

City of Fort Collins Park & Recreation Policy Plan Update



Council Work Session
September 11, 2007

Overview

- A. Project Team
- B. Project Purpose
- C. Project Elements
- D. Community Involvement
- E. Facility Inventory and Analysis
- F. Focus areas
- G. Next Steps and Schedule

A. Project Team

- GreenPlay assisted by Design Concepts, bha design, geowest, RRC Associates
- Citizens, Council, Boards and Commissions, City staff
- Stakeholders, user groups

B. Project Purpose

- Update the 1996 Parks and Recreation Policy Plan
- Assess the park and recreation needs of the community
- Examine current levels of service
- Determine the vision, guidelines, action items and funding options for parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs for the next ten years

C. Project Elements

- Community involvement
- Needs Assessment Survey
- Facility Inventory and Analysis (GRASP)
- Determine challenges and focus areas
- Establish priorities
- Develop implementation options
- Identify funding alternatives
- Create action plan and timelines

C. Community Involvement

- Parks and Recreation Board (2006/07)
- Other Boards and Commissions
- Focus groups (2/07)
- Mail-in survey (3/07)
- Findings presentations(6/07)
- Web-page and news releases

Parks and Recreation Board

- Closely involved in entire planning effort
- 2006 discussions – needs assessment, key issues, vision for next ten years
- GreenPlay overview (1/07)
- Work on focus group process
- Discussion of survey results
- Facility inventory analysis/discussion

Focus Groups

- Over 115 participants
- Representatives from non-profit recreation organizations, youth, various user groups, CSU, HOAs, businesses, sports associations
- Three meetings over two days

Focus Groups

What did we hear?

- Parks and trails are highly valued
- Like diversity of recreation resources and opportunities
- Like high level of maintenance
- Concerned about user conflicts, over use
- Need for more trails, river recreation, pools, playgrounds, picnic areas, shade, open turf, disc golf
- Funding: keep fees affordable, develop alternative funding sources

Mail-in Survey Methodology

- Survey conducted by mail in mid-March
- Sent to 4,000 households throughout City (net 3,760 deliverable)
- 444 surveys received (statistically valid sample)
- Margin of error +/- 4.65%

Mail-in Survey Community Profile

- Gender - 50.2% Female, 49.8% Male
- Race - 88.3% White, 10.3% Hispanic
- Education – 50% Bachelors or Masters
 - CO (32.7%), US (24.4%),
- Income – Median \$54,463
 - CO (\$58,522), US (\$51,546)
- Household Size – 2.45 people
 - CO (2.54 people), US (2.59 people)

Mail-in Survey

Respondent Characteristics

- Average length of residence in Fort Collins: 15.0 years / median 10.0 years
- 77% own vs. 23% rent
- Distribution of survey respondents:
 - 16% Northwest
 - 22% Southwest
 - 16% Central Fort Collins
 - 13% Northeast
 - 27% Southeast
- 87% registered voters in Fort Collins

Mail-in Survey

Respondent Characteristics

- Average age 41.1 years
- 43% household with children
 - 21% couple no children
 - 20% single no children
 - 16% empty nester
- Income:
 - 11% less than \$25K
 - 52% between \$25K and \$75K
 - 19% between \$75K and \$100K
 - 16% over \$100K

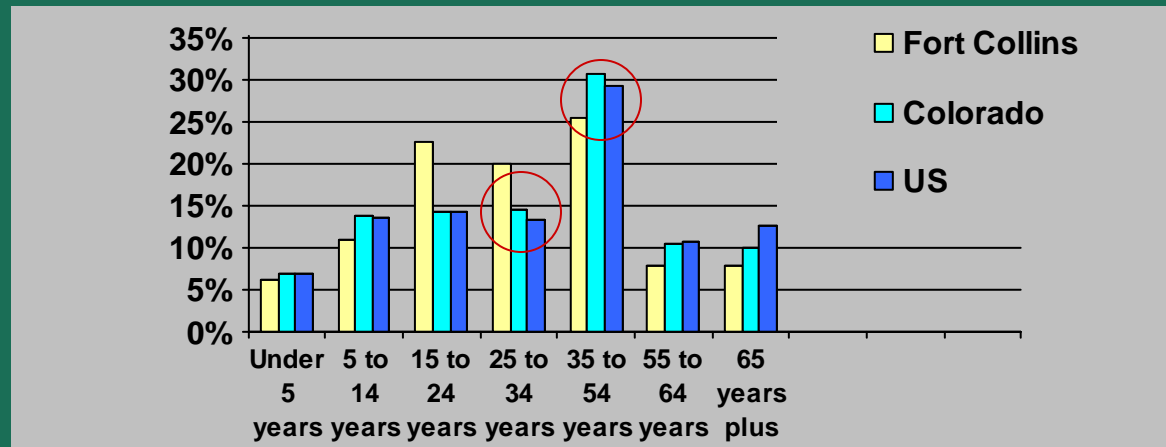
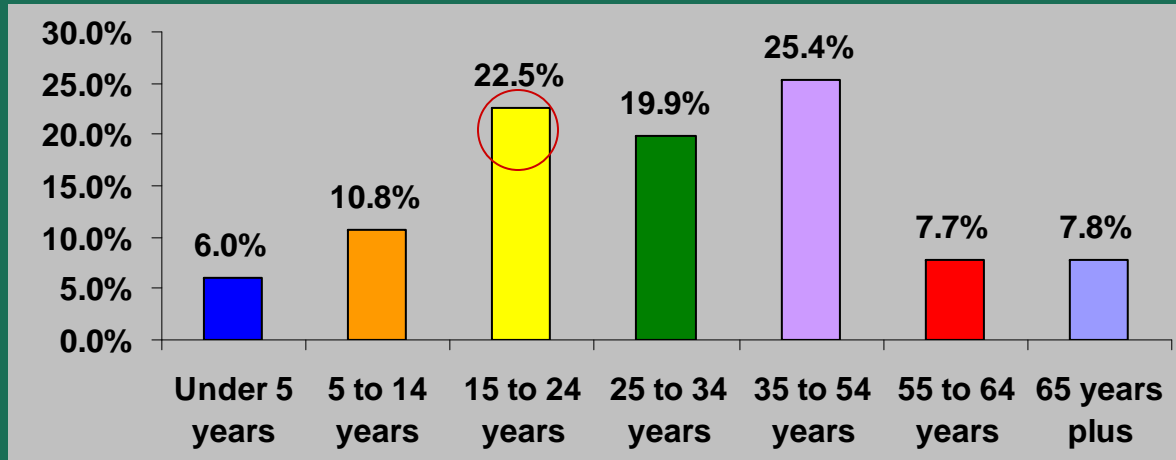
Mail-in Survey

Population Projections

- Population in 2006 of 130,681
- Population projection in 2011 of 141,566
- Growth rate of 1.61% annually
- National average growth rate of 1.3%
- Colorado growth rate of 1.75%

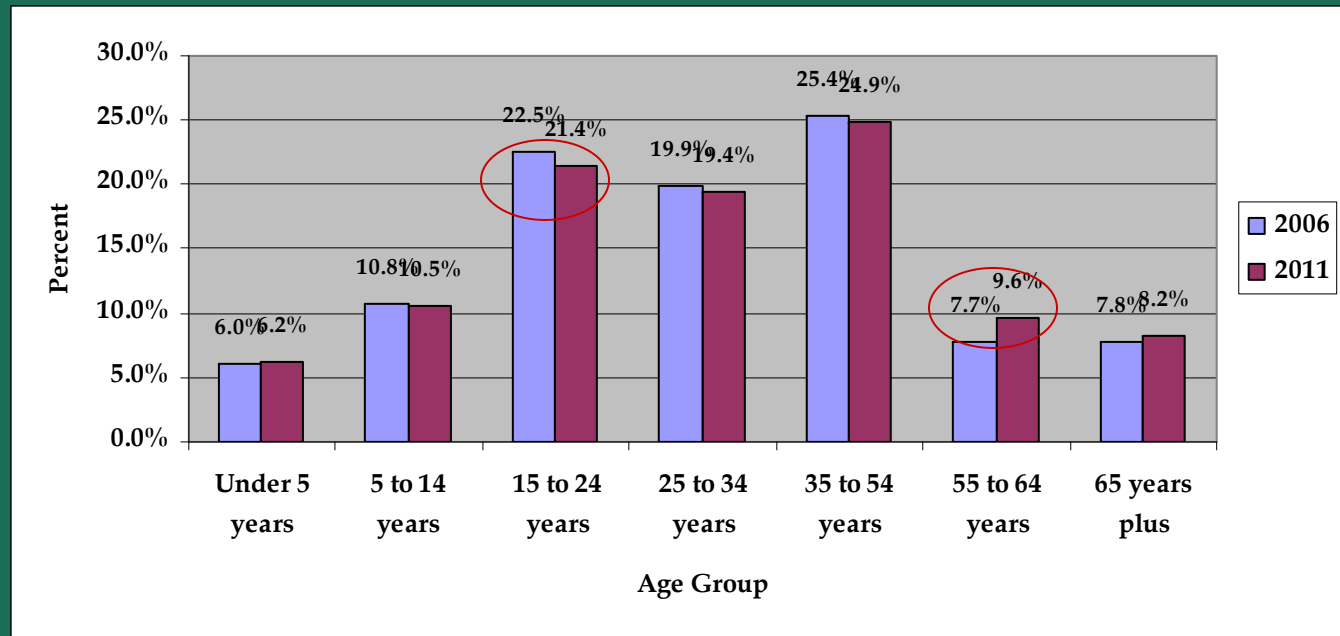
Mail-in Survey

Fort Collins Demographics



Mail-in Survey

Changing Demographics



Survey: How Well are Parks, Trails, And Rec. Facilities Meeting the Needs of the Community?

- Community parks – 86%
- Paved recreation trails – 85%
- Programs and activities – 76%
- Recreation/community centers – 63%
- Pools/aquatic centers – 62%

(1 to 5 scale: percentage of 4 & 5 scores)

Survey: Quality of Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facilities

- Community parks – 85%
 - Paved recreation trails – 89%
 - Programs and activities – 81%
 - Recreation/community centers – 70%
 - Pools/aquatic centers – 73%
- (1 to 5 scale: percentage of 4 & 5 scores)

Survey: Percent of Community Use in the Past Year

- Paved recreation trails – 83%
- Community parks – 77%
- Neighborhood parks – 76%
- Pools/aquatic centers – 55%
- Recreation/community centers – 38%
- Programs and activities – 38%

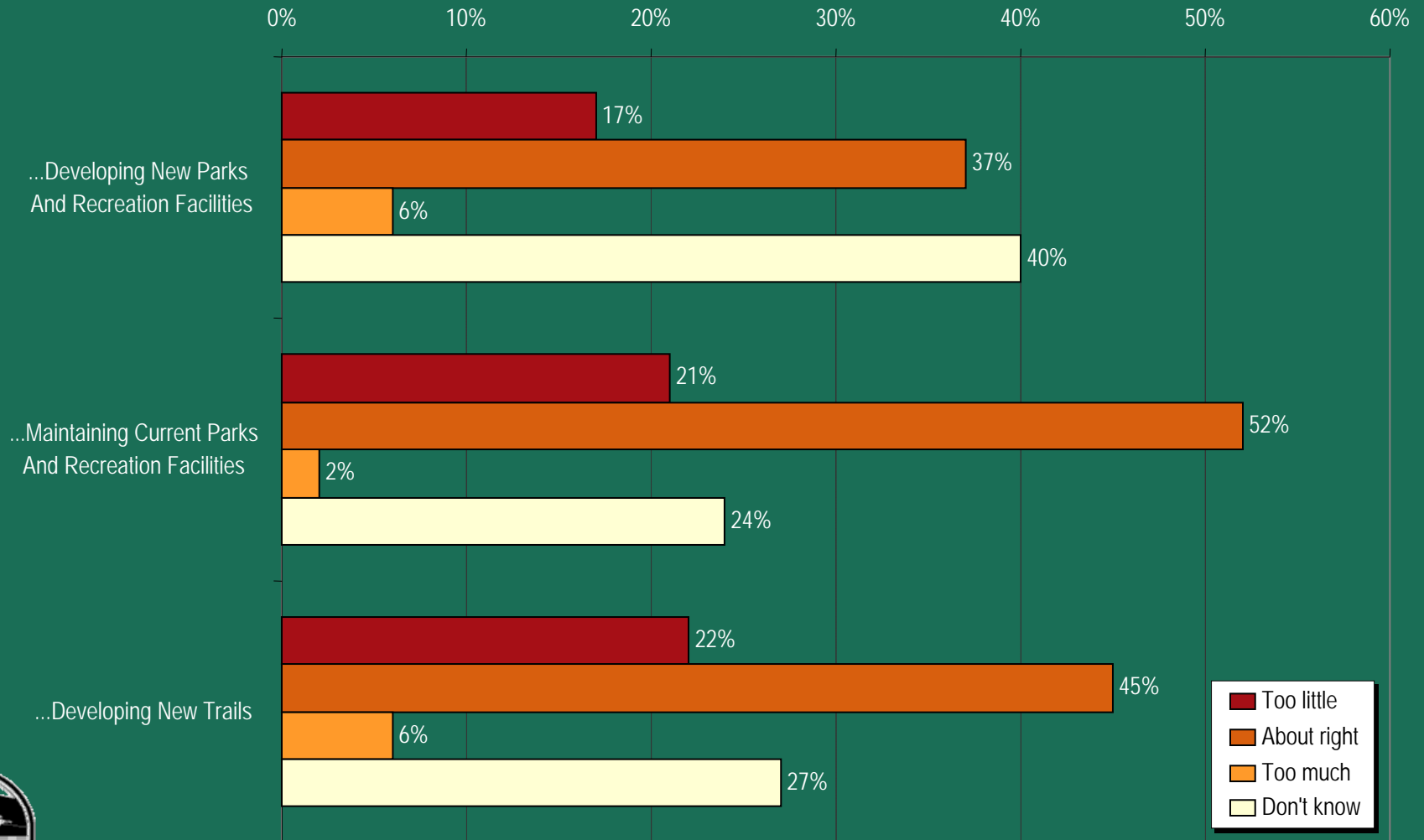
Survey: Outdoor Facilities to be Added, Expanded, or Improved

- Paved recreation trails – 73%
 - Unpaved trails – 67%
 - Playgrounds – 60%
 - Picnic shelters – 60%
 - Outdoor pools – 59%
 - Neighborhood parks – 58%
 - Community parks – 56%
- (1 to 5 scale: percentage of 4 & 5 scores)

Survey: Indoor Facilities to be Added, Expanded, or Improved

- Walking/jogging track – 62%
 - Teen activities area – 61%
 - Aquatic center – 61%
 - Weight room/cardio fitness – 58%
 - Improvements to existing facilities – 55%
 - Warm water area/therapeutic – 58%
- (1 to 5 scale: percentage of 4 & 5 scores)

Survey: Opinion on the Amount of Dollars Being Spent For...



■ Too little
■ About right
■ Too much
■ Don't know



D. Facility Inventory Analysis

- GRASP (geo-referenced amenities standards program) is a tool to inventory components of parks and recreation facilities
- The inventory includes the components and their condition (quantity & quality)
- This GIS based inventory can be used to create maps showing location, distribution and accessibility of various facilities

Facility Inventory Analysis

Maps

- Inventory map of parks, trails and recreation facilities
- Map showing barriers limiting pedestrian access
- Map of available access to all parks, recreation facilities and trail network

E. Focus Areas

- Funding and build out of the park system
- Funding for operation and maintenance
- Funding and build out of the trail system
- Funding for pools and recreation centers
- Large outdoor events
- Sports park
- Tennis court service level