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## APPENDIX C NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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# Appendix C.1 | LOS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT MEMO

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**DESIGNWORKSHOP**

## MEMO: LOS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To: City of Cheyenne: Jeanie Anderson-Shrednik  
 From: Design Workshop: Anna Laybourn, Ashley Hejtmanek, Jennifer Pintar  
 Date: January 22, 2025  
 Project Name: Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
 Project #: 7172  
 Subject: Level of Service and Walkshed Analysis

The Level of Service and Needs Assessment captures all currently available data regarding parks, trails, and recreation facilities and analyzes what this means for the City of Cheyenne.

The Level of Service and Analysis of Service Areas report addresses the following:

- Level of Service Evaluation
- Parks and Recreation Facility Provisions
- Park Acres Per Population
- Greenways and Trails Provisions
- Recreation Facilities and Amenities Level of Service
- Walkshed and Gap Analysis
- Park Service Areas
- Greenway and Trails Service Areas
- Destination Parks

### LEVEL OF SERVICE EVALUATION

Level of Service (LOS) standards for parks and recreation measure the ability to meet the current population's needs and plan for future population growth. Although LOS metrics cannot be used as absolute standards, they can help determine if parkland or facilities are deficient by evaluating equitable distribution across populated areas and geographies. These metrics can also help inform community standards for developer contributions to parks, ensuring future neighborhoods align with regional expectations.

### RECOMMENDED METHODS SUMMARY

Most parks and recreation organizations use a variety of metrics to evaluate needs, as multiple metrics may be required to establish needs. Design Workshop recommends utilizing two metrics, acres per capita and park distribution with access distance evaluations, to determine service gaps. These two metrics are commonly used to identify gaps in long-term park space and recreational facility planning. Other assessments, such as park assessments, conditional ratings, public input regarding needs and desires, visitation rates, and equity analysis, can also inform the overall quality of a park system. It's important to consider additional factors as potential metrics for ongoing service quality measurement.

One way to determine if more park space is needed is to analyze the number of acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This LOS offers a land requirement guideline for parks, recreation areas, and facilities. Understanding the parkland acreage compared to the current and future projected population helps anticipate the needs of future growth and residents. The purpose of measuring LOS acreage per population is to monitor a community's availability of developable and publicly accessible parkland.

### PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY PROVISIONS

The City of Cheyenne offers a wide variety of parks for residents of Cheyenne, its surrounding areas, and Laramie County. Currently, Laramie County does not serve recreational opportunities, so many residents outside the city limits utilize Cheyenne's park system and recreation facilities.

Currently, 58% (31 properties) of Cheyenne's parklands are developed parks, and 38% (27 properties) are natural areas (Figure 1). These include five community parks, 11 neighborhood parks, seven mini parks, eight sports complexes, six open space/natural lands, 21 greenway corridors and three undeveloped/planned properties (Table 1). The inventory also includes five cemeteries, two golf courses, five storm detention areas, and 55 visual resource areas. Cheyenne owns and maintains these properties, but they are separate from the parkland LOS as they do not provide recreational opportunities or have public access.

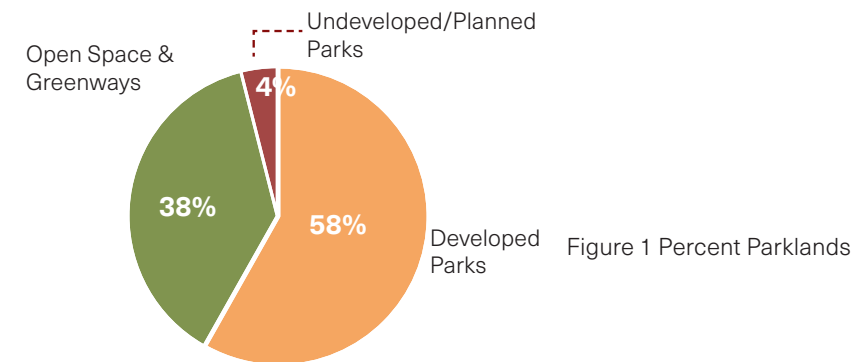


Table 1 Park System Totals. Source: Design Workshop, Cheyenne GIS Data

PARK SYSTEM TOTALS		
Park Category	Acres	Number of Properties
Community	355.69	5
Neighborhood	99.52	11
Mini	8.48	7
Sports Complex	168.98	8
<b>Total Developed Parks</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>31</b>
<i>Open Space</i>	<i>266.40</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Greenway Corridor</i>	<i>145.46</i>	<i>21</i>
<b>Total Natural Lands</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>27</b>
Undeveloped/Planned	42.88	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>61</b>
PROPERTIES WITH NO RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OR PUBLIC ACCESS		
Cemetery	60.04	5
Golf Course	204.13	2
Storm Detention Area	11.1	5
Visual Resource	50.2	55

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## Park Acres Per Population

Level of service metrics for park acres per population can help identify deficiencies or inequalities in park space allocation by considering the population served within each area. The level of service analysis can be used to ensure that future park space provision is located in neighborhoods with fewer park resources to reduce pressures on the current park system and more equitably meet community needs. This can assist the City of Cheyenne in establishing long-term objectives to accommodate the projected population growth within its limits.

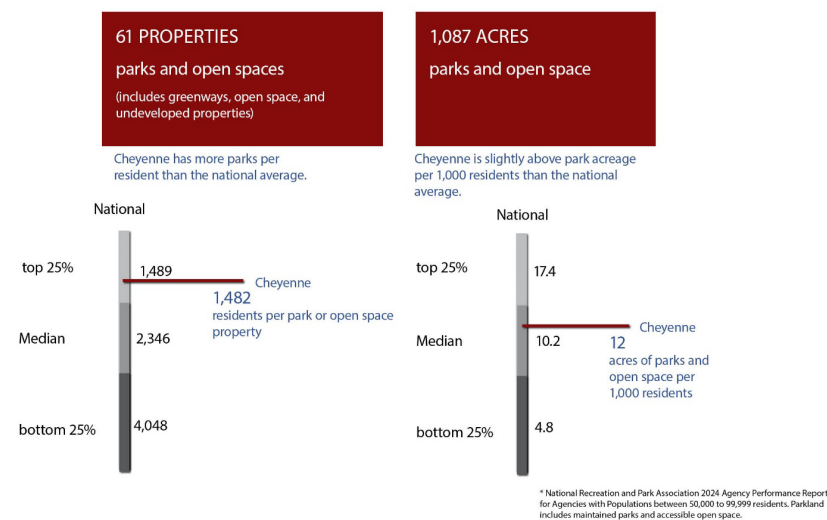
To calculate the level of service for park acres per population, the total park acreage is divided by the total population and multiplied by 1,000. The level of service calculation is performed for each park classification to gain a more detailed understanding of the diversity of park provision.

Table 2 summarizes the level of service analysis for the Cheyenne park system and presents the total number of park properties, publicly accessible acres across all park classifications, and the ratio of park acres per 1,000 people for 2023 and 2028. Cheyenne owns/manages 61 publicly accessible parks, open spaces and undeveloped properties totaling approximately 1,087 acres. With a population of 90,405, Cheyenne currently provides 12 acres per 1,000 residents of publicly accessible parks (Figure 2). Additionally, three undeveloped parklands, including Waterford Park, Rotary Park and future greenways parcels, contribute to the LOS of different park categories as park amenities are developed.

The City of Cheyenne's natural lands include open space areas and greenway corridors, which contribute 412 acres towards the level of service. The open space parklands help protect significant natural areas and resources and may provide outdoor amenities like passive recreation through recreational trails, educational signage, nature art, and nature play elements. Greenway corridors are areas with direct access to the greenway trail system and provide space for park-like recreation and place-making, public art, and interpretive signage. Note that the open space and greenway corridors do not include the greenway trail system.

The City of Cheyenne's projected growth rate is expected to slow over the next five years. However, Cheyenne's park system services many residents outside the city, including its surrounding communities and county residents. Using Cheyenne's population data, the projected population will increase by about 1,270 to approximately 91,675 residents by 2028. Based on this population data, roughly 15 more park acres are needed to maintain current levels of provision per person (Table 2).

Figure 2 Current Park Provision



## Park Acres and Facilities Per Capita:

How much park space is available to the population? How might that ratio change over time with anticipated population growth? How many recreation facilities are provided per population? How does this metric apply to differing built environment conditions and potentials for park expansion?

**Cheyenne Total Park Acres Per 1,000 Population (2023) = 12 acres**

Table 2 Acres Per Population. Source: Design Workshop, ESRI Demographics

ACRES PER POPULATION					
Park Category	Park Acres	Number of Properties	Acres per 1000 people (2023 Service Level) Population 90,405	Acres per 1000 people (2028 Service Level) Population 91,675	Acres Needed to Meet Current Level of Service Standards in 2028
Community	356	5	3.93	3.88	5
Neighborhood	100	11	1.10	1.09	1
Mini	8	7	0.09	0.09	0
Sports Complex	169	8	1.87	1.84	2
<b>Total Developed Parks</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>6.90</b>	<b>9</b>
Open Space	266.40	6	2.95	2.91	4
Greenway Corridor	145.46	21	1.61	1.59	2
<b>Total Natural Lands</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4.56</b>	<b>4.49</b>	<b>6</b>
Undeveloped	42.88	3	0.47	0.47	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>12.03</b>	<b>11.86</b>	<b>15</b>

## GREENWAYS AND TRAILS PROVISIONS

The City of Cheyenne provides approximately 58 linear miles of trails throughout the trail system (Table 3). This includes an expansive greenway with 150 trails and 40 shared-use trails, offering connections, recreational opportunities, and multimodal transportation throughout the City.

Table 3 Greenways and Trails System Totals

TRAIL SYSTEM TOTALS		
Trail Category	Miles (Length)	Number of Trails
Greenway	46.92	150
Shared Use Trail	11.50	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>58 Miles</b>	<b>190</b>

## INDOOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND EVENT CENTERS AND AMENITIES LEVEL OF SERVICE

In addition to the sports complexes included in the parkland inventory, the City owns/manages several indoor community facilities and event centers. These facilities include five event centers, including the newly acquired Beast Foundation, and four indoor community facilities (Table 4). The City also recently acquired a new gymnastics center, which will serve as a future indoor recreation facility.

Table 4 Indoor Recreation Facility Inventory

INDOOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND EVENT CENTERS	
Event Center	
Beast Foundation	
Botanic Gardens	
Cheyenne Ice and Event Center	
City Civic Center	
Kiwanis Community House	

1-1 2023 Census Data, ESRI Demographics  
1-2 Ibid

# Appendix C.1 | LOS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT MEMO

Indoor Community Facility
Cheyenne Aquatic Center
Johnson Swimming Pool
Pioneer Park Rec Center
Youth Community Center

Table 5 shows facility totals per amenity for Cheyenne's developed parks.

Table 5 Facility Totals for Developed Parks

FACILITY TOTALS FOR DEVELOPED PARKS			
Amenities	Number of Facilities	Amenities	Number of Facilities
Parking Spaces	32	Pickleball Courts Indoor	3
Native Landscaping Area	19	Fishing Sites	3
Total Playgrounds	20	Horseshoes	8
Play Equipment Ages 2 to 5	5	Archery/Shooting Range	1
Play Equipment Ages 2 to 12	2	Trailheads/access point	14
Play Equipment Ages 5 to 12	16	Mountain Bike Trail	3
ADA/ Universal Play Equipment	1	Connected to Greenway	19
Fitness Equipment	3	Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	32
Restrooms	19	Recreation Center	1
Portolets Seasonal	4	Concessions	11
Shelters	19	Golf Course	2
Rentable Shelters	6	Miniature Golf Course	2
BBQ Pit/Grill	11	Batting Cages	3
Benches/Seating	25	Botanical Garden	1
Picnic Tables	22	Pond or Lake	5
Drinking Fountain	11	Outdoor Pool	1
Pet Waste Station	18	Indoor Pool	1
Bike Rack	1	Swimming Area	1
Multipurpose Fields (Play Field)	17	Spray ground/Splash Pad	1
Ballfields (Baseball/Softball)	8	Amphitheater	1
Bocce Ball Courts	1	Interactive Art	1
Soccer Fields	3	Sculpture	10
Futsal Courts	1	Sheets of Ice	2
Volleyball Courts	5		
Basketball Courts	12		
Disc Golf	4		
Skate Park	1		
Tennis Courts	4		
Pickleball Courts Outdoor	3		

## WALKSHED AND GAP ANALYSIS

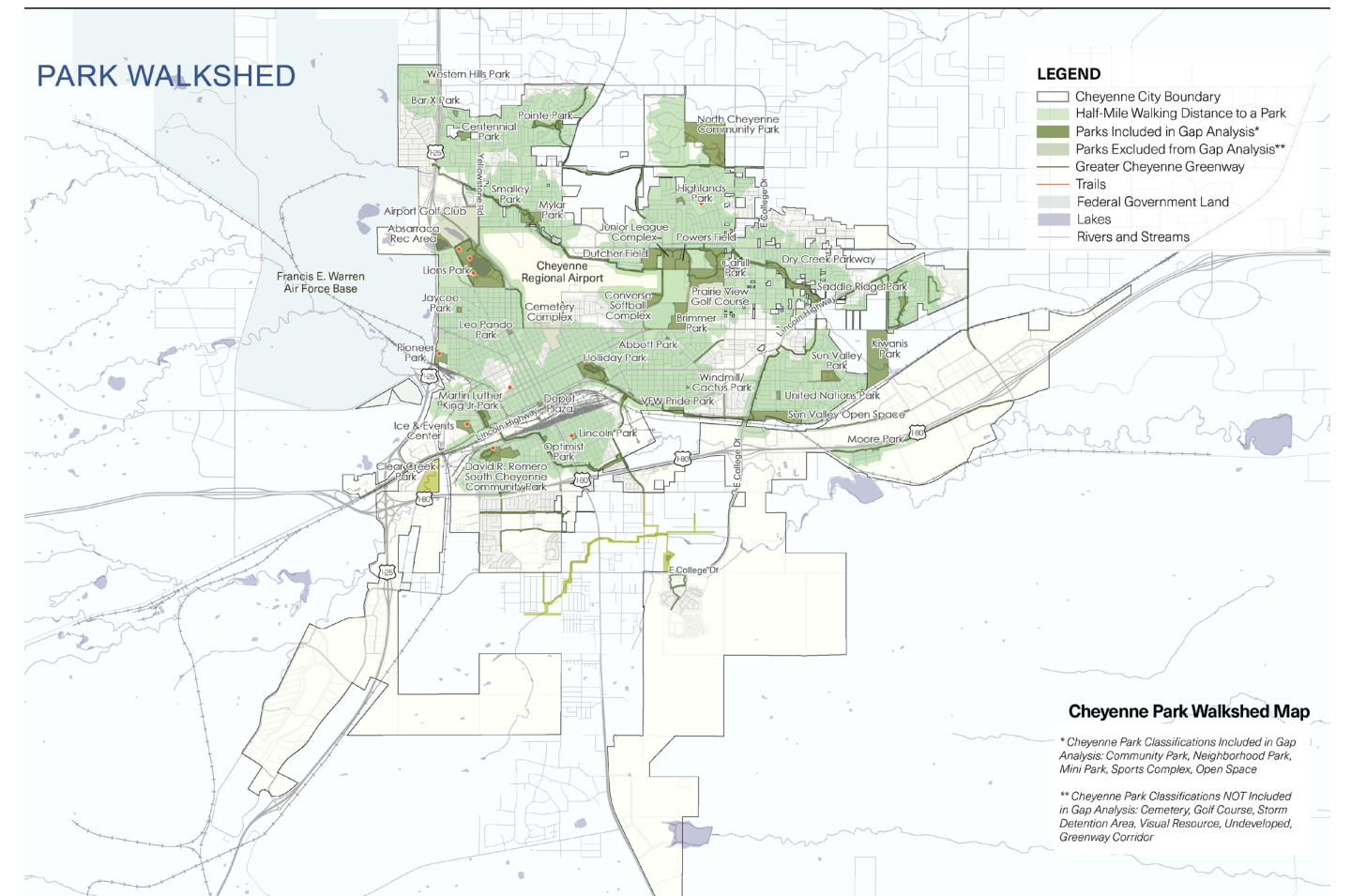
The following section details the walkshed analysis findings for the City of Cheyenne. A walkshed analysis helps evaluate the accessibility of the current park system and measures the walking distance between residential addresses and publicly accessible park and recreation properties. It further determines the travel distances to each park through existing transportation and pedestrian networks to reveal residences that are not within a half-mile walking distance. Below is an overview of the walkshed analysis findings for Cheyenne's publicly accessible parks, trails and greenways, and destination parks.

## PARK SERVICE AREAS

The Park Walkshed Map (Figure 3) highlights the accessibility of publicly accessible parks within a half-mile (10-minute) walking distance of the City of Cheyenne. Park classifications incorporated in the walkshed include community parks, neighborhood parks, mini parks, sports complexes, and open spaces. Classifications not included in the analysis include cemeteries, golf courses, storm detention areas, visual resources, undeveloped land, and greenway corridors. These properties are not included because they do not provide recreational opportunities or have public access. The walkshed analysis also considers access barriers such as highways, roads, railroads, and waterways.

The map displays areas in orange as accessible to a park within a half-mile walking distance (Figure 3). Areas not highlighted in orange are not within a half-mile walk of Cheyenne's publicly accessible parks and are considered a park and recreation gap.

Figure 3 Park Walkshed Map. Source: Design Workshop, Cheyenne GIS Data





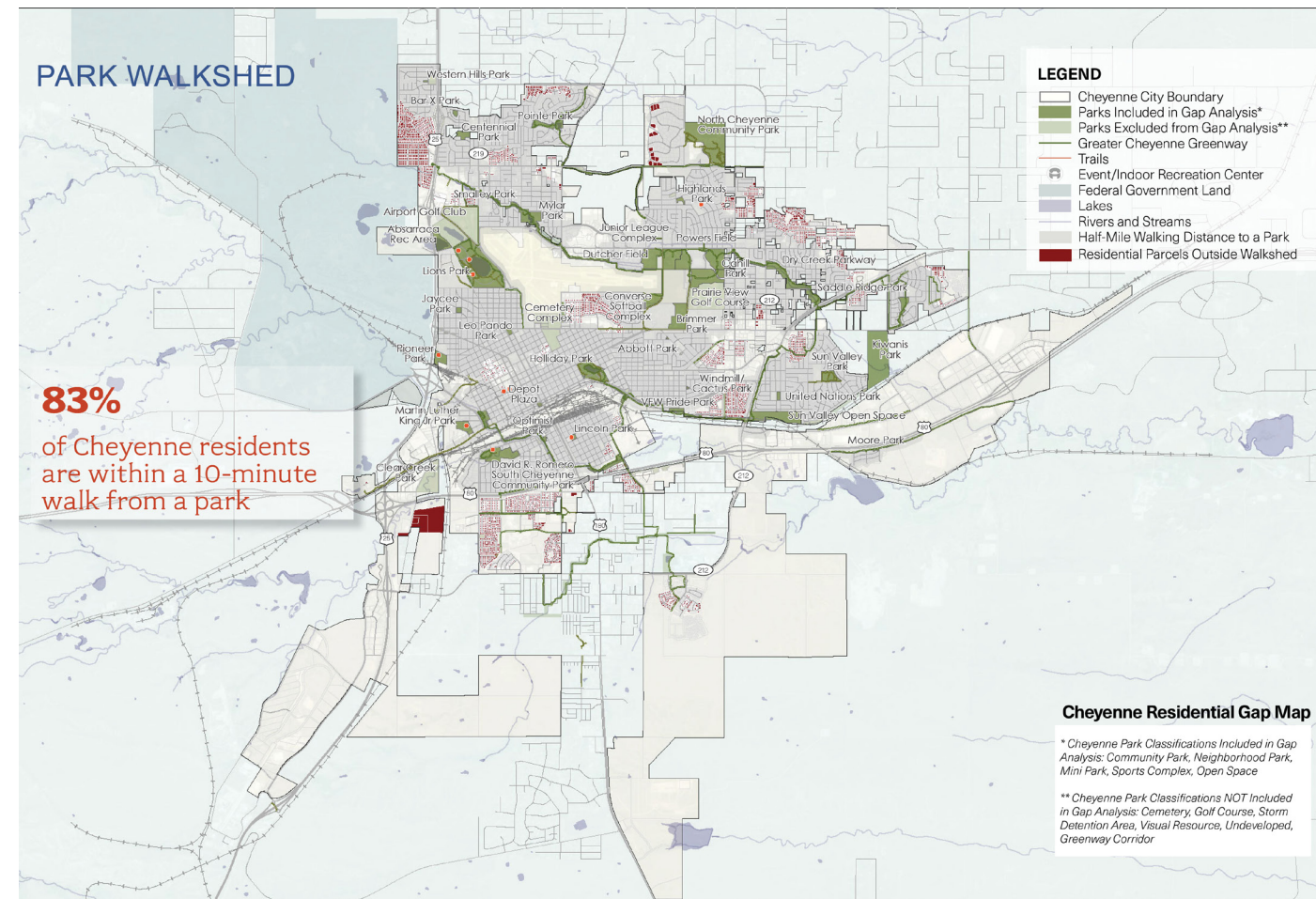
# Appendix C.1 | LOS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT MEMO

## GAP ANALYSIS

The walkshed analysis not only identifies parks within a half-mile walking distance but also highlights the gaps where people need public access to a park. The Residential Gap Map (Figure 4) displays the residential parcels (shown in red) that are not within a half-mile walking distance to a publicly accessible park. The analysis indicates that 83% of the population has access to a park within a 10-minute or half-mile walking distance. However, almost all of southern Cheyenne, south of Highway 80, is not within a half-mile distance and has the largest service area gap within the City. The next largest gap includes several neighborhoods to the east, specifically to the east of 212. Other gaps include neighborhoods to the north, areas just west of Highway 25, central Cheyenne just south of the airport, and parts of the historic district.

**83% of Cheyenne Households are within a ½ mile (10-minute) walking distance of a park**

Figure 4 Residential Gap Map. Source: Design Workshop, Cheyenne GIS Data

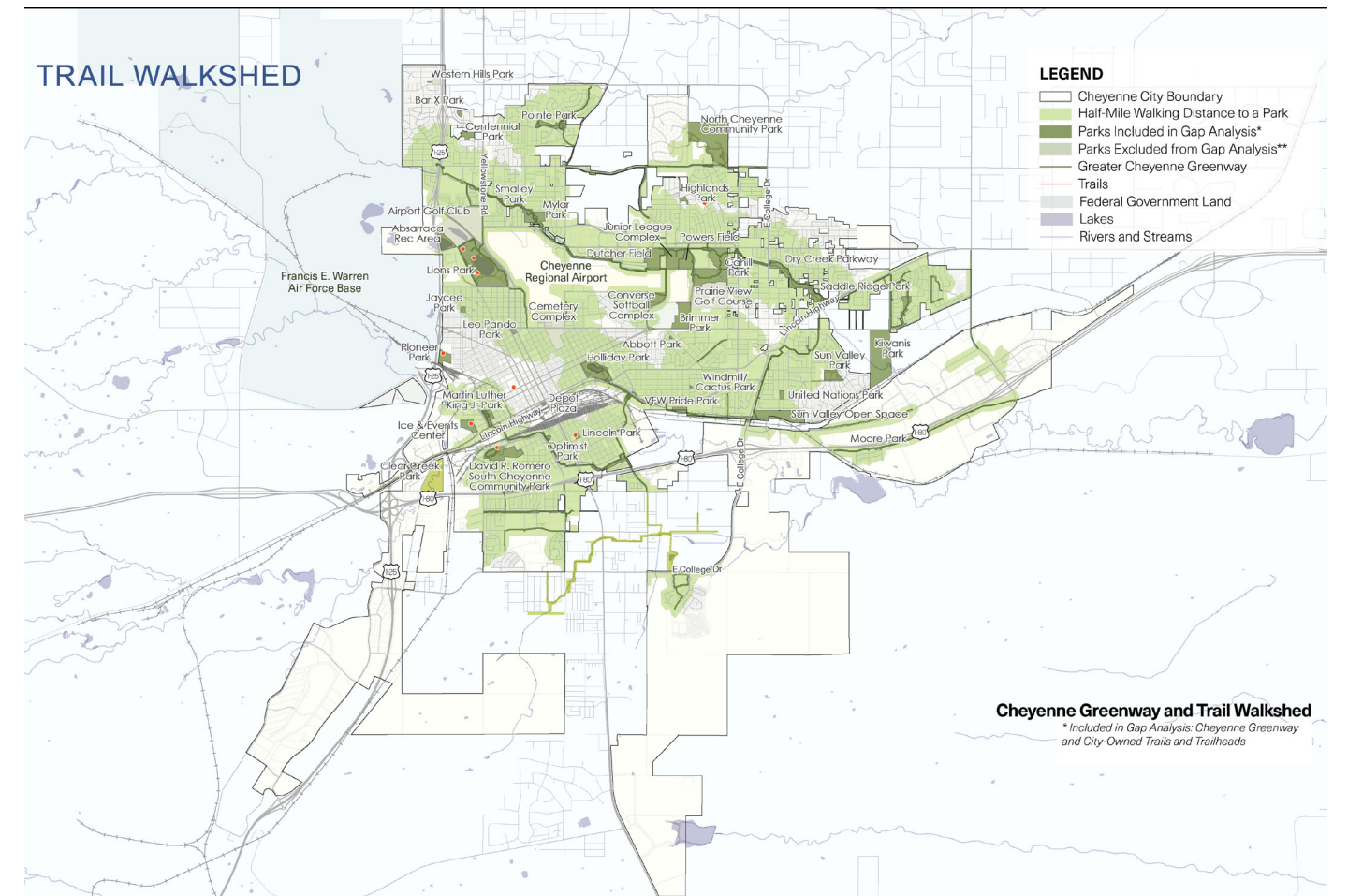


## GREENWAY AND TRAILS SERVICE AREAS

A walkshed analysis for Cheyenne's greenway and trail system measures the half-mile walking distances to each trail through trail access points, existing transportation, and pedestrian networks. The result of the trail accessibility analysis helps provide an understanding of areas well served by Cheyenne's trail system. Cheyenne's Greater Greenway, city-owned trails, and trailheads are included in the walkshed. The walkshed analysis also considers access barriers such as highways, roads, railroads, and waterways.

Like the Park Walkshed Map, the below Greenway and Trails Walkshed Map (Figure 5) displays areas in orange as accessible to Cheyenne's greenways and trail system. Most Cheyenne residents are within a half-mile of a greenway or trail access. Trail gaps include areas to the northwest, south of the airport, east of Highway 25, and several neighborhoods to the east. These gaps are also consistent with the park walkshed map. There is a significant difference in the accessibility of the trail system in the southern neighborhoods.

Figure 5 Greenway and Trails Walkshed Map. Source: Design Workshop, Cheyenne GIS Data



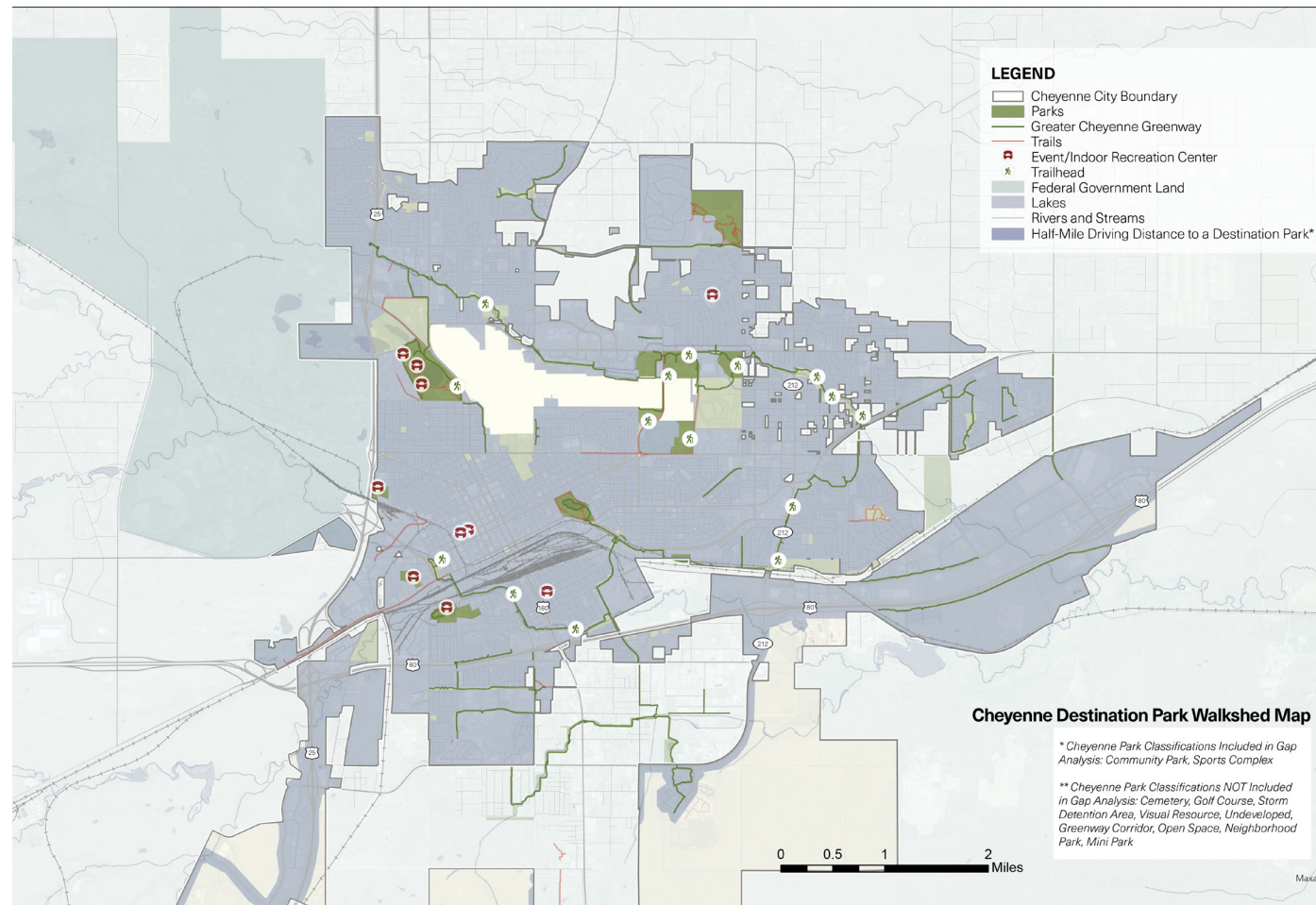


## Appendix C.1 | LOS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT MEMO

### DESTINATION PARKS SERVICE AREAS

Destination Parks are larger parks with a citywide and regional draw. Residents often travel to these parks or drive to them due to recreational amenities and programming. The Destination Park Walkshed Map (Figure 6) displays the half-mile driving distance to community parks and sports complexes. The walkshed map shows that almost all of Cheyenne is within the walkshed, and most residents in Cheyenne are within a half-mile driving distance to a destination park.

Figure 6 Destination Park Walkshed Map. Source: Design Workshop, Cheyenne GIS Data



## Appendix C.2 | EQUITY ANALYSIS AND PRIORITY MAPPING

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### DESIGNWORKSHOP

### MEMO: EQUITY ANALYSIS AND PRIORITY MAPPING

To: City of Cheyenne: Jeanie Anderson-Shrednik  
From: Design Workshop: Anna Laybourn, Ashley Hejtmanek, Jennifer Pintar, Alexandra Pollock  
Date: May 16, 2024  
Project Name: Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
Project #: 7172  
Subject: Equity Analysis

### EQUITY ANALYSIS

Cheyenne is dedicated to ensuring all residents have access to parks and recreation regardless of age, gender, or physical ability and that residents in and outside the city can enjoy a variety of well-maintained parks and excellent recreational facilities. Cheyenne aims to have an inclusive park system that offers something for everyone, from playgrounds and sports fields to greenway trails and open spaces.

#### National Parks and Recreation Association's Working Definition of Equitable Park & Recreation Access

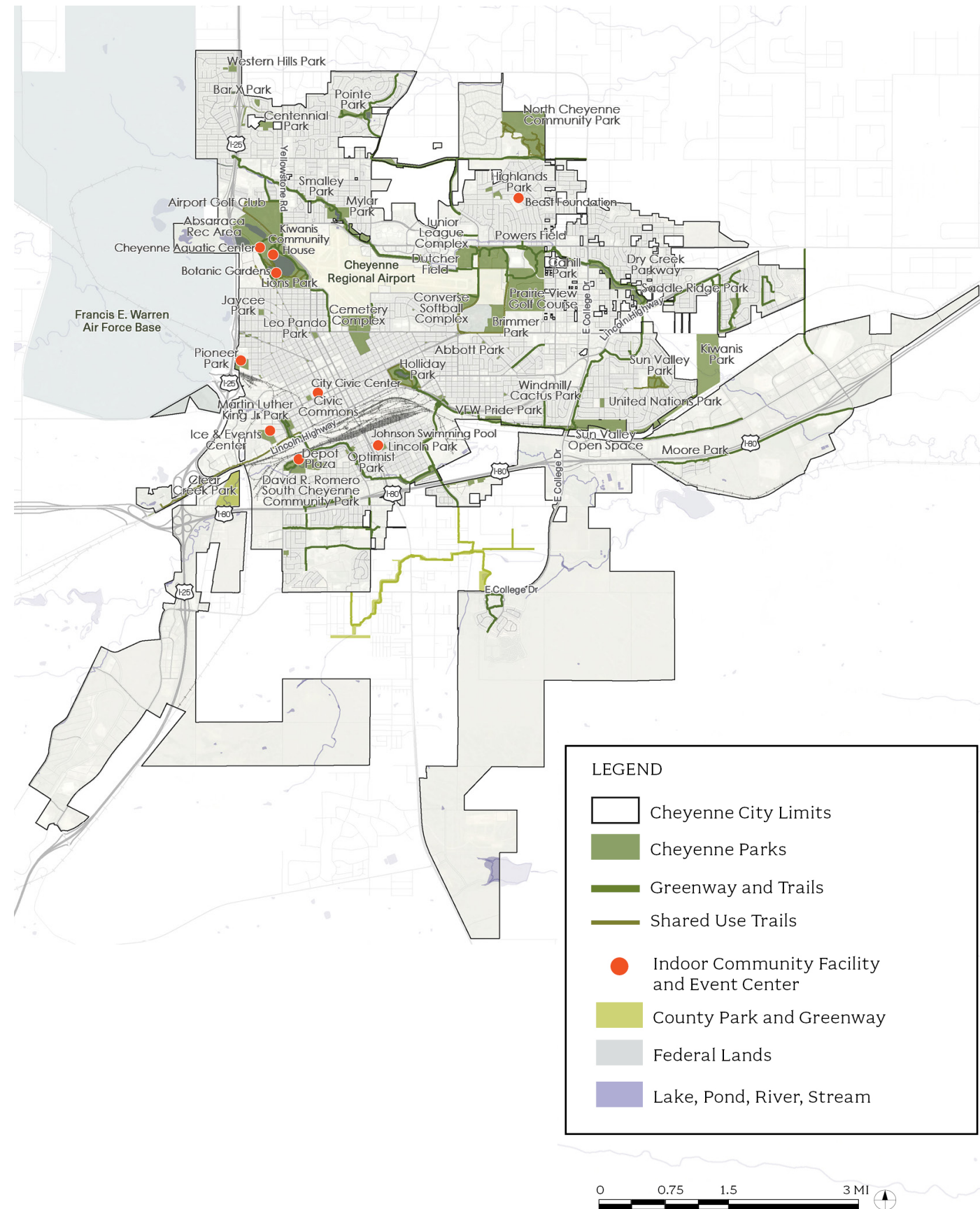
The just and fair quantity, proximity and connections to quality parks and green space, recreation facilities, as well as programs that are safe, inclusive, culturally relevant and welcoming to everyone. When people have just and fair access, our health and social wellbeing improve, and our communities can protect and better recover from environmental, social and economic challenges.

A system-wide park master plan is a tool that can help us understand the history and current barriers to park access and set a vision and plan to remove inequities and ensure parks and open space are providing the most benefit to communities. This park-focused equity analysis provides insight into addressing equity gaps and can be a key tool in identifying priority areas within Cheyenne. The following analysis can help identify where additional resources are needed, understand the local factors currently driving the cumulative impacts, and develop strategies to address the source of these impacts.



## Appendix C.2 | EQUITY ANALYSIS AND PRIORITY MAPPING

Figure 1 Cheyenne Park System Map



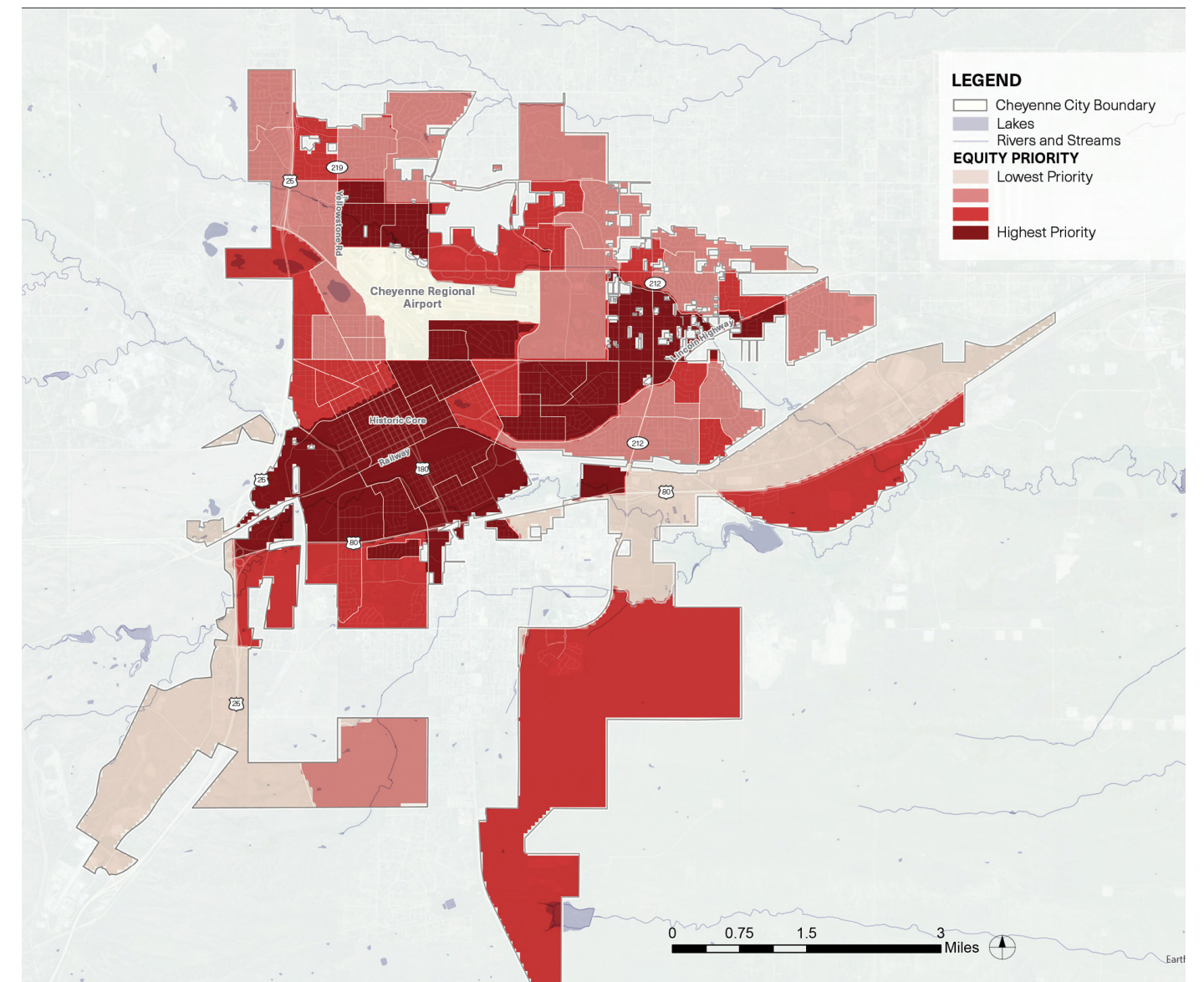
## EQUITY PRIORITY ZONES

The Equity Priority Zones section provides a detailed breakdown of the Equity Index, a composite of three equally weighted sub-indices. Each sub-index includes factors related to quality-of-life determinants that could inform parks and recreation provision. The Equity Index highlights priority zones within the City of Cheyenne, which are areas with higher concentrations of vulnerable populations and health conditions indicative of environmental inequities. The Equity Index Priority Map Composite, shown in Figure 2, visually represents these zones.

The equity zones are categorized using a ranking scale that indicates the priority level. A lower percentile ranking corresponds to a lower equity priority area, while a higher ranking signifies a higher equity priority area. The red zones, highlighted for equity, require the most attention and resources.

The areas with the highest priority for equity are primarily located in the southwest and central sections of the city, including the historic district, areas between the I-25 and I-80 corridors, and along the railway. Other high-priority areas are centered around the Cheyenne Regional Airport, particularly to the north and south. Additional areas include neighborhoods to the east, around Highway 212 and the Lincoln Highway.

Figure 2 Equity Index Priority Map Composite





## Appendix C.2 | EQUITY ANALYSIS AND PRIORITY MAPPING

### EQUITY INDICATORS

#### ABOUT THE METHODOLOGY

The Equity Mapping Methodology described in this document considers equity through the lenses of Health, Socioeconomic, and Environmental Justice indicators. It incorporates a wide range of demographic, environmental, and community factors relevant to park-related equity. For this analysis, equity was calculated as a composite of three sub-indexes (weighted equally), each containing several indicators combined to generate a specific sub-index score.

These three sub-indexes are:

1. Age, ability, and health indicators (12 factors)
2. Demographic, economic, and social indicators (9 factors)
3. Natural and environmental hazards (3 factors)

The first sub-index incorporates indicators relating to age, ability, and health. The second sub-index looks at the demographic, economic, and social aspects. The third includes natural and environmental hazards. Each sub-index has its own set of corresponding indicators that summarize multiple datasets into one measure by normalizing dissimilar data to give every characteristic the same scale. This approach allows for “apple-to-apples” comparisons of dissimilar data. When combined, the three sub-indexes generate an Equity Priority Zones composite map.

Below is the list of indicators included in each sub-index. The tables contain a (+) or (-) next to each indicator. These represent how the given indicator is correlated to the index value. A (+) means that a higher indicator value contributes to a higher index value, while a (-) means a higher indicator value contributes to a lower value.

The indicators were combined for every census block group within the City of Cheyenne. Block groups were then arranged into quantiles based on their combined scores. These quantiles ranged from “lower” to “higher” levels of equity focus, showing areas with the fewest to most equity indicators.

The tables below show the breakdown of the indicators, a brief description, and the data source for each Sub-Index (Table 1, Table 2, Table 3).

Table 1 Age, Ability, and Health Indicators

INDICATOR		DESCRIPTION	DATA SOURCE
<b>Age, Ability, and Health Factors</b>			
Uninsured Population	(+)	% of population without health insurance	2021 (ACS 5-Year)
Food Stamps/SNAP	(+)	% of households with food stamp/SNAP benefits	2021 (ACS 5-Year)
Asthma	(+)	Current asthma prevalence among adults	CDC Places
Heart Disease	(+)	Coronary heart disease among adults	CDC Places
Diabetes	(+)	Diagnosed diabetes among adults	CDC Places
Mental Health	(+)	Poor mental health for 14 days or more among adults	CDC Places
Physical Health	(+)	Poor physical health for 14 days or more among adults	CDC Places
Disability	(+)	% households with 1+ person with a disability	2021 (ACS 5-Year)
Hypertension	(+)	High blood pressure among adults	CDC Places
Respiratory Disease	(+)	COPD among adults	CDC Places
Senior Population	(+)	% population older than 65	2023 Senior Population
Young Children	(+)	% population ages 0-4	2023 Population Ages 0-4

Table 2 Demographic, Economic, and Social Indicators

INDICATOR		DESCRIPTION	DATA SOURCE
<b>Demographic, Economic, and Social Indicators</b>			
Poverty	(+)	% of households below poverty level	2021 HH Pop w/ Income Below Poverty Level (ACS 5-Year)
Unemployment	(+)	% of population experiencing unemployment	2023 Unemployed Population 16+
Vehicle Access	(+)	% of households without access to a vehicle	2021 Owner HHs with 0 Vehicles (ACS 5-Year)
Cost Burden	(+)	% of households experiencing extreme housing cost burden (>50% of income spent on housing)	2021 HHs/Gross Rent 50+% of Income (ACS 5-Year)
Housing Tenure	(+)	% of renter-occupied households	2023 Renter Occupied HUs
Racial Minority	(+)	% of population that identifies as Hispanic/Latino, Black, American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Other, or Two or More Races. May total over 100% because of how census data is collected.	2021 (ACS 5-Year)
Housing Condition	(+)	% of housing units built before 1960	2021 (ACS 5-Year)
Population Density	(+)	Population per square mile	2023 Population Density
Internet Access	(+)	% of households without Internet access	2021 HH's w/No Internet Access (ACS 5-Year)

Table 3 Natural and Environmental Hazards Indicators

INDICATOR		DESCRIPTION	DATA SOURCE
<b>Natural and Environmental Hazards</b>			
Tree Canopy Cover	(-)	% tree canopy cover	NLCD
Impervious Surfaces	(+)	% developed impervious surface	NLCD
Flood Risk	(+)	Area at increased flood risk (1 = no area at increased flood risk, 3 = whole area at increased flood risk)	FEMA

### EQUITY INDICATORS

#### 1. AGE, ABILITY, AND HEALTH INDICATORS

This sub-index analysis looks at the equity surrounding age, ability, and health indicators. These indicators are important to understand barriers that may exist for certain groups of individuals, such as seniors, children, those with disabilities, limited mobility, or health conditions.

#### WHY THESE INDICATORS ARE IMPORTANT:

Parks and time spent in nature have been found to have numerous health benefits like improved respiratory health, blood pressure, cholesterol levels and better perceptions surrounding health<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, spending time in parks and nature has a positive impact on mental well-being and cognitive function, including an improved ability to cope with

1-1 Dong Y, Liu H, Zheng T. Association between Green Space Structure and the Prevalence of Asthma: A Case Study of Toronto. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2021 May 29



## Appendix C.2 | EQUITY ANALYSIS AND PRIORITY MAPPING

depression, anxiety, and stress levels<sup>2</sup>. Exposure to outdoor spaces has also been linked to increased physical activity, which can lead to better overall health outcomes.

Indicators surrounding age help understand where generational needs in parks are. For example, inclusive, safe, and age-appropriate play areas for children and benches and rest areas for older adults should be included. Additionally, parks for people with limited mobility and disabilities might have paths and facilities designed to be accessible and easy to navigate. Considering the indicators below helps the City understand areas of health disparities, age gaps, and ability differences.

### Indicators for age, ability, and health include:

- Uninsured Population
- Food Stamps/SNAP
- Asthma
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Mental Health
- Physical Health
- Disability
- Hypertension
- Respiratory Disease
- Senior Population
- Young Children

### The southwest and central area of the city had especially high rates of the following:

- Uninsured population
- Food stamps/SNAP recipients, particularly in the historic district and along the railway (north of I-80)
- Asthma, particularly in areas south of I-80
- Heart disease, particularly in areas between the railway and I-80
- Diabetes, particularly in areas along the railway
- Poor mental health, particularly in the historic district and along the railway (north of I-80)
- Poor physical health
- Disability, particularly in the historic district and south of I-80
- Respiratory disease, particularly in the historic district and along the railway (north of I-80)
- Young children, particularly in areas between the I-180 and I-80 corridors

### The area immediately north of the airport had especially high rates of the following:

- Uninsured population
- Food stamps/SNAP recipients
- Heart disease
- Hypertension
- Young children

### Areas to the east around Highway 212 and the Lincoln Highway had especially high rates of the following:

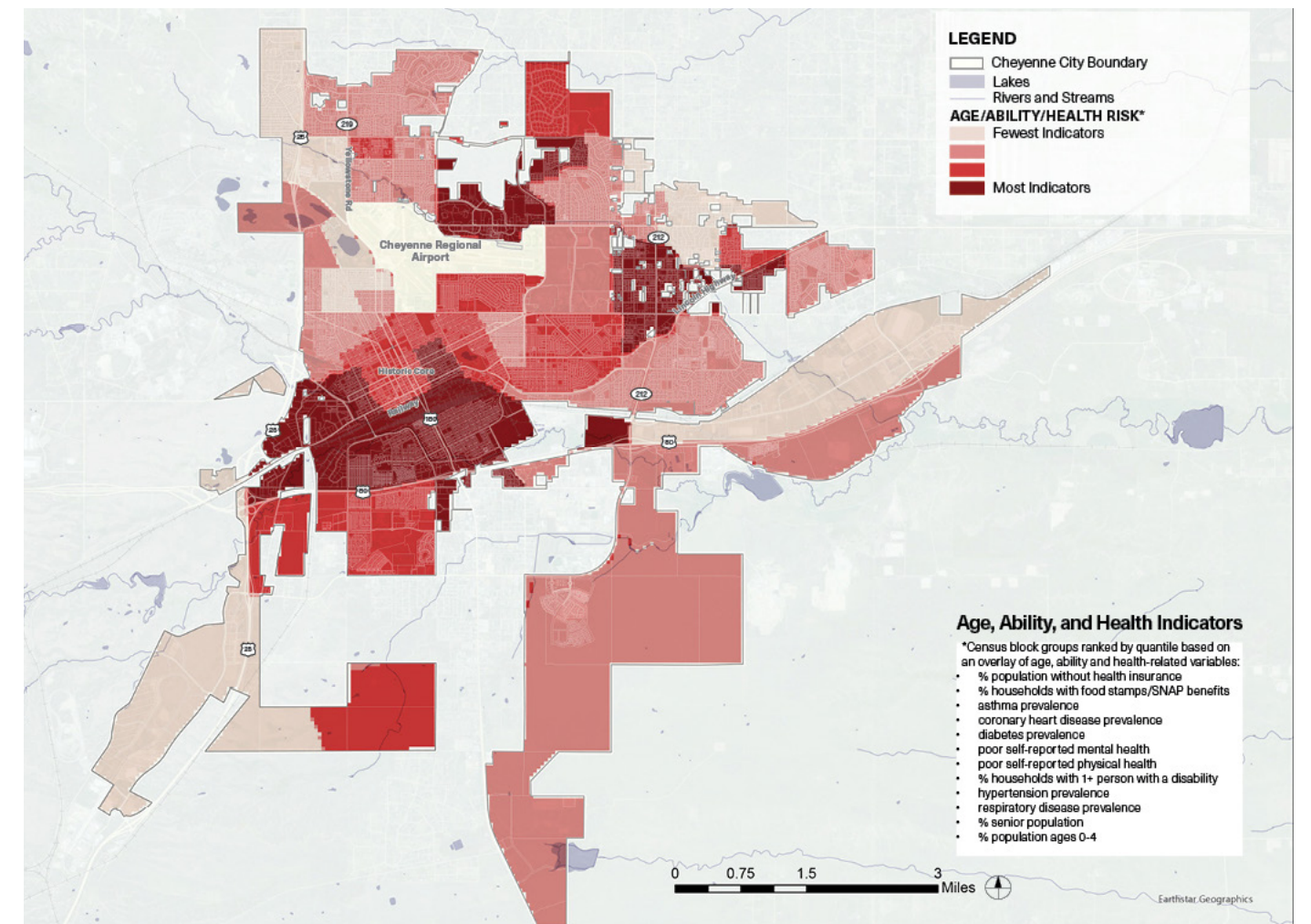
- Uninsured population, particularly in the area west of Highway 212
- Heart disease
- Disability
- Hypertension, particularly in the area east of Highway 212
- Senior population, particularly in the area east of Highway 212

- Young children

### The area below I-80, just west of Highway 212 had especially high rates of the following:

- Uninsured population
- Food stamps/SNAP recipients
- Asthma
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Poor mental health
- Poor physical health
- Respiratory disease

Figure 3 Age, Ability, and Health Indicators Map



1-2 Parks and Improved Mental Health and Quality of Life. NRPA. <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/ParksandHealth/fact-sheets/parks-improved-mental-health-quality-life/>

## Appendix C.2 | EQUITY ANALYSIS AND PRIORITY MAPPING

### 2. DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL INDICATORS

This sub-index analysis examines the equity surrounding demographic, economic, and social indicators. These indicators are important to understand barriers that may exist for certain groups of individuals based on race, ethnicity, income, and job status.

#### WHY THESE INDICATORS ARE IMPORTANT:

Understanding the relationship between access to parks and socioeconomic status is critical to identifying environmental injustices. Income, for example, is a powerful predictor of park access. In a national study conducted in 2021 by the Trust for Public Land, low-income communities had access to 42 percent less than high-income neighborhoods<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, on average, low-income households are served by parks that are four times smaller than those serving high-income households (25 acres versus 101 acres)<sup>4</sup>.

On a national level, neighborhoods with predominantly non-white populations have 44 percent less park acreage than predominantly white neighborhoods<sup>5</sup>. According to the Trust for Public Land study, there is a noticeable difference in the amount of park acreage available in neighborhoods with predominantly white residents and neighborhoods where the majority of residents identify as Hispanic or Latinx. The study reveals that predominantly Hispanic/Latinx neighborhoods have access to 54 percent less park acreage per person than predominantly white neighborhoods.

#### Indicators for demographic, economic, and social impacts include:

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Vehicle Access
- Cost Burden
- Housing Tenure
- Racial Minority
- Housing Condition
- Population Density
- Internet Access

#### The southwest and central area of the city had especially high rates of the following:

- Poverty, particularly in areas between the railway and I-80
- Unemployment, particularly in the historic district and in areas south of I-80
- Cost burden, particularly in areas south of I-80
- Renter households, particularly in the historic district and in areas between the railway and I-80
- Housing built before 1960, particularly in the historic district and in areas between the railway and I-80

#### The area immediately south of the airport had especially high rates of the following:

- Cost burden
- Housing built before 1960
- Households without Internet access

#### The area immediately north of the airport had especially high rates of the following:

- Unemployment, particularly in the area east of Highway 219/Yellowstone Road
- Households without vehicle access

- Cost burden, particularly in the area east of Highway 219/Yellowstone Road
- Renter households, particularly in the area west of Highway 219/Yellowstone Road
- Minority population, particularly in the area east of Highway 219/Yellowstone Road
- Housing built before 1960, particularly in the area east of Highway 219/Yellowstone Road

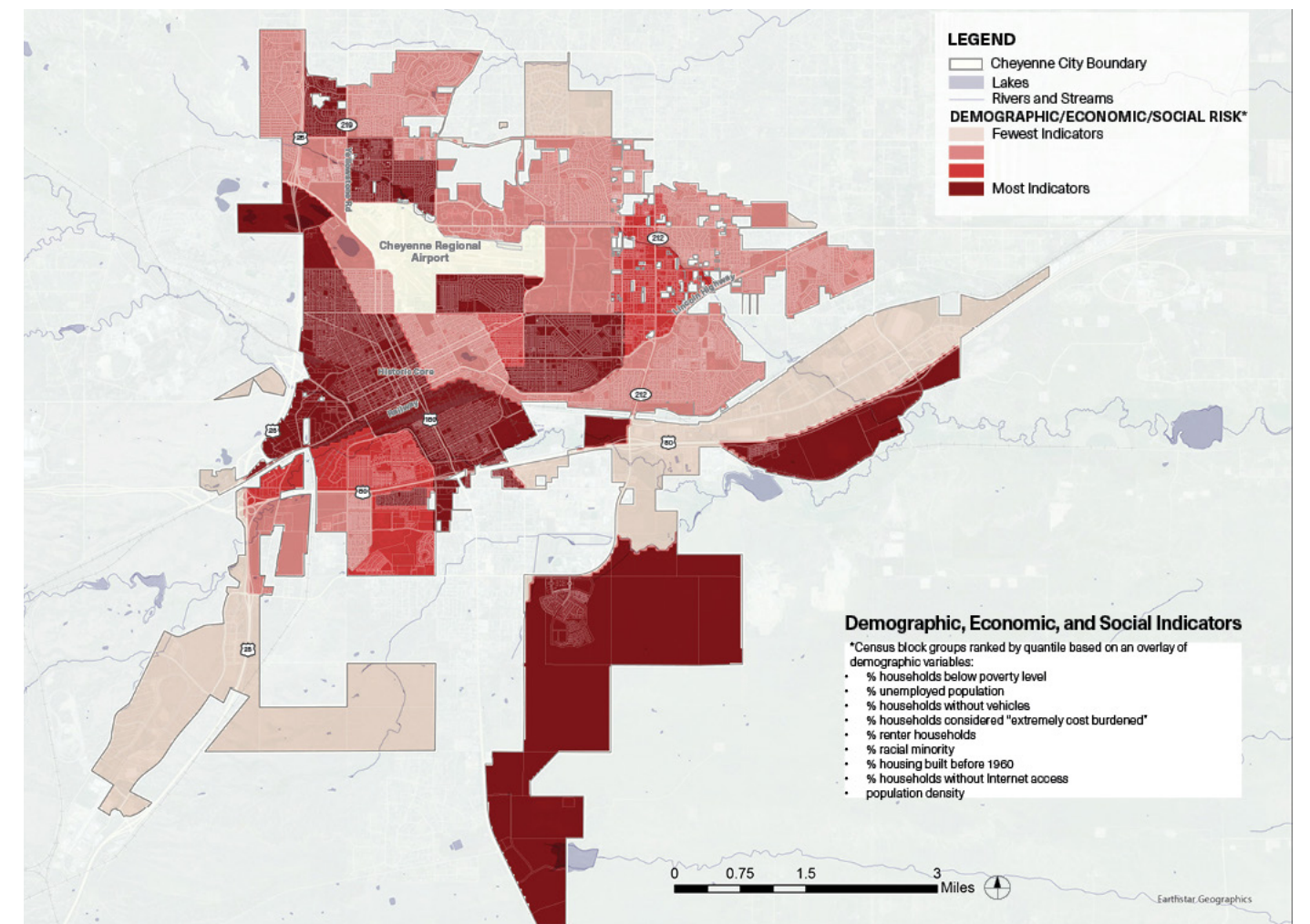
#### Areas south of I-80 and east of Highway 212 had especially high rates of the following:

- Poverty
- Households without vehicle access
- Minority population
- Households without Internet access

#### The area below I-80, just west of Highway 212 had especially high rates of the following:

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Renter households
- Housing built before 1960
- Households without Internet access

Figure 4 Demographic, Economic, and Social Indicators Map



1-3 Trust for Public Land. Parks and an Equitable Recovery. 2021 <https://www.tpl.org/parks-and-an-equitable-recovery-parkscore-report>

1-4 Ibid

1-5 Ibid



## Appendix C.2 | EQUITY ANALYSIS AND PRIORITY MAPPING

### 3. NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS INDICATORS

This sub-index analysis analyzes the equity surrounding natural and environmental hazards indicators. These indicators are important to understanding quality of life and public health obstacles, such as weather exposure, tree canopy cover, and other hazards.

#### WHY THESE INDICATORS ARE IMPORTANT:

Excessive heat can cause various health issues, such as heat exhaustion, heatstroke, poor mental health, and cardiovascular stress<sup>6</sup>. According to the Trust for Public Land study, evidence indicates that parks are one of the most effective ways for cities to protect their residents from the impacts of extreme heat. Locations that have limited green areas are at a higher risk of flooding. This is because vegetation plays a vital role in capturing stormwater and preventing it from flooding streets and homes.

#### Indicators for Natural and Environmental Hazards include:

- Tree Canopy Cover
- Impervious Surfaces
- Flood Risk

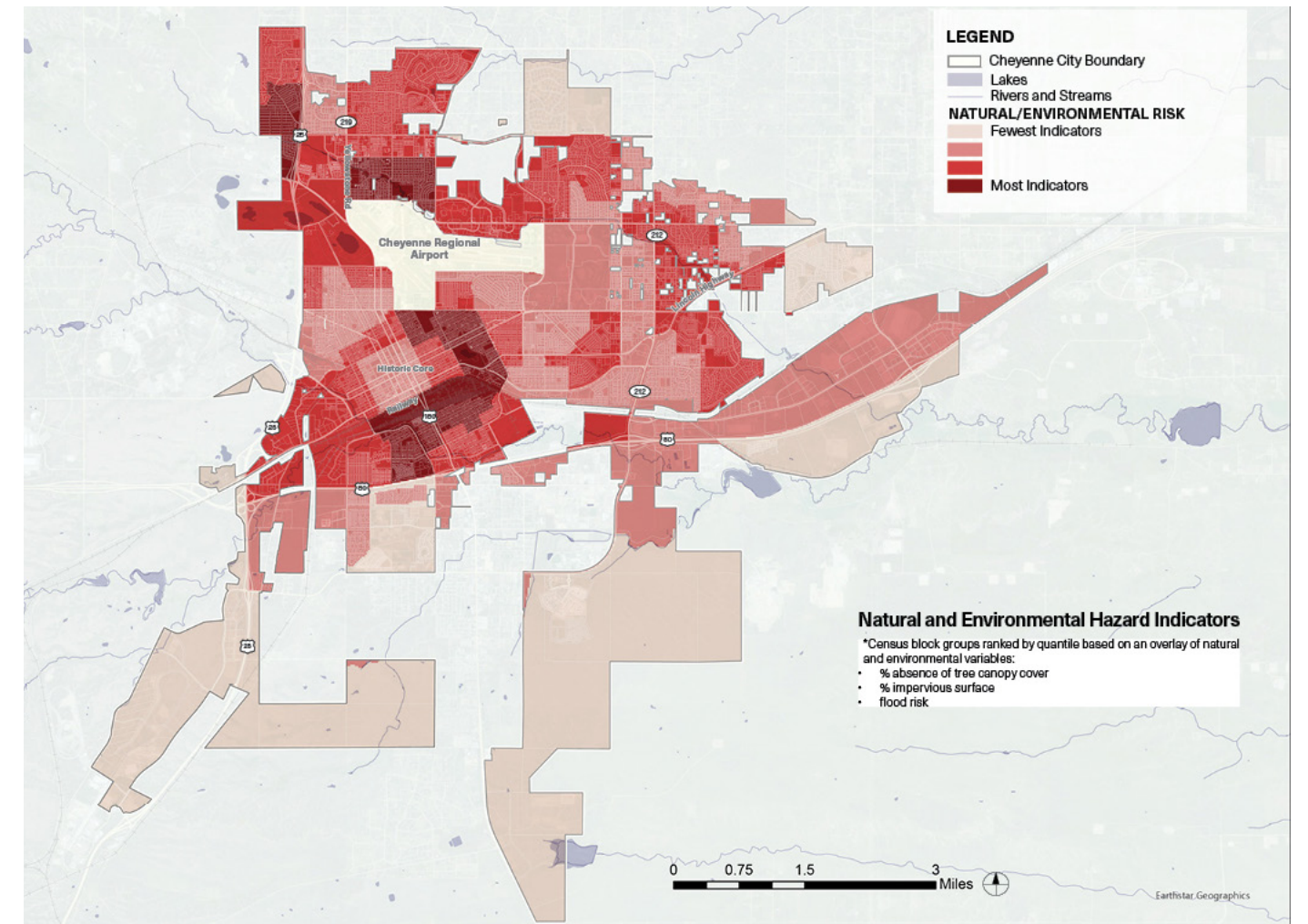
#### The historic district had especially high rates of the following:

- (Absence of) tree canopy cover
- Impervious surfaces

#### The area immediately north of the airport had especially high rates of the following:

- Impervious surfaces, particularly in the area west of Highway 219/Yellowstone Road
- Flood risk

Figure 5 Natural and Environmental Hazards Indicators Map





## Appendix C.3 | QUALITY OF NATURE EXPERIENCES ASSESSMENT

### VALUE OF SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEM

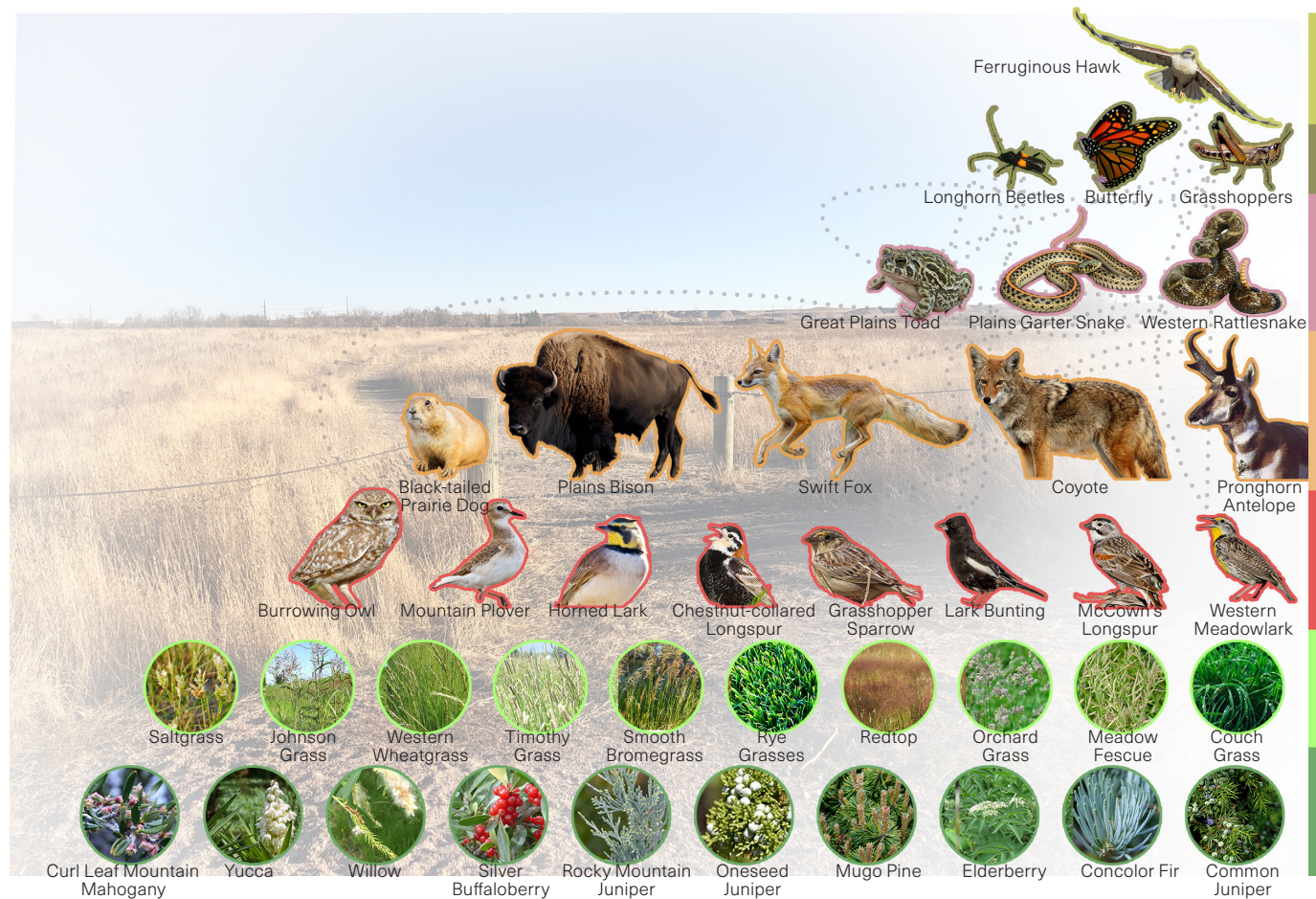
The shortgrass prairie holds significant value for Cheyenne, Wyoming, contributing to the region's ecological, economic, and cultural vitality. Ecologically, this unique ecosystem supports a diverse array of plant and animal species, including many that are native to the area (.). Economically, the shortgrass prairie supports local agriculture and livestock grazing, providing essential resources for ranchers and farmers. Culturally, it is a symbol of the Western heritage, offering recreational opportunities and maintaining the scenic beauty that attracts tourists and enhances the quality of life for residents. Protecting and preserving shortgrass prairie ensures the sustainability of these benefits for future generations in Cheyenne.

According to the IUCN, the Northern Shortgrass Prairie ecoregion is classified as "Critical/Endangered" due to significant habitat loss and insufficient protection. These

prairies are crucial for biodiversity, supporting numerous species of plants, birds, and mammals. They serve as habitats for species like the black-tailed prairie dog, which is a keystone species for this ecosystem.

Additionally, shortgrass prairies are essential for carbon sequestration, soil conservation, and water regulation, contributing to environmental health and climate change mitigations. However, shortgrass prairies have suffered extensive degradation, with nearly half of their original area converted to agricultural or other uses. Conservation efforts are necessary to protect these ecosystems from further destruction and to promote ecological recovery.

### CHEYENNE NATIVE SPECIES



Native Species Diagram

### LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION

Turf conversions or landscape transformations can be a viable alternative when setting goals that reduce water usage, fertilizer and herbicide applications, and improve biological diversity. The identification of non-functional turf grass, areas where there is no designated use or need for turf grass, and the resulting transformation can help cities reduce maintenance costs and improve a wide range of ecosystem services provided by parks and open spaces. Landscape transformations can challenge the way that people envision parks spaces, but the classical vision of a park that is mowed grass under the shade of deciduous trees does not often align with the ecological conditions of the arid west. Landscape transformations can also include the removal of unnecessary concrete and asphalt as a way to improve infiltration and reduce stormwater runoff. The ecological benefits and user experience resulting from landscape transformations could have significant and meaningful impacts on the future of the Cheyenne park system.

### ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

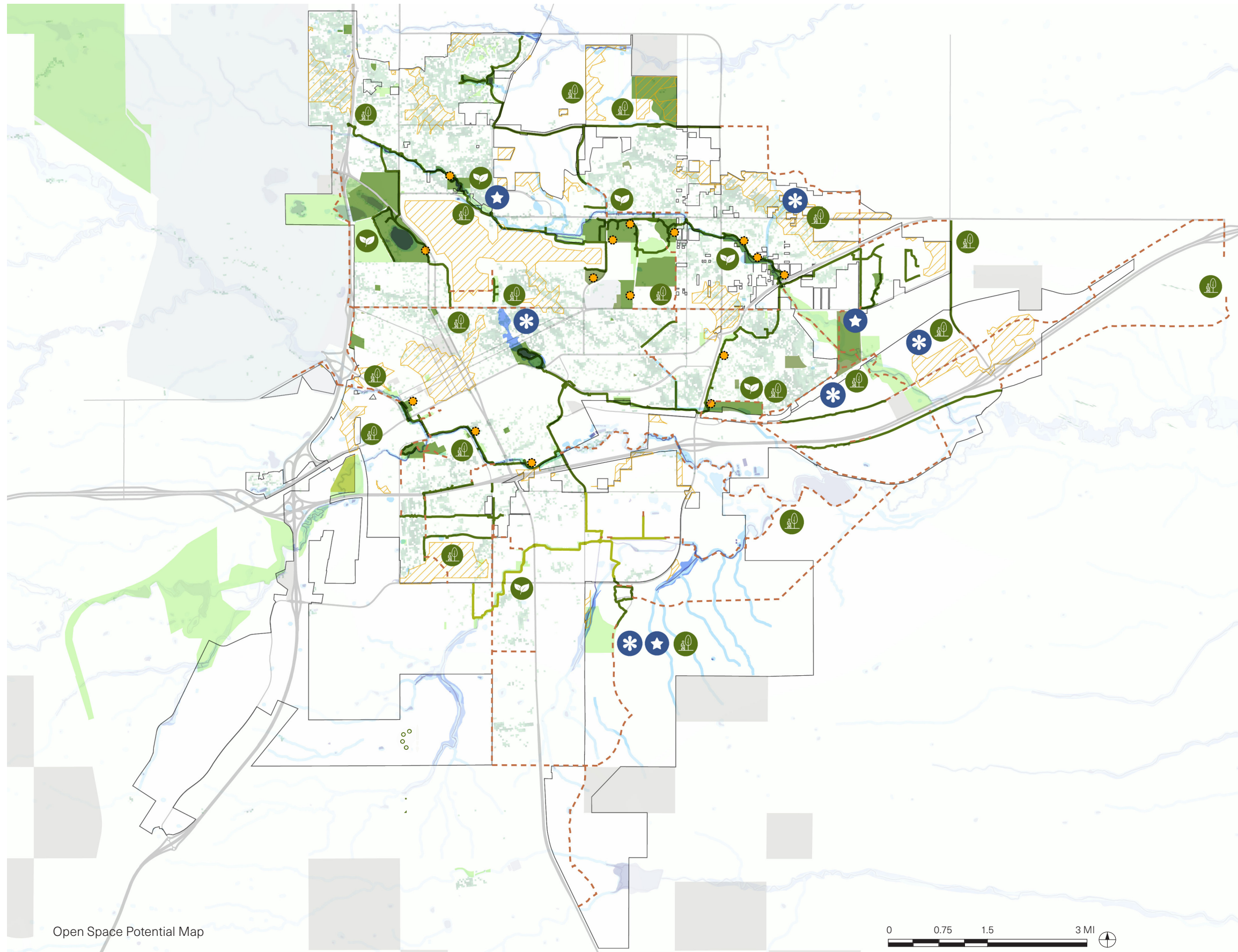
Landscape Typology is an approach to classifying and assess landscapes within parks and open spaces. It is a qualitative and semi-quantitative Geographic Information System (GIS)-based approach which helps land managers understand the composition and performance of a plot of land. This tool is not describing landscape uses, like Sports and Active Recreation, but rather documenting the plant communities that make up the landscape to facilitate data-driven management actions and enable a deep understanding of the managed landscapes and how best to protect them.

### TURF TO NATIVE





**Appendix C.3** | QUALITY OF NATURE EXPERIENCES ASSESSMENT



**OPEN SPACE POTENTIAL MAP**

- Cheyenne City Limits
- Cheyenne Parks
- County Park
- Existing Open Space
- Tree Canopy Cover
- Existing Trailheads
- Greenway Walkshed Gaps
- Cheyenne Greenway Existing
- County Greenway Existing
- Future Greenway Trails
- State Lands
- Federal Lands
- Lakes, Rivers and Streams
- Wetlands
- Flood Hazard Zones

Open Space Potential Map





**Recreation Programs and Services Assessment**

The following section provides an assessment of Cheyenne’s Parks and Recreation Department current recreation services. Information documented in this section was gathered through a series of staff interviews, facility and park tours, and a review of information and documents supplied by the Department.

The assessment is also based on NRPA performance metrics, CAPRA accreditation requirements and industry best practices.

The City of Cheyenne currently has a focused offering of recreation programs and services for its citizens.

Important findings with programming include:

- Like many cities in the United States, Cheyenne faces challenges in the delivery of recreation services in a cost effective and efficient manner.
- The Parks and Recreation Department focuses much of its programming efforts on aquatics, sports and youth.
- There are a limited number of programs offered.
- Much of the programming is offered by part-time staff or other organizations/associations.
- There is not a formal program plan in place that identifies future areas of need or focus and a plan for accomplishing this. However, staff has developed an internal strategic plan for existing programs.
- Programs have fees associated with them and fluctuate by program and instructor/program intensity.
- Recreation programs and services are generally planned and delivered on a facility level to be responsive to varying needs and expectations.
- Recreation programs do not have the benefit of having a comprehensive marketing plan in place.
- The Division has basic performance measures and record-keeping regarding recreation programs.
- The Division utilizes RecTrac as their recreation software program.

**Program Delivery**

The Department currently uses multiple models to deliver programs to the community. The primary models can be described as follows:

- Staff Run. These programs are offered by the Department and are run by staff, both full-time and part-time, and can take place on a seasonal or annual basis.
  - Benefit. The Department has maximum control over the program, its content, and the instructors. They can also maximize revenue generation.



- Challenges. The Department is responsible for managing and maintaining the staff.
- Examples: learn to swim, playground program, etc.
- Third Party. These programs may or may not appear in the Department’s program brochure but are run by a third-party contractor. These instructors are paid on a contract basis and there is typically a revenue split between the contractor and the Department.
  - Benefit. Using contract instructors/programmers allows the Department to pivot as trends shift. It also means that the Department does not have to hire additional part-time staff.
  - Challenges. The biggest challenge is managing the contract as to how the program is run will be a reflection on the Department.
  - Examples: gymnastics, horseback riding, golf, etc.
- User groups. These programs may or may not appear in the Department’s program brochure and are run by an outside group that is utilizing facility or field space from the Department.
  - Benefit. The Department is only utilizing the space, there is minimal staff time required, and it is transactional in nature.
  - Challenges. The programs taking place can be associated with the Department which can cause challenges if not done properly.

It is important to note that the program delivery model does not impact whether a program is a core service.

**Recreation Program Participation**

The chart below summarizes participation in recreation activities over the past three (3) years.

Program	2021	2022	2023
Summer Camp			
Enrolled	247	262	289
Max	253	267	299
% Full	97.6%	98.1%	96.7%
After School Latchkey			
Enrolled	1,878	1,940	2,029
Max	2,510	2,530	2,530
% Full	74.8%	76.7%	80.2%



## Appendix C.4 | RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ASSESSMENT



Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
Cheyenne, WY

Aquatics	2021	2022	2023
Water Fitness			
Enrolled	361	211	316
Learn to Swim	861	955	887
Members	52	75	123
Daily Admissions			27, 519
Rentals/Birthday Parties	68	84	135

Recreation	2021	2022	2023
<b>Youth</b>			
Lacrosse	18	28	n/a
Girls Softball	291	289	295
Tee Ball	408	477	528
Youth Tackle Football	231	228	203
Youth Volleyball	122	110	148
Youth Basketball	460	466	432
Martial Arts	216	216	86
Outdoor Adventure Program	140	136	112
Gymnastics	3,812	2,561	4,476
<b>Adult</b>			
Men's Softball	45	46	
Women's Softball	16	19	
Co-Rec Softball	39	42	
Adult Kickball	4	6	
Pickleball - Summer	12	12	
Pickleball - Fall	12	12	
Men's Volleyball - Fall	7	7	
Women's Volleyball - Fall	31	30	
Men's Adult Basketball - Fall	10	15	
Co-Rec Volleyball - Winter	33		
Men's Volleyball - Winter	7	7	
Women's Volleyball - Winter	31	30	



Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
Cheyenne, WY

### General Program Categories

The following is a listing of general program categories where programs are often offered by full-service parks and recreation agencies. It is unusual for an agency to directly offer programs in all of these areas, but there are usually either agreements with other providers for some of these activities or a referral to them.

*Aquatics* – Learn to swim classes, aqua exercise classes, competitive swimming/diving, SCUBA, and other programs (artistic swimming, water polo, etc.).

*Cultural Arts* – Performing arts classes, visual arts classes, music/video production and arts events.

*Education* – Language programs, tutoring, science (STEAM) classes, computer and financial planning.

*Fitness/Wellness* – Group fitness classes, personal training, wellness education and nutrition.

*General Interest* – Personal development classes.

*Outdoor Recreation* – Environmental education, hiking, camping, kayaking, fishing, and other activities.

*Self-Directed* – This includes the opportunities for individuals to recreate on their own. This can include activities such as open-gym, use of weight/cardio space and lap/recreational swimming. Although not an organized program, time and space must be allocated for this purpose.

*Senior/Older Adults* – Programs and services that are dedicated to serving the needs of older adults. This can include all of the activity areas noted above plus social service functions.

*Social Services* – This can include nutrition and feeding programs, job training, life skills training, and other activities such as health screenings.

*Special Events* – City wide or community center based special events that are conducted throughout the year.

*Special Needs* – Programs for the physically and mentally impaired. Also, inclusion programs.

*Sports* – Team and individual sports including camps, clinics and tournaments. Also includes adventure/non-traditional sports.

*Teens* - Programs and services that are focused on serving the needs of teens. This can include all of the activity areas noted above (except seniors).

*Youth* – Before and after school programs, summer/school break camps, childcare, and preschool.





**Programming Assessment by Classifications:** The categories below represent the major areas of focus for current Cheyenne recreation programs and services by categories commonly found in parks and recreation agencies nationally. The program delivery column identifies how programs and services are currently being provided to the community. This assessment is based on programming offered from 2021 through 2023. It is recognized that COVID had a huge impact on programming in 2020 and 2021, and many are now returning to previous levels.

Area	
<b>Aquatics</b>	Swim lessons are offered by city staff. There are also aqua exercise classes offered at the Aquatic Center. Lap Swim and swim team programs are offered throughout the year. Lifeguard certification courses are offered routinely throughout the year.
<b>Cultural Arts</b>	The department has the Civic Center which hosts performances from musical to dance to comedy to plays.
<b>Education</b>	Some education-based programs are integrated into camps.
<b>Fitness</b>	This is not a primary area for programs on land, however the aquatic center provides lap swimming and water fitness classes.
<b>General Interest</b>	There are a few programs in this area such as dog and horse classes.
<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>	The City has reservable outdoor shelters for self-directed activities. Sloan Lake has canoe, kayak, paddle board and paddle boat rentals. Fishing is permitted.
<b>Self-Directed</b>	There are a variety of drop-in recreation opportunities including field-based sports (baseball/softball, soccer, football, etc.), ice skating, swimming, racquet sports and other activities. Rentals of both indoor spaces and athletic fields are also an important self-directed opportunity as well.
<b>Senior/Older Adults</b>	Laramie County Senior Services provides the majority of activities for seniors.
<b>Social Services</b>	The department does not provide programs in this area.
<b>Special Events</b>	There is one significant special event in Superday. The remainder of the year there are limited special events offered by the Department. Most all of these are more center based events rather than city wide activities. Staff provides assistance at events provided by others.
<b>Special Needs</b>	This is not an established program area for the Parks and Recreation Department. Services in this area are offered by other providers in the Cheyenne area.
<b>Sports</b>	This is an area of focus for the department, with some youth sports being provided by other organizations. These other organizations utilize city fields for their programs. Recreation has youth basketball, youth volleyball, youth lacrosse, youth football, adult softball, adult kickball, pickleball, adult volleyball and adult basketball
<b>Teens</b>	There are no specific programs offered in this area although the skate park is a popular amenity.
<b>Youth</b>	Recreation has a significant latchkey and summer camp program provided by city staff.



**City Recreation Program Determinants:** Based on the programs listed above, the following are general classifications of programs by degree of emphasis.

High Program Area	Medium Program Area	Limited Program Area
Aquatics	Cultural Arts	Education
Self-Directed	Outdoor Recreation	Fitness
Sports	Special Events	General Interest
Youth Programs		Older Adults
		Social Services
		Special Needs
		Teens

**Program Providers:** When the recreation services that City staff, contract or other organizations are providing are analyzed, there are two program areas that are not being well covered, General Interest and Teens.

Program Areas	City Emphasis	Contract or Other Providers
Aquatics		
Cultural Arts		
Education		
Fitness/Wellness		
General Interest		
Outdoor Recreation		
Senior/Older Adults		
Social Services		
Self-Directed		
Social Services		
Special Events		
Special Needs		
Sports		
Teens		
Youth		

**Programs Offered by Other Organizations**

Beyond the city and school district there are a significant number of other community organizations that provide recreation opportunities in the community. These include:



## Appendix C.4 | RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ASSESSMENT



### Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Master Plan Cheyenne, WY

Recreation Service Providers	
<b>Art, Dance, Music</b>	
	Act Two Studios
	Cheyenne Little Theater Players - Atlas Theatre & Mary Godfrey Playhouse
	Dunlevy Family Band Studios
	En Avant Dance Studio
	Arts Cheyenne, Inc
	Bodylines Dance Studio
	Capital City Cheerleading
<b>Martial Arts</b>	
	Quest Taekwondo Academy
	Geoff Thompson's Tai Chi
	Ahn's Tae Kwon Do Academy
	American Martial Arts Systems
	Quest Taekwondo Academy
	Madhouse Jiu Jitsu
	Cheyenne Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
	Cheyenne Budokan
<b>Golf</b>	
	Little America Golf Course
	F E Warren AFB Golf Club
	Cheyenne Country Club
<b>Ranges</b>	
	Cheyenne Trap & Skeet Club
	Cheyenne Rifle & Pistol Club
<b>Family Entertainment</b>	
	Frontier Trampoline Park
	Jumpin' Jack's Family Fun Center
	Flippers Family Arcade
	Roller City
	Warren Adventure Park
<b>Misc</b>	
	Laramie County Riders Association (Motorcross)
	Cheyenne Family YMCA
	Laramie County Library
	The Arc of Laramie County
	Boys & Girls Club of Cheyenne
	Cheyenne Family YMCA
	Laramie County Senior Services
<b>Fitness</b>	
	Fitness One
	Arhanta Yoga



### Cheyenne Parks and Recreation Master Plan Cheyenne, WY

	Blossom Yoga
	Little Lotus Yoga
	Cheyenne Fit Body Boot Camp
	CrossFit Cheyenne
	Cross Fit Frontier
	Gold's Gym
	Hiit 30
	Peak Wellness Center
	Planet Fitness
	Push IV & Wellness Lounge
	Wellness Collective

Most of these organizations have their own facilities and are not dependent on city and school facilities for their programs.

#### Recreation Service Providers Outside of Cheyenne

While there are a number of recreation service providers in Cheyenne, the surrounding area also offer limited recreation services and facilities. These include:

Recreation Service Providers	Facilities
<b>Burns, WY</b>	
	Community Center
	Parks
<b>Laramie County, WY</b>	
	Clear Creek Park
	Event Center at Archer
	Fairgrounds
	Laramie County Shooting Sports Complex
<b>Pine Bluffs, WY</b>	
	Community Center
	Disc Golf Course
	Golf Course
	Parks
	Senior Center
	Swimming Pool
<b>State of Wyoming</b>	
	Curt Gowdy State Park

Organized recreation programs are limited in other communities and are primarily outdoor recreation related.



**Current Program Assessment:** The following is an overall assessment of the current level of recreation programming that is offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. It is important to note that parks and recreation agencies today are not expected to be providing direct programs in all these areas, but this identifies where the strengths and weaknesses occur.

*Strengths* – Programming strengths include the following:

- The Division has a strong summer camp program for youth.
- The Super Day special event is a tremendous event for the community.
- There is a significant number of youth team sports, which are offered at City facilities by other organizations.
- There are strong opportunities for self-directed activities, especially in trails and parks. Providing time for this type of activity is important to meeting the overall recreation needs of the community.
- Aquatics is available year-round within the Aquatic Center, and seasonally at Johnson Pool.
- There is a strong rental program in place for all facilities.

*Weaknesses* – Programming weaknesses are noted below:

- There are no teen, special needs, general interest or education programs that are offered.
- Older adult and senior programming is not specifically spelled out. There are opportunities within the existing programs, but the bulk of the programming takes place through the Laramie County Senior Activity Center.
- There are limited opportunities offered by the department for cultural arts programs and activities.
- There are virtually no outdoor recreation programs except for an outdoor adventure program and picnic rental programs.
- There are only a few special events.
- There is very little intergenerational programming or family-based programming available. Some example of these programs include creative arts and crafts workshops, cooking and/or food workshops, and parent-child sports clinics.



- Much of the programming is the same from year to year with relatively small levels of program changes or the introduction of new programming.

**Gaps in Programming:** With limited Parks and Recreation based recreation programming available, there are significant gaps in many categories of recreation programming. This requires other organizations or providers in the market to fill this need. Moving forward, the City of Cheyenne will need to make a determination if they want to increase the level of recreation programming that is offered or continue to rely on others for these services. However, increasing recreation programming requires the following:

- Staff time to develop and deliver new programs and services.
- Additional funding to offset the cost of new programs and services in addition to revenues from program fees.
- Adequate facilities and time available for new programs. The issue is exacerbated by the continued increase in interest and attendance in recreation programming as well as the decrease in time available through the school buildings. Acquiring the Beast, while providing indoor space not previously available to the City, has not diminished the need for additional gymnasium space as the space is fully scheduled during the prime seasons.

**Other Recreation Programming Observations**

Beyond what is noted above, there are a number of other observations regarding recreation programs and services. These include:

*Recreation Program Plan* – The Parks and Recreation Department does not have a formal program plan that can be utilized to guide program development and areas of focus. This would be very beneficial for the Department for long range recreation program planning.

*Program Marketing Efforts* – The Department does not have a formal marketing plan in place that outlines marketing goals and tasks that need to be undertaken on a yearly basis. Currently the information is distributed in a number of ways without a coordinated effort or plan. Mechanisms for current disseminating information is through the website, social media, mailing lists and a seasonal brochure.

*Performance Measures* – There are only a few performance metrics that are currently being tracked by the Department for recreation programs.

*Fee Policy* – The Department would benefit greatly from having a formal fee policy in place that outlines how fees for programs and services are established. While not advertised, financial assistance exists by way of discount on programs, typically at a discount rate of 10%-20%.

*Youth Sports* – With the growth in travel teams in most sports, this has put a great deal of pressure on existing facilities to meet tournament needs.





**Parks Maintenance:**

Parks Maintenance

Parks is responsible for the maintenance of parks, open space, detention areas, roadway enhancements and greenway/sidewalk/special use path corridors and visual green spaces. Parks does receive some assistance from other Public Works staff for Right of Ways and detention ponds but also provide assistance to Public Works during emergencies and natural disasters.

*Organizational Structure and Staffing*

- The Division has Manager, Supervisor, Foremen & Technicians.
  - Full-time staff is supplemented by 30-35 seasonal employees.
    - Seasonal staff joins in May and continues through August, bulk of these are high school and college students
  - Areas divided into areas
    - Parks (non-athletic fields)
    - Athletics
    - Irrigation
    - Greenway
- The parks staff provide day-to-day maintenance tasks, primarily mowing and picking up litter.
- The staff has increased in the past 3 years.
- With the addition and expansion of the trail system, additional staff will be required.

*Operations*

- Parks maintains the following facilities:
  - 72 parks
    - 31 Community, Neighborhood, Mini, Open Space and Undeveloped
    - 8 Sports Complexes
    - 33 Greenway Corridors
  - 2 golf courses
  - 64 properties with no recreation opportunities
    - 56 Visual Resources
    - 5 Cemeteries
    - 3 Storm Detention Areas
  - 190 trails
    - 58.4 miles
  - 271 acres of manicured/irrigated turf
  - City Building and Youth Alternatives Center are mowed by Parks



- Parks does monthly inspections of playgrounds through ParkZapp, but does not have a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) on staff.
- Maintenance staff is scheduled Monday-Friday with rotational on-call staff. A team is scheduled over the weekend.
- Park maintenance is organized function, not geography. Tasks are assigned each day. With limited staff, there is not the ability to break up crews to focus on certain aspects or areas.
- Most parks maintenance functions are conducted by Parks staff rather than being contracted out.
  - All parks are fertilized by contractor annually
  - Portion of tree pruning is contracted
  - Parking lot striping is contracted
  - Spraying herbicide along greenways is contracted
- Maintenance is handled by different divisions:
  - Parks Maintenance – Vast majority of spaces including parks, open space, corridors, detention, and visual resources.
    - Includes the snow removal of over 14 miles of sidewalk/pathway.
    - There are 68 flower beds throughout the park system.
    - Maintain irrigation systems at 100 different sites plus trees on drip.
  - Cemetery – Opening and closing of graves and mowing 5 cemeteries
  - Forestry – Planting, pruning and tree removal throughout all city properties
  - Weed & Pest – Apply herbicides and pesticides
  - Clean & Safe – maintains Civic Commons
- Overall, parks maintenance is good. Residents of Cheyenne have a high standard and expectation for the parks. The challenges are the age of the system, deferred maintenance issues, and the need for a maintenance plan to define priorities.
- Parks does not have maintenance management software.
- The Division does not have a formal maintenance plan but does utilize a task list for parks.
- The Division needs to establish a playground replacement plan and lifecycle costing. The average age of the playgrounds is 16.1 years old. Many of the existing playgrounds are in poor condition.
- The Division should consider establishing an asset management plan that also looks at the lifecycle costs.
- The majority of the irrigation systems are centralized allowing for efficient watering. Parks Department does not pay for water.



- Parks staff spends a considerable amount of their time maintaining areas that have little recreational value rather than actually performing maintenance in City parks. As a result parks staff is only able to perform routine maintenance (mowing and litter removal) on City parks.
- The Division is behind in its on-going maintenance and is more in a reactionary mode as a result.
- Parks Maintenance has not been allowed to provide input and projections for maintenance costs for new parks, trails or open acquisitions.

*Policies and Procedures*

- Parks and Recreation best practices call for departments to have comprehensive operational policies in place that are updated on a regular basis. At this time Parks only has basic maintenance policies and procedures in place.

*Other*

- The Golf division has 2 mechanics to maintain all the small motor equipment. They also assist other city departments. Fleet Maintenance is under Public Works is responsible for vehicle maintenance.
- Pavement maintenance is the responsibility of Parks. Parking lot striping is contracted. Public Works does not provide staff or materials for pothole repair.
- Parks is responsible for clearing snow from all park parking lots and facilities. Public Works only plows on the street.
- It is difficult to adequately recruit and train new or younger staff.
- Need to increase the use of technology to better manage parks maintenance and track results and time.



Park Staffing Level Standards

- Community, Neighborhood, Mini Parks– Low (1 per/12 acres), High (1 per/8 acres)
- Open Space and Corridors – Low (1 per/18 acres), High (1 per/12 acres)

Park Totals	Acreage	Staffing Low Level	Staffing High Level
Community	355.7	29.6	44.5
Neighborhood	99.5	8.3	12.4
Mini	8.5	0.7	1.1
Open Space	266.4	14.8	22.2
Greenway Corridor	145.5	8.1	12.1
Undeveloped	33.0	1.8	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>908.5</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>95.0</b>

Sports Staffing Level Standards

- Athletic Fields – Low (1 staff/4 fields), High (1 staff/2fields)
- Golf Course – Low (1 staff/3 holes), High (1 staff/hole)

Sports Complex & Golf	# of Fields/Courses	Acreage	Staffing Low Level	Staffing High Level
Sports Complex	39	169.0	9.8	19.5
Golf Course	2	204.1	9.0	27.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>373.1</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>46.5</b>

Other Staffing Level Standards

- Mode 2 – Cemetery – Low (1 per/12 acres), High (1 per/8 acres)
- Mode 3 – Storm Detention and Visual Resource – Low (1 per/18 acres), High (1 per/12 acres)

Other – Non-Recreational Totals	Acreage	Staffing Low Level	Staffing High Level
Cemetery	60.0	5.0	7.5
Storm Detention Area	7.6	0.4	0.6
Visual Resource	59.6	5.0	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>127.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>15.6</b>





Trails Staffing Level Standards

- Trails – Low (1 staff/20 miles), High (1 staff/10 miles)

<b>Trail Totals</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Staffing Low Level</b>	<b>Staffing High Level</b>
Greenway	46.9	2.3	4.7
Shared Use Trail	11.5	0.6	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>5.8</b>

<b>Staffing Totals</b>	<b>Staffing Low Level</b>	<b>Staffing High Level</b>
Parks	63.4	95.0
Sports	9.8	19.5
Golf	9.0	27.0
Other	10.4	15.6
Greenway	2.9	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>163.0</b>

Like many parks and recreation departments, the City of Cheyenne utilizes full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff to conduct work activities each year. The staffing levels above are for full-time equivalents.

**Operations and Maintenance Challenges**

- New trails and responsibilities are being added to the department without additional resources.
- Maintenance Plan – There is not a comprehensive maintenance plan for parks or facilities. There is a “one-size-fits-all” approach which leads to inconsistency. Maintenance standards should be developed for different modes identifying tasks and frequency.
- Equipment Maintenance – There needs to be an asset management plan that tracks lifecycle costs and deferred maintenance.
- Parks are mowed from “curb-to-curb.” Adjusting practices establish areas for native grasses and wildflowers to flourish can reduce the amount of mowing.
- Playgrounds – There is a definite need to have a playground replacement program/budget. The safety surface under each structure varies from pea gravel to engineered wood fiber to pour in place to artificial turf. The preference is for artificial turf.



- Establishing standard types and even brands of equipment can greatly increase park maintenance efficiency by reducing the number of different replacement parts and materials needed for repairs. Examples of this are site amenities that are consistent across locations allow for some spare parts to be kept available that will work for any number of locations.
- Park Maintenance Facility – The park shop is located on the east side of the city requiring the trailering of equipment to parks. The building is in fair condition with adequate storage with the facility storing equipment for other departments. The Weed & Pest maintenance building needs to be replaced. The Forestry division works out of 2 locations, with the offices in Lions Park and maintenance in Dutcher.
- Deferred Maintenance – This is a major issue with aging facilities. There is a CIP budget in place, but this is not adequate for the magnitude of issues that are in place.
- Athletic Field Maintenance – Diamonds are dragged daily during the season if there is a practice or game scheduled. There is not a formal maintenance plan for overseeding, topdressing, applying herbicide or fertilizer, infield grooming/lip maintenance, etc. although much of these tasks are performed. Fields have not been laser graded to ensure proper drainage.
- Open Space – Managing and maintaining these areas is difficult and there is not enough funding or staff to accomplish what is needed.
- CIP Budgets – These are underfunded for the needs that have been identified. As a result, improvements really can only deal with emergencies and safety issues.
- Volunteers - A volunteer program could be beneficial, but it will take staff time to administer.



**Recreation Facilities Assessment**

Cheyenne has a number of parks, fields, pools and indoor facilities that support a variety of recreation services. This assessment delves into the City of Cheyenne’s outdoor facilities, sports complexes, indoor recreation facilities and event centers, showcasing the diverse range of activities available.

The Programs and Facilities Division within the Community Recreation and Events Department plays an essential role in managing many of the City’s outdoor facilities, such as the sports fields and complexes. They also oversee the indoor facilities like the community buildings, including the Activity Center, Kiwanis Community House, Pioneer Park Center, and Youth Activity and Community Center, ensuring these spaces are well-maintained and accessible for all. This division also manages the Special Events within the Parks.

Cheyenne Parks Division maintains the city parks, the Greenway, and maintenance fields for Softball, Baseball, and Soccer. The Recreation Division and Childcare manage multiple sports, fitness classes, pickleball, dog and horse classes, martial arts, specialty activities like sunset goat hiking, and many others. The Golf Division includes the Airport Golf Club and Kingham Prairie View Golf Course.

**Outdoor Facilities and Sports Complexes**

The City of Cheyenne has eight (8) sports complexes and six (6) outdoor facilities.

**Brimmer Softball Complex (3056 Windmill Rd.):**



**Key elements:**

- Three (3) diamonds with skinned infield
  - All fields have lights
- Restroom
- Batting Cages
- Bulk material storage
- Skatepark
- Playground

Brimmer Park	Facility Amenities ("X" = Has)
Parking Spaces	X
Total Playgrounds	2
Play Equipment Ages 2 to 5	X
Play Equipment Ages 5 to 12	X
Restrooms	X
Shelters	X
BBQ Pit/Grill	X
Benches/Seating	X
Picnic Tables	X
Drinking Fountain	X
Pet Waste Station	X
Multipurpose Fields (Play Field)	X
Ballfields (Baseball/Softball)	3
Skate Park	X
Trailheads/access point	X
Connected to Greenway	X
Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	X
Recreation Center	X
Concessions	X
Batting Cages	X
Sculpture	X

**Challenges:**

- No shade for spectators.
- Wood at the bottom of the backstop fencing is in good condition but will require replacement.
- Backstops do not have safety for foul balls.
- Restrooms are outdated and do not meet ADA.
- There are 3 parking lots with 2 of them requiring spectators and participants to cross an entryway. There is no lighting in the parking lot. Asphalt is failing.
- Batting cages are outdated and in need of replacement.
- Concrete failing under skate park and lighting needs upgrade.
- Irrigation does not have the appropriate tap size. Layout of the heads is not adequate for appropriate coverage.





- Concessions – drinking fountains don’t work.

**Cahill Soccer Complex (Dell Range Blvd and Friendship Circle):**

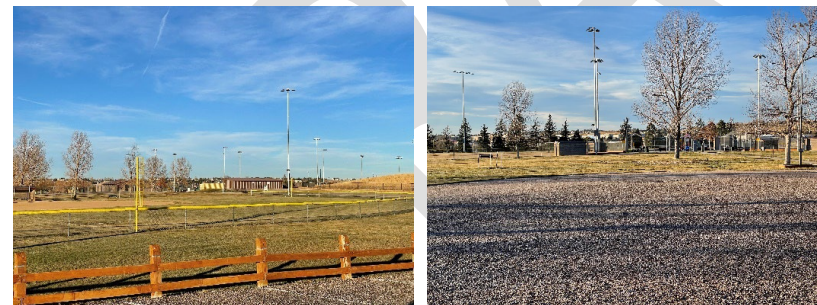
Key elements:

- Five (5) rectangle athletic fields
  - Fields are broken into smaller playing surfaces, up to eight (8) fields per rectangle
  - No lights
- Restroom
- Playground

Challenges:

- No shade or bleachers for spectators.
- No means of controlling access to fields.
- One (1) restroom building to serve entire park. Distance of over 500 feet to restroom from a number of fields.
- No field lights.
- No netting behind goals allowing stray balls to carry beyond playing surface
- Parking lot is in poor condition and there is no lighting creating excessive amount of vandalism.

**Cheyenne Jr. Baseball Complex (4211 Converse Ave.):**



Key elements:

- Nine (9) diamonds athletic fields
  - Fields are in three (3) pods
    - One (1) field in each pod has artificial turf infield
    - Two (2) fields have skinned infield
  - No lights
- Restroom
- Batting cages
- Paved trail
- Maintenance equipment storage (4 bays)



Junior League Complex	Facility Amenities ("X" = Has)
Parking Spaces	X
Total Playgrounds	3
Play Equipment Ages 2 to 5	X
Restrooms	X
Benches/Seating	X
Pet Waste Station	X
Ballfields (Baseball/Softball)	9
Trailheads/access point	X
Connected to Greenway	X
Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	X
Concessions	X
Batting Cages	X
Sheets of Ice	1

Challenges:

- No shade, bleachers or safety netting for foul balls for spectators.
- No lights for safety, security.
- Artificial turf is in good shape, but a plan needs to be developed for replacement.
- Parking lot is in need of replacement and no lighting.
- Playgrounds near fields are covered but pose a safety risk.

**Converse Softball Complex (3800 Converse Ave.):**



Key elements:

- Four (4) diamonds athletic fields
  - Skinned infields
  - All fields have lights
- Restroom
- Concessions
- Batting cages



Converse Softball Complex	Facility Amenities ("X" = Has)
Parking Spaces	X
Restrooms	X
Benches/Seating	X
Picnic Tables	X
Drinking Fountain	X
Pet Waste Station	X
Ballfields (Baseball/Softball)	4
Trailheads/access point	X
Connected to Greenway	X
Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	X
Concessions	X
Batting Cages	X

Challenges:

- No shade for spectators.
- Wood at the bottom of the backstop fencing is in good condition but will require replacement.
- Parking lot is in poor condition, and additional parking needed.
- Restrooms and concessions need to be upgraded as it was built in 1980s

**Dutcher Baseball Complex (4212 Converse Ave.):**



Key elements:

- Five (5) diamonds athletic fields
  - Four (4) fields have grass infields, one (1) field has skinned infield
  - Two (2) fields have lights
- Restroom
- Concessions

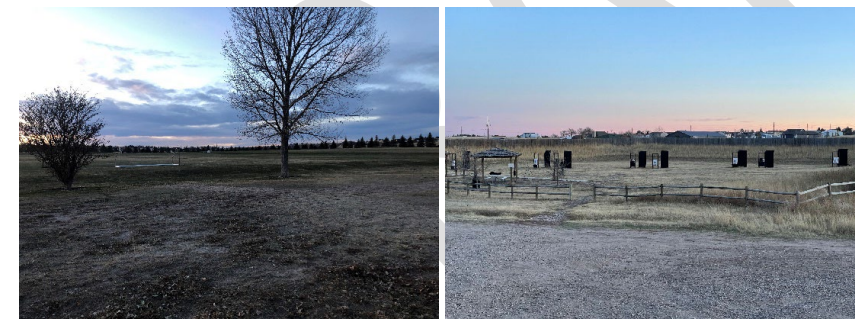


Dutcher Field	Facility Amenities ("X" = Has)
Parking Spaces	X
Restrooms	X
Benches/Seating	X
Picnic Tables	X
Ballfields (Baseball/Softball)	5
Connected to Greenway	X
Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	X
Concessions	X

Challenges:

- No shade for spectators.
- No accessible route to spectator seating.
- Fence posts on fields are in poor condition.
- Field light poles are wooden and will need to be replaced.
- Parking lot is in poor condition.
- Fields are not in the typical layout of wagon wheel with potential for balls from one field able to enter the field of play of another.
- Age of facilities in general, many not meeting code for ADA, electric, plumbing, etc.

**North Cheyenne Community Park (S. Lions Park Dr.):**



- Five (5) rectangle athletic fields
  - Fields are broken into smaller playing surfaces, up to six (6) fields per rectangle
  - No lights
- Restroom
- Maintenance
- In Community Park
  - Archery Range
  - Playground
  - Basketball courts
  - Mountain bike trail
  - Futsal court





Challenges:

- No shade or bleachers for spectators
- No means of controlling access to fields.
- One (1) restroom building to serve entire park. Distance of over 500 feet to restroom from a number of fields.
- No field lights
- No netting behind goals allowing stray balls to carry beyond playing surface.
- No accessible routes to fields.
- Parking lot is in ok condition.

**Coke Gonzales Field (4211 Converse Ave.):**



- One (1) diamonds athletic field
  - Skinned infield
  - No lights
- In Martin Luther King Jr. Park
  - Four (4) pickleball courts
  - Playground

Challenges:

- No shade or bleachers for spectators.
- No field lights.



- Backstop is close to the intersection of 2 streets.
- Transient population creates an issue for maintenance and scheduling.
- Scoreboard needs replacement.

**Dunbar Field (S. Lions Park Dr.):**

- One (1) diamond athletic field
  - Skinned infield
  - Lights
- In Lions Park
  - Sloan Lake with beach
  - Playground
  - Botanic Gardens
  - Kiwanis Community House
  - Amphitheatre
  - Aquatic Center

Challenges:

- No shade for spectators.
- Spectator seating is not accessible.
- Field lighting is in poor condition and does not have cut off for uplight.
- Field needs infield lip removed.
- Outfield fence is wooden and in disrepair.
- Parking lot is in poor condition.
- Restrooms and concessions do not meet ADA compliance.

**Powers Baseball Field (Windmill Ave.):**



- One (1) diamond athletic field
  - Artificial turf infield
  - Lights
  - Concessions



- Restrooms
- Adjacent to Cheyenne Jr. Baseball Complex

Powers Field	Facility Amenities ("X" = Has)
Parking Spaces	X
Restrooms	X
Benches/Seating	X
Picnic Tables	X
Drinking Fountain	X
Ballfields (Baseball/Softball)	1
Trailheads/access point	X
Connected to Greenway	X
Bicycle or Pedestrian Path	X
Concessions	X

Challenges:

- Parking lot needs sealed and striped

**Pioneer Park Baseball Field (1331 Talbot Ct.):**



- One (1) Diamond athletic field
  - Artificial turf infield
  - Lights
- In Pioneer Park
  - Playground

Pioneer Park	Facility Amenities ("X" = Has)
Parking Spaces	X
Restrooms	X
Drinking Fountain	X
Ballfields (Baseball/Softball)	1
Concessions	X
Sheets of Ice	X



Challenges:

- No shade for spectators.
- Artificial turf needs to be replaced as it is at the end of its useful life.
- Parking lot is in fair condition.

**VFW Pride Park Fields (2816 East 7<sup>th</sup> St.):**



- Two (2) diamonds athletic field
  - Skinned infields
  - No lights
- In Pride Park
  - VFW building

VFW Pride Park	Facility Amenities ("X" = Has)
Parking Spaces	X
Portolets Seasonal	X
Benches/Seating	X
Ballfields (Baseball/Softball)	2
Horseshoes	X
Connected to Greenway	X

Challenges:

- Contract and leasing the field. Do not recommend continuing.
- No shade for spectators.
- Spectator seating is not accessible.
- No dedicated parking.
- Fields are near street requiring spectators and participants to cross to utilize fields.
- Field conditions are poor.
- Undersized water tap.

**Pointe Park (2816 East 7<sup>th</sup> St.):**

- One (1) rectangle athletic field
  - No lights





- In Pointe Park
  - Playground
  - Trail
  - Restroom
  - Two (2) basketball courts

Challenges:

- Utilized for practices but not developed as an athletic field.
- No parking adjacent to field.

**Romero Park (1317 Parsley Blvd.):**



- One (1) rectangle athletic field
  - No lights
- In Romero Park
  - Playground
  - Trail

Challenges:

- Utilized for practices but not developed as an athletic field.

**Sun Valley Park (East 12<sup>th</sup> St.):**



- One (1) rectangle athletic field
  - No lights
- In Sun Valley Park



- Playground
- Sand volleyball court
- Trail
- Restroom

Challenges:

- Utilized for practices but not developed as an athletic field.
- Parking lot is small and in poor condition.

**Athletic Field Summary**

Type	Number of Fields	Lighted	Artificial Turf
Diamond	27	12	5 Infield
Adult (300 ft + fence)	5		
Youth	22		
Rectangular	13	0	0
Adult (150 ft x 240 ft)	5		
Youth	8 (striped for 24)		
Total	39	12	5

Based on metrics from the NRPA and the population (2023 projection) the City could support the following number of facilities:

- Diamonds (adult) 9.6
- Diamonds (youth) 19.6
- Rectangles (adult soccer) 7.0
- Rectangles (youth soccer) 10.9 (striped for up to 40)
- Rectangles (misc.) 8.1

**Athletic Field Assessment**

- The athletic field surfaces are maintained in good condition.
- Fencing at the older facilities is failing and needs to be replaced. Newer facilities have installed post and net rather than chain-link.
- All diamonds could use a concrete mow strip under the fencing for improved maintenance and weed control.
- Many of the athletic complexes do not have adequate parking.
  - The minimum number of parking spaces per field is 50, while the preferred number is 75-100.
  - The parking surface is failing or failed at a number of the complexes.
- The number of fields is adequate to serve Cheyenne, however the lack of lights prohibits the fields from being fully utilized in the spring and fall which is the busiest time of the year for many of the athletic programs.
- The artificial turf on the infield at Pioneer Park is in need of replacement.



- The batting cages have a high operational cost with minimal return.
- Appropriate maintenance and storage should be located at each of the complexes of Brimmer, Cahill, Cheyenne Junior Baseball, Converse, Dutcher and North Cheyenne.
- Dutcher Field layout does not allow for central concession restrooms.
- Athletic complexes are not distributed across the City.

**Indoor Recreation Facilities**

In addition to the outdoor facilities and sports complexes, the City owns/manages several indoor recreation facilities. These facilities include three event centers and five indoor recreation/community centers, including the newly acquired Beast Foundation. The City also recently constructed a new gymnastics center, which will serve as a future indoor recreation facility.

Indoor Recreation Facility Inventory
<b>Event Center</b>
Botanic Gardens
Cheyenne Ice and Event Center
City Civic Center
Kiwanis Community House
<b>Indoor Facility /Community Center</b>
Beast Foundation
Cheyenne Aquatic Center
Pioneer Park Rec Center
Youth Activity Community Center

**Cheyenne Botanic Gardens:**

The Cheyenne Botanic Gardens is part of the Recreation and Events Department division and part of Friends, a non-profit foundation<sup>1</sup>. The Botanical Gardens offers free admittance to its facilities, including the Conservatory, the Paul Smith Children’s Village, and the gardens. Additional activities and art workshops are offered, including many cultural activities like Dia de los Muertos Press Flower Class and Guatemalan Kite Class. The High Plains Arboretum is part of the Cheyenne Urban Forestry and operates as a sub-committee of Fiends, a non-profit of the Cheyenne Botanical Gardens. The High Plains Arboretum is on a 62-acre historic site and offers educational kiosks.

**Cheyenne Aquatics Center (931 Martin Esquibel St.):**

The Cheyenne Aquatic Center is an indoor aquatic center that offers the opportunity for membership, daily admission, and participation in programs. It offers amenities such as a lazy river, lap pool, diving well with 1m and 3m diving boards, water slides, a rock-climbing wall, and basketball hoops<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. [Cheyenne Botanic Gardens](#)

<sup>2</sup> Cheyenne Aquatic Center [Pool | Cheyenne Aquatic Center | Cheyenne \(cheyenneaquatics.com\)](#)



The general operating hours of the facility are:

- Monday-Friday 6:00A-9:00P
- Saturday-Sunday 8:00A-4:30P

Aquatic center amenities include:

- Main Pool
  - 6-lane, 25-yard pool
  - Stair entry shallow water area
  - Diving well with 1- and 3-meter diving boards
  - Climbing wall
  - Inflatable
  - Run-out water slide
  - Pool temperature of 82 degrees
- Recreation Pool
  - Zero depth entry with play structure
  - 3 lap lanes
  - 2 basketball goals
  - Lazy river
  - Run-out water slide
  - Pool temperature of 86 degrees
- Outdoor Spray Park
  - Seasonal facility
  - Interactive water features
  - Playground

Within the Aquatic Center the department offers a number of programs:

- Water fitness
- Learn to swim (groups and private)
- Water walking
- Rentals
- Birthday parties

Unique characteristics of the Aquatic Center include:

- Located across from Frontier Days and on the same property as the Botanic Gardens, Sloan Lake and the Kiwanis Community House
- Originally the Municipal Pool, the facility was renovated and expanded in 2015.

Challenges:

- The facility is well maintained, however the entry and front desk has limited space for checking in people. Staff has little space to provide resale items.
- There is not much deck space around the pools with the exception of an area between the diving well and the slide tower.
- There is not a meeting room for training, meetings or birthday parties.





- Slide tower is in a different space than one of the run-out water slides.

**Ice and Events Center (1530 West Lincolnway):**

The Ice and Events Center is a multi-use facility that opened in 2000 and offers activities, programs, and special events. Some activities include mini golf, bumper cars, laser tag, ice skating, roller skating, and miniature golf. Programs include curling, hockey, and skating<sup>3</sup>. The facility also has a 17,000 Sq. Ft. Arena that can be used for events like concerts, antique shows, trade shows, comedy shows, sporting events, car shows, expos, and wedding receptions<sup>4</sup>.

The operating hours of the facility vary depending on the activities taking place.

Ice and Events Center amenities include:

- Ice rink (open from mid-September through mid-March)
  - Seating capacity of 2,000
- Laser tag
- Mini golf
- Arcade

Within the Ice and Events Center, the department offers a number of programs:

- Ice skating during winter
- Ice hockey
- Learn to skate
- Roller skating during summer
- Birthday parties
- Rentals

Challenges:

- Ice is seasonal and requires the arena to be closed for two weeks to build the ice in fall and two weeks to remove in spring.
- Not a means to cover ice in winter to host large activities.
- Ventilation is poor in the main arena.
- Events with alcohol require ending at 11p.m.
- Need a new Zamboni

**Youth Activity and Community Center (1317 Parsley Blvd.):**

David R. Romero Community Park has an indoor Youth Activity Center (YAC) that offers youth events, programs, activities, and birthdays<sup>5</sup>. The youth activity center also offers an indoor pickleball court<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> City of Cheyenne, Ice and Event Center [Cheyenne Ice Arena | Cheyenne | Cheyenne Ice and Events Center \(cheyenneiceandevents.com\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Cheyenne Presents [Ice and Events Center | Cheyenne Presents](#)

<sup>5</sup> Visit Cheyenne Wyoming [Romero Park \(cheyenne.org\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> Pickleheads, 2024. [Play Pickleball at Youth Activity and Community Center: Court Information | Pickleheads](#)



YAC amenities include:

- Meeting room
- Kitchen
- Gym with two (2) portable basketball goals

Within the YAC the department offers a number of programs:

- Sports (dodgeball, cornhole, martial arts, pickleball,
- Fitness (yoga)
- Youth (summer camp)
- Rentals
- Birthday parties

Challenges:

- Only used for rentals
- Do not offer additional services beyond the facility, tables and chairs
- Limited A/V and technical capabilities

**Cheyenne Civic Center (510 West 20<sup>th</sup> St.):**

The Cheyenne Civic Center is a performing arts facility built in 1981. It is in the heart of downtown Cheyenne, making it easily accessible and convenient for visitors<sup>7</sup>. It hosts approximately 1,500 people and holds events and shows such as the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, concerts, Broadway productions, comedy shows, and ballets. The Civic Center amenities include:

- Box office
- Lobby on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- 1,490 seat capacity theatre with stage

Challenges:

- Limited concession opportunities
- No VIP area or section

**Kiwanis Community House (4603 Lions Park Dr.):**

The Kiwanis Community House is a rental facility constructed in 2003. Registration for programs and activities are accepted at this location.

Kiwanis Community House amenities include:

- 3,800 square foot room that can be divided into two spaces
- Kitchen

Challenges:

- Single room limits activities.

<sup>7</sup> Visit Cheyenne Wyoming <https://www.cheyenne.org/listing/cheyenne-civic-center/346/>



- Gymnasium not large enough to host leagues.
- Limited parking.

**BEAST Foundation**

Originally used as a church, the building currently is a 28,000 multi-purpose facility. Court space is available for basketball, pickleball and volleyball as well as classroom and meeting room space. The City took ownership of the facility in spring 2024, and was not part of the assessment to date.

**Gymnastics Facility**

Cheyenne has provided space for gymnastics and is constructing a new facility to accommodate the program. The facility is not part of the assessment.

**Indoor Recreation Facility Summary**

Based on metrics from the NRPA and the population (2023 projection) the City could support the following number of facilities:

- Recreation Center 2.2
- Community Center 2.2
- Senior Center 1.3
- Performance Amphitheatre 1.5
- Aquatic Center 1.5
- Ice Rink 1.6
- Outdoor Pool 2.0
- Arenas 1.4

**Indoor Recreation Facility Assessment**

- Compared to similar sized communities, Cheyenne is lacking in indoor recreation space.
  - The recent acquisition of The Beast provides for the only indoor recreation center as the other facilities are more typical of community center spaces.
- Overall, the facilities are maintained in good condition.
- Investments have been made to the Civic Center and need to continue to maintain its place in providing performing arts. A facility plan should be developed to address the aging infrastructure and modern conveniences found in newer facilities.

B\*K would recommend the City maintain the existing facilities, and consider how the spaces are utilized.



**Future Indoor Space Opportunities:**

The City should consider inclusion of the following amenities:

- Basketball Courts (four (4), which equates to eight (8) volleyball courts)
  - Some fixed (retractable) spectator seating, opportunity for additional tip-and-roll bleachers.
  - Adequate storage.
  - Access to exterior of building via roll up garage door.
- Concession Area (potentially in conjunction with front desk and/or control point)
- Indoor Turf
  - Minimum size would allow 7 v 7.
- Separate Fitness Areas
  - Weights (free weights and pin-select machines)
  - Cardio equipment
  - Functional training area (potentially in conjunction with indoor turf)
  - Group exercise space
- Meeting Rooms/Classrooms
  - Minimum of 3 spaces
  - Each space to host 15-25 participants
  - Adequate audio visual capabilities.

A facility with these components would allow for the following.

- Ability to house youth basketball program and expand/contract as needed.
- Ability to expand youth volleyball.
- Opportunity to host youth basketball and volleyball tournaments.
- Via tournaments, an increase in positive economic impact.
- Expansion of fitness offerings and fitness-based programming.
- Via indoor turf, opportunity to expand revenue and programming opportunities.
- Expansion of youth and adult programming.

The operational realities of operating a facility with these components, or similar are as follows.

- Increase of full-time staff.
  - Recreation
  - Custodial and Maintenance
- Increase of part-time staff.
- Increase in revenue generation.





### **Other Facilities**

#### **Johnson Swimming Pool (303 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St.)**

The Johnson Swimming Pool is an outdoor seasonal aquatic facility that is over 60 years old located at Lincoln Park<sup>8</sup>. The pool is a 25-yard heated lap pool.

Amenities include:

- Five (5) lap lanes
- Diving board

Challenges:

- Parking is limited.
- Access is adequate, however the rail yard to the north and highway to the west are barriers as well as no sidewalks.
- Limited recreational value with no play features or zero depth.
- Mechanical and structural failures have closed the pool for repairs and considerable investment.
- As with many communities, hiring lifeguards is a challenge.

#### **Airport Golf Course (4801 Central Ave.)**

- 6,128-yard par 70 18-hole golf course
- Pro shop
- Driving range
- Cart rentals
- Private lessons and junior golf is offered
- Course is available for tournaments

#### **Kingham Prairie View Golf Course (3601 Windmill Rd.)**

- 3,080-yard par 36 9-hole golf course
- Driving range
- Cart rentals

Challenges:

- Stigma of a municipal course
- Marketing the course
- Providing food and beverage service

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<sup>8</sup> Visit Cheyenne Wyoming [Johnson Pool \(cheyenne.org\)](http://cheyenne.org)