

# Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan



**CITY OF WOODLAND PARK**  
JULY 2023

# Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan

Prepared for



Parks and  
Recreation

Prepared by



L O G A N S I M P S O N

# Acknowledgments

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# ACRONYMS

- ADA** Americans with Disabilities Act
- ADT** American Discovery Trail
- BMX** Bicycle Motocross
- CDOT** Colorado Department of Transportation
- CE** Categorical Exclusion
- CEFs** Capital Expansion Fees
- COTREX** Colorado Trail Explorer
- EA** Environmental Assessment
- EIS** Environmental Impact Statement
- EV** Electric Vehicle
- FEMA** Federal Emergency Management Agency
- FTE** Full Time Employee
- LOS** Level of Service
- NEPA** National Environmental Policy Act
- NRPA** National Recreation and Park Association
- PPORA** Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
- PRAB** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- PRTOS** Parks Recreation Trails and Open Space
- RCA** Riparian Conservation Area
- TAC** Technical Advisory Committee
- TOPS** Trails, Open Space, and Parks
- USDA** United States Department of Agriculture
- USFS** United States Forest Service
- WUI** Wildland Urban Interface

# Special Thanks

Special thanks to the hundreds of Woodland Park residents and visitors who contributed their ideas, feedback and support to this plan. Woodland Park community members and partners represent a variety of perspectives including arts and culture, health, heritage, business, faith, sports, urban agriculture, inclusivity, schools, student organizations, neighborhoods, open space, family services, governmental agencies and more.

Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department staff who continue to deliver exceptional services to the community and enhance quality of life for all of Woodland Park.







# Introduction

**BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, AND TIMELINE  
PLAN ORGANIZATION  
WHO WILL USE THIS PLAN?  
INFLUENTIAL PLANS AND STUDIES**



# Background, Purpose, and Timeline

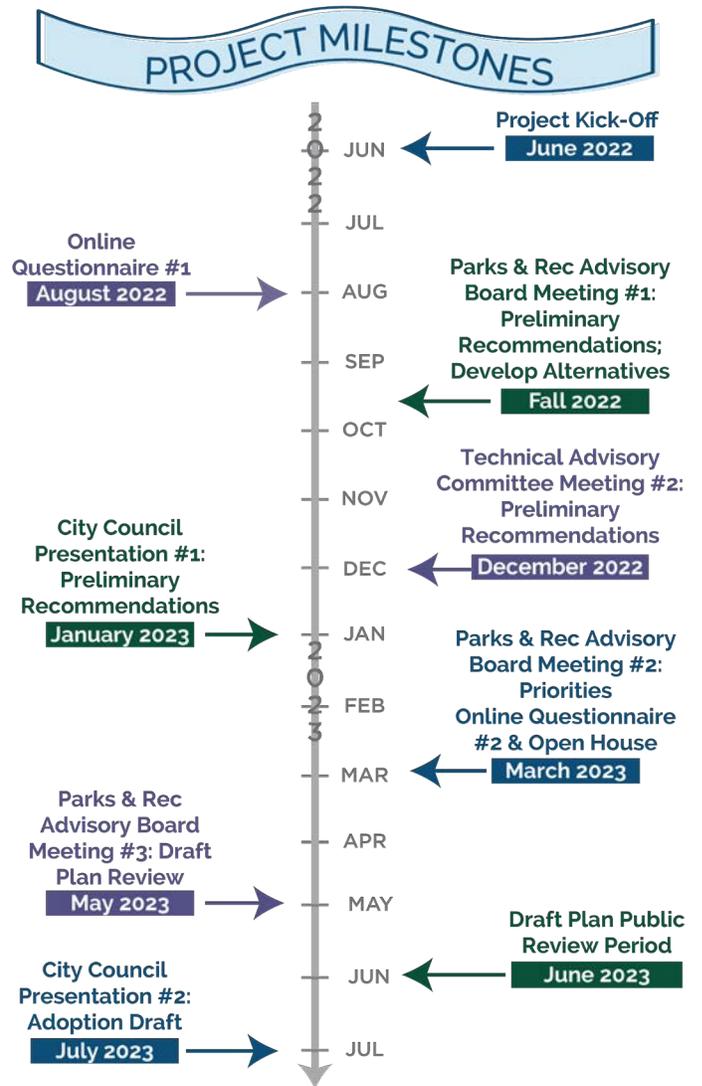
This plan builds upon the City’s 2018 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space (PRTOS) Plan and the recently-adopted 2022 Comprehensive Plan by using the results of these efforts to identify specific actions and prioritize investment that will generate tangible results in the form of completed projects. Actions are closely tied to the organizational and financial capacity of the department and its partners to execute the recommendations.

**The purpose of the PRTOS plan is four-fold:**

- Update and refine the vision for parks, recreation, trails and open space based on meaningful community engagement and an understanding of needs and priorities that have changed since adoption of the 2018 plan.
- Address current challenges including documenting the need for trail connectivity, long term maintenance of PRTOS assets, continuously growing demand for PRTOS facilities and programs.
- Leverage regional partnerships with key PRTOS agencies and private partners to meet community demand and provide high quality recreation experiences.
- Establish priorities for investment and define concrete and feasible actions that match the capacity of Woodland Park and its partners to deliver and share costs in order to implement projects faster.

## 2018 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

In 2018, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) completed an internal review of the Department’s first PRTOS plan and updated the document to reflect accomplishments to date. Since adoption of the updated 2018 plan, the Parks and Recreation Department has made significant progress in accomplishing recommendations of that plan including establishing Golden Meadows Dog Park (2019), updating PRAB Bylaws, updating park hours of operation and reservation fees, navigating service provision during the COVID-19



pandemic, contributing to the City’s 2021 Comprehensive Plan, developing Guiding Principles for the Department, and initiating the development of this PRTOS master plan.

# Plan Organization

This plan is organized into five chapters:

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter outlines the plan's background, purpose, process, and organization.

## 2. PLANNING CONTEXT AND NEEDS

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of regional context, the physical environment of Woodland Park, demographic and socioeconomic trends relevant to the plan, the Parks and Recreation Department, a brief inventory of Department assets, and an analysis of opportunities and challenges illustrated in a map and photo series.

## 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND GOALS

This chapter provides an overview of public outreach and engagement efforts that have informed development of the plan's overarching goals as presented at the end of this chapter.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter organizes recommendations according to service areas: parks, recreation and aquatic programming, open space and greenways, the Ute Pass Cultural Center and special events, trails, and sustainability. Recommendations are supported by maps, case studies, and exhibits.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter contains project priorities and provides implementation details such as cost recovery, funding strategies, partnerships, an analysis of Department capacity and staffing, and communications.



# Who Will Use This Plan?

Long term success of the Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan will come from community-wide adoption, use, and support. Continued endorsement and implementation of the plan by the partners, advocates, and residents who helped shape the values, goals, and recommendations of the plan is essential to ensuring the plan’s utility and positive impact on the Woodland Park community.

## WOODLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL

This plan serves as a strategic guide for City Council on matters related to parks, recreation, trails, open space, cultural and event programming. The goals and recommendations should guide decisions across all areas of local governance since PRTOS are key contributors to quality of life for Woodland Park Residents. The plan should be consulted when applicable to land use and development, economic development, transportation, and infrastructure decisions to capitalize on opportunities to advance the recommendations of this plan and to consider impacts to existing PRTOS assets and future goals.

## CITY STAFF

This plan will guide Woodland Park staff in future planning, prioritization, directing public investment, and securing external funding for PRTOS projects. Staff will consult the plan when preparing the annual Parks and Recreation Department budget, developing the annual Capital Improvements Plan, facilitating strategic partnerships, and determining yearly departmental productivity goals.

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ADVOCATES

Woodland Park and the Pikes Peak Region has an extensive history of grassroots community leadership that has been responsible for spearheading many community development and recreation initiatives over the years. This plan identifies several projects and initiatives in which local organizations and agencies play a leading role as strategic partners with the City.

## PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

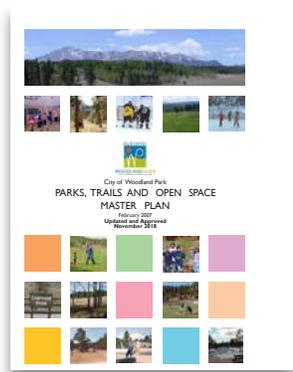
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) will use the PRTOS plan to set annual goals and priorities as well as ensure that all decision-making is aligned with the six overarching goals and recommendations of the plan

## WOODLAND PARK COMMUNITY

Investment in Woodland Park’s bright future for PRTOS must continue with strong support from the community working in harmony with elected and appointed officials, City staff, and partner agencies to collectively strengthen and improve the parks, trails, and recreation assets that are so essential to public health, wellness, conservation, economic vitality, and the overall high quality of life that residents enjoy.

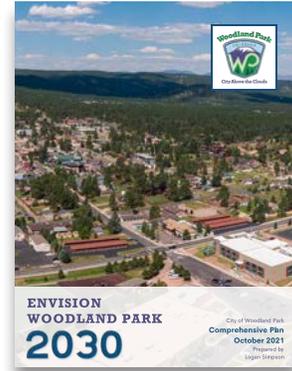


# Influential Plans and Studies



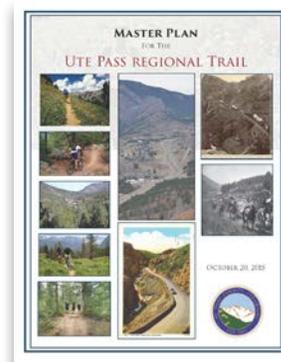
## WOODLAND PARK PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN (2018 UPDATE)

- 2018 master plan update.
- Goal #1: Support a parks and recreation program which meets the growing needs of the community, including related visitor activity.
- Goal #2: Support the protection and preservation of the natural resources and features throughout the community.
- Goal #3: Promote a transportation network which facilitates safe, efficient movement of motorized and non-motorized vehicles and pedestrians throughout the community.
- Goal #4: Provide opportunities for growth and development while preserving community and environmental quality.
- Focus #1: Provide a variety of activities and programs that promote health, happiness and enrichment which builds a community of strong families.
- Focus #2: Respond to Woodland Park based needs, values and conditions.
- Identifies a strong need to shift planning practices from a formula-driven assessment to a resilient and adaptable approach that integrates growth management, land use controls, and conservation tools.
- Includes an implementation plan with a set of suggested financial strategies.



## ENVISION WOODLAND PARK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2021)

- 2021 updated 20-year comprehensive plan addressing the same 12 themes as the 2010 plan, with issues and actions identified by subcommittees and the public to be updated in 10 years
- The Plan is described as “an aspirational aid to assist City staff, the Planning Commission, and the City Council, regarding: development applications; provision and extension of community services and infrastructure; and regional coordination efforts with other jurisdictions and agencies.”
- Focuses on physical, social, and economic development, and aiding in developing policies regarding the City budget and capital improvement projects.
- Categories of chapters group the 12 themes by features impacted and each contain background, goals, objectives, and actions.
- Chapter categories include the built environment, the socio-economic environment, and the natural environment.
- The Three Mile Plan guides decisions in the area surrounding the City, including considerations for where to annex, how to provide services in newly annexed areas, and how to sustain adequate levels of service throughout the rest of the municipality.

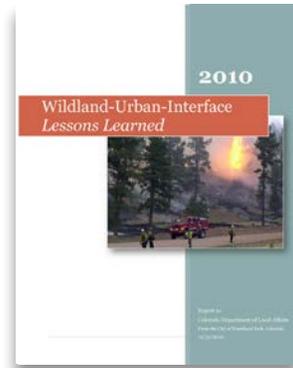
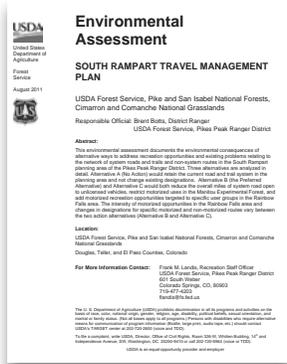


### **RING THE PEAK MASTER PLAN (2019)**

- 2019 master plan created in response to the designation of the Ring the Peak Trail (Ring) with input from federal agencies, the cities of Victor and Cripple Creek, Teller County, community organizations, and residents as part of the Colorado 16 initiative.
- Focus #1: Closing the community engagement gap by building community excitement for the Ring and defining user expectations.
- Focus #2: Closing the gap on the southwest side of the Ring.
- Focus #3: Closing the management gap; plan for long-term management, operations, and sustainability.
- This plan establishes the preferred trail corridor for the southwest gap.
- Each governmental agency involved will be responsible to implement the Ring within their respective jurisdiction, but maintenance will largely be carried out by volunteer groups.
- Includes recommendations on engagement, management, maintenance, marketing and funding.

### **MASTER PLAN FOR THE UTE PASS REGIONAL TRAIL (2015)**

- 2015 master plan for the 11-mile Ute Pass Regional Trail developed with consideration of public, County, and stakeholder comments.
- This plan identifies actions to design and construct a regional trail connection between several Colorado communities which satisfies the needs and expectations of visitors while also preserving the area’s natural resources.
- US Highway 24 is a major consideration through Ute Pass Corridor.
- Other considerations for design include other nearby roads, slopes and topography, public lands, waterways and floodplains, and the Waldo Canyon Burn Scar area.
- Plan details 5 alignment alternatives looking at 4 different locations, with a draft of the preferred alignment design guidelines and methods included.
- Explanation of Corridor Advantages/Disadvantages and Alignment Advantages/Disadvantages outlines how the preferred alignment was selected.
- Provides an estimated cost range and potential funding opportunities for the trail.

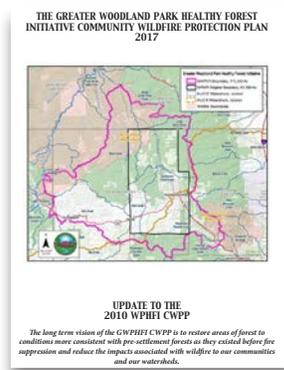
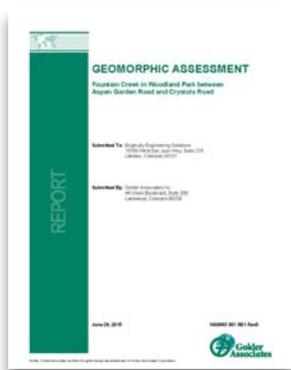


## USFS SOUTH RAMPART TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (2011)

- Describes the environmental consequences of 3 options for addressing recreation opportunities and existing problems related to the network and non-system routes in the South Rampart planning area.
- Alternative A (No Action): Retain the current road and trail system in the planning area with no changes to existing designations.
- Alternative B (the Preferred Alternative): focuses on enhancing the recreational experience while balancing resource conservation and management.
- Alternative C: focuses on solutions to existing issues.
- Alternative B (the Preferred Alternative) and Alternative C both reduce the overall miles of system road open to unlicensed vehicles, restrict motorized uses in the Manitou Experimental Forest, and add motorized recreation opportunities for specific Rainbow Falls area user groups.
- Describes in detail the decision-making framework for selecting an alternative.
- Documents the affected environment and environmental consequences for the proposed alternatives, as well as cumulative and other types of impacts from their implementation.

## WOODLAND PARK WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE REPORT (2010)

- 2010 on lessons learned managing increased risk of wildfire due to growth and development in the Wildland-Urban Interface in and around Woodland Park.
- This initiative aims to reduce wildfire risk by evaluating and potentially amending the Land Use Regulations that allow development in high hazard areas without appropriate mitigation measures.
- This project documents the multi-jurisdictional evaluation of the local land use regulations, benefits of Firewise® subdivision standards, gaps in the building and landscaping codes, and creates a public lessons learned report.
- Gap analysis determined that the greatest deficit throughout regional plans and ordinances related to Wildfire-Urban Interface issues are effective regulations and best practices for existing development.
- Recommendation: regulatory tools applicable to renovations should guarantee affordable fire mitigation practices respectful of the homeowner and surrounding community.
- Effective leadership and strategic partnerships are necessary to balance between additional governmental regulations and the interests of developers, builders and homeowners.
- An implementation of policy and community education efforts requires adequate resources and funding.
- Suggests policy language to address high fire hazard across County and suggestions for building an effective wildland-urban interface community plan, with a focus on community education and a forested landscape with fewer trees per acre of various sizes and types of species.



## GEOMORPHIC ASSESSMENT OF FOUNTAIN CREEK (2015)

- 2015 geomorphic assessment prepared as part of the overall City of Woodland Park Stormwater Master and Capital Improvement Plan.
- Contains detailed inventory of existing conditions assessed during a site visit, from aerial imagery, hydrological and geological data, and FEMA 100-year flood analysis assessment.
- Goal #1: Identifies problematic sediment production and depositional zones.
- Goal #2: Identifies infrastructure at risk.
- Goal #3: Develops and recommends stable channel section and plan form alternatives.
- Goal #4: Develops recommendations and conceptual capital cost estimates for channel stability improvements.

## GREATER WOODLAND PARK HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (2017)

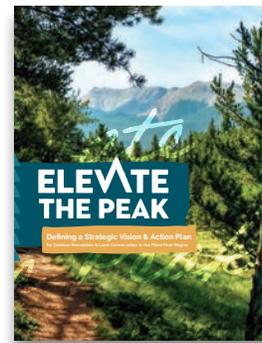
- 2017 update to a plan focusing on expanding the plan footprint to include the entire watershed, and on providing more useful information geared toward homeowners and local businesses.
- Includes watershed-risk methodology to examine the topological conditions that impact fire behavior and spread and to study post-fire flooding characteristics.
- Reports progress on 2010 goals for fuel mitigation; emergency response; private, state, and federal support; biomass utilization; and administration and plan maintenance.
- Sets new goals for future work inside the 5 goal categories, also adding two new categories: 1) community and homeowner involvement and 2) watersheds and water supplies.
- Promotes fire-adapted communities through community education of fire impacts, risks, and community mitigation actions.
- Recommends mitigation projects with actions for landowners and adjacent land management agencies to mobilize the entire community and maximize the treated area.
- Prioritizes regional basins for work based on 2-year peak flow, 10-year peak flow, fire intensity, and wildfire risk analyses.

## CHAPTER 1



### DOWNTOWN WOODLAND PARK MARKET ANALYSIS REPORT (2019)

- 2019 report market analysis, opportunity assessment, and synthesis of past downtown planning efforts for the Woodland Park Main Street Program.
- Contains a retail leakage analysis for the City and the Woodland Park market area, showing which retail categories exhibit leakage and which exhibit a surplus.
- Describes the downtown economy structure, identifies its role in the local and regional economy, and identifies specific retail opportunities given demand from local consumers.
- Examines base industry opportunities appropriate for downtown.
- Highlights opportunities for development and provides strategies and recommendations to help capitalize on opportunities.
- Base industries appropriate for downtown include the professional sector, location-neutral businesses, niche manufacturing and tourism.



### ELEVATE THE PEAK STRATEGIC VISION AND ACTION PLAN (2022)

- Collaborative, community-first planning effort for El Paso, Fremont, Park and Teller counties.
- Facilitated by Palmer Land Conservancy and advised by a coalition of regional non-profits, launched in Spring 2021 and completed in 2022.
- Aimed to develop a collective vision and strategy to inform current and future land conservation and outdoor recreation efforts in the Pikes Peak region.
- Vision stated is that the area must come together to listen to the under-resourced voices within the community to become successful.
- Emphasizes working together to accomplish the Pikes Peak region's biggest conservation and recreation goals.







# Planning Context & Needs

**REGIONAL CONTEXT**

**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

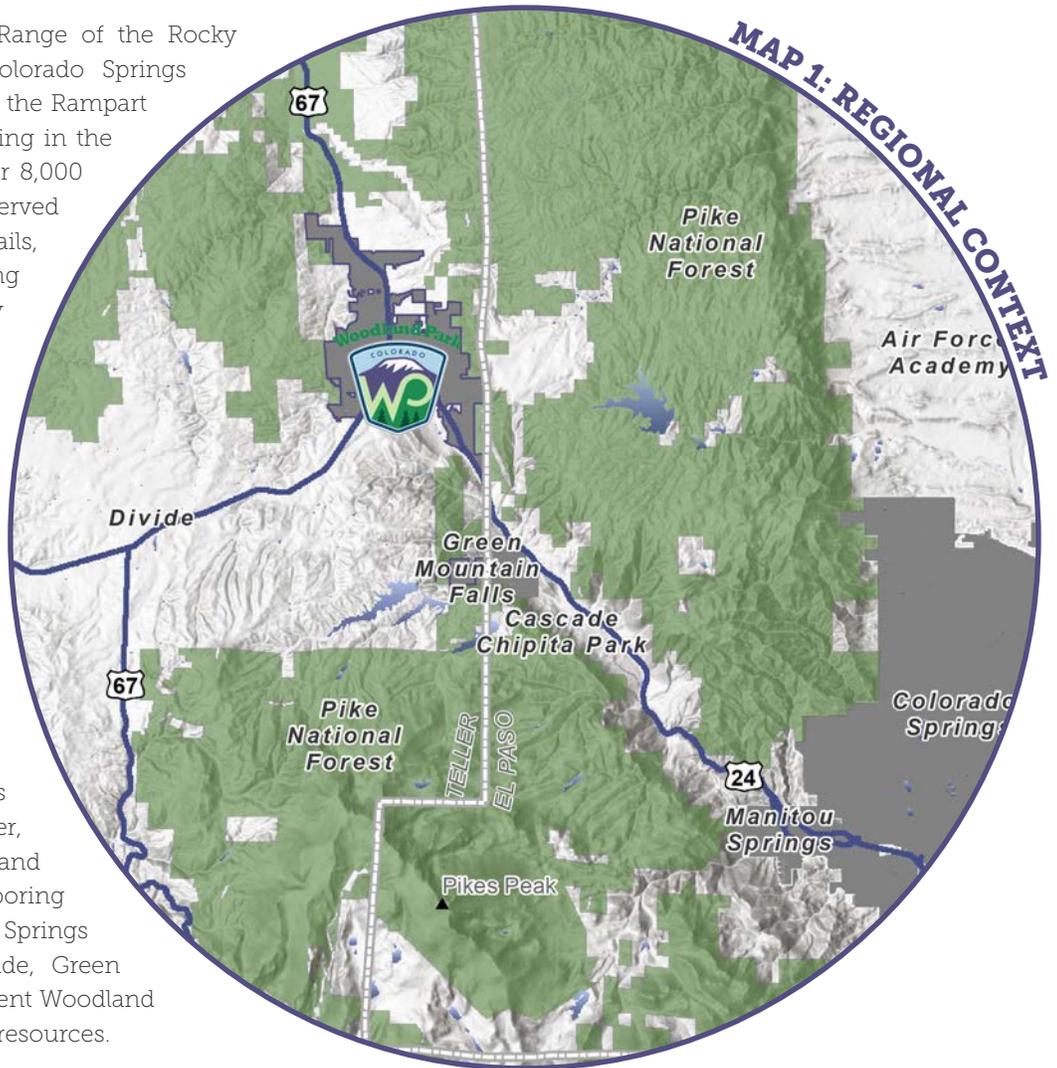
**CITY PROFILE**

**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROFILE**

**OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES**

# Regional Context

Woodland Park is on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, 18 miles west of Colorado Springs with clear views of Pikes Peak and the Rampart Range of Pike National Forest. Living in the largest town in Teller County, over 8,000 Woodland Park residents are served by abundant public parks, trails, open space, and the surrounding natural lands. The community is nestled among one million acres of Pike National Forest and offers its residents and visitors small-town charm with access to pristine natural surroundings. As a gateway community to Pikes Peak, Woodland Park benefits from the outdoor recreation tourism economy driven by this major regional destination. Due to Woodland Park's location, the area served by the City's Parks & Recreation Department includes residents of unincorporated Teller, El Paso, and Douglas Counties; and welcomes visitors from neighboring areas. Residents from Colorado Springs and nearby towns such as Divide, Green Mountain Falls, and Cascade frequent Woodland Park's parks, trails, and open space resources.



# OUTDOOR PIKES PEAK INITIATIVE

The Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative is a multi-phased planning effort of the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA). PPORA was selected as a Colorado Outdoor Regional Partner through the Colorado Outdoor Partnership to advance recreation and conservation planning for the Pikes Peak region (El Paso, Teller, and Fremont Counties) in 2021. The Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnership is funded jointly through Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado and was developed to ensure that Colorado remains a world-class destination for outdoor recreation while preserving our land, water, wildlife, and quality of life.

The Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative seeks to bring together people, information, and innovative ideas to collaboratively address this region’s recreation and conservation needs and aspirations for today and the future, while also tackling the obstacles to implementation.

The initiative aims to coordinate a regional response to unprecedented Front-Range growth that threatens both natural resources and recreational experiences. Not designed for sustained high use, outdoor infrastructure such as campgrounds and trailheads are overrun and insufficient to meet demand. The City of Woodland Park has been actively engaged in this regional planning effort and recognizes the importance of leveraging strategic partners in the realm of outdoor recreation which contributes significantly to the quality of life and economic vitality of the City.

## GOALS

We have identified a number of goals for this Initiative, outlined below. We are at various stages of each of these, with the overall goal of completing them by the summer of 2024.

- + Convene a broad-based coalition or “Task Force”
- + Create and maintain a dynamic Outdoor Pikes Peak Data Hub
- + Develop a multi-layer mapping tool
- + Evaluate past planning efforts, goals, and outcomes
- + Invite and assess the needs and aspirations of land managers, stakeholders, and the general public
- + Recommend a revised or alternative management and funding strategy
- + Identify recreation and conservation priorities and the key projects
- + Identify desirable and critical natural resource and habitat
- + Identify areas for potential opportunities for improved recreation
- + Create a sustainable recreation and conservation vision plan



# Natural Environment

## HYDROLOGY & FLOODPLAIN

Woodland Park has no major rivers traversing the area. Although most of the City lies outside of designated floodplains, 100 and 500-year floodplains are located within proximity of the City such as Trout Creek, Mule Creek, Loy Gulch, and Fountain Creek. The 500-year floodplain extends along Fountain Creek in the south-central area of Woodland Park where the City maintains a greenway along both banks of the creek. The City's Stormwater Master Plan identifies priority flooding concerns and channel degradation at Loy Gulch from Research Drive to the Police Station and Fountain Creek between Aspen Garden Way and Walmart. The Federal Emergency Management Agency flood hazard maps also identifies flood risk within the 100-year floodplain of the east fork of Fountain Creek. Floodplains are relevant to open space conservation and maintenance throughout the City.

## TOPOGRAPHY

The average elevation for Woodland Park is 8,465 feet, and ranges from 8,200 to 9,000 feet. The topography of the area follows Fountain Creek down Ute Pass, sloping gradually to the south-southeast.

## SOILS

Woodland Park soil is generally uniform and shallow, composed of a gravel low in organic matter which is infertile and slightly acidic. The soil is composed of decomposing granite bedrock less than 10 inches deep. Due to this composition, erosion is a serious concern in both engineering and environmental contexts. The soils are limited in their cultivation capabilities due to their shallow, stony, and quick-draining characteristics.

The soil consists of Rule, Cheeseman, Plome, and Crystola classifications. With low shrink-swell capacity and some rock fragments, Rule soil is found on approximately 15% of the area, located on steeper slopes. Plome soil is found in about 20% of the area, typically on moderate slopes. Crystola soil consists of up to 35% rock fragments. All three of these soil types are easily erodible and have low shrink-swell capacity.

The area is underlain with the Fountain formation, accompanied by a few outcroppings of Pikes Peak granite. Alluvial shale is also common throughout the area, and severe erosion occurs where vegetation is removed. Much of the area is covered with alluvial shales as well. Severe erosion will occur where the vegetation is removed and therefore is a major concern in Woodland Park due to steep slopes and low cohesiveness of soil.

## VEGETATION

Woodland Park's varied landscapes are populated by many different plant communities. Ponderosa pine is the predominant tree species in the area, with forest understory consisting of bunchgrasses like mountain muhly and Arizona fescue. Sleepy grass is a typical pioneer species in newly revegetated areas. Near rivers, willow thickets and stringer meadows make up the landscape. On the area's northern slopes and higher altitudes, Douglas fir, aspen, and lodge pole pine is found. Woodland Park is also host to one of Colorado's native orchids, the yellow lady's slipper, which grows among aspen glades in the montane zone.

## WILDLIFE

Woodland Park is home to a variety of large and small mammals, birds, fish, and insects. An estimated 100 black bears live in Teller County. Other large mammals living in the area include mountain lions, mule deer, and elk. Trout Creek offers abundant resources for wild turkeys, blue grouse, and beaver to live. Habitats and essential environmental resources for wildlife in Woodland Park have been shrinking due to expanding residential and commercial development. Educating residents and visitors on the importance of coexisting with wildlife is important to reduce harmful impacts of interactions between humans and wildlife.

# City Profile

## DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the US Census 2020 American Community Survey, Woodland Park had a 2020 population of 8,151 people. The City grew by roughly 1,030 residents between 2010 and 2020, with an average growth rate of 1.6 percent per year. At this annual rate, the population is projected to reach 9,335 in 2030 and 10,690 in 2040. The region’s total population has also grown steadily. Due to the City’s total water supply limit designed with conservation and water wise initiatives in mind, there are only enough resources to provide water for 13,600 residents. New management criteria have helped prepare for this distribution of the finite water supply, and public input indicated broad awareness of the limited water supply and support for planning towards a population cap of 13,600 with the option to re-evaluate if more water becomes available.

Demographic trends indicate a decrease in age groups 35-54 and youth from 0-10 years old. Age groups 25-35 and those 60 and older are growing, a demographic trend reflected across the United States. This population shift is important to consider when designing parks and recreational opportunities for residents. Overall, City population has increased significantly since 2016 and Teller County is expected to continue growing.

### Woodland Park Population Trends: 2000-2025\*

	2000	2010	Change	2020 Census	Change	2025*	Change
<b>Population</b>	6,515	7,117	9%	8,151	15%	8,686	7%
<b>Households</b>	2,476	3,141	27%	3,640	17%	3,740	2%
<b>Average Household Size</b>	2.63	2.47	-6%	2.22	-10%	2.32	4%
<b>Median Age</b>	37.2	44.2	19%	46.1**	4%	48.3	5%

Data from the Census American Community Survey, the State Demographer, and Woodland Park 2020 parcel data

\*Future Data from ESRI Business Analyst

\*\*Median Age was calculated from 2019 ACS data

## SOCIOECONOMICS

As a regional retail and commercial center of Teller and surrounding counties, Woodland Park is economically fueled by local and regional residents and tourists. According to the 2020 American Community Survey, the median household income in the region was \$77,912 in 2019 and has increased by 22% between 2010 and 2019. The survey also reports that 60% of households in Woodland Park earn \$50,000 or more annually.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Woodland Park is a regional center for quality health care. Primary healthcare providers are available at Pikes Peak Regional Hospital and at smaller facilities throughout the City which offer a variety of care practices. Health and wellness programs run by schools and City departments offer free resources and preventative care. Public recreation programs play a critical role in the physical, social, and mental health of the community. Recent research shows that spending time outdoors, such as in parks and open space, is positively correlated with improvements to cognition, depression, anxiety, attention deficit, negative emotions, and social empathy.



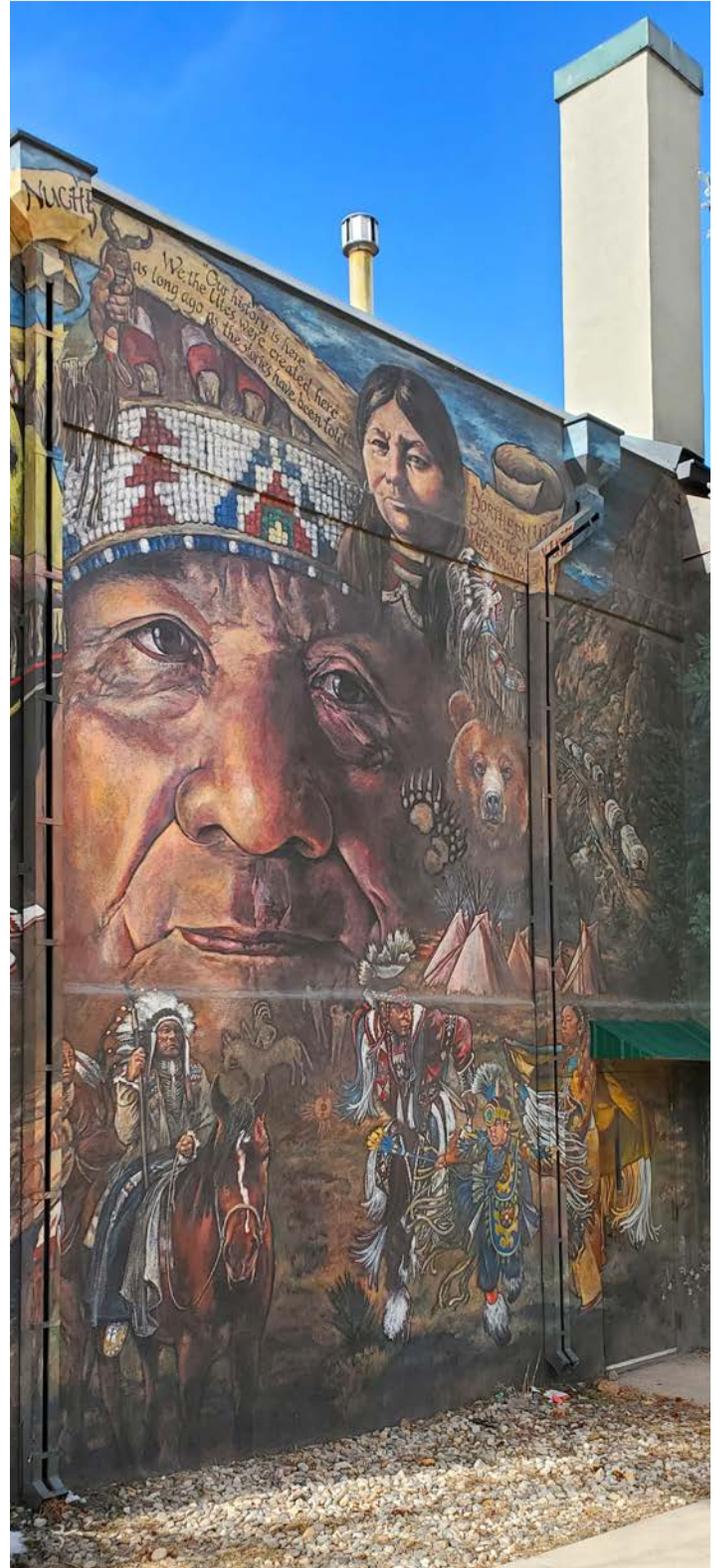
## CULTURAL HERITAGE

Woodland Park takes its name from the densely wooded hills and valleys surrounding the City. A spectacular view of Pikes Peak to the South is visible from nearly everywhere in town. The City's favorable location allows easy access to Colorado Springs to the southeast, Cripple Creek to the southwest, Breckenridge to the northwest, with mountain and other recreation areas in all directions.

As long as 1000 years ago and as recently as 1920, the Ute and Plains Indians passed through this area regularly on the Ute Pass Trail, one of the oldest indigenous migration routes in the country. This route provided a relatively easy access up through the canyon of Fountain Creek to the high, broad plateau where the City now lies, at 8,200 to 9,000 feet above sea level.

Since Woodland Park was incorporated in 1891, the community has experienced a colorful history. Early activity centered around providing lumber and railroad ties for the Midland Railroad, one of the largest carriers of gold ore from the Gold Camp in the Cripple Creek/Victor district. Other pioneering industries included cattle ranching and several elaborate resort hotels which grew through the early part of the 1900's.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, the State Highway Department widened Highway 24 to four lanes from Colorado Springs to Woodland Park. This transportation improvement allowed for a more efficient commute to Woodland Park and spurred growth that continues today as the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is now in the early planning phases for a Highway 24 reliever route to mitigate congestion on the overcrowded highway.



# Parks & Recreation Department Profile

Woodland Park’s parks, recreation, trails, and open space system is essential to residents’ quality of life, economic vitality, and environmental and social health. Woodland Park’s desirable location as the gateway community to Pikes Peak and the Pike National Forest provides residents and visitors with access to an expansive network of trails and outdoor recreation opportunities that allow residents and visitors to immerse themselves in nature and improve their physical and mental health. Expanding direct access to these assets from the City as part of an interconnected system of trails is a primary goal of the community as vocalized throughout the planning process.

This outdoor lifestyle positions Woodland Park to attract high quality employers and outdoor-recreation tourism revenue that sustains local businesses. The developed parks system and open space allow residents daily access to the outdoors and promote social interactions and community well-being. The City also offers indoor and outdoor recreation programs that provide opportunities for instruction and group participation in a myriad of activities year-round, including programming at the Woodland Aquatic Center, Ute Pass Cultural Center, and outdoor ice rink at Meadow Wood Sports Complex.

## PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) is a seven-member advisory board established to review proposals and plans of action in the areas of parks, trails, open space and recreation. The PRAB provided critical guidance to the development of this plan through local knowledge and insight, feedback on recommendations and priorities, and promotion of community engagement opportunities within their professional and social networks. In 2022, the PRAB adopted the following mission, vision, and core values.

### VISION

Create a thriving community that enjoys equitable access to a diverse and sustainable system of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational activities.

### MISSION

To preserve and enhance a balanced and responsive system of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational activities which is crucial for improving the overall health and quality of life of our community.

### CORE VALUES

**Service:** Selfless service to our community and each other with a passion and purpose that empowers our team and strengthens our community.

**Trust:** Earn confidence and credibility from our community and stakeholders in the fairness, competence and reliability of our words and actions.

**Respect:** Always convey dignity and respect to everyone in all that we do and say.

**Integrity:** Consistently hold ourselves to the highest level of honesty, truthfulness, and moral and ethical conduct. Abide by our laws, codes and ordinances.

**Vision:** Proactively seek out and identify future problems and innovative solutions that anticipate stakeholder impacts and develop systems which enable our team and community to reach their full potential.

**Excellence:** A commitment to continuous personal, professional, and organizational improvement that demonstrates we are open to new ideas, change, and never satisfied with the status quo.

**Collaboration and Stakeholder Outreach:** Communicate and collaborate effectively and appropriately with our key stakeholders.

**Accountability:** Hold ourselves accountable to our teammates, City staff and the citizens of Woodland Park.



## **PARKS**

The City of Woodland Park maintains 11 developed parks totaling approximately 60 acres and six undeveloped parks totaling approximately 16.5 acres. In addition to the City's parks, the Woodland Park School District RE-2 helps meet recreational needs through school facilities and playgrounds.

Two of the City's parks, Memorial Park and Meadow Wood Sports Complex, regularly draw regional visitors to enjoy their amenities. These parks are profiled on page 22.

### **DEVELOPED PARKS (60 ACRES):**

- **Memorial Park** - 3.20 acres
- **Meadow Wood Sports Complex** - 43.65 acres
- **Crestwood Park** - 4.33 acres
- **Red Mountain Adventure Park** - 3.32 acres
- **Lions Park** - 0.80 acre
- **Cavalier Park** - 1.50 acres
- **Regency Park** - 1.70 acres
- **Bergstrom Park** - 0.47 acre
- **History Park** - .32 acre
- **Centennial Trailhead** - .17 acres
- **History Park** - .50 acre

### **UNDEVELOPED PARKS (16.5 ACRES):**

- **Park View Estates** - 1.55 acres
- **Country Ridge** - 2.08 acres
- **Hilltop Park** - 0.64 acre
- **Chimney Park** - 4.70 acres
- **Sun Valley Park** - 6.22 acres
- **Paradise Bus Stop** - 1.28 acres

### **SCHOOL PARKS (80 ACRES)**

- **Columbine Elementary** - 15 acres
- **Woodland Park Middle School** - 24.85 acres
- **Woodland Park High School & Gateway Elementary School** - 40 acres

## **OPEN SPACE & GREENWAYS**

Woodland Park maintains approximately 62 acres of natural areas in the form of open space and greenways. Natural areas are lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, unique landscapes, and viewshed protection. To date, Woodland Park manages 13 natural areas. In addition to the City's natural areas, many residential developments maintain private open spaces that serve their neighborhood.

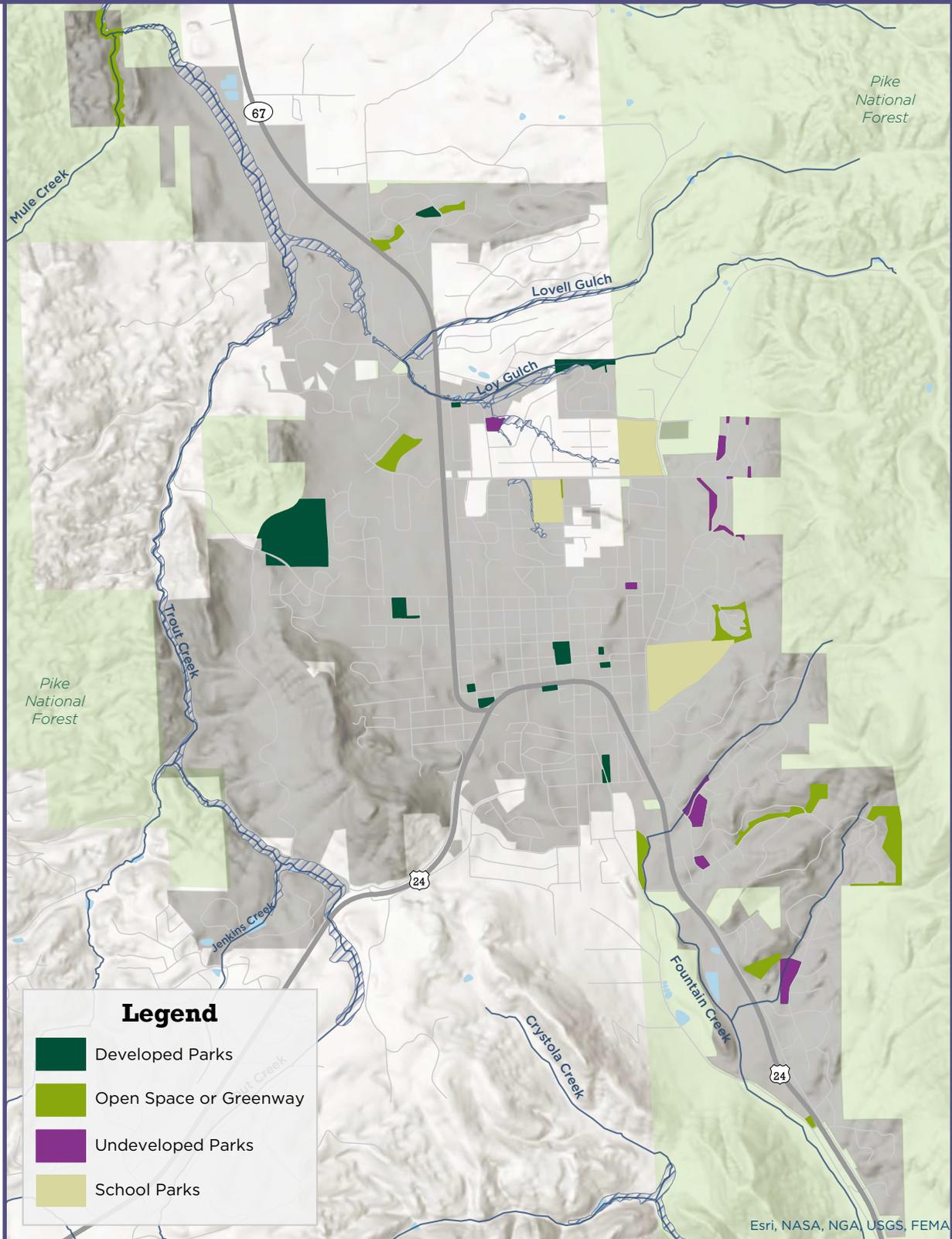
Since adoption of the 2007 PTOS plan, the City has employed a Land Value Rating System which establishes criteria for determining whether land, should be considered for protection status. The City's general philosophy to open space preservation has been to minimize City ownership by encouraging private land owners to protect land from development through conservation easements, development code requirements, deed restrictions, estate planning, and the use of agricultural districts, where appropriate.

The City will acquire strategic parcels that meet the Land Value Rating System criteria when they are threatened by development and uses the established criteria to make decisions on whether or not to accept land from new development as part of its open space program.

### **OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PROPERTIES (62 ACRES):**

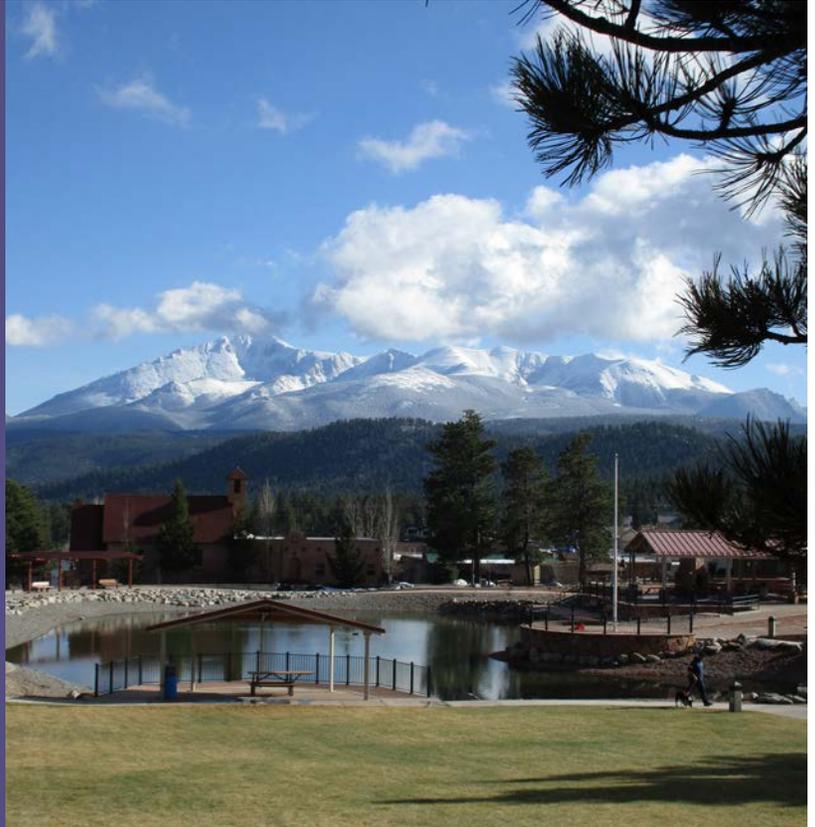
- **Peyton's Park** - 0.40 acre
- **Loft Village** - 0.40 acre
- **Fountain Creek Greenway** - 3.90 acres
- **Forest Edge (Filing 4)** - 2.99 acres
- **Paradise Estates** - 19.85 acres
- **Country Ridge Easements** - 0.70 acre
- **Mule Creek Corridor** - 10.0 acres
- **Walmart Open Space** - 9.50 acres
- **Cummins Addition #2** - 0.13 acre
- **Forest Edge** - 4.0 acres
- **Brecken Heights** - 4.0 acres
- **Stone Ridge** - 5.84 acres
- **Junction House** - .54 acres

# MAP 2: EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & OPEN SPACE



## MEMORIAL PARK

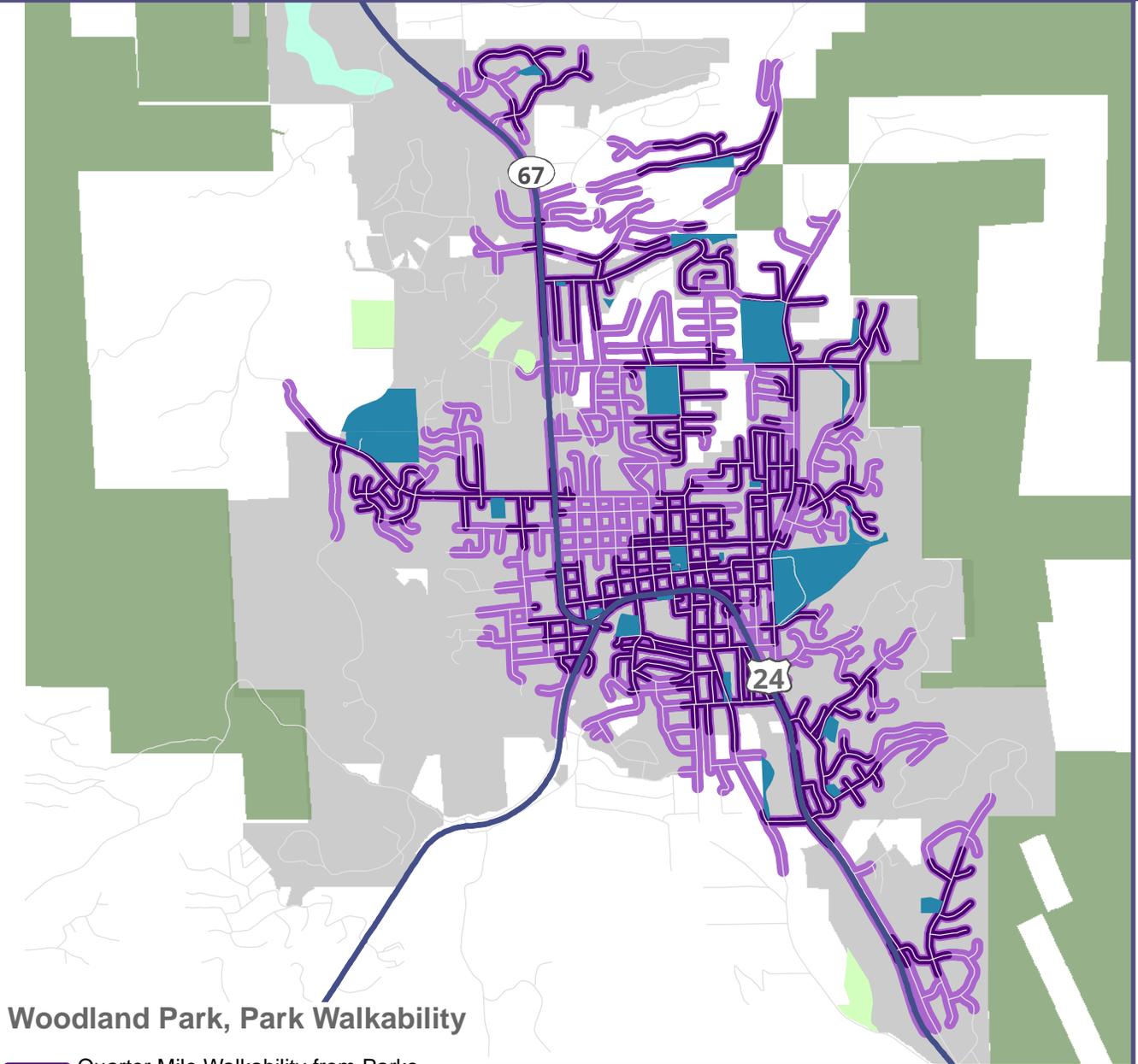
Established in 1938, Memorial Park is fully developed and a popular location for recreation of many kinds. Located conveniently in the heart of town next to City Hall and the Senior Center, the park is urban in character. This 3.3 acre park is defined by stands of ponderosa pines and spruce trees, and includes playground equipment, a fishing and ice skating pond, outdoor basketball court, gazebo, performance shelter, pavilion, four picnic shelters, an interactive lazy river, benches, and parking space for 39 vehicles. Memorial Park also offers a variety of Woodland Park's signature events, including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Cruise Above the Clouds, Arts & Craft Fair, and the award-winning Woodland Park Farmer's Market.



## MEADOW WOOD SPORTS COMPLEX

Purchased in 1984 and developed as a community park in 1987, Meadow Wood is the City's primary sports complex. In 2003, a local developer dedicated nearly 24 acres of land adjacent to the park for expansion. Due to this expansion, a master plan for the Meadow Wood Sports Complex was developed later that year to plan for new facilities within the 42.9-acre park. Facilities include synthetic and natural turf baseball and soccer fields, playground equipment, a concession stand, an outdoor rink used for inline hockey in the summer and as an ice skating rink in winter, four lighted tennis/pickleball courts, and a jogging/fitness path. Meadow Wood Sports Complex also offers Panther Field as a dedicated baseball field for the Woodland Park High School Panthers baseball team.

# MAP 3: PARK WALKABILITY ANALYSIS



## Woodland Park, Park Walkability

- Quarter Mile Walkability from Parks
- Half Mile Walkability from Parks
- Wetlands
- Open Space
- Schools and Parks
- US Forest Service

The Park Walkability Analysis map was developed for the 2021 Comprehensive Plan and illustrates the areas of Woodland Park that are within a 10-minute (half mile) and a five-minute (quarter mile) walk of developed or undeveloped parks (including school parks) via safe pedestrian connections on sidewalks and trails. Approximately 80 percent of the dwelling units in the City limits are within .5 miles of an existing park, open space, or school.

## **RECREATION PROGRAMMING**

Since the Parks and Recreation Department was established, participation in recreation programs have grown and diminished over time. Originally small numbers swelled to a peak of 39 leagues, 68 classes, and 11 special events in 2007, which has since shrunk to 27 leagues, 21 programs/classes, and six special events. The past five years have seen a recession of participation from 3,995 participants in 2013 decreasing to 2,487 participants in 2017. Recreation programs are offered in all seasons, in a variety of categories from Youth and Teen Programs, Adult and Youth Sports, Adult/Family classes, and Special Interest programs.

## **WOODLAND AQUATIC CENTER**

Opened in fall of 2017, the Woodland Aquatic Center is the newest addition to the Parks and Recreation facilities. Its features include a zero depth entry leisure pool with two warm water lap lanes, lazy river, water slide and play areas. The center also offers a variety of activities and programs including family open swim, adult lap swim, shallow and deep water fitness, and even gentle yoga. Camps and training programs are available for babysitting and lifeguard training. The center can be rented for hosting birthday parties, corporate events, team trainings and more. In addition to fitness, the Woodland Aquatic Center offers social events such as Parent’s night out.

## **UTE PASS CULTURAL CENTER AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Ute Pass Cultural Center (UPCC) is a renovated 1936 schoolhouse that has been converted into the City’s premier event venue for unique educational and cultural events. It also serves the community as a visitors center for the Chamber of Commerce. A broad variety of events are held here including concerts, festivals, weddings, family reunions and other private functions. Adjacent to the UPCC, the City also manages the Midland Pavilion, a rustic outdoor amphitheater with majestic views of Pikes Peak. In warmer months, the amphitheater is used for outdoor concerts, community festivals, and weddings.





Credit: Kierstyn Peterson

## **TRAILS**

Woodland Park’s trail system is a well-loved community amenity. The City’s system is comprised of 4.6 miles of natural surface and paved, multi-use trails. According to a 2020 questionnaire of the Woodland Park community, 55 percent of respondents use a City trail every week. Since then, appreciation and use of the City’s trails seems to have increased as trails consistently emerged as a top community amenity throughout public engagement for this plan, as highlighted in Chapter 3 and Appendix A.

### **AMERICAN DISCOVERY (UTE PASS) TRAIL**

The American Discovery Trail (ADT) is the nation’s first coast to coast multi-use trail concept that will extend 6,800 miles once complete. The section located within Woodland Park extends approximately two miles along Fountain Creek from the intersection of Chester Avenue and Willow Street south to the City limits, terminating just beyond commercial development anchored by a Walmart Supercenter. A gap exists where the trail leaves Woodland Park City limits and extends through Teller County. Trail users utilize a dirt road to make the connection to Woodland Park’s southern section of the ADT that resumes an off-street, paved alignment.

This section of trail is part of the regional Ute Pass Trail, an 11-mile trail concept that connects Woodland Park, Manitou Springs, Cascade, Chipita Park, Green Mountain Falls, and Crystola along Highway 24.

### **CENTENNIAL TRAIL (USFS #669)**

The Centennial Trail is a paved, multi-use trail that extends 3.7 miles north through the City from the trailhead at the Visitor Center on Midland Avenue before exiting City limits and continuing for another 3.3 miles along Highway 67. The trail enters the Pike National Forest and terminates at Manitou Lakes Recreation Area.

### **MEADOW WOOD SPORTS COMPLEX TRAIL**

A one-mile loop trail encircles Meadow Wood Sports Complex connecting various activity areas of the complex. In the fall, the trail and complex host interscholastic cross-country meets.

### **LOVELL GULCH TRAIL (USFS #706 & 706.A)**

Lovell Gulch Trail is a U.S. Forest Service trail that extends five miles from the northeast corner of Woodland Park off of County Road 22, (Rampart Range Road) into the Pike National Forest. The trail is popular with mountain bikers, hikers, and equestrians.

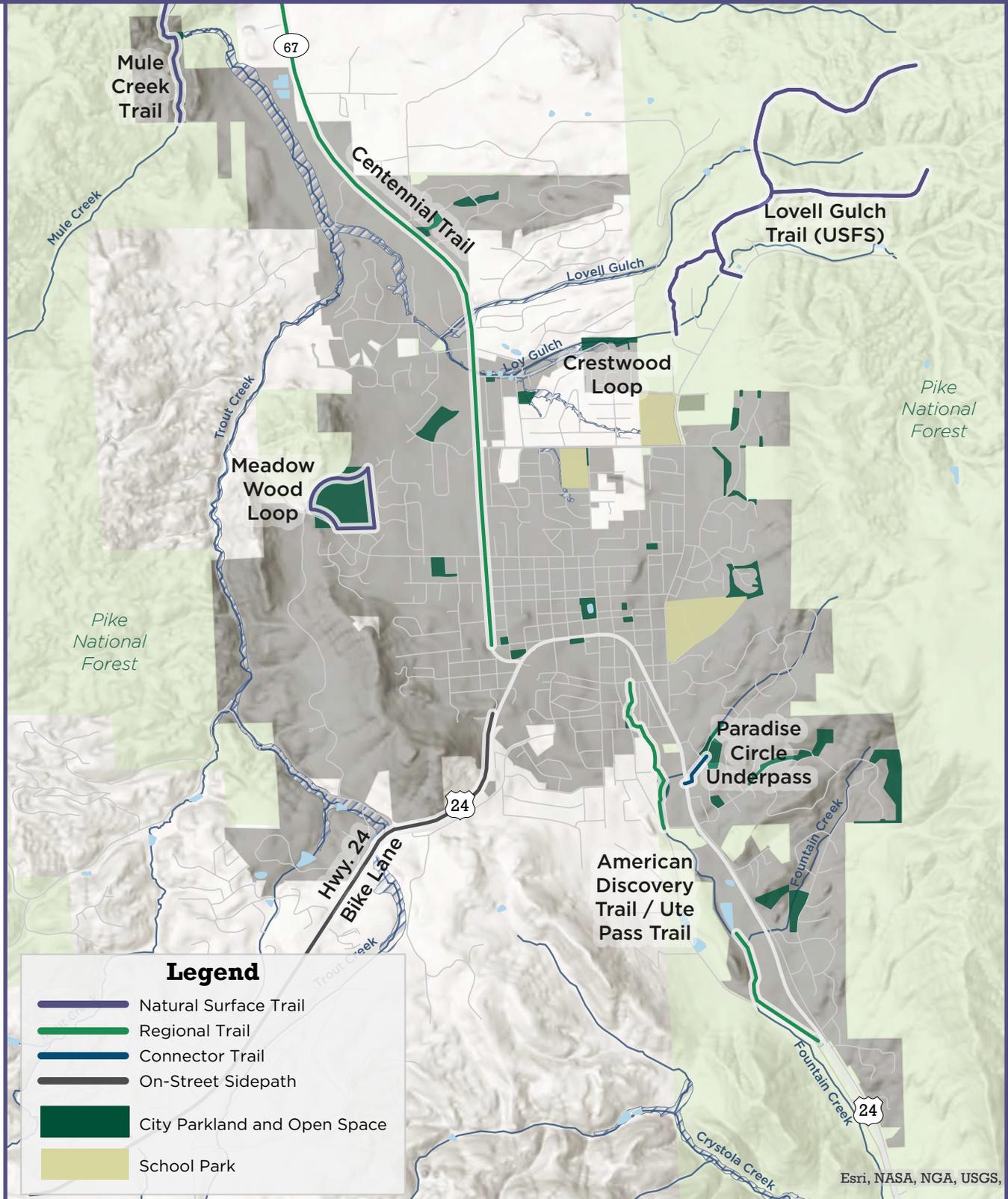
### **MULE CREEK TRAIL (USFS #751)**

Mule Creek Trail is a natural surface trail that originates in Woodland Park and extends approximately half a mile through the City before continuing north into the Pike National Forest as trail #751 for another 1.25 miles. The northern terminus of the trail intersection Highway 67 and the Centennial Trail. Mule Creek Trail is open to hikers, bikes, and equestrians.

### **NATURAL SURFACE SOCIAL TRAILS**

Several miles of natural surface trails extend from Woodland Park neighborhoods into the adjacent Pike National Forest. While they provide a significant recreation opportunity for the Woodland Park community, most of these trails are non-system trails unauthorized, unrecognized, and unmaintained by the U.S. Forest Service, including trails that originate from established City trailheads on Kings Crown Road. Recommendations of this plan include continued coordination with the Pike National Forest, Pikes Peak Ranger District to plan for authorized trail connections into the National Forest.

# MAP 4: EXISTING TRAILS



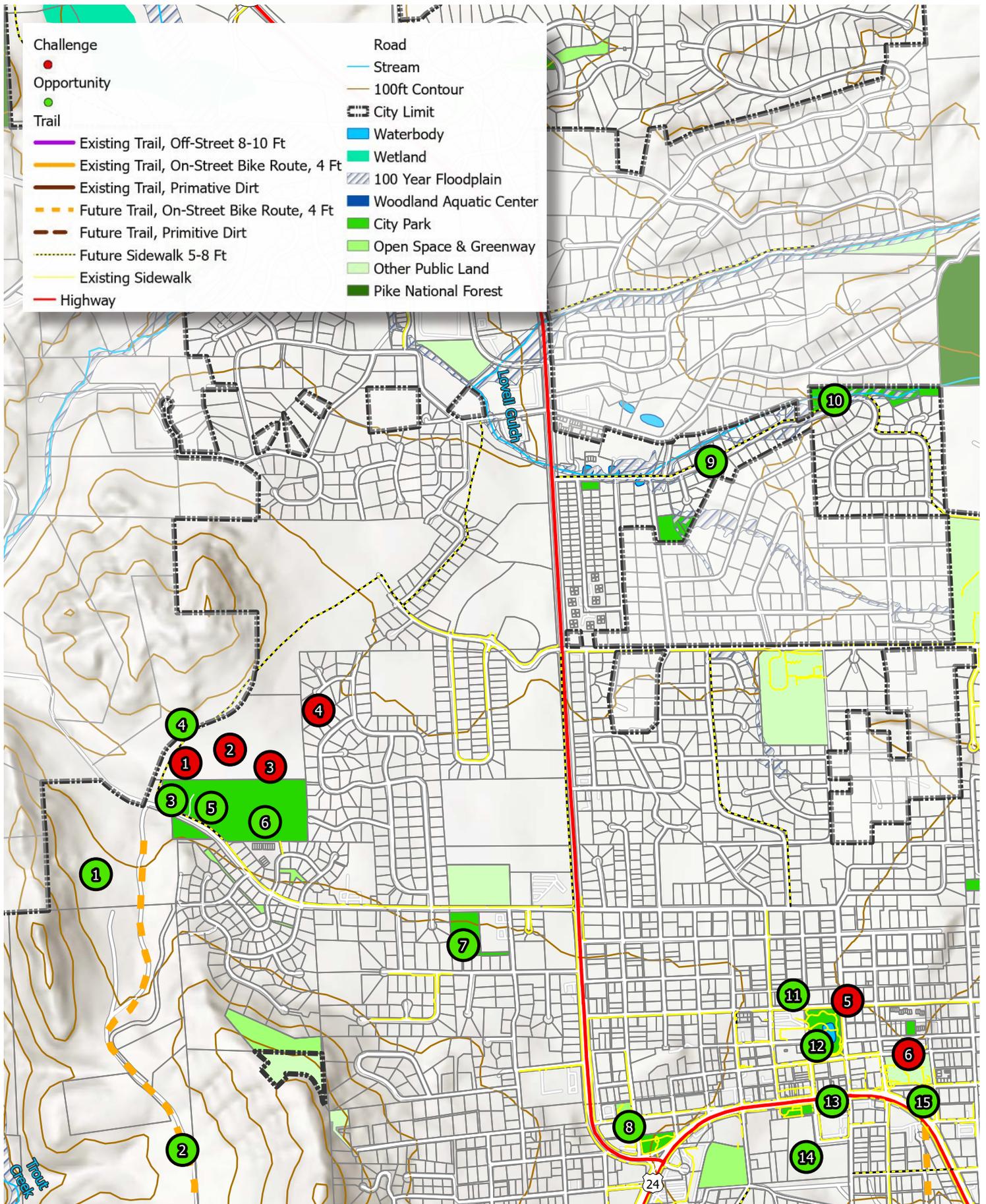




# Opportunities and Challenges

On June 30, 2022, Logan Simpson's planning and landscape architect team conducted a full-day site tour of the City's parks, trails, and open space areas led by City staff. The findings of the site visit and subsequent analysis are documented in the following map and photo series as opportunities and challenges. The analysis is divided into two north and south sections.

# MAP 5: WOODLAND PARK NORTHWEST



# OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

## OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Potential future trail connection from Meadow Wood Sports Complex; possible partnership with Charis Bible College.
- 2 Work with partner agencies to identify trail gaps for construction that will realize the "Ring the Park" vision.
- 3 Consider additional amenities for dog park or other viable locations for a second dog park.
- 4 Support efforts to implement phased improvements to Panther Field
- 5 Partner with Woodland Park Hockey Association to improve aging ice rink.
- 6 Consider amenities to increase Meadow Wood Sports Complex's competitive advantage as a tournament venue.
- 7 Re-purpose BMX course as bicycle play ground or pump track & consider additional amenities to skate park area at Red Mountain Adventure Park.
- 8 Consider locations for community gardens at existing parks.
- 9 Connect Lovell Gulch Trailhead and Crestwood Park to Centennial Trail.
- 10 Opportunity to develop mountain bike skills park with access to Lovell Gulch trail.
- 11 Partner with the Senior Center to provide space and funding for older adult recreation programs.
- 12 Consider teen park amenities, equipment, or gathering areas at Memorial Park where youth gather.
- 13 Improve wayfinding and awareness of City's trails and bike/ped network.

## CHALLENGES

- 1 Shared tennis & pickleball courts create conflict with demand for court time.
- 2 Impacts of deer population that is desensitized to human interaction.
- 3 Aging artificial turf needs replacement.
- 4 Significant drainage issue and compromised retaining wall at NE corner of multipurpose field



1 Shared tennis & pickleball courts create conflict.



2 Impacts of deer population desensitized to humans.



3 Aging artificial turf needs replacement.



3 Consider additional amenities for dog park.



7 Re-purpose BMX course at Red Mtn. Adventure Park.



4 Ice rink is a unique recreation amenity that distinguishes Woodland Park.



11 Partner with the Senior Center.



4 Drainage issue and compromised retaining wall.



6 Consider amenities to increase Meadow Wood's competitive advantage as a tournament venue.

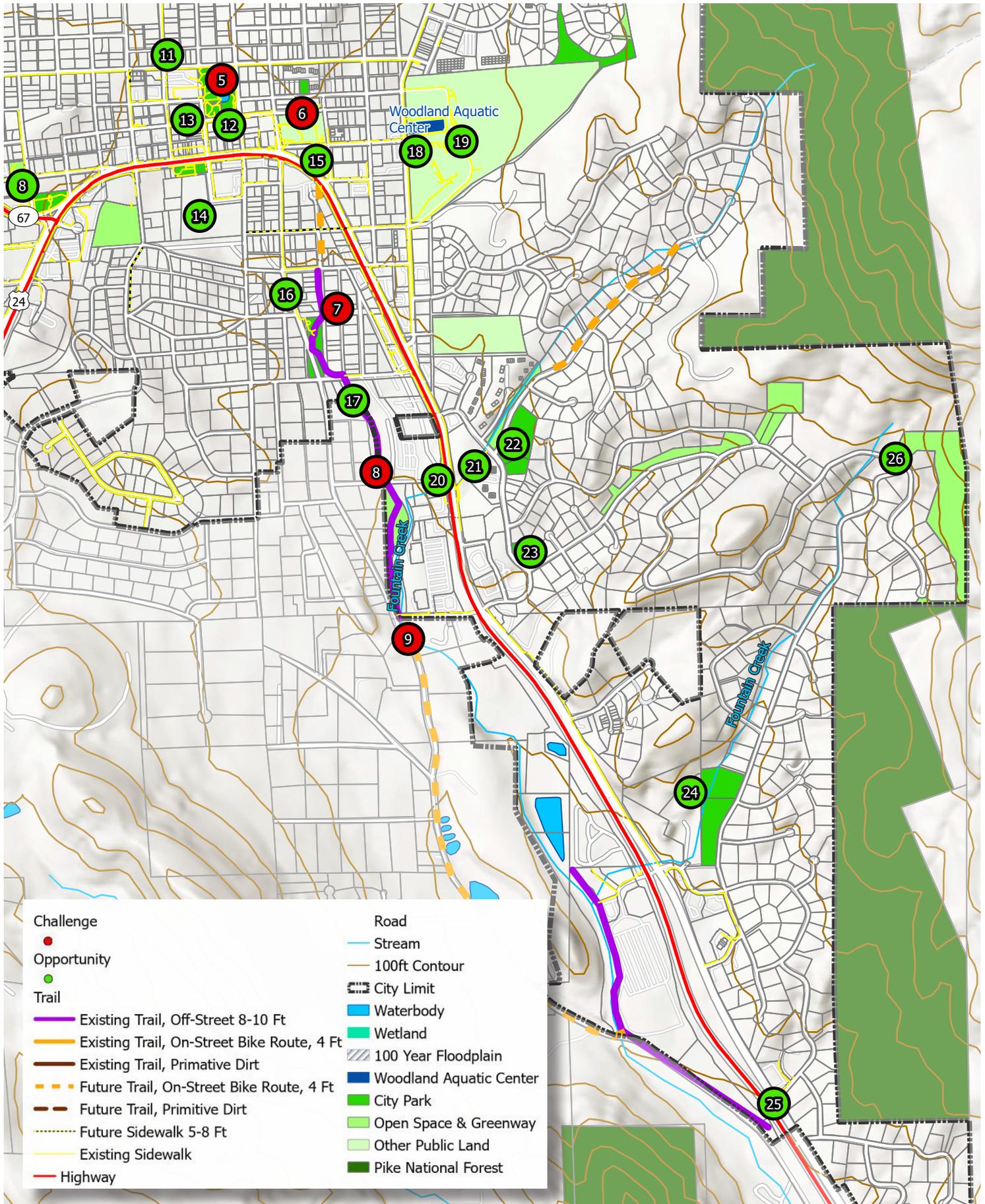


12 Consider teen park amenities at Memorial Park.



13 Improve wayfinding and awareness of City's trails.

# MAP 6: WOODLAND PARK SOUTHEAST



# OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

## OPPORTUNITIES

- 14 Leverage redevelopment for parkland and extend ADT north from Chester Ave. to commercial destination and Bergstrom Park.
- 15 Consider new programming opportunities at Ute Pass Cultural Center that meet community demand.
- 16 Update amenities at Cavalier Park to meet demand of increased use from new apartment complex nearby.
- 17 Identify opportunities for trailside interpretive and interactive elements
- 18 Continue successful Woodland Aquatic Center programs.
- 19 Potential future expansion for recreation center to meet community demand for indoor recreation.
- 20 Leverage recurring instances of underpass graffiti to create a student art mural or art expression tunnel.
- 21 Amenitize Chimney Park and other undeveloped parks in accordance with neighborhood preferences.
- 22 Leverage bike/ped connection from Chimney Park to commercial destinations on Highway 24.
- 23 Amenitize Bus Stop Park in accordance with neighborhood preferences; leverage development to connect to nearby open space.
- 24 Leverage new development to expand Sun Valley Park & develop walking trail.
- 25 Leverage potential Hwy. 24 Bypass to include trail connection to the Ring the Peak trail.
- 26 Kings Crown Rd. / Paradise Open Space Trailhead presents opportunity to work with partners to formalize access to Rampart Range.

## CHALLENGES

- 5 Manage overuse of Memorial Park.
- 6 Ute Pass Cultural Center in need of stage renovation and sprinkler system upgrades.
- 7 Fountain Creek culvert is an attractive nuisance that is frequently vandalized.
- 8 ADT in need of repair and dog waste stations.
- 9 ADT/Ute Pass Regional Trail gap requires coordination with Teller County.



5 Manage overuse of Memorial Park.



6 Ute Pass Cultural Center in need of facility upgrades.



7 Fountain Creek culvert is an attractive nuisance.



15 Consider new programming opportunities at Ute Pass Cultural Center.



22 Leverage bike/ped connection from Chimney Park to commercial destinations.



18 Continue successful Woodland Park Aquatic Center programs.



23 Amenitize Bus Stop Park and other undeveloped parks.



8 ADT in need of repair and dog waste stations.



21 Amenitize Chimney Park and other undeveloped parks.



24 Leverage new development to expand Sun Valley Park.



26 Trailhead presents opportunity to work with partners to formalize access.



**PLAN #1: SAFETY & QUALITY**

ENABLE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SOCIAL WELLBEING BY PROVIDING SAFETY RECREATION EXPERIENCES THROUGH OUR PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACES.

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS? HOW CAN WE HELP WITH YOUR CONCERNS?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMUNITY TO THE CITY'S NAME  
OPEN SPACE AND CULTURAL  
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND  
REGULATIONS STRATEGIES



**PLAN GOAL #2: FURTHER**

**PLAN GOAL #4: FURTHER**



# Community Engagement & Goals

**ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**  
**PLAN GOALS**

# Engagement Process

## OVERVIEW

Purposeful and sincere outreach is critical to cultivating public trust, expanding support for the plan, addressing concerns early in the process, and building a sense of ownership for plan implementation.

The planning process consisted of two stages of public engagement. The first stage of community engagement, the Listening stage, took place from July through September 2022. The second stage of engagement took place from March through July 2023 and focused on confirming the community's priorities feedback on the draft plan. Throughout the process, a robust series of opportunities engaged a total of 1,420 Woodland Park residents, visitors, and constituents.

The City's Parks and Recreation Department and consultant planning team utilized a variety of engagement tools to gather valuable feedback from community stakeholders regarding their experiences, challenges, opportunities, and values related to parks, recreation, open space, and trails. The purpose of these conversations was to:

- Stimulate community-wide awareness of the planning effort
- Solicit candid feedback from a broad cross-section of the Woodland Park community, including residents and visitors
- Identify key themes, opportunities, local values, and a future vision for PRTOS in Woodland Park

This section provides an overview of public engagement efforts. Complete public engagement results can be found in Appendix A.

## METHODOLOGY

Over the course of the summer, the project team engaged Woodland Park stakeholders through a variety of methods including in-person and online engagement opportunities, highlighted in the following sections.

### **City Council Direction Setting Questionnaire**

A total of six Woodland Park City Council members completed an online questionnaire at the outset of the project to help set the direction of the planning process. Through their responses to the questionnaire, City Council members identified opportunities, local values, and future aspirations for Woodland Park PRTOS.

### **Stakeholder Focus Groups**

Two focus groups were conducted in July 2022. The first focus group was conducted in the City Council chambers and included representatives from Pickleball Above the Clouds, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, Woodland Park Hockey Association, Kiwanis Club, and the Woodland Park Football Club. Participants identified opportunities, challenges, needs, and future aspirations for their organizations and discussed how to reduce barriers to participation.

The second focus group was conducted in a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting format with residents and property owners of the neighborhoods surrounding Sun Valley and Chimney Parks. Participants reviewed previous plans for Sun Valley and Chimney parks as developed for the previous PRTOS master plan in 2007 and provided feedback on the concepts including features they would like change or see implemented.

### **Technical Advisory Committee Kick-Off Meeting**

To support the planning effort, the project team convened a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of local professionals and experts from partner agencies in parks, trails, and open space whose role is to inform development of plan recommendations by advising on the efforts and initiatives that their organizations are spearheading, and identifying opportunities for partnership, collaboration, cost-sharing with the City of Woodland Park to avoid duplication of services and to implement the eventual recommendations of the plan.

A TAC kick-off meeting was held virtually on July 13th, 2022 with representatives from Colorado Department of Transportation, the Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce, Rampart Library District, Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Mile High Youth Corps, the Tourism Department, and Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates. Throughout the process the TAC provided insight into projects and initiatives of each organization, challenges they face, and how they envision working with the City of Woodland Park in the future.

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Workshop**

The project team conducted a listening session workshop during the July 26, 2022 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting. All seven current members of the PRAB participated in the discussion and offered insights on the strengths, opportunities, challenges, future trends, and balance between PRTOS as essential public goods and cost recovery. The group continued the conversation at their August 10, 2022 meeting to further identify data sources, existing plans, and additional stakeholders for outreach.

**Pop-Up Engagement at Farmer’s Market**

The project team staffed a pop-up engagement booth on Friday, July 22, 2022, at the City’s popular morning Farmer’s Market. Approximately 100 market attendees visited the booth to learn more about the project, scan a QR code for the project website, and provide their insights via interactive presentation boards and one-on-one conversations.

**Online Questionnaire #1**

The first of two community-wide online questionnaires launched on August 15th and was open for public response through September 12th, 2022. The questionnaire was structured to collect information on public participation and use of a variety of PRTOS programs and facilities. The questionnaire also sought information on barriers to participation; community values; and priorities for investment in trails, undeveloped parks; the Ute Pass Cultural Center, and potential indoor recreation opportunities. A total of 336 complete responses plus 285 partial responses were collected for a total of 621 questionnaire responses.

<b>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY EVENT</b>	
City Council Direction-setting Questionnaire	6
Focus Groups	18
Technical Advisory Committee Kick-off Meeting	7
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Workshop	7
Pop-up Engagement Booth at Farmer’s Market	100
Public Online Questionnaire #1	621
Goals and Priorities Open House	30
Online Questionnaire #2	52
Online Draft Plan Review*	579
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,420</b>

**Goals and Priorities Open House**

On March 22, 2023, the planning team held a community-wide open house event at the Ute Pass Cultural Center. The event invited residents and visitors to share their ideas on how to achieve the plan goals and to prioritize project funding by participating in budgeting activity. The event was attended by approximately 30 people.

**Online Questionnaire #2**

The second online questionnaire launched on March 13, 2023 and collected community feedback on draft plan goals and funding priorities for two weeks, concurrent with the open house. A total of 52 respondents participated in the questionnaire.

**Online Draft Plan Review**

On May 30, 2023, the draft plan was published for public review through the What’s Up Woodland Park project website. Community members commented directly on the plan using an online tool. In addition to adding their own comments, residents could also review other comments and indicate their agreement or disagreement to create an interactive digital community dialogue. \*The plan received 579 views online, six public comments, and one written review.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOTS



Online Questionnaire #1 received 621 responses!



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & GOALS



# Plan Goals

This plan is guided by six goals that provide broad direction for establishing ideal future conditions reflective of the community values that have emerged through public engagement as described in this chapter. All actions and recommendations of the plan support the realization of these six goals.

## **SAFETY AND QUALITY**

Enable physical, mental, and social wellbeing by providing safe, high quality recreation experiences in our parks, facilities, trails, and open spaces.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS**

Connect the community to the City's parks, recreation, trails, open space, and cultural offerings through frequent public engagement and proactive communications strategies.

## **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Establish appropriate funding and revenue opportunities that support capital projects, amenities, and programs that respond to community needs and priorities.

Credit: Ralph Holloway

## **LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS**

with adjacent land managers, jurisdictions, community organizations, and volunteer groups to fund, construct, and promote parks, recreation, trails, open space, and cultural experiences in Woodland Park and adjacent areas.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

Responsibly conserve vibrant parks, recreation, trails, open space, and cultural assets through sustainable maintenance and management practices.

## **CONNECTIVITY**

Establish a coordinated and interconnected system of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space.





# Recommendations

**PARKS**

**OPEN SPACE & GREENWAYS**

**RECREATION & AQUATICS PROGRAMMING**

**TRAILS**

**UTE PASS CULTURAL CENTER & SPECIAL EVENTS**

**SUSTAINABILITY**

## CHAPTER 4

This chapter identifies recommendations that will guide Woodland Park's leaders and the community at large to achieve the goals identified in the previous chapter.

These recommendations presented in this chapter are informed by data-driven research, best planning practices, and the rich set of community values, aspirations, and preferences that were conveyed through the public engagement phase. Collectively, these strategies represent a wide range of tools, resources, and strategies necessary to address existing challenges, meet future demands, and realize desired outcomes.

**This chapter provides recommendations according to six categories:**



***Parks***



***Open Space and Greenways***



***Recreation and Aquatics Programming***



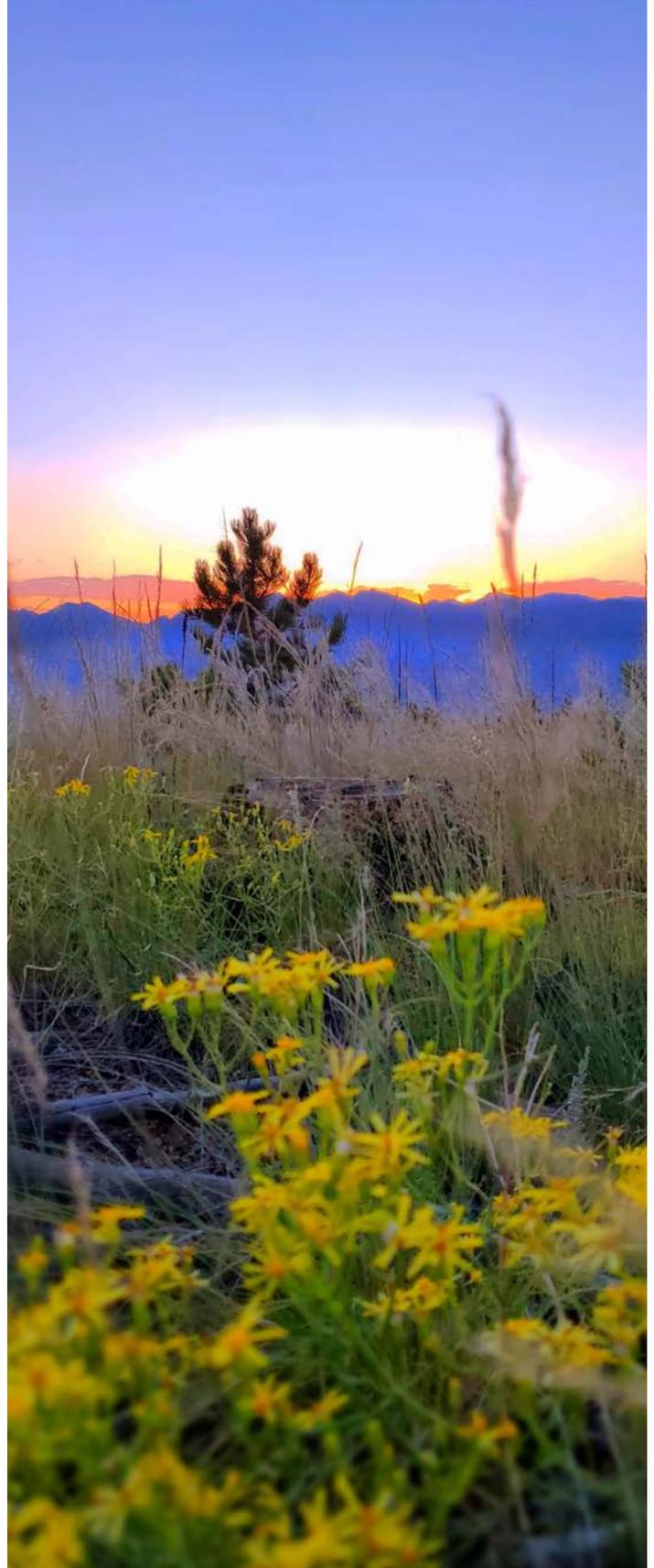
***Trails***



***Ute Pass Cultural Center and Special Events***



***Sustainability***



# THE IMPACT OF PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS

*Excerpted From the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), The Economic Impact of Local Parks (2022)*

**Parks and recreation are essential infrastructure in healthy, vibrant, and resilient communities. Through the tireless efforts of full-time, part-time, and seasonal workers — and supported by countless volunteers and advocates — local park and recreation agencies have a positive impact on the lives of millions of people. Park and recreation facilities, amenities and programming are diverse; they range from no-or low-cost fitness opportunities (such as a walking trail or a fitness class at a community center) and access to after-school programs for youth to providing our cities and counties with cleaner air and water thanks to preserved open space.**

**There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment.**

**Park and recreation professionals and their agencies make critical contributions to their communities in the following ways:**

- **Health and wellness:** Parks and recreation promote improved physical and mental health. This not only helps people feel better, but also can help lower medical and insurance costs for participants taking advantage of those facilities and activities.
- **Conservation and resiliency:** Park and recreation agencies' protection of land, water, trees, open spaces, and wildlife improves air and water quality in communities. Through effective land management methods and green infrastructure investments, parks and recreation make communities more resilient to natural disasters, reducing disaster recovery and insurance costs.
- **Property values:** Economic research has demonstrated consistently that homes and properties located near parklands have higher values than those located farther away. Higher home values not only benefit the owners of these properties, but also add to the tax base of local governments.
- **Economic development:** Parks and recreation improves the quality of life in communities and benefits the local economic development of a region. Critically, park and recreation amenities are the cornerstones to improving a locality's quality of life — a significant factor in attracting employers and workers to an area. In Colorado, local parks and recreation agencies employ 41,976 full and part-time workers and generate \$2,196,664,230 in salaries, wages and benefits.
- **Visitor spending:** Many local park and recreation agency amenities spur tourism to their respective locales, generating significant economic activity, including (but not limited to) increased sales at local restaurants/bars and hotels. An August 2017 NRPA Park Pulse poll found that people seek out park and recreation amenities — such as beaches, parks, trails and secluded and relaxing places — when choosing a vacation destination.

**LOCAL COLORADO PARKS AND RECREATION AGENCY SPENDING GENERATES \$6,982,346,026 IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ACROSS THE STATE.**

**When combined with the ability to deliver healthier and happier communities, the powerful impact parks and recreation has on economic activity highlights the fact that park and recreation agency offerings are not merely a “nice-to-have” luxury government service. Instead, parks and recreation transforms our cities, towns and counties into vibrant and prosperous communities for all.**

**Data Sources:** IMPLAN, Center for Regional Analysis – George Mason University for NRPA; U.S. Census Bureau



# Parks

The City's system of parks plays a major role in promoting a sense of community and healthy lifestyle and contribute to the economic and environmental well-being of Woodland Park. This section addresses park classification standards, levels of service, and key recommendations.



# PARK CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

The Parks and Recreation Department manages a variety of park lands and facilities of varying sizes, uses, amenities, functions, and programming. A park classification system was established in the 2007 Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan. Park classification is useful for inventory, planning, asset management, and identifying staff maintenance needs. The classification system sets mutual expectations between the department and the community regarding the look, function and management of various types of facilities.

A classification system can be integrated with Level of Service to calculate existing and proposed level of service metrics. The park classification standards table provides a general description of the recommended service area, access provisions and appropriate amenities for each type of park. The list of amenities is not intended to be prescriptive or exclusive. The amenities for any individual park should be determined through site planning that involves the surrounding community. All parks should be designed to serve multiple age segments and abilities.

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Site Criteria	Example
<b>Mini-Park</b>	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Serves residents within ½ mile radius	Between 1,500 sq. ft. and 2 acres.	Peyton's Park/Open Space
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	The neighborhood park is the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. The focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	.5 to 1 mile radius uninterrupted by major roads or barriers	2 acres min.; 5 - 10 acres optimal	Cavalier Park, Crestwood Park, Chimney Park, Sun Valley Park
<b>Community Park</b>	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, preserving unique landscapes for self-directed recreation, and providing programmed athletic fields and facilities for competition.	Strategically located community-wide facilities; local and regional draw	20-50 acres	Memorial Park; Meadow Wood Sports Complex
<b>School Park</b>	Combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	School district property	Variable	Gateway Park, Columbine Park
<b>Special Use Park</b>	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable	Dependent on uses	Red Mountain Adventure Park

# PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of Service (LOS) guidelines are targets that define the quantity of parkland relative to population.

**The existing park LOS is compared to the target LOS for each park classification in the table below.**

LOS can and will change over time. As the population increases, LOS standards should be reviewed and revised accordingly while remaining realistic. The planning team evaluated the City’s existing LOS to determine guidelines for the future, taking the following into consideration:

- Population projections
- Supply of existing undeveloped City parkland
- Ability for the City to acquire new parkland
- Community input and needs prioritization
- Ability for the City to financially sustain high quality parks
- Staff capacity to maintain current and future developed parks
- Target LOS compared to peer agencies in the surrounding region

This plan recommends that the City increase its current level of service to meet park LOS targets, as resources allow. This recommendation is based on the following:

- According to the results of the first online questionnaire, the community generally feels well served by parks, despite LOS deficiencies for certain park classifications. The City’s immediate proximity to the Pike National Forest can be credited with helping to meet local demand for self-directed outdoor recreation and experiences in a natural setting.
- The City has 16.5 acres of undeveloped mini- and neighborhood parkland. Developing these parks will allow the City to meet its target LOS.
- Surrounded by Pike National Forest, the City will likely not expand, therefore land for larger parks like sports complexes and community parks is very limited.
- Financial strain of current asset maintenance and lifecycle replacement.

The City’s current and target LOS for each park classification is summarized in the table below. The table does not include a target LOS standard for special use parks as these parks serve a specialized purpose in response to a distinct community need.

Developed Park Level of Service Comparison (Park Acres per 1000 Residents)			
Classification	Current LOS	Target LOS	Parks Inventory
Mini Park	.16 acres/1000	.5 acres/1000	Lions Park; Bergstrom Park; History Park; Peyton’s Park
Neighborhood Park	1.3 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000	Crestwood Park; Red Mountain Adventure Park; Cavalier Park; Regency Park
Community Park	5.74 /1000	5 acres/1000	Memorial Park; Meadow Wood Sports Complex
School Parks	9.9 acres/1000	N/A*	Columbine Elementary; Woodland Park Middle School; Gateway Elementary and High School

\*School parks are developed and managed by the school district rather than the City of Woodland Park.

# PARKS RECOMMENDATIONS

## OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

- P.1 Develop the City’s undeveloped parks according to neighborhood preferences. Prioritize park development in deficient neighborhoods. Conduct neighborhood-level outreach to prepare site-specific plans for each park.
- P.2 Develop a lifecycle replacement plan for park amenities and facilities; incorporate into annual Department Capital Improvements Plan.
- P.3 Identify locations in existing or undeveloped parks for highly desired community amenities such as: permanent restrooms, pickleball courts, gathering spaces & picnic areas, teen “play” equipment or hang-out areas.
- P.4 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and staff should review the Parks Dedication requirements in Chapter 17.36 of the Subdivision regulations every two years.

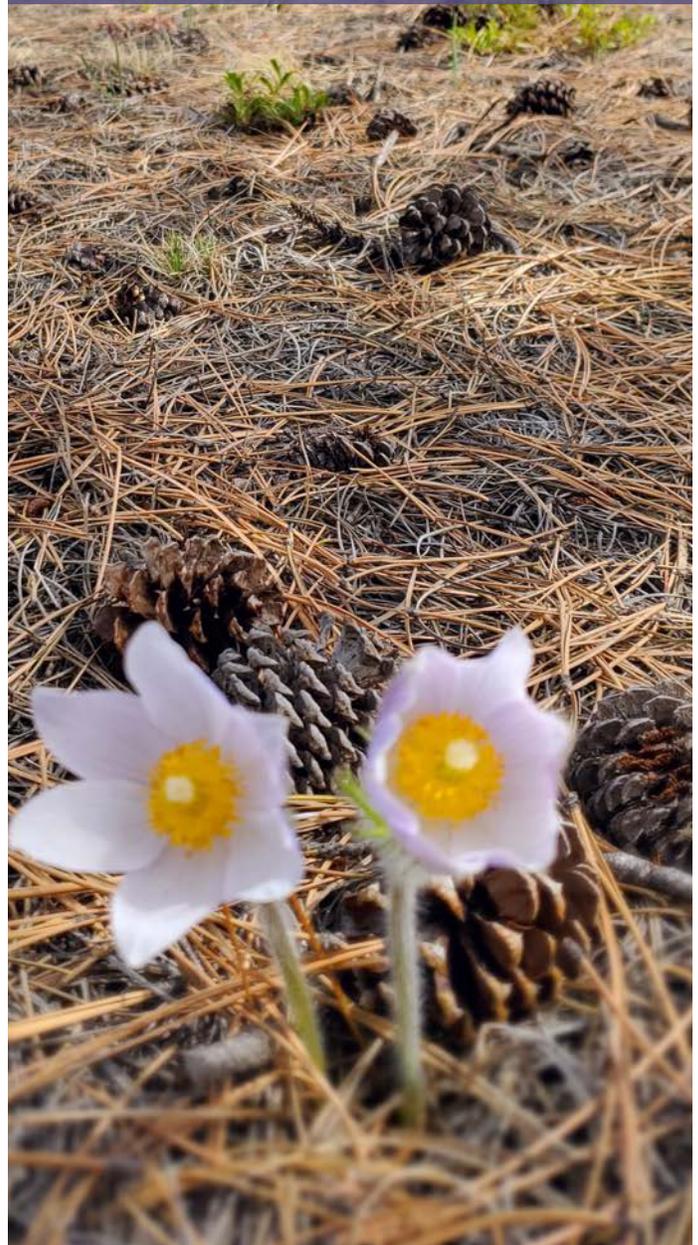
## PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- P.5 Update the 2003 Meadow Wood Sports Complex Master Plan with community input.
  - Plan for installation of pickleball courts while continuing to provide adequate court capacity for tennis.
  - Address drainage issues, turf replacement, and other improvements.
  - Support Woodland Park Hockey Association efforts to implement phased improvements to the hockey facility, prioritizing user safety.
  - Support Woodland Park High School baseball team efforts to implement phased improvements to Panther Field.
- P.6 Develop a Capital Improvements Plan for Memorial Park.
- P.7 Evaluate feasibility of establishing a mountain bike skills area at Crestwood Park where riders can warm-up or practice skills before applying them on adjacent Lovell Gulch Trail.
- P.8 Develop master plan that identifies improvements and estimated costs for Cavalier Park consistent with neighborhood preferences.
- P.9 Convert BMX course at Red Mountain Adventure Park into pump track or bicycle playground.

## UNDEVELOPED PARKS

- Park View Estates
- Chimney Park
- Country Ridge
- Sun Valley Park
- Hilltop Park
- Paradise Bus Stop

See Chapter 2 for map of undeveloped and developed parks.



# Open Space and Greenways



Protected open space provides a multitude of benefits for ecosystems, wildlife, and human society by promoting biodiversity, providing climate resiliency benefits, enhancing public health and quality of life. This section addresses open space classification standards, the Land Value Rating System, and key recommendations.

## OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION AND STANDARDS

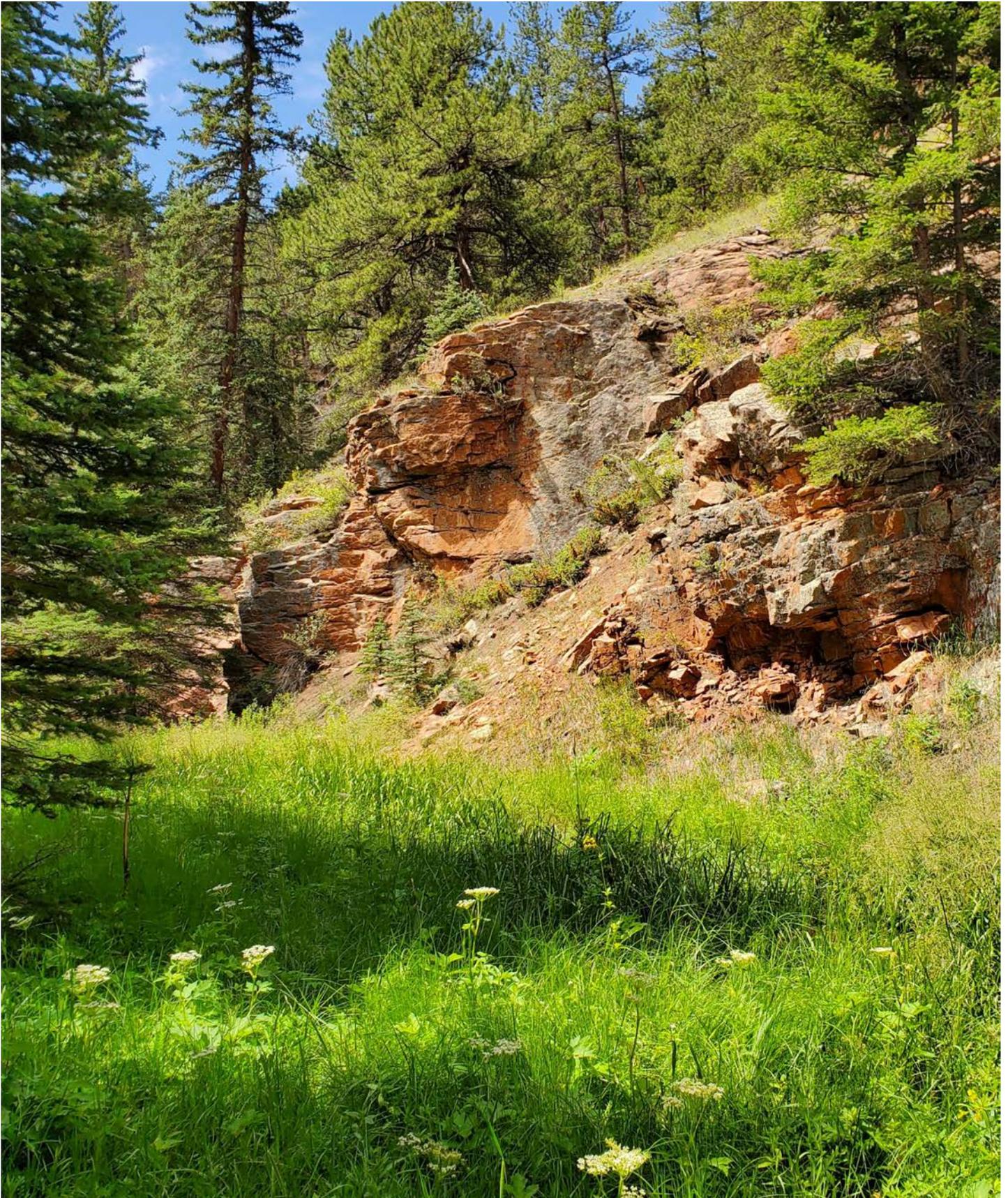
The Parks and Recreation Department manages two types of open space: Natural Areas and Greenways. Like the park classifications, open space classifications are useful for planning, asset management, and identifying staff maintenance needs. The classification system sets mutual expectations between the department and the community regarding the function and management of open space lands. The open space classification standards table provides a general description of the classification category, site criteria and appropriate levels of development.

## OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

- OS.1 Continue an opportunistic approach to land acquisition or acceptance into the City's open space portfolio that:
  - Prioritizes high-value conservation land as identified by applying the Land Value Rating System (detailed on the following pages).
  - Supports trail system development through strategic acquisition along future trail corridors..
  - Leverages partnerships with the USFS, Palmer Land Conservancy, and the Nature Conservancy
- OS.2 Continue working closely with the Planning Department to evaluate land dedication regulations and standards and evaluate open space acquisition opportunities that result from new development.

### Open Space Classification Standards

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Site Criteria	Example
Natural Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering	Opportunistic based on resource availability	Variable; not more than 10% of site area dedicated to developed features; may have trails and trailside amenities	Peyton's Park, Paradise Estates Natural Area, Loft Village Park, Forest Edge Open Space
Greenway	Often linear tracts of land following natural features such as creek or drainage; effectively connect park system components to form a continuous park environment	Opportunistic based on resource availability	Variable; remains undeveloped	Fountain Creek Greenway; Paradise Estates Greenway



# OPEN SPACE LAND VALUE RATING SYSTEM

The following table provides criteria for evaluating land as it becomes available for acquisition or acceptance into the City's open space program when offered by developers. Land is evaluated according to 10 primary criteria:

- Availability
- Parcel characteristics
- Habitat quality
- Scenic quality/  
viewshed protection
- Future trail connectivity
- Ability to provide recreation access
- Funding availability
- Long term management
- Development risk
- Liability

Land Value Rating System				
	Land Availability	Funding Availability	Parcel Characteristics	Habitat Quality
High Value ↑	Motivated landowner; willing to sell less than fair market value	Significant funding provided by partner agency	25+ acres OR contiguous to existing open space, parks, or protected land	Multiple hydrologic features, high quality habitat, OR identified wildlife movement corridor
	Motivated landowner; requires fair market value	Some funding provided by partner agency	10-25 acres; adjacent to planned open space or parks	Contains one hydrologic feature; moderate quality habitat
↓ Low Value	Not available; unmotivated landowner	No funding support from partner agency	less than 10 acres; noncontiguous	No hydrologic features; degraded habitat

## Value Rating System

Scenic Quality & Viewshed Protection	Future Trail Connectivity	Recreation Access	Development Risk	Longterm Management	Liability
High quality, unobstructed views from property OR protects viewshed of Pikes Peak and other ridgelines OR protects natural/rural character of City gateways	Located on proposed trail route identified in adopted local or regional plan	Accessible from existing or planned trails and major streets; on-site parking feasible	Located within a PUD, subdivision, or identified commercial development	Monitored and managed by partner agency	Low risk; little to no liability
Moderate quality views from property; semi-obstructed viewshed of Pikes Peak and ridgelines; not located at gateway	Not located on proposed trail route, but connects City activity centers, destinations, or other trails	Accessible from existing or planned trails and secondary public streets	Located within City growth area, but not a proposed development plan	Joint management agreement between City & partner agency	Moderate risk; some liability
No views from property; does not protect viewsheds; not located at City gateway	Not located on proposed trail route; would not facilitate trail connectivity	Not easily accessible or located on existing or planned transportation network	Not located in a growth area or proposed development plan	City responsible for management & monitoring	High risk; high level of liability



# Recreation and Aquatics Programming

Woodland Park has offered recreation programming since early 1980's when adult education programs evolved into the City's Parks and Recreation Department. In 2023, the Department offers 12 youth sports leagues and programs with agency partners, four adult sports programs, and eight lifestyle and leisure programs, serving over 4,000 participants per year from Woodland Park and the surrounding community.

The Woodland Aquatic Center opened in 2017 and vastly expanded recreation programming capabilities to include water sports, classes, and trainings. The aquatic center offers eight programs and four popular special events throughout the year with approximately 2,000 daily entries to the facility each month.

This section of the chapter identifies key recommendations related to recreation and aquatics in Woodland Park.

## RECREATION AND AQUATICS RECOMMENDATIONS

- RA.1 Conduct feasibility study with detailed cost estimate for developing indoor recreation center expansion of the Woodland Aquatic Center.
- RA.2 Pursue opportunities to provide winter recreation programs and events:
  - Community-wide winter festival or event
  - Sledding hill
  - Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails
- RA.3 Partner with the Senior Center to provide classroom space for older adult recreation programs.
- RA.4 Expand programming to meet community demand. Consider opportunities to partner with local organizations:
  - Arts and Crafts classes
  - Plant identification classes and community gardens
  - Pilot programs for adult sports leagues
  - Pickleball programming and tournaments
  - Tennis league and/or tournaments
- RA.5 Continue offering existing aquatics programs and special events while exploring opportunities to expand aquatic fitness classes as desired by the community.
- RA.6 Add tennis/pickleball court reservation options to existing online reservation system.
- RA.7 Survey the community every 2-5 years to determine if the menu of programs and activities meets community demand. Segment results based on resident status to quantify resident versus non-resident participation and identify differences between the groups. Consider this data when reviewing rates and fee structure.
- RA.8 Conduct participant satisfaction surveys at the conclusion of classes and programs to evaluate operational efficiency and effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

**TOP FIVE INDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES DESIRED BY WOODLAND PARK COMMUNITY:**

- 1. Multi-purpose Courts**
- 2. Multi-purpose Rooms**
- 3. Cardio Equipment**
- 4. Rock Climbing or Bouldering Wall**
- 5. Running/Walking Track**

\*Source: Online Community Questionnaire, 2022



# Trails

Public engagement results from the 2021-2022 Comprehensive Plan and more recently, from the PRTOS planning process, have consistently demonstrated high levels of community support for establishing a coordinated and interconnected system of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open space connected by high quality paved and natural surface trails.

Trails allow users to self-direct their experience resulting in broad appeal to a variety of user types, abilities, and are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike often free of charge. They serve a recreational purpose as well as support an active transportation network that accommodates multiple modes of mobility by connecting to the City’s sidewalks and on-street bicycle infrastructure.

This section addresses trail classifications and standards, level of service, identifies future trail projects, and makes key recommendations for realizing the City’s vision of an interconnected trail system.

## TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

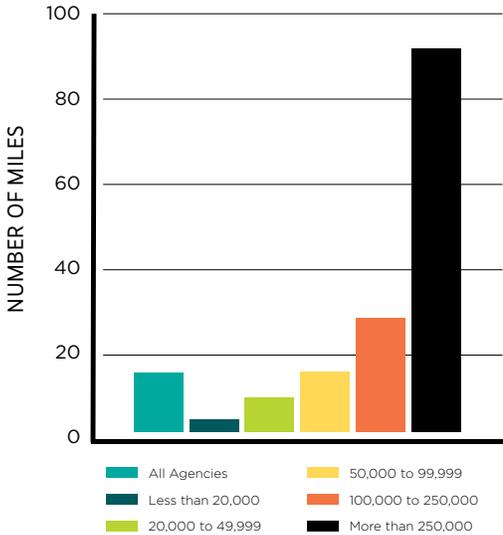
The Parks and Recreation Department manages four types of trails and pathways. Like the park and open space classifications, trail classifications are useful for planning, identifying staff maintenance needs, and communicating expectations to developers when required to build planned trail segments. The classification system sets mutual expectations between the department and the community regarding the function and management of trails. The trail classifications provide a general description of the intended user groups, preferred design standards, location, and context.

## TRAIL LEVEL OF SERVICE

The National Recreation and Parks Association reports that, in 2022, 81 percent of parks and recreation agencies provide trails and multi-use paths as components of their outdoor recreation infrastructure. Agencies serving populations under 20,000, like Woodland Park, provide a median of three miles of trails. By this metric, Woodland Park is exceeding the number of trail miles typically provided by agencies of its size, however, high-achieving agencies serving under 20,000 residents are providing up to ten miles of trails for their community.

Given community demand for trails within and surrounding Woodland Park and significant opportunities to leverage ongoing projects in the Pikes Peak area for regional connectivity, this plan recommends that the City increase its current level of service to expand the City’s trail system, as resources and staff capacity allow. The following section includes recommendations to systematically and strategically grow the Woodland Park trail network.

**FIGURE 4: MILES OF TRAIL (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)**



	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More than 250,000
Median	14.0	3.0	8.0	14.0	27.0	91.0
Lower Quartile	5.0	2.0	4.0	7.0	13.0	40.0
Upper Quartile	39.0	10.0	18.0	29.0	53.0	168.0

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# TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

## REGIONAL TRAIL

Multi-purpose paved trail that traverses rural, urban, suburban settings while connecting Woodland Park to other communities, local destinations, parks, and open spaces. Accommodates the greatest number of users including: cyclists, walkers/runners, bike commuters, XC skiing in winter. Recreation destination for visitors. May have adjacent parallel crusher gravel fines trail.



American Discovery/Ute Pass Trail

**Surface:** Concrete (possible soft surface parallel trail)

**Corridor/Easement**

**Width:** 30-50ft.

**Tread Width:** 10ft.

**Shoulder Width:** 2ft.

**Vertical Clearance:**12ft.

**Horizontal Clearance:** 3ft.+

**Grade:** Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible, up to 8.3%, ideally 5% or less

**Trailheads:** At major access points

**Lighting:** At trailheads and access points, underpasses, crosswalks and intersections

**Signs:** Regulatory, wayfinding, interpretive, mile or confidence markers.

## ON-STREET SIDEPATH

At-grade multi-use trail within or adjacent to street right-of-way, parallel to the roadway. Requires physical separation between vehicle lane and trail in the form of curb and gutter landscaped or natural verge, bollards, or other barrier. May have adjacent parallel crusher fines trail. Consider sidepaths instead of sidewalk and bike lane combination, where right-of-way allows. Primary user groups: cyclists, walkers/runners, bike commuters.



Example Sidepath (FHWA Rural Design Guide)

**Surface:** Concrete or asphalt

**Corridor/Easement**

**Width:** 15-25ft.

**Tread Width:** 8ft.

**Shoulder Width:** 2-3ft.

**Vertical Clearance:** 12ft.

**Horizontal Clearance:** 3ft.

**Grade:** ADA accessible, up to 8.3%, ideally 5% or less

**Trailheads:** N/A

**Lighting:** At access points, crosswalks and intersections

**Signs:** Regulatory, wayfinding at intersections, confidence markers

## CONNECTOR TRAILS

Urban/suburban trail that connects local neighborhoods to parks, open space, civic destinations, and regional trails for commuting or recreation. Primary user groups: cyclists, walkers/runners, bike commuters. May have adjacent parallel crusher fines trail.



Connector from Paradise Circle to Hwy. 24 Underpass

## NATURAL SURFACE

Backcountry; soft-surface trail that is primarily used by hikers, trail runners, equestrians, mountain bikers, snowshoeing in winter. May be single-use directional trails for hiking OR mountain biking only to prevent user conflicts.



Mule Creek Trail

**Surface:** Concrete or crushed gravel path  
**Corridor/Easement**  
**Width:** 20-30ft.  
**Tread Width:** 8ft.  
**Shoulder Width:** 2ft.  
**Vertical Clearance:**12ft.  
**Horizontal Clearance:** 3ft.+  
**Grade:** ADA accessible, up to 8.3%, ideally 5% or less

**Trailheads:** No standalone trailheads; access points at neighborhoods, parks, commercial areas, civic destinations  
**Lighting:** At trailheads and access points, underpasses, crosswalks and intersections. Utilize adjacent. Roadway lighting where appropriate.  
**Signs:** Regulatory, wayfinding, confidence markers.

**Surface:** Natural soil, although may be crushed gravel fines in some locations  
**Corridor/Easement**  
**Width:** 10-15ft.  
**Tread Width:** 3-6ft.  
**Shoulder Width:** N/A.  
**Vertical Clearance:** 10ft.  
**Horizontal Clearance:** 1.5ft.

**Grade:** 5-15%; Up to 8.3% for ADA; . Steps may be required on hiking-only trails steeper than 10%  
**Trailheads:** At major access points  
**Lighting:** At trailheads and access points  
**Signs:** Regulatory, wayfinding at intersections, confidence markers

# TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

## OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

- T.1 Establish a Woodland Park Trails Task Force that convenes local and area trail professionals and advocates to guide trail network development through advocacy, fundraising, maintenance, easement acquisition, and leveraging partnerships with regional trail organizations to establish, expand, and maintain the network here in Woodland Park.
- T.2 Create a Trails Coordinator position to serve as the staff liaison to the Trails Task Force and coordinate trail system development.
- T.3 Work with consultant to complete detailed trail system plan that identifies preliminary and alternative alignments in coordination with the Pikes Peak Range District through formal USFS planning and NEPA process. The plan should:
  - Validate route feasibility, engage the community and landowners, prioritize, and develop cost estimates for all proposed trails within City limits, especially trail segments that complete the “Ring the Park” concept as shown on the Proposed Trails Map (page 61).
  - Prioritize connectivity to neighborhoods, schools, parks, downtown or activity centers, and regional trails.
- T.4 Work with Teller County to construct the section of the ADT to close the gap between Woodland Park’s constructed sections.
- T.5 Advocate for a multi-use trail to be included in CDOT’s plans for the US24 Bypass or “reliever route” in order to facilitate an opportunity for a connection to the Ring the Peak trail system.

## TRAIL CHARACTER AND USER EXPERIENCE

- T.6 Update engineering specifications for trail design in alignment with the classifications in this plan.
- T.7 After completion of Trails System Plan, work with consulting firm to develop a comprehensive wayfinding plan that includes design specifications and incorporates branding of regional trails where appropriate. Identify locations for interactive trailside exhibits and art, in addition to sign locations.
- T.8 Install trailside interactive recreation or play elements, interpretive signs or kiosks, and public art.
- T.9 Where feasible and appropriate, consider multi-use sidepath or natural surface trail in place of planned sidewalks and bike lanes.
- T.10 Work with the Chamber of Commerce and other partners to increase awareness of the City’s existing trails. Promote use of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) online map and mobile app for digital trail maps.

## MAINTENANCE & SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

- T.11 Pursue formalized maintenance agreement with county and USFS trail management partners for the Centennial Trail.
- T.12 Ensure sustainable natural surface trail design and construction by contracting with trail-builders who are members of the Professional Trail Builders Association, International Mountain Bike Association Trail Solutions, or similar expertise and rigorous design standards.

**MORE TRAILS, PLEASE!**

**83% OF RESPONDENTS TO THE ONLINE COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE WANT MORE NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS.**

**76% OF RESPONDENTS WANT MORE PAVED TRAILS.**

\*Source: Online Community Questionnaire, 2022

# TRAIL PLANNING & THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

*Adapted from Ready, Set, Plan!? An Introductory Guide to Trail Planning and Development by the Oregon Trails Coalition*

Federal land management agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, have national and district-level policies, priorities, and strategies that guide their decision-making around trails. The USFS has standards and priorities established at the national level that include guidance documents such as the National Strategy for a Sustainable Trails System. They also have forest-level management plans that give more specific guidance about the constraints and priorities in specific ranger districts, drainages, timber stands, sensitive areas such as riparian conservation areas (RCA) and wildland-urban interfaces (WUI), etc. The USFS also has well-defined standards and definitions for trail specifications and maintenance levels.

The Pike National Forest is governed by a Forest Management Plan and the Pikes Peak Ranger District has further developed Travel Management Plans for specific planning areas including the South Rampart Study Area (2011) immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of Woodland Park. These plans designate resource protection areas; areas for further recreational development; and overall goals for managing, developing, or decommissioning different types of recreational opportunities or trails to protect natural resources and keep the trail inventory at a level that can be maintained by staff and partners.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING

The Woodland Park area is home to several user-built trails that did not go through a formal planning process. Trails built without planning and expertise may face challenges:

1. The USFS does not recognize user-built trails or “social trails” that do not go through the formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process. Such trails are considered non-system trails and are not authorized or maintained by the USFSs.
2. Unnecessary and harmful erosion and degradation of the trail itself and surrounding landscape.
3. Hazards either in the original construction or due to degradation.
4. Degradation to sensitive plant species and wildlife habitat.
5. Trails that the USFS does not maintain because they are not part of the legally-authorized trail system.
6. Physical features that create inaccessible barriers that exclude a variety of potential trail users (such as uncompacted substrates, side slopes, steps, tree roots, rocks, narrow passage between trees, etc.)

While planning processes can sometimes feel like unnecessary red tape, trail planning aims to ensure legal compliance with federal agency policies and regulations, sustainable design, agency and/or community capacity to build and maintain the system, safety, protection of natural resources and species, and an equitable system that meets the needs of multiple users.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

Projects that are on federal lands or that receive federal funding are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed major federal actions prior to making decisions. These environmental analyses may take the form of Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Assessments, or Categorical Exclusions.

Large projects may require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS analyzes the impacts of an action that “will have a significant effect on the environment.”

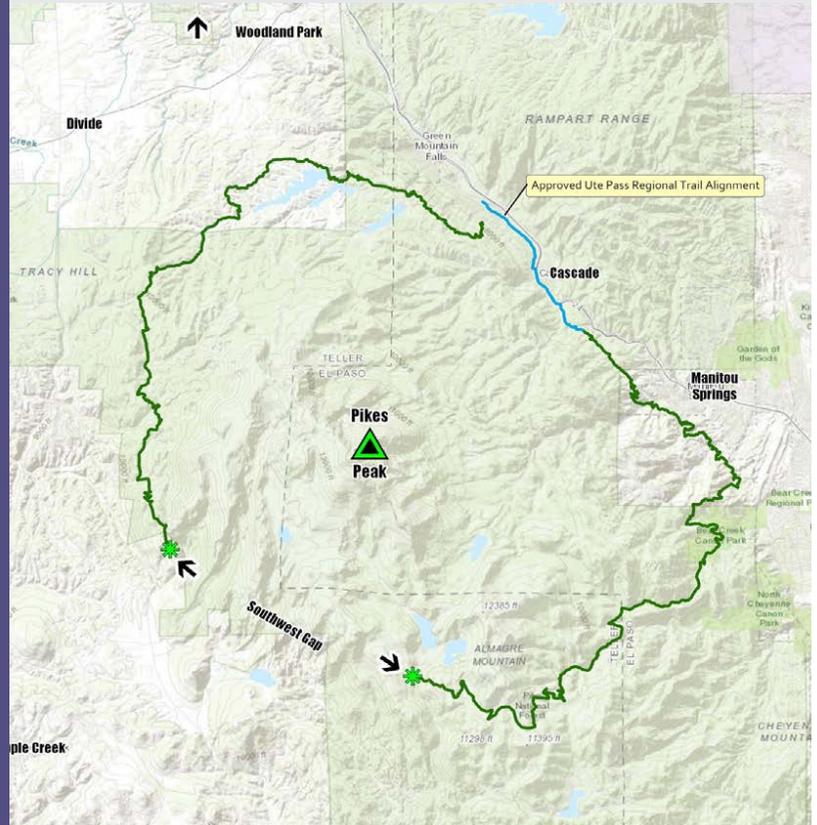
Like an EIS, an Environmental Assessment (EA) also identifies environmental effects of a proposed action, determines their significance, and outlines ways to mitigate them. EAs, however, are reserved for proposed actions unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment. An EA takes less time and is less comprehensive than an EIS.

Federal land management agencies may be able to streamline the NEPA processes for some trail projects through the development of documents such as Categorical Exclusions (CE).

EAs and EISs typically require the coordination of an interdisciplinary team of experts such as biologists, geologists, archaeologists, etc. The capacity to conduct EAs or EISs can be a major bottleneck for many trail projects as there may be other uses or proposed projects already in the queue for study. Finally, even when a trail project goes through the formal NEPA process, it is not guaranteed to be authorized. Authorization depends on the results of the NEPA analysis.

## RING THE PEAK

Ring the Peak is a trail initiative to connect cities, towns, and communities at the base of Pikes Peak by a loop trail that encircles the iconic mountain. Completing the Ring around Pikes Peak has been actively pursued by trail advocates and public land management organizations for decades and a community goal since the late 1990's. When completed, the Ring will be a magnet for adventure seekers and become an economic driver for the region. A coalition of regional partners completed the Ring the Peak Master Plan in 2019 which establishes the preferred trail corridor for the southwest section of The Ring. While Woodland Park does not have a direct physical connection to Ring the Peak, if construction of the proposed Highway 24 reliever route occurs, it could provide an opportunity to extend a multi-use trail south as a connector to the Ring.



## RING THE PARK

“Ring the Park” is a longstanding trail concept within Woodland Park that has consistently been identified as a priority for the community through multiple public outreach campaigns conducted for the 2022 Comprehensive Plan and the development of this PRTOS plan. The conceptual trail would encircle Woodland Park providing an off-street route for circumnavigating the City by foot, bike, and other mobility device. The Ring Trail is envisioned to link existing trail segments for overall network connectivity. Realizing Ring the Park would greatly expand non-vehicular transportation options and recreation within the City. Identifying feasible alignments and trail character for Ring the Park should be the top priority for a Citywide Trails System Plan

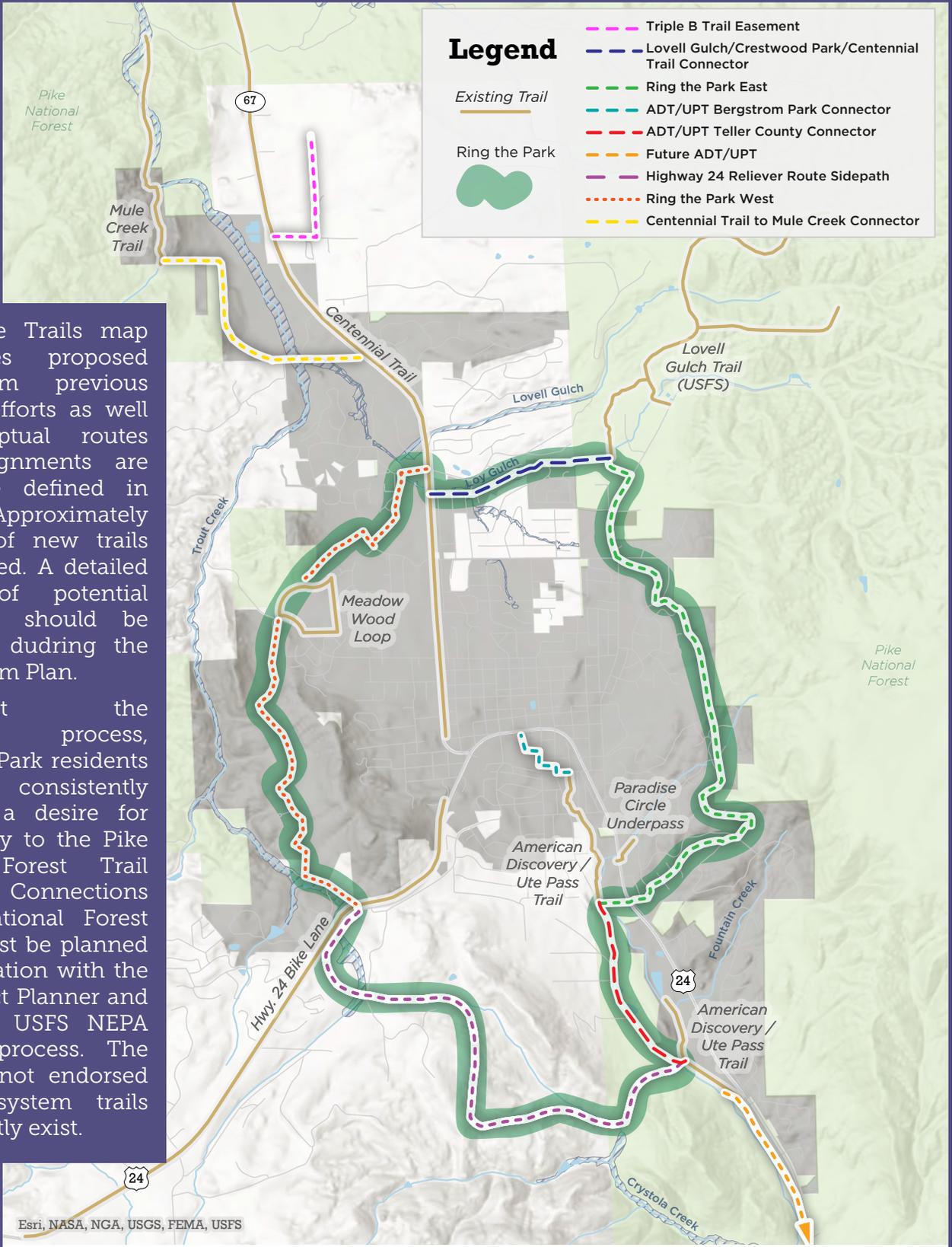
# MAP 7: CONCEPTUAL FUTURE TRAILS

**Legend**

- Triple B Trail Easement
- Lovell Gulch/Crestwood Park/Centennial Trail Connector
- Ring the Park East
- ADT/UPT Bergstrom Park Connector
- ADT/UPT Teller County Connector
- Future ADT/UPT
- Highway 24 Reliever Route Sidepath
- Ring the Park West
- Centennial Trail to Mule Creek Connector

*Existing Trail*

Ring the Park



The Future Trails map consolidates proposed trails from previous planning efforts as well as conceptual routes whose alignments are yet to be defined in detail. Approximately 15 miles of new trails are proposed. A detailed analysis of potential alignments should be conducted during the Trails System Plan.

Throughout the planning process, Woodland Park residents have consistently expressed a desire for connectivity to the Pike National Forest Trail System. Connections to the National Forest system must be planned in coordination with the Pike District Planner and follow the USFS NEPA planning process. The USFS has not endorsed any non-system trails that currently exist.





# Ute Pass Cultural Center & Special Events

The Ute Pass Cultural Center (UPCC) is the City's primary venue for unique educational and cultural events. It hosts a wide variety of events each year including concerts, festivals, weddings, family reunions, and other private events. The City also rents the Midland Pavilion, a rustic outdoor amphitheater adjacent to the UPCC. In warmer months, the amphitheater is used for outdoor concerts, community festivals, and weddings.

In 2022-2023, the City is fulfilling a recommendation of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan to improve safety and functionality by upgrading audio/visual capabilities, installing air-conditioning, and installing a fire sprinkler system. However, as an older, historic structure additional improvements are needed to keep the UPCC competitive in the events venue market.

## UPCC AND SPECIAL EVENTS RECOMMENDATIONS

- U.1 Partner with local theater company and other performing arts groups to reconstruct the UPCC stage and optimize for performances.
- U.2 Continue offering public events that meet community preferences.
- U.3 Establish an annual special events budget for City-hosted events to guide event programming decisions such as the number and type of events that the City can feasibly offer each year based on expense and revenue projections.
- U.4 Collaborate with other City departments and partner agencies to implement Arts and Culture action items identified in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan.

### ***MOST-PREFERRED COMMUNITY EVENTS:***

- 1. Concerts**
- 2. Local Theater Performances**
- 3. Arts & Crafts Festivals**
- 4. Outdoor Movies**

*Source: Online Community Questionnaire, 2022*





# Sustainability

A healthy environment is integral to the long-term economic interests of Woodland Park as a gateway community to Pike’s Peak and destination for visitors.

By adopting the 2022 Comprehensive Plan, the City has demonstrated a commitment to protecting and restoring the natural environment as growth management and economic development decisions are made.

Sustainable management, maintenance, and development of PRTOS facilities and properties is increasingly important as natural resources, such as water, become scarcer and climate impacts intensify. Sustainable maintenance and management practices often translate to long term cost savings by making parks and facilities less resource and labor intensive.

While specific sustainable practices may vary from community to community, economic, environmental, and social issues are interrelated and the most effective solutions focus on long-term integrated systems approaches to asset and resource management, public and environmental health outcomes, and quality-of-life impacts.

This section draws inspiration from and expands upon the 2022 Comprehensive Plan sustainability actions by focusing on recommendations specific to parks and recreation asset management and maintenance.

## SUSTAINABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

### WATER CONSERVATION

- S.1 Replace water-intensive accent landscaping with low water-use native and regionally-adapted plant materials where appropriate.
- S.2 Track water usage per park to identify resource-intensive parks to target for reduction efforts.
- S.3 Use recycled and/or non-potable water for landscaping and irrigation, where appropriate, and expand the usage of graywater.

### WASTE REDUCTION

- S.4 Provide recycling bins at every park and facility.
- S.5 Install water bottle refill stations at the City’s most visited parks and facilities.
- S.6 Provide recycling at all events in City parks or the UPCC.
- S.7 Repurpose existing materials and use renewable products whenever possible.

### WATER QUALITY AND STORMWATER

- S.8 Work with the City Public Works and Engineering departments to maximize stormwater and flood management through park and greenway features.
- S.9 Consider ADA-compliant permeable pavement and pervious concrete solutions for new construction and when replacing existing impervious surfaces such as parking lots and paved pads for picnic shelters.

### LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- S.10 Evaluate benefits and tradeoffs of converting existing grass sports fields to turf based on the following considerations:
  - Intended athletic use of the field (type of sport; importance of ball bounce and roll)
  - Water use and maintenance requirements
  - Durability
  - Length of seasonal use
  - Risk of injury to athletes
  - Environmental and health impacts due to chemical use (grass fertilizers) or presence of PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) also known as “forever chemicals” in synthetic turf products
  - Maintenance and replacement cost
- S.11 Convert grass turf to drought-resistant native grasses and pollinator species, where appropriate, to reduce maintenance and water usage.
- S.12 Reduce pesticide and herbicide use in parks where feasible.
- S.13 Identify opportunities to assist with integrated pest management (e.g., bat roosts to help control mosquito populations).

## CHAPTER 4

### NOXIOUS WEEDS AND INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- S.14 Practice an integrated approach to weed management.
- S.15 Survey and document noxious weeds and invasive species in parks, facilities, and trails every three years. Update inventory anytime noxious weeds are observed in a new location.
- S.16 Seek funding for weed control through the Colorado Weed Management Grants, CPW, and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service and other aligning programs.
- S.17 Regularly clean maintenance equipment to wash away seeds from noxious weeds and invasive species, ideally between use in different parks and open space.
- S.18 Minimize ground disturbance and soil compaction resulting from construction and maintenance activities by limiting heavy equipment trips and turnaround sites.
- S.19 Reduce the spread of noxious weeds along trails during mowing operations by mowing prior to seed maturation.
- S.20 Require contractors to comply with preventative measures to limit spread of noxious weed and invasive species.
- S.21 Immediately re-establish all disturbed vegetation through seeding or planting of native materials.

### BUILT FACILITIES

- S.22 Use the [SITES \(v2\) rating system](#) process to guide new construction and major renovations to existing parks and facilities to measure, evaluate, and identify ways to maximize project sustainability.
- S.23 Establish a policy for preferred use of local materials in park and facility maintenance and construction.
- S.24 Utilize green building practices in new construction and upgrades to existing Department facilities.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

- S.25 Identify and pursue opportunities to install photovoltaic (solar) panels on park facilities or properties where appropriate.
- S.26 Replace aging equipment with battery electric and rechargeable park and facility maintenance equipment.
- S.27 Replace aging Department vehicles with electric vehicles through the regular lifecycle replacement process.
- S.28 Develop a plan for Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure that identifies opportunities for public charging stations at parks and recreation facilities.
- S.29 Replace aging appliance and fixtures with energy and water efficient models.

### Noxious Weed and Invasive Species Management Techniques

#### Technique

#### Definition

Mechanical

Physical removal by mowing, mulching, tilling, prescribed burning, grazing or hand pulling.

Cultural

Enhancement of the native plant community using fertility management or re-vegetation.

Biological

Releasing a weed's native natural enemies using insects, grazing animals or disease.

Chemical

Destroying weeds using herbicides that do not adversely affect the desired plant community.



Credit: Kierstyn Peterson





# **Implementation**

**PLAN MAINTENANCE**

**PRIORITIZATION**

**TOTAL SYSTEM COST**

**PROGRAM FEES & COST RECOVERY**

**FUNDING STRATEGIES**

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**DEPARTMENT CAPACITY AND STAFFING**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

**IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX**

## CHAPTER 5

The Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Plan provides a wide-ranging framework of management strategies and recommendations to guide decision-making across multiple levels of community action from City government to strategic partnerships with local organizations, federal, and state agencies. The true impact of this plan will come from diligent and consistent efforts toward accomplishing the actions identified in the previous chapter to achieve and sustain the community's vision for parks, recreation, trails, and open space.

This chapter addresses critical topics for plan implementation including plan maintenance, project prioritization, cost estimates, cost recovery, funding strategies, partnerships, and Department capacity.

# Plan Maintenance

Planning for continued success of the City's PRTOS offerings is an ongoing practice. Department staff should review progress on plan implementation each year when developing the Department's annual report, budget, and capital improvement plan.

Staff should regularly monitor progress toward achieving the plan's goals and track implementation of specific actions. A full plan update should occur every 10 years to reflect completed actions, respond to new opportunities, identify solutions to unanticipated challenges, and keep current on technological innovations and the emergence of new best-practices in PRTOS management.



# Prioritization

## PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

To prioritize projects that best meet the needs of the community despite limited funding sources, the following criteria are proposed for project evaluation. The criteria are grouped into four categories. All projects should demonstrate financial viability prior to inception.

It is critical to address deferred maintenance needs to provide a high quality and safe parks and recreation system. As funding and resources become available, or as citizen needs evolve, prioritization may change in response to new opportunities, constraints or community preferences.

### FINANCIAL VIABILITY

All projects must demonstrate that funding is available for both capital and long-term operations and maintenance costs. The City should not take on a project that it cannot afford to maintain.

### IMMEDIATE NEED

Projects that address immediate public health and safety needs, code compliance, and Federal and State requirements should take precedence over other choices.

**Health, Safety, Welfare And Regulatory Compliance.** Does the project involve upgrades that will bring a site or facility into compliance with codes and regulations (such as ADA), and improve the health, safety, and welfare of users.

**Protect Existing Investment.** The project is necessary to protect the City's current investment in facilities including lifecycle replacement and maintenance or enhancements to existing parks, trails and facilities.

### BENEFIT-DRIVEN

Projects that meet the parkland and amenity needs of the community, preserve important resources and sites, advance other community goals, complete a partially developed project, reduces long-term maintenance costs to the community, and/or serve as a potential catalyst for economic development.

**Satisfies Unmet Need.** Does the project satisfy urgent parks and recreation needs within the community? Does the project help to address a recreation facility/amenity shortage or unmet need?

**Community Significance.** Does the project or site provide benefits to many people within the community? Does the project or site contribute to the broader city vision and community goals, such as economic development, increased tourism, environmental sustainability and non-motorized connectivity?

**Community Balance.** Does the project contribute to the balance of needs across the community, such as geographic equity, and providing for unmet needs of segments of the population? The land or the project is located in an amenity-deficient area.

**Completing Current Projects.** Does the project help to complete ongoing phases of current projects that have yet to be finished? Completion realizes full benefit of the project.

**Long-Term Maintenance Costs.** Are the future ongoing maintenance costs funded and proportionate to the benefit that the community receives? Will the project be built in a way that minimizes long-term maintenance costs and/or generates revenue and offset maintenance costs?

**Economic Revitalization.** Potential for project to serve as a catalyst for other investment.

### OPPORTUNITY-DRIVEN

Projects that can leverage resources and offer partnership opportunities, are easy to implement, or can reduce costs by combining into a larger project,

**Partnerships For Funding.** Does the project leverage available partnership or grant opportunities for funding?

**Ability To Leverage Resources.** Are other projects occurring on or near the site that can be leveraged?

**Ease Of Implementation.** Does the project capitalize on opportunities that are easily implemented (e.g., low cost project with large gains, available property, etc.)?

**Economy Of Scale.** Does implementing several projects or portions of projects simultaneously save money or time (e.g., bulk purchase of materials, more efficient management, lower mobilization costs, etc.)?

# PRIORITY PROJECTS

Twenty individual projects have been identified through this planning process as a result of community input, professional evaluation of existing site and facility conditions, and an understanding of best practices. Projects include capital investment in parks, amenities, facilities, trail development, and additional detailed planning and design work. Many of these projects were first identified by the community through the plan’s public engagement efforts and then workshopped with Parks and Recreation staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to evaluate costs, feasibility, and how each project meets the community’s needs through the prioritization criteria detailed in the previous section. Finally, the community further prioritized top projects at the open house and through the online questionnaire in March 2023.

The eight projects listed below represent general consensus on level of importance and value to the community. The projects are not listed in any specific order and this plan acknowledges that priorities can and should be re-evaluated annually as needs and opportunities shift. The project prioritization criteria equip staff, appointed and elected officials, and their community partners with a framework for reconsidering priorities each year as the Parks and Recreation Department develops its annual work plan.

These projects have not yet been approved for funding but should be considered for inclusion in the City’s Annual Capital Improvement Plan. Funding sources for new projects are explored in subsequent sections of this chapter. Estimates of probable cost and details for all 20 projects can be found in Appendix C.

Action Number	Project Description
P.6	Memorial Park Infrastructure & Landscape Improvements Plan
P.5	Update Meadow Wood Sports Complex Master Plan
RA.1	Feasibility Study for Recreation Center expansion at Aquatic Center
P.3	Permanent Restrooms at City Parks
P.5	Woodland Park Hockey Association improvements to ice rink at Meadow Wood Sports Complex
See staffing evaluation	Additional park maintenance staff
P.5	Pickleball Courts at Meadow Wood Sports Complex
T.3	Trail System Plan (NEPA compliant)

# Total System Cost

The financial sustainability of PRTOS in Woodland Park can be understood by considering the total cost of system ownership, which includes the cost to construct, operate, maintain, and update PRTOS facilities. Maintenance of current assets and their periodic lifecycle replacement must be balanced with new features and updates to existing parks and facilities, as well as the development of new parks and facilities to meet community needs.



- lifecycle replacement
- updates & new amenities
- new construction

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Operations and maintenance costs include the routine tasks required to keep PRTOS facilities in operation and maintain assets in good and safe condition.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Capital improvements refers to lifecycle replacement, park and facility updates and new construction. These projects have not been approved for funding yet and their costs are greater than what typical annual operational funding levels would support.

## LIFE CYCLE REPLACEMENT

Lifecycle replacements encompass major repair, replacement or historic preservation of existing assets, safety and accessibility improvements, and debt service obligations. Lifecycle replacements typically require one-time capital outlays and are not likely to increase annual operations and maintenance costs. In many cases, lifecycle replacement can reduce annual operations and maintenance costs.

## UPDATES AND NEW AMENITIES

Periodically, the City will invest in strategic updates or add new elements to existing parks and facilities in response to unmet needs in the community. Such improvements typically require a one-time capital expenditure and will increase operating and maintenance costs.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

Capital projects to develop new PRTOS facilities may include land acquisition, site planning, new infrastructure and construction of new facilities. New parks and facilities significantly increase annual operations and maintenance costs.

## CURRENT FUNDING

Currently, Parks and Recreation Department funding is adequate to support daily operations and routine maintenance of the Department's current assets. However, typical annual funding levels do not fully cover the financial resources needed to maintain lifecycle improvements for parks and facilities or capital costs and additional Department capacity to develop, manage, program, and maintain new assets.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently receives funding from six sources:

1. The General Fund
2. Program Fees
3. Facility Rental Fees
4. Conservation Trust Fund (Colorado Lottery proceeds)
5. Development Fees generated by new residential development (including fee-in-lieu of land dedication)
6. Lodging Tax Revenues
7. Grants

# Program Classifications & Cost Recovery

All municipal parks and recreation departments subsidize the cost of providing services to the public to some extent. To cover 100% of expenses for instructors, administrative staff, materials, and other indirect costs, program fees would need to be much higher, which is not usually feasible while maintaining sufficient participation rates, nor is it the goal of a public recreation agency whose purpose is to provide what private businesses are not in an equitable manner meeting industry standards.

Many cities determine the level of subsidy, or cost recovery, based on the level of importance of the service or program. Some cities define a program’s importance by the level of benefit to the community versus individuals. The program classification matrix below classifies programs as essential, important, or value-added based on level of impact to the

community. The matrix can be used to classify programs and to inform cost recovery.

The classifications distinguish between the level of public benefit and private benefit provided by a program. Public benefit means that everyone receives the same level of benefit with equal access. Private benefit means that the user receives exclusive benefit above what a general taxpayer receives for their personal benefit.

Cost recovery may be lower (0–30%) for essential programs, moderate (30–75%) for important programs, and high (over 75%) for value-added and highly specialized programs. For example, Woodland Park City Council set a 56% cost recovery goal for the Woodland Aquatic Center in 2021. The Department and aquatic center staff continue to strive for this goal.

	ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS	IMPORTANT PROGRAMS	VALUE-ADDED PROGRAMS
<b>Expectations</b>	← High from the Public		
<b>Fees/Cost Recovery</b>	← None/Minimal		
<b>Benefit</b>	← Public		
<b>Market Competition</b>	← Limited Other Providers		
<b>Access</b>	← Open to All		
			→ High from Interest Groups
			→ Cover Most Costs
			→ Individual
			→ Alternate Providers Available
			→ Limited to Users

# Funding Strategies

Successful implementation of the plan will require additional funding and partnerships to realize many of the identified projects. Identifying new reliable and consistent funding sources is imperative for the success of the City's Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails system. Below are possible strategies to consider through future studies.

## CAPITAL EXPANSION FEES

Capital Expansion Fees (CEFs), could prove beneficial to Woodland Park since the City is experiencing consistent residential growth. Many communities use Capital Expansion Fees, often referred to as impact fees, instead of requiring a development to provide parks for its new residents or negotiating a fee-in-lieu. This is helpful when a city needs funding more than it needs new parkland.

This fee structure combines all costs for park land acquisition, development, and a proportionate share of maintenance costs into one single fee paid by a developer. Communities with legally defensible CEFs base the fee on the current level of service that is provided in the community and the costs for land acquisition, design, permitting, capital construction, and sometimes the proportionate share of maintenance facilities for parks that will be needed for the new residents. These fees correlate to the average household size of dwelling units, which usually varies between single family and multi-family units, or by the square footage of the unit. Calculating a potential fee requires translating the park level of service from a population ratio into acres of parkland per dwelling unit and documenting the full cost of acquiring and constructing an acre of parkland in Woodland Park.

It is important to note that CEF revenues cannot be spent on lifecycle replacements to existing parks, but must be spent on developing new park amenities, such as those that might be included in the build-out of Woodland Park's undeveloped parkland. The fees that are collected must be spent in the geographic area they are collected and tracked by area. For example, Neighborhood Park fees must be spent in the service radius established in the plan, in this case, a ½ mile radius (or square mile section of a community). Community Park fees can be spent across an entire community because they are destination parks with a broader service area.

## SPECIAL OPTION SALES TAX

Several cities and counties in the front range employ this a revenue source for open space, trails, and parks acquisition and maintenance. General obligation bonds are sold to investors and repaid with sales taxes that are dedicated specifically to their repayment. Issuing bonds allows a community to start planning, designing, and constructing projects prior to receiving all the sales tax revenues required to cover their costs. A portion of a dedicated sales tax also can be directed towards operations and maintenance. The sales tax that funds projects, as well as the ability to issue bonds for projects, must be approved via a ballot measure approved by Woodland Park voters. When considering a ballot measure for a sales tax increase to fund PRTOS, some communities, like the City of Erie, conduct a statistically valid voter survey to evaluate the viability and popularity of the potential measure before putting it on the ballot.

Colorado Springs' TOPS (Trails, Open Space, and Parks) program is the region's most successful sales tax measure, having protected 7,500 acres of open space, built or improved 67 parks, and constructed more than 53 miles of trail. This measure is on the City's ballot again in April 2023 to request extending the program for another 20 years. Many smaller towns and cities also have a similar program such as Breckenridge and the Town of Windsor that just passed its first open space and trails sales tax in 2022.

## **LODGING TAX REVENUES**

The City of Woodland Park currently levies a 5.7% lodging tax. As directed by City ordinance, revenues must be used for, *“economic enhancement and sustainability of the city, to include without limitation: capital projects and annual operating and maintenance expenses for beautification and streetscape.”*

The City currently allocates a portion of lodging tax for parks labor, tree maintenance, and streetscape/beautification. Previously lodging tax was used to help fund Memorial Park capital improvements. The City should continue to evaluate lodging tax as a viable source of funding for enhancing and expanding PRTOS assets. City funds can be used to leverage grants for improvements to regional assets like the Centennial Trail and Meadow Wood Sports complex as a regional sports venue.

For cities like Woodland Park with tourism-based economies, PRTOS investments are a form of economic development and help maintain assets and amenities that may deteriorate more rapidly due to heavy visitor use. Investments in PRTOS not only enhance the visitor experience, but improve quality of life for residents.

## **PHILANTHROPY**

### **FRIENDS GROUPS**

These groups are formed to raise money typically for a single focus purpose that could include a trail or program that will benefit the community as a whole and their special interest. Friends groups strengthen community support and value for specific parks or facilities, and leverage the work and scope of Department services through stewardship, volunteer hours, fundraising and advocacy.

### **CIVIC CROWDFUNDING**

The emergence of civic crowdfunding gained traction in municipal governance approximately ten years ago, but is still considered a new and less-traditional mechanism for funding. However, low-tech civic crowdfunding has been practiced for decades in applications like voluntary donation boxes at trailheads. The mainstream use of QR codes has further advanced this form of instant funding provided by the very people who use and appreciate the asset.

Across the country several cities have experienced success with this method of fundraising through online platforms like [Loby](#) and [Patronicity](#) have even used crowdfunded dollars to leverage additional grant monies.

### **NAMING RIGHTS**

Many cities and counties sell the naming rights for new buildings or renovation of existing buildings and parks for the development cost associated with the improvement.

# REGIONAL FUNDING STRATEGIES

## ELEVATE THE PEAK STRATEGIC VISION & PLAN

### RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEM

#### ► FORM A GREAT OUTDOORS FUNDING ACTION TEAM:

Convene interested conservation groups, community leaders, financial experts, and other stakeholders to explore the funding models below and achieve the stated goal above.

### POSSIBLE FUNDING MODELS TO EXPLORE

#### ► SALES TAX OPEN SPACE FUNDING PROGRAMS AT A COUNTY LEVEL:

The most robust parks and open space programs in Colorado are funded through voter-approved sales tax measures. Southern Colorado lags the Front Range when it comes to these programs with only the City of Colorado Springs' "TOPS" program and Park County's Land and Water Trust Fund as examples. While the region is known for being tax averse, residents are often responsive to funding clear and specific needs. Polling, outreach efforts, and specific use for the requested funds may yield results given the magnitude of the need the region faces.

#### ► USER FEES:

User fees are paid for by those accessing the recreation area or engaging in a specific type of activity. This includes things such as park entrance fees, user permits, hunting licenses, fishing licenses, etc. The idea is that the person utilizing the resources takes on the responsibility of providing additional funding to support the management of that resource. Careful consideration will need to be given to the fact that user fees disproportionately exclude under-resourced communities. If this tactic were pursued, it would need to account for this and ensure access remained equitable through programs such as Generation Wild.

#### ► REGIONAL PARKS DISTRICT:

Modeled after entities such as regional transportation authorities, a regional parks district would bring together cross-jurisdictional entities under a district formation to generate public funding (e.g., tax programs, or other) for parks and recreational resources within the district.

#### ► REGIONAL CONSERVATION FUND:

The regional conservation fund model relies on collective philanthropy to generate financial resources. A regional fund provides the opportunity to centralize giving and leverage opportunities for larger gifts from within or outside of the region, or the aggregation of multiple sources to create a pool of funds at a significantly larger amount than individual entities could generate themselves. The Pikes Peak Community Foundation and philanthropist Kathy Loo created the Pikes Peak Conservation Fund, and this fund could serve as the regional investment arm for a similar effort.

# Partnerships

While the City of Woodland Park is a leading agency on nearly all recommended actions identified in Chapter 4, the City will frequently need to rely on the cooperation, initiative, and efforts of partner agencies to achieve the stated action item, especially the most aspirational projects. Woodland Park will need to leverage partnerships in new and innovative ways, seek out and develop new relationships while rekindling old ones. This will include entities such as non-profit organizations, state and federal governmental agencies, private developers, property owners, and the adjacent towns and counties. Collaboration may take the form of cost-sharing agreements with agencies the City has never worked with and will require unprecedented levels of trust and commitment. Partnerships may also take the form of agreements with other agencies, including the private sector, to meet community recreation needs.

Several strategic partners have been identified through this planning process and are listed below. The list should not be viewed as exclusive or comprehensive. Other individuals or agencies who are not listed may have an interest, skill, or responsibility to realize the recommended actions.

## KEY PARTNER AGENCIES

American Discovery Trail	Great Outdoors Colorado	Rampart Library District
CDOT	Lightbulb Theater Company	RE-2 School District
Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce	Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates	Ring the Peak
Charis Bible College	Mile High Youth Corps	Rocky Mountain Field Institute
Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Northeast Teller County Fire District	Teller County
Colorado State Trails	Other City Departments (Planning, Public Works, Engineering, etc.)	Teller Trail Team
Community Partnership of Teller County	Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative	The Nature Conservancy
CPW	Palmer Land Conservancy	Trails and Open Space Coalition
El Paso County	Pickleball Above the Clouds	Trust for Public Lands
El Pomar Foundation	Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance	U.S. Forest Service, Pikes Peak Ranger District
Elevate the Peak	Pikes Peak Range Riders	Woodland Park Hockey Association
Focus on the Forest	Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments	Woodland Wind Symphony
Funky Little Theatre		

# Department Capacity and Staffing

Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of 42 staff members including five administrative staff: Department Director, Aquatics Manager, Sports Coordinator, Program Coordinator, and UPCC Manager. Seven full-time maintenance staff are responsible for maintaining all Department assets as well as City parking lots, sidewalks, and other facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department is also supported by staff from other departments on tasks such as planning, engineering, maintenance, community outreach, and communications.

Adequate staffing is essential to the Department’s ability to maintain best practice maintenance standards and proactive lifecycle replacement of aging equipment and facilities. The table below summarizes staffing needs for maintenance of the City’s existing parks, open spaces and trails, as well as projected staffing needs if all six undeveloped parks are eventually developed. Best practice staffing levels noted in the table assume dedicated full time staff for PRTOS assets. It’s important to note that currently City maintenance staff labor hours are not fully dedicated to PRTOS; but staff also maintain the City’s other facilities and assets such as parking lots, rights of way, and buildings. Recommendations include an additional two full-time equivalent maintenance staff for parks to maintain current assets at best practice standards and two additional staff at full build-out of the undeveloped parks.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers also play a special role in supporting open space management operations. The Department currently manages an Adopt-a-Park program as well as a program for volunteer youth sports coaches. Additionally, the Department works

closely with the Woodland Park Hockey Association, a non-profit organization, to provide youth hockey leagues that practice and host home games at Meadow Wood Sports Complex. The Department should continue to operate these programs and build volunteer capacity.

## TRAILS TASK FORCE

Multiple area organizations and individuals are engaged in trail development, maintenance, and advocacy in the Pikes Peak region. Convening local trail and professionals and advocates under a single collaborative organization as a City Task Force would provide a framework for coordinated efforts to expand and maintain the trail network in Woodland Park and beyond. The plan’s Technical Advisory Committee includes representatives from many of these partner agencies and could evolve into the Trails Task Force to guide trail network development through advocacy, fundraising, maintenance, easement acquisition, and leveraging partnerships with regional trail organizations.

## TRAILS COORDINATOR

The Parks and Recreation Department would benefit from the addition of a Trails Coordinator staff position to orchestrate implementation of the community’s grand vision for Woodland Park’s interconnected trail system and serve as the staff liaison to the Trails Task Force. The first task of a new Trails Coordinator would be development of the City’s Trails Master Plan which would then serve as the workplan for this position for the next decade and beyond.

**Parks, Open Space, and Trail Maintenance, Staffing Summary**

Function	Quantity	Best Practice Staffing Level	Current Staffing Level (FTEs)**	Number of New Staff Needed (FTEs)	Total Staffing Level to Meet Best Practice (FTEs)
Open Space & Greenways	62 acres	1 FTE / 250 acres	1 FTE / 62 acres	0	0
Current Developed Parks	60 acres	1 FTE / 7 acres*	1 FTE / 8.5 acres	2	9
Undeveloped Parks	16.5 acres	1 FTE / 7 acres*	N/A	2	2
Current Trails	4.6 miles	1 FTE / 20 miles	1 FTE / 4.6 miles	0	0

**Total Staffing Level at Full Park Build-out 11**

\*300 annual labor hours required per acre maintained

\*\*Current maintenance staffing level = 7 FTEs responsible for maintaining all City facilities in addition to PRTOS.



# Communications and Marketing

Parks and recreation agencies bring a wealth of opportunities to their cities that promote improved physical health, a lasting relationship with nature and vibrant social connections. Marketing and communications are essential for every successful program, campaign, or event that the Parks and Recreation Department hosts. The more community members know about events, amenities, and programming, the more likely they are to take advantage of those offerings.

Marketing and communicating the Department's offerings to the community is a significant challenge, especially in a competitive marketplace and with limited resources. In response to the first community-wide online questionnaire, respondents indicated that a lack of awareness of available programs and facilities is their most common barrier to participation.

**MOST QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS DO NOT EXPERIENCE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION, BUT OF THOSE WHO DO, A LACK OF AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES IS THE MOST COMMON BARRIER.**

There are a multitude of strategies for marketing and promoting programs and events. The Department currently publishes an annual [digital program and event catalog](#) that is regularly updated and user-friendly with direct links to registration forms and other pertinent information. The Department also makes regular use of the City's online public engagement website: [What'sUpWoodlandPark.com](http://What'sUpWoodlandPark.com) to publish event and program announcements and solicit community input when needed. The Department currently publishes a monthly e-newsletter with engaging content that promotes upcoming registrations and events. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department uses social media applications and traditional print media, like flyers and posters, to market their programs and offerings.

Many other marketing tools are also available that the Department should consider incorporating into their regular marketing and communications practices. In 2019, the NRPA published [the Park and Recreation Marketing and Communication Report](#) that presents key findings related to the effectiveness of several marketing strategies and profiles a number of communications tools. Specific methods that could be effective in Woodland Park include:

## PRESS MEDIA

Build relationships with local media outlets and keep them informed regularly. Send press releases to promote programs and registrations, program benefits, and highlight accomplishments or benchmarks.

## EMAIL

Get participants' email addresses and use them. Email communication is a powerful and practical way to promote programs during the off-season as well as facilitate communication with participants while in season. Be active with the email list, keep it updated, and always keep participants up to date before, during and after each program.

## TEXT MESSAGES

There are many programs out there you can use to communicate information via text to your participants. If you can, use it! Texts are great not only for promotion, but also when something time-sensitive comes up – like a last-minute game cancellation.

## CROSS-PROMOTION

Partner with local community-based groups to cross-promote each other's programs. Groups such as scouts, schools, churches, have youth programs and are often amenable to distributing information, especially if reciprocated.

## COMMUNITY CALENDARS

Most local newspapers, news websites, chambers of commerce, Homeowner's Associations, and other civic organizations maintain community calendars online. Search for these and work with the site manager to include Parks and Recreation information on as many of them as possible. Most community calendars are free.

## DEPARTMENT AMBASSADORS

Recruit advocates from within programs, the most active volunteers, and community leaders to advocate for programs they participate in or are passionate about. These individuals are the Department's biggest champions and can help build a strong word of mouth reputation that elevates participation levels.

## ATTEND EVENTS

When possible, attend community events that will allow the Department to set up a table and promote programs. This is a great way to reach a large number of people face-to-face in a short amount of time.

## HOST AN OPEN HOUSE

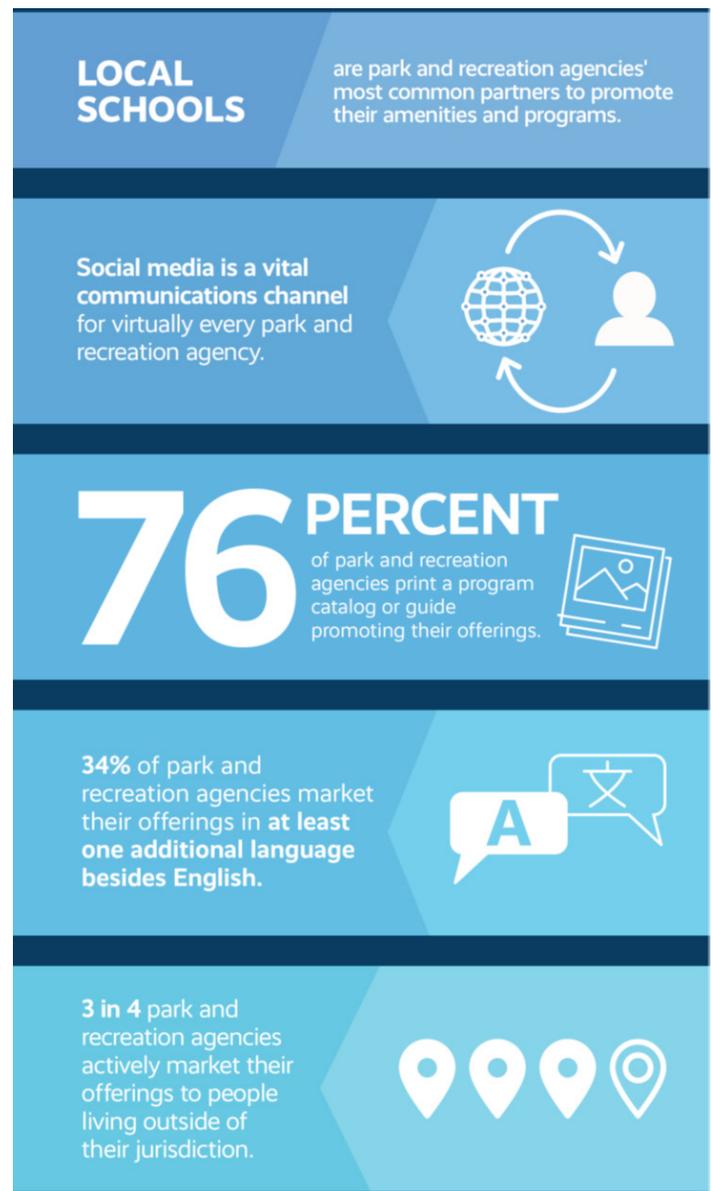
Host open house events at various Department facilities to get potential participants in the door. Whether it is a general community event or fundraising event for a specific program, getting future participants in the door can be challenging, so use the opportunity to show off the facility and everything it has to offer. Collect contact information from attendees and provide them with take-home materials on the Department's program and events.

## PAID ONLINE ADVERTISING

Consider advertising on websites with aligned target audiences and run paid ads. Ad campaigns on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram can also be highly effective and are easy to manage.

## PARKS AND TRAILS MAP

Partner with the Chamber of Commerce and other outdoor recreation tourism partners to produce a professional and visually compelling parks and trails map that includes other destinations of interest to outdoor recreationalists such as local breweries, restaurants, outfitters, bike shops, and more. Distribute the first print run widely and partner with recipient outlets, like the commercial businesses who will benefit from the map, to share the cost of annual updates and printings. Develop an interactive online version to include on the Department's website.



2019 NPRA Marketing and Communications Report

# Implementation Matrices

This plan provides a wide-ranging policy framework to guide decision-making across all levels of community action, from City government to civic-minded organizations that champion a specific project, park, or facility.

This section consolidates recommended actions for each category from Chapter 4 into a concise workplan to guide the efforts of the Parks and Recreation Department and its partners. Each matrix identifies the type of action and the timeframe for completion.

## ACTION TYPE

Each recommendation is characterized by the type of action it represents.

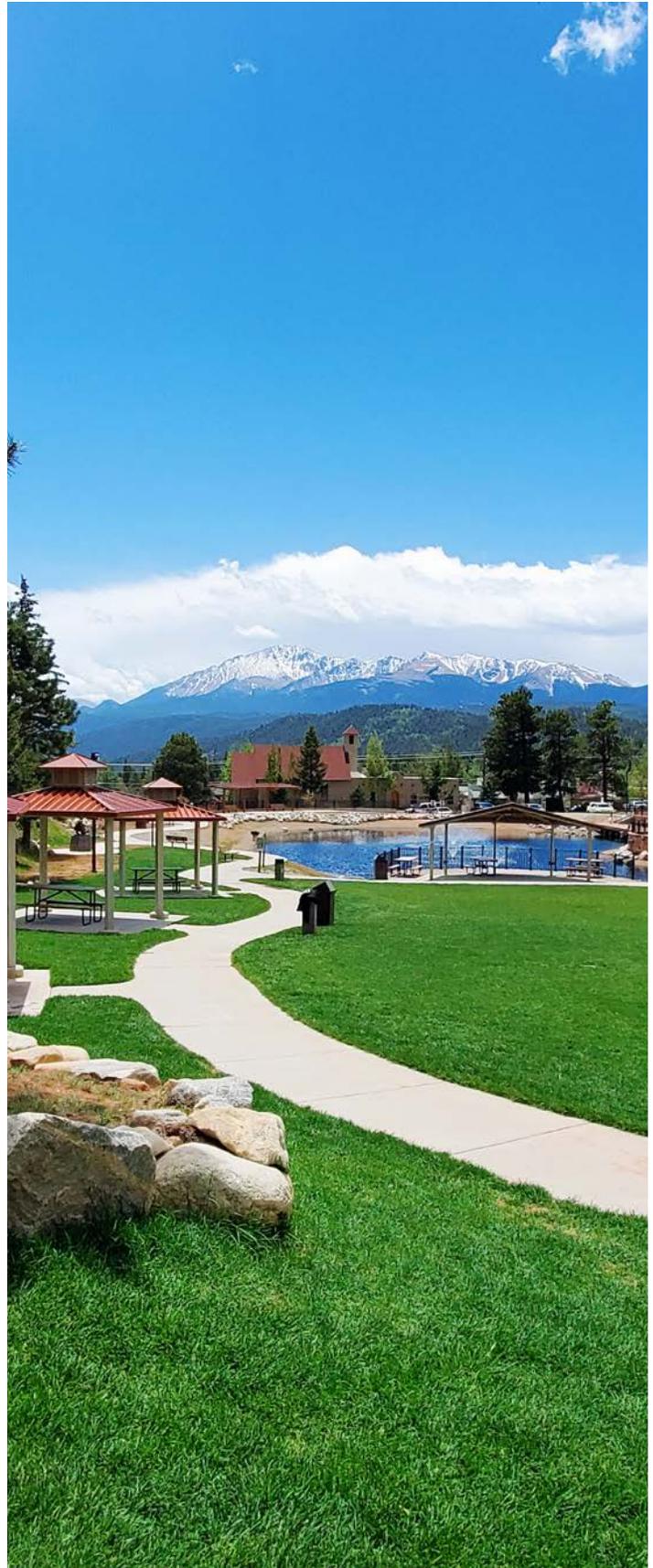
- **Capital Project:** Requires capital outlay from the City
- **Planning & Design:** Requires additional feasibility study, planning or design work
- **Operations:** Impacts staff decisions and standard practices
- **Partnership:** Requires or would greatly benefit from collaborative partnerships with business, and community and non-profit groups.
- **Programs:** Implications for program and services
- **Community Engagement:** Communications campaigns or outreach efforts to solicit community feedback

## TIMEFRAME

Plan implementation is an incremental process. Some recommendations can be executed in a relatively short period of time. Other recommendations are long-term in nature and will take years of concentrated effort to achieve.

The recommendation timeframe refers to the amount of time, in years, in which each action item should be implemented. Recommendations are categorized as either short term, mid-term, long term or ongoing.

- **Short-term:** achievable in less than five years
- **Mid-term:** achievable in 5-10 years
- **Long-term:** may take more than 10 years
- **Ongoing:** Continuous efforts



## PARKS

ACTION TYPE	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
Planning & Design	P.1 Develop the City's undeveloped parks according to neighborhood preferences. Prioritize park development in deficient neighborhoods.	Long-term
Planning & Design	P.2 Develop a lifecycle replacement plan for park amenities and facilities such as aging playground equipment; incorporate into annual department Capital Improvements Plan.	Short-term
Planning & Design	P.3 Identify parks for highly desired community amenities such as: permanent restrooms, pickleball courts, gathering spaces & picnic areas, teen "play" equipment or hang-out areas.	Mid-term
Operations	P.4 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and staff should review the Parks Dedication requirements in Chapter 17.36 of the Subdivision regulations every two years.	Ongoing
Planning & Design	P.5 Update the 2003 Meadow Wood Sports Complex Master Plan with community input.	Mid-term
Planning & Design	P.6 Develop a Capital Improvements Plan for Memorial Park.	Short-term
Planning & Design	P.7 Evaluate feasibility of establishing a mountain bike skills area at Crestwood Park where riders can warm-up or practices skills before applying them on Lovell Gulch Trail.	Short-term
Planning & Design	P.8 Develop site plan that identifies improvements and estimated costs for Cavalier Park consistent with neighborhood preferences.	Short-term
Capital Project	P.9 Convert BMX course at Red Mountain Adventure Park into pump track or bicycle playground.	Mid-term

## OPEN SPACE

ACTION TYPE	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
Operations	OS.1 Continue an opportunistic approach to land acquisition or acceptance into the City's open space portfolio that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prioritizes high-value conservation land as identified by applying the Land Value Rating System.</li> <li>•Supports trail system development through strategic acquisition along future trail corridors..</li> <li>•Leverages partnerships with the USFS, Palmer Land Conservancy, and the Nature Conservancy</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Partnerships	OS.2 Continue working closely with the Planning Department to evaluate land dedication regulations and standards and evaluate open space acquisition opportunities that result from new development.	Ongoing

## RECREATION & AQUATICS

ACTION TYPE	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
Planning & Design	RA.1 Conduct feasibility study with detailed cost estimate for developing indoor recreation center expansion of the Woodland Aquatic Center.	Mid-term
Programs	RA.2 Pursue opportunities to provide winter recreation programs and events:	Mid-term
Partnerships	RA.3 Partner with the Senior Center to provide classroom space for older adult recreation programs.	Short-term
Programs	RA.4 Expand programming to meet community demand. Consider opportunities to partner with local organizations.	Mid-term
Programs	RA.5 Continue offering existing aquatics programs and special events while exploring opportunities to expand aquatic fitness classes as desired by the community.	Ongoing
Operations	RA.6 Add tennis/pickleball court reservation options to existing online reservation system.	Short-term
Community Engagement	RA.7 Regularly survey the community every 2-5 years to determine if the menu of programs and activities meets community demand. Segment results based on resident status to quantify resident versus non-resident participation and identify any differences between the groups. Consider this data when reviewing rates and fee structure.	Short-term
Community Engagement	RA.8 Conduct participant-satisfaction surveys at the conclusion of classes and programs to evaluate operational efficiency and effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.	Ongoing

## UTE PASS CULTURAL CENTER

ACTION TYPE	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
Capital Project	U.1 Partner with local theater company and other performing arts groups to reconstruct the UPCC stage and optimize for performances.	Mid-term
Programs	U.2 Continue offering public events that meet community preferences.	Ongoing
Operations	U.3 Establish an annual special events budget to guide event programming decisions such as the number and type of events that the City can feasibly offer each year based on event expense and revenue projections.	Short-term
Part	U.4 Collaborate with other City departments and partner agencies to implement Arts and Culture action items identified in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan.	Ongoing

TRAILS		
ACTION TYPE	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
Partnership	T.1 Establish a Woodland Park Trails Task Force that convenes local and area trail professionals and advocates to guide trail network development through advocacy, fundraising, maintenance, easement acquisition, and leveraging partnerships with regional trail organizations to establish, expand, and maintain the network here in Woodland Park.	Short-term
Operations	T.2 Create a Trails Coordinator position to serve as the staff liaison to the Trails Task Force and coordinate trail system development.	Mid-term
Planning & Design	T.3 Work with consultant to complete detailed trail system plan that identifies preliminary and alternative alignments in coordination with the Pikes Peak Range District through formal USFS planning and NEPA process.	Mid-term
Partnership	T.4 Work with Teller County to construct the section of the ADT to close the gap between Woodland Park's constructed sections.	Mid-term
Partnership	T.5 Advocate for a multi-use trail to be included in CDOT's plans for the US24 Bypass or "reliever route" in order to facilitate an opportunity for a connection to the Ring the Peak trail system.	Long-term
Operations	T.6 Update engineering specifications for trail design in alignment with the classifications in this plan.	Short-term
Planning & Design	T.7 After completion of Trails System Plan, work with consulting firm to develop a comprehensive wayfinding plan that includes design specifications and incorporates branding of regional trails where appropriate. Identify locations for interactive trailside exhibits and art, in addition to sign locations.	Mid-term
Capital Project	T.8 Install trailside interactive recreation or play elements, interpretive signs or kiosks, and public art.	Long-term
Capital Project	T.9 Where feasible and appropriate, consider multi-use path or natural surface trail in place of planned sidewalks and bike lanes.	Ongoing
Community Engagement	T.10 Work with the Chamber of Commerce and other partners to increase awareness of the City's existing trails. Promote use of CPW and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) online map and mobile app for digital trail maps.	Short-term
Partnership	T.11 Pursue formalized maintenance agreement with county and USFS trail management partners for the Centennial Trail.	Short-term
Operations	T.12 Ensure sustainable natural surface trail design and construction by contracting with trail-builders who are members of the Professional Trail Builders Association or International Mountain Bike Association Trail Solutions	Ongoing

SUSTAINABILITY		
ACTION TYPE	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
Capital Project	S.1 Replace water-intensive accent landscaping with xeriscaping where appropriate.	Mid-term
Operations	S.2 Track water usage per park to identify resource-intensive parks to target for reduction efforts.	Ongoing
Operations	S.3 Use recycled and/or non-potable water for landscaping and irrigation, where appropriate, and expand the usage of graywater.	Mid-term
Capital Project	S.4 Provide recycling bins at every park and facility.	Short-term
Capital Project	S.5 Install water bottle refill stations at the City's most visited parks and facilities.	Short-term
Operations	S.6 Provide or require recycling at all events in City parks or the UPCC.	Short-term
Operations	S.7 Use recycled materials and renewable products whenever possible.	Ongoing
Capital Project	S.8 Work with the City Public Works and Engineering departments to maximize stormwater and flood management through park and greenway features.	Mid-term
Capital Project	S.9 Consider ADA-compliant permeable pavement and pervious concrete solutions for new construction and when replacing existing impervious surfaces such as parking lots and paved pads for picnic shelters.	Long-term
Planning & Design	S.10 Evaluate benefits and tradeoffs of converting existing grass sports fields to turf.	Mid-term
Capital Project	S.11 Convert grass turf landscaping to drought-resistant native grasses and pollinator species, where appropriate, to reduce maintenance and water usage.	Short-term
Operations	S.12 Reduce pesticide and herbicide use in parks where feasible.	Ongoing
Operations	S.13 Identify opportunities to assist with integrated pest management (e.g., bat roosts to help control mosquito populations).	Ongoing
Operations	S.14 Practice an integrated approach to weed management	Ongoing
Operations	S.15 Survey and document noxious weeds and invasive species in parks, facilities, and trails every three years. Update inventory anytime noxious weeds are observed in a new location.	Ongoing

SUSTAINABILITY		
ACTION TYPE	ACTION	TIMEFRAME
Partnership	S.16 Seek funding for weed control through the Colorado Weed Management Grants, CPW, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and other aligning programs.	Short-term
Operations	S.17 Regularly clean maintenance equipment to wash away seeds from noxious weeds and invasive species, ideally between use in different parks and open space.	Ongoing
Operations	S.18 Minimize ground disturbance and soil compaction resulting from construction and maintenance activities by limiting heavy equipment trips and turnaround sites.	Ongoing
Operations	S.19 Reduce the spread of noxious weeds along trails during mowing operations by mowing prior to seed maturation.	Ongoing
Operations	S.20 Require contractors to comply with preventative measures to limit spread of noxious weed and invasive species.	Ongoing
Operations	S.21 Immediately re-establish all disturbed vegetation through seeding or planting of native materials.	Ongoing
Operations	S.22 Use the SITES (v2) rating system process to guide new construction and major renovations to existing parks and facilities to measure, evaluate, and identify ways to maximize project sustainability.	Ongoing
Operations	S.23 Establish a policy for preferred use of local materials in park and facility maintenance and construction.	Short-term
Capital Project	S.24 Utilize green building practices in new construction and upgrades to existing Department facilities.	Ongoing
Capital Project	S.25 Identify and pursue opportunities to install photovoltaic (solar) panels on park facilities or properties where appropriate.	Mid-term
Capital Project	S.26 Replace aging equipment with battery electric and rechargeable park and facility maintenance equipment.	Ongoing
Capital Project	S.27 Replace aging Department vehicles with electric vehicles through the regular lifecycle replacement process.	Long-term
Planning & Design	S.28 Develop a plan for Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure that identifies opportunities for public charging stations at parks and recreation facilities.	Short-term
Capital Project	S.29 Replace aging appliance and fixtures with energy and water efficient models.	Ongoing

**Woodland Park**



**Parks and  
Recreation**