

City of Lafayette Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

April 2013



Draft Plan
Workshop

Your Team Members

- ❑ City of Lafayette Staff, LOSAC, and community stakeholders
- ❑ Teresa Penbrooke, MAOM, CPRE, Project Manager, GreenPlay
- ❑ Anne Miller, Community Engagement, GreenPlay
- ❑ Bill Mangle – ERO Resources
- ❑ David Peterson and Axel Bishop – Design Concepts
- ❑ Chris Cares - RRC Associates, Statistically-Valid Survey
- ❑ YOU!

Schedule Overview

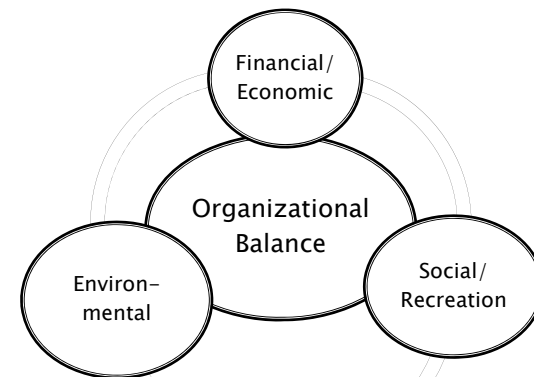
- ❖ SKO Meeting – August 23rd
- ❖ Information Gathering – Community Engagement Meetings - September
- ❖ Findings and Visioning Meetings – Dec 5th
- ❖ Draft Plan Presentations - Feb 20th
- ❖ City Council Workshop – April 2nd
- ❖ Final Plan Council Adoption – April 16th

Desired Key Outcomes

Identification and Consensus to:

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

Integrating Concepts of Sustainability

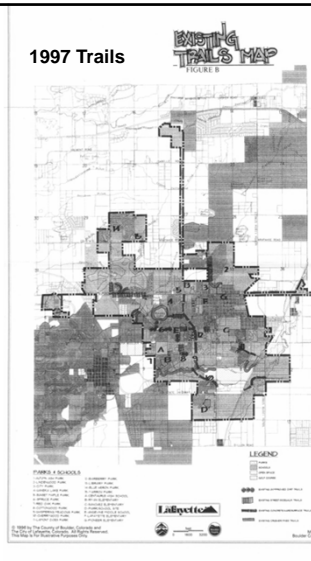


Conservation/Passive Mixed Use Active

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Celebrating What We Have

- Relishing in the accomplishments of the last 15 years!
- **RECENT RECOGNITIONS:**
 - 2012 & 2011 NRPA Gold Medal Award Class V Category finalist
 - 2012 Great Outdoors Colorado Planning Grant
 - 2011 Starburst Award from the Colorado Lottery for the Lafayette Skatepark
 - 2010 Great Outdoors Colorado Grant
 - Long term staff
- GOCO Grant for this Master Plan
- Informing the Comprehensive Plan update



Key Demographics and Trends

- Current population of almost **25,000** projected to increase by more than 25% by the year 2025, to over **31,000**.
- Largest cohorts are young adults and Baby Boomers with an emphasis on fitness, cultural arts, and events
- Generally higher education than the national average, and want continuing education in recreational and leisure settings.



Key Demographics and Trends

- While 14% of the households in Lafayette are still low income, median household income in Lafayette (\$61,719) is higher than the State (\$54,495) and the Nation (\$50,227), allowing for the ability to pay for services.
- The number of residents who walk to work (.9%) is well below the State (3%) and the national (2.9%) averages,
- The majority of households (96.5%) have access to one or more vehicles, but alternative transportation is highly desired.
- 18% Latino population

Physical Activity and Health

- Nationwide trend to activate parks and recreation agencies through management of the built and natural environment to increase physical activity and reduce obesity.
- Strong statewide focus, including LiveWell, CDPHE, GP RED, and the Colorado Health Foundation initiatives.

Colorado has long claimed bragging rights as the leanest state in the nation. However, the Colorado 2011 Health Report Card found that Colorado's adult obesity levels, still the lowest, recently jumped at the second-fastest rate in the country and that one in every five Coloradans is now obese.

Nature as Medicine

Researchers have found that being outdoors when possible is better than exercising in the gym because it has a positive impact on mental as well as physical health. Levels of tension, confusion, anger, and depression are lowered. This aligns with more attention to trails and the trend of adult fitness playgrounds that are popping up around the world.

Full Digital Inventory Composite-Values Methodology

- ❑ September 2012
- ❑ 65 Parks, Open Space Areas, and Outdoor Facilities
- ❑ 11 Indoor Facilities
- ❑ BBRC and Senior Center + 9 others




Lafayette Community Engagement and Outreach

- ❑ Over 600 Stakeholders (YOU!)
- ❑ Detailed strategy for input
 - ❑ Public Meetings
 - ❑ Seven Focus Groups
 - ❑ Four LOSAC meetings
 - ❑ Four city-staff focus meetings
 - ❑ Key Stakeholder Interviews
 - ❑ 400 Statistically-Valid Surveys
- ❑ MindMixer Online Engagement



*Key Issue:
Getting input from a diverse community*

Engagement and Outreach

Strengths:

- ❖ 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

Engagement and Outreach

Primary Opportunities / Needs:

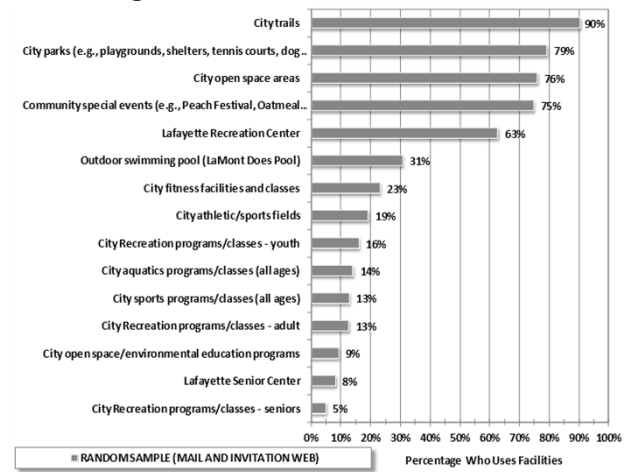
- ❖ More trails and trail connections
- ❖ Health and wellness space and programs
- ❖ Open Space conservation and wildlife management
- ❖ More public spaces downtown
- ❖ Special events and festivals
- ❖ Consolidate maintenance facilities and staff offices
- ❖ More space at BBRC, fix LaMont Does, and Waneka Lake
- ❖ Ongoing marketing and communication
- ❖ Develop athletic fields and new amenities

Engagement and Outreach

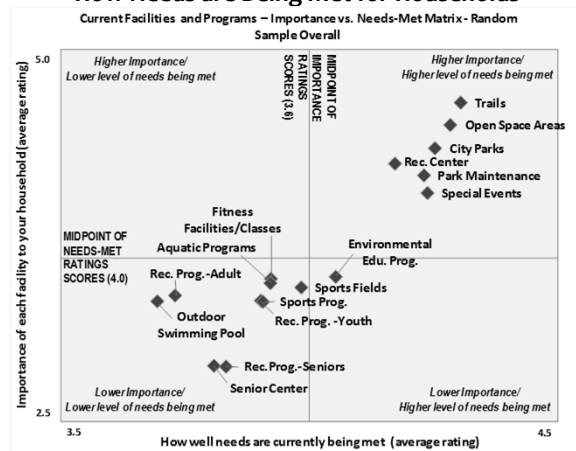
What is your vision for the future of Lafayette?

- ❖ “Jewel of a small town that has preserved its open space”
- ❖ Small livable town – walkable community with a high quality of life and active lifestyles
- ❖ Quality parks and facilities that are sustainable & green
- ❖ Progressive government leadership with excellent planning that keeps urban sprawl in check
- ❖ Destination downtown with special events & farmers market
- ❖ A place that you can raise a family and age in place
- ❖ A community that celebrates cultural diversity

Percentage Who Use Facilities in Past 12 Months



Comparison of the Importance to Households and How Needs are Being Met for Households



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

13 FTEs maintain avg. 146 acres / FTE - National Average is 96 acres / FTE

Trails & Connections

- ❑ Connecting people to trails
- ❑ City of Lafayette has the “bones” of an outstanding trail system
- ❑ Exterior loop and connections to neighboring trail systems mostly completed or underway
- ❑ *Multi-Modal Transportation Plan* highly recommended



Connectivity Framework

- ❑ A connected system
- ❑ Requires cooperation of multiple departments



Descriptions of Recommended Key Connectivity Improvements

Priority 1: Connect short links to existing trails that complete the anticipated loops, using the Open Space Trails example.

Priority 2: Connect Northwest segments to complete the Lafayette Loop. This is likely a combination of both the Streetscape Trail and Open Space Trails examples.

Priority 3: Build urban segments for internal recreation connectivity beginning with East/West and North/South trails ending at Waneka Lake using the Streetscape Trail example.

Priority 4: Work with other departments to create highly visible bike lanes through the business district. Utilize Bike Lane & Detached Sidewalk example.

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

Recreation Center LOS Analysis

Community	Population	Recreation Center Size (sq ft)	SF/Population
Lafayette (2010)	24,453	47,000	1.92
Louisville (2009)	19,656	57,400	2.92
Erie (2010)	18,185	63,784	3.51

Potential for Expansion of BBRC

- Increase fitness areas and dedicated class space
- Add elevator (ADA response)
- Rework entrance and parking

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

- ❑ Need a full site Master Plan to address future development
- ❑ New expansion of pool facility, adjacent parcels repurposing, and upgrade of low scoring multi-purpose field

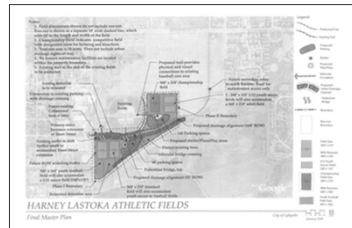


Goal 2.4: Address Ball Field Needs

Strategy 2.4.1: Evaluate Harney-Lastoka Field Complex

Strategy 2.4.2: Consider developing land previously called the Great Park

❖ Near-term Harney-Lastoka partnership



The land previously called the Great Park could help address long term field needs.

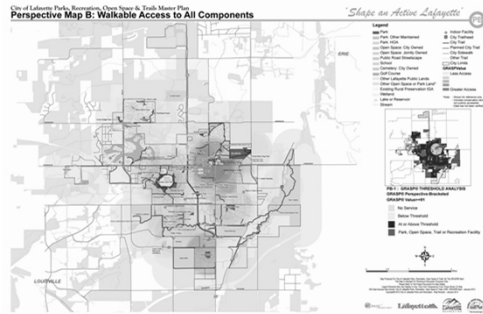
Waneka Lake Park

- ❑ Enhance to create a signature park
- ❑ Potential for non-motorized paddling
- ❑ Disc golf moved here
- ❑ Upgrades for picnic areas and playgrounds



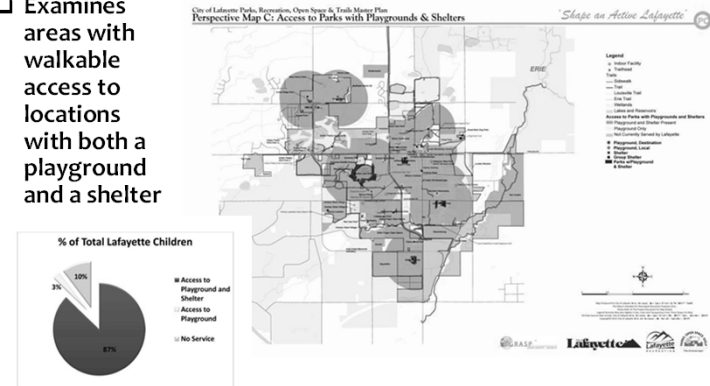
Parks Level of Service Analysis: Walkability

- ❑ Good walkability to parks, open space areas and recreation facilities



Level of Service Analysis: Play Comfort

- ❑ Examines areas with walkable access to locations with both a playground and a shelter



Low-Scoring Components



- ❑ Inventory process included scoring of components throughout the system base on functionality
- ❑ Low-scoring components provide opportunity to improve Level of Service by addressing specific issues

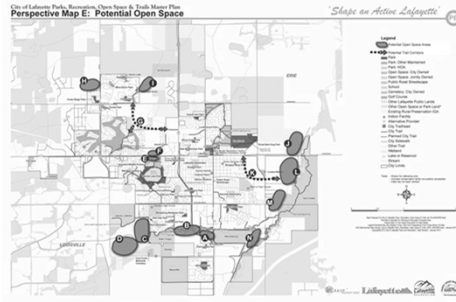
Community Event Space

- ❑ Festival Plaza - Consider ways to unify space with outdoor area of Starkey Building for more space for events or meetings
- ❑ East Simpson or other locations



Open Space Findings

- ❑ Several areas remain priorities for large-scale conservation
- ❑ Remaining areas emphasize buffers and connectivity
- ❑ Long-term open space conservation should be measured and strategic



General Open Space Recommendations

- ❑ Integrate outdoor learning and environmental education
- ❑ Outdoor Classrooms
- ❑ Interpretation and/or nature play opportunities



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 in addition to Marketing Points

Strategy 4.1.2: Enhance Web Presence to 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 "Lively Older Adult" Programs / Center
Goal 5.2: Complete a Pricing, Cost Recovery, and Revenue Analysis and Policy
Strategy 5.2.1: Implement a Cost Recovery Methodology and Policy
Goal 5.3: Continue Lafayette's Image as Safe Community
Strategy 5.3.1: Incorporate Practices Related to Safety and Perception of Safety
Goal 5.4: Promote Lafayette Schools (BVSD) as Key Partner
Strategy 5.4.1: Identify Specific School Sites for Formal Partnerships
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

The Action Plan

- Measurable Strategies
- Responsibility
- Timing
- Funding Implications

Key Issues:
Moving forward while realistically meeting the Community's needs



Your Thoughts?



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