

TOWN OF CARBONDALE, COLORADO

PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

CHAPTER 4 - RECOMMENDATIONS

(Board of Trustees Approved & Adopted on April 28, 2015)

Recommendations Overview

The Recommendations Chapter provides guidance and offers suggestions for addressing the challenges and opportunities that the Town of Carbondale Parks and Recreation Department faces today and into the future regarding meeting the recreation, leisure and park needs of the community. The Master Plan will provide direction for the next 10 years, and contains recommendations that can be completed within a few months or years, along with recommendations that will require community and regional solutions that may take a decade or longer to accomplish. To be successful, the Master Plan will require the focused energy, commitment and resources of the Town, other government agencies, regional partners, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, user groups and the general population.

The recommendations reflect community values captured from the public engagement process and from input and suggestions collected during meetings with Town Staff, Town Trustees, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Bike, Pedestrian and Trails Commission. The recommendations also considered the evaluation of current parks and recreation operations, an analysis of existing park and recreation facilities and policies, and considerations of future industry trends. Eleven (11) core themes emerged as the basis for the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan, which will serve as a guiding document for future parks, recreation and trails actions and decision-making over the next 10 years. Listed below, in no priority order, are those core themes:

1. **Improve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Network:** Fill in the gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian network with priority given to creating connectivity to public buildings, parks and major trail networks.
2. **Enhance Gateways:** Enhance and beautify the Town's gateway outdoor spaces, welcoming visitors and residents.
3. **Celebrate the Rivers:** Highlight the rivers as community assets and recreational opportunities.
4. **Address Financial Stability:** Secure the Town's fiscal health in order to maintain existing parks, trails and recreation amenities.
5. **Maintain Existing Amenities:** Focus on enhancing existing parks before spearheading expansion to new locations.

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6. **Plan for the Future:** Upon securing fiscal health, create financial mechanisms to develop and maintain new projects.
7. **Distinguish Carbondale:** Promote and focus on becoming renowned for the unique assets that express Carbondale's identity.
8. **Provide Sports Facilities:** Focus on providing sports practice fields and indoor recreation within the community, and partner with valley-wide recreation providers for larger complexes and tournament spaces.
9. **Build and Enhance Strong Partnerships:** Partner with local organizations, individuals and Town departments to generate community based solutions to address current challenges.
10. **Broaden, Enhance and Promote Recreation Opportunities:** Develop strategic partnerships to increase program and activity offerings to underserved user groups.
11. **Support the Creative District Plan:** Support the Creative District Plan by strategically utilizing public properties to their potential; positioning them as flexible space for community recreation, special events and the arts.

The Master Plan themes have been formulated into recommendations for solving the challenges Carbondale faces, along with visionary elements that reflect aspirations of what the Town can become in the future.

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1. Improve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Network

Fill in the gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian network with priority given to creating connectivity to public buildings and parks and major trail networks.

Overview

The recommendations below focus on continued investment and partnerships to maintain the quality of the Town's trails, increase connectivity by addressing critical linkages and crossings, better connect the east and west sides of town, improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and expand the system to address growing demands.

Recommendations

In general, paved asphalt or concrete trails are preferred over crusher fines or dirt trails for new trail development or expansion, as they require less long-term continuous maintenance and weed control as soft-surface trails. Reference [Map 6: Proposed Trails](#) to identify the locations of connection improvements described below. Numbered recommendation items relate to numbers identified on the map.

Proposed Near-term Trail Connections:

Based on funding commitments, partnership opportunities and community identified priorities; the following projects are recommended to be completed in the near-term (one to three year) period because they connect key community destinations, not in order of importance:

- (1) Complete a paved trail along Snowmass Drive connecting from Main Street and the Rio Grande Trail to the existing Snowmass Drive multiuse trail leading to the elementary and middle schools (approximately 900 feet).
- (2) Extend the paved trail along Main Street connecting Highway 133 roundabout and Colorado Rocky Mountain School CRMS (approximately 1,420 feet). This could be a joint project between Garfield County and the Town of Carbondale and may be applicable for a Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District (FMLD) grant.
- (3) Complete the sidewalk along 4th Street from Colorado Avenue to the Nature Park (path to park) to provide a connection to/from the Rio Grande Trail (approximately 1,100 feet) Garfield County Built Environment need assessment priority project. CIP Plan for 2022
- (4) Complete sidewalk connection on Weant Boulevard between Historic Museum/Bridges High School and the Crystal Valley Trail (from Grace Drive to Highway 133) This is an incomplete portion of the Safe Routes to School network (approximately 325 feet).
- (5) Create a bicycle/pedestrian connection from the Roaring Fork Transit Authority (RFTA) Highway 133 Park and Ride facility to Dolores Way (approximately 200

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feet). Half of this connection exists in the form of a 10 foot paved spur pathway that runs from the Rio Grande Trail to the northwest corner of the RFTA parking lot. RFTA should be required to complete this connection upon their expansion of the existing BRT parking lot. Two alternative locations are shown on the proposed trails map. On-street markings and signage for pedestrians may be an acceptable alternative.

Total Near-Term Trail Connections: Approximately 3,945 Linear Feet (0.74 miles)

Proposed Long-Term Trail Connections:

Based on funding availability, the following are bicycle/pedestrian trails that are recommended to be completed as long-term priorities (within the next 10 years), not in order of importance:

- (6) Extend sidewalks along 8th Street between Village Road and Cowen Drive to complete path network along 8th Street (approximately 2,000 feet). Widen the 8th Street sidewalk from Village Way to Main Street and address on-street parking management (approximately 2,020 feet). 8th street multi-modal study and improvements funded for 2022
- (7) Add a paved sidewalk along Merrill Avenue from 8th Street to connect to the Nature Park (path to park) (approximately 770 feet). Soft Surface path presently
- (8) Add a paved trail connection through Industry Place to the Rio Grande Trail (approximately 1,215 feet). Involves privately held lands and will require an easement or property purchase.
- (9) Complete the paved pedestrian/bicycle trails identified on the Community Park Master Plan for Third Street Center to connect to the Crystal Valley Trail (approximately 650 feet). Bonnie Fischer trails.
- (10) Add a path connection from the Highway 133 trail south of City Market to Barber Drive (approximately 350 feet). Involves privately held lands and will require an easement or property purchase.
- (11) Designate with sharrows on 8th Street the bike connection to the Crystal Valley Trail, and also provide a sidewalk connection along 8th Street between Sopris Avenue and Highway 133 (approximately 280 feet).
- (12) Improve connections along the bike/pedestrian path located behind the Orchard Church and Crystal River Elementary School. The creation of a smoother transition from this path to the Elementary School should be encouraged. Also, a short break (60 feet) in the pathway connecting to North Face Park should be filled but also involves privately held parking and drive space that must be negotiated.

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- (13) Connect Snowmass Drive and Meadowood Drive through the Roaring Fork School District Campus to better connect the school campuses (approximately 1,100 feet). This desired connection was identified in the 2013 Carbondale Comprehensive Plan. Involves the Roaring Fork School District.
- (14) If funding becomes available, construct a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across the Roaring Fork River with a trail to the Gateway River Park and Highway 82 intersection.
- (15) Complete a paved spur connection from Thompson Park/Thompson House Museum to Holland Drive. This is a developer requirement (approximately 250 feet).
- (16) Complete a multi-use paved trail from the Triangle Park parking lot to Highway 133 (approximately 300 feet). (Completed with a Garfield Health Communities Coalition Built Environment Grant in 2017)
- (17) Improve a narrow section of the Crystal Valley Trail from Roaring Fork Drive to the Fire Station (approximately 400 feet long). Add sharrows to the street and signage to provide an alternative to the five foot wide sidewalk.

Total Long-Term Trail Connections: Approximately 9,115 Linear Feet (1.73 Miles)

Additional Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Recommendations:

- Provide trail amenities that improve comfort and make for a more enjoyable experience along existing trails including
 - wayfinding and signage,
 - doggie stations,
 - bench seating, adding a bench to the Triangle park trail 2017 with GHCC Built environment Grant 2017 Cafci looking at funding 2 benches behind Heritage Park on the Weaver cemetery trail. Install scheduled for Fall 2020. Completed
 - water bottle filling stations, two slated for Sopris Park, One placed inside of recreation center 2017
 - bike tool stations. (2) Promenade Park, Catherine Store Bridge, North Face Bike Park. One placed at the Red Hill trail head.
 - Prioritize amenities at trailheads and key convergent points, such as the convergences of the Rio Grande Trail and Crystal Valley Trail with Highway 133, Main Street and County Road 100.
- Explore opportunities for intersection enhancements for bicycles and pedestrians as identified below (not in order of importance):

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- Support improvements and partnerships for the realization of the Highway 133/Highway 82 crossing improvements to provide safer access to the Red Hill Recreation Area. Interim at-grade improvements including traffic calming may be appropriate.
- Maintain and improve crossing safety and accessibility to bus stops in town.
- Connect the multiuse path that follows River Valley Ranch Road and adjacent to Triangle Park to the path extending south along Highway 133. The path picks up at the intersection to the RVR maintenance facility, but no formal crossing is provided connecting the two trails (approximately 12 feet).
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety crossing between Nuche Park and the Crystal River Trail.
- Add path lighting along the Rio Grande Trail corridor from Highway 133 to Main Street GoCo Grant with RFTA as partner Nov 2017 for 2018 planning grant was not funded by GOCO
- Within Town boundaries it is important to provide connections to mountain recreation opportunities that provide recreation and tourism activity. Support the efforts of public and private entities that provide trails outside of the Town boundaries by completing connections in-town, and providing signage and trailheads in town: Red Hill Trails Project Trail Signage and trail head amenities, trash and toilets and new parking lot
 - Support efforts of the neighboring community to create a connection from Satank Bridge and the Rio Grande Trail to the trail extension south of CRMS. Trail extension has not been built but public access has been secured on this route.
 - Support opportunities with Garfield County to create a safer pedestrian/bike access route along County Road 107 to access the BLM Red Hill Special Recreation Management Area trailhead. Acquisition of parking area land and alternative trail location with AVL.T.
 - Support efforts to provide a multi-use path along CR 106 connecting to CRMS and the Crystal River. This portion of path will improve safety of bicycle and pedestrian travel to Spring Gulch.
 - Support opportunities with the Aspen Valley Land Trust and other partners to create a single track trail connection along Prince Creek Road. Consider creating a trailhead location within the Town of Carbondale. Nuche Park Parking Lot.
 - Support efforts to connect road and mountain bike trails throughout the region in an environmentally sensitive manner. Red Hill Trails Sutey Ranch Trails.
- Provide more directional and wayfinding signage (see Support the Creative District Plan section):
 - Provide kiosks or overview trail maps for Red Hill and major trail gateways into Town, including at trailheads and key convergent points, such as the

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intersections of the Rio Grande Trail and Crystal Valley Trail with Highway 133, Main Street and County Road 100. GOCO Resilient Communities Grant Received by AVL and Parks & Recreation Department for a trailhead picnic shade shelter and outdoor classroom Fall construction 2022

- Develop a mobile mapping application and website for town trails. Link website to signs throughout the trail system that will help visitors navigate through Carbondale. Provide up-to-date trail closure and opening information, rules and regulations and event announcements.
- The Highway 133 multiuse trails paralleling both sides of the highway creates confusion surrounding the official route of the Crystal Valley Trail. Designate the Crystal Valley Trail's official route through signage and pavement markings. (There is signage designating the Crystal River Trail and the Rio Grande trail by Hwy 133 and Village Road.)
- Reinforce signage along Crystal Valley Trail as it jogs behind Highway 133 to the Middle School.
- Coordinate and collaborate with RFTA on signage developed for the Rio Grande Trail through town to ensure that key community destinations and amenities are highlighted. Creative District signage is out there.
- Celebrate the Rio Grande Trail as a key corridor through town, and coordinate with RFTA to support aesthetic improvements that highlight the trail as a source of community pride to visitors. Managing a GOCO mini-grant with Carbondale Arts for Youth Art Park
- Create a Native Birding Trail and Preserve in partnership with River Valley Ranch and the Roaring Fork Audubon Society along the Crystal River and Riverfront Park. Provide interpretive, directional and regulatory signage. Crystal River Restoration Project is 100 % designed and permitted with a GOCO Resilient Communities Grant, Fishing is Fun Grants, Health Rivers , CWCB grants, Water smart Grants
 - A trail connection to Nuche Park via a pedestrian bridge spanning the Crystal River should be considered dependent on funds or partnership availability This was deemed not needed due to Crystal River Restoration Efforts and to keep additional pedestrian traffic out of the wetland and passive park section of Riverfront Park. Nuche Park improvements are in progress with CMC Sustainability Students and RFOV . The parking lot project has been completed, signage, irrigation improvements for future park flora improvements.
- Focus on connectivity and wayfinding to public buildings, parks and major trail networks including the Third Street Center, Library, Town Hall, Schools, Sopris Park, Fourth Street Plaza, bus stops and the Crystal Valley and Rio Grande Trails. (Check to see if signage covers all this.)

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2022 proposed project

- Increase the Town's offerings of soft-surfaced trails within walking distance of the town core. RFTA provided this on the Rio Grande Trail
 - Designate an official recreation path on the west side of White Hill, eliminating the number of various social trails that currently exist.
 - Provide additional nature paths within parks with scenic or natural qualities. Working with RFOV and other youth groups as stewards on river park trail enhancements and other locations. Also sustainability of the trail system and an assessment of existing uses and needs. Working with CAFCI and the Audubon Society to assess a nature park birding walk area at the Nature Park.
 - Look for opportunities to create single-track trails for alternative walking, running and biking experiences. RFTA provided this on the Rio Grande Trail and we separated users as much as possible on the front side of Red Hill.
- Increase the Town's winter use trail opportunities.
 - Continue to collaborate with the County on winter use opportunities on the Rio Grande Trail east of town. (It's possible that RFTA will maintain a cross-country trail through town in the winter. We conducted a Winter Triathlon and utilized RFTA Rio Grand Trail and the Gus Darien Rodeo Grounds.) Working on this for winter trails for fat bikes and cross country skiing at the rodeo grounds.
 - Coordinate and facilitate with cyclocross race organizers their use of North Face Park for all fall and/or wintertime race series with assurances that park damage will not occur. (Fall races organized including a Turkey Trot 5 K running Race. Have organized winter races for bikes and snowshoes in Redstone) winter tri race for 2019 & 2020 and 2021
- Collaborate with local schools to leverage grant programs like Safe Routes to School to assist with funding pedestrian/bicycle multiuse trail and sidewalk improvements. Possible Safe Routes to School routes:
 - End of Weant to 133 next to History and Jail Park
 - Snowmass Drive Garfield County Built Environment Priority project.
 - Merrill & 4th (no longer applicable because school moved locations)
 - Short sections by Delores Industrial Area.
- Leverage partnerships with RFTA and their goal to connect pedestrians and bicycle commuters to the Carbondale Connector bus route stops and the Highway 133 Park and Ride lot to help fill in gaps in the trail system.
- Bike, Pedestrian and Trails Commission to evaluate lighting needs for commuters along town trails. Map of priority routes created in response to these meetings.
- Provide community education on pedestrian and bicycle rules and safety. Leverage local events such as Bonedale Bike Week, the Wild West Rodeo, Mountain Fair, etc.

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2022 proposed project

and engage the local police department and Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Commission to help educate the community and visitors about various recreation opportunities, surrounding trails and Town regulations. Make educational events applicable to all levels of bicycle users, including children and adults and beginners to experts.

- Maintain the 2014 Bicycle Friendly Community Gold Level designation and pursue recommendations to expand to Platinum status by doing the following: Bicycle Friendly Community Re-application is due in early February. Darren, Meg, and Darryl have been working on the application. Carbondale is currently at the gold level. Need to check on status with Bike Ped & Trail Commission.
 - Adopt a Complete Streets policy and offer implementation guidance. This policy will direct decision-makers to consistently fund, plan for, design, construct, operate and maintain community streets to accommodate all anticipated users (including people walking, bicycling, utilizing public transportation, personal and commercial vehicles). Gain commitment from all Town leaders and staff to adopt this policy and implement.
 - Continue to work with CDOT on making Highway 133 more bike and pedestrian friendly including recommendations for calming vehicle traffic.
 - Continue to expand the bike network and to increase network connectivity. Ensure smooth transitions for bicyclists between the local and regional trail network, and the street network.
 - Work with the responsible entities, such as the Town of Carbondale and RFTA, to ensure that all transit vehicles that operate in or through the community accommodate cyclists, particularly during peak hours.
 - Offer bicycling skills training opportunities for adults through Town Recreation Center programming. Offering bike park lessons to youth. Utilizing Roaring Fork Cycling Instructors as sub-contractors for 2022, we were unable to conduct due to covid in 2020 & 22
 - Ensure that police officers are initially and repeatedly educated on traffic law as it applies to bicyclists and motorists. Continue to encourage police officer patrolling to occur on foot and bicycle. Police now have some e-bikes and participate in our bike safety rodeos..
 - Encourage local businesses, agencies and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business program. For example, local businesses could provide discounts for customers arriving by bicycle or promote existing bicycle discount programs. (May want to check if Rodeo would offer incentives to bikers or people taking alternative transportation.)

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Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

2. Enhance Gateways

Enhance and beautify the Town’s gateway outdoor spaces, welcoming visitors and residents.

Overview

Carbondale’s key gateways into the community include access points at the intersection of Highway 133 and Highway 82 to the north and Highway 133 to the south, both of which already possess dedicated park lands with Gateway River Park and Nuche Park. Gateway River Park could be utilized to enhance the welcoming experience into Carbondale through future park development and amenities, while Nuche Park will remain as a passive park. In addition, many of the town’s visitors arrive via bicycle, and the Rio Grande and Crystal Valley trails also provide opportunities to welcome visitors and showcase Carbondale. Refer to Map 7 Proposed Gateways and River Access for the locations of features identified in the following recommendations.

Recommendations

- Implement the 2012 Gateway River Park Master Plan. (See what has been completed in “Celebrate Rivers” and the individual park section.)
- Enhance wayfinding, signage and art along trails, specifically the Rio Grande Trail and Crystal Valley Trail. Carbondale Arts and Creative District efforts on Rio Grande Trail
- Work with RFTA in the development of Rio Grande Trail gateway features on their property across from the Highway 133 Park-and-Ride. This location was identified in the RFTA Transit Oriented Development Master Plan as a promising location for a gateway.
- Designate locations for banner placement to advertise events at or near the major identified gateways.
- Expand Main Street light pole banners all the way to the Highway 133 and Main Street roundabout.

Completed

In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

3. Celebrate the Rivers

Highlight the rivers as community assets and recreation opportunities.

Overview

Carbondale has rich natural resources including two rivers running through town - the Gold Medal designated Roaring Fork River and the Crystal River. The rivers are used recreationally by fishermen and boaters. However, physical and visual access to the rivers and acknowledgement of these assets as key natural features of Carbondale is lacking, and therefore, the rivers are not widely utilized by all members of the community. Many of the following recommendations must be completed in partnership with groups working to improve the river and to gain financial support or grant money. Refer to Map 7 Proposed Gateways and River Access for the locations of features identified in the below recommendations.

Recommendations

- Consider development of “sitting areas” along an appropriate section of the Crystal or Roaring Fork River if concluded from river ecology experts that it will not undermine the environmental quality of the river riparian area. Suggest this be taken under consideration within the 2014 Crystal River Conceptual Stream Restoration Design Plan produced for the Aspen Valley Land Trust and Town of Carbondale. Now called the Crystal river Restoration Plan and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project.
- Provide a pedestrian bridge crossing over the Roaring Fork River on the east side of Highway 133, connecting to Gateway River Park.
- Leverage partnerships to improve and maintain existing riverfront trails, such as partnering with the Roaring Fork Audubon Society to implement a Native Birding Trail and Preserve along Riverfront Park RFOV Youth Group trail work.
- Partner and collaborate with Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department (CPWD) for improvements to the boat launch ramp area at Gateway River Park that is partially funded through a boater required launch put-in fee or take-out fee.(potential shared funding responsibility with CPW ,Guide Alliance and “Fishing is Fun” granting sources).
- Promote the conservation of all riparian areas, support riverbank restoration projects within critical riparian areas and contribute to watershed planning projects.
- Partner with the Carbondale and Rural Fire Protection District, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and ecological/native bird experts to periodically conduct fire hazard assessments of trails along the Crystal River, in those areas where overgrown vegetation has led to the trails becoming inaccessible and a fire hazard.
- Employ naturalized stormwater treatment techniques such as naturalized detention, bio-swales, rain gardens, native vegetation and trees, terracing and porous pavements to improve water quality.

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Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Organize river clean-up days and gather volunteers through partnerships with organizations such as the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Roaring Fork Conservancy, Roaring Fork Audubon Society, river guides and outfitter companies and other community volunteer groups.
- The Town owned island parcel on the Roaring Fork River should be preserved in its natural state with no camping permitted, and only one sign (if needed) should be permitted on the island.
- Support the 2015 Crystal River Conceptual Stream Restoration Design Plan produced for the Aspen Valley Land Trust and Town of Carbondale. The plan addresses approximately 1.4 miles of river within town, and makes the following recommendations: Planning grant for GOCO submitted Nov 2017 with AVLTL partner not accepted but other funding sources are keeping the project alive. This project is 100% designed and permitted. Received Federal Fishing is Fun Grant and AVLTL GOCO Resilient Communities Grant earmarked for ADA Accessibility trail and outdoor classroom construction in 2022 after in stream work is complete. Instream grants are in progress. Work window is March to end of September.
 - Improve aquatic habitat, including natural reproduction, rearing habitat, holding cover and winter low flow and high flow refugia.
 - Provide a diversity of fishing opportunities and access.
 - Provide a trail system that provides ADA access to the river, small off-channel streams and oxbows for a variety of fishing and recreational opportunities.
 - Create a stable stream by emulating the stable channel morphology to reduce the sediment deposition (mid-channel bars) and land loss from streambank erosion.
 - Reduce the flood stage for normal floods by increasing sediment transport capacity.
 - Protect bridges and other infrastructure from erosion damage.
 - Improve the streamflow diversions at the Carbondale, Weaver and Leonhardy canals to promote stream stability and reduce the sediment being transported into the diversion canals.
 - Improve the recreational boating and provide an access area for boating. This is not part of the present plans for this stretch of river.
 - Provide an educational opportunity explaining the various river system components, including restoration structures, the riparian community, and the various habitats associated within the river corridor.

4. Address Financial Stability

Secure the Town's fiscal health in order to upkeep and maintain existing parks, trails and recreation amenities.

Overview

Maintenance and upkeep of existing parks, trails and recreational amenities is dependent upon the financial stability and fiscal health of the Town to adequately budget for staff and equipment resources to meet those needs. Within this objective is the ability to improve operations and cost recovery practices of the parks and recreation department, as well as create fundraising opportunities.

Recommendations

Fundraising, Donations and Volunteers:

- Develop an advertising and awareness campaign that encourages people to shop locally, thus supporting parks, recreation and trails through the existing half (½) cent recreation sales tax.
- Develop and identify fundraising strategies for assisting with upkeep and maintenance of existing parks, trails and recreation amenities.
- Utilize volunteers for efforts that provide opportunities to engage the public in park and trail improvement projects. Prior volunteer labor efforts have helped in the establishment of park amenities and features, but typically dwindles over the life span of the improvements. If there are unsustainable maintenance needs created from volunteer led projects, then volunteer help is better suited for efforts that have finite schedules. (North Face Bike Park Volunteer "Dig to ride" days). Working with Ascendigo Vocational Volunteers for weed mitigation in our parks and public spaces. Roaring Fork Leadership created Garden Squad is a volunteer effort to take care of the Town gardens. 2019-20 The Friends of the Nature Park in 2020-22 helped with park cleanup and weed mitigation and trail maintenance. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers bring student groups to help with weed mitigation and trail maintenance also.
- Create a "Gifts for Parks" catalogue that outlines and provides information on how citizens can provide vital support to Carbondale parklands through a variety of gift donations that can be donor earmarked toward purchasing small park amenities such as a commemorative tree, park bench, picnic table, drinking fountain, etc., or to larger capital park beautification or renovation projects. Memorial Bench Policy Exists.
- Provide protocol for how individual donors, organized groups, local and regional businesses and corporations can honor a person or event; memorialize a family member or colleague; or celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special event

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- through a commemorative gift to the Parks and Recreation Department. (Should create long term protocol to provide money for public improvements.) Turnbulls donated picnic shade shelter to town at the Rodeo Grounds and new protocol and contractual procedures were created to finalize that donation in 2017 and Roaring Fork Pickleball Association donated the development and construction costs of a 6 court dedicated pickleball courts in 2020-21. Ramey Harvey Park Donation and the Carbondale Town Center 4th street plaza park are new park spaces donated in 2021-22
- Acknowledge all donors through a dated certificate commemorating the gift, a map recording the placement of the gift, and recognition with a plaque or sign at the site, along with an annual notice in the Recreation Department program brochure.
 - Create special capital fundraising opportunities through a special recognition program. Special signage programs can be useful tools for attracting sponsorships, donations, grants and other types of funding that help to enhance the parks and trails system. Provide opportunities for naming a newly constructed recreational facility after a corporate business, organization or individual donors who make a significant monetary contribution to funding the capital construction costs of the facility. Young Calloway Alpine Bank Pickleball Courts at the North Face Park Potential Naming rights for the future Aquatics Facility or aquatic elements within the project..

Developer Created Parks and Trails:

- Adopt policies and requirements within the Unified Development Code that discourage reliance on Town financial and staff resources for the creation and maintenance of parks to serve development projects.
- Require new development to construct and maintain trail and sidewalk connections within their development to the larger Town sidewalk/trail system.
- Strengthen the local food system through promoting community garden space as open space that contributes to development and subdivision park exactions. (Do we currently have enough? Hendricks Community Garden Full 2019 & 2020 Demeters Garden in the Bonnie Fisher Park had 3 or 4 plots still available 2019. In 2020 extra plots were given free if a percentage of the crop was donated to Lift UP. 2021 gardens were ufill with wait lists. If considering more gardens need them on the north side of town. Promenade Park public garden expansion?

Recreation and Community Center Operations Cost Recovery:

- Implement modifications to the Recreation and Community Center to improve cost recovery by providing services that will attract and retain members, guests and participants. Cooking Classes, new class offerings, collaboration w/Carbondale Arts. 2019-2020 before Covid-19 Modifications include renovating existing space, or adding to this space, to provide dedicated areas for both fitness classes and cardio

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equipment(re-purposing the activity room for yoga and personal training, kitchen for cooking classes.)

- Study the membership price point to see if costs are competitive within the Roaring Fork Valley and value-added for user groups including children, adults, seniors and families. (conducted benchmarking in 2017 for fee restructure in 2018 Next Fee restructuring in 2022 for benchmarking, 2023 price increase. .

Town Facilities Operations Cost Recovery:

- If funding for pool operations and maintenance becomes a financial subsidy burden for the Town, consider closure of the pool.
- If the pool is closed, consider construction of a children's splash pad area that will reduce staff and resource costs incurred by the Town.
- Consider charging event organizers or event sponsors standard overtime labor costs of Town employees who are associated with hanging banners, closing and blocking of streets, facility setup/breakdown, etc. (We don't charge for these, but we do require some parties to provide security at own cost, and trash service and clean-up services.) We will be charging for staff time to set up and take down the new mobile stage.
- Study the financial costs or benefits of outsourcing the Gateway RV Park Campground operations to a private commercial vendor rather than continuing as a Parks and Recreation Department function. State looking for new state park designations.
- Study the financial costs or benefits of outsourcing cemetery operations. Compare the Town's fee schedule to other cemetery offerings within the Roaring Fork Valley to determine if cemetery charges and rates are optimal and maximized. Determine if obtaining additional land for future community cemetery burial needs is cost effective.
- Require park rental fees from all private vendors and instructors (i.e., yoga, tennis, Crossfit classes) who utilize Town parks for profit-making fitness classes or lessons non-profits are not being charged due to covid-19 emergency in 2020-21 .We have adapted an existing recreation amenities rental form to include commercial ventures.with our existing fee structures.
- Develop a fee structure and rental agreement for short-term boarding of horses at the Gus Darien Riding Arena.
- Consider acquisition of adjacent land to the Gus Darien Riding Arena to secure future parking needs of the Carbondale Wild West Rodeo and to eliminate yearly lease of private land for parking purposes.

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Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- 2020-21 Develop a fee structure and rental agreement for use of the mobile stage by other event producers. Working on the rules and regulations for the stage rental fee waiver for non-profits.

5. Maintain Existing Amenities

Focus on enhancing existing parks before spearheading expansion to new locations.

Overview

Carbondale's neighborhood parks are abundant for a community of its size, and offer parklands for passive recreational use and active recreational use. The enticement to expand the Town's park system to create new recreational amenities and offerings, and fill voids and gaps within it can be great. Given the lack of funds available for new parkland acquisition, planning and design, development, and operations and maintenance the Town may want to consider that its focus be on the enhancement of its existing parks system, and completion of projects that are already on the drawing board, prior to spearheading expansion of new park projects and locations. Town emphasis should focus and be on the operation and care of parklands already in place. Completion of existing park projects, including certain element features of the Nature Park, Gateway River Park, and Bonnie Fischer Park should become the priority. However, if opportunities arise to acquire park dedicated properties through residential or commercial land-use development, through a joint public and private partnership, through a property gift to the Town, or through other affordable options, then the Town should determine the long-term maintenance care costs of the park property being considered within their decision making to acquire the property. North Face Pickelball Court Project.2019-20 Ramey -Harvey Park and 4th street Plaza Park 2022, Marketplace lofts at Lot 1 public parkland dedication. In 2022.

Several ways the Town can exemplify their focus on caring for existing parklands, both for passive recreational use and active recreational use, is through the following means:

- Continue a culture of pride in the operation, maintenance and care of existing parks.
- If appropriate advance the completion of existing park master plan projects. (Working on Bonnie Fisher, Gateway, Crystal River Riverfront, Nuche,) FMLD grant received for fence at Bonnie Fisher Park Gateway Water storage and system enhancement scheduled and budgeted for 2018. 2019-20 budget will contain electrical improvements at Gateway RV Park from 30 amps to 50 amp pedestals and the replacement of the Miners' Park Playground funded from two \$25,000 FMLD Mini-grants and a donation from the Carbondale Noon Rotary Club. .FMLD Grant Received Spring 2020 for Gianenetti Park playground renovations FMLD Grants not received for phase 2 of Gianinetti Park in 2021.

Completed
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Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Establish clear policies of park and trail use, with rules and regulations, and enforce these policies Working on a Dogs in Park Map for all of town parks .
- Continue to address park safety issues and ADA compliance accessibility issues, and if possible meet the standards of Universal Design.
- Wherever feasible, and fiscally possible, the Town should strive for designing and developing parks and recreation facilities to meet standards of Universal Design, but at a minimum, will comply with ADA requirements.
- Balance short-term park improvements to meet long-term sustainability and suitability objectives.
- Address existing park maintenance needs and park enhancement improvement needs Produced FMLD grant for Spring 2018 for bathroom renovations at Sopris and Miners. New Roof at Gianinetti Park Bathrooms and a new solar system and roof at Miners Park . Grant for Playground replacement in Miners acquired. Spring (received) and Fall (did not receive) FMLD mini grants slated for Park Playground improvements at Gianinetti Park. Fall or Spring 2022 FMLD Mini-grant for Hendricks or Colorado Meadows Playground Improvements.

Recommendations

Continue a culture of pride in the operation, maintenance and care of existing parks:

- Implement crowdsource mapping to identify maintenance needs, trails/bike connections, etc.
- Continue to fundraise, develop a park gifts catalog, and apply for grants to fund park improvements.
- Ensure park and bathroom closures at designated times to prevent public use when park grounds and facilities are not adequately monitored.
- Create a “Bark Ranger” volunteer program such as used in Colorado Springs to enforce rules and regulations within the Nature Park and Hendrick Dog Park (Doggie Park).
- Create a neighborhood “Adopt-a-Park” program. Friends of the Nature Park Group formed 2020
- Seek solutions to provide greater organizational structure and resources for growing food, permaculture and community gardens on public properties. Look to examples such as the Mid Valley Community Garden Collective Working with FARM RX programs with Garfield Healthy Communities Coalition, Roaring Fork Food Alliance, Roaring Gardens, Cooking Matters and Colorado State university Extension for

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

cooking classes. Farmers Market is also accepting SNAP USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which works like Food Stamps

Advance the completion of existing park master plan projects:

- Before constructing additional parks or larger scale facilities, and as funding becomes available, prioritize and advance the completion of financially feasible recreational amenities outlined within existing approved master plans (Working on Bonnie Fisher and Gateway Master Plans and other park improvements from the 2015 Master Plan).

Establish clear policies of park and trail use with rules and regulations, and enforce these policies:

- Park signage with rules, regulations, opening/closing hours, and user expectations are needed to maintain quality of facilities, eliminate park user conflicts, and provide means for law enforcement to regulate and enforce rules. Park signage should be bilingual and easily visible.
- Park hours of permitted use should be clear regarding seasonal extended hour usage in specific parks where lighting exists such as North Face Park or the Gus Darien Riding Arena. Some park rule signage locations need Spanish translation.
- Consider prohibiting use of tent stakes in parks for events, as they have the potential to puncture and damage park irrigation water lines. Use of water drums, sand bags or a built-in system to secure tents should be considered. New rules for vehicles in Sopris Park and new bounce House Rules
- Develop and adopt by Town Ordinance an updated set of park rules, regulations and policies that address new park user conflicting issues (i.e., driving golf balls, operating drones, bike and skate park helmet requirements, private vendors, etc.) Engage the public in determining appropriate rules and regulations for the community and gain buy-in before adopting. E-Bikes on asphalt trails and dirt trails public outreach in progress.

Continue to address park safety and ADA compliance accessibility issues:

- Conduct a restroom facility review at each park site to determine and prioritize a plan to renovate, repair, enlarge, or build a restroom where rented portable toilets are currently located. This review should consider ADA compliance and accessibility issues, along with adequate restroom size to accommodate spectator and public usage needs at large athletic and/or special community events (i.e., North Face Park, Sopris Park, Bonnie Fischer Park, Miners Park, Gianinetti Park, Nature Park and etc.).
- Explore the opportunities for minor and major outdoor public swimming pool improvements (see additional recommendations in the "Plan for the Future" section). Aquatics Facility Master Plan Completed

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Provide activities and/or amenities within Town parks, on trails and within recreation programs to assist both the general and special needs population to build strength and fitness.
- All new construction and renovation projects for existing facilities should meet or exceed the requirements and specifications of the ADA (*for reference see Department of Justice compliance table for ADA.*) New ADA automatic door at the Carbondale Recreation Center
- Update an ADA facilities compliance list.
- Wherever possible, the Town will also strive to meet standards of Universal Design.

Balance short-term park improvements to meet long-term sustainability and suitability objectives:

The Town's Comprehensive Plan provides many objectives for creating a sustainable future, aligning community, environment and economy. The following are only some of the recommendations in this plan designed to support the sustainability goals for protecting natural assets, reducing impacts on climate, and aspiring to a sustainable lifestyle.

- Consider employment of an environmentally friendly park wide naturalized stormwater drainage management system.
- Create a replacement schedule for existing parks and recreation infrastructure. Changing Miners Park irrigation from domestic to ditch and replacing Highway 1333 south irrigation system with more efficient smart water saving systems and vfd pumps.
- Partner with the Carbondale and Rural Fire Protection District to conduct fire assessments in Town parks and trails every two years to ensure they are firewise and not creating unnecessary threats. Direct efforts at Stairway Park and the Crystal Riverfront Park and the Delaney Nature Park.
- Seek solutions to weed management and noxious weed controls within parks, along open-space corridors and trails. Work with the Town of Carbondale Environmental Board and others to seek solutions to the weed problems within parks. Experimenting with natural burn down herbicides *Avenger* and Vinegar based products on bike park, ball field infields, RV Park, Recreation center Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, Summer 2018-2019. Integrated Weed Management Plan was adopted in 2019. Testing steam machine control Methods 2020-21. Requesting use of chemical based herbicide use on our problem parks for 2022 along with Natural Land Manager techniques and potentially goats
- Add filtration systems for park irrigation to reduce annual costs of sprinkler irrigation head replacement.
- Address existing park maintenance needs and park enhancement improvement needs.

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

Take care of existing park amenities and improvement needs as described in the breakdown of the following specific park sites (park locations identified on Map 8: Carbondale Parks):

Carbondale Nature Park

- Develop a park "Friends Group" to assist with special projects and encourage volunteer efforts. BP& T suggestion to create a more sustainable and permanent path not subject to spring time puddles and erosion. Will continue with wood chips and potentially pea gravel at the low and muddy portions of the trail
- Install a high capacity portable spray irrigation system for purposes of weed reduction. Conducted a controlled burn in the spring of 2020 and 2021. Conducted test plots for a side by side comparison of a natural vs. a chemical based herbicide in 2021..Results were inconclusive.

Gateway River Park

- Renovate or rebuild the bathroom and shower facility and upgrade ADA accessibility. (Completed in both women's and men's by May 2017.)
- Make upgrade improvements to the water and sewer infrastructure serving the RV Campground.State Permit to create water storage unit and pump to enhance water service for park users. 2018 budget. Purchased and installed prior to 2018 season.
- Make improvements to the lower boat launch parking lot and widen the boat ramp launch area.
- Upgrade electrical service within the RV Campground from the existing 30 amp service to 50 amp service in order to meet the demands of today's RV users.. A phased project.2019-2022 will be completed spring of 2022.
- If funding becomes available, implementation of additional amenity features outlined within the 2012 Master Plan should be considered. Looking at feasibility of irrigating park and additional tree landscaping. CIP for 2021-2024.Conducting radio-WIFI project to be functional in Spring of 2022.

Gianinetti Park We replaced the basketball court concrete in 2017 and the backboards. Not in original plan. Replacing disc golf signage in 2022.)

- Expand park ADA playground equipment and park features with FMLD Spring 2020 Mini-grant.
- Park playground bench installed for parents watching their children.
- Renovate and remodel the restrooms. Small improvements for 2020 Added handicap sink on outside of bathrooms.2017, new sidewalks and roof on bathroom.

Completed

In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

Gus Darien Rodeo Grounds Riding Arena

- Construct a covered roof over the bleachers FMLD Traditional Grant.
- Improve the announcer's booth through a renovation and reconstruction project so that it meets Town code. FMLD Traditional Grant
- Acquire adjacent property if financially feasible for current and future parking needs.
- Expand bike, pedestrian and alternative transportation incentives. (enhance alternative transportation incentives.)
- Added electric service to picnic shade pavilion and for caterers locations.

Hendrick Dog Park

- Replace the irrigation pump.
- Monitor weed issues in periphery areas. Weed whacking method .(purchasing dog agility equipment to replace existing with a more permanent pre-fabricated structures. munity Garden
- New By-laws and Garden elections in 2017 for 2018, New election every fall.
- New shed (from Rodeo Lot) Fence repair. Renovated for functionality and received architectural review from Hendricks Homeowners association.
- New alignment of irrigation lines to enhance access on main trail 2017
- New surplus chip rock used for pathway enhancement and weed control 2017
- New VFD Pump installed for irrigation of the entire Hendricks Park, dog park and Community Garden.

Miner's Park

- Complete the sidewalk network in concrete or asphalt, replacing the section that is currently a soft surface. Completed park sidewalk on south perimeter.
- Park playground bench installed for parents watching their children.
- Repair cracks and/or replace concrete basketball court surface.
- If funding becomes available, the construction of designated Pickleball and Platform Tennis Courts could occur at this park location.. Happened at the North Face Park 2019-20. Funded by the Roaring Fork Pickleball Association.
- Explore opportunities to add infrastructure to utilize this park for events. Bathroom roof replacement Fall 2018 and solar enhancement form FMLD grant. Playground

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

replacement with mini-FMLD grant Fall 2018 and spring 2019 . Work was conducted Fall of 2019.

North Face Park

- Enlarge existing or add an additional restroom facility. Installing an additional porta potty at the Tennis and Pickleball courts seasonally.
- Pave and stripe the parking lots to address the maintenance issues associated with highly-use parking area. Address increased stormwater runoff with best practices for stormwater management.
- Replace crusher fines path walkways with an asphalt surface to decrease manual weed maintenance needed.
- Repair concrete surfaces. Repaired CIRSA identified concrete hazards in 2019. Skate park needs additional repairs
- Explore and consider options to utilize the park for large community events, adding needed event infrastructure including an outdoor bandshell or covered stage. Assess the electrical power availability and needs for larger events to be used with our mobile stage.
- Collaborate and partner with the RE-1 School District on developing elements of the park site as proposed within the 2009 Sports Complex Master Plan. Plan is defunct.
- Phase 2 improvements and/or expansion of the Bike Park. (Added small pump track for strider bikes and ongoing improvements, upkeep, maintenance , and weed mitigation.) Will try test plots for organic herbicide for weed control Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, 2019 Avenger works, but requires multiple applications. Used pea gravel and weed barrier and rubber tiles in 2021 for weed mitigation. Potential location for steam machine weed mitigation along with chemical herbicide spot spraying of list A & B noxious weeds.
- If funding becomes available, add lights to the Bike Park and Skateboard Park for evening nighttime recreational use. Provide lights on existing tennis/pickleball courts for extended evening play. (Feasibility study for lighting at the skate park, user driven fundraising efforts presently underway, in-kind electric work and repurposing of existing poles from other town project (would need a planning grant in 2022-2023 due to scope of projects and public outreach) Musco Quote of \$390,000 2020 Look at upgrading lights to a retrofitted LED. Would need to add two to 4 new poles for full coverage of ball field.
- Consider construction of designated Pickleball and Platform Tennis Courts where the existing 12 & under soccer practice field now exists. Looked at school district property on Meadow wood Drive and Fire Department Land for stand alone pickleball courts .Roaring Fork Pickleball Association raised money to build 6 pickleball courts

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

at the North Face Park. 2020 Completed Summer 2020 RFP completed their reimbursement of the construction costs by Dec 31, 2021.

- A fence will be installed on the south side of the soccer field, north side of parking lot, to keep vehicle traffic from accessing the park.

Nuche Park

- Be mindful of the RVR protective covenants when determining improvements.
- Provide interpretive signage regarding historical information on the park's name, and that also provides information on the natural environment, habitat, and ecology of the site.
- Improve the ecology and environmental habitat.
- Other than the minor park improvements listed above, the park should be preserved in its natural state as much as possible. Establish parking area to stop degradation by vehicles. 2020 and 21 funded project. Completed for Spring 2021.

Promenade Park

- Modify the existing demonstration wild flower gardens currently overrun with weeds, and redo in grass turf, along with creating a community vegetable garden along the Rio Grande Trail. (Created a raised garden and used it for the summer garden boot camp, camp moved to Demeters garden 2018. Possibility of expanding this community garden and renting plots. Presently being used by citizens for free 2019-21

Sopris Park

- Replace the older components within the playground area and provide for ADA accessibility. FMLD Fall Grant 2017-8 to replace worm and added spinning element.
- Park playground bench installed for parents watching their children.
- Add trees in locations that do not conflict with circulation or event setup. A fence was installed on South West corner along with rocks to protect trees. .
- Pave with asphalt the existing crusher fine trail leading to the picnic shade shelter to avoid current weed and vegetation growth issues that impact these trails and to improve ADA accessibility.
- Produce a tree identification system and map. Pilot Project of Environment Board and Tree Board 2020-21

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

Stairway Park

- Maintain safe stairway access into the park by providing a non-slip surface on the stairs. (Completed fire mitigation.)
- Initiate streambank restoration to prevent shoreline erosion.

Bonnie Fisher Park

- Implement those amenity features outlined within the 2011 Master Plan that are financially feasible with available funds and the ones that are relevant to enhancing the needs of current and future park users. (Completed bread oven, shelter, trails.) Playground, bathrooms, fencing around Demeter's Garden, orchard and basketball courts not yet completed or budgeted for. Fence along 133 west edge FMLD Fall Grant Park Improvements 2017- 2018
- Signage for parking rules and vehicle storage rules for Demeters garden and for the access road and right of way along the east fence of the access road.

RVR Triangle Park

- Park playground bench installed for parents watching their children. And one along side new Triangle Park Connector Trail from parking lot to 133 trail.
- Park Playground replacement project funded by RVR . Orchard Park Playground replacement and park amenities enhancements. Funded by RVR completion Winter/ Spring 2020.

Hendrick Park

- Park playground bench installed for parents watching their children.
- Playground replacement is part of CIP 2022

6. Plan for the Future

Upon securing fiscal health, create financial mechanisms to develop and maintain new projects.

Overview

The ability to create and focus on new projects relies on obtaining significant additional funding. Community-wide survey results provided insight that voters may be likely to support a sales tax increase to support new recreation, park and trail efforts. The Town of Carbondale's total sales tax is 8.40 percent with 0.5 percent of it resulting from the existing recreation and use sales tax. Table 1 shows that Carbondale's current tax is not the highest or the lowest in the region as compared to similar mountain communities in Colorado. This suggests it may be reasonable for Carbondale to increase its sales tax, but keep in mind that local voters and business owners

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

may be less likely to support an increase as Carbondale reaches the upper thresholds of the tax range. Several communities similar to Carbondale have been successful in passing a recreation, open space, and/or trails sales tax. Carbondale has a lower percent sales tax for this purpose than the communities of Basalt, Snowmass Village, Crested Butte, Gunnison and Avon. Further steps are needed to determine if a half cent increase for recreation would be supported by voters. If approved by voters, it would allow the Town to complete the more expensive priority projects within the next 10 years. If a more conservative quarter cent increase for recreation is supported by voters, it would meet some smaller priority project needs, but would be mainly used for more improved maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities.

Table 1: Sales Tax Comparison

Town/City	Town/City Tax Rate	Special Districts	County Tax Rate	State Tax Rate	TOTAL TAX	Lodging Tax	Specially Earmarked
Carbondale	3.50%	1.00%	1.00%	2.90%	8.40%	2.00%	.5% Recreation and Use Sales Tax
Glenwood Springs	3.70%	1.00%	1.00%	2.90%	8.60%	2.50%	1.5% Capital, .2% Transit & .5% Streets
Basalt (Eagle County)	3.00%	0.80%	1.50%	2.90%	8.20%	4.00%	1% Open Space Tax
Basalt (Pitkin County)	3.00%	0.80%	2.60%	2.90%	9.30%	4.00%	1% Open Space Tax
Snowmass Village	3.50%	0.40%	3.60%	2.90%	10.40%	2.40%	2.5% for Marketing
Crested Butte	4.00%	0.60%	1.00%	2.90%	8.50%	4.00%	Additional Voluntary 1% Open Space Sales Tax
City of Gunnison	4.00%	0.35%	1.00%	2.90%	8.25%	4.00%	1% Recreation sales tax
City of Rifle	4.25%		1.00%	2.90%	8.15%	2.50%	1% Parks and Recreation sales tax
Avon	4.00%	0.50%	1.00%	2.90%	8.40%	4.00%	1.5% Open Space & Trails, .15% Parking Structure & .45% Housing & Daycare
Breckenridge	2.50%	0.88%	2.00%	2.90%	8.28%	3.40%	.5% Open Space & 1.46% Marketing

Sources: City/Town websites as of December 2014

Upon securing sufficient funding for maintenance of existing facilities, consider a strategy to save and earmark a percent of Recreation Sales and Use tax dollars for the local match required to apply and seek Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District grants needed for high cost improvement projects. Citizen voter approval to secure bonds may also be required for larger projects that include improvements to the following:

- John M. Fleet Swimming Pool Planning grant application Nov 2018 for potential award March 2019 Received grant of \$56,500 with a match of \$18,500 from the RSUT Fund for a Pool Master plan. Closeout of GOCO grant is March 2021
- John M. Fleet Swimming Pool Bond Measure on the ballot in April 2022.
- Sidewalk network completion (see "Improve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Network" section).

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Completion of the Gateway River Park (see *“Improve and Enhance Gateways and Celebrate the Rivers”* sections).
- Crystal River accessibility and restoration and riparian enhancements (see *“Celebrate the Rivers”* section).
- Landscaping and beautification projects in our parks and along trails (see the *“Bicycle and Pedestrian Network”* section).
- Covered Ice Rink Facility (possibly enclosed, and private funding needed).

Recommendations

Pursue a Tax Increase to Support Long-term Priority Projects:

- Engage the local business community in a discussion of the implications of a tax increase.
- Evaluate alternative tax options and their potential revenue, such as:
 - A quarter-cent sales tax increase to the Recreation Sales and Use Tax to support some of the lower-cost improvements identified in this plan (could result in a \$250,000 annual increase to this fund if current sales tax return rates continue).
 - A half-cent sales tax increase to the Recreation Sales and Use Tax to support some of the greater cost projects long-term identified in this plan (could result in a \$500,000 annual increase to this fund if current sales tax return rates continue).
 - Sunset period for sales tax increase.
 - A property tax increase designated for park and trail maintenance purposes. A property tax increase would require voters to approve a property tax mill levy for a specific service or purpose (if the existing Town property tax levels were doubled it could result in approximately \$213,000 annually if current property tax return rates continue). The creation of a property tax for a service area beyond the Town boundaries could be introduced if a Parks and Recreation District or Subordinate Agency and Area were established.
 - A voluntary sales tax program (similar to the Town of Crested Butte’s 1% Open Space program).
 - Tax limited to recreation product sales (similar to the City of Colorado Springs Bicycle Sales Tax).
- Conduct a voter study and possible poll to determine the projects and ballot language that would lead to voter support.
- Develop a ballot issue for inclusion as early as autumn 2015 or for a spring or autumn 2016 election. April 2022 election for a bond debt without raising taxes.

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

Swimming Pool:

There are five tiers of pool improvements that can be evaluated and phased over time, ranging from small safety and accessibility upgrades to a long-term funded newly built pool facility. An aquatic facility and financial feasibility study will need to be conducted concerning all future options for the John M. Fleet Pool that was built in 1978 and is now 42 years old. Design Workshop was hired to conduct this master Plan and it should examine all the various cost options ranging from renovating/remodeling the existing pool facility to building a new swimming pool facility.

- Tier 1: Recreation Sales Tax Increase to address Safety and Accessibility Upgrades (near-term needs):
 - Renovate the existing bathhouse to meet accessibility and safety standards. Improve safety access for emergency responders by improving vehicular access to the gate.
 - Consider changes to the perimeter pool fence that are visually more aesthetic than chain link, yet allow better visibility into the pool during evening hours by patrol officers to deter illegal trespass activity. Fencing must also meet the desires of pool users for privacy during pool hours.
 - Create a zero depth sloped entry into the pool for improved accessibility.
 - Provide a temporary pool shade canopy or covering.
 - Renovate and remodel pool exterior and interior spaces to improve appearance and user comfort. Replaced outside pool door and paint every year, flower box repair, new chairs, new pool heater.
- Tier 2: Recreation Sales Tax Increase to address the Bathhouse and Minor Pool Improvements:
 - Replace the bathhouse with a new structure that meets today's accessibility and comfort needs.
 - Create a larger lawn area adjacent to the pool for sunbathing.
 - Replace the filtration system and upgrade mechanical systems.
 - Replace the wading pool with a splash pad. Repaired Wading Pool with new plaster 2018, new pumps 2019
 - Replace the pool slide and consider other poolside amenities.
 - Install a permanent shade structure.
- Tier 3: Recreation Sales Tax Increase to address the Bathhouse and Major Pool Renovation Improvements:
 - Bathhouse and other improvements as described in Tier 2 approach.

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Rebuild the pool with improved layout and amount of pool features such as an outdoor lap pool, children's play pool and outdoor therapeutic spa.
- Tier 4: Recreation Sales Tax Increase and Bond Referendum to address Construction, Operation and Maintenance of: see above
 - Year-round tent or bubble structure over the existing pool
 - (OR) a Year-round heated outdoor lap pool
- Tier 5: Recreation Sales Tax Increase and Bond Referendum to address Construction, Operation and Maintenance of:
 - Year-round Indoor Aquatic Center that incorporates play features into the design.

Ice Rink:

A community interest group of members expressed and advocated interest for building an indoor or covered ice rink facility. The Town would need to work with this organized interest group to assist them in finding available land, study local market conditions, and determine financial implications regarding operations and maintenance requirements, along with participation as a partner in fundraising efforts. To satisfy the short term desires and to enhance the existing ice rinks, methods of extending the ice season should be investigated (i.e., shade structure over the downtown rink, and or the cost of temporary refrigeration options and compressors allowing for a more traditional refrigerated surface that could extend the season by two to three months). Private funding received by Crown Mountain Recreation District to build this facility mid valley in 2021-

7. Distinguish Carbondale

Promote and focus on becoming renowned for the unique assets that express Carbondale's identity.

Overview

Carbondale has a reputation and identity grounded in several themes, including its ranching heritage, strong bicycle culture, access to mountain adventure as a basecamp to the great outdoors and a diverse community of arts, culture and community celebrations. In addition, Carbondale holds a high status for being a leader in energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. Carbondale should promote and focus on being renowned for these assets unique to the community.

Recommendations

Special events are well celebrated within the community and can generate community excitement and support for the parks, generate revenue for the local economy, and attract visitors and enhance tourism opportunities.

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Identify, enhance and promote sites that are suitable for hosting recreation events. Many of Carbondale's existing parks and open spaces are excellent choices and well suited for hosting local, regional and national events. Sites such as Sopris Park, North Face Park, Miners Park, Bonnie Fischer Park, Gus Darien Riding Arena, and the Downtown Fourth Street Park and Plaza all should be considered. River Valley Ranch Driving Range was used for a community concert in 2021. Amenities and services for events should include water, electrical and adequate restroom facilities.
- Advertise and utilize both the North Face Bike Park and the North Face Skateboard Park, which will draw out-of-town visitor users. Host events centered in these facilities including competitions and community festivals.
- Consider the opportunities to host winter events in parks, such as snow sculptures, sledding, ice skating, hockey, winter bike races, etc.
- Rotate events throughout Town parks in order to allow sites to recover from use impacts, and to lessen neighborhood impacts with increased noise and traffic, and to keep events unique and special. The Town purchased a portable bandshell with stage for use in hosting events in a variety of locations. A mobile 20'x16' stage in 2020. First use was 2021 with 8 uses.
- Consider the conversion of Fourth Street between Main and Garfield, where the CCAH Launchpad is located, into a Downtown Festival Street Plaza. Utilize traffic calming measures like removable bollards and mountable speed tables to occasionally, seasonally or permanently close the street off to automobile traffic. This one block also lends itself to becoming a permanent pedestrian mall between downtown and the CCAH Launch Pad for Special Event festivals, the farmers market, concerts and First Friday activities. (Band of Heathens celebrating Creative District one year anniversary utilized the entire block down to Garfield as did the farmer market in 2017, block party in 2018-19, Our Town, One Table in 2017-19 Farmers Market in 2018-19, Ride the Rockies 2019 and Farmers Market for 2022.
- Calendar/Schedule of events: Collaborate across Town departments to manage a Parks Calendar of Events. A well-managed event calendar balances park events with non-event days to maintain the intended use of the system and allow for grounds recuperation after events. This calendar should also be used to coordinate various departments on extra labor needs leading up to and after events, such as Public Works and Police/Public Safety. This is the byproduct of the Special Events Task Force.
- Encourage the creation of a signature food event or festival celebrating Carbondale's Food Heritage, Ranching Heritage, and proximity to educational farms like Sustainable Settings and Rock Bottom Ranch. (Our Town, One Table and Potato Day Event and October Harvest fest new event)
- Carbondale is a diverse and bilingual community. Highlight the diversity within events that appeal to both Latino and Anglo populations to bridge the differences within the community and focus on the commonalities. Music acts that appeal to English and

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

Spanish speakers is one opportunity to embrace the diversity, as are events highlighting food. (Festival Las America & 3 Mexican Rodeos scheduled in 2019 and in 2020 and 2021. Cancelled due to covid-19. Re-scheduled for 2022.

- Encourage and support emerging recreational activities such as Pickleball that offer unique opportunities for hosting tournaments that bring visiting players into the community. Tournaments scheduled by RFPA for 2020 Cancelled due to Covid-19. One tournament completed for 2021. Two tournaments scheduled for 2022.
- Maintain all Town events as green and environmentally friendly that promote zero waste. Utilization of revenues from the City Market plastic bag fee could be considered as a means to support and/or subsidize this effort.

8. Provide Sports Facilities

Focus on providing sports practice fields and indoor recreation within the community, and partner with valley-wide recreation providers for larger complexes and tournament spaces.

Overview

The Town of Carbondale experiences a higher demand than availability exists for recreational fields to support organized youth and teen athletic programs, adult leagues and growing interest in new or alternative field sports and pickup games. The shortage is most notable amongst soccer fields, but it is also a logistical challenge with scheduling lacrosse, rugby, bicycle polo, ultimate Frisbee and mountain bike team practice, to name a few.

The community has expressed challenges in having practice fields out of the proximity required for youth to safely walk or bicycle to the field locations. Another challenge is when parents have children participating in games at different locations and the logistics of going back and forth.

A lack of gym space also poses challenges within the community. While the Recreation Center has a gym, it is often booked and sometimes has multiple, incompatible uses occurring within it. The RE-1 schools also have gyms, but they are currently not shared with the Town to supplement youth and recreational needs independent of school-sponsored activities.

Recommendations

- Work with the RE-1 school district to encourage a maximization of the number of sports athletic fields within their properties by implementing all or some of the proposals outlined within the School District 2009 Sports Complex Master Plan. Plan is defunct.
- Look for shared opportunities for fields and indoor gym use that are compatible uses for user groups. We use elementary gym for youth basketball practice because volunteer coach is a teacher there.

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Continue the close relationship with the RE-1 school district to share facilities. Consider Recreation Department coordination of all scheduling of athletic field and gym use after school hours, removing the burden from the schools, if they are interested.
- Develop partnership cooperation with schools to utilize their gymnasiums to supplement demand for indoor space during peak seasonal times. Unable to pursue due to covid.
- Consider opportunities to add sports lighting to the Tiny Nightingale fields for baseball and soccer play. These fields are located on school district properties and therefore coordination with the schools and a revised Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) would be needed. We need to expand out lighting needs at the North face Bill Hanks Park First.
- Focus on providing youth team practices in town, so that it is convenient for parents to drop off and pick up children and/or they can bike or walk to the fields.
- Consider reconfiguration of the North Face ballfield into a high school baseball field if it will result in additional community ballfields and soccer fields where the existing Ron Patch Baseball Field is located, as outlined within the School District 2009 Sports Complex Master Plan. Seek opportunities for multi-use sports offerings to expand programming into the evening hours. Roaring Fork Soccer Club runs Adult evening leagues in the Fall when the facility is not being used by other groups.
- Maintain the multipurpose nature of many of the Town's parks in order to provide locations for up-and-coming activities such as bicycle polo, mountain bike team training, cyclocross races, Frisbee disc golf, etc. Allow these activities to happen only when assurances are in place that park turf damage will not occur.
- Collaborate, if the opportunity presents itself, with neighboring communities, such as Glenwood Springs or the Crown Mountain Park and Recreation District, to develop a shared Sports Complex for league and tournament athletic play. Adult League collaboration is took place in 2017-18, no longer collaborating in 2019 . Youth soccer has combined to be Roaring Fork Soccer Club and use our fields spring and fall.
- Coordinate with local youth and adult athletic organizations and leagues to ensure shared equipment purchases meet the standards and requirement needs of both the Town and organizations to reduce the need to duplicate equipment purchase investments.
- Provide storage space at athletic field locations where needed to accommodate equipment storage needs and to reduce set up and tear down required at each use. Pickleball Shed at Darien Pickleball Courts and Soccer Club and Little League storage sheds at North Face Bill Hanks Park

Completed

In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

9. Build and Enhance Strong Partnerships

Partner with local organizations and individuals to enhance Carbondale's natural land conservation, agricultural setting and connection to its heritage.

Overview

The Carbondale and Roaring Fork Valley has an abundance of wonderful nonprofit organizations and community minded individuals and businesses to collaborate in partnership with. Leverage these partnerships and volunteers through concerted efforts to maintain and improve Carbondale's parks, trails and recreational offerings. In addition, better align and coordinate these efforts internally, involving Town staff and commissions. While the Town currently has many strong partnerships and collaborations throughout the community, a number of new opportunities or areas to focus on were identified in the Master Plan process including:

- Senior Services (recreational opportunities and programming) CAFCI and Garfield County Senior Services collaboration
- Special Needs (recreational opportunities and programming)
- Environmental Education Programming
- Community Safety (park rule enforcement)
- Special Events and Festivals
- Hispanic/Latino Organizations
- Trail Advocacy
- Schools (RE-1, CRMS, CMC, etc.)
- Mt. Sopris Historical Society
- LiveWell Garfield County (Garfield County Healthy Community Coalition)

Recommendations

- Hold periodic meetings between the Recreation Department staff and other Roaring Fork Valley recreation coordinators to discuss program and activity schedules, address conflicts caused by overlap, agree to consistent rules and regulations within league play, and discuss best practices and lessons learned with one another. Use these meetings to identify opportunities for shared resources. Took place due to covid-19 with a collaboration on rules and regs and opening schedules when possible due to different county health orders.
- Develop collaborating partnerships between neighboring communities, other agencies, land trusts and environmental education providers when working on common goals and issues. Crystal River Restoration, Red Hill Trails Project, and Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers and Ascendigo.

Completed
In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Develop collaborating partnerships with LiveWell Garfield County, (now known as Garfield Healthy Communities Coalition) physical therapists, special needs providers and health care groups to enhance the recreation and health/well-being offerings on Town properties. (New cooking and wellness classes from 2017 to continue in 2022)
- Develop a list of community service projects for when volunteers become available and want to organize a workday.
- Provide Town support for organizations with resources to complete outdoor projects that benefit Carbondale citizens (i.e., BLM, RFMBA, RFOV, Audubon Society, Red Hill Council, Roaring Fork Conservancy, Pitkin County, Garfield County, etc.).
- Develop relationships with local Hispanic/Latino organizations and support agencies (i.e., Club Rotario Roaring Fork, English in Action, Latino/Hispanic Rodeo Series organizers and more) to keep community members informed about recreation programs offered by the Town and to better understand the recreation needs and desires of all community members.
- Develop a relationship with the Mt. Sopris Historical Society on the future planning, development, and community use of the Thompson Park property. There has been interest expressed regarding developing agri-heritage tourism themed activities centered around the historic Thompson Home museum, along with a proposed agri-heritage-learning center that would include a heritage demonstration orchard and garden. FMLD Grant for window and patio restoration 2017. MOU with Roaring Fork Food Alliance with support from CMC Sustainability Program for maintenance of Historic Food Forest on property will continue in 2018. Potato Day will benefit Carbondale Historical Society, as partners with Sopris Sun, , RE-1 school District Ross Montessori School, Rotary Club and KDNK.
- Continue working in partnership collaboration with the local U.S. Forest Service office in Carbondale, we have a recreation permit with them to conduct hiking and backpacking trips. and also with the local Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department office. Working with them at Gateway River Park (Bob Terrell State Wildlife Area)
- Continue working in partnership collaboration with RFTA Transit and Trails. GOCO planning grant for 2018 submitted Nov 2017 for lighting Rio Grant Artway trail project Was not funded. Grant accepted by GOCO for Youth Art Park with Carbondale Arts and RFTA and the Town on the Rio Grande Trail Extension received until September of 2022. Work will begin this summer.
- Encourage collaboration between Town departments, including Parks and Recreation, Planning, Public Works and Public Safety.

Completed

In Progress

Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

10. Broaden, Enhance and Promote Recreation Opportunities

Develop strategic partnerships to increase program and activity offerings to underserved user groups.

Overview

The Town of Carbondale seeks to provide services, programs and provide amenities that encourage all segments of the population to use them. The following groups have been identified as needing additional focus to serve their recreation and activity needs:

- Youth and Teens
- Seniors
- Hispanic/Latinos
- Special needs groups
- Low Income/Underprivileged
- Families
- Commuters

Recommendations

Youth and Teens

- Create more nature education opportunities in and surrounding Carbondale. Promote partnerships with the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES) and Rock Bottom Ranch and Sustainable Settings.
- Provide activities geared toward teens. For example, have at least one outdoor bike-in movie in the summer that appeals to teens as the target audience.
- Engage school leaders to help organize an intramural league for teens utilizing CRCC gym space for sports such as volleyball, basketball, soccer and more.
Providing early release programs entry to the rec center.
- Encourage Teen representation on the Parks and Recreation Commission. We have a High school junior now as a commission member opportunity each year.
- Encourage Teen representation on the Bike Pedestrian and Trails Commission.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for teens to participate in the Community Gardens. Garden Boot Camp at Demeters Garden. 2016 & 17, 2018, 2019 program was through the Carbondale Community School, not us.

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Need to check on status

2022 proposed project

- Partner with schools to determine how the Recreation Center offerings could be better suited to Teen's interests and schedules. Early Release Programs and through a school grant provided Middle School Rec Punch passes for 2018-19. Pool punch passes for Summer 2019 and Bridges High School Punch passes for summer 2019 at the Rec Center. Covid stopped this program for 2020. Did not take place in 2021. Will This continue in 2022?
- Trends in teen recreation include Parkour and Gymnastics, including ski and snowboard training. These require seasonal indoor space. Provide activities that appeal to teens as the target audience.

Seniors

- Provide opportunities to partner with other valley-wide and Garfield County providers and share senior programming and marketing opportunities throughout. An example of this is fieldtrips where vans may leave from up valley and pick down valley seniors up along the way.
- Focus on increased advertisement for senior activities. Regular advertisements in local papers are a better means to reach this population over digital and online updates. Directed e-mail blasts and announcement at senior fitness classes, promote programs in newsletter at senior housing.
- Pickleball is a popular sport amongst the older adult and senior populations. Demand for facilities currently exceeds space. In order to promote this growing sport and the health benefits it provides to the population, accommodate regular Pickleball times in the recreation center, particularly in colder weather months where outdoor play is prohibitive. Promote recreation center memberships to these users. Average 14 hours of dedicated pickleball gym time in the winter at the CRCC. 2017-2022, .Two indoor leagues. Offering Sport Court Rentals during covid winter.

Hispanic/Latinos

- Provide contracts, literature and advertisements in Spanish. Expanding marketing to radio in 2018-19 & 19-20, 20-21
- Host enrollment events that have a Spanish translator present to translate important information and answer questions that may arise. Some of our free Self Defense classes have an English to Spanish translator. Attending Latino Parent Night at RFHS to inform of various program offerings and summer job opportunities if covid allows..
- Recruit Latino volunteers to assist with children's programming and build involvement and leadership within the Latino community.
- Provide information in Spanish regarding the Community Garden to encourage Hispanic/Latino participation. Demeters Garden has information translated, and so does Hendricks Community Garden.

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2022 proposed project

- Encourage Latino/Hispanic representation on the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Encourage Latino/Hispanic representation on the Bike Pedestrian and Trails Commission.
- Provide at least one fitness class in Spanish, and advertise it in Spanish. Yoga en Espanol class not presently offered.
- Provide more opportunities for drop-in activities that appeal to Hispanic/Latino populations. Bringing back our drop-in basketball, volleyball leagues and drip-in soccer nights.

Special Needs Groups

- Consult with local professionals engaged in special needs services to provide input regarding parks and recreation design and facility improvements.
- Seek partnership with special needs providers to support recreation activity offerings. Summer and Winter Ascendigo Programming on the climbing wall, at the pool and the fitness area

Promote Recreational Activities

- Add a master list of all programs and local recreation-based opportunities available within the region to the Parks and Recreation website for easy-to-find information. Website Links page to other recreation offerings.
- Advertise and better connect with schools regarding opportunities for youth participation scholarships. Create clear requirements to qualify for scholarships, including proof of residency, income bracket and monetary matching commitments. Scholarships can be used to supplement program fees and personal equipment needs. Partner with local organizations such as the Elks or Rotary Clubs, banks/businesses and others to help fund scholarships.

11. Support the Creative District Plan

Support the Creative District Plan by strategically utilizing public properties to their potential; positioning them as flexible space for community recreation, special events and the arts.

Overview

Arts and cultural services are fundamental to the civic purposes of Carbondale and to the community's identity. Support of the 2014-2015 Creative District Plan should be continued by

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2022 proposed project

strategically utilizing public properties within the district to their potential and by celebrating opportunities for creative, flexible space for the community's benefit of recreation, special events and the arts. Parks and the arts collectively encourage economic development and tourism within the community.

A significant component of the Carbondale Creative District Plan relates to a well-designed signage and wayfinding system. Signs help guide visitors and residents to key destinations, linking trails to major amenities like parks, gateways, and Town services like the library, Town Hall and Carbondale's many performance spaces. They also are able to create and narrate educational opportunities and serve as branding that is continuous throughout the community, easily recognizable and consistent.

Recommendations

- Coordinate and follow signage guidelines defined by the Creative District Plan for all parks. Consider signs that enhance connectivity and aid in navigation, provide opportunities for natural or cultural educational interpretation, and communicate parks and trails rules and regulations.
- Create guidelines for appropriate memorials and art placement in Town parks and along Town trails. We now have a memorial bench policy and a park naming policy..
- Seek opportunities to enhance cultural, historic and arts offerings within parks. One example is a park amenity that provides interactive musical outdoor percussion instruments.