City of Fort Collins
Parks & Recreation

# RēCreate

## PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Rēthink.
Rēnew.
Rēimagine.

JANUARY 2021

RECREATE: PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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Bicycle Colorado

Bike Fort Collins

CSU

Cycles for Youth

Downtown Business Association

Downtown Development Authority

Fort Collins Areas Swim Team

Fort Collins Baseball Club

Fort Collins Pickleball Club

Fort Collins Running Club

Fort Collins Ultimate Frisbee

Fort Collins Womens Hockey

Larimer County Dept of the Built Environment

Lewis Tennis School

Liberty Common Charter School

Northern Colorado Disc Golf

Overland Mountain Bike Association

Poudre School District

Rocky Mountain Adventures

Tennis Association

Triple Crown Sports

Twin Silo BMX

University Bike Advisory Committee

Visit Fort Collins

Your Group Ride

City of Fort Collins

# RēCreate

## Rēthink. Rēnew. Rēimagine.

Prepared for the City of Fort Collins

by OLIN

with PROS Consulting, Mundus Bishop,
the Trust for Public Land, and ETC Institute

January 2021

Parks and recreation are part of what attracts residents to Fort Collins and entices them to stay. In 2008 the City adopted a Parks and Recreation Policy Plan, which provided a strategy for expanding parks and recreation to align with the community's vision for the future. As a city that is proud to build what we plan, since 2008 we have added a half dozen new neighborhood parks, Twin Silo Community Park, Poudre River Whitewater Park, the Foothills Activity Center, and miles of new trails—and more is underway.

As Fort Collins continues to meet its future, this new Parks and Recreation Master Plan, ReCreate, is a roadmap to making the best use of the resources we have. We acknowledge that parks and recreation provide immense value to the community and offer benefits that touch every one of the City's outcome areas. It means acknowledging that parks and recreation are part of a holistic system of public spaces that spans the natural and the designed, the big and the small, the urban and the not-so-urban, but together bring beauty to Fort Collins and give it an intentional sense of place. We acknowledge that partnerships within and outside of city government are necessary to provide the high-quality spaces and programs that residents have come to expect.

As we work to rethink, renew, and reimagine parks and recreation in Fort Collins, we are committed to ensuring that equity is a primary consideration. The process of developing the plan included engagement with a representative cross-section of residents, and equity is a theme interwoven throughout the master plan to ensure all community members benefit from the richness of parks and recreation. This shows up in the plan's level of service metrics ensuring access to recreational amenities across the city; it shows up in recommendations to expand equitable program pricing strategies; and it shows up in proposing we proactively and consistently bring neighbors into the process of shaping future projects so that public space reflects the needs and values of the community.

I could not be more optimistic for the future of parks and recreation in Fort Collins and look forward to seeing the vision of this plan realized.



Wade Troxell
Mayor

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# INTRODUCTION

PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN





# INTRODUCTION

*Every great city has great parks. Some great cities are also lucky enough to lie within great landscapes.*

*With exceptional natural resources, charm, and high quality of life, growth in Fort Collins shows no sign of slowing down. Parks and recreation must keep up. The City has been diligent about purchasing and preserving land for future parks, but limited land and high demand mean that parks must compete with other priorities, including housing and transportation. And, as recreational preferences continue to change, there will always be another trend to consider while providing all of the opportunities residents have come to expect.*

*The Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Master Plan examines park and recreation needs in the context of the city's impressive system of public spaces and articulates an ambitious yet attainable vision for parks and recreation in the future. To implement this vision, the plan weaves together strategies, guidelines, and decision-making tools that the City can use as a road map to shape the park and recreation system over the next 20 years.*

**Glowing paths add a sense wonder to the night.**
Twin Silo Community Park

# A HOLISTIC SYSTEM OF PUBLIC SPACES

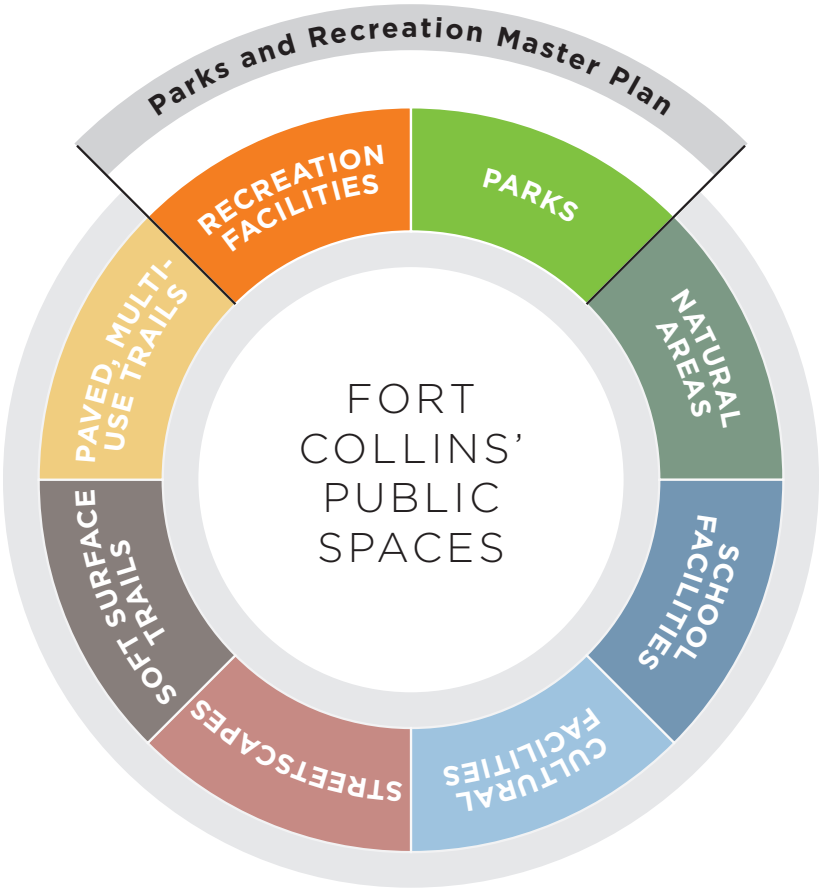
A bike ride along the Poudre River Trail for some fresh air or for a commute to work. A walk into the foothills to decompress or to learn. A ballgame for the championship or between neighbors. A dip in the pool to cool off or to maintain agility. A slide through a grain silo or a sugar beet. Flowers and holiday lights in Old Town. Tree-lined streets that turn into festival grounds. Public spaces are part of what make Fort Collins Fort Collins.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan focuses specifically on parks and recreation and reflects the holistic, interconnected view of the city's public spaces articulated by City Plan (Policies CR 3.1 and 3.2). While each part of the holistic system serves a different purpose, has its own vision, and is managed differently, residents should experience these spaces as complementary and seamless.

"Our parks, I think, are a jewel, an asset, that we can, through this integration and systems perspective, get so much more out of for our community."

—Mayor Wade Troxell

**A focus on parks and recreation, within a framework of the city's public space network.**
Components of Fort Collins' Public Spaces Network




**Sliding through the city's agricultural history.**
Sugar Beet Park Playground



# PARKS AND RECREATION VISION

**Parks, trails, and recreation facilities in Fort Collins are an invitation to all community members to sustain and build wellness, curiosity, innovation, and community—as part of the city's iconic, interconnected network of public space.**







# CONTEXT

PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN


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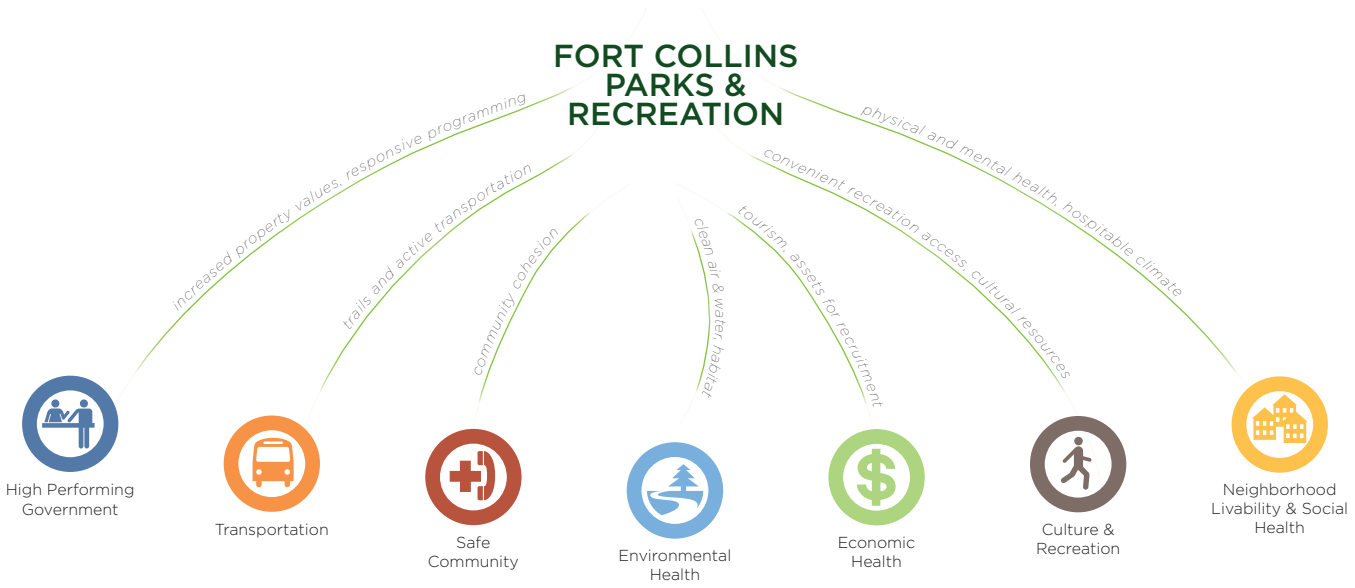


# THE VALUE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*People flock to Fort Collins, and stay, due to the city's high quality of life—to which parks and recreation facilities are major contributors. Try to imagine Fort Collins without parks or recreation. Together, parks and recreation have a profound impact on residents' health, happiness, and well-being.*

*On the surface, parks and recreation provide opportunities for people to relax, exercise, and socialize in a natural setting. However, their impacts ripple out into almost all aspects of urban life. They provide essential benefits not just to residents, but also to the city's environmental and economic well-being.*

**Dog owners are frequent users of parks and trails.**
Crescent Park




**Parks and recreation contribute to all of Fort Collins' community priorities.**

Connections between parks and recreation and Fort Collins' seven outcome areas.

# BENEFITS BY OUTCOME AREA

Fort Collins recognizes the tremendous benefits it receives from its public spaces and will continue to find ways to increase and leverage those benefits.

In fact, parks and recreation in Fort Collins provide benefits in every one of the City's seven outcome areas, which represent overarching community priorities: neighborhood livability, social health, environmental health, economic health, a high performing government, safer communities, cultural health, and active transportation. These outcome areas are used for budgeting and for tracking progress.

An investment in parks and recreation is an investment in all of the community's priorities.

## Neighborhood Livability and Social Health Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities are a vital part of life in urban settings, and they positively affect both the mind and body of the residents who use them.

There is no question that physical activity provides a multitude of health benefits. As the U.S. Surgeon General states, "Americans can substantially improve their health and quality of life by including moderate amounts of physical activity in their daily lives."[1] The difficulty arises when people do not have the time or place to exercise. There is strong evidence to suggest, however, that people are much more likely to exercise when they have easy access to

**48%**

**Increase in physical activity with better park access and outreach**

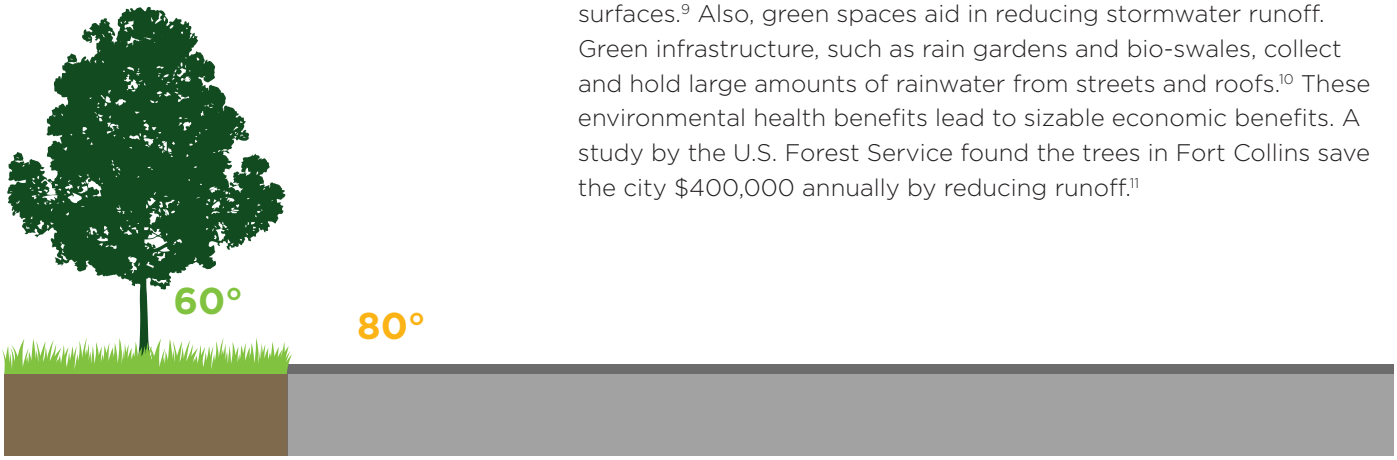
park space. One study in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine found that enhanced access to parks along with public outreach led to a 48 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity.[2] Unfortunately, the opposite is also true. When people do not have easy access to parks, they are far less likely to exercise at all.[2] Increasing access to parks can positively benefit communities by reducing rates of preventable diseases such as diabetes and obesity.

The health benefits of parks and recreation go beyond physical to include mental health benefits. Places with green features, such as parks and recreation facilities, help reduce mental fatigue.[3] Trees, in particular, can lessen depression and anxiety and improve memory.[4,5]

One of the most telling accounts of this is in children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, or ADD. ADD impairs a person's ability to focus on tasks for an extended length of time, and treatments cost the U.S. around $30 billion annually.[6] Parks may play a key role in helping those struggling with this condition. One study found that children with ADD were able to concentrate much better after playing in a park with greenery. [7] The study also found that the more greenery the park had, the more the child was relieved of the ADD symptoms.[7]

## Environmental Health Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities also present significant benefits to the environment by helping to improve water and air quality. Trees play the most significant role in this because they continuously remove pollutants from the air. It is estimated that within the lower 48 states, urban trees remove 783,000 tons of pollution every year.[8] This environmental service is estimated to be worth $5.6 billion to the U.S.[8] Trees also help to reduce the heat island effect in urban areas by actively lowering the temperature around and beneath their canopies. This temperature difference is not insignificant. Shaded surfaces may be between 20 and 45 degrees cooler than unshaded surfaces.[9] Also, green spaces aid in reducing stormwater runoff. Green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and bio-swales, collect and hold large amounts of rainwater from streets and roofs.[10] These environmental health benefits lead to sizable economic benefits. A study by the U.S. Forest Service found the trees in Fort Collins save the city $400,000 annually by reducing runoff.[11]




**Shaded surfaces may be between 20 and 45 degrees cooler than their unshaded surroundings**



**Events within parks and at recreation facilities stimulate the local economy.**
Story time at The Farm at Lee Martinez Community Park

## Economic Health Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities are economic drivers within cities. Property values near parks are significantly higher than those without parks nearby. A report studying the effects of the Greenbelt in Boulder, Colorado, found that a home's value next to the Greenbelt was over 30 percent higher than those only a half-mile away. [12] Conversely, a property's value decreased by about $4 for every foot away from the park it was.[12] Parks also increase economic health by contributing to local tourism, which in turn leads to more money being spent at business and shops. The state of Colorado estimates that outdoor recreation generates over $13 billion in consumer spending every year. [13] This spending leads to almost $1 billion in state and local tax revenue.[13]

## High Performing Government Benefits

Governments in cities with more parks also see their share of the benefits. Analysts estimate that in 2015, public park and recreation agencies in the U.S. generated an astounding $154 billion in economic activity and supported 1.1 million jobs.[14] Parks also help governments save money in ways that are less obvious but still extremely important. A report by the American Forest estimates that trees in cities help to reduce the costs of stormwater retention facilities by $400 billion.[15]

## Safe Community Benefits

Although harder to quantify, the role parks and recreation facilities play in social health and community engagement should not be understated. At a minimum, they help to make places more livable and more beautiful, which makes residents take more pride in their neighborhoods. Parks and recreation facilities provide places for people to gather and to socialize. They serve as places to hold events that strengthen community bonds and cultural ties. Small events such as birthday parties and reunions bring friends together, while large civic events can draw entire neighborhoods. Both are important and make neighborhoods more lively, active spaces.

## Culture and Recreation Benefits

Parks are also cultural assets. Communities of all kinds use parks and recreation facilities as places for engagement, meetings, or events. They also reflect the history and culture of a city. Fort Collins' Twin Silo and Sugar Beet Parks, for example, pay homage to the agricultural and working class roots of the city.

Perhaps the most obvious benefits of parks and recreation facilities are as places that enable and promote recreation. From passive activities to more active athletic activities, from opportunities to engage as individuals to those for groups, from indoor to outdoor activities, from the competitive to the casual, parks and recreation facilities are the most common places for people to unwind, relax, and spend their leisure time.

**Spending leisure time playing pickleball.**
Twin Silo Park



## Transportation Benefits

Trails are a critical part of the parks and recreation system. However, they serve both recreation and transportation purposes. Therefore, trails need to be considered a critical piece of transportation infrastructure. A study in 2008 by the Rails to Trails Conservancy found that "50 percent of trips taken in the United States can be accomplished by riding a bicycle for 20 minutes and 25 percent of short trips can be completed by walking 20 minutes or less".[17] According to the National Household Travel Survey, less than 1 percent of daily trips are completed with a bike, and only 11 percent are completed by walking.[18] In other words, people are driving to places that could be easily walked or biked to. One reason for this may be the lack of active transportation infrastructure such as greenways and trails. This infrastructure allows people to integrate biking or walking into their routines and leads to more active lifestyles, a healthier population, fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and less traffic.

Active transportation infrastructure, including bike trails, has been shown to create more direct and indirect jobs than road infrastructure. A study by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts investigated the impacts of new bicycle infrastructure in 11 U.S. cities They found that bicycle infrastructure generated about 11 jobs per $1 million spent, compared with eight jobs for road infrastructure.[19]

**50%**

**of all trips in the U.S. could be completed by riding a bicycle for just 20 minutes**



**Multi-use trails in Fort Collins are well-used by recreational users and commuters.**

Fossil Creek Trail







# THE 2008 POLICY PLAN

*This Parks and Recreation Master Plan replaces the 2008 Parks and Recreation Policy Plan, which guided decision-making and management related to parks and recreation for over a decade. Since its adoption, the City has taken great strides towards meeting the plan's goals, and the system has grown to include new parks, trails, and facilities.*

**Art adds another dimension to parks and trails in Fort Collins.**
Fossil Creek Trail

# 2008 POLICY PLAN SUMMARY

The 2008 Parks and Recreation Policy Plan replaced the 1996 Parks and Recreation Policy Plan. It was the result of a process that included City staff, residents, and City Council. The plan set out a vision, guiding principles, goals, objectives, and strategies.

### Goals

- Maintain Appropriate Level of Service as the Community Grows
- Implement Buildout of the Park System, Trail System and Recreation Facilities
- Address Issues Raised During the Public Process
- Address Issues Raised by City Staff
- Seek Increased Funding
- Increase Partnerships and Collaborations
- Evaluate Pricing and Cost Recovery
- Evaluate Marketing and Communications

### Buildout

Much as today, Fort Collins in 2008 was experiencing rapid growth. Unlike today, the city had more room to grow. A heavy focus of the 2008 plan was on developing a plan for buildout of new parks in rapidly growing greenfield areas.

# PROGRESS SINCE 2008

### New Parks

Since 2008, the Park Planning and Development Department has added several new parks to the public space system. These include:

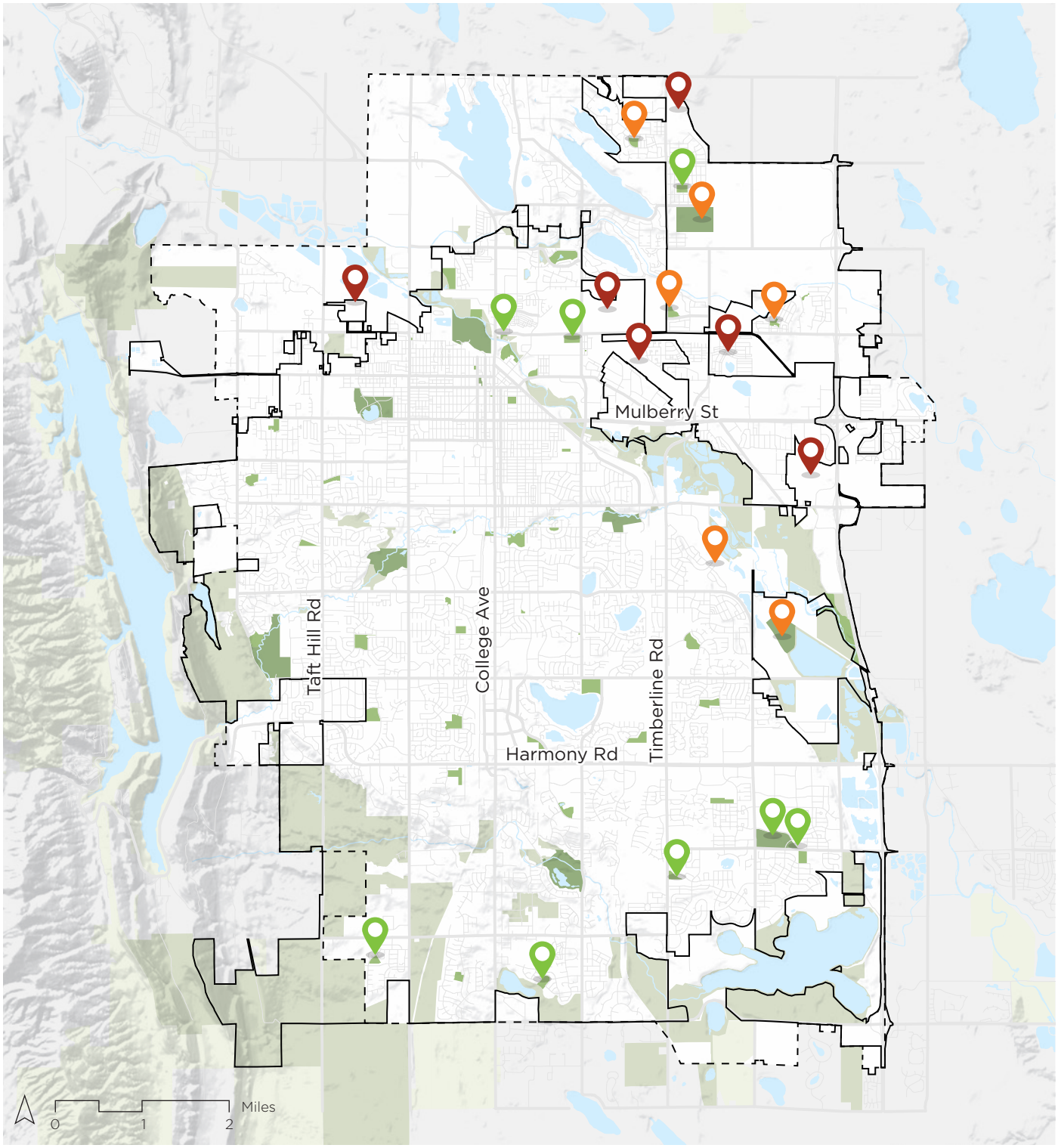
- Poudre River White Water Park, 2019
- Sugar Beet Park, 2019
- Twin Silo Community Park, 2017
- Crescent Park, 2017
- Radiant Park, 2013
- Waters Way Park, 2012
- Registry Park, 2012

### New Recreation Centers

The Recreation Department has also completed the Foothills Activity Center, bringing recreation opportunities to Midtown Fort Collins, and continued to improve and update its program offerings and amenities. Many facilities have been given major renovations.

### Trails

Several new trails have also been added to the public space system including the Power Trail, the Fossil Creek Trail, the Mason Trail, Front Range Trail, Lincoln Middle School spur, multiple new segments of the Poudre Trail, and the Long View Trail.




## Parks Progress Since the 2008 Policy Plan

- Proposed Parks: Complete
- Proposed Parks: in Progress
- Proposed Parks: Not Started





# PLANNING CONTEXT

*The CIty of Fort Collins is committed to thoughtful, inclusive planning for its future, and it strives to follow through on the aspirations of its adopted plans. From City Plan to system plans to area plans to specific studies, Fort Collins has a constellation of existing plans with visions and policy that guide City actions toward a more sustainable and prosperous future. It is essential to understand the planning context within which the Parks and Recreation Master Plan fits and which should, in turn, be informed by this plan in the future.*

**Fort Collins is home to one of only a handful of in-channel whitewater courses in the country.**
Poudre River Whitewater Park

# CITY PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN

## Strategic Plan (2020)

The Fort Collins Strategic Plan focuses on short- and mid-term guidance, setting a five-year road map for community priorities, articulating ways to measure success, and aligning work across projects and departments.

## City Plan (2019)

City Plan is the comprehensive plan for Fort Collins. It articulates the community's long-term vision and core values, and establishes the overall policy foundation that is be used by the City, its partners, and the community at large to work toward that vision. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is one of several functional plans that more explicitly provide direction on how to implement City Plan's priorities.

**As the comprehensive plan, City Plan sets the core values and vision for Fort Collins.**

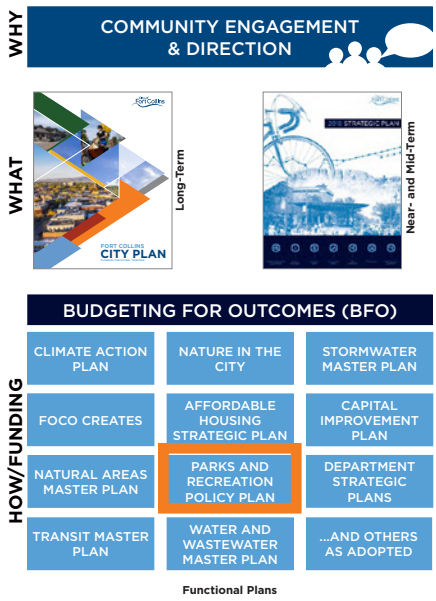
City Plan - Budgeting and Organization

### What is City Plan?

City Plan is the comprehensive and transportation master plan for Fort Collins. It articulates our community's vision and core values; guides how the community will grow and travel in the future; and provides high-level policy direction used by the City organization, local and regional partners, and the community at large to achieve our vision and priorities.

City Plan takes the long view, identifying goals and actions the community should take over the next ten to twenty years. The implementation of City Plan is facilitated by partnerships and the City's Strategic Plan, which provides short- and mid-term guidance. Both are supported by the City's budgeting process, department-level functional plans and the availability of funding from many sources.

Technologies and innovations, some of which are not fully available today, may be needed to fully implement this Plan. Implementation strategies will also rely on continually assessing community priorities and allowing for ongoing community dialogue.






### Plan Organization

City Plan consists of six primary sections:

| | |
|---|---|
| COMMUNITY VISION AND CORE VALUES | Establishes overarching direction for City Plan and highlights "big ideas" that underpin other parts of the plan. Livability, Community, Sustainability |
| PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES | Provides overall policy foundation for the community and City organization. Principles and policies are organized by the seven key outcome areas corresponding to the City's organizational structure and the BFO process. Neighborhood Livability & Social Health; Culture & Recreation; Economic Health; Environmental Health; Safe Community; Transportation; High Performing Community |
| STRUCTURE PLAN | This land use plan guides growth and development within the Fort Collins GMA, including the mix of uses, infill and redevelopment, and the types of infrastructure and transportation investments needed. Structure Plan map |
| TRANSPORTATION PLAN | Guides improvements in pedestrian, bicycle, transit and roadway infrastructure for the city and the Growth Management Area (GMA). |
| IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING | Identifies strategies to support the implementation of principles and policies in each outcome area. Implementation Strategies; Plan Amendments and Monitoring |
| APPENDICES | A: Trends and Forces Report<br>B: Housing Trends and Demand Forecast Assessment<br>C: Employment Land Demand Analysis<br>D: Employment Land Suitability Analysis<br>E: Transportation Master Plan Resources<br>F: Transit Master Plan |

#### Other City Plan Elements

City Plan incorporates existing plan elements and related plans by reference. As new plan elements and other related planning documents are prepared and adopted, they will become a part of City Plan. In general, all references to "the city" or "community" apply to both the incorporated city limits and the GMA.

# FUNCTIONAL PLANS

**Natural Areas Vision:** *Through the work of the Natural Areas Department, a diverse system of conserved and restored lands will connect community members to nature. These conserved lands will protect nature and contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community.*

**Nature In The City Vision:** *A connected open space network accessible to the entire community that provides a variety of experiences and functional habitat for people, plants and wildlife.*

## Transit Master Plan (2019)

The Transportation Master Plan outlines strategies to achieve full community access and create a safe and reliable multi-modal transpiration network.

## Natural Areas Master Plan (2014)

The Natural Areas Master Plan is very closely aligned with this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and both support each other in order to succeed. The Natural Areas Master Plan presents an overview of the Natural Areas program and establishes the priorities for conservation and stewardship of the city's natural areas system.

## Nature In The City (2015)

Nature in the City is a strategic plan focused on ensuring that access to nature is a defining feature of Fort Collins as the City grows and becomes more densely populated. The plan provides resources and approaches to achieve this goal.

## Pedestrian Plan (2011)

The Pedestrian Plan outlines pedestrian issues within the city and proposes possible solutions to these problems. The plan's goal is to help the community overcome pedestrian hazards and create a safe and adequate pedestrian network within the city.

## Paved Recreational Trail Master Plan (2013)

The Paved Recreational Trails Master Plan provides a vision and strategy for a city wide connected paved trail network. New trail development is led by the Park Planning and Development Department.

## Stormwater Master Plan (2003)

The Stormwater Master Plan Update highlights stormwater projects throughout the city and addresses new sustainable practices that can return impacted streams to healthy ecosystems.

## Municipal Sustainability and Adaptation Plan (2019)

The Municipal Sustainability and Adaptation Plan is an update of the 2013 Sustainability Plan and outlines how the City will implement sustainable practices across multiple departments. The plan presents goals, objectives, and strategies for the future.

# OTHER COMPLETED PLANS AND STUDIES

## FoCo Creates Arts and Culture Master Plan (2020)

The FoCo Creates Arts and Culture Master Plan is a 10-year plan that seeks to make arts and the creative culture in Fort Collins inclusive, equitable, and engaging for all residents in a way that promotes well-being and lifelong learning; Fort Collins as a destination for visitors; and a comprehensive and collaborative network.

## Larimer County Comprehensive Plan (2019)

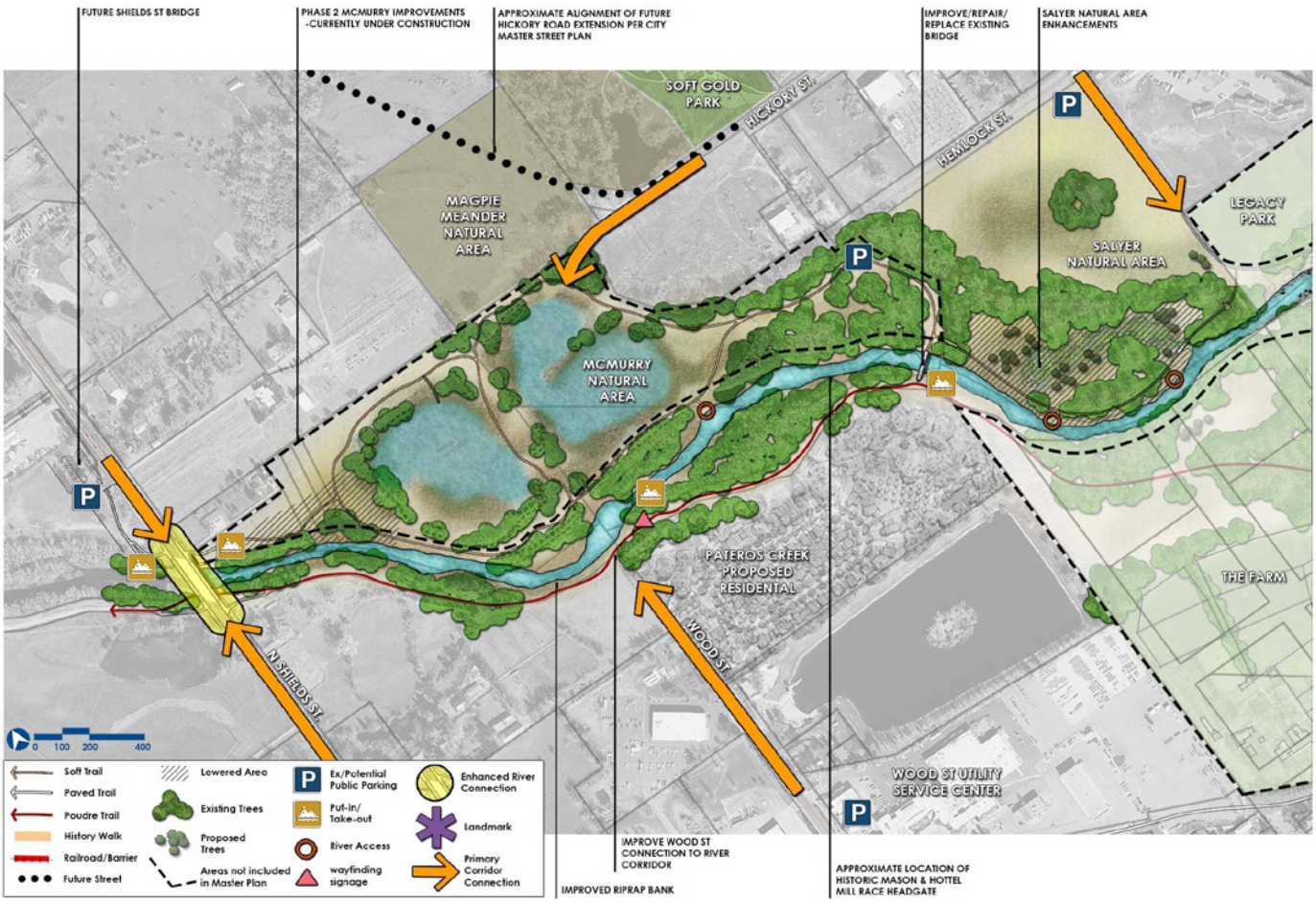
The Larimer County Comprehensive Plan establishes a framework for decision making into the future. It takes many other plans and community feedback into account in order to create a plan that has the best interest of the county in mind.

## Poudre River Downtown Master Plan (2014)

The Poudre River Downtown Master Plan focuses on a three mile stretch of the Cache La Poudre River between N Shields Street and Mulberry Street. The plan provides strategies to increase habitat, recreation, and flood mitigation throughout this segment of the river, across parks and natural areas.

**Envisioning an integrated public space system along the Poudre River across administrative boundaries.**

Poudre River Downtown Master Plan: Reach 1



## Fort Collins Sports Facility Market and Feasibility Analysis (2019)

The Fort Collins Sports Facility Market and Feasibility Analysis identifies that there is market potential for a new sports complex in Fort Collins. Based on its market analysis, it offers two options for facilities that would have the most potential for economic impact: an 8-court indoor sports facility or a 16-diamond outdoor sports facility.

## Fort Collins Southeast Community Recreation & Arts Center Summary of Needs and Development Plan (2013)

The Summary of Needs and Development Plan is a feasibility study for a new Southeast Community Recreation and Arts Center. The study finds that a program consisting of a 78,900 gross sq. ft. of spaces in Fossil Creek Park would meet the needs and expectations of residents, while providing the greatest value for the future.

**The proposed Southeast Community Center would enhance Fossil Creek Community Park.**
Fossil Creek Site Plan



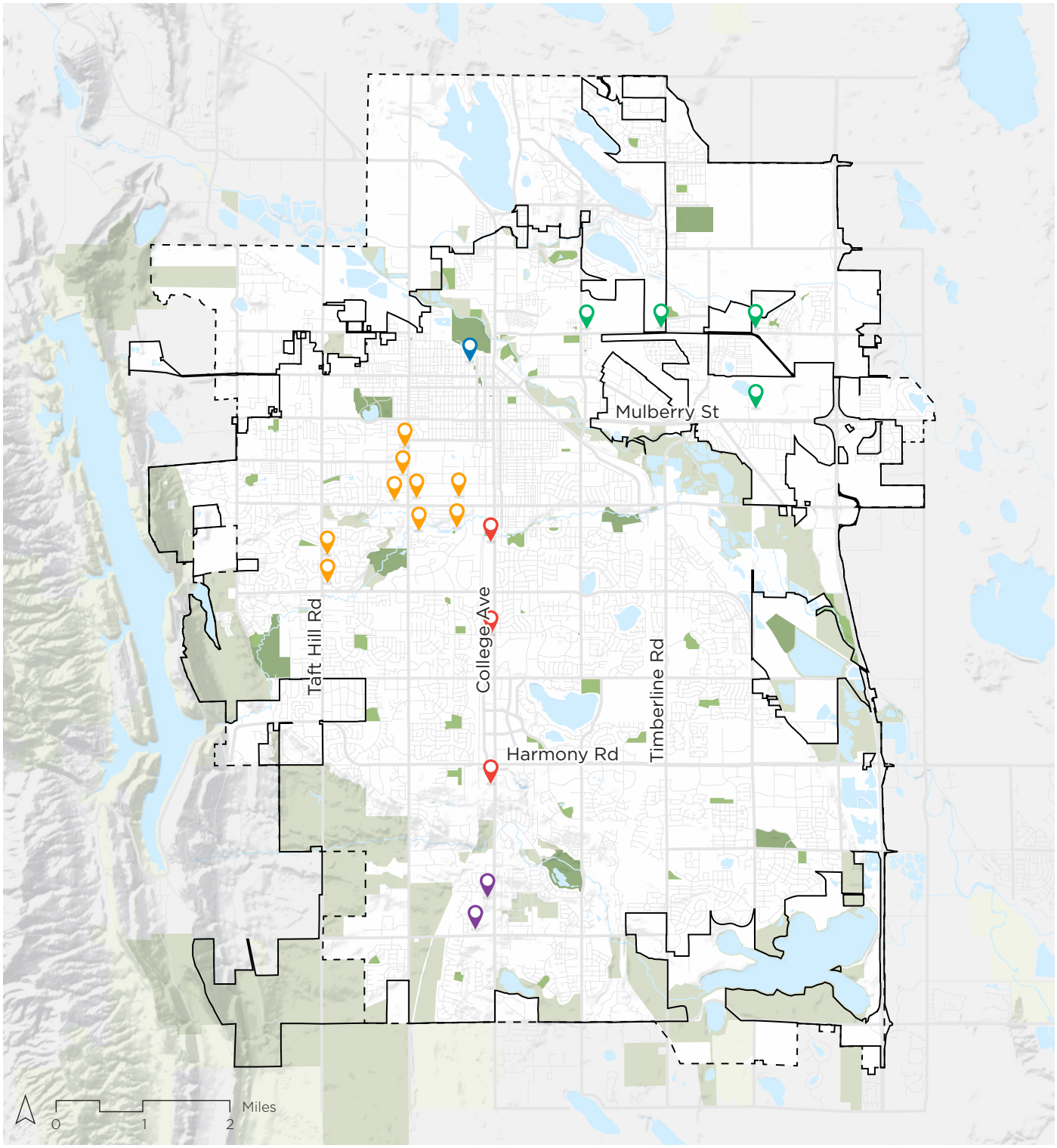
### Sub Area Plans

Adopted sub area plans get to a finer grain of land use and policy detail for specific geographic areas of the city. The West Central Area Plan, Midtown Plan, South College Corridor Plan, East Mulberry Corridor Plan, Downtown Plan, Mountain Vista Subarea Plan, and Northwest Subarea Plan identify opportunities for new parks and public spaces. As further development and redevelopment occur, these spaces should be reconsidered in the context of this plan.

## ONGOING EFFORTS

### Canal Importation Stormwater Master Plan

Fort Collins Utilities is currently working to update the Selected Plan of Improvements section of the Stormwater Master Plan to identify alternatives directed at addressing flooding issues in the Canal Importation Basin. In addition to developing solutions to reduce flood risk, the Selected Plan will include opportunities for water quality improvements, stream rehabilitation, habitat enhancement, open space preservation, and recreation.




## Potential Park Sites Identified in Sub Area Plans

- West Central Area Plan (Open Space)
- East Mulberry Corridor Plan (Neighborhood/Mini Park)
- Midtown Plan (Civic Amenity)
- Downtown Plan (Civic Center Park)
- South College Corridor Plan (Open Lands)





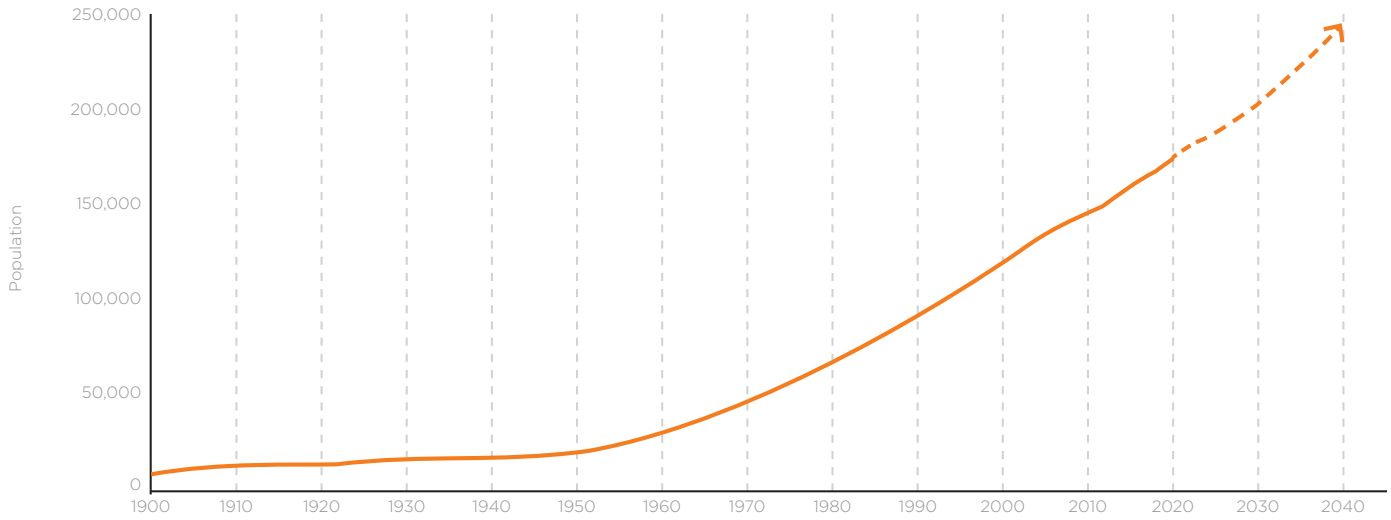
# TRENDS

*National, regional, and local trends affect Fort Collins' public spaces. National participation trends show the growth or decline in recreational activities, which provides insight into recreational amenities that may be more or less important to residents. Yet, the trend with the greatest impact on the future of parks and recreation can be found in projected population forecasts that show continued population growth in Fort Collins through at least 2040. This affects the number of facilities needed over the coming years and increases the pressure to preserve natural resources and provide casual use spaces. These trends informed this plan's recommendations and will continue to guide the implementation of this plan.*

**Playgrounds are needed across the city, as neighborhoods transition between age groups over time.**
Sugar Beet Park

# DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

**Figure 1. Growth took off in the 1950s and has not slowed down.**
Recorded and projected population, 1900–2040.




Source: United States Historic City Populations 1790-2010 (Stanford University & University of Nebraska Omaha). U.S. Census 2018 Annual Estimates of Resident Population.

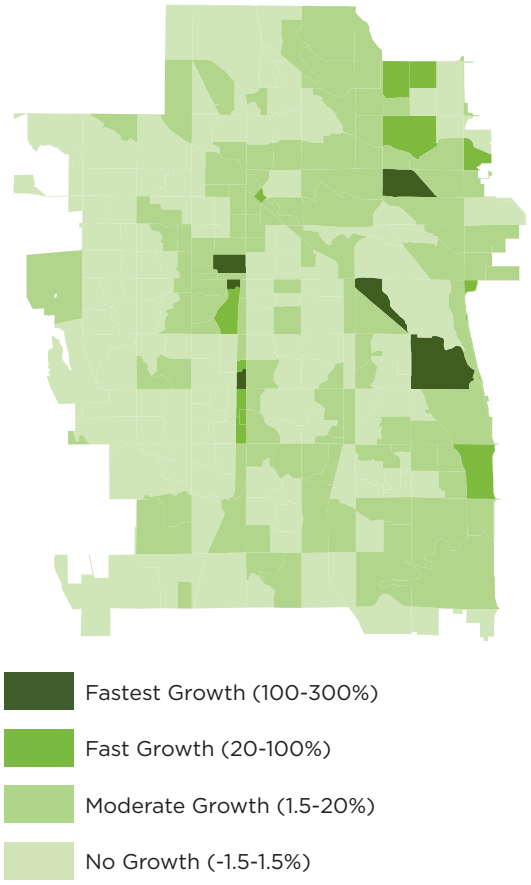
## Population Growth

Fort Collins has grown significantly over the last century and will continue to experience accelerated growth well into the current century (Figure 1). Between 2020 and 2040, the city is expected to grow by nearly 40%, from 174,871 residents to almost 240,000.[20] The fastest growth is expected to occur in east and northeast Fort Collins, as well as along South College Avenue (Figure 2).

## Education

Almost 63% of the residents living in Fort Collins have a college or advanced degree.[21] This is almost 13% higher than the average for Larimer County at 46.3%.[21]

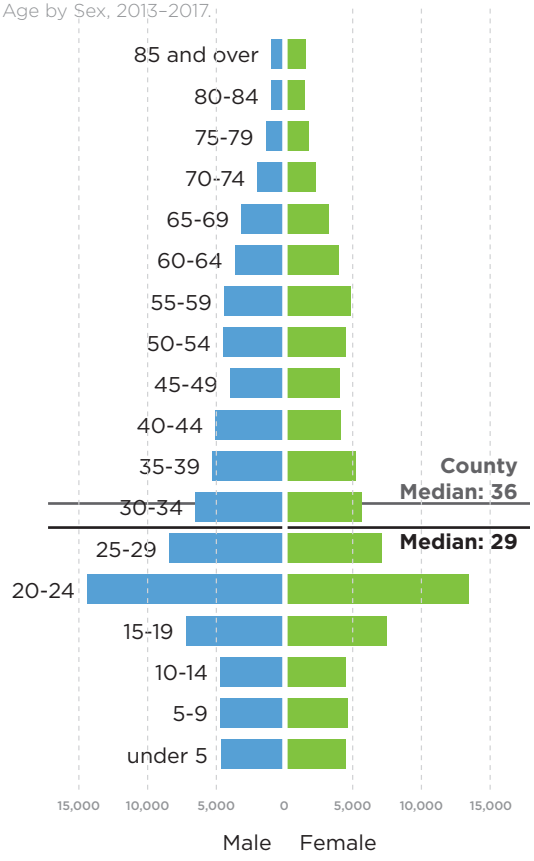
**Figure 2. Fastest growth projected in east and northeast Fort Collins, as well as along S. College Ave.**
Projected growth rate, 2015–2030.




Source: North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization - Population Projections 2015–2030.

**Figure 3. Fort Collins is young, with a median age 7 years younger than Larimer County.**

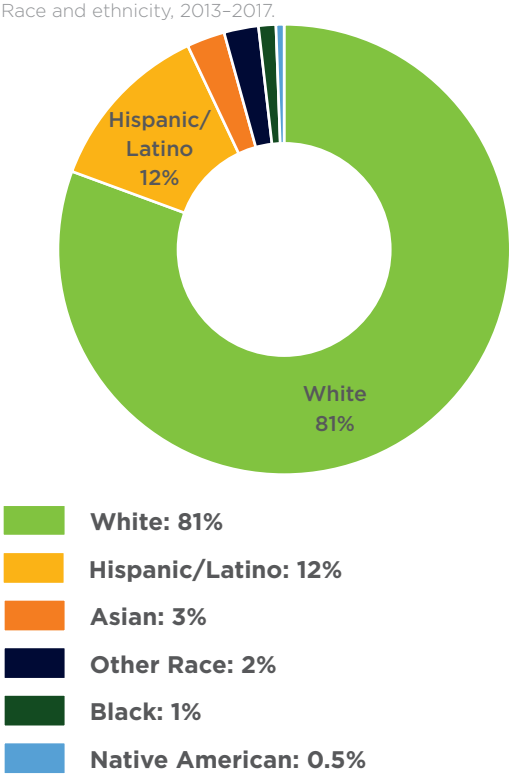
Age by Sex, 2013–2017.




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013–2017 5-Year Estimates, Table B01001, 2017.

**Figure 4. The large majority of Fort Collins identifies as white.**

Race and ethnicity, 2013–2017.




Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013–2017 5-Year Estimates, Table B01001H, 2017.

## Age

Fort Collins is much younger than Larimer County, with a median age of 29 years that is 7 years younger than that of the county, 36 years (Figure 3).[22]

## Income

The median annual household income in Fort Collins is over $60,110, nearly 12 percent lower than the $67,664 median annual household income for all of Larimer County (Figure 5).[23] The city also has a poverty level of 17% which is higher than the surrounding county (13%).[23]

## Race and Ethnicity

Fort Collins and Larimer County have a similar racial and ethnic makeup. A very large proportion of Fort Collins residents are white (81%)[24] (Figure 4).More than half of the remaining fifth of Fort Collins is Hispanic or Latino (12%).[24]

## Spatial Patterns

Comparing demographics at the Census block group level to citywide averages shows a number of spatial patterns that should be taken into consideration when addressing park and recreation needs and when conducting future engagement.

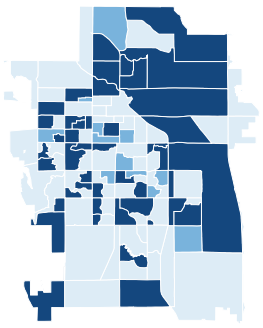
Compared to the city average, the east and northeast parts of Fort Collins have higher percentages of Hispanic and Latino residents, the southeast part of Fort Collins has a higher percentage of Asian residents, and the east and south parts of Fort Collins have higher percentages of Black residents.

The neighborhoods surrounding downtown and Colorado State University have higher shares of residents below the poverty line than the city as a whole.

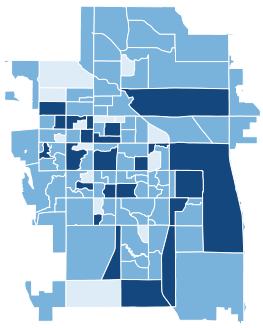
The northeast part of Fort Collins, particularly around the Poudre River, is a potentially vulnerable area according to the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment's Health Equity Index. The index is a tool that weights socioeconomic factors and health indicators.

Runners take their marks at the Healthy Kids Run
Healthy Kids Run

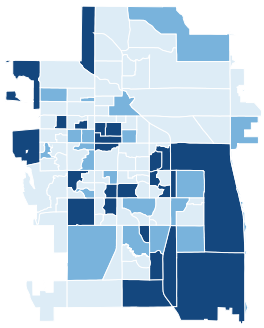
**Figure 5. Spatial patterns of race, ethnicity, income, and health should inform future engagement.**
Shares of residents compared to the city average (race, ethnicity, income) and ranked index of priorities (health)



Hispanic/Latino Residents



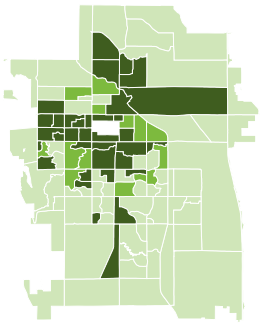
Black Residents



Asian Residents

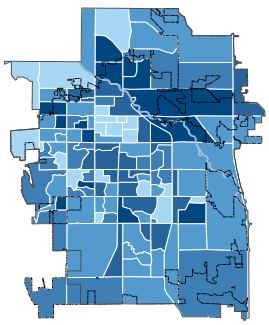


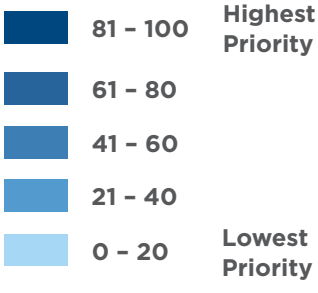

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013–2017 5-Year Estimates, Table B01001H, 2017.






Residents below the Poverty Line






Larimer Co. Health Equity Index

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2013–2017 5-Year Estimates, Table B19001, 2017.

Source: City Plan



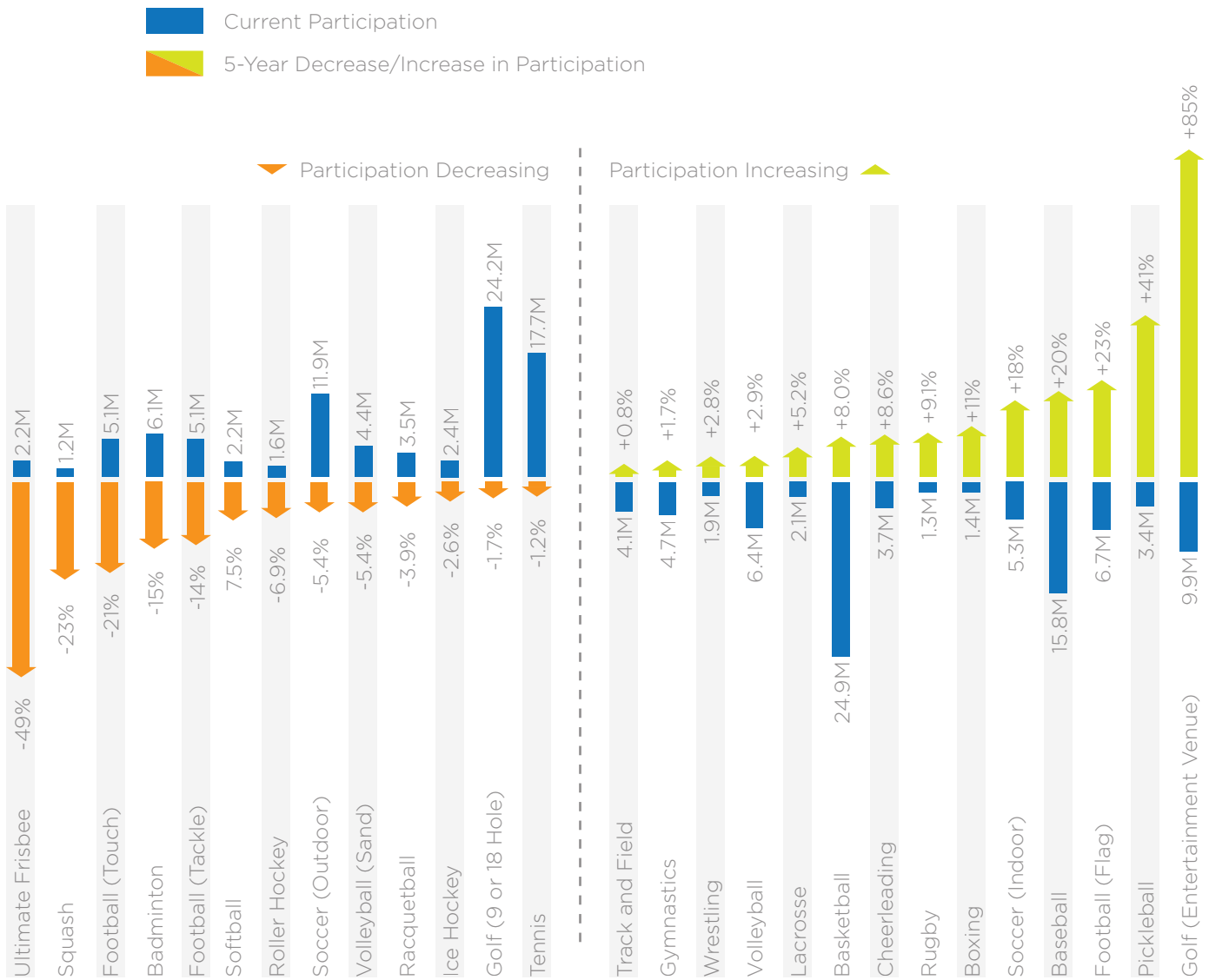
# RECREATION TRENDS

National trends shed a spotlight on which activities are growing, which are steady, and which are declining in participation. The data in this section was obtained from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association's *Sports, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report 2020*.

## National Trends in General Sports

Basketball (24.9 million) and golf (24.3 million) have the highest participation of all general sports, followed by tennis (17.7 million), baseball (15.8 million), and outdoor soccer (11.9 million).

**Figure 6. Entertainment venue golf is the fastest growing general sport, breathing new life into golf.**
National Trends in General Sports




Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association. Sports, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report 2020.

The popularity of basketball, golf, and tennis can be attributed to the fact that they can be played with relatively few participants. Basketball's success can also be attributed to its low barrier to entry. Limited equipment is needed to play basketball, and space requirements are minimal. This makes basketball the only traditional sport that can be played at the majority of American homes as a driveway pickup game. Even though golf has experienced a decrease in participation in the last five years, it still continues to benefit from its wide age segment appeal and is considered a life-long sport.

The emergence of golf entertainment venues has presented a new alternative that has breathed life back into the game of golf, and participation has increased drastically (+85%) in the past five years—the fastest growing sport. Following that, pickleball (+41%), and flag football (+23%) have seen the fastest growth. Traditional sports baseball (+20%) and indoor soccer (+18%) have also experienced significant growth. Sports declining in participation the most rapidly include ultimate frisbee (-49%), squash (-23%), touch football (-22%), badminton (-15%), and tackle football (-14.6%).

**Basketball has one of the lowest barriers to entry, with little equipment required and minimal space needs.**
Crescent Park

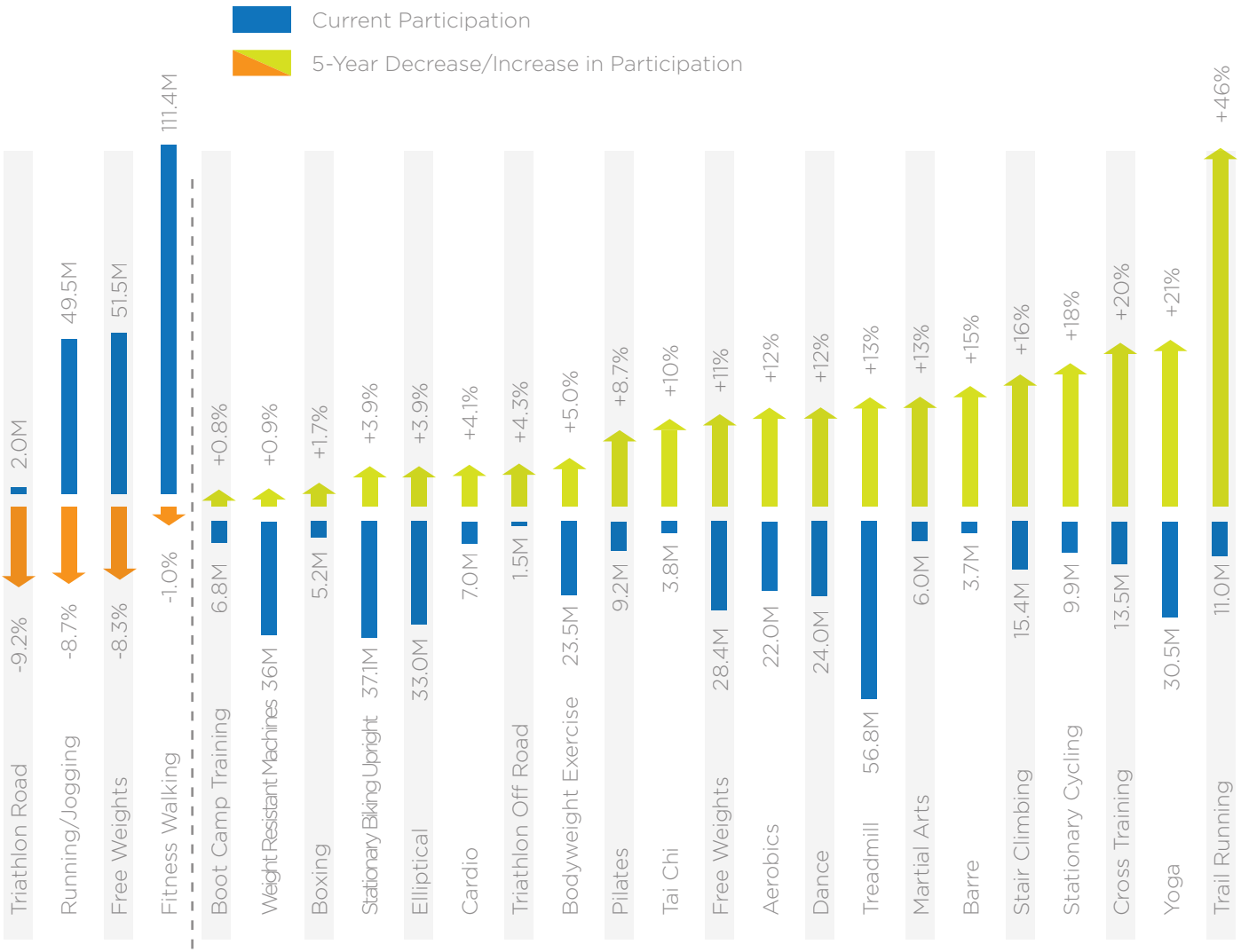


## National Trends in General Fitness

Overall, fitness activities have experienced strong growth in recent years. Many of these activities have become popular due to an increased interest among Americans to improve their health and enhance quality of life by engaging in an active lifestyle. These activities also have very few barriers to entry, which provides a variety of options that are relatively inexpensive to participate in and can be performed by most individuals. The most popular general fitness activities nationally include fitness walking (111 million), treadmill (57 million), free weights (51 million), running and jogging (50 million), and stationary cycling (37 million).

The activities growing most rapidly over the past five years are trail running (+46%), yoga (+21%), cross-training style workouts (+20%), and stationary group cycling (+18%). Over the same time frame, the only activities that have declined are traditional triathlons (-9.2%), running and jogging (-8.7%), free weights (-8.3%), and fitness walking (-1.0%).

**Figure 7. Though it has experienced some decline, participation in fitness walking dwarfs participation in other activities.**
National Trends in General Fitness



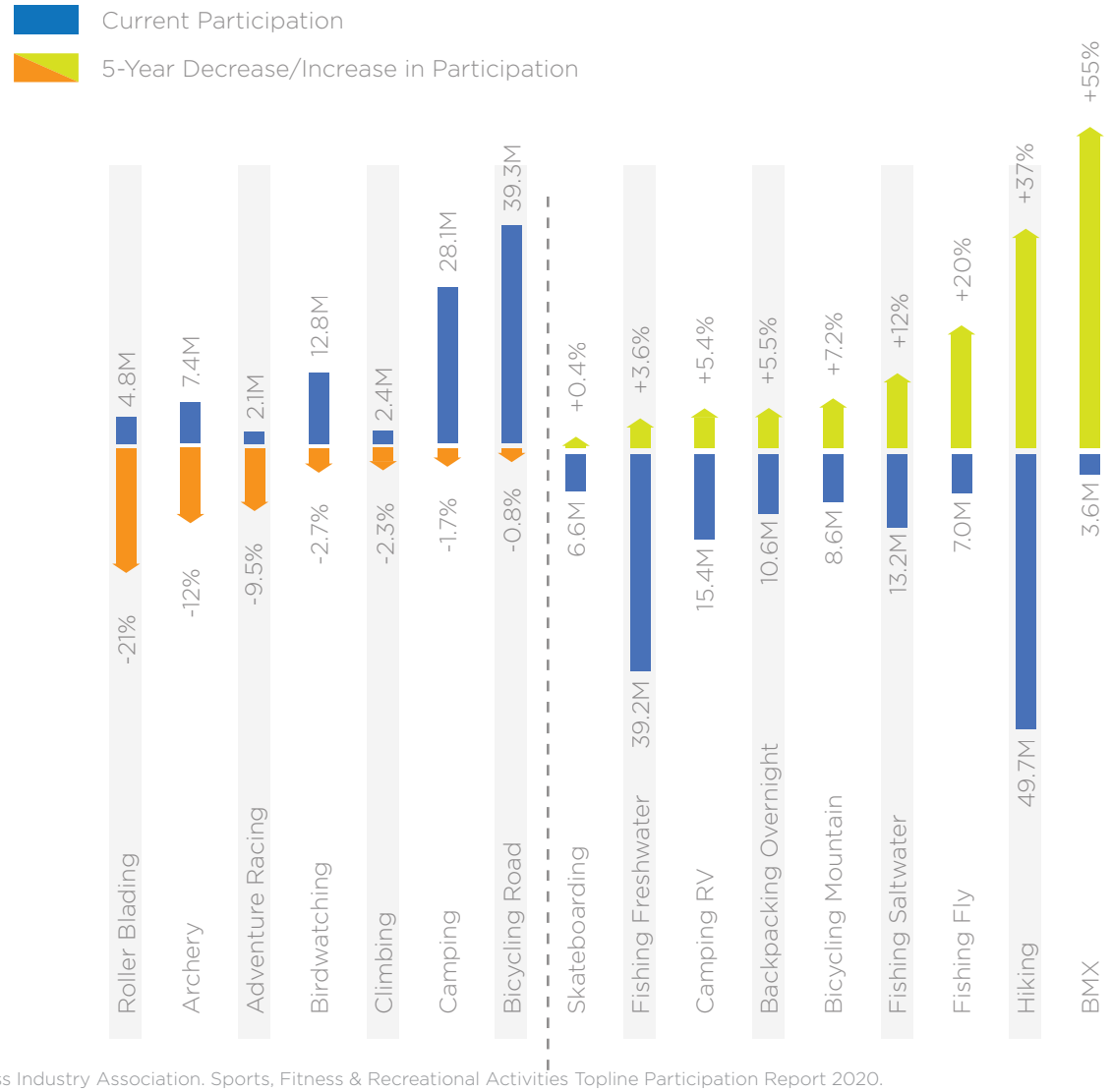

Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association. Sports, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report 2020.

## National Trends in Outdoor/Adventure Recreation

Trends show a contrast between growth and decline in participation in outdoor/adventure activities. Much like the general fitness activities, these activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually or within a group, and are not as limited by time constraints. Outdoor/adventure activities with the greatest participation are day hiking (50 million), road bicycling (39 million), freshwater fishing (39 million), camping within a quarter mile of a vehicle or home (28 million), and recreational vehicle camping (15 million).

The greatest increases in participation over the last five years were seen in BMX bicycling (+55%), day hiking (+37%), fly fishing (+20%), salt water fishing (+12%), and mountain bicycling (+7.2%). Activities such as in-line roller skating (-21%), archery (-12%), and adventure racing (-9.5%) saw the greatest decreases in participation.

**Figure 8. Hiking has a large user base and has been growing.**
National Trends in Outdoor/Adventure Recreation




Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association. Sports, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report 2020.

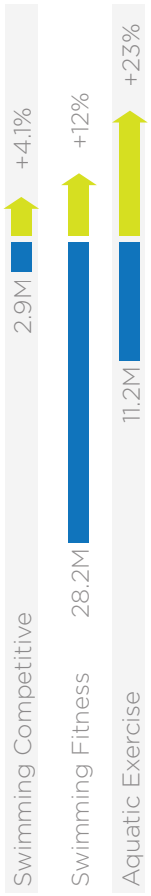
## National Trends in Aquatics

Swimming is considered a lifetime activity, which is most likely why it continues to have such strong participation. Swimming has the highest participation by far (28 million) among aquatic activities, largely due to its broad, multigenerational appeal.

Participation in all aquatic activities has grown over the past five years. Aquatic exercise stands out for its large increase in participation (+23%), most likely due to ongoing research that demonstrates the activity's great therapeutic benefit.

**Figure 9. All aquatic sports have grown in participation in the past five years.**

National Trends in Aquatics




Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association. Sports, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report 2020.

**Swimming is considered a lifetime activity.**

EPIC swim lessons

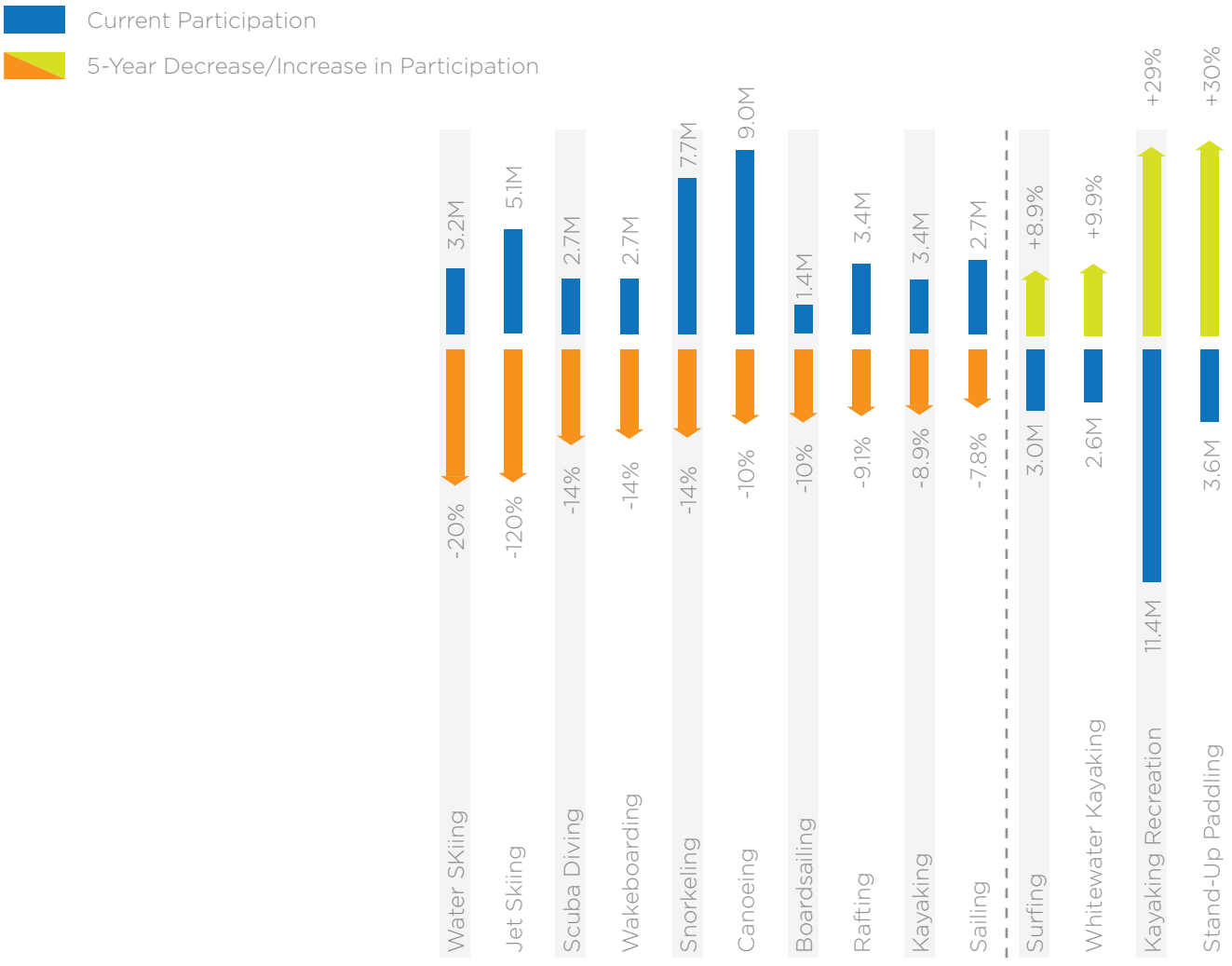


## National Trends in Water Sports

Recreational kayaking (11 million), canoeing (8.9 million), and snorkeling (7.7 million) are the most popular water sports based on total participation. Participation levels in water activities tend to vary by region, season, and environmental factors. A region with more water access and a warmer climate is more likely to have a higher participation in water activities than a region with a long winter or limited water access. Therefore, fluctuations in participation may be the result of environmental factors.

Over the last five years, stand-up paddling (+30%) and recreational kayaking (+29%) were the fastest growing water activities, followed by white water kayaking (9.9%) and surfing (8.9%). Over the same period, water skiing (-20%), jet skiing (-20%), scuba diving (-14%), wake boarding (-13%), and snorkeling (-13%) all saw declines.

**Figure 10. Kayaking and paddle boarding lead growth in water sports.**
National Trends in Water Sports




Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association. Sports, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report 2020.

## Local Sport and Market Potential

The Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the relative likelihood that an adult resident of Fort Collins will participate in an activity compared to the U.S. National average, indicating probable demand for that activity. Comparisons are made in categories: general sports, fitness, and outdoor activity.

Fort Collins demonstrates above average market potential index (MPI) numbers in all three categories. These MPI scores show that Fort Collins has very strong participation rates when it comes to recreational activities. This important for the City to consider when building new facilities or starting up new programs.

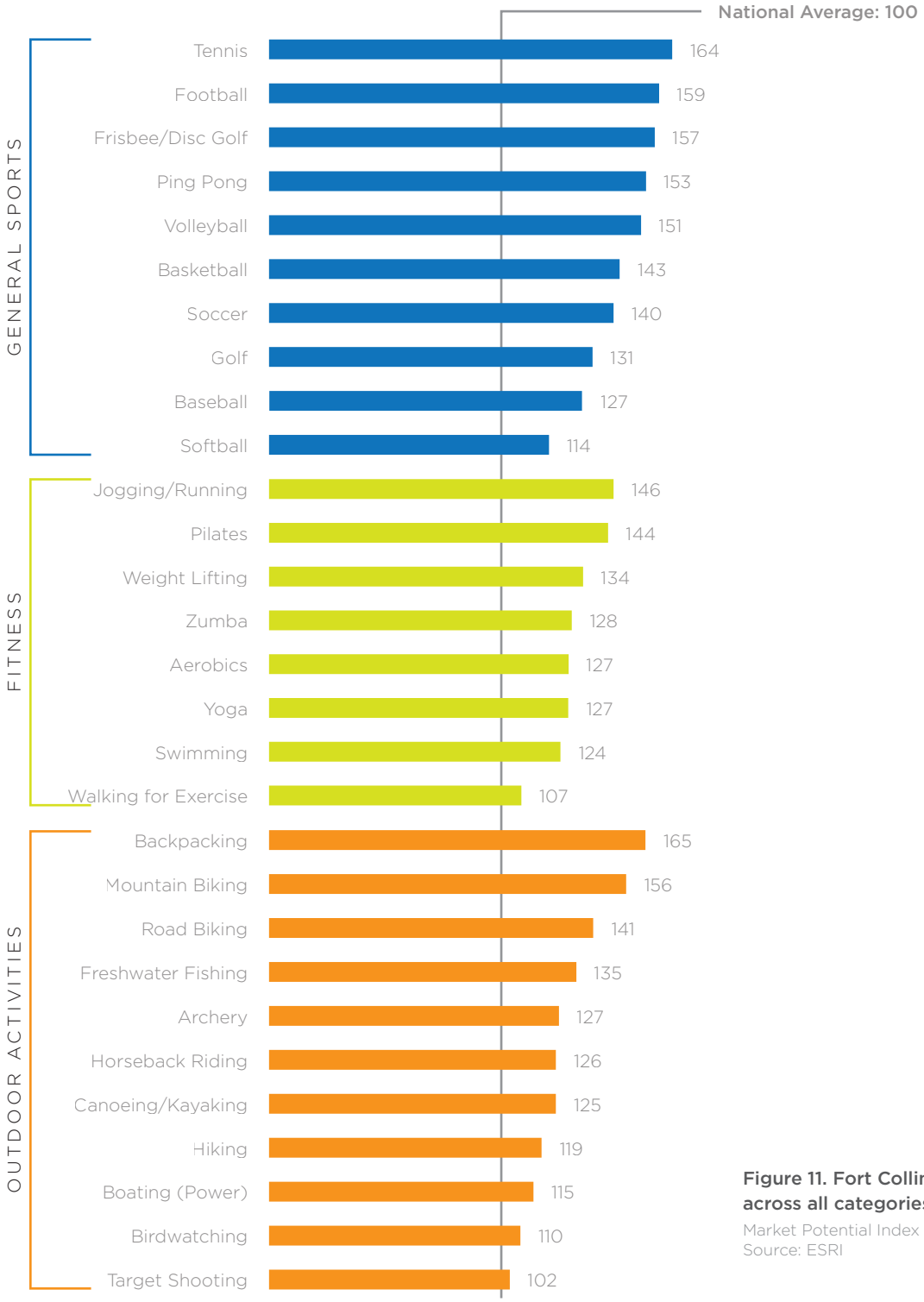



**Figure 11. Fort Collins has high market potential across all categories.**

Market Potential Index for Participation
Source: ESRI

## Future Trends

During public open houses, participants identified other emerging trends and innovative ideas that the City will continue to monitor in an effort to ensure that facilities and programs continue to respond to changing user needs. (See p. 226)







**Residents were asked about emerging trends in parks and recreation during open houses at Preston Middle School (top) and The Lincoln Center (bottom).**

Open House Trends Results





# PARKS AND RECREATION TODAY

PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

# PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

While this plan focuses specifically on parks and recreation, parks and recreation do not exist in isolation. They are part of a comprehensive public space network that contributes to the identity of Fort Collins. This public space network includes:

- **Parks**
- **Recreation Facilities**
- Natural Areas
- Hard and Soft Surface Trails
- School Facilities
- Cultural Facilities
- Streetscapes
- Stormwater

Together, the city's 48 parks and 58 natural areas total approximately 15,000 acres of public space, stitched together by 125 miles of hard and soft surface trails.

Parks and recreation facilities are primarily for the enjoyment of people. Parks vary greatly in size and character and provide residents an opportunity to recreate and relax outdoors. Recreation facilities include buildings, such as community centers, and other built facilities, like pools, that provide opportunities for people to relax, compete, learn, and socialize both indoors and out.

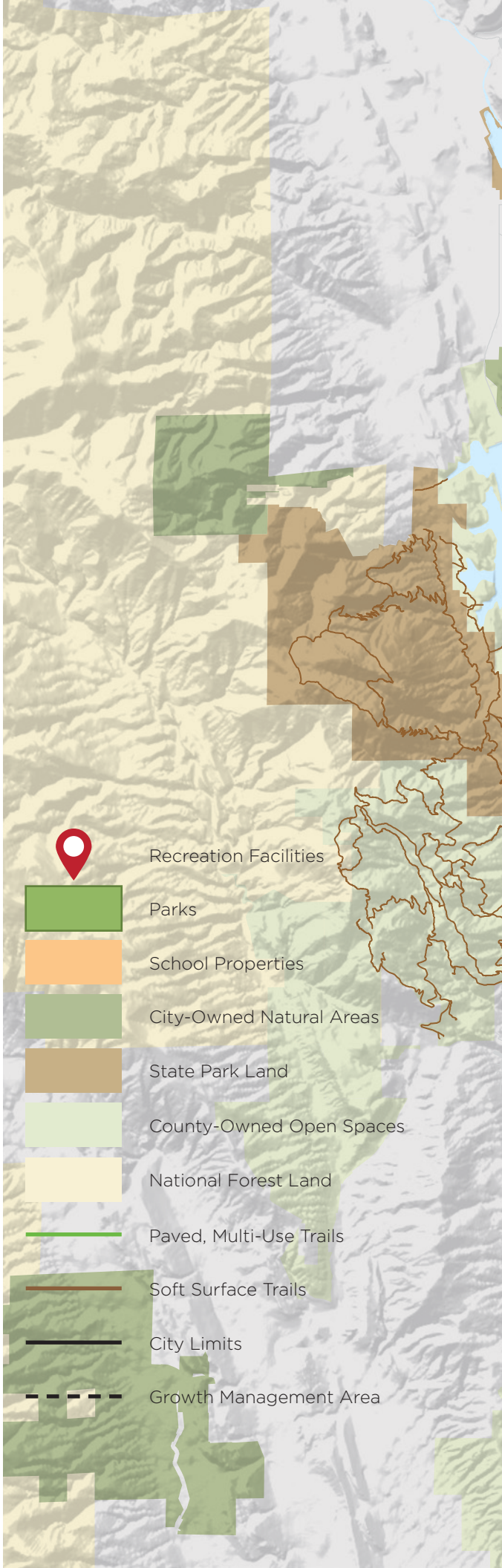
Natural areas make up most of the land area of the public space network. While residents are welcome to explore parts of natural areas on soft surface trails, natural areas are primarily for the preservation of land and habitat. They protect the city's waterways and serve as development buffers between Fort Collins and surrounding communities. Some natural areas are located outside the city, including Soapstone Prairie on the Wyoming border.

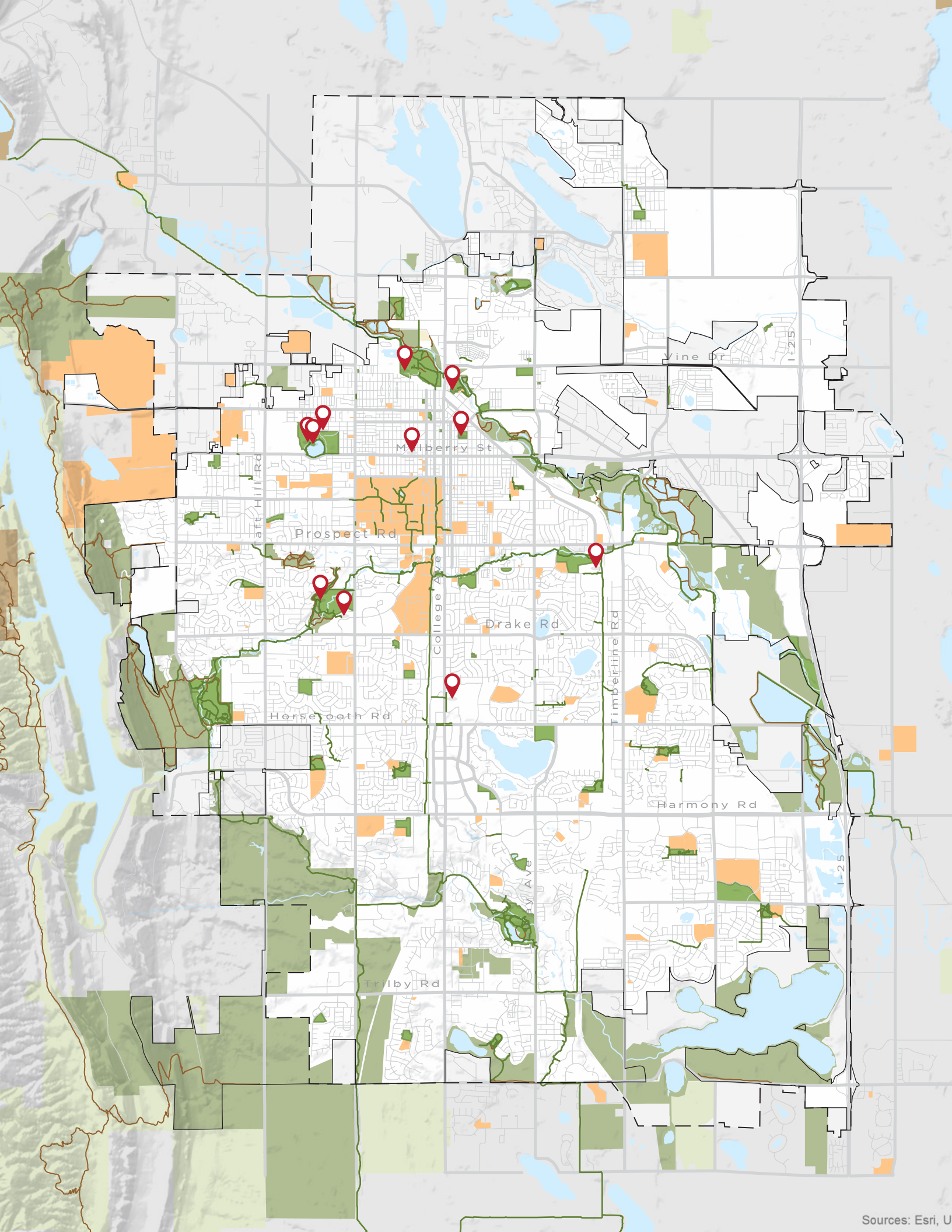
The trail system in Fort Collins connects these spaces together. Many trails follow natural features, such as the Spring Creek Trail, which winds its way along Spring Creek through the city. Other trails offer more natural experiences out away from urban centers.

The Poudre School District and the Thompson School District also make up a piece of the overall public space network. Although they are currently not always open to the public, school facilities include playgrounds, fields, tracks, and gyms that present an opportunity for greater recreational access through partnership with the City.

Cultural facilities are part of the public space network both because many, such as the Museum of Discovery and Gardens on Spring Creek, are located within or adjacent to parks and because, like the Gardens on Spring Creek, they are thematically related to natural systems.

Tree-lined streets, enhanced medians, and colorful flowers make streetscapes part of the beauty and function of public spaces.

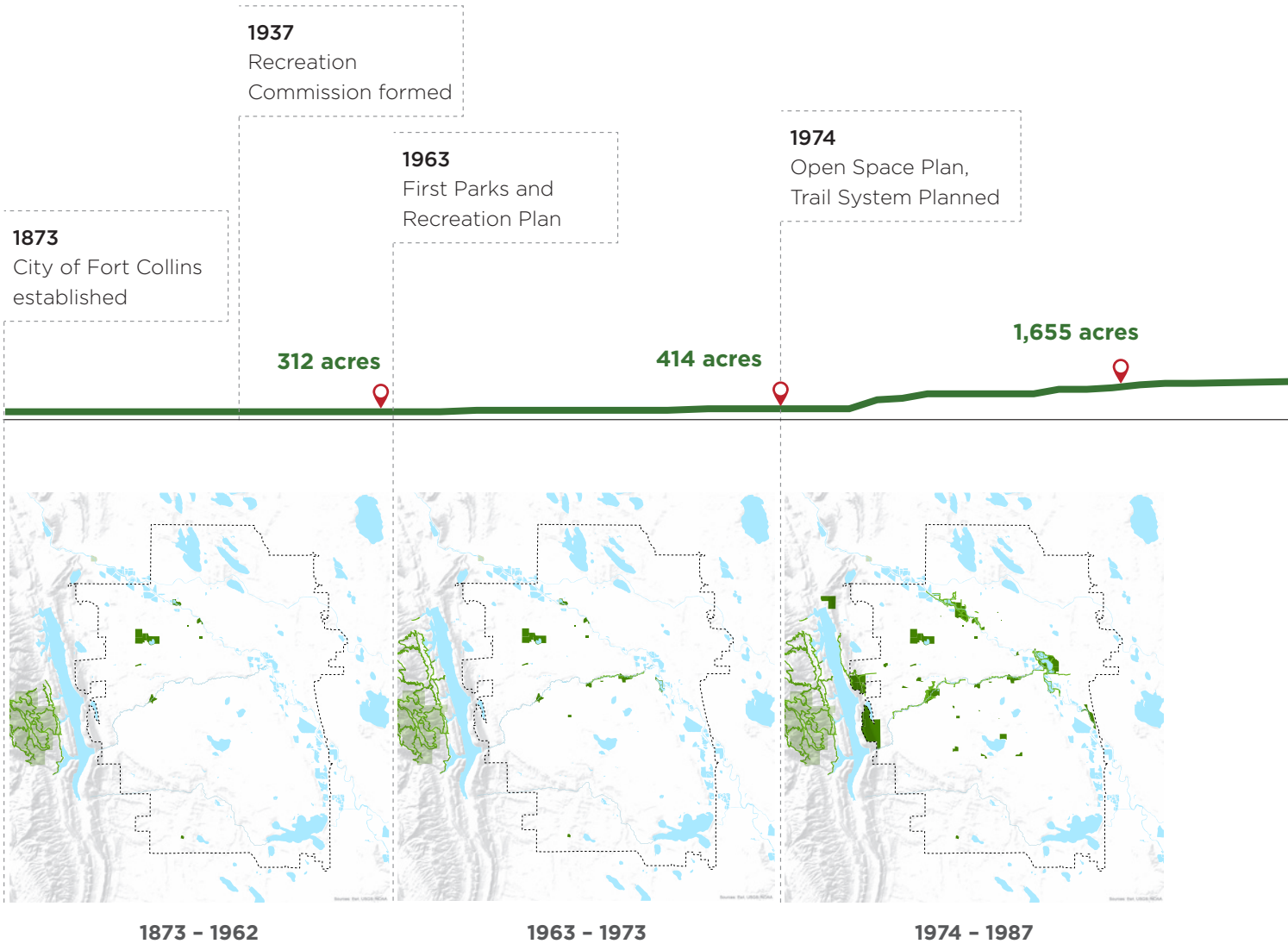



Vine Dr
I-25
Mulberry St
Taft Hill Rd
Prospect Rd
College Ave
Drake Rd
Timberline Rd
Horsetooth Rd
Harmony Rd
I-25
Trilby Rd
Sources: Esri, U

# EVOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

The legacy of public spaces in Fort Collins goes back to the city's founding in 1873, with Library Park and Washington Park. As the city steadily grew, so did acquisition of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and natural areas. The earliest parks were built along the city's natural systems. Spring Creek and the Poudre River became the focus of a network of public spaces. In 1974, the city's Open Space Plan was completed, marking the beginning of the trail system. In 1992, the public space network saw a dramatic change after a citizen-initiated sales tax to fund natural areas passed. Up until this time, outdoor recreational space was managed solely by the Parks Department. When the Natural Area Program was established, a large portion of park land became natural areas. While parks continued to steadily grow, after 1992 natural areas saw a rapid increase in land acquisition due to its dedicated funding.

**Figure 12. Acquisition of natural areas grew dramatically after a dedicated sales tax was approved by voters in 1992.**
Timeline of City-owned public space growth 1873–2020



Recreation Facilities

Parks

Natural Areas

**1988**
Parks and Recreation Plan

**1992**
Natural Areas Program Established

**1996**
Parks and Recreation Plan

**2008**
Parks and Recreation Plan

**2013**
Paved Recreation Trail Master Plan

**2014**
Natural Areas Master Plan

**2020**
**Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

1,918 acres

3,574 acres

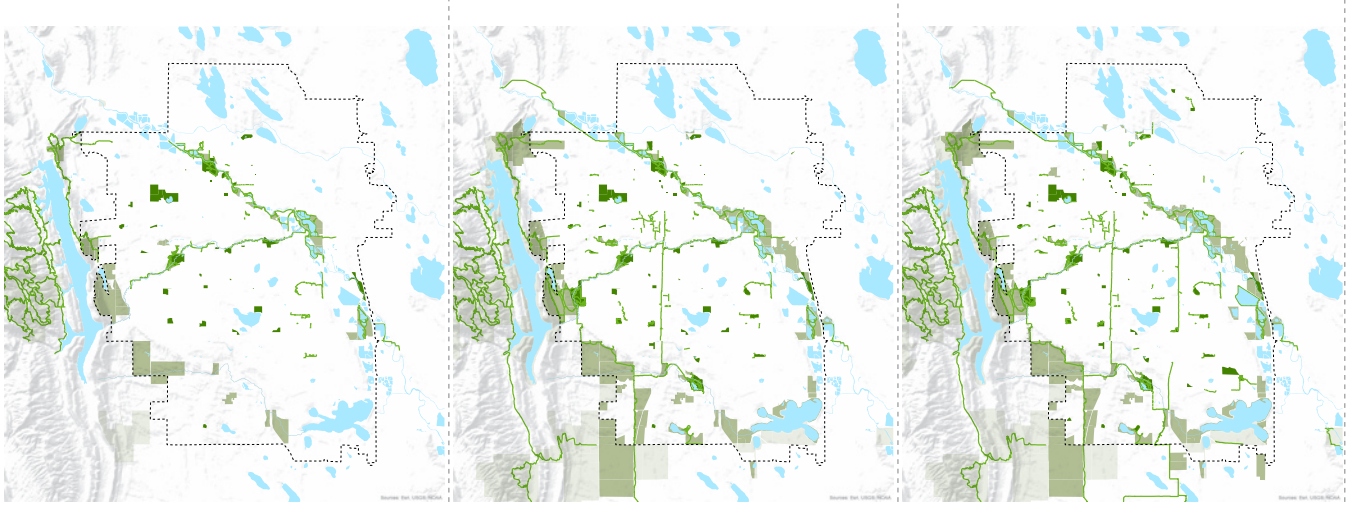
561 acres

30,886 acres

876 acres

931 acres

36,640 acres



1988 – 1995

1996 – 2007

2008 – 2020

# PARKS

Parks are designed primarily to support outdoor active and passive recreation opportunities in Fort Collins. Some, like Spring Canyon Community Park, are over 100 acres and can accommodate a multitude of activities. Others, like Alta Vista Park, are barely an acre but provide spaces for nearby residents to spend time outside. There are several classifications of parks, which include community parks, schoolside parks, neighborhood parks, urban parks, plazas, mini parks, and special use parks. More on park classifications can be found in the Classifications section.

## Management Responsibilities

### Parks Department

maintenance and scheduling

### Recreation Department

programing

### Park Planning and Development Department

purchasing land and water, design, and construction of new parks

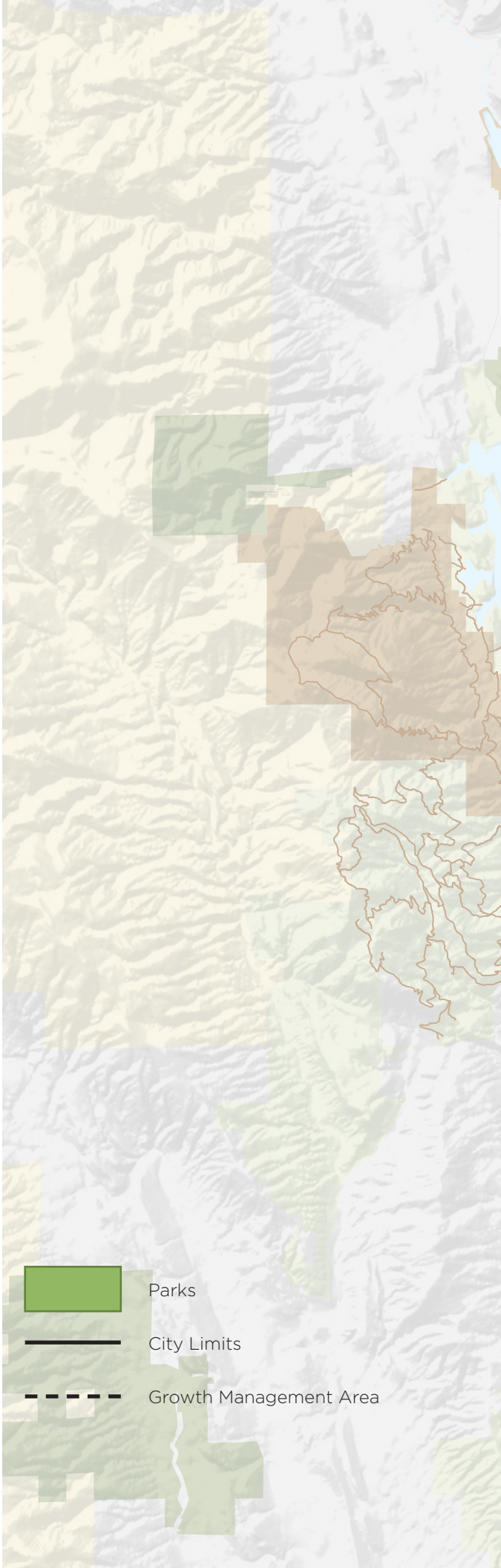
## At a Glance

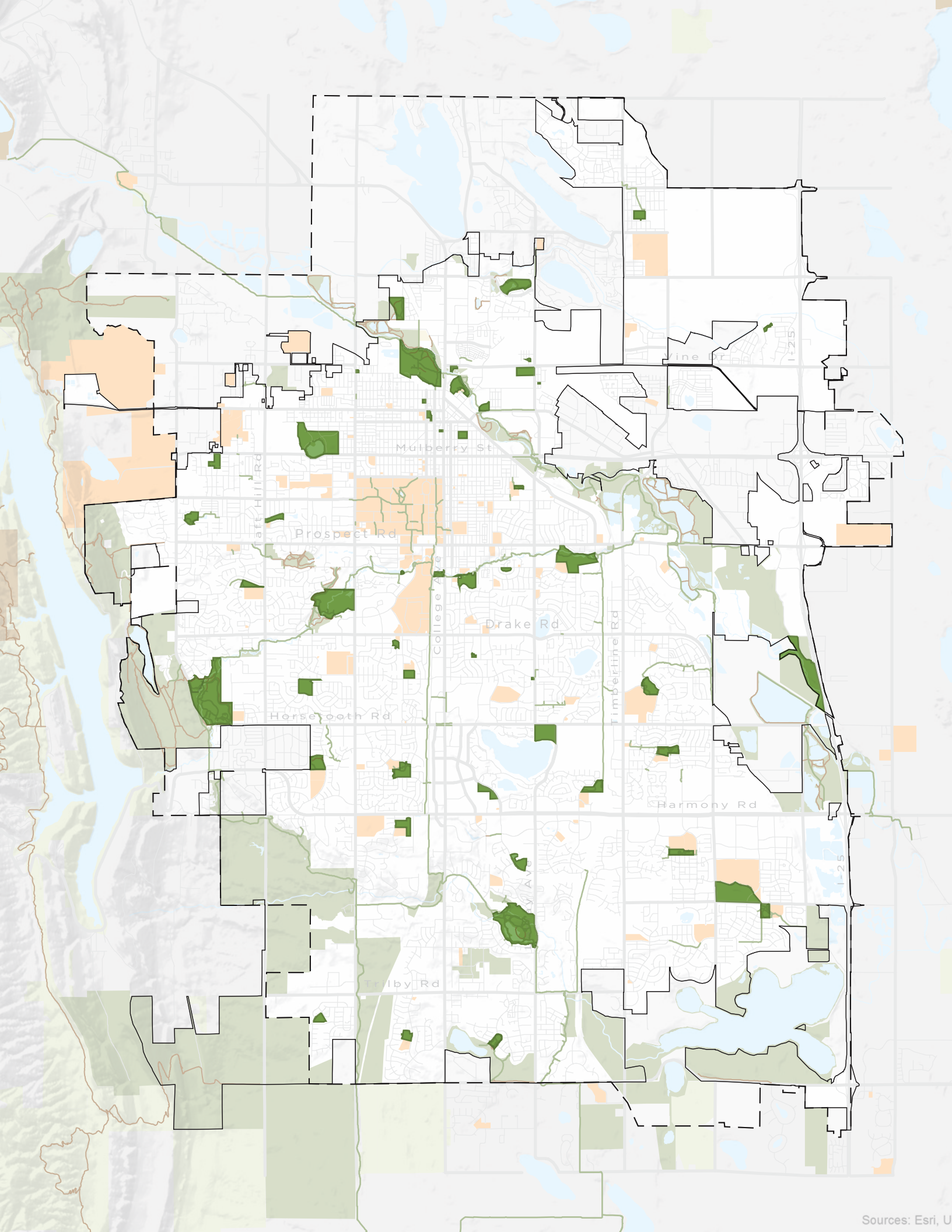
### Count

54 parks

### Total Size

931 acres




Mulberry St
Prospect Rd
Drake Rd
Horsetooth Rd
Harmony Rd
Trilby Rd
Vine Dr
College Ave
Timberline Rd
Taft Hill Rd
I-25
I-25
Sources: Esri, U

# RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation facilities in Fort Collins provide spaces for residents' indoor and specialized recreation needs. They include spaces for fitness and exercise, gymnasiums, pools, courts, ice rinks, and more. Recreation facilities include community centers, neighborhood centers, indoor/outdoor sport complexes, court/field clusters, and special use facilities. More on recreation facility classifications can be found in the Classifications section.

## Management Responsibilities

### Recreation Department

management, scheduling, and programming

### Operation Services Department

construction and maintenance of buildings and facilities

## At a Glance

### Count

10 recreation facilities

### Annual Recreation Participant

1.3 million

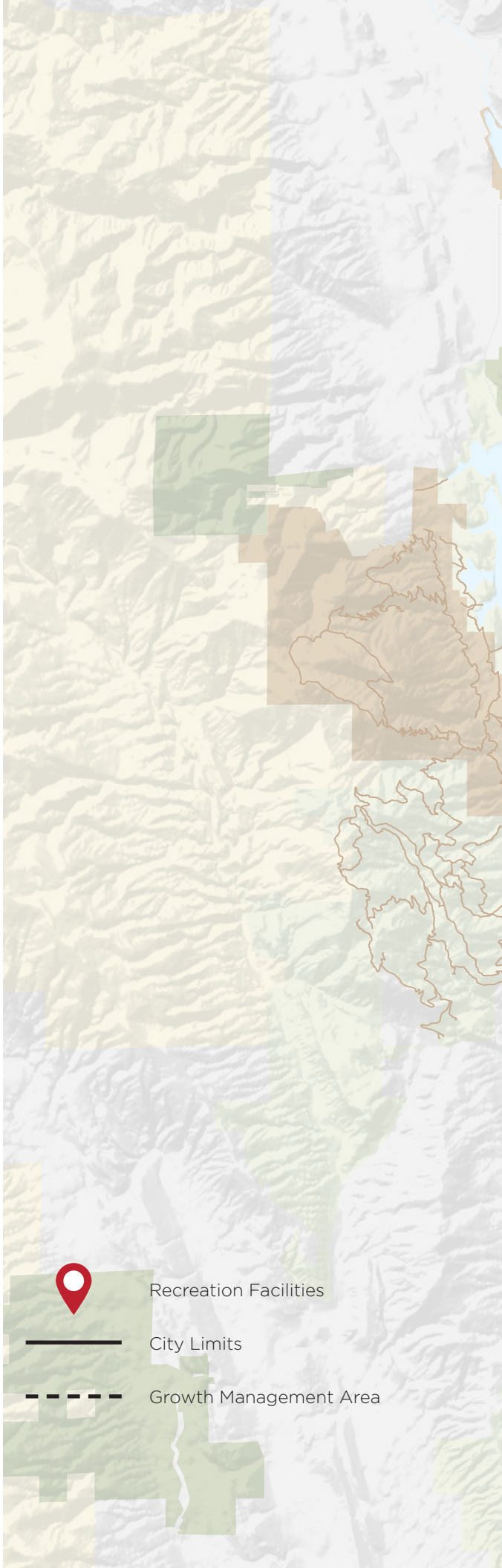
### Key Recreation Facilities

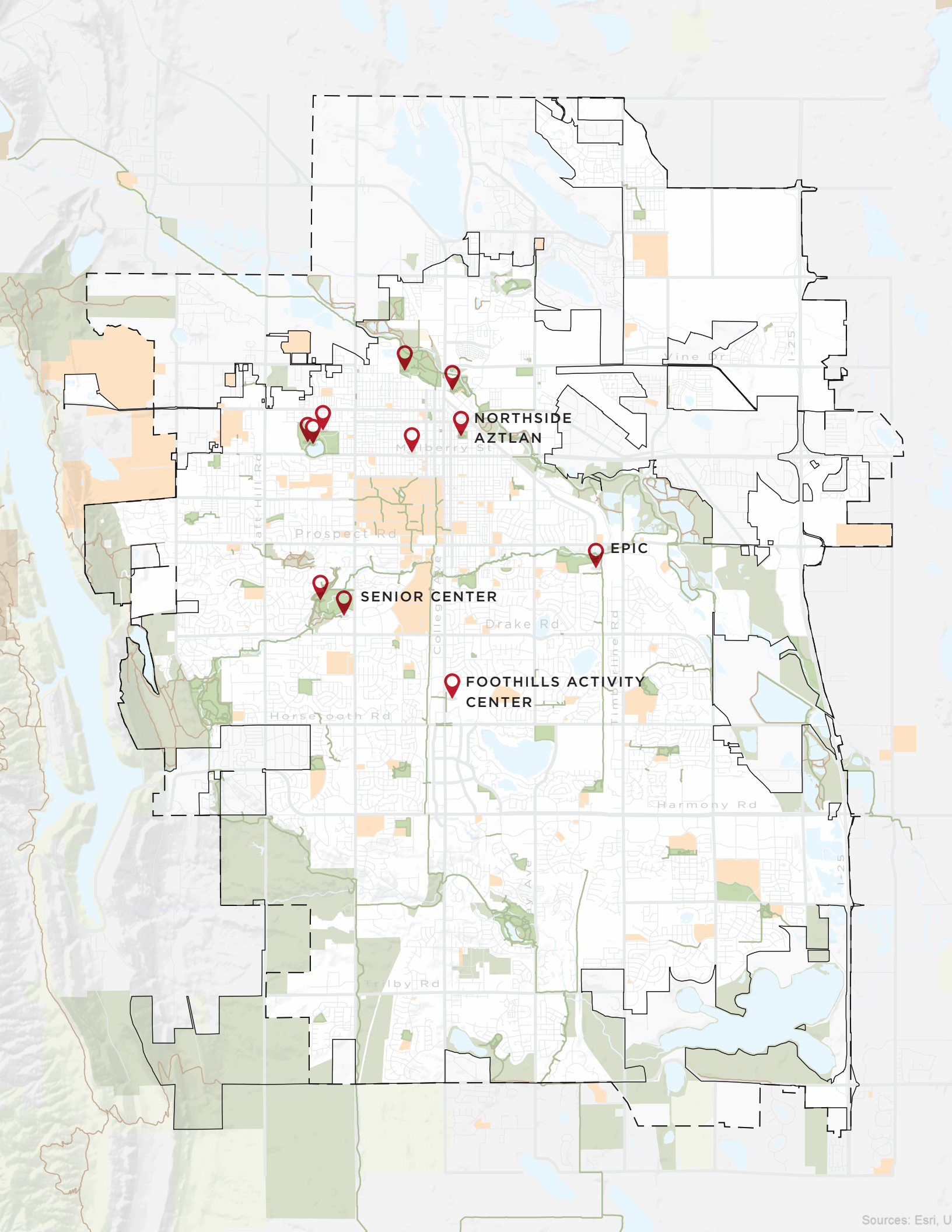
**Northside Aztlan Community Center**
Northside Aztlan is the largest recreation center in the city. Located in Old Fort Collins Heritage Park, it offers a number of indoor amenities and programs and is easily accessible from downtown.

**Fort Collins Senior Center**
The Fort Collins Senior Center is a National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) accredited center located in Rolland Moore Community Park. The Senior Center offers a wide range of programs, including travel, outdoor adventure, special events, fitness, and art, to all adults 18 years of age and older.

**Foothills Activity Center**
The Foothills Activity Center is located inside the Foothills Mall and features a gymnasium, workout rooms, and smaller classrooms.

**Edora Pool Ice Center (EPIC)**
EPIC is the city's ice facility, as well as an aquatics center, home to related skating and aquatics programs. EPIC receives over one million visits per year and is home to the CSU hockey and water polo teams as well as the Fort Collins Area Swim Team (FAST) and Fort Collins Figure Skating Club.






Sources: Esri, U

# TRAILS

There are two systems of trails in the Fort Collins public space network: paved, multi-use trails and soft surface trails.

Paved, multi-use trails serve as major recreation and transportation routes across Fort Collins. They are used for walking, running, cycling, inline skating, skateboarding, and other uses by people of all ages and skill levels. Grade separated crossings help make the system a more user friendly and connected experience across the city.

Soft surface trails allow for a more rugged hiking experience inside and outside the city. They are often located around natural features and provide a low impact way for residents to access natural areas.

Supplementing trails, Fort Collins' on-street bicycle infrastructure, particularly the low-stress bicycle network, connects people from their homes to the public space network. Fort Collins is rated a Platinum Bike Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

## Management Responsibilities

### Parks Department

maintenance of paved, multi-use trails, maintenance of soft surface trails within parks

### Natural Areas Department

design, construction, and maintenance of soft surface trails within natural areas

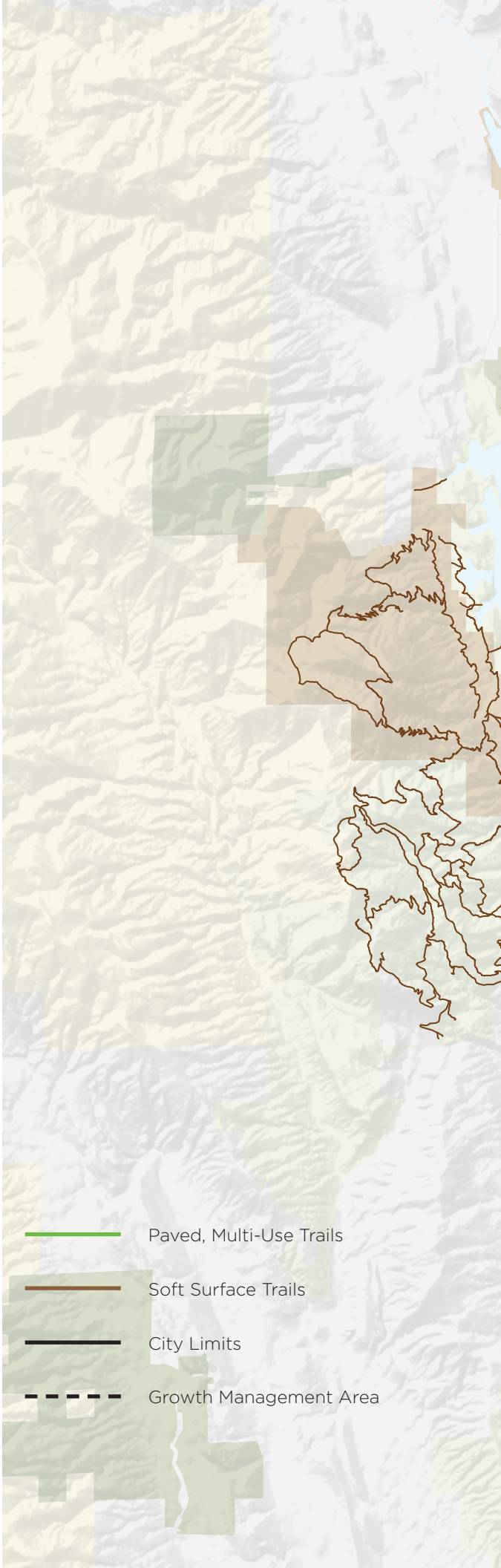
### Park Planning and Development Department

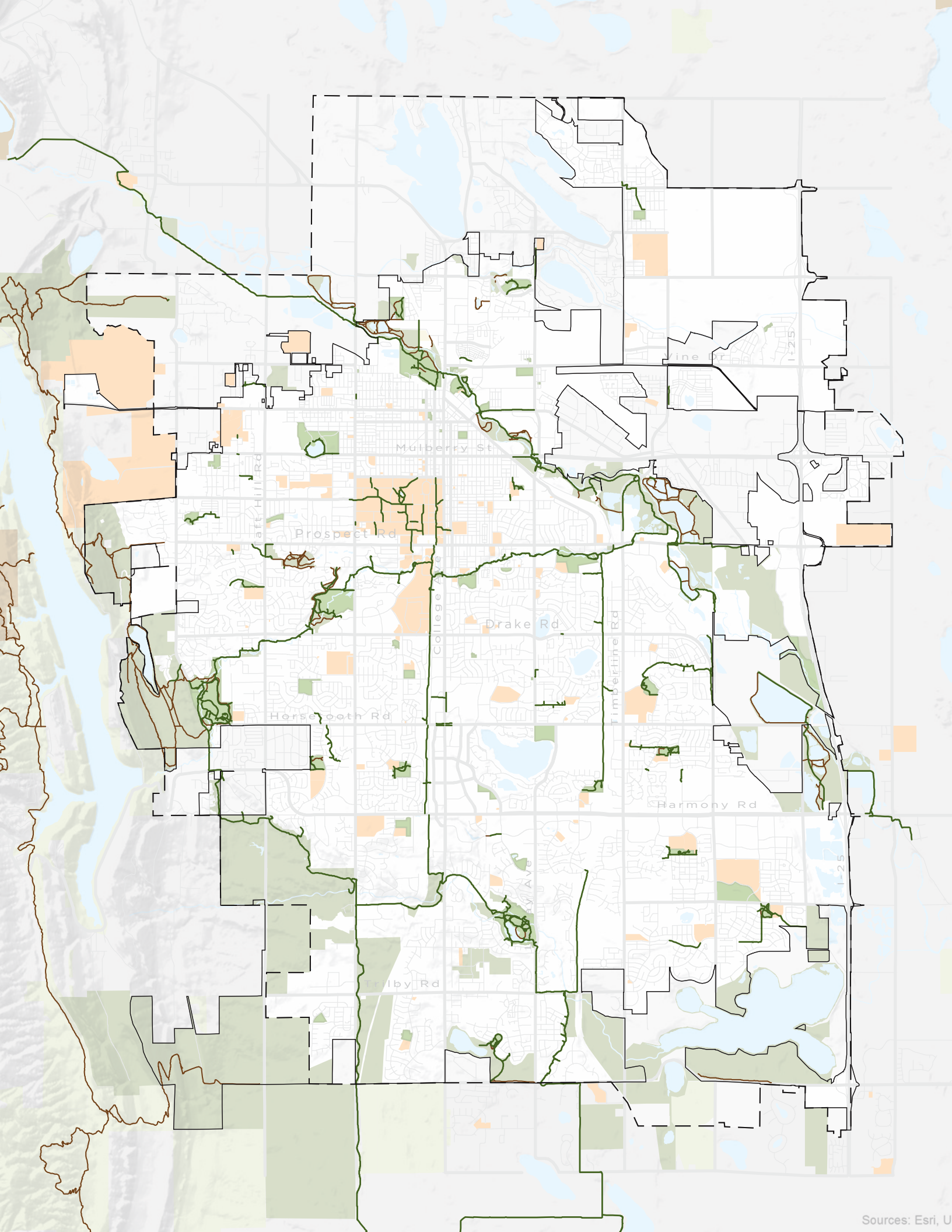
acquisition, design, and construction of major paved, multi-use trails

## At a Glance

### Length

44 miles of paved, multi-use trails
181 miles of soft surface trails




Mulberry St
Prospect Rd
Drake Rd
Horsetooth Rd
Harmony Rd
Trilby Rd
College Ave
Timberline Rd
Vine Dr
I-25
I-25
Sources: Esri, U

# NATURAL AREAS

Natural areas in Fort Collins exist primarily to preserve land, natural features, and habitat for wildlife. Low-impact, passive recreation is allowed in most natural areas, with opportunities to enjoy nature on soft surface trails. Some of the largest contiguous natural areas are located around the edges of the city, where they serve as development buffers between Fort Collins and surrounding communities. County-owned open spaces and reservoirs, particularly to the south and west of  Fort Collins supplement the city's natural areas.

## Management Responsibilities

### Natural Areas Department

acquisition, development, maintenance, and programming of City-owned natural areas

### Larimer County Natural Resources Department

acquisition, development, maintenance, and programming of County-owned open spaces and reservoirs

### Colorado Parks & Wildlife

acquisition, development, maintenance, and programming of State Parks

### United States Forest Service

acquisition, development, maintenance, and programming of Federally-owned open spaces and reservoirs

### Park Planning and Development

development of paved trails in natural areas

## At a Glance

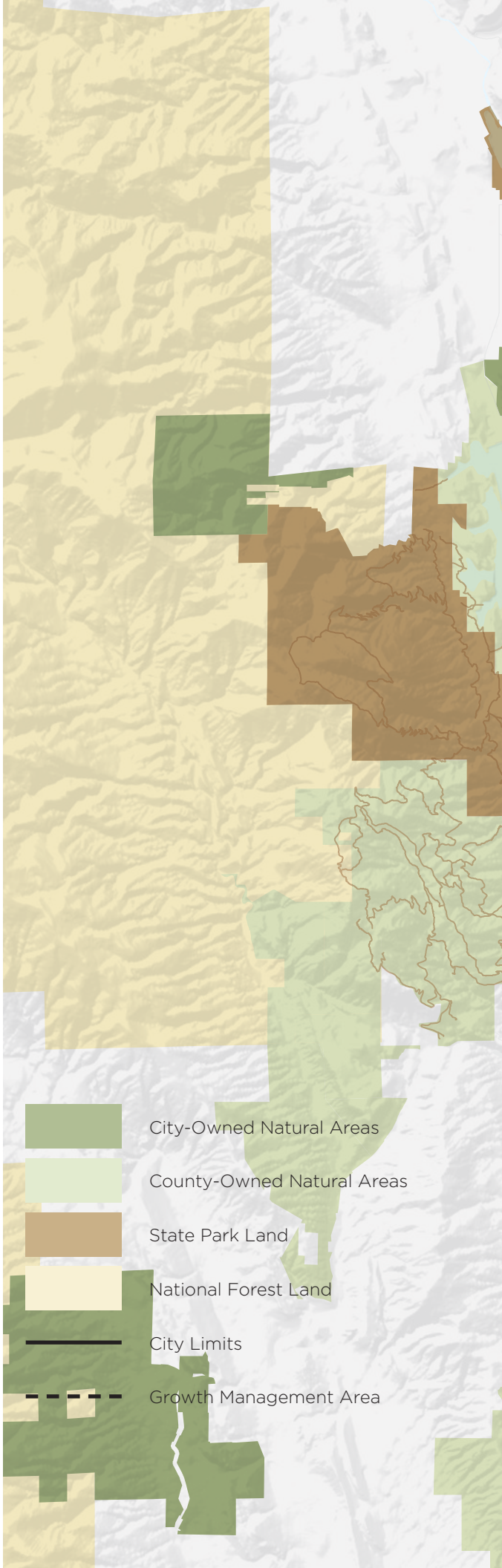
### Count

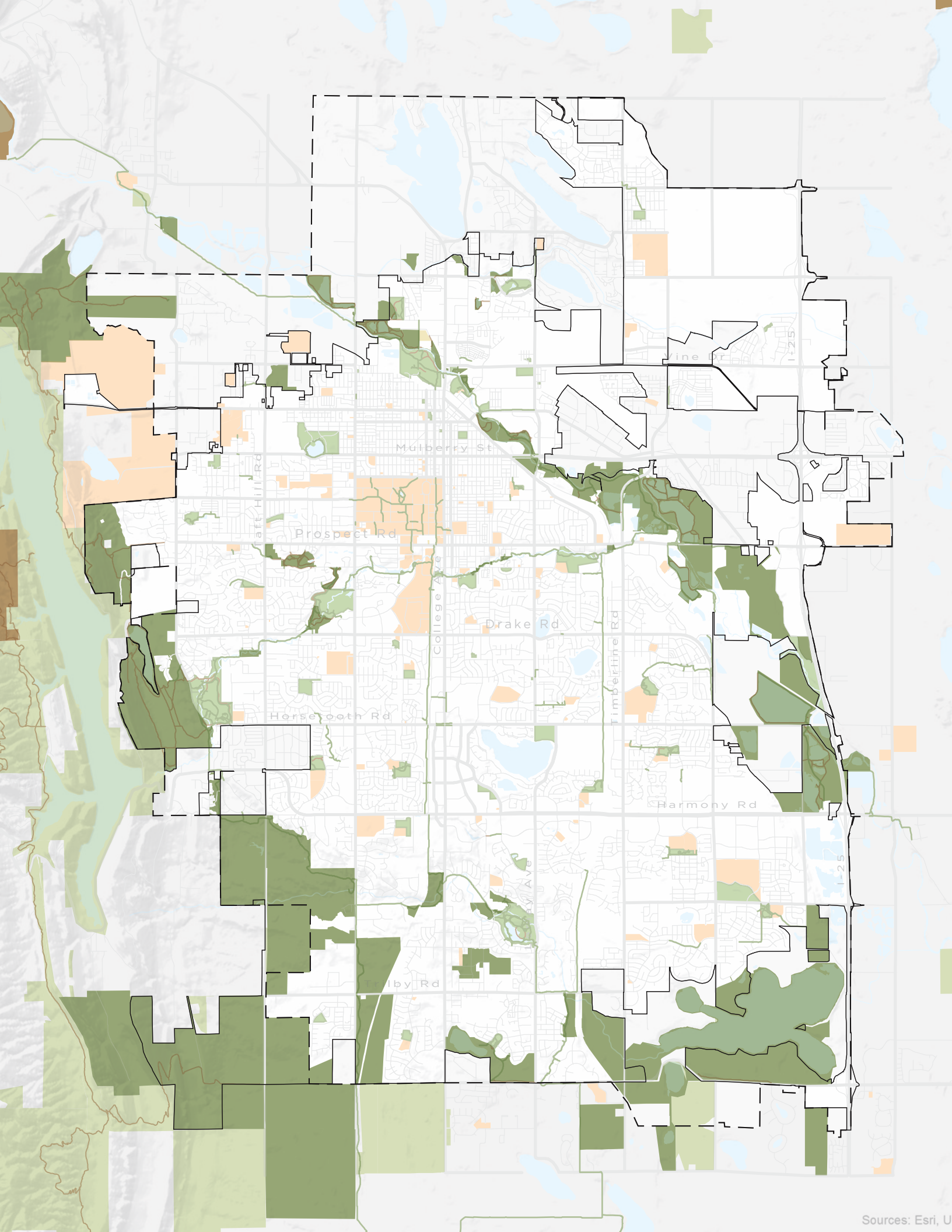
52 City-owned natural areas

32 County-owned open spaces

### Total Size

36,640 acres City-owned natural areas (includes natural areas outside GMA)






Sources: Esri, U

# SCHOOL FACILITIES

School facilities have numerous recreational amenities, including playgrounds, fields, tracks, and gyms, that some residents use on a daily basis. Though these facilities are not always open and available for the public to use, they could be through partnerships with the Poudre and Thompson School Districts and Colorado State University. Such partnerships would greatly increase the City's ability to close gaps in access to recreational amenities.

## Management Responsibilities

### Poudre and Thompson School Districts

acquisition, development, maintenance, and programming on district-owned properties

### Colorado State University

acquisition, development, maintenance, and programming on university-owned properties

### Parks Department

grounds maintenance in some specific locations (e.g., Beattie Park)

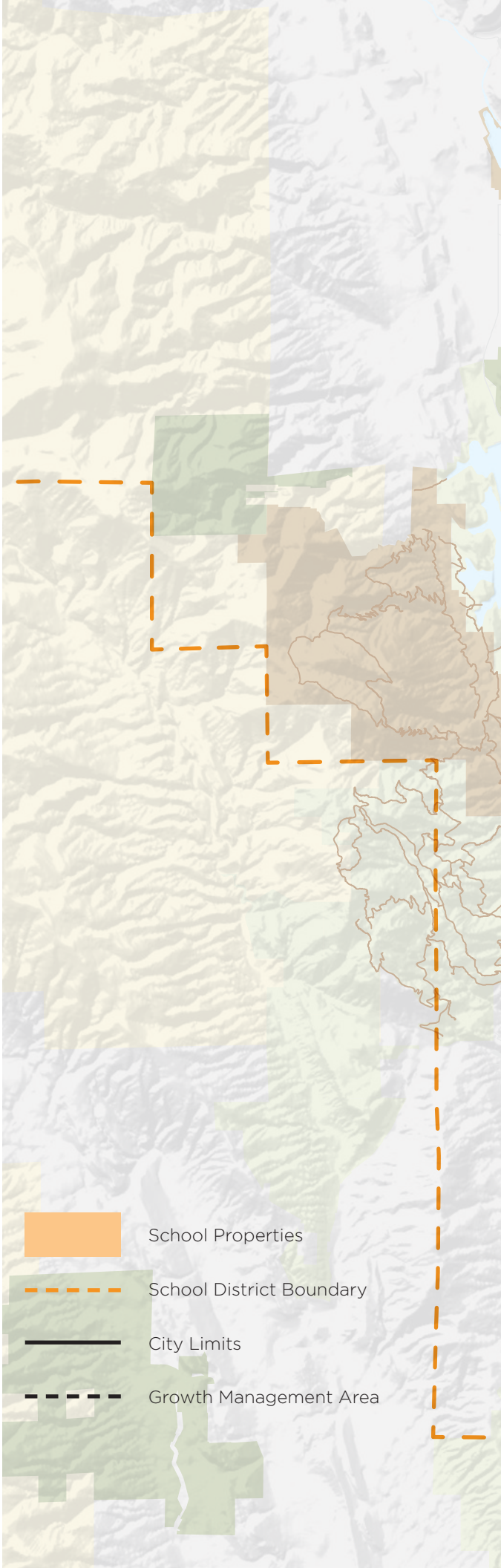
## At a Glance

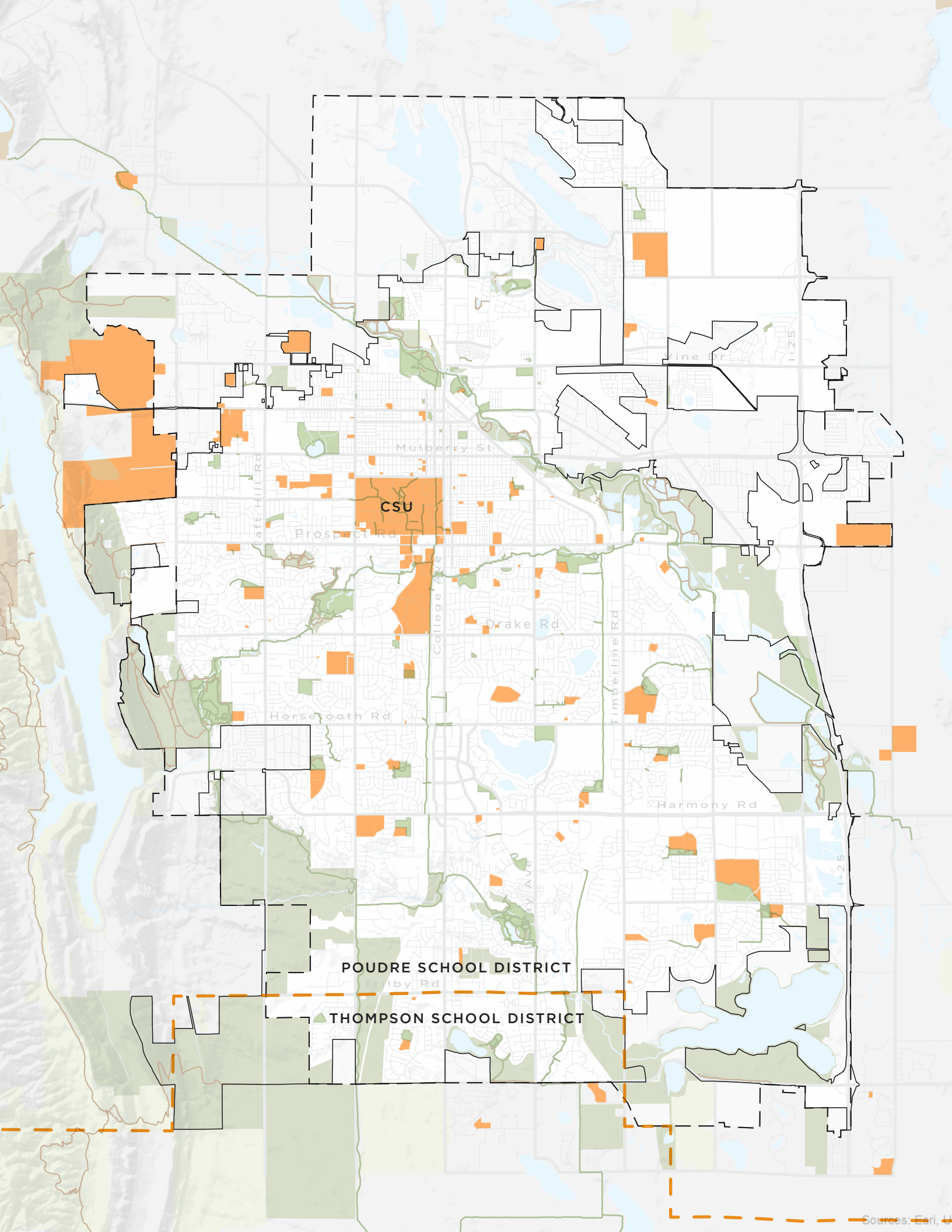
### Count

54 school properties

### Total Size

2,911 acres




CSU
POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT
THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Mulberry St
Prospect Rd
Drake Rd
Horsetooth Rd
Harmony Rd
Timberline Rd
College Ave
Taft Hill Rd
Vine Dr
I-25
Trilby Rd

# CULTURAL FACILITIES

Cultural facilities are part of the public space network both because many, such as the Museum of Discovery, are located within or adjacent to parks and because, like the Gardens on Spring Creek, they are thematically related to natural systems.

## Management Responsibilities

### Cultural Services Department

acquisition, development, and programming

### Recreation Department

limited programming

### Parks Department

grounds maintenance

### Operation Services Department

construction and maintenance of buildings and facilities

## At a Glance

### Count

4 cultural facilities

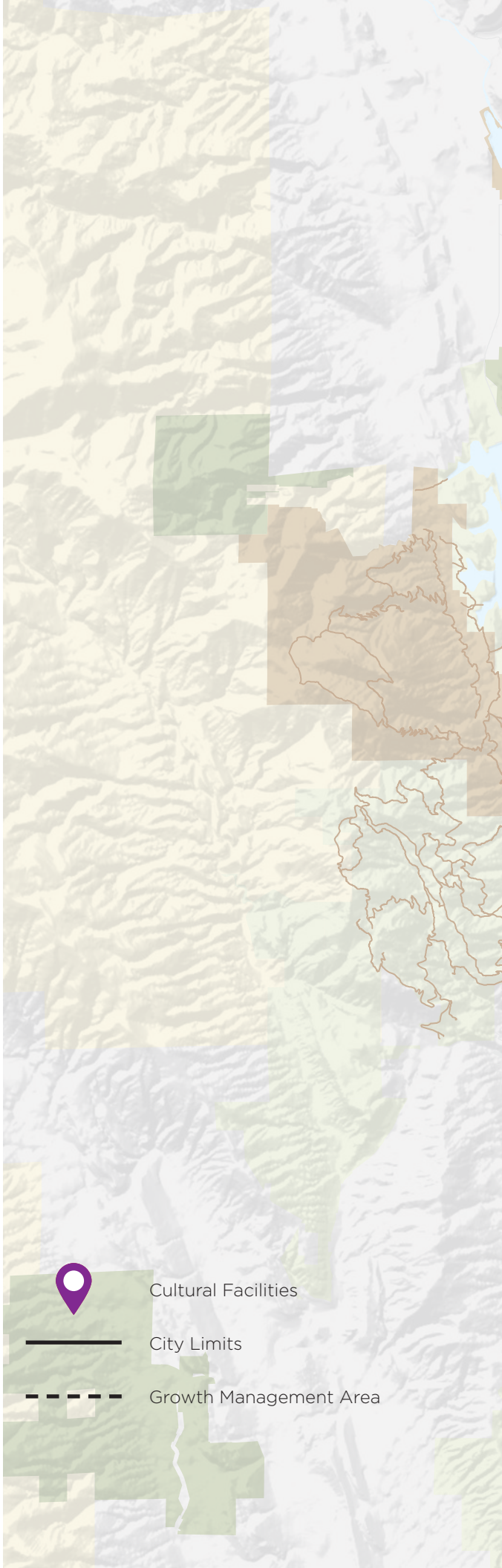
### Key Cultural Facilities

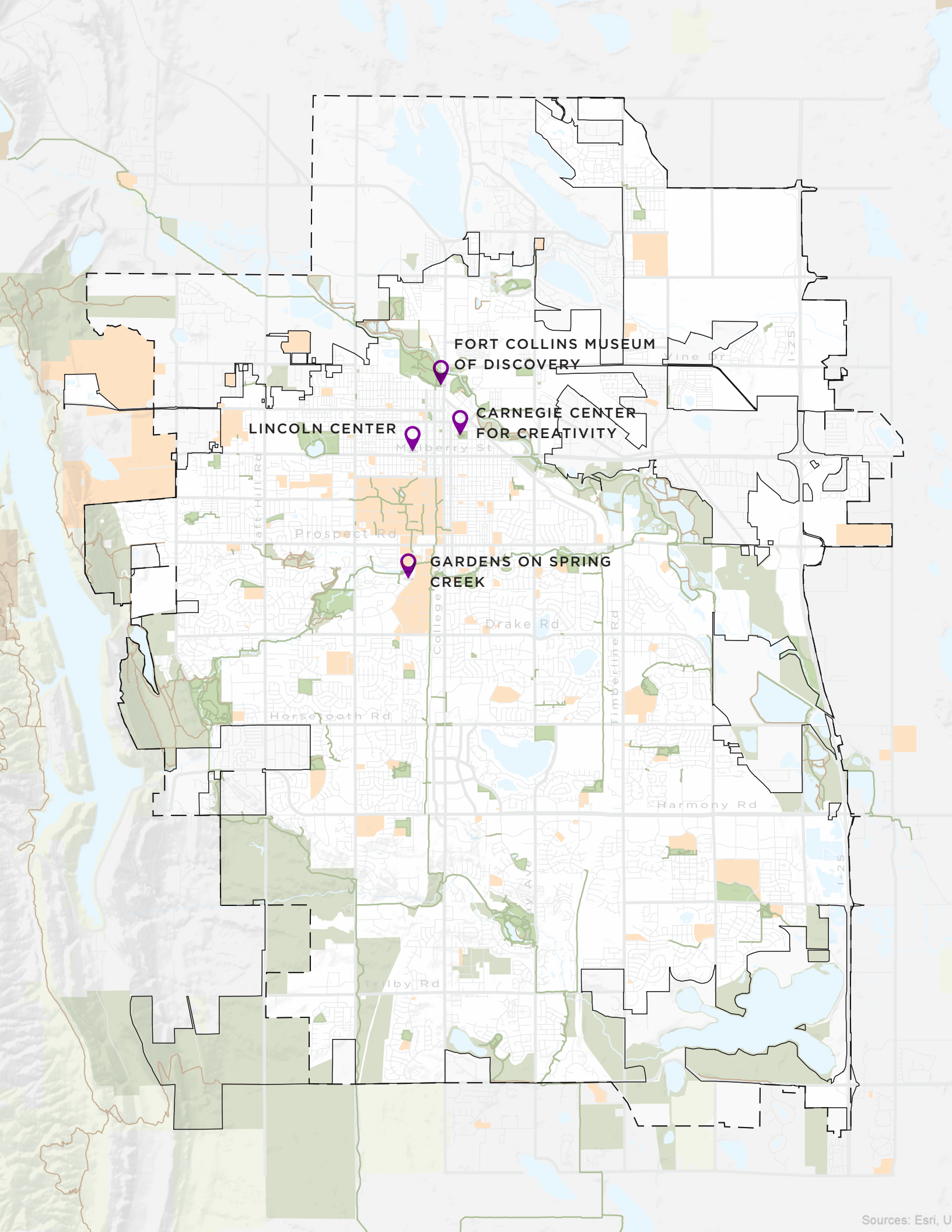
**Carnegie Center for Creativity**
Located in Library Park, the historic Carnegie building is home to an art gallery, classroom, and meeting spaces that are available to rent for exhibitions, performances, and cultural programs.

**Fort Collins Museum of Discovery**
The Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, in Lee Martinez Community Park, is an interactive and immersive museum, dedicated to creating meaningful opportunities to learn, reflect, and have fun with science, history, and culture.

**The Gardens on Spring Creek**
The Gardens on Spring Creek is a botanic oasis situated in the heart of Fort Collins. Offering twelve acres of curated gardens and the first ever Butterfly House in northern Colorado, the Gardens on Spring Creek is an extraordinary place for all ages to connect with nature.

**The Lincoln Center**
The Lincoln Center is Northern Colorado's premier venue for special events and the performing and visual arts, offering Broadway shows, concerts, comedy, dance, and nationally recognized exhibitions.




FORT COLLINS MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY
CARNEGIE CENTER FOR CREATIVITY
LINCOLN CENTER
GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK
Mulberry St
Prospect Rd
Drake Rd
Horsetooth Rd
Harmony Rd
Trilby Rd
College Ave
Timberline Rd
Taft Hill Rd
I-25
Sources: Esri, U

# STREETSCAPES

Tree-lined streets, enhanced medians, and colorful flowers make streetscapes part of the beauty and function of public spaces.

## Management Responsibilities

### Engineering Department

design and construction of streets and streetscapes

### Parks Department

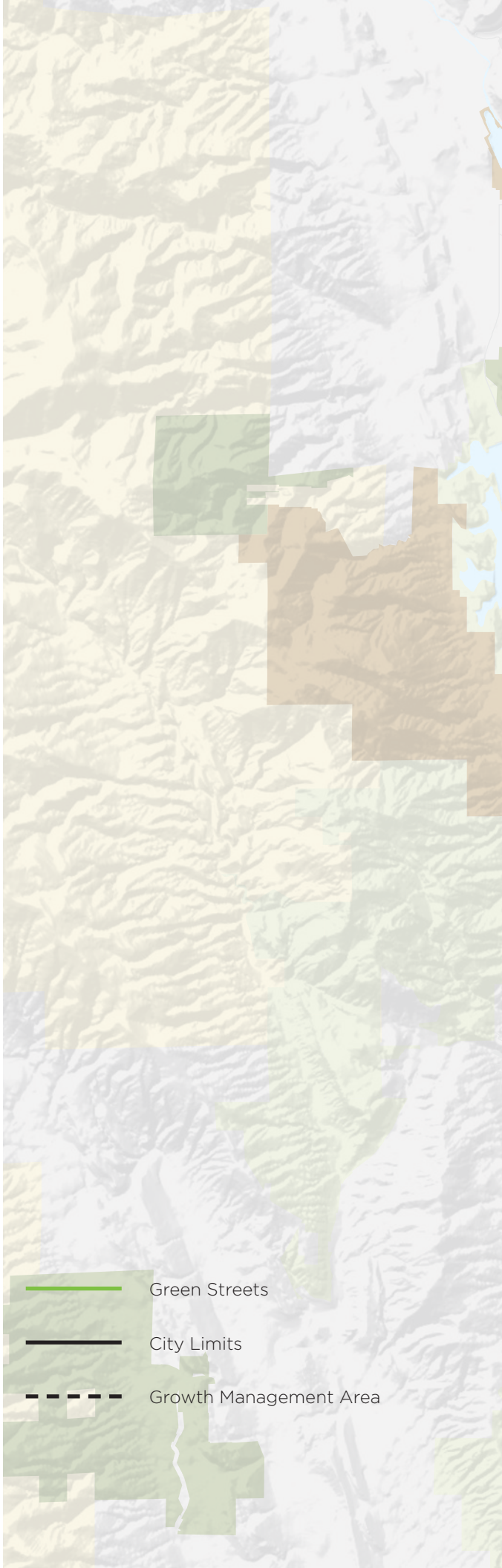
maintenance of enhanced streetscapes and street trees

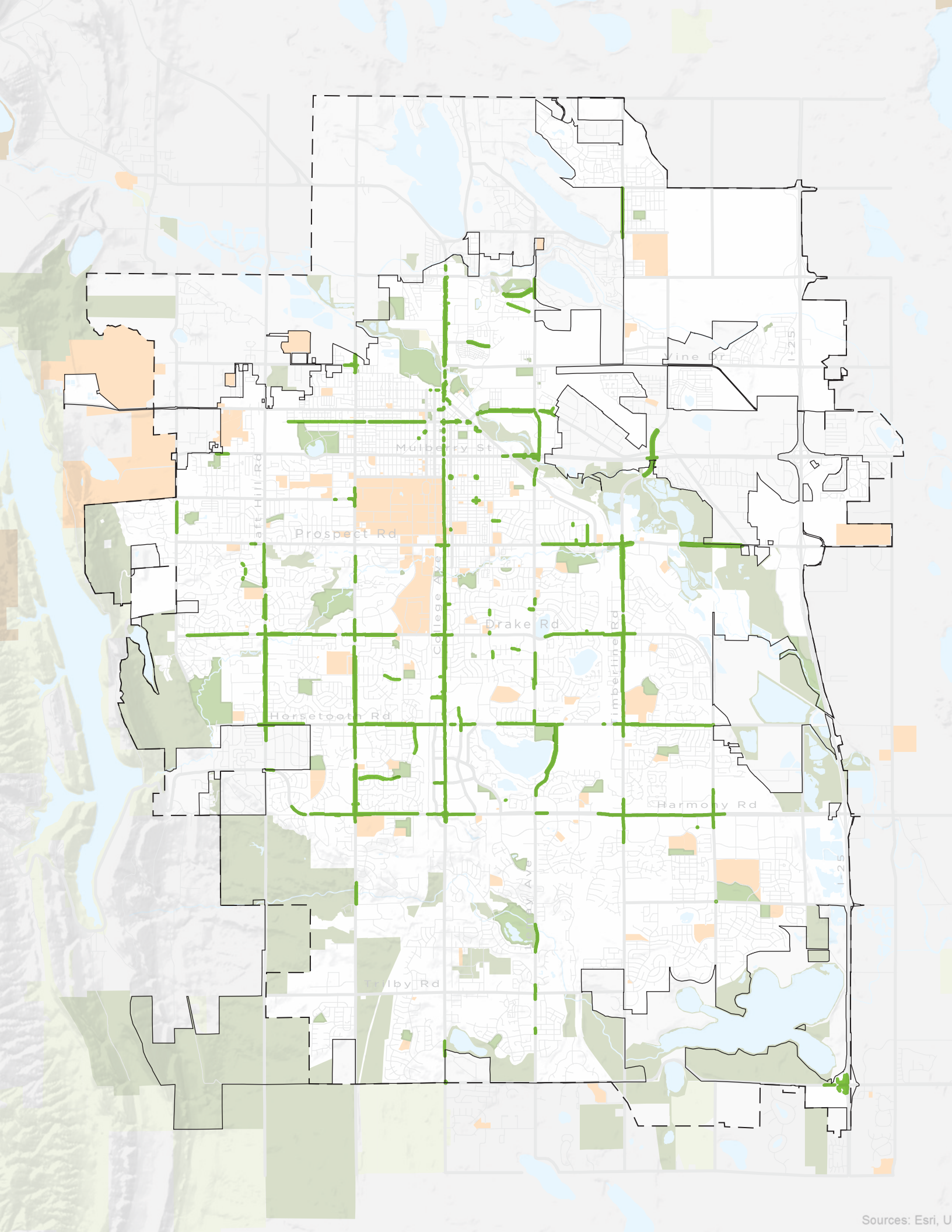
## At a Glance

### Count

11 green streets

57,340 public trees




Mulberry St
Prospect Rd
Drake Rd
Horsetooth Rd
Harmony Rd
Trilby Rd
Vine Dr
College Ave
Timberline Rd
I-25
I-25
Sources: Esri, U

# STORMWATER

Fort Collins stormwater system carries stormwater through ditches to detention basins throughout the city. They are often located near parks and consist of more natural plantings and habitat.

## Management Responsibilities

### Stormwater Department

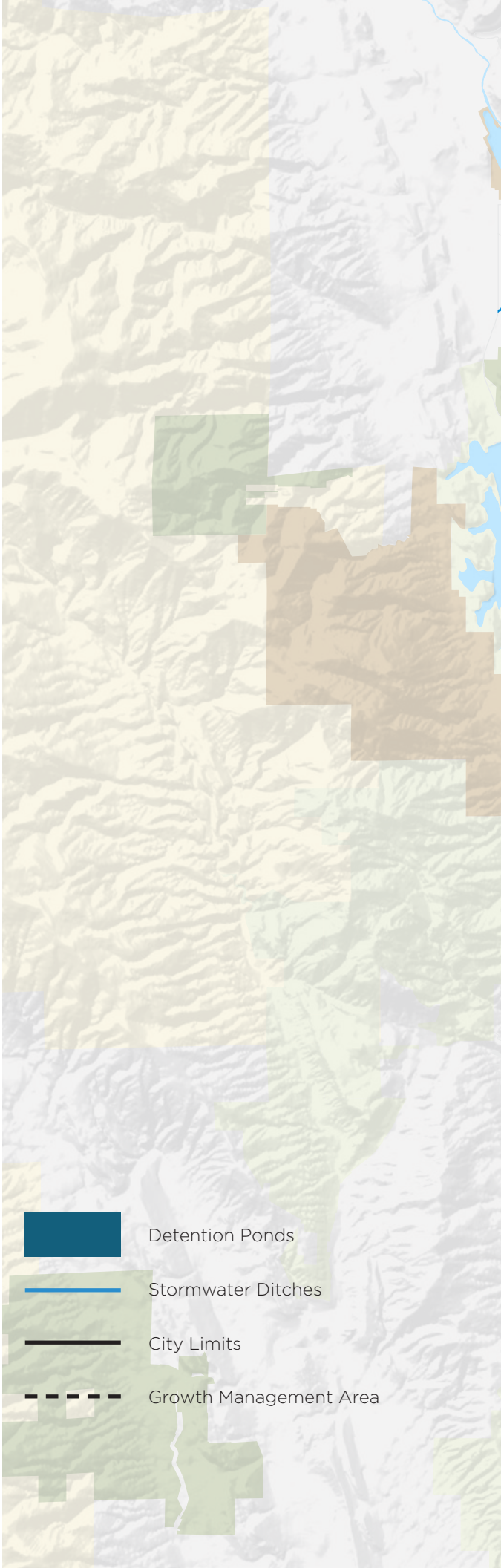
design and construction of all basins, maintains irrigation ditches, stormwater master planning

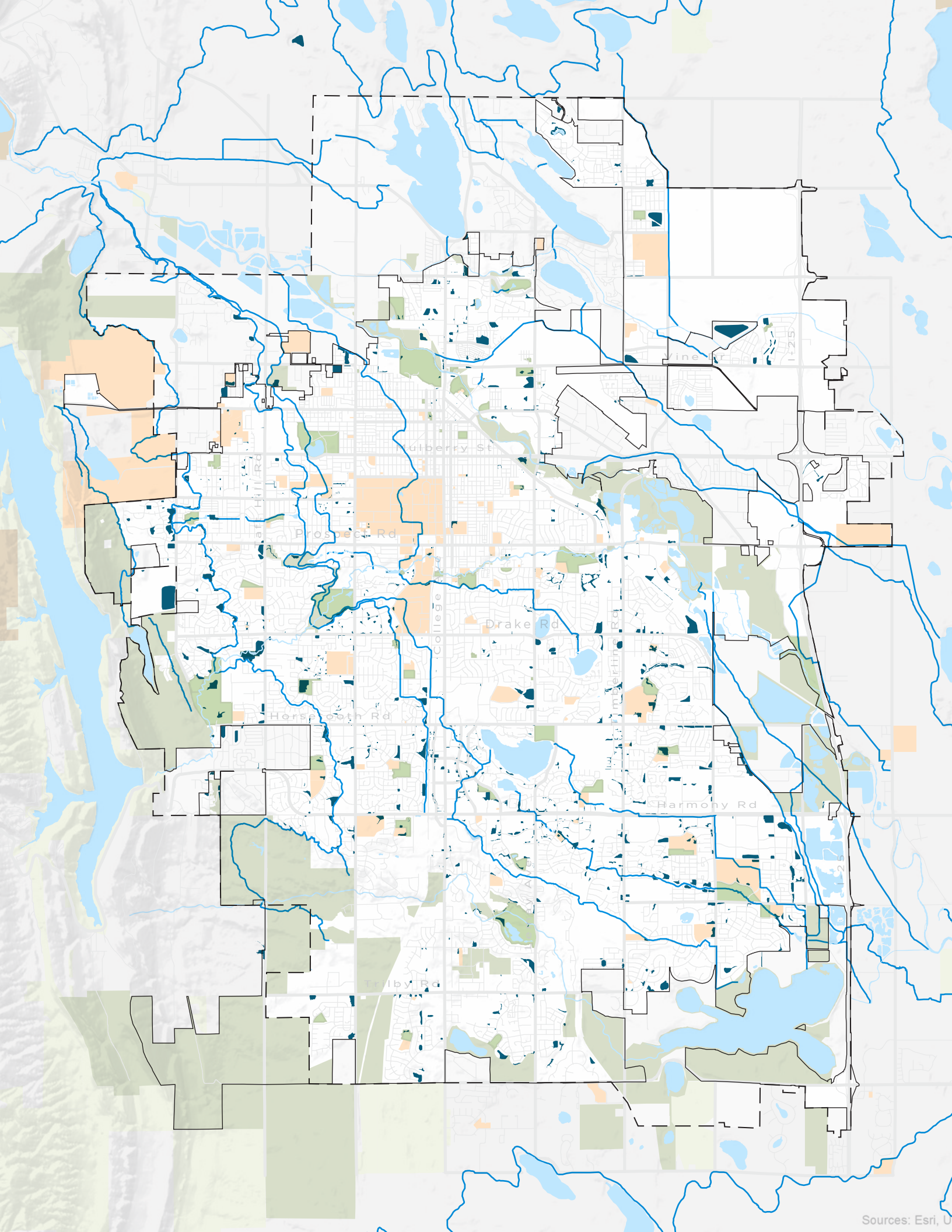
## At a Glance

### Count

893 detention basins

220 miles of irrigation ditches




Mulberry St
Prospect Rd
Drake Rd
Horsetooth Rd
Harmony Rd
Trilby Rd
College Ave
Timberline Rd
I-25
Sources: Esri, U

# SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SPACES MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintenance crews keep parks looking and functioning optimally.

Detailed on the preceding pages, responsibility for management of public spaces in Fort Collins is split across many City departments. Many of these departments are located within the Community Services service area, however, many buildings and facilities within the public spaces network are built and maintained centrally by the Operation Services Department.

**Figure 13. The Parks Department maintains much of the city's public spaces.**
Department Responsibilities

- Acquisition
- Development
- Maintenance
- Programming
- Scheduling

| | PARKS | RECREATION | PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT | NATURAL AREAS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Parks** | ● ● ● | | ● ● | | |
| **Recreation Facilities** | | ● ● ● ● ● | | | |
| **Natural Areas** | ● | | | ● ● ● ● ● | |
| **Trails** | ● | | ● ● | ● ● ● | |
| **Schools** | ● | | | | |
| **Cultural Facilities** | ● | | | | |
| **Streetscapes** | ● | | | | |
| **Stormwater** | | | | | |




| | CULTURAL SERVICES | OPERATION SERVICES | SCHOOL DISTRICTS | ENGINEERING | STORMWATER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | ● | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | ● | | |
| | ● | ● | | | |
| | | | | ● | |
| | | | | | ● |


The Farm
1920 BUILT BY J.A. NELSON
1985 RESTORED BY PARKS AND RECREATION
WELCOME TO THE FARM
ENJOY YOUR VISIT
City of Fort Collins



# PROGRAMS

*The Fort Collins Recreation Department provides and facilitates hundreds of programs and services to residents each year. Planning, implementing, conducting, and evaluating a diverse array of recreation programs and special community-wide events, and the operation of multiple facilities happens year round. Residents have hundreds of City-provided offerings in athletics, classes, summer camps, aquatics, teen activities, and therapeutic recreation available to them. Partnerships with other organizations expand offerings even further.*

**Residents of all ages can interact with farm animals and go on hayrides and pony rides at the Farm.**
The Farm at Lee Martinez Community Park

# CORE PROGRAM AREAS

Fort Collins strives to provide access to outstanding programs, services, and community amenities. To accomplish this involves identifying core program areas that can provide focus on activities and outcomes of greatest importance to the community as informed by current and future needs. Public recreation is often challenged by trying to be all things to all people. Identifying core program areas assists staff, policy makers, and the public to focus on what is most important.

Core program areas are those that:

- have been offered for a long period of time (over 4 years)
- consume a relatively large portion (5% or more) of the overall budget
- are offered 3-4 seasons per year
- have wide demographic appeal
- have a tiered level of skill development available
- have dedicated full-time staff
- have specialized facilities
- represent a significant share (20% or more) of the local market

The City offers programs and services in ten core program areas.

**Residents can join teams in a variety of competitive sports.**
Softball Team



## Advanced, Competitive, and Private Level Activities

Classes, clinics, workshops, and other structured recreation activities in which pre-registration is required and the primary intent is to perfect a specific skill set.

Examples: clinics, skill-based camps, advanced youth and adult classes, freeze basketball, higher levels of freestyle skating, synchronized skating, adult sports tournaments, national or international travel trips, private or semi-private swim or skate lessons, and personal training.

## Intermediate Level Activities

Classes, clinics, workshops, and other structured recreation activities in which pre-registration is required and the primary intent is to enhance a specific skill set.

Examples: basic 3 through basic 8 ice skating, level 3 through level 5 swim classes, youth and adult sport leagues, cheerleading, regular tennis lessons, intermediate adult and youth classes, general fitness and dance classes, general education classes, day camps (EPIC Adventure, Farm camps), trips or travel outside of Fort Collins, historic cafe (lunch and learn), and freestyle skating levels.

## Beginner / Introductory Level Activities

Classes, clinics, workshops, and other structured recreation activities in which pre-registration is required and the primary intent is to acquire basic fundamental skills.

Examples: tot skate through basic 2 classes, guppy through level 2, early learning classes, beginner or introductory adult and youth classes, Sporties for Shorties, SNAG golf, and Northern Colorado trips or travel.

## Community Events

Large-scale events that are planned for the entire community on an annual basis. Events may be designed for any or all ages, abilities, skills, or interests and are highly intensive.

Examples: 4th of July parade, Kites in the Park, and art shows.

## Drop-In Monitored Access (Non-Instructional)

Activities which do not require registration, are non-instructed, and include staff or volunteer supervision or oversight.

Examples: public swim, lounge or facility drop-in, open gym, open swim, public skate, and open basketball.

### Facility and Equipment Rentals

Rental of space or equipment by individuals, businesses, or groups.

Examples of facility rentals: meeting/community rooms, presentation rooms, gymnasiums, pools, and ice rinks, picnic pavilions.
Examples of equipment rentals: tables, chairs, audio and visual presentation equipment, podiums, table services, ice skates, boats and water craft, lockers, door-to-door services.

### Food and Beverage

The availability of consumable goods for purchase at snack bars, vending, and alcohol services.

### Inclusion

Reasonable accommodation to any Recreation Department activity or facility providing leisure opportunities to people with physical or cognitive disabilities or who are economically diverse. Inclusion services are intended to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### Merchandise for Resale

The availability of non-consumable goods for purchase at various facilities.

Examples: pro-shop items such as swim googles and swim diapers.

### Special Events

Annual events planned for a portion of the community serving a special interest. Events may be designed for any or all ages, abilities, skills, or interests.

Examples: Father's Day 5k, Amazing Race, Hogwarts Halloween, Tribute Series, and Holiday Market.



**Hogwarts Halloween is a special event that draws residents of all ages.**

Hogwarts Halloween at Northside Aztlan Community Center

# ENSURING THE RIGHT CORE PROGRAM MIX

The core program areas provided by Fort Collins appear to meet some of the major needs of the community, but the program mix must be evaluated on a recurring basis to ensure that offerings within each core program area—and the core program areas themselves—align with changing leisure and recreation trends, demographics, and residents' needs. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that six determinants be used to inform what programs and services are provided.

## Conceptual Foundations of Play, Recreation, and Leisure

Programs and services should encourage and promote a degree of freedom, choice, and voluntary engagement in their structure and design. Programs should reflect positive themes aimed at improving quality of life for both individuals and the overall community.

## Organizational Philosophy, Mission, and Vision

Programs and services should support a Department's mission and vision, values, goals, and objectives. These generally center on promoting personal health, community well-being, social equality, environmental awareness, and economic vitality.

## Constituent Interests and Desired Needs

Departments should actively seek to understand the recreational needs and interests of their constituency. This not only ensures an effective (and ethical) use of taxpayer dollars, but also helps to make sure that programs perform well and are valued by residents.

## Creation of a Constituent-Centered Culture

Programs and services reflect a culture where constituents' needs are the prime factor in creating and providing programs. This should be reflected not only in program design, but in terms of staff behaviors, architecture, furniture, technology, dress, forms of address, decision-making style, planning processes, and forms of communication.

## Experiences Desirable for Clientele

Programs and services should be designed to provide the experiences desirable to meet the needs of the participants/clients in a community and identified target markets. This involves not only identifying and understanding the diversity of needs in a community, but also applying recreation programming expertise and skills to design, implement, and evaluate a variety of desirable experiences for residents to meet those needs.

## Community Opportunities

When planning programs and services, a department should consider the network of opportunities afforded by other organizations such as nonprofits, schools, other public agencies, and the private sector. Departments should also recognize where gaps in service provision occur and consider how unmet needs can be addressed.

# AGE SEGMENTS SERVED

The City balances programs for each age segment in line with best practices by targeting each age segment as a primary market in three or more core program areas. An age segment analysis should be conducted every year to note changes or to refine age categories. Given the growth in residents ages 55 and over and commensurate demand for services that serve this segment of the population, it is appropriate to further segment this group into those 55–64, those 65–74, and those 75 and older. People in these age brackets will have increasingly different needs and expectations for programs and services in the coming years, and program planning will be needed to provide differing requirements.

Ideally, each program should be analyzed by the age segments it serves. Program coordinators or managers should include this information when creating or updating program plans for individual programs. An age segment analysis can also be incorporated into mini business plans for comprehensive program planning.

| CORE PROGRAM AREA | PRESCHOOL (5 AND UNDER) | ELEMENTARY (6–12) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Advanced, Competitive, and Private Level Activities | | ○ | |
| Beginner/Introductory Level Activities | ○ | ○ | |
| Community Events | ○ | ○ | |
| Drop-In Monitored Access Non-Instructional) | ○ | ○ | |
| Facility and Equipment Rentals | ○ | ○ | |
| Food and Beverage | ○ | ○ | |
| Inclusion | | ○ | |
| Intermediate Level Activities | | ○ | |
| Merchandise for Resale | ○ | ○ | |
| Special Events | ○ | ○ | |

Primary Market

Secondary Market

**Each age segment is a primary market for at least three core program areas.**

Market by Age Segement and Core Program Area

| | TEENS (13–17) | YOUNG ADULT (18–34) | ADULT (35–54) | ACTIVE ADULT (55–64) | SENIOR (65+) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ○ |
| | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ○ |
| | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| | ● | ● | | | |
| | ● | ● | ○ | | |
| | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ○ |
| | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |


GOCO
LOTTERY




# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

*In many cities, parks and recreation departments are considered "spend" departments, given the task-driven services that they provide. However, there are several financial variables that impact these departments' efficiency and effectiveness. The following financial snapshot is based on the FY 2020 adopted budget for the Parks, Recreation, and Park Planning and Development departments in Fort Collins.*

**The Long View Trail connects Fort Collins to Loveland.**
Long View Trail

# PARKS DEPARTMENT

The Parks Department's annual allocated funding for park maintenance is **$12.3 million**, 96% of which comes from the City's general fund and from the Keep Fort Collins Great sales tax.

Many cities have combined park and recreation departments. Among cities with similar population densities to Fort Collins, 44% of the median annual operating budget is dedicated to the management and maintenance of developed parks. In Fort Collins, the Parks Department maintenance budget is 56% of the combined Park and Recreation Department budgets. However, considering best practice unit costs for maintenance of park facilities in the region, the Parks Department is currently underfunded by approximately **$958,000**.

**The Parks Department is underfunded by about $958,000 compared to best practices.**

Parks Cost of Service Analysis

| PARK TYPE | INVENTORY UNIT | INVENTORY | TOTAL FUNDING | CURRENT UNIT COST | BEST PRACTICE UNIT COST | ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED TO MEET BEST PRACTICE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mini Parks** | Acre | 14 | $220,629 | $15,759 | $16,000 | $3,371 |
| **Neighborhood Parks** | Acre | 384 | $3,193,549 | $8,317 | $9,000 | $262,451 |
| **Community Parks** | Acre | 573 | $4,390,457 | $7,662 | $8,000 | $193,543 |
| **Paved Trails** | Linear Mile | 44 | $402,348 | $9,144 | $12,000 | $125,652 |
| **Rights of Way/ Medians** | Sq. ft. | 3,525,655 | $1,015,919 | $0.29 | $0.30 | $41,777 |
| **Special Use Areas (Downtown)** | Acre | 14 | $2,231,035 | $159,360 | $159,360 | $- |
| **Undeveloped Parks** | Acre | 69 | $18,386 | $266 | $300 | $2,314 |
| **City Facility grounds** | Acre | 133 | $275,786 | $2,074 | $2,074 | $- |
| **Ranger Program** | 3 of Rangers | 3 | $270,440 | $90,147 | $200,00 | $329,560 |
| **Events /working with other departments** | # of Events | 12 | $286,432 | $23,869 | $23,896 | $- |
| **Total** | | | $12,305,982 | | | $958,688 |

# PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The goal of the Park Planning and Development Department is to collaborate with the community to plan, design, and build the city's system. Only 3% of parks and recreation agencies nationally have a dedicated park planning and development department, reflecting the importance of parks in Fort Collins.

The Department is fiscally sustainable for the next 20 years as its $4.7 million operating budget is primarily funded through neighborhood and community park capital improvement expansion fees.

**Park maintenance keeps parks beautiful and safe.**
Twin Silo Community Park



# RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Recreation Department's annual budget for recreation programs and services is about **$11.3 million**, more than half of which (55%) is offset by revenue generated by the Department, also known as cost recovery. Among cities with similar population densities to Fort Collins, the median cost recovery rate is 27%. This translates into a larger per capita cost recovery for Fort Collins of $40 compared to the median of $26 in cities of similar densities.

Many cities have combined park and recreation departments. Among cities with similar population densities to Fort Collins, 56% of the median annual operating budget is dedicated to recreation programs, services, and facilities. In Fort Collins, the Recreation Department budget is 44% of the combined Park and Recreation Department budgets.

**The Recreation Department's rate of cost recovery, at 55%, is double that of similarly dense cities.**

Recreation Cost of Service Analysis

| PROGRAMS | PARTICIPATION/ VISITATION | TOTAL REVENUE | DIRECT PROGRAM EXPENDITURES | INDIRECT/ ADMIN/ OVERHEAD EXPENDITURES | TOTAL REVENUES OVER/ UNDER TOTAL | TAX SUPPORT PER PARTICIPANT/ VISITOR | CURRENT COST RECOVERY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Aquatics** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 308,634 | $989,514 | $713,235 | $1,253,711 | ($977,432) | ($3.17) | 50.3% |
| **Ice** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 146,390 | $1,210,314 | $519,607 | $1,533,464 | ($842,757) | ($5.76) | 59.0% |
| **Youth Enrichment Programs** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 108,134 | $1,000,659 | $645,697 | $1,267,832 | ($912,870) | ($8.44) | 52.3% |
| **Adult Enrichment Programs** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 39,581 | $527,165 | $489,866 | $667,916 | ($630,617) | ($15.93) | 45.5% |
| **Arts, Crafts, Pottery - Youth and Adult** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 20,533 | $212,896 | $143,182 | $269,739 | ($200,025) | ($9.74) | 51.6% |
| **Adaptive Recreational Opportunities** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 15,299 | $53,738 | $67,125 | $68,086 | ($81,473) | ($5.33) | 39.7% |
| **Fitness Programs** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 360,774 | $481,620 | $298,042 | $610,211 | ($426,633) | ($1.18) | 53.0% |
| **Sports** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 168,708 | $825,784 | $499,183 | $1,046,266 | ($719,665) | ($4.27) | 53.4% |
| **Special Events** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | NA | $19,750 | $7,300 | $25,023 | ($12,573) | NA | 61.1% |
| **Room Rentals** | | | | | | | |
| All Rentals | NA | $259,347 | $116,864 | $328,592 | ($186,109) | NA | 58.2% |
| **Other** | | | | | | | |
| General Daily Drop-In | NA | $566,649 | | $717,942 | ($151,293) | NA | 78.9% |
| **Totals** | | | | | | | |
| All Programs | 1,168,053 | $6,147,436 | $3,500,101 | $7,788,781 | ($5,141,446) | NA | 54.5% |

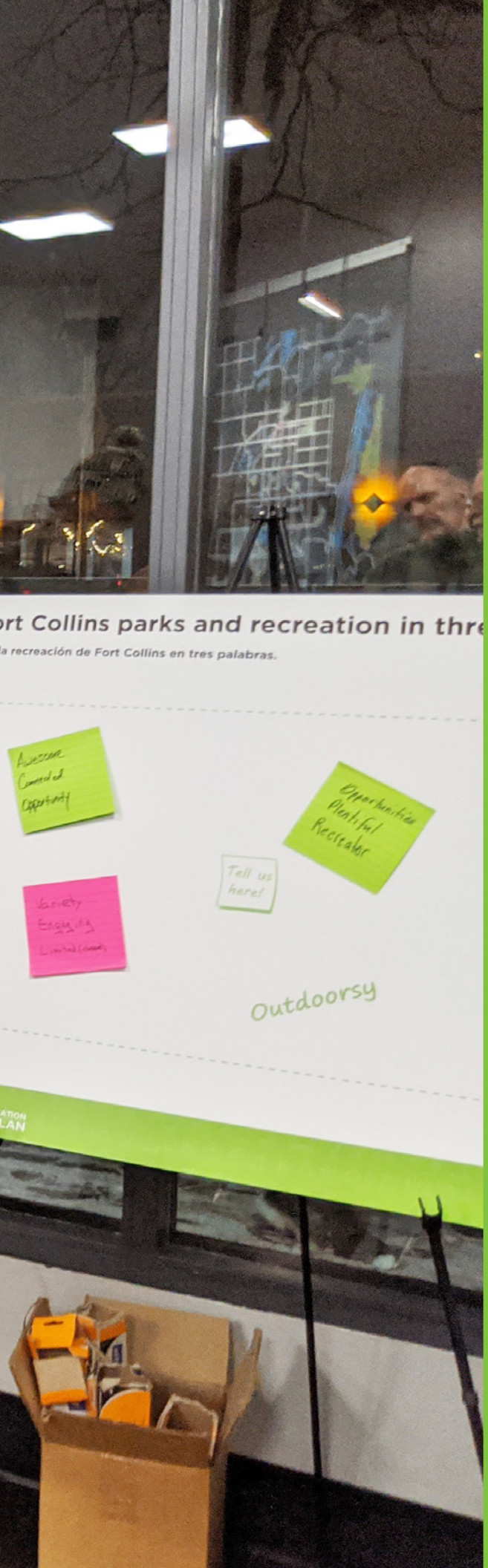




# SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN


Fort Collins Parks and Recreation at a glance:
1,182
54
Rectangular Fields
36
44+
1.3 Million
Program Participants in 2018
8
Community Gardens
If you had $1,000 to spend on the following improvements to parks and recreation in Fort Collins, how would you allocate to each?
Lifecycle Improvements
City of Fort Collins
Describe Fo
Reliable
ReCreate
Rēthink. Rēnew. Rēimagine.




# ENGAGEMENT

*The process of developing this Parks and Recreation Master Plan included a number of opportunities for residents, advocates, and elected leaders to weigh in and provide input. The goal of these touch points was to gain a thorough understanding of park and recreation wants and needs. This knowledge was critical to creating a plan that will effectively serve the community for the next decade or more.*

**Residents were asked to allocate funds for different improvements at engagement events.**
Visit Fort Collins Pop-Up

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## Open Houses

In February of 2020, two open houses were held, at the Lincoln Center and at Preston Middle School. At the open houses, a series of boards were set up for participants to explore at their own pace. Informational boards provided maps and statistics about the parks and recreation system and the planning process. Input boards provided participants opportunity to weigh in by voting for their preferred choices or by writing in their own ideas. City staff and consultants were available to provide clarifications, answer questions, and discuss issues. Over 150 participants attended the two open houses.

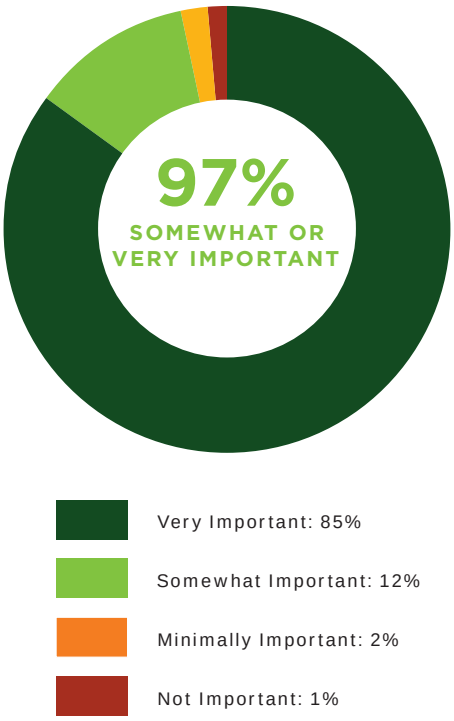
## Pop-Up Engagement

Around the same time as the open houses, the planning team popped up at the Foothills Mall, Visit Fort Collins, and the Old Town Library, These events were smaller versions of the open houses and consisted of six different boards that shared information and collected feedback from the public. The goal of these smaller events was to catch people in the course of their normal activities who may not have known about or who may have been unable to attend the open houses. Sixty-five people participated in the pop-up events.

## OurCity

Throughout the planning process, Fort Collins' web-based engagement platform, OurCity, provided a location to learn about the process, to provide input, and to review draft documents.

**How important are quality parks, paved trails, recreation facilities, and programs to the identity of Fort Collins?**




**Residents have a lot to love about the parks and recreation system!**

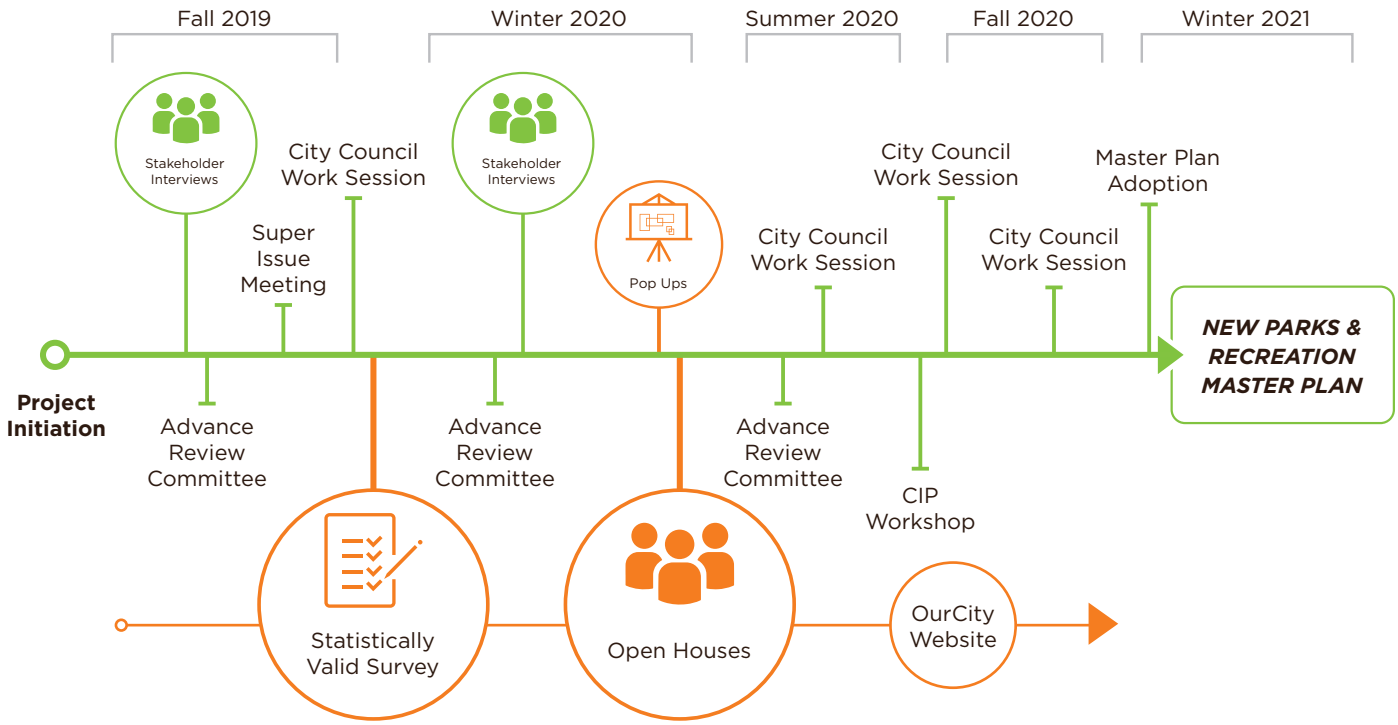
Lincoln Center Open House




## Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the approach to engagement initially envisioned for this plan. The series of open houses, pop-up events, and interviews conducted early in the process allowed for face-to-face engagement with Fort Collins residents. While additional face-to-face engagement was not possible during the pandemic, greater use of digital engagement tools, including web-based meetings and the OurCity website allowed for engagement throughout the process.

# ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE




**Both open houses were well attended with enthusiastic participation from residents.**

Preston Middle School Open House



## Stakeholder Interviews

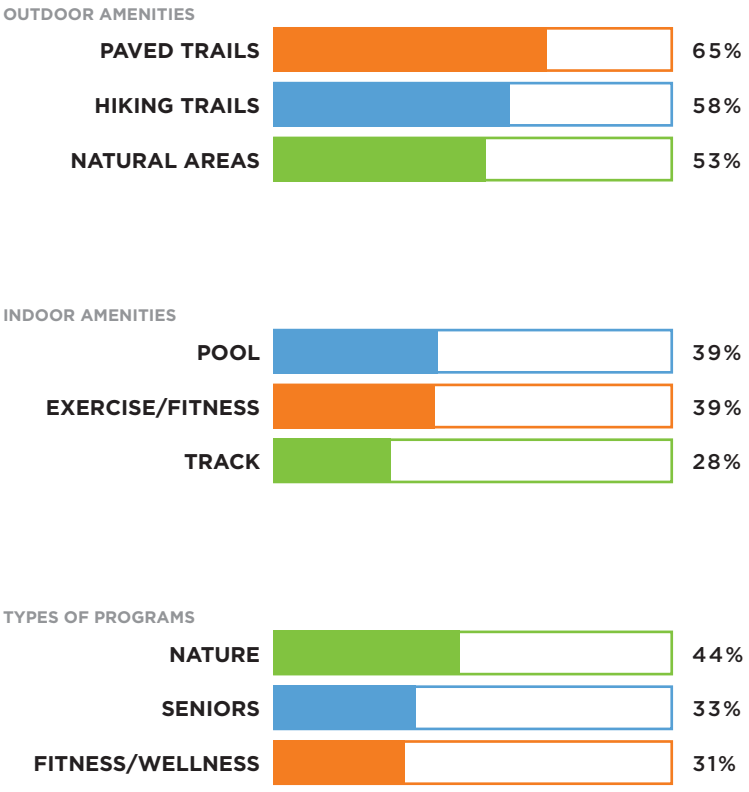
Small group interviews of stakeholders provided an opportunity to hear from advocacy organizations and user group about the way they use parks and recreation in Fort Collins and the needs they and their organizations have for parks and recreation moving forward. All of the organizations listed at right participated in these interviews.

## Statistically Valid Survey

In addition to in-person and online engagement, a statistically valid survey was conducted in the winter of 2019 by mail, phone, and web to measure residents' needs across Fort Collins. The goal was to receive at least 500 completed surveys. The goal was exceeded with a total of 511 completed surveys. The demographic makeup of the survey sample reflects the demographic makeup of the city as a whole. With this sample size, the results of the survey have a precision of at least ±4.33% at the 95% level of confidence. Results from the survey and other engagement forums influenced the plan's recommendations and are interspersed in the goals and actions section. Selected additional results of the survey can be found in Appendix page 338.

**Figure 14. Trails and nature programs rated as some of the highest amenities.**

Top amenities by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices

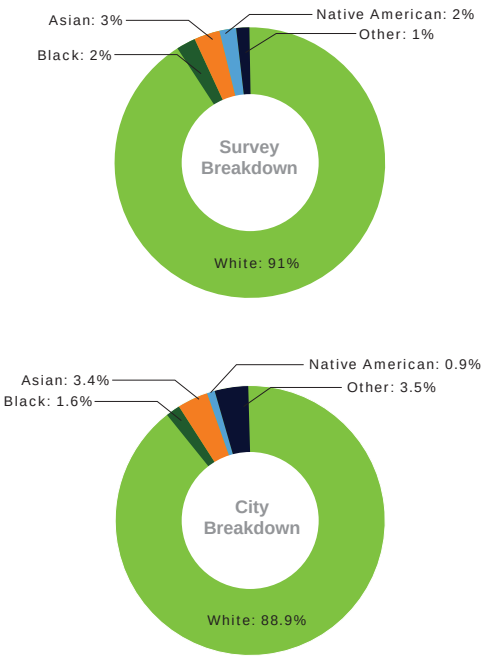



## PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

- Bicycle Colorado
- Bike Fort Collins
- CSU
- Cycles for Youth
- Downtown Business Association
- Downtown Development Authority
- Fort Collins Areas Swim Team
- Fort Collins Baseball Club
- Fort Collins Pickleball Club
- Fort Collins Running Club
- Fort Collins Ultimate Frisbee
- Fort Collins Womens Hockey
- Larimer County Dept of the Built Environment
- Lewis Tennis School
- Liberty Common Charter School
- Northern Colorado Disc Golf
- Overland Mountain Bike Association
- Poudre School District
- Rocky Mountain Adventures
- Tennis Association
- Triple Crown Sports
- Twin Silo BMX
- University Bike Advisory Committee
- Visit Fort Collins
- Your Group Ride

**The demographic makeup of the statistically valid survey's respondents closely match the that of the city.**

Demographic Makeup of Statistically Valid Survey Respondents and City Residents




# CITY COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

At milestones in the process, City Council was briefed on plan progress at work sessions and subcommittee meetings. The work sessions were broadcast on FCTV and recorded for on-demand streaming.

## Work Sessions

The first work session was held on October 22, 2019 with the purpose of introducing the plan and gaining feedback on plan outcomes and outreach strategies.

On June 9, 2020, City Council was presented with an overview of the plan, a brief history of the public space system, access standards, system imageability, an overview of engagement, and drafts of the plan's vision statement, goals, and policy framework.

On August 25, 2020, City Council was presented with proposed park and recreation facility classifications, park and facility design guidelines, levels of service, and policy framework highlights.

A draft plan was presented to City Council on October 27, 2020.

## Finance Committee Meetings

The consultant team also presented to the Council Finance Committee on September 21, 2020 to get input on funding strategies for parks and recreation.

**City Council work sessions were used to brief councilmembers on master plan progress.**

Work Session 8/25/2020







# GUIDELINES FOR PARKS AND FACILITIES

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN


HANGRY
24/7



# CAPITAL AND PROGRAM LIFE CYCLES

*Capital facilities, including parks and recreation facilities, go through various phases of a life cycle. New facilities are planned, built, and operated. Recreation programs go through a similar life cycle. New programs are introduced, become mature, and may eventually be retired. Periodically, facilities and programs must be evaluated to ensure that they are still serving their intended purpose. If they are not, improvements may be needed.*

**Newer playgrounds like that at Crescent Park raise the standard across the city.**
Crescent Park

# CAPITAL FACILITY PHASES

### Acquire & Master Plan

The City acquires and assembles the land, identifies a raw water irrigation source (when available), and prepares a master plan that sets site-specific goals, outlines intended site usage and amenities, and includes a preliminary site layout. The master planning process typically includes community engagement.

### Design

Following a current site master plan, the City develops construction drawings for needed onsite and offsite improvements. These improvements may include raw water delivery systems, utility infrastructure improvements, and stormwater enhancements, in addition to development of park amenities, plantings, and structures.

### Build

The City secures a contractor or contractors needed to build the park through a traditional bid process or through alternative project delivery methods such as CMGC (Construction Manager General Contractor). The City works with the contractor throughout the construction process to complete the project.

### Operate

The City operates the park or facility with staff to support residents' ongoing use.

### Evaluate

Periodically, the City evaluates whether a park or facility is still serving its intended purpose. If not, improvements may be needed. The criteria listed at right are used to evaluate the park or facility.

### Evaluation Criteria

#### Community Needs

**Are the community's needs being met?**
This can be answered by using city-wide engagement feedback gathered through this plan (See p. 91) or through additional engagement.

#### Usage

**How well is the site being used?**
This can be answered by observing and counting the number of users over a period of time. Underuse and overuse can be an issue.

#### Condition of Existing Amenities

**What is the condition of existing amenities?**
This can be answered through site inspection, observing whether amenities are in good condition or need to be replaced.

#### Design and Function

**Is the overall design still relevant, and does it enhance the user experience? Does the park or facility and its systems still function as designed?**
This can be answered using the design guidelines in this plan (See p. 105) and through a maintenance and repair audit.

# CAPITAL FACILITY ACTIONS

### New Park/Facility

New parks or facilities may be needed to address overall level of service needs, as described in the Level of Service section of this plan (See p. 161).

### Maintain

The park or facility is maintained to keep it in a good state of repair.

### Life Cycle Replacement

A particular amenity, or a few amenities, have reached the end of their usable life, where they can no longer effectively be maintained, and are replaced in kind—though potentially with updated versions of like amenities.

### Minor Refresh

The current site master plan is still valid, but there are unmet community needs, the site is underused, a few amenities have reached the end of their usable life, plantings need to be refreshed, or elements of the design or function need to be rethought, requiring new design thinking.

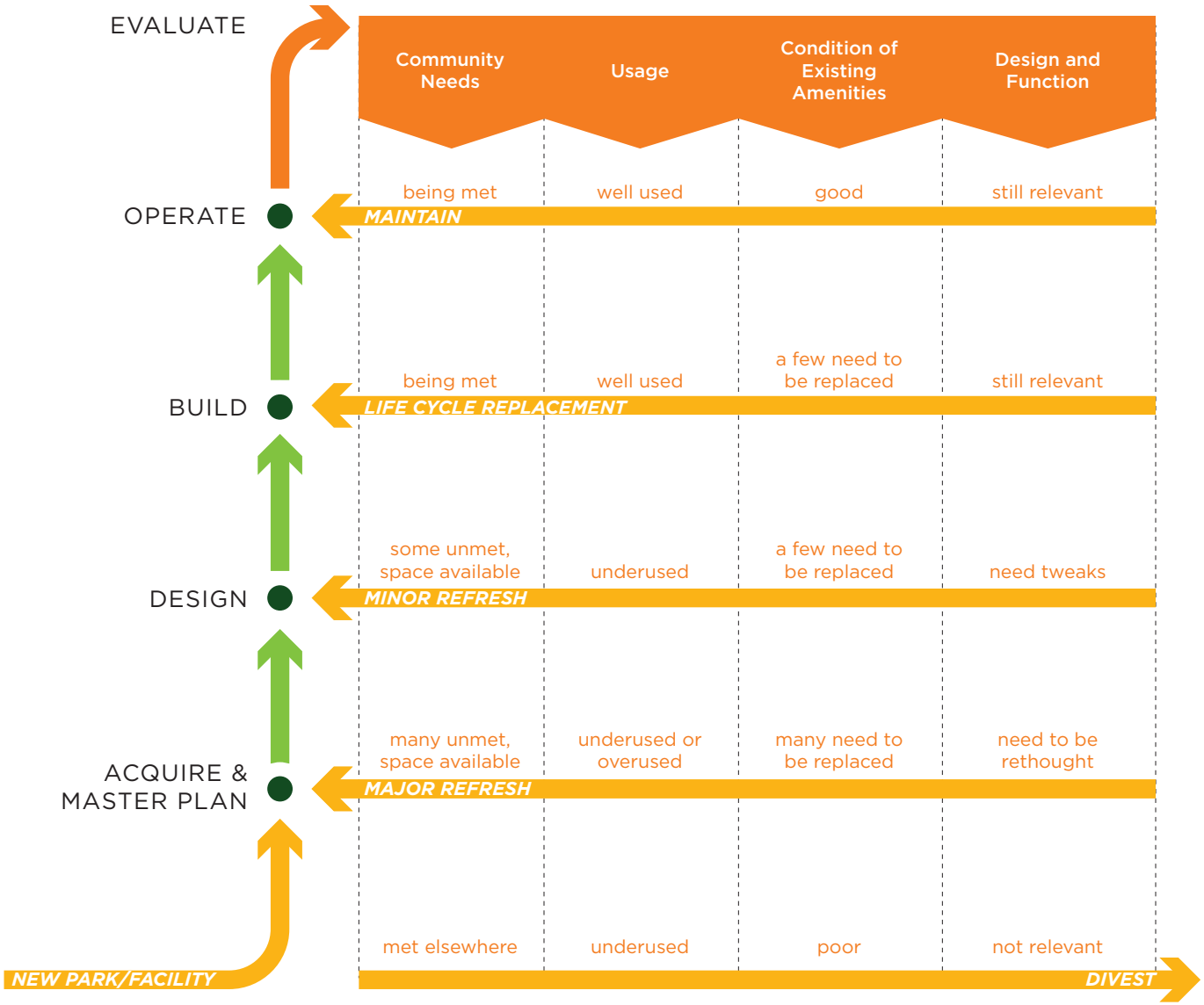
### Major Refresh

Enough community needs are unmet, the site is underused or overused, enough amenities have reached the end of their usable life, plantings need to be refreshed, and the design direction from the site master plan is no longer valid. A new master plan is needed.

### Divest

When a park or facility is no longer serving its intended purpose and community needs are being met elsewhere, it may not be worth continued investment.

**Figure 15. Parks and recreation facilities need to be evaluated throughout their life to determine if they are still meeting community needs.**
Park & Recreation Facility Phases



# PROGRAM LIFE CYCLES

Recreation programs go through a life cycle. Understanding where a program is in its life cycle can inform strategic decisions about the overall recreation program portfolio. The various stages of program lifecycles are:

- Introduction: new program, modest participation
- Take Off: rapid participation growth
- Growth: moderate, but consistent, participation growth
- Mature: slow participation growth
- Saturated: minimal to no growth, extreme competition
- Decline: declining participation

Determining what stage in its life cycle a program is in relies not only on quantitative data, but on staff knowledge.

Overall, Fort Collins has a strong distribution of programs across the program life cycle. A combined total of 13.5% of programs fall into the saturated and decline stages, which is slightly over the best practice of up to 10%. Intermediate activity level programs, particularly sports programs, are responsible for the higher-than-desired percentage of programs in these stages. While best practices suggest this number should be lower, it is natural for programs to eventually evolve into saturation and decline. If programs never reach these stages, it is an indication that the program offerings may be "over-tweaked," abbreviating their natural evolution. This prevents programs from reaching their maximum participation, efficiency, and effectiveness.

As programs enter into the decline stage, they must be closely reviewed and evaluated for repositioning or elimination. When this occurs, programs should be modified to begin a new life cycle, or new programs can be added based upon community needs and trends.

**OVERALL PROGRAMS: LIFECYCLE STAGE**

| | Number of Programs | Percentage of Programs | Current Distribution in Fort Collins | Best Practice Distribution |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Introduction** | 47 | 13% | 57.3% | 50-60% |
| **Take-Off** | 27 | 8% | | |
| **Growth** | 130 | 37% | | |
| **Mature** | 104 | 29% | 29.2% | 40% |
| **Saturated** | 28 | 8% | 13.5% | 0-10% |
| **Decline** | 20 | 6% | | |
| **Total** | 356 | 100% | 100% | 100% |



**Nature programs rated among some of the most important to residents.**
Outdoor Education Program

While it is important to provide new programs to align with trends and help meet the evolving needs of the community, it is also important to have a stable core segment of programs that are in the mature stage. Currently, 29.2% of programs are in this stage, lower than the best practice of 40%. Having more programs in the mature stage provides stability to the overall program portfolio. Programs in the mature stage should be closely monitored to determine if they are entering the saturated or decline stages.

A total of 57.3% of programs are in the introduction, take-off, and growth stages, in alignment with best practices. The City must allow these programs one to two years to reach the maturation stage. It requires patience to prevent programs from being canceled too soon after introducing them to the community.





# DESIGN GUIDELINES

*Design guidelines are a road map for designing new parks and recreation facility sites and refreshing existing ones—or determining whether sites need to be refreshed. They help ensure that parks and recreation facilities are connected to their surroundings, have a strong community presence, and respect natural systems. At a minimum, they help meet resident expectations. For example, people expect a new park or recreation facility to meet a certain level of excellence and safety. Design guidelines make this effort easier to achieve.*

**Design guidelines ensure that parks are connected to their surroundings.**
Spring Canyon Park

# DESIGN GUIDELINES

The following design guidelines are meant to ensure that park and recreation facility sites are well integrated into their surroundings and provide the best experiences for visitors. They address overall design, site context, access and connectivity, wayfinding, and various zones of use within the site. The guidelines are intended to inform:

- the development of framework plans
- the periodic evaluation of parks and recreation facilities to determine if they're functioning as intended
- the design of refreshed or new parks

Following the list of design guidelines are diagrams showing how they apply to a prototypical park of each classification.

## DESIGN

### System Wide Language

**Use a consistent design language throughout the system.**
Signage and wayfinding elements should be consistent from one park or recreation facility to another, especially for schoolside parks, neighborhood parks, and mini-parks. Community parks provide opportunity for more unique design expressions. Having a consistent design language helps identify a park or recreation facility as being part of the Fort Collins public space system and helps users feel more comfortable visiting parks or recreation facilities they may be unfamiliar with. Consistency does not, however, preclude unique identity features.

### Design Vocabulary

**Ensure the vocabulary of design is appropriate for the scale and materials of the landscape and existing infrastructure.**
Particularly on larger sites, landscape and architectural design elements should respond to the scale and aesthetic of their context.

## CONTEXT

### Mixed-Use

**Ensure a mix of uses around parks and recreation facilities.**
A mix of uses expands the user base, particularly at street intersections where people are traveling in multiple directions and encourages activity through a longer part of the day. The number and mix of uses may vary by size, type, and location.

### Building Frontage/Entrances

**Ensure that buildings adjacent to and across the street from parks and recreation facilities have frontages or entrances designed to face them.**
Buildings with active ground floor uses that face parks and recreation facilities help frame the space and provide "eyes on the park." Such visibility from adjacent uses enhances the perception of safety. Building entrances adjacent to a park or recreation facility provide a built-in user-base. In addition, proximity to parks and recreation facilities is correlated with higher property values—benefiting property owners.

### Streetscape Enhancements

**Surround parks and recreation facilities with enhanced streetscapes.**
Streets surrounding parks and recreation facilities should be treated as extensions of those facilities. Trees, planters, rain gardens, and other features provide a visual cue to all street users that a park or recreation facility is nearby. Streetscape enhancements should conform to Fort Collins' Streetscape Standards.

## ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

### Seamless Public Space

**Ensure seamless connections between parks and recreation facilities and other adjacent public spaces.**
Residents do not typically perceive differences between ownership, but they do perceive differences in experiences and missing connections. Barriers and breaks in access limit attractiveness and viability. Regional ecosystems also do not observe jurisdictional boundaries and must be thought of as integrated, functional systems.

### Street Grid Connectivity

**Maintain physical and visual connections to the street grid.**
Parks and recreation facilities should fit into the fabric of the neighborhoods they are in. They should be sited to minimize disruptions to the street grid, which is integral to a functional transportation network. Where streets do not continue through a park or recreation facility site, efforts should be made to maintain physical and visual connections, such as gateways, or sight lines or walking paths through the site, in line with those streets.

## Safe Pedestrian Access

**Ensure adequate sidewalks and safe pedestrian crossings.**
While street frontage can encourage usage and increase safety, too much vehicular traffic can deter pedestrians. Sidewalks and safe crossings, whether at intersections or mid-block, encourage access and allow pedestrians to feel comfortable that they are protected.

## Trail Connections

**Maintain connections to the paved trail network.**
Trail users are park and recreation facility users. Parks and recreation facilities can serve as trailheads, trail destinations, or locations to stop and rest along a trail. Parks and recreation facilities may also host critical trail links, leading to a more connected system.

## Trail Mode Separation

**Separate trails into pedestrian and bicycle paths.**
On larger sites, where there is space to separate faster-moving bicycles and slower-moving pedestrians, splitting trails can reduce conflicts while signaling to trail users that they are in a park or recreation space. Trails may have different materials for different uses. For instance, a walking trail may be finished with stone fines as opposed to an asphalt bike trail.

## Bike Connections

**Maintain connections to the low-stress bicycle network.**
Where trail connections are not possible, the low-stress bicycle network can provide safe, easy routes for cyclists of all ages and abilities to connect with parks and recreation facilities. Bicycle racks and tune-up stations should be provided where possible to enable and encourage bicycle access.

## Transit Connections

**Connect parks and recreation facilities to transit.**
As with trails, transit users are park and recreation facility users and vice versa. Particular types of parks, such as plazas, may relate directly to a Transfort station or stop or to a rideshare drop-off, providing a sense of place and spaces to welcome and send off visitors.

## Shared Parking

**Pursue shared parking strategies to eliminate or reduce on-site surface parking.**
Particularly in higher density areas, where space is at a premium, and where parks and recreation facilities abut each other or other public facilities, on-site surface parking is difficult to justify. In addition to on-street parking, shared parking may be a better option than losing valuable on-site area to parking.

### Visible Frontage

**Ensure that parks and recreation facilities are visible from streets, trails, and adjacent uses.**

Being able to see what is going on within a park or recreation facility can pique the interest of a passerby and increase patronage as well as increase the perception of safety.

## WAYFINDING

### Gateways

**Create gateway features at major entrances to parks and recreation facilities.**

Gateway features clearly indicate major entrances and signal to visitors that they are welcome to enter. Architectural, landscape, art, and/or signage features may be used to indicate a gateway. The placement and design of gateway features can guide users to use specific routes through park and recreation facility sites.

### Path Hierarchy

**Ensure on-site paths have a clear hierarchy.**

Establish a hierarchy of paths that offer a range of experiences for diverse users, access to destinations, and connections to surrounding circulation networks. Provide consistent widths and surface materials based on path hierarchy and user.

### Support Facilities

**Provide areas for facilities that support the use of parks and recreation facilities.**

In order for parks and recreation facilities to function optimally, it is necessary to include facilities, such as restrooms and water fountains, to support their use. Appropriate support facilities may vary by park or facility type.

## ZONES

### Intensive Use Areas

IU

**Design spaces that can accommodate intensive use.**
Parks and recreation facilities may attract large numbers of users due to the density of their surroundings, their integration into pedestrian and bicycle travel routes, and their use as event and gathering spaces. This high level of usage can impact the integrity of the space. Areas that are expected to be heavily used—for example, near entrances or gathering spaces—should be designed to accommodate that level of use, perhaps incorporating more hardscape areas or more resilient landscape plantings, but still be designed to feel comfortable even when large events are not occurring.

### Programmable Spaces

PS

**Provide flexible open spaces that can be used as gathering spaces.**
Parks and recreation facilities often serve as community gathering spaces, from small get-togethers to large events. Areas should be designed to be flexible enough to accommodate these events while serving as space for informal play, picnicking, or other uses between events. These spaces may include both paved and soft surfaces and include amenities such as amphitheaters for performances.

### Recreation Areas

RA

**Provide areas and facilities that are specifically designed for recreation and are responsive to the needs of surrounding neighborhoods.**
How parks and recreation facilities are used, and the degree to which they are used, depends on how well they respond to the needs of those who live near them. This may include both traditional and unique facilities and spaces.

### Casual Use Spaces

CS

**Provide areas that are specifically designed for casual, impromptu use.**
Just as important as programmed spaces are unprogrammed areas intentionally designed for people to enjoy a park or recreation facility without being displaced by programmed uses. Such casual use spaces may include areas for sitting (e.g., seating, walls, steps), picnicking, or playing a game of catch.

NA

### Natural System Areas

**Define areas that focus on the enhancement and function of natural systems.**

Natural environments, including habitat areas, woodlands, wetlands, and stream corridors are not always thought of as predominant components of parks and recreation facilities. Yet, natural systems do not stop at site boundaries. In addition, parks and recreation facilities are the closest opportunities to interact with natural spaces in some neighborhoods. Incorporating best stormwater management practices, enhancing existing ecosystems, providing habitat, and planting diverse landscapes can maximize the function of natural systems and enhance the user experience. Native, low-water-use or drought tolerant species establish climate-resilient and drought tolerant areas.

### Floodplains

**Avoid overbuilding in flood-prone areas.**

The potential for inundation makes some uses more or less compatible with floodplains. Healthy wetland ecologies and systems should be prioritized and paths should be hardened in all floodplains, while recreational assets should be minimized. Buildings in the 500-year floodplain should be minimized, and they should be avoided in the 100-year floodplain.

## FEATURES



### Loop Trail

**Provide a loop trail for people to explore, circulate, and recreate.**

Loop trails provide opportunities for people to see parts of a park or recreation facility site that they may not otherwise be aware of. When they are a specifically measured length, they allow users to easily walk, jog, bike, or skate to a number of steps or miles they may be targeting for exercise and wellness.



### Identity Features

**Incorporate features that can lend identity to a park or recreation facility.**

Much as gateways can use architectural, landscape, art, and/or signage features to indicate access, the same types of features can become a park or recreation facility's signature. Decorative arches, sculptures, or water fountains are examples of identity features that may attract users and serve as landmarks for meeting people or giving directions.



### Natural or Historic Features

**Preserve and enhance naturally or historically significant features.**

Natural features, such as wetlands, stream corridors, or historic features, such as historic structures or routes, add interest and preserve experiences that are rare or unique. These features become destinations themselves and attract local and regional visitors. Parks and recreation facilities with naturally or historically significant features provide opportunities for interpretation and education.

# APPLYING THE GUIDELINES

The following diagrams illustrate how the various design guidelines apply to different park classifications. Enlargements of each diagram can be found in the following section on park and facility classifications.

**Design**

- SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- DESIGN VOCABULARY

**Context**

- MIXED-USE
- BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

**Access and Connectivity**

- SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

- MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- BIKE CONNECTIONS
- TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- SHARED PARKING
- VISIBLE FRONTAGE

**Wayfinding**

- GATEWAYS
- PATH HIERARCHY
- SUPPORT FACILITIES

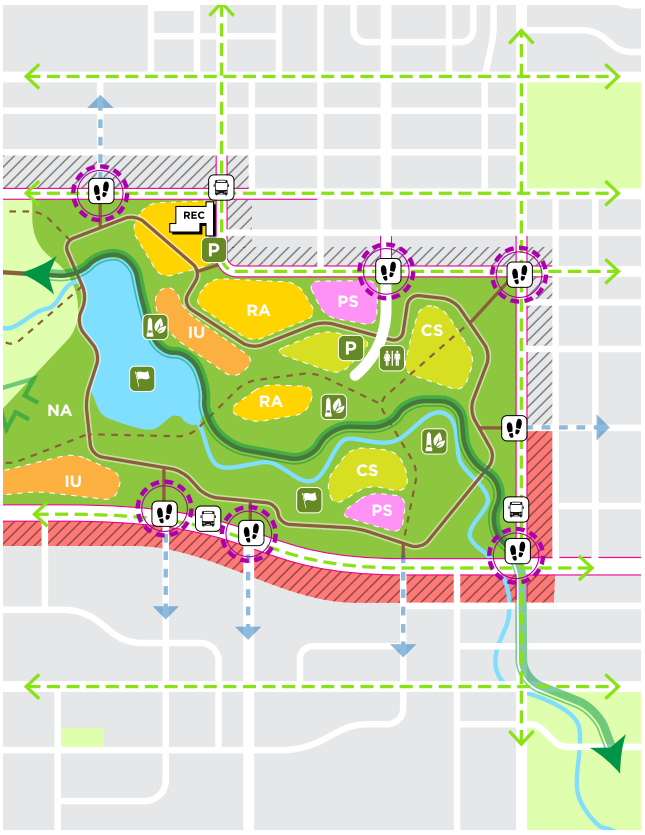
**Zones**

- INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- RECREATION AREAS
- CASUAL USE SPACES
- NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- FLOODPLAINS

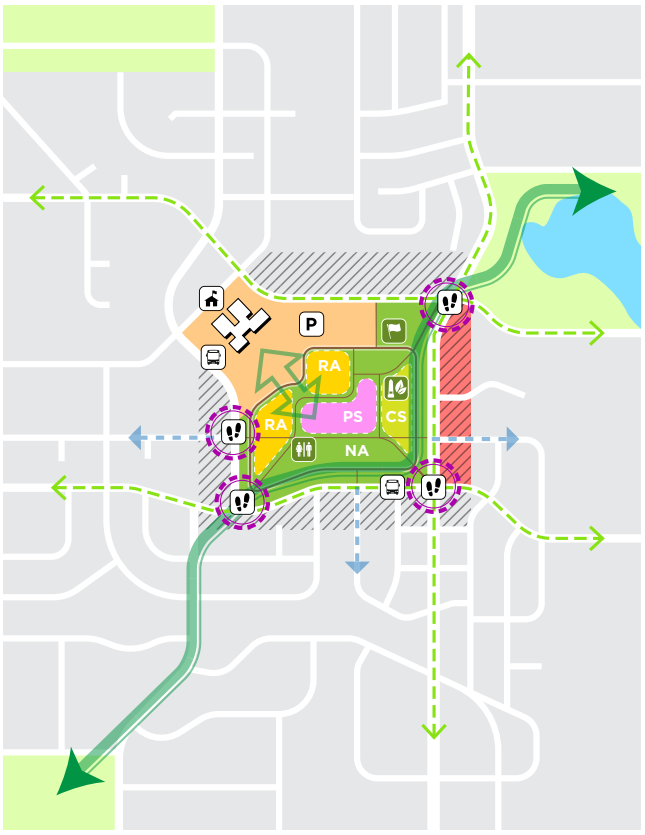
**Features**

- LOOP TRAIL
- IDENTITY FEATURES
- NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES

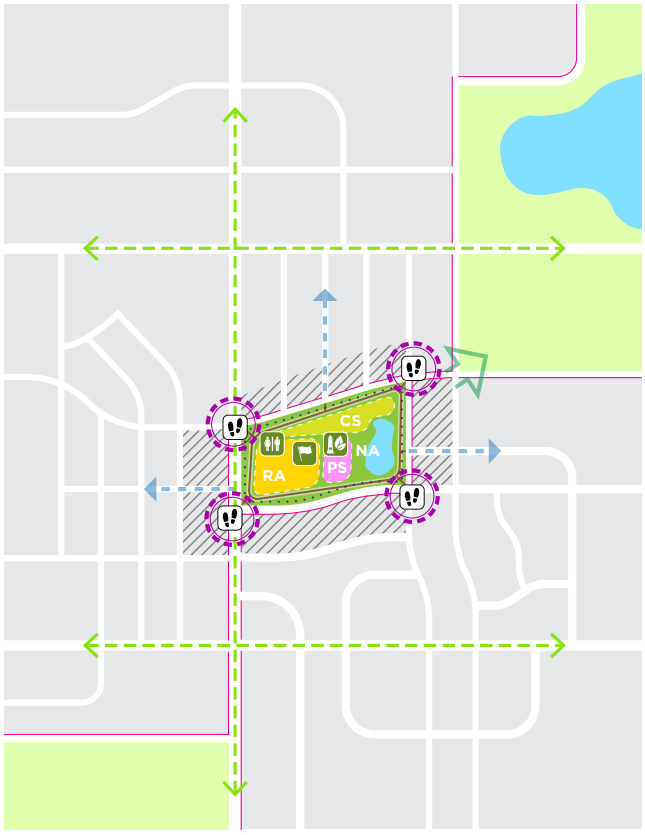
## Community Park



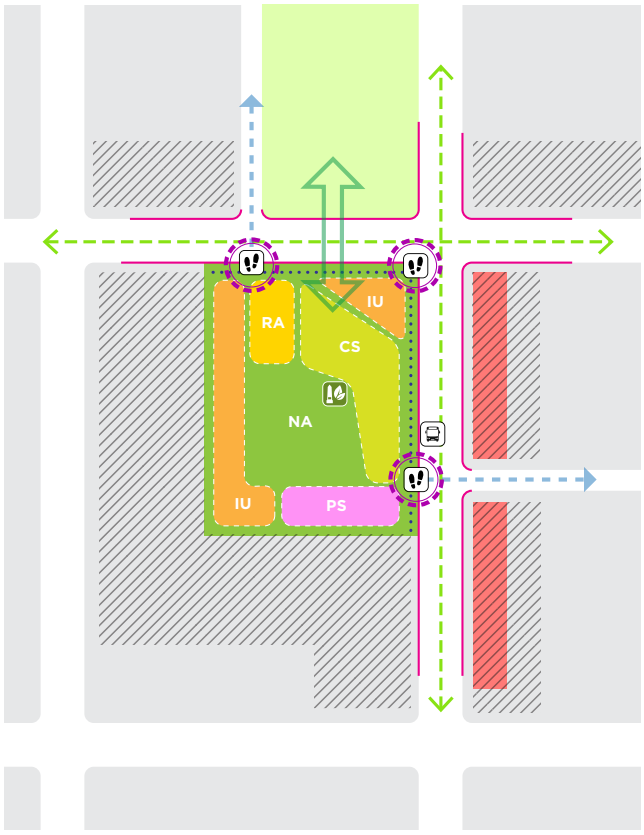

## Schoolside Park



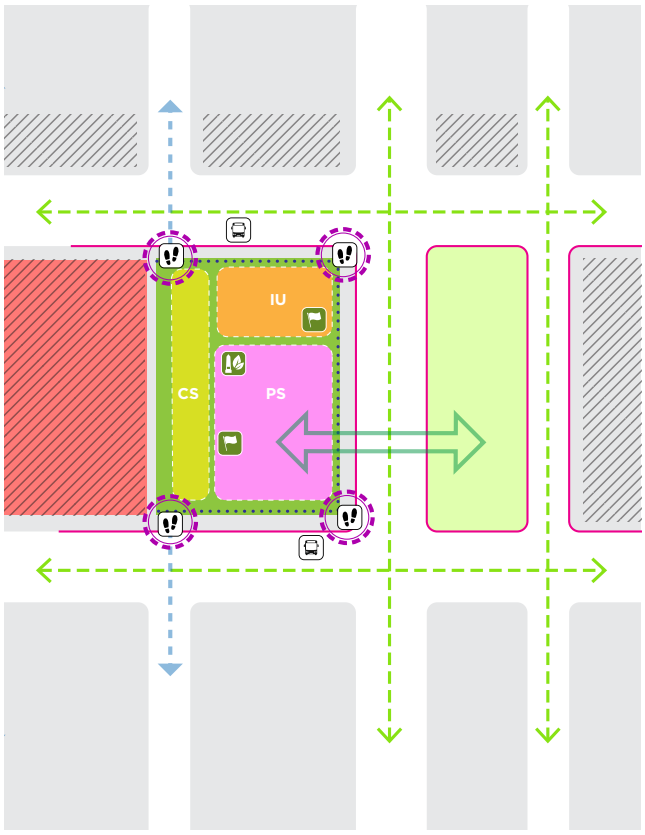
## Neighborhood Park



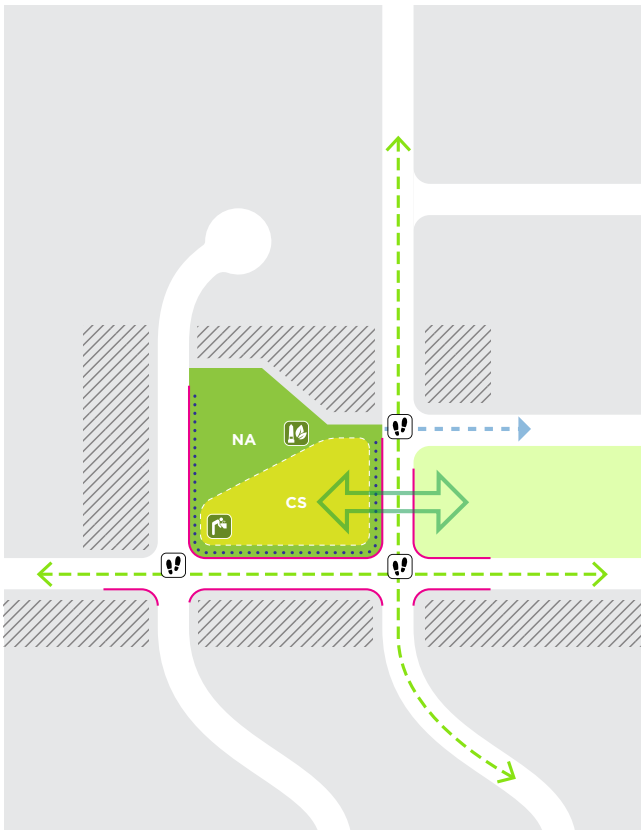

## Urban Park




## Plaza




## Mini Park




Low Fire Glazes
High Fire (Cone 6) Glazes



# PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

*The City of Fort Collins has parks and recreation facilities of different sizes and uses. Together these places form the active heart of the city's public space system. Currently, the City uses two park classifications—community parks and neighborhood parks. Community parks are generally differentiated from neighborhood parks by their large sizes, which can accommodate more amenities, and unique identities. The City does not currently classify recreation facilities.*

*However, the system of parks and recreation facilities encompasses a broad range of places that differ in size, amenities, design, usage, and programming. Additionally, as parts of Fort Collins continue to see increased density, new types of parks and recreation facilities will be needed. The expanded classification system in this plan is meant to help set mutual expectations between the City and residents about how different parks and recreation facilities look and function.*

**Special Use facilities give residents unique recreational opportunities.**
Pottery Studio

# CLASSIFICATIONS

The new park and recreation facility classification system in this plan expands the existing classification system both to clarify how existing parks and recreation facilities function and to provide guidelines about future park and recreation facility typologies that Fort Collins expects to build in the future to meet the needs of current and future residents.

## Park Classifications

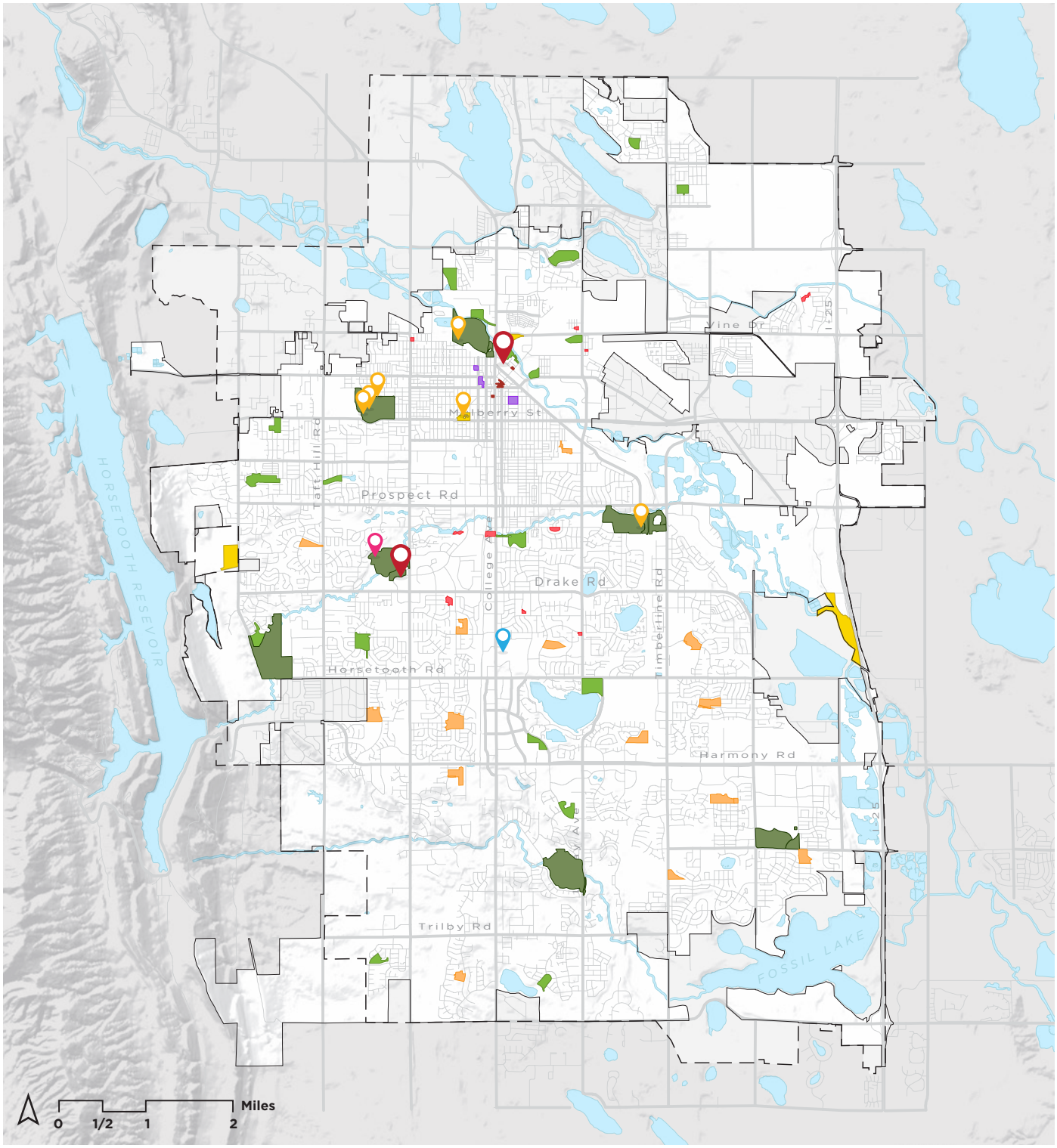
- **community parks**
- **neighborhood parks**
- **schoolside parks** *(new)*
- **urban parks** *(new)*
- **plazas** *(new)*
- **mini parks** *(new)*
- **special use parks** *(new)*

## Recreation Facility Classifications

- **community centers** *(new)*
- **neighborhood centers** *(new)*
- **indoor/outdoor sports complexes** *(new)*
- **court/field clusters** *(new)*
- **special use facilities** *(new)*

For each park and recreation facility classification, the following pages include a general description of the classification, a typical size range, a typical length of visit, access provisions, a list of appropriate amenities for that type of park or recreation facility, and applicable design guidelines. (Descriptions of the design guidelines can be found in the previous section)

The list of amenities is not meant to be prescriptive or exhaustive. The appropriate amenities for any individual park or recreation facility should be determined through a regular master planning process that involves the community it is meant to serve. All parks and recreation facilities should be designed to serve multiple age segments and a diversity of users.




## PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES BY CLASSIFICATION

- COMMUNITY PARKS (9)
- SCHOOLSIDE PARKS (14)
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (19)
- MINI PARKS (10)
- URBAN PARKS (3)
- PLAZAS (2)
- SPECIAL USE PARKS (4)
- COMMUNITY CENTERS (2)
- NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS (1)
- INDOOR/OUTDOOR COMPLEXES (0)
- COURT/FIELD CLUSTERS (1)
- SPECIAL USE FACILITIES (6)



**As the newest community park in the city, Twin Silo Community Park sets a new standard in Fort Collins.**

Shelter at Twin Silo Park

# COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are the largest parks, with many over seventy-five acres in size. These parks serve several adjoining neighborhoods, attracting residents from a relatively large area. They should include both active and passive recreation activities, preserve unique landscapes and open spaces, allow for group activities, be able to accommodate community events, and offer unique recreation opportunities not feasible or desirable at the neighborhood park level. Community parks may also include revenue-producing facilities, recreation or community centers, or other recreation facilities. They should include a permanent and accessible public restroom.

**Size**

40 – 150 acres

**Length of Visit**

1 – 5 hours

**Access**

Community parks should be accessible by way of the city's trail network, low stress bicycle network, sidewalks, and major streets. Since they serve residents from longer distances, community parks should have on site parking.

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [x] SEATING
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] COMMUNITY GARDENS
- [x] INTERNAL WALKING TRAILS
- [x] UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [x] BIKING TRAILS
- [x] OUTDOOR FITNESS / EXERCISE FACILITIES
- [x] CREATIVE PLAY ATTRACTIONS
- [x] PLAYGROUNDS
- [x] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [x] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [x] BASKETBALL COURTS
- [x] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [x] VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- [x] WATER PLAY

### Facilities

- [x] DOG PARKS
- [x] INDIVIDUAL PICNIC / SITTING AREAS
- [x] GROUP PICNIC AREAS
- [x] PARK SHELTERS
- [x] OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES
- [x] RESTROOMS

## EXISTING PARKS

CITY PARK: 76.7 ACRES

EDORA COMMUNITY PARK: 85.4 ACRES

FOSSIL CREEK COMMUNITY PARK: 95.9 ACRES

LEE MARTINEZ COMMUNITY PARK: 85.7 ACRES

ROLLAND MOORE COMMUNITY PARK: 76.2 ACRES

SPRING CANYON COMMUNITY PARK: 123.9 ACRES

TWIN SILO COMMUNITY PARK: 53.0 ACRES

## PARKS IN PROGRESS

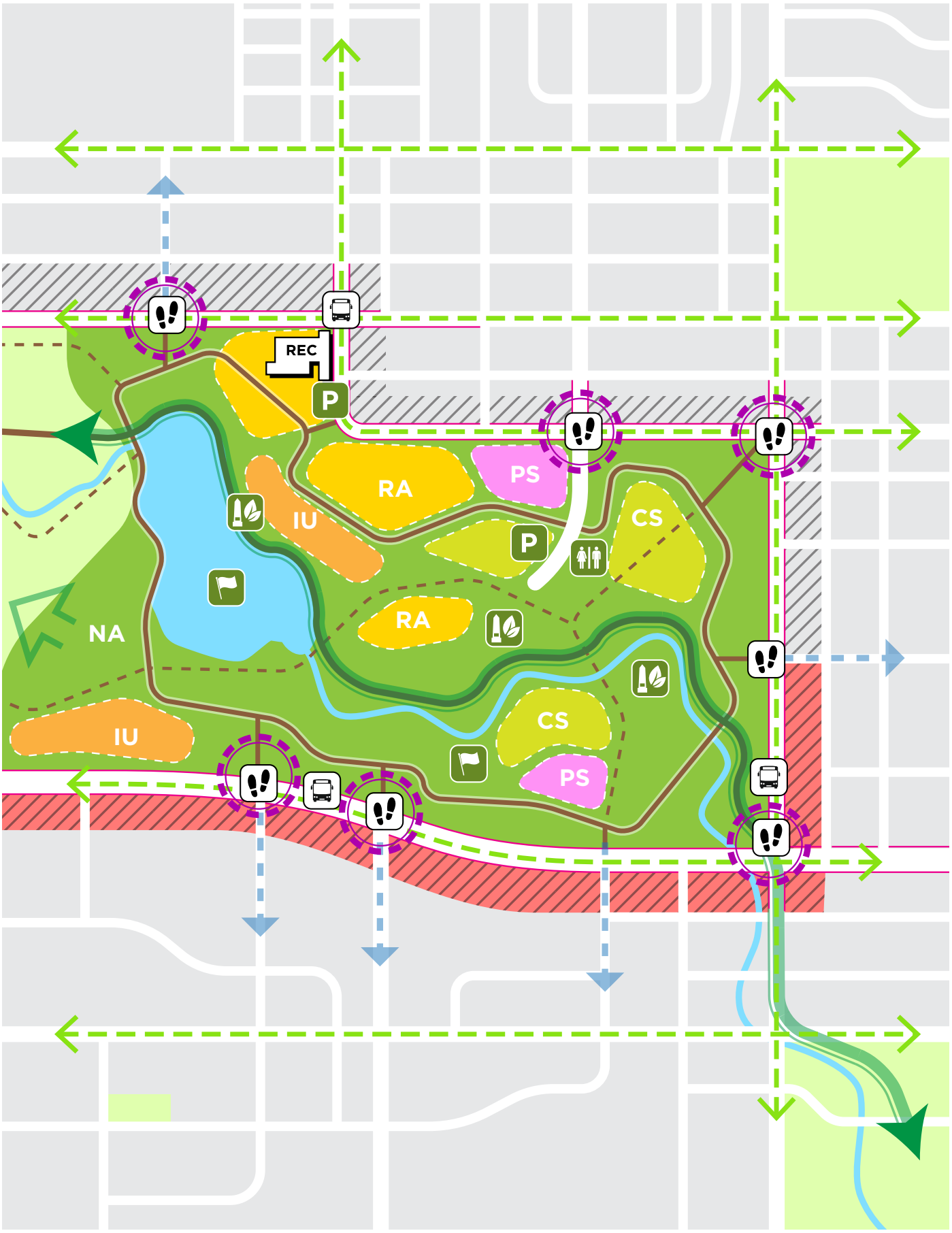
EAST COMMUNITY PARK: 58.0 ACRES

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY PARK: 73.0 ACRES

**A community garden reflects the agricultural heritage of Fort Collins.**

Rolland Moore Park




REC
P
RA
PS
IU
CS
P
NA
RA
CS
IU
PS

### Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context



- [x] MIXED-USE



- [x] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE



- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity



- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE



- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY



- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS



- [x] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS



- [x] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION



- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS



- [x] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS




- [x] SHARED PARKING



- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding



- [x] GATEWAYS



- [x] PATH HIERARCHY



- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones




- [x] INTENSIVE USE AREAS




- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES




- [x] RECREATION AREAS




- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES




- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

### Features



- [x] LOOP TRAIL



- [x] IDENTITY FEATURES



- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES



**A reflection of history and culture in park design.**
Sugar Beet Park Playground

# NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks serve the needs of residents within walking distance of their homes. Neighborhood parks should strike a balance between passive and active recreational opportunities. They are intended for residents from adjacent neighborhoods and should not seek to attract visitors from too much further.

**Size**
5 – 20 acres

**Length of Visit**
1 – 3 hours

**Access**
Neighborhood parks should be accessible by way of the city's sidewalks, low-stress bicycle network, and local streets. They should be easily accessible from the surrounding neighborhood with no physical barriers or busy streets restricting access. Where possible, trails should also connect to neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks should have street parking nearby.

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [x] SEATING
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] COMMUNITY GARDENS
- [x] INTERNAL WALKING TRAILS
- [x] UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [ ] BIKING TRAILS
- [x] OUTDOOR FITNESS / EXERCISE FACILITIES
- [x] CREATIVE PLAY ATTRACTIONS
- [x] PLAYGROUNDS
- [x] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [ ] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [x] BASKETBALL COURTS
- [ ] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [x] VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- [ ] WATER PLAY

### Facilities

- [ ] DOG PARKS
- [x] INDIVIDUAL PICNIC / SITTING AREAS
- [ ] GROUP PICNIC AREAS
- [x] PARK SHELTERS
- [ ] OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES
- [x] RESTROOMS

## EXISTING PARKS

AVERY PARK: 6.2 ACRES

BUCKINGHAM PARK: 5.2 ACRES

COTTONWOOD GLEN PARK: 13.2 ACRES

CRESCENT PARK: 7.2 ACRES

GREENBRIAR PARK: 22.8 ACRES

LANDINGS PARK: 8.7 ACRES

LEGACY PARK: 8.9 ACRES

MIRAMONT PARK: 11.4 ACRES

OLD FORT COLLINS HERITAGE PARK: 10.7 ACRES

OVERLAND PARK: 19.9 ACRES

REGISTRY PARK: 6.3 ACRES

RICHARDS LAKE PARK: 6.8 ACRES

ROGERS PARK: 8.3 ACRES

ROSSBOROUGH PARK: 16.8 ACRES

SOFT GOLD PARK: 16.1 ACRES

SPRING PARK: 16.8 ACRES

SUGARBEET PARK: 7.2 ACRES

WARREN PARK: 24.4 ACRES

WATERS WAY PARK: 8.2 ACRES

## NEW PARKS IN PROGRESS

FUTURE TRAIL HEAD PARK: 4.0 ACRES

FUTURE EASTRIDGE PARK: TBD

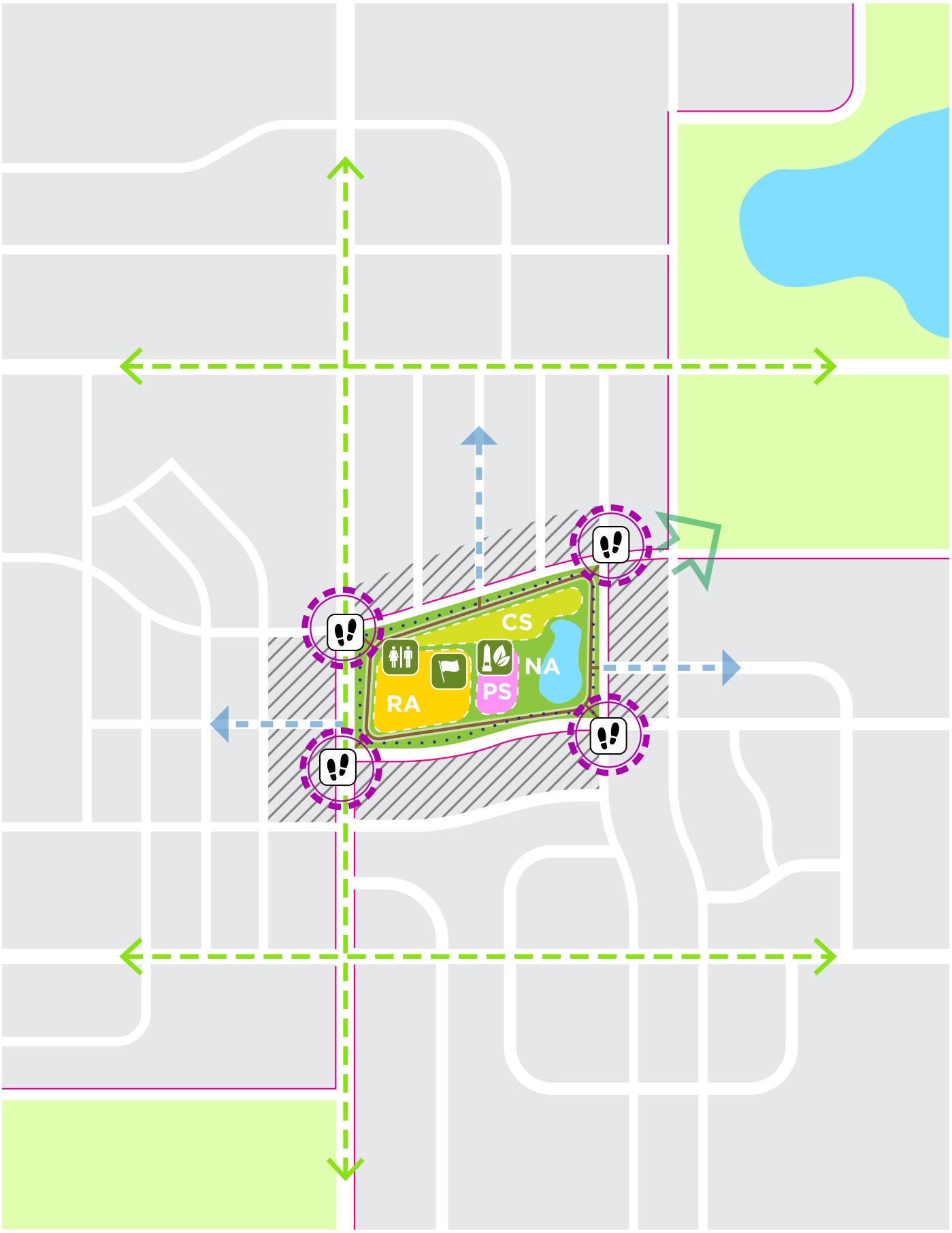
FUTURE BUCKING HORSE PARK: TBD

FUTURE FOSSIL LAKE PARK: TBD

FUTURE INTERSTATE PARK: TBD

**Native grasslands integrated into a neighborhood park.**
Crescent Park




CS
NA
RA
PS

### Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context

- [ ] MIXED-USE
- [ ] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [ ] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [ ] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [ ] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [ ] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding

- [x] GATEWAYS
- [ ] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones

- [ ] INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- [x] RECREATION AREAS
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

### Features

- [x] LOOP TRAIL
- [x] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES



**Schoolside parks can provide seamless public space with adjacent schools.**
Eastside Park

# SCHOOLSIDE PARKS

Schoolside parks are neighborhood parks, generally larger than five acres, that are on or adjacent to school property. Due to the their school adjacencies, they have unique conditions that differ from other neighborhood parks. They allow for a fluid boundary and shared amenities between parks and schools, leveraging these adjacencies to provide larger public spaces than neighborhood parks alone. Schoolside parks should include both active and passive recreation activities and may include specialized recreational amenities that support both school and park programs. Schoolside parks present opportunities to partner with school districts on cooperative programming, access, and maintenance.

**Size**
5 – 20 acres

**Length of Visit**
1 – 3 hours

**Access**
Schoolside parks should be accessible by way of the city's low-stress bicycle network, sidewalks, and major streets. Where possible, trails should also connect to schoolside parks. Schoolside parks should also be accessible from the schools that they are adjacent to, allowing for users of both to pass between the two seamlessly. Schoolside parks and schools should share off-street parking.

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [x] SEATING
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [ ] COMMUNITY GARDENS
- [x] INTERNAL WALKING TRAILS
- [ ] UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [x] BIKING TRAILS
- [x] OUTDOOR FITNESS / EXERCISE FACILITIES
- [ ] CREATIVE PLAY ATTRACTIONS
- [x] PLAYGROUNDS
- [x] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [x] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [x] BASKETBALL COURTS
- [x] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [x] VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- [ ] WATER PLAY

### Facilities

- [ ] DOG PARKS
- [x] INDIVIDUAL PICNIC / SITTING AREAS
- [x] GROUP PICNIC AREAS
- [ ] PARK SHELTERS
- [x] OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES
- [x] RESTROOMS*

*In the design of new schools and schoolside parks, there may be potential for joint use restrooms.

## EXISTING PARKS

BEATTIE PARK: 8.8 ACRES

BLEVINS PARK: 6.6 ACRES

BOLTZ PARK: 9.5 ACRES

EASTSIDE PARK: 3.2 ACRES

ENGLISH RANCH PARK: 12.7 ACRES

GOLDEN MEADOWS PARK: 11.6 ACRES

HARMONY PARK: 15.2 ACRES

HOMESTEAD PARK: 5.9 ACRES

RADIANT PARK: 10.2 ACRES

RIDGEVIEW PARK: 11.2 ACRES

STEWART CASE PARK: 12.8 ACRES

TROUTMAN PARK: 18.9 ACRES

WESTFIELD PARK: 13.8 ACRES

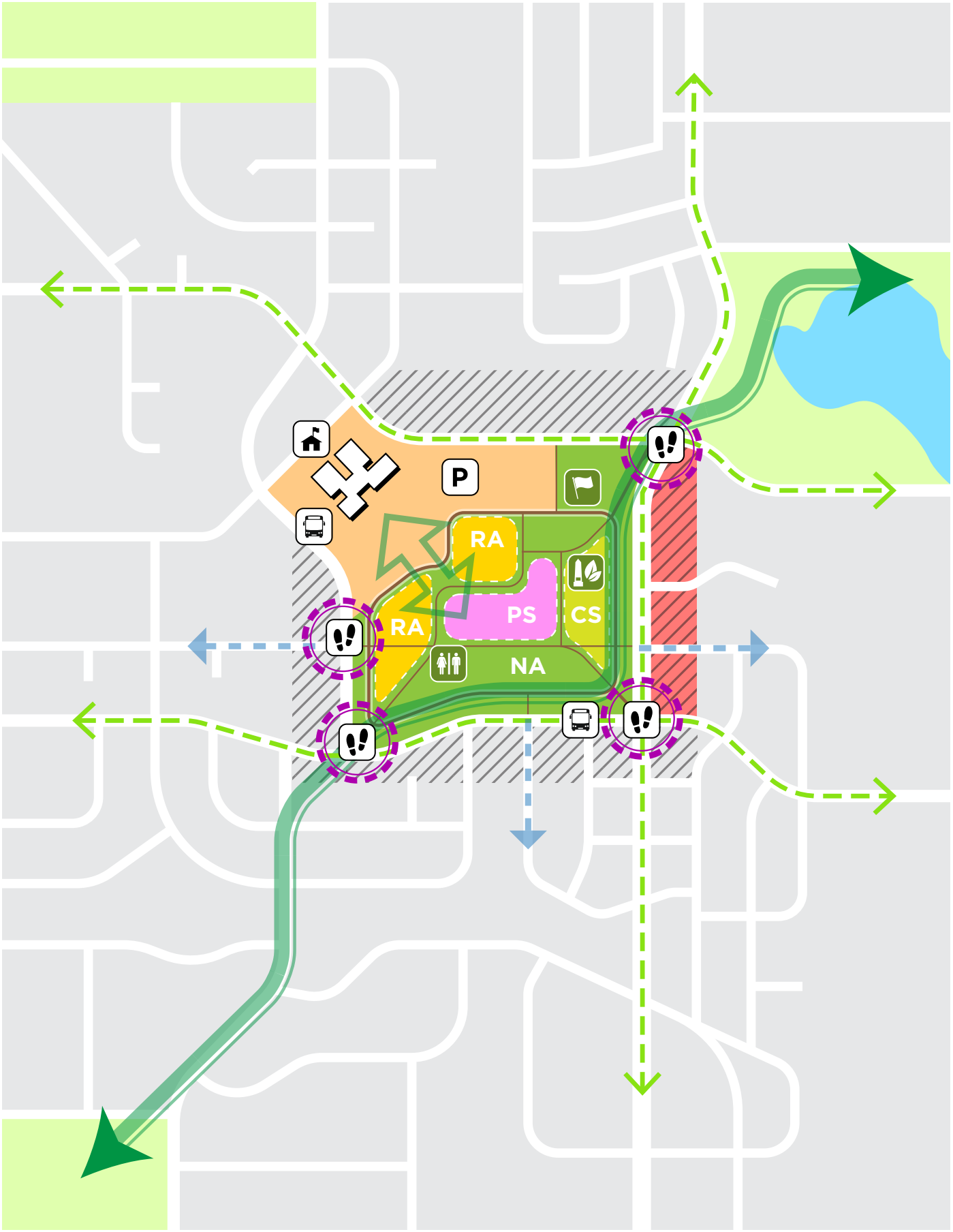
## PLANNED PARKS

BACON PARK: 5.3 ACRES

IRON HORSE PARK: 8.1 ACRES

**Enjoying events in schoolside parks.**
Neighborhood Night Out at Eastside Park




P
RA
RA
PS
CS
NA

### Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context

- [x] MIXED-USE
- [x] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [x] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [x] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding

- [x] GATEWAYS
- [x] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones

- [x] INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- [x] RECREATION AREAS
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

### Features

- [x] LOOP TRAIL
- [x] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES



**The Fort Collins Midtown Plan proposes parks in high density areas.**
Mid Town Plan Rendering

# URBAN PARKS

Urban parks are located in higher density areas. Urban parks should have a mix of planted and paved areas. These parks should face surrounding development, and surrounding development should face them. Urban parks provide residents in downtown areas access to park amenities without having to travel far from urban centers. They should be well lit in order to extend their use and provide safe comfortable spaces at night.

**Size**
1 – 3 acres

**Length of Visit**
1 – 2 hours

**Access**
Urban parks should be accessible by way of the city's sidewalks, low-stress bicycle network, and local streets. They should have multiple entrances to allow for permeability and clear access in populated urban areas. On street parking may be located nearby.

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [x] SEATING
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [ ] COMMUNITY GARDENS
- [ ] INTERNAL WALKING TRAILS
- [x] UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES
- [ ] NATURAL SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [ ] BIKING TRAILS
- [ ] OUTDOOR FITNESS / EXERCISE FACILITIES
- [ ] CREATIVE PLAY ATTRACTIONS
- [x] PLAYGROUNDS
- [ ] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [ ] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [x] BASKETBALL COURTS
- [ ] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [ ] VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- [x] WATER PLAY

### Facilities

- [x] DOG PARKS
- [x] INDIVIDUAL PICNIC / SITTING AREAS
- [ ] GROUP PICNIC AREAS
- [x] PARK SHELTERS
- [ ] OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES
- [x] RESTROOMS*

*Restrooms in urban parks will require additional maintenance.

## EXISTING URBAN PARKS

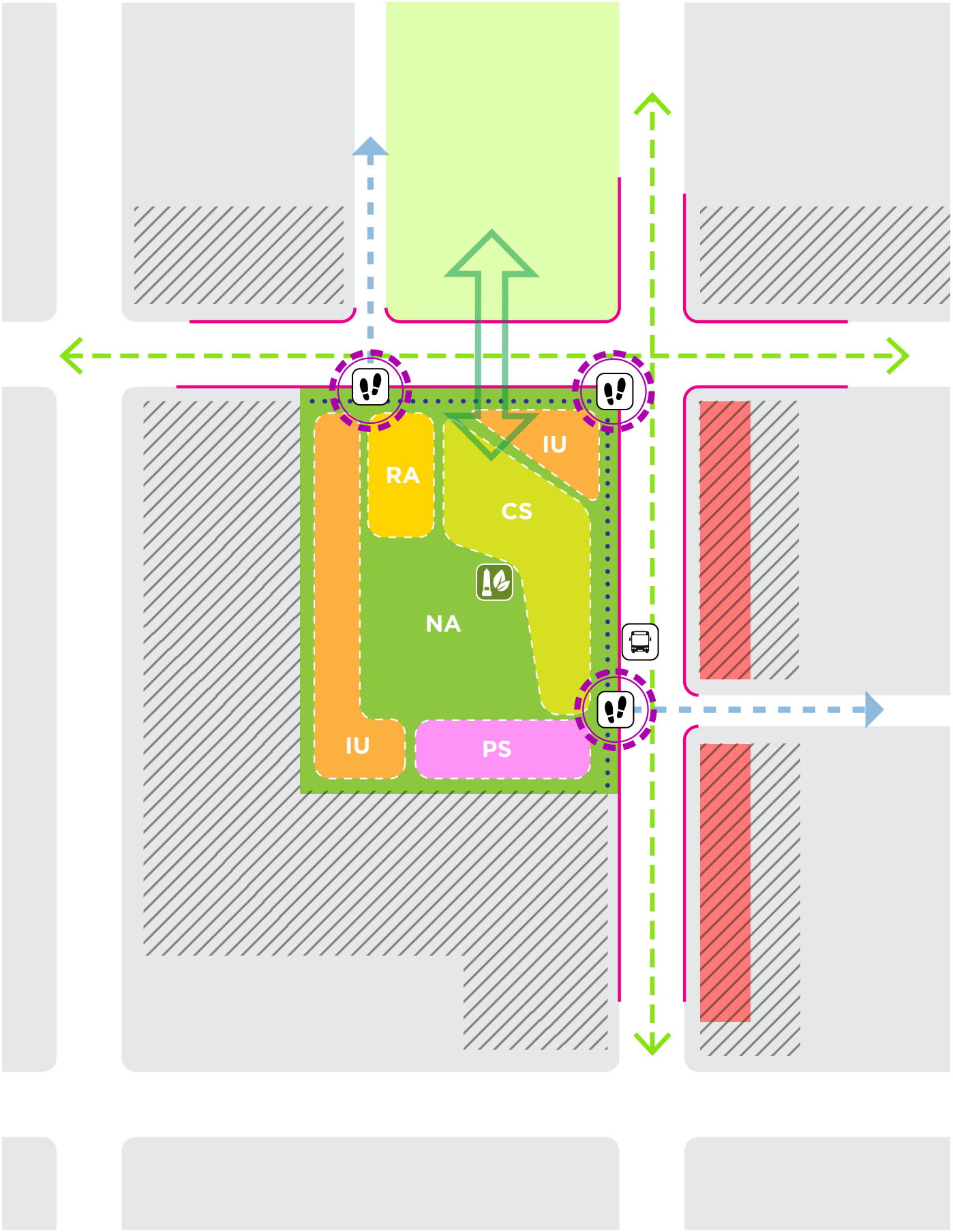
CIVIC CENTER PARK: 2.7 ACRES

LIBRARY PARK: 5.5 ACRES

WASHINGTON PARK: 1.3 ACRES

**Library Park provides play equipment for kids in a more urban setting.**
Library Park




IU
RA
CS
NA
IU
PS

## Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

## Context

- [x] MIXED-USE
- [x] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

## Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [ ] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [ ] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [ ] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

## Wayfinding

- [x] GATEWAYS
- [ ] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

## Zones

- [x] INTENSIVE USE AREAS (IU)
- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES (PS)
- [x] RECREATION AREAS (RA)
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES (CS)
- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS (NA)
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

## Features

- [ ] LOOP TRAIL
- [ ] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES



**Oak Street Plaza draws crowds in the middle of winter to watch the tree lighting.**
Oak Street Plaza

# PLAZAS

Plazas are smaller spaces that are primarily paved and provide outdoor recreation opportunities within higher density areas. They are centers of activity throughout the year and should be designed for four season programming and use. Plazas may have a lot of pedestrian traffic and should include places to sit or relax. They should also be well lit in order to extend their use and provide safe comfortable spaces at night.

**Size**
Up to 3 acres

**Length of Visit**
15 minutes – 1 hour

**Access**
Plazas should be accessible by way of the city's sidewalks and downtown streets.

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [x] SEATING
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [ ] COMMUNITY GARDENS
- [ ] INTERNAL WALKING TRAILS
- [ ] UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES
- [ ] NATURAL SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [ ] BIKING TRAILS
- [ ] OUTDOOR FITNESS / EXERCISE FACILITIES
- [ ] CREATIVE PLAY ATTRACTIONS
- [ ] PLAYGROUNDS
- [ ] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [ ] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [ ] BASKETBALL COURTS
- [ ] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [ ] VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- [x] WATER PLAY

### Facilities

- [ ] DOG PARKS
- [ ] INDIVIDUAL PICNIC / SITTING AREAS
- [ ] GROUP PICNIC AREAS
- [ ] PARK SHELTERS
- [x] OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES
- [ ] RESTROOMS

## EXISTING PLAZAS

OAK STREET PLAZA: 0.4 ACRES

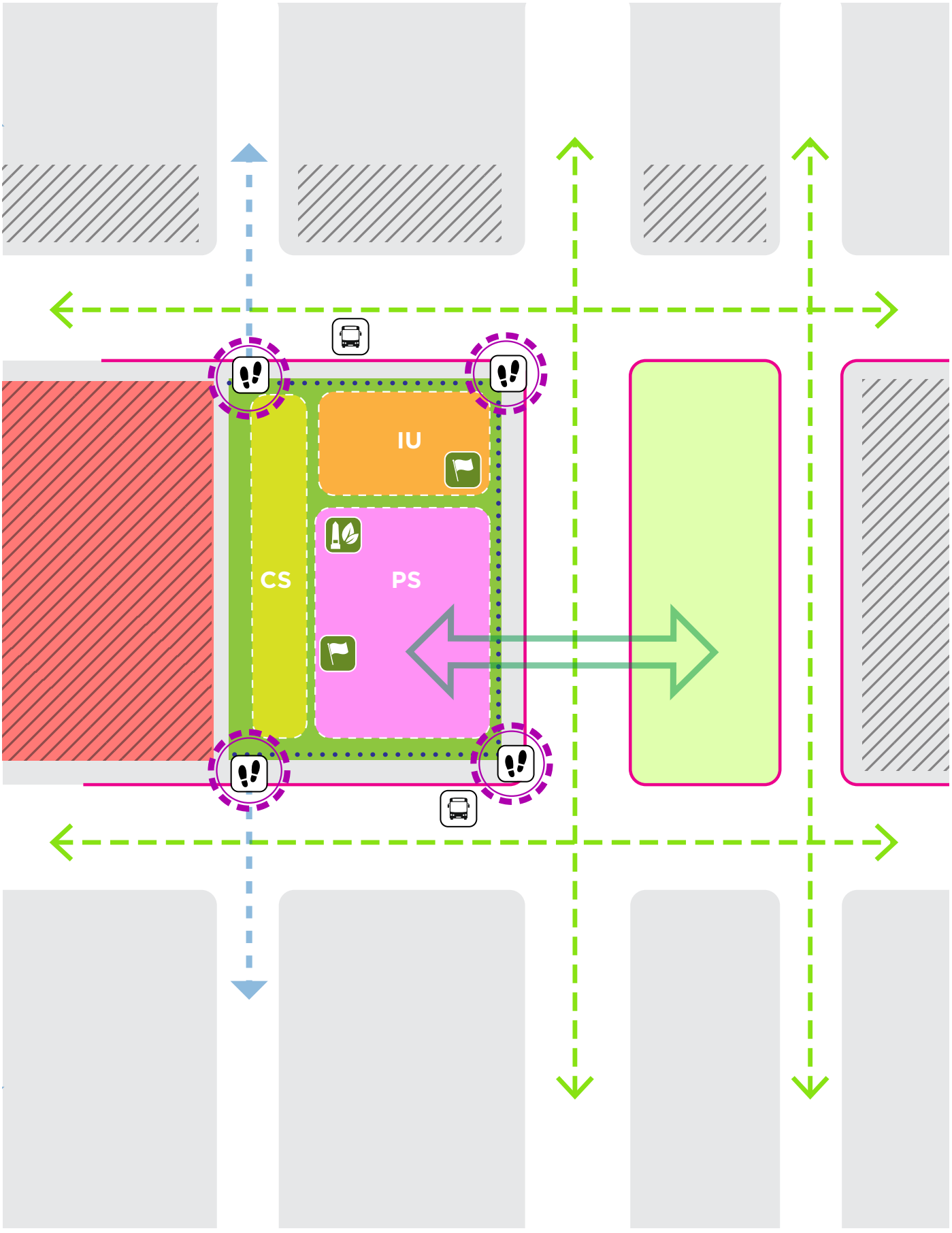
OLD TOWN SQUARE: 1.3 ACRES

LINDEN & WILLOW PLAZA: TBD

**Plazas may be small, but they can accommodate large events.**

Old Town Square




IU
CS
PS

## Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

## Context

- [x] MIXED-USE
- [x] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

## Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [ ] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [ ] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [ ] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

## Wayfinding

- [x] GATEWAYS
- [ ] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

## Zones

- [x] INTENSIVE USE AREAS (IU)
- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES (PS)
- [ ] RECREATION AREAS (RA)
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES (CS)
- [ ] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS (NA)
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

## Features

- [ ] LOOP TRAIL
- [x] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES




**Mini parks can be simple in their design and still provide amenities to residents.**
Leisure Park

# MINI PARKS

Mini parks provide places for residents to enjoy a few minutes outside and are great ways to enhance access to walkable recreational amenities, particularly on sites not suitable for other uses. These parks tend to be more passive and may be simple in their designs. Mini parks should have lawn and shade trees. They are not programmed by the City.

**Size**
0.5 – 3 acres

**Length of Visit**
30 minutes – 1 hour

**Access**
Mini parks should be accessible by way of the city's sidewalks and local streets. They should be located away from busy streets and noisy areas.

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [x] SEATING
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [ ] COMMUNITY GARDENS
- [ ] INTERNAL WALKING TRAILS
- [ ] UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [ ] BIKING TRAILS
- [ ] OUTDOOR FITNESS / EXERCISE FACILITIES
- [ ] CREATIVE PLAY ATTRACTIONS
- [x] PLAYGROUNDS
- [ ] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [ ] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [x] BASKETBALL COURTS
- [ ] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [x] VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- [ ] WATER PLAY

### Facilities

- [ ] DOG PARKS
- [x] INDIVIDUAL PICNIC / SITTING AREAS
- [ ] GROUP PICNIC AREAS
- [x] PARK SHELTERS
- [ ] OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES
- [ ] RESTROOMS

## EXISTING MINI PARKS

ALTA VISTA PARK: 0.6 ACRES

CREEKSIDE PARK: 3.3 ACRES

FREEDOM SQUARE PARK: 0.6 ACRES

INDIAN HILLS PARK: 2.3 ACRES

LEISURE PARK: 0.9 ACRES

LILAC PARK: 1.0 ACRES

RABBIT BRUSH PARK: 1.5 ACRES

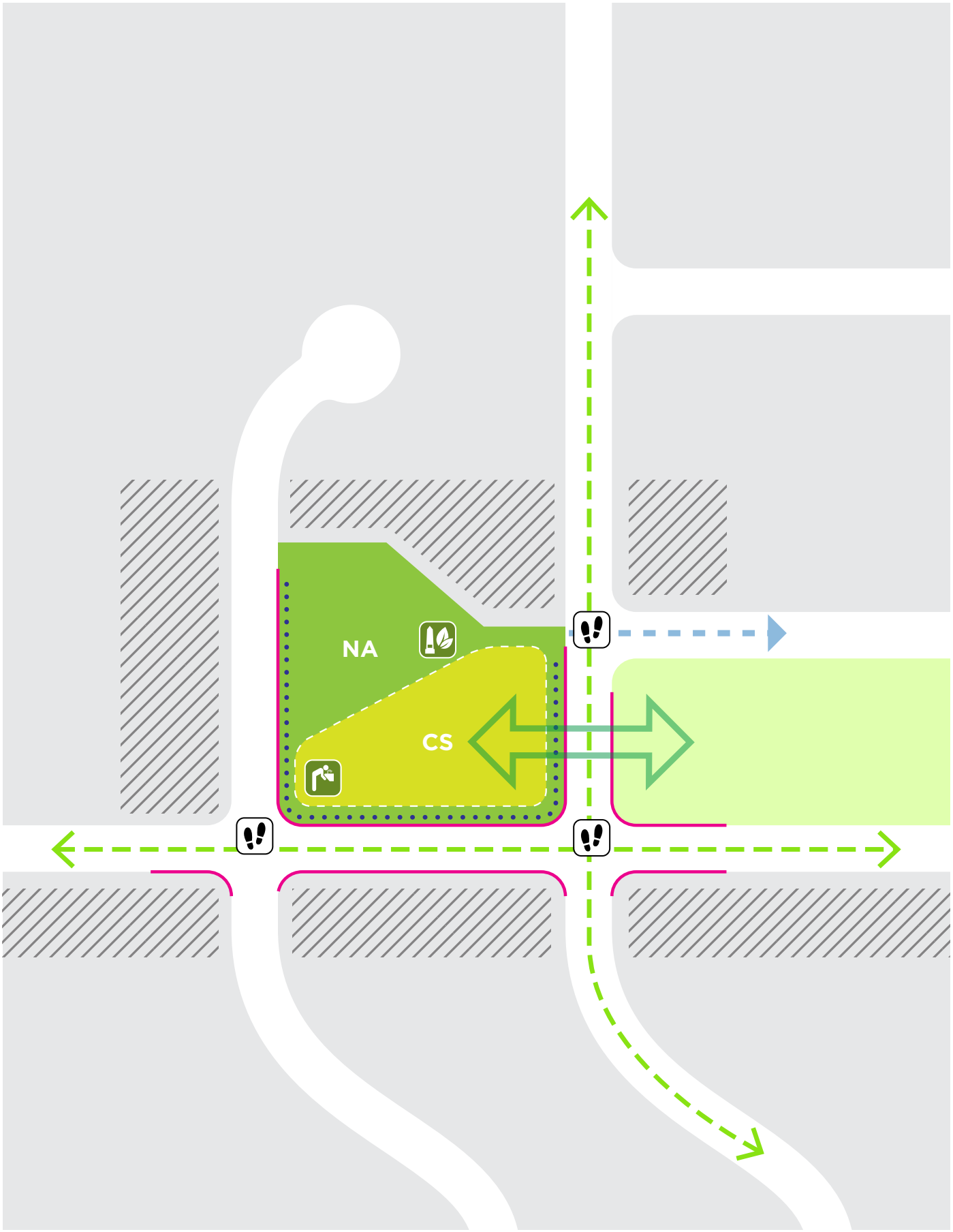
ROMERO PARK: 0.2 ACRES

SPENCER PARK: 0.5 ACRES

WOODWEST PARK: 2.8 ACRES

**Mini parks benefit from passive recreation space.**
Woodwest Park




NA
CS

### Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context

- [ ] MIXED-USE
- [ ] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [ ] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [ ] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [ ] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [ ] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding

- [ ] GATEWAYS
- [ ] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones

- [ ] INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- [ ] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- [ ] RECREATION AREAS
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

### Features

- [ ] LOOP TRAIL
- [ ] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES



**The Poudre River Whitewater Park brings people from across the city and beyond due to is unique features.**

Sunset at the White Water Park

# SPECIAL USE PARKS

Special use parks are unique outdoor spaces, usually oriented toward a single-purpose use. They can vary greatly in size.

**Size**
Varies

**Length of Visit**
Varies

**Access**
Varies

## TYPICAL AMENITIES*

### Passive Recreation

- SEATING
- CASUAL USE SPACES
- COMMUNITY GARDENS
- INTERNAL WALKING TRAILS
- UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES
- NATURAL SPACES

### Active Recreation

- BIKING TRAILS
- OUTDOOR FITNESS / EXERCISE FACILITIES
- CREATIVE PLAY ATTRACTIONS
- PLAYGROUNDS
- RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- DIAMOND FIELDS
- BASKETBALL COURTS
- TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- WATER PLAY

### Facilities

- DOG PARKS
- INDIVIDUAL PICNIC / SITTING AREAS
- GROUP PICNIC AREAS
- PARK SHELTERS
- OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES
- RESTROOMS

## EXISTING SPECIAL USE PARKS

ARCHERY RANGE: 53.7 ACRES

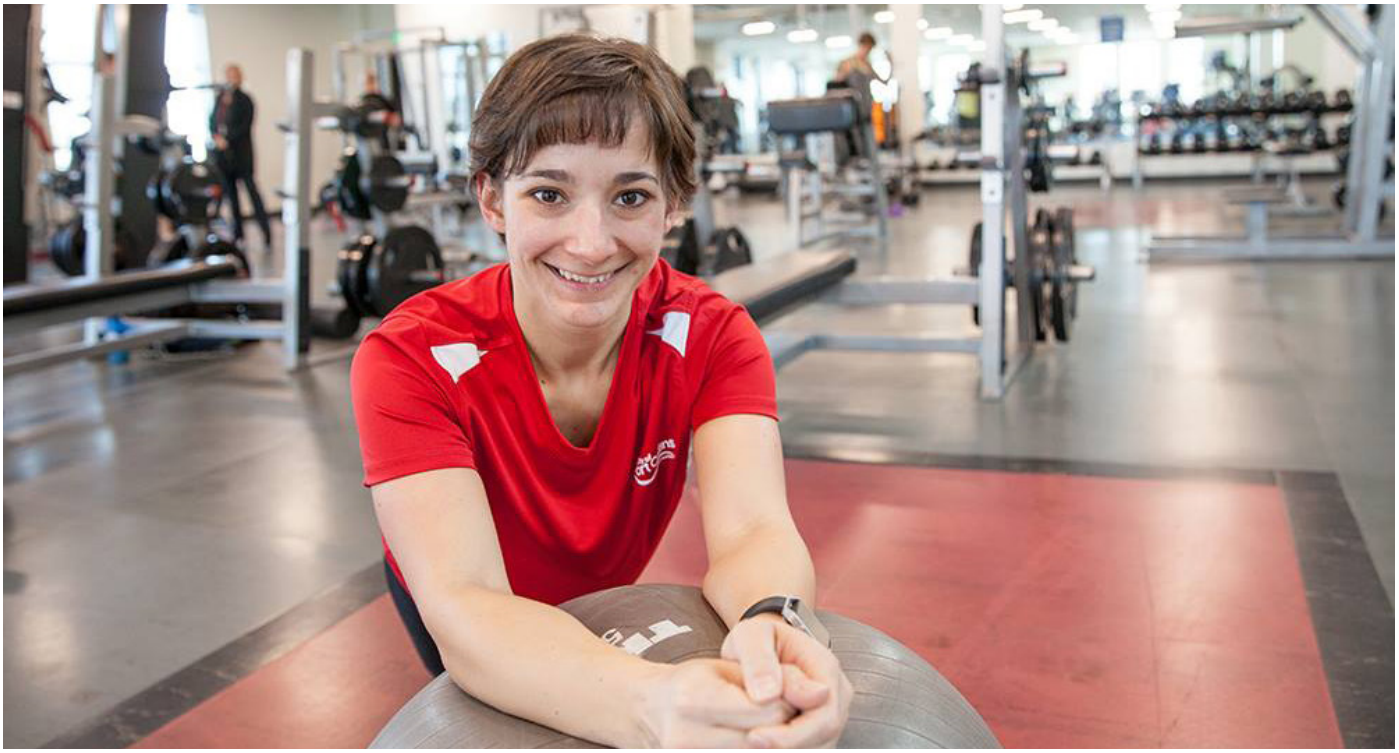
AGGIE GREENS: 25.8 ACRES

POUDRE RIVER WHITEWATER PARK: 9.7 ACRES

* There are no typical amenities in special use parks. Each one is unique and requires a different set of the amenities to function properly. This list of amenities acts more like a menu of options than other classifications.

**An art installation functions as a shade structure while evoking the motion of water.**
Poudre River Whitewater Park





**Weight/cardio rooms within community centers support residents' fitness**
Northside Aztlan Community Center

# COMMUNITY CENTERS

Community centers are large buildings that provide residents from all over the city with places to explore fitness and wellness, play indoor sports, learn and teach, participate in indoor and outdoor activities, and host small or large meetings and events. They may also offer aquatics or unique recreational experiences not found in other centers. These facilities should have full time staff and maintenance in order to accommodate the higher numbers of users. Ideally, community centers should be co-located with community parks to promote indoor/outdoor recreational opportunities.

**Size**
45,000 – 75,000 Sq. Ft.

**Length of Visit**
1 – 4 hours

**Access**
Community centers should be accessible by way of the city's sidewalks, low-stress bicycle network, Transfort, and major streets. Because they draw people from large areas, community centers should have on site parking.

## EXISTING COMMUNITY CENTERS

NORTHSIDE AZTLAN COMMUNITY CENTER

FORT COLLINS SENIOR CENTER*

## PLANNED COMMUNITY CENTERS

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER**

*While the Fort Collins Senior Center has specialized programming for adults 50 years of age and up, it functions as a community center for all adults. Its name may turn away prospective users.

**Current funding for the Southeast Community Center is sufficient to construct a first phase of the full center.

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [x] MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING ROOMS
- [x] PERFORMANCE SPACES
- [x] CRAFTING / MAKER SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [x] GYMNASIUM
- [x] WEIGHT / CARDIO ROOM
- [x] INDOOR TRACK
- [x] POOL / AQUATICS
- [ ] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [ ] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [ ] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [ ] VOLLEYBALL COURTS

### Facilities

- [ ] SPECTATOR SEATING
- [x] CONCESSIONS / CATERING KITCHEN
- [x] SNACKS

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

### Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context

- [x] MIXED-USE
- [x] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [x] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [x] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding

- [x] GATEWAYS
- [x] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones

- [x] INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- [x] RECREATION AREAS
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

### Features

- [x] LOOP TRAIL
- [x] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES



**Neighborhood center facilities support programmed and drop-in recreation.**
Foothills Activity Center

# NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

Neighborhood centers are buildings that provide places to explore fitness and wellness, learn and teach, participate in indoor activities, and host small meetings and events. Neighborhood centers are generally smaller than community centers and may have more limited hours, activities, and staff. Ideally, neighborhood centers should be co-located with parks to promote indoor/outdoor recreational opportunities. As Fort Collins continues to grow and needs change, it may be possible to expand neighborhood centers into community centers.

**Size**
15,000 – 45,000 Sq. Ft.

**Length of Visit**
1 – 2 hours

**Access**
Neighborhood centers should be accessible by way of the city's sidewalks, low-stress bicycle network, Transfort, and major streets. Neighborhood centers should include on site parking or have an adequate amount of street parking available.

## EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

FOOTHILLS ACTIVITY CENTER

## PLANNED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [x] MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING ROOMS
- [x] PERFORMANCE SPACES
- [x] CRAFTING / MAKER SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [x] GYMNASIUM
- [x] WEIGHT / CARDIO ROOM
- [x] INDOOR TRACK
- [x] POOL / AQUATICS
- [ ] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [ ] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [ ] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [ ] VOLLEYBALL COURTS

### Facilities

- [ ] SPECTATOR SEATING
- [ ] CONCESSIONS / CATERING KITCHEN
- [x] SNACKS

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

### Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context

- [x] MIXED-USE
- [x] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [x] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [x] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding

- [x] GATEWAYS
- [x] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones

- [x] INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- [x] RECREATION AREAS
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

### Features

- [x] LOOP TRAIL
- [x] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES




**Sport complexes allow multiple matches to take place at once.**
Okun Fieldhouse, Kansas City

# INDOOR/OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEXES

Indoor/outdoor sports complexes are paired groups of at least 6 indoor and outdoor fields and courts that are primarily designed to meet the general recreational needs of residents but, because of their configuration, are well suited to host tournaments and events. For this reason, indoor/outdoor sports complexes should provide room for spectators and concessions or a catering kitchen, and be located near other amenities, such as stores and restaurants, for downtime during tournaments.

**Size**
100,000 - 200,000 Sq. Ft. / 80 - 90 acres

**Length of Visit**
1 - 6 hours

**Access**
Indoor/outdoor sports complexes should be accessible by sidewalks, the low-stress bicycle network, Transfort, and major streets. They should also be accompanied by appropriately sized on site parking or have an adequate amount of street parking available in order to accommodate sport tournaments.

## EXISTING INDOOR/OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEXES

*NONE*

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

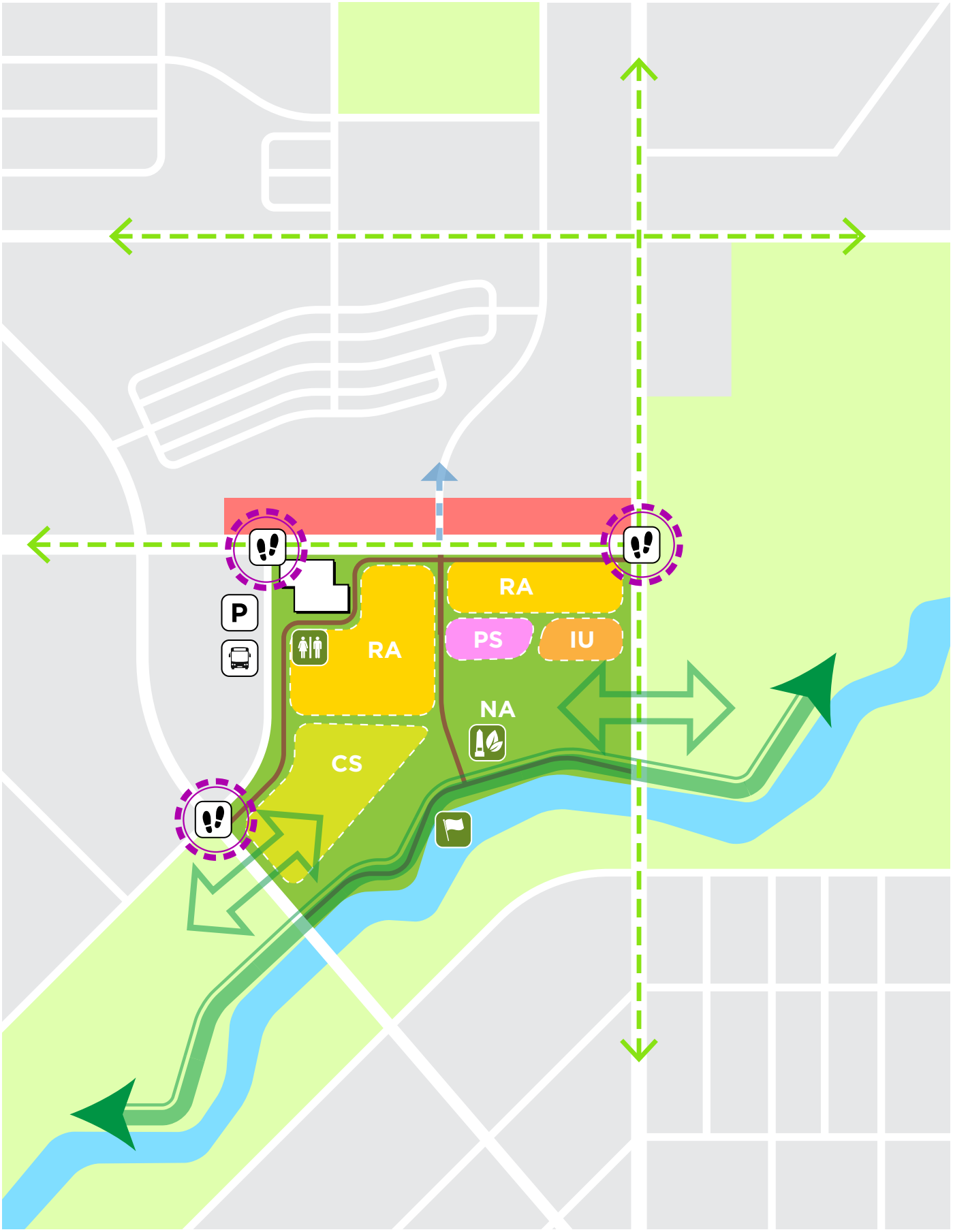
- [x] MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING ROOMS
- [x] PERFORMANCE SPACES
- [ ] CRAFTING / MAKER SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [x] GYMNASIUM
- [ ] WEIGHT / CARDIO ROOM
- [ ] INDOOR TRACK
- [x] POOL / AQUATICS
- [x] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [x] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [x] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [x] VOLLEYBALL COURTS

### Facilities

- [x] SPECTATOR SEATING
- [x] CONCESSIONS / CATERING KITCHEN
- [x] SNACKS


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### Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context

- [x] MIXED-USE
- [x] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [x] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [x] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [x] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding

- [x] GATEWAYS
- [x] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones

- [x] INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- [x] RECREATION AREAS
- [x] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

### Features

- [ ] LOOP TRAIL
- [x] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES



**Court/field clusters often host tournaments since multiple games can happen take place simultaneously.**

Rolland Moore Tennis Cluster

# COURT/FIELD CLUSTERS

Court/field clusters are groups of fields or courts with a clubhouse or pro shop. These facilities may also attract local tournaments and spectators. Court/field clusters are not independent facilities, but generally located within community parks or schoolside parks.

**Size**
1 -2 Acres

**Length of Visit**
1 - 3 hours

**Access**
Court/field clusters should be accessible by way of the city's sidewalks and arterial and collector streets. They should also be accompanied by appropriately sized on site parking or have an adequate amount of street parking available.

## EXISTING COURT/FIELD CLUSTERS

ROLLAND MOORE TENNIS CLUSTER

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- [ ] MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING ROOMS
- [ ] PERFORMANCE SPACES
- [ ] CRAFTING / MAKER SPACES

### Active Recreation

- [ ] GYMNASIUM
- [ ] WEIGHT / CARDIO ROOM
- [ ] INDOOR TRACK
- [ ] POOL / AQUATICS
- [x] RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- [x] DIAMOND FIELDS
- [x] TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- [x] VOLLEYBALL COURTS

### Facilities

- [x] SPECTATOR SEATING
- [ ] CONCESSIONS / CATERING KITCHEN
- [x] SNACKS

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

### Design

- [x] SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- [x] DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context

- [x] MIXED-USE
- [ ] BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- [ ] STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity

- [x] SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- [x] STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- [x] SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- [x] MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- [x] TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- [x] BIKE CONNECTIONS
- [ ] TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- [ ] SHARED PARKING
- [x] VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding

- [x] GATEWAYS
- [x] PATH HIERARCHY
- [x] SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones

- [x] INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- [x] PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- [x] RECREATION AREAS
- [ ] CASUAL USE SPACES
- [x] NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- [x] FLOODPLAINS

### Features

- [ ] LOOP TRAIL
- [x] IDENTITY FEATURES
- [x] NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES



**The Pottery Studio offers unique and interesting programs that cannot be found elsewhere.**
Pottery Studio

# SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Special use facilities are unique indoor/outdoor spaces designed around a single use or activity. These facilities provide residents with specific programs that may require special gear, equipment, or building structures. Special use facilities may be located within or adjacent to parks or be standalone facilities.

**Size**
Varies

**Length of Visit**
Varies

**Access**
Special use facilities should be accessible by way of the city's sidewalks, low-stress bicycle network, Transfort, and major streets. Because they offer unique experiences, special use facilities draw people from a larger area and should have appropriately sized on site parking.

## EXISTING SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

CITY PARK POOL

CLUB TICO

EDORA POOL AND ICE CENTER

THE FARM

MULBERRY POOL

THE POTTERY STUDIO

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

### Passive Recreation

- ☐ MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING ROOMS
- ☐ OUTDOOR EVENT SPACES
- ☐ CRAFTING / MAKER SPACES

### Active Recreation

- ☐ GYMNASIUM
- ☐ WEIGHT / CARDIO ROOM
- ☐ INDOOR TRACK
- ☐ POOL / AQUATICS
- ☐ RECTANGULAR FIELDS
- ☐ DIAMOND FIELDS
- ☐ TENNIS/PICKLEBALL COURTS
- ☐ VOLLEYBALL COURTS

### Facilities

- ☐ SPECTATOR SEATING
- ☐ CONCESSIONS / CATERING KITCHEN
- ☐ SNACKS

* There are no typical amenities in special use parks. Each one is unique and requires a different set of the amenities to function properly. This list of amenities acts more like a menu of options than other classifications.

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

### Design

- ☑ SYSTEMWIDE DESIGN LANGUAGE
- ☑ DESIGN VOCABULARY

### Context

- ☐ MIXED-USE
- ☐ BUILDING FRONTAGE / ENTRANCE
- ☐ STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS

### Access and Connectivity

- ☐ SEAMLESS PUBLIC SPACE
- ☐ STREET GRID CONNECTIVITY
- ☐ SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- ☐ MAJOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS
- ☐ TRAIL MODE SEPARATION
- ☐ BIKE CONNECTIONS
- ☐ TRANSIT CONNECTIONS
- ☐ SHARED PARKING
- ☐ VISIBLE FRONTAGE

### Wayfinding

- ☐ GATEWAYS
- ☐ PATH HIERARCHY
- ☐ SUPPORT FACILITIES

### Zones

- ☐ INTENSIVE USE AREAS
- ☐ PROGRAMMABLE GATHERING SPACES
- ☐ RECREATION AREAS
- ☐ CASUAL USE SPACES
- ☐ NATURAL SYSTEM AREAS
- ☐ FLOODPLAINS

### Features

- ☐ LOOP TRAIL
- ☐ IDENTITY FEATURES
- ☐ NATURAL OR HISTORIC FEATURES

# SUMMARY OF TYPICAL AMENITIES BY CLASSIFICATION

| AMENITIES | COMMUNITY PARKS | SCHOOL-SIDE PARKS | NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS | URBAN PARKS | PLAZAS | MINI PARKS | SPECIAL USE PARKS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Passive Recreation** | | | | | | | |
| Seating | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Casual Use Spaces | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Community Gardens | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | – |
| Internal Walking Trails | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | – |
| Unique Landscape Features | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | – |
| Natural Spaces | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | – |
| **Active Recreation** | | | | | | | |
| Biking Trails | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | – |
| Outdoor Fitness/Exercise | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | – |
| Creative Play Attractions | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | – |
| Playgrounds | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | – |
| Rectangular Fields | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | – |
| Diamond Fields | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | – |
| Tennis/Pickleball Courts | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | – |
| Volleyball Courts | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | – |
| Water Play | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | – |
| **Facilities** | | | | | | | |
| Dog Parks | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | – |
| Individual Picnic/Sitting Areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | – |
| Group Picnic Areas | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | – |
| Park Shelters | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | – |
| Outdoor Event Spaces | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | – |
| Restrooms | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | – |

| AMENITIES | COMMUNITY CENTERS | NEIGHBOR-HOOD CENTERS | INDOOR/ OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEXES | COURT/FIELD CLUSTERS | SPECIAL USE FACILITIES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Passive Recreation** | | | | | |
| Multi-Purpose Meeting Rooms | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | | — |
| Performance Spaces | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | | — |
| Crafting/Maker Spaces | ✔ | ✔ | | | — |
| **Passive Recreation** | | | | | |
| Gymnasium | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | | — |
| Weight/Cardio Rooms | ✔ | ✔ | | | — |
| Indoor Track | ✔ | ✔ | | | — |
| Indoor Pool/Aquatics | ✔ | | | | — |
| Rectangular Fields | | | ✔ | ✔ | — |
| Diamond Fields | | | ✔ | ✔ | — |
| Tennis Courts | | | ✔ | ✔ | — |
| Volleyball Courts | | | ✔ | ✔ | — |
| **Passive Recreation** | | | | | |
| Spectator Seating | | | ✔ | ✔ | — |
| Concessions / Catering Kitchen | ✔ | | ✔ | | — |
| Snacks | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | — |

# SUMMARY OF DESIGN GUIDELINES BY CLASSIFICATION

| GUIDELINE | COMM-UNITY PARKS | SCHOOL-SIDE PARKS | NEIGH-BORHOOD PARKS | URBAN PARKS | PLAZAS | MINI PARKS | SPECIAL USE PARKS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Design** | | | | | | | |
| Systemwide Design Language | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| Design Vocabulary | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| **Context** | | | | | | | |
| Mixed-Use | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | — |
| Building Frontage/Entrances | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | — |
| Streetscape Enhancements | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| **Access and Connectivity** | | | | | | | |
| Seamless Public Space | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| Street Grid Connectivity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| Safe Pedestrian Access | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| Major Trail Connections | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | — |
| Trail Mode Separation | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | — |
| Bike Connections | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| Transit Connections | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | — |
| Shared Parking | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | — |
| Visible Frontage | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| **Wayfinding** | | | | | | | |
| Gateways | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | — |
| Path Hierarchy | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | — |
| Support Facilities | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| **Zones** | | | | | | | |
| Intensive Use Areas | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | — |
| Programmable Gathering Spaces | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | — |
| Recreation Areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | — |
| Casual Use Spaces | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| Natural System Areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | — |
| Floodplains | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |
| **Features** | | | | | | | |
| Loop Trail | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | — |
| Identity Features | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | — |
| Natural or Historic Features | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | — |

| GUIDELINE | COMMUNITY CENTERS | NEIGH-BORHOOD CENTERS | INDOOR/OUT-DOOR SPORTS COMPLEXES | COURT/FIELD CLUSTERS | SPECIAL USE FACILITIES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Design** | | | | | |
| Systemwide Design Language | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Design Vocabulary | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Context** | | | | | |
| Mixed-Use | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Building Frontage/Entrances | ✓ | ✓ | | | – |
| Streetscape Enhancements | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | – |
| **Access and Connectivity** | | | | | |
| Seamless Public Space | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Street Grid Connectivity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Safe Pedestrian Access | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Major Trail Connections | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Trail Mode Separation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Bike Connections | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Transit Connections | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | – |
| Shared Parking | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | – |
| Visible Frontage | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| **Wayfinding** | | | | | |
| Gateways | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Path Hierarchy | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | – |
| Support Facilities | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| **Zones** | | | | | |
| Intensive Use Areas | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | – |
| Programmable Gathering Spaces | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Recreation Areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Casual Use Spaces | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | – |
| Natural System Areas | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Floodplains | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| **Features** | | | | | |
| Loop Trail | ✓ | ✓ | | | – |
| Identity Features | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |
| Natural or Historic Features | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | – |





# LEVEL OF SERVICE

*The City of Fort Collins has a robust, distributed public space system that seeks to provide residents with convenient access to amenities and services. However, different parts of the city have different levels of access to recreational amenities. For example, residents in downtown Fort Collins can walk to several rectangular sports fields in under 10 minutes, while residents in Northeast Fort Collins, an area expected to grow rapidly, are well outside of walking distance to a rectangular field.*

*No uniform level of service standards exists for parks or recreational amenities across the country. There are generally two types of standards that communities use to analyze service: population-based standards and access standards. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan defines both population-based and access standards by amenity.*

**Playgrounds should be within a 10-minute walk of most Fort Collins residents.**
Fossil Creek Park

# SETTING AND USING LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Level of service standards help guide decisions about how many recreational amenities are needed and where. Population-based standards address how many amenities are needed and access-based standards address where amenities are needed, both now and in the future.

Using the level of service standards to increase access to recreational amenities could result in different types of actions:

- In areas where sidewalk and trail connections are lacking for pedestrians, or where roads are disconnected for drivers, increased access could mean adding sidewalks, trails, or road segments to better connect residents to existing amenities.
- In areas where there is access to school district amenities but not to City-owned amenities, increased access could mean formalizing a partnership agreement to ensure that school district amenities are always open and available to the public.
- In areas with a high population density that do not have access to school or City amenities, increased access could mean building new amenities in new or refreshed parks.
- In growing areas, where developers may provide new public spaces, increased access could mean working with developers during the development review process to provide needed amenities.
- In areas with access to multiple amenities in close proximity, increased access could mean removing or repurposing an underused amenity.

Used in combination, the population-based and access standards provide a snapshot of the level of service provided by current public space amenities and a road map for addressing the number and location of amenities in the future. The level of service standards can be used to help prioritize which actions will increase equitable access to recreational amenities for the most residents.

Not all recreational amenities have level of service standards. Level of service standards are used for common amenities that have broad user bases and whose inventories should grow as the population of the city grows.

Level of service standards can and should change over time as industry trends change and demographic trends of the community change. The City will update its inventory of recreation amenities annually and will reexamine the recommended level of service standards approximately every five years as the needs assessment is updated.

# POPULATION-BASED STANDARDS

Population-based level of service is expressed as a ratio of number of amenities to population. The current ratio is compared to a recommended ratio, which indicates whether additional amenities are needed.

## Methodology

A number of data points were considered in setting the recommended level of service standards:

- current level of service
- level of service peer cities
- national participation trends
- community priorities

Some data supports raising the current level of service. Other data supports maintaining or lowering the current level of service.

### Peer Cities

Through the benchmarking analysis (see p. 336), data was collected on level of service provided by five peer cities that have similar demographic or economic characteristics, or have highly regarded public space systems.

- Aurora, CO
- Boise, ID
- Boulder, CO
- Madison, WI
- Minneapolis, MN

### National Participation Trends

National participation trends were taken from the Sports and Fitness Industry Association's *2019 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report*, which tracks total national participation in recreational activities over time. While the national trends for amenities are useful, it is important to keep in mind they include numbers from localities that have very different demographics from Fort Collins.

### Community Priorities

The statistically valid survey conducted as part of the Parks and Recreation master planning process in 2019 asked residents whether they or their households have a need for various outdoor and indoor amenities, and how well those needs are currently being met. Combining these metrics into a Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the survey report indicates the relative priorities for investing in these amenities.

# ACCESS STANDARDS

Access standards are expressed as a time within which residents should be able to get to a particular type of amenity by a particular mode of transportation. Where population-based standards indicate how many of an amenity is needed, access standards indicate where new amenities, or better ways of accessing existing amenities, are needed.

Residents' expectations of how close recreational amenities should be to their homes—and the City's ability to provide those amenities—vary by type of amenity. People tend to expect some amenities, like basketball courts or playgrounds, which require little equipment to use, have broad drop-in usage, and are well used by children, to be within a close walk of home. For facilities and amenities like dog parks and community centers, which are used by a subset of residents or have highly scheduled or programmed usage, residents are willing to travel a bit further but still want them close by. Both of these categories of facilities and amenities require access standards. Other facilities and amenities, particularly those that cater to more niche user groups, do not require access standards since people are willing to travel longer distances to use them.

Considering these differences in expectations, the City of Fort Collins is establishing two tiers of access standards: a 10-minute walk standard and a 5-minute drive standard,

## 10-Minute Walk Standard

- **Rectangular Fields**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Basketball Courts**

## 5-Minute Drive Standard

- **Pickleball Courts**
- **Dog Parks**
- **Pools**
- **Community Centers**
- **Community Gardens**
- **Diamond Fields**

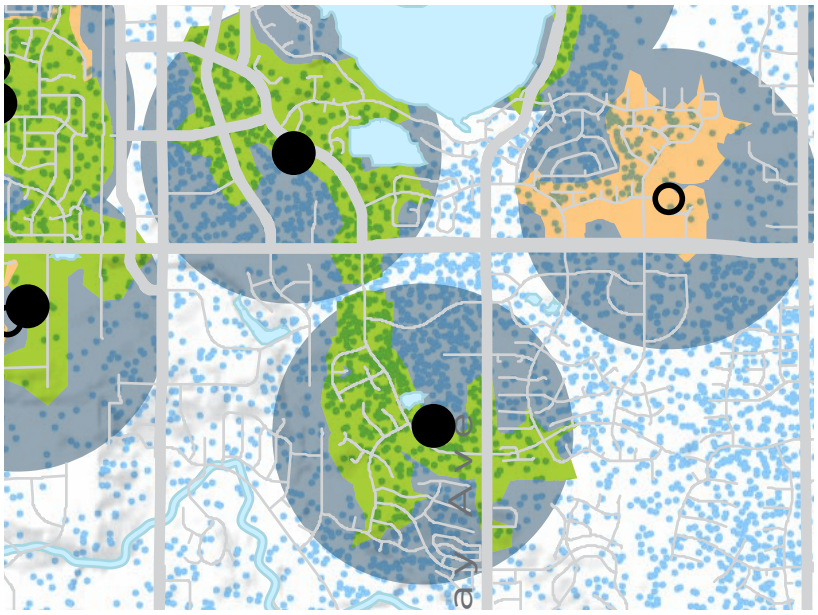
It may also be possible in some cases to increase the level of service by improving the walkable street and trail network that connect to existing amenities. In some instances an amenity has a smaller service area because the sidewalks and trails to get there may not exist and therefore the amenity's full service potential is not being met. These gaps in access are shown as circles, which represent an idealized service area. An example is shown at the right.

## How the Maps Were Created

A spatial access analysis was performed for certain public space and school district amenities. To determine what parts of the city meet and do not meet the recommended access standards, areas were drawn around each individual amenity (e.g., basketball court) within which a person could reach that amenity within a specified time by walking, or driving. These service areas were then overlaid with the projected population density in 2040. This overlay analysis reveals parts of the city with gaps in access. These access maps follow.

The access maps are a planning tool to evaluate access across the City to certain recreational amenities and highlight general areas where access to amenities could be improved. Improved access could mean adding new linkages to the travel network, like constructing more sidewalks, or adding another amenity in the general area identified as having limited access.

The access maps were created using geographic information systems (GIS) software, multiple travel networks, and 2040 population projections. Travel time for each individual amenity (e.g., basketball courts) was calculated using the City's walking, and driving networks, assuming minimal traffic.



**Example of areas within 10-minute walk from park amenities (light green) and school amenities (peach), compared to an idealized 10-minute walk radius.**

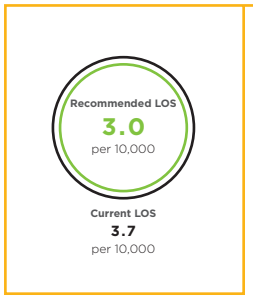
Level of Service Analysis

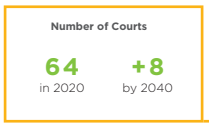
# HOW TO READ THE LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

## Population-Based Standards

### BASKETBALL HOOPS

**Population-Based Standard**

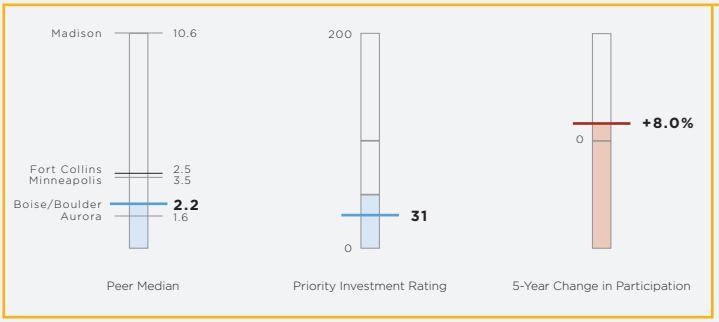


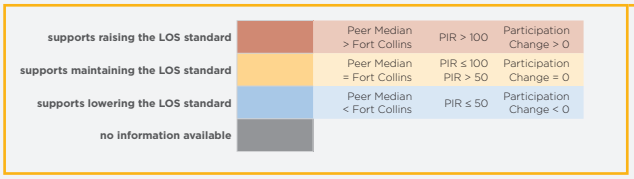

This digram shows how the recommended level of service (LOS) visually relates to the current level of service.

These numbers indicate the current number of amenities and the number to be added by 2040.

**Considerations**




These charts show the data that was used to build the recommended LOS. These data points are the peer median level of service, the priority investment rating, and the 5-year participation change.

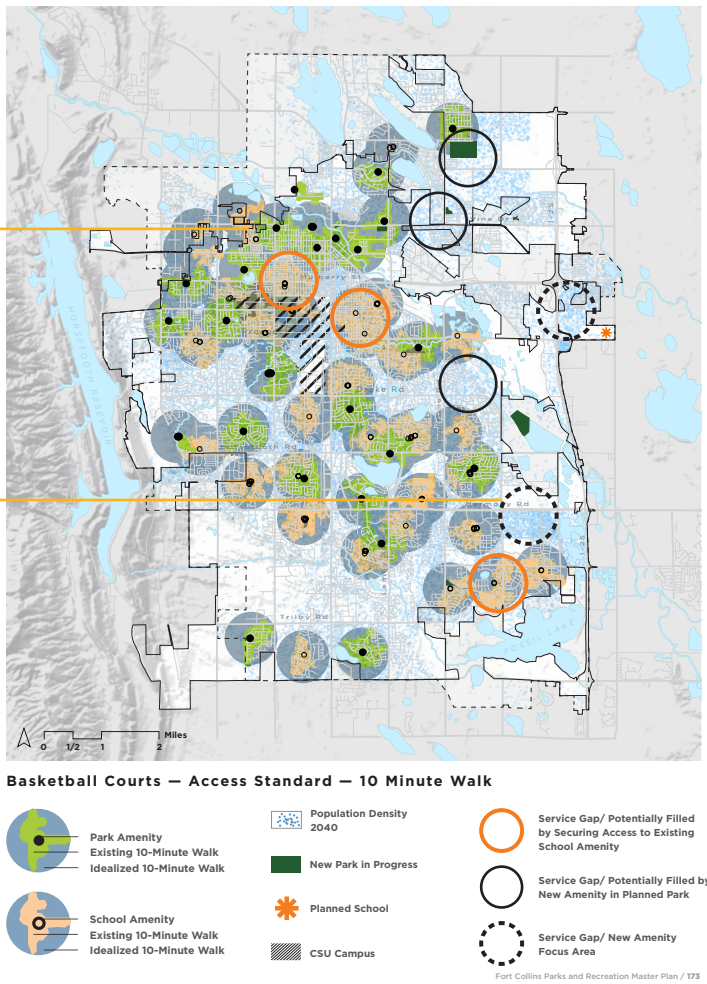


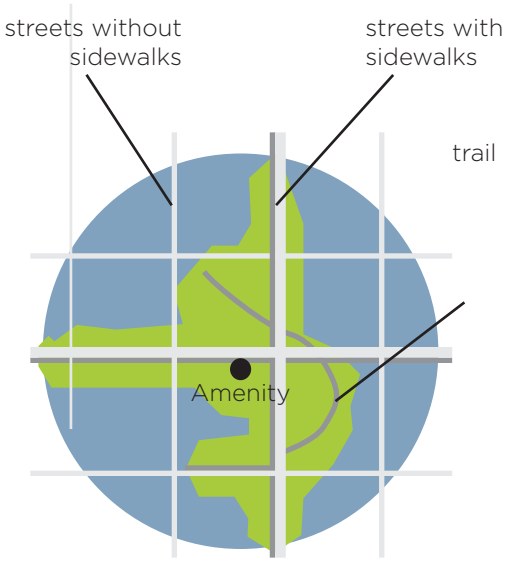

This legend shows how the above data points inform the recommended LOS. For example if the peer median LOS is greater than Fort Collins, it suggests raising the LOS.

## Access Standards

The current amenity access standards are represented by the green walksheds on the maps. The dark blue circles show an ideal walkshed that could be achieved with enhanced street walkability. See diagram below.

The orange and black circles on the map show where a new amenity could be located in order to close a gap in the existing access standards. Dashed circles are new amenities that have not been planned, solid circles show that a park is planned in this area, and orange circles show that the gap could be filled by sharing amenity access with a school.




Existing LOS

Idealized LOS

# RECTANGULAR FIELDS

## Population-Based Standard



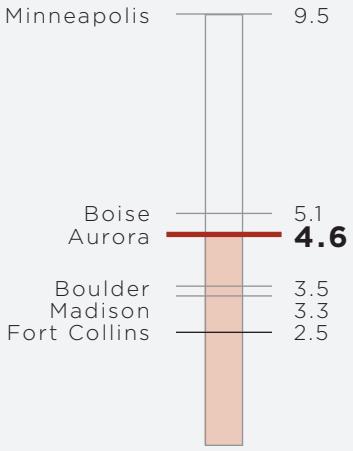

**Current LOS**
**2.9**
per 10,000

**Number of Fields**

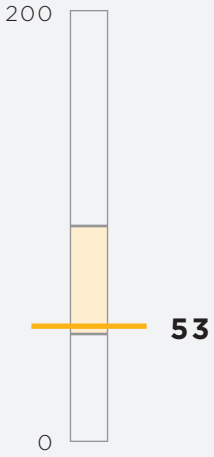
**50** in 2020

**+11** by 2040

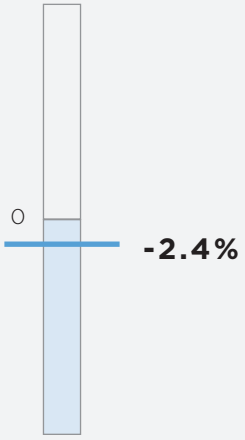
## Considerations




Peer Median

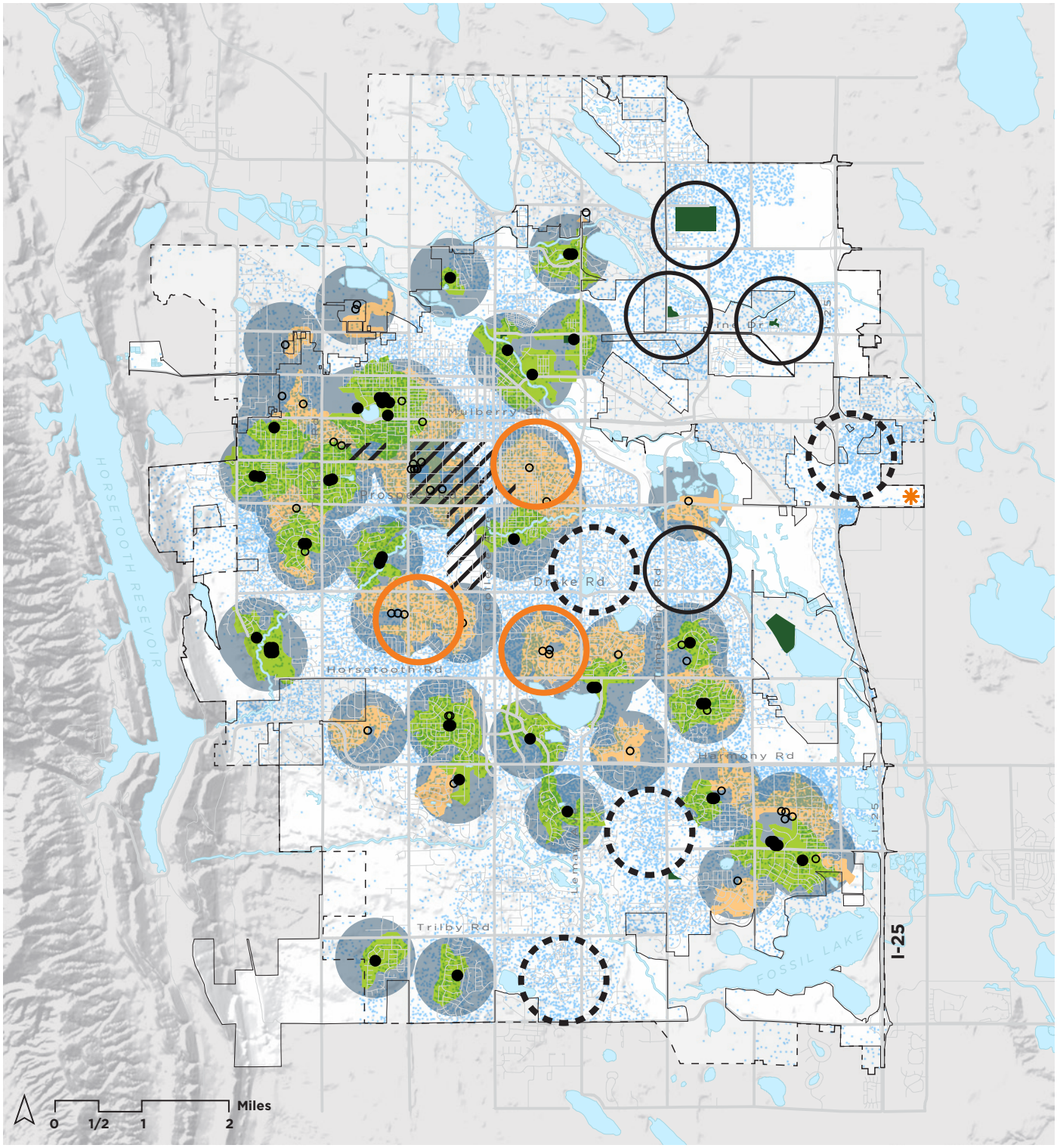



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Rectangular Fields — Access Standard — 10-Minute Walk

Park Amenity
Existing 10-Minute Walk
Idealized 10-Minute Walk

School Amenity
Existing 10-Minute Walk
Idealized 10-Minute Walk

Population Density 2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by Securing Access to Existing School Amenity

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity Focus Area

# PLAYGROUNDS

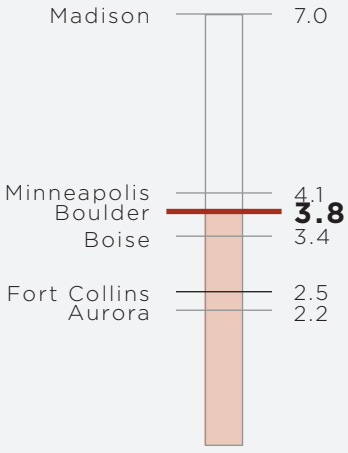
## Population-Based Standard



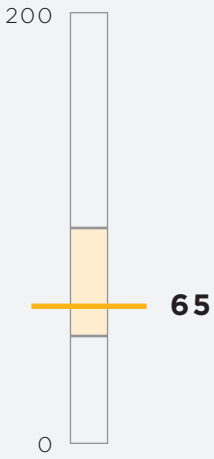

**Number of Playgrounds**

| 44 | +28 |
|---|---|
| in 2020 | by 2040 |

## Considerations




Peer Median

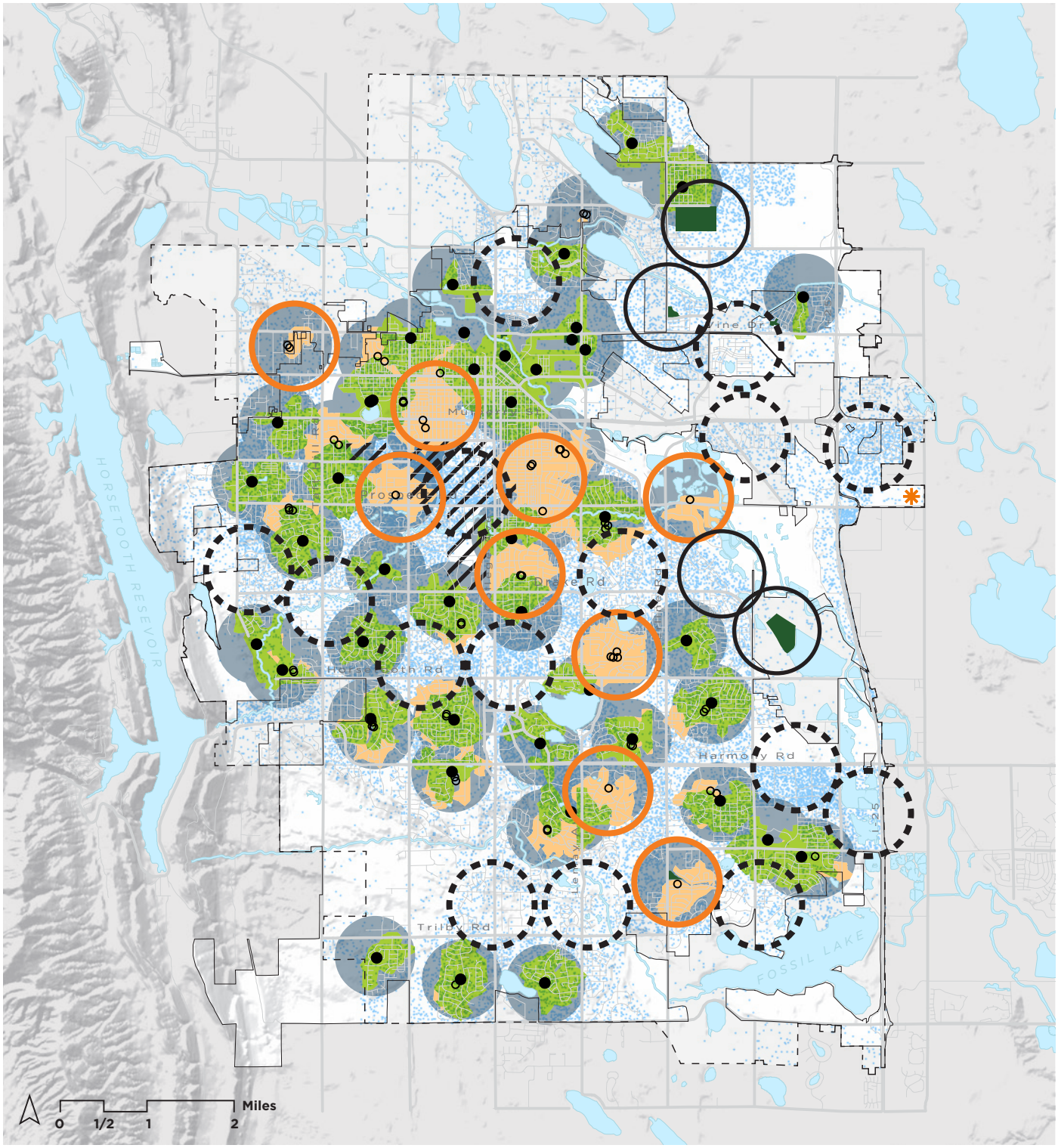



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Playgrounds — Access Standard — 10-Minute Walk

Park Amenity
Existing 10-Minute Walk
Idealized 10-Minute Walk

School Amenity
Existing 10-Minute Walk
Idealized 10-Minute Walk

Population Density 2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by Securing Access to Existing School Amenity

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity Focus Area

# BASKETBALL HOOPS

## Population-Based Standard



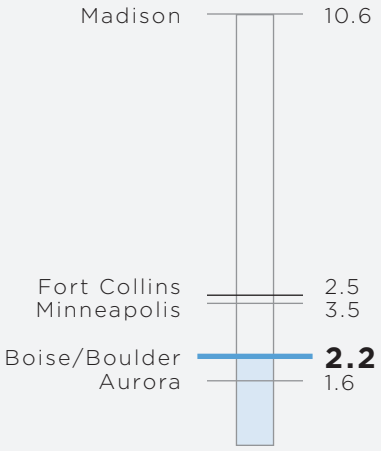

**Current LOS**
**3.7**
per 10,000

**Number of Courts**

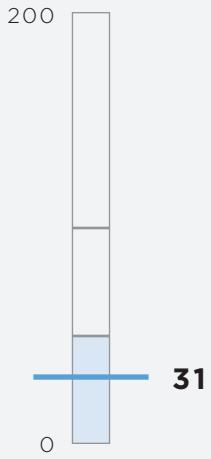
**64** in 2020

**+8** by 2040

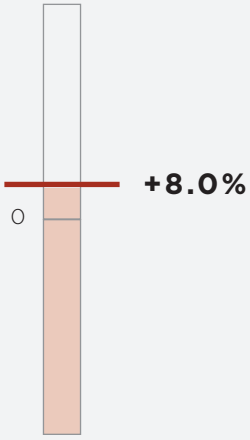
## Considerations




Peer Median

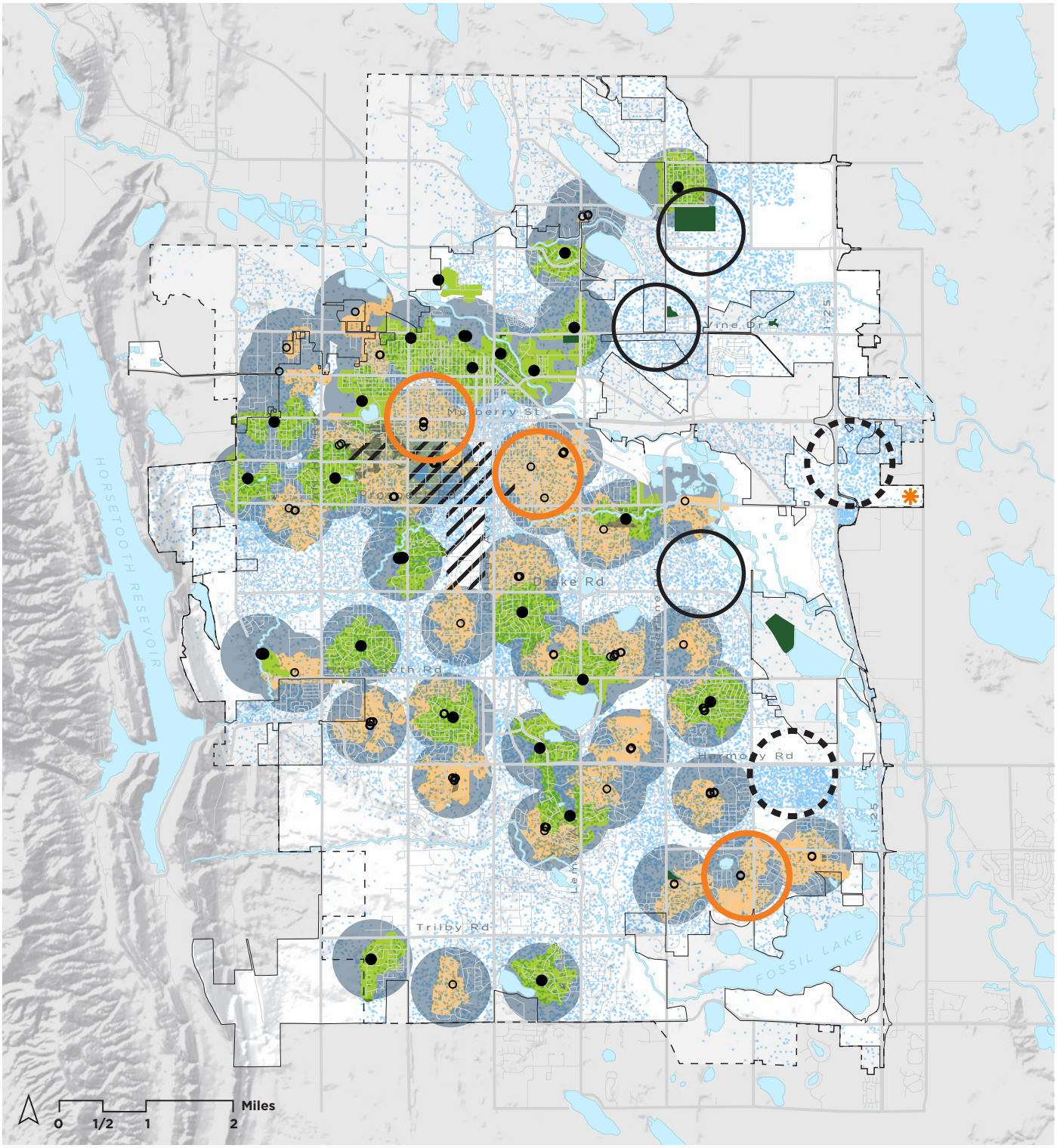



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Basketball Courts — Access Standard — 10-Minute Walk

Park Amenity
Existing 10-Minute Walk
Idealized 10-Minute Walk

School Amenity
Existing 10-Minute Walk
Idealized 10-Minute Walk

Population Density 2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by Securing Access to Existing School Amenity

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity Focus Area

# PICKLEBALL COURTS

## Population-Based Standard



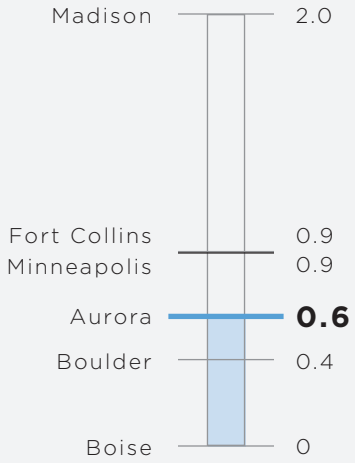

**Current LOS**
**0.9**
per 10,000

**Number of Courts**

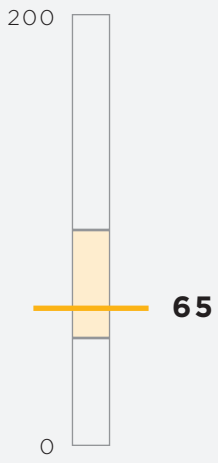
**8**
in 2020

**+13**
by 2040

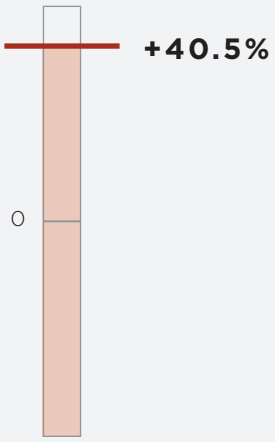
## Considerations




Peer Median

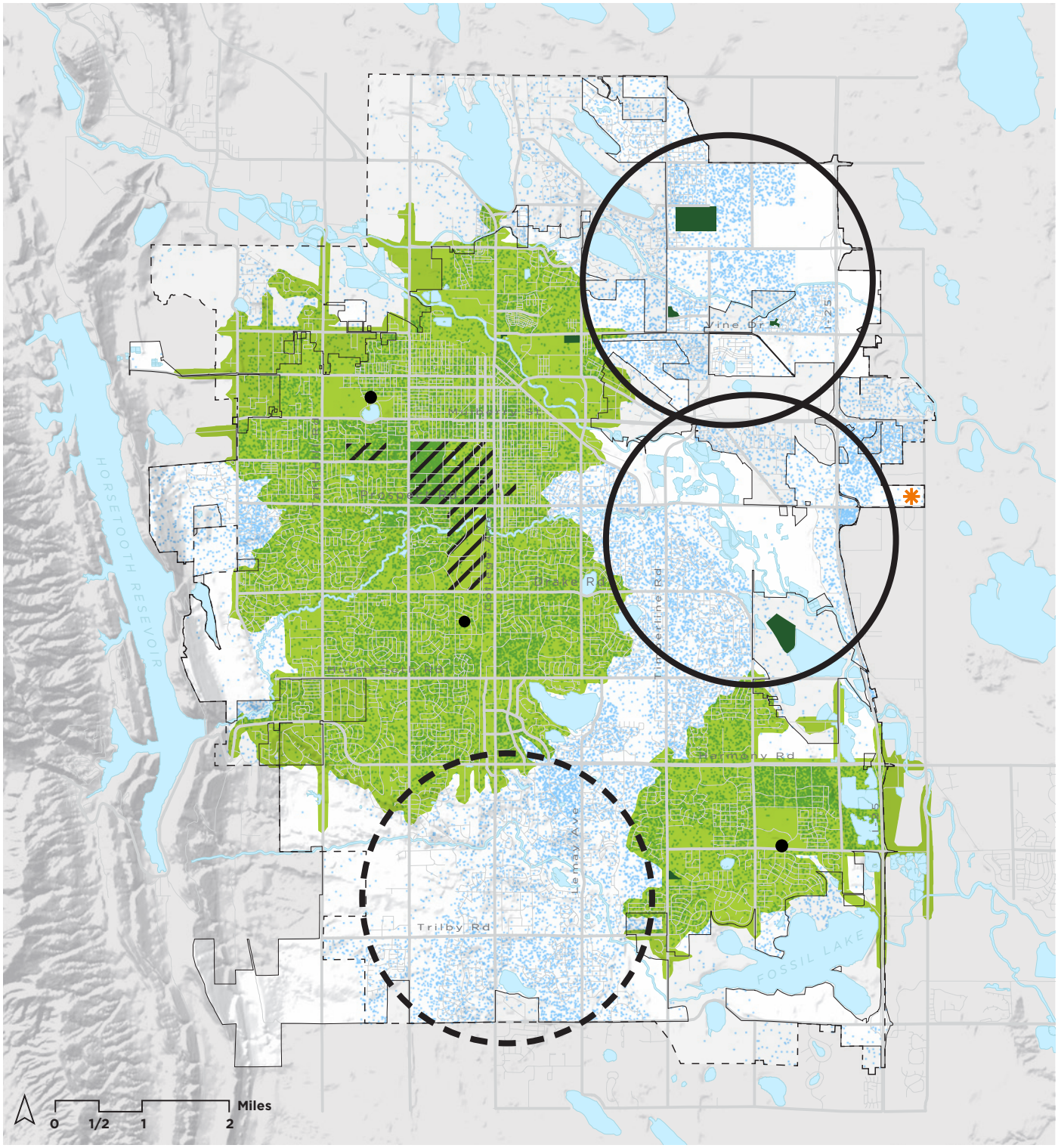



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Pickleball Courts — Access Standard — 5-Minute Drive

Park Amenity
Existing 5-Minute Drive
Idealized 5-Minute Drive

Population Density 2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity Focus Area

# DOG PARKS

## Population-Based Standard



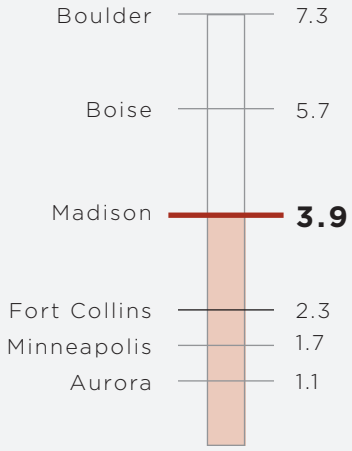

**Current LOS**
**2.3**
per 100,000

**Number of Dog Parks**

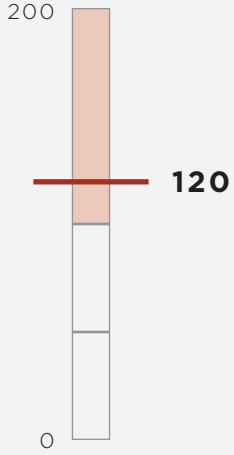
**4**
in 2020

**+5**
by 2040

## Considerations




Peer Median

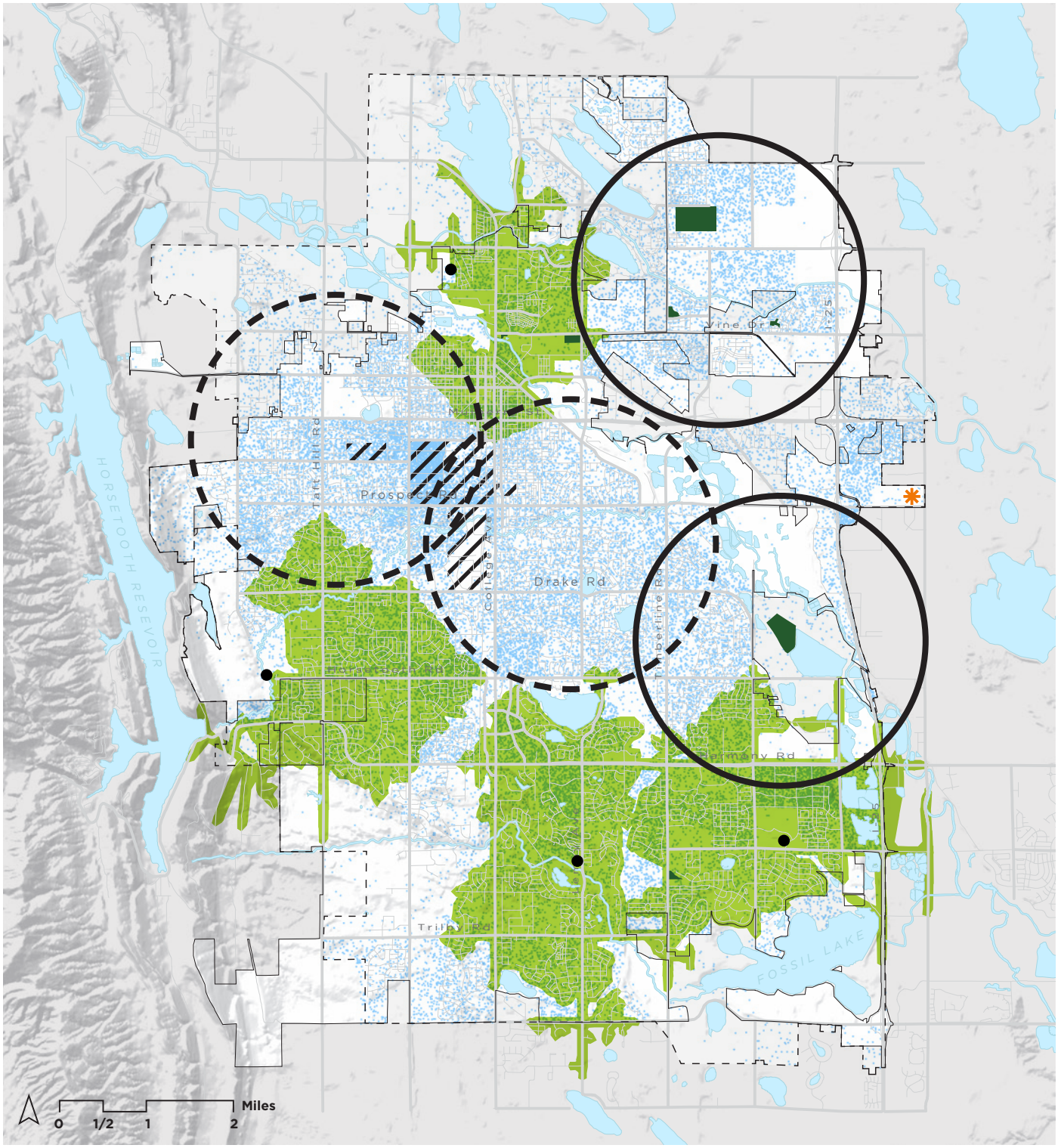



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Dog Parks — Access Standard — 5-Minute Drive

Park Amenity
Existing 5-Minute Drive
Idealized 5-Minute Drive

Population Density 2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity Focus Area

# POOLS

## Population-Based Standard

**Recommended LOS**
**2.4**
per 100,000

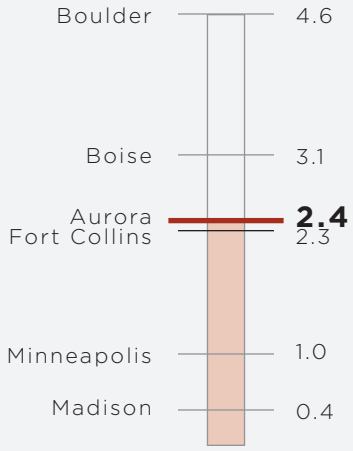
**Current LOS**
**2.3**
per 100,000

**Number of Pools**

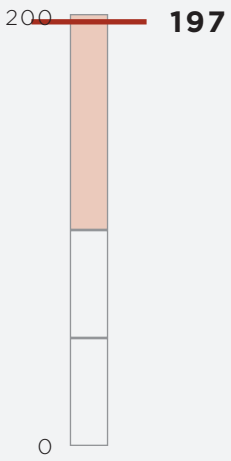
**4**
in 2020

**+2**
by 2040

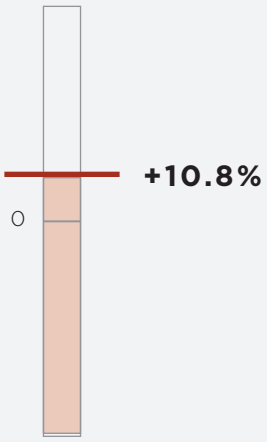
## Considerations




Peer Median

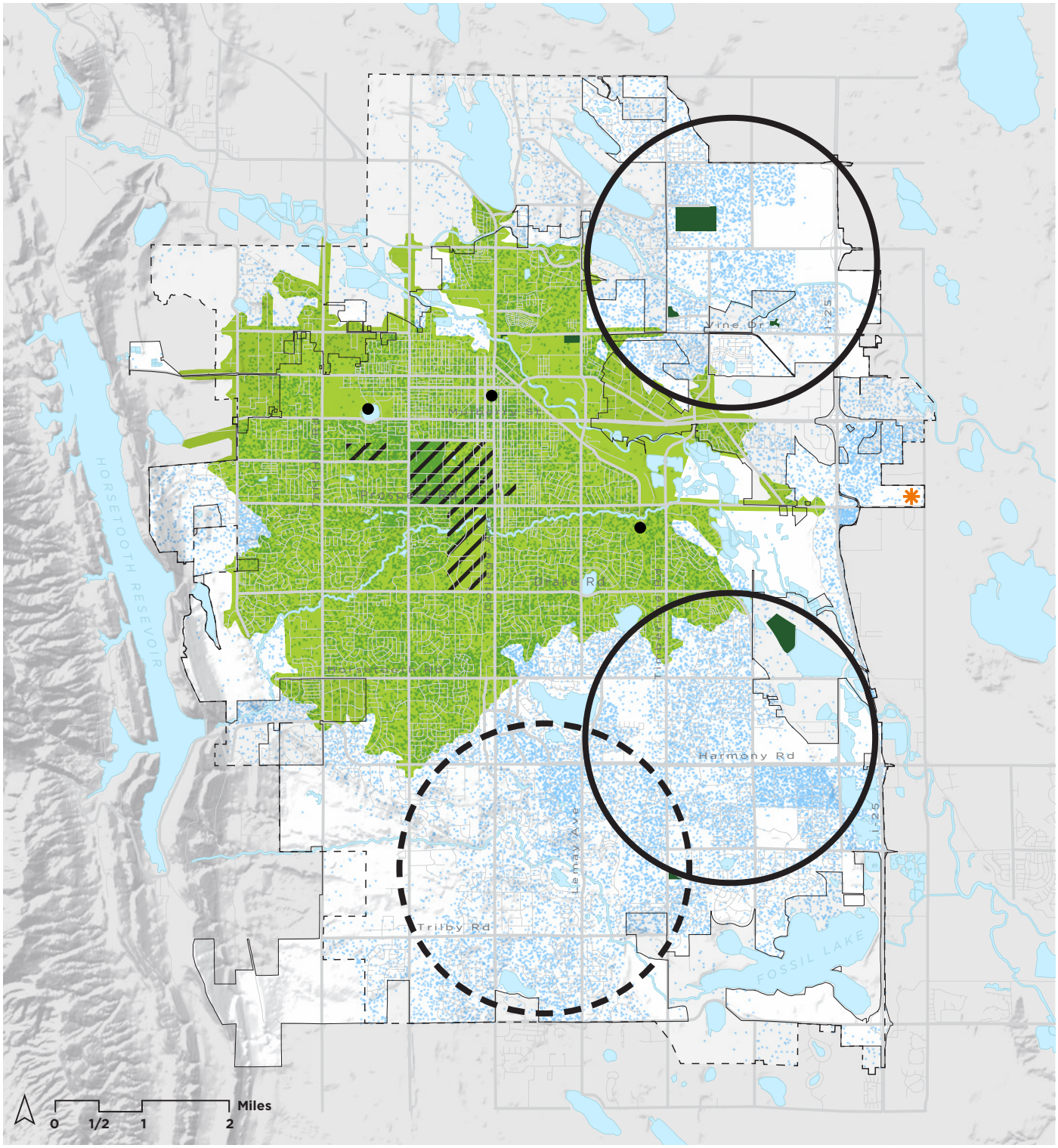



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Pools — Access Standard — 5-Minute Drive

Park Amenity
Existing 5-Minute Drive
Idealized 5-Minute Drive

Population Density 2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity Focus Area

# COMMUNITY CENTERS

## Population-Based Standard



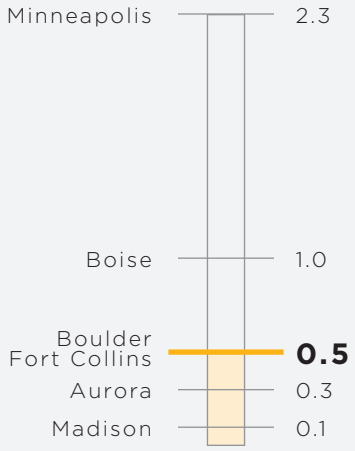

**Current LOS**
**0.5**
per 20,000

**Number of Centers**

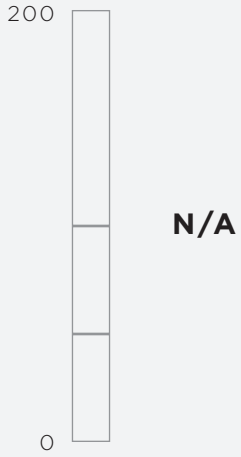
**4** in 2020

**+3** by 2040

## Considerations




Peer Median

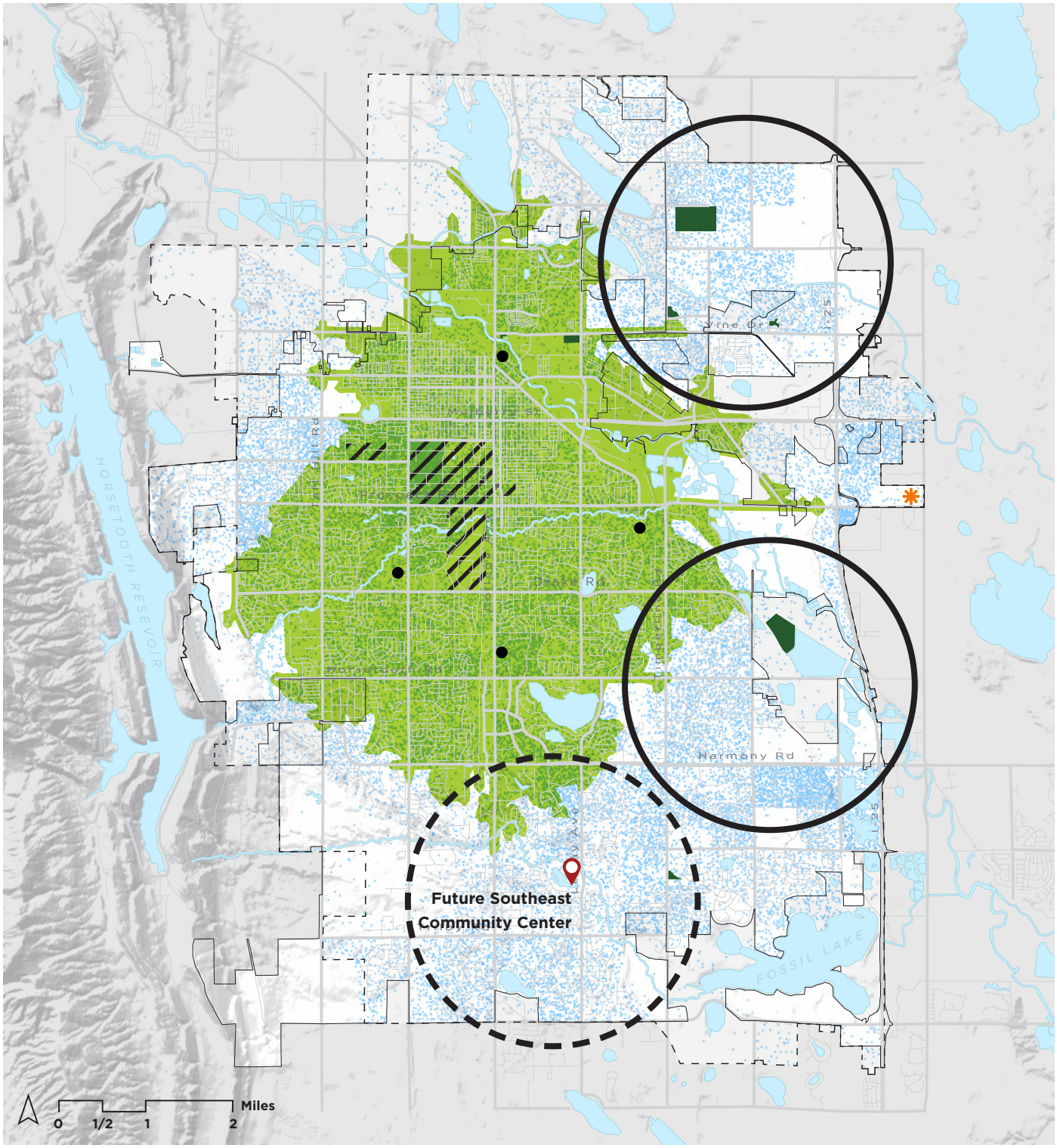



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Community Centers — Access Standard — 5-Minute Drive

Park Amenity
Existing 5-Minute Drive
Idealized 5-Minute Drive

Population Density
2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

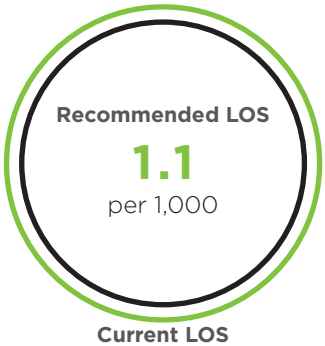
CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by
New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity
Focus Area

# COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS

## Population-Based Standard

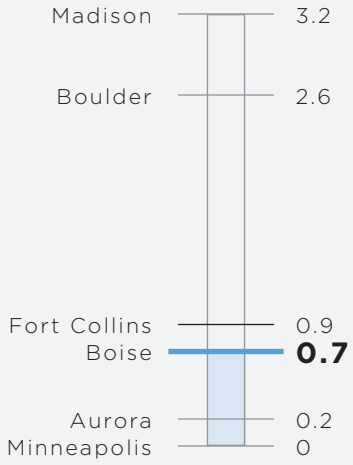



**Number of Plots**

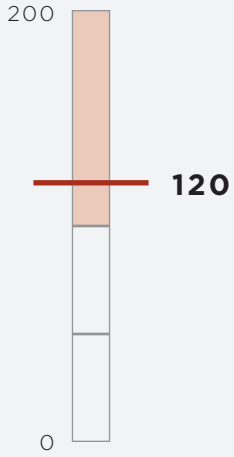
**158** in 2020

**+109** by 2040

## Considerations




Peer Median

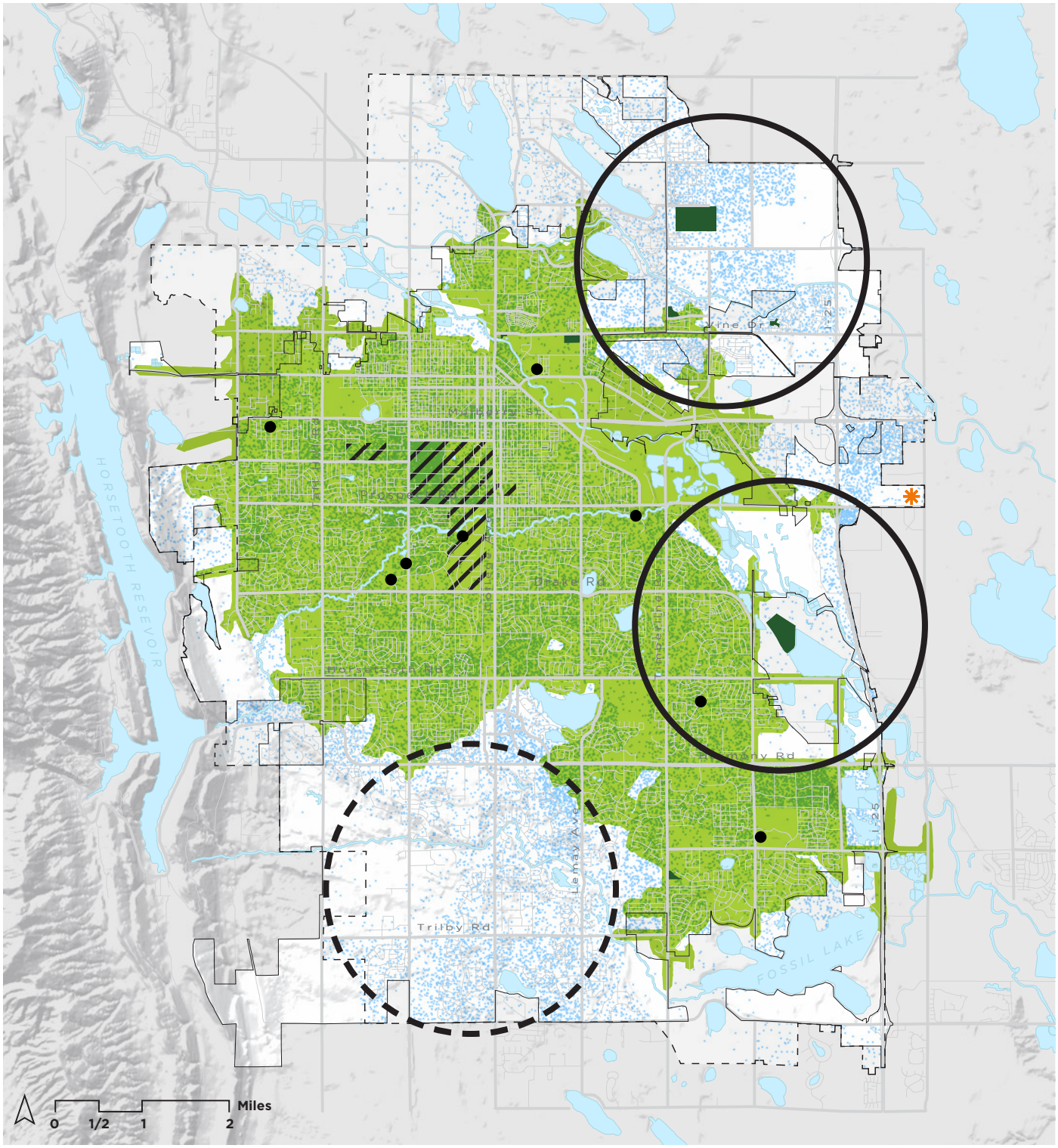



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Community Gardens — Access Standard — 5-Minute Drive

Park Amenity
Existing 5-Minute Drive
Idealized 5-Minute Drive

Population Density 2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity Focus Area

# DIAMOND FIELDS

## Population-Based Standard

**Recommended LOS**
**2.1**
per 10,000

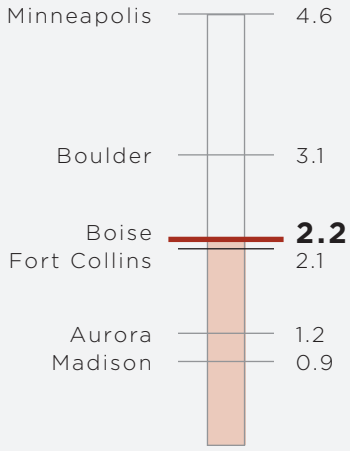
**Current LOS**
**2.1**
per 10,000

**Number of Fields**

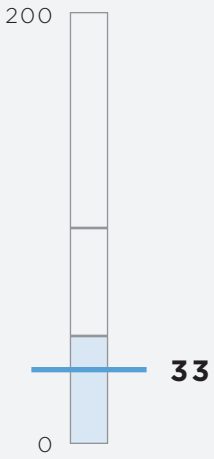
**37**
in 2020

**+15**
by 2040

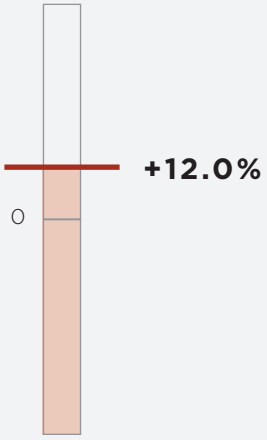
## Considerations




Peer Median

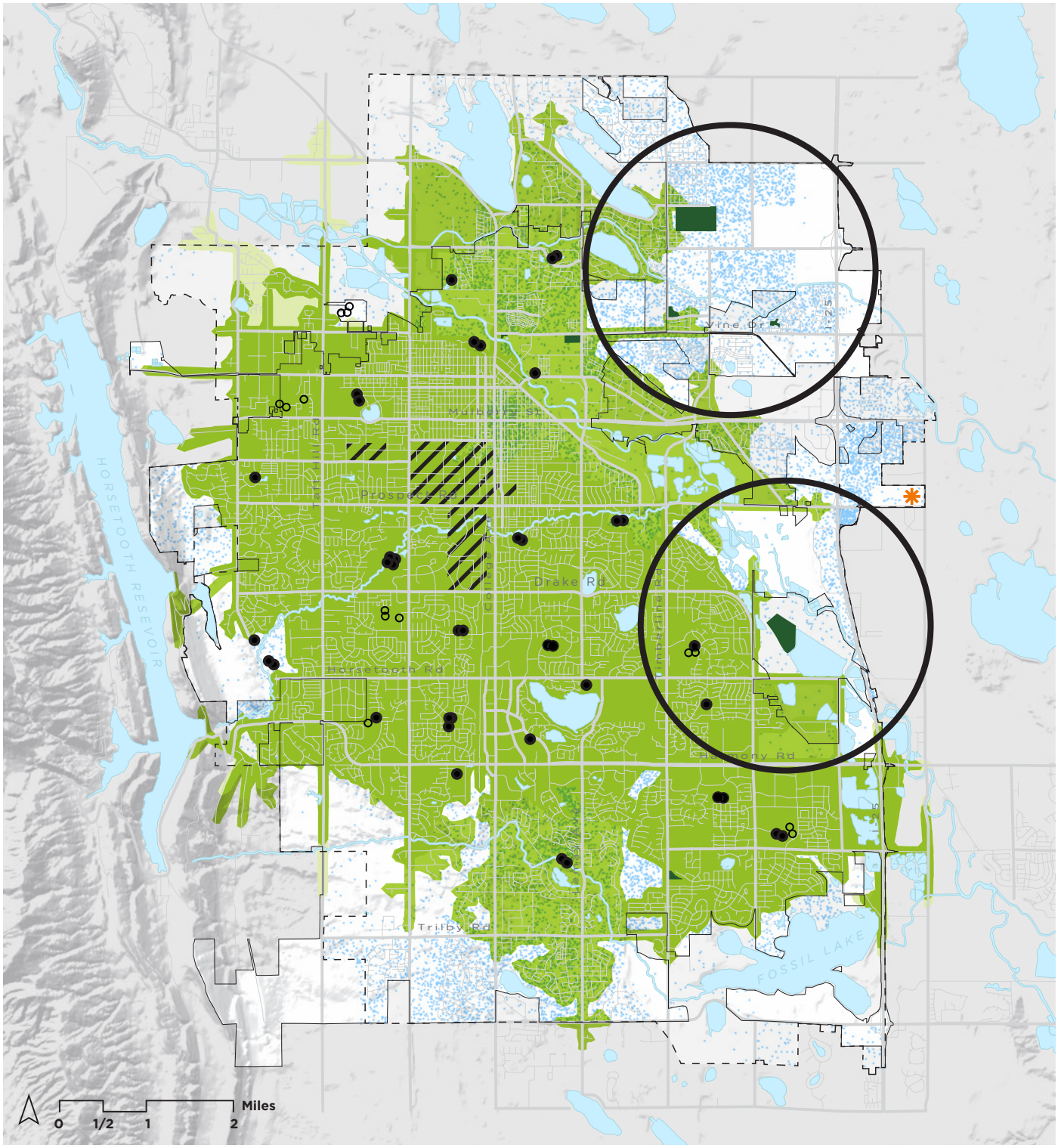



Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |




## Diamond Fields — Access Standard — 5-Minute Drive

Park Amenity
Existing 5-Minute Drive
Idealized 5-Minute Drive

Population Density 2040

New Park in Progress

Planned School

CSU Campus

Service Gap/ Potentially Filled by New Amenity in Planned Park

Service Gap/ New Amenity Focus Area

# BMX COURSES

## Population-Based Standard



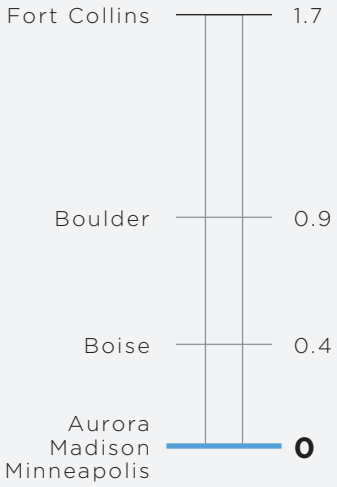

**Current LOS**
**1.7**
per 100,000

**Number of Courses**

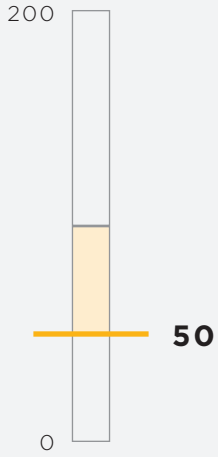
**3** in 2020

**+2** by 2040

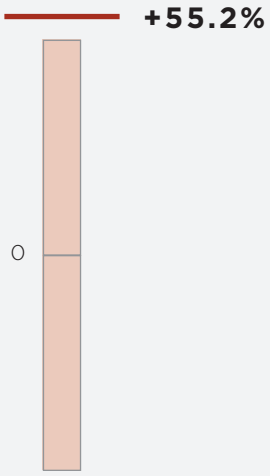
## Considerations




Peer Median




Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |

# VOLLEYBALL COURTS

## Population-Based Standard

**Recommended LOS**
**4.0**
per 100,000

**Current LOS**
**4.0**
per 100,000

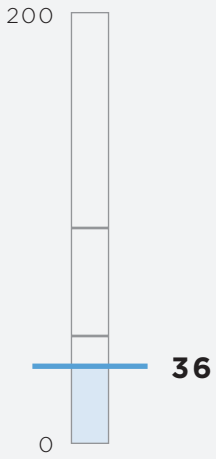
**Number of Courts**

| **7** | **+2** |
|---|---|
| in 2020 | by 2040 |

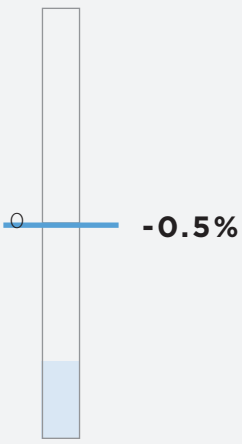
## Considerations




Peer Median




Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | |

# LIGHTED FIELDS

## Population-Based Standard

**Recommended LOS**
**8.0**
per 100,000

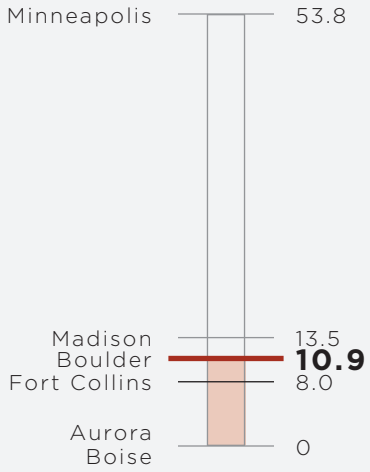
**Current LOS**
**8.0**
per 100,000

**Number of Fields**

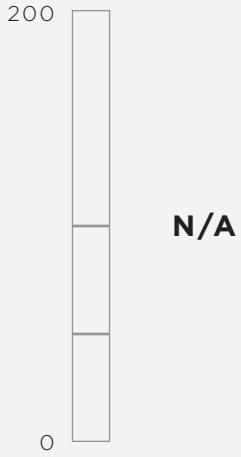
**14**
in 2020

**+5**
by 2040

## Considerations




Peer Median




Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |

# PAVED, MULTI-USE TRAILS

## Population-Based Standard

**Recommended LOS**
**30.0**
per 100,000

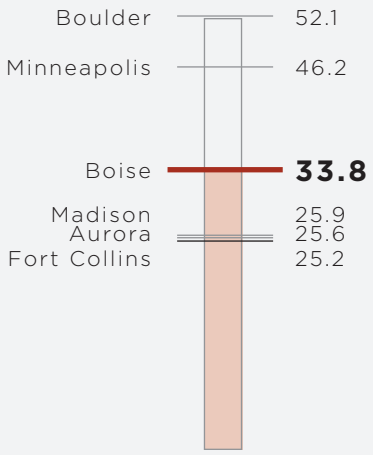
**Current LOS**
**25.2**
per 100,000

**Number of Miles**

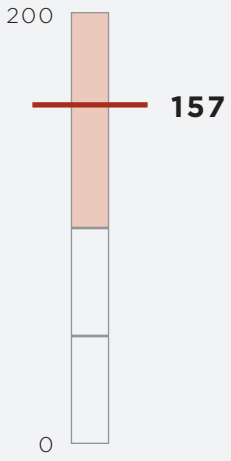
**44**
in 2020

**+28**
by 2040

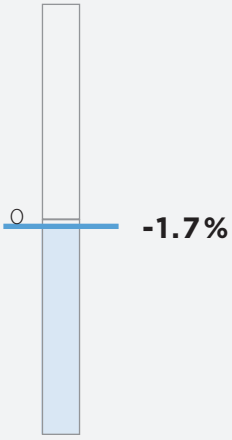
## Considerations




Peer Median




Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | |

# SKATE PARKS

## Population-Based Standard

**Recommended LOS**
**3.0**
per 100,000

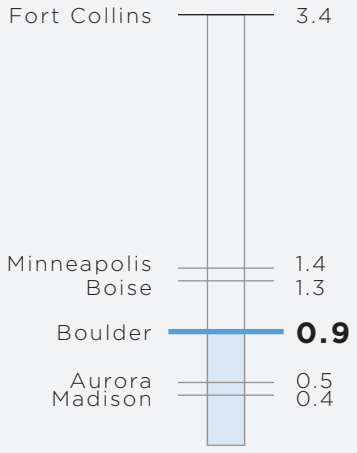
**Current LOS**
**3.4**
per 100,000

**Number of Skate Parks**

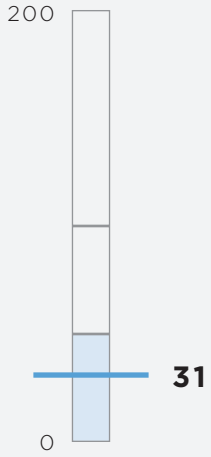
**6**
in 2020

**+1**
by 2040

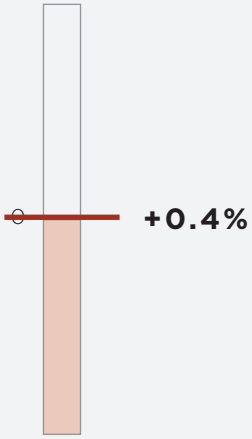
## Considerations




Peer Median




Priority Investment Rating

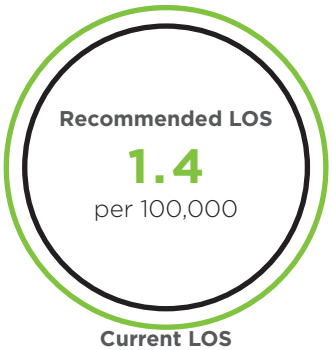



5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |

# DISC GOLF COURSES

## Population-Based Standard



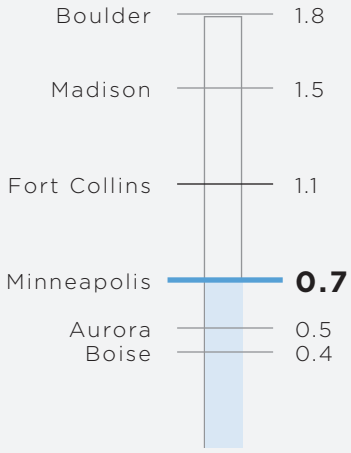

**Current LOS**
**1.1**
per 100,000

**Number of Courts**

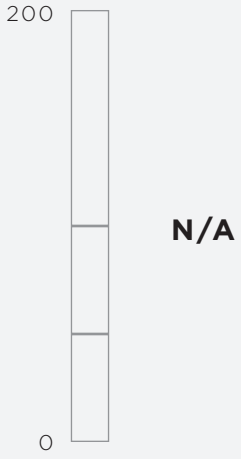
**2** in 2020

**+1** by 2040

## Considerations




Peer Median




Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | |

# TENNIS COURTS

## Population-Based Standard

**Recommended LOS**
**2.6**
per 10,000

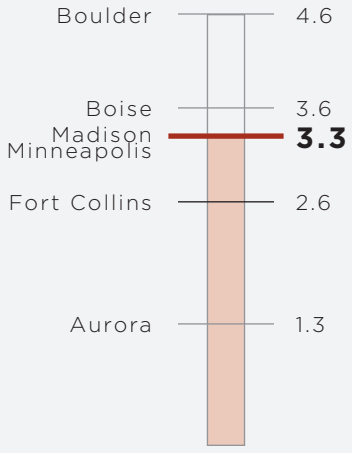
**Current LOS**
**2.6**
per 10,000

**Number of Courts**

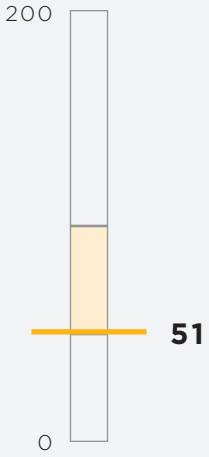
**46**
in 2020

**+17**
by 2040

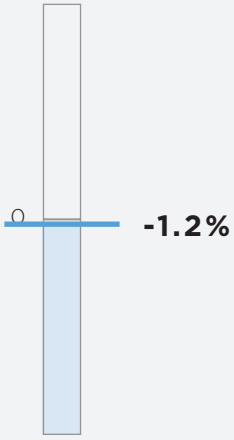
## Considerations




Peer Median



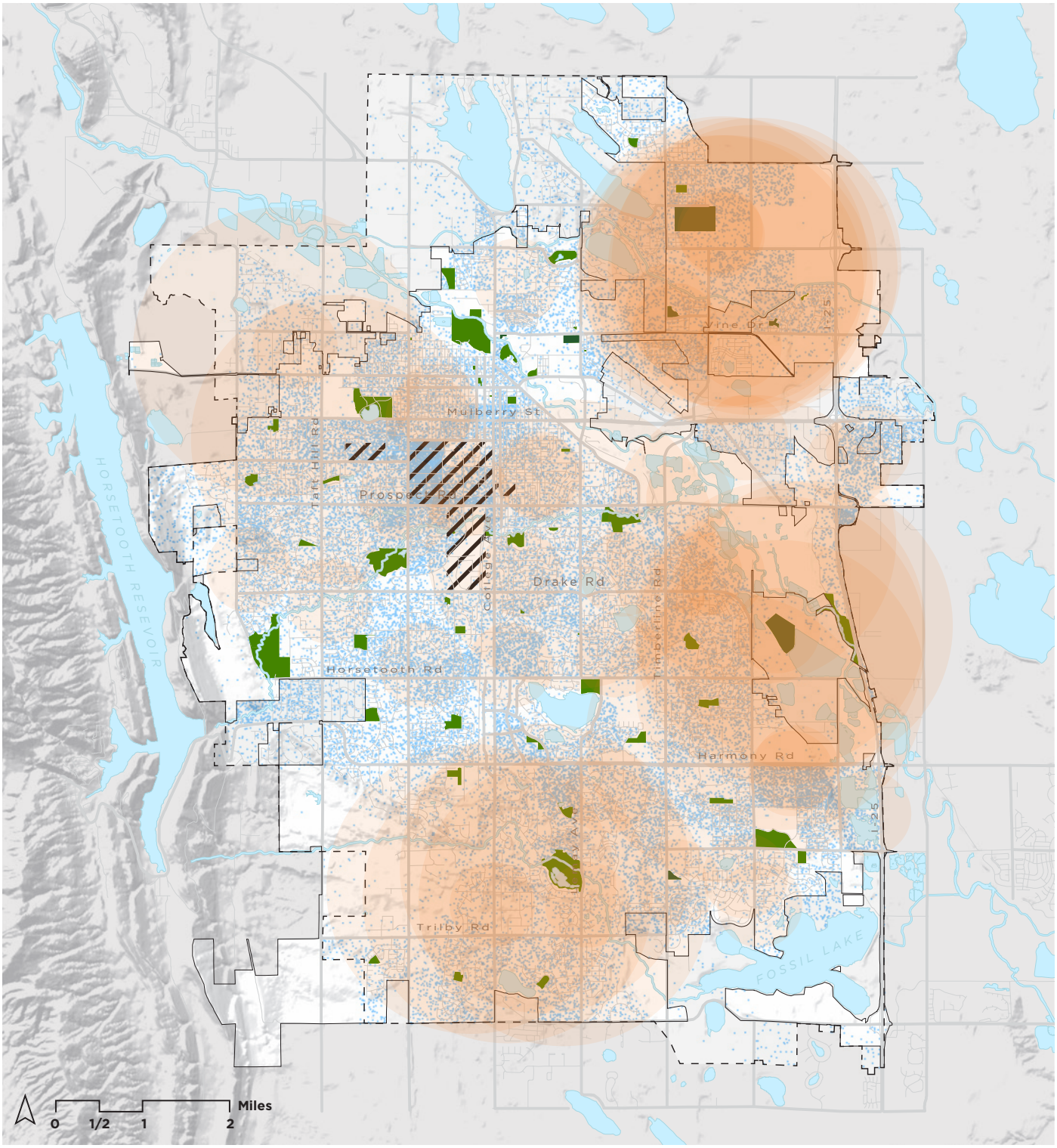

Priority Investment Rating




5-Year Change in Participation

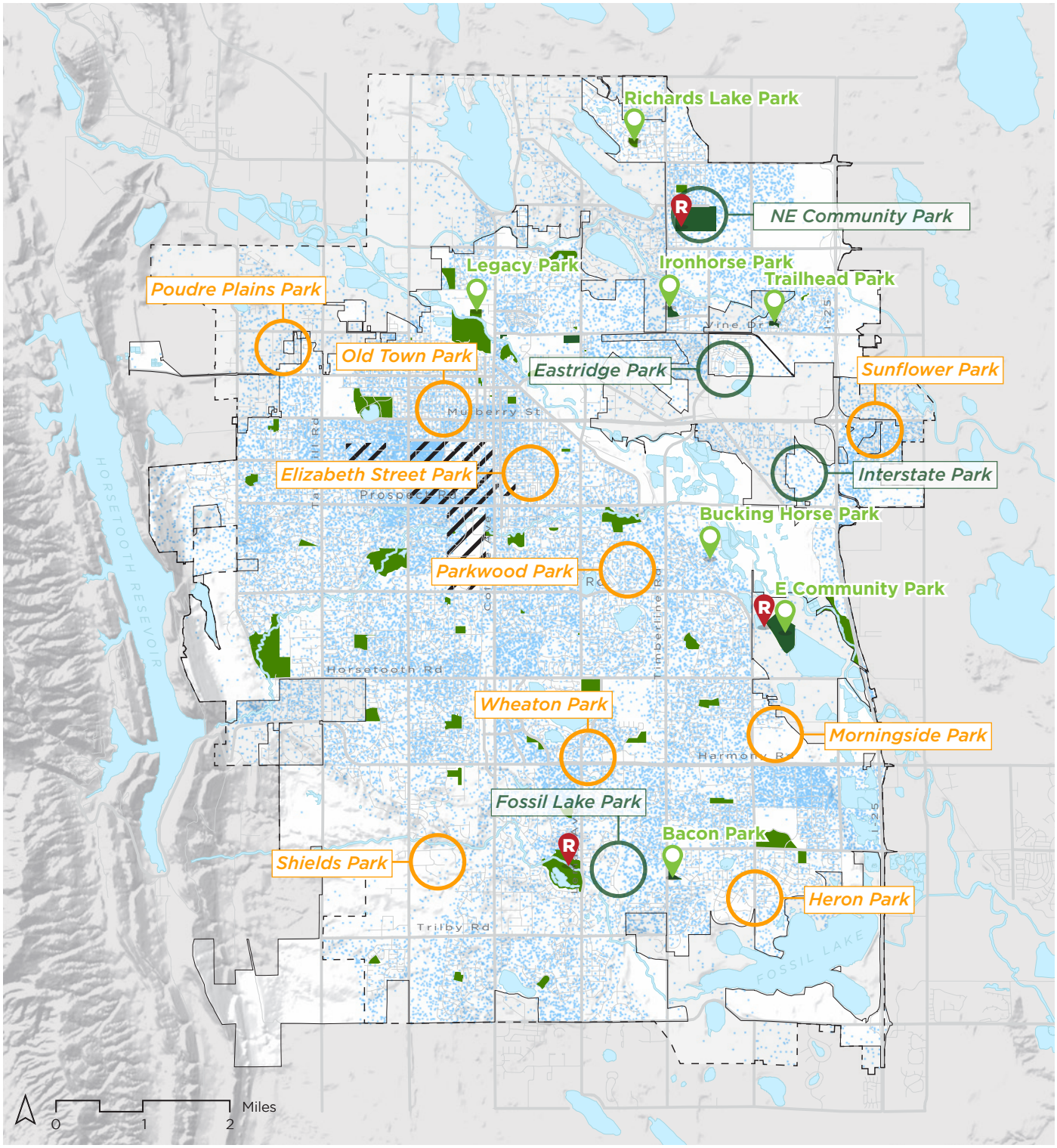
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | | |






## Focus Area Overlay

The map above is an overlay of the new amenity focus areas from both the walking and driving access standards maps. By overlaying these focus areas, several patterns emerge. First, the location of the proposed community parks in both the northeast and east parts of the city are appropriately located and will provide amenities to parts of the city that will grow significantly over the next twenty years. The other pattern that emerges is that a need for a new park or parks exists in the southern part of the city. Based on the level of service analysis and the focus area overlay the Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommends building 12 new parks and completing 7 of the parks that are currently planned. The recommended parks fill in gaps in the service areas and provide amenities to residents who currently have to travel to reach them. The recommended parks should be built and classified based on their surroundings and amenities.




## Recommended Future Park/Facility Sites

- Proposed Park, Land Acquired
- Recommended Community/Neighborhood Centers
- Proposed Park, Land Not Acquired
- Proposed Parks

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS SUMMARY

| AMENITY | COUNT | METRIC | CURRENT LOS | PEER MEDIAN LOS | SURVEY PRIORITY | NATIONAL 5-YR PART-ICIPATION TREND | REC. LOS STANDARD |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rectangular Fields** | 50 | 1/10,000 | 2.9 | 4.6 | 53 | -2.4% | 2.5 |
| **Playgrounds** | 44 | 1/10,000 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 65 | | 3.0 |
| **Basketball Hoops** | 64 | 1/10,000 | 3.7 | 2.2 | 31 | +8.0% | 3.0 |
| **Pickleball Courts** | 8 | 1/20,000 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 65 | +40.5% | 1.7 |
| **Dog Parks** | 4 | 1/100,000 | 2.3 | 3.9 | 120 | | 4.0 |
| **Swimming Pools** | 4 | 1/100,000 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 197 | +10.8% | 2.4 |
| **Recreation & Senior Centers** | 4 | 1/20,000 | 0.5 | 0.7 | | | 0.6 |
| **Community Garden Plots** | 158 | 1/1,000 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 120 | | 1.1 |
| **Diamond Fields** | 37 | 1/10,000 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 33 | +12% | 2.1 |
| **BMX Courses** | 3 | 1/100,000 | 1.7 | 0 | 50 | +55.2% | 2.0 |
| **Volleyball Courts** | 7 | 1/100,000 | 4.0 | | 36 | -0.5% | 4.0 |
| **Lighted Fields** | 14 | 1/100,000 | 8.0 | 11 | | | 8.0 |
| **Paved, Multi-Use Trails (miles)** | 44 | 1/100,000 | 25.2 | 33.8 | 157 | -1.7% | 30.0 |
| **Skate Parks** | 6 | 1/100,000 | 3.4 | 0.9 | 31 | +0.4% | 3.0 |
| **Disc Golf Courses** | 2 | 1/100,000 | 1.1 | 0.7 | | | 1.4 |
| **Tennis Courts** | 46 | 1/10,000 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 51 | -1.2% | 2.6 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **supports raising the LOS standard** | Peer Median > Fort Collins | PIR > 100 | Participation Change > 0 |
| **supports maintaining the LOS standard** | Peer Median = Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 100 PIR > 50 | Participation Change = 0 |
| **supports lowering the LOS standard** | Peer Median < Fort Collins | PIR ≤ 50 | Participation Change < 0 |
| **no information available** | | | |

| | ADDITIONAL AMENITIES NEEDED TO MEET RECOMMENDED LOS STANDARD | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | IN 2020 | BY 2040 | ACCESS STANDARD |
| | -6 | +11 | 10-Min Walk |
| | +8 | +28 | 10-Min Walk |
| | -12 | +8 | 10-Min Walk |
| | +7 | +13 | 5-Min Drive |
| | +3 | +5 | 5-Min Drive |
| | 0 | +2 | 5-Min Drive |
| | +1 | +3 | 5-Min Drive |
| | +34 | +109 | 5-Min Drive |
| | 0 | +15 | 5-Min Drive |
| | 0 | +2 | NA |
| | 0 | +2 | NA |
| | 0 | +5 | NA |
| | +8 | +28 | NA |
| | -1 | +1 | NA |
| | 0 | +1 | NA |
| | -1 | +17 | NA |





# GUIDELINES FOR PROGRAMS

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN


OSPREY



# PROGRAM AND SERVICE CLASSIFICATIONS

*As with parks and recreation facilities, Fort Collins has a wide array of programs available to serve residents' interests and needs. Currently, the Recreation Department does not classify its programs and services. Classifying programs and services is an important process to ensure they remain aligned with interests and needs, serve the mission of the organization, and sustainably operate within the bounds of its financial resources.*

**Nature programs are some of the highest rated.**
Outdoor Recreation Program

# PROGRAM AND SERVICE CLASSIFICATIONS

Building on industry standard criteria[25], programs and services should be classified by:

- whom the program is targeting
- purpose
- benefits
- cost
- outcome

## Program Classifications

The program classification matrix below can be used as a guide to classifying programs and to inform cost recovery. Programs are categorized as essential, important, or value-added programs. Fort Collins' programs are categorized at right.

These classifications distinguish the level of public benefit and private benefit as they apply to each program area. Public benefit means that everyone receives the same level of benefit with equal access. Private benefit means that the user receives exclusive benefit above what a general taxpayer receives for their personal benefit.

Cost recovery is typically lower (0–30%) for essential programs, moderate (30–75%) for important programs and high (over 75%) for value-added programs.



| PROGRAMS | BENEFIT LEVEL | SERVICE CATEGORY | TARGET COST RECOVERY |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Aquatics** | | | |
| EPIC Pool | Community/Individual | Important | 60% |
| EPIC Aquafitness | Community | Essential | 30% |
| MP Pool | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| MP Aquafitness | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| Cp Pool | Community/Individual | Important | 65% |
| SC Pool | Community | Essential | 35% |
| SC Aquatics | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| **Ice** | | | |
| EPIC Ice | Community/Individual | Important | 60% |
| Old Town Square Holiday Rink | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| **Youth Enrichment Programs** | | | |
| Child Development | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| The Farm | Community/Individual | Important | 60% |
| Youth & Camps | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| **Adult Enrichment Programs** | | | |
| Social Opportunities | Community/Individual | Important | 60% |
| Education | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| Wellness | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| Dance | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| Trips & Travel | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| Outdoor Recreation | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| **Arts, Crafts, Pottery - Youth and Adult** | | | |
| Arts & Crafts | Community/Individual | Important | 60% |
| Pottery | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| **Adaptive Recreational Opportunities** | | | |
| All Programs | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| **Fitness Programs** | | | |
| NACC | Individual | Value Added | 75% |
| FAC | Individual | Value Added | 75% |
| SC | Individual | Value Added | 75% |
| **Sports** | | | |
| Adult | Individual | Value Added | 80% |
| Youth | Community/Individual | Important | 60% |
| Tennis | Individual | Value Added | 80% |
| **Special Events** | | | |
| Kids in the Park | Community/Individual | Important | 65% |
| 4th of July Parade | Community/Individual | Important | 50% |
| **Room Rentals** | | | |
| NACC | Individual | Value Added | 100% |
| EPIC | Individual | Value Added | 100% |
| FAC | Individual | Value Added | 100% |
| SC | Individual | Value Added | 100% |
| Club Tico | Individual | Value Added | 100% |





# PROGRAM COSTS AND PRICING

*Cost of service analyses help determine what financial resources are required to provide specific programs at specific levels of service. Results are used to determine and track cost recovery as well as to benchmark different programs. Once cost of service totals have been calculated, cost recovery goals can be established. A cost of service analysis should be undertaken on a regular basis.*

**Aquatic facilities draw many residents on hot summer days.**
City Park Pool

# COST OF SERVICE

Cost of service accurately calculates direct costs (i.e. program-specific costs) and indirect costs (i.e. comprehensive costs, including administrative overhead costs). A cost of service analysis for each program or program type not only helps determine the true and full cost of offering a program but provides information that can be used to price programs based on accurate delivery costs. Common types of costs that must be accounted for in a cost of service analysis include:

- personnel costs
- administrative cost allocation
- debt service costs
- supply and material costs
- equipment costs
- contracted services
- vehicle costs
- building costs

A cost of service analysis must also include the total revenue earned for that activity.

Costs (and revenue) can also be derived on a per unit basis. Program or activity units may include:

- number of participants
- number of tasks performed
- number of consumable units
- number of service calls
- number of events
- required time for offering program/service

The table at right summarizes current cost recovery, targeted cost recovery, and the increase in net revenue for each program if the targets were achieved.

| PROGRAMS | 2019 PARTICIPATION COUNTS | |
|---|---|---|
| **Aquatics** | | |
| EPIC Pool | 163,876 | |
| EPIC Aquafitness | 4,885 | |
| MP Pool | 46,867 | |
| MP Aquafitness | 3,486 | |
| Cp Pool | 58,508 | |
| SC Pool | 4,411 | |
| SC Aquatics | 26,601 | |
| **Ice** | | |
| EPIC Ice | 144,790 | |
| Old Town Square Holiday Rink | 1,600 | |
| **Youth Enrichment Programs** | | |
| Child Development | 24,812 | |
| The Farm | 64,519 | |
| Youth & Camps | 18,803 | |
| **Adult Enrichment Programs** | | |
| Social Opportunities | 24,311 | |
| Education | 4,260 | |
| Wellness | 4,352 | |
| Dance | 2,581 | |
| Trips & Travel | 2,297 | |
| Outdoor Recreation | 1,790 | |
| **Arts, Crafts, Pottery - Youth and Adult** | | |
| Arts & Crafts | 5,052 | |
| Pottery | 15,481 | |
| **Adaptive Recreational Opportunities** | | |
| All Programs | 15,299 | |
| **Fitness Programs** | | |
| NACC | 129,322 | |
| FAC | 47,862 | |
| SC | 183,590 | |
| **Sports** | | |
| Adult | 79,404 | |
| Youth | 85,832 | |
| Tennis | 3,472 | |
| **Special Events** | | |
| Kids in the Park | NA | |
| 4th of July Parade | NA | |
| **Room Rentals** | | |
| NACC | NA | |
| EPIC | NA | |
| FAC | NA | |
| SC | NA | |
| Club Tico | NA | |

| | TOTAL REVENUE | DIRECT PROGRAM EXPENDITURES | INDIRECT/ ADMIN/ OVERHEAD EXPENDITURES | TOTAL REVENUE OVER/UNDER TOTAL | TAX SUPPORT PER PARTICIPANT/ VISITOR | CURRENT COST RECOVERY | BENEFIT LEVEL | SERVICE CATEGORY | TARGET COST RECOVERY | POTENTIAL NET REVENUE INCREASE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $433,699 | $267,646 | $549,495 | ($383,442) | ($2.34) | 531.% | Community/ Individual | Important | 60% | $56,586 |
| | $3,499 | $8,668 | $4,421 | ($9,600) | ($1.97) | 26.7% | Community | Essential | 30% | $438 |
| | $237,593 | $189,529 | $301,030 | ($252,966) | ($5.40) | 48.4% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $7,686 |
| | $3,513 | $5,269 | $4,451 | ($6,207) | ($1.78) | 36.1% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $1,347 |
| | $251,503 | $94,232 | $318,653 | ($161,382) | ($2.76) | 60.9% | Community/ Individual | Important | 65% | $16,873 |
| | $24,742 | $115,136 | $31,348 | ($121,742) | ($27.60) | 16.9% | Community | Essential | 35% | $26,527 |
| | $34,975 | $32,755 | $44,313 | ($42,093) | ($1.58) | 45.4% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $3,559 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $1,205,326 | $515,999 | $1,527,144 | ($837,817) | ($5.79) | 59.0% | Community/ Individual | Important | 60% | $20,560 |
| | $4,988 | $3,608 | $6,320 | ($4,940) | ($3.09) | 50.2% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $266,500 | $213,591 | $337,655 | ($284,746) | ($11.48) | 48.3% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $9,123 |
| | $351,724 | $136,881 | $445,633 | ($230,790) | ($3.58) | 60.4% | Community/ Individual | Important | 60% | $0 |
| | $382,435 | $295,225 | $484,544 | ($397,334) | ($21.13) | 49.0% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $7,449 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $80,937 | $43,388 | $102,547 | ($64,998) | ($2.67) | 55.5% | Community/ Individual | Important | 60% | $6,624 |
| | $41,845 | $40,083 | $53,017 | ($51,255) | ($12.03) | 44.9% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $4,705 |
| | $34,949 | $29,987 | $44,280 | ($39,318) | ($9.03) | 47.1% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $2,185 |
| | $17,724 | $16,205 | $22,456 | ($20,937) | ($8.11) | 45.8% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $1,607 |
| | $321,399 | $328,407 | $407,211 | ($414,219) | ($180.33) | 43.7% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $46,410 |
| | $30,311 | $31,796 | $38,404 | ($39,889) | ($22.41) | 43.2% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $4,789 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $53,326 | $28,670 | $67,564 | ($42,908) | ($8.49) | 55.4% | Community/ Individual | Important | 60% | $4,414 |
| | $159,570 | $114,512 | $202,175 | ($157,117) | ($10.15) | 50.4% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $53,738 | $67,125 | $68,086 | ($81,473) | ($5.33) | 39.7% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $13,867 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $131,876 | $120,937 | $167,086 | ($156,147) | ($1.21) | 45.8% | Individual | Value Added | 75% | $84,142 |
| | $50,372 | $47,292 | $63,821 | ($60,741) | ($1.27) | 45.3% | Individual | Value Added | 75% | $32,963 |
| | $299,372 | $129,813 | $379,303 | ($209,744) | ($1.14) | 58.8% | Individual | Value Added | 75% | $82,463 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $327,396 | $232,184 | $414,810 | ($319,598) | ($4.02) | 50.6% | Individual | Value Added | 80% | $190,199 |
| | $490,615 | $266,894 | $621,608 | ($397,887) | ($4.64) | 55.2% | Community/ Individual | Important | 60% | $220,186 |
| | $7,773 | $105 | $9,848 | ($2,180) | ($0.63) | 78.1% | Individual | Value Added | 80% | $190 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $17,200 | $5,300 | $21,792 | ($9,892) | NA | 63.5% | Community/ Individual | Important | 65% | $410 |
| | $2,550 | $2,000 | $3,231 | ($2,681) | NA | 48.7% | Community/ Individual | Important | 50% | $589 |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | $81,839 | $3,805 | $103,690 | ($25,656) | NA | 76.1% | Individual | Value Added | 100% | $25,656 |
| | $1,193 | $0 | $1,512 | ($319) | NA | 78.9% | Individual | Value Added | 100% | $319 |
| | $4,418 | $0 | $5,598 | ($1,180) | NA | 78.9% | Individual | Value Added | 100% | $1,180 |
| | $131,612 | $96,227 | $166,752 | ($131,367) | NA | 50.0% | Individual | Value Added | 100% | $131,367 |
| | $40,285 | $16,832 | $31,041 | ($27,588) | NA | 59.4% | Individual | Value Added | 100% | $27,588 |

# PRICING STRATEGIES

Currently, the Fort Collins Recreation Department utilizes four pricing strategies:

**By Cost Recovery Goals -** department cost recovery goals influence price points

**By Customer's Ability to Pay -** scholarships, subsidies, discounted rates offered for low-income residents

**Residency -** different prices for residents and non-residents

**Market Competition -** competitors' prices influence price points

The City should consider adding pricing strategies that will not only increase sales but also maximize the utilization of the City's parks, programs, and recreation facilities:

**Primetime and Non-Primetime -** Prices are set based on time of day. Primetime is considered to be the time of day in which demand for the service is highest. Fees for the rental of park facilities during this time would be set at rate that would recover 125-150% of costs incurred. To lessen the demand for "primetime," prices can be lowered for rentals of facilities during times in which demand is lower. This will assist in maximizing facility utilization.

**Premium Pricing -** Prices are set high to reflect the exclusiveness of the product. For example, a user group might pay higher rental fees for the exclusive use of a facility that prohibits the general public or other groups from participating.

Having multiple pricing options gives customers the opportunity to choose which option best fits their schedule and price point. Additional pricing strategies to explore include:

- **Incentive Pricing**
- **Length of Stay Pricing**
- **Season and Off-Season Rates**
- **Cost Recovery Pricing for All Programs**
- **Multi-tiered Program Pricing**
- **Level of Exclusivity Pricing**
- **Group Discounting and Packaging**
- **Age Segment Pricing**
- **Volume Pricing**
- **Level of Private Gain Pricing**

**Citywide programs bring all kinds of residents.**
Open Streets


FRESH-SQUEEZED PINK
Lemonade





# POLICY FRAMEWORK

PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN


Necky
USA



# POLICY FRAMEWORK

*The path forward for parks and recreation in Fort Collins is captured within the following goals, actions, and methods.*

*Each **goal** describes an ideal future for the parks and recreation system. Each goal is supported by a set of **actions** that the City can take to move towards that ideal future. Many of the actions are, in turn, supported by a set of **methods** that provide more specific implementation steps.*

**New parks bring new experiences to the city.**
Poudre River Whitewater park





# 1. PARKS

## GOAL

### Provide equitable access to parks.

Fort Collins has a substantial network of parks where people can relax, exercise, socialize, and come together for community events. A large majority (79%) of survey respondents felt that there are sufficient public parks, natural areas, and open spaces within walking distance of their residence. However, as Fort Collins continues to grow, the City will need to consider how to meet the needs of existing and new residents. In addition, City Plan elevated Nature in the City's goal to increase the number of residents who have access to natural areas, parks, and/or open space within a 10-minute walk of their home, reinforcing the need to close existing gaps and provide nature in areas planned for intensification. As an integral component of the city's public space system, providing access to parks is one way to achieve the City Plan goal.

## ACTIONS

- **Expand the usability of existing parks.**
- **Expand existing parks and secure new parkland, where possible, to serve growing and under-served communities in established parts of the city.**
- **Continue to build new parks to serve newly developing parts of the city.**
- **Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use.**
- **Assess and augment the capacity of downtown parks and public spaces to accommodate community events and festivals of various sizes.**

# ACTIONS

## 1.1 Expand the usability of existing parks.

*Parks, like other built infrastructure, have a life cycle. Recreational preferences, design preferences, and neighborhood demographics change over time. Periodically, parks must be evaluated to determine whether they are meeting community needs and performing as well as they could be.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Planning, Neighborhood Services, Natural Areas, Utilities, School Districts, Cultural Resources

1.1.1 Consider potential connections and synergies of adjacent parks, recreation facilities, natural areas, stormwater management lands, schools, trails, and complete streets to maximize user experience and benefits when developing corridor, subarea, or redevelopment plans.

1.1.2 Ensure that every park has a framework plan to identify the intended uses and in what areas of the park those intended uses are meant to occur.

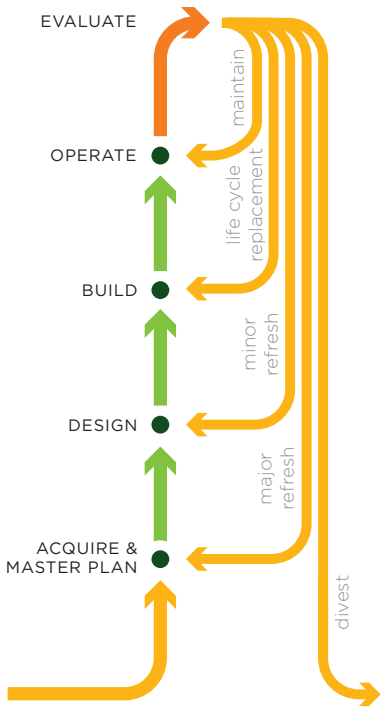
1.1.3 Comprehensively evaluate the design and function of parks on a regular basis using this plan's design guidelines to determine if they need to be refreshed. *(See p. 105)*

1.1.4 Develop master plans for all parks in need of a major refresh.

1.1.5 Seek opportunities to enlarge or add space for community gardens and urban agriculture in parks.

1.1.6 Develop agreements to ensure access to amenities at adjacent schools.

**Figure 16. The life cycle of a park does not stop at construction. Parks need to be periodically evaluated to ensure they stay relevant.**
Park Life Cycle




**Community gardens blends beautiful design and function.**
Twin Silos Garden

## Best Practice: Community Gardens



## 1.2 Expand existing parks and secure new parkland, where possible, to serve growing and under-served communities in established parts of the city.

*In addition to newly developing parts of the city, Fort Collins is growing in established parts of the city. Existing parks may not be sufficient in the future to meet the needs of additional residents in these areas.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Planning, Utilities, Engineering, FC Moves

1.2.1 Secure parks and public spaces envisioned in adopted plans—including the Downtown Plan, Downtown Civic Center Plan, Midtown Plan, subarea plans, and corridor plans—and ensure they provide amenities that meet neighborhood needs.

1.2.2 Tie parks and recreation facilities proposed in adopted plans to this plan's park and recreation facility classification system. *(See p. 115)*

1.2.3 Purchase private properties adjacent to existing parks, when available and cost effective, to expand existing parks.

1.2.4 Ensure that new parks provided by developers are accessible, usable, connected to citywide public space systems, and meet design and maintenance standards.

1.2.5 Reimagine City-owned stormwater utility sites as new and expanded public space.

1.2.6 Continue to work with business improvement districts to provide plazas and urban parks.

### Opportunity: Park Expansion




**Eastside Park represents an opportunity where purchasing adjacent land would greatly improve the functionality of the park.**
Eastside Park

**Residents perceive the land across from Avery Park as part of the park, yet the park has not been designed with that space in mind.**
Avery Park

### Opportunity: Stormwater Utility Sites



## 1.3 Continue to build new parks to serve newly developing parts of the city.

*While a large majority (79%) of residents across Fort Collins said there are sufficient public parks, natural areas, and open spaces within walking distance of their residence, this was not uniformly true of all parts of the city. Only 59% of those who live in still-growing northeast Fort Collins felt the same way. When built, proposed parks will go a long way toward serving developing parts of the city.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Utilities/Stormwater, Natural Areas, Engineering, Transportation, Planning

1.3.1 Complete community parks that were proposed in the 2008 Parks and Recreation Policy Plan.

1.3.2 Build additional parks in higher density areas that are outside a 10-minute walk to parks, natural areas, and other public spaces.

**79%**
**of residents citywide**

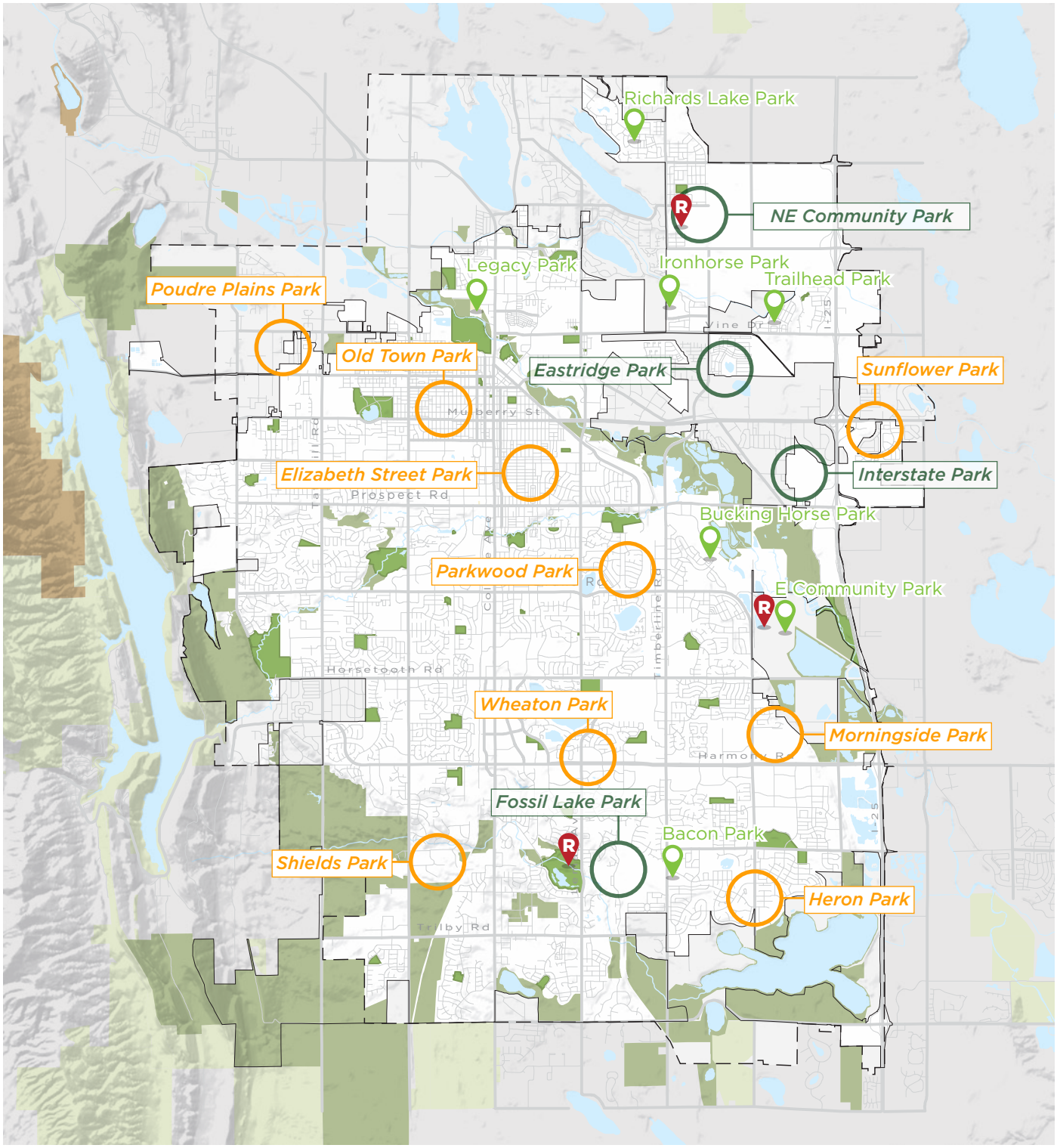
**59%**
**in northeast Fort Collins feel there are sufficient parks within walking distance of home**

## 1.4 Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use.

*As Fort Collins continues to grow, pressure will be put on existing parks to accommodate more users and more uses. However, it is important to preserve and create spaces that can be used for relaxation, reflection, and informal activities—spaces that are open and available, not programmed with activity. Such spaces were the fourth most important type of outdoor amenity to residents' household, behind only trails and natural or habitat areas.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks

1.4.1 Incorporate casual use spaces into park master plans and framework plans.




## Recommended Future Park/Facility Sites

- Proposed Parks, Land Acquired
- Recommended Community/Neighborhood Centers
- Proposed Parks, Land Not Acquired
- Proposed Parks

## 1.5 Assess and augment the capacity of downtown parks and public spaces to accommodate community events and festivals of various sizes.

*With festivals and special events regularly dotting the public calendar, these activities have become part of the culture of Fort Collins. It is no wonder, then, that residents identified festivals and special events as the fourth most important type of program or activity to their households. As attendance grows, current event spaces like Civic Center Park are unable to accommodate the crowds. Downtown continues to be a preferred location for events due to synergies with restaurants and retail, multi-modal access, and a central location.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Neighborhood Services, Downtown Development Authority

1.5.1 Expand the use of festival streets and temporary street closures during events to provide flex space for crowds.

1.5.2 Refresh Civic Center and Washington Parks to make them more useful and accommodating to downtown events

1.5.3 Examine the potential of parks near downtown, such as Lee Martinez Community Park, Old Fort Collins Heritage Park, or Legacy Park, and the future civic campus to function as festival and event spaces while staying true to the objectives of the Poudre River Downtown Master Plan.

1.5.4 Consider the addition of an indoor/outdoor venue to host larger events, offer recreation opportunities, and increase economic health.




**Street closures can be used to temporarily expand park space for events and festivals.**

Fort Collins Brewery Event
Photo: Visit Fort Collins


MAXLINE
BREWING
Fort Collins, CO
MaxlineBrewing
ALL WAY
HURLEY





# 2. RECREATION

## GOAL

### Provide equitable access to recreational experiences.

Fort Collins offers a wide array of programs in its parks and recreation facilities. While program participation is high, it is highest in parts of the city that are closest to the Northside Aztlan Community Center and Fort Collins Senior Center (above 60%) and lower in other parts of the city (under 60%). Recreation preferences are not the same for everybody, and trends continually change. The City must keep an eye on local and national trends to ensure that recreation facilities and programs offered continue to respond to residents' needs. Residents indicated that aquatic facilities and programs as well as exercise and fitness facilities and programs were very important to their households.

## ACTIONS

- **Provide recreational amenities according to level of service standards.**
- **Expand year-round usability of existing recreation facilities.**
- **Strive for universal access.**
- **Ensure facilities and programs continue to respond to changing user needs.**
- **Promote public health and wellness through public spaces programming.**

# ACTIONS

## 2.1 Provide recreational amenities according to level of service standards. (See p. 161)

*Population-based and access standards for level of service can be used together as a tool to understand how many of a particular amenity is needed in Fort Collins and where. The periodic evaluation of park and recreation facility performance provides an opportunity to determine how well current amenities, and access to them, relate to defined standards and residents' needs.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development (outdoor facilities), Recreation (indoor facilities)
**Implementation Partners:** Parks

2.1.1 Construct the new southeast recreation center and consider two other community or neighborhood centers to serve the community's indoor recreation needs.

2.1.2 Identify opportunities during the periodic evaluation of parks to add or change recreation amenities or to enhance access based on citywide needs and resident input.

2.1.3 Consider national and regional recreation trends, local demand, and projected usage and participation before introducing new and innovative amenities. *(See p. 37)*

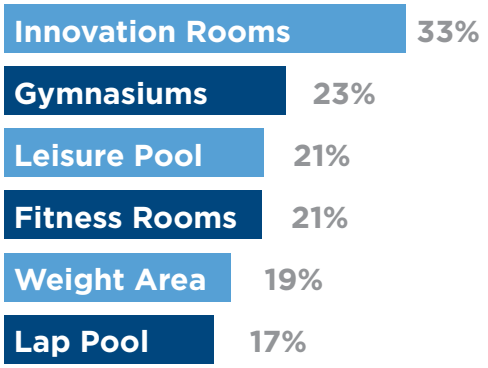
2.1.4 Based on level of service, determine where to reduce duplication of services without reducing the overall quality of service provided to the community.

2.1.5 Site new amenities in locations that are or will be made accessible by as many modes of transportation as possible.

2.1.6 Consider renaming the Fort Collins Senior Center to more accurately reflect its role as a community center that—while primarily focused on those 50 years of age and older—provides a range of facilities and programming available to all adults.

**Figure 17. Innovation rooms ranked at the top of what residents want in a new recreation center.**

Top Amenities for a new southeast recreation center




Source: Fort Collins Southeast Community Recreation & Arts Center

"Reduced fee program is great! Thanks for making it even easier!"

- Lincoln Center Open House Attendee

## 2019 Sports Facility Market and Feasibility Analysis

The 2019 Sports Facility Market and Feasibility Analysis concluded that there was demand in the market for one of two development scenarios for a sports complex:

- **a new, indoor sports facility with 8 regulation basketball courts and 16 volleyball courts that could accommodate mid-week demand driven by local groups and host basketball tournaments, volleyball, wrestling, and other flat-floor sports (and non-sports) events during the off-season for area hoteliers**

or

- **a new, 16-diamond synthetic turf outdoor sports facility with multipurpose field overlays that could host major regional and national baseball and softball tournaments, driven in part by demand generated by Triple Crown**

This plan recommends the first option because of its focus on meeting local needs.

**4,094**
**Reduced Fee Passes issued**

## 2.2 Expand year-round usability of existing recreation facilities.

*Changes in daylight hours and temperatures affect the usability of some outdoor recreation facilities over the course of the year. This has the dual effect of suppressing participation in colder months and putting greater pressure on facilities in warmer months. Expanding year-round usability could help distribute these waves of usage and participation.*

**Implementation Lead:** Parks
**Implementation Partners:** Recreation, Park Planning and Development

2.2.1 Develop a citywide, objective lighting policy for parks and recreation facilities.

2.2.2 Consider the conversion of select existing fields to synthetic turf to extend usability.

2.2.3 Consider a new indoor event/court facility to meet local demand and level of service standards, as proposed in the 2019 Sports Facility Market and Feasibility Analysis. (See sidebar.)

2.2.4 Explore opportunities to provide all-season access to certain high use facilities through the use of temporary or permanent structures.

## 2.3 Strive for universal access.

*Through its Adaptive Recreation Opportunities and Reduced Rate programs, the City offers inclusive, transitional, and specialized programs that broaden access to recreation. Continuing this program and continuing to design physical facilities that are welcoming to all users will move further towards achieving universal access.*

**Implementation Lead:** Recreation
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Park Planning and Development

2.3.1 Continue the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities program.

2.3.2 Continue the Reduced Rate program, and monitor its impact and usage.

2.3.3 Incorporate new and creative recreation facilities and amenities, such as playgrounds, for universal access, offering a variety of experiences where people of all abilities can interact.

2.3.4 Incorporate ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) upgrades to existing sites in accordance with the City's transition plan.

## 2.4 Ensure facilities and programs continue to respond to changing user needs.

*While traditional sports like basketball, golf, tennis, baseball, and soccer still attract large numbers of participants, recreational preferences change over time. In the past five years, for example, pickleball has been one of the fastest growing sports, with participation up more than 40%. Such trends have implications for both facilities and programs. A degree of nimbleness is necessary to prepare for and adjust to these trends.*

**Implementation Lead:** Recreation
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Park Planning and Development

2.4.1 Continue to monitor regional and national recreation trends and incorporate new and innovative recreation facilities and programs to sustain community participation. *(See p. 37)*

2.4.2 Evaluate opportunities to repurpose or expand the range of allowable uses of existing facilities before building new, specialized facilities.

2.4.3 Promote and broaden the availability of facilities and programs to cater to diverse ages, interests, abilities, and cultures.

2.4.4 Regularly evaluate program demand and adjust offerings.

2.4.5 Implement best practices in program life cycles to maintain a culture of quality program delivery. *(See"Program Life Cycles" on page 102)*

2.4.6 Regularly evaluate each program's participation, finances, and outcomes.

2.4.7 Develop a new pricing policy based on classification of programs and services.

### Requests for Amenities and Facilities

Residents, user groups, and other organizations often request new amenities and facilities to meet their needs, as they also did In the course of developing this plan. To ensure capital expenditures on such amenities and facilities are in line with the policies of this plan, the following guidelines can be used to evaluate requests.

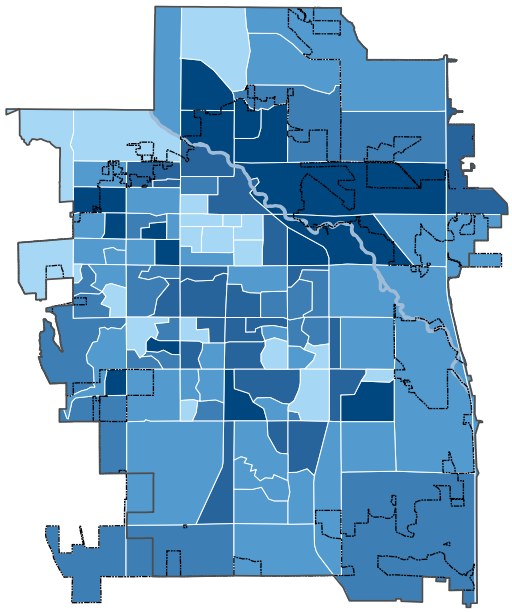
**The amenity or facility will:**

- primarily meet local needs
- help meet this plan's level of service standards
- fulfill a high priority investment need as defined in the statistically valid survey report
- respond to demonstrated national or regional trends of growth for more than one year
- meet documented, growing local demand
- meet needs generated by the city's population growth
- provide a new and innovative experience not already available within a reasonable travel distance
- fit within the guidelines of a current site master plan or framework plan (if a particular location has been requested)

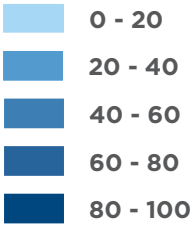
**Fitness and wellness programs are available to residents of all ages at the City's community centers.**
Northside Aztlan Community Center

Figure 18. Fort Collins Health Equity Index

Fort Collins City Plan, 2016
Source: Larimer County



Scores range from 0 to 100 with 100 indicating the highest priority




## 2.5 Promote public health and wellness through public spaces programming.

*Nearly all (99%) residents of Fort Collins agree that parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs improve physical health and fitness. Fitness and wellness programs were the second highest priority program for residents, and exercise and fitness equipment was the second highest priority for indoor facilities. Larimer County's Health Equity Index can be used to identify the highest priority areas of the city for addressing health and wellness.*

**Implementation Lead:** Recreation
**Implementation Partners:** Community Services, Parks, Natural Areas

2.5.1 Enhance fitness, wellness, and healthy lifestyle programming.

2.5.2 Highlight the health and wellness benefits of recreation programs in informational materials.

2.5.3 Collaborate with local healthcare providers on a park prescription program.

### Best Practice: Health and Wellness Programming







# 3. TRAILS

## GOAL

### Expand the active transportation network to support access to parks and recreation.

With more than 44 miles of paved, multi-use trails throughout the city, Fort Collins is one of only five communities awarded Platinum Bike Friendly Community status by the League of American Bicyclists. The city has a strong network of cycling advocates and an active base of casual cyclists, who use trails for both recreation and transportation. The recent introduction of e-bikes has further grown the number of cyclists using Fort Collins' trails.

## ACTIONS

- **Expand the network of paved, multi-use trails.**
- **Increase safe routes to parks and recreation facilities.**
- **Ensure trails function for a range of recreational and transportation users.**

# ACTIONS

## 3.1 Expand the network of paved, multi-use trails.

*Nearly two-thirds of residents identified paved, multi-use trails as one of their top 4 most important outdoor facilities—more than for any other outdoor facility. As Fort Collins continues to implement its Paved Recreational Trail Master Plan (2013), Trails Master Plan (2013), and Bicycle Master Plan (2014), this plan can give guidance on connections between trails, parks, and recreation facilities.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, FC Moves, Engineering

3.1.1 Continue to implement the recommendations of the Paved Recreational Trail Master Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan.

3.1.2 Coordinate paved trail development with transportation and stormwater planning.

3.1.3 Ensure all existing and future community parks and community centers are connected to a major paved trail. *(See map on following page)*

3.1.4 Evaluate opportunities to create better connections across or around current barriers, including major arterial streets.

3.1.5 Coordinate trail expansion with surrounding communities and Larimer County.

3.1.6 Pursue agreements with irrigation ditch companies to allow trail access on or next to maintenance roads.

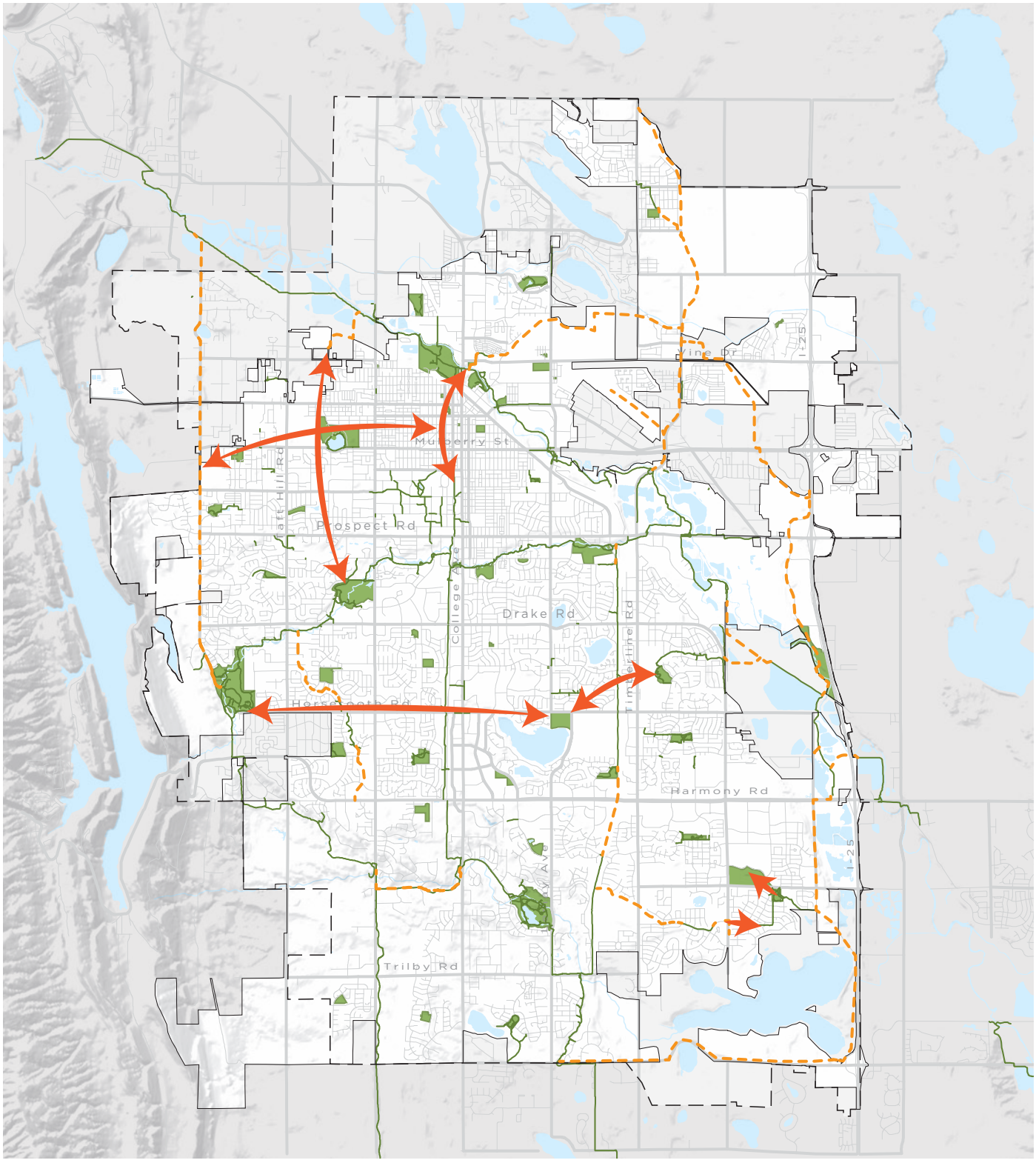
3.1.7 Coordinate trail expansion with developers.




**Platinum Bike Friendly Community**
**League of American Bicyclists**

"There are... very few sidewalks that exist between neighborhoods... We must actively do the work to create those connections."

- OurCity Contributor




## Future Trails and Recommended Trails

Existing Trails

Future Trails

Proposed Trail Connections

## 3.2 Increase safe routes to parks and recreation facilities.

*In some parts of Fort Collins, parks and recreation facilities are a short distance away from residents as the crow flies, but missing sidewalks and trails make them difficult to access on foot or by bicycle. Even with adequate sidewalks and trails, some routes to parks and recreation facilities require pedestrians or cyclists to cross major roads.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** FC Moves, Engineering, Planning

3.2.1 Fill gaps in sidewalks and on-street bicycle facilities that connect parks and recreation facilities to neighborhoods, schools, transit, and other facilities.

3.2.2 Ensure transit connections to parks and recreation facilities in the classifications section. *(See p. 115, 158)*

3.2.3 Consider the use of signalization, signal prioritization, pedestrian refuges, grade separation, and other techniques where trails cross wide and heavily trafficked roadways.

3.2.4 Consider physical barriers to access, and how to avoid or overcome them, in the siting of new parks and recreation facilities.

### Fort Collins has:

**44**
**miles of paved, multi-use trails**

**180**
**miles of soft surface trails**

### Opportunity: Additional Sidewalks

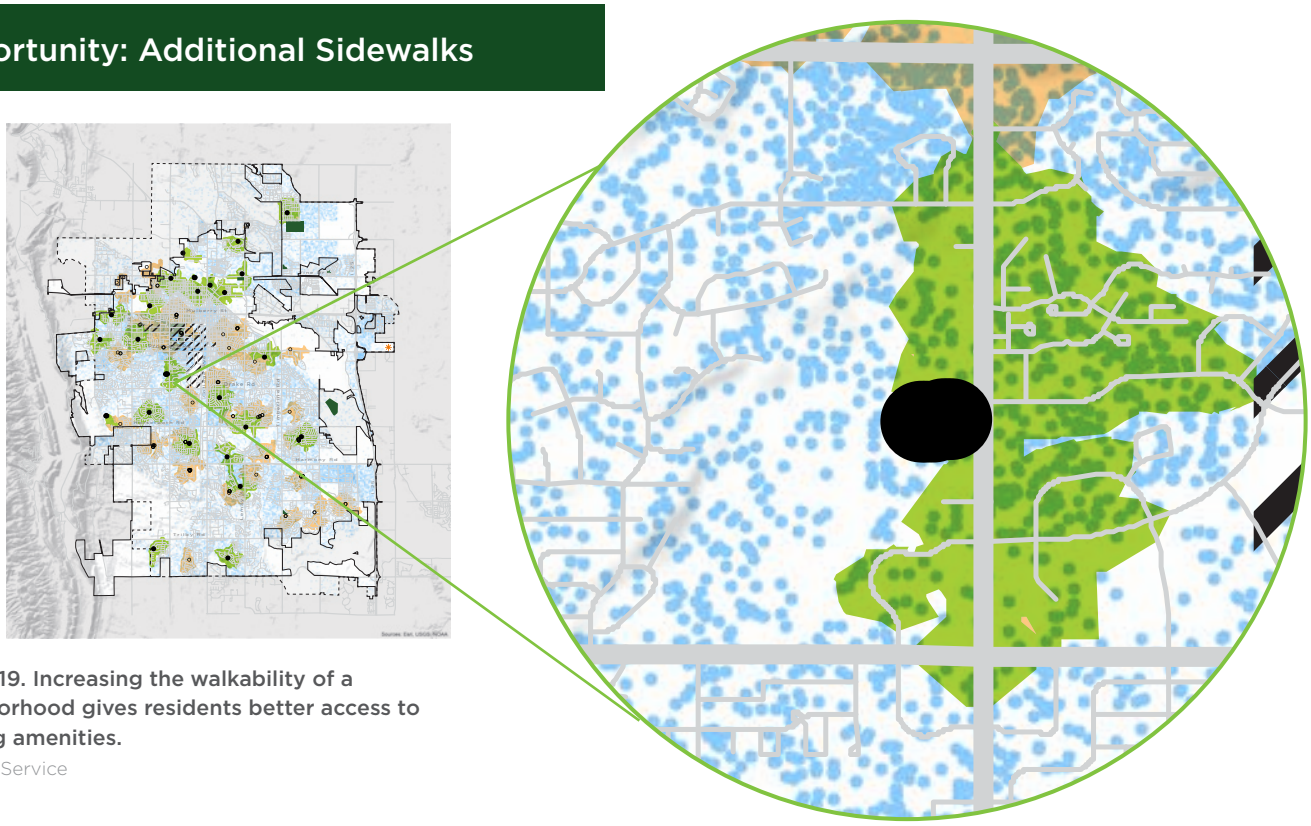


**Figure 19. Increasing the walkability of a neighborhood gives residents better access to existing amenities.**
Level of Service

## 3.3 Ensure trails function for a range of recreational and transportation users.

*Trails in Fort Collins have seen usage grow as the city has grown. With growth comes more potential for conflicts between different types of users—between cyclists, skateboarders, pedestrians, and runners who move at different speeds; between those on e- or traditional bikes or scooters; between users of varying skill levels; and between those using trails for recreational purposes and those using trails as quick modes of transportation.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, FC Moves

3.3.1 Promote trail education and etiquette for both skilled and novice users with signage or the development of a "learn to ride" area for trails added onto the Walk & Wheel Skills Hub.

3.3.2 Collaborate with regional partners to develop regional trail wayfinding standards, complementary to the city's existing wayfinding standards, that address hierarchy, destinations, landmarks, identity, and congestion for both recreational and transportation users, and to be more accessible to novice and non-English-speaking users.

3.3.3 Use striping on major trails to separate traffic moving in opposite directions, where appropriate.

3.3.4 Ensure paved trails are wide enough for passing and that there is enough space alongside trails to pull over.

3.3.5 Where widening of trails is not possible to meet demand due to physical, environmental, or other constraints, consider the development of parallel trail and complete street corridors.

3.3.6 Maintain trails to defined standards to avoid blockages caused by weather or disrepair.

### Best Practice: Learning to Ride



**The Walk & Wheel Hub is a place for novice cyclists of all ages to learn the rules of the road.**
Walk & Wheel Hub





# 4.RESOURCES

## GOAL

**Protect and enhance natural, historic, and cultural resources in parks and increase related activities.**

Natural, historic, and cultural resources are irreplaceable assets. More than half (52%) of survey respondents identified natural areas and wildlife habitat as outdoor facilities important for their households—behind only trails—and nearly half (44%) identified nature-based recreation as important programs and activities—the highest of any type of program or activity.

## ACTIONS

- **Integrate natural resources and natural resource interpretation into the design of parks.**
- **Develop and promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programs.**
- **Optimize the care of natural resources across parks and natural areas.**
- **Capitalize on historic and cultural resources, themes, and stories in parks and recreation facilities.**

## 4.1 Integrate natural resources and natural resource interpretation into the design of parks.

*In Fort Collins, the Natural Areas Department acquires and manages natural areas specifically to protect natural resources. Yet, natural systems do not stop at property boundaries. Natural resources within parks, including stream corridors, plant communities, and wildlife, will be treated as vital assets, with enhanced care and better integration into park design.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Natural Areas

4.1.1 Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees.

4.1.2 Develop horticultural standards for parks that emphasize native and resilient plants over mowed lawn and paved paths in areas that are conducive to this approach.

4.1.3 Integrate native plants and plants with high pollinator value to increase the ecological value and biodiversity of parks.

4.1.4 Prioritize the use of raw water or other irrigation systems that conserve water resources and build resiliency.

4.1.5 Add interpretive signage within parks to highlight their natural resources and the benefits they provide.

4.1.6 Explore opportunities to use public art to interpret natural resources.



**Using native plantings instead of turf increases biodiversity.**
Sugar Beet Park

### Low-Water Native Plants for Colorado

Native plants are ideal for sustainable landscapes. They are adapted to the harsh climates, soil, and environmental challenges. Natives also help to restore habitat and increase biodiversity by attracting pollinators.

**PERENNIALS**
Common Yarrow - Achillea millefolium
Fringed Sage - Artemisia frigida
Prairie Sage - Artemisia ludoviciana
Butterfly Millkweed - Asclepias tuberosa
Chocolate Flower - Berlandiera lyrata
Harebells - Campanula rotundifolia
Purple Prairie Clover - Dalea purpurea
Bush Sunflower - Helianthus pumilus
Gayfeather - Liatris punctata
Blue Flax - Linum lewisii
Desert Four O'Clock - Mirabilis multiflora
Bee Balm/Horsemint - Monarda fistulosa
Blue Mist Penstemon - Penstemon virens
Prairie Coneflower - Ratibida columnifera
Black-eyed Susan - Rudbeckia hirta
Pitcher Sage - Salvia azurea
Canada Goldenrod - Solidago canadensis

**GRASS**
Side-Oats Grama - Bouteloua curtipendula
Blue Grama - Bouteloua gracilis
Little Bluestem - Schizachyrium scoparium

**SHRUBS**
Serviceberry - Amelanchier alnifolia
Silvery Leadplant - Amorpha canescens
Rubber Rabbitbrush - Ericameria nauseosa
Apache Plume - Fallugia paradoxa
Western Sandcherry - Prunus besseyi
Golden Currant - Ribes aureum
Wax Currant - Ribes cereum
Smooth Sumac - Rhus glabra
Skunkbush Sumac - Rhus trilobata
Western Wild Rose - Rosa woodsii
Snowberry - Symphoricarpos occidentalis

**TREES**
Rocky Mountain Maple - Acer glabrum
Piñon Pine - Pinus edulis
Ponderosa Pine - Pinus ponderosa
Gambel Oak - Quercus gambelii

"Parks [should be] designed with area character/story in mind—so they are each unique."

- Preston Middle School Open House Attendee

## 4.2 Develop and promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programs.

*Nature-based programs offer participants new and continued ways to connect with nature and appreciate the value of natural resources. This builds advocacy across ages. Currently, the Recreation Department and the Natural Areas Department each offer nature-based programs, using different methods of promoting the programs and different pricing structures. This results in confusion for users.*

**Implementation Lead:** Recreation
**Implementation Partners:** Natural Areas, Cultural Services

4.2.1 Offer nature-based education programs that cater to different age groups, including young children, teens, adults, and seniors.

4.2.2 Coordinate nature-based programs across departments to avoid duplication of offerings and competition.

4.2.3 Cross-promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programs in the Recreator.

4.2.4 Consider charging a nominal fee for nature-based programs to increase the likelihood that those who register attend.

**Outdoor education is essential to creating the next generation of stewards.**
Poudre River Walk Program



## 4.3 Optimize the care of natural resources across parks and natural areas.

*The Parks and Natural Areas Departments each have responsibility over defining the standard of care of natural resources within the properties they maintain. While there is often knowledge sharing between the departments, there are opportunities to seek alignment to better steward cross-boundary natural resources..*

**Implementation Lead:** Parks
**Implementation Partners:** Natural Areas, Park Planning and Development

4.3.1 Create a shared approach for the care and maintenance of plantings and habitat areas across City-owned properties.

**The Poudre River Downtown Master Plan acknowledges that natural resource areas cross department boundaries and should be treated as a holistic system.**
Poudre River Downtown Plan

### Best Practice: Natural Resource Management across Site Boundaries



## 4.4 Capitalize on historic and cultural resources, themes, and stories in parks and recreation facilities.

*Whether preserving important sites or architecture, as at Library Park, incorporating themes from Fort Collins' history, as with the playground at Twin Silo Park, or telling stories about neighborhood change and development, as at Sugar Beet Park, parks and recreation facilities provide a setting for learning about, appreciating, and interacting with unique cultural stories.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Cultural Services, Neighborhood Services, Historic Preservation, Recreation

4.4.1 Continue to include historical and cultural interpretative elements in new and existing parks and recreation facilities, where appropriate.

4.4.2 Identify critical historic and cultural resources that may need protection and have potential educational and interpretive components.

**The Twin Silo Park playground turns history into an interactive experience.**
Twin Silo Park

### Best Practice: Historic Interpretation







# 5. FUNDING

## GOAL

**Enhance the financial sustainability of parks and recreation.**

The City strives to use taxpayer dollars wisely. While the Parks and Recreation Departments have stretched operational budgets to maintain existing parks, recreation facilities, and other city infrastructure, additional capital and operational funding is needed to ensure all parks and recreation facilities continue to provide the level of experience that residents seek. A full range of funding needs include day-to-day operations and maintenance costs as well as capital costs for replacing individual park and recreation amenities at the end of their life cycles, refreshing existing parks, and building new parks and recreation facilities in both growing and established parts of the city.

## ACTIONS

- **Secure sufficient funding to develop, maintain, and program parks and recreation facilities as well as enhanced infrastructure.**
- **Consider and budget for both up-front and ongoing costs and benefits in maintenance and capital budgeting.**
- **Continue to generate revenue from parks, recreation facilities, and programs that can be reinvested back into these assets.**

# ACTIONS

## 5.1 Secure sufficient funding to develop, maintain, and program parks and recreation facilities as well as enhanced infrastructure.

"Consider alternative funding streams used in other cities."

- Preston Middle School Open House Attendee

*The operation of parks and recreation facilities comes primarily from user fees and the city's general fund, which is heavily dependent on sales tax revenue. Construction of new parks in growing parts of Fort Collins comes primarily from capital expansion fees. While these fees are meant to offset the cost of providing services to new development, they have not kept pace with actual construction costs, due to escalation in land and raw water valuations, increases in construction costs, and higher quality facilities designed to meet residents' evolving expectations. New recreation facilities and park upgrades in established parts of the city rely on additional funding, such as the Building on Basics program approved by voters. However, Building on Basics and the general fund do not provide adequate capital funding for long-term asset management of recreation and park facilities. Two thirds of survey respondents indicated they would be supportive of an increase in taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, and recreation facilities that are most important to them.*

**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Finance

5.1.1 Regularly adjust capital improvement expansion fees to cover the costs of building new parks.

5.1.2 Explore the potential for a new capital improvement expansion fee for recreation facilities.

5.1.3 Identify a dedicated funding stream for capital investments in existing parks and recreation facilities.

5.1.4 Identify a funding source to support park construction and the expansion of parks and recreation facilities in established parts of the city.

## 5.2 Consider and budget for both up-front and ongoing costs and benefits in maintenance and capital budgeting.

*Building capital projects is necessary to provide the public spaces and services that residents expect. It is seen as a sign of progress. While some capital investments come with a warranty period, all capital investments inevitably require maintenance and replacement.*

**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Finance, Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Environmental Services

5.2.1 Identify asset management schedules and set maintenance schedules and standards for assets and capital facilities at the time they are approved.

5.2.2 Plan for increases in operations and maintenance budgets for the Parks and Recreation Departments commensurate with additional assets and capital facilities that they are required to operate and maintain (e.g., enhanced infrastructure).

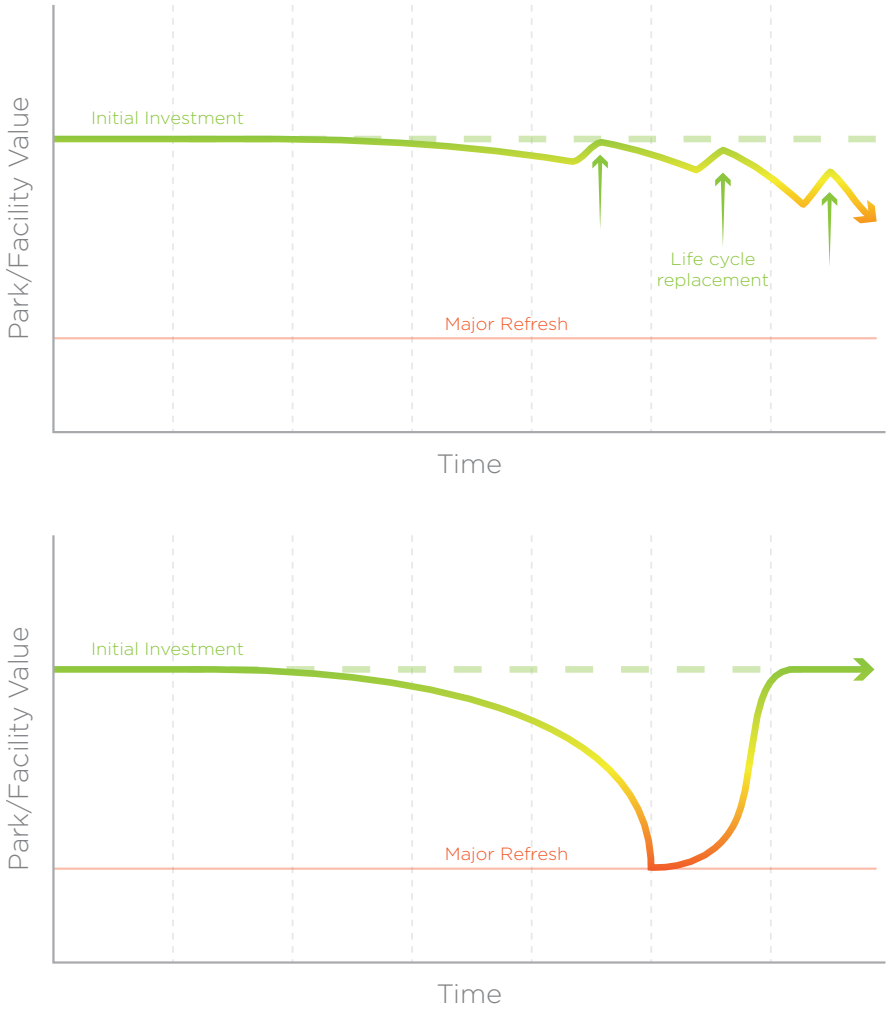



**Figure 20. Consistent reinvestment, through maintenance and life cycle replacement (top), extends the value of parks and recreation facilities when compared to waiting until a major refresh is necessary to start reinvesting (bottom).**
Park/Facility Investment Over Time

## 5.3 Continue to generate revenue from parks, recreation facilities, and programs that can be reinvested back into these assets.

*The Recreation Department currently recovers in revenue about 58% of what it spends on operations, more than twice the national median for agencies serving cities with a similar population density.*

**Implementation Lead:** Recreation
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Neighborhood Services

5.3.1 Regularly update recreational fees and charges based on a defined pricing and cost recovery philosophy.

5.3.2 Continue to set cost recovery targets for each program area based on costs, the degree to which it provides a public benefit, and market competition. *(See p. 83)*

5.3.3 Evaluate the use of additional pricing strategies—including by residency, day of week, time of day—to increase cost recovery. *(See p. 208)*

5.3.4 Expand the offering or permitting of concessions in community parks, at trail-heads, and at special events in parks and recreation facilities.

5.3.5 Pursue additional revenue from special events, such as weddings and quinceañeras, that rent park and recreation facility spaces.

5.3.6 Expand capacity to proactively set revenue goals, seek revenue generating opportunities, provide a point of contact for those looking to rent public spaces for events, and liaise with the City's overall special events office and the visitor center for the entire Community Services service area.

5.3.7 Engage private, nonprofit, and public philanthropic partners in support of the parks, trails, facilities and programming.

CITY Give

Through City Give, donors can make charitable gifts to the City of Fort Collins that reflect their personal and family passions. Charitable gifts cannot be redirected by elected officials or senior leadership, and are tax-deductible.

As elected officials and administration change over time, City Give will remain independent and non-partisan, focusing on the long-term vibrancy of our community.

City Give is NOT: A foundation or grant-giving organization. Nor, is it a vehicle to fund programs and services not funded through the City's Budgeting for Outcomes process.

**58%**
**of operation spending in recreation is recovered in revenue**

**2X**
**the national median**

**The Poudre River Whitewater Park brings spectators and visitors from across Fort Collins and beyond.**

Poudre River Whitewater Park







# 6. PARTNERSHIPS

## GOAL

**Strengthen partnerships to leverage resources for mutual benefit.**

Residents of Fort Collins benefit from having access to amenities provided by the City and other entities, including Larimer County and the Poudre School District. In an era of limited resources, partnerships can help deliver more efficient and effective services. By strengthening existing partnerships and identifying new partners, the City can leverage its resources to make limited funding stretch further. Important to these partnerships are finding common goals, such that each partner benefits from the arrangement, and formalizing agreements to hold each partner accountable.

## ACTIONS

- **Strengthen partnerships between City departments.**
- **Formalize and strengthen partnerships with other major providers of parks, recreation facilities, and programs in Fort Collins and the North Front Range.**
- **Regularly revise or create partnership agreements to ensure fair and equitable relationships.**
- **Support and strengthen resident opportunities for involvement, volunteerism and giving in support of parks, recreation, and trails.**

## 6.1 Strengthen partnerships between City departments.

*While each City department has specialized expertise core to its responsibilities, departmental silos can also lead to duplication of effort and inefficiency in achieving policy goals. There is particular opportunity at the service area level for departments to work together to achieve common goals. These collaborations should be formalized to endure staff changes.*

**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Park Planning and Development, Parks, Recreation, Natural Areas, Utilities, Stormwater, Environmental Services, Engineering, FC Moves, Transportation

6.1.1 Enable opportunities for joint projects among the Park Planning and Development, Parks, Recreation, Natural Areas, and Utilities Departments; Engineering; and FC Moves.

6.1.2 Develop and maintain consistent asset management systems across the Community Services service area.

6.1.3 Consider consolidating existing department-level marketing, communication, and partnership functions at the Community Services service area level to improve coordination and unify messaging.

6.1.4 Consolidate existing department-level budgeting and finance functions at the Community Services service area level.

6.1.5 Request boards and commissions to consider and support multi-benefit projects.

"[Fort Collins needs a] hybrid between parks and natural areas where people can recreate in a natural setting outside sensitive habitat areas."

- Lincoln Center Open House Attendee

## 6.2 Formalize and strengthen partnerships with other major providers of parks, recreation facilities, and programs in Fort Collins and the North Front Range.

*Though the City of Fort Collins is the largest provider of parks, recreation facilities, and programs in Fort Collins, the full set of experiences currently available to residents is dependent on other providers. For example, the City of Fort Collins owns roughly half of all public playgrounds and fields in the city, while the Poudre School District owns the other half, and Larimer County may be building ice facilities that will alleviate local demand.*

**Implementation Lead:** Parks
**Implementation Partners:** Recreation, Poudre School District, Thompson School District, CSU, Larimer County, Park Planning and Development

6.2.1 Develop formal intergovernmental agreements with the Poudre School District and the Thompson School District to ensure open access to playgrounds, fields, courts, gyms, pools, and park areas on school and City property when school is not in session.

6.2.2 Formalize cooperative maintenance agreements with the Poudre School District and the Thompson School District that address where and to what standards the City and the districts will operate on each other's property.

6.2.3 Collaborate with CSU, the Poudre School District, and the Thompson School District to understand the recreational needs of students and to explore joint-use facilities.

6.2.4 Coordinate with Larimer County and surrounding communities on the provision of recreational facilities, such as ice rinks, to prevent duplication.

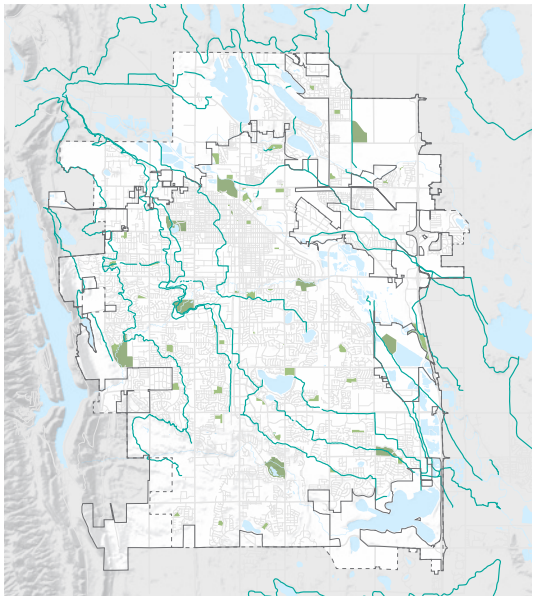
6.2.5 Pursue agreements with irrigation ditch companies to allow trail access on or next to maintenance roads.

### Best Practice: Partnerships

learning landscapes
building community through play

Learning Landscapes is a program at the University of Colorado Denver that transforms neglected public elementary schoolyards into attractive and safe multi-use parks tailored to the needs and desires of their neighbors and communities.

The Learning Landscape model is a great example of turning school yards into public spaces that serve the city and the community.



**Partnerships with ditch companies may lead to opportunities to expand the trail network.**
Fort Collins Ditch and Pipeline Network

## 6.3 Regularly revise or create partnership agreements to ensure fair and equitable relationships.

*Successful partnerships are borne of clear responsibilities and mutual benefit. As circumstances change, partnership agreements may need to be updated to accurately reflect roles and responsibilities.*

**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation

6.3.1 Develop a guide to partnership agreements to help organizations navigate the process of becoming a partner.

6.3.2 Assign a staff liaison for each partner to improve communication and collaboration.

6.3.3 Track and regularly share information and measurable outcomes of partnership agreements.

**Partnerships with other departments and vendors make events possible.**
Open Streets





**Volunteerism can provide opportunities to involve community members in the care of and advocacy for parks, recreation, and trails.**
Lee Martinez Community Park Clean Up

## 6.4 Support and strengthen resident opportunities for involvement, volunteerism and giving in support of parks, recreation, and trails.

*Resident engagement plays an important role in supporting and caring for park, recreation, and trails. The City will continue to seek ways to make it easy for resident to engage.*

**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation, City Give, Volunteer Services

6.4.1 Identify a diverse range of strategies for increasing resident engagement, and the giving of time, talent and treasure.

6.4.2 Encourage workplace giving programs—from volunteer events to community campaigns— with companies, institutions, nonprofits and large organizations.

6.4.3 Facilitate volunteerism and resident engagement throughout citywide events.





# 7. O&M

## GOAL

**Ensure parks, paved trails, and recreation facilities are operated and maintained efficiently and to defined standards.**

Maintenance standards and operations procedures help ensure that the City is maintaining similar facilities efficiently and at the same level.

## ACTIONS

- **Ensure maintenance standards are clear and consistently implemented.**
- **Strengthen sustainability policies and practices.**

# ACTIONS

## 7.1 Ensure maintenance standards are clear and consistently implemented.

*Through site analysis and stakeholder interviews, it was reported that similar spaces are maintained to different standards. At the same time, each department has particular expertise in maintaining certain landscapes and facilities. Clarifying and regularizing maintenance standards will ensure high-quality spaces exist equitably across the entire public space network.*

**Implementation Lead:** Parks
**Implementation Partners:** Recreation, Natural Areas, Operation Services, Utilities, Park Planning and Development

7.1.1 Encourage cross-departmental knowledge sharing and training on maintenance practices.

7.1.2 Develop unified standards across the departments that manage the city's public spaces for maintaining similar types of spaces and facilities.

7.1.3 Define and regularly update maintenance standards for each park and recreation facility classification and trails, taking into account usage and visibility.

7.1.4 Consider assignment of maintenance responsibilities across departments and property lines to cater to each department's strengths and knowledgebase, increase efficiency, and enhance the user experience.

7.1.5 Identify opportunities to share maintenance responsibilities with partner organizations and groups for efficiency, using formalized agreements.

7.1.6 Ensure maintenance safety checklists include obstacles to universal access.

### Invasive Plants in Colorado

Invasive plants can be a serious threat to local ecologies and can easily take over an area of unmaintained park. Federal and state resources are available to keep track of the latest invasive species and their spread.

- **invasivespeciesinfo.gov/us/colorado**
- **ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds**

"There are many beautiful and well-maintained parks."

- Lincoln Center Open House Attendee

## 7.2 Strengthen sustainability policies and practices.

*Changing environmental conditions and resource consumption have a direct impact on natural resources. By strengthening sustainability policies, the public space system can lead by example to preserve and conserve natural resources, serving as a model for other organizations and residents.*

**Implementation Lead:** Parks
**Implementation Partners:** Recreation, Natural Areas, Operation Services, Environmental Services, Park Planning and Development, Sustainability Services

"Every park in the city needs shade/trees planted [near] playground structures and benches."

- OurCity Contributor

7.2.1 Target waste reduction, recycling, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy usage, reduced water consumption, and light pollution for increasing sustainable practices.

7.2.2 Take climate change predictions into account in the design of parks and facilities and in maintenance and operations practices.

7.2.3 Continue to identify sustainable water sources for irrigation.

7.2.4 Conduct pilot projects to test effectiveness for citywide usage.

7.2.5 Continue to prioritize biodiversity and emphasize native and water-wise plants over non-native species.

7.2.6 Remove invasive species.

7.2.7 Use environmentally friendly products (e.g., cleaners and chemical treatments) where feasible.

7.2.8 Provide training for staff on how to include sustainability in evaluating costs and benefits.

7.2.9 Develop outreach and education programs on sustainable practices.

7.2.10 Continue to pursue environmental certification, such as LEED or SITES, of parks and facilities.





# 8. ECONOMIC HEALTH

## GOAL

**Promote the synergy between parks, recreation, and economic health.**

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities provide tremendous value beyond being places for reflection, connection with nature, and physical activity. Nearly all (97%) of residents in Fort Collins feel that parks, paved trails, recreation facilities, and programs are important to the city's identity.  Parks, trails, and recreation facilities attract residents, businesses, and tourists alike. Studies have consistently shown that proximity to high quality parks and recreation facilities contributes to higher property values. In Colorado, outdoor recreation generates over $13 billion in consumer spending every year.[13]

## ACTIONS

- **Provide amenities for residents while unlocking recreation tourism potential.**
- **Encourage new park- and recreation-oriented development or redevelopment to capitalize on the economic value of parks, trails, and recreation facilities.**

## 8.1 Provide amenities for residents while unlocking recreation tourism potential.

*As the City looks to leverage parks and recreation as economic drivers, the primary focus should continue to be on serving the residents of Fort Collins. The City's Sports Facility Market and Feasibility Analysis (2019) sparked conversations about the inability of tourism dollars to offset the cost of building facilities that are primarily for tournaments and events. However, the focus should be on building facilities primarily to meet the needs of residents, but which due to their secondary use for tournaments and events can have a share of costs offset by tourism dollars.*

**Implementation Lead:** Recreation
**Implementation Partners:** Visit Fort Collins, Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce

8.1.1 Revisit and reframe the added tourism benefits of parks and recreation facilities built primarily to meet residents' needs—including event spaces and sports complexes.

8.1.2 Support the development of citywide tourist infrastructure—including hotel rooms and food and beverage establishments—near parks and recreation facilities.

8.1.3 Collaborate with Visit Fort Collins, the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations to market parks and recreation facilities as destinations for residents and visitors from the city, region, and beyond.

**97%**

**of residents in Fort Collins feel that parks, paved trails, recreation facilities, and programs are important to the city's identity.**

**Approximately**

**3,100**

**rooms among**

**33**

**hotels are currently offered in Fort Collins.**

## 8.2 Encourage new park- and recreation-oriented development or redevelopment to capitalize on the economic value of parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

*Parks, trails, and recreation facilities are increasingly valuable for surrounding property values, providing a boost to both residential and commercial areas. These amenities are also essential to attracting businesses and talent.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Planning

8.2.1 Guide developers during the development review process to ensure development interfaces with adjacent parks, trails, and recreation facilities.

8.2.2 Develop land use, subarea plans, and corridor plans that encourage park- and recreation-oriented development or redevelopment.

8.2.3 Pursue public-private partnerships for mutual benefit and to stretch public dollars.

**Inviting, park-oriented development as envisioned for Midtown Fort Collins.**
Fort Collins Midtown Plan




City of
Fort Collins
C R E S
P A




# 9. COMMUNICATION

## GOAL

**Improve marketing and communication to enhance operations and user satisfaction.**

Successful parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs hinge on user awareness, enthusiasm, and participation. The City should continue to improve its ongoing engagement and communication practices by considering a more holistic strategy and additional outreach tactics to more equitably inform and get feedback from a broad spectrum of existing and potential users.

## ACTIONS

- **Promote parks and recreation as part of a unified public space system.**
- **Update and develop new marketing and communication materials that increase awareness and highlight the benefits of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs.**
- **Regularly measure and report on the progress of Master Plan implementation.**
- **Engage users, partners, and staff in the planning, development, programming, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.**

# ACTIONS

## 9.1 Promote parks and recreation as part of a unified public space system.

*There is currently no unified map or informational resource to understand all components of Fort Collins' public space system—parks, paved and unpaved trails, recreation facilities, natural areas, stormwater management areas, and community gardens. While residents may have their favorite parks or natural areas that they visit, having separate informational resources precludes an understanding of how these resources are all physically connected—that one may be able to walk or ride their bike between resources—or the full array of programs offered by various City departments.*

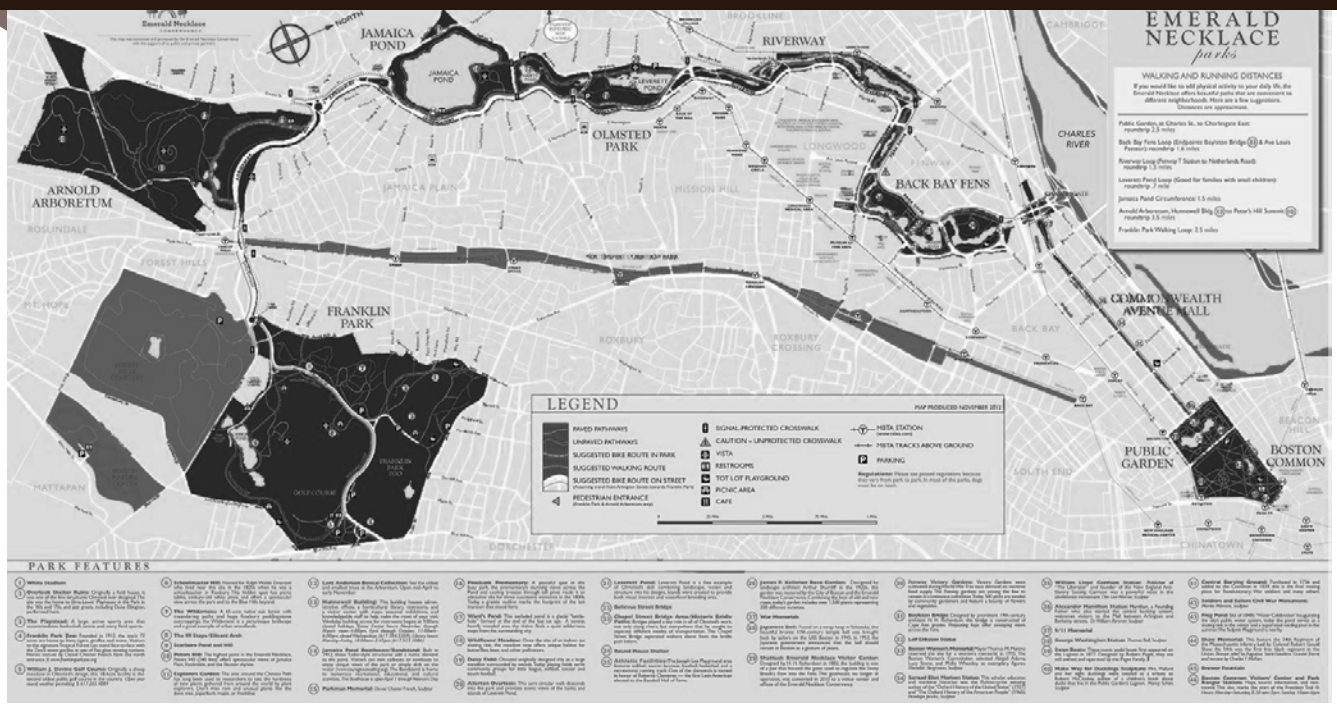
**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Natural Areas, Streets, Utilities, School Districts

9.1.1 Consider consolidating existing department-level marketing and communication functions at the Community Services service area level.

9.1.2 Create new maps and guides with a universal graphic style for parks, trails, recreation facilities, and natural areas.

**The idea and physical form of the Emerald Necklace in Boston, is broadly understood by Bostonians and visitors.**
Boston Emerald Necklace

### Best Practice: Public Space System Imageability



## 9.2 Update and develop new marketing and communication materials that increase awareness and highlight the benefits of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs.

**33%**

**of survey respondents indicated that they do not use parks and recreation facilities or programs because they do not know where to go or what is offered**

*Nearly a third (33%) of survey respondents indicated that they do not use parks and recreation facilities or programs because they do not know where to go or what is offered. The two methods they indicated they would most prefer to learn about parks, recreation programs, activities, and events are the Recreator (48%) and the City's website (32%).*

**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Natural Areas, Cultural Services

9.2.1 Ensure communication materials and signage use consistent language to refer to parks and facilities of different classifications.

9.2.2 Develop materials that communicate the full range of facilities and experiences available across the city to all residents, workers, and visitors.

9.2.3 Highlight the environmental, social, economic, and wellness benefits of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs.

9.2.4 Highlight facilities with natural and historic resources in marketing materials.

9.2.5 Communicate the availability of physically and financially accessible facilities and programs.

9.2.6 Ensure materials are written in relatable language and are accessible to non-English speakers and the visually impaired.

9.2.7 Explore expanded use of technology and digital platforms to disseminate information about parks, recreation, and trails and to enhance the user experience.

9.2.8 Provide more robust information on each park, trail, recreation facility, and program on the City's website.

### Best Practice: User Feedback




**Arlington, VA currently monitors bicycle and pedestrian usage with counters along selected trails and bike lanes.**
Arlington Trail Counter

## 9.3 Regularly measure and report on the progress of Master Plan implementation.

*The momentum of engagement achieved through the process of developing the Master Plan should continue through its implementation. Both small and large achievements should be celebrated as steps toward achieving this plan's vision.*

**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development

9.3.1 Produce an annual report on Park and Recreation operations, including progress on Master Plan implementation.

**Residents provide input on their park and recreation needs**
Preston Middle School Open House



## 9.4 Engage users, partners, and staff in the planning, development, programming, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.

*Collaborative engagement among users, partners, and staff can bring to light mutual desires and expectations. Lines of communication should not only be used for major planning and capital projects but remain open on an ongoing basis to create feedback loops and improve user experiences.*

**Implementation Lead:** Community Services
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Natural Areas

9.4.1 Conduct a needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and level of service analysis, at least every 5 years.

9.4.2 Use inclusive, transparent, and creative engagement practices that encourage participation by all community members.

9.4.3 Engage users on an ongoing basis to evaluate the success of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs to establish a meaningful feedback loop between the City and residents.

9.4.4 Proactively engage communities adjacent to parks and recreation facilities about the benefits of programs and facilities to inspire users to participate more often.

9.4.5 Engage communities in the master planning of new or refreshed parks and recreation facilities, including historically marginalized voices.

9.4.6 Monitor and evaluate trends in engagement tools and platforms that can increase users' interaction with the City.

9.4.7 Use online and social media regularly to inform and solicit feedback from residents.





# 10. DESIGN

## GOAL

**Elevate the design of and connection to nature in parks and recreation facilities.**

Design excellence enhances wellness, ecosystem services, and function. From the earliest stages of project development, it is important to consider how a project can be beautiful and multi-functional while addressing the needs of adjacent communities. Design excellence requires an attention to quality of built structures, landscape typology, and the way buildings and landscapes interact with each other. Integrating artists and designers early in the process can help lead to design excellence. Elevating the quality of design of parks and recreation facilities will also serve to elevate the level of design across Fort Collins.

## ACTIONS

- **Develop a unified design language for parks and recreation facilities that is flexible enough to allow for individualized park identities.**
- **Strive for design excellence in the development and refresh of parks and recreation facilities.**
- **Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees and native vegetation on public and private land. (See 4.1., p. 236)**
- **Incorporate public art, including landscape-based art and functional art, into parks and recreation facilities.**

# ACTIONS

## 10.1 Develop a unified design language for parks and recreation facilities that is flexible enough to allow for individualized park identities.

*Though design evolves over time, through changing preferences, the availability of materials, and more informed practices, it is possible to use plantings, color, materiality, and other devices to achieve a cohesion that allows users to immediately identify that they are in a Fort Collins park or recreation facility.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation

10.1.1 Identify elements, such as signage, lighting, and plantings, that can be standardized across all parks and recreation facilities to increase efficiency and create a cohesive identity.

10.1.2 Standardize the design language of structures and equipment across schoolside parks, neighborhood parks, mini parks, and urban parks.

10.1.3 Develop a design framework for community parks and recreation facilities that is cohesive but flexible enough to allow for individual identities.

**Through design, parks and trails can be seamlessly integrated.**
Poudre River Whitewater Park

### Best Practice: Trail System & Design





**Twin Silo Park represents a high level of design excellence within the park system.**
Twin Silo Park Shelters

"With all the new apartment construction, we need to be intentional about creating green space with walking/running/riding trails."

- OurCity Contributor

## 10.2 Strive for design excellence in the development and refresh of parks and recreation facilities.

*Though more recent parks, such as Spring Canyon Community Park, Twin Silo Community Park, and Sugar Beet Park, have elevated the level of design, many of Fort Collins' parks and recreation facilities feel frozen in time—meticulously maintained as they were when they were built. Refreshes of parks and recreation facilities will provide an opportunity to not just replace individual elements in kind but to reimagine the parks' and recreation facilities' design to increase usability; environmental, social, and economic benefits; and aesthetic appeal.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Recreation

10.2.1 Use this plan's design guidelines as a reference in designing or refreshing parks and recreation facilities. *(See p. 105)*

10.2.2 Study and visit award winning parks and recreation facilities to keep up to date on successful design solutions.

10.2.3 Partner with local and nationally recognized designers to add different design perspectives.

10.2.4 Incorporate best practices in park and recreation planning, design, and operation from other park systems.

10.2.5 Pursue state and national awards from organizations such as the Colorado Parks & Recreation Association (CPRA), the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and the American Planning Association (APA).

## 10.3 Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees and native vegetation on public and private land.

*Natural resources within and outside of parks, including stream corridors, plant communities, and wildlife, should not only be preserved but actively enhanced.*

**Implementation Lead:** Parks
**Implementation Partners:** Park Planning and Development, Natural Areas

10.3.1 Practice sound arboriculture practices, including diversification of species; monitoring and managing insect and disease impacts; and preparing for unanticipated events, such as extreme weather, and climate change.

10.3.2 Replace every tree that is removed from maintained areas to create adequate canopy cover and to maximize the benefits of the urban forest.

10.3.3 Protect existing trees when new parks and recreation facilities are in development, or when existing parks and recreation facilities are maintained or refreshed.

10.3.4 Continue to maintain and enhance natural resources in accordance with the Natural Areas Master Plan.

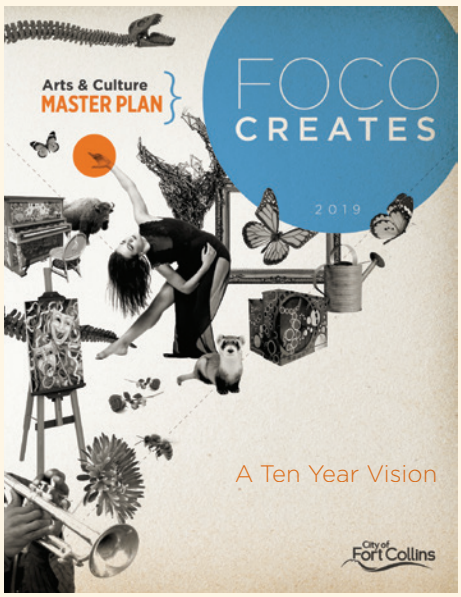
## 10.4 Incorporate public art, including landscape-based art and functional art, into parks and recreation facilities.

*In alignment with FoCo Creates and the Art in Public Places programs, public art can enhance the experience in parks and recreation facilities. Public art can tell stories, reveal histories, and provide opportunities for whimsy or reflection. Involving artists in the design process can ensure that public art works with, rather than detracts from, the user experience.*

**Implementation Lead:** Park Planning and Development
**Implementation Partners:** Parks, Cultural Services, Recreation

10.4.1 Develop a master plan for art in parks that addresses selection of artists, provision of design parameters for artists, and other guidance specific to working with artists on parks, recreation, and trail projects in order to enrich the user experience.

10.4.2 Integrate public art design and installation timelines with overall park and recreation facility design and construction timelines.




FoCo Creates is the updated Arts & Culture Master Plan for the City of Fort Collins from 2019 through 2029.

"Expand and fund art opportunities and experiences throughout the city with informal performances, pop-up temporary art exhibits, etc. in parks, neighborhoods, and civic facilities such as City Hall and The Gardens on Spring Creek."



**The creek restoration at Twin Silo Park (above), completed in partnership with the Stormwater Department, provides lessons that could be applied citywide, such as in Avery Park (below).**

Twin Silo Park and Avery Park







# 11. SAFETY

## GOAL

**Continue to enhance safety and security in all parks and facilities.**

Concern about safety, whether real or perceived, keeps some residents from using parks and recreation facilities.

## ACTIONS

- **Ensure adequate "eyes on the street" around and in parks and recreation facilities.**
- **Update guidelines and policies on safety and security.**

# ACTIONS

## 11.1 Ensure adequate "eyes on the street" around and in parks and recreation facilities.

*The most effective way to improve the perception of safety and reduce the incidence of crime is to support a visible community presence in parks and recreation facilities. The more parks and recreation facilities are used by the community, the more "eyes on the street" there are and the less inviting they are to unwanted activities.*

**Implementation Lead:** Parks
**Implementation Partners:** Park Planning and Development, Planning, Safety and Risk Management

11.1.1 Expand the park ranger program to reduce the area each ranger has to patrol.

11.1.2 Consider developing a Park Ambassador program akin to the Natural Areas Volunteer Ranger Assistant program to increase resident presence and encourage rule enforcement in parks.

11.1.3 Encourage new development to face, rather than turn its back, to parks and recreation facilities. *(See p. 105)*

11.1.4 Work to avoid or eliminate "backs" of parks and recreation facilities.

"Keep up the great work by the rangers!"

- OurCity Contributor




**Park rangers are critical to user safety.**
Fort Collins Park Rangers

## 11.2 Update guidelines and policies on safety and security.

*The City should clarify the ways it intends to combat safety concerns, whether through people-based approaches or through design-based approaches. Almost a quarter (23%) of survey respondents indicated that they do not use parks, recreation facilities, or programs because of people experiencing homelessness there.*

**Implementation Lead:** Parks
**Implementation Partners:** Park Planning and Development, Homeward Alliance, Safety and Risk Management

11.2.1 Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles into design standards. *(see sidebar at left)*

11.2.2 Continue to provide safety training for all staff who work in parks and recreation facilities.

11.2.3 Collaborate with local providers, such as Homeward Alliance, to connect those in parks who are experiencing homelessness to available resources and services.

### Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

**Natural surveillance**

Natural surveillance is all about making it hard for a person to hide or go unnoticed in public. Things like installing lighting and eliminating blind spots can help a park feel safer.

**Natural Access Control**

Natural access control is directing people towards proper entrances through the use of paths, lighting, vegetation, and signage.

**Territorial Reinforcement**

This purpose of this principle is to clearly distinguish between public and private space. This creates a sphere of influence the dissuades criminal acts from occurring.

**Maintenance**

This principle is simply about keeping public spaces maintained and clean, letting people know the place is cared for and used.

Source: http://cptedsecurity.com





# IMPLEMENTATION

PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN





# ACTION PLAN

*The action plan consolidates all of the goals, actions, and methods of the policy framework into a matrix that can be used as a quick reference guide and checklist for implementation of the plan's recommendations.*

# 1. PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PARKS.

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **1.1 Expand the usability of existing parks.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Planning, Neighborhood Services, Natural Areas, Utilities, School Districts, Cultural Resources | |
| 1.1.1 Consider potential connections and synergies of adjacent parks, recreation facilities, natural areas, stormwater management lands, schools, trails, and complete streets to maximize user experience and benefits when developing corridor, subarea, or redevelopment plans. | ongoing | |
| 1.1.2 Ensure that every park has a framework plan to identify the intended uses and in what areas of the park those intended uses are meant to occur. | short term (0–5 years) | 1.4.1 |
| 1.1.3 Comprehensively evaluate the design and function of parks on a regular basis using this plan's design guidelines to determine if they need to be refreshed. (See p. 105) | ongoing | 2.1.2 |
| 1.1.4 Develop master plans for all parks in need of a major refresh. | ongoing | 1.4.1 |
| 1.1.5 Seek opportunities to enlarge or add space for community gardens and urban agriculture in parks. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 1.1.6 Develop agreements to ensure access to amenities at adjacent schools. | ongoing | |
| **1.2 Expand existing parks and secure new parkland, where possible, to serve growing and under-served communities in established parts of the city.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | **Implementation Partners**<br>Planning, Utilities, Engineering, FC Moves | |
| 1.2.1 Secure parks and public spaces envisioned in adopted plans—including the Downtown Plan, Downtown Civic Center Plan, Midtown Plan, subarea plans, and corridor plans —and ensure they provide amenities that meet neighborhood needs. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 1.2.2 Tie parks and recreation facilities proposed in adopted plans to this plan's park and recreation facility classification system. (See p. 115) | short term (0–5 years) | 8.2.2 |
| 1.2.3 Purchase private properties adjacent to existing parks, when available and cost effective, to expand existing parks. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 1.2.4 Ensure that new parks provided by developers are accessible, usable, connected to citywide public space systems, and meet design and maintenance standards. | ongoing | 3.1.7, 8.2.1, 11.1.3 |

| Actions / Methods | | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.2.5 | Reimagine City-owned stormwater utility sites as new and expanded public space. | long term (0–20 years) | 3.1.2 |
| 1.2.6 | Continue to work with business improvement districts to provide plazas and urban parks. | ongoing | |
| **1.3** | **Continue to build new parks to serve newly developing parts of the city.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Utilities/Stormwater, Natural Areas, Engineering, Transportation, Planning | |
| 1.3.1 | Complete community parks that were proposed in the 2008 Parks and Recreation Policy Plan. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 1.3.2 | Build additional parks in higher density areas that are outside a 10-minute walk to parks, natural areas, and other public spaces. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| **1.4** | **Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks | |
| 1.4.1 | Incorporate casual use spaces into park master plans and framework plans. | ongoing | 1.1.2, 1.1.4 |
| **1.5** | **Assess and augment the capacity of downtown parks and public spaces to accommodate community events and festivals of various sizes.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | | **Implementation Partners**<br>Neighborhood Services, Downtown Development Authority | |
| 1.5.1 | Expand the use of festival streets and temporary street closures during events to provide flex space for crowds. | ongoing | |
| 1.5.2 | Refresh Civic Center and Washington Parks to make them more useful and accommodating to downtown events | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 1.5.3 | Examine the potential of parks near downtown, such as Lee Martinez Community Park, Old Fort Collins Heritage Park, or Legacy Park, and the future civic campus to function as festival and event spaces while staying true to the objectives of the Poudre River Downtown Master Plan. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 1.5.4 | Consider the addition of an indoor/outdoor venue to host larger events, offer recreation opportunities, and increase economic health. | short term (0–5 years) | |

# 2. PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **2.1 Provide recreational amenities according to level of service standards. (See p. 161)** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development (outdoor facilities), Recreation (indoor facilities) | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks | |
| 2.1.1 Construct the new southeast recreation center and consider two other community or neighborhood centers to serve the community's indoor recreation needs. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 2.1.2 Identify opportunities during the periodic evaluation of parks to add or change recreation amenities or to enhance access based on citywide needs and resident input. | ongoing | 1.1.3 |
| 2.1.3 Consider national and regional recreation trends, local demand, and projected usage and participation before introducing new and innovative amenities. (See p. 37) | ongoing | |
| 2.1.4 Based on level of service, determine where to reduce duplication of services without reducing the overall quality of service provided to the community. | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 2.1.5 Site new amenities in locations that are or will be made accessible by as many modes of transportation as possible. | ongoing | 3.2 |
| 2.1.6 Consider renaming the Fort Collins Senior Center to more accurately reflect its role as a community center that—while primarily focused on those 50 years of age and older—provides a range of facilities and programming available to all adults. | short term (0–5 years) | |

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **2.2 Expand year-round usability of existing recreation facilities.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Parks | **Implementation Partners**<br>Recreation, Park Planning and Development | |
| 2.2.1 Develop a citywide, objective lighting policy for parks and recreation facilities. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 2.2.2 Consider the conversion of select existing fields to synthetic turf to extend usability. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 2.2.3 Consider a new indoor event/court facility to meet local demand and level of service standards, as proposed in the 2019 Sports Facility Market and Feasibility Analysis. (See sidebar.) | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 2.2.4 Explore opportunities to provide all-season access to certain high use facilities through the use of temporary or permanent structures. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| **2.3 Strive for universal access.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Recreation | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Park Planning and Development | |
| 2.3.1 Continue the Adaptive Recreation Opportunities program. | ongoing | 9.2.5 |
| 2.3.2 Continue the Reduced Rate program, and monitor its impact and usage. | ongoing | 9.2.5 |
| 2.3.3 Incorporate new and creative recreation facilities and amenities, such as playgrounds, for universal access, offering a variety of experiences where people of all abilities can interact. | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 2.3.4 Incorporate ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) upgrades to existing sites in accordance with the City's transition plan. | | |

# 2. PROVIDE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES. (CONTINUED)

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **2.4 Ensure facilities and programs continue to respond to changing user needs.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Recreation | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Park Planning and Development | |
| 2.4.1 Continue to monitor regional and national recreation trends and incorporate new and innovative recreation facilities and programs to sustain community participation. (See p. 37) | ongoing | |
| 2.4.2 Evaluate opportunities to repurpose or expand the range of allowable uses of existing facilities before building new, specialized facilities. | ongoing | |
| 2.4.3 Promote and broaden the availability of facilities and programs to cater to diverse ages, interests, abilities, and cultures. | ongoing | 9.2.2 |
| 2.4.4 Regularly evaluate program demand and adjust offerings. | ongoing | 2.4.5, 2.4.6 |
| 2.4.5 Implement best practices in program life cycles to maintain a culture of quality program delivery. (See"Program Life Cycles" on page 102) | short term (0–5 years) | 2.4.4, 2.4.6 |
| 2.4.6 Regularly evaluate each program's participation, finances, and outcomes. | short term (0–5 years) | 2.4.4, 2.4.5 |
| 2.4.7 Develop a new pricing policy based on classification of programs and services. | short term (0–5 years) | 4.2.4, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3 |
| **2.5 Promote public health and wellness through public spaces programming.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Recreation | **Implementation Partners**<br>Community Services, Parks, Natural Areas | |
| 2.5.1 Enhance fitness, wellness, and healthy lifestyle programming. | ongoing | |
| 2.5.2 Highlight the health and wellness benefits of recreation programs in informational materials. | ongoing | 9.2.3 |
| 2.5.3 Collaborate with local healthcare providers on a park prescription program. | ongoing | |


THE LIFEGUARD STORE.COM
City of Fort Collins

# 3. EXPAND THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO PARKS AND RECREATION.

| Actions / Methods | | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| **3.1 Expand the network of paved, multi-use trails.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, FC Moves, Engineering | | |
| 3.1.1 | Continue to implement the recommendations of the Paved Recreational Trail Master Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan. | ongoing | |
| 3.1.2 | Coordinate paved trail development with transportation and stormwater planning. | ongoing | 1.2.5 |
| 3.1.3 | Ensure all existing and future community parks and community centers are connected to a major paved trail. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 3.1.4 | Evaluate opportunities to create better connections across or around current barriers, including major arterial streets. | short term (0–5 years) | 3.2.4 |
| 3.1.5 | Coordinate trail expansion with surrounding communities and Larimer County. | ongoing | |
| 3.1.6 | Pursue agreements with irrigation ditch companies to allow trail access on or next to maintenance roads. | short term (0–5 years) | 6.2.5 |
| 3.1.7 | Coordinate trail expansion with developers. | ongoing | 1.2.4, 8.2.1, 11.1.3 |
| **3.2 Increase safe routes to parks and recreation facilities.** | | | 2.1.5 |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | **Implementation Partners**<br>FC Moves, Engineering, Planning | | |
| 3.2.1 | Fill gaps in sidewalks and on-street bicycle facilities that connect parks and recreation facilities to neighborhoods, schools, transit, and other facilities. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 3.2.2 | Ensure transit connections to parks and recreation facilities in the classifications section. (See p. 115, 158) | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 3.2.3 | Consider the use of signalization, signal prioritization, pedestrian refuges, grade separation, and other techniques where trails cross wide and heavily trafficked roadways. | long term (0–20 years) | |

| Actions / Methods | | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3.2.4 | Consider physical barriers to access, and how to avoid or overcome them, in the siting of new parks and recreation facilities. | ongoing | 3.1.4 |
| **3.3 Ensure trails function for a range of recreational and transportation users.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, FC Moves | |
| 3.3.1 | Promote trail education and etiquette for both skilled and novice users with signage or the development of a "learn to ride" area for trails added onto the Walk & Wheel Skills Hub. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 3.3.2 | Collaborate with regional partners to develop regional trail wayfinding standards, complementary to the city's existing wayfinding standards, that address hierarchy, destinations, landmarks, identity, and congestion for both recreational and transportation users, and to be more accessible to novice and non-English-speaking users. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 3.3.3 | Use striping on major trails to separate traffic moving in opposite directions, where appropriate. | ongoing | |
| 3.3.4 | Ensure paved trails are wide enough for passing and that there is enough space alongside trails to pull over. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 3.3.5 | Where widening of trails is not possible to meet demand due to physical, environmental, or other constraints, consider the development of parallel trail and complete street corridors. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| 3.3.6 | Maintain trails to defined standards to avoid blockages caused by weather or disrepair. | long term (0–20 years) | |

# 4. PROTECT AND ENHANCE NATURAL, HISTORIC, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IN PARKS AND INCREASE RELATED ACTIVITIES.

| Actions / Methods | | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| **4.1 Integrate natural resources and natural resource interpretation into the design of parks.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Natural Areas | | |
| 4.1.1 | Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees. | ongoing | 10.3.2, 10.3.3 |
| 4.1.2 | Develop horticultural standards for parks that emphasize native and resilient plants over mowed lawn and paved paths in areas that are conducive to this approach. | ongoing | |
| 4.1.3 | Integrate native plants and plants with high pollinator value to increase the ecological value and biodiversity of parks. | ongoing | 7.2.5 |
| 4.1.4 | Prioritize the use of raw water or other irrigation systems that conserve water resources and build resiliency. | ongoing | 7.2.3 |
| 4.1.5 | Add interpretive signage within parks to highlight their natural resources and the benefits they provide. | ongoing | |
| 4.1.6 | Explore opportunities to use public art to interpret natural resources. | ongoing | |
| **4.2 Develop and promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programs.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Recreation | **Implementation Partners**<br>Natural Areas, Cultural Services | | |
| 4.2.1 | Offer nature-based education programs that cater to different age groups, including young children, teens, adults, and seniors. | ongoing | |
| 4.2.2 | Coordinate nature-based programs across departments to avoid duplication of offerings and competition. | ongoing | |
| 4.2.3 | Cross-promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programs in the Recreator. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 4.2.4 | Consider charging a nominal fee for nature-based programs to increase the likelihood that those who register attend. | short term (0–5 years) | 2.4.7, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3 |

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **4.3 Optimize the care of natural resources across parks and natural areas.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Parks | **Implementation Partners**<br>Natural Areas, Park Planning and Development | |
| 4.3.1 Create a shared approach for the care and maintenance of plantings and habitat areas across City-owned properties. | short term (0–5 years) | 7.1.2, 10.3.4 |
| **4.4 Capitalize on historic and cultural resources, themes, and stories in parks and recreation facilities.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Cultural Services, Neighborhood Services, Historic Preservation, Recreation | |
| 4.4.1 Continue to include historical and cultural interpretative elements in new and existing parks and recreation facilities, where appropriate. | ongoing | |
| 4.4.2 Identify critical historic and cultural resources that may need protection and have potential educational and interpretive components. | short term (0–5 years) | |

# 5. ENHANCE THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF PARKS AND RECREATION.

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **5.1 Secure sufficient funding to develop, maintain, and program parks and recreation facilities as well as enhanced infrastructure.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Finance | |
| 5.1.1 Regularly adjust capital improvement expansion fees to cover the costs of building new parks. | ongoing | |
| 5.1.2 Explore the potential for a new capital improvement expansion fee for recreation facilities. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 5.1.3 Identify a dedicated funding stream for capital investments in existing parks and recreation facilities. | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 5.1.4 Identify a funding source to support park construction and the expansion of parks and recreation facilities in established parts of the city. | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| **5.2 Consider and budget for both up-front and ongoing costs and benefits in maintenance and capital budgeting.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services | **Implementation Partners**<br>Finance, Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Environmental Services | |
| 5.2.1 Identify asset management schedules and set maintenance schedules and standards for assets and capital facilities at the time they are approved. | ongoing | |
| 5.2.2 Plan for increases in operations and maintenance budgets for the Parks and Recreation Departments commensurate with additional assets and capital facilities that they are required to operate and maintain (e.g., enhanced infrastructure). | ongoing | |

| Actions / Methods | | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| **5.3 Continue to generate revenue from parks, recreation facilities, and programs that can be reinvested back into these assets.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Recreation | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Neighborhood Services | | |
| 5.3.1 | Regularly update recreational fees and charges based on a defined pricing and cost recovery philosophy. | ongoing | 2.4.7, 4.2.4, 5.3.2, 5.3.3 |
| 5.3.2 | Continue to set cost recovery targets for each program area based on costs, the degree to which it provides a public benefit, and market competition. (See p. 83) | ongoing | 2.4.7, 4.2.4, 5.3.1, 5.3.3 |
| 5.3.3 | Evaluate the use of additional pricing strategies—including by residency, day of week, time of day—to increase cost recovery. (See p. 208) | short term (0–5 years) | 2.4.7, 4.2.4, 5.3.1, 5.3.2 |
| 5.3.4 | Expand the offering or permitting of concessions in community parks, at trail-heads, and at special events in parks and recreation facilities. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 5.3.5 | Pursue additional revenue from special events, such as weddings and quinceañeras, that rent park and recreation facility spaces. | ongoing | |
| 5.3.6 | Expand capacity to proactively set revenue goals, seek revenue generating opportunities, provide a point of contact for those looking to rent public spaces for events, and liaise with the City's overall special events office and the visitor center for the entire Community Services service area. | short term (0–5 years) | |

# 6. STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS TO LEVERAGE RESOURCES FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **6.1 Strengthen partnerships between City departments.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services<br><br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Park Planning and Development, Parks, Recreation, Natural Areas, Utilities, Stormwater, Environmental Services, Engineering, FC Moves, Transportation | | |
| 6.1.1 Enable opportunities for joint projects among the Park Planning and Development, Parks, Recreation, Natural Areas, and Utilities Departments; Engineering; and FC Moves. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 6.1.2 Develop and maintain consistent asset management systems across the Community Services service area. | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 6.1.3 Consider consolidating existing department-level marketing, communication, and partnership functions at the Community Services service area level to improve coordination and unify messaging. | short term (0–5 years) | 6.1.4, 9.1.1 |
| 6.1.4 Consolidate existing department-level budgeting and finance functions at the Community Services service area level. | short term (0–5 years) | 6.1.3, 9.1.1 |
| 6.1.5 Request boards and commissions to consider and support multi-benefit projects. | ongoing | |
| **6.2 Formalize and strengthen partnerships with other major providers of parks, recreation facilities, and programs in Fort Collins and the North Front Range.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Parks<br><br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Recreation, Poudre School District, Thompson School District, CSU, Larimer County, State Parks, USFS | | |
| 6.2.1 Develop formal intergovernmental agreements with the Poudre School District and the Thompson School District to ensure open access to playgrounds, fields, courts, gyms, pools, and park areas on school and City property when school is not in session. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 6.2.2 Formalize cooperative maintenance agreements with the Poudre School District and the Thompson School District that address where and to what standards the City and the districts will operate on each other's property. | short term (0–5 years) | |

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| 6.2.3 Collaborate with CSU, the Poudre School District, and the Thompson School District to understand the recreational needs of students and to explore joint-use facilities. | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 6.2.4 Coordinate with Larimer County and surrounding communities on the provision of recreational facilities, such as ice rinks, to prevent duplication. | ongoing | |
| 6.2.5 Pursue agreements with irrigation ditch companies to allow trail access on or next to maintenance roads. | short term (0–5 years) | 3.1.6 |
| **6.3 Regularly revise or create partnership agreements to ensure fair and equitable relationships.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation | |
| 6.3.1 Develop a guide to partnership agreements to help organizations navigate the process of becoming a partner. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 6.3.2 Assign a staff liaison for each partner to improve communication and collaboration. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 6.3.3 Track and regularly share information and measurable outcomes of partnership agreements. | ongoing | |
| **6.4 Support and strengthen resident opportunities for involvement, volunteerism and giving in support of parks, recreation, and trails.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation, City Give, Volunteer Services | |
| 6.4.1 Identify a diverse range of strategies for increasing resident engagement, and the giving of time, talent and treasure. | ongoing | |
| 6.4.2 Encourage workplace giving programs— from volunteer events to community campaigns— with companies, institutions, nonprofits and large organizations. | ongoing | |
| 6.4.3 Facilitate volunteerism and resident engagement throughout citywide events. | ongoing | |

# 7. ENSURE PARKS, PAVED TRAILS, AND RECREATION FACILITIES ARE OPERATED AND MAINTAINED EFFICIENTLY AND TO DEFINED STANDARDS.

| Actions / Methods | | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| **7.1 Ensure maintenance standards are clear and consistently implemented.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Parks | **Implementation Partners**<br>Recreation, Natural Areas, Operation Services, Utilities, Park Planning and Development | | |
| 7.1.1 | Encourage cross-departmental knowledge sharing and training on maintenance practices. | ongoing | |
| 7.1.2 | Develop unified standards across the departments that manage the city's public spaces for maintaining similar types of spaces and facilities. | short term (0–5 years) | 4.3.1, 10.3.4 |
| 7.1.3 | Define and regularly update maintenance standards for each park and recreation facility classification and trails, taking into account usage and visibility. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 7.1.4 | Consider assignment of maintenance responsibilities across departments and property lines to cater to each department's strengths and knowledgebase, increase efficiency, and enhance the user experience. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 7.1.5 | Identify opportunities to share maintenance responsibilities with partner organizations and groups for efficiency, using formalized agreements. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 7.1.6 | Ensure maintenance safety checklists include obstacles to universal access. | short term (0–5 years) | |

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **7.2 Strengthen sustainability policies and practices.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Parks | **Implementation Partners**<br>Recreation, Natural Areas, Operation Services, Environmental Services, Park Planning and Development, Sustainability Services | |
| 7.2.1 Target waste reduction, recycling, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy usage, reduced water consumption, and light pollution for increasing sustainable practices. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 7.2.2 Take climate change predictions into account in the design of parks and facilities and in maintenance and operations practices. | ongoing | |
| 7.2.3 Continue to identify sustainable water sources for irrigation. | ongoing | 4.1.4 |
| 7.2.4 Conduct pilot projects to test effectiveness for citywide usage. | ongoing | |
| 7.2.5 Continue to prioritize biodiversity and emphasize native and water-wise plants over non-native species. | ongoing | 4.1.3 |
| 7.2.6 Remove invasive species. | ongoing | |
| 7.2.7 Use environmentally friendly products (e.g., cleaners and chemical treatments) where feasible. | ongoing | |
| 7.2.8 Provide training for staff on how to include sustainability in evaluating costs and benefits. | ongoing | |
| 7.2.9 Develop outreach and education programs on sustainable practices. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 7.2.10 Continue to pursue environmental certification, such as LEED or SITES, of parks and facilities. | ongoing | |

# 8. PROMOTE THE SYNERGY BETWEEN PARKS, RECREATION, AND ECONOMIC HEALTH.

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **8.1 Provide amenities for residents while unlocking recreation tourism potential.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Recreation<br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Visit Fort Collins, Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce | | |
| 8.1.1 Revisit and reframe the added tourism benefits of parks and recreation facilities built primarily to meet residents' needs—including event spaces and sports complexes. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 8.1.2 Support the development of citywide tourist infrastructure—including hotel rooms and food and beverage establishments—near parks and recreation facilities. | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 8.1.3 Collaborate with Visit Fort Collins, the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations to market parks and recreation facilities as destinations for residents and visitors from the city, region, and beyond. | ongoing | |
| **8.2 Encourage new park- and recreation-oriented development or redevelopment to capitalize on the economic value of parks, trails, and recreation facilities.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development<br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Planning | | |
| 8.2.1 Guide developers during the development review process to ensure development interfaces with adjacent parks, trails, and recreation facilities. | ongoing | 1.2.4, 3.1.7, 11.1.3 |
| 8.2.2 Develop land use, subarea plans, and corridor plans that encourage park- and recreation-oriented development or redevelopment. | ongoing | 1.2.2 |
| 8.2.3 Pursue public-private partnerships for mutual benefit and to stretch public dollars. | ongoing | |



# 9. IMPROVE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION TO ENHANCE OPERATIONS AND USER SATISFACTION.

| Actions / Methods | | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| **9.1 Promote parks and recreation as part of a unified public space system.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Natural Areas, Streets, Utilities, School Districts | | |
| 9.1.1 | Consider consolidating existing department-level marketing and communication functions at the Community Services service area level. | short term (0–5 years) | 6.1.3, 6.1.4 |
| 9.1.2 | Create new maps and guides with a universal graphic style for parks, trails, recreation facilities, and natural areas. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| **9.2 Update and develop new marketing and communication materials that increase awareness and highlight the benefits of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Natural Areas, Cultural Services | | |
| 9.2.1 | Ensure communication materials and signage use consistent language to refer to parks and facilities of different classifications. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 9.2.2 | Develop materials that communicate the full range of facilities and experiences available across the city to all residents, workers, and visitors. | short term (0–5 years) | 2.4.3 |
| 9.2.3 | Highlight the environmental, social, economic, and wellness benefits of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs. | ongoing | 2.5.2 |
| 9.2.4 | Highlight facilities with natural and historic resources in marketing materials. | ongoing | |
| 9.2.5 | Communicate the availability of physically and financially accessible facilities and programs. | ongoing | 2.3.1, 2.3.2 |
| 9.2.6 | Ensure materials are written in relatable language and are accessible to non-English speakers and the visually impaired. | ongoing | |
| 9.2.7 | Explore expanded use of technology and digital platforms to disseminate information about parks, recreation, and trails and to enhance the user experience. | ongoing | |
| 9.2.8 | Provide more robust information on each park, trail, recreation facility, and program on the City's website. | ongoing | |

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **9.3 Regularly measure and report on the progress of Master Plan implementation.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services<br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development | | |
| 9.3.1 Produce an annual report on Park and Recreation operations, including progress on Master Plan implementation. | long term (0–20 years) | |
| **9.4 Engage users, partners, and staff in the planning, development, programming, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Community Services<br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation, Park Planning and Development, Natural Areas | | |
| 9.4.1 Conduct a needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and level of service analysis, at least every 5 years. | ongoing | |
| 9.4.2 Use inclusive, transparent, and creative engagement practices that encourage participation by all community members. | ongoing | |
| 9.4.3 Engage users on an ongoing basis to evaluate the success of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs to establish a meaningful feedback loop between the City and residents. | ongoing | |
| 9.4.4 Proactively engage communities adjacent to parks and recreation facilities about the benefits of programs and facilities to inspire users to participate more often. | ongoing | |
| 9.4.5 Engage communities in the master planning of new or refreshed parks and recreation facilities, including historically marginalized voices. | ongoing | |
| 9.4.6 Monitor and evaluate trends in engagement tools and platforms that can increase users' interaction with the City. | ongoing | |
| 9.4.7 Use online and social media regularly to inform and solicit feedback from residents. | ongoing | |

# 10. ELEVATE THE DESIGN OF AND CONNECTION TO NATURE IN PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **10.1 Develop a unified design language for parks and recreation facilities that is flexible enough to allow for individualized park identities.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development<br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation | | |
| 10.1.1 Identify elements, such as signage, lighting, and plantings, that can be standardized across all parks and recreation facilities to increase efficiency and create a cohesive identity. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 10.1.2 Standardize the design language of structures and equipment across schoolside parks, neighborhood parks, mini parks, and urban parks. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 10.1.3 Develop a design framework for community parks and recreation facilities that is cohesive but flexible enough to allow for individual identities. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| **10.2 Strive for design excellence in the development and refresh of parks and recreation facilities.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development<br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Recreation | | |
| 10.2.1 Use this plan's design guidelines as a reference in designing or refreshing parks and recreation facilities. (See p. 105) | ongoing | |
| 10.2.2 Study and visit award winning parks and recreation facilities to keep up to date on successful design solutions. | ongoing | |
| 10.2.3 Partner with local and nationally recognized designers to add different design perspectives. | ongoing | |
| 10.2.4 Incorporate best practices in park and recreation planning, design, and operation from other park systems. | ongoing | |
| 10.2.5 Pursue state and national awards from organizations such as the Colorado Parks & Recreation Association (CPRA), the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and the American Planning Association (APA). | ongoing | |

| Actions / Methods | | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| **10.3 Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees and native vegetation on public and private land.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Parks | **Implementation Partners**<br>Park Planning and Development, Natural Areas | | |
| 10.3.1 | Practice sound arboriculture practices, including diversification of species; monitoring and managing insect and disease impacts; and preparing for unanticipated events, such as extreme weather, and climate change. | ongoing | |
| 10.3.2 | Replace every tree that is removed from maintained areas to create adequate canopy cover and to maximize the benefits of the urban forest. | ongoing | 4.1.1, 10.3.3 |
| 10.3.3 | Protect existing trees when new parks and recreation facilities are in development, or when existing parks and recreation facilities are maintained or refreshed. | ongoing | 4.1.1, 10.3.2 |
| 10.3.4 | Continue to maintain and enhance natural resources in accordance with the Natural Areas Master Plan. | ongoing | 4.3.1, 7.1.2 |
| **10.4 Incorporate public art, including landscape-based art and functional art, into parks and recreation facilities.** | | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Park Planning and Development | **Implementation Partners**<br>Parks, Cultural Services, Recreation | | |
| 10.4.1 | Develop a master plan for art in parks that addresses selection of artists, provision of design parameters for artists, and other guidance specific to working with artists on parks, recreation, and trail projects in order to enrich the user experience. | medium term (0–10 years) | |
| 10.4.2 | Integrate public art design and installation timelines with overall park and recreation facility design and construction timelines. | ongoing | |

# 11. CONTINUE TO ENHANCE SAFETY AND SECURITY IN ALL PARKS AND FACILITIES.

| Actions / Methods | Time Frame | Related Actions / Methods |
|---|---|---|
| **11.1 Ensure adequate "eyes on the street" around and in parks and recreation facilities.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Parks<br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Park Planning and Development, Planning, Safety and Risk Management | | |
| 11.1.1 Expand the park ranger program to reduce the area each ranger has to patrol. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 11.1.2 Consider developing a Park Ambassador program akin to the Natural Areas Volunteer Ranger Assistant program to increase resident presence and encourage rule enforcement in parks. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 11.1.3 Encourage new development to face, rather than turn its back, to parks and recreation facilities. (See p. 105) | ongoing | 1.2.4, 3.1.7, 8.2.1 |
| 11.1.4 Work to avoid or eliminate "backs" of parks and recreation facilities. | ongoing | |
| **11.2 Update guidelines and policies on safety and security.** | | |
| **Implementation Lead**<br>Parks<br>**Implementation Partners**<br>Park Planning and Development, Homeward Alliance, Safety and Risk Management | | |
| 11.2.1 Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles into design standards. | short term (0–5 years) | |
| 11.2.2 Continue to provide safety training for all staff who work in parks and recreation facilities. | ongoing | |
| 11.2.3 Collaborate with local providers, such as Homeward Alliance, to connect those in parks who are experiencing homelessness to available resources and services. | ongoing | |







# FUNDING

*In order to continue to build and maintain parks and recreation facilities, fiscally sustainable and realistic funding sources are essential. A diversified approach is necessary. This plan includes realistic and diverse funding options for the City to consider moving forward.*

# TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

It is critically important to view the financial sustainability of parks and recreation through the concept of "total cost of ownership." Total cost of ownership refers to total cost to build, operate, maintain, and update parks and recreation facilities.

The maintenance of current assets and their periodic replacement at the end of their life cycles must be balanced with the refresh of existing parks and facilities and the development of new parks and facilities. Maintaining current infrastructure with limited funding will inhibit the City's ability to take care of all existing assets and build new facilities.

## Operations and Maintenance

Operations and maintenance refer to the daily tasks needed to keep parks and recreation facilities running and minor repairs to capital assets to keep them in a good state of repair.

## Capital Investment

Capital investment encompasses life cycle replacement, park and facility refreshes, and new parks and facilities. It is assumed that all capital investments are:

- financially viable
- likely to be implemented within the period they are budgeted for
- consistent with other planning efforts

### Life Cycle Replacement

Life cycle replacement includes critical maintenance projects or repair of existing assets—when regular maintenance can no longer keep them in a good state of repair—safety and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) improvements, and existing debt service obligations. Many of these types of improvements typically require one-time funding and are not likely to increase annual operations and maintenance costs. In many cases, these types of projects may reduce annual operations and maintenance costs.

### Minor Refresh

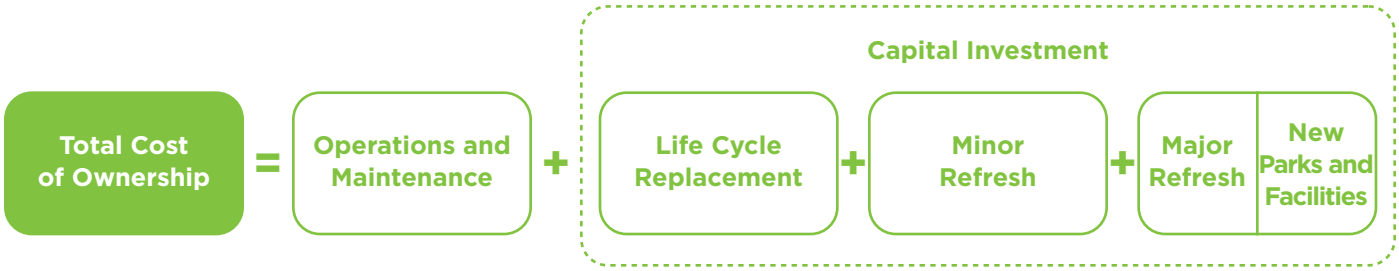
Minor refreshes include strategic changes to existing parks or recreation facilities to better meet the unmet needs of the community, including adding features such as play fields, shade structures, adult fitness equipment, covered picnic shelters, and trail loops to extend recreation opportunities. Minor refreshes may also include a refresh of plantings or other design elements within the framework of an existing, relevant site master plan. These types of improvements typically require one-time funding and may trigger slight increases in annual operations and maintenance costs, depending on the nature of the improvements.

### Major Refresh/New

Major refreshes and new parks and recreation facilities may both involve land acquisition, new site master planning, and development of new infrastructure and amenities in concert with new master plan. These improvements are likely to increase annual operations and maintenance costs.

**Figure 21. While existing operations and maintenance budgets are close to what is needed, there are no dedicated funding sources for capital investment.**

Estimate of Funding Needed for Parks and Recreation




| Existing Funding | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | $12.3M | $0.5M | | | $239.0M |
| Recreation | $11.3M | | | | $14.0M |
| **Total** | **$23.6M** | **$0.0M** | **$0.0M** | **$0.0M** | **$253.0M** |
| | | | | | |
| Needed Funding | | | | | |
| Parks | $13.3M | $6.0M | $2.7M | $54.3M | $239.0M |
| Mini Parks | | | $0.2M | $2.5M | $0.8M |
| Plazas | | $0.1M | | $0.6M | |
| Urban Parks | | | | $1.7M | $3.0M |
| Neighborhood Parks | | $0.5M | $2.0M | $5.5M | $107.0M |
| Schoolside Parks | | $1.0M | $0.5M | $16.5M | $32.2M |
| Community Parks | | $3.9M | | $27.5M | $96.0M |
| Special Use Parks | | $0.5M | | | |
| Recreation | $11.3M | $0.1M | $2.2M | $49.5M | $66.0M |
| Planting Refresh | | | $0.6M | | |
| **Total** | **$24.6M** | **$6.1M** | **$5.5M** | **$103.8M** | **$305.0M** |
| | | | | | |
| Funding Gap | | | | | |
| Parks | $1.0M | $5.5M | $2.7M | $54.3M | |
| Recreation | $0.0M | $0.1M | $2.2M | $49.5M | $52.0M |
| Planting Refresh | | | $0.6M | | |
| **Total** | **$1.0M** | **$5.6M** | **$5.5M** | **$103.8M** | **$52.0M** |

These estimates are provided in 2020 dollars and the current annual inflationary increase of construction costs is approximately 5%

# CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUNDING SOURCES

## Primary Funding Sources

### Capital Improvement Reserve Funds

Many park and recreation systems add a capital improvement fee onto an existing user fee when they develop or enhance major recreation facilities. This is usually applied to golf courses, aquatic facilities, recreation centers, ice rinks, amphitheaters, and special use facilities like sports complexes. The dollars gained either offset the cost of the capital improvement or the revenue bond that was used to develop or enhance the special-use facility. Once the capital improvement is paid off, the fee typically expires and is discontinued.

Another use of a capital improvement reserve fund is to dedicate a portion of user fees for the purpose of contributing to the life cycle replacement of park and recreation facilities. The fee allows participants of specific programs an opportunity to contribute toward the upkeep of the facilities being used.

### Developer Impact Fees (Capital Expansion Fees)

Many municipalities seek developer contributions for parklands and for the development of trails that run through the property being developed. The developer perceives the enhanced value such improvements mean for her or his development. Park or trail dedication as a requirement of subdivision development is a reliable means for maintaining equity of access to parks and trails.

**Figure 22. Capital investment reserve funds, developer impact fees, a dedicated sales tax, and PID/TIF districts are the funding sources for capital investments that are most feasible and have the highest revenue generation potential for Fort Collins.**

Capital Investment Funding Sources by Revenue Generation Potential and Feasibility

HIGHER ← **Revenue Generation Potential** → LOWER

**Feasibility**

HIGHER ↑ LOWER ↓

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Capital Improvement Reserve Funds<br>• Developer Impact Fees<br>• Dedicated Sales Tax<br>• PID/TIF District | • Grants | • Advertising Sales<br>• Joint Use Agreements |
| • Property Taxes<br>• Food and Beverage Taxes<br>• Hotel and Restaurant Taxes<br>• Service Tax | • Private Development | • Easements |
| • Metro Districts | | • CDBG Funding<br>• Land Trusts<br>• Greenway Utilities |

### Dedicated Sales Tax

An additional percentage sales tax that is committed to constructing park sites, infrastructure, recreational fields, and trails has the advantage of collecting revenues from both residents and non-residents who conduct business in Fort Collins.

### Public Improvement or Tax Increment Financing District

Commonly used for financing redevelopment projects, a Public Improvement District (PID) or Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District involves the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to pay for front-end infrastructure and eligible development costs in partnership with private developers and local businesses that benefit from the improvement. As development occurs, the "tax increment" resulting from redevelopment projects is used to retire the debt that was issued to fund the eligible redevelopment costs. The public portion of the redevelopment project funds itself using the additional taxes generated by the project. PIDs or TIFs can be used to fund park improvements and development as an essential infrastructure cost. This approach works well in downtown redevelopment, regional park improvements, and in trail development.

### Grants

The grant market continues to grow annually. Grant writers and researchers are essential to pursue grants. Matching dollars are required for most federal grants and many state grants.

### Advertising Sales

Advertising can occur with trash cans, playgrounds, dog parks, trails, flower pots, and as part of special events to pay for operational costs.

### Joint Use Agreements

Joint use agreements are contractual relationships entered into between two or more local units of government or between a local unit of government and a non-profit organization for the joint usage and development of sports fields, regional parks, or other facilities.

## Secondary Funding Sources

### Property Taxes

Ad valorem taxes on real property may be committed to constructing park sites, infrastructure, fields, and trails.

### Food and Beverage Taxes

This sales tax is used by many cities across the United States and usually requires voter approval. The taxes are paid by the local community as well as visitors to the city to help pay for a bond to finance future park and recreation related improvements.

Usually associated with convention and tourism bureaus, parks and recreation agencies may receive a portion of this funding for capital expenses because they manage many tourist attractions.

### Hotel and Restaurant Taxes

Taxes based on gross receipts from charges and meal services may be used to build and operate sports fields, regional parks, golf courses, tennis courts, and other special park and recreation facilities.

### Service Tax

Service tax is a tax levied by a local government on service providers on certain service transactions, but is actually borne by customers. The consumer pays the tax to the service provider while paying the bill. The government in turn collects the tax from the service providers.  Funding generated by a tax on services can be utilized for both operational and capital expenditures. The utilization of funds is usually defined when the tax is first introduced.

### Private Development

Developers may lease space from City-owned land through a subordinate lease that pays out a set dollar amount plus a percentage of gross dollars for recreation enhancements. These could include a golf course, marina, restaurants, driving ranges, sports complexes, equestrian facilities, recreation centers, and ice arenas.

### Easements

This revenue source is available when the City allows utility companies, businesses, or individuals to develop an improvement above or below ground on public property for a set period of time and a set dollar amount to be received by the City on an annual basis.

## Other Funding Sources

### Metro Districts

Metropolitan districts are quasi-governmental entities with taxing authority that are used to finance necessary public infrastructure and services that the City cannot otherwise provide. A metro district is a type of special district derived from Colorado's Special District Act (Title 32, Article 1, Colorado Revised Statutes).

### Community Development Block Grant Funding

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are used by many cities to enhance parks. These funds should be used to support the refresh of major facilities based on their location in the city and that may do to enhance nearby neighborhoods and schools—which is the intended purpose of CDBG funds.

### Land Trusts

Many systems have developed land trusts to help secure and fund the cost for acquiring land that needs to be preserved and protected for greenway purposes. This could be a good source to look to for acquisition of future lands.

### Greenway Utilities

Greenway utilities are used to finance acquisition of greenways and development of the greenways by selling the development rights underground to fiber optic or other businesses.

# OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING SOURCES

## Primary Funding Sources

### Dedicated Sales Tax

An additional percentage sales tax that is committed to constructing park sites, infrastructure, recreational fields, and trails has the advantage of collecting revenues from both residents and non-residents who conduct business in Fort Collins.

### Ticket Sales/Admissions/User Fees

This revenue source comes from accessing facilities for self-directed activities such as pools, ice skating rinks, ballparks, and entertainment facilities and helps to offset operational costs.

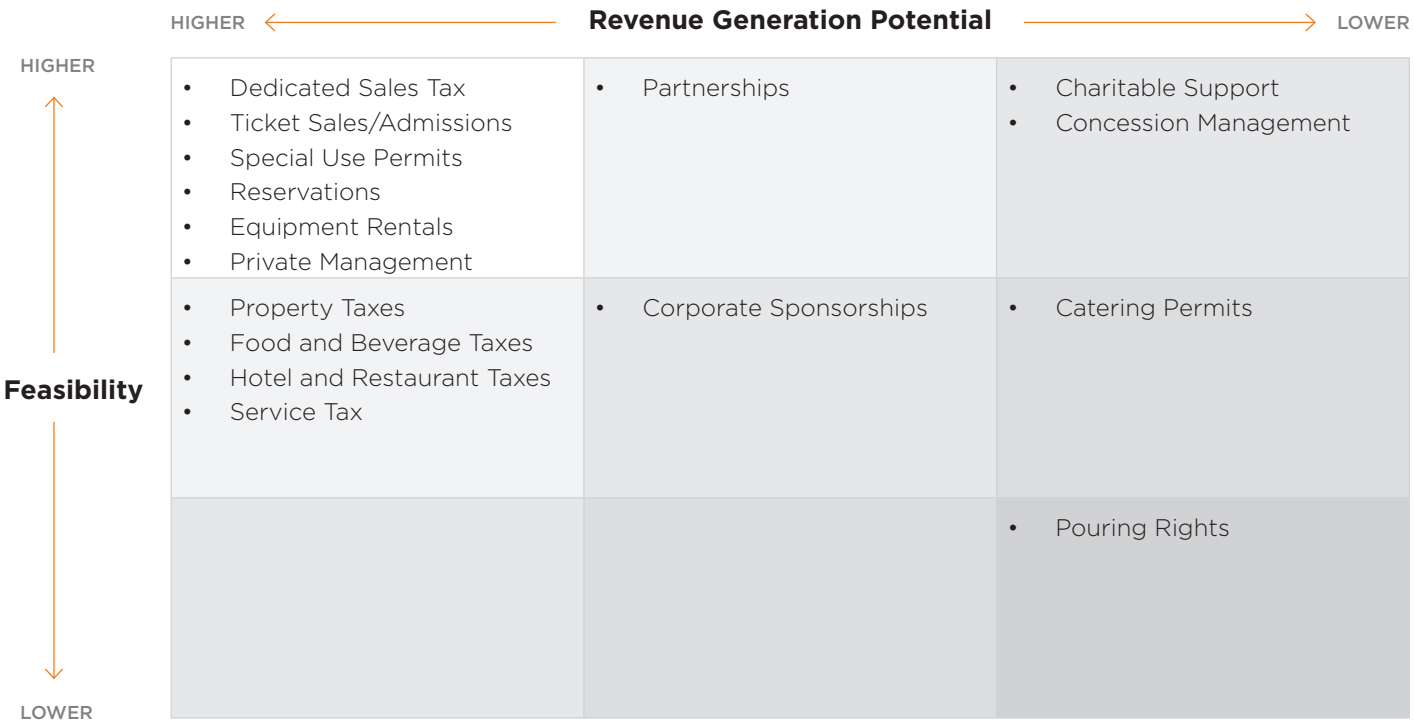



**Figure 23. A dedicated sales tax, ticket sales/admissions, special use permits, reservations, equipment rentals, and private management are the funding sources for operations and maintenance that are most feasible and have the highest revenue generation potential for Fort Collins.**

Operations and Maintenance Funding Sources by Revenue Generation Potential and Feasibility

## Special Use Permits

Special use permits allow individuals to use specific park property for financial gain. The City either receives a set amount of money or a percentage of the gross service that is being provided.

## Reservations

This revenue source comes from the right to reserve specific public property for a set amount of time. The reservation rates are usually set and apply to group picnic shelters, meeting rooms for weddings, reunions, and outings or other types of facilities for special activities.

## Equipment Rentals

The revenue source is available on the rental of equipment such as tables, chairs, tents, stages, bicycles, ice skates, or roller blades that are used for recreation purposes.

## Private Management

Private management involves contracting with a private business to provide and operate desirable recreational activities financed, constructed, and operated by the private sector, with additional compensation paid to the City.

## Partnerships

Partnerships are joint-development funding sources or operational funding sources formed between separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and a public agency, or a private business and a public agency. Partners jointly develop revenue-producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management based on the strengths of each partner. (See p. 317.)

## Friends Groups and Support Leagues

Friends groups and support leagues deepen public support and community value for specific parks or facilities, and benefit the City by leveraging the work and scope of City services through stewardship, time, passion, fundraising, membership programs, "friend raising" and advocacy.

## Charitable Support

Community needs are always deeper than any City's budget. Charitable gifts are a vehicle to expand and enrich City programs and services: from youth recreation to neighborhood park improvements, from turban gardens to the preservation of open spaces.

The City's "in-house" philanthropic services, City Give, creates a formalized structure to respond to strategic projects and community needs that fall outside the normal city budget priorities but are well-positioned for private funding.

Donations, aligned with parks and recreations priorities and strategic objectives, generously benefit specific parks, trail segments, facilities, and community programs.

City Give's transparent, non-partisan governance structure upholds the public's trust in our ability to honor donor intent and make meaningful investments in our community.

Charitable support for parks and recreation includes cash and non-cash contributions from individuals, businesses, financial institutions, Donor Advised Funds, community fundraisers and event sponsors. Public support of parks, facilities and trials can also be made through donations of real estate, securities, bequests and real property.

## Concession Management

Concession management is from retail sales or rentals of soft goods, hard goods, or consumable items. The City either contracts for the service or receives a set amount of the gross percentage or the full revenue dollars that incorporates a profit after expenses.

## Secondary Funding Sources

### Property Taxes

Ad valorem taxes on real property may be committed to maintaining park sites, infrastructure, fields, and trails.

### Food and Beverage Taxes

This sales tax is used by many cities across the United States and usually requires voter approval. The taxes are paid by the local community as well as visitors to the city to help pay for a bond to finance future park and recreation related improvements.

Usually associated with convention and tourism bureaus, parks and recreation agencies may receive a portion of this funding for capital expenses because they manage many tourist attractions.

### Hotel and Restaurant Taxes

Taxes based on gross receipts from charges and meal services may be used to build and operate sports fields, regional parks, golf courses, tennis courts, and other special park and recreation facilities.

### Service Tax

Service tax is a tax levied by a local government on service providers on certain service transactions, but is actually borne by customers. The consumer pays the tax to the service provider while paying the bill. The government in turn collects the tax from the service providers. Funding generated by a tax on services can be utilized for both operational and capital expenditures. The utilization of funds is usually defined when the tax is first introduced.

### Corporate Sponsorships

Corporations can underwrite a portion or all of the cost of an event, program, or activity in exchange for their name being associated with the service. Sponsorships typically are title sponsors, presenting sponsors, associate sponsors, product sponsors, or in-kind sponsors. Many agencies seek corporate support for these types of activities.

### Catering Permits

This allows caterers to work in the park-and-recreation system on a permit basis with a set fee or a percentage of food sales returning to the city. Many parks and recreation agencies have their own catering-service contracts and receive a percentage (10–15%) from the sale of food and drinks. This may be most suitable for large or special events occurring on publicly-owned properties. Another form of fee income is the temporary business license.

**Multiple funding sources may come together to support special events.**
Open Streets

## Other Funding Sources

### Pouring Rights

Pouring rights are agreements between private soft drink companies and the City to have exclusive rights to serve their products within parks and facilities. A portion of the gross sales goes back to the City.




2019
4TH OF JULY
FORT COLLINS
City of
Fort Collins



# PARTNERSHIPS

*Fort Collins has a long history of partnerships with many organizations. As expected by a system that has achieved the Commission on Parks and Recreation Agencies Accreditation, Fort Collins has managed these partnerships at a best practice level, including the development of formalized agreements. The following guidelines can be used when updating current and developing new partnership agreements in the future.*

**The 4th of July Parade brings residents, business, and organizations together.**
4th of July Fort Collins

# TYPES OF PARTNERSHIPS

While not an exhaustive list of potential partnerships, there are five typical types of partners.

### Operational Partners

Partners who help maintain facilities and assets, promote amenities and site usage, support site needs, provide programs and events, and/or maintain the integrity of a facility through labor, equipment, or materials.

### Vendor Partners

Service providers and/or contractors who can gain brand association and recognition as a preferred vendor or supporter in exchange for reduced rates, services, or another agreed upon benefit.

### Service Partners

Nonprofit organizations and/or friends groups that support efforts to provide programs and events, advocacy and education, and/or collaboratively serve specific constituents in the community.

### Co-Branding Partners

Private organizations that can gain brand association and recognition as a supporter in exchange for sponsorship or co-branded programs, events, marketing, promotional campaigns, and/or advertising opportunities.

### Philanthropic Partnerships

The City seeks to engage philanthropic partnerships, not as financial resources, but as stakeholders in the organizational mission of parks and recreation. Beyond filling a gap in municipal services, cross-sector partnerships increase collaboration, cultivate civic engagement, nurture inclusiveness, and financially support mutually agreed upon strategic initiatives.

Philanthropic partners can include corporations, churches, grant-making organizations, passionate community advocates, mission-driven organizations, nonprofits and other public service institutions.

# SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

The key to any successful partnership is for each partner to bring value. This may take the form of operational revenue, capital revenue to construct a facility, or enhanced visitation and user group participation. The key to effective partnerships is not to create an entitled partner dependent on the City to support their users' needs, but instead one that contributes to the value of the project.

Partnerships should follow these principles to be effective.

- Common values: trust, respect, honesty, and identifiable "way of work" behaviors such as collaboration, respect for each other's expertise, decision making protocols, and recognition for contributions to the partnership.
- Complementary nature of the City's and partner's competencies and capacities, enhancing each other's work and role.
- Shared goals and outcomes that identify and describe success.
- Agreed upon financial outcomes. For partnerships in a facility, financial outcomes for the facility as a whole should be prioritized over individual spaces. All spaces should be considered shared space and prioritized on a prime/non-prime time basis, based on individual partners' needs, and should be available to any partner who is part of making the whole facility a success.
- Clarity of roles, responsibilities, timelines, money involved in capital and operational costs, and deliverables to the community based on an agreed-to operating pro-forma and capital cost investment. The pro-forma should be updated annually for clarity.
- Evaluation and, ultimately, celebration of success.

# EXAMPLE PARTNERSHIP COMPONENTS

## Vision Statement

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities in Fort Collins are an invitation to all community members to sustain and build wellness, curiosity, innovation, and community—as part of the city's iconic, interconnected network of public space.

## Purpose

This policy is designed to guide the process for the City in its desire to partner with private, nonprofit, or other governmental entities for the redevelopment, design, construction, and/or operation of the facility.

Fort Collins would like to identify for-profit, nonprofit, and governmental entities that are interested in proposing to partner with the City to construct a new facility. A major component in exploring any potential partnership will be to identify additional collaborating partners that may help provide a synergistic working relationship in terms of resources, community contributions, knowledge, and political sensitivity. These partnerships should be mutually beneficial for all proposing partners including the City, and particularly beneficial for the citizens of Fort Collins.

## Issues to Be Addressed

Fort Collins has developed partnerships over many years that have helped to support the management of parks and recreation facilities and programs services, while also providing educational and recreational opportunities for the citizens of Fort Collins. The recommended policy will promote fairness and equity within the existing and future partnerships, while helping staff to manage against what may cause conflicts internally and externally. Certain partnership guidelines must be adopted by the City of Fort Collins for existing and future partnerships to work effectively. These partnership guidelines are as follows:

- All partnerships will require an upfront presentation to the City of Fort Collins that describes the reason for creation of the partnership and establishes an outcome that benefits each partner's involvement.
- All partnerships will require a working agreement with measurable outcomes that hold each partner accountable to the outcomes desired and to each other and will be evaluated on a yearly basis with reports back to the City on the outcomes of the partnership and how equitable the partnership remains.
- All partnerships will track direct and indirect costs associated with the partnership investment to demonstrate the level of equity each partner is investing.
- Each partner will not treat one another as a client-to-client relationship, but will create a partnership culture that focuses on planning together on a yearly basis or as appropriate; communicating weekly/or monthly on how the partnership is working; and annually reporting to each other's board or owners on how well the partnership is working, and the results of their efforts to the taxpayers of Fort Collins.
- Full disclosure by both partners to each other will be made available when issues arise.
- Annual informing of each other's staff on the respective partner's values, yearly goals, and work plans so both partners are in tune with issues the partners may be dealing with that could affect the partnership policy or agreement as it applies to finances, staffing, capital costs, political elements, or changes in operating philosophies.

## Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- Increased visibility.
- Increase in services and programs.
- Tax dollars spent on services are maximized through collaboration.
- Public belief in and support of the role of the City in partnerships.
- Promotes a positive image.
- Public involvement enriches their understanding of the City.
- Engaged public enhances current and future development of programs and facilities.
- Provides alternatives for manpower, recreation sites, financial resources, supplies, materials, etc. for a more comprehensive system.
- Shared vision and goals.
- Allow the City the opportunity to make a vision a reality.
- Reach more people, provide more services, reduce expenditures, and generate more revenue.
- Eliminates duplication of efforts, strengthen communities, and achieve greater outcomes.

## Guiding Procedures

### Public/Public Partnerships

The policy for public/public partnerships is evident with the City based on their working with the Poudre and Thompson School Districts in Fort Collins. Working together on the development, sharing, and/or operating of parks and recreation facilities and programs will be as follows:

- Each partner will meet with Fort Collins Parks and Recreation staff annually to plan and share activity-based costs and equity invested by each partner in the partnership.
- Partners will establish measurable outcomes and work through key issues to focus on the coming year between each partner to meet the desired outcomes.
- Each partner will focus on meeting a balance of 50% equity for each agreed-to partnership and will track investment costs accordingly.
- Each partner will assign a liaison to serve each partnership agency for communication and planning purposes.
- Measurable outcomes will be reviewed quarterly and shared with each partner, with adjustments made as needed.
- Each partner will act as an agent for the other partner, thinking collectively as one rather than two separate agencies for purposes of the agreement.

- Each partner will meet with the other partner's respective board or owner annually to share results of the partnership agreement.
- A working partnership agreement will be developed and monitored together on a quarterly or as-needed basis.
- If conflicts arise between partners, the City's Parks or Recreation Director will meet with the partner's highest ranking officer to resolve the partnership issue. It should be resolved at the highest level or the partnership will be dissolved.
- No exchange of money between partners will be made until the end of the partnership year. A running credit will be established that can be settled at the end of the planning year with one check or will be carried over to the following year as a credit with adjustments made to the working agreement to meet the equity level desired.

## Public/Nonprofit Partnerships

The partnership policy for public/not-for-profit partnerships with the City and the not-for-profit community of service providers is seen in associations working together in the development and management of facilities and programs.  These principles are as follows:

- The not-for-profit partner agency or group involved with the City must first recognize that they are in a partnership with the City to provide a public service or good; conversely, the City must manage the partnership in the best interest of the community as a whole, not in the best interest of the not-for-profit agency.
- The partnership working agreement will be year-to-year and evaluated based on the outcomes determined for the partnership agencies or groups during the planning process at the start of the partnership year. At the planning workshop, each partner will share their needs for the partnership and outcomes desired. Each partner will outline their level of investment in the partnership as it applies to money, people, time, equipment, and the amount of capital investment they will make in the partnership for the coming year.
- Each partner will focus on meeting a balance of 50% equity or as negotiated and agreed upon as established in the planning session with the City. Each partner will demonstrate to the other the method each will use to track costs, how it will be reported on a monthly basis, and any revenue earned.
- Each partner will appoint a liaison to serve each partnering agency for communication purposes.
- Measurable outcomes will be reviewed quarterly and shared with each partner, with adjustments made, as needed.
- Each partner will act as an agent for the other partner to think collectively as one, not two separate agencies. Items such as financial information will be shared if requested by either partner when requested to support a better understanding of the resources available to the partnership.

- Each partner will meet the other's respective board on a yearly basis to share results of the partnership agreement.
- If conflicts should arise during the partnership year, the City's Parks or Recreation Director and the highest-ranking officer of the not-for-profit agency will meet to resolve the issue.
- It should be resolved at this level or the partnership will be dissolved. No other course of action will be allowed by either partner.
- Financial payments by the not-for-profit agency will be made monthly to City as outlined in the working agreement to meet the 50% equity level of the partnership.

## Public/Private Partnerships

The policy for public/private partnerships is relevant to the City and could include businesses, private groups, private associations, or individuals who desires to make a profit from use of a City facility or programs. It would also be evident if the business, group, association, or individual who wishes to develop a facility on park property, to provide a service on City-owned property, or who has a contract with the City to provide a task or service on City-owned facilities. The partnership principles are as follows:

- Upon entering into an agreement with a private business, group, association or individual, the City must recognize that the entity is entitled to make a profit.
- In developing a public/private partnership, the City, as well as the private partner will enjoy a designated fee from the contracting agency, or a designated fee plus a percentage of gross dollars less sales tax on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as outlined in the contract agreement.
- In developing a public/private partnership, the City and contracted partners will establish a set of measurable outcomes to be achieved. A tracking method of those outcomes will be established and monitored by the City. The outcomes will include standards of quality, financial reports, customer satisfaction, payments to the City, and overall coordination with the City for the services rendered.
- Depending on the level of investment made by the private contractor, the partnership agreement can be limited to months, a year, or multiple years.
- The private contractor will provide on a yearly basis a working management plan they will follow to ensure the outcomes desired by the City to achieve the goals of the partnership set out in the partnership recital. The work management plan can and will be negotiated, if necessary. Monitoring of the work management plan will be the responsibility of both partners. The City must allow the contractor to operate freely in their best interest, as long as the outcomes are achieved.

- The City has the right to advertise for private contracted partnership services, or negotiate on an individual basis with a bid process based on the professional level of the service to be provided.
- If conflicts arise between both partners, the Parks or Recreation Director and the highest ranked officer from the entity will try to resolve the issue before going to each partner's legal counsel. If none can be achieved, the partnership shall be dissolved.

# THE PARTNERING PROCESS

The steps for the creation of a partnership with the City are as follows:

- The City will create a public notification process that will help inform any and all interested partners of the availability of partnerships with the City. This will be done through notification in area newspapers, listing in a brochure, or through any other notification method that is feasible.
- The proposing partner takes the first step to propose partnering with the City.
- To help in reviewing both the partnerships proposed, and the project to be developed in partnership, they ask for a Preliminary Proposal according to a specific format.
- If the initial review of a Preliminary Proposal yields interest and appears to be mutually beneficial based on the City mission and goals, and the selection criteria, a City staff or appointed representative will be assigned to work with potential partners.
- The City representative is available to answer questions related to the creation of an initial proposal, and after initial interest has been indicated, will work with the proposing partner to create a checklist of what actions need to take place next. Each project will have distinctive planning, design, review, and support issues. The City representative will facilitate the process of determining how the partnership will address these issues. This representative can also facilitate approvals and input from any involved City staff member, providing guidance for the partners as to necessary steps.
- An additional focus at this point will be determining whether this project is appropriate for additional collaborative partnering, and whether this project should prompt the City to seek a Request for Proposal (RFP) from competing/ collaborating organizations.
- For most projects, a Formal Proposal from the partners for their desired development project will need to be presented for the City's official development review processes and approvals. The project may require approval by the City Attorney's office.

- Depending on project complexity and anticipated benefits, responsibilities for all action points are negotiable, within the framework established by law, to assure the most efficient and mutually beneficial outcome. Some projects may require that all technical and professional expertise and staff resources come from outside the City's staff, while some projects may proceed most efficiently if the City contributes staff resources to the partnership.
- The partnership must cover the costs that the partnership incurs, regardless of how the partnered project is staffed, and reflect those costs in its project proposal and budget. The proposal for the partnered project should also discuss how staffing and expertise will be provided, and what documents will be produced. If City staff resources are to be used by the partnership, those costs should be allocated to the partnered project and charged to it.
- Specific Partnership Agreements appropriate to the project will be drafted jointly. There is no specifically prescribed format for partnership agreements, which may take any of several forms depending on what will accomplish the desired relationships among partners. The agreements may be in the form of:
    - Lease Agreements
    - Management and/or Operating Agreements
    - Maintenance Agreements
    - Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs)
    - Or a combination of these and/or other appropriate agreements
- Proposed partnership agreements might include oversight of the development of the partnership, concept plans and architectural designs, development and design review, project management, and construction documents, inspections, contracting, monitoring, etc. Provision to fund the costs and for reimbursing the City for its costs incurred in creating the partnership, facilitating the project's passage through the development review processes, and completing the required documents should be considered.
- If all is approved, the partnership begins. The City is committed to upholding its responsibilities to partners from the initiation through the continuation of a partnership. Evaluation will be an integral component of all partnerships. The agreements should outline who is responsible for evaluation, the types of measures used, and detail what will occur should the evaluations reveal that partners are not meeting their partnership obligations.





# PHYSICAL VISION PLAN

PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN





# PHYSICAL VISION PLAN

*The Physical Vision Plan summarizes the recommendations in the Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It allows for an "at a glance" view of the proposed system and shows how the various parks, trails, and recreation facilities in the plan connect and tie the system together.*

# PHYSICAL VISION PLAN

### Proposed Parks, Land Acquired

New parks recommended in the 2008 Parks and Recreation Policy Plan that have yet to be master planned and built. These parks include the northeast community park, the east community park, Bacon Park, Trailhead Park, and Iron Horse Park.

### Proposed Parks, Land Not Acquired

Parks that have been planned but land has not been acquired yet. These parks include Interstate Park, Bucking Horse Park, Eastridge Park, and Fossil Lake Park.

### Proposed Parks

New neighborhood, schoolside, or urban parks recommended by this plan to meet level of service standards.

### Proposed Community/ Neighborhood Centers

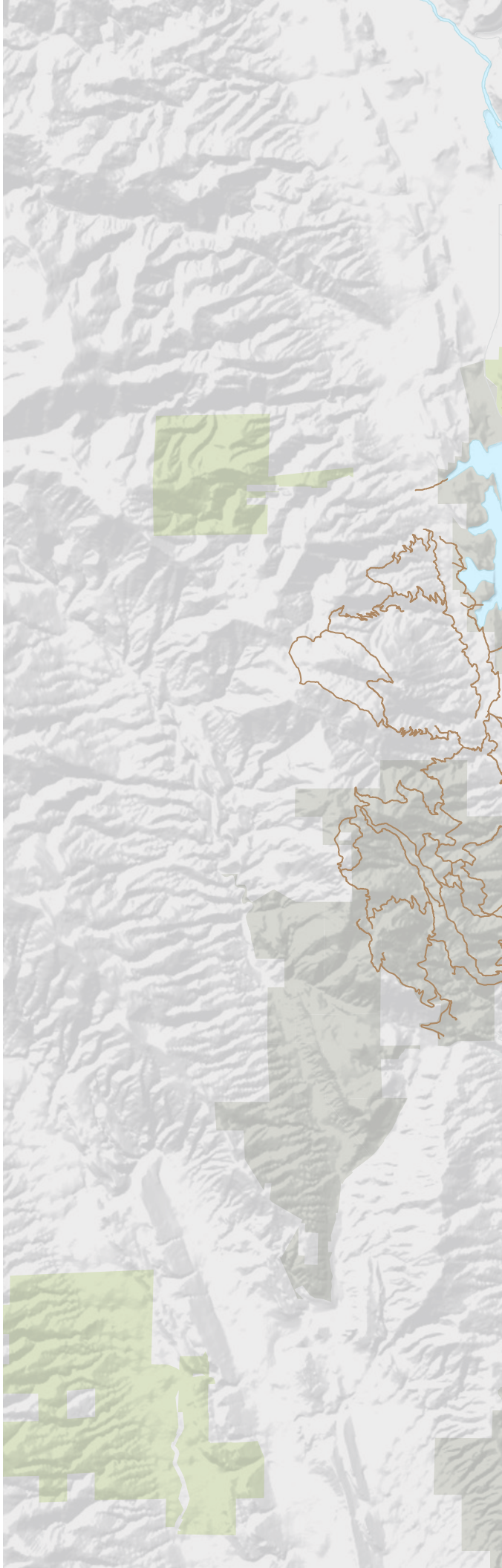
The planned Southeast Community Center in Fossil Creek Community Park and two additional community or neighborhood centers—in the new northeast and east community parks—recommended by this plan to meet level of service standards.

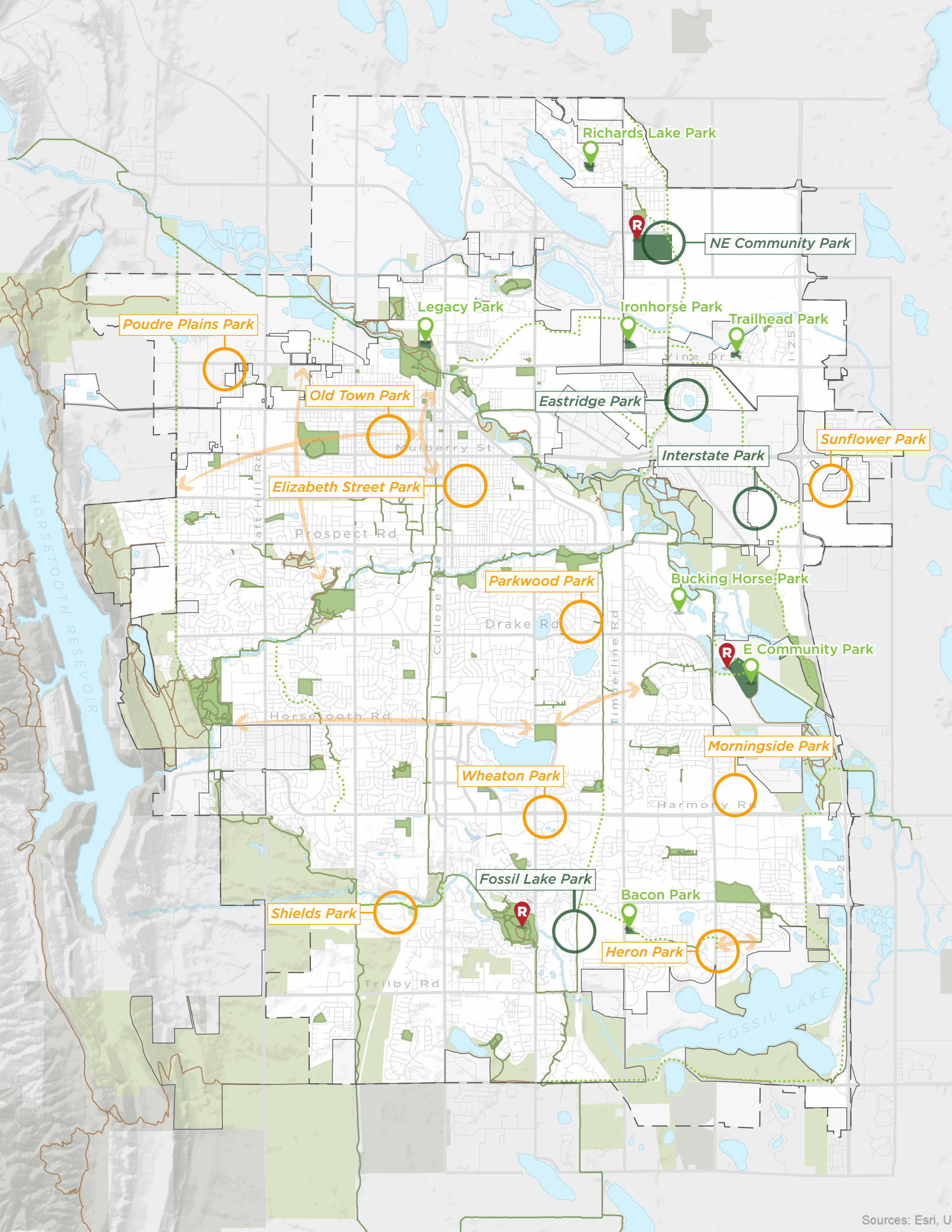
### Proposed Trails

Additional major paved trail connections recommended based on this plan's policy framework to complete the trail system and close gaps.

### Proposed Trail Connections

Trails that are currently planned should be completed in order to expand the existing system.




Richards Lake Park
NE Community Park
Legacy Park
Ironhorse Park
Trailhead Park
Poudre Plains Park
Old Town Park
Eastridge Park
Sunflower Park
Interstate Park
Elizabeth Street Park
Parkwood Park
Bucking Horse Park
E Community Park
Morningside Park
Wheaton Park
Fossil Lake Park
Shields Park
Bacon Park
Heron Park
Mulberry St
Prospect Rd
Drake Rd
Horsetooth Rd
Harmony Rd
Trilby Rd
Vine Dr
College Ave
Timberline Rd
Taft Hill Rd
I-25
HORSETOOTH RESEVOIR
FOSSIL LAKE
Sources: Esri, U





# APPENDICES

PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

# APPENDIX A:

# TRANSIT ACCESSIBLE PARKS

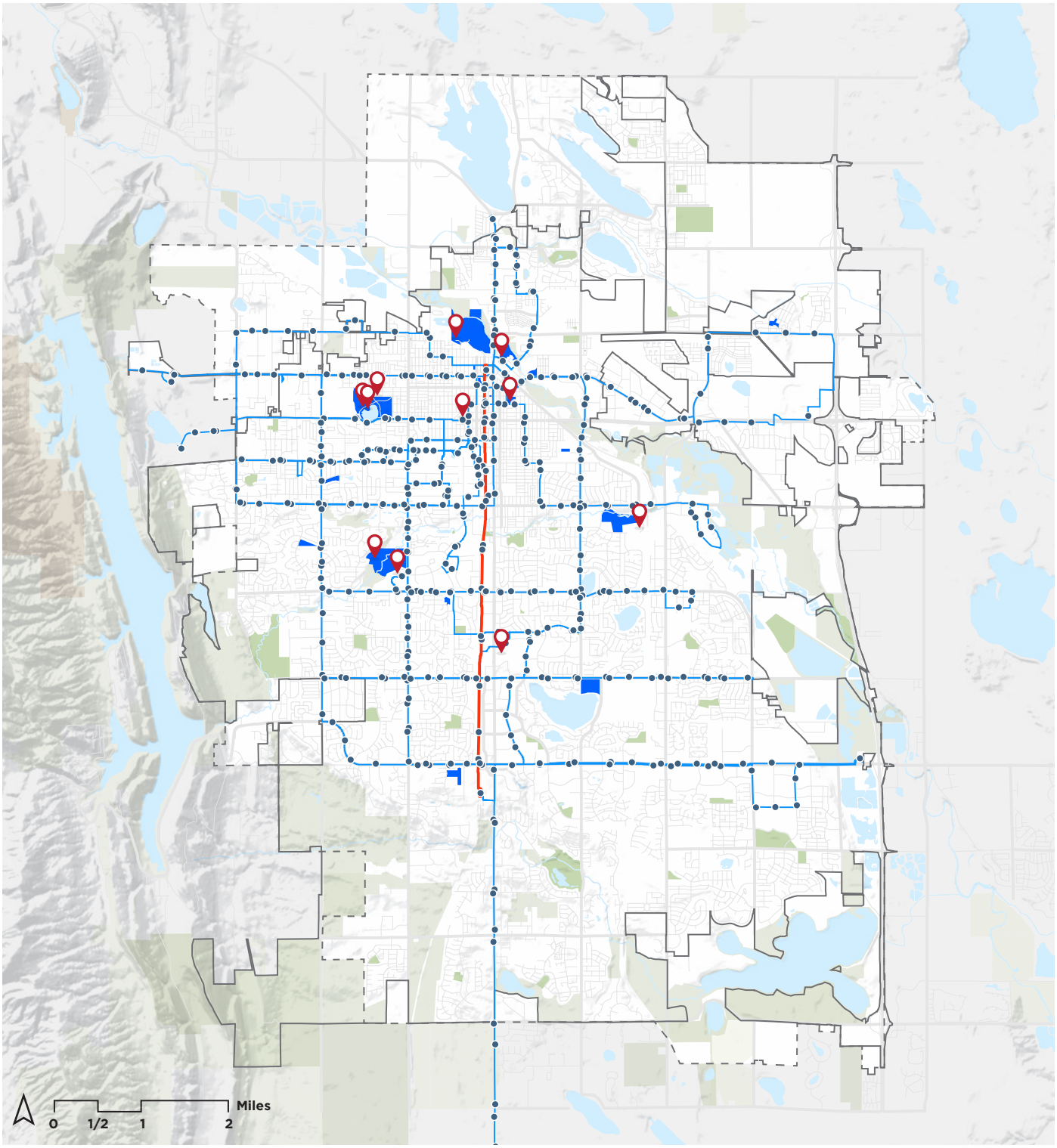
Bus and MAX lines cover much of Fort Collins, but many parks are not easily accessible from these routes. The map to the right and the list below show the parks that can be easily accessed from public transit. For the purposes of this plan, easily accessed means that a park or recreation facility is within 1,000 feet of a transit stop.

## Transit Accessible Recreation Facilities

All existing recreation facilities are accessible by public transit.

## Transit Accessible Parks

- **Avery Park**
- **Blevins Park**
- **Buckingham Park**
- **City Park**
- **Civic Center Park**
- **Eastside Park**
- **Edora Park**
- **Lee Martinez Park**
- **Library Park**
- **Oak Street Plaza**
- **Old Fort Collins Park**
- **Ridgeview Park**
- **Roland Moore Park**
- **Washington Park**
- **Warren Park**
- **Woodwest Park**




## Transit Accessible Parks

Transit Accessible Park

Bus Routes

MAX Line

Bus Stop

Recreation Facility

# APPENDIX B:

## BENCHMARKING

Fort Collins' park and recreation amenities were benchmarked against a set of five peer cities that have similar demographic or economic characteristics, or have highly regarded public space systems.

Factors that went into picking the peer cities included considerations such as a major university presence, similar demographics, similar climate, a mix of regional and national cities, and a mix of peer and aspirational cities. Data that includes budget, park acreage, and number of amenities was recorded for each peer city.

- **Aurora, CO**
- **Boise, ID**
- **Boulder, CO**
- **Madison, WI**
- **Minneapolis, MN**



| | Fort Collins CO | Aurora CO | Boise ID | Boulder CO | Madison WI | Minneapolis MN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| **University Presence** | | | | | | |
| **Major University** | Colorado State | | Boise State | CU Boulder | U of Wisconsin | U of Minnesota |
| **University Enrollment** | 33,413 | | 22,113 | 33,246 | 43,820 | 51,147 |
| Source: Google 11/18/2019 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **Overall Population** | | | | | | |
| **Population** | 159,150 | 357,323 | 220,859 | 106,271 | 248,856 | 411,452 |
| **Area (sq mi)** | 56.0 | 153.5 | 82.1 | 24.8 | 76.9 | 54.0 |
| **Population Density (people/sq mi)** | 2,842 | 2,328 | 2,690 | 4,285 | 3,236 | 7,619 |
| **Population Change 2000-2017** | 284096.4% | 9.9% | 7.4% | 9.1% | 6.7% | 7.5% |
| Source: 2013-2017, 2006-2010 ACS 5-Year Estimates | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **Economic Characteristics** | | | | | | |
| **Median Household Income** | $60,110 | $58,343 | $54,547 | $68,612 | $59,387 | $55,720 |
| **Change in Median Household Income2000-2017** | 21.2% | 17.8% | 8.2% | 5.8% | 13.0% | 20.9% |
| **Labor Force Participation Rate** | 70.0% | 71.2% | 68.8% | 66.6% | 72.1% | 74.2% |
| **Unemployment Rate** | 5.9% | 6.0% | 5.0% | 5.6% | 4.1% | 6.0% |
| **Poverty Rate** | 17.0% | 13.7% | 14.0% | 19.2% | 18.3% | 20.7% |
| Source: 2013-2017, 2006-2010 ACS 5-Year Estimates | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **Demographics** | | | | | | |
| **Median Age** | 29.2 | 34.2 | 36.0 | 28.6 | 31.0 | 32.1 |
| **Senior Population (65+)** | 10.1% | 10.5% | 13.1% | 10.5% | 11.1% | 9.2% |
| **White alone, not Hispanic or Latino** | 80.6% | 45.6% | 82.6% | 81.0% | 74.5% | 59.9% |
| **Hispanic or Latino (any race)** | 11.8% | 28.6% | 8.7% | 9.3% | 7.0% | 9.8% |
| **Percent Foreign Born** | 6.4% | 19.8% | 7.0% | 11.2% | 11.7% | 15.9% |
| **Bachelor's Degree or Higher** | 53.6% | 28.5% | 40.9% | 73.8% | 57.1% | 48.3% |
| Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **Climate** | | | | | | |
| **Average Annual Temperature** | 50.3 | 50.5 | 52.5 | 51.0 | 46.5 | 46.3 |
| **Average Annual High Temperature** | 63.7 | 64.4 | 63.6 | 64.0 | 56.0 | 55.3 |
| **Average Annual Low Temperature** | 36.8 | 36.6 | 41.3 | 38.0 | 36.9 | 37.3 |
| **Average Annual Precipitation (inches)** | 16.1 | 15.4 | 11.7 | 18.3 | 34.5 | 30.6 |
| **Average Annual Snowfall (inches)** | 55.8 | 58.3 | 19.2 | 73.2 | 38.2 | 54.4 |
| **Elevation (ft)** | 5,160.0 | 5,266.0 | 2,838.0 | 5,288.0 | 858.0 | 834.0 |
| **Koppen Climate Classification** | Tropical/ Subtropical Steppe | Tropical/ Subtropical Steppe | Mediterranean | Tropical/ Subtropical Steppe | Warm Summer Continental | Hot Summer Continental |
| Source: weatherbase.com 11/18/2019 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **TPL Analysis** | | | | | | |
| **TPL Residents within a 10-minute walk** | 67% | 88% | 69% | 90% | 94% | 96% |
| **TPL ParkScore Ranking** | NA | 23.0 | 21.0 | NA | 12.0 | 3.0 |
| Source: tpl.org 11/18/2019 | | | | | | |

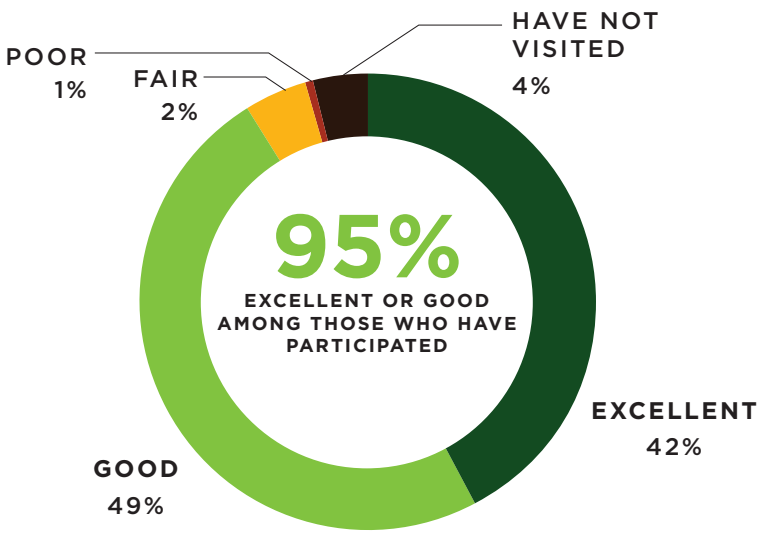
# APPENDIX C:

## SURVEY RESULTS

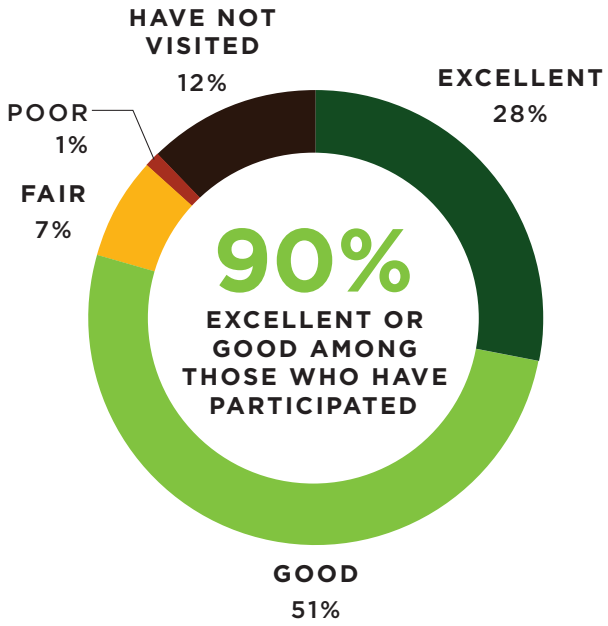
The following is a summary of selected results from the statistically valid survey conducted as part of the planning process. A separate survey results report contains all results and information on how the survey was conducted.

**Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of the _____ you or other members of your household have visited during the past 12 months?**

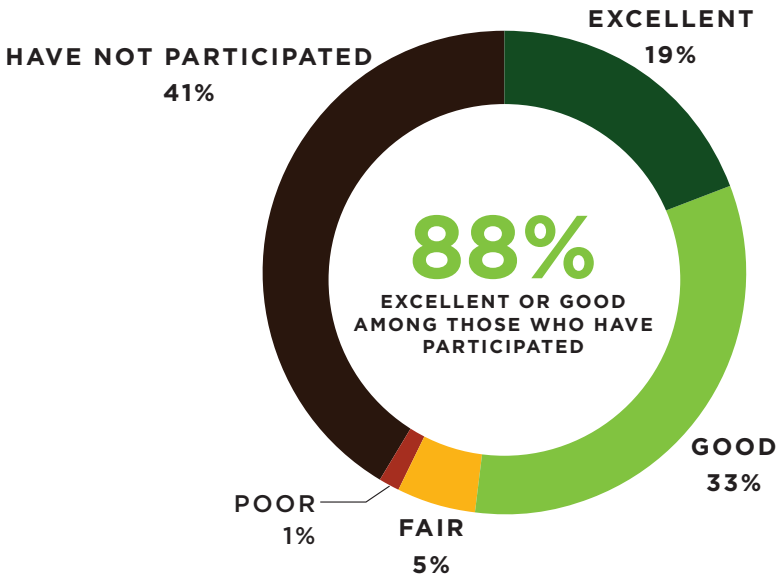
### PARKS, NATURAL AREAS, OR OPEN SPACES



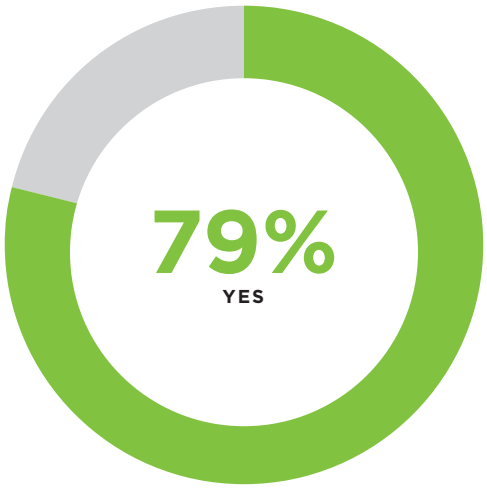

### RECREATION FACILITIES



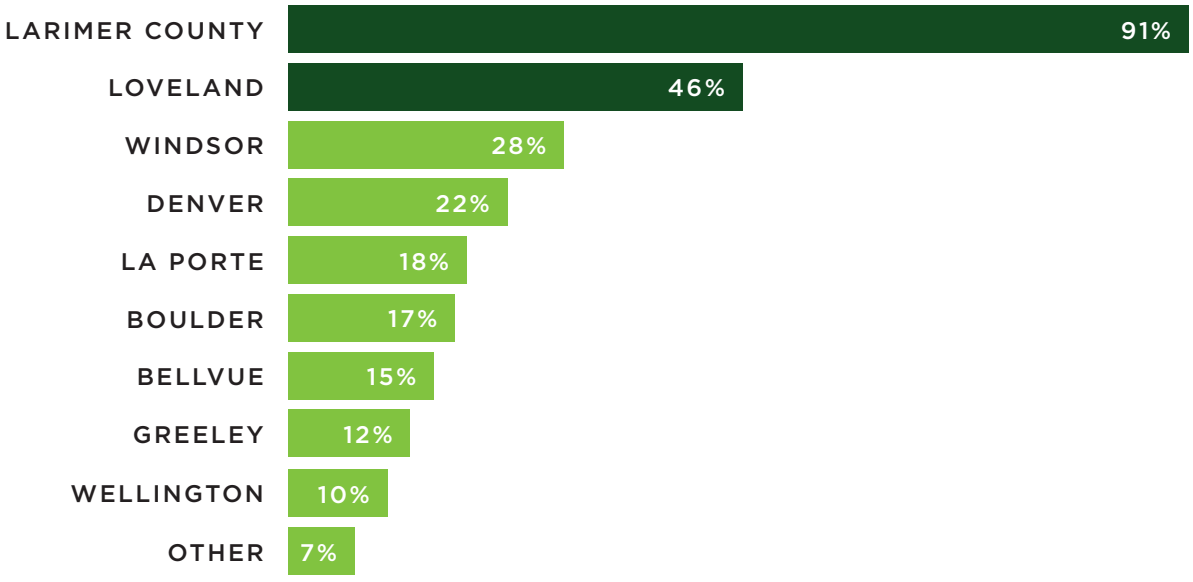

**How would you rate the overall quality of recreation programs offered by the City of Fort Collins that you and members of your household have participated in during the past 12 months?**



**Do you feel that there are sufficient public parks, natural areas, and open spaces within walking distance of your residence?**

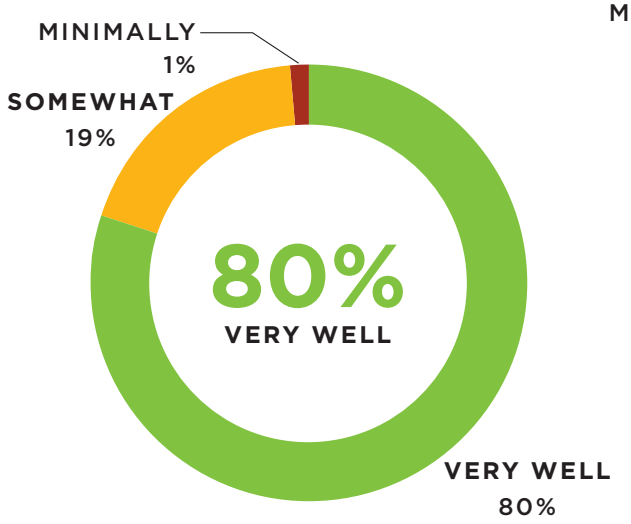



**From the following list, please check ALL the communities in the area that you and members of your household have visited or used for parks and recreation facilities in the past 12 months.**

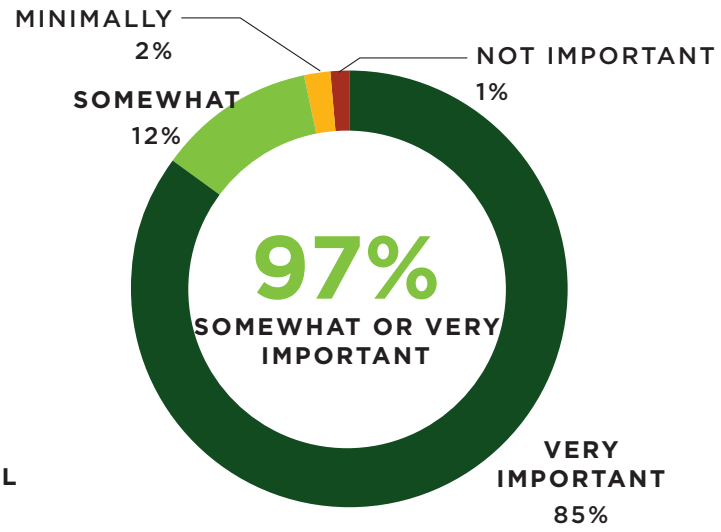


# SURVEY RESULTS

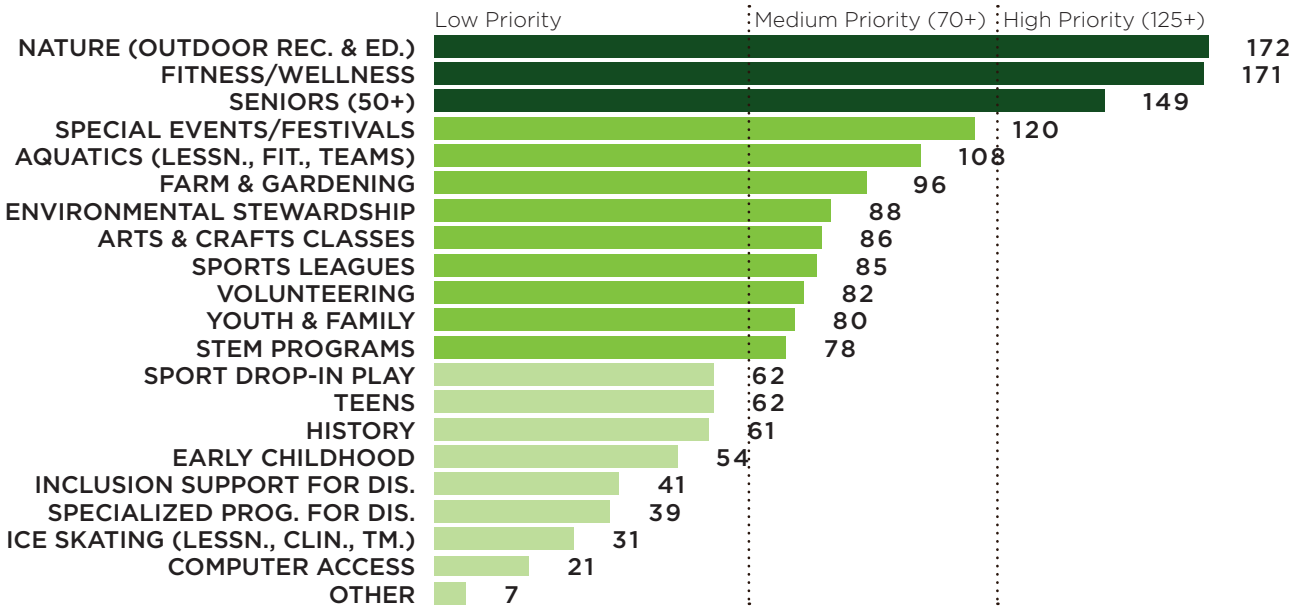
**How well do parks, paved trails, recreation facilities/programs in Fort Collins reflect the identity of the City?**



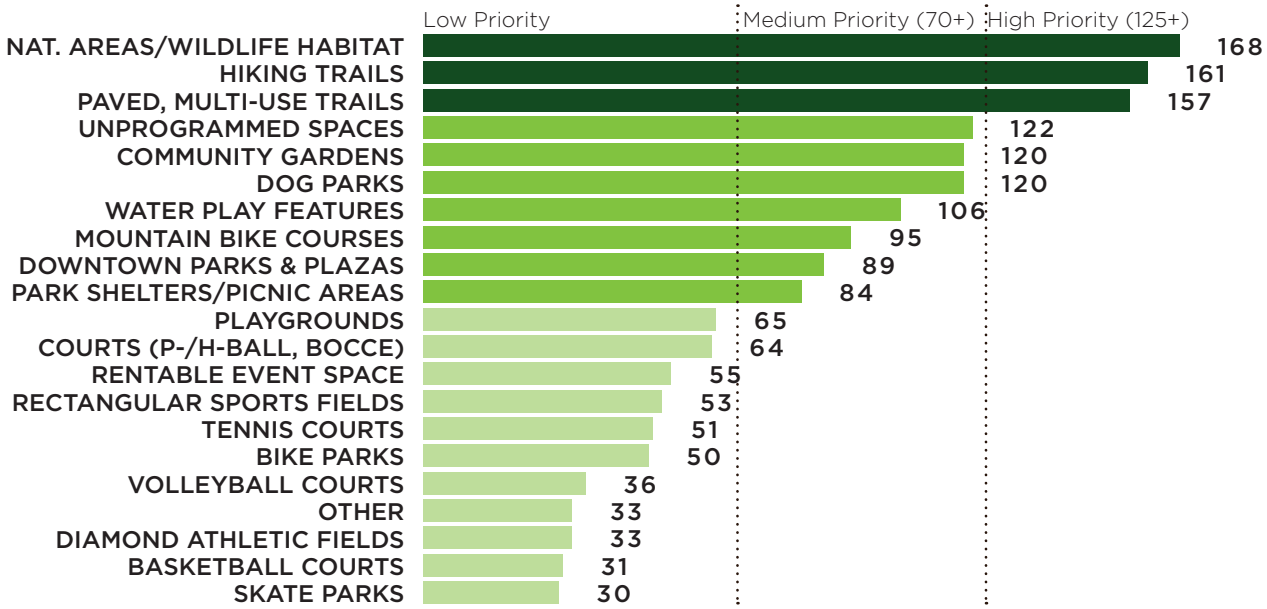

**How important are quality parks, paved trails, recreation facilities, and programs to the identity of Fort Collins?**



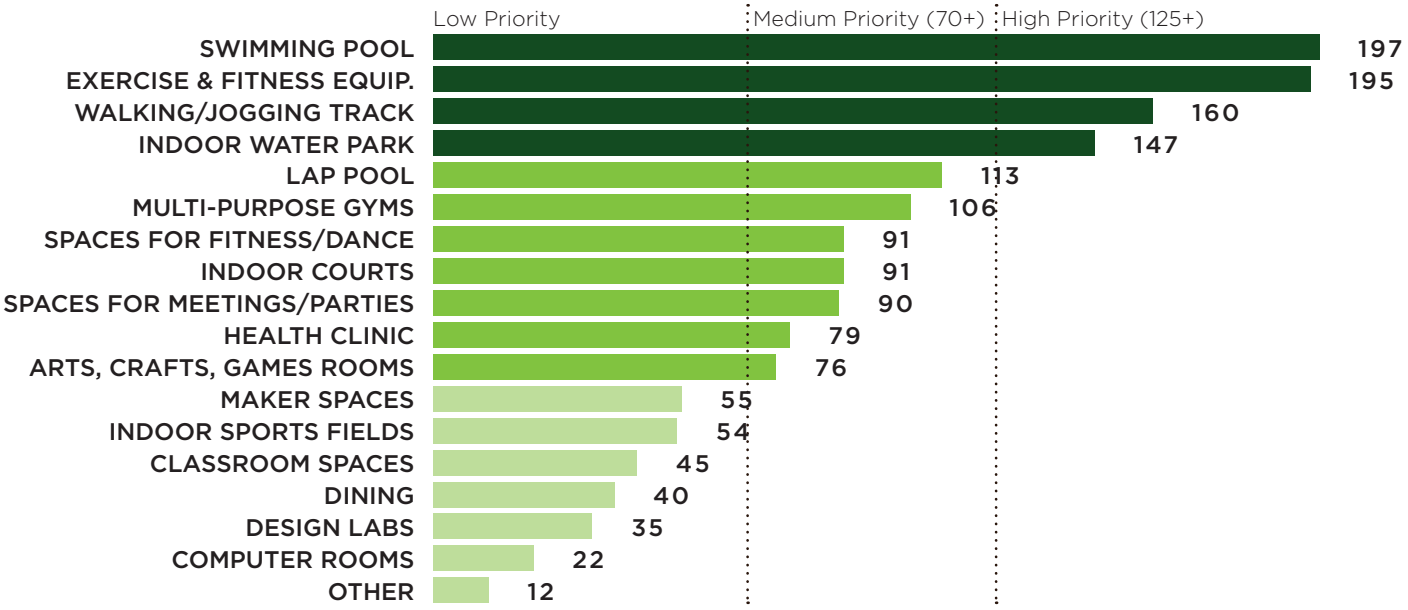

**Priority Investment Rating: Programs**



## Priority Investment Rating: Outdoor Facilities

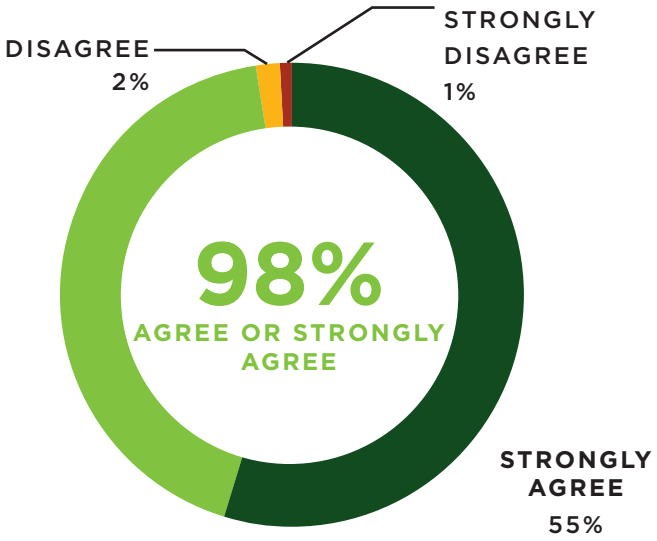



## Priority Investment Rating: Indoor Facilities

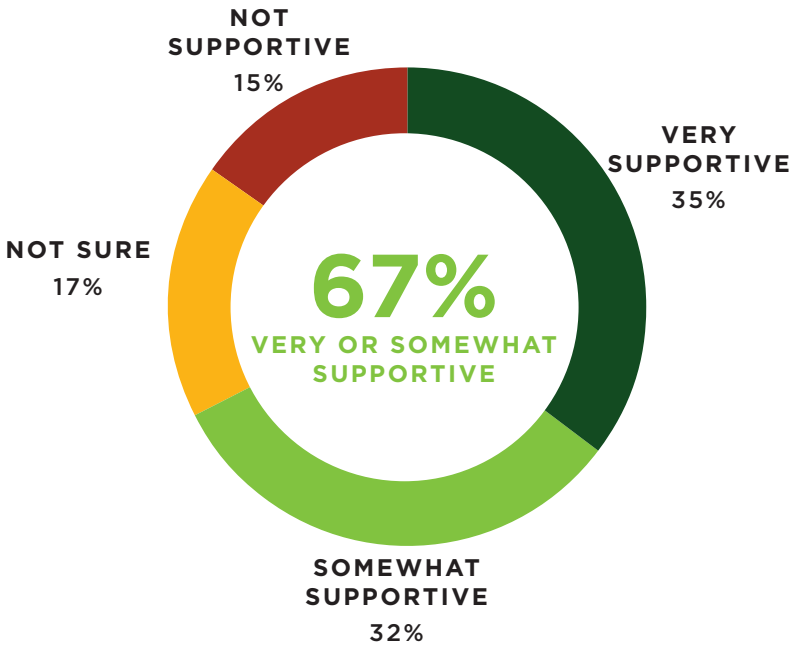


# SURVEY RESULTS

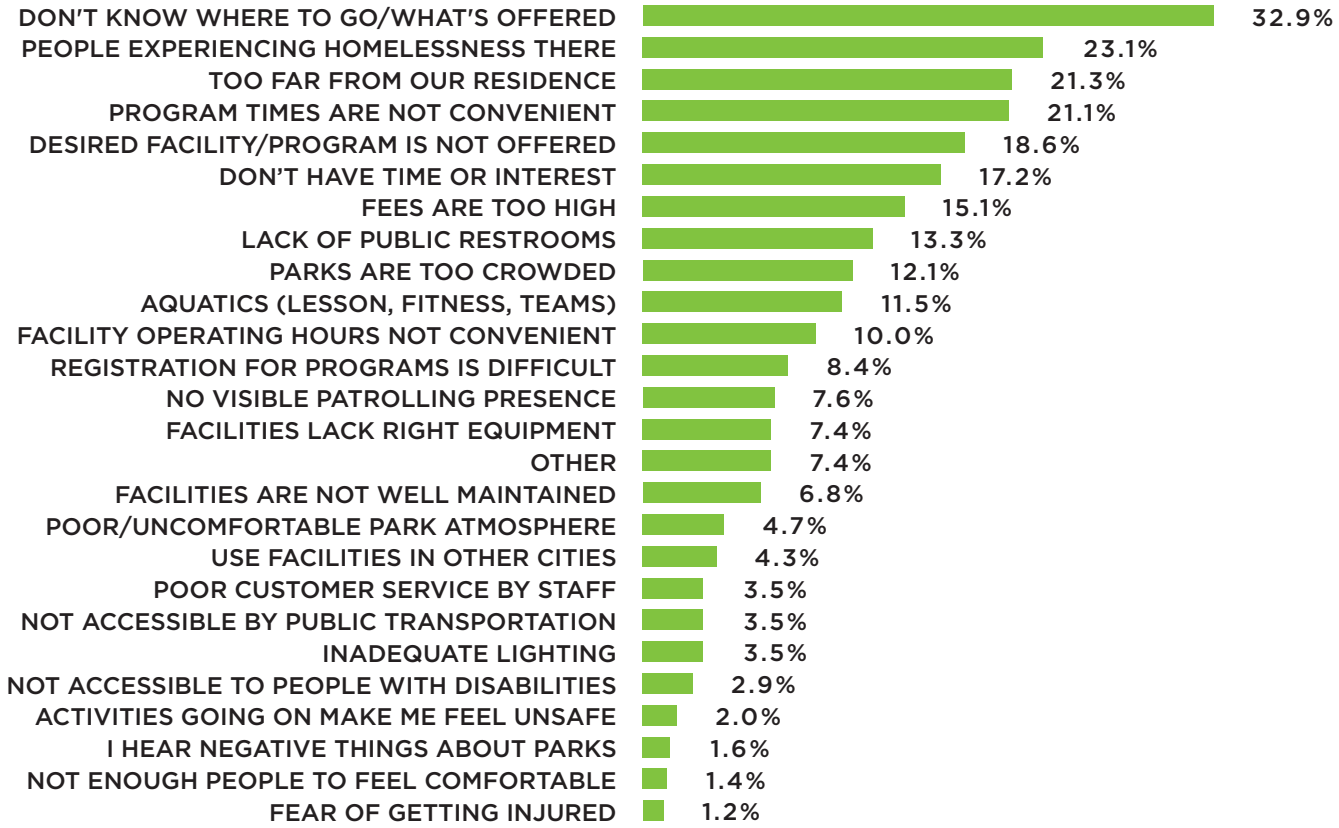
**Do you agree that parks, paved trails, and recreation facilities in Fort Collins are beautiful?**



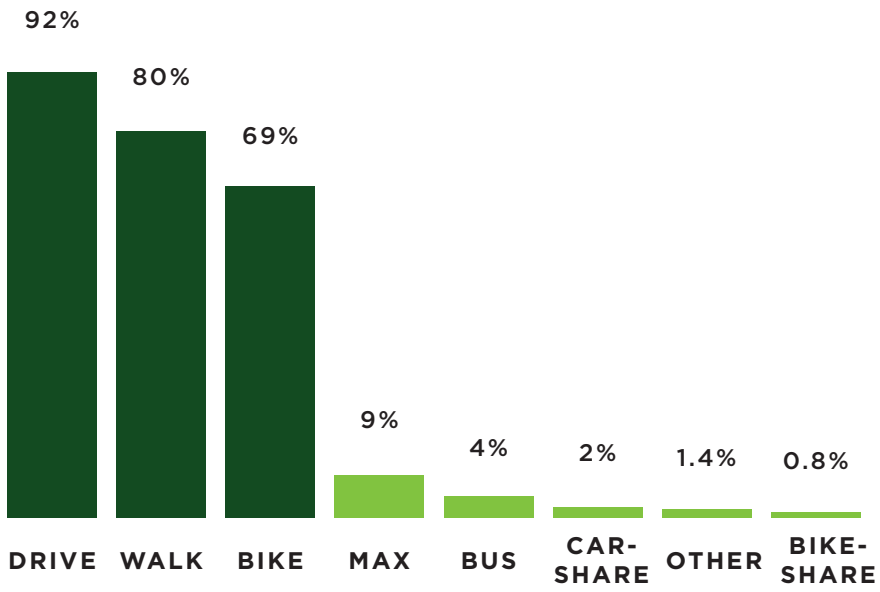

**How supportive are you of some increase in taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, and recreation facilities that are most important to you and your household?**



**Please check ALL the reasons that prevent you or members of your household from using parks and recreation facilities or programs in Fort Collins more often.**




**Please check ALL the ways you travel to the parks and recreation facilities that you use.**



# APPENDIX D:

## SOURCES


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