

PLAN CHEYENNE



Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Snapshot

A Snapshot of the Parks & Recreation System



City of Cheyenne Parks & Recreation

CHEYENNE MPO – CLARION – LSA – EDAW – AVI





PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT

Table of Contents

Section 1. Introduction

Need for a Plan	1-1
Plan Focus.....	1-1
Document Organization	1-1
Public Input Process	1-2

Section 2. History of the Parks System

The First Parks Advocates	2-1
Historically Significant Parks	2-1

Section 3. Previous Plans

Recent Plans.....	3-1
City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Facilities: Master Plan, 1992	3-1
1992 Greenway Development Plan.....	3-1
1992 Cheyenne Area Development Plan.....	3-1
Cheyenne Subarea Plans.....	3-1
2000 Cheyenne Old Town Mall Master Plan Report	3-4
2001 Laramie County Comprehensive Plan.....	3-4
2002 Vision 2020	3-4
Area-Specific Plans	3-4

Section 4. Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities

Definitions	4-1
Parkland	4-1
Visual Green Spaces	4-2
Open Space	4-3
Cemeteries	4-3
Golf Courses.....	4-4
Recreation Facilities.....	4-4

Section 5. Existing Public Parks and Recreation Lands and Public Facilities

Parks	5-7
Neighborhood Parks	5-7
Community Parks and Sports Complexes.....	5-10
Special Purpose Parks.....	5-13
Open Space.....	5-13
Natural Areas and Corridors.....	5-13
Regional Open Space	5-14
Special Resource Areas.....	5-15
Visual Green Spaces	5-15
Greenway Trails	5-16
Community Centers / Recreation Centers.....	5-16
Aquatics Facilities.....	5-17



PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT

Cemeteries	5-18
Botanic Gardens	5-18
Golf Courses	5-19
Forestry Facilities.....	5-20
Laramie County Parks and Open Space	5-20
Existing School District and Private / Non-Profit Recreation Facilities.....	5-20

Section 6. Existing Level of Service

Park Accessibility.....	6-1
Neighborhood Park Accessibility	6-1
Community Park Accessibility.....	6-1
Parkland Level of Service	6-1
Recreational Facility Level of Service	6-2

Section 7. Peer Community Comparison

Parkland Level of Service Comparison	7-1
Recreational Facilities Level of Service Comparison	7-3
Maintenance Budgets and Staffing Comparisons	7-4

Section 8. Existing Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Structure

Administration Division.....	8-2
Aquatics Division.....	8-3
Botanic Gardens Division.....	8-4
Cemetery Division	8-5
Forestry Division.....	8-6
Golf Division	8-7
Parks Division	8-8
Recreation Division.....	8-9

Section 9. Potential Parks, Open Space and Trails Resources

Topographic, Biological and Cultural Resources	9-1
Slopes and Mines.....	9-2
Public Lands	9-2

Section 10. Development Regulations Summary

Zoning	10-1
Subdivision Regulations.....	10-1
Community Facility Fee	10-2
Summary.....	10-2

Section 11. Population Growth.....

11-1

Section 12. National and State Recreational Participation Trends

National Recreation Participation Trends.....	12-1
State of Wyoming Recreation Participation Trends.....	12-2



PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT

Section 13. Cheyenne Citizen Surveys

2005 City of Cheyenne Citizen Survey	13-1
Satisfaction Levels.....	13-1
Importance.....	13-1
Needed Improvements	13-1
Indoor Recreation Center	13-1
2004 Parks and Recreation Survey.....	13-2
Methodology.....	13-2
Satisfaction	13-2
Popular Activities	13-3
Facility Quantity and Willingness to Pay for Additional Facilities	13-4

Section 14. Recreation and Sport Program Participation and Needs

Program Participation and Needs	14-2
Basketball Program.....	14-2
Adult and Youth Baseball Programs.....	14-4
Softball Programs	14-5
Tennis Programs.....	14-6
Volleyball Programs	14-6
Soccer Programs.....	14-7
Football Programs	14-7
Skating Lessons	14-7
Lacrosse Programs.....	14-8
Roller Hockey Programs	14-8
Gymnastics Programs	14-8
Aquatics Programs.....	14-9

Section 15. Summary of Issues and Needs

Community Parks.....	15-1
Neighborhood Parks.....	15-1
Trails and Open Space	15-1
Youth Activities	15-1
Recreation and Aquatic Programming.....	15-2
Cheyenne Level of Service – Recreation	15-2
Cheyenne Level of Service – Parks.....	15-3
Cheyenne Level of Service – Cemetery.....	15-3
Cheyenne Level of Service – Golf	15-3
Cheyenne Level of Service – Botanic Gardens	15-3
Cheyenne Level of Service – Forestry	15-3
Finance and Budgets.....	15-4

Appendices

Appendix A	Community Comparisons Table	A-1
Appendix B	City of Cheyenne Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Survey	B-1

List of Tables

Table 1	Existing Parks and Recreation Department Resources	5-1
Table 2	Existing Parklands Inventory	5-2



PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

SNAPSHOT

Table 3	Community Comparisons of Recreational Facilities Summary	7-2
Table 4	Budget Summary	8-1
Table 5	National Participants by Activity – All Ages	12-1
Table 6	Total National ‘Frequent’ Youth Sport Participation.....	12-2
Table 7	Most Popular Recreational Activities for Wyoming Residents.....	12-2
Table 8	Historic Number of Participants in Basketball Programs	14-3
Table 9	Historic Number of Participants in Baseball Programs	14-4
Table 10	Historic Number of Participants in Softball Programs	14-5
Table 11	Historic Number of Participants in Tennis Programs.....	14-6
Table 12	Historic Number of Participants in Volleyball Programs	14-6
Table 13	Historic Number of Participants in Soccer Programs.....	14-7
Table 14	Historic Number of Participants in Football Programs.....	14-7
Table 15	Historic Number of Participants in Skating Programs.....	14-7
Table 16	Historic Number of Participants in Lacrosse Programs.....	14-8
Table 17	Historic Number of Participants in Roller Hockey Programs	14-8
Table 18	Historic Number of Participants in Gymnastics Programs.....	14-8
Table 19	Historic Number of Participants in Aquatics Programs.....	14-9
Table 20	PlanCheyenne – Facility and Parkland Needs.....	15-2

List of Figures

Figure 1	Age Distribution in Cheyenne, 2000	11-1
Figure 2	City Zip Code Areas.....	13-2
Figure 3	Reason Parks are Favorites	13-2
Figure 4	Reason Closest Park Received Fair to Poor Rating.....	13-3
Figure 5	Most Popular Adult Activities.....	13-3
Figure 6	Most Popular Children’s Activities.....	13-4
Figure 7	Opinions on Facility Quantity	13-5

List of Maps

Map 1	Existing Parks, Recreation Facilities, Open Space and Greenways	5-6
Map 2	Neighborhood Parks Service Areas	6-3
Map 3	Community Parks Service Areas	6-4
Map 4	Parks, Open Space and Trails Considerations	9-3

Section 1. Introduction

This section summarizes why the City of Cheyenne has prepared a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, key areas of focus for the plan, how the plan is organized and the public input process that occurred.



Lincoln Park

Need for a Plan

The City of Cheyenne has been growing at a fairly stable rate of about 1% for the last several decades and currently has a population of 57,381.¹ (US Census) By 2030, the City is projected to grow at a rate of 2% and increase in size to 102,000. The need for parks, recreational facilities and programs, trails, cemeteries, and open space will continue to grow along with the City’s developed areas. As Cheyenne grows the adequacy of the existing system needs to be evaluated.

The City last prepared a Parks System Master Plan in 1992 and now, 13 years later, has retained EDAW Inc. to develop a Master Parks and Recreation Plan that defines the 25-year vision for the City. The plan will provide a baseline and path that City leaders, staff and citizens can follow to realize this vision.

¹ U.S. Census

Plan Focus

The specific focus of the plan is to:

- Develop a detailed inventory of parklands, including location, service areas and amenities.
- Develop classifications and level-of-service standards that become policies to direct the provision of parks within the urban area for the City and County.
- Document resources and needs of the Parks and Recreation Department and its seven Divisions.
- Identify parks and facilities needed based on existing future development patterns and growth, the expressed desires of the community, and demand for recreation programs and other Parks and Recreation Department services.
- Identify specific park and recreation-related projects.
- Document developmental regulations and financial resources, and identify potential funding and acquisition strategies.
- Identify implementation tools and actions.

The emphasis of this plan is on the developed park system within the urban area and includes indoor recreational facilities and community centers that fall within the scope, responsibility, and authority of the City Parks and Recreation Department. This Master Parks and Recreation Plan should be revisited and updated periodically, ideally every 5 years, to ensure that it accurately reflects current and future needs, changing conditions, and to adjust priorities within the community as appropriate.

Document Organization

The City of Cheyenne has organized its comprehensive plan for the City and surrounding planning area into a document called PlanCheyenne that consists of four parts: Snapshot, Structure, Shape and Build. The philosophy of this overall process is described in detail in PlanCheyenne. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been developed parallel to PlanCheyenne and is similarly organized in the same four sections.

1

Snapshot – This section documents the facilities and services that the Parks and Recreation Department provides. The section provides a comparison of programs and facilities the City should be providing based on the opinions of Cheyenne citizens, non-profit recreation providers, and interest groups. Additionally this section evaluates the programs and facilities provided by comparable communities and estimates facilities and programs necessary to serve anticipated population growth.

Structure – This section identifies the visual and physical components that most influence the image and land use patterns of the City of Cheyenne.

Shape – This section outlines policies to guide the provision of Parks and Recreation facilities for Cheyenne. The section makes up the body of the physical Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is based on the preferred land use plan developed for PlanCheyenne. It also includes descriptions and costs of specific projects.

Build – This section contains a summary of existing and potential tools for implementing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Public Input Process

This section will be developed at the end of the planning process.

Building Blocks

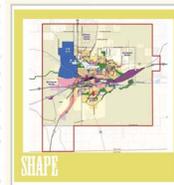
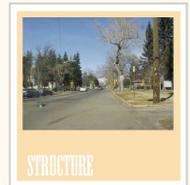


SnapshotCheyenne

Provides information and analysis about the state of the community today. The information will benchmark the community's population, employment, and other data for use throughout the planning process.

StructureCheyenne

Determines Cheyenne's architectural identity and describe the elements that make neighborhoods and districts (like downtown) livable and unique.

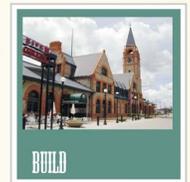


ShapeCheyenne

Will incorporate details about individual elements the community must consider in the future, including: neighborhoods, parks, economic development, transportation, and more. This component will contain the goals, policies, and physical plan directions to guide decisions in the future.

BuildCheyenne

will provide implementation tools to carry out the many ideas in the rest of PlanCheyenne.



Section 2. History of the Parks System

This section summarizes the evolution of the parks system in Cheyenne and includes information on parks that have deep historic roots in the community or those that are named for prominent Cheyenne residents. Much of the information contained in this section directly references ‘Cheyenne’s Historic Parks – From Untamed Prairie to a City of Trees,’ published by the Cheyenne Historic Preservation Board in 2001.

The First Parks Advocates

Early settlers in Cheyenne were very much aware of the need for trees and recreational space – Cheyenne was essentially a treeless prairie town surrounded by large ranches. Since few trees are native to the prairie, a lot of effort has always gone into establishing and maintaining them in the City’s parks and recreation areas.

In 1878, a local businessman named James Jenkins, originally from Wisconsin, planted his first tree in Cheyenne. Jenkins, his business partner and another Cheyenne businessman set out to raise money to establish a park in 1882. Many cottonwoods were planted on former Union Pacific Railroad land between Capital and Warren Avenues to create the Old City Park, Cheyenne’s first official park. Jenkins raised additional funds to fence the park in order to keep out the City cattle herd, and the trees were tended by citizen volunteers. Jenkins was named Park Commissioner in the early 1920’s, and worked with volunteers to plant trees, clear land, construct picnic tables and benches and beautify Sloan’s Lake. Jenkins was almost single-handedly responsible for laying the groundwork for the present park system. The City hired a German immigrant named Jacob Paulus to care for the Old City Park at its inception, and in 1923, he was made the first Superintendent of Parks.

In 1902, Senator Francis E. Warren donated a substantial brick and stone shelter house to Old City Park. When the property was turned over to the State in the mid 1930’s, the shelter was moved to Holliday Park where it still stands. Today, the Old City Park site is occupied by the Wyoming State Supreme Court Building and the Wyoming State Museum, but some of the original trees still remain.



Holliday Park Historic Shelter

Historically Significant Parks

Most of Cheyenne’s larger community parks were developed in the late 1800’s and were sited around lakes or in undeveloped open areas on the outer edges of the original City. As Cheyenne grew, many of the larger parks were reduced in size as space was needed for other development. Many neighborhood parks are also named for prominent City or national citizens and have ties to a statue or other unique feature. Many were started by neighborhood citizens and eventually given over to the City, and some were initially adopted by local social organizations in their early days.

Two historic parks, though not currently part of the Cheyenne Park system, were significant recreation sites for many years: Union Pacific Park and American Legion Park. Union Pacific Park, at the site of the 1887 train depot, was a small but well-groomed area that catered to both tourists and citizens. It was displaced in 1940 by the Greyhound Bus Terminal.

The 40-acre American Legion Park was located at the north end of Kiwanis Lake and was cared for by American Legion members until 1975 when the property was exchanged with the State of Wyoming for 117 acres northeast of Cheyenne (now the site of North Cheyenne Community Park). At one time, the major purpose of American Legion Park was to provide a space for overnight camping. The area is now the site of the Governor’s Residence.

Absarraca Park occupies 21 acres north of Frontier Park and west of the Airport Golf Course. The park was founded in 1882 and surrounds a lake that was a key part of Cheyenne’s water system at that time. Fishing is an important activity in the park and the park is leased to Cheyenne Frontier Days in July as a ‘cowboy campground.’

Brimmer Park is located at the east end of the Veteran’s Hospital north of Pershing Blvd. The 40-acre park was donated to the City in 1971, and was named for George E. Brimmer, a local attorney who was a strong advocate for community beautification. Brimmer and Senator Warren donated 30,000 saplings for planting at Fort D.A. Russell in 1928. The Women’s Civic League adopted the new park, planted trees and raised funds to construct a tennis and ice skating facility, but unfortunately the tennis and ice facility were abandoned after wind and water damage. Brimmer Park continues to be a vital park in the City’s active recreation programs with three softball fields used by City and for private leagues and tournaments. The park also has a new \$400,000 renovation to the softball fields and the former tennis and ice facility became the Clay Sturman Bike, Blade and Skateboard Park.



Brimmer Park

Cahill Park (formerly Friendship Park) is located north of Kingham Prairie View Golf Course. The park has 8 acres of parkland plus 23 acres in adjoining soccer fields. Park development began in 1965. It was named after T. Joe Cahill, a prominent local citizen who served as city clerk, chief of Cheyenne’s first paid fire department, chief of police and radio operator in his lifetime.

Frontier Park (89 acres) is not an official City park, but plays a very prominent role in the recreation scene every summer for both citizens and tourists. From 1897 to 1907, Cheyenne Frontier Days was held at Pioneer Park. The event outgrew the park and in 1908 was moved to Frontier Park, north of 8th Avenue and west of Carey Avenue. The land was vacant and had been set aside by Union Pacific Railroad as parkland in the original City plat. The City owns Frontier Park but leases it to the Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD) organization, which has a standing agreement to develop the area for its own use. A grandstand and mile-long racetrack were constructed in 1908. Auto and horse races were held at the track beginning in 1910. In addition, the Cheyenne Frontier Days Museum, which opened in 1978, is within the Park and is open year round. The Museum has a vast collection of Western, railroad and Indian artifacts, including an expansive vintage carriage collection. The museum hosts fine Western art shows and other events throughout the year. The CFD organization and the Museum owe their existence to thousands of local volunteers. Currently, this park hosts as many as 380,000 visitors who come to see the largest outdoor rodeo in the world during the 10-day event.

Holliday Park (53 acres) was developed as 1882 as Minnehaha Park, when water from Sloan’s Lake was brought down in a ditch to create Minnehaha Lake and Park. Ice skating and boating were popular activities, but as the years passed neglect and overuse began to take their toll on the park. A renovation of the park began in the late 1920’s, spearheaded by Mayor Cal Holliday, and the park was renamed in his honor in 1930. The shelter house from the Old City Park was moved to Holliday Park in 1937. A house once owned by cattle baron R.S. Van Tassell is now occupied by the Cheyenne Artists’ Guild; and the oldest Laramie County one-room schoolhouse, owned by the Cheyenne Frontier Days organization, is also on site. In addition, ‘Big Boy,’ one of the largest steam-powered locomotives ever built by Union Pacific Railroad, is on display at the park. A playground was donated by the Speight family in the late 1990’s.

Lincoln Park occupies 2 acres between 7th and 8th Streets. It was deeded to the City in 1921, and park development began in 1923 after the completion of adjoining Johnson Grade School. The school children contributed pennies during Friday ‘penny marches’ and the funds were used to buy trees for the park. When the children were asked to name the park, they honored the president on the penny. The school building eventually evolved to a junior high and

2

was recently sold by Laramie County School District No. 1 to the First Assembly of God Church. Lincoln Park was renovated in the 1970's and in 2001 to update the playground, picnic shelter and basketball court. The Johnson swimming pool, the City's first and only outdoor swimming pool, was constructed in Lincoln Park in 1954 by city forces and continues to be used today.

Lions Park occupies 131 acres between 8th Avenue and Kennedy Avenue, east of Carey Avenue. Soon after the founding of Cheyenne, a ditch was dug from Crow Creek to four natural basins in town, which filled and became Terry, Absarraca, Athabasca and Mahpalutah Lakes. A driving park was established near the lakes in 1880 and it has been a popular recreation area ever since. Lake Mahpalutah eventually became known through popular usage as Sloan's Lake, after dairy owner Johnnie Sloan. The aforementioned James Jenkins raised funds to plant trees around the lake in the early 1900's, and when the Lion's Club took responsibility for beautification, the park was named for them.



Martin Luther King Park

Mylar Park, located south of Melton Street and east of Seminole Road, was given to the City via a warranty deed from the Mylar family in 1971. The Wyoming Recreation Commission provided \$45,000 to begin development of the 26-acre park later that same year. Dry Creek and the Greenway both run through the park, which is designed with a dam to create a recreational lake and to serve as a flood detention area.



Lions Park

Martin Luther King Park (formerly Sunset Park) is between 19th and 16th Streets. Sunset Park began in 1971 and was originally only on the east bank of Crow Creek. In 1991 the area on the west bank of Crow Creek was added, and in 2000 it was renamed after the famous civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King. A section of the Greater Cheyenne Greenway runs through the park. The Coke Gonzales Baseball Field occupies the north part of the park and was completed in 1998. It was named in honor of a longtime friend of children's sports.



Mylar Park

Optimist Park, a 3-acre pocket park, is located between 9th and 10th Streets adjacent to the to the Crow Creek Greenway. It was originally the site of stockyards. Crow Creek was in very bad condition until the mid-1940's. It had been used as an open sewer and dump for decades. Local attorney George Brimmer and friend William Deming, the publisher of the *Wyoming State Tribune*, envisioned Crow Creek as the focal point of a drive or parkway through the City. Deming left \$10,000 to the City in his will to begin cleanup efforts to this end.



Optimist Park

In 1950, the Southside Community League went before the City Council and asked permission to develop a park. An outlet for water was installed at the site and trees were moved there from Old City Park. The Optimist Club donated playground equipment and the park was eventually named for them. The park was renovated in 1980 and 1982, and again in 1985 after the last major flood, when work was required to replace trees, sod and paths damaged by flooding. Sculpture was added to the park in 2004.

Pioneer Park was once 162 acres, but due to surrounding development is now around 13 acres. This park was the site of Cheyenne Frontier Days from 1897 to 1907, when the event outgrew the facilities and moved to Frontier Park. Pioneer Park was initially the property of Major John Talbot, who arrived in Cheyenne in 1867 before the railroad. He planted many trees that eventually became known as Talbot’s Grove – a few of the old cottonwoods are still standing. A semi-professional baseball team, the Cheyenne Indians, played in Pioneer Park from 1910 to 1930. The baseball field is still the home of the City’s Senior Babe Ruth baseball league.



Pioneer Park

Robert A. Smalley Park, approximately 6 acres in size, is located along Dry Creek. It was deeded to the City in 1959 by Otis Melton, the developer of the Indian Hills subdivision, and was named for Melton’s friend Robert Smalley who died in 1958. The City used funds from the Wyoming Land and Water Conservation Commission to develop the park, which is across Seminole Drive west of Mylar Park.

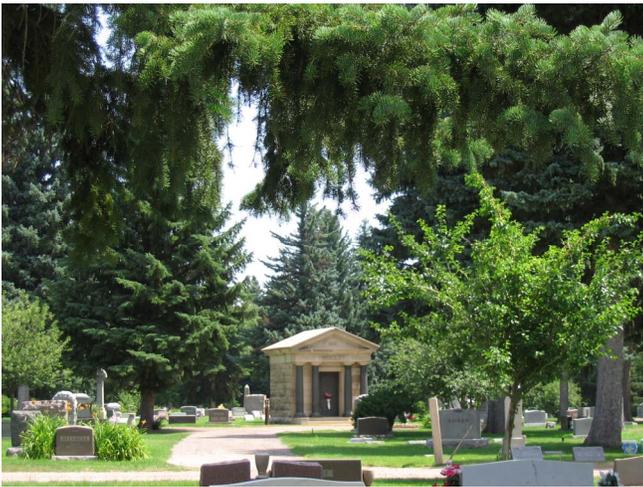


Smalley Park

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Lakeview Cemetery, was first indicated on a map in 1868. The cemetery was in the northwest quadrant of the city and later closed due to a dispute about water rights on Crow Creek. A resolution from 1871 indicates the establishment of a temporary graveyard near the present location. In 1874 city officials approved an ordinance to preserve vital statistics and the city cemetery was platted into avenues and lots. Official operation of the cemetery began when the first burial permit was issued in 1875.

For 115 years Lakeview Cemetery has served not only as the final resting place for many Cheyenne residents but also as a repository for the city’s social and cultural history. The cemetery’s registers reveal not only how people died but how they lived as well.



Lakeview Cemetery



“City Cemetery” appeared on maps for many years. The name “Lakeview Cemetery” evolved gradually in the early 1900’s when the publisher of the Wyoming State Tribune newspaper instructed reporters to use “Lakeview” when writing obituaries. He thought “City Cemetery” suggested a paupers’ field. The lake referred to was part of a storm drainage system located east of the cemetery. The cemetery was enlarged in the 1920’s and the lake no longer existed, but the name was adopted by City Council in 1932.

Section 3. Previous Plans

Cheyenne has numerous documents that relate to the provision of parks and recreation services and facilities for Cheyenne area residents. These plans provide important background information and recommendations that were considered in the development of this plan. This 2005 Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Master Plan supersedes these documents in the event there are any conflicting recommendations or policies.

Recent Plans

City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation: Facilities Master Plan, 1992

The purpose of this plan was to create a comprehensive roadmap for the continued redevelopment of the existing Parks and Recreational system, and to plan for expanded operations and maintenance needs. It also sets priorities for future facilities and proposed land acquisitions for the next decade and beyond. Major elements of the document included: site inventory; maintenance needs evaluation; implementation strategies for improvements; and analysis of potential recreation center sites and costs.

1992 Greenway Development Plan

Cheyenne’s Greenway is an evolving project that is planned to eventually encircle the City. Interest in recreational greenways and bikeways in Cheyenne extends back to the 1930’s, when two Cheyenne businessmen retained a designer to create a scenic drive along Crow Creek. Since that time a series of other studies examined the idea in increasing detail. The 1992 Greenway Development Plan arose from a grassroots group called the Crow Creek Greenway Committee in 1990. This document integrated concepts and ideas presented in earlier studies with the goal of presenting consistent, unified design and quality parameters for the future Greater Cheyenne Greenway system. The plan included 15 miles of pedestrian and bicycle trails. It is partially funded by a Laramie County Sixth Penny Specific Purpose Tax, which is used to purchase land rights-of-way, for grading and landscaping, and for the installation of the path and associated amenities. A proposed cost analysis is included, as well as preliminary routing and trail dimensional standards.

The City has been implementing this plan and adding trail connections that go beyond the original vision. In 1999, the ‘35% Design - Cheyenne Greenway Extensions Plan’ presented three proposed greenway extensions that were designed to expand the existing Greenway into three new areas not currently serviced: downtown Cheyenne, East Cheyenne including Sun Valley neighborhood, and the Avenues neighborhood north of Pershing Blvd. and east of Warren Ave. In 2002 preliminary plans were prepared for another Greenway extension along North College Drive. Approximately 16 miles of greenway trails have been constructed to date.



Crow Creek Greenway

1992 Cheyenne Area Development Plan

This document, together with subsequent subarea plans, formed the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Cheyenne until the development of PlanCheyenne, which is to be completed in 2005. The comprehensive planning effort in the area was an ongoing program of looking at future needs of the City and County, and working to meet those needs prior to crisis situations. One of the stated goals of the plan included actively supporting and encouraging community beautification and amenities as a priority.

Cheyenne Subarea Plans

After development of the overall comprehensive plan for the City, the community prepared subarea plans for each area of the city that went into more detail and which were intended

3

to identify specific infrastructure improvements that were necessary for the realization of the plans. These 6 subarea plans are described below:

1992 Northwest Cheyenne Infrastructure and Development Plan.

The purpose of this document was to create a vision, land use and transportation plan for Northwest Cheyenne as part of a 10-year action plan. The plan was designed to provide solutions to identified problems and to encourage development of the mostly unincorporated area. Existing parks totaled around 0.3% of the study area at that time, noted as insufficient for the number of residents. Objectives related to parks and recreation include:

- Develop a connected system of parks, greenways and trails;
- Work with Laramie County School District #1 to create a shared school/park area in the northern part of the study area;
- Encourage cluster development when possible to preserve open space;
- Protect sensitive areas (wetlands, wildlife habitat, riparian corridors) from development.
- Design parks to preserve natural amenities and locate adjacent to schools when feasible.

1994 South Cheyenne Infrastructure Improvement and Development Action Plan

The purpose of this plan was to create a specific action plan for unincorporated South Cheyenne that would, over a 10-year period, attract new commercial, industrial and residential land uses to the area. One of the goals for the plan was to create an integrated parks, trails and open space system. Some of the ideas presented include using floodplains as open space and trail corridors; working with the school district to ensure that school and park sites are coordinated; building parks adjacent to elementary schools and open space corridors when possible; and locating neighborhood commercial uses in close proximity to trails to encourage walking or bicycling. The plan recommended a large community park be constructed west of Watersheid Blvd. and north of College Drive, and several neighborhood parks of 8 to 12 acres each located strategically throughout the study area (near schools, trails and residential areas).

This area has been approved for private development, and a community park site has been acquired out of this study area within the Cole Neighborhood, north of I-80. This site is called David Romero South Cheyenne Community Park.



David Romero South Cheyenne Community Park

1995 Hebard, Cole and Goins Neighborhood Plan

The purpose of this plan was the similar to the South Cheyenne Plan: to create a specific action plan for the developed portions of south Cheyenne that would, over a 10-year period, attract new commercial, and residential land uses to the area. The study area was south of the Union Pacific Railroad yards and north of I-80. The plan noted that additional parkland would be necessary to meet the needs of neighborhood residents, particularly large turf areas for informal ballgames and large, covered



Norris Viaduct Plan

group picnic or meeting areas, which were lacking at the time. A park large enough to accommodate a multi-purpose playfield was recommended east of Cole Elementary School on currently vacant lands. The Crow Creek Greenway was noted as an excellent aesthetic and recreational aspect, but the addition of more adjacent multi-use or picnic areas would enhance its usefulness to nearby residents. The Norris Viaduct project currently being designed and constructed is a direct outcome of this plan. The Norris Viaduct project will result in a 1-block wide L-shaped parkway along 5th Street and Morrie Avenue near the refinery, which will be a great amenity to adjacent residents.

1998 East Cheyenne Infrastructure Improvement Plan

This plan was prepared in support of the Cheyenne Area Transportation Planning Process with the goal of developing a vision for East Cheyenne as part of a 10-year action plan. The purpose of the action plan was to identify problems, offer improvement suggestions, and create the best climate for development and redevelopment in the study area. During the public input process for this plan, the need for additional parks, recreation facilities and open space in East Cheyenne were mentioned several times. Using a neighborhood parkland standard of 2 ac/1,000 population, East Cheyenne was (at that time) short by approximately 21 acres.



Sun Valley Park

One of the goals detailed in the plan was to ‘enhance the quality of life in existing residential neighborhoods.’ Some of the ways suggested to do this were to provide additional neighborhood parks in underserved areas; add a large community park (Sun Valley, 17 acres, currently under construction); complete the Dry Creek Greenway trail, including extending it to the LEADS industrial park on

Campstool Rd.; provide secondary trail connections to the Greenway; and provide open space for passive recreation. Four additional neighborhood parks of 8-12 acres each were recommended, two of which were justified by current population levels at the time.

2000 East Central Cheyenne Infrastructure Improvements Plan

This plan was prepared in support of the Cheyenne Area Transportation Planning Process with the goal of developing a vision for East Central Cheyenne as part of a 10-year action plan. The purpose of the action plan was to identify problems, offer improvement suggestions, and create the desired climate for development and redevelopment in the study area.

The total amount of parklands and open space in the area was generally considered adequate; however, most parks tend to be very large city/regional facilities and aren’t within walking distance of many residents. The challenge to correcting this was the lack of appropriately-sized vacant lands within existing residential areas. In response, the document recommended the addition of two neighborhood parks as vacant lands become available in the study area. The first park to be added is Sun Valley Park.

Sun Valley Park

2002 West Cheyenne Land Use and Infrastructure Improvement Plan

This plan was prepared to establish both a vision for the future of the West Cheyenne region and a strategy to achieve that vision. This document contains a summary of existing conditions, needs, influences, goals, proposed alternatives, and proposed land use and transportation plans for West Cheyenne. The West Cheyenne Plan was initiated by the Cheyenne Area Transportation Planning Process as part of a larger effort to update the 1992 Cheyenne Area Development Plan with a series of sub area plans.

Objectives that relate to parks planning included: preparing a greenway concept plan for the area that incorporates parks, views, and open space; connecting the gaps in the Greenway, and extending it west along Crow Creek; including neighborhood parks in new residential developments; ensuring the sustainable maintenance of parks and greenway facilities; integrating educational opportunities into the Greenway or trail system; preserving significant views and sensitive habitats.

2000 Cheyenne Old Town Mall Master Plan Report

The purpose of this plan was to identify opportunities for the Old Town Mall area and to develop a master plan for actions and physical improvements. Successful redevelopment of this area was seen as being an important component of the 1991 Master Plan for the Downtown Cheyenne Core Area. The report recommends opening the Mall to through traffic.

2001 Laramie County Comprehensive Plan

This document was intended as a ‘roadmap’ for the future development of the mostly-agricultural County. Goals relevant to City parks and recreation planning include: preservation of open space; protecting natural resources; encouraging new residential communities to provide adequate parks and recreation facilities; providing accessible recreation programs for all ages; supporting efforts of municipalities to acquire Federal and State grants for programs and improvements; and promoting the development of a regional greenway system in concert with similar municipal efforts.

2002 Vision 2020

This document describes the master vision for the Cheyenne area and provides direction for the update of the Cheyenne Area Development Plan (1992). Several of the key principles identified in Vision 2020 are relevant to parks and recreation, including quality of life, new residential neighborhoods, and transportation. Priorities include: better pedestrian and bicycle access to parks, schools and shopping with interconnected trails, especially for new residential neighborhoods; extending the Greenway; preserving natural areas within the greater Cheyenne area; and adding parks and recreation facilities where needed to meet current or anticipated deficiencies.



Lions Park

Area-Specific Plans

Several plans have been developed for specific areas or projects associated with the Parks and Recreation Department. These include the 1994 North Cheyenne Park Master Plan, 1997 Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Master Plan, 2003 High Plains Arboretum Master Plan, 2001 Lions Park Master Plan, 2001 Pioneer Park Master Plan, 2001 Powers Field Plan, and various design plans for extension of the Cheyenne Greenway and specific park improvements. These plans are referenced as applicable in the sections that further describe these parks and facilities.

Section 4 Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities

There are numerous types of parkland, open space, and recreational facilities and amenities that are available for public recreational use in Cheyenne. This section provides definitions for five categories of parks and recreation facilities including: Parkland, Open Space, Cemeteries, Golf Courses, and Recreation Facilities. Most of these categories are currently provided for and managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, but some may be provided by other city departments or are for future reference as the city's system grows and matures. Detailed classifications and standards which further explain Parks and Recreation facilities are located in the *Shape* section of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Definitions

Parkland – Def.: *Constructed public landscapes in urban areas that are designed for people to use and enjoy.*

Neighborhood Park. Neighborhood Parks are parks that serve a residential neighborhood. They are located in developed areas and are intended to receive a high level of use. Neighborhood Parks typically have landscaping and walking surfaces that can withstand the impacts of heavy foot traffic. Amenities might include: playgrounds, play fields, backstops, basketball courts, horseshoe pits, etc. As such, neighborhood parks often appear more manicured than the surrounding natural landscape. They are spaces where neighbors can gather, children can play, people can watch other people, and engage in recreational activities. They should be adequately sized to provide space for a variety of activities. Ideally Neighborhood Parks are between 5 and 20 acres. They should be centrally located within the residential area they serve, which is commonly defined as homes within ½ mile walk of the park. Programmed sports activities in Neighborhood Parks should normally be limited to practices, as the need to be compatible with surrounding residential land uses limits the intensity of use in the park. Sun Valley, Mylar and Pointe Parks are examples of neighborhood parks.

Pocket Park. Pocket Parks are small Neighborhood Parks. This park type is very common in Cheyenne. The City's pocket parks average around 2 acres in size, which makes them more of an amenity for the immediate neighbors than for the larger neighborhood. Pocket parks are similar to Neighborhood Parks, except that they offer only a few amenities due to their limited size. Amenities might include playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, etc. While Pocket Parks supplement the neighborhood park system and provide visual relief within the urban landscape for the homes within ¼ mile, they are not substitutes for adequately sized Neighborhood Parks. Since the parcels are small, they have limited use for larger neighborhood gatherings, youth sports practices, self-directed activities such as kite-flying, and other activities that require larger open areas. The proliferation of small parks is important to note because it is very expensive to maintain the small parcels on a per-acre basis. Lincoln, Optimist, Jaycee and are examples of Pocket Parks.



Jaycee Park

Community Park. Community parks are larger parks that serve the entire community. They should be equitably distributed throughout the urban area and easily accessible by all residents, ideally via car, bicycle or by foot. They should be connected via the core commuter off-street trail system to reduce the need to drive to the park. Community parks are ideally 25 to 100 acres in size, and often combine developed parkland for self-directed or programmed activities (festivals, performances, fitness trails, sports

fields and courts, picnic shelters, etc.) with natural areas or other interesting elements (water features, forests or gardens). Lions Park and Holliday Park are examples of Community Parks.



Holliday Park Promenade and Lake

Regional Park. Regional Parks are large park and recreation areas that contain indoor and outdoor facilities that serve users from a region, such as all of Laramie County. Often they are developed in partnerships with other government entities. Cheyenne does not currently have any Regional Parks.

Sports Complex. Sports Complexes are a specialized, more intensively programmed Community Park, which provide opportunities for community-wide programmed and self-directed sports including: baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, in-line hockey, and skateboarding. They may be single purpose and will not contain the broad array of amenities and activities that are offered in Community Parks. Often Sport Complexes are needed in addition to Community Parks to fill service gaps for specialized sports facilities. Brimmer Park, Cahill Sports Complex and Dutcher Field are examples of Sports Complexes.



Dutcher Field Ballfields

Special Purpose Park. Special Purpose Parks are highly varied in size and character, which each serving a specialized function. Cheyenne has two such parks: the Saddle Tramps Riding Club area adjacent to Dutcher Field, which contains an equestrian riding arena; and the Depot Plaza next to the Historic Union Pacific Depot, which is scheduled and maintained by the City Special Projects Division and is used for festivals in downtown.

Visual Green Spaces – Def.: *Highly visible natural or manicured lands that typically have little or no public access or recreational purpose.*

Visual Green Spaces are intended to be areas of city-wide significance often associated with public road rights of way. In the past, the City has sometimes accepted ownership and maintenance of Visual Green Space that is special purpose and not of city-wide significance, such as neighborhood detention ponds. The Botanic Gardens staff and volunteers maintain flower beds in many Visual Green Spaces in medians around the city. Parks Department, Forestry Department and waterbug programs maintain the grass and trees in visual green spaces. Some visual green spaces include the 19th Street Parkway, Randall Triangles, and the Rodeo Avenue Detention Pond.



Rodeo Avenue Detention Pond

Open Space – Def.: *Lands in a primarily natural condition that are protected from development.*

Cheyenne’s open space areas are classified into four types - Natural Areas, Regional Open Space, Special Resource Areas and Visual Green Spaces. Natural areas include the corridors through which the Greater Cheyenne Greenway is positioned.

Natural Areas. Natural Areas are lands with natural characteristics and emphasis on resource protection. Some public access may be provided and areas may include multi-purpose trails. These lands protect natural values on smaller parcels, and are often located along stream corridors. Greenway land associated with the trails through Cheyenne are good examples of Natural Areas.



Dry Creek Greenway

Regional Open Space. Regional Open Spaces are large areas with significant natural resource values and which include opportunities for nature-oriented recreation. Portions of the Belvoir Ranch, which was recently acquired by the City, will likely become a Regional Open Space. The ranch may also contain Special Resource Areas, depending upon the recommendations of the Belvoir Ranch master plan, which will be developed in the near future. The USDA Grasslands Research Station west of FE Warren Air Force Base contains 2,140 acres, and is another example of a potential future Regional Open Space if this area were ever made available for public use.



Belvoir Ranch

Special Resource Area. Special Resource Areas are lands that protect areas with important cultural, natural or community values. Management of these areas emphasizes resource protection rather than recreation and public access for recreation may be prohibited. The USDA Grasslands Research Station is currently managed in this manner. Cheyenne does not have any other Special Resource Areas at this time.

Cemeteries – Def.: *Areas dedicated to the interment of the remains of the deceased.*

The City of Cheyenne has several cemeteries, including Lakeview, Beth El, Olivet, Mount Sinai, and Oddfellows. The cemeteries provide large green spaces in the city full of mature trees and established landscapes.

Golf Courses – Def.: *Lands designed for the sport of golf.*

The City of Cheyenne has two golf courses: Airport and Kingham Prairie View. Airport Golf Course leads 18 holes of play around a lake and covers 145 acres. Kingham Prairie View is a 9-hole course with a casual atmosphere close to many other recreation facilities.

Recreation Facilities – Def.: *Areas including sports fields, apparatus, amenities, and structures that accommodate recreational activities and programs provided by the City or not-for-profit organizations, or self-directed activities.*

Community Center/Recreation Center. Community Centers/Recreation Centers are structures and surrounding grounds that accommodate programs offered by the City. Centers include indoor recreation facilities such as courts, gyms and pools, and community gathering and meeting rooms. Community Centers are structures that are primarily for the purpose of meetings and social functions, while Recreation Centers include active recreation facilities. The City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House is an example of a community center. The Neighborhood Facility is an example of a recreation center, but it does not match the model for larger, full-service recreation centers that are provided in many communities.



Neighborhood Facility

These resources as they apply to the City of Cheyenne are discussed in more detail through the remainder of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Section 5. Existing Public Parks and Recreation Lands and Public Facilities

This chapter documents the types of lands and recreational facilities owned and maintained by the City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department, Laramie County and Laramie County School District #1 facilities that are used by the City’s recreation division or non-profit recreation providers. It should be noted that the School District also uses City facilities extensively for several of its programs, particularly the soccer fields and golf courses, as well as special field trips, cross country events, and picnics in various parks and the Botanic Gardens.

An overview of the existing City resources is provided first, followed by a detailed inventory of parks, open space, greenway trails, recreational and aquatic facilities, cemeteries, botanic gardens, golf courses and forestry facilities. The written descriptions of the properties include observations made during site visits, comments from City staff and sometimes include ideas that may be considered when the City develops renovation plans for the site or

facility. Laramie County and Laramie County School District #1 facilities are discussed at the end of this section.

The City of Cheyenne has over 400 acres of developed public parklands, 133 acres of reserve parkland, 111 acres of open space, 235 acres within 2 City-owned golf courses, 59 acres of cemetery lands and 16 miles of greenway trails within the study area boundary (Table 1). In addition there are a significant number of recreational facilities, including sports fields, lakes, community / recreation centers, botanic gardens, swimming pools, picnic shelters and restrooms within the Cheyenne area. The City owns another 16,360 acres of open space lands outside the study area at the Belvoir Ranch, to the southwest of the City.

Map 1 shows the locations of existing parklands, open space, Greenway trails, cemeteries, golf courses, community recreation centers and schools. Table 2 is a detailed inventory of City Parks and Recreation Department parklands, open space, and other properties, and the facilities and recreational amenities they contain.

Table 1. Existing Parks and Recreation Department Resources

	Total Acres	Functional Park Area (ac)	Natural Landscape Area within Property (ac)	Undeveloped Parkland (ac) ¹	Number of Sites
Parks					
Neighborhood Parks					
Pocket Park	20.16	19.28	0	0.88	12
Neighborhood Park	75.75	50.91	19.04	6.60	6
Total Neighborhood Parks	95.91	70.19	19.04	7.48	18
Community Parks					
Community Park	427.68	233.79	0	193.89	7
Sports Complex	136.09	100.14	22.04	11.18	5
Total Community Parks	563.77	333.93	22.04	205.07	12
Other Parks					
Special Purpose Parks	6.97	6.97	0	0	1
Total Parkland Acreage/Sites	666.65	411.09	41.08	212.55	31
Open Space					
Natural Areas/Natural Corridors	111.08	0	118.08	0	5
Regional Open Space ²	19,140.00	0	18,500.00	0	2
Visual Green Space	25.13	1.95	0	23.18	28
Total Open Space Acreage/Sites	19,276.21	1.95	18,618.08	23.18	35
Other Properties					
Cemeteries	58.90				3
Golf Courses	235.00				2
Miscellaneous					
Total Other Property Acreage/Sites	293.90				5

¹ Held in reserve for potential future development

² Belvoir Ranch site - actual acreage planned as open space to be determined after Master Plan is complete.



EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

5

Table 2. Existing Parklands Inventory

28 JULY 2005

Name	Total Ac.	Functional Park Area	Natural or other area	Undev. Ac (Reserve)	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	Concessions	Flowerbeds	Horseshoe Pits	Native Landscaping Area	Parking Lot	Picnic Shelter/Tables	Play Field	Playground	Pond/Lake/Creek	Restrooms	Sculpture	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Comments	
PARKS																							
PARKS - NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS																							
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS																							
Martin Luther King Park	9.64	9.64			1B/S	2 F	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1			1 (L)		
Mylar Park	24.59	12.81	11.78			2 F	X			2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					1	One rental picnic shelter, 1.5 ac pond
Pointe Park	16.26	9.00	7.26				X				X		X	X	X								3 water areas, 1 aesthetic pond, 2 detention areas, remainder in developed neighborhood park.
Smalley Park	3.33	3.33				2 F	X						X	X	X							1	
Sun Valley Park	16.13	16.13					X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X								New elementary school adjacent. School District owns 12 acres of property. City has license agreement with District to use it.
Western Hills Park	6.60			6.60																			Detention facility
Total Neighborhood Parks Acreage	76.55	50.91	19.04	6.60																			
POCKET PARKS																							
Abbott Park	0.40	0.40							1				X										Gazebo
Bar X Park	2.28	2.28					X						X										Detention facility, good for soccer practice, crossed by trickle drainage
Civitan Park	1.25	1.25																					Turf only, no internal paths, no other amenities. Not flat enough for soccer. Adjacent Goins School may be rebuilt on this site, park may be relocated to school site.
Crow Creek Pocket Park	0.88	0.88					X				X				X								Small park and parking area along Crow Creek greenway
Jaycee Park	2.16	2.16				2 F	X						X	X							2		
Lincoln Park	1.96	1.96				2 F	X						X	X	X			1					Much-rejuvenated Johnson Pool onsite, may be replaced by new facility at S. Cheyenne Community Park. Poolhouse needs to be replaced.
Optimist Park	2.67	2.67				1 H	X			X	X	X	X	X									Non-ADA play equipment, no internal sidewalks, turf with trees, Greenway adjacent.
Leo Pando Park	2.21	2.21					X		2				X	X				1			1		Detention facility but serves as neighborhood park
Timberland Park	2.08	2.08											X	X	X								Adjacent to Cole School and Neighborhood Facility. Cole School may be rebuilt and park moved to old school site. Parking at Timberland Park is available at the Neighborhood Facility.
Timberline Park	0.88			0.88																			No amenities
United Nations Park	2.85	2.85					X		X				X	X	X						2		Adjacent to Bain School - school may close and park could double in size. Detention pond, flat, good open space.
Windmill/Cactus Park	0.54	0.54													X								Turf with play equipment
Total Pocket Parks Acreage	20.16	19.28	0.00	0.88																			
Total Neighborhood Parks Acreage	96.71	70.19	19.04	7.48																			



EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – SNAPSHOT

5

Table 2. Existing Parklands Inventory
28 JULY 2005

Name	Total Ac.	Functional Park Area	Natural or other area	Undev. Ac (Reserve)	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	Concessions	Flowerbeds	Horseshoe Pits	Native Landscaping Area	Parking Lot	Picnic Shelter/Tables	Play Field	Playground	Fond/Lake/Creek	Restrooms	Sculpture	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Comments
PARKS - COMMUNITY PARKS																						
COMMUNITY PARKS																						
Cahill Park	33.37	33.37					X	X				X	X	X	X		X		1	5		Cahill soccer complex, Park includes 2 small backstops for 6-8 year old baseball. Hill overlooking fields is a good candidate for Rec Center.
Cahill Park Open Space Area	77.99			77.99																		
Holiday Park	38.89	38.89				2 F	X		8	12 (L)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			4 (L)	2	"Big Boy" train, new large playground, Cheyenne Artists Guild, new 4-court lighted tennis facility, detention in lake, needs irrigation work and new restrooms. Historic shelter, historic schoolhouse. One rental picnic shelter. 7 ac lake.
Lions Park	119.80	119.80			1B/S (L)		X	X	39	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				2	Antique locomotive, Tree Walk, mini-golf course, fitness course, fishing and boating. Sloan Lake Beach for swimming. Botanic Garden. 2 rental picnic shelters, Municipal Pool. 32 ac Sloan's Lake.
North Cheyenne Community Park	116.90	35.43		81.47		2 F	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			8		Tree farm, archery range, climbing wall, four 450'x450' soccer pods can accommodate 2 championship or 4 smaller fields each. Proposed softball fields. Climbing Wall.
Pioneer Park	13.00	6.30		6.70	1B (L)	2 F		X			X	X	X	X		X				1		Inline hockey rink, Pioneer Park Center.
David R Romero South Cheyenne Community Park	29.00			29.00																		Goal = 35+ acres
Total Community Parks Acreage	428.95	233.79	0.00	195.16																		
SPORTS COMPLEXES																						
Brimmer Park, Sports Complex	34.13	18.27	15.86		3S (L)		X	X				X	X	X	X		X		1			One playground not ADA-compliant. 2nd playground ADA-compliant. Lighted warmup/practice turf area, 4 batting cages, skatepark. Slope areas could use additional irrigation.
Converse Softball Complex	19.08	19.08			4S (L)		X	X	1			X	X				X					300' fences, 6 batting cages. Recent renovations.
Dutcher Field Baseball Complex	30.57	15.48	6.18	6.18	4B, 1 pr, 5 total 2 lighted		X	X				X	X				X					Saddle Tramps Riding Club currently meets here and leases a portion of the area, will be moving in 2005. Grass infields on most. 400' fences, much volunteer effort. City leases to Cheyenne Youth Baseball Inc. but maintains all. Needs ADA improvements to older structures. New practice field. Forestry shop.
Junior League Baseball Complex	41.31	41.31			9B		X	X	1			X	X		X		X					For Junior League baseball, 6 batting cages.
Powers Baseball Field	11.00	6.00		5.00	1B (L)		X	X				X					X					New minor league spec. field, 5 ac for future field. Collegiate baseball will also play here.
Total Sports Complex Acreage	136.09	100.14	22.04	11.18																		
Total Community Parks Acreage	565.04	333.93	22.04	206.34																		
PARKS - SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS																						
Saddle Tramps Riding Arena	6.97	6.97									X											Riding arena at Dutcher soon to come under city control
Total Special Purpose Parks Acreage	6.97	6.97	0.00	0.00																		
TOTAL ACREAGE - ALL PARKS	668.72	411.09	41.08	213.82																		



EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

5

Table 2. Existing Parklands Inventory
28 JULY 2005

Name	Total Ac.	Functional Park Area	Natural or other area	Undev. Ac (Reserve)	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	Concessions	Flowerbeds	Horseshoe Pits	Native Landscaping Area	Parking Lot	Picnic Shelter/Tables	Play Field	Playground	Pond/Lake/Creek	Restrooms	Sculpture	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Comments
OPEN SPACE																						
OPEN SPACE - NATURAL AREAS/CORRIDORS																						
Lake Absaraca Recreation Area	20.33		20.33								X	X	X			X	X					Boating, fishing, dump station available during Cheyenne Frontier Days. 23 ac lake.
Centennial Park	8.19		8.19								X											Natural hillside
Dry Creek Parkway	40.20		40.20				X				X	X	X		X	X						Disc golf course, two shelters, one trailhead/parking lot.
Dry Creek Greenway	36.50		36.50				X				X	X				X		1				13.7 miles of path, scaled solar system along path, educational route
Crow Creek Greenway	5.86		5.86				X				X	X				X						2.2 miles of path, educational route
Total Natural Areas/Corridors Acreage	111.08	0.00	111.08	0.00																		
OPEN SPACE - REGIONAL OPEN SPACE																						
Belvoir Ranch	17000.00		16360.00																			Remaining area dedicated to other uses. Master Plan to be developed.
USDA Grassland Research Station	2140.00		2140.00																			
Total Regional Open Space Acreage	19,140.00	0.00	18,500.00	0.00																		
OPEN SPACE - SPECIAL RESOURCE AREAS																						
Total Special Resource Areas Acreage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00																		
OPEN SPACE-VISUAL GREEN SPACES/DETENTION FACILITIES																						
18th Street Parkway	1.97			1.97					2													Parkway
20th, 21st & Rayor	0.16			0.16																		Parkway
Activity Center Triangle	0.06			0.06																		
Airport & 8th Triangle	0.24			0.24																		Parkway
Alexander & 17th Triangle	0.32			0.32																		Parkway
Ames & 27th Triangle	0.19			0.19																		Parkway
Big Sky Park	1.84	1.84		0.00											X							Detention facility, a few pieces of non-ADA play equipment in naturalized turf area, drainage channels cross, not used by neighborhood.
Buck Rhone Park	0.11	0.11		0.00			X	1														Parkway, bench
Burns Statue	0.35			0.35				1														Parkway
Carey Av Triangles	0.63			0.63				1														Parkway, 5 triangles
Country Club & Cribbon Triangle	0.04			0.04																		Parkway
Crestridge Detention Pond	0.28			0.28																		Detention facility
Dry Creek Parkway Triangle	0.39			0.39																		
Essex Dr Island	0.10			0.10																		Parkway
Hugar & Pershing Triangle	0.04			0.04																		Parkway
Holly Court	0.30			0.30																		Serves 10 residences in center of loop road
Laurel & Spruce Triangle	0.06			0.06																		Parkway
Logan & Nationway Triangle	2.71			2.71				1		X												Parkway, detention area, non-irrigated, a few trees
Newton Dr Island	0.12			0.12				1														Parkway
O'Neil & 31st St. Triangle	0.06			0.06				1														Parkway
Pershing & Converse Triangle	0.57			0.57																		Parkway
Randall Avenue Triangles	1.95			1.95																		On major entry corridor to downtown, 8 triangles. Landscaping has deteriorated due to drought.
Reed & 5th Ave Triangle	0.04			0.04																		Parkway
Rodeo Ave. Detention Pond	0.58			0.58																		Detention facility
Snyder & 30th St. Triangle	0.03			0.03																		Parkway
Snyder & Foyer Triangle	0.08			0.08				1														Parkway
VA Parkland	10.90			10.90																		Portion of VA site leased by the City.
Westgate Parkway	1.00			1.00			X															Parkway
Total Visual Green Space Acreage	25.13	1.95	0.00	23.18																		



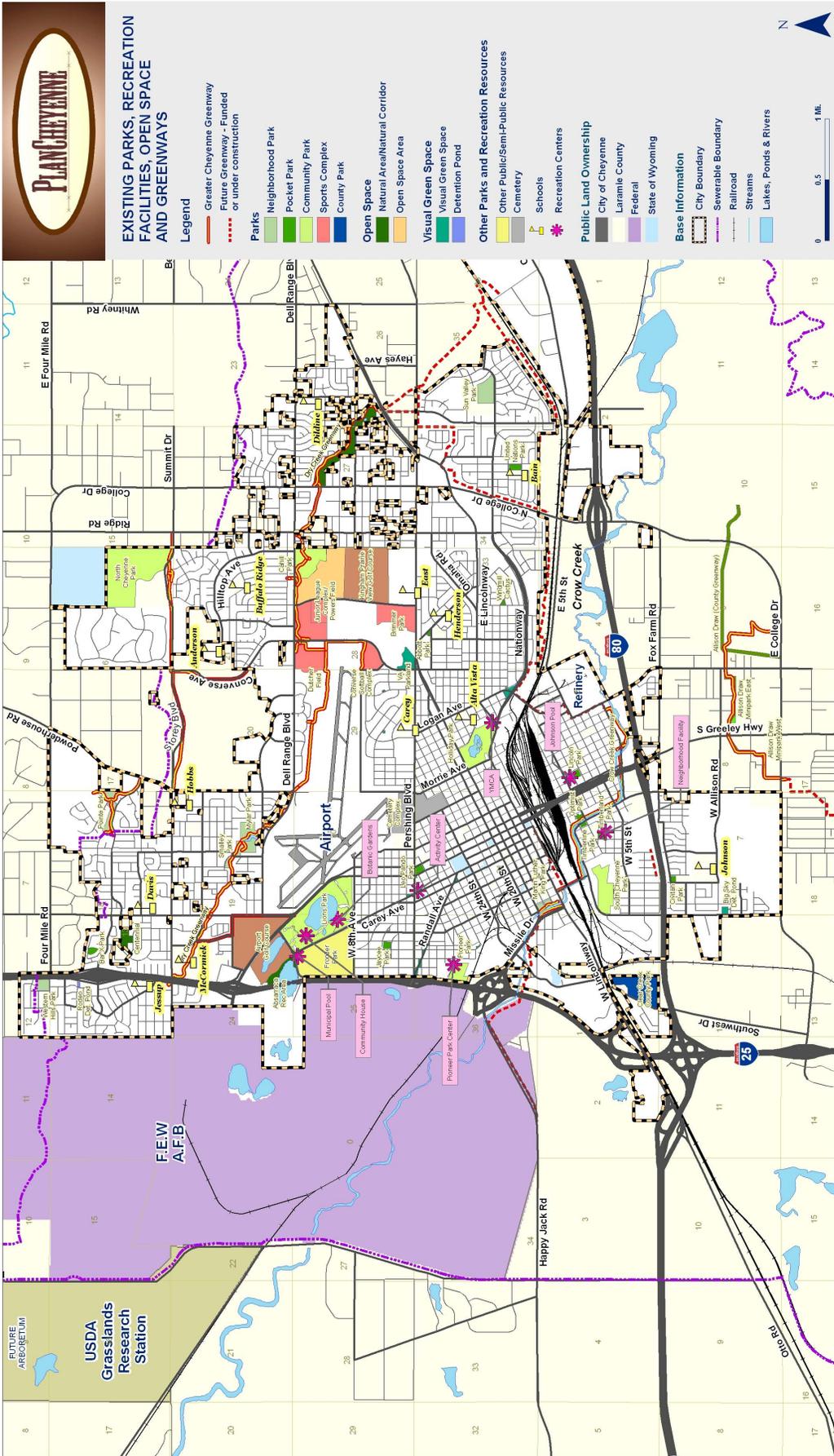
EXISTING PUBLIC PARKS & RECREATION LANDS & PUBLIC FACILITIES

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

5

Table 2. Existing Parklands Inventory
28 JULY 2005

Name	Total Ac.	Functional Park Area	Natural or other area	Undev. Ac (Reserve)	Baseball/Softball	Basketball Court	Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	Concessions	Flowerbeds	Horseshoe Pits	Native Landscaping Area	Parking Lot	Picnic Shelter/Tables	Play Field	Playground	Pond/Lake/Creek	Restrooms	Sculpture	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Comments	
OTHER RESOURCES																							
OTHER CITY PARKS & RECREATION RESOURCES																							
Airport Golf Course	145.00	145.00						X				X					X	1					
Prairie View Golf Course	90.00	90.00						X				X					X					Potential for driving range	
Lakeview Cemetery	24.28	24.28																				Historic Walk	
Beth El Cemetery	32.79	32.79																					
Oddfellows Cemetery	1.83	1.83																					
Total Other City Resources Acreage	293.90	293.90	0.00	0.00																			
OTHER AGENCY PARKS & RECREATION RESOURCES																							
Clear Creek Park (County)	41.60	n/a		n/a								X	X		X		X					X	Train. Riparian area will remain undeveloped.
VA Parkland (Private)	50.20	n/a		n/a																			17 additional acres leased by City. May be used for memorial but no plans to develop.
Frontier Park (Private)	89.12	89.12										X											Owned by City, leased to Cheyenne Frontier Days organization. Off-season private tennis school.
Country Club (Private)	n/a	n/a		n/a								X									5		18-hole golf course, five lighted tennis courts, Olympic-sized swimming pool.
Alison Draw Greenway (County)	53.44	53.44																					
Alison Draw Pocket Park West (Cou)	0.25	0.25														X							
Alison Draw Pocket Park East (Cou)	0.83	0.83														X							
Airport									3														
City Building									1														
Lincolnway									6														
Neighborhood Facility									3														
Burke Hi-Rise									2														
Police Dept.									4														
Youth Alternatives									3														
Roncallo Bed									1														
Total Other Agency Resources Acreage	54.52	54.52	0.00	0.00																			
TOTAL OTHER RESOURCES ACREAGE	348.42	348.42	0.00	0.00																			



MAP 1: EXISTING PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAYS

Cheyenne Area Master Plan

Map 1. Existing Parks, Recreation Facilities, Open Space and Greenways

Parks

Neighborhood Parks

Eighteen sites are Neighborhood Parks or Pocket Parks, which collectively have 70.19 acres of functional park area, 7.48 acres of reserve parkland for future development and 96.71 acres in total. Functional park area is land developed to allow public use. Functional park acreage is used to determine the existing neighborhood parkland level of service, described in a subsequent section.

The City’s neighborhood parks are generally in good condition, with the exception of aging irrigation systems, a few playground upgrades, lack of or deteriorating walking paths, and other miscellaneous enhancements or renovations. A detailed inventory and evaluation of every facility in each park was not performed, but elements that were noticed during park visits or specifically noted by Parks and Recreation Department staff are noted in the descriptions of the parks below. The parks are listed in alphabetical order. For further information see the detailed park inventory table (Table 2).

Abbott Park (0.40 acres) is a triangular pocket park located at the intersection of Henderson Drive and Chestnut Drive. It contains turf, a gazebo, and mature trees including a unique columnar form Blue Spruce. Its location immediately adjacent to a high volume street and small size makes it more of a visual amenity for the neighborhood than a park that the entire neighborhood uses.



Abbott Park

Bar X Park (2.28 acres) is a detention pond on Stetson Drive with turf grass surrounded on three sides by the back yards of residences. Although the street frontage is less than what is considered optimum for neighborhood parks, the site has the potential to be a more functional pocket park with the addition of park amenities and some grading modifications. The potential size of the playfield (currently 100’ x 150’) is somewhat compromised with concrete drain pans that limit its usability for practices to the youngest age groups. The site could be more functional for youth sports practices if the basin were re-graded slightly to relocate the drain pans further south to enlarge the play field area. Adding trees, walks, seating and a playground would also improve the park.



Bar X Park

Civitan Park (1.25 acres) is on the corner of W. Leisher Road and S. Cribbon Avenue, adjacent to Goins Elementary School. This pocket park consists of turf and trees and may be used to reconstruct the elementary school. If this happens, the park would be relocated to the site of the existing school. Regardless of where the park ends up being located, it should be enhanced with amenities for the neighborhood, including a playground, playfield, walks, sculpture and a picnic table.

Crow Creek Pocket Park (0.88 acres) is adjacent to the Crow Creek Greenway and consists of a parking area along 1st Street in South Cheyenne. This pocket park functions primarily as a trailhead for the Greenway Trail.

Jaycee Park (2.16 acres) is located in the middle of an established residential area south of Lions Park on a gently sloping site between Foyer, Country Club, Dillon, and Dey Avenues. Abundant mature trees provide shade and interest to this pocket park. The tennis courts, basketball courts and

new playground are in good condition, but the playground area does not meet the requirements for accessibility according to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) because it does not have a walkway and barrier free access to the surfacing. The park is surrounded on four sides by residential streets and houses that front on those streets. This gives the park ample on-street parking, good visibility and easy access from all directions in the neighborhood. The turf areas in the park are not large enough or flat enough to accommodate any sports practices or lawn games.

Leo Pando Park (2.21 acres) was originally a pocket park called Central Park. The need for a stormwater detention pond in this established area of the city caused Cheyenne to completely regrade and reconstruct the site in 2000. The result is a detention basin below the level of the surrounding streets. The park includes include retaining walls, a tennis court, two flower beds, sculpture, a seating area and an open turf area. Its north-facing slopes are popular for sledding. Its location between Pershing, Central and Warren Avenues makes it highly visible, however the roads are extremely busy, creating somewhat of a barrier to access by pedestrians from adjacent residential areas.

Lincoln Park (1.96 acres) is an historic Cheyenne park originally constructed in 1923, located between 7th and 8th Streets just east of I-180. This pocket park is bordered on three sides by residential streets and on the fourth by the old Johnson Middle School, which is currently a church. The park was recently renovated with a new playground, basketball courts, sculpture, and turf playfield (90' x 110'). The playground area could be improved by adding ADA accessible walks and ramps to the surfaces Landscaping and berms could create areas that are intimately scaled and visually separated from adjacent streets. Additionally, approximately one-fifth of the park site is occupied by Johnson Pool, a 25-Yd pool.

Martin Luther King Park (9.64 acres) spans the Crow Creek Greenway, west of downtown on 19th Street and Ames Avenue. The park was recently renovated to include a restroom, trailhead parking, and overlook plaza with a bronze sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King. It contains picnic shelters, a playground, an open playfield and the Coke Gonzales Ballfield, which is used by the girl's competitive softball program and by competitive youth baseball for ages 8-12. The park, formerly Sunset Park, was renamed to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, the famous civil

rights leader, after it underwent a major renovation in 2000 to add a bridge over Crow Creek, a sculpture plaza and restrooms. The Coke Gonzales Ballfield was dedicated in 2000 in memory of a local proponent of children's' sports. The tennis court at the park was resurfaced and lighted in 2004. Due to minimal use of the tennis facility, conversion of the court to an alternate use, such as a skate park, in-line hockey rink, or other use that is desired by area residents should be considered. Additional improvements to meet the requirements of the ADA are needed to the picnic shelters and other park areas.

The turf area between Crow Creek and Missile Drive is irrigated and attractive to passing motorists, though it appears to be used for park purposes infrequently. The linear shape and the relatively heavy traffic on Missile Drive may contribute to the areas' limited usability. As the trees mature in this section of the park, it may become a more pleasant environment for general park uses. The Crow Creek Greenway trail crossing at Lincolnway at the south end of the park should be improved for pedestrian safety by clearly indicating where the crossing occurs. Eventually a grade-separated crossing for the trail under or over Lincolnway would be desirable.



Mylar Park

Mylar Park (24.59 acres) is located on the Dry Creek Greenway north of Dell Range Boulevard between Seminole Road and Prairie Avenue. Almost one-half of the park is in a naturalized condition with trees, shrubs, and native grasses along Dry Creek. A small 1.5 acre pond provides a permanent water body for wildlife habitat, fishing and relaxation, as well as functioning as a stormwater detention area. The Dry Creek Greenway trail runs through the park,

providing great access to the park from other areas of the City. The developed, functional park area is approximately 13 acres including a playground, horseshoe pits, a rental picnic shelter, a parking lot, restrooms, a volleyball court, and an open turf playfield, all of which are in good condition.

Optimist Park (2.67 acres) is a pocket park that was originally constructed in 1950. The Optimist Club donated playground equipment and the park was eventually named for them. The park was renovated in 1980, 1982, and 1985, after the last major flood when work was required to replace trees, sod and paths damaged by flooding. Sculpture was added to the park in 2004. The park is currently receiving new play equipment to replace outdated play equipment that does not meet safety or accessibility standards.

Pointe Park (16.26 acres) is a new neighborhood park constructed in 2004-2005 in a development west of Powderhouse Road between Storey Boulevard and Four Mile Road. When complete, the linear site will contain a playground, trees, walks, an open turf playfield and an attractive rock retaining wall that separates the park from the back yards of adjacent residences. Approximately 9 of the 16 acres will be functional park area. The other portions of the park will be occupied by steep-sided detention ponds.

Smalley Park (3.33 acres) is a small neighborhood park immediately adjacent to Mylar Park, upstream along Dry Creek and Melton Street. Like Mylar Park, Smalley Park has a pond and the greenway trail running through it. The trail provides good pedestrian and bicyclist access to the park. Smalley Park is classified as a neighborhood park because it functions as an extension of Mylar Park and it has a picnic shelter, volleyball court and basketball court. The swings are outdated and need replacement or removal.



Smalley Park

Sun Valley Park (16.13 acres) is located adjacent to a planned elementary school site on 12th Street in the east part of the city. This neighborhood park has been under construction in 2004-2005 and will contain an open play field, 2 playgrounds, parking lot, picnic shelter, horseshoe pits and 10 acres of naturalized landscape on a slope with looped walking paths that connect the park to the school.

Timberland Park (2.08 acres) is nestled between Cole Elementary School and the City of Cheyenne Neighborhood Facility. This pocket park contains a playground, picnic shelter and a small area of turf (70' x 110') that can be used as a playfield. The replacement of Cole school may affect Timberland Park in the future. Cole School may need to be rebuilt onto the park site with the park being relocated to the old school site.

Timberline Park (0.88 acres) is an undeveloped piece of property in the Cole neighborhood adjacent to Deming Avenue and 9th Street, and across the street from the Crow Creek Greenway and Optimist Park. The potential uses for this site should be studied and designed in context with the other public lands in the area to determine how to capitalize upon their synergies and create a unified public recreational space. Additionally, Deming Boulevard is slated for reconstruction, which may yield additional property to associate with Timberline.

United Nations Park (2.85 acres) is a pocket park immediately east of and adjacent to Bain Elementary School, on E. 10th Street and Madison Avenue. The site is relatively flat with a 90' x 150' playfield. The park was renovated in 2002 when a playground, picnic shelter, tennis courts and horseshoe pits were improved. Laramie County School District #1 has discussed the possibility that Bain School may close. If this occurs, the park size could potentially double in the future.

Western Hills Park (6.60 acres) is an undeveloped detention pond on Brittany Drive in an 80% built-out residential neighborhood west of I-80. The master plan for this neighborhood park includes a picnic shelter, playground, and playfields, and tennis courts on the 2 lots across Michael Drive to the west. Development of the site is constrained by necessary stormwater capacity for the area. To maintain the area for stormwater flow, facilities must be elevated out of the frequent flooding zone of the basin, resulting in few areas where the core facilities can be located. Currently no funding is available to develop this park.

Windmill Cactus Park (0.54 acres) is an attractive small pocket park at the intersection of Windmill and Cactus Hill Roads. The site is gently sloping and contains a playground and mature shade trees. The play equipment appears to meet current standards, however the site requires modifications to meet the requirements of the ADA.

Community Parks and Sports Complexes

There are 12 properties classified as Community Parks or Sports Complexes, totaling 564 acres. Of this acreage, 334 acres are developed, 16 acres are considered to be in a permanent natural condition (steep northern and eastern slopes of Brimmer Park and northern area of Dutcher Fields) and 145 acres are reserve for future park development.

The City is fortunate to have such a large land reserve of Community Parkland as well as a collection of parkland in the middle of the City in what is known as "Section 28". Seventy-eight acres of the Community Parkland reserve is located in Section 28, between Kingham Prairie View Golf Course and Cahill Park. In addition, Section 28 has over 100 acres of land owned by the Airport Authority that may remain undeveloped because of restrictions associated with take-offs and landings of aircraft at the Airport. In total, there is almost one complete square mile of park and open space land that is in the heart of the City and well-connected with Greenway trails. The current parks in Section 28 are

primarily sports complexes, including Brimmer, Cahill, Converse, and Dutcher Sports Complexes, and Powers Field. Kingham Prairie View Golf Course is also located here. Section 28 has potential to become a much more significant and cohesive park and open space resource than it is currently by developing a plan that integrates and links all the sports facilities and park elements. Its central location and undeveloped lands also make it a potential candidate for a future recreation center. The parks within Section 28 are discussed in more detail below.

The outdoor amenities and fields in Cheyenne's Community Parks and Sports Complexes are generally in good condition, with the exception of some declining irrigation systems. Many restrooms and picnic shelters are substandard, and accessibility to play areas and other use areas should be evaluated in more detail for each park. The parks and needed facility upgrades are noted in the descriptions below in alphabetical order and on the detailed park inventory table (Table 2).

Brimmer Park (34.13 acres) is a Baseball/Softball Sports Complex on the northwest corner of Windmill Road and Pershing Boulevard. Brimmer Park has 3 ballfields, 4 batting cages, restrooms, a concessions stand, lighted warm-up turf area, Clay Sturman Bike, Blade & Board Facility, playfield, picnic shelter and 2 playgrounds. One of the playgrounds has outdated equipment and is not ADA-compliant. The hillside adjacent to the road and north of the fields and skate park are naturalized landscape. The Clay Sturman Bike, Blade & Board Facility is planned for an expansion in 2005-2006.

Cahill Park (33.37 acres) is a Community Park on Dell Range Boulevard that has 5 soccer fields, concessions, a picnic shelter, 2 small practice backstops, sculpture, a playground, and restrooms. The passive park area serves as a neighborhood park for nearby residents. The park does not have central irrigation control, which is needed to effectively irrigate the turf, and the playground appears to lack ADA accessibility. The Dry Creek Greenway trail runs through the park and a trail underpass connects the property with neighborhoods north of Dell Range Boulevard. The restrooms in this park near the Greenway are not in good condition.

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Cahill Park

Converse Softball Complex (19.08 acres) is a Sports Complex on the northwest corner of Converse Avenue and Airport Parkway, north of Pershing Boulevard. The complex has 4 lighted softball fields with 300' outfields and 6 batting cages. The park has restrooms, concessions, a picnic shelter and an open playfield. The restroom facilities were recently renovated and are in good condition.



Converse Park

Dutcher Field Complex (30.57 acres) is a Sports Complex on the southwest corner of Dell Range Boulevard and Converse Avenue with 5 baseball fields: 4 are game fields and 1 is a new practice field. All fields have turf infields and are in good condition. Two fields are lighted, and all fields have 300'-359' outfields. The restrooms and concessions facilities are outdated and in need of renovation or replacement. The facility is leased to Cheyenne Youth Baseball, with the

exception of Lansing Field, which is leased to the Cheyenne Baseball Club. The City has a maintenance shop and Forestry office located in a metal building on the northern portion of the site. Additionally, the site is planned to locate a new parks maintenance facility as the Lions Park Master Plan calls for relocation of the primary Parks Maintenance Facility.

Junior League Complex (36.41 acres) is a Sports Complex on Dell Range Boulevard between Windmill Road and Converse Avenue with 9 junior baseball fields. Three ballfields have 225' outfields and 6 ballfields have 200' outfields. The park includes 6 batting cages, restrooms, concessions, maintenance shop, picnic shelter and 3 new playgrounds. The fields are in relatively good condition and a new practice field was recently constructed. A Greenway trail provides non-motorized access to the site.



Junior League Complex

Powers Field (11.00 acres) is a new minor league baseball field just east of the Junior League Complex. Powers Field has an artificial turf infield, lights, built-in bleachers and an announcers booth, concessions, team rooms and restrooms. The field was designed to minor league specifications in hopes of attracting a professional baseball team. The field opened in spring of 2005 and will be leased to American Legion Post 6 Baseball, which is a high school boys competitive league. The field will also host a Collegiate baseball league during summers. The ultimate build-out of this facility will include a second full-size ballfield and completion of a plaza area between the two fields.

Holiday Park (38.89 acres) is one of the favorite and most used parks in the city according to city residents. Holiday Park is located between Lincolnway and E. 19th Street east

of Morrie Avenue. The park has an abundance of large trees, a pond, walking paths, a large community playground, large picnic shelter, numerous horseshoe pits and an historic train, among other amenities. Tennis courts, the community playground and the majority of the park features are attractive and generally in good condition. The historic small picnic shelter north of the pond establishes a wonderful example of a potential historic theme for the park, however more recent modifications of concrete block detract from its design and should be removed. Future structures in this park should use the shelter as the design precedence. The street frontage along Lincolnway is degraded in appearance due to turf damage behind the curb from pedestrians and road grime. The southwest corner of the park has the paved remnants of a former bus stop that should be removed and the area should be reintegrated into the park to improve its aesthetics and function. The horseshoes area, group picnic pavilion and abandoned tennis court area should be upgraded. The Parks Division maintenance building is not large enough and it should be repainted another color to reduce its visual prominence. The restroom on 19th Street also needs replacement.

Lions Park (119.80 acres, including the lake) is located between Central Avenue and Carey Avenue north of West 8th Avenue. The park has a wide variety of features for the public to enjoy. It is the community's favorite park according to the survey conducted as part of this planning process. The park includes a lake, a lighted baseball/softball field, open playfields, playgrounds, picnic shelters, several buildings including the Old Community House and the Forestry Division Building, volleyball courts, horseshoes, abundant mature trees, naturalized landscapes and walks, and the City Municipal Pool. The Municipal Pool has been part of the park since 1976. Other related aquatic facilities include a small building used by the Aquatics division known as the "pool annex", just west of Sloan's lake, as well as the Beach on the west side of Sloan's lake. Additionally, there is a beach house associated with the beach operated by the aquatics division. Out of the beach house the aquatics division operates boat rentals, and concessions, and the beach allows swimming. The seasonal beach operation is part of the overall aquatics operation, included with the year round operation of the municipal pool, and the seasonal operation of Johnson Pool in Lincoln Park.

In 2003, the City completed construction on the City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House. The Kiwanis Community House, located in the northwest portion of the park, is available for rent and is often the location of public

meetings. The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, originally opened in 1986, occupies approximately 9 acres of the park along Carey Avenue. The Gardens have a world-class solar greenhouse that provides both educational opportunities and seedlings for City flowerbeds. Currently the City is reconfiguring the northern roadway and parking areas according to the Lions Park Master Plan, which was approved in 2001. The Master Plan recommends upgrades to the softball/baseball field and support facilities, park restrooms, a promenade and amphitheater, and additional roadway and parking improvements.



Lions Park Western Walkway

North Cheyenne Community Park (116.90 acres) was created in 1975 after a property exchange between the City and State of Wyoming. The park, accessed from Ridge Road in the northeastern part of the City, is partially developed. Between 1998 and 2004, 35 acres of the park were developed into 8 full-size soccer fields, a playground, a climbing wall, a community picnic shelter, concessions, restrooms, an archery range, and the City's tree farm. When fully complete, according to the current Master Plan, the park will have 3 more soccer fields, 4 softball fields, 8 tennis courts, 2.2 miles of bike paths, 9 picnic shelters, 7 restrooms, 900 parking spaces, playgrounds, volleyball and horseshoe facilities, and pedestrian trails. Future plans for the school district call for the construction of a high school and middle school adjacent to the park.



North Cheyenne Community Park climbing wall

Pioneer Park (13.00 acres) is located in the west central portion of Cheyenne at the end of Talbot Court in a residential neighborhood immediately east of I-25 and south of Pershing Boulevard. The City’s Youth Alternatives Facility is across the street from the park. Pioneer Park provides neighborhood park amenities for nearby residents while also functioning as a community park. The primary facilities in the park are the Pioneer Center (a small recreation building) used for meetings and City-run summer day camps; and a lighted ballfield, with 330’ foul lines and 360’ centerfield, used primarily by the Senior Babe Ruth baseball adult baseball team. The field often gets worn and damaged from practices prior to the turf coming out of dormancy in the spring, prompting baseball groups to ask for other practice areas or fields to preserve the quality of the game field. The area west of the existing field is used for practice but has not been truly developed to accommodate this use. The scorer’s booth is elevated behind the backstop, is not ADA compliant, and would benefit from aesthetic improvements. A restroom, concessions, storage and locker room building is located near the ballfield, and although it is in relatively good condition, it does not meet current building codes. The field has a turf infield, in good condition. Limited practice on the infield is necessary to prevent turf damage.

Recent additions to Pioneer Park include a new playground to the west of Pioneer Center and the private donation of an in-line hockey asphalt pad. The single tennis court is in poor condition.

Approximately 6.9 acres of land to the west of and adjacent to the developed portions of the park are undeveloped and could be improved. In 2002, Cheyenne developed a master plan for the park, but the plan is not valid today because the recommendations were prior to the construction of Powers Field in Section 28, which changed the needs for additional baseball fields.

Pioneer Park is accessible via local streets, therefore park uses that generate a large volume of traffic may not be appropriate in this area.

David R. Romero South Cheyenne Community Park (29 acres) land was recently acquired and is intended to provide a Community Park to the southern areas of the city. The land for the park is located adjacent to Parsley Boulevard just west of Dillon Avenue. The city would like to expand the land area to 35 acres if possible. A natural drainageway (Clear Creek) winds through the site from west to east, providing interest and the opportunity for habitat restoration, water features and unique play experiences. The area has not yet been master planned or developed. Plans call for additional acquisition in 2005, with park planning and construction to follow.

Special Purpose Parks

There are 2 Special Purpose Parks in Cheyenne: Union Depot Plaza and Saddle Tramps Riding Arena. The Union Depot Plaza is a recent addition to the downtown, adjacent to the historic Depot and the area used for festivals and gatherings. The Parks, Forestry, and Botanic Gardens Departments maintain the turf, trees, and flower beds. Saddle Tramps is an equestrian arena adjacent to Dutcher Field Complex that is leased to a local club until 2005. The club has found a new residence, leaving the Department with an opportunity to reconsider the use of this area.

Open Space

Natural Areas and Corridors

The City owns and maintains 111.08 acres of Natural Areas and Natural Corridors. The **Dry Creek Parkway** (40.20 acres), **Dry Creek Greenway** (36.50 acres) and **Crow Creek Greenway** (5.86 acres) were originally obtained to incorporate the city’s multi-purpose trail as part of the Cheyenne Greenway project and as important floodwater conveyance features. These areas, with their riparian habitat, provide an oasis of natural habitat within the city and are some of the most popular areas with residents as they stroll,

walk, run or bike through them on the trails. Dry Creek Parkway is the most developed and has a disc golf course that is heavily used as well as a playground and two picnic shelters. The sites are periodically mowed to control weeds, and the City Forestry Department maintains and monitors the trees in the natural areas. The Greenway Trails are discussed later in this section.



Crow Creek Greenway

Centennial Park (8.19 acres) is land that was dedicated to the City as parkland, but it is too steep for development as a neighborhood park and has been reclassified as open space. The park is a natural landscaped hillside that is currently used for walking on ad hoc trails that the neighbors have created. Areas of this open space would benefit from revegetation and a designated path system to prevent damage to the area.

Absarraca Recreation Area (20.33 acres) is located just north of Lions Park and Frontier Days Park on Kennedy Road. Absarraca is a natural area around Lake Absarraca that is primarily used for fishing and non-motorized boating (camping only allowed during Frontier Days). The area is heavily used during the annual Cheyenne Frontier Days celebration, held in the last full week of July. Many of the people who make the rodeo happen, including participants and competitors, stay at the area during the 10-day event. An improvement master plan was created in 1996 in cooperation between the City & CFDC.

Regional Open Space

Belvoir Ranch (17,000 acres) was purchased by the City in 2003 for multiple purposes, including water resource development, a 640-acre landfill, and recreation. It is

located approximately five miles southwest of Cheyenne and is formerly known as the Lone Tree Creek Hunter Management Area. The site is characterized by native short grass prairie, slightly rolling topography, and an arid, windy climate. There are a few water courses through the ranch – Lone Tree Creek, Goose Creek, and Duck Creek; some areas of more dramatic hills; and some areas with riparian vegetation. The Belvoir Ranch has primarily been used for cattle grazing in the recent past. Many ideas have been presented regarding potential recreational uses, including natural surface pedestrian, equestrian and mountain bike trails; and a “Links” golf course, which is a style of golf course that preserves much of the natural landscape within the course. The southern border of the Belvoir Ranch is the Wyoming state line and Larimer County, Colorado. In Colorado, the Laramie Foothills/ Mountains to Plains Project, sponsored by Larimer County, the City of Fort Collins, The Nature Conservancy and the Legacy Land Trust, will eventually create a mountain to plains conservation zone of approximately 140,000 ac. immediately south of the Belvoir Ranch. More than 35,000 ac. have been protected to date. This property will be a combination of public lands and conservation easements, which presents a great opportunity for the Belvoir Ranch to be part of extended habitat conservation as well as recreational activities. A management plan needs to be developed for the property that outlines proposed uses, development areas and management strategies



Belvoir Ranch

USDA Grasslands Research Station and High Plains Arboretum is a 2,140-acre site that was leased to the USDA for 199 years from the City in 1928. The station was formerly known as the Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station (CHFS) until 1978 when the name was change to the USDA

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Grasslands Research Station. The research station is located west of FE Warren Air Force Base and has been operated as a test plot to determine what species are hardy in Cheyenne’s harsh climate. The research continued until 1978 when the mission changed to a grasslands research station focused on soil research, water conservation, and ranching/mine operations and reclamation strategies. Since 1975 the surviving plant material has weathered the climate with only natural precipitation. Almost half of the specimens have perished, but those that remain have proven themselves to be extremely hardy and local plant propagators still take cuttings to establish plant stock for retail sale. In 2000 a local group was formed for the purposes of preserving and protecting the resources, and the original horticultural trials site was renamed the High Plains Arboretum. In 2003 the City developed a master plan that envisions reinvigorating the 62 acres of the original CHFS site with woody plant trial plots, a learning center with a pond and wetlands, a renovated greenhouse, perennial plots, and an expanded arboretum area. Roundtop Park, which is a former water treatment site is 10-acres, and the possibilities for this site are many. A master plan for the site has not yet been prepared. The remainder of the 2,140-acre site would remain in use by the USDA for grasslands research.



The Big Hole

The Big Hole is an 1,800 acre site that includes 1,000 acres of rim pasture and 800 acres of spectacular scenery at the Wyoming Colorado border. The City of Cheyenne recently completed the purchase of the Big Hole for regional open space and recreation purposes. The Big Hole is located

south of the Belvoir ranch and the entire Big Hole spans into Colorado and Larimer County. Over the next several years a cooperative management plan will be created for the Big Hole area in Wyoming and Colorado.

Special Resource Areas

Currently the City does not own properties that are considered Special Resource Areas.



19th St. Parkway-Visual Green Space

Visual Green Spaces

There are currently 28 properties totaling 25.13 acres that are classified as Visual Green Spaces. Many Visual Green Spaces are associated with road rights-of-way, areas such as the parkway median on 19th Avenue or the triangular shaped parcels along Randall Avenue. Visual Green Spaces are costly for the city to maintain because of their size and number, and in recent years irrigation water has been turned off on many sites because of the drought. Decreased water has caused a decline in the health of trees and the landscaping in these areas. Cheyenne’s ‘Waterbugs’ program provides guidance for citizen volunteers who water, mow and in some cases plant flowers in these small green spaces. The Friends of the Botanic Garden volunteers maintain flower beds in many of the Visual Green Spaces around the City.

The City Parks and Recreation Department has also taken the responsibility for accepting and maintaining a few detention ponds on the premise that they are “parkland.” Big Sky Park is an example. This property has outdated, unsafe play equipment in it, the site is crossed by concrete

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drain pans, does not have any other park amenities, and is surrounded by backyards on three sides and an arterial roadway on the fourth with no relationship to the adjacent neighborhood. To be a neighborhood park, this site would need to be totally redesigned and an adjacent lot converted to parkland to provide street frontage from the neighborhood. As it exists today, Big Sky Park functions solely as a detention pond.

Detention pond properties are often not suitable as parkland, and the Department should avoid accepting responsibility for additional detention ponds that serve no other purpose.



Big Sky Park

The city owns a 10-acre triangular parcel west of the VA hospital at the corner of Pershing and Windmill in Section 28. This gently sloping property currently serves as a Visual Green Space and is relatively attractive with numerous mature trees. However, its visual quality is degraded by the presence of a chain link fence along Pershing Blvd. Plans are in process that would convert this area to “Patriot Park” with a dedicated memorial to soldiers. That planning is also intended to address use of the area for detention purposes as well.

Greenway Trails

The Greenway Trails are one of the most popular and most-used recreational features in the City. Approximately 15.9 miles of the greenway have been constructed with the involvement of government agencies, private businesses, volunteers, and schools. Two major sections are featured in the community: one along Crow Creek and the other along Dry Creek. The trails connect residential areas, schools, parks, athletic facilities and shopping centers through trail

easements, parkland, natural areas, and road rights-of-way. A 10-foot-wide, 100% ADA compliant concrete path is the standard “greenway” in Cheyenne. The greenway is used by walkers, runners, skaters, bicyclists and wheelchair users.

Community Centers / Recreation Centers

The **Neighborhood Facility** at 610 W. 7th Street was built in the 1970’s and houses the main offices of the Recreation Division and the City’s gymnastics programs. The 12,600 square foot building is in good condition and includes: a gymnasium with gymnastics equipment; locker and shower facilities; a conference room; a lounge; a seating area for gymnastics patrons; and a kitchen, now mostly used for birthday parties. A closet adjacent to the gymnastics area has been converted into a viewing room for gymnastics competitions, complete with one-way mirror so not to distract the children. The building includes offices and storage space for the Recreation Division staff and recreation program registration. Stride Learning Center leases a portion of the building for daycare purposes and use of the other facilities in the building are scheduled by the Recreation staff. Lack of storage is identified as a problem in the Neighborhood Facility, and expansion may be necessary.

The **Pioneer Park Recreation Center** at 1331 Talbot Court is small, but hosts many recreational activities. The full-day Summer Recreation Camp for children ages 6-11 is held at the Center from June to August; 180 children attended in 2004 with about 220 children expected in 2005. Pioneer Park Center is in good condition; however, the 4,000 square foot building has a small gymnasium that is not big enough for basketball or volleyball. Amenities at the Center include public restrooms, a lounge area, a classroom with kitchen, and two professional offices. This facility does not have locker rooms, showers, or changing areas. Storage is a major problem at the building.

The **Activity Center** at 3121 Carey Avenue is a converted gas station that was donated to the City, which consists of two small activity rooms and two restrooms. The Center is used as a meeting facility, by youth groups, officiating organizations, for youth birthday and team parties, and by the summer playground director.

The **City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House** at Lions Park opened in 2003. The Community House has a large open area that can be divided into two multi-purpose rooms, a kitchen, and restrooms. It is maintained and scheduled by

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the Parks Division, but is used by the Recreation Division for ballet, art, jazzercise and other programs as needed. Additionally, the Community House is rented by civic groups and private parties for square dancing, barn dances, karate, wedding receptions, and other events.



City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House

The **Old Community House** is in the southern portion of Lions Park. The building is used by the Recreation Division for ballet, art, jazzercise and other programs as needed. Amenities at the Old Community House include a 44' x 80' room with a wood floor, kitchen/service area, seating for ninety, and restrooms. The Old Community House is adjacent to outdoor grills and a playground area.

Aquatics Facilities

There are two developed aquatics facilities in Cheyenne: the indoor Municipal Pool, and the outdoor Johnson Pool.

Municipal Pool is a year-round indoor pool located in Lions Park. The pool has a diving well, with 1 and 3-meter diving boards, six 25-meter lap lanes, a teaching well, a wading pool, and a water slide. Program offerings include competitive swim team practice, pool rentals, water fitness classes, the Future Lifeguards of Cheyenne (FLOC) Program, and swim lessons. Its small size and lack of adequate spectator seating, lockers, and storage prevent the Municipal Pool from hosting regional or state swim competitions. The pool also sees heavy use from recreational and lap swimmers on a daily basis. Current plans include construction of a spray park to the south of the existing pool and building. Desired improvements include expanding the offices and locker rooms, adding on a multi-purpose room, and adding a therapy and/or lap pool. Other recently cited needs

identified through public meetings held on a potential pool expansion include the addition of family locker rooms and more storage space among others. In spring of 2005, one of three municipal pool boilers, the boiler for the main pool, was replaced. Two remaining boilers, the domestic hot water boiler and the heater for the baby pool, are in poor condition and will need to be replaced soon. An additional concern for the pool is the adequate regulation of air temperature control in the building during extreme cold and hot periods. The Municipal Pool is the only indoor public swimming facility in the City and, as such, the pool receives heavy use.

Johnson Pool is a small heated outdoor pool located in Lincoln Park. The 25-yard lap pool has undergone many renovations including a new filtration system and water distribution system. The pool is due for resurfacing in 2006, which typically costs approximately \$30,000. The shower facility/pool house is outdated according to current building and ADA codes and is badly in need of replacement. The pool has a one-meter diving board, sunning deck, slide, and a lawn for picnics or other outdoor use. The pool is open



Johnson Pool

seasonally from early June to late August and is popular with children and teens in the surrounding neighborhood. Pool capacity is approximately 100 and typically there are 40 to 60 users on a summer afternoon. One competitive swim team uses Johnson Pool for 6 weeks in the mornings. Occasionally the pool is rented for an evening event. The cost and benefits of future investment in this facility should be analyzed and options for renovating the pool and pool house should be considered.

The City also has a beach at ` that is open for swimming and sunbathing seasonally from early June to late August.

Activities at the Beach include paddleboat and canoe rentals, concessions and fishing. The beach has a beach house for use, however it is in need of amenities and renovations.

In addition to the pool facilities, the Aquatics division also offers the use of inflatables at each of their facilities. The inflatables are large plastic floating play areas that allow kids to be more active in the water. Treasure Island, the Iceberg, and Water Tag are rotated between all three facilities and provide a variable play experience.

Cemeteries

The cemetery complex consists of 3 city-owned and managed cemeteries: Lakeview (24.28 acres), Beth El (32.79 acres) and the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) (1.83 acres). In addition to these cemeteries, the Cemetery Division staff provides grounds and operations services and maintains the records for the privately-owned Mount Olivet (Catholic Church Cemetery) and Mount Sinai (Jewish Cemetery) cemeteries.

The Cemetery Division offers a self-guided, historical walking tour of Lakeview Cemetery for those interested in the history of Cheyenne and the surrounding area. Points of interest in the cemeteries include the Angel Memorial and the Avenue of flags, usually displayed on Veteran’s day and other memorial holidays. The tour has proven to be of special interest to the local schools, church groups, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and tourists. There is no fee for the tour, but donations to the Friends of the Cemetery program are appreciated. The Friends of the Cemetery program was established in 1989 to provide a vehicle for donating funds for the continued beautification of the cemetery grounds in the form of flower planters, sod, and trees. Over the years, financial contributions as well as gifts of trees have been well-utilized. Donations also assist with costs for the Historical Walking Tour program. Volunteer help can be targeted towards maintenance tasks (such as painting or raking leaves).

The City cemeteries do not have master plans that thoroughly document existing conditions and determine their ultimate capacity; however the sense within the City Cemetery Division is that the cemeteries are quickly nearing capacity. The number of spaces available, as well as sales, have dropped in recent years. The available spaces are generally those that have been passed over, for one reason

or another, over the last 137 years. The desirable spaces, those with large trees nearby and the ‘serene sense of comfort’ one might expect from an older mature cemetery, are increasingly less available. The question of whether or not the City needs to expand its cemetery spaces and/or construct columbariums should be addressed soon.

Botanic Gardens

Cheyenne Botanic Gardens is operated by the Botanic Gardens Division of the Parks and Recreation Department and was originally located east of Cheyenne in 1977. The current 9.2-acre Gardens, located in Lions Park, was opened in 1986 and offers a diverse plant collection, several specialty gardens, and volunteer, educational and therapeutic opportunities to the community. The Botanic Gardens is highly valued by the citizens of Cheyenne and has received numerous national awards. Cities the size of Cheyenne typically do not have the resources to develop and operate botanic gardens on the scale that Cheyenne does, and as such, the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens has become a role model for other small cities that wish to develop botanic gardens.



Cheyenne Botanic Gardens

Five full-time paid staff, 4 temporary and/or part-time paid staff, and over 150 volunteers keep the Botanic Gardens running yearly. Over 90% of the labor is provided by senior, youth and handicapped volunteers. Additional support comes from the Friends of the Botanic Gardens Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit organization for tax-deductible donations that benefit the operation and goals of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. The foundation provides support for landscape construction, volunteer organization, and other programs.

5



Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Western Walk

As of 2004 the 1997 Cheyenne Botanic Gardens 20-year Master Plan is two-thirds complete after 7 years. Recent improvements include development of the Herb and Rose Gardens, Discovery Pond and Wetlands, walkways and plantings, expanded community gardens, expanded parking, and fencing for the locomotive. Remaining items include aesthetic improvements to existing facilities, interpretive signage and art, development of a High Plains Garden, Dwarf Conifer Garden, outdoor picnic and meeting space, additional parking, and a Children’s Initiative. The Children’s Initiative includes a Children’s Garden and expansion of the existing building by adding a children’s conservatory. The conservatory will teach children about plants, science, and renewable energy. Additionally, the Lions Park Master Plan identifies modifying the road access to the Gardens and a renovated Labyrinth. The renovation to the Labyrinth is currently underway. The cost for the ultimate vision of the Children’s Initiative is approximately \$7-8 million and the conceptual plans for the building are currently being developed for use in fundraising campaigns. At some point, the Botanic Gardens may need to be fenced if the City decides that it is desirable to provide more intricate, high-value interpretive features that would allow for expanded programs and exhibits. These types of programs and amenities are currently not possible in a 24-hour public park setting.

Golf Courses

There are 5 golf courses in Cheyenne: Airport and Kingham Prairie View, which are owned and operated by the City; and private courses operated by FE Warren Air Force Base, the Cheyenne Country Club, and Little America. Airport Golf Club is an 18-hole, 145-acre course with 6,121 yards of play

and a privately-run pro shop. This golf course is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary as recognized by Audubon International and the USGA.

Kingham Prairie View is a 9-hole course with 3,700 yards of play, open from April to October. The course is popular for beginning golfers and practice for experienced golfers. Currently the Cheyenne Municipal Airport holds a lease on the lands on which Kingham Prairie View Golf Course is located. That lease expires in 2006. Kingham Prairie View needs a new irrigation system and possibly a large-scale renovation after the current contract expires. The new irrigation system is estimated to cost approximately \$650,000 with additional expenses for seed drilling, approximately \$40,000. New cart paths are desirable as are plumbed restrooms.



Airport Golf Course

In comparison, the Airport Golf Course is in better condition and requires fewer renovations. A tee box renovation is planned for the near future. The total cost will be about \$100,000. New concrete cart paths are also planned at around \$150,000. The irrigation system at the Airport Golf Club is in good working order and it is estimated that it will last another 20 years. The Golf Division maintains the courses in excellent condition and would like to expand the season and times for golf practice by providing a lighted driving range, potentially with heated stalls for year-round use.

Recently, golf in Cheyenne has been gaining momentum in support of developing a Links golf course at the recently acquired Belvoir Ranch. At this time the concept has not yet been endorsed because there is no approved master plan for that property.

Forestry Facilities

The Forestry Division maintains a shop at Dutcher Field overlooking Dell Range Boulevard and a tree farm at North Cheyenne Community Park. In 2005, the Division will construct a nature interpretive center and treehouse near its offices in Lions Park. The small interpretive center will be fully accessible to students of varying needs. The 20-ft high tree house will be constructed in phases and will provide a bird’s-eye view of life in the urban forest of Lions Park

Laramie County Parks and Open Space

Laramie County owns and maintains 3 parks in the Cheyenne area: Clear Creek Park (41.60 acres) is located south of I-80 and east of I-25 off of Southwest Drive. This park has restrooms, picnic shelters, a playground and volleyball courts. The park is popular with dog owners as an unofficial off-leash dog exercise area. Two other small parks have been developed along Allison Draw and the Allison Draw Greenway and both contain play equipment. In addition, the county maintains the greenway along Allison Draw, which totals 53.44 acres.



Clear Creek Park

Existing School District and Private/Non-Profit Recreation Facilities

The Recreation program depends very heavily on Laramie County School District #1 for use of school facilities. Recreation primarily depends on gymnasium space as there is no City gym facility that is adequately sized for court games, except for second grade basketball, which is hosted in the small gym at Pioneer Park Recreation Center. Elementary, Jr. High and Senior School gyms are used by the City for volleyball leagues, youth and adult basketball leagues, and youth basketball tournaments. The Recreation Division uses school gyms on nights and weekends whenever they are available, generally starting at 7:00 pm on weeknights. A few locations receive only occasional Recreation Program use for youth basketball tournaments (Storey Gym and East High School). In total, the City uses 19 gymnasiums in 16 different schools. The schools offering gymnasium space for use by the City are: Storey Gym, East High School, Carey Junior High School, Johnson Junior High School, McCormick Junior High School, Afflerbach Elementary School, Anderson Elementary School, Alta Vista Elementary School, Bain Elementary School, Buffalo Ridge Elementary School, Dildine Elementary School, Henderson Elementary School, Hobbs Elementary School, Jessup Elementary School, Pioneer Park Elementary School, and Davis Elementary School.

There is no formal contract between the School District and the Recreation Division other than the simple Use Contract used for any non-profit organization which is negotiated annually for each organization. All organizations are welcome to use school facilities when not otherwise in use at no cost – the only fee involved is for custodial services on weekends or after normal operating hours. The recent “no-cut on athletic teams” policy of the school district has increased the participation numbers and demand for gym activities by school programs, significantly reducing the time available for City recreation programs. Demand by the Recreation Division for gym use is consistently increasing and current use of facilities reaches school gym capacities.

One additional facility used by the recreation division is the multi-purpose room at Laramie County Community College. That gym is used for the adult volleyball league and youth basketball tournaments.

5

Though the city programs often use school facilities, School programs also use city facilities. The school district uses soccer fields, golf courses, and parks for events and tournaments throughout the year. Events such as Cross Country running meets, school picnics, and day trips are all held on city properties at no charge.



Cahill Soccer Complex

Section 6. Existing Level of Service

Level of Service“ is a term that is used to measure the level of public accessibility to parks, the quantity of parkland per person, or number of the recreational facilities per person. Level of Service in terms of accessibility is measured by the distance to a developed park. For example, a 1/2-mile walking distance from a home to a Neighborhood Park (7 to 10 minutes) is a common goal for communities in this region. Level of service for quantity of parkland per person is calculated as acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population; e.g., 1.7 acres of Neighborhood Parkland / 1,000 population. Level of service for quantity of facilities per person is expressed as numbers of residents served by that specific recreational facility; e.g., 1 indoor swimming pool / 25,000 population.

Park Accessibility

In Cheyenne, the planning team mapped each park according to its classification and assigned a service radius around each parcel accordingly. Neighborhood Parks were assigned a 1/2 mile radius, Pocket Parks were assigned a 1/4 mile radius, and Community Parks a 1- mile radius.

Neighborhood Park Accessibility

Map 2 shows the 1/2-mile and 1/4-mile service areas associated with each existing developed Neighborhood and Pocket Park (which are small Neighborhood Parks – see definitions). Also shown are 1/2-mile service areas around Community Parks that can be considered to function as neighborhood parkland for the adjacent residences. The service areas on Map 2 represent the immediate neighborhood that has access to that park without crossing an arterial roadway, active rail line, river or other barrier that prevents easy access via walking or by bicycle. The approximate extent of existing residential development is shown on the map and that information was determined by Laramie County and City of Cheyenne GIS data. Some areas are served by more than one park and have a higher level of service than homes in other locations within the same neighborhood. The map demonstrates that the extreme southern, western (west of I-25), northeastern and northeastern/central areas of the City are underserved by Neighborhood Parks.

Community Park Accessibility

Map 3 shows a 1 1/2-mile service area for each existing developed Community Park and Sports Complex (which are specialized Community Parks – see definitions). The map illustrates the relatively concentrated distribution of community parks and sports complexes within the center of the City. Residential development to the northwest, south, and east does not currently have a Community Park nearby. Because Community Parks are considered Citywide destinations, the service areas span arterial roadways and other barriers; however, providing easy pedestrian and bicycle access is strongly encouraged, and the City and County are currently working to provide trail links to Community Parks.

Parkland Level of Service

Cheyenne has a total of 18 Neighborhood Parks – 6 Neighborhood Parks and 12 Pocket Parks. The category of “neighborhood parks” mentioned in Section E, is made up of neighborhood and pocket parks. All neighborhood parks except 1 Pocket Park and 1 Neighborhood Park are fully developed. Combined, the functional park area in these developed Neighborhood and Pocket Parks total 70.19 acres, which provide a level of service of 1.2 acres for every 1,000 people within the City limits, based on a population of 57,381.



Pioneer Park ballfield

6

Community Parks also serve as the Neighborhood Park for residents that live near them, so the actual level of service for Neighborhood Parks in the city is higher than 1.2 ac./1,000 pop. Up to 10 acres of each developed Community Park can be considered as “neighborhood park” as long as these parks contain amenities that serve nearby residents. Including portions of Community Parks (10 acres each of Lions, Cahill, Holliday and North Cheyenne, and 6 acres of Pioneer Park), the level of service for Neighborhood Parkland is 2.1 acres for every 1,000 people.

In Cheyenne, there are 7 Community Parks and 5 Sports Complexes that total 563.66 acres of community parkland. Combined, the functional park area of these Community Parks total 334 acres and provide a level of service of 5.8 acres per 1,000 population based on a population of 57,381 within the City limits.

Recreational Facility Level of Service

The level of service for the major and most popular recreational facilities has been calculated and compared to other communities. Recreational level of service information is contained in the following section of this report. Table A1 shows the level of service for these facilities and the complete inventory is located in Appendix A.



Powers Field

7

Section 7. Peer Community Comparisons

Communities that are considered “peer” communities were identified by the PlanCheyenne Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), city and project staff. Peer communities were contacted to solicit information regarding the acres of parks and numbers of recreational sports facilities they provide to their residents. This database serves as a benchmark when determining the levels of service that are appropriate for Cheyenne. Communities include: Fort Collins, CO (population 126,848); Boulder, CO (population 107,340); Loveland, CO (population 50,608); Greeley, CO (population 77,000); Broomfield, CO (population 47,500); Westminster, CO (population 100,000); Casper, WY (population 49,644); Boise, ID (population 199,975); Bozeman, MT (population 29,600); and Missoula, MT (population 57,057).

Table 3 is a summary of the full Peer Community Comparison table that is located in Appendix A. The entire community comparison table lists the average number of facilities, parkland levels of service, and maintenance budgets and staffing for Cheyenne and the 10 other communities that were surveyed. The numbers that are used to equate the averages for all communities should be analyzed carefully, as the result is often skewed by one community that has a severe shortage or abundance of a particular facility or service. Only those cities that actually provide the facility being analyzed are included in the average.

The community comparison table shows how Cheyenne compares to cities similar in area and population size. The table illustrates specific facilities in which Cheyenne has a greater number or level of service, facilities in which the city provides a comparable number or level of service to those in peer communities, and facilities in which the city provides a less than average number or level of service. The summary Peer Community Comparison table is insightful in that it shows at a glimpse, the specific population level served by each facility in other sampled communities and how that compares to the level of service offered by Cheyenne. Examples of facilities examined include soccer fields, football fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and skateboard parks among others. This table also illustrates how much community and neighborhood parkland acreage Cheyenne has compared to other communities. Additionally, it gives an idea of the size of other communities maintenance staff, the number of acres maintained, and how many acres per staff

member are maintained. Lastly, it offers a glimpse into the amount of money per resident is spent on park and recreation maintenance.

Parkland Level of Service Comparison

The Community Comparisons table (Table A1) shows the average the level of service for developed parkland that the peer communities provide, as well as the parkland standard they have adopted when available. The average parkland level of service for Neighborhood Parks is 2.2 acres / 1,000 population and Community Parks is 4.3 acres / 1,000 population. Considering only Neighborhood Parks, Cheyenne offers a neighborhood parkland level of service that is lower than the average; however if portions of Community Parks that serve neighborhood park functions are considered, Cheyenne appears to be much closer to the average with 2.1 acres / 1,000 population. Cheyenne provides a much higher level of service than average for community parkland with 5.8 acres / 1,000 population.

Community Developed Parkland

Average acres per population	= 4.3/1000
Cheyenne acres per population	= 5.8/1000

Neighborhood Developed Parkland

Average acres per population	= 2.2/1000
Cheyenne acres per population	= 1.2/1000





PEER COMMUNITY COMPARISONS

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

7

Table 3. Community Comparisons of Recreational Facilities Summary

Last revised - 4 Oct 2005

List of Communities Surveyed

Fort Collins, CO	Westminster, CO
Boulder, CO	Casper, WY
Loveland, CO	Boise, ID
Greeley, CO	Bozeman, MT
Broomfield, CO	Missoula, MT

Recreational Facility	Facility or Acres per Population	
	Average of Communities Providing Facilities	City of Cheyenne, Wyoming Population: 57,381
Population per Soccer Field	4,431	4,414
Population per Football Field	23,966	NA
Population per Softball/Baseball Field	3,873	1,979
Population per Basketball Court	6,934	4,414
Population per Gymnasium	55,883	NA
Population per Tennis Court	3,998	5,216
Population per Pool	20,561	28,691
Population per Ice Rink	38,034	NA
Population per Skateboard Park	59,627	57,381
Population per In-line Hockey Rink	49,422	57,381
Community Park (including sports complexes)		
Developed	0	333.93 acres
Developed Parkland/Population	4.3 acres/1000	5.8 acres/1000
Parkland Standard	5.2 acres/1000	5.8 acres/1000
Neighborhood Park		
Developed	0	70.19 acres
Developed Parkland/Population	2.2 acres/1000	1.2 acres/1000
Adjusted Parkland/Population including portions of Community Parks		1.9 acres/1000
Parkland Standard	2.6 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000
Maintenance Staff (as parks, streetscapes and public grounds)	22 full-time, 31 part-time/seasonal, 33 FTE	26 full-time, 36 seasonal (44 FTE)
Areas Maintained (grounds and facilities maintained by Parks Department)	626 acres	693.85 acres
Annual Park Operation & Maintenance Budget (For parks, streetscapes, public grounds and facilities maintained by the Parks Department - excludes cemeteries and golf courses)	\$3,340,569	\$1,365,273
Maintenance Staff/Acres	1:19 acres	1:16 acres
Maintenance Budget Per City Acre	\$5,336 per acre	\$1,967 per acre

Recreational Facilities Level of Service Comparison

The level of service for soccer fields and skate parks in Cheyenne is similar to the average of other communities surveyed. Soccer fields are well represented in many communities, for an average of 1 field per 4,431 residents. Cheyenne is average in level of service for soccer fields, providing 1 field for every 4,414 residents. Although Cheyenne is at the average for skate parks, only 3 communities out of the 10 surveyed have a lower level of service than Cheyenne. In general, most communities are trying to increase their level of service for skate parks and do not feel that they are provided in adequate quantities yet.

The level of service in Cheyenne for baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, and in-line hockey rinks is above average. Of the 10 other communities surveyed, Cheyenne has the highest number of basketball courts per resident, at 4,414 courts per resident compared to an average of 6,934 courts per resident in peer communities. Cheyenne is ranked second highest for provision of softball/baseball fields and far exceeds many other communities in terms of the quality of the facilities it provides. Broomfield, Colorado has more fields per person, but the majority of those are fields without outfield fences or lights. Most fields in Cheyenne have fencing and lights. Although Cheyenne has one in-line hockey rink and is slightly above the average, most communities are not meeting the demand and are planning to construct additional in-line hockey rinks – often by converting unused tennis courts. Broomfield, CO has the highest level of service with 1 rink for approximately 15,000 people.



The City of Cheyenne offers no official football fields that are solely dedicated to this purpose, similar to Missoula, Montana, which only has 1. Football games in Cheyenne and Missoula are accommodated on fields that are used for other sports (e.g. baseball field outfields, soccer fields). Most other communities typically have a dedicated football field.

Cheyenne does not have a public ice rink or gymnasium. Cheyenne has a privately-owned ice rink, the Ikon Center, and uses school gyms for its recreation programs. Only 4 of the 10 cities compared currently have public ice rinks, with 3 of those 4 providing a rink for 50,000 to 60,000 people. The overall average level of service for those 4 cities is skewed by Bozeman, MT, which provides an extremely high level of service for ice rinks. Similarly, the average of public gymnasiums per residents (1:64,294) is skewed by Boise, ID, which services 199,975 residents with its single gym. A more typical level of service for gyms in communities that are well-served is 1 gym for 25,000 to 30,000 people.



	Average	Cheyenne
Population per Facility		
Soccer	4,431	4,414
Baseball	3,873	1,979
Basketball	6,934	4,414
Tennis	3,998	5,216
Pool	20,561	28,691
Skatepark	59,627	57,381

7

While Cheyenne’s level of service for tennis courts (1:5,216) is below the average of other communities, the average is skewed by a higher number of courts per population in Missoula, MT (1:1,967 residents). Additionally, Cheyenne has fewer pools per resident than average. The average for pools is also skewed due to a far lower number of pools in Boise, ID (1:49,994 residents). The majority of communities provide a level of service for tennis courts of between 3,000 and 4,000 residents per court.

Maintenance Budgets and Staffing Comparisons

Cheyenne spends approximately \$1,967 annually per acre compared to the average of \$3,547 for the other surveyed communities. While this is a considerable difference in per acre expenditure between Cheyenne and peer communities, the overall annual park and recreation budget between the communities is also quite different. The annual park operation and maintenance budget for the City of Cheyenne is \$1,365,273 while the average for peer communities is \$3,509,714. This difference is tempered somewhat by the fact that Cheyenne maintains only 693.85 acres of parkland to the average of 970 acres of peer communities. The number of maintenance staff in Cheyenne is 26 full-time and 36 seasonal, compared to 28 full-time staff and 39 seasonal for the average of other communities. Considering this, Cheyenne is able to maintain roughly 16 acres per staff member while other communities are able to maintain only about 25 acres per staff member.



Holliday Park tennis courts



Kids Recreation Camp

Section 8. Existing Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Structure

The Cheyenne Parks & Recreation Department is one of nine City Departments. It is managed by a Director and an Assistant Director who coordinate the operation of the seven Divisions that comprise the Department. Planners provide input into projects for all Divisions. The Director reports to the Mayor and City Council directly. The Department does not have a citizens board that is specifically tasked with overseeing the budget, issues, and plans for the entire Department. However, there is a Greenway Technical Review Committee, which helps direct, design, set priorities, develop budgets, and make recommendations for city council and planning commission decisions for the Greater Cheyenne Greenway program. Members of this committee act as technical resources, advocates for trails, and serve as liaisons with other groups.

The total budget for the Department is \$4,487,21 (see Table 4). Revenue sources, implementation tools and recommendations for the City and Department are discussed in the Master Plan and Implementation chapters later in this document. Each division is discussed briefly below.

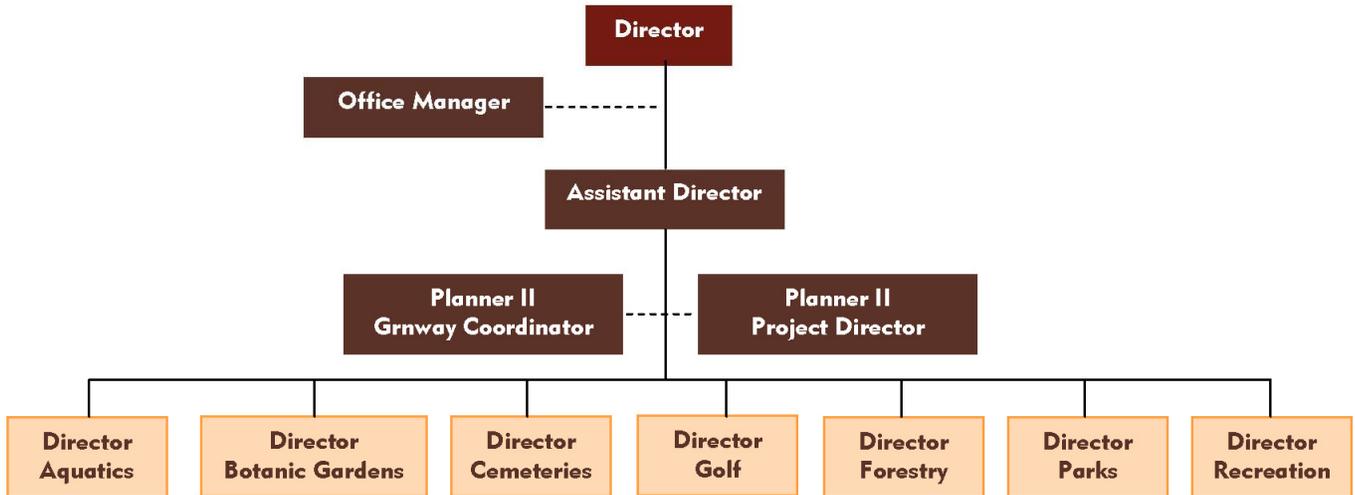
Table 4. Budget Summary

Parks and Recreation Department Budget Summary	
Division	Basic Budget
Administration	\$280,882
Aquatics Division	\$652,228
Botanic Garden	\$297,642
Cemetary Division	\$317,816
Forestry Division	\$457,943
Golf Division	\$485,403
Kiwanis Community House	\$97,616
Parks Division	\$1,267,657
Recreation Division	\$563,107
Recreation Buildings	\$67,527
Overall Annual Department Budget	\$4,487,821

Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department

Organizational Chart

January 2005



Administration Division

The **Administration Division** manages the Parks and Recreation Department as well as other Divisions. Administration also provides parks and greenway planning services. The staff includes 5 personnel: a Director, Assistant Director, Parks Planner, Greenway Coordinator, and Office Manager.



Powers Field Master Plan

The Administration Division directs larger projects such as:

- Planning and construction of Powers field
- Lion’s Park Master Plan
- Implementation of the Lion’s Park Master Plan
- Park renovations to Brimmer and Holliday Parks
- New park development in Sun Valley and Pointe parks
- Greenway Construction Management

The Greenway Trails are one of the most popular and most-used recreational features in the City. The idea for a Greenway path in Cheyenne rose from a grassroots group called the Crow Creek Greenway Committee, which formed in 1990. This committee was the driving force behind getting the project started and responsible for raising the initial funds for construction. Approximately 15.9 miles of the greenway have been constructed. Two major sections are featured in the community: one along Crow Creek and the other along Dry Creek. The trails connect residential areas, schools, parks, athletic facilities and shopping centers through trail easements, parkland, natural areas, and road

rights-of-way. A 10-foot-wide, 100% ADA compliant concrete path is the standard “greenway” in Cheyenne. The greenway is used by walkers, runners, skaters, bicyclists and wheelchair users. Today the Greenway is funded through a 5th and 6th penny sales tax and there is currently over four million dollars in the 6th penny tax available for construction of the East Cheyenne Greenway.



Lions Park Master Plan

In addition to managing projects, the department works on long-term goals and policies including:

- Land Acquisition
- Ordinance Development
- Budgeting
- Master Planning



New Park Development- Pointe Park

QUICK FACTS

- Administration assists the divisions in large projects such as SuperDay and Goblin Walk.
- The department works with other city agencies and is located in the Municipal Building.

Aquatics Division

The **Aquatics Division** operates, manages and maintains facilities for water recreation and offers recreational programs, including youth and adult swim lessons, water fitness, and lifeguard training. Pool facilities include the indoor Municipal Pool at Lions Park and the outdoor Johnson Pool at Lincoln Park. The Division oversees operations at the beach at Sloan Lake in Lions Park, including rentals of paddleboats, kayaks and canoes. The Division has 7 full-time employees and between 50 to 80 part-time employees at different times of the year. One of the Divisions greatest challenges is the high turn-over yearly for lifeguards because they are primarily high school students. This turn-over requires that each year an extensive training program be conducted to make sure that the employees are adequately equipped to guard the pools and beach.



Johnson Pool

QUICK FACTS

- In 2004 over 1,000 people participated in swim lessons.
- The most popular features of the Municipal pool are the Recreational Swim time, slide, and diving board.
- The Municipal pool hosts several events including the rubber duck derby, belly-flop and cannonball contests.



Municipal Pool

The possibility of coordinating the aquatics programs with school districts should be considered. Rec Trak, a Department-wide computer system for scheduling programs and reserving facilities, has just been installed and implemented. Three divisions are on the software: aquatics, recreation and parks. In the future, the Department would like to add golf and botanic gardens to the system.



Sloan's Lake Beach in Lion's Park

Botanic Gardens Division

The **Botanic Gardens Division** oversees the operation of Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in Lions Park and maintains flower beds across the City. The gardens exhibit a diverse collection of plants, provide opportunities for senior, at-risk-youth and handicapped volunteers, and provide educational and therapeutic outreach to the community in the form of lectures, demonstrations, and special events. The Division has 5 full-time and 3 part-time employees. The rest of the services and functions are accomplished by volunteers who contribute over 5,500 hours of service annually, and by the Parks and Forestry Divisions, which help maintain the landscapes.



Discovery Pond

The Botanic Gardens Division has been proactive in preparing a master plan and securing funding for implementation of projects through establishment of a foundation, friends of the Botanic Garden, and through private donations. Approximately 75% of the master plan prepared in 1997 has been accomplished. Remaining projects include expanding the building to include a children’s science conservatory potentially fencing the perimeter of the garden to provide exhibits and programming that could not occur in an open park setting.

Similar to other Divisions, the Botanic Gardens needs a threshold for determining when more staff and funding are needed. In a recent proposal to City leaders, the Division estimated that it could easily use an additional 5 full-time employees in the near future, funding permitting. A recent

study showed that similar-sized botanic gardens (in terms of acreage and programming) have an average of 17 full-time staff – Cheyenne Botanic Gardens currently has 5. While this comparison gives perspective, most gardens do not have the support of a parks and forestry operation that deals with a number of maintenance issues for the gardens.

In addition to operating and maintaining the Botanic Gardens, this Division and its volunteers maintain all of the annual flower beds on City properties. Although the flower beds are an important visual asset in Cheyenne, the Division cannot take on additional flower beds without receiving additional staff and equipment.



Flower Pots at Depot Square

QUICK FACTS

- More than 30,000 people visit the gardens annually from all around the world.
- The gardens host many displays and events including a Glass Art Celebration, summer concerts and educational lectures.
- The conservatory is 100% solar heated and the sun powers 50% of the entire garden’s electricity.
- The Botanic Gardens keeps plants looking beautiful despite being in the city number 1 in the nation for hail and the 4th windiest city in the lower 48 states.

Cemetery Division

The **Cemetery Division** manages and maintains the City of Cheyenne cemetery complex jointly with the City Clerk. The cemetery complex consists of 59 acres in the following city-owned and managed cemeteries: Lakeview, Beth El and the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.). The cemetery records are managed by the City Clerk’s Office, and the grounds are maintained through the division under the Parks and Recreation Department.

QUICK FACTS

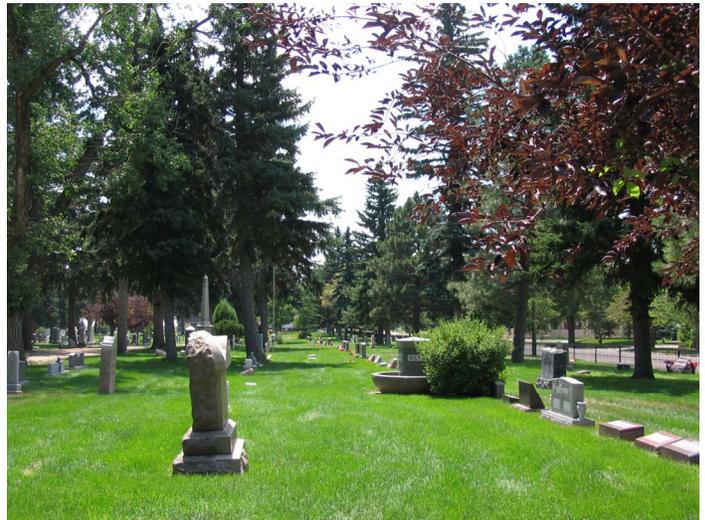
- The cemetery complex occupies 70 acres and consists of Lakeview, Beth El, Olivet, Mount Sinai, and Oddfellows cemeteries.
- A self-guided walking tour leads the public through Lakeview Cemetery highlighting the characters that lived and died to create the character of Cheyenne.
- The non-profit group Friends of the Cemeteries was established in 1989 to perpetuate the beauty of the city cemeteries.



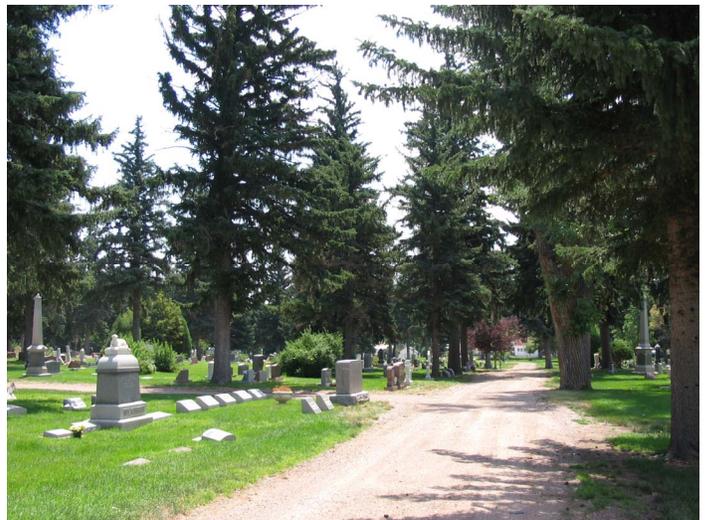
Angel Memorial- Lakeview Cemetery

In addition to these cemeteries, the Cemetery Division staff provide maintenance and record keeping for the privately owned Mount Olivet and Mount Sinai (Jewish Cemetery) cemeteries. There is no written agreement between the City and the private cemeteries for these services; however, a draft agreement is available as part of an initiative to update the City’s cemetery ordinances. Private owners do reimburse the City for direct costs associated with maintenance of the properties.

The Division has 5 full-time employees and 11 seasonal part-time employees. The Cemetery Division has identified a need for updated computer systems to include GIS software and equipment replacement schedules. The Division would also benefit from a master plan for the cemetery complex that documents remaining plots, as well as strategies for future cemetery expansion or new locations.



Lakeview Cemetery



Lakeview Cemetery

Forestry Division

The **Forestry Division** is responsible for the development and maintenance of trees, shrubs, vines, hedge, and ornamental plantings on all City properties. The Division is not responsible for planting or maintaining trees within street right-of-ways, however, the City Forester must be consulted before trimming, planting or removal in these areas. The Division is responsible for testing, licensing and regulating the work of commercial arborists and pesticide applicators within the City of Cheyenne. The Division also reviews site plans for compliance with the City’s landscape ordinance.



Holliday Park

In addition to actively maintaining trees throughout the city, Forestry staff conduct educational programs and tree walks, coordinate community service projects for troubled youth, and make individual house calls to landowners regarding specific tree health issues. The Assistant Director has developed and maintains an informational web site www.cheyennetrees.org, which has photos of diseases and harmful insects to assist residents in the identification and resolution of problems.

The Forestry Division currently has 8 staff members: a Director and Assistant Director, who manage the Division as well as spend much of their time in educational and outreach activities; a secretary; a foreman; and 4 certified arborists, each of whom has responsibility for specific areas of the City. The Division also employs 4 part-time seasonal staff.

There are over 13,000 trees along roads, in the parks, cemeteries, and golf courses to maintain. The Division does not have staff to assign to the maintenance of Greenway trees or to maintain additional right-of-way trees, and currently the Division requires more staff and/or more funding to do tree pruning and preventive maintenance. The Division currently does not have enough staff to take care of existing trees, and will likely require more staff to care for planned trees. Currently the Forestry Division needs 1-2 more full-time staff and 2 additional part-time staff.

The Division would like to take over the maintenance of right-of-way trees and transfer that responsibility away from property owners. Similar arrangements have been made in other cities such as Fort Collins and Greeley, Colorado. In cities where a forestry program is in charge of street trees, tree health improves and liability to the city is limited.

Currently the Forestry Division can require landowners to maintain their trees, but action may take up to 60 days and tree damage or dangerous conditions may occur during that time frame, exposing the City to unnecessary losses and risks. The Forestry Division has conducted an analysis that concludes that maintenance of right-of-way trees would be less expensive if done on a contract basis, rather than providing this function entirely in-house.

The Forestry Division would also like to be the agency to plant trees associated with city road improvement projects. They believe that they can plant bare-root trees in a cost-effective manner, and maintain and establish these trees in a way that would be more successful than when tree plantings occur associated with a bid from private landscape contractors.

QUICK FACTS

- Cheyenne has been named "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 23 consecutive years.
- Cheyenne is the oldest Tree City USA community in Wyoming.
- Cheyenne has received three "Growth Awards" and two "Merit Awards" from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

8

Golf Division

The **Golf Division** provides an extensive maintenance program for the two City golf courses, Airport and Kingham Prairie View. The Airport Golf Course is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary as recognized by Audubon International and the USGA. The Division has 6 full-time employees and as many as 17 seasonal part-time employees during the peak season. The Golf Division is responsible for all aspects of course maintenance and new construction for the two city-operated courses, as well as coordination with the private pro services for course use and scheduling.



Airport Golf Course

The need for another golf course is a subject of debate in the City. A recent study conducted for the Airport Golf Club states that demand for golf is steadily increasing despite declining membership numbers. The decline is due to recent and overdue membership fee increases. Opinion in Cheyenne is that additional driving ranges are needed. There are two in Cheyenne, but one (at Airport Golf Club) does not accommodate woods, and the other, at Kingham Prairie View, is only open seasonally. The Golf Division would like to provide a driving range with heated stalls and targets, which would allow for year-round practice.

The Golf Division needs recommendations as to whether the community can support another golf course, and if so, where it should be located. A study conducted by THK Associates for the Airport Authority in 2001 determined the viability of expanding Kingham Prairie View to an 18-hole course, or replacing it with an 18-hole course. The study is regarded as biased towards the expansion because the fees analysis did

not reflect annual passes, which would greatly reduce the revenue per round factor that was used in the study.

The Golf Division would like to add a public links course to its system on the Belvoir Ranch.



Airport Golf Course

The vision is to develop a sustainably-designed and operated course that is unique in the region, and which may attract golfers from a broad area and travelers along I-80 who want a more natural setting and links golfing experience. Constructing a links course costs less money than a traditional golf course because most of the topography is left in its natural state. Maintenance requirements are similarly reduced. A market feasibility study would need to be conducted to determine if the course could be self-supporting, and the course itself would need to be evaluated in the context of the overall management plan and proposed uses of the Ranch property.

QUICK FACTS

- Airport Golf course is an 18-hole course on 145 acres with 6,121 yards of play.
- Kingham Prairie View golf course is a 9-hole course on 90 acres with 3,200 yards of play.
- Both courses have private pro-shops, driving ranges, and putting and chipping greens.
- In 1998 Golf Digest ranked Cheyenne as one of the top 10 best golf cities with a population less than 250,000.

Parks Division

The **Parks Division** is responsible for maintaining 30 city parks, the Greater Cheyenne Greenway, and 28 triangular and median strips located throughout the City. Other areas of responsibility include the maintenance of 25 softball and baseball fields as well as 13 soccer fields. The Division manages the rental of four park shelters; the City of Cheyenne Kiwanis Community House, a multi-purpose community facility; the Waterbug Program (volunteers who water median areas and cemetery flower boxes); the Adopt-a-Park Program; and the Lions Park physical fitness course. The Division has 20 full-time employees and 35 part-time (summer) employees.

QUICK FACTS

- Cheyenne has over 600 acres of parkland.
- Parkland is made up of Community parks, Neighborhood parks, Pocket Parks, Sports Complexes, and Visual Green Spaces.
- The Parks division is the largest division and they rent four shelters and the Kiwanis Community House.
- Specialized features in the Parks inventory include a Climbing wall at North Cheyenne Community Park, the Clay Sturman Bike, Blade and Skateboard Facility, and Powers Field, home of American Legion Post 6 and Cheyenne Grizzlies baseball.



Kiwanis Community House

One of the largest problems facing the Division is that there is no plan or funding available to replace or upgrade facilities. There is no life-cycle replacement system or funding mechanism for replacing worn-out facilities. One specific issue is the City’s very old irrigation systems. Many are over 20 years old and past the end of their original functional life. A funding source of \$250,000 per year, increasing with inflation, is estimated by the Parks Division as necessary to replace and maintain the current systems. A plan to upgrade playgrounds and other equipment has been in place for several years and is ongoing.



Lions Park Picnic Shelters



North Cheyenne Community Park Shelter

Recreation Division

The **Recreation Division** main offices are located in the Neighborhood Facility at 610 W.7th Street. This Division provides a variety of activities to the public in the areas of instructional, classroom or physical activities, gymnastics, youth athletics, adult athletics, and special events. The Division works closely with Laramie County School District #1 for cooperative use of school facilities, and manages the maintenance and operation of the Neighborhood Facility, Pioneer Park Center, and the Activity Center, as well as the old Community House in Lions Park. The Division has 8 full-time employees and 53 part-time employees, including volunteer coaches who work seasonally.

The Recreation Division keeps abreast of trends and demands for recreation programs and facilities and believes that there are real needs for facilities to accommodate paintball, go-cart driving, motocross, BMX, mini-golf, and drop-in gym games. Additionally there is a need in the community for a multi-purpose recreation center that has a field house, indoor leisure pool, exercise equipment, and rooms for fitness, dance and other community-based programs.

QUICK FACTS

- The recreation Division offers programs such as Tennis, Hunter Safety, Judo, Gymnastics, Painting, Guitar, Dance, Flag Football, Softball, and Yoga.
- The division organizes many events throughout the year including SuperDay, Goblin Walk, Rec Camp, Pepsi Pitch hit and Run, the High Plains Junior Golf Tournament, the Tour De Prairie, the City Employee Golf Tournament, and the Youth Basketball tournament.
- Over 50,000 participants per year are organized into programs run by the Recreation division.
- The Recreation Division offers close to 150 programs and classes annually for Cheyenne and Laramie County residents.



Neighborhood Facility



Timberland Park- Rec Camp 2005



Tour De Prairie

Section 9. Potential Parks, Open Space and Trails Resources

The Cheyenne area is rich with natural and cultural resources, and public lands that should be considered when deciding where to locate parks and trails or preserve open lands. Map 4 shows the locations of the most important resources, which include: natural / cultural resource areas

- Sensitive and federally protected species
- Crucial winter range for antelope
- 100-year floodplains
- Riparian areas
- Water bodies and streams
- Slopes greater than 15%
- Mined areas
- Public lands



Open Space around Brimmer Park

Topographic, Biological and Cultural Resources

The City of Cheyenne is situated in the biogeographical region known as the short grass steppe, more commonly referred to as the short grass prairie. Before settlement trees and shrubs in the area were found only in riparian areas adjacent to the streams of the area. Dominant vegetation of this wind-swept region is comprised of a mixed-grass prairie species, including blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*), needle-and-thread grass (*Stipa comata*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) and thread-leaved sedge (*Carex fillifolia*) with some inclusions of

prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*) and yucca (*Yucca glauca*). These grasslands have historically been important wildlife habitat and hunting lands for Native Americans and for the past 150 years important ranch lands.

Large areas that contain high quality grasslands or ranchlands combined with other resources such as riparian areas, historic ranch buildings, prehistoric remnants and topographic features like steep slopes, drainages and/or water bodies have been generally outlined on Map 4 and labeled “Natural/Cultural Resource Areas.” These areas have not been platted for development and embody the best examples of ecological diversity and cultural heritage, as well high scenic values.



Dry Creek Greenway

The locations of sensitive and federally protected species are generally shown on Map 4 since their exact locations are not available or desirable to show on maps for public distribution. A variety of wildlife species can be found in Cheyenne’s natural areas, and Pronghorn Antelope rely on areas west of the city for foraging in the winter. White tail and mule deer can be seen in riparian areas along Crow Creek as well as numerous small mammal, amphibian, and reptile species. Crow Creek is also good habitat for birds that include various warbler species in wooded areas as well as numerous water birds in the open water reaches. Also, the federally threatened species Preble’s meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) has been recently documented along Crow Creek at F.E. Warren Air Force Base.

The documented 100-year floodplains through the region are shown. These areas are not generally suitable for development without major grading to modify the floodplain, and are candidate areas for open space preservation, as well as natural linear corridors that work well for locating trails.

Riparian areas are often associated with the 100-year floodplains and are shown on Map 4. The Crow Creek watershed, which begins just west of Cheyenne in the Laramie mountains, drains over 250 square miles in Laramie County before reaching Cheyenne and is dominated by riparian vegetation that includes broadleaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.), slough grass (*Beckmannia syzigachne*), American manna grass (*Glyceria grandis*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum* spp.), and dock (*Rumex* spp.). Shrubs in the riparian area are dominated by coyote willow (*Salix exigua*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*) with tree species that include peach leaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) and narrow-leaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*). Riparian areas in the Cheyenne area also support habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) and the Colorado Butterfly Plant (*Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradensis*), both of which are listed as federally threatened. Weed species, which can be found in disturbed areas as well as some riparian locations, include Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), and hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)



Cattails

Water bodies and creeks themselves function as important habitat and corridors for aquatic species. The most prominent perennial water bodies in the Cheyenne area are Crow Creek, Dry Creek, and small reservoirs southwest and southeast of the City. Significant drainages that sometimes turn into creeks for part of the year are Child Creek and Allison Draw. These water features also provide interest to the landscape and create pleasant environments for people to use and observe nature.

Slopes and Mines

Slopes that are greater than 15% are indicated on Map 4 in red and are typically associated with ridgelines. These natural areas are highly visible from other areas of the community and define the Cheyenne basin, especially the ridges south of I-80. These steep slopes are also difficult to develop and sometimes contain archeologic and paleontologic resources. Mining is occurring in a few areas along the ridges, and they will eventually be reclaimed.

Public Lands

Public lands are already preserved in some fashion for the benefit of the public. One of the largest public landholdings is F.E. Warren Air Force Base. This installation will continue to be operational for the foreseeable future as it was not identified as a realigned or closed base with the recent BRAC announcements in May 2005 by the Federal government. Much of the base is in natural condition and will remain so; however, public access is not possible without permission. Large quantities of State of Wyoming land are located throughout the Cheyenne area. Many are leased for ranching. The City of Cheyenne also owns large amounts of land. Within the city limits most of this land has been developed as parks, golf courses and cemeteries. West of F.E. Warren Air Force Base the City owns over 2,140 acres of land that is leased to the US Government for another 100 years, and which is currently being used as a grasslands research facility. However, there is a proposal to establish a public arboretum called the "High Plains Arboretum" on the site where the US Government formerly had test plots for woody horticultural plants and some of the specimens still remain. This proposal is discussed in detail in previous sections.



OPEN LANDS AND TRAILS CONSIDERATIONS

Legend

Sensitive Species Occurrence (1 Mile Radius)

- Amphibian
- Bird
- Fish
- Mammal
- Plant, Monocot
- Plant, Dicot

Federally Protected or Candidate Species

- Rare Species

Pronghorn Antelope Crucial Winter Range

WVI Wetlands

100 Year Floodplain or Floodway

Natural/Cultural Resource Area

Existing Public and Open Lands

Mine - Sand and Gravel

Steep Slopes (>15%)

Public Land Ownership

- City of Cheyenne
- Laramie County
- State of Wyoming
- Federal

Base Information

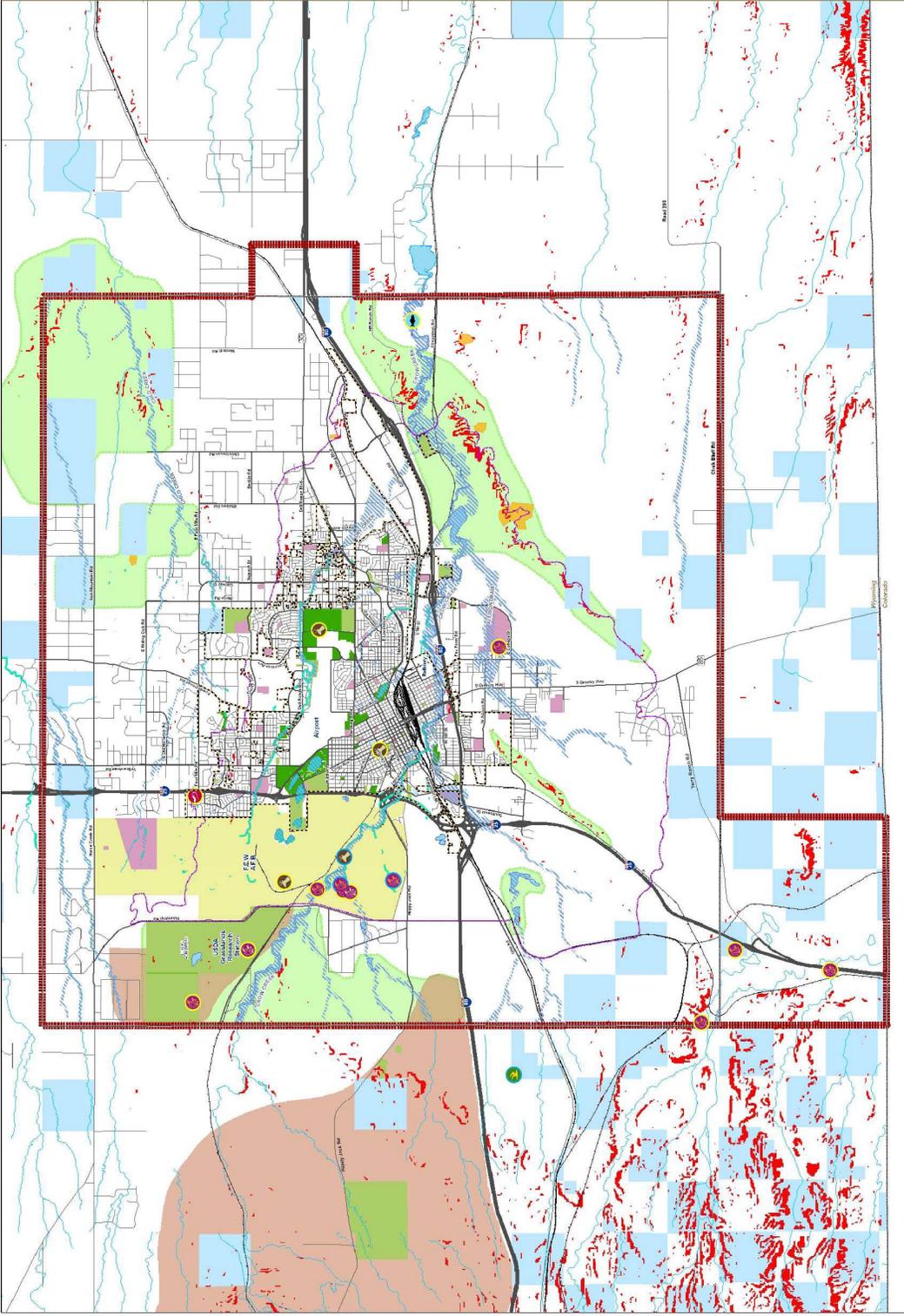
- Planning Boundary
- City Boundary
- Severable Boundary
- State Boundary
- Railroad
- Streams
- Lakes, Ponds & Rivers

0 0.5 1 2 Mi.

August 2005

Source: Information: City of Cheyenne, WY; Cheyenne Data and Visualization Center; City of WY, 2007; Wetlands: National Wetlands Inventory; Wetlands: National Wetlands Inventory; FEMA

This information has not been updated against aerial imagery. It is recommended that the user verify the accuracy of this data against field data.



MAP 4: PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS CONSIDERATIONS

Cheyenne Area Master Plan

CLARION - EDRAW - LSA - AVI

Map 4.
Parks, Open Space and Trails Considerations

Section 10. Development Regulations Summary

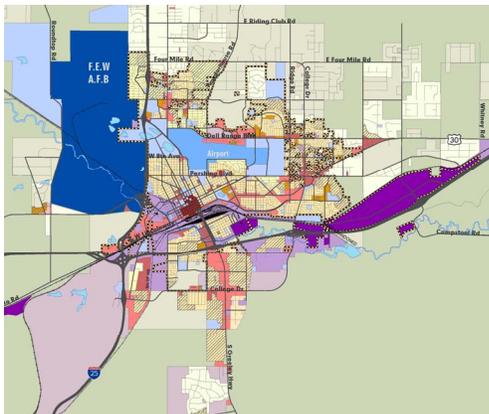
There are several current developmental regulations that pertain to the provision of parks, open lands and recreation resources. The following is an overview.

Zoning

The Cheyenne and Laramie County Zoning Ordinance (1988) is a document that guides how land uses are developed in the City and the County. This document defines open space as ‘An area not occupied by the developed use of the land, excluding streets and parking areas.’ It is further defined as:

- (a) Common. Unobstructed space controlled and maintained by property owners for their mutual benefit and enjoyment.
- (b) Usable. Open area designed and developed for the use by the occupants or others.
- (c) Undeveloped. Land left in its natural state.

The zoning ordinance does not contain specific requirements for the amount of open space (or parks) in any of the zoning districts or as a part of an overall development plan. Even in communities where zone districts specify the amount of open space required in developments, it is typically used to ensure that individual parcels contain adequate landscaped areas, and is not an adequate tool for preserving large tracts of land or individual park sites, which would need to be addressed when designing and platting the overall subdivision.



Cheyenne Zoning Map

Subdivision Regulations

The Cheyenne/Laramie County Subdivision Development Regulations (2000) do not define ‘open space’ or ‘parks.’ They do, however, require the preservation of ‘Existing features which would add value to residential development or to the local government as a whole, such as trees, water courses, historic spots, and other similar irreplaceable assets, shall be preserved in the design of the subdivision/development to the extent reasonably possible’ (Section 80.060 Preservation of Natural Features). Because the interpretation of what would “add value” and “reasonably possible” is up to the developer, this regulation is weak at best.

Beyond the above language, which is intended to preserve natural features, there are no specific land dedication requirements for parks, trails or open lands as part of the overall subdivision planning and platting process in the City, or the surrounding county areas within the Cheyenne planning area. A mandatory Community Facilities Fee is required as part of the subdivision process, which is intended to provide revenue to acquire and develop parks, and is described later.

Preservation of open lands in Laramie County is only addressed by “encouraging” cluster development, on a voluntary basis. Section 80.020 (d)(3) states that for residential developments in Low Density areas (no more than one dwelling unit per ten acres), clustered development is encouraged with perpetually dedicated open space, and shall be based on the topography of the property. Information to be provided with the Subdivision Permit may include that pertaining to an open space design option. Subdividers choosing this option must provide documentation that designated open space shall be limited to nonmotorized recreation, agriculture, resource protection, amenity or buffer purposes, and freely accessible to all residents of the development (unless agriculture). The subdivider must establish a legally-enforceable method by which open space shall be perpetuated, maintained, and administered, and must also provide calculations for allowable development density based upon the acreage of open space in the development.

Community Facility Fee

All new developments that are subdivided and platted in the City of Cheyenne and Laramie County requires the assessment of Community Facility Fees, an impact fee for development that is used, within the City, for the construction of new public parks^{5,6}. (In Laramie County, the fee can be used for either new park construction or fire district facilities and equipment).

Fees are assessed according to the following schedule:

- All lands platted and annexed to the City shall pay a fee of \$500 per acre. This can be pro-rated to the nearest one-tenth (0.10) of an acre but the minimum fee will not be less than \$250.
- An additional fee of \$750 per acre shall be assessed for non-residential (commercial) property and paid into the Neighborhood Park Property Acquisition and Infrastructure Installation Account (NPPAIIA). This can be pro-rated to the nearest one-tenth (0.10) of an acre but the minimum fee will not be less than \$250.
- An additional fee of \$150 per each living unit shall be assessed for residential property, except for hospital and nursing homes, and paid into the Neighborhood Park Property Acquisition and Infrastructure Installation Account (NPPAIIA).

Government lands, public drainage ways and roadways are exempted from this fee system. The fee cannot be used for maintenance, redevelopment, reconstruction or operations/overhead of existing public parks.

This fee has not been adequate to cover the actual cost of acquiring and developing parkland while raising expectations of residents and developers that parks will in fact be built from the funds. Also, there is no language specifying where new parks must be located relative to the population they serve, or on what types of land, so the Department has been forced to accept properties that are little more than detention ponds, or that are on steep slopes, which are frequently not suitable as developed parkland. There are other concerns that the Community Facilities Fees language

⁵2000 Cheyenne/Laramie County Subdivision Regulations, Article IV.

⁶ Ordinance 3603, Amending Article IV of the 2000 Cheyenne/Laramie Subdivision Regulations.

and formulas are being interpreted inconsistently, becoming more inflexible and disallowing funding for key park components such as parking areas and site amenities.



Pointe Park - Paid for in part by Community Facility Fees

Summary

The City of Cheyenne does not currently have adequate regulatory means to ensure that parklands and trail corridors are provided, and that important natural and cultural resources are protected in the land development process.

Section 11. Population Growth

The City of Cheyenne has been growing at a fairly stable rate of about 1% for the last several decades and currently has a population of 57,381.⁷ (US Census) Laramie County as a whole had a population of 81,607, with an estimated 68,202 living within the Cheyenne urbanized area. By 2030, the City is projected to grow at a rate of 2% and increase in size to 102,000. The greater Cheyenne area is expected to reach a population of 132,000 and Laramie County is expected to reach a population of 148,000 by the year 2030. The moderate increase in population over the next 20 years means that the City must be proactively planning for new parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of future residents in addition to the needs of existing residents.

These population estimates are slightly above average when compared to the rate of growth anticipated for similar communities along the Front Range in Colorado. For example, Fort Collins is expected to grow at approximately 1.8% by the year 2030, Colorado Springs is expected to grow at 1.4% by 2030, and Broomfield is expected to grow at 1.5% by 2030. Greeley, on the other hand, is expected to grow at approximately 3.1%.

In 2000, the average City household had 2.36 people, which is lower than the urbanized area average of 2.40 people, the County average of 2.45 people, and the state average of 2.48. Approximately 25% of the population in the Cheyenne urbanized area is under age 18, with 14% (9,804 people) age 5 to 14 – the predominant age of children who are most active in programmed recreational sports leagues. Twenty-five percent (25%) of households have children under the age of 18. Twelve percent (12%) of the total population in the Cheyenne urbanized area is age 65 or older. Twenty-five percent (25%) are age 18 to 34, and 37% are age 35 to 64.

Today, one in every six Americans, or 45 million people, is 60 years of age or older. In 30 years, more than 89 million Americans will be at least 60 years old, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Laramie County, the number of residents over 65 will increase over 160% by 2020.⁸ Programs and facilities in parks will need to adjust to meet the needs of an

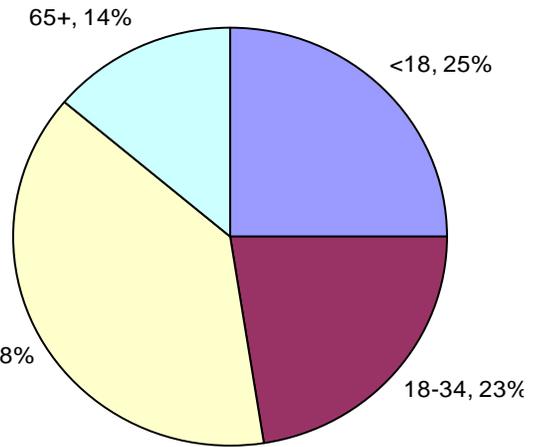


Figure 1. Age Distribution in Cheyenne, 2000
Source: U.S. Census 2000

active, yet less mobile and athletic clientele. Being physically active is key in maintaining independence and a high quality of life. It is well-documented that older adults who practice regular physical activity tend to have improved cardiovascular health, better balance, and increased joint mobility. But in general, people become less physically active as they get older; 34 percent of people over the age of 55 are sedentary.⁹ Challenging exercises and physical activities, done regularly, can help many older adults improve their health, even when done at a moderate level.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the ethnic makeup of the community is less diverse than national averages, with whites comprising 92.1% of the population. A small percentage of people (2.3%) were American Indian or Alaska Native, 6.4% were of Latino or Hispanic descent, 0.6% were Asians and 0.8% were Black or African American. Changes in diversity should be tracked over time to determine if changes in culturally-related programs or facility design based on ethnic preferences and culture should be made.

⁷ U.S. Census

⁸ Wyoming Dept. of Administration & Information, Economic Analysis Division.

⁹ National Blueprint: Increasing Physical Activity Among Adults Aged 50 and Older. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2001.

Section 12. National and State Recreational Participation Trends

Trends in the participation rates for recreational activities across the United States and in Wyoming affect what people in Cheyenne do and desire to do because people come from and visit other places, and watch and read national media. The national and state trends supplement locally generated participation data, such as the community survey that is discussed in the next section. These data provide insight into popularity trends that may mirror Cheyenne’s trends, or predict trends that may affect Cheyenne in the near future. National and state trends and information may lead to changes in the types of facilities and programs that Cheyenne should offer.

National Recreation Participation Trends

In January 2004, the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) commissioned a mail survey study by American Sports Data, Inc. to determine what sports and fitness activities American households participate in at least once per year. A total of 15,015 completed mail surveys were received, and they were balanced to reflect the latest Census demographics for age, gender, race, household income and geographic region. The weighted data was projected to the U.S. population of 260,382,000, so each respondent represents 17,341 people. The responses reflect people age six and above. The percent change indicates total change in participation numbers over the period indicated.

Table 5 shows that national recreational activity with the most participants is swimming, followed by walking, bicycling, fishing, day hiking, fitness walking, running or jogging, and basketball. Most of these are self-directed, individual activities. Many activities have seen a decline in the last 4-16 years, particularly traditional organized team sports such as volleyball, softball and baseball. In contrast, many alternative activities such as fitness walking, mountain biking, inline skating, paintball, and wall climbing have seen dramatic increases in participation.

Table 5. National Participants by Activity – All Ages

Activity	Percent Change Since 1987	2003 Participants (in Thousands)
Swimming (Recreational)	+2%	96,429 ¹
Walking (Recreational)	+10%	88,799 ¹
Bicycling (Recreational)	-2%	53,710 ¹
Fishing	-9%	52,970
Day Hiking	+6%	39,096 ¹
Fitness Walking	+40%	37,945
Running/Jogging	-3%	36,152
Basketball	-1%	35,439
Golf	+4%	27,314 ¹
Volleyball	-44%	20,286
Inline Skating	+310%	19,233 ²
Football	-4%	17,958 ³
Soccer	+15%	17,679
Tennis	-18%	17,325
Ice Skating	-9%	17,049 ¹
Softball	-25%	16,020 ¹
Horseback Riding	+9%	16,009 ¹
Fitness Swimming	-6%	15,899
Skateboarding	+1.9%	11,090
Baseball	-27%	10,885
Paintball	+66%	9,835 ¹
Artificial Wall Climbing	+20%	8,634 ¹
Archery	+17%	7,111
Mountain Biking	+359%	6,940 ¹
Bicycling (BMX)	-10%	3,365 ³
Roller Hockey	+17%	2,718 ⁴

¹ 5-year change

² 13-year change

³ 4-year change

⁴ 10-year change

Sports Participation Topline Report, 2004 Edition, American Sports Data Inc. for SGMA

The national recreational activity with the highest participation is swimming, followed by walking, bicycling, fishing, day hiking, fitness walking, running or jogging, and basketball.

12

According to a 2001 SGMA report⁷, the most popular sports for youth based on 'frequent' participation are listed below. The frequency varies for each sport and is defined by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. The frequency of participation is indicated in parentheses next to the requisite sport.

Table 6. Total National 'Frequent' Youth Sport Participation

Activity	Number of Participants ages 6-17
Basketball (52+ days/year)	11,107,000
Inline Skating (25+ days/year)	7,679,000
Swimming (52+ days/year)	7,649,000
Soccer (52+ days/year)	7,255,000
Baseball (52+ days/year)	4,751,000
Running/Jogging (100+ days/year)	3,368,000
Fishing (15+ days/year)	3,106,000
Touch Football (25+ days/year)	2,901,000
Slow-pitch Softball (25+ days/year)	2,785,000
Volleyball (27+ days/year)	2,730,000

⁷ SGMA Superstudy, conducted annually by American Sports Data, Inc. 2001

According to national statistics, basketball is the most "frequent" participation sport for youth ages 6-17.

Basketball is the sport most participated in nationally, followed by inline skating, swimming and soccer. Baseball and slow-pitch youth softball appear to have fewer participants, but when participant numbers for the sports are combined, representing the total demand for each sport by boys and girls, baseball and slow-pitch youth softball equal the number of participants in inline skating, swimming and soccer.

Many of the sports listed are team-oriented and most require courts or fields that are designed specifically for that sport. Basketball, inline skating and swimming can be enjoyed individually as well, so those sports may have more broad appeal and total participation numbers. At the time of this

⁷ SGMA Superstudy, conducted annually by American Sports Data, Inc. 2001

study, multiple-year trend data specifically related to youth sports, was not available. However, when youth sport data was compared to the other activities, inline skating proves a more recent phenomenon and one that many communities are starting to accommodate. Whether or not this activity continues to grow in popularity nationally, or if it has reached its peak remains to be seen.

State of Wyoming Recreation Participation Trends

According to the Wyoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2003-2008, the most participated in recreational activities for households statewide include:

- wildlife viewing
- driving for pleasure
- picnicking
- hiking or walking

Table 7 shows the activities that were participated in during the past year by more than 50% of all interviewed households in Wyoming.

Table 7. Most Popular Recreational Activities for Wyoming Residents

Activity	Percent of Households Participating in the Previous Year
Viewing wildlife, birds, fish, etc.	71%
Driving for pleasure on roads	66%
Picnicking and family day gatherings	66%
Hiking or walking	64%
General/other – relaxing, escaping crowds, etc.	64%
Viewing natural features (scenery, flowers, etc.)	64%
Fishing – all types	63%
Visiting historic and/or prehistoric sites/areas	54%
Fairs or festivals	50%

Most participated activities for Wyoming residents – wildlife viewing, driving for pleasure, picnicking, and hiking or walking

12

SCORP identified three major issues condensed from public input and user concerns: public access, maintenance, and development. Wyoming users want public lands to remain accessible. One issue important to citizens is that recreation opportunities and future land uses be compatible.

Maintenance is a major concern, and many users agree that maintenance should be a joint effort between the local government and the community. Routines for preventive maintenance of facilities should be established where lacking.

Development and expansion of recreation facilities is a challenge for local governments due to changing trends and public preferences. The user community should be involved in recreation planning to some degree to make it a more productive effort and more reflective of actual user desires.



Converse Park

Respondents of the SCORP were presented a series of statements and asked if they could provide the most support or least support for the statement. The statements focused on expanding outdoor recreation with contributions from federal, state, local and private entities. The following statement received the most support:

- Having recreation areas close to my home improves my quality of life.
- New or additional partnerships should be developed between the private sector and local,
- state and federal agencies to develop and maintain outdoor recreation.

- Efforts should be made to acquire additional recreation lands from individuals or other
- entities interested in selling or donating lands.
- The state should provide support and assistance to local organizations for expanding their recreation facilities.

The Wyoming Recreation plan also identified four major state-wide needs related to recreation facilities:

1. **Recreation centers** – obtain more space for recreation centers by
 - Building new facilities
 - Rehabilitating or expanding existing centers
 - Convert other space to recreation center
 - Attach recreation center space to another public facility, such as a school
2. **Aquatic facilities** – develop more leisure pools, spray parks, indoor water slides, etc.
3. **Trails and greenways** – expand, enhance or create additional trails and greenways.
4. **Expand outdoor athletic fields** – focus on soccer, baseball and football fields.

The statements of support and needs that were identified by the Wyoming Recreation plan closely parallel those identified in the Cheyenne Citizens Survey discussed in the following section. How these needs relate specifically to Cheyenne was not identified in the SCORP as it was conducted on a statewide level. However, the City of Cheyenne is already undertaking measures on a local level to meet the types of needs identified in the Wyoming SCORP. A comprehensive Cheyenne citizens community survey was conducted indicating strong public support for the construction of an indoor recreation center with aquatic facilities, additional Greenways, and the continued upgrades and maintenance of outdoor athletic fields. Various user groups around the city were also surveyed about these issues and they too showed a strong desire to see additional aquatic facilities and outdoor athletic fields added to the City's park system.

12

The City of Cheyenne will continue to proactively develop park and recreation facilities in order to meet the needs of its citizens. Although residents residing outside of Cheyenne may occasionally use the city's park and recreation facilities, it is not the city's objective to provide amenities for statewide use.



Dry Creek Parkway



Jaycee Park

Section 13. Cheyenne Citizen Surveys

Two recent surveys of Cheyenne residents provide information regarding citizens’ satisfaction, recreational habits and support for additional facilities and improvements to Parks and Recreation Department services. From these surveys there is strong community support and demand for various aspects of the Cheyenne parks and recreation system, especially the parks, greenways, Botanic Gardens, swimming pools and adult/youth recreation programs. Areas that are need of most improvement include access to adequately-sized neighborhood parks, maintenance of and improvements to existing parks, and provision of adult and youth recreation services. There is clearly a demand for an indoor, multi-purpose recreation center, but split support for actually financing it. The summaries below provide more detail on the results of the surveys.

2005 City of Cheyenne Citizen Survey

The Wyoming Center for Business and Economic Analysis, at Laramie County Community College conducted a survey of Cheyenne residents in the spring of 2005 as they have for the past 10 years. This survey is intended to determine residents’ perceptions about their overall quality of life, document the levels of satisfaction regarding city services, and identify important issues and improvement areas within Cheyenne. Regarding overall quality of life in Cheyenne, there has been little change over the past 8 years, with 84% saying it was good or very good.

Satisfaction Levels

Ratings for satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Department services varied depending upon the specific service. The Botanic Gardens received the highest satisfaction rating of any city service, with a mean rating of 83.1%. City parks, greenway and park tree maintenance were in the top 5 with ratings of 79.1%, 78.9% and 78.1% respectively. Trees in new parks, cemeteries and golf courses rated 74.3%, 70.9% and 67.8% respectively. Adult and youth recreation was rated lower, at 64.9%. These satisfaction ratings have been fairly consistent since 2000, varying only 3 to 5% in all parks and recreation-related categories.

Importance

Services related to leisure time activities were rated lower in importance than emergency services and utilities, which is consistent with past years and expected given the nature of the services. However, city parks are considered important or very important by 83.8% of the residents. Other importance ratings were: adult/youth recreation (82.6%), planting new trees in parks (79.8%), park tree maintenance (79.3%), cemeteries (78%), Botanic Gardens (77.1%), Greenway (76.8%), art in public places (74.3%) and city golf courses (67.7%).

Needed Improvements

The survey listed 19 possible improvement areas for which citizens were asked to rate their support. The highest rated areas for improvement were snow removal (80.1%), wind generation of electricity (80.0%) and “Improve existing parks” (77.5%). Other areas with higher ratings included -- city appearance/landscaping (76.0%), develop new parks (70.4%), greenway expansion (69.2%) and more open space (66.2%). Botanic Gardens expansion (63.9%) and city golf course expansion (57.5%) were 17th and 19th, respectively.

Indoor Recreation Center

A specific question was asked regarding support for an indoor recreation center. Sixty-four percent (64%) responded that they are in support of an indoor recreation center. Of those respondents, 80% said they were willing to help pay for it. This could be interpreted to mean that approximately 50% of the respondents would be willing to support a financing tool that relied heavily on the residents to construct a recreation center.

- The Botanic Gardens received the highest satisfaction score of 83.1%.
- Improving existing parks was the third highest rated area for needed improvements (77.5%).
- 64% of respondents support the construction of an indoor recreation center.

2004 Parks and Recreation Survey

The City of Cheyenne commissioned EDAW Inc. of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Left Brain Concepts, Inc. of Lakewood, Colorado to conduct a statistically-valid mail-in survey of Cheyenne residents specifically related to the Parks and Recreation Department. The objectives of the survey were to help the City better serve residents by

- understanding their satisfaction with Cheyenne’s parks,
- gathering opinions regarding the amount and quality of parks and recreational facilities, levels of participation in various recreation and athletic endeavors, and
- willingness to pay for additional facilities.

Methodology

The survey was conducted via the US Postal Service in November 2004. A total of 2000 surveys were mailed to a random sample of households in and around Cheyenne in the 82001, 82007 and 82009 zip codes. Surveys were not mailed to F.E. Warren Air Force Base. Because there are no residences in the 82002 zip code, no surveys were mailed to households in that zip code. Figure 1 shows the locations of the 3 zip codes in Cheyenne.

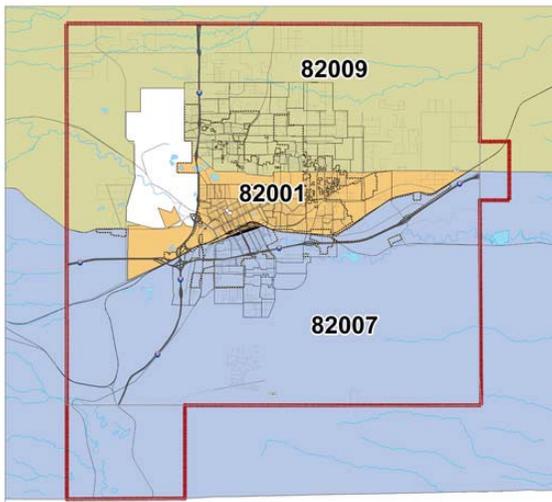


Figure 2. City Zip Code Areas

Of the 2000 respondents who received surveys, 17.5% eligible responses were returned. A total of 383 responses were received, 350 of which were from within the Cheyenne city limits. Responses from area residents who did not live within the city limits were not included. The results of this

survey have a sampling error of plus or minus 5% and are summarized in this section. The complete survey report and survey instrument are located in Appendix B.

Satisfaction

- Three-quarters of residents (72%) are satisfied with the quality of Cheyenne parks and approximately three-quarters of residents (72%) are satisfied with the level of maintenance in the City’s parks as well. Roughly one-half (52%) of residents said that parks and trails are easily accessible from their home, and about one-half (48%) indicated that they are satisfied with the quality of recreation programs.

	Percent Stating Why They Like Their Favorite Park
Walking Trails	44%
Lake, Pond, Water	31%
Lots of Activities	20%
The Botanical Gardens	19%
Large/Open Space	18%
Well Landscaped	15%
Close/Convenient	15%
Good/Safe Playground Equipment	14%
Amount/Quality of Trees	14%

Figure 3. Reason Parks are Favorites

- Lions, Holliday, and Mylar were mentioned most frequently as parks that are closest to homes. In the two areas where these parks are located (82001 and 82009, which are central and north Cheyenne) the City parks received 72% to 87% good to excellent ratings.
- Lions and Holliday Parks were citizens’ favorite parks overall, with 59% mentioning Lions and 22% stating Holliday as their favorite parks. The most common reasons why residents’ favorite parks were considered so were because they had walking trails, water features, the Botanic Garden, a wide range of activities, large open spaces, nice landscaping and trees, and good playground equipment. Being close and convenient were also key factors .
- Residents were asked to specifically rate the parks closest to their homes (as opposed to the question above, which asked why a particular park was their favorite.) The most common reasons given for a fair or

13

poor park rating include ; parks do not contain activities of interest, parks are too small in size, parks have insufficient playground equipment or parks are poorly maintained and/or landscaped.

- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Cheyenne residents visit a city park at least once a month. Only 46% of Cheyenne residents use the park nearest their home at least 1 time per month and More than half (54%) rarely or never use parks nearest their home. The reasons most frequently cited for not using parks more were: the distance from home (40%), lack of facilities/activities that were of interest (38%), rowdy behavior of other users (35%), overcrowding (29%) and poor maintenance (25%).

Popular Activities

- The most popular self-directed adult recreational activities are walking in a park (88%) or on a trail system (66%). People participate in walking frequently, 1/4 to 1/3 of respondents walk 21 or more times per year.
- Biking on a trail system, jogging, indoor swimming, golf, and weights/cardiovascular exercise are enjoyed by approximately 40% of the population on a fairly frequent basis.

Park Ratings of Fair/Poor	
Lack of activities in the park	16%
Too small	12%
Not clean / trash / broken glass	12%
No / not enough playground equipment	11%
The lake smells bad	9%
No trees / no mature trees	8%
Lacks good landscaping	7%
Teenagers / gangs hang out	7%
Not enough benches / picnic benches	7%
Bathrooms are dirty	7%
Poorly maintained	7%

Figure 4. Reason Closest Park Received Fair to Poor Rating

- Residents that gave their nearby parks good or excellent ratings did so for the same reasons they liked their favorite parks, the parks have walking trails, and wide open spaces among other things.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of all respondents said that parks are not equitably distributed throughout the City, with people in central and south Cheyenne (zip code areas 82001 and 82007) feeling much more strongly so than people in north Cheyenne (zip code area 82009).
- People in north Cheyenne (zip code area 82009) were three times more likely than those in central Cheyenne (zip code area 82001) to say that the trail system provides good connections. North Cheyenne residents also felt that overall parks and trails were more accessible from their homes compared to the other two areas of the City.

Adult Activity	Times Per Year			
	1-5	6-20	21+	Never
Walking or other general park activity	28%	25%	35%	12%
Picnic in a park	57%	15%	6%	22%
Attend community fairs / festivals	59%	11%	2%	28%
Walking or hiking on a trail system	25%	19%	24%	32%
Attend outdoor concerts / performances	47%	10%	1%	42%
Biking on a trail system	17%	11%	14%	58%
Indoor swimming	20%	11%	9%	60%
Jogging / running	15%	6%	18%	61%
Golf	16%	13%	10%	61%
Weights / cardiovascular	8%	9%	21%	62%
Fishing	20%	8%	8%	64%

Figure 5. Most Popular Adult Activities

- The most popular activities for children are the indoor swimming pool (57%), playground equipment (56%) and fishing (40%). Indoor basketball (27%) is the most popular programmed sport followed by soccer (23%), baseball (22%) and football (21%). When baseball and softball are combined, the families that use ballfields represent 37% of all families. Of the activities on the survey, children’s participation is lowest for in-line skating, skateboarding, ice hockey, tennis and in-line hockey. Although these emerging self-directed sports have gained tremendous popularity over the last few years, their overall participation rates are still less than that of more traditional sports activities. The rate of

38% of all respondents said that parks are not equitably distributed throughout the city, with people in the central/south portion of the city feeling more strongly those in the north.

participation in these activities is consistent with the national trend data generated by the SGMA 2001 survey.

	% of Families with Children Who Participate
Indoor swimming	57%
Use of playground equipment	56%
Fishing	40%
Outdoors swimming	28%
Indoor basketball	27%
Weights / cardiovascular	23%
Indoor exercise programs	23%
Jogging / running	23%
Soccer	23%
Baseball	22%
Football	21%
Ice skating	21%
Golf	19%
Gymnastics	17%
Outdoors basketball	17%
Softball	15%
Volleyball	15%
Dance classes	15%
Use of arts and crafts facilities	15%
BMX bicycling	13%
Use of climbing wall	12%
In-line skating	12%
Skateboarding	12%
Ice hockey	10%
Tennis	9%
In-line hockey	5%

Figure 6. Most Popular Children’s Activities



Greater Cheyenne Greenway

45% of all people said there are not enough natural areas within urban parks; 44% said there are not enough natural surface trails, open space areas or paved trails.

Facility Quantity and Willingness to Pay for Additional Facilities

- One-third to almost one-half of all people said there were not enough of the following facilities:
 - natural areas within urban parks (45%)
 - natural surface trails (44%)
 - natural open space areas (44%)
 - paved trails (44%)
 - outdoor performance areas (43%)
 - outdoor education / nature areas (39%)
 - public gyms (36%)

- Respondents indicating that Cheyenne is lacking facilities outnumbers those who indicated that Cheyenne has enough facilities by almost a 2 to 1 margin.
- Thirty percent (30%) of respondents said that there were not enough indoor recreational pools compared to 22% who said there were enough.
- The community showed a strong demand for more picnic facilities (33%), nearby fishing (32%) and areas for community events (32%), but these respondents did not necessary greatly outnumber those who felt there were enough of these facilities.
- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of respondents said that the City needs a centralized recreation center that provides a variety of indoor recreational activities. Forty-one percent (41%) said they are willing to pay addition taxes or fees to support such a facility and 31% said they would not.
- Fifty percent (50%) of respondents said that they would support additional taxes or fees to improve and expand the City’s parks and trails and 26% said they would not.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents said that they do not believe that parks are equitably distributed throughout the city while 41% believe that they are.

- Thirty-seven percent (37%) are not satisfied with the amount of open space in the Cheyenne area and 31% are satisfied.
- Forty-three percent (43%) said that they would support additional taxes and fees to increase the amount of protected open lands near the City and 29% said they would not.
- When asked what features would be desirable in an open space area in Cheyenne, respondents are most interested in “water bodies, including creeks, lakes and ponds” and “areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features.”



Holliday Park Lake

Facility	Percent Stating "Enough"	Percent Stating "Not Enough"
Natural areas within urban parks	21%	45%
Natural surface trails	23%	44%
Natural open space areas	23%	44%
Paved trails	28%	44%
Performance areas for event / concerts	28%	43%
Outdoor education / nature centers	18%	39%
Public gyms	18%	36%
Picnic facilities	42%	33%
Nearby fishing	25%	32%
Areas for community events	40%	32%
Indoor recreation pool	22%	30%
Outdoor recreation pool	17%	28%
Indoor lap / competitive pool	22%	27%
Dog park areas	22%	26%
Playgrounds	39%	25%
Skateboards / skate park	20%	23%
Outdoor lap / competitive pool	17%	22%
Indoor community rooms	21%	22%
Golf courses	36%	21%
Exercise equipment	26%	21%
Paintball area	12%	21%
BMX bike area	18%	20%



Fly Casting

50% of respondents said they would support additional taxes or fees to improve city parks and trails; 26% said they would not.

Figure 7. Opinions on Facility Quantity

Section 14. Recreation and Sport Program Participation and Needs

The Recreation Division, Aquatics Division and private, non-profit sports organizations provide recreational programs for people of all ages and abilities in Cheyenne. These programs, which are in demand by City residents, drive the need for constructing, operating and maintaining a host of facilities, all of which require planning and funding in order to be successful. This section documents the participation rates of the most popular, facility-intensive programs, issues that the City Recreation and Aquatics Divisions face in the operation of facilities and programs, and issues of the private organizations that use City facilities. The information in this section was obtained from interviews with City recreation staff and interviews with non-profit recreation organizations that provide activities to the citizens of Cheyenne.



Adult Volleyball

The City Recreation and Aquatics Divisions provide recreational and leisure time programs for:

- Adult softball
- Youth gymnastics
- Basketball

- Tennis
- Adult volleyball
- Youth in-line roller hockey
- Youth track special events
- Instructional and classroom activities (bowling, fitness, hunter safety, art, dance, music, chess, dog obedience, etc.)
- Swimming, water fitness and water safety

The City also provides facilities that are leased to or rented by private or non-profit recreational organizations, such as:

- Tournament organizers
- Junior League Baseball
- Cheyenne Baseball Club
- Cheyenne Girls' Softball Association
- Cheyenne Soccer Association
- Cheyenne Lacrosse Club
- Skyhawks Sports Academy
- Swim teams
- Other clubs and service organizations

Needs cited by the Recreation Division and private organizations specifically include:

- A multi-purpose, multi-generational recreation center, including gym courts, fitness equipment, community rooms, dance and aerobic rooms and family leisure pool;
- An 8-lane competition pool with spectator seating for State swim meets;
- Adequately configured girl's softball fields;
- More practice ball fields and infielding facilities to prevent damage to the game fields, which could partially be accommodated in neighborhood parks for youth if the parks were adequately sized and designed;
- An updated master plan for Pioneer Park to determine use of the undeveloped 6 acres;

- An indoor-outdoor paintball facility;
- Remodeling the old Community House;
- More drop-in activities indoor and in parks (e.g. BMX, water play, mini-golf, go-karts); and
- More indoor facilities for kids in the summer recreation camp.

One major limitation for City Recreation is the lack of gyms dedicated to complete use by the public. This issue was also cited in the Existing Parks, Recreation Lands and Facilities section.

Currently, the Recreation Division uses school facilities extensively for basketball, volleyball, dodgeball and other indoor programs. The school gyms are only available after school programs are done and are now over capacity. These factors result in programs extending later into the evenings and decreasing participation due to the late activity times.

The City would like to have direct control of indoor courts to better serve Cheyenne residents. The need for a new recreation facility with a gym containing 4-6 multi-purpose courts is noted has been expressed in the community survey.

One option presented to ease the strain on school gyms and declining participation in city programs is the expansion of the Neighborhood Facility. The expansion may be possible; however, the site is not large enough to accommodate a complete multi-purpose recreation center. A complete multi-purpose recreation center should be in a single location in order to be economical, effective, and functional..

The City recently considered the purchase of Storey Gym from the School District but declined due to potentially extensive renovation costs and concerns about operational inefficiency. † Even if the City constructs a new multiple use facility, schools will still be needed to accommodate City and non-profit organization programs.

Program Participation and Needs

To determine recreation participation rates in high-use or emerging recreation programs that require specialized facilities, data and comments from the City of Cheyenne Recreation Division were documented, along with information received from a variety of recreational user groups in the Cheyenne area. The user group surveys

included questions about the quality of facilities used, standard facility sizes, need for additional facilities and percentage of participants who are City vs. County residents. The results of these surveys represent the opinions of those interviewed and may not be reflective of other opinions in the community. Examining the results of the 2004 Parks and Recreation Survey also gives insight into the level of participation of various sports by both adults and youth in Cheyenne.

The general trend in City-sponsored recreation programs is that participation in adult sports activities is increasing, while participation in youth sports is declining. Participation by all age groups in instructional activities is steady. This is somewhat different from the national trend data. Although there has been a decline in casual pick up play of many team sports such as baseball, softball, and basketball, play on organized teams in youth leagues and high school has increased. While the SGMA study does not specifically segment participation in sports for adults, in general, participation on a national level in most activities has remained steady.

Basketball Programs



Basketball Tournament

Basketball is a popular activity for both youth and adults. The City of Cheyenne offers programs in fall, winter and spring to all ages. Adult practices and games are held at Carey Jr. High School and Johnson Jr. High School. Youth practices and games are held at Afflerbach Elementary

School, Anderson Elementary School, and Pioneer Park Elementary School. Practices are also held at Alta Visa Elementary School, Bain Elementary School, Buffalo Ridge Elementary School, Dildine Elementary School, Henderson Elementary School, Jessup Elementary School, and Davis Elementary School.

Frontier Refining, Inc. sponsors a youth basketball tournament each spring for boys grades 4-9 and girls grades 5-8. The tournament brings teams from Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Utah and Nebraska to Cheyenne for several days of

competitive basketball. Games are held at local gymnasiums throughout Cheyenne, including Laramie Community College, Storey Gym, East High School, Carey Jr. High School, Johnson Jr. High School, McCormick Jr. High School, Afflerbach Elementary School, and Pioneer Park Elementary School.

Skyhawks Sports Academy offers a youth basketball camp in summer for ages 6-14. The camp takes place at Storey Gym. Table 8 shows historic participation levels for basketball activities. According to these programs statistics, participation in the City's recreation basketball program has

Table 8. Historic Numbers of Participants in Basketball Programs

Youth Basketball, Co-Rec, Grade 2 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	90
2000	66
2001	66
2002	51
2003	71
Boys' Basketball, Gr. 3-4 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	171
2000	134
2001	144
2002	128
2003	107
Boys' Basketball, Gr. 5-6 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	129
2000	103
2001	97
2002	78
2003	88
Boys' Basketball, Gr. 5-6 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	129
2000	103
2001	97
2002	78
2003	88
Boys' Basketball, Gr. 7-9 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	129
2000	103
2001	97
2002	78
2003	88
Girls' Basketball, Gr. 3-4 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	71
2000	77
2001	82
2002	69
2003	48
Girls' Basketball, Gr. 5-6 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	61
2000	48
2001	59
2002	58
2003	82

Girls' Basketball, Gr. 7-9 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	37
2000	24
2001	18
2002	15
2003	20
Youth Basketball Tournament, Boys Gr. 4-6 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	220
2000	230
2001	350
2002	320
2003	240
2004	280
Youth Basketball Tournament, Boys Gr. 7-9 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	310
2000	320
2001	280
2002	260
2003	250
2004	230
Youth Basketball Tournament, Girls Gr. 5-8 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	270
2000	350
2001	400
2002	380
2003	420
2004	240
Adult Basketball (C)	Number of Participants
1999	320
2000	350
2001	330
2002	310
2003	330
2004	280
Skyhawks Basketball Camp (P)	Number of Participants
1999	40
2000	46
2001	0
2002	0
2003	250
2004	65

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

14

generally declined in the past 5-6 years. The reason for this decline is not clear as population has increased during this time frame. One theory is that the kids are participating more through school programs. No specific needs for basketball programs were identified by any of those organizations providing recreational basketball.

Adult and Youth Baseball Programs

Several private non-profit organizations offer youth and adult baseball programs on City fields. The Cheyenne Junior League sponsors youth coed recreational baseball. Around 500 players participate in this private program each year. The Junior League Baseball program is run solely by volunteers and is overseen by 10 to 20 Board of Directors members. The organization leases the Junior League Baseball Complex from the City; the Complex has nine fields, three for the two youngest divisions (Rookie 5-6 & AA 7-8) and six each for the two older divisions (AAA 9-10 & Majors). The fields are also used by Cheyenne Junior League All-Star teams (ages 10-12) and by Cheyenne Baseball Club competitive teams for practice. Junior league fields also host the Howard Dunbar Memorial Tournament over 4th of July weekend. The tournament draws approximately 50 teams from Wyoming and surrounding states. Cheyenne Youth Baseball, Inc. has two leagues, a coed minor league for those ages 13-15 and a coed major league for those ages 14-16. They have a lease for four fields at the Dutcher Complex. They report operating at full capacity with a waiting list. Cheyenne Baseball, Inc. operated by the American Legion has three divisions. There is a coed prep division for those ages 14-16, a coed jr. varsity division for those ages 16-18, and a coed varsity division for those ages 17-19. They utilize Powers Field as their primary field in which the American Legion contributed over \$1,000,000 to help construct. As such they have a 15 year lease for games and practices. They also the field at Pioneer Park and the Mike Lansing Field at Dutcher for backup and overflow. The Sr. Babe Ruth league is for youth ages 13 -17. Additionally, there is an adult baseball league is offered by the City of Cheyenne for adults of any age. Adults can also play in the Mexican Adult leagues.

The City of Cheyenne maintains all fields through the parks division. Any tree plantings, removals or pruning are done so by the forestry division. There were no major issues identified with the quantity or quality of baseball fields, except as mentioned by the Parks Division regarding the overuse of game fields early in the season for practices, which deteriorates field quality. When compared to the facilities of similar communities in the Rocky Mountain West, Cheyenne has an adequate number of baseball fields. Cheyenne Baseball, Inc., however, did express a need for an indoor facility to practice in the winter. Currently they rent out local warehouses for winter practice. Table 9 shows historic participation levels for baseball.

Table 9. Historic Numbers of Participants in Baseball Programs

Rookie League Junior League Baseball (P) (Coed 5-6)	Number of Participants
2005	100
AA League Junior League Baseball (P) (Coed 7-8)	Number of Participants
2003	250
2004	250
2005	150
AAA League Junior League Baseball (P) (Coed 9-10)	Number of Participants
2003	150
2004	150
2005	150
Majors League Junior League Baseball (P) (Coed 11-12)	Number of Participants
2003	140
2004	140
2005	140

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

Softball Programs

Girls’ softball is offered by the Cheyenne Girls’ Softball Association (CGSA), a private, non-profit organization. An average of 400-450 players participate in this private program each year. Currently there are 30 recreational teams as well as 5 competitive teams. Demand is increasing yearly but without more fields, more teams cannot be added. The CGSA currently shares fields at Converse and Martin Luther King parks with adult teams, however, the CGSA feels strongly that the girls of Cheyenne would benefit from a dedicated girls softball facility. Fences in current facilities are set for adult leagues and are too long for girls’ softball. Ideally CGSA would like to have 4 fields - two with 175’ fences and two with 200’ fences.

The number of games that can be played by CGSA teams is limited due to lack of available fields, and the ability to reschedule rainouts is difficult. All teams in CGSA currently play 10 games per year recreationally but would like to increase to the number of games played to 12-14.

Another issue facing the CGSA is that teams have limited spaces for practice because all allotted times on fields are taken up by games. Practices are generally held in gravel school playgrounds, open spaces in parks, and sometimes in coaches’ pastures. Wyoming schools do not offer softball or softball facilities, and grassy areas at schools have been off-limits for the last 3 years due to drought. Additionally, the teams compete for limited desirable city practice spaces with baseball and soccer programs.

Men’s, women’s and co-ed adult softball is offered by the City of Cheyenne each summer. Games and practices are held at Dunbar Field in Lion’s Park , Brimmer Softball Complex, or Converse Softball Complex. Table 10 shows historic participation levels for softball.

Table 10. Historic Numbers of Participants in Softball Programs

Cheyenne Girls’ Softball Association (P) (Girls 6-18)	Number of Participants
1999	450
2000	450
2001	425
2002	400
2003	400
2004	425
Adult Co-Rec Softball (C)	Number of Participants
2001	700
2002	660
2003	660
2004	530
Women’s Softball (C)	Number of Participants
1999	70
2001	30
2002	330
2003	290
2004	230
Men’s Softball (C)	Number of Participants
1999	140
2000	130
2001	130
2002	300
2003	270
2004	230

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)



Adult Baseball

Tennis Programs

Tennis is largely a self-directed activity which occurs on courts throughout the City. Tennis lessons for youth and adults are offered by the City year-round and take place at courts at East High School or indoors at Frontier Park Tennis Center during fall/winter/spring. The lack of tennis courts in the north and northwest portion of the City is a concern for Tennis provision.

Table 11 shows historic participation levels for tennis activities. Interest in tennis lessons seems to have declined somewhat in the past few years and overall, the number of facilities appears to be currently adequate. However, by the year 2030, there may be a need for additional tennis facilities to meet the growing population.

Table 11. Historic Numbers of Participants in Tennis Programs

Junior Beginning Tennis (C)	Number of Participants
1999	8
2000	7
2001	79
2002	29
2003	8
2004	9
Junior Intermediate Tennis (C)	Number of Participants
2001	14
2002	15
2003	8
2004	15
Junior Tennis, All Levels (C)	Number of Participants
1999	20
2000	12
2001	60
2002	34
2003	50
2004	22
Junior Tennis Camp (C)	Number of Participants
2001	22
Adult Beginning Tennis (C)	Number of Participants
1999	71
2000	68
2001	47
2002	2
2003	6
2004	9
Adult Intermediate Tennis (C)	Number of Participants
1999	21
2000	58
2001	54
2002	20
2003	15

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

Volleyball Programs

Men's, women's and co-ed adult volleyball is offered by the City of Cheyenne in fall, winter and spring. Games and practices are held at Laramie County Community College, Carey Jr. High School, McCormick Jr. High School, and Dildine Elementary School. No specific needs were identified by the Recreation division for volleyball. Table 12 shows historic participation levels for volleyball.

Table 12. Historic Numbers of Participants in Volleyball Programs

Adult Co-Rec Volleyball (C)	Number of Participants
2001	470
2002	450
2003	470
2004	460
Women's Volleyball (C)	Number of Participants
1999	380
2000	320
2001	270
2002	320
2003	370
2004	320
Men's Volleyball (C)	Number of Participants
2000	160
2001	130
2002	130
2003	150
2004	80

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)



Adult Co-Rec Volleyball

Soccer Programs

The Cheyenne Soccer Association (CSA) offers an extensive soccer program for youth and adults in the Fall and Spring using fields in City parks. Practices are held at fields throughout Cheyenne, although scheduling of practice fields is often difficult. Games are played at Cahill Park and North Cheyenne Community Park. According to CSA all fields are irrigated and in very good condition. CSA also offers the TOPS program in the summer at Alta Vista Elementary School, which is soccer for disabled youth ages 5-19.

Skyhawks Sports Academy offers a private soccer camp for youth ages 8-15 in the summer. The camp is held at Cahill Park soccer fields. Table 13 shows historic participation levels for soccer programs. It has been indicated by both soccer organizations that finding practice space is becoming increasingly difficult and that the addition of more fields would be beneficial.

Table 13. Historic Numbers of Participants in Soccer Programs

Cheyenne Soccer Association Youth Soccer U6-U19 (P)	Number of Participants
2000	1,300
2001	1,200
2002	1,100
2003	1,200
2004	1,300
Cheyenne Soccer Association TOPS Soccer Ages 5-19 (P)	Number of Participants
2000	15-20 per year
2001	15-20 per year
2002	15-20 per year
2003	15-20 per year
2004	15-20 per year
Cheyenne Soccer Association Adult Soccer Over 18 (P)	Number of Participants
2004	88
Skyhawks Soccer Camp (P)	Number of Participants
1999	51
2000	45
2001	47
2002	44
2003	43
2004	41

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

Football Programs

The City of Cheyenne offers adult flag football for people ages 18 and over. Practices and games for adult leagues are held at Converse fields. Table 14 shows historic participation levels for the City of Cheyenne programmed football programs. They YMCA also offers youth football programs. They offer a flag football “everybody plays, everybody wins” program where score is not kept for ages 2 ½ to 12. Approximately 350 kids participate in this program for six weeks beginning in September. The cost is \$20 for members and \$35 for non-members. The YMCA also offers a tackle football program for youth, ages 9 to 12 and there are approximately 200 participants in this program. The season lasts eight weeks in the fall. The cost for the tackle program is \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members and they play other teams from outside the Cheyenne area. The YMCA provides all equipment for both programs except for shoes and personal clothes and requests that no junior high school students participate as they have options to participate in football programs through the school system.

Table 14. Historic Numbers of Participants in Football Programs

Adult Flag Football (C)	Number of Participants
2002	156
2003	180
2004	144

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

Skating Programs

The City of Cheyenne does not offer ice skating, however the IKON Ice and Events Center, a private entity, does offer lessons for youth and adults. Table 15 shows historic levels of participation in IKON skating programs.

Table 15. Historic Numbers of Participants in Skating Programs

Ice Skating Lessons (P)	Number of Participants
2000	65
Roller and Inline Skating Lessons (C)	Number of Participants
1999	4
2000	9
2001	11
2002	12
2003	0
2004	2

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)



Brimmer Skate Park

Lacrosse Programs

The Cheyenne Lacrosse Club is a relatively new, all-volunteer organization that offers competitive lacrosse for about 100 participants per year for coed grades 5-8 and boys grades 9-12. The Club is having difficulty finding available City fields for practices and games. Some games and practices have been scheduled at Brimmer Park. Demand is increasing yearly, which is a trend nationally. Table 16 shows historic participation levels for lacrosse programs.

Table 16. Historic Numbers of Participants in Lacrosse Programs

Cheyenne Lacrosse Club (P) Coed Grades 5-8, Boys Grades 10-12	Number of Participants
2003	100

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

Roller Hockey Programs

The City of Cheyenne offers a coed youth roller hockey league for ages 6-12 at Pinnacle Bank Roller Hockey Pad at Pioneer Park. Overall there is a national trend of increasing participation in this activity. However, Cheyenne currently has one available facility and no need for additional space was identified by the Recreation division as interest has been extremely low and the division has been unable to program the pad for 2004 or 2005. Table 17 shows historic participation levels for roller hockey programs.

Table 17. Historic Numbers of Participants in Roller Hockey Programs

Roller Hockey League, Ages 6-9 (C)	Number of Participants
1999	56
2000	52
2001	41
2002	27
2003	29

(C = City-sponsored, P = Privately sponsored)

Gymnastics Programs

The gymnastics program in Cheyenne is popular, averaging over 1300 participants per year in the entire program. The program teaches children a range of skills from basic fundamentals to advanced skills on Olympic Gymnastic apparatus. The neighborhood facility is fully equipped for all levels of gymnastics and children ages 2 to 18 participate in over 21 classes at the facility. A new addition to the gymnastics program is a co-ed competitive team structured to meet the goals of USA Gymnastics. One challenge to the Cheyenne Gymnastics program is staffing. There is a general shortage of qualified gymnastics instructors in Wyoming due to the fact that neither high school nor college-level gymnastics are offered within the state. The closest college gymnastics program is in Nebraska.

Table 18. Gymnastics Programs

Class	Boys 1	Boys 2	Cheer 1	Gym 1	Gym 2	Gym 3	Gym 3/4	Home School	Parent Tot	Preschool 1	Preschool 2	Total
2004 Number of Participants	49	11	67	310	58	38	49	32	297	360	169	1440
2003 Number of Participants	75	21	0	300	109	51	38	112	226	401	59	1392
2002 Number of Participants	24	0	0	222	103	31	68	0	128	162	0	738
2001 Number of Participants	0	0	0	383	207	103	155	0	160	255	0	1263
2000 Number of Participants	0	0	0	561	315	170	259	0	215	307	0	1827
Averages	29.6	6.4	13.4	355.2	158.4	78.6	113.8	28.8	205.2	297	45.6	1332

Aquatics Programs

Swimming in general is a popular activity for residents in Cheyenne, with more than ½ of children and 40% of adults participating in indoor swimming. Swimming programs popular with Cheyenne residents include swimming lessons for youth and adults. Swimming programs are offered year-round at the Municipal Pool. A swimming lesson program is also offered for children in day care at the Johnson Pool during the summer. Table 19 shows historic participation levels for swimming-related activities.

Table 19. Historic Numbers of Participants in Aquatics Programs

Swimming Lessons, Youth and Adult (C)	Number of Participants
2003	1,586
2004	1,094
Youth Swim Team (C)	Number of Participants
2003	207
2004	134
Water Exercise Classes (C)	Number of Participants
2003	1,261
2004	754
Recreational Swim (C)	Number of Participants
2000	27,181
2001	25,457
2002	40,329
2003	54,379
Lap Swim (C)	Number of Participants
2000	13,147
2001	12,671
2002	13,785
2003	14,586

There is a swim team associated with each of the four private pools in the city, F.E. Warren Aquatic Center, Buffalo Ridge, Cole and the Cheyenne Country Club. The YMCA, and the Municipal Pool also have swim teams in both the school year as well as the summer, and the Johnson Pool hosts a small swim team in the summer as well.

Other agencies also use City pools and lakes for their events and training exercises. Sloan’s Lake is used by both the City of Cheyenne Fire Department and Laramie County Search and Rescue to practice ice and underwater search and rescue operations. The Boy Scouts, YMCA, and Central High School PE department have used the lake for canoe skills and safety instruction.



Sloan’s Lake Beach

The YMCA and Boys and Girls Club use both the Municipal Pool and Johnson Pool for a variety of events. Municipal Pool has been used by the Army and Air National Guards for physical and water safety training. Laramie County School District #1 and #2 occasionally use Municipal Pool for group swims, and one private school in Cheyenne uses it for lessons. Home school groups also schedule the pool once per month for private swim time. Finally, the Youth Alternatives program of Cheyenne brings in youth that have court-ordered community service to clean the Municipal Pool facility.



Municipal Pool

14

One concept presented by participants and residents interested in swimming is that a competitive indoor swimming pool is needed in Cheyenne. Competitive swimming does not usually occur at the Municipal pool due to the lack of seating and the limited pool space. Currently the only facility that is suitable for competitive swimming indoors and State or regional swim meets is in Gillette, Wyoming. Most swimmers feel a great competitive swimming venue would not only highlight Cheyenne as the capitol city of Wyoming, but bring economic benefits to the City as well. Other needs for the pool were identified in the pool expansion project mentioned previously and include reconfiguring restrooms, improving access, adding a therapy pool, adding a multi purpose room, and adding a family locker room among others.



Johnson Pool

Section 15. Summary of Issues and Needs

Cheyenne has growing parks and recreation system that is strongly supported within the community; however, the system is in need of updates, repairs and additions especially as the city grows in population and area.

Community Parks

- Lions Park represents the type of park that people like the most, with a variety of activities, numerous amenities, water features and abundant landscaping.
- Cheyenne has more community parkland and sports complexes than many other communities, as well as a variety of specific sports facilities within those complexes. The continued maintenance and upgrading of these facilities is critical to meeting the expectations of city residents.
- Additional community parks will need to be developed in coming years to continue to provide a similar level of service to the growing population in and around Cheyenne.

Neighborhood Parks

In contrast to the provision of Community parks in Cheyenne:

- Many people in Cheyenne do not feel that they have adequate access to neighborhood parks
- Cheyenne offers less neighborhood parkland than many other peer communities.
- The central and southern areas of the city are particularly underserved by neighborhood parks.
- The quality of parks and maintenance level are not satisfactory to ¼ of city residents.(Parks and Recreation Community Survey, 2004)
- Neighborhood parks are needed now and in the future as residential areas develop.
- Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible, adequately sized to contain multi-purpose lawn areas for

youth practices and a variety of amenities, and should contain well-maintained landscapes and facilities.

Trails and Open Space

- Adults participate most frequently in self-directed activities such as walking in parks and on the trails/greenway system, jogging, attending concerts and festivals, picnicking and swimming.
- A significant number of residents want more trails, natural open space areas, performance areas in parks, nature centers and gymnasiums.
- Citizens at public meetings have expressed support for preserving open space around the community.

Youth Activities

- Children participate most frequently in self-directed activities including swimming, fishing and using playground equipment
- Children participate more than adults in programmed sports.
- The most popular children's team sport is baseball/softball, followed by basketball, soccer and football.



Youth Dance Program

SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND NEEDS

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *SNAPSHOT*

15

Recreation and Aquatic Programming

- The Recreation Division needs more indoor facilities, especially gyms, to expand its programs and maintain a satisfactory level of service for the residents of Cheyenne.
- Adult and youth recreation services were identified as an area of city services that need improvement.
- Most sports groups are well served by facilities, with the exception of girls' softball, and programs that rely on school gymnasiums. No aquatic programs are served by school facilities.
- A multi-purpose recreation center with sports courts, teen activities, fitness equipment and rooms, and aquatics facilities is favored by approximately 1/2 of city residents. A multi-purpose recreation center would provide for many of the stated needs in the community.

- The City is currently undertaking a feasibility study to define the possible design and operations program, and capital and operations costs for a recreation center.
- The future of the existing Municipal Pool, Johnson Pool and Sloan's Lake Beach at Lions Park are all dependent upon the character and extent of a future new aquatics facility within the center.
- The cost and economic benefit of a competitive lap pool that is sized for state swim meets should also be included in the analysis.

Cheyenne Level of Service-Recreation

Table 19 shows the potential magnitude of needs for specific recreational facilities if Cheyenne were to provide a level of service that is similar to the averages being provided in other communities.

The specific facilities to be included in a recreation center are undetermined at this time.

Table 20. Plan Cheyenne - Facility and Parkland Needs

28-Jun-05

FACILITIES						
Recreational Facility	Level of Service (Average Population per Facility)	Current # of Facilities	# of Facilities Currently Needed in 2005 <i>pop. 57,381</i>	Current Deficit	# of Facilities Needed in 2030 <i>pop. 102,000</i>	2030 Deficit
Soccer Fields	4,400	13	0	0	23	<10>
Football Fields	24,000	0	2	<2>	4	<4>
Softball/Baseball Fields	3,900	29	15	0	26	0
Outdoor Basketball Courts	6,900	13	8	0	15	<2>
Full Size Gymnasium	56,000	0	1	<1>	2	<2>
Tennis Courts	4,000	11	14	<3>	26	<15>
Swimming Pools	20,600	2	3	<1>	5	<3>
Ice Rink	38,000	0	1	<1>	3	<3>
Skateboard Parks	59,600	1	1	0	2	<1>
Inline Hockey Rink	49,400	1	1	0	2	<1>

PARKLAND									
Parks	Level of Service (Average Developed Acres Parkland per 1000 People)	Current # Developed Acres Parkland per 1000 People	Current Developed Parkland in 2005 (Acres) <i>pop. 57,381</i>	Current Developed Parkland Needed in 2005 (Acres)	Current Parkland Deficit in 2005 (Acres)	# Parks Needed in 2005	Developed Parkland Needed in 2030 (Acres) <i>pop. 102,000</i>	Parkland Deficit in 2030 (Acres)	# Parks Needed in 2030
Community Parks (including sports complexes)	5	5.6	334	287	0	0	510	<176>	2-3
				(5 acres/ 1,000)			(5 acres/ 1,000)		
Neighborhood	2.5	1.9*	110*	143	<33*>	3-5 [#]	255	<145*>	12-18 [#]
				(2.5 acres/ 1000)			(2.5 acres/ 1000)		

* Includes 10 acres each of Lions, Holiday, and North Cheyenne Parks, 2 acres of Pioneer Park and 8 acres of Cahill Park that serve Neighborhood Park needs, for an adjusted total acreage of 110 acres. 70 acres of this total are specifically neighborhood parks.

[#] including portions of future Community Parks that serve neighborhood needs.

- Currently, the City needs 2 football fields, 1 gym, 3 tennis courts, 1 swimming pool and 1 public ice rink.

Cheyenne Level of Service-Parks

No additional community parkland is needed to meet a standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents as the City currently has a standard higher than this.

- An additional 33 acres of neighborhood parkland needs to be developed to reach a standard of 2 acres per 1,000 residents.
- 2 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1000 residents translates into 3 to 5 new parks to serve existing residents.
- This need is supported by the survey results and the neighborhood park distribution analysis. Neighborhood park distribution illustrates current residential areas that do not have access to neighborhood parks.
- As the City grows, additional facilities and parkland will be needed to keep pace.
- By the year 2030, when the City population is estimated to be 102,000, as many as 12 to 18 new neighborhood parks will be needed and 2 to 3 new community parks will be necessary in Cheyenne.

Cheyenne Level of Service-Cemetery

- The city cemeteries are becoming full enough to consider construction of columbariums and a potential future new cemetery site.

Cheyenne Level of Service-Golf

- Golf courses appear to be in adequate supply and in good condition.
- The residents are fond of the existing courses and most feel that the types of courses available (easy to challenging) are appropriate.
- In the future, the city may consider adding a different type of golf course, such as a "links" course, if during the development of the master plan for the Belvoir Ranch, it is determined to be a desirable and appropriate use.



High Plains Junior Golf Tournament at Airport Golf Course

Cheyenne Level of Service-Botanic Gardens

- The Botanic Gardens is highly valued by city residents and has a well-developed master plan vision for the future.
- The Gardens' biggest limitation today is having enough staff to manage all of the existing and potential volunteers that staff and maintain the facility and the flower beds throughout the city.

Cheyenne Level of Service-Forestry

- The Forestry Division is at a point in its evolution where the city needs to decide if it should take on the responsibility for maintaining all right-of-way trees in the city, like many other communities of similar size.
- Maintaining right-of-way trees would require an increase in staffing.

Finance and Budgets

- Parks and Recreation Department budgets and revenues from development fees are not adequate to fund the construction of parkland to desired standards without special tax initiatives and increases to development fees.
- Citizens have expressed concern that developers are not required to provide adequate parkland and funding to meet the needs of the people who are moving into new residential developments.
- Increasing the maintenance quality of parks will mean increasing staffing and funding above existing levels.
- Adding facilities, parklands, trails, greenways and open space to the system will require commensurate increases in staffing and funding



Frontier Park



PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN SNAPSHOT

Appendices

Appendix A Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreational Facilities

Appendix B City of Cheyenne Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Survey

APPENDIX A

Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreation Facilities

Table A1. Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreational Facilities

DRAFT

Last revised - 04 October 2005

Recreational Facility	Facility, Acres or Miles per Population											
	City of Fort Collins, Colorado	City of Boulder, Colorado	City of Loveland, Colorado	City of Greeley, Colorado	City of Broomfield, Colorado	City of Westminster, Colorado	City of Casper, Wyoming	City of Boise, Idaho	City of Bozeman, Montana	City of Missoula, Montana	Average of Communities Providing Facilities	City of Cheyenne, Wyoming
	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:		Population:
	126,848	107,340	50,608	77,000	47,500	100,000	49,644	199,975	29,600	57,057		57,381
Soccer Fields												
Size undetermined	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
50 yds X 80 yds or less	19	3	0	0	12	9	0	0	7	4		5
65 yds X 100 yds or greater	16	11	0	0	7	6	11	44	6	5		8
Total	35	14	29	0	19	15	11	44	13	9		13
Population per Soccer Field	3,624	7,667	1,745	NA	2,500	6,667	4,513	4,545	2,277	6,340	4,431	4,414
Football Fields												
150 ft X 240 ft or less	11	0	0	5	1	0	2	0	2	BB/SB outfields used (6)		0
160 ft X 360 ft or more	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	9	0	1		0
Total	11	0	0	5	5	0	2	9	2	1		0
Population per Football Field	11,532	NA	NA	15,400	9,500	NA	24,822	22,219	14,800	57,057	23,966	NA
Softball/Baseball Fields												
Size undetermined	0	0	10	0	0		0	0	0	0		0
Field without fence & w/o lights	20	7	0	0	16		0	0	2	0		0
Backstop only & turf infield	0	public schools only	7	10	0		0	0	2	0		3
150-199 ft w/lights	0	0	0	0	0		4	0	0	0		0
200-249 ft centerfield w/lights	0	3	3	0	2		2	0	0	0		1
200-249 ft centerfield w/o lights	0	5	0	0	2		0	23	0	12		10
250-299 ft centerfield w/lights	0	7	2	5	1		5	0	5	0		8
250-299 ft centerfield w/o lights	19	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	8		0
300-359 ft centerfield w/lights	9	1	0	1	5		6	0	0	2		2
300-359 ft centerfield w/o lights	0	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	0		3
360 ft centerfield or larger w/lights	3	0	0	1	0		0	6	0	0		2
360 ft centerfield or larger w/o lights	0	0	0	0	0		0	3	0	0		0
Total	51	23	22	17	26	15	17	33	9	22		29
Population per Softball/Baseball Field	2,487	4,667	2,300	4,529	1,827	6,667	2,920	6060	3,289	2,594	3,873	1,979
Outdoor Basketball Courts												
Full-size w/lights	3	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0		2
Full-size w/o lights	18	12	3	9	0	15	1	26	0	6		11
Half-size w/lights	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		0
Half-size w/o lights	0	0	0	0	9	1	2	1	6	6		0
Total	21	12	6	11	10	16	5	27	6	12		13
Population per Basketball Court	6,040	8,945	8,435	7,000	4,750	6,250	9,929	7,406	4,933	4,755	6,934	4,414

Table A1. Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreational Facilities
DRAFT

Last revised - 04 October 2005

	Facility, Acres or Miles per Population											
	City of Fort Collins, Colorado	City of Boulder, Colorado	City of Loveland, Colorado	City of Greeley, Colorado	City of Broomfield, Colorado	City of Westminster, Colorado	City of Casper, Wyoming	City of Boise, Idaho	City of Bozeman, Montana	City of Missoula, Montana	Average of Communities Providing Facilities	City of Cheyenne, Wyoming
Recreational Facility	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:		Population:
	126,848	107,340	50,608	77,000	47,500	100,000	49,644	199,975	29,600	57,057		57,381
Gymnasiums												
Full-size City gyms	2	3	2	3	2	data unavailable	2	1	0	0		0
Total	2	3	2	3	2		2	1	0	0		
Population per Gymnasium	63,424	35,780	25,304	25,667	23,750	NA	24,822	199,975	NA	NA	55,883	NA
Tennis Courts												
With lights	25	4	18	12	4	10	14	0	0	3		5
Without lights	16	32	3	6	8	3	0	62	5	26		6
Total	41	36	21	18	12	13	14	62	5	29		11
Population per Tennis Court	3,094	2,982	2,410	4,278	3,958	7,692	3,546	3,225	5,920	1,967	3,998	5,216
Swimming Pools												
25-m or yd (indoor)	2	data unavailable	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
25-m or yd (outdoor)	0	data unavailable	1	2	0	0	5	3	1	1		1
50-m or yd (indoor)	1	data unavailable	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		0
50-m or yd (outdoor)	0	data unavailable	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		0
Aquatic center/leisure pool (indoor)	0	data unavailable	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0		0
Aquatic center/leisure pool (outdoor)	1	data unavailable	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	6 tiny wading or spray pools		0
Total	4		3	8	3	0	6	4	2	2		2
Population per Pool	31,712	NA	16,869	9,625	15,833	NA	8,274	49,994	14,800	28,529	20,561	28,691
Total Number of Ice Rinks	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1		0
Population per Ice Rink	63,424	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	49,644	NA	7,400	57,057	38,034	NA
Total Number of Skateboard Parks	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	0		1
Population per Skateboard Park	42,283	107,340	50,608	25,667	47,500	100,000	49,644	66,658 33333	29,600	NA	59,627	57,381
Inline Hockey Rinks												
165 ft X 80 ft (outdoor)	1	2	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0		1
Population per In-line Hockey Rink	126,848	53,670	50,608	77,000	15,833	50,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	49,422	57,381
Community Park (including sports complexes)												
Developed Parkland	308.2 acres	173 acres	147.7 acres	390 acres	125 acres		272.82 acres	975.2 acres	225 acres	225 acres		333.93 acres
Developed Park/Population	2.4 acres/1000	1.6 acres/1000	2.9 acres/1000	3.4 acres/1000	2.6 acres/1000		5.4 acres/1000	4.9 acres/1000	7.6 acres/1000	3.9 acres/1000	4.3 acres/1000	5.8 acres/1000
Parkland Standard	5.5 acres/1000	1.5 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000	5 acres/1000	5 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000		4.7 acres/1000		10 acres/1000	5.2 acres/1000	5.8 acres/1000
Neighborhood Park												
Developed Parkland	315.73 acres	325 acres	114.6 acres	197 acres	186 acres		73.47 acres	197.25 acres	NA	115 acres		70.19 acres
Developed Park/Population	2.5 acres/1000	3 acres/1000	2.3 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000	3.95 acres/1000		1.48 acres/1000	1.0 acres/1000		2.0 acres/1000	2.2 acres/1000	1.2 acres/1000
Adjusted Park/Population including portions of Community Parks (40 acres)										1.25 - 2.5 acres/1000		1.9 acres/1000
Parkland Standard	2.5 acres/1000	1.5 acres/1000	5 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000	4 acres/1000	2.8 acres/1000		1.5 acres/1000			2.6 acres/1000	2.5 acres/1000

Table A1. Comparative Level of Service Between Communities for Recreational Facilities

DRAFT

Last revised - 04 October 2005

	Facility, Acres or Miles per Population											
	City of Fort Collins, Colorado	City of Boulder, Colorado	City of Loveland, Colorado	City of Greeley, Colorado	City of Broomfield, Colorado	City of Westminster, Colorado	City of Casper, Wyoming	City of Boise, Idaho	City of Bozeman, Montana	City of Missoula, Montana	Average of Communities Providing Facilities*	City of Cheyenne, Wyoming
	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population:	Population	Population	Population:		Population:	Population:		Population:
Recreational Facility	126,848	107,340	50,608	77,000	47,500	100,000	49,644	199,975	29,600	57,057		57,381
Maintenance Staff (as parks, streetscapes and public grounds)	33 full-time, 34 part-time (50 FTE)	4 full-time & 13 part-time (ballfields only) (10 FTE)	N/A	52 full-time seasonal (26 FTE)	32 full-time, 60 seasonal (62 FTE)	21 full-time, 50 part-time (46 FTE)	22 full-time, 40 seasonal (42 FTE)	86 full-time	6 full-time, 15 seasonal (13 FTE)	8 full-time, 45 seasonal (30 FTE)	22.2 full-time, 31 part-time/seasonal, 33.8 FTE	26 full-time, 36 seasonal (44 FTE)
Areas Maintained (grounds and facilities maintained by Parks Department)	736.3 acres	498 acres	262 acres	958 acres	757 acres	500 acres	2,780 acres ¹	1,426 acres	425 acres	510 acres	626 acres	693.85
Annual Park Operation & Maintenance Budget (for parks, streetscapes, public grounds and facilities maintained by the Parks Department - excludes cemeteries and golf courses)	\$4,874,841	\$3,611,996	N/A	\$4,956,985	\$4,538,548	\$3,200,000	\$2,066,089	\$6,866,581	\$1,001,619	\$1,200,000	\$3,340,569	\$1,365,273
Maintenance Staff/Acres	1:15 acres	1:50	N/A	1:37 acres	1:12 acres	1:11 acres	1:66 acres	1:17 acres	1:33 acres	1:17 acres	1:19 acres	1:16 acres
Maintenance Budget Per City Resident	\$6,623 per acre	\$7,253 per acre	N/A	\$5,174 per acre	\$5,995 per acre	\$6,400 per acre	\$743 per acre	\$4,815 per acre	\$2,357 per acre	\$2,353 per acre	\$5,336 per acre	\$1,967 per acre

¹ Number to be verified by City of Casper

*Casper, Wy and Boise, ID removed from average due to unverified outlying numbers skewing results. Loveland removed due to lack of data.

APPENDIX B

City of Cheyenne Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Survey

CITY OF CHEYENNE

PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS SURVEY

Prepared by:

Left Brain Concepts, Inc.
Lakewood, Colorado

In association with:

EDAW
Fort Collins, Colorado

December 2004

BACKGROUND

The City of Cheyenne commissioned a survey of Cheyenne residents as part of an update of its Parks & Recreation master plan. The objective of the survey was to help the City better serve residents by understanding their satisfaction with Cheyenne's parks, their preferences regarding land usage and their level of participation in various recreation and athletic endeavors.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted via US Postal Service in November 2004. A total of 2000 surveys were mailed to a random sample of households in and around Cheyenne in the 82001, 82007 and 82009 zip codes. Surveys were not mailed to F.E. Warren Air Force Base. Because there are no residences in the 82002 zip code no surveys were mailed to households in that zip code.

A total of 383 surveys were returned for a response of 19%. The maximum margin of error for this sample size at the 95% confidence level is $\pm 5.0\%$. The survey was conducted by Left Brain Concepts, Inc., a Denver based research and consulting firm.

KEY FINDINGS

- The zip codes of respondents' residences virtually mirrored the distribution of households in the 82001, 82007 and 82009 zip codes as reported by the 2000 census.
- The parks people mentioned as being closest to their homes were Lions, Holliday and Mylar.
- Almost half (46%) of the respondents in the planning area visit the Cheyenne parks nearest their homes at least once a month. More than half (54%) said they rarely or never visit the parks closest to their homes.
- Three-quarters (75%) of the respondents in the planning area rated the parks closest to their homes as excellent or good. People gave a number of reasons but largely the maintenance, the cleanliness, the walking trails and the landscape design. Those who rated the park as fair or poor mentioned a lack of activities in the parks, indicated they feel the parks are too small, cited an insufficient amount of playground equipment and reported that the parks are poorly maintained.
- Lions Park and Holliday Park are Cheyenne's residents' favorite parks. The reasons given for favoring any of Cheyenne's parks are walking trails, parks with water, an appeal of Botanic Gardens, a range of available activities, parks that are large in size and parks that are well maintained.
- In rough order of participation, adults in Cheyenne: 1) engage in outdoor activities such as walking or biking, 2) attend concerts and festivals, 3) participate in unorganized sports such as skating or jogging, 4) enroll in classes or other programs and 5) take part in team sports.
- For children, participation is greatest for swimming, use of playground equipment and fishing. Children's participation is lowest for in-line skating, skateboarding, tennis and hockey.
- The principal reasons people do not use Cheyenne parks or use them more frequently is because they feel: the parks lack the facilities they would like to see, the parks are too far from their homes and that other park visitors behave in a rowdy manner.
- The top five facilities people feel are lacking in Cheyenne's parks are walking trails, open space, natural areas within urban parks and areas for events such as concerts. People tend to feel there are enough facilities for hockey, soccer, arts and crafts, baseball, softball, football and tennis.
- Overall, about three-quarters of Cheyenne residents are satisfied with Cheyenne's parks and programs. However, people are roughly split regarding the need for a centralized recreation center and for planning for land uses at Belvoir Ranch. Residents are against an increase in taxes or fees by about a 3:2 margin.
- Regarding open space in Cheyenne, people are most interested in "water bodies, including creeks, lakes and ponds" and "areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features."

CONCLUSIONS

- Park usage by Cheyenne residents is high; almost half visit the parks closest to their homes at least once a month. More than nine in ten (92%) visit *any* Cheyenne park in a month.
- The Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department is doing a good job of serving Cheyenne residents. Three-quarters (75%) rate the parks closest to their homes as excellent or good. Maintenance, walking trails, a range of activities and landscape architecture are the most important things to people.
- Since many who rated the parks closest to their homes as fair or poor cited a lack of activities including playground equipment, perhaps many of these smaller parks should be treated and publicized as “open space” as opposed to parks. That is, offering no more than walking trails, quality landscape architecture and excellent maintenance.
- Although some activities are more important to people (adults and children both) than others, Cheyenne residents engage in a wide range of activities. The City of Cheyenne is serving its residents well by providing a broad range of activities.
- Cheyenne residents feel they would be best served by the City providing walking trails, open space, natural areas and other areas that preserve views and other scenic features in Cheyenne, and areas for events such as concerts.

ZIP CODE

Question 1: Please indicate your home zip code.

- Households were sampled from the 82001, 82007 and 82009 zip codes. Based on the 2000 census, there were a total 24,653 households in these zip codes; 45% were in 82001, 18% were in 82007 and 37% in 82009. The following table illustrates a similar zip code distribution for responses to this survey. That is, for the surveys returned from people in the planning area, 42% were in the 82001 zip code, 16% were from the 82007 zip code and 42% were from the 82009 zip code.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
82001	42%	17%	100%		
82007	16%	21%		100%	
82009	42%	62%			100%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

PLANNING AREA

Question 2: Please refer to the enclosed map and tell us if you live inside or outside of the planning area (The map is included in the back of this report).

- As the following table illustrates, of the 383 surveys returned, 350 people indicated they live inside the planning area and 24 noted they live outside of the planning area. Nine people did not respond to the question. For people in the planning area, there were 148 responses from each of the 82001 and 82009 zip codes and 54 from people in the 82007 zip code.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Inside	350		148	54	148
Outside		24			
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

NAME/LOCATION OF NEAREST PARK

Question 3: The following questions pertain to the park nearest your home. If you know its name and/or location, please list.

- The parks most frequently mentioned were Lions, Holliday and Mylar.
- People in the 82001 zip code were more likely than those in the other two zip codes to mention Holliday Park, United Nations Park, Sun Valley Park, Jaycee Park and Brimmer Park.
- People in the 82007 zip code were more likely than people in the other two zip codes to mention Martin Luther Park and Optimist Park.
- People in the 82009 zip code were more likely than those in the other two zip codes to mention Lions Park, Mylar Park, Cahill Park and North Cheyenne Community Park.
- People who do not have children in their homes were twice as likely as those who do have children to mention Mylar Park.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Lions	28%	14%	24%	10%	38%
Holliday	17%	14%	30%	13%	4%
Mylar	12%	7%	1%	0%	27%
Cahill	6%	14%	4%	0%	10%
Frontier	3%	0%	2%	3%	5%
North Cheyenne Community	3%	0%	0%	0%	6%
United Nations Park	3%	0%	6%	0%	0%
Sun Valley	3%	0%	6%	0%	0%
Jaycee Park	2%	0%	5%	0%	0%
MLK Park	2%	0%	2%	8%	1%
Brimmer	2%	0%	4%	0%	0%
Optimist Park	2%	0%	0%	13%	0%
Don't Know	2%	14%	1%	10%	1%
Friendship Circle	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Smalley Park	1%	7%	0%	0%	2%
Veterans Park	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%

A number of other parks and locations were mentioned, but none by more than two people.

FREQUENCY OF PARK USAGE

Question 3b: How often per month do you use this park?

- Almost half (46%) of the respondents in the planning area visit the Cheyenne park nearest their homes at least once a month. More than half (54%) reported they never or rarely visit the closest Cheyenne parks.
- People in the 82007 zip code were three times as likely as those in the 82001 zip code and those in the 82009 zip code to say they never use the parks.
- People in the 82001 zip code use parks a little more than those in the 82009 zip codes and considerably more than those in the 82007 zip code.
- People with kids at home are more likely than those with no kids at home to use parks.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Never	18%	44%	14%	41%	13%
Rarely	35%	23%	28%	27%	45%
Once or twice	16%	14%	20%	12%	14%
3-4	15%	0%	19%	12%	14%
5-10	7%	14%	7%	6%	6%
11+	9%	5%	12%	2%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

QUALITY OF THE PARKS

Question 3c: How would you rate the overall quality of this park?

- Three-quarters (75%) of the respondents in the planning area rated the parks closest to their homes as excellent or good.
- People in the 82009 zip code were twice as likely as those in the 82001 zip code and more than six times as likely as people in the 82007 zip code to rate the quality of the park as excellent.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Excellent	21%	24%	16%	3%	32%
Good	54%	46%	53%	56%	55%
Fair	20%	12%	27%	28%	11%
Poor	5%	18%	4%	13%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

REASONS FOR PARK RATING

Question 3d: Why do you rate the quality of the park this way?

- As the following table illustrates, people have high regard for parks that are well maintained, parks that are clean, those that provide walking trails and parks that have appealing landscaping. In contrast, people who rated the park closest to their homes as fair or poor cited a range of issues, but mostly a lack of activities in the park, none or not enough playground equipment and maintenance issues.
- People in the 82009 zip code were much more likely than those in the other two zip codes to mention that the park is large – that is has a lot of open space.
- Respondents aged 55 to 64 were more likely than those in other age groups to laud the parks' walking trails.
- People who do not have children were more likely than people who do have kids to praise parks that are well maintained.

REASONS FOR PARK RATING (Continued)

	Park ratings of:
	<u>Excellent/Good</u>
Well maintained	30%
Clean	25%
Walking trails	23%
Well landscaped	17%
Large/Open space	12%
Good/safe playground equipment	11%
Lots of activities	8%
Lake, pond, water	8%
Close, convenient	8%
Trees	7%
The Botanical Gardens	7%
The greenbelt	6%
Picnic areas	5%
The Community center	5%
Grassy areas	4%
Safe, police patrol	4%
Park is used frequently	4%
	Park ratings of:
	<u>Fair/Poor</u>
Lack of activities in the park	16%
Too small	12%
Not clean/trash/broken glass	12%
No/not enough playground equipment	11%
The lake smells bad	9%
No trees/no mature trees	8%
Lacks good landscaping	7%
Teenagers/gangs hang out	7%
Not enough benches/picnic benches	7%
Bathrooms are dirty	7%
Poorly maintained	7%
No restrooms/restrooms locked	5%
Playground equipment not safe	4%
Bird, duck excrement	4%
Homeless people	4%
Park is not complete	4%

Columns total more than 100% because of multiple responses.

FAVORITE CHEYENNE PARK

Question 4: Is there a particular park in Cheyenne that you consider to be your favorite? If so, please identify the park and list the reasons it is your favorite.

- While 54% of the respondents said they never or rarely visit the parks closest to their homes (question 3b), people reported that Lions Park and Holliday Park are their favorite Cheyenne parks.
- Respondents who particularly favor Holliday Park were:
 - ✓ In the 82007 zip code as opposed to the other two zip codes.
 - ✓ People younger than 35 compared to people in other age groups.
 - ✓ Women versus men.
 - ✓ People who have children vis-à-vis those who do not have kids.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Lions	59%	56%	61%	48%	62%
Holliday	22%	31%	26%	33%	14%
Frontier	3%	6%	2%	5%	4%
Mylar	2%	0%	2%	2%	3%
Botanical Gardens	2%	6%	1%	2%	2%
Clear Creek	2%	0%	0%	5%	3%
Jaycee Park	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%
North Cheyenne Community	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Greenway	1%	6%	1%	0%	1%
Dry Creek Disc Golf	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%
Park by YMCA	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%

A number of other parks and locations were mentioned, but none by more than one person.

REASONS THE PARK IS A FAVORITE

Question 4: Is there a particular park in Cheyenne that you consider to be your favorite? If so, please identify the park and list the reasons it is your favorite.

- Respondents gave a variety of reasons for why particular parks are their favorite, but the primary reasons were that the parks have walking trails, lakes or ponds and/or botanic gardens, that there are a lot of things to do in the park, that the parks are large and that the parks are well maintained.
- People aged 55 to 64 were more likely than those in the other age brackets to like parks that have walking trails.
- Respondents in the 82009 zip code were twice as likely as people in the other two zip codes to mention the Botanic Gardens.
- People who have children were twice as likely as those who do not to mention the number of available activities in parks. Further, people with children were more than five times as likely as people who do not have children to cite playground equipment.
- Respondents in the 82007 zip code were twice as likely as people in the other two zip codes to mention that the park is well landscaped.

REASONS THE PARK IS A FAVORITE (Continued)

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Walking trails	44%	18%	42%	40%	46%
Lake, pond, water	31%	27%	28%	31%	34%
Lots of activities	20%	18%	20%	26%	18%
The Botanical Gardens	19%	18%	17%	11%	25%
Large/Open space	18%	18%	18%	17%	19%
Well landscaped	15%	27%	12%	26%	13%
Close/convenient	15%	18%	20%	11%	12%
Good/Safe playground equipment	14%	9%	18%	11%	12%
Amount/Quality of trees	14%	9%	16%	11%	12%
Clean	9%	9%	12%	9%	7%
The Community center	9%	27%	11%	6%	9%
Ducks, geese, waterfowl	9%	9%	7%	17%	9%
Well maintained	9%	9%	7%	14%	10%
Picnic areas	9%	0%	9%	6%	10%
Quality/Amount of flowers	6%	0%	7%	6%	4%
Swimming pool	6%	0%	9%	3%	2%
Quiet/Peaceful	5%	18%	3%	14%	3%
Has benches	5%	0%	9%	3%	2%
Bike path	4%	0%	2%	0%	8%
Wildlife	4%	9%	2%	9%	4%
Safe/Police patrol	3%	0%	3%	6%	2%
Fishing	3%	9%	3%	3%	2%
The sculptures	3%	0%	0%	9%	3%
Tennis courts	3%	0%	2%	0%	4%

A number of other reasons were offered, but none by more than 4 people.

FREQUENCY OF PARK VISITS

Question 5: How many different Cheyenne parks do you visit in a month?

- More than nine in ten (92%) of the respondents in the planning area indicated they visit at least one Cheyenne park a month. (In contrast, 46% said they visit the park *closest to their homes* – question 3b – at least once a month).
- People in the 82007 zip code were three times as likely as people in the other two zip codes to say they “never” visit a Cheyenne park on a monthly basis.
- As would be expected, people who have children reported more park usage than people who do not have children.
- Respondents who have just one adult in their households were almost three times as likely as those with two or more adults in the household to say they “never” visit Cheyenne parks.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			<u>82001</u>	<u>82007</u>	<u>82009</u>
None	8%	20%	6%	18%	5%
One	45%	50%	39%	43%	53%
Two	32%	25%	34%	29%	32%
Three	11%	0%	15%	8%	8%
Four or more	4%	5%	6%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

ADULTS' PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

Question 6: Answering ONLY for yourself, please note the number of times in the past 12 months you participated in each of the following activities – whether it was in Cheyenne or another community.

The table on the following page illustrates peoples' participation in athletic and other activities. In rough order of involvement, people partake in:

1. Outdoor activities
2. Concerts/Festivals
3. Other sports
4. Classes/Facilities
5. Team sports

Outdoor Activities

- People under the age of 35, women, and those with kids at home were more likely than others to say they participate in picnics.
- Respondents aged 65 or older were less likely than people in other age brackets to report participation in "walking or other general park activity", "walking or hiking on a trail system" and/or "biking on a trail system."
- People in the 82009 zip code were more likely than those in the other two zip codes to say they frequently participate in biking on a trail system.
- Men were more likely than women to report they participate in target shooting.

Classes/Facilities

- Women are more likely than men to have participated in water exercise and/or indoor exercise programs.

ADULTS' PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Other Sports

- Men were more likely than women to report that they golf and/or fish.
- People who have lived in the Cheyenne area for less than ten years were about twice as likely as those who have been in the area for ten or more years to say they frequently jog.
- Respondents aged 65 or older were less likely than those under 65 to report that they have jogged and/or swam in the past 12 months.
- Respondents with children were more likely than people who do not have children to say they have participated in indoor or outdoor swimming.

Concerts/Festivals

- People under the age of 35 were more likely than those in other age brackets to report they attended outdoor concerts or performances and/or community fairs or festivals.

ADULTS' PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES (Continued)

	TEAM SPORTS			
	1-5	6-20	21+	Never
Softball	10%	3%	7%	80%
Football	11%	5%	2%	82%
Volleyball	11%	3%	2%	84%
Indoor basketball	7%	3%	5%	85%
Baseball	7%	4%	3%	86%
Soccer	7%	3%	5%	86%
Outdoor basketball	8%	2%	2%	88%
Ice hockey	2%	0%	1%	97%
In-line hockey	1%	1%	1%	97%
	OTHER SPORTS			
	1-5	6-20	21+	Never
Indoor swimming	20%	11%	9%	60%
Jogging/Running	15%	6%	18%	61%
Golf	16%	13%	10%	61%
Fishing	20%	8%	8%	64%
Outdoor swimming	13%	6%	2%	79%
Tennis	9%	3%	3%	85%
Ice skating	11%	1%	1%	87%
Archery	5%	3%	4%	88%
In-line skating	7%	1%	2%	90%
Disc golf	6%	2%	2%	90%
Use of climbing wall	6%	1%	1%	92%
BMX bicycling	2%	2%	2%	94%
Gymnastics	2%	1%	2%	95%
Skateboarding	2%	1%	1%	96%
	CLASSES/FACILITIES			
	1-5	6-20	21+	Never
Weights/Cardiovascular	8%	9%	21%	62%
Indoor exercise programs	9%	5%	17%	69%
Water exercise	8%	3%	6%	83%
Use of arts & crafts facilities	10%	4%	3%	83%
Dance classes	7%	1%	2%	90%
Swim lessons	4%	2%	1%	93%
	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES			
	1-5	6-20	21+	Never
Walking or other general park activity	28%	25%	35%	12%
Picnic in a park	57%	15%	6%	22%
Walking or hiking on a trail system	25%	19%	24%	32%

	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES			
Biking on a trail system	17%	11%	14%	58%
Target shooting	10%	6%	9%	75%
Use of a dog park	12%	7%	6%	75%
Guided nature walk/other educational activity	17%	2%	2%	79%
	CONCERTS/FESTIVALS			
	1-5	6-20	21+	Never
Attend community fairs/festivals	59%	11%	2%	28%
Attend outdoor concerts/performances	47%	10%	1%	42%

CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

Question 7: For any children living in your household, please note if any of them participate in the following activities.

- As might be expected, the most common children's activities are swimming and use of playground equipment. Fishing was also mentioned – by about half of the parents. Less popular children's activities are skating, ice hockey, skateboarding, tennis and in-line hockey.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			82001	82007	82009
Indoors swimming	57%	38%	62%	54%	51%
Use of playground equip.	56%	50%	64%	58%	44%
Fishing	40%	25%	41%	54%	31%
Outdoors swimming	28%	13%	28%	42%	21%
Indoors basketball	27%	13%	28%	29%	26%
Weights/cardiovascular	23%	0%	20%	13%	36%
Indoor exercise programs	23%	0%	23%	29%	18%
Jogging/running	23%	13%	21%	21%	26%
Soccer	23%	0%	20%	25%	28%
Baseball	22%	0%	20%	42%	13%
Football	21%	0%	21%	29%	15%
Ice skating	21%	0%	23%	17%	21%
Golf	19%	25%	18%	8%	28%
Gymnastics	17%	25%	25%	8%	10%
Outdoors basketball	17%	13%	15%	33%	10%
Softball	15%	0%	21%	8%	10%
Volleyball	15%	0%	15%	13%	15%
Dance classes	15%	13%	21%	8%	8%
Use of arts & crafts facilities	15%	0%	21%	21%	3%
BMX bicycling	13%	0%	11%	29%	5%
Use of climbing wall	12%	0%	11%	8%	15%
In-line skating	12%	0%	7%	21%	15%
Skateboarding	12%	0%	10%	21%	10%
Ice hockey	10%	13%	10%	17%	5%
Tennis	9%	25%	5%	8%	15%
In-line hockey	5%	0%	2%	17%	3%

REASONS FOR NOT USING CHEYENNE PARKS

Question 8: Please indicate if any of the following prevent you from using, or using more often, Cheyenne's parks.

- The primary reason people do not use Cheyenne parks or use them more often is because they do not contain the features people want. Also of concern to people are the distance from their homes and rowdy behavior of other park users.

Distance from Home

- Even though the "non-planning area" sample is small, these respondents were more likely than residents in the planning area to report that parks' distance from their homes prevent them from making greater use of Cheyenne's parks.

Rowdy Behavior of Other Park Users

- People in the 82009 zip code were less likely than those in the other two zip codes to mention rowdy behavior of other park users.
- Respondents aged 35 or younger were more likely than people in other age groups to say that rowdy behavior of other park users prevent them from using the parks more.
- People with children were three times as likely as people without kids to state that rowdy behavior of other park visitors prevent them from using Cheyenne parks more.

Overcrowding

- People in the 82007 zip code were about three times more likely than those in the 82001 zip code and almost six times more likely than those in the 82009 zip code to say overcrowding prevents them from using the parks more.

Safety Concerns

- People under the age of 35 were more likely than people over 35 to cite safety concerns.
- Women were more likely than men to say safety concerns prevent them from using the parks more.

REASONS FOR NOT USING CHEYENNE PARKS (Continued)

	Very much	Somewhat	Not at all
Lack of facilities/activities in which I am interested	14%	24%	62%
Distance from home	14%	26%	60%
Rowdy behavior of other users	10%	25%	65%
Overcrowding	8%	21%	71%
Poor maintenance	8%	17%	75%
Safety concerns	7%	14%	79%
Physical disability	7%	8%	85%
Poor design/Facility/Program quality	6%	16%	78%
Difficult access (must cross busy street, etc.)	4%	17%	79%

NAME/LOCATION OF THE PARK

Question 8: If your response is based on a specific park, program or facility, please identify it.

- People noted parks, even if they also indicated that things such as the distance from their homes, safety, and the like do not prevent them from using Cheyenne parks or using them more. As the following table illustrates, the most mentioned parks were Lions Park and Holliday Park.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			<u>82001</u>	<u>82007</u>	<u>82009</u>
Lions	40%	33%	35%	56%	41%
Holliday	23%	33%	31%	33%	6%
Greenway	15%	33%	12%	11%	24%
Pioneer	4%	33%	0%	11%	6%
United Nations Park	6%	0%	12%	0%	0%

FACILITIES IN CHEYENNE

Question 9: A list of recreation facilities and park/open space features is shown below. Please indicate whether there are too many, enough or not enough of each type in Cheyenne to meet the needs of you and your family. You can also indicate that you have no opinion.

- The top five facilities that people feel are lacking in Cheyenne are walking trails, open space, nature areas within urban parks and performance areas. In contrast, people tend to feel there are enough facilities for hockey, soccer, arts and crafts, baseball, softball, football and tennis.
- People with children were more likely than those who do not have children to feel there are not enough:
 - ✓ Natural surface trails
 - ✓ Public gyms
 - ✓ Picnic facilities
 - ✓ Indoor recreation pool
 - ✓ Indoor lap / competitive pool
 - ✓ Outdoor recreation pool
 - ✓ Outdoor lap / competitive pool
 - ✓ Playgrounds
 - ✓ Paintball areas
 - ✓ Climbing walls
- People with two or more adults in their households were more likely than those with one adult in the household to say there are not enough:
 - ✓ Natural areas within urban parks
 - ✓ Performance areas for events such as concerts
 - ✓ Areas for community events
- People in the 82001 zip code were more likely than people in the other two zip codes to say there are not enough:
 - ✓ Public gyms.
 - ✓ Football fields
- Men were more likely than women to say there are not enough:
 - ✓ Nearby fishing waters
 - ✓ Golf courses
- Women were more likely than men to say there are not enough:
 - ✓ Dog park areas
 - ✓ Arts and crafts rooms

Natural Surface Trails

- People under the age of 55 were more likely than those over 55 to say there are not enough natural surface trails.

FACILITIES IN CHEYENNE (Continued)

	Too many	Enough	Not enough	No opinion
Nature areas within urban parks	1%	21%	45%	33%
Nature surface trails	0%	23%	44%	33%
Natural open space areas	0%	23%	44%	33%
Paved trails	2%	28%	44%	26%
Performance areas for events - concerts	1%	28%	43%	28%
Outdoor education/nature centers	0%	18%	39%	43%
Public gyms	1%	18%	36%	45%
Picnic facilities	0%	42%	33%	25%
Nearby fishing	0%	25%	32%	43%
Areas for community events	1%	40%	32%	27%
Indoor recreation pool	0%	22%	30%	48%
Outdoor recreation pool	0%	17%	28%	55%
Indoor lap/competitive pool	0%	22%	27%	51%
Dog park areas	1%	22%	26%	51%
Playgrounds	0%	39%	25%	36%
Skateboard/skate park	3%	20%	23%	54%
Outdoor lap/competitive pool	0%	17%	22%	61%
Indoor community rooms	0%	21%	22%	57%
Golf courses	8%	36%	21%	35%
Exercise equipment	0%	26%	21%	53%
Paintball area	2%	12%	21%	65%
BMX bike area	2%	18%	20%	60%
Climbing walls	1%	16%	19%	64%
Outdoors basketball courts	1%	30%	18%	51%
Exercise/dance rooms	0%	20%	18%	62%
Tennis courts	2%	34%	16%	48%
Football fields	1%	31%	15%	53%
Arts & crafts rooms	1%	22%	15%	62%
Softball fields	6%	38%	14%	42%
Baseball fields	7%	36%	14%	43%
Ice hockey rinks	1%	25%	14%	60%
Soccer fields	5%	35%	13%	47%
In-line hockey rinks	1%	18%	10%	71%

SATISFACTION WITH CHEYENNE PARKS

Question 10: For each of the following statements, please indicate the response that best fits with your opinion

The following percentages combine responses of “strongly agree” and “somewhat agree.” Generally, people are satisfied with Cheyenne parks but are split on a number of issues, including their willingness to pay an increase in taxes or user fees.

- **Quality/Condition of Cheyenne parks and programs:**
 - ✓ Satisfied with park maintenance (73%)
 - ✓ Overall quality of the parks (72%)
 - ✓ Parks and trails are accessible (52%)
 - ✓ Quality of recreation programs (47%)
 - ✓ Trail system provides good connections (45%)
 - ✓ Parks equitably distributed (40%)
 - ✓ Amount of open lands (30%)
 - ✓ Indoor recreation/facilities (27%)
- **Support for added facilities:**
 - ✓ Centralized recreation center (58%)
 - ✓ Recreational uses at Belvoir Ranch (51%)
- **Willingness to pay taxes:**
 - ✓ Improve/expand parks and trails (50%)
 - ✓ Improve/expand indoor recreation facilities (41%)
 - ✓ Increase protected open lands (41%)

Differences by zip code:

- People in the 82001 and the 82007 zip codes were much more likely to feel that the parks *are not* equitably distributed throughout the City.
- People in the 82009 zip code were three times more likely than those in the 82001 zip code to say that the City’s trail system provides good connections to parks and other important destinations.
- People in the 82009 zip code were more likely than those in the other two zip codes to state that Cheyenne’s parks and trails are easily accessible from their homes.

SATISFACTION WITH CHEYENNE PARKS (Continued)

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A. I am satisfied with overall quality of the City's parks	23%	49%	15%	10%	3%
B. I am satisfied with the quality of the City's recreation programs	14%	34%	37%	11%	4%
C. I am satisfied with the level of maintenance in the City's parks	27%	45%	14%	10%	3%
D. Parks are equitably distributed throughout the City	13%	28%	21%	26%	12%
E. I am satisfied with the available indoor recreation/facilities in the City	8%	19%	40%	23%	10%
F. I am satisfied with the amount of protected open lands in and around the City	9%	22%	33%	26%	11%
G. The City's trail system provides good connections to parks and other important destinations	14%	32%	28%	18%	7%
H. City parks and trails are easily accessible from my home	21%	31%	17%	20%	12%
I. City needs a centralized recreation center that provides opportunities for a variety of indoor recreation activities	32%	25%	31%	7%	4%
J. I am willing to pay additional taxes or fees to improve and expand the City's parks and trails	20%	31%	23%	9%	17%
K. I am willing to pay additional taxes or fees to improve and expand the City's indoor recreation facilities	18%	23%	27%	12%	19%
L. I am willing to pay additional taxes or fees to increase the amount of protected open lands in and around the City	17%	26%	30%	12%	17%
M. The City should plan for/include recreational uses and open space at the Belvoir Ranch	30%	20%	37%	5%	7%

OPEN SPACE PRIORITIES

Question 11: This question is intended to help identify open space priorities. Please rate the importance of each of the following types of open space to you in Cheyenne.

- People are most interested in open space that has water bodies (66%) and areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features (63%). They are less interested in close-by neighborhood-scale natural areas (38%) or agricultural land, including ranchland (33%).
- However, women were almost twice as likely as men to say that close-by neighborhood-scale natural areas are very important.
- Women are also more likely than men to value areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Water bodies, including creeks, lakes, ponds, etc.	66%	24%	10%
Areas that preserve views to the mountains and other scenic features	63%	25%	12%
Areas with important wildlife habitat	59%	27%	14%
Areas that are highly visible topographic features	48%	34%	18%
Close-by, neighborhood-scale natural areas	39%	43%	18%
Agricultural land, including ranchland	33%	36%	31%

YEARS LIVED IN CHEYENNE

Question 12: How many years have you lived in Cheyenne?

- More than half (57%) of the respondents have lived in the Cheyenne area for 20 years or more.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			<u>82001</u>	<u>82007</u>	<u>82009</u>
Less than 5	17%	4%	17%	13%	19%
5-9 years	10%	13%	10%	12%	10%
10-19 years	15%	13%	18%	21%	10%
20+ years	58%	70%	55%	54%	61%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

AGE

Question 13: Into which of the following age groups do you fall?

- The following table illustrates the age distribution of people who responded to the survey.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			<u>82001</u>	<u>82007</u>	<u>82009</u>
18-24	2%	0%	4%	4%	0%
25-34	12%	4%	16%	18%	7%
35-44	17%	26%	19%	16%	15%
45-54	22%	13%	21%	18%	24%
55-64	21%	22%	20%	20%	22%
65+	26%	35%	20%	24%	32%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

GENDER

Question 14: What is your gender?

- The following presents the gender of the respondents to the survey.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			<u>82001</u>	<u>82007</u>	<u>82009</u>
Female	40%	45%	40%	49%	38%
Male	60%	55%	60%	51%	62%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

ADULTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Question 15: How many adults (including yourself) live in your household?

- Respondents in the planning area have an average of 1.9 adults in their households.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			<u>82001</u>	<u>82007</u>	<u>82009</u>
1	22%	30%	22%	25%	21%
2	71%	66%	68%	63%	74%
3+	7%	4%	10%	12%	5%
Average	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME

Question 16: What are the ages of the children that live in your home?

- The following table illustrates the percent of respondents who have children in each of the five age groups. For example, 27% of the people in the planning area have children under the age of six living in their homes. Because some people have more than one child, the percentages in this table will not add to 100%.

	Planning area total	Non-planning area total	Planning area only		
			<u>82001</u>	<u>82007</u>	<u>82009</u>
Under 6	27%	32%	36%	24%	20%
6 to 12	23%	14%	30%	22%	17%
13 to 14	11%	9%	12%	9%	10%
15 to 18	18%	18%	20%	20%	15%
19 or older	6%	5%	7%	4%	6%
No children	56%	64%	47%	57%	65%

COMMENTS

Question: We welcome any comments or suggestions you might have regarding Cheyenne's parks, recreation, trails and open space system. If you would like to provide additional input, please do so on a separate sheet of paper.

A total of 104 people or 29% of the respondents provided comments. These centered on the issues raised in the survey including access, Belvoir Ranch, walking trails, the Greenway, maintenance, addition of facilities, open space, satisfaction with the parks and safety issues.

Access

- Holliday Park has maybe three walks from the sidewalk to the inner park area; there needs to be easier access for the elderly or wheelchair bound.
- We chose to live away from the city and fully expected to have to drive farther than most people to access facilities.
- Clear Creek Park is not very accessible. There is a long walk to the shelter.

Belvoir Ranch

- No parks on the south side. Belvoir Ranch – future landfill?
- Where is the Belvoir Ranch? What is it? What will be there? If it's more baseball fields, then no. We need some extreme sports facilities.
- Where is Belvoir Ranch? Can't opine either way.
- Belvoir Ranch is WAY out of town. It would take too long to drive to a park there.

Connect the Parks with Bike/Walking Trail

- Would be great to have north/south trail similar to current east/west bike trail, to include downtown.
- Essentially, more walking trails that connect the city and go through different neighborhoods. The population is aging and this, if available, will get them out and moving around.
- A better connected park system, via bike route, would be nice.

Greenway

General Comments

- I would personally like to see the Greenway paved with asphalt instead of concrete for roller skiing use. The poles used in this activity can't grip concrete. There are similar trail systems in Faroe that use asphalt and are great for this purpose. I wish Cheyenne would follow suit. Also, asphalt is better on the knees of runners than concrete.
- I do not use the park along the greenway, except to walk through.

Positive Comments

- Parks overall are excellent. Need to work on Greenway, maybe installing more backboards at the tennis courts (Holliday Park). I enjoy running on the Greenway; however, it can be frustrating when several portions of the trail do not connect (intersection Yellowstone/Dell Range, also path near Central H.S. or east side of town near College), etc.
- Greenway is our favorite areas since it includes Cahill, Mylar, Lions and Dry Creek. We feel it is imperative that the Greenway is cleaned after the goats leave droppings or keep the off the Greenway. It is sickening to walk there after they have been there.
- I think the most important development for Cheyenne has been the Greenway. It's wonderful to see people out and about.

Negative Comments

- Southside greenway has too many homeless people. Most parks and trails are so full of goose droppings that you can't hardly walk.
- I would use the greenway more if it was longer, as it gets boring just riding back and forth
- Far too much money has been, and is, being spent on the Greenway.
- I bike ride 20-25 miles every other day and have come to avoid sections of the Greenway and parks due to dog droppings everywhere.
- The Greenway needs to be swept more often. Parts have loose gravel in particular spots all summer. Also, I like having the goats doing the weed control in town, but PLEASE sweep the Greenway after they have been on it. (Don't know if this is the parks & rec responsibility, but it needs to be done better.)
- Motorized vehicles on the northeast section of the greenway prevent me from using the parks often. I have had several confrontations with older teenagers riding golf carts and motorcycles.

Maintenance

- At Holliday Park, the horseshoe pits could use some work.

- Lack of water on Prairie View Golf Course was inexcusable. Very poor judgment.
- The bales used as Arrow stops at North Park need to be checked more often. A lot of people use them and for some reason, they get torn up a lot.
- Too much emphasis on golf courses over family parks. Natural areas within urban parks and natural open space areas are a missing design element. Park maintenance is a low priority.
- We have enough parks in Cheyenne, just keep them in good condition.

More Activities

- I would like to see 4th of July, winter ice skating activities that draw the community in. For example: think of how 4th of July is depicted in old movies, picnicking, bands, and fireworks by the lake side, etc. Use the gazebo concept for bands more than you do now!
- I have a licensed childcare close to Goins School. I would like to use the parks immediately west of the school, but there are no play activities there for children ages 18 months to four years. Goins School has a nice playground, but we can't use that during the day. I do NOT transport my daycare children in my vehicle so I need a good park in my area to walk to.

Interest in Other Facilities

Dog Park

- I wish we had a dog park closer to my home (82009). The current one is on the opposite side of town.

Equestrian

- I would like to see more horse activities and trails.
- There are not equestrian facilities (horseback riding, indoor riding area). Ft. Collins has these, why can't we? Cheyenne is known for its rodeos and cowboys; it should have some things to do with equestrian sports!

Motorcross/Motorcycle

- No motorcross available in Cheyenne.
- The city needs to make a motorcycle riding park, not just a motorcross track, but also a full sized motorcycle park, with a flat track, ATV track and trails area. The city also needs a public shooting complex for all types of shooting.

- One of our main interests is riding ATV's and motorcycles. Since our track was closed, we find many families are selling their bikes and ATVs. There just isn't anywhere to ride. There are many problems with people riding in areas where they shouldn't, such as in construction sites and empty lots. Riding was, and could be again, a family recreation. One kid riding a motorcycle or ATV on a track or riding area means one kid will not be on the streets getting into trouble.

More Parks

- Perhaps more parks are needed for newly developed areas so more people can enjoy them, as we do Lion's Park.
- It would be nice if there were more "avenues" in Cheyenne. Streets like Notoway, Lincoln Way, Missile Drive, Converse or any other street with lots of space around them should have trees, lawn, shrubs, flowers and nice walking paths.
- There are NO public parks in Western Hills!! What a shame!

Recreation Center

- There has been many times I have wished there was a place designed with the whole family in mind that was indoors where my kids (4 & 6) could play and it wouldn't cost a fortune, like an oversized McDonald's play land, with an indoor mini golf course and the like. It seems Cheyenne is plenty big enough with young families and lots of winter weather to merit such a facility. Just some thoughts. Keep up the good work on the parks and expanding them! They add a lot to the community! Sincerely, Dick Perry
- We need more places for people that cannot afford the YMCA. It is not cheap!
- Cheyenne needs a quality, community-wide rec center, i.e., Laramie, Casper. Use the 1-cent tax on it.
- The Y offers an extensive variety of programs. It is often overcrowded. Cheyenne needs an indoor recreation facility encompassing much of what you have listed in this survey, to include youth to seniors. This would be much more of a benefit than a depot.
- We need a recreation center to hold a variety of activities, events and tournaments for kids from Cheyenne and other areas. Build a rec center!!

Shooting Range

- There are no places to take my family to shoot, i.e., clay pigeons.
- I really enjoy shooting sports. I wish we had a public archery and target (i.e., center fire rifle, handgun, skeet) range. I realize the rifle range has to be out of town, but what about a public archery range ... please!
- Shooting facilities are badly needed!

- I would like to see the city develop 3 things:
- An indoor/outdoor rifle and pistol range for competition and recreation shooting.
- Football program and field for tackle and flag.
- 18 hole golf course on the south side.
- There is no public shooting range.

Skateboarding

- I can help if needed on creating a very nice skateboard facility. I own a skate company (local) and know plenty of others that would help out on layout. Call if you have a question about the skate park. 631-0255. Kenny with Choderhed Skate Company.

Swimming

- Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Cheyenne has a good park system, but there needs to be more parks and more recreational opportunities, both indoor and outdoor. There needs to be more pool time and space. There is too little time for adult lap swimming in the evening at the pool!

Winter Recreation

- We have a lot of winter here, so a serious outlet for sledding, downhill skiing and cross-country skiing would make good sense.

Tennis

- There is a lack of quality tennis courts, except at Holliday Park.

Other

- It might be nice to have an area where people could see livestock, milking and other hands-on ranching operations.

Restrooms

- We need restrooms at Optimist Park on the south side. No portable restrooms, please!
- The bathrooms in all the parks are terrible and most of the time they are locked.

Open Lands

- Open lands are a waste of space; make them nice parks.
- There are poor zoning codes and cooperative agreements with fringe ranches. The city should plan for open space and conservation easements, urban fringe ranches, too! Avoid Ft. Collins' mistake; now they can't reverse the rural spread now headed up I-25. Cheyenne's future in 10 years?

Other Parks

- Rawlins, Laramie, Green River, Casper and Wheatland, just to name a few, all have riding areas/motocross tracks. We are the capital of WY and have nothing. Please help! Thanks.
- Ft. Collins has some great parks (like Fossil Creek park) and an outdoor pool. Cheyenne needs to emulate the Ft. Collins model and make more parks like these.

Overcrowding

- Sometimes activities are hard to get into, due to the demand.
- I do think the local pool is overcrowded and there should be more private showering facilities (wife's comment).
- I would like to see a new golf course. There are too many people trying to play on the two public courses. I would like to see a new course either around the Cahill Park area or in the new area on the north side of Buffalo Ridge.
- Crossing 12th Street to get to United Nations Park prevents me from going there often. Lions Park is overcrowded sometimes and is quite a distance from my home.
- On a nice day, all the parks get really crowded.
- When soccer season is on, Cahill Park is overflowing with kids and their families.

Performance Area

- Cheyenne has an excellent performance area; they just don't use it except for in July.

Safety/Security

- It is unsafe and a shame to require youth to play football on Miller field.

- The United Nations Park is the neighborhood hangout for the grade school and junior high school aged kids. They can be rather unpleasant to be around.
- Holliday Park has vagrants.
- The new playground equipment at Pioneer and Jaycee Parks is not little kid friendly and the slides either hurt to go down or are too steep.
- Park equipment at Holliday Park on the west end needs to be replaced; it is very old. Don't use Belvoir Ranch for a dump!
- City of Cheyenne, about a year ago I took my two-year-old daughter to a park over on W. Lincoln Way, a few blocks from the Alats Motel. That was really creepy there! There were some crazy people hanging around the park and sleeping under the bridge. I was new to the neighborhood and had no idea it was that bad. You should really take the play area down so new people in town don't take their kids over there or get the homeless away from there.
- At Holliday Park, the big kids get way too rough with the younger kids.
- Too many unleashed dogs. The people with dogs don't clean up after them.
- At Pride Park, all of the boys' facilities are in nice locations, but the girls have to play in an industrial dump. We quite softball because of health concerns.
- People let their dogs run loose in Lion's Park.
- I visit most of the parks. Holliday is our favorite, however, don't extend territory recklessly for game stuff – they attract troublemakers. Remember when you were young? You've got to give them space, but remember us old lunatics. Don't screw up Holliday; leave us some grass and quiet.
- When the resident's lawns were drying up, the city was pouring water on a lot of useless parks. Also, if it weren't for the parks, where would the drug pushers hang out?
- The parks must be very poor as all the kids around here use my front street and sidewalk. The police do not help me whenever I have called. I am a veteran's widow and my parents homesteaded in Pine Bluffs area after statehood. I am 83 years old, yet the neighbors kids, plus half the school kids have done \$5,000 worth of damage to my property. My classmates of Central 1539 still meet every month and I give donations to the Jr. Elks, as I know kids don't have to be on drugs and destroying people's property. I am rebuilding my property at my own expense. So why would I want to help Cheyenne? We all did when we had the Share Clubs and we helped each other. I worked on the A-175 at Mod. Center during WWII and now have become charter member of the WWII Memorial in DC. My husband was retired military and passed in 1997. Please don't expect me to help any of you. Your attitudes are NOT worth it.
- Homeless people frequently sleep in Holliday Park's northeast shelter during the summer. I feel badly for them, but I am often wary.

- Unsupervised “punk” kids at any park prevent me from using them. There are not enough areas specific to age, i.e., a place strictly for young kids (0-5), 5-10+, etc. Keep the older kids to their own area.

South

- Nothing (parks, recreation programs or facilities) on the south side of the city.
- I can’t think of any parks on the south side.
- Need more playgrounds on the south side.

Wildlife

- The need to monitor the growth of geese and duck population is needed at both Lions and Holliday Park.
- I would like to see different signs to tell what birds and wildlife you might be seeing at different times of the year. We need a dog park.
- The droppings of geese and ducks at Holliday Park and to some degree Lion and Mylar, prevent us from using the parks more often.
- There are no parks close to us (82001). We need more shrubs, wildlife habitats, and birdhouses.
- Lower Crow Reservoir should not be developed, but kept wild. I desire protection of this area from vehicle/motorized travel at the park gate. Lower Crow is a great wildlife sanctuary, but increased motorized travel will change this dramatically.

General Comments

Neutral

- I did not like the yoga class I took; there was not proper instruction, like at the municipal pool.
- I used the parks more when my own children were young.
- I just look and enjoy the parks; no longer able to do much as I am 86 years of age.
- Sun Valley Park is not completed.
- Question 5 should have ZERO as an option; this question can be used to claim all respondents visit a park at least once a month.

- The map is too small to read.
- We do not feel we can give accurate responses to the survey since we rarely use the parks.
- I signed up for Tai Chi, but it is not good for seniors and stiff joints. Although, old Chinese participate in China all the time ...
- I thank you for the survey. Good luck and God Bless.

Positive

- I enjoy Lions Park, but finding the time to driver there and spend time is too infrequent (not the park's fault). I enjoy walking in the woodland areas, but that is unavailable in this part of Wyoming.
- I take my grandchildren to the parks and softball fields. They enjoy the varied playgrounds.
- I gave \$1,000 in support of the new American Legion baseball park. Can't wait.
- My illness, MS, offers great challenge, but our city parks help me do the best I can. Thanks!
- My comments are limited as we do not use the parks like young families do, but we appreciate being asked. The parks are such an important part of our city. Good luck!
- I think the parks are great. We take the grandchildren to the parks daily when they are in town visiting.
- We need places for the youth and I am willing to support it.

Negative

- Too much spent on baseball/softball.
- Cheyenne caters to the rich areas and ignores the moderate to low income. People vote NO, but the city does what they want.
- I am NOT willing to pay additional taxes or fees as they waste too much money now.
- I'm very disappointed that Prairie View is being shut down. I've had all my kids in the youth golf program. Where are these kids going to learn? Will Airport accommodate the beginners and less skilled golfers? Bigger isn't always better!