



Parks & Recreation Master Plan



City of Loveland

October 16, 2001



Loveland Parks and Recreation Master Plan

October 16, 2001

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Parks and Recreation Commission – Approved Plan September 13, 2001

Planning Commission – Approved Plan October 9, 2001

City Council – Approved Plan October 16, 2001



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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Because of its four-season climate and geographic location, the City of Loveland is considered a very desirable place to live. Loveland's also attractive because of its excellent parks, trails, golf, recreation and natural areas. Whether measured by national standards, national recognition or most importantly, by the views of City residents, the system scores high marks. The challenge facing this Master Plan is to address identified deficiencies and to assure the continuance of an excellent system in light of population growth, the desire to add facilities, and advanced planning with regards to the selection, acquisition and development of park and recreation sites and facilities. This document is intended to provide guidance to growth and development of facilities and services, and to meet the communities desires and needs for leisure services. This document identifies needed facilities and offers options for future direction and management decisions.

“The mission of the Loveland Parks and Recreation Department is to provide leisure facilities, programs, sites/areas, and opportunities for the citizens of the community.”

The following considerations have influenced the update of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

- The City of Loveland's Comprehensive Master Plan, land use/zoning changes and other associated City planning decisions.
- The proposed 2001 Title 18 City Code revisions that will put into place the enforcement of development standards, requirements and codes.
- Updating information from the 1998 Plan to reflect changes during the last 3 years including new trends and emerging needs, as well as deleting already accomplished projects and services.
- Projects are scheduled for funding in accordance with the City Council's Strategic 10 Year Financial Plan.

This Master Plan provides policy direction for the Parks and Recreation Department in its selection, land acquisition, facility development and recreational programming decisions. Standards, guidelines and policies have been adopted to assure that decisions are based on consistently applied criteria that serve the best interests of the community as a whole. Chart 1.1 illustrates the Master Plan framework and input flow from the community has assisted in the development and update of this Plan.

In order to address the issues in a comprehensive manner, the Plan begins with an inventory and analysis of the existing system. An important ingredient in planning for the future is determining the capacity of existing facilities, programs and services, and determining the extent to which they can serve additional needs and requested services.

Section Three sets forth standards, guidelines and policies providing direction for parks and recreation planning. Department standards and policies provide guidance in the planning and development of current and future facilities. Standards, guidelines, and policies are the basis for determining community needs and ultimately formulating the action plan.

Section Four identifies Loveland's current park, facility and programming needs. Needs were determined by comparing existing recreational resources against the Department standards and guidelines, the Facilities Needs Survey and citizen input. This section identifies areas where the City is not meeting standards and guidelines and identifies potential development projects. In addition, this area highlights policy questions and issues for future consideration.

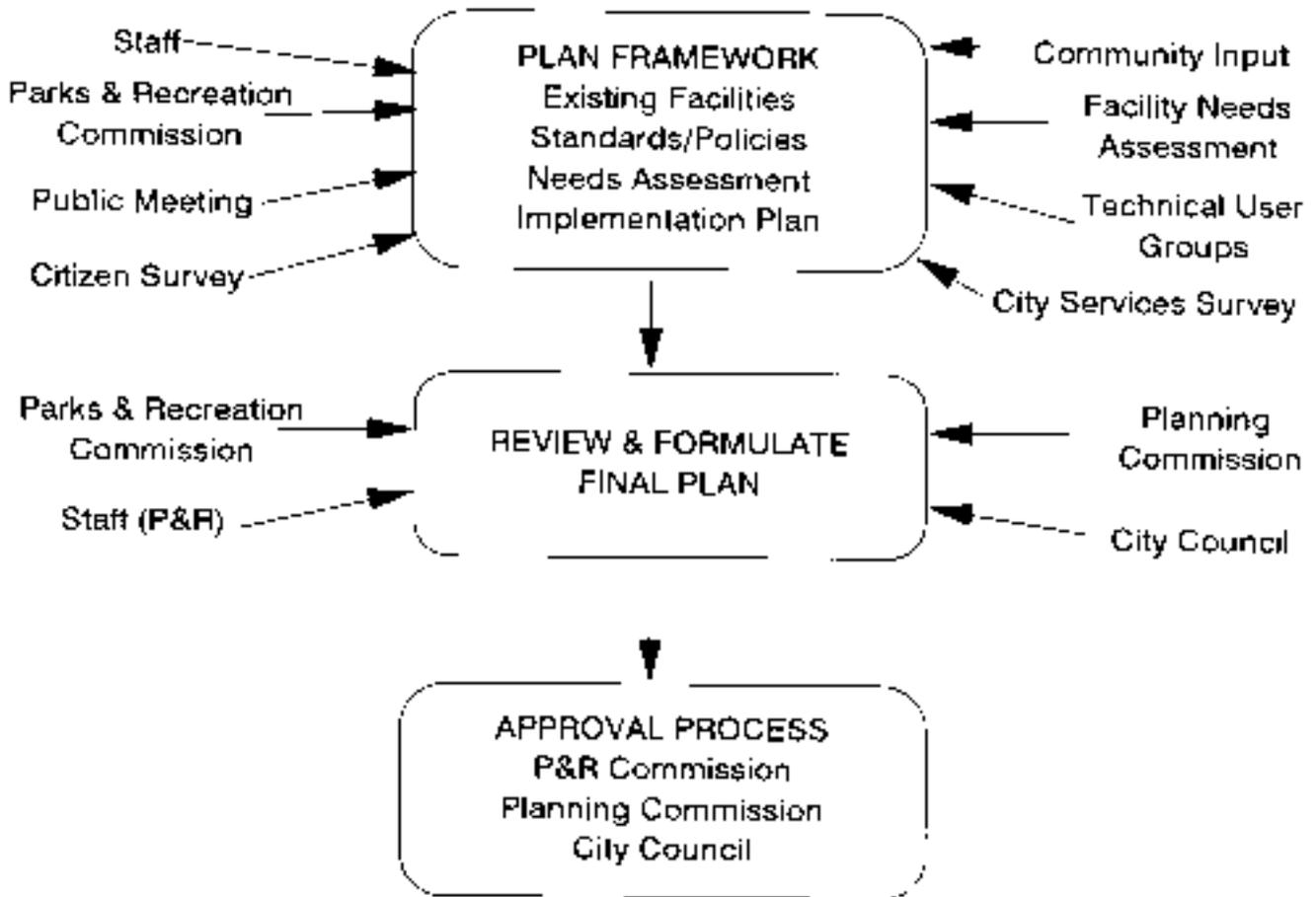
Lastly, the Implementation Plan (Section 5) focuses on projects to be initiated or completed in the next five years to address identified community recreational needs.

**Chart 1.1
Parks and Recreation Department
Master Plan Process**

**CITY OF LOVELAND
COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**



**CITY OF LOVELAND
DEPARTMENT MASTER PLAN**



Due to the evolving nature of development decisions and City priorities, this plan was created with the intent to review and update its contents every three to five years. The plan provides a framework for decision-making, but is not intended to be all-inclusive.

2
**EXISTING LEVELS
OF SERVICE**

EXISTING LEVELS OF SERVICE

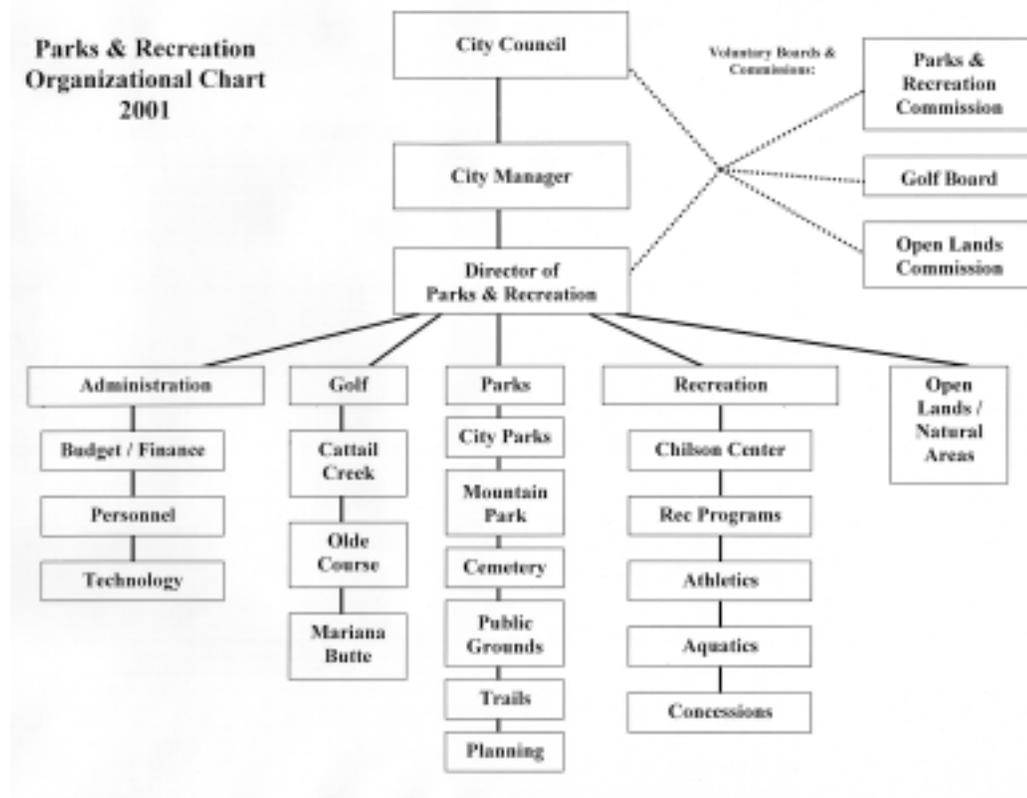
INTRODUCTION

An inventory of existing recreation resources was conducted to establish a framework for developing the Department's Master Plan. Resources include parks, recreation facilities, trails, golf courses, natural areas and other public grounds. Open Space/Natural Areas are referenced in this Plan, but is included in a separate document entitled *City of Loveland Open Lands Plan* to address special issues associated with Open Lands. The *City of Loveland Open Lands Plan* of 1996 is currently under revision.

This inventory includes community recreation resources owned and operated by the City, however, other entities within the community offer other recreational opportunities and often support City services in meeting the recreational needs of the community.

Organizational Structure:

A better understanding of the management of City recreational facilities can be obtained by looking at the current organizational structure of the Parks and Recreation Department.



Administration.

This Division provides direction, supervision, management, and coordination of the Parks and Recreation Department. Administration is responsible for the 78 benefited and 700 seasonal, part-time, temporary, and contractual employees. The Division is responsible for the evaluation of departmental operations, preparation and administration of budgets, capital projects, and administration of services, programs, and facilities.

Parks and Recreation Administration coordinates with other City departments, City management, other public and private organizations, and the general public in the formulation of policies and procedures for recreation activities and park development. In addition, support is provided for the Parks and Recreation Commission, a City Council appointed citizen board that advises staff and Council on parks and recreation matters.

Golf

This Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of The Olde Course at Loveland, Mariana Butte and Cattail Creek Golf Courses. Golf is operated as a governmental enterprise fund, paying for all golf expenditures including capital improvements through golf fees and revenues. A citizen Golf Board, appointed by City Council, advises the Division.

Parks

The Parks Division is responsible for the planning, design and construction, and operation and maintenance of the City's parks, natural areas and open spaces, the Loveland Cemetery, Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park, recreational trails, special use areas and other public ground areas.

Recreation

The Recreation Division operates municipal recreation facilities, including the Chilson Center, Winona Pool and Barnes Softball Complex, and provides instruction and activities in swimming, athletics, arts and crafts, dance, wellness and other diversified areas of interest. The Division facilitates recreational programming for a variety of age groups and special interest groups. In addition, the Division is responsible for coordination with numerous groups, including civic groups, the private sector, the R2J School District, and self-directed volunteer sports organizations for use of public facilities.

Natural Areas (Open Space)

The Natural Areas Division is involved with the planning, management, acquisition and operations of the Open Lands Program. Funding for the program is received from a quarter-cent Larimer County sales tax through 2018 for the operation, maintenance and acquisition activities.



RESOURCES

The City of Loveland Parks and Recreation system is comprised of 27 developed parks, plus one undeveloped park, a mountain park, 12.5 miles of recreation trail, 27 open space areas/sites, 25 public grounds sites, 4 recreation facilities (Chilson Recreation/Senior Center, Winona Pool, Barnes Park Batting Cages and Lake Loveland Swim Beach), a cemetery and 3 golf courses. [Map 2.1 – Loveland Parks, Trails, Recreation, and Golf Facilities, and Map 2.2-Loveland Open Lands] In total, the Department has assisted in the purchase, management and maintenance of 80 sites, encompassing approximately 3,800 acres of land.

1. INVENTORY

A. Parks:

A detailed inventory of the City's parks and recreation system is shown in the attached Table 2.1: PARK INVENTORY. This table lists the number and types of various facilities within each park, along with acreage, development status, and other comments. Twenty-seven parks have been developed totaling 287 acres with one additional undeveloped urban site available for a future community park. The City of Loveland Land Use Code (Chapter 16) also requires that one (1) acre of open space play field be developed for each 100 single family lots in a subdivision. This equates to an additional 4 acres of private parkland per 1,000 people within large residential subdivisions. These private play areas are not mapped or included in the City's total parkland calculation.

Aquatic Facilities within Parks:

The City has two outdoor aquatic facilities located at City Parks. An outdoor swimming pool, Winona Pool, is located in Osborn Park. The pool, which is a 25-yard facility, includes a teaching area, water slide, and separate leisure pool with a "Rain Drop" feature. In addition, a swim beach area is provided in North Lake Park for free public use. Both facilities are operated during the summer months.

Baseball/Softball Fields:

The City has 11 lighted and 6 unlighted baseball/softball fields available for use. The baseball/softball fields are located at Barnes Park, Centennial Park, North Lake Park and Kroh Park. In addition, there are 6 baseball/softball backstops located within neighborhood parks throughout the City for drop-in use, practice and developmental leagues.

Soccer/Football (Athletic) Fields:

There are 29 multi-use athletic fields used primarily for soccer and football located in nine City parks. The soccer/football fields are located at Derby Hill, Estrella, Junior Achievement, Kroh, Loch Lon, McKee, North Lake, Osborn, Seven Lakes, Sherri Mar, Silver Glen, Silver Lake, Sunnyside and Woodmere Parks. North Lake hosts nine fields at one location and Kroh Park has seven multi-use fields available for play.

Tennis Courts:

Loveland's park system includes 21 tennis courts at 6 locations. Courts are spread geographically throughout the City. A 12-court complex at North Lake Park accommodates drop-in use, tournaments, league activities, lessons and high school tennis practice and matches. Eighteen of the 21 courts have lights to offer extended evening hours of play (court lights are not available at McKee or Sunnyside Parks).



Outdoor Basketball Courts:

The City of Loveland has 7 outdoor basketball courts located in 6 park areas. Basketball courts at North Lake and Dwayne Webster Veterans Parks are lighted for extended evening play.

Parking:

Off-street parking is provided at all community parks and curbside parking is provided at neighborhood parks. Handicapped parking is available at parking lot locations. Parks, which host multiple fields, are designed to accommodate additional parking for recreational programs, however, short-term traffic congestion still occurs.

Picnic Area/Shelters:

Each park within the system provides an opportunity for picnicking. Reservable picnic shelters are located at Centennial Park, Dwayne Webster Park, Kroh Park, Namaqua Park, North Lake Park, Seven Lakes Park, and Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park. Parks with reservable shelters have restroom facilities.

Playgrounds:

Playgrounds can be found at most City parks. Park areas that do not have playgrounds are either undeveloped or limited by park size and/or design.



Public Grounds/Special Use Areas:

In addition to properties that provide typical recreational opportunities, the Department provides grounds maintenance services at 25 sites around public buildings and facilities throughout Loveland. Special use areas include the Civic Center Complex, Benson and McWhinney-Hahn Parks.

Racquetball/Handball Courts:

The City's inventory of outdoor court activities includes four racquetball/handball courts. All four courts are located at North Lake Park and are lighted for evening use. (There are 3 indoor courts at the Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center).

Restrooms:

Permanent restrooms are located in community and select neighborhood parks with major use requirements. Portable restrooms are placed in select parks for special events and seasonal use.

Signage:

The signage system throughout City parks is consistent, resulting in similar appearances at the various parks. Sign fabrication is primarily performed in-house (except for recreation trail signs) using standard designs and guidelines. Facilities utilize signage for identification, directions, information, regulations and vehicular control.

Recreation Trail Signs:

Quarter-mile markers are placed along the trail to allow users to measure distances and to assist emergency response. Trailhead, identification, and regulatory signs appear along the trail.

Art in Public Places:

In conjunction with the Loveland Visual Arts Commission, numerous pieces of sculpture from the City's collection are placed in City-owned areas including parks, recreational facilities, and along the recreational trail system. Artwork selection, ownership, installation and maintenance are the responsibility of the Visual Arts Commission. Site locations and sculpture placement are coordinated with staff and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission to assure that the location does not conflict with other park and recreation functions, plans and uses. The Department prefers to have sculptures located at pre-determined sites identified in master plans for each location. Currently sculpture master plans exist for South Shore Parkway, Benson Sculpture Garden, North Lake Park, Loveland Civic Center and McWhinney-Hahn Park. This type of planning minimizes the incompatibility of use and user conflict in various park areas.



Water Features/Use:

Three of Loveland's parks have small lakes or ponds that serve a variety of functions. The ponds in Benson Sculpture Garden host a variety of wildlife and generally improve the aesthetic quality of the park. North Lake Park pond is for raw water irrigation of the park's turf. The pond is stocked with fish and provides the public with a recreational opportunity. The small pond at Kroh Park is also utilized as a raw water irrigation source, drainage detention and serves an aesthetic purpose.

North Lake Park and South Shore Parkway are located on the banks of Lake Loveland. Public fishing is allowed from both park areas and a public swim beach is provided within North Lake Park. In addition, the Big Thompson River runs through several of Loveland's parks including Barnes Park, Centennial Park, Namaqua Park and Viestenz-Smith Park. The river provides a major aesthetic amenity and serves as a recreational fishing activity. The Big Thompson River Corridor Plan addresses special uses, needs and concerns for the river area.

The City currently irrigates 75+% of its parks, cemetery and public grounds turf and 100% of its golf course turf with untreated water. Treated water is only used in park locations where an untreated water source is not available or is not economically feasible to use. In addition to turf, several acres of shrub material and trees are irrigated at most park sites. Proper irrigation management and water conservation is a top priority of the Department. Most facilities are equipped with automatic irrigation systems to manage water usage for optimum results.

**TABLE 2.1
LOVELAND PARKS INVENTORY**

PARKS	ACRES	D-U ¹	² Base/ Softball	³ Soccer/ Football	Tennis Court	Outdoor Basketball Court	Water Feature	Playground	Picnic Area	Restroom ⁴	Sculpture	Unique Features
Barnes 405 South Cleveland	28.27	23.03D 5.24U	6L				•	•	•	•	•	Batting Cages; trailhead; on the Big Thompson
Benson Sculpture W 29th & Beech	13.5	13.5D					•		•		•	Sculpture Park; Pond; Ice Skating; Shelter
Centennial West 1 st & Taft Ave.	40.95	37.95D 3U	5L 1				•	•	•	•	•	LBA; trailhead; On the Big Thompson River; Shelter
Derby Hill 2730 Courtney	3.45	3.45D	B	P		1L		•	•			
Dwayne Webster Grant & Eisenhower	5.6	5.6D			2L			•	•	•		3 Shelters
Eagleview 37 th & Monroe	12.8	12.8D	B	P				•	•			Shelter
Edmondson 49 th & Ranch Acres	2.61	2.61D			2L			•	•			
Estrella W 22nd & Estrella	1.3	1.3D		P				•	•			Gazebo
Glen Arbor Buchanan & 26th	1.85	1.85D							•		•	Gazebo
Jr. Achievement 10 th & Ferguson	1.5	1.5D	B	•		•			•			
Kirkview Kirkview & Mountain	1.6	1.6D						•	•			
Kroh Hwy 287 & 52 nd Ave	38.54	26.54D 12U	3	7			•	•	•	•		Pond; Shelter
Loch Lon Dotsero & Jocelyn	10.7	10.7D		3				•	•			
Loch Mount 12 th & Loch Mount	0.9	.9D										
McKee E 19 th & Boise	3.8	3.8D	B	•	2			•	•			
Mehaffey (Undev) W 22 nd Street	60	60U										
Namaqua CR19E & Big T River	8.2	5D 3.2U					•	•	•	PR		Shelter; On the Big Thompson

**TABLE 2.1 (CONTINUED)
LOVELAND PARKS INVENTORY**

PARKS	ACRES	D-U ¹	² Base/ Softball	³ Soccer/ Football	Tennis Court	Outdoor Basketball Court	Water Feature	Playground	Picnic Area	Restroom ⁴	Sculpture	Unique Features
North Lake Taft Ave & 29 th Street	60.2	60.20D	•	9	12L	2L	•	3	•	3	•	4L Racquetball Courts, Pond, LMAA; 3 Shelters, Lake Loveland, Swim Beach
Osborn Madison & 4 th SE	13.39	12.74D .65U	•	•	2L		•	•	•			Winona Pool
Seven Lakes Park Ave off Boise	10.2	10.2D		•		•		•	•	PR		Trailhead
Sherri Mar 18 th SW & Daphne	2.7	2.7D		P				•	•			
Silver Glen 23 rd & Silver Leaf	3.88	3.88D	B	P				•	•			
Silver Lake Madrone & Maple	5	5D						•	•			
South Shore Pkwy West Eisenhower Blvd	6.43	6.43D					•		•		•	Lake Loveland
Sunnyside East 5 th & Pierce	3.6	3.6D	2B	•	•	•		•	•			Trailhead
Westside 4 th & Roosevelt	1.4	1.4D						•	•			
Woodmere 39 th & Duffield	4	4D	B	P				•	•			
Viestenz-Smith (Mountain Park) 1211 Big Thompson	420.17	25.01D 395.16N					•	•	2	•		Trailhead, On Big Thompson River
TOTALS 28 27 Developed 1 Undeveloped	766.54	287.29D 84.09U 395.16N	15 7B	24 5P	18L 3	5	9	23	29	10	5	

¹ D-U-N: Developed, Undeveloped or Natural Area/Mountain Park

³ P - Practice Goal Only

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² Status of Facility: L - Lighted B - Backstop Only

⁴ PR - Portable Restroom

Developed Acres: 147.72 Community Park Acres, 114.56 Neighborhood Park Acres, & 25.01 Mountain Park Acres

Level of Park Service Provided by Other Communities

One indication of how well the City is presently doing in providing parkland is to compare Loveland to other northern Colorado communities. Table 2.2 compares five cities: Loveland, Fort Collins, Greeley, Boulder, and Longmont. The table identifies estimated 2001 population levels and includes community and neighborhood park acreage. For consistency, special use areas such as open space, trails, golf courses, regional parks and mountain parks have not been included in acreage calculations and comparisons.

**TABLE 2.2
PARKLAND ACREAGE COMPARISON WITH
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES**

Community (Acreage figures excludes Open Space, Trails, Golf, Regional & Mountain Parks)	Estimated 2001 Population	Acres of Developed Parkland	Developed Park Acreage/1,000 Population	Acres of Undeveloped Parkland*	Undeveloped Park Acreage/1,000 Population
Loveland	52,000	262 acres	5.03 acres/1,000	84 acres	1.62 acres/1,000
Ft. Collins	118,625	630 acres	5.34 acres/1,000	245 acres	2.08 acres/1,000
Greeley	79,000	438 acres	5.54 acres/1,000	43 acres	.54 acres/1,000
Longmont	72,000	282 acres	3.92 acres/1,000	112 acres	1.56 acres/1,000
Boulder	95,000	434 acres	4.57 acres/1,000	369 acres	3.88 acres/1,000

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B. Recreation Facilities and Programs:

The Recreation Division sponsors numerous Programs and Activities designed to meet the leisure time needs and desires of a wide cross section of Loveland’s residents. The program areas of Youth and Adult Athletics, General Instruction, Outdoor Recreation, Adapted Recreation, Senior Services and Wellness/Fitness account for over fifteen thousand separate enrollments each year. While many programs offered are classified as Active/Athletic, a major portion of these classes and activities are Instructional in nature and attract individuals of all ages. Most activities are designed to provide opportunities for personal growth including skill development, experimentation, socialization, building self-confidence, and team work. Market conditions including demand, competition and duplication, available resources, cost recovery considerations, seasonal scheduling, and tradition all guide class and activity inventory decisions.

Barnes Park Softball Complex/Batting Cages is a six-field softball park with adjacent batting cage operation. All fields are lighted and can be configured for slow pitch or fast pitch softball. Leagues and tournaments are held for both youth and adults with adjustable base path and pitching plate distances available. Food and beverage services are offered through the city operated concession stands during both leagues and tournaments. The seven-cage batting cage facility is operated from April through October, seven days per week, six hours per day. Three cages are interchangeable baseball/softball, two cages interchangeable slow pitch/fast pitch softball and two are strictly slow pitch softball. The cages provide an opportunity for players to practice their batting skills and also provide an activity for those looking for entertainment.

The Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center is used primarily for drop-in use, programs, activities and events. Facilities include a 25 yard indoor swimming pool with water slide, 2 hot tubs, steam room, a variety of weight and aerobic conditioning equipment, indoor track, 3 racquetball courts, 2 gymnasiums, exercise studio, weight room, locker rooms, 2 craft rooms, preschool room, day care area, lounge and three multi-purpose areas. The Chilson Senior Wing of the Chilson Center is a multi-purpose facility providing services, information and referral, classes, activities, programs, travel opportunities and support for people age 62 and over. The senior wing houses a kitchen, multi-purpose room, lounge, billiards room, clinic, reception area, conference rooms and staff offices.



Lake Loveland Swim Beach is located in North Lake Park and offers free swimming from Memorial Day to Labor Day subject to water levels and staff availability. Surface water rights for the beach are leased from the Lake Loveland Recreation Club which is made up of adjacent homeowners. Adjacent to the guarded Swim Beach, the City provides restroom facilities, concessions and the park facilities at North Lake Park.

Winona Swimming Pool is located in the southeast quadrant of the City in Osborn Park. Winona is open seasonally from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The facility includes a full service bath house with concessions, a 25 yard pool with water slide, diving areas, a shallow activity area, volleyball and basketball courts.



Recreational Facilities Provided by Other Communities

A straight comparison with other communities regarding the number of recreational facilities is somewhat misleading because each community has its own unique recreational desires and current facilities reflect those community characteristics. In addition, the availability of public facilities is dependent upon funding and existence of private recreational facilities in a community. Table 2.3 illustrates that Loveland is fairly competitive in the provision of recreational facilities in comparison with surrounding communities.

TABLE 2.3

RECREATION FACILITY COMPARISON WITH SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

FACILITY	LOVELAND* (Population 52,000)	FT. COLLINS (Population 118,625)	GREELEY (Population 79,000)	LONGMONT (Population 72,000)	BOULDER (Population 95,000)
A. Baseball Fields	7	13	10	5	13
B. Batting Cage	1	1	1	1	0
D. Golf Courses	3	3	2	3	1
E. Indoor Basketball/Volleyball	3	5	3	1	7
F. Indoor Racquetball	3	0	4	0	7
G. Indoor Running Track	1	1	0	0	3
H. Indoor Swim Pool	1	3	1	1	3
I. In-Line Skating Rink	1	2	0	4	1
J. Lake/Swim Beach	1	0	0	1	1
K. Outdoor Basketball Courts	7	15	11	15	21
L. Outdoor Swim Pool	1	1	3	1	2
M. Outdoor Tennis Courts	21	41	16	20	42
N. Playgrounds	24	27	21	22	41
O. Recreation Center	1	2	1	1	3
P. Skate Board Park	1	2	3	1	1
Q. Senior Center	1	1	1	1	2
R. Soccer/Football Fields	29	37	17	10	11
S. Softball Fields	11	14	15	18	10
T. Weight/Fitness Rooms	3	3	1	1	3

9/18/01

*City owned facility only.

C. Recreation Trail System

Loveland’s Recreational Trail System currently consists of twelve and one-half miles of paved, off-road trail extending from Wilson Avenue to Boyd Lake State Park and two shorter segments on the west side of town. The trail system is designed to accommodate multiple user groups (i.e. joggers, bicyclist, skaters, pedestrians and persons with disabilities). The trail corridor meanders through open spaces along the Big Thompson River, irrigation canals, through subdivision parkways, along agricultural fields and through City and State parks. When completed, the Recreation Trail system will encircle the City of Loveland and will encompass over twenty miles of paved, off-road trail.

The trail system connects numerous City parks with Boyd Lake State Park and will eventually connect with regional trail systems to Fort Collins, Berthoud, Windsor, Greeley and the County trail system. Several parks provide trailhead parking including Barnes, Centennial, Seven Lakes Parks and the Loveland Civic Center.

These parks provide users with trail information, seasonal restroom facilities, drinking fountains, and points of destination. Parking is also available at Boyd Lake State Park for a fee, although there is no charge to access Boyd Lake via the recreation trail. There are six underpasses for trail users located mostly along the Big Thompson corridor. Underpasses provide safe crossing of roadways in the City.

TABLE 2.4
TRAILS COMPARISON WITH OTHER SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

City	2001 Population	# of Paved Miles	Miles Per 1,000 Population
Loveland	52,000	12.5 miles	.2403 miles per 1000
Fort Collins	118,625	19 miles	.1610 miles per 1000
Greeley	79,000	9 miles	.1139 miles per 1000
Longmont	72,000	6.54 miles	.0908 miles per 1000
Boulder	95,000	47 miles	.4947 miles per 1000

9/18/01

In comparison with other surrounding communities, the City of Loveland is currently providing more recreation trail for the community (per 1000 population) than Fort Collins, Greeley and Longmont. Trails ranked as one of the top development priorities of the community on the Loveland Parks and Recreation Community Survey and continue to be an amenity regularly enjoyed and requested by citizens.

D. Natural Areas

In 1999, the Parks and Recreation Department assumed management responsibility for the City’s Open Space/Natural Areas Program. Loveland’s natural areas are funded through the Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax, a portion of which is allocated to each municipality in the county based on a population/sales tax formula. This tax is in effect until 2018 for the planning, acquisition, management and maintenance of open land areas. The Natural Areas program works with interested landowners and forms partnerships with other local and state governments and land trusts to preserve significant open lands characterized by unique natural environments. Twenty-seven natural areas have currently been preserved as open space including land along the Big Thompson River and City recreational trail, agricultural lands, and former gravel ponds, providing unique natural features and scenic view sheds.

E. Golf Courses

Loveland’s golf courses are operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. There are three golf courses in Loveland (45 holes) available to golfers. Tee times for the courses are managed through a centralized computer/phone tee time system. Each course offers a pro shop, snack bar, rental carts, annual and daily fee options, driving range, and practice areas for putting and chipping. Loveland's three golf courses not only provide a recreational opportunity to golfers, but also benefit the entire community by offering a visual open space with scenic beauty and wildlife habitat.

The Olde Course at Loveland

The Olde Course at Loveland is a 130-acre, 18-hole facility that has been manicured and groomed over the years into a three star golf course (rated by Golf Digest) that offers aesthetic beauty, quality turf, and mature trees. This course host more rounds than any other course in Northern Colorado with daily-fee rounds, pass play, tournaments, lessons, leagues and special events.

Mariana Butte Golf Course

Mariana Butte Golf Course is a 152-acre course, located in the foothills west of Loveland. This 18-hole course is located adjacent to the Big Thompson River and offers incredible views of the mountains, Devil's Backbone, Dry Creek Basin. Mariana Butte Golf Course was rated in the top 75 Best Golf Values in the country and has consistently been rated four stars by Golf Digest. This course is popular among local and regional golfers and plays host to daily-fee rounds, pass play, tournaments, leagues and special events.

Cattail Creek Golf Course

Cattail Creek Golf Course is a 48-acre, upscale par 3, 9-hole course that offers a unique challenges to golfers. The combination of large greens, sand bunkers, water, mounds and elevation changes offers an excellent experience for the beginner and experienced golfer alike. Cattail Creek hosts very successful lesson and youth golf programs. The Loveland Junior Golf Program, held at Cattail Creek, hosts more than 400 youth, ages 8 to 18, each year. The program offers instruction in golf course rules and etiquette and allows youth an opportunity to practice, play and advance to tournaments. The program is very successful in preparing young golfers to continue playing into the future.

Level of Golf Provided by Other Communities

One indication of how well the City is presently doing in providing golf opportunities is to compare Loveland's golf amenities to surrounding communities. The number of golf courses in Loveland compares favorably with surrounding communities. One notable difference between Loveland and each of the other surrounding communities is that Loveland does not have private courses or Country Clubs serving the community.



TABLE 2.5
GOLF COURSE COMPARISON WITH SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY	ESTIMATED 2001 POPULATION	NUMBER OF GOLF COURSES	GOLF HOLES Per 1,000 Population
Loveland*	52,000	2- 18 Hole Public 1- 9 Hole Public	.8654 / 1,000
Fort Collins	118,625	2- 18 Hole Public 1- 9 Hole Public	.3814 / 1,000
Greeley	79,000	2- 18 Hole Public	.4557 / 1,000
Longmont	72,000	2- 18 Hole Public 1- 9 Hole Public	.625 / 1,000
Boulder	95,000	1- 18 Hole Public	.1856 / 1,000

Only Public Courses Are Used For Comparisons.

9/18/01

**Loveland is the only City without a private golf course or country club.*

2. CONDITION OF EXISTING FACILITIES

In evaluating the condition of Loveland’s existing facilities, several considerations affect customer satisfaction and use of facilities including parking, access/circulation, site furnishings, accessibility and level of use for each location. Overall, the existing condition of Loveland's parks and recreation system is favorable.

Parking:

Larger City parks and recreational facilities provide off-street parking and other recreational areas offer on-street parking. Parking conflicts/needs exist at some locations when large events and high usage occurs. Parks with multiple fields and facilities are designed to accommodate additional parking for higher use times, however, some short-term traffic and parking congestion problems still occur. Limiting large events to areas that can accommodate greater traffic, and changing scheduling patterns to lessen immediate impacts to adjacent neighborhoods have been successful alternatives to adding expensive parking areas.

The Chilson Recreation Center experiences parking shortages due to the high volume of users at the facility, which exceeds original design estimates. Dwayne Webster, Viestenz-Smith and North Lake Parks also experience parking shortages when all shelters are reserved or there are community activities/special events at these sites. Loch Lon and Kroh Parks have parking shortages on select game days.

Accessibility/Circulation:

Park areas must be accessible to the public by adequate streets and sidewalks. Within each park area, pedestrians and/or autos should be able to safely and adequately circulate throughout the area and have access to site amenities. In conformance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), all City facilities have been evaluated and modified in order to make reasonable accommodations in providing equal access to those with disabilities. Sidewalks, curb ramps, playground surfacing and structures, restrooms, picnic shelters, and drinking fountains have been modified to conform with standards. All new parks and trails are designed and constructed for accessibility.



Level of Use:

Level of use at a location or facility varied significantly depending on the exact offerings at that location. The Recreation Center, golf courses and community parks host the highest use as a result of programmed activities and citizen usage. Small neighborhood parks experience the lowest volume of use.

Conditions of Facilities and Equipment:

Facility rating varies widely depending on the age and use of the facility. Many of the facilities have been upgraded over the last five years and, as a result are meeting the needs/expectations of the community. The City's equipment replacement/depreciation funding programs allow for on-going equipment replacement and maintenance of facilities. Without this replacement program, the Department would be unable to maintain current service levels.

A. Parks:

Loveland's parks are designed to meet the needs of individuals, families, groups, neighborhoods and the community as a whole. Park designs allow for both passive and active use areas in most park locations. On-going maintenance and renovation programs allow Loveland to provide safe and well-maintained parks for public use. City parks continually are rated high in citizen surveys and are often identified



as a positive factor in the quality of life in Loveland. Appropriate levels of funding have been allocated to keep the parks clean, safe & functional. Proper maintenance practices, on-going replacement of unsafe and out-dated equipment, and infrastructure improvements allow for quality facilities in the future.

Two facilities that are not maintained to the same standard of quality as most of Loveland's Parks, include the current Loveland Baseball Association (LBA) areas at Centennial Park and Junior Achievement Park. Currently, the LBA maintains the above ground structures and amenities at the baseball field area of Centennial Park. These structures, including restrooms, are not currently at the same level of maintenance and facility standards of other park facilities and need to be upgraded. Junior Achievement Park has limited park amenities, and the building on the site is currently utilized by the Boys and Girls Club. Long-term, this structure should be removed and the Park redesigned and modified to meet the needs of the neighborhood. If these programs move to other areas or facilities, these two sites need special consideration for improvements and upgrades. There has not been funds identified for this purpose, although both groups are planning to relocate.

B. Recreation Facilities:

Loveland's Recreation facilities are in excellent condition and are usually rated as above average in most participant surveys. City depreciation funding sources allow for on-going replacement of equipment and upgrading of maintenance levels. This needs to continue as a funding priority to maintain quality and reliability in providing the state-of-the-art equipment.

The Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center is a focal point for community recreational activity. While the Center was originally designed to meet the leisure time needs of 750 guests per day, community growth coupled with a trend toward wellness and fitness has resulted in an average of over 1,200 visitors per day. Clearly, the Center has reached its maximum capacity during peak times, which results in added pressure to keep the facility and equipment in good operating condition. The department coordinates facility custodial and structural maintenance through the City's Facility Maintenance Division to assure that repairs and upgrades are performed in compliance with City of Loveland standards. Equipment repair and replacement is a high priority of staff and guests alike.

Constructed in 1985, the Barnes Park Softball Complex is in excellent operating condition. On-going asset replacement and renovation of the two north fields in 1997, coupled with flood repairs in 1998, resulted in considerable improvement to the Barnes area. Barnes serves host to numerous softball activities with close to 300 adult softball teams participating in leagues each year. An additional 300 teams play on special weekend tournaments. The Big Thompson River – Barnes Park Flood mitigation project, completed in 2001, repaired damage caused by high water during several spring floods in 1996 and 1998 and eliminated much of the threat of high water from the Big Thompson River. These improvements aided Barnes Park, the Larimer County Fairgrounds, and other private properties located adjacent to the Big Thompson River.



The Lake Loveland Swim Beach and adjacent facilities are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day each year. Parks and Recreation staff maintains water buoys and ropes used to designate swimming and wading areas and have added several large buoys designed to eliminate close boat traffic. An additional wading area was added on the south facing beach and regulating signage has been installed at several locations.

Department staff maintain the beach by raking the sand areas daily. Staff also maintains and operates the concession stand-rest room facility that is located at the beach. This facility is also in excellent condition.

The Winona Swimming Pool facility is in excellent condition as a result of a renovation project completed in 1996. A new wading pool and deck drain system was added and equipment additions improved maintenance operations, as well as the visual appearance of the facility. Concerns relating to location of chemical equipment and storage rooms, coupled with access problems at the concession stand window, could dictate structural changes in the near future, an issue needing attention for funding. The water slide has reached its life expectancy and is scheduled for replacement in 2002.

C. Recreational Trail System:

Overall, Loveland's trail system is in excellent condition. All trails were initially constructed of concrete to reduce maintenance, prolong the useful life of the system and provide accessibility to all users. To minimize conflicts between pedestrian and bicyclist along the trail, 10-foot wide trail construction is now the



standard used to accommodate better traffic flow. Some older sections of trail along the Big Thompson River are less than 10 feet wide, but are scheduled for widening as funding and priorities permits. Four parking areas are available for trail users at several park locations along the trail. There are six underpasses along the trail at major road crossings, which are all in good condition. The sections of greatest trail use appear to be from Wilson Avenue to Barnes Park along the Big Thompson River and from Seven Lakes Park through Boyd Lake State Park. A 2001 recreation trail access ramp on Taft Avenue at the Big Thompson River has allows for better trail access at this location.

D. Natural Areas:

It is the goal of the natural areas program to restore and maintain natural areas properties to a status as near as possible to their native condition. Several recent property acquisitions required significant cleanup of debris and noxious weeds. Planting of native vegetation, including grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees, follows these cleanups to prevent the reestablishment of weeds. Following restoration, certain natural areas are accessible to the public. Agricultural properties will continue to be farmed following acquisition whenever possible.



E. Golf Courses:

Cattail Creek Golf Course was opened in 1991 and has few existing needs since the course is relatively new. Cattail Creek hosts the most successful youth golf program in northern Colorado with even greater numbers of participants expected in the future. The driving range is the busiest in Loveland and hosts numerous golf lessons to all age groups. The combination of large greens, sand bunkers, water, mounds and elevation changes offers all golfers an excellent experience. The course lacks mature landscaped areas and adequate trees.

Mariana Butte Golf Course provides an excellent golf experience. The views on the course are incredible views, as a result of the complex design with many elevated tees. The Butte hosts many corporate tournaments throughout the year and ranks second in total rounds played in a year for Northern Colorado. This course is perceived favorably by golfers- beautiful, challenging, and affordable.

The Olde Course at Loveland presents a mature landscape with abundant trees making the course very aesthetically pleasing. This course consistently ranks number one in total rounds of golf played in Northern Colorado for the past 34 years. During 2001, \$2.5 million was spent to replace and computerize the irrigation system. Two ponds were reshaped and expanded, plus a new pond and creek were added to increase irrigation water storage capacity. All excavated soil was used to rebuild tees, created mounds and reshaped many areas of the course. Old bridges were replaced and new concrete paths were added to many areas. These improvements presented not only a new look, but also a new feel to this already popular golf course.

SCHOOL FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

Not only do schools provide educational services but they also provide sites and facilities for activities to supplement the community's recreational resources. In the Loveland area, there are 23 public schools: three high schools, an alternative school, four middle schools and 15 elementary schools. (Listed on Map 2.1)

As a result of a Joint Use Agreement with the R2J School District, both entities are able to utilize community facilities. School District facilities are utilized by the City of Loveland primarily for athletic programming. In reverse, the school district utilizes several City parks and recreation facilities, including the golf courses, for athletic and school programming. Shared use of both City and school facilities provides more efficient use of facilities. Although the community has some use of school facilities as a recreational resource, there is limited availability during prime use times and often school facilities are not available to the community. The High School pools host community swim lessons. Additional public use of outdoor school areas also occurs, particularly the sports fields and playground areas for recreational purposes.

Co-location of schools and parks sometimes provides an efficiency that has been recognized in the location of several park facilities. Parks located next to existing schools are Edmondson, Loch Lon, North Lake and Osborn. In addition, the City has co-funded school ground development adjacent to Van Buren, Edmondson, Lincoln, Namaqua and Centennial Elementary Schools to be able to use these areas for school and community programming. Where appropriate, the City will work with the School District on co-location and joint use of facilities, but special consideration must be given to scheduling conflicts and special needs of each entity.

The City recently contributed \$2.9 million towards a new community pool at Mountain View High School. R2J School District will be responsible for the management and operation of the facility. This pool is scheduled for construction in 2002 and has been

designed to address the competitive and leisure swimming needs of the Loveland community.

REGIONAL RECREATION RESOURCES

Loveland is served by a number of regional recreation resources managed by Federal, State, and County agencies. These resources vary from water-based opportunities to passive open space areas.

1. Federal

Federal recreation resources in the area include Rocky Mountain National Park and Roosevelt National Forest. Both are located in the mountains west of Loveland and are within an hour drive. These Federal resources offer users many opportunities for recreation. Loveland is often referred to as the "Gateway to the Rockies" due to its proximity to the entrance of the Big Thompson Canyon. Many travelers come through Loveland to access these Federal resources.

2. State

The State of Colorado manages Boyd Lake State Park located adjacent to the northeast city limits of Loveland. Boyd Lake State Park offers 1,747 acres of water and 335 acres of land. A number of activities are available to the public including picnicking, camping, sailing, wind surfing, water skiing, jet skiing, boating, swimming and fishing. Loveland's recreation trail system winds through the west side of the park providing access for both pedestrians and bicyclists. Lon Hagler and Lone Tree Reservoirs, south of the City, also offer outdoor recreation opportunities for Loveland citizens.

3. County

Carter Lake, located west of Loveland, is a regional Larimer County park facility. This water-based resource provides a wide range of activities including picnicking, boating, swimming, water skiing, sailing, camping and hiking. Within the last two years, the County has closed two park areas in the Big Thompson Canyon which modified visitor patterns at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park.

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

There are commercial and self-directed community organizations in Loveland that also meet unique recreation interests in the community. The Department enjoys a unique and supportive role to these groups or facilities as they offer additional recreational opportunities to the community that supplement City activities.

1. Commercial Recreation Facilities

While the scope of this plan does not allow an in-depth view of private recreation facilities, these facilities are noteworthy as they supplement the recreation resources in the area. There are numerous indoor and outdoor

private and commercial facilities that provide valuable recreation services to the community. City recreation facilities are in existence to meet the community recreational needs that are not being addressed by the private sector. Public supported facilities and programs need to be aware of the fragile balance between public and private offerings. Both entities exist in a semi-competitive marketplace and seek to serve leisure time needs of a diverse clientele. Neither one could meet the overwhelming demand for services without the help of the other.

2. Community Groups and Organizations

Many private organizations within Loveland provide the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of recreation activities. These organizations are self-directed groups that have been formed to meet special recreational interests in Loveland.

Groups include:

- ◆ Loveland Alternative Sports League (Skate Sports)
- ◆ Loveland Baseball Association
- ◆ Loveland Girls “Hoops” (Basketball)
- ◆ Loveland Junior Golf Program
- ◆ Loveland Midget Athletic Association
- ◆ Loveland Parks and Recreation Foundation
- ◆ Loveland Rage Softball Association
- ◆ Loveland Road Runners Club
- ◆ Loveland Swim Club
- ◆ Loveland Tennis Association
- ◆ Men’s and Women’s Golf Associations
- ◆ Thompson Soccer Association

The Department cooperates with numerous self-directed community groups and organizations in the provision of activities for young people in Loveland. Designated primarily through separate use agreements, the Department provides several levels of support for the efforts and activities of these



organizations. Each agreement outlines the responsibilities of the City and the organization relating to program offerings, facility use, facility maintenance, liability insurance coverage and promotional assistance. The City provides the facilities, where possible, to these self-directed organizations.

In addition, the Department offers financial assistance through the annual Youth Athletics Grant program, which is designed to aid community youth athletic groups in providing services to the youth of the community through their activities. Philosophically, it is the position of the City that a valuable service is provided to the young people of the community through the volunteer efforts of these self- directed groups. The City could not dedicate the financial and personnel resources needed to provide these service levels independent of these service organizations.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Parks and Recreation Department operates and functions using eight (8) accounting funds: Some funds are used for on-going operations and others are designated for capital purposes. Below are brief explanations of funds currently available to the Parks and Recreation Department and how they serve as valuable and necessary resources in accomplishing the goals of the Parks and Recreation Department.

1. Operating Funds

A. General Fund:

The largest single budget source for Parks and Recreation Department is the General Fund. The General Fund provides for most administrative and maintenance expenses of the Department. The largest expense item is park maintenance, which accounts for nearly half of the Department's expenditures.

As a result of the activities and services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, there are revenues associated with Department expenditures. Department revenue sources have remained relatively consistent over time and there has been little fluctuation and moderate growth in the distribution of revenues. General Fund revenues are generated from recreation facilities, activities and programs.

Using general tax revenues to pay for parks and related services is consistent with the philosophy that nearly everyone in the community benefits from the services.

B. Golf Fund:

The Golf Fund fully supports both the operating and capital expenses necessary to maintain the City's three golf courses with revenues collected from golfers. The enterprise philosophy ensures that golf operations pay for themselves and are operated in a business-like manner.

C. Public Grounds Fund:

The Public Grounds Internal Service Fund was created to provide for the grounds maintenance around City buildings, recreational trails, special use areas, and public areas not maintained as developed parks.

This internal service fund is funded from transfers from the General and Utility Funds.

D. Conservation Trust Fund (Recreation Trail Maintenance):

In 1999, the funding of Recreation Trail maintenance was changed from the General Fund to the Conservation Trust Fund. In addition, a maintenance reserve of 10% of Lottery proceeds is set aside for future maintenance of the recreation trail system.

E. Open Lands Tax Fund:

Loveland's portion of the Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax fully supports both the operating and capital expenses necessary to acquire and maintain the City's designated open lands. This sales tax is scheduled to expire in 2018. A maintenance reserve of 15% of the proceeds received by the City of Loveland from this tax is set aside for maintenance and restoration costs associated with natural areas.

2. Capital Funds

As part of the City's Strategic Financial Plan, capital needs are identified for the next ten years to evaluate resources and expenditures to determine fund cash flows. The Department works with several sources of capital to provide for improvements to existing facilities and development of new facilities. Listed below are the capital funds, that the Department utilizes to meet citizen needs and demands.

A. General Fund:

Capital for some Parks and Recreation projects is funded from the City's General Fund. Projects are funded from this fund when other Departmental funds are inadequate or unavailable to fund a project. An example would be the request for funding for the Youth Sports Complex. Funding in the Parks Capital Expansion Fund is not adequate to build the proposed complex, therefore, City General funds are also being requested for this project.

B. Capital Expansion Fund:

In 1984 the City Council established Capital Expansion Fees, which are assessed on new residential development to contribute to providing infrastructure necessitated by population growth. Services for which fees are collected include parks, recreation centers and trails and funds are restricted for acquisition, development, or expansion of new park areas, recreation centers and trails.

C. Parks Improvement Fund:

Prior to the establishment of the Capital Expansion Fee in 1984, a parks fee was collected on a residential dwelling unit basis. Since 1984, new revenues in this fund have been limited to interest earned on the fund

balance, proceeds from parkland sales and user fees for park shelters. Use of this fund is restricted for improvements and infrastructure renovations at existing parks and park facilities.



D. Conservation Trust Fund:

Revenues in this fund are derived from proceeds of the state lottery and Lotto. Funds are restricted for recreational facilities and projects according to a plan adopted by City Council. City Council earmarked Lottery distributions to the construction of the recreation trail system until it is substantially complete. Recreation trail maintenance is also taken from this fund. In addition, during the 2002 budget cycle, a special allocation has been requested for a Youth Sports Complex from this fund.

E. Open Lands Tax Fund:

Revenues in this fund are derived from a Larimer County sales tax which is prorated back to each City. Funds are restricted for the planning, management, acquisition and maintenance of Open Lands in and surrounding Loveland. This sales tax is scheduled to expire in 2018.

F. Golf Fund:

The Golf Fund fully supports all capital equipment, improvements, and new capital development expenses necessary to maintain or expand the City's golf courses with revenues collected from golfers. The fund must operate in a business-like manner, marketing and charging for services at a level that will allow funds to cover all expenses.

G. Perpetual Care Fund:

This special fund was established to provide for the future maintenance and operation of Loveland's burial park after all burial space is used. Revenues are generated from perpetual care fees charged. Interest generated from the fund balance maybe used for capital improvements at the cemetery.

3. Stretching Tax Dollars

A. Grants and Donations:

The Department uses several mechanisms to stretch tax dollars and maximize resources including grants and donations. Priority is placed on applying for grants to enable the Department to accomplish projects at lower taxpayer expense. Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO) funds are sometimes available through a grant process for recreation, parks, trails and open space projects. In addition, the Department receives a number of donations each year ranging from trees to benches to cash. Although the Department maintains the right of refusal on donations, in most cases, donations prove valuable in adding amenities to our Parks and Recreation System.



B. Loveland Parks and Recreation Foundation:

In 1983, the Loveland Parks and Recreation Foundation was formed as a 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue designated public non-profit corporation to foster and encourage advancement of parks and recreation opportunities in Loveland. The Foundation Board of Directors' primary function is to provide a means for concerned and interested citizens to make donations in support of the services, programs and facilities of the Parks and Recreation Department, but separate from the City of Loveland governmental regulations.

The Foundation plays a valuable role to the community by raising funds, purchasing equipment, providing scholarships to youth and handicapped participants, fostering donations on behalf of the City, as well as serving as a mechanism for tax-deductible contributions.

3

STANDARDS, GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

Recreation, trail, golf, open lands and park planning is an integral part of community land use planning. Planning standards, guidelines and policies assure that the diverse recreational needs of the Loveland citizens are addressed within available resources. Acquisition and development of recreational resources must satisfy the many activities, both organized and unorganized, that people seek in their leisure time.

The preservation, acquisition and development of land for community use in the future is a process that cannot be left to chance. An area/facility or space standard is the measure of the area required to accomplish specific recreation intention. The forthcoming standards, guidelines and policies provide a starting point with regards to how much land to acquire and what proportion of this land should be used for various recreation uses. These measures are not static but rather change as the perceptions of people and conditions change. Every city has different characteristics and thus each community will have its own unique standards. Loveland's specific parks and recreation standards serve as benchmarks for the services provided. Standards will be appraised from time to time and adjustments made when economic factors or functions of the growth processes of the City necessitate change or modification of the standards.

Industry standards and evaluation processes have been established by the National Recreation and Park Association, U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and numerous other state and local agencies. Each of these resources assisted in developing Loveland's community standards. Although no precise formula is available for establishing Loveland's standards, several factors were considered, including the following:

- ◆ Existing Service Levels: How are existing service levels perceived by the community?
- ◆ Comparisons With Other Communities: What service levels are being provided by other surrounding communities?
- ◆ Services Requested: What services are being requested by the public?
- ◆ Funding: Availability of capital and operational resources.

PARK STANDARDS/ SERVICE LEVELS

Park and Recreation standards are used to project the amount of land and number of facilities required to best serve the community, estimate the maximum number of people an area/facility can be expected to serve, and judge the adequacy of existing resources. Parkland standards are a useful yardstick for establishing tangible levels of service standards and measuring a community's progress in meeting those standards. In effect, parkland standards are an expression of the level of importance a community places on parks.

Classification System and Standards/Service Levels for Loveland Parks

Because the size, location and use of park and recreation areas varies, park classification guidelines are expressions of the amount of land a community determines should constitute the minimum acreage and development criteria for different classification types. Loveland has established eight classifications of parks, trails, golf courses and open space:

1. Neighborhood Park:

Neighborhood parks are the most common park type in Loveland. Neighborhood parks are centrally located and accessible to surrounding neighborhoods. The purchase and development of parkland for neighborhood parks is based on 2.5 acres per 1,000 population standard and should be equitably distributed throughout the City, usually provided in every square mile section of residential development, serving approximately a ½-mile radius. Where feasible, neighborhood parks can be located adjacent to school facilities to provide joint location benefit to neighborhoods. Neighborhood parks should be a minimum of eight (8) acres in size. Larger neighborhood parks should be developed if they are “stand alone” parks.



Neighborhood parks do not have a standard design and will vary in size, topography and site designs depending on individual site characteristics and neighborhood input. Co-locating parks with regional detention basins will increase overall park acreage and will enhance overall park amenities by providing areas for natural features. A mixture of facilities should be provided that are suited to the site and the recreation preference of surrounding residents. The following is a list of facilities suitable for neighborhood parks:

- Informal Softball Field
- Volleyball Court
- Informal soccer/football area
- Basketball Court
- Playground
- Horseshoe Pits
- Tennis Court
- Walks & Bike Paths
- Native Vegetation Areas
- Floral Displays
- Free Play Areas on Turf
- Picnic Tables & Benches

Neighborhood parks usually provide facilities for athletics and courts, which are generally not lighted due to neighbor concerns. Typically, neighborhood parks do not contain restroom facilities or drinking fountains due to high costs.

2. Community Park:

Community parks serve as community-wide focal points for activities. Due to neighborhood concerns of noise, traffic and lighting, such activities do not fit well in neighborhood parks. The purchase of parkland for community parks is based on a 5 acres per 1,000 population standard. Community parks are greater than 30 acres in size and serve approximately a 1 mile or larger service radius. The community park can serve as a neighborhood park, but also serves the community of Loveland as a whole.

Because of a larger, more diverse user base, community parks provide a wider variety of recreational opportunities. Suitable facilities could include those listed under neighborhood parks, as well as the following:

- Softball Fields
- Baseball Fields
- Soccer/Football Fields
- Racquetball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Recreation Center
- Swimming Pool
- On-Site Parking
- Special Events Areas
- Lighted Activity Areas
- Special Amenities (in-line rink, skate park)
- Free Play Turf Areas
- Natural Areas
- Group Picnic Areas/Shelters
- Drinking Fountains
- Restrooms
- Special Use Areas/Facilities
- Wildlife habitats
- Winter Recreation Activities
- Water Bodies (fishing, ice skating)

3. City/School Recreation Areas:

Park areas located adjacent to school property or cooperatively developed recreation areas on public-owned parcels. No standards exist. Development may occur where it is practical and beneficial to serve neighborhoods that may lack park grounds or have access barriers (ie. major roadway).

The following is a list of facilities suitable for city/school recreation areas:

- Informal Youth Baseball/Softball Field
- Volleyball Court
- Soccer/football area
- Basketball Court
- Playground
- Multi-Use Turf Areas

4. Special Use Areas:

Areas that do not fit the classification uses of the average park. These types of parks serve a special need or interest and do not provide general recreation opportunities to the population as a whole. Examples of special use areas would include mini-parks and landscaped open/common areas that offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

5. Regional Park:

A regional park offers leisure value beyond the neighborhood or community park. Often there is an environmental or scenic quality, such as a river or mountain terrain. Regional parks are usually 200+ acres in size. Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park is categorized as a regional park due to its resources and because it draws visitation from a wider community base than Loveland.

6. Open Space/Natural Areas:

Conservation and preservation of natural areas; no defined service area; resource determines size, use and accessibility.

The City manages open space areas separately from the park system, but there are open space areas within and bordering several park and trail locations. A separate Open Lands Master Plan governs the Open Lands Program.

7. Trails:

Trails are off-road (non-motorized) recreational routes typically constructed of concrete, which are 10 feet in width. Paved trails supplement commuter routes and provide linkages within the community. Most trails are located along drainage ways, irrigation canals or through acquired open space. The Recreation Trail may also be constructed through residential developments with the intent to encircle the City in a connecting loop. Loveland's trail standard is one-half paved mile of trail per 1,000 population.

Non-Paved or soft surface trails will be constructed where possible along all new trail routes. These trails generally run parallel to the paved trails and will vary in width and will be constructed to avoid impacts to environmentally sensitive areas. Demand for non-paved trails is increasing to accommodate walkers, joggers and mountain bikers where appropriate.

Several underpasses have been constructed for safe crossings under major arterial streets. Future underpasses will be developed where feasible and as funding permits to provide safe crossings for trail users.

Four trailheads provide ease access to the trail at existing parks or the Civic Center Complex. Where possible, trailheads provide parking, drinking water, restrooms, and trail information. Trailheads are spaced throughout the City and located to provide safe and easy access for the user. Trailheads may vary in size, but should accommodate the expected demand and be kept to the minimum size when located outside of a park.

8. Golf Courses:

Although no specific national standard exists for number of golf holes, Loveland has a standard of .75 hole per 1,000 population. There are a number of variables that effect the development of golf courses; examples of the variables include surrounding population numbers, number of other golf courses available and social-economical factors.

FACILITY & PROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

Facility and programming guidelines are used to determine the number of and types of facilities that are needed in a community based on estimates of the maximum number of people and activities an area can be expected to serve. Facility and programming guidelines are useful yardsticks for establishing tangible levels of service, and measuring a community's ability to meet these service standards. In effect, standards are an expression of the level of importance Loveland places on recreational facilities and programs.

Classification System for Loveland's Recreation Facilities

Because the size, location and use of recreation areas varies, classification guidelines provide a framework for evaluating facility needs and programming levels. Often recreation facilities are developed in conjunction with or as part of another area of the community (For example, parks and schools). Loveland has established two classifications of recreation facilities:

1. Indoor Facilities
2. Outdoor Facilities

1. Indoor Facilities:

Design and location of indoor facilities is directly related to the type of activity occurring in the facility. Indoor facilities generally provide programming opportunities for both structured activities and unstructured public use. Programming within indoor facilities includes City-sponsored activities as well as many other community programs. The following is a list of facility types that are suitable for indoor programming.

- Basketball Courts
- Fitness/Weight Equipment Areas
- Swimming Pool
- Exercise Areas
- Racquetball & Tennis Courts
- Meeting/Class Rooms
- Special Use Areas/Facilities
- Volleyball Courts
- Gymnastics Area
- Hot Tub/Steam Room
- Ice Skating Area
- Running Track
- Skating Facilities

Recreation programming guidelines have been established by evaluating current and historical service levels, comparison to National Recreation and Parks Association and neighboring community standards, and by analyzing specific recreational needs/demands.

Recommended Level of Service

Basketball - 1 indoor court per 2,000 population

Racquetball - 1 indoor court per 10,000 population

Recreation Centers - 1,000 square feet per 1,000 population

Senior Centers - 1 center per 50,000 population

Swimming Pools - 1 indoor pool per 20,000 population

Volleyball - 1 indoor court per 2,000 population

2. Outdoor Facilities:

Design of outdoor facilities is directly related to the nature of the activity or program that the facility must support. Outdoor facilities are scheduled for specific activities and are mostly located within parks and available for public use when not pre-scheduled. The following is a list of facilities that are suitable for outdoor programming.

- Basketball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Swimming Pools
- Athletic Fields (Soccer/Football)
- Swimming Beach
- Volleyball Courts
- Skating Areas
- Batting Cages
- Athletic fields (baseball/softball)
- Racquetball Courts

Recommended Level of Service

Athletic Fields (Soccer/Football) - 1 field per 1,500 population

Basketball - 1 outdoor court per 5,000 population

Baseball Fields (Little League) - 1 field per 5,000 population

Batting Cages - 1 operation per 50,000 population

Beach Areas - 1 area per 50,000 population

Playground - 1 area per 2,000 population

Racquetball Courts - 1 outdoor court per 10,000 population

Softball Fields - 1 field per 5,000 population

Swimming Pools - 1 outdoor pool per 20,000 population

Tennis Courts - 1 court per 2,000 population

Volleyball - 1 outdoor court per 5,000 population

Note: There are emerging trends in the community that have been identified for future consideration including skate parks, in-line hockey rinks and dog parks



Classification System for Loveland's Recreation Programs:

Program Classifications

Loveland has established two classifications of recreation programs:

1. Active/Athletic
2. Instructional

1. Active/Athletic Programs: Active programs include any City sponsored class or activity where physical exertion on the part of the participant is necessary. Active programs can range from fitness and athletic skill development and/or competition to outdoor classes including skiing, swimming, fishing, etc. Active/Athletic programs can take place at both indoor and outdoor facilities, and can be structured or unstructured in supervision. Active programs are usually held at facilities designed and constructed for the specific use.

2. Instructional Programs: Instructional programs include any City sponsored class or event where participants learn skills. Activities involving most forms of the arts including the theater, concerts, art classes, computer classes etc., tend to be more instructional in nature. Instructional programs can take place at indoor and outdoor facilities and can be structured or unstructured in supervision. Many classroom programs are classified as "Instructional" in that they do not require large amounts of physical exertion and facilities are designed for specific skill learning and development.

Recommended Level of Service for Programs*

Youth Athletics Classes Offered per 1,000 in population	9
Tennis Classes Offered per 1,000 in population	2
Adult Athletics League Teams per 1,000 in population	10
Aquatics Classes Offered per 1,000 in population	8
Senior Classes Offered per 1,000 in population	3
General Classes Offered per 1,000 in population	25
Total Classes Offered per 1,000 in population	57

**Each recommended program service level is monitored and evaluated in light of current community demographics and recreational needs.*

Philosophies on Recreation Facilities and Programs:

The Department utilizes some fundamental philosophies to provide consistent direction in its programming and facility management. These philosophies or guidelines serve as the basis for the establishment of policies and procedures that direct facility operation and program organization.

Drop-in/Programmed Use of Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities are designed to accommodate both drop-in and programmed uses. Early in the life cycle of a facility, it is usual that programs are scheduled into the slower non-peak times, with drop-in use taking up the more popular peak times. However, as the population has grown and familiarity with facilities has increased, scheduling conflicts have also increased. Depending upon the facility, staff continues to juggle the needs of the drop-in user with the demands for increased organized program offerings. Efficient use of available times to accommodate the greatest number of guests continues to be the major criteria used in scheduling decisions.

Centralized/Multiple Program Locations

Exponential growth in the number and variety of recreation programs offered by the Loveland Parks and Recreation Department has caused several challenges relating to resource allocation and facility development. Centralizing most non-athletic programs at the Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center resulted in increased quality control and more effective use of existing staff resources. Both set-up and clean-up of classes can be accomplished by existing facility staff who also have other facility attendant responsibilities. Parents with children of multiple ages take advantage of the opportunity to have children in different classes while also getting in a workout for themselves. However, recent increases in local population, coupled with continuing demand for Chilson based programs, has exhausted available facilities at the Center. This lack of space and time may cause the need to move some classes and activities to other locations and/or to move up the timeframe for looking at expansion of the Chilson Center. In addition, while locating most athletic practices at satellite locations around the community has been very user friendly, continued growth in demand for programs has limited the ability to provide centralized locations for weekend games. If several locations are needed as game sites, the cost for supervision and officials increases as well. Construction of the proposed Youth Sports Complex would eliminate this concern in the foreseeable future.

Skill Development/Competition

In addition to the 4,500 separate enrollments and the 500+ classes and activities offered in youth sports by the Department, self-directed community groups also sponsor leagues/tournaments in youth sports. The Parks and Recreation Department places emphases on skill development for younger age groups (pre-kindergarten through 6th grade).



As the level of skill in each individual sport increases for an athlete, their desire to compete at a higher level also increases. The self-directed groups begin at this point and are more likely to offer programs that include inter-city travel, more games and increased competition. The Parks and Recreation Department cooperates, where possible, with these groups in providing and maintaining facilities for a wide variety of sports and activities.

The Department also stresses its responsibility in the area of skill development by allowing the self-directed groups to take the lead in providing more competitive experiences for Loveland's youth.

POLICIES AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

The Department utilizes policies and operational standards to provide quality and consistent services to the public. Loveland's recreational facilities and programs have continually received high satisfaction marks on community surveys as a result of the types and quality of services offered. In order to maintain this current level of satisfaction into the future, policies and operational standards have been set to assist with decision-making.

For the purpose of this Plan, Department policies have been placed into the following categories:

1. Planning/Acquisition/Development Policies
2. Maintenance/Operation Policies
3. Administrative/Financial Policies

Each policy is categorized and identified. In addition, the Department has further identified policies requiring future revision or evaluation. Each identified issue will be later discussed in the Needs Assessment component of the Master Plan.

These guidelines, standards and policies allow for better operation and evaluation of areas where Loveland is not meeting current recreational standards, new recreational desires that have been expressed or current facilities and programs in need of upgrades.

TABLE 3.1
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT MASTER PLAN POLICIES

A. Acquisition/Development Policies

- A1. Lands shall be acquired by the Department (for trails, facilities, parks, open lands, golf, and recreational areas).
- A2. The Department will attempt to acquire land before lands are annexed to the City or as development occurs in an area.
- A3. The Department will evaluate and acquire sites using a variety of established development criteria.
- A4. An ownership and encumbrance search shall be conducted for potential acquisition sites. Appraisals will be obtained to determine the fair market value of the potential acquisition property.
- A5. A title commitment and survey will be required for each potential acquisition. If the site is acquired, a title policy in the amount of the acquisition will be supplied to the City.
- A6. The Department will acquire property by warranty deed, where possible. Other acquisition methods will include conservation easements or right-of-way easements.
- A7. Requests for sale or use of City property will meet applicable City and State requirements.
- A8. The Department will adhere to government regulations and codes on the operation and development of facilities.
- A9. The Department will attempt to develop, improve and provide safe facilities to meet the recreation programming needs of the community, as priorities and resources permit.
- A10. Park development will typically occur after residential development in a park service area exceeds 50%. Construction and project development will not occur without adequate funding and consideration of the cost of future operations. New services/amenities will be evaluated to determine effects on existing service levels and resources.
- A11. Parks will be planned to avoid significant overlapping of service areas to maximize use of resources and provide consistent levels of service.
- A12. The Department will follow the established planning and review processes and coordinate appropriate details with other City Departments and entities. The Department shall provide citizens with an opportunity to comment on the development of proposed amenities.
- A13. The Department will participate in the City's review of new development proposals to evaluate the impacts imposed on parks, trails and recreational resources.
- A14. The Department will attempt to provide facilities for use by community-based, independent, self-directed recreation non-profit organizations' use.
- A15. Priorities will be established by the Department for the acquisition and development of sites based on existing and projected needs with an attempt to incorporate the concept of multi-use and accommodating program growth.
- A16. Neighborhood parks will be located in predominantly residential areas of the City. The City will strive to provide additional parkland through redevelopment, partnerships with the school district or other City Department areas.

TABLE 3.1 CONTINUED

- A17. All facilities and programs will be designed to make reasonable accommodations for citizens and will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other mandated Federal, State, County and City regulations.
- A18. The Department will comply with the City/School District's Joint Use Agreement on the acquisition, development and programming of facilities.
- A19. The Department will follow the City/County intergovernmental agreement and coordinate with Larimer County and adjacent governmental entities on Master Plans regarding parks, trails, recreational activities, open space and golf courses. Through agreements and sponsorships, the Department shall also cooperate with R2J, other agencies and community-based groups in providing and programming recreational facilities.
- A20. The recreation trail system is designed to provide an off-street, non-motorized, urban, recreation trail. The recreational trail will be located within existing easements, where available, and new growth and development proposals will be requested to provide land, access or easements for the City's trail system. Trail linkages or spur connections will be the responsibility of new developments desiring a connection to the recreation trail system. Future connections to regional or statewide systems will be done in cooperation with public, multi-agency and private entities.
- A21. Trailheads will be developed where feasible and where adequate parking and services can be provided. At a minimum, trailheads should be provided in all 4 quadrants of the City and will be sited to minimize impacts to environmental areas, while providing safe trail access.
- A22. Trail underpasses will be constructed at all 4 crossings of the State/ Federal Highways within the City. Other major arterials will also be considered for underpasses to provide safe crossings and easy access to the trail.
- A23. Development will be coordinated with schedules identified in the Department's Capital Improvement Program and the City's Strategic Financial Plan.
- A24. All facilities will be designed to meet the ADA standards, where possible

B. Maintenance/Operation Policies

- B1. The Department shall operate and maintain the current public cemetery grounds and provide a variety of interment sites and services.
- B2. Facilities, equipment, programs and grounds will be maintained to provide a safe, clean, and aesthetically pleasing atmosphere at or above current service levels and established standards.
- B3. The Department may continue to provide contract maintenance for other City Departments for ground maintenance of detention ponds, power stations, and public buildings/sites. Special agreements may be established on right-of-ways, easements or open lands that will benefit the community. Services will be contracted out where feasible or necessary.
- B4. Facilities and services provided by the Department are intended to supplement community resources, not compete directly with commercial operations.
- B5. Where feasible, raw water will be used for turf irrigation purposes.

TABLE 3.1 CONTINUED

- B6. Equestrian use of the recreation trail is prohibited due to safety and competing use concerns. However, regional trail connections may accommodate equestrian use in the future.
- B7. New technology will be incorporated into the operation of Department facilities in order to operate more efficiently and provide additional services.
- B8. The Department will add, delete or modify a service, procedure or operation after careful consideration of many factors including meeting recognized professional standards, cost/benefit ratio, required current and future resources, negative and positive implications, cost recovery policies, market analysis, citizen, staff and Council input and of interest to the community as a whole.
- B9. The Department tracks and identifies the recreational needs of the community through surveys, citizen and user-group input, and discusses these with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Numerous analyses provide input for policy formulation and user satisfaction.
- B10. The Department will attempt to hire qualified employees and provide safe, up-to-date and appropriate office, work and staging areas and conditions to employees; materials, supplies, tools, equipment and vehicles; and storage areas for materials, supplies, equipment and vehicles to enable and facilitate safe, efficient and effective maintenance and operations for its employees.
- B11. Enforcement of City Ordinances regarding grounds and facilities are the responsibility of the Loveland Police Department with the cooperation of the Larimer County Sheriff Department.
- B12. The Department has the authority to develop and implement various site and facility rules and regulations.
- B13. Customer satisfaction and guest services are a priority for all Department facilities, programs and areas.
- B14. Where feasible, the City will provide fields and facilities for community-based, self-directed youth athletic groups and organizations. Groups will be responsible for costs associated with facility preparations and programming at City facilities.

C. Financial Policies

- C1. Fiscal responsibility is a priority. The Department will meet established City and Council directed financial policies.
- C2. Department standards are benchmarks for expected performance. Standards will be met or exceeded where financially and practically feasible.
- C3. The Department operates on a modified user pay philosophy for some facilities and services. Fees are charged to help recover costs and reduce taxpayer subsidy. Fees will be set based on market conditions including supply and demand, program or facility availability and cost recovery policies established by staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Golf Board or City Council. Financial assistance programs are available for selected facilities & activities.
- C4. Fee schedules will be created with special consideration for subsidy assistance to youth, seniors and low-income individuals.

TABLE 3.1 CONTINUED

- C5. Golf is operated as a government Enterprise Fund and will recover 100% of operating, capital and debt costs. Golf Fund fees and revenues can only be used for the planning, management, purchase, construction, operations and maintenance of golf courses.
- C6. Capital Expansion Fees are collected for new park development, trails, and recreation center expansion.
- C7. Lottery funds are earmarked as a funding source for the Recreational Trail System urban trail loop.
- C8. Open Lands Tax Revenues from a special Larimer County Tax can only be used for the planning, management, operations and purchase of Open Lands.
- C9. The Parks Improvement Fund will be used for capital projects at existing park locations.
- C10. The Department uses depreciation funding to assure on-going replacement of equipment and facilities.
- C11. The Department may operate food and beverage concessions at recreational facilities on an exclusive basis. Private or special event vending in park areas and facilities will need Department approval.
- C12. Cash handling policies are used to provide for the security of City funds. An annual review is conducted for modification and updating of policies and procedures.
- C13. The City will apply for grants and donations to provide supplemental resources for projects, programs & operations when available and feasible.
- C14. Donation offers are reviewed for their value to the community as well as any operational requirements as a result of the donation. The Loveland Parks and Recreation Foundation was established to assist with implementing and accommodating donor requests.
- C15. There are no designated non-resident fees for participation in programs and facilities. However, participation may be limited to residents or special discounts given to Loveland residents.

4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

This Needs Assessment component of the Parks and Recreation Department's Master Plan identifies parks, trail, golf, open lands and facility needs and issues to be addressed within Loveland's Urban Growth Area. A number of resources and data gathering tools were utilized to identify recreational needs and issues. Information was gathered from various community user groups giving special attention to Loveland Parks and Recreation Department's role in providing recreational services and identifying future needs. Recreational needs have been identified as a result of a standards comparison, feedback from program and facility surveys, interaction and communications with self-directed community groups in the Facility Needs Assessment and input from citizens.

MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Table 4.1 allows us to evaluate actual numbers of acres and facilities in comparison with standards, but does not address the need to maintain, renovate or update existing Parks and Recreation assets. Many parks and recreational facilities have been in use for years and are showing signs of aging and use. To continue at current levels of service, existing facilities must continue to be maintained at consistent levels and funding must continue to take care of these existing resources.



COMPARISONS WITH STANDARDS

To begin the process of identifying parks, trails, golf course, open lands and recreation facility needs, standards and established service level recommendations were compared to Loveland's inventory of recreation resources. Table 4.1 illustrates how Loveland is stacking up with the standards and recommended service levels identified in this Master Plan.

TABLE 4.1
COMPARISON OF STANDARDS WITH EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY STANDARD OR RECOMMENDED SERVICE LEVEL	CITY OF LOVELAND AMENITIES	COMMENTS [52,000 population basis] ◆ Does not meet Std/Svc Level
Neighborhood Park:	2.5 acres per 1000 population	2.2 acres/1000 population	◆ Short of recommended service level by 16 acres.
	1/2 mile service radius	22 Developed Neighborhood Parks	◆ Short of recommended service level in two areas of town.
Community Park:	5.0 acres per 1000 population	2.84 acres/1000 population	◆ 2.16 acres/1000 population or 112 acres short of standard
	1 mile service radius	4 City Community Parks	◆ Short of service level recommendation in 2 areas.
Developed Parkland	7.5 acres per 1000 population	5.04 acres/1000 population (excludes VS Mountain Park)	◆ 2.46 acres/1000 population or 128 acres short of standard
Recreation Trails	1/2 paved mile per 1000/population	12.5 miles of paved trail	◆ Short of standard by 13.5 miles.
Golf Courses	.75 holes per 1000/population	.8654 holes per 1000 or 3 golf courses	No shortage of standard.
Athletic Fields (Soccer/Football)	1 field per 1500 population	29 fields	◆ Short of standard by 6 fields.
Baseball Fields (Youth)	1 field per 5000 population	7 fields	◆ Short of standard by 3 fields
Basketball Courts	1 indoor court per 2000 population	3 courts	◆ Short of standard but need is met by availability of R2J Courts.
	1 outdoor court per 5000 population	6 courts	◆ Short of standard by 4 courts
Batting Cages	1 operation per 50,000 population	1 operation	Meets standard
Beach Areas	1 area per 50,000 population	1 beach area	Meets standard
Playgrounds	1 playground per 2000 population	24 playgrounds	◆ Short of standard by 2 playgrounds
Racquetball Courts	1 indoor court per 10,000 population	3 courts	◆ Short of standard by 2 courts
	1 outdoor court per 10,000 population	4 courts	◆ Short of standard by 1 court
Recreation Center	2,000 square feet per 1,000 population	67,000 square feet Center	◆ Short of standard by 37,000 square feet.
Senior Center	1 center per 50,000 population	1 center	Meets standard
Softball Fields	1 field per 5000 population	11 fields	Meets standard
Swimming Pools	1 indoor pool per 20,000 population	1 pool	◆ Short of standard. New MVHS pool will meet the need for a competitive aquatic facility.
	1 outdoor pool per 20,000 population	1 pool	Standard met since private ventures are providing facilities to the public.
Tennis Courts	1 outdoor court per 2000 population	21 courts	◆ Short of standard by 5 courts. There are tennis courts at TVHS & MVHS but they are unavailable for public use.
Volleyball Courts	1 indoor court per 2000 population	3 courts	Standard is met since several R2J facilities are available for public use

PROGRAM & FACILITY SURVEYS

The Department regularly utilizes a variety of techniques to assess community needs with regards to recreational facilities and programs. A number of different survey tools have provided staff with insight about user satisfaction, perceived condition of facilities and future desires. In addition, survey tools provide valuable user profiles and demographics. Below are samples of areas where surveys are used by the Department to gather decision-making information.

- ❑ Chilson Recreation Center: Daily Fee and Extended Use Pass Surveys
- ❑ City's Citizen Satisfaction Survey
- ❑ Golf: User and Services Surveys
- ❑ Parks and Recreation Community Survey
- ❑ Recreation Program Participant Surveys
- ❑ Regional operation surveys of Cemeteries, Parks and Golf Courses
- ❑ Emerging trends in Parks and Recreation

Participation records are kept for all programming areas to allow the Department to evaluate trends and make future programming projections. Programming trends give us important insight in planning for the use of City facilities.

Special surveys are also created when additional information is needed. An annual marketing plan is prepared to assure that survey data is incorporated into Department decisions. Less formal methods of gathering information include Comment Cards, Service Request Forms and Word of Mouth.

FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Facility Needs Assessment was updated in 2000. Community recreation groups were asked to identify their specific facility needs, level of use and other information concerning their use of City facilities. Self-directed groups that were surveyed include the Loveland Baseball Association, Loveland Midget Athletics Association, Loveland Swim Club, Loveland Tennis Association, Alternative Sports League and Thompson Soccer Association. Each of these groups provides valuable services to the community beyond the programs provided by the City.

The City of Loveland contracted with a planning consultant to complete a study of the facility needs for youth athletics in the community. In meetings with representatives of a number of self-directed community groups, immediate and future facility and programming needs were identified. In 1999, a report was presented to the Loveland City Council recommending the construction of a Youth Sports Complex to include baseball/softball fields, football fields, soccer fields, a skate park and in-line hockey rink, & tennis courts.

In addition, staff updates the annual Recreation Division Marketing Plan to stay current with local and national changes in the area of leisure programming and facility management. The demand for expanded youth sports programs and facilities, the need for more indoor recreation facility space, and recognition of continuing community growth are local recognized trends. Emerging national trends, including exponential growth in youth sports areas (soccer, skating, softball), the continued emphasis on wellness and fitness, and increasing demand for personal growth and skill development classes have also been recognized.

DEMAND SURVEY

An understanding of Loveland's recreation preferences enables a balance between the individuals' recreation desires, and overall community needs. A Demand Survey was completed to determine user preferences and guide future decisions in recreation planning. This survey was directed at the community as a whole to obtain general consensus on overall Parks and Recreation decisions. The purpose of the questionnaire was to better understand the citizens of Loveland and their recreation desires; to determine if there are changing trends in recreation desires due to growth and current economic conditions; to determine if recreation needs are different in designated areas of Loveland and if so, how are these reflected; to determine a priority for land acquisition and development of facilities for recreation purposes; and to provide citizens with an opportunity to give input regarding recreational lands and facilities.

The conclusions below are based upon the surveys returned:

- Citizens are satisfied with the levels of service and quality of recreational amenities in Loveland.
- Parkland standards are believed to be adequate and most citizens have reasonable access to park facilities.
- Respondents overwhelmingly believe there are an adequate number of golf courses in Loveland.
- Citizens are extremely satisfied with the recreation trail and want it to continue.
- Regardless of the age of the respondent, most adults are willing to fund parks, recreational facilities, open lands and the continuation of the recreation trail.
- Most citizens believe co-development of land adjacent to elementary schools serves both neighborhood and school recreation uses.
- The construction of sport facilities should be the joint funding responsibility of both the City and private organizations using those facilities.
- There are not enough fishing ponds, outdoor swimming pools, athletic fields, tennis courts, in-line skate rinks, skate parks or youth baseball fields according to frequent activity users.

CITIZEN REPRESENTATION-PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

A valuable resource in understanding citizen preferences and recreational needs is information gathered from the City Council appointed Parks and Recreation Commission and Golf Advisory Board.

These citizen groups provide feedback, evaluate operations, assist in establishing budget priorities, participate in planning and provide recommendations regarding Parks and Recreation issues in Loveland. Monthly meetings allow Board and Commission members a regular opportunity to represent the constituents of the community.

PARKLAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

There are two measures to evaluate Loveland’s parkland needs: number of acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population and park service areas. These two measures indicate the number of acres of parkland needed and provide insight as to what areas of town are deficient of parkland. Taking projected population estimates for Loveland and comparing them to acreage standards for neighborhood and community parks determines future park acreage needs. Using Loveland’s parkland standards, Table 4.2 shows the estimated amount of developed parkland needed in the future.

**TABLE 4.2
LOVELAND, COLORADO - PARKLAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

	Developed Parkland Standards		
	Neighborhood Parks 2.5 AC/1,000 Pop.	Community Parks 5 AC/1,000 Pop.	Overall Park Acreage 7.5 AC/1,000 Pop.
2001 (Estimated Population 52,000)			
Existing Developed Acreage	114	148	262
Application of Standard	130	260	390
Shortage	-16	-112	-128
2006 (Estimated Population 57,000*)			
Existing Developed Acreage	114	148	262
Application of Standard	142	285	427
Shortage	-28	-137	-165
2011 (Estimated Population 63,000*)			
Existing Developed Acreage	114	148	262
Application of Standard	157	315	472
Shortage	-43	-167	-210

*Future growth estimates have been based on a 2% growth in population per year.
Excludes Viestenz-Smith acreage

To match the requirements of the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, locations for future parks are based on providing continued park services in new areas, working around land availability and planning requirements. The optimum goal would be to provide parks to all areas of town without duplicating services. The determining factors, which establish criteria for the location and acquisition of new parkland, consist of reviewing the monthly update of the City’s Current Development Activities and calculating the 10-year projection for future residential development as defined by the City Land Use Plan. With residential development and parkland standards as the basis, Map 4.1 projects current and potential park locations throughout town.

The Current Development Activities Map reflects the locations of proposed new developments that are progressing through the review process and the Revised 2001 City Land Use Plan that provides direction for future residential growth areas within the Growth Management Boundary. By analyzing each of these factors, growth trends can be projected, which in turn, helps identify potential needs for future park sites. The level of development activity helps determine the acquisition and construction schedule. The existing park service area Map 2-1 is also utilized to minimize service area overlap and improve service level coverage. Generally the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be updated every five years and specific park locations will be identified only after land negotiations are completed.

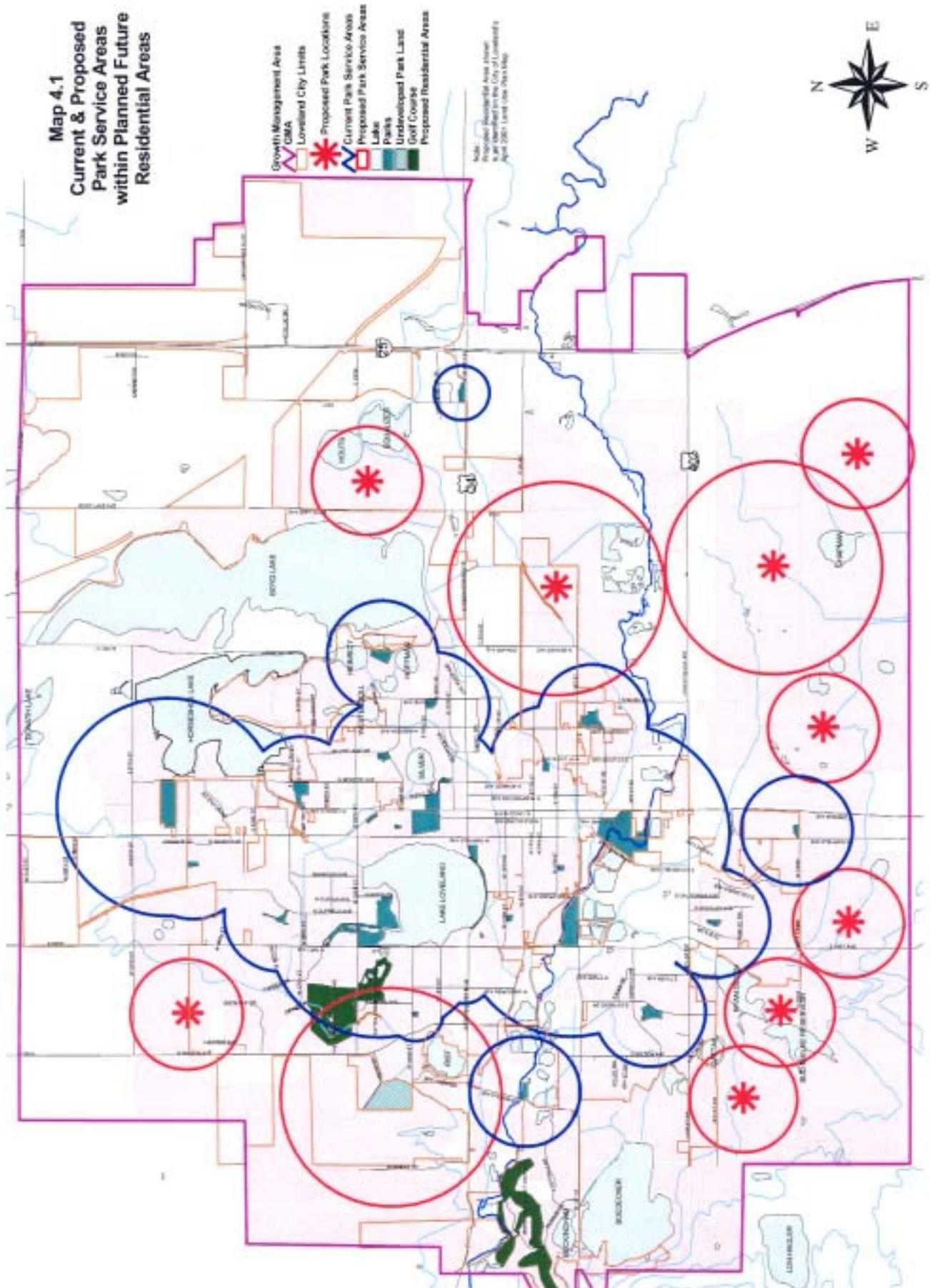
Neighborhood Parks

Using Loveland's neighborhood parkland standard of 2.5 acres/1000 population, Loveland is short of its neighborhood park standard by 16 acres as defined by the current population and distribution of parks. This means that there are two areas of town that currently do not have adequate access to a neighborhood park. It should be emphasized that both the need and locations for neighborhood parks are contingent on where and when growth occurs. Given the smaller acreage requirements of a neighborhood park, acquisition of these sites can be somewhat responsive to emerging development patterns. New neighborhood parks are currently being planned for the northwest and northeast areas of the community. Both sites will be co-located with new schools where possible and may share facilities such as parking, irrigation systems and recreation facilities. The two new parks, if acquired, would be developed in 5-8 years as residential development occurs. Both sites will be between 6-10 acres. Several sites are needed in the South to coincide with residential development.

Community Parks

When applying the community park standard of 5 acres/1000 population with a 1-mile service radius, there is a shortage of 112 developed community park acres. This shortage is due to the increased population within the community and the fact that no new community parks have been constructed since 1996. This also indicates that there are areas of town that are not being served by a community park. Community parks, because of their relatively large size, ability to host a variety of athletic activities, and the desirability of locating these at an acceptable site that incorporates natural or scenic features, must be targeted for acquisition well in advance of emerging development or the opportunity to acquire affordable land may be lost. During 1997, a 60-acre parcel was purchased in the northwest quadrant of town. With the development of this community park known as Mehaffey Park, Loveland would come closer to meeting its community parks standard and would provide park services to an area currently underserved. Developing a Youth Sports Complex, on the east side of town would provide a community park in this area of town that is also underserved. If both of these parks were developed the City would exceed the community park standard.

Map 4.1 Current and Proposed Park Service Areas



FACILITY/PROGRAMMING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Due to the diverse nature of recreational activities, a number of recreation facility/programming needs have been identified. These needs were identified as a result of extensive analysis and input from numerous resources including the following:

- Survey results and input from Loveland residents.
- Facility Needs Analysis and discussions with organized recreation groups.
- School District Joint Use Agreement.
- Data compiled by the City on trends for various facilities and programs, as well as observations by City staff on scheduling conflicts, crowding, etc.
- Guidelines from the National Recreation and Parks Association.
- Comparison data from surrounding communities.
- Input and direction from City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Currently, Loveland is meeting the majority of facility/programming standards. However, listed below are a few areas that do not meet current standards or additional facilities have been identified as a need.

**TABLE 4.3
IMPACT OF MEETING RECREATION
FACILITY/PROGRAM STANDARDS**

	Estimated Population	Required # to Meet Facility Standard	Existing Facilities (1/1/01)	Shortage Of Facilities
Standard Level of Recreation Centers in Loveland, 2,000 Sq Ft/1000 population				
2001	52000	104,000 square feet	67,000 square feet	37,000 sq ft
2006	57000	114,000 square feet	67,000 square feet	47,000 sq ft
2011	63000	110,000 square feet	67,000 square feet	59,000 sq ft
Standard Level for Athletic (Soccer/Football) Fields in Loveland, 1 Field/1500 population				
2001	52000	35 fields	29 fields	6
2006	57000	38 fields	29 fields	9
2011	63000	42 fields	29 fields	13
Standard Level for Baseball Fields in Loveland, 1 Field/5,000 population				
2001	52000	10 fields	7 fields	3 fields
2006	57000	11 fields	7 fields	4 fields
2011	63000	12 fields	7 fields	5 fields
Standard Level for Softball Fields in Loveland, 1 Field/5,000 population				
2001	52000	10 fields	11 fields	-
2006	57000	11 fields	11 fields	-
2011	63000	12 fields	11 fields	1
Standard Level for Tennis Courts in Loveland, 1 court per/2,000 population				
2001	52000	26 courts	21 courts	5 court
2006	57000	28 courts	21 courts	7 courts
2011	63000	31 courts	21 courts	10 courts
Standard Level for Outdoor Basketball Courts in Loveland, 1 court per/5,000 population				
2001	52000	10 courts	7 courts	3 courts
2006	57000	11 courts	7 courts	4 courts
2011	63000	12 courts	7 courts	5 courts

Recreation Center

When applying the standard of 2,000 square feet of recreation center space per 1,000 population, Loveland has reached the point where additional indoor recreational space is needed. Designed for approximately 750 visits per day, the Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center currently experiences over 1,200 visits per day and is operating at or over capacity during most peak time periods. In addition, increasing use during non-peak periods is currently placing pressure on already stretched facility and staffing resources. If Loveland is to continue to provide recreational opportunities at the current service level, an expansion of indoor recreation space will be necessary by 2005. While no definitive plan has emerged to date, acquisition of land adjacent to the Hatfield Chilson Recreation Center makes expansion of the existing facility a real possibility. Other outlying sites may also be recognized if development of a stand-alone facility is desired.



Youth Sports Complex (Baseball, Soccer, & Football Fields)

In comparing facility capacity with the escalating demands on existing fields by department and community group programs, it is clear that there is a shortage of field space for youth athletic practices and games. Loveland is short of its standard for athletic fields based upon present and future population. Enrollments in all youth athletic programs point toward a distinct shortage of field space for several activities. There is a current shortage of baseball fields that will carry through as the area population grows. In addition, soccer is the single fastest growing sport in the country and both department and Thompson Soccer Association growth figures are exponentially greater than the rate of population growth. Finally, athletic groups in the community cite the need for a number of facilities located in the same approximate area to control supervision and maintenance costs and to allow parents with children of different ages to attend games. For several years, self-directed community groups have been discussing their needs for a youth sports complex. During 2001, McWhinney Enterprises has committed a 100-acre parcel on the east side of town for a youth sports complex. City staff will focus on securing resources and funding for the construction and operation of this facility.



Skate Parks and In-Line Hockey

In 1998, Loveland built its first skate park at Junior Achievement Park and an in-line Hockey Rink at Centennial Park. However, these facilities only serve a small portion of the community and there is community demand for additional skate facilities and in-line skating rinks in the future.



Softball Fields

The standard for softball fields in Loveland will be met until the year 2012. However, the growth of girls fast pitch softball in the area could adversely affect this condition and dictate the need for additional fields prior to that time. R2J School District's girl's softball program is growing in popularity. This has created the demand for programs and facilities to serve the developmental needs of softball players prior to and including the



high school age groups. A new self-directed, competitive, girls softball organization was formed in 1996 and field needs may grow beyond the existing recognized standard.

Currently, City Park fields are unable to meet the needs of Parks and Recreation Department developmental programs or other community groups. While there is always a need for practice space during the spring season, the field needs for adult softball are met with the existing facilities at Barnes Park.

Swimming Facilities

Although the City standard for indoor swimming pools in Loveland is met, including the community pools at the local high schools, the community does not meet the standard for outdoor pools. Because of the availability of indoor pools, it is unlikely that the City will build another outdoor pool soon.



Tennis Courts

Currently Loveland is falling short of its tennis court standard but generally meeting the need for tennis courts. The Facilities Needs Assessment identified a need for additional courts at one centralized location to accommodate league and tournament play, as well as



a desire for an indoor tennis facility. This recognized need is a direct result of the growth experienced by the Loveland Tennis Association, a self-directed community organization created to further opportunities for tennis competition locally. Three sites, North Lake Park, Thompson Valley and Mountain View High Schools can accommodate this need currently. The need to keep several courts open for tennis lessons and drop-in play limits the number of leagues that the L.T.A. can offer currently. In addition, Thompson Valley High School has made a policy decision to lock their tennis courts, restricting public access and use.

RECREATION TRAIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Loveland’s trail system presently has 12.5 miles of off-street recreational trails. The current trail only serves a portion of the population since it is only about 1/2 of the way around the City. There has been a continuous demand by the community for additional trails in Loveland. Loveland is currently falling short of its standard of 1/2 mile of trail per 1,000 population. The target of the trails master plan is to provide a trail loop that encircles the City. Trail spurs to commercial or special activity areas and locations in Loveland, connections to regional trail systems within the County and connections to Fort Collins, Berthoud, Windsor and Greeley are also being planned.



Future trailheads should also be developed on the north and west sides of the City to provide easy and safe access to the trail and park system. Underpasses and/or signalized crossings should also be constructed for trail users to safely cross major roadways. Future developments, adjacent to the trail system, are encouraged to connect to the City's Recreation Trail System. The table below projects Loveland's trail standard into the future and demonstrates the need for additional trail mileage.

TABLE 4.4
IMPACT OF MEETING TRAIL STANDARD
 (Expressed as trail mileage per population)

	Estimated Population	Recommended Trail Mileage To Meet Standard	Existing Trail Mileage (2001)	Shortage of Miles
Recreation Trail Community Standard, 1/2 Mile/1,000 Population				
2001	52,000	26	12.5	13.5
2006	57,000	28	12.5	15.5
2012	63,000	31	13.5	17.5

Future trail development entails discussions/negotiations with landowners, acquisition of land/easements, and construction of paved trails, underpass structures and trail heads. Completion of much of the remaining proposed trail is dependant on future development activity on the west and north sides of the community. Typically, landowners in these areas anticipating development are only willing to grant trail easements as development occurs.

Up-front cooperation and planning with developments in undeveloped areas may ease current acquisition concerns. This coordination will assure that as development occurs, considerations are made for trails, underpasses and trail heads.

GOLF COURSE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Loveland has constructed two new golf courses in the last decade which has allowed it to exceed its golf course standard. These facilities adequately meet the golfing needs of Loveland and also serve a larger regional area.

Cattail Creek Golf Course

The addition of landscaping, partial concrete cart path system for safety, putting course/practice area and additional parking would complete the Cattail Creek Golf Course facilities.

The Olde Course at Loveland

Future improvements should include improving the parking lot, expanding the patio area and covering it, completing concrete cart path system, rebuilding #2, #15, #16 and #17 tees, remodeling or expanding both the maintenance and clubhouse buildings.

Mariana Butte Golf Course

Future improvements include the completion of concrete cart path system, restrooms on the course, second phase of the clubhouse and the completion of many landscaping and drainage projects.

CITY/SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS

Parks Located Adjacent to Future School Sites

The R2J School District is in the process of evaluating sites for future school development. Communications and cooperative planning between the school district and City will determine if future parks and school sites will be co-located.



POLICY ISSUES AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In addition to parkland and facility/programming needs, a number of issues have been raised for consideration that may affect the Department’s ability to develop facilities in the future. These issues relate to current policies and/or practices and raise questions that affect Parks and Recreation operations and development of future facilities.

**TABLE 4.5
SUMMARY OF POLICY ISSUES**

Policy Issue	Discussion and Information
1. Review and update inter-governmental agreement and implement phases of City and school master plans.	Planning and coordination of new school/park locations are goals of both the school district and the City. There are 2 joint sites that are currently being evaluated for acquisition and development. Additional planning & cooperation is needed for other sites.
2. Review city/county agreement and investigate fees in the area of community influence.	There is an identified need to review the City and County’s roles in park, trail & open space development, outside of the City growth areas. Investigate the opportunity for Larimer County participation in providing financial assistance for county residents to use City facilities at no additional cost. County financial support rather than resident fees.
3. Review policy of transferring funds for City services and fees associated with public facility development.	Current City development policies treat the development of a park, just like all private developments and all standard development costs are applied. This increases the overall cost of construction as new fee/requirements are adopted.
4. Explore dedication of land for trails, parks, open lands and recreation facilities as a requirement of the planning process. Investigate concerns and evaluate provisions for future equestrian options on the trail.	A review of dedication opportunities is needed to enable continuation of plans for trail, parks and facility expansion. Equestrian co-use or separate facility needs are growing and should also be evaluated as the trail connects to County and regional trail systems. Explore the Title 18 code requirements and the implications for duplicating services in large residential subdivisions.
5. Investigate and evaluate the financial outlook for the cemetery and develop future policy for expansion.	As the current cemetery spaces are being filled, the City should determine the needs and costs associated with expanding the public cemetery.
6. Expansion Fees need to be evaluated to determine if adequate.	Issues have been raised regarding the adequacy of Capital Expansion Fees collected by the City. The current Capital Expansion Fees are based on a buy-in to the current system, but other capital fees are based on future cost of servicing new areas. New costs for development need to be evaluated to see if the currents fees adequately cover the “actual cost of construction.
7. Review and Evaluate Departmental User Fees and Cost Recovery Policies.	Monitor and review cost recovery policies and resulting impacts upon facilities and programs.
8. Investigate opportunities for outsourcing services and programs.	Continue to be open to opportunities for contracting out services and programs to private sector providers, including opportunities to provide service levels at a lower cost.

OTHER POLICY ISSUES:

The City and the Parks and Recreation Department faces several financial issues in the years ahead. Some of those issues include:

- To maintain facilities at their current service levels, additional operating and maintenance resources will be necessary to keep up with aging parks and facilities, growth and rising costs. Alternatives such as lowering maintenance, safety and service level standards exist, but citizen satisfaction of current standards is high.
- Since capital and operating expenses do not share the same source of funding, delays have occurred in the development of new facilities due to insufficient operating funds, that should be addressed with long-range financial planning.
- To accommodate expansion of new recreational programs and facilities, additional operational funds are needed. Though a new program or facility may recover all its costs, the service is not being provided due to its impact on the City's budget limitations imposed by the Tabor amendment.
- This Master Plan has identified multiple capital projects necessary to meet expressed needs or desires of the community. Although most projects do have funding sources for capital needs, several other projects have no funding available for either capital or operations and must compete for General Fund resources. Alternative resources for the development and operations of certain recreational facilities will most likely be required.

SUMMARY:

As evaluated in the Citizens Satisfaction Survey, the City of Loveland provides a well-rounded system of parks, golf courses, recreation facilities, programs and trails. Identified facility and programming needs will be incorporated in Department work plans. However, the implementation of work plans to maintain the existing facilities and service levels, as well as the Department's ability to provide additional recreational facilities in the future is dependent upon the availability of funding and community participation. The City should continue to provide adequate funding to maintain the present level of recreational services/facilities, and continue to fund operational needs for new parks and facilities that support current and future needs of the community and contribute to the quality of life in Loveland.

5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This section identifies the recommended action plan for implementing needs and issues addressed in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Plan is based on the analysis of community needs described earlier, as well as an inventory of existing facilities and opportunities for new park areas or facilities. The focus of this Implementation Plan is on projects to be initiated or completed in the next five-year time frame.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MASTER PLAN

The City of Loveland has a good reputation for maintaining quality recreation facilities, programs, golf courses, natural areas and parks. In light of recent growth in Loveland, the City has done a commendable job of accommodating most recreational needs with existing facilities. However, to maintain the high standards of excellence, the City needs to continue to meet community and citizen needs. Following is a discussion of recommended projects. These recommendations are organized by type of facility, using Parks, Recreation Facilities and Programs, Recreation Trails, Golf Course, Natural Areas and Policy Questions as categories. Department recommendations are summarized within each category for projects proposed within the next ten years.

A. Parks:

As identified in the Needs Assessment, Loveland is currently falling short of both its neighborhood and community parkland standards. The following actions are proposed to meet parkland standards to maintain existing levels of service.

**TABLE 5.1
PARKLAND & AMENITIES DEFICIENCIES**

	Current Level of Service	Master Plan Level of Service	Deficiency
Parks/Parkland	26 Urban Parks, 262 Acres, 5.03 Acres/1000	390 Acres, 7.5 Acres/1000	128 Acres, 2.47 Acres/1000
Athletic Fields (Soccer/Football)	29 Fields .83 Field/1500	35 Fields 1 Field/1500	6 Fields .17 Field/1500
Baseball Fields	7 Fields .7 field/5000	10 Fields 1 field/5000	3 Fields .3 field/5000
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	6 Courts .6 court/5000	10 Courts 1 court/5000	4 Courts .4 court/5000
Playgrounds	24 Playgrounds, .92 Playground/2000	26 Playgrounds, 1 Playground/2000	2 Playgrounds, .08 Playground/2000
Tennis Courts (Outdoor)	21 Courts .81 court/2000	26 Courts 1 court/2000	5 Courts .191 court/2000

Based on these deficiencies, the following projects have been identified to meet the needs of the community. If these projects are complete, Loveland will meet the parkland standards and most of the facility standards set forth in this Master Plan.

1) Develop Youth Sports Complex/Community Park



During 2001, the City received a donation commitment of 100 acres of land in the east quadrant of town for a Youth Sports Complex. This facility will serve as a community park and allow the City to address many facility needs addressed in this Master Plan. Examples of amenities that might be incorporated in this facility include baseball fields, athletic fields (soccer/football), picnic areas, playgrounds, and skate areas. Development of the Complex in the next 1-3 years will allow the City to address the many needs for athletic facilities, parkland and programming space.

2) Develop the Mehaffey Park



The City owns a 60-acre parcel in northwest Loveland. Development of this park is needed as growth in the northwest continues and there is no park facility currently serving this area of town. This park should be developed within 2-4 years as a community park as defined by the master plan. Development of this site will allow for additional park play areas, provide a valuable trailhead and, as part of the acquisition/donation agreement, this site will also include an arboretum.

3) Acquire Acres for New Park Sites

To continue to offer consistent park services to all residential areas of Loveland, the Department has identified the need for future parklands in the southern area of Loveland as a result of the addition of land in the Land Use and Zoning Plan amendments of April 2001. As sites become available, landowners will be contacted regarding advanced purchase or preservation of the site. If development plans are proposed for the land, discussions with the developers will occur during the planning and development review process.

4) Kroh Park – Phase II

When this park was constructed in the northeast area of town, funds necessitated phased-development of the park. As a result, the east portion of the park was not constructed. Phase II construction which will include additional recreational facilities and off-street parking and should be constructed in 4-5 years.

5) Renovation and maintenance of existing facilities

To continue current service levels into the future, there are several parks and facilities in need of infrastructure improvements. Examples of these include repairs to park shelters, Junior Achievement and Centennial Park facility improvements, replacement of the miniature train at North Lake Park and renovations to Winona Swimming Pool. New regulations for safety, accessibility and environmental concern continually evolve and funding/resources should be identified to address these regulations.

6) Big Thompson River Restoration



Historically, City facilities along the Big Thompson River have experienced damage during periodic flooding. Renovation of specific areas along the Big Thompson River are necessary to minimize damage to City and private properties when flooding occurs. As the City continues to purchase parks, trails and natural areas along the river, we should protect our assets and attempt to enhance the river environment, as well as wildlife and fish habitat.

B. Recreation Facilities and Programming:

A large portion of recreation programming occurs at City parks and facility needs are addressed with the development of parkland. However, the City has stand alone recreation facility needs that can not be tied to the development of parkland and are therefore identified as separate projects. Two projects that fall in this category are the expansion of the Chilson Recreation Center and an evaluation of future options for the Loveland Fairgrounds property when and if vacated by Larimer County.

**TABLE 5.2
RECREATION CENTER SPACE DEFICIENCIES**

	Current Level of Service	Master Plan Level of Service	Deficiency
Recreation Center	67,000 Square Ft 1288 Sq Ft/1000	104,000 Square Ft 2000 Sq Ft/1000	37,000 Square Ft 712 Sq Ft/1000



1) Planning and Funding for an Expanded Recreation Center

The Hatfield Chilson Recreation/Senior Center is a hub of community activity that is currently running at maximum capacity at peak use times. Plans need to be developed and formulated within 1-2 years and an analysis completed to determine how the City would provide expanded services within 5 years. During 2000, the City purchased land adjacent to the Chilson Recreation Center. The land purchase makes available the required space to expand the current recreation center. However,

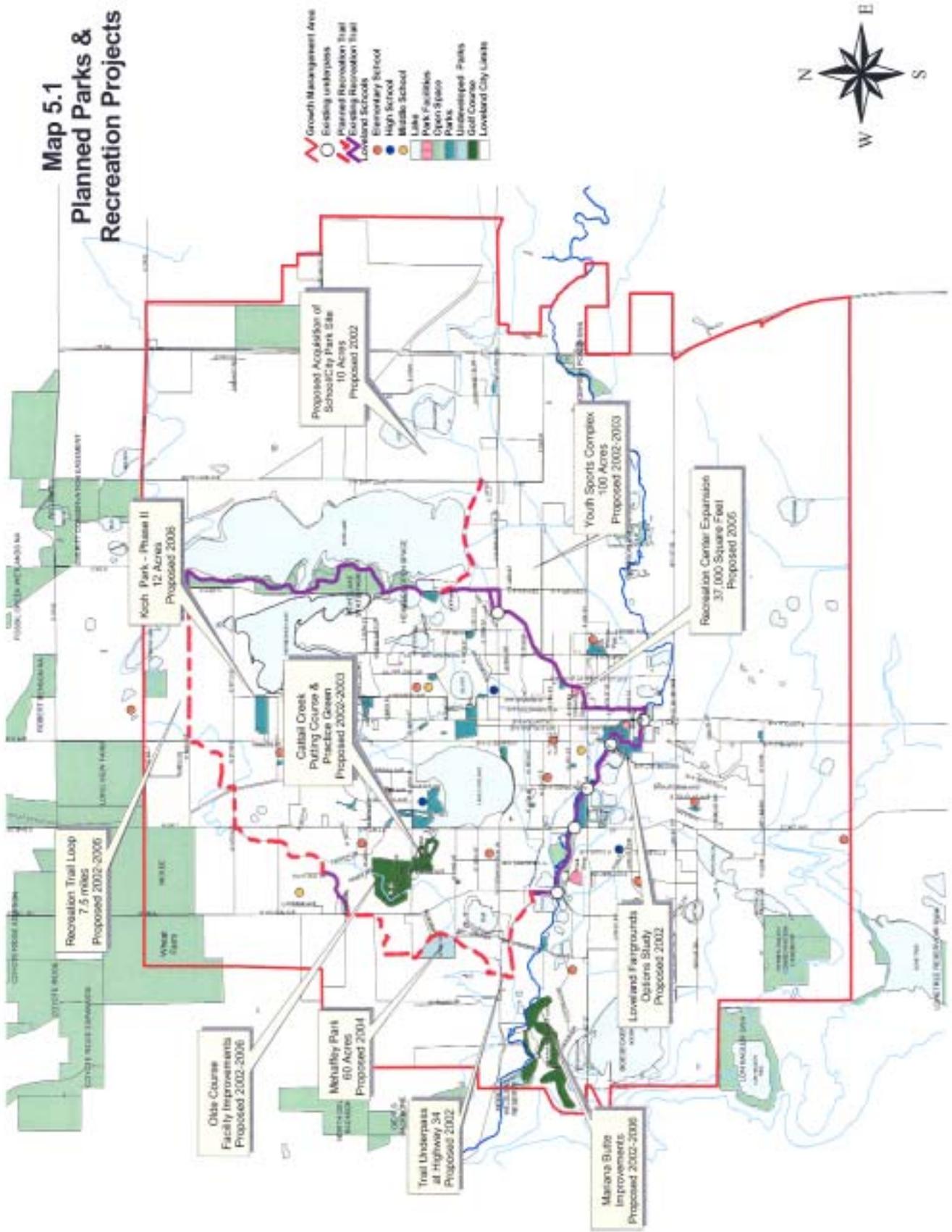
questions still exist whether the City should expand at its current location or whether a new recreation center should be construction in another area of town.

2) Determine options for Loveland Fairgrounds property

A study and plan needs to be created for this city-owned area when the County moves its operations to the new Fairgrounds, off Interstate 1-25. This plan will dictate future schedules, development and use of the Loveland fairground property. Funds have been requested in the 2002 budget process for this study. The new Larimer County Fairgrounds/Event Center is expected to be operational in 2003/2004.



Map 5.1 - Proposed Park and Recreation Projects



C. Recreation Trails:

Citizens have responded favorably to the existing recreation trail and have overwhelmingly requested that trail construction continues at an accelerated pace. Map 5.2 illustrates continuation of the Recreation Trail System until there is a trail loop around town.

**TABLE 5.3
RECREATION TRAIL DEFICIENCIES**

	Current Level of Service	Master Plan Level of Service	Deficiency
Recreation Trails	12.5 Miles .48 Mile/2000	26 Miles 1 Mile/2000	13.5 Miles .52 Mile/2000

1) Continue Development of the Recreation Trail Loop around Loveland

Continue to acquire trail routes and construct trail to complete the Recreation Trail System Master Plan. Top priority is given to completing the 20-mile trail around the City within the next 3-5 years.

2) Trail Spurs and Connectors

Additional spurs or connectors to existing or future residential neighborhoods or commercial areas will be considered a requirement by developers or other public trail providers. Connections to county, regional and other Front-range communities trail systems will also be considered as additional funds are available.

3) Street Under/Overpasses along the Recreation Trail System

Underpasses currently provide safe off-road/pedestrian crossings in 6 locations. Several more will be needed as community growth and traffic volume increase. Priority will be given to completing underpasses at US Highways 34 (planned for construction in 2002) and Highway 287.



Additional or secondary underpasses should be considered at major collectors and arterial routes such as Wilson Avenue, West 57th Street and North County Road 11 C. Staff also recognizes that First Street & Washington, and Madison and Boise Avenues will eventually need safer crossings, either underpasses or pedestrian actuated signals, as additional growth continues in this area of the community. Planning and feasibility studies of these projects should be scheduled in the next 3-5 years.

4) Trailheads and Parking along the Recreation Trail System

Future trailheads and parking are planned for north and west Loveland along the recreational trail system. When developed, these trailheads may provide restrooms and drinking fountains, where feasible.

D. Golf Courses:

Loveland's three golf courses are doing a commendable job of meeting the golfing needs of the community. Although no plans currently exist for building additional golf courses in the future, numerous capital improvements to the existing courses have been identified and youth golf programs are expected to grow.



1) Improvements at The Olde Course at Loveland

A multiple year plan to rebuild and expand four tees, and a study to research the need to rebuild three greens is planned. Improvements to the parking lot, entrance road, road to maintenance building, outside restrooms and patio area are also planned.

2) Develop Putting Course and Practice Green at Cattail Creek Golf Course

Design and implement plans for using vacant land east of Cattail Creek for putting course, chipping green, sand bunker green and additional parking.

3) Remodel and/or Replace Maintenance Building at Olde Course

Design and implement plans to expand heated work area, covered cold storage, outside storage, and environmental improvements to Olde Course Maintenance Building.

4) Clubhouse Improvements at the Olde Course & Mariana Butte

Study, design and implement plans to build 2nd stage of Mariana Butte Golf Clubhouse and replace the Olde Course Clubhouse.

E. Natural Areas:

1) Rewrite and update the City of Loveland Open Lands Plan of 1996

Staff will analyze results from the first 5 years of the Open Lands Plan and assess the next 5 to 10 years for preservation of additional open space, as well as the management of open space currently owned. City Council needs to provide priority direction for use of limited resources and varied possibilities for focus including growth management, natural area and wildlife habitat preservation and public use of these areas. This will be a 2002 staff project with the Open Lands Commission.



2) Restoration of Recently Acquired Open Space Parcels

Management and maintenance plans will be established and implemented for three recently acquired parcels along the Big Thompson River, as well as for additional properties acquired in the future.

3) Assist with Trail Connections and Corridors on or Near Open Space

Natural Areas staff will coordinate with Parks staff to identify and acquire trail easements on open space and natural areas and vice versa.

4) Acquire and Preserve Open Lands and Natural Areas

Based on the priorities of the Open Lands Plan, lands will be purchased or preserved as they become available and funding permits. If development plans are proposed in or around Loveland, discussions with the developers will occur during the planning and development review process.

Policy Questions:

There are a number of policy issues identified in this Master Plan that will need to be addressed by the City. Issues to be examined and evaluated in order to appropriately plan for resource allocation include:

1. Capital Expansion Fees for Parks, Trails and Recreation Center

A citywide study is underway to review when and how Capital Expansion Fees are collected, the adequacy of fees collected and consistency of CEF calculations and collections with other City CEF's. These fees need to focus on adequately covering capital costs. Should these fees be restricted to residential areas only?

2. Rezoning of All Park Locations

As part of the Title 18 Code revisions, a new park zoning designation is proposed to reflect the use and associated planning process and regulations applicable to parks. With this new designation, parks would be rezoned to this new, more appropriate zoning category.

3. Use of Natural Areas

There are several policy questions, that exist regarding the use of purchased or conservation easements of natural areas. Are these areas a growth management tool? Should natural areas be more available for public use and environmental education? As Loveland continues to increase its inventory of natural areas, these questions will need answers to adequately prepare maintenance and management plans for each site. The 2002 updated Open Lands Plan should address these issues.

4. Chilson Center Expansion or New Recreation Center

Land was recently purchased adjacent to the Chilson Recreation Center for possible expansion options. A specific determination should be made on expansion at this site or purchase of another site for an additional recreation center.

5. Should More Facilities and Programs be Operated as Cost Recovery Centers?

With limited City funds being in greater and greater demand, should City recreation facilities and programs be operated as revenue funds, that recover program costs? Which operational areas would/could be operated or restructured to recover a set percentage of their costs through fees and charges? Which services or facilities should be subsidized or partially subsidized by the General Fund? Is it possible to provide the same level of service to the public?

6. Equipment/Infrastructure Replacement and Renovation Funding

It is essential that the City take care of its current assets before expanding into new programs/areas or provide funding to other projects. Current depreciation programs for equipment and facilities should be expanded to include park site infrastructure and facilities.

Financial Issues

The parks and recreation system has historically been well received by the public, as evidenced in the annual citizen survey. The Department, by most standards, maintains a high level of service and a wide variety of programs and activities for residents. In return, citizens demonstrate a long-term support of the City's programs and facilities by participating in user fee supported programs and involvement in the budget process.

Given that many of Loveland's facilities are relatively new, a high degree of importance has been established for ongoing safety, proper function and maintenance of facilities. The City is in the enviable position of having facilities and parks in relatively good and safe condition. The financial challenges facing the City in the near future include:

- 1) How to retain adequate funding levels to keep the operation and maintenance standards at existing service levels.
- 2) How to fund capital projects outside of the resources available from Capital Expansion Fees, Lottery Funds, grants, donations, Enterprise Funds and dedicated revenue funds?
- 3) How to secure funding for on-going operating costs associated with new facilities or capital projects?

Find attached Table 5.1, that provides preliminary cost estimates for Master Plan projects for the next five years. Implementations of Master Plan recommendations for parks and recreation projects have combined several funding sources to obtain necessary resources. Projects have been requested in the City's Strategic Financial Plan, however, funding must be allocated by City Council through the City's budget process to implement planned projects.

TABLE 5.4
FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PROJECTED PROJECTS	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Parks & Recreation Equipment Replacement (GF)	665,380	741,040	700,840	564,220	577,470
City/R2J Joint Field Development (GF)	25,000				
Youth Sports Complex:					
Capital (GF,22,23,29)	3,200,000	3,300,000			2,000,000
Operation and Maintenance (GF)			500,000		
Fishing Is Fun Project (23)	76,000				
Parkland Acquisition/Dev (22)	400,000			100,000	500,000
Facility Improvements/Repairs (23)	35,000	37,000	38,000	50,000	43,000
Recreation Trail Construction (22,29)					
Capital (22, 29)	1,813,200	350,000	600,000		
Operation and Maintenance (29)		30,000	30,000		
Natural Areas - Designated (32)	1,209,500	209,500	209,500		
Natural Areas - Undesignated (32)		850,000	850,000	1,050,000	1,000,000
Mehaffey Park (22)					
Capital (22)		340,000	4,060,000		
Operation and Maintenance (GF)				400,000	
Recreation Center Expansion					
Capital (22)			600,000	5,600,000	
Operation and Maintenance (GF)				375,000	
NL Miniature Train Replacement (23)				55,000	
Kroh Park - Phase II (22)				85,000	875,000
Loveland Fairground Renovation (GF)	50,000			250,000	500,000
Natural Areas - Sauer (32)					500,000
Columbarium (74)					50,000
Golf Projects, Improvements & Equipment (51)	1,039,000	959,200	1,063,100	900,600	737,100
Total Department	8,523,080	9,316,740	9,051,440	9,429,820	4,782,570

9/18/01

(Note 1: All figures are preliminary estimate based on planning schedules set by the Finance, Parks and Recreation Departments, and City Manager Office. Funding levels and schedules are subject to change.)

(Note 2: Description of Funds: GF= General Fund, 22= Parks, Recreation & Trails Capital Expansion Fund, 23= Parks Improvement Fund, 29=Conservation Trust Fund, 32=Open Lands Fund, 51=Golf Fund and 74=Perpetual Care Fund)