

City of Lafayette



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN DRAFT - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ONLY

APRIL 2013

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Lafayette, Colorado, Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) Master Plan was created by a large group of staff, stakeholders, and public input, guided by a specially-created consultant team.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Introduction and Planning Context

In February 2012, the Parks, Open Space, and Golf Department and the Recreation Department of the City of Lafayette, Colorado received a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado to conduct an objective, city-wide assessment of the needs and desires for the City's Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) assets, lands, programs, and services. The City hired GreenPlay LLC, a national management consulting firm headquartered in Lafayette, to help complete the project, which concluded in April 2013.

This plan is an update to the previously separate plans for Parks, Open Space, Trails, and Recreation compiled into one comprehensive volume. All other previous and concurrent planning efforts were reviewed and considered for alignment and continuity. This new Master Plan addresses management of conservation of open space lands, park properties, recreational facilities, trails, maintenance, and needs for improvements within the City. Strong community input, the City's diversity, equity in services, economic development, health and wellness opportunities, and community connectivity were all key issues considered.

B. Methodology

The project included a complete GIS-based Composite-Values Methodology (CVM) inventory and level of service analysis of all assets, lands, and facilities owned and managed by the City, along with the following steps.

Strong Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The community engagement process was comprehensive to both gather information and engage over 600 citizens, staff, partners, and other key stakeholders, including:

- Eight community focus groups
- Four City staff meetings
- Four Lafayette Open Space Advisory Committee (LOSAC) meetings
- Numerous Key PROST Staff and Project Team meetings
- Three public meetings
- Eleven Key Stakeholder Individual Interviews
- Fifty-eight (58) people participated in an online *MindMixer* community engagement site at www.activelafayette.com
- A statistically-valid survey of residents with 400 valid returns

Consideration of Demographics and Relevant Trends

This analysis explored demographics along with local, state, and national trends with regard to PROST service delivery. Existing local and regional plans were reviewed to determine commonalities and to provide guidance. Key factors included:

- The current population of almost **25,000** in Lafayette is projected to increase by more than 25 percent by the year 2025, to over **31,000**.

- The largest cohorts in Lafayette are younger adults and Baby Boomers with an emphasis on:
 - Fitness and wellness
 - Arts, history, and cultural events
 - They will not typically use “senior centers” as they age
- Eighteen percent (18%) of the population are Latinos who are heavily using parks and community spaces.
- Most adults have attained a Bachelor’s Degree (29%) or a Graduate/Professional Degree (19.4%) (consistent with the State, and generally higher than the national average) and want continuing education in recreational and leisure settings.
- While 14 percent of households in Lafayette are still low income, the City’s median household income (\$61,719) is higher than the State (\$54,495) and the Nation (\$50,227), meaning that there is a considerable population with the willingness and ability to pay for services.
- The number of residents who walk to work (.9%) is well below the State (3%) and the nation (2.9%) averages. The majority of households (96.5%) have access to one or more vehicles, but connectivity and alternative transportation is highly desired.

Visioning Workshops

In December 2012, Findings Presentations and Visioning Workshops were held to review the validity of initial findings and to hear from residents and staff their opinions on their key priorities for the future.

Draft Review and Approval

In February 2013, the Draft Plan was reviewed by staff, the Lafayette Open Space Advisory Board, key stakeholders, and the public. Public presentations were made, and revisions were conducted to incorporate comments and suggestions. In April 2013, the plan was presented to City Council for review in a workshop, and then again for Final Adoption.

Key Desired Outcomes of the planning process included Identification and Consensus to:

- ❖ Integrate and include focus for all areas of Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails.
- ❖ Ensure broad, diverse community engagement.
- ❖ Integrate trails plans and include focus on multi-modal connectivity.
- ❖ Include ecological and sensitive lands, analysis, and recommendations.
- ❖ Address health and wellness opportunities.
- ❖ Create a strategic Action Plan to help meet the needs of the City and community residents.

C. Identification of Key Issues and Needs

Summary of Strengths of Lafayette Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails:

- ❖ Number of parks and trails – “for a small community, we have a lot”
- ❖ Dedicated, quality staff
- ❖ Partnerships – internal and external
- ❖ Marketing and social networking
- ❖ Senior Programs
- ❖ Art on Public Road
- ❖ Indian Peaks Golf Course
- ❖ Bob Burger Recreation Center
- ❖ Recreation Programs and Community Events

Primary Opportunities and Needs:

- ❖ More trails and trail connections
- ❖ Health and wellness space and programs
- ❖ Open Space conservation and wildlife management
- ❖ More public spaces downtown
- ❖ Special events and festivals
- ❖ Consolidation of maintenance facilities and staff offices
- ❖ More space at Bob Burger Recreation Center
- ❖ Fix and update LaMont Does Park
- ❖ Further develop athletic fields, Waneka Lake, the Great Park, and new amenities
- ❖ Focused attention to systematic management process and methodologies

It is important to note that many other opportunities and related findings were evaluated.

For example, we know that Lafayette has a Latino population of just over 18 percent. While concerted efforts were included to identify any additional focus areas for Latino needs from a variety of sources, the findings identify that overall, the Latino needs are being met similarly to those of other populations. Also, while there is still a sizeable portion of low income residents, there is a demonstrated culture of pricing and equity awareness that tries to help ensure that no one should be excluded based on ability to pay, with strong scholarship and outreach programs for lower income populations. Other specific programming interests exist that did not rise to the top in priority for recommendations in this plan, such as equestrian access, specific sports or arts classes, etc. This does not mean they are not important to sub-segments of the community, but that there is a process to continually evaluate a well-rounded mix of offerings, and these areas did not rise to priority for needing additional major focus in this plan at this time.

D. Summary of the Recommended Key Issues and Strategies

Details of the Key Issue Recommendations, Goals, and Strategies are detailed in **Section VII** of the **Lafayette PROST Master Plan**. **It is important to first note and celebrate that the City of Lafayette has, especially for its size, very strong, broad-focused, and well-run PROST Departments, Divisions, and offerings.** A summary of the recommended improvements is provided in the following chart.

Lafayette, Colorado 2013 PROST Plan Recommendations

Recommendation #1 – First, Maintain What We Have

Goal 1.1: Improve Capacity for Maintenance

Strategy 1.1.1: Develop a Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

Strategy 1.1.2: Consolidate Maintenance Operations into One Centralized Operations Center

Recommendation #2 – Provide Capital Improvements to Meet the Needs

Goal 2.1: Improve Trails Connections and Connectivity

Strategy 2.1.1: Complete a Detailed Multi-Modal Transportation Plan

Strategy 2.1.2: Enact System-wide Priority Trail Improvements

Goal 2.2: Make Improvements to the Bob L. Burger Recreation Center

Strategy 2.2.1: Create Construction Plans for Renovation of BBRC

Goal 2.3: Address Deficiencies at Lamont Does Pool and Park

Strategy 2.3.1: Create a Site Master Plan for Lamont Does Pool and Park

Goal 2.4: Address Ball Field Needs

Strategy 2.4.1: Evaluate the Partnership for Harney-Lastoka Field Complex

Strategy 2.4.2: Consider Developing the Land previously Called the Great Park

Goal 2.5: Address Additional Needs for Existing Parks

Strategy 2.5.1: Address Existing Low-Scoring Parks Components

Strategy 2.5.2: Address Other Specific Existing Park Improvements

Goal 2.6: Add Additional Outdoor Facilities to Meet Needs

Strategy 2.6.1: Consider Creating a Regional Paddling Center at Waneka Lake

Strategy 2.6.2: Identify Additional Space for Community Festivals and Events

Strategy 2.6.3: Continue to Explore Unique Land Use Ideas that Could Aid Economic Development

Recommendation #3: Continue Open Space System Maturation

Goal 3.1: Continue to Acquire and Improve Open Space Holdings

Strategy 3.1.1: Continue to Conserve Core Conservation Areas

Strategy 3.1.2: Improve Open Space Buffer Areas

Strategy 3.1.3: Acquire Open Space to Connect Trail Corridors

Strategy 3.1.4: Preserve and Protect Rural Preservation Areas

Goal 3.2: Enhance Operations and Management Resources for Open Space

Strategy 3.2.1: Assess and Assign Ongoing Staffing Resources for Open Space

Strategy 3.2.2: Increase Coordination for Law Enforcement on Open Space

Strategy 3.2.3: Utilize Enhanced Open Space Conservation Tools

Recommendation #4: Focus on Creating a Healthy and “Active Lafayette”

Goal 4.1: Enhance Focus and Resources for Addressing Healthy Living and Wellness

Strategy 4.1.1: Further Utilize Celebration Tactics in Addition to Marketing Points

Strategy 4.1.2: Enhance Web Presence to Publically Position PROST Offerings

Strategy 4.1.3: Fully Utilize Email and Online Social Dialogue Channels

Goal 4.2: Focus Resources to Actively Offer More Healthy Living Offerings

Strategy 4.2.1: Formalize Partnerships with Other Organizations

Strategy 4.2.2: Assign Additional Staff Resources to Focus on “Active Lafayette”

Goal 4.3: Adopt Additional Healthy Living Policies and Guidelines

Strategy 4.3.1: Enact Community-Wide Health Assessment Practices and Resources

Strategy 4.3.2: Adopt a Shade Policy

Recommendation #5: Continue to Improve PROST Management Practices

Goal 5.1: Integrate Seniors into “Lively Older Adults” While Maintaining Social Services

Strategy 5.1.1: Continue to Position the “Lively Older Adult” Programs and Center

Goal 5.2: Complete a Pricing, Cost Recovery, and Revenue Analysis and Policy

Strategy 5.2.1: Design and Implement a Cost Recovery Methodology and Policy

Goal 5.3: Continue Lafayette’s Image as Safe Community

Strategy 5.3.1: Incorporate Formal Practices Related to Safety and Perception of Safety

Goal 5.4: Promote Integration of Lafayette Schools (BVSD) as a Key Partner

Strategy 5.4.1: Identify Specific School Sites for Formal Partnerships and Collaboration

Goal 5.5: Focus Attention to Systematic Management Process and Methodologies

Strategy 5.5.1: Schedule Automatic Updates to the Master Plan and Key Elements

