

# **FUTURE ISSUES IMPACTING PARKS AND RECREATION**

**CITY COUNCIL FUTURES COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 11, 2014**

# CHANGES COMING OUR WAY

- **Population growth:** 155,000 now 250,000 by 2050
- **Aging population:** 11% (17,000) now 65 or older, 19% (40,000) will be 65 or older in 2030 but will decline to 11% by 2060
- **Young population:** 32% (50,000) now 20 to 34 years old
- **More diverse:** Nationally Hispanic population increased four times faster than the general population from 2000 to 2010

# CHANGES COMING OUR WAY

- **Hispanics** make up 10% of our population but this percentage is likely to increase
- The **Asian** population is also increasing four times faster than the general population nationally
- **Asians** make up 3% of our population but this percentage is likely to increase

# CHANGES COMING OUR WAY

- **People with disabilities** represent 7% of our population but this percentage is likely to increase due to our aging population
- **Affluent:** Family income in Fort Collins is \$76,000, nationally it's \$65,000
- **Poor:** 25% of Fort Collins households earn less than \$25,000, transient population on the rise
- **Educated:** 60% of adults have an associates degree or higher, nationally it's 37%

# CHANGES COMING OUR WAY

- **Climate Change:** May see more flooding, drought, water shortage, extreme temperatures, decline in urban forest, insect and disease issues
- **Emerald Ash Borer:** In Boulder, will be in Fort Collins within 10 years, kills all untreated ash trees (8,000 public ash trees up to 80,000 private)
- **Technology:** hyper-connectivity, nanotechnology, genetic engineering, longer lifespans, innovation centers.....

# EMBRACING THE FUTURE

- **Build out the park system:** 10 new neighborhood parks and 3 new community parks funded by capital expansion fees
- **Build out the trail system:** 31 miles of new trail with 10 or more underpasses and greater connectivity to streets, neighborhoods, schools and businesses
- **Build Community/Recreation Centers:** One in the southeast, one at Spring Canyon Park and one at the future northeast community park, and complete The Gardens on Spring Creek

# EMBRACING THE FUTURE

- **New facilities:** special events, regional dog park, regional sports complex, velo park
- **Take care of what we have:** focus on maintenance, repair, renovation of parks, trails and recreation facilities to keep them in good shape to handle increasing use
- **Improve what we have:** listen to our customer's changing needs and improve, redesign and upgrade parks, trails and recreation facilities, e.g. adventure playgrounds

# EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

- **Poudre River:** Implement the Downtown River Plan
- **Water conservation:** Reduce water use by increasing native and xeriscaping areas in parks, upgrading irrigation systems, lining ditches, utilizing artificial turf, more splash parks
- **Water storage:** Develop appropriate water storage to mitigate drought, water shortage impacts to parks, pools and facilities



# EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

- **Utilize Technology:** stay current, stay connected, use social media and its future iterations, enhance customer experience and loyalty, upgrade and fully utilize technology for operational efficiency
- **Tailor recreation programs** to appeal to distinct groups: aging, active boomers; singles with kids; grandparents raising grandkids; minorities

# EMBRACING THE FUTURE

- **Focus on wellness:** fight obesity, make it easy to be active and engaged, provide a respite from hectic, hyper-connected lifestyles
- **Access for low-income:** use Recreation profit centers to help subsidize services for low-income citizens; continue/increase GF subsidies for low-income programs
- **Focus on innovation:** idea pods; maker spaces; explore new technology; connect, share, collaborate

# EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

- **Partnerships:** CSU, PSD, Front Range, health providers, business community, technology companies, non-profits
- **Partnerships:** Identify and develop common interests, equal resource sharing, stop doing if private sector is meeting the need
- **Outsourcing:** Outsource to improve service, reduce cost, lower overhead

# EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

- **Park funding:** funding to upgrade and improve existing parks is generally limited to capital expansion fees from infill development but additional funding will be needed for the parks to meet the changing needs of the community and increased use
- **Park funding:** funding to maintain, repair and renovate existing parks will need to increase to keep the parks in good shape and to deal with increased use

# EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

- **Trail funding:** 27 years to build out the trail system at current funding levels; various options to increase trail funding have been presented to Council recently
- **KFCG:** funds ongoing park maintenance and recreation services with significant service reductions if not renewed or replaced
- **Donations:** donor base is increasing and diversifying; need to engage donor base to support key parks and recreation projects

# EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

- **STAY NIMBLE:** the next 20, 50, 100 years will bring changes we cannot possibly anticipate but we can embrace these changes and the opportunities they present by staying current, staying connected, and staying nimble