



Basalt Area Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan Executive Summary

DRAFT
August, 2013

Note: This is a DRAFT document for review.
It has not been formatted for final printing.

Executive Summary of the Master Plan

It is the intention of this Master Plan to inspire and communicate a visionary, yet realistic blueprint for the future recognizing the critical role that parks, open space and trails play in the economy, community vitality, public health, and creating healthy kids through exposure to the natural environment and opportunity for physical activity. This is done with attention to sustainability and “green” goals.

The result is a collaboration of citizens, Town Council, P & Z, POST Committee, staff, and consultants to create a plan that incorporates local knowledge and institutional history that only community members and Town employees can provide. It includes an inventory of assets, demographic profile, and trends research, and gathered citizen opinion and input from other jurisdictions through a variety of engagement strategies. Analysis identifies deficiencies, constraints and opportunities, establishes recommendations, and sets improvement priorities, including ongoing maintenance needs, and identified costs and potential funding sources.

A vision statement emerged from the effort, and recommended goals and action steps follow. An Implementation Plan for capital improvements establishes the timeframe, estimated costs, and potential funding sources and partners.

Although funding streams exist currently, significant progress on plan recommendations to meet citizen expressed needs is not possible without immediate key funding strategies including expanding the 1% Sales Tax for Open Space Fund to allow a maximum percentage use to be dedicated to maintenance of existing and acquired parks and open space properties, and changing past Town policies from only buying or preserving open space to spending a significant portion of the Open Space Fund for park improvements each year. Additional progress can be made by leveraging Town funds with grant funds and by completing small projects that do not create large annual expenditures of Town funds.

Basalt’s Vision for Parks, Open Space, and Trails

Striving to maintain its small-town character, diverse community and river-centric location, Basalt’s Parks, Open Space and Trails system is paramount for connecting three primary nodes — Old Town, Southside and Willits — while providing opportunity for recreational pursuits and minimizing travel by car. Vibrant, well-maintained and thoughtfully designed settings encourage community engagement and interaction. Welcoming parks and well-connected trails foster both physical activity and contemplative experiences. Access to rivers and the outlying natural landscape promote adventure and land stewardship.

Visionary leadership and action to continually improve Basalt’s natural and enhanced outdoor environment will ensure long-term participation and enjoyment for locals and visitors alike.

Plan Goals and Action Steps

1. BRAND THE UNIQUE IDENTITY OF BASALT

Goal: Encompass and highlight the unique features that make Basalt so special, including being the gateway to the Frying Pan River Valley, the rivers, and boating and fishing. Through marketing efforts incorporate signage and wayfinding as identifiers and to visually connect the three community nodes.

Action Steps:

- ✓ *Create better wayfinding along the trails and trail connections which entails creating names for existing trails, and providing annual updates to the existing illustrative trails map as a resource for both the community and tourists. Specifically address:*
 - *Confluence Park and Bridge – Provide a trail sign after the bridge.*
 - *Lions Park - Paint and upgrade the signs within the park.*
 - *Sopris Meadows River - Improve wayfinding and access if greater public use is desired.*
 - *Emma Underpass – Use signage to improve wayfinding at this location.*
 - *Old Snowmass Trail and in areas north of town on federal lands - Improve signage.*
- ✓ *Redesign the Town’s website to be user friendly and with better aesthetic appeal as well as clearer designation between Town departments and the citizen interests (parks, pool schedule, trails, updates to the plans and amenities, etc.).*
- ✓ *Create a marketing plan (taking into account public input provided during the master planning process as well as the Master Plan recommendations) to include such strategies as:*
 - *Expand use of social media to target hard-to-reach population segments.*
 - *Expand cross marketing efforts such as using kiosks and trailheads in parks to promote other Basalt parks and recreation offerings.*
 - *Expand use of newsletter articles and e-mail blasts for distribution to existing networks, employing ideas such as: park or open space of the month; Basalt park factoids; natural, cultural, and historic resources information; as well as timely information and announcements about upcoming events and opportunities.*
 - *Actively participate in the statewide web site (Get Outdoors Colorado launched spring/summer 2013) to list and promote Basalt activities and opportunities.*
- ✓ *Create an appealing annual report to communicate accomplishments and progress on goals and objectives and to-be-established performance measures.*
- ✓ *Work with environmental groups in the valley to help preserve the valley’s natural heritage and make the valley’s environmental values known to its citizens and tourists.*

2. BEAUTIFY BASALT

Goal: Support funding of beautification efforts including gardening, public horticulture, conservation, and public art through experiential and education settings for the community and its visitors.

Action Steps:

- ✓ *Consider special gardens features in all town development planning.*
- ✓ *Institute a plan for securing temporary and permanent displays of public art.*
- ✓ *Beautify the open space entry ways from Highway 82 at Basalt Avenue.*
- ✓ *Improve and expand the Town arboretum throughout downtown.*

3. PROVIDE FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES

Goal: Meet or exceed the ADA 2010 Accessibility Guidelines, which now address the complete recreational experience from accommodations for registering for programs and parking to activity and facility use, to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Action Steps:

- ✓ *Coordinate with Challenge Aspen to determine the most advantageous types of improvements to increase accessibility for people with disabilities in the parks, open space, and trails system.*
- ✓ *Strive to provide an accessible facility within each park.*
- ✓ *Partner with Challenge Aspen to accomplish mutual goals through joint funding.*
- ✓ *Coordinating with nearby counties, and in compliance with the ADA 2010 Accessibility Guidelines, create policy regarding where OPDMD's (Other Power Driven Mobility Devices) are allowed or allowed with restrictions and create a map highlighting this information.*

4. OPTIMIZE ACCESS TO THE RIVERS

Goal: Increase enjoyment and understanding of the two rivers and their confluence by seeking opportunities to increase river corridor trails and water access points where possible and in a manner that is environmentally responsible.

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- ✓ *Implement the outcomes of the River Master Plan for the Town-owned Riverfront Parks and Open Space.*
- ✓ *Begin to actively implement the Two Rivers Greenway Master Plan by constructing Phase I: the first leg of the trail system; and organizing access to the river.*
- ✓ *Increase trails along the rivers' edge of the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan wherever appropriate*
- ✓ *Grange River – Complete the trail connection to allow access from Emma Road to the river.*
- ✓ *CDOT Parcel – Secure a licensing agreement with the State and add boat access, picnic areas, and other appropriate features.*

5. TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE

Goal: Assure a focus on better maintenance of what Basalt already has or adds to the system, through desirable maintenance standards and adequate funding. Protect and enhance the natural environment, recognizing that it is the source of the community's physical and economic health.

Action Steps:

- ✓ *Expand the use of the 1% Sales Tax for Open Space Fund to allow a maximum percentage use to be dedicated to maintenance of existing and acquired parks and open space properties.*
- ✓ *Control noxious weeds on all parks and open space properties by maintaining and continually evolving the integrated pest management program to incorporate contemporary methods to emphasize biological controls, optimize cultural practices and minimize chemical use.*
- ✓ *Maintain existing historic structures in parks and reuse historic structures where possible in existing parks.*
- ✓ *Improve the maintenance program of town parks and trails, with particular attention to Arbaney, Triangle, Old Pond Park and CDOT Parcel as described further in Goal 11.*

- ✓ *Continue to improve the El Jebel underpass.*
- ✓ *Continue efforts to improve and maintain the Emma underpass to provide a more inviting and safer feeling at this important location which serves to connect trails on either side of Highway 82, as well as the Emma area, to east and west Basalt. Ensure that underpass is kept swept and provide on-going monitoring to ensure that underpass is clean and that all light fixtures work properly.*
- ✓ *Confluence Park and Bridge - General clean-up of the area; add bear proof trash and recycling containers.*

6. CONNECT BASALT INTERNALLY

Goal: Provide a bicycle and pedestrian system linking neighborhoods to schools, parks, transit systems, commercial areas and public lands that creates a safe and convenient alternative to vehicular transportation and serves as a recreational amenity.

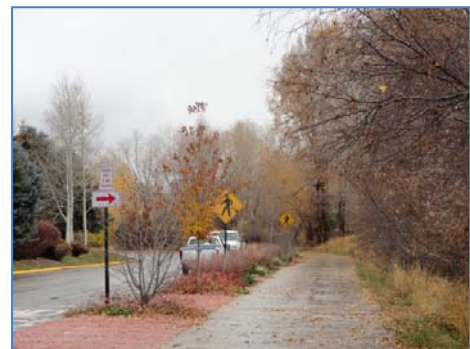
General Principles:

- Make downtown pedestrian and bicycle friendly by adding these pedestrian and bicycle improvements: add bike racks in front of public buildings and other strategic locations throughout Town; add raised pedestrian crossings, park benches and signs to instruct motorists and bicyclists to share the road.
- Provide rustic walking trails along the river corridor.
- Consider bike trail or sharrows markings in the roads where appropriate.
- Identify (and create if possible) parking locations in proximity to trailheads in Old Town Basalt.
- Aggressively pursue safe, convenient and attractive pedestrian and bicycle crossings at all Highway 82 intersections between East and West Basalt. Establish more direct grade separated bicycle and pedestrians connections between the major intersections with Highway 82 to promote a more complete and convenient trail system and to make Highway 82 less of a barrier for pedestrians and bicyclists.

HIGH PRIORITY

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- ✓ *Support the overpass/underpass at Highway 82 and Basalt Avenue (can be constructed without floodplain improvements), and at Highway 82 and Midland Avenue (potentially includes an extension of Midland Avenue or a roundabout at this intersection) as potential solutions to connect downtown to the Southside area.*



Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- ✓ *Rio Grande Trail - Develop rest area with shade structure; kiosk with trail map; enclosed port-o-potty at the intersection with Southside Drive.*

MEDIUM AND OTHER FUTURE PRIORITY

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- ✓ *Ponderosa Park and Fisherman's Park - Determine a possible location for a pedestrian bridge in this general location*
- ✓ *Pan and Fork, Levinson, and Roaring Fork Conservancy properties - Construct new trails and high quality connections through these properties as those projects are developed.*
- ✓ *Designate locations for and construct a future bridge(s) to connect Two Rivers Road and Emma Trail.*

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- ✓ *Improve the trail/sidewalk connection between the bridge and the elementary school and between Highway 82 and the high school.*
- ✓ *Frying Pan Road - Pursue conversations with jurisdictional agencies for opportunities as they arise to create a safer route along the heavily traveled Frying Pan Road for bicyclists, including widening of the road, bike trails, striping, etc.*
- ✓ *Improve existing alley-trail connections in-town, particularly along Rebecca Alley.*
- ✓ *Improve the connection from the elementary school to the Emma Bridge to provide a safe and designated route separate from vehicular circulation.*
- ✓ *Improve connection along Hooks Spur Lane to create safer pedestrian route for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling from the Rio Grande Trail to the Willits Trail and vice versa.*
- ✓ *Improve the trail connecting Original Road with Two Rivers Road on the south side of Highway 82 to provide for a safer pedestrian route.*

7. CONNECT BASALT TO SURROUNDING PUBLIC LANDS

Goal: Provide better connections from the Town to the trail systems in the surrounding public lands; solutions, including trailheads, may require potential easements and negotiations with both private landowners and a variety of public agencies.

HIGH PRIORITY

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- ✓ *Arbaney Kittle Trailhead - Improve access to the trailhead; create an expanded trail network for Arbaney Kittle trail to the north and east of Town on BLM land; provide a high quality trail alternative to Arbaney Kittle road cut to allow for enjoyable ascending/descending mountain bike and multi-use experiences.*
- ✓ *Elk Run - Acquire additional trail easements to connect the Elk Run area from Elk Run to BLM land and to the Arbaney Kittle Trail.*
- ✓ *Red Ridge Ranch (Saltonstall) Open Space - Complete the current land management planning process to determine preferred multi-use trail alignment(s) and management practices; provide access to the Crown BLM lands along an 8% grade (or less) multi-recreational trail.*

MEDIUM PRIORITY

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- ✓ *Improve public recreational access along Cedar Drive.*

OTHER FUTURE PRIORITY

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- ✓ *Rio Grande Trail to Crown Mountain Park/Willits – Add trail connection including a bridge connection over the Roaring Fork River.*

8. PROTECT LANDS TO MEET PARKS AND OPEN SPACE GOALS

Goal: Consider land protection through annexation negotiations, redevelopment and development proposal approval, easements, or fee simple purchase, in order to better maintain the rural and aesthetic character of the area.

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- ✓ *River Master Plan - Acquire parcels designated for park and open space on the 2002 River Stewardship Plan or the Future Land Use Plan Map.*
- ✓ *Two Rivers Parkway - Consider acquisition of additional parcels to complete improvements as an important extension of the River Front Park, Trail and Open Space System.*
- ✓ *Consider the acquisition of hillside parcels for their scenic, environmental, and recreational opportunities as funding becomes available.*
- ✓ *Maintain an open space buffer between East Basalt and West Basalt to prevent urban scale development which would merge these two developed areas, while providing convenient and safe vehicular and trail connections between the two.*
- ✓ *West Basalt – where possible and appropriate, acquire or protect parcels to maintain the character of the open agricultural properties to the south and west of the Willits trail.*

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- ✓ *Require fishing easements along river frontage when reviewing development proposals, and provide adequate roadside parking and signage to inform anglers where and where not to access the rivers.*

9. ACTIVATE PARK AREAS FOR PLAY AND EXERCISE

Goal: Maximize use of park space by activating and/or repurposing available areas promoting liveliness and a dynamic environment; consider a system wide approach to provision of tennis, volleyball, soccer and field sports, assuring that residents can access physical activity and fun close to home, with appropriate convenience features.

General Principle:

- When installing port-o-potties, include a proper platform and surround structure.

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- ✓ *Pan & Fork Park - Develop the property as a public space, satisfying several goals for active living by providing fishing access to the Roaring Fork River, including natural climbing and off-channel water and other plan features to engage youth in healthy activities, constructing trails for all ages and abilities, and including a public multi-purpose lawn area to encourage informal active games as well as a space for community events.*

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- ✓ *Arbaney Park – Review existing program to better organize and fulfill unmet needs such as providing moveable goals for soccer/lacrosse, a sand volleyball court, and a permanent baseball diamond for smaller children in the south end. Replace and expand on existing play equipment, re-using existing play equipment by offering it to the School District. (H)*
- ✓ *Willits Linear Park - Explore opportunities for additional programming on the north side of the park. (H)*
- ✓ *Southside Park (M) - Enclose the port-a-potty.*
- ✓ *Willits Recreation Park (M) - Review existing program; reactivate fields by adding moveable goals for soccer and lacrosse.*
- ✓ *Willits Performing Arts Parcel – Continue to work to plan and establish the performing arts/cultural/community center, including identifying the components of the facilities, and seeking additional funding sources. Consider whether it makes sense to require developer to make interim park improvements as currently required until the center is ready to be developed.*
- ✓ *Southside Park (M) - Review existing program and add moveable goals for soccer and lacrosse.*
- ✓ *Middle School Courts – Add shade structures.*

10. PROVIDE A DOG FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Goal: Explore strategies to address citizen concerns about dog issues, including dogs off leash and dog waste, including the potential of a dog park or designated area for dogs off leash (dog training and exercise area).

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- ✓ *Plan for, endorse, and enforce dog related policy establishing designated dog areas well placed throughout the community, specific dog activity timeframes, and providing dog bag stations at each park.*
- ✓ *Specifically consider using the following park sites as a part of the solution for dog issues by developing and enforcing a policy for dog use in the park and/or providing additional dog stations.*
 - *Arbaney Park (H) – Consider dog park on an area of the park*
 - *Lions Park (H)- Add dog station(s)*
 - *Willits Linear Park (H) – Consider dog park on an area of the park*
 - *Swinging Bridge Park (M) - Add dog station(s)*
 - *Southside Park (M) – Consider dog park on an area of the park*

11. PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Goal: Consider site specific park improvements for high, medium, and future priority.

HIGH PRIORITY

- ***Pan and Fork Riverfront Park - Our vision:*** *Develop the Town-owned portion of the Pan and Fork Mobile Home Park as a river park that fulfills several Town goals. The east end of the park near Midland Avenue will be an active family park with water side channels creating safe playing areas for children and with a large open lawn for events and a potential stage for community events and productions. The west end of the park will be restored with wetland vegetation and native plantings to address Town environmental objectives and federal permitting requirements.*

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- Continue with planning and design effort.
- Remove mobile homes and existing infrastructure.
- Begin implementation of river corridor improvements in 2013/2014.
- Install wetland planting and mitigation in 2014/2015 beginning with riparian restoration and a small piece of wetland mitigation during 2014.
- Begin lawn improvements; water play features; trails and fishing access 2015/2016, coordinating construction with future private development.

- ✓ **Arbaney Park – Our vision:** Revitalize Arbaney Park as an inviting and dynamic setting that is a good neighbor to the Middle and Elementary schools. Improve access by a pathway connecting to downtown and to lands outside of town, as well as providing a potential parking area to the west to allow for easy access to this multi-use area. Update recreational equipment and make accessible the historic kilns and barn that occupy the park. Enhance the pool as a desirable community amenity with an inviting and well shaded lounging area and fun water features that attract all ages.

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- Continue to study and consider additional pedestrian and vehicular access to the park and implement when feasible.
- Enhance the pool setting by expanding the fenced-in area to allow for the addition of a grassy lawn, spray water features, or other types of amenities to expand opportunities for play and use; use more visually pleasing methods of securing the pool area instead of traditional fencing.
- Consider feasibility of moving solar panel to the roof.
- Replace outdated equipment; replace playground surfacing.
- Pursue phase two of restoration plan for historic kilns and address interpretation and access.
- Consider acquisition of additional land to the west to provide more direct pedestrian and vehicular access from downtown and, if feasible, additional parking or dog park.

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- General clean-up of the park site.
 - Improve existing grass area as practice fields.
 - Increase area for picnic shelters and associated facilities (add covered tables and bar-b-que).
 - Add additional shade in key locations including the pool, the tennis courts, near the play equipment, and by the grassy field area to encourage spectating.
 - Complete safety improvements to the historic barn and integrate historic barn into the park program as a Town asset and consider ways to increase public use.
- **Lions Park – Our vision:** Revitalize Lions Park to serve as a public gathering spot at the core of town near the crossroads of the two rivers. This “Village Green” will host concerts and other public events in an open and gracious setting with shade and available seating. Its obvious physical and visual connection to the Pan and Fork site will provide opportunity for the sites to work together as the two plans evolve, making downtown Basalt the gathering spot and encouraging community activity in this vibrant area.

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- *Continue to explore the feasibility of eventually removing/relocating the current buildings that occupy the Park (Town Hall and Wyly Arts Center) to maximize the potential as a central open air gathering space.*

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- *Coordinate proposed improvements with plans for the Pan and Fork Park to avoid undue duplication, yet meet the desires of residents for vibrant gathering spaces. Pursue low scale improvements in Lion's Park that coordinate with Pan and Fork development.*
- *Complete implementation of the site plan for the stage and increase shade for the audience.*
- *Consider lawn chairs and other portable seating options.*
- *Provide handicap accessible access near the stage.*

- ✓ ***Triangle Park - Our vision:*** *Further development of Triangle Park will provide an inviting central gathering and concert setting for Willits and West Basalt.*

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- *Continue to move the current planning effort forward which may include a stage, shade canopy and water feature.*

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- *Improve landscaping and add lighting, shade trees and art.*
- *Add bear-proof trashcans.*

- ✓ ***Grace –Shehi Open Space***

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- *Complete the implementation of the BMX park.*

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- *Work with Pitkin County to locate storage for Nordic and other park equipment.*
- *Continue to implement adopted Management Plan.*

- ✓ ***Confluence Park and Emma Bridge Phase I***

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- *Add a finished sidewalk around the northwest corner of Cottonwood Drive and Two Rivers Road; add a drinking fountain; add rock stairs and pathway to facilitate/delineate access into the park.*

▪

- ***Gisella Fiou Skate Park***

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- *Implement Midland Park Phase I plans (see below) – add more open areas, picnic areas, trails, consider adding a drinking fountain, and upgrade the skate facility itself.*

- **Light Hill Trail**

- **Action Steps – large scale improvements:**

- *Realign the existing trail to create a more sustainable route to trails on the top of the mountain; and promote usage that supports protection of elk winter range.*

- **Midland Park Phase I**

- **Action Steps – large scale improvements:**

- *Improve stairway entrances with accompanying ADA ramp access; story fort, benches, looped trail, BBQ/picnic area, fire pit, informational signage, trash/recycling receptacles, portable toilet, and enhanced natural features (improvements encompass about one acre of the roughly three-acre Midland Park parcel).*

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- **Action Steps – large scale improvements:**

- **Willits Linear Park**—Activate the park from one end to the other while not encroaching upon the designated the wetlands area including consideration for a picnic shelter and grill, restrooms, and permanent vehicular calming method and pedestrian crossings for E. Valley Road.
 - **Midland Park Future Phases** - Implement the remaining phases of the Midland Park Plan including a plaza with stairs, benches and trash receptacles as part of the entrance to the park. Build a raised trail platform that provides access from the Library to the river. Enhance natural features of the park to allow environmental education and passive recreation in accordance with the Town’s approved plan.
 - **Willits Recreation Park (AKA – Willits Soccer Park)** - Improve pond shore and bank edge for a more gradual access; resolve conflict between public dedication from the developer and restrictions in the homeowner declarations. Add movable goals for soccer and lacrosse.

- **Action Steps – small scale improvements:**

- **Willits Linear Park**— consider additional tot lot facilities and a community garden.
 - **Southside Park** - Add additional trees and shrub plantings; consider promoting temporary soccer and lacrosse goals.
 - **Swinging Bridge Park** - Improve the existing trail by reducing the width of the prior access and parking area to a trail and add landscaping.
 - **Old Pond Park** – Restore park areas used for construction access during river improvements; improve seasonal maintenance, particularly after high water events; improve the pond water quality; provide a different trail surface that can stand up to intermittent flooding during the high water events in an effort to reduce on-going maintenance requirements and supporting a finished park appearance; ensure pleasant pedestrian access from Two Rivers to the river through the development parcels.



- **Storey Park** – Create a seed garden and food forest on the Storey Property to educate people about the life cycle of plants and inform and inspire residents about the value of revitalizing local seed systems as the foundation of local food systems.

OTHER FUTURE PRIORITY

Action Steps – large scale improvements:

- **Confluence Park and Emma Bridge Phase II** – Implement the P&Z’s concepts for Confluence Park and Emma Bridge by: closing off the vehicular access from 7-Eleven onto Basalt Avenue; and converting the current street in this area into a bicycle/pedestrian way and additional green space, with the potential parking on the east side of the road.
- **Two Rivers Road Master Plan** - Implement the Two Rivers Greenway Master Plan.
- **Lake Christine** - Continue discussions with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to create the optimal recreational opportunities and ownership arrangement for the Town, CPW, and the community.

Action Steps – small scale improvements:

- **Ponderosa Park** - Remove the bandit BMX track; re-vegetate and complete trail in this area; relocate benches to better use areas; better delineate and maintain hiking pathway.
- **Grange River** - Create trail as envisioned in original transaction. Provide fencing as required to protect other portions of the Ranch from trail activities.
- **CDOT Parcel** - Continue discussions with CDOT to secure a licensing agreement for a park and boat ramp; add a picnic shelter and a port-a-potty; clean-up weeds and trash.
- **Jadwin and Stott properties** - Construct new trails and high quality river connections through these properties as these projects are developed in the future.
- **Lucksinger Park** - Consider repurposing of the current recycling center in the context of the overall master planning effort for the Pan and Fork and Lions Park.
- **Kayak Park** – Continue supporting planning efforts to locate a Kayak park and or features within Reach II of the Roaring Fork River.

12. PURSUE ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES AND COST SAVING STRATEGIES

Goal: Invest in parks infrastructure in a cost-effective way based on the community’s desire to provide all reasonably necessary facilities and services.

Action Steps:

- ✓ Continue to refine mechanisms to ensure that future development projects pay their own way through mechanisms such as land dedication and impact fees for parks, open space, trails and recreation fees.
- ✓ Identify an annual budget for capital maintenance and replacement costs based on life-cycle costing.
- ✓ Explore the development of a parks foundation to advocate for and financially support Town of Basalt Parks.

Cost Identification and Cost Avoidance

Action Steps:

- ✓ *Develop parks with a higher percentage of land left in a natural vegetative state; convert existing areas in parks to accomplish this objective.*
- ✓ *Consider maintenance cost-saving measures in capital improvement projects (such as native grass, artificial turf for sports fields, sustainable trail building, etc).*
- ✓ *Consider maintenance and capital replacement costs in master plan development, identifying funding source, and adequately budgeting funding for this purpose.*

Partnerships

Action Steps:

- ✓ *Continue to coordinate with entities such as Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Pitkin and Eagle Counties, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV), Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), CDOT, RFTA, the Mid Valley Trails Committee, and others.*
- ✓ *Encourage the formation of parks “friends” groups to advocate for parks such as a Basalt-specific Mountain Bike Association that focuses on the necessary tasks of working with CPW and Pitkin County and other entities to get appropriate access for new trails to be built.*
- ✓ *Coordinate and balance activities with the Crown Mountain Park and Recreation District as its programs continue to evolve; participate in the planning and implementation process to ensure that the needs of Basalt and other mid-valley residents are reflected in plans or modifications for the Crown Mountain Park property.*
- ✓ *Strengthen the partnership with the School District making school recreational amenities more available outside of school use.*

Maps

Maps found in the Map section of this report illustrate the current resources and recommendations:

- *Basalt Parks Map – East*
- *Basalt Parks Map – West*
- *Basalt Future Trails Map - East*
- *Basalt Future Trails Map – West*

Implementation Matrix – Parks, Open Space, and Trails Facilities

An **Implementation Matrix** for capital improvements summarizes these plan recommendations in a chart form and identifies estimated cost, potential partnering or collaboration opportunities and funding options, and recommended timeframe for implementation. As a living breathing document, the Implementation Plan is subject to further refinement and will be used to develop annual work plans and budgets. The matrix can be found in the Implementation section of this Report.

This Implementation Plan is intended to focus on priorities for the next 5 to 10 years. It is based on the following time framework for short, medium, and long-term priorities:

- Short-Term: 0-2 years
- Mid-Term: 3-5 years
- Long-Term: 6-10 years and beyond