

# PLAN CHEYENNE



## Parks & Recreation Master Plan

# Structure

## *Parks & Recreation Building Blocks*



City of Cheyenne Parks & Recreation

CHEYENNE MPO – CLARION – LSA – EDAAW – AVI





# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN STRUCTURE

## Structure Table of Contents

<b>Welcome to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Structure</b> .....	iii
<b>Section 1. Elements of a Park and Recreation System</b> .....	1-1
Parks .....	1-2
Neighborhood Park.....	1-2
Pocket Park.....	1-4
Community Park.....	1-5
Sports Complex .....	1-7
Regional Park.....	1-8
Special Purpose Park .....	1-9
Open Space.....	1-10
Natural Areas.....	1-12
Regional Open Space .....	1-13
Special Resource Area .....	1-14
Visual Green Spaces .....	1-15
Trails .....	1-16
Primary Multi-Purpose Trails.....	1-17
Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails.....	1-18
Neighborhood Trail.....	1-19
Soft Surface Trail.....	1-20
Recreation Amenities .....	1-22
<b>Section 2. Structure of a Park and Recreation System</b> .....	2-1
Structure Plan Map .....	2-2
Natural Resources Element.....	2-4
Natural Resource Language .....	2-6
Green Infrastructure.....	2-6
Landscape Ecology .....	2-6
Ecosystem Services .....	2-7
<b>Section 3. Design Principles</b> .....	3-1
Best Park Development Practices .....	3-1
Location .....	3-1
Neighborhood .....	3-1
Design .....	3-1
Environmental .....	3-2
Other Public Spaces and Urban Plazas.....	3-3
Access and Linkages.....	3-3
Comfort and Image .....	3-3
Uses and Activities .....	3-3
Park Architecture and Amenities .....	3-4
Layout.....	3-4
Structures .....	3-5
Fixtures .....	3-6
Sign Standards.....	3-7
<b>Section 4. Emerging Park Needs and Opportunities</b> .....	4-1



# PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN STRUCTURE

## List of Tables

Table 1.1	Neighborhood Park Characteristics and Standards .....	1-2
Table 1.2	Community Park Characteristics and Standards .....	1-5
Table 1.3	Special Purpose Park Characteristics and Standards .....	1-9
Table 1.4	Open Space Characteristics and Standards .....	1-11
Table 1.5	Trail Classifications and Standards .....	1-21
Table 4.1	TAZs with Projected Population Increases of More than 1,000 Residents .....	4-3

## List of Figures

Figure 1.1	Conceptual Rendering of Typical Neighborhood Park.....	1-3
Figure 1.2	Conceptual Rendering of Pocket Park.....	1-4
Figure 1.3	Conceptual Rendering of Typical Community Park.....	1-6
Figure 1.4	Primary Multi-Purpose Trail.....	1-17
Figure 1.5	Secondary Multi-Purpose Trail.....	1-18
Figure 1.6	Typical Neighborhood Trail.....	1-19
Figure 1.7	Typical Soft Surface Trail .....	1-20
Figure 2.1	Structure Plan .....	2-3
Figure 3.1	Community Park Monument Sign.....	3-7
Figure 3.2	Neighborhood Park Monument Sign (Option A).....	3-8
Figure 3.3	Neighborhood Park Monument Sign (Option B) .....	3-8
Figure 3.4	Regulatory Sign.....	3-9

## List of Maps

Map 1	Projected Population Increases.....	4-2
-------	-------------------------------------	-----

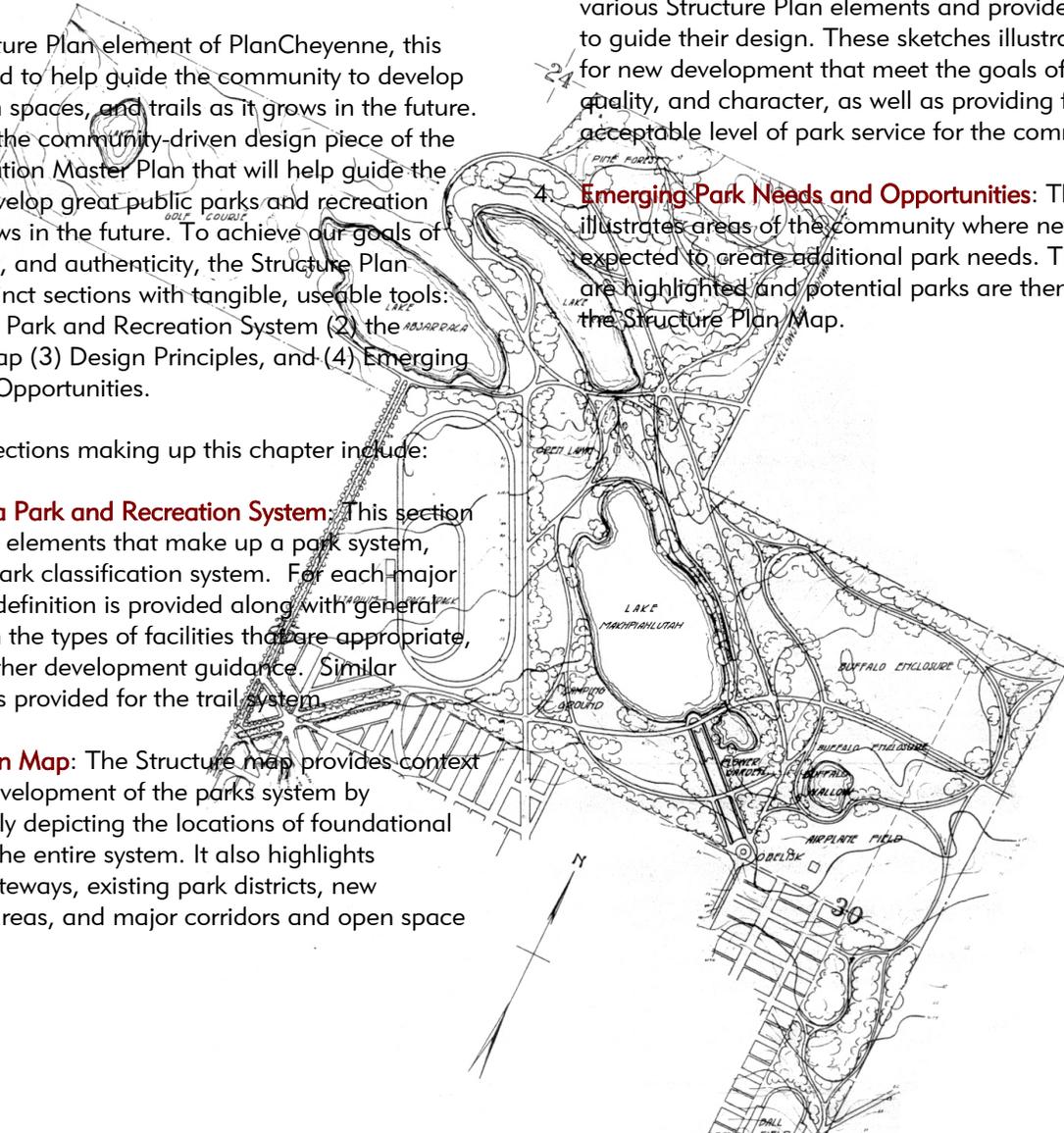
### Welcome to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan - *Structure*

As with the Structure Plan element of PlanCheyenne, this section is intended to help guide the community to develop great parks, open spaces, and trails as it grows in the future. Structure Plan is the community-driven design piece of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will help guide the community to develop great public parks and recreation facilities as it grows in the future. To achieve our goals of character, quality, and authenticity, the Structure Plan includes four distinct sections with tangible, useable tools: (1) Elements of a Park and Recreation System (2) the Structure Plan Map (3) Design Principles, and (4) Emerging Park Needs and Opportunities.

The four major sections making up this chapter include:

1. **Elements of a Park and Recreation System:** This section describes the elements that make up a park system, including a park classification system. For each major park type, a definition is provided along with general guidelines on the types of facilities that are appropriate, layout and other development guidance. Similar information is provided for the trail system.
2. **Structure Plan Map:** The Structure map provides context for further development of the parks system by geographically depicting the locations of foundational elements of the entire system. It also highlights important gateways, existing park districts, new opportunity areas, and major corridors and open space districts.

3. **Design Principles:** This section illustrates desirable design themes and qualities that contribute to making Cheyenne parks great. It includes sketches illustrating various Structure Plan elements and provides principles to guide their design. These sketches illustrate principles for new development that meet the goals of authenticity, quality, and character, as well as providing for an acceptable level of park service for the community.
4. **Emerging Park Needs and Opportunities:** This section illustrates areas of the community where new growth is expected to create additional park needs. These areas are highlighted and potential parks are then reflected on the Structure Plan Map.







# ELEMENTS OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

### 1

## Section 1. Elements of a Park and Recreation System

There are numerous types of parkland, open space, recreational facilities, and amenities that exist in Cheyenne as well as those that could be further developed for public recreational use. This section provides definitions for three major categories of parks including: Parkland, Open Space, Trails, and Recreation Amenities.

Parkland includes each of the various types of parkland typically found in a comprehensive park and recreation system of the size of Cheyenne. Community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, regional parks, special purpose parks, and sports complexes are all considered parkland and each has a distinct function and purpose that contributes to greatly to the overall success of a parks system.

Open space is most often thought of as natural, un-programmed areas outside of developed areas of the city that have been set aside for conservation, recreation, and aesthetic beauty. The City of Cheyenne is fortunate to be surrounded by large tracts of potential open space that contribute greatly to the unique Western character of the area. Providing for, and managing open space is a wonderful asset to a community and complements nicely the more traditional, developed parkland most often found within city limits.

Trails and trail systems not only provide a recreational amenity to a community, but also serve as an integral piece of the transportation infrastructure. Trails can cover a wide-range of purposes and styles, from highly developed, paved corridors used for commuting, to natural, soft-surfaced paths used for hiking and mountain biking.

Lastly, recreation amenities often serve as the heart of a municipal park and recreation system. Recreation amenities can include such large scale projects as a recreation center with a competitive swimming pool, a senior activity center, or even a temporary ice rink for winter-time only recreation. Whatever their purpose, recreation amenities allow many people with varying interests the ability to use a park and recreation system to its fullest.

The above described categories are already being provided for and managed to varying degrees by the City of Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Department, however they also need to be continually examined and considered for possible future inclusion and integration into the city's system as the community grows and matures. A properly coordinated system of parks, open space, trails, and recreation amenities will contribute greatly to the overall quality of life in Cheyenne.

## PARKS

### Neighborhood Park

Table 1.1 illustrates typical characteristics and standards of neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks provide nearby recreation and leisure opportunities within walking distance (typically one-half mile) of residential areas. They should serve as a common area for neighbors of all ages to gather, socialize and play. Typically neighborhood parks are located in developed areas and are intended to receive a high level of use. They are also often located adjacent to greenways, open space, or elementary or junior high schools. A neighborhood park should be accessible via a walkway or trail system within the city and at least half of the park, or two sides, should be bordered by a street providing easy public access, good line of sight, and parking. A

neighborhood park site surrounded with the rear property lines of houses is strongly discouraged. A typical neighborhood park should range in size from 5 to 20 acres. A slightly smaller size may be acceptable if the park system is adjacent to other parkland, natural areas, greenway or green space areas if the joined areas still provide larger neighborhood park purposes and functions. Figure 1.1 illustrates a conceptual layout of a typical neighborhood park.

Neighborhood Parks typically have landscaping and walking surfaces that can withstand the impacts of heavy foot traffic. Portions of the park site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development. Neighborhood parks typically include a paved, multi-purpose area for court games, a multi-purpose play field, play equipment, ADA accessible trails, and shaded areas for picnics and sitting within a landscaped setting that is a blend of fully irrigated areas for active uses and xeriscape areas for passive uses.

Table 1.1  
Neighborhood Park Characteristics and Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
<b>PARKS</b>				
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>				
Neighborhood Park	5-20 acres; slightly smaller size may be acceptable if adjacent to other parkland/natural areas or greenway parks while accommodating larger neighborhood park purposes/functions.	Provides nearby recreation and leisure opportunities within walking distance (one-half mile) of residential areas. Should serve as a common area for neighbors of all ages to gather, socialize and play.  Typically would include a paved, multi-purpose area for court games/in-line skating or two tennis courts, a multi-purpose play field with backstop, play equipment, ADA accessible trails and shaded areas for picnics and sitting within a landscaped setting that is a blend of full irrigation for active uses and xeriscape. Features such as interpretive signs, water bodies, and areas of natural vegetation may also be included where appropriate. In most cases, programmed sports activities should be limited to practices. On-street parking is typically adequate, and separate parking lots are discouraged unless a rental picnic pavilion is included or other feature that generates a large volume of automobile traffic that cannot be accommodated on the available street frontage.	Centrally locate within area served.  Accessible via walkway or urban trail.  Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development.  At least ½ of the park, two sides, shall be bordered by public streets in order to provide easy public access, visual surveillance and parking. Surrounding the site with the back property lines of houses is strongly discouraged.  Locate adjacent to elementary or junior high schools if desirable.	2.5 acres / 1,000 pop.

### 1

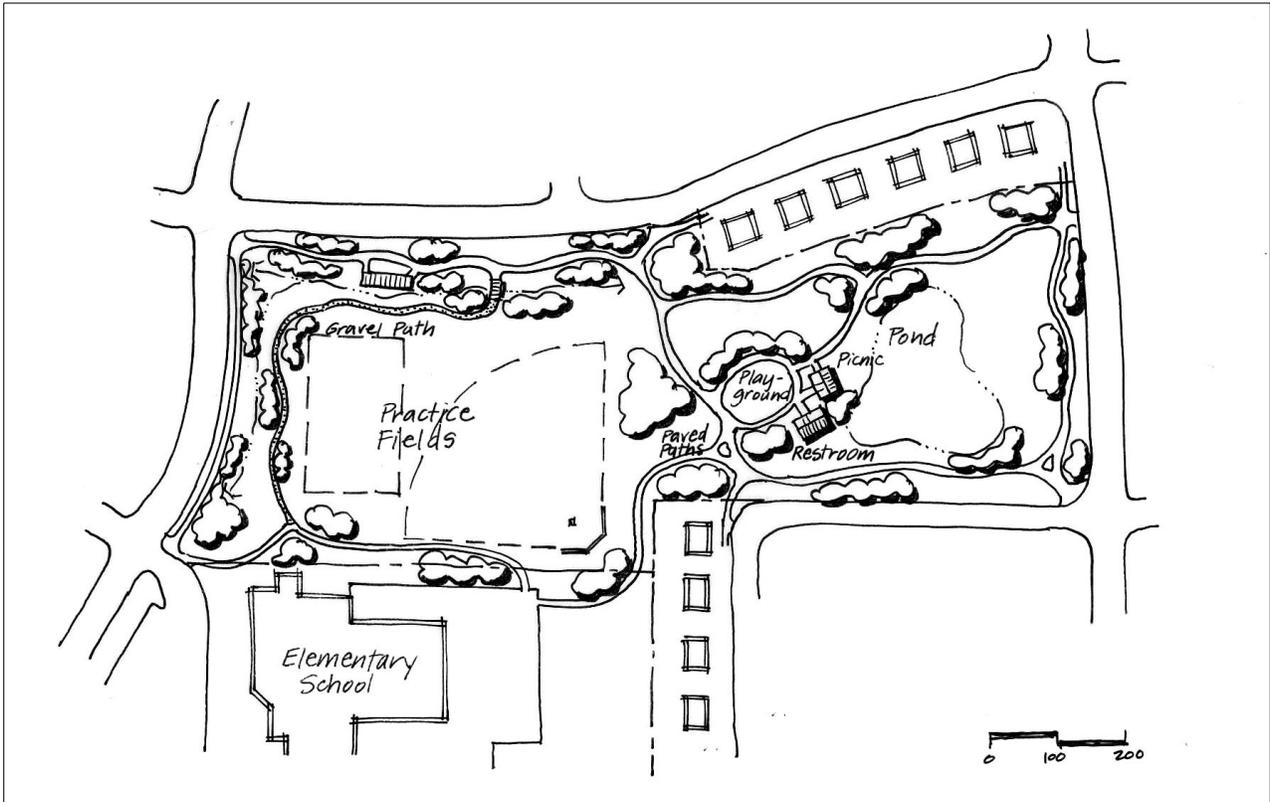


Figure 1.1  
Conceptual Rendering of Typical Neighborhood Park

There may also be passive areas that offer un-maintained native vegetation to provide for a natural experience in an urban setting. As surrounding residential land uses limits the intensity of use in the park such, neighborhood parks often appear more manicured than the surrounding natural landscape. Other features, such as interpretive signs, water bodies, and areas of natural vegetation may also be included where appropriate. On-street parking is typically adequate for a neighborhood park, and separate parking lots are discouraged. Programmed sports activities in Neighborhood Parks should generally be limited to practices. A level of service standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 people is typical for many communities. If this standard is applied to an average 10 acre neighborhood park, that park could then be expected to reasonably serve approximately 4,000 residents. An average 20 acre neighborhood park could be expected to serve approximately 8,000 residents.

#### Typical Level of Service Provision for Neighborhood Parks

Park Size	Standard	People Served
10 acres	2.5 ac/1,000 pop.	4,000
20 acres	2.5 ac/1,000 pop.	8,000

#### Typical Elements of a Neighborhood Park

- Paved multi-purpose area for court games
- Play equipment
- ADA accessible trails
- Shaded picnic areas

## PARKS

### Pocket Park

Pocket Parks are considered small neighborhood parks and this park type is very common in the City of Cheyenne. Pocket parks average approximately 2 acres or less in size, making them more of an amenity for neighbors living in the immediate vicinity as opposed to an amenity for the larger surrounding neighborhood. They often serve a neighborhood where opportunities for a larger park site are unavailable within a one-quarter mile radius. Pocket parks are similar to neighborhood parks in function and characteristics, except that they offer fewer amenities due to their limited size. Typical amenities might include playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, and a paved, multi-purpose court area. While pocket parks supplement the neighborhood park system and provide visual relief within the urban landscape for the homes within the immediate area, 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 they are very expensive to maintain on a per-acre basis.

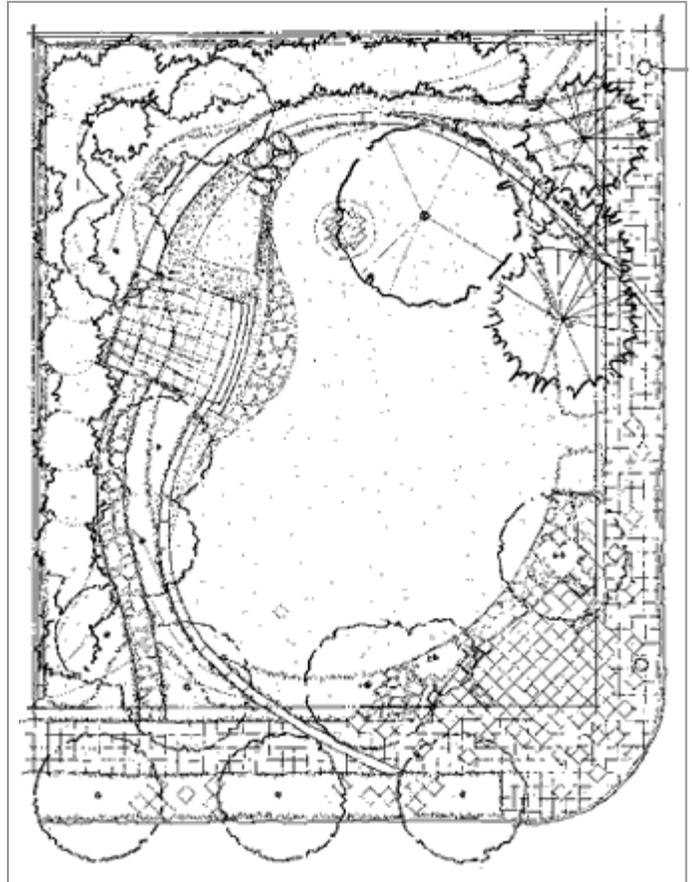


Figure 1.2  
Conceptual Rendering of Pocket Park

- Typical Elements of a Pocket Park**
- Paved multi-purpose area for court games
  - Playgrounds
  - Benches
  - Picnic tables



# 1

## PARKS

### Community Park

Table 1.2 illustrates typical characteristics and standards of community parks. Community parks are larger parks that can offer certain functions to the entire city and provide opportunities for activities and facilities on a community wide level. They should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas such as urban forests, gardens, historic features, water features, performance areas, festival spaces, and plazas that appeal to the broader community.

Community Parks should generally be located so as to provide all residents access within 1-2 miles of their home. Community Parks may also serve as the local neighborhood park for residential areas within one-half mile. 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 an off-street trail system to reduce the need for driving to the park. Community parks are ideally 25 to 100 acres in size, and portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development. Special site features such as streams, lakes, forests, rock outcrops, historic or archaeological sites, areas of native vegetation and other interesting elements may add to the unique character and diversity of the park. Often these areas are un-maintained to provide a more natural

Table 1.2  
Community Park Characteristics and Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
<b>PARKS</b>				
<b>Community Parks</b>				
Community Park	25-100 acres	<p>Provides opportunities for community wide activities and facilities. Should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas such as urban forests, gardens, historic features, water features, performance areas, festival spaces, plazas, etc. and have features that appeal to the broader community.</p> <p>Sports complexes are not complete community parks as they are very special-purpose. However, they contribute to the overall level of service for community parks. See definition below.</p> <p>Community Parks should generally be located so as to provide all residents access to a community park within 1- 2 miles of their home. Community Parks may also serve as the local neighborhood park for residential areas within ½ mile.</p>	<p>Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development if the park site allows. Special site features such as streams, lakes, forests, rock outcrops, historic or archaeological sites and other interesting elements may add to the unique character of the park.</p> <p>Ideally, will have good access from a collector or arterial street.</p> <p>Direct access to primary community trail system desirable.</p>	5.8 acres / 1,000 pop.

# ELEMENTS OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – STRUCTURE

### 1

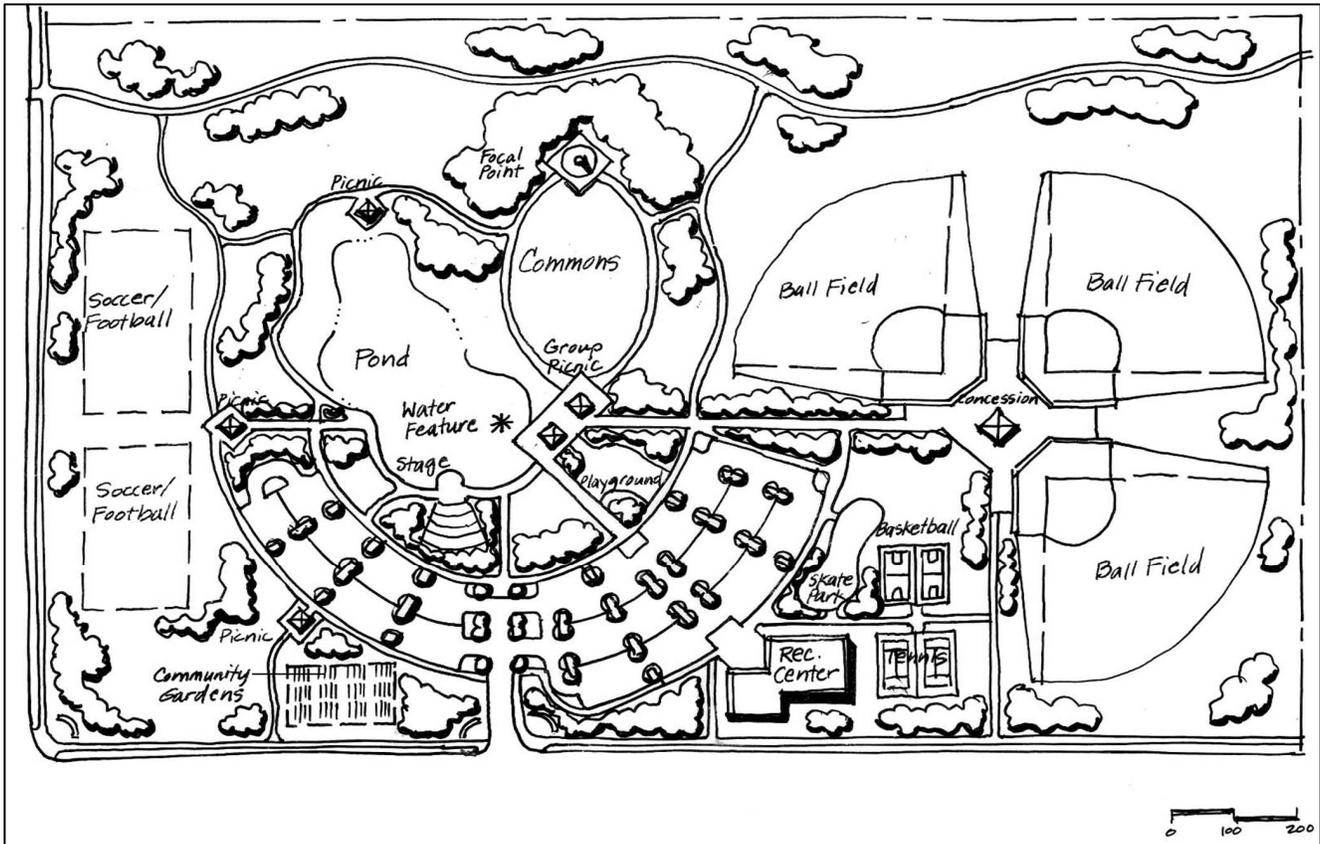


Figure 1.3  
Conceptual Rendering of Typical Community Park

environment in an urban setting. Sports complexes by themselves are not complete community parks as they serve a special-purpose, however, they do contribute to the overall level of service for community parks. Figure 1.3 illustrates a conceptual layout of a typical community park.

A level of service standard of 5.8 acres per 1,000 people is about average for many communities. If this standard is applied to an average 25 acre community park, that park could then be expected to reasonably serve approximately 4,300 residents. An average 100 acre community park could be expected to serve approximately 17,200 residents.

**Typical Level of Service Provision for Community Parks**

Park Size	Standard	People Served
25 acres	5.8 ac/1,000 pop.	4,300
100 acres	5.8 ac/1,000 pop.	17,200

- Typical Elements of a Community Park**
- Paved multi-purpose area for court games
  - Playgrounds
  - Picnic shelters
  - Athletic fields
  - Community activity areas
  - Off-street trail connections

## PARKS

### Sports Complex

Sports complexes are specialized, more intensively programmed community parks, 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 not contain the broad array of amenities and activities that are offered in community parks. Sports complexes offer limited areas for passive recreation use and other features that might appeal to the broader community. They are often strategically located within communities to fill gaps in service for specialized sports facilities that may not be available at all community or neighborhood parks. The majority of the sports complex site should be relatively flat to accommodate various types of sports fields, and the site should be located away from residential areas to avoid traffic, light and noise conflicts. These sites should also have parking, access to the greenway/ trails system, possibly concessions areas, restrooms/ facilities, and areas for parents to sit and for smaller kids to hang out, like playgrounds.



#### Typical Elements of a Sports Complex

- Paved multi-purpose area for court games
- Athletic fields
- Restrooms
- Passive areas for parents
- Ample off-street parking

## PARKS

### Regional Park

Regional Parks are large park and recreation areas that can contain a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities serving users from an entire region, such as all of Laramie County. Often, regional parks are developed in partnership with other government entities such as counties or park districts. There are no set standards for regional parks, however, they typically are larger in size, usually 50 to 100 acres and contain a sports complex that serves a regional need, such as hosting tournaments. They are also often located near major arterials with easy access for residents of adjacent communities. Regional parks can also contain a special facility of regional significance, such as an environmental learning center, museum, mountain bicycling course, or kayak park. There is no set level of service standard for regional parks however they can serve part of a neighborhood or community park level of service if the park site contributes to these types of needs and serves these types of functions.



Frontier Park

#### Typical Elements of a Regional Park

- Regional sports complex
- Special facilities of regional significance
- Large acreage

## PARKS

### Special Purpose Park

Table 1.3 illustrates the purpose of a special purpose park. A special purpose park is highly varied in size and character, typically serving a specialized function. They often serve a focused community need such as a horticulture center, environmental education center, working farm, performance area, festival area, fairgrounds, urban plaza, equestrian center or civic park. There are no set standards for special purpose parks as they are often sized and tailored with characteristics to meet the needs of the park. There is also no set level of service standard. However, they can contribute to meeting neighborhood or community park level

of service standards if the site contributes to these types of needs. Cheyenne currently has two special purpose parks: the former Saddle Tramps Riding Club area, 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. Another one too, the USDA Grasslands research station, open to public if you call ahead, and eventually part of that will revert to city and be the High Plains Arboretum.

#### Typical Elements of a Special Purpose Park

- Special purpose facility
- Acreage meets the needs of the facility
- Serves community needs

Table 1.3  
Special Purpose Park Characteristics and Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
<b>PARKS</b>				
<b>Special Purpose Parks</b>				
Sports Complex	Varies	Provides opportunities for community-wide programmed and self-directed sports such as: baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, in-line hockey, and skateboarding in higher intensity use facilities. Limited areas for passive recreation uses and other features that appeal to the broader community. Strategically locate to fill service gaps for specialized sports facilities.	Majority of site should be relatively flat to accommodate sports fields.  Locate away from residential areas to avoid traffic, light and noise conflicts.	Part of community park level of service standard.
Special Purpose Park	Varies	Serves a singular or very focused community need, such as a horticulture center, environmental education center, working farm, performance area, festival area, fairgrounds, urban plaza, equestrian center and civic park.	Varies	Not applicable. Part of neighborhood or community park level of service if site contributes to these types of needs.
Regional Park	Varies, but typically more than 200 acres.	Provides facilities and recreational amenities intended to serve city residents as well as the surrounding region. As such, regional parks typically involve partnerships involving several jurisdictions who come together to provide a service or benefit that they can't individually afford or that they can provide more economically through a partnership. Typically, regional parks contain a mix of active sports fields, natural and cultural areas and other amenities. Regional parks can function as community parks for the areas in which they are located and may also serve a neighborhood park function if appropriate facilities and park spaces are provided.	Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facility development. Special site features such as wildlife habitat, streams, lakes, forests, rock outcrops, historic or archaeological sites and other interesting elements may add to the unique character of the park.  Direct access from an arterial street.  Direct access to primary community trail system.	Not applicable, but some park acreage may be used to satisfy community park needs and may therefore be calculated into the total community parkland available in the City.

### OPEN SPACE

Open space occurs on a spectrum, from natural environments, to common areas, to parks. Often, natural open spaces can occur within or adjacent to programmed park sites. In the context of this plan, open space can be thought of as an interconnected system of protected lands that are conserved in their natural state, restored, or improved with appropriate native landscaping to retain a natural or natural-appearing condition. Open space areas provide resource conservation, visual, wildlife, and non-motorized recreational benefits, as well as relief from urban development. Like parks, open space increases property values and provides educational opportunities, in addition to providing a number of “free” ecosystem services like flood storage. Allowed uses vary depending upon resource sensitivity and management objectives, but some areas can accommodate passive recreational uses and facilities such as trails, trailheads, overlooks, rest areas and interpretive signage. Section 4, *Design Principles for Structure Plan Elements*, of the *PlanCheyenne* Structure Plan document further describes the vital role open space plays in a community, the structure it can provide, and the unique character it offers.

Open space areas are generally classified into four types: Natural Areas, Regional Open Space, Special Resource Areas and Visual Green Spaces. Natural areas may also include corridors through which non-motorized trail systems and bike paths are located. Table 1.4 illustrates characteristic and standards of various types of open space.



Proposed Natural/Cultural Resource Area

# ELEMENTS OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

# 1

Table 1.4  
Open Space Characteristics and Standards

Classification	Desirable Acreage	Purpose/Function	Site Characteristics	Level of Service
<b>OPEN SPACE</b>				
<b>Natural Area/Natural Corridor</b>				
Natural Area	Varies, but typically 10 acres or greater	Protects natural values on smaller parcels. Often located along stream corridors. Provides opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation, which may include multi-purpose trails.	<p>Emphasis on resource protection or preservation with some public access provided.</p> <p>Limited site area can be dedicated to park-like uses, such as roads, parking areas, trails, environmental education/interpretive areas, picnic sites, and visitor support facilities.</p>	No LOS standard.
<b>Regional Open Spaces</b>				
Regional Open Space	100 acres or greater	Protects large areas with natural resource values of community-wide significance. Provides opportunities for nature-oriented outdoor recreation.	Emphasis on achieving an appropriate balance between resource protection and public use.	No LOS standard.
<b>Special Resource Areas</b>				
Special Resource Area	Varies	Protects areas with important cultural, natural and other community values. These may include areas of significant vegetation, important and sensitive habitats, scenic areas, or areas that contribute to the urban shaping and buffering goals of the community.	Emphasis is on resource protection rather than recreation. If public access is not desirable or needed, conservation easements may be a suitable preservation tool.	No LOS standard.
<b>Visual Green Spaces</b>				
Visual Green Spaces	Varies	Strategically located and highly visible natural or manicured lands that contribute significantly to the visual quality of the community. May have little or no public access or recreational activities.	May be part of a larger public project (e.g. arterial streetscape or public building landscape)	No LOS standard.

## OPEN SPACE

### Natural Areas

Natural areas are lands with natural characteristics and emphasis on resource protection. The size varies but is usually no less than 10 acres and there is no set standard level of service. If the area encompasses a trail system or corridors, they may be linear in nature. Natural areas are typically created to protect natural values on smaller parcels of land and are often located along stream corridors. They will often provide opportunities for nature-oriented, non-motorized outdoor recreation, which may include multi-purpose trails. Limited site areas can be dedicated to park-like uses, such as roads, parking areas, trails, environmental education/interpretive areas, picnic sites, and visitor support facilities. Generally, due to the intent of natural value protection, park-like uses are limited.



Cheyenne Greenway Natural Area

## OPEN SPACE

### Regional Open Space

Regional open spaces are large areas with significant natural resource values that include opportunities for non-motorized nature-oriented recreation. The size of a regional open space area will vary, however it is generally more than 100 acres and there is no set standard level of service. Regional open space typically protects large areas of undeveloped natural space with community-wide significance. Overall, the emphasis is on achieving an appropriate balance between resource protection and public use; however regional open space may also provide opportunities for nature-oriented outdoor recreation. Often there will be a natural surface trail system used by hikers, equestrian riders, and mountain bikers.



Big Hole

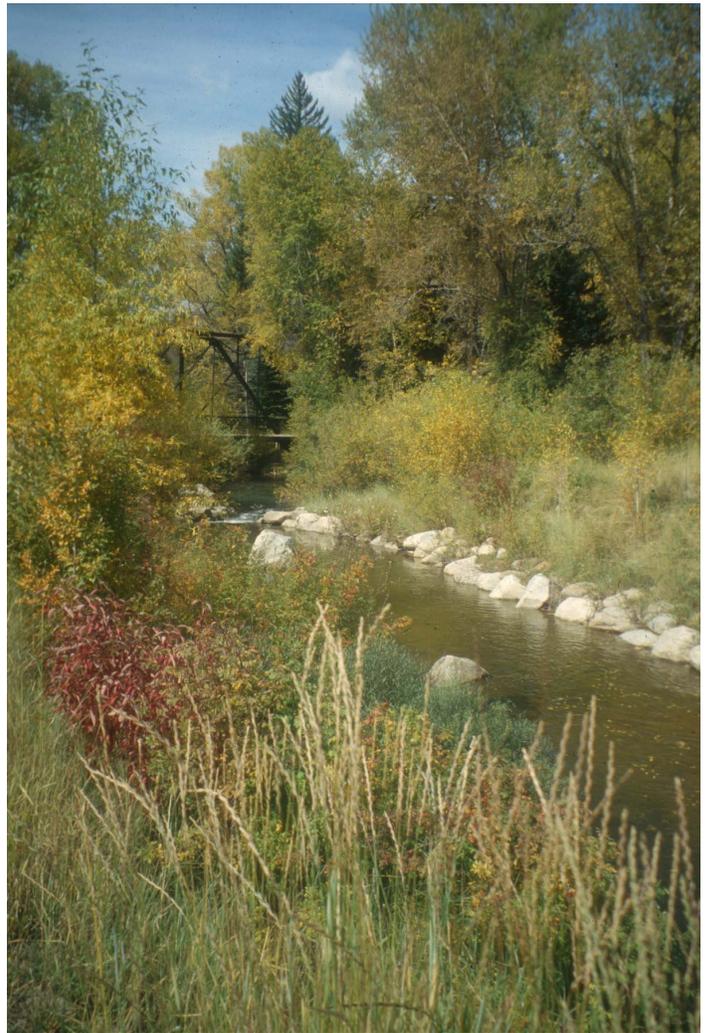


Typical Open Space near Residential Development

### OPEN SPACE

## Special Resource Area

Special resource areas are lands that protect areas with important cultural, natural or community values. These may include areas of significant vegetation, important and sensitive habitats, scenic areas, or areas that contribute to the urban shaping goals of the region. Management of these special resource areas emphasizes resource protection rather than recreation and public access for recreation may be prohibited. If public access is not desirable or needed, conservation easements may act as a suitable preservation tool. The size of a special resource area will vary depending on its intended use or the community’s goal and there is no set standard level of service.



Protected Drainage

### 1

## OPEN SPACE

### Visual Green Spaces

Visual green spaces are intended to be areas of city-wide significance often associated with public road rights of way. Typically they are strategically located and highly visible natural or manicured lands that contribute significantly to the visual quality of the community. Visual green spaces may be part of a larger public project such as an arterial streetscape, public building landscape, a cemetery, or a golf course. Many of the gateways around Cheyenne described in the *PlanCheyenne Structure Plan*, particularly landscape and community gateways, provide areas of visual green space. As they may have little or no public access or recreational activities, communities should be very selective in accepting maintenance responsibilities for these types of spaces. The size of visual green space varies and there is no set standard level of service.



Visual Green Space

## TRAILS

Trails also occur on a spectrum, ranging from soft-surface trails in remote areas to shared-use paths adjacent to major roadways. Ideally, trails should occur in non-vehicular corridors with appropriate pedestrian amenities, aesthetic enhancements, and connections. Although this is not always an achievable goal (especially in built areas), Cheyenne should seek to continue to separate pedestrians from vehicles in order to enhance safety and the recreational experience, as well as promoting functional alternative modes of transportation.

This plan contains trail design characteristics and standards that may be easily adapted to fit the needs of Cheyenne. Off-street trails are primarily recreational in nature, versus bike transportation corridors that are part of the higher speed, on-street bike lane system. Recreational trails may link to schools, public parks, recreational facilities and open space areas; to other neighborhoods; or to work or shopping destinations. The trail classifications and design standards presented in this section have been developed with consideration of the information provided in "Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind – A Handbook for Trail Planners.."<sup>1</sup>

The construction of a trail invariably results in some ecological impact. Whether it is vegetation that is removed in the process of building a trail or the creation of new ecological conditions prompting a shift in the composition of wildlife and plant species, biological diversity is impacted. Disturbance along a trail can also cause some wildlife species to abandon their nests, decline parental care, shorten feeding times and/or move away permanently. It is therefore imperative that trail corridors be designed from a resource perspective in an effort to balance the needs of the landscape and wildlife with that of recreational users.

### Recommended Design Considerations

- Minimize the zone of influence by reducing the width of the trail so that a balance is achieved between the development of a multi-use trail system and the preservation of wildlife habitat.
- Align a trail along or near an existing human-created ecological edge rather than bisecting undisturbed areas or large areas of wildlife habitat to minimize habitat fragmentation.
- Primary trails should be located within a green space or minimum 50-foot easement to provide a scenic environment, and to provide adequate room for both a paved and non-paved trail where appropriate.
- Provide an adequate buffer, up to 100 feet, between trail development and wetland areas where feasible.
- Locate trails, where feasible, in scenic locations, but not within or immediately adjacent to sensitive vegetation or significant wildlife habitat.
- Minimize cut and fill slopes adjacent to the trail.
- Restrict the density of trails within and near high quality wildlife habitat areas.
- Select degraded areas with potential for restoration.
- All graded slopes should be re-vegetated and measures taken to control storm drainage, weed invasion and erosion.
- Re-vegetate upland areas disturbed by trail development, as appropriate, for continuity with the surrounding natural vegetation communities.

<sup>1</sup> Colorado State Parks, September 1998.

## TRAILS

### Primary Multi-Purpose Trails

#### Purpose

Primary Multi-Purpose Trails often form the major trail spines throughout cities, counties, and neighboring communities. They accommodate all trail users, including walkers, joggers, wheelchair cruisers, in-line skaters, recreational and commute bikers, and equestrian users within the same trail corridor on separated trails. The preferable location of these trails should be along drainageways, utility easements, or other linear features to connect parks, open space areas, recreational facilities and major destination nodes. Due to their volume of use, alignments in environmentally sensitive areas should be avoided. Trails that must be located adjacent to roadways should incorporate a 50-foot easement where feasible and appropriate. A 3-foot wide, soft surface shoulder on one side of the trail should be provided for joggers and walkers who prefer a softer surface.

As these trails form key components of an interconnected regional trail system that provides an alternative mode of transportation, funding can often be acquired through regional, state, and federal agencies. Coordination with adjacent municipalities and land management agencies is critical in order to ensure alignment connectivity.

#### Design Considerations

Trail corridor width greatly influences the user experience, especially when enclosed on both sides by development.

Ideally, the trail corridor for trails should be a minimum of 50 feet in width, built on existing powerline easements, railroad or abandoned right-of-ways, gas pipeline corridors, and floodplains to create wider trail corridors. It should include a main bi-directional trail with a tread width of 12 feet. A separate but parallel soft-surface trail (4 to 6 feet wide) should be provided where equestrian use is anticipated, which separates equestrian users from bicyclists. The distance between each trail type can vary, but a minimum of 6 feet from tread to tread should be provided. A far line of sight and turning radius is necessary for commuter speeds. Center lane striping delineates direction of travel on the paved trail to accommodate high volumes of use.

The trail should take precedent as a main transportation feature just like any road system, and pedestrian underpasses should be incorporated into any planned roadway or bridge improvements. Strong connections to community destination points encourage non-vehicular travel to events, and trailheads should be conveniently located at activity centers. Trailheads should also have adequate parking and may contain certain facilities such as information kiosks and restrooms. Intersections and other areas where users must stop or dismount should be minimized. Below grade crossings should be used as much as possible, especially at arterial streets, in order to minimize pedestrian-vehicle conflicts. Benches, overlooks and interpretive areas at activity centers and other strategic locations should be provided throughout the corridor. Figures 1.4-1.7 illustrate the cross-sections of the various trails and include trail widths, trail shoulders and clearance requirements. Table 1.5 lists the specific design standards for primary and secondary trails.

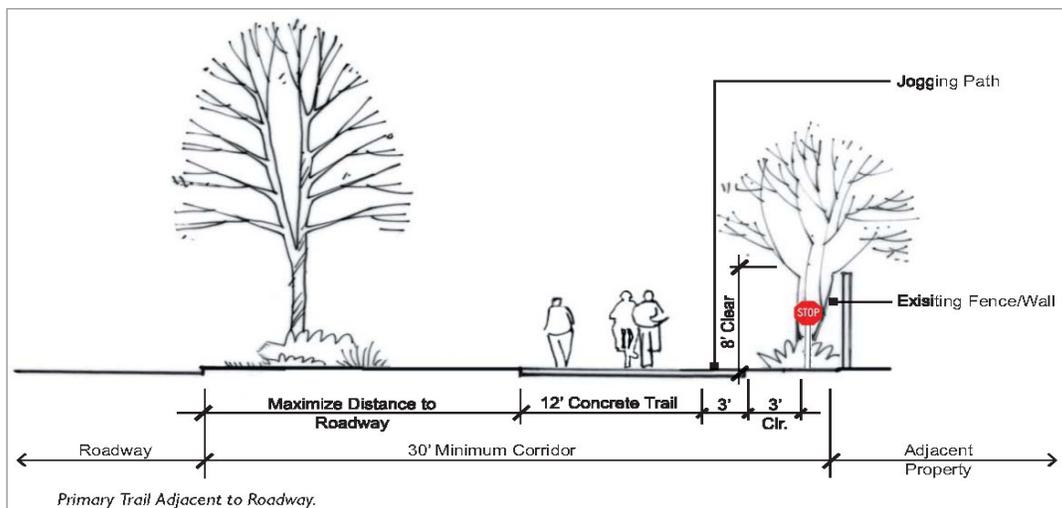


Figure 1.4  
Primary Multi-Purpose Trail

## TRAILS

### Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails

#### Purpose

Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails can support the Primary Multi-Use Trail system by providing connections to parks, open spaces, and activity centers not on the regional system. Like Regional Trails, these trails are designed to accommodate all trail users, including walkers, joggers, and recreational and commute cyclists on the same trail. However, the corridor width and trail width are smaller and

stopping is required more often at at-grade vehicular crossings. Equestrian users can often be accommodated where necessary on a 3-foot soft shoulder adjacent to the paved trail. Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails that must be located adjacent to roadways should incorporate a 20-foot minimum easement where feasible and appropriate.

#### Design Considerations

These undivided trails are typically 8 to 12 feet wide, and paved with concrete or other similar hard surfacing. Joggers, walkers, or equestrian users can travel on an adjacent soft surface shoulder (4 feet wide) to reduce conflicts. Center lane striping delineates direction of travel on the paved lane. The trail corridor for Local Multi-Purpose Trails is a minimum of 25 feet in width where feasible.

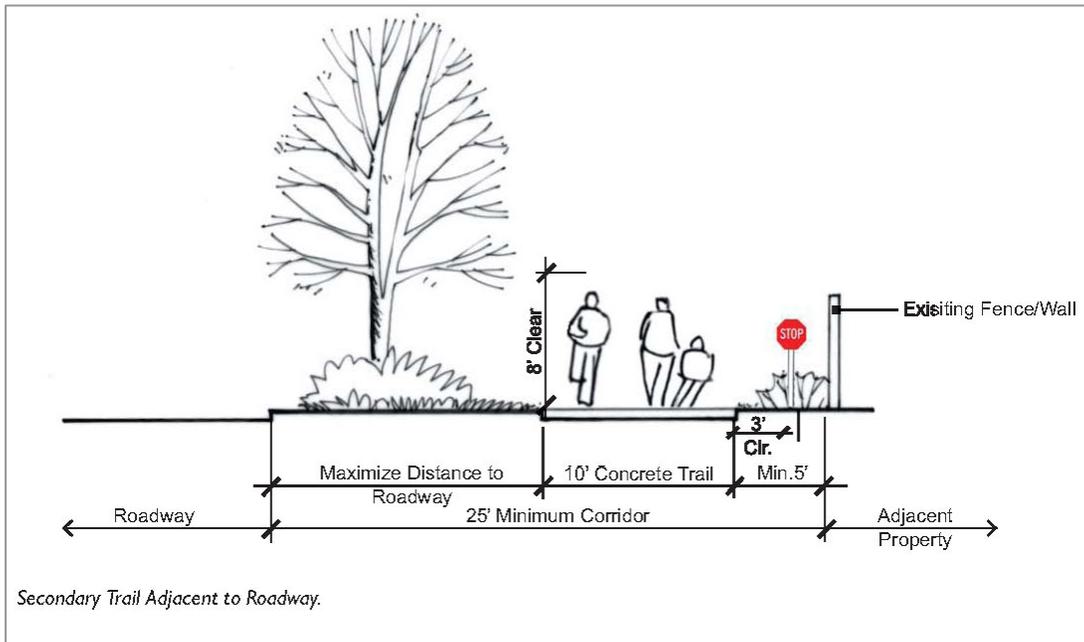


Figure 1.5  
Secondary Multi-Purpose Trail

## TRAILS

### Neighborhood Trail

#### Purpose

Neighborhood Trails function as off-street sidewalks to promote connectivity within residential or commercial developments, or parks and open space. These paved, undivided trails should be provided by the project developer and be an integral part of the circulation and open space system of the development.

#### Design Considerations

These paths should be a minimum of 6 feet width, paved concrete.

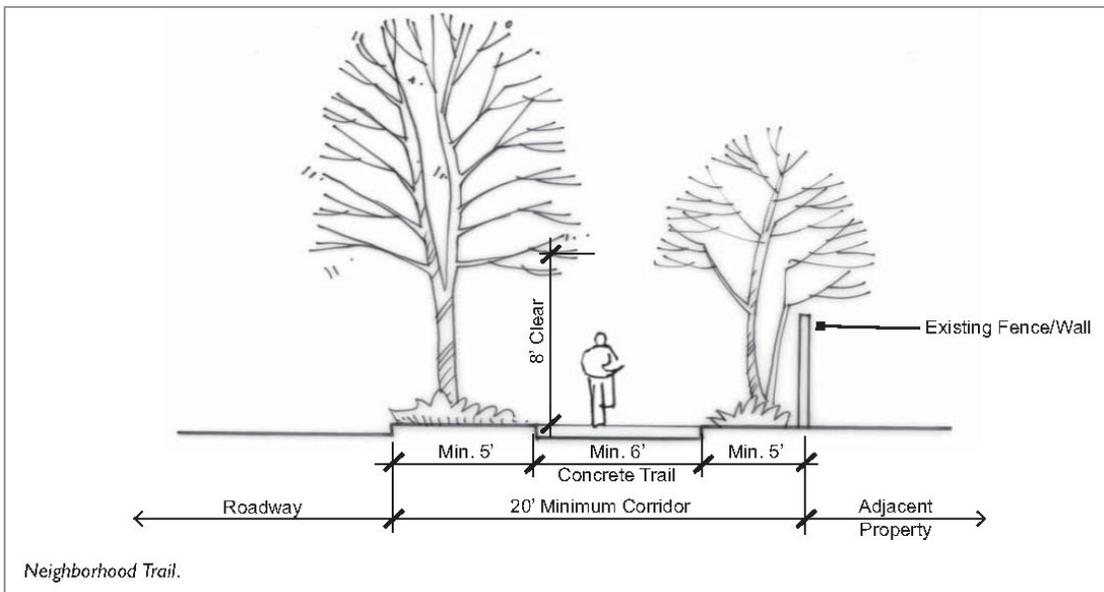


Figure 1.6  
Typical Neighborhood Trail

## TRAILS

### Soft Surface Trail

#### Purpose

Soft Surface trails are gravel, fines or natural surface trails within mountain or foothill open spaces. They are designed for slower speeds and lower volumes of use. Targeted users include hikers and mountain bikers. Soft surface trails are destination trails which provide an alternative experience to the urban and suburban trails of Primary and Secondary Trails.

#### Design Considerations

Surfacing may include crushed granite, gravel, fines, or native material. Soil hardener may be required in some areas to help prevent erosion and mitigate dust. Although minimum width is required, additional width (10') may be necessary for vehicular access depending on how maintenance will be completed. Water bars, rolling dips and drainage culverts will be required to maintain proper trail drainage.

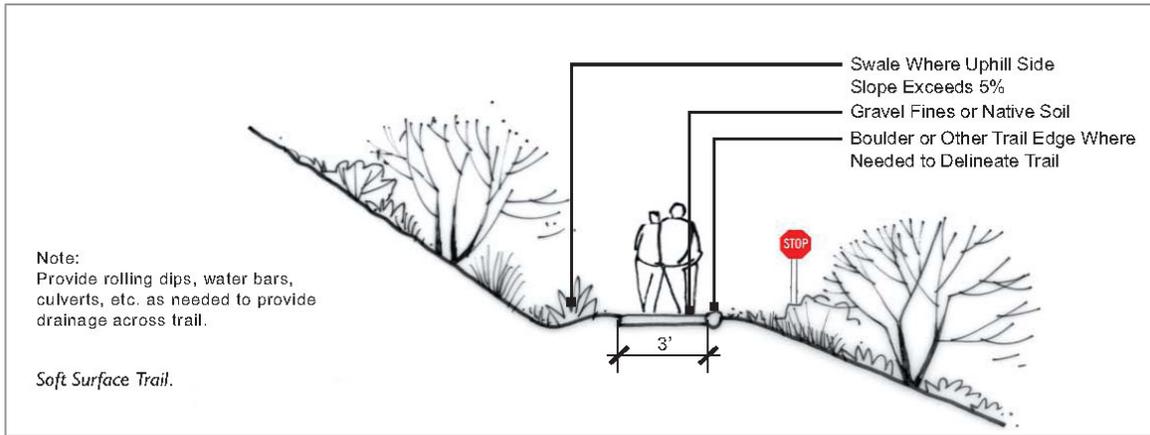


Figure 1.7  
Typical Soft Surface Trail

# ELEMENTS OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

### 1

Table 1.5  
Trail Classifications and Standards

	Primary Multi-Purpose Trails	Secondary Multi-Purpose Trails	Neighborhood Trails	Soft-Surfaced Trails
<b>Definition</b>	Divided trails for walking, jogging, skating, bicycling, equestrian, and other non-motorized uses.  The regional trail should take precedent as a main transportation feature just like any road system to encourage non-vehicular travel.	Trails for walking, jogging, skating, bicycling and other non-motorized uses that provide connections to the primary trail system, or to attractions, employment areas, shopping and services and between neighborhoods. These trails can be privately owned and maintained as long as public access is required.	These trails provide internal connection within Neighborhoods and connect neighborhoods to Primary and Secondary Trails.	These trails provide a recreation destination for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized trail users.
<b>Right-of-Way</b>	50 feet minimum width, designed as naturalized open space or parkland as determined by the City.	30 feet minimum width designed as naturalized open space or parkland as determined by the City.	Per development code.	NA
<b>Trail Width</b>	Paved trail: 10-12 feet Soft-surfaced trail: 6-8 feet	8-10 feet	6 feet	3 feet and 10 feet where maintenance vehicle access required.
<b>Width between Parallel Trail</b>	3 feet if present.	NA	NA	NA
<b>Trail Surface</b>	Paved trail should be asphalt or concrete.  Natural surface if used by equestrians. Crushed gravel if not used by equestrians.	Paved trail should be concrete.  Soft shoulder adjacent to paved trail can be of natural surface or crushed gravel depending on targeted user.	Concrete	Crushed gravel or native soil with dust inhibitors and soil hardener.
<b>Sight Distance</b>	130 feet minimum. If unattainable, provide adequate signage.	90 feet minimum. If unattainable, provide adequate signage.	NA	NA
<b>Grades</b>	5% maximum preferred. In special circumstances, up to 8.33% may be allowed, not to exceed 200 feet in length.	5% maximum preferred. In special circumstances, up to 8.33% may be allowed, not to exceed 200 feet in length.	NA	5% maximum for trails designated as universally accessible. Steps may be required on slopes exceeding 10%.
<b>Relationship to Vehicular Roadways</b>	20 feet minimum buffer from roadway.  Underpasses width should be a minimum of 12 feet (14 feet preferred).  Bridges should be a minimum of 10 feet.	8 feet minimum buffer from roadway.  Underpasses width should be a minimum of 10 feet (12 feet preferred).  Bridges should be a minimum of 8 feet.	Can be adjacent to roadways for limited distances (1/4 mile).	NA
<b>Striping</b>	On paved trail: 4 inch wide, dashed white center lane striping. Yellow solid line where site distances prohibit safe passing.  No striping on soft surface trail.	4 inch wide, dashed white center lane striping. Yellow solid line where site distances prohibit safe passing.	None	None
<b>Amenities</b>	Restrooms and drinking fountains/water jug fillers at strategic trailheads and as provided by nearby commercial uses. Trailheads should provide adequate signage, rules, and parking. Benches, approximately 2 per mile. Trail markers, every 0.1 mile. Picnic tables as appropriate.	As appropriate.	As appropriate.	Trailheads at trail access points. Parks and open space parking areas and facilities should be used where possible. Restroom, shaded seating and picnic areas may be available. _ Regulatory, informational and entry signs present for area.

## RECREATION AMENITIES

There are many other elements of a park system that serve recreational, leisure, and quality of life needs of a community. Many times they can be incorporated into a park setting, such as a neighborhood pool, and other times they stand alone as a destination, such as a recreation center. Either way, they provide a valuable contribution to the overall structure of a park system as well as provide needed community gathering spots. They can also serve special interests by providing amenities not normally found elsewhere, such as in-line and skateboard facilities, urban plazas, and golf courses.



Skate Park



Pioneer Center

Most communities also utilize recreation facilities within local school systems to supplement the park and recreation facilities. Often park systems have more recreation programming than their own facilities can accommodate and enter into agreements with the schools to address this. School facilities commonly used by park systems include gymnasiums, indoor pools, multi-purpose rooms, and activity centers.

### Typical Recreation Facility Elements

- Indoor recreation center
- Indoor aquatics facility
- Outdoor pool
- Disc golf course
- Skate facility
- Urban plazas
- Civic gathering areas and shelters
- Community performance venues
- Senior centers



Disc Golf Course

## 2. Structure of a Park and Recreation System

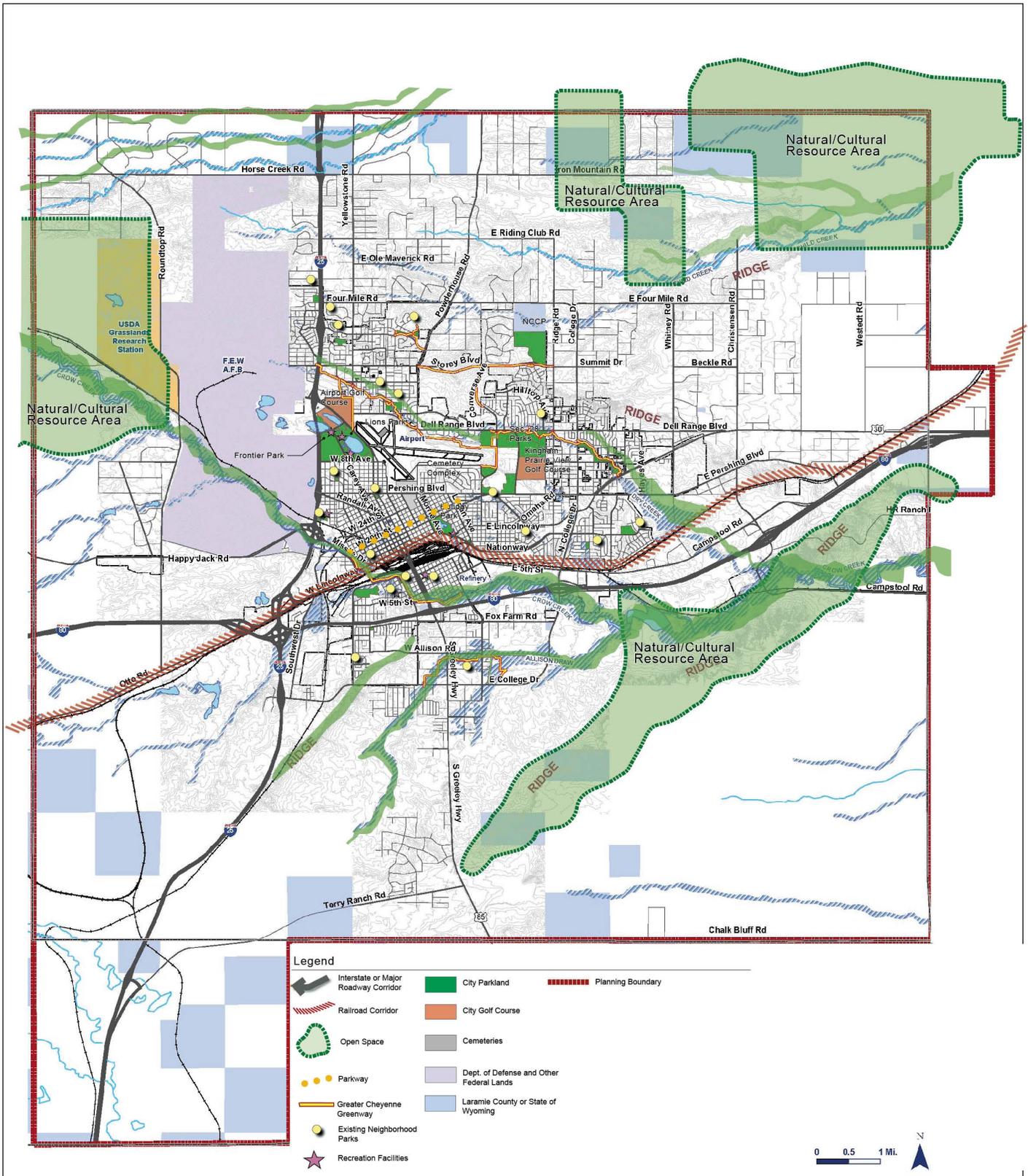
The Structure Plan offers the community a method by which to take advantage of opportunities to protect special places, provide accessible trails, and create community hubs, while maintaining the City’s vibrant economy and unique character. Parks, open space and trails are good investments; Parks provide opportunities for the community to gather and socialize, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and contribute to the visual quality of Cheyenne. Open space improves quality of life, provides an escape from the urban setting, promotes awareness and respect for the high plains environment, and defines growth. Trails accommodate several of the most popular recreation activities residents enjoy, such as walking, jogging, bicycling, walking w/ pets, photography, or just simply relaxing. There is a growing recognition that cities that provide quality parks and natural environments continue to attract brain power, economic investment, and creativity. Park and recreation investments truly pay dividends for those cities bold enough to plan, protect, finance, and build attractive and centrally-located parks, open space, and trail systems.



Cheyenne Gateway

## STRUCTURE Structure Plan Map

The PlanCheyenne structure plan map identifies different elements, or building blocks that create the foundation of the community (see the PlanCheyenne Structure Map in Section 3 of StructureCheyenne). Helping make up this foundation are the natural resource components of Cheyenne, including parks, open space, and trails. The Parks and Recreation structure map, Figure 2.1, is shown on the following page. Natural resource components can be found in, or help to contribute to, the various elements of the structure of the City. Shared structure elements include: gateways, corridors, landmarks, and districts.



# PARKS AND RECREATION STRUCTURE PLAN

## Cheyenne Area Master Plan

Cheyenne MPO, Spatial Data and Visualization Center, City of Cheyenne, WY Geographic Information Science Center

This information has not been checked against aerial photography and is for display purposes only. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data contained herein.



CLARION · EDWA · LSA · AVI

Figure 2.1  
Structure Plan

## STRUCTURE Natural Resources Element

An examination of the Structure Plan Map reveals that many regional and landscape gateways to the city encompass natural resource areas to provide visitors a welcome entrance to the community. These “green” areas highlight the City of Cheyenne’s unique western landscape and the active lifestyle of its residents as well as its commitment to the environment.



Typical Cheyenne Gateway

Natural resource components can be seen in various corridors around Cheyenne as well. These include green medians along major boulevards, or motor vehicle corridors, within the community as well as the extensive Greenway corridors that wind throughout the city. These corridors provide residents and visitors alike with a pleasant experience while traveling throughout the community. The Greenway corridor also provides an option for alternative transportation to major hubs in the city.



Greater Cheyenne Greenway

A landmark is a visually prominent and memorable architectural, sculptural or natural feature in the community. Parks and open space themselves can be considered landmarks, such as Lions Park, home of the Municipal Pool and Sloan’s Lake, Frontier Park, home of the world famous Frontier Days celebration, or the historic Holiday Park.



Historic Holiday Park

Lastly natural resources can in and of themselves be districts. A district is a distinct area of a community that has a shared identity, as defined by its culture, visual character, and/or uses. Presently undeveloped areas of the city that contain natural resource values should be preserved. These values include visually prominent ridgelines, riparian and prairie landscapes, historic ranchlands, and critical wildlife habitat. Examples of these natural resource districts include the northeast Cheyenne area, consisting of intact ranchlands, the prominent ridgeline to the southeast of the city, and the west Cheyenne area, adjacent to the USDA Grasslands Research Station.



Crow Creek in Northeast Cheyenne

## STRUCTURE Natural Resource Language

In order to fully understand the role open space plays in a community, it is first necessary to understand the role it plays on an ecological scale. Consequently there is language that helps us to define and comprehend this important component of the community.

### Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure can be thought of as a system of interconnected open spaces of various types that help to preserve ecosystems while also benefiting surrounding human populations. The counterpart to green infrastructure is gray infrastructure, the system of human-constructed elements (roads, water treatment plants, airports, etc.) that supports our lifestyles. While the pervious character of green infrastructure allows plant and animal communities to flourish and water to infiltrate the soil, the impervious character of gray infrastructure generally excludes nature and prevents absorption of water.

In order to encourage thriving natural and human communities, green infrastructure planning treats open spaces as a necessary and beneficial aspect of urban and suburban environments. By incorporating green space networks into our communities, we improve our own quality of life as well as the health of the natural world. Green infrastructure plans also help us decide how to expand our communities in the best possible manner, just as gray infrastructure plans help us efficiently distribute services to human populations. Both types of infrastructure must be planned judiciously to ensure the best future for us and for the ecosystems we live in.



Parkway

### Landscape Ecology

Landscape ecology is a discipline that studies the interactions between organisms at a scale large enough to show emergent spatial patterns and structures (viewing the Earth from an airplane window provides a good sense of the scale of landscapes). These patterns and structures transform over time and can be roughly divided into patches, edges, corridors, and mosaics. A patch is an area of land that is relatively homogenous and differs significantly from its surroundings. A patch can be a pine stand, a lake, a particular soil type, a group of specific vegetation, or even an area of similar air temperature. An edge, or boundary, represents the line between two differing components, or patches. Corridors are linear areas that connect differing patches and lastly, a mosaic is the interconnected system of patches that makes up a total landscape. Various factors such as weather, soils, precipitation, solar aspect, elevation, etc., determine how these spatial patterns array themselves on the land. Understanding landscape ecology and applying its principles enable planners and designers to create strategies for human communities that respect and value the natural world.

### Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are the processes of the natural world that provide benefits to human communities. These benefits come in many forms and are often overlooked when planning for human populations. Ecosystem services provide us with, for example, clean water, space for raising and harvesting food, climatic moderation and protection from ultraviolet solar radiation, detoxification and decomposition of waste products, purification of air, recycling of essential nutrients, pollination of crops and natural vegetation, etc. Hence, we must consider and place great importance on ecosystem services when developing our communities. These reasons underlie the importance of establishing and protecting open space and conserving agricultural lands as part of the larger community planning process.

A classic example of a species that helps to provide for green infrastructure, contributes to landscape ecology, and offers ecosystem service is the Plains Cottonwood, the State of Wyoming’s official tree.

Cottonwoods are typically found growing along streams, irrigation ditches, and around lakes. Although they grow best around a source of water, they can tolerate dry soils, if grown in dry soils from the start.

The Plains cottonwood has long been prized in the Great Plains states, where it was often the earliest and tallest tree to grow at the time of Western settlement. This attractive tree is found throughout the Great Plains in locations with moist, low ground. It continues to be a source of shelter and shade across the region, building upon its legendary status as a friend to the early pioneers.



# STRUCTURE OF A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

---

2

### 3. Design Principles

#### Best Park Development Practices

The purpose of best park development practices is to promote local values and expectations in the development of parklands within residential neighborhoods. The following guidelines encourage new parks to be designed, integrated and connected with the immediate neighborhood, trail system, and natural environment. They should be used as a resource to assist City staff, local officials, designers, and developers in planning successful park areas within new and existing residential neighborhoods in the City of Cheyenne.

#### Location

- Balance the conflicting goal of providing numerous, smaller parks to minimize walking distances with the goal of centralizing park facilities to reduce maintenance costs and provide an adequate amount of usable area to support a variety of uses.
- Generally, parks should be located to capitalize on natural features, such as lakes or drainage ways, and cultural/historical landmarks, such as homesteads.

#### Neighborhood

- Parks, especially smaller parks, should not feel like leftover places. Rather they should be focal points of neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are defined as small, somewhat homogenous areas that have well-defined centers and edges that create a “sense of place”. The center is a focal point such as a park, school, recreation center, commercial area, etc. The edge is a clear boundary, such as a major road, water body, major land use change, etc. Ideally, edges should not be so “hard” that they do not allow for interplay between neighborhoods. Subdivisions may have several neighborhoods within them. Common park areas can serve as a unifying agent between neighborhoods and/or as focal points.

#### Design

- The quality of parks is more important than quantity of parks. Small, efficient, and well utilized space is preferred to large underutilized areas. However a neighborhood park is most efficient at a minimum size of 5 acres. Neighboring developments should cooperate to provide larger parks.

#### Best Park Development Practices Guidelines

##### Location

- Balance the conflicting goal of providing numerous, smaller parks to minimize walking distances – with the goal of centralizing park facilities to reduce maintenance costs and provide an adequate amount of usable area to support a variety of uses.
- Parks should be located to capitalize on natural features.

##### Neighborhood

- Parks, especially smaller parks, should not feel like leftover places.
- Common park areas can serve as a unifying agent between neighborhoods and/or as focal points.

##### Design

- The quality of parks is more important than quantity of parks.
- A neighborhood park is most efficient at a minimum size of 5 acres. Neighboring developments should cooperate to provide larger parks.
- Parks should be visible to invite use, to encourage a sense of ownership, and to allow neighbors to monitor.
- Parks should feel safe through visibility, good maintenance, and plenty of foot traffic.
- Parks should be comfortable to the users.
- Parks should have complexity to create interest.
- Park amenities should fit the changing needs of citizens of all ages.

##### Environmental

- Parks should be designed for multi-purposes.
- Landscaping along riparian and habitat areas should use native or non-invasive plants.

- Parks should be visible to invite use, to encourage a sense of ownership, and to allow neighbors to monitor activities. Locating parks adjacent to public streets and other centers of activity is desirable. Sight lines through buildings, trees, and other landscape features should be considered for aesthetic and safety purposes.

- Parks should feel safe through visibility, good maintenance, and plenty of foot traffic. Parks and the features within parks should be designed to minimize maintenance and discourage vandalism.
- Parks should be comfortable to the users. Desirable features include sunny areas, shady areas, solitary areas, meeting areas, sheltered areas from wind or rain, lots of possible activities, defined edges, gentle slopes, attractive trees, sturdy benches, and soft turf.
- Parks should have complexity to create interest, such as a variety of recreational features or a variety of plant types. Contrasting features such as hard and soft surfaces, formal and informal use areas, add diversity and create interest. Play areas should provide opportunities for choice, learning and linked play.
- Park amenities should fit the changing needs of citizens of all ages. The park system should have a healthy distribution of those amenities to provide easy access and thereby increase usage.
- To promote public safety, fences between a park and adjacent development should be no more than 3-4' high and split rail or picket style. Privacy for residences should be achieved with landscaping or privacy fencing that screens a portion of a yard, such as a patio area, rather than the entire yard. Also, locate high use amenities, such as basketball courts, away from residences.
- Parks programmed for active sports and other on-going activities should have adequate off-street parking to relieve on-street congestion during periods of high use.
- Irrigation system should incorporate nonpotable water systems where appropriate and feasible.

### Environmental

- To the extent that a park's main function is not hindered, parks should be designed for multi-purposes, such as recreation, wildlife viewing, stormwater control, etc. to maximize their value.
- Trails should be aligned and constructed to minimize disruption of habitat areas. A trail located along a riparian corridor, for example, should be located at an appropriate distance from the stream channel and should only approach or cross the channel at less sensitive locations.
- Landscaping along riparian and habitat areas should use native or non-invasive plants.

### 3

### Other Public Spaces and Urban Plazas

Non-traditional parks, such as urban plazas, also serve certain types of recreational needs and greatly contribute to a community’s quality of life. The following guidelines, which were adapted from the Project for Public Spaces, highlight some important design considerations.

#### Access and Linkages

A successful public space is easy to get to and get through; it is visible both from a distance and up close. The edges of a space are important as well: For instance, a row of shops along a street is more interesting and generally safer to walk by than a blank wall or empty lot. Specific considerations:

- A good connection between the space and the adjacent buildings.
- Sidewalks lead to and from the adjacent areas.
- The space functions for people with special needs.
- The space can be seen from a distance and its interior is visible from adjacent areas.



Depot Plaza

#### Comfort and Image

Comfort includes perceptions about safety, cleanliness, and the availability of places to sit – the importance of giving people the choice to sit where they want is generally underestimated. Design considerations:

- Provide enough places to sit that are conveniently located. Provide a choice of places to sit, either in the sun or shade.
- Keep the space clean and free of litter.
- Avoid having vehicles dominate pedestrian use of the space, or prevent them from easily getting to the space.

#### Uses and Activities

Activities are the basic building blocks of a place. Having something to do gives people a reason to come to a place - and return. When there is nothing to do, a space will be empty and that generally means that something is wrong. Planning considerations:

- The more activities that are going on and that people have an opportunity to participate in, the better.
- People of different ages should be drawn to the space (retired people and people with young children can use a space during the day when others are working).
- A space that is used by both singles and people in groups is better than one that is just used by people alone because it means that there are places for people to sit with friends, there is more socializing, and it is more fun.

#### Other Public Spaces and Urban Plazas Guidelines

##### Accesses and Linkages

- A successful public space is easy to get to and get through; it is visible both from a distance and up close.

##### Comfort and Image

- Comfort includes perceptions about safety, cleanliness, and the availability of places to sit.
- Avoid having vehicles dominate pedestrian use of the space, or prevent them from easily getting to the space.

##### Uses and Activities

- Activities are the basic building blocks of a place. Having something to do gives people a reason to come to a place.

### Park Architecture and Amenities

Parks can be built in a wide variety of forms, and designed in any number of ways depending on local needs, desires, and cultural styles. There are three general architectural components to consider when building a park: layout, structures, and fixtures. Following are photos and conceptual drawings of designs, amenities, site furnishings, structures and fixtures that represent the design considerations for public recreational buildings and use areas in parks, along trails and on open lands. The selected style of amenities reflects the classic, western historic character of Cheyenne and incorporates arches, red brick, Lyons red sandstone, tan backgrounds, and black frame structures and accents. The drawings are conceptual only, and details may change when the elements are actually designed for construction as long as the design character is maintained.

#### Layout

The layout will vary for each park according to its classification (i.e., community, neighborhood, etc.), topographical features, and desired amenities, such as ballfields or community performance areas.



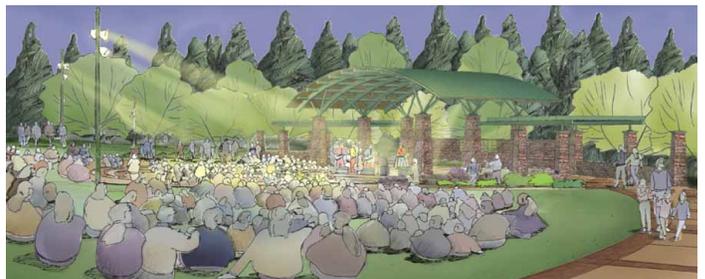
Park with Pond, Shelter, and Playground



Park with Promenade



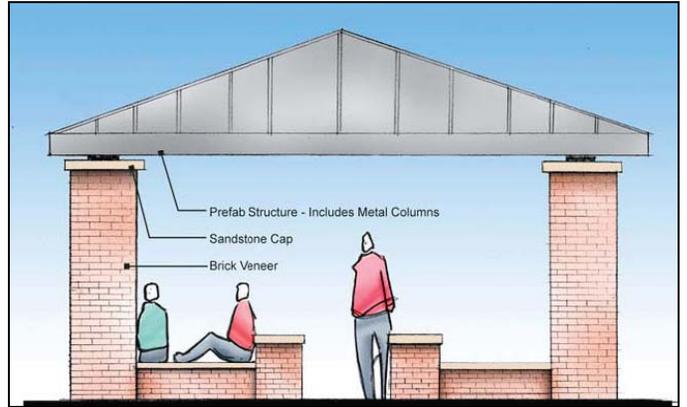
Trail with Shelters and Playground



Civic Green with Amphitheater

**Structures**

As with layout, the type of structures in a park depends largely on the desired use. A more sports oriented park may contain structures not typically found in a neighborhood park, such as a concession stand. Conversely, a more civic gathering area may have structures such as a performance pavilion. Other Structures such as information kiosks may be found in any type of park. The style of any structure should reflect the broader style and feel of a community.



Prefab Shelter with Custom Columns and Walls



Shelter



Octagonal Gazebo



Sun Shelter Information Kiosk

### Fixtures

As with structures and layout, the type and look of fixtures in a park depend largely on the desired use and needs of the area. Common fixtures found in most parks include benches, picnic tables, trash cans, and bike racks. The style of any fixture should reflect the style and feel of the park it is located within.



Park Bench



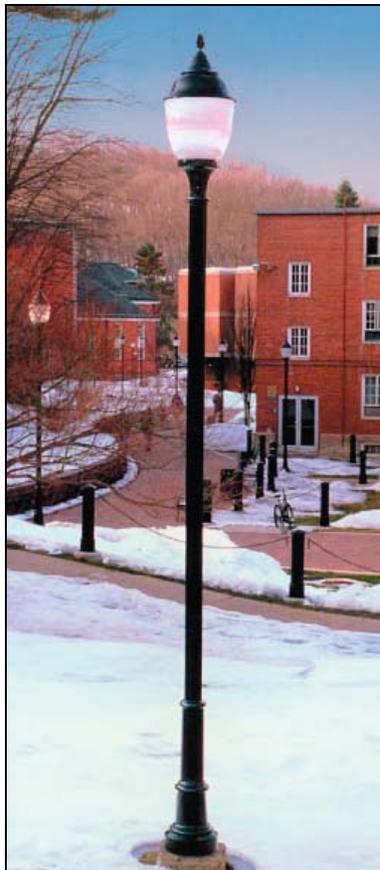
Picnic Table



Bike Rack



Trash Receptacle



Pedestrian/ Park Light Pole



Light Fixture



3

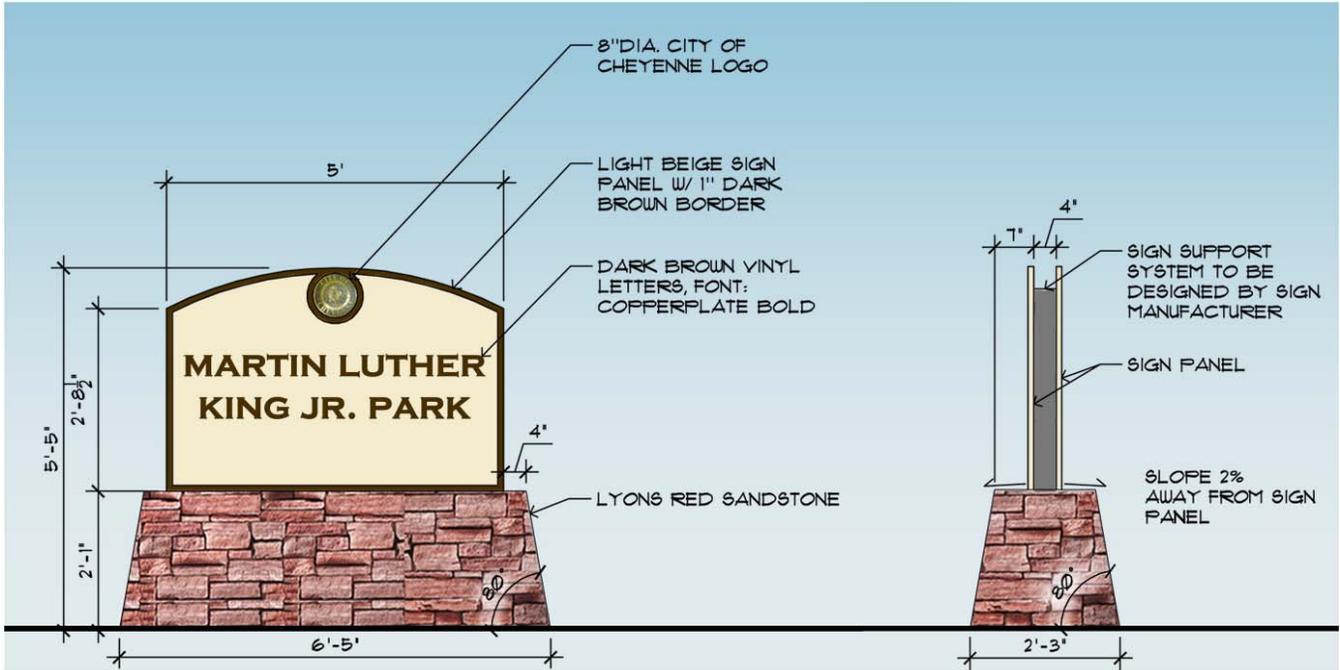


Figure 3.2  
Neighborhood Park Monument Sign (Option A)

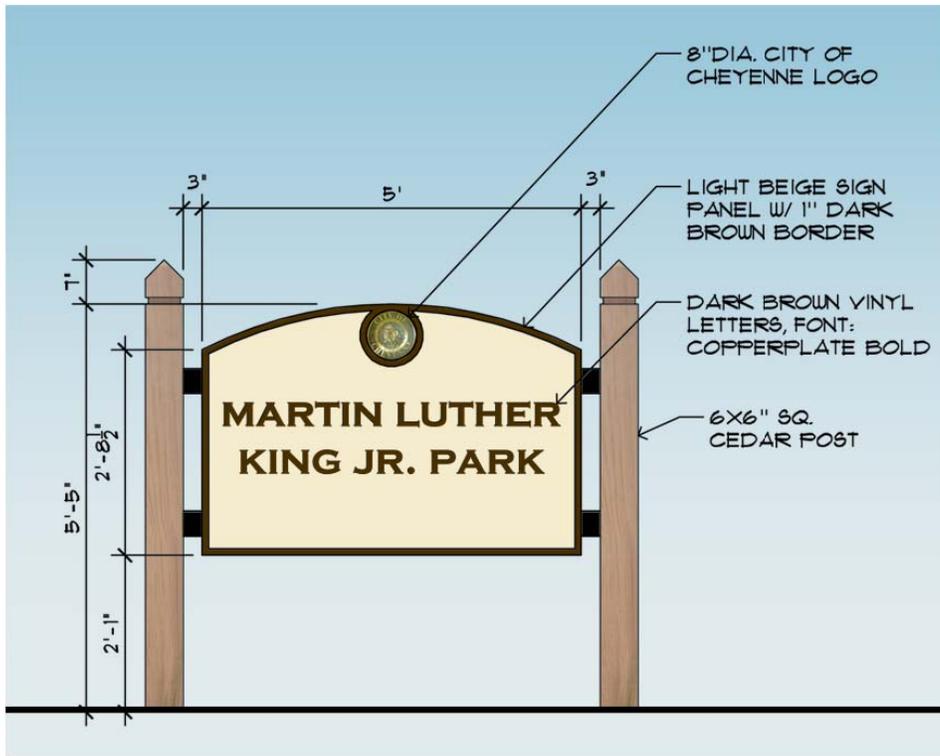


Figure 3.3  
Neighborhood Park Monument Sign (Option B)

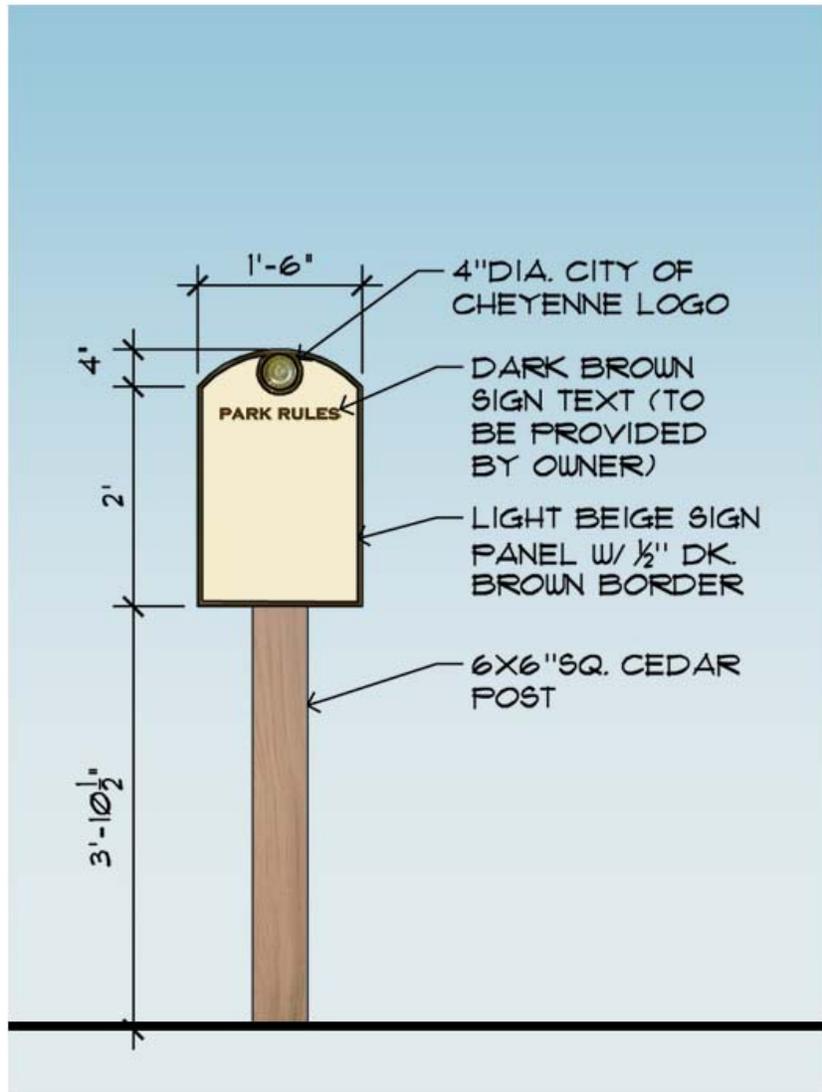


Figure 3.4  
Regulatory Sign



# DESIGN PRINCIPLES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – *STRUCTURE*

---

### 3

## 4. Emerging Park Needs and Opportunities

As the City of Cheyenne continues to grow, additional needs for recreation, future development of parks, trails, and open space will emerge. Recognizing these opportunities and acquiring the land necessary to meet these needs now is critical. As the City expands and property costs rise, there will be less opportunity to secure both an adequate amount of parkland and sites located in proximity to the areas they are intended to serve.

An analysis of Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ) for Cheyenne was conducted to help determine where the greatest growth in Cheyenne is likely to occur. Transportation analysis zones are subdivisions of geographical areas that are delineated for land use and travel analysis purposes. More typically they are used by planners to help determine future growth patterns of a community. An analysis of TAZs in Cheyenne for the year 2030 reveals where future population growth is likely to occur. When these numbers are compared with the current level of service areas for both community and neighborhood parks, it becomes apparent that there will be gaps in parkland service for residents of newly developed areas. While this type of analysis helps to graphically depict potentially underserved areas in the future, it also helps to narrow the focus of where new parks and trail connections will need to be constructed. Using tools such as TAZ zones greatly assist the community in locating park and recreation facilities so as to provide adequate parkland to the greatest amount of people. Map 1 indicates the primary areas of Cheyenne where this population growth will most likely take place. Map 1 shows the projected population increases for the City of Cheyenne through the year 2030.

Locating areas within the city that will be in the greatest need of additional parkland is only one piece of the development puzzle. Determining specific locations for parks and recreation amenities must be done in conjunction with the broader overall PlanCheyenne. Other aspects of community planning, such as transportation and infill development, must be taken into consideration when assessing the best overall location for any future park site.





# EMERGING PARK NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – STRUCTURE

### 4

In general, the largest population increases are expected to occur in the southern portion of the city, primarily south of Interstate 80 in TAZs 203, 273, 385, 327, and 420. This area is currently underserved by all types of parks, with only Civitan Park and Big Sky Park available to existing and future residents to use. While these parks are currently in place, Civitan is a pocket park of only 1.25 acres and Big Sky park is a visual green space of only 1.84 acres. Neither park has amenities appropriate to serve existing or future residents.

The area south of Interstate 80 and west of Interstate 25 is also expected to experience a large population increase, specifically in TAZs 361 and 359. This area currently has no developed parkland for future use. The closest parkland is approximately 2 ½ to 3 miles away across major interstate barriers.

The area west of F.E. Warren Air Force Base and north of Happy Jack Road in TAZs 370 and 371, is also projected to

experience increased growth. Currently, this side of town has no developed parkland for future use. The closest parkland is approximately 3 ½ to 4 ½ miles away.

Another area expected to see a notable increase in population growth is located north of Dell Range Boulevard and south of Summit Drive on the east side of North College Drive in TAZs 247, 131, and 76. The area currently has no developed parkland. The closest parkland is approximately 2 miles away.

Lastly, north central Cheyenne is expected to see a substantial increase in population as well, specifically in TAZ number 119. Table 4.1 highlights specific TAZs that are projected to see an increase of population of more than 1000 people between now and the year 2030. Anticipated growth is converted into specific parkland needs in the next chapter, Shape.

Table 4.1  
TAZs with Projected Population Increases of More than 1,000 Residents

TAZ	YR 2000 Population	YR 2030 Population	Net Increase in Population
327	0	2,407	2,407
236	0	2,071	2,071
385	0	1,883	1,883
273	0	2,099	2,099
420	61	1,250	1,189
359	0	5,041	5,041
370	0	1,061	1,061
371	0	1,639	1,639
119	0	1,136	1,136
131	10	1,110	1,100
76	27	1,230	1,203