Softball Sports Complex on the northwest corner of Windmill Road and Pershing Boulevard. Brimmer Park has 3 ballfields, 4 batting cages, restrooms, a concessions stand, lighted warm-up turf area, Clay Sturman Bike, Blade & Board Facility, playfield, picnic shelter and 2 playgrounds. One of the playgrounds has outdated equipment and is not ADA-compliant. The hillside adjacent to the road and north of the fields and skate park are naturalized landscape. The Clay Sturman Bike, Blade & Board Facility is planned for an expansion in 2005-2006.

**Cahill Park** (33.37 acres) is a Community Park on Dell Range Boulevard that has 5 soccer fields, concessions, a picnic shelter, 2 small practice backstops, sculpture, a playground, and restrooms. The passive park area serves as a neighborhood park for nearby residents. The park does not have central irrigation control, which is needed to effectively irrigate the turf, and the playground appears to lack ADA accessibility. The Dry Creek Greenway trail runs through the park and a trail underpass connects the property with neighborhoods north of Dell Range Boulevard. The restrooms in this park near the Greenway are not in good condition.



Cahill Park

**Converse Softball Complex** (19.08 acres) is a Sports Complex on the northwest corner of Converse Avenue and Airport Parkway, north of Pershing Boulevard. The complex has 4 lighted softball fields with 300' outfields and 6 batting cages. The park has restrooms, concessions, a picnic shelter and an open playfield. The restroom facilities were recently renovated and are in good condition.



Converse Park

**Dutcher Field Complex** (30.57 acres) is a Sports Complex on the southwest corner of Dell Range Boulevard and Converse Avenue with 5 baseball fields: 4 are game fields and 1 is a new practice field. All fields have turf infields and are in good condition. Two fields are lighted, and all fields have 300'-359' outfields. The restrooms and concessions facilities are outdated and in need of renovation or replacement. The facility is leased to Cheyenne Youth Baseball, with the

exception of Lansing Field, which is leased to the Cheyenne Baseball Club. The City has a maintenance shop and Forestry office located in a metal building on the northern portion of the site. Additionally, the site is planned to locate a new parks maintenance facility as the Lions Park Master Plan calls for relocation of the primary Parks Maintenance Facility.

**Junior League Complex** (36.41 acres) is a Sports Complex on Dell Range Boulevard between Windmill Road and Converse Avenue with 9 junior baseball fields. Three ballfields have 225' outfields and 6 ballfields have 200' outfields. The park includes 6 batting cages, restrooms, concessions, maintenance shop, picnic shelter and 3 new playgrounds. The fields are in relatively good condition and a new practice field was recently constructed. A Greenway trail provides non-motorized access to the site.



Junior League Complex

**Powers Field** (11.00 acres) is a new minor league baseball field just east of the Junior League Complex. Powers Field has an artificial turf infield, lights, built-in bleachers and an announcers booth, concessions, team rooms and restrooms. The field was designed to minor league specifications in hopes of attracting a professional baseball team. The field opened in spring of 2005 and will be leased to American Legion Post 6 Baseball, which is a high school boys competitive league. The field will also host a Collegiate baseball league during summers. The ultimate build-out of this facility will include a second full-size ballfield and completion of a plaza area between the two fields.

**Holliday Park** (38.89 acres) is one of the favorite and most used parks in the city according to city residents. Holliday Park is located between Lincolnway and E. 19th Street east

of Morrie Avenue. The park has an abundance of large trees, a pond, walking paths, a large community playground, large picnic shelter, numerous horseshoe pits and an historic train, among other amenities. Tennis courts, the community playground and the majority of the park features are attractive and generally in good condition. The historic small picnic shelter north of the pond establishes a wonderful example of a potential historic theme for the park, however more recent modifications of concrete block detract from its design and should be removed. Future structures in this park should use the shelter as the design precedence. The street frontage along Lincolnway is degraded in appearance due to turf damage behind the curb from pedestrians and road grime. The southwest corner of the park has the paved remnants of a former bus stop that should be removed and the area should be reintegrated into the park to improve its aesthetics and function. The horseshoes area, group picnic pavilion and abandoned tennis court area should be upgraded. The Parks Division maintenance building is not large enough and it should be repainted another color to reduce its visual prominence. The restroom on 19th Street also needs replacement.

**Lions Park** (119.80 acres, including the lake) is located between Central Avenue and Carey Avenue north of West 8th Avenue. The park has a wide variety of features for the public to enjoy. It is the community's favorite park according to the survey conducted as part of this planning process. The park includes a lake, a lighted baseball/softball field, open playfields, playgrounds, picnic shelters, several buildings including the Old Community House and the Forestry Division Building, volleyball courts, horseshoes, abundant mature trees, naturalized landscapes and walks, and the City Municipal Pool. The Municipal Pool has been part of the park since 1976. Other related aquatic facilities include a small building used by the Aquatics division known as the "pool annex", just west of Sloan's lake, as well as the Beach on the west side of Sloan's lake. Additionally, there is a beach house associated with the beach operated by the aquatics division. Out of the beach house the aquatics division operates boat rentals, and concessions, and the beach allows swimming. The seasonal beach operation is part of the overall aquatics operation, included with the year round operation of the municipal pool, and the seasonal operation of Johnson Pool in Lincoln Park.

In 2003, the City completed construction on the City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House. The Kiwanis Community House, located in the northwest portion of the park, is available for rent and is often the location of public

meetings. The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, originally opened in 1986, occupies approximately 9 acres of the park along Carey Avenue. The Gardens have a world-class solar greenhouse that provides both educational opportunities and seedlings for City flowerbeds. Currently the City is reconfiguring the northern roadway and parking areas according to the Lions Park Master Plan, which was approved in 2001. The Master Plan recommends upgrades to the softball/baseball field and support facilities, park restrooms, a promenade and amphitheater, and additional roadway and parking improvements.



Lions Park Western Walkway

**North Cheyenne Community Park** (116.90 acres) was created in 1975 after a property exchange between the City and State of Wyoming. The park, accessed from Ridge Road in the northeastern part of the City, is partially developed. Between 1998 and 2004, 35 acres of the park were developed into 8 full-size soccer fields, a playground, a climbing wall, a community picnic shelter, concessions, restrooms, an archery range, and the City's tree farm. When fully complete, according to the current Master Plan, the park will have 3 more soccer fields, 4 softball fields, 8 tennis courts, 2.2 miles of bike paths, 9 picnic shelters, 7 restrooms, 900 parking spaces, playgrounds, volleyball and horseshoe facilities, and pedestrian trails. Future plans for the school district call for the construction of a high school and middle school adjacent to the park.





North Cheyenne Community Park climbing wall

**Pioneer Park** (13.00 acres) is located in the west central portion of Cheyenne at the end of Talbot Court in a residential neighborhood immediately east of I-25 and south of Pershing Boulevard. The City's Youth Alternatives Facility is across the street from the park. Pioneer Park provides neighborhood park amenities for nearby residents while also functioning as a community park. The primary facilities in the park are the Pioneer Center (a small recreation building) used for meetings and City-run summer day camps; and a lighted ballfield, with 330' foul lines and 360' centerfield, used primarily by the Senior Babe Ruth baseball adult baseball team. The field often gets worn and damaged from practices prior to the turf coming out of dormancy in the spring, prompting baseball groups to ask for other practice areas or fields to preserve the quality of the game field. The area west of the existing field is used for practice but has not been truly developed to accommodate this use. The scorer's booth is elevated behind the backstop, is not ADA compliant, and would benefit from aesthetic improvements. A restroom, concessions, storage and locker room building is located near the ballfield, and although it is in relatively good condition, it does not meet current building codes. The field has a turf infield, in good condition. Limited practice on the infield is necessary to prevent turf damage.

Recent additions to Pioneer Park include a new playground to the west of Pioneer Center and the private donation of an in-line hockey asphalt pad. The single tennis court is in poor condition.

Approximately 6.9 acres of land to the west of and adjacent to the developed portions of the park are undeveloped and could be improved. In 2002, Cheyenne developed a master plan for the park, but the plan is not valid today because the recommendations were prior to the construction of Powers Field in Section 28, which changed the needs for additional baseball fields.

Pioneer Park is accessible via local streets, therefore park uses that generate a large volume of traffic may not be appropriate in this area.

### **David R. Romero South Cheyenne Community Park**

(29 acres) land was recently acquired and is intended to provide a Community Park to the southern areas of the city. The land for the park is located adjacent to Parsley Boulevard just west of Dillon Avenue. The city would like to expand the land area to 35 acres if possible. A natural drainageway (Clear Creek) winds through the site from west to east, providing interest and the opportunity for habitat restoration, water features and unique play experiences. The area has not yet been master planned or developed. Plans call for additional acquisition in 2005, with park planning and construction to follow.

### **Special Purpose Parks**

There are 2 Special Purpose Parks in Cheyenne: Union Depot Plaza and Saddle Tramps Riding Arena. The Union Depot Plaza is a recent addition to the downtown, adjacent to the historic Depot and the area used for festivals and gatherings. The Parks, Forestry, and Botanic Gardens Departments maintain the turf, trees, and flower beds. Saddle Tramps is an equestrian arena adjacent to Dutcher Field Complex that is leased to a local club until 2005. The club has found a new residence, leaving the Department with an opportunity to reconsider the use of this area.

### **Open Space**

#### **Natural Areas and Corridors**

The City owns and maintains 111.08 acres of Natural Areas and Natural Corridors. The **Dry Creek Parkway** (40.20 acres), **Dry Creek Greenway** (36.50 acres) and **Crow Creek Greenway** (5.86 acres) were originally obtained to incorporate the city's multi-purpose trail as part of the Cheyenne Greenway project and as important floodwater conveyance features. These areas, with their riparian habitat, provide an oasis of natural habitat within the city and are some of the most popular areas with residents as they stroll,

walk, run or bike through them on the trails. Dry Creek Parkway is the most developed and has a disc golf course that is heavily used as well as a playground and two picnic shelters. The sites are periodically mowed to control weeds, and the City Forestry Department maintains and monitors the trees in the natural areas. The Greenway Trails are discussed later in this section.



Crow Creek Greenway

**Centennial Park** (8.19 acres) is land that was dedicated to the City as parkland, but it is too steep for development as a neighborhood park and has been reclassified as open space. The park is a natural landscaped hillside that is currently used for walking on ad hoc trails that the neighbors have created. Areas of this open space would benefit from revegetation and a designated path system to prevent damage to the area.

**Absarraca Recreation Area** (20.33 acres) is located just north of Lions Park and Frontier Days Park on Kennedy Road. Absarraca is a natural area around Lake Absarraca that is primarily used for fishing and non-motorized boating (camping only allowed during Frontier Days). The area is heavily used during the annual Cheyenne Frontier Days celebration, held in the last full week of July. Many of the people who make the rodeo happen, including participants and competitors, stay at the area during the 10-day event. An improvement master plan was created in 1996 in cooperation between the City & CFDC.

### Regional Open Space

**Belvoir Ranch** (17,000 acres) was purchased by the City in 2003 for multiple purposes, including water resource development, a 640-acre landfill, and recreation. It is

located approximately five miles southwest of Cheyenne and is formerly known as the Lone Tree Creek Hunter Management Area. The site is characterized by native short grass prairie, slightly rolling topography, and an arid, windy climate. There are a few water courses through the ranch – Lone Tree Creek, Goose Creek, and Duck Creek; some areas of more dramatic hills; and some areas with riparian vegetation. The Belvoir Ranch has primarily been used for cattle grazing in the recent past. Many ideas have been presented regarding potential recreational uses, including natural surface pedestrian, equestrian and mountain bike trails; and a “Links” golf course, which is a style of golf course that preserves much of the natural landscape within the course. The southern border of the Belvoir Ranch is the Wyoming state line and Larimer County, Colorado. In Colorado, the Laramie Foothills/ Mountains to Plains Project, sponsored by Larimer County, the City of Fort Collins, The Nature Conservancy and the Legacy Land Trust, will eventually create a mountain to plains conservation zone of approximately 140,000 ac. immediately south of the Belvoir Ranch. More than 35,000 ac. have been protected to date. This property will be a combination of public lands and conservation easements, which presents a great opportunity for the Belvoir Ranch to be part of extended habitat conservation as well as recreational activities. A management plan needs to be developed for the property that outlines proposed uses, development areas and management strategies



Belvoir Ranch

**USDA Grasslands Research Station and High Plains Arboretum** is a 2,140-acre site that was leased to the USDA for 199 years from the City in 1928. The station was formerly known as the Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station (CHFS) until 1978 when the name was change to the USDA



Grasslands Research Station. The research station is located west of FE Warren Air Force Base and has been operated as a test plot to determine what species are hardy in Cheyenne's harsh climate. The research continued until 1978 when the mission changed to a grasslands research station focused on soil research, water conservation, and ranching/mine operations and reclamation strategies. Since 1975 the surviving plant material has weathered the climate with only natural precipitation. Almost half of the specimens have perished, but those that remain have proven themselves to be extremely hardy and local plant propagators still take cuttings to establish plant stock for retail sale. In 2000 a local group was formed for the purposes of preserving and protecting the resources, and the original horticultural trials site was renamed the High Plains Arboretum. In 2003 the City developed a master plan that envisions reinvigorating the 62 acres of the original CHFS site with woody plant trial plots, a learning center with a pond and wetlands, a renovated greenhouse, perennial plots, and an expanded arboretum area. Roundtop Park, which is a former water treatment site is 10-acres, and the possibilities for this site are many. A master plan for the site has not yet been prepared. The remainder of the 2,140-acre site would remain in use by the USDA for grasslands research.

south of the Belvoir ranch and the entire Big Hole spans into Colorado and Larimer County. Over the next several years a cooperative management plan will be created for the Big Hole area in Wyoming and Colorado.

### Special Resource Areas

Currently the City does not own properties that are considered Special Resource Areas.



19<sup>th</sup> St. Parkway-Visual Green Space

### Visual Green Spaces

There are currently 28 properties totaling 25.13 acres that are classified as Visual Green Spaces. Many Visual Green Spaces are associated with road rights-of-way, areas such as the parkway median on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue or the triangular shaped parcels along Randall Avenue. Visual Green Spaces are costly for the city to maintain because of their size and number, and in recent years irrigation water has been turned off on many sites because of the drought. Decreased water has caused a decline in the health of trees and the landscaping in these areas. Cheyenne's 'Waterbugs' program provides guidance for citizen volunteers who water, mow and in some cases plant flowers in these small green spaces. The Friends of the Botanic Garden volunteers maintain flower beds in many of the Visual Green Spaces around the City.



The Big Hole

**The Big Hole** is an 1,800 acre site that includes 1,000 acres of rim pasture and 800 acres of spectacular scenery at the Wyoming Colorado border. The City of Cheyenne recently completed the purchase of the Big Hole for regional open space and recreation purposes. The Big Hole is located

The City Parks and Recreation Department has also taken the responsibility for accepting and maintaining a few detention ponds on the premise that they are "parkland." Big Sky Park is an example. This property has outdated, unsafe play equipment in it, the site is crossed by concrete



drain pans, does not have any other park amenities, and is surrounded by backyards on three sides and an arterial roadway on the fourth with no relationship to the adjacent neighborhood. To be a neighborhood park, this site would need to be totally redesigned and an adjacent lot converted to parkland to provide street frontage from the neighborhood. As it exists today, Big Sky Park functions solely as a detention pond.

Detention pond properties are often not suitable as parkland, and the Department should avoid accepting responsibility for additional detention ponds that serve no other purpose.



Big Sky Park

The city owns a 10-acre triangular parcel west of the VA hospital at the corner of Pershing and Windmill in Section 28. This gently sloping property currently serves as a Visual Green Space and is relatively attractive with numerous mature trees. However, its visual quality is degraded by the presence of a chain link fence along Pershing Blvd. Plans are in process that would convert this area to “Patriot Park” with a dedicated memorial to soldiers. That planning is also intended to address use of the area for detention purposes as well.

## Greenway Trails

The Greenway Trails are one of the most popular and most-used recreational features in the City. Approximately 15.9 miles of the greenway have been constructed with the involvement of government agencies, private businesses, volunteers, and schools. Two major sections are featured in the community: one along Crow Creek and the other along Dry Creek. The trails connect residential areas, schools, parks, athletic facilities and shopping centers through trail

easements, parkland, natural areas, and road rights-of-way. A 10-foot-wide, 100% ADA compliant concrete path is the standard “greenway” in Cheyenne. The greenway is used by walkers, runners, skaters, bicyclists and wheelchair users.

## Community Centers / Recreation Centers

The **Neighborhood Facility** at 610 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street was built in the 1970’s and houses the main offices of the Recreation Division and the City’s gymnastics programs. The 12,600 square foot building is in good condition and includes: a gymnasium with gymnastics equipment; locker and shower facilities; a conference room; a lounge; a seating area for gymnastics patrons; and a kitchen, now mostly used for birthday parties. A closet adjacent to the gymnastics area has been converted into a viewing room for gymnastics competitions, complete with one-way mirror so not to distract the children. The building includes offices and storage space for the Recreation Division staff and recreation program registration. Stride Learning Center leases a portion of the building for daycare purposes and use of the other facilities in the building are scheduled by the Recreation staff. Lack of storage is identified as a problem in the Neighborhood Facility, and expansion may be necessary.

The **Pioneer Park Recreation Center** at 1331 Talbot Court is small, but hosts many recreational activities. The full-day Summer Recreation Camp for children ages 6-11 is held at the Center from June to August; 180 children attended in 2004 with about 220 children expected in 2005. Pioneer Park Center is in good condition; however, the 4,000 square foot building has a small gymnasium that is not big enough for basketball or volleyball. Amenities at the Center include public restrooms, a lounge area, a classroom with kitchen, and two professional offices. This facility does not have locker rooms, showers, or changing areas. Storage is a major problem at the building.

The **Activity Center** at 3121 Carey Avenue is a converted gas station that was donated to the City, which consists of two small activity rooms and two restrooms. The Center is used as a meeting facility, by youth groups, officiating organizations, for youth birthday and team parties, and by the summer playground director.

The **City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House** at Lions Park opened in 2003. The Community House has a large open area that can be divided into two multi-purpose rooms, a kitchen, and restrooms. It is maintained and scheduled by

the Parks Division, but is used by the Recreation Division for ballet, art, jazzercise and other programs as needed. Additionally, the Community House is rented by civic groups and private parties for square dancing, barn dances, karate, wedding receptions, and other events.



City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House

The **Old Community House** is in the southern portion of Lions Park. The building is used by the Recreation Division for ballet, art, jazzercise and other programs as needed. Amenities at the Old Community House include a 44' x 80' room with a wood floor, kitchen/service area, seating for ninety, and restrooms. The Old Community House is adjacent to outdoor grills and a playground area.

## Aquatics Facilities

There are two developed aquatics facilities in Cheyenne: the indoor Municipal Pool, and the outdoor Johnson Pool.

**Municipal Pool** is a year-round indoor pool located in Lions Park. The pool has a diving well, with 1 and 3-meter diving boards, six 25-meter lap lanes, a teaching well, a wading pool, and a water slide. Program offerings include competitive swim team practice, pool rentals, water fitness classes, the Future Lifeguards of Cheyenne (FLOC) Program, and swim lessons. Its small size and lack of adequate spectator seating, lockers, and storage prevent the Municipal Pool from hosting regional or state swim competitions. The pool also sees heavy use from recreational and lap swimmers on a daily basis. Current plans include construction of a spray park to the south of the existing pool and building. Desired improvements include expanding the offices and locker rooms, adding on a multi-purpose room, and adding a therapy and/or lap pool. Other recently cited needs

identified through public meetings held on a potential pool expansion include the addition of family locker rooms and more storage space among others. In spring of 2005, one of three municipal pool boilers, the boiler for the main pool, was replaced. Two remaining boilers, the domestic hot water boiler and the heater for the baby pool, are in poor condition and will need to be replaced soon. An additional concern for the pool is the adequate regulation of air temperature control in the building during extreme cold and hot periods. The Municipal Pool is the only indoor public swimming facility in the City and, as such, the pool receives heavy use.

**Johnson Pool** is a small heated outdoor pool located in Lincoln Park. The 25-yard lap pool has undergone many renovations including a new filtration system and water distribution system. The pool is due for resurfacing in 2006, which typically costs approximately \$30,000. The shower facility/pool house is outdated according to current building and ADA codes and is badly in need of replacement. The pool has a one-meter diving board, sunning deck, slide, and a lawn for picnics or other outdoor use. The pool is open



Johnson Pool

seasonally from early June to late August and is popular with children and teens in the surrounding neighborhood. Pool capacity is approximately 100 and typically there are 40 to 60 users on a summer afternoon. One competitive swim team uses Johnson Pool for 6 weeks in the mornings. Occasionally the pool is rented for an evening event. The cost and benefits of future investment in this facility should be analyzed and options for renovating the pool and pool house should be considered.

The City also has a beach at ` that is open for swimming and sunbathing seasonally from early June to late August.



Activities at the Beach include paddleboat and canoe rentals, concessions and fishing. The beach has a beach house for use, however it is in need of amenities and renovations.

In addition to the pool facilities, the Aquatics division also offers the use of inflatables at each of their facilities. The inflatables are large plastic floating play areas that allow kids to be more active in the water. Treasure Island, the Iceberg, and Water Tag are rotated between all three facilities and provide a variable play experience.

## Cemeteries

The cemetery complex consists of 3 city-owned and managed cemeteries: Lakeview (24.28 acres), Beth El (32.79 acres) and the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) (1.83 acres). In addition to these cemeteries, the Cemetery Division staff provides grounds and operations services and maintains the records for the privately-owned Mount Olivet (Catholic Church Cemetery) and Mount Sinai (Jewish Cemetery) cemeteries.

The Cemetery Division offers a self-guided, historical walking tour of Lakeview Cemetery for those interested in the history of Cheyenne and the surrounding area. Points of interest in the cemeteries include the Angel Memorial and the Avenue of flags, usually displayed on Veteran's day and other memorial holidays. The tour has proven to be of special interest to the local schools, church groups, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and tourists. There is no fee for the tour, but donations to the Friends of the Cemetery program are appreciated. The Friends of the Cemetery program was established in 1989 to provide a vehicle for donating funds for the continued beautification of the cemetery grounds in the form of flower planters, sod, and trees. Over the years, financial contributions as well as gifts of trees have been well-utilized. Donations also assist with costs for the Historical Walking Tour program. Volunteer help can be targeted towards maintenance tasks (such as painting or raking leaves).

The City cemeteries do not have master plans that thoroughly document existing conditions and determine their ultimate capacity; however the sense within the City Cemetery Division is that the cemeteries are quickly nearing capacity. The number of spaces available, as well as sales, have dropped in recent years. The available spaces are generally those that have been passed over, for one reason

or another, over the last 137 years. The desirable spaces, those with large trees nearby and the 'serene sense of comfort' one might expect from an older mature cemetery, are increasingly less available. The question of whether or not the City needs to expand its cemetery spaces and/or construct columbariums should be addressed soon.

## Botanic Gardens

Cheyenne Botanic Gardens is operated by the Botanic Gardens Division of the Parks and Recreation Department and was originally located east of Cheyenne in 1977. The current 9.2-acre Gardens, located in Lions Park, was opened in 1986 and offers a diverse plant collection, several specialty gardens, and volunteer, educational and therapeutic opportunities to the community. The Botanic Gardens is highly valued by the citizens of Cheyenne and has received numerous national awards. Cities the size of Cheyenne typically do not have the resources to develop and operate botanic gardens on the scale that Cheyenne does, and as such, the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens has become a role model for other small cities that wish to develop botanic gardens.



Cheyenne Botanic Gardens

Five full-time paid staff, 4 temporary and/or part-time paid staff, and over 150 volunteers keep the Botanic Gardens running yearly. Over 90% of the labor is provided by senior, youth and handicapped volunteers. Additional support comes from the Friends of the Botanic Gardens Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit organization for tax-deductible donations that benefit the operation and goals of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. The foundation provides support for landscape construction, volunteer organization, and other programs.





Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Western Walk

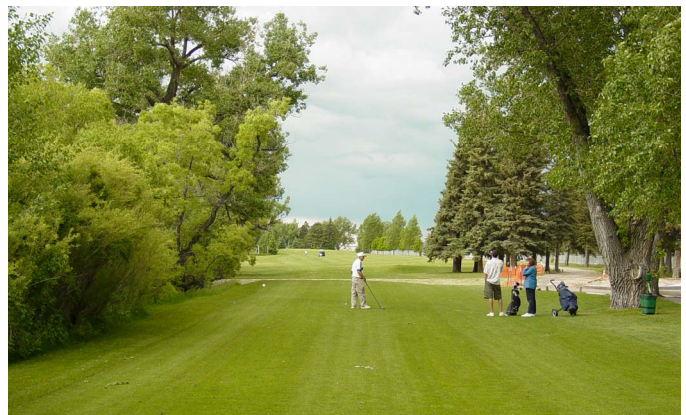
As of 2004 the 1997 Cheyenne Botanic Gardens 20-year Master Plan is two-thirds complete after 7 years. Recent improvements include development of the Herb and Rose Gardens, Discovery Pond and Wetlands, walkways and plantings, expanded community gardens, expanded parking, and fencing for the locomotive. Remaining items include aesthetic improvements to existing facilities, interpretive signage and art, development of a High Plains Garden, Dwarf Conifer Garden, outdoor picnic and meeting space, additional parking, and a Children's Initiative. The Children's Initiative includes a Children's Garden and expansion of the existing building by adding a children's conservatory. The conservatory will teach children about plants, science, and renewable energy. Additionally, the Lions Park Master Plan identifies modifying the road access to the Gardens and a renovated Labyrinth. The renovation to the Labyrinth is currently underway. The cost for the ultimate vision of the Children's Initiative is approximately \$7-8 million and the conceptual plans for the building are currently being developed for use in fundraising campaigns. At some point, the Botanic Gardens may need to be fenced if the City decides that it is desirable to provide more intricate, high-value interpretive features that would allow for expanded programs and exhibits. These types of programs and amenities are currently not possible in a 24-hour public park setting.

## Golf Courses

There are 5 golf courses in Cheyenne: Airport and Kingham Prairie View, which are owned and operated by the City; and private courses operated by FE Warren Air Force Base, the Cheyenne Country Club, and Little America. Airport Golf Club is an 18-hole, 145-acre course with 6,121 yards of play

and a privately-run pro shop. This golf course is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary as recognized by Audubon International and the USGA.

Kingham Prairie View is a 9-hole course with 3,700 yards of play, open from April to October. The course is popular for beginning golfers and practice for experienced golfers. Currently the Cheyenne Municipal Airport holds a lease on the lands on which Kingham Prairie View Golf Course is located. That lease expires in 2006. Kingham Prairie View needs a new irrigation system and possibly a large-scale renovation after the current contract expires. The new irrigation system is estimated to cost approximately \$650,000 with additional expenses for seed drilling, approximately \$40,000. New cart paths are desirable as are plumbed restrooms.



Airport Golf Course

In comparison, the Airport Golf Course is in better condition and requires fewer renovations. A tee box renovation is planned for the near future. The total cost will be about \$100,000. New concrete cart paths are also planned at around \$150,000. The irrigation system at the Airport Golf Club is in good working order and it is estimated that it will last another 20 years. The Golf Division maintains the courses in excellent condition and would like to expand the season and times for golf practice by providing a lighted driving range, potentially with heated stalls for year-round use.

Recently, golf in Cheyenne has been gaining momentum in support of developing a Links golf course at the recently acquired Belvoir Ranch. At this time the concept has not yet been endorsed because there is no approved master plan for that property.

### Forestry Facilities

The Forestry Division maintains a shop at Dutcher Field overlooking Dell Range Boulevard and a tree farm at North Cheyenne Community Park. In 2005, the Division will construct a nature interpretive center and treehouse near its offices in Lions Park. The small interpretive center will be fully accessible to students of varying needs. The 20-ft high tree house will be constructed in phases and will provide a bird's-eye view of life in the urban forest of Lions Park.

### Laramie County Parks and Open Space

Laramie County owns and maintains 3 parks in the Cheyenne area: Clear Creek Park (41.60 acres) is located south of I-80 and east of I-25 off of Southwest Drive. This park has restrooms, picnic shelters, a playground and volleyball courts. The park is popular with dog owners as an unofficial off-leash dog exercise area. Two other small parks have been developed along Allison Draw and the Allison Draw Greenway and both contain play equipment. In addition, the county maintains the greenway along Allison Draw, which totals 53.44 acres.



Clear Creek Park

### Existing School District and Private/Non-Profit Recreation Facilities

The Recreation program depends very heavily on Laramie County School District #1 for use of school facilities. Recreation primarily depends on gymnasium space as there is no City gym facility that is adequately sized for court games, except for second grade basketball, which is hosted in the small gym at Pioneer Park Recreation Center. Elementary, Jr. High and Senior School gyms are used by the City for volleyball leagues, youth and adult basketball leagues, and youth basketball tournaments. The Recreation Division uses school gyms on nights and weekends whenever they are available, generally starting at 7:00 pm on weeknights. A few locations receive only occasional Recreation Program use for youth basketball tournaments (Storey Gym and East High School). In total, the City uses 19 gymnasiums in 16 different schools. The schools offering gymnasium space for use by the City are: Storey Gym, East High School, Carey Junior High School, Johnson Junior High School, McCormick Junior High School, Afflerbach Elementary School, Anderson Elementary School, Alta Vista Elementary School, Bain Elementary School, Buffalo Ridge Elementary School, Dildine Elementary School, Henderson Elementary School, Hobbs Elementary School, Jessup Elementary School, Pioneer Park Elementary School, and Davis Elementary School.

There is no formal contract between the School District and the Recreation Division other than the simple Use Contract used for any non-profit organization which is negotiated annually for each organization. All organizations are welcome to use school facilities when not otherwise in use at no cost – the only fee involved is for custodial services on weekends or after normal operating hours. The recent “no-cut on athletic teams” policy of the school district has increased the participation numbers and demand for gym activities by school programs, significantly reducing the time available for City recreation programs. Demand by the Recreation Division for gym use is consistently increasing and current use of facilities reaches school gym capacities.

One additional facility used by the recreation division is the multi-purpose room at Laramie County Community College. That gym is used for the adult volleyball league and youth basketball tournaments.



## EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

### PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

#### 5

Though the city programs often use school facilities, School programs also use city facilities. The school district uses soccer fields, golf courses, and parks for events and tournaments throughout the year. Events such as Cross Country running meets, school picnics, and day trips are all held on city properties at no charge.



Cahill Soccer Complex





## Section 6. Existing Level of Service

Level of Service" is a term that is used to measure the level of public accessibility to parks, the quantity of parkland per person, or number of the recreational facilities per person. Level of Service in terms of accessibility is measured by the distance to a developed park. For example, a 1/2-mile walking distance from a home to a Neighborhood Park (7 to 10 minutes) is a common goal for communities in this region. Level of service for quantity of parkland per person is calculated as acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population; e.g., 1.7 acres of Neighborhood Parkland / 1,000 population. Level of service for quantity of facilities per person is expressed as numbers of residents served by that specific recreational facility; e.g., 1 indoor swimming pool / 25,000 population.

### Park Accessibility

In Cheyenne, the planning team mapped each park according to its classification and assigned a service radius around each parcel accordingly. Neighborhood Parks were assigned a 1/2 mile radius, Pocket Parks were assigned a 1/4 mile radius, and Community Parks a 1- mile radius.

### Neighborhood Park Accessibility

Map 2 shows the 1/2-mile and 1/4-mile service areas associated with each existing developed Neighborhood and Pocket Park (which are small Neighborhood Parks – see definitions). Also shown are 1/2-mile service areas around Community Parks that can be considered to function as neighborhood parkland for the adjacent residences. The service areas on Map 2 represent the immediate neighborhood that has access to that park without crossing an arterial roadway, active rail line, river or other barrier that prevents easy access via walking or by bicycle. The approximate extent of existing residential development is shown on the map and that information was determined by Laramie County and City of Cheyenne GIS data. Some areas are served by more than one park and have a higher level of service than homes in other locations within the same neighborhood. The map demonstrates that the extreme southern, western (west of I-25), northeastern and northeastern/central areas of the City are underserved by Neighborhood Parks.

### Community Park Accessibility

Map 3 shows a 1 1/2-mile service area for each existing developed Community Park and Sports Complex (which are specialized Community Parks – see definitions). The map illustrates the relatively concentrated distribution of community parks and sports complexes within the center of the City. Residential development to the northwest, south, and east does not currently have a Community Park nearby. Because Community Parks are considered Citywide destinations, the service areas span arterial roadways and other barriers; however, providing easy pedestrian and bicycle access is strongly encouraged, and the City and County are currently working to provide trail links to Community Parks.

### Parkland Level of Service

Cheyenne has a total of 18 Neighborhood Parks – 6 Neighborhood Parks and 12 Pocket Parks. The category of "neighborhood parks" mentioned in Section E, is made up of neighborhood and pocket parks. All neighborhood parks except 1 Pocket Park and 1 Neighborhood Park are fully developed. Combined, the functional park area in these developed Neighborhood and Pocket Parks total 70.19 acres, which provide a level of service of 1.2 acres for every 1,000 people within the City limits, based on a population of 57,381.



Pioneer Park ballfield

Community Parks also serve as the Neighborhood Park for residents that live near them, so the actual level of service for Neighborhood Parks in the city is higher than 1.2 ac./1,000 pop. Up to 10 acres of each developed Community Park can be considered as “neighborhood park” as long as these parks contain amenities that serve nearby residents. Including portions of Community Parks (10 acres each of Lions, Cahill, Holliday and North Cheyenne, and 6 acres of Pioneer Park), the level of service for Neighborhood Parkland is 2.1 acres for every 1,000 people.

In Cheyenne, there are 7 Community Parks and 5 Sports Complexes that total 563.66 acres of community parkland. Combined, the functional park area of these Community Parks total 334 acres and provide a level of service of 5.8 acres per 1,000 population based on a population of 57,381 within the City limits.

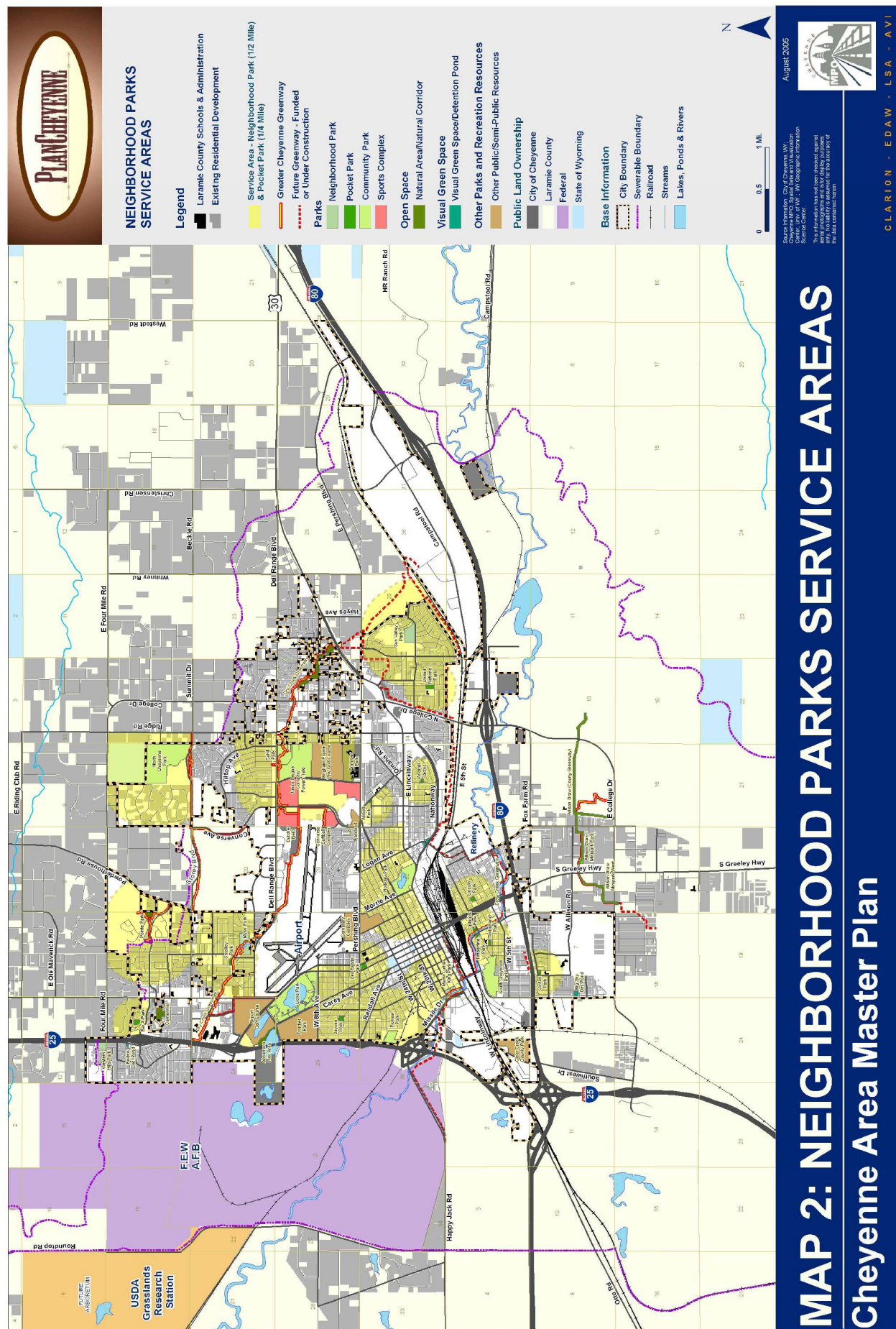
### Recreational Facility Level of Service

The level of service for the major and most popular recreational facilities has been calculated and compared to other communities. Recreational level of service information is contained in the following section of this report. Table A1 shows the level of service for these facilities and the complete inventory is located in Appendix A.



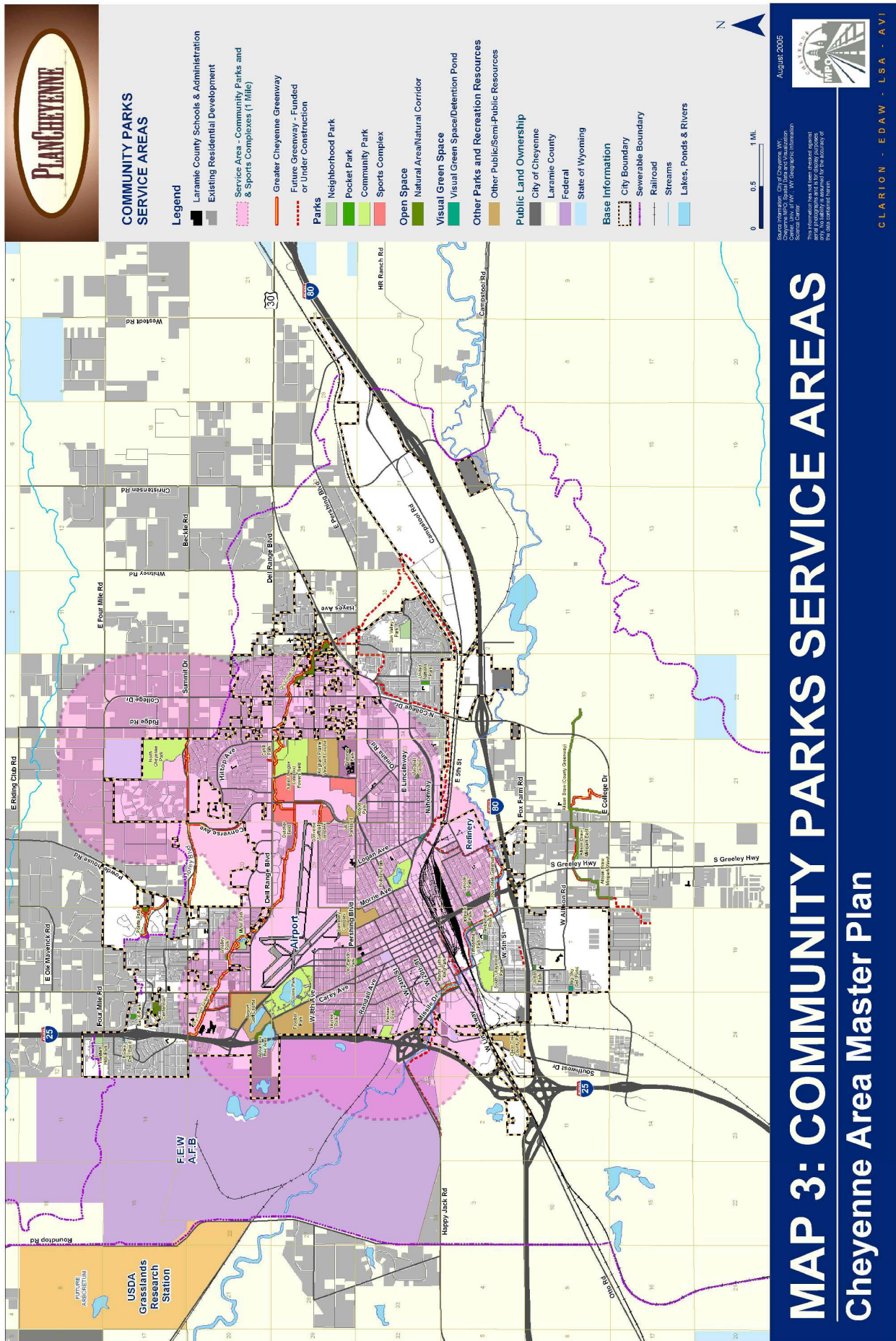
Powers Field





Map 2.  
Neighborhood Parks Service Areas





Map 3.  
Community Parks Service Areas

## Section 7. Peer Community Comparisons

Communities that are considered “peer” communities were identified by the PlanCheyenne Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), city and project staff. Peer communities were contacted to solicit information regarding the acres of parks and numbers of recreational sports facilities they provide to their residents. This database serves as a benchmark when determining the levels of service that are appropriate for Cheyenne. Communities include: Fort Collins, CO (population 126,848); Boulder, CO (population 107,340); Loveland, CO (population 50,608); Greeley, CO (population 77,000); Broomfield, CO (population 47,500); Westminster, CO (population 100,000); Casper, WY (population 49,644); Boise, ID (population 199,975); Bozeman, MT (population 29,600); and Missoula, MT (population 57,057).

Table 3 is a summary of the full Peer Community Comparison table that is located in Appendix A. The entire community comparison table lists the average number of facilities, parkland levels of service, and maintenance budgets and staffing for Cheyenne and the 10 other communities that were surveyed. The numbers that are used to equate the averages for all communities should be analyzed carefully, as the result is often skewed by one community that has a severe shortage or abundance of a particular facility or service. Only those cities that actually provide the facility being analyzed are included in the average.

The community comparison table shows how Cheyenne compares to cities similar in area and population size. The table illustrates specific facilities in which Cheyenne has a greater number or level of service, facilities in which the city provides a comparable number or level of service to those in peer communities, and facilities in which the city provides a less than average number or level of service. The summary Peer Community Comparison table is insightful in that it shows at a glance, the specific population level served by each facility in other sampled communities and how that compares to the level of service offered by Cheyenne. Examples of facilities examined include soccer fields, football fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and skateboard parks among others. This table also illustrates how much community and neighborhood parkland acreage Cheyenne has compared to other communities. Additionally, it gives an idea of the size of other communities maintenance staff, the number of acres maintained, and how many acres per staff

member are maintained. Lastly, it offers a glimpse into the amount of money per resident is spent on park and recreation maintenance.

### Parkland Level of Service Comparison

The Community Comparisons table (Table A1) shows the average the level of service for developed parkland that the peer communities provide, as well as the parkland standard they have adopted when available. The average parkland level of service for Neighborhood Parks is 2.2 acres / 1,000 population and Community Parks is 4.3 acres / 1,000 population. Considering only Neighborhood Parks, Cheyenne offers a neighborhood parkland level of service that is lower than the average; however if portions of Community Parks that serve neighborhood park functions are considered, Cheyenne appears to be much closer to the average with 2.1 acres / 1,000 population. Cheyenne provides a much higher level of service than average for community parkland with 5.8 acres / 1,000 population.

#### Community Developed Parkland

Average acres per population	= 4.3/1000
<b>Cheyenne</b> acres per population	= 5.8/1000

#### Neighborhood Developed Parkland

Average acres per population	= 2.2/1000
<b>Cheyenne</b> acres per population	= 1.2/1000







# PEER COMMUNITY COMPARISONS

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

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**Table 3. Community Comparisons of Recreational Facilities Summary**

Last revised - 4 Oct 2005

### List of Communities Surveyed

Fort Collins, CO	Westminster, CO
Boulder, CO	Casper, WY
Loveland, CO	Boise, ID
Greeley, CO	Bozeman, MT
Broomfield, CO	Missoula, MT

Recreational Facility	Facility or Acres per Population	
	Average of Communities Providing Facilities	City of Cheyenne, Wyoming Population: 57,381
Population per Soccer Field	4,431	4,414
Population per Football Field	23,966	NA
Population per Softball/Baseball Field	3,873	1,979
Population per Basketball Court	6,934	4,414
Population per Gymnasium	55,883	NA
Population per Tennis Court	3,998	5,216
Population per Pool	20,561	28,691
Population per Ice Rink	38,034	NA
Population per Skateboard Park	59,627	57,381
Population per In-line Hockey Rink	49,422	57,381
Community Park (including sports complexes)		
Developed	0	333.93 acres
Developed Parkland/Population	4.3 acres/1000	5.8 acres/1000
Parkland Standard	5.2 acres/1000	5.8 acres/1000
Neighborhood Park		
Developed	0	70.19 acres
Developed Parkland/Population	2.2 acres/1000	1.2 acres/1000
Adjusted Parkland/Population including portions of Community Parks		1.9 acres/1000
Parkland Standard	2.6 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000
Maintenance Staff (as parks, streetscapes and public grounds)	22 full-time, 31 part-time/seasonal, 33 FTE	26 full-time, 36 seasonal (44 FTE)
Areas Maintained (grounds and facilities maintained by Parks Department)	626 acres	693.85 acres
Annual Park Operation & Maintenance Budget (For parks, streetscapes, public grounds and facilities maintained by the Parks Department - excludes cemeteries and golf courses)	\$3,340,569	\$1,365,273
Maintenance Staff/Acres	1:19 acres	1:16 acres
Maintenance Budget Per City Acre	\$5,336 per acre	\$1,967 per acre

### Recreational Facilities Level of Service Comparison

The level of service for soccer fields and skate parks in Cheyenne is similar to the average of other communities surveyed. Soccer fields are well represented in many communities, for an average of 1 field per 4,431 residents. Cheyenne is average in level of service for soccer fields, providing 1 field for every 4,414 residents. Although Cheyenne is at the average for skate parks, only 3 communities out of the 10 surveyed have a lower level of service than Cheyenne. In general, most communities are trying to increase their level of service for skate parks and do not feel that they are provided in adequate quantities yet.

The level of service in Cheyenne for baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, and in-line hockey rinks is above average. Of the 10 other communities surveyed, Cheyenne has the highest number of basketball courts per resident, at 4,414 courts per resident compared to an average of 6,934 courts per resident in peer communities. Cheyenne is ranked second highest for provision of softball/baseball fields and far exceeds many other communities in terms of the quality of the facilities it provides. Broomfield, Colorado has more fields per person, but the majority of those are fields without outfield fences or lights. Most fields in Cheyenne have fencing and lights. Although Cheyenne has one in-line hockey rink and is slightly above the average, most communities are not meeting the demand and are planning to construct additional in-line hockey rinks – often by converting unused tennis courts. Broomfield, CO has the highest level of service with 1 rink for approximately 15,000 people.



The City of Cheyenne offers no official football fields that are solely dedicated to this purpose, similar to Missoula, Montana, which only has 1. Football games in Cheyenne and Missoula are accommodated on fields that are used for other sports (e.g. baseball field outfields, soccer fields). Most other communities typically have a dedicated football field.

Cheyenne does not have a public ice rink or gymnasium. Cheyenne has a privately-owned ice rink, the Ikon Center, and uses school gyms for its recreation programs. Only 4 of the 10 cities compared currently have public ice rinks, with 3 of those 4 providing a rink for 50,000 to 60,000 people. The overall average level of service for those 4 cities is skewed by Bozeman, MT, which provides an extremely high level of service for ice rinks. Similarly, the average of public gymnasiums per residents (1:64,294) is skewed by Boise, ID, which services 199,975 residents with its single gym. A more typical level of service for gyms in communities that are well-served is 1 gym for 25,000 to 30,000 people.



	Average	Cheyenne
<b>Population per Facility</b>		
Soccer	4,431	4,414
Baseball	3,873	1,979
Basketball	6,934	4,414
Tennis	3,998	5,216
Pool	20,561	28,691
Skatepark	59,627	57,381

While Cheyenne’s level of service for tennis courts (1:5,216) is below the average of other communities, the average is skewed by a higher number of courts per population in Missoula, MT (1:1,967 residents). Additionally, Cheyenne has fewer pools per resident than average. The average for pools is also skewed due to a far lower number of pools in Boise, ID (1:49,994 residents). The majority of communities provide a level of service for tennis courts of between 3,000 and 4,000 residents per court.

### Maintenance Budgets and Staffing Comparisons

Cheyenne spends approximately \$1,967 annually per acre compared to the average of \$3,547 for the other surveyed communities. While this is a considerable difference in per acre expenditure between Cheyenne and peer communities, the overall annual park and recreation budget between the communities is also quite different. The annual park operation and maintenance budget for the City of Cheyenne is \$1,365,273 while the average for peer communities is \$3,509,714. This difference is tempered somewhat by the fact that Cheyenne maintains only 693.85 acres of parkland to the average of 970 acres of peer communities. The number of maintenance staff in Cheyenne is 26 full-time and 36 seasonal, compared to 28 full-time staff and 39 seasonal for the average of other communities. Considering this, Cheyenne is able to maintain roughly 16 acres per staff member while other communities are able to maintain only about 25 acres per staff member.



Holliday Park tennis courts



Kids Recreation Camp



## Section 8. Existing Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Structure

The Cheyenne Parks & Recreation Department is one of nine City Departments. It is managed by a Director and an Assistant Director who coordinate the operation of the seven Divisions that comprise the Department. Planners provide input into projects for all Divisions. The Director reports to the Mayor and City Council directly. The Department does not have a citizens board that is specifically tasked with overseeing the budget, issues, and plans for the entire Department. However, there is a Greenway Technical Review Committee, which helps direct, design, set priorities, develop budgets, and make recommendations for city council and planning commission decisions for the Greater Cheyenne Greenway program. Members of this committee act as technical resources, advocates for trails, and serve as liaisons with other groups.

The total budget for the Department is \$4,487,21 (see Table 4). Revenue sources, implementation tools and recommendations for the City and Department are discussed in the Master Plan and Implementation chapters later in this document. Each division is discussed briefly below.

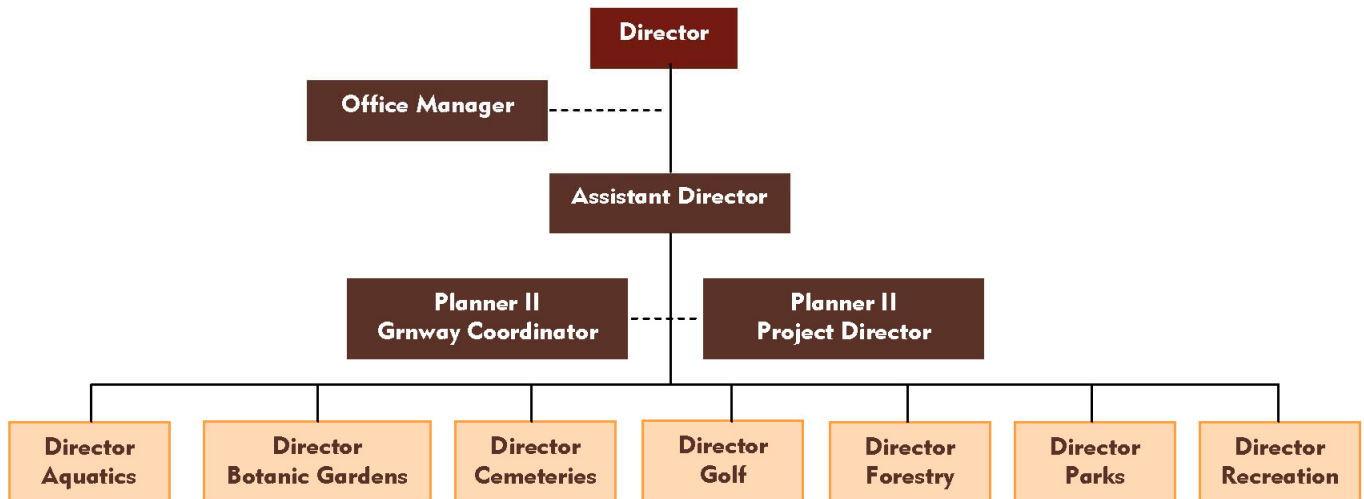
**Table 4. Budget Summary**

Parks and Recreation Department Budget Summary	
Division	Basic Budget
Administration	\$280,882
Aquatics Division	\$652,228
Botanic Garden	\$297,642
Cemetery Division	\$317,816
Forestry Division	\$457,943
Golf Division	\$485,403
Kiwanis Community House	\$97,616
Parks Division	\$1,267,657
Recreation Division	\$563,107
Recreation Buildings	\$67,527
<b>Overall Annual Department Budget</b>	<b>\$4,487,821</b>

### Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department

#### Organizational Chart

January 2005



### Administration Division

The **Administration Division** manages the Parks and Recreation Department as well as other Divisions. Administration also provides parks and greenway planning services. The staff includes 5 personnel: a Director, Assistant Director, Parks Planner, Greenway Coordinator, and Office Manager.



Powers Field Master Plan

The Administration Division directs larger projects such as:

- Planning and construction of Powers field
- Lion's Park Master Plan
- Implementation of the Lion's Park Master Plan
- Park renovations to Brimmer and Holliday Parks
- New park development in Sun Valley and Pointe parks
- Greenway Construction Management

The Greenway Trails are one of the most popular and most-used recreational features in the City. The idea for a Greenway path in Cheyenne rose from a grassroots group called the Crow Creek Greenway Committee, which formed in 1990. This committee was the driving force behind getting the project started and responsible for raising the initial funds for construction. Approximately 15.9 miles of the greenway have been constructed. Two major sections are featured in the community: one along Crow Creek and the other along Dry Creek. The trails connect residential areas, schools, parks, athletic facilities and shopping centers through trail easements, parkland, natural areas, and road

rights-of-way. A 10-foot-wide, 100% ADA compliant concrete path is the standard "greenway" in Cheyenne. The greenway is used by walkers, runners, skaters, bicyclists and wheelchair users. Today the Greenway is funded through a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> penny sales tax and there is currently over four million dollars in the 6<sup>th</sup> penny tax available for construction of the East Cheyenne Greenway.



Lions Park Master Plan

In addition to managing projects, the department works on long-term goals and policies including:

- Land Acquisition
- Ordinance Development
- Budgeting
- Master Planning



New Park Development- Pointe Park

### QUICK FACTS

- Administration assists the divisions in large projects such as SuperDay and Goblin Walk.
- The department works with other city agencies and is located in the Municipal Building.



### Aquatics Division

The **Aquatics Division** operates, manages and maintains facilities for water recreation and offers recreational programs, including youth and adult swim lessons, water fitness, and lifeguard training. Pool facilities include the indoor Municipal Pool at Lions Park and the outdoor Johnson Pool at Lincoln Park. The Division oversees operations at the beach at Sloan Lake in Lions Park, including rentals of paddleboats, kayaks and canoes. The Division has 7 full-time employees and between 50 to 80 part-time employees at different times of the year. One of the Divisions greatest challenges is the high turn-over yearly for lifeguards because they are primarily high school students. This turn-over requires that each year an extensive training program be conducted to make sure that the employees are adequately equipped to guard the pools and beach.



Johnson Pool

#### QUICK FACTS

- In 2004 over 1,000 people participated in swim lessons.
- The most popular features of the Municipal pool are the Recreational Swim time, slide, and diving board.
- The Municipal pool hosts several events including the rubber duck derby, belly-flop and cannonball contests.



Municipal Pool

The possibility of coordinating the aquatics programs with school districts should be considered. Rec Trak, a Department-wide computer system for scheduling programs and reserving facilities, has just been installed and implemented. Three divisions are on the software: aquatics, recreation and parks. In the future, the Department would like to add golf and botanic gardens to the system.

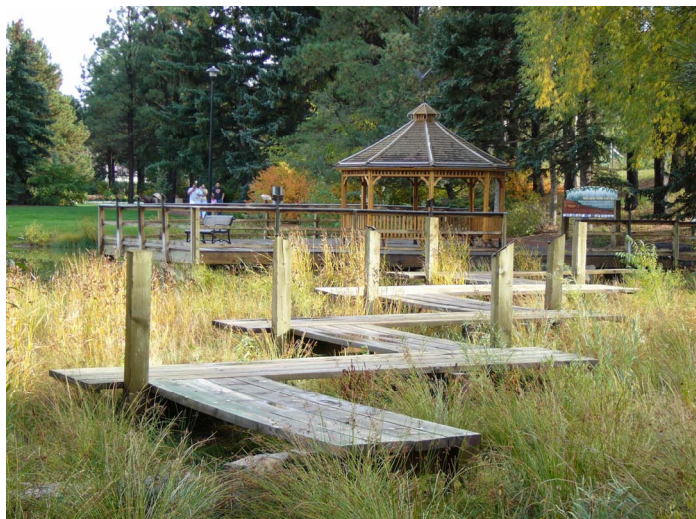


Sloan's Lake Beach in Lion's Park



### Botanic Gardens Division

The **Botanic Gardens Division** oversees the operation of Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in Lions Park and maintains flower beds across the City. The gardens exhibit a diverse collection of plants, provide opportunities for senior, at-risk-youth and handicapped volunteers, and provide educational and therapeutic outreach to the community in the form of lectures, demonstrations, and special events. The Division has 5 full-time and 3 part-time employees. The rest of the services and functions are accomplished by volunteers who contribute over 5,500 hours of service annually, and by the Parks and Forestry Divisions, which help maintain the landscapes.



Discovery Pond

The Botanic Gardens Division has been proactive in preparing a master plan and securing funding for implementation of projects through establishment of a foundation, friends of the Botanic Garden, and through private donations. Approximately 75% of the master plan prepared in 1997 has been accomplished. Remaining projects include expanding the building to include a children's science conservatory potentially fencing the perimeter of the garden to provide exhibits and programming that could not occur in an open park setting.

Similar to other Divisions, the Botanic Gardens needs a threshold for determining when more staff and funding are needed. In a recent proposal to City leaders, the Division estimated that it could easily use an additional 5 full-time employees in the near future, funding permitting. A recent

study showed that similar-sized botanic gardens (in terms of acreage and programming) have an average of 17 full-time staff – Cheyenne Botanic Gardens currently has 5. While this comparison gives perspective, most gardens do not have the support of a parks and forestry operation that deals with a number of maintenance issues for the gardens.

In addition to operating and maintaining the Botanic Gardens, this Division and its volunteers maintain all of the annual flower beds on City properties. Although the flower beds are an important visual asset in Cheyenne, the Division cannot take on additional flower beds without receiving additional staff and equipment.



Flower Pots at Depot Square

#### QUICK FACTS

- More than 30,000 people visit the gardens annually from all around the world.
- The gardens host many displays and events including a Glass Art Celebration, summer concerts and educational lectures.
- The conservatory is 100% solar heated and the sun powers 50% of the entire garden's electricity.
- The Botanic Gardens keeps plants looking beautiful despite being in the city number 1 in the nation for hail and the 4th windiest city in the lower 48 states.



### Cemetery Division

The **Cemetery Division** manages and maintains the City of Cheyenne cemetery complex jointly with the City Clerk. The cemetery complex consists of 59 acres in the following city-owned and managed cemeteries: Lakeview, Beth El and the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.). The cemetery records are managed by the City Clerk's Office, and the grounds are maintained through the division under the Parks and Recreation Department.

#### QUICK FACTS

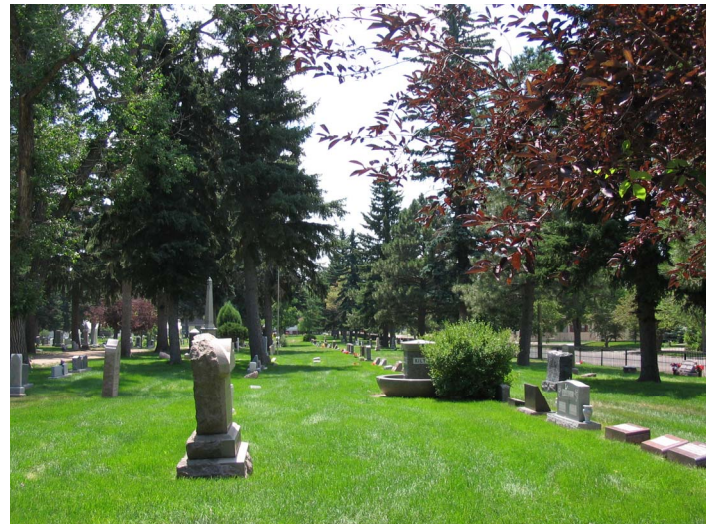
- The cemetery complex occupies 70 acres and consists of Lakeview, Beth El, Olivet, Mount Sinai, and Oddfellows cemeteries.
- A self-guided walking tour leads the public through Lakeview Cemetery highlighting the characters that lived and died to create the character of Cheyenne.
- The non-profit group Friends of the Cemeteries was established in 1989 to perpetuate the beauty of the city cemeteries.



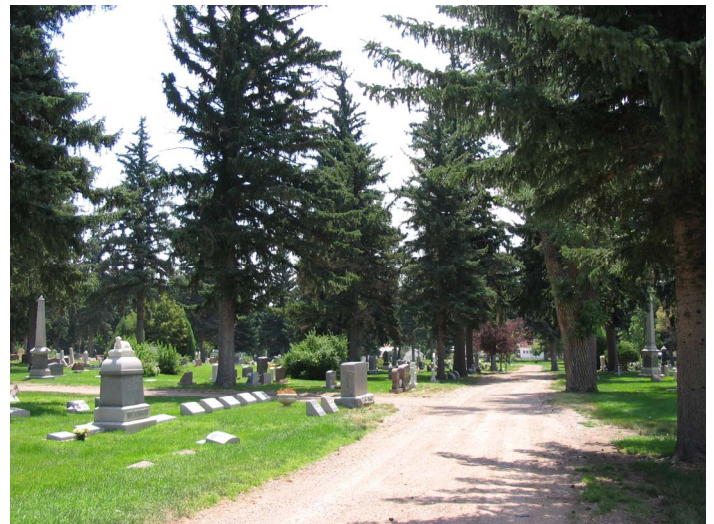
Angel Memorial- Lakeview Cemetery

In addition to these cemeteries, the Cemetery Division staff provide maintenance and record keeping for the privately owned Mount Olivet and Mount Sinai (Jewish Cemetery) cemeteries. There is no written agreement between the City and the private cemeteries for these services; however, a draft agreement is available as part of an initiative to update the City's cemetery ordinances. Private owners do reimburse the City for direct costs associated with maintenance of the properties.

The Division has 5 full-time employees and 11 seasonal part-time employees. The Cemetery Division has identified a need for updated computer systems to include GIS software and equipment replacement schedules. The Division would also benefit from a master plan for the cemetery complex that documents remaining plots, as well as strategies for future cemetery expansion or new locations.



Lakeview Cemetery



Lakeview Cemetery

## Forestry Division

The **Forestry Division** is responsible for the development and maintenance of trees, shrubs, vines, hedge, and ornamental plantings on all City properties. The Division is not responsible for planting or maintaining trees within street right-of-ways, however, the City Forester must be consulted before trimming, planting or removal in these areas. The Division is responsible for testing, licensing and regulating the work of commercial arborists and pesticide applicators within the City of Cheyenne. The Division also reviews site plans for compliance with the City's landscape ordinance.



Holliday Park

In addition to actively maintaining trees throughout the city, Forestry staff conduct educational programs and tree walks, coordinate community service projects for troubled youth, and make individual house calls to landowners regarding specific tree health issues. The Assistant Director has developed and maintains an informational web site [www.cheyennetrees.org](http://www.cheyennetrees.org), which has photos of diseases and harmful insects to assist residents in the identification and resolution of problems.

The Forestry Division currently has 8 staff members: a Director and Assistant Director, who manage the Division as well as spend much of their time in educational and outreach activities; a secretary; a foreman; and 4 certified arborists, each of whom has responsibility for specific areas of the City. The Division also employs 4 part-time seasonal staff.

There are over 13,000 trees along roads, in the parks, cemeteries, and golf courses to maintain. The Division does not have staff to assign to the maintenance of Greenway trees or to maintain additional right-of-way trees, and currently the Division requires more staff and/or more funding to do tree pruning and preventive maintenance. The Division currently does not have enough staff to take care of existing trees, and will likely require more staff to care for planned trees. Currently the Forestry Division needs 1-2 more full-time staff and 2 additional part-time staff.

The Division would like to take over the maintenance of right-of-way trees and transfer that responsibility away from property owners. Similar arrangements have been made in other cities such as Fort Collins and Greeley, Colorado. In cities where a forestry program is in charge of street trees, tree health improves and liability to the city is limited.

Currently the Forestry Division can require landowners to maintain their trees, but action may take up to 60 days and tree damage or dangerous conditions may occur during that time frame, exposing the City to unnecessary losses and risks. The Forestry Division has conducted an analysis that concludes that maintenance of right-of-way trees would be less expensive if done on a contract basis, rather than providing this function entirely in-house.

The Forestry Division would also like to be the agency to plant trees associated with city road improvement projects. They believe that they can plant bare-root trees in a cost-effective manner, and maintain and establish these trees in a way that would be more successful than when tree plantings occur associated with a bid from private landscape contractors.

### QUICK FACTS

- Cheyenne has been named "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 23 consecutive years.
- Cheyenne is the oldest Tree City USA community in Wyoming.
- Cheyenne has received three "Growth Awards" and two "Merit Awards" from the National Arbor Day Foundation.



## Golf Division

The **Golf Division** provides an extensive maintenance program for the two City golf courses, Airport and Kingham Prairie View. The Airport Golf Course is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary as recognized by Audubon International and the USGA. The Division has 6 full-time employees and as many as 17 seasonal part-time employees during the peak season. The Golf Division is responsible for all aspects of course maintenance and new construction for the two city-operated courses, as well as coordination with the private pro services for course use and scheduling.



Airport Golf Course

The need for another golf course is a subject of debate in the City. A recent study conducted for the Airport Golf Club states that demand for golf is steadily increasing despite declining membership numbers. The decline is due to recent and overdue membership fee increases. Opinion in Cheyenne is that additional driving ranges are needed. There are two in Cheyenne, but one (at Airport Golf Club) does not accommodate woods, and the other, at Kingham Prairie View, is only open seasonally. The Golf Division would like to provide a driving range with heated stalls and targets, which would allow for year-round practice.

The Golf Division needs recommendations as to whether the community can support another golf course, and if so, where it should be located. A study conducted by THK Associates for the Airport Authority in 2001 determined the viability of expanding Kingham Prairie View to an 18-hole course, or replacing it with an 18-hole course. The study is regarded as biased towards the expansion because the fees analysis did

not reflect annual passes, which would greatly reduce the revenue per round factor that was used in the study.

The Golf Division would like to add a public links course to its system on the Belvoir Ranch.



Airport Golf Course

The vision is to develop a sustainably-designed and operated course that is unique in the region, and which may attract golfers from a broad area and travelers along I-80 who want a more natural setting and links golfing experience. Constructing a links course costs less money than a traditional golf course because most of the topography is left in its natural state. Maintenance requirements are similarly reduced. A market feasibility study would need to be conducted to determine if the course could be self-supporting, and the course itself would need to be evaluated in the context of the overall management plan and proposed uses of the Ranch property.

### QUICK FACTS

- Airport Golf course is an 18-hole course on 145 acres with 6,121 yards of play.
- Kingham Prairie View golf course is a 9-hole course on 90 acres with 3,200 yards of play.
- Both courses have private pro-shops, driving ranges, and putting and chipping greens.
- In 1998 Golf Digest ranked Cheyenne as one of the top 10 best golf cities with a population less than 250,000.

### Parks Division

The **Parks Division** is responsible for maintaining 30 city parks, the Greater Cheyenne Greenway, and 28 triangular and median strips located throughout the City. Other areas of responsibility include the maintenance of 25 softball and baseball fields as well as 13 soccer fields. The Division manages the rental of four park shelters; the City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House, a multi-purpose community facility; the Waterbug Program (volunteers who water median areas and cemetery flower boxes); the Adopt-a-Park Program; and the Lions Park physical fitness course. The Division has 20 full-time employees and 35 part-time (summer) employees.



Kiwanis Community House

One of the largest problems facing the Division is that there is no plan or funding available to replace or upgrade facilities. There is no life-cycle replacement system or funding mechanism for replacing worn-out facilities. One specific issue is the City's very old irrigation systems. Many are over 20 years old and past the end of their original functional life. A funding source of \$250,000 per year, increasing with inflation, is estimated by the Parks Division as necessary to replace and maintain the current systems. A plan to upgrade playgrounds and other equipment has been in place for several years and is ongoing.

### QUICK FACTS

- Cheyenne has over 600 acres of parkland.
- Parkland is made up of Community parks, Neighborhood parks, Pocket Parks, Sports Complexes, and Visual Green Spaces.
- The Parks division is the largest division and they rent four shelters and the Kiwanis Community House.
- Specialized features in the Parks inventory include a Climbing wall at North Cheyenne Community Park, the Clay Sturman Bike, Blade and Skateboard Facility, and Powers Field, home of American Legion Post 6 and Cheyenne Grizzlies baseball.



Lions Park Picnic Shelters



North Cheyenne Community Park Shelter



### Recreation Division

The **Recreation Division** main offices are located in the Neighborhood Facility at 610 W.7th Street. This Division provides a variety of activities to the public in the areas of instructional, classroom or physical activities, gymnastics, youth athletics, adult athletics, and special events. The Division works closely with Laramie County School District #1 for cooperative use of school facilities, and manages the maintenance and operation of the Neighborhood Facility, Pioneer Park Center, and the Activity Center, as well as the old Community House in Lions Park. The Division has 8 full-time employees and 53 part-time employees, including volunteer coaches who work seasonally.

The Recreation Division keeps abreast of trends and demands for recreation programs and facilities and believes that there are real needs for facilities to accommodate paintball, go-cart driving, motocross, BMX, mini-golf, and drop-in gym games. Additionally there is a need in the community for a multi-purpose recreation center that has a field house, indoor leisure pool, exercise equipment, and rooms for fitness, dance and other community-based programs.

#### QUICK FACTS

- The recreation Division offers programs such as Tennis, Hunter Safety, Judo, Gymnastics, Painting, Guitar, Dance, Flag Football, Softball, and Yoga.
- The division organizes many events throughout the year including SuperDay, Goblin Walk, Rec Camp, Pepsi Pitch hit and Run, the High Plains Junior Golf Tournament, the Tour De Prairie, the City Employee Golf Tournament, and the Youth Basketball tournament.
- Over 50,000 participants per year are organized into programs run by the Recreation division.
- The Recreation Division offers close to 150 programs and classes annually for Cheyenne and Laramie County residents.



Neighborhood Facility



Timberland Park- Rec Camp 2005



Tour De Prairie





## Section 9. Potential Parks, Open Space and Trails Resources

The Cheyenne area is rich with natural and cultural resources, and public lands that should be considered when deciding where to locate parks and trails or preserve open lands. Map 4 shows the locations of the most important resources, which include: natural / cultural resource areas

- Sensitive and federally protected species
- Crucial winter range for antelope
- 100-year floodplains
- Riparian areas
- Water bodies and streams
- Slopes greater than 15%
- Mined areas
- Public lands



Open Space around Brimmer Park

### Topographic, Biological and Cultural Resources

The City of Cheyenne is situated in the biogeographical region known as the short grass steppe, more commonly referred to as the short grass prairie. Before settlement trees and shrubs in the area were found only in riparian areas adjacent to the streams of the area. Dominant vegetation of this wind-swept region is comprised of a mixed-grass prairie species, including blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*), needle-and-thread grass (*Stipa comata*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) and thread-leaved sedge (*Carex fillifolia*) with some inclusions of

prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*) and yucca (*Yucca glauca*). These grasslands have historically been important wildlife habitat and hunting lands for Native Americans and for the past 150 years important ranch lands.

Large areas that contain high quality grasslands or ranchlands combined with other resources such as riparian areas, historic ranch buildings, prehistoric remnants and topographic features like steep slopes, drainages and/or water bodies have been generally outlined on Map 4 and labeled "Natural/Cultural Resource Areas." These areas have not been platted for development and embody the best examples of ecological diversity and cultural heritage, as well high scenic values.



Dry Creek Greenway

The locations of sensitive and federally protected species are generally shown on Map 4 since their exact locations are not available or desirable to show on maps for public distribution. A variety of wildlife species can be found in Cheyenne's natural areas, and Pronghorn Antelope rely on areas west of the city for foraging in the winter. White tail and mule deer can be seen in riparian areas along Crow Creek as well as numerous small mammal, amphibian, and reptile species. Crow Creek is also good habitat for birds that include various warbler species in wooded areas as well as numerous water birds in the open water reaches. Also, the federally threatened species Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) has been recently documented along Crow Creek at F.E. Warren Air Force Base.

The documented 100-year floodplains through the region are shown. These areas are not generally suitable for development without major grading to modify the floodplain, and are candidate areas for open space preservation, as well as natural linear corridors that work well for locating trails.

Riparian areas are often associated with the 100-year floodplains and are shown on Map 4. The Crow Creek watershed, which begins just west of Cheyenne in the Laramie mountains, drains over 250 square miles in Laramie County before reaching Cheyenne and is dominated by riparian vegetation that includes broadleaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.), slough grass (*Beckmannia syzigachne*), American manna grass (*Glyceria grandis*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum* spp.), and dock (*Rumex* spp.). Shrubs in the riparian area are dominated by coyote willow (*Salix exigua*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*) with tree species that include peach leaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) and narrow-leaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*). Riparian areas in the Cheyenne area also support habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) and the Colorado Butterfly Plant (*Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradensis*), both of which are listed as federally threatened. Weed species, which can be found in disturbed areas as well as some riparian locations, include Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), and hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)



Cattails

Water bodies and creeks themselves function as important habitat and corridors for aquatic species. The most prominent perennial water bodies in the Cheyenne area are Crow Creek, Dry Creek, and small reservoirs southwest and southeast of the City. Significant drainages that sometimes turn into creeks for part of the year are Child Creek and Allison Draw. These water features also provide interest to the landscape and create pleasant environments for people to use and observe nature.

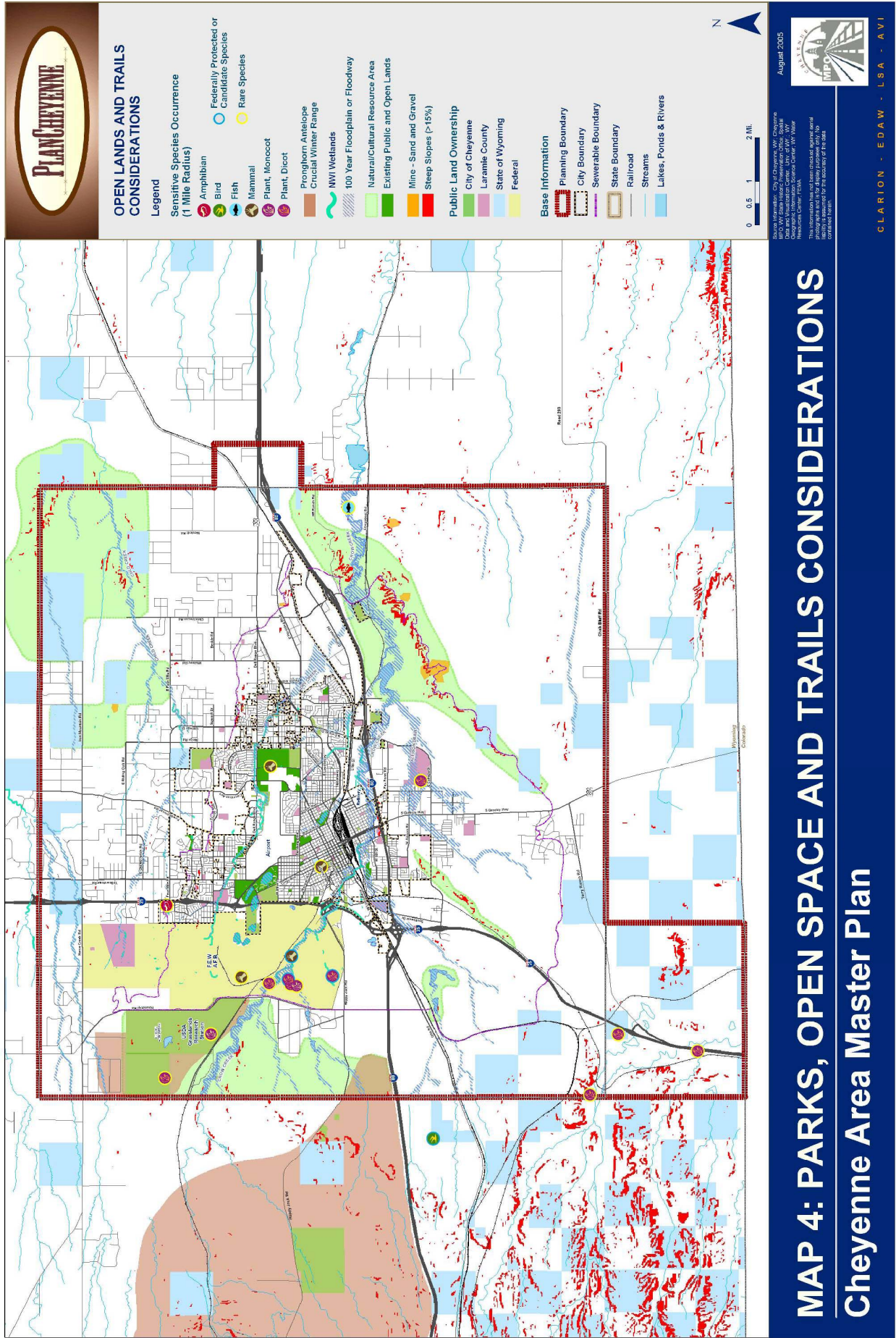
### Slopes and Mines

Slopes that are greater than 15% are indicated on Map 4 in red and are typically associated with ridgelines. These natural areas are highly visible from other areas of the community and define the Cheyenne basin, especially the ridges south of I-80. These steep slopes are also difficult to develop and sometimes contain archeologic and paleontologic resources. Mining is occurring in a few areas along the ridges, and they will eventually be reclaimed.

### Public Lands

Public lands are already preserved in some fashion for the benefit of the public. One of the largest public landholdings is F.E. Warren Air Force Base. This installation will continue to be operational for the foreseeable future as it was not identified as a realigned or closed base with the recent BRAC announcements in May 2005 by the Federal government. Much of the base is in natural condition and will remain so; however, public access is not possible without permission. Large quantities of State of Wyoming land are located throughout the Cheyenne area. Many are leased for ranching. The City of Cheyenne also owns large amounts of land. Within the city limits most of this land has been developed as parks, golf courses and cemeteries. West of F.E. Warren Air Force Base the City owns over 2,140 acres of land that is leased to the US Government for another 100 years, and which is currently being used as a grasslands research facility. However, there is a proposal to establish a public arboretum called the "High Plains Arboretum" on the site where the US Government formerly had test plots for woody horticultural plants and some of the specimens still remain. This proposal is discussed in detail in previous sections.





Map 4.  
Parks, Open Space and Trails Considerations



## Section 10. Development Regulations Summary

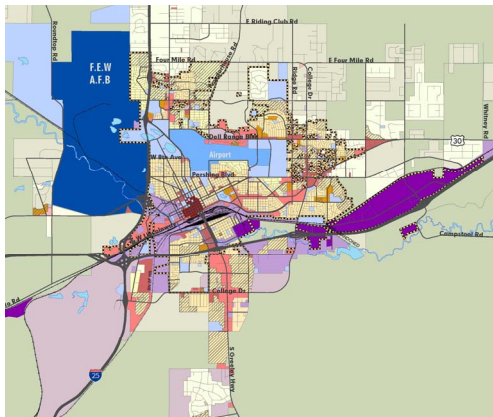
There are several current developmental regulations that pertain to the provision of parks, open lands and recreation resources. The following is an overview.

### Zoning

The Cheyenne and Laramie County Zoning Ordinance (1988) is a document that guides how land uses are developed in the City and the County. This document defines open space as ‘An area not occupied by the developed use of the land, excluding streets and parking areas.’ It is further defined as:

- (a) Common. Unobstructed space controlled and maintained by property owners for their mutual benefit and enjoyment.
- (b) Usable. Open area designed and developed for the use by the occupants or others.
- (c) Undeveloped. Land left in its natural state.

The zoning ordinance does not contain specific requirements for the amount of open space (or parks) in any of the zoning districts or as a part of an overall development plan. Even in communities where zone districts specify the amount of open space required in developments, it is typically used to ensure that individual parcels contain adequate landscaped areas, and is not an adequate tool for preserving large tracts of land or individual park sites, which would need to be addressed when designing and platting the overall subdivision.



Cheyenne Zoning Map

### Subdivision Regulations

The Cheyenne/Laramie County Subdivision Development Regulations (2000) do not define ‘open space’ or ‘parks.’ They do, however, require the preservation of ‘Existing features which would add value to residential development or to the local government as a whole, such as trees, water courses, historic spots, and other similar irreplaceable assets, shall be preserved in the design of the subdivision/development to the extent reasonably possible’ (Section 80.060 Preservation of Natural Features). Because the interpretation of what would “add value” and “reasonably possible” is up to the developer, this regulation is weak at best.

Beyond the above language, which is intended to preserve natural features, there are no specific land dedication requirements for parks, trails or open lands as part of the overall subdivision planning and platting process in the City, or the surrounding county areas within the Cheyenne planning area. A mandatory Community Facilities Fee is required as part of the subdivision process, which is intended to provide revenue to acquire and develop parks, and is described later.

Preservation of open lands in Laramie County is only addressed by “encouraging” cluster development, on a voluntary basis. Section 80.020 (d)(3) states that for residential developments in Low Density areas (no more than one dwelling unit per ten acres), clustered development is encouraged with perpetually dedicated open space, and shall be based on the topography of the property. Information to be provided with the Subdivision Permit may include that pertaining to an open space design option. Subdividers choosing this option must provide documentation that designated open space shall be limited to nonmotorized recreation, agriculture, resource protection, amenity or buffer purposes, and freely accessible to all residents of the development (unless agriculture). The subdivider must establish a legally-enforceable method by which open space shall be perpetuated, maintained, and administered, and must also provide calculations for allowable development density based upon the acreage of open space in the development.



### Community Facility Fee

All new developments that are subdivided and platted in the City of Cheyenne and Laramie County requires the assessment of Community Facility Fees, an impact fee for development that is used, within the City, for the construction of new public parks<sup>5,6</sup>. (In Laramie County, the fee can be used for either new park construction or fire district facilities and equipment).

Fees are assessed according to the following schedule:

- All lands platted and annexed to the City shall pay a fee of \$500 per acre. This can be pro-rated to the nearest one-tenth (0.10) of an acre but the minimum fee will not be less than \$250.
- An additional fee of \$750 per acre shall be assessed for non-residential (commercial) property and paid into the Neighborhood Park Property Acquisition and Infrastructure Installation Account (NPPAIIA). This can be pro-rated to the nearest one-tenth (0.10) of an acre but the minimum fee will not be less than \$250.
- An additional fee of \$150 per each living unit shall be assessed for residential property, except for hospital and nursing homes, and paid into the Neighborhood Park Property Acquisition and Infrastructure Installation Account (NPPAIIA).

Government lands, public drainage ways and roadways are exempted from this fee system. The fee cannot be used for maintenance, redevelopment, reconstruction or operations/overhead of existing public parks.

This fee has not been adequate to cover the actual cost of acquiring and developing parkland while raising expectations of residents and developers that parks will in fact be built from the funds. Also, there is no language specifying where new parks must be located relative to the population they serve, or on what types of land, so the Department has been forced to accept properties that are little more than detention ponds, or that are on steep slopes, which are frequently not suitable as developed parkland. There are other concerns that the Community Facilities Fees language

and formulas are being interpreted inconsistently, becoming more inflexible and disallowing funding for key park components such as parking areas and site amenities.



Pointe Park - Paid for in part by Community Facility Fees

### Summary

The City of Cheyenne does not currently have adequate regulatory means to ensure that parklands and trail corridors are provided, and that important natural and cultural resources are protected in the land development process.

<sup>5</sup>2000 Cheyenne/Laramie County Subdivision Regulations, Article IV.

<sup>6</sup> Ordinance 3603, Amending Article IV of the 2000 Cheyenne/Laramie Subdivision Regulations.

## Section 11. Population Growth

The City of Cheyenne has been growing at a fairly stable rate of about 1% for the last several decades and currently has a population of 57,381.<sup>7</sup> (US Census) Laramie County as a whole had a population of 81,607, with an estimated 68,202 living within the Cheyenne urbanized area.<sup>1</sup> By 2030, the City is projected to grow at a rate of 2% and increase in size to 102,000. The greater Cheyenne area is expected to reach a population of 132,000 and Laramie County is expected to reach a population of 148,000 by the year 2030. The moderate increase in population over the next 20 years means that the City must be proactively planning for new parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of future residents in addition to the needs of existing residents.

These population estimates are slightly above average when compared to the rate of growth anticipated for similar communities along the Front Range in Colorado. For example, Fort Collins is expected to grow at approximately 1.8% by the year 2030, Colorado Springs is expected to grow at 1.4% by 2030, and Broomfield is expected to grow at 1.5% by 2030. Greeley, on the other hand, is expected to grow at approximately 3.1%.

In 2000, the average City household had 2.36 people, which is lower than the urbanized area average of 2.40 people, the County average of 2.45 people, and the state average of 2.48. Approximately 25% of the population in the Cheyenne urbanized area is under age 18, with 14% (9,804 people) age 5 to 14 – the predominant age of children who are most active in programmed recreational sports leagues. Twenty-five percent (25%) of households have children under the age of 18. Twelve percent (12%) of the total population in the Cheyenne urbanized area is age 65 or older. Twenty-five percent (25%) are age 18 to 34, and 37% are age 35 to 64.

Today, one in every six Americans, or 45 million people, is 60 years of age or older. In 30 years, more than 89 million Americans will be at least 60 years old, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Laramie County, the number of residents over 65 will increase over 160% by 2020.<sup>8</sup> Programs and facilities in parks will need to adjust to meet the needs of an

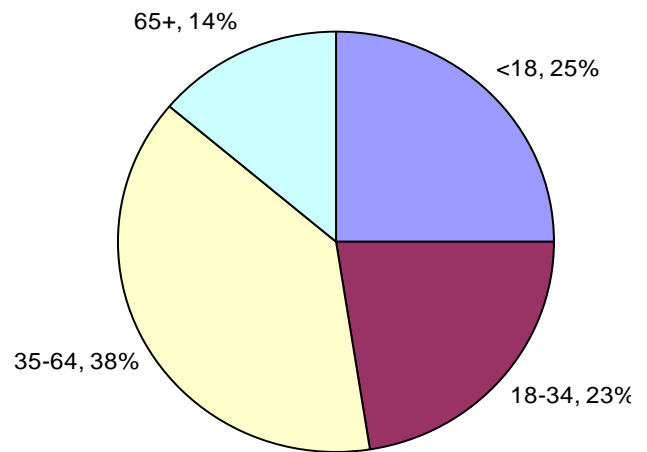


Figure 1. Age Distribution in Cheyenne, 2000  
Source: U.S. Census 2000

active, yet less mobile and athletic clientele. Being physically active is key in maintaining independence and a high quality of life. It is well-documented that older adults who practice regular physical activity tend to have improved cardiovascular health, better balance, and increased joint mobility. But in general, people become less physically active as they get older; 34 percent of people over the age of 55 are sedentary.<sup>9</sup> Challenging exercises and physical activities, done regularly, can help many older adults improve their health, even when done at a moderate level.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the ethnic makeup of the community is less diverse than national averages, with whites comprising 92.1% of the population. A small percentage of people (2.3%) were American Indian or Alaska Native, 6.4% were of Latino or Hispanic descent, 0.6% were Asians and 0.8% were Black or African American. Changes in diversity should be tracked over time to determine if changes in culturally-related programs or facility design based on ethnic preferences and culture should be made.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census

<sup>8</sup> Wyoming Dept. of Administration & Information, Economic Analysis Division.

<sup>9</sup> National Blueprint: Increasing Physical Activity Among Adults Aged 50 and Older. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2001.





## Section 12. National and State Recreational Participation Trends

Trends in the participation rates for recreational activities across the United States and in Wyoming affect what people in Cheyenne do and desire to do because people come from and visit other places, and watch and read national media. The national and state trends supplement locally generated participation data, such as the community survey that is discussed in the next section. These data provide insight into popularity trends that may mirror Cheyenne's trends, or predict trends that may affect Cheyenne in the near future. National and state trends and information may lead to changes in the types of facilities and programs that Cheyenne should offer.

### National Recreation Participation Trends

In January 2004, the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) commissioned a mail survey study by American Sports Data, Inc. to determine what sports and fitness activities American households participate in at least once per year. A total of 15,015 completed mail surveys were received, and they were balanced to reflect the latest Census demographics for age, gender, race, household income and geographic region. The weighted data was projected to the U.S. population of 260,382,000, so each respondent represents 17,341 people. The responses reflect people age six and above. The percent change indicates total change in participation numbers over the period indicated.

Table 5 shows that national recreational activity with the most participants is swimming, followed by walking, bicycling, fishing, day hiking, fitness walking, running or jogging, and basketball. Most of these are self-directed, individual activities. Many activities have seen a decline in the last 4-16 years, particularly traditional organized team sports such as volleyball, softball and baseball. In contrast, many alternative activities such as fitness walking, mountain biking, inline skating, paintball, and wall climbing have seen dramatic increases in participation.

Table 5. National Participants by Activity – All Ages

Activity	Percent Change Since 1987	2003 Participants (in Thousands)
Swimming (Recreational)	+2%	96,429 <sup>1</sup>
Walking (Recreational)	+10%	88,799 <sup>1</sup>
Bicycling (Recreational)	-2%	53,710 <sup>1</sup>
Fishing	-9%	52,970
Day Hiking	+6%	39,096 <sup>1</sup>
Fitness Walking	+40%	37,945
Running/Jogging	-3%	36,152
Basketball	-1%	35,439
Golf	+4%	27,314 <sup>1</sup>
Volleyball	-44%	20,286
Inline Skating	+310%	19,233 <sup>2</sup>
Football	-4%	17,958 <sup>3</sup>
Soccer	+15%	17,679
Tennis	-18%	17,325
Ice Skating	-9%	17,049 <sup>1</sup>
Softball	-25%	16,020 <sup>1</sup>
Horseback Riding	+9%	16,009 <sup>1</sup>
Fitness Swimming	-6%	15,899
Skateboarding	+1.9%	11,090
Baseball	-27%	10,885
Paintball	+66%	9,835 <sup>1</sup>
Artificial Wall Climbing	+20%	8,634 <sup>1</sup>
Archery	+17%	7,111
Mountain Biking	+359%	6,940 <sup>1</sup>
Bicycling (BMX)	-10%	3,365 <sup>3</sup>
Roller Hockey	+17%	2,718 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 5-year change

<sup>2</sup> 13-year change

<sup>3</sup> 4-year change

<sup>4</sup> 10-year change

*Sports Participation Topline Report, 2004 Edition, American Sports Data Inc. for SGMA*

**The national recreational activity with the highest participation is swimming, followed by walking, bicycling, fishing, day hiking, fitness walking, running or jogging, and basketball.**

According to a 2001 SGMA report<sup>7</sup>, the most popular sports for youth based on 'frequent' participation are listed below. The frequency varies for each sport and is defined by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. The frequency of participation is indicated in parentheses next to the requisite sport.

Table 6. Total National 'Frequent' Youth Sport Participation

Activity	Number of Participants ages 6-17
Basketball (52+ days/year)	11,107,000
Inline Skating (25+ days/year)	7,679,000
Swimming (52+ days/year)	7,649,000
Soccer (52+ days/year)	7,255,000
Baseball (52+ days/year)	4,751,000
Running/Jogging (100+ days/year)	3,368,000
Fishing (15+ days/year)	3,106,000
Touch Football (25+ days/year)	2,901,000
Slow-pitch Softball (25+ days/year)	2,785,000
Volleyball (27+ days/year)	2,730,000

<sup>7</sup> SGMA Superstudy, conducted annually by American Sports Data, Inc. 2001

According to national statistics, basketball is the most "frequent" participation sport for youth ages 6-17.

Basketball is the sport most participated in nationally, followed by inline skating, swimming and soccer. Baseball and slow-pitch youth softball appear to have fewer participants, but when participant numbers for the sports are combined, representing the total demand for each sport by boys and girls, baseball and slow-pitch youth softball equal the number of participants in inline skating, swimming and soccer.

Many of the sports listed are team-oriented and most require courts or fields that are designed specifically for that sport. Basketball, inline skating and swimming can be enjoyed individually as well, so those sports may have more broad appeal and total participation numbers. At the time of this

study, multiple-year trend data specifically related to youth sports, was not available. However, when youth sport data was compared to the other activities, inline skating proves a more recent phenomenon and one that many communities are starting to accommodate. Whether or not this activity continues to grow in popularity nationally, or if it has reached its peak remains to be seen.

## State of Wyoming Recreation Participation Trends

According to the Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2003-2008, the most participated in recreational activities for households statewide include:

- wildlife viewing
- driving for pleasure
- picnicking
- hiking or walking

Table 7 shows the activities that were participated in during the past year by more than 50% of all interviewed households in Wyoming.

Table 7. Most Popular Recreational Activities for Wyoming Residents

Activity	Percent of Households Participating in the Previous Year
Viewing wildlife, birds, fish, etc.	71%
Driving for pleasure on roads	66%
Picnicking and family day gatherings	66%
Hiking or walking	64%
General/other – relaxing, escaping crowds, etc.	64%
Viewing natural features (scenery, flowers, etc.)	64%
Fishing – all types	63%
Visiting historic and/or prehistoric sites/areas	54%
Fairs or festivals	50%

Most participated activities for Wyoming residents – wildlife viewing, driving for pleasure, picnicking, and hiking or walking

<sup>7</sup> SGMA Superstudy, conducted annually by American Sports Data, Inc. 2001

SCORP identified three major issues condensed from public input and user concerns: public access, maintenance, and development. Wyoming users want public lands to remain accessible. One issue important to citizens is that recreation opportunities and future land uses be compatible.

Maintenance is a major concern, and many users agree that maintenance should be a joint effort between the local government and the community. Routines for preventive maintenance of facilities should be established where lacking.

Development and expansion of recreation facilities is a challenge for local governments due to changing trends and public preferences. The user community should be involved in recreation planning to some degree to make it a more productive effort and more reflective of actual user desires.



Converse Park

Respondents of the SCORP were presented a series of statements and asked if they could provide the most support or least support for the statement. The statements focused on expanding outdoor recreation with contributions from federal, state, local and private entities. The following statement received the most support:

- Having recreation areas close to my home improves my quality of life.
- New or additional partnerships should be developed between the private sector and local,
- state and federal agencies to develop and maintain outdoor recreation.

- Efforts should be made to acquire additional recreation lands from individuals or other
- entities interested in selling or donating lands.
- The state should provide support and assistance to local organizations for expanding their recreation facilities.

The Wyoming Recreation plan also identified four major state-wide needs related to recreation facilities:

1. **Recreation centers** – obtain more space for recreation centers by
  - Building new facilities
  - Rehabilitating or expanding existing centers
  - Convert other space to recreation center
  - Attach recreation center space to another public facility, such as a school
2. **Aquatic facilities** – develop more leisure pools, spray parks, indoor water slides, etc.
3. **Trails and greenways** – expand, enhance or create additional trails and greenways.
4. **Expand outdoor athletic fields** – focus on soccer, baseball and football fields.

The statements of support and needs that were identified by the Wyoming Recreation plan closely parallel those identified in the Cheyenne Citizens Survey discussed in the following section. How these needs relate specifically to Cheyenne was not identified in the SCORP as it was conducted on a statewide level. However, the City of Cheyenne is already undertaking measures on a local level to meet the types of needs identified in the Wyoming SCORP. A comprehensive Cheyenne citizens community survey was conducted indicating strong public support for the construction of an indoor recreation center with aquatic facilities, additional Greenways, and the continued upgrades and maintenance of outdoor athletic fields. Various user groups around the city were also surveyed about these issues and they too showed a strong desire to see additional aquatic facilities and outdoor athletic fields added to the City's park system.



The City of Cheyenne will continue to proactively develop park and recreation facilities in order to meet the needs of it's citizens. Although residents residing outside of Cheyenne may occasionally use the city's park and recreation facilities, it is not the city's objective to provide amenities for statewide use.



Dry Creek Parkway



Jaycee Park

## Section 13. Cheyenne Citizen Surveys

Two recent surveys of Cheyenne residents provide information regarding citizens' satisfaction, recreational habits and support for additional facilities and improvements to Parks and Recreation Department services. From these surveys there is strong community support and demand for various aspects of the Cheyenne parks and recreation system, especially the parks, greenways, Botanic Gardens, swimming pools and adult/youth recreation programs. Areas that are need of most improvement include access to adequately-sized neighborhood parks, maintenance of and improvements to existing parks, and provision of adult and youth recreation services. There is clearly a demand for an indoor, multi-purpose recreation center, but split support for actually financing it. The summaries below provide more detail on the results of the surveys.

### 2005 City of Cheyenne Citizen Survey

The Wyoming Center for Business and Economic Analysis, at Laramie County Community College conducted a survey of Cheyenne residents in the spring of 2005 as they have for the past 10 years. This survey is intended to determine residents' perceptions about their overall quality of life, document the levels of satisfaction regarding city services, and identify important issues and improvement areas within Cheyenne. Regarding overall quality of life in Cheyenne, there has been little change over the past 8 years, with 84% saying it was good or very good.

### Satisfaction Levels

Ratings for satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Department services varied depending upon the specific service. The Botanic Gardens received the highest satisfaction rating of any city service, with a mean rating of 83.1%. City parks, greenway and park tree maintenance were in the top 5 with ratings of 79.1%, 78.9% and 78.1% respectively. Trees in new parks, cemeteries and golf courses rated 74.3%, 70.9% and 67.8% respectively. Adult and youth recreation was rated lower, at 64.9%. These satisfaction ratings have been fairly consistent since 2000, varying only 3 to 5% in all parks and recreation-related categories.

### Importance

Services related to leisure time activities were rated lower in importance than emergency services and utilities, which is consistent with past years and expected given the nature of the services. However, city parks are considered important or very important by 83.8% of the residents. Other importance ratings were: adult/youth recreation (82.6%), planting new trees in parks (79.8%), park tree maintenance (79.3%), cemeteries (78%), Botanic Gardens (77.1%), Greenway (76.8%), art in public places (74.3%) and city golf courses (67.7%).

### Needed Improvements

The survey listed 19 possible improvement areas for which citizens were asked to rate their support. The highest rated areas for improvement were snow removal (80.1%), wind generation of electricity (80.0%) and "Improve existing parks" (77.5%). Other areas with higher ratings included -- city appearance/landscaping (76.0%), develop new parks (70.4%), greenway expansion (69.2%) and more open space (66.2%). Botanic Gardens expansion (63.9%) and city golf course expansion (57.5%) were 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

### Indoor Recreation Center

A specific question was asked regarding support for an indoor recreation center. Sixty-four percent (64%) responded that they are in support of an indoor recreation center. Of those respondents, 80% said they were willing to help pay for it. This could be interpreted to mean that approximately 50% of the respondents would be willing to support a financing tool that relied heavily on the residents to construct a recreation center.

- The Botanic Gardens received the highest satisfaction score of 83.1%.
- Improving existing parks was the third highest rated area for needed improvements (77.5%).
- 64% of respondents support the construction of an indoor recreation center.

## 2004 Parks and Recreation Survey

The City of Cheyenne commissioned EDAW Inc. of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Left Brain Concepts, Inc. of Lakewood, Colorado to conduct a statistically-valid mail-in survey of Cheyenne residents specifically related to the Parks and Recreation Department. The objectives of the survey were to help the City better serve residents by

- understanding their satisfaction with Cheyenne’s parks,
- gathering opinions regarding the amount and quality of parks and recreational facilities, levels of participation in various recreation and athletic endeavors, and
- willingness to pay for additional facilities.

## Methodology

The survey was conducted via the US Postal Service in November 2004. A total of 2000 surveys were mailed to a random sample of households in and around Cheyenne in the 82001, 82007 and 82009 zip codes. Surveys were not mailed to F.E. Warren Air Force Base. Because there are no residences in the 82002 zip code, no surveys were mailed to households in that zip code. Figure 1 shows the locations of the 3 zip codes in Cheyenne.

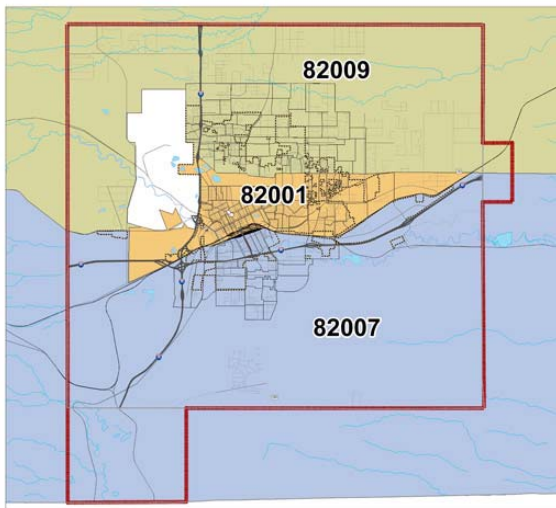


Figure 2. City Zip Code Areas

Of the 2000 respondents who received surveys, 17.5% eligible responses were returned. A total of 383 responses were received, 350 of which were from within the Cheyenne city limits. Responses from area residents who did not live within the city limits were not included. The results of this

survey have a sampling error of plus or minus 5% and are summarized in this section. The complete survey report and survey instrument are located in Appendix B.

## Satisfaction

- Three-quarters of residents (72%) are satisfied with the quality of Cheyenne parks and approximately three-quarters of residents (72%) are satisfied with the level of maintenance in the City’s parks as well. Roughly one-half (52%) of residents said that parks and trails are easily accessible from their home, and about one-half (48%) indicated that they are satisfied with the quality of recreation programs.

	Percent Stating Why They Like Their Favorite Park
Walking Trails	44%
Lake, Pond, Water	31%
Lots of Activities	20%
The Botanical Gardens	19%
Large/Open Space	18%
Well Landscaped	15%
Close/Convenient	15%
Good/Safe Playground Equipment	14%
Amount/Quality of Trees	14%

Figure 3. Reason Parks are Favorites

- Lions, Holliday, and Mylar were mentioned most frequently as parks that are closest to homes. In the two areas where these parks are located (82001 and 82009, which are central and north Cheyenne) the City parks received 72% to 87% good to excellent ratings.
- Lions and Holliday Parks were citizens’ favorite parks overall, with 59% mentioning Lions and 22% stating Holliday as their favorite parks. The most common reasons why residents’ favorite parks were considered so were because they had walking trails, water features, the Botanic Garden, a wide range of activities, large open spaces, nice landscaping and trees, and good playground equipment. Being close and convenient were also key factors .
- Residents were asked to specifically rate the parks closest to their homes (as opposed to the question above, which asked why a particular park was their favorite.) The most common reasons given for a fair or



poor park rating include ; parks do not contain activities of interest, parks are too small in size, parks have insufficient playground equipment or parks are poorly maintained and/or landscaped.

Park Ratings of Fair/Poor	
Lack of activities in the park	16%
Too small	12%
Not clean / trash / broken glass	12%
No / not enough playground equipment	11%
The lake smells bad	9%
No trees / no mature trees	8%
Lacks good landscaping	7%
Teenagers / gangs hang out	7%
Not enough benches / picnic benches	7%
Bathrooms are dirty	7%
Poorly maintained	7%

Figure 4. Reason Closest Park Received Fair to Poor Rating

- Residents that gave their nearby parks good or excellent ratings did so for the same reasons they liked their favorite parks, the parks have walking trails, and wide open spaces among other things.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of all respondents said that parks are not equitably distributed throughout the City, with people in central and south Cheyenne (zip code areas 82001 and 82007) feeling much more strongly so than people in north Cheyenne (zip code area 82009).
- People in north Cheyenne (zip code area 82009) were three times more likely than those in central Cheyenne (zip code area 82001) to say that the trail system provides good connections. North Cheyenne residents also felt that overall parks and trails were more accessible from their homes compared to the other two areas of the City.

**38% of all respondents said that parks are not equitably distributed throughout the city, with people in the central/south portion of the city feeling more strongly those in the north.**

- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Cheyenne residents visit a city park at least once a month. Only 46% of Cheyenne residents use the park nearest their home at least 1 time per month and More than half (54%) rarely or never use parks nearest their home. The reasons most frequently cited for not using parks more were: the distance from home (40%), lack of facilities/activities that were of interest (38%), rowdy behavior of other users (35%), overcrowding (29%) and poor maintenance (25%).

### Popular Activities

- The most popular self-directed adult recreational activities are walking in a park (88%) or on a trail system (66%). People participate in walking frequently, 1/4 to 1/3 of respondents walk 21 or more times per year.
- Biking on a trail system, jogging, indoor swimming, golf, and weights/cardiovascular exercise are enjoyed by approximately 40% of the population on a fairly frequent basis.

Adult Activity	Times Per Year			
	1-5	6-20	21+	Never
Walking or other general park activity	28%	25%	35%	12%
Picnic in a park	57%	15%	6%	22%
Attend community fairs / festivals	59%	11%	2%	28%
Walking or hiking on a trail system	25%	19%	24%	32%
Attend outdoor concerts / performances	47%	10%	1%	42%
Biking on a trail system	17%	11%	14%	58%
Indoor swimming	20%	11%	9%	60%
Jogging / running	15%	6%	18%	61%
Golf	16%	13%	10%	61%
Weights / cardiovascular	8%	9%	21%	62%
Fishing	20%	8%	8%	64%

Figure 5. Most Popular Adult Activities

- The most popular activities for children are the indoor swimming pool (57%), playground equipment (56%) and fishing (40%). Indoor basketball (27%) is the most popular programmed sport followed by soccer (23%), baseball (22%) and football (21%). When baseball and softball are combined, the families that use ballfields represent 37% of all families. Of the activities on the survey, children's participation is lowest for in-line skating, skateboarding, ice hockey, tennis and in-line hockey. Although these emerging self-directed sports have gained tremendous popularity over the last few years, their overall participation rates are still less than that of more traditional sports activities. The rate of

participation in these activities is consistent with the national trend data generated by the SGMA 2001 survey.

	% of Families with Children Who Participate
Indoor swimming	57%
Use of playground equipment	56%
Fishing	40%
Outdoors swimming	28%
Indoor basketball	27%
Weights / cardiovascular	23%
Indoor exercise programs	23%
Jogging / running	23%
Soccer	23%
Baseball	22%
Football	21%
Ice skating	21%
Golf	19%
Gymnastics	17%
Outdoors basketball	17%
Softball	15%
Volleyball	15%
Dance classes	15%
Use of arts and crafts facilities	15%
BMX bicycling	13%
Use of climbing wall	12%
In-line skating	12%
Skateboarding	12%
Ice hockey	10%
Tennis	9%
In-line hockey	5%

Figure 6. Most Popular Children's Activities



Greater Cheyenne Greenway

**45% of all people said there are not enough natural areas within urban parks; 44% said there are not enough natural surface trails, open space areas or paved trails.**

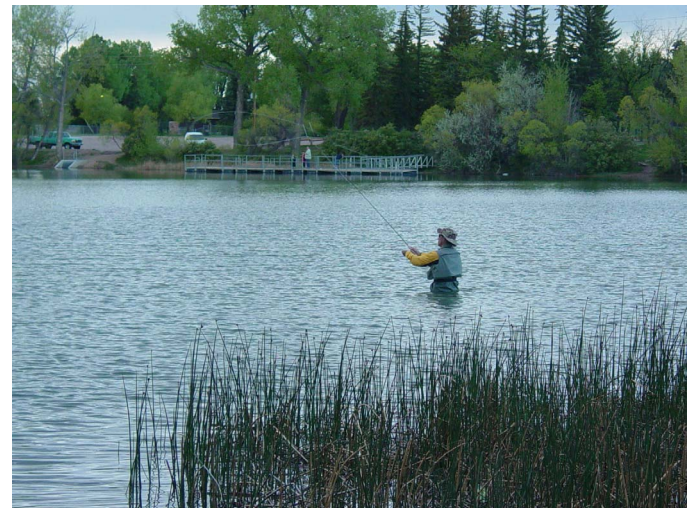
### Facility Quantity and Willingness to Pay for Additional Facilities

- One-third to almost one-half of all people said there were not enough of the following facilities:
  - natural areas within urban parks (45%)
  - natural surface trails (44%)
  - natural open space areas (44%)
  - paved trails (44%)
  - outdoor performance areas (43%)
  - outdoor education / nature areas (39%)
  - public gyms (36%)
- Respondents indicating that Cheyenne is lacking facilities outnumbers those who indicated that Cheyenne has enough facilities by almost a 2 to 1 margin.
- Thirty percent (30%) of respondents said that there were not enough indoor recreational pools compared to 22% who said there were enough.
- The community showed a strong demand for more picnic facilities (33%), nearby fishing (32%) and areas for community events (32%), but these respondents did not necessary greatly outnumber those who felt there were enough of these facilities.
- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents said that the City needs a centralized recreation center that provides a variety of indoor recreational activities. Forty-one percent (41%) said they are willing to pay addition taxes or fees to support such a facility and 31% said they would not.
- Fifty percent (50%) of respondents said that they would support additional taxes or fees to improve and expand the City's parks and trails and 26% said they would not.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents said that they do not believe that parks are equitably distributed throughout the city while 41% believe that they are.

- Thirty-seven percent (37%) are not satisfied with the amount of open space in the Cheyenne area and 31% are satisfied.
- Forty-three percent (43%) said that they would support additional taxes and fees to increase the amount of protected open lands near the City and 29% said they would not.
- When asked what features would be desirable in an open space area in Cheyenne, respondents are most interested in “water bodies, including creeks, lakes and ponds” and “areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features.”



Holliday Park Lake



Fly Casting

Facility	Percent Stating "Enough"	Percent Stating "Not Enough"
Natural areas within urban parks	21%	45%
Natural surface trails	23%	44%
Natural open space areas	23%	44%
Paved trails	28%	44%
Performance areas for event / concerts	28%	43%
Outdoor education / nature centers	18%	39%
Public gyms	18%	36%
Picnic facilities	42%	33%
Nearby fishing	25%	32%
Areas for community events	40%	32%
Indoor recreation pool	22%	30%
Outdoor recreation pool	17%	28%
Indoor lap / competitive pool	22%	27%
Dog park areas	22%	26%
Playgrounds	39%	25%
Skateboards / skate park	20%	23%
Outdoor lap / competitive pool	17%	22%
Indoor community rooms	21%	22%
Golf courses	36%	21%
Exercise equipment	26%	21%
Paintball area	12%	21%
BMX bike area	18%	20%

**50% of respondents said they would support additional taxes or fees to improve city parks and trails; 26% said they would not.**

Figure 7. Opinions on Facility Quantity





## Section 14. Recreation and Sport Program Participation and Needs

The Recreation Division, Aquatics Division and private, non-profit sports organizations provide recreational programs for people of all ages and abilities in Cheyenne. These programs, which are in demand by City residents, drive the need for constructing, operating and maintaining a host of facilities, all of which require planning and funding in order to be successful. This section documents the participation rates of the most popular, facility-intensive programs, issues that the City Recreation and Aquatics Divisions face in the operation of facilities and programs, and issues of the private organizations that use City facilities. The information in this section was obtained from interviews with City recreation staff and interviews with non-profit recreation organizations that provide activities to the citizens of Cheyenne.



Adult Volleyball

The City Recreation and Aquatics Divisions provide recreational and leisure time programs for:

- Adult softball
- Youth gymnastics
- Basketball

- Tennis
- Adult volleyball
- Youth in-line roller hockey
- Youth track special events
- Instructional and classroom activities (bowling, fitness, hunter safety, art, dance, music, chess, dog obedience, etc.)
- Swimming, water fitness and water safety

The City also provides facilities that are leased to or rented by private or non-profit recreational organizations, such as:

- Tournament organizers
- Junior League Baseball
- Cheyenne Baseball Club
- Cheyenne Girls' Softball Association
- Cheyenne Soccer Association
- Cheyenne Lacrosse Club
- Skyhawks Sports Academy
- Swim teams
- Other clubs and service organizations

Needs cited by the Recreation Division and private organizations specifically include:

- A multi-purpose, multi-generational recreation center, including gym courts, fitness equipment, community rooms, dance and aerobic rooms and family leisure pool;
- An 8-lane competition pool with spectator seating for State swim meets;
- Adequately configured girl's softball fields;
- More practice ball fields and infielding facilities to prevent damage to the game fields, which could partially be accommodated in neighborhood parks for youth if the parks were adequately sized and designed;
- An updated master plan for Pioneer Park to determine use of the undeveloped 6 acres;

- An indoor-outdoor paintball facility;
- Remodeling the old Community House;
- More drop-in activities indoor and in parks (e.g. BMX, water play, mini-golf, go-karts); and
- More indoor facilities for kids in the summer recreation camp.

One major limitation for City Recreation is the lack of gyms dedicated to complete use by the public. This issue was also cited in the Existing Parks, Recreation Lands and Facilities section.

Currently, the Recreation Division uses school facilities extensively for basketball, volleyball, dodgeball and other indoor programs. The school gyms are only available after school programs are done and are now over capacity. These factors result in programs extending later into the evenings and decreasing participation due to the late activity times.

The City would like to have direct control of indoor courts to better serve Cheyenne residents. The need for a new recreation facility with a gym containing 4-6 multi-purpose courts is noted has been expressed in the community survey.

One option presented to ease the strain on school gyms and declining participation in city programs is the expansion of the Neighborhood Facility. The expansion may be possible; however, the site is not large enough to accommodate a complete multi-purpose recreation center. A complete multi-purpose recreation center should be in a single location in order to be economical, effective, and functional..

The City recently considered the purchase of Storey Gym from the School District but declined due to potentially extensive renovation costs and concerns about operational inefficiency. † Even if the City constructs a new multiple use facility, schools will still be needed to accommodate City and non-profit organization programs.

## Program Participation and Needs

To determine recreation participation rates in high-use or emerging recreation programs that require specialized facilities, data and comments from the City of Cheyenne Recreation Division were documented, along with information received from a variety of recreational user groups in the Cheyenne area. The user group surveys

included questions about the quality of facilities used, standard facility sizes, need for additional facilities and percentage of participants who are City vs. County residents. The results of these surveys represent the opinions of those interviewed and may not be reflective of other opinions in the community. Examining the results of the 2004 Parks and Recreation Survey also gives insight into the level of participation of various sports by both adults and youth in Cheyenne.

The general trend in City-sponsored recreation programs is that participation in adult sports activities is increasing, while participation in youth sports is declining. Participation by all age groups in instructional activities is steady. This is somewhat different from the national trend data. Although there has been a decline in casual pick up play of many team sports such as baseball, softball, and basketball, play on organized teams in youth leagues and high school has increased. While the SGMA study does not specifically segment participation in sports for adults, in general, participation on a national level in most activities has remained steady.

## Basketball Programs



Basketball Tournament

Basketball is a popular activity for both youth and adults. The City of Cheyenne offers programs in fall, winter and spring to all ages. Adult practices and games are held at Carey Jr. High School and Johnson Jr. High School. Youth practices and games are held at Afflerbach Elementary





# RECREATION & SPORT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION & NEEDS

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

14

School, Anderson Elementary School, and Pioneer Park Elementary School. Practices are also held at Alta Visa Elementary School, Bain Elementary School, Buffalo Ridge Elementary School, Dildine Elementary School, Henderson Elementary School, Jessup Elementary School, and Davis Elementary School.

Frontier Refining, Inc. sponsors a youth basketball tournament each spring for boys grades 4-9 and girls grades 5-8. The tournament brings teams from Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Nebraska to Cheyenne for several days of

competitive basketball. Games are held at local gymnasiums throughout Cheyenne, including Laramie Community College, Storey Gym, East High School, Carey Jr. High School, Johnson Jr. High School, McCormick Jr. High School, Afflerbach Elementary School, and Pioneer Park Elementary School.

Skyhawks Sports Academy offers a youth basketball camp in summer for ages 6-14. The camp takes place at Storey Gym. Table 8 shows historic participation levels for basketball activities. According to these programs statistics, participation in the City's recreation basketball program has

Table 8. Historic Numbers of Participants in Basketball Programs

Youth Basketball, Co-Rec, Grade 2 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	90
2000	66
2001	66
2002	51
2003	71
Boys' Basketball, Gr. 3-4 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	171
2000	134
2001	144
2002	128
2003	107
Boys' Basketball, Gr. 5-6 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	129
2000	103
2001	97
2002	78
2003	88
Boys' Basketball, Gr. 5-6 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	129
2000	103
2001	97
2002	78
2003	88
Boys' Basketball, Gr. 7-9 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	129
2000	103
2001	97
2002	78
2003	88
Girls' Basketball, Gr. 3-4 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	71
2000	77
2001	82
2002	69
2003	48
Girls' Basketball, Gr. 5-6 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	61
2000	48
2001	59
2002	58
2003	82

Girls' Basketball, Gr. 7-9 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	37
2000	24
2001	18
2002	15
2003	20
Youth Basketball Tournament, Boys Gr. 4-6 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	220
2000	230
2001	350
2002	320
2003	240
2004	280
Youth Basketball Tournament, Boys Gr. 7-9 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	310
2000	320
2001	280
2002	260
2003	250
2004	230
Youth Basketball Tournament, Girls Gr. 5-8 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	270
2000	350
2001	400
2002	380
2003	420
2004	240
Adult Basketball (C)	Number of Participants
1999	320
2000	350
2001	330
2002	310
2003	330
2004	280
Skyhawks Basketball Camp (P)	Number of Participants
1999	40
2000	46
2001	0
2002	0
2003	250
2004	65

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

generally declined in the past 5-6 years. The reason for this decline is not clear as population has increased during this time frame. One theory is that the kids are participating more through school programs. No specific needs for basketball programs were identified by any of those organizations providing recreational basketball.

### Adult and Youth Baseball Programs

Several private non-profit organizations offer youth and adult baseball programs on City fields. The Cheyenne Junior League sponsors youth coed recreational baseball. Around 500 players participate in this private program each year. The Junior League Baseball program is run solely by volunteers and is overseen by 10 to 20 Board of Directors members. The organization leases the Junior League Baseball Complex from the City; the Complex has nine fields, three for the two youngest divisions (Rookie 5-6 & AA 7-8) and six each for the two older divisions (AAA 9-10 & Majors). The fields are also used by Cheyenne Junior League All-Star teams (ages 10-12) and by Cheyenne Baseball Club competitive teams for practice. Junior league fields also host the Howard Dunbar Memorial Tournament over 4th of July weekend. The tournament draws approximately 50 teams from Wyoming and surrounding states. Cheyenne Youth Baseball, Inc. has two leagues, a coed minor league for those ages 13-15 and a coed major league for those ages 14-16. They have a lease for four fields at the Dutcher Complex. They report operating at full capacity with a waiting list. Cheyenne Baseball, Inc. operated by the American Legion has three divisions. There is a coed prep division for those ages 14-16, a coed jr. varsity division for those ages 16-18, and a coed varsity division for those ages 17-19. They utilize Powers Field as their primary field in which the American Legion contributed over \$1,000,000 to help construct. As such they have a 15 year lease for games and practices. They also the field at Pioneer Park and the Mike Lansing Field at Dutcher for backup and overflow. The Sr. Babe Ruth league is for youth ages 13 -17. Additionally, there is an adult baseball league is offered by the City of Cheyenne for adults of any age. Adults can also play in the Mexican Adult leagues.

The City of Cheyenne maintains all fields through the parks division. Any tree plantings, removals or pruning are done so by the forestry division. There were no major issues identified with the quantity or quality of baseball fields, except as mentioned by the Parks Division regarding the overuse of game fields early in the season for practices, which deteriorates field quality. When compared to the facilities of similar communities in the Rocky Mountain West, Cheyenne has an adequate number of baseball fields. Cheyenne Baseball, Inc., however, did express a need for an indoor facility to practice in the winter. Currently they rent out local warehouses for winter practice. Table 9 shows historic participation levels for baseball.

Table 9. Historic Numbers of Participants in Baseball Programs

<b>Rookie League Junior League Baseball (P) (Coed 5-6)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2005	100
<b>AA League Junior League Baseball (P) (Coed 7-8)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2003	250
2004	250
2005	150
<b>AAA League Junior League Baseball (P) (Coed 9-10)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2003	150
2004	150
2005	150
<b>Majors League Junior League Baseball (P) (Coed 11-12)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2003	140
2004	140
2005	140

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

### Softball Programs

Girls' softball is offered by the Cheyenne Girls' Softball Association (CGSA), a private, non-profit organization. An average of 400-450 players participate in this private program each year. Currently there are 30 recreational teams as well as 5 competitive teams. Demand is increasing yearly but without more fields, more teams cannot be added. The CGSA currently shares fields at Converse and Martin Luther King parks with adult teams, however, the CGSA feels strongly that the girls of Cheyenne would benefit from a dedicated girls softball facility. Fences in current facilities are set for adult leagues and are too long for girls' softball. Ideally CGSA would like to have 4 fields - two with 175' fences and two with 200' fences.

The number of games that can be played by CGSA teams is limited due to lack of available fields, and the ability to reschedule rainouts is difficult. All teams in CGSA currently play 10 games per year recreationally but would like to increase to the number of games played to 12-14.

Another issue facing the CGSA is that teams have limited spaces for practice because all allotted times on fields are taken up by games. Practices are generally held in gravel school playgrounds, open spaces in parks, and sometimes in coaches' pastures. Wyoming schools do not offer softball or softball facilities, and grassy areas at schools have been off-limits for the last 3 years due to drought. Additionally, the teams compete for limited desirable city practice spaces with baseball and soccer programs.

Men's, women's and co-ed adult softball is offered by the City of Cheyenne each summer. Games and practices are held at Dunbar Field in Lion's Park, Brimmer Softball Complex, or Converse Softball Complex. Table 10 shows historic participation levels for softball.

Table 10. Historic Numbers of Participants in Softball Programs

<b>Cheyenne Girls' Softball Association (P) (Girls 6-18)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
1999	450
2000	450
2001	425
2002	400
2003	400
2004	425
<b>Adult Co-Rec Softball (C)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2001	700
2002	660
2003	660
2004	530
<b>Women's Softball (C)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
1999	70
2001	30
2002	330
2003	290
2004	230
<b>Men's Softball (C)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
1999	140
2000	130
2001	130
2002	300
2003	270
2004	230

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)



Adult Baseball



### Tennis Programs

Tennis is largely a self-directed activity which occurs on courts throughout the City. Tennis lessons for youth and adults are offered by the City year-round and take place at courts at East High School or indoors at Frontier Park Tennis Center during fall/winter/spring. The lack of tennis courts in the north and northwest portion of the City is a concern for Tennis provision.

Table 11 shows historic participation levels for tennis activities. Interest in tennis lessons seems to have declined somewhat in the past few years and overall, the number of facilities appears to be currently adequate. However, by the year 2030, there may be a need for additional tennis facilities to meet the growing population.

Table 11. Historic Numbers of Participants in Tennis Programs

Junior Beginning Tennis (C)	Number of Participants
1999	8
2000	7
2001	79
2002	29
2003	8
2004	9
Junior Intermediate Tennis (C)	Number of Participants
2001	14
2002	15
2003	8
2004	15
Junior Tennis, All Levels (C)	Number of Participants
1999	20
2000	12
2001	60
2002	34
2003	50
2004	22
Junior Tennis Camp (C)	Number of Participants
2001	22
Adult Beginning Tennis (C)	Number of Participants
1999	71
2000	68
2001	47
2002	2
2003	6
2004	9
Adult Intermediate Tennis (C)	Number of Participants
1999	21
2000	58
2001	54
2002	20
2003	15

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

### Volleyball Programs

Men's, women's and co-ed adult volleyball is offered by the City of Cheyenne in fall, winter and spring. Games and practices are held at Laramie County Community College, Carey Jr. High School, McCormick Jr. High School, and Dildine Elementary School. No specific needs were identified by the Recreation division for volleyball. Table 12 shows historic participation levels for volleyball.

Table 12. Historic Numbers of Participants in Volleyball Programs

Adult Co-Rec Volleyball (C)	Number of Participants
2001	470
2002	450
2003	470
2004	460
Women's Volleyball (C)	Number of Participants
1999	380
2000	320
2001	270
2002	320
2003	370
2004	320
Men's Volleyball (C)	Number of Participants
2000	160
2001	130
2002	130
2003	150
2004	80

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)



Adult Co-Rec Volleyball

### Soccer Programs

The Cheyenne Soccer Association (CSA) offers an extensive soccer program for youth and adults in the Fall and Spring using fields in City parks. Practices are held at fields throughout Cheyenne, although scheduling of practice fields is often difficult. Games are played at Cahill Park and North Cheyenne Community Park. According to CSA all fields are irrigated and in very good condition. CSA also offers the TOPS program in the summer at Alta Vista Elementary School, which is soccer for disabled youth ages 5-19.

Skyhawks Sports Academy offers a private soccer camp for youth ages 8-15 in the summer. The camp is held at Cahill Park soccer fields. Table 13 shows historic participation levels for soccer programs. It has been indicated by both soccer organizations that finding practice space is becoming increasingly difficult and that the addition of more fields would be beneficial.

Table 13. Historic Numbers of Participants in Soccer Programs

<b>Cheyenne Soccer Association Youth Soccer U6-U19 (P)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2000	1,300
2001	1,200
2002	1,100
2003	1,200
2004	1,300
<b>Cheyenne Soccer Association TOPS Soccer Ages 5-19 (P)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2000	15-20 per year
2001	15-20 per year
2002	15-20 per year
2003	15-20 per year
2004	15-20 per year
<b>Cheyenne Soccer Association Adult Soccer Over 18 (P)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2004	88
<b>Skyhawks Soccer Camp (P)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
1999	51
2000	45
2001	47
2002	44
2003	43
2004	41

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

### Football Programs

The City of Cheyenne offers adult flag football for people ages 18 and over. Practices and games for adult leagues are held at Converse fields. Table 14 shows historic participation levels for the City of Cheyenne programmed football programs. They YMCA also offers youth football programs. They offer a flag football "everybody plays, everybody wins" program where score is not kept for ages 2 ½ to 12. Approximately 350 kids participate in this program for six weeks beginning in September. The cost is \$20 for members and \$35 for non-members. The YMCA also offers a tackle football program for youth, ages 9 to 12 and there are approximately 200 participants in this program. The season lasts eight weeks in the fall. The cost for the tackle program is \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members and they play other teams from outside the Cheyenne area. The YMCA provides all equipment for both programs except for shoes and personal clothes and requests that no junior high school students participate as they have options to participate in football programs through the school system.

Table 14. Historic Numbers of Participants in Football Programs

<b>Adult Flag Football (C)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2002	156
2003	180
2004	144

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

### Skating Programs

The City of Cheyenne does not offer ice skating, however the IKON Ice and Events Center, a private entity, does offer lessons for youth and adults. Table 15 shows historic levels of participation in IKON skating programs.

Table 15. Historic Numbers of Participants in Skating Programs

<b>Ice Skating Lessons (P)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
2000	65
<b>Roller and Inline Skating Lessons (C)</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
1999	4
2000	9
2001	11
2002	12
2003	0
2004	2

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)



Brimmer Skate Park

### Lacrosse Programs

The Cheyenne Lacrosse Club is a relatively new, all-volunteer organization that offers competitive lacrosse for about 100 participants per year for coed grades 5-8 and boys grades 9-12. The Club is having difficulty finding available City fields for practices and games. Some games and practices have been scheduled at Brimmer Park. Demand is increasing yearly, which is a trend nationally. Table 16 shows historic participation levels for lacrosse. programs.

Table 16. Historic Numbers of Participants in Lacrosse Programs

Cheyenne Lacrosse Club (P) Coed Grades 5-8, Boys Grades 10-12	Number of Participants
2003	100

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

### Roller Hockey Programs

The City of Cheyenne offers a coed youth roller hockey league for ages 6-12 at Pinnacle Bank Roller Hockey Pad at Pioneer Park. Overall there is a national trend of increasing participation in this activity. However, Cheyenne currently has one available facility and no need for additional space was identified by the Recreation division as interest has been extremely low and the division has been unable to program the pad for 2004 or 2005. Table 17 shows historic participation levels for roller hockey programs.

Table 17. Historic Numbers of Participants in Roller Hockey Programs

Roller Hockey League, Ages 6-9 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	56
2000	52
2001	41
2002	27
2003	29

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

### Gymnastics Programs

The gymnastics program in Cheyenne is popular, averaging over 1300 participants per year in the entire program. The program teaches children a range of skills from basic fundamentals to advanced skills on Olympic Gymnastic apparatus. The neighborhood facility is fully equipped for all levels of gymnastics and children ages 2 to 18 participate in over 21 classes at the facility. A new addition to the gymnastics program is a co-ed competitive team structured to meet the goals of USA Gymnastics. One challenge to the Cheyenne Gymnastics program is staffing. There is a general shortage of qualified gymnastics instructors in Wyoming due to the fact that neither high school nor college-level gymnastics are offered within the state. The closest college gymnastics program is in Nebraska.

Table 18. Gymnastics Programs

Class	Boys 1	Boys 2	Cheer 1	Gym 1	Gym 2	Gym 3	Gym 3/4	Home School	Parent Tot	Preschool 1	Preschool 2	Total
2004 Number of Participants	49	11	67	310	58	38	49	32	297	360	169	1440
2003 Number of Participants	75	21	0	300	109	51	38	112	226	401	59	1392
2002 Number of Participants	24	0	0	222	103	31	68	0	128	162	0	738
2001 Number of Participants	0	0	0	383	207	103	155	0	160	255	0	1263
2000 Number of Participants	0	0	0	561	315	170	259	0	215	307	0	1827
Averages	29.6	6.4	13.4	355.2	158.4	78.6	113.8	28.8	205.2	297	45.6	1332



### Aquatics Programs

Swimming in general is a popular activity for residents in Cheyenne, with more than ½ of children and 40% of adults participating in indoor swimming. Swimming programs popular with Cheyenne residents include swimming lessons for youth and adults. Swimming programs are offered year-round at the Municipal Pool. A swimming lesson program is also offered for children in day care at the Johnson Pool during the summer. Table 19 shows historic participation levels for swimming-related activities.

Table 19. Historic Numbers of Participants in Aquatics Programs

Swimming Lessons, Youth and Adult (C)	Number of Participants
2003	1,586
2004	1,094
Youth Swim Team (C)	Number of Participants
2003	207
2004	134
Water Exercise Classes (C)	Number of Participants
2003	1,261
2004	754
Recreational Swim (C)	Number of Participants
2000	27,181
2001	25,457
2002	40,329
2003	54,379
Lap Swim (C)	Number of Participants
2000	13,147
2001	12,671
2002	13,785
2003	14,586

There is a swim team associated with each of the four private pools in the city, F.E. Warren Aquatic Center, Buffalo Ridge, Cole and the Cheyenne Country Club. The YMCA, and the Municipal Pool also have swim teams in both the school year as well as the summer, and the Johnson Pool hosts a small swim team in the summer as well.

Other agencies also use City pools and lakes for their events and training exercises. Sloan's Lake is used by both the City of Cheyenne Fire Department and Laramie County Search and Rescue to practice ice and underwater search and rescue operations. The Boy Scouts, YMCA, and Central High School PE department have used the lake for canoe skills and safety instruction.



Sloan's Lake Beach

The YMCA and Boys and Girls Club use both the Municipal Pool and Johnson Pool for a variety of events. Municipal Pool has been used by the Army and Air National Guards for physical and water safety training. Laramie County School District #1 and #2 occasionally use Municipal Pool for group swims, and one private school in Cheyenne uses it for lessons. Home school groups also schedule the pool once per month for private swim time. Finally, the Youth Alternatives program of Cheyenne brings in youth that have court-ordered community service to clean the Municipal Pool facility.



Municipal Pool

One concept presented by participants and residents interested in swimming is that a competitive indoor swimming pool is needed in Cheyenne. Competitive swimming does not usually occur at the Municipal pool due to the lack of seating and the limited pool space. Currently the only facility that is suitable for competitive swimming indoors and State or regional swim meets is in Gillette, Wyoming. Most swimmers feel a great competitive swimming venue would not only highlight Cheyenne as the capitol city of Wyoming, but bring economic benefits to the City as well. Other needs for the pool were identified in the pool expansion project mentioned previously and include reconfiguring restrooms, improving access, adding a therapy pool, adding a multi purpose room, and adding a family locker room among others.



Johnson Pool

## Section 15. Summary of Issues and Needs

Cheyenne has growing parks and recreation system that is strongly supported within the community; however, the system is in need of updates, repairs and additions especially as the city grows in population and area.

### Community Parks

- Lions Park represents the type of park that people like the most, with a variety of activities, numerous amenities, water features and abundant landscaping.
- Cheyenne has more community parkland and sports complexes than many other communities, as well as a variety of specific sports facilities within those complexes. The continued maintenance and upgrading of these facilities is critical to meeting the expectations of city residents.
- Additional community parks will need to be developed in coming years to continue to provide a similar level of service to the growing population in and around Cheyenne.

### Neighborhood Parks

In contrast to the provision of Community parks in Cheyenne:

- Many people in Cheyenne do not feel that they have adequate access to neighborhood parks
- Cheyenne offers less neighborhood parkland than many other peer communities.
- The central and southern areas of the city are particularly underserved by neighborhood parks.
- The quality of parks and maintenance level are not satisfactory to ¼ of city residents. (Parks and Recreation Community Survey, 2004)
- Neighborhood parks are needed now and in the future as residential areas develop.
- Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible, adequately sized to contain multi-purpose lawn areas for

youth practices and a variety of amenities, and should contain well-maintained landscapes and facilities.

### Trails and Open Space

- Adults participate most frequently in self-directed activities such as walking in parks and on the trails/greenway system, jogging, attending concerts and festivals, picnicking and swimming.
- A significant number of residents want more trails, natural open space areas, performance areas in parks, nature centers and gymnasiums.
- Citizens at public meetings have expressed support for preserving open space around the community.

### Youth Activities

- Children participate most frequently in self-directed activities including swimming, fishing and using playground equipment
- Children participate more than adults in programmed sports.
- The most popular children's team sport is baseball/softball, followed by basketball, soccer and football.



Youth Dance Program



# SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND NEEDS

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

15

### Recreation and Aquatic Programming

- The Recreation Division needs more indoor facilities, especially gyms, to expand its programs and maintain a satisfactory level of service for the residents of Cheyenne.
- Adult and youth recreation services were identified as an area of city services that need improvement.
- Most sports groups are well served by facilities, with the exception of girls' softball, and programs that rely on school gymnasiums. No aquatic programs are served by school facilities.
- A multi-purpose recreation center with sports courts, teen activities, fitness equipment and rooms, and aquatics facilities is favored by approximately ½ of city residents. A multi-purpose recreation center would provide for many of the stated needs in the community.
- The City is currently undertaking a feasibility study to define the possible design and operations program, and capital and operations costs for a recreation center.
- The future of the existing Municipal Pool, Johnson Pool and Sloan's Lake Beach at Lions Park are all dependent upon the character and extent of a future new aquatics facility within the center.
- The cost and economic benefit of a competitive lap pool that is sized for state swim meets should also be included in the analysis.

### Cheyenne Level of Service-Recreation

Table 19 shows the potential magnitude of needs for specific recreational facilities if Cheyenne were to provide a level of service that is similar to the averages being provided in other communities.

The specific facilities to be included in a recreation center are undetermined at this time.

**Table 20. Plan Cheyenne - Facility and Parkland Needs**

28-Jun-05

FACILITIES						
Recreational Facility	Level of Service (Average Population per Facility)	Current # of Facilities	# of Facilities Currently Needed in 2005 <i>pop. 57,381</i>	Current Deficit	# of Facilities Needed in 2030 <i>pop. 102,000</i>	2030 Deficit
Soccer Fields	4,400	13	0	0	23	<10>
Football Fields	24,000	0	2	<2>	4	<4>
Softball/Baseball Fields	3,900	29	15	0	26	0
Outdoor Basketball Courts	6,900	13	8	0	15	<2>
Full Size Gymnasium	56,000	0	1	<1>	2	<2>
Tennis Courts	4,000	11	14	<3>	26	<15>
Swimming Pools	20,600	2	3	<1>	5	<3>
Ice Rink	38,000	0	1	<1>	3	<3>
Skateboard Parks	59,600	1	1	0	2	<1>
Inline Hockey Rink	49,400	1	1	0	2	<1>

PARKLAND									
Parks	Level of Service (Average Developed Acres Parkland per 1000 People)	Current # Developed Acres Parkland per 1000 People	Current Developed Parkland in 2005 (Acres) <i>pop. 57,381</i>	Current Developed Parkland Needed in 2005 (Acres)	Current Parkland Deficit in 2005 (Acres)	# Parks Needed in 2005	Developed Parkland Needed in 2030 (Acres) <i>pop. 102,000</i>	Parkland Deficit in 2030 (Acres)	# Parks Needed in 2030
Community Parks (including sports complexes)	5	5.6	334	287	0	0	510	<176>	2-3
				(5 acres/ 1,000)			(5 acres/ 1,000)		
Neighborhood	2.5	1.9*	110*	143	<33*>	3-5 <sup>#</sup>	255	<145*>	12-18 <sup>#</sup>
				(2.5 acres/ 1000)			(2.5 acres/ 1000)		

\* Includes 10 acres each of Lions, Holiday, and North Cheyenne Parks, 2 acres of Pioneer Park and 8 acres of Cahill Park that serve Neighborhood Park needs, for an adjusted total acreage of 110 acres. 70 acres of this total are specifically neighborhood parks.

<sup>#</sup> including portions of future Community Parks that serve neighborhood needs.

- Currently, the City needs 2 football fields, 1 gym, 3 tennis courts, 1 swimming pool and 1 public ice rink.

### Cheyenne Level of Service-Parks

No additional community parkland is needed to meet a standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents as the City currently has a standard higher than this.

- An additional 33 acres of neighborhood parkland needs to be developed to reach a standard of 2 acres per 1,000 residents.
- 2 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1000 residents translates into 3 to 5 new parks to serve existing residents.
- This need is supported by the survey results and the neighborhood park distribution analysis. Neighborhood park distribution illustrates current residential areas that do not have access to neighborhood parks.
- As the City grows, additional facilities and parkland will be needed to keep pace.
- By the year 2030, when the City population is estimated to be 102,000, as many as 12 to 18 new neighborhood parks will be needed and 2 to 3 new community parks will be necessary in Cheyenne.

### Cheyenne Level of Service-Cemetery

- The city cemeteries are becoming full enough to consider construction of columbariums and a potential future new cemetery site.

### Cheyenne Level of Service-Golf

- Golf courses appear to be in adequate supply and in good condition.
- The residents are fond of the existing courses and most feel that the types of courses available (easy to challenging) are appropriate.
- In the future, the city may consider adding a different type of golf course, such as a "links" course, if during the development of the master plan for the Belvoir Ranch, it is determined to be a desirable and appropriate use.



High Plains Junior Golf Tournament at Airport Golf Course

### Cheyenne Level of Service-Botanic Gardens

- The Botanic Gardens is highly valued by city residents and has a well-developed master plan vision for the future.
- The Gardens' biggest limitation today is having enough staff to manage all of the existing and potential volunteers that staff and maintain the facility and the flower beds throughout the city.

### Cheyenne Level of Service-Forestry

- The Forestry Division is at a point in its evolution where the city needs to decide if it should take on the responsibility for maintaining all right-of-way trees in the city, like many other communities of similar size.
- Maintaining right-of-way trees would require an increase in staffing.

### Finance and Budgets

- Parks and Recreation Department budgets and revenues from development fees are not adequate to fund the construction of parkland to desired standards without special tax initiatives and increases to development fees.
- Citizens have expressed concern that developers are not required to provide adequate parkland and funding to meet the needs of the people who are moving into new residential developments.
- Increasing the maintenance quality of parks will mean increasing staffing and funding above existing levels.
- Adding facilities, parklands, trails, greenways and open space to the system will require commensurate increases in staffing and funding



Frontier Park





# **PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT**

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## **Appendices**

Appendix A Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreational Facilities

Appendix B City of Cheyenne Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Survey



# **APPENDIX A**

## **Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreation Facilities**





**Table A1. Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreational Facilities**

**DRAFT**

Last revised - 04 October 2005

Recreational Facility	Facility, Acres or Miles per Population											
	City of Fort Collins, Colorado	City of Boulder, Colorado	City of Loveland, Colorado	City of Greeley, Colorado	City of Broomfield, Colorado	City of Westminster, Colorado	City of Casper, Wyoming	City of Boise, Idaho	City of Bozeman, Montana	City of Missoula, Montana	Average of Communities Providing Facilities	City of Cheyenne, Wyoming
	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:		Population:
	126,848	107,340	50,608	77,000	47,500	100,000	49,644	199,975	29,600	57,057		57,381
<b>Soccer Fields</b>												
Size undetermined	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
50 yds X 80 yds or less	19	3	0	0	12	9	0	0	7	4		5
65 yds X 100 yds or greater	16	11	0	0	7	6	11	44	6	5		8
Total	35	14	29	0	19	15	11	44	13	9		13
<b>Population per Soccer Field</b>	<b>3,624</b>	<b>7,667</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>6,667</b>	<b>4,513</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>6,340</b>	<b>4,431</b>	<b>4,414</b>
<b>Football Fields</b>												
150 ft X 240 ft or less	11	0	0	5	1	0	2	0	2	BB/SB outfields used (6)		0
160 ft X 360 ft or more	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	9	0	1		0
Total	11	0	0	5	5	0	2	9	2	1		0
<b>Population per Football Field</b>	<b>11,532</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>24,822</b>	<b>22,219</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>57,057</b>	<b>23,966</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Softball/Baseball Fields</b>												
Size undetermined	0	0	10	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
Field without fence & w/o lights	20	7	0	0	16		0	0	2	0		0
Backstop only & turf infield	0	public schools only	7	10	0		0	0	2	0		3
150-199 ft w/lights	0	0	0	0	0		4	0	0	0		0
200-249 ft centerfield w/lights	0	3	3	0	2		2	0	0	0		1
200-249 ft centerfield w/o lights	0	5	0	0	2		0	23	0	12		10
250-299 ft centerfield w/lights	0	7	2	5	1		5	0	5	0		8
250-299 ft centerfield w/o lights	19	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	8		0
300-359 ft centerfield w/lights	9	1	0	1	5		6	0	0	2		2
300-359 ft centerfield w/o lights	0	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	0		3
360 ft centerfield or larger w/lights	3	0	0	1	0		0	6	0	0		2
360 ft centerfield or larger w/o lights	0	0	0	0	0		0	3	0	0		0
Total	51	23	22	17	26	15	17	33	9	22		29
<b>Population per Softball/Baseball Field</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>4,667</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>4,529</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>6,667</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>6060</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>3,873</b>	<b>1,979</b>
<b>Outdoor Basketball Courts</b>												
Full-size w/lights	3	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0		2
Full-size w/o lights	18	12	3	9	0	15	1	26	0	6		11
Half-size w/lights	0	0	0	0	1	0		0	0	0		0
Half-size w/o lights	0	0	0	0	9	1	2	1	6	6		0
Total	21	12	6	11	10	16	5	27	6	12		13
<b>Population per Basketball Court</b>	<b>6,040</b>	<b>8,945</b>	<b>8,435</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>9,929</b>	<b>7,406</b>	<b>4,933</b>	<b>4,755</b>	<b>6,934</b>	<b>4,414</b>

**Table A1. Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreational Facilities**  
**DRAFT**

Last revised - 04 October 2005

	Facility, Acres or Miles per Population											
	City of Fort Collins, Colorado	City of Boulder, Colorado	City of Loveland, Colorado	City of Greeley, Colorado	City of Broomfield, Colorado	City of Westminster, Colorado	City of Casper, Wyoming	City of Boise, Idaho	City of Bozeman, Montana	City of Missoula, Montana	Average of Communities Providing Facilities	City of Cheyenne, Wyoming
Recreational Facility	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population	Population	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:		Population:
	126,848	107,340	50,608	77,000	47,500	100,000	49,644	199,975	29,600	57,057		57,381
<b>Gymnasiums</b>												
Full-size City gyms	2	3	2	3	2	data unavailable	2	1	0	0		0
Total	2	3	2	3	2		2	1	0	0		
<b>Population per Gymnasium</b>	<b>63,424</b>	<b>35,780</b>	<b>25,304</b>	<b>25,667</b>	<b>23,750</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>24,822</b>	<b>199,975</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>55,883</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Tennis Courts</b>												
With lights	25	4	18	12	4	10	14	0	0	3		5
Without lights	16	32	3	6	8	3	0	62	5	26		6
Total	41	36	21	18	12	13	14	62	5	29		11
<b>Population per Tennis Court</b>	<b>3,094</b>	<b>2,982</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>4,278</b>	<b>3,958</b>	<b>7,692</b>	<b>3,546</b>	<b>3,225</b>	<b>5,920</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>3,998</b>	<b>5,216</b>
<b>Swimming Pools</b>												
25-m or yd (indoor)	2	data unavailable	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
25-m or yd (outdoor)	0	data unavailable	1	2	0	0	5	3	1	1		1
50-m or yd (indoor)	1	data unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		0
50-m or yd (outdoor)	0	data unavailable	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		0
Aquatic center/leisure pool (indoor)	0	data unavailable	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0		0
Aquatic center/leisure pool (outdoor)	1	data unavailable	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	6 tiny wading or spray pools		0
Total	4		3	8	3	0	6	4	2	2		2
<b>Population per Pool</b>	<b>31,712</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>16,869</b>	<b>9,625</b>	<b>15,833</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>8,274</b>	<b>49,994</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>28,529</b>	<b>20,561</b>	<b>28,691</b>
<b>Total Number of Ice Rinks</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Population per Ice Rink</b>	<b>63,424</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>49,644</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>57,057</b>	<b>38,034</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Total Number of Skateboard Parks</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Population per Skateboard Park</b>	<b>42,283</b>	<b>107,340</b>	<b>50,608</b>	<b>25,667</b>	<b>47,500</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>49,644</b>	<b>66,658.33333</b>	<b>29,600</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>59,627</b>	<b>57,381</b>
<b>Inline Hockey Rinks</b>												
165 ft X 80 ft (outdoor)	1	2	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0		1
<b>Population per In-line Hockey Rink</b>	<b>126,848</b>	<b>53,670</b>	<b>50,608</b>	<b>77,000</b>	<b>15,833</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>49,422</b>	<b>57,381</b>
<b>Community Park (including sports complexes)</b>												
Developed Parkland	308.2 acres	173 acres	147.7 acres	390 acres	125 acres		272.82 acres	975.2 acres	225 acres	225 acres		333.93 acres
Developed Park/Population	2.4 acres/1000	1.6 acres/1000	2.9 acres/1000	3.4 acres/1000	2.6 acres/1000		5.4 acres/1000	4.9 acres/1000	7.6 acres/1000	3.9 acres/1000	4.3 acres/1000	5.8 acres/1000
Parkland Standard	5.5 acres/1000	1.5 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000	5 acres/1000	5 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000		4.7 acres/1000		10 acres/1000	5.2 acres/1000	5.8 acres/1000
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>												
Developed Parkland	315.73 acres	325 acres	114.6 acres	197 acres	186 acres		73.47 acres	197.25 acres	NA	115 acres		70.19 acres
Developed Park/Population	2.5 acres/1000	3 acres/1000	2.3 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000	3.95 acres/1000		1.48 acres/1000	1.0 acres/1000		2.0 acres/1000	2.2 acres/1000	1.2 acres/1000
Adjusted Park/Population including portions of Community Parks (40 acres)										1.25 - 2.5 acres/1000		1.9 acres/1000
Parkland Standard	2.5 acres/1000	1.5 acres/1000	5 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000	4 acres/1000	2.8 acres/1000		1.5 acres/1000			2.6 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000



**Table A1. Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreational Facilities**

**DRAFT**

Last revised - 04 October 2005

	Facility, Acres or Miles per Population											
	City of Fort Collins, Colorado	City of Boulder, Colorado	City of Loveland, Colorado	City of Greeley, Colorado	City of Broomfield, Colorado	City of Westminster, Colorado	City of Casper, Wyoming	City of Boise, Idaho	City of Bozeman, Montana	City of Missoula, Montana	Average of Communities Providing Facilities*	City of Cheyenne, Wyoming
	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population	Population	Population:		Population:	Population:		Population:
Recreational Facility	126,848	107,340	50,608	77,000	47,500	100,000	49,644	199,975	29,600	57,057		57,381
<b>Maintenance Staff</b> (as parks, streetscapes and public grounds)	33 full-time, 34 part-time (50 FTE)	4 full-time & 13 part-time (ballfields only) (10 FTE)	N/A	52 full-time seasonal (26 FTE)	32 full-time, 60 seasonal (62 FTE)	21 full-time, 50 part-time (46 FTE)	22 full-time, 40 seasonal (42 FTE)	86 full-time	6 full-time, 15 seasonal (13 FTE)	8 full-time, 45 seasonal (30 FTE)	22.2 full-time, 31 part-time/seasonal, 33.8 FTE	26 full-time, 36 seasonal (44 FTE)
<b>Areas Maintained</b> (grounds and facilities maintained by Parks Department)	736.3 acres	498 acres	262 acres	958 acres	757 acres	500 acres	2,780 acres <sup>1</sup>	1,426 acres	425 acres	510 acres	626 acres	693.85
<b>Annual Park Operation &amp; Maintenance Budget</b> (for parks, streetscapes, public grounds and facilities maintained by the Parks Department - excludes cemeteries and golf courses)	\$4,874,841	\$3,611,996	N/A	\$4,956,985	\$4,538,548	\$3,200,000	\$2,066,089	\$6,866,581	\$1,001,619	\$1,200,000	\$3,340,569	\$1,365,273
<b>Maintenance Staff/Acres</b>	1:15 acres	1:50	N/A	1:37 acres	1:12 acres	1:11 acres	1:66 acres	1:17 acres	1:33 acres	1:17 acres	1:19 acres	1:16 acres
<b>Maintenance Budget Per City Resident</b>	\$6,623 per acre	\$7,253 per acre	N/A	\$5,174 per acre	\$5,995 per acre	\$6,400 per acre	\$743 per acre	\$4,815 per acre	\$2,357 per acre	\$2,353 per acre	\$5,336 per acre	\$1,967 per acre

<sup>1</sup> Number to be verified by City of Casper

\*Casper, Wy and Boise, ID removed from average due to unverified outlying numbers skewing results. Loveland removed due to lack of data.



## **APPENDIX B**

### **City of Cheyenne Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Survey**





# CITY OF CHEYENNE

## PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS SURVEY

Prepared by:

Left Brain Concepts, Inc.  
Lakewood, Colorado

In association with:

EDAW  
Fort Collins, Colorado

**December 2004**

## BACKGROUND

The City of Cheyenne commissioned a survey of Cheyenne residents as part of an update of its Parks & Recreation master plan. The objective of the survey was to help the City better serve residents by understanding their satisfaction with Cheyenne's parks, their preferences regarding land usage and their level of participation in various recreation and athletic endeavors.

## METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted via US Postal Service in November 2004. A total of 2000 surveys were mailed to a random sample of households in and around Cheyenne in the 82001, 82007 and 82009 zip codes. Surveys were not mailed to F.E. Warren Air Force Base. Because there are no residences in the 82002 zip code no surveys were mailed to households in that zip code.

A total of 383 surveys were returned for a response of 19%. The maximum margin of error for this sample size at the 95% confidence level is  $\pm 5.0\%$ . The survey was conducted by Left Brain Concepts, Inc., a Denver based research and consulting firm.

## KEY FINDINGS

- The zip codes of respondents' residences virtually mirrored the distribution of households in the 82001, 82007 and 82009 zip codes as reported by the 2000 census.
- The parks people mentioned as being closest to their homes were Lions, Holliday and Mylar.
- Almost half (46%) of the respondents in the planning area visit the Cheyenne parks nearest their homes at least once a month. More than half (54%) said they rarely or never visit the parks closest to their homes.
- Three-quarters (75%) of the respondents in the planning area rated the parks closest to their homes as excellent or good. People gave a number of reasons but largely the maintenance, the cleanliness, the walking trails and the landscape design. Those who rated the park as fair or poor mentioned a lack of activities in the parks, indicated they feel the parks are too small, cited an insufficient amount of playground equipment and reported that the parks are poorly maintained.
- Lions Park and Holliday Park are Cheyenne's residents' favorite parks. The reasons given for favoring any of Cheyenne's parks are walking trails, parks with water, an appeal of Botanic Gardens, a range of available activities, parks that are large in size and parks that are well maintained.
- In rough order of participation, adults in Cheyenne: 1) engage in outdoor activities such as walking or biking, 2) attend concerts and festivals, 3) participate in unorganized sports such as skating or jogging, 4) enroll in classes or other programs and 5) take part in team sports.
- For children, participation is greatest for swimming, use of playground equipment and fishing. Children's participation is lowest for in-line skating, skateboarding, tennis and hockey.
- The principal reasons people do not use Cheyenne parks or use them more frequently is because they feel: the parks lack the facilities they would like to see, the parks are too far from their homes and that other park visitors behave in a rowdy manner.
- The top five facilities people feel are lacking in Cheyenne's parks are walking trails, open space, natural areas within urban parks and areas for events such as concerts. People tend to feel there are enough facilities for hockey, soccer, arts and crafts, baseball, softball, football and tennis.
- Overall, about three-quarters of Cheyenne residents are satisfied with Cheyenne's parks and programs. However, people are roughly split regarding the need for a centralized recreation center and for planning for land uses at Belvoir Ranch. Residents are against an increase in taxes or fees by about a 3:2 margin.
- Regarding open space in Cheyenne, people are most interested in "water bodies, including creeks, lakes and ponds" and "areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features."



CONCLUSIONS

- Park usage by Cheyenne residents is high; almost half visit the parks closest to their homes at least once a month. More than nine in ten (92%) visit any Cheyenne park in a month.
- The Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department is doing a good job of serving Cheyenne residents. Three-quarters (75%) rate the parks closest to their homes as excellent or good. Maintenance, walking trails, a range of activities and landscape architecture are the most important things to people.
- Since many who rated the parks closest to their homes as fair or poor cited a lack of activities including playground equipment, perhaps many of these smaller parks should be treated and publicized as “open space” as opposed to parks. That is, offering no more than walking trails, quality landscape architecture and excellent maintenance.
- Although some activities are more important to people (adults and children both) than others, Cheyenne residents engage in a wide range of activities. The City of Cheyenne is serving its residents well by providing a broad range of activities.
- Cheyenne residents feel they would be best served by the City providing walking trails, open space, natural areas and other areas that preserve views and other scenic features in Cheyenne, and areas for events such as concerts.

ZIP CODE

Question 1: Please indicate your home zip code.

- Households were sampled from the 82001, 82007 and 82009 zip codes. Based on the 2000 census, there were a total 24,553 households in these zip codes; 45% were in 82001, 18% were in 82007 and 37% in 82009. The following table illustrates a similar zip code distribution for responses to this survey. That is, for the surveys returned from people in the planning area, 42% were in the 82001 zip code, 16% were from the 82007 zip code and 42% were from the 82009 zip code.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
82001	42%	17%	100%	
82007	16%	21%		100%
82009	42%	62%		100%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

PLANNING AREA

Question 2: Please refer to the enclosed map and tell us if you live inside or outside of the planning area (The map is included in the back of this report).

- As the following table illustrates, of the 383 surveys returned, 350 people indicated they live inside the planning area and 24 noted they live outside of the planning area. Nine people did not respond to the question. For people in the planning area, there were 148 responses from each of the 82001 and 82009 zip codes and 54 from people in the 82007 zip code.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
Inside	350		148	54
Outside		24		
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

## NAME/LOCATION OF NEAREST PARK

Question 3: The following questions pertain to the park nearest your home. If you know its name and/or location, please list.

- The parks most frequently mentioned were Lions, Holliday and Mylar.
- People in the 82001 zip code were more likely than those in the other two zip codes to mention Holliday Park, United Nations Park, Sun Valley Park, Jaycee Park and Brimmer Park.
- People in the 82007 zip code were more likely than people in the other two zip codes to mention Martin Luther Park and Optimist Park.
- People in the 82009 zip code were more likely than those in the other two zip codes to mention Lions Park, Mylar Park, Cahill Park and North Cheyenne Community Park.
- People who do not have children in their homes were twice as likely as those who do have children to mention Mylar Park.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Lions	28%	14%	24%	10%	38%
Holliday	17%	14%	30%	13%	4%
Mylar	12%	7%	1%	0%	27%
Cahill	6%	14%	4%	0%	10%
Frontier	3%	0%	2%	3%	5%
North Cheyenne Community	3%	0%	0%	0%	6%
United Nations Park	3%	0%	6%	0%	0%
Sun Valley	3%	0%	6%	0%	0%
Jaycee Park	2%	0%	5%	0%	0%
MLK Park	2%	0%	2%	8%	1%
Brimmer	2%	0%	4%	0%	0%
Optimist Park	2%	0%	0%	13%	0%
Don't Know	2%	14%	1%	10%	1%
Friendship Circle	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Smiley Park	1%	7%	0%	0%	2%
Veterans Park	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%

A number of other parks and locations were mentioned, but none by more than two people.

## FREQUENCY OF PARK USAGE

Question 3b: How often per month do you use this park?

- Almost half (46%) of the respondents in the planning area visit the Cheyenne park nearest their homes at least once a month. More than half (54%) reported they never or rarely visit the closest Cheyenne parks.
- People in the 82007 zip code were three times as likely as those in the 82001 zip code and those in the 82009 zip code to say they never use the parks.
- People in the 82001 zip code use parks a little more than those in the 82009 zip codes and considerably more than those in the 82007 zip code.
- People with kids at home are more likely than those with no kids at home to use parks.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Never	18%	44%	14%	41%	13%
Rarely	35%	23%	28%	27%	45%
Once or twice	16%	14%	20%	12%	14%
3-4	15%	0%	19%	12%	14%
5-10	7%	14%	7%	6%	6%
11+	9%	5%	12%	2%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

QUALITY OF THE PARKS

Question 3c: How would you rate the overall quality of this park?

- Three-quarters (75%) of the respondents in the planning area rated the parks closest to their homes as excellent or good.
- People in the 82009 zip code were twice as likely as those in the 82001 zip code and more than six times as likely as people in the 82007 zip code to rate the quality of the park as excellent.

	Planning area total	Non- planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
Excellent	21%	24%	16%	3%
Good	54%	46%	53%	56%
Fair	20%	12%	27%	28%
Poor	5%	18%	4%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

REASONS FOR PARK RATING

Question 3d: Why do you rate the quality of the park this way?

- As the following table illustrates, people have high regard for parks that are well maintained, parks that are clean, those that provide walking trails and parks that have appealing landscaping. In contrast, people who rated the park closest to their homes as fair or poor cited a range of issues, but mostly a lack of activities in the park, none or not enough playground equipment and maintenance issues.
- People in the 82009 zip code were much more likely than those in the other two zip codes to mention that the park is large – that is has a lot of open space.
- Respondents aged 55 to 64 were more likely than those in other age groups to laud the parks' walking trails.
- People who do not have children were more likely than people who do have kids to praise parks that are well maintained.



## REASONS FOR PARK RATING (Continued)

	Park ratings of: Excellent/Good
Well maintained	30%
Clean	25%
Walking trails	23%
Well landscaped	17%
Large/Open space	12%
Good/safe playground equipment	11%
Lots of activities	8%
Lake, pond, water	8%
Close, convenient	8%
Trees	7%
The Botanical Gardens	7%
The greenbelt	6%
Picnic areas	5%
The Community center	5%
Grassy areas	4%
Safe, police patrol	4%
Park is used frequently	4%
<b>Park ratings of:</b>	
	Fair/Poor
Lack of activities in the park	16%
Too small	12%
Not clean/trash/broken glass	12%
No/not enough playground equipment	11%
The lake smells bad	9%
No trees/no mature trees	8%
Lacks good landscaping	7%
Teenagers/gangs hang out	7%
Not enough benches/picnic benches	7%
Bathrooms are dirty	7%
Poorly maintained	7%
No restrooms/restrooms locked	5%
Playground equipment not safe	4%
Bird, duck excrement	4%
Homeless people	4%
Park is not complete	4%

Columns total more than 100% because of multiple responses.

## FAVORITE CHEYENNE PARK

Question 4: Is there a particular park in Cheyenne that you consider to be your favorite? If so, please identify the park and list the reasons it is your favorite.

- While 54% of the respondents said they never or rarely visit the parks closest to their homes (question 3b), people reported that Lions Park and Holiday Park are their favorite Cheyenne parks.
- Respondents who particularly favor Holiday Park were:
  - ✓ In the 82007 zip code as opposed to the other two zip codes.
  - ✓ People younger than 35 compared to people in other age groups.
  - ✓ Women versus men.
  - ✓ People who have children vis-à-vis those who do not have kids.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Lions	59%	56%	61%	48%	62%
Holiday	22%	31%	26%	33%	14%
Frontier	3%	6%	2%	5%	4%
Mylar	2%	0%	2%	2%	3%
Botanical Gardens	2%	6%	1%	2%	2%
Clear Creek	2%	0%	0%	5%	3%
Joycee Park	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%
North Cheyenne Community	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Greenway	1%	6%	1%	0%	1%
Dry Creek Disc Golf	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%
Park by YMCA	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%

A number of other parks and locations were mentioned, but none by more than one person.

## REASONS THE PARK IS A FAVORITE

*Question 4: Is there a particular park in Cheyenne that you consider to be your favorite? If so, please identify the park and list the reasons it is your favorite.*

- Respondents gave a variety of reasons for why particular parks are their favorite, but the primary reasons were that the parks have walking trails, lakes or ponds and/or botanic gardens, that there are a lot of things to do in the park, that the parks are large and that the parks are well maintained.
- People aged 55 to 64 were more likely than those in the other age brackets to like parks that have walking trails.
- Respondents in the 82009 zip code were twice as likely as people in the other two zip codes to mention the Botanic Gardens.
- People who have children were twice as likely as those who do not to mention the number of available activities in parks. Further, people with children were more than five times as likely as people who do not have children to cite playground equipment.
- Respondents in the 82007 zip code were twice as likely as people in the other two zip codes to mention that the park is well landscaped.

## REASONS THE PARK IS A FAVORITE (Continued)

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Walking trails	44%	18%	42%	40%	46%
Lake, pond, water	31%	27%	28%	31%	34%
Lots of activities	20%	18%	20%	26%	18%
The Botanical Gardens	19%	18%	17%	11%	25%
Large/Open space	18%	18%	18%	17%	19%
Well landscaped	15%	27%	12%	26%	13%
Close/convenient	15%	18%	20%	11%	12%
Good/Safe playground equipment	14%	9%	18%	11%	12%
Amount/Quality of trees	14%	9%	16%	11%	12%
Clean	9%	9%	12%	9%	7%
The Community center	9%	27%	11%	6%	9%
Ducks, geese, waterfowl	9%	9%	7%	17%	9%
Well maintained	9%	9%	7%	14%	10%
Picnic areas	9%	0%	9%	6%	10%
Quality/Amount of flowers	6%	0%	7%	6%	4%
Swimming pool	6%	0%	9%	3%	2%
Quiet/Peaceful	5%	18%	3%	14%	3%
Has benches	5%	0%	9%	3%	2%
Bike path	4%	0%	2%	0%	8%
Wildlife	4%	9%	2%	9%	4%
Safe/Police patrol	3%	0%	3%	6%	2%
Fishing	3%	9%	3%	3%	2%
The sculptures	3%	0%	0%	9%	3%
Tennis courts	3%	0%	2%	0%	4%

A number of other reasons were offered, but none by more than 4 people.

FREQUENCY OF PARK VISITS

Question 5: How many different Cheyenne parks do you visit in a month?

- More than nine in ten (92%) of the respondents in the planning area indicated they visit at least one Cheyenne park a month. (In contrast, 46% said they visit the park closest to their homes – question 3b – at least once a month).
- People in the 82007 zip code were three times as likely as people in the other two zip codes to say they “never” visit a Cheyenne park on a monthly basis.
- As would be expected, people who have children reported more park usage than people who do not have children.
- Respondents who have just one adult in their households were almost three times as likely as those with two or more adults in the household to say they “never” visit Cheyenne parks.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
None	8%	20%	6%	18%	5%
One	45%	50%	39%	43%	53%
Two	32%	25%	34%	29%	32%
Three	11%	0%	15%	8%	8%
Four or more	4%	5%	6%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

ADULTS’ PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

Question 6: Answering ONLY for yourself, please note the number of times in the past 12 months you participated in each of the following activities – whether it was in Cheyenne or another community.

The table on the following page illustrates peoples’ participation in athletic and other activities. In rough order of involvement, people partake in:

1. Outdoor activities
2. Concerts/Festivals
3. Other sports
4. Classes/Facilities
5. Team sports

Outdoor Activities

- People under the age of 35, women, and those with kids at home were more likely than others to say they participate in picnics.
- Respondents aged 65 or older were less likely than people in other age brackets to report participation in “walking or other general park activity”, “walking or hiking on a trail system” and/or “biking on a trail system.”
- People in the 82009 zip code were more likely than those in the other two zip codes to say they frequently participate in biking on a trail system.
- Men were more likely than women to report they participate in target shooting.

Classes/Facilities

- Women are more likely than men to have participated in water exercise and/or indoor exercise programs.

## ADULTS' PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES (Continued)

### Other Sports

- Men were more likely than women to report that they golf and/or fish.
- People who have lived in the Cheyenne area for less than ten years were about twice as likely as those who have been in the area for ten or more years to say they frequently jog.
- Respondents aged 65 or older were less likely than those under 65 to report that they have jogged and/or swam in the past 12 months.
- Respondents with children were more likely than people who do not have children to say they have participated in indoor or outdoor swimming.

### Concerts/Festivals

- People under the age of 35 were more likely than those in other age brackets to report they attended outdoor concerts or performances and/or community fairs or festivals.

## ADULTS' PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES (Continued)

	TEAM SPORTS			
	1-5	6-20	21 +	Never
Softball	10%	3%	7%	80%
Football	11%	5%	2%	82%
Volleyball	11%	3%	2%	84%
Indoor basketball	7%	3%	5%	85%
Baseball	7%	4%	3%	86%
Soccer	7%	3%	5%	86%
Outdoor basketball	8%	2%	2%	88%
Ice hockey	2%	0%	1%	97%
In-line hockey	1%	1%	1%	97%
OTHER SPORTS				
	1-5	6-20	21 +	Never
Indoor swimming	20%	11%	9%	60%
Jogging/Running	15%	6%	18%	61%
Golf	16%	13%	10%	61%
Fishing	20%	8%	8%	64%
Outdoor swimming	13%	6%	2%	79%
Tennis	9%	3%	3%	85%
Ice skating	11%	1%	1%	87%
Archery	5%	3%	4%	88%
In-line skating	7%	1%	2%	90%
Disc golf	6%	2%	2%	90%
Use of climbing wall	6%	1%	1%	92%
BMX bicycling	2%	2%	2%	94%
Gymnastics	2%	1%	2%	95%
Skateboard ng	2%	1%	1%	96%
CLASSES/FACILITIES				
	1-5	6-20	21 +	Never
Weights/Cardiovascular	8%	9%	21%	62%
Indoor exercise programs	9%	5%	17%	69%
Water exercise	8%	3%	6%	83%
Use of arts & crafts facilities	10%	4%	3%	83%
Dance classes	7%	1%	2%	90%
Swim lessons	4%	2%	1%	93%
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES				
	1-5	6-20	21 +	Never
Walking or other general park activity	28%	25%	35%	12%
Picnic in a park	57%	15%	6%	22%
Walking or hiking on a trail system	25%	19%	24%	32%



	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES			
Biking on a trail system	17%	11%	14%	58%
Target shooting	10%	6%	9%	75%
Use of a dog park	12%	7%	6%	75%
Guided nature walk/other educational activity	17%	2%	2%	79%
	CONCERTS/FESTIVALS			
	1-5	6-20	21 +	Never
Attend community fairs/festivals	59%	11%	2%	28%
Attend outdoor concerts/performance	47%	10%	1%	42%

## CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

Question 7: For any children living in your household, please note if any of them participate in the following activities.

- As might be expected, the most common children's activities are swimming and use of playground equipment. Fishing was also mentioned – by about half of the parents. Less popular children's activities are skating, ice hockey, skateboarding, tennis and in-line hockey.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
Indoors swimming	57%	38%	62%	54%
Use of playground equip.	56%	50%	64%	44%
Fishing	40%	25%	41%	54%
Outdoors swimming	28%	13%	28%	42%
Indoors basketball	27%	13%	28%	29%
Weights/cardiovascular	23%	0%	20%	13%
Indoor exercise programs	23%	0%	23%	29%
Jogging/running	23%	13%	21%	21%
Soccer	23%	0%	20%	25%
Baseball	22%	0%	20%	42%
Football	21%	0%	21%	29%
Ice skating	21%	0%	23%	17%
Golf	19%	25%	18%	8%
Gymnastics	17%	25%	25%	8%
Outdoors basketball	17%	13%	15%	33%
Softball	15%	0%	21%	8%
Volleyball	15%	0%	15%	13%
Dance classes	15%	13%	21%	8%
Use of arts & crafts facilities	15%	0%	21%	21%
BMX bicycling	13%	0%	11%	29%
Use of climbing wall	12%	0%	11%	8%
In-line skating	12%	0%	7%	21%
Skateboarding	12%	0%	10%	21%
Ice hockey	10%	13%	10%	17%
Tennis	9%	25%	5%	8%
In-line hockey	5%	0%	2%	17%

REASONS FOR NOT USING CHEYENNE PARKS

Question 8: Please indicate if any of the following prevent you from using, or using more often, Cheyenne's parks.

- The primary reason people do not use Cheyenne parks or use them more often is because they do not contain the features people want. Also of concern to people are the distance from their homes and rowdy behavior of other park users.

Distance from Home

- Even though the "non-planning area" sample is small, these respondents were more likely than residents in the planning area to report that parks' distance from their homes prevent them from making greater use of Cheyenne's parks.

Rowdy Behavior of Other Park Users

- People in the 82009 zip code were less likely than those in the other two zip codes to mention rowdy behavior of other park users.
- Respondents aged 35 or younger were more likely than people in other age groups to say that rowdy behavior of other park users prevent them from using the parks more.
- People with children were three times as likely as people without kids to state that rowdy behavior of other park visitors prevent them from using Cheyenne parks more.

Overcrowding

- People in the 82007 zip code were about three times more likely than those in the 82001 zip code and almost six times more likely than those in the 82009 zip code to say overcrowding prevents them from using the parks more.

Safety Concerns

- People under the age of 35 were more likely than people over 35 to cite safety concerns.
- Women were more likely than men to say safety concerns prevent them from using the parks more.

REASONS FOR NOT USING CHEYENNE PARKS (Continued)

	Very much	Somewhat	Not at all
Lack of facilities/activities in which I am interested	14%	24%	62%
Distance from home	14%	26%	60%
Rowdy behavior of other users	10%	25%	65%
Overcrowding	8%	21%	71%
Poor maintenance	8%	17%	75%
Safety concerns	7%	14%	79%
Physical disability	7%	8%	85%
Poor design/Facility/Program quality	6%	16%	78%
Difficult access (must cross busy street, etc.)	4%	17%	79%

NAME/LOCATION OF THE PARK

Question 8: If your response is based on a specific park, program or facility, please identify it.

- People noted parks, even if they also indicated that things such as the distance from their homes, safety, and the like do not prevent them from using Cheyenne parks or using them more. As the following table illustrates, the most mentioned parks were Lions Park and Holliday Park.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
Lions	40%	33%	35%	56%
Holliday	23%	33%	31%	41%
Greenway	15%	33%	12%	6%
Pioneer	4%	33%	0%	24%
United Nations Park	6%	0%	12%	11%
			0%	6%
			12%	0%

## FACILITIES IN CHEYENNE

*Question 9: A list of recreation facilities and park/open space features is shown below. Please indicate whether there are too many, enough or not enough of each type in Cheyenne to meet the needs of you and your family. You can also indicate that you have no opinion.*

- The top five facilities that people feel are lacking in Cheyenne are walking trails, open space, nature areas within urban parks and performance areas. In contrast, people tend to feel there are enough facilities for hockey, soccer, arts and crafts, baseball, softball, football and tennis.
- People with children were more likely than those who do not have children to feel there are not enough:
  - ✓ Natural surface trails
  - ✓ Public gyms
  - ✓ Picnic facilities
  - ✓ Indoor recreation pool
  - ✓ Indoor lap / competitive pool
  - ✓ Outdoor recreation pool
  - ✓ Outdoor lap / competitive pool
  - ✓ Playgrounds
  - ✓ Paintball areas
  - ✓ Climbing walls
- People with two or more adults in their households were more likely than those with one adult in the household to say there are not enough:
  - ✓ Natural areas within urban parks
  - ✓ Performance areas for events such as concerts
  - ✓ Areas for community events
- People in the 82001 zip code were more likely than people in the other two zip codes to say there are not enough:
  - ✓ Public gyms.
  - ✓ Football fields
- Men were more likely than women to say there are not enough:
  - ✓ Nearby fishing waters
  - ✓ Golf courses
- Women were more likely than men to say there are not enough:
  - ✓ Dog park areas
  - ✓ Arts and crafts rooms

### Natural Surface Trails

- People under the age of 55 were more likely than those over 55 to say there are not enough natural surface trails.

## FACILITIES IN CHEYENNE (Continued)

	Too many	Enough	Not enough	No opinion
Nature areas within urban parks	1%	21%	45%	33%
Nature surface trails	0%	23%	44%	33%
Natural open space areas	0%	23%	44%	33%
Paved trails	2%	28%	44%	26%
Performance areas for events - concerts	1%	28%	43%	28%
Outdoor education/nature centers	0%	18%	39%	43%
Public gyms	1%	18%	36%	45%
Picnic facilities	0%	42%	33%	25%
Nearby fishing	0%	25%	32%	43%
Areas for community events	1%	40%	32%	27%
Indoor recreation pool	0%	22%	30%	48%
Outdoor recreation pool	0%	17%	28%	55%
Indoor lap/competitive pool	0%	22%	27%	51%
Dog park areas	1%	22%	26%	51%
Playgrounds	0%	39%	25%	36%
Skateboard/skate park	3%	20%	23%	54%
Outdoor lap/competitive pool	0%	17%	22%	61%
Indoor community rooms	0%	21%	22%	57%
Golf courses	8%	36%	21%	35%
Exercise equipment	0%	26%	21%	53%
Paintball area	2%	12%	21%	65%
BMX bike area	2%	18%	20%	60%
Climbing walls	1%	16%	19%	64%
Outdoors basketball courts	1%	30%	18%	51%
Exercise/dance rooms	0%	20%	18%	62%
Tennis courts	2%	34%	16%	48%
Football fields	1%	31%	15%	53%
Arts & crafts rooms	1%	22%	15%	62%
Softball fields	6%	38%	14%	42%
Baseball fields	7%	36%	14%	43%
Ice hockey rinks	1%	25%	14%	60%
Soccer fields	5%	35%	13%	47%
In-line hockey rinks	1%	18%	10%	71%

SATISFACTION WITH CHEYENNE PARKS

- Question 10: For each of the following statements, please indicate the response that best fits with your opinion
- The following percentages combine responses of “strongly agree” and “somewhat agree.” Generally, people are satisfied with Cheyenne parks but are split on a number of issues, including their willingness to pay an increase in taxes or user fees.
- **Quality/Condition of Cheyenne parks and programs:**
    - ✓ Satisfied with park maintenance (73%)
    - ✓ Overall quality of the parks (72%)
    - ✓ Parks and trails are accessible (52%)
    - ✓ Quality of recreation programs (47%)
    - ✓ Trail system provides good connections (45%)
    - ✓ Parks equitably distributed (40%)
    - ✓ Amount of open lands (30%)
    - ✓ Indoor recreation/facilities (27%)
  - **Support for added facilities:**
    - ✓ Centralized recreation center (58%)
    - ✓ Recreational uses at Belvoir Ranch (51%)
  - **Willingness to pay taxes:**
    - ✓ Improve/expand parks and trails (50%)
    - ✓ Improve/expand indoor recreation facilities (41%)
    - ✓ Increase protected open lands (41%)
- Differences by zip code:
- People in the 82001 and the 82007 zip codes were much more likely to feel that the parks are not equitably distributed throughout the City.
  - People in the 82009 zip code were three times more likely than those in the 82001 zip code to say that the City’s trail system provides good connections to parks and other important destinations
  - People in the 82009 zip code were more likely than those in the other two zip codes to state that Cheyenne’s parks and trails are easily accessible from their homes.

SATISFACTION WITH CHEYENNE PARKS (Continued)

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A. I am satisfied with overall quality of the City's parks	23%	49%	15%	10%	3%
B. I am satisfied with the quality of the City's recreation programs	14%	34%	37%	11%	4%
C. I am satisfied with the level of maintenance in the City's parks	27%	45%	14%	10%	3%
D. Parks are equitably distributed throughout the City	13%	28%	21%	26%	12%
E. I am satisfied with the available indoor recreation/facilities in the City	8%	19%	40%	23%	10%
F. I am satisfied with the amount of protected open lands in and around the City	9%	22%	33%	26%	11%
G. The City's trail system provides good connections to parks and other important destinations	14%	32%	28%	18%	7%
H. City parks and trails are easily accessible from my home	21%	31%	17%	20%	12%
I. City needs a centralized recreation center that provides opportunities for a variety of indoor recreation activities	32%	25%	31%	7%	4%
J. I am willing to pay additional taxes or fees to improve and expand the City's parks and trails	20%	31%	23%	9%	17%
K. I am willing to pay additional taxes or fees to improve and expand the City's indoor recreation facilities	18%	23%	27%	12%	19%
L. I am willing to pay additional taxes or fees to increase the amount of protected open lands in and around the City	17%	26%	30%	12%	17%
M. The City should plan to include recreational uses and open space at the Belvoir Ranch	30%	20%	37%	5%	7%



## OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES

*Question 11: This question is intended to help identify open space priorities. Please rate the importance of each of the following types of open space to you in Cheyenne.*

- People are most interested in open space that has water bodies (66%) and areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features (63%). They are less interested in close-by neighborhood-scale natural areas (38%) or agricultural land, including ranchland (33%).
- However, women were almost twice as likely as men to say that close-by neighborhood-scale natural areas are very important.
- Women are also more likely than men to value areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Water bodies, including creeks, lakes, ponds, etc.	66%	24%	10%
Areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features	63%	25%	12%
Areas with important wildlife habitat	59%	27%	14%
Areas that are highly visible topographic features	48%	34%	18%
Close-by, neighborhood-scale natural areas	39%	43%	18%
Agricultural land, including ranchland	33%	36%	31%

## YEARS LIVED IN CHEYENNE

*Question 12: How many years have you lived in Cheyenne?*

- More than half (57%) of the respondents have lived in the Cheyenne area for 20 years or more.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
Less than 5	17%	4%	17%	13%
5-9 years	10%	13%	10%	12%
10-19 years	15%	13%	18%	21%
20+ years	58%	70%	55%	54%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

## AGE

*Question 13: Into which of the following age groups do you fall?*

- The following table illustrates the age distribution of people who responded to the survey.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
18-24	2%	0%	4%	4%
25-34	12%	4%	16%	18%
35-44	17%	26%	19%	16%
45-54	22%	13%	21%	18%
55-64	21%	22%	20%	20%
65+	26%	35%	20%	24%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

GENDER

Question 14: What is your gender?

- The following presents the gender of the respondents to the survey.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
Female	40%	45%	40%	49%
Male	60%	55%	60%	51%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

ADULTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Question 15: How many adults (including yourself) live in your household?

- Respondents in the planning area have an average of 1.9 adults in their households.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
1	22%	30%	22%	25%
2	71%	66%	68%	63%
3+	7%	4%	10%	12%
Average	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME

Question 16: What are the ages of the children that live in your home?

- The following table illustrates the percent of respondents who have children in each of the five age groups. For example, 27% of the people in the planning area have children under the age of six living in their homes. Because some people have more than one child, the percentages in this table will not add to 100%.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only	
			82001	82007
Under 6	27%	32%	36%	24%
6 to 12	23%	14%	30%	22%
13 to 14	11%	9%	12%	9%
15 to 18	18%	18%	20%	20%
19 or older	6%	5%	7%	4%
No children	56%	64%	47%	57%

## COMMENTS

*Question: We welcome any comments or suggestions you might have regarding Cheyenne's parks, recreation, trails and open space system. If you would like to provide additional input, please do so on a separate sheet of paper.*

*A total of 104 people or 29% of the respondents provided comments. These centered on the issues raised in the survey including access, Belvoir Ranch, walking trails, the Greenway, maintenance, addition of facilities, open space, satisfaction with the parks and safety issues.*

### Access

- Holliday Park has maybe three walks from the sidewalk to the inner park area; there needs to be easier access for the elderly or wheelchair bound.
- We chose to live away from the city and fully expected to have to drive farther than most people to access facilities.
- Clear Creek Park is not very accessible. There is a long walk to the shelter.

### Belvoir Ranch

- No parks on the south side. Belvoir Ranch – future landfill?
- Where is the Belvoir Ranch? What is it? What will be there? If it's more baseball fields, then no. We need some extreme sports facilities.
- Where is Belvoir Ranch? Can't opine either way.
- Belvoir Ranch is WAY out of town. It would take too long to drive to a park there.

### Connect the Parks with Bike/Walking Trail

- Would be great to have north/south trail similar to current east/west bike trail, to include downtown.
- Essentially, more walking trails that connect the city and go through different neighborhoods. The population is aging and this, if available, will get them out and moving around.
- A better connected park system, via bike route, would be nice.

## Greenway

### General Comments

- I would personally like to see the Greenway paved with asphalt instead of concrete for roller skiing use. The poles used in this activity can't grip concrete. There are similar trail systems in Farole that use asphalt and are great for this purpose. I wish Cheyenne would follow suit. Also, asphalt is better on the knees of runners than concrete.
- I do not use the park along the greenway, except to walk through.

### Positive Comments

- Parks overall or excellent. Need to work on Greenway, maybe installing more backboards at the tennis courts (Holliday Park). I enjoy running on the Greenway; however, it can be frustrating when several portions of the trail do not connect (intersection Yellowstone/Dell Range, also path near Central H.S. or east side of town near College), etc.
- Greenway is our favorite areas since it includes Cahill, Mylar, Lions and Dry Creek. We feel it is imperative that the Greenway is cleaned after the goats leave droppings or keep the off the Greenway. It is sickening to walk there after they have been there.
- I think the most important development for Cheyenne has been the Greenway. It's wonderful to see people out and about.

### Negative Comments

- Southside greenway has too many homeless people. Most parks and trails are so full of goose droppings that you can't hardly walk.
- I would use the greenway more if it was longer, as it gets boring just riding back and forth.
- Far too much money has been, and is, being spent on the Greenway.
- I bike ride 20-25 miles every other day and have come to avoid sections of the Greenway and parks due to dog droppings everywhere.
- The Greenway needs to be swept more often. Parts have loose gravel in particular spots all summer. Also, I like having the goats doing the weed control in town, but PLEASE sweep the Greenway after they have been on it. (Don't know if this is the parks & rec responsibility, but it needs to be done better.)
- Motorized vehicles on the northeast section of the greenway prevent me from using the parks often. I have had several confrontations with older teenagers riding golf carts and motorcycles.

## Maintenance

- At Holliday Park, the horseshoe pits could use some work.

- Lack of water on Prairie View Golf Course was inexcusable. Very poor judgment.
- The bales used as Arrow stops at North Park need to be checked more often. A lot of people use them and for some reason, they get torn up a lot.
- Too much emphasis on golf courses over family parks. Natural areas within urban parks and natural open space areas are a missing design element. Park maintenance is a low priority.
- We have enough parks in Cheyenne, just keep them in good condition.

### More Activities

- I would like to see 4<sup>th</sup> of July, winter ice skating activities that draw the community in. For example: think of how 4<sup>th</sup> of July is depicted in old movies, picnicking, bands, and fireworks by the lake side, etc. Use the gazebo concept for bands more than you do now!
- I have a licensed childcare close to Goins School. I would like to use the parks immediately west of the school, but there are no play activities there for children ages 18 months to four years. Goins School has a nice playground, but we can't use that during the day. I do NOT transport my daycare children in my vehicle so I need a good park in my area to walk to.

### Interest in Other Facilities

#### Dog Park

- I wish we had a dog park closer to my home (82009). The current one is on the opposite side of town.

#### Equestrian

- I would like to see more horse activities and trails.
- There are not equestrian facilities (horseback riding, indoor riding area). Ft. Collins has these, why can't we? Cheyenne is known for its rodeos and cowboys; it should have some things to do with equestrian sports!

#### Motorcross/Motorcycle

- No motorcross available in Cheyenne.
- The city needs to make a motorcycle riding park, not just a motorcross track, but also a full sized motorcycle park, with a flat track, ATV track and trails area. The city also needs a public shooting complex for all types of shooting.

- One of our main interests is riding ATV's and motorcycles. Since our track was closed, we find many families are selling their bikes and ATVs. There just isn't anywhere to ride. There are many problems with people riding in areas where they shouldn't, such as in construction sites and empty lots. Riding was, and could be again, a family recreation. One kid riding a motorcycle or ATV on a track or riding area means one kid will not be on the streets getting into trouble.

#### More Parks

- Perhaps more parks are needed for newly developed areas so more people can enjoy them, as we do Lion's Park.
- It would be nice if there were more "avenues" in Cheyenne. Streets like Notaway, Lincoln Way, Missile Drive, Converse or any other street with lots of space around them should have trees, lawn, shrubs, flowers and nice walking paths.
- There are NO public parks in Western Hills!! What a shame!

#### Recreation Center

- There has been many times I have wished there was a place designed with the whole family in mind that was indoors where my kids (4 & 6) could play and it wouldn't cost a fortune, like an oversized McDonald's play land, with an indoor mini golf course and the like. It seems Cheyenne is plenty big enough with young families and lots of winter weather to merit such a facility. Just some thoughts. Keep up the good work on the parks and expanding them! They add a lot to the community! Sincerely, Dick Perry
- We need more places for people that cannot afford the YMCA. It is not cheap!
- Cheyenne needs a quality, community-wide rec center, i.e., Laramie, Casper. Use the 1-cent tax on it.
- The Y offers an extensive variety of programs. It is often overcrowded. Cheyenne needs an indoor recreation facility encompassing much of what you have listed in this survey, to include youth to seniors. This would be much more of a benefit than a depot.
- We need a recreation center to hold a variety of activities, events and tournaments for kids from Cheyenne and other areas. Build a rec center!!

#### Shooting Range

- There are no places to take my family to shoot, i.e., clay pigeons.
- I really enjoy shooting sports. I wish we had a public archery and target (i.e., center fire rifle, handgun, skeet) range. I realize the rifle range has to be out of town, but what about a public archery range ... please!
- Shooting facilities are badly needed!



- I would like to see the city develop 3 things:
- An indoor/outdoor rifle and pistol range for competition and recreation shooting.
- Football program and field for tackle and flag.
- 18 hole golf course on the south side.
- There is no public shooting range.

#### **Skateboarding**

- I can help if needed on creating a very nice skateboard facility. I own a skate company (local) and know plenty of others that would help out on layout. Call if you have a question about the skate park. 631-0255. Kenny with Choderherd Skate Company.

#### **Swimming**

- Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Cheyenne has a good park system, but there needs to be more parks and more recreational opportunities, both indoor and outdoor. There needs to be more pool time and space. There is too little time for adult lap swimming in the evening at the pool!

#### **Winter Recreation**

- We have a lot of winter here, so a serious outlet for sledding, downhill skiing and cross-country skiing would make good sense.

#### **Tennis**

- There is a lack of quality tennis courts, except at Holiday Park.

#### **Other**

- It might be nice to have an area where people could see livestock, milking and other hands-on ranching operations.

#### **Restrooms**

- We need restrooms at Optimist Park on the south side. No portable restrooms, please!
- The bathrooms in all the parks are terrible and most of the time they are locked.

#### **Open Lands**

- Open lands are a waste of space; make them nice parks.
- There are poor zoning codes and cooperative agreements with fringe ranches. The city should plan for open space and conservation easements, urban fringe ranches, too! Avoid Ft. Collins' mistake; now they can't reverse the rural spread now headed up I-25. Cheyenne's future in 10 years?

#### **Other Parks**

- Rawlins, Laramie, Green River, Casper and Wheatland, just to name a few, all have riding areas/motocross tracks. We are the capital of WY and have nothing. Please help! Thanks.
- Ft. Collins has some great parks (like Fossil Creek park) and an outdoor pool. Cheyenne needs to emulate the Ft. Collins model and make more parks like these.

#### **Overcrowding**

- Sometimes activities are hard to get into, due to the demand.
- I do think the local pool is overcrowded and there should be more private showering facilities (wife's comment).
- I would like to see a new golf course. There are too many people trying to play on the two public courses. I would like to see a new course either around the Cahill Park area or in the new area on the north side of Buffalo Ridge.
- Crossing 12<sup>th</sup> Street to get to United Nations Park prevents me from going there often. Lions Park is overcrowded sometimes and is quite a distance from my home.
- On a nice day, all the parks get really crowded.
- When soccer season is on, Canill Park is overflowing with kids and their families.

#### **Performance Area**

- Cheyenne has an excellent performance area; they just don't use it except for in July.

#### **Safety/Security**

- It is unsafe and a shame to require youth to play football on Miller field.

- The United Nations Park is the neighborhood hangout for the grade school and junior high school aged kids. They can be rather unpleasant to be around.
- Holliday Park has vagrants.
- The new playground equipment at Pioneer and Joyce Parks is not little kid friendly and the slides either hurt to go down or are too steep.
- Park equipment at Holliday Park on the west end needs to be replaced; it is very old. Don't use Belvoir Ranch for a dump!
- City of Cheyenne, about a year ago I took my two-year-old daughter to a park over on W. Lincoln Way, a few blocks from the Alats Motel. That was really creepy there! There were some crazy people hanging around the park and sleeping under the bridge. I was new to the neighborhood and had no idea it was that bad. You should really take the play area down so new people in town don't take their kids over there or get the homeless away from there.
- At Holliday Park, the big kids get way too rough with the younger kids.
- Too many unleashed dogs. The people with dogs don't clean up after them.
- At Pride Park, all of the boys' facilities are in nice locations, but the girls have to play in an industrial dump. We quite softball because of health concerns.
- People let their dogs run loose in Lion's Park.
- I visit most of the parks. Holliday is our favorite, however, don't extend territory recklessly for game stuff – they attract troublemakers. Remember when you were young? You've got to give them space, but remember us old lunatics. Don't screw up Holliday, leave us some grass and quiet.
- When the resident's lawns were dying up, the city was pouring water on a lot of useless parks. Also, if it weren't for the parks, where would the drug pushers hang out?
- The parks must be very poor as all the kids around here use my front street and sidewalk. The police do not help me whenever I have called. I am a veteran's widow and my parents homesteaded in Pine Bluffs area after statehood. I am 83 years old, yet the neighbors kids, plus half the school kids have done \$5,000 worth of damage to my property. My classmates of Central 1539 still meet every month and I give donations to the Jr. Elks, as I know kids don't have to be on drugs and destroying people's property. I am rebuilding my property at my own expense. So why would I want to help Cheyenne? We all did when we had the Share Clubs and we helped each other. I worked on the A-175 at Mod. Center during WWII and now have become charter member of the WWII Memorial in DC. My husband was retired military and passed in 1997. Please don't expect me to help any of you. Your attitudes are NOT worth it.
- Homeless people frequently sleep in Holliday Park's northeast shelter during the summer. I feel badly for them, but I am often wary.

- Unsupervised "punk" kids at any park prevent me from using them. There are not enough areas specific to age, i.e., a place strictly for young kids (0-5), 5-10+, etc. Keep the older kids to their own area.

## South

- Nothing (parks, recreation programs or facilities) on the south side of the city.
- I can't think of any parks on the south side.
- Need more playgrounds on the south side.

## Wildlife

- The need to monitor the growth of geese and duck population is needed at both Lions and Holliday Park.
- I would like to see different signs to tell what birds and wildlife you might be seeing at different times of the year. We need a dog park.
- The droppings of geese and ducks at Holliday Park and to some degree Lion and Mylar, prevent us from using the parks more often.
- There are no parks close to us (82001). We need more shrubs, wildlife habitats, and birdhouses.
- Lower Crow Reservoir should not be developed, but kept wild. I desire protection of this area from vehicle/motorized travel at the park gate. Lower Crow is a great wildlife sanctuary, but increased motorized travel will change this dramatically.

## General Comments

### Neutral

- I did not like the yoga class I took; there was not proper instruction, like at the municipal pool.
- I used the parks more when my own children were young.
- I just look and enjoy the parks; no longer able to do much as I am 86 years of age.
- Sun Valley Park is not completed.
- Question 5 should have ZERC as an option; this question can be used to claim all respondents visit a park at least once a month.

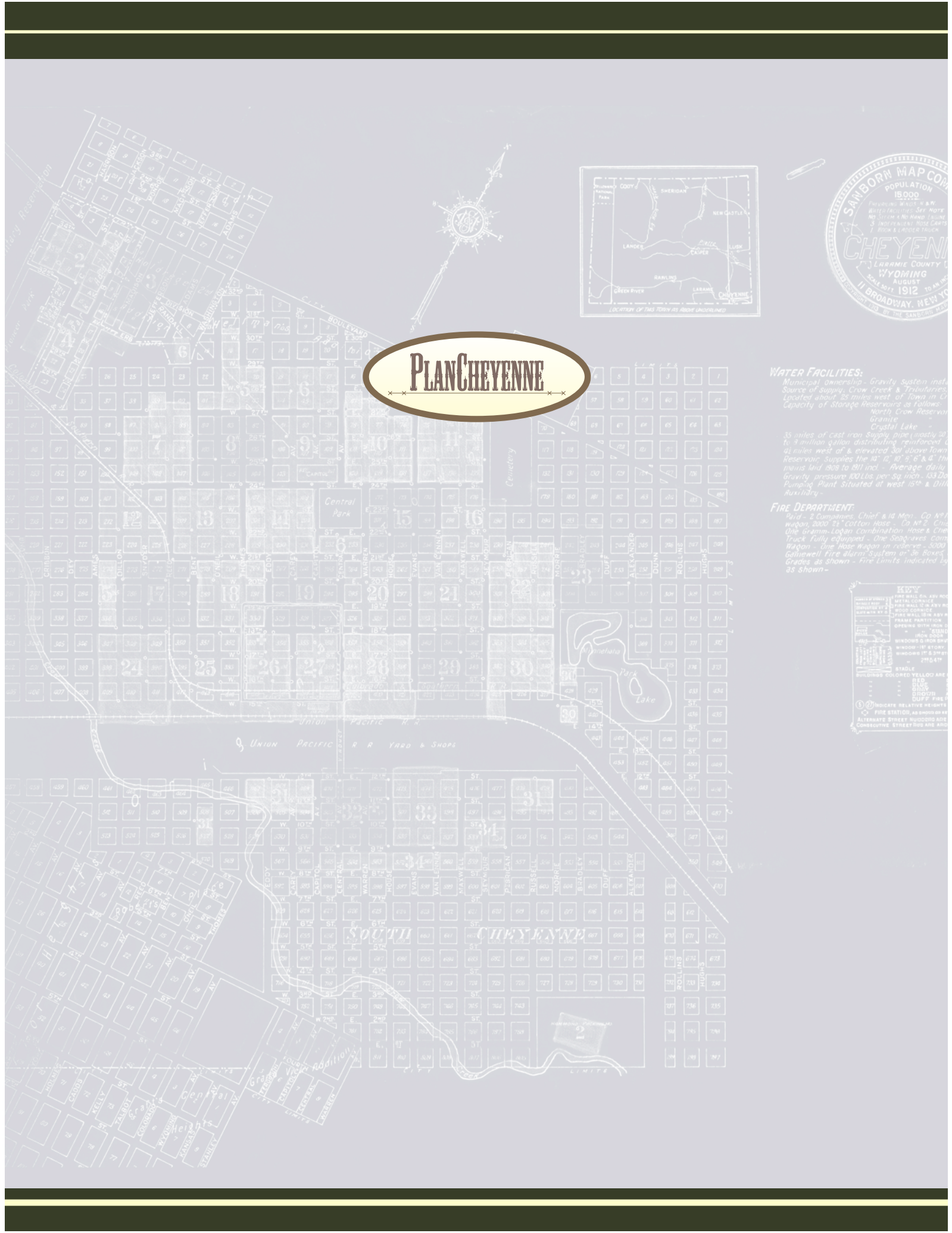
- The map is too small to read.
- We do not feel we can give accurate responses to the survey since we rarely use the parks.
- I signed up for Tai Chi, but it is not good for seniors and stiff joints. Although, old Chinese participate in China all the time ...
- I thank you for the survey. Good luck and God Bless.

*Positive*

- I enjoy Lions Park, but finding the time to driver there and spend time is too infrequent (not the park's fault). I enjoy walking in the woodland areas, but that is unavailable in this part of Wyoming.
- I take my grandchildren to the parks and softball fields. They enjoy the varied playgrounds.
- I gave \$1,000 in support of the new American Legion baseball park. Can't wait.
- My illness, MS, offers great challenge, but our city parks help me do the best I can. Thanks!
- My comments are limited as we do not use the parks like young families do, but we appreciate being asked. The parks are such an important part of our city. Good luck!
- I think the parks are great. We take the grandchildren to the parks daily when they are in town visiting.
- We need places for the youth and I am willing to support it.

*Negative*

- Too much spent on baseball/softball.
- Cheyenne caters to the rich areas and ignores the moderate to low income. People vote NO, but the city does what they want.
- I am NOT willing to pay additional taxes or fees as they waste too much money now.
- I'm very disappointed that Prairie View is being shut down. I've had all my kids in the youth golf program. Where are these kids going to learn? Will Airport accommodate the beginners and less skilled golfers? Bigger isn't always better!



# PLAN CHEYENNE



## WATER FACILITIES:

Municipal ownership - Gravity system installed.  
Source of Supply, Crow Creek & Trout Creek Reservoirs, located about 25 miles west of town in G. & N. Co.  
Capacity of Storage Reservoirs as follows:  
North Crow Reservoir - 15,000,000 gal.  
Crystal Lake - 1,000,000 gal.  
35 miles of cast iron supply line (mostly 30" to 4 million gallon distributing reinforced concrete pipe) 45 miles west of & elevated 300' above town. Reservoir supplies the 40", 36", 30", 24", 20", 18", 16", 14", 12", 10", 8", 6", 4", 3", 2", 1" mains laid 808 to 891 incl. - Average daily Gravity pressure 100 lbs. per sq. inch. 1932 Co. Pumping Plant Situated at west 15th & Ohio Auxiliary -

## FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Paid - 2 Companies, Chief & 14 Men. Co. No. 1 wagon, 2000 lb. cotton hose - Co. No. 2, City One, Graham-Lugin Combination Hose & Ch. Truck fully equipped - One Seelye's Com. Wagon - One Hose Wagon in reserve - 5000 Gallon well fire alarm system of 30 boxes. Grades as shown - Fire Limits indicated by as shown -





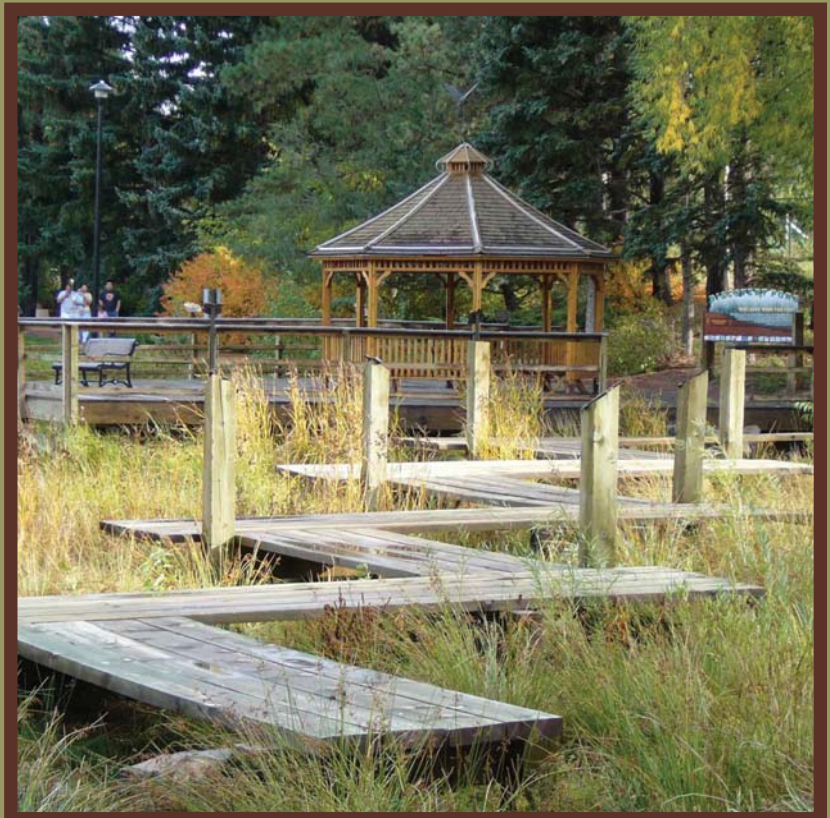


Creating a Legacy of Parks & Open Spaces

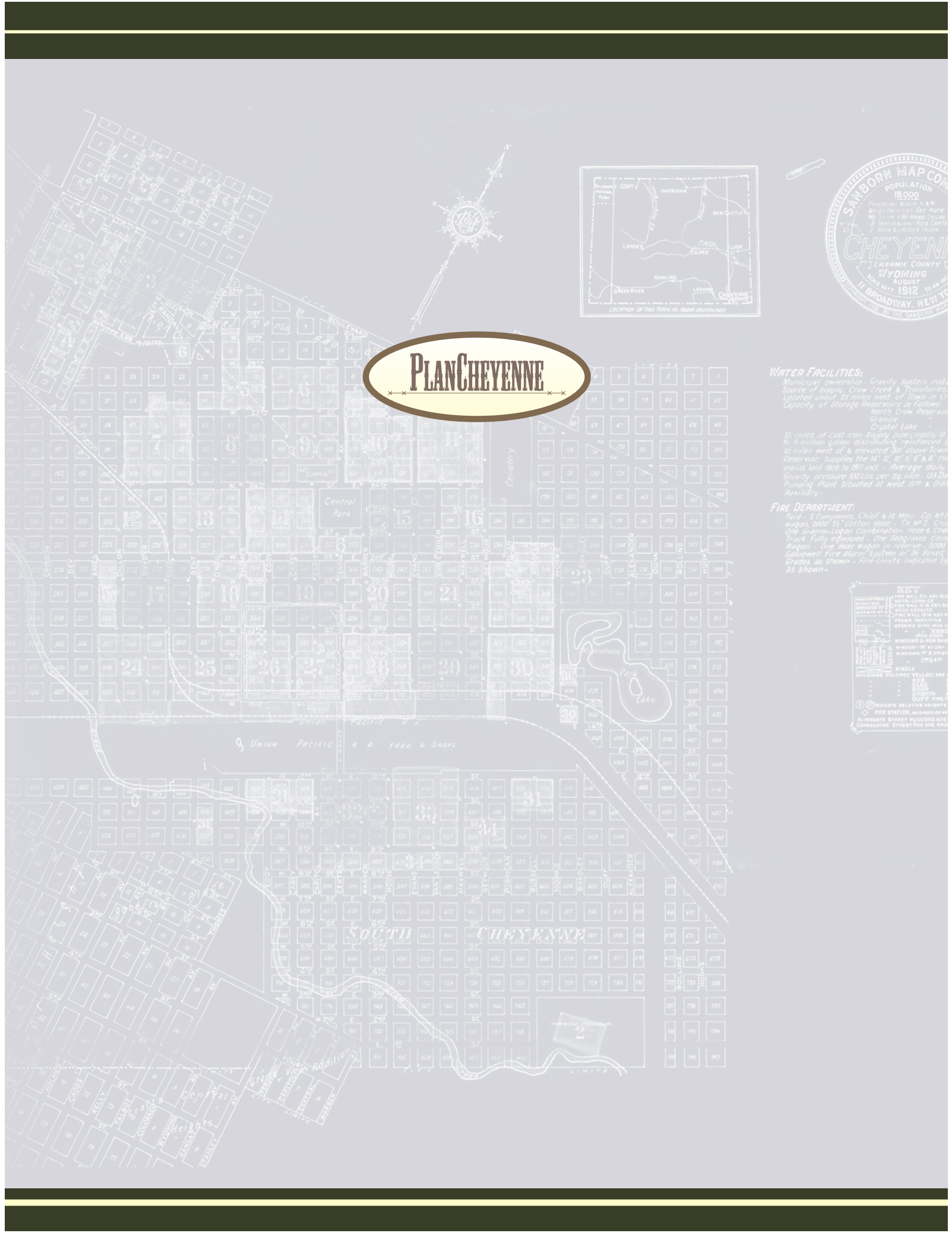
## Parks & Recreation Master Plan

# Structure

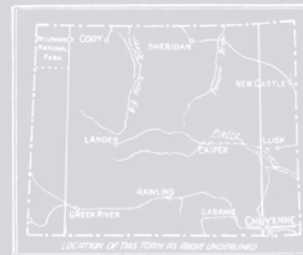
## *Parks & Recreation Building Blocks*







# PLAN CHEYENNE



## WATER FACILITIES:

Municipal ownership - Gravity system installed.  
Source of Supply, Crow Creek & Trout Creek Reservoirs.  
Located about 25 miles west of Town in G.  
Capacity of Storage Reservoirs as follows:  
North Crow Reservoir  
Granite  
Crystal Lake  
35 miles of cast iron Supply line capacity 30 to 4 million gallon distributing reinforced 44 miles west of & elevated 300' above Town Reservoir. Supplies the 40", 30", 24", 20", 18" & 16" mains laid 808 to 891 incl. - Average daily Gravity pressure 100 Lbs. per Sq. inch. 1932  
Pumping Plant Situated at west 15th & 9th Auxiliary -

## FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Paid - 2 Companies, Chief & 14 Men. Co. No. 1 wagon, 2000 lb. Cotton Horse - Co. No. 2, City One, Graham-Lugan Combination Horse & Cattle Truck fully equipped - One Seelye's Com. Wagon - One Horse Wagon in reserve - 5000 Gallon well fire alarm system of 30 boxes. Grades as shown - Fire Limits indicated by as shown -





# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN STRUCTURE

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# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN STRUCTURE

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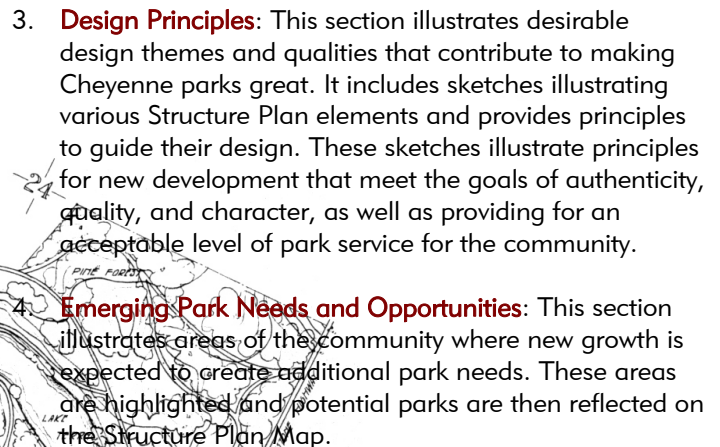
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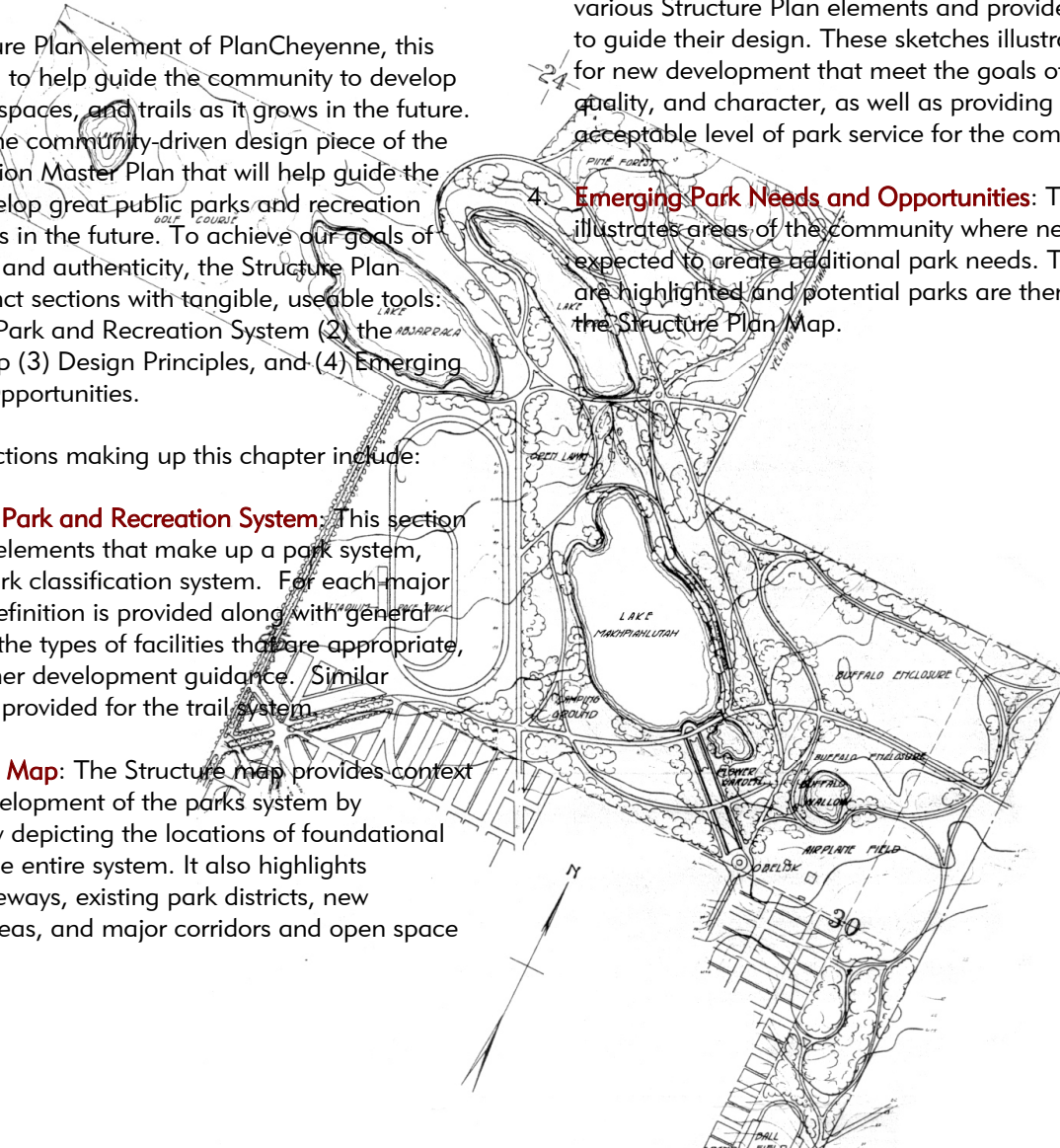
## Welcome to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan - *Structure*

As with the Structure Plan element of PlanCheyenne, this section is intended to help guide the community to develop great parks, open spaces, and trails as it grows in the future. Structure Plan is the community-driven design piece of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will help guide the community to develop great public parks and recreation facilities as it grows in the future. To achieve our goals of character, quality, and authenticity, the Structure Plan includes four distinct sections with tangible, useable tools: (1) Elements of a Park and Recreation System (2) the Structure Plan Map (3) Design Principles, and (4) Emerging Park Needs and Opportunities.

The four major sections making up this chapter include:

1. **Elements of a Park and Recreation System:** This section describes the elements that make up a park system, including a park classification system. For each major park type, a definition is provided along with general guidelines on the types of facilities that are appropriate, layout and other development guidance. Similar information is provided for the trail system.
2. **Structure Plan Map:** The Structure map provides context for further development of the parks system by geographically depicting the locations of foundational elements of the entire system. It also highlights important gateways, existing park districts, new opportunity areas, and major corridors and open space districts.

- 
3. **Design Principles:** This section illustrates desirable design themes and qualities that contribute to making Cheyenne parks great. It includes sketches illustrating various Structure Plan elements and provides principles to guide their design. These sketches illustrate principles for new development that meet the goals of authenticity, quality, and character, as well as providing for an acceptable level of park service for the community.
  4. **Emerging Park Needs and Opportunities:** This section illustrates areas of the community where new growth is expected to create additional park needs. These areas are highlighted and potential parks are then reflected on the Structure Plan Map.







# ELEMENTS OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

### 1

## Section 1. Elements of a Park and Recreation System

There are numerous types of parkland, open space, recreational facilities, and amenities that exist in Cheyenne as well as those that could be further developed for public recreational use. This section provides definitions for three major categories of parks including: Parkland, Open Space, Trails, and Recreation Amenities.

Parkland includes each of the various types of parkland typically found in a comprehensive park and recreation system of the size of Cheyenne. Community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, regional parks, special purpose parks, and sports complexes are all considered parkland and each has a distinct function and purpose that contributes to greatly to the overall success of a parks system.

Open space is most often thought of as natural, un-programmed areas outside of developed areas of the city that have been set aside for conservation, recreation, and aesthetic beauty. The City of Cheyenne is fortunate to be surrounded by large tracts of potential open space that contribute greatly to the unique Western character of the area. Providing for, and managing open space is a wonderful asset to a community and complements nicely the more traditional, developed parkland most often found within city limits.

Trails and trail systems not only provide a recreational amenity to a community, but also serve as an integral piece of the transportation infrastructure. Trails can cover a wide-range of purposes and styles, from highly developed, paved corridors used for commuting, to natural, soft-surfaced paths used for hiking and mountain biking.

Lastly, recreation amenities often serve as the heart of a municipal park and recreation system. Recreation amenities can include such large scale projects as a recreation center with a competitive swimming pool, a senior activity center, or even a temporary ice rink for winter-time only recreation. Whatever their purpose, recreation amenities allow many people with varying interests the ability to use a park and recreation system to its fullest.

The above described categories are already being provided for and managed to varying degrees by the City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department, however they also need to be continually examined and considered for possible future inclusion and integration into the city's system as the community grows and matures. A properly coordinated system of parks, open space, trails, and recreation amenities will contribute greatly to the overall quality of life in Cheyenne.



## PARKS

### Neighborhood Park

Table 1.1 illustrates typical characteristics and standards of neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks provide nearby recreation and leisure opportunities within walking distance (typically one-half mile) of residential areas. They should serve as a common area for neighbors of all ages to gather, socialize and play. Typically neighborhood parks are located in developed areas and are intended to receive a high level of use. They are also often located adjacent to greenways, open space, or elementary or junior high schools. A neighborhood park should be accessible via a walkway or trail system within the city and at least half of the park, or two sides, should be bordered by a street providing easy public access, good line of sight, and parking. A

neighborhood park site surrounded with the rear property lines of houses is strongly discouraged. A typical neighborhood park should range in size from 5 to 20 acres. A slightly smaller size may be acceptable if the park system is adjacent to other parkland, natural areas, greenway or green space areas if the joined areas still provide larger neighborhood park purposes and functions. Figure 1.1 illustrates a conceptual layout of a typical neighborhood park.

Neighborhood Parks typically have landscaping and walking surfaces that can withstand the impacts of heavy foot traffic. Portions of the park site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development. Neighborhood parks typically include a paved, multi-purpose area for court games, a multi-purpose play field, play equipment, ADA accessible trails, and shaded areas for picnics and sitting within a landscaped setting that is a blend of fully irrigated areas for active uses and xeriscape areas for passive uses.

Table 1.1  
Neighborhood Park Characteristics and Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
<b>PARKS</b>				
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>				
Neighborhood Park	5-20 acres; slightly smaller size may be acceptable if adjacent to other parkland/natural areas or greenway parks while accommodating larger neighborhood park purposes/functions.	<p>Provides nearby recreation and leisure opportunities within walking distance (one-half mile) of residential areas. Should serve as a common area for neighbors of all ages to gather, socialize and play.</p> <p>Typically would include a paved, multi-purpose area for court games/in-line skating or two tennis courts, a multi-purpose play field with backstop, play equipment, ADA accessible trails and shaded areas for picnics and sitting within a landscaped setting that is a blend of full irrigation for active uses and xeriscape. Features such as interpretive signs, water bodies, and areas of natural vegetation may also be included where appropriate. In most cases, programmed sports activities should be limited to practices. On-street parking is typically adequate, and separate parking lots are discouraged unless a rental picnic pavilion is included or other feature that generates a large volume of automobile traffic that cannot be accommodated on the available street frontage.</p>	<p>Centrally locate within area served.</p> <p>Accessible via walkway or urban trail.</p> <p>Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development.</p> <p>At least ½ of the park, two sides, shall be bordered by public streets in order to provide easy public access, visual surveillance and parking. Surrounding the site with the back property lines of houses is strongly discouraged.</p> <p>Locate adjacent to elementary or junior high schools if desirable.</p>	2.5 acres / 1,000 pop.

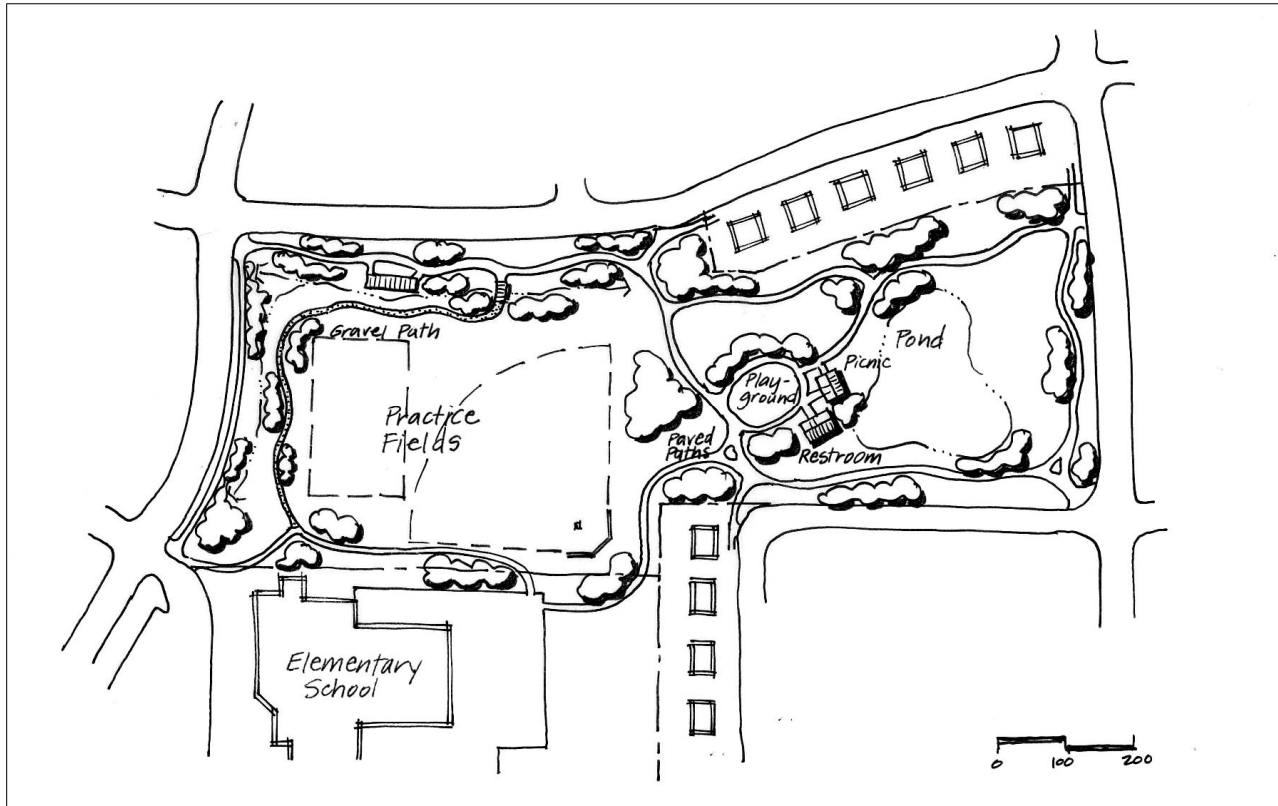


Figure 1.1  
Conceptual Rendering of Typical Neighborhood Park

There may also be passive areas that offer un-maintained native vegetation to provide for a natural experience in an urban setting. As surrounding residential land uses limits the intensity of use in the park such, neighborhood parks often appear more manicured than the surrounding natural landscape. Other features, such as interpretive signs, water bodies, and areas of natural vegetation may also be included where appropriate. On-street parking is typically adequate for a neighborhood park, and separate parking lots are discouraged. Programmed sports activities in Neighborhood Parks should generally be limited to practices. A level of service standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 people is typical for many communities. If this standard is applied to an average 10 acre neighborhood park, that park could then be expected to reasonably serve approximately 4,000 residents. An average 20 acre neighborhood park could be expected to serve approximately 8,000 residents.

### Typical Level of Service Provision for Neighborhood Parks

Park Size	Standard	People Served
10 acres	2.5 ac/1,000 pop.	4,000
20 acres	2.5 ac/1,000 pop.	8,000

### Typical Elements of a Neighborhood Park

- Paved multi-purpose area for court games
- Play equipment
- ADA accessible trails
- Shaded picnic areas

## PARKS

### Pocket Park

Pocket Parks are considered small neighborhood parks and this park type is very common in the City of Cheyenne. Pocket parks average approximately 2 acres or less in size, making them more of an amenity for neighbors living in the immediate vicinity as opposed to an amenity for the larger surrounding neighborhood. They often serve a neighborhood where opportunities for a larger park site are unavailable within a one-quarter mile radius. Pocket parks are similar to neighborhood parks in function and characteristics, except that they offer fewer amenities due to their limited size. Typical amenities might include playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, and a paved, multi-purpose court area. While pocket parks supplement the neighborhood park system and provide visual relief within the urban landscape for the homes within the immediate area, they are not substitutes for adequately sized neighborhood parks. Since the parcels are small, they have limited use for larger neighborhood gatherings, youth sports practices, self-directed activities such as kite-flying, and other activities that require larger open areas. The proliferation of small parks is important to note because they are very expensive to maintain on a per-acre basis.

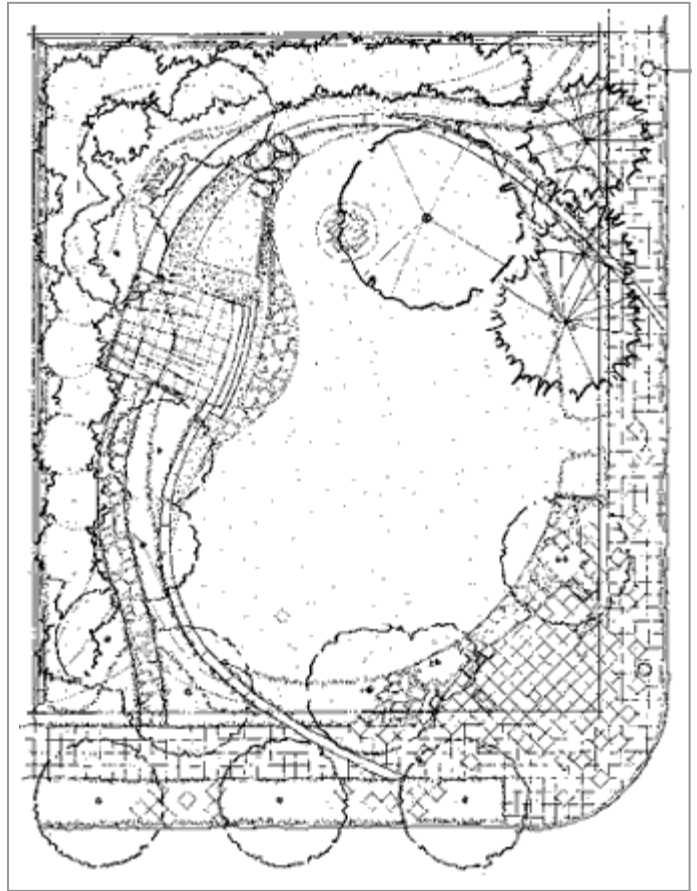


Figure 1.2  
Conceptual Rendering of Pocket Park

#### Typical Elements of a Pocket Park

- Paved multi-purpose area for court games
- Playgrounds
- Benches
- Picnic tables





## PARKS

### Community Park

Table 1.2 illustrates typical characteristics and standards of community parks. Community parks are larger parks that can offer certain functions to the entire city and provide opportunities for activities and facilities on a community wide level. They should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas such as urban forests, gardens, historic features, water features, performance areas, festival spaces, and plazas that appeal to the broader community.

Community Parks should generally be located so as to provide all residents access within 1-2 miles of their home. Community Parks may also serve as the local neighborhood park for residential areas within one-half mile. They should be equitably distributed throughout the urban area and easily accessible by all residents, ideally via car, bicycle or by foot. They should be connected via an off-street trail system to reduce the need for driving to the park. Community parks are ideally 25 to 100 acres in size, and portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development. Special site features such as streams, lakes, forests, rock outcrops, historic or archaeological sites, areas of native vegetation and other interesting elements may add to the unique character and diversity of the park. Often these areas are un-maintained to provide a more natural

Table 1.2  
Community Park Characteristics and Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
<b>PARKS</b>				
<b>Community Parks</b>				
Community Park	25-100 acres	<p>Provides opportunities for community wide activities and facilities. Should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas such as urban forests, gardens, historic features, water features, performance areas, festival spaces, plazas, etc. and have features that appeal to the broader community.</p> <p>Sports complexes are not complete community parks as they are very special-purpose. However, they contribute to the overall level of service for community parks. See definition below.</p> <p>Community Parks should generally be located so as to provide all residents access to a community park within 1- 2 miles of their home. Community Parks may also serve as the local neighborhood park for residential areas within ½ mile.</p>	<p>Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development if the park site allows. Special site features such as streams, lakes, forests, rock outcrops, historic or archaeological sites and other interesting elements may add to the unique character of the park.</p> <p>Ideally, will have good access from a collector or arterial street.</p> <p>Direct access to primary community trail system desirable.</p>	5.8 acres / 1,000 pop.



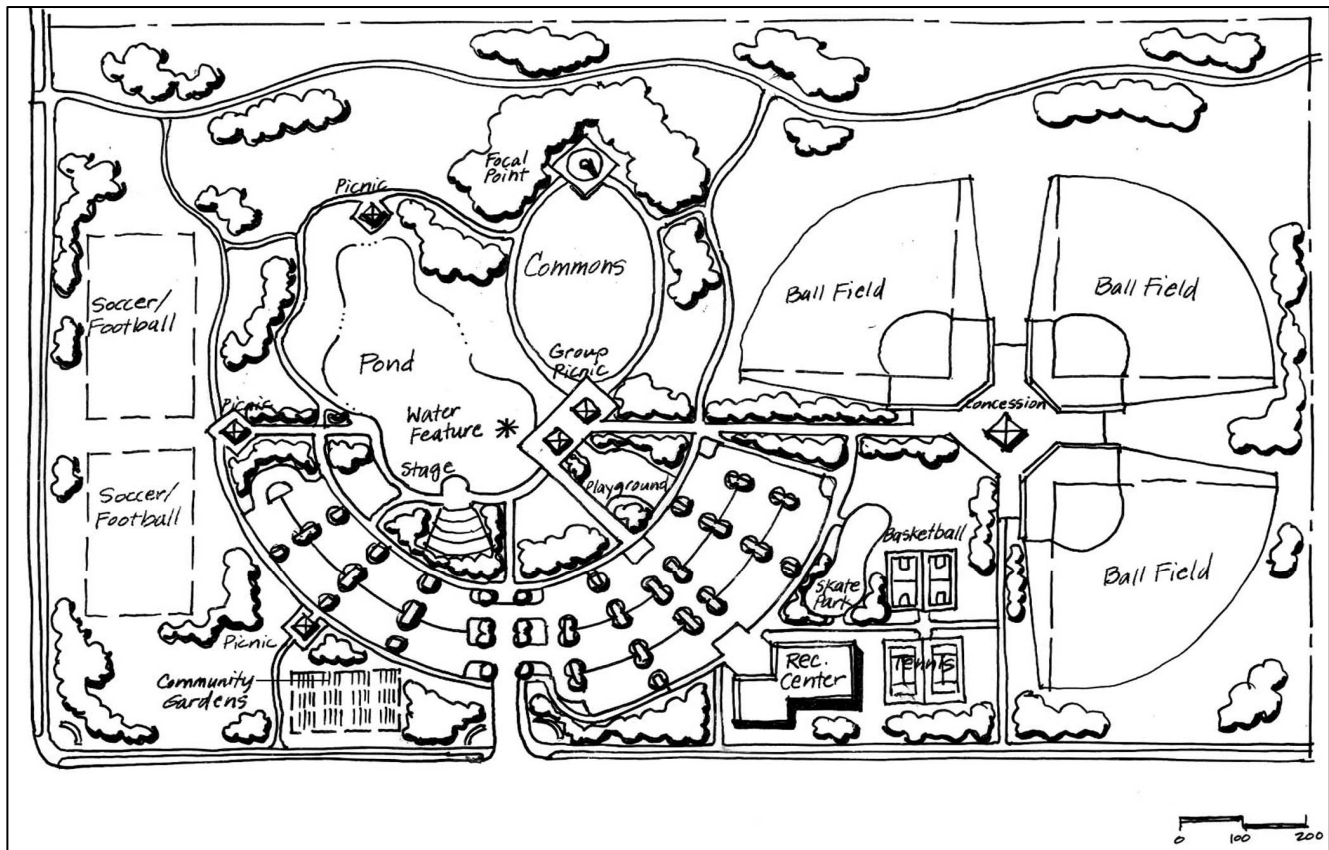


Figure 1.3  
Conceptual Rendering of Typical Community Park

environment in an urban setting. Sports complexes by themselves are not complete community parks as they serve a special-purpose, however, they do contribute to the overall level of service for community parks. Figure 1.3 illustrates a conceptual layout of a typical community park.

A level of service standard of 5.8 acres per 1,000 people is about average for many communities. If this standard is applied to an average 25 acre community park, that park could then be expected to reasonably serve approximately 4,300 residents. An average 100 acre community park could be expected to serve approximately 17,200 residents.

### Typical Level of Service Provision for Community Parks

Park Size	Standard	People Served
25 acres	5.8 ac/1,000 pop.	4,300
100 acres	5.8 ac/1,000 pop.	17,200

### Typical Elements of a Community Park

- Paved multi-purpose area for court games
- Playgrounds
- Picnic shelters
- Athletic fields
- Community activity areas
- Off-street trail connections

## PARKS

### Sports Complex

Sports complexes are specialized, more intensively programmed community parks, which provide opportunities for community-wide programmed and self-directed sports including: baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, in-line hockey, and skateboarding. They may be single purpose and not contain the broad array of amenities and activities that are offered in community parks. Sports complexes offer limited areas for passive recreation use and other features that might appeal to the broader community. They are often strategically located within communities to fill gaps in service for specialized sports facilities that may not be available at all community or neighborhood parks. The majority of the sports complex site should be relatively flat to accommodate various types of sports fields, and the site should be located away from residential areas to avoid traffic, light and noise conflicts. These sites should also have parking, access to the greenway/ trails system, possibly concessions areas, restrooms/ facilities, and areas for parents to sit and for smaller kids to hang out, like playgrounds.



#### Typical Elements of a Sports Complex

- Paved multi-purpose area for court games
- Athletic fields
- Restrooms
- Passive areas for parents
- Ample off-street parking

## PARKS

### Regional Park

Regional Parks are large park and recreation areas that can contain a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities serving users from an entire region, such as all of Laramie County. Often, regional parks are developed in partnership with other government entities such as counties or park districts. There are no set standards for regional parks, however, they typically are larger in size, usually 50 to 100 acres and contain a sports complex that serves a regional need, such as hosting tournaments. They are also often located near major arterials with easy access for residents of adjacent communities. Regional parks can also contain a special facility of regional significance, such as an environmental learning center, museum, mountain bicycling course, or kayak park. There is no set level of service standard for regional parks however they can serve part of a neighborhood or community park level of service if the park site contributes to these types of needs and serves these types of functions.



Frontier Park

#### Typical Elements of a Regional Park

- Regional sports complex
- Special facilities of regional significance
- Large acreage

## PARKS

### Special Purpose Park

Table 1.3 illustrates the purpose of a special purpose park. A special purpose park is highly varied in size and character, typically serving a specialized function. They often serve a focused community need such as a horticulture center, environmental education center, working farm, performance area, festival area, fairgrounds, urban plaza, equestrian center or civic park. There are no set standards for special purpose parks as they are often sized and tailored with characteristics to meet the needs of the park. There is also no set level of service standard. However, they can contribute to meeting neighborhood or community park level

of service standards if the site contributes to these types of needs. Cheyenne currently has two special purpose parks: the former Saddle Tramps Riding Club area, which contains an equestrian riding arena; and the Depot Plaza next to the Historic Union Pacific Depot, which is scheduled and maintained by the City Special Projects Division and is used for festivals in downtown. Another one too, the USDA Grasslands research station, open to public if you call ahead, and eventually part of that will revert to city and be the High Plains Arboretum.

#### Typical Elements of a Special Purpose Park

- Special purpose facility
- Acreage meets the needs of the facility
- Serves community needs

Table 1.3  
Special Purpose Park Characteristics and Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
<b>PARKS</b>				
<b>Special Purpose Parks</b>				
Sports Complex	Varies	Provides opportunities for community-wide programmed and self-directed sports such as: baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, in-line hockey, and skateboarding in higher intensity use facilities. Limited areas for passive recreation uses and other features that appeal to the broader community. Strategically locate to fill service gaps for specialized sports facilities.	Majority of site should be relatively flat to accommodate sports fields.  Locate away from residential areas to avoid traffic, light and noise conflicts.	Part of community park level of service standard.
Special Purpose Park	Varies	Serves a singular or very focused community need, such as a horticulture center, environmental education center, working farm, performance area, festival area, fairgrounds, urban plaza, equestrian center and civic park.	Varies	Not applicable. Part of neighborhood or community park level of service if site contributes to these types of needs.
Regional Park	Varies, but typically more than 200 acres.	Provides facilities and recreational amenities intended to serve city residents as well as the surrounding region. As such, regional parks typically involve partnerships involving several jurisdictions who come together to provide a service or benefit that they can't individually afford or that they can provide more economically through a partnership. Typically, regional parks contain a mix of active sports fields, natural and cultural areas and other amenities. Regional parks can function as community parks for the areas in which they are located and may also serve a neighborhood park function if appropriate facilities and park spaces are provided.	Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development. Special site features such as wildlife habitat, streams, lakes, forests, rock outcrops, historic or archaeological sites and other interesting elements may add to the unique character of the park.  Direct access from an arterial street.  Direct access to primary community trail system.	Not applicable, but some park acreage may be used to satisfy community park needs and may therefore be calculated into the total community parkland available in the City.



## OPEN SPACE

Open space occurs on a spectrum, from natural environments, to common areas, to parks. Often, natural open spaces can occur within or adjacent to programmed park sites. In the context of this plan, open space can be thought of as an interconnected system of protected lands that are conserved in their natural state, restored, or improved with appropriate native landscaping to retain a natural or natural-appearing condition. Open space areas provide resource conservation, visual, wildlife, and non-motorized recreational benefits, as well as relief from urban development. Like parks, open space increases property values and provides educational opportunities, in addition to providing a number of “free” ecosystem services like flood storage. Allowed uses vary depending upon resource sensitivity and management objectives, but some areas can accommodate passive recreational uses and facilities such as trails, trailheads, overlooks, rest areas and interpretive signage. Section 4, *Design Principles for Structure Plan Elements*, of the **PlanCheyenne** Structure Plan document further describes the vital role open space plays in a community, the structure it can provide, and the unique character it offers.

Open space areas are generally classified into four types: Natural Areas, Regional Open Space, Special Resource Areas and Visual Green Spaces. Natural areas may also include corridors through which non-motorized trail systems and bike paths are located. Table 1.4 illustrates characteristic and standards of various types of open space.



Proposed Natural/Cultural Resource Area



# ELEMENTS OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

### 1

Table 1.4  
Open Space Characteristics and Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
<b>OPEN SPACE</b>				
<b>Natural Area/Natural Corridor</b>				
Natural Area	Varies, but typically 10 acres or greater	Protects natural values on smaller parcels. Often located along stream corridors. Provides opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation, which may include multi-purpose trails.	Emphasis on resource protection or preservation with some public access provided.  Limited site area can be dedicated to park-like uses, such as roads, parking areas, trails, environmental education/interpretive areas, picnic sites, and visitor support facilities.	No LOS standard.
<b>Regional Open Spaces</b>				
Regional Open Space	100 acres or greater	Protects large areas with natural resource values of community-wide significance. Provides opportunities for nature-oriented outdoor recreation.	Emphasis on achieving an appropriate balance between resource protection and public use.	No LOS standard.
<b>Special Resource Areas</b>				
Special Resource Area	Varies	Protects areas with important cultural, natural and other community values. These may include areas of significant vegetation, important and sensitive habitats, scenic areas, or areas that contribute to the urban shaping and buffering goals of the community.	Emphasis is on resource protection rather than recreation. If public access is not desirable or needed, conservation easements may be a suitable preservation tool.	No LOS standard.
<b>Visual Green Spaces</b>				
Visual Green Spaces	Varies	Strategically located and highly visible natural or manicured lands that contribute significantly to the visual quality of the community. May have little or no public access or recreational activities.	May be part of a larger public project (e.g. arterial streetscape or public building landscape)	No LOS standard.

## OPEN SPACE

### Natural Areas

Natural areas are lands with natural characteristics and emphasis on resource protection. The size varies but is usually no less than 10 acres and there is no set standard level of service. If the area encompasses a trail system or corridors, they may be linear in nature. Natural areas are typically created to protect natural values on smaller parcels of land and are often located along stream corridors. They will often provide opportunities for nature-oriented, non-motorized outdoor recreation, which may include multi-purpose trails. Limited site areas can be dedicated to park-like uses, such as roads, parking areas, trails, environmental education/interpretive areas, picnic sites, and visitor support facilities. Generally, due to the intent of natural value protection, park-like uses are limited.



Cheyenne Greenway Natural Area

## OPEN SPACE

### Regional Open Space

Regional open spaces are large areas with significant natural resource values that include opportunities for non-motorized nature-oriented recreation. The size of a regional open space area will vary, however it is generally more than 100 acres and there is no set standard level of service. Regional open space typically protects large areas of undeveloped natural space with community-wide significance. Overall, the emphasis is on achieving an appropriate balance between resource protection and public use; however regional open space may also provide opportunities for nature-oriented outdoor recreation. Often there will be a natural surface trail system used by hikers, equestrian riders, and mountain bikers.



Big Hole



Typical Open Space near Residential Development



## OPEN SPACE

### Special Resource Area

Special resource areas are lands that protect areas with important cultural, natural or community values. These may include areas of significant vegetation, important and sensitive habitats, scenic areas, or areas that contribute to the urban shaping goals of the region. Management of these special resource areas emphasizes resource protection rather than recreation and public access for recreation may be prohibited. If public access is not desirable or needed, conservation easements may act as a suitable preservation tool. The size of a special resource area will vary depending on its intended use or the community's goal and there is no set standard level of service.



Protected Drainage

## OPEN SPACE

### Visual Green Spaces

Visual green spaces are intended to be areas of city-wide significance often associated with public road rights of way. Typically they are strategically located and highly visible natural or manicured lands that contribute significantly to the visual quality of the community. Visual green spaces may be part of a larger public project such as an arterial streetscape, public building landscape, a cemetery, or a golf course. Many of the gateways around Cheyenne described in the *PlanCheyenne Structure Plan*, particularly landscape and community gateways, provide areas of visual green space. As they may have little or no public access or recreational activities, communities should be very selective in accepting maintenance responsibilities for these types of spaces. The size of visual green space varies and there is no set standard level of service.



Visual Green Space

## TRAILS

Trails also occur on a spectrum, ranging from soft-surface trails in remote areas to shared-use paths adjacent to major roadways. Ideally, trails should occur in non-vehicular corridors with appropriate pedestrian amenities, aesthetic enhancements, and connections. Although this is not always an achievable goal (especially in built areas), Cheyenne should seek to continue to separate pedestrians from vehicles in order to enhance safety and the recreational experience, as well as promoting functional alternative modes of transportation.

This plan contains trail design characteristics and standards that may be easily adapted to fit the needs of Cheyenne. Off-street trails are primarily recreational in nature, versus bike transportation corridors that are part of the higher speed, on-street bike lane system. Recreational trails may link to schools, public parks, recreational facilities and open space areas; to other neighborhoods; or to work or shopping destinations. The trail classifications and design standards presented in this section have been developed with consideration of the information provided in “Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind – A Handbook for Trail Planners..”<sup>1</sup>

The construction of a trail invariably results in some ecological impact. Whether it is vegetation that is removed in the process of building a trail or the creation of new ecological conditions prompting a shift in the composition of wildlife and plant species, biological diversity is impacted. Disturbance along a trail can also cause some wildlife species to abandon their nests, decline parental care, shorten feeding times and/or move away permanently. It is therefore imperative that trail corridors be designed from a landscape perspective in an effort to balance the needs of the landscape and wildlife with that of recreational users.

### Recommended Design Considerations

- Minimize the zone of influence by reducing the width of the trail so that a balance is achieved between the development of a multi-use trail system and the preservation of wildlife habitat.
- Align a trail along or near an existing human-created ecological edge rather than bisecting undisturbed areas or large areas of wildlife habitat to minimize habitat fragmentation.
- Primary trails should be located within a green space or minimum 50-foot easement to provide a scenic environment, and to provide adequate room for both a paved and non-paved trail where appropriate.
- Provide an adequate buffer, up to 100 feet, between trail development and wetland areas where feasible.
- Locate trails, where feasible, in scenic locations, but not within or immediately adjacent to sensitive vegetation or significant wildlife habitat.
- Minimize cut and fill slopes adjacent to the trail.
- Restrict the density of trails within and near high quality wildlife habitat areas.
- Select degraded areas with potential for restoration.
- All graded slopes should be re-vegetated and measures taken to control storm drainage, weed invasion and erosion.
- Re-vegetate upland areas disturbed by trail development, as appropriate, for continuity with the surrounding natural vegetation communities.

<sup>1</sup> Colorado State Parks, September 1998.

## TRAILS

### Primary Multi-Purpose Trails

#### Purpose

Primary Multi-Purpose Trails often form the major trail spines throughout cities, counties, and neighboring communities. They accommodate all trail users, including walkers, joggers, wheelchair cruisers, in-line skaters, recreational and commute bikers, and equestrian users within the same trail corridor on separated trails. The preferable location of these trails should be along drainageways, utility easements, or other linear features to connect parks, open space areas, recreational facilities and major destination nodes. Due to their volume of use, alignments in environmentally sensitive areas should be avoided. Trails that must be located adjacent to roadways should incorporate a 50-foot easement where feasible and appropriate. A 3-foot wide, soft surface shoulder on one side of the trail should be provided for joggers and walkers who prefer a softer surface.

As these trails form key components of an interconnected regional trail system that provides an alternative mode of transportation, funding can often be acquired through regional, state, and federal agencies. Coordination with adjacent municipalities and land management agencies is critical in order to ensure alignment connectivity.

#### Design Considerations

Trail corridor width greatly influences the user experience, especially when enclosed on both sides by development.

Ideally, the trail corridor for trails should be a minimum of 50 feet in width, built on existing powerline easements, railroad or abandoned right-of-ways, gas pipeline corridors, and floodplains to create wider trail corridors. It should include a main bi-directional trail with a tread width of 12 feet. A separate but parallel soft-surface trail (4 to 6 feet wide) should be provided where equestrian use is anticipated, which separates equestrian users from bicyclists. The distance between each trail type can vary, but a minimum of 6 feet from tread to tread should be provided. A far line of sight and turning radius is necessary for commuter speeds. Center lane striping delineates direction of travel on the paved trail to accommodate high volumes of use.

The trail should take precedent as a main transportation feature just like any road system, and pedestrian underpasses should be incorporated into any planned roadway or bridge improvements. Strong connections to community destination points encourage non-vehicular travel to events, and trailheads should be conveniently located at activity centers. Trailheads should also have adequate parking and may contain certain facilities such as information kiosks and restrooms. Intersections and other areas where users must stop or dismount should be minimized. Below grade crossings should be used as much as possible, especially at arterial streets, in order to minimize pedestrian-vehicle conflicts. Benches, overlooks and interpretive areas at activity centers and other strategic locations should be provided throughout the corridor. Figures 1.4-1.7 illustrate the cross-sections of the various trails and include trail widths, trail shoulders and clearance requirements. Table 1.5 lists the specific design standards for primary and secondary trails.

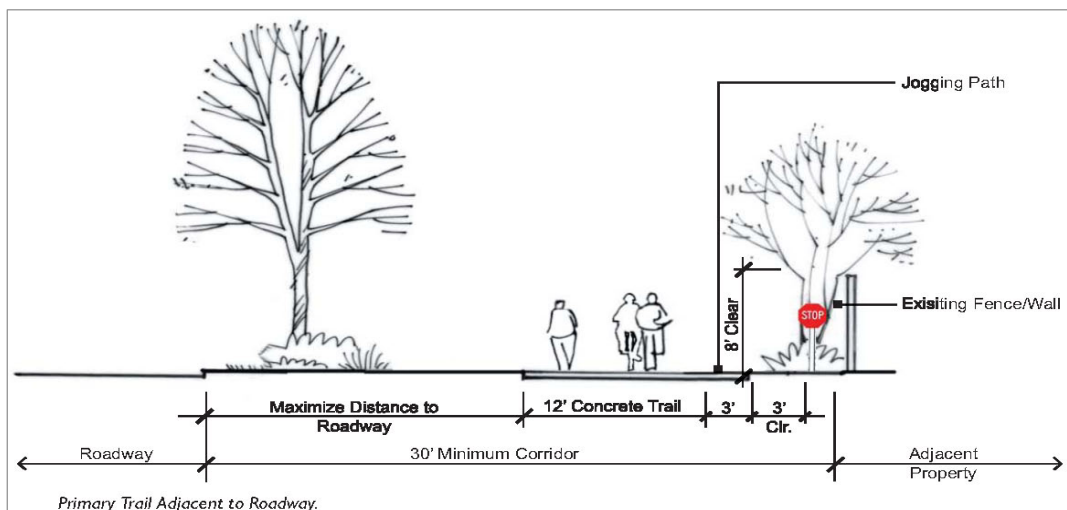


Figure 1.4  
Primary Multi-Purpose Trail



### TRAILS

#### Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails

##### Purpose

Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails can support the Primary Multi-Use Trail system by providing connections to parks, open spaces, and activity centers not on the regional system. Like Regional Trails, these trails are designed to accommodate all trail users, including walkers, joggers, and recreational and commute cyclists on the same trail. However, the corridor width and trail width are smaller and

stopping is required more often at at-grade vehicular crossings. Equestrian users can often be accommodated where necessary on a 3-foot soft shoulder adjacent to the paved trail. Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails that must be located adjacent to roadways should incorporate a 20-foot minimum easement where feasible and appropriate.

##### Design Considerations

These undivided trails are typically 8 to 12 feet wide, and paved with concrete or other similar hard surfacing. Joggers, walkers, or equestrian users can travel on an adjacent soft surface shoulder (4 feet wide) to reduce conflicts. Center lane striping delineates direction of travel on the paved lane. The trail corridor for Local Multi-Purpose Trails is a minimum of 25 feet in width where feasible.

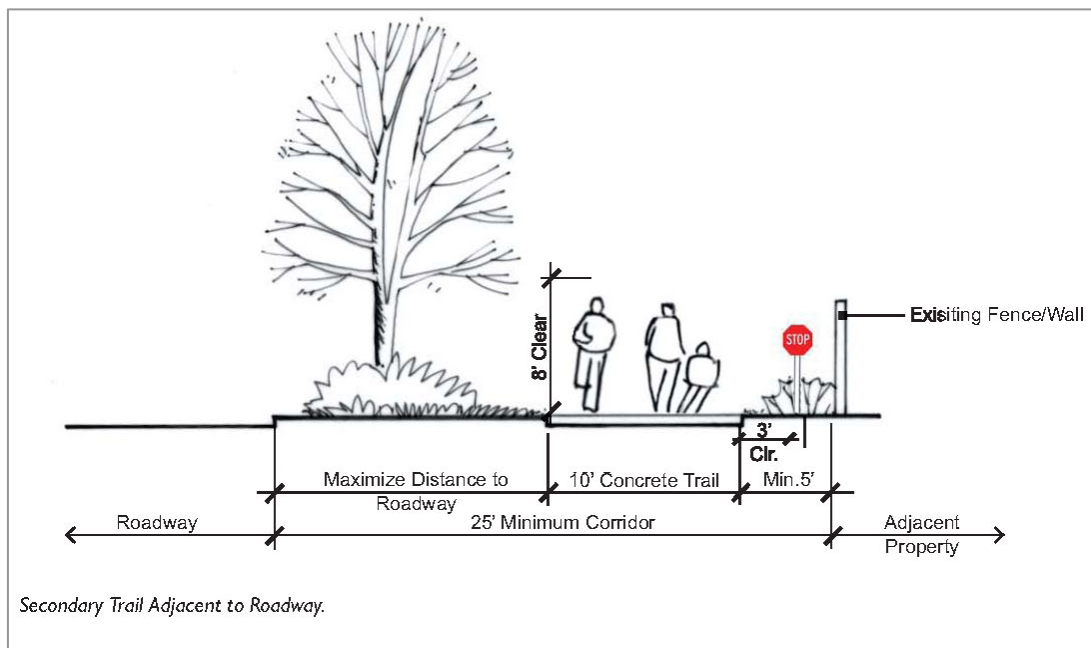


Figure 1.5  
Secondary Multi-Purpose Trail

### TRAILS

#### Neighborhood Trail

##### Purpose

Neighborhood Trails function as off-street sidewalks to promote connectivity within residential or commercial developments, or parks and open space. These paved, undivided trails should be provided by the project developer and be an integral part of the circulation and open space system of the development.

##### Design Considerations

These paths should be a minimum of 6 feet width, paved concrete.

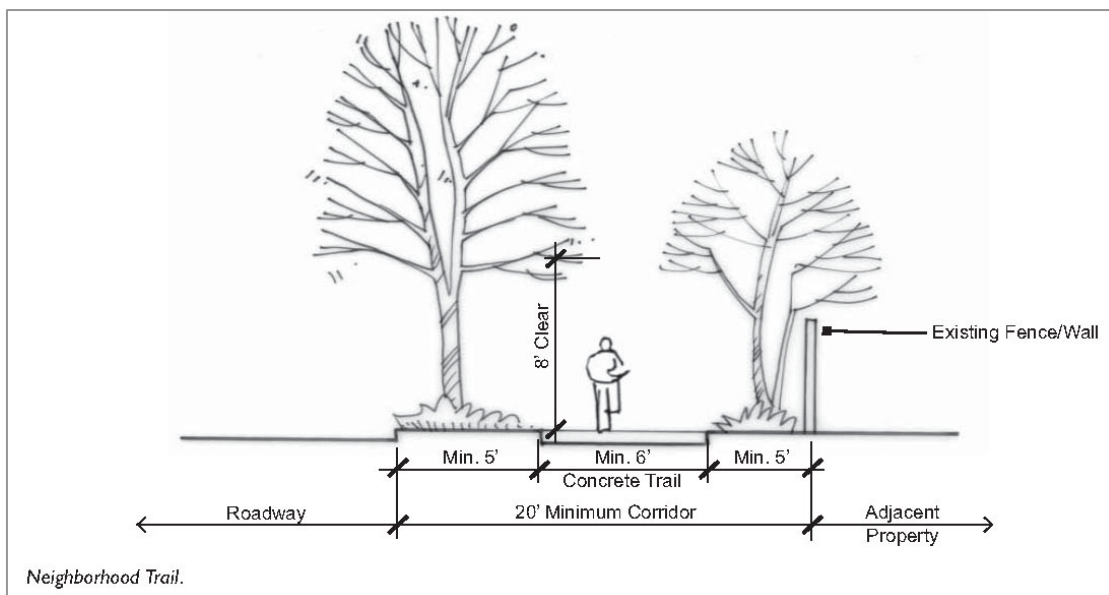


Figure 1.6  
Typical Neighborhood Trail

### TRAILS

#### Soft Surface Trail

##### Purpose

Soft Surface trails are gravel, fines or natural surface trails within mountain or foothill open spaces. They are designed for slower speeds and lower volumes of use. Targeted users include hikers and mountain bikers. Soft surface trails are destination trails which provide an alternative experience to the urban and suburban trails of Primary and Secondary Trails.

##### Design Considerations

Surfacing may include crushed granite, gravel, fines, or native material. Soil hardener may be required in some areas to help prevent erosion and mitigate dust. Although minimum width is required, additional width (10') may be necessary for vehicular access depending on how maintenance will be completed. Water bars, rolling dips and drainage culverts will be required to maintain proper trail drainage.

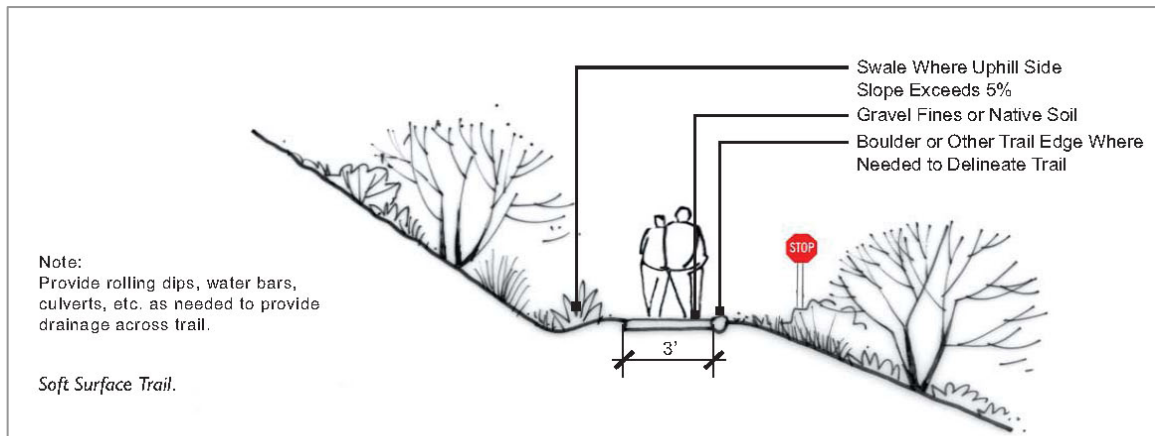


Figure 1.7  
Typical Soft Surface Trail

# ELEMENTS OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

### 1

Table 1.5  
Trail Classifications and Standards

	Primary Multi-Purpose Trails	Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails	Neighborhood Trails	Soft-Surfaced Trails
<b>Definition</b>	Divided trails for walking, jogging, skating, bicycling, equestrian, and other non-motorized uses.  The regional trail should take precedent as a main transportation feature just like any road system to encourage non-vehicular travel.	Trails for walking, jogging, skating, bicycling and other non-motorized uses that provide connections to the primary trail system, or to attractions, employment areas, shopping and services and between neighborhoods. These trails can be privately owned and maintained as long as public access is required.	These trails provide internal connection within neighborhoods and connect neighborhoods to Primary and Secondary Trails.	These trails provide a recreation destination for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized trail users.
<b>Right-of-Way</b>	50 feet minimum width, designed as naturalized open space or parkland as determined by the City.	30 feet minimum width designed as naturalized open space or parkland as determined by the City.	Per development code.	NA
<b>Trail Width</b>	Paved trail: 10-12 feet Soft-surfaced trail: 6-8 feet	8-10 feet	6 feet	3 feet and 10 feet where maintenance vehicle access required.
<b>Width between Parallel Trail</b>	3 feet if present.	NA	NA	NA
<b>Trail Surface</b>	Paved trail should be asphalt or concrete.  Natural surface if used by equestrians. Crushed gravel if not used by equestrians.	Paved trail should be concrete.  Soft shoulder adjacent to paved trail can be of natural surface or crushed gravel depending on targeted user.	Concrete	Crushed gravel or native soil with dust inhibitors and soil hardener.
<b>Sight Distance</b>	130 feet minimum. If unattainable, provide adequate signage.	90 feet minimum. If unattainable, provide adequate signage.	NA	NA
<b>Grades</b>	5% maximum preferred. In special circumstances, up to 8.33% may be allowed, not to exceed 200 feet in length.	5% maximum preferred. In special circumstances, up to 8.33% may be allowed, not to exceed 200 feet in length.	NA	5% maximum for trails designated as universally accessible. Steps may be required on slopes exceeding 10%.
<b>Relationship to Vehicular Roadways</b>	20 feet minimum buffer from roadway.  Underpasses width should be a minimum of 12 feet (14 feet preferred).  Bridges should be a minimum of 10 feet.	8 feet minimum buffer from roadway.  Underpasses width should be a minimum of 10 feet (12 feet preferred).  Bridges should be a minimum of 8 feet.	Can be adjacent to roadways for limited distances (1/4 mile).	NA
<b>Striping</b>	On paved trail: 4 inch wide, dashed white center lane striping. Yellow solid line where site distances prohibit safe passing.  No striping on soft surface trail.	4 inch wide, dashed white center lane striping. Yellow solid line where site distances prohibit safe passing.	None	None
<b>Amenities</b>	Restrooms and drinking fountains/water jug fillers at strategic trailheads and as provided by nearby commercial uses. Trailheads should provide adequate signage, rules, and parking. Benches, approximately 2 per mile. Trail markers, every 0.1 mile. Picnic tables as appropriate.	As appropriate.	As appropriate.	Trailheads at trail access points. Parks and open space parking areas and facilities should be used where possible. Restroom, shaded seating and picnic areas may be available. Regulatory, informational and entry signs present for area.



## RECREATION AMENITIES

There are many other elements of a park system that serve recreational, leisure, and quality of life needs of a community. Many times they can be incorporated into a park setting, such as a neighborhood pool, and other times they stand alone as a destination, such as a recreation center. Either way, they provide a valuable contribution to the overall structure of a park system as well as provide needed community gathering spots. They can also serve special interests by providing amenities not normally found elsewhere, such as in-line and skateboard facilities, urban plazas, and golf courses.



Skate Park

### Typical Recreation Facility Elements

- Indoor recreation center
- Indoor aquatics facility
- Outdoor pool
- Disc golf course
- Skate facility
- Urban plazas
- Civic gathering areas and shelters
- Community performance venues
- Senior centers



Pioneer Center

Most communities also utilize recreation facilities within local school systems to supplement the park and recreation facilities. Often park systems have more recreation programming than their own facilities can accommodate and enter into agreements with the schools to address this. School facilities commonly used by park systems include gymnasiums, indoor pools, multi-purpose rooms, and activity centers.



Disc Golf Course

## 2. Structure of a Park and Recreation System

The Structure Plan offers the community a method by which to take advantage of opportunities to protect special places, provide accessible trails, and create community hubs, while maintaining the City's vibrant economy and unique character. Parks, open space and trails are good investments; Parks provide opportunities for the community to gather and socialize, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and contribute to the visual quality of Cheyenne. Open space improves quality of life, provides an escape from the urban setting, promotes awareness and respect for the high plains environment, and defines growth. Trails accommodate several of the most popular recreation activities residents enjoy, such as walking, jogging, bicycling, walking w/ pets, photography, or just simply relaxing. There is a growing recognition that cities that provide quality parks and natural environments continue to attract brain power, economic investment, and creativity. Park and recreation investments truly pay dividends for those cities bold enough to plan, protect, finance, and build attractive and centrally-located parks, open space, and trail systems.



Cheyenne Gateway



# STRUCTURE OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

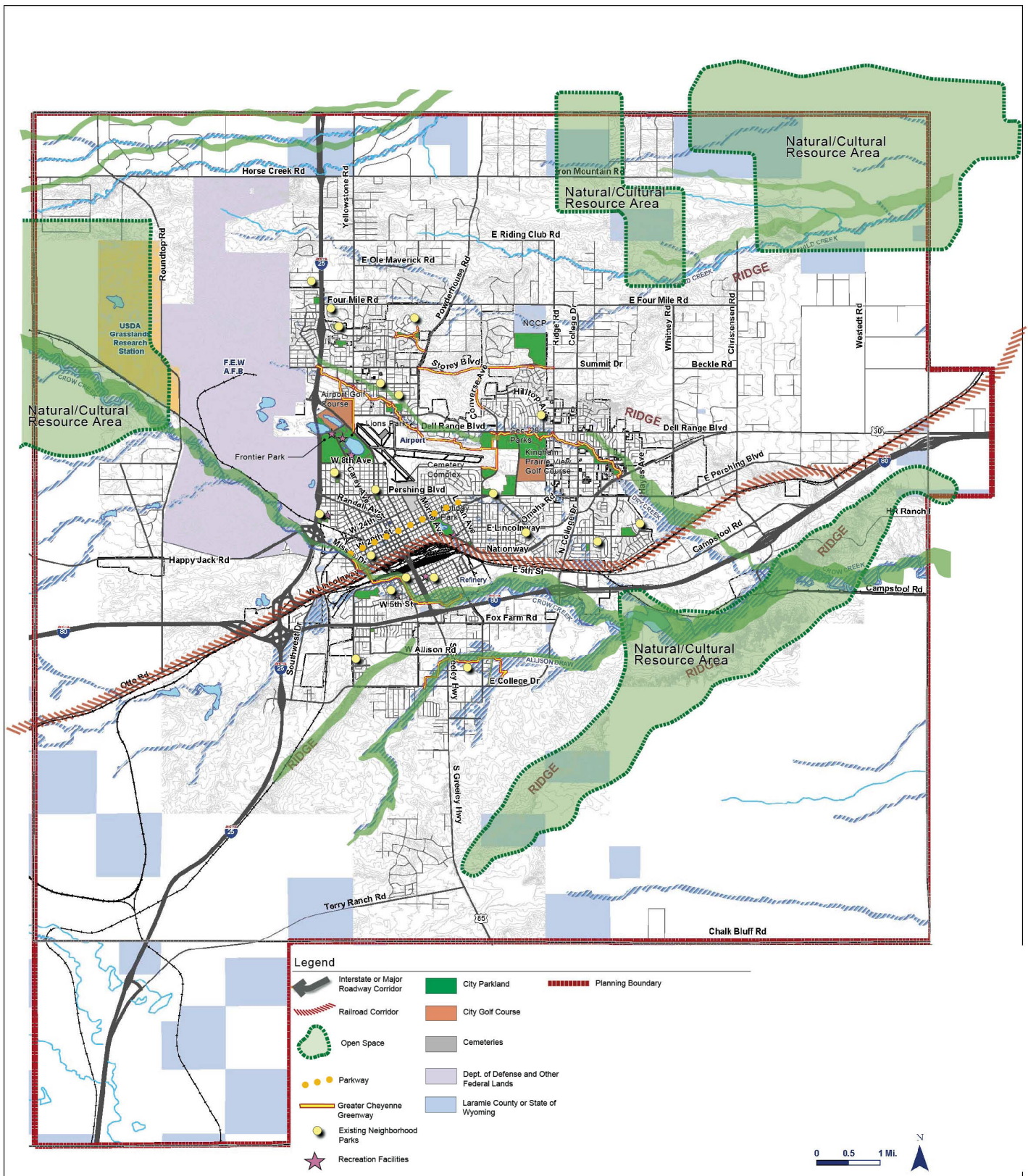
### 2

## STRUCTURE

### Structure Plan Map

The PlanCheyenne structure plan map identifies different elements, or building blocks that create the foundation of the community (see the PlanCheyenne Structure Map in Section 3 of StructureCheyenne). Helping make up this foundation are the natural resource components of Cheyenne, including parks, open space, and trails. The Parks and Recreation structure map, Figure 2.1, is shown on the following page. Natural resource components can be found in, or help to contribute to, the various elements of the structure of the City. Shared structure elements include: gateways, corridors, landmarks, and districts.





# PARKS AND RECREATION STRUCTURE PLAN

## Cheyenne Area Master Plan

Cheyenne MPO, Staff and Visualization  
Credit: City of Cheyenne, WY, Cheyenne MPO, and  
Graphic Center

This information has not been checked against  
aerial photography and is for display purposes  
only. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of  
the data contained herein.



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Figure 2.1  
Structure Plan



## STRUCTURE Natural Resources Element

An examination of the Structure Plan Map reveals that many regional and landscape gateways to the city encompass natural resource areas to provide visitors a welcome entrance to the community. These “green” areas highlight the City of Cheyenne’s unique western landscape and the active lifestyle of its residents as well as it’s commitment to the environment.



Typical Cheyenne Gateway

Natural resource components can be seen in various corridors around Cheyenne as well. These include green medians along major boulevards, or motor vehicle corridors, within the community as well as the extensive Greenway corridors that wind throughout the city. These corridors provide residents and visitors alike with a pleasant experience while traveling throughout the community. The Greenway corridor also provides an option for alternative transportation to major hubs in the city.



Greater Cheyenne Greenway

A landmark is a visually prominent and memorable architectural, sculptural or natural feature in the community. Parks and open space themselves can be considered landmarks, such as Lions Park, home of the Municipal Pool and Sloan’s Lake, Frontier Park, home of the world famous Frontier Days celebration, or the historic Holiday Park.



Historic Holiday Park

Lastly natural resources can in and of themselves be districts. A district is a distinct area of a community that has a shared identity, as defined by its culture, visual character, and/or uses. Presently undeveloped areas of the city that contain natural resource values should be preserved. These values include visually prominent ridgelines, riparian and prairie landscapes, historic ranchlands, and critical wildlife habitat. Examples of these natural resource districts include the northeast Cheyenne area, consisting of intact ranchlands, the prominent ridgeline to the southeast of the city, and the west Cheyenne area, adjacent to the USDA Grasslands Research Station.



Crow Creek in Northeast Cheyenne

## STRUCTURE Natural Resource Language

In order to fully understand the role open space plays in a community, it is first necessary to understand the role it plays on an ecological scale. Consequently there is language that helps us to define and comprehend this important component of the community.

### Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure can be thought of as a system of interconnected open spaces of various types that help to preserve ecosystems while also benefiting surrounding human populations. The counterpart to green infrastructure is gray infrastructure, the system of human-constructed elements (roads, water treatment plants, airports, etc.) that supports our lifestyles. While the pervious character of green infrastructure allows plant and animal communities to flourish and water to infiltrate the soil, the impervious character of gray infrastructure generally excludes nature and prevents absorption of water.

In order to encourage thriving natural and human communities, green infrastructure planning treats open spaces as a necessary and beneficial aspect of urban and suburban environments. By incorporating green space networks into our communities, we improve our own quality of life as well as the health of the natural world. Green infrastructure plans also help us decide how to expand our communities in the best possible manner, just as gray infrastructure plans help us efficiently distribute services to human populations. Both types of infrastructure must be planned judiciously to ensure the best future for us and for the ecosystems we live in.



Parkway

### Landscape Ecology

Landscape ecology is a discipline that studies the interactions between organisms at a scale large enough to show emergent spatial patterns and structures (viewing the Earth from an airplane window provides a good sense of the scale of landscapes). These patterns and structures transform over time and can be roughly divided into patches, edges, corridors, and mosaics. A patch is an area of land that is relatively homogenous and differs significantly from its surroundings. A patch can be a pine stand, a lake, a particular soil type, a group of specific vegetation, or even an area of similar air temperature. An edge, or boundary, represents the line between two differing components, or patches. Corridors are linear areas that connect differing patches and lastly, a mosaic is the interconnected system of patches that makes up a total landscape. Various factors such as weather, soils, precipitation, solar aspect, elevation, etc., determine how these spatial patterns array themselves on the land. Understanding landscape ecology and applying its principles enable planners and designers to create strategies for human communities that respect and value the natural world.





# STRUCTURE OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

### 2

#### Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are the processes of the natural world that provide benefits to human communities. These benefits come in many forms and are often overlooked when planning for human populations. Ecosystem services provide us with, for example, clean water, space for raising and harvesting food, climatic moderation and protection from ultraviolet solar radiation, detoxification and decomposition of waste products, purification of air, recycling of essential nutrients, pollination of crops and natural vegetation, etc. Hence, we must consider and place great importance on ecosystem services when developing our communities. These reasons underlie the importance of establishing and protecting open space and conserving agricultural lands as part of the larger community planning process.

A classic example of a species that helps to provide for green infrastructure, contributes to landscape ecology, and offers ecosystem service is the Plains Cottonwood, the State of Wyoming's official tree.

Cottonwoods are typically found growing along streams, irrigation ditches, and around lakes. Although they grow best around a source of water, they can tolerate dry soils, if grown in dry soils from the start.

The Plains cottonwood has long been prized in the Great Plains states, where it was often the earliest and tallest tree to grow at the time of Western settlement. This attractive tree is found throughout the Great Plains in locations with moist, low ground. It continues to be a source of shelter and shade across the region, building upon its legendary status as a friend to the early pioneers.





# STRUCTURE OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

### 2

## 3. Design Principles

### Best Park Development Practices

The purpose of best park development practices is to promote local values and expectations in the development of parklands within residential neighborhoods. The following guidelines encourage new parks to be designed, integrated and connected with the immediate neighborhood, trail system, and natural environment. They should be used as a resource to assist City staff, local officials, designers, and developers in planning successful park areas within new and existing residential neighborhoods in the City of Cheyenne.

#### Location

- Balance the conflicting goal of providing numerous, smaller parks to minimize walking distances with the goal of centralizing park facilities to reduce maintenance costs and provide an adequate amount of usable area to support a variety of uses.
- Generally, parks should be located to capitalize on natural features, such as lakes or drainage ways, and cultural/historical landmarks, such as homesteads.

#### Neighborhood

- Parks, especially smaller parks, should not feel like leftover places. Rather they should be focal points of neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are defined as small, somewhat homogenous areas that have well-defined centers and edges that create a “sense of place”. The center is a focal point such as a park, school, recreation center, commercial area, etc. The edge is a clear boundary, such as a major road, water body, major land use change, etc. Ideally, edges should not be so “hard” that they do not allow for interplay between neighborhoods. Subdivisions may have several neighborhoods within them. Common park areas can serve as a unifying agent between neighborhoods and/or as focal points.

#### Design

- The quality of parks is more important than quantity of parks. Small, efficient, and well utilized space is preferred to large underutilized areas. However a neighborhood park is most efficient at a minimum size of 5 acres. Neighboring developments should cooperate to provide larger parks.

### Best Park Development Practices Guidelines

#### Location

- Balance the conflicting goal of providing numerous, smaller parks to minimize walking distances – with the goal of centralizing park facilities to reduce maintenance costs and provide an adequate amount of usable area to support a variety of uses.
- Parks should be located to capitalize on natural features.

#### Neighborhood

- Parks, especially smaller parks, should not feel like leftover places.
- Common park areas can serve as a unifying agent between neighborhoods and/or as focal points.

#### Design

- The quality of parks is more important than quantity of parks.
- A neighborhood park is most efficient at a minimum size of 5 acres. Neighboring developments should cooperate to provide larger parks.
- Parks should be visible to invite use, to encourage a sense of ownership, and to allow neighbors to monitor.
- Parks should feel safe through visibility, good maintenance, and plenty of foot traffic.
- Parks should be comfortable to the users.
- Parks should have complexity to create interest.
- Park amenities should fit the changing needs of citizens of all ages.

#### Environmental

- Parks should be designed for multi-purposes.
- Landscaping along riparian and habitat areas should use native or non-invasive plants.

- Parks should be visible to invite use, to encourage a sense of ownership, and to allow neighbors to monitor activities. Locating parks adjacent to public streets and other centers of activity is desirable. Sight lines through buildings, trees, and other landscape features should be considered for aesthetic and safety purposes.

- Parks should feel safe through visibility, good maintenance, and plenty of foot traffic. Parks and the features within parks should be designed to minimize maintenance and discourage vandalism.
- Parks should be comfortable to the users. Desirable features include sunny areas, shady areas, solitary areas, meeting areas, sheltered areas from wind or rain, lots of possible activities, defined edges, gentle slopes, attractive trees, sturdy benches, and soft turf.
- Parks should have complexity to create interest, such as a variety of recreational features or a variety of plant types. Contrasting features such as hard and soft surfaces, formal and informal use areas, add diversity and create interest. Play areas should provide opportunities for choice, learning and linked play.
- Park amenities should fit the changing needs of citizens of all ages. The park system should have a healthy distribution of those amenities to provide easy access and thereby increase usage.
- To promote public safety, fences between a park and adjacent development should be no more than 3-4' high and split rail or picket style. Privacy for residences should be achieved with landscaping or privacy fencing that screens a portion of a yard, such as a patio area, rather than the entire yard. Also, locate high use amenities, such as basketball courts, away from residences.
- Parks programmed for active sports and other on-going activities should have adequate off-street parking to relieve on-street congestion during periods of high use.
- Irrigation system should incorporate nonpotable water systems where appropriate and feasible.

### Environmental

- To the extent that a park's main function is not hindered, parks should be designed for multi-purposes, such as recreation, wildlife viewing, stormwater control, etc. to maximize their value.
- Trails should be aligned and constructed to minimize disruption of habitat areas. A trail located along a riparian corridor, for example, should be located at an appropriate distance from the stream channel and should only approach or cross the channel at less sensitive locations.
- Landscaping along riparian and habitat areas should use native or non-invasive plants.

### Other Public Spaces and Urban Plazas

Non-traditional parks, such as urban plazas, also serve certain types of recreational needs and greatly contribute to a community's quality of life. The following guidelines, which were adapted from the Project for Public Spaces, highlight some important design considerations.

#### Access and Linkages

A successful public space is easy to get to and get through; it is visible both from a distance and up close. The edges of a space are important as well: For instance, a row of shops along a street is more interesting and generally safer to walk by than a blank wall or empty lot. Specific considerations:

- A good connection between the space and the adjacent buildings.
- Sidewalks lead to and from the adjacent areas.
- The space functions for people with special needs.
- The space can be seen from a distance and its interior is visible from adjacent areas.



Depot Plaza

#### Comfort and Image

Comfort includes perceptions about safety, cleanliness, and the availability of places to sit – the importance of giving people the choice to sit where they want is generally underestimated. Design considerations:

- Provide enough places to sit that are conveniently located. Provide a choice of places to sit, either in the sun or shade.
- Keep the space clean and free of litter.
- Avoid having vehicles dominate pedestrian use of the space, or prevent them from easily getting to the space.

#### Uses and Activities

Activities are the basic building blocks of a place. Having something to do gives people a reason to come to a place - and return. When there is nothing to do, a space will be empty and that generally means that something is wrong. Planning considerations:

- The more activities that are going on and that people have an opportunity to participate in, the better.
- People of different ages should be drawn to the space (retired people and people with young children can use a space during the day when others are working).
- A space that is used by both singles and people in groups is better than one that is just used by people alone because it means that there are places for people to sit with friends, there is more socializing, and it is more fun.

### Other Public Spaces and Urban Plazas Guidelines

#### Accesses and Linkages

- A successful public space is easy to get to and get through; it is visible both from a distance and up close.

#### Comfort and Image

- Comfort includes perceptions about safety, cleanliness, and the availability of places to sit.
- Avoid having vehicles dominate pedestrian use of the space, or prevent them from easily getting to the space.

#### Uses and Activities

- Activities are the basic building blocks of a place. Having something to do gives people a reason to come to a place.



### Park Architecture and Amenities

Parks can be built in a wide variety of forms, and designed in any number of ways depending on local needs, desires, and cultural styles. There are three general architectural components to consider when building a park: layout, structures, and fixtures. Following are photos and conceptual drawings of designs, amenities, site furnishings, structures and fixtures that represent the design considerations for public recreational buildings and use areas in parks, along trails and on open lands. The selected style of amenities reflects the classic, western historic character of Cheyenne and incorporates arches, red brick, Lyons red sandstone, tan backgrounds, and black frame structures and accents. The drawings are conceptual only, and details may change when the elements are actually designed for construction as long as the design character is maintained.

#### Layout

The layout will vary for each park according to its classification (i.e., community, neighborhood, etc.), topographical features, and desired amenities, such as ballfields or community performance areas.



Trail with Shelters and Playground



Park with Pond, Shelter, and Playground



Park with Promenade



Civic Green with Amphitheater

### Structures

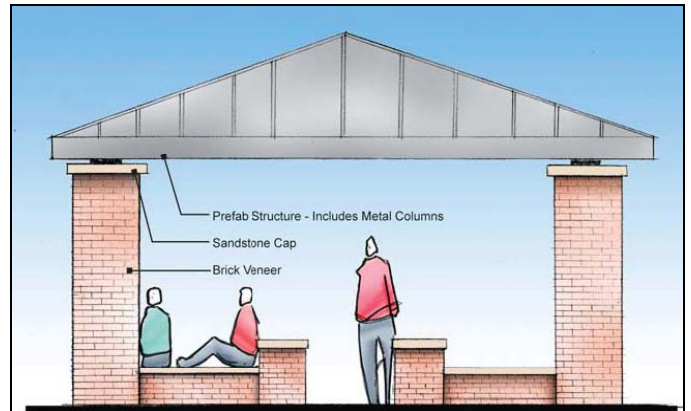
As with layout, the type of structures in a park depends largely on the desired use. A more sports oriented park may contain structures not typically found in a neighborhood park, such as a concession stand. Conversely, a more civic gathering area may have structures such as a performance pavilion. Other Structures such as information kiosks may be found in any type of park. The style of any structure should reflect the broader style and feel of a community.



Shelter



Sun Shelter Information Kiosk



Prefab Shelter with Custom Columns and Walls



Octagonal Gazebo



### Fixtures

As with structures and layout, the type and look of fixtures in a park depend largely on the desired use and needs of the area. Common fixtures found in most parks include benches, picnic tables, trash cans, and bike racks. The style of any fixture should reflect the style and feel of the park it is located within.



Picnic Table



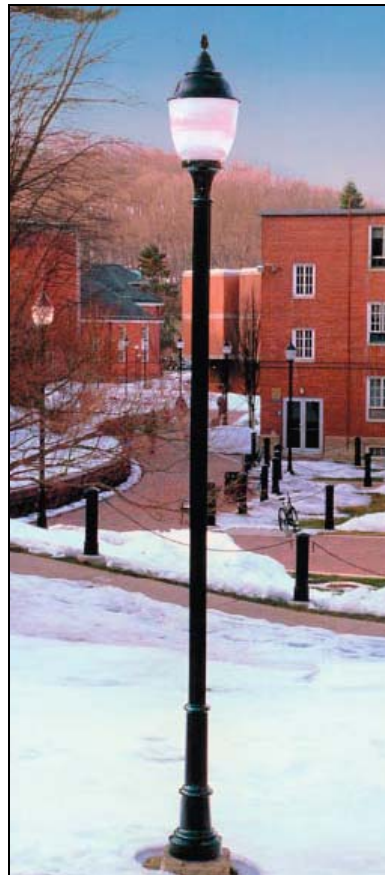
Bike Rack



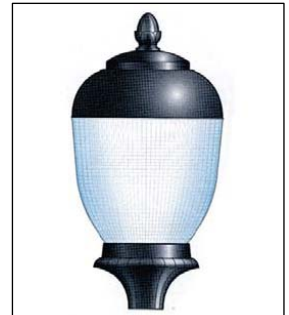
Trash Receptacle



Park Bench



Pedestrian/ Park Light Pole



Light Fixture

### Sign Standards

The following standards have been developed for signs to be used within Parks and Recreation areas within the City of Cheyenne. The sign system has been developed to provide a template for signs to be used in future and existing parks, to reduce annual maintenance costs for Parks and Recreation staff, and to create a consistent image for the Parks and Recreation system.

The sign standards include templates for large monument signs for community or athletic parks (Figure 3.1), two options for smaller signs appropriate for the varying sized neighborhood parks (Figures 3.2 and 3.3), and a standard

sign for regulatory information used within the park interiors (Figure 3.4). All signs follow a consistent theme to create a uniform image for the sign system. The signs are a neutral beige color with dark brown letters to reflect the natural hues of the Wyoming landscape. The graphic border on the larger sign at close view is the image of a knotted rope to further echo Wyoming's character. The larger signs incorporate Lyons Red sandstone to mimic the material and forms of the city's historic park structures and monuments (as in Lions Park) and to reflect a timeless quality for the signs.

The sign panels are proposed to be created with MDO sign board or metal panels with vinyl text and graphics to allow for easy replacement and limit annual maintenance of the sign panels.

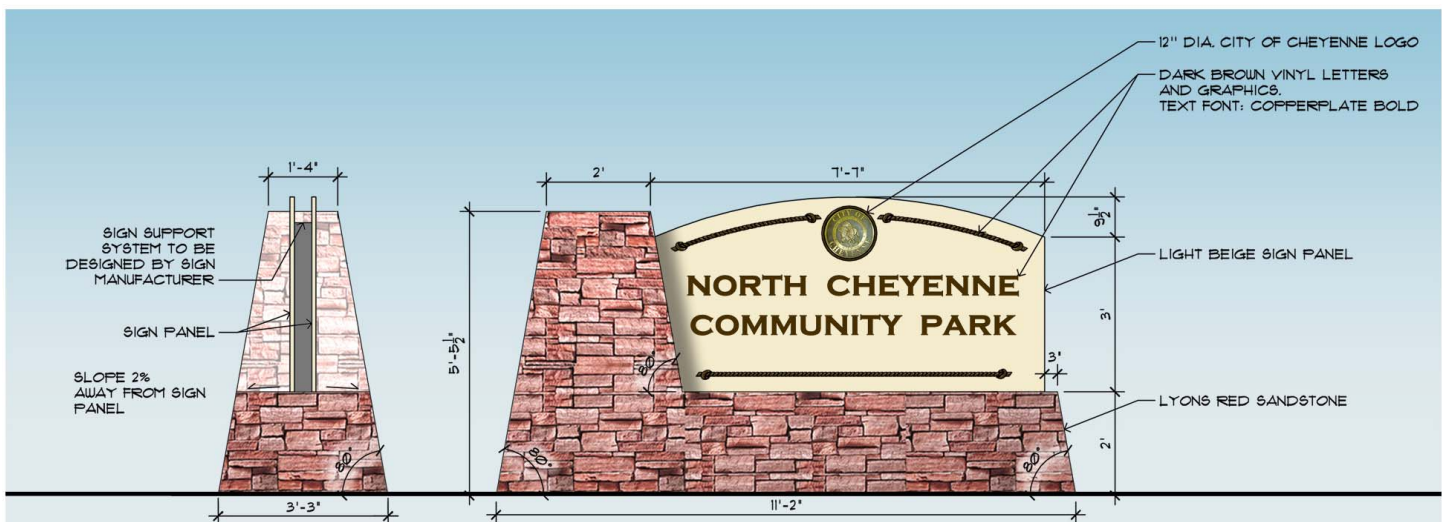


Figure 3.1  
Community Park Monument Sign



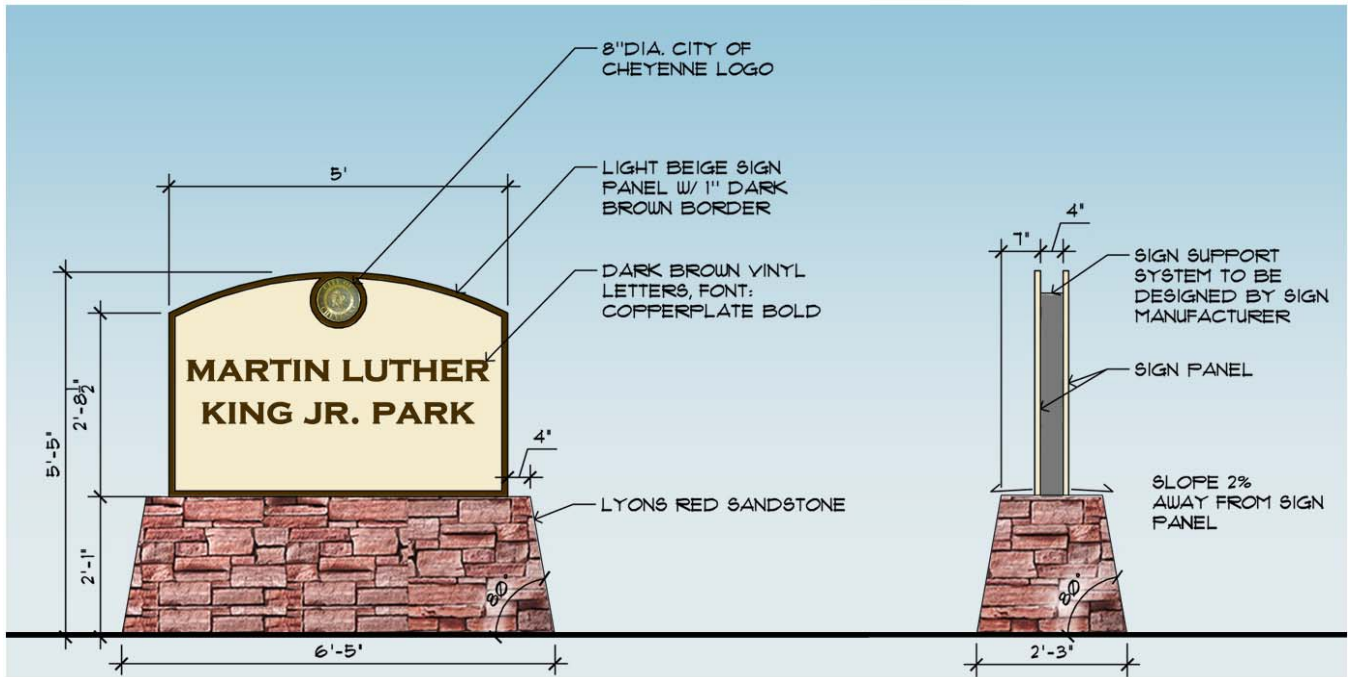


Figure 3.2  
Neighborhood Park Monument Sign (Option A)

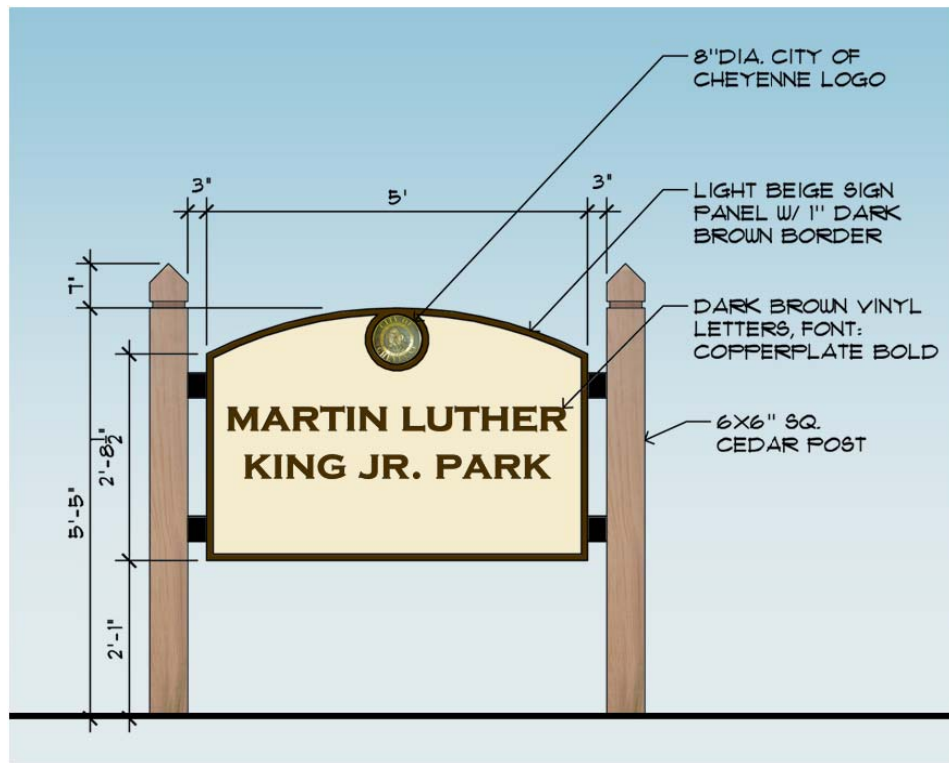


Figure 3.3  
Neighborhood Park Monument Sign (Option B)

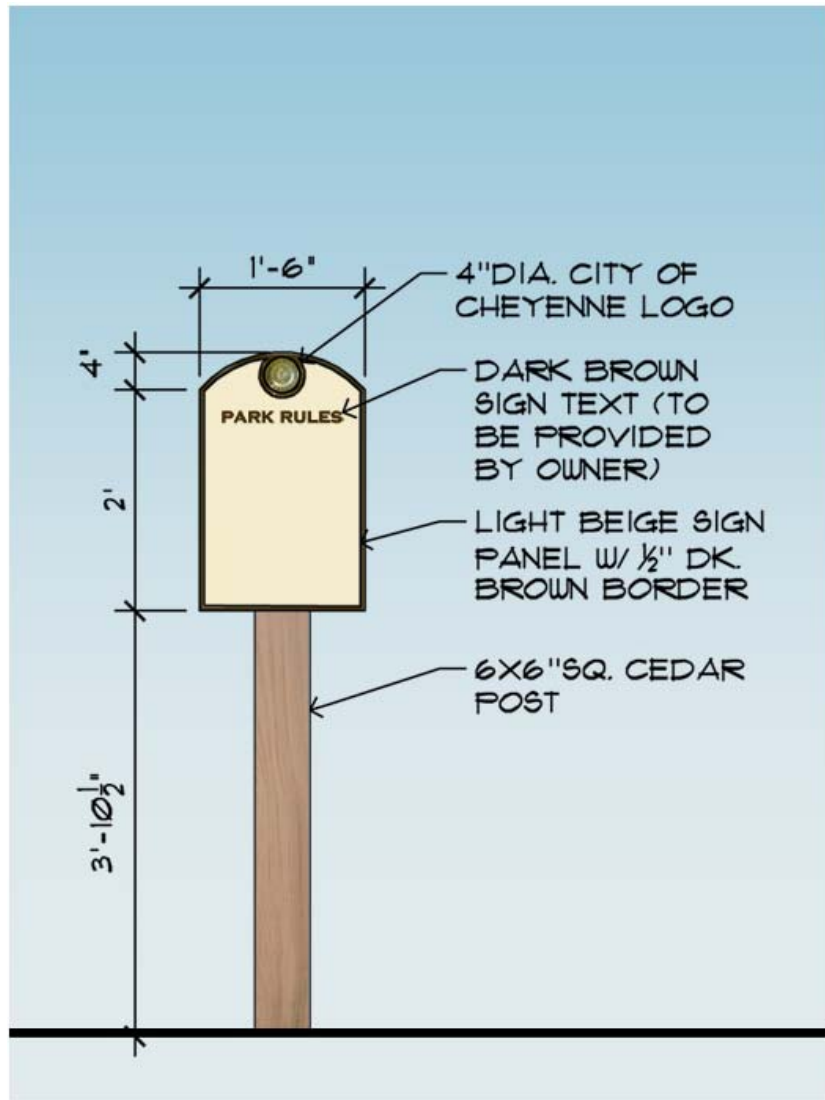


Figure 3.4  
Regulatory Sign



# DESIGN PRINCIPLES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

### 3

## 4. Emerging Park Needs and Opportunities

As the City of Cheyenne continues to grow, additional needs for recreation, future development of parks, trails, and open space will emerge. Recognizing these opportunities and acquiring the land necessary to meet these needs now is critical. As the City expands and property costs rise, there will be less opportunity to secure both an adequate amount of parkland and sites located in proximity to the areas they are intended to serve.

An analysis of Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) for Cheyenne was conducted to help determine where the greatest growth in Cheyenne is likely to occur. Transportation analysis zones are subdivisions of geographical areas that are delineated for land use and travel analysis purposes. More typically they are used by planners to help determine future growth patterns of a community. An analysis of TAZs in Cheyenne for the year 2030 reveals where future population growth is likely to occur. When these numbers are compared with the current level of service areas for both community and neighborhood parks, it becomes apparent that there will be gaps in parkland service for residents of newly developed areas. While this type of analysis helps to graphically depict potentially underserved areas in the future, it also helps to narrow the focus of where new parks and trail connections will need to be constructed. Using tools such as TAZ zones greatly assist the community in locating park and recreation facilities so as to provide adequate parkland to the greatest amount of people. Map 1 indicates the primary areas of Cheyenne where this population growth will most likely take place. Map 1 shows the projected population increases for the City of Cheyenne through the year 2030.

Locating areas within the city that will be in the greatest need of additional parkland is only one piece of the development puzzle. Determining specific locations for parks and recreation amenities must be done in conjunction with the broader overall PlanCheyenne. Other aspects of community planning, such as transportation and infill development, must be taken into consideration when assessing the best overall location for any future park site.





## 2030 PROJECTED POPULATION INCREASE

### Legend

Net Increase in Population  
from 2000 to 2030.



Parkland

City of Cheyenne maintained parkland.

Parkland Service Areas

Service Area - Neighborhood Park (1/2 Mile)  
& Pocket Park (1/4 Mile)

Service Area - Community Parks and  
& Sports Complexes (1 Mile)

City Boundary



October 2005

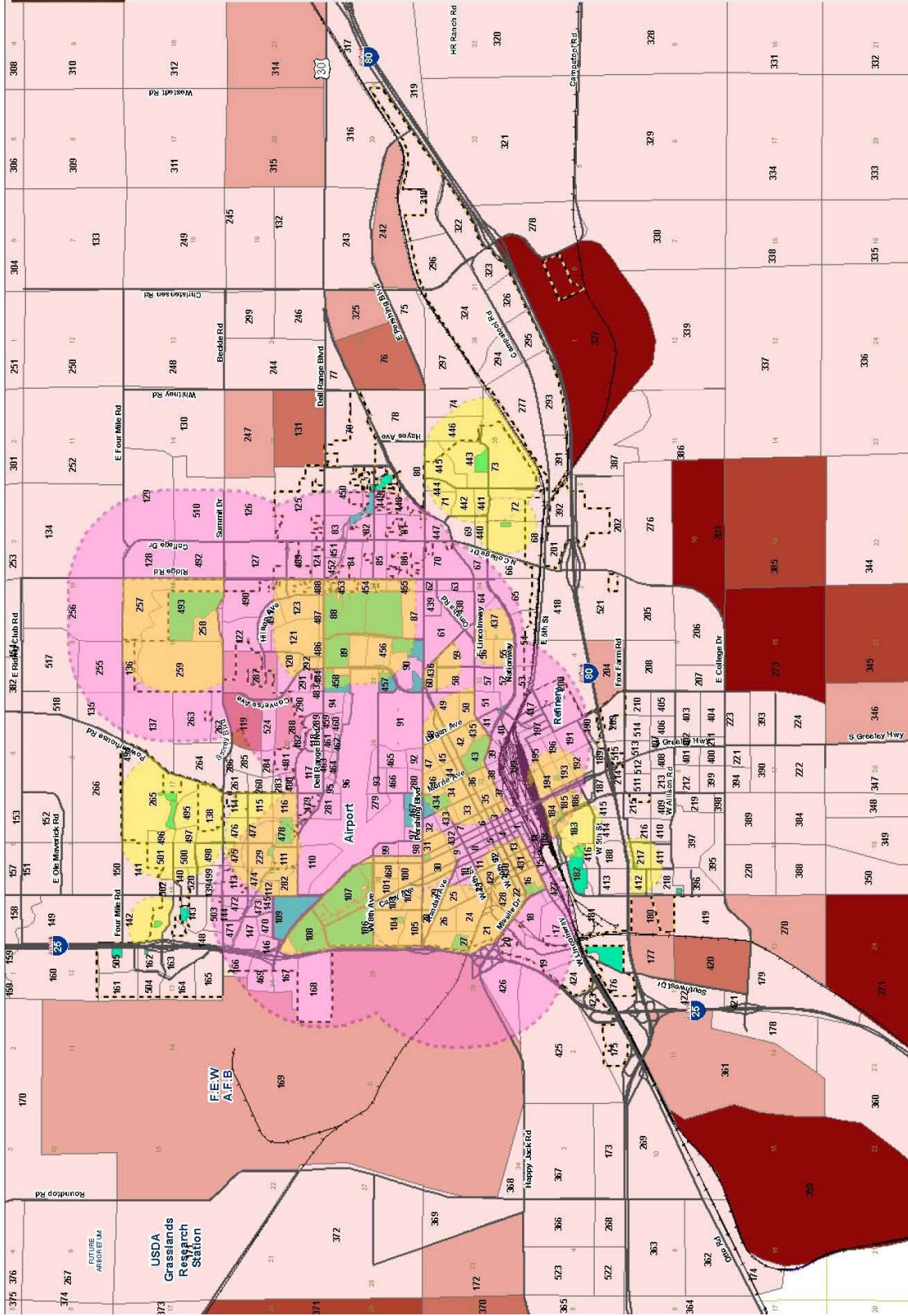


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any other source and is not intended to be used  
for any other purpose than the one for which  
the data was collected for use.

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# MAP 1: PROJECTED POPULATION INCREASES

## Cheyenne Area Master Plan



In general, the largest population increases are expected to occur in the southern portion of the city, primarily south of Interstate 80 in TAZs 203, 273, 385, 327, and 420. This area is currently underserved by all types of parks, with only Civitan Park and Big Sky Park available to existing and future residents to use. While these parks are currently in place, Civitan is a pocket park of only 1.25 acres and Big Sky park is a visual green space of only 1.84 acres. Neither park has amenities appropriate to serve existing or future residents.

The area south of Interstate 80 and west of Interstate 25 is also expected to experience a large population increase, specifically in TAZs 361 and 359. This area currently has no developed parkland for future use. The closest parkland is approximately 2 ½ to 3 miles away across major interstate barriers.

The area west of F.E. Warren Air Force Base and north of Happy Jack Road in TAZs 370 and 371, is also projected to

experience increased growth. Currently, this side of town has no developed parkland for future use. The closest parkland is approximately 3 ½ to 4 ½ miles away.

Another area expected to see a notable increase in population growth is located north of Dell Range Boulevard and south of Summit Drive on the east side of North College Drive in TAZs 247, 131, and 76. The area currently has no developed parkland. The closest parkland is approximately 2 miles away.

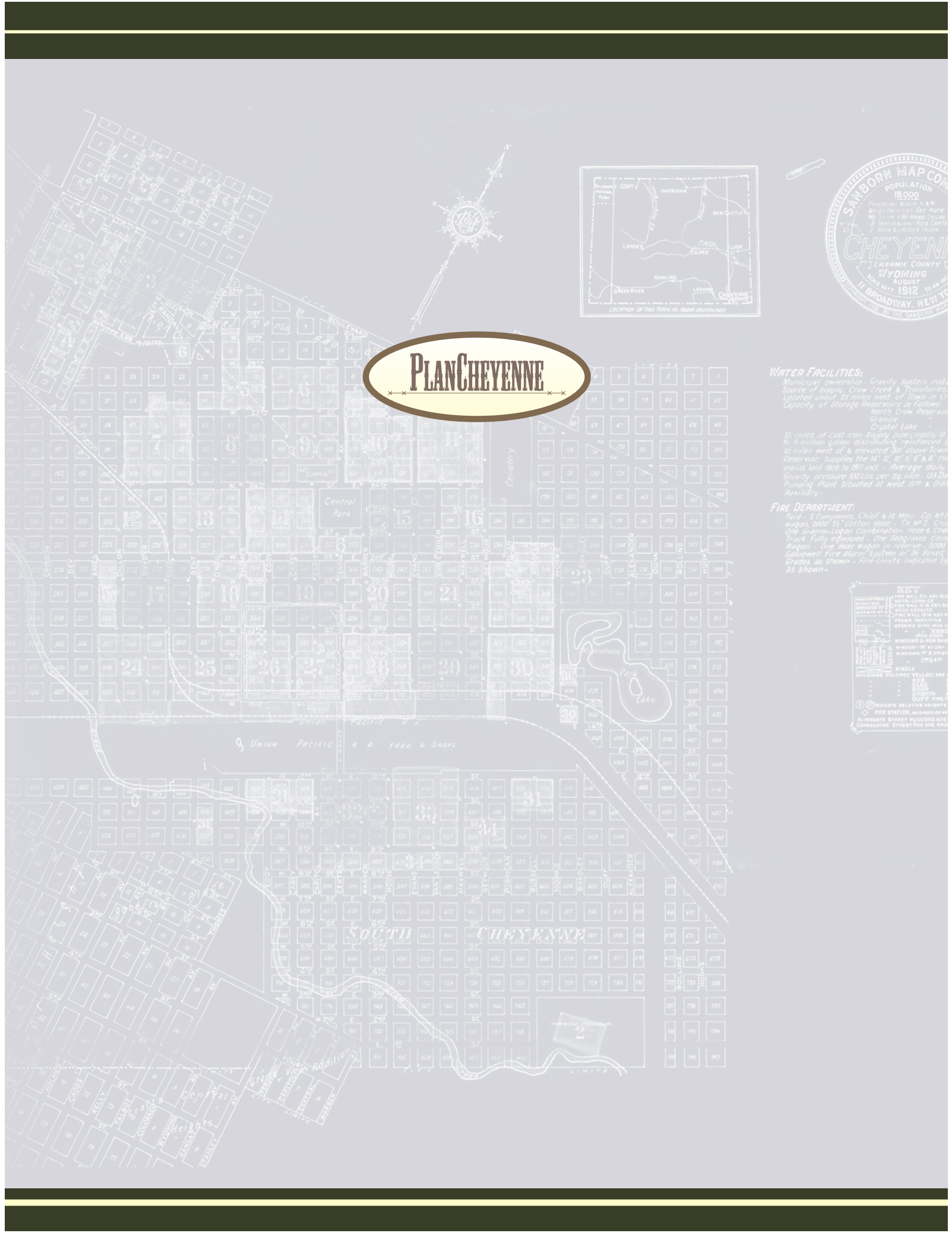
Lastly, north central Cheyenne is expected to see a substantial increase in population as well, specifically in TAZ number 119. Table 4.1 highlights specific TAZs that are projected to see an increase of population of more than 1000 people between now and the year 2030. Anticipated growth is converted into specific parkland needs in the next chapter, Shape.

Table 4.1  
TAZs with Projected Population Increases of More than 1,000 Residents

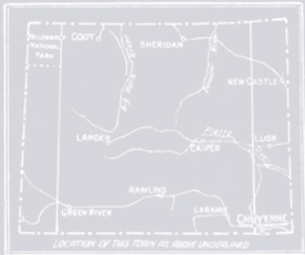
TAZ	YR 2000 Population	YR 2030 Population	Net Increase in Population
327	0	2,407	2,407
236	0	2,071	2,071
385	0	1,883	1,883
273	0	2,099	2,099
420	61	1,250	1,189
359	0	5,041	5,041
370	0	1,061	1,061
371	0	1,639	1,639
119	0	1,136	1,136
131	10	1,110	1,100
76	27	1,230	1,203







# PLAN CHEYENNE

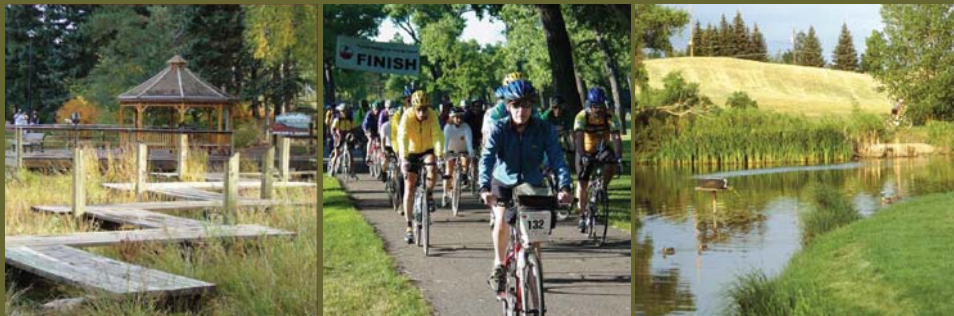


**WATER FACILITIES:**  
Municipal ownership - Gravity system installed.  
Source of Supply, Crow Creek & Trout Creek Reservoirs.  
Located about 25 miles west of Town in G.  
Capacity of Storage Reservoirs as follows:  
North Crow Reservoir  
Granite  
Crystal Lake  
35 miles of cast iron Supply pipe (mostly 30 to 4 million gallon distributing reinforced 44 miles west of & elevated 301 above Town Reservoir. Supplies the 44", 36", 30", 24", 18" & 12" mains laid 808 to 891 incl. - Average daily Gravity pressure 100 Lbs. per Sq. inch. 1932.  
Pumping Plant Situated at west 15th & 9th Auxiliary -

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**  
Paid - 2 Companies, Chief & 14 Men. Co. A & B. Fire wagon, 2000 Lbs. Cotton Horse - Co. A & B. One Graham Locomotive Combination Horse & Cattle Truck fully equipped - One Seelye's Com. Wagon - One Hose Wagon in reserve - 5000 Gallon well fire alarm system of 36 Boxes.  
Grades as shown - Fire Limits indicated by as shown -







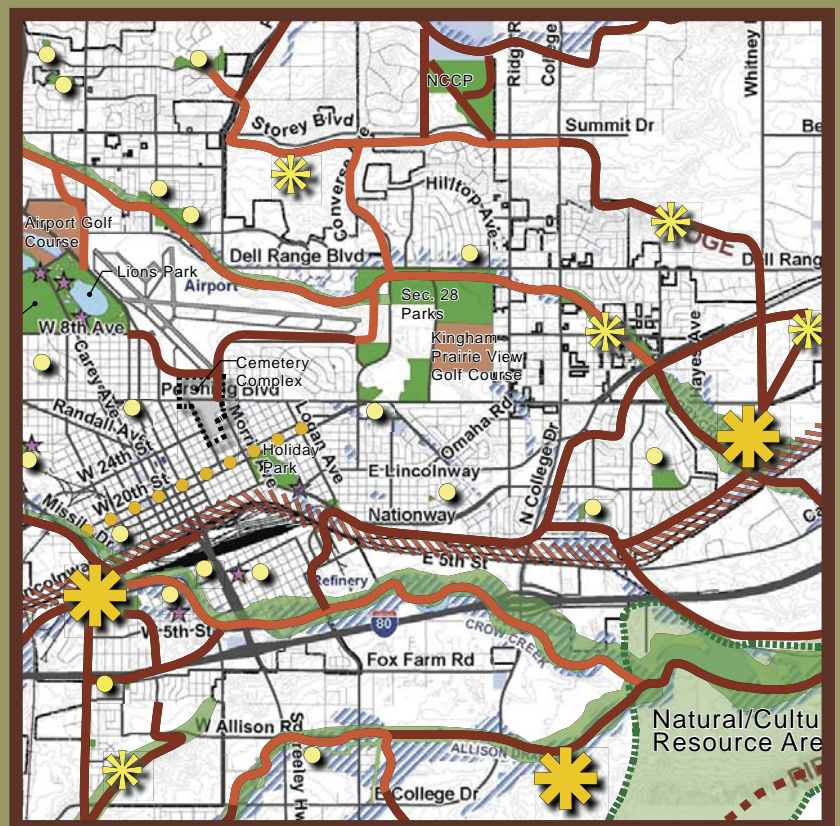
Creating a Legacy of Parks & Open Spaces



## Parks & Recreation Master Plan

# Shape

## *Plans & Policies for the Future*



City of Cheyenne Parks & Recreation

CHEYENNE MPO – CLARION – LSA – EDAW – AVI









# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN SHAPE

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## 1. Introduction

**Shape** is the component of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that establishes how and where the Parks and Recreation system in Cheyenne should grow in the future. The Shape component of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan builds on the inventory and design elements previously presented in Snapshot and Structure.

Shape begins by describing the foundation, principles, and policies that will help guide the parks and recreation system within Cheyenne for years to come. The foundation is the basis for adopting more specific principles and policies to follow. The foundation, “Creating a Legacy of Parks and Open Space,” is one of seven created as part of the larger ShapeCheyenne section of the overall *PlanCheyenne* document. Foundations represent the values and ideals of the community and are also the organizing elements for this part of *PlanCheyenne*.

The more specific principles are broad-based directions for the community, much like goals. They carry forward many of the ideals the community seeks – from *Vision2020* and as defined during the *PlanCheyenne* planning process.

The specific policies help to create a blueprint of how the City’s parks and recreation system will accommodate growth and continue to address the ever changing needs of its citizens in the future. They will guide decisions to achieve the principles and help outline future actions.

Additionally, the Shape component presents a Master Plan map. This map identifies conceptual locations for additional community and neighborhood parks to serve the growing population in Cheyenne. Areas that are currently underserved by community and neighborhood parks, and those areas that are most likely to see increased growth in the future were previously identified in Snapshot on Map 2: Neighborhood Park Service Areas and Map 3: Community Park Service Areas, and in Structure on Map: 1 Projected Population Increases. The Master Plan map also illustrates potential trail corridors that will provide connections to parks and recreation facilities, as well as desired open land areas to be set aside for the natural, cultural, visual, and recreational benefit of the greater Cheyenne community.

Crafting solid policies and illustrating a visual map provides the community of Cheyenne clear direction for an effective, sustainable, and lasting parks and recreation system for years to come.

Cheyenne has a legacy of community parks that has been the heart of the community for residents and visitors for many years. Residents also value the Greenway and trails system that offer alternative transportation opportunities and provide an active, healthy lifestyle. It has also long been held that part of greater Cheyenne’s sense of place is the undeveloped open spaces and wildlife around and within the area.

This Plan aims to improve the parks and recreation system – providing adequate land and facilities to meet the needs of Cheyenne citizens and provide high quality, accessible parks that carry on the “green” legacy and promote public health and well being. As the Cheyenne community grows, new community and neighborhood parks will be added to the system, and the Greenway and trails network will be extended to serve new neighborhoods and connect parks, recreation facilities, and activity centers. Parks and open space are not amenities that will be “tacked on” to new developments, but rather are an integral piece of the overall development framework.

This Plan also aims to conserve “significant” open space lands – complementing the built environment with the natural environment. Open space adds beauty, creates a unique image and sense of place for the Cheyenne area, provides relief from the built environment, and helps to maintain water and environmental quality for the health of the entire community.

## 2. Foundation, Principles and Policies

### Foundation: Creating a Legacy of Parks and Open Space

The following foundation, principles, and policies support those outlined in the overall PlanCheyenne document. The underlying key concept used to help craft these principles and policies is that parks and open space are not an amenity that is ‘tacked on’ to development within the community, but rather an integral piece of the overall community development process.



Lions Park

**Principle 1:** Our neighborhood and community parks will continue to be a legacy for our community.

**Policy 1.1:** Additional lands will be acquired and developed as adequately sized Neighborhood and Community Parks in existing underserved neighborhoods and new areas.

**Policy 1.2:** The City of Cheyenne will provide a level of service of 2.5 acres of neighborhood parkland for every 1,000 residents.

**Policy 1.3:** Where additional land is not feasible to develop an adequately sized Neighborhood Park, the City of Cheyenne will provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bicyclist access to the nearest Neighborhood Park. This will be accomplished through construction of sidewalks, improved crossings of roadways, and grade-separated crossings of barriers, where feasible.

**Policy 1.4:** The City of Cheyenne will maintain and continue to provide a level of service of 5.8 acres of community parkland for every 1,000 residents.

**Policy 1.5:** Community Parks will be designed to provide a balance between active sports fields and self-directed activities, naturalized areas, trees, gardens, and other elements with broad community interest.

**Policy 1.6:** Community gatherings and outdoor cultural events will be accommodated through the provision of performance spaces/facilities and areas for special events.

**Policy 1.7:** The City of Cheyenne will promote joint planning and operation efforts of park and recreation facilities with Laramie County and Laramie County School District, where practical.

**Policy 1.8:** Continued support will be given for well-loved regional recreation facilities (i.e., Botanic Gardens, Nature Center, Airport and Kingham Prairie View golf courses).



# FOUNDATION, PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SHAPE*

### 2

**Principle 2:** Our community will extend and enhance our trail system and greenway.

**Principle 3:** Our community will conserve lands of “Community-wide Significance.”

**Policy 2.1:** A community-wide primary trail system that connects major destinations (e.g., Community Parks, large open space, recreation centers, shopping districts, employment districts, LCCC, downtown, major event centers, fairgrounds, etc.) will be provided. This will be balanced between trails within the city limits, and those that will reside outside of city limits, such as trails in large open space areas.

**Policy 2.2:** Emphasis will be placed on protecting trail corridors through the acquisition of easements and rights-of-way in advance of development.

**Policy 2.3:** Opportunities will be provided for 3- to 5-mile trail loops with areas of interest along the route.

**Policy 2.4:** Road rights-of-way for trails will only be used in the absence of other suitable corridors.

**Policy 2.5:** Both paved and non-paved trails will be provided to accommodate a variety of users. As such, trails will strive to provide ADA compliant grades and universal accessibility.

**Policy 2.6:** “Gaps” in the current Greenway system will be closed as soon as practical. If necessary, temporary or natural surface trails will be built until full construction to the ultimate design standard can be completed.

**Policy 2.7:** New development should be planned to support completion of the City’s trails system and provide permanent right-of-way for planned trails.

**Policy 2.8:** City departments will work together to establish trail and greenway corridors.

**Policy 3.1:** Except in rare, special cases, new properties will not be accepted for parks and recreation that do not function as important community-wide public resources.

**Policy 3.2:** Cheyenne will carefully consider exceptions to Policy 3.1. If there are properties that have special qualities of community-wide significance, such as historic, cultural, archaeological, natural, or other features, the City will potentially acquire parks and conservation lands that do not meet acreage or other standards.

**Policy 3.3:** Lands shall not be publicly dedicated, but should be owned and maintained by a private organization, such as a homeowners’ association or special district, if they function as:

- Small pocket parks,
- Common areas with limited public access,
- Single purpose stormwater detention ponds,
- Trail connectors with limited access only to individual neighborhood developments,
- Visual green spaces, and
- Other natural or landscaped areas for residents in the immediate neighborhood.



**Principle 4:** Our community will develop an open lands system.

**Policy 4.1:** Open lands will be protected that preserve unique or sensitive environmental resources, key views, and features contributing to the City's "Western" identity. Open lands should be publicly owned and may have public access, depending on their purpose (e.g., for recreation or education), or be restricted for continued agricultural uses.

**Policy 4.2:** Identify key open space resource areas based on community values and update periodically.

**Policy 4.3:** Cheyenne will preserve significant views to riparian areas, ranchlands, and ridgelines from select locations along the interstate highways.

**Policy 4.4:** The major drainages in and around the community should be protected and enhanced.

**Policy 4.5:** The City will work with development to protect strategically-located parcels.

**Policy 4.6:** A joint City/County program will be developed to identify and address open lands.

**Policy 4.7:** Funding sources for open land acquisition and stewardship will be identified and pursued.

**Principle 5:** The Cheyenne area supports expanding our proposed and current parks and recreation facilities.

**Policy 5.1:** Additional lands will be acquired and developed for recreation facilities/ services in existing underserved neighborhoods and new areas.

**Policy 5.2:** The City will ensure that recreation demands are met through development of new facilities/services in addition to upgrading existing facilities.

**Policy 5.3:** New residential development shall contribute its fair share for parks and recreational facilities based on the projected population in the development.

**Policy 5.4:** Parkland or a fee in-lieu of parkland shall be required with each incoming development. The City will accept a fee in-lieu of dedication when the proposed parkland would result in an inadequately sized parcel or otherwise unsuitable area for park purposes.

**Policy 5.5:** New facilities and parkland will provide an improved quality of life for residents and contribute to the economic development of the community.

**Policy 5.6:** Parks and recreation facilities shall be in locations that offer visual and vehicular access from major roadways, are accessible by large numbers of users, and offer direct trail system and/or pedestrian connections.

**Policy 5.7:** The community will pursue opportunities for other active outdoor recreation facilities (such as shooting range or ATV motor sports), as identified in the Master Plan.

**Policy 5.8:** The community will selectively prioritize and "target" public investment in parks and recreation to help spark private investment that is complementary to a district or neighborhood.





# FOUNDATION, PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SHAPE*

### 2

**Principle 6:** The Cheyenne area supports maintaining our proposed and current parks and recreation facilities.

**Principle 7:** Our community will develop adequate land acquisition tools and funding sources to realize the master plan vision.

**Policy 6.1:** The Parks and Recreation Department will annually assess needed maintenance and renovation projects system-wide.

**Policy 6.2:** The City will support funding for additional parks and recreation department staff positions as the open space, recreation, parks and trails system grows.

**Policy 6.3:** The City will adequately staff and fund maintenance and operations to increase the quality of maintenance of current park, trail, and recreation facilities to acceptable standards, and adjust staffing levels to keep pace with the addition of recreation properties to the system.

**Policy 6.4:** Cheyenne will establish management plans for the various types of parks and other properties the Parks and Recreation Department maintains. Management plans will include maintenance and design standards for facilities and properties as decided at the discretion of Parks and Recreation staff.

**Policy 6.5:** The Parks and Recreation Department will not mow or maintain areas of neighborhood and community parks it has naturalized and returned to native vegetation in order to provide for a natural environment in an urban setting.

**Policy 7.1:** The City will identify and pursue funding sources for all parks and recreation projects and priorities.

**Policy 7.2:** The City will retain or increase Parks and Recreation 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> penny allocations.

**Policy 7.3:** Impact fees for parks, recreation, open space, and trails will be a city wide investment in community infrastructure for improved quality of life in Cheyenne. Quality of life fees will be coordinated with other city service impact fees.

**Policy 7.4:** The city fee structure and parks and recreation fee structure should reflect the level of service standards.

**Policy 7.5:** The City will aggressively seek grants and other types of funding from available sources.

**Policy 7.6:** The City will establish public-private partnerships, and or endowments where mutually beneficial and appropriate.

**Policy 7.7:** Private provision of facilities will be considered a viable option for parks and recreation projects where appropriate.

**Policy 7.8:** The City will coordinate with other agencies, initiate IGA's, and seek partnerships to leverage available funding.

**Policy 7.9:** The City will explore the level of community support for funding parks and recreation projects through use of a special district, property tax, sales tax, or bond sale.

**Policy 7.10:** The Parks and Recreation Department will periodically update park design standards in subdivision, zoning and other land-use and development regulations to incorporate the Parks and Recreation Plan recommendations.

### 3. Future Parks and Recreation Plan

The Future Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a framework for the provision of parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities in the Cheyenne area. Its primary focus is on areas where new development is likely to occur in the future, and the subsequent needs and desires of the residents of these areas. The need for parks and trails in existing developed areas is also addressed.

The Master Plan for Cheyenne includes a map that indicates locations for parks and trails, as well as targeted areas for protecting open space and/or cultural resources in the Cheyenne urban area.

The elements shown on the Master Plan are based on meeting the needs of the community that were identified in *Snapshot*, the park typologies and physical opportunities presented in *Structure*, and proposed future land uses for the entire Cheyenne area as determined through the *PlanCheyenne* process.

The elements shown on the Master Plan are based on meeting the needs of the community that were identified in *Snapshot*, the park typologies and physical opportunities presented in *Structure*, and proposed future land uses for the entire Cheyenne area as determined through the *PlanCheyenne* process. The proposed *PlanCheyenne* land use plan builds upon the earlier Vision 2020 process, which helped to identify the community's destination. *PlanCheyenne* will expand upon that vision and build the roadmap to transport the community to 2030.

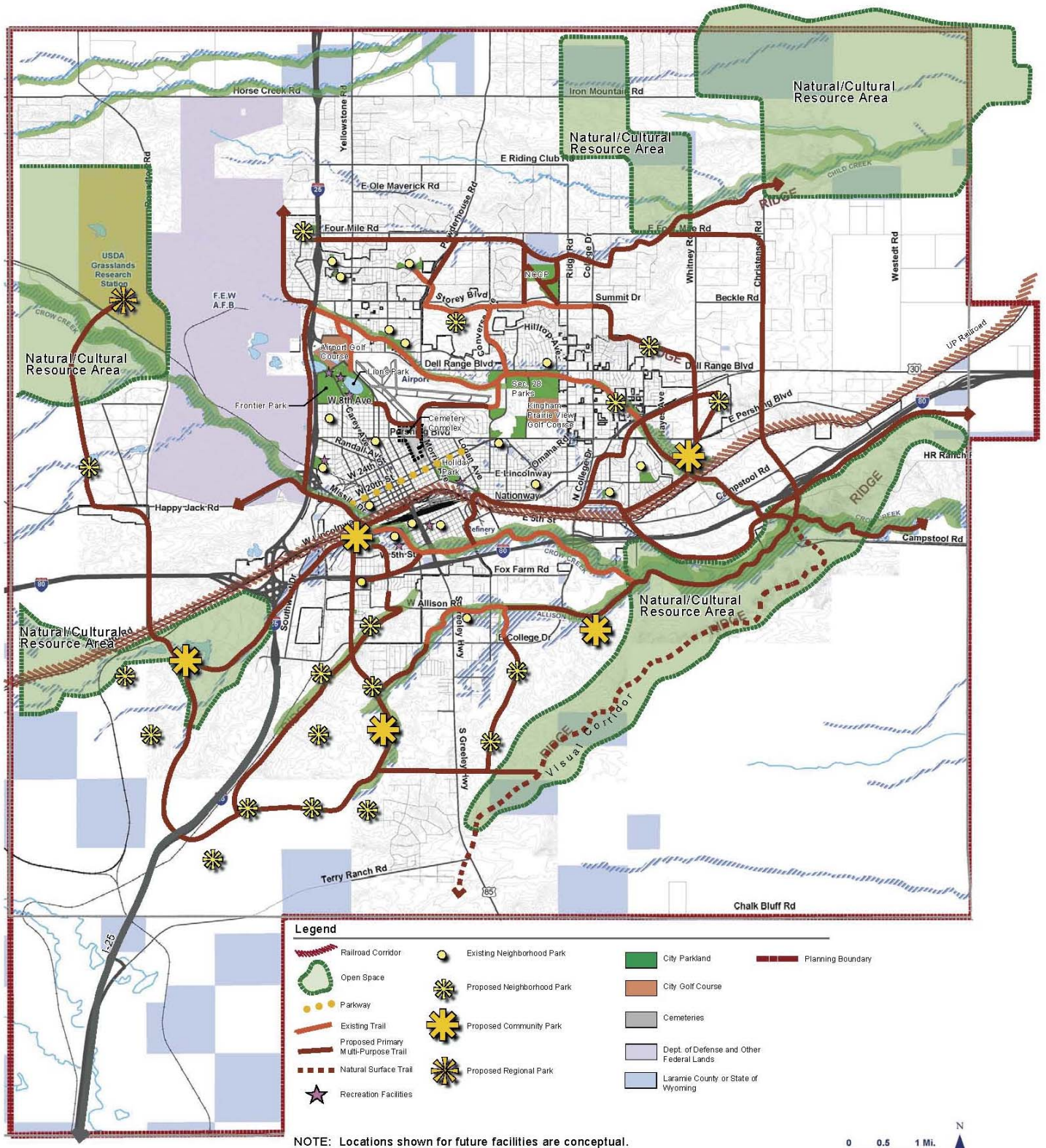
It is estimated that there could be an average growth rate of approximately 2%, for a future population of approximately 102,000 in 2030 in the City of Cheyenne and over 132,000 for the entire Cheyenne area in about 50 years. The Future Land Use Plan identifies that more growth is likely to be directed within the City limits in the future than has occurred in recent years. This shift could greatly impact the community's future parks and recreation system.

This parks plan is being produced concurrently with other elements of *PlanCheyenne*, including the transportation plan. It is highly beneficial that these plans are being created at the same time because it allows for coordination of planning projects and will lead to a more efficient and effective building process when this plan is put into action.

The Master Plan map shows the locations of existing public parks and recreation assets, but focuses on illustrating the conceptual locations for future parks, trails and open space. These include:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Open Space
- Trails

Cemeteries and golf courses are also shown on the Master Plan map and addressed briefly in subsequent text. Specific recommendations for recreational facilities and general recommendations for the Forestry Division, and Cheyenne Botanic Gardens are also provided.



# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

## Cheyenne Area Master Plan

Cheyenne MPO: Spatial Data and Visualization Center, City of WY, WY Geographic Information System Center

This information has not been checked against aerial photography and is for display purposes only. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data contained herein.



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## PARKS

### Neighborhood Parks



#### Recommendations

- Add new parks and/or improve existing parks to meet the needs of existing residents in underserved areas.
- Add new parks to meet the needs of the community as it grows.
- Enhance existing parks to improve quality and function.

#### Neighborhood Park Recommendations

Recommendations for Neighborhood Parks are categorized into three groups:

- Improvements to existing parks,
- New parks or improvements to existing parks to meet the needs of existing residents in underserved areas, and
- Proposed future parks to meet the needs of the community as it grows.

The Master Plan map shows locations of existing parks, and includes conceptual locations for 18 new Neighborhood Parks based on the proposed build-out land use plan adopted as part of the PlanCheyenne process.



Cahill Park at Section 28.

#### Improvements to Existing Parks

The condition of existing Neighborhood Parks was discussed in detail in the Snapshot section E of this plan. Many parks could use enhancements and upgrades to improve their quality and function. The City should aggressively address the issues in each of the existing parks by developing a detailed comprehensive list of improvement projects, and developing design documents for their renovation.



Civitan Park

#### Parks to Serve Underserved Neighborhoods

Several Neighborhood Parks are needed today based on existing residential development that does not have adequate access to parks, including residents south of the UP Railroad, and certainly south of I-80. Map 2 in Snapshot graphically shows the level of service areas for Neighborhood Parks in Cheyenne and those areas that are not adequately served by existing parks. The neighborhood east of North College Drive, adjacent to the Dry Creek Greenway, would benefit from the development of neighborhood park amenities on Greenway land, or potentially adding some land adjacent to the Greenway to develop a park. When applicable, the City should also work with redeveloping sites to establish parkland to serve such underserved areas.



#### Existing Undeveloped Parks

Development of Western Hills Park in the far northwest area of the City is essential to meeting the needs of those residents. Development of this park would serve approximately half of the residents in this area. Those to the south would not be in the half-mile service radius, and it appears that the possibility of acquiring additional land in this area is limited.



Western Hills Park

Bar X Park, which is currently a detention pond with turf grass, should be improved to be more of a full-service Neighborhood Park for the area east of I-25.

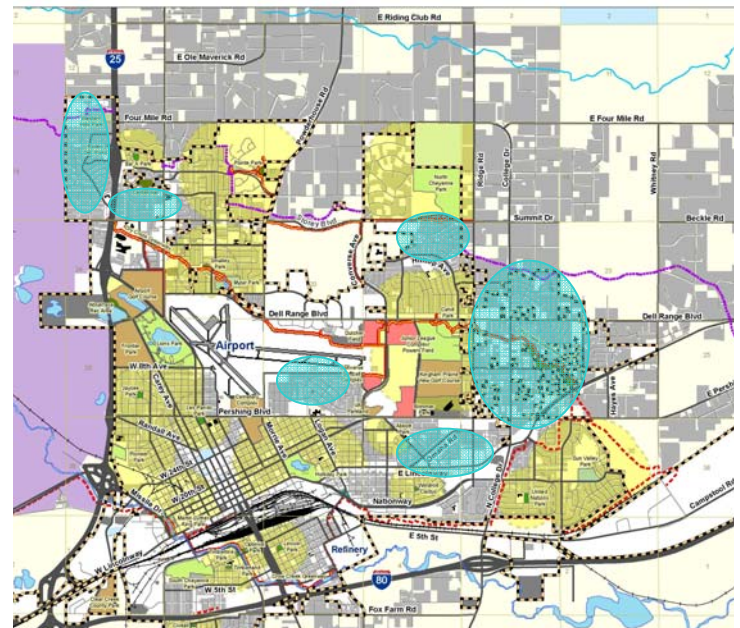
The Hebard neighborhood is underserved on its east side. However, there are opportunities for new park amenities associated with the new green space that will be created as part of the Norris Viaduct project adjacent to the refinery.

When David R. Romero South Cheyenne Community Park is developed, the entire Goins neighborhood will be well served. The west portion of the Goins neighborhood is not currently served by a Neighborhood Park. The development of David Romero Community Park should include elements of a Neighborhood Park to serve these residents.

#### Improving Access and Integrating Parks with Redevelopment

Some areas of the city that do not have adequate access to Neighborhood Parks also lack undeveloped vacant lands for development of new parks.

The following map depicts these residential areas of the city where there is not currently adequate service by neighborhood parks and a lack of vacant land for park development. These areas are highlighted by light blue bubbles. In these areas (e.g., near East Lincolnway, south of the airport, north of Hilltop Avenue, south of Vandehei, between East Lincolnway and Pershing Boulevard), a variety of strategies could be pursued. These may include improving pedestrian and bicycle connections to the nearest Neighborhood or Community Park, and establishing cooperative agreements to improve school properties in underserved areas. Furthermore, redevelopment plans should recognize the need for Neighborhood Parks. Opportunities for acquisition of parkland associated with redevelopment or acquisition of smaller vacant areas should be pursued.

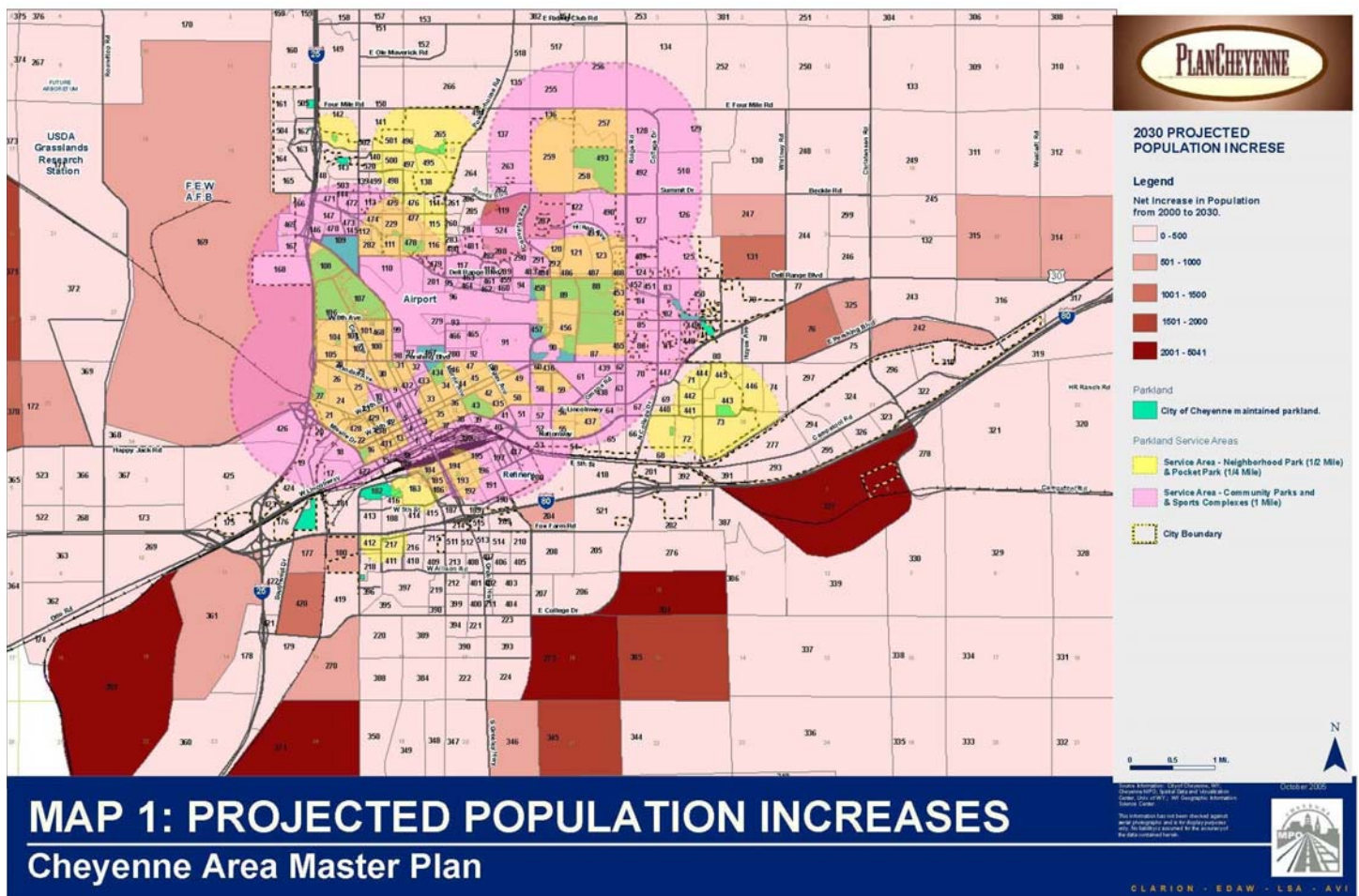


Residential Areas Lacking Neighborhood Parks and Undeveloped Park Lands

### Future Neighborhood Park Locations

In addition to meeting the needs of existing Cheyenne residents, 9 to 15 of the 12 to 18 total new Neighborhood Parks will be needed by new residents in developing areas by 2030. The actual locations for these parks are not known today; however, potential areas have been identified based on TAZ (traffic analysis zone) population projections and the Future Land Use Plan. A TAZ is a unit of geography commonly used in conventional transportation planning models. The size of a zone varies, but for a typical metropolitan planning software, a zone of

under 3000 people is common. The spatial extent of zones typically varies in models, ranging from very large areas in the exurbs to as small as city blocks or buildings in central business districts. Map 1 (below) graphically shows current Neighborhood and Community Park service areas overlaid on the TAZ population projections for 2030. Specific park locations will be determined as areas develop. The locations for Neighborhood Parks should be coordinated with the location of future trails and open space, and be developed according to the best practices described in Structure.



Map 1. Projected Population Increases



## PARKS

### Community Parks



#### Recommendations

- Develop David R. Romero South Cheyenne Community Park.
- Develop a comprehensive Site Master Plan for Section 28
- Defer development of North Cheyenne Community Park until Parks are provided where needs are greater.
- Develop comprehensive list of improvements for existing Community Parks and implement
- Implement existing Master Plans for other Community Park sites
- Proactively acquire future community park sites

The Master Plan includes recommendations for improving existing Community Parks as well as new parks that may be needed for future residents.

#### Improvements to Existing Community Parks

The condition of existing Community Parks was discussed in detail in the Snapshot section E of this plan. Many parks could use enhancements and upgrades to improve their quality and function. In addition to the new parks and enhancements mentioned in the previous sections, the overall parks system is facing the need to replace many of the aging irrigation systems, restrooms, shelters, and park roads throughout the City. Cheyenne should evaluate the design of each of its parks to determine if there are design changes that could reduce the amount of irrigated turf or improve water use efficiency.

The City is also developing an irrigation water system throughout the City that uses recycled water, rather than potable water, for its large irrigated turf areas. Recycled water will help keep the parks "drought resistant" so parks and other city areas will stay green during dry periods, while keeping water in reservoirs for Cheyenne citizens. The recycled water will be specially prepared for irrigation purposes, an additional benefit for the parks. Recycled water is safe, of good quality, and will expand the city's

current resources without seeking out new sources of water. By using recycled water the city becomes a community leader for water conservation.

The sports complexes and parks located in Section 28 could be enhanced by looking at the entire area holistically and developing the area as a cohesive park unit, rather than the individual areas that exist today. Amenities for use by the adjacent neighborhoods as Neighborhood Parks should be included in the plans for this area. One such amenity is a Public Recreation Center for the City of Cheyenne. Refer to Page 28 for additional discussion on a Recreation Center. A new, consolidated maintenance facility is also recommended to be included in this plan.

Master plans for improvements to several other existing community parks have been adopted (Lions Park, North Cheyenne Community Park), but some other Community Parks need plans to determine specific improvements that are needed (e.g., Holliday, Pioneer). Expansion of North Cheyenne Community Park has been seriously considered; however, this is not where the need for Community Parks is the greatest.



Section 28 Complex

The City should consider deferring development of this parkland in order to concentrate its efforts on other areas of the community that are in greater need. The City should aggressively address the issues in each of the existing

parks by developing a detailed comprehensive list of improvement projects, and developing design documents for their renovation.

### New Community Parks

It is anticipated that an additional 44,000 people will be added to the City's population by 2030. In order to meet the community parkland standard of 5.8 acres per 1,000 population, 258 acres of community parkland will need to be developed by the year 2030. To meet this need, 5 new Community Park sites are shown on the Master Plan, including 4 sites that have not yet been acquired. Each of these potential parks is discussed below.



South Cheyenne Community Park

### David R. Romero South Cheyenne Community Park

Additional community parkland is not currently needed based on existing population and a 5.8 acre per 1,000 people standard, but residents south of the UP Railroad, and certainly south of I-80, do not currently have easy access to Community Parks. Therefore, the next Community Park to be developed should be located on the existing 29 acres of parkland within the Goins Neighborhood, which has already been named David R. Romero South Cheyenne Community Park.

At 29 acres, this Community Park site is undersized and additional opportunities for parkland should be pursued. A master planning process should be conducted to determine the desired program and design of this site.

### Dry Creek Community Park

This park site is located conceptually on the Master Plan just upstream of the railroad along Dry Creek. This park would serve the East Cheyenne area and would ideally be located along the Dry Creek drainage, connecting with the planned trail expansion at Dry Creek Greenway. The construction of this park should be coordinated with regional water detention needs, existing floodplains, and other environmental considerations. Additionally, the design of this park should consider enhancement of the natural qualities of the drainageway.

### Lower Allison Draw Community Park

This park is conceptually located to serve future residential developments in southeast Cheyenne. It would be located along the Allison Draw Greenway and thus will be served by a primary trail. Among other attributes, this park could potentially be integrated into the proposed Natural/Cultural Resource District along the adjoining ridgeline.

### Upper Allison Draw Community Park

This park is conceptually located upstream along Allison Draw, west of the S. Greeley Highway to serve future residential development planned for south Cheyenne. Its location in Allison Draw would allow it to adjoin the Greenway and connect with the planned adjacent trail system.

### West Cheyenne Community Park

This park is conceptually located west of I-25 and south of I-80 near existing ponds, natural features, and a historic ranch. This park could be incorporated into the adjoining Natural/Cultural Resource District, and could be designed to preserve and interpret the historic ranching operations of the area. It also has natural surface water that could be incorporated into the design and add visual interest. This park would also be connected to 2 segments of the primary trail system.



## OPEN SPACE

### Natural / Cultural Resource Areas



#### Recommendations

- Preserve important attributes of Natural Cultural Resource areas
- Work with the county and/or state on funding, costs, and development of Natural/Cultural Resource Areas

The Master Plan shows a regional system for open space. Natural/Cultural Resource Areas represent the largest land areas shown. These areas represent priorities for future open space preservation efforts. It is not intended that all areas under these districts will be protected, but rather indicate areas that offer a unique potential opportunity to preserve open space.



South Cheyenne Ridge, a Natural Cultural Resource Area

Several large areas have been identified as locations where natural landscape and habitat values are combined with historic or cultural resources. These areas were identified on the Parks and Recreation Structure Plan and the Community Structure Plan. The Natural and Cultural Resource Areas should be preserved as they are, or developed in a manner that does not compromise these resources. A particularly important area is where Crow Creek and Dry Creek converge, including the Wyoming Hereford Ranch historic site. This area has irreplaceable wildlife habitat and historic values. Other areas include:

- 1) The ridge that runs southwest to northeast, south of I-80. The ridge is a highly visible landform that has archaeological value.
- 2) Child Ranch. This is a beautiful high plains ranch with rolling topography, high quality grasslands, and historic resources.
- 3) The relatively intact prairie and ranchland west of I-25, south of I-80. The area has natural water, archaeological, historic, and important wildlife habitat values.



Area west of I-25, south of I-80

## OPEN SPACE

### Regional Open Space



#### Recommendations

- Create a regional park at the USDA grassland Research Station and/or Roundtop Park.
- Develop master plans to determine appropriate uses for the Belvoir Ranch and Big Hole properties

The City owns 3 large Regional Open Space areas: The 2,140-acre USDA Grasslands Research Station, the 17,000-acre Belvoir Ranch, and the 1,800-acre Big Hole property.

#### USDA Grasslands Research Station

The City has partnered with the USDA Grasslands Research Station for development of a 62-acre High Plains Arboretum on the site of the research station.

The arboretum is a historic site, established in 1928 and its mission was to increase livability on the High Plains through release of adapted fruits, vegetables, ornamental plants, and windbreaks. In 1974, the station's mission shifted to grasslands research. In 2000, a group of citizens concerned about the decline of the plants, formed the Friends of the High Plains Arboretum. The goal is to preserve, restore, and enhance this historic site as the High Plains Arboretum. The vision is to see it become a vital resource for regional and community landscaping, research on drought tolerance, and, finally, the creation of more attractive and livable communities on the High Plains. Since 1975, the trees and shrubs relied mainly on natural precipitation to survive, receiving minimal care, water, and maintenance.

Over fifty percent of the plants inventoried in 1974 are gone, and many more are in decline. But there are still thousands of trees and shrubs that grace this unique and historic site. It is clear that this arboretum is in need of an intensive effort to prevent yearly losses of valuable plant material. In addition to water, these plants require pruning and weeding. A master plan developed for the site calls for

a phased in process of developing the property which will take between 15 and 25 years. It includes:

- Preservation and inventorying of the existing plants
- Setting up staging areas
- Restoring many of the plants that once existed on the site
- Planting of new plants that may help enhance the quality of life on the High Plains
- Development of walkway and bikeway paths throughout the acreage
- Development of new areas to display woody plants
- Vast amounts of public interpretation (signage and other media) that will tell the historic story of the many plants and plant explorers and horticulturist that worked to make the High Plains more habitable.
- Creating a visitor center to introduce visitors to the site, its history and ongoing research and development that is occurring.
- Picnic and event areas
- Shared use of the existing historic greenhouse and lath house with the USDA/ARS staff
- Further compilation of the history of the site
- Tie-ins with the nearby Roundtop park

Other possibilities mentioned for this site include the development of a regional park. This should be considered and planned for on a regional level including coordinating with other agencies such as Laramie County and the State of Wyoming.

While the first five years of the master plan calls for minimal activity, an effort must be made during this time frame to provide water to the existing trees and shrubs as well as pruning, weed control and mulching around the plant collection. These activities will require the use of staff and equipment and should be included in future Parks and Recreation and City budgets. All divisions should be involved in plant maintenance and care to achieve healthy plant materials and removal of hazards.

The six to ten year master plan timeframe will require even more financial inputs. Some of the needed funds will likely be provided through fundraising from the non-profit Friends of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens.



# FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SHAPE*

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The development of the High Plains Arboretum is contingent upon an agreement between the USDA and the City of Cheyenne which would allow this 62 acre site to be legally removed from the original lease. This would allow it to come under full City of Cheyenne control.

Also on the grounds of the USDA High Plains Grasslands Research Station and north and slightly east of the High Plains Arboretum is a site known as Roundtop Park. This park was developed in the 1930s and includes a fully mature landscape, picnic tables and fire pits as well as a rustic restroom. The site also has two historic rock bridges. Roundtop park sits on approximately 5 acres and is currently used by the Girl Scouts on a revocable permit basis with the USDA. It is anticipated that the Girl Scouts will be able to continue to use this site for the next few years, however, as Cheyenne's needs for increased green space grows this park will provide a ready made park that would require no new landscaping. For this site to be opened up to the public as a usable park it will need:

- Parking
- Automated Irrigation system
- Potable water
- Storage (for mowers and maintenance equipment)
- Upgrades to the facilities (i.e. new picnic tables, etc)
- Maintenance staff
- Some occasional security presence (police or private security)

Adjacent to the park is Roundtop reservoir. This may also someday be a part of the park and could provide some additional recreational opportunities in the future. Another possibility is further developing this area into a regional park with other cooperating agencies.

The development of Roundtop Park (and Roundtop reservoir) is contingent upon an agreement between the USDA and the City of Cheyenne which would allow this site to be legally removed from the original lease. This would allow it to come under full City of Cheyenne control.

### **Belvoir Ranch**

The Belvoir Ranch was purchased with the intended uses of a new landfill, water development, and public access for recreation. Though the ranch is not within the study area of this plan and the future uses of the ranch have yet to be determined, the ranch should be developed to provide public access and managed in a way that emphasizes resource conservation while recognizing other city needs.

### **Big Hole**

The Big Hole was recently purchased by the city in a joint effort with Larimer County, Colorado, and the Nature Conservancy. The property was identified as an important piece of property in the Nature Conservancy's Mountains to Plains Project. The Big Hole is on the border of Colorado and Wyoming and was purchased with the intent of preserving scenic beauty, habitat and the unique ecology of the area. Though the property is not within the study area and the uses have yet to be determined, the Big Hole should be developed to provide public access, and managed in a way that emphasizes resource conservation. Use of the property should be coordinated with Larimer County Colorado and the Nature Conservancy.

In addition, the Big Hole and the Belvoir Ranch are located adjacent to Red Mountain Ranch, a large open space property in Larimer County, Colorado. The properties span the state line, creating an important regional connection for wild life, open spaces, and preservation of scenic vistas and habitat. Opportunities for providing trail connections between the properties and the two states should be explored.

## OPEN SPACE

### Natural Areas



#### Recommendations

- Proactively preserve drainages as natural areas.
- Connect existing natural areas, such as Abscarraca, with other natural corridors.

Continuous links of open space are essential to maintain biodiversity links that ensure the genetic health of plant, aquatic, microbial and wildlife species. Urban development that disrupts connections also isolates populations and creates unstable ecological systems. The Cheyenne Parks Master Plan map shows recommended locations for Natural Areas. Most of these are located along drainageways, including Dry Creek, Crow Creek, Allison Draw, Child's Draw, and along drainages west, southwest and north of the existing City. The City currently owns and maintains 111 acres along existing Greenway Trail corridors and in two isolated locations (Absarraca and Centennial). Additional Natural Areas, like Absarraca, are important to preserve and their value would be enhanced if connected with an open space corridor to other habitats.



Crow Creek



Natural Area along Drainageway



## TRAILS

### Community-Wide Trail System



#### Recommendations

- Continue development of the Cheyenne Greenway and primary multi-purpose trail system
- Provide 3-5 mile trail loops
- Coordinate Trails with development plans and work with other city departments
- Provide a natural surface trail along the south Cheyenne ridge.
- Secure right-of-way for future trail corridors
- Investigate possibilities for regional trail connections to the south and east of Cheyenne.
- Work with Laramie County on future City/County trails

#### The Plan For Trails

The Master Plan map shows the vision for trails throughout the Cheyenne area. Two types of trails that are of community-wide significance are identified on the Master Plan: primary multi-purpose trails and a natural surface trail. The design criteria for these and additional trail categories are described in the Structure section of this plan. The trail types not shown on the Master Plan (secondary multi-purpose trails, neighborhood trails and soft-surface trails) are important neighborhood-scale features, and should be integrated into specific plans for development throughout the community. It is important that these local systems connect to the larger, community-wide trail system.

As summarized in the Snapshot section of this plan, the City has been proactive in planning for trails along drainages, and has an established Greenway Trail system and plan. The Master Plan was created in coordination with this plan. This plan should continue to be implemented, and supplemented with new trails as shown on the Master Plan. This system of primary, multi-purpose trails, supplemented with the local trails systems, will provide looped routes for bicyclists, skaters, walkers,



Cheyenne Greenway

runners and non-motorized users of all types. The comprehensive trail system should provide connections between residential areas, parks, open space, schools, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and other key destinations.

Approximately 16 miles of primary multi-purpose trail has been constructed through the Cheyenne Greenways program. The extent of existing trails is illustrated in Section E of the Snapshot section of this plan. The Master Plan shows vision for the entire primary multi-purpose trail system. These locations of the trails are conceptual, and will be defined in more detail as specific planning is accomplished for each segment. Non-primary trails add an additional 10 miles to the community's system

The Master Plan shows trail spines along the Natural Areas and Corridors associated with primary drainages. These trails should be located sensitively in an effort to retain the habitat values of riparian corridors. Potential trail corridors include the Dry Creek corridor to the proposed southeast ridge open space, the Crow Creek corridor, the Allison Draw corridor, extension of the Storey Boulevard greenway corridor to make a loop connection with the proposed Dry Creek corridor, and the railroad corridor from Dry Creek to the Logan Avenue area. Three- to 5-mile trail loops are proposed through new development areas to connect parks, other trails, and open space areas to each other. Other loops and spurs are also proposed in order to effectively connect neighborhood parks.



# FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SHAPE*

### 3

Long trails around the perimeter of the future developed area of the city connect the urban area to destinations beyond the city limits. Although it would be desirable to connect directly to the High Plains Arboretum on the USDA Grasslands Research Station, trails are not shown through FE Warren because of the security concerns that this installation has over allowing public access through its property. A trail segment is shown that would travel south from the proposed regional park at the USDA Grasslands Research Station to the proposed neighborhood park just north of Happy Jack Road. The trail would continue south across I-80 to the proposed West Cheyenne Community Park.

From here the trail would split, with one segment looping south through two proposed neighborhood parks, and the proposed Upper Allison Draw Community Park. It would then continue north, eventually connecting with the Allison Draw Greenway and lead to the proposed Lower Allison Draw Community Park. A spur would also connect to a proposed natural trail within the proposed open space near the southeast ridgeline.

The other split from the West Cheyenne Community Park would travel north to the new David R. Romero South Cheyenne Community Park, where it would connect with the Crow Creek Greenway and other proposed trails.

A trail has also been shown along the northern edge of the community, but the majority of this area has already been planned or actually developed into large-lot residential subdivisions, which may be potentially prohibitive in the acquisition of trail right-of-way.

The trails shown on the Master Plan map are Primary Multi-purpose Trails that should be publicly accessible. The trail across the southern ridge Conservation Area may be an exception to this, and could be a natural surface trail, if this area remains in a natural condition.

### **Coordination with Transportation Projects**

Future trails and connections will be coordinated with other development plans, such as the transportation plan. Even though the exact locations of trails cannot be determined until the specific areas are studied in more detail, the following locations have been identified as being critical in coordinating planning and construction with the transportation plan:

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

#### Recommendations

- Build a multi-purpose Community Recreation Facility that addresses the recommendations in the 2005 Recreation Center Feasibility Study
- Keep pace with community needs by constructing recreational facilities that are needed currently, and continuing to construct facilities as the community grows
- Examine feasibility of providing facilities for non-traditional activities
- The need for specific recreational facilities in parks should be determined based on periodic reassessment of the user groups and community at large.

As Community and Neighborhood Parks are developed, additional recreational facilities can be developed within them to meet the needs of the growing population. Programmed recreational activities that are geared to the community at-large, such as soccer, football, or baseball/softball tournament game fields, should not be included in Neighborhood Parks. Appropriate facilities and activities in parks are described in Structure. The largest space requirements in Community Parks are associated with the programmed, athletic sports fields such as baseball, softball, football, soccer and lacrosse. Neighborhood Parks should contain multi-purpose field areas to accommodate youth and adult practices.

Section O of the Parks Snapshot chapter describes the number of specific recreational facilities that are needed now and in the future to meet an average level of service. These numbers illustrate average need, as specific levels of service for Cheyenne for each type of recreation facility have never been established. For example, Cheyenne currently serves its population with almost twice as many softball/baseball fields as other communities, and 1.5 times as many outdoor basketball courts. Cheyenne may decide that it wants to provide a higher level of service

than average, in which case, the numbers of needed facilities would be higher than stated below.

Using average levels of service that are being provided by peer communities, the Cheyenne parks system is deficient with facilities in the following categories:

- Football Fields – 2
- Full-size gymnasium – 1
- Tennis courts – 3
- Swimming pools – 1
- Ice rink – 1

By the year 2030, if no facilities have been added to the current parks system, the following additional facilities will need to be provided to meet the average level of service for an anticipated population of 102,000:

- Soccer fields – 10
- Football fields – 4
- Outdoor basketball courts – 2
- Full-size gymnasium – 2
- Tennis courts – 15
- Swimming pools – 3
- Ice rinks – 3
- Skateboard parks – 3
- In-line hockey rink – 1

These numbers include current gymnasium space that accommodates City Recreation Programming; however, that space is not owned, controlled or scheduled by the City. The City Recreation program uses 5 school gyms for adult sports and 14 school gyms for youth sports. If City Recreation programming continues to use school gyms, only 1 or 2 additional gyms are needed to accommodate drop-in gym use.

However, continued use of school gym space limits the flexibility of the city recreation programs. As the owner of most gym space in the community, the School District uses the space to accommodate its users during the same time of day when the Recreation Program would like to use the space. The School District works well with the Recreation Program to accommodate the additional space requirements of City Recreation, but there is not enough space to accommodate all uses during the peak recreation hours of 5 pm to 8 pm at night. More often than desired, the City Recreation Program has to push activities to later times in the evening. As a result, there has been a



# FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SHAPE*

### 3

decline in participation because some participants cannot recreate later at night.

The Recreation Center Feasibility Study, covered further in this section, recommends 5 gymnasiums to allow for public drop-in use in the community and also for some programmed activities. With 5 additional gyms, the recreation department would still need to use school gyms for Youth programming, however, demand on all gyms during peak hours of 5 pm to 8 pm would decrease, allowing more people in the community to recreate at desirable times. Increased gym space would likely open up the city to increased recreation participation.

In addition to the averages listed in the table above, the need for additional soccer and baseball/softball fields should be considered. Average levels of service do not acknowledge the fact that some communities are not adequately meeting the needs of their residents, and are behind on constructing community parks and sports complexes. Many communities target a level of service of 1 field per 3000 to 3500 people for both of these types of facilities. Using this range, in the year 2030 (population 102,000) Cheyenne would need a total of an additional 16 to 21 soccer fields, and 0 to 8 additional baseball/softball fields.

Many of the needed soccer fields can be accommodated by constructing multi-purpose play fields in neighborhood parks. Practice ballfields are also appropriate facilities for neighborhood parks. Game fields should be limited to Community Parks and Sports Complexes because of the impact of vehicles and parking. The need for specific numbers of recreational facilities in each park should be determined based on periodic reassessment of the user groups and community at large.

The City prepared a Recreation Feasibility Study in November 2005 for a multi-purpose recreation center. The feasibility report recommends a large facility that includes a large warm-water leisure pool, multiple gymnasium space, youth fitness, boxing, gymnastics center, and rock climbing wall among other features. The feasibility report also recommends that the facility be located in the northeast quadrant of the Section 28 complex (see photo page 17) due to its central location and availability of space. Additionally, the feasibility report recommends combining the Recreation and Aquatic divisions into one to streamline efficiency and lower operation costs. At two

public meetings and in the most recent citizen survey from 2005, the community has endorsed the concept of a recreation center. Sixty-three percent of survey respondents indicated they were in favor of a new Indoor recreation center and of those, 80% were willing to pay for it. This Master Plan concurs with the feasibility report that the community constructs the multi-purpose center in a centralized location.

Closing Johnson Pool has been recommended by the feasibility study because it is in need of major capital repairs to the bath house and has recently had a small decline in participation. The Municipal Pool in Lions Park is currently a very important facility for the City as it currently contains the only indoor public pool. The future role of this facility was not discussed in the feasibility study; however, its role in providing aquatics activities should be evaluated as well. The Aquatics Division also manages the Sloan's Lake swim beach in Lions Park. The swim beach is an important part of the summer experience in Cheyenne and should only be closed if the beach develops maintenance problems that cannot be solved.

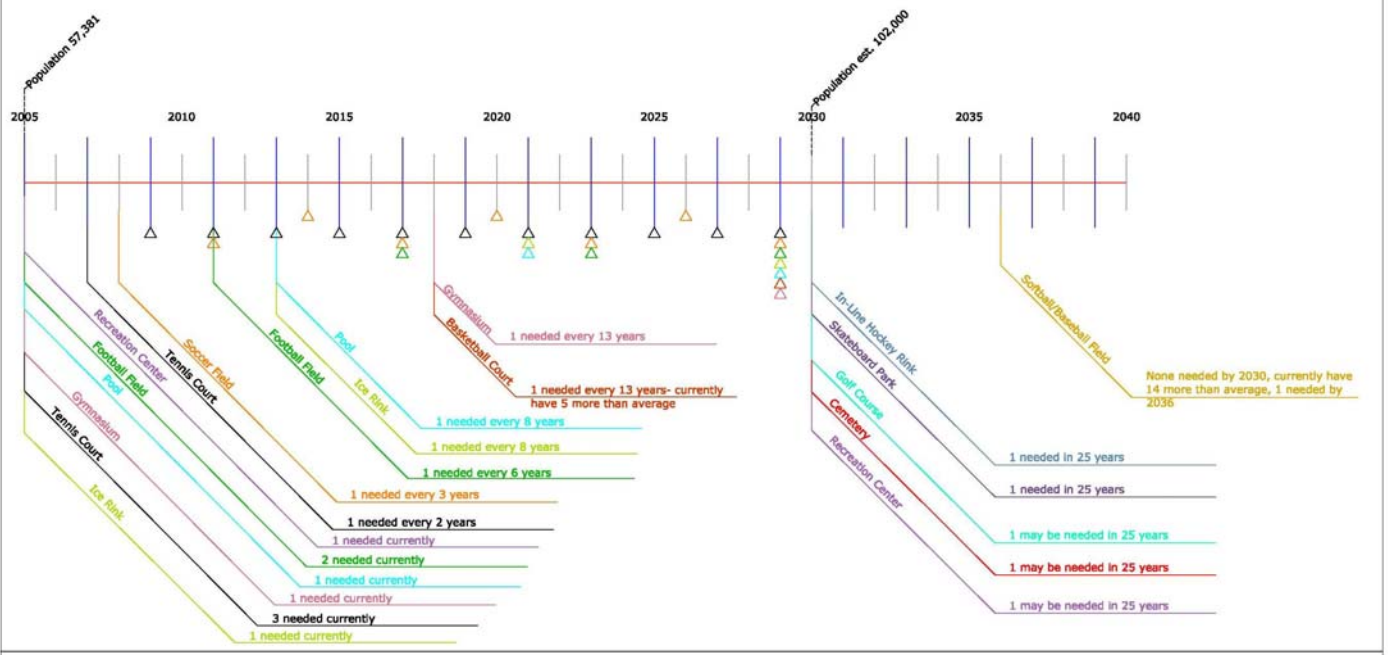
Although applying an average level of service standard results in a deficit of 3 swimming pools in the year 2030, most communities are transitioning from numerous smaller pools to fewer, but larger, multi-activity indoor pools. Constructing a large leisure pool with slides, lap lanes, and other features that appeal to a broad spectrum of users, would meet the needs of the community for the foreseeable future.

The future of existing indoor recreational facilities, such as the Old Community House, Neighborhood Facility and Pioneer Park Center, should be defined after determining the program for the future multi-purpose recreation center.

In addition to activities that are traditionally provided by public parks and recreation agencies, there is demand for high intensity uses such as paintball, mini-golf, go-carts and BMX bicycling that could be considered for inclusion in convenient locations throughout the city. One non-traditional facility, indoor paintball, will likely be available to residents as early as January 2007. The City should investigate possibilities for providing the remaining activities, either privately or as a responsibility of the City. Possible locations for consideration include the old Kiwanis building, the IKON center, and the old Saddle Tramps facility in Section 28.



### FACILITY TIMELINE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN PLANCHEYENNE 2005-2030



Facility Timeline



# FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SHAPE*

### 3

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### Golf Courses

#### Recommendations

- Conduct a specific study on the needs for additional golf opportunities in Cheyenne
- Implement improvements to existing golf courses

The scope of this Master Plan does not include a detailed study on Golf needs in the community, however, through reviewing the Golf Course Market Analysis prepared in 2001, interviews with staff and public input, this Master Plan does not recommend additional golf courses within the existing City of Cheyenne currently.

As mentioned in the Snapshot section, the feasibility and desirability of a links-style golf course at the Belvoir Ranch should be determined through a separate study. Additionally, if the population almost doubles in 25 years, it is likely that an additional golf course could be supported within the urban area itself. If the existing level of service (including the FE Warren golf course) were provided to a population of 102,000, the City would need an additional 56 holes of golf (1 golf hole per 797 people) by 2030. The entire state of Wyoming provides 1 golf hole per 617 people. If this level of service is used, Cheyenne would need an additional 93 holes by 2030. This level of service does not seem to be appropriate for Cheyenne, as the Wyoming figure includes very small, rural communities that provide a golf course because the nearest golf course is far away. As Cheyenne continues to urbanize, a more appropriate comparison may be the level of service provided in Colorado, which is 1 hole of golf for every 1035 people. If this level of service is used, Cheyenne would need an additional 26 holes of golf by 2030.

Given the potential range of future needs for golf in Cheyenne (between 26 and 93 additional holes) The City should conduct a study specific to golf that determines the short and long terms needs.

The study should also include an analysis of how tournament play impacts regular play in Cheyenne. Recent increases in tournaments at the Airport Golf Course have lead to a decrease in time available for regular play. The impacts of this practice should be evaluated and studied in the future

Improvements to the existing golf courses are needed and are described in the Snapshot section of this plan.

## CEMETERIES

### Cemeteries

#### Recommendations

- Conduct a specific study on the needs for additional cemeteries in Cheyenne
- Implement improvements to existing cemeteries

The Master Plan does not address specific recommendation regarding Cemeteries and a study by cemetery planners has not been conducted. However, the number of existing spaces are declining quickly, and an additional cemetery may be needed some time in the future. Without detail on the size, siting criteria and needs associated with a new cemetery, this planning process could not identify potential locations. The City could consider any number of sites in the study area, and needs to determine its policies regarding the long term provision of this service.

The physical Issues with the existing cemeteries are identified in the Snapshot Section of this plan. One action that is clearly needed is to convert existing bluegrass turf to lower water-requiring turf or other materials over time.

The City should conduct a Cemetery study to determine what current trends in Cemetery planning are, whether the city should be involved in providing Cemeteries, and other questions related to Future Cemeteries or existing operations and strategic planning.

## BOTANIC GARDENS

### Botantic Gardens

#### Recommendations

- o Implement the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Master Plan

The Botanic Gardens is one of the most popular park amenities in the City. It should continue to be developed and improved according to the adopted master plan, and coordinated with ongoing plans for Lion's Park.

Building expansion plans for the Botanic Gardens include adding more production space, creating a larger public conservatory area, building interactive stations throughout the greenhouse for children, adding a meeting room and public library, expanding office space, installing more bathrooms, and increasing handicapped access to the entire building. There are also plans to add a "Museum" store and develop an Outside Children's Garden. This would require moving the parks shop area to an alternative site, as outlined by the Lions Park Master Plan. The most current initiative is called "The Children's Initiative", which includes construction of a children's garden.

The City should conduct strategic planning for the Botanic Gardens. The current plan includes the physical components of the gardens; a strategic plan might include other recommendations for the gardens, the role of the foundation, and how the gardens interact with the community on a long-term basis.



## PARKS

### Parks

#### Recommendations

- Implement improvements to existing parks.
- Expand the maintenance facility.
- Increase staff and funding as acreage and responsibilities of the division increase.
- Create an equipment replacement plan.
- Set a policy about percent of native areas in parks.
- Set a policy on park naming.
- Create a parks infrastructure replacement plan.
- Continue to expand the possibilities of re-using water.

As the park and recreation system in Cheyenne continues to grow, the Parks Maintenance division must grow accordingly to ensure that a continued high level of maintenance activity is upheld for all facilities. This will require annual assessments by the Parks and Recreation Department of staffing, equipment, and budget to ensure they have the resources necessary to accomplish this. An expanded maintenance facility near the Dutcher Fields Complex would centralize many activities and increase efficiency of operations.



# FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SHAPE*

### 3

## PARKS

### Administration

#### Recommendations

- Expand operations to include a Natural Areas/Open Space division or program
- Implement regulatory and legislative tools to enhance department ability to meet current and future needs of the community.
- Implement a land dedication ordinance.
- Re-define the structure of the administrative division.
- Re-define positions within the administrative division.
- Produce more public relations material.
- Create procedures manual.
- Create policies for the divisions.

The administration division should continue to integrate with other city departments, learn city policies and procedures, identify problems in procedures and work to change them over time. The division should set policies for other parks and recreation divisions and prioritize projects for the department. Projects should be delegated out to divisions and all divisions should assist on projects as necessary.

## FORESTRY

### Forestry

#### Recommendations

- Continue to work with the Parks Division to plant and maintain trees in parks, natural areas and greenways
- Implement the 2004 Urban Forestry Management Plans in a timely manner.
- Modify the responsibilities of the Forestry Division to include maintenance of right-of-way trees
- Continue to work on public education to enhance the fundamental knowledge of tree care and conservation measures within an urban forest.

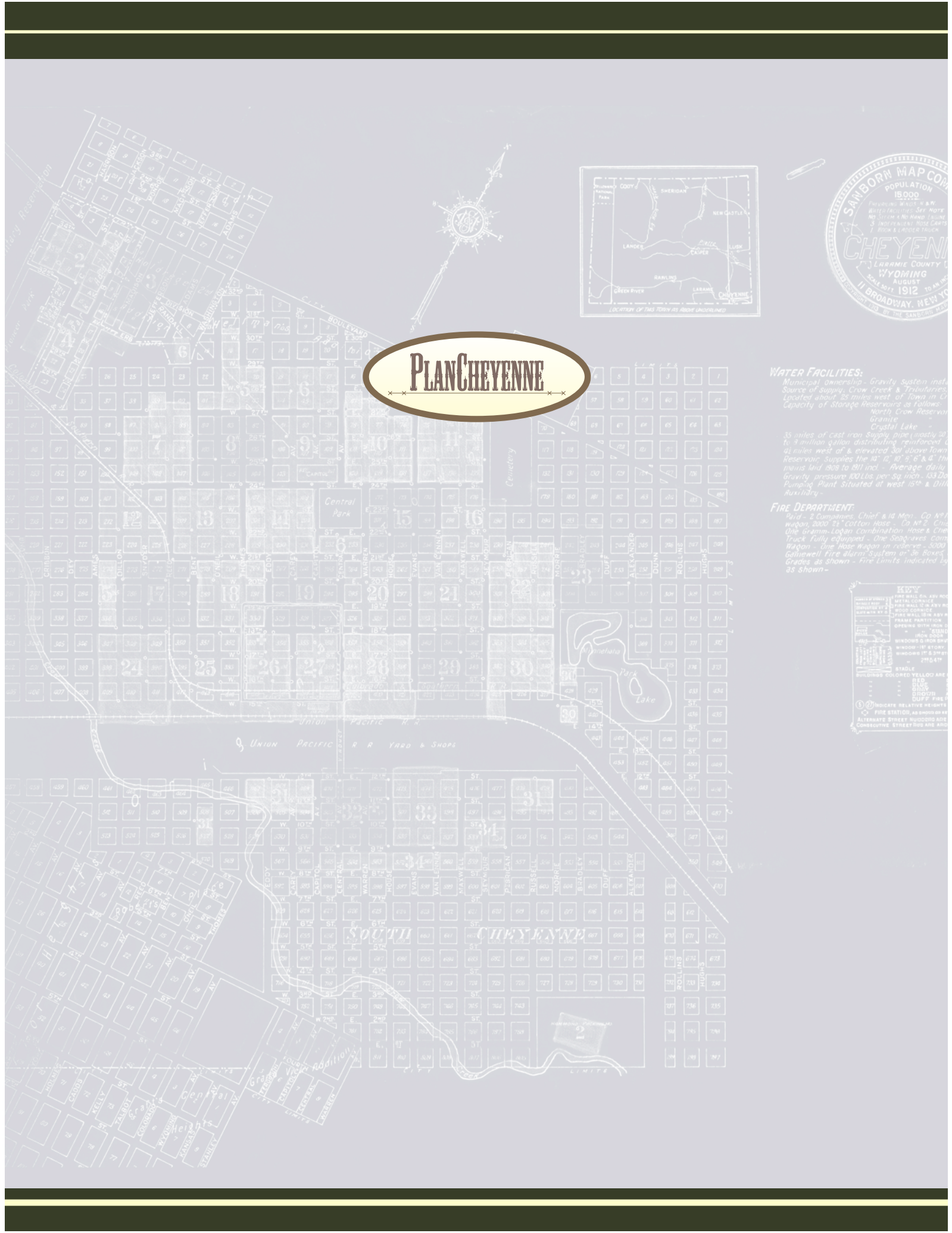
As described in the Snapshot section of this plan, the city has an Urban Forestry Division that manages trees throughout the city. The municipal forest is comprised of two distinct populations, those managed and maintained entirely by the Division (city trees) and those overseen by the Division but predominantly maintained by private property owners (right-of-way trees). Areas cared for by the Division include trees along city right-of-ways, trees on city properties such as parks, golf courses, cemeteries, greenways, the Fire Training Center, the Police Station, the Depot, and water department facilities. Various issues and needs facing this Division are outlined in Snapshot.

The Division adopted an Urban Forestry Management Plan, developed in 2004, that highlights several recommendations for the Division and associated forestry programs. The division also receives guidance from a study conducted by the Center for Urban Forest Research at the University of California, Davis. The study provides a tree resource analysis of Cheyenne's trees along with recommendations. The recommendations from both plans should be implemented as soon as practical.

Additionally, in general, the Forestry Division should continue to work with the Parks Division to plant and maintain trees in parks, natural areas, and greenways.

The Forestry Division continues to grow as the city expands its land and acreage, encompassing new recreational areas. As residential and business development continues in Cheyenne, the right-of-way areas needing forestry attention continue to increase. Additionally, a city ordinance requires this division to be involved with the code enforcement of these new areas and existing right-of-ways. The city needs to ensure that the personnel needed to maintain these areas keep up with the increased demand of maintenance. These trees add tremendous value to the aesthetics, climate and environment, and their importance should be acknowledged. This Master Plan, however, does not have specific project recommendations regarding this program.

Potential changes to operations or responsibilities of the Division are listed in the Build section of this plan.



# PLAN CHEYENNE



## WATER FACILITIES:

Municipal ownership - Gravity system installed.  
Source of Supply, Crow Creek & Transferred.  
Located about 25 miles west of Town in C.  
Capacity of Storage Reservoirs as follows:

- North Crow Reservoir
- Granite
- Crystal Lake
- 35 miles of cast iron Supply line capacity 30 to 4 million gallon distributing reinforced 44 miles west of & elevated 301 above Town Reservoir. Supplies the 4' 6", 6", 8", 9", 6" & 4" the mains laid 808 to 891 incl. - Average daily Gravity pressure 100 Lbs. per Sq. inch. 1932.
- Pumping Plant Situated at west 15th & 9th Auxiliary.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Paid - 2 Companies, Chief & 14 Men. Co. A & B. Wagon, 2000 25' Cotton Horse - Co. A & B. One Graham Locomotive Combination Horse & Cattle Truck fully equipped - One Seelye's Com. Wagon - One Hose Wagon in reserve - 5000 Gallon well fire alarm system of 36 Boxes. Grades as shown - Fire Limits indicated by as shown -







Creating a Legacy of Parks & Open Spaces

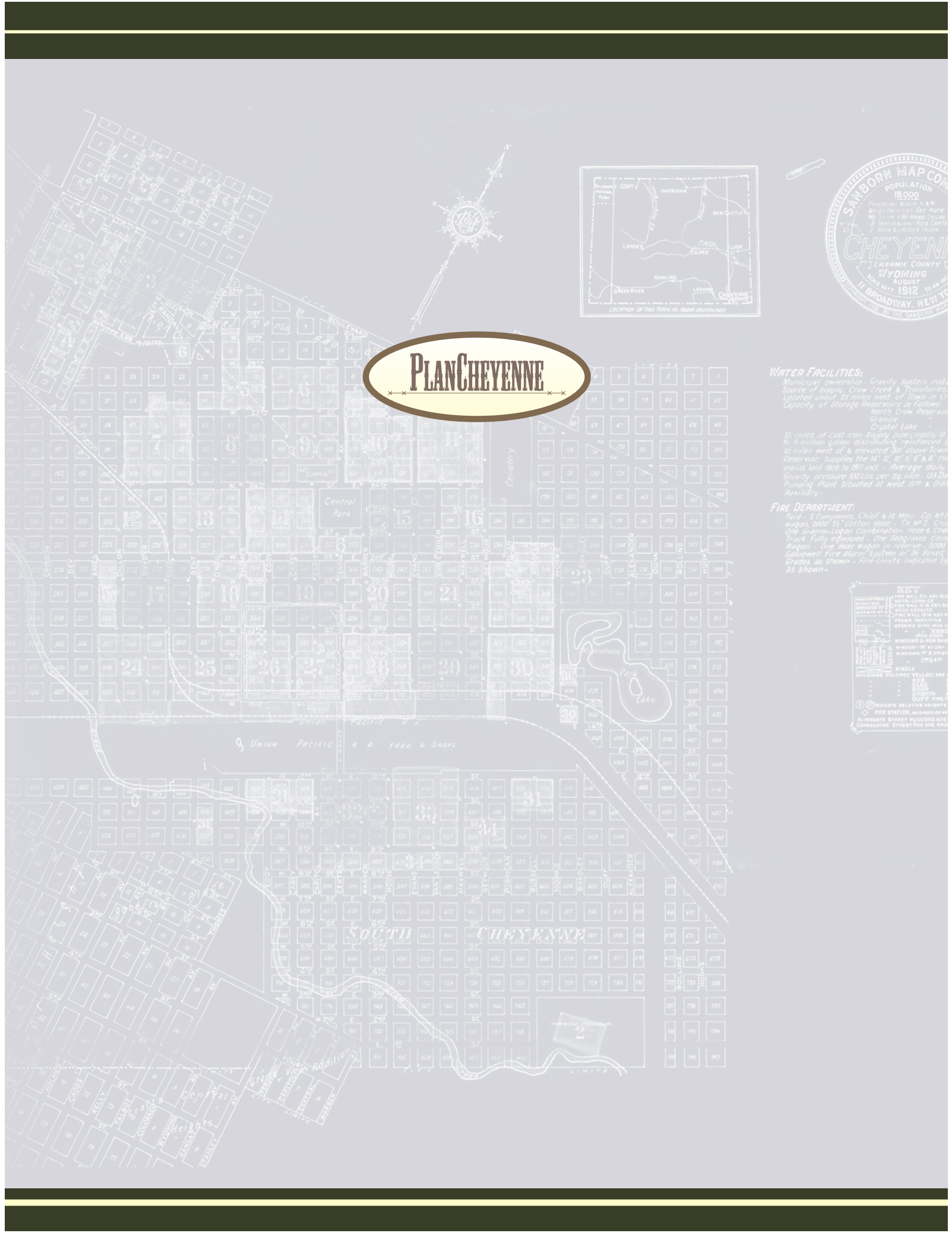
## Parks & Recreation Master Plan

# *Build*

## *Strategies to Implement the Plan*







# PLAN CHEYENNE



## WATER FACILITIES:

Municipal ownership - Gravity system installed.  
Source of Supply, Crow Creek & Trappers Reservoirs.  
Located about 25 miles west of Town in G.  
Capacity of Storage Reservoirs as follows:  
North Crow Reservoir  
Granite  
Crystal Lake  
35 miles of cast iron Supply line capacity 30 to 4 million gallon distributing reinforced 44 miles west of & elevated 301 above Town Reservoir. Supplies the 4' 6", 6", 8", 9", 6" & 4" the mains laid 808 to 891 incl. - Average daily Gravity pressure 100 Lbs. per Sq. inch. 1932  
Pumping Plant Situated at west 15th & 9th Auxiliary -

## FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Paid - 2 Companies, Chief & 14 Men. Co. A 1917 wagon, 2000 25' Cotton Horse - Co. A 1912 City One Gramm-Lugin Combination Horse & Calf Truck fully equipped - One Seelye's Com. Wagon - One Horse Wagon in reserve - 5000 Gallon well fire alarm system of 36 Boxes Grades as shown - Fire Limits indicated by as shown -





# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN BUILD

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## 1. Introduction

**Build** is the last chapter of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This chapter contains the implementation strategies and action plan to implement the vision, goals and policies, and other plan elements described in previous chapters. To effectively implement the Plan, it will be necessary to identify the types of actions required and determine their priority and timing so the agencies are able to allocate resources. The overall chapter is organized by the following headings, each of which is described in the sections that follow. An action item matrix is located near the beginning of each implementation section that lists the actions required to implement the Plan and their relative priority.

### Funding Mechanisms

Cheyenne needs additional tools to finance the costs of new growth and development as it occurs in the community, as well tools for financing on-going operations and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. This plan proposes several new or amended financing mechanisms, such as a cost-based, parkland development fee.

### Code Revisions

An important part of carrying out the Plan will focus on making the city code and other development regulations consistent with the intent of this Plan. Shortly after adopting the plan, the city and county will need to make development regulations consistent with the foundations and policies of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. For example, the Plan recommends the adoption of new tools for the conservation of sensitive resource areas.

### Departmental Structure/Programs

The Plan recommends a number of changes to how the Parks and Recreation Department is structured, including creation of a new advisory group and modification of the existing division structure.

### Regional and Agency Coordination

Several Plan recommendations will be best achieved through new or amended Intergovernmental Agreements between the city and county and other governmental entities, such as the School District.

### State Legislation

Finally, to effectively implement the plan, actions may be necessary over and above existing city and county government authority—to affect the enabling legislation of the state.

Key actions within each of the implementation categories are summarized in a series of tables that follow. It should also be noted that it is intended that much of the plan's implementation will be carried out by the city through day-to-day policy recommendations and decisions—those made by the planning and development staff, Regional Planning Commission, City Council, and others. The Commission and Council will continually make decisions informed by the parks and recreation master plan that affect park and related aspects of development proposals and Plan amendments, as well as priorities for capital project development. The Plan will serve to guide such policy decisions that will occur throughout the life of this Plan.

## 2. Funding Mechanisms

This section describes potential funding sources and strategies to improve the community's ability to finance and implement the recommendations contained in the master plan. Each of the actions is identified in the table below, which also provides an indication of relative priority along with other factors related to implementation. The table is followed by a discussion of each action item.

### Action Matrix

Strategy/Action	"Ease" to Accomplish	Type of Action	Responsible Party/ Parties	Priority	Related Principle
<b>Funding Mechanisms</b>					
1. Adopt a parkland dedication requirement for new development.	●	F	City	1	1,5,7
2. Amend Community Facility Fee structure by establishing a dedicated parkland development fee that is based on adopted parkland standards.	●	F	City	1	5,7
3. Utilize future sales tax measure for park development and maintenance.	○	F	City	2	2,4,6,7
4. Develop an IGA with the County that provides for collection of community parkland fees within the Cheyenne Planning Area.	○	R	City/County	2	1,4,5
5. Establish a user fee program that differentiates between City and non-City residents.	●	D	City	3	4,6,7
6. Leverage available funding through grants and other sources.	○	D	City	1	2,5,6

### KEY TO SYMBOLS

#### "Ease"

- = Relatively fast to accomplish (e.g., less than one year), low cost, minimal challenges;
- = Moderate amount of time (6 months to 1 year), cost, and moderate challenges to implement;
- = Takes a long time (e.g., more than one year), higher cost, challenging.

#### "Type"

- D = Policy Decision
- P = Program
- Z = Code and Zoning Revisions
- R = Regional and Agency Coordination
- F = Funding Mechanisms
- L = State Legislation

#### "Priority"

- 1 = high - immediately following plan adoption
- 2 = medium - within a year following plan adoption
- 3 = lower - within five years

### 1: Adopt a parkland dedication requirement for new development.

#### Parkland Dedication Requirement

At least in theory, a land dedication requirement is a low cost way of acquiring needed parkland. Instead of creating a need to collect fees and find suitable land for a park site, a dedication requirement has the potential to provide parkland through a negotiated process that sets aside land already owned by the developer. The primary challenge with implementing a land dedication system, however, is the fact that many developments are not large enough to individually generate a need for a standard-size neighborhood park. As a result, smaller parcels are often provided and in some instances, unusable areas are set aside for park uses that are not well suited for this purpose. An effective dedication process must therefore provide for a fee in lieu of provision that enables the City to collect a fee instead of land if suitable parkland cannot be obtained from a particular development proposal.

#### Considerations

Considerations for determining whether or not to accept a parcel for park use include the following:

- Is the parcel adequately-sized to serve the intended park use?
- Is it centrally-located to serve the population it is intended to serve?
- Does the site have good accessibility, including pedestrian, and visible from existing or planned streets?
- Does the site have physical characteristics capable of supporting park use, e.g. appropriate slopes, no hazards or other limitations, etc?

#### Calculating a Dedication Requirement

The basis for calculating a dedication requirement should be the adopted neighborhood parkland standard. An example of how the standard would be used to calculate a dedication requirement is provided below:

Neighborhood parkland standard =  
2.5 acres/1,000 population  
Average household size = 2.5 people  
Ratio of one household to standard = 2.5  
people/1,000 people = .0025  
Parkland need associated with one household =  
.0025 x 2.5 acres = .00625 acre per household

Using the factors noted above, a development consisting of 100 residential units would generate a need for .625 acre of parkland. This example underscores the need for a fee in lieu of dedication provision. Acquisition of a series of parks less than an acre in size would result in an expensive parks system from a maintenance and operations standpoint. Additionally, smaller parks generally do not meet the needs of the community, and in this plan would not be classified as lands of community wide significance. Therefore, for a development of the size used in this example, the City should opt to collect a fee in lieu of land dedication and use this fee to acquire a park site in the vicinity of the planned development that would serve this development as well as others in the area.

For illustrative purposes, and assuming a hypothetical land value of \$30,000/acre, the fee in lieu provision would require a development to provide \$18,750 (.00625 x \$30,000) to the City for a 100 unit development, or \$187.50 per unit. This fee in lieu would be collected at the time a final plat was approved. Since the fee is closely tied to land values, it is essential that the fee is based on actual land costs and that these costs are closely monitored and used to update the assessment of fees on an annual basis. Further, it becomes necessary to expend the fees collected in a fairly short time since the longer these fees are held the greater the risk that land values will increase and make acquisition of a park site more difficult.

#### Community Parks and Trails

For very large-scale developments, it would be possible to also obtain community parkland through a dedication process. However, a development would have to approach 3,000 units in size in order to generate a need for a standard 40-acre community park. For this reason, land dedication is generally not applicable to community park development and this plan recommends that community park development be supported by a parkland development fee that combines land costs and facility development costs. This is described in the next section.

In addition, the dedication requirement will be applied to trail corridors. Although there isn't a recommended standard for trails in the master plan, the intention is that planned developments located adjacent to or that encompass the main trail corridors shown in the master plan will be required to dedicate a trail right-of-way.

In summary, a land dedication requirement should be included among the strategies available to the City. In order to remain effective, the basis for calculating the fee in lieu option will need to be regularly updated in order to assure that current lands costs are reflected.

It is anticipated, however, that the city will place greater reliance on the parkland development fee to provide revenue for both land acquisition and park facility development.

**2: Amend Community Facility Fee structure by establishing a dedicated parkland development fee that is based on adopted parkland standards.**

### Community Facility Fee

The City should consider adopting a fee that is based on the actual costs of land acquisition and park facility development for both neighborhood and community parks. The current fee program only includes costs for acquisition and some infrastructure needs, but does not address park development costs. As discussed previously, the fee program and land dedication process should be structured so that the City could waive a portion of the Park Development or Community Facility fee if the land required for a park site was acquired through a dedication process.

### Current City Facility Fee Structure

Currently, the City has a community facility fee program that provides for payment of certain fees, including \$500/acre for any development, an additional \$750/acre for non-residential property and an additional \$150.00 per unit for residential developments.

These fees are intended to provide revenue for land acquisition and a variety of infrastructure needs but are inadequate even to meet the needs for land acquisition or infrastructure or for parkland development, though parkland development is not included in the current fee program.

A realistic, cost-based parkland fee system would allow the City to acquire and develop land exactly where it is needed, rather than struggle with small developments to get adequately-sized, undeveloped parcels. It is anticipated that the fee would apply to residential uses, which generate the demand for parks and recreation facilities, and not to commercial uses. In addition, adoption of a realistic parkland development fee system would relieve the pressure on other revenue sources such as sales tax proceeds, and would be consistent with a “pay as you go” philosophy that new development should contribute a fair share of the costs of serving that development.

### Population and Level of Service Based Fee

Examples of the calculation method for basing a fee on population and level of service standards are provided below:

The fee should reflect the adopted level of service standard (e.g. 2.5 acres/1,000 population for neighborhood parks and 5.8 acres/1,000 population for community parks)

Average household size in Cheyenne is approximately 2.5. Parkland share per household is the product of the average household size multiplied by the standard:

- $2.5 \times (2.5 \div 1,000) = .006$  acre per household for neighborhood parks
- $2.5 \times (5.8 \div 1,000) = .015$  acre per household for community parks

This responsibility can be translated into an actual acquisition and development cost per residential unit as illustrated below:

**Neighborhood Park** -  $.006 \text{ acre} \times \$105,000/\text{acre}$   
development cost = \$630 per household

This calculation is based on a construction cost of approximately \$2.40 per square foot, or \$104,544 per acre, which reflects recent park development costs in the region. If land for the park site was acquired through dedication, \$630 per household would be the total fee amount collected. This fee would replace the current \$150 per unit fee.

However, if land was not acquired through dedication, i.e. the City opts to use the fee in lieu provision; the combined neighborhood park fee would be \$817.50 ( $\$630 + \$187.50$ , as illustrated in the land dedication example).

**Community Park** -  $.015 \text{ acre} \times \$146,324 = \$1,895$  per household for park facility development.

This calculation is based on a construction cost of approximately \$3.36 per square foot, which reflects the more intensive facility development included with most community parks as compared to a neighborhood park. As noted, it is anticipated that land for community parks would be obtained through dedication only in rare circumstances. Therefore, the community park fee should include both park development and land acquisition costs. Assuming a land cost of \$30,000/acre results in an additional cost of \$450 ( $.015 \times \$30,000$ ), which brings the total fee to \$2,345.



The actual fee calculation should be based on a community average land value and research into recent park construction costs in the City. The approach for calculating the fees listed above is defensible, and similar to what other communities nationally and in the region have adopted.

For example, a recent study found that the average parks fee for a single family home was \$1,862/unit. This number dropped to \$1,107/unit when California, which has very high land costs, was excluded from the sample. Looking more regionally, the same study found that the average park fee was \$2,234 in Colorado, \$1,633 in Utah, and \$726 in Idaho. All of those fees are for single family units; in most cases, communities charge a larger fee for multi-family units. On a national basis, the average fee charged on multi-family units is approximately 20% lower than the fee assessed on single family units<sup>1</sup>.

In terms of specific communities in the region, the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland, Colorado have park fees of \$3,149 and \$3,650 respectively. Boise, Idaho assesses an \$801 fee. In Utah, fees for parks range from \$595 in West Valley City to \$3,990 in Draper. All of these fees are for an average single family unit.

### Variations of the Community Facility Fee

It should be noted that many variations of this system could be applied. One that deserves particular consideration is using funding from the optional 1% Facilities Tax to offset a portion of the community park development fee. The theory behind using sales tax funds for this purpose is that much of the community benefits to some degree from development of community parks. For this reason, the City could decide to base the community park development fee on ½ the total development and land cost and derive the other ½ from sales tax proceeds. If this were done, using the example cited above, the community parkland fee would drop to \$1,172. The challenge with such a decision would be further strain on the already strong competition for sales tax proceeds, particularly in light of the community's desire to develop an indoor recreation center.

In general, it is not advisable to use sales tax proceeds to finance the development of neighborhood parks. These parks serve local needs and it is prudent to finance the development of new neighborhood parks through the proceeds of development fees collected in newly developing areas. An exception to this statement occurs in those instances where development has already occurred and a neighborhood is underserved by neighborhood park facilities. See map 2.2 in the Snapshot chapter for an indication of under-served areas in the community. Parkland development fee collection is not a viable option in already developed areas, leaving the use of sales tax proceeds and the general fund as one of the few remaining options. An additional option is to create a special improvement district with an associated mill levy for the purpose of financing needed improvements, including parks. The Cheyenne downtown development authority is an example of this type of approach.

An issue with this parkland development fee system is that, in order to get in front of the development curve, initial seed money is required to acquire the park sites prior to receiving all the development fees. Approximately 1/4 to 1/3 of the residential development anticipated in an area would need to be in place in order to have enough funds to acquire the needed land for a park.

<sup>1</sup> 2005 National Impact Fee Study, Duncan and Associates

### 3: Utilize future sales tax measures for park and recreation facility development and maintenance.

#### Sales Tax Measures

The parkland development fees previously described are intended to serve newly developing areas. In some cases, new parks are needed to serve currently under-served areas or areas that develop prior to implementation of a cost-based, parkland development fee system. It may also be desirable to use sales tax proceeds to supplement parkland fees for the development of community parks. For park development under these circumstances, as well as for special facilities such as a community recreation center or sports complex, it will be necessary to utilize other funding sources. The traditional source of funding for these purposes is a sales tax.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Penny Sales Tax

Wyoming counties have the option to impose an additional one percent, or 5<sup>th</sup> Penny, sales tax approved through public election. The optional sales tax revenue, less administrative costs, is returned to the county of origin. Eighty percent of this tax in Cheyenne is used to fund road improvements and transportation projects. Twenty percent is used to fund other projects including Parks and Recreation projects.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Penny Sales Tax

In addition to optional 5<sup>th</sup> Penny tax, any county, through public election, may impose an additional sales tax of up to one percent on retail sales made within the county. This second optional sales tax is referred to as the specific purpose sales tax or 6<sup>th</sup> Penny tax. The revenue from the tax is used in specific amounts for specific purposes authorized by the Governing Body. Specific purposes do not include ordinary operations of local government except those operations related to a specific project. During fiscal year 2005, several counties, including Laramie, were imposing this specific purpose sales tax.

From the perspective of parks and recreation projects, potential funding is available through two separate sales tax initiatives, including a one-cent or fifth penny sales tax and an additional one-cent or 6<sup>th</sup> sixth penny sales tax. Both measures need to be approved by Laramie County voters. The 5<sup>th</sup> penny sales tax comes up for a vote again in November of 2006 and, if re-authorized, could be used to finance the development of a new set of projects. In the past, a small portion of this revenue, approximately

\$350,000/year or 4-5% of total proceeds to the City, was allocated for park purposes. Similarly, the 6<sup>th</sup> penny tax expires about 2009 and has been earmarked for a specific set of projects, including South Cheyenne Park, portions of the greenway, and other park related items. This tax could also be presented to the voters again with a new set of projects, including new parks and related projects.

For perspective, total 5th Penny sales tax collection during FY 2005 was \$9,184,551, total 6th penny sales tax collection during FY 2005 was \$5,043,363. Sales tax receipts in Laramie County increased by nearly 6% between FY 2004 and 2005. (Wyoming Sales, Use, and Lodging Tax Revenue Report, 2005)

#### Other Considerations of Sales Tax Measures

It should be noted that construction of the recreation center is estimated to cost approximately \$33 million. Financing such a facility would require bonding over a multi-year period. According to the recently completed feasibility study on the recreation center, the facility would be largely self-sustaining, generating most of the projected operating costs through use fees.

Another consideration in packaging a set of projects for voter consideration is dedication of a portion of the sales tax to park operations and maintenance costs. Funding measures for operations and maintenance are usually not very popular with voters and therefore stand a better chance of passing when combined with other projects, such as development of a recreation center. One option that should be considered is directing a portion of the proceeds from a sales tax measure for a recreation center or other large project to create an endowment fund to support ongoing maintenance costs. Once created, proceeds from the endowment could be invested and the income from the investment utilized without diminishing the principal.

In this context, it should be noted that the City of Cheyenne spends an average of approximately \$1,967 per year per acre for maintenance of parks and other areas the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining. In a recent survey of other communities in the region, including communities in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho as well as Colorado, the average annual expenditure for maintenance on a per acre basis was found to be \$3,547. Although it is always difficult to make these types of comparisons on an acre for acre basis, it does underscore the challenge the community faces in achieving a higher standard of

maintenance and obtaining the necessary funding to achieve this goal. Outside of traditional budget allocations, and those funds directed from the 5<sup>th</sup> Penny sales tax to the Parks and Recreation Department, there are not many other practicable options to help fund operations and maintenance for parks and recreation facilities. It will be important for the city to not take on additional maintenance obligations unless they serve a community need. Small pocket parks, greenbelts, and related properties should be maintained by private developers and homeowners associations, where they exist, and not turned over to the city.

In summary, it is essential that the City continue to make use of sales tax proceeds for parks and recreation purposes and put a balanced group of projects before the voters to replace the current 5th penny and 6th penny measures when they expire. Given the limited availability of these funds, difficult decisions will have to be made to balance competing needs among recreation facilities, parks, trails and open space projects.

### 4: Develop an IGA with the County that provides for collection of community parkland fees within the Cheyenne Planning Area.

#### Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

Laramie County does not provide parks and related facilities for the use of its residents and does not intend to become a provider of these services. Yet many county residents live adjacent to the City of Cheyenne and make use of parks and other facilities that have been developed by the City. This use results in increased costs to the City and creates additional demands for parks, trails and other facilities.

#### Current Arrangements

Currently, no mechanism exists for offsetting additional costs from increased demand on parks and other facilities. The County collects a Community Facility Fee that can be designated for parks and recreation, but the fee is minimal, \$50 per acre, and is split between many entities, including county roads and fire protection. For this reason, the City and County should enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement that provides for some degree of cost sharing. The agreement could constitute a Recreation District and through that the city and county could establish funding for the district through the current or future Mill Levy.

#### Structure of an IGA

The agreement would be based on the fact that County residents benefit from the development of city facilities but typically utilize them somewhat less than City residents. Since county residents within the “D Area” are more likely than other county residents to use City of Cheyenne facilities, it is proposed that the IGA would focus on new development within the “D Area”. The agreement could include an increase to the current Community Facilities Fee, or the IGA could be another form of agreement.

Examples of these types of agreements occur in a number of locations, including Larimer County, Colorado, which collects parkland development fees. When the fees are collected within unincorporated areas located within the boundaries of a municipal Urban Growth Area, most of the fee is transferred to the municipality. Larimer County retains 20% of the fee collected within Urban Growth Areas. Similar agreements have been developed in other locations, including Park County, Montana. The Wyoming Joint Powers Act allows agencies to cooperate on these types of issues.

#### 5: Establish a user fee program that differentiates between City and non-City residents.

##### User Fee Program

For reasons similar to those described above, the City should consider a fee structure that charges a higher use fee for non-City residents. This type of fee program is most applicable to recreation centers and other facilities that charge on a per use basis. However, it could also be applied to enrollments in recreation programs and leagues. Wheat Ridge, Colorado, is but one example of a community that charges higher fees for participation in recreation programs by non-residents. The fee structure in Wheat Ridge charges an annual fee of \$465 for a non-resident to use the community recreation center and other facilities compared to \$350 for a resident. Similarly, the daily drop-in fee is \$6.50 for a non-resident and \$4.50 for a resident. Larimer County, Colorado provides another example of a fee differential – the cost of an annual vehicle pass to the county parks system is \$65 for residents and \$75 for non-residents.

An alternative to charging higher fees for individual residents would be an annual lump sum payment program by the County to cover these costs.

#### 6: Leverage available funding through grants and other sources

Fewer grant programs and other funding sources are available to communities in Wyoming than in many other states. Nevertheless, it's important to optimize use of those programs that do exist and leverage local funding with other sources. Grant and other programs are offered by Federal, State, local and private sources.



### Federal Programs

A federal program that provides funding for trails is the Safe, Accountable, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU). The SAFETEA-LU is described further under “Regional and Agency Coordination.”

A second federal program is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The fund offers grants through states for park and recreation projects. In recent years the LWCF has offered as much as \$700,000 for projects; however, funds are decreasing and available funds for 2006 total only \$240,000.

### State Programs

One State Program is the Wyoming State Trails Program. The program has limited funding but is a potential source of additional funding for trails in Cheyenne. In 2005, approximately \$400,000 was awarded through this program, much of it for motorized trail projects, but funds could be utilized for local greenway and non-motorized trail projects.

The second state program is the Wyoming Business Council Business Ready Communities Grant program. Cheyenne has received funding from this program under the Community Enhancement Category. The council provides 2% of its funding annually to the community enhancement program, or about \$500,000 a year for two grant cycles. Suitable projects can range from parks to road landscaping or other infrastructure investment.

A third state program that has grant funds available is the Motor Boat Tax Grant. This program funds recreation projects that primarily have to do with water-based recreation uses. In the past the City of Cheyenne has received funding for pool equipment and boat docks. Available funding is usually about \$10,000.

A possible state program for the future is an additional mill levy for recreation. In 2005 the Wyoming State Legislature considered adding an additional mill for recreation to the existing system. Though the additional mill did not pass this year, there is a good possibility that it will pass next year and could be utilized for additional funding.

### County Programs

One county program is available for parks and recreation projects. The Laramie County Recreation Board has about \$5,000 available twice a year for various park and recreation projects in Laramie County.

A second program available from the county is the recreation mill levy. The current mill levy is distributed and managed by the Laramie County School District. Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to parks and recreation projects from this funding source.

### Private/Non-Profit Programs

Finally, funding is available through private, non-profit organizations such as the Wyoming Community Foundation. The WYCF reviews competitive grant applications three times a year and focuses its grant making around the theme of community building, including arts and culture, civic projects, conservation and natural resources, education, and health and human services. Recently, the foundation awarded \$66,666 to the Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust for conservation purposes. Although the foundation focuses on charitable organizations, recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, they do consider public and governmental agencies as eligible grant participants.

Additional funding is available for parks and recreation from several small sources. The Kiwanis Club Foundation and the Women’s Civic League both offer about \$5,000 in grants per year for appropriate projects. Though not all the projects funded by these groups are parks and recreation related, several projects have been completed in recent years with funding from these groups.

### 3. Code Revisions

This section reviews a number of potential action items that include code revisions intended to provide greater protection to natural resources and features.

#### Action Matrix

Strategy/Action	"Ease" to Accomplish	Type of Action	Responsible Party/ Parties	Priority	Related Principle
<b>Code Revisions</b>					
1. Adopt code revisions that limit development in sensitive areas, including floodplains, wetlands, native prairie, ridgelines, view sheds, and steep slopes.	○	<b>Z</b>	City/County	3	3,4
2. Revise zoning for lands identified in the plan as appropriate for continued ranching and agricultural uses to limit inappropriate urban-scale or rural sprawl development. Provide incentives for clustering and discourage large lot subdivision.	◐	<b>Z</b>	City/County	2	3,4
3. Allow for the transfer of development rights from identified natural/cultural resource areas or agricultural lands to designated "receiving" locations that are appropriate for development (within the USB).	○	<b>Z</b>	City/County	3	3,4
4. Modify the city code to allow natural vegetation within open space areas to not be considered as a weed nuisance.	●	<b>Z</b>	City	1	3,4

#### KEY TO SYMBOLS

##### "Ease"

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##### "Priority"

- 1 = high - immediately following plan adoption
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- 3 = lower - within five years

This section highlights several potential revisions that would support implementation of an open space plan. However, these potential revisions should be considered in this context of the overall framework of land use policy and code revisions associated with implementation of Plan Cheyenne. For this reason, please refer to the “Build” chapter of Plan Cheyenne for additional information.

**1: Adopt code revisions that limit development in sensitive areas, including floodplains, wetlands, native prairie, ridgelines, view sheds, and steep slopes.**

The City of Cheyenne has a history of flooding. The most devastating event occurred in 1985 when 12 lives were lost and the community experienced property damages of approximately \$65 million. The need for floodway improvements has been broadly recognized in the community.

#### Floodplain Regulations

In addition to structural improvements, part of the solution could focus on the implementation of more stringent floodplain regulations that limit building within defined floodplains. Current regulations allow building within the floodplain provided the building is elevated above the base flood event. Enactment of more stringent regulations would result in cost savings to the community while also contributing to the protection of wildlife and other resources that occur along drainage ways.

#### Complimentary Regulations

Other potential regulatory enhancements would be the adoption of regulations that require an appropriate building setback from major drainage ways, usually 50-100 feet, and a local wetlands protection ordinance that would also require a building setback and provide protection for isolated or non-jurisdictional wetlands that currently receive no protection under federal regulations.

**2: Revise zoning for lands identified in the plan as appropriate for continued ranching and agricultural uses to limit inappropriate urban-scale or rural sprawl development. Provide incentives for clustering and discourage large lot subdivision.**

#### Larger Minimum Lot Sizes

Current land use regulations do not provide an incentive for maintaining agricultural uses and conservation of wildlife habitat and other resource values. The City and County should investigate adoption of a program that requires larger minimum lot sizes in agricultural areas, which is currently 5-20 acres depending on the specific agricultural zone designation the property is located within.

#### Cluster Incentives

In addition to large lot sizes, incentives could be offered to landowners to encourage clustering and other approaches that conserve the site. An example of this type of incentive is the granting of additional building units in exchange for clustering and expedited review. Numerous jurisdictions have enacted regulations that encourage or even require cluster development. Some examples include Sheridan, Sublette, and Johnson Counties in Wyoming as well as numerous other counties throughout the west.



# CODE REVISIONS

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *BUILD*

### 3

**3: Allow for the transfer of development rights from identified natural/cultural resource areas or agricultural lands to designated “receiving” locations that are appropriate for development (within the USB).**

**4: Modify the city code to allow natural vegetation within open space areas to not be considered a weed nuisance.**

#### TDR Program

A Transfer of Development (TDR) program can be a powerful tool for protection of natural resources and open space. One advantage of a TDR program is lowered costs, since density is transferred rather than having to be purchased with public or private funding. Given the voluntary nature of most programs, TDR programs are usually perceived to be fair by landowners.

#### Examples

There are numerous communities throughout the nation that have enacted some form of TDR. In the Cheyenne vicinity, this tool has good potential for helping to conserve some of the areas designated in the master plan as Natural/Cultural Resource Districts.

Section 8.60.050 of the city code requires all weeds, “tall grasses”, and other “troublesome” vegetation to be mowed. The Greenway is specifically exempted from this requirement, upon approval by the Chief of Police. The language in this ordinance is too broad and requires a number of revisions. At a minimum, it should be amended to allow for native vegetation to remain in a natural, un-mowed condition within any city open space or other protected lands. This modification to the ordinance would not change any requirements for addressing invasive weed problems.



## 4. Departmental/Organizational Structure

Actions that relate to departmental organization and structure are presented in this section.

### Action Matrix

Strategy/Action	"Ease" to Accomplish	Type of Action	Responsible Party/ Parties	Priority	Related Principle
<b>Departmental/Organizational Structure</b>					
1. Create a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.	●	D	City	1	2,4,6,7
2. Create a Parks and Recreation Foundation.	○	P	City	2	1,5,6,7
3. Create a Parks, Trails and Open Space Planning Division.	◐	P	City	3	1,2,4,6
4. Evaluate capital improvement programs (CIP) for consistency with PlanCheyenne and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.	●	P	City/County	2	1,2,4,5,6
5. Evaluate the feasibility of creating a parks and recreation district.	◐	R/F	City	2	1,5,6,7
6. Assign responsibility for street tree maintenance to Forestry Division.	●	D	City	2	6

### KEY TO SYMBOLS

#### "Ease"

- = Relatively fast to accomplish (e.g., less than one year), low cost, minimal challenges;
- ◐ = Moderate amount of time (6 months to 1 year), cost, and moderate challenges to implement;
- = Takes a long time (e.g., more than one year), higher cost, challenging.

#### "Type"

- D = Policy Decision
- P = Program
- Z = Code and Zoning Revisions
- R = Regional and Agency Coordination
- F = Funding Mechanisms
- L = State Legislation

#### "Priority"

- 1 = high - immediately following plan adoption
- 2 = medium - within a year following plan adoption
- 3 = lower - within five years

#### 1: Create a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

##### Citizen Advisory Board

This group would be selected from a group of citizen applicants interested in serving their community. Members would be appointed by the Mayor with approval by City Council. The role of the group would be to provide recommendations on development and administration of city parks, recreation, and open space programs. As such, it would be advisory in nature and not a policy-making board.

##### Benefits

Establishing an advisory board could provide numerous benefits, including serving as an on-going forum for the public to comment on issues of concern. In addition to providing diverse opinions and expertise, an advisory board can serve as a powerful advocate for the department's programs and help to build support and visibility for these activities within the community.

#### 2: Create a Parks, Trails and Open Space Foundation.

##### Non-Profit Foundation

This would be a non-governmental group similar to the "Friends of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens", an independent non-profit foundation with status as a 501(c)(3) organization. An important role of the group would be fund raising, which private groups are often better suited to conduct than governmental entities, particularly given the tax advantages provided in the Federal tax code. In addition, the group could assist with volunteer efforts and other activities that support the mission of the parks and recreation department.

#### 3: Create a Parks, Trails and Open Space Planning Group

##### Planning Group

Creating a new group focused on these functions is timely and a proper response to the direction established in the master plan. This group could either be created as a separate division or continue as an element of the Administrative Division.

##### Need for Division

As described in previous chapters, the need for additional parkland development, particularly that required to serve growth in new development areas, has probably never been greater at any other time in the community's history.

##### Funding

Planning for the development of these new parks and administration of the revenue that could be generated through a new parkland development fee, will require a major effort. The division would also work closely with Planning Services, developers, and others to coordinate future park development.

##### Open Space and Trails

In addition, open space and trails is emerging as a community priority and accomplishing the goals defined in the master plan will require additional staff efforts. For example, some of the areas identified as potential conservation sites or open space in the Master Plan can be best protected through development agreements or other conservation arrangements with private landowners.

##### Open Space

Open space could be protected through negotiated agreements between the City and developers wherein a portion of the parkland development fee otherwise due could be waived in return for placing a conservation easement on lands of community wide significance or otherwise protecting the property. As a matter of principle, it would not be advisable to fully waive parkland development fees in return for open space protection; however, the ordinance could provide for waiving up to 50% of the fees if suitable open space areas were protected.

##### Partners

Another role of staff in this division would be working with partners, such as the Wyoming Stock Growers Agriculture Land Trust or Nature Conservancy, to develop educational materials explaining the opportunities and benefits of conservation easements, conservation design or clustering, and other tools that allow for the protection of natural/cultural resource areas. Grant writing and other efforts directed toward revenue generation could also be part of the role.

#### 4: Evaluate capital improvement programs (CIP) for consistency with PlanCheyenne and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

##### Future

In the future, capital improvement programs should be evaluated for consistency with PlanCheyenne and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Requiring this consistency would help to implement the plans and result in more consistent and systematic decision-making. It would also be advisable for the City to adopt a more formal process for developing and evaluation their capital improvement programs.

#### 5: Evaluate the feasibility of creating a parks and recreation district.

##### Parks and Recreation District

Creation of a parks and recreation district is another strategy for addressing the issues previously discussed with respect to use of city facilities by non-residents. It would also provide an additional source of revenue to fund needed park and recreation facility improvements, such as the recreation center.

##### Examples

Park and recreation districts have been created throughout the west, including Sheridan County, Wyoming, and are usually funded through a mill levy assessed against property within the district. They are most commonly used in situations where there is either no municipality to provide needed services or where a substantial level of population exists adjacent to but outside of a municipal service area. As with most tax measures, creation of a district would require approval of the voters. The district could be established to either fund general parks and recreation needs or to address a specific community need such as the recreation center.

#### 6: Assign Responsibility for Street Tree maintenance to Forestry Division

##### ROW Maintenance

As in most other cities, maintenance of right-of-way trees should be assigned to Forestry rather than leaving it the responsibility of individual homeowners. This would require some additional staff resources.

##### Code Enforcement

In addition, the Forestry division has no authority to enforce tree ordinances. The importance of street trees to the community should be recognized by providing proper legal authority to the division.

## 5. Regional and Agency Coordination

The final set of actions relate to regional and agency coordination, including the School District as well as non-profit organizations.

### Action Matrix

Strategy/Action	"Ease" to Accomplish	Type of Action	Responsible Party/ Parties	Priority	Related Principle
<b>Regional and Agency Coordination</b>					
1. Coordinate with Laramie County in the development of a regional open space and trails system.	●	R	City/County	1	1,4,5
2. Coordinate with WYDOT to facilitate trail connections associated with highway improvements.	●	R	City/County	1	1,4
3. Adopt a formal joint use agreement with the School District.	◐	R	City/LCSD #1	2	1,4,5
4. Work with partners such as the Agriculture Land Trust and Nature Conservancy to develop educational materials explaining the opportunities and benefits of conservation easements, conservation design or clustering, and other tools that allow for the protection of natural/cultural resource areas.	●	P	City/County	2	1,4

### KEY TO SYMBOLS

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#### "Priority"

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### 1: Coordinate with Laramie County in the development of a regional open space and trails system.

#### County Coordination

This is an obvious but important effort. Many actions identified in the plan, including trail development, open space protection, and some of the recommended implementation strategies, require close coordination with Laramie County. Partnering with the county for grant requests, such as described below for WYDOT, will also enhance the community's chances of obtaining funding for trail and other projects identified in the master plan.

### 2: Coordinate with WYDOT to facilitate trail connections associated with highway improvements.

#### SAFETEA - LU

The "Safe, Accountable, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—a Legacy for Users" (SAFETEA-LU) authorizes spending for a six-year surface transportation program. It covers fiscal years 2005 through 2009 and replaces the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, or TEA 21.

#### Relevant Programs

Relevant programs from a trail perspective are noted below:

- **Recreational Trails Program (RTP):** \$370 million over six years (up from \$270 million under TEA-21, a 64% increase). Nearly every state has grant programs used to fund motorized and nonmotorized trails and education programs. In Wyoming, this program is administered by the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.
- **Transportation Enhancements (TE):** \$4.79 billion over the next six years (up from \$3.33 billion under TEA-21). Continues as 10 percent set-aside; approximately \$3.5 billion over six years. Approximately 55 percent of enhancements funding in previous years went to bicycle/pedestrian trails and rail-trail conversion projects. In Wyoming, as in other states, Transportation Enhancement Funds are administered by the Department of Transportation. Recently, approximately, \$3 million per year has been available for various projects, including trail development. Approximately half of the available funding has been used for projects

with the state highway system and the other half used for projects within communities and at other locations not directly related to state highways.

#### State Funding

In Wyoming, as in other states, these funds are administered by the Wyoming Department of Transportation. Recently, about \$3 million/year has been available for various projects, including trail development. Approximately half of the available funding has been used for projects associated with the State Highway system and the other half used for projects in communities and at other locations not directly related to State Highways.

### 3: Adopt a formal joint use agreement with the School District.

#### Joint Use Agreement

Although the City and School District cooperate on a facility by facility basis, a programmatic agreement is needed. As discussed in Chapter 4, future growth is expected to create a need for numerous new park sites in the next two decades. In many cases, the most efficient strategy for acquiring new neighborhood park sites is through a joint use agreement that provides for the co-location of school and park sites. The agreement would address cost sharing, maintenance standards, and conditions of use. In addition, the potential development of a recreation center will trigger a need for coordination between the City and School District on many of the same points mentioned previously, i.e. potential cost sharing agreements and conditions of use.

#### Mill Levy Coordination

A formal agreement could also result in better coordination between the City and School District on use of the 1 mill recreational facilities levy that is currently in place. In 2004, this levy generated approximately \$550,000 in Laramie County. These funds, which are administered by the school district, can be used for park facility development. Examples of this use include a contribution toward the development of sports fields at Powers Field.

4. Work with partners such as the Wyoming Stock Growers Agriculture Land Trust, to develop educational materials explaining the opportunities and benefits of conservation easements, and other tools that enhance protection of natural/cultural resource areas.

#### **WSGALT**

The Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust (WSGALT) is an organization dedicated to protecting Wyoming's ranching and farming heritage. Their goal is to work with landowners and provide land conservation options that financially enhance their operations while also making them better prepared to pass on the property to future generations. As noted previously, they were awarded a grant recently from the Wyoming Community Foundation and raised an additional \$200,000 through private sources.

#### **Land Conservation**

Given the existence of several notable ranches in the Cheyenne vicinity, the City should work with organizations such as WSGALT to promote land conservation through outreach efforts and implementation of some of the strategies described in this plan.

#### **Conservation Easements**

Last year, legislation was passed in Wyoming that makes it easier for landowners to place conservation easements on their property. The Uniform Conservation Easement Act (S.F. 149) removed a complexity in Wyoming law relative to conservation easements and provided clarity to landowners, land trusts, and the courts, as well as local and state governments, about purposes for which conservation easements may be used, how they are administered, and who may hold them.



## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

### PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *BUILD*

#### 6

## 6. Other Considerations

Several other issues exist that need to be addressed in order to streamline efficiency and remove confusion regarding certain initiatives related to the Master Plan. Some of these may need specific policies to address while others might simply be addressed from a Department organizational standpoint.

The Department should consider establishing a naming policy, or process for future parks. Establishing such a policy would help to define individual parks and create consistency in application. Lastly, the City and Department should consider returning the Director of Parks and Recreation position to one of a civil servant, as opposed to an appointed position. Allowing this position to operate in a civil servant capacity would remove any political bias that might arise in future park planning efforts.



# GENERAL COST ESTIMATIONS

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – BUILD

### 7

## 7. General Cost Estimations

The cost for trail and park construction varies widely, depending on the specific elements to be included in each park, the terrain, necessary road crossings and other physical features that require more extensive design solutions. For the purposes of assigning an order of magnitude cost to the master plan, costs have been assumed that are based on with the costs other communities have experienced in

designing and overseeing the construction of similar facilities. They are approximate and are intended to illustrate order of magnitude, not detail. Costs are in 2005 dollars and must be escalated yearly to compensate for inflation. Table 1 totals the cost for parks and trails that have been illustrated as part of the Master Plan.

Neighborhood Parkland .....	\$ 95,000/acre for design, development and fees
Community Parkland.....	\$110,000/acre for design, development and fees
10' Wide Concrete Multi-Purpose Trail.....	\$180,000/mile for grading and paving
Trail Corridor Amenities and Drainage .....	\$50,000/mile for benches, signs and culverts
Grade-Separated Crossings .....	Costs not included at this time
Recreation Center .....	\$227/square foot

Table 1: Budgetary Master Plan Costs

	Additional Quantity Needed by 2030	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	Comments
Neighborhood Parkland	145 acres	\$95,000	\$13.78 million	12-18 parks
Community Parkland	176 acres	\$110,000	\$19.36 million	2-3 parks
Primary Multi-Purpose, Off-Street Trail	@ 75 miles	\$230,000	\$17.25 million	Includes 10' trail, amenities and drainage
Recreation Center	1	\$34,000,000	\$34.00 million	119,794 square foot facility w/ indoor and outdoor aquatics components
Total			\$84.39 million	





# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN BUILD

## Appendix A: Plan Conformity Checklists

### Purpose

These Plan Conformity Checklists are intended to be used as tools to ensure conformity and consistency of development proposals with respect to parkland dedication and other development related park policies. They address the key land dedication, fee-in-lieu and development concepts and foundations of the Shape and Build sections of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Each idea is listed with a simple “yes” checkbox to indicate if a project complies with the foundations of this Plan. If a project does comply with an idea, it should receive a ☒. If it does not comply, the box will remain blank.

### Who Should Use It?

Developers, staff, and decision-makers should use these checklists.

- A developer should use these checklists in the early stages of a development proposal as a guide to *Park and Recreation Master Plan* and *PlanCheyenne* policies and when submitting an application for review.
- Staff should use these checklists to review development proposals and to make recommendations to decision-makers.
- Decision-makers can use these checklists to better understand how well a proposed development does or does not comply with the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* and *PlanCheyenne*.

It is recommended that the community provide incentives for developers who use these checklists. For instance, if a developer uses the checklist and has a development that complies with most all of the foundations and principles of the plan, he or she would receive a “stamp of approval” entitling him or her to an expedited review process.

### How are the Checklists Organized?

There are two checklists that address the following:

1. Parkland Dedication and/or Fee-in-Lieu (in *Shape and Build of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan*).
2. Policy/Development Review related to the guiding principles (in *Shape of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan*).



# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN BUILD

## Land Dedication Checklist

Neighborhood parkland standard =  
2.5 acres/1,000 population  
Average household size =  
2.5 people  
Ratio of one household to standard =  
2.5 people/1,000 people = .0025

### PARKLAND RATIO

Parkland need associated with one household =  
.0025 x 2.5 acres = .00625 acre per household

- A. How many residential units are in the proposed development?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Residential Units
- B. How many acres of parkland result from multiplying the residential units by the parkland ratio?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Parkland Acres

### EXAMPLE

.00625 x 400 units = 2.5 parkland acres for one development

- If the parkland is less than 2 acres, a fee in lieu is required.
  - If the parkland is less than 2 acres but has special circumstances, answer the questions below.
  - If the park land is greater than 2 acres, answer the questions below.
1. What are the intended uses in the park? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Is the potential parkland adequately-sized to serve the intended park use? ☐ Yes ☐ No
  3. Is the potential parkland centrally-located to serve the population it is intended to serve? ☐ Yes ☐ No
  4. Does the parkland provide space for previously underserved populations? Is it adequate for that purpose?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
  5. Does the site have good accessibility, vehicular and pedestrian, and is the site visible from existing or planned streets? ☐ Yes ☐ No
  6. Does the site have physical characteristics capable of supporting park use, e.g. appropriate slopes, no hazards or other limitations, etc? ☐ Yes ☐ No



# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

## BUILD

7. Does the site have special characteristics not suitable for development but suitable for preservation?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No    Please Describe.

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- If the parkland does not adequately address the above questions, a fee in lieu of parkland should be provided for this development
- If the parkland does meet the criteria above, the developer can dedicate parkland or pay a fee in lieu. Parkland dedication will need to be reviewed by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

### Fee Calculation

Value per Acre of suitable parkland in the project vicinity

\$XX,XXX

Fee Per unit

\$XX,XXX multiply by .00625 = fee per unit

Multiply fee per unit by number of residential units in the development

Per unit fee X Residential units = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total fee in lieu of parkland for development

\$\_\_\_\_\_



# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

## BUILD

### Policy/ Development Review Checklist

#### Principle 1

*The Proposal:*

Shows land provided for a neighborhood park? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, a fee in lieu will be collected. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Demonstrates physical or verbal coordination with Laramie County and the Laramie County School District?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

#### Principle 2

*The Proposal:*

Designates an internal trail system connecting to the city wide system? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Shows protected trail corridors, easements, and/or right of way in place for future trails? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Provides a link in the looped trail system? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Demonstrates exploration of options for trails outside of road right of ways if trails are along roads?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

Fills a "gap" in the greenway system? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Demonstrates that all city departments affected by trails have signed off in agreement with the trails plan shown in this development? ☐ Yes ☐ No

#### Principle 3

*The Proposal:*

Shows dedication areas in the development? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what qualities do the areas contain that contribute to community value and significance for the City?

---

#### Principle 4

*The Proposal:*

Protects open lands? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is within a Natural Cultural Resource Area designated within the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, shows how features of the land will be preserved? \_\_\_\_\_

Protects and enhances drainages? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Recommends a partnership with the County? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, describes an action plan? \_\_\_\_\_





# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN BUILD

## Principle 5

*The Proposal:*

Provides land for Parks and Recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
If Yes, calls for the development to contribute its fair share for parks and recreational facilities based on the projected population in the development? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Shows an arrangement for a fee-in lieu to be paid prior to approval of this development? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Shows Parks and Recreation facilities in locations that offer visual and vehicular access from major roadways, accessibility to large numbers of users, and direct trail system and/or pedestrian connections? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Shows development in an area that has been targeted for public investment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Provides a mechanism for maintaining any common areas not dedicated to the city (e.g., HOA)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

## Principle 6

*The Proposal:*

Includes a management plan describing how to maintain any dedicated areas? ☐ Yes ☐ No

## Principle 7

*The Proposal:*

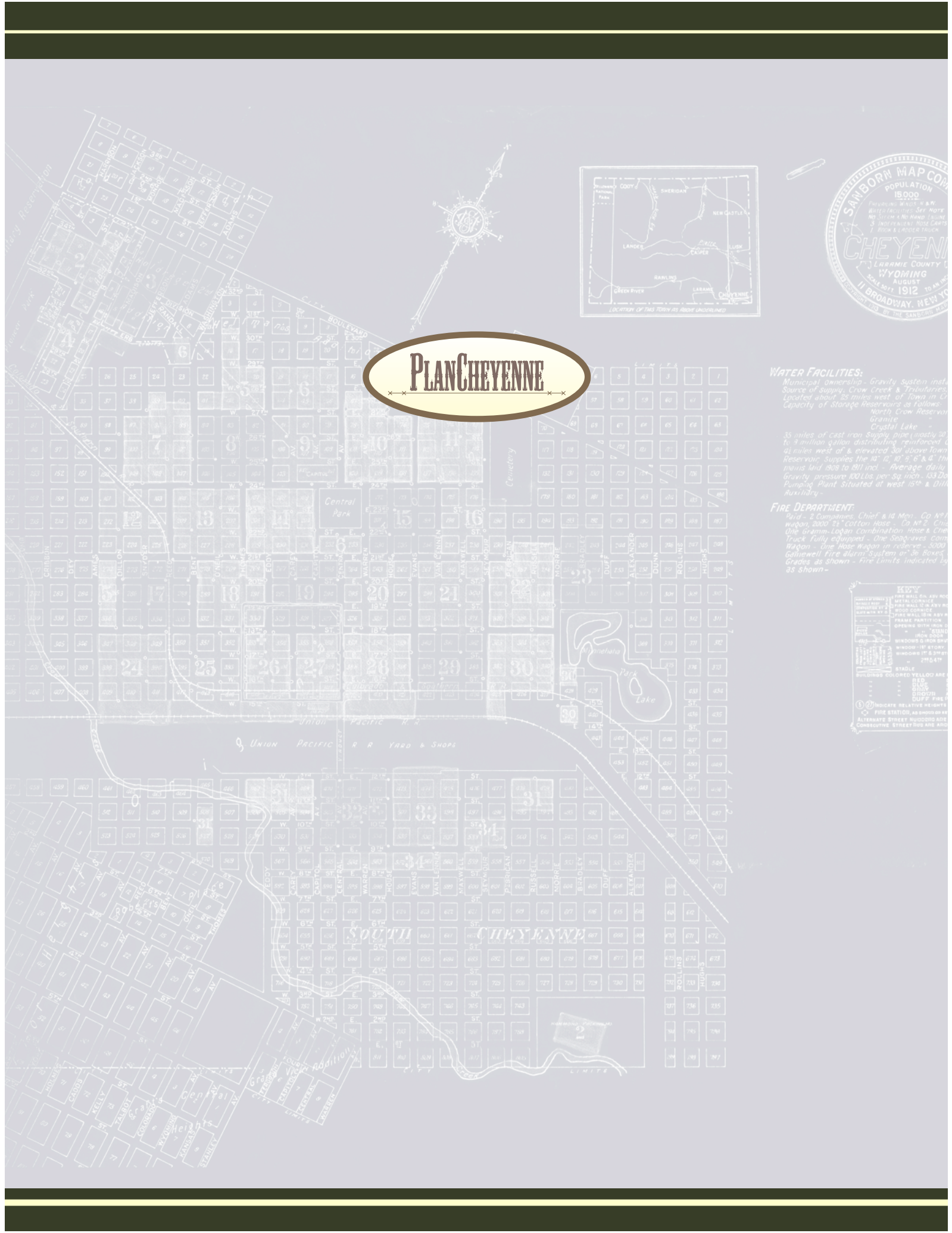
Coordinates impact fees for this development with other city impact fees? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Suggests public/private partnerships an option for funding parks and recreation in this development?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

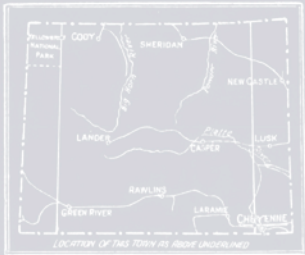
*Development Office:*

If no, are there other entities or groups that the city or this development should coordinate with to leverage funding for this project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the development in a location that is suitable for a special district? ☐ Yes ☐ No



# PLAN CHEYENNE



**WATER FACILITIES:**  
Municipal ownership - Gravity system installed.  
Source of Supply, Crow Creek & Trout Creek Reservoirs.  
Located about 25 miles west of Town in G.  
Capacity of Storage Reservoirs as follows:  
North Crow Reservoir  
Granite  
Crystal Lake  
35 miles of cast iron Supply line capacity 30 to 4 million gallon distributing reinforced 44 miles west of & elevated 301 above Town Reservoir. Supplies the 4' 6", 6", 8", 9", 6" & 4" the mains laid 808 to 811 incl. - Average daily Gravity pressure 100 Lbs. per Sq. inch. 1932  
Pumping Plant Situated at west 15th & 10th Auxiliary -

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**  
Paid - 2 Companies, Chief & 14 Men. Co. A & B. Fire wagon, 2000 lb. Cotton Horse - Co. A & B. Fire One Grams Light Combination Horse & Fire Truck fully equipped - One Seelye's Com. Wagon - One Hose Wagon in reserve - 5000 Gallon well fire alarm system of 36 Boxes Grades as shown - Fire Limits indicated by as shown -





Creating a Legacy of Parks & Open Spaces