

# 2060 Comprehensive Plan

## Parks & Recreation

What is “quality of life”? It may be answered, in part, with how community residents would choose to spend their spare time.

The quality of a community is perhaps most often measured in the area it has set aside for the enjoyment of its residents, most often associated with its parks and recreation areas and services. Parks and leisure outlets are where people in a city gain respite from urban pressures: they relax, join with friends or enjoy their solitude; they play, compete, picnic, reflect, appreciate art, observe wildlife and nature, are entertained, exercise and come together to celebrate community events. Public places for leisure activity can also provide an important focal point and identity for a neighborhood, offering something for persons of every age, ability, and culture.

Parks are one of the most visible quality of life aspects associated with a community. It is no wonder that residents have the collective expectation that parks should be provided in every neighborhood; however, without a deliberate plan to reserve and develop park sites, areas ideal for recreational use may instead become developed for another purpose, compounding the lack of open space within walking distance convenient for neighborhood residents to use for leisure. In addition to new parks, older parks require care and maintenance to retain their function and appeal as landscaping and vegetation matures and other improvements become worn or need replacement.

Not all neighborhoods have similar characteristics. Some may be more suited to populations where active play areas are not as desirable as areas with more passive features. Residents in a more urban neighborhood may also seek passive elements such as plaza areas, sculpture, and more formal and intense landscaping and lighting instead of lawn and play areas. Subdivisions with starter homes will attract younger families who tend to seek out active parks with playgrounds, basketball courts, backstops for ball play and plenty of “romping around” space. Still other neighborhoods are located where open space exists as a natural area where existing wildlife and habitats are sustained and human interaction minimal.

There are as many ways to recreate as there are community residents and a varied menu of community offerings provides for a balanced, vibrant and interesting community. Besides parks, there are indoor organized and informal sports, classes, and exercise facilities. Cultural appreciation occurs with performing and visual art venues, museums, libraries, classes, and a host of clubs and associations.

*Art is a deliberate recreation of a new and special reality that grows from your response to life. It cannot be copied; it must be created.*

– anonymous



Parks and places to enjoy leisure pursuits help define a community as much for its residents as much as those who make Greeley a special and deliberate destination in which to spend their spare time and treasure. In this light, parks and recreation form a lasting impression and investment in the community quality of life standard by which Greeley will be known.

# **Quality of life**      **Accessible** **Eco-friendly**

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*If you watch a game,  
it's fun. If you play it,  
it's recreation. If you  
work at it, it's golf.*

– Bob Hope



## Introduction & Perspective

### Past

The early residents of Greeley knew the importance of having parks and recreational activities, as the original plat of Greeley included Lincoln Park, Washington Park, and Island Grove Park. Lincoln Park had two lakes when it was first constructed: Lake Luna and Lake Auricular. Washington Park was vacated in the 1880s to accommodate the railroad line through this area. In 1906, East Side Park, now known as Sunrise Park, was created to serve residents of the east side of the community. Island Grove Park became home to the Greeley Spud Rodeo in 1922, which was the forerunner to the Independence Stampede, the world's largest July 4<sup>th</sup> rodeo. The Stampede held its 86<sup>th</sup> annual event in 2008 and planning is already underway for the 2009 event. Motorcycle races took place at Island Grove in the 1920s and 1930s and Warnoco, the indoor roller skating rink, opened in the 1920s and included an outdoor swimming pool for the community. Well-known bands of the Big Band era played at Warnoco after entertaining at Denver's Elitch Gardens.

When the City created its Department of Culture in 1958 to coordinate the activities of the museum, library, and recreational programs, it was the first city in the nation to do so.

In 1963, the City Manager's Comprehensive Plan Report included a parks plan and resulted in its first park fee of \$25 for each residential building permit. The Plan envisioned parkland in each of four neighborhoods of the community and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue was the western edge of the community at that time. A five acre park in conjunction with a school was planned for the area between 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenues and 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets. Farr Park, six acres in size, is located within this area. Fifty acres of parkland were planned for the area between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenues and 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets. Four parks (Brentwood, Centennial, Leavy, and Sanborn) are within this area, totaling 69 acres in size. Ten to fifteen acres of park were slated for the area today between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenues and 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. Cottonwood, Sherwood, and Woodbriar Parks total 21 acres within this area. Between 20 and 25 acres of parkland were planned for the area between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenues and the railroad and 10<sup>th</sup> Street. In this area are Broadview, Franklin, Jimmy's, and Ramsier Farm Park which total over 29 acres. Ramsier Farm Park is scheduled to open in the Spring of 2009.

### Present

Parks and recreational facilities and activities play a key role in the quality of life of a community. They provide activities and programs for every age, ability, and culture or "something for everyone". Recreational activities have long been known as important for

*Leave all the afternoon for exercise and recreation, which are as necessary as reading. I will rather say more necessary because health is worth more than learning. – Thomas Jefferson*



maintaining health and a sense of well-being; however, a recent book “Last Child in the Woods,” by Richard Louv, discusses a fairly new phenomenon known as “nature-deficit disorder.” This phenomenon is the disconnection between children and nature, as a result of children spending much of their time indoors in recent years. This book makes the case for the importance of children and adults having direct exposure to nature and the out-of-doors. Parks, natural areas, and facilities such as the Poudre Learning Center offer opportunities for children and adults to have this access and to experience nature and all it has to offer, including education, as well as physical, and emotional health benefits.

Today, the City of Greeley has over 700 acres of developed parkland in 40 parks that are administered and maintained by the City’s Parks Department. Table PR1 shows the parks by type, as well as their location and size. The majority of these are neighborhood parks, while six are community parks. Island Grove is the only regional park. Parks range in size from Swanson/Kiwanis Park, which was recently renovated, to the 140-acre Island Grove Regional Park.

# VARIETY

# Conservation

# Enrichment

Table PR1 – Greeley Parks Inventory		
Neighborhood Parks	Location	Size (acres)
Allen	49 <sup>th</sup> Ave./9 <sup>th</sup> St.	5
Anna Gimmestad	19 <sup>th</sup> Ave./31 <sup>st</sup> St.	5
Brentwood	25 <sup>th</sup> Ave./26 <sup>th</sup> St.	6
Broadview	28 <sup>th</sup> Ave./6 <sup>th</sup> St.	10
Cottonwood	26 <sup>th</sup> Ave./19 <sup>th</sup> St.	10
Coyote Run	50 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Ct./A St.	5
Delta	1 <sup>st</sup> Ave./24 <sup>th</sup> St.	6
East Memorial	2100 Balsam Ave.	6
Epple	43 <sup>rd</sup> Ave./4 <sup>th</sup> St.	7
Farr	15 <sup>th</sup> Ave./26 <sup>th</sup> St.	6
Franklin	31 <sup>st</sup> Ave./6 <sup>th</sup> St.	4
Glenmere	14 <sup>th</sup> Ave./19 <sup>th</sup> St.	14
Jimmy’s Park	338 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave.	Under 1 acre
Leavy	33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave./22 <sup>nd</sup> St.	5
Lincoln	10 <sup>th</sup> Ave./9 <sup>th</sup> St.	5
Luther	21 <sup>st</sup> Ave./10 <sup>th</sup> St.	10
Peakview	56 <sup>th</sup> Ave./13 <sup>th</sup> St. Rd.	11
Pheasant Run	47 <sup>th</sup> Ave./4 <sup>th</sup> St.	8
Ramsier (opening Spring 2009)	2828 C St.	15
Rodarte	910 A St.	5
Rover Run Dog Park	5207 F St.	3
Sherwood	29 <sup>th</sup> Ave./13 <sup>th</sup> St.	8
Sunrise	4 <sup>th</sup> Ave./11 <sup>th</sup> St.	5
Swanson/ Kiwanis	14 <sup>th</sup> Ave./6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	Under 1 acre
Westmoor	39 <sup>th</sup> Ave./6 <sup>th</sup> St.	3
Woodbriar	29 <sup>th</sup> Ave./19 <sup>th</sup> St.	3
Community Parks & Facilities	Location	Size (acres)
Balsam Sports Complex	Balsam/E. 24 <sup>th</sup> St.	15
Bittersweet	35 <sup>th</sup> Ave./13 <sup>th</sup> St.	60
Centennial	23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave./22 <sup>nd</sup> St.	18
Forbes Field	23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave./8 <sup>th</sup> St.	6
Greeley West Park & Field	35 <sup>th</sup> Ave./24 <sup>th</sup> St.	39
Josephine Jones*	2631 52 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. Ct.	37
Monfort*	47 <sup>th</sup> Ave./24 <sup>th</sup> St.	37
Promontory *	1630 Promontory Cir.	32
Sanborn*	28 <sup>th</sup> Ave./20 <sup>th</sup> St.	40
Twin Rivers*	65 <sup>th</sup> Ave./16 <sup>th</sup> St.	43
Youth Sports Complex	63 <sup>rd</sup> Ave./20 <sup>th</sup> St.	79
Regional Park	Location	Size (acres)
Island Grove Regional Park	14 <sup>th</sup> Ave./A St.	140

Source: Greeley Parks Department

\* Parks which may also include neighborhood park improvements

**Neighborhood parks** are intended to serve one or more surrounding neighborhoods and are ideally 10 – 34 acres in size. Walking distance from the neighborhoods served by such a park should be no more than one-half mile. The City’s neighborhood parks range in size from less than one acre, to the largest neighborhood park, Twin Rivers Park, which is 43 acres in size. The City’s policy regarding neighborhood

parks is to provide 2.5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 persons. Based on the population of 93,543 in 2008, this means 234 acres of developed neighborhood park land would be needed. With 356 acres of neighborhood parks, the City has 3.8 acres for every 1,000 persons, well in excess of the current policy. The new parks developed since adoption of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan are dispersed throughout the community, offering additional recreational opportunities to north, east, and west Greeley. Neighborhood parks work well being located adjacent to elementary schools and when sited in this manner, can offer benefits to the public, as well as the school district. Most residents with school-age children would prefer to live near a park and school, so this can provide a tremendous marketing advantage for developers of residential areas if they provide sites within their development for a school and/or park and both may become focal points for a neighborhood.

**Community parks** typically serve the entire community and range from 34 – 100 acres in size. There are six community parks in Greeley, totaling over 200 acres. These parks and facilities include the Balsam Sports Complex, Youth Sports Complex, Bittersweet Park, Centennial Park, Forbes Field, Twin Rivers and the Greeley West Park and Field. The City's community park policy is to provide five acres of developed parkland for every 1,000 persons. Based on the population of 93,543 in 2008, this means 468 acres of developed community park land would be needed. There is currently a total of 217 acres of developed community park, so there is a deficit of about 250 acres. Future community parks are envisioned to serve a one-to-two mile radius area and due to their size, scale, and activities, are best sited on or near arterial streets.

**Regional parks** are typically over 100 acres in size and are intended to serve a regional area, beyond the community. Island Grove Park is the only regional park that exists in Greeley and the 2020 Comprehensive Plan called for the creation of at least one additional regional park. Island Grove is a multi-use park that includes six buildings, four arenas, and a grandstand. Parks of this scale typically include a wide variety of facilities and activities such as outdoor arenas, exhibition halls, institutional or professional sports associations, lit and unlit fields, equestrian activities, and related activities. Due to their scale and magnitude, they are best located away from residential areas, with access taken from arterial or major collector streets.

**Mini-parks** are small areas ranging from one-half acre to five acres in size and are intended to serve residents or businesses with passive use areas such as walking paths, plazas, and small outdoor seating areas. Pocket parks are ideally located on internal, local streets and have pedestrian access. Such areas are typically owned and maintained by a home owners' or property owners' association.

*People who cannot find time for recreation are obliged sooner or later to find time for illness.*

– John Wanamaker



**Special Use Parks** are those areas which are set aside for more of a single-purpose and unique activity, such as for demonstration gardens or “dog parks”. These areas need to be carefully located to accommodate the special use function of the activity.

The City does not require parkland dedication with development, but does collect a park fee with building permits. With continued population growth, a deficit in community park acreage may also continue to grow, and creative ways of bridging this deficit may be needed.

Master plans have been adopted for a number of Greeley’s parks and recreational facilities and have been used to guide the development of these areas. Adopted plans include those for Island Grove Regional Park, Lincoln Park, Josephine Jones, and the Jesus Rodarte Cultural Center. With the exception of Lincoln Park, which is currently undergoing plan revisions, these other adopted plans have been implemented and completed. The **Parks and Recreation Master Plan**, first adopted in 1991 and then amended in 1995 to include Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreational Facilities, continues to guide the location and development of existing and future facilities. In 2001, a comprehensive leisure assessment was performed and forms the framework for an \$180 million successful “Quality of Life” bond issue which is still being implemented in a series of scheduled fixed community improvements.

In addition to developed parks, Greeley has eleven natural areas, totaling over 300 acres. Most of these areas are located west of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They are in proximity to the Cache la Poudre River, as well as Sheep Draw, which is a major drainage area on the west side of the community. Other potential natural areas are along the Cache la Poudre River, and the South Platte River east of Greeley, and the bluffs that are between Northwest Greeley and Windsor. The table below shows the location and size of these natural areas. These natural areas are usually left in their natural state and offer an alternative to the manicured design of today’s parks.

*Keep your love of  
nature, for that  
is the true way to  
understand art more  
and more.*

– Vincent Van Gogh



**PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN** – the City of Greeley’s plan for parks and recreation facilities, adopted in 1991 and amended in 1995.

<b>Table PR2 – Natural Areas Inventory</b>		
<b>Natural Area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>
Country Club West	50 <sup>th</sup> Ave./12 <sup>th</sup> St.	12
Glenmere Wildlife Sanctuary	Lakeside Drive/17 <sup>th</sup> Ave	4
Greeley West	42 <sup>nd</sup> Ave/23 <sup>rd</sup> St.	27
Homestead Park	30 <sup>th</sup> St./39 <sup>th</sup> Ave	17
Hunter's Cove West	4 <sup>th</sup> St./Sheep Draw	22
Josephine Jones Natural Area	2631 52nd /Ave . Ct	22
Mountain Vista	7400 block 20 <sup>th</sup> St	18
Poudre River Ranch	71 <sup>st</sup> Ave./Poudre River	86
Pumpkin Ridge	10 <sup>th</sup> St./Sheep Draw	37
Sheep Draw/McClosky Natural Area	71 <sup>st</sup> Ave./Sheep Draw	53
Triple Creek	20 <sup>th</sup> St./76 <sup>th</sup> Ave	18

Source: Greeley Parks Department

**Public recreational facilities** are available in Greeley Downtown at the Recreation Center, Senior Activity Center, Ice Haus and, just north at the Jesus Rodarte Cultural Center which also houses the **Youth Enrichment** Program. West Greeley is served by the new Greeley Family FunPlex. Recreation facilities include the following amenities:

- The Recreation Center includes a swimming pool, rock climbing wall, gymnasiums, cardio-weight center, racquetball courts, aerobic fitness rooms, dance rooms, a rifle and archery range, meeting rooms, child care center, and a full kitchen
- Community members over 50 years enjoy the use of the Senior Activity Center which offers special events and programming including travel, sports and tournaments, classes, games, and a computer lab
- The Family FunPlex includes an indoor aquatic venue, miniature golf, fitness center, aerobic and meeting rooms, a catering kitchen, field house, arcade, food court, and a variety of activities at the adjacent Twin Rivers Park
- An NHL indoor sheet of ice provides the focus of the Ice Haus which supports ice skating and hockey. The UNC Hockey Club team and the Greeley Youth Hockey Association both claim home ice advantage at this center and the facility provides lockers and also supports a variety of other special activities, including special events, and birthday parties. Food service and a pro shop are also available at the skating center, as are community meeting rooms
- The Jesus Rodarte Cultural Center offers after school activities, recreation classes and activities, an art gallery, gymnasium, boxing ring, and multi-use room for youth and adults. The Youth Enrichment Program offers recreational and enrichment activities for youth in neighborhoods around the community, as well as school programming at John Evans Middle School and three elementary schools: Billie Martinez, East Memorial, and Jefferson. Outreach sites are located at

**Northern Colorado Community Separator Study** – a study to identify locations and methods for maintaining physical and/or visual separation between communities in Northern Colorado, completed in 1998.

**YOUTH ENRICHMENT** – a program of the Greeley Parks and Recreation and Police Department to promote a positive presence in the community and reduce criminal activities by providing recreational, educational, and cultural programs for youth.

Anna Gimmetstad Park, and the Dominic Apartments on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, near 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Staffing for the Youth Enrichment Program is at the Rodarte Center

- The City of Greeley also owns and operates two golf courses through the City Parks Department. These courses are Boomerang Links and the Highland Hills Country Club. Both courses offer 18 holes, driving ranges, putting and chipping greens and pro shops. The Parks Department also operates the Linn Grove Cemetery, which opened in 1874 and is the burial site of many of Greeley's early settlers.

### ***Poudre Trail***

In addition to the parks, natural areas, and recreational facilities in Greeley, a significant recreational opportunity is found in the Poudre River Trail. This trail has just over 20 miles completed along the Cache la Poudre River for bicycling, walking, and in-line skating. Larimer County and the Town of Windsor plan to continue the trail under State Hwy 392 near the river and extend it approximately one mile north and eventually connect with the Larimer County section of trail.

The City of Greeley is also working on a master plan for extending the trail east of Island Grove Park toward its confluence with the South Platte River. A trail along the South Platte would then extend south to connect to an existing trail in the City of Evans.

### ***Fishing***

A new recreational opportunity has received funding for its design and construction drawing phase and is known as the Poudre Ponds Fishing is Fun project. This project proposes to develop an 80-acre site for public fishing access. The site is located at 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Cache la Poudre River and is a cooperative effort between the Parks and Water Departments. Additional funding will be needed to complete the project, but to date, funding has been received from the Northern Colorado Society of Civil Engineers and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. There will be a trailhead developed at the site funded through the City's Quality of Life proceeds.

### ***Open Space***

The **Northern Colorado Community Separators Study** was completed in 1998 and identified areas that should remain in open space, or see only limited development. These were key areas for maintaining the physical and visual separation between the communities of Northern Colorado. Without such separators, the pattern of development was expected to allow the communities to grow together. The areas identified as separators between Greeley and its surrounding communities were the area between Windsor and U S Hwy 34; the area north of the U S Hwy 34 Corridor; and the area between Johnstown and Milliken, to the southwest. The Separators Study was not formally adopted by Greeley; however, some of these key separator areas remain undeveloped, or have had only limited development and may still be able to provide valuable physical and visual separation, particularly if left as open space.

**Northern Colorado Community Separator Study** – a study to identify locations and methods for maintaining physical and/or visual separation between communities in Northern Colorado, completed in 1998.

**Optimize cooperative ventures Open Space**

## Patterns

The following key trends that relate to Parks and Recreation have been identified:

- An increased demand is expected on the parks and natural areas of Greeley and on the Poudre River Trail as the community continues to grow
- In addition to parks and recreational facilities, natural areas play a key role in creating and maintaining community separation, as well as in the community's quality of life
- A continued emphasis on recreational activities for all ages and interests offered at a reasonable cost is expected as the community grows and

## Progress

Since the adoption of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, many of the action steps of the Plan have been accomplished, or are in process. The following report card summarizes some of the key accomplishments. The full Parks & Recreation Report Card can be found in the appendix of this document:

- An additional eleven miles of trail have been constructed for the Poudre River Trail, making it 20 miles in length and planning is underway for future extensions of the trail east of Island Grove Park
- Seven new parks have been completed, adding about 130 acres to the City's parks system
- The Family FunPlex and Ice Haus have been completed, adding two key facilities to the City's recreational facilities, as well as expanding the Rodarte Center
- Youth programming and activities have been expanded in the community, under the Youth Enrichment Division of the City's Leisure Services Department
- Three miles of the planned 6.2 mile Sheep Draw Trail has been completed
- The City received national recognition for its youth sports program philosophy from the National Youth Sports Alliance
- Sports Illustrated magazine bestowed its "Excellence in Youth Sports" recognition on Greeley's youth recreation programs
- Greeley continues to host the Rocky Mountain Senior Games and has been recognized for its premier programming and support of this event which averages 600 participants from 12 states

*Joy in looking and  
comprehending  
is nature's most  
beautiful gift.*

- Albert Einstein



**Potential**

The following Parks & Recreation Themes were identified to create a vision of a 2060 Greeley as a community described as one with:

- Quality of life
- Accessible
- Eco-friendly
- Variety
- Conservation
- Enrichment
- Northern Colorado destination
- Thoughtful interface with environment
- Habitat rich
- Optimize cooperative ventures
- Open space
- Non-potable water resources
- Safe places to play
- Trails & greenways
- Intergovernmental associations
- Enhance wetlands, drainage ways floodplains
- Thoughtful, creative park design
- Connect the trails

**Promise**

Enhanced quality of life through a complete system of parks and leisure opportunities.

**Northern Colorado  
destination**      **Habitat rich**

## II.

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# Non-potable water resources floodplains

## ◆ PARKS AND RECREATION ◆

**GOAL:** Enhance the community quality of life through an integrated parks and recreation system that offers a full range of leisure opportunities for community residents and visitors

### OBJECTIVES

#### PR1 PARK LAND LOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

##### A Provide ample places for people to interact with others, relax, and recreate in both passive and active forms

- 1 Adopt by reference through this Plan the following City parks and recreation plans and use these guides when considering the appropriateness of proposals for zoning, land use and redevelopment projects that are proposed in the vicinity of these public improvements:
  - a 2002 Parks and Trails Master Plan
  - b 2002 Conceptual Trails Plan
  - c 1992 **Island Grove Regional Park Master Plan**
  - d 1993 **Josephine Jones Park Master Plan**
  - e 1992 **Jesus Rodarte Cultural Center 10-year Master Plan**
- 2 Within the parks system, plan for the needs of residents through the development of the following categories of parks:
  - a **Neighborhood or Mini-parks:** using the following criteria, develop a neighborhood park to serve residents closest to where they live. Neighborhood parks should serve residents with facilities such as playgrounds, picnic and gathering areas, and walking paths. Neighborhood parks may have area devoted to active play space, but it is not the primary use of the park area
    - i Provide neighborhood parks at a rate of 2 ½ acres per 1,000 population
    - ii Size each Neighborhood Park to a range of 10 – 12 acres of developed area, depending upon the physical attributes of the site, the facilities to be provided, the configuration of any adjacent play area (such as with a school site) and the density of residents within the target service area. Additional land available should be left in a naturalized condition consistent with the City's Open Space system

**ISLAND GROVE REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN** – the plan for the future development and improvements for Island Grove Regional Park, adopted in 1992.

**JESUS RODARTE CULTURAL CENTER 10 YEAR MASTER PLAN** – the plan for the fixture development and improvements for Jesus Rodarte Cultural Center in North Greeley, adopted in 1992.

**JOSEPHINE JONES PARK MASTER PLAN** – the plan for the future development and improvements at Josephine Jones Park, adopted in 1993.

**MINI-PARK** – a park that range in size from 0.5 – 5.0 acres in size, intended to serve the immediate residential or commercial area.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARK** – a park intended to serve a smaller portion of the community, or a neighborhood, ranging in size from 1 to 34 acres.

**OPEN SPACE** – any parcel of land or water which is essentially unimproved and which may include crop land, areas of ecological significance or other natural features.

- iii Locate each park to have a service radius of one to two miles, with an ideal walking distance for most residents of approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the park
- iv Locate parks on local or minor collector streets and adjacent to and in conjunction with area drainage facilities and/or elementary schools, whenever possible
- v Parking for the neighborhood park may be accommodated on-street for the most part, if adequate area is reserved for handicap parking and access to facilities. If active play area is included, which is used for organized events that will accommodate or attract users from outside the neighborhood, off-street parking should be provided to minimize the impact to adjacent residential uses. If the site is adjacent to a school or other facility with parking available, efforts should be made to make joint use of such facilities
- vi Sidewalks should be provided at an ample width to generously and safely accommodate a multitude of users. Sidewalks may be adjacent to local streets but should be detached if adjacent to streets carrying higher traffic levels. Whenever possible, sidewalks should be designed to meander through and around the park to add interest, safety and appeal for users
- vii **Mini-parks** may be developed in areas which serve area residents or businesses with passive open area including walking paths, plaza areas and small seating areas. The design of such areas should be sympathetic to the character and use of the immediate surroundings and designed to City standards and consistent with Consumer Product Safety codes. Mini-parks may be sized between  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre to 5 acres in size with a service radius of the immediately surrounding subdivision or commercial/business area accessed from walking paths and sidewalks. Contingent upon design and function, Mini-parks should count as credit toward a required neighborhood park development fees within a well-defined subdivision or development when the park is developed and perpetually maintained by the subdivision or business area. Residents could also request the City establish a maintenance district to support the park, funded by assessments to adjacent

landowners. Mini-parks should be encouraged in Redevelopment Districts as Alternative Compliance to meeting standard open space requirements

- b **Community Parks:** using the following criteria, develop a Community Park to serve residents with such amenities as indoor recreation facilities, athletic complexes or programmed play fields, water sports or other facilities the City cannot practically provide within neighborhood parks due to size or impact to adjacent residential areas
  - i Provide community parkland at a rate of 5 acres per 1,000 population
  - ii Locate each community park to have a service radius of 1 to 2 miles
  - iii Size each park between 30–100 acres depending on the physical attributes of the site, its function and the facilities provided
  - iv Locate community parks on or near arterial or collector roads either in non-residential areas or on the edge of residential areas with the intent of minimizing the impact of organized recreational activities on such areas
  - v Parking for the Community Park may be accommodated with a combination of on-street and off-street parking. Where active play area is included for organized events, off-street parking should be provided at levels to minimize the impact to adjacent residential uses. If the site is adjacent to a school or other facility with parking available, efforts should be made to make joint use of such facilities
  - vi Sidewalks should be provided at an ample width to generously and safely accommodate a multitude of users. Sidewalks may be adjacent to local streets but should be detached if adjacent to streets carrying higher traffic levels. Whenever possible, sidewalks should be designed to meander through and around the park to add interest, safety and appeal for users
- c **Regional parks:** using the following criteria, develop regional parks in a way that allows for their logical and practical distribution. Regional parks are those which serve the community and region with facilities such as outdoor arena space, exhibition facilities, institutional or professional sports associations, lit or unlit fields, moto cross or auto-related events,

**COMMUNITY PARK** – a park intended to serve the entire community, ranging in size from 34 to 100 acres.

**REGIONAL PARK** – a park in excess of 100 acres, intended to serve the community, as well as areas beyond.

equestrian activities, fishing, water sports, and related events which by their nature produce off-site impacts which require sensitive placement, development and use.

- i Develop each park or facility in such a way that it includes sufficient area in which to locate support facilities so that they are compatible with adjoining land uses, including natural features, wildlife or other qualities that contribute to the parks' function; and,
  - ii Configure regional parks or facilities to provide access from arterial or major collector streets
  - iii A Regional Park would typically exceed 100 acres depending on the physical attributes of the site, its function, and the facilities provided
  - iv Locate a Regional Park on or near arterial or collector roads either in non-residential areas or on the edge of residential areas with the intent of minimizing the impact of organized recreational activities on such areas
  - v Parking for the Regional Park should be accommodated with a sufficient amount of off-street parking and provided at levels to minimize the impact to adjacent residential uses. If the site is adjacent to a school or other facility with parking available, efforts should be made to make joint-use of such facilities
  - vi Sidewalks should be provided at an ample width to generously and safely accommodate a multitude of users. Sidewalks may be adjacent to local streets but should be detached if adjacent to streets carrying higher traffic levels. Whenever possible, sidewalks should be designed to meander through and around the park to add interest, safety and appeal for users
- d **Special Use Parks and Facilities:** these park areas are reserved for distinct populations that may be better served by separate facilities and include golf courses, **dog parks**, butterfly gardens, agri-tourism sites, wildlife sanctuaries, **sensory parks**, demonstration gardens with a xeric focus, community gardens and medical healing gardens, and other similar special use areas. Such distinct park and open space areas add interest and appeal to the community when they can be appropriately designed, located and managed (see alsoHS3A1c)

**DOG PARK** – a park or area within a park specifically designed for the use of dogs and their owners.

**SENSORY PARK** – a park designed to stimulate all five senses (smell, see, hear, touch, taste).

**GREEN WAYS** – a linear open space or natural area or corridor typically used by pedestrians and bicyclists.

- i Undertake an independent study or in conjunction with the Parks and Trails Master Plan update that considers the specific aspects of the development of these special parks within the community.
- ii Include users associated with Special Use Park Facilities in their location, design, development and maintenance

**B Improve the city's visual appeal and economic attractiveness and enhance the community quality of life through planning and development of parkland and open space areas**

- 1 Commensurate with community growth, the City should update plans to assure relevance to expected or planned development and population changes
  - a By 2010 initiate a comprehensive update to the Parks and Trails Master Plan, including a companion component to the link with the Open Space Plan
  - b Review the Annual Growth and Population Projections to determine optimal quantity and locations to serve the community based upon density of development anticipated
  - c Review the growth projections and development plans with other entities which may have facilities with a beneficial and companion relationship to the location of parks, such as drainage systems and school development

**C Coordinate the location of parks to coincide with and complement other beneficial uses**

- 1 Pursue a coordinated effort with area school districts for the joint siting, development and maintenance of schools and parks wherever possible and practical (see also ED1A5f, LU6C1 and LU8A5)

**PR2 GREENWAYS, OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

**A Develop greenways as linear corridors that permit public access and community connectivity**

- 1 Explore the use of abandoned rail lines and rights-of-way for linear trail corridors (see also TR1A10 and TR7B3)
- 2 Promote the extension of the Poudre River Trail Corridor to its confluence with the South Platte River

- a Establish linkages with the Poudre River Trail from other area linear trail corridors, such as Sheep Draw
- 3 Review drainage basin master plans and identify opportunities for complementary open space uses as described in this 2060 Comprehensive Plan (see also EN2B7, GR2A2, LU6B1, LU7A1, PR2A3, P2B9 and TR1A10)
  - a Develop a greenway network of undeveloped linear corridors that optimizes multiple uses of drainage ways, assists in their effective maintenance, accommodates trail-oriented recreation, and connects residential areas to the bikeway network and with community activity areas
    - i Formally designate primary greenways along ditches and draws that carry urban storm drainage when those areas can be integrated with the bikeway system and provide interconnectivity between neighborhood and community activity areas
    - ii Evaluate area ditches that carry urban storm drainage to determine those that would meet the functions of the greenway system
    - iii Locate improvements within the greenway system in a way as to minimize negative impacts on wildlife habitats and desirable vegetation (see also EN2B6)

**B Identify and secure open space areas as part of a comprehensive strategy to protect, preserve, and enhance natural areas and environmentally sensitive portions of the community**

- 1 During the subdivision review process identify, locate, and develop secondary greenways as narrow corridors sufficient for bikeways use to provide direct, short links to primary greenways, parks and schools from and through residential developments
- 2 Preserve area open space and undeveloped areas in accordance with master plan objectives and priorities and which include areas with any of the following attributes:
  - a Contains significant natural features and resources
  - b Provides visual separation from adjacent communities, helping to retain Greeley's distinct identity
  - c Offers outdoor recreation opportunities
  - d Are associated with community entryways (see also CD1A2, EN7C and TR4D)

- 3 Maintain an inventory of important natural areas for open space acquisition or designation and protection which include, but are not limited to, areas with important wildlife habitat and areas with a high quality of native vegetation and water resources (see also EN1A1, EN2B8, and LU7A1)
- 4 Preserve designated open space in developing areas through site design, development incentives, and related measures and considerations consistent with available zoning and financing tools
- 5 Designate and create open space community buffers in strategic locations to promote Greeley’s unique identity
  - a Develop intergovernmental agreements or similar arrangements with other jurisdictions and conservation organizations to acquire open space areas
- 6 Consider options to conserve important area farmland used for crops, such as through agricultural easements, as one option to securing public open space (see also GR2C1b and LU7D)
- 7 Preserve locally significant, high quality natural resource-based recreational areas through designation and acquisition as community or regional parks
- 8 Enhance scenic corridors and designated community entryways through special designations, improvements, and design standards (see also CD3A1a, EN7C, TR4A2 and TR4D)
  - a Cooperate with other jurisdictions in designation, design and installation of entryway improvements
- 9 Complete and implement a basin-wide study that addresses drainage improvements through larger, shared, facilities which could also achieves an attractive, functional community or regional park use (see also CD3B1, EN2B7 and PR2A3)
- 10 Develop minimum standards for acceptance of wetland areas for public open space, greenways, or parks. Consider a requirement for installation of native vegetation for such areas (see also EN2B3)
- 11 Retain floodway and flood plain areas in their natural state whenever possible to augment the park, open space, and greenway system (see also EN5D5&6a and PS2A2)

# Intergovernmental associations park design

**NON-POTABLE WATER** – water that is not suitable for drinking or cooking purposes.

- 12 Promote the use of **non-potable water** for irrigation of park land and open space areas when it is available as a viable alternative to treated water (see also EN2A5)
  - a Design non-potable facilities to complement the surrounding area through sensitive attention to the location, configuration, selection of materials and use of landscaping to blend the facility into the setting in an attractive and appropriate manner
  
- 13 Support the continued use and development of the Poudre River Trail Corridor for community recreational and open space purposes (see also CD1D5, EN1A2, and LU8A7)
  - a Explore opportunities to expand the trail with open space areas to further protect sensitive natural areas along this corridor
  - b Where the Trail is in proximity to urban areas and uses, promote development with complementary land uses, such as a river walk loop trail near retail uses, to provide another way for residents to enjoy the river corridor
  
- 14 Actively pursue opportunities for open space development in conjunction with gravel mining operations as part of the mining reclamation process
  - a Make contact with potential gravel mining areas early in the mining review and permitting process to optimize use of the completed gravel site for complementary open space uses as part of the overall Opens Space & Parks & Trails Master Plan and system
  
- 15 Establish a multi-departmental Open Space Team, including representation by companion citizen boards and community at large members to provide comprehensive interface and coordinated attention to oversee open space planning and management
  - a Explore ways to increase the community's financial means to secure meaningful and perpetual funding to support open space and natural areas acquisition, protection, and development
  
- 16 Update the Open Space Master Plan to identify areas within the Long Range Expected Growth Area that provide key areas that should be preserved as part of a public open space system

- a Identify a range of funding and other alternatives that will enable implementation of the Open Space program in a way that balances individual property interests while securing important visual and natural areas for public enjoyment
- b Optimize open space opportunities by coordinating land use management with other City functions that may offer complementary objectives (e.g. drainage areas, water acquisitions, Poudre Trail, parks, and trail systems)

**C Provide responsible stewardship of one of the community's environmentally sensitive areas**

- 1 Promote the well-documented economic benefits of parks and open space such as its appeal in attraction of quality businesses and residents, stimulation of redevelopment and revitalization, contribution of tourism dollars, protection of farm economies, method of flood control and support of local natural habitats and areas, and general quality of life appeal
  - a Review practices associated with parks and open space management that may affect area water quality (e.g. use of fertilizers) and modify to minimize harmful consequences of such use (see also EN2B1a and TR1B3)

**PR3 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

**A Promote healthy lifestyles of residents through a continuum of leisure life skills**

- 1 Provide opportunities for residents to learn, develop and participate in fitness and recreational activities to encourage an improved state of health and well-being (see also HS4B5)
- 2 Help address obesity among residents and attempt to lead by example by offering healthy food and refreshment choices as an option in all City-owned facilities (see also ED1E3 and H4B5e-)
- 3 Continue to develop, maintain and expand joint use agreements with school districts, Aims Community College and the University of Northern Colorado to co-locate and maintain recreational facilities in order to maximize taxpayer funds and avoid duplication or lack of facility use or program development (see also ED5A1)

- 4 Enhance the range of recreational options available by continuing the City support offered through its Leisure Services Department to enable community sporting activities and events the ability to grow and expand to levels otherwise not possible if they had to supply the facility and programming infrastructure independently
- 5 Incorporate ADA accessibility standards and services into the design of all recreational facilities and parks to assure that all residents may access such public programs

**B Promote the constructive use of free time and increase the community’s appeal**

- 1 Expose the community to the available and varied recreational opportunities through extensive, cooperative and coordinated promotional and education efforts
  - a Consider joint advertising efforts and promotion with other City departments and programs
  - b Continue to work with area employers, organizations and businesses to offer employee benefit activities and services associated with City recreational activities
    - i Consider program or service incentives for employers or agencies who commit support as youth coaches or other program support
    - ii Explore the use of organizational newsletters, publications, and other outlets to promote recreation programs
  - c Explore non-traditional forms of promotion to engage the community in healthy behaviors and the use of community recreational facilities and programs
    - i Consider “celebrity” teams or challenges
    - ii Consider a City “mascot” that may appeal to and engage younger audiences
    - iii Continue to engage local college and high school athletes and sports leaders to act as role models and spokespersons for an “Active Greeley”
  - d Continue to work with the University of Northern Colorado to strengthen leisure and recreational programs, services and participation between the community and college

**C Develop recreational facilities and programs that meet the organized and unstructured leisure interests of its residents and visitors**

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**  
 – adopted in 1990, a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.

# Enhance wetlands, drainage ways

- 1 Formulate a **Leisure Services and Facilities Master Plan** to guide the provision and priority of service delivery, capital improvements planning, assess user trends and satisfaction levels, and identify opportunities to enter into intergovernmental agreements and community organizations or private vendors to meet the needs of residents. The Plan should minimally include an assessment of the following components:
  - a An inventory of existing facilities and services
  - b User information (e.g. age, gender, residence, length of time in City programs, and/or similar information)
  - c Participation levels by program or service offered
  - d Cost of recreational services by type of activity
  - e Intergovernmental opportunities for shared facilities
  - f Vendor activity (e.g. concessions, equipment)
  - g User surveys that measure activity and service trends
  - h Forecasts of emerging recreational opportunities and trends
  
- 2 Identify funding resources, opportunities, and strategies to meet the objectives of the Leisure Services and Facilities Master Plan regarding facilities as well as programming
  - a Continue to conduct assessments among parks and recreational facilities in the region to ascertain costs charged for similar services when setting a fee schedule. Balance the local economic profile of residents, competitive charges for similar programming, and the cost of service delivery when setting fees
  
- 3 Support recreational activities for youth which teach leisure life skills and provide construction opportunities for free time, in both organized and unstructured activities
  - a Continue to solicit volunteers to coach youth sports programs to promote positive role models for youth
  - b Continue to support **Girls of Tomorrow** programs that provide young girls with exposure to life choices and support good decision making skills
  - c For all youth, provide after-school tutoring and recreational programs that offer active play and constructive outlets for youth support and academic achievement

**GIRLS OF TOMORROW**

– a recreation program that promotes self-confidence, leadership, community responsibility, and accountability for young women.

**LEISURE SERVICES AND FACILITIES MASTER**

**PLAN** – a proposed master plan to prioritize and guide the use of the City’s leisure facilities.

- 4 Utilize recreational programming to facilitate youth leadership, support prevention of juvenile concerns and encourage parental involvement, and promote youth advocacy through community partnerships
  - a Regularly review existing programs and opportunities to provide after school, weekend, and special recreational and social programs for youth
    - i Specifically focus on programming to address gaps in organized youth activity for school age youth that exist between school and City recreational programs
    - ii Seek ways to accomplish a continuum of youth support activities to maintain a supportive environment that promotes continued personal development and achievement
    - iii Support collaborative efforts between the City, School Districts and other community organizations to support youth development
  - b Fully support outdoor leadership development for all ages of participants and particularly for at-risk youth
    - i Continue collaborative programming with groups such as the Rocky Mountain Nature Association
    - ii Continue arts and music collaboration with UNC, School District No. 6 and other private partners in support of after-school programs for youth

# Thoughtful, creative Connect the trails