

CLEAR CREEK METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT



SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN

DECEMBER 2011

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		1	2.3	INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS	17	4	MISSION, GOALS, AND POLICIES: A FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION-MAKING	35
BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS		1	2.3.1	CLEAR CREEK RECREATION CENTER	18	4.1	MISSION STATEMENT	35
ISSUES TO ADDRESS		1	2.4	ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARK ASSETS	18	4.2	PURPOSE OF GOALS AND POLICIES	35
PLAN DIRECTION		2	2.4.1	PARK CLASSIFICATIONS	18	4.3	CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS	36
PLAN ORGANIZATION		3	2.4.2	OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING PARKS IN THE CCMRD	20	4.4	PARTNERING	36
			2.4.3	HOW WELL ARE THE RESIDENTS SERVED?	21	4.5	FACILITY PLANNING AND DESIGN	36
1 INTRODUCTION, CCMRD HISTORY, AND RELEVANT PLANNING STUDIES		5	2.5	PUBLIC LANDS AND TRAILS	21	4.6	ACCESSIBILITY	38
1.1 THE FORMATION AND HISTORY OF THE CLEAR CREEK METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT		5	2.5.1	TRAILS	21	4.7	TRAILS	38
1.2 WHY DO WE NEED A SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN?		6	2.6	EXISTING STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION	23	4.8	FINANCE AND FUNDING	38
1.3 WHAT IS A SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN?		7	2.6.1	STAFFING	23	4.9	MAINTENANCE	38
1.3.1 MAINTAINING AND UPDATING THE PLAN		7	2.6.2	BUDGET	23	4.10	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	39
1.4 RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS		7	2.6.3	OPERATIONS	25	4.11	MARKETING AND PROMOTION	39
1.4.1 1998 CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN		7	2.7	INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE	25			
1.4.2 1998 CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS 3-MILE AREA PLAN		8	3	PUBLIC INPUT	27	5	SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS	41
1.4.3 IDAHO SPRINGS PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (1994 -1995)		8	3.1	THE PROJECT WEBSITE	27	5.1	THE ROLE OF THE DISTRICT IN CC COUNTY	41
1.4.4 GEORGETOWN GATEWAY MASTER PLAN (2002)		9	3.2	FOCUS GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS	27	5.2	INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS	42
1.4.5 GEORGETOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2002)		9	3.2.1	PARKS, TRAILS, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES	28	5.2.1	CLEAR CREEK RECREATION CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS	42
1.4.6 CCMRD COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY RESULTS (1994)		9	3.2.2	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	28	5.3	FUTURE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RECOMMENDATIONS	43
1.4.7 CLEAR CREEK COUNTY GREENWAY PLAN (2005)		10	3.3	PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY	29	5.4	PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES	44
			3.3.1	FACILITIES	29	5.4.1	PARKS	44
2 EXISTING CONDITIONS - WHERE ARE WE NOW?		11	3.3.2	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	31	5.4.2	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	46
2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS		11	3.3.3	DEMOGRAPHICS	33	5.5	TRAILS	46
2.2 INDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES		12	3.3.4	CCMRD ROLE AND FUNDING	33	5.6	STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS	47
2.2.1 RECREATION PROGRAM AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS		12	3.4	PUBLIC MEETING #1	33	5.6.1	STAFFING	47
2.2.2 SPECIFIC RECREATION PROGRAM AND SERVICE TRENDS		13	3.4.1	KEYPAD POLLING	34	5.6.2	BUDGET	47
2.2.3 CURRENT RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ASSESSMENT		15	3.4.2	QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC MEETING #1	34	5.6.3	OPERATIONS	48
			3.5	PUBLIC MEETING #2	34			

TABLE OF CONTENTS

5.7	INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	48	6.5.4	NAMING RIGHTS AND SPONSORSHIPS	61
5.8	ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT IDENTITY	49	6.5.5	CLEAR CREEK METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT	61
6	IMPLEMENTATION	51	6.5.6	STATE LOTTERY DOLLARS	62
6.1	PROGRAM AND SERVICES PRIORITIES	52	6.5.7	GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO	62
6.1.1	NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES	52	6.5.8	DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS	62
6.1.2	MID-TERM PRIORITIES	52	6.5.9	USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT	62
6.1.3	LONG-TERM PRIORITIES	52	6.5.10	CDOT ENHANCEMENT FUNDS	62
6.2	INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY PRIORITIES	52	6.6	OTHER FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS	62
6.2.1	NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES	52	6.6.1	FOUNDATION	62
6.2.2	MID-TERM PRIORITIES	52	6.6.2	GRANT FUNDING TO INDIVIDUAL TOWNS OR CITY	62
6.2.3	LONG-TERM PRIORITIES	52	6.7	FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS	62
6.3	PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES	52			
6.3.1	NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES	52	APPENDICES		63
6.3.2	MID-TERM PRIORITIES	52			
6.3.3	LONG-TERM PRIORITIES	52			
6.4	FUNDING	60			
6.4.1	FUNDING ISSUES	60			
6.4.2	OPERATIONS FUNDING	60			
6.4.3	PARTNERSHIPS	60			
6.4.4	SPONSORSHIPS	60			
6.4.5	GRANTS	61			
6.4.6	ENDOWMENT FUND	61			
6.4.7	CLEAR CREEK METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT	61			
6.5	CAPITAL FUNDING	61			
6.5.1	PARTNERSHIPS	61			
6.5.2	FUNDRAISING	61			
6.5.3	GRANTS / ENDOWMENTS	61			

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parks and recreation facilities and programs contribute to the livability of a community by enhancing its quality of life. By providing options for recreation and relaxation, they promote good health, general well-being, and a strong sense of community. Parks and recreation also help stimulate economic investment as the properties near a park and recreation facility typically increase in value.

The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (“CCMRD” or “the District”), the primary recreational, leisure, and fitness provider for the residents of Clear Creek County, works diligently to address the park, recreation and leisure needs of its residents by offering facilities and recreation programs that are not available to residents in most small towns. This System-Wide Master Plan has been created in order to continue this tradition of service in the areas of park and recreation facilities and programs. The plan’s effectiveness is based on the clear assessment of the wants, needs, and desires of the community along with the financial stability of the tax base.

BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The District covers most of Clear Creek County, including the City of Idaho Springs and the Towns of Georgetown, Silver Plume, and Empire as well as Downieville, Dumont, Lawson and the community of Floyd Hill. The majority of the residents living in the District can be found along the Interstate 70 (I-70) Corridor.



“Empower Communities while Maintaining High-Quality Facilities to meet the District’s Recreation, Leisure and Fitness needs with Sustainable Business Practices.”

- Clear Creek Metropolitan District Mission Statement

Over the last two decades, Clear Creek County has experienced a 2.51 % population decrease (from 9,322 to 9,088 persons) between 2000 and 2010 as well as a decline of people in their 30s and 40s. In conjunction with this decline, the county has experienced a commensurate decline in population of school age children over the same period. The State of Colorado’s Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is projecting that decline in the 30 to 50 age cohort will continue as that segment of the population age but a new generation of people from 30 – 50 years old will settle in the county and, as their numbers increase, the population of school age children will grow proportionally. By 2040, Clear Creek County is projected to have approximately 16,000 people and should double its school age population to around 3,500 students. Assuming DOLA’s projections are accurate, the demand for programs and facilities focused on families and school age children will increase over the next 30 years, especially toward the end of the time frame. In addition, some segments of the over 50 population will also increase, primarily over the next 10 to 20 years, indicating a demand for facilities and programs targeted at specific age groups within that population.

ISSUES TO ADDRESS

While the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District has a strong foundation of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services; the community, District Staff, and the Master Plan Team identified a number of issues to be addressed and opportunities for improvement. A few highlights include:

- There are a limited number of indoor community recreation facilities within the District’s boundaries and overall participation has declined over the last three years.
- The Recreation District focuses much of its programming efforts on aquatics, fitness, youth, and sports.
- With a very limited number of youth sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, football, and volleyball) and organizations in the County taking on the responsibility for organized youth team sports, The District will need to continue to take the lead role in the future of these activities.

Introduction

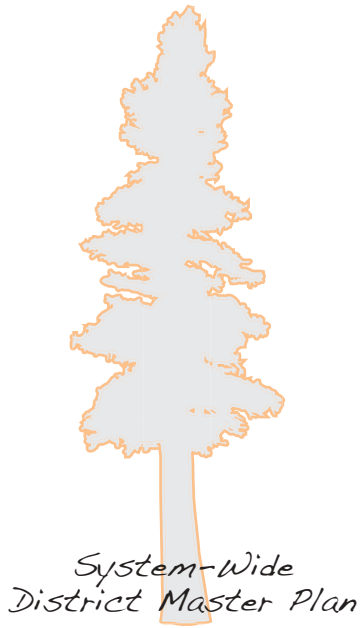
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

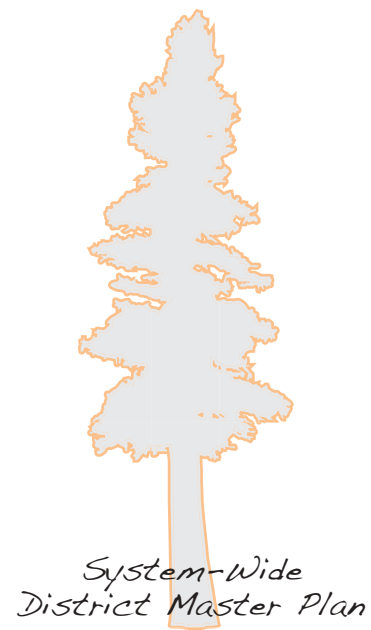
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Planning and constructing a system of parks in Clear Creek County has not historically been central to the CCMRD's mission, but rather the responsibility of the individual towns and city.

The vast majority of the residents living in the city and towns within the CCMRD have parks within close proximity to their homes.

- ✱ A number of the outdoor park and recreation facilities in the city and towns in the CCMRD are deficient in meeting current ADA accessibility regulations.
- ✱ The overall condition of the outdoor park and recreation facilities in the CCMRD varies as do the amenities offered.

The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District has a reasonably efficient and effective organizational structure as well as basic operational policies and procedures in place.

The District has a number of existing Intergovernmental Agreements that are in need of review and modification.

It is critical that all of the governmental agencies in the county communicate, cooperate, and work together to avoid duplication and overlapping services.

It is important to create a park and recreation system that encourages families to remain in/move to Clear Creek County and that supports business development.

Recreation programming needs to focus on senior activities, adventure sports, family and youth based activities, and additional winter sports.

Paved trails, an amphitheater, an indoor ice rink, and an outdoor pool were the four most important facilities which could be built or improved.

There is a need for better marketing and promotion of recreation programs, activities, and special events.



Image courtesy of the Clear Creek County Tourism Bureau

Developing additional programming is not a high priority for the residents who responded to the public opinion survey. Recreational swimming and fitness programs have the highest rates of participation and most respondents were likely to participate in adult fitness programs if more programs were available.

PLAN DIRECTION

The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District has followed many of the goals and policies included in this plan for years; others have been created to address more recent scenarios. Highlights of goals and policies addressed by this Master Plan include the following areas:

Consistency with other plans – the District will maintain consistency with this plan and those of District members (city, towns, school district, etc.).

Partnering - the District intends to work with other governmental agencies in Clear Creek County to deliver parks, recreation facilities, services and programs in an efficient manner.

Facility planning and design - the District will balance benefit to community and construction/maintenance costs when providing sustainable, safe, identifiable, accessible, and comfortable parks and recreation facilities that generally have a district-wide focus.

Accessibility –district facilities will be accessible to all residents and modes of transportation where possible.

Trails – trail planning and design will not be a primary focus for the District but the District will work with local agencies in their trail planning efforts and partner to connect District facilities to the county-wide trails system.

Finance and funding – the District will utilize a variety of methods to reduce cost of acquisition,



Image courtesy of the Clear Creek County Tourism Bureau

maintenance, and construction of park and recreation facilities; develop a plan to diversify operational funding; and develop a fee policy for all facilities, programs, and services offered by the CCMRD.

Maintenance – the District will maintain park and recreation facilities at levels consistent with the District's adopted standards or the standards of care for the industry.

Recreation programs and services – the District will provide cost effective recreation programs throughout the district and for all age groups, including special events for both residents and visitors.

Marketing and promotion – the District will participate with other agencies (towns, city, county, chambers of commerce, etc.) to develop and implement cost-effective promotion and marketing of the District and Clear Creek County.

The primary role of the CCMRD should be to provide programs, services, and amenities that benefit all residents, not just the residents of one individual city or town. This means:

The CCMRD should focus on building and operating community parks and district-wide recreation amenities such as sports fields, skateboard parks, etc. Constructing and maintaining small parks in a city or town should be the responsibility of the individual city/town government.

- ✱ Keep CCMRD Ballfields in good condition: renovate the field lighting and irrigation system, add spectator amenities, and improve accessibility.
- ✱ Consider assisting underserved neighborhoods in the unincorporated areas



- of the District to construct pocket or small neighborhood park facilities.
 - ✱ Replace the Idaho Springs Skate Park.
 - ✱ Continue operation of Werlin Ice Rink.
 - ✱ Inspect playground equipment; replace equipment that does not meet acceptable standards.
- ✱ The District should continue and expand its role as the provider of indoor recreation programs and services.
- ✱ Continue to invest in the Clear Creek Recreation Center and centralize most of the indoor facilities and programs into the single main facility.
 - ✱ Consider adding a gymnasium, indoor track, leisure pool, enclosed exercise room, and expanded weight room to the recreation center.
- ✱ If the District is to “empower communities,” it must remain an active participant in each city and town, partnering with them to improve and enhance their park and recreation facilities. The CCMRD should work closely with the other park and recreation providers in the County to avoid duplication and overlap of services.

Additional areas of attention include:

- ✱ Refocus the program for delivering recreation services over the next 5 to 10 years – particularly in the areas of adventure sports, outdoor recreation, fitness/wellness, seniors, winter sports and special events. The plan should include a tracking protocol for all programs.
- ✱ Consider adding key full-time positions to support new programs and facilities.
- ✱ Adopt a more formal and comprehensive 5-year capital improvement plan with specific priorities established by year.
- ✱ Develop a funding plan for the deferred maintenance items
- ✱ Adopt a more aggressive fee policy to enhance cost recovery
- ✱ Establish a comprehensive maintenance management plan

- ✱ Redraft or amend Intergovernmental Agreements with the municipalities, school district, and county to reflect current responsibilities and operational procedures
- ✱ Develop an overall marketing plan for recreation facilities, programs, and services
- ✱ Work with other organizations in the county to support special events and festivals. This role is largely going unfilled in Clear Creek County and if the District, municipal partners, and event organizers can agree on a more unified approach, the marketing profile of the region could be enhanced.
- ✱ Strengthen the District’s brand / identity as the primary public recreation provider in the county. This starts with improved signage and the recognition of the District’s role in managing the facilities for which it is responsible.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

The System-Wide Master Plan is organized into the following chapters:

Executive Summary – providing an overview of the plan and its direction

- Chapter 1: Introduction, CCMRD History, and Relevant Planning Studies – describing the need for the plan, the background of the District, and summary of existing parks and recreation planning in Clear Creek County and within the District
- Chapter 2: Existing Conditions – cataloging the District’s existing recreation programs, recreation facilities, leisure offerings, and park amenities
- Chapter 3: Public Engagement – recapping the public outreach and participant involvement in the process including stakeholder and focus group meetings, public meetings, the Community Attitude and Interest Survey, and project website
- Chapter 4: Mission, Goals, and Policies – framing the overall direction of the plan and guidance for

District operations and decision-making for the next 10 – 20 years

Chapter 5: System-Wide Master Plan Recommendations - defines the role of the District, recommendations for indoor facilities, programs, and outdoor recreation.

Chapter 6: Implementation Plan – prioritizing actions required to implement the plan in order to realize the community vision and District goals

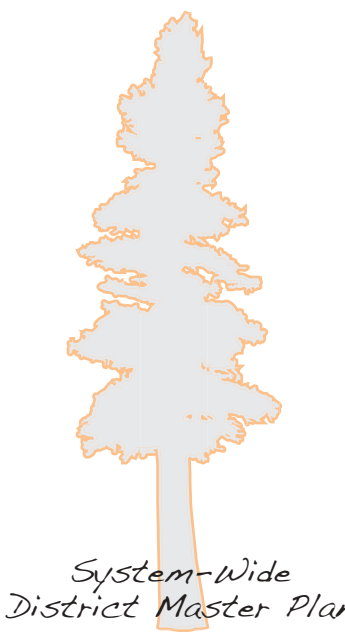
The appendices include additional background information:

- ✱ Survey results and cross tab analysis
- ✱ Focus Group and Stakeholder meeting notes
- ✱ Demographic analysis
- ✱ Existing park inventory sheets
- ✱ Public meeting summaries
- ✱ Park service area maps.



Image courtesy of the Clear Creek County Tourism Bureau

- Introduction*
- Existing Conditions*
- Public Input*
- Goals and Objectives*
- Recommendations*
- Implementation*



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan



1 INTRODUCTION, CCMRD HISTORY, AND RELEVANT PLANNING STUDIES

1.1 THE FORMATION AND HISTORY OF THE CLEAR CREEK METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT

1.2 WHY DO WE NEED A SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN?

1.3 WHAT IS A SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN?

1.3.1 MAINTAINING AND UPDATING THE PLAN

1.4 RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

1.4.1 1998 CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1.4.2 1998 CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS 3-MILE AREA PLAN

1.4.3 IDAHO SPRINGS PARKS RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN (1994 -1995)

1.4.4 GEORGETOWN GATEWAY MASTER PLAN (2002)

1.4.5 GEORGETOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2002)

1.4.6 CCMRD COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY RESULTS (1994)

1.4.7 CLEAR CREEK COUNTY GREENWAY PLAN (2005)

Since its formation in 1979, the **Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District** (“CCMRD” or “the District”) has worked diligently to address the park, recreation and leisure needs of its residents. Because the CCMRD voters had the foresight to approve a tax increase that would enhance their quality of life, the CCMRD has been able to offer facilities and recreation programs that are not available to residents in most small towns. It is the CCMRD’s Board of Directors’ goal to continue this tradition of service in the areas of park and recreation facilities and programs. Toward that end, the Board of Directors (the Board) has commissioned this **System-Wide Master Plan**.

1.1 THE FORMATION AND HISTORY OF THE CLEAR CREEK METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT

The CCMRD is the primary recreational, leisure, and fitness provider for the residents of Clear Creek County. The majority of the residents living in the District can be found along the Interstate 70 (I-70) Corridor. The CCMRD is a member of the Special District Association of Colorado and the majority of funding for District facilities and programs comes from Clear Creek County taxpayers in the form of property tax levies, with a current mil levy rate 2.005. Funding for the District’s programming is largely driven by the District’s share of royalties paid to the County from the Henderson Mine output.

The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District was formed in 1979 to enhance the park and recreation amenities that would be available to Clear Creek County residents and to provide facilities that were beyond the capabilities of the individual cities and towns. The District covers most of Clear Creek County, including the City of Idaho Springs and the Towns of Georgetown, Silver Plume, and Empire. The “areas known as Upper Bear Creek and Brook Forest” were excluded from the District at its formation. While not specifically mentioned in the 1979 Service Plan, the communities of Downieville, Dumont, and Lawson are also within the CCMRD. Since the formation of the District, the community of Floyd Hill has also been included within the District.

The 1979 Service Plan defined the goals and operating assumptions for the District and called for park and recreation improvements to be implemented in two phases:

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation

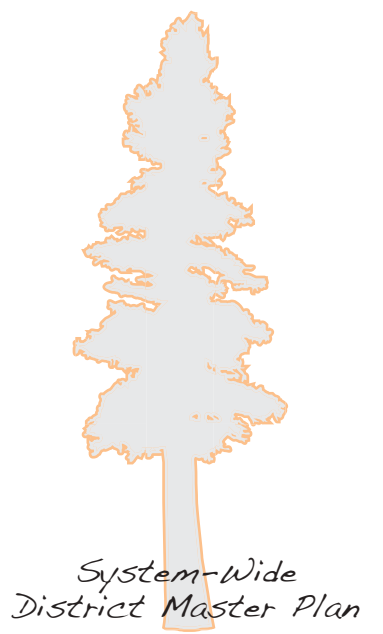


Figure 1: The Clear Creek Recreation Center in Idaho Springs is the flagship facility for the District.

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

Phase I called for improvements to be completed in the four original incorporated areas and the unincorporated areas of the District “in proportion to their estimated population.” The plan called for facilities such as tennis court lighting and resurfacing, swimming pool upgrades, ball field improvements, playground equipment, restroom facilities, a basketball/volleyball court, and construction of an “initial section of jogging path to eventually connect all towns in the proposed district.” These improvements were to be funded with the mil levy that would begin to be collected in 1981.

Phase II called for a swimming pool complex, handball/racquetball courts, community/senior citizens’ room, additional tennis courts, and parking. These improvements were intended to be funded with a general obligation bond. It appears that Phase II eventually evolved into what is now the Clear Creek Recreation Center in Idaho Springs, which was completed in 1990.

“Future Improvements” were envisioned, which included “additional bicycle and jogging paths, handball/racquetball courts, tennis courts, picnic facilities, a soccer and softball fields, outdoor activities, amphitheater, a gymnasium, and other facilities as the need becomes evident.”

The Service Plan also outlined provisions for operations and maintenance.

Clearly, this list of facilities included amenities such as racquetball/handball that were popular at the time but have waned in popularity over the years. In 1999, it was clear that the Board saw a need to revise the Service Plan. The District’s attorney noted that the CCMRD was “now 20 years old and the district has, in most areas, exceeded the proposed plan and in other areas has not implemented some of the programming as stated in that plan.” Legal counsel advised the Board to make specific changes to the Service Plan to reflect what was accomplished or no longer desired.

Over the years, the Service Plan, the guidance of District Staff, and the decisions of the Board of Directors have set the direction for the CCMRD. Since its formation, CCMRD has continued to evolve in order to better meet the needs of its residents and has:

- Increased its responsibilities which have, in some cases, been defined in intergovernmental agreements (IGA’s) between the cities and towns. Some of these IGA’s need to be updated to reflect current conditions, which is another goal of the System-Wide Plan.
- Enhanced and upgraded the Clear Creek Recreation Center on an on-going basis since its completion in 1990.
- Continued to expand and refine the scope of recreation programs it offers and oversees all of the organized sports programs for the cities and towns.
- Worked to keep pace with recreation trends by building facilities such as the Idaho Springs skateboard park, multi-use/in-line hockey courts, etc.
- Created an attractive and informative website.
- Updated its Mission Statement in order to better define the CCMRD’s guiding vision.

Mission Statement:

Empower communities while maintaining high-quality facilities to meet the District’s recreation, leisure and fitness needs with sustainable business practices.

1.2 WHY DO WE NEED A SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN?

Parks and recreation facilities and programs contribute to the livability of a community by enhancing its quality of life. By providing options for recreation and relaxation, they promote good health, general well-being, and a strong sense of community. Parks and recreation also help stimulate economic investment as the properties near a park and recreation facility typically increase in value.

When the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District asked the Master Plan Team of Winston Associates, Inc., Ballard*King and Associates, Ltd, and Leisure Vision/ETC to assist the community in developing a System-Wide Master Plan, the stated goal was “to supply a master planning document to address the recreational, leisure, and fitness needs of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District.” Because of the diversity and rural nature of the community, the Board also felt it was “imperative that we clearly assess



Figure 2: Youth sports enhance the quality of life in the District.

the wants, needs, and desires of our community along with the financial stability of our tax base to establish an effective long-term master plan.” In addition, the CCMRD finds itself at a crossroads – for the first time since its early years, the CCMRD is debt-free now that the bonds used to construct the Clear Creek Recreation Center have been paid off. While Clear Creek County and the individual city and towns have completed comprehensive plans and park master plans, there has never been a comprehensive planning document for the CCMRD.

Therefore, the CCMRD’s Board of Directors is looking to this System-Wide Master Plan to help them address a number of critical questions:

- What is the best way to allocate resources in order to satisfy the park, recreation, and leisure needs of its residents?
- What enhancements are needed for the existing facilities the District owns or manages – especially to the Clear Creek Recreation Center?
- What is the District’s role within Clear Creek County, how does it interface with the other governmental entities, and how does it avoid duplicating services?
- Are the current programs meeting the needs of the community?

The goal of this System-Wide Master Plan will be to address these and other important questions and to establish a vision that will guide the CCMRD for the next 10 to 20 years.

1.3 WHAT IS A SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN?

This System-Wide Master Plan is the CCMRD’s first comprehensive park and recreation planning document. It examines the existing park and recreation system, identifies the recreation and programmatic needs of today’s residents, and anticipates those of tomorrow. It also provides a framework for creating a vibrant system of parks and recreation facilities. To do so, the System-Wide Master Plan:

- Evaluates the existing assets to understand how current residents are being served and creates a baseline against which future needs can be evaluated.
- Incorporates public input from a wide spectrum of sources to help determine the direction for preserving and improving the residents’ quality of life and to help identify for the community’s vision for the System-Wide Plan and the District’s role.
- Projects future demographics and suggest policies that will allow the CCMRD to adapt to changes in the District’s population – both in number of resident and demographic profile.
- Identifies improvements that are needed to enhance both the facilities and programs being offered by the District both near and far term.
- Offers recommendations for addressing the community’s needs that are within the fiscal capabilities of the District.
- Defines the CCMRD’s role for addressing the park and recreation needs of its residents in light of the services and facilities being provided by the county, city, and towns.



Figure 3: The Idaho Springs Skate Park is one facility in need of renovation.

1.3.1 Maintaining and Updating the Plan

The System-Wide Master Plan is intended to be a “living document,” that reflects the District’s goals and needs. Over time, circumstances will change, new opportunities will arise, and other opportunities will inevitably be foreclosed. The System-Wide Plan needs to be adjusted to reflect these new conditions. If this is not done, it will gradually slip out of currency, and will cease to be an effective reference and guide for decision-making. To remain current, the plan should be reviewed and updated at least annually.

Making decisions that are not consistent with the System-Wide Master Plan will undermine its effectiveness. When this happens, the master plan is no longer a reflection of the District’s goals and policies – reducing its usefulness and effectiveness as a guide for decision-making. To avoid this, the CCMRD should adopt a “consistency policy” - that is, a policy that all parks and recreation decisions will be consistent with the adopted System-Wide Master Plan. The impact of this policy is that, when actions are proposed that are not consistent with the master plan, the District will either modify the proposed action to be consistent with the plan, amend the plan, or both.

Finally, since this System-Wide Master Plan was developed comprehensively (considering a broad range of factors and with broad public input), changes to the plan should be considered in a similar comprehensive manner.

1.4 RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Over the years, Clear Creek County and the larger cities within the CCMRD have completed planning studies that contain findings and information relevant to this study. The Master Plan Team has reviewed these documents and developed the following brief summary of the recommendations and policies which focused on parks, open space, trails, and the CCMRD.

1.4.1 1998 City of Idaho Springs Comprehensive Plan

- The economic section highlighted the dynamic of Idaho Springs being an “in-between” community for Denver, gaming cities (Black Hawk and Central City) and mountain resort communities (Breckenridge and Vail).

The tourism economy would be greatly and negatively impacted with any long-term construction projects along I-70, including realignment and development of an I-70 corridor rail system. This should be taken into account when developing policies for coordination with CDOT, especially with planning big or annual events.

The “recreational venues” provided were general in nature and included: skiing, rock climbing, rafting, etc.”

Federal lands are a significant portion of the county’s total land area.

The Comprehensive Plan provided a list of specific amenities, such as Macy/Mill Park, Clear Creek, and the Idaho Springs Cemetery. There was no additional information about location or programming for any facility.

“The responsibility for recreational facilities and programming in Idaho Springs is shared between the City of Idaho Springs and the CCMRD.” No other mention of the District or the City/District interrelationship is mentioned.

- The Comprehensive Plan notes that the City has a positive relationship with the CCMRD.

Policy C.3.5: Work with special districts to provide cost effective services to the residents of the community.

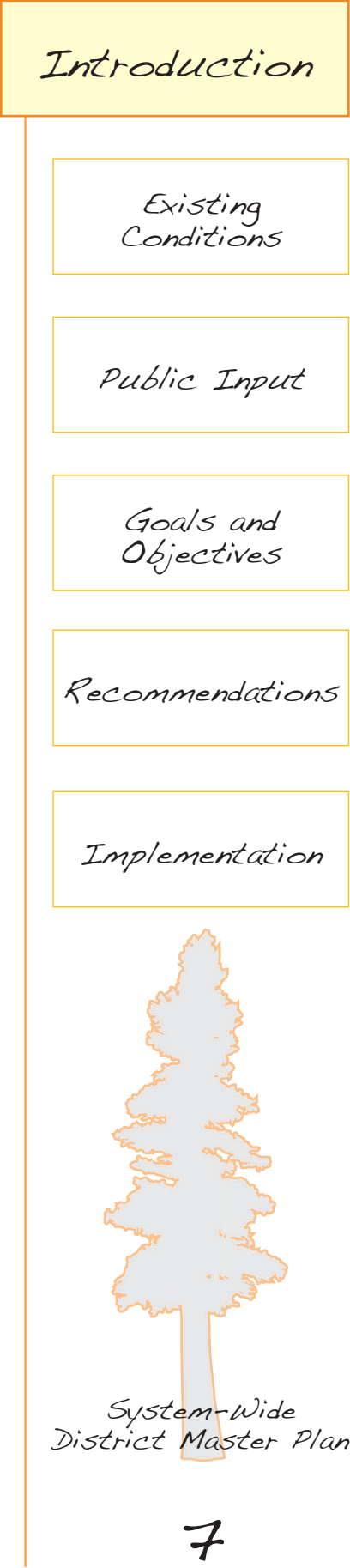
Policy GL.4.4: Develop preservation tourism opportunities that help increase the economic viability of the historic resources of the community.

In regards to improving transportation to recreation venues and throughout the District:

- Policy T.1.3: Work with regional partners and CDOT to establish effective public



Figure 4: Comprehensive plans plan for growth and provide a guide for future decision-making.



Introduction

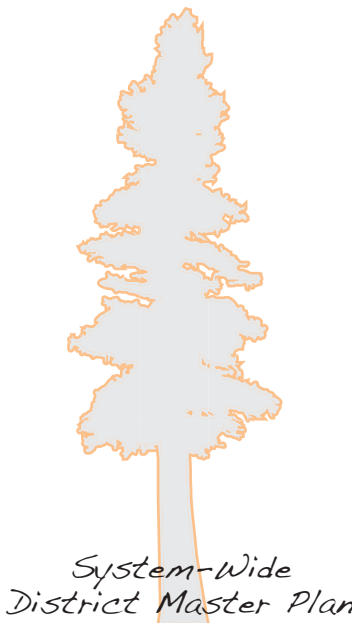
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- ✱ transportation alternatives in the I-70 corridor.
- ✱ Policy T.1.4: Work to locate Regional Transit Station(s) within the Idaho Springs original Townsite.
- ✱ Policy T.5.1: Partner with other agencies and governments to develop, operate, and maintain public transportation options within Idaho Springs.

Trails and Pathways

- ✱ Policy T.6.1: Partner with Clear Creek County and the National Forest to expand, construct, and maintain a continuous off-road pedestrian and bicycle system.
- ✱ Policy T.6.2: Participate in local and regional trails planning and development efforts to promote multi-purpose trails.
- ✱ Policy T.6.3: Develop trail heads which can accommodate user parking.
- ✱ Policy T.6.4: Work with volunteer groups to plan, develop and maintain trail systems.
- ✱ Policy T.6.5: A plan for a phased development of city components of the county-wide trail system will be created with regular allocations of funding from the City's Conservation Trust Fund used for trail enhancement purposes.
- ✱ Policy T.6.6: Emphasize and establish trails along Clear Creek in the east end of the city.
- ✱ Policy T.6.7: Promote the connection of the county trail and greenway system to Jefferson County.

Parks, Recreation & Open Space

- ✱ Goal PR.1: Expand recreational amenities in the Idaho Springs area.
- ✱ Policy PR.1.1: Develop and promote appropriate recreational development along and on Clear Creek.

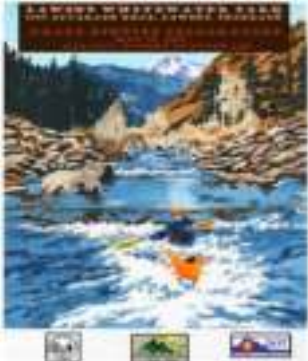


Figure 5: The Lawson Whitewater Park, opened in 2010, is a significant tourist attraction for the County.

- ✱ Policy PR.1.2: Collaborate with the Forest Service to develop appropriate recreational opportunities on the National Forests.
- ✱ Policy PR.1.3: Support continued development and improvement on the Clear Creek Greenway.
- ✱ Policy PR.1.4: Collaborate with local organizations to expand the range of arts events and arts and music programming.
- ✱ Policy PR.1.5: Work with the Recreation District to develop and operate recreational programming for area residents.
- ✱ Policy PR.1.6: Balance resident and visitor recreational needs, facilities and investment.
- ✱ Goal PR.2: Develop Virginia Canyon/Area 28 for recreational uses.
- ✱ Policy PR.2.1: Develop and implement a Virginia Canyon/Area 28 master plan.
- ✱ Policy PR.2.2: Work to connect new trails with the business and commercial districts of Idaho Springs.
- ✱ Goal PR.3: Market to target audiences.
- ✱ Policy PR.3.1: Create recreational opportunities as a single-day destination for residents of the Front Range.
- ✱ Policy PR.3.2: Create short-term park and recreation opportunities for travelers on I-70.

Economic Development

- ✱ Policy ED1.2: Assist in the redevelopment of the existing football field as and if it occurs.
- ✱ Policy ED.2.1: Assist in bringing special events to the community (this is under a larger goal or policy about forging new, stronger connections with municipalities and partners).
- ✱ Policy ED2.2: Promote the use of Clear Creek for rafting and other recreational purposes.

1.4.2 1998 City of Idaho Springs 3-Mile Area Plan

- ✱ In Area 1 (area north of city), the Clear Creek County Master Plan warns about development of recreation because of the historic hard rock mining district and the substantial amount of required coordination with multiple entities.
- ✱ For Area 2, the Clear Creek County Master Plan recommends that the area be used for recreation. The 3-mile Area Plan supports this recommendation if Idaho Springs considers any annexation of land in this area.

1.4.3 Idaho Springs Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (1994 -1995)

This study was written by an University of Colorado at Denver intern from the Colorado Center of Community Development and, as such, the recommendations and observations are based on limited professional experience. Much of the data and assumptions made were from interpretation of CCMRD's 1994 Community Needs survey.

- ✱ "Recreational opportunities appropriate to the open space system should be developed and integrated into the recreation plan."

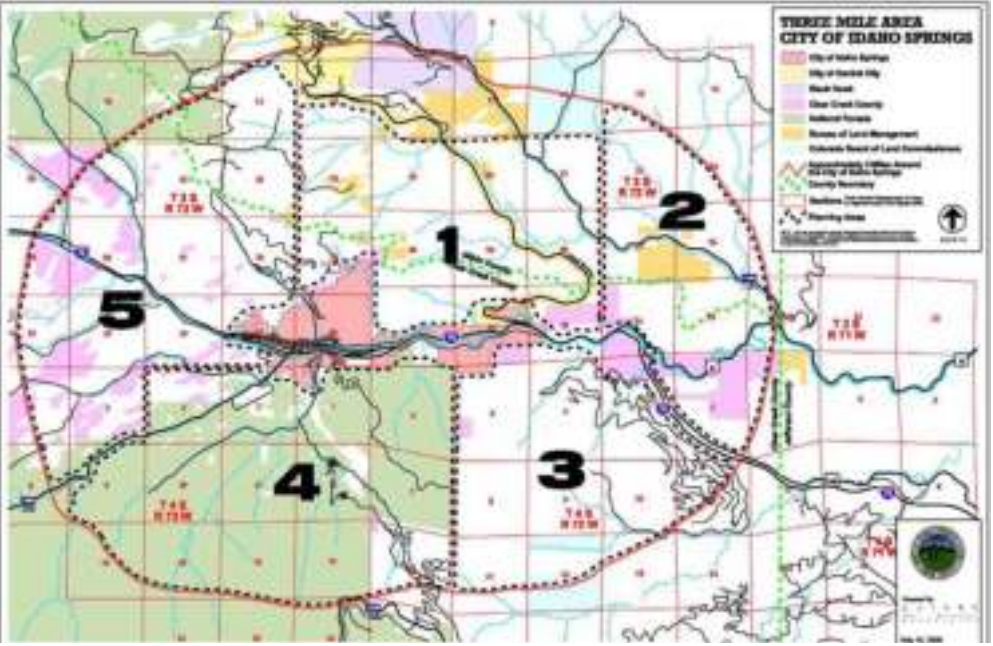


Figure 6: The 3-mile Area Plan and the Clear Creek County Master Plan recommend that Area 2 be used for recreation.

- ✦ The plan includes useful, albeit limited, inventory of recreation amenities and programming, including those owned/operated by the CCMRD.
- ✦ Recommendations were often general in nature and consisted mostly of producing new studies, or combining existing studies into a plan defining the availability, ownership, maintenance, and functioning of the parks and recreational amenities within the City.
- ✦ One specific recommendation stated the “existing tennis court located south of the junction of Miner Street and Colorado Blvd. should be relocated into Courtney/Riley Cooper Park”.

1.4.4 Georgetown Gateway Master Plan (2002)

This study contained general planning rationale and schematic-level design regarding the creation of a gateway to Georgetown from I-70 to 15th street with the associated objectives:

- ✦ Make downtown easier to identify and reach.
- ✦ Create an attractive gateway from highway.
- ✦ Provide better and more access to Clear Creek when possible along Argentine Street.
- ✦ Make Argentine Street historic and more reflective of the town’s character.

The plan illustrates specific problems that Georgetown is facing that are indicative of problems experienced by other municipalities in Clear Creek County and speaks to the problem of getting people off the highway to stay for more than gas and a snack.



Figure 7: Integrating open space and recreation is a goal of the Idaho Springs Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

1.4.5 Georgetown Comprehensive Plan (2002)

The Georgetown Comprehensive Plan is focused on how to use the historic and natural amenities already within the Town and most recommendations are focused on supporting this goal. Trails, pathways, and parks are meant to enhance the historic character and attract more tourists to get/stay off the highway instead of being a strong, stand-alone amenity. Trails are meant to get people from one area to another, or to a specific destination.

- ✦ The Plan calls for a strategy that develops an all-season trails system, regional trails, and enhanced recreational amenities around the lake.
- ✦ Strategies:
 - ✦ Neighborhood parks should be located within easy walking distances for children who live in established and new residential areas.
 - ✦ Acquire or retain vacant parcels in town and develop open space areas or small neighborhood parks (pocket parks) in established neighborhoods to provide small green spaces, cultural amenities, and opportunities for interaction.
 - ✦ Areas or lots with important stands of trees or other vegetation should be prioritized for acquisition.
 - ✦ New residential developments should be required to dedicate land or provide fees-in-lieu of land to support the development and acquisition of neighborhood parks.
 - ✦ Efforts should continue to be made to improve and enhance the existing public



Figure 8: The Town would like to add recreational amenities to Georgetown Lake. Image courtesy of Colorado Outing.

parks, including the addition of picnic tables, bathroom facilities, and playgrounds.

- ✦ The Town should consider the need for bike trails, ice skating arenas, and lake amenities to support resident needs.

- ✦ The plan specifically states that it does not provide specific locations for recreation amenities or for particular parcels of land.

1.4.6 CCMRD Community Needs Survey Results (1994)

Results from the 1994 CCMRD Community Needs Survey should be tempered with the knowledge that they are 17 years old and should only be used as a point of comparison for trends identified in the latest Public Opinion Survey.

Highlights:

- ✦ Most felt that CCMRD’s services enhanced community living.
- ✦ General comments indicated that the services were a good place to start, but there was a need for improvement – both in type and quantity of programming, as well as physical amenities.
 - ✦ The pool was a huge draw for most, but constructive comments centered on the temperature and lack of flexibility for use of the pool.
 - ✦ Respondents were happy that their quality of life was improved because kids had something “wholesome” to do and might prevent them from engaging in destructive activities.
 - ✦ There were a number of comments regarding the logistics of reaching out to County and District residents. Suggestions included providing better schedules and maps, and modifying recreation center operating times.
- ✦ Recreation services were important, but mostly as a general principle of good planning for future growth.
- ✦ 109 “Yes” to 71 “No” on the question “Do you feel that all populations of Clear Creek County benefit from CCMRD?”
 - ✦ Working people and the west side of the county felt they underrepresented.

Introduction

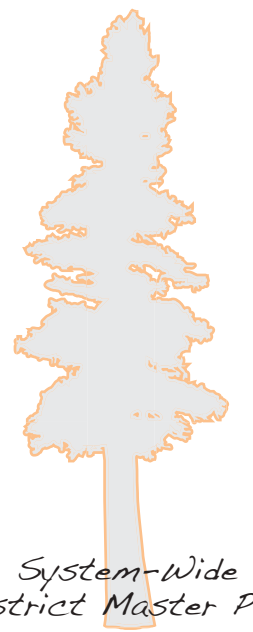
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

- * A lack of senior programming was a consistent concern.
- * The location of the recreation center was a consistent issue. Many felt that only Idaho Springs residents benefit and are targeted.

⌄ The swimming pool was easily the most important amenity to residents. A cardiovascular room and weight room were equal with various facilities beneath those.

⌄ In regard to programs offered that have the most benefit – the Top 5 were:

- * Wellness programs = 66
- * Teen programs = 64
- * Aquatics = 59
- * Youth Baseball/Softball and Daycare = 54
- * Senior programs = 49

When asked about programs that should be offered, the response was extremely diverse.

- ⌄ Most believed that it was most important that CCMRD maintain/repair existing facilities, in contrast with expanding existing facilities or building new facilities.
- * When asked about expanding specific facilities, 77% voted for the Recreation Center and 52% for neighborhood parks.
- * Regarding new facilities, most voted for trails.

⌄ 76% of those polled did not believe there would be enough facilities and parks to meet community needs 10 years from 1994.

⌄ Most were supportive of a building program and tax increase to upgrade existing facilities.

⌄ Some comments focused on the lack or inconsistency of instructors at CCMRD compared to other recreation centers.

1.4.7 Clear Creek County Greenway Plan (2005)

The proposed greenway is a major recreational trail corridor linking the County to larger trail networks in the region. It would provide numerous opportunities for various recreation amenities, such as fishing, kayaking, hiking, as well as historic education opportunities about the mining and railroad heritage within Clear Creek County.

- ⌄ In general, it will be important for the District to coordinate with Clear Creek County if any CCMRD projects impact or influence the potential greenway.
- ⌄ The greenway intersects with other recreational amenities, such as trails, pedestrian corridors, and parks throughout the County. There is potential to coordinate recreational efforts in these areas.



Figure 9: The Clear Creek Greenway will be the primary recreational pathway for the District.

2 EXISTING CONDITIONS - WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Introduction

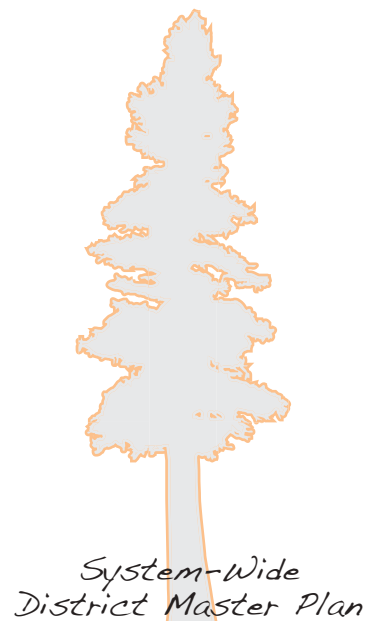
Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- 2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS
- 2.2 INDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
 - 2.2.1 RECREATION PROGRAM AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS
 - 2.2.2 SPECIFIC RECREATION PROGRAM AND SERVICE TRENDS
 - 2.2.3 CURRENT RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ASSESSMENT
- 2.3 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS
 - 2.3.1 CLEAR CREEK RECREATION CENTER
- 2.4 ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARK ASSETS

- 2.4.1 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS
- 2.4.2 OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING PARKS IN THE CCMRD
- 2.4.3 HOW WELL ARE THE RESIDENTS SERVED?
- 2.5 PUBLIC LANDS AND TRAILS
 - 2.5.1 TRAILS
- 2.6 EXISTING STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION
 - 2.6.1 STAFFING
 - 2.6.2 BUDGET
 - 2.6.3 OPERATIONS
- 2.7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

A critical first step in completing the System-Wide Master Plan is to gain an in-depth understanding of the community and the existing park and recreation system. To accomplish this, a number of important questions must be answered:

- ✦ How is the existing system of park and recreation facilities and programs organized and which governmental entity is responsible for what facilities?
- ✦ How is the community using the existing facilities, what other facilities or programs are needed, and what is the perception of the District?
- ✦ Will the District's population grow and is the park and recreation system capable of supporting that growth?
- ✦ What improvements are needed to existing facilities?

During the early phases of the master plan process, the Master Plan Team completed a number of tasks that were designed to gain a detailed understanding of the existing conditions in the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District and its residents.

2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS

Because the CCMRD's boundaries generally follow the boundary for Clear Creek County (except for a few small areas that are excluded from the District), the demographic data for the entire county has been used for this analysis. Clear Creek County has generally experienced slow and steady population growth over the last 40 years. Between 1970 and 2000, the population essentially doubled from approximately 5,000 residents to nearly 10,000. However, over the last two decades, the county has experienced a 2.51% population decrease (from 9,322 to 9,088 persons) between 2000 and 2010 as well as a decline of people in their 30s and 40s. In conjunction with this decline, the county has experienced a commensurate decline in population of school age children over the same period.



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

The State of Colorado’s Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) monitors the trends in the state’s population and makes projections regarding future population trends. DOLA’s projections for Clear Creek County are shown below. DOLA is projecting that decline in the 30 to 50 age cohort will continue as that segment of the population ages.



Table 1: Clear Creek County population trends (DOLA)

DOLA is projecting that a new generation of people from 30 – 50 years old will settle in the county and, as their numbers increase, the population of school age children will grow proportionally. For the near-term, the county’s population will stabilize, but will once again start increasing sometime in the middle of this decade. By 2040, Clear Creek County is projected to have approximately 16,000 people and should double its school age population to around 3,500 students.

Assuming DOLA’s projections are accurate, the demand for programs and facilities focused on families and school age children will increase over the next 30 years, especially toward the end of the time frame. In addition, some segments of the over 50 population will also increase, primarily over the next 10 to 20 years, indicating a demand for facilities and programs targeted at specific age groups within that population.

POPULATION ESTIMATES - CLEAR CREEK COUNTY											
Age Group	1990	2000	Δ	2010	Δ	2020	Δ	2030	Δ	2040	Δ
0 - 4	540	533	-7	493	-40	770	277	971	201	1,145	174
5 - 9	600	582	-18	524	-58	721	197	1,005	284	1,161	156
10 - 14	567	582	15	534	-48	692	158	981	289	1,174	193
15 - 19	427	575	148	573	-2	673	100	876	203	1,141	265
20 - 24	284	354	70	479	125	614	135	737	123	950	213
25 - 29	442	468	26	418	-50	714	296	788	74	919	131
30 - 34	789	644	-145	303	-341	786	483	921	165	1,018	97
35 - 39	1,024	876	-148	449	-427	733	284	1,045	312	1,108	63
40 - 44	843	1,046	203	632	-414	541	-91	1,036	495	1,159	123
45 - 49	573	1,116	543	869	-247	601	-268	892	291	1,190	298
50 - 54	409	924	515	1,011	87	698	-313	619	-79	1,083	464
55 - 59	313	600	287	1,031	431	839	-192	609	-230	871	262
60 - 64	258	398	140	792	394	883	91	634	-249	567	-67
65 - 69	209	240	31	410	170	820	410	682	-138	508	-174
70 - 74	145	174	29	287	113	580	293	650	70	480	-170
75 - 79	93	122	29	198	76	282	84	547	265	462	-85
80 - 84	66	75	9	131	56	189	58	367	178	409	42
85 - 89	28	31	3	53	22	118	65	165	47	310	145
90+	9	16	7	26	10	57	31	91	34	166	75
	7,619	9,356	1,737	9,213	-143	11,311	2,098	13,616	2,305	15,821	2,205

Table 2: Age Cohort trends and projections for Clear Creek County (DOLA)

The Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) contains detailed, long-form demographic information, which is updated on a yearly basis. However, ACS estimates for 2005 - 2009 have been suppressed by the Census Bureau for much of Clear Creek County due to the small sample size. The reduced sample size was dictated by budget cuts and resulted in large margins of error in the data. The less detailed 2010 census block data is being released in stages; population and housing numbers are currently available and have been used for the population projections provided here. As data is made available, it will be incorporated into the final Master Plan.

2.2 INDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

While the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District has a strong foundation of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services, there are a number of unmet needs as identified by the community.

2.2.1 Recreation Program and Service Delivery Trends

To assist in the process of developing a parks and recreation master plan for the District, it is helpful to understand some of the trends that are being seen nationally with recreation programming. However, it should be noted that each district is unique and the area of the country has a strong bearing on trends and other operational factors. Examples of programming trends include:

Sports

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| Youth | Adult |
| Team | Individuals |
| Camps and clinics | Tournaments |
| Non-traditional sports (BMX, inline hockey, etc.) | |

Fitness / Wellness

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Fitness classes | Personal training |
| Education | |

Cultural Arts

- Performing arts (dance, theater, music, etc.)
Visual arts (painting, ceramics, pottery, etc.)
Arts events (concerts, etc.)

Youth

Before and after school	Summer day camps / playground programs
Preschool	Teen

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor education	Outdoor adventure
Environmental	

Seniors

Fitness / wellness	Cultural arts
Self-improvement	Education
Trip programs	

Aquatics

Lessons	Fitness
Competitive (swim teams)	Specialty

General Programs

Personal development	Education
Specialty	

Special Needs

Special Events

Community Events



Figure 10: There is a wealth of recreation opportunities available to residents within the District.

Recreation districts now often serve as a coordinating agency and a clearinghouse for multiple recreation agencies and providers, in an effort to bring a comprehensive scope of recreation programs to a community. This has also increased the number of partnerships that are in place to deliver a broader base of programs in a more cost-effective manner. There is also a much stronger emphasis on revenue production and raising the level of cost recovery to minimize the need to use tax dollars to offset recreation programming.

Many programs are now offered with shorter sessions (two to three classes) or on a drop-in pay as you go basis (especially fitness). In addition, there has been a concerted effort to integrate conventional recreation programming with community based social service programs and education. Most of the existing social service programs are offered by other community based agencies and education is often coordinated with school districts.

2.2.2 Specific Recreation Program and Service Trends

Keys to providing recreation programs and services in the future include:

Fee Setting: In order to accomplish a high level of recreation services, recreation agencies have been much more aggressive in their fee setting with the goal of covering more operational expenses for most programs. However, with a more entrepreneurial approach to assessing fees for activities comes the need to develop a scholarship program that allows for those individuals who cannot afford to pay the opportunity to participate in recreation activities. Such programs usually have a limited budget and do require the user to pay at least something for service.

Many districts and departments are now tiering their programs into different categories with differing levels of cost recovery.

Sports

Youth lacrosse	Youth camps and clinics
Youth sports specific training	Individual sports
Non-traditional sports (skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, fencing, etc.)	

Fitness / Wellness

Personal training	Yoga/Pilates/massage therapy
Healthy lifestyle education	

Cultural Arts

Music production for youth

Youth

After school programs in recreation centers and/or schools	Summer camps - themed camps
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Outdoor Recreation

Eco-tourism (where appropriate)	Environmental education
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Seniors

Fitness / wellness	Younger, more active seniors
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Aquatics

Fitness

General Programs

Education - computer, finance, etc.

Special Events

Community-wide celebrations	Events that attract visitors to a community
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Table 3: Examples of recreation programs and service trends

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Programs and services should be categorized into four levels of offerings that are divided by the level of instruction, expertise, or importance to the community's well being. Priority for funding and facility usage should be based on the category in which they fall, with fees being set accordingly. The four categories should include:



Figure 11: Fee Continuum pyramid

- Community events – Special community-wide events, activities or festivals that are one time events. It should be expected there will be reasonable fees for these activities. Revenues may be collected from sponsorships and sales of goods and services but the general rate of recovery would probably be less than 100%.
- Basic or core programs – Those that are essential to recreation and community needs (such as programs and activities for teens, seniors, youth activities, and special populations). These programs' direct costs are usually heavily subsidized. The suggested recovery rate is 50% to 75% of direct costs.
- Enhanced – Those that are beyond basic and are focused on an audience that has a greater ability to pay. Programs in this area could include adult fitness and sports, or general programs. The suggested minimum recovery rate is 75% to 100% of direct costs.
- Specialized – These are activities that are very specialized in nature. These would include

activities such as fitness assessments, trip programs, facility rentals and the like. Fees are set based on what the market will bear but at minimum would require 100% of direct costs.

Use of Other Service Providers: There has also been a movement away from the principle of public recreation districts and departments having to be the actual provider of all recreation programs and services, to the concept of public agencies being the general coordinator and enabler of overall community recreation needs and resources. This has resulted in a great deal of programming now being conducted by volunteer youth sports organizations, adult sports associations, non-profit groups such as the YMCA and other social service organizations, as well as the private sector. This has reduced the financial obligations of the public sector, placed programming in the hands of organizations with the specific expertise (and often the facilities as well), and allowed the private sector to have a more active role in public recreation. There has also been an increase in the number of public agencies collaborating to bring a higher level of recreation service on more of a regional basis especially for more specialized services (special needs, outdoor education, etc.). This concept has become much more prevalent across the country with recreation districts and departments being a clearinghouse of information and services offered by others while providing more basic recreation services itself.

Facilities: The vast majority of outdoor related recreation programming takes place in public parks with school facilities providing the other main venue. For indoor programs, school buildings are still the primary location for most activities with public recreation centers and other

providers' facilities being the additional sites. With the demand for recreation programs and services continuing to expand at phenomenal rates, a new more innovative approach has been undertaken to find appropriate sites for many activities. This has resulted in partnering with private facilities (fitness centers, dance studios, outdoor aquatic clubs, etc.), non-profits (YMCA's, Boys & Girls Clubs, cultural arts centers, etc.) and even private schools for certain activities. With the demand for youth sports fields continuing to grow, it is not unusual for youth sports organizations to build and operate their own fields on their own property or on leased, undeveloped, public land.

Staffing: In order to continue to grow the number of recreation programs and services that are offered to a community, adequate staffing is necessary to not only conduct the program itself but also to supervise and administer the activities. With staffing costs being the single greatest expense item for parks and recreation districts and departments, many agencies have attempted to minimize the number of full-time staff by contracting for certain programs or partnering with other providers for services (see service providers above). The need to reduce full-time staff has become even more acute with the poor financial condition of most municipal governments and special districts. However, even with this approach, there still needs to be adequate full-time staff to oversee and coordinate such efforts. Part-time staff is still the backbone of most recreation districts and departments and makes up the vast majority of program leaders and instructors. Many recreation departments have converted program instructors to contract employees with a split of gross revenues (usually 70% to the instructor and 30% to the agency) or developed a truer contract for services that either rents

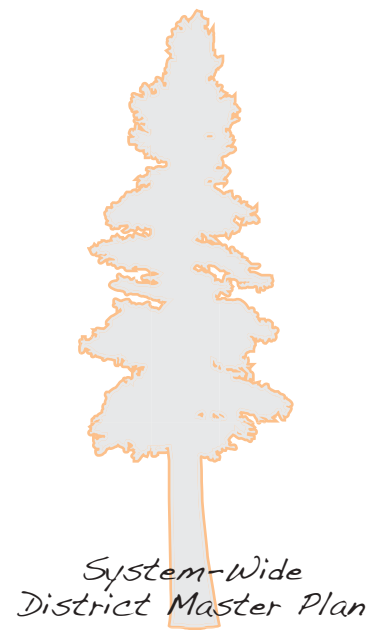


Figure 12: Youth football is an example of a core program.



Figure 13: Part-time staff is essential for District operations.

facilities and/or takes a percentage of the gross from another organization. The use of volunteers can help to augment paid staff but should not be seen as a substitute for them. In more remote locations, there has often been difficulty in finding qualified instructors to teach or lead many programs.

Funding: The basic requirement for the provision of recreation programs and services is a funding commitment associated with the development of facilities to support programs and staff to manage and provide the programming. This usually requires a tax dollar commitment but other revenue sources including program fees, grants, and partnering with other agencies also assist with additional funding. In many recreation districts and departments, funding limits have been the greatest single challenge to providing not only existing programs but also bringing on any new services.

Administration: Essential to developing a comprehensive recreation program is a strong administrative overview of the process. It starts with the development of an overall philosophy that will direct programming efforts by the public organization and determine the role of other providers. The philosophy should emphasize areas of focus by age group as well as program areas, and also prioritize future program development options.

Key aspects of administration include:

- ✦ In-house vs. contracted – As part of the programming philosophy, a determination of what programs and services will be offered directly by the recreation staff and which will be contracted to other individuals or organizations must be determined. Recreation districts and departments are increasingly turning to contracted services or the outright rental of facilities to other providers to broaden programming and limit the role of in-house employees.
- Before determining which programs and services to contract or have provided by others, an assessment of the specific pros and cons of such a move needs to be completed. A major aspect of this analysis should be to determine the financial impacts and quality of the services that will be provided. Key questions to be asked include:

- ✦ Will this be the most cost-effective method to obtain the program, service or function?
- ✦ Does the district have the knowledge and equipment to provide the program, service or function?
- ✦ Will the quality of the program, service or function suffer if it is contracted to other organizations?
- ✦ Are there other more qualified organizations that should provide the program, service or function?
- ✦ Is the service, program or function only available from a contract provider?
- ✦ Are the safety and liability risks too high to provide the program or service in-house?
- ✦ Marketing – There has to be the realization that recreation programming is a discretionary expenditure and as a result it is critical that there is a strong marketing effort to promote the recreation activities that are offered by public providers.
- ✦ Registration - An aspect of marketing for recreation services is the ease of being able to register for these activities. This requires a fully computerized registration software package, the ability to register on-line, the acceptance of credit cards for service, and the ability to make payments over time.
- ✦ Record keeping – To determine the relative success of programming and the markets being served, accurate and timely record keeping is necessary. Registration numbers by class and activity area need to be kept and comparisons by programming season conducted. In addition, expense and revenue numbers for each activity must be noted and compared to determine financial viability. Demographic records of who are taking recreation programs and where they live will determine specific markets that are being served and more importantly ones that may be overlooked. The only way to adequately keep such records is through complete computerization of not only registration but all records associated with programming.
- ✦ Evaluation – Ultimately the success of recreation programming must be measured by the community it serves. A determination of the satisfaction with existing programs and services, as well as the needs and expectations for future programming, must be measured through a formal evaluation process.

2.2.3 Current Recreation Programs and Services Assessment

The District offers a number of recreation programs and services to the residents of Clear Creek County. Important issues with programming include:

- ✦ The Recreation District focuses much of its programming efforts on aquatics, fitness, youth, and sports.
- ✦ Recreation programs and services are generally delivered at the recreation center but there are also classes offered at other locations including parks and community facilities in individual towns.
- ✦ Table 4 indicates specific program areas and participation that have been offered by the District in the last three years.
- ✦ In addition to the programs listed above, the District also co-sponsors a number of special events in the county including: Rockies Skills Challenge, Slacker Half Marathon, Fall Fest and others.
- ✦ Overall participation in District sponsored recreation programs has declined steadily over the last three years. The reasons for this decline are not clearly understood but could be due in part to the continued decline in school age children (who are the age group with the highest rate of participation in recreation activities).
- ✦ Table 5 identifies and summarizes current core programs, secondary programs, and support or non-program areas for the District.

The District will need to determine if the focus on the core program areas should continue into the future or should move in another direction. Tables 4 and 5 are general assessments of the major program areas.



Figure 14: Youth soccer participation has grown over the past three years.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

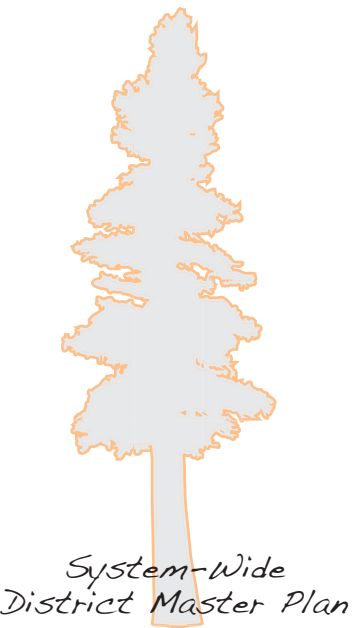
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Area	Classes	2008 Participation	2009 Participation	2010 Participation
Aquatics				
	Swim Lessons	176	151	169
	Private Lessons	70	46	68
	Drive-In Movies	205	282	133
	Otters Swim Team	38	16	7
	Cara Swim Team	12	56	49
	Open Kayaking	126	96	225
Fitness				
	Group Fitness	3,328	2,921	2,570
	Yoga	754	510	344
	Personal Training	90	49	55
	Biggest Loser	12	0	0
General				
	Spanish	4	0	0
Sports				
	Adult Softball	7	5	0
	Adult Dodgeball	0	14	0
	Adult Kickball	0	12	14
	Little League BB	100	81	77
	Volleyball Club	16	18	0
	Tae Kwon Do	650	574	532
	Youth Soccer	55	59	72
	Tennis Lessons	14	9	0
	Youth Football Camp	23	28	0
	Youth Basketball Camp	13	0	0
	Youth Lacrosse Camp	0	22	0
	Challenger Soccer Camp	9	17	20
Youth				
	Before/After School	443	542	604
	Summer Camp	428	307	487
	Babysitters Training	9	0	31
	Middle School Lock-In	21	0	0
Cultural				
	Youth Dance	46	319	22
Special Needs				
	Special Needs	52	65	52
Outdoor				
	Fishing Derby	35	21	0
Special Events				
	Nuggets Night	27	24	20
TOTAL		6,763	6,344	5,551

Table 4: (Left) Programs offered and participation rates.

Table 5: (Right) Program emphasis

Programs	Core	Secondary	Support
Youth Sports	✓		
Adult Sports		✓	
Fitness / Wellness	✓		
Cultural Arts			✓
Youth (Non-Sports)	✓		
Seniors			✓
Aquatics	✓		
General Programs		✓	
Special Events		✓	
Outdoor Recreation			✓
Special Needs		✓	



- Core
- ✱ Youth Sports – With a very limited number of youth sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, football and volleyball) organizations in the area taking on the responsibility for organized youth team sports activities, the District will need to continue to have an active role in the future of these activities. There will also need to be a continued emphasis on youth sports camps and clinics as well. In many communities there is an increasing interest in individual sports such as tennis, biking and even fencing. It may be necessary for the District to expand some of these activities in concert with the focus on team sports. In addition, the District will need to increase its focus on the development of adventure sports (skateboarding, BMX, mountain boarding, mountain biking, etc.).
 - ✱ Fitness/Wellness – Without a doubt, this is one of the greatest areas of growth in public recreation programming. With a society that has an increasing awareness of the benefits of good health and a realization that obesity (especially among children) is a major risk for Americans, there is a much higher demand for programming in this area. The District has a reasonably strong program that is primarily conducted out of the recreation center but this area may need additional focus in the future (and will require additional indoor facilities to accomplish). The District should also emphasize the importance of integrating wellness initiatives into other program areas (seniors, youth, etc.) as well. Partnering with health care providers for more medically based services will be essential.
 - ✱ Youth (Non-Sports) – There appears to be very limited teen programming currently. The District does have the experience and facilities (recreation center) to continue to support these programs. However, the District will need to work closely with the school district and other organizations to develop a realistic plan for this program area in the future.



Figure 15: Special events bring communities together as well as attract tourists.

- * Aquatics – With a large indoor pool at the recreation center, the District will need to continue to emphasize aquatic programming, especially by offering swim classes for children as a primary program area. Aquatic exercise programs should also be emphasized. The addition of a warm water leisure pool to the facility would allow for a further expansion of aquatic programming.



Secondary

- o Adult Sports – The District has had limited success with the development of the more traditional adult team sports programs in the county due in part to a limited population base and a stronger focus on youth sports. The District should not abandon programming in this area but it will probably never be a strong suit for recreation. The District will need to concentrate on developing individual adult sports and adventure sports.
- o General Programs – Programs in this area can cover everything from self improvement to education and other classes. This should be a program area that receives increased emphasis in the coming years (especially for adults) but will probably remain in the secondary area.
- o Special Events – The District has a significant focus on special events throughout the county. Increasingly, recreation departments across the United States are seeing a greater emphasis placed on special events that draw communities together as well as attract individuals from outside the area. At times

the focus on special events has resulted in other traditional recreation programming being neglected. Special events will certainly remain as a secondary program area for the District but providing support for other county events should be a primary area of emphasis. The cost of these events should be covered directly by the group that is putting on the activity and other community groups should be encouraged to be the primary funders and organizers of as many county-wide events as possible. However, providing organizational, scheduling, and promotional assistance for these events could be a role for the District. The focus of special events whether for local residents (as the community prefers) or to attract visitors to the county (as elected officials and staff suggest) will need to be determined.

- * Special Needs – It appears that the District has a reasonably well defined special needs program. Considering the relatively small population base in the District, this is a commendable program. It is difficult for most recreation agencies to have a broad special needs program on their own. As a result, many departments in a region will often band together to provide these services in a more cost effective manner. The District should consider partnering with other public recreation departments in the area for any future expansions of special needs programming.



Support

- * Cultural Arts – This is currently an almost non-existent program area for the District and it is anticipated that further emphasis in this area is probably not a priority at this time. There are other organizations in the county that do provide some basic services in this area. However, assisting with the promotion of music and arts based special events will need to continue to occur.
- * Seniors – The District currently offers very limited programs for seniors (primarily Silver Sneakers), with other community organizations (Idaho Springs Senior Center, etc.) taking on this role. However, with the

county's aging population the District will need to take a more active role with this age group. It should be noted that as the Baby Boomer generation ages, they are bringing new needs and expectations to senior services that are more in line with the active recreation pursuits they have grown up with. This will require different types of senior services and a change in facilities as well. In the future this program area should move from the support category to the secondary level.

- * Outdoor Recreation - There does not appear to be much emphasis given to this program area by the District. With many outdoor areas and resources available, there will need to be a greater emphasis on these activities. Specific programs could be offered by other community based organizations with some coordination by the District. In the future, this program area should move from the support area to at least the secondary area if not eventually the core.

2.3 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS

There are a limited number of indoor community recreation facilities within the District's boundaries. For active recreation, the District owned and operated Clear Creek Recreation Center is the primary provider in the county. Other facilities include:

Clear Creek School District – The school district has a number of gyms that can be used for recreation purposes as well as classroom space for meetings and other activities. In addition, the school district also has a number of outdoor fields that are available.

Town Facilities – Many of the larger towns in the District have some type of public space that is available for recreation activities. The majority of these spaces are smaller community rooms.



Figure 16: The climbing wall is a well-used amenity in the Recreation Center.

Introduction

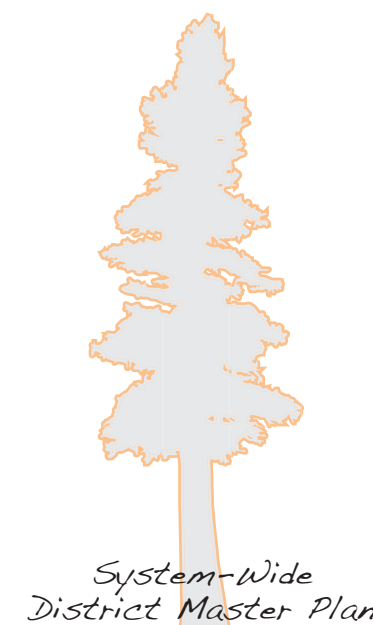
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

These include:

- ⌘ Georgetown Community Center – this facility features a relatively large multipurpose room that is utilized by the town for its activities as well as by the District for a number of programs.
- ⌘ Georgetown Town Hall – there is a small meeting room that is used for council meetings and other community meetings.
- ⌘ Georgetown Public School – this newly renovated old historic school building is currently available for community groups and meetings while its future use is determined.
- ⌘ Empire Town Hall – there is a small meeting room in this building.
- ⌘ Idaho Springs Town Hall – has a medium sized community room.
- ⌘ Silver Plume Town Hall – has a small meeting room.

Non-Profit Facilities - There are a limited number of non-profit facilities that are available. These include:

- ⌘ Idaho Springs Senior Center – a small center that has meeting space and provides a senior meal program.
- ⌘ United Center – this is a former church building that is now utilized as a community theater building.



Figure 17: The Clear Creek Recreation Center is the central facility for the District.

2.3.1 Clear Creek Recreation Center

The Clear Creek Recreation Center opened in 1990 and the bond for construction has now been paid off. The center features a 6-lane 25-yard pool with a diving board, a wading pool, hot tub and outdoor sun deck. On the rest of the first floor is the front desk, locker rooms and an activities room. Upstairs are the District offices, a small kitchen, weight/ cardio equipment area, group exercise floor and a climbing wall.

The following is a basic analysis of the Clear Creek Recreation Center.

- ⌘ Strengths
 - * The center is well utilized by residents of the District.
 - * The facility is centrally located in the county.
 - * The center has no outstanding capital debt.
 - * The facility is well maintained for its age and level of use.
 - * Fitness and aquatics are the primary focus of the center.
 - * The Recreation Center is a great asset for the District and for a population base of under 10,000.
- ⌘ Weaknesses
 - * The center does not have all of the amenities that are now found in other more comprehensive recreation centers in the area. This includes:
 - Gymnasium
 - Indoor track
 - Leisure pool
 - Community rooms
 - Drop-in babysitting.
 - * The center has limited land area for expansion.
 - * Parking is very limited.
 - * The locker rooms are rather utilitarian and there is only one family change room.
 - * The lobby area is relatively small and does not serve as an effective community gathering area.
 - * Office and work space for the District is limited.
 - * Storage space is limited.

2.4 ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARK ASSETS

Planning and constructing a system of parks in Clear Creek County has not historically been central to the CCMRD's mission. The District has frequently collaborated with the city and towns to build or enhance parks and, in recent years, worked with the residents of Floyd Hill to construct the tennis courts, play equipment, and picnic shelter now known as Elmgreen Park. However, understanding how well the residents of the District are being served by the existing park system is a critical part of a system-wide plan. Are parks available to the residents? Do they contain the facilities residents desire? Do they meet current design and accessibility standards?

2.4.1 Park Classifications

Parks are used by people in different ways. In this section, parks have been classified into types which help determine how citizens are likely to use them and they have been grouped based on their size, location, and amenities. Commonly used definitions (ordered by both size and intensity of use) are Pocket (or Mini) Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Regional Parks, and Specialized Facilities. It should be noted that, due to the limited availability and cost of level ground in Clear Creek County, parks tend to be smaller than parks of a similar classification in Front Range communities. Because of this, function has served as the first criteria in classifying parks in the District rather than size. Please note that this analysis has included all of the parks that provide recreation amenities in the CCMRD and not just District owned or maintained facilities. This was done so that a determination can be made as to how well the residents of District are served by the existing park system.



Figure 18: Elmgreen Park - an excellent example of a Pocket Park.

Pocket Parks typically range in size from ¼ to 3 acres and are typically found in higher density areas. They are intended to be a walk-to facility that provides recreation for the residents in their immediate vicinity. They generally include play equipment, a picnic shelter and tables, and a small turf area for informal recreation. Because they are less efficient to maintain than a larger park, Pocket Parks can create a substantial drain on maintenance resources.

A number of the parks in the county fall into the Pocket Park category:

- Elmgreen Park, Floyd Hill (1.18 Acres)
- Tennis Court and Multi-Use Court – Meadows Park, Georgetown (1.0 Acres)
- Macy/Ruth Mill Park (0.33 acres) (not a CCMRD facility)
- Triangle Park, Georgetown (0.06 Acres) (not a CCMRD facility)
- Dinger Park, Silver Plume (0.63 Acres) (not a CCMRD facility)

In most Front Range communities, **Neighborhood Parks** range from 3 to 20 acres in size. They are intended to be walk-to facilities, usually within a 1/2 to 1/4 mile of the homes they serve. Neighborhood Parks typically have a playground, an open turf/play area large enough for informal field sports and practices, a basketball and/or tennis court, picnic facilities, and sometimes a restroom and/or off-street parking. Regional and Community Parks with play facilities and picnic areas often serve as the nearby

resident’s Neighborhood Park. Team sports are typically not programmed at Neighborhood Parks.

It is worth noting that in the county, there are only two parks that are stand-alone Neighborhood Parks and they are both under 3 acres. Minton Park is the only park in the county that has been classified as a Community Park and which has picnic and playground facilities would provide nearby residents with Neighborhood Park activities. Examples of Neighborhood Parks include:

- City Park, Georgetown (1.25 Acres) (not a CCMRD facility)
- Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park, Idaho Springs (2.75 acres) (not a CCMRD facility)
- Minton Park, Empire (Community Park with Neighborhood Park uses) (not a CCMRD facility)

Community Parks are drive-to facilities that are typically 20 to 40 acres in size. They serve multiple neighborhoods, are characteristically located along major roads, and usually have on-site parking (typically 50 spaces or more). Where Neighborhood Parks may have one or two recreation facilities, Community Parks have clusters of recreation facilities such as baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, tennis and/or basketball courts, group picnic shelters, etc., and are programmed for organized team sports. These facilities often have night-time illumination. Community Parks can also contain natural areas with trails and may include Specialized Facilities such as a recreation center, skate park, swimming pool, or a splash ground. When Community Parks have amenities/features found in a Neighborhood

Park, they also serve as a Neighborhood Park for nearby residents. There are two parks in the county that function as Community Parks, although they are both smaller in size than the typical Community Park:

- Minton Park, Empire (10.0 Acres) (partially controlled / maintained by CCMRD)
- CCMRD Ballfield Complex (Shelly/Quinn Fields), Idaho Springs (8.35 Acres) (leased by CCMRD)

Regional Parks/Facilities serve an even greater population – typically the entire community and sometimes, adjacent communities. They are often associated with natural areas (i.e. rivers, mountains, reservoirs) and may have special features to take advantage of their resources (such as trails and wildlife viewing opportunities). They can occasionally include special recreation uses (such as fairgrounds) and larger sports venues such as stadiums. The county currently has one facility that fits the description of a Regional Park/Facility:

- Lawson Whitewater Park (1.42 Acres) (County-owned)

Specialized Facilities are unique park and recreation assets dedicated to a specific use. While these facilities do not fall into any of the typical park classifications, they do serve as a District-wide recreational resource. In the county, Specialized Facilities include:

- CCMRD Recreation Center Site, Idaho Springs (0.65 Acres). This facility includes an outdoor basketball and volleyball court.



Figure 19: Georgetown’s City Park is a popular Neighborhood Park



Figure 20: Minton Park, a community park in Empire, would be a drive-to destination for most District families.



Figure 21: Empire’s Mountain Board Park is a regional facility that attracts users from throughout the County.



Figure 22: Lawson Whitewater Park is a specialized facility for a specific recreational purpose.

Introduction

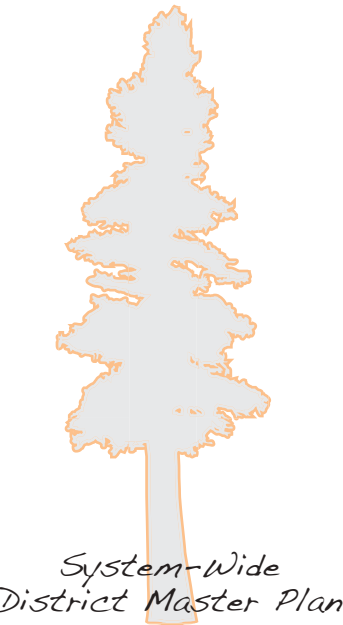
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan



- Heritage Park Tennis Court and Multi-use Court, Idaho Springs (0.91 Acres). These courts are just south of Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park. Users must cross Colorado Boulevard to move between the two parks. (CCMRD maintained)
- Skate Park, Idaho Springs (0.28 Acres). (CCMRD maintained)
- The District owns a small narrow parcel of land (2.3 acres) called Spaghetti Ranch which is located between I-70 and County Road 306 just southwest of the I-70 / US 40 interchange. Because the parcel is so narrow (+/- 25’ wide) it has limited recreational value. It would be suitable for a future trail alignment and/or trail head or perhaps a linear bike skills area.
- Werlin Park, Georgetown (0.89 Acres) – a multi-purpose / sports field. (Town-owned)
- The Clear Creek Rodeo Grounds is located south of I-70 in Dumont. The site is owned by Clear Creek County and maintained and operated by the Clear Creek Rodeo Association. There have been discussions in recent years regarding upgrading or relocating the rodeo grounds (possibly to Empire), but no firm plans have been made. The largest event is the OMG Rodeo, which is held at the site each year.
- There are a number of small parcels in the District that function more as open space, creek access, or plazas. A partial list includes Citizens Park, Montgomery Park, Hillside Park, and Anderson Park in Idaho Springs and Gateway Park in Georgetown. Since these facilities are not typically used for recreation by District residents, they have not been evaluated in detail for this plan but are shown on some of the maps.

2.4.2 Overview of the Existing Parks in the CCMRD

Parks and other outdoor recreation facilities are important assets for a healthy community. However, these facilities must be in good condition and accessible to residents in order to maximize this benefit. As a part of the System-Wide Master Plan process, each park within the county was evaluated for condition, comfort, and accessibility; and to quantify the facilities it offers. The “Existing Park Inventory” included in the [Appendix](#) provides detailed summaries of this analysis. The key findings of this evaluation include:

Table 6: Overview of Existing Conditions

Good ● Average ● Poor ○

POCKET/NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	OWNERSHIP/MAINTENANCE	GENERAL CONDITION	PLAY EQUIPMENT	PICNIC FACILITIES	OTHER AMENITIES
Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park (Idaho Springs)	City owned and maintained	●	●	●	Group Picnic shelter, grills, large play structure (new), picnic tables, trees, creek access
Dinger Park (Silver Plume)	City owned and maintained	●	●	●	Play Structure, (New - multiple events), swings, merry-go-round, and a picnic shelter
Elmgreen Park (Floyd Hill)	District owned and maintained	●	●	●	Play structure (New, multiple events) Restroom, Tennis (resurfaced)
Heritage Park and Tennis Court	IGA for CCMRD to maintain court	● (park) ○ (tennis)	--	--	Small turf area, trees, picnic tables, horseshoes, restroom, tennis court (poor condition)
Macy/Ruth Mill Park (Idaho Springs)	City owned and maintained	●	○	Picnic tables only	Restroom, play structure, picnic tables
Tennis court and Multi-use court / Meadows park (Georgetown)	Long-term lease with Town. Maintenance the full responsibility of the District	●	--	Picnic tables only	Tennis and multi-use courts, grill, portable restrooms
Town Park (Georgetown)	City owned and maintained	●	●	●	Gazebo, grills, picnic tables, mature trees, large custom accessible play structure
Triangle Park (Georgetown)	City owned and maintained	○	○	Picnic tables only	Small turf area

COMMUNITY PARK	OWNERSHIP/MAINTENANCE	GENERAL CONDITION	PLAY EQUIPMENT	PICNIC FACILITIES	OTHER AMENITIES
CCMRD Ballfield Complex (Idaho Springs)	Long-term lease with City. Maintenance the full responsibility of the District	○	--	Picnic tables only	Two lighted softball/youth ballfields (lighting not to Little League Standards) Concessions/scorer Boxes, Gravel off-street parking
Minton Park (Empire)	IGA with Town to maintain ballfield	●	○	●	Baseball, restroom, grills, storage building, horseshoes
Werlin Park (Georgetown)	City owned	●	--	--	Multi-purpose turf area, youth baseball field

REGIONAL PARKS AND SPECIALIZED FACILITIES	OWNERSHIP/MAINTENANCE	GENERAL CONDITION	PLAY EQUIPMENT	PICNIC FACILITIES	OTHER AMENITIES
Lawson Whitewater Park (Clear Creek County Open Space)	CCMRD has an IGA with County OS to service restroom	●	--	Picnic tables only	Whitewater course with creek access, composting restroom
Minton Park Mountain Board Park (Empire)	IGA pending for the District to maintain the mountain board park	●	--	--	Mountain board park with terrain events
Skate Park (Idaho Springs)	IGA for District to operate and maintain	○	--	--	Aging skate park in poor condition

⌄ A number of the outdoor park and recreation facilities in the city and towns in the CCMRD are deficient in meeting current ADA accessibility regulations. This appears to be due to the fact that most parks were constructed before the adoption of the ADA regulations and the steep terrain. However, accessibility to most of the parks in the District could be improved with careful planning and a relatively modest capital outlay.

- ✱ Parks that have been recently constructed, such as the new Courtney-Riley-Cooper playground, portions of Elmgreen Park, and the Lawson Whitewater Park, appear to comply with the current guidelines for accessibility.

⌄ The overall condition of the outdoor park and recreation facilities in the CCMRD varies as do the amenities offered. The following tables:

- ✱ Provide an overview of the detailed facility-by-facility analysis of the park and recreation assets in the county (See [Appendix](#)).
- ✱ Indicate which facilities the CCMRD owns or has and intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with to city or town to operate.
- ✱ Summarize the general condition of each facility using the following system:

2.4.3 How Well Are the Residents Served?

The vast majority of the residents living in the city and towns within the CCMRD have parks within close proximity to their homes. When one considers the unincorporated areas of the District, residents typically have to drive to reach a park. The analysis of how well the residents of the CCMRD are served by the existing park system yielded the following results:

⌄ 97.2% of the District's residents who live in the municipalities are within 1/3 mile of a Pocket or Neighborhood Park – see Park Service Area maps in the [Appendix](#). Homes within 1/3-mile (+/- five blocks) to ¼-mile (+/- four blocks) of a Pocket or Neighborhood Park are generally considered within walking distance. The percent of the population within each city or town in the District that are within 1/3-mile of a small park include:

- ✱ Empire: 100%
- ✱ Georgetown: 93%
- ✱ Idaho Springs: 99%
- ✱ Silver Plume: 95%.

⌄ The municipalities in the CCMRD only account for 35% of the District's population. In addition, the only residents in the unincorporated areas of the District with a walk-to park are the residents of Floyd Hill who are served by Elmgreen Park and those who live immediately adjacent to a municipality. Therefore, approximately 44% of the CCMRD's residents are not within walking distance of a Pocket or Neighborhood Park. This is illustrated by Map 2.1. This map shows the parks within the CCMRD and the associated service areas. The fact that most of the homes in the unincorporated areas of the District are not within close proximity to a park is not surprising. Factors include the low density of housing, the steep terrain, and the fact that many residents choose to live outside of cities and towns specifically because of the privacy and isolation. In addition, when one buys a property outside city or town limits, there is, by default, a conscious choice to forego municipal-level services. Based on these assumptions, a 1.5-mile radius has been used to analyze the service areas for parks in the unincorporated areas.

⌄ When the CCMRD constructed Elmgreen Park in Floyd Hill, it provided a Neighborhood Park within a short walk or drive for a significant portion of the District's unincorporated population.

⌄ There are other areas of the District with a population density that is similar to Floyd Hill that lack a park facility of any type. One of the most notable coverage gaps is in the center of the District in the Dumont-Lawson-Downieville area (DLD), which has a population of approximately 750 residents. The District should consider working with communities such as the DLD to construct small parks, following the approach that was used to construct Elmgreen.

Service area radii maps for District parks can be found in the [Appendix](#).

2.5 PUBLIC LANDS AND TRAILS

Clear Creek County is blessed with an abundance of natural resources which are accessible via public lands. The Clear Creek County Master Plan notes that the county is approximately 252,800 acres with 75% to 80% of the



Figure 23: There is a vast network of trails throughout the County's public lands that residents feel are essential for recreation.

county in public ownership. The US Forest Service (USFS) alone owns 66% of the land in the county ¹. In addition to the USFS, Clear County Open Space also owns land that is or will be open to the public. The public lands that are accessible to the CCMRD residents include the Arapahoe National Forest and the Mt. Evans Wilderness. This means that CCMRD residents have easy access to a wide range of recreation activities from trail activities (mountain bike, jeep/4-wheeling, backpacking), skiing/snow boarding, snowmobiling, cross-county skiing, climbing, camping, hunting, fishing, etc. This wealth of outdoor recreation resources is illustrated on Map 2.1.

Having this wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities means that Clear Creek County can offer amenities that none of the communities on the Front Range can match. This fact was frequently mentioned throughout the public input process. In fact, many stakeholders and residents felt the county had yet to take full advantage of marketing this abundance to attract potential visitors and residents.

2.5.1 Trails

There is a wide network of trails throughout the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District. The vast majority of the trails are unimproved hiking trails and jeep/4-wheel trails on the public land that surrounds the municipalities in the District. This system of trails is often a weekend destination for visitors from the Front Range and adjacent counties. It is worth noting that respondents to the survey

¹ Clear Creek County Master Plan, 2004, Clear Creek County and THK Associates

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

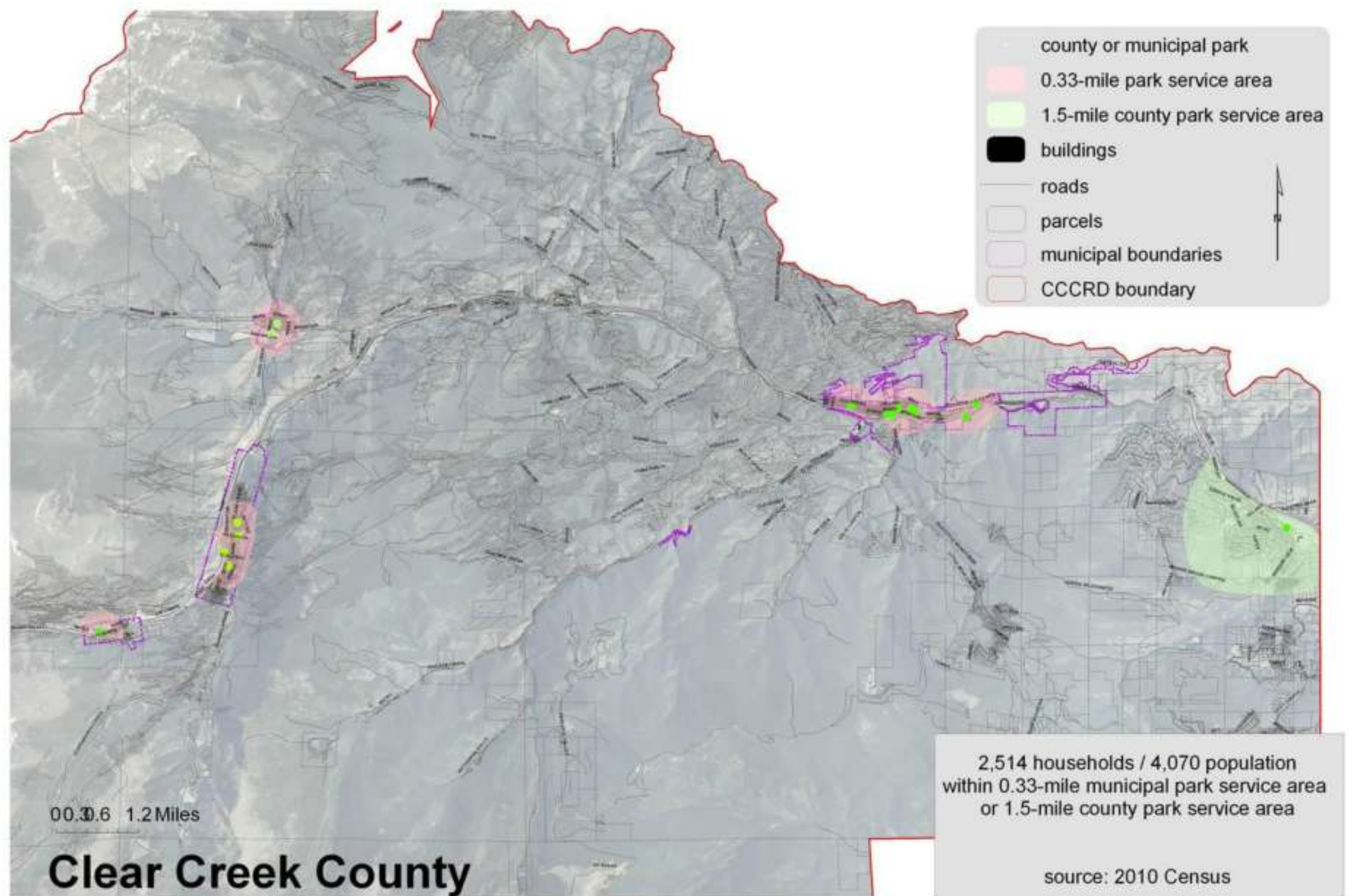
Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan



Map 2.1 illustrates the distribution of Pocket/Neighborhood parks within the CCMRD.

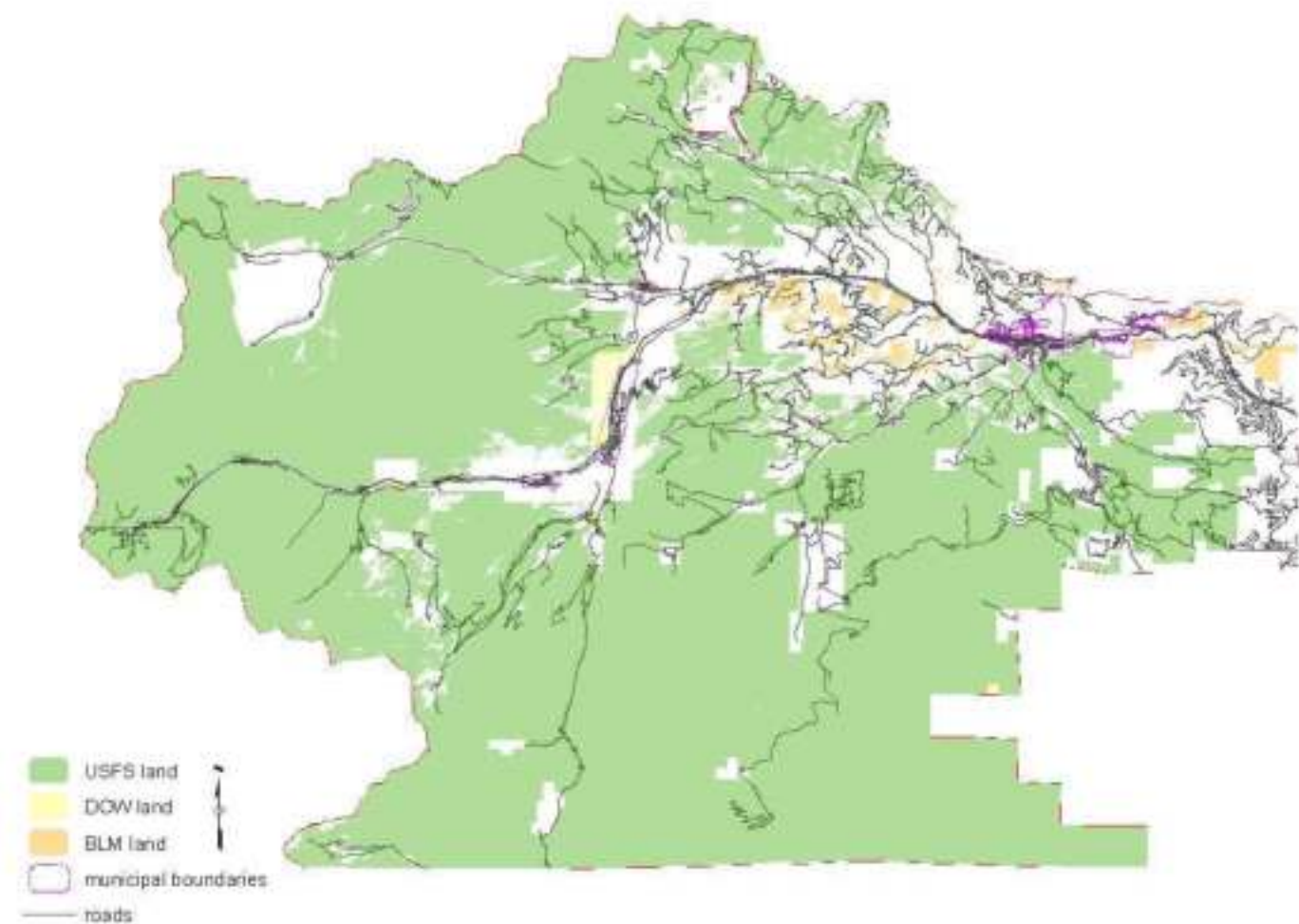


Figure 25: Public Lands make up 85% of the District.

listed “Forest Service trails” as the most frequently used recreation amenity in the CCMRD. However, during the public input process, residents and stakeholders mentioned that it is often necessary to drive some distance to reach a USFS trail head – making these types of trails less convenient for daily use by local residents. This may help explain why residents listed the need for trails of all types as a high priority in the public opinion survey conducted for this master plan. Based on this response, it is safe to say that convenient access to a varied trail network is perceived as a strong need for the District’s residents.

When it comes to paved recreation trails, the primary facility serving the CCMRD is the Clear Creek Greenway. The Clear Creek Greenway is detailed in the 2005 Clear Creek Greenway Plan. When completed, the Greenway will provide a linear trail system that will connect the

Eisenhower / Johnson Memorial Tunnel to the eastern border of Clear Creek County. The plan is for an integrated system of bridges and underpasses, trail heads, parks, rest areas, and picnic areas. Many segments of the Greenway are already in place and CCMRD residents can now ride from the Loveland Ski Area to Floyd Hill. In some cases the Greenway Trail follows paved, off-street recreational trails such as the Scott Lancaster Trail in Idaho Springs. In other areas, the trail follows low-volume county roads that parallel I-70.

There are other smaller trail segments throughout the District, but most of these are within or adjacent to existing parks such as Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park and Georgetown’s City Park. Connecting all of the park and recreation facilities within the CCMRD with a sidewalk

or a trail should be a long-term goal of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District.

2.6 EXISTING STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION

The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District has a reasonably efficient and effective organizational structure as well as basic operational policies and procedures in place.

2.6.1 Staffing

The District has a small full-time staff to handle the administration, facility management, recreation programming, and maintenance of facilities. There are five full-time staff members:

- * District Director
- * Administrative Assistant
- * Program/Personnel Manager
- * Logistics Maintenance Coordinator
- * Youth/Summer Camp Coordinator.

The full-time positions are backed up by a series of part-time staff including these key positions:

- * Front Desk Manager
- * Lifeguard
- * Program Personnel.

There are basic job descriptions in place for the full-time positions and most of the part-time personnel. However, these will need to be updated and altered to reflect current and future job responsibilities and pay ranges.

The District has an employee policies and procedures manual that covers all aspects of employment.

- * There is a performance appraisal policy in place.

2.6.2 Budget

The District has an operations budget that has several sub budgets including:

- * Administration
- * Programs
- * Aquatics
- * Youth Programs
- * Facilities
- * Recreation Center.

Introduction

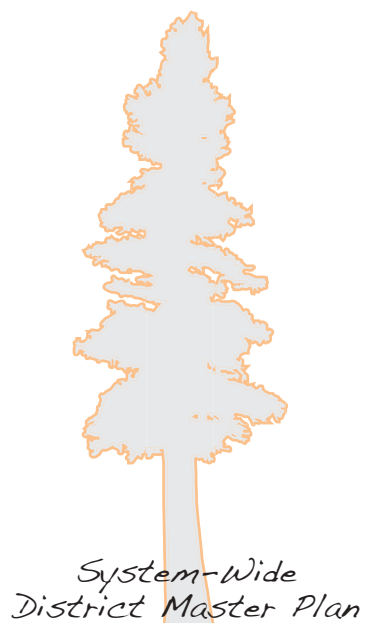
Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

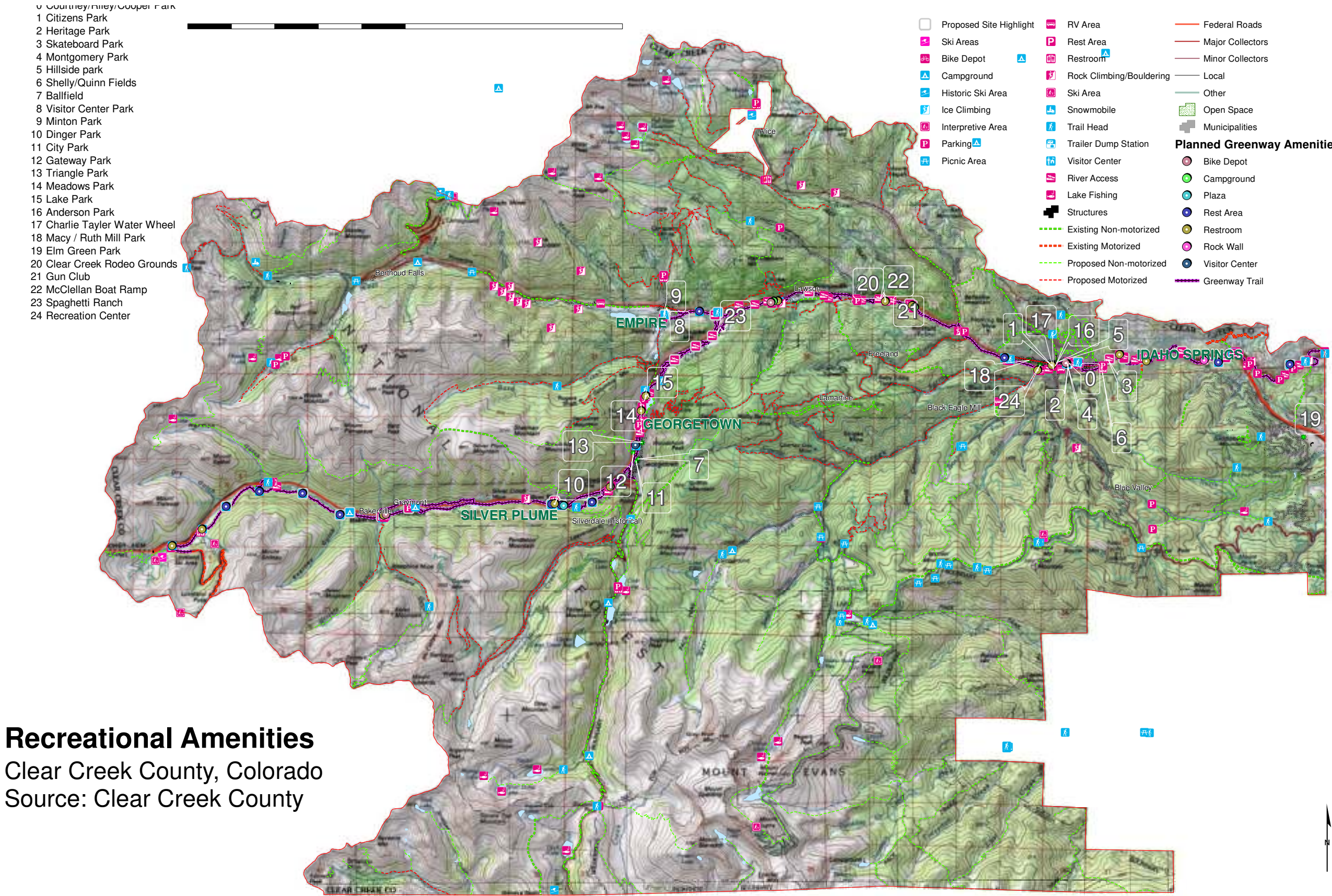
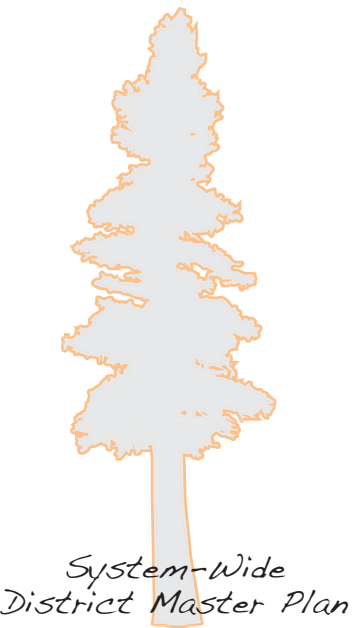
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Recreational Amenities
Clear Creek County, Colorado
Source: Clear Creek County

Figure 26: Participants and focus groups consistently noted the abundance of recreational opportunities and amenities in Clear Creek County.

- A basic capital improvement plan is in place that itemizes the planned capital expenditures for the next several years.
- The District has developed a grant application guide.

2.6.3 Operations

- The District operates with a strong vision statement and mission statement backed by a series of goals and objectives.
- There is a comprehensive Board of Directors manual that details basic operating procedures for the District including:
 - Board membership
 - Elections
 - District service plans
 - Financial matters
 - Contracting and personnel matters
 - Property issues
- In addition to the information listed above, the following other documents also are in place:
 - Purchasing policies
 - Recreation center front desk policies and procedures
 - Partnership and sponsorship guidelines
 - Liability waiver for recreation center users
- The District has a very basic maintenance plan for the facilities that have to be maintained. The document is organized by amenity, tasks to be completed and frequency of time per task. There is also a sign-up sheet for recreation center custodial tasks.
- While the District does not have a formal marketing plan, it does have a number of marketing mechanisms in place. This includes:
 - Program guide advertising opportunities
 - On-line program registration
 - A strong website

2.7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District currently has a number of intergovernmental agreements (IGA's) in place that primarily cover use and maintenance of other governmental unit's facilities by the District. Key IGA's include:

- Lawson Whitewater Park – This is a 2010 agreement between the District and Clear Creek County that pertains to the maintenance of the park restrooms. The agreement outlines the maintenance requirements of the District and the rate of compensation that the County will pay. This is a yearly contract.
- City of Idaho Springs Recreation Facilities – This IGA was originally signed in 1981 and covers the District's lease of a number of City recreation amenities including baseball fields, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. The agreement deals with the use and maintenance of these three amenities. The lease fee for the baseball fields and tennis courts is \$1.00 a year and the term is 50 years with an option for another 50 years. The lease arrangements for the swimming pool appears to no longer be relevant or in force. The agreement needs to be updated to reflect the changes in use and facilities.
- Town of Georgetown Recreation Facilities – Similar to the Idaho Springs IGA, this agreement was signed in 1981 and covers the District's use and maintenance of the Town's tennis courts and baseball field. The lease is for \$1.00 a year and is renewable annually. It also appears that this IGA no longer reflects the exact amenities that are noted and use of the baseball field by the District is limited. This agreement should be updated as well.

- Town of Empire Ballfield – Signed in 1997, this agreement outlines the District's use of the ball field and the requirements of the Town and other governmental agencies for funding improvements to the facility. The agreement is for a 25-year period and involves not only the Recreation District but also the School District as users. With changes in the use of this field by the District, consideration may need to be given to either cancelling the agreement or changing how the facility may be used.

It is clear that the District has a number of existing IGA's that are in need of review and modification. There should be a concerted effort to update all existing agreements and also determine if others are necessary. It should also be recognized that the District needs to have IGA's for any use of District owned facilities by other governmental agencies.



Figure 27: The District has an IGA to maintain the Lawson Whitewater Park restroom for County Open Space. CCMRD has additional IGAs that address specific needs for a number of municipalities.

Introduction

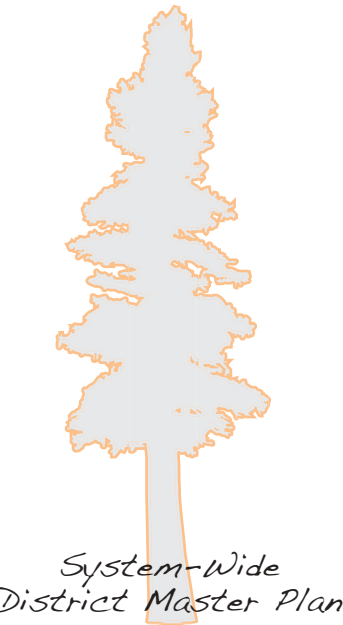
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan



3 PUBLIC INPUT

Introduction

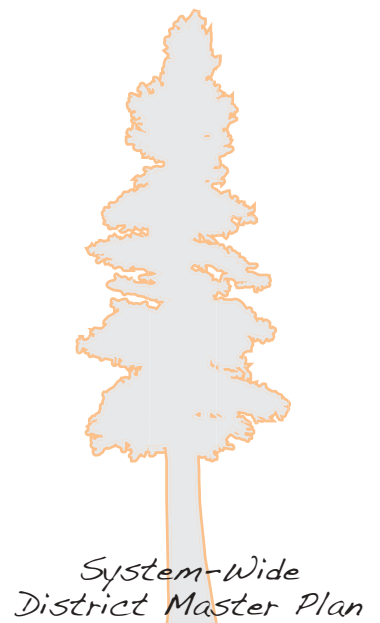
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



27

3.1 THE PROJECT WEBSITE

3.2 FOCUS GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

3.2.1 PARKS, TRAILS, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

3.2.2 RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

3.3 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

3.3.1 FACILITIES

3.3.2 RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

3.3.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

3.3.4 CCMRD ROLE AND FUNDING

3.4 PUBLIC MEETING #1

3.4.1 KEYPAD POLLING

3.4.2 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC MEETING #1

3.5 PUBLIC MEETING #2

The System-Wide Master Plan for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District is the direct result of an extensive public engagement process. The public was able to participate in a variety of ways:

- Interviews with stakeholders, municipal partners, and school district representatives
- Two public meetings
- A statistically valid Community Attitude and Interest Survey
- Interviews and review meetings with CCMRD staff
- E-mail messages and invitations to participants and attendees
- Information about the master plan process conveyed through articles in Clear Creek Courant and on the master plan website (www.CCMRDmasterplan.com).

For additional / more detailed information on the public engagement process and its products, please see the [Appendix](#).

3.1 THE PROJECT WEBSITE

At the beginning of the System-Wide Master Plan process, a project website – www.CCMRDmasterplan.com - was established by the Master Plan Team. The website included an overview of the project, news and updates, a calendar, public meeting presentations, collected public comments, and results of the public opinion survey.

Throughout the master plan process, the website was updated as new products for the master plan became available. In addition, “email blasts” were sent to individuals who asked to be kept up-to-date on the plan process. These emails notified them of upcoming meetings and events and when new material was posted on the website.

3.2 FOCUS GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

A series of focus groups and interviews with civic leaders/stakeholders who represented Clear Creek County and the municipal partners were held over a three day period – February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2011. This series of meetings was the kick-off to the public engagement process for the System-Wide Master Plan.



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



The goal of each focus group was to conduct in-depth discussions with average citizens of the District. Meetings were held with residents from:

- Georgetown and Silver Plume
- Empire and Dumont-Lawson-Downieville (DLD)
- Idaho Springs
- Floyd Hill

Stakeholder interviews were held with representatives from Clear Creek County, Georgetown, Empire/DLD, Idaho Springs, a representative of the Floyd Hill HOA, and the Clear Creek School District. (Note: Due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting with the School District was actually held in March of 2011.) The following is a brief summary of the comments that were mentioned frequently. Please see the [Appendix](#) for detailed summaries of each meeting.

3.2.1 Parks, Trails, and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Based on the input provided during the focus group discussions and stakeholder interviews, the following observations were noted regarding parks, trails, and outdoor recreation facilities:

- It is critical that all of the governmental agencies in the county communicate, cooperate, and work together to avoid duplication and overlapping services. ("Hold a recreation summit"). For example, the CCMRD and the school district should collaborate to provide public recreation and avoid duplication.
 - Many suggestions centered on how best to reuse the old middle/high school building.
- Clear Creek County has amazing recreation resources that no one is marketing to their full potential. There needs to be more emphasis on raising the county's profile through special events and festivals.
 - High quality recreation facilities can be used to promote Clear Creek County. ("How do we keep the community vibrant and growing?")
- The community needs to be careful not to over-build in the county because the tax revenue from the Henderson Mine will eventually end with the mining.

- Avoid building facilities that cannot be well maintained.
- It is important to create a park and recreation system that:
 - Encourages families to remain in/move to Clear Creek County. (This point was mentioned in many of the focus groups and interviews.)
 - Supports business development.

Representatives from the Clear Creek County and City of Idaho Springs felt that the school district bus barn and the football stadium located to the south and west of the Clear Creek Recreation Center should be reserved for commercial/ economic development if the land becomes available. (Note: The school district has no immediate plans to move out of the facility.)

- Trails:
- The county should take full advantage of its trail system like Fruita and Winter Park do. ("The network of off-road jeep/ATV trails is not promoted as it should be.")
 - Providing access to the county's trail system and trailheads is important.
 - Trails are not always well marked; it is not easy to find comprehensive trail maps.
 - Georgetown is hoping to construct a loop trail around Georgetown Lake.
 - What is the District's role with trails? They are important to the residents, but who should build and maintain them?

- The Georgetown ice rink was a great success.
- The Dumont-Lawson-Downieville community has had CDOT money set aside since the 1960's for an unspecified amenity for DLD residents. Over the last year, residents have begun to look at building a park/playground/picnic area with the CDOT funds and the steps necessary to build such a facility.
- The CCMRD Board of Directors should have representatives from each area of the county.
- The District has been more proactive and better at communicating with the municipal partners in recent years.
- Clear Creek School District RE-1 has outdoor park and recreation facilities associated with each of its schools. Many of these are available

to the community when school is not in session. However, some facilities such as the track and sports fields at the new high school are not open to the public in order to maintain them in good condition for school activities and avoid premature degradation through over-use.

3.2.2 Recreation Programs and Services

Based on the input provided during the focus group discussions and stakeholder interviews, the following conclusions could be drawn regarding recreation programs and services:

- The role of special events in Clear Creek County needs to be determined – are they to serve locals, visitors, or both? ("Not sure my tax dollars should go for something that benefits visitors!" vs. "Tourism is our bread-and-butter especially if Henderson closes; visitor dollars will be essential!")
- The District's primary role should be to operate the Recreation Center.
 - There were a number of comments stating that the Recreation Center needs to be expanded so that it is on par with the centers in Silverthorne and Evergreen.
 - Possible new amenities include (but are not limited to) a gym, expanded fitness, jogging/walking track, leisure pool amenities (slides, water jets, etc.), indoor playground, gymnastics, and a party room.
- The District should serve as the coordinator of recreation activities in Clear Creek County.



Figure 28: The need for an expanded aquatic facility and programming is a high priority for residents and stakeholders.

- * Events are not well coordinated at this time and often not well marketed – there may be a need to create a one-stop events website.
 - * There may be a need for government involvement in special events –the same people volunteer over and over and there may be a decline in people willing to volunteer.
- Recreation programming needs to focus on:
- * Senior activities
 - * Outdoor recreation (“the District makes outdoor equipment available for residents to rent”)
 - * Family and youth based activities (e.g., “Family Game Night” in Werlin Park was popular but ended because no volunteers were available to run it)
 - * Additional winter sports
- Individual towns should focus on local activities and events and the District should focus on more county-wide services.
- There is a need for better marketing and promotion of recreation programs and activities (“the CCMRD should do a lot more self-promotion,” “include CCMRD info in welcome baskets,” “maybe mail out more flyers,” “use a changeable message board”).
- Transportation is an issue for kids participating in recreation programs.
- There is a need for drop-in child care at the Recreation Center.
- Representatives from the west half of the county expressed a concern that the CCMRD’s major facilities might all locate in Idaho Springs. They would prefer to see satellite facilities constructed in the west half, especially for indoor recreation (that might locate in existing buildings).
- * “Maybe each town should get at least one unique, high-quality facility?”
- The CCMRD and the Clear Creek School District RE-1 have worked together to coordinate indoor recreation services for the County and the CCMRD does use School District facilities for some of its programs. There may be other opportunities to utilize School District facilities for indoor recreation programs including the potential re-use of the old middle school as a site for CCMRD programs. The School District is open to this idea and would work

with the CCMRD on leasing all or a portion of the old middle school for indoor recreation programs.

3.3 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

During January and February of 2011, the Master Plan Team (primarily Leisure Vision) assisted the District in conducting a [Community Attitude and Interest Survey](#) for the System-Wide Master Plan. The purpose of the survey was to help establish priorities for the park and recreation facilities, programs, and services within the District. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout Clear Creek County and was administered by a combination of mail and phone. The Master Plan Team worked closely with Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District staff and Board members to develop the survey questionnaire. This allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance for the District.

In January, surveys were mailed to a random sample of 1,500 households throughout Clear Creek County. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed, each household that received a survey also received an automated voice message encouraging them to complete and return the survey. About two weeks after the surveys were mailed, Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone. Those who indicated they had not returned the survey were given the option of completing it by phone.

The intent of the survey was to ascertain how well CCMRD’s current programs and facilities are used, and how best to expand them. Residents responded to questions regarding their use of existing recreation facilities in the District, how they use the CCMRD Recreation Center and what improvements they would like to see, and if they participate in CCMRD recreation programs. Residents were then given a list of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and asked to indicate their need for the facility and if they currently have that facility available to them. They were also asked which CCMRD roles and actions they felt were important. Finally, residents were asked a few questions regarding CCMRD funding.

The goal was to obtain at least 300 completed surveys. This goal was exceeded, with a total of 411 surveys completed. The results of the random sample of 411 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-4.8%.

3.3.1 Facilities

From a list of currently available recreation facilities, respondents were asked to select the three facilities they use the most.

- About half of all households rated trails provided by the Forest Service as one of their top-three facilities.

8. Please indicate if you or other members of your household have a NEED for each of the parks and recreation facilities listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the facility.

If YES, please rate ALL the following parks and recreation facilities of this type in the area on a numerical scale, where 5 represents “100% Meets Needs” and 1 represents “Does Not Meet Needs” of you or other members of your household.

Type of Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Facility?		If YES You Have a Need, How Well Are Your Needs Being Met?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
A. Large community park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
B. Small neighborhood park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
C. Youth baseball and softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
D. Adult baseball and softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
E. Racquetball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
F. Natural areas/nature trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
G. Playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
H. Outdoor basketball/multi-use courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

Figure 29: Mail-back surveys were sent to 1,500 households. Residents provided feedback on current usage of parks and facilities, preferences for future facilities, and programming needs.

Introduction

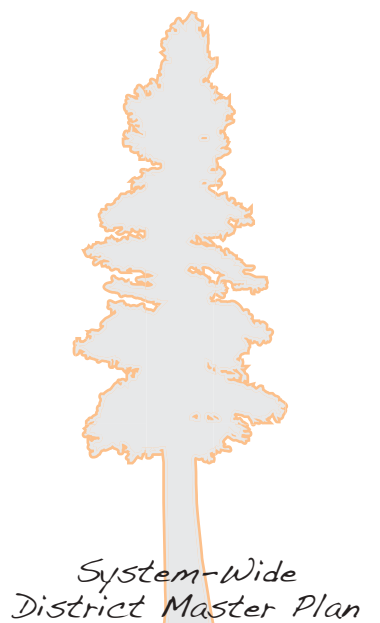
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

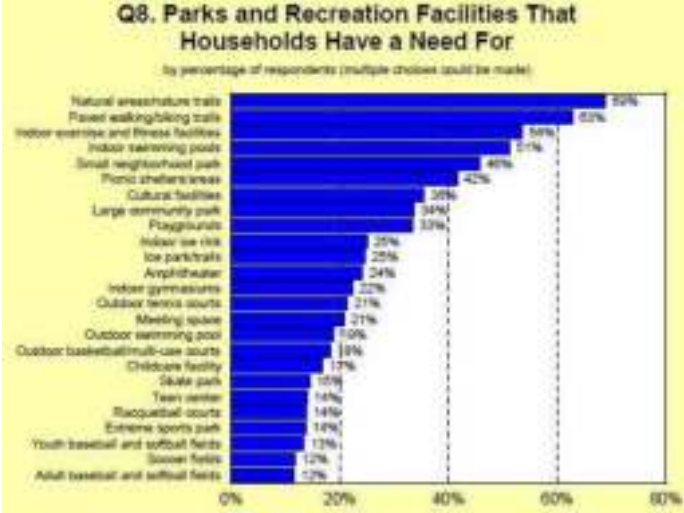
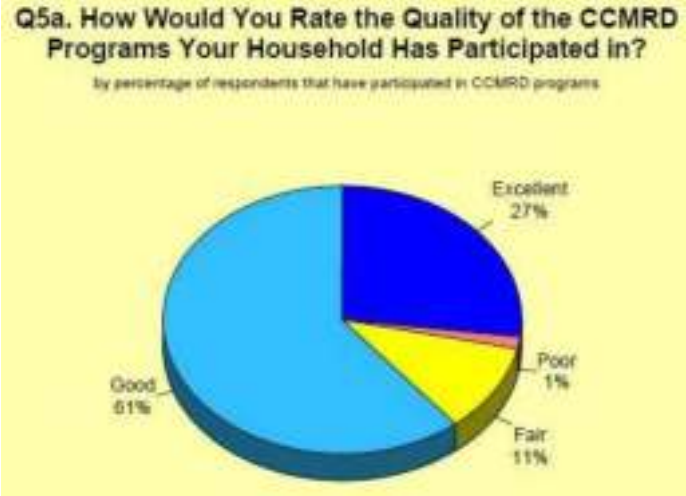
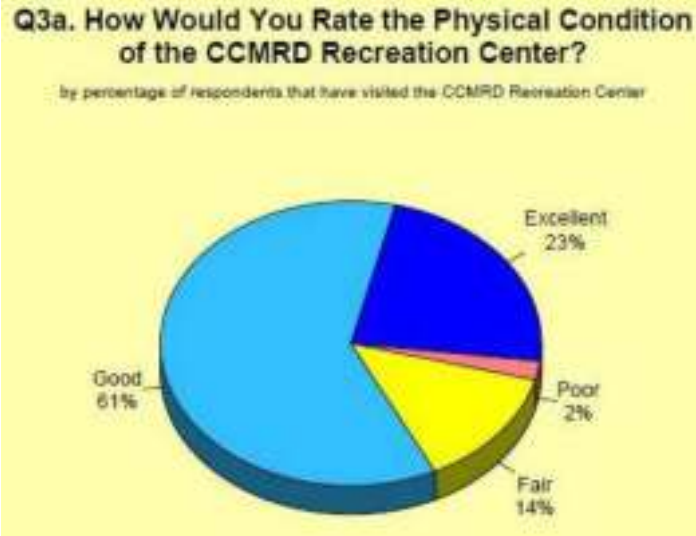
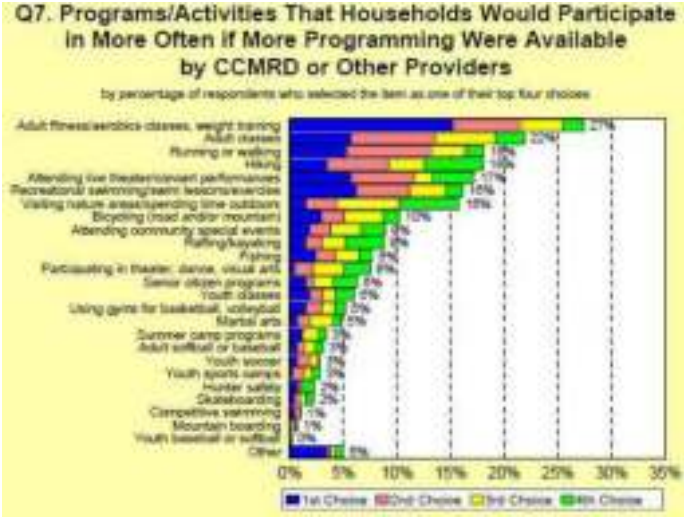
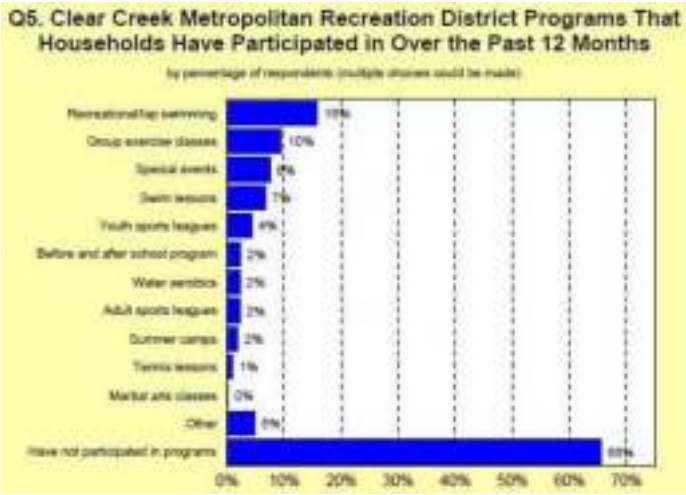
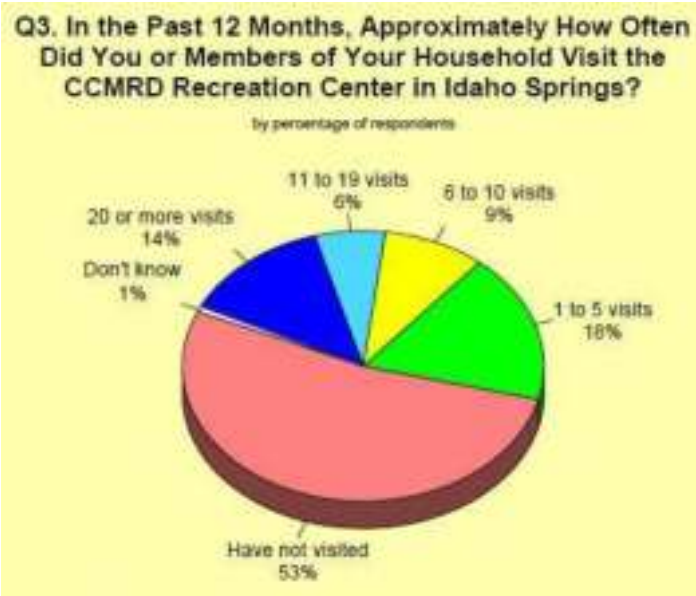
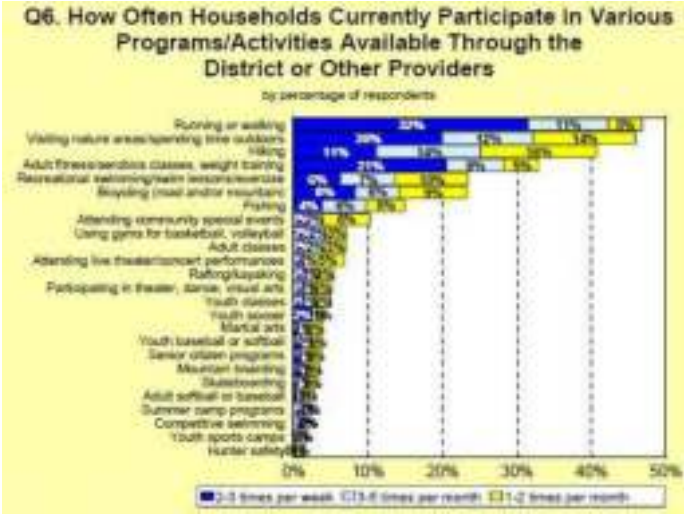
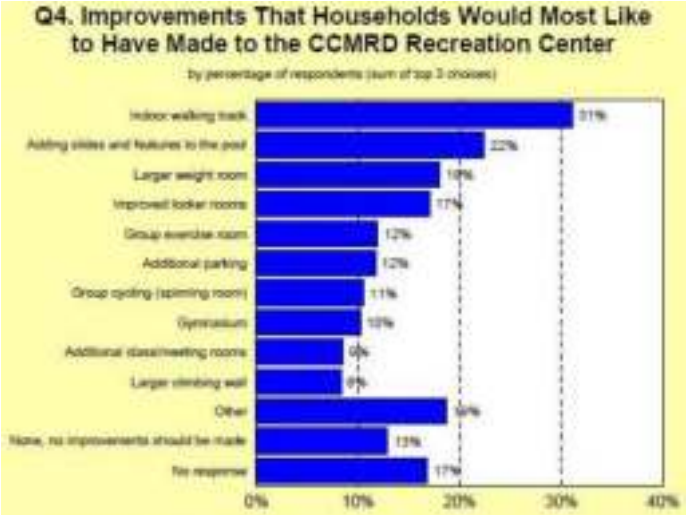
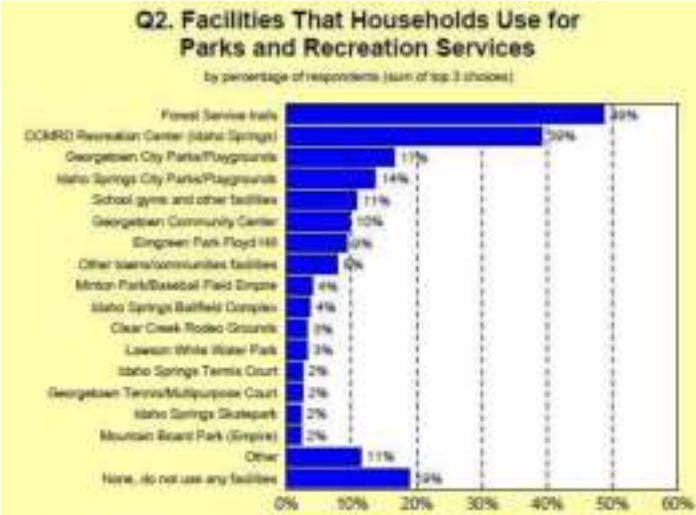


Figure 30: Graphic summary of survey responses

- 39% of households rated the Recreation Center as one of their top three uses
 - Approximately 46% of households say they have used the Recreation Center at least once in the past year.
 - 84% of those indicating use over the past year rated the Recreation Center as being in good or excellent condition.
 - As for improving the Recreation Center, the improvement most desired was an indoor walking track, although three other options obtained strong support: added features to the pool (such as waterslides), a larger weight room, and improved locker rooms.
- Similar ranking occurred with three demographic groups analyzed with cross tabs thought there are some differences:
 - Households with children under the age of 10 also selected the Recreation Center and Forest Service trails as the top two uses though Idaho Springs parks / playgrounds was ranked third.
 - Households with children between the ages of 10 and 19 selected the CCMRD Recreation Center, school gyms and other facilities, and Forest Service trails. School gyms and other facilities was selected by 45% of households with children between 10 and 19, almost three times as often as those households with children under 10 and nine times as often as seniors.
 - Seniors selected Forest Service Trails, CCMRD Recreation Center and Georgetown parks / playgrounds as the top three.

Residents were presented with a list of 25 recreation facilities and asked which facilities they felt people in their household needed most. Respondents were able to select as many facilities as they felt those in their household needed. Respondents then were asked to rate how well their needs were being met for each recreation facility for which they felt there was a need.

- For all facilities, less than 45% of households indicated their needs were met completely.
- Households were asked to list their top four most important recreation amenities. Nature trails were most frequently mentioned as the most important

recreation amenity. The three other facilities which were deemed most important (by sum of top 4 choices) were paved/biking trails, indoor swimming pools, and indoor fitness facilities.

- Other popular choices for households with children under 10 included small neighborhood parks (31%), playgrounds (32.4%), and childcare facilities (32.4%).
- Popular choices for households with children ages 10 to 19 and seniors reflected the results of the overall survey except seniors often did not select one of the items on the list (31.9%).

- There was not a great deal of consistency with regards to what respondents wanted with respect to improvements that could be made to the CCMRD Recreation Center. This could relate back to the general lack of consistent use by patrons of the facilities or it could be interpreted that they are happy with the current amenities provided. Two improvements that occurred often were adding slides & features to the pool and indoor walking track.

3.3.2 Recreation Programs and Services

While program quality was rated high, only 34% of households participated in a CCMRD program in the last year. About half the programs in which respondents participated were related to the indoor swimming pool. Other events with a sizable percentage of the total include group exercise classes and special events. Of those who have participated in provided programs:

- 88% rated the programs as good or excellent.
- The most popular recreation activities in Clear Creek County are hiking, walking, and other low-key outdoor activities.
- Of the activities programmed by CCMRD, adult fitness programs were the most popular and the area that residents were most likely to participate in if more programs were available.
- Except for households with individuals less than 10 years (35.2%) and households with individuals of ages between 10-19 years (42.5%), all other groups analyzed had a greater than 50% response that indicated they had not participated in any programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan District.

The program that does receive the greatest patronage from respondents is recreational/lap swimming.

The following summarizes some of the basic findings regarding recreation programs and services:

- Based on the survey responses, one would assume there is a relatively low rate of participation among county residents in District recreation activities. Recreational swimming and fitness programs have the highest rates of participation.
- Developing additional programming is not a high priority for the residents who responded to the survey.
- Most respondents felt the quality of existing programs is very high.
- Respondents participate in the following District programs:
 - Recreational/lap swimming
 - Group exercise classes
 - Special events
- Respondents would like to see additional programs in the following areas:
 - Fitness
 - Adult classes
 - Running/walking
 - Hiking
 - Attending theater/concerts
 - Recreational swimming
 - Visiting nature
- Other than those listed for the overall survey, there were a few differences in the top 3 chosen by household demographic:
 - The top four recreation programs that households with individuals under 10 would participate in more if more programming was available included youth classes (25.4%)
 - The top four recreation programs that households with individuals age 10-19 would participate in more if more programming was available included using gyms for basketball/volleyball (22.5%)
 - The top four recreation programs that seniors would participate in more reflected the overall survey results.

Introduction

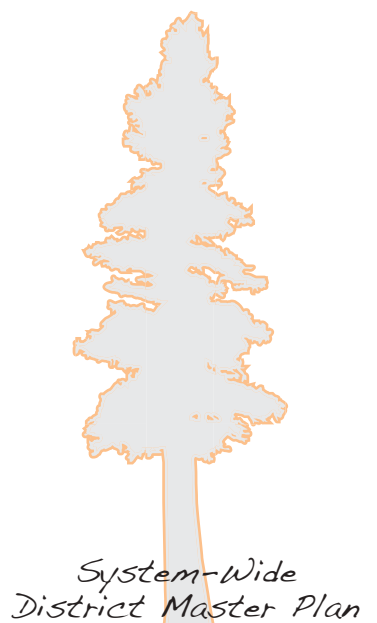
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

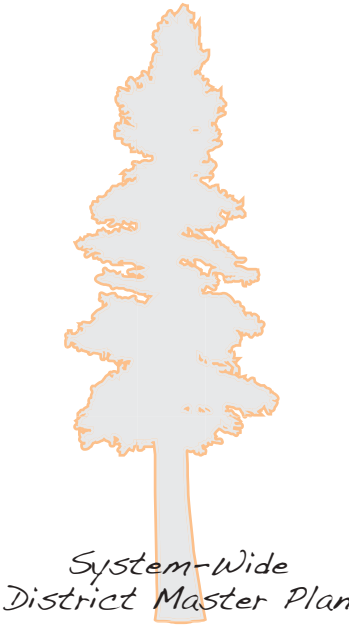
Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

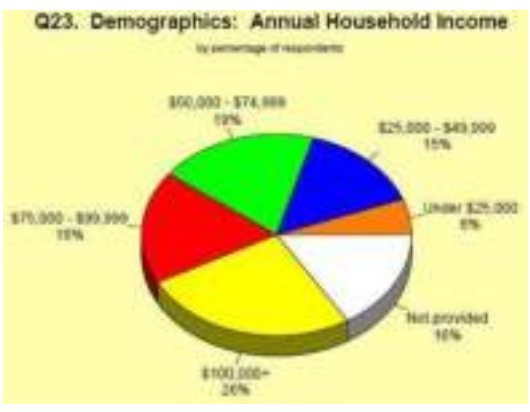
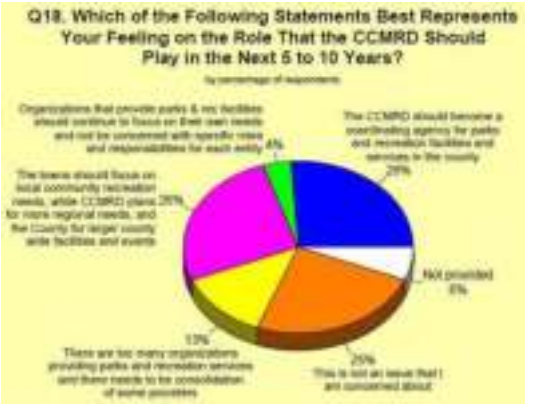
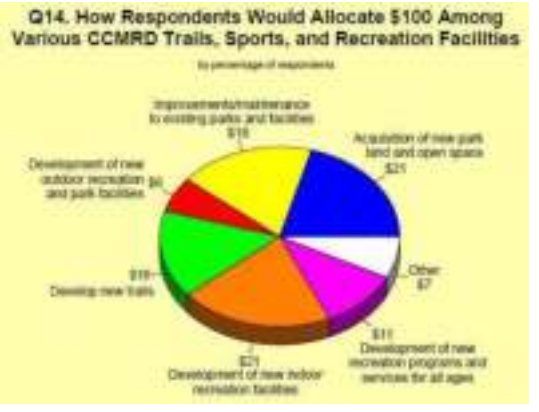
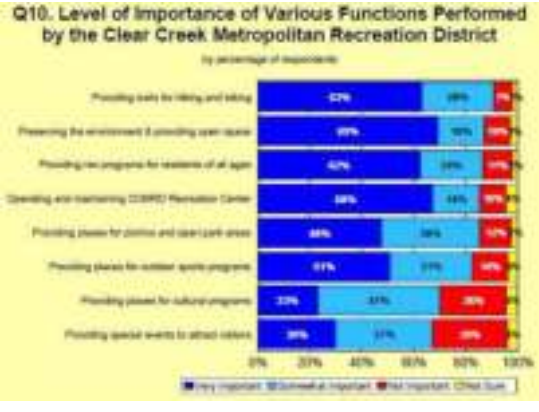
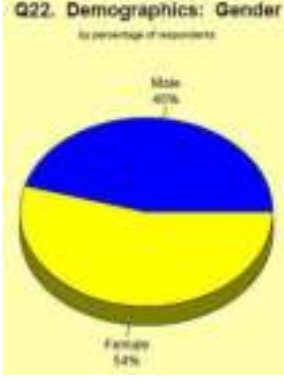
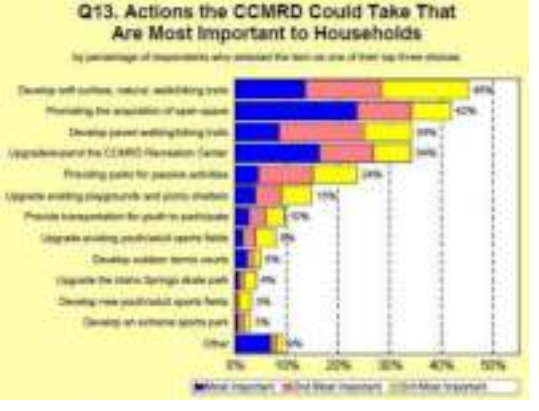
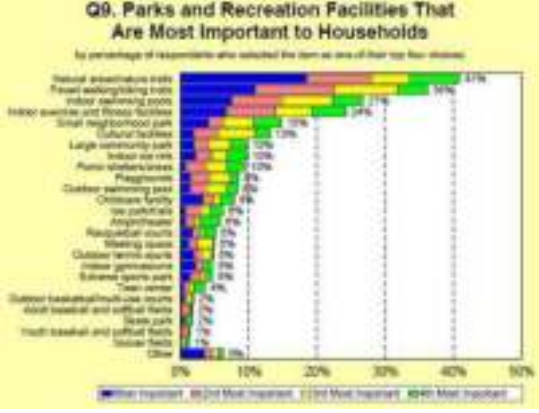
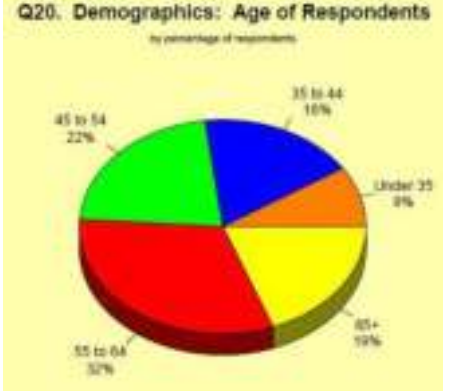
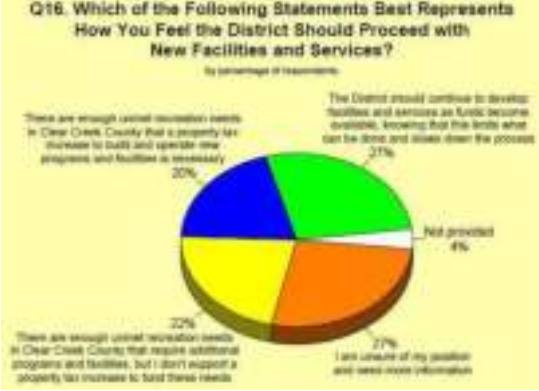
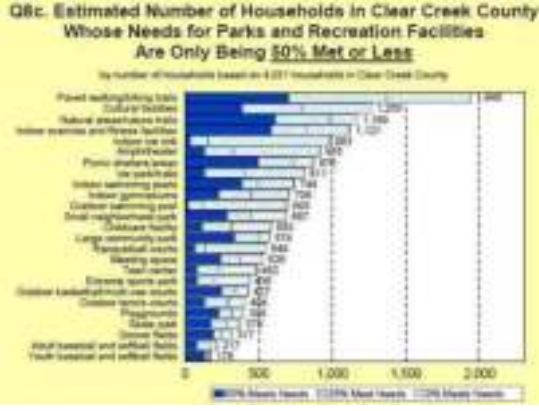
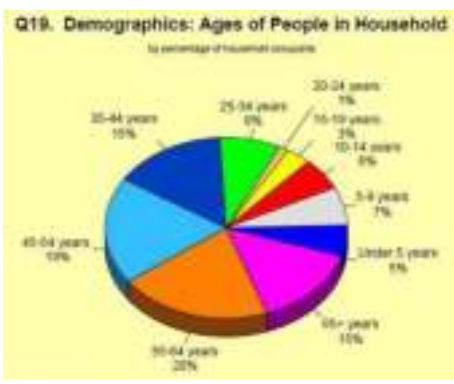
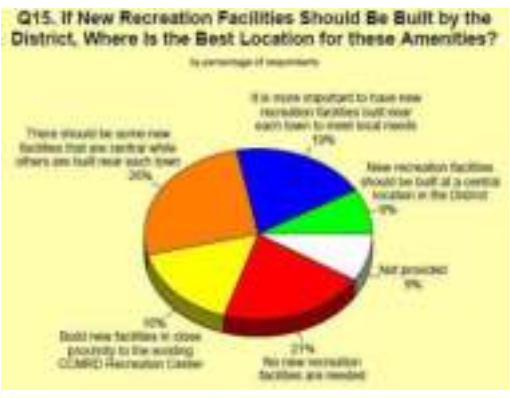
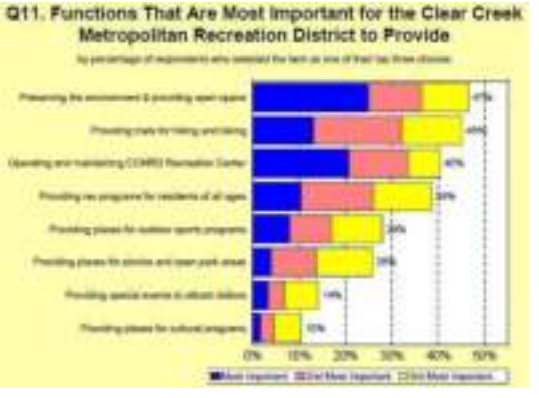
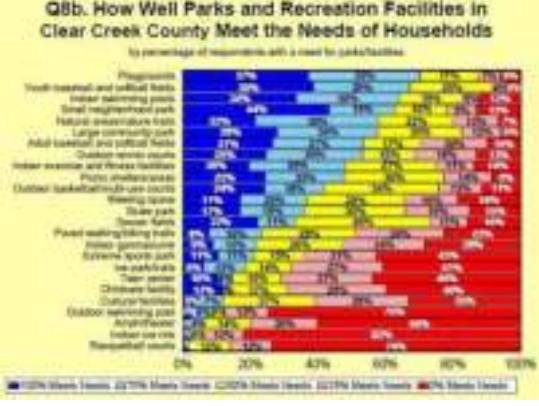


Figure 31: Graphic summary of survey responses

3.3.3 Demographics

There were a few interesting results from the demographic section of the survey. Most of the survey respondents are older, long term residents of Clear Creek County.

- Approximately 70% of the households which responded to the survey had 2 or less people in the home.
- About half of those responding were over the age of 55.
- 60% of the respondents have lived in the county for over 10 years.

3.3.4 CCMRD Role and Funding

CCMRD currently provides a number of functions for Clear Creek County. In the survey, residents were asked to rate the District’s current functions and provide insight into new activities the CCMRD could provide.

- When asked to rate how important each CCMRD function is, each function was rated at least somewhat important by over two-thirds of the respondents. However, only two of the functions currently provided by CCMRD were rated very important by over two-thirds of the respondents: providing open space, and operating and maintaining the Recreation Center.
- Less than one-third of residents rated special events and providing places for cultural programs as very important.

Residents were asked to indicate which of the current programs were most important and to note their top three choices:

- 47% chose preserving environment and providing open space
- 45% chose providing hiking and biking trails
- 40% chose maintaining the Recreation Center
- 39% chose providing recreation programs for residents of all ages

From a list of 12 possibilities, residents then were asked to rate the three most important potential actions CCMRD could take:

- Developing natural surface trails received a vote from 45% of households
- Acquisition of open space was selected by 42%
- Developing paved trails was selected by 34%
- Upgrading/expanding the Recreation Center was also selected by 34% of the households

In terms of actions that the District should take the development of soft surface/natural/walking/biking/trail/path and development of paved walking/biking trails were amongst the top ranked in all responding groups. These actions should be balanced with and used as direction for not only facilities, but also with programming efforts.

Residents also provided information regarding funding allocation by CCMRD. Respondents were asked to allocate \$100 to 7 recreation categories. Respondents (on average) allocated the highest amount (which was \$21 in this case) to two areas: acquisition of new park or open space land and the development of new indoor recreation facilities. About two-thirds of households indicated willingness to have their property taxes increased to fund recreation facilities. Including all respondents, 43% indicated willingness to have their property taxes increased by \$25 to \$100 a year.

The many respondents to the survey felt that if the District was to pursue new facilities they should do so as the funds become available. Along that same line it can also be said that the bulk of respondents were not in support of any type of property tax increase earmarked for new facilities. If a new property tax was put in place the majority of respondents would want to pay less than an additional \$99 per year.

There was not a great deal of consistency from respondents about how they felt the District should move



Figure 32: Public Meeting #1 was well-attended, including families with children.

forward in the next 5-10 years. Some felt they should become the coordinating agency for all parks and recreation facilities/services, while others felt that they should provide the overall framework to the District with the individual Towns addressing the needs of the community. It also should be noted that close to 20% of all groups responding felt that this was not an issue that they were concerned about.

3.4 PUBLIC MEETING #1

On March 21, 2011, the first Public Meeting for the System-Wide Master Plan was held at the Buffalo Restaurant in Idaho Springs.

The purpose of this meeting was to gain an understanding of community attitudes regarding park and recreation facilities, programs, and services in the CCMRD. A presentation by the Master Plan Team highlighted the Team’s findings to date including findings from the review of the CCMRD’s existing park and recreation system and programs.

The meeting was well attended and during the keypad polling session, as many as 39 people participated, including both adults and school-age children. Therefore, it is assumed that between 35 and 45 residents of the CCMRD attended the meeting. The majority of the residents who attended the meeting were from Idaho Springs (55%), but Georgetown, Empire, St. Mary’s, and the unincorporated areas of the county were also well represented.

Is there a need for additional indoor rec amenities?

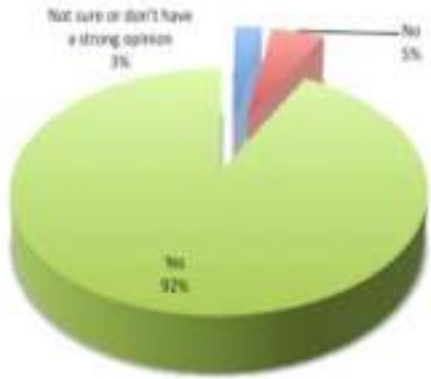


Figure 33: A keypad polling result graph from Public Meeting #1.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

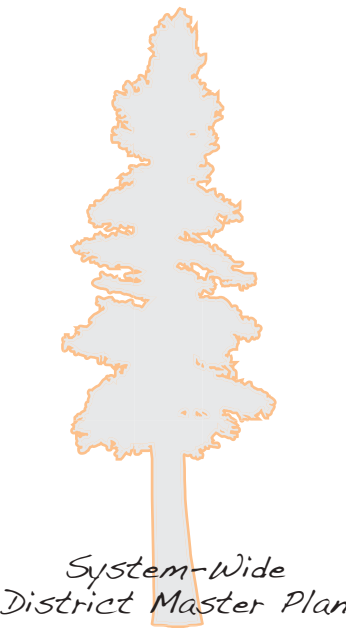
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



3.4.1 Keypad Polling

Keypad polling was utilized during the public meeting to help understand community attitudes. The polling questions were also posted on System-Wide Master Plan website providing other interested members of the community with an opportunity to participate.

Highlights of the key findings of the keypad polling results include:

- There was support (54%) for special events and festivals that would attract both visitors and locals.
- As for the District’s focus for the next 10 -15 years, 38% said the District should focus on the Recreation Center, 18% said hiking and biking trails, 15% said facilities for outdoor sports

FACILITY	1 ST CHOICE	2 ND CHOICE	WEIGHTED AVERAGES*
Leisure pool and water slides	20%	36%	26%
Indoor walking/running tracks	26%	15%	22%
Gymnasium	15%	18%	16%
Drop-in child care	20%	5%	15%
Group exercise/spinning rooms	8%	13%	9%

* Weighted numbers were derived by weighting the 1st choice by 2 points, and 2nd choice by 1 point.

FACILITY	1 ST CHOICE	2 ND CHOICE	3 RD CHOICE	WEIGHTED AVERAGES*
Indoor swimming pool or aquatic facilities	26%	21%	13%	22%
Community parks with fields for organized sports	18%	16%	28%	19%
Indoor exercise and fitness	13%	21%	15%	16%
Indoor ice rink	10%	11%	15%	11%
Paved walking/biking trails	15%	5%	5%	10%
Natural areas/nature hiking trails	5%	16%	13%	10%
Playgrounds	10%	5%	8%	8%
Cultural facilities	—	5%	3%	2%
Small neighborhood parks	3%	—	—	1%

* Weighted numbers were derived by weighting first choice with 3 points, 2nd choice by 2 points, and 3rd choice with 1 point and taking the average and percentage of those numbers.

programs, and 13% said special events to attract visitors.

- 92% felt there was a need for additional indoor recreation amenities in the District.
- The highest priority indoor facilities included:
 - An indoor swimming pool or aquatic facility
 - A community park with fields for organized sports
- When it came to ranking a mix of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, the group indicated the following priority:
 - Paved walking/biking trails

3.4.2 Questions and Comments from Public Meeting #1

Immediately following the PowerPoint presentation, an open forum was held which gave attendees an opportunity to ask questions, as well as offer their comments and suggestions regarding the CCMRD and the Master Plan. Written comment cards were also completed by many meeting attendees. A full report of all comments received is included in the [Appendix](#). An overview of questions and comments that were submitted is provided below:

- Coordination between CCMRD and Clear Creek County, as well as the city, towns, and other entities within the county, is critical.
 - “I believe there are many places where the Recreation District and the school district could complement and support each other.”
- Specific Facility and Programming comments:
 - “#1 – keep the before and after school program and the summer program. There is nothing else in the county.”
 - “Are underutilized facilities being evaluated? For instance, the baseball field at Minton Park is no longer being used for baseball. Could it be converted to a soccer or multi-purpose field which would get more use?”
- CCMRD Recreation Center:
 - “[I] would like longer hours on weekends and evenings at the Recreation Center.”
 - “I do love the Recreation Center and we use it mostly for kid’s activities and when I can – love the adult classes so drop in childcare would be nice so I could work out more.”

- “Providing a 24-hour fitness facility, most likely in the Recreation Center.”
- CCMRD’s current and future role in open space and trails:
 - “What is the District’s role regarding open space and trails in the county? And can CCMRD work with the county to link the mountain bike trails?”
- A need for a more inclusionary, vibrant, and younger mentality regarding recreation:
 - “The county’s population is active and young-thinking. Having a strong park and recreation systems is important.”
 - “Also, more kid-friendly pool facility – more slides, etc.”
 - “I would be interested in classes/programs for special needs children.”
 - “Over 400 people a year visit the mountain board park, a year, and growing. Kids need to be able to play in the dirt!”
- Marketing concerns:
 - “Market more locally as well, I know people who miss out on youth sports based on lack of marketing. I end up hearing more via word of mouth than other public means.”

3.5 PUBLIC MEETING #2

A second public meeting was held on July 19, 2011. The focus of this meeting was to summarize the master plan process to-date and to present the plan recommendations including near-term, mid-term and long-term priorities.

This meeting was not as well attended as the first public meeting with seven people listed on the sign-in sheet. None-the-less, the comments were welcomed and valued. Highlights of the comments received included:

- A CCMRD Board Member attending the meeting mentioned that she had received an email requesting that an off-leash dog park be constructed in the District.
- One resident liked the idea of using Clear Creek School District’s old middle school as a venue for additional indoor amenities.
 - Was aware that the School District has been open to public use of its indoor facilities in the past.

4 MISSION, GOALS, AND POLICIES

A FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION-MAKING

- 4.1 MISSION STATEMENT
- 4.2 PURPOSE OF GOALS AND POLICIES
- 4.3 CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS
- 4.4 PARTNERING
- 4.5 FACILITY PLANNING AND DESIGN

- 4.6 ACCESSIBILITY
- 4.7 TRAILS
- 4.8 FINANCE AND FUNDING
- 4.9 MAINTENANCE
- 4.10 RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
- 4.11 MARKETING AND PROMOTION

"Empower Communities while Maintaining High-Quality Facilities to meet the District's Recreation, Leisure and Fitness needs with Sustainable Business Practices."



When the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District was formed in 1979, it adopted a Service Plan that defined its boundaries, primary purpose, desired improvements, and a plan to fund those improvements. What the 1979 Service Plan (and a 1999 update) did not do is establish a set of guidelines that defines the District's mission or position on specific issues. If this System Wide Master Plan is to be successful, it will be essential to have a set of guidelines in place that outlines the District's position regarding the important issues or decisions it is currently facing, and will need to address in the future. The goals and policies listed below are a summary of those guidelines. They evolved out of public input, the evaluation of needs and opportunities, input from the stakeholders, and suggestions from the CCMRD's staff and Board of Directors.

4.1 MISSION STATEMENT

The District has adopted the following Mission Statement:

"Empower Communities while Maintaining High-Quality Facilities to meet the District's Recreation, Leisure and Fitness needs with Sustainable Business Practices."

4.2 PURPOSE OF GOALS AND POLICIES

The primary purpose of the following goals and policies is to support the District's Mission Statement and to bring consistency to decision-making – generally about recurring issues. Goals and policies are often adopted in response to controversial decisions ("From now on, it will be our policy to..."). They should be updated and revised as new circumstances are encountered or as new goals or policies are added. They should be reviewed and re-evaluated at least annually.

In some cases the policies listed below are followed by an "Action" or series of actions that can be assigned to a District staff member – in effect a "To-Do" list. These actions may be repeated in the Implementation Plan section of the master plan document.

For the purposes of the System Wide Master Plan, goals and policies are defined as:

Introduction

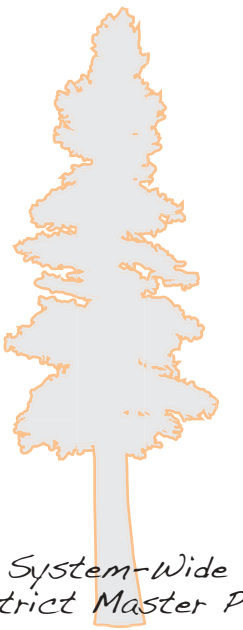
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Goal: Over-arching principles that define the desired outcomes for the CCMRD or its facilities and programs.

Policy: A statement of official position or a deliberate strategy to guide decisions.

4.3 CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

Goal 4.3.1: The District will endeavor to maintain consistency between the System-Wide Master Plan, its operations manual(s), and other adopted planning documents for the County, School District, city, and towns.

Policy 4.3.1.1: The recommendations and standards adopted in the System-Wide Master Plan will be incorporated in the District’s operational documents and manuals.

Policy 4.3.1.2: The District will not make policy decisions that are in conflict with the System-Wide Master Plan. When potential conflicts arise, prior to the proposed action, the District will either modify the proposed action or amend the System-Wide Master Plan, or both, so that a conflict no longer exists.

Policy 4.3.1.3: The System-Wide Master Plan is intended to be a “living document,” that is, reflective of current attitudes, conditions, and needs. To remain so, the master plan must be reviewed and updated regularly, at least annually.

Policy 4.3.1.4: The District will work with the County, School District, city, and towns to coordinate their long-range master plans and comprehensive plans with the System-Wide Master Plan.

4.4 PARTNERING

Goal 4.4.1: The District will work closely with the other governmental entities in Clear Creek County to deliver park and recreation facilities, services, and programs in the most efficient manner.

Policy 4.4.1.1: The CCMRD will, with the approval of the Board of Directors and a signed intergovernmental agreement, operate and maintain park and recreation facilities that serve the region, county, or multiple cities or towns.

Policy 4.4.1.2: The CCMRD will assist its residents living in unincorporated residential areas of the County in designing and constructing small Pocket Parks or Neighborhood Parks that serve at least 600 homes within a 1.5 mile radius of the park, provided that the residents:

- A. Secure land that is adequately sized for the desired amenities with terrain that will allow the improvements to be constructed without tall retaining walls (ideally not over 3’ in height). The property must also accommodate an accessible route to all facilities that complies with the current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design standards.
- B. Contribute matching funds that cover at least a third of the design and construction cost of the facility with cash or in-kind contributions. (After grant monies, land donations, private funding sources, etc. are deducted from the total cost of the project.)

Policy 4.4.1.3: The District will partner with other governmental entities and organizations to maintain and expand the existing Clear Creek Recreation Center and coordinate use and development of other indoor recreation spaces in the CCMRD.

- A. The District will provide indoor recreation facilities that focus on serving the entire District population.

Policy 4.4.1.4: The CCMRD will develop and coordinate recreation programming and services with other organizations in the District to provide a broad range of offerings.

- A. The District will focus on district-wide programming efforts.

4.5 FACILITY PLANNING AND DESIGN

Goal 4.5.1: The scope and scale of park and recreation facilities will be planned to balance the benefit to the community with the cost to construct and maintain the asset.

Goal 4.5.2: The District will develop facilities that focus on serving the entire district while relying on towns and city to establish and maintain local-based amenities.

Goal 4.5.3: Park and recreation facilities will be designed to be sustainable and to minimize negative impacts to the environment and adjacent uses.

Policy 4.5.3.1: District facilities should be designed to avoid impacts to steep hillsides, sensitive wildlife habitats, wetlands, and riparian areas.

Policy 4.5.3.2: District park and recreation facilities should be designed to minimize on-going maintenance through selection of sustainable, durable materials, and designs that focus on reduced maintenance.

Policy 4.5.3.3: Exterior lighting levels for future District facilities will follow the standards established by the International Dark Sky Association or the Land Use Code of the relevant city or town.

- A. Well-shielded, sharp cut-off lighting should be used at all CCMRD facilities.

Policy 4.5.3.4: New lighting fixtures for sports facilities shall be well-shielded and adjusted in the field by the manufacturer to reduce the impact of sports lighting on adjacent or nearby uses.

Policy 4.5.3.5: To reduce water usage and the cost of maintenance associated with irrigation, the District should incorporate xeric design principles for all facilities.

Actions:

- A. Adopt xeric design guidelines for all facilities.
- B. Where possible, District facilities will utilize raw (untreated) water for irrigation.
- C. Where domestic water taps for irrigation are required, they should be sized to allow a full irrigation cycle to be completed between dusk and dawn during the growing season.

Goal 4.5.4: All facilities should be easily identifiable as a Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District facility.

Policy 4.5.4.1: The District will implement a branding / identity program for all of its facilities.

Actions:

- A. Create and adopt a District-wide identification/monument, way-finding, and educational signage criteria.
- B. Install an identification/monument sign at each CCMRD owned or operated facility.
 - I. Identification/monument signage for CCMRD owned facilities will include the facility name and funding partners.
 - II. If the CCMRD is only responsible for maintaining a portion of the site, signage should note the District’s area of responsibility, for example, “This baseball field is maintained by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District.”
- C. Establish consistent details or signature materials for all CCMRD facilities and amenities.
- D. Adopt standardized site furnishings.
- E. Retrofit all existing District-owned park and recreation facilities per approved standards as enhancements, replacements, and upgrades are made.

Goal 4.5.5: All CCMRD parks and recreation playground amenities are to be safe, appropriate for all ages and abilities, and reflect the community’s character.

Policy 4.5.5 1: Activities for all ages and abilities will be provided in existing and future park and recreation facilities.

Policy 4.5.5 2: District facilities will utilize an architectural character and materials that reflect the mountain setting.

Policy 4.5.5 3: Appropriate play bay safety surfacing will be provided in existing and future parks.

Actions:

- A. Install minimum soft surfacing levels in play areas (play bays) as required for the height / type of equipment.
- B. Install wear mats under slides and swings.

Goal 4.5.6: Parks and recreation facilities should be located so that they can be easily reached by the population they are intended to serve.

Policy 4.5.6.1: Pocket Parks and Neighborhood Parks should:

- A. Be located within the District and centrally located within the neighborhood they are intended to serve.
- B. Not be separated from the residents they are intended to serve by a major boundary (e.g. I-70, creek, or major roadway). Residents within the service area who can access a park via a suitable bridge over a creek or drainage way would be considered served.
- C. Be located adjacent to, or in close proximity to school sites and, where possible, connected via trails.

Policy 4.5.6.2: Community Parks, Regional Parks, and Specialized Facilities should:

- A. Be centrally located within the District.
- B. Be located adjacent to major streets.
- C. Serve as a “Neighborhood Park” for residents within the service radius when Neighborhood Park amenities (picnic shelter, play equipment, etc.) are included.

Goal 4.5.7: Parks and recreation facilities should be designed to include amenities for user comfort.

Policy 4.5.7.1: Permanent restrooms with domestic water and sanitary sewer service will typically only be provided at Regional Parks, Community Parks, or Specialized Facilities.

Policy 4.5.7.2: Neighborhood Parks and Pocket Parks will not include restroom or portable toilet facilities unless approved by the Board of Directors.

Policy 4.5.7.3: Opportunities for cover from the elements and shade will be included in all District park facilities. This could include picnic or shade shelters, shade structures for play equipment, seating areas paired with shade trees, etc.

Policy 4.5.7.4: Benches should be provided in District facilities.

Actions: Benches are to be installed:

- A. At all play equipment areas.
- B. At regular intervals (every 200’ to 300’) for internal loop trails in Regional Parks, Community Parks, Specialized Facilities, and large Neighborhood Parks.

Policy 4.5.7.5: Where there is a potable water source available, drinking fountains will be provided in all Regional Parks, Community Parks, and where appropriate, Specialized Facilities.

Introduction

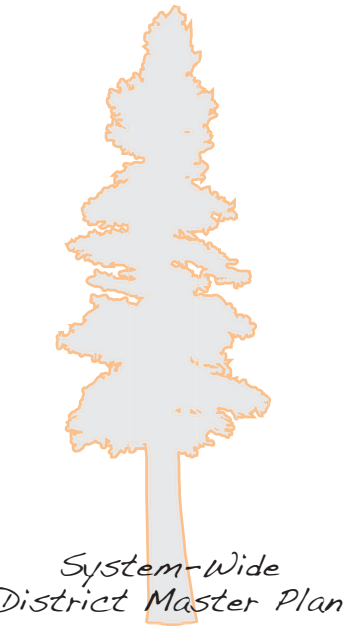
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

4.6 ACCESSIBILITY

Goal 4.6.1: CCMRD facilities will be accessible to all residents and modes of transportation where possible.

Policy 4.6.1.1: The District will provide pedestrian, non-motorized, and vehicular access to existing and future facilities wherever possible.

Actions:

- A. Work with the relevant city or town to provide paved sidewalk access to all CCMRD owned or maintained facilities.
- B. Provide adequate off-street parking at specialized facilities, community parks, and large neighborhood parks.
- C. Install bike racks at all facilities and parks.
- D. Work with the County, cities, and towns to maximize connectivity between existing and proposed trails and all CCMRD park and recreation facilities.

Policy 4.6.1.2: The District will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for parks and recreation.

Actions:

- A. Construct ADA accessible routes to all new facilities and amenities and provide accessible amenities. This could include, but may not be limited to, ADA compliant access to buildings and structures, accessible recreation and play equipment, ADA approved safety surfaces, etc.
- B. Establish an on-going capital improvement program to upgrade all existing park and recreation facilities and amenities so that they comply with the ADA guidelines.

4.7 TRAILS

Goal 4.7.1: The CCMRD does not have in house technical expertise in trail planning and

engineering or in right-of-way and property acquisition. Therefore, trail master planning and design will not be a primary focus for the District. The CCMRD will:

Policy 4.7.3.1: Work with the County, city, and towns to plan trail connections to District-owned facilities, facilities maintained by the District, or facilities used for District programs and events.

Policy 4.7.3.2: Support grant applications for trail design and construction authored by other Clear Creek County governmental entities with letters of support and, where the proposed trail services a District facility, appropriate matching funds.

Policy 4.7.3.3: Construct and maintain trail linkages (matching the design standards of the adjacent connecting trail) within District-owned properties.

- A. The District should not maintain trails beyond those located in facilities it owns, operates, or maintains.

Policy 4.7.3 4: The District may, with the approval of the Board of Directors, fund the design and construction for trail linkages from a regional trail to a District-owned, operated or maintained facility.

4.8 FINANCE AND FUNDING

Goal 4.8.1: The District will develop a formal fee policy to guide the establishment of fees and charges for all facilities, programs, and services offered by the CCMRD.

Goal 4.8.2: The District will develop a plan to diversify operational funding in an attempt to reduce the dependence on property taxes.

Goal 4.8.3: The District will utilize a variety of methods to reduce the cost of the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of park and recreation facilities.

Policy 4.8.3.1: The District will utilize funding partners (e.g., GOCO, regional governmental entities, Conservation Trust Fund, partnerships with private entities, etc.) to help leverage its available funding.

Policy 4.8.3.2: The District will encourage creative methods to fund improvements and maintenance.

Actions:

- A. Allow tasteful, local advertising in parks. Examples include naming rights for picnic shelters, advertising on fences around sports facilities, etc. The final design and content of any advertising must be approved by District staff and, if appropriate, the Board of Directors.
- B. Allow low impact utilities at District-owned facilities (e.g., lease of sports field lights for cell tower usage, solar panels on shelter roofing or CCMRD buildings, etc.).

4.9 MAINTENANCE

Goal 4.9.1: The District will maintain its park and recreation facilities at levels that are consistent with its adopted standards or the standard of care for the industry.

Policy 4.9.1.1: The District will not construct new facilities that it will be responsible for maintaining without funding the appropriate levels of maintenance staffing and equipment.

Policy 4.9.1.2: A formal district-wide maintenance plan will be developed that outlines roles, expectations, and standards for each facility that is owned and/or operated the by the CCMRD.

Policy 4.9.1.3: The CCMRD will provide maintenance for all of the facilities it owns or for which an intergovernmental agreement defines its maintenance responsibilities.

Policy 4.9.1.4: The District will provide on-going noxious weed management for the assets it maintains following the recommendations

of the Colorado Department of Agriculture’s Noxious Weed Management Program .

Policy 4.9.1.5: Review of play equipment and safety surfacing by a certified inspector(s) will be completed annually by the CCMRD for all District-owned or operated parks.

4.10 RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Goal 4.10.1: The CCMRD will provide a wide range of recreation programs and activities to serve all age groups in the District. Programming will also include a variety of interests and needs in the District.
- Goal 4.10.2: Recreation programming will be provided in a cost effective manner that minimizes the direct cost to the District while ensuring affordability to the community.
- Goal 4.10.3: Programming will be coordinated and developed with other providers in the District to maximize local resources.
- Goal 4.10.4: A long term program development plan will be established that identifies future priorities for recreation programs and services.
- Goal 4.10.5: Programs and services will be offered in locations that will draw users from throughout the District.
- Goal 4.10.6: Special events that appeal to the residents of the District and which attract visitors to Clear Creek County will be encouraged.

Policy 4.10.6.1:The CCMRD will work with other organizations in the District to support community special events held in Clear Creek County.

Actions:

- A. Work with the county, cities, and towns to determine if joint funding of special events is feasible. Because of the county-wide scope of the CCMRD, it is envisioned that a CCMRD staff

member should be involved in the planning of all county-wide recreational events.

- B. Establish and maintain a special events section on the CCMRD website for all Clear Creek County events.

4.11 MARKETING AND PROMOTION

- Goal 4.11.1: The District will establish a marketing plan that is updated yearly that promotes district services, facilities, and programs to the residents of the CCMRD as well as to visitors.
- Goal 4.11.2: CCMRD will assist with the promotion of other parks and recreation facilities, programs and services provided by other entities in Clear Creek County when possible and appropriate.
- Goal 4.11.3: Marketing tools will be utilized that are cost effective and have the greatest potential impact on the District’s population. Marketing efforts will be evaluated on a cost/benefit basis.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation



*System-Wide
District Master Plan*



5 SYSTEM-WIDE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

5.1 THE ROLE OF THE DISTRICT IN CLEAR CREEK COUNTY

5.2 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

5.2.1 CLEAR CREEK RECREATION CENTER RECOMMENDATIONS

5.3 FUTURE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RECOMMENDATIONS

5.4 PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

5.4.1 PARKS

5.4.2 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

5.5 TRAILS

5.6 STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

5.6.1 STAFFING

5.6.2 BUDGET

5.6.3 OPERATIONS:

5.7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

5.8 ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT IDENTITY

The following recommendations have evolved out of the comments and suggestions received during the Public Engagement phase, suggestions from the stakeholders and municipal partners, comments from the CCMRD staff, and the Master Plan Team's evaluation of the existing facilities.

5.1 THE ROLE OF THE DISTRICT IN CLEAR CREEK COUNTY

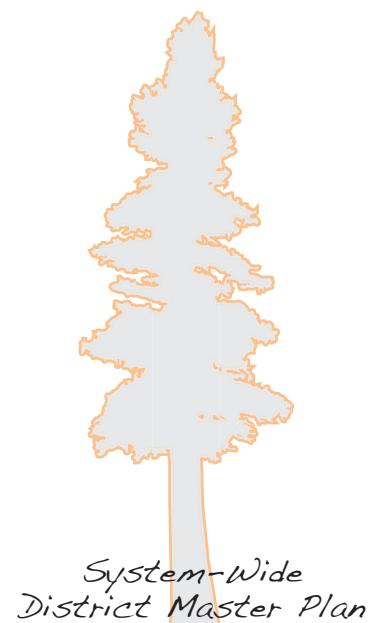
The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District is just one governmental entity that provides park and recreation facilities, services, and programs in Clear Creek County. This has led to confusion within the population of the District as to who is responsible for what amenity or program. If the CCMRD is to be successful at implementing its mission statement, it must carefully define its role.

The primary role of the CCMRD should be to provide programs, services, and amenities that benefit all residents, not just the residents of one individual city or town. This means that the CCMRD should focus on building and operating community parks and district-wide recreation amenities such as sports fields, skateboard parks, etc. This also means that constructing and maintaining small parks in a city or town should be the responsibility of the individual city/town government. However, if the District is to "empower communities," it must remain an active participant in each city and town, partnering with them to improve and enhance their park and recreation facilities.

The District has historically served as the provider of indoor recreation programs and services for the residents of the CCMRD – and should continue in this role. Improvements to existing facilities or construction of new facilities that will enhance this mission should be a high priority.



Figure 34: 88% of survey respondents rated programs either good or excellent.



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

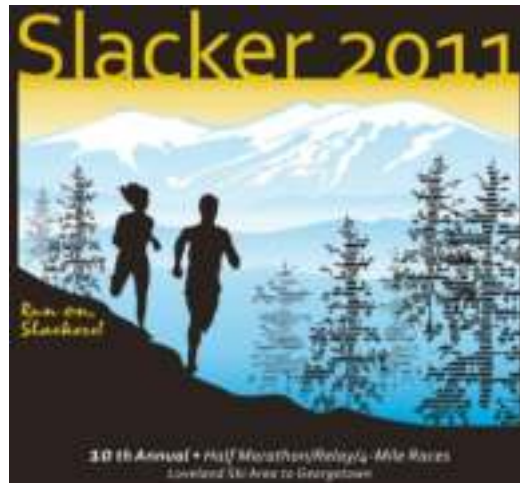


Figure 35: The Slacker Half Marathon is Clear Creek County's major summer events.

The CCMRD is uniquely positioned to work with other organizations in the county to support special events and festivals. This role is largely going unfilled in Clear Creek County and if the District, municipal partners, and event organizers can agree on a more unified approach, the marketing profile of the region could be enhanced.

The CCMRD should work closely with the other park and recreation providers to avoid duplication and overlap of services. It may be beneficial for the city, towns, school district, and the CCMRD to meet at least once a year to review their roles and how they interact to meet the needs of the residents.

5.2 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

5.2.1 Clear Creek Recreation Center Recommendations

Because of the important role the Clear Creek Recreation Center plays in the District and its connection to the CCMRD's identity, providing quality indoor recreation facilities and programs is a critical element of the recreation spectrum. The District's role in this area should be maintained and expanded where feasible.

The following outlines the future direction for the Clear Creek Recreation Center.

The District should continue to centralize most of its indoor facilities and programs into a single main facility and avoid the temptation to develop multiple satellite locations which duplicate service in other areas of the county.

It is clear that over the long term, the District will need to have a more comprehensive recreation center with additional amenities. Key spaces to add include:

- * Gymnasium
- * Indoor track
- * Leisure pool
- * Expanded weight/cardio equipment area
- * A fully enclosed group exercise room
- * Renovated and expanded locker rooms with additional family change rooms
- * Drop-in babysitting room.

Other elements that could be added include:

- * Indoor playground
- * Larger lobby area
- * Expanded office area.

A determination will need to be made regarding the long term location of the center. While the present facility is in good physical condition, the existing site has limited expansion capabilities - the only area owned by the District is the outdoor



Figure 36: Indoor playgrounds have become a popular indoor recreation amenity in recent years.

basketball court and sand volleyball court. This will certainly impact the ability of the center to have all of the needed indoor recreation elements within one site. The District will either need to acquire additional property that is contiguous to the existing site or explore the possibility of developing a new recreation center on another site. However, it will be difficult to justify spending additional capital dollars to rebuild existing amenities found in the current facility unless there are equal sources of revenue that are derived from other sources.

Another option is to develop a second facility that would allow for expansion of indoor recreation amenities without the construction of an entirely new center. The old middle school building could be considered for this purpose. The District should negotiate with the Clear Creek School District for use of key elements of the building (gym and old library) for use as a youth center and sports venue. The lease should be for no more than 3 years, with the possibility of extending the term if the project is successful. This should also include the use of the outdoor fields that are part of the property. With this facility the District would move most, if not all, of its youth programming to the school building and would have the use of the gym to support not only youth sports but also the



Figure 37: The old Clear Creek Middle School has existing indoor facilities, such as a gym, that could benefit the District.

development of adult sports. Ideally, the fees that would be generated by the programs and services occurring in the school building should be able to off-set the cost of the lease payment. If this project is successful, the District may want to also consider moving its offices to the school site as well. This would free-up additional space at the existing recreation center. Even with this option, the existing recreation center should still plan for expansion into the outdoor basketball court and sand volleyball court. This would allow for a larger fitness area and possibly even the development of a leisure pool.

5.3 FUTURE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
RECOMMENDATIONS

Beyond the program areas that have been addressed above there are also a number of general recommendations regarding future recreation programming.

- General:
 - Like many parks and recreation districts in the United States, the CCMRD faces challenges in the delivery of recreation services in a cost effective and efficient manner.
 - The District currently delivers recreation services on both a town-level (Georgetown, Empire, etc.) as well as a district-wide level



Figure 38: 27% of survey respondents indicated that they would participate more often if more programming in adult fitness and weight training were available.

(Recreation Center). The long term cost effectiveness of providing programming on a town level will need to be determined.

- The CCMRD should serve as the primary coordinator of recreation programming in the county regardless of who actually provides the service.
- While most on-going programs focus on the residents of the CCMRD, many of the special events and other activities emphasize serving the visitors to the area. Ultimately, the District will need to make a determination regarding the level of allocation of resources to draw visitors to the county.



Specific:

- In collaboration with the county, individual towns, and other community organizations, develop a well conceived plan for the delivery of recreation services to the citizens of the District for the next 5 to 10 years. This plan should clearly identify areas of programmatic responsibility and ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation. From this, the District needs to establish a 5-year program plan that identifies the priorities for program development, the responsible staff member, and the required resources.
- Utilizing the 5-year program plan model, a program development assessment should take place before actually proposing a program. This will aid in determining the appropriateness and priorities for any new programs.
- Future CCMRD programming should focus on the following areas:
 - Adventure sports
 - Outdoor recreation
 - Fitness/wellness
 - Seniors
 - Winter sports
 - Special events.
- Every program or service offered should be required to develop a program proposal sheet to determine the direct cost of offering the activity as well as the minimum number of registrants needed to conduct the program. This proposal form should also evaluate the need for the program, its market focus, and

the ability to support the program priorities for the department. The District currently has a system in place, which needs to be updated and improved.

- Once each program or service is completed, a program report should be completed that itemizes the exact cost and revenues that were generated by the program and the number of individuals served. This will determine if the program or service met its financial goals and also its service goals.
- The District should conduct a lifecycle analysis for major activities where program registrations by interest area are tracked and reviewed on a seasonal basis. Programs should be slotted into the following categories:
 - New – programs in the start-up phase that are just starting to build in popularity.
 - Mature – programs that have consistent high levels of registrations and are still growing in popularity.
 - Old – programs that are seeing a decline in popularity.
- The District should also track program trends on a regional and national basis.
- As the demand for programs and services continues to grow, the District should expand opportunities for partnering with other organizations to provide specialized services to the community.



Figure 39: Future CCMRD programming should include winter sports.

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

- * The District will need to develop programs that have not only an appeal for different age groups (youth, teen, adult and seniors) but also to the family unit.
- * An overall marketing plan for recreation programs and services should be developed. This document should be a simple, easy to implement, document that serves as a guideline for specific marketing efforts.
- * More programs should be provided on a contract basis. All contract programs and service providers should be on a 70%-30% split of revenues (or 60%-40% if possible) to provide the District with a strong revenue stream.
- * Establish a formal fee policy to ensure that pricing for programs and services is being done in a systematic way that maximizes revenues.



Figure 40: Fees for programs and services should be set to maximize revenue but still be affordable.

5.4 PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Parks and special use outdoor recreation facilities play a critical role in the recreation spectrum of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District and should remain a core element of the District's mission. However, the District should focus on providing park and outdoor recreation facilities that serve the CCMRD as a whole and allow the cities and towns to focus on in-town, neighborhood-based recreation facilities.

5.4.1 Parks

The District's initial area of focus for improving outdoor park and recreation amenities should be on the facilities it owns and operates. Some of the recommended improvements to the CCMRD's park and outdoor recreation facilities include:

- * The CCMRD Ballfields: The CCMRD Ballfields (also known as Shelly/Quinn Fields) are the District's primary venue for competitive baseball (Rocky Mountain Little League) and softball. The CCMRD Ballfield is currently meeting the District's needs for baseball/softball and should continue to do so until there is either significant population growth or increased participation. Therefore, it is critical that the facility be kept in good condition. Recommended improvements include:
 - * Field Lighting: The existing lighting system for the two fields is aging and does not meet National Little League Lighting Standards and should be replaced. It is worth noting that one of the field lighting poles fell over in 2007, indicating that the lights may not have adequate foundations or that the wood poles are rotting – creating a potential safety hazard. The District should begin the process of planning and funding replacement of the field lighting system to comply with current safety standards for ball field lighting.
 - * East Field Expansion: The outfield of the east ball field (Shelly Field) should be expanded



Figure 41: CCMRD Ballfield is the District's primary facility for competitive sports.

where possible to accommodate a larger multi-use field for soccer, lacrosse, etc. This will require an evaluation of parking needs and efficiency to determine where expansion is feasible. In addition, the expansion will need to be completed prior to, or in conjunction with installing a new light system.

- * Spectator Amenities: A shade structure (which could include wind screens) should be considered for the spectator area between fields (see example right), renovate/relocate the concession stand, add benches, and other spectator amenities
- * Irrigation system upgrade: The aging irrigation system should be completely refurbished.
- * Accessibility. Dedicated handicap parking spaces should be provided for the parking lot and an accessible route should be constructed from the parking area to each major amenity. Ideally, the entire spectator area could be converted to an ADA compatible aggregate surface such as compacted crusher fines or paved with concrete. If scorer's boxes are reconstructed, they should meet current ADA guidelines.
- * General Upkeep: The existing structures should be repainted if they are to remain. Parking upgrades / landscaping need to be completed, including paving and striped parking stalls.



Figure 42: CCMRD Ballfield is the District's primary facility for competitive sports.

🌲 Parks in Underserved Areas: Since it is the only governmental entity suited to the task, the CCMRD should consider the assisting more densely populated unincorporated areas of the District in developing small Pocket/Neighborhood Parks similar to Elmgreen Park in Floyd Hill. There are probably two to three areas within the District that would have the population density for such a facility - Dumont/Lawson/Downieville is the best example. The construction of new, small parks in these communities should not be fully funded by the CCMRD, but it could play a key role in the process of securing funding (such as GOCO grants) and in assisting the community in the design and construction process. If new small parks are constructed, the District will need to work with each community to determine the best approach for maintenance.

🌲 Idaho Springs Skate Park: The District's skateboard park has reached the end of its useful life and should be replaced. The equipment does not meet current standards and the facility is in a location that is not suitable for a district-wide recreation amenity due to poor access and its close proximity to nearby homes. Any design to replace the skate park should include a public outreach process that is focused specifically at that user group. A location that is central to the District should also be identified. A cursory review of potential sites

include the former water treatment facility site, the rodeo grounds, the old high school site, the Heritage Park Multi-Use or Tennis Court in Idaho Springs, or adjacent to the mountain board park in Empire's Minton Park.

- ✳ It should be noted that skateboarding did not appear as a strong need in either the public opinion survey or during the public engagement phase. However, this is not a surprise as the opinions of the teen demographic are very difficult to capture in any type of pubic engagement process because most of the comments received are from adults. Experience from other communities has shown that a good quality skateboard facility will be heavily used by teens if constructed.
- ✳ If the current skateboard park is abandoned, the site would be a good location for a pocket park for the east end of Idaho Springs, especially given it's proximity to nearby affordable housing.



Figure 44: A well-designed skate park should see heavy use by the community.

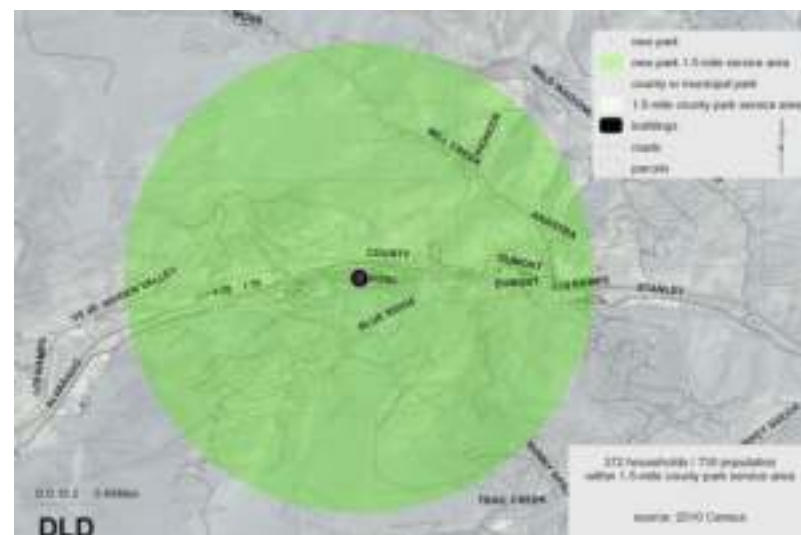


Figure 43: Example of a county park service area for an underserved area such as the Dumont/Lawson/Downieville.

🌲 Heritage Park Tennis Court and Multi-Use Court: Both of these facilities should either be completely upgraded or demolished. Because each of these amenities only serve Idaho Springs and not the greater CCMRD, the maintenance of these facilities should be turned back over to the City of Idaho Springs if they are reconstructed.

🌲 Werlin Park Ice Rink: Due to its popularity, the District should continue the Werlin Park ice rink program that was tested in the winter of 2011. The District should look at expanding the facility through better marketing, more ice-based programs, special events, and perhaps an expanded rink.

🌲 Minton Park Ball Field: The District is no longer programming the Minton Park ball field for youth baseball due to its size and reduced participation rates in the Little League program. Because the demand for a multi-use turf area is higher in the CCMRD, the size of the infield should be reduced to allow the outfield turf to be use for field sports. This would still allow the field to be used for T-ball and softball (with a temporary outfield fence). And, if the demand for a large baseball field returns to historic levels at some point in the future, the field could be converted back to its original configuration.



Figure 45: Minton Park ball field is a full-sized field that is no longer being used for baseball programs by the District.

Introduction

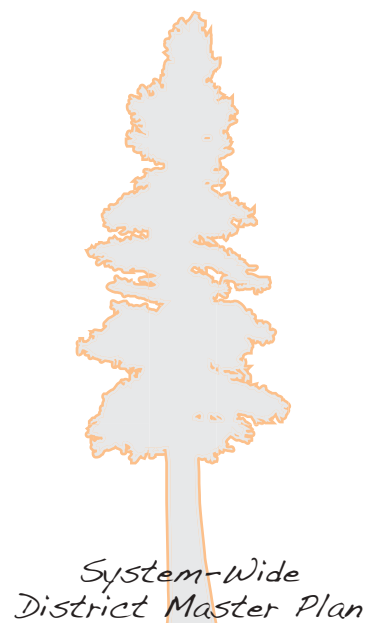
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

- Georgetown Tennis and Multi-Use Courts (Meadows Park). This facility is managed and maintained by the CCMRD and is in need of renovation to improve safety and access. The existing steps should be replaced and, if feasible, an accessible route constructed.
- Parks in the District's Municipalities. The CCMRD should continue to partner with the cities and towns to improve the quality and quantity of parks serving individual neighborhoods.
 - The District's grant program should be the primary vehicle for partnering with the municipal partners to improve parks. The play equipment at Minton Park is a good example of a facility that needs to be renovated.
 - The District may also consider establishing a grant that is specifically targeted to safety upgrades and ADA compliance. There are a number of parks within the District that need these specific improvements.

5.4.2 Playground Equipment

The District should adopt an operational plan that establishes inspection and maintenance standards for the playgrounds that are owned and operated by the District so that play equipment and the play bays are inspected on a regular basis. The frequency of the inspections depends on the District's capabilities and staffing, level of use, weather conditions, and the potential for/history of vandalism



Figure 46: Safety surfacing at Macy/Ruth Mill Park needs to be refurbished.

- Elements that may be damaged or displaced by daily use such as the safety surfacing should, at a minimum, be inspected a minimum of once a week and ideally each morning to reposition displaced loose pack surfacing and to remove unsafe materials (broken glass, animal waste, etc.). Components that are less likely to become unsafe such as bolts and connectors should also be checked routinely – ideally weekly, and at minimum, monthly.
- The District's playgrounds should be inspected by an individual who is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) every six months or annually. The CPSI program is offered by the National Certification Board in coordination with the National Park and Recreation Association and the National Playground Safety Institute. Ultimately, the District should have a full-time staff member with a CPSI certification and until that time should contract with a qualified individual.
- The District should consider working with the cities and towns in the CCMRD to determine if a staff member could be split or jointly funded to maintain playgrounds. In all likelihood, each individual community does not have the in-house expertise or quantity of playground facilities to warrant funding an individual who is dedicated to playground safety and maintenance.

5.5 TRAILS

While the results of the Community Attitude and Interest Survey clearly demonstrated that the residents of the District feel trails are a top recreation priority, the CCMRD is not positioned to be the primary trail provider in the county. Trail planning, design, and construction requires specialized expertise in rights-of-ways and easements, property acquisition, engineering and trail design, and construction contracts and construction management. Clear Creek County and the USFS are much better suited for this role as they have oversight over all of Clear Creek County and Forest Service land and have at least some of the required expertise in-house. Nonetheless, the CCMRD does have a role in providing trails for the residents of the CCMRD.

- The CCMRD could be actively involved in trail activities by sponsoring trail programs and events such as weekend trail rides, rallies, and races. Providing trail-based recreation programs that are focused on local residents (mountain bike cardio classes, kid's mountain bike camps, etc.) may be one of the best areas where the District could be active.
- The District should be actively involved in trail planning and design by being an active participant in trail master planning and design. The District should focus on identifying trail opportunities that would create connections to its facilities. The District should:



Figure 47: Trails are used throughout the year; trail design should consider this.

- * Always include paths and trails for any new facility.
- * Site new facilities so that they are in close proximity to existing and proposed trails.
- * Work with the county, cities, and towns to find ways to create trail connections to CCMRD facilities. This could include sidewalks along existing roads/streets where none currently exist. It is appropriate for the District to participate in the cost of the construction of critical trails and sidewalk connections where access to a District facility is improved.

As part of an identity and signage program, the CCMRD should install signs on regional recreation trails that direct users to District facilities.

The District should not be a primary provider for trail maintenance in the County. It is appropriate for the District to maintain trail connection within facilities it owns or maintains. The District could help coordinate trail maintenance or spring cleanup events in the county.

- * If the County were willing to fully compensate the District for the cost of maintenance staff and equipment through an IGA, the District may consider assuming the operations and maintenance of the county trail systems.

5.6 STAFFING AND ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is the Master Plan Team's recommendations for the staffing and organization for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District.

5.6.1 Staffing

- The District needs to consider the addition of several key full-time staff if the funding is in place to support it.
- * Recreation Center Manager – this is a high priority position that would allow for the continued expansion of programs and services at the center and also possibly at the old high school site. This position would be responsible for operations of the facility as well as for fitness and aquatics programs.

This would also allow for some of the pressure to be relieved from the Programs Director.

- * Marketing Coordinator – it is apparent that if the District is going to expand its presence in the county through facilities, programs and services, there will need to be a stronger focus on marketing. This position would coordinate all marketing and promotion efforts including the development of program brochures, website updates, social networking, sponsorships and donations.

In addition to the full-time staff, the District may need to increase the level of part-time staff if programming is going to be expanded and if additional responsibilities for maintenance are taken on by the District.

The existing job descriptions and responsibilities need to be updated to represent the current (and future) organizational plan. Specific job roles and responsibilities need to be formalized.

Detailed and specific annual work plans should be required for each full-time staff member and these should be monitored by their direct supervisor on a regular basis. There should be measureable benchmarks and outputs required for each plan.



Figure 48: Production of the quarterly brochure could become the responsibility of the marketing coordinator.

A long-term staff training program needs to be developed on a yearly basis with specific goals and areas of focus. This should include both full-time and part-time staff.

The District should actively recruit college interns with the goal of having at least one each semester. An intern manual will need to be developed as a guide for all interns.

5.6.2 Budget

The District budget has been developed with a number of sub-budget categories. However, the department needs to continue to move forward with a cost center accounting system where major recreation program sections are set up with sub categories based on specific program areas. This will provide greater transparency for the entire budget process and allow for an accurate picture of both costs and revenues for individual program areas.

While the District has a very basic capital improvement plan, a more formal, comprehensive, 5-year capital improvement plan needs to be developed with specific priorities established by year.

Deferred maintenance items must be prioritized on a five and ten year plan for funding and ultimate completion. The list should be updated and reprioritized on a yearly basis.

A funding plan for the deferred maintenance items must be developed. If there are a significant number of high priced improvements that must be completed in the near future, then the District may need to consider a bond issue to fund such items in a cost effective manner.

Establish a capital depreciation/replacement budget for major facilities and equipment.

The District must adopt a more aggressive fee policy (as has already been noted) that will dictate how fees are set and the level of cost recovery that is required for facilities, programs and services.

The District should develop specific guidelines to determine which maintenance functions or activities should be considered for contract service. A primary aspect of this plan should be a cost/

Introduction

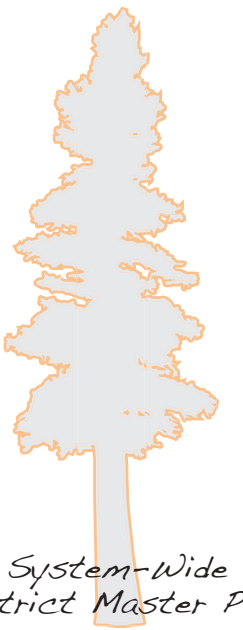
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

benefit assessment of providing a function in house vs. contracting for the service.

- Any new park or recreation facility that is planned for the District should be required to have an operations and maintenance impact statement completed that identifies the financial and staff impacts of operating and maintaining the facility before it is built.

5.6.3 Operations:

- Formal facility inspections (recreation center and parks) should be completed on at least a weekly basis. These inspections should cover maintenance issues, equipment inspections and documentation (playgrounds, weight/cardio, etc.), safety and operational issues.
- The District needs to establish a comprehensive maintenance management plan. Having a well developed maintenance plan provides an excellent foundation for establishing time/material cost estimates for various maintenance functions and tasks. Once the maintenance plan is in place the process needs to continue to develop to the next level where actual time and resource allocations are utilized to validate the planning numbers that have been used. This could take several years until enough real world numbers are available to adjust the existing standards. The plan should also deal with preventative maintenance issues as well.
- Specific stand-alone maintenance plans should be developed for each major facility such as the recreation center, park, or special use facility. These plans should address not only daily and long term custodial and maintenance functions but also mechanical system and other operating system maintenance.
- An overall marketing plan for recreation facilities, programs and services should be developed on a district level. This document should be a simple, easy to implement, document that serves as a guideline for specific marketing efforts.
- A comprehensive safety and security program should be developed for all facilities. This should include a detailed risk management and emergency action plan.

- Develop an energy management plan that attempts to not only control energy costs but promotes energy conservation and also attempts to utilize alternative forms of energy.
- The District should consider having at least a portion of the Board of Directors elected by geographic region in the county to ensure that all areas are represented.
- It will be critical that the District has as a priority to improve communications with the other governmental units in the county. This will be essential if additional partnerships are going to be formed for the development and management of recreation facilities.

5.7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following outlines basic recommendations for future intergovernmental agreements (IGAs).

- Any commitments for the District to maintain or operate properties or facilities that are owned by other governmental units should require that a fully executed IGA be signed before moving forward.

- Any on-going use by the District of facilities that are owned by other governmental units should also require a fully executed IGA to be signed.
- Programs and services that are provided by the District for other governmental units should require a fully executed IGA.
- Any existing IGA's should be reviewed to determine if they are still in force, the conditions and facilities are still valid, and the agreement is still relevant. All necessary changes should be made by either amending the existing agreement or structuring a new document.
- Future IGA's should limit the District's role in maintaining parks and recreation amenities unless:
 - The District actually owns the facility or has a long-term lease for operation.
 - The amenity is actively being used by the District for programs and services and they are the only or primary user.
 - The facility owner is willing to pay for District maintenance and capital improvements at a rate that does not adversely impact the District's budget.



Figure 49: The Heritage Park Tennis Court is an example of a facility maintained by the District through an IGA with the City of Idaho Springs. However, the court has reached the end of its useful life and is need of renovation or replacement.

- ✳️ All IGAs should include the following conditions:
 - ✳️ Terms of 3-5 years with renewable options of the same duration. Shorter term agreements should be avoided unless they are an interim step to another facility or needed for a one-time event or activity.
 - ✳️ If the District will be required to make a significant capital investment in the site or facility, the length to the term should be long enough to receive full use of the investment or to cover the expected life of the improvement. This could require terms of up to 50 years or more.
 - ✳️ Requirements for on-going maintenance as well as long term capital improvements need to be clearly spelled out. The shorter the term of the agreement, the more the owner should carry the responsibility for capital improvements.
 - ✳️ There should be a clearly defined exit clause that also covers ownership and repayment requirements for any improvements.

5.8 ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT IDENTITY

When one visits the park and recreation facilities within the CCMRD, it is often not clear who owns the facility or who is responsible for its maintenance. This fact is borne

out by the input received during the Master Plan’s public engagement process, where the residents frequently mentioned they had no idea who was responsible for which facility. Therefore, the CCMRD should begin a process to strengthen its identity within the County.

- ✳️ The District needs to develop a much stronger identity as a public recreation provider in the county. This starts with improved signage and the recognition of the District’s role in managing the facilities for which it is responsible.
 - ✳️ The CCMRD color scheme should be carried through its marketing materials, signage, picnic shelter columns and roofing, park and recreation amenities, and site furnishings. A color that is readily available within the park and recreation industry (dark green, brown, dark brown, dark blue, black, etc.) should be at least one color in the palette.
 - ✳️ The District should work with a graphic artist to establish and adopt a group of standard signs that include park monument signage, signs noting maintenance ownership and responsibilities, wayfinding signage, rules and regulations, etc. – all featuring the District’s colors and logo. Park monument signage should be friendly and convey a simple message (“CCMRD Ballfield Complex –

Welcome”) with rules and regulations provided on separate signage.

- ✳️ The District should adopt a set of site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, bike racks, trash receptacles, etc.) that will be utilized in each of its facilities. All new construction will use the approved site furnishings palette. In addition, as site furnishings wear out, they should be replaced with the adopted equipment. This has the added benefit of making the site furnishings in the system interchangeable.
- ✳️ Structures such as picnic shelters and restrooms should be constructed with similar durable materials, colors and finishes (dark blue standing seam metal roofs for example). The District could even adopt a “signature” retaining wall such as the low rock walls used at Elmgreen Park.
- ✳️ Play equipment is one area where variety in color schemes and materials is encouraged.

- ✳️ There needs to be continuing efforts to “brand” the District as a whole, the recreation center and programs through all publications, promotional materials, flyers, signs, website, and other items. All marketing materials need to have the same format, look, logo, etc.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

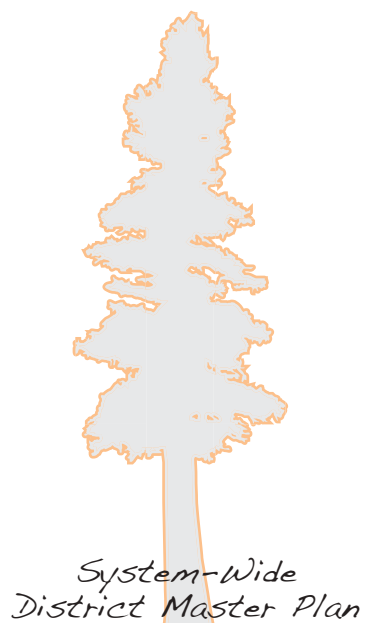


Figure 50: The CCMRD Ballfield sign is one of the few signs currently identifying District facilities.

Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation



*System-Wide
District Master Plan*



6 IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 PROGRAM AND SERVICES PRIORITIES

6.1.1 NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES

6.1.2 MID-TERM PRIORITIES

6.1.3 LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

6.2 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY PRIORITIES

6.2.1 NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES

6.2.2 MID-TERM PRIORITIES

6.2.3 LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

6.3 PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

6.3.1 NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES

6.3.2 MID-TERM PRIORITIES

6.3.3 LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

6.4 FUNDING

6.4.1 FUNDING ISSUES

6.4.2 OPERATIONS FUNDING

6.4.3 PARTNERSHIPS

6.4.4 SPONSORSHIPS

6.4.5 GRANTS

6.4.6 ENDOWMENT FUND

6.4.7 CLEAR CREEK METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT

6.5 CAPITAL FUNDING

6.5.1 PARTNERSHIPS

6.5.2 FUNDRAISING

6.5.3 GRANTS / ENDOWMENTS

6.5.4 NAMING RIGHTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

6.5.5 CLEAR CREEK METROPOLITAN RECREATION DISTRICT

6.5.6 STATE LOTTERY DOLLARS

6.5.7 GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

6.5.8 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS

6.5.9 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

6.5.10 CDOT ENHANCEMENT FUNDS

6.6 OTHER FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

6.6.1 FOUNDATION

6.6.2 GRANT FUNDING TO INDIVIDUAL TOWNS OR CITY

6.7 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose for this chapter of the System-wide Master Plan is to provide a summary of the proposed actions and recommended improvements along with their relative priority (near-term, mid-term, and long-term). This will provided the Board of Directors, District staff, participating municipalities, and residents with an action plan for implementing the recommendations of the master plan.

The actions and priorities included in this chapter were based on preliminary recommendations offered by the Master Plan Team, which were then fine-tuned by the Board of Directors and District Staff. Where appropriate, the recommendations reflect the comments, suggestions, and direction provided by District residents during the public engagement process. However, not all of the actions or improvements evolved out of the public input process. This includes suggestions for improving District operations and maintenance or for priorities that will be critical to the long-term viability of the CCMRD.

Due to the general variability in needs and opportunities that occur each year, it is recommended that the specific activities and priorities be reviewed and determined annually.

The general time frames for priorities listed below are:

- ⌘ Near-term: one to five years
- ⌘ Mid-term: five to ten years
- ⌘ Long-term: ten years and beyond

Figure 51: Construction of a new retaining wall in Werlin Park, Georgetown.



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

6.1 PROGRAM AND SERVICES PRIORITIES

The following is brief overview of the priorities focused on improving District programs and services. See Table 4 for a complete listing of recommended priorities, policies, actions, and organizational changes. Table 4 also includes supporting information for many of the action, responsible agency, and a range of potential costs.

6.1.1 Near-Term Priorities

- 6.1.1.1 Establish a core set of high quality programs and grow program participation by five percent annually (youth/adult sports, recreation/leisure programs).
- 6.1.1.2 Create and budget for adventure programs and community activities.
- 6.1.1.3 Develop an equipment loan/rental program to support community events/activities.
- 6.1.1.4 Develop a 5 year program plan for the District.

6.1.2 Mid-Term Priorities

- 6.1.2.1 Establish and grow a Special Events series (runs, bike races, eco-challenge, etc.).
- 6.1.2.2 Enhance youth programs to provide mentorship in athletics, citizenship, environmental awareness and career opportunities.
- 6.1.2.3 Coordinate with other agencies to enhance support for senior programming and activities.

6.1.3 Long-Term Priorities

- 6.1.3.1 Ensure programs and special events are self-sustaining or revenue generating.
- 6.1.3.2 Establish the District as the leader/provider of adventure programs.
- 6.1.3.3 Develop a transportation plan for recreation activities with other county organizations.
- 6.1.3.4 Establish a non-profit recreation support organization (501(c)3).

6.2 INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY PRIORITIES

This section highlights the recommended improvements focused on indoor recreation in the District. See Table 7.1 for a complete listing of recommended priorities, policies, and actions.

6.2.1 Near-Term Priorities

- 6.2.1.1 Identify/utilize interim space to allow for expansion of offices and youth programs.
- 6.2.1.2 Maximize space to support the fitness facility with additional floor space, equipment, and child play area.
- 6.2.1.3 Install interim aquatics amenities such as a slide and/or spray features within the existing facility.
- 6.2.1.4 Develop a plan for and obtain price estimates for the expansion of the Recreation Center and aquatics facility.

6.2.2 Mid-Term Priorities

- 6.2.2.1 Obtain funding to support a Recreation Center expansion/renovation project to include improved aquatics structures, expanded fitness areas to include indoor walking track and indoor courts/play areas, dedicated youth/teen program and activities areas, and office space.
- 6.2.2.2 Construct Recreation Center addition.
- 6.2.2.3 Reduce reliance upon tax dollars to support the operation of the recreation center.

6.2.3 Long-Term Priorities

- 6.2.3.1 Partner with neighboring recreation program providers (Evergreen/Gilpin) for the construction/operation of an indoor field house and/or ice rink.
- 6.2.3.2 Work with town/county to construct a lake house community activities center on Georgetown Lake.

6.3 PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

A brief cross-section of the recommended improvements for outdoor parks and recreation facilities in the CCMRD follows. See Table 4 for a complete listing of recommended priorities, policies, and actions.

6.3.1 Near-Term Priorities

- 6.3.1.1 Plan and complete Idaho Springs ball field complex revitalization
- 6.3.1.2 Determine the project scope, site selection, and complete the skate park relocation/construction.
- 6.3.1.3 Partner with other agencies and entities to assist in the development and operation of non-paved recreational trails, maps, signage, and trail heads.
- 6.3.1.4 Support communities in the development/renovation of city/town parks.
- 6.3.1.5 Establish priorities and begin to upgrade CCMRD owned/operated parks to meet ADA, appearance, and functionality standards.

6.3.2 Mid-Term Priorities

- 6.3.2.1 Identify areas for new/expansion of parks in unincorporated areas of the District.
- 6.3.2.2 Complete CCMRD owned/operated park improvements to meet ADA, appearance, and functionality standards.

6.3.3 Long-Term Priorities

- 6.3.3.1 Develop new parks/recreational amenities in unincorporated areas of the district as funds become available.

Table 7: Priorities and Supporting Policies and Actions

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES			
POLICY	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Continue to support community park improvements, events, and activities	<p>This is the core reason for the existence of the District.</p> <p>Community survey: The functions that the highest percentage of respondents rated as very important or somewhat important for the CCMRD are: providing trails for hiking and biking (91%), preserving the environment and providing open space (87%), providing recreation programs for residents of all ages (86%), operating and maintaining the CCMRD recreation center (86%), and providing places for picnics and open park areas (86%)</p>	District Staff District Board	N/A
Promote the fact that the District serves as the primary coordinator and provider of recreation programs / services in the county	<p>This policy is critical to set the future direction of the District.</p> <p>Stakeholder meeting comment: There needs to be more emphasis on raising the county's profile through special events and festivals.</p>	District Staff District Board	N/A
Action			
Develop a 5-year program plan that identifies core, secondary, and support programs for the future.	This will establish future program priorities for the District.	District Staff District Board	N/A
Split facility management and program coordination position and hire a dedicated program/special event coordinator.	<p>This will ensure that adequate staffing is available for program development in the future.</p> <p>Stakeholder meeting comment: There is a need for better marketing and promotion of recreation programs and activities.</p>	District Staff District Board	\$30,000 - \$40,000 annually
Establish a core set of high quality programs and grow program participation by five percent annually (youth/adult sports,recreation/leisure programs).	This is essential to ensure program growth in the District.	District Staff	\$10,000 - \$15,000 annually
Create and budget for adventure programs and community activities	This will add a new dimension to recreation programming.	District Staff	\$5,000 - \$10,000 annually
Develop an equipment loan/rental program to support community events/activities.	<p>This equipment will need to be placed on a capital replacement schedule.</p> <p>Stakeholder meeting comment: This District makes outdoor equipment available for residents to rent.</p>	District Staff	\$15,000 - \$20,000

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Policy	Notes	Responsible Agency	Potential Cost
Host a yearly recreation program summit meeting with other providers in the District.	This should include other public, private, and non-profit providers. Stakeholder meeting comment: It is critical that all of the governmental agencies in the county communicate, cooperate, and work together to avoid duplication and overlapping services.	District Staff	\$1,000 - \$2,000 annually

Programs and Services Mid-Term Priorities			
Policy	Notes	Responsible Agency	Potential Cost
Enhance youth programs to provide mentorship in athletics, citizenship, environmental awareness, and career opportunities.	This policy will need to be evident in all planning efforts for youth programs. Stakeholder meeting comment: Recreation programming needs to focus on youth-based activities.	District Staff	N/A
Action			
Establish and grow a Special Events series (runs, bike races, eco-challenge, etc.).	This action will need to focus on both locals and attracting visitors to the county. Public Meeting #1 polling result: There was support (54%) for special events and festivals that would attract both visitors and locals.	District Staff District Board	\$10,000 - \$15,000
Coordinate with other agencies to enhance support for senior programming and activities.	A broader base of senior recreation programs is needed in the county. Stakeholder meeting comment: It is critical that all of the governmental agencies in the county communicate, cooperate, and work together to avoid duplication and overlapping services.	District Staff	\$5,000 - \$10,000 annually
Develop program development and evaluation tools to assess program effectiveness and financial integrity.	These tools should be utilized by staff to determine the overall effectiveness of all programs and services.	District Staff	N/A
Establish a non-profit recreation support organization (a 501(c)3 foundation)	This organizaiton will need to include District Board representation and should result in eligibility for additional grants.	District Staff District Board	\$5,000 - \$15,000

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES LONG-TERM PRIORITIES			
POLICY	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Ensure programs and special events are self-sustaining or revenue generating.	This will require a systematic increase in program fees.	District Staff	N/A
Establish the District as the leader/provider of adventure programs.	This will require a major emphasis on programming in this area.	District Staff District Board	\$10,000 - \$20,000 annually
Action			
Complete a lifecycle analysis for all district programs and services	Eliminate programs that have reached the end of their usefulness. Public Meeting #1 comment: "Are underutilized facilities being evaluated? For instance, the baseball field at Minton Park is no longer being used for baseball. Could it be converted to a soccer or multi-purpose field which would get more use?"	District Staff	N/A
Develop a transportation plan for recreation activities with other county organizations.	The plan should make use of other organizations (school district) resources. Stakeholder meeting comment: Transportation is an issue for kids participating in recreation programs.	District Staff	\$10,000 - \$25,000 annually

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES			
POLICY	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Action			
Identify/utilize interim space to allow for expansion of offices and youth programs.	Rent portable or temporary space for this purpose.	District Staff	\$10,000 - \$20,000 annually
Maximize space to support the fitness facility with additional floor space, equipment, and child play area.	Rearrange existing space for maximum use and efficiency.	District Staff	N/A
Install interim aquatics amenities such as a slide and/or spray features within the existing facility.	This must be done as part of the long-range plan to expand the center. Public Meeting #1 polling result: The highest priority indoor facilities included leisure pool and water slides.	District Staff	\$200,000 - \$300,000



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

POLICY		NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Develop a plan for and obtain estimates of probable cost for the expansion of the Recreation Center and aquatics facility.		This will have to be completed by an architectural firm that specializes in such facilities.	District Staff	\$50,000 - \$75,000
		Stakeholder meeting comment: There were a number of comments stating that the Recreation Center needs to be expanded.		
Based on the expansion plan for the Recreation Center determine the need for the use of a second building and facility (evaluate the old Middle School).		This study should look at the operational impacts of operating two facilities.	District Staff	\$5,000 - \$10,000

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY MID-TERM PRIORITIES				
POLICY		NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Reduce reliance upon tax dollars to support the Recreation Center.		Broaden the base of funding to other areas.	District Staff	N/A
Action				
Obtain funding to support a Recreation Center expansion/renovation project to include improved aquatics structures, expanded fitness areas to include indoor walking track and indoor courts/play areas, dedicated youth/teen program and activities areas, and office space.		<p>This will likely require multiple funding sources including tax dollars.</p> <p>Community survey: The most frequently mentioned improvements that households would most like to have made to the CCMRD recreation center are: indoor walking track (31%), adding slides and features to the pool (22%), larger weight room (18%), and improved locker rooms (17%).</p>	District Staff District Board	\$5 million - \$10 million
Construct Recreation Center addition		<p>This may require closure of the center for some time.</p> <p>Stakeholder meeting comment: There were a number of comments stating that the Recreation Center needs to be expanded.</p>	District Staff	Included in above.

Indoor Recreation Facility Long-Term Priorities			
Policy	Notes	Responsible Agency	Potential Cost
Action			
Partner with neighboring recreation program (Evergreen/Gilpin) for the construction/operation of an indoor field house and/or ice rink.	The partnership should include both development and operation of the facility.	District Staff	\$10 million - \$15 million
Work with town/county to construct a lake house community activities center on Georgetown Lake.	The exact cost will depend on the size and type of facility that is developed.	District Staff	\$500,000 - \$1 million

Parks and Outdoor Recreation Priorities - Near-Term Priorities			
Policy	Notes	Responsible Agency	Potential Cost
Support communities in the development/ renovation of city/town parks.	Stakeholder meeting comment: Individual towns should focus on local activities and events and the District should focus on more county-wide services.	District Staff District Board	N/A
Action			
Complete the CCMRD Ballfield complex revitalization/construction project (Idaho Springs)	Expand the east field outfield to accommodate a larger multi-use turf area, new lighting for both fields, refurbish the irrigation systems in both fields, add multi-use pavilion/shelter, improve ADA accessibility, and spectator area amenity enhancements.	District Staff and Design-Build contractor	\$655,000
Complete the skate park relocation/construction project.	Construct a new skate park in a central location in the District. (Allowance shown. Costs will vary with need to purchase land, size of facility, and amenities.	District Staff and Design-Build Skate Park Contractor	\$800,000 (\$15,000 to \$20,000 square foot facility)
Review all existing Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and notify applicable entities if agreements no longer fulfill a CCMRD need or contribute to the CCMRD Vision/Mission.	Renegotiate IGAs as needed to formalize current commitments, duties, and relationships. Stakeholder meeting comment: There are IGAs that need to be updated.	District Staff	N/A

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

POLICY	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Partner with other agencies and entities to assist in the development and operation of non-paved recreational trails, maps, signage, and trail heads.	District costs (if any) to be determined on a case-by-case basis. Community survey: The parks and recreation facilities that the highest percentage of households has a need for: natural areas/ nature trails (69%), paved walking/biking trails (63%), indoor exercise and fitness facilities (54%), indoor swimming pools (51%), and small neighborhood parks (46%).	District Staff	N/A
Establish priorities and begin to upgrade CCMRD-owned/operated parks to meet ADA, appearance, and functionality standards	Improvements and costs to be determined on a case-by-case basis.	District Staff	\$5,000 - \$20,000 per park allowance

PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES - MID-TERM PRIORITIES

POLICY	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Action			
Identify areas for new/expansion of parks in unincorporated areas of the District.	Tasks should include coordination with residents, site selection, and design. Stakeholder meeting note: Representatives from the west half of the county expressed a concern that the CCMRD might all locate all major facilities in Idaho Springs. They would prefer to see satellite facilities constructed in the west half, especially for indoor recreation (that might locate in existing buildings).	District Staff and Park Planning Consultant and/ or Play Equipment Supplier	Design Services Allowance: \$15,000 per park
Complete CCMRD-owned/operated park improvements to meet ADA, appearance, and functionality standards.	Improvements and costs to be determined on a case-by-case basis.	District Staff	\$5,000 - \$20,000 per park (allowance)

PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES - LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

POLICY	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Action			
Develop new parks/recreational amenities in unincorporated areas of the district as funds become available.	Improvements and costs to be determined on a case-by-case basis.	District Staff	\$150,000 per small park facility (allowance)

ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS - NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES

POLICY	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Provide support for the development and operation of District programs, parks, and facilities.	Having a strong and well-organized administrative staff is essential to the welfare of the District.	District Staff District Board	N/A
Action			
Establish a comprehensive fee policy for all programs, services, and facilities.	This will support strong revenue production goals of the District.	District Staff District Board	N/A
Develop a 5-year prioritized capital replacement budget.	Will identify key capital expenditures that are required each year to keep facilities in top shape.	District Staff District Board	\$250,000 - \$1 million annually
Pursue multiple grants for programs, services, and facilities in the District.	This should reduce the reliance on tax dollars to develop programs, facilities, and services in the District. This should be enhanced by the establishment of a non-profit foundation.	District Staff	Grants will provide a positive cash flow for the District.
Determine which operations and maintenance functions should be contracted to outside organizations.	Criteria should include the level of expertise required, cost savings, and better use of District manpower.	District Staff	N/A
Update job descriptions and clearly define staff roles	This should formalize staff roles and expectations.	District Staff District Board	N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS - MID-TERM PRIORITIES

POLICY	NOTES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	POTENTIAL COST
Action			
Hire a marketing coordinator and develop a full marketing plan.	The plan should be a flexible document that is updated yearly.	District Staff District Board	\$30,000 - \$35,000 annually
	Stakeholder meeting comment: The District should serve as the coordinator of recreation activities in Clear Creek County.		
Establish cost center accounting practices that establishes budget categories for major facilities, program areas, and functions.	This will help to identify where specifically District resources are being utilized to provide services and facilities.	District Staff	N/A
Develop a formal maintenance management plan that also outlines specific maintenance plans for individual facilities or parks.	The document should formalize maintenance practices and procedures for the District.	District Staff	N/A

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Policy	Notes	Responsible Agency	Potential Cost
Establish a safety and security plan for District facilities including an emergency action plan.	The plan must cover all facilities and program areas.	District Staff	N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS - LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

Policy	Notes	Responsible Agency	Potential Cost
Action			
Develop a long range funding plan for the District that identifies other possible funding sources and reduces the impact of the Henderson mine.	The plan’s goal will be to minimize the possible tax loss from the eventual closing of the mine. Stakeholder meeting comment: The community needs to be careful not to over-build in the county because the tax revenue from the Henderson Mine will eventually end with the mining.	District Staff District Board	N/A
Develop an energy management plan for all District facilities.	The plan should reduce utility costs for the District by anywhere from 15% to 25%	District Staff	N/A

6.4 FUNDING

One of the major long-term challenges for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District will be securing funding for capital and operations that does not rely as heavily on property taxes.

6.4.1 Funding Issues

- It is estimated that approximately 68% of the District’s budget currently comes from taxes associated with the Henderson Mine. With the future of the mine, somewhat in doubt, it is clear that a number of different possible funding sources may need to be utilized to fill at least a portion of the gap.
- As a special district, funding options are limited by legal authority. The only tax source is property tax.
- A relatively low level of revenue comes from program and use fees.

- The District has relatively few partnerships with other organizations in the county that contribute capital or operational assistance to a project or program.
- Many of the towns and city in the District have park facilities that are in need of update and renovation. Many of these entities have looked to the District for capital funding assistance and even operations.

As a result, a number of possible funding sources have been investigated. Although this is not meant to be an exhaustive list, it does indicate possible available funding sources.

6.4.2 Operations Funding

In order for the District to maintain existing facilities and services as well as possibly expand recreation opportunities, a more diverse form of operational funding will be necessary.

6.4.3 Partnerships

If new facilities are developed through partnerships with other organizations then it should be expected that the cost of operating or maintaining these amenities will also be shared with the other partners. A more detailed partnership assessment will be necessary to determine a realistic level of financial support. There will need to be a strong emphasis on developing formal partnership agreements (IGAs) with all partners.

6.4.4 Sponsorships

The establishment of sponsorships for different programs and services as well as funding for different aspects of a facility’s operation should be pursued. The District currently has a sponsorship program but this will need to be enhanced and promoted. However, in most cases this provides a relatively low revenue stream for funding day to day operating costs for parks and recreation districts.

6.4.5 Grants

There are grants that are available for programs and services that serve the disadvantaged, youth, teens and seniors. It may be possible to acquire funding for specific programs from this source.

6.4.6 Endowment Fund

This would require additional fundraising to establish an operational endowment fund that would be designed to fund capital replacement and improvements at District facilities. It is often difficult to raise funds for operational endowments and the level of funding required is high.

6.4.7 Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District

Realizing that the District will still need to be the primary source of operational dollars in the future, several options to acquire the necessary funding will need to be considered.

- § Fee and Revenue Increases – Programs and services that have a fee for use concept will need to have more aggressive fees and a stronger emphasis on revenue generation to offset the costs of operation.
- § Operational Mill Levy Increase – To fund significant increases in operational costs as well as to begin to minimize the impact of possibly losing taxes from the Henderson mine, it is highly likely that the District will need to have an on-going increase in the property tax mill levy. The operational mill should not only cover new parks and recreation amenities but also new programs and services as well as administrative staff and overhead.

6.5 CAPITAL FUNDING

Any new recreation facilities or significant expansions or renovations to existing facilities will likely require additional sources of funding.

6.5.1 Partnerships

The possibility of including equity (primary) partners for any parks and recreation projects should be strongly

pursued. There will be limits on the number of these types of partners that can be established for a project due to possible competing interests. A more detailed partnership assessment will be necessary to determine a realistic level of financial support for a specific project.

6.5.2 Fundraising

A possible source of capital funding could come from a comprehensive fundraising campaign in the county and District. Contributions from local businesses, private individuals and social service organizations should be targeted. To maximize this form of funding a private fundraising consultant may be necessary. A goal of fundraising could be to fund between 5% and 10% of the capital cost of a project.

6.5.3 Grants / Endowments

There are a number of grants and/or endowments that are available for parks and recreation projects. It is more difficult to fund active recreation facilities than parks and open space from these sources, but an effort should be made to acquire funding from these sources. Key areas that should be targeted for grants are serving youth, teens, seniors and families. Some of the key foundations in the state include Adolf Coors, Gates, Boettcher, and Piton.

6.5.4 Naming Rights and Sponsorships

Although not nearly as lucrative as for large stadiums and other similar facilities, the sale of naming rights and long term sponsorships could be a source of some capital funding as well. It may be necessary to hire a specialist in selling naming rights and sponsorships if this revenue source is to be maximized to its fullest potential. No lifetime naming rights should be sold, only 20 year maximum rights should be possible. Determining the level of financial contribution necessary to gain a naming right will be crucial. This could mean a contribution for up to 25% of the total cost of an entire project for overall facility naming rights or 50% to 100% for individual spaces within a park or facility itself.

Even when all of the potential funding sources noted above are combined, they will at best generate a funding level of 50% for a project. It is clear that the primary source

of funding will have to come from tax dollars. As a result several possible tax options have been explored.

6.5.5 Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District

If the District is going to be the primary funding agent for new or renovated parks and recreation facilities, several options to acquire the necessary tax dollars for a project will need to be evaluated.

- § General Tax Dollars – The utilization of any existing, non-allocated, tax dollars for a project. This will result in the slower development of new facilities by simply allocating existing tax funding when possible. This is the current system that is being utilized by the District.
- § Capital Improvement Fund – Establishing a dedicated funding source for capital projects from either a percentage of existing tax revenues or through a tax increase established for that purpose.
- § Bond Measure – A voter passed tax initiative to fund specific capital projects.
- § Certificates of Participation – A form of lease-purchase, COP's are issued for debt periods similar to normal bonds but the amenity itself serves as the collateral. This funding mechanism does not require voter approval.



Figure 52: Future major facilities like an indoor field house (long-term priority) will need funding from outside sources like grants, GOCO funding, sponsorships, and partnerships.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

6.5.6 State Lottery Dollars

Utilization of yearly state lottery proceeds (conservation trust funds) to develop capital projects. This provides a relatively small yearly dollar amount for these purposes. The District receives annual capital funding from this source every year.

6.5.7 Great Outdoors Colorado

Acquiring funding from this source on a specific grant basis should be pursued on a regular basis. The District has utilized this funding source a number of times in the past.

6.5.8 Department of Local Affairs

DOLA has several possible funding sources (Conservation Trust Fund and Energy and Mineral Impact Fund) for possible parks and recreation projects.

6.5.9 USDA Rural Development

Through the Community Facilities Direct Loan program it is possible to get a low cost loan to develop new parks and recreation facilities.

6.5.10 CDOT Enhancement Funds

CDOT provides some funding for trails and sidewalk connections that are in proximity to state highways.

6.6 OTHER FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Beyond the different funding mechanisms that have been mentioned above, there are also other considerations that should be addressed.

6.6.1 Foundation

It is highly recommended that a 501(c)3 foundation be established for the District. This will provide a way to collect a variety of fundraising dollars as well as equity partner payments for both capital and operations. This may also make projects eligible for a broader range of grant dollars as well.

6.6.2 Grant Funding to Individual Towns or City

The District should consider establishing an annual level of grant funding where a town or city can apply to the District for a capital grant for park improvements. This would help eliminate the need for direct funding of non-District facilities. The actual level of funding that is available could vary per year based on budget priorities for the District.

6.7 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

- The District will need to develop a formal long range funding plan that identifies priorities for capital and operations funding and the possible sources for revenue.
- The long range funding plan must address alternative forms of revenue to make up for the

- possible loss of some or all of the tax funding associated with the Henderson Mine.
- Develop a formal five year capital improvement plan that is updated yearly to establish capital priorities in the future.
- Actively pursue equity partnerships with other organizations in the county to establish new programs, services and facilities. All partnerships should be backed by a formal agreement or IGA.
- A strong sponsorship program for both facilities and programs should be activated utilizing the existing sponsorship guide as a baseline.
- The District should plan to pursue a minimum of three grants a year for both facilities and programs that will enhance the recreation opportunities for residents of the county.
- Maximize the funding opportunities that are available from state sources including COCO, DOLA, and CDOT.
- Establish a 501(c)3 foundation to support District facilities and programs.
- Adopt a District grant program to fund town and city recreation projects.
- Based on a well defined fee policy, work to increase the overall cost recovery rate for programs and facilities that require a fee for participation.
- Consider holding an election to increase the operational mill levy in the District in the next three years.

APPENDIX 1: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Sources: Department of Local Affairs (DOLA); 2000 Census; American Community Survey 2005-9 Estimates (ACS); Bureau of Economic Analysis

Summary

In the last decade, Clear Creek County has had a decline of people in their 30s and 40s. This trend is a continuation from the previous decade. Generally, this population cohort will continue to leave the County as it ages. In conjunction with this decline, school age children population dropped over the last 2 decades.

As a new generation of people from 30 – 50 years old settle in the County the population of school age children will also rise. The County population will stabilize and once again start rising again around 2012. In 2040, with a steady rise Clear Creek County will have approximately 16,000 people and double its school age population to around 3,500 students.

The American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for 2005-2009 have been suppressed for much of Clear Creek County due to large margins of error; the ACS was supposed to contain the census long form demographic information on a yearly rolling basis. The 2010 block group information is being released in stages, population and housing numbers are currently available. As data is available, we will update this analysis.

Demographic Trends

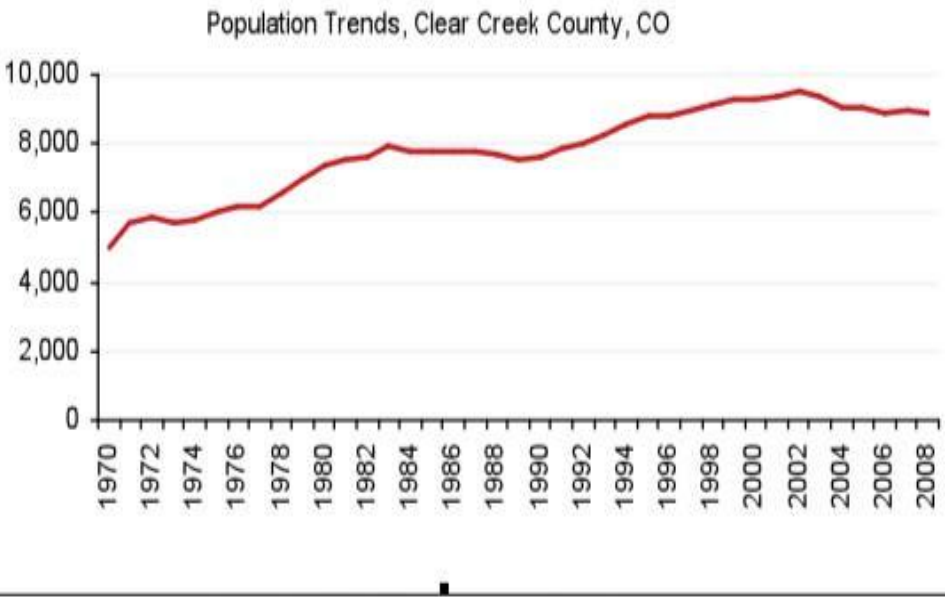


Figure 1: 1970-2008 Population Change

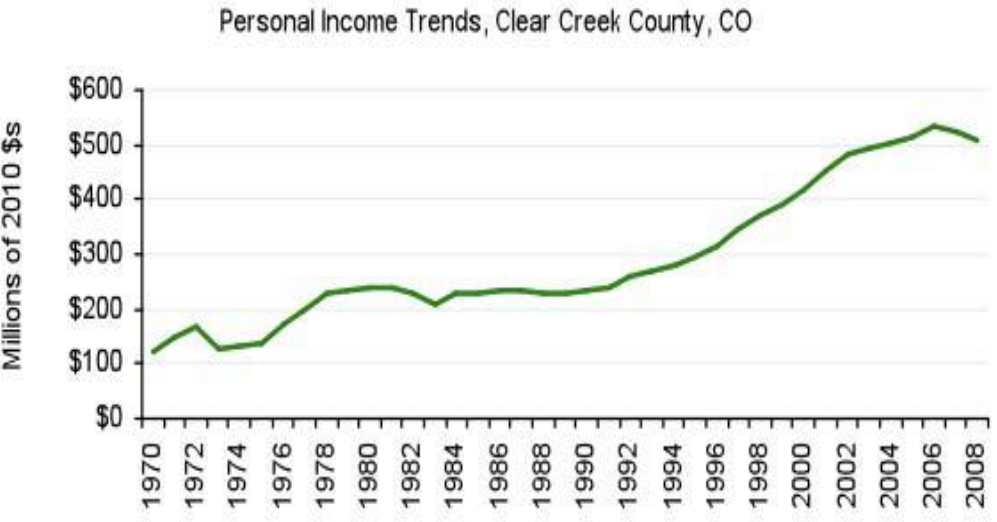


Figure 2: 1970-2008 Personal Income Trend

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix

System-Wide
District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



2000 (2000 Census)
Total population = 9,322
School population = 1569
Median household income = 50,997
Median house price = \$200,400.00

2009 (ASC 2005-2009 estimates)
Total population = 9,088
School population = 1628
Median household income = 83,929
Median house price = \$281,900.00

Demographic Projections (DOLA)

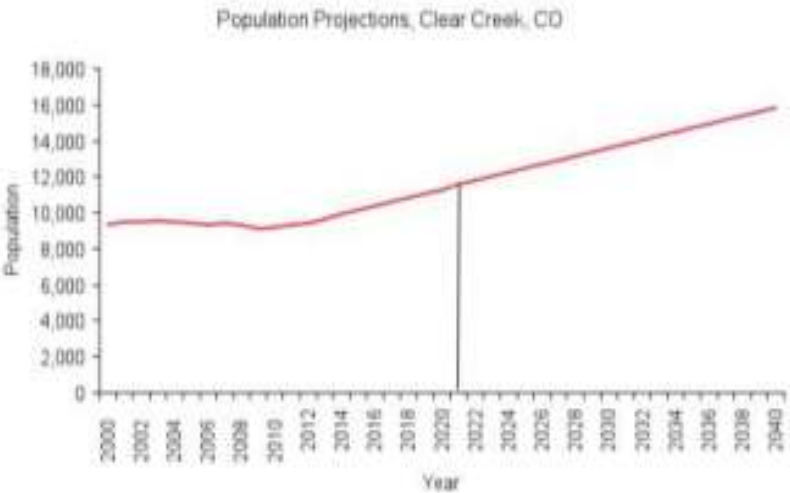


Figure 3: Population Projections (DOLA)

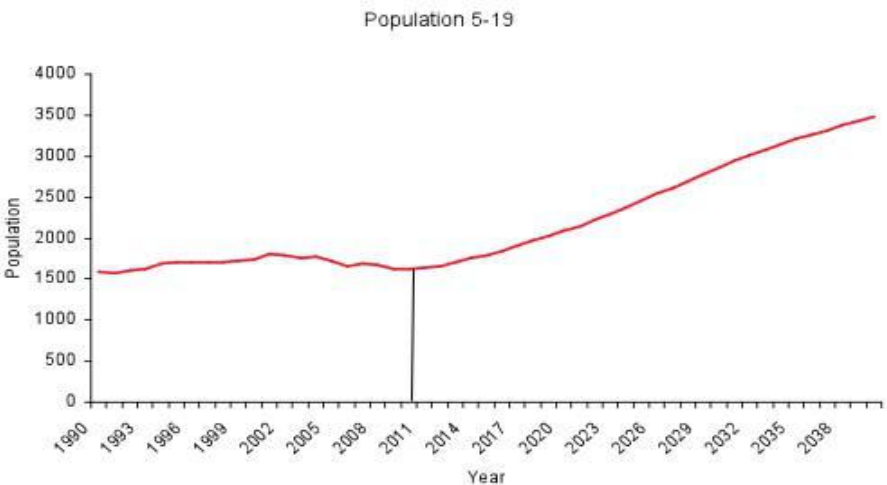
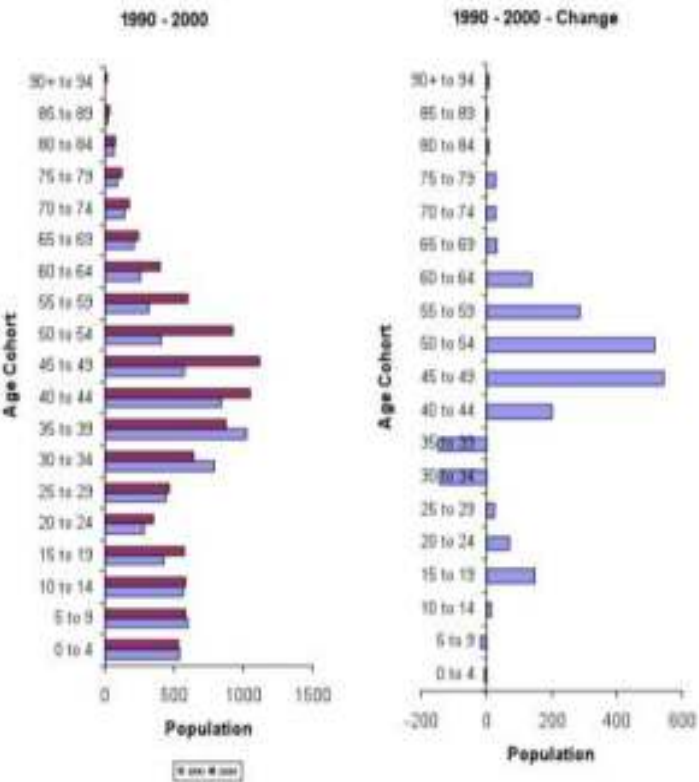
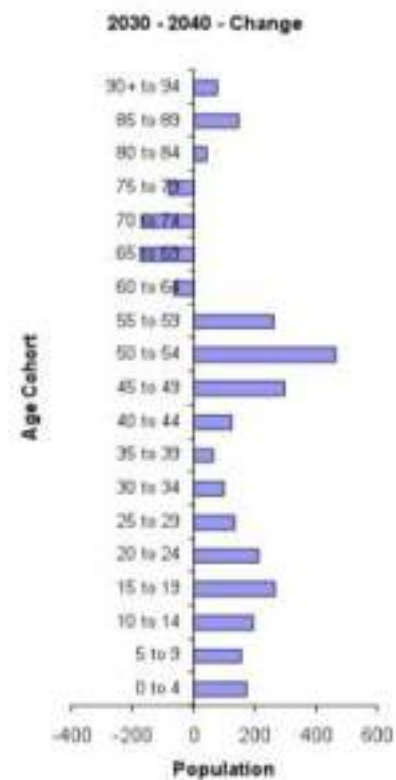
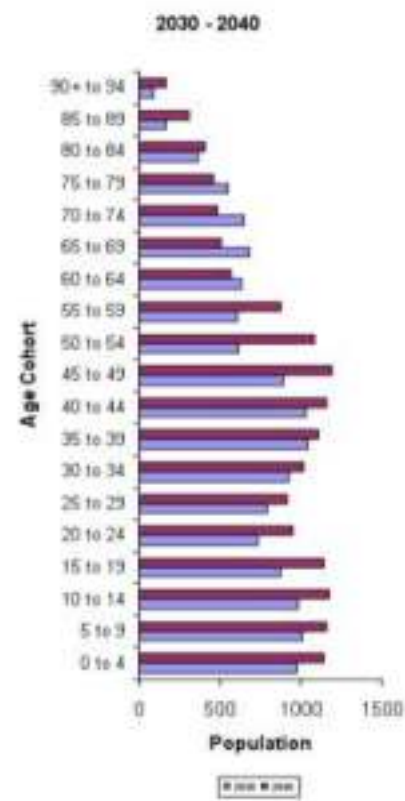
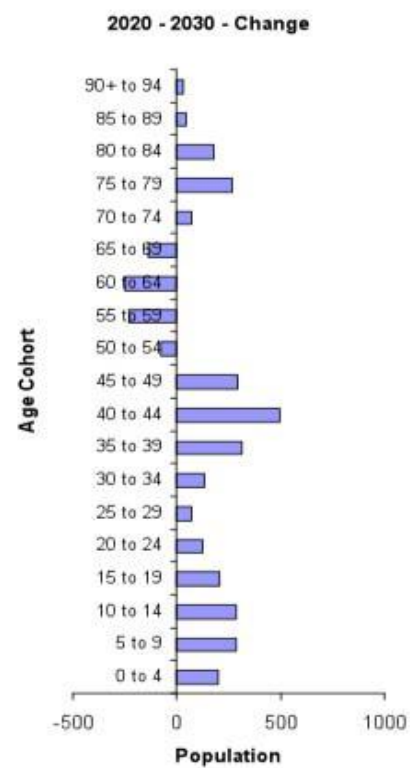
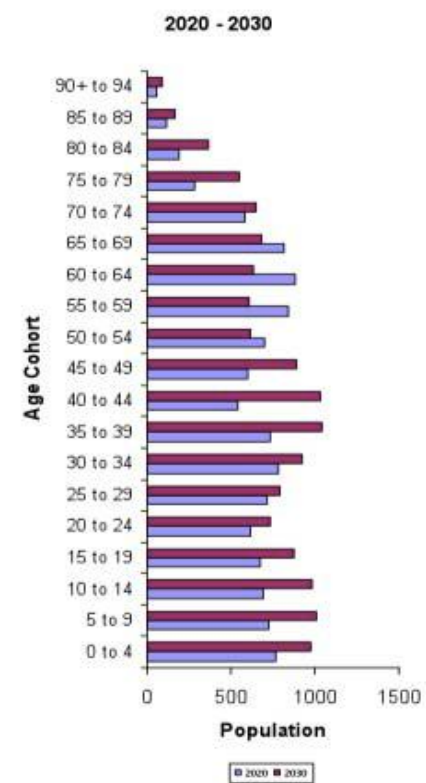
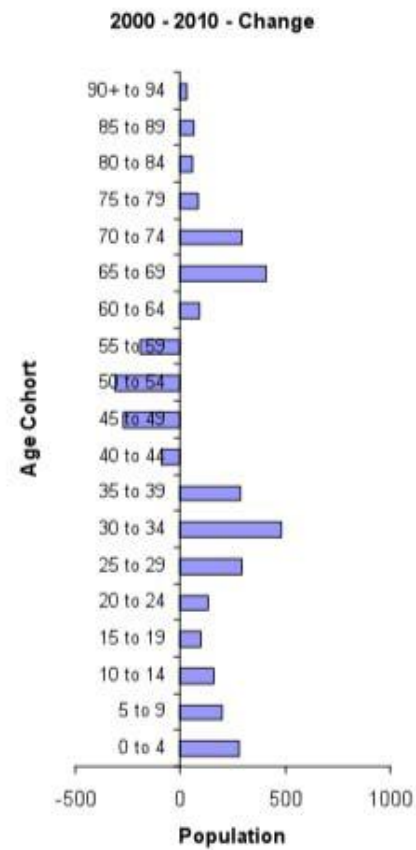
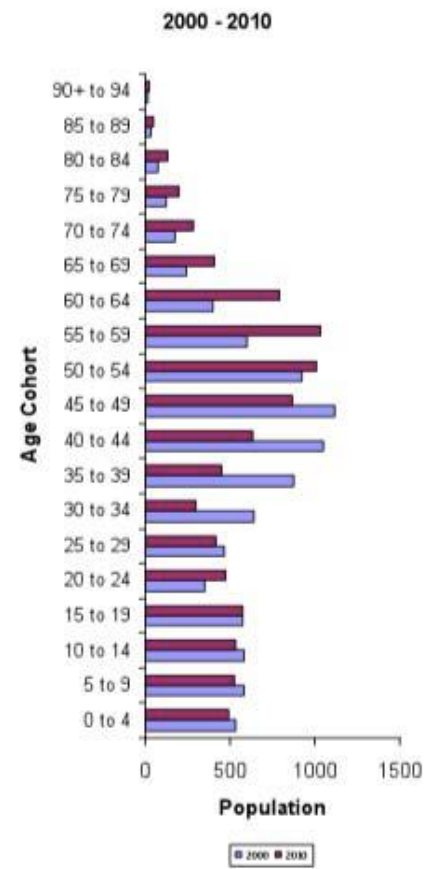
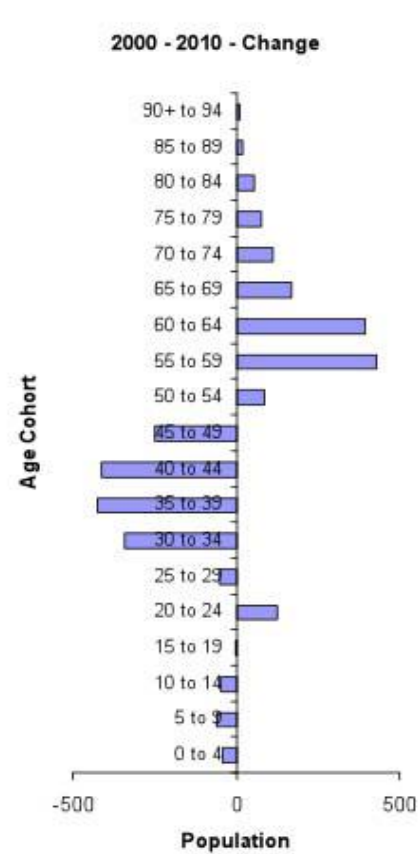
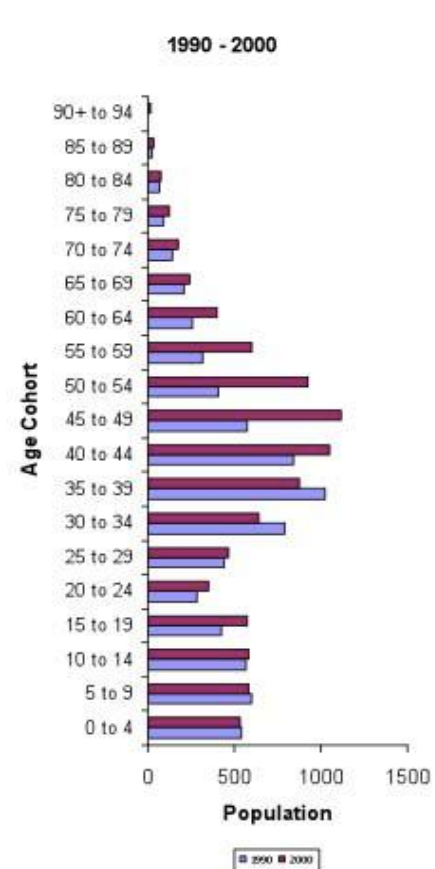


Figure 4: School Age Children Projections (DOLA)

Age Cohort trends and projections (DOLA)

Population Estimates Clear Creek County											
Age Group	1990	2000	Change	2010	Change	2020	Change	2030	Change	2040	Change
0 to 4	540	533	-7	493	-40	770	277	971	201	1145	174
5 to 9	600	582	-18	524	-58	721	197	1005	284	1161	156
10 to 14	567	582	15	534	-48	692	158	981	289	1174	193
15 to 19	427	575	148	573	-2	673	100	876	203	1141	265
20 to 24	284	354	70	479	125	614	135	737	123	950	213
25 to 29	442	468	26	418	-50	714	296	788	74	919	131
30 to 34	789	644	-145	303	-341	786	483	921	135	1018	97
35 to 39	1024	876	-148	449	-427	733	284	1045	312	1108	63
40 to 44	843	1046	203	632	-414	541	-91	1036	495	1159	123
45 to 49	573	1116	543	869	-247	601	-268	892	291	1190	298
50 to 54	409	924	515	1011	87	698	-313	619	-79	1083	464
55 to 59	313	600	287	1031	431	839	-192	609	-230	871	262
60 to 64	258	398	140	792	394	883	91	634	-249	567	-67
65 to 69	209	240	31	410	170	820	410	682	-138	508	-174
70 to 74	145	174	29	287	113	580	293	650	70	480	-170
75 to 79	93	122	29	198	76	282	84	547	265	462	-85
80 to 84	66	75	9	131	56	189	58	367	178	409	42
85 to 89	28	31	3	53	22	118	65	165	47	310	145
90+ to 94	9	16	7	26	10	57	31	91	34	166	75
	7619	9356	1737	9213	-143	11311	2098	13616	2305	15821	2205





Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix



*System-Wide
District Master Plan*



APPENDIX 2: EXISTING PARK INVENTORY

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Park Name:	CCMRD Ballfield Complex (Shelly/Quinn Fields)
Ownership:	Operated by the CCMRD through a lease or IGA
Park Type:	Specialized Facility
Size:	6.35 AC (2.0 AC very steep hillside)
Location:	South I-70 Frontage Road



Overview: Lighted two-field ball field complex served by gravel parking lot. Outfields used as multi-use turf for field sports. Steep wooded hillside to south of property. Heavy road noise from I-70. The lighting system for the ball fields has reached the end of its useful life (one of the poles fell over in 2007) and does not meet National Little League lighting standards. Spectator area provided between fields with a gravel surface. Has covered dugouts and two, two-story scorer's boxes, one with a concessions stand area.

Amenity	Quantity	Comments
East Field (Shelly Field)	1	Baseball – grass infield Foul Lines: 230/250/209 Covered dugouts 8' outfield fences. Field plays toward I-70 and very well-hit home run balls can reach the highway.



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

West Field (Quinn Field)	1	Softball – skinned infield Foul Lines: 241/257/213 Outfield striped for field sports Covered dugouts 8' field fences
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Spectator Area	1	Gravel surface between fields with bleachers and picnic tables
Picnic Tables	6	Scattered throughout spectator area
Benches	4	Players benches in dugouts and 8 bleachers
Portable Restrooms	2	One accessible
Scorer's boxes / Concessions	2	2-story with CMU lower level and wood construction second story.
Fenced Batting Cage	1	Between fields



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Safety

Potential conflicts with pedestrian and vehicular circulation due to lack of defined pedestrian routes. No other obvious safety issues noted.



Accessibility

No dedicated handicap parking due to gravel lots. Spectator areas not accessible. Tight access point to spectator area. Second story scorer's boxes are not accessible.



Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Some elements are looking worn (e.g., peeling paint on scorer's boxes). Mix of materials, finishes, and colors for site furnishings. Has attributes common to an older ball field complexes.

Comfort

No opportunities for shade. While the site is often in shade, it is in full sun during the summer months when most of the Little League games are played (10:00 AM to 6:00 PM). Consideration should be given to adding a shade structure with a wind block. Ample opportunities for seating. Portable toilets for restrooms.

Other

Ped / Bike Access	The Scott Lancaster Trail abuts the park and connects to the Twin Tunnels on the east and the 27 th Street Underpass on the west and eventually to the west end of Idaho Springs. Will ultimately be incorporated into the <i>Clear Creek Greenway</i> .
Vehicular Access	From I-70 off-ramp via Idaho Springs Road East/CR 314. One-way in and one-way out for vehicular traffic.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Parking	Unmarked gravel parking with room for 50-75 cars
Lighting	Field lighting and limited security lighting. Field lighting should be replaced with a new system that meets current lighting standards
Landscaping	Only forested hillside to south



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Park Name:	CCMRD Recreation Center Site
Ownership:	CCMRD
Park Type:	Recreation Center
Size:	0.65 AC
Location:	12 th Avenue and Idaho Street

Overview: In-town site with limited opportunities for outdoor recreation east of the existing Recreation Center building. Surrounded by head-in and parallel parking on north, east and south sides. May be needed as an expansion opportunity for the Recreation Center.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Multi-Use Court	1	¾-size basketball which needs to be resurfaced. Surrounded by chain-link fence and head-in parking.



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Sand Volleyball	1	Good quality court, but setting unattractive for use. Not adequately setback from sidewalk and parking.
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Safety

Potential for pedestrians using the north side sidewalk on the east side of the Recreation Center to be hit by volleyballs. Pedestrian access is difficult from parking due to lack of sidewalks on east and south sides of site. No other obvious safety issues.



Accessibility

Lack of dedicated sidewalks from handicap parking. It does not appear that the multi-use court is accessible.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Amenities use all available space due to limited land. In need of some maintenance.

Comfort

No opportunities for seating or shade.

Other

Ped / Bike Access	Via city streets and sidewalks. However, there are narrow sidewalks (4' and under) for the blocks surrounding site.
Vehicular Access	Via city streets. Easy access off of I-70.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Parking	Approximately 47 on-street parking spaces on the four streets surrounding the Recreation Center. Public parking lot to southeast. <ul style="list-style-type: none">17 head-in spaces + 1 head-in handicap space, +/- 25 parallel on-street parking spaces (4 spaces used for CCMRD vans).
Lighting	City streetlights
Landscaping	None due to site constraints
Seasonal Uses	n/a

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan


Park Name:	City Park
Park Ownership:	Town of Georgetown
Park Type:	Neighborhood Park
Size:	1.25 AC
Location:	Park and Griffith Streets

Overview: Attractive “town square” park with central gazebo, mature trees, and elaborate play structure. Surrounded by historic metal fence (3') with diagonal paths from each corner of the park to the central gazebo.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Gazebo	1	+/- 20' in diameter, wood construction with Victorian details. 
Play structure	1	Very elaborate custom play structure with multiple events. Wood and synthetic wood construction. Accessible play design 
Picnic Tables	16	Scattered throughout park, generally within the turf areas.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Grill	3	2 standard / 1 historic stone
Benches	6	In turf and throughout play area 
Trash Receptacles	4	One at each entry

Safety

Full poured-in-place surfacing for play area.

Accessibility

Most streets surrounding park lack sidewalks so pedestrians may need to travel on the street depending on the direction they approach the park from. No designated handicap parking spaces were noted although an accessible route is provided from on-street park to the play area.



The custom play structure is a good example of a universal access play area; however some of the upper decks did not appear to be accessible.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Quaint park with Victorian character. The classic design, large play area, and mature trees convey a sense of quality. Some trees are in serious decline and may need to be removed.



Comfort

Shade throughout park with ample opportunities for seating. No restroom facilities were noted, although a portable toilet is available across the street at the community park sports field.

Other	
Ped / Bike Access	From adjacent streets
Vehicular Access	From adjacent streets
Parking	On-street parallel parking on surrounding streets (streets very narrow)
Lighting	Street lighting
Landscaping	Site full of mature trees. Mostly Cottonwood, Spruce and Aspen
Seasonal Uses	The park is used by the community for major festivals and events.

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Park Name:	Courtney - Ryley - Cooper Park
Park Ownership:	City of Idaho Springs
Park Type:	Neighborhood Park
Size:	2.75 AC (1.0 AC Encloses river corridor)
Location:	Colorado Boulevard: Visitor Center to +/- 23 rd Avenue

Overview: Linear park along Clear Creek in center of town, divided into from Heritage park by streets. Mix of uses with access to creek. Some uses separated by busy streets. Mature trees enhance character.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Picnic Tables	9/1/8	9 at picnic shelter, 1 at play area, and 8 scattered in turf areas.
Benches	1/4	1 sandstone 4 at play area
Trash Receptacles	5	Scattered throughout park

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Grills	4	4 at picnic shelter area
Picnic shelter	1	CMC construction with fireplace and room for 4-6 picnic tables
Picnic Shelter with Turf area	1	Along creek with 8 picnic tables with shade in turf (approximately 18' x 36')
Fishing	1	Fishing access to creek
Play structure	1	New play structure east of picnic shelter. Full poured-in-placed resilient surfacing. Surrounded by 6' chain-link fence for safety. Includes a tot area with 2 bucket swings and 4 belt swings. Large play structure with multiple decks, events, and slides. Dedicated climbing structure.



Bike rack	1	At play area
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Safety

No obvious safety problems observed. Play equipment surfacing excellent. Equipment all new and should meet current standards. Traffic for users crossing streets is a major safety concern.

Accessibility

Picnic shelter and play area both fully accessible. Accessible picnic tables provided under shelter. Picnic tables in turf area would not be considered accessible. Handicap parking space designated on street.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan



Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Mature trees create an attractive setting. Traffic quite heavy and road divide up amenities. Park has a mountain community character.

Comfort

Bench and picnic tables throughout park, many in shade. Picnic shelter also provides shade. Restroom available at Heritage Park but users must cross a street.

Other



Ped / Bike Access	Good access by foot or bike from attached sidewalk.
Vehicular Access	Good access for city streets
Parking	Parallel on-street parking, +/- 20 spaces.
Lighting	From streetlights.
Landscaping	Mature shade tree throughout park. New shade trees in play area.



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Park Name:	Dinger Park
Park Ownership:	Town of Silver Plume
Park Type:	Pocket Park
Size:	0.63 AC
Location:	Main Street just west of Garland Street

Overview: Small pocket park centrally located within the community. The park appears to have been constructed within the last two years and includes picnic shelter, play bay with play equipment and swings, small turf / picnic area and gravel head-in parking off Main Street.

Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Picnic Shelter	1	Recently completed picnic shelter with room for 4 to 6 picnic tables. Includes a storage area at the end of the structure. Wood post / laminate beam construction with standing seam metal roof. 
Play Structures	2	 Two play structured: One for older children with spiral slide, multiple decks, crawl tube, and climbing events. A second structure for smaller children with a slide and play equipment arrayed around a central deck. All equipment appears to be less than 3 years old

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
P.O.S.T. Master Plan
Town of Frederick

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input


Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation





Swings	3	Two belt swings on a 10' swing, two belt swings on a "T" structure and a tire swing
Merry-go-round and other freestanding play events	NA	The play bay contains several freestanding play events including a merry-go-round, spring toys, and crawl tube
Picnic Tables	3 to 4 / 6	Three to four in turf area south of the picnic shelter and play bay and +/- 6 in the picnic shelter 
Benches	0	
Trash Receptacles	0	None noted at time of visit during winter months
Grills	2	Two in picnic area
Bike Racks	0	

Safety

Since the play equipment appears to be newer (with the possible exception of the merry-go-round) all of the play events should meet current standards. EWF surfacing for the play bay.

Accessibility

No dedicated handicap parking spaces provided and gravel surfacing provides access to the play equipment and shelter. Timber edger and concrete lip on the shelter limit accessibility.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

New construction gives much of the park a nice level of finish. Some areas such as the retaining wall at the parking area and access to the play bay and picnic appear to be unfinished. Trees soften the edges of the park.

Comfort

No benches were noted at the time of visit with the only shade for the park being provided by the picnic shelter and trees near picnic tables. Site is served by a port-a-john during the summer months.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
P.O.S.T. Master Plan
Town of Frederick

Other


Ped / Bike Access	All bike / pedestrian access appears to be from Main Street, which is unpaved. No sidewalks are available.
Vehicular Access	Via Main Street.
Parking	8 to 10 head-in gravel parking spaces adjacent to Main Street. The east half of the parking lot is separated from the park by a low modular concrete retaining wall (+/- 18" in height at the east end)
Lighting	No night lighting noted at time of visit. One streetlight on Main Street at the west end of the park.
Landscaping	Large evergreen trees line the east edge of the park with smaller groves of trees along the south and west edges and the center of the park.
Seasonal Uses	N.A.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
P.O.S.T. Master Plan
Town of Frederick

Park Name:	Elmgreen Park
Ownership:	CCMRD
Park Type:	Pocket Park
Size:	1.18 Acres
Location:	East of Beaver Brook Canyon Road, Floyd Hill



Overview: A recently completed Pocket Park on a sloping site. The park is constructed on land originally donated to the County and then transferred to the CCMRD. The park was completed in phases with the tennis court constructed in an earlier phase. The play equipment, picnic shelter were constructed within the last two years. As such, the park's amenities are in very good condition and in keeping with the mountain setting.

Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Restroom	1	1 men's / 1 women's CMU construction with wood shake roof. Not accessible at time of visit. Assumed to be fully plumbed. 
Play Structure	2	One large play structure with two covered central decks, slides, tall and low slides, and a number of play events and climbing apparatus. The east segment of the structure appears to be for young children
Swings	3 bays	2 bucket swings, 2 belt swings, and a tire swing

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Climbing Boulder	1	6' – 8' tall faux rock structure
		
Freestanding Play Equipment	3	One spinner and a teeter-totter spring toy
Tennis Court	1 Single	Full size tennis court at top of hill. Recently resurfaced. Includes two basketball goals. 
Picnic Tables	3	One 8' under shelter and two four-sided on crusher fine paths
Benches	0	Long segment of the rock walls surrounding play by at seating height
Trash Receptacles	2	At picnic shelter and tennis court
Parking	+/- 5 Spaces	Gravel parking lot facing a low rock retaining wall with attractive stone steps. Very narrow making it difficult to exit a head-in position in one motion.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Safety

EWf safety surfacing in play bay -- depth of surfacing varies. Because equipment is relatively new it should meet all current safety requirements. Fall zones appear to be adequate. No evidence of night lighting.

Accessibility

Play equipment and picnic shelter area appears to be accessible via a ramp connected to the gravel parking lot. Slope of ramp could not be determined at time of visit and if it exceeds 5% slope, handrails may be required. No hand rails for stone steps. Crusher fine path to tennis court would not be considered accessible. No handicap parking designated. Picnic table under shelter accessible.



Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

The landscape of native grasses is consistent and with the mountain setting, low water uses practices, and sets off the gray granite retaining walls. Attractive restroom structure. Wood construction for shelter compatible with mountain setting. All structures are color coordinated, creating a sense of quality.



Comfort

Adequate opportunities for seating, but the only opportunities for shade are under the shelter or on the covered play decks. Benches would be a nice addition. Restroom provided for users.

Other

Ped / Bike Access	From Beaver Brook Canyon Road, which would be difficult for families.
Vehicular Access	From Beaver Brook Canyon Road.
Parking	+/- 5 spaces.
Lighting	None noted.
Landscaping	Native grasses with groves of aspen and native shrubs at the south and west edges of the site.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Park Name:	Georgetown Tennis and Multi-use Courts (Meadows Park)
Ownership:	Operated by the CCMRD through a lease or IGA
Park Type:	Pocket Park
Size:	1.0 AC
Location:	Main and Skyline Streets

Overview: Small park with picnic area with 2 courts (tennis and multi-use) on a terraced hillside. Very limited parking. Site appears to have been previously a commercial or industrial use as concrete foundations remain. Level changes and steps make access difficult for all but the able bodied. Court facilities are generally in good condition.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Multi-use court	1	Full-size basketball surrounded by 10' chain-link fences. Basketball play is currently limited by modular skateboard equipment. Good quality concrete surface.



Tennis court	1	Surface generally in good condition with a concrete slab (post-tensioned?), No night lighting.
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Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan



Picnic Tables	2	At the multi-use court level
Benches	0	
Trash Receptacles	1	
Portable Toilet	1	No enclosure
Water	1	Water spigot
Grill	1	

Safety

Steps/path access uneven. No handrails on steps. Concrete slab at picnic tables uneven (tripping hazards). Some drops are over 18" and require additional barriers.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Accessibility

Not ADA accessible due to level changes, slope, and railroad tie steps currently used for access. Elevation changes would require a very long handicap ramp - especially to reach the lowest level.



Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Color surfacing for court facilities enhance facility appearance. Some areas of the site (steps, old concrete slabs, railroad tie walls) should be upgraded or removed to match the level of finish of the courts.

Comfort

No shade available but site is likely in shade much of the year due to hillside to south.

Other

Ped / Bike Access	No sidewalks in neighborhood so pedestrians must walk on street. Asphalt on Main Street degraded to point where stroller access is difficult.
Vehicular Access	Off Main Street
Parking	2 - 3 head-in gravel spaces off Main Street
Lighting	One street light
Landscaping	All native species
Seasonal Uses	n/a



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Park Name:	Heritage Park Multi-Use / Basketball Court
Ownership:	City of Idaho Springs / IGA for maintenance by CCMRD
Park Type:	Specialized Facility
Size:	0.35 AC (Multi-Use – Basketball Court)
Location:	South of Miner Street


Overview: The eastern portion of two park parcels known as Heritage Park. The Multi-Use/Basketball Court is to the south of Miner Street and east of the tennis court park. A community garden and small triangular shaped area of turf is west of the Multi-Use Court. The facility is generally in poor condition, although the appearance of the community garden could improve as it evolves/matures.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Multi-Use / Basketball Court	1	60' x 120' Multi-Use-court with dasher board/chain link fence for inline hockey with basketball goals at each. Asphalt paving cracking and has "bird baths". Paving in need of re-construction.



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Community Gardens	1	In the process of being constructed. Split rail fence being installed around turf area by garden volunteers at time of visit	
Picnic Tables	0		
Benches	0		
Trash Receptacles	0	One at court entry	
Grills	0		
Picnic shelter	0		
Bike rack	0		

Safety

Traffic for park users crossing Miner's Street and Colorado Boulevard is a major safety concern.

Accessibility

Multi-use court not accessible.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Facility is generally in poor condition and in need of major renovation or demolition.



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Comfort

No shade, benches, or drinking fountain available.

Other

Ped / Bike Access	Difficult to reach on foot or bike as no area of park can be reached by a sidewalk.
Vehicular Access	From city streets.
Parking	Parallel parking on city streets.
Lighting	From streetlights.
Landscaping	Only grass in turf area.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Park Name:	Heritage Park Tennis Court and Park
Ownership:	City of Idaho Springs / IGA for maintenance by CCMRD
Park Type:	Pocket Park
Size:	0.56 AC (Tennis Court)
Location:	North of Miner Street and east of the Idaho Springs Visitors Center

Overview: The western portion of two park parcels known as **Heritage Park** just east of the Idaho Springs Visitors Center (north of Miner Street). The Multi-Use/Basketball Court is to the east (south of Miner Street). Mature trees enhance character the park.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Tennis Court	1	Single-court with practice board. Asphalt paving cracking and need to be reconstructed. Needs resurfacing. Access difficult and off-street. Is lighted but only at 3 corners.



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions




Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Tennis Picnic area		Small turf area with shade trees and two picnic tables
Picnic Tables	2	2 in small turf area
Benches	0	Stone wall south of tennis court turf area can be used for seating. One stone bench near horseshoe pit.
Trash Receptacles	2	
		East of turf area with one concrete bench. Good condition
Sand horseshoe pit	2	
Grills	1	1 at tennis picnic area
		South of turf area
RV pump station	1	
Restroom	1	Fully-plumbed brick construction. One toilet for each gender. One handicap parking space. Aging facility. 

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Picnic shelter	0	
Bike rack	0	

Safety

Traffic for park users crossing Miner's Street and Colorado Boulevard is a major safety concern.

Accessibility

Restroom accessible from handicap space but no accessible route from other parts of park. Tennis court accessible due to quality of paving at access point. Most uses in the park area would not be accessible.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Mature trees create an attractive setting. Traffic quite heavy and roads divide up amenities. Park has a mountain community character.

Comfort

Picnic tables in park are in shade. Restroom available but Multi-Use Court and Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park users must cross a street.

Other

Ped / Bike Access	Difficult to reach on foot or bike as not every area of park can be reached by a sidewalk
Vehicular Access	Good access from city streets
Parking	Parking lot at west end at visitor center. On-street head-in parking at tennis picnic +/- 5.
Lighting	From streetlights.
Landscaping	Mature shade tree throughout park.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Park Name:	Lawson Whitewater Park
Park Ownership:	Clear Creek County Open Space
Park Type:	Kayak course (Specialized Facility)
Size:	1.42 AC
Location:	South Frontage Road (Road 306)

Overview: Six holes in creek for whitewater course. Just opened, all new construction. District a recently agreed to an IGA with County Open Space to provide maintenance for the restroom. The District is considering sponsoring a kayak rodeo next summer, but needs Open Space approval.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Restroom	1	Composting toilet with 2 fixtures. 
Kayak course	1	In Clear Creek with put-in and take-out points. (Approximately 1,200 LF)

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Safety
Some steep rock slope along path – could use barriers.

Accessibility
Trail to creek appears to be accessible.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics
Well-planned and detailed with good quality naturalize materials.



Comfort
No facilities provided.

Other	
Ped / Bike Access	Bike Trail on Frontage Road
Vehicular Access	From Road 306
Parking	15-car lot, gravel
Lighting	Security only
Landscaping	Native vegetation
Seasonal Uses	Potential summer programming.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide
District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation




Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Park Name:	Macy /Ruth Mill Park
Park Ownership:	City of Idaho Springs
Park Type:	Pocket Park
Size:	0.33 AC
Location:	7 th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard

Overview: Attractive Pocket Park on a sloping site. Site is well landscaped with a basic mix of amenities. Site furnishings coordinated (blue perforated metal). Highway noise a negative. Vacant lot to west, ownership not known.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Restroom	1	1 men's / 1 women's Fully plumbed, wood siding / standing seam metal roof 

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Sandbox	1	6 x 6 Not ADA accessible
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Tot Play Structure	1	2 slides, covered deck, 2-3 climbing events Wood construction
Picnic Tables	3	In turf area
Benches	3	Facing play structure
Trash Receptacles	3	At play structure



Safety

Generally safe, assuming that resilient safety surfacing is maintained.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Accessibility

Picnic tables not accessible. One handicap parking space accessed by steep gravel road. Play equipment has tiled safety surfacing but uneven surface may negate accessibility.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Landscaping conveys a sense of quality. Attractive restroom structure - Wood construction compatible with mountain setting. Uneven safety surfacing and visible weed control fabric looks unattractive.



Comfort

Good overall. Adequate opportunities for seating, shade will develop as trees mature. Restroom for users.

Other

Ped / Bike Access	From Colorado Blvd. and narrow on-street walk.
Vehicular Access	From surrounding neighborhood streets.
Parking	1 handicap space and on-street parking.
Lighting	From streetlights.
Landscaping	Nice mix of trees, shrubs, perennials and landscape boulders.
Seasonal Uses	n/a



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix



Park Name:	Minton Park
Park Ownership:	Town of Empire (Baseball field and Mountain Board Park (to be) operated by the CCMRD through an IGA with Town of Empire)
Park Type:	Community Park
Size:	10.0 AC
Location:	Bard Creek Road at Snowplow



Overview: Open park site in attractive valley setting with little to no road noise. The Town has a master plan for the park with plans to expand the park to the north and is in the process of filling low areas to create a level, usable green space. CCMRD maintains ball field through an IGA with Town, but no longer programs the field for sports due to reduced need for large baseball field. The District now provides insurance coverage for the Mountain Board Park. Hillside south of park is an opportunity for amphitheater.





Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Baseball field	1	Large unlit ball field with +/- 300' foul lines and skinned infield. CCMRD would look at conversion to multi-use turf field.



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Picnic shelter	1	36' x 24' wood picnic shelter on concrete slab with power.	
Picnic Tables	6/8	6 under shelter and 2 at play area	
Benches	3		
Restroom	1	2 fixture composting unit on masonry construction	
Trash Receptacles	1	At play structure	
Grills	2	At picnic shelter	
Swing	1	3 bays with two belt swings each. Not per current standards.	
Storage building	1	8' x 8' masonry	
Horseshoes	2	Competitive horseshoe pits with 4 benches and bleachers	

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Tot swings	1	2 bays with 4 bucket seats	
Spring toys	4		
Tire swing	1		
Teeter-totters	2		
Play equipment	2	One old wood structure to two slides, One tot structure (plastic)	
Mountain Board park	1	Started by local board shop similar to BMX but for mountain boards.	



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Safety	
Sand safety surfacing in play equipment area 6-8" deep.	
Accessibility	
Park not accessible except for possibly the picnic shelter and restroom via gravel drive.	
Perception of Quality / Aesthetics	
Play equipment outdated and should be replaced. Attractive picnic shelter. Ballfield not maintained for play last year, but could be made playable.	
Comfort	
Some benches in shade at play area.	
Other	
Ped / Bike Access	From Bard Creek Road only
Vehicular Access	From Bard Creek Road only
Parking	Ample gravel parking (+/- 50 cars)
Lighting	One security light
Landscaping	Ballfield only irrigated turf. No turf in picnic area. Some trees in park area.
Seasonal Uses	n/a



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation





System-Wide
District Master Plan

Park Name:	Skate Park
Ownership:	Operated by the CCMRD through a lease / IGA with Idaho Springs
Park Type:	Specialized Facility
Size:	0.28 AC (effective use area)
Location:	East End of Riverside Drive

Overview: Small modular skate park with home-made steel events on concrete slab with a concrete half-pipe. Vehicular access is poor and requires users to drive through parking for the City's affordable housing complex. No trail access. Strong I-70 road noise. If the District constructs a new skate park in the future, this site would make a good location for a pocket park.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Skate Park	1	+/- 45' x 100' concrete slab with 4 steel events and two ramps 
Half-pipe	1	+/- 24' x 30' concrete construction 

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Portable Toilet	1	In wood enclosure
Picnic Tables	0	
Benches	1	8" wood bench 
Trash Receptacles	2	

Safety

Older steel modular skating events which appear to be fabricated by local welders. Probably does not meet current industry standards.



Accessibility

Facility is not accessible, but concrete slab could be made accessible with minor modifications. No dedicated handicap parking.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

Appears to be an aging facility (for its type) and is in need of replacement or extensive refurbishment. Potential for a more accessible location should be examined.

Comfort

No shade and only one bench.




Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Other	
Ped / Bike Access	Only on-street through affordable housing parking
Vehicular Access	One-way in and out via Riverside Drive through affordable housing parking
Parking	In cul-de sac +/- 8 spaces. Restricting cul-de-sac function with parking may be a concern for the fire department.
Lighting	Ambient light from I-70 fixture
Landscaping	Only native vegetation surrounding site
Seasonal Uses	n/a

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Park Name:	Triangle Park
Ownership:	Town of Georgetown
Park Type:	Pocket Park
Size:	0.06 AC
Location:	Main Street and Silver Cloud Drive

Overview: Small pocket park on triangular site (south side of Main Street) on a terraced hillside. Primarily play equipment and picnic tables. Roads on two sides.

Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Play structure	1	Older outdated wooden play structure with wide steel slide, tire swing, and climbing equipment. 
Swings	1	2 bays; 2 belt swings and 2 buckets 
Turf		<u>Very</u> small turf area 
Picnic Tables	1	Wood
Benches	1	
Trash Receptacles	1	Bear resistant

Safety

Amenities only accessible by steps. Steps all lack handrails. Sand safety surfacing only 2-4" deep, which doesn't meet current safety standards.

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Accessibility	
Not accessible due to steps and slope. Lacks dedicated handicap parking.	
Perception of Quality / Aesthetics	
Mature, naturalized landscape gives park a nice level of finish, but amenities are all older and do not meet current safety guidelines.	
Comfort	
Shaded seating at picnic table and bench. Steep hillside to south shades site much of the year.	
Other	
Ped / Bike Access	No sidewalks in neighborhood so pedestrians must walk on street. Asphalt on Main Street degraded to point where stroller access is difficult.
Vehicular Access	From Main Street
Parking	Parallel parking (gravel) on Main Street shoulder.
Lighting	From streetlights.
Landscaping	Naturalized landscape with trees, shrubs, and boulder retaining walls.
Seasonal Uses	n/a

Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Park Name:	Werlin Park (Georgetown Community Park)
Ownership:	Town of Georgetown (IGA for CCMRD fertilize and aerate turf)
Park Type:	Specialized Facility
Size:	0.89 AC
Location:	Taos and Park Streets

Overview: Small multi-purpose turf field area in the center of the town's historic neighborhood that is fully enclosed by a chain link fence. Includes a backstop at the southwest corner and a large boulder retaining wall in the north end of the site. Size of field area may limit uses to field sports for younger-age children. Not lighted. In early of 2011, the District constructed a portable ice rink in the park as a test facility. The rink was very successful and popular with residents.



Amenity	Quantity	Comments
Turf area	1	+/- 135' x 255' multi-use turf area. Turf appears to be in good condition. Small size may limit range of ages and uses.
Baseball / Softball	1	Small 15' to 18' backstop with a turf infield.
Bleachers	1	5-tier bleacher behind the chain link backstop located in the southeast corner of the field.



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Portable toilet	1	Not in an enclosure
Picnic Tables	0	
Benches	3	Three benches around the field plus low players benches
Trash Receptacles	1	
Water	2	One spigot and one drinking fountain in a rock enclosure
Dog mitt station	1	Plus one plastic jug



Safety

Rock retaining wall could be used as an unintended climbing wall. No other obvious safety concerns were noted.



Accessibility

No designated handicap parking spaces were noted. Because there are no level changes in the park, turf area could be accessible, however, many of the openings in the chain link fence are not large enough for a wheelchair (see below) and no paved surface to the turf from on-street parking is available.

Perception of Quality / Aesthetics

The park site appears well maintained and conveys a quality level of finish

Comfort

Bleachers shaded in late afternoon by large Spruce tree.

Other

Ped / Bike Access	From adjacent streets and sidewalks. Sidewalk access is not continuous and generally narrow (+/- 4') when present.
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Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Vehicular Access	Adequate vehicular access from adjacent streets
Parking	On-street parallel parking on Taos Street shoulders
Lighting	From streetlights
Landscaping	Line of poplars on north and west sides



Existing Park Facilities Analysis
CCMRD System-Wide Plan

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix



System-Wide
District Master Plan

Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix



APPENDIX 3: COMMUNITY SURVEY AND SURVEY RESULTS

COMMUNITY SURVEY FORM

* Source: Graphs and results from Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (February 2011)

The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District would like your input to help determine parks and recreation priorities for our area. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. We greatly appreciate your time.

Do you live within the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (The district includes the towns of Idaho Springs, Georgetown, Empire and Silver Plume and generally covers the boundaries of Clear Creek County)?

- ☐ (1) Yes
☐ (2) No
☐ (3) Unsure

If yes, which community do you live in?

- ☐ (1) Idaho Springs
☐ (2) Georgetown
☐ (3) Empire
☐ (4) Silver Plume
☐ (5) Floyd Hill
☐ (6) Unincorporated area within the boundaries noted above
☐ (7) St. Mary's or Other: _____

Are you a full-time resident of the District?

- ☐ (1) Yes
☐ (2) No

NOTE: If you do not live within one of the areas listed above, please do not fill out the survey. This survey is only for Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District residents. **THANK YOU**

1. Including yourself, how many people live in your household? _____

2. From the following list, please check the **THREE** top facilities that you and members of your household use for parks and recreation services.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) CCMRD Recreation Center (Idaho Springs) | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Idaho Springs Tennis Court |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Georgetown Community Center | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Elmgreen Park Floyd Hill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Clear Creek Rodeo Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Minton Park/Baseball Field Empire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) School gyms and other facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Georgetown Tennis/Multipurpose Ct |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Idaho Springs Ballfield Complex | <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Georgetown City Parks/Playgrounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Idaho Springs Skatepark | <input type="checkbox"/> (15) Lawson White Water Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Idaho Springs City Parks/Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> (16) Other towns/communities facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Mountain Board Park (Empire) | <input type="checkbox"/> (17) Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Forest Service trails | <input type="checkbox"/> (18) None, do not use any facilities |

3. In the past 12 months approximately how often did you or members of your household visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) 1 to 5 visits | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) 11-19 visits | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) 6 to 10 visits | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) 20 or more visits | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Have not visited |

3a. If you or members of your household have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center, overall, how would you rate the physical condition of this facility?

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Fair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Good | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Poor |

4. Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to the CCMRD Recreation Center. Please check the **THREE** improvements you would most like to have made to this facility. [NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY USE CCMRD RECREATION CENTER INDICATE THREE IMPROVEMENTS THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE FACILITY.]

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Adding slides and features to the pool | <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Larger climbing wall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Larger weight room | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Group exercise room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Gymnasium | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Group cycling (spinning room) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Indoor walking track | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Additional class/meeting rooms | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) None, no improvements should be made |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Additional parking | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Improved locker rooms | |

5. Which of the following **programs** offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District have you and your household participated in over the past 12 months (swimming lessons, etc.)? Mark all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Swim lessons | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Water aerobics | <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Tennis lessons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Recreational/lap swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> (9) Martial arts classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Group exercise classes | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Before and after school program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Adult sports leagues | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Summer camps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Youth sports leagues | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Other: _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Have not participated in any programs |

5a. If you or members of your household have participated in CCMRD activities, how would you rate the quality of the **programs**?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Fair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Good | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Poor |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Do not know, have not participated |

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix

System-Wide
District Master Plan



6. Listed below are various programs and activities that could be available to residents through the District or other providers. For each program or activity please indicate approximately how often you currently participate in the program/activity.

	1-2 Times A Year	Less than Once/Month	1-2 Times Per/Month	3-5 Times Per Month	2-3 Times Per Week
(A) Adult fitness/aerobics classes, weight training.....	1	2	3	4	5
(B) Running or walking	1	2	3	4	5
(C) Using gyms for basketball, volleyball	1	2	3	4	5
(D) Attending live theater/concert performances.....	1	2	3	4	5
(E) Youth soccer	1	2	3	4	5
(F) Youth classes, e.g. dance, art, etc.	1	2	3	4	5
(G) Youth baseball or softball.....	1	2	3	4	5
(H) Adult softball or baseball.....	1	2	3	4	5
(I) Recreational swimming/swim lessons/exercise.....	1	2	3	4	5
(J) Summer camp programs	1	2	3	4	5
(K) Bicycling (road and/or mountain).....	1	2	3	4	5
(L) Competitive swimming.....	1	2	3	4	5
(M) Adult classes, e.g. art, cooking, gardening, etc.	1	2	3	4	5
(N) Hiking	1	2	3	4	5
(O) Martial arts.....	1	2	3	4	5
(P) Fishing	1	2	3	4	5
(Q) Attending community special events.....	1	2	3	4	5
(R) Senior citizen programs	1	2	3	4	5
(S) Visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors	1	2	3	4	5
(T) Participating in theater, dance, visual arts	1	2	3	4	5
(U) Rafting/kayaking	1	2	3	4	5
(V) Skateboarding	1	2	3	4	5
(W) Youth sports camps	1	2	3	4	5
(X) Mountain boarding	1	2	3	4	5
(Y) Hunter safety	1	2	3	4	5
(Z) Other:	1	2	3	4	5

7. Which **FOUR** of the recreation programs and activities listed in Question #6 would you and members of your household participate in more often if more programming was available by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District or other providers? [Please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices by using the letters from the list in Question #6 above.]

1st More Often 2nd More Often 3rd More Often 4th More Often

8. Please indicate if you or other members of your household have a **NEED** for each of the parks and recreation facilities listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the facility.

If YES, please rate ALL the following parks and recreation facilities of this type in the area on a numerical scale, where 5 represents “100% Meets Needs” and 1 represents “Does Not Meet Needs” of you or other members of your household.

Type of Facility	Do You Have a Need for this Facility?		If YES You Have a Need, How Well Are Your Needs Being Met?				
	Yes	No	100% Met	75% Met	50% Met	25% Met	0% Met
A. Large community park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
B. Small neighborhood park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
C. Youth baseball and softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
D. Adult baseball and softball fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
E. Racquetball courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
F. Natural areas/nature trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
G. Playgrounds	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
H. Outdoor basketball/multi-use courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
I. Paved walking/biking trails (trails that connect towns, schools and parks)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
J. Picnic shelters/areas	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
K. Soccer fields	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
L. Cultural facilities (art center/indoor theater)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
M. Teen center	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
N. Outdoor tennis courts	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
O. Indoor exercise and fitness facilities	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
P. Indoor gymnasiums (basketball, volleyball, etc.)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Q. Meeting space	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
R. Indoor swimming pools (recreation and fitness)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
S. Outdoor swimming pool	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
T. Skate park	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
U. Amphitheater	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
V. Extreme sports park (Mtn. bike, BMX, etc.)	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
W. Ice park/trails	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
X. Indoor ice rink	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Y. Childcare facility	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
Z. Other:	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

9. Which **FOUR** of the parks and facilities from the list in Question #8 are *most important* to your household? [Using the letters in the left hand column of Question #8 above, please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices, or circle ‘NONE’.]

1st: _____ 2nd: _____ 3rd: _____ 4th: _____ NONE



10. For each of the following functions performed by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District, please indicate if you feel the function is very important, somewhat important, not important, or not sure by circling the corresponding number.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not Sure
(A) Providing places for outdoor sports programs.....	1	2	3	4
(B) Providing places for picnics and open park areas.....	1	2	3	4
(C) Providing recreation programs for residents of all ages.....	1	2	3	4
(D) Operating and maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center.....	1	2	3	4
(E) Providing special events and facilities to attract visitors to the area ..	1	2	3	4
(F) Providing trails for hiking and biking.....	1	2	3	4
(G) Providing places for cultural programs, i.e. theater, arts, dance.....	1	2	3	4
(H) Preserving the environment and providing open space.....	1	2	3	4

11. Which **THREE** of the functions listed in Question #10 do you think should be most important for the District to provide? [Please write in the letters below for your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices using the letters from the list in Question #10 above.]

1st 2nd 3rd

12. Following are listed a number of actions the District could take to improve and expand parks and recreation facilities in the District. For each action please indicate whether you and your household are very supportive, somewhat supportive, not supportive, or don't know by circling the corresponding number.

<u>How supportive are you of having the District:</u>	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Don't Know
(A) Promoting the acquisition of open space.....	1	2	3	4
(B) Providing parks for passive activities, i.e. picnicking, etc.	1	2	3	4
(C) Providing transportation for youth to participate in activities	1	2	3	4
(D) Upgrade existing playgrounds and picnic shelters	1	2	3	4
(E) Upgrade existing youth/adult sports fields	1	2	3	4
(F) Upgrade/expand the CCMRD Recreation Center	1	2	3	4
(G) Upgrade the Idaho Springs skate park.....	1	2	3	4
(H) Develop paved walking/biking trails	1	2	3	4
(I) Develop outdoor tennis courts.....	1	2	3	4
(J) Develop new youth/adult sports fields	1	2	3	4
(K) Develop an extreme sports park	1	2	3	4
(L) Develop soft surface, natural, walking/biking trail/path	1	2	3	4
(M) Other.....	1	2	3	4

13. Which **THREE** of these actions are most important to you and members of your household? [Please write in the letters below using the letters from the list in Question #12 above or circle None.]

1st Most Important 2nd Most Important 3rd Most Important None

14. If an additional \$100 were available for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District, how would you allocate the funds among the categories of funding listed below? [Please be sure your total adds up to \$100.]

\$	Acquisition of new parkland and open space
\$	Improvements/maintenance of existing parks and facilities
\$	Development of new outdoor recreation and park facilities (i.e. sports fields, playgrounds, picnic shelters, etc.)
\$	Develop new trails
\$	Development of new indoor recreation facilities (e. g. indoor running/walking tracks, gyms, expansion of existing facilities etc.)
\$	Development of new recreation programs and services for all ages
\$	Other: _____
\$ 100	TOTAL

15. If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District where is the best location for these amenities? [Check only one option]

- ____ (1) New recreation facilities should be built at a central location in the District.
- ____ (2) It is more important to have new recreation facilities built near each town to meet local needs.
- ____ (3) There should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.
- ____ (4) Build new facilities in close proximity to the existing CCMRD Recreation Center.
- ____ (5) No new recreation facilities are needed.

16. The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District receives the majority of its funding from a property tax assessment that is collected from all property owners in the district. Knowing that there are a significant number of unmet recreation needs, which ONE of the following statements best represents how you feel that the District should proceed with new facilities and services. [Check only one option]

- ____ (1) The District should continue to develop facilities and services as funds become available knowing that this limits what can be done and slows down the process considerably.
- ____ (2) There are enough unmet recreation needs in Clear Creek County that a property tax increase to build and operate new programs and facilities is necessary.
- ____ (3) There are enough unmet recreation needs in the Clear Creek County that require additional programs and facilities but I do not support a property tax increase to fund these needs.
- ____ (4) I am unsure of my position and need more information.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



17. From the following list, please check the MAXIMUM amount you would be willing to pay in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to you and your household.

<input type="checkbox"/> (1) \$200 or more a year	<input type="checkbox"/> (4) \$50-99 a year
<input type="checkbox"/> (2) \$150-199 a year	<input type="checkbox"/> (5) \$25-50 a year
<input type="checkbox"/> (3) \$100-149 a year	<input type="checkbox"/> (6) Nothing

18. Understanding that there are a number of organizations (towns, county, and district) that are all providing some parks and recreation facilities in the area, which ONE of the following statements best represents your feelings on the role that the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District should play in the next 5 to 10 years? [Check only one option]

☐ (1) The Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District should become a coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities and services in the county.

☐ (2) Each of the organizations should continue to focus on their own needs and not be concerned with specific roles and responsibilities for each entity.

☐ (3) The towns should focus on local community recreation needs while the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District plans for more regional needs and Clear Creek County for larger county wide facilities and events.

☐ (4) There are too many organizations providing parks and recreation services and there needs to be consolidation of some of these providers.

☐ (5) This is not an issue that I am concerned about.

19. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are?

Under 5 years <input type="checkbox"/>	15 - 19 years <input type="checkbox"/>	35 - 44 years <input type="checkbox"/>	65+ years <input type="checkbox"/>
5 - 9 years <input type="checkbox"/>	20 - 24 years <input type="checkbox"/>	45 - 54 years <input type="checkbox"/>	
10 - 14 years <input type="checkbox"/>	25 - 34 years <input type="checkbox"/>	55 - 64 years <input type="checkbox"/>	

20. What is your age?

21. How many years have you lived in the District? years

22. Your gender: ☐ (1) Male ☐ (2) Female

23. What is your total annual household income? (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> (1) Under \$25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> (4) \$75,000 to \$99,999
<input type="checkbox"/> (2) \$25,000 to \$49,999	<input type="checkbox"/> (5) \$100,000 or more
<input type="checkbox"/> (3) \$50,000 to \$74,999	

This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time.
Please return your Completed Survey in the Enclosed Return-Reply Envelope
Addressed to ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle; Olathe, Kansas 66061

Your response will remain completely confidential.
The address information on the sticker to the right will
ONLY be used to help identify areas with special interests.

OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

Leisure Vision conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (CCMRD) during January and February of 2011. The purpose of the survey was to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the District. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout Clear Creek County. The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone.

Leisure Vision worked extensively with Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District officials, as well as members of the Ballard*King and Associates project team in the development of the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future system.

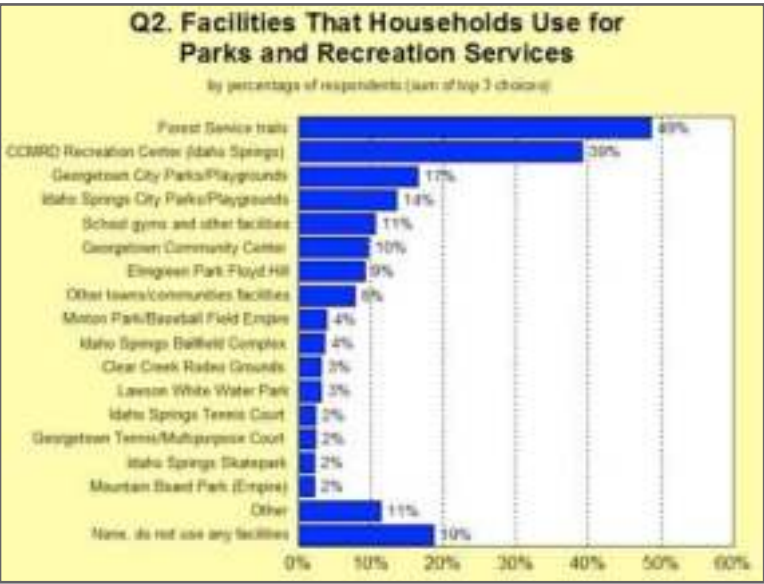
In January, surveys were mailed to a random sample of 1,500 households throughout Clear Creek County. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed each household that received a survey also received an automated voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. In addition, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone. Those who indicated they had not returned the survey were given the option of completing it by phone.

The goal was to obtain a total of at least 300 completed surveys. This goal was far exceeded, with a total of 411 surveys having been completed. The results of the random sample of 411 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-4.8%.

Facilities Used for Parks and Recreation Services

From a list of 16 options, respondents were asked to indicate the top three facilities they use for parks and recreation services. The following summarizes key findings.

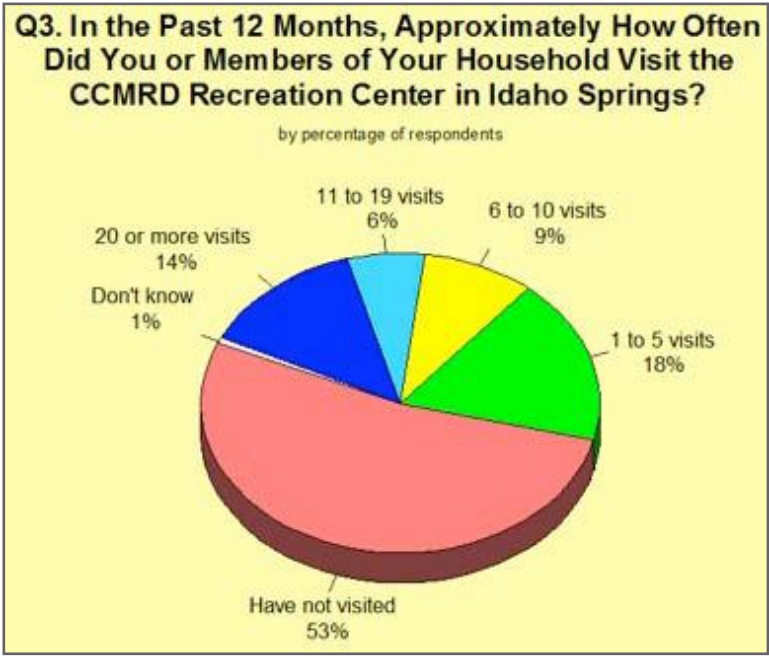
The most frequently mentioned facilities that households use for parks and recreation services are: Forest Service trails (49%), CCMRD Recreation Center (39%), Georgetown City parks/playgrounds (17%), and Idaho Springs City parks/playgrounds (14%).



Visiting the CCMRD Recreation Center

Respondents were asked to indicate how often their household has visited the CCMRD recreation center in the past 12 months. The following summarizes key findings.

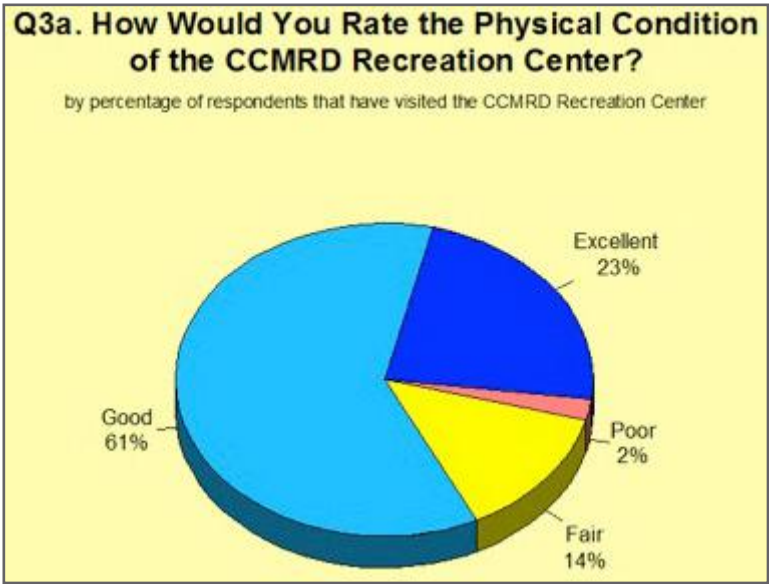
Forty-six percent (46%) of households have visited the CCMRD recreation center in the past 12 months. This includes 13% that have visited the center 20 or more times in the past 12 months, 6% that have visited the center 11 to 19 times, 9% that have visited the center 6 to 10 times, and 18% that have visited the center 1 to 5 times.



Overall Physical Condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center

Households that have visited the CCMRD recreation center in the past 12 months were asked to rate the overall physical condition of the center. The following summarizes key findings.

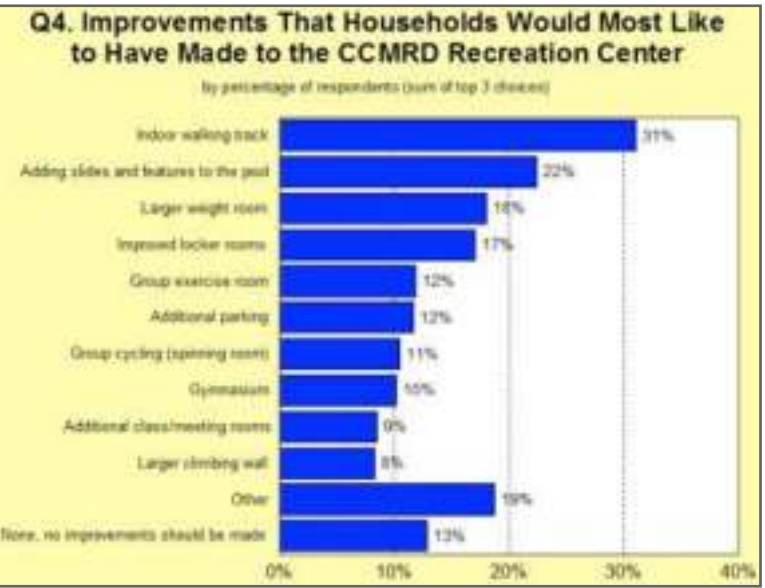
Of the 46% of households that have visited the CCMRD recreation center in the past 12 months, 84% rated the overall physical condition of the center as either excellent (23%) or good (61%). In addition, 14% of households rated the physical condition of the center as fair, and only 2% of households rated the center as poor.



Improvements to Make to the CCMRD Recreation Center

From a list of 10 options, respondents were asked to indicate the three improvements they would most like to have made to the CCMRD recreation center. The following summarizes key findings.

The most frequently mentioned improvements that households would most like to have made to the CCMRD recreation center are: indoor walking track (31%), adding slides and features to the pool (22%), larger weight room (18%), and improved locker rooms (17%).



Participation in CCMRD Programs Over the Past 12 Months

From a list of 11 options, respondents were asked to indicate all of the CCMRD programs that their household has participated in over the past 12 months. The following summarizes key findings.

Thirty-four percent (34%) of households have participated in CCMRD programs over the past 12 months. The most frequently mentioned CCMRD programs that households have participated in over the past 12 months are: recreational/lap swimming (16%), group exercise classes (10%), and special events (8%).

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

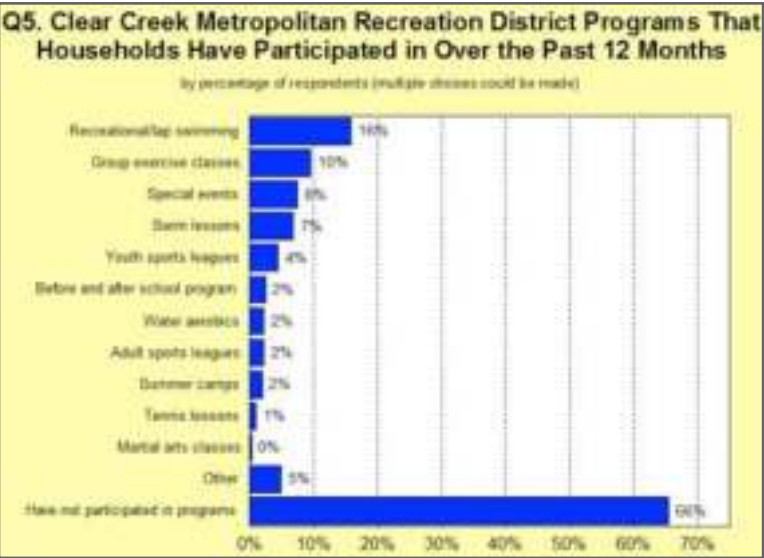
Appendix

System-Wide
District Master Plan

Participation in CCMRD Programs Over the Past 12 Months

From a list of 11 options, respondents were asked to indicate all of the CCMRD programs that their household has participated in over the past 12 months. The following summarizes key findings.

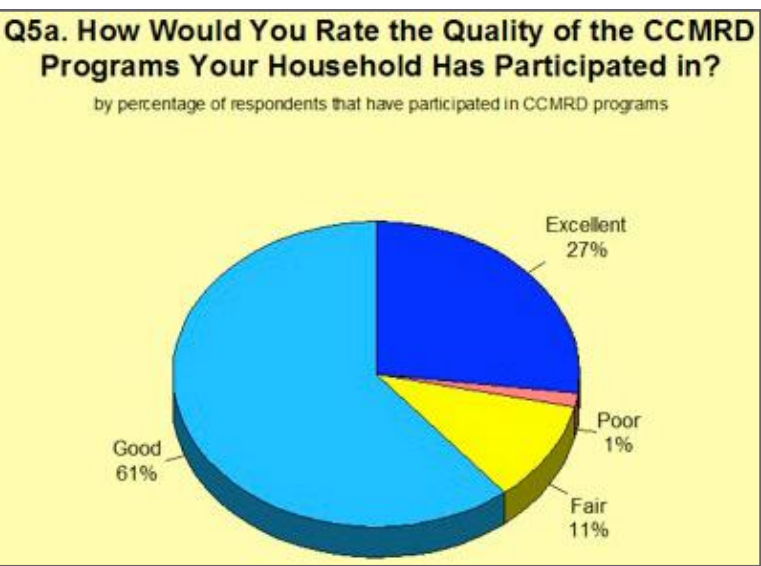
Thirty-four percent (34%) of households have participated in CCMRD programs over the past 12 months. The most frequently mentioned CCMRD programs that households have participated in over the past 12 months are: recreational/lap swimming (16%), group exercise classes (10%), and special events (8%).



Overall Quality of the CCMRD Programs

Households that have participated in CCMRD programs over the past 12 months were asked to rate the quality of the programs they have participated in. The following summarizes key findings.

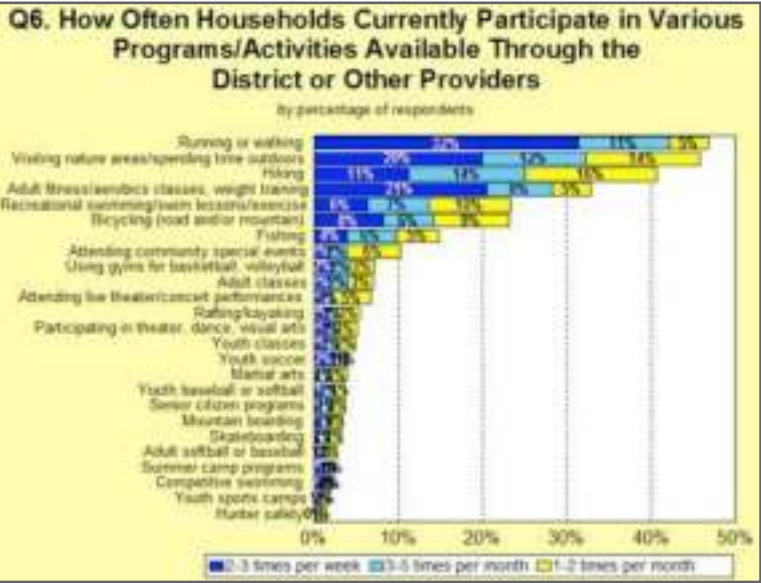
Of the 34% of households that have participated in CCMRD programs over the past 12 months, 88% rated the quality of the programs as either excellent (27%) or good (61%). In addition, 11% of households rated the programs as fair, and only 1% of households rated the programs as poor.



Participation in Programs/Activities Available Through the District or other Providers

From a list of 25 options, respondents were asked to indicate how often their household currently participates in various programs/activities available through the District or other providers. The following summarizes key findings.

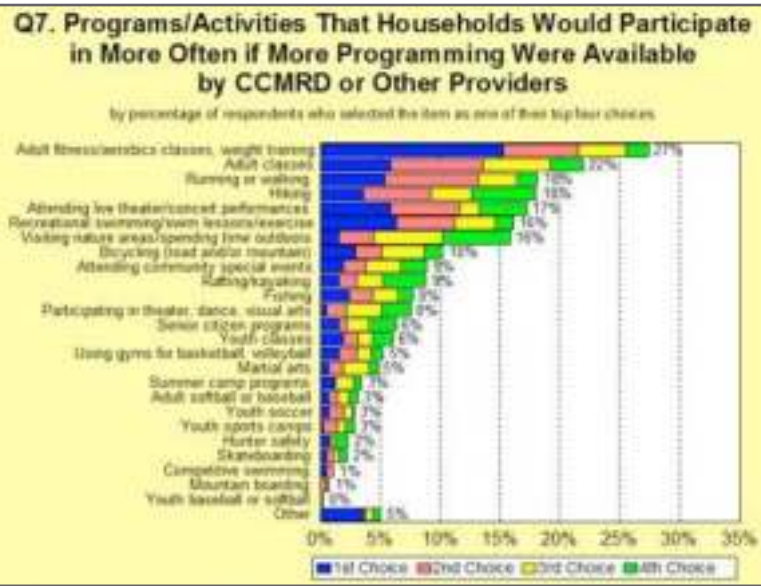
The programs/activities that the highest percentage of households participate in at least once a month are: running or walking (48%), visiting nature areas/spending time outdoors (46%), hiking (41%), and adult fitness/aerobics classes, weight training (34%).



Programs/Activities That Households Would Participate in More Often

From a list of 25 options, respondents were asked to select the four programs/activities that their household would participate in more often if more programming were available by the CCMRD or other providers. The following summarizes key findings.

Based on the sum of their top four choices, the programs/activities that households would participate in more often if more programming were available are: adult fitness/aerobics classes, weight training (27%), adult classes (22%), running or walking (18%), and hiking (18%). It should also be noted that adult fitness/aerobics classes had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the program/activity they would participate in more often.

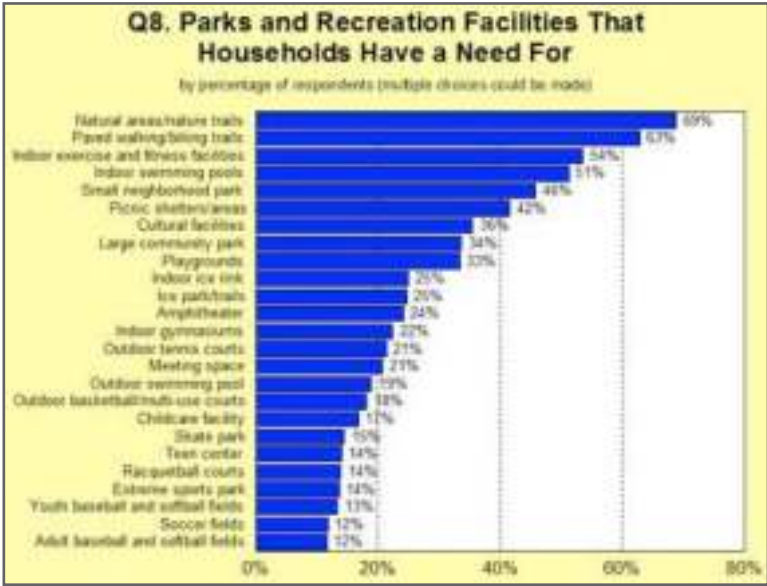


Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

From a list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ones that members of their household have a need for. The following summarizes key findings:

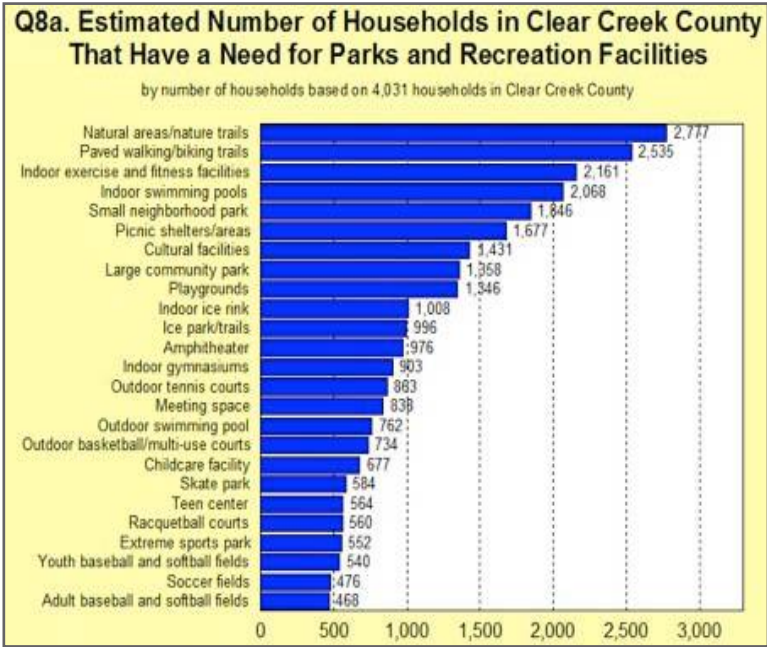
The parks and recreation facilities that the highest percentage of households have a need for are: natural areas/nature trails (69%), paved walking/biking trails

(63%), indoor exercise and fitness facilities (54%), indoor swimming pools (51%), and small neighborhood parks (46%).



Need For Parks and Recreation Facilities in Clear Creek County

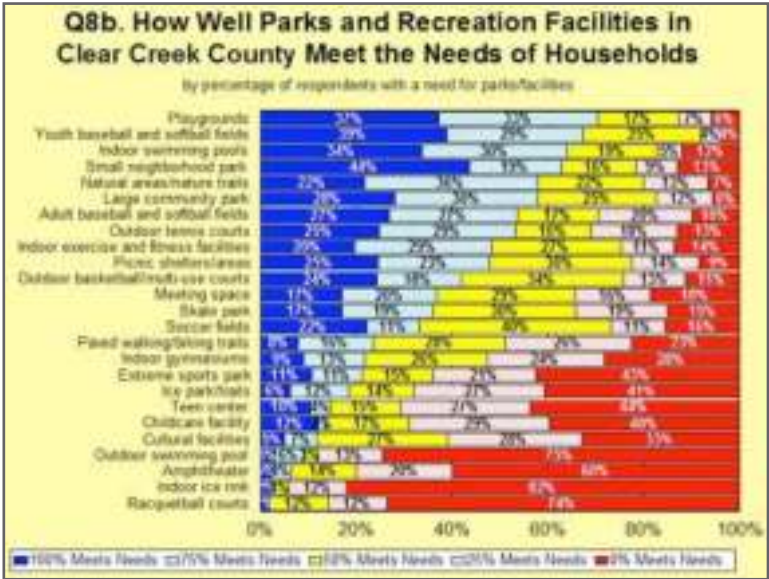
From a list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ones that members of their household have a need for. The graph below shows the estimated number of households in Clear Creek County that have a need for various parks and recreation facilities, based on 4,031 households in the County.



How Well Parks and Recreation Facilities Meet Needs

From a list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, households that have a need for parks/facilities were asked to indicate how well these types of parks/facilities in Clear Creek County meet their needs. The following summarizes key findings.

For all 25 parks/facilities, less than 45% of households with a need for parks/facilities feel that their needs are being completely met.



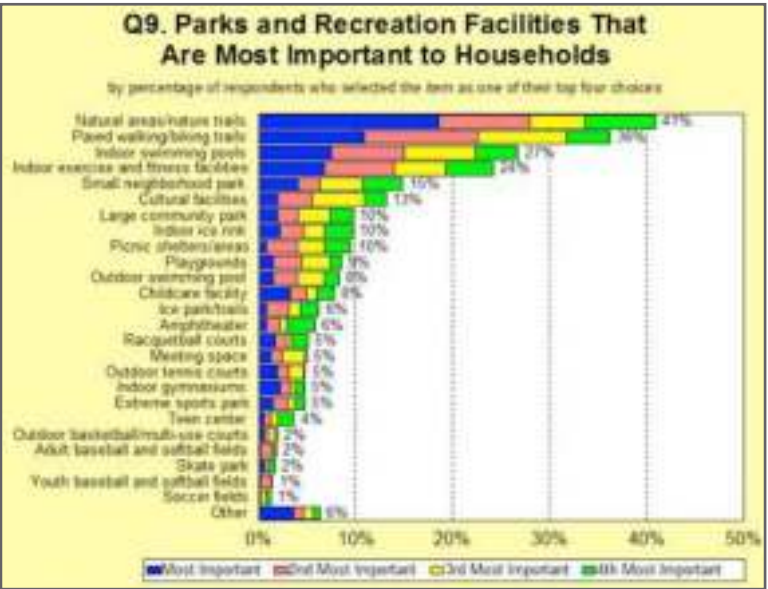
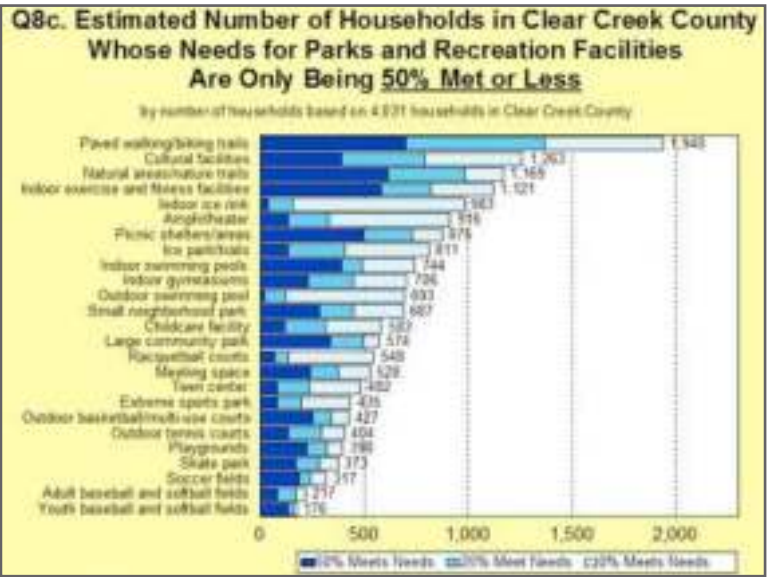
Clear Creek County Households with Facility Needs Being 50% Met or Less

From a list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, households that have a need for parks/facilities were asked to indicate how well these types of parks/facilities in Clear Creek County meet their needs. The graph below shows the estimated number of households in Clear Creek County whose needs for parks/facilities are only being 50% met or less, based on 4,031 households in the County.

Most Important Parks and Recreation Facilities

From a list of 25 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to select the four parks/facilities that are most important to their household. The following summarizes key findings.

Based on the sum of their top four choices, the parks and recreation facilities that are most important to households are: natural areas/nature trails (41%), paved walking/biking trails (36%), indoor swimming pools (27%), and indoor exercise and fitness facilities (24%). It should also be noted that natural areas/nature trails had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important park/facility.



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

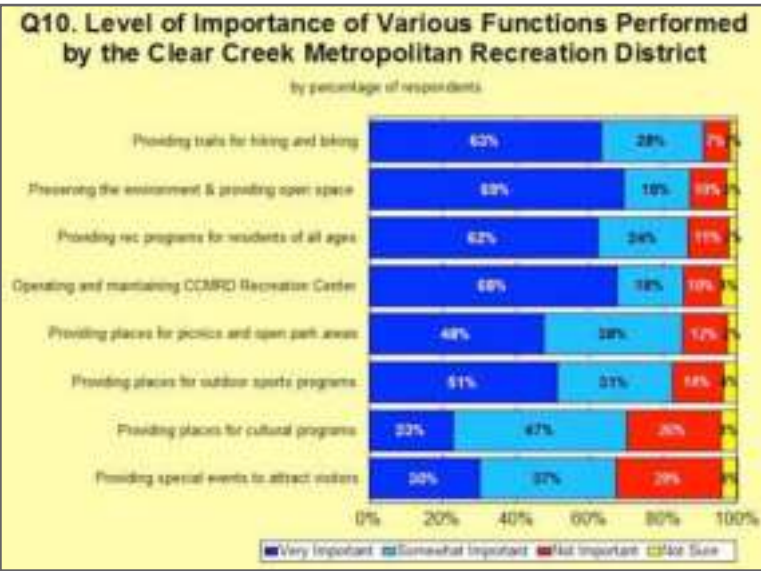




Level of Importance of Various Functions Performed by CCMRD

From a list of eight various functions performed by CCMRD, respondents were asked to rate the level of importance of each one. The following summarizes key findings.

The functions that the highest percentage of respondents rated as very important or somewhat important are: providing trails for hiking and biking (91%), preserving the environment and providing open space (87%), providing recreation programs for residents of all ages (86%), operating and maintaining the CCMRD recreation center (86%), and providing places for picnics and open park areas (86%).

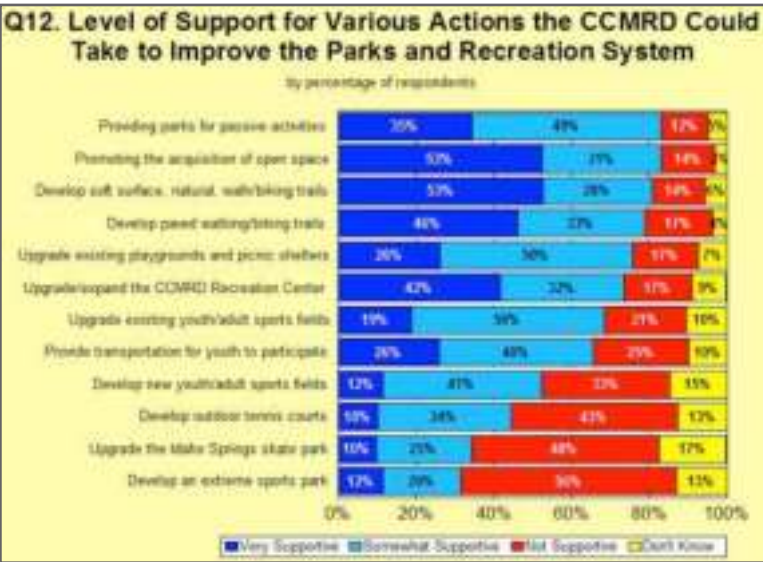
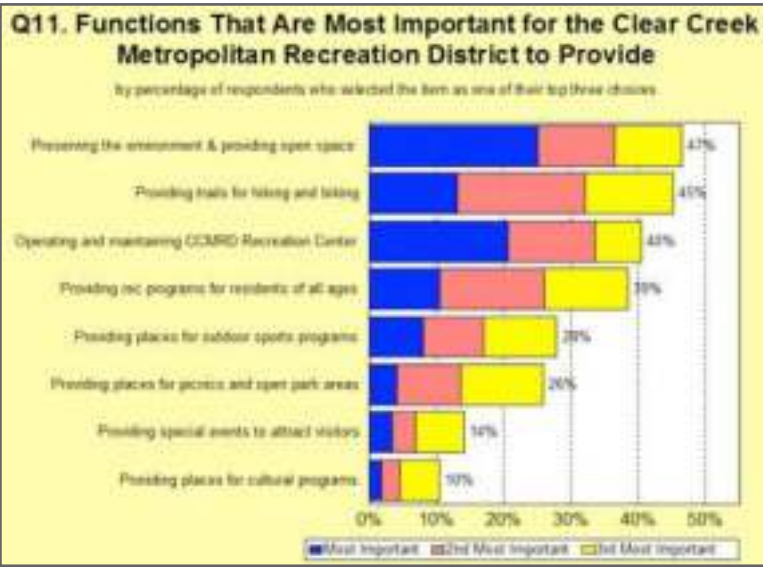


Most Important Functions for CCMRD to Provide

From a list of eight various functions performed by CCMRD, respondents were asked to select the three functions that are most important for the CCMRD to provide. The following summarizes key findings.

Based on the sum of their top three choices, the functions that are most important for the CCMRD to provide are: preserving the environment and providing open space (47%), providing trails for hiking and biking (45%), operating and maintaining the CCMRD recreation center (40%), and providing recreation programs for residents of all ages (39%). It should also be noted that preserving the environment and providing open space had the highest

percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the function they feel is most important for CCMRD to provide.



Level of Support for Various Actions to Improve the Parks & Recreation System

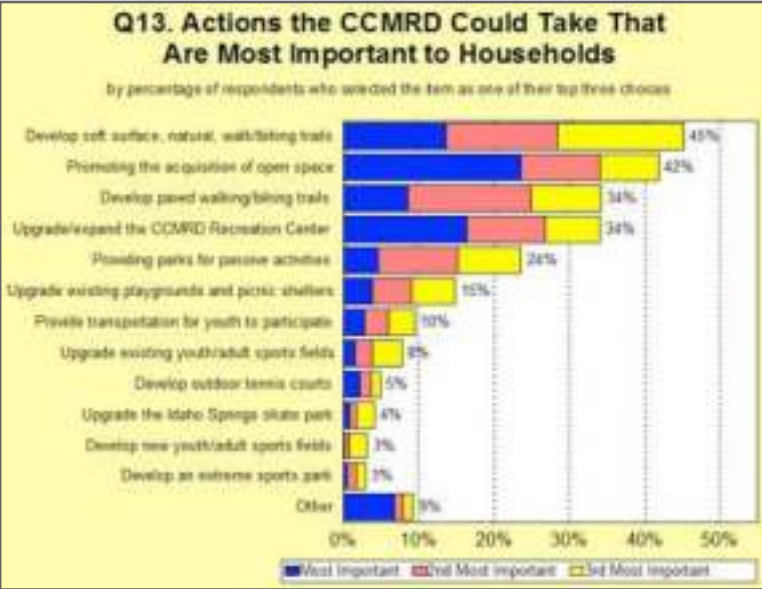
From a list of 12 actions the CCMRD could take to improve the parks and recreation system, respondents were asked to rate their level of support for each one. The following summarizes key findings.

There are three actions that over 75% of respondents are either very or somewhat supportive of the CCMRD taking to improve the parks and recreation system: providing parks for passive activities (84%), promoting the acquisition of open space (84%), developing soft surface, natural, walking/biking areas (81%), developing paved walking/biking trails (79%), and upgrade the existing playgrounds and picnic shelters (76%).

Most Important Actions for CCMRD to Take

From a list of 12 actions the CCMRD could take to improve the parks and recreation system, respondents were asked to select the three actions that are most important for their household. The following summarizes key findings:

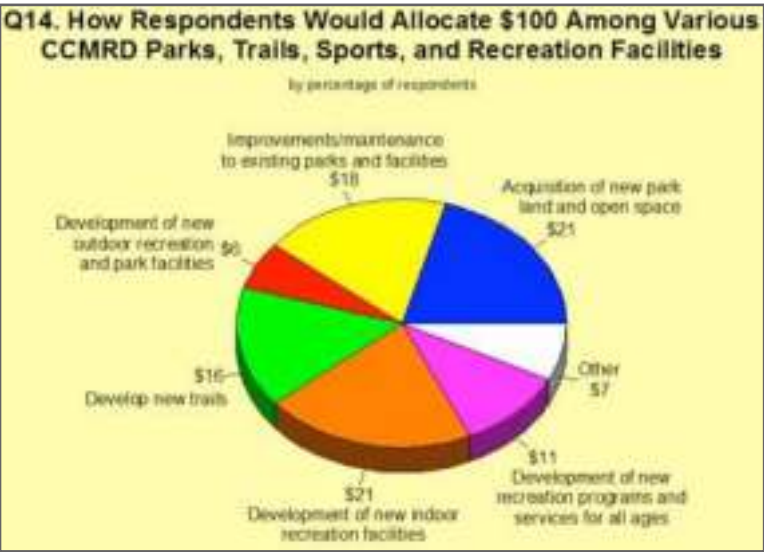
Based on the sum of their top three choices, the actions that respondents feel are most important for their household are: developing soft surface, natural, walking/biking trails (45%), promoting the acquisition of open space (42%), developing paved walking/biking trails (34%), and upgrading/expanding the CCMRD recreation center (34%). It should also be noted that promoting the acquisition of open space had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the most important action.



Allocation of \$100 Among Various CCMRD Parks & Recreation Facilities

Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$100 among various CCMRD parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities. The following summarizes key findings.

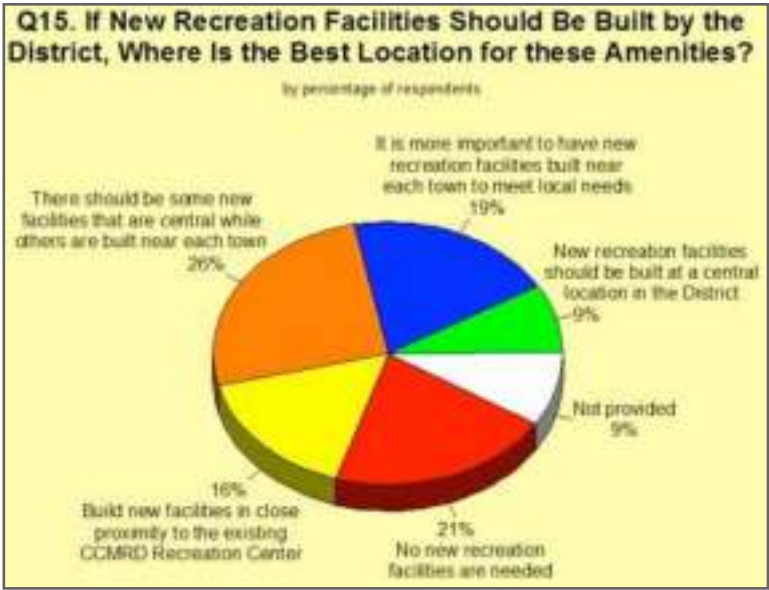
Respondents would allocate \$21 out of every \$100 to the acquisition of new park land and open space, and an additional \$21 to the development of new indoor recreation facilities. The remaining \$58 were allocated as follows: improvements/maintenance of existing parks and facilities (\$18), develop new trails (\$16), development of new recreation programs and services for all ages (\$11), development of new outdoor recreation and parks facilities (\$6), and “other” (\$7).



Location for New Recreation Facilities

From a list of four possible locations, respondents were asked to indicate the location where they feel new recreation facilities should be built. The following summarizes key findings.

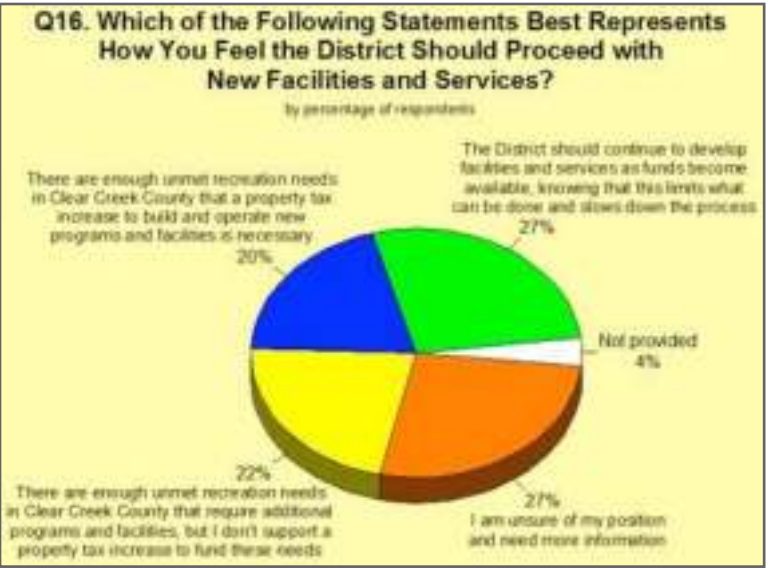
Twenty-six percent (26%) of respondents feel there should be some new facilities that are centrally located while others are built near each town. In addition, 19% feel it's more important to have new recreation facilities built near each town, and 16% feel new facilities should be built in close proximity to the existing CCMRD recreation center.



Options for Proceeding with New Facilities and Services

From a list of four statements, respondents were asked to indicate the one that best represents how they feel CCMRD should proceed with new facilities and services. The following summarizes key findings.

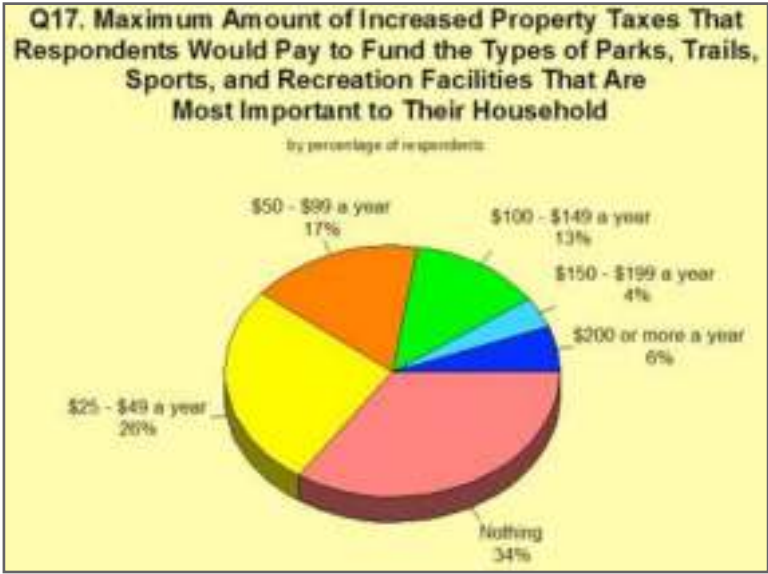
Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents feel the CCMRD should continue to develop facilities and services as funds become available, knowing that this limits what can be done and slows down the process, and an additional 27% are unsure of their position, and need more information.



Paying Additional Taxes to Fund Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facilities

Respondents were asked to indicate the maximum amount of increased property taxes they would pay to fund the types of parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities that are most important to their household. The following summarizes key findings.

Sixty-six percent (66%) of respondents would pay some amount of increase in property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports, and recreation facilities that are most important to their household. This includes 10% that would pay \$150 or more per year, 13% that would pay \$100 - \$149 more, 17% that would pay \$50 - \$99 more, and 26% that would pay \$25 to \$49 more.



Role That CCMRD Should Play in the Next 5 to 10 Years

From a list of four statements, respondents were asked to indicate the one that best represents the role they feel CCMRD should play in the next 5 to 10 years. The following summarizes key findings:

Twenty-six percent (26%) of respondents feel CCMRD should become a coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities and services in the county, and an additional 26% feel the towns should focus on local community recreation needs, CCMRD should focus on regional needs, and the County focus on larger county wide facilities and events.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

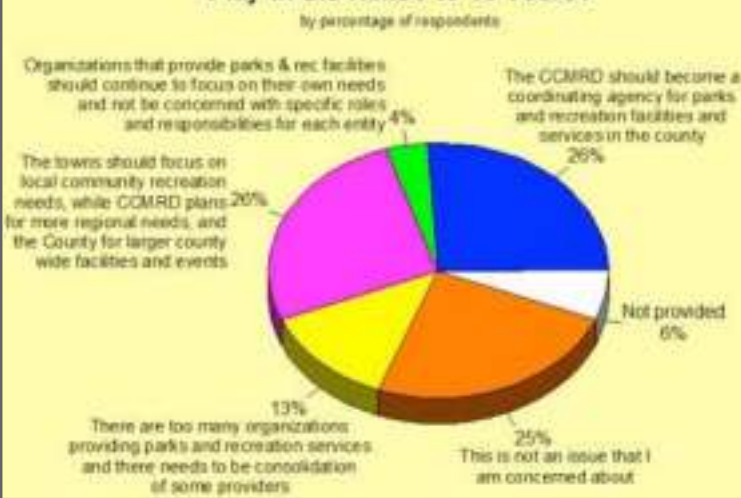
Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

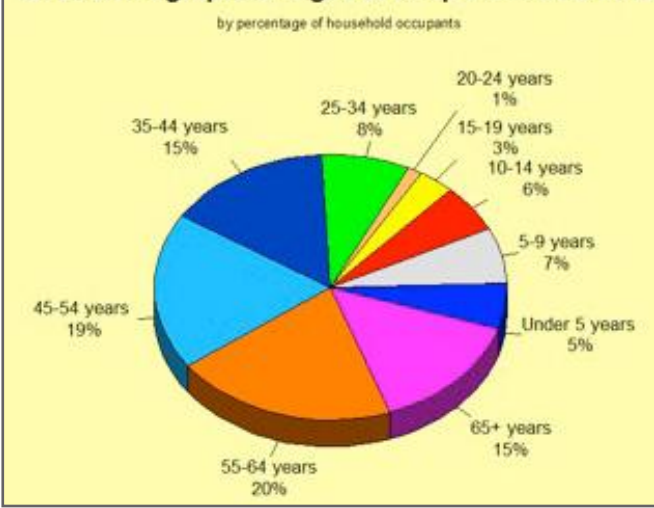
Implementation



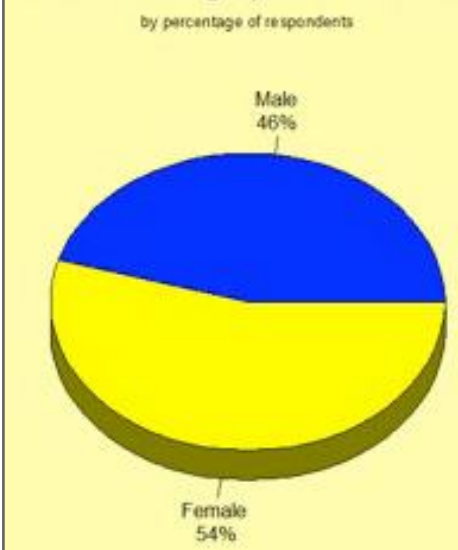
Q18. Which of the Following Statements Best Represents Your Feeling on the Role That the CCMRD Should Play in the Next 5 to 10 Years?



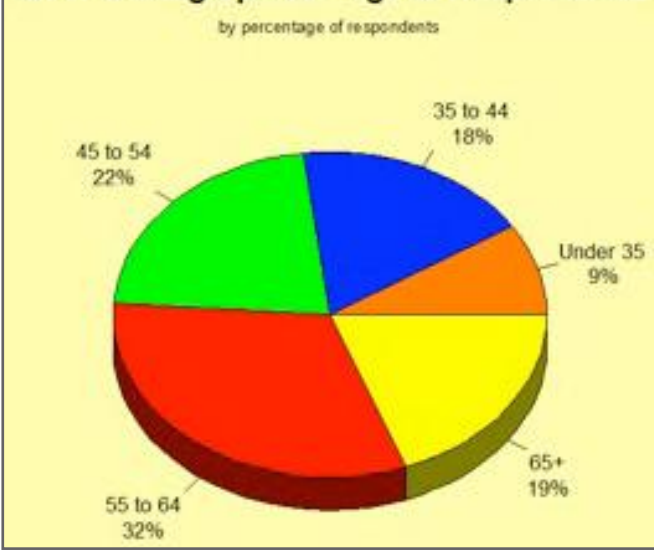
Q19. Demographics: Ages of People in Household



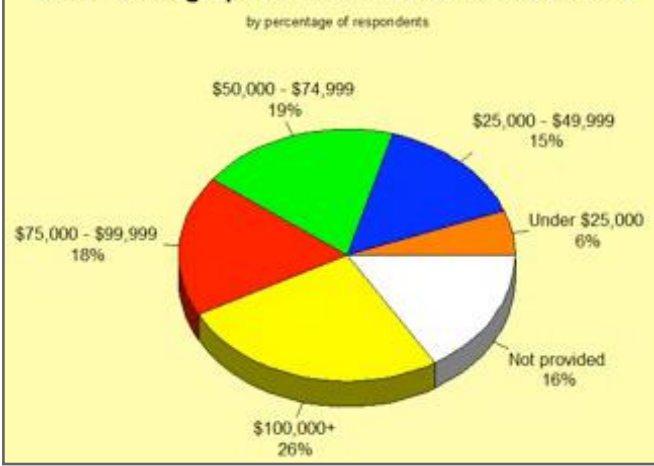
Q22. Demographics: Gender



Q20. Demographics: Age of Respondents

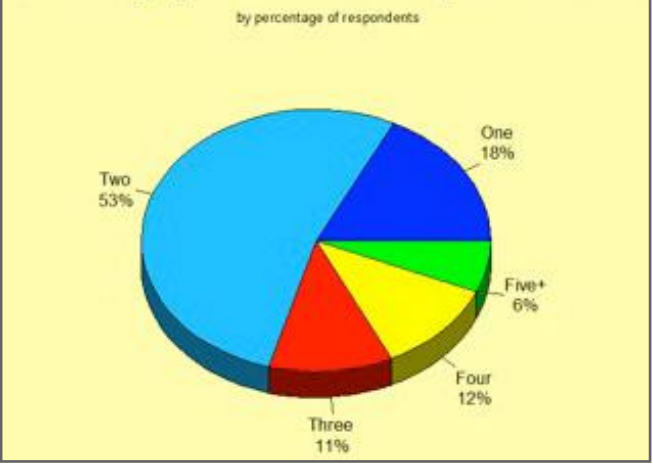


Q23. Demographics: Annual Household Income

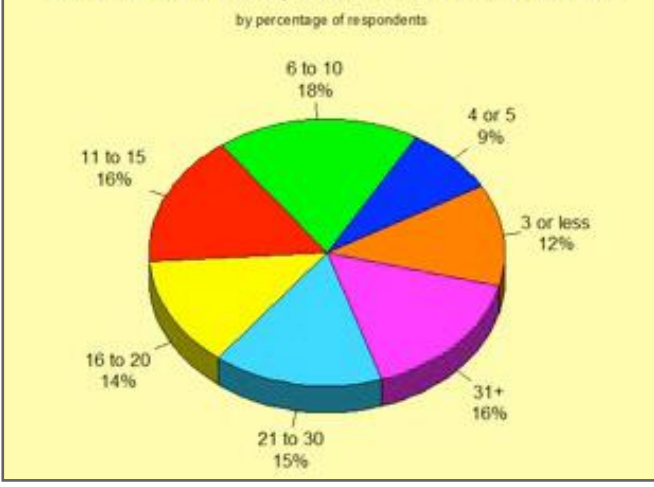


DEMOGRAPHICS

Q1. Demographics: Number of People in Household



Q21. Demographics: Number of Years Lived in the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District



CROSS TABS

In addition to looking at the executive summary and results of the survey it is important to look at the results according to groupings of individuals that participated in the survey. To do this ETC Institute provides Ballard*King with cross-tabular analysis of various groups.

The groups that will be evaluated through the analysis are:

- Individuals that Use Facilities
- Individuals that Do Not Use Facilities
- Household Income Under \$50,000
- Household Income Over \$100,000
- Households w/ Individuals Under 10
- Households w/ Individuals Age 10-19
- Seniors
- Idaho Springs Residents
- Georgetown Residents
- Floyd Hill Residents
- Unincorporated Residents
- St. Mary’s and Other Residents

Overall Summary

With respect to the facilities that are currently being used by respondents to the survey there was consistency in that the CCMRD Recreation Center (Idaho Springs) fell in the top three for all groups evaluated. There was also consistency amongst the different communities in that there was a patronage to the facilities within the community. In that same vein most respondents visited the CCMRD Recreation Center less than 10 times over a 12 month span. Additionally, the overall feeling of respondents is that the physical conditions of the CCMRD Recreation Center are good to excellent.

There was not a great deal of consistency with regards to what respondents wanted with respect to improvements that could be made to the CCMRD Recreation Center. This could relate back to the general lack of consistent use by patrons of the facilities or it could be interpreted that they are happy with the current amenities provided. Two improvements that occurred often were adding slides & features to the pool and indoor walking track.

As it relates to programs offered by the Clear Creek

Metropolitan District there is not a great deal of use. In fact, except for households with individuals under 10 and households with individuals age 10-19 all other groups analyzed had a greater than 50% response that indicated they had not participated in any programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan District. The program that does receive the greatest patronage from respondents is recreational/lap swimming.

The overall feeling of respondents about the quality of programs offered by Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District is good to excellent. However, that needs to be tempered with the fact that there is not a larger percentage of respondents participating.

The program that appears to have the greatest opportunity is offered by the District is adult fitness/aerobics/weight training. It should be noted that programs like this are typically revenue generators for facilities and it is a trend that is showing steady and sustained growth across the country. Another common response was adult classes, which addresses a large portion of the population at large.

Indoor swimming pools, paved walking/biking trails, indoor exercise & fitness facilities and natural areas/nature trails were parks and facilities that were important to respondents. It should be noted that if additional programming opportunities are pursued the current facilities need to be able to support said efforts.

Almost all responding groups felt that operating & maintaining the CCMRD Recreation Center was important to the District. Additionally, providing trails for hiking & biking, preserving the environment, and providing open space were important. These things should be taken into account when developing long range plans for the District and when determining where capital improvement dollars should be spent.

In terms of actions that the District should take the development of soft surface/natural/walking/biking/trail/path and development of paved walking/biking trails were amongst the top ranked in all responding groups. These actions should be balanced with and used as direction for not only facilities, but also with programming efforts.

The majority of responding groups felt that there should be some new facilities that are central to the District while others are built near each town. This is a common response to a question like this however operating in such a fashion does not always translate into an efficient or effective operation. Residents typically like to have a

feeling of ownership over facilities so that they can refer to “their park” or “their recreation center” for instance.

The majority of respondents to the survey felt that if the District was to pursue new facilities they should do so as the funds become available. Along that same line it can also be said that the bulk of respondents were not in support of any type of property tax increase earmarked for new facilities. If a new property tax was put in place the majority of respondents would want to pay less than an additional \$99 per year.

There was not a great deal of consistency from respondents about how they felt the District should move forward in the next 5-10 years. Some felt they should become the coordinating agency for all parks and recreation facilities/services, while others felt that they should provide the overall framework to the District with the individual Towns addressing the needs of the community. It also should be noted that close to 20% of all groups responding felt that this was not an issue that they were concerned about.

Individuals that Use Facilities

The top 3 facilities that individuals that use facilities utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 60.4% - Forest Service Trails
- o 48.6% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 20.5% - Georgetown City Parks/Playgrounds

Many (33.3%) individuals that use facilities have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 19 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 41.7% of individuals that use facilities indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (60.6%) of individuals that use facilities would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that individuals that use facilities would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 35.3% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 25.1% - Adding Slides & Features to Pool
- o 20.8% - Larger Weight Room

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



The majority (58.3%) of individuals that use facilities indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the past 12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 19.6%.

The majority (60.5%) of individuals that use facilities would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as “Good.”

The top four recreation programs that individuals that use facilities would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 29.0% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 23.0% - Adult Classes
- o 20.8% - Hiking
- o 19.6% - Running or Walking

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to individuals that use facilities are:

- o 44.7% - Natural Areas/Nature Trails
- o 39.6% - Pave Walking/Biking Trails
- o 28.4% - Indoor Swimming Pools
- o 27.2% - Indoor Exercise & Fitness Facilities

The top three functions that individuals that use facilities feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 45.9% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 45.6% - Providing trails for hiking & biking
- o 44.7% - Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center

The top three actions that are most important individuals that use facilities are:

- o 48.6% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking/ trail/path
- o 40.8% - Promoting acquisition of open space
- o 39.3% - Upgrade/expand CCMRD Recreation Center

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District 28.4% of individuals that use facilities feel that “there should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

There is no clear majority among individuals that use facilities as to how the District should proceed with new facilities and services. Of the individuals that use facilities 26.9% are unsure of their position and need more information on the topic.

The majority (60.1 %) of individuals that use facilities would be willing to pay a maximum of \$100-\$149 a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The individuals that use facilities feel that role of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should be to either become a coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities/services in County, or the Towns focus on local needs while CCMRD plans for regional needs and the County for larger county wide facilities and events.

Individuals that Do Not Use Facilities

The top three improvements that individuals that do not use facilities would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 15.8% - Other
- o 14.5% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 10.5% - Adding Slides & Features to Pool

The top four recreation programs individuals that do not use facilities would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 22.4% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 18.4% - Adult Classes
- o 15.8% - Attending Live Theater/Concerts
- o 13.2% - Visiting Nature Areas/Spending Time Outdoors

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to individuals that do not use facilities are:

- o 25.0% - Natural Areas/Nature Trails
- o 22.4% - Paved Walking/Biking Trails

- o 21.1% - Indoor Swimming Pools
- o 11.8% - Indoor Exercise & Fitness Facilities

The top three functions that individuals that do not use facilities feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 48.7% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 46.1% - Providing trails for hiking & biking
- o 32.9% - Providing recreation programs for residents of all ages

The top three actions that are most important individuals that do not use facilities are:

- o 46.1% - Promoting acquisition of open space
- o 32.9% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking/trail/path
- o 31.6% - Develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District 26.3% of individuals that do not use facilities feel “build new recreation facilities near each town to meet local needs.”

Individuals that do not use facilities feel that the District should proceed in one of two fashions with new facilities and services, either; develop facilities and services as funds become available or they are not in support of a property tax increase to fund the needs.

A third (32.0%) of individuals that do not use facilities would be willing to pay a maximum of \$40-\$99 a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The individuals that do not use facilities feel that role of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should be to either become a coordinating agency for parks and rec facilities/services in County, or the Towns focus on local needs while CCMRD plans for regional needs & the County for larger county wide facilities & events.

Household Income Under \$50,000

The top 3 facilities that households with less than \$50,000 income utilize most often for parks and recreation services

are:

- o 43.5% - Forest Service Trails
- o 35.3% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 23.5% - Georgetown City Parks/Playgrounds

The top response (24.7%) of households with less than \$50,000 income have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 10 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 60.0% of households with less than \$50,000 income indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (70.6%) of households with less than \$50,000 income would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that households with less than \$50,000 income would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 34.1% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 23.5% - Improved Locker Rooms
- o 21.2% - Adding Slides & Features to Pool

The majority (69.5%) of households with less than \$50,000 income indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the past 12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 18.8%.

The majority (80.8%) of households with less than \$50,000 income would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as “Good.”

The top four recreation programs that households with less than \$50,000 income would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 23.5% - Hiking
- o 20.0% - Adult Classes
- o 18.8% - Running or Walking & Attending Live Theater/Concerts

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to households with less than \$50,000 income are:

- o 43.5% - Natural Areas/Nature Trails

- o 31.8% - Pave Walking/Biking Trails
- o 24.7% - Indoor Swimming Pools
- o 20.0% - Small Neighborhood Parks

The top three functions that households with less than \$50,000 income feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 48.2% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 41.2% - Providing recreation programs for residents of all ages, Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center, Providing trails for hiking and biking

The top three actions that are most important to households with less than \$50,000 income are:

- o 43.5% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking/trail/path
- o 40.0% - Promoting acquisition of open space
- o 30.6% - Develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District 29.4% of households with less than \$50,000 income feel that “there should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

Households with less than \$50,000 income feel that the District should proceed in one of two fashions with new facilities and services, either; develop facilities & services as funds become available or they are not in support of a property tax increase to fund the needs.

Many (42.6%) of the households with less than \$50,000 income would be willing to pay a maximum of \$40-\$99 a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The households with less than \$50,000 income feel that role of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should be to either become a coordinating agency for parks & rec facilities/services in County, or that Towns focus on local needs while CCMRD plans for regional needs & the County for larger county wide facilities & events.

Household Income Over \$100,000

The top 3 facilities that households with more than \$100,000 income utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 48.6% - Forest Service Trails
- o 35.5% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 15.0% - School Gyms & Other Facilities

The top answer (26.1%) of households with more than \$100,000 income have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 10 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 52.3% of households with more than \$100,000 income indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (54.2%) of households with more than \$100,000 income would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that households with more than \$100,000 income would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 29.0% - Adding Slides & Features to Pool
- o 23.4% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 21.5% - Larger Weight Room

The majority (67.3%) of households with more than \$100,000 income indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the past 12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 11.2%.

The majority (78.8%) of households with more than \$100,000 income would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as good to excellent.

The top four recreation programs that households with more than \$100,000 income would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 32.7% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 22.4% - Adult Classes
- o 21.5% - Recreational Swimming/Swim Lessons/ Exercise

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



o 19.6% - Running or Walking

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to households with more than \$100,000 income are:

- o 40.2% - Natural Areas/Nature Trails, Paved Walking/ Biking Trails
- o 28.0% - Indoor Exercise & Fitness Facilities
- o 26.2% - Indoor Swimming Pools

The top three functions that households with more than \$100,000 income feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 53.3% - Providing trails for hiking & biking
- o 47.7% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 41.1% - Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center

The top three actions that are most important to households with more than \$100,000 income are:

- o 49.5% - Promoting acquisition of open space
- o 43.9% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking/trail/path
- o 41.1% - Develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District 28.0% of households with more than \$100,000 income feel that “there should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

Households with more than \$100,000 income feel that the District should proceed in one of two fashions with new facilities and services, either; develop facilities & services as funds become available, or a property tax increase to build & operate new programs & facilities is necessary.

The majority (56.1%) of households with more than \$100,000 income would be willing to pay a maximum of \$149 or less a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The households with more than \$100,000 income feel that role of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should be to become a coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities/services in the

County.

Households w/ Individuals Under 10

The top 3 facilities that households with individuals under 10 utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 64.8% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 49.3% - Forest Service Trails
- o 28.2% - Idaho Spring Parks/Playgrounds

Many (42.3%) households with individuals under 10 have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 10 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 25.4% of households with individuals under 10 indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (67.3%) of households with individuals under 10 would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that households with individuals under 10 would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 60.6% - Adding Slides & Features to Pool
- o 29.6% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 21.2% - Gymnasium

Many households with individuals under 10 indicated that they had participated in either swim lessons (35.2%) or recreational/lap swimming (31.0%).

The majority (56.8%) of households with individuals under 10 would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as good.

The top four recreation programs that households with individuals under 10 would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 38.0% - Recreation Swimming/Swim Lessons/ Exercise
- o 28.2% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 25.4% - Youth Classes
- o 19.7% - Attending Live Theater/Concerts & Adult Classes

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to households with individuals under 10 are:

- o 42.3% - Indoor Swimming Pools
- o 32.4% - Playgrounds & Childcare Facility
- o 31.0% - Small Neighborhood Park & Natural Areas/ Nature Trails

The top three functions that households with individuals under 10 feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 56.3% - Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 49.3% - Providing recreation programs for residents of all ages
- o 40.8% - Providing places for outdoor sports

The top three actions that are most important households with individuals under 10 are:

- o 53.5% - Upgrade/expand CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 35.2% - Develop paved walking/biking trails
- o 33.8% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking /trail/ path & Promoting acquisition of open space

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District 25.4% of households with individuals under 10 feel that “there should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

Many (42.3%) of the households with individuals under 10 feel that the District should utilize a property tax increase to build & operate new programs & facilities is necessary.

Many (48.6%) households with individuals under 10 would be willing to pay a maximum of \$99 or less a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

Households w/ Individuals Age 10-19

The top 3 facilities that households with individuals age 10-19 utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 57.5% - CCMRD Recreation Center

- o 45.0% - School Gyms & Other Facilities
- o 30.0% - Forest Service Trails

Half (50.0%) of households with individuals age 10-19 have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 19 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 20.0% of households with individuals age 10-19 indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (75.0%) of households with individuals age 10-19 would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that households with individuals age 10-19 would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 47.5% - Adding Slides & Features to Pool
- o 30.0% - Other
- o 25.0% - Gymnasium

Over a third of households with individuals age 10-19 indicated that they had participated in recreational/lap swimming (37.5%). In contrast 42.5% indicated that they have not participated in any programs.

The majority (59.1%) of households with individuals age 10-19 would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as good.

The top four recreation programs that households with individuals age 10-19 would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 32.5% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 25.0% - Attending Live Theater/Concerts
- o 22.5% - Using Gyms for Basketball/Volleyball
- o 20.0% - Adult Classes & Hiking

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to households with individuals age 10-19 are:

- o 50.0% - Paved Walking/Biking Trails
- o 47.5% - Indoor Swimming Pools
- o 37.5% - Natural Areas/Nature Trails
- o 22.5% - Indoor Exercise & Fitness Facilities

The top three functions that households with individuals age 10-19 feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 55.0% - Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 47.5% - Providing places for outdoor sports
- o 45.0% - Providing trails for hiking & biking

The top three actions that are most important households with individuals age 10-19 are:

- o 42.5% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking/ trail/path
- o 37.5% - Promoting acquisition of open space & develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District the 35.0% of households with individuals age 10-19 feel that “there should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

There is no clear majority among households with individuals age 10-19 as to how the District should proceed with new facilities and services. Of the households with individuals age 10-19, 32.5% are unsure of their position and need more information on the topic.

Seniors

The top 3 facilities that seniors utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 45.4% - Forest Service Trails
- o 32.5% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 20.2% - Georgetown City Parks/Playgrounds

The majority (16.6%) of seniors have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 5 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 63.2% of seniors indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (91.6%) of seniors would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as good to excellent.

The top three improvements that seniors would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 31.9% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 17.8% - Improved Locker Rooms
- o 16.0% - Other

The majority (77.9%) of seniors indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the past 12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 9.8%.

The majority (63.9%) of seniors would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as good.

The top four recreation programs that seniors would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 23.9% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 20.9% - Running or Walking
- o 19.0% - Hiking
- o 18.4% - Adult Classes

The majority (51.3%) of households with individuals age 10-19 would be willing to pay a maximum of \$99 or less a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to seniors are:

- o 41.1% - Natural Areas/Nature Trails
- o 35.6% - Paved Walking/Biking Trails
- o 23.9% - Indoor Exercise & Fitness Facilities
- o 21.5% - Indoor Swimming Pools

The top three functions that seniors feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 49.7% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 41.1% - Providing trails for hiking & biking
- o 40.5% - Providing recreation programs for residents of all ages

The top three actions that are most important seniors are:

- o 45.4% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- biking/ trail/path
- o 41.7% - Promoting acquisition of open space
- o 31.9% - Develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District 22.7% of seniors feel that “there should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

Seniors feel that the District should proceed in one of two fashions with new facilities and services, either; develop facilities & services as funds become available, or they do not support a property tax increase to fund these needs.

About one-third (30.3%) of seniors would be willing to pay a maximum of \$99 or less a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

Idaho Springs Residents

The top 3 facilities that residents of Idaho Springs utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 69.8% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 39.6% - Idaho Springs City Parks/Playgrounds
- o 34.0% - Forest Service Trails

About 45.2% of residents of Idaho Springs have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 19 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 30.2% of residents of Idaho Springs indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (64.9%) of residents of Idaho Springs would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that residents of Idaho Springs would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 45.3% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 24.5% - Other
- o 22.6% - Larger Weight Room

The slight majority (50.9%) of residents of Idaho Springs indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the

past 12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 26.4%.

The slight majority (51.9%) of residents of Idaho Springs would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as good.

The top four recreation programs that residents of Idaho Springs would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 34.0% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 28.3% - Running or Walking & Adult Classes
- o 24.5% - Attending Live Theater/Concerts & Hiking

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to residents of Idaho Springs are:

- o 50.9% - Paved walking/biking trails
- o 39.6% - Natural areas/nature trails
- o 32.1% - Indoor exercise & fitness facilities
- o 30.2% - Indoor swimming pools

The top three functions that residents of Idaho Springs feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 52.8% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 52.8% - Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 39.6% - Providing recreation programs for residents of all ages

he top three actions that are most important to residents of Idaho Springs are:

- o 49.1% - Upgrade/expand CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 45.3% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking/ trail/path
- o 37.7% - Develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District 35.8% of residents of Idaho Springs feel that “build new facilities in close proximity to existing CCMRD Recreation Center.”

There is no clear majority among residents of Idaho Springs as to how the District should proceed with new facilities and services. Additionally, there is only 18.9% who are unsure of their position and need more information.

Just under the majority (45.1%) of residents of Idaho Springs would be willing to pay a maximum of \$99 or less a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The residents of Idaho Springs feel that the role of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should be to become either the coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities/services in the County, or the Towns focus on local needs while CCMRD plans for regional needs and County for larger county wide facilities and events.

Georgetown Residents

he top 3 facilities that residents of Georgetown utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 71.0% - Georgetown City Parks/Playgrounds
- o 50.0% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 45.2% - Georgetown Community Center

Just under the majority (46.8%) of residents of Georgetown have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 19 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 32.3% of residents of Georgetown indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (63.4%) of residents of Georgetown would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that residents of Georgetown would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 45.2% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 24.2% - Adding Slides & Features to Pool; Improved Locker Rooms, Other

The majority (59.7%) of residents of Georgetown indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the past

12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 24.2%.

The majority (57.7%) of residents of Georgetown would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as good.

The top four recreation programs that residents of Georgetown would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 40.3% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weigh Training
- o 32.3% - Adult Classes
- o 19.4% - Hiking & Visiting Nature Areas/Spending Time Outdoors

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to residents of Georgetown are:

- o 43.5% - Natural areas/nature trails
- o 41.9% - Paved walking/biking trails
- o 33.9% - Indoor swimming pools
- o 32.3% - Indoor exercise & fitness facilities

The top three functions that residents of Georgetown feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 59.7% - Providing recreation programs for residents of all ages
- o 59.7% - Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 45.2% - Providing trails for hiking & biking

The top three actions that are most important to residents of Georgetown are:

- o 51.6% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking/ trail/path
- o 45.2% - Upgrade/expand CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 35.5% - Develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District many (38.7%) of residents of Georgetown feel that “there should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

A third (33.9%) of residents of Georgetown feel that the district should continue to develop facilities & services as funds become available.

The majority (54.2%) of residents of Georgetown would be willing to pay a maximum of \$149 or less a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The residents of Georgetown feel that the role of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should be that the Towns focus on local needs while CCMRD plans for regional needs & County for larger county wide facilities & events.

Floyd Hill Residents

The top 3 facilities that residents of Floyd Hill utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 42.9% - Forest Service Trails
- o 40.7% - Elmgreen Park Floyd Hill
- o 31.9% - CCMRRD Recreation Center

The top answer (32.1%) from residents of Floyd Hill have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 19 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 62.6% of residents of Floyd Hill indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (54.5%) of residents of Floyd Hill would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that residents of Floyd Hill would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 33.0% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 24.2% - Adding Slides & Features to Pool
- o 23.1% - Larger Weight Room

The majority (69.2%) of residents of Floyd Hill indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the past 12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 15.4%.

The majority (64.0%) of residents of Floyd Hill would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek

Metropolitan Recreation District as good.

The top four recreation programs that residents of Floyd Hill would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 33.0% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 26.4% - Adult Classes
- o 23.1% - Hiking, Recreation Swimming/Swim Lessons/Exercise, Attending Live Theater/Concerts

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to residents of Floyd Hill are:

- o 41.8% - Natural areas/nature trails
- o 36.3% - Paved walking/biking trails
- o 29.7% - Indoor swimming pools
- o 26.4% - Indoor exercise & fitness facilities

The top three functions that residents of Floyd Hill feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 52.7% - Providing trails for hiking & biking
- o 49.5% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 36.3% - Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center

The top three actions that are most important to residents of Floyd Hill are:

- o 50.5% - Promoting acquisition of open space
- o 46.2% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/ biking/trail/path
- o 39.6% - Develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District the 29.7% of residents of Floyd Hill feel that “there should be some new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

The top answer (29.7%) by residents of Floyd Hill feel that the district should continue to develop facilities & services as funds become available.

About 46.2% of residents of Floyd Hill would be willing to pay a maximum of \$99 or less a year in increased

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The residents of Floyd Hill feel that the role of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should become a coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities/services in County.

Unincorporated Residents

The top 3 facilities that residents of unincorporated areas utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 58.3% - Forest Service Trails
- o 23.5% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 11.3% - Idaho Springs City Parks/Playgrounds

About twenty percent (21.7%) of residents of unincorporated areas have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 10 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 67.0% of residents of unincorporated areas indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (67.6%) of residents of unincorporated areas would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that residents of unincorporated areas would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 22.6% - None
- o 19.1% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 18.3% - Other

The majority (76.5%) of residents of unincorporated areas indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the past 12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 9.6%.

The majority (63.6%) of residents of unincorporated areas would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as good.

The top four recreation programs that residents of unincorporated areas would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 17.4% - Adult Fitness/Aerobics/Weight Training
- o 13.9% - Attending Live Theater/Concerts, Visiting Nature Areas/Spending Time Outdoors
- o 11.3% - Hiking, Attending Community Special Events

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to residents of unincorporated areas are:

- o 36.5% - Natural areas/nature trails
- o 27.0% - Paved walking/biking trails
- o 20.9% - Indoor swimming pools
- o 19.1% - Indoor exercise & fitness facilities

The top three functions that residents of unincorporated areas feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 50.4% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 45.2% - Providing trails for hiking & biking
- o 31.3% - Operating & maintaining CCMRD Recreation Center

The top three actions that are most important residents of unincorporated areas are:

- o 49.6% - Promoting acquisition of open space
- o 45.2% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/biking/trail/path
- o 28.7% - Providing parks for passive activities

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District the top answer (27.8% of residents of unincorporated areas) was “there is no new recreation facilities needed.”

Residents of unincorporated areas feel that the District should proceed in one of two fashions with new facilities and services, either; develop facilities & services as funds become available, or they do not support a property tax increase to fund these needs.

Over a third (38.0%) of residents of unincorporated areas would be willing to pay a maximum of \$99 or less a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The residents of unincorporated areas feel that the role

of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should become a coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities/services in County, or Town focus on local needs while CCMRD plans for regional needs and the County for larger county wide facilities and events.

St. Mary’s and Other Residents

The top 3 facilities that residents of St. Mary’s or other residents utilize most often for parks and recreation services are:

- o 54.4% - Forest Service Trails
- o 41.1% - CCMRD Recreation Center
- o 13.3% - Idaho Springs City Parks/Playgrounds, Other Towns/Communities Facilities, Other

About twenty-three percent (23.3%) of residents of St. Mary’s or other residents have visited the CCMRD Recreation Center in Idaho Springs 10 times or less in the past 12 months. In contrast 51.1% of residents of St. Mary’s or other residents indicated that they had not used the CCMRD Recreation Center in the past 12 months.

The majority (53.7%) of residents of St. Mary’s or other residents would rate the physical condition of the CCMRD Recreation Center as “Good.”

The top three improvements that residents of St. Mary’s or other residents would like to see at the CCMRD Recreation Center are:

- o 28.9% - Adding slides & Features to Pool
- o 26.7% - Indoor Walking Track
- o 21.1% - Improved Locker Rooms

The majority (60.0%) of residents of St. Mary’s or other residents indicated that they had not participated in programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the past 12 months. The program that has been participated in the most was Recreation/Lap Swimming @ 12.2%.

The majority (66.7%) of residents of St. Mary’s or other residents would rate the quality of programs offered by the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District as good.

The top four recreation programs that residents of St. Mary’s or other residents would participate in more if more programming was available are:

- o 22.2% - Adult Classes, Adult Fitness/Aerobics/weight Training
- o 17.8% - Recreation Swimming/Swim Lessons/Exercise
- o 16.7% - Hiking

The top four parks and facilities that are most important to residents of St. Mary’s or other residents are:

- o 44.4% - Natural areas/nature trails
- o 35.6% - Paved walking/biking trails
- o 24.4% - Indoor swimming pools
- o 17.8% - Small neighborhood parks, Indoor exercise & fitness facilities

The top three functions that residents of St. Mary’s or other residents feel should be the most important for the District to provide are:

- o 43.3% - Preserving environment & providing open space
- o 42.2% - Providing trails for hiking & biking
- o 37.8% - Providing places for outdoor sports

The top three actions that are most important to residents of St. Mary’s or other residents are:

- o 40.0% - Develop soft surface/natural/walking/biking/ trail/path
- o 36.7% - Promoting acquisition of open space
- o 34.4% - Develop paved walking/biking trails

If new recreation facilities are to be built by the District 25.6% of residents of St. Mary’s or other residents feel that “there should be new facilities that are central while others are built near each town.”

Residents of St. Mary’s or other residents feel that the District should proceed in one of two fashions with new facilities and services, either; develop facilities & services as funds become available, or they do not support a property tax increase to fund these needs.

Nearly half (49.4%) of residents of St. Mary’s or other

residents would be willing to pay a maximum of \$99 or less a year in increased property taxes to fund the types of parks, trails, sports and recreation facilities most important to them.

The residents of St. Mary’s or other residents feel that role of the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District in the next 5-10 years should become a coordinating agency for parks and recreation facilities/services in County, or Town focus on local needs while CCMRD plans for regional needs & the County for larger county wide facilities and events.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix



*System-Wide
District Master Plan*



APPENDIX 4: STAKEHOLDER & FOCUS GROUP SUMMARIES

STAKEHOLDER AND FOCUS GROUP SUMMARIES

The following pages contain the notes from the meetings with Stakeholders and Focus Groups.

Municipal Partners Summary –Town of Empire System-Wide Master Plan February 1, 2011 (11:00 AM)

Participants

Kevin Reis, Empire Town Board Member
Bernie Hubner, Empire
Rob Morris, Empire Town Board Member
Wendy Koch, Empire mayor
JoAnn Sorenson, DLD

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PMK)
Ken Ballard, Ballard*King (BK)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD (DM)

Introduction

Unincorporated Clear Creek County has no homeowners group, but it does have a historic society. We are trying to make a district-wide master plan to set establish a vision for where the District wants to be. Before developing the plan we meet with municipal partners, citizens, etc. in order to obtain their opinions on what is needed.

Population: Empire has 434 people (incorporated in 1875) and the Downieville-Lawson-Dumont area has about 600 people.

Question (PMK): Do the youth move out when they grow up? What is the attrition rate?

Response from participants:

- My children moaned and groaned while living here; now one lives in Georgetown (CO), one lives in Denver, one lives in Alaska, and one lives in Dallas.

Question: One thing to remember in talking with focus groups is the goals for the community. How do we keep the community vibrant and growing?

We (the planners) have specific questions for you folks.

Question (Q1): (Regarding use of district services)

Response from participant:

- We use some of the services provided; but, in all honesty, this is a new phase for the Recreation District. We aren't familiar with the new procedures, e.g. how to apply for things like grants, etc.

Question: (regarding primary association of area and recreation district)

Responses from participants:

- The Recreation District has mostly been maintaining the ballfields. (The Empire ballfield) was used a lot, but when the high school was moved, things got lost, as far as leaks and stuff at the baseball field. I've been watching the water system down there. As far as activities, we have been separated.
- Since Dane has been here, we have talked more with this director than any before. This is a new beginning for us.

- **Question (PMK):** What are your goals as far as parks and facilities?

Responses from participants:

- We are accumulating another 14 acres on a trade deal in conjunction with CDOT. We have the gravel pit, and we are filling that area and starting to level it out. When the high school quit playing baseball, we didn't see anybody using the field anymore. There is a lot of talk about what people would like to see. Some want to tear down baseball field and put up a soccer field. I don't think that is a good idea, rather, we should have a multi-use field by having a softball field. We'd like to see it used. We want to investigate ways we could get the little league to use the field.
- I want to keep the field.
- Our plans state that the new 14 acres should be used for recreation. As part of the agreement, through which we obtained the 14 acres, the property was not allowed to have structures built on it. This is actually a deed restriction on the property.
- It will take 2-3 more years to fill the 14-acre property appropriately.
- We have a plan that was drawn up for us (by an intern). It is a plan of how we want development to occur in that area. Some other things come to the forefront. People have asked about gold course, Frisbee golf, and a bike trail (by the sewer plant).
- This spring, when I was going to work, drove by the sewer plant and I noticed there is a road near by the creek that could also be used as a bicycle path. The road ties into Empire Junction; it could become partly road/partly social foot path.
- About earmarks, the County earmarked \$60,000 to build a trail. Then they used that money to build the visitor's center instead (the money was reallocated).

Question (PMK): Who owns the land where this trail may be?

Responses from participants:

- The owner of the majority of the land is amenable to trail development. Some of the land belongs to the town because we have a ROW on it.
- The County is talking about making a bike trail from Empire Junction to the CDOT parcel, but the County thought there was a problem with permitting/usage.
- About that trail to Empire Junction; the sewer plant road crosses some private property and there were some easement identification problems.

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- Empire Junction is ultimately a gateway to Grand County. There needs to be a transportation-related part of the plan for Empire Junction.
- Reconfiguring/securing the easement probably isn't the problem, but perhaps some negotiations are needed for refinement.
- We could use the ball field parking as the trailhead for the bike trail—if possible, we'd like it to be better developed, turned into a formal trailhead. Something the locals would use.

Comment (from PMK): Trails are important, and a bicycle trail can be part of a network of trails for Minton Park and the Town.

Empire Junction

Comments from participants:

- Empire Junction is at the junction of I-70 and US 40. CDOT wants to redo the interchange so it is improved for traffic flow and for alternative modes of transportation.
- The County's greenway plan interacts with that area. There is also private landownership in that area (near Spaghetti Ranch).

Question (PMK): Let's talk about the plans for Minton Park—we want to make sure we cover this with you. You did that with the assistance of an intern, the question is: how much of a process did you go through, and how comfortable are you with the direction?

Response from participant:

- It's not etched in stone. Things were requested and we tried to make it into a cohesive plan.

Question: What uses do you see for the 14 acre area of Minton Park?

Responses from participants:

- Driving range?
- An RV lot/camp (a pie in the sky idea) would possibly be an income to the town and be self-sustaining on the 14-acre parcel.
- I would rather put the RVs down in the lowland, not on top. We could put them along the river, and then could still have the driving range.
- Possibly an ice rink (against the hillside)
- Picnic shelter
- Soccer fields
- A small part of the mountain board park is privately owned (an out lot), is that a problem?
 - *Response form participant:* That's not a problem, we have a written release.

Question (PMK): Are there any floodplain issues?

Response from participant:

- Not sure, if we have any problems, it would only be with the 100-year-flood.

Question (PMK): Did you go through a public process with the Minton plan?

Response from participant:

- We sent out surveys, had a meeting and wrote down opinions, and we tried to bring it into a cohesive plan.

Question: Do the citizens want the ball field to be kept?

Responses from participants:

- It was associated with the high school; when they moved the school, it ended the use of the field.
- It'd be sad if it has to go, because it's nice, it's fenced, and it has a sprinkler system.
- Right now, we are planning on using the upper-left field building as a stage for musical events.
- We are working on the fence—we'd like to open the fence and use the ballfield's grass for seating. We have the blues festival currently.

Question: How many events are held here (in Empire)?

Responses from participants:

- There's a blues festival
- Once every 3 years –there's a mile hi jeep club which brings in 700-1,000 people. They lease the property on the west side of road, which is Newton family owned.

Question (PMK): What would you like to see the District providing?

Responses from participants:

- We don't know what possibilities are out there
- Baseball/little league
- Ways to get people back into the park
- New playground equipment, it is needed desperately.
- Adult pick-up games
- Comment (from Dane): Teams for adults?
- Horseshoe park

Comment (from Dane): The little league program has dwindled. They only play on the two fields in Idaho Springs. The middle school has done baseball, but I'm not sure if they are doing it this year.

Comment (from Dane): Rather than running a recreation center and running a few programs, my goal is to run events and activities to bring people up the hill. I want to bring teams up from Denver, have a tournament on the weekend. That's why I'm interacting more. How do we help you? How do we help develop this community and support the residents?

Response to comment from participants:

- We're OK with CCRMD programming events, and with outsiders using facilities in our town, we want people to stop.

Question from participant:

- Why does the Recreation District have all this money?
- Response to question (by Dane): They paid off the bond used to construct the Recreation Center and are now debt-free.

Question (PMK): What do you think of the District being more proactive?

Response from participant:

- It's wonderful, but we don't know how to respond.

Question: Do you want a trail that lots people use and brings outsiders into the community?

Responses from participants:

- Yes! (from multiple participants)
- Business is tourism and if they stop once, then they will come again.

Question (Dane): Who are we building it for; residents or visitors?

Response from participant:

- Hopefully, it's both.

Comment (from Dane): Yes, we want to create an infrastructure to attract visitors and keep residents happy. If the District was to take that role (of creating infrastructure to attract visitors), and received cooperation from the cities/residents, people can be possessive about that. One of the goals is to define a role for the District. What does the District provide and what do they (cities/residents) provide.

- What about new ideas?
- Maintenance: The current IGA has the district maintain the ballfields.
- Comment from Dane: That's the only thing that the district does.

Comments from participants:

- We appreciate that help. We have one maintenance man and can't afford a 40-hour week salary.

Question: What improvements does Empire Park need?

Responses by participants:

- The toilets: we need running water and flushing toilets. Currently, the toilets are pump-outs. If we had venues with the music stand, we could figure a way to hook toilets to water.
- We may also need to connect sewer to the park.
- If we went that route, we would have to figure out how to run things under the bridge, or have a lift station.
- There is a well over there and a water line under the bridge that is turned off in winter.

Question: How do you think the District is doing?

Responses from participants:

- It has never been a presence, other than the ballfields.
- It's improving with Dane.

Question (PMK): When children participate, where do they go?

Responses from participants:

- We're not sure, we would need to ask a parent.
- Empire is not a super children-family town.

Question: What goals do you have regarding recreation in Empire?

Responses from participants:

- Have more activities
- Improve the playground
- Frisbee golf, if we had a course that was public (we have a great valley, very picturesque).

Question (PMK): What about the mountain board park?

Responses from participants:

- They provide 2 events a year
- 200-300 people come, 50 of which are participants (we saw business from it)
- Some of the mountain boarders stayed in town.
- Some stay in the pack town, but most stay in Georgetown.

Jeep club

Comments from participants:

- Even for jeep club, it's good for tourism, recreation and locals.

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- The Jeep club is coming in 2012, the previous time the jeep club came it brought 600-700 people. There are other locations in Colorado that they like to jeep in. We'd like to stay on the frequented list.

New recreation

Comments from participants:

- If they are doing something new, give them a shot and see what comes up it. We don't want to miss out on next "snowboarding".

Question (Dane): What do you have for horse/ATV trails? I think of jeeps, but it probably could be used for anything.

Responses from participants:

- There were trails with the mines, but insurance killed it. Now, people parked their trailers at the park, and they use the trails a little.
- If they're on BLM land, insurance/liability isn't as much of problem.
- In order to get to the BLM land people would have to go through private property.
- We're trying to get a property donated, which would allow people to get to recreation land (BLM land) without having to cross private property.

Question (PMK): Would there be a way for horses/ATV to get from Minton Park to that path safely, and without crossing private property?

Responses from participants:

- We're now trying to get an ordinance passed to limit speeds to 10 mph in town, and then horses and ATVs can use the streets to get out of town from Minton Park, then when they get out of town, they would use the county roads to get to the land north of town, from there they could get all the way to the divide or to Central City.
- We would get a lot of business from motorized recreation.
- Idea from participant: Could we have maps and trails for ATVs?
- Policy: Work with town of Empire and their ordinance about ATV trails??

Question (PMK): What other ideas do you have? What about CCMRD acting as a clearing house of information, a central coordinator for special events?

Responses from participants:

- Yes! (multiple participants)
- A huge resource that isn't exploited is ATV/jeep recreation.
- If the District has special events coordination, it could work to bring people up for events. Empire would be a base of operations.
- A coordinator would help – even to park trailers

Question: How soon will Empire pass the 10mph speed limit ordinance?

Response from participant:

- We're going to pass it on Tuesday (February 8th)?

Rodeo

Comments from participants:

- Speaking of horses, we need to work with the Clear Creek Rodeo Association.
- The only rodeo is the OMG Rodeo held along the interstate.
- We have started talks, and tried to get them in touch on a lease on some property, to move the whole rodeo grounds. Currently, the rodeo grounds are on Alverado road, by the ambulance barn, and the sheriff's range shooting range.
- The rodeo was working with the Recreation District.
- Old-timers run the rodeo, and they need direction and help with what to do with it.
- Currently, the rodeo is surrounded by inept uses. It would behoove us to work together to fix the program.

Downieville-Lawson-Dumont

Comments from participants:

- The folk in Lawson have had a community meeting, and they are interested in having community gardens. Idaho Springs's community garden is active, but too far away. We would like to see playground equipment for young children.
- There is a disagreement about where to have the playground, the old one-room schoolhouse in Dumont had a playground, but it was dismantled because of insurance issues.

Dumont

Comments from participants:

- In Dumont there have been conversations about the rodeo grounds. There is no room to enlarge them. People would support conversation about rodeo grounds.

Fishing Access

Comments from participants:

- Look around the area of Lawson for fishing, allow access to the fishing holes that old-timers know about, and improve them. This may need some coordination with county, and with BLM land. This is waiting for a good plan.

Whitewater / Kayak Park

Question: What about events at the Whitewater Park?

Comments from participants:

- Access to the Whitewater Park is a problem (including the bridge).
- The bridge needs to be redesigned with river users in mind.

Lawson

Comment from participant:

- People in Lawson want a park with picnic tables.

Question (PMK): Would a park/playground in Dumont satisfy people in Lawson?

Responses from Participants:

- Lawson is a central living area for workers. Some people living in Lawson live in trailer parks. The playground there was used until it was removed.
- The vandalism at the playground was discouraging.

Question (PMK): When you think about adding a playground; what is the role of the District? Insurance?

Responses from participants:

- Insurance by the District would be a good step, or encouraging a different attitude toward the Dumont schoolhouse.
- Currently, those living near there (the schoolhouse) don't want to become permanent watchdogs for others.
- Maintenance could be done by the community of Downieville-Lawson-Dumont, or possibly by the Mill Creek Valley Historical Society, which own(ed) schoolhouse and schoolyard.

Question (PMK): Would the residents willing to fund a playground? Playgrounds cost around 50-60k.

Responses from participants:

- In the past, we've had some success in obtaining grants, but how do we maintain them?
- Maybe there needs to be a focus group in that community (DLD), specifically, because they don't have any recreation facilities.
- The people of DLD would take ownership, but need some type of a community rallying point.
- District wrestling? Do we do all the capital funding? What levels?
- Communities have to be vested at some level. not vested in particular project

Old schoolhouse

Comments from participants:

- The schoolhouse is there – can it be re-purposed, or used?
- There may be possibilities of using the old middle school. Put in a dog park at the old middle school.

FROM CITIZEN: I love the Georgetown ice rink
Dane: We are experimenting with ice rink in Idaho Springs.

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Municipal Partners Summary – Georgetown

System-Wide Master Plan

February, 1, 2011 (1:30 PM)

Participants

Elaine McWain, Chairperson for the Georgetown Park & Recreation Commission (Elaine)
Tom Bennhoff, Mayor (Mayor)
Tom Hale, Town Manager (Tom)

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PMK)
Ken Ballard, Ballard*King (BK)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD (DM)

Introduction:

By Paul Kuhn of Winston Associates (PMK)

- Goal for this master plan is to have a roadmap or vision for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (CCMRD). The CCMRD would like to find a vision, in regards to indoor recreation, outdoor facilities, and programming.
- Question(s) we want to answer:
 - What should CCMRD be planning to do for the next 5, 10, 15 years?
 - What facilities, events, or programming do you use or see from CCMRD?
- Another objective of this focus group is to gain input from different areas of the District to make sure that whatever we bring forward is a result of what the community says. We need to receive that information in a lot of different ways.

Question: How do you work with the District?

Elaine: At one time, the Town and the Recreation District had an IGA to maintain the Town ballfields (Werlin Park).

- There was a t-ball programming there, sponsored by the District
- That was written for to extend for five years and then it was to be renewed. It has not been renewed since.
- In the past, Georgetown would write a letter to the District requesting services (winterization/fertilization) and for sponsoring events (concerts, spring dance, four square dancing, etc.)
 - The letter was due in January and went to the former CCMRD Director.
 - ❖ *Mayor:* How to did you decide what to include in the letter?
 - ❖ *Elaine:* The Park & Recreation Commission discussed priorities and came to agreement. There typically was no outreach.
 - In 2009, the Town held a public meeting about how best to use Werlin Park. They still have that information and they recently wrote a grant for a Werlin Park projects.

- The Park & Recreation Commission is appointed by Town Board and is strictly an advisory body.
 - It makes budget request to the Town Board for parks maintenance, Christmas decorations for the Town, fireworks for July 4th, etc.
 - Certain maintenance occurs automatically (water, electric bills, etc.)
 - The budget is for Park & Recreation Commission is part of the general fund.
 - Parks and Recreation has a part-time employee in the summer (May-October). The park and recreation seasonal maintenance person's job is to maintain the parks through the summer.
 - The Town puts a bid for flowers (streetlights on Argentine Street, flower beds, etc)
- Parks in Georgetown:
 - Werlin Park: The District comes in and aerates the park and fertilizes and the Town mows.
 - Werlin Park was named for resident that recently died (Otto Werlin). Lived in Georgetown for 50 years and lived across from the park – contributed in many ways to the park over his lifetime.
 - The District constructed an ice rink in the park this winter that is extremely popular
 - City Park which includes Foster's Place – a universal access playground
 - Anderson Park - belongs to the Historic Association and maintained by that group.
 - Strauss Park - across from library park
 - Library Park – includes a stage, maintained by library
 - Triangle Park – swings and a play structure
 - Basketball/Multi-Purpose Court - Tennis Court - CCMRD recently did maintenance to that.

Question: History of the Town's relationship with District:

- *Mayor:* When the District was first promoted and election to establish the District held, Georgetown participated and voted for it. The concern at that time was -- where are the services going to be centered? There were concerns about Georgetown "getting it's the bang for the buck" because major facilities may be in Idaho Springs. Then, the Recreation District became what it is now with the Recreation Center in Idaho Springs. At one time, Georgetown had a booming baseball program. For whatever reason, it dwindled away. In those years, the coaches would go to Recreation District and ask for help with maintenance and the District usually helped. After a while there began to be concerns that the Town was not getting its proportional share of the District's revenue. With tennis court and other improvements by the District, residents began to feel that they were getting a percentage of what they are putting in.
 - In regards to the Town having a plan, 5-7 years ago, the Town conducted a town-wide survey with some questions regarding recreation. To the best of my

knowledge, that's the only survey completed for recreation. Not sure how much insight it's the resident's "wants" the survey would offer.

- o One thing the Town feels is critical is to have a Georgetown resident on the CCMRD Board.

(DM): The District's bylaws don't mandate that there be geographic representation on the Board.

- Mayor: Important that an attempt is made to keep a Georgetown resident (through an appointment?) on the Board -- communication-wise, it is the right thing to do.
 - o The District's elections often go unnoticed due to their scheduling

Mayor: Recently, there has been more communication/discussion and thinking about things. The Parks and Recreation Commission is one reason and the other is the new CCMRD director. They have seen a change recently with new administrator -- positive change.

(KB): Georgetown has invested in parks and recreation over the years. Do you see the way its set up continuing, being different, changed?

Elaine: Had a family game night at Werlin Park in summertime for 3 - 4 years which was directed by a volunteer. It was very popular but lost the volunteer due to scheduling conflicts. They would hope to have room in the budget some day to have someone fill that role, but no funds available at this time -- a possibility for new partnership with CCMRD? Also sees opportunities for volleyball, horseshoes, and croquet.

- Have two exercise classes at Community Center sponsored by CCMRD.

Mayor: The Town put 15K into a fund as seed money to do trail and bridge around Georgetown Lake. They have worked on a number of concept plans over the years. Current estimate is that it would cost approximately \$200,000 to construct the trail and associated amenities.

- This type of recreation is used by, and benefits everyone.
- It has always been a problem to get people off the highway and stop in Georgetown
- Recreation and business go together -- recreation opportunities are one way to attract people. Putting the trail around the lake is a good marriage of business and recreation. Response has been positive.
- The CCMRD could be a partner in that project. If we can do things like that, it is long-lasting, multi-beneficial and can be phased.
- Another potential trail goes through Georgetown into Gunilla Pass. Beneficial to longer term approaches.

Elaine: See the Recreation District as resource to help address needs.

- Georgetown has asked about adding public bathrooms in the parks could the CCMRD help here?
- Become an educational/information resource?
- Perhaps a partner on trails, restroom facilities?

(DM): Has heard people mention the idea of building a facility like the Evergreen Lake House at Georgetown Lake, plus bike trails, etc. Those are phenomenal 15-year suggestions that could happen with enough community support.

- Mayor: With the Recreation District is involved in projects like that, chances of completing them sooner increase. Maybe the Henderson Mine could be a partner, and perhaps GOCO.
 - o Georgetown owns the property around the lake, so jurisdiction is not a problem
 - o Would want to think carefully about when to go to GOCO. There is political leverage in partnerships for open space and trails.

Tom: Is there a place for a restroom in the two parks being considered? Could restrooms go into building?

- Have also heard requests for horseshoes in Werlin Park but they have no master plan for the Town. What are the priorities? That's what I hope comes out of your plan.

Elaine: Some of the suggestions/priorities for Georgetown that she's heard include:

- The trail around lake
- Sprinkler system at City Park
- Address the problems with trees in City Park, remove stumps
- Enclosing Werlin Park totally: the existing fences have holes allowing dogs so escape. Off-leash dogs are allowed in Werlin Park. It's the only one in the Town. Dog owners are responsible for clean-up
- Open space park at Clear Creek Drive that is staffed by a volunteer
- They do have a volunteer clean up days each year. Feel responsibility for trails, keep clean, etc.

Elaine: The Park and Recreation Commission maintains a list of potential park improvements they want to address which includes some of the items mentioned above (she provided a copy, which is attached at the end of this document). Other improvements:

- Picnic tables, grills, new lights, and gazebo repair/enhancements in City Park
- Volleyball and horseshoes at Werlin Park
- Signage and cones for the ice rink management
- Wetlands

Mayor: Every Saturday/Sunday Georgetown Lake is used for ice four-wheeling.

Heavy used lake in winter.

- Requires a permit
- School bus drivers also practice on ice.
- Summer use very high: up to 500 people fishing at one time. We are supplied fish to stock the lake
- Recreationally, when people think about us -- they think about ice racing and fishing, which is just part of our recreation base. We haven't tapped in to the potential of summer use in the Town.

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- o There is an untapped marked for 4-wheeling. Each year there is a national 4-wheel drive event held (300-400 people attend)
- o Could do a better job of listing of opportunities for 4-wheel driving in the County. Developing sources on recreation resources benefits everyone. Should look at getting that information consolidated (not just 4-wheeling)
- People often overlook the relationship between skiing and Georgetown: cross-country skiing, snowshoeing -- this should be included/highlighted in the County/District.
- Need to think of recreation globally, in the big picture.

(KB): Should the District focus on attracting visitors? How much time and effort should be spent for the I-70 demographic?

- Mayor: Feels it very important. The special events do a great job of attracting visitors:
- Mount Evans ascent in mid-June
 - The Slacker half-marathon from Loveland area to Georgetown (includes a 5 K as well)
 - One from Georgetown to Idaho Springs, the school booster club
 - Ride the Rockies ends in Georgetown this year
 - The Triple Bypass (through Clear Creek County, west slope and back)
 - All bring in more dollars to the community and new opportunities.
 - o Have bike racks throughout each municipality -- that's inviting people in.

(KB) Is there a need for a special events coordinator?

Mayor: No, the County seems to be handling special event coordination.

Tom: there isn't someone looking for other potential events

(KB): Between facilities that the county and cities run, what role do you see the District play in maintaining facilities?

- Mayor: Like everyone else, the Recreation District has limited resources. Try to do everything -- and nothing gets done. Sees a consolidated approach to maintenance working best.
- The prioritization should come from public. The survey is essential, because those are people that use the recreation. Surveys can be skewed, however, has to be really sound.
 - (PMK) Information on priorities can also come from public meetings as well as the focus groups

Tom: What is the outline for the District's service plan? Are we duplicating our efforts, double taxing anything? How does this get reflected in the IGA or in coordinating major projects?

- That should be part of the master plan and first steps for implementation.

(KB): what should be the long-term vision for the role of the District?

Mayor: In the context of getting it done sooner, he sees Henderson getting involved. Coordinate the efforts to have most efficient process.

- Because the Recreation District is the only entity which has recreation as its only business, it should lead the county in coordination for that area

(PMK): So if the District has limited financial resources, where should it go: park construction, maintenance, programs, etc.?

Mayor: He uses the Recreation Center a lot. If things are working, don't de-emphasize that, or move in another direction. Start with what you have that works. Keep the Recreation Center and it should be the primary focus. That was the original intent.

- If the resources are available, expand from there.
- Stabilize the recreation centers, they don't have to have as much reserve budget, they can be allocated otherwise.

Elaine: Hate to see people take on more than they can maintain: maintenance, maintenance, maintenance! How do we maintain what we already have? Maintenance is a major component and the Town is having trouble keep up with maintaining its facilities.

(DM): how has the Recreation District done on maintaining those that they took responsibility for?

Tom: the Recreation District goes beyond what they have to do. The reconstruction of the retaining wall in Werlin Park -- the Recreation District contributed at least half of what the original estimate was.

Tom: Economic opportunity: Are there opportunities that we are missing for hosting recreational events (like Vail shootout). Would like parks that would bring people here or potential events like bike races. Is there something in Nebraska that Colorado isn't doing yet?

(PMK): Is there sometimes a backlash to a focus on attracting visitors?

Mayor: Yes there is sometimes. Triple Bypass, coming back through Clear Creek County goes through by the Georgetown Loop Railroad (a very small corner). The Loop Railroad folks didn't want them to go through that part. If it's big, attention gets paid, someone is going to see some disadvantage.

(DM): Do you see the Recreation District's role might be to coordinate those extra events? Or is that city/town's role?

Elaine: Maybe the District could be a resource to highlight special events, encouraging people to participate? Georgetown has promotions commission

- Resource idea: Should District put out a publication that tells you recreational opportunities throughout the County? A one-stop index.

- Strengthen the educational experience of the wetlands? Can Recreation District help with that?

Mayor: The District should not be providing everyday planning for special events.

- Participating with the wetlands is an opportunity. It's owned by Barry Trust. There is a strip by the lake that is wetlands
- Perhaps create an educational fishing opportunity.
- Role of District: Here are the potential partners, here are the resources. Maybe host a county-wide recreational summit. The Recreation District could be the "guiding light" ("That's our Recreation District, they are working for us")

Elaine: That was my feeling when joining the Parks and Recreation Commission. However, some in Georgetown are not convinced. Someone even worked out a spreadsheet to show that the Town was not getting its share.

- Doesn't agree. For example: The Werlin Park wall. Couldn't have done it without the Recreation District.

(PMK): Was/is there sign that says Recreation District contributed?

- Elaine: No sign, giving recognition.

(DM): There were newspaper articles though. That also happened with the ice rink.

- Regarding the ice rink: Georgetown manages, Recreation District bought all the equipment
- All maintained by volunteers
- Have even secured used skates for rentals
- The ice rink was an experiment that seems to be working. Ice rink wasn't even functional until after Christmas.

(DM): Thinks this could be a role going forward for the District. It could be a provider of support for the city and towns. The ice rink was the first test of this process.

- Buying 10 x 10 canopies, bouncy castles, etc.
- Have a pool of equipment supplies, and when a city or town wants to have a festival, they can come to Recreation District as resource.

(KB): Any other issues?

(DM): The Recreation center annex in Georgetown?

Elaine: I don't know how much it's used. People are willing to drive to Idaho Springs, but it can be a tough drive. Thinks people would love to have a lap pool in Georgetown

Tom: The more amenities you have in a community, the more attractive it becomes, more it fosters a sense of community.

- Would advise against: building a golf course though

February 1, 2011

7

CCMRD System-Wide Master Plan

Mayor: Could be an opportunity for an annex if there was a place that was already available that could benefit both the Town and the District. Building a new annex from scratch would be too costly. I think you have already existing facilities available such as school property -- especially during the summer.

(DM): Concerned about people asking for a large indoor recreation annex in Georgetown. Not sure how to respond if this comes up during the master plan

Mayor: He would much rather see expansion of current Recreation Center than a new annex

Elaine: The Town has a big senior population. Maybe use the existing facilities in Georgetown to provide more programming, especially for seniors. She would like to get youth out of electronic world and outdoors, perhaps with winter programs.

(DM): what is the difference between the Town's and District's programming?

- The Parks and Recreation Commission can't maintain what it has. The Town couldn't add more programs.

February 1, 2011

8

CCMRD System-Wide Master Plan

Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix

System-Wide
District Master Plan

Long Range Plan for Georgetown Parks Improvements

Park	Project	Action	Person	Time Line/Progress
City	sprinkler system/\$10 to \$15,000 /step 1, remove stumps and roots/step 2, remove some trees	remove stumps and roots	Elaine M	stump removal chemicals on hand/ask R&B to use
	4 - 6 new grills on north end	Purchase/ask R&B to install	Stacey to get estimates / Elaine to submit to Masons	February meeting
	replace grill on center fireplace	take measurements	P&R	February
	repair gazebo bottom step	Talk to Tom Hale		
	provide historic 5-light standards	check dark sky, wattage/visit DRC/work with Cindy Neely and Excel	Elaine Mc to get dark sky ordinance and meet with Peter regarding his grant ideas for Excel	
	budget annual maintenance of Foster's	\$500		2012 budget
	modrnize gazebo electricity	\$175	Beth	in progress
	provide under gazebo storage	check possibilities	Beth	in progress

Werlin	ice rink laminated signage/usage tracking	define rules/sandwich board and cones for rink closure	park and rec	March, 2011
	install volley ball and horseshoe		who	spring 2011
	fence enclosures	choose contractor/solicit further donation	estimates for fence due Jan 31	Feb-01
	move benches inside fence	revisit	P&R	R & B ?

	Werlin Park sign		Werlin Family	in progress
	Rules sign	define rules	P&R	by March 2011
	storage	ask DRC/tuff shed	Ryan	soon
	grading & reseeding	revisit		spring
Strouss	place flagstone	ask Tom Hale		R&B?
	repair gutter system	postpone		
All Purpose	skateboard equipment	\$3,800		not a priority
Triangle	relocate bench		R&B?	
Lake	fix falling chains	ask Tom Hale	R&B?	
	begin phase one of trail	monitor current plan		
Greenway/83	design plan to include trails through and connections with Silver Creek, All Purpose.Tennis and CC Drive, placement of picnic tables, educational signage and designated fishing areas	Continue to sponsor trail clean up days/research trail/open space designers		
Old School House	design plan with footbridge	work with Peter		
Public Restrooms	cleaning service for Lake	not feasible		
	City/Werlin	renew plan/begin grant writing		
	Strouss	C Abrahamson has plan		

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Municipal Partners Summary – Clear Creek County

System-Wide Master Plan
February 1, 2011 (3:00 PM)

Participants:

Pete Helseth, Evergreen (Open Space Commission)
Frank Young, Silver Plume (Open Space Commission)
Martha Tableman, Georgetown (Clear Creek County Open Space)
Peggy Stokstad, Georgetown (CCEDC)
Tom Breslin, Georgetown (County Administrator)
Hal Wahlborg, Georgetown (Open Space Commission)
Tim Mauck, Idaho Springs (County Commissioner)
Beth Luther, (CCMRD Board Member)

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PMK)
Ken Ballard, Ballard*King (BK)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD (DM)

Introduction:

- By Paul Kuhn of Winston Associates (PMK)
- Goal for this master plan is to have a roadmap or vision for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (CCMRD). The CCMRD would like to find a vision, in regards to indoor recreation, outdoor facilities, and programming.
 - Question(s) we want to answer:
 - What should CCMRD be planning to do for the next 5, 10, 15 years?
 - What facilities, events, or programming do you use or see from CCMRD?
 - Another objective of this focus group is to gain input from different areas of the District to make sure that whatever we bring forward is a result of what the community says. We need to receive that information in a lot of different ways.

Trails

- County Open Space owns a parcel on an oxbow along Clear Creek, where the creek horseshoes in the northeast corner of the county (at tunnel 5 on US-6). Open Space just contracted with a Denver consulting firm do develop a trail alignment through that property and to adjacent properties.
- Silver Creek trail in Georgetown is good for hiking and mountain biking. Locals make the biking trail more rugged (by making ramps, etc.). The trail head is marked. It is at Georgetown, near the bottom of the lake.

Question: Is there a unified trail map online?

Responses from participants:

- There is not one map depicting trails in Clear Creek County. Only available maps are commercially made ones from Trails Illustrated. The biking/hiking map for Idaho Springs and Georgetown is very good.
- There is an overflow parking lot across the road from the Lawson water park

Question: How do the district (CCMRD) and the Open Space Commission interact?

Responses from Participants:

- The primary mission for the Open Space Commission is to preserve lands. But, in the Clear Creek corridor, we are focusing on the Greenway. That involves constructing facilities, such as the Whitewater Park—which the Open Space Department contracted with Recreation District to maintain because of lack of resources.

The Commission

- The Open Space Commission is an 11-member volunteer board, with one paid coordinator (Martha)
- As the Recreation District looks at recreation facilities in County, and ways to attract people to them, there are lots of potential areas of overlap with our mission as well.
- The Commission is responsible for the Greenway which goes all the way through the county, assorted recreation activities, and giving people access to allow them to move through the county.
- The Open Space Commission is an arm of the County government; it is appointed by the County Commissioners.
- Based on the mission statement for the Open Space Commission, we are primarily interested in land or wild land preservation for various reasons: for recreation, watershed, wildlife habitat, community separation, and future PAC lands (example: Elks Mountain above Idaho Springs). We can see the need for recreation lands in the future, and that we should look ahead for future needs, not just immediate ones.

The Greenway

- The Open Space Commission produced and paid for the Greenway Plan. In the plan, we see a combo of open space and planning, linking to the various trails in the municipalities and on Forest Service lands, especially in the west end of the county. The Greenway plan is the overall comprehensive plan for a greenbelt throughout the county. We attempted to compile each municipality’s trails plan and the Forest Service trails plan, and attempted to identify land which could be purchased to tie those trails into the Greenway Plan.
- Regarding formal recreation on open space--We are looking at dispersed recreation on open space, not fixed facilities like ballfields, soccer fields, or skateboard parks. Those would be the responsibility of the District or County. We expect to mesh lots of activities.
- There is the kayak park as part of the Greenway (the Lawson Whitewater Park).



- At the Phil Mills site this summer, we are constructing Fishing is Fun facility, with ADA-accessibility to the edge of the creek. It will have restrooms and a picnic shelter.
- We don't want to get into organized parks. We need to coordinate Open Space and District facilities. We are anticipating another Recreation District IGA for maintenance.
- We'd like to have an open space map.

Maintenance

- The Open Space Commission doesn't own land—it just manages County-owned land.
- Trail and trailhead maintenance is also an issue. We need to somehow find a way get more attention paid trail maintenance, parking, etc. It's a real struggle for Clear Creek County.
- In Summit County, the people who maintain the roads and bridges also maintain the bike ways.

Recreation Ideas

- It is important to coordinate our approach to recreation.
- We need to create a recreation-based economy. Clear Creek County has an abundance of recreation resources:
 - Exceptional fishing
 - Trails of all types
 - Rock climbing
 - Mountain biking
 - Four 14ers
 - Alpine lakes
 - Rafting
- Jefferson County is working on extending their trail system to Clear Creek County.
- Clear Creek County is a critical connection, linking the other mountain cities and counties to the Denver Metro Area.
- We should look at creation a Greenway Foundation for fundraising
- Imagine the events that we could have!
 - E.g. start at top of Loveland Pass, and have a Coors at end of day
- We need to take on those opportunities.
- As far as rafting goes, Clear Creek is the second busiest river in Colorado (after the Arkansas River).
- We need to consider the quality of life for residents.
- Folks from Denver, these days, are more interested in driving less, and playing more.
- Idaho Springs could do more mountain bike trails
- Ice climbing is a possibility
- Coordination is a big problem for county-wide events
- We also need to locate and attract a younger population

Question (PMK): As far as encouraging special events, which entity is the best suited to do that? The Evergreen Triple Bypass is an example of such a special event. This would need an organizationally savvy person to coordinate.

- Permitting, right now, has to come from each agency; there is no single point of contact for event planning.
- Need to attract more support industries for special events
- We have events at the/we could have events at the whitewater park. Folks going to the Golden rodeos are going up to the Lawson rodeo site for the afternoon and cowboying there for fun.

Question (Ken): Events could be done to attract people from the Front Range. But there is currently no central coordinating agency? Is that something that needs to be done?

- Special events aren't working the way it is. We had talked about getting together to figure the actual money spent and look how to form a central marketing arm. People don't know what's here and that has to change. We could leverage our dollars and do some marketing (on cable TV, in print, or on the internet). We need a broad-base marketing effort. We need to approach marketing as an entire county, not as individual communities.
- The County is participant in marketing.
- Clear Creek County website needs to be redesigned. I don't want to miss any opportunities to snatch people. People visiting the website need to see everything on recreation.
 - The Forest Service website is miserable from recreation standpoint, it's all in pieces.
 - There is not one consolidated resource.
- There is the Fishing Clear Creek TV show. Fishing is improving as Clear Creek County improves water quality. But those spots for public access aren't identified, which invites unanticipated conflicts with land owners.

Question (Dane): Provided a brief summary of CCMRD's role. Who programs the fishing tournaments? And the Whitewater Park?

- On the west end of county, it's a cooperative management group, comprised of the Historic District and Public Land Committee. The public and non-profit people that own/manage lands own approximately 2000 acres; owners include Georgetown, Silver Plume, DOW, Clear Creek County, and Historic Georgetown Inc.
- There needs to be rules and regulations for non-motorized hiking trails
- Open Space Commission has been handing out trail maps and handling trail maintenance without involvement from the Recreation District. The Open Space Commission predates the Recreation District, but trails/events could be another opportunity for cooperation.
- There are opportunities for events such as snowshoeing
- Everything is fragmented. We should take advantage of each department's monies and strengths.

Question (PMK): What should the District's focus be? Indoor, outdoor, or programming?

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- They started one way and it was focused on facilities and programs. It has always been the same, but I can see the door opening to other opportunities. How can we leverage with what they bring to the table?
- There needs to be some paradigm-shifts regarding the Recreation District, maybe it needs to expand into other areas related to recreation.

Question from Participant:

- What about tax dollars and revenue? What does the District have room for?
- Response and question (from Dane): The neat thing is, now that the Recreation District has paid off the Recreation Center bond, their revenue is steady and they are debt-free. This is what is driving the Master Plan: What do we do now?
- *Response from participant:* We need to know the difference between School District and Recreation District programs.
 - Question (from Dane): Is there a good area of focus?
 - There is/could be a strong relationship between the School District and the District, focusing on youth and team programs.

Question (KB): What is Recreation District’s role in youth and recreation programming? Youth facilities?

- If the Recreation District can expand the programs, the open space groups could provide the venue for the event.
- The Open Space Commission uses 60% of its budget for purchase, and 40% for management.
- Management of the pine beetles is an issue
- Currently, anything above a couple grand needs a grant.
- The Lawson Whitewater Park is 80% federally funded.
- We need to leverage funds with grants.
- The Greenway requires other funding
- The Open Space Commission is 11 years old, it spent the first 6-7 years preserving property
- The Whitewater Park was first open space facility that has been built. Programming is the role of the Recreation District or the Historical Board.
- We need an entity to manage the Greenway, once constructed, since multi-jurisdictional management does not work well.
- The job requires savvy with money and fundraising.

Question (KB): What are the services you want from the Recreation District? Are we going to be able to have population growth? Bring in youth?

- The School District is losing kids. Will the Recreation District be able to continue to support historically-provided recreation activities that would attract younger families?
- We should use the mountain setting to attract younger families.

Question (PMK): What do you think the county has in place to attract and keep families?

- A lot of people pass Clear Creek County on the road to recreate in other counties in the same ways that they could recreate in this county. We have all of the recreational amenities—including: rock and ice climbing; fishing; mountain biking trails, trail running, hiking trails, etc.; and access points to 14ers.
- The Greenway is providing an anchor. When you think of Colorado what you think of is recreation.

Question (PMK): Who's maintaining trails now?

- Maintenance has been ad hoc. Someone in Empire has sweeper.
- Some trails along streets are maintained by those who maintain the roads and bridges.
- Idaho Springs maintains the trails in their town.
- Hiking trail(s) in Georgetown are/is maintained by the Historic District/ Public Lands Commission.
- A Greenway Foundation needed.
- CBAT has a critical mass of funding.
- We are re-opening the Wagon Wheel Trail.
- Maintenance is paid for by member groups.
- A grant is helping.

Question: Should the Recreation District be responsible for trail maintenance?

- I’m not sure, but there certainly is a need.
- Maybe they could manage volunteer maintenance.

Off Road Trails and Vehicles

- There are Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) issues, but they’re due to lack of coordination.
- We need to produce routes/maps for OHVs and be responsible for the routes.
- Will the Mile-Hi Jeep Club do maintenance? It has in the past.
- Clear Creek County was developed with small sections of mining districts and claims. This could be an opportunity for “auto touring”, using the jeep roads to tell the history.
- The only areas really used by OHVs are Herman’s Gulch and the trail to Gray’s Peak/Torrey’s Peak, and they’re mobbed.
- The community here is hearty, a quality that the resort towns don't have. It’s unique.
- For years, the Forest Service was the main provider of recreation, but that has changed. The local ranger district only focused on two main issues: Mount Evans and the trail up Steven’s Gulch to Gray’s and Torrey’s Peak.
 - Forest Service is hesitant to provide for OHV use.
- Most of the use of OHVs occurs on Forest Service land, but the Forest Service does not own land all the way down to the highway.

Question: Are OHVs allowed on county open space?

- Yes, unless specifically designated otherwise.

Final Comments from Participants:

- The most important thought/theme of the meeting: Cooperation.
- The Recreation District should look at being a non-traditional recreation district.
- The District needs to figure out how to grow and progress.

Focus Group Summary –Georgetown/Silver Plume
System-Wide Master Plan
February 1, 2011 (4:30 PM)

Participants:

Elaine McWain, Georgetown Parks and Recreation Commission
Hal Wahlborg, Georgetown
Robert Smith, Georgetown
Mark Reynolds, Georgetown
Pamela Strena, Georgetown
Tom Wilson, Georgetown
Craig Abrahamsen, Georgetown
Tom Bennhoff, Mayor of Georgetown
Paul Dalpes, (CCMRD Board President)
Beth Luther (CCMRD board)

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PMK)
Ken Ballard, Ballard, Ballard*King (BK)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD (DM)

Introduction:

- By Paul Kuhn of Winston Associates (PMK)
- Goal for this master plan is to have a roadmap or vision for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (CCMRD). The CCMRD would like to find a vision, in regards to indoor recreation, outdoor facilities, and programming.
 - Question(s) we want to answer:
 - What should CCMRD be planning to do for the next 5, 10, 15 years?
 - What facilities, events, or programming do you use or see from CCMRD?
 - Another objective of this focus group is to gain input from different areas of the District to make sure that whatever we bring forward is a result of what the community says. We need to receive that information in a lot of different ways.

Question (PMK): How well are the recreation facilities/amenities meeting the needs of the County residents?

- In 30 years, not much has changed. We have a new Recreation Center that is too small, but the ballfields look the same, and the Recreation Center equipment is archaic. Ballfields have not improved since 1980. We need to focus on families with kids and get kids involved in recreation. For the county we are, the facilities fall short. Right now, citizens go to Silverthorne a lot for their recreation center. Their auditorium “rocks”.
- A long-term plan needs to look at new capital investments; trailheads are a good facility to improve; make the Recreation Center better. Time to identify the next project.
- Need a healthy recreation mix for all ages

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Question from Participant: What type of approach are you thinking? How much do we focus on the visitor? How extensive is the CCMRD approach? What is the mission statement and goals? Identify amenities to focus on that benefit both the visitor and resident. That clarity would help and is lacking right now.

Question (KB): How/if we serve the visitor population is a question we have for you. What role does the District have in providing services and facilities for the residents and visitors? The goal for this master plan will be to establish, clear priorities and an action plan that charts a course for the near future, based on community input.

Question from Participant: How active does this group or the CCMRD Board want to be in aggressively pursuing that funding? Is it grant-based? What type of follow through will occur? Is the CCMRD Board willing to commit time and energy too?

- **Response (PMK):** We want to make sure that we don't build facilities that we can't maintain and the District will need to look for partnerships, cooperation, etc. They will need the forethought to see that new improvements are well maintained.

Comment from Participant: Following up on emphasis about attracting outside visitors. Do we want our tax dollars to go towards funding something that is designed for visitors' (OHV, jeep club)? Would that be an issue?

- **Mayor:** Initially, we should find ones that fit both needs. The resistance would be less and positive response the greatest. Grant-wise, you are also more competitive.
- A significant portion of the population recognizes that funding the improvements identified in this master plan will come from our extraction based economy (the Henderson mine) and that recreation tourism (recreational, preservation-based) will be our long-term bread and butter. Most amenities or programs designed to attract a visitor will also be attractive to locals. The fees for facilities and programs could differentiate between locals and visitors.

Comment from Participant: Since Dane's arrival things have perceptibly improved especially in the amount, quality, and consistency of programming.

Comment from Participant: My top priorities for master plan are:

- Long-term fiscal plan from capital and operational perspective
- Trailheads are needed, capital improvements slightly emphasized.
- The Recreation District was established for the Recreation Center. And we should make it better. What is the next big capital project?
- We go to Silverthorne frequently they have a regular pool and older kid facilities, their natatorium "rocks".

Comment from Participant: We need a healthy recreation mix for all ages and the full range of economic diversity we see in the county.

- Love the ice rink. A small thing that made a big difference

Comments from CCMRD

- **Paul D. (Chairman of CCMRD board):** As a Board, we have to recognize disconnect between CCMRD and city/towns and we are trying to bridge the gap - like with the ice skating rink, and the wall at Werlin Park. Those types of projects are a show of good faith from the Board to show the community that we want everyone working together. One of the Board's priorities for the master plan is to get everyone on the same page.
- **DM:** The CCMRD Board recently adopted a new vision statement: "unite communities through cooperation and recreational development". We feel the ice rink is the first demonstration project for that vision

Comment from Participant: The budget for fire department mil levy appears to have been based on arbitrary figures. I would guess that the original mil levy for the Recreation District was established in a somewhat similar way. The master plan should look at the current basis of funding and determine if it is adequate to provide future services.

Comment from Participant: There lot is missing from a recreation standpoint in Georgetown and the citizens have learned to adapt. There are women working out in the churches. The way to get more support for the bigger projects is to take care of needs of outlying communities. There needs to be more classes in Georgetown, something in Empire and the times of classes need to be convenient. The more CCMRD meets the individual needs to each community, more cooperation they'll get.

Question (Paul D): We want to understand what the citizens of Georgetown/Silver Plume want: more programs, capital improvements, a recreation facility?

- Use existing structures and try and implement a microcosm of the Idaho Springs facility in outlying communities.
- More classes
- The Community Center in Georgetown struggles to stay open, this facility could be an opportunity for expansion
- Each community has something unique to offer
- We don't want to repeat all amenities. A treadmill, free weights, etc. are repeatable and has benefit in any facilities.
- Like the idea of there being unique recreation amenities in each community. But some basic set of amenities and facilities should be fundamental to every facility.

Mayor: How busy is the Community Center during classes? We are an outdoor-oriented county. What about the trail around the Georgetown Lake? That would add a lot to the Town and is a natural fit and its dual-use amenity, benefits visitor and resident alike.

Comment from Participant: I pay my taxes and don't use the Recreation Center, but if we have visitors that use it, their sales tax benefits us, so it's an equal trade in the end. As a resident, I'd have no problem making it user-friendly. Health and wellness is central to a healthy community, however it's promoted.

- I agree that attracting visitors is important

Question: What about programs and services and special events? How much time and effort should be spent on each?

- Having the Recreation District serve as a facilitator of major events is a good thing, as long as the event is health and wellness related
- Our community assoc. and governmental bodies tend to look at themselves in isolation. Duplicate services, manpower, amenities, effort.
- All special events are run by volunteer boards, takes gumption. See the same people over and over.
- The District could act as a facilitator of discussion to bring collaborations with each other.
- Chili fest, jeepers, bighorn sheep all potential events
- Special events have been discussed at the County Commissioners meetings in the past. It's terribly important to consider a special events coordinator and funding should be shared by County, Recreation District, and other municipalities/organizations. A lot of volunteers are tapped out. It would be valuable to have someone who knows what they're doing, with marketing, people, and fundraising skills.

Question: Funding a position to do that?

- Yes.
- Yes, or supplement an existing position.
 - Not so sure about expanding an existing staff person's job, too often we hear "We're too poor to do it well".
- *DM:* This is a great example of how the County could work together. Why not find someone with background that is best suited to the job. If they have the expertise, they can come from anywhere. Find the right person.

More on Special Events

- The County is prolific with musicians. Use local talent to have concerts that could attract bigger names. Clear Creek County could start at more foundational level. Create a venue would provide an opportunity for energy that is untapped (music-based events).
- Marketing, marketing, marketing. Sell what you do. This goes for both special and regular local events. We have concerts in the park; but stop short in terms of getting the word out there. This is missing.
- We often have conflicting or competing events. Coordination is a problem. Knowing everyone's schedule and having someone be the central is important – like a clearing house on special events. Who is the central, objective party to coordinate? Competing interests; for example Silver Plume doesn't check with Empire when events and the same goes for the other towns.
- There is some coordination with events on Clear Creek County website.
 - One potential role for a coordinator: securing approvals and monies for events.
- Everyone wants to be #1: It's the justification having events/activities. Should be tied to the fact that we are #1 and we are going to stay there. Pride.

- Would like the county to be known as the “high county recreation county” instead of just Summit and Grand. [Strong support among the group for this idea.]

Question: What should CCMRD focus on?

- From an economic standpoint, how do we expand existing facilities given the current economic climate? Need to find inexpensive solutions.
 - What about the old schoolhouse – use to expand facilities
 - Funding new programs in existing facilities is a logical step
 - Programs are first step toward gaining funding and support
- The primary marketing push should be the everyday users.
 - How friendly is the District staff? Every staff person needs to “sell” the District.
 - Maintain emphasis on programs
 - Take advantage of existing infrastructure and enhancing facilities
- Major short-term emphasis should be on trailheads. Trails serve as a crossroads to facilitate recreation activities elsewhere.
 - Improving trailhead at St. Mary's has been needed for years. No bathroom. Poor parking
 - All involve partnerships
- Need to consider rates for use, classes. Senior discounts - is there a way for a SSI or SSDI to get a reduced rate? Are the other segments of the population that need help?
 - *DM:* The Recreation Center is a silver sneakers location and seniors can use if the center at a reduce rate they qualify.
 - *Participant:* Please look at ADA/senior/low income program for funding.
- *Paul D (CCMRD)* Historically, the District has tried to focus more on kids, because they are a foundation for the future. This is important but we don't want to neglect other groups.
- Something needs to be done to improve the Recreation Center. Upgrade what is there.
 - *Participant:* Silverthorne is such a complete experience. CCMRD facility is set up for one experience at a time; could it be made to provide an experience more like that facility? The equipment needs to be upgraded.
 - Priority: Expanding existing facilities is more important than building new facilities.
 - If Recreation Center is to be a showcase, it needs to improve.
 - Classes: expand time and diversity
 - Indoor walking track for seniors – good idea
 - Multi-purpose gym
 - *Paul D. (CCMRD):* Current Idaho Springs Recreation Center is limited by space. The District has considered starting a gymnastics program at the Empire Middle School. The Board has struggled with how we connect the geographically separate communities.

Comment from Participant: Has lived here since 1993. We're all in this together" What's good for Georgetown is good for the county. What is good for the county, is good for all of us"

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Comment from Participant: Tying the District’s vision with that of the School District and the municipalities is an important part of the master plan process. Don’t shoot an idea out of the sky -- prove its unfeasible first.

Question from Participant: What about the middle school, is there a way of tapping into it? It has a nice gym. Use as a commons for aerobic classes. Why isn't that being used? If you can't expand the Recreation Center, expand into an existing facility.

- If the current Recreation Center doesn’t have space to expand look for another space. May need a “gap” facility. The middle school is an idea.
- Are we looking at the middle school?
- *Response from DM:* Regarding the existing facility for Recreation Center, we have:
 - Thought about using the existing bus barn and perhaps the football field for expansion.
 - Or, leasing a portion of the old middle school and partnering with other County agencies to create a multi-community resource. Bring in everyone with a similar community service orientation. Struggling between the two options
 - A 3rd option: working in collaboration with developer of private land to buy the current site in exchange for a new, larger site and build a new facility
 - 4th option: interim, shared use agreement with the school district; youth programs, etc.
- *You're thinking along the right lines and there aren't any boundaries. Pursue all.*
- If you have a plan, identify support. Got to show the vision and buy off on the vision and know it’s attainable.

Question (KB): This is what we've heard. We may have to increase the mil levy to accomplish this, do the members of the county support?

- *Participant:* If it’s a strong vision. Yes.
- Look for grassroots support and complete an honest, objective analysis for the capital improvements projects. Then ask the money question.

Focus Group Summary –Empire/DLD
System-Wide Master Plan
February 1, 2011 (7:00 PM)

Participants:

Susie Filkins, Empire
Terri Burr, Lawson
Connie Marquardt, Empire

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PMK)
Ken Ballard, Ballard*King (BK)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD (DM)

Introduction:

By Paul Kuhn of Winston Associates (PMK) and Ken Ballard of Ballard King (KB):

- Goal for this master plan is to have a roadmap or vision for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (CCMRD). The CCMRD would like to find a vision, in regards to indoor recreation, outdoor facilities, and programming.
- Question(s) we want to answer:
 - What should CCMRD be planning to do for the next 5, 10, 15 years?
 - What facilities, events, or programming do you use or see from CCMRD?
- Another objective of this focus group is to gain input from different areas of the District to really make sure that whatever we bring forward is a result of what the community says. We need to receive that information in a lot of different ways.

Dane Matthew (DM) gave a brief introduction: CCMRD encompasses almost all of the county except for St. Mary's Glacier and Recreation Area and the City of Evergreen. We own the Recreation Center (Recreation Center) in Idaho Springs, lease the Idaho Springs baseball fields, maintain the skateboard park, and multi-purpose/basketball court. In Empire, there is the baseball field. In Georgetown, we maintain the tennis and multi-purpose court, Werlin park fertilization. Over at Floyd Hill, we maintain the park, and own the Elmgreen playground. Also, at Spaghetti Ranch, CCMRD owns 20-30' strip that is ½ mile long between frontage road and creek. This land was given to CCMRD from Clear Creek County.

Question (PMK): What is your overall impression of CCMRD?

- In the past, parents really got programs going. We need to direct a lot of facilities and programming at younger group. If not directed at this group, the activity or trend won’t stick.
- It doesn't matter what sport or activity it is; it’s about the recreation. We don’t need big new locations, redo the ones we have and market the facilities and their programs better. Promote it differently.
- Kids used to take the bus to the Recreation Center



- In regards to marketing it differently, an idea is a Wii or Xbox Kinect contest - give a prize and get people into the Recreation Center. Something that bring kids in and then introduce other things.
- (KB): Recreation trends across the country are seeing traditional sports as a declining trends because of changing interests.

Question: How do you feel about youth/teen centers with more formalized programs?

- This community is broken up by 10 miles, if you could get hooked up with other communities (bus, community, activities), it would make it easier for kids to get to programs.
- In the past, the school was providing bus service, but that was when the school was in the School District, now it's a charter school and the bus system is not as convenient because school/chartered parents pays for it
- Parents need to be more involved
- Need hiking trails
- My kid wants to do basketball, but no transportation after the program is over. I want a place for kids to go and not get into trouble.
- There used to be rollerblade (and volleyball and movie) nights (in Georgetown school), through school-programs (PTA)
- Try finding partnering opportunities with the Georgetown charter school or community school

Question: What other things? What types of things should CCMRD be providing or changing?

- Upgrade Recreation Center - enclosed gym for basketball, volleyball, all year-round
- Upgrade pool with slides

Question: What does expansion of the Recreation Center mean?

- Planned activities in the pool (like at Jefferson County's APEX Recreation Center).
- Slides / splash park for younger kids
- Indoor volleyball with the basketball court, like the current outdoor court, but enclosed.
- Running track
- Warm water pool

Question: As taxpayers, if we approached you with the addition to Recreation Center and includes a, b, and c.... what would you say?

- Why can't we get into and use the schools? Maybe we could use a school gym—keep the door unlocked and set up supervision for it.
- A major issue is transportation for kids. Parents often can drop kids off and shop and don't worry because the kids have supervision. Transportation to/from Idaho springs is an issue. If parents can't pick kids up, they are stuck in Idaho Springs at night.
- Is there growth potential for that building (the Recreation Center building)?
 - (DM): There is small potential to expand facility – mainly the bus barn and the football field

- Other thoughts that have circulated: abandon current center and reutilize old middle school, redo and add aquatic facility onto that. Create a community center - huge megaplex of all community services
- Other thought: abandoning entire Recreation Center footprint, turn it over to developer and they would donate the land next to the ball fields and then build new facility.

- Location comments:
 - Recreation Center is central in town and that makes it safer. Youth needs to stay closer and within city limits.
 - I'm worried about people crossing the highway ramp to get to the Recreation Center
 - Question from participant: Could we put in a pedestrian bridge?
 - Answer: Yes, but a pedestrian bridge is expensive.
- We could have the Recreation Center as an after school bus stop, so students can go there instead of going home by themselves.
- The highest priority is to expand the Recreation Center.
- (KB): If we have bus barn and field available to expand into, things would be better with a continuous facility.

Question from Participant: Could an ice rink be made out of part of the football field?

Responses to participant question from participants:

- Evergreen Lake is full with ice skaters during the winter.
- The Georgetown ice rink has been very well received.
- Need for an ice rink in county is high.
- There is an experimental ice rink in Idaho Springs, but it can only go on the baseball field—and it interferes with spring sports while melting.
- They are now experimenting with an ice rink at the Recreation Center.

Cross-Country Trails

- Cross country trails are needed.
- If the facilities exist people will use them.
- There seems to be no winter sports in Clear Creek County.
- There could be a cross-country ski trail that runs from Bakerville (just above Silver Plume) to Loveland (ski area).

Question: What needs to be changed about the Recreation Center's current fitness room?

- Needs to be bigger.
- Haven't been there, but the pool should be bigger.

Recreation Center Membership

- The county pays for employees' membership at the Recreation Center; Henderson will reimburse membership.

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Question: What other things will attract and keep families coming to the Recreation Center?

- Something to keep kids entertained while I workout. Currently, I have to go to Silverthorne for childcare
- If they had the right amenities, kids could be kept entertained.
- There is currently no babysitting or childcare;
- Having an age-appropriate child area where people working out could watch their children.
- Kids really don't want to watch you work-out; they want to have their own playtime. Childcare might not have to be an all-the-time thing, but the having the option would give parents an opportunity to use the Recreation Center.
- An indoor playground might be an option.
- Gymnastics
- There was a gym, tae kwon do class, and a climbing wall, but those programs dissolved when they built the fitness center and needed the space.
- There was an instructor problem for classes.

Question: How big of a role should the District have in trying to provide services and events, attract tourists/front range folks to Clear Creek County? Is that a role for CCMRD?

- There is a Bluegrass festival in Empire, that CCMRD has lent support to, but nothing substantial.

Comment (DM): For the 2011 budget, we have put aside money for some things that are recommendations from MP.

Response from Participants

- If CCMRD stays involved, then the communication gets to families about what is happening in the community
- We want a Community Center to be the hub of everything, and for community meetings.
- What is the center of the community? Where do I go?
 - The Recreation Center needs to be that place.
 - (KB): We need to acquire more land to make that a possibility.

Question: Ultimately, we can do these things, we can have members of the District build and operate these; but is this sellable to the community?

- It depends on the way it is presented. They will now the balances and trade-offs of ownership.
- People wouldn't support it because they wouldn't use it.
- If those people saw the improvements, would they use it?
- Programming from the elderly

Question: What do you think of the mountain board park?

- It is really cool as long as users clean up after themselves.

Question: What future do you see for the mountain board park?

- No Idea.

Question: Would you like to have a dog park anywhere in the county?

- No Problem
- Great
- Not much use; people have a mentality that, "It's the mountains and I want to let my dog be off-leash."
- People who take their dogs to a dog park will take care of them.

Question: How big should the dog park be? Where should it be located? What activities should take place there?

- Size of an outfield
- Between ball fields
- Dog Park and Flyball activities/ obedience classes

Question: Should the ball field(s) be visible from the highway in order to attract people?

- Yes! (multiple participants)

Question: Opportunities for Playgrounds? There is a Lawson Trust Fund; should we use this to make a park in the Lawson area?

- Most wouldn't walk to park
- Renovate the Dumont Park (by the old school <historic building> on the old road)
- Programming Easter Egg Hunts
- A lot of kids would use it if it was there
- Too much traffic in Lawson
- Joan Drury – Lawson Trust Key
- CCMRD providing maintenance help
- Leverage into GOCO funding to build park

Question: What should be done about Empire Park?

- Put up lights to allow night games
- Have dirt bike races
- Put in soccer fields
- Keep dogs out of park
- Allow RVs into the area only for events (no RV camp)
- I'd hate to see that old ballpark go away.
- Traffic enforcement is lacking on that road (Main Street/Bard Creek Road/County Road)
- It would be awesome to have a decent bathroom at the park
- Good place for events- need events to be attracted to going there
- People don't know the park exists
- Not everyone knows it's there—even some residents (those without kids)

- Question:** Should Empire Park be kept as a baseball field?
- Not necessarily, but no rodeo grounds (not even anywhere in town)
 - Put in a community gym
 - Possibly put in bleachers so that people could watch things at the park
 - Don't want ATV trailer parking (or ATVs) in the area
 - No trash or noise
 - Don't want 200-300 people a week coming there.
 - Don't want people brining vehicles in.
 - No using off-road vehicles (eg. Jeeps).

Municipal Partners Summary – Idaho Springs
System-Wide Master Plan
February 2, 2011 (1:30 PM)

Participants:
Jack Morgan, Mayor
Cindy Condon, City Administrator

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PMK)
Ken Ballard, Ballard*King (BK)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD (DM)

City Budget Crisis

- Mayor:*
- In 2011, we're projecting a \$200,000 short-fall for the City's budget even though we are only going ahead with critical infrastructure projects. Even with that narrow focus we will likely fall short.
 - We will probably have another 2 - 3 years of this budget shortfall.
 - Recreation will be a lower priority for this time.
 - We are getting hit by unfunded mandates from EPA to update the City's water treatment plant (\$300,000).
 - We've had to freeze salaries.
 - Now the State is trying to keep much of grant monies the City normally receives to balance its budget.
 - Our gaming impact monies have also been cut way back.
 - I often see the other governmental entities (such as the District) competing for scarce tax dollars.
 - City does not even have money for matching funds for grant applications.
 - Idaho Springs is holding its own with regards to sales tax revenue.

The Role of Government

- Mayor:* Government in Colorado grew too quickly and now it doesn't have money to maintain itself.
- I see government shrinking in the future.
 - Too many non-essential entities competing for tax dollars - creates tax fatigue.

CCMRD
Question: What do you see as the District's role in the County?

Mayor: We/I have not thought much about the District's role.

Cindy: Citizens in the County/Idaho Springs are lucky to have CCMRD, it allows for better maintenance of recreation facilities.

<i>Introduction</i>
<i>Existing Conditions</i>
<i>Public Input</i>
<i>Goals and Objectives</i>
<i>Recommendations</i>
<i>Implementation</i>
<i>Appendix</i>
<i>System-Wide District Master Plan</i>

Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- The District really needs to look at upgrading the skate park, although part of the problem is that it is too far from kids.

School District Bus Barn

Mayor:

- The School District will need to replace the bus barn, and probably won't have the money, because it is financially strapped as well.

The Middle School and Recreation Center Properties/ I-70

Mayor: I'd suggest leveling the middle school and then selling the property it's on.

- The middle school is 90,000 square feet.
- It could probably only be re-used for a college/university.
- I don't see it as a commercial site.
- It might become a government building.

Cindy: In general, she would prefer commercial uses for both the middle school and the Recreation Center. Both could be valuable tax revenue sources for the City.

- Another option would be to convert the middle school to a recreation center and county offices—the county is trying to find space for some of its functions.
- Or it maybe could be used by CDOT or the State Patrol might be able to use the building.
- The proposed I-70 monorail is a \$16 billion project.
 - If it was constructed, it would make the land around the middle school and Recreation Center very valuable

Expansion of the Recreation Center

Mayor: The City doesn't want any non-tax paying entity to expand in the City's core/business district.

- Vacating the road between the Recreation Center and the Bus Barn to allow the Center to expand would create problems with serving future commercial establishments, so the City would strongly oppose such a suggestion.

CCMRD's purpose

Cindy:

- Sees indoor recreation is a big need for county residents.
- Also, the economic base of the county is tourism; therefore, we also need facilities that will attract tourists.

Mayor: The County has a small population, so it is difficult to fund projects which require lots of capitol.

- He sees the District focusing on residents' needs.
- Helping with events could also be a role for the CCMRD.
 - Anything that brings people to the County is a benefit, especially if there is a recreation connection.

- The City would be unable to participate in funding special events or an events coordinator due to its current budget constraints
 - We did start a Farmer's Market, and that was successful.

CCMRD Support of the City

Cindy: The City would take any help on maintenance it could get.

- Even help with organizing or clean-up day, would be appreciated (e.g. spring clean-up day for the bike path).
- Rely a lot on in-kind services for man-power

Question (DM): Where do you see the greatest recreation need in Idaho Springs: youth, teens, or seniors?

Cindy: There is probably more need for senior-oriented recreation facilities.

Demographics

Mayor: Idaho Springs is lacking affordable housing.

- From 2000 to 2010, Idaho Springs has lost 200 people, and the entire county has lost 400.

Long Range Planning

Cindy: We need a work session with Council to discuss any change to the tennis court and what we should do with the multi-purpose court.

- We are looking at re-doing Colorado Blvd., which could impact the community garden area as well.
- A skate park would be a good use for the tennis court site if the tennis court was removed.
- The city owns the old sewer plant site and that could be a resource for recreation amenities.
 - Perhaps a put in/takeout point for rafters.
- I see the parks along Colorado Boulevard as only being for recreation.
- I could also see moving the rodeo to a new location.

Municipal Partners Summary – Floyd Hill
System-Wide Master Plan
February 2, 2011 (3:00 PM)

Participants:

Chip Rich, Floyd Hill HOA

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PMK)
Ken Ballard, Ballard*King (BK)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD (DM)

Chip: Serves on the Floyd Hill HOA and is a member of SOLVE. Regarding SOLVE

- SOLVE watches the County Commissioners
- Two of the 3 County Commissioners are pro-development, one of which is Kevin O’Malley, Tim Mock is not as much pro-development.
- SOLVE feels development does not pay its own way, if you take into account the cost of infrastructure.
- There is lots of empty commercial and business square footage that wouldn’t require building new infrastructure.
- There are multi-million dollar homes on Floyd Hill (some of which are empty)
- We see growth on both sides of Floyd Hill

Other

- Elmgreen Park is well used and appreciated.
- I have 3 kids, 2 are school-age. They go swimming at Evergreen and Golden

All subsequent comments by Chip unless noted:

Floyd Hill Tendencies

- Floyd Hill residents are used to going east (to Evergreen/Golden) for everything (church, groceries, etc.)
- Evergreen’s Wulf Recreation has transportation support from the school to the center. Makes it easy for parents to use the facility.
- King Murphy Elementary is in Clear Creek County. It is one of the top school(s) in the state. The school is beautiful, and is only about a 25 minute drive from Floyd Hill.
- Floyd Hill would certainly like its own recreation center, but I understand that such a recreation center is probably not feasible.
- My pie-in-the-sky thoughts—expand this building (Idaho Springs Recreation Center). My kids love the aquatics facilities. If you can get the kids to the Recreation Center, parents will follow. Silverthorne and Golden have good examples of full service recreation centers

Travel from Floyd Hill

The CCMRD Recreation Center is actually closest to the Floyd Hill residents

- It takes about 7-10 minutes to get to Idaho Springs (Recreation Center)
- 17 minutes to get to Wulf Recreation Center
- 10-12 minutes to get to Buchanan Recreation Center (Evergreen).

Recreation facilities

- All my kids want to go to a recreation centers with a good aquatics facility.
- Idaho Springs has a reputation (from other county residents and especially Floyd Hill) of being a trailer park community.
- If enhancements were made to the Recreation Center, kids would want to go.
- I’ve never used the weight room.
- Need to do a better job of marketing the CCMRD and the Recreation Center.
 - Thought the “After Prom” event held at the Center was a step in the right direction and well received.

Transportation (2)

- Transportation for after school programs and events is a BIG issue.
- Floyd Hill Middle School kids want to go to Jefferson County. They want to stay with Jefferson County schools because they know the kids in Jefferson County schools.
- The middle school used to be in Idaho Springs, and that brought Floyd Hill families to town.
- Now parents with middle school-age kids head east to drop kids off at school.

CCMRD

- The Floyd Hill population does understand they are paying for CCMRD.
- They don’t pay the out-of-district costs for the recreation centers in Evergreen. They pay a resident rate in CCMRD.
 - The Floyd Hill population would not be concerned with paying an out-of-district charge in Evergreen in the future, because they are generally affluent (\$300,000/house). There are \$600,000 homes in Bear Creek residential area, but they’re not in CCMRD.

Comment from Dane: We could/do have a cooperative arrangement between Jefferson County and CCMRD, for teaming up on recreation facilities. But we’d want to look to create facility that JeffCo doesn’t have, such as an ice rink or indoor field house.

Special Events/Marketing

- I come to Idaho Springs for the 4th of July event and After Prom.
- I don’t see many/any Floyd Hill residents coming here for events.
- Maybe CCMRD could do recycling events; that might be attractive to people from Floyd Hill.
- I am planning on going to Winter Park jazz festival. Something like that would be

Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



great here in Clear Creek County. Floyd Hill residents might come here for music events.

- Maybe the CCMRD could look at constructing a changeable message sign with cooperation from the School District at the Floyd Hill exit ramp to market the District better.

Floyd Hill Development

- There is no movie theater in Idaho Springs; we often go to Denver to eat out, watch movies, go shopping, etc.
- The bottom of Floyd Hill is about 45 years old; the top of the hill was developed later. The Saddleback area is newer.
- There have been some houses foreclosed in the community lately
- Seem to be attracting more families to the community/
 - Some people will buy a house in Floyd Hill and move they didn't like the environment/isolation. Often replace by people with kids
- Floyd Hill probably does not have enough houses to support a mini/satellite recreation center facility.

Other

- Look at the "urban" role for Recreation Center in Idaho Springs"
 - Have after school programs at the Recreation Center.
- Get the School District to route the buses so there last stop is here at the Recreation Center, that way kids can ride to here.
- My kids played soccer at JeffCo and at Clear Creek.
 - Stingers, Girl's softball
 - Also for baseball and martial arts

Focus Group Summary –Idaho Springs

System-Wide Master Plan
February 2, 2011 (4:30 PM)

Participants

Aaron Kissler, Evergreen (Clear Creek County Public Health)
Marianne Selkirk, Idaho Springs (CCMRD Board Member)
Jock Spencer, Idaho Springs
Dale Frank, Evergreen
Keith Everitt, Idaho Springs (CCMRD Board Member)
Paul Dalpes, Idaho Springs (CCMRD Board President)

Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PMK)
Ken Ballard, Ballard*King (BK)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD (DM)

Introduction:

By Paul Kuhn of Winston Associates (PMK) and Ken Ballard of Ballard King (KB):

- Goal for the master plan is to have a roadmap or vision for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (CCMRD). The CCMRD would like to establish a vision in regards to indoor recreation, outdoor facilities, and programming.
- A few question(s) we want to answer:
 - What should CCMRD be planning to do for the next 5, 10, 15 years?
 - What facilities, events, or programming do you use or see from CCMRD?
- Another objective of this focus group is to gain input from different areas of the District to really make sure that whatever we bring forward is a result of what the community says. We need to receive that information in a lot of different ways.

Comment from Participant: When he lived at St. Mary's glacier, there was an outdoor pool at the Visitor Center site.

- He liked the character, community, and activity it created
- The Idaho Springs Recreation Center doesn't seem to create that same sense of community as the outdoor pool.

Comment from Participant: The CCMRD could do a lot more self-promotion

- Bring in people with broader interests
- Maybe free introductory classes?
- Get more traffic through Recreation Center
- Program outreach, camping trips, skiing trips

Comment from Participant: When he started working out at Recreation Center – saw the same people, not the wide spectrum of population

(DM) Agreed with earlier observation, the outdoor pool in town he grew up in created a sense of community.

- Maybe the CCMRD should look at a free family day: Whole family comes, uses pool for free
- Summit County gave ski instructors a free pass
 - Do the same for Loveland?
 - Instructors might encourage students to use the Recreation Center

Comment from Participant: If the CCMRD were to expand the Recreation Center I would like to see indoor basketball, handball, and an indoor track

- Does the current level of facility use doesn't warrant expense?
- *Response from DM:* Golden's recreation center increased use with expansion/running track
 - Day care is offered
 - They provide a Kids pool area
 - Slides, indoor water play, etc.
 - Provide a safe haven for kids
 - Has a dedicated aerobics room
 - Golden has good senior aerobics program
- (DM) A basketball court space really seems to be a good flexible space and gets used by kids. Would be a good addition to the Recreation Center
 - With a more robust facility, attract more of the community
 - Not sure about racquetball/squash, but maybe if it makes sense
 - Knows of recreation districts and cities that are taking racquetball courts
- If CCMRD provides a basketball court, does that compete with School District's gyms and programs?

Question (Paul D. CCMRD Board): How much should the School District and CCMRD cooperate on facilities and programs?

- Might help stretch School District money if CCMRD cooperates
 - Very important to keep kids active early
 - May be able to use the senior community as volunteers
 - Would be good to have a flexible gym-like space
 - Also some sort of childcare area
 - *Marianne (CCMRD Board):* The CCMRD has provided child care many times and could never get enough use to justify continuing the service

Comment from Participant: Clear Creek County is a beautiful place. Work with County on outdoor rental equipment (tents, camping equipment)

- Snowshoe / cross-country ski rental would also be good.
- Maybe the CCMRD / County could look at making really good maps available

Comment from Participant: Has noticed that getting good quality instructors for classes and programs can be a problem

Comment from Participant: Not sure a big expansion of the Recreation Center would pay for itself

- Likes the idea of working with the School District to use their facilities to expand indoor recreation opportunities
- *Marianne (CCMRD Board):* CCMRD does work with School District
 - Open basketball on Wednesday and Sunday
 - Youth basketball and Carlson Elementary
 - Offer free swimming lessons to 2nd graders

Keith (CCMRD Board): Towns and CCMRD not taking advantage of the mountain trails

- Look at what Fruita did with promoting it's trail system for mountain bikes
- *Participant:* We have great trail system in Clear Creek County, but it's almost impossible to figure out how to use it
 - The trails not always well marked
 - Should promoting trail use be the role of the County Tourism Bureau? Maybe the County? Maybe CCMRD?
 - May not be a part of the District's mission, but no one is doing it.
- *Participant:* Maybe the District could sponsor annual rides to increase visibility?

Question (KB): What should the District's role be relative to special events?

- Special events could be huge – especially if the CCMRD promotes itself through these events
 - The CCMRD should be blowing its own horn more
- Special events pull money from outsiders, which it good. Maybe we need to give things to locals for big discounts or a free pass
- The District will probably need to initiate events in order to make them happen
- Crested Butte was collapsing, and they refocused their "brand"
- Paul D: We need to look at ways to attract people off highway – make events visible from the highway.
- Maybe art festivals should be looked at
- *Keith (CCMRD Board):* Idaho Springs used to have a major event called "Gold Rush Days".
 - However merchants complained they were losing business
 - Said street closures hurt their businesses even with the increased traffic from the event participants
 - Feel the volume generated by a special event is always better than those who just exit off the highway for a short stop

Question: (DM) Should the District should be the lead agency to plan events and set up special events?

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- Need maybe try different things in order to sort out what works
- Would be good to let people in the District know what's happening regarding special events.

Comment from Participant: Idaho Springs well set for parks, but maybe not the smaller towns

Marianne (CCMRD Board): Tried ice climbing as a special event

- However, liability insurance became a road block with the City
- Would it be possible to work out an IGA for ice climbing?

Marianne (CCMRD Board): Maybe a walking tour highlighting Idaho Springs's history could be developed.

Comment from Participant: Maybe deep jeep tours to Mt. Evans like Ouray does

Question: (DM) Are there any other facilities we should consider?

- What about a golf course?
- Concerts in the park (could use the football field)
- Rodeo every Friday night
 - Host a "Points" rodeo here?

Question: (DM) Not hearing what's going on with Denver radio – are we getting the work out?

- *Marianne:* The City did a huge effort for the 150th anniversary for Idaho Springs
- Historically the County hasn't worked had to promote itself because of the funds generated by the Henderson mine. That revenue source will end someday.
 - Don't want to wait until things get desperate to adapt
- *All:* The District should definitely push/promote the County and special events
- Promoting the County and CCMRD may need to come first before looking any expanding the District's recreation offerings

Comment from Participant: We absolutely need to move Idaho Springs Skate Park into the center of town.

Comment from Participant: Maybe put money into Idaho Spring's recreation facilities first

Comment from Participant: Tennis not well used. Maybe look at making lights work off a timer

All: Would support constructing a skate park in place of tennis court

- We have tennis in Floyd Hill and one in Georgetown and that seems to be meeting the demand

Question: (DM) Parking is a problem at current Recreation Center, any suggestions?

- The old middle school may work better
- It has a track and sports field too

(DM) He has thought that with the right facility, they could develop programs that would teach kids in the District body control for extreme sports which are seeing strong growth. Could use gym for this type of program

Focus Group Summary – Floyd Hill

System-Wide Master Plan

February 2, 2011 (7:00 PM)

Participants (All Floyd Hill Residents):

Kris Lee: Two Children- Ages 3 and 5

Taryn Young: - Three Children Ages 3, 5, and 7; Interest- Indoor winter activities)

Nick Ragain: Children- 3 with 4th on the way; Interest- Trails, hiking

Paul Berteau: No children; Interest- Outdoor person, preserve beauty and outdoor legacy

Kim Steele

Paul Dalpes, (CCMRD Board President)

Introduction:

By Paul Kuhn of Winston Associates (PMK)

- Goal for this master plan is to have a roadmap or vision for the Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District (CCMRD). The CCMRD would like to find a vision, in regards to indoor recreation, outdoor facilities, and programming.
- Question(s) we want to answer:
 - What should CCMRD be planning to do for the next 5, 10, 15 years?
 - What facilities, events, or programming do you use or see from CCMRD?
- Another objective of this focus group is to gain input from different areas of the District to make sure that whatever we bring forward is a result of what the community says. We need to receive that information in a lot of different ways.

Comment from Participant:

- I first discovered the Recreation Center six years ago
- I enjoyed kayaking at the pool, master swim, classes, etc.
- My daughter comes from King Murphy Elementary and rides a bus to the Recreation Center (45 minutes away). I discovered the Recreation Center because the Buchanan Park Recreation Center in Evergreen’s lap pool was too crowded, and I was told about Recreation Center.
 - The Buchanan recreation center is expensive and crowded. (multiple participants)
- The big problem all my friends talk about is the lack of child care at the Recreation Center

Access to the High School Track

- There was an adult track class through CCMRD which I enjoyed. Why can’t we use the new High School’s track? It’s always locked.

Marketing the CCMRD to Floyd Hill

- People in Floyd Hill need to hear about the Recreation Center.
- Floyd Hill is an Evergreen address, so people see the Evergreen facilities when they buy their homes.
- After buying their houses, people get all “welcome” stuff from Evergreen.

District Facilities and Programs

- I bought a house in mountains because I like the setting. I think Elmgreen Park is great; I’ll go there when the temperature is above 40 degrees. I get to meet my neighbors when I go.
 - Moms are often home all day with no other place to go, and when they go to the park they can meet other mothers.
 - There really is no other way to meet neighbors in Floyd Hill.
 - I can’t use the Recreation Center because it does not offer any childcare.
 - I would love to have an indoor playground like the one at Broomfield’s Paul Derda Recreation Center—it would attract more people to the Recreation Center, and give mothers a place to socialize.
- I would like gymnastics for less than the \$11 per class we pay in Evergreen.
 - My kids once did swim lessons at the Recreation Center, but the water was too cold. I would like a tumbling/trampoline-type facility—not necessarily a full gymnastics set up.
 - Before “Flips” opened, I considered taking my kids to the Copper Mountain gymnastics facilities.
 - Maybe the District could “test” a gymnastics programs at the Middle School gym.
 - I used to take kids to Evergreen and paid \$11 for 45 minutes
- I’d like to have youth group activities too, such as trail rides to destinations, geo-caching, and fun runs.

Question: How do we reach people to inform them of recreation opportunities/events?

- People will see colorful flyers that are mailed to each house, especially if they can go on refrigerators.
 - *Comment (from Dane):* Flyers could also be sent home with students from schools.
- Having/maintaining a good quality website is also important.
- Residents would not like a changeable message board at the exit ramp; there are already 50 signs at stop sign at the top of the ramp.

Trails

- There is no safe way to access Elmgreen Park via a trail. We will never see sidewalks on the roads in Floyd Hill and Floyd Hill does not have an internal trail system.
 - I know of some social trails, one of which runs through the county land to the power line. Potential trail opportunity?

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



- *Paul D. (CCMRD)*: The District has talked about having a recreational trail run the length of Clear Creek.
 - Right now you can go from Loveland to Kermit’s Roadhouse on low-volume roads, away from the main roads.

Question from Participant: Who is responsible for trails—who plans their routes, who builds them, who maintains them, and who markets them? Not sure if more trails are even needed. Need to maintain the ones we have better and market them better.

- I’m not sure the District is the agency for that task. We have very diverse population with wide variety of interests. Maybe trail maintenance a role the County should take.
- There is a good County website with trail maps.
- *Response (from Dane)*: CCMRD is not/has not been involved in trails at all in the past, but that is being looked at as part of this master plan.

Development

- Floyd Hill is dealing with issues of development. Many feel bringing in tourists could help business with their revenue and reduce the pressure for revenue from new development. This would a good thing.

Special Events

- I see the CCMRD as having a role in special events.
- We would like a master calendar – one location or website that shows all the events, programs, and suggestions on things to do in the County. Focus on family activities.

Question: If new facilities are needed in the District, would the Floyd Hill residents support a mil levy increase:

- Floyd Hill residents will support a mil levy increase if they can get access to a track. Clear Creek County taxes are currently lower than most other counties.

Other Ideas / Suggestions

- I would like to see a women’s basketball league.
- We need more efficient and better communication.
 - For instance, the District needs to add signage on all facilities and new projects
- Winter Park has a new skate park. It might be a good model of a new park here.
- There needs to be better pedestrian crossings at Idaho Springs Parks.
- Maybe each city/town should offer one unique, quality facility; without a duplicate facility in the county.
 - Floyd Hill doesn’t have that type of signature facility
- There is a party place in Centennial (Broadway and C-470) with play events, zip lines, etc. It was lots of fun. It’s called Jungle Qwest. Maybe we could have something similar here?

- It is difficult to find good information on trails. Have to often go to multiple sources

Comment from DM: There is definitely a need to improve facilities for which the District is responsible. However, the District also needs to dispose of facilities that don’t match its mission or can’t be upgraded.

Meeting with County Commissioner
CCMRD System-Wide Master Plan
February 3, 2011

Participants

Kevin O’Malley, Clear Creek County Commissioner (KM)
Beth Luther, CCMRD Board Member (BL)
Dane Matthew, CCMRD Director (DM)
Ken Ballard, Ballard*King (KB)
Paul Kuhn, Winston Associates (PK)

CCMRD’s Role

KM: The CCMRD could play a significant role in development in Clear Creek County.

KB: What’s the best approach for long funding for the role the District will need to play?

KM: The Henderson Mine is really helping governmental entities county-wide meet budget, but we need to plan for that to eventually change.

- We probably have at least another 10 years, possibly even 20 before Henderson will be finished.
- Faster ore removal means more tax dollars—but also fewer years getting that money.
- Need to be careful not to overbuild or over-commit on long term projects—because if we do, it could mean going back to the voters for more money.

Recreation / Value of Attracting Visitors

KM: Venues are needed which bring people (visitors) into the County.

- CCMRD’s top priority needs to be focused on serving the residents of the county.
- Something that serves visitors can also serve residents.
 - CCMRD could partner with County Open Space on the Greenway
 - Last year, the White Water Park opened and served both residents and visitors.
 - This year, the Philly Mill Fishing-is-Fun site will serve both.
 - Visitors to the county help businesses. If business does well, property values increase, everyone wins.
- Sees 4 key elements to business development:
 - Tourism
 - Renewable Energy
 - Mining
 - Henderson employs +/- 700 with 300 to 400 living in the county.
 - Even with Henderson, a company with a good environmental record, mining has negative impacts. A recent gold mine closure still had to have a big clean up.
 - Redevelopment of Henderson’s 1,100 acres will eventually need to happen.

- The mine itself is about a mile deep- that could be useful for science down the road.

Rodeo

KM: The County would like a different site for the rodeo.

- Maybe a new rodeo facility could be combined with a county fairgrounds site.
- Costs to build and maintain should be shared between entities.
- Possibly a joint-use pavilion could be built for the Rodeo/Fairgrounds.
- My main goal, regarding recreation in the County, is to find a new home for the Rodeo.
- Right now the non-profit that operates the rodeo is doing only simple maintenance.

Indoor Recreation Center at Idaho Springs

KM: Any expansion to the indoor Recreation Center should be in Idaho springs.

- The area where the bus barn, football field, and current CCMRD Recreation Center are is some of the most valuable commercial land in the county, especially if combined.
 - The three properties make for a large, very well located site.
 - In his opinion, the County would never pressure CCMRD to vacate the current Recreation Center site.
- He would very strongly oppose the CCMRD if they asked to expand beyond the beyond the current Recreation Center site.
 - There has been “nibbles” in the redevelopment of the Recreation Center, bus barn, and football field site.
 - The future plans for I-70 always figures into plans. Will know more in April / May when CDOT’s latest I-70 study is released.

DM: the District has considered buying a vacant parcel south of I-70 in Idaho Springs. This area is a total of 19 acres, of which only 9 can be developed.

- Another possible location to put recreation facilities is the site of the old sewer plant.
 - The site is about 3 acres.
 - Could it be a site for the rodeo ground?

Old Middle School (Idaho Springs)

KM: Didn’t have a strong opinion on how the old Middle School property should be re-used.

- If it could be re-purposed for another use, he would likely support the plan
- If the School District needed it 10 years ago, they may need it again.
- The middle school sits on a 12-acre site which is mostly usable, however access can be difficult. The School District has done due diligence on the site. The track area is usable ground.
- DM: CCMRD can’t afford to buy the school buildings and it certainly wouldn’t be able to buy the entire property).
 - Maybe there’s a way to use the school could be used by the CCMRD as part of a lease; a lease that would not be revocable.

County Background

- Introduction
- Existing Conditions
- Public Input
- Goals and Objectives
- Recommendations
- Implementation



Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation



- KM: Background on Clear Creek Schools: There was a bond passed in 1999 for the construction of a new High School.
 - The middle school was originally built for 400 students, and it held 600.
 - The School District student population went from 1,400 at the peak in 1999, down to 900 (800 in 2010) because of the decrease in population in the County.
- KM: Regarding population, currently western Evergreen is growing, while the remainder of Clear Creek County is shrinking.
 - The state is projecting approximately a 1% growth rate over the next 30 years.
 - The county probably only really has room for 20,000 people (total).
- KM: Knows the CCMRD has done well with the resources they have:
 - Might be able to partner with the County for projects in the future
- KM: The County Open Space department was originally required to use 75% of their funds for capital construction; however, that recently changed, they now use 60% for capital construction and the remaining 40% is used for maintenance.
- KM: The County Health and Human Services Department is the only county function that needs a new home. Current office is difficult to access by foot and handicapped access is a problem. A decision on what to do about the County Health and Human Services Department will be made by the end of 2011.
- Clear Creek County has enough money to do what it wants/needs to do; it doesn't need money from CCMRD.

Events

- KM: Would like to see money be distributed for events equitably (e.g., White Water Park, kayak festival).
 - Shared benefit/shared burden.
- KM: CCMRD could be a unifying force in Clear Creek County
 - Likes the idea of a central coordinator for special events
 - The coordinator job could be a burden if it is successful in promoting a lot of events
 - Planning/implementing events crossing jurisdictional boundaries can be a headache
 - Maybe the event coordinator could start out as a contract position

APPENDIX 5: PUBLIC MEETING #1 SUMMARY

On March 21st, 2011, the first Public Meeting for the System-Wide Master Plan was held at the Buffalo Restaurant in Idaho Springs. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit feedback, gain an understanding of community attitudes regarding park and recreation facilities, programs, and services in the CCMRD. A presentation by the Master Plan Team highlighted the findings from the review of the CCMRD's existing park and recreation system and programs and the Master Plan Team's findings to date.

The meeting was well attended and pizza and refreshments were provided by the District. Twenty-one people filled out the sign-in sheets, providing contact information. However, during the Keypad Polling session, as many as 39 people participated, including both adults and school-age children. Therefore, it is assumed that between 35 and 45 residents of the CCMRD attended the meeting. The majority of the residents who attended the meeting were from Idaho Springs (55%), but Georgetown, Empire, St. Mary's and the unincorporated areas of the County were also well represented.

KEYPAD POLLING

Keypad polling was utilized to help understand community attitudes during Public Meeting #1. The polling questions will also be posted on System-Wide Master Plan website, providing other interested members of the community with an opportunity to participate.

A brief summary of the key findings of the Keypad polling results include:

- There was strong support (54%) for special events and festivals that would attract both visitors and locals.
- As for the District's focus for the next 10 -15 years, 38% said district should focus on the Recreation Center, 18% said hiking and biking trails, 15% said facilities for outdoor sports programs, and 13% said special events to attract visitors.
- 92% felt there was a need for additional indoor recreation amenities in the District.
- The highest priority indoor facilities included:

- There was strong support (54%) for special events and festivals that would attract both visitors and locals.
- As for the District's focus for the next 10 -15 years, 38% said district should focus on the Recreation Center, 18% said hiking and biking trails, 15% said facilities for outdoor sports programs, and 13% said special events to attract visitors.
- 92% felt there was a need for additional indoor recreation amenities in the District.
- The highest priority indoor facilities included:

Facility	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	Weighted Averages*
Leisure pool and water slides	20%	36%	26%
Indoor walking/running track	26%	15%	22%
Gymnasium	15%	18%	16%
Drop-in child care	20%	5%	15%
Group exercise / spinning room	8%	13%	9%

* Weighted numbers were derived by weighting first choice by 2 points, and 2nd choice by 1 point.



- When it came to ranking a mix of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, the group indicated the following priorities:

Facility	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	Weighted Average
Indoor swimming pool or aquatics facilities	26%	21%	13%	22%
Community parks with fields for organized sports	18%	16%	28%	19%
Indoor exercise and fitness	13%	21%	15%	16%
Indoor ice rink	10%	11%	15%	11%
Paved walking / biking trails	15%	5%	5%	10%
Natural areas / nature hiking trails	5%	16%	13%	10%
Playgrounds	10%	5%	8%	8%
Cultural facilities	--	5%	3%	2%
Small neighborhood parks	3%	--	--	1%

* Weighted numbers were derived by weighting first choice with 3 points, 2nd choice by 2 points, and 3rd choice with 1 point and taking the average and percentage of those numbers.

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



System-Wide District Master Plan

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



VERBAL QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, AND COMMENTS

Immediately following the PowerPoint presentation, an open forum was held which gave attendees an opportunity to offer their comments and suggestions regarding the CCMRD and the Master Plan.

Question: What is the District’s role regarding open space and trails in the county?

Response: Because they are county-wide, Clear Creek County takes the lead role in funding, planning, and design for open space and trails. They have the staff and the county-wide perspective the CCMRD cannot provide. The District could certainly look for more opportunities to partner with the County in these areas and that is one aspect of the Master Plan.

Comment: The District’s role in this area is not clearly understood within the community. In addition, it may not even make sense for the District to get involved in preserving open space.

Comment: Responsibilities between the District and the other government entities in the county should be clearly defined. Want to avoid overlap and duplication of services.

[Participant] Does think it’s appropriate for the District to work with the cities and county to build and maintain open space and trails.

Question: There is a shortage of child care in the county, especially for ages 2 and under. Participant knows of families who have moved away from Clear Creek County because of lack of day care. Would it be possible for the District to provide this role?

Comment: The County’s population is active and young-thinking. Having a strong park and recreation systems is important.

Question: How will decisions be made for the master plan? Will they be based on the public opinion survey, input from tonight’s meeting, the recommendations of the consultant?

Response: Decisions regarding the District’s direction will ultimately be based on all of these factors.

Question: Are there plans to integrate this plan with the planning efforts of the County and the cities and towns?

Response: Yes, coordination with the other governmental agencies is an on-going process for the CCMRD. Will look to the Master Plan to identify ways to improve cooperation and communication.

Question: Is the District working with the Clear Creek School District during the master plan process?

Response: Yes, although we have not met with the School District yet. The first scheduled meeting was canceled due to weather. Will be rescheduling a meeting soon.

Dane M.: Looking back, it’s clear that the residents who founded the District were far-sighted, especially when it came to building the Recreation Center. Dane challenged the group to think about what park and recreation asset will be viewed a valued community asset when the young people in the District are adults.

Question/Comment: Are underutilized facilities being evaluated? For instance, the baseball field at Minton Park is no longer being used for baseball. Could it be converted to a soccer or multi-purpose field which would get more use?

Would it be possible to add a basketball court and improve the play equipment?

Comment: The District should work with the County to find ways to connect the mountain bike trails into a linked system.

Question: Are there plans to create on-going relationships between the cities/towns and the District?

Maybe the District needs to be more pro-active in getting the word out about what its role is and what facilities it is responsible for.

Comment: Because if the mountainous terrain, usable, level land is at a premium in the county. Need to plan carefully and thinks the Master Plan is good step in that direction.

Agrees with comments that making the most of existing facilities is critical – look of opportunities for dual use.

Thought the District’s attempt to create an ice rink over the sand volleyball court by the Recreation Center was a great example of dual use. Also

liked the ice rink idea because it might encourage people driving by on I-70 to stop. Other facilities that would encourage people to stop should be considered.

Maybe look at using existing mountain bike trails to create a Nordic Center similar to Frisco’s.

Comment: Thinks the District and County should focus on local trails that residents will use.

Look to create larger facilities for active uses. People will go out of their way for active recreation and organized sports. Not to mention these type of facilities encourage social interaction between residents and have a positive impact on the community.

CCMRD Board President: Agree with the comments regarding the County, cities/towns, and CCMRD working together. That has been, and is an important goal for the Board and District Staff.

The Board is also hoping to create the type of community that attracts people – both permanent residents and visitors. Sees the Master Plan as an opportunity to do just that.

COMMENT CARD SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the written comments submitted by meeting participants on the comment forms that were distributed at the meeting.

I would be interested in classes/programs for special needs children. I believe they have some at the Rec. center in Evergreen, but something closer to home would be great. Thank you.

Also, more kid-friendly pool facility – more slides, etc.

First, I’d like to say that I’ve noticed excellent improvements. You guys are doing great. I know that the Idaho Springs Football field is school district, but if we could open it up to the public over the summer that would be awesome! The kids (and adults) need a place for Frisbee, running, playing, and being barefoot in the grass.

P.S. Mountain Bike Trails!!

Contract info provided on registration:
I believe there are many places where the

Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

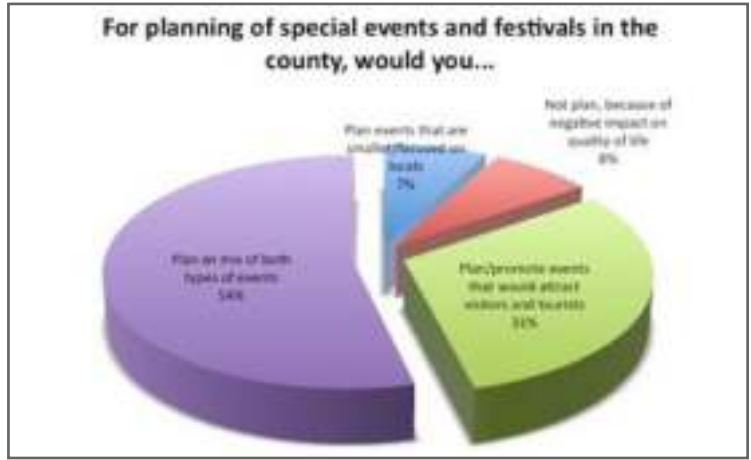
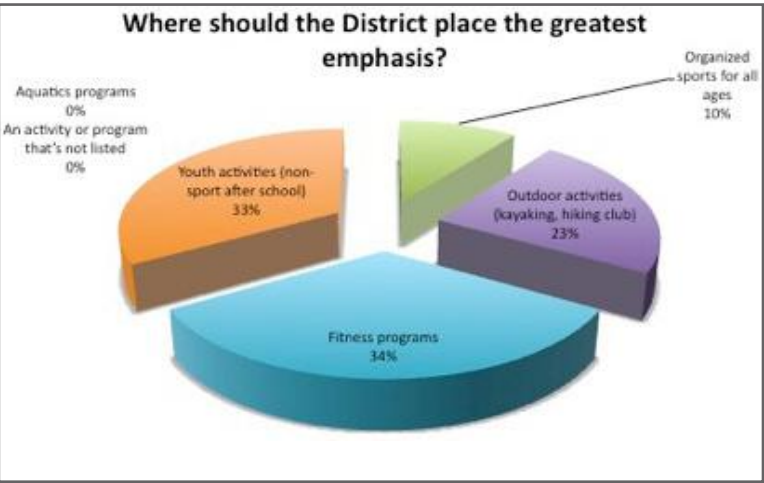
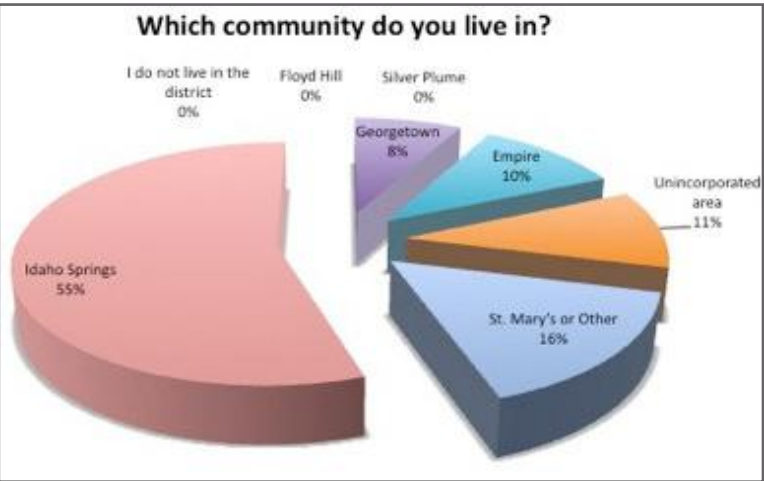
Recommendations

Implementation



More whitewater park would be great – maybe in Idaho Springs by the post office / Subway.

KEYPAD POLLING SLIDES



Idaho Springs, but it could be possible to contract with a privately owned pool for certain hours or programs.

The school district may be selling the bus barn and football field property. Could the Recreation District possibly purchase this and build more indoor facilities, for gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, indoor ice rink, aquatics?

If we had facilities some of these sports could bring groups to the community for tournaments.

I do love the Recreation Center and we use it mostly for kids activities and when I can – love the adult classes so drop in childcare would be nice so I could work out more.

Please raise the temperature of the pool and try to balance at the chemicals – our bathing suits get trashed. We live in Empire and it is so sad to see the baseball field not getting used – please help us find a use for it and to help update the playground in Empire.

Thanks for all your efforts in the improvement of the County – we appreciate it.

Providing a 24-hour fitness facility, most likely in the Recreation Center

Youth football and ice/roller hockey programs

Adult football and ice/roller hockey programs

Trying to include major league sports from Denver more included in our youth programs

You can also help out people who leave there children and also you should help lifeguards to get more help. For help. From Katie Rose. Thank you very much!!! Good job!!! (Name not used - from an under 18 yr old.)

They can organize events for poor people. Can you do more divine movies? Thank you. (Name not used - from an under 18 yr old.)

Thanks for the communication! Please keep us informed: Deb Davies PO Box 3156/Idaho Springs, CO 80452

Would like longer hours on weekends and evenings at the Recreation Center

(Jim O'Connor)

Keep tennis court surfaces in better shape

Larger weight lifting area at Recreation Center

Rec District and the school district could complement and support each other

- Use of gyms and outdoor facilities
- Could/would the District consider swapping buildings (trade current CCMRD building for old Middle school/current school district offices)
- Coordinate youth support programs

Over 400 people a year visit the mountain board park, a year, and growing. Kids need to play in the dirt! I have proof. (569-2719) Phil Sheader "Empire" philshheader@yahoo.com

Keep this open forum going please, I appreciate keeping this public. Market more locally as well, I know people who miss out on youth sports based on lack of marketing. I end up hearing more via word of mouth than other public means.

- #1 – keep the before and after school and summer program. There is nothing else in the county.

Whatever the outcome – please don't let this all be in vain – nothing happening?? Or just a dead end down the road – keep the energy going.

Pedestrian bridge at Fall River Road (bike, horses, etc.) we've been asking for this since I got here in 1974.

Could St. Mary's be invited into the District at this time (to vote whether they want to join) would increase taxpayer base and resources.

Festivals and festivals grounds – Minton Park?

Soccer complex – Minton Park? Empire

Indoor ice rink

Increase hiking trail network closer to towns

Rodeo – grounds – Empire?

Skateboard park?

Frisbee golf

One of the presenters voice did not carry well.

Seeing that tonight's preferences highlighted the swimming pool and aquatics, I am reminded a recent to make a small pool already in existence in Georgetown available for lap swimming. There are seniors there who like to swim but are afraid to drive I-70 in winter. It probably is not cost-effective to maintain a separate pool in a location other than

Introduction

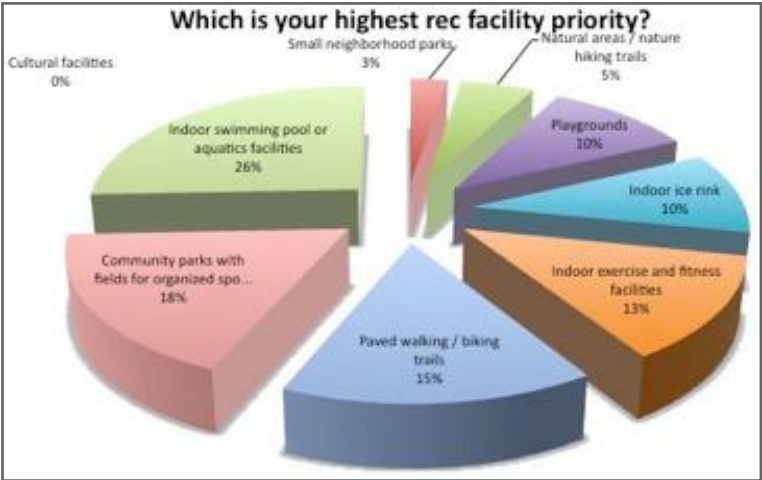
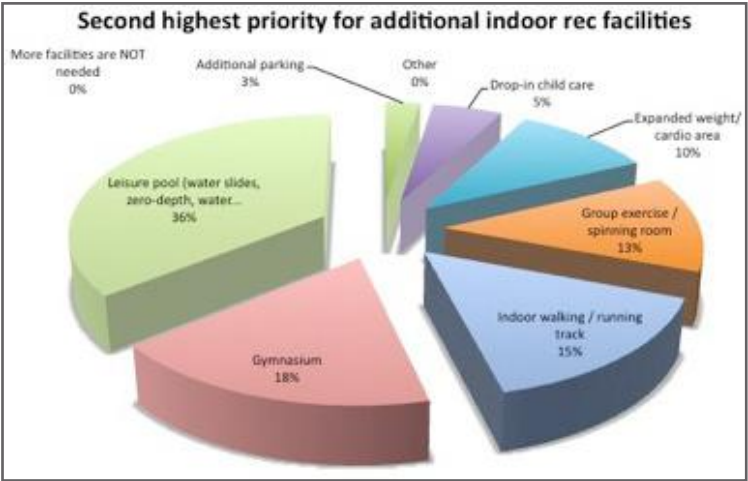
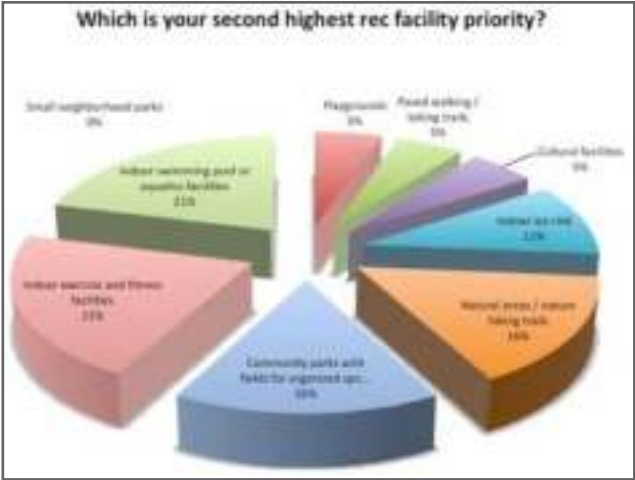
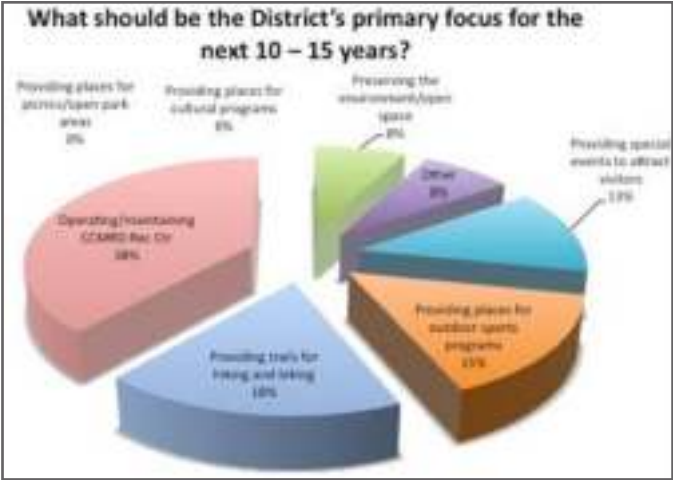
Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

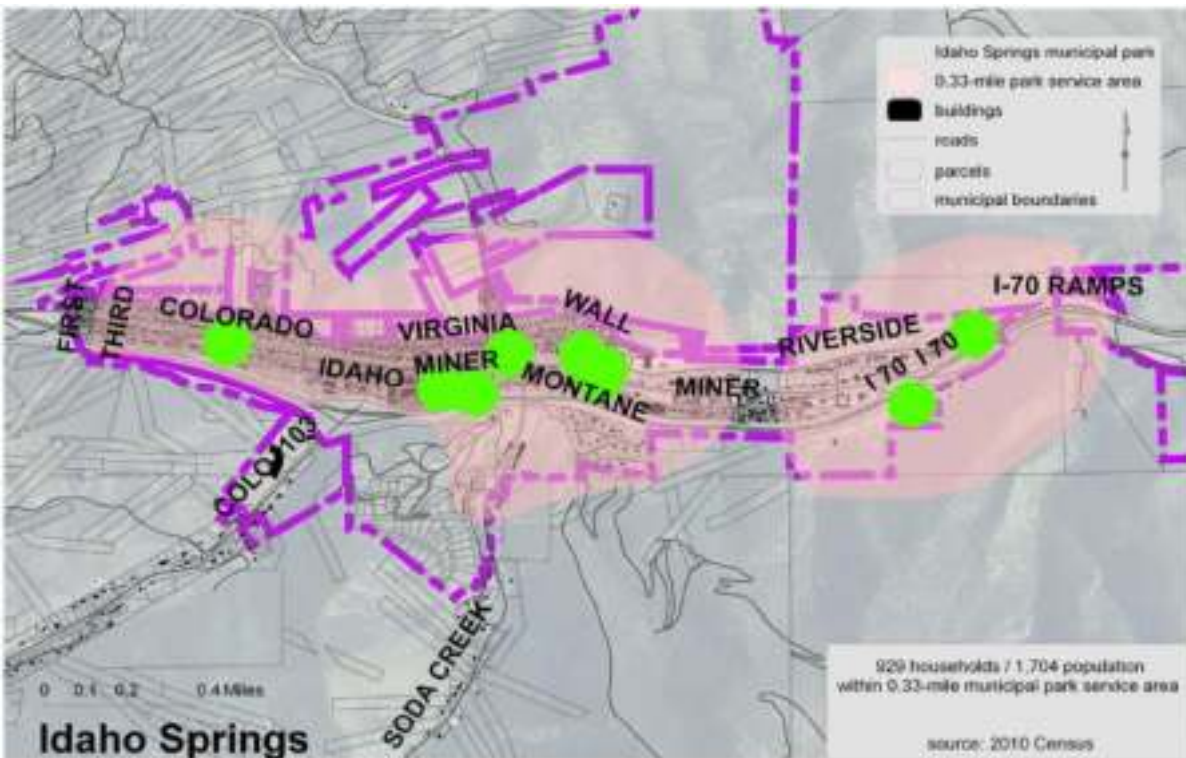
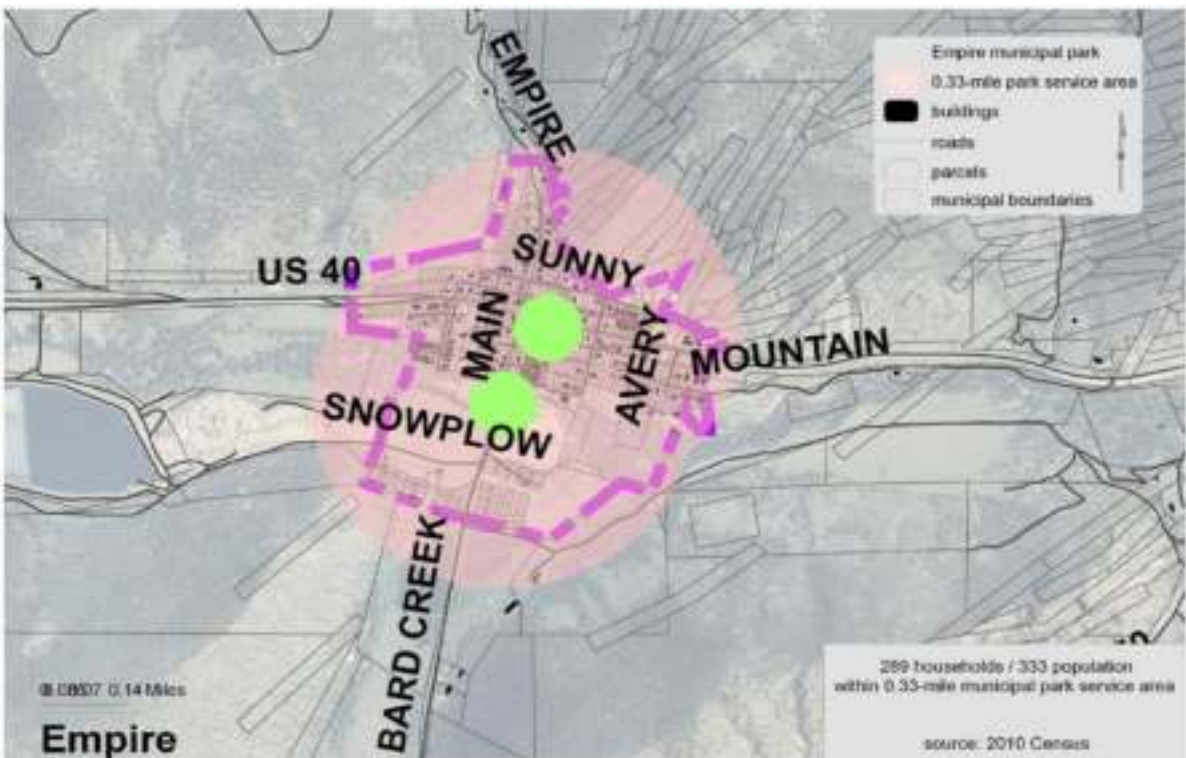
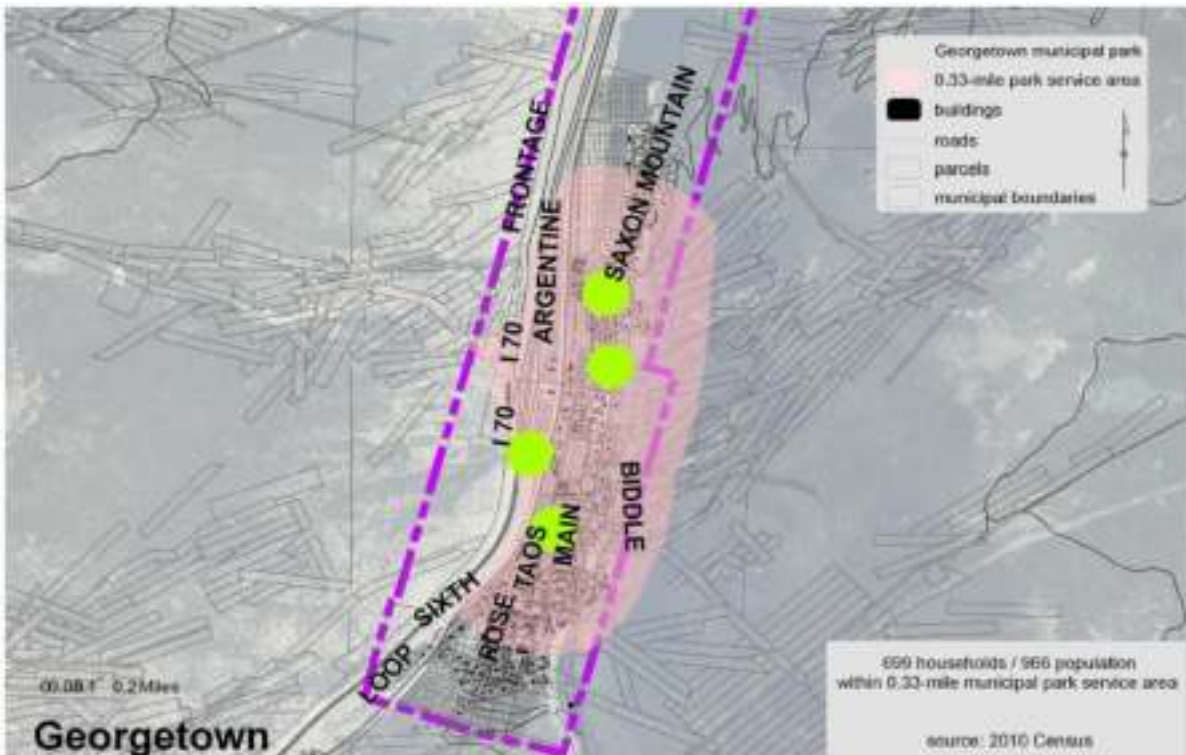
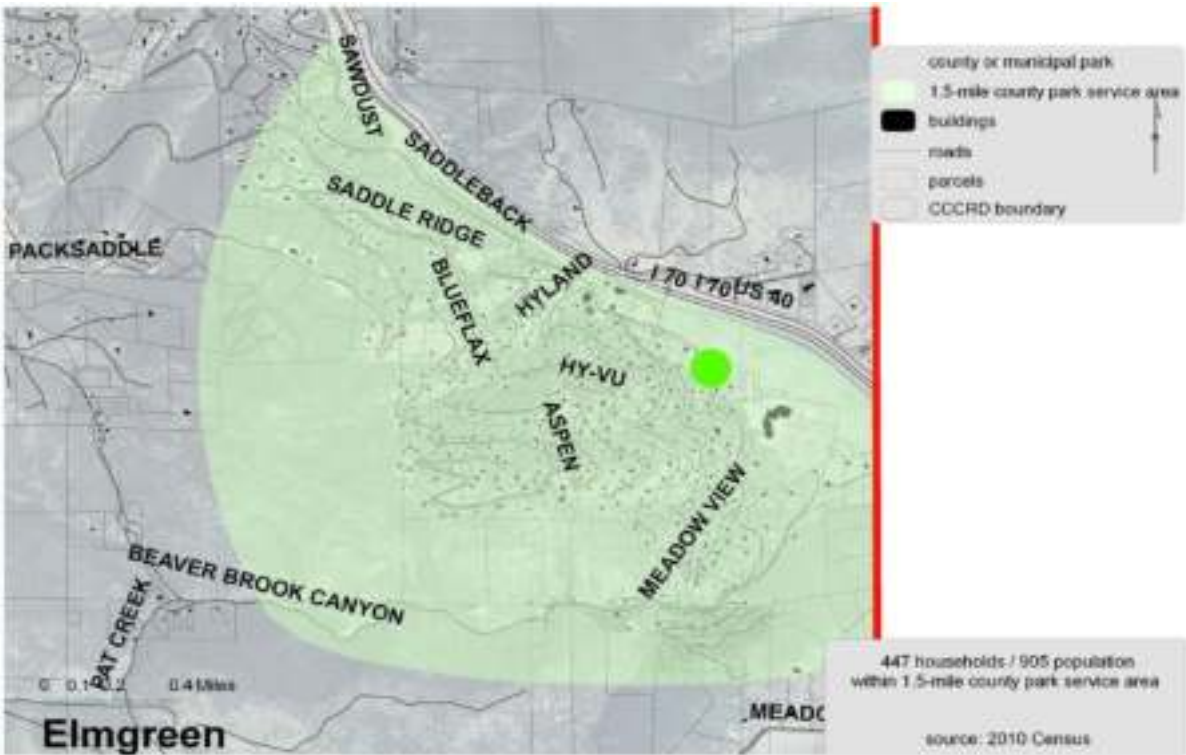
Recommendations

Implementation



APPENDIX 6: PARK SERVICE AREA MAPS

EXISTING PARKS AND SERVICE AREAS



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

Existing
Conditions

Public Input

Goals and
Objectives

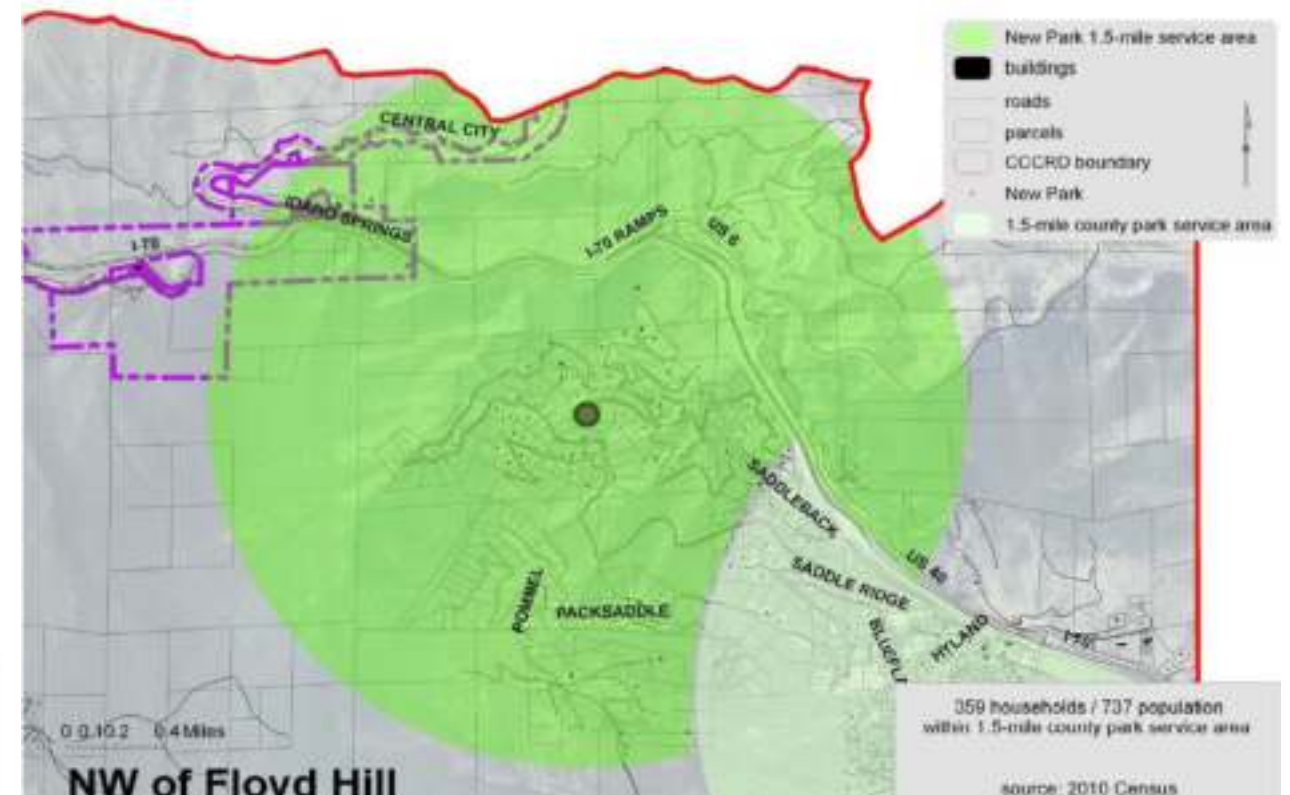
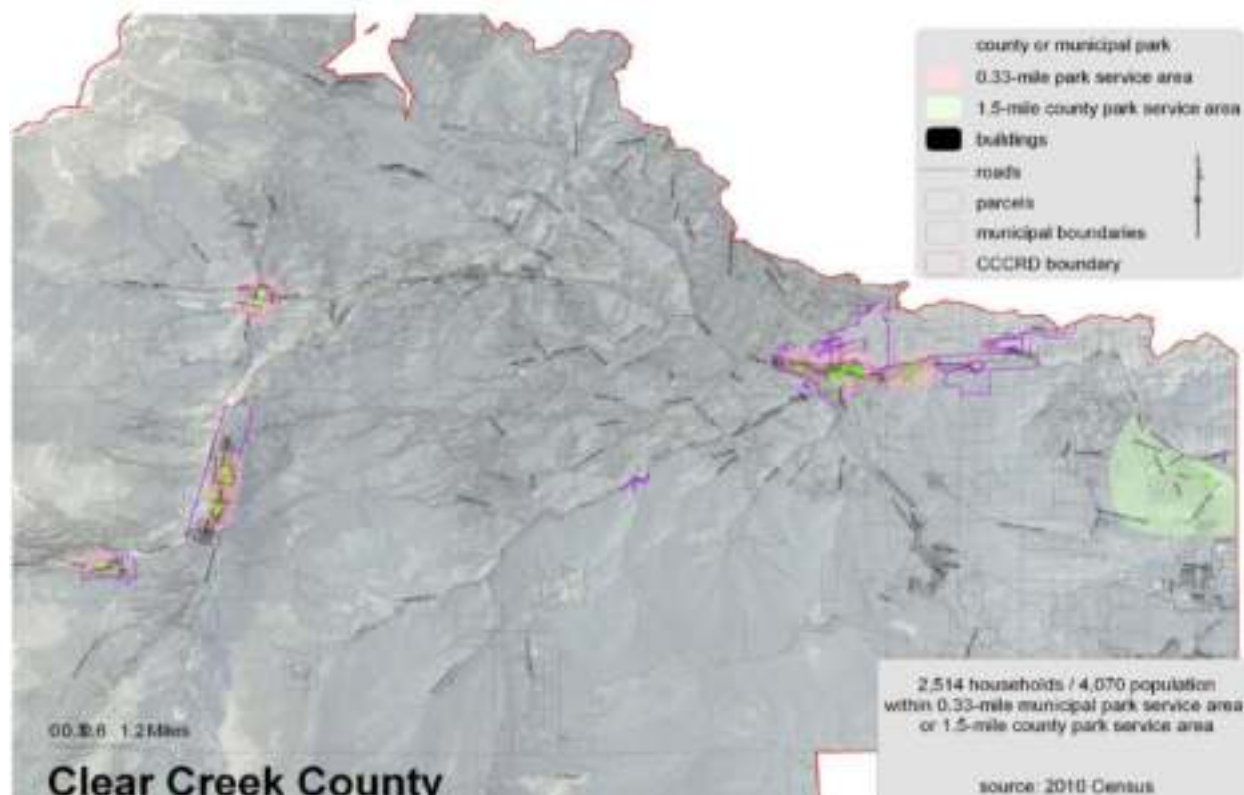
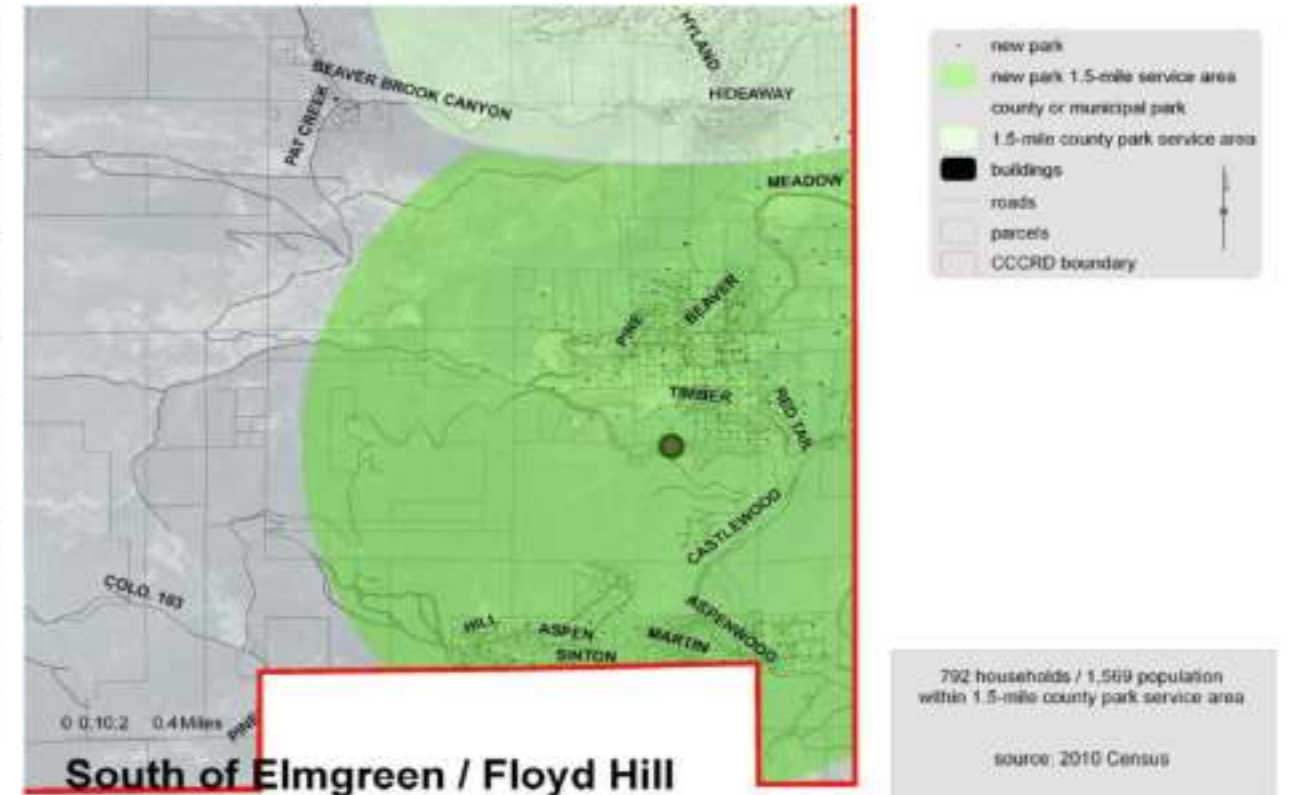
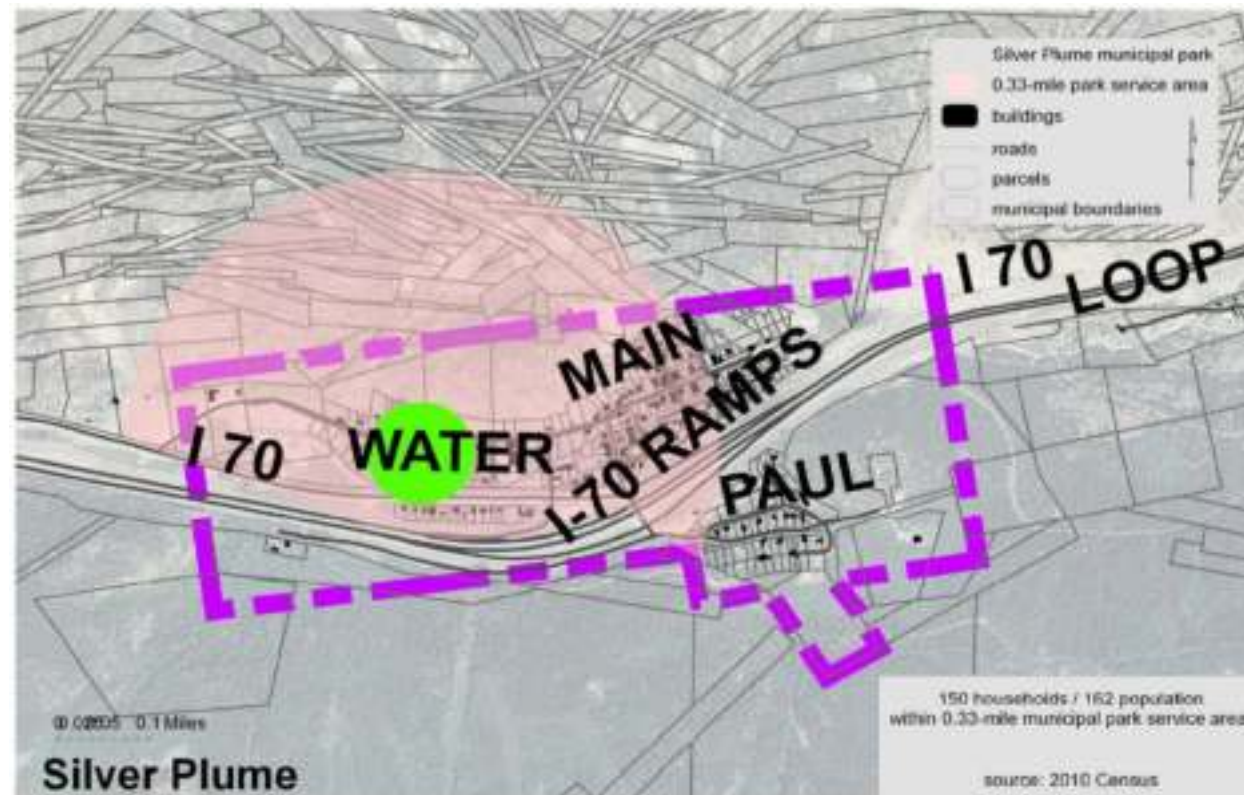
Recommendations

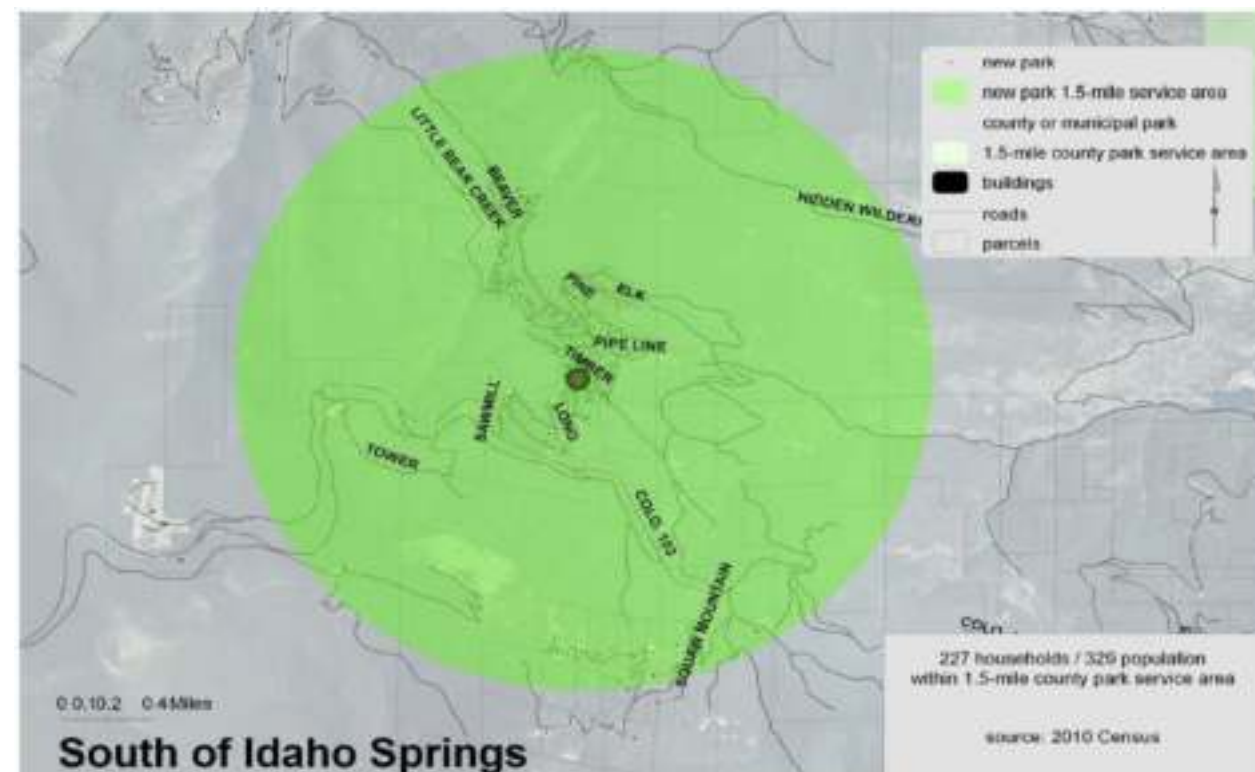
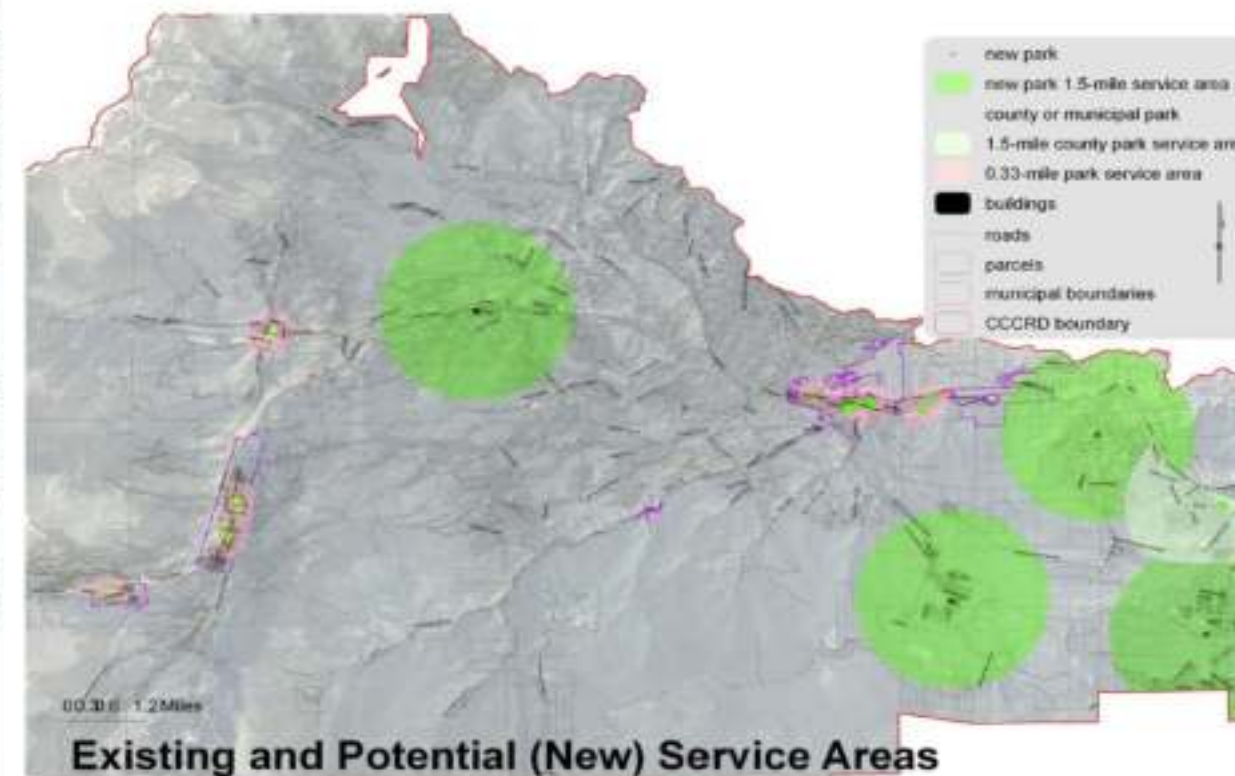
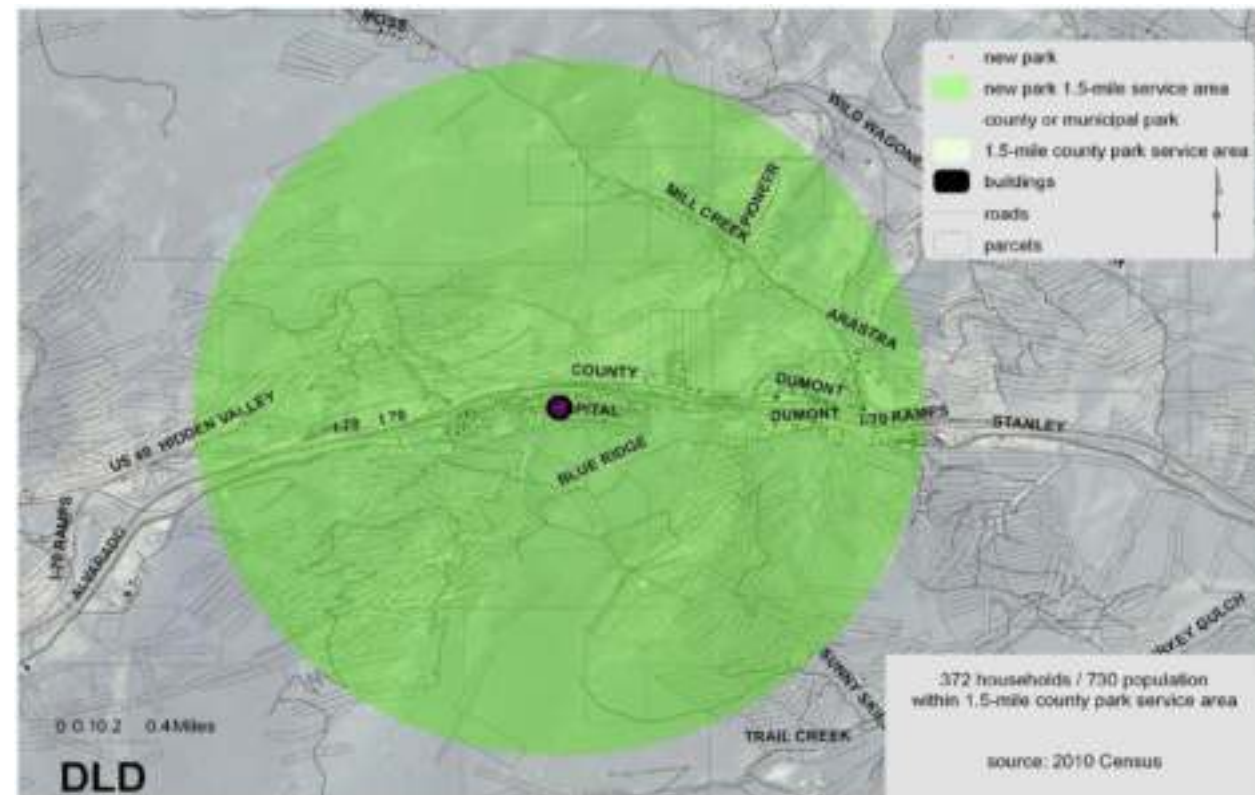
Implementation

Appendix

System-Wide
District Master Plan

POTENTIAL SERVICE AREAS (BASED ON POPULATION)





Introduction

Existing Conditions

Public Input

Goals and Objectives

Recommendations

Implementation



Introduction

*Existing
Conditions*

Public Input

*Goals and
Objectives*

Recommendations

Implementation

Appendix



*System-Wide
District Master Plan*

CMRD

Clear Creek Metro Recreation District