

2017



City of
LOVELAND
PARKS & RECREATION

Annual Report

Parks | Recreation | Open Lands & Trails | Golf



On The Move!



City of Loveland

Our Mission & Values

The City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Department is *on the move!*

In 2017 with a focus on innovation, we grew our programming, expanded open spaces and trails and laid a path for the future. In this annual report, we'll show you how we never settle and are always looking for innovative ways to improve the experience residents and visitors have when they engage with Parks & Recreation. We want you to love where you live. Join us on our journey as we provide Loveland with access to health, wellness, community and quality of life.



Steve Adams, City Manager and
Elizabeth Kayl, Parks & Recreation Director
Photo Credit: Jessica Keil

The Parks and Recreation Department is composed of five divisions which offer diverse and comprehensive year-round programming for all ages at a number of facilities throughout the City of Loveland.

Administration Comprised of Division managers and support staff who oversee programming and operations

Golf Three golf courses and one mini-course

Open Lands & Trails 24 natural areas/open spaces and 20 miles of paved recreation trail

Parks 32 city parks with 18 park shelters/areas that are available for reservation; facilities with multiple sports fields; two cemetery/burial parks

Recreation Facilities such as the Hatfield Chilson Recreation/Senior Center, three sports complexes, Lake Loveland Swim Beach and Winona Outdoor Pool

Our Mission & Values

The mission of the City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Department is to provide effective, efficient and high-quality leisure facilities, sites, services and programs for citizens of and visitors to the community. We embrace this mission through the three pillars of parks and recreation – conservation, health & wellness, and social equity – to make a positive impact on the quality of life in Loveland.

Three Pillars of Parks and Recreation

Conservation Our parks are critically important in preserving natural resources that have quantifiable economic benefits to our community in addition to intrinsic environmental, aesthetic and recreation benefits. Oftentimes, parks and recreation agencies are the only voice for ensuring that open space is protected, that our youth have access to nature-related areas and that services and outdoor education are available.

Health & Wellness Our parks and recreation staff are leaders in improving and enhancing health and wellness by offering fitness, sports and healthy lifestyle classes for people of all ages and abilities. We are actively engaged in reducing obesity, physical inactivity and poor nutrition while strengthening skills that enrich our mind, body and overall attitude.

Social Equity Our department embraces complete access and inclusion to park and recreation services and facilities. We strive to be a catalyst for ensuring that all residents have equal access to our resources and services and that we offer opportunities that transcend barriers of income through both a low income fee structure and scholarship opportunities through the Parks & Recreation Foundation.

Administration/Commissions

Parks & Recreation Management Team

- Elizabeth Kayl, Director
- Molly Elder, Administrative/Business Manager
- Marilyn Hilgenberg, Open Lands/Trails Manager
- Steve Southard, Golf Manager
- Shanen Weber, Senior Parks & Recreation Planner
- Dan Willadsen, Parks Manager
- LeAnn Williams, Recreation Manager



Boards and Commissions serve in an advisory capacity to the Parks and Recreation Department and City Council. They provide input on the primary policy topics critical to the operation of Loveland City Government. Members are appointed by City Council based on their personal and professional backgrounds relevant to the policy topic. Their structure provides an excellent opportunity for community participation in policy-making at the City of Loveland.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Gene Alvine
Wendi Cudmore, Chair
Katie Davis, Vice Chair
Twyla Dennis
Brett Dowgin
Constance Keeney
Deborah Manderscheid
Shane McWatters
Leighton Millar
Richard Ball, City Council Liaison
Elizabeth Kayl, Staff Liaison

Chilson Senior Advisory Committee

Dana Carlson
Doug East, Chair
Mary Ann Goldsmith
Betty Herder
Bill Heitt
Patty Heitt
Carol Juntunen
Sharon McDaniel
Barbara Moore
John Steinman
Karol Stroschein, Secretary
Gina DeBell, Staff Liaison, Treasurer
Elaine Brush, Staff Liaison

Open Lands Advisory Commission

Gale Bernhardt
Rick Brent
Andy Hawbaker, Vice Chair
Ross Livingston, Chair
Darren Pape
Jim Roode
Nathan Thompson
Jean Whittaker
William Zawacki
Don Overcash, City Council Liaison
Kerri Rollins, Larimer County Liaison
Marilyn Hilgenberg, Staff Liaison

Golf Advisory Board

Hope Chrisman
Charlie Dyer
Joe Lopo
Julie Nelson, Vice Chair
Rex Lamoreaux
Robert Walkowicz, Chair
Jan Wall
Chuck Weirauch
Jim Whitenight
Jack Stringer - Alternate
Don Overcash - Council Liaison
Steve Southard - Staff Liaison

Parks & Recreation Foundation

Chad Brent
Marie DeWolf
Mo Doering
Greg Guest
Ryan Lundquist
Dennis Newberry
Denise Rhoades
Howard Wigert, Chair
Scott Wilson, Treasurer
Molly Elder, Staff Liaison

By the Numbers

20
miles paved
recreation trail

956
new silver
sneakers
enrollments

372
adult
athletics
teams

8
memorial
trees &
benches
installed

1,486
children enrolled
in tots programs

13,222
facebook
likes

855
shelter reservations

9,248
batting cage
tokens sold

725
youth athletics
tournament teams

1,100
acres publically
accessible land

1,997
swim lesson
participants

18,881
hours donated
by volunteers

17,564
field reservations

32%
increase in
youth day camp
enrollments

4,881
recreation
program
class
enrollments

10,062
swim beach visitors

117,494
rounds of golf played

406
chilson facility
reservations

20
square miles
of grass
mowed
annually

62
farmers
market
vendors

Public Engagement & Planning

Planning: The Backbone of Parks and Recreation

As the backbone of Parks & Recreation, our Planning Division consists of Licensed Landscape Architects and Designers who lay the framework for every project within our four divisions: Recreation, Golf, Open Lands & Trails and Parks. Planning is the drawing board – everything starts here. From initial concepts to final renderings, our planners collaborate with not only Parks & Recreation staff but many other departments within the City of Loveland to ensure the best possible amenities for residents and visitors.

Parks and trails wouldn't be what they are without landscape architects. Public outreach and collaboration efforts, combined with the needs and wants of those who live in the City of Loveland, are what make the Planning Division so important. Fond of the play structures you see in Mahaffey Park? Thank a planner!

Planners put our efforts in motion and start the ball rolling when it comes to design standards, specs and sustainability. From walkways to playgrounds, picnic structures to irrigation, our Planning Division lays the foundation for an outstanding recreational experience.

Listening to the Loveland Community

Prairie Ridge

The Prairie Ridge development concept was vetted through a variety of public outreach efforts. In August, the City consulted its Open Lands Advisory Commission to solicit feedback and ensure support prior to taking concepts to the public. On-site interviews were conducted at Coyote Ridge on three separate occasions to gather input on preferred trail connections and desired experiences. An online survey also was posted on Loveland, Larimer County and Fort Collins websites to gain feedback on user needs and preferences. On September 29, 2017, the public was invited to an open house to review existing conditions, site opportunities and constraints and to weigh in on draft concept plans. Over 400 people gave feedback through the outreach process, providing invaluable insight on preferred trail connections, land stewardship options and wildlife habitat preservation considerations.

Sunset Vista

Public involvement for the Sunset Vista Natural Area was initiated shortly after the City purchased the property, when residents were invited to submit names for the site. Over 300 entries were received by more than 150 residents. The City hosted a public open house to solicit input on the development of Sunset Vista. Concept plans of a soft-surface trail network, a phased land management plan, an existing conditions exhibit and interpretive education opportunities were presented in conjunction with final plans of the Long View Trail project, which traverses through the property. Over 50 residents attended the meeting.



Community Open House for Prairie Ridge



Community input in neighborhood park master planning



Public meeting for Project Outdoors



Namaqua Skyline Scouting Hike

Parks

Loveland is extremely fortunate to have excellent parks offering a variety of quality amenities and experiences. The popularity of parks is evident as measured by the number of users enjoying these sites. Our Parks Division maintains City parks, public grounds and the Loveland Burial Park and Cemetery.



New play structure at Loveland Sports Park



River restoration work at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park

Going With the Flow - Rebuilding Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park

In 2017, we continued our flood recovery work at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park. Since the Big Thompson Flood of 1976, Mother Nature has wanted this river to flow along its natural path, so our first major project of the year was to re-route the river. Our Planners focused on a proactive approach to the design and repairs of this area so that it can withstand future floods, including conducting a hydrologic study of the Big Thompson River. These infrastructure improvements make the park even more resilient. Phase I flood recovery work is now 97% complete, and we are working as quickly as possible to give the public access once again to an area that's in high demand.

Other improvements on this \$2.9 million project included setting a bridge to access the north side of the river and two restroom facilities, four shelters and an accessible fishing pier along with paved walkways. During construction, the contractor uncovered so much native rock and material that we were able to save money from import materials and set a second pedestrian bridge to access the north side of the park. Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park is scheduled to re-open in fall 2018 with a new natural area focus.



Enjoying the new playground at Sherri Mar

Maintaining Fresh & Fun Play Structures

The Loveland Sports Park playground and splash pad relocation project, started in 2016, was completed and opened for Kids to Parks Day on May 20, 2017. This project was intended to relocate the splash pad out from under the large sculpture "Tornado" and to move the entire play plaza farther away from the water quality pond.

Sherri Mar and Sunnyside neighborhood parks both received new playground structures and safety surfaces this year, as we continually maintain safe play spaces for children. Both projects were completed in the fall when use generally decreases during the school year.

The Parks & Recreation Department received a national KaBOOM! grant to build a new playground at the park that formerly housed the Junior Achievement organization. We were selected from a number of possible sites due to neighborhood need and the value a playground could bring to the underserved area. This playground build was unlike any other the City has done. Over 300 community members volunteered to help build the playground in just one day! It is this type of project that demonstrates the spirit of giving and the sense of community in the hearts of our citizens and staff.

Renovating and Revitalizing

Centennial Park received several upgrades in 2017. Fields 1-3 were in need of ballfield light replacements for a number of years to keep games safe at night. Although this project kicked off in late 2016, completion in April 2017 had an immediate positive impact on youth baseball programming.

With the recent enthusiasm of the growing sport of pickleball, the department was looking for viable and economic ways to increase the number of courts available for pickleball players. This year, we converted an abandoned concrete slab on the east end of Centennial Park into four dedicated pickleball courts. This concrete slab was all that remained from the 2013 flood-damaged inline hockey rink. The phrase *pounding the pavement* seems appropriate here, as the community is coming together in record numbers for play and finding their joy in the sport.

Field #5 - one of two dedicated baseball fields at Centennial - received a long-awaited infield renovation late in 2017. This project included irrigation, soil, infield mix improvement, a new pitch mound and new sod for the entire infield area. These improvements will have an immediate impact on player safety during the 2018 spring high school baseball season.

Courts 1-6 at North Lake Park received significant upgrades in 2017. These tennis courts are half of the 12 full tennis courts onsite but the oldest and most in need of replacement. In 2017, these courts were reconstructed using post-tension concrete slabs for a solid base to allow many years of useful life. Along with new fencing, new lighting and an expanded access route on the west side of the complex, tennis enthusiasts will find a home at North Lake Park for years to come.



Field renovations at Centennial Park



Players enjoying pickleball at new Centennial Park courts

Ensuring Access for All

In early 2017, the Parks & Recreation Department took steps toward ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliance by beginning work on an ADA self evaluation and transition plan. The evaluation included a complete asset audit and will be used as a guide for decision makers to facilitate removal of accessibility barriers in a financially responsible way over the next seven to 10 years.



Moving Forward

A newly remodeled **cemetery office and equipment shop** will re-open in late spring, offering families a place to learn about available burial services and funeral accommodations.

The construction of Phase II of the **Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park** flood recovery project will come to a close, and we'll celebrate the grand re-opening of this popular park in the fall of 2018.

Phase II construction of **Loveland Sports Park** will launch. The development of the nearly 20 acres at the east end of the property will include a replacement of the synthetic field and scoreboard.

The Parks division will continue its work on **Emerald Ash Borer** mitigation, including the removal of unhealthy trees plus preventive treatments on those still standing.

Recreation

The City of Loveland Recreation Division provides the local community with a wide variety of recreation and leisure programs year-round. Individuals of all ages and abilities are considered when developing these programs with a goal of providing pathways not only to physical health but also to improved social and emotional health for all Lovelanders.



U12 Baseball at Centennial Park. Photo credit: Kerry Sheahan



30 Years of Moving Loveland

2017 marked the 30th anniversary of the Chilson Recreation & Senior Center. The hub of our community, Chilson serves citizens from all walks of life – from toddlers to seniors and everyone in between. In 1987, 160,000 people walked through Chilson’s doors. In 2017, that number was over 445,000!

People love the Chilson Recreation Center because it’s different here. Chilson is a gym when you want it, and it’s friendship when you need it. That’s the difference when you come to Chilson. Whether you’re here for a workout, to learn a new skill, or you’re looking to meet new people and create lasting friendships, we’ve got options to keep your life moving in the right direction.

Creating Pathways to Health and Community

We love our senior citizens and seek to help them achieve whole-person health. We’re not just a recreation center but a community center. What better way to create a sense of community than with our Senior Day Trips, classes and special events? The Senior Center is one of the most active places in Loveland, evidenced by our enrollment numbers of 5,164 in 2017. Folks here enjoy the positive impact the Senior Center has on their lives.

Our Recreation Division also partnered with the Thompson Valley School District to establish an outreach and wellness program for at-risk 9th and 10th graders. Through yoga and mindfulness, students learn to get in touch with their bodies and emotions and find practical ways for coping with difficulties.



Seniors enjoying the annual Harvest Bazaar

Making Room for New

After 30 years of wear and tear, we upgraded and replaced several items in our recreation and aquatics facilities. At Winona Pool, a new teacup water feature took the place of the 21-year-old raindrop feature. At Chilson, we improved the front entrance by adding landscaping and freshly poured concrete to comply with ADA accessibility requirements. Inside, audio-visual upgrades increased functionality and usability for internal meetings, private rentals and events. Chilson staff also implemented a number of improvements in the pool area including safety improvements to the speed slide, a new pool heater and a safety alarm and lighting system. New gymnastics flooring, extensive new cardio equipment and electronic basketball hoops round out the improvements.

Innovating and Improving

Our Athletics Division launched a new website on TeamSideline in the first quarter of 2017. This online platform makes it easier for league players and teams to communicate, access league schedules and stay in the loop on cancellations and other important announcements.

One of the most significant improvements to our athletics program in 2017 was our partnership with Northern Colorado Sports Officials to officiate all youth and adult games. This new partnership allows our Coordinators to focus on new innovative programming, volunteer recruitment, retention and community outreach while also ensuring quality and consistency in league officiating.



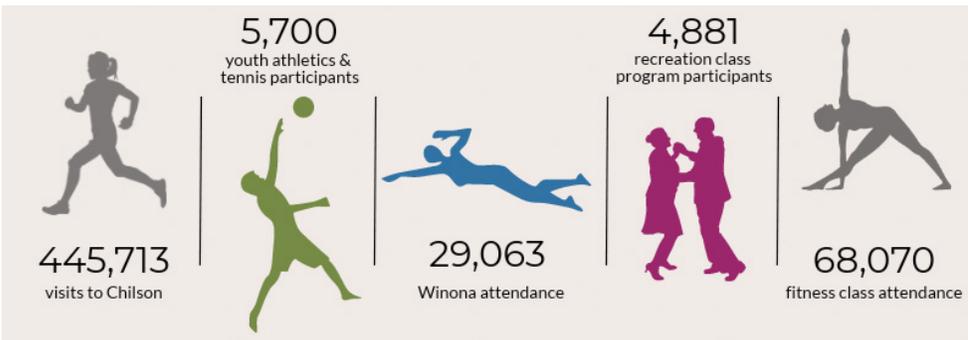
Annual pool maintenance at the Chilson Recreation Center



New gymnastics flooring at Chilson



Youth soccer at Kroh Park
Photo credit: Allen Beall



Moving Forward

Our Recreation Division wants to meet people where they are. That's why we've secured a **mobile recreation trailer** so we can bring fun to youth in the community - think of it as an ice cream truck, except it's free and stocked with things for play! Also look for new community-wide special events, including movies in the park, a cardboard sled contest and more.

An exciting possibility for the future is the addition of a **new recreation center**. A potential 2018 ballot measure would ask residents whether they would value this additional community amenity. Approximately 60-80,000 square feet, the building would sit in the northwest part of Loveland and could feature amazing mountain views, an aquatics facility, gymnasium, state-of-the-art fitness equipment & technology and more. We are thrilled to see our community make Chilson their choice when it comes to recreation; however, the facility is at capacity. Now that our population has doubled from 37,000 in 1990 to nearly 77,000 in 2017, Loveland is primed for an expansion of recreational facilities.

Open Lands

Loveland is fortunate to have an abundance of community-supported natural areas and open lands to protect important wildlife habitat, conserve precious natural resources and provide access to nature for our growing population. We invite you to explore some of our new open land sites. Get outdoors and enjoy some of Loveland's most beautiful sites and experiences!



Open lands at Willow Bend

New Open Lands Open Possibilities



A beautiful view from Boedecker North

The Colorado Parks & Recreation Association bestowed our Open Lands & Trails Division with the Columbine Award for Innovation for their "Quick Win Projects." We provided public access and outdoor opportunities at seven new open land spaces owned by Loveland over the last year including trails at Mariana Butte, Morey Wildlife Reserve, Oxbow Natural Area, Kings Crossing Natural Area, Old St. Louis Natural Area and two new trails at River's Edge Natural Area. 2017 open land acquisitions include Namaqua West, three parcels located in the east Big Thompson River corridor, Boedecker-Parkside and Meadowbrook North.

Acquiring open land for preservation while it's still available is always at the forefront of our mind. As a result of the Quick Win Projects, there is new public access to 120 natural area acres and more than 4.3 miles of new soft-surface trails! This is a 13% increase in acres open to public access and a 22% increase in soft-surface trails in Loveland.

New Access Options at River's Edge



Senior Fishing Derby for those who are facility-bound

Improvements at River's Edge Natural Area in 2017 provided new options for access and increased trail accessibility throughout the site. A new parking area off of west First Street accommodates 26 vehicles and allows for convenient ADA access to Jayhawker Ponds for fishing, wildlife viewing and multi-use trail connections to the River's Edge trail network and the Big Thompson River.

A variety of restoration projects continue to help the site recover from the 2013 flood, including tree donations and planting projects to improve habitat for wildlife and enhance visitors' experiences. Fishing line recycle tubes also were added to provide safe receptacles for the disposal of fishing line, which poses a serious threat to birds and other wildlife.

Community Support Making a Difference

Over the summer, grant funding from the Colorado Health Foundation enabled us to launch Offero, an online platform promoting healthier communities by connecting with the outdoors and allowing citizens to volunteer for and participate in environmental opportunities here in Loveland. Our dedicated volunteers served our community by providing over 5,000 hours of volunteer time in 2017.

Exploring the Great Outdoors

We love to see residents and visitors observing the wildlife that calls Loveland home. Our interpretive and educational programs help open lands visitors better understand and appreciate their natural areas. These free programs are offered to the public year-round at a variety of locations. In 2017, more than 1,200 people participated in our environmental education programs.

We offered 12 guided hikes and bird walks, three CSI events, astronomy nights, and a Dog Day Afternoon event as part of our outdoor education program in 2017. On Black Friday, dozens of residents participated in #OptOutside, an initiative by outdoor lifestyle retailer and co-op REI. Residents opted out of holiday shopping to enjoy birdwatching and hiking at the Mariana Butte Trail as well as a chance to unplug from technology for a while.

We're also sparking learning in the minds of young ones with PEEPs – our Preschool Environmental Education Programs. These free monthly events are held outdoors in the community and at the Loveland Public Library. Children learn about the local environment, the animals that live here and their habitat, and then apply that knowledge with hands-on activities. This year, 22 PEEPs classes served a total of 659 people (kids and parents combined).

Knowing our local schools and teachers have limited budgets, we're proud to provide free environmental education programming to help supplement their curriculum. These school field trips are a great way to get students excited about science and nature by letting them experience it hands-on in an outdoor setting. Urban Wildlife, Plants & Places, and Wildlife Around Us programs were presented to 929 grade school students and 154 other participants at River's Edge Natural Area.



#OptOutside day at Mariana Butte Trail



Participants inspect grasshoppers in our August PEEPs program



School children participating in a Plants & Places Environmental Education Program

Moving Forward

Expansion and acquisition of open lands will occur in west and east Loveland. We'll continue our Quick Win Projects with ventures at Oxbow East, Parkside and Boise Avenue.

The Open Lands and Trails Division will continue work on the **development of management and stewardship plans** for each of Loveland's open lands properties. The plans identify the resources each property provides and the best operational practices for preservation and public access.

Trails

In 2017, Loveland Parks and Recreation made substantial progress on completing the Recreation Trail Loop and other projects which will boost regional connectivity and increase trail access for the Loveland community.



Mariana Butte Trail



A new section of paved trail west of Namaqua Ave.

Connectivity and Access for All

Our growing 20-mile paved recreation trail provides safe recreational opportunities that are accessible to a variety of users, including those with barriers to mobility. In 2017, the department initiated an ADA Self-Evaluation Plan resulting in a tactile strategy that will guide the removal of accessibility barriers from City parks, trails, recreation facilities and open lands over the next seven to 10 years.



Riders enjoying the recreation trail

Linking to Surrounding Communities

Front Range Trail, the first paved trail connecting Loveland to Fort Collins, opened in November 2017. This trail stretches from County Road 11C by Boyd Lake State Park to Carpenter Road on the east side of the city. This two-mile, multi-use trail is open to foot traffic and non-motorized bicycles. Approximately two-thirds of the cost of this project was covered by a \$450,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and a \$350,000 grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife's State Trails Program.



CATS volunteers

Making Strides With Help From Our Friends

At Mariana Butte, the new Hidden Hogback trail offers an additional 3/4 mile of natural surface pedestrian path connecting existing trails at the Butte to the Big Thompson River corridor at Oxbow Natural Area. Members of CATS (Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society) led more than a dozen volunteer trail days to complete this connection. The group was recognized by the Larimer County Commissioners with an Environmental Stewardship Award for their work on the Mariana Butte trail system.

Resilient Repairs

The September 2013 flood caused significant damage in the Big Thompson River corridor between Taft and Wilson Avenues, approximately one mile in length. Severe bank erosion occurred, a pedestrian bridge and portions of concrete trail were destroyed, pipelines and irrigation were lost and more.

Quickly following the 2013 flood, a significant amount of debris was removed from the Big Thompson River and trail corridor, and emergency repairs were completed. However, due to Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) requirements, the City was unable to proceed with permanent repairs until 2017. The result is a more resilient infrastructure and improved ecosystem. We are grateful for the FEMA, State of Colorado, City of Loveland and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) funding for the repairs.

Repairs included replacement of the pedestrian bridge crossing below Wilson Avenue, repairment of the pedestrian trail, bank protection of the river and aquatic habitat restoration.

Everything Old Is New Again

In the ultimate display of recycling, the former Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park Bridge was renovated and installed as a new trail crossing over the Barnes Ditch south of the west Highway 34 underpass, a critical piece of the trail connection between Namaqua Avenue and Highway 34.



Riders out enjoying the Recreation Trail on National Trails Day



Placement of a pedestrian bridge over Barnes Ditch

It's Wild Out There! Sights From Our Open Lands & Trails



Badger at Sunset Vista



Great Blue Heron at River's Edge



Bobcat near Boedecker Reservoir



Elk at Mariana Butte

Moving Forward

Connecting existing trails and expanding open lands properties are our goals for 2018. The Rossum Trail Connection will link to the Recreation Trail System loop, and construction on the Prairie Ridge Natural Area foothills trail will begin and ultimately meet Coyote Ridge Natural Area.

Sunset Vista Natural Area will be home to Loveland's share of the **Long View Regional Trail**. A joint venture with Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins, Long View will provide a 4.4 mile vital trail connection running along the east side of North Taft Avenue in Loveland and South Shields Street in Fort Collins. Trail work should be completed by summer 2018 and will connect Loveland and Fort Collins, ensuring safe travel between these two cities.

The City of Loveland operates The Olde Course at Loveland, Cattail Creek and Mariana Butte Municipal Golf Courses. Our three courses offer a wide variety of playing conditions and amenities to suit all golfers—from those brand new to the game to scratch golfers. Golf revenues support all costs associated with Loveland's golf courses.



Mariana Butte Golf Course



Installation of new putting green at The Olde Course



The Olde Course Clubhouse



Golfers enjoying our beautifully maintained courses

Course Improvements

To ensure quality play and practice facilities, the driving range tee at The Olde Course was stripped, leveled and resodded in early 2017. The excess fill material was used to rebuild the putting green located between the parking lot and the driving range. To ensure golfers with slower swing speeds can play a course that matches their hitting distance, four new tees were constructed at The Olde Course in the fall of 2017 and will be open for play in the spring of 2018.

Getting a Face Lift

The Olde Course has a clubhouse that is, shall we say, *vintage*. While we appreciate structures that have a history, Loveland City Council supports the idea of replacing the clubhouse and giving it a more modern look. Council removed the payment-in-lieu of taxes (PILT) from the golf division, thereby freeing up additional funds for division improvements. In December, Phelps/Atkinson Design submitted four possible design concepts for a new clubhouse building. Development proceedings will be discussed with the Golf Advisory Board in 2018.

Increasing Play at The Olde Course

Since 2016, play at The Olde Course is on the rise. In an effort to reverse a long-term decline in participation, the Golf Division made a strategic move to self-operate the facility. Rounds played at The Olde Course have increased in both 2016 and 2017. This is the first back-to-back season with increased participation since the late 1990s. In 2017, rounds played totaled 50,728, which represents the greatest number of rounds played in the last five years.

Changing the Face of Golf

While the sport of golf has traditionally been enjoyed by our senior population, we are thrilled to see youth play is on the rise in Loveland. Our Cattail Creek course boasted 1,552 paid rounds, an increase of 26.7% from last year, which is a great measure of the health of the local golf industry.

A great beginners' course for those new to the game, Cattail Creek increased its three-hole rounds by 28%, up from 486 in 2016 to 625 in 2017. Additionally, an entry barrier to the game was closed with the extra perk of complimentary golf equipment when playing at this course.



Youth golf tournament

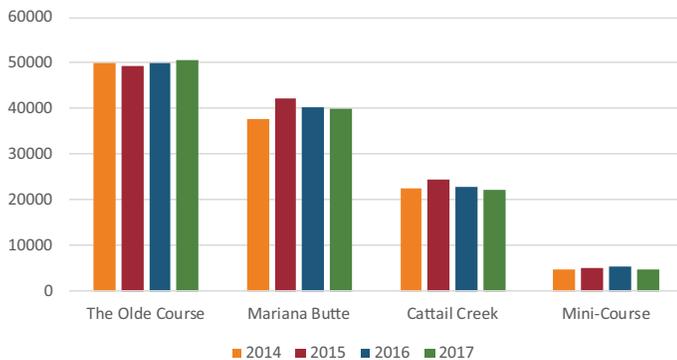
Working Together

The Golf Division partnered with the Open Lands & Trails Division to build a new soft surface trail connection from the Oxbow Natural Area to the top of the Mariana Butte geological formation. This new Hidden Hogback Trail invites the community to view breathtaking Colorado sunsets from the top of the Butte, hike natural lands owned by the Golf Division and connect to the new bike trail system being installed from the Loop Trail to Rossum Drive.

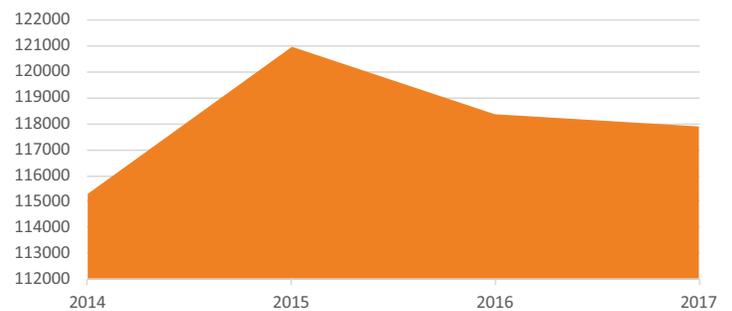


Visitors enjoying Hidden Hogback Trail

Rounds Played



Total Rounds Played - All Loveland Courses



Moving Forward

Mariana Butte was accepted into the **Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program** for golf courses. This joint effort will promote good stewardship of our land, identify areas of improvement to conserve our local wildlife habitat and keep us focused on being environmentally conscious.

Our efforts in 2018 will focus on **promoting the affordability, convenience and health benefits** of the game. Golf is a sport appealing to every generation, and Loveland's beautiful natural settings and award-winning courses invite residents and visitors to explore the game.

Community Partnerships

Loveland Parks & Recreation is committed to partnerships that align with our overall mission and provide benefits to the community. We are thankful for the partnerships below that allow us to further our goal of providing quality recreation opportunities to all members of the community regardless of age or financial status. 2017 community partnerships include:



Loveland Fishing Club at Children's Day



CSU Archeology Team



Seniors preparing meals for Volunteers of America

Athletic Organizations

- Colorado National Softball Association (NSA)
- Colorado Senior Volleyball Association (CSVA)
- Loveland Baseball Association (LBA)
- Loveland Lightning Lacrosse
- Loveland Parks and Recreation Foundation
- Loveland Tennis Association (LTA)
- Loveland Titans - cheerleading, football & lacrosse
- Loveland Youth Athletic Association (LYAA)
- National Adult Baseball Association (NABA)
- Thompson R2J High School Softball & Baseball
- Thompson Soccer Association (TSA)
- Triple Crown Sports
- United Soccer Club
- United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA)
- Youth Sports Camps - British Soccer

Golf Clubs/Leagues

- Girls' Golf at The Olde Course at Loveland—with the LPGA & USGA organizations
- Loveland Men's Golf Association
- Loveland Women's Golf Association
- Mariana Butte Men's & Ladies Golf Associations

Senior Organizations & Services

- Chilson Senior Advisory Committee (CSAC)
- Kiwanis
- National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
- Fishing Club
- Civilian Conservation Corps
- Volunteers of America (VOA) Meal Program
- UC Health - blood pressure screenings, adult wellness clinics, flu shots

Community Groups/Service Organizations/Partners

- Bird and Audubon Society
- Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS)
- Colorado Avian Research & Rehabilitation Institute
- Colorado Open Lands
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- CSU
- Front Range College
- High Plains Environmental Center
- Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps
- Larimer Initiative for Monarch Butterflies (LIMBS)
- Loveland Concert Band
- Loveland Lions Club
- Natural Resource Conservation Service

Volunteers Making a Difference

Loveland Parks and Recreation could not accomplish all that we do without the support of so many generous community volunteers and service groups. This year, volunteers provided thousands of hours of support for our programs and facility maintenance.

Footsteps on Fire

Our robust team of volunteers are leaving their boot marks on our open lands and trails system, clocking in over 5,000 volunteer hours in 2017. Without them, our programming and stewardship of lands in Loveland would not be what it is.

For example, our annual Waterway Cleanup Day saw some 30 volunteers clean up hidden flood debris in the waterway and river corridor of the Big Thompson River at Boise Avenue. After the cleanup, Veterans with the River Warriors group enjoyed a unique opportunity to fish the Big Thompson from the new open land property at Boise Avenue.

The Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) donated 529 hours spread over 17 events in Loveland in 2017. After three years of trail work, they finished the Mariana Butte Trail and the Hidden Hogback trail. Their efforts were mainly focused on finishing the portion of the trail which ran parallel and south along the Big Thompson River. This section included a technical spiral stone staircase feature (one of the most challenging they've ever built), along with a number of long mono walls, switchbacks and basic trail.

In addition to CATS and their work on the Mariana Butte Trail, we also rely on volunteer trail hosts to represent Loveland open lands at various natural sites throughout the community. These hosts complete a training program on site locations, regulations, public relations, ecology, stewardship and more. In 2017, 24 volunteer trail hosts contributed 70 hours performing public outreach as they educated the public and conveyed the importance of the Front Country Leave No Trace philosophy.

Our group of 40 environmental education volunteers donated nearly 800 hours of their time to teach grade school environmental education programs. Topics included: animal adaptations, rivers and watersheds, grasslands and open spaces, urban wildlife, seed dispersal and river macro-invertebrates.

Coaching From the Heart

Thanks to 291 volunteer athletics coaches, a total of 8,911 hours were donated to the Recreation Division in support of Loveland youth. These young participants learn the fundamentals of the game from volunteer coaches while building their skill set and confidence. Athletics relies heavily on these volunteers to help us create a successful program. We appreciate their dedication and energy to the love of not only the game, but to our youth.

Senior Center Volunteers Offer Warm Welcome

Whether you walk in the doors for a hot cup of coffee, a SilverSneakers fitness class, or to attend one of our special events, volunteers are there to greet you with a smile. In 2017, Chilson Senior Center volunteers donated 3,571 hours to serve our community by providing check-in services, enrollment, facility tours and general information to the public. Programs hosted by volunteers included meditation, Matter of Balance, Alzheimer's awareness, computer classes and more. We are grateful for their service.



Open Lands volunteers at Dragon Fly Pond



Volunteers help with wetlands planting



Trail building at Mariana Butte

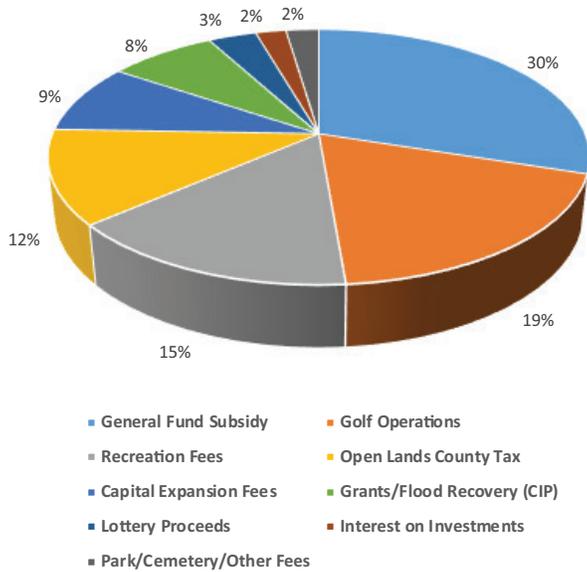


Senior volunteers at the Chilson Senior Center

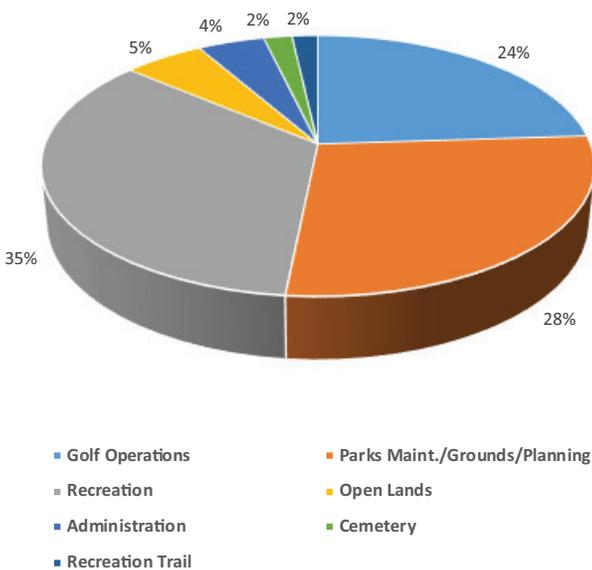
Financial Overview

Financial accountability has long been the standard for the Parks and Recreation Department. In conjunction with the City's financial policies, the Department worked proactively to contain costs while increasing program participation and facility use.

2017 Revenues



2017 Operating Expenditures



2017 Revenues*

REVENUES BY AREA

General Fund Subsidy	\$6,467,004
Golf Operations	\$4,030,555
Open Lands County Tax	\$2,566,322
Capital Expansion Fees	\$1,907,277
Chilson Center	\$1,863,057
Grants/Flood Recovery (CIP)	\$1,655,484
Lottery Proceeds	\$737,901
Athletics	\$563,904
Interest on Investments	\$466,710
Recreation Programs	\$397,390
Special Recreation Services	\$257,508
Park/Admin Fees	\$220,714
Cemetery	\$194,220
Outdoor Aquatics	\$118,135
Perpetual Care Fees	\$87,975
Batting Cages/Concessions	\$35,900
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$21,570,056

2017 Expenditures*

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Golf Operations	\$3,361,506
Parks Maint./Grounds/Planning	\$3,874,092
Chilson Center	\$2,888,777
Open Lands	\$774,781
Athletics	\$673,536
Recreation Programs	\$665,809
Administration	\$641,824
Special Recreation Services	\$383,451
Cemetery	\$272,583
Recreation Trail	\$247,664
Outdoor Aquatics	\$200,458
Batting Cages/Concessions	\$40,984
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$14,025,465

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Equipment/Tools/Projects	\$667,101
Golf Projects/Equipment	\$306,857
Cemetery & Parks Projects	\$5,491,521
Trails Projects	\$2,595,083
Open Lands	\$3,557,043
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$12,617,605
TOTAL DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	\$26,643,070

**2017 unaudited year-end figures*

Financial Overview

In addition to the City's General Operating Fund, the Parks and Recreation Department relied on several Special Revenue Funds to accomplish Department priorities not funded by the General Fund.

Capital Expansion Fund: Fees assessed on new development to assist in providing infrastructure necessitated by growth. Fees are collected for parks, recreation, open lands and trails.

Parks Improvement Fund: Fees collected before Capital Expansion Fees were initiated in 1984. Revenues are generated from park shelter reservations. Fund is restricted to park improvements and infrastructure repairs at existing parks.

Perpetual Care Fund: This fiduciary fund provides for the future operations, maintenance and capital requirements of the Loveland Cemetery once all burial spaces are sold.

Open Space Tax Fund: Fund to purchase and maintain open land areas in and around Loveland. Revenues are generated from a Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax. Used for acquisitions, development and operations.

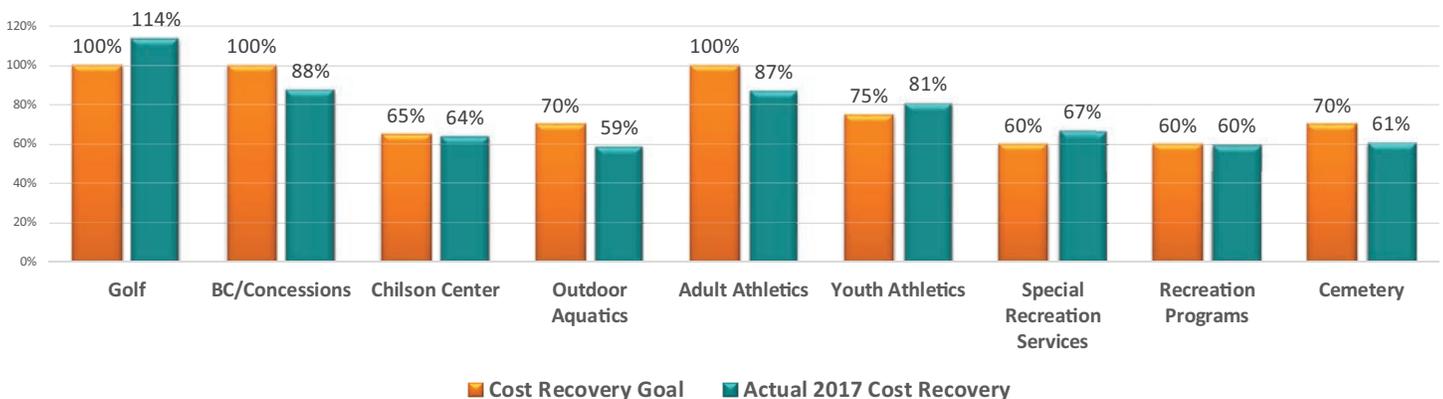
Conservation Trust Fund: Revenues derived from state Lottery games. Funds are restricted to recreation sites, facilities and projects. This is the funding source for Loveland's Recreation Trail construction and maintenance.

Golf Fund: Government enterprise fund to account for the operations, maintenance and capital improvements of golf courses and facilities owned by the City.

Fund	Balance 1/1/17	Revenues	Expenditures	Net Change	Balance 12/31/17*
Capital Expansion Fund	\$16,815,657	\$2,090,764	\$974,707	\$1,116,057	\$17,931,714
Parks Improvement Fund	\$1,566,192	\$72,598	\$2,584	\$70,014	\$1,636,206
Conservation Trust Fund	\$4,879,819	\$789,703	\$1,802,003	-\$1,012,300	\$3,867,519
Open Space Tax Fund	\$9,126,177	\$2,566,769	\$4,337,734	-\$1,770,965	\$7,355,212
Golf Fund	\$3,368,831	\$4,065,811	\$3,677,574	\$388,237	\$3,757,068
Perpetual Care Fund	\$2,814,921	\$118,658	\$0	\$118,658	\$2,933,579

*2017 unaudited year-end figures. Figures include capital expenditures and investment income.

2017 Cost Recovery



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On the cover: Community volunteers help build a playground in one day in collaboration with KaBOOM! Photo Credit: Jessica Keil