

**AN ANECDOTAL HISTORY
of the
PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Fort Collins, Colorado



**Compiled by
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**Employed by the City of Fort Collins from
January 4, 1971 – January 1, 2009**

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INTRODUCTION and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The year before I left employment with the City, we were asked to provide information to the City Manager about what major growth and improvements had been made 15 or 20 years before in Parks and Recreation. We were to then provide our thoughts about the impacts of those improvements and what the future needs might be as the city continued to grow. Since I had started this history project before I retired, it was very easy for me to go to this document and identify the major facilities, parks, trails, and other improvements made 15 or 20 years before because they were listed in one document. I was then able to quickly complete the assignment. One wish that I have is for this history document to provide this type of information to current and future employees to make their work easier and more efficient.

This document is not intended to be a full accounting, but rather a capturing of important dates and activities that can help the reader understand the sequence of improvements and the significance of expansion as it relates to the development of the Parks and Recreation system in Fort Collins.

A general chronological history can be found in Chapters 1-5. Chapter 6 is a recounting of a more detailed history of the recreation facilities and therapeutic recreation. I have also put in separate chapters Logos and Themes (Ch. 7) and Awards and Recognitions (Ch. 8). Chapter 9 (Trivia) recounts some of the less important but noteworthy happenings; Chapter 10 is a recounting of the activities of the Recreation Commission from 1944 from the first scrapbook found in the files; and then there is a list of Acronyms. The Appendices include a detailed document produced by the Recreation Management Team in 2008 of the department's Operating Principles, as well as the first section of the incomplete Recreation Strategic Business Plan 2008-2020.

Some dates may not be exactly accurate, and for that I apologize. I did not attempt to verify every date, and I found that some earlier history documents had conflicting dates. I believe that all dates are within a year or two of being correct. I'm also sure that some important items have been left out of this chronology; however, it would be very easy for someone to add anything into this electronic file. It is my hope that someone will take it upon themselves to continue to add to this document into the future.

It's essential to understand that even since 1937 with the inception of the Recreation Commission, the will and desires and interests of the citizens of Fort Collins have been the driving force behind the success of building one of the best parks and recreation agencies in the country right here in Fort Collins. ***Just last fall, when other cities around Colorado and the country were continuing to struggle to survive in difficult economic times, the citizens of Fort Collins chose to continue to financially support their quality of life by passing a sales tax increase that provided continuing support for their parks and recreation system. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CITIZENS!***

A few words about Stewart Case. You will see this name throughout the earlier years in this document. Stewart never worked for the Recreation Commission or for the City. (His brother Stan was Utilities Director and an interim City Manager at one point in his career.) Stewart did, however, have parks and recreation in his blood. As an employee of the CSU Extension Service, he was responsible for helping officials in rural areas plan and implement leisure services in their communities. He wrote and spoke on the subject locally as well as nationally. Stewart was active on the Fort Collins Recreation Commission board and served as its President. He was also appointed to the City's first Parks and Recreation Board. He was active in state and national recreation organizations and was President of the state recreation organization and the National Recreation Society, now the National Recreation and Park Association. He was considered one of the important leaders and advocates for the field. He was recognized for his work with many awards. The neighborhood park adjacent to Fort Collins High School on South Timberline is named Stewart Case Park in tribute to his timeless efforts to promote parks and recreation and to his influence and positive impacts on the park and recreation field.

Information for this project came from a wide variety of sources:

- Scrapbooks put together by members of the Recreation Commission
- Annual reports from the Recreation Commission
- Annual reports from staff in the Parks and Recreation Department
- Scrapbooks put together by Gloria White, long-time City employee and secretary to the first full-time Director H.R. Phillips
- Reports and documents in administrative and various other Department files
- Meeting minutes
- Newspaper articles
- Recreation brochures and newsletters
- Carol Tunner's CSU graduate Thesis on the History of Parks and City Park, 1996
- Leo Karpinski's report for college credit on Recreation in Fort Collins, 1983
- Report of the Department of Public Works, City of Fort Collins, 1923
- Discussions with staff and community members
- History documents and photos on the Poudre River Library District web site

Editing and additions to this document were provided by Craig Foreman, Park Planning and Development Director; Bill Whirly, Parks Manager; Tim Buchanan, City Forester; Jerry P. Brown, (retired) Golf Manager; Bob Loeven, (retired) Parks Manager, and staff at the Human Resources Department. Thank you.

A hard copy of this document has been added into the history files of the Parks and Recreation Department on the third floor at 215 N. Howes, as well as provided to the Fort Collins Museum and Poudre River Library District. The document appears electronically in pdf format at www.fcgov.com/recreation. Any staff member wishing to add to the document can get a Word copy on disc from John Litel, Communications Manager in the Recreation Department.

It has been my sincere pleasure to provide this history to you.

Jean Helburg - Summer, 2011

Chapter 1

FROM CAMP COLLINS to FORT COLLINS *Mid-1800's – 1872*

In 1862, a military encampment called Camp Collins was established at Point of Rocks, just northwest of the town of Laporte on the Poudre River, and named for Colonel William O. Collins, Commander of the 11th Cavalry Ohio Regiment stationed at Fort Laramie in Wyoming. The camp was established to protect the Overland Stage Company and emigrating pioneers from stage robbers and Indians.

As the result of a disastrous flood in 1864, the encampment was moved 5 miles downstream to higher ground south of the river and just north of the present-day Old Town area of Fort Collins. A burial site was needed, and one was chosen ½ mile southwest on the site of the original Post Office at Oak and College.

This military tract was a large four-mile square area that extended as far south as present-day Harmony Road. The area actually occupied by the military was much smaller, stretching from what is now North College Avenue to just east of Linden Street, and from the river south to Jefferson Street. The encampment was renamed Fort Collins.

Larimer County was created in 1861, and the county seat was established in Laporte. In 1868 the county seat was moved to Fort Collins.

The military occupied the area until the winter of 1867 when the Indian threat abated and the last troops were withdrawn. At that time, settlers and squatters moved in, and on May 15, 1872, Congress opened the military tract to preemption and homesteading. In 1873, the City of Fort Collins was platted and incorporated. **It is significant to note that, as had been promised the year before, the founding citizens of the city set aside prairie land for two small public parks.**

Fort Collins had nine major parks that were established before 1946: Washington, Lincoln, Vescelius' Grove, Prospect, Lindenmeier, High School, City, and two mountain parks. Some of these parks no longer exist. Others established on National Forest land have reverted to management by the U.S. Forest Service as campgrounds. Each in its own way provided specific needs in the growing community.

Sixty acres of what is now known as City Park was once farmland that was settled in 1870 by the Mercer Colony. This religious group from Mercer County, PA was the first known white settlement in this area. Mercer Ditch that runs through City Park carries the colony's name today. When the Mercer Colony failed to survive here, John Sheldon acquired the acreage in 1874 and dug the lake for water storage. He originally raised purebred marino sheep, but eventually turned to farming.

(Source: Carol Tunner's Thesis, "An Overview of the Fort Collins Park System Emphasizing City Park as It Relates to the Development of the Community"; Colorado State University, 1996)

Chapter 2

THE EARLY YEARS **1873-1937**

In 1873

- The town of Fort Collins was platted and established. Benjamin Whedbee was elected the first Mayor and held the office for 7 years.
- Lincoln (Library) Park and Washington Park were platted with the founding of the town and named after two famous presidents.
- A larger burial site was established southeast of town at the general area of Eastdale Drive, south of Prospect and east of Stover. This site was named Mountain Home Cemetery, and remains from the 1864 Oak and College site were transferred there.

In 1874

- William Lindenmaier, who had homesteaded, farmed, and run a cattle business on 360 acres northeast of town, built a lake on the property when the #10 irrigation ditch was developed. He named the lake Lindenmaier Lake.

In 1877

- The north-south railroad line on Mason Street was completed and began operation.

In 1879

- The first school called Remington School was opened between Olive and Magnolia on the east side of Remington in the general location of the current DMA Plaza.
- Colorado Agricultural College (Colorado State University) was opened.

In 1880

- Permission was given by the City for a temporary building and bandstand to be erected in Lincoln Park by the “Band Boys” for band purposes.

In 1881

- Lincoln Park was plowed and fenced, trees were planted, and grass was planted for use by the townspeople. At this time, Lincoln Park was unofficially referred to as City Park by many residents.

In 1882

- The first City Hall and fire station were built and occupied at 232 Walnut Street.
- By public vote of 268 for and 44 against, a waterworks system was approved for construction in 1883. The project included a water works building west of the current Overland Trail and south of Bingham Hill Road, piping, and a waterpower ditch to draw water from the Poudre River.

In 1886

- The Franklin School was built at the southwest corner of W. Mountain and Howes to accommodate the town’s growing population.

In 1887

- **40 acres of land 1½ miles west of town was purchased from Thomas Connolly for \$50/acre and Grand View Cemetery was established. Mountain Home Cemetery was closed and remains were again moved to the new location. (At some point, the name Grand View became one word – Grandview).**
- A group of private citizens purchased 20 acres on the north bank of the Poudre River east of College Avenue that was named Vescelius' Grove, a portion of which today is the Gustav Swanson Nature Center. The goal of the group was to develop recreational amenities that would draw tourists to the area. It's unclear whether plans for the recreational facilities were completed.
- It was discovered that the city had no clear title to the properties platted in 1873 for parks. A quit claim deed from the Larimer County Land Development Co, was procured, but it did not distinguish the land as parks.

In 1889

- The Board of Education established the first high school, and Fort Collins High School opened temporarily on the second floor of the Franklin School on West Mountain while the new high school was being built on W. Mulberry and Meldrum.

In 1899

- The City purchased 4 lots on the west side of the Lincoln Park block from W.C. Stover for \$1,400, giving the City clear title to the entire block.

In 1903

- City Council approved the placement of the first public (Carnegie) library on the west side of Lincoln Park. This began the practice of placing public buildings in parks.
- City residents voted to not sell the Washington Park property. Uses of the property before it was developed as a park were for a feed lot, cement block factory, and space for the City Streets Department.
- The School District built and opened Fort Collins High School on the corner of West Mulberry and South Meldrum.

In 1904

- **A group of private citizens purchased the western portion of the John Sheldon farm east of Grandview Cemetery for a race track and recreation area, and they named it Prospect Park.** They formed the Fort Collins Amusement Company to operate the park. By 1906 the park was in the red; however, the operation survived with creative funding as a private operation until 1913.
- An 80-mile per hour wind storm caused much damage and fires in the city, and the bandstand in Lincoln Park was destroyed.

In 1905

- City Council worked with the State of Colorado to gain approval for the formation of a six-member Park Commission for Fort Collins. The Commission oversaw the business operations of the parks and open lands, such as approval of uses, rent, sale of water, and revenues from haying/farming operations.



To accommodate the town's growing need for safe water, a new water works was constructed in the Poudre River canyon. After many improvements and many years of operation, the Poudre Canyon water treatment plant closed in the mid-1980s.

- The Poudre water works site is now known as Gateway Mountain Park, originally renovated and managed by Parks in 2002 and currently managed by City Natural Areas.

In 1906

- A new bandstand was constructed in Lincoln Park for \$165 to replace the one destroyed by a windstorm in 1904.

In 1907

- The City bought 62 acres for a park for \$25,080 west of downtown, part of the original Mercer Colony that was purchased by John Sheldon in 1874. This acreage included Sheldon Lake on West Mulberry and a hill east of the lake made from dredging the lake.
- At some point, public swimming became popular in the lake and continued until City Park Pool was constructed in 1952.
- William Lindenmaier Jr. began to develop his father's property northeast of town into a resort and park with rowboats, bandstand, pier, ice cream pavilion, diving, fishing, toboggan water slide, picnicking, and band concerts.
- A privately-operated streetcar line was extended from downtown to the west through the City property at Sheldon Lake to Prospect Park to service the race track.
- The streetcar barn on Cherry and Howes was constructed.

In 1908

- A YMCA at the corner of Oak and Remington was opened after a successful campaign to raise \$90,000 was completed to construct and operate it. The building included an indoor pool, gymnasium, bowling alley, billiards room, reading room, and lobby. Dues were \$10/year.
- The private streetcar line was extended 2½ miles northeast of town to the developing Lindenmaier resort. With the completion of this extension, the resort and park opened successfully that summer.

In 1909

- The Park Commission took steps to move a cement block factory from Washington Park, and then approved the majority of the park to be used as a playground operated by the YMCA. The playground was supervised and attendance was noted.
- More trees were planted in Lincoln Park.
- Planning and surveying began on the new park property west of town and continued through 1910.

In 1910

- The City staff installed curbing around Lincoln Park, and sidewalks were poured on the east side of Washington Park.
- The Bingham Hill Reservoir north and west of the Overland waterworks plant and close to the river was constructed to accommodate the city's water needs.

In 1911

- Work began on the West Mulberry park acreage including staking out drives and parking and preparing the property for grading.

In 1912

- A report from the YMCA group indicated that a second summer playground at Laurel and Mathews was operated. Participation numbers indicated that 346 children ages 2-17 enrolled at both playgrounds, showing a total of 6,998 participations.
- **At the January 3 meeting of the Park Commission, the name City Park was chosen for the West Mulberry acreage.**
- Grading work and tree planting began in City Park.

In 1913



The City purchased the 45-acre Prospect Park for \$10,000, which included the race track and recreational area adjacent to the 62 acres that the City had purchased for a park in 1907. The 2 acreages together would become City Park minus 13 acres for City Park Nine Golf Course.

- The City government was changed to a 3-member Commissioner form, and the Park Commission was abolished by the passage of the Charter, Article 12.

In 1914

- The City staff planted trees in Washington Park.

In 1915

- Ten more acres were purchased and added to the south side of Grandview Cemetery. This brought the total number of developed acres to 45.

In 1917

- Improvements to Washington Park were authorized including grading, trees, some grass, and an irrigation system.

In 1918

- The City acquired the privilege or right from the U.S. Forest Service to develop recreational facilities at Young's Gulch area in the Poudre River canyon. This

included picnicking facilities at Camp Ansel Watrous in the same area. This was the first of two early mountain parks managed by the City.

- A severe influenza epidemic had a major impact on space at Grandview Cemetery.
- **Between 1918 and 1923 the first playground in City Park was constructed north of the lake.**
- Also between 1918 and 1923 rock benches were erected on the north shore of Sheldon Lake. In the same location, the swim beach was sanded, and a water slide and second pier were constructed for the swimmers.
- Three burr oak trees were planted in Lincoln Park on three sides of the bandstand in honor of the brave soldier boys who had made the supreme sacrifice in the war. These trees remain today.

In 1919



The City purchased the streetcar system and called it the Fort Collins Municipal Railway. The original storage barn still exists on the corner of Cherry and North Howes.

- A 20-foot square wooden bandstand was built on an island in the center of Sheldon Lake. Band members reached the stage by boat.
- Lindenmaier Park began losing popularity because 1) The City discontinued operation of the streetcar to Lindenmaier Park to save money; 2) City Park was growing in popularity, and 3) World War I had an impact on participation.
- City Council approved a lease through 1935 for Robert Lampton to handle concessions at City Park, including boat rental, swim suit rental, swimming, ice skating, refreshments, and the campground operation.

A municipal campground opened in City Park south of Oak Street and east of Bryan on property that was previously a tree nursery. The campground consisted of 26 lots, water faucets, and a sanitary toilet. Lions Club members built 7 fireplaces, and Parks provided firewood for the campers. The campground remained in operation until 1970.



In 1920

- The City had constructed a bandstand in Sheldon Lake the previous year, and summer band concerts that had been held in Lincoln Park were moved to City Park.

In 1921

- The City acquired 94 acres of forest service land 35 miles west of Fort Collins in the Poudre Canyon for recreational purposes. This was the second of the two early mountain parks managed by the City.
- The original Pavilion in City Park on the north shore of the lake was constructed by Robert Lampton. (It was referred to as the Pavilion until 1949 when it became known as Club Tico. The name changed to City Park Center in the early 1970's and then back to Club Tico in 2003) Its original primary function was as a bathhouse for the lake swimming operation and a concession stand.

In 1922

- Additional grass was planted in Washington Park.

In 1923

- Lake Park (later called High School Park), 1401 Remington (2.8 acres), was donated to the City and developed with lawn and paths.
- **A community house at 1541 W. Oak (The current pottery studio) was constructed by Mr. Lampton west of the public campground in City Park.** The first floor contained a laundry, kitchen, a place for campers to write letters and relax, and a small store for supplies, groceries, and concessions. Mr. Lampton lived on the second floor and managed the operation, including a filling station.
- A major windstorm demolished the grandstand in Prospect Park.

1924

- The old wooden entry bridge at Grandview Cemetery was replaced with a concrete bridge. It was then faced with rustic mountain moss rock and rock flower receptacles placed on top. This application, along with the rock benches north of Sheldon Lake, probably influenced the later building of the rock entries and walls in City Park.

In 1925

- A shower bath house was constructed in the City Park campground that included a heating plant, showers, and an office for campground attendants.
- The bandstand in Sheldon Lake was replaced with a larger one.
- A diving tower was constructed in Sheldon Lake, along with a barrier to designate the bathing area.
- **A warming house was built on the northeast side of Sheldon Lake.** It had removable sides for summer use, a concrete floor, and concrete seats. It cost \$450. The facility was used as a warming house by ice skaters in the winter and as a shade pavilion in the summer. The current concrete steps of this structure still remain on the northeast side of the lake.
- Mr. Lampton received permission to enlarge the Pavilion in City Park to the west.
- Three tennis courts were built in Prospect Park near the northeast corner of the race track. This area is currently the location of the Fort Collins Housing Authority.
- **The City began building moss rock walls north and east of the Pavilion in City Park** with the intent that the area would become a passive relaxation area. To accomplish this, the playground that was installed there between 1918 and 1923 was

moved away from the lake and west of the irrigation ditch (Larimer #2) in the general area where picnic pavilion #7 currently sits.

- Fort Collins High School was moved to a new building at 1400 Remington that opened in the fall, and the old facility on West Mulberry became Lincoln Junior High School.

In 1926

- Lake Park west of the new high school on Remington Street was renamed High School Park.

In 1927

- **Rustic stone arches and more walls lining the roadways, along with a gateway entrance of foothills moss rock at Jackson Avenue and West Oak Street, were added in City Park.** 300 feet of rock wall was also built on the north side of the lake near the Pavilion. Large copper light fixtures were mounted on the entrance piers.
- To accommodate more tourists traveling by car, 16 rental cabins were built by Mr. Lampton west of the campground on city-owned Prospect Park land for those who didn't want to "rough it" in a tent. The camp was located where parking and the south ball field are today. It was called the **Fort Collins Auto Camp** and was the precursor to the development of motels, which didn't become popular until the mid to late 1940's.

In 1928

- To meet the increasing auto park use, sixteen more cabins were built by Mr. Lampton. A bridge across Larimer Canal #2 extended Oak Street to the west and provided vehicle access to the auto camp. Ten more cabins were built later in the year, bringing the total number of cabins to 42. 5,479 cabin rentals and 3,493 tent space rentals were recorded that year.
- Mr. Lampton also constructed a building at the auto camp with a laundry and showers and other guest facilities.
- A "toilet and tool" house was built immediately east of the community house at the campground in City Park.
- **Tennis courts were built immediately east of the campground in City Park.**

In 1931

- Auto camp visitations began to decline because of the Depression; people were not traveling. Fees were reduced, but visitation did not substantially improve.

In 1932

- The YMCA on Oak Street fell victim to the Great Depression and closed its doors.
- The American Legion George Beach Post #4 donated a cannon that was placed in City Park to honor World War I veterans. The cannon remains in the park today.
- A concrete and stone restroom was constructed in Grandview Cemetery.

In 1935

- The Forest Service closed the records on Young's Gulch because of lack of improvements and use.
- At the end of Mr. Lampton's concession agreement, he sold the Pavilion in City Park, the community house at the campground, and all concession rights to the City.
- The Municipal Light Plant was constructed on North College Avenue. Guy Palmes was hired as its first manager. He later became City Manager.

In 1936

- The American Legion proposed that the City allow a fireworks display in City Park on the Fourth of July.
- Wynford Chilton was contracted by City Council until 1940 as the City Park concessionaire for the Pavilion, lake swimming and skating operations, community house at the campground, and auto camp.



City Park looking southwest toward the Pavilion (Club Tico)



Chambers Lake and Colorado Highway 14

Chapter 3

THE RECREATION COMMISSION ***1937 - 1965***

The Fort Collins Recreation Commission, Incorporated was a non-profit charitable organization. It was first organized in 1937 at a meeting of representatives from all service clubs and similar organizations in the town. The Recreation Commission functioned until the City of Fort Collins took over the recreation responsibilities in 1966, combining it with Park Maintenance. The Recreation Commission survived and thrived for a respectable 29 years!

The first commission had nine members, all elected at the annual meeting. The number of members changed over time. When the Commission disbanded at the end of 1965, there were not less than eleven and not more than fourteen members, including seven of those members elected at-large and on rotating terms. The other members were not elected but rather represented the City, the School District, and Club Tico.

The purpose of the commission was to help develop community activities of a recreational nature to the fullest extent. The commission policy was to finance and plan a program that complimented activities of other agencies in the city. A definite attempt was made to avoid duplication. Activities were selected to fulfill a need and according to the interests of individuals participating. Whenever possible the commission cooperated with and assisted other agencies in developing programs.

The Fort Collins Recreation Commission was an agency of the United Fund and the principal source of income came from the United Fund. Each year other service clubs, organizations, and individuals provided funding for various needs. At some point, the City began to make a modest annual contribution to help support the activities of the Commission. In addition, the City of Fort Collins provided use and maintenance of the outdoor areas and facilities; and the School District made available the use of its buildings, gymnasiums, and playing fields. Until 1958 the services of the Recreation Director, who was an employee of the School District, were donated to the program by the School District. The Recreation Commission furnished the organization, leadership, and activity materials.

In 1937

- The Elks Lodge #804 purchased and occupied the building on Remington Street that had been built and occupied by the YMCA in 1908 until the Y closed in 1932.

In 1938

- Work began on City Park Nine Golf Course, designed by Don Chapin, local businessman and golfer. The land used was part of the City Park land purchased from Mr. Connolly and a portion of Prospect Park, forming an "L" around the south and east sides of Grandview Cemetery. Work was done by hand, and Works Progress Administration funds paid workers \$37.50 for three days work each week.

In 1939

- The Fort Collins Commissioners, within interpretation of the City Charter, bypassed a special election and voted by Ordinance to convert the City structure to a City Manager form of government. Guy Palmes was hired as the first City Manager.

In 1940

- **Fifty people played the City Park Nine Golf Course for the first time after dedication ceremonies on June 16.**
- Decline in maintenance and in use of the auto camp in City Park resulted in its closure. The campground to the east remained open for another 30 years!

In 1941

- The City authorized the construction of Pioneer Museum on the east end of Lincoln Park to house pioneer relics, and it opened on April 12.

In 1942

- The Recreation Commission started a rifle club to teach children how to safely handle firearms. Club members met weekly in the high school gym.
- Two auto camp cabins were moved to the Water Treatment Plant in the Poudre Canyon and combined together into one residence for the manager of the plant.

In 1943

- The Camp Fire Girls, in sponsorship with the USO, opened a youth center in a small donated space at 149 W. Mountain Avenue owned by Public Service Company.

In 1944

- **The Recreation Commission agreed to take over the downtown youth center from Camp Fire. At year end, activities were moved to the junior high school. The center became Club Tico, probably after a popular song called ‘Tico Tico.’**
- City-contracted concessionaire J.W. Norcross converted the second floor of the City Park Pavilion into a roller skating rink that operated during the school year.

A monthly recap of Recreation Commission activities in 1944 is provided in Chapter 11 as a “snapshot” of the Commission’s dedication, effort, and purposeful contributions to the community. (1944 was chosen because it is the year of the first Recreation Commission scrapbook found.)

In 1945

- Alden T. Hill, exalted ruler of the Elks Lodge and a staunch supporter of the Recreation Commission, convinced the Lodge to contribute \$5,000 to the Commission. He reported to the lodge members in March that recreation programs and facilities can help decrease juvenile delinquency. C.R. Cushing, the county juvenile officer, reported that, although many cities reported serious increases in delinquency as a result of war conditions, Fort Collins reported a decrease.
- According to the Recreation Commission fall report, Recreation Director J. Ray French indicated plans to develop a Young America sports league for boys in 1946

similar to one in Denver that would include various team sports sponsored by local service clubs. Mr. French also reported that he hoped to form an American Legion baseball team the following year.

- The Junior Chamber of Commerce funded horseshoe courts at Lincoln Park.

In 1946

- **A sports league for boys called Junior All Americans (JAA) was established by the Recreation Commission and sponsored by the Elks Lodge, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis Clubs for boys ages 8-14 to learn and compete in football, basketball, and baseball.**
- The Fort Collins JAA youth tackle football program began with 6 teams, all sponsored by service clubs and all kids wearing full protective gear. 2011 is this program's 65th year of continuous operation by the Recreation Commission and then the City.
- JAA boys' baseball was also started for ages 8-14. It was run by the Recreation Commission until the program was turned over to Youth Baseball in 1961.
- Discussions took place requesting that the City provide more funding for operation of the Recreation Commission. The Charter limited the City to a 15-mill tax limit. The City Manager countered that the School District should increase its non-charter-limited tax levy to support the Commission. He also assured the Commission members that the City provided a substantial amount of in-kind maintenance to support recreation and would continue to do so.
- **The first Knothole Club program was held for kids to attend Aggies (CSU) and Fort Collins High football games as a group. This program required a small fee of 35 cents and continued each fall until the early 1970's.**
- The Fort Collins Kiwanis Club purchased playground equipment for Lincoln Park.
- A new swim instruction program for 100 girls was held at South College pool on the CSU campus.
- Summer youth band was started by Curtis Johnson. This popular activity was run through the Recreation Commission for many years. At its peak, 250+ boys and girls were divided into beginning, intermediate, advanced, concert, and dance bands.
- The youth rifle club that was started in 1942 expanded with 60 males and females, chosen from 154 applicants. Eventually a range was set up in the basement of the high school. Participants were taught marksmanship and firearm safety.

In 1947

- A private cemetery on East Mulberry called Roselawn Cemetery was established.

In 1948

- In February, The City Council authorized sending a postcard survey to residents asking if they would be in favor of an electric rate increase to support recreation. Citizens had been asking for various recreation projects, including, among others, a **permanent building for Club Tico, a swimming pool, an ice rink**, and adding 9 holes to the golf course in City Park. The Council suggested that, if the electric rate is approved, a 10-year recreation plan should be developed by the Commission. After much discussion, electric rates were not raised to support recreation programs.

- Two Council members suggested that the Tacoma, WA Park District model (dedicated tax for recreation) be reviewed for Fort Collins instead of City funding being used. This was not pursued.
- The roller rink at the Pavilion in City Park that opened in 1944 ceased operation.
- **City Council approved the use of the Pavilion in City Park for Club Tico**, which had been meeting in the junior high gym since 1944.
- The Franklin School, built in 1886, was considered a fire trap and unfit for use as an elementary school. Interested citizens proposed that the building be remodeled into a community and recreation center, but the cost was prohibitive and the idea was not pursued. Franklin School was eventually torn down and more recently, the original Steele's Market operated on the property for many years until that building was torn down in 2010.
- The Northern Colorado Rod and Gun Club gained permission from the City to use property west of the town's first air strip, Christman Field, on West LaPorte Avenue for an outdoor rifle range. At some point, the facility was used only for practice by law enforcement officers, and the facility was closed in the 1980's. Today the Fire Department uses buildings at Christman Field for fire drills and trainings.
- A new activity – square dancing – drew 138 grade school children.
- Summer handicrafts activities were held at City Park, Lincoln/Library Park, and at the Buckingham neighborhood. Finding no suitable location in Buckingham, the City offered an old streetcar that was wired for electricity by Light and Power. The streetcar was used for several years as a classroom for this program.

In 1949

- An agreement was entered into between the City and Recreation Commission that the City would pay for fixed charges such as maintenance and utilities, and the Commission would administer recreation programs for the City. Personnel from the School District would continue to be provided for supervision and management.



Club Tico was moved from the junior high school to the second floor of the City-owned Pavilion on the north side of Sheldon Lake and opened on May 28. The Pavilion then became known as Club Tico.

- Mayor Robert Hayes announced plans to build an outdoor pool in Sheldon Lake in City Park. He called it “one of the most worthwhile (projects) in the city’s history.” A separate wading pool was also built west of the pool and close to the Pavilion. **The 1 million-gallon pool opened on July 31.**
- The Moose Lodge requested and gained permission to pay for and build 3 fishing piers in Sheldon Lake.
Mrs. J.T. Strate requested use of a park building for the Girl Scouts. They were given the building just east of the south ball field in City Park that was built for the City-operated auto camp that ceased operation there in 1940. The Scouts used the

space for storage, day camping, and meetings. The building today houses the offices of the Fort Collins Baseball Club.

- Lights and poles were replaced at the City Park softball field.
- Some JAA baseball games were played at the field at St. Joseph School. A diamond at Smith and Mulberry, owned by the School District, was used for baseball games by two teams composed of players of Spanish descent, as well as by the JAA Legion baseball team.
- The adult softball program, run by the Recreation Commission for many years, was turned over to an organization called the Fort Collins Softball Association.
- Activities managed by the Recreation Commission in 1949 included JAA baseball, JAA football, JAA basketball, handicrafts, five summer bands, boys softball, square dancing, swimming, tap dancing, women's recreation, ice skating, knot hole club, volleyball, wood shop, rifle club, and Club Tico.

In 1950

- **The children's train in City Park was installed privately and operated until 1953 by Jim Baggot.**
- A new spring softball program for junior high girls was very successful with 56 participants.
- Adult baseball was a new program, with seven teams.

In 1951

- The City streetcar system that was purchased from a private company in 1919 ceased operation.
- After the streetcar tracks were removed in City Park, **the playground moved for the third and final time to its current location.** The playground equipment was originally installed on one side of the cannon that had been placed there in 1932. Later, equipment was added on the other side of the cannon. Still later, Parks enclosed the equipment into one large playground with the cannon in the middle.

In 1952

A pool permanently separate from Sheldon Lake was constructed adjacent to the Pavilion in City Park with funding from the Elks Lodge #804 and the City. It was operated by the Recreation Commission and maintained by the City.



In 1953

- William and Ede (Wolfe) Hershiser purchased and ran the City Park train until 1969.
- A map of City Park indicated a dedicated softball field and an area for hardball (baseball) north of the softball field in the area originally known as Prospect Park.

In 1954

- The present City Charter and Home Rule were adopted by citizen vote.

In 1955

- It is believed that the miniature Statue of Liberty on the north shore of Sheldon Lake was constructed.
- The city hall and bank building, along with other buildings on Main Street at the newly-opened Disneyland in California, were designed by Harper Goff after buildings in Fort Collins where Mr. Goff grew up.

In 1956

- A block bathhouse/concession was constructed for the outdoor pool in City Park.
- Construction began on the City Hall facility at 300 LaPorte Avenue on the Washington Park property. Construction cost was \$350,000.

In 1957

- An article appeared in the Fort Collins 'Coloradoan' on December 31, 1957 announcing that a group of interested citizens wanted to propose the formation of the Poudre Valley Metropolitan Recreation District. The group was interested in establishing a special district that would have a dedicated revenue stream from property tax to purchase and develop land for more parks in the city.
- According to Stewart Case from Colorado State University who was hired by the City as a consultant, the City had only half the park space in proportion to population called for by standards established by the National Park Service. In addition, the City had not, except for High School Park west of Fort Collins High School, opened a new park since 1907 when City Park land was purchased. Fort Collins had doubled in size since 1940 and was continuing to expand.
- **With cooperation from the City, the Recreation Commission opened an office on the first floor of Club Tico in July.**
- Stewart Case, President of the Recreation Commission, encouraged the City and School District to study the possibility of joint school-city park sites.
- A youth hiking program was started in conjunction with the Boy Scouts and was very popular. Leaders and guides were provided by the Scouts, and transportation to hiking sites was arranged by the Recreation Commission.
- **Lights were installed over the City Park tennis courts.**
- The 1957 Recreation Commission report indicated that the lights on the City Park ball field were no longer operable. Youth and adult baseball and softball games were scheduled during the day, weekends, and early evenings.

In 1958

- After a counter-petition was filed by opponents of forming a park district as proposed the prior year, a decision by the court was delayed until further research could be undertaken. Opponents were questioning the state constitutional legality of forming such a taxing district, even though Estes Park had established such a district in 1957. It was determined that neither group had obtained enough signatures on petitions for the court to officially rule on any requests concerning the matter.

- The first City municipal building opened at 300 LaPorte Avenue to house in one location the majority of City offices.
- **The School District was no longer able to provide a Recreation Director to the Commission at no cost.** Ray Kruse, the Recreation Director in 1957-1958 and Principal at Lincoln Junior High agreed to continue with a salary from the Commission, and he stayed in the position until fall, 1961 when a full-time Recreation Director (H.R. Phillips) was hired.
- Citizens and service clubs stepped up with donations so that recreation activities could continue for the next few years at current levels.
- **Recreation Commission members had discussions about Stewart Case's 1957 future city needs report that highlighted the need to keep pace with population-based national facility standards.** As a result, the Recreation Commission's annual report indicated that the City, based on its population projected into the future, was deficient in park acreage, playgrounds, play fields, tennis courts, ball diamonds, and community/recreation buildings.
- The north ball field at City Park was improved with a backstop, bleachers, and grass, but no lights. It was initially used for early evening youth games.
- Men's and women's adult softball and baseball games were played early evenings at the unlighted university fields at Laurel and Washington Streets.

In 1959

- Extended winter cold weather resulted in good ice skating. In addition to lake skating, the City Park tennis courts were flooded for skating. The Optimist Club helped with preparing the courts with polyethylene before adding the water.
- **Roselawn Cemetery on East Mulberry was taken over by the City.**
- Recreation Commission President Stewart Case urged the City to take a realistic view of the future and develop a long range plan for acquiring land, developing facilities, and providing full-time leadership for recreation.

In 1960

- Old Fort Collins Heritage Park (originally called Riverside Park) was designated by City Council as a possible future city park. This land was the original City landfill east of College Avenue and south of the river.
- The City Council hired S.R. DeBoer, a planning consultant from Denver, to develop the city's first professional parks and recreation plan for the city. The final plan was submitted in 1963.

In 1961

- A presentation by William Frederickson, Recreation Superintendent in Los Angeles and President-elect of the American Recreation Society, led to discussions about the City's need to acquire land now for more park land, open space, and recreational spaces in the future. He noted that Colorado was the 7th fastest growing state and that people had more leisure time than in the past. He also urged the hiring of a trained recreation director.
- A private organization sanctioned with the national Little League was established called Youth Baseball to organize and operate baseball programs in the city for

youths. Youth Baseball eventually became the umbrella organization for all youth baseball programs including American Legion, and is currently called the Fort Collins Baseball Club.

- Little League baseball for 11 and 12 year old boys, run by the Fort Collins Optimists, played at new fields at 1000 W. Laurel just east of South Shields on CSU property. The Fort Collins Jaycees Little League program for 8-12 year olds used the same fields, as well as other fields in the city.
- **The Recreation Commission was reorganized under joint authority of the School District and City and called the Fort Collins Area Recreation Commission. The board was reformulated to 7 members, and the decision was made to hire a fulltime recreation director.**
- Recreation Director Ray Kruse resigned on September 1 because of his fulltime obligations with the school district.
- **H.R. Phillips was hired late in the fall by the Fort Collins Recreation Commission as the first fulltime Recreation Director.** He was initially housed in the basement of City Hall on LaPorte Avenue, and by 1963 the office had moved to 202 N. Meldrum (“the little white house on the corner.”)

In 1962

- Avery Park (17.93 acres), acquired in 1960, was developed with a playground, play field, natural area/pond, picnic tables, restroom, basketball court, and water fountain.
- The Recreation Commission agreed to turn over its age 13-15 boys’ baseball program, including its equipment, to the Little League baseball program of the Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce). The Jaycees program for boys ages 8-15 had been in existence for awhile and had included 923 boys in major and minor peewee leagues the previous year.
- A meeting with senior citizens early in the year resulted in the formation of the Senior Citizen Club. In September, this group changed its name to Golden Age Club to coincide with similar clubs in Denver and Cheyenne. At some point, the group began meeting at the Knights of Columbus hall on North Meldrum Street.
- A senior citizen group interested in dancing was known as The Over-40 Dance Club.
- Recreation Commission member Thurman “Fum” McGraw reported a finance committee recommendation that the Commission should cease depending totally on gifts and donations and investigate the possibility of a City appropriation. A decision was made to send Commission representatives to the City Planning Advisory Committee meetings to begin discussions.
- North Shields Ponds (10 acres) was donated for open space purposes.

In 1963

- The City began work on a comprehensive planning document that would include all phases of city services including parks and recreation.
- The Recreation Commission members began discussing ways to supplement the growing budgetary needs for programs as interest grew. Class fees had been charged in 1962 to balance program expenses, and were continued. Funding for facilities and improvements needed to be found to maintain infrastructure on an ongoing basis.

- The Recreation Commission took over the local Golden Glovers boxing program from the Elk's Lodge. Bouts were held in the gymnasium at Holy Family Church.
- John Power, owner of McDonald's Drive-in restaurant on South College Avenue, donated trophies for the winners of the Commission's annual summer tennis tournament, which was held on the Colorado State University courts.
- Stewart Case, community development specialist with CSU, President-elect of the American Recreation Society, and a member the Fort Collins Recreation Commission Board, was recognized with the Fellow Award at the annual National Recreation Association Congress in St. Louis.
- The precursor to Fort Collins Tennis Association was organized with assistance from Gladys Eddy, Recreation Commission member, and called Fort Collins Tennis Club.

In 1964

- City planners presented a report that outlined deficiencies in the city's park system. The report identified the need to spend \$485,000 in the next 3-5 years to upgrade existing facilities, add ball fields and tennis courts in existing parks, and to purchase land for five new parks to meet the needs of the growing community.
- **A new lighting system on the City Park (south) softball/baseball field included steel poles and upgraded lights.**
- City Council appointed a committee to study 6 problems related to the park system: 1) ways to acquire park land; 2) ways to develop the land; 3) ways to finance acquisition and development; 4) size and types of parks needed; 5) location for new parks; and 6) any other related issues.
- The School District opened its second high school, Poudre High School, in the northwest part of the city.

In 1965

- Spring Park (16.99 acres), acquired in 1961, was developed with a playground, 2 ball fields, picnic shelter, pond, sledding area, a section of trail along Spring Creek, soccer field, restrooms, and drinking fountain.
- **City Council officially authorized by Ordinance on October 29 the formation of the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as authorizing a parks and recreation advisory board and changing H.R. Phillips' position of Recreation Director to Parks and Recreation Director, all effective on January 1, 1966.**
- Appointments were made on December 17 by City Council to the first municipal Parks and Recreation Board.
- The City, in cooperation with the school district, put lights on the tennis courts at Fort Collins High School at 1400 Remington.
- City Council discussed initiating a one-cent city sales tax (revenue potential \$75,000/year) to help pay for the growing costs of operation, especially parks and recreation. This was approved in 1968 when the City began collecting sales tax.
- Buckingham Park was graded, and playground and picnic structures built, all with donated time and money.
- **The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress to help states acquire and develop land for recreational uses.**

Chapter 4

THE PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT **1966 - 1999**

In 1966

- **Effective January 1, the City of Fort Collins assumed the responsibility for the operation of recreation programming through its Parks and Recreation Department. This resulted in formally disbanding the Recreation Commission, which had successfully provided activities for the community since 1937.**
- To formalize the staffing for the new parks and recreation department, the City Manager named Dave Byers as Recreation Assistant and Rolland Moore as Park Superintendent, both reporting to the Director H.R. Phillips.
- The first recreation budget under the City was \$57,708 plus \$6,500 from the School District for the city to run programs in outlying communities- Wellington, Waverly, Timnath, and Laporte.

In 1967

- The first Recreation Superintendent was hired, along with a Recreation Supervisor.
- **Lights and poles were installed on the north ball field in City Park.**
- The City received a grant from the Federal Bureau of Reclamation to install a sprinkler system at Spring Park.
- **The City's first one-cent sales tax** was passed by voters for general purposes and went into effect January 1, 1968.

In 1968

- Indian Hills Park (2 acres), acquired in 1962, was developed with turf and picnic facilities. No other development was planned because of an agreement with the Men's Garden Club to keep the area open and passive.
- City staff proposed that new developers donate a percentage of land for neighborhood parks. City Council eventually dropped the proposal without a vote. Staff sent the proposal back to the Council with numerous changes, including a flat fee per housing unit instead of a percentage.
- **City Council eventually established the Neighborhood Parkland Fund** to hold revenue from Neighborhood Parkland Fees charged on all new residential construction. The initial fee of \$40/per housing unit was to be spent on capital land acquisition and construction of parks in the areas where the fees were collected.
- **The management responsibilities for the cemeteries were transferred from the Assistant City Manager to the Parks and Recreation Director.**
- A flag football league was a new activity for adults.

In 1969

- After publicity concerning the near drowning of a small boy in the Spring Park pond, discussion suggested that lakes, irrigation ditches, and other potential hazards be fenced. In February, the decision was made to drain the Spring Park pond in winter.
- Gilbert and Lila Wolfe owned and operated the children's trail in City Park until 1984. They also contracted with the City to run the City Park Pool concession stand.

- **Bleachers on the north ball field in City Park were replaced, along with adding two concrete dugouts to the south ball field.**
- The Men’s Garden Club, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department and Poudre School District, coordinated a tree planting event in April on Arbor Day.
- The Elks Club began its campaign to raise \$25,000 to contribute playground equipment at the new community park being built in the southeast part of the city – Edora Park. One of the fund raisers was hosting an exhibition basketball game at CSU between the Denver Rockets and the Washington Capitals.
- A Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation grant was used to purchase 165.5 acres for Collindale Golf Course and 26.97 acres for Warren Park.
- Record low temperatures in early October killed and damaged many trees throughout the city. Workloads for Parks and Streets were greatly affected.

In 1970

RECREATION

- PSD and the City began studying the feasibility of building a joint indoor pool. Discussions also took place concerning the future use of the old junior high site after the school was to move to its new building under construction on Lancer Drive.
- Ice skating lessons for kids at the CSU rink west of the student center and girls (ponytail) softball were held for the first time.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- The Elks Club donated \$10,000 to the City and assisted with the construction of the Edora Park playground.
- **City Council authorized \$16,579 to light the new west ball field at Edora Park, to be completed in 1971.**
- City Council authorized spending \$24,000 on a tree sanitation program to remove dead branches. \$8,000 was for Dutch Elm Disease prevention measures.
- Tom Borden, State Forester, chaired a committee to discuss long-range solutions to the growing state-wide Dutch Elm Disease problem.

ADMINISTRATION

- City Council requested a report on problems related to the overnight camping area at West Oak and South Bryan that had been in operation there since 1919. The Council ultimately authorized closing the campground effective September 1. Reasons included sanitation problems, aesthetics, and conflicts with picnickers.
- Elliott Heidekoper donated 47 acres to the School District north of West Vine Drive for a park at Lincoln Junior High School.
- Citizens petitioned City Council to provide on-street bike paths or lanes and this was eventually authorized.

In 1971

RECREATION

- The Recreation Division hired a woman to run girls and women’s sports and to develop and expand children’s and adult activities. It was legal then to advertise “only women need apply.”
- **Club Tico closed in City Park in January after 27 years of operation.**

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Extended winter cold weather resulted in good ice skating. In addition to lake skating, the City Park tennis courts were flooded for skating. The Optimist Club helped prepare the courts with polyethylene before adding the water.
- **Collindale Golf Course, the city's first 18-hole public course, opened on June 13.**
- A tree dump along the south side of the Poudre River west of College Avenue was closed permanently to make way for a community park (Lee Martinez Park).
- **The city's second community park - Edora Park - (65.41 acres), acquired in 1965 and 1968 and developed in phases, was opened to the public.** Features when completed included a playground, 2 lighted ball fields, six lighted tennis courts, playfields, restrooms, and a BMX bicycle motocross track. The trail along Spring Creek was also eventually developed.
- A September snowstorm dropped 18 inches of wet snow on the city, breaking trees and creating much additional work for Parks, Golf, and Public Works employees.
- Discussion ensued between citizens, officials, and City Council concerning a by-pass for Colorado Highway 14 through the Buckingham area instead of on Jefferson Street. The item was put on hold for at least 34 months pending the results of an environment impact study. To date, Colorado Highway 14 still runs through the north side of Old Town on Jefferson Street.

ADMINISTRATION

- An Ordinance was passed by City Council authorizing the City Manager to contract with or hire a City Arborist to manage the city's public trees.
- By authority of a City Council Resolution in 1967, the Landmark Preservation Commission officially designated the landfill east of College Avenue and south of the Poudre River as a city park. At some point it was named Riverside Park.
- At the request of the City, the Campfire Girls moved its office from the Community House (now the Pottery Studio) in City Park to a downtown space to make room at the Community House for recreation activities. It is unknown how long the Campfire organization had had office space there.
- A future needs report for Parks and Recreation was produced and distributed to City staff and officials, its purpose to identify planning goals for the following ten years.

In 1972

RECREATION

- A supervisor for men's and boy's sports was hired, as well as a recreation secretary, who were both housed at 202 N. Meldrum.



New activities were recreational funtime for preschool children, first held on the second floor of Club Tico; ponytail (girls) soccer; women's basketball league; decoupage; and grandstand quarterback class for women taught by Joe Cribari, a CSU football coach.

- Recreation Division staff started the Trooper program, hiring youths to work in park maintenance and playground program supervision. Troopers were high school students and part of the program included educational sessions with local businesses.

- The first full-time youth supervisor was hired and housed at Club Tico.
- To make room at Club Tico for the youth supervisor, Youth Baseball, which had had its office there since 1961, was moved to a building east of the south ball field in City Park, not far from the building occupied by the Girl Scouts since 1949.
- **Club Tico re-opened for senior citizens Monday-Friday from 9:00-3:00 and as a youth center Thursday through Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons.**

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Land negotiations for the future Lee Martinez Park began.
- **Dutch Elm Disease was detected in American elm trees, and 11 trees were lost.**

ADMINISTRATION

- Both golf courses were named in a naming contest that began at the end of 1971. The names chosen were City Park Nine and Collindale.
- The Designing Tomorrow Today (DTT) citizen committee recommended, among many other projects, that the City build a second outdoor pool and an indoor ice arena, along with funding for parks, open space, trails, and conversion of the old Lincoln Junior High School to a performing arts facility. The projects were approved by voters in a one-cent sales tax package called the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), effective January 1, 1973 for 8 years.
- **This tax package was the first major sales tax increase for capital purposes taken to the citizens for approval. It set the precedence for other capital expansion packages, most if not all of which have been approved by the citizens. This would become the primary method to obtain funding for capital improvements in the City.**

In 1973

RECREATION

- Land negotiations for the future Lee Martinez Park began. **Through written agreement, PSD transferred to the City use of the entire block of the Lincoln Junior High site on West Mulberry for recreational purposes, including building an indoor pool, in exchange for swim time for PSD in the pool facility.**
- **A program began for adults with developmental disabilities.** This program, along with the expansion of activities for senior citizens, moved the department from a sports and summer program to a more well-rounded recreational program.
- The Recreation Division held its first Saturday registration for summer activities at Foothills (then called Century) Mall on April 21.
- New activities: senior citizen bus trips, flower making, and teen fashion and charm.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **The Kluver Foundation donated the showmobile, a portable band shell, to the City. It was stored with and managed by Parks.**
- After much negotiation, the City purchased the land for the future Lee Martinez Park and The Farm west of College Avenue and south of the river.
- Jefferson Street Parkway (.75 acres) which was leased in 1955 and then re-leased in 1968 from the railroad was eventually acquired and developed with picnic facilities.

ADMINISTRATION

- A 10-year future needs plan was developed by a graduate student at CSU to assist department staff in mapping out the department's direction.
- PSD opened Rocky Mountain High School, its third high school, in the southwest part of the city.

In 1974

RECREATION

- A new minimum wage law mandated that pay for the maintenance workers in the Trooper program be substantially more than that of the playground supervisors, resulting in the maintenance portion of the program being canceled after that year.
- **The Fort Collins Community Pool (now called Mulberry Pool) on the old Lincoln Junior High site opened to the public on December 15.**
- **The community house at 1541 W. Oak was renovated into a pottery studio and classroom facility for a variety of youth and adult arts and general classes.** The building was previously used by tourists staying at the City Park campground. It was also the living quarters for City Park's concessionaire from 1923 into the 1930's.
- New activities: ponytail basketball, slimnastics for women, painting classes for senior citizens, belly dancing, copper enameling, and after-school youth centers at 4 elementary and 2 junior high schools.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- 68 acres of land for the future fourth community park - Rolland Moore Park - were purchased for \$300,000.
- Beattie Park (10 acres), acquired in 1973, was developed with playground, basketball, drinking fountain, 2 ball fields, 2 tennis courts, restrooms, and picnic tables. This was the first park built adjacent to a school with "shared" facilities.
- Many trees were planted in the Mountain Avenue medians.

ADMINISTRATION

- City Council authorized purchase of the vacated Coloradoan newspaper building at 145 E. Mountain Avenue for \$185,000, its use not initially determined.
- A 10-year comprehensive open space plan was approved by City Council with emphasis on preserving parks and open space areas.
- **The Park Planning and Open Space Division of Parks and Recreation was authorized by City Council.** The purpose of the new division was to design and plan parks and open space areas and to develop the City's proposed recreational trail system that was partially funded from the seven-year capital improvements program (CIP) approved by voters in 1972.

In 1975

RECREATION

- As a major requirement of the City-School District agreement for use of the Mulberry-Meldrum site, PSD's fourth grade swim instruction program began at Fort Collins Community Pool, along with high school swim team workouts and meets.
- Recreation began offering a program called Saturday Social Club for developmentally disabled adults to learn social and physical skills.
- Ballroom dance and tap classes were newly offered and very popular.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY and PARK PLANNING

- Lee Martinez Park, west of College and south of the river, was officially named.



A building in City Park adjacent to the picnic shelters and playground was used for many years as headquarters for the park maintenance staff. It also contained public restrooms and storage. **A new Park Maintenance Shop west of Sheldon Lake and the fire station was completed in January.** The old maintenance building was torn down and new public restrooms were built adjacent to the playground.

- Freedom Square (.54 acres), acquired in 1974, was developed with a playground and lighted basketball court. Playground equipment was installed by volunteers from a local service club, and Parks staff oversaw the Saturday installation.

ADMINISTRATION

- **After much discussion, City Council designated the use of the recently purchased newspaper building at 145 E. Mountain as a recreation/community center for all ages.** That fall Parks and Recreation staff moved from the “little white house at 202 N. Meldrum” to offices in the new facility.
- The original Lincoln Junior High/Fort Collins High School on West Mulberry closed. The school was moved to the new Lancer Drive facility, and the Mulberry building was transferred to the City per the 1973 written agreement.
- The Fort Collins Tennis Association (FCTA) was established. The organization received its 501c3 designation in 1976. The City continues to collaborate today with the local tennis organization to schedule tournaments and for court use.

In 1976

RECREATION

- **Spaces at 145 E. Mountain were remodeled for a community center/senior center called the Downtown Community Center (DCC). Grand opening was held on May 2.** It was the first City-operated intergenerational community center in Fort Collins, serving senior citizens during the day and the general public evenings and weekends. The programs for senior citizens at Club Tico were moved downtown.
- **Club Tico was closed as a youth center.** Activities for teens were offered at DCC.
- **Club Tico was renamed City Park Center.** The upstairs was programmed for dance and fitness classes and was available for weekend rentals. The first floor held sports equipment storage.
- Mail-in registration for recreation activities was implemented and given priority over walk-in registration.
- Boys’ soccer was offered for the first time.
- **Parks and Recreation staff hosted a Gala Gay 90’s Picnic in the Park at City Park, an all-day event on July 4 to celebrate the nation’s bi-centennial and the city’s centennial. This event began the annual city-wide celebration on this day.**

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Blevins Park (7.25 acres), acquired in 1975, was developed adjacent to Blevins Junior High School with a playground, soccer field, paved trail, and drinking fountain.

- An arboretum at Cherry and North College was established with no supplemental water source. The new Fort Collins Museum/Science Discovery Center is currently under construction on the site.
- Two major open space properties with access to the south end of the Foothills Trail along the east side of Horsetooth Reservoir – Pineridge (356.7 acres) and Maxwell (167.81 acres) – were acquired with CIP funding approved in 1972.

ADMINISTRATION

- Efforts began to promote the community-school concept from Michigan, resulting in programming by Recreation staff of two schools in the evenings for public activities. Federal and CETA funding for staff and programs organized by the City, PSD, and CSU Continuing Education was solicited. The community-school effort eventually faltered because of lack of adequate funding and support from the City and PSD.
- The original Museum on the east side of Lincoln Park was torn down to make way for a new Fort Collins Public Library building. The museum operation was moved into the original library building on the west side of the park. With opening of the new library, City Council officially changed the park name from Lincoln to Library Park.
- **An Ordinance was passed by City Council authorizing a fulltime City Arborist to supervise the new Forestry Division of the Parks and Recreation Department.**

In 1977

RECREATION

- Lone Star Steel sponsored its first summer week-long Superstars tennis clinic, involving 140 youths. Lone Star Steel sponsored this successful event for 6 years.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **The first full-time City Arborist was hired** and the Forestry Division established.
- The first Tree City USA was awarded to Fort Collins from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City is awarded annually upon application and if a city meets all the required criteria.
- The Forestry staff was very involved in redeveloping the downtown area with landscaping and extensive tree plantings.
- Buckingham Park (5.75 acres), acquired in 1962, was developed with a playground, shelter, ball field, restrooms, and open play area. The shelter roof came from a closed-up service station on Canyon and Meldrum.
- **The opening of Lee Martinez Park** (89.56 acres) was celebrated with 4 lighted tennis and 3 lighted basketball courts, restrooms, playground, and picnic facilities. Other facilities including The Farm, 2 lighted ball fields, a pavilion, and trails were phased in over the next several years.
- Leisure Park (.92 acres) was acquired and then developed in phases from 1978 to 1984. Items in the park include a playground, picnic tables, and basketball court.
- Legacy Park (8.4 acres), acquired in 1975, was developed.
- The Fisher property (11.73 acres) on the north side of Rolland Moore Park was acquired for open space purposes.
- Swanson Nature Area (11.43 acres), part of Vescelius' Grove that was privately purchased for a park in 1887, was acquired by the City for open space purposes.
- Riverbend Ponds (54.45 acres) was acquired through donation for open space.

In 1978

RECREATION

- **The Northside Community Center at 112 E. Willow opened in August. This facility contained the first city-owned indoor gymnasium.**
- Adult softball leagues were scheduled on Saturday and Sunday due to high demand – 233 teams and 3,500 participants played that summer.
- An elementary school track meet was started by recreation staff with cooperation from the physical education teachers in PSD. At some point, the meet was taken over by Poudre School District. It is still held annually in the spring and named for teacher/coach Manual Cordova.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Alta Vista Park (.63 acres) was acquired and developed with a playground, picnic tables, and basketball court.
- Warren Park (26 acres), acquired in 1969 with a BOR grant, was developed in phases with a playground, 4 lighted tennis courts, restrooms, ball field, drinking fountain, picnic facilities, 2 soccer fields, and 2 basketball courts.

Plans for the 25-mile recreational trail loop system connecting the Poudre River, Spring Creek, and the foothills east of Horsetooth Reservoir were finalized and announced to the public.



- A section of the Poudre River Trail east of College to Linden Street was completed.
- The Ross property (30.52 acres) south of Rolland Moore Park was acquired for Spring Creek Trail access and open space purposes.

ADMINISTRATION

- Recreation staff began a 32-year collaboration with the Fort Collins Coloradoan newspaper for brochure production. At no cost to the City, recreation staff prepared program information camera-ready including ad space, and the Coloradoan staff sold advertising, printed, and distributed the brochures through the newspaper 3 times a year, creating one of the longest-standing partnerships in the history of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- A new City Hall was built north and west of the municipal building at 300 LaPorte Avenue. This new facility included a City Council chambers and offices for the City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, and other city offices. The Police Department remained in the 300 LaPorte Avenue building that was built in 1958.
- Lincoln Community Center (name later changed to Lincoln Center) was opened to the public on the site of the previous Lincoln Junior High School and adjacent to the Fort Collins Community Pool on West Mulberry.
- City-wide budget analysis resulted in no increases in tax support for many departments beginning in 1979. Recreation staff raised many fees to help generate more revenue and to avoid program downsizing.

In 1979

RECREATION

- City Council voted to double adult softball league fees from \$175 to \$350/team and adult basketball from \$150 to \$250/team.
- **The Fort Collins Soccer Club formed and took over boys' soccer from the city.** The girl's soccer program was transferred to the Fort Collins Soccer Club in 1980.
- A group called Los Ancianos Unidos was established at Northside Community Center. Its goal was to increase participation and community involvement by Spanish-speaking elderly. The group still functions today.

ADMINISTRATION

- City Council voted to delay construction of the ice arena/pool items approved through CIP. Citizens supporting construction of the facilities began a petition drive and gained 3,500 signatures (needing 2,160), asking City Council to reconsider or take the item to a vote. Council placed the item on the following spring ballot.
- The 1974 open space master plan was updated.

1980

RECREATION

- Various portions of the floors at the 2-year old Northside Community Center began sinking into the landfill, resulting in mudjacking portions of the building.
- City Council fielded complaints from softball players who wanted facility upgrades and more facilities for their fee increases the fall before.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- The fit trail in City Park opened.
- **A 10-mile portion of the recreational loop trail system along Spring Creek and the Poudre River was dedicated in a public ceremony on September 9.**
- Spencer Park (.5 acres), was acquired and developed, and includes picnic tables and a historic milk house.
- **A City Code change placed maintenance of street trees in the Forestry Division.**
- Riverside Park, originally the site of the city's first landfill and designated as a future park site by the Landmark Preservation Commission in 1971, was completed with turf, irrigation, playground, sidewalks, parking, and a backstop. The Northside Community Center had been constructed on the south end of the site in 1978.

ADMINISTRATION

- **The State Constitution was amended to make lotteries legal. This had a very positive impact on funding for parks and recreation projects state-wide.**
- The pool/rink item that went to the voters by a citizen initiative failed in a special spring election, along with a second pool/rink item placed there by City Council.
- The first recreation fees and charges policy was adopted by City Council.
- The Parks and Recreation Board recommended to City Council to approve placing a \$5 million General Obligation Bond on the April 1981 election ballot to provide funds to develop major community parks.
- When the one-cent capital sales tax for DTT expired, City Council voted by Ordinance to extend the one cent indefinitely for general purposes, effective January 1, 1981, resulting in a permanent two-cent City sales tax.

In 1981

RECREATION

- The City and PSD began discussions about the need for extensive remodel of the Fort Collins Community Pool to solve efflorescence and pool leakage problems.
- The floating floor of the gymnasium at the Northside Community Center began cracking and sinking.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- City Council approved the use of the Mountain Avenue median for operation of the historic trolley from City Park to Meldrum Street. Many trees in the medians needed to be relocated, which became a controversial issue with the public. A storage facility was built east of the Grandview Cemetery entrance on Mountain Avenue.
- Prospect Ponds (25 acres) was acquired through donation for open space purposes.

ADMINISTRATION

- **A property tax mill levy increase (bond issue) was passed 61% to 39% to support community parks, effective in 1982. Projects included land purchase for Fossil Creek Park (\$660,000); Rolland Moore Park development (\$3million); and improvements to Edora Park (\$325,000), Lee Martinez Park (\$450,000), and City Park (\$375,000).**
- Parks and Recreation administrative offices were designed northeast of the Park Shop in City Park, but the project wasn't funded.
- City Council by Ordinance increased the City sales tax by one-quarter cent for general purposes for a total of 2 ¼ cents on the dollar, effective January 1, 1982.
- The first Fort Collins Festival of the Arts, sponsored by Parks and Recreation and Lincoln Center staff and various community members, was held in City Park.

In 1982

RECREATION

- The Fort Collins Community Pool was closed 2 weeks in April for repairs.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **A public/private partnership was approved by City Council to construct SouthRidge Golf Course.**
- Romero Park (.15 acres), acquired in 1981, was developed with a playground and picnic tables.
- **City Park streets were converted to one-way with park bond money.**
- Riverbend and Prospect Ponds were converted by Parks and Recreation and Colorado Division of Wildlife from gravel pits to fishing ponds.
- Highest winds (95 mph) to date in Fort Collins caused lots of damage and some injuries. The park maintenance, golf, and forestry crews were called to action to help clean up the debris.
- **Rolland Moore attended ground-breaking ceremonies for the park in his name.**

ADMINISTRATION

- The State lottery was established, with half of the proceeds going to state, county, and local park and recreation agencies.
- A sculpture installed at Edora Park was chosen by a community-campus jury.

- The Fort Collins Festival of the Arts moved from City Park to the Lincoln Center.

In 1983

RECREATION

- United Bank picked up the sponsorship of the annual youth tennis clinic after Lone Star Steel ended its sponsorship in 1982 after 6 years.
- **City Council added “Aztlan” to the title of the Northside Community Center.**
- Len and Karen Skovira received a contractual agreement to operate batting cages next to the south ball field in City Park.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- The gazebo in High School Park was built by community volunteers.
- **The bicycle motocross (BMX) track, horseshoe courts, and concession upgrades at Edora Park plus bleacher replacement and restroom/concession upgrades at City Park were completed with funding from the park bond approved in 1981.**
- Fort Collins hosted a state horseshoe tournament at the new state-of-the-art horseshoe courts at Edora Park over Labor Day weekend.
- The Forestry staff produced and distributed a brochure called ‘Trees of City Park-A walking self-guided tree tour.’
- **A 20-station fit trail along the Poudre River was opened in Lee Martinez Park.**
- An emergency locator signage system was devised, and installation began along the trail system. A public education blitz about the system was launched in 1984.
- Woodwest Park (2.7 acres) was acquired and developed with a playground, horseshoe courts, volleyball court, backstop, and picnic tables.
- The Flatiron property (121.86 acres) was purchased for open space purposes.

ADMINISTRATION

- City Council initiated the Conservation Trust Fund to hold dollars received from the Lottery and Lotto programs. This funding was designated by Council for recreational trail development and maintenance.
- The Parks and Recreation gift catalog was developed.
- Heavy rains in May and June caused flooding of the Poudre River, resulting in road closures, trail damage, and much other property damage. Lions Park in Laporte was washed out. This created major additional work for Parks, Park Planning, Forestry, and other City departments.
- Voters approved a one-quarter cent sales tax increase called RECAP for 6 years for necessary capital projects effective January 1, 1984.
- A group of citizens began promoting the idea of developing a YMCA program but without a dedicated facility. The group functioned for several years and then abandoned the idea.
- The Girl Scouts moved out of the ‘scout house’ that they had occupied since 1949 to another space in the City, and Youth Baseball moved into the scout house. The Youth Baseball office (now Fort Collins Baseball Club) is still in that location today.
- The City tore down the original concession stand at City Park ball fields, which was north of the scout house. When Youth Baseball moved to the scout house, the City built a new concession stand and storage facility on the old Youth Baseball office site that YBB had occupied since 1972.

In 1984

RECREATION

- City Council approved funding to be spent on repairs at Northside Aztlan Community Center (NACC). Design work began in 1985.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **Rolland Moore Park opened on June 3.** The park included 45 developed acres and 2 natural areas, totaling 109 acres. The cost was \$5 million. Park features include a lighted 4-field baseball/softball complex, a tennis center with 8 lighted courts, picnic and playground facilities, sports fields, and the Spring Creek trail along the north edge of the park.
- **SouthRidge Golf Club, a public-private partnership, opened July 1.**
- The rules and regulations for cemetery operation were totally rewritten, providing state-of-the-art standards for the City.
- Landings Park (8 acres), acquired in 1978, was developed with a ball field, 2 tennis courts, picnic shelter, 2 paddle tennis courts, basketball court, soccer field, playground, and drinking fountain.
- There was interest expressed by the Fort Collins Archery Club to build a range at the old water treatment plant on N. Overland Trail, but this did not happen.

ADMINISTRATION

- The **pool/rink citizen committee** got enough signatures to place a second initiative on the ballot for a one-quarter cent sales tax increase for 5 years, and it was passed by voters, effective January 1, 1985 for 5 years. Facility design began immediately.
- A major facility concept report was sent to City Council recommending that the City build a water park to support and stabilize the City revenue base. The report used the success of Water World in Denver to support its validity. This recommendation was rejected by City Council.
- The Recreation Division began using a national promotion called “Life. Be in it!”

In 1985

RECREATION

- **The Farm at Lee Martinez Park opened to the public in July.** Recreation programmed the activities, and Parks provided the maintenance.
- Gib and Lila Wolfe’s daughter Lisa and her husband Ted Voelker took over operation of the train and City Park Pool concession from Gib and Lila for 2 years.
- Owners of the Batter’s Box batting cages installed in City Park in 1983 submitted a proposal to move the operation to the newly-opened Rolland Moore Park. This proposal was not approved.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **A handicap playground in Rolland Moore Park was erected with \$12,000 from Junior Women’s Club and \$22,000 from the City.**
- Golden Meadows Park (11.5 acres), acquired in 1978, was developed with a playground, paved bike trail, open play area, natural area/pond, picnic shelter, 2 tennis courts, and a fitness trail.
- The Campeau property (120 acres) was acquired for open space purposes.
- The Salyer property (24.42 acres) was acquired for open space purposes.

ADMINISTRATION

- **Recreation began using its first registration software, developed by Burlington, Ontario, Canada staff to run on the same Sperry Univax mainframe that Fort Collins was using at the time.**
- The City donated land in Riverside Park east of the Northside Aztlan Community Center for construction of the Larimer Community Services Center to house United Day Care Center, and other social service offices.
- Controversy began over leaving or removing the cannon that was placed in City Park in 1932. Some thought it to be dangerous and not appropriate to be in the middle of the playground. Parks staff wanted to move it next to the Statue of Liberty, which had been installed on the north shore of Sheldon Lake in 1955.
- A number of service organizations donated funding to have the miniature replica of the Statue of Liberty on the north shore of Sheldon Lake renovated. Parks oversaw the removal and transportation of it to Loveland where a sculptor refurbished it.

In 1986

RECREATION

- **Wheelchair accessible restrooms were added at the Pottery Studio.**
- Northside Aztlan Community Center re-opened after a closure for major repairs.
- **The Recreation budget was put on computer for the first time.**

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- The xeriscape garden on the south side of City Hall was built.
- **The main entrance to Grandview Cemetery was enhanced with a moss rock planter, flowering trees, and a new sign.**
- Five and one-half miles of the Foothills Trail east of Horsetooth Reservoir were completed with help from Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.
- Swanson Nature Area (1977 purchase) was renamed Gustav Swanson Nature Area.
- **The Forestry Division began its annual Arbor Day program that involved visiting all elementary schools in Fort Collins, presenting an educational slide show, and distributing seedlings to the students.** One school was chosen each year for a formal presentation by dignitaries and a tree-planting ceremony at that school.

ADMINISTRATION

- Citizen activists continued to ask City Council to remove the cannon in City Park, because they believed it to be too much a symbol of war and violence. City Council finally voted to remove the cannon from City Park, and then changed its vote after complaints from 7 veteran's groups. The cannon remains in the playground today.
- **The department won the Gold Medal Award, given annually to departments of excellence by NRPA and the National Sporting Goods Foundation.**
- City Manager Steve Burkett reorganized the city staff into service areas, and Parks and Recreation, along with the Lincoln Center, Museum, and Library, became part of Cultural, Library, and Recreational Services.
- **City Council adopted changes in the City's financial policies including establishing special revenue funds for Recreation, Cemeteries, and Golf and a perpetual care fund for the Cemeteries.**

In 1987

RECREATION

- **The ice arena/pool (EPIC) opened to the public on January 31.**
- The City began charging for the wading pool at City Park Pool.
- Sports staff implemented a player fee for adult leagues in addition to the team fee.



The City Park Pool bathhouse/concession stand was replaced and dedicated.

Gilbert Wolfe's son Geoffrey began a 9-year operation of the City Park Railway.

PARKS, CEMETERIES GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **The Foothills Trail was completed and opened.**
- Overland Park (15 acres), acquired in 1978, was developed with a playground, ball field, 2 tennis courts, picnic shelter, paved trail, basketball court, restrooms, pond, drinking fountain, and 2 soccer fields.
- In cooperation with the Fort Collins Archery Association, **the archery range was completed on property acquired in 1984 below the resource recovery farm on the west side of I-25 south of Prospect.**
- Troutman Park (19.5 acres), acquired in 1979, was developed with 2 tennis courts, restrooms, basketball court, playground, picnic shelters, 3 backstops, ponds, 2 soccer fields, drinking fountain, and barbeque grills.
- A trail underpass at Taft Hill Road was completed.

In 1988

RECREATION

- AARP passed a Resolution supporting the inclusion of a new senior center in the Choices 95 capital tax package.
- **The EPIC advertising policy was adopted by City Council.**
- Staff began year-round operation of The Farm at Lee Martinez Park, and the first Christmas at The Farm events took place.
- PSD dropped the fourth grade swim program at the community pool.
- City sports officials were converted from contractual to hourly to comply with Fair Labor Standards Act requirements.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- The first discussions were held concerning the development of a horticulture center.
- The first discussions were held concerning the development of a skateboard park.
- After much discussion, the Rails to Trails concept between Taft Hill and Overland Trail in the northwest part of the city was approved by City Council for exploration.
- City Park Nine clubhouse was remodeled and a maintenance building added for golf car storage for \$315,000.
- **A surcharge was added to golf fees at SouthRidge Golf Club to help alleviate the course construction debt.**

- A handicap fishing pier was installed at Sheldon Lake with funding from the Poudre Valley Lions Club and the City.
- **The Forestry Division conducted the first city-wide inventory of public trees.**
- Gypsy moth, which attacks a wide range of deciduous trees, was detected in the City and eradicated over a three-year period with a biological control program implemented by the Forestry Division.
- **City Council adopted a set of park rules and regulations.**
- The Milne property (44.27 acres) was acquired for open space purposes.

ADMINISTRATION

- **A Parks and Recreation Master Plan update was adopted by City Council, including reducing the standard of 10 acres of park land/1,000 population to 6.**
- The bridge from Oak Street to the ball field parking lot in City Park was replaced with one to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists as well as vehicles.

In 1989

RECREATION

- The Just for Ladies Golf Tournament began as a fund-raiser for the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities program and continued for 21 years.
- **Recreation assumed full responsibility for the Farm operation and maintenance.**
- Anheuser Busch donated \$55,000 for HVAC improvements to Northside Aztlan Community Center. Design work began, with completion in 1990.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Rossborough Park (15.78 acres), acquired in 1980, was developed with a tennis and basketball court, picnic shelter, water fountain, play area, fit trail, and playground.
- **The Spring Creek trail under College Avenue was completed with Lottery funds.**



130 acres on the northeast side of Horsetooth Reservoir, purchased with Lottery funding and named Reservoir Ridge, provided the northern link to the Foothills Trail that runs along the east side of Horsetooth Reservoir.

- **The City adopted a model for uniform park identification signs and many were installed beginning in 1990.**
- Vandals destroyed 46 trees in Rolland Moore Park. Community support provided funds for replacement of all destroyed trees.
- **A City-wide playground evaluation was conducted and costs identified for future equipment repair and replacement.**

ADMINISTRATION

- After a recommendation by the Fire Department to move the fireworks from City Park for safety reasons, fireworks were launched in December from the foothills overlooking Hughes Stadium and also from City Park Nine Golf Course as an experiment to find a more suitable location. The results were not favorable and City Council voted to allow the celebration to continue at City Park.

- Two one-quarter cent sales taxes for capital projects called Choices 95 were extended by voters for a variety of city-wide projects including a **senior center**, street maintenance, land purchase for a southwest community park, and **renovation of the community indoor pool**, effective on January 1, 1990 for 8 years.

In 1990

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- A circular planting of ash trees at the east end of Lee Martinez Park referred to as ‘Tree-henge’ was completed with a public ceremony and installation of a time capsule in the center.
- **The disc golf course at Edora Park was completed with capital tax money and donations and assistance from interested private groups.** It was instantly popular with college students and is heavily used today.
- The Springer property (223.73 acres) was acquired for open space purposes.

ADMINISTRATION

- Recreation programmers and Parks and Recreation administrative staff moved to 281 N. College from 145 E. Mountain, except for senior center staff, who remained until the new senior center was finished in 1995. The Park Superintendent and City Forester also moved to 281 N. College from the Park Shop in City Park.
- **City Council approved a new recreation fee policy that included a reserve and tax funding for the division’s reduced fee program.**
- Discussion began among citizens, City Council, and staff about adding a second ice rink at EPIC.

In 1991

RECREATION

- **City Council voted to renovate and not move the Community Pool**
- Interested citizens formed the Friends of the Senior Center to financially support the upcoming new senior center through fund-raising.
- **The City Park Center stairway was moved to the northeast corner of the building, and an elevator was added to access the second floor.**

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- The City took over management of SouthRidge Golf Club from the original developers who defaulted on their contract.
- Creekside Park (3 acres), acquired in 1990, was developed with a picnic shelter, drinking fountain and reconfiguration of Spring Creek Trail.
- Rogers Park (8.65 acres), acquired in 1985, was developed with playground, natural area, basketball court, restroom, play field, water fountain, shelter, and BBQ grills

ADMINISTRATION

- A citizen group called Citizens for EPIC Expansion petitioned City Council to add a second ice rink at EPIC. Council placed the item, which called for a one-quarter cent on the dollar tax for two years to build the ice rink, on the spring ballot, and it failed.

In 1992

RECREATION

- The Fort Collins Community Pool was closed most of the year for renovation.

- **City Council chose the site on Raintree Drive for the senior center.**

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- 16.7 inches of snow fell in March, closing PSD, CSU, and city and county offices. This put a huge burden on all maintenance departments in the city including Parks, Forestry, Streets, and others to help clear streets and sidewalks.
- City Park was designated as the City Arboretum by the Parks and Recreation Board.

ADMINISTRATION

- A consultant was hired to assist in reorganizing the Recreation Division. Major goals included providing more of the Manager’s time for long-range planning and finances by reducing the number of reports to that person. The second major goal was to streamline staffing into units to provide more effective service to the public.
- **RecTrac!, a computerized registration software product, was purchased, installed, and activated.**
- A one-quarter cent sales tax was voter-approved for city natural areas, effective January 1, 1993 for 5 years.

In 1993

RECREATION



The wading pool at City Park Pool was totally replaced, and the filtration system was placed on the first floor in the southwest corner of City Park Center.

- **The Fort Collins Community Pool reopened** on January 16 after a major renovation funded by Choices 95, including pool, filtration, and HVAC replacement; office remodel; and addition of a spa, wall tiles, and graphics. The name was changed at that time to Mulberry Pool.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- High winds with gusts above 90 miles per hour on the evening of July 3 uprooted trees in the city and knocked down the huge food tent, vendor booths, signs, fencing, and barricades in City Park that had been set up for the July Fourth celebration the next day. An elm tree in City Park dislodged the children’s train depot when it fell. Forestry and Parks staff members worked diligently to clean up the park so that the annual festivities could take place the next day with no disruption.
- Greenbriar Park (22.08 acres), acquired in 1985, was developed with 2 soccer fields, pond, tennis court, 2 ball fields, basketball court, accessible playground, restrooms, 2 shelters, 2 drinking fountains, and 2 BBQ grills.
- Quail Hollow property (14 acres) was acquired for open space purposes.
- Overland Hills property (63 acres) was acquired for open space purposes.

ADMINISTRATION

- **As a result of Recreation Division reorganization, the Recreation Management Team (RMT) was formed**, consisting of the Division Manager, 4 Administrators (ice/aquatics, sports, youth, adult), an Administrative Support Supervisor, and the Public Relations Supervisor.

- A youth issues team was established by City Council, comprised of staff from Recreation, Police, Human Resources, City Manager’s Office, and Team Fort Collins.
- An Open Space/Natural Areas team was formed with staff from Parks, Park Planning, and Natural Resources to develop the plan for transfer of open space land under the responsibility of Parks and Recreation to the Natural Areas program in Natural Resources. This transition was completed in 1998.

In 1994

RECREATION

New activities for youths and teens were launched, including summer basketball, a mobile recreation program called RAD (Recreation At your Door) Van, and summer youth employment.



- After successful negotiations with the ‘Coloradoan’ newspaper to enlarge the ‘Recreator’, registration information about ice skating and swimming activities were included for the first time.
- **Recreation PossABILITIES for People with DisABILITIES coalition spoke at City Council in favor of the City hiring a certified therapeutic recreation coordinator. The position was approved in the budget for 1995.**
- The Recreation Division Staff Orientation Manual was developed for distribution to all new employees and volunteers.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Eastside Neighborhood Park (1.89 acres) was acquired and developed with a playground, restroom, path, shelter-plaza, and picnic tables.
- Stewart Case Park (15 acres), acquired in 1992, was partially developed in conjunction with the construction of the new Fort Collins High School on Timberline.
- Land for Harmony Park (10 acres) was purchased.
- The Whitham property (70 acres) was acquired for open space purposes.
- Parks staff developed and began using a Trained Observer program. Trained citizen volunteers evaluated park elements for safety, maintenance, and overall effectiveness. Results provided valuable information for improvements.

ADMINISTRATION

- **The Youth Advisory Board was established by City Council and assigned to Recreation and Police.**
- Citizens approached City Council again about the need for a second ice rink at EPIC.

In 1995

RECREATION



Through a lease with PSD, the Youth Activity Center (YAC) opened at the vacated Fort Collins High School on Remington Street. Tot Gym sessions were an instant success.

The City sub-leased a portion of the YAC to the Boys and Girls Club.

- The City's **first certified therapeutic recreation specialist was hired**. The program was named ARO: Adaptive Recreation Opportunities- Aiming for Independence.
- In an effort to improve communications among division staff, RMT began hosting bi-monthly staff lunches. The *Response* Newsletter was also developed to share news and events division-wide. In addition, a staff recognition program called "Happy Grams" was launched.
- A cornerstone with a time capsule was laid at the new Senior Center, and a sculpture at the entrance was dedicated. **Facility opening was celebrated on June 27.**
- **The first Recreation Standards Manual was developed and distributed.**
- The Communications Office began production of *Pathways* (previously called Greening leaf), the program brochure for senior citizen activities.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **A heavy September snowstorm caused more tree damage than ever seen in the city. This had a major impact on work priorities for the Forestry, Golf, and Parks Divisions.**
- With PSD, a 9-hole frisbee disc golf course was built at Boltz Junior High School.
- **The City's first skate park opened in the ball field parking lot at Rolland Moore Park. The park included numerous portable ramps, built with the intention of moving them to a more permanent location the following year.**

ADMINISTRATION

- A citizen initiative called PICK (Parks and Ice for the Community and Kids), which included a 5,000 seat ice arena adjacent to EPIC, a multi-use recreation center, and development of the southwest community park youth sports complex, was sent to the voters by City Council. The item failed 56%-42%.
- The City initiated the Art in Public Places program.
- The 145 E. Mountain building was sold.
- The new Fort Collins High School opened at Horsetooth and Timberline.

In 1996

RECREATION

- In December the City purchased the City Park Railway children's train that had operated privately in City Park since 1950.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **The skate park structures were moved from Rolland Moore Park to a location immediately west of the Northside Aztlan Community Center.**
- Golf Division staff developed and operated a golf clinic called Fort Collins Fore Kids to teach youngsters about the game. The program continues today, its 15th year.

ADMINISTRATION

- **The Parks and Recreation (Master) Policy Plan was updated and adopted by City Council. This document included a provision to increase the parkland standards to 4.5 acres/1000 population for community parks and 2.5 acres/1000 for neighborhood parks.**
- Recreation Administration staff from 281 N. College moved to 214 N. Howes. This location became the central site for class registration.

- The Building Community Choices capital sales tax extension process began, involving staff and citizens.
- A Colorado Rockies baseball grant from outfielder Larry Walker helped fund Walker Field at Lincoln Junior High School. The field is used and maintained by Fort Collins Baseball Club.
- **The Community Parkland Fee was approved by City Council Ordinance for development of new community parks.**

In 1997

RECREATION

- The Recreation Division's Service Theme **RECREATION – It's for Life!** was developed.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- A neighborhood park called Iron Horse next to Plummer School on East Vine was acquired for future development.
- Parks staff completed minor restoration work on the City Park cannon. A veteran's group provided input on correct parts and period paint.

ADMINISTRATION

- Three one-quarter cent capital sales taxes were extended by voters (Building Community Choices/BCC), effective January 1, 1998 for 9 years. Approved projects included replacement of NACC; construction of a second ice sheet at EPIC in partnership with private donations; development of a horticulture center, construction of Fossil Creek Community Park, regional trail extensions to the urban growth boundaries; natural areas purchases, transportation and street projects, and community park improvements.
- As a result of passage of BCC, a group of interested citizens formed Twice the Ice to raise 22% of the cost of a second ice sheet to be built at EPIC.
- **The Parks and Recreation Lead Team (PRLT), composed of staff from recreation, park maintenance, park planning, and forestry, was formed to address issues within the department that affected more than one division.**
- A historic flood hit the city as a result of 14.5 inches of rain in southwest Fort Collins at the headwaters of Spring Creek. Many CSU buildings were flooded, along with property along Spring Creek. Five people died, 54 were injured, and two hundred homes were damaged or destroyed. The water “dammed up” at a trailer park just west of College Avenue where 4 of the people died. Damage along Spring Creek occurred as far east as Edora Park.
- Parks hired a consultant to assist with an organizational analysis and a long range plan. The study resulted **in restructuring staff to include crew chiefs and a lifecycle coordinator** to improve overall staff efficiency.
- Park Maintenance staff began using EMS (Event Management System) software for various administrative functions including scheduling of facilities.
- Pedophilia was a huge topic in the newspapers as a result of the arrest and conviction in 1994 of a pedophile who had volunteered at NACC. The Recreation Division began doing background checks, and eventually the entire City adopted a background check requirement for new employees in positions of trust.

In 1998

RECREATION

BOB (Burn Out Boredom) the Bus was launched to pick up children from RAD Van sites and transport them to swimming. The bus also transported kids from other activities to special events and on field trips.



- The RAD Van program was expanded through the fall with financial support from Poudre Valley Health System's Healthy Kids Club.
- *Goose on the Loose*, a summer publication of a large number of children's activities offered through CLRS, was produced and distributed for the first time.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Westfield Park (14.6 acres), acquired in 1981, was developed.
- The cemetery staff began a trained observer program.

ADMINISTRATION

- Parks and sports clerical staffs at the Park Shop were combined into one office, and Parks hired an Administrative Support Supervisor to oversee and coordinate work.
- Parks and Sports began using EMS software for court and field scheduling.
- A new state-of-the-art server for the RecTrac recreation registration system was installed, along with a major upgrade package of the registration software.
- **The final phase of transfer of the Parks and Recreation-managed open space lands to Natural Areas was completed.**
- The Fort Collins Soccer Club received approval from the Larimer County Commissioners to begin building a 100-acre soccer complex north of Anheuser Busch and adjacent to I-25.
- A memorial to the 1997 flood victims was established at Creekside Park at the general location of the destroyed trailer park. The park area is owned by the City storm water department and maintained by the Parks Department.
- Harmony Library, the city's first branch library, opened at Front Range Community College at Horsetooth and Shields.

In 1999

RECREATION



Larry Lewis of Lewis Tennis was awarded the contract to operate tennis for the City, including giving lessons, renting courts, and coordinating and sponsoring tournaments. He and his staff were headquartered at Rolland Moore Racquet Center.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- The second phase construction of Stewart Case Park (15 acres), acquired in 1992, was completed with a playground, restroom, ball field, paved trail, pond, basketball court, and roller hockey court. The first phase of the park was built in 1994.

- The City received a \$50,000 GOCO grant to construct the Edora Park skate park.
- Cottonwood Glen Park (12.36 acres), acquired in 1990, was developed with a playground, restroom, softball/baseball field, soccer, paved trail, picnic shelter, drinking fountain, basketball, and roller hockey. This park is on the north end of Spring Canyon Community Park, which was opened in 2007.
- Ridgeview Park (10 acres), acquired in 1992, was developed with a restroom, shelter, 2 soccer fields, drinking fountain, paved trail, playground, and pond.
- English Ranch Park (15 acres), acquired in 1993, was developed with a playground, restrooms, picnic pavilion, paved trail, soccer, softball fields, irrigation pond, and an Art in Public Places piece called the Red Pony.
- Work began at Sheldon Lake to improve the shoreline and clean up the lake.

ADMINISTRATION

- The City made preparations for possible problems with the Y2K conversion of data.
- Microsoft Word became the standard word processing program for the City.
- **PRLT developed facility scheduling guidelines and priorities for use of outdoor sports facilities to help staff more effectively schedule user groups.**



Chapter 5

THE CURRENT MILLENNIUM **2000 - 2010**

In 2000

RECREATION

- Resources in the aquatics area were reallocated to include a person to work with the ARO staff for aquatic accommodation for persons with disabilities.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **An aeration system was installed in Sheldon Lake and additional lakeshore improvements were begun.**
- A September snowstorm damaged many trees throughout the city, which impacted the Forestry, Golf, and Parks staffs for many weeks.
- Land was purchased for Water's Way (previously Provincetown) and Staley neighborhood parks, both to be developed in 2011.
- A new showmobile was donated to the City by an anonymous donor.
- The light poles and lights were replaced on the City Park north ball field.

ADMINISTRATION

- **PSD and the City agreed to spend Building Community Choices capital tax funds to improve and add outdoor sports facilities at several junior and senior high schools.**
- The VSI Pass management software module was activated for drop-in pass users at recreation facilities.
- **RMT revised and streamlined the Division's mission statement and core values.**
- CSU removed the tennis courts at 1400 Remington and converted the space to parking for the performing arts center that was built on the property.
- A resource guide for teens was produced and distributed by a person on an Americorp Fellow grant and coordinated through the Recreation Division.

In 2001

RECREATION

- After the old Fort Collins High School at 1400 Remington was sold to Colorado State University, **the Youth Activity Center was moved** to its new home at 415 E. Monroe, south of Foothills Mall.
- **CSU Center for Community Participation, in conjunction with the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities program, was awarded a 3-year \$315,000 grant called Recreation Works** to better train persons with disabilities socially and skill-wise to find jobs in the community.
- **Testing through a Brownfields grant of the current Northside Aztlan Community Center site began to determine the feasibility of placing the new recreation facility on the same site.**
- Sports staff reached an agreement with the CSU Recreation and Intramural Department to use the intramural and recreation center gymnasiums for youth basketball games on Saturday mornings. This arrangement exposed a large number of families to campus and consolidated scheduling for recreation staff.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING



A \$300,000 grant from the Don and May Wilkins Family Trust and Elks Lodge #804 was used to make many lakeshore improvements at Sheldon Lake, including a boardwalk along the north edge south of City Park Pool. The boat rental dock was also reconfigured and attached to the boardwalk east of the pool.

- **The City received a \$50,000 grant from GOCO to extend the recreational trail along the Poudre River from Taft Hill Road to Lions Park in Laporte.**
- Miramont Park (12 acres), acquired in 1994, was developed with a playground, restrooms, sledding hill, basketball court, and soccer field.
- An all-concrete skate park opened in Edora Park, funded partially by GOCO.
- **Parks and PSD coordinated snow removal on park and school sites to improve efficiency and reduce costs for both agencies.**
- Civic Center Park, built jointly with the county, included turf, sidewalks, parking, and a water feature. Most large downtown public and music events are held there. Parks maintains the grounds and schedules the park.
- Parks built a “butterfly garden” at the southeast corner of Library Park.

In 2002

RECREATION

- **Twice the Ice, a 501c3 fundraising group, gave \$865,000 to the City to fund its required 22% of a second ice rink at EPIC, resulting in the start of the project.**
- A major effort began to raise \$750,000 to add a gymnasium at the YAC.
- City Park Pool was closed for the summer and totally replaced. Construction continued into 2003.
- **A “sheen” on the river surface north of the NACC site prompted further study and involvement of the EPA to determine its origin and options for potential clean-up of the site and protection of the river.**

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

Gateway Mountain Park opened at the old water treatment plant site just inside the mouth of the Poudre River Canyon.

The water treatment plant was constructed in the early 1900’s. It was improved many times over a period of years and functioned until the mid-1980’s.



- Harmony Park (10 acres), acquired in 1994, was developed with a playground, restrooms, picnic shelter, and ball fields.
- Fifty acres adjacent to Fossil Ridge High School were purchased for a future community park, currently called Southeast Community Park.
- Severe drought conditions on the Front Range resulted in many discussions about alternative means of providing water. Staff began installing domestic water to many

of its major parks and the golf courses in case raw water was not available. This practice continued for several years.

- Poudre School District students, in collaboration with Parks, began painting and decorating City Park and public area trash cans.

ADMINISTRATION

- RMT formalized a set of Facility Regulations dealing with acceptable behavior of participants in recreation programs held in City facilities.
- The Youth and Aquatics Supervisors successfully switched responsibilities to gain a broader knowledge and more experience in the field.

In 2003

RECREATION

- **The second sheet of ice at EPIC opened to the public on March 21**, and the grand opening celebration was held on April 17.
- **The renovated City Park Pool opened to the public on May 31** with a shallow water pool that included a “lazy river,” 2 water play features, sprays, geysers, open water for water play and lap swimming, and a new mechanical building.
- City Park Center next to the outdoor pool was renamed Club Tico after 33 years.
- A marketing and educational video was produced by Colorado State University as part of the 2001 ARO grant from the Department of Education.
- Staff converted the youth tackle football program from 11-person to 8-person, with positive reviews.
- The first division-wide golf tournament fundraiser, Driving for Dough, was successful and raised \$10,000 for the YAC gymnasium project. The tournament continued for just one more year.
- Larry Lewis Tennis received a \$1,500 grant from the Colorado Tennis Association and a \$1,500 grant from the Fort Collins Tennis Association to expand tennis activities at the schools and in the community.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **An event was held to celebrate the construction and partial opening of the Gardens on Spring Creek, the city’s new horticulture center.**
- Land was purchased for a future northeast neighborhood park at Maple Hill.
- **A new clubhouse opened at Collindale Golf Course.**

The 99.5-acre Fossil Creek Community Park, acquired in 1982, opened on October 18, the first large park to be completed since Rolland Moore Park in 1984. Parks opened its first satellite maintenance shop at Fossil Creek Park. One of the crew chiefs and staff moved there from City Park to be closer to their work area and to improve efficiency.



- A major blizzard in March dropped 2-3 feet of snow and closed the City offices for 2 days. Parks spent numerous hours removing snow while Forestry was busy taking care of damaged trees throughout the city.
- Homestead Park (6.5 acres), acquired in 1995, was developed.

- Acreage for a neighborhood park at Richards Lake was purchased. The playground was installed in 2010, and the rest of the development is not yet scheduled.

ADMINISTRATION

- Fiber was extended to EPIC and the YAC to greatly improve the communication, financial, and registration functions at those facilities.
- Parks incorporated GIS and Arc View mapping software into its maintenance procedures.

In 2004

RECREATION

- **The funding goal to add a gymnasium at the Youth Activity Center was reached, and the new gymnasium opened in December.**
- The tennis contract was awarded again to Lewis Tennis for 5 years.
- The Recreation Works grant secured in conjunction with CSU's Office of Community Participation was extended for an additional 3 years.
- The Communications office initiated an e-newsletter that was distributed monthly to over 1,000 residents.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **Construction of the Laporte Trail connection extending the river trail west from Taft Hill to Lions Park was completed, including crossing the river at one point.**
- The second phase of netting installation along Lemay at SouthRidge Golf Club was completed (first phase was completed in 2003).



The Gardens on Spring Creek opened in May. This facility was partially funded through the BCC capital tax approved by voters in 1997. An enormous amount of successful fund-raising was accomplished to continue to develop the facility.

- Various park structures were renovated or replaced such as picnic shelters at Rolland Moore, the west restroom at Lee Martinez, and lights at City Park tennis courts.
- At City Park, scoreboards were replaced with energy efficient bulbs; staff replaced the railroad tie wall on the north side of the lake with stone; and the climbing structure was replaced in the playground, along with adding an ADA-approved surface under the play equipment.
- **Asphalt was replaced with concrete on the river trail from Taft Hill to Shields. A new trail was constructed from Fossil Creek Park to College Avenue.**
- Soft Gold Park (acquired in 1995) was developed.
- **Parks staff developed a partnership with the DBA to provide July 4 daytime events in Old Town while the City focused on evening events at City Park.**

ADMINISTRATION

- Live 24/7 phone-in registration (TeleTrac) began with winter/spring registration, and live internet/web registration (WebTrac) was initiated with fall registration.
- **GolfTrac software through Vermont Systems was implemented at the 3 city golf courses** for pass management, point of sale, and inventory.

- Fiber was extended to the Senior Center to greatly improve the communication, financial, and registration functions at that location.
- Poudre School District opened its fourth high school called Fossil Ridge High School.

In 2005

RECREATION

- **Recreation began operating a new outdoor holiday Downtown Ice Rink in Old Town that was purchased by the Downtown Development Authority. Parks was charged with set-up and tear-down/storage of the rink equipment.**
- During a brief nostalgic ceremony, a photocell-controlled neon ‘Club Tico’ sign was installed and lighted on the north side of the Club Tico building in City Park.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Single-rider golf carts were purchased for each course for golfers with disabilities.
- Rabbit Brush Mini-park, acquired in 2002, was completed.
- Staff secured a \$200,000 GOCO grant to support construction of a fully accessible playground in Spring Canyon Community Park.
- Additional parking at Rolland Moore Park and a new basketball court at City Park were constructed.
- **Parks assumed maintenance responsibilities for Old Town Square.** A Parks crew chief and staff moved to a second satellite shop on North Howes to more efficiently perform their work closer to the downtown area.
- City Council approved changes from the Forestry staff to the vegetation Ordinance.
- All diesel vehicles and pumps at Parks were converted to bio-diesel.
- **Parks constructed two columbariums at Grandview Cemetery.**
- Rolland Moore Park ball field lights were upgraded to reduce glare and light spillage.
- The Parks Department staff updated the Parks Long-Range Plan.
- Waterglen Park (1.5 acres), acquired in 1998, was developed.

ADMINISTRATION

- A new City-wide budget process called Budgeting For Outcomes (BFO) was launched for the 2006-2007 budget.
- The citizens voted against eliminating the sales tax on food.
- Voters extended two quarter-cent sales taxes in a capital campaign called BOB (Building on Basics) for projects including **expansion of the Senior Center**, effective January 1, 2006 for 8 years. A third quarter-cent was voter-extended for open space and natural areas, effective January 1, 2006 through the year 2030.

In 2006

RECREATION

- **A double water slide was purchased and installed at City Park Pool.**
- Staff at The Farm began charging a gate fee.
- **A large water feature was purchased and installed at Mulberry Pool, replacing the frog slide and adding to the options for children’s play.**
- City Council voted to keep the name Northside Aztlan Community Center for the replacement facility.



Fort Collins was designated a youth football “hub” city by NRPA, in connection with a 3-year sub-award grant from the National Football League. The grant required hiring a football coordinator for 3 years to grow youth football in Fort Collins.

- Management of the summer City Park railway operation was shifted to City Park Pool and concession staff from the youth staff.
- **Remodel of The Farm Resource Building** was completed, adding a small classroom, an entry point for fee-paying customers, office space, and store.
- The Communications Office had 100% turnover when both employees left for other positions. Two new high energy staff members replaced them in early 2007.
- The Senior Center Expansion Committee was formed to raise money to supplement funding from the BOB capital tax for expansion of the facility.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Staff replaced asphalt with concrete on Poudre Trail from Lemay to Nix Farm.
- **The Children’s Garden at the Gardens on Spring Creek opened.**
- The six-acre Homestead Park, acquired in 1995, was opened to the public.
- Construction began on Spring Canyon Community Park.
- Oak Street Plaza was renovated for \$1 million dollars as a mini park that included pavers, some turf, interactive water sprays, seating, and a small stage. The area is maintained by Parks, and events are scheduled through Parks and the DDA office.

ADMINISTRATION

- The public voted to form the Poudre Valley Public Library District. Libraries were removed from the City structure and from the CLRS service area. The Natural Resources Department was added, and CLRS was renamed the Culture, Parks, Recreation, and Environment (CPRE) service area.
- **Recreation began a major reorganization project as a result of downsizing of the YAC, staff losses from budget cuts, and the need to plan for more staff at the larger Northside Aztlan facility.** The two Program Administrators, one assigned to youth programs and one to adult programs, switched places.
- The City survived numerous layoffs and budget cuts during a severe belt-tightening year. Almost all departments were impacted. The Promotions Coordinator position was eliminated at the end of 2005. The Sports Administrator position was cut at the end of 2006, and the sports staff was reassigned to the Youth Area Administrator.

In 2007

RECREATION



The original Northside Aztlan facility was razed in early October. It was an emotional day for the staff, some of whom had worked there since 1978.

Staff celebrated a November opening of the Northside Aztlan Community Center replacement.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **The 100-acre Spring Canyon Community Park, acquired in 1993, opened to the public in the southwest part of the city.** It is adjacent to Cottonwood Glen (neighborhood) Park that opened in 1999.

The City's first fully-accessible playground called Inspiration Playground was constructed in Spring Canyon Community Park. Funding was provided by numerous grants and private donations, as well as the allotted amount of funding that was in the park's capital budget for a playground.



- The third satellite park maintenance shop opened in Spring Canyon Community Park.
- Improvements were completed at Stewart Case Park and included revamping the playground and adding sidewalks, a picnic shelter, and low-maintenance landscaping.
- **A half mile of new trail was included in Spring Canyon Park and linked the Spring Creek Trail with the Fossil Creek Trail.**
- Sidewalks in Edora, Martinez, Rolland Moore, and City Parks were revamped or added with funding from the BOB capital tax that was approved in 2005.
- **Parks and GIS staff developed a web based, publicly accessible park mapping system so the public can see what amenities are in each park.**
- Parks with assistance from Forestry, Utilities, and Master Gardener volunteers successfully renovated the xeriscape garden at City Hall.

ADMINISTRATION

- The Recreation Department reorganization which began in 2006 was completed.
- **Recreation Administrative offices at 214 N. Howes closed, and staff was disbursed to either NACC or 215 N. Mason.** The YAC was also downsized and fulltime staff moved to NACC and the sports office at the Park Shop in City Park. A large amount of equipment was salvaged from 214 N. Howes and the YAC for use at the new NACC.
- The Art in Public Places program coordinated the installation of 5 art projects at Spring Canyon Community Park and 3 at Northside Aztlan Community Center.
- Forestry completed a staff reorganization which included two staff promotions and formation of small and large tree crews to more efficiently handle requests.
- A revamping of the City's chart of accounts occurred and was implemented in 2008.
- **RMT formalized participant behavior regulations for programs not held in City recreation facilities.**
- The Sports Code of Conduct was revamped and clarified.
- The Recreation intranet site, established in 2006, was reformatted and improved, along with the department's web site.

In 2008

RECREATION

- **ARO received a third 3-year collaborative sub-award through CSU from the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitative Service Administration.**

- EPIC concession staff worked with the CanDo obesity task force and Poudre Valley Hospital to add a healthier snack menu at the EPIC concession stand.
- A 6-week shut-down at Mulberry Pool resulted in the completion of several major renovation projects.
- **The ice was removed from both rinks for the first time in 5 years at EPIC.**
- Conceptual drawings were completed for expansion of the Senior Center.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- **The playground, skate park, and handball courts at Old Fort Collins Heritage Park behind NACC were completed and opened.**
- The Lee Martinez Park Master Plan was completed.
- **With major funding from CSU, City Park south ball field was converted to baseball to handle CSU and other baseball club needs.**
- The Forestry Division began a large diameter wood recycling program.
- The Mountain Pine Beetle began attacking trees in Fort Collins, with the scots pine the preferred host.
- A raw water pump house was built at Golden Meadows Park in partnership with PSD.
- Benson Reservoir Dam at Pelican Marsh Natural Area was repaired per Colorado State Engineers' requirements; the project was managed by Park Planning staff.
- Soapstone Natural Area access road, parking lots, and picnic shelters were completed.

ADMINISTRATION

- A major upgrade to RecTrac was completed successfully, along with staff training.
- **The Recreation Management Team developed seven Operating Principles (see Appendix A of this document) to provide a consistent vision for the department and set expectations for staff with regard to 1) customer service, 2) program and facility budgets, 3) programming, 4) the reduced fee scholarship program, 5) safety and appearance of facilities, 6) technology and 7) brand marketing.**
- **A long-range strategic business plan for Recreation was begun. The draft document is in Appendix B of this history.**

In 2009

RECREATION

- The first Operating Principle - customer service - was identified by staff as the top priority for immediate implementation. Staff enlisted the services of UpSell training to provide 100 employees with a 4-hour training session, and 40 classified staff with a 2-hour follow-up strategy session. These trainings set baseline standards and expectations for customer service delivery within the Recreation Department.
- The Recreation Department launched an “opportunity awareness” campaign called “What Moves You?” featuring community members who endorse Recreation services, values, and benefits. Community members represented companies or organizations such as Colorado State University, New Belgium Brewing Company, Poudre Valley Health Systems, Poudre School District, and Columbine Health System. Several individuals without organizational ties also participated.
- Club Tico underwent a major renovation during the summer.
- Staff completed all requirements to meet the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool Act which was passed to prevent entrapment of swimmers in pool drains. This was

accomplished by replacing all drain covers and modifying several drains at City Park Pool, Senior Center Pool, Mulberry Pool and EPIC pool.

- The CPP wading pool was removed and the area grassed for use by deck patrons.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, and PARK PLANNING

- Work began on the conversion of asphalt to concrete of the Poudre Trail on sections east of Shields Street, west of Taft Hill Road, at the junction with Spring Creek, at the CSU Environmental Learning Center and at Linden Street and Lincoln Avenue. A section of the Spring Creek Trail at the junction with the Poudre Trail was also replaced with new concrete.
- The tee time reservation module of GolfTrac was activated.
- The City Natural Resources Department took over management of Gateway Park.
- Progress on the **Power Trail**, designed as a north-south transportation route generally along the Union Pacific railroad line, began when right-of-way was acquired from the Union Pacific Railroad and Platte River Power Authority in 1996. The first section from EPIC to Drake Road was completed in 2003; then Drake to Horsetooth in 2005; Horsetooth to Golden Meadows Park in 2007; and finally one and one-half miles from Keenland Drive south to Trilby Road in 2009.
- A second transportation trail called the **Mason Trail** was begun in 2006 along the Burlington Northern railroad line when a section was installed from the junction with the Spring Creek trail to south of Harmony Road. The section north of the Spring Creek Trail to Prospect Road was completed in 2009.
- The Fossil Creek Trail from Carpenter Road for one-half mile north was designed with construction to be completed in early 2010. The Fossil Creek Trail north and south of County Road #38E was also designed.
- Provincetown Neighborhood Park construction started in the fall. Registry Ridge Park was designed with construction to be completed in 2010. Maintenance of both parks is being funded with Conservation Trust funds.
- The Fossil Creek Community Park water feature was modified to provide more features and to make the facility compliant with new public health regulations.
- **The Spring Canyon Community Park skate park was completed with considerable assistance from the skating community.**
- A total of 10 additional memorial benches were installed. A new bike parking area was developed and installed at Library Park. Jefferson Park was cleaned up and revitalized in cooperation with the Forestry Division and Police Services. A bike and trailer program for trail maintenance was also initiated.
- **The Cemetery Division received City Council approval to develop the Garden of Harmony for green burials** (no embalming, no burial vaults and biodegradable caskets or shrouds) at Roselawn Cemetery.
- The irrigation system at Roselawn Cemetery, funded by voter approved Building on Basics (BOB) funding, was completed.
- Forestry staff developed a spreadsheet to track the pine beetle outbreak. Staff also treated over 1,000 trees for control of insects or disease.
- **The Garden of Eatin** was opened in August at the Gardens on Spring Creek, and major work was completed on the Rock Garden.

- **Park Planning staff managed a patio addition at Collindale Golf Course**, which included a flagstone seating and viewing area and a new tournament scoreboard.
- Park Planning staff worked on the design for a watercraft course to be located on the Poudre River east of College Avenue.

ADMINISTRATION

- **City voters approved a .85 cent sales tax for general purposes, effective January 1, 2010 for 10 years.** This approved funding resulted in avoiding more budget cuts and lay-offs, with the commitment by staff to stabilize the City finances by the time the tax expires in 2019.
- **City Council adopted the update to the Parks and Recreation Policy Plan.**
- Parks staff successfully managed the West Nile Virus program pursuant to the Council's WNV Management Policy 2008-062.
- **Parks staff, in conjunction with the Museum staff, coordinated the first traditional and multi-cultural holiday displays on Library Park and Museum grounds. This project included lighting the many trees on the property, and erecting a traditional holiday display on the north side of the Museum.**
- DDA purchased the Elks Club building on Remington, and the Elks moved to a new location on E. Mulberry after occupying the Remington building for 72 years!
- The second branch of the Poudre River Library District called Council Tree Library opened on East Harmony.

In 2010

RECREATION

- **The department's two major program publications – 'Pathways' and 'Recreator' – were combined and produced quarterly for the first time. Production, printing, and ad sales were conducted in-house, and brochures were distributed at various City facilities and on the internet.**
- A registration site at Council Tree Library was staffed on opening day of winter registration for walk-in customers to expand customer convenience and general exposure to residents in the southeast areas of the city.

PARKS, CEMETERIES, GOLF, FORESTRY, AND PARK PLANNING

- The City of Fort Collins Tree Management Standards and Best Management Practices were approved by the City Manager.
- **SouthRidge Golf Club was chosen as the site to test the use of electric golf cars instead of gasoline-powered to determine if staff should convert all courses to decrease the carbon footprint.**
- Funds were allocated from the BOB capital sales tax program to develop the plans for an office and restrooms at Roselawn Cemetery, with construction to occur in 2011.
- Forestry received a \$25,000 grant to implement a wood recycling program to provide wood chips for use by residents instead of sending wood to the landfill.
- 27 trees were destroyed by vandals in Spring Canyon Community Park. Private funds from individuals and organizations were used to replace 19 of the trees at no cost to the City except manpower.
- Efforts began to certify Spring Canyon and Fossil Creek Community Parks as Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries.

- **An outdoor classroom and kitchen were completed at the Gardens on Spring Creek, funded with private cash and in-kind donations. Construction of a rock garden and wetland demonstration area began, to be completed in 2011.**
- The City received a \$500,000 GOCO grant for extension of the Fossil Creek trail.
- **The BMX track at Edora Park was moved to the Southeast Community Park adjacent to Fossil Ridge High School.**

ADMINISTRATION

- For the first time since 1978, the collaboration ended between the *Coloradoan* newspaper and Recreation to produce the 'Recreator' at no cost to the City.
- Construction began at North College and Cherry on the joint City Museum replacement and Discovery Science Center.
- Parks completed a minor reorganization that promoted three crew chiefs to Park Supervisors. In addition to current work, one was assigned the maintenance staff at Collindale and SouthRidge Golf Courses; the second took on the maintenance staff at City Park Nine Golf Course and the cemetery operation; and the third was assigned median maintenance for the entire city.



Chapter 6

RECREATION FACILITY *and* THERAPEUTIC RECREATION HISTORY 1907-2010

CITY PARK PAVILION/ CLUB TICO/ CITY PARK CENTER

- 1921 The original Pavilion in City Park on the north shore of the lake was constructed by Robert Lampton. (It was referred to as the Pavilion until 1949 when it became known as Club Tico. The name changed to City Park Center in the early 1970's and then back to Club Tico in 2003) Its primary function originally was as a bathhouse for the lake swimming operation and a concession stand. City Council approved a lease through 1935 for Mr. Lampton to handle concessions at City Park. This included boat and swim suit rental, swimming, ice skating, refreshments, and the campground operation adjacent to Oak Street. The auto camp concession was added in 1925.
- 1925 Work began to extend the City Park Pavilion to the west and south.
- 1926 The City Park Pavilion was again enlarged to the west and south.
- 1927 An orchestra stand was added on the outside of the north wall of City Park Pavilion, and a fire escape stairway was added on the west side.
- 1935 At the end of Mr. Lampton's concession agreement, he sold the Pavilion in City Park, the community house at the campground, the auto camp, and the City Park concession rights to the City.
- 1936 Wynford Chilton was contracted by City Council until 1940 as the City Park concessionaire for the Pavilion, lake swimming and skating operations, the community house, auto camp, and campground.
- 1943 The Camp Fire Girls, in sponsorship with the USO, opened a youth center in a donated space at 149 W. Mountain Avenue owned by Public Service Company.
- 1944 The Recreation Commission agreed to take over the youth center from Camp Fire. Activities were moved from 149 W. Mountain late in the year to the junior high school. The kids named the center Club Tico, probably after a popular song at the time – 'Tico Tico.' It was opened on December 2.
Junior high and high school age students who purchased a membership for \$.50/year had access to Tico, which was open Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for junior high members, 7:30 p.m.-midnight Fridays for high school members, and Saturdays from 8:00 p.m.-midnight and Sundays from 2:00-5:00 p.m. for all members. Activities included dancing, games, ping pong, and other games. By mid-December about 600 memberships had been sold.
J.W. Norcross, the third person with concession rights, converted the second floor of the City Park Pavilion to a roller skating rink and called it Lakeside Roller Rink, affiliated with Skateland of Denver.
- 1946 Club Tico activities were moved for a period of time to the senior high school and limited to Friday nights only as a result of an impending nation-wide coal strike. The senior high was heated with gas, while the junior high used coal.
- 1948 In February, The City Council authorized sending a postcard survey to residents asking if they would be in favor of an electric rate increase to support recreation.

Citizens had been asking for various recreation projects, including, among others, a permanent building for Club Tico.

The roller rink at the Pavilion in City Park that opened in 1944 ceased operation. City Council gave approval to the Recreation Commission to move Club Tico to the Pavilion. After remodeling the dressing rooms and adding first floor restrooms, the City turned facility operation over to the Recreation Commission. Officials required that \$15,000 be raised to repair the floor, walls, lighting, finishes, and to remodel the second floor space previously occupied by the roller rink. The students did most of the fund-raising, meeting with service clubs and canvassing neighborhoods door-to-door in December for donations. The amount raised exceeded the \$15,000. Renovation work began early in 1949.

The Recreation Commission offered to groups equipment on loan suitable for use at picnics. This equipment was kept at the Pavilion/Club Tico.

- 1949 Club Tico, managed by the Recreation Commission since 1944, was moved from the junior high school to the second floor of the City-owned Pavilion, and opened on May 28. The Pavilion building then became known as Club Tico.



The club contained a large dance floor, snack bar and booths, lounge, game area for pool and ping pong, sound system, small stage area, and restrooms. The club was open to teens and had 4 rules: no smoking, drinking, rowdiness, or destruction. The club was run by a board comprised of 2 representatives from each class at Fort Collins High School.

- 1953 In the 1952-1953 annual report, the Recreation Commission recorded 78,080 participations in all activities with expenditures totaling \$5,566.37. Club Tico and swimming numbers accounted for over half of the total participation.
- 1957 With cooperation from the City, the Recreation Commission opened an office on the first floor of Club Tico in July.
- 1961 The newly-formed Youth Baseball organization was given space on the first floor at Club Tico for office space and to store equipment.
- 1963 Club Tico was closed on April 4 by the State Industrial Commission for several safety and fire code violations. With the assistance of many teens and other workers, violations were corrected, and the center reopened on June 20.
- 1964 With the opening of Poudre High School, Club Tico's popularity began to dwindle. The teens from the two high schools became less interested in mingling at Club Tico, and attendance slowly declined.
- 1971 Club Tico closed in City Park in January after 27 years of operation at that location. It reopened in the summer on a trial basis- Frank Fawcett, a local teacher and coach, was manager.
- 1972 Club Tico re-opened as a senior center Monday-Friday from 9:00-3:00 and as a youth center in the evenings Thursday through Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The first full-time youth supervisor –Tom Frazier- was housed at Club Tico.

- 1976 Club Tico was finally closed as a youth center. Activities for teens were offered at the Downtown Community Center (DCC) when it opened at 145 E. Mountain on May 2nd. The youth supervisor also moved to the DCC. Club Tico was renamed City Park Center (CPC). The upstairs was programmed for dance and fitness classes during the day and weekday evenings and was available for rental on weekends. It became a popular place for square dance groups and other dance clubs to hold regular dances. This continues today. The dance floor is known as one of the best in the region. The first floor housed sports uniforms, pool materials, and other equipment.
- 1989 With the assistance of the City Facilities Division, Recreation staff developed a master plan for prioritized improvements to City Park Center and City Park Pool that included 1) adding new stairs and an elevator to CPC, 2) making second floor improvements to CPC, 3) making first floor improvements to CPC, and finally 4) City Park Pool replacement.
- 1991 The City Park Center stairway was moved to the northeast corner of the building, and an elevator was added to access the second floor.
- 2003 City Park Center next to the outdoor pool was renamed Club Tico after 33 years. Recreation publicity began referring to the building as “Club Tico, previously known as City Park Center.”



2005 During a brief nostalgic ceremony, a photocell-controlled neon 'Club Tico' sign was installed and lighted on the north side of the building.

- 2009 Club Tico underwent a major renovation during the summer, including upgraded electrical systems, a new ceiling and lights, a new coat of paint, and most importantly, a new HVAC system.

CITY PARK POOL (CPP)

- 1907 The City bought 62 acres west of downtown from John Sheldon for \$25,080. This acreage included Sheldon Lake on West Mulberry and a hill east of the lake made from dredging the lake. At some point, public swimming became popular in the lake and continued until City Park Pool was built in 1952.
- 1921 The original Pavilion in City Park on the north shore of the lake was constructed by Robert Lampton. Its primary function originally was as a bathhouse for the lake swimming operation and a concession stand. City Council approved a lease through 1935 for Mr. Lampton to handle concessions at City Park. This included boat and swim suit rental, swimming, ice skating, refreshments, and the campground operation.
- 1925 A diving tower was constructed in Sheldon Lake, along with a barrier to designate the bathing area.
- 1936 Wynford Chilton was contracted by City Council until 1940 as the City Park concessionaire for the Pavilion, lake swimming and skating operations, the community house, auto camp, and campground.

- 1948 In February, City Council discussed sending a postcard survey to residents asking if they would be in favor of an electric rate increase to support recreation. Citizens had been asking for various recreation projects, including, among others, a swimming pool. After much discussion, this was not pursued.
- 1949 Mayor Robert Hayes announced plans to build an outdoor pool in Sheldon Lake in City Park. He called it “one of the most worthwhile (projects) in the city’s history.” The Elks Club donated \$25,000 to the pool effort, along with some city funding. A drain was run from the lake bottom to the sewer on Oak Street. The lake was drained, the bottom cleaned, and dikes built to contain treated water that was pumped into the U-shaped space that extended about 200 feet into the lake from the north side. A separate wading pool was also built west of the pool and close to the Pavilion that housed the youth center. The 1 million-gallon pool opened to the public on July 31.
- 1952 A pool permanently separate from Sheldon Lake was constructed adjacent to Club Tico with funding from the Elks Lodge #804 and the City. The floor of the pool was completely cemented and a filtration plant was added, along with a wooden pier separating the shallow water from the diving area. The new City Park Pool (CPP) was considered “the most modern and up to date pool in this part of the country.” The pool was operated by the Commission and maintained by the City. In the 1952-1953 annual report, the Recreation Commission report recorded 78,080 participations with expenditures totaling \$5,566.37. Club Tico and swimming numbers accounted for over half of the total participation.
- 1956 A block bathhouse/concession that cost \$11,000 was constructed at the pool.
- 1960 A heating system was added to the pool.
- 1962 Children paid 15 cents admission to City Park Pool.
- 1964 \$25,100 of the \$93,600 allocated by City Council to Parks and Recreation was for City Park and pool maintenance.
- 1969 Gilbert and Lila Wolfe, who began operating the children’s train in City Park, contracted with the City to also run the City Park Pool concession. City Park Pool received extensive floor repairs prior to its summer opening. In the late 1960’s and early 1970’s the Recreation Division sponsored a summer swim team at CPP called the Tide Riders.



1970 The wooden dock and platform at City Park Pool were replaced with concrete, and the wooden ladders were replaced with steel ones.

- For many years in the 1970’s and early 1980’s, CSU fraternities and service clubs were enlisted to help paint the outdoor pool every spring.
- 1971 On June 16 the pool was so crowded that people had to wait to enter, as 1,000 was the maximum number allowed in the facility at one time. Average use that summer was 600/day.
- 1974 \$23,000 was spent to upgrade pool filtration.
- 1979 The season pass (sew-on patch) at City Park Pool was \$8.

- 1981 A comprehensive report from the Larimer County Health Department cited various code violations at the park concession stands and City Park Pool. A priority plan was put in place to make corrections as funding became available.
- 1982 Staff held a 30th birthday party for City Park Pool on August 15. The pool was permanently cemented and separated from the lake in 1952.
- 1985 Gib and Lila Wolfe's daughter Lisa and her husband Ted Voelker operated the train and City Park Pool concession for 2 years.
- 1987 The City began charging for the wading pool at City Park Pool. The City Park Pool bathhouse/concession stand was replaced.
- 1989 With the assistance of the City Facilities Division, Recreation staff developed a master plan for prioritized improvements to City Park Center and City Park Pool that included pool replacement.
- 1993 The wading pool was totally replaced, and the filtration system was placed on the first floor in the southwest corner of City Park Center.
- 2001 Grass was added on the north side of the pool to provide shade and seating for deck patrons.
- 2002 City Park Pool was closed for the summer and replaced with a shallow water leisure pool that included a "lazy river," 2 water play features, sprays, geysers, open water for water play and lap swimming, and a new mechanical building. Construction continued into 2003. The renovation was funded from the General Fund, Recreation Reserves, Operation Services funding, and grants from the Elks Lodge #804, and the Don and May Wilkins Family Trust.



2003 The renovated City Park Pool opened to the public on May 31.

2005 Aquatics staff opened CPP to dogs at the end of the summer, leading to a very popular and successful annual event called the Pooch Plunge.

- 2006 A double water slide was purchased and installed at City Park Pool with funding from GOCO (\$100,000), The Don and May Wilkins Family Trust (\$30,000), and Recreation. The pool entry was also remodeled and widened for customer convenience.



- 2009 Staff completed all requirements to meet the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool Act which was passed to prevent entrapment of swimmers in pool drains. This was accomplished by replacing all drain covers and modifying several drains at City Park Pool, Senior Center Pool, Mulberry Pool and EPIC pool. The wading pool was removed at CPP and the area grassed for use by deck patrons.

CITY PARK RAILWAY

- 1950 The children's train in City Park was installed privately and operated for 2 years by Jim Baggot.
- 1953 William and Ede (Wolfe) Hershiser purchased the City Park train and operated it until 1968.
- 1969 Gilbert (Gib) and Lila Wolfe owned and operated the children's train in City Park through 1984. They also contracted with the City to run the City Park Pool concession stand.
- 1981 A comprehensive report from the Larimer County Health Department cited various code violations at city concession stands including City Park Railway. A plan was put in place to make necessary corrections as funding became available.



- 1985 Gib and Lila Wolfe's daughter Lisa and her husband Ted Voelker operated the train and City Park Pool concession for 2 years.
- 1987 Geoffrey Wolfe, Gib and Lila's son, operated the train and concessions through summer, 1996.
- 1997 City Park Railway was purchased by the City from Geoffrey Wolfe.
- 2001 The City Park Railway engine was replaced and an accessible ramp built at the track.

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER (DCC)

- 1962 A meeting between H.R. Phillips and senior citizens early in the year resulted in the formation of the Senior Citizen Club. The group changed its name to Golden Age Club in September to coincide with similar clubs in Denver and Cheyenne. Dances, picnics, and socializing with other Golden Age clubs were popular. The group began meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Meldrum Street. Later in the year, a senior citizen group interested in dancing broke off from the Golden Age Club and was known as The Over-40 Dance Club. Dances were initially held at elementary schools.
- 1972 Club Tico in City Park opened to senior citizens Monday-Friday from 9:00-3:00 and as a youth center in the evenings. A part-time staff member was hired to supervise the daytime senior citizen activities at Club Tico, and Golden Age Club members were encouraged to participate. Of 100 Golden Age members, 30 were using the facility at \$1/year membership. The Golden Age Club continued to meet at Knights of Columbus on North Meldrum Street for bi-monthly lunches and other activities. The City staff collaborated each year with the Golden Age Club and bought the turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner.
- 1973 Peg County was hired as the first fulltime director of activities for senior citizens. The first bus trips for senior citizens took place.
- 1974 City Council authorized purchase of the vacated Coloradoan newspaper building at 145 E. Mountain Avenue for \$185,000, its use not initially determined.

- 1975 After much discussion, City Council designated the use of the recently purchased building at 145 E. Mountain as a recreation/community center for all ages. That fall Parks and Recreation staff moved from the “little white house at 202 N. Meldrum” to offices in the new facility.
Ray Froid helped establish the first rhythm band for seniors called Senior Citizen Rhythm Band; later called Senior Harmonettes.
Lottie Alexander’s pink climber rose won Grand Champion of the senior citizen flower show.
- 1976 Spaces at 145 E. Mountain were remodeled for a community center/senior center and called the Downtown Community Center (DCC). Grand opening was held on May 2. It was the first City-operated intergenerational community center in Fort Collins, serving senior citizens during the day and open to the general public evenings and weekends. The programs for senior citizens at Club Tico were moved downtown. Through written agreement, the facility also housed the staff of Home Helps, Visiting Nurses, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), all services to support senior citizens.
Suzy Danford was the first DCC facility manager, and Peg County the senior services manager.
- 1978 The last phase of the DCC (program space in the basement) was remodeled for \$89,210, which was funded by a HUD grant.
A noon meal program called Senior Chuckwagon began at the DCC and at the new Northside Community Center for seniors.
Peg County left the City and Nancy Luttrupp replaced her. Nancy stayed with the program for 10 years, and during that time, the program flourished. By the time she left the City, there were two Recreation Leaders assisting her in the program.



The Fort Collins senior citizens participated in the first Senior Olympics program, now called Senior Games.

1981 Staff produced the first senior citizen newsletter called “The Greening Leaf.”

- The clubhouse at Rangeview Adult Community at Harmony and College was used as a satellite senior citizen center for a period of time.
- 1984 A current events discussion program was started that was called ‘Donut Make You Wonder.’ This activity continues today.
Senior Center staff worked with local housing managers to initiate a summer program called Sunbirds. Residents from Arizona migrated to Fort Collins and participated in a wide variety of recreational activities hosted by the City. This program continued for quite a few years.

FORT COLLINS SENIOR CENTER (FCSC)

- 1988 AARP passed a Resolution supporting the inclusion of a new senior center in a proposed capital tax package. The executive committee added a senior center to

its list of projects, and City Council agreed that it should remain for voter consideration.

- The first mandatory senior citizen membership fee of \$3.00/year was established.
- 1989 Funding for a new senior center was approved as part of a one-quarter cent capital sales tax extension program called Choices 95. A building team consisting of Senior Advisory Board members and representatives from other City Council-appointed boards, along with staff and consultants, began designing a new 40,000 square foot facility.
- The first Moonlight and Roses event for couples married 50 years or more was held at the Lincoln Center. This event is still held annually at the Senior Center.
- 1991 Interested citizens formed a committee to support the upcoming new senior center through fund-raising. This group became the Friends of the Senior Center. Recreation and Parks and Recreation administrative staff moved to 281 N. College from 145 E. Mountain, except for senior center staff, who remained until the new senior center was finished in 1995.
- 1991 Public discussion began around including a pool in the senior center plans, and City Council was divided. Ultimately they decided to allow its inclusion.
- 1992 City Council chose the 1200 Raintree site for the new senior center.
- 1993 Bids for construction of the new senior center came in over budget and cuts were made in the project.
- 1994 A contest was held to name the new senior center. After City Council approved the chosen name, a small group of seniors expressed displeasure with the name at a Council meeting, which resulted in the Council officially naming the facility Fort Collins Senior Center.
The City began the process to sell the Downtown Community Center site.



1995 On June 2, a cornerstone was laid at the senior center, and the entry sculpture was dedicated. The sculpture by Rafe Ropek was partially supported financially by Bob and Joyce Everitt. On June 27, the center opened to the public.

The 145 E. Mountain building was sold.

Senior Chuckwagon noon meal program transferred from the DCC to the new Senior Center. It is currently run by Volunteers of America.

- 1996 The horticulture staff in the Forestry Division assisted in establishing the Children's Garden at the Farm and the community gardens at the FCSC. Members of the Centennial Rose Society planted roses at the Senior Center. The first Cemetery Crawl/Stroll was held at Grandview Cemetery hosted by the Senior Center staff in conjunction with the cemetery staff. This event celebrated its 15th year in 2010.
- Attendees of the Facility Design and Management School through CPRA toured the Senior Center in addition to EPIC, and both facilities were on the tour list for several years.

- 1999 Friends of the Senior Center received its 501c3 status.
Senior Center staff collaborated with others in the community to provide many activities to celebrate the International Year of Older Persons.
The Sunbird Program for senior citizens who came to this area in the summer from the heat of Arizona was held as a City program for the last time.
- 2000 480 people attended a Mardi Gras fundraiser for Friends of the Senior Center.
- 2004 A master plan was developed for the additional acreage at the FCSC.
Fiber was extended to the FCSC to greatly improve the communication, financial, and registration functions at that location.
A program for older gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender residents was begun by the staff at the Senior Center.



2005 Voters extended two one-quarter cent sales taxes in a capital campaign called Building on Basics (BOB) for pavement management and community enhancements, including expansion of the Fort Collins Senior Center. Space for fitness and wellness was the primary focus for this expansion.

- The tenth anniversary celebration was held throughout the year with various events. A party was held on June 17.
The Friends of the Senior Center disbanded.
The staff at the Senior Center celebrated the facility's 10th anniversary.
- 2006 A Senior Center Expansion Committee was formed to raise money to supplement funding from the BOB capital tax for expansion of the facility.
- 2007 A new canopy was constructed over the patio.
- 2008 The pool was re-plastered during that facility's annual maintenance shut-down.
Conceptual drawings were completed for expansion of the Senior Center.
The Senior Center expansion fund-raising committee received its 501c3 status.
- 2009 Staff completed all requirements to meet the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool Act which was passed to prevent entrapment of swimmers in pool drains. This was accomplished by replacing all drain covers and modifying several drains at City Park Pool, Senior Center Pool, Mulberry Pool and EPIC pool.

EDORA POOL ICE CENTER (EPIC)

According to Recreation Commission annual reports from 1937 to 1965, ice skating on Sheldon Lake was a popular winter activity for all ages.

- 1948 In February, The City Council authorized sending a postcard survey to residents asking if they would be in favor of an electric rate increase to support recreation. Citizens had been asking for various recreation projects, including, among others, an ice rink and another swimming pool. After much discussion, electric rates were not raised to support recreation programs.
- 1972 Designing Tomorrow Today (DTT) citizen committee recommended that the City build a second outdoor pool and an indoor ice arena. Both were approved by voters in a large one-cent sales tax package called the Capital Improvement Program CIP).

- 1976 It was determined that the CIP approved by voters was underfunded. This resulted in the start of discussions about whether the ice arena and pool projects should be delayed or eliminated.
- 1979 City Council voted to delay construction of the ice arena/pool items from the CIP. By then, \$300K had been spent to design a joint indoor pool-ice arena facility, showing the facilities side-by-side under the same roof. Citizen supporters began a petition drive and gained 3,500 signatures (needing 2,160), asking City Council to reconsider or take the item to a vote. Council placed the item on the following spring ballot.
- 1980 The pool/rink item that went to the voters by a citizen initiative failed in a special spring election, along with a second pool/rink item placed there by City Council.
- 1983 Harold Kennedy, transplant from Minnesota, avid ice skater, and strong supporter of the construction of EPIC, helped the City build an outdoor ice skating rink at Lee Martinez Park.
- 1984 The pool/rink citizen committee got enough signatures to place a second initiative on the ballot for a one-quarter cent sales tax increase for 5 years, and it was passed by voters, effective January 1, 1985 for 5 years. John Wigdahl, President of the Ice Skating Association and avid skater and supporter, among many others, was instrumental in getting this done.
- 1985 Ground-breaking for the ice arena/pool facility was held in July.
- 1986 The name (Edora Pool Ice Center or EPIC) was selected for the ice arena/pool facility following a citywide contest.



1987 The ice arena/pool (EPIC) opened to the public on January 31.

The first holiday ice show, produced entirely by the EPIC skating staff, was held in December. This event continues today.

Federal Sign and Gardner Sign donated a \$44,000 hockey scoreboard to the City. The first EPIC staff consisted of Jeff King, Manager; Steve Budner, Assistant Manager; Paul Thibert, Ice Supervisor, and Barbara Schoeneberger, who added EPIC to her Aquatics Supervisor duties.

EPIC hosted its first state high school swim meet (girls) in the fall and the boys state meet the following February. With only a couple of years' exception, these meets are held annually at EPIC. Major CSU swim meets were also held at EPIC, and the local age group team – Fort Collins Area Swim Team (FAST) – began workouts at the pool. FAST continues today to consider EPIC its home pool. Northern Colorado Youth Hockey and an adult hockey league began league play right away when EPIC opened. The facility hosted many drop-in and lap swimmers who couldn't find time for these activities at Fort Collins Community Pool because of heavy use by PSD during the school year.

A 30-admission pass to pools increased to \$25 from \$17 prior to EPIC opening.



- 1988 The EPIC pool was closed for 2 months for tile repair. The EPIC advertising policy was adopted by City Council. A sculpture installed in front of the EPIC facility was created by Bruce Gueswel and donated by Bob and Joyce Everitt. The sculpture depicts a pairs skating team performing the death spiral. EPIC skating staff presented the first spring ice show featuring the Wizard of Oz. After only three more spring shows, the staff dropped this event to focus energy on the annual holiday show in December. The first Facility Design and Management School through CPRA was organized and held, and participants toured EPIC. Debi Thomas from California worked out at EPIC prior to the Calgary Olympics, where she won a silver medal in figure skating.
- 1989 Paul Wylie was the featured skater in the Winter Wishes ice show at EPIC. He won the silver medal at the 1990 Winter Olympics and became a color commentator for ice skating competitions on television. CSU began offering figure skating classes to students, and the classes were held at EPIC. The CSU club ice hockey team also rented ice time at EPIC for workouts and games. These activities continue today. A New Years Eve lock-in for kids was held. The event survived only a few years.
- 1990 Discussion began among citizens, City Council, and staff about adding a second ice rink at EPIC.
- 1991 A citizen group called Citizens for EPIC Expansion petitioned City Council to add a second ice rink at EPIC. City Council placed the item, which called for a one-quarter cent on the dollar tax for two years to build the ice rink, on the spring ballot, and it failed. Some major repairs to the condenser and pool pumps were completed, resulting in an extended shut-down. Two maintenance staff members from EPIC were transferred to the Facilities Division under the agreement that Facilities would then provide major maintenance at recreation facilities into the future.
- 1992 Gordie Howe (“Mister Hockey”) visited EPIC and participated in events planned during an invitational youth hockey tournament held in January each year. The “waitress” (Calla Urbanski) and the “truck driver” (Rocky Marvel) were featured skaters in the annual winter ice show at EPIC. The team competed as amateurs at the national level and went on to skate professionally.

- 1993 Jennie Meno and Todd Sand skated in the Winter Wishes ice show at EPIC. They competed nationally as amateurs and went on to skate professionally in shows around the world.
\$400,000 in repairs included expanding the reception area, repairing pool tiles and HVAC, minor repairs in the locker rooms and ice arena, and replacing carpet.
- 1994 Citizens approached City Council again about the need for a second ice rink.
- 1995 A citizen initiative called PICK (Parks and Ice for the Community and Kids), which included a 5,000 seat ice arena adjacent to EPIC, a multi-use recreation center at FCCP, and development of the southwest community park youth sports complex, was sent to the voters by City Council. The item failed 56%-42%.
The skate sharpening room at EPIC was moved to the ice resurfacing room so that the space could be vented to the outside for staff safety reasons.
Kyoko Ina and Jason Dungjen skated in the Winter Wishes Ice Show. They competed as a pair nationally, and then split up. Jason is currently a nationally-known figure skating coach.
- 1996 An outdoor ice rink was installed on the east side of EPIC by Northern Colorado Youth Hockey as an experiment. It was used only one season, due to difficulty in holding a good sheet of ice.
- 1997 Three one-quarter cent capital sales taxes were extended by voters (Building Community Choices - BCC), effective January 1, 1998 for 9 years. Projects included building a second ice rink at EPIC in partnership with private donations. As a result of passage of BCC, a group of interested citizens formed Twice the Ice to raise 22% of the cost of a second ice rink to be built at EPIC.
EPIC staff celebrated 10 years of operation with an open house.
The ice skating pairs team of Emily Aurand (age 11) and Alex Merritt (age 13) from EPIC won the open juvenile division of the Junior Olympics.
Lea Nightwalker (age 12) from EPIC was third in the intermediate ladies division at the Southwest Regional Figure Skating competition.
- 1998 Twice the Ice, the private fund-raising group for the second ice rink construction, was given permission to sell dasher board ads for 5 years at EPIC to raise money for its 22% contribution for the rink.
- 1999 The EPIC pool locker rooms were remodeled to add 2 family change rooms.
Ali Dody-Hettler qualified in 2 events at Junior Nationals in figure skating by finishing first in juvenile singles and second with Nick Gerardi in juvenile pairs.
- 2000 \$4,000 was donated through the Arthritis Foundation for a new pool lift at EPIC.
- 2001 Neenan Company was chosen to design and cost out the ice arena addition to EPIC. City Council then officially voted to continue the project, based on construction costs and the fund-raising efforts of Twice the Ice.
Lea Nightwalker, age 14, placed fifth in the novice ladies division at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. She performed in the Winter Wishes Ice Show as a soloist that year and then in 3 other shows, the most recent being 2010.
A child got her arm stuck in a pipe in the wading pool at EPIC.
- 2002 Twice the Ice, a 501c3 fundraising group, presented \$865,000 to the City to fund its required 22% of a second ice rink at EPIC, resulting in the start of the project.
- 2003 The second sheet of ice at EPIC opened to the public on March 21, and the grand opening celebration was held on April 17.

The EPIC advertising policy was updated through City Council to include the second ice arena.

Fiber was extended to EPIC and the YAC to greatly improve the communication, financial, and registration functions at those locations.

Scott Hamilton and his performing company rehearsed in the new green rink at EPIC prior to performing at the Budweiser Events Center.

- 2004 The original ice rink was renovated and lights in the pool were replaced. Two additional swim teams (boys and girls) were added to the schedule with the opening of Fossil Ridge High School, increasing the number of school district teams using Mulberry Pool and EPIC to 8.
- 2005 Local teen Lisa Moore and Justin Gaumond from Denver began skating as a pairs team, and over the next 6 years, competed regionally and nationally and skated in six consecutive Winter Wishes Ice Shows.
- 2006 All high school and age group swim meets were moved from Mulberry Pool to EPIC to free up more drop-in and program time at Mulberry Pool. EPIC staff hosted the U.S. Kayak Water Polo National Tournament.
- 2008 EPIC pool was closed for 3 weeks to re-grout all 3 pools and decks, along with mechanical upgrades. The ice was removed from both rinks for the first time in 5 years during the annual maintenance shut-down; dasher boards were also adjusted and chillers and related mechanical units worked on. EPIC concession staff worked with the CanDo obesity task force and Poudre Valley Hospital to add a healthier snack menu at the EPIC concession stand.
- 2009 Staff completed all requirements to meet the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool Act which was passed to prevent entrapment of swimmers in pool drains. This was accomplished by replacing all drain covers and modifying several drains at City Park Pool, Senior Center Pool, Mulberry Pool and EPIC pool.

THE FARM AT LEE MARTINEZ PARK (The Farm)

- 1972 Land negotiations for the future Lee Martinez Park began.
- 1973 After much negotiation, the City purchased the land for the future Lee Martinez Park and The Farm west of College Avenue and south of the river.
- 1975 Lee Martinez Park, west of College and south of the river, was officially named.
- 1977 The opening of Lee Martinez Park (89.56 acres) was celebrated with 4 lighted tennis and 3 lighted basketball courts, restrooms, playground, and picnic facilities. The Farm, 2 lighted ball fields, a pavilion, and trails were phased in over the next several years.
- 1979 \$20,000 was spent at Lee Martinez Park to renovate the barn at the old dairy farm. \$15,000 was spent on other areas of the farm.
- 1985 The Farm at Lee Martinez Park opened to the public in July. Facilities included a resource building with classrooms and restrooms and a museum. In addition, the barn and silo were used for programming, and numerous pastures, animal pens, and program areas were designed outside.



- Recreation programmed the activities, and Parks provided the maintenance. Bridget Brownell was hired as the first Farm Supervisor. Art Wilcox was responsible for designing and building exhibits for the museum. He also volunteered to maintain and promote the museum, which he did with passion, diligence, and efficiency until his death in 2005.
- 1987 Adopt-an-Animal donation program was initiated to raise funds for animal feed and other animal-related projects.
An addition was put on the museum at The Farm.
- 1988 Staff began year-round operation of the facility, and the first Christmas at The Farm events took place.
The silo was remodeled as a gift shop.
- 1989 Recreation assumed full responsibility for the Farm operation and maintenance.
- 1992 An attack by a dog at The Farm killed 3 and injured 2 sheep.
- 1993 A composting demonstration project was established by Natural Resources.
- 1995 A tenth anniversary celebration was held at The Farm on July 23.
- 1996 The horticulture staff in the Forestry Division assisted in establishing the Pizza Garden at The Farm and the community gardens at the Senior Center.
- 1999 Suzy the cow celebrated her 21st birthday at a party in her honor.
- 2000 Staff celebrated The Farm's fifteenth year with a party.
- 2004 A master plan was developed to expand the resource building.
- 2005 The staff celebrated the facility's 20th anniversary.
- 2006 Remodel of The Farm Resource Building was completed, adding a small classroom, an entry point for fee-paying customers, office space, and a space to move the farm store from the silo to the resource building.
Staff at The Farm began charging a gate fee.
The Farm Technician began making birdhouses from scrap materials left from the Farm remodel. These were sold at the store to enhance Farm revenue.
The silo was named Art's Tool Box after Art Wilcox, who maintained The Farm Museum for almost 20 years. Hands-on interactive items were available in the silo for visitors to learn more about farm life.

FORT COLLINS COMMUNITY POOL (FCCP)/MULBERRY POOL (MP)

- 1970 PSD and the City began studying the feasibility of building a joint indoor pool. Discussions took place concerning the future use of the old junior high site after the school moved to its new building on Lancer Drive.
- 1972 The PSD Board of Education eliminated a swimming pool from the Rocky Mountain High School plans.
- 1973 Through written agreement, PSD transferred to the City use of the entire block of the Lincoln Junior High site on W. Mulberry for recreational purposes, including building an indoor pool, in exchange for swim time for PSD in the pool facility. The City budgeted \$300,000 from General Fund, \$300,000 from HUD, and \$100,000 from revenue sharing for the pool and hired Reid Burton construction for \$645,000 to build the facility.
- 1974 Ground breaking for the first public indoor swimming pool at Mulberry and Sherwood took place on February 10.

- The new indoor pool name – Fort Collins Community Pool - was selected through a public competition and approved by City Council.
- The Fort Collins Community Pool on the old Lincoln Junior High site opened to the public on December 15.
- The first staff included Larry Brooks, Aquatics Manager, Micki Hargis, Assistant Manager, Mike McDonnell, Maintenance Technician.
- 1975 As a major requirement of the City-School District agreement for use of the Mulberry-Meldrum site, PSD's fourth grade swim instruction program began during the day. High school swim team workouts were held early mornings and early evenings, and swim meets during the swim seasons were held twice a week after school and on some weekends. This left very little time for public drop-in and lessons during the school year.
- 1976 After much negotiation, PSD agreed to pay the City \$18,500 annually for indoor pool use. In addition, an informal negotiation designated that PSD pay a portion of the aquatics supervisor's salary based on hours of PSD's pool use.
- 1978 It was estimated that fixing the efflorescence problems on the exterior of the building would cost \$50,000 and take over a year to fix.
- 1981 The City and PSD began discussions about the need for extensive remodel of the FCCP to solve efflorescence and pool leakage problems. PSD declined to participate in any solutions, citing wording in the agreement that excused the District from participating financially.
- 1982 The indoor pool was closed 2 weeks in April to repair damage from humidity, including installing ground fault interrupters and replacing corroded fixtures.
- 1983 The pool was closed for 2 weeks over the Christmas holidays for repainting and then closed longer when a boiler sprung a leak prior to reopening.
- 1987 A 30-admission pass to pools increased to \$25 from \$17 prior to EPIC opening.
- 1988 A study revealed that the HVAC system was deficient, the aluminum pool was deteriorating, and the facility needed a minimum of \$200,000 in repairs.
- Poudre School District dropped the fourth grade swim program.
- With the opening of EPIC, high school swim team workouts and meets were split between the two indoor pools. This opened a lot of pool time year-round at FCCP to start new swim programs and for public drop-in and lap swim participants.
- 1989 Two one-quarter cent sales taxes for capital projects called Choices 95 were extended by voters for a variety of city-wide projects including renovation of the community indoor pool.
- 1990 The pool was drained to locate leaks in the aluminum shell; the majority of leaks were found in the gutter system, requiring replacement.
- 1991 City Council voted to renovate and not move or replace the Fort Collins Community Pool. One recommendation was to combine it with the new senior center, but the idea was dismissed.
- 1992 The community pool was closed for renovation most of the year. Renovation included replacing the pool and improving handicap accessibility and the HVAC system. The cost was \$1.4 million.
- The City staff made an attempt to reformulate the contract for use of Fort Collins Community Pool with the School District; however, the district was not interested in making any changes.



1993 The indoor pool reopened on January 16 after a major renovation, including pool, filtration, and HVAC replacement, office remodel, and addition of a spa, wall tiles, and graphics. The name was changed at that time to Mulberry Pool.

2004 Two additional swim teams (boys and girls) were added to the schedule with the opening of Fossil Ridge High School, increasing the number of school district teams using Mulberry Pool and EPIC to 8.

2006 A large water feature was purchased and installed at Mulberry Pool (MP), replacing the frog slide and adding to the options for children's play.



All swim meets were moved from MP to EPIC to provide more drop-in and programmed swim time at Mulberry Pool.

2008 A 6-week shut-down at Mulberry Pool resulted in the completion of several major renovation projects including new HVAC units, solar tubes, pool mechanical upgrades, and pool re-plastering.

2009 Staff completed all requirements to meet the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool Act which was passed to prevent entrapment of swimmers in pool drains. This was accomplished by replacing all drain covers and modifying several drains at City Park Pool, Senior Center Pool, Mulberry Pool and EPIC pool.

NORTHSIDE AZTLAN COMMUNITY CENTER (NACC)

1960 The old municipal burn landfill east of North College Avenue and south of the Poudre River that was in operation from the late 1930's until the late 1960's was designated for use by City Council as a future city park.

1971 By authority of a City Council Resolution in 1967, the Landmark Preservation Commission was given authority to designate the landfill east of College Avenue and south of the Poudre River, the approximate site of the original Fort Collins settlement, as a city park. At some point, it was named Riverside Park.

1977 City Council voted to build a recreation center called Northside Community Center on the Riverside Park site.

1978 The Northside Community Center opened in August at 112 E. Willow. It was funded by an Economic Development Grant of \$352,000. This facility contained the first city-owned indoor gymnasium.

Larry Brooks was named director and Glenda Poteste was program supervisor. A noon meal program began at NACC for seniors called Senior Chuckwagon, which is today run at both NACC and FCSC by Volunteers of America.

1979 The first Youth Nights were held at the facility and continue today.

- A program called Los Ancianos Unidos was established for Spanish-speaking seniors to serve their specific needs and desires and to acclimate them to the use of City facilities, programs, and services. The group still functions today.
- 1980 Various portions of the floors began sinking into the landfill. This resulted in the City having portions of the floor under the kitchen, lockers, and classrooms mud-jacked for stabilization.
Riverside Park was completed with turf, irrigation, playground, sidewalks, parking, and a backstop in the northwest corner of the property. At some point, the park name was changed to Old Fort Collins Heritage Park.
- 1981 The floating floor of the gymnasium at the center began cracking and sinking.
- 1983 A group of northside residents approached City Council about adding 'Aztlan' to the title of the Northside Community Center. This was approved.
- 1984 \$365,000 was approved by City Council to be spent on repairs at NACC, including taking gym supports to bedrock and pouring a new floor. Part of the funding was from a Community Development Block Grant.
- 1985 Design documents for repairs at the center were completed. The facility closed in November to begin work.
The City donated land in Riverside Park east of Northside Aztlan Community Center for construction of the Larimer Community Services Center to house United Way, Neighbor to Neighbor, United Day Care Center, and other offices.
- 1986 Northside Aztlan Community Center re-opened in April after a 6-month closure for major repairs.
- 1989 Anheuser Busch donated \$55,000 for HVAC upgrades at the facility. The first half was received, and design work began.
- 1990 The second half of the \$55,000 Anheuser Busch donation was received to complete the HVAC improvements to the center.
- 1991 Part-time recreation employee Mark Luna taught soft tennis to senior citizens in the gymnasium at the NACC. The activity was very popular.
- 1994 Dave Dorty, a volunteer at NACC, was arrested in December for sexual assault on a minor by a person in a position of trust.
- 1995 A lighted outdoor basketball court was built adjacent to the facility.
- 1996 The skate park structures were moved from Rolland Moore Park to a location immediately west of the NACC.
- 1997 Three one-quarter cent capital sales taxes were extended by voters (Building Community Choices/BCC), effective January 1, 1998 for 9 years. Approved projects included replacement of NACC.
The Recreation Division began doing background checks, and eventually the entire City adopted a background check requirement for new employees in positions of trust.
- 2001 Testing through a Brownfields grant of the current Northside Aztlan Community Center site began to determine the feasibility of placing the new recreation facility on the same site.
- 2002 A "sheen" on the river surface north of the NACC site in the fall prompted further study and involvement of the EPA to determine its origin and potential options for clean-up of the site and protection of the river.

- 2003 More testing was done on the site and the same oily substance was found in test wells running from the river to the south side of the NACC site. Determination was made that the oily substance running through the site did not pose a threat to humans unless it was dug up and exposed on the surface. Plans to proceed to protect the river were developed.
- 2004 The river was diverted beginning in late fall 2003 to find hard evidence of oily material emptying into the river. Once this was found, a diversion plan was developed and designed.
- 2005 Beginning in late fall 2004, a barrier and pumping station were constructed on the south side of the river to keep any oily material from entering the river. In the spring, the City was given permission to receive design/build proposals for construction of the new NACC. Requirements from the EPA included that the new building be elevated on the site at least three feet higher than the old building, that any oily substance exposed during construction be collected and disposed of as a hazardous material, that a vapor barrier be included under the building, and that a gas detection and venting system be included in the plans. The original NACC facility was to remain open during construction.
- 2006 Construction began on the new facility in early fall. Kids' Café, in conjunction with the Food Bank, began service at the original NACC. The program continues today at the new facility. City Council voted to keep the name Northside Aztlan Community Center for the replacement facility. Recreation began a major reorganization project as the result of a City Council decision to downsize the YAC, staff losses from budget cuts, and the need to shift staff to the new larger Northside Aztlan facility to open in 2007. The youth area Administrator switched responsibilities with the adult area Administrator.
- 2007 Recreation Administrative offices at 214 N. Howes closed, and staff was disbursed to either NACC or 215 N. Mason. The Youth Activity Center was also downsized and fulltime staff moved to NACC and the sports office at the Park Shop in City Park. A large amount of equipment was salvaged from 214 N. Howes and the YAC for use at the new NACC. The Art in Public Places program coordinated the installation of 5 art projects at Spring Canyon Community Park and 3 at Northside Aztlan Community Center.

The original NACC was razed in early October. It was an emotional day for many of the longtime staff.



Staff celebrated a November opening of the Northside Aztlan Community Center replacement.

- 2008 Northside Aztlan staff, along with BEET Street, hosted a 3-day Peace Corp reunion at the facility and in Old Fort Collins Heritage Park. The playground, skate park, and handball courts at Old Fort Collins Heritage Park behind NACC were completed and opened. A self-appointed Northside Aztlan Advisory Board established bylaws and developed goals/objectives to assist staff in making the new facility successful.

POTTERY STUDIO

- 1923 A community house at 1541 W. Oak was constructed by Mr. Robert Lampton west of the public campground in City Park. The first floor contained a laundry, kitchen, a place for campers to write letters and relax, and a small store for supplies, groceries, and concessions. Mr. Lampton lived on the second floor and managed the operation, including a filling station.
- 1928 A “toilet and tool” house was built immediately east of the community house at the campground in City Park. This building is currently inside the Pottery Studio firing yard and is used to store clay and other materials.
- 1935 At the end of Mr. Lampton’s contract, he sold the Pavilion in City Park, the community house at the campground, and all concession rights to the City.
- 1971 At the request of the Parks and Recreation Director, the Campfire Girls moved its office in December from the Community House (now the Pottery Studio) in City Park to a downtown space to make room at the pottery studio for recreation activities. It is unknown how long the Campfire organization had been there.
- 1972 Recreation staff began using the second floor of the community house for classes including Recreational Funtime for pre-school age children and adult art classes.
- 1974 The City held the first pottery classes at Riffenburgh Elementary prior to opening the Pottery Studio that same year.



The “community house” was renovated into a pottery studio and classroom facility for a variety of youth and adult arts and general classes. The pottery studio was patterned after a successful pottery operation run by the City of Boulder.

The Pottery Studio opened with a deficient heating system that was improved over time.

The fence around the pottery firing yard on the east side was built with wood from a false floor in the basement of the DCC at 145 E. Mountain where rolls of newsprint were stored for the newspaper operation. The wood was removed and saved when the DCC was renovated.

- 1981 Outreach pottery classes were held at Dunn Elementary. Items were fired at the Pottery Studio.
- 1984 CSU donated a large used gas kiln for use at the Studio.
- 1986 Wheelchair accessible restrooms were added to the building.
- 1991 A silent auction fundraiser for the City art and pottery programs called Arts Etc. resulted in a profit of \$1,700.

YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTER (YAC)

- 1993 A Youth Issues Team was formed by City Council, comprised of staff from Recreation, Police, Human Resources, City Manager's Office, and Team Fort Collins to explore ways to provide more positive services for community youth.
- 1994 Recreation staff launched new activities for youths and teens including summer basketball, a mobile recreation program called RAD (Recreation At your Door) Van, and summer youth employment. These activities were started through grants, donations, recreation reserves, and volunteers.
City Council established a Youth Advisory Board and assigned it to Recreation and Police.
- 1995 Through a lease agreement between the City and PSD, the Youth Activity Center (YAC) opened at the old Fort Collins High School on Remington on September 30. A portion of the space was sub-leased to the Boys and Girls Club. Suzy Danford and Dave Mosnik co-supervised the facility. Dave focused on maintenance and scheduling and Suzy on programming.
- 2000 PSD sold the old Fort Collins High property to CSU, requiring the City to find a new location for the Youth Activity Center.

- 2001 The Youth Activity Center was moved to its new home at 415 E. Monroe, south of Foothills Mall, a space vacated by a health club and leased through the mall.



- The first Earn-a-Bike winner received a new bike from Lee's Cyclery by completing her required volunteer hours at the YAC.
- 2002 After gaining permission from the mall owner, a group of interested citizens began a major effort to raise \$750,000 to add a gymnasium to the YAC.
- 2003 The first division-wide golf tournament fundraiser, Driving for Dough, was successful and raised \$10,000 for the YAC gymnasium. The tournament continued for just one more year.
Fiber was extended to EPIC and the YAC to greatly improve the communication, financial, and registration functions at those facilities.
- 2004 The funding goal to add a gymnasium at the Youth Activity Center was reached, and the new gymnasium opened in December.
- 2006 Recreation began a major reorganization project as the result of a City Council decision to downsize the YAC, staff losses from budget cuts, and the need to relocate staff to the new larger Northside Aztlan facility that was opening in 2007. As a first step, the youth area administrator switched responsibilities with the adult area administrator.
- 2007 Recreation Administrative offices at 214 N. Howes closed, and staff was disbursed to either NACC or 215 N. Mason. The Youth Activity Center was also downsized and fulltime staff moved to NACC and the sports office at the Park

- Shop in City Park. A large amount of equipment was salvaged from 214 N. Howes and the YAC for use at the new NACC.
- 2009 Activities scheduled in the YAC gymnasium and classrooms include youth sports league play, cheerleading, youth wrestling, summer camps, funtime for preschoolers, and a variety of other seasonal youth activities.

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

- 1973 A program began for adults with developmental disabilities, begun by Norman Chung, new Recreation Supervisor. This program, along with the expansion of activities for senior citizens, moved the department from a sports and summer program to a more well-rounded recreational program.
- 1975 Recreation began offering a program called Saturday Club for developmentally disabled adults. 32 in a recreational group met once a week to learn social and physical skills; Saturday Social Club had 62 higher functioning members who paid dues and planned activities.
- 1978 Recreation Supervisor Suzy Danford was coordinator of the Area 10 Colorado Special Olympics for persons with disabilities. She held this position until 1988.
- 1986 Wheelchair-accessible restrooms were added to the Pottery Studio.
- 1989 The Just for Ladies Golf Tournament began as a fund-raiser for the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities program and continued for 21 years. Funds were used primarily to purchase adaptive wheelchairs and other adaptive equipment including wheelchair-accessible vans.
- 1991 The City Park Center stairway was moved to the northeast corner of the building, and an elevator was added for full access to the second floor.
- 1992 The Fort Collins Community Pool was closed for renovation most of the year. Renovation included replacing the pool and improving handicap accessibility.
- 1994 Recreation PossABILITIES for People with DisABILITIES coalition spoke at City Council in favor of the City hiring a certified therapeutic recreation coordinator. This fulltime classified position was approved in the 1995 budget.
- 1995 The City's first certified therapeutic recreation specialist – Jennifer Fesperman - was hired. The program was named ARO: Adaptive Recreation Opportunities-Aiming for Independence.
- 2000 Resources in the aquatics area were reallocated to include a person to work with the ARO staff for aquatic accommodation for persons with disabilities.
- 2001 CSU Center for Community Participation, in conjunction with the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities program, was awarded a 3-year \$315,000 grant called Recreation Works to better train persons with disabilities socially and skill-wise to find jobs in the community. The City portion was \$123,000, with a major portion of the funding used to contract with a second certified therapeutic recreation specialist to administer the City's portion of the grant.
- 2004 The Recreation Works grant secured in conjunction with CSU's Office of Community Participation was extended for an additional 3 years.
- 2005 Single-rider golf cars were purchased for each course for golfers with disabilities.
- 2007 The City's first fully-accessible playground called Inspiration Playground was constructed in Spring Canyon Community Park. Funding was provided by

numerous grants and private donations, as well as the allotted amount of funding that was in the park's budget for a playground.

2008 After a one-year hiatus, ARO received a third 3-year collaborative sub-award through CSU from the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitative Service Administration.

Through a department reorganization, The ARO staff began reporting to the Ice and Aquatics Manager.



Chapter 7

LOGOs, SERVICE THEMES, and PROMOTIONS

LOGOs:



Parks and Recreation Department circle logo – This logo was developed in 1966 when the Recreation Commission was disbanded and the City took over responsibility for recreation as part of the Parks and Recreation Department. The logo was patterned after the then-current National Recreation and Park Association logo.

This **logo with P & R** was developed in the 1970's to replace and update the original circle logo. It was also displayed with a rectangular border around the lettering. In the early 1990's, the City of Craig Parks and Recreation Department began using the stylized P & R (with our "permission") as its logo.



The **City logo with geese and Horsetooth Rock** was developed in 1987. Departments were to use this logo on all publications and publicity with the department or division name under the logo. This logo was also placed on public buildings, vehicles, parks, equipment, and other materials where applicable.

City logo with swoosh. In 2008 the City updated and modernized its logo from the geese logo but kept Horsetooth Rock.



SERVICE THEME:

RECREATION-
it's for life!

RECREATION: It's for life! This service theme was developed in 1997 by a staff team and designed to instill lifelong learning and leisure creativity in citizens. It was seen in brochures, videos, City literature, on clothing, hats, schedules, posters, fliers, and any other means to get the word out about City recreation programs.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS:

What Moves You? This campaign was developed by the Communications Office staff in 2009. Citizens who participate in and believe in the Recreation Department's mission and values were chosen. They were asked to explain how recreation has been valuable to them. Their comments and photographs were then placed on posters and in brochures and other publicity. The "What Moves You?" campaign won a 2010 NRPA Marketing Award for best agency promotion.



Life. Be in it. This promotion originated in Victoria, Australia in 1975, and its use was contracted by NRPA and CPRA to motivate the public to get involved in activity and fun. The campaign received national recognition in the "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine in February, 1984. Fort Collins staff included the logo for several years beginning in 1984 on shirts, caps, other merchandise, and on printed materials.

Chapter 8

PARKS and RECREATION **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

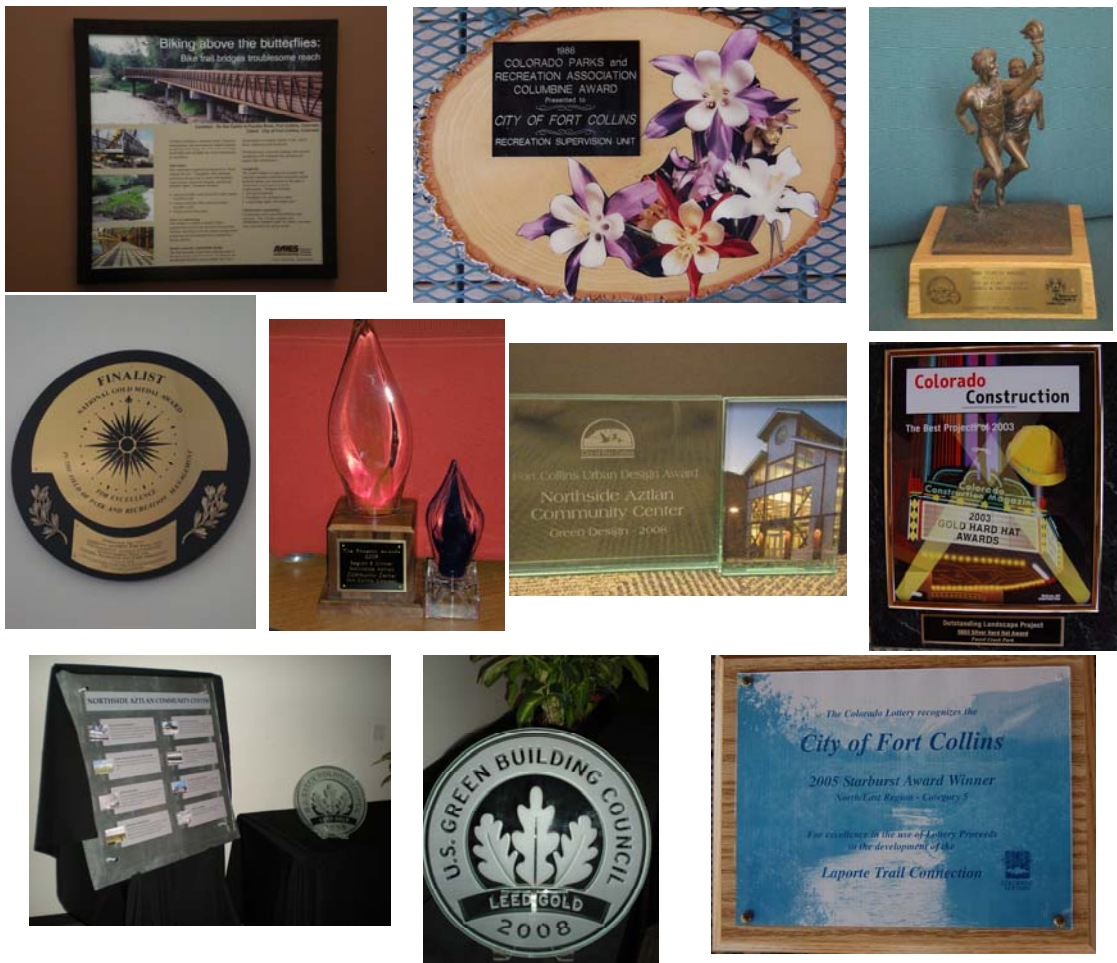
The following listing of awards and recognitions from 1966 through 2011 is meant to provide evidence that the Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Department has been an important example of excellence in public parks and recreation in the state of Colorado and nationally for many years.

- 1966 H.R. Phillips was installed as President of the Colorado Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS).
- 1967 H.R. Phillips received the Fellow Award from CPRS.
- 1970's Gladys Eddy, Parks and Recreation Board member and advocate, received an Individual Citation from CPRS for outstanding service to the profession.
- 1974 H.R. Phillips was honored as Citizen of the Year by the Board of Realtors.
- 1977 The City received its first designation as a Tree City USA city and has been recognized every year since, with one exception when staff failed to realize that they needed to apply each year - whoops!**
- 1982 City Park was certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary site by Audubon International.
- 1983 Tim Buchanan was installed as President of ISA, Rocky Mountain Chapter.
- 1984 Tim Buchanan was awarded a Forestry Leadership Commendation from the Colorado State Forest Service.
- 1984 The City received a Facility of Merit Award from Athletic Business for the design of Rolland Moore Park.**
- 1984 The City received a Park Design Excellence Award Honorable Mention for Rolland Moore Park from CPRA and the Colorado chapter of ASLA.
- 1984 City Park Nine was recognized as the Best Regional Nine-hole Golf Course by the National Golf Foundation.**
- 1984 Jean Helburg was installed as President of CPRA.
- 1985 Neil Johnson received a Distinguished Service Award from the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendent's Association and the Regional Turf Grass Association.
- 1985 The City was a Finalist for the Gold Medal Award from NRPA for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management.
- 1985 H.R. Phillips received his second Fellow award for parks and recreation excellence from CPRA.
- 1985 H.R. Phillips received the Meritorious Service Award for special achievement in the parks and recreation field from APRS.
- 1985 The City received the Award of Merit from 'Park Maintenance' magazine for the picnic shelters at Rolland Moore Community Park.
- 1986 A month-long celebration planned by a community group honoring H.R. Phillips' tenure with the Parks and Recreation Department included golf, horseshoes, softball, 5-K run, reception, and dinner/roast. Proceeds from the events eventually were given to CPRA and a scholarship is awarded annually to a student in his name.

- 1986 Fort Collins was the winner of the Gold Medal Award, NRPA's most prestigious national recognition for Parks and Recreation Management Excellence.**
- 1986 The City received a Columbine Management Award from CPRA for the Recreation Supervisor Unit.
- 1987 Parks and Recreation received an award from the Fort Collins Historic Society for preservation of the barn at Lee Martinez Park, now The Farm.
- 1987 Suzy Danford was inducted into the Colorado Special Olympics Hall of Fame.**
- 1988 The City received two design awards for EPIC: A Facility of Merit from Athletic Business and an Engineering Excellence award from Consulting Engineers Council of Missouri.
- 1988 The City received a Colorado chapter of ASLA Honor Award for the 1988 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.**
- 1989 Jean Helburg received the NRPA Citizen-Board Member Professional Excellence Award for outstanding work and accomplishments in parks and recreation. She was nominated by the City Parks and Recreation Board.
- 1980's Neil Johnson was given the Distinguished Service Award from the Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendent's Association and the Rocky Mountain Regional Turf Grass Association.
- 1990 Jean Helburg received the Fellow Award from CPRA.
- 1991 The City received the Torch Award from Larimer County Special Olympics for its involvement and support.**
- 1991 Jean Helburg received the Fellow Award from the Midwest Region of NRPA.
- 1992 A CPRA Columbine Award recognized the department for Administrative Management.
- 1992 A CPRA Columbine Award recognized Treatsylvania event at The Farm for Creative Programming
- 1993 The City received the Colorado USSSA/Rocky Mountain Sports News Award for the Softball Complex of the Year (Rolland Moore Park).
- 1994 The City received a Colorado Lottery Regional Award for trail improvements.**
- 1996 City Park Nine Golf Course was designated the Toughest and Best Nine-hole Course. by 'Colorado Golfer' magazine.
- 1996 The City received a Facility of Merit Award from Athletic Business for the Senior Center.**
- 1996 The City received the Excellence Award from Colorado Association of Senior Centers for Programming.
- 1997 The City was a Finalist for the Gold Medal Award from NRPA.
- 1999 The City was a Starburst Award Honorable Mention from the Colorado Lottery for the Cathy Fromme Prairie Trail.
- 2000 Bill Metier, Fort Collins golf professional, was inducted posthumously into the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame.
- 2000 The City was a Starburst Award Winner from the Colorado Lottery for the Poudre River Boat Chute.

- 2002 Rolland Moore Racquet Center was named Best Public Tennis Facility by the United States Tennis Association.**
- 2003 'Colorado Construction' magazine recognized Fossil Creek Community Park as its best project.
- 2003 Marc Rademacher was Assistant Chair for 4 years of the State Hershey Track and Field, a national youth track program sponsored by the Hershey candy company.
- 2004 The Senior Center received national accreditation through the National Council on Aging/National Institute of Senior Centers.**
- 2005 ARO was recognized by Colorado Special Olympics as the outstanding northeast Colorado agency.
- 2005 The City received an Engineering Excellence Award from Ayres Associates for its trail project "Biking Above the Butterflies."
- 2005 The City received a Starburst Award from Colorado Lottery for the Laporte Trail Connection and bridge-boardwalk project.**
- 2006 The City received recognition from Skaters for Public Skate Parks for its efforts to include skate parks throughout the city.
- 2007 City Park Nine Golf Course was designated an Audubon Sanctuary by Audubon International.
- 2007 Marc Rademacher became Chair of the Colorado State Hershey Track and Field program, and continues in that position in 2010.
- 2008 Larimer County Youth Conservation Corp recognized and thanked Park Planning and Development staff with a plaque for its project support and assistance.
- 2008 The City received a Columbine Award from CPRA for Spring Canyon Community Park.
- 2008 Gold LEED designation was received from the Green Building Council for the Northside Aztlan Community Center (NACC), the first large multi-use public recreation center in the country to attain gold status.**
- 2008 A Fort Collins Urban Design Award was received for Oak Street Plaza/civic improvement category.
- 2008 Grandview Cemetery received a Historic Designation from the Landmark Preservation Commission.**
- 2008 A Fort Collins Urban Design Award was received for Spring Canyon Community Park/civic improvement category.
- 2008 A Fort Collins Urban Design Award was received for Northside Aztlan Community Center/green design category.
- 2008 Renee Lee was recognized as TR of the Year by CTRS, a section of CPRA.**
- 2008 Terry Keith was inducted into the Colorado Softball Hall of Fame/fast pitch.**
- 2003-2008 'Colorado Golfer' magazine readers voted City Park Nine Golf Course the best nine-hole course in Colorado.
- 2009 The Senior Center was accredited for the second time through the National Institute of Senior Centers, a constituent unit of the National Council on Aging. It is one of only two senior centers accredited in the state of Colorado.**
- 2009 Marc Rademacher was installed as Vice President of CPRA.
- 2009 'Recreation Management' magazine named NACC the winner of its seventh annual Innovative Architecture and Design Awards. **NACC was one of the first LEED Gold certified recreation facilities in the country.**

- 2009 Rolland Moore and Edora Parks joined City Park (recognized in 1982) with certification as Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary sites by Audubon International.**
- 2009 The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with NRPA, selected the City of Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Department as a finalist for the 2009 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management.
- 2009 The City received the EPA Region 8 Phoenix Award from the Phoenix Awards Institute, Inc. for clean-up of the Poudre River along an old public dump site and redevelopment of the NACC on the same site. The project also placed second in the overall competition.**
- 2010 The department was recognized with the National Marketing Award, given by NRPA for demonstrating the most effective messaging or theme in a marketing campaign. The “What Moves You?” campaign featured community citizens speaking about what inspires or “moves” them and how the parks and recreation programs support their passions and move them to positive healthy action within the community.
- 2011 The ‘Recreator’ program brochure, produced through the Recreation Department’s Communications office, received recognition from the National Association of Government Communicators as the Most Improved publication.



Chapter 9

PARKS and RECREATION TRIVIA

Prior to the 1940's

- In **1904** The Chamber of Commerce was formed. The first chairman was A.W. Scott, owner of Scott's Drug Store on South College and one of the founders of the organization.
- From **1900 to 1910** the town of Fort Collins grew by 169%, from 3,053 to 8,210, its greatest 10-year growth period in its history.
- In the late **1910's and 1920's** the streetcars had signs on the front in winter telling people whether or not the ice was safe on Sheldon Lake for skating.
- A field Day was held in **1912** at the LaPorte Street playground.
- In a report from Keith McHugh, YMCA playground director in 1913, to the City Council: "When the LaPorte grounds were first opened, conditions of profanity were such among some of the children that means had to be taken to eradicate this evil. Accordingly a 'ducking' league was adopted whereby any boy heard using profane language was immediately set upon by the rest and held under the hydrant. This method has proved so successful that the evil is now practically eliminated and parents may send their children to the grounds with perfect safety in this regard."
- In **1917** 140 tons of hay were harvested from Prospect Park.
- Motorcycle races and a rodeo roundup were held at Prospect Park on July 5 and 6, **1920**.
- In **1921** a Wild West Show and bucking contest were held at Prospect Park on the Fourth of July.
- From **1920 to 1960**, the city population increased from 8,755 to 25,027, an increase of 186%.
- **After the City purchased Prospect Park in 1913, the facilities continued to be used for a period of time for special events, rentals, and equestrian uses, including use by an equestrian National Guard unit that housed its horses at the racetrack barns.**
- The Junior Chamber of Commerce built an ice rink in 1944 at the corner of Smith and Mulberry that opened on December 20.

1940 - 1944

- In the **1940's** there was a lighted ball field at the corner of Smith and Mulberry Streets.
- A Spanish Activities Committee for Spanish-speaking people was formed in **1942**. The group met in a room in the LaPorte School annex, and they were funded by various private and non-profit groups. Their aims included community integration, leadership, assistance with social and economic problems, sharing community benefits, and changing community attitudes.
- **In 1943 summer recreation activities generated the following participation numbers: 500 boys in sports activities; 73 girls participating in handicrafts; and 170 boys and girls taking dancing lessons.**

- In **1944**, street maintenance men were paid \$4/day, a wage that made it difficult to retain city employees because of wartime living costs.
- In **1944** adult softball teams played under lights on the south ball field in City Park. The field was also scheduled at night for the summer-ending youth band concert.

1945 - 1949

- In **1945** David Leshner was President of the Recreation Commission and Superintendent of Schools. He continued with the Recreation Commission until 1950. Leshner Junior High/Middle School is named after Mr. Leshner.
- Chinook winds in **1945** forced early closure of the ice rinks for the rest of the winter.
- **Although there was a strong softball program for youths in 1945, there was new interest in starting a baseball program.**
- In **1945** the Boy Scouts swam indoors at CSU's College Avenue pool one night a week. CSU staff also offered swim lessons for boys and girls at both the South College and the Ammons Hall pools.
- J. Ray French was Recreation Director in **1946** until the early 1950's. He was a member and President of the Commission Board, and was appointed to the first City Parks and Recreation Board in 1965.
- Plans were revealed in June **1946** to develop a lodge and ski area on Berthoud Pass at 11,314 feet.
- A polio epidemic in **1946** caused the closure of Sheldon Lake to swimming on July 20 for the rest of the summer. In September the children's section of the Fort Collins Library re-opened after a closure because of the polio outbreak.
- Harold Asmus was Manager of City Park Pavilion roller rink (the original City Park Center/Club Tico building), including park concessions in **1946**. Harold was a sign painter and used to hand paint all the rules and fees signs for recreation facilities. He was also an ace softball pitcher in the 1940's.
- **In 1946 Father John Fullana revealed plans to build a 40'x80' recreation/community hall south of Holy Family Church at 326 Whitcomb.**
- According to Howard Beresford, Chief of Recreation and Entertainment for VA hospitals in 4 states, Greeley and Colorado Springs had model recreation programs that Fort Collins could model. In **1947** Colorado State College Department of Education students in Greeley were required to help in the recreation program.
- Regional and local Forest Service officials in **1947** explored the possibility of developing a ski area in the Cameron Pass area west of Fort Collins in conjunction with one already in existence on the west side of the pass that was owned by Jackson County. This never materialized.
- Recreation activities in **1949** included JAA (Junior All American) football, basketball, and baseball; girls' gymnasium, junior rifle club, ice skating on Sheldon Lake, woodshop, swimming in Sheldon Lake, and coasting.
- In **1949** the Recreation Commission collaborated with other organizations that were run by citizens including the Softball Association, Model Airplane Club, Croquet Club, Alonzo Martinez American Legion baseball team, Rebel legion baseball team, and an under age 17 legion team that used the JAA name.
- An Old-timers softball team made up of players from the 1920's and 1930's played a couple exhibition games in **1949**.

- In **1949** the Alonzo Martinez Legionnaires made up primarily of Hispanic males played baseball in the northern Colorado league consisting of teams from Brighton, Fort Collins, Gilcrest, Fort Lupton, Greeley, and Wattenburg.
- Ann Livingston, local physical education teacher, offered women's conditioning for the Recreation Commission at no fee. The class consisted of a half hour of exercises and a half hour of sports once a week.
- **Stewart Case, Rural Recreation Specialist for the Colorado Extension Service was very active and vocal in supporting funding for recreation.**

1950 – 1959

- In **1952-1953** the Recreation Commission report recorded 78,080 participations with expenditures totaling \$5,566.37. Club Tico and swimming numbers accounted for over half of the total participation.
- In **1956** Stewart Case was installed as President of Colorado Parks and Recreation Society. A park adjacent to Fort Collins High School on Timberline was named after him in 1994.
- **The Recreation Commission recorded over 100,000 participations for the first time during the 1956-1957 reporting year.**
- The Junior All American baseball coaches were paid for the first time in **1959**.

1960 - 1964

- In **1961** Stewart G. Case received the Fellow Award from the Colorado Parks and Recreation Society.
- In **1961 and 1962** a group called "Young at Heart" solicited donations and purchased the fireworks for the Fourth of July celebration. The group raised \$600 in 1961 and \$800 in 1962.
- In **1962**, there were 285 JAA football players; 10 years later the program had expanded to 860 players.
- **Stewart Case became President of the American Recreation Society in 1962.**
- **The softball team entry fee in 1963 was \$50.00.**
- In **1964** the Recreation Commission budget was approved, with the funding divided among 21 activities and administrative functions. \$7,500 came from the City, \$8,557 from the school district, and \$12,000 from United Fund.
- In **1964** \$93,600 was allocated by City Council for cemeteries (\$38,000), City Park and pool maintenance (\$25,100), other park maintenance (\$18,500), Recreation Commission (\$7,500), forestry (\$1,500), and Pioneer Museum (\$3,000).
- Sometime in the **mid-to-late 1960's**, the Knights of the Round Table began raising funds to purchase and provide the fireworks for the Fourth of July celebration in City Park. Club members cooked and sold hot dogs and bratwursts and passed the hat around the crowd on the Fourth, as well as conducted fund-raising activities during the year. This philanthropic practice continued until about 1983.

1965 - 1969

- In **1965** City Council removed the parking meters from downtown, reducing general revenue by \$40,000/year.

- The first citizens appointed by City Council to the new Parks and Recreation Board in **1965** were Stewart Case, J. Ray French, Gary Garwood, Lowell Allen, Gladys Eddy, Thurman “Fum” McGraw, Charles Peterson, and Belle Stewart, many of whom were current members of the disbanded Recreation Commission board.
- The City sponsored 12 adult softball teams in **1965**.
- In **1965** Eddie Feigner and the King and His Court 4-man professional fast-pitch softball team played an exhibition game in Fort Collins. In 1968 the group visited for the third time, playing a local semi-pro team called the Bombers.
- In **1969**, the budget adopted by City Council for the following year was \$8.1 million.
- **After a winter of confinement behind the City Park Fire Station in 1969, Parks staff herded about 45 ducks back to Sheldon Lake in April. The practice of removing the ducks from the lake for the winter began several years prior and continued for quite a few years. When there were swans on the lake, they were also rounded up and protected in winter.**
- The City’s concern about Dutch Elm Disease was discussed in **1969**.
- In **1969** The Poudre Valley Greenbelt Association was formed with an initial membership of 28 persons interested in promoting the development of recreation areas and open space in the Fort Collins area.
- **From 1962 to 1971 the number of developed parks doubled from 6 to 12; the city population increased from 28,000 to 43,000; and public school enrollment increased from 7,459 to 12,438 students.**
- The Fort Collins United Way (previously call the Community Chest) received a citation in 1966 or 1967 from the Colorado Parks and Recreation Society for contributing to the Recreation Commission programs for many years.

1970 - 1974

- **A pair of swans was donated to the City for Sheldon Lake in 1970 by the Bennett family. They were named Lord and Lady Sheldon.**
- In **1970** Parks and Recreation managed one 9-hole golf course (City Park Nine), one community park (City Park), seven neighborhood parks (Lincoln, Washington, Indian Hills, Spring, Buckingham, Avery, and Lake), 3 lighted tennis courts (City Park), two lighted ball fields (City Park), one outdoor pool (City Park Pool), two cemeteries (Grandview and Roselawn), and one youth center (Club Tico).
- The City had a curfew Ordinance in **1970** that banned anyone under age 17 from being out in public after 9:00 p.m.
- In **1971** youth softball and basketball cost \$3.00, adult basketball \$65.00, paddle boat rental \$1.75/hour, and ski bus trips \$4.00.
- **In 1971 over 1,000 youths attended home high school football games for \$2/season through the City Knothole program.**
- The recreation office at 202 N. Meldrum inherited a stray cat that staff nicknamed “Ditto” in **1972**. The cat liked to sleep on the mimeograph machine on the porch.
- **Norman Chung organized the first recreation program for handicapped youth in 1973.**
- The City held ice skating lessons at CSU student center rink for several years in the **early and mid- 1970’s**.

- The **1973** recreation budget was \$197,858 and recovered 31% from fees; the **1977** budget increased to \$449,470 and recovered 46% from fees.
- Department head salaries in **1973** included \$16,000 for H.R. Phillips and \$22,000 for Stan Case, Utilities Director.
- French Field at Rocky Mountain High School was named for J. Ray French in **1973**.

1975 - 1979

- In **1975** Opal Hostetler at age 58 began teaching belly dancing classes for the city.
- When the new Park Shop opened in City Park in 1975, an unnamed equipment operator ran the forks of a tractor loader through the back of the brand new three-sided equipment storage building.
- In 1976, remnants of stone corrals were unearthed while plowing the land for Blevins Park.
- The first Dogs from Hell basketball tournament was held in **1976** and proceeds from passing the hat went to Special Olympics; the event expanded over a period of years to include golf, horseshoes, bowling, and a Halloween event. The organizers were the Garfield brothers and various other local friends.
- **The U.S. Census Bureau determined in 1976 that Fort Collins had the fourth largest growth rate in the country.**
- The Retired Senior Volunteer Program was established in Larimer County in **1976** with federal seed money.
- In **1976** when the library was moved from the west to the east side of Lincoln Park, City Council changed the name of Lincoln Park to Library Park. Years later, local historians wanted to change the name of Library Park back to Lincoln Park. Needing City Council approval, the idea was dropped.
- A skateboard competition was held inside Moby gymnasium in **1976**.
- **There were over 3,000 adult softball players in the 1977 summer program.**
- In **1977** Fort Collins received the Tree City USA designation for the first time and about 30 minutes before Colorado Springs received its award, making these 2 cities the first two in Colorado to receive this designation.
- In 1977 the basketball courts were laid out incorrectly at Lee Martinez Park. The error was not caught until the goals had been placed in concrete and in the wrong spots, which required tearing out all the work and starting over.
- An early morning gas explosion at the Elks Club building in downtown closed that facility for a period of time in **1977**. Suzy Danford was at her desk in the basement of 145 E. Mountain at the time of the explosion and doesn't remember how she got outside!
- **The City population in 1978 was 62,649, a 150% increase from 1960.**
- By **1978**, the City had acquired 700 acres of open space property. That same year, the City acquired 30 acres to be developed into neighborhood parks.
- **Suzy Danford was Coordinator of Area 10 Special Olympics from 1978-1988.**
- Self-officiated free summer adult basketball leagues were run at Lee Martinez Park basketball courts in **1979** – 18 competitive and 12 recreational teams participated.
- **114.2 inches of snow fell in the winter of 1979-1980, a 100-year event for snowfall.**

- For several years in the **1970's**, Recreation sponsored the Great Race in City Park, consisting of teams of 4 with 2 runners, a bicyclist, and a canoeist.
- **The Parks and Recreation Department budget topped \$1 million in the 70's, with \$572,160 allocated to recreation.**

1980 - 1984

- MagicWorks, sponsored by the City and High Plains Arts Center offered arts workshops in drama and music for children in **1980**.
- In **1980** Dave Boone started a tennis program for persons with hearing impairments. The first program included 10 youths and 2 adults.
- During construction of Riverside Park in **1980**, Park staff tried numerous times to convince the contractor that the designed drainage would cause maintenance problems. Finally in exasperation, the contractor stated "... it's just a d--- park!"
- Fort Collins Fire Department merged with Poudre Fire Prevention District to form Poudre Fire Authority.
- The inaugural issue of the short-lived "Instant Replay" newspaper for softball participants was produced in-house and distributed in **1981**.
- A private downtown convention hotel was proposed in **1981**, but was not pursued.
- In **1981** the Parks and Recreation Department managed 27 developed parks; 285 developed and 217 undeveloped park acres; 11 miles of recreational trail, over 11,000 public trees and 14 flower beds, 733 acres of open space; and maintained 69 medians, frontage roads, streetscapes, and specialized areas (ie., the downtown).
- In **1981** discussion occurred at the City Council level concerning allowing the drinking of beer in the city's parks. After discussion and review of the pros and cons, the decision was made to maintain the status quo, which was to not allow it.
- The night before ground-breaking at Rolland Moore Park in **1982**, a tree to be planted during the ceremony was stolen. Upon early-morning notification, the Forestry staff quickly brought another evergreen to the site for the mid-morning ceremony.
- **Lottery sales topped \$100 million in May 1983.**
- In **1983** the Anheuser Busch Brewery annexation petition was approved by the City.
- City staff was directed in **1983** to study the possibility of initiating an employee head tax on businesses. This was not pursued.
- Rick Keeton, local adult "celebrity" with cerebral palsy and part-time parks and recreation employee, received \$3,565 in proceeds in **1983** from a race sponsored by Home Federal Bank, and he used the money to attend computer classes at Voc. Tech (now Front Range Community College). He still works part-time at Parks.
- Six-time wheelchair tennis champion Brad Parks gave a workshop at Edora Park in **1983**. He also trained interested tennis instructors to teach wheelchair players.
- In **1984** the CARA State Women's C Slow Pitch Tournament was the first tournament held on the new ball fields at Rolland Moore Park.
- Eileen Banks was the first woman elected President in **1984** of the Golf Board.
- In **1984**, a fund for Andy Wiebelhaus, a youth killed in a skiing accident, was established and a youth field named after him at Rolland Moore Park.
- **The S.A.I.N.T. program (Senior Alternatives IN Transportation) was launched in 1984 to provide free transportation for senior citizens and persons with**

disabilities. Trained drivers were volunteers and the service operated from 9-9 7 days a week.

1985 - 1989

- In about **1985**, a fast-pitch softball game was held mid-morning on the Fourth of July at City Park, pitting two teams of “old timers” against each other. These were men who played in the fast-pitch softball leagues for years and came together on July 4 to relive their experiences and enjoy some laughs and the day. The ‘hat’ was usually passed to collect some money for the Recreation Division’s program for persons with disabilities. This game, thanks to Terry Keith from Recreation and Kevin Williams from Parks, is still held today, only many of the names and faces have changed.
- A hackey sack tournament and a youth wrestling clinic were held at Northside Aztlan Community Center in **1985** during spring break week.
- Don Roberts (Don the Danceman) was teaching social dance classes in **1985**.
- City Manager John Arnold left in 1985, and Steve Burkett replaced him in **1986**.
- Auto maintenance classes for women were offered in **1986**.
- AYC opened in **1986** as the Alternative Youth Center, a facility operated privately and catering to at-risk youth. After changing its name to Activities Youth Center, the operation later affiliated with Boys and Girls Clubs.
- In **1987**, a platform tennis court at Rolland Moore Park was named for Paul Roggy, an avid player who died that year.
- **High winds in 1988 destroyed 20 trees at Collindale Golf Course and resulted in a total of \$1.6 million in damages throughout the city.**
- In **1989** a private citizen Steve Casten opened an indoor skate park on Lincoln Avenue. The facility was open for only a short period of time.
- **The newspaper reported problems in downtown in 1989 dealing with skateboarders.**
- Paul Brauer, long-time maintenance employee at Collindale Golf Course, won the City Golf Championship.
- **In the late 1980’s Park Planning and Development began using AutoCad, the standard still today in the engineering field for producing computerized drawings and materials.**

1990 - 1994

- In **1990** voters supported a Charter change, resulting in residents directly electing the Mayor-at-large for a 2-year term. Another approved change was to reconfigure the City districts from 7 to 6 and to elect the other 6 Council members by district.
- **Many fireworks displays around the state (ie., Vail, Aspen) were canceled in 1990 because of extreme heat and fire danger.**
- Neil Johnson, Collindale maintenance superintendent, and Bill Metier, Collindale golf pro, both retired in **1990**.
- Stewart Case, longtime recreation advocate active on the Recreation Commission, City Parks and Recreation Board, and in national and state associations, died in **1990**.
- The Recreation Division held its first hourly staff recognition in **1991** for people who had worked for the City for five or more years in a part-time capacity. Special

recognition went to Donna Beard (stained glass instructor) and Sid Peretti (sports official) for their long-time service to the programs. Both had been with the Division since the early to mid-1970's.

- A group interested in developing a local zoo began discussions in **1991** with numerous groups and organizations including the City, and received newspaper coverage; however the idea was eventually dropped.
- **The first Unified Softball league was formed in 1991, combining able-bodied individuals and those with disabilities on the same team.**
- In **1992** the City handled 300 softball teams, the largest number of teams to date.
- **Bob McClusky was chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board in 1992, and 10 years later he was a state Representative.**
- Unified soccer was begun in **1993**.
- The first unified basketball games for persons with disabilities were played in **1993** at Northside Aztlan Community Center.
- Joey the Clown “walked” across Sheldon Lake on July 4, **1994**. This almost didn't happen when an anchor wouldn't support the cable. Mike Calhoon from Parks rigged up a loader to stabilize the cable and the trick was performed successfully.
- As a result of reorganization, the Recreation Management Team in **1994** was comprised of four Program Administrators – Mike McDonnell, Ice and Aquatics; Peggy Bowers, Youth Activities; Steve Budner, Adult Activities; and Terry Keith, Sports - Janet Urban, Administrative Support; Dave Warner, Public Relations; and Jean Helburg, Division Manager.

1995 - 1999

- The first New West Fest kickoff concert at Legacy Park in **1995** featured Koko Taylor, Chris Duarte Group, The Iguanas, and the Hoax. The second Legacy Park concert to kick off New West Fest featured Big Head Todd and the Monsters in **1996**.
- Bill Metier, Golf professional at City Park Nine and Collindale Golf Courses, passed away in March, **1996**.
- EPIC staff recognized 10 years of operation with a celebration and open house.
- Providence Ice Arena in Windsor opened in **1998**.
- **The City, Poudre School District, and the downtown merchants collaborated in 1998 to sponsor a youth-produced tile and glass mural that was placed on an exterior building wall on the northeast corner of Walnut and Linden.**
- A professional wheelchair rugby team from Denver presented a public clinic at the Senior Center in **1999**.
- Tennis great Stan Smith conducted a tennis clinic at Rolland Moore Park in **1999**.
- **1999** was the first year of holiday swim lessons for children from 2025 N. College at EPIC and funded by the Recreation Division, Larimer County Sheriff's office, and Poudre School District.
- In the **early 1990's** Park Planning and Development was using Photo Shop software.

2000 - 2004

- **The *Recreator* was reformatted in 2000 from program sections to age sections.**

- In **2001** Patty Carroll moved totally to the golf division after many years working for recreation, golf, and administration. As a result, Kim Kita was hired as the first full-time financial coordinator for the Recreation Division.
- In **2001**, The Boys and Girls Club facility opened at Lincoln Junior High.
- **In 2002, the City experienced a severe drought, lowering all reservoirs and curtailing some activities on public lands.**
- Patty Carroll's retirement party from the City was the first event held at the new Collindale Golf Course clubhouse in **2003**.
- Neil Johnson, long-time golf course superintendent, passed away in **2004**.

2005 - 2009

- Heavy snow and cold weather early in **2007** were factors in less play at the City's 3 golf courses, down to 103,922 rounds from 112,678 in 2006.
- Parks contracted the botanical enhancement for Old Town Square in **2007**, reducing planting time and preparing the area earlier for shoppers and visitors.
- In **2007** the Parks Department water auditors successfully reduced water use in parks by 10% and on medians by 30%.
- In **2007** Gardens on Spring Creek staff began hosting several successful special events to increase awareness of the Gardens and to generate revenue. 10,400 plants were grown in the facility's greenhouse, most of which were sold at a plant sale.
- **As of 2007, every elementary school in PSD has been the recipient of seedlings and has hosted the annual Arbor Day celebration held every spring.**
- The 11th annual and highly successful Fort Collins Fore Kids golf event introduced 121 children to the game of golf in **2007**.
- In **2009** three park playgrounds were featured in playground manufacturer's publications throughout the year. The three playgrounds were Troutman, Blevins and Inspiration Playground at Spring Canyon Park.
- Staff at Collindale Golf Course successfully hosted four major tournaments in **2009**: U.S. Open Qualifying, Girls State High School Championship, Collindale Invitational, and the City Championship.
- In **2009** Forestry staff organized and hosted the Northern Colorado Pest Group to share information about managing pest threats to the urban forest. Staff authored many newspaper articles on proper maintenance of trees and plants.

Chapter 10

PARKS and RECREATION STAFF **1962-2000**

Note: Staff members currently working for the City as of this writing are indicated in **bold face**.

1962

- H.R. Phillips was hired as the first fulltime Recreation Director by the Fort Collins Recreation Commission. He was named Director of Parks and Recreation for the City in 1966 when the Commission was disbanded. He retired in 1988.

1966

- Rolland Moore, Park Superintendent since 1950, was assigned to the Director of the new Parks and Recreation Department. He began working for the City in 1929 in the Streets Department and moved to Parks in 1937 when the Recreation Commission was formed. He retired in 1974. He passed away in 1983. Rolland Moore Park is named in his memory.
- Dave Byers was named Recreation Assistant, and left the City in 1967.

1967

- Larry James was hired as Recreation Superintendent. He left the City in 1970 to teach at the University of Northern Colorado.
- Wes Sargent was hired as Recreation Supervisor in 1967. He was promoted to Superintendent in 1970. He left the City in 1973.
- Gloria White was hired as Secretary to the Parks and Recreation Director. She retired in 1983.

1971

- Jean Helburg was hired as a Supervisor to run girls and women's sports and other adult and children's activities. She became Recreation Superintendent in 1979 when Tom Frazier moved to another city department. She retired on January 1, 2009 after 38 years with the City.

1972

- Bill Cropper was hired to run boys' and men's sports. He left the city in 1973.
- Tom Frazier was hired to run youth activities and operate Club Tico. He was promoted in 1973 to Superintendent. He transferred to Public Works in 1979.
- **Debbie Dixon** was hired as the first Recreation Secretary. She transferred to Cultural Services in 1978 as the box office coordinator when the Lincoln Center opened. She is currently still at the Lincoln Center.

1973

- Peg County was the first fulltime Supervisor of senior citizen activities. The program started at Club Tico and moved to the Downtown Community Center in 1976. She left the City in 1978.
- Terry Keith was hired full-time in 1973 as a Maintenance Technician. He worked in an hourly position in 1972 as a recreation technician preparing ball fields and completing other maintenance work. In 1976 he became a Recreation Leader and a Recreation Supervisor in 1984. He ran the special needs program and planned various fitness, dance, and arts and crafts activities. He also managed some of the

sports programs during this period. He was promoted to a Program Administrator in charge of sports in 1994. He retired in 2006 when his position was eliminated because of budget cuts.

- Norman Chung was hired to manage youth programs and special events. He developed the first program for persons with disabilities. He left the City in 1976 to obtain a teaching degree. He became a physical education teacher and principal in Poudre School District. He retired in 2009.
- Mike Cathcart was hired to run boys and men's sports when Bill Cropper left. He left the City in 1975.

1974

- Virgil Taylor was hired as Parks Superintendent. He retired in 2004.
- Larry Brooks was hired as Aquatics Supervisor. He also supervised the Northside Aztlan Community Center when it opened in 1978. He left the City in 1981.
- **Mike McDonnell** was hired as Maintenance Technician at the new community pool. He was promoted to Supervisor when Norman Chung left and managed youth programs and activities for persons with disabilities. He later transferred to sports. He moved from that position to Program Administrator of ice and aquatics in 1994. He took on management of the ARO program and was reclassified as a Manager in 2006. He is housed at EPIC.
- Micki Hargis was hired as the Assistant Manager of the indoor pool. She left the City in 1976.
- Randy Balok was hired as the first Manager of Park Planning and Open Space. He left the City in 1998.
- Bob Loeven was hired as Park Supervisor. He was promoted to Parks Superintendent when Virgil Taylor retired in 2004. He retired from the City in 2007.

1975

- Dave Mosnik was hired as boys and men's sports Supervisor when Mike Cathcart left. He moved from sports to co-supervisor with Suzy Danford of the Youth Activity Center at 1400 Remington when it first opened in 1995. He left the City in 2006.

1976

- **Suzy Danford** was hired fulltime as a Recreation Leader to manage the Downtown Community Center. She had worked hourly in the summers while in college beginning in about 1972. She was reclassified as a Supervisor in 1977 and assigned to youth activities and programs for persons with disabilities. In 1995 she began co-supervising the Youth Activity Center with Dave Mosnik. In 2005 she and the aquatics Supervisor Janet Bielmaier swapped positions. She is housed at EPIC and Mulberry Pool.
- Jim Foster was hired as a half-time arts and crafts and pottery Leader. He left the City in 1979.

1977

- **Tim Buchanan** was hired as the first fulltime City Forester. He is housed at the Park Shop in City Park.
- Glenda Poteste was hired as a Recreation Leader to organize activities for northside residents. She worked at Northside Aztlan Community Center when it opened in 1978. She left the City in 1981.

- Debbie Hess was hired as a Secretary at the recreation office. She transferred to EPIC when it opened in 1987. She left the City in 1995.
- Patty Carroll was hired as a Secretary in administration, and later also worked for golf and recreation. In 2001 she moved entirely to golf. She retired from the City in 2003.
- Rich Wagner was hired as a Maintenance Technician at the community pool after Mike McDonnell was promoted. He left the City in 1982.

1978

- Nancy Luttrupp was hired as Supervisor of senior citizens after Peg County left. She left the City in 1988.
- Mary Ann Easterling was hired as a Recreation Leader at the senior center. She left the City in 1986.
- Donna Iverson was hired as a sports Leader and then Supervisor. She left the City in 1995.
- Janet Urban was hired as a Secretary in Recreation. She was promoted to an Administrative Support Supervisor in the early 1990's. She retired from the City in 2007.

1979

- Jerry P. Brown was hired as Administrative Assistant to the Director. He managed cemeteries and golf and worked on special projects. He retired in 2009.
- **Barbara Schoenberger** was hired as a Leader in aquatics at .75 FTE. She moved to fulltime in 1980. She was promoted to aquatics Supervisor in 1985. She was transferred to the Senior Center as program Supervisor in 1988 to replace Nancy Luttrupp. She is housed at the Senior Center.
- **Debra Bueno** was hired as a .75 FTE center Supervisor at Northside Aztlan Community Center. Her position was upgraded to full-time in 1981. She moved to facility supervisor in 1985. She is currently housed at NACC.
- **Peggy Bowers** was hired as a Recreation Leader/specialist to run general activities. She was promoted to Supervisor in 1982 and took on management of The Farm at Lee Martinez Park in 1985. She was reclassified a Program Administrator in 1993 and in charge of coordinating the division budget for many years, along with managing youth activities. She swapped positions with Steve Budner in 2005, taking on the management of programs for senior citizens and adults. She was reclassified as a Manager in 2006, and she is housed at the Senior Center.

1980

- Josh Blackstone was hired as a Maintenance Technician at the indoor pool. He left the City in 1982.
- Gary Everett was hired as a Leader at Northside Aztlan Community Center. He transferred to the senior center in 1995 as a Facility Attendant. He left the City in 1999.

1982

- Stephannie Henaman Howell was hired as a Secretary at the recreation office. She transferred from the recreation office to facility scheduler at the new senior center in 1995. She left the City in 2003.
- Richard Salas was hired as a Leader at Northside Aztlan Community Center. He left the City in 1993.

- Andy McRoberts was hired as a Maintenance Technician for the pools when Josh Blackstone left. He left in 1986 to take an aquatics Supervisor position at the South Suburban Park and Recreation District in Littleton.

1984

- Larry Sibley was hired as a Maintenance Technician at the pools and later at EPIC. He left the City in 1988.
- Dave Pike was hired as a Recreation Leader in sports. He left the City in 1988.
- Dave Warner was hired as a Public Relations Coordinator. He contracted for numerous years prior to that to produce the 'Recreator'. He left the City in 1998.
- Jackie Rael was hired as the executive Secretary to the Parks and Recreation Director, replacing Gloria White. She left the City in 2004.

1985

- Jeff King was hired to assist with the development of EPIC and to be its first Manager. He left the city in 1993.
- **Bridget Brownell** was a student intern from WI before she was hired as a Coordinator/Supervisor at The Farm at Lee Martinez Park. She is housed there.

1986

- **Steve Budner** was hired as Assistant Manager at EPIC. He was promoted to Program Administrator of adult and senior citizen activities in 1993. He was assigned supervision of the program for persons with disabilities in 1995 when the first full-time therapeutic recreation specialist was hired. He swapped positions with Peggy Bowers in 2005, taking on management of youth activities. He was assigned additional responsibility for the youth and adult sports programs in 2006 and was reclassified a Manager. Steve is housed at the Northside Aztlan Community Center.
- **Paul Thibert** was hired as Supervisor of ice skating at EPIC. He is housed there.
- Donna Visocky was hired as a Publicity Specialist. She left the City in 1994.
- **Tim Weisman** was hired as a Maintenance Technician at EPIC. He is housed there.
- **Randy Nace** was hired as a Maintenance Technician at EPIC. He transferred to Operation Services in 1992.
- Lee Frank was hired as a Maintenance Technician at EPIC. He transferred to Operation Services in 1992.

1987

- **Kelly Meyer** was hired as an Administrative Clerk at EPIC. She transferred to the recreation office at 281 N. College and then with the office staff to 214 N. Howes in 1996. In 2003 she transferred to the Senior Center as Facility Scheduler. She is currently housed at the Senior Center.
- **Craig Foreman**, was hired as a Civil Engineer in Park Planning and Development. He was promoted to Manager of the Division in 1999. He is housed at 215 N. Mason.
- Rhonda Aplet was hired as a Leader at the senior center. She left the City in 1988.

1988

- Mike Powers transferred from Human Resources Director to CLRS Executive Director after H.R. Phillips retired. He retired from the City in 2002.
- Laurie Bryant Bayless was hired as a Recreation Leader/Coordinator at the Senior Center to replace Rhonda Aplet. She left the City in 1998.

- Janet Bielmaier was hired as a Recreation Supervisor in charge of aquatics after Barb Schoenberger transferred to the senior center. She switched positions with youth programs Supervisor Suzy Danford in 2005. She left the City in 2006.

1989

- Jerry Phillips was hired as the Technician at The Farm at Lee Martinez Park. He left recreation in 2002 to work part-time at Parks.
- Jeff Jamison was hired as a Recreation Supervisor in sports after Terry Keith was promoted. Jeff moved to Parks in 2005.

1990

- **Steve Wixson** was hired as a Maintenance Technician at the community pool. He left Recreation in 1999 to work at Parks.
- **Carol Fahring** was hired as an Administrative Clerk in Recreation at 281 N. College and moved with the office staff to 214 N. Howes in 1996. She was reclassified as a Supervisory Secretary when she moved to the new Northside Aztlan Community Center in 2007, and is currently housed at 215 N. Mason.
- Karen Bryner transferred from the City Traffic/Transportation Department to Recreation as an Administrative Clerk. She moved to the new senior center in 1995, and was reclassified as a clerical Supervisor in 1999. She retired in 2009.

1992

- Ankie Stroes was hired as a Leader at the Senior Center. She left the City in 1999.

1993

- **Bill Borland** was hired as the Maintenance Technician at the Senior Center. He is currently housed there.
- **Ralph Mirelez** was hired as a Leader/Coordinator at Northside Aztlan Community Center to replace Richard Salas. He transferred to adult sports in 2007. He is housed at the Park Shop in City Park.
- Donna Groves was hired as a Secretary at Mulberry Pool. She retired in 2008.

1994

- Paula Watson-Lakamp was hired as a Public Relations Specialist to replace Donna Visocky. She was promoted to Public Relations Coordinator in 1998 when Dave Warner left. She was laid off in 2005.
- Kim Vondy was hired as a secretary in sports. She died suddenly in 2003.

1995

- Jennifer Fesperman was hired as the city's first certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. She left the City in 1997 and currently lives and works in New Zealand.
- Norman Wyatt was hired as an aquatics Coordinator. He left the City in 1999.
- Raphael Sandoval was hired as a Recreation Leader at Northside Aztlan Community Center. He left the City in 1998.
- Tom Buchanan was hired as a Publicity Specialist. He left the City in 1997 to work at Disney World!
- **John Pfeiffenberger** was hired as a Recreation Coordinator at the Senior Center. He is currently housed there.
- **Christine West** was hired as an Administrative Clerk at EPIC. She was promoted to a Coordinator for ice skating in 2003. She is currently housed at EPIC.

- **Steve Dietemann** was hired as a half-time arts, crafts, Leader and manager of the Pottery Studio. In 1998 his position moved to ¾ time and then to full-time in 1999. He is currently housed at the Senior Center.
- **Tammy Larson** was hired as an Administrative Clerk at EPIC. She was reclassified in 1999 as a Administrative Support Supervisor and supervised the EPIC front desk staff. In 2008 she also began supervising the clerical staff at Mulberry Pool. She left the City in 2010.
- **Marty Heffernan** transferred from the City Attorney's office as Assistant to the CLRS Director when Jerry Brown became Manager of Golf. He was appointed Executive Director of CLRS, then CPRE, when Mike Powers retired in 2002. His office is at 215 N. Mason.

1996

- **Pat Moore** was hired as a Recreation Coordinator at the Senior Center. She is currently housed there.
- **Marc Rademacher** was hired as a Recreation Coordinator in sports. He was promoted to sports Supervisor in 2006. He is housed at the Park Shop in City Park.
- **Bill Wilson** was hired as Recreation Coordinator in charge of concessions at EPIC and City Park Pool and also the City Park Railway. He was laid off in 2009.
- **Tom Zimdahl** was hired as a Recreation Coordinator in sports. He is housed at the Park Shop in City Park.
- **Jared Soares** transferred from Transfort to CLRS as Computer Support Specialist. He was promoted to Senior Network Specialist in 2006. In 2009 through an organizational change, he began reporting to the MIS-Application Services Department Manager. His office is at 215 N. Mason.

1998

- **Renee Lee** was hired as a certified Therapeutic Specialist to manage the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities program for persons with disabilities to replace Jennifer Fesperman. She is housed at 215 N. Mason.
- **Kim Vecchio** was hired as a Publicity Specialist. She left the City in 2006.
- **Frank Martinez** was hired as a Recreation Coordinator at Northside Aztlan Community Center to replace Raphael Sandoval. He left the City in 2007.

1999

- **Greg Roberts** was hired as a Facility Assistant at the Senior Center. Prior to that he worked for 4 years as an hourly facility supervisor at the Youth Activity Center. He is housed at the Senior Center.
- **Katie Stieber** was hired as a Recreation Coordinator at the Senior Center to replace Ankie Stroes. She was promoted to Supervisor in 2006. She is housed at the Senior Center.
- **Brant Dobson** was hired as the Maintenance Technician for Mulberry and City Park (outdoor) pools. He is housed at Mulberry Pool.
- **Krista Hobbs** was hired as a Coordinator in aquatics. She is housed at EPIC.
- **Kristie Blackmon** was hired as a Coordinator of youth and teen activities at the Youth Activity Center. She transferred to the new Northside Aztlan Community Center in 2007 in the same position. She left the City in 2008.
- **Charlie Dravis** was hired as a sports Coordinator. He transferred to Parks in 2001.

- Julie Hartman was hired as a half-time Coordinator at the Senior Center. She left the City in 2001.

- Paul Meznarich was hired as a Public Relations Specialist. He left the City in 2002.

2001

- Korrie Johnston was hired as a Public Relations Specialist to replace Paul Meznarich. She left the City in 2006.

2002

- McKenzie Kiger was hired as a Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator. She left the City in 2006.
- Kim Kita was hired as a Financial Manager. She coordinated the budgets and managed special projects for the Division. She left the City in 2009.
- Mike Rura was hired as the Farm Technician to replace Jerry Phillips. He left the City in 2003.

2003

- Dave Snelling was hired as a Maintenance Technician at EPIC. He is housed there.
- Jim White was hired as the Farm Technician to replace Mike Rura. He left the City in 2006.
- Mia Colby Johnson was hired as an Administrative Clerk at EPIC. She left the City in 2005 to work in Greeley, but returned as a Recreation Coordinator at the Senior Center in 2007. She transferred back to EPIC in 2010 as Administrative Support Supervisor when Tammy Larson left. She is housed at EPIC.

2006

- Jenna Van Fossan was hired on contract as a Coordinator to replace McKenzie Kiger in the ARO program. Her position became classified in 2007. She is housed at 215 N. Mason.
- Mary Thomas was hired as the Farm Technician to replace Jim White. She is housed at The Farm.

2007

- John Litel was hired as Promotions Coordinator. He is housed at 215 N. Mason.
- Jill Walusis was hired as a Public Relations Specialist. She is housed at 215 N. Mason.
- Lisa Ratajczak was hired as Coordinator of youth programs to replace Kristie Blackmon. She began with the department in 1994 as an hourly instructor and then coordinator of the recreational funtime program for preschool age children. She is housed at NACC.
- Tyler Robertson was hired to replace Frank Martinez as a Coordinator at NACC. He is housed there.
- Megan Greer was hired contractually as a Public Relations Specialist to focus on promoting the new NACC. She became classified in 2009 as a Coordinator at NACC to replace Kristie Blackmon. She is housed at NACC.

2008

- Elaine Bueno was hired as Facility Scheduler at Northside Aztlan Community Center. Prior to that, she worked hourly for many years in the programs at NACC, and she is housed there.

Chapter 11

SNAPSHOT of the **RECREATION COMMISSION** **1944**

**(Information taken from newspaper articles and other information
in scrapbooks compiled by Recreation Commission members)**

January

- Clyde Young, Principal at the junior high, was elected President of the Commission.

February

- A consultant from the State Child Welfare division from Denver made a presentation to the Commission recommending that a city-wide year-round recreation program be established for community youth. The Commission members were interested but stated that there were no plans to implement such a program unless funding became available.

May

- The commission announced plans for an all-inclusive year-round program after securing \$8,500 for youth programs for the summer and the following school year. The funding was secured from the Elks Club (\$5,000), Community Chest (\$2,000), and \$1,500 from other interested organizations.
- Staff was hired for several summer activities including the following: playgrounds, handicrafts and games, boys and girls softball, swim lessons at Sheldon Lake, tennis, dance lessons (tap, stage dancing, and ballroom), and several concerts conducted by music teacher Harry Hay and performed by junior and senior high band students. The youth center on West Mountain run by the Camp Fire Council was used as a site for some of the activities, and youth/teen dances were held regularly. Plans also included establishing youth centers in City Park and in Washington Park for Spanish-American children. In addition, summer activities were held in Library Park, on St. Joseph School grounds, and in the basement of the junior high (now the Lincoln Center).

June

- Miss Cowan, a teacher at Washington School, organized 273 children into 66 groups to comb the town all summer for waste paper that would be turned into salvage for packaging munitions and other war materials. They also collected metal and other needed materials.
- A poster was produced in the newspaper announcing all the summer activities available for youths. It was “A contribution to America’s war effort by Fort Collins War Council and is formed by 124 patriotic professional and business people.”
- A decision was made between the Recreation Commission, the director of the Larimer County USO, and officers of the County Home Demonstrations to open the youth center for the following activities:
 - a) A community restroom for rural women coming to the city to shop
 - b) USO entertainment for the 180 Army reservists attending Colorado State College
 - c) Location for Fort Collins residents to make arrangements to invite soldiers to their homes for Sunday dinners.

- USO Chair Mrs. George Burgess announced that 565 books had been donated locally and sent to the Fort Logan convalescent center for the ill and wounded soldiers. She made a plea for more donations including playing cards, phonographs, games, and more books to be taken to the paper salvage depot.
- Groups of local youths and college students met to discuss forming a theater group. Miss Ruth Mercer, a graduate of Colorado State College and dramatics teacher, was hired to lead the group and plan a summer performance.
- The Forsythe and Davis carnival came to town, and the children who worked on salvage collection teams received free tickets to attend.

July

- To celebrate the Fourth of July, The Chamber of Commerce sponsored, planned and conducted a parade, children's activities in City Park, a beauty contest for teen girls, livestock exhibits for 4-H members and Future Farmers, and junior rodeo at the college rodeo grounds along with a rodeo queen contest.
- Because of a shortage of workers due to the war, several pleas were publicized for youths to help harvest local cherries and snap bean crops. In 1943 these crops were valued at \$500,000 to the community and to the farmers, making it essential that the crops get harvested.
- Eighteen youth teams participated in 3 softball leagues – 4 in boys ages 13-15, 10 in boys ages 15+ including young men, and 4 in girls 13+ including young women.
- Ground rules were established for the softball leagues:
 1. A player was removed from the game, at the discretion of the umpire, for swearing or unsportsmanlike conduct.
 2. A player had to sit out 2 games if changing teams.
 3. A team forfeited the game if players were not rostered properly.
- Spectator rules were also established:
 1. Spectators must stay in the bleachers or behind the outfield fence.
 2. No spectators allowed in the bullpens, dugouts, score boxes, or on the field of play during games.
 3. No bicycles allowed in the bullpens.
- Everyone was strongly encouraged to return foul balls to the umpires; as good quality balls were very difficult to find and expensive to get because of the war.

August

- Many of the items made by the 100 children participating in handicrafts were displayed downtown in the Curtis Clothing Company window. Popular projects were wood plaques, brightly painted garden markers, and wooden tanks and guns.
- The final youth band concert was held under the lights on the City Park softball diamond.

November/December

- Basketball leagues for junior high and high school boys and girls began at the junior high Monday-Wednesday evenings. General athletics for boys were available Thursdays, and Saturday mornings were set aside for elementary age youths. Emil Olander and Miss Gai, both physical education teachers, ran the activities. The program was open also to students at Saint Joseph's and Holy Family as well as schools surrounding Fort Collins. A 25-cent fee per player would be refunded to

teams that had no forfeitures, and remaining money would be used to purchase awards.

- Multiple nights of woodshop classes instructed by Robert B. Warner also began in conjunction with the sports programs. Participants paid for materials but the classes were free. About 90 youths participated.
- Another winter activity was ice skating on Sheldon Lake.
- The Recreation Commission took over the operation of the youth center in the Public Service building at 149 W. Mountain; the facility was totally redecorated by the teens, it was named Club Tico, and was re-opened on December 2.
- A request made by the Junior Chamber of Commerce (JCC) to the City to use City equipment to grade a lot at Smith and Mulberry for a skating rink was refused by the City Council. Mr. Warren Riddle, Commissioner of Public Works, said he did not have manpower or money to help. He suggested at a public meeting that the children “be given brooms and shovels and instructed to build their own ice rink.” Commissioner Riddle also said that interest in skating had not been high in previous years and they were skeptical about the possible success of local ice skating rinks.
- The JCC continued its interest in developing skating rinks, one at the high school on Remington and one at Mulberry and Smith. The club would finance and maintain the ice rinks but needed help with grading. After members supplied more specific information concerning their request and discussed the project with many people including City Manager Guy Palmes, the City Council agreed to cooperate in the construction of a rink at Mulberry and Smith.
- (News article on 12/15/44: A commercial ice rink was operated successfully several years prior to 1944 by Richard A. Brackenbury, a Recreation Commission board member in 1944, near St. Joseph’s school.)
- During winter holiday break, the rinks at Sheldon Lake and Smith/Mulberry were popular spots. Because of the shortage of canvas from the Great Western sugar factory to make a shade canopy for the rink, burlap bags were collected and a temporary partial cover installed.

A LIST OF COMMONLY-USED ACRONYMS

AARP	American Association of Retired Persons
APRS	American Park and Recreation Society. A current branch of NRPA
ARS	American Recreation Society, a branch of NRA
ASLA	American Society of Landscape Architects
ARO	Adaptive Recreation Opportunities
AYC	Alternative Youth Center, Activities Youth Center
BCC	Building Community Choices, capital tax passed in 1997
BEETS	Name given to DDA's "chatauqua-type" arts movement
BMX	Bicycle Motocross
BOB	Building on Basics, capital sales tax program passed in 2005
BOR	Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
CARA	Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CETA	Comprehensive Employment and Training Act
Choices 95	Capital tax passed in 1989
CIP	Capital Improvement Program, capital sales tax passed in 1972
CLRS	Cultural, Library, and Recreational Services
CPC	City Park Center
CPP	City Park Pool
CPRA	Colorado Parks and Recreation Association
CPRS	Colorado Parks and Recreation Society, which later became CPRA
CPRE	Culture, Parks, Recreation, and Environment
CSU	Colorado State University
CT	Club Tico
CTRS	Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist; Colorado Therapeutic Recreation Society, a section of CPRA
DBA	Downtown Business Association
DCC	Downtown Community Center
DDA	Downtown Development Authority
DMA	Downtown Merchants Association, now DBA
DTT	Designing Tomorrow Today, the first major sales tax increase campaign in the 1970's to pay for capital projects
EMS	Event Management System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPIC	Edora Pool Ice Center
FCBC	Fort Collins Baseball Club, formerly called Youth Baseball
FCCP	Fort Collins Community Pool, now called Mulberry Pool; currently referred to Fossil Creek Community Park

GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
ISA	International Society of Arboriculture
JAA	Junior All-American, name given in the 1940's to youth sports programs
JCC	Junior Chamber of Commerce
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
MP	Mulberry Pool
NACC	Northside Aztlan Community Center
NCOA	National Council on Aging
NFL	National Football League
NRA	National Recreation Association, which later became NRPA
NRPA	National Recreation and Park Association
P&R	Parks and Recreation
PRLT	Parks and Recreation Lead Team
PS	Pottery Studio
PSD	Poudre School District
PVH	Poudre Valley Hospital/Poudre Valley Health System (PVHS)
RAD	Recreation At your Door
RECAP	Capital sales tax program that passed in 1983
RMRC	Rolland Moore Racquet Center
RMT	Recreation Management Team, developed in the early 1990's during a major reorganization of the Recreation Department
ROF	Resourcing Our Future, 10-year general purpose sales tax passed in 2009
RSVP	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
TR	Therapeutic Recreation
UNC	University of Northern Colorado
USO	United Service Organization
USSSA	United States Slow Pitch Softball Association
VOA	Volunteers of America
VSI	Vermont Systems, Inc., current recreation and golf software provider
WNV	West Nile Virus
Y2K	Year 2000
YAC	Youth Activity Center
YBB	Youth Baseball, now the FCBC
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

APPENDIX A

RECREATION OPERATING PRINCIPLES

A. INTRODUCTION

The Recreation Managers spent seven months in 2008 (June-December) working with a consultant discussing current operations, validating what is working well, and determining ways to make some incremental improvements in the way that the department functions. The overall process is an effort to re-energize the recreation staff toward a common “culture.”

Over the past several years, Recreation staff members have experienced budget cuts, lay-offs, job changes, facility closures, facility openings, and consolidation and separation of various staffs. There is a new performance management system based on core values and job expectations, and a new budget process. The City reorganized, and administrative staff developed a new City vision/mission/core values. Recreation reorganized, and the traditional Parks and Recreation Department faded away. Recreation became a department instead of a division. And a new City logo was developed, which strengthens the idea that change is constant and will continue to impact the way staff members do their jobs.

Staff’s positive response to these changes is a tribute to the resiliency of people who work in the recreation field. The department has continued to function well and be successful through all these changes. The management team believed that it was time to create a consistent vision or culture for the department focused on well-defined and consistent operational principles and customer service.

The idea of developing a common "culture" came from discussions initially revolving around developing a "culture" of customer service throughout the department. By developing a set of operational guidelines, customer service could become seamless recreation facility to recreation programs. Whether a customer attended a class at the senior center or dropped in to EPIC for a swim, other than the physical differences in the facilities, the customer service that person received would be the same. This does not have anything to do with cultural diversity, culture and the arts, or ethnic cultures, but rather how the staff functions consistently when it comes to doing business with our customers.

Simplistically, the task was to look at where we've been as a department and identify what is working and what needs improvement. The culmination of that work was three-fold:

- The development of seven Operational Principles,
- An implementation plan for the principles, and
- The development of key elements for customer services training

Principle #1: We treat everyone in a positive, friendly manner.

- A smile and friendly greeting overcome not knowing the answer.
- This is a win/win for the customer and the employee.
- We have happy repeat customers.
- On-going customer service training is a priority.
- We reinforce positive behavior by catching people doing the right things.
- We create a welcoming environment.
- Appearance is important and is governed by policy.

Principle #2: Every budget decision positively impacts the sale-ability of all Recreation BFO offers.

- We are stewards of budget dollars.
- We promote effective spending in a survival environment.
- We understand how BFO works.
- We expect consistent fiscal responsibility.
- We understand how Recreation fits into the big picture.
- We leverage outside resources to support the budget.

Principle #3: The changing needs/desires of our citizens drive our programs.

- We listen to our current customers.
- We actively solicit community input to determine our future programming.
- We regularly evaluate our program offerings.
- We know facts about the market – ie., schools, aging population versus traditional seniors – and what the market will support.
- We plan activities by using the Steps of Program Planning.
- We assess our existing customer base and work to attract new customers.

Principle #4: We consistently administer the processes developed to implement the City's reduced fee scholarship program.

- We review and update the reduced fee processes as needed.
- We support consistent administration of the program.
- We support processes that are consistently implemented at every facility.

Principle #5: We are accountable for the safety and appearance of all program equipment and recreation venues.

- Safety and maintenance are everyone's responsibility on a daily basis – fix it if you can – if you cannot fix it, tell someone immediately.
- We proactively maintain facility cleanliness throughout the day – ie., pick up trash when you see it.
- We take ownership in creating spotless, pristine, green facilities.

Principle #6: We know and use current technology.

- Technology education and proficiency are part of each staff member's goals.
- Each job description defines minimal levels of required technology skills.
- We are accountable to take necessary technology training.

- We become proactive in achieving new levels of skill with technology.
- We invest necessary resources in smart technology upgrades.
- We research new technological options and are savvy about selecting those that will streamline operations and/or increase customer service.

Principle #7: We are unified in our identity as the City of Fort Collins Recreation Department.

- We support a unified public message to promote Recreation in a positive and innovative way.
- We proactively promote, advertise, and market our activities and facilities.
- We partner with businesses through sponsorships and advertising to enhance our programming.

Established December, 2008

B. The Implementation Plan: *to be completed*

C. The Principle of Customer Service – Orientation developed by staff in 2009:

The following information is to be modified to be facility/program-specific and then given to all employees who deal with customers (all employees):

Customer service is of the utmost importance. Good customer service creates sustainability. Customers, who are treated well, continue to use our facility and tell others what a great facility we have, creating new customers. It is everyone's responsibility to make sure our customers are treated well and their expectations are met. Front desk personnel have the ultimate opportunity to make a lasting impression on everyone they greet. Make sure you're not the reason someone decides to not return to our facility

Operating Principal Number 1: We treat everyone in a positive, friendly manner.

- The "Face-to-Face" customer is your number one priority. Attend to them and make sure you've addressed their concerns before answering the phone or assisting another customer.
- Smile and greet everyone entering the facility. Make eye contact. If you are on the phone let the walk- in customer know you'll be right with them.
- "De-greet" everyone when possible. Say "how was your workout" or tell them to "have a nice day"! Be sure to record any issues or concerns with equipment they let you know about! Be sure to let the appropriate person know so safety, equipment or cleanliness issues can be attended to quickly.
- If you're on the phone as a customer approaches the desk and you can't wrap up the call quickly, ask the caller for their name and phone number. Tell them you'll call them back rather than put them on hold. Remember, taking care of the walk-in customer is your number 1 priority.
- During busy times (when assisting another customer or completing a phone transaction) wave customers by and ask them to check-in with you when they leave.

- **Dress:** staff should always wear their staff shirt and name tag. Baseball style hats are the only acceptable hats and should only be worn with the bill facing forward. Other apparel (pants, shorts, socks, shoes) should be professional in nature, clean with no holes or fraying edges. Flip flops are not permissible. Sturdy, clean shoes should be worn.
- **Phone Etiquette:** The phone should be answered within three rings whenever possible. When assisting a customer, let the phone go to voice mail. As soon as you're finished with the customer, check voice mail and immediately return the call. When answering the phone, always greet the caller with "Good morning, Northside Aztlan Community Center, may I help you?" When asked a question about a program you can't answer refer to your "Recreation Program Contacts" sheet, to make sure you refer the caller to the appropriate program supervisor, or take their name and phone number so you can call them back with the correct information.
- **Use of your time:** your time at the front desk should be used assisting customers, assisting staff with special projects, restocking supplies at the front desk or in the main office (when another staff member is present), or cleaning/organizing the area. Use of the internet and personal cell phone calls is never acceptable. Private conversations with staff should be kept to a minimum as your primary focus should always be on the customer in the facility who might be needing assistance. Customer should **never** have to wait while you finish personal business to be waited on. Staff and their children are welcome in the facility but should never be behind the front desk.
- **Appearance of your work area:** your work area can be seen by the public and is a reflection on the operation. Your area should always be clean, void of food and trash. Additionally, the lobby area should be scrutinized for neatness regularly. Magazines and newspapers should be arranged or thrown away. Brochure racks, bulletin boards and message boards should all be arranged in a neat and tidy order.
- **Computers:** computers at the front desk are available to specifically provide recreation registration. For security purposes, other equipment (flash drives, external hard drives, downloadable material, etc.) are not permitted. Use of the internet is prohibited unless directed by a supervisor for program research purposes only. Do not change **any** settings on the computers. These rules are in place to protect the integrity of the City's network.

I have met with my supervisor to review the information provided above and I understand the expectations associated with Operating Principal #1. I will seek advice from my supervisor if I have any questions regarding this information.

Employee's Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

RECREATION STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

**City of Fort Collins
Culture, Parks, Recreation and Environment
Recreation Department
2008-2020**

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to provide general guidance to the Recreation Department staff throughout the next 10-15 years as it relates to community growth and the

changing needs of our residents. This plan provides information about how the department has operated in the past and present, and what the projections are for improvements and growth in programs, staffing, infrastructure, and budget into the future.

This plan coincides with the timeframe established for the Parks and Recreation Policy Plan Update and is supplementary to that plan.

This document should be reviewed annually and updated in five-year increments to keep the information current as the community changes and grows.

B. CITY VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Vision: We are passionate about creating a vibrant, world-class community.

Mission: Exceptional service for an exceptional community.

Values: The City identifies seven primary values: Outstanding Service; Innovation and Creativity; Respect; Integrity; Initiative; Collaboration and Teamwork; and Stewardship. These seven values are further described in the Appendix of this document.

C. RECREATION DEPARTMENT MISSION AND CORE VALUES

The **Mission** of the Recreation Department is to provide services that promote health, well-being, personal growth, and life enrichment for the community.

Core Values:

- We care about our customers.
- We make positive differences in people's lives
- Employees are the key to our success.
- We value quality in all that we do.

Recreation Service Theme: RECREATION - It's for life!

D. ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE PLAN

This plan is based on the following assumptions:

- Staff has used the City's estimates for future growth projections and general area demographics, as well as regional and national trends information available at the time of development of the plan.
- The Recreation Department will continue to be a viable City function to meet the recreational and educational needs and desires of the community.
- Current service levels will be maintained or enhanced over time.

E. BENEFITS OF RECREATION TO THE COMMUNITY

The Recreation Department is in the business of providing broad-based health, wellness, skill-based, and recreational activities for the community. The major benefits of a strong public recreation program can be summarized as follows:

1. Recreation has a positive impact on the quality of life in Fort Collins.

Whether or not all citizens personally use recreation services and activities, they

- perceive that the community is a better place to live because there are recreational opportunities available to them, their children, their parents, and/or friends.
2. **Recreation has a positive impact on the community's economic growth and health.** Realtors promote the benefits of the City to prospective new residents and businesses, and recreation amenities are an important element on their list. Visitors who come to Fort Collins for sports tournaments, skating events, and swim meets held at City-owned facilities spend money on food, gasoline, lodging, and other items. Not only do the businesses benefit directly, but this spending also adds tax dollars to the City that, in turn, supports recreational activities and facilities.
 3. **Recreation provides the opportunity for learning new leisure-time skills that will continue throughout a person's lifetime.** People who have the opportunities to develop sound leisure skills at an early age are better prepared to face a greater abundance of leisure time as they age and when they retire. A broad and varied listing of recreational activities is offered with the intent that citizens can learn new skills at any age and then develop those they particularly enjoy into advanced or lifelong skills. Some activities, like skateboarding and tennis, require some type of specialized area for safe participation. The City has been successful in providing facilities and outdoor spaces for many of these types of activities.
 4. **Recreation has a positive impact on the development of constructive leisure-time skills.** What people do with their leisure time has an effect on their behavior and performance in relation to other life activities. Inappropriate or non-constructive use of leisure time places a heavy burden on society as a result of crime, delinquency, substance abuse, and the like. Activities become potentially destructive when safe and appropriate facilities are not provided.
 5. **Recreation provides the opportunity for leisure services to all citizens in the community regardless of their ability to pay fees.** Financially under-privileged youths, the elderly, and those with disabilities are at the greatest risk of developing either negative leisure habits or no leisure outlets because of lack of opportunity to participate. The Recreation Department administers a scholarship program for persons who qualify through an application process. The staff also networks with other community agencies to identify at-risk individuals for program assistance and/or referral.
 6. **Recreation provides active recreation for all ages in an effort to help promote and maintain an individual's physical health and curb obesity.** As obesity rates continue to rise in this country, opportunities for convenient affordable active recreation are critical to the health and welfare of our community. Whether a person wants to work out in a fitness gym atmosphere; participate in a team or individual sport; or start a walking, hiking, or biking program on his/her own, the recreation staff can accommodate and assist in these efforts through direct program offerings or through referral. Promoting health and well-being for every community member is a major facet of our mission.

F. PUBLIC RECREATION versus PRIVATE SECTOR COMPETITION

The Recreation Department staff is cognizant of the fact that a segment of the population believes that a municipality should not be in the business of providing

activities and services that the private sector can and does provide, or is thereby competing with the private sector.

There are four major reasons why the City of Fort Collins provides public recreation in conjunction with the many and varied private non-profits and businesses in the community:

1. A major consideration for public recreation in Fort Collins is to provide for those residents who cannot afford to pay full or even partial fees for recreation activities and services. This can include individuals and families of low income, senior citizens or persons with disabilities on fixed incomes, and organizations serving these populations who do not have direct access to recreational facilities for their clientele. In these cases, tax dollars support opportunities for participation through a well-defined scholarship program.
2. Development and maintenance of recreation facilities is very expensive. A large number of these facilities around the country and in Colorado are available to citizens because government entities have chosen to ask voters to approve the use of public tax dollars to fund construction and operate them. These government bodies understand the value of providing leisure time activities to all ages to help sustain the health of their citizens. If these types of facilities were profit centers, more of them would be operated by the private sector; however, there is a definite community good associated with tax dollar support of recreation facilities and programs.
3. The Recreation Department in Fort Collins is one of many choices for residents to participate in activities. The City cannot provide for all of the demand; nor can any one other private sector operation. The City operation, to the extent possible, does not provide many activities at the advanced or competitive level; but rather focuses on developing interest in activities that residents may then want to pursue through many local private outlets.
4. The City supports the efforts of many well-established and developing private non-profit sports organizations that provide recreational and competitive opportunities for youths and adults by collaborating with them on use of City-owned facilities at affordable rates for their activities. Examples of activities run by these groups include soccer, baseball, softball, ice hockey, rugby, swimming, etc. These organizations are typically supported through user fees, grants, and volunteers. The citizens get the services without the involvement of public tax dollars. City staff encourages the development of these organizations.

G. PRIORITY OF USE OF RECREATION FACILITIES

Scheduling of activities in recreation facilities is based on the following use priorities:

1. Time is set aside for drop-in activities first. Staff believes that tax-paying residents should have priority use of City pools, ice arenas, workout facilities, and gymnasiums on a drop-in basis, and these hours are established first. Class activities, special events, and rentals may pre-empt drop-in hours on occasion, but this is not a regular practice.

2. Class activities to teach leisure and recreational skills have the next priority. Staff believes that it is important to offer skill-based activities to teach citizens how to correctly perform activities to better enjoy their drop-in experiences.
3. Other City recreation activities have third priority, such as special events or activities run by staff from other program areas.
4. Rentals to outside individuals or groups have last priority of use on a space-available basis.

If there are conflicting requests for rental of City swimming pools, gymnasiums, and ice arenas to outside youth and adult teams or groups, they are resolved and approved by staff after consideration of the following factors:

- Is the rental for use by youths or adults? (Youths typically have priority over adults.)
- Is the group recreational or competitive? (Recreational use (ie., practice) typically has priority over competitive (ie., meet or tournament))
- Is the group a regular or short-term renter? (Long-term renters have priority over short-term or one-time renters)
- Is the group local or from out of the city? (Local groups typically have priority over non-local groups)
- Will the rental benefit the city economically? (Can the city benefit from overnight stays and other visitor spending?)
- Does the rental request require displacing another program or rental? (Can an accommodation be made with the affected groups to satisfy this problem?)

H. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

A Recreation Commission was first organized in Fort Collins in January, 1937. All service clubs and organizations in the city were invited to send representatives to an open meeting. All other interested persons were also invited to be present. From this group, nine members were elected to serve on the Commission board.

The activities of the Commission were made possible through the full cooperation of the City government and the School Board of Education in providing facilities and leadership. Financial support was provided by the Elks Club, Lions Club, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Community Chest, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, and miscellaneous other sources. The services of the Recreation Director, an employee of School District No. 5, were donated to the program by the school district. For instance, in 1947 J. Ray French was Director of Recreation and David B. Leshner was President of the Recreation Commission. (Both men currently have school district facilities named for them.)

It was the policy of the Commission to plan and finance a recreation program to complement the activities of other agencies in Fort Collins. Activities were selected to fulfill a need and according to interests of the individuals participating. An attempt was made to NOT duplicate activities or to compete with other programs. Whenever possible the Commission cooperated with and assisted other agencies in developing programs. *(Taken from the Recreation Commission Annual Report of 1947).*

Recreation became part of the City's Parks and Recreation Department in 1966. The department was comprised of the divisions of Parks, Recreation, Golf, and Cemeteries. By 1974, the Forestry and Park Planning and Development Divisions were added. In 1985, Lincoln Center, the museum, and the library were combined with the divisions of Parks and Recreation to form a service area called Cultural, Library, and Recreational Services. In 2006 voters approved moving the library operation into its own taxing district. A city-wide reorganization became effective in early 2007, removing libraries and adding Natural Resources to a newly formed service area called Culture, Parks, Recreation, and Environment.

As the community has grown, the residents have supported the expansion of the Recreation system by allocating tax funding to build some fantastic facilities around the community. With the completion of each new facility, the Recreation Department has expanded with additional staff, operation and maintenance funding, and a myriad of increased programming for residents of all ages and abilities.

II. CURRENT OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

A. THE ROLE OF OUR EMPLOYEES

The following are traits and characteristics of Recreation Department employees (taken from New Staff Orientation Manual):

We provide a service that is unique.

- We work in an environment in which our participants are there primarily for enjoyment and relaxation.
- We have the opportunity to enhance that experience by knowing and meeting their expectations.

We believe in our customers.

- Each and every customer expects and deserves the best in service, and we strive to provide it.
- Each customer is a VIP – Very Important/Very Individual Person.
- Courtesy is the Number one priority. Tired, angry, or frustrated customers deserve the same courtesy as happy customers.
- People are our business.

We are friendly to our customers.

- A smile is the most important part of our look. We put a smile in our voices too.
- We establish and maintain eye contact when speaking with others.
- We reflect a positive image in our appearance and attitude.
- We practice and use friendly, courteous phrases.
- We use “please” and “thank you” as often as possible.

We give the personal touch.

- We work to make things easier for our customers.
- We take time to answer individual questions, especially during busy times.
- We call our customers by name whenever possible.
- We find ways to say “yes” as often as possible.

- We each have a responsibility to make a positive impression on our customers.

We know the answers.

- We are information sources and can answer “the basics.”
- When we don’t know the answer to a questions, we offer to find the answer.
- Whenever possible, we find the answer rather than sending the customer to another source.

We work while others play.

- We offer our services when they are convenient to the customers – evenings, weekends, and many holidays are our primary opportunities to serve them.
- We are at our best while at work, and we strive to provide the best in quality service and courtesy.

We stress safety.

- Our customers are thinking about enjoyment, not safety; therefore, it is our responsibility to provide a safe environment and to ensure a safe experience for the customers.
- We have earned the public trust to make their experiences safe ones.

We believe in teamwork and cooperation.

- We operate within a friendly informal structure.
- We take our jobs seriously and ourselves lightly.
- Creating fun in our roles reflects fun for the customers.
- We work together and communicate openly to provide the best service possible to our customers.

We create our own applause.

- Our applause is unspoken – it manifests itself in the satisfaction from our returning customers.
- Those who take the time to send a letter of appreciation are reflecting our success, and we are proud of our efforts.
- The ultimate compliment comes by way of the anticipation and excitement expressed by those who use our services on the recommendation of other users.

We understand our roles as employees of the public.

- Our policies and procedures support the way we do business and should be consistent with our quality service efforts.
- We are trained in the business practices of our operation and feel confident in applying that information when communicating with our customers.
- We learn a lot about how effectively we do business by listening to the concerns and questions from customers and front line staff.
- The customer may not always be right, but he/she is always our customer, and we treat all customers with dignity and respect.
- We are not public servants, but rather professionals in services to the public.

We understand that the public sometimes has unique expectations of public employees which are different from the private sector.

- We are accountable for the way we spend public tax dollars.
- We treat resources and property with respect and care.

We believe in the inverted organizational chart.

- The customers are at the top and deserve great service.

- The employees who work every day with the customers have great ideas for improving our service delivery.
- We strive to improve resources and support staff to accomplish goals.

We understand that the politics of City government often have an effect on how we do our jobs.

- Major city policies are formulated by the City Council and then translated into procedures that affect daily operations of recreation facilities and programs.
- We make adjustments when City policies are changed.
- We understand that these changes are made to improve our ability to provide service to the community.

The manner in which we perform our job duties is scrutinized every day by those with whom we come into contact, including patrons and other staff.

- Our actions serve the public interest.
- We are accountable in the discharge of official duties.
- We respect the established procedures and policies.
- We are aware of different values/morals and treat everyone with respect.

B. EXISTING RECREATION RESOURCES

Facilities

There are currently eleven facilities directly operated by the Recreation Department. The following list is in order of acquisition or construction:

- City Park Center/Club Tico (1949)
- City Park Pool (1952)
- Pottery Studio (1974)
- Mulberry Pool (1974)
- Northside Aztlan Community Center (1978)
- The Farm at Lee Martinez Park (1985)
- Rolland Moore Racquet Center (1986)
- Edora Pool Ice Center/EPIC (1987)
- Fort Collins Senior Center (1995)
- Youth Activity Center/YAC (2 leased facilities since 1995; current facility downsized in 2007)
- City Park Railway (purchased in 1996)
- Northside Aztlan Community Center Replacement (2007)

Staffing

The 40 fulltime staff, 2 contractual staff, 1 contracted service (tennis) and 1,000+ hourly staff and volunteers/year currently plan, publicize, manage, maintain, and run over 500 individual activities/season during each year for the citizens of Fort Collins.

Programs and Services

Participants can enjoy drop-in swim, skating, workout, gym, or social activities; learn or enrich knowledge in numerous kinds of classes for all ages; and participate in many family and intergenerational special events. Activities are added, modified, or deleted based on customer input, participation numbers, cost, availability in the

private sector, evolving trends, or various other factors. Facilities are also available for rental.

Programs are grouped as followed: Adaptive and alternative activities for persons with disabilities; aquatics; arts, crafts, and pottery; clubs and organizations, education, traditional and social dance; early learning, enrichment and lifelong learning; Farm activities; aqua and land fitness; ice skating; music and theatre; outdoor recreation; services, social opportunities, special events; travel; sports; and wellness services.

Procedures and Regulations

Procedures and Regulations are developed for the safety of our users as well as the protection of the City's capital investments. They also help guide staff in successfully working with participants to allow them to have the best experiences possible. Recreation staff are expected to read, understand, and effectively apply information found in the following documents: City Personnel policies; City Administrative policies; Purchasing and Risk Management documents; City Clerk and City Council procedure documents; their specific job descriptions; and the department and City vision, mission, and core values statements. In addition, recreation-specific procedures, regulations, manuals, and other pertinent information is updated regularly and posted on the Recreation staff intranet site at Citynet.fcgov.com/recstaff.

Collaborative Teams

Recreation Department staff members believe that collaboration with staff members outside their particular facilities or program areas is an important key to success. All teams are established on an annual basis and led by a member of the Recreation Management Team. The teams are established based on common work goals. Most teams meet at least three times a year prior to submittal of information for the forthcoming *Recreator* or prior to a seasonal change or as needed. A listing of the current teams and leaders is on the Recreation intranet site.

Boards and Commissions

Recreation staff members are liaison to three City Council-appointed boards and two facility-based councils. The Senior Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Board, and the Youth Advisory Board are appointed by City Council and give input and recommendations to City Council. The Senior Center Council and the Northside Aztlan Community Center Advisory Council report to assigned recreation facility staff members and bring items of interest or concern to the attention of staff for discussion and resolution.

Marketing and Publicity

Several primary methods are used to promote the department to the community including the *Recreator* program guide published three times a year and distributed in the Coloradoan newspaper; *Pathways*, the quarterly publication for adult and senior services; the City's internet site and e-news; publicity means such as posters, fliers, and brochures; related magazines and publications; staff service on boards and attendance at related meetings; and word of mouth.

The Department does not currently use printed or on-air advertising extensively; however, press releases are distributed regularly to a wide listing of publications, radio stations, and other media. Some contributions also make it possible on a limited basis to use print or on-air advertising.

C. FISCAL INFORMATION

Budget Overview

The Recreation Department budget is a Special Revenue Fund, partially supported from General Fund tax dollars and the rest from user fees and charges. It is a non-reverting fund; any balance in budget or revenue over projections at year-end remains in the fund as reserves. A portion of reserves always remains in the fund in case of a revenue shortfall or unanticipated expenditure from a catastrophic event. Reserve funding is appropriated each year for specific purposes, ie. facility improvements, capital equipment replacements; program equipment, and seed money for new unbudgeted programs.

Since 1991 the department has administered a “scholarship” program for individuals who have less ability to pay fees. Anyone who applies and qualifies for reduced or waived fee receives support. City Council allocates General Fund dollars to partially support this program; while sponsorships, donations, and recreation reserves have been used to offset the deficit.

Utilities, custodial services, and building repairs and maintenance are funded by the General Fund through the Operation Services Department. Those expenses are controlled and managed in that budget for all city-owned buildings that fall under the General Fund.

Budgeting For Outcomes Process (BFO)

Since the 2006 budget, The City has used the BFO budget model. All services are prepared and submitted as “Offers” that are reviewed by teams and selected or not based on established criteria and the amount of Team money available. The 2008-2009 Result Map for the Cultural and Recreational Opportunities Team is in the Appendix and can also be found on Citynet/budget.

Fee Policy

City Council adopted a Recreation Fee Policy in 1990. This policy served the department relatively well until the city adopted the BFO process of budgeting. The current policy is not compatible with this budgeting process. Staff is in the process of reviewing the fee policy for possible improvements, while maintaining key elements of the 1990 policy. These key elements include the recreation reserve fund and the scholarship fund.

Fee Development Process

The current method of fee-setting for classes is as follows:

- The direct expenses (staff, supplies, transportation, etc.) are determined and totaled.
- A set cost per hour is added to cover facility use and equipment maintenance. This is currently \$7/instructional hour.
- The total cost from above is divided by the anticipated minimum number of participants to determine the base fee per participant.
- A service fee of \$3 to \$5 is then added to each base fee to cover banking charges, Red Cross materials for swimming, and/or ADA-mandated expenses.

Fees for sports leagues are set based on annual surveys of other Front Range communities.

Fees for drop-in activities (ie., swimming, skating, work-out, open gym) and rentals are set based on historical data. These fees are typically raised incrementally no more often than every other year.

D. COLLABORATIONS AND NETWORKING

External

Staff members work with many community groups and organizations to provide accurate and timely services, activities, and information to the public. *A partial listing of external groups and organizations is in the Appendix.*

Internal

Besides networking regularly with other Recreation Department staff, staff relies heavily on collaborations with various key City departments to assure that services are provided to the public successfully and safely. The major departments include Park Maintenance; Operation Services including building repairs, project management, and fleet; Human Resources; Park Planning and Development, City Attorney; and Finance including budget, accounting, purchasing, and risk management.

E. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Various staff members belong to and affiliate with professional organizations for the purpose of information-gathering and networking. In some cases, professional organization affiliation is required for certification. The following is a partial list of current organizations:

- National Recreation and Park Association
- Colorado Parks and Recreation Association
- National Council on Aging; American Society on Aging
- National Institute of Senior Centers
- Athletic Business
- United States Figure Skating Association
- Professional Skating Association
- U.S. Hockey

IV. WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

A. TRENDS, ISSUES, AND STRATEGIES - 2008-2020 (This section has not been edited or finalized)

Trends

1. Ongoing deterioration of recreation capital infrastructure (buildings)
2. Declining budget support for recreation from public taxes
3. Increasing crime (violence, drug use, vandalism, gangs) in communities
4. Increasing competition for alternative state and federal funding sources
5. Increasing neglect of children, the disabled, and elderly
6. Increasing cultural diversity
7. Greater difficulty in providing equal leisure opportunities; greater division between “have’s” and “have-not’s”
8. Less leisure time available for those working
9. Increased public demand for participation, accountability, and productivity in government
10. Increasing number of children living in poverty.
11. Emphasis on sustainability, recycling, re-use of resources.
12. Deciding who to serve
 - High enders (wealthy) can afford and are well supplied with attractive opportunities for travel, adventure, and leisure pursuits
 - Poor, frail, homeless, disabled are often not served because of lack of public tax support to provide services
 - Newer group called the “discretionaires” – first in the families with college degrees, special skills, talents, and earning potentials but early in their careers and cannot afford the same recreation as the wealthy; they will recreate but will remain price conscious.
 - “Middle” income group with and without families has shrunk but continues to participate in public recreation when financially possible

Issues and Strategies

1. **Partnering** – Refocus more holistically, more proactively in partnering with the business community, develop win-win’s, ultimate goal is focus on citizens; community networks, resource sharing, service consolidation
2. **Need for Alternative Funding** – Declining tax dollars; pricing and fee policy review; business or community good/ should programs that can generate more revenue be promoted to cover deficit expenses of those that can’t? Other sources besides tax dollars/ grants, sponsorships, endowment
3. **Nature Deficit Disorder** – Getting citizens away from indoor electronics and outside to recreate
4. **Community Wellness** – Obesity in all ages; illness prevention; strategies to get kids active; building on the wellness movement through partnerships and programs

5. **Providing for the Baby Boomers and GenY's**– 72million BB's (BORN 1946-1964); 60 million GY's (born 1979-1994) - What do they want; how to serve them
6. **Marketing** – Overall umbrella strategy to publicize activities/services; publications, media and business partners, relationship-building; developing public recognition that we contribute to the health and well being of the community
7. **Going Green** – How does this impact recreation; how can we participate?
8. **Ethnic and Cultural Diversity** – How does this impact us?
9. **Social Relevance of Recreation** – How poverty levels will impact the role of recreation in the future. How important will social programs be in our relatively “white” community? How we can make programs more accessible to low income and single parent families. Should we be serving the homeless?
10. **Technology** – Where is it going with upgrades, wireless, games, etc.; how will we be impacted; how can we participate?
11. **Volunteerism** – How people want to volunteer has changed; how can we capitalize on that?
12. **Workforce Changes** – How will the boomers and genY's mix with upcoming college age students, all wanting part-time work? Increase in the number of bilingual employees
13. **Capital infrastructure deterioration** – Finding funding to maintain
14. **Prioritizing spending** – Developing a plan to strategize spending when resources are cut or stretched thin.
15. **Competing successfully for funding**
16. **Building public trust** – Working with staff to improve customer service, affordability, program quality, accessibility, along with other strategies to increase our positive community image
17. **Community survey** – Gather specific information from residents about what they perceive as our value
18. **Privatizing/downsizing services** – current examples: contracting tennis; private non-profit youth and adult sports organizations
19. **Maintaining efficiency without sacrificing effectiveness** – greater attention to public and community relations, innovative fiscal management, better mastery of information systems, greater sophistication in sales and marketing

Recreation Program Trends Now and into the Future

1. People and their pets
2. Biking activities for all ages
3. “Extreme” activities for seniors
4. Geo-caching for all ages
5. Camps of all kinds, year-round, and for more ages – in addition to kids, camps for people with disabilities; retirees, etc.
6. Educational travel for retirees
7. Expansion of community gardens programs
8. More activities for non-traditional families

9. Intergenerational activities
10. More activities for school-age children and teens
11. Expanded mobile recreation (ie., RAD Van)
12. Outdoor adventure programming for all ages

B. Capital Plan -To Be Completed

APPENDIX

The following current information can be found on the Recreation Department intranet site at citynet.fcgov.com/recstaff:

- Recreation Department Organizational Chart
- Recreation Fee Policy
- Recreation Fee Schedule
- Reduced Fee Scholarship Program Information and Application
- Year-End Report
- List of Collaborative Teams
- BFO Offers
- Recreation Policies

The following can be found at various web sites as listed:

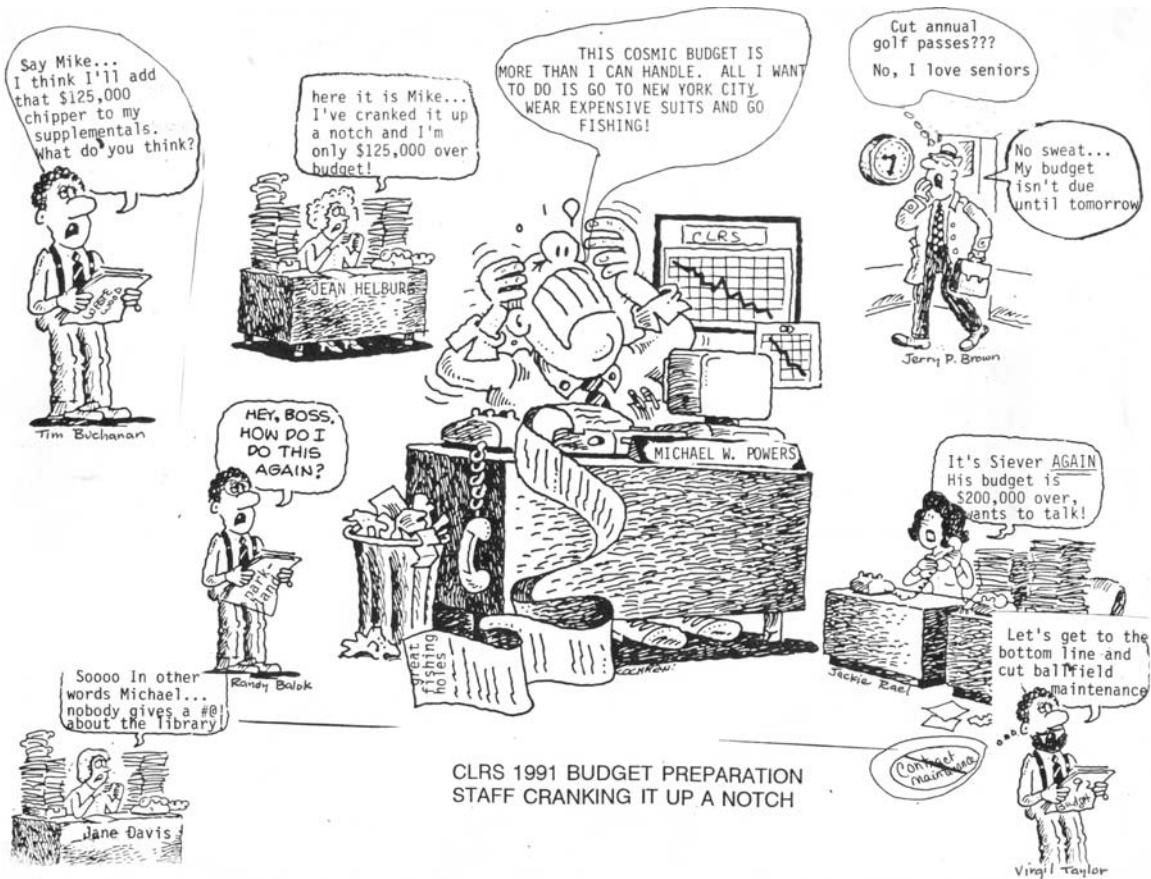
- City of Fort Collins Organizational Chart – citynet – Hot Topics
- Recreator program brochure – www.fcgov.com/recreator
- General Recreation Department information – www.fcgov.com/recreation
 - Facility pages

City Core Values (Reference I-B above)

- **Outstanding Service**: Service is our mission - it is what we do. We are committed to finding ways to exceed our customers' expectations and to constantly make our community a better place.
- **Innovation and Creativity**: We engage in leading edge thinking and explore new, creative approaches to service delivery and problem-solving. We are focused on finding better ways to do things.
- **Respect**: We communicate openly and honestly. We treat all people with dignity and respect and welcome diversity. We care deeply about our community and each other.
- **Integrity**: We exemplify the highest standards of behavior. We are honest, accountable, ethical, and trustworthy.
- **Initiative**: We are self-starters and look for ways to be proactive. We use our best judgment and take appropriate risks.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork**: We leverage our strengths and resources by partnering to create exceptional results.
- **Stewardship**: We are dedicated stewards of the community's natural, human, and financial resources.

Collaborations and Networking – External (Reference II-D above)

- Northern Colorado Sports Commission Chamber of Commerce
- Convention and Visitor's Bureau Breakfast Kiwanis Club
- Metro Junior Wrestling League Downtown Rotary Club
- Denver Nuggets Youth Outreach Hershey Track
- NRPA/NFL Football Youth Foundation Positive Coaching Alliance
- The Edge Sports Center USA Football
- Fort Collins Tennis Association USA Wrestling
- Northern Colorado Youth Hockey Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA
- Fort Collins Area Swim Team OD's Sports Crossing
- Ice Skating Club of Fort Collins Poudre School District
- Colorado High School Activities Association American Red Cross
- Downtown Development Authority/Beet Street Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Regional Public Information group Brain Injury Group
- North Fort Collins Business Association Disabled Resource Services
- Downtown Business Association TR Network – statewide
- Healthier Communities Coalition After school Task Force
- The Mother Center of Fort Collins Optimists Club
- Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
- Poudre Valley Hospital/Aspen Club
- Poudre Valley Hospital Foundation/ – Healthy Kids Club, CanDo Obesity Task Force
- Colorado State University: El Centro, Student Recreation Center, Athletics, Occupational Therapy; Health and Exercise Science; Human Development and Family Studies; Service Learning, Journalism, Marketing, Graphic Arts; Office of Community Participation; Work Study Program
- Larimer County Office on Aging; Eldercare Network
- Loveland, Longmont, and Greeley senior centers
- CHAMP (Character in Athletics Make it a Priority)
- Denver Broncos Community Youth Football Foundation
- Northern Colorado Football Officials Association
- Larimer County Youth and Adult Work Crew Programs



ODE TO PUBLIC RELATIONS

by Dave Warner and Janet Urban
mid 1980's – early 1990's

There once was a Super named Jean; who wanted the promos kept clean.
So she gathered a group to examine the poop; just listen and you'll see what I mean.

It was Urban, Bowers, and King who joined Warner to study this thing.
They categorized and rules they devised, and the results to you we now bring.

They sought to compile a short book to help staff produce a good look;
It was very concise, just look once or twice; use these samples and you're off the hook.

Make no mistake, there's a right and a wrong way to have your pieces displayed this day;
It's really quite easy; you needn't get queasy; do it right, and we'll all shout hooray!

Quality control indeed is the key, excellence is the by-product you'll see;
Read; implement; your time is well spent, and graphics will come naturally.

Our story is now almost through, and indeed we have much work to do.
Recall what's been said, plant it firmly in your head, and 'til next time, we sincerely thank you.