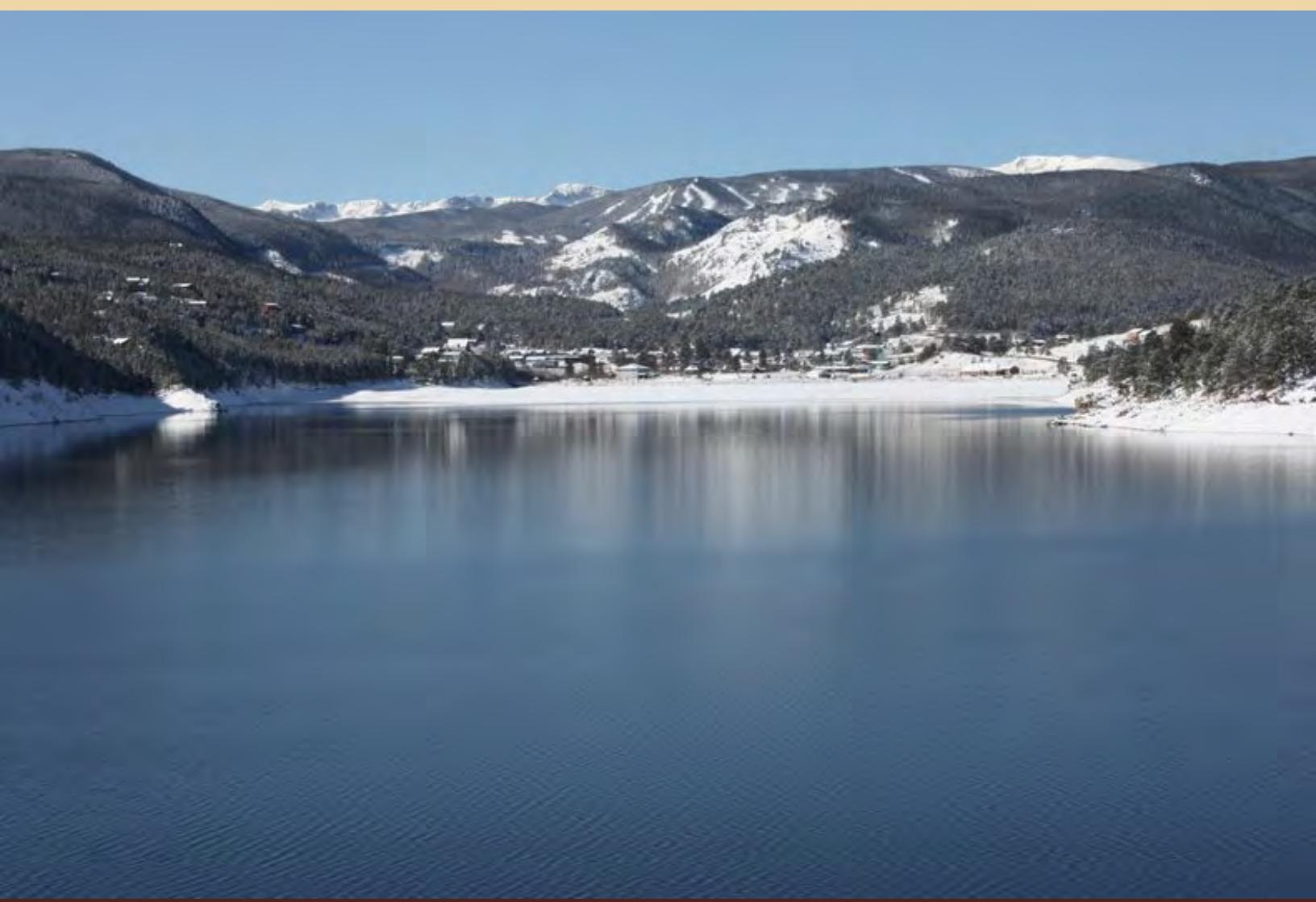


NEDERLAND AREA PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN



FEBRUARY 2013



Acknowledgements

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Chapter 1. Executive Summary

Introduction

Nederland takes great pride in its heritage, surrounding natural beauty, and unique character. It is a community made up of engaged residents and committed volunteers and organizations that come together to voice their opinions and get things done. This community ownership and hands-on approach is reflected in this ***Nederland Area Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan***, an update of the previous plan, developed in 2001. Through an extensive public input process throughout 2012 that included public meetings, focus groups, and a survey, community members have articulated their concerns and aspirations and helped shape this Master Plan.

Purpose of Plan

The purpose of the ***Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Master Plan*** is to:

- Articulate a vision for parks, recreation, open space, and trails as it relates to *Envision 2020*.
- Guide sustainable planning for parks, recreation, open space, and trails for the next 5 to 10 years.
- Identify strategies to address community needs and interests in a sustainable way.

Eighty-three percent (83%) of survey respondents said that local parks and recreational opportunities in the Nederland area were very important to their household.

Throughout the planning process, members of the community repeatedly voiced their support for the value and benefits of parks, recreation, open space, and trails. This plan will help the Town of Nederland manage the natural, cultural, and recreational assets now and into the future.

Benefits of Parks and Recreation

- Physical activity makes people healthier and increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Residential and commercial property values may increase if public spaces are well-planned.
- Value may be added to community through economic development.
- Trees improve air quality, act as natural air conditioners, and assist with storm water control and erosion.
- Crime and juvenile delinquency can be reduced by offering recreation for youth.
- Stable neighborhoods and strong communities are created when public spaces are maintained.

Source: The Trust for Public Land, "The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space," January 11, 2003.

Contents of the Plan

The Master Plan consists of seven chapters.

1. *Executive Summary*
2. *The Planning Context*
3. *Community Profile and Needs Assessment*
4. *Inventory Assessment*
5. *Gateway Park Area Planning*
6. *How We Manage – Services and Operations*
7. *Recommendations and Implementation Plan*

The first chapter is the Executive Summary and is meant to stand alone as a brief synopsis of the plan. Chapters 2-4 provide a review of the planning process and context, the needs assessment which included a statistically-valid survey, and the inventory and level of service analysis. Planning for the gateway park area is found in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 focuses on topics including administration, programs and services, and funding. The final chapter details the plan recommendations and implementation.

Summary of Findings and Analysis

Following are highlights of findings and analysis that have helped shape the Master Plan recommendations.

Community Profile and Needs Assessment

Nederland grew through successive mining booms in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In the 1920s, tourism helped Nederland rebound from the bust that followed the tungsten boom of World War I. Today, Nederland has a population of over 1,400 and serves a larger area population. The Town attracts tourists and is a popular jumping off point for outdoor recreation activities. Residents, as well as tourists, enjoy outdoor recreation – hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and horseback riding in summer and skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing in winter.

Through the public meetings and focus groups held as part of master planning process many strengths of the parks, recreation, open space, and trails system were identified: surrounding open space and trails, diversity of facilities in Town, and dedicated volunteers and non-profit organizations. Interest was expressed in balancing active and passive recreation, better managing visitor use of recreation areas and facilities, and identifying stable capital and operational funding to support the parks, recreation, open space, and trails system.

The survey conducted as part of the master planning process provided some insights into community priorities. The *activities and programs* that were identified by survey respondents as most important to be added, expanded, or improved include the following.

- Biking/hiking/running
- Indoor swimming/aquatics
- Non-motorized boating
- Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals)
- Cultural/arts/dance/music/crafts
- Snow and ice activities

The top ranked facilities to be added, expanded, or improved by survey respondents include the following.

- Pedestrian/bike paths (soft surface)
- Community gardens
- Indoor swimming pool
- Community greenhouse
- The proposed gateway park area at the end of Barker Reservoir
- Boating on the Reservoir
- An outdoor amphitheater

The following list highlights responses on the two separate questions. The first measures top priorities of Nederland area households and the second question evaluates the extent to which residents feel their needs are being met. There are distinct differences in results – needs for biking/hiking/running, events, and snow and ice activities are generally being met. In contrast, needs for indoor swimming and non-motorized boating are largely unmet, as indicated by the bold font.

	<u>Percent indicating that it is among their Top 3 Priorities</u>	<u>Needs Being Completely Met (4 or 5)</u>
• Biking/hiking/running	36%	82%
• Indoor swimming /aquatics	32%	23%
• Non-motorized boating	28%	29%
• Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals)	26%	74%
• Cultural/arts /dance /music /crafts	25%	52%
• Snow and ice activities	22%	76%

Additional resources and partnerships would be needed to help realize any new improvements.

Inventory Assessment

The Town of Nederland and neighboring public lands provide a host of open space areas, trails, parks, and recreational opportunities. Nederland's close proximity to Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, and Boulder County Open Space areas offers residents and visitors unique opportunities to hike, bike, fish, horseback ride, and ski in or within a short distance of Town.

For a small town, Nederland offers a wide assortment of recreational opportunities. The Town, in partnership with many other groups, has added new amenities in the decade since the last master plan. New recreation facilities include the Nathan Lazarus Skatepark and Ice and Racquet Park. In addition, the renovation of the Nederland Community Center (2005-2007) has allowed this facility to thrive as a hub of community activity and recreation and cultural opportunities. New recreation uses that have been discussed as part of this master planning process include boating, sledding, and community gardens/greenhouse, to name a few. Enhancing trail connectivity and walkability remain central goals to encourage alternative transportation and healthy, active lifestyles.

Gateway Park Area Planning

The Nederland gateway park area refers to the lakeshore areas near the east entrance to the Town of Nederland, Colorado. This area is well-used by community members and is highly visible. As such, it is effectively the front yard of the community, a site where a well-considered plan is critical.

The gateway park area includes the shoreline of Barker Reservoir west to East Street, bounded on the north by Highway 119 and by Middle Boulder Creek to the south. The gateway area also includes East 1st Street, Middle Boulder Creek, and Chipeta Park to ensure these areas function as a singular recreation area well-integrated with Nederland's downtown.

The gateway park area offers tremendous opportunity for recreational activities in Nederland. It is presently being used for recreational purposes, but the quality of these experiences could be greatly enhanced by improving the ecological and environmental value of the site.

The Nederland gateway park area has the potential to become a truly special place, a treasure to residents, and a destination for visitors. The *Nederland Gateway Park Area Master Plan*, a site plan that was developed as a component of this **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan**, includes many concepts well-supported by the community and intended to enhance the gateway area, add to the vitality of downtown Nederland, and encourage environmental responsibility and sustainable practices.

Management – Services and Operations

Parks and recreation services are provided through collaborative efforts of the Town of Nederland and many other organizations. The Town of Nederland does not have a separate parks and recreation department or budget. There is one staff person who oversees the Nederland Community Center, and a portion of the Public Works Department's staff time is devoted to helping maintain parks and trails along with volunteer efforts such as the Adopt-a-Park program. However, the Town has an active Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB) that is charged with implementing Town's master plan for parks, recreation, open space, and trails.

Recreation programs and activities are provided by volunteers and other organizations, often in partnership with the Town. There is an interest in expanding the partnership with the school district, especially for mutual use of recreational facilities. While much has been accomplished through community initiatives, the public input process revealed concern about fragmented recreation services as well as marketing and communication to get the word out about these offerings.

The Town will need to assess its ability to continue to achieve a more sustainable parks, recreation, open space, and trail system with existing resources, volunteers, and partnerships. During the public input process for this plan, many expressed a concern that continued growth of such a system was not sustainable and that additional Town resources would be necessary to achieve the desired improvements towards a more sustainable system. With no identified budgetary relief in sight and other Town budget priorities, achieving a more sustainable parks, recreation, open space, and trail system will likely depend on citizen initiatives or perhaps creation of a special parks and recreation district. Public support was expressed for a special district through the survey and public input opportunities, though the financial viability remains unknown. This is an attractive option, as it could allow more centralized and planned oversight of recreational projects and a reliable revenue stream.

Themes of the Master Plan

There are several themes that emerged from the planning process that are woven through the ***PROST Master Plan*** recommendations. These guiding themes include:

- Highlighting the unique natural features of Nederland and outdoor recreational opportunities
- Caring for the land and promoting sustainable practices
- Improving trail connections
- Fostering lifelong recreational enthusiasts and environmental stewards
- Prioritizing projects that focus on the greatest community needs and interests
- Managing visitor use of assets and balancing these with the needs of residents
- Leveraging resources through partnerships and alternative funding

In addition, the 2012 *Nederland Area Open Space, Trails, Parks, and Recreation Survey* results shows the following value statements for parks and recreation activities in the Nederland area:

- Maintaining what we have
- Promoting healthy active lifestyles
- Promoting environmental stewardship
- Providing connectivity/alternative non-motorized transportation
- Providing positive activities for youth
- Strengthening sense of community

These themes provide a framework for the Master Plan recommendations.

Recommendations – Goals, Objectives, and Actions

The ***Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan*** recommendations are shaped by extensive public input, a needs assessment, and sound planning practices. Master Plan **Goals, Objectives, and Actions** are summarized below. There are a total of five recommended goals and 29 objectives in the following categories: Overall Vision, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails. ***Chapter 7*** includes an implementation plan that identifies responsibility, basis/rationale, and timing for each of these recommendations.

Over the next 5 to 10 years, many influences will have an impact on the success of this plan. Funding availability, staff resources, and political and community support will play significant roles in the implementation process.

On March 20, 2012, with passage of Resolution 2012-12, the Nederland Board of Trustees approved the Nederland Planning Process (NPP). Projects identified in this ***PROST Master Plan*** will be examined through the NPP Process before implementation.



GOAL 1: Overall Vision for Nederland-Area Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails

Nederland's parks, recreational opportunities, open space, and trail system together fulfill the needs of residents of the greater Nederland area for local facilities, programs, and natural areas that support their well-being, their active lifestyles and their needs for indoor and outdoor recreation, their cultural and educational interests, and their desire to interact with the natural environment and with each other, while supporting the environmental, social, and economic sustainability goals of the community.

Objectives:

- 1.1. Address funding and staffing needs for Nederland parks, recreation, open space, and trails, including current inventory, maintenance schedules, and costs in order to create a more sustainable system.

Actions:

- a. Conduct a feasibility study for a parks and recreation district and move forward with formation of the district if financially feasible, (and pursue alternative options, if not).
- b. Develop and implement a sustainable maintenance plan for all existing Nederland parks, recreation, open space, and trails.
 - i. Identify and detail all existing amenities and conditions relative to how well the amenity serves its intended purpose.
 - ii. Identify how each amenity impacts ecosystem functionality.
 - iii. Identify and detail actions required for improving current recreational and environmental conditions.
- c. Look creatively at user fees and other potential funding mechanisms, while continuing to pursue grants from outside funding sources.
- d. Continue to promote fee reduction or scholarship programs to ensure that residents who do not have the ability to pay full user fees have access to public programs and services.
- e. Encourage efforts to cultivate, support, and relieve stress from the demands of the Nederland-area volunteer community.
- f. Collaborate when possible with local and regional non-profit organizations, local governments, and governmental agencies.

- i. Reach an agreement with Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) for expanded mutual use of recreational facilities. (Also see *Objective 3.4.*)
 - ii. Explore feasibility of a volunteer coordinator.
 - iii. Partner with regional volunteer groups for trail repair and maintenance.
 - iv. Explore the expansion of the Adopt-a-Park program into other areas of parks, recreation, open space, and trails (PROST).
- 1.2. Endeavor to follow the principles of the *Sustainable Sites Initiative* or similar sustainability guidelines in the implementation of all PROST projects to the greatest extent possible in order to promote sustainable land development and management practices.

Actions:

- a. Prioritize projects based on sustainability analysis and community recreational needs not being met by current conditions.
- b. Improvements to recreational amenities should take into consideration multi-functionality. Additional functionalities could include habitat restoration, preservation and protection of natural areas, and improved ecosystem service like stormwater management.
- 1.3. Pay particular attention to the recreational needs of youth – the future of our society – and seniors – a rapidly expanding demographic.

Action:

- c. Give youth and senior accommodations high values in evaluation criteria for project priorities.
- 1.4. Seek to make facilities ADA-compliant to increase accessibility of public facilities.

Actions:

 - a. Develop evaluation criteria for new facility and program proposals that incorporate assessments of these elements.
 - b. Evaluate existing PROST facilities for the feasibility of retrofitting for ADA compliance.
 - c. Incorporate consideration of special needs groups into all facility management plans.

- 1.5. Assure that all Nederland PROST facilities are adequately maintained. (Also see *Objective 1.1.b.*)

Actions:

- a. Complete management plans for all Town recreational assets. (Also see *Objective 2.3.*)
- b. Seek funding for PROST maintenance.
- 1.6. Recognize the vulnerability of the Nederland area and its PROST assets to wildfire and proactively plan to reduce risks.

Actions:

- a. Emphasize forest health, including forest floor/soil health, and wildfire mitigation in the management plans for all Town property.

- b. Work to implement wildfire mitigation in the greater Nederland area using the *Nederland Community Wildfire Protection Plan* as a guide to promote fuel reduction activities by area land owners.
 - c. Support and help coordinate wildfire mitigation efforts by Saws and Slaws, the USDA Forest Service, Boulder County, and others.
 - d. Actively pursue funding opportunities for forest health, including forest floor/soil health, and wild fire mitigation efforts in the greater Nederland area.
- 1.7. Make PROST-related community outreach and education a priority to promote a well-informed public.

Actions:

- a. Continue and expand efforts to develop printed resources that educate and inform the public (e.g., trails maps, forest health, noxious weeds).
 - b. Continue to improve electronic communication efforts, including PROST pages on the Town of Nederland website.
 - c. Collaborate with local environmental education programs (e.g., TEENS, Inc., Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center, and BVSD).
- 1.8. Consider parking, bicycle, and pedestrian needs for PROST assets, and encourage sustainable transportation at all PROST facilities.

GOAL 2: Parks

Nederland-area parks are well-maintained and provide a diverse and abundant variety of environmentally and financially sustainable park facilities that adequately accommodate residents' needs for indoor and outdoor recreation, social gathering places, and local and regional cultural events on a scale that is appropriate for the size and character of the town.

Objectives:

- 2.1. Implement the *Gateway Park Area Master Plan* in order to expand social and recreational opportunities and enhance environmental stewardship.

Actions:

- a. Name the gateway park area.
 - b. Identify existing conditions that require immediate attention for satisfying intended recreational purpose and improving ecosystem functionality.
 - c. Identify opportunities to protect and improve ecosystems and use sustainable strategies to improve existing recreational facilities.
 - d. Prioritize gateway park area improvements based on unmet recreational needs, ability to cost effectively improve ecosystem functionality, measured community priorities, availability of funding, partnership opportunities, etc.
 - e. Partner with local non-profit organizations (e.g., NedRec) to construct gateway park area improvements.
- 2.2. Improve safety and operation of Nederland Ice and Racquet Park for all users, including ice quality issues to alleviate skater safety concerns and extension of the effective ice season.

Action:

- a. Support the efforts of Racquets and Ice for Nederland Kids (R.I.N.K.) to identify and pursue funding for the construction of a shade structure that can accommodate both tennis and ice usage or other means including separate facilities for tennis and ice.
- 2.3. Continue to create and implement management plans for all Town parks to enhance sustainable operations. (Also see *Objective 1.5.*)
- 2.4. Standardize Town park fixtures to promote ease of maintenance and replacement and uniform appearance.

Actions:

- a. Select standard designs for trail signs, interpretive signage, kiosks, benches, picnic tables, etc.
- b. Develop selection process and set of guidelines for PROST amenities that encourage use of local recycled or rapidly renewable material and result in the lowest life cycle cost to the community.
- 2.5. Support efforts to provide facilities for community gardening to expand locally grown food and enhance community health.

Actions:

- a. Identify suitable locations for community gardens and greenhouse.
- b. Identify opportunities to partner with a local group to provide community gardening facilities.
- 2.6. Support efforts to create sustainable recreational opportunities for dog owners and their pets.

Actions:

- a. Explore the feasibility of a community dog park.
- b. Promote responsible dog guardianship by expanding availability of dog waste bag dispensers and evaluating Nederland park areas for off-leash suitability.
- c. Develop a compostable dog waste program.

GOAL 3: Recreation

Nederland-area recreational activities and programs address the expressed recreational needs and preferences of the Nederland-area community and promote healthy, active, and culturally-rich lifestyles in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Objectives

- 3.1. Support the measured need for indoor aquatic recreation by creatively exploring ways to compensate for Nederland's lack of a pool.

Actions:

- a. Seek to negotiate agreements with area pools for a community discount.
- b. Support a reestablishment of the Gilpin Connector.
- c. Explore options to promote car-pooling among pool users.

- d. Explore a partnership opportunities to build a community pool.
- 3.2. Institute a boating program on Barker Meadow Reservoir that meets the demonstrated need for local boating and enhances local recreational opportunities.

Actions:

- a. Negotiate with the City of Boulder to define a safe, environmentally and economically sustainable program for non-motorized boating that is acceptable to both parties.
- b. Partner with NedRec for program fundraising and management.
- 3.3. Develop the Nederland Community Center site to its full potential as a community gathering place for recreational, cultural, and social enrichment, in partnership with the Community Center Foundation Board when appropriate.

Actions:

- a. Complete a site plan for the Community Center property, including a plan to utilize or replace the west wing and return the outbuildings to active use.
- b. Collect and assess information to help identify opportunities to use sustainable strategies to guide the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the site.
- c. Explore increasing hours of operation.
- d. Seek funding for construction of energy efficient, renewable-powered locker rooms and showers.
- 3.4. Negotiate a mutual use agreement with BVSD for outdoor recreational facility use to maximize and leverage public resources. (Also see *Objective 1.1.*)
- 3.5. Support area non-profit organizations offering critical recreational programming to the fullest extent possible (e.g., R.I.N.K., Peak to Peak Soccer, Nederland Youth Hockey Association, Nederland Tennis Association, TEENS, Inc.). (This is included in feasibility study for a district – see *Objective 1.1.a.*)

Actions:

- a. Explore feasibility of insurance coverage.
- b. Support the establishment of a common venue for local program registration.
- c. Explore providing Town support for facilities where possible (e.g., utilities, equipment, and expertise).
- 3.6. Support community demand for additional gardening opportunities (both communal and individual) to promote the health of the community.

Actions:

- a. Explore partnerships with local businesses to provide backyard gardening materials (e.g., composters, greenhouses) at a discount.
- b. Sponsor educational gardening presentations (e.g., by the State Extension Service or by successful local gardeners).
- c. Support creative approaches to mountain gardening (e.g., hugelkultur, vermicomposting).

- 3.7. Address the need for safe venues for recreational sport shooting. Acknowledge the negative community impacts of shooting at the old dump site off Magnolia Road, by supporting the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service to lead a multi-county task force to locate appropriately-sited venues for this activity.

Actions:

- a. Maintain close contact with the U.S. Forest Service and Boulder County to encourage their efforts and to feed progress reports back to the community.
- b. Communicate with state and national elected officials to support this effort.

- 3.8. Support a mix of recreational and cultural activities and programs responsive to the interests and needs of Nederland-area residents to support healthy, active, and culturally-rich lifestyles.

Actions:

- a. Enhance programs of interest to various age groups (e.g., music, talent night/open mic).
- b. Continue to support special events such as races, concerts, and festivals.
- c. Identify strategies to enhance fitness, cultural arts, multi-generational, and family programs through contract instructors, partnerships, or volunteers.
- d. Promote environmental education, interpretation, and stewardship through interpretive signage and stewardship activities such as those offered through the Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center.
- e. Promote awareness of the history of Nederland through the Nederland Area Historical Society, incorporation of interpretive signage throughout Nederland, and historical walking tours.

Goal 4: Open Space

The Nederland community's desire for open space preservation is recognized by creative pursuit of land preservation opportunities that arise with a priority placed on preserving sensitive natural resources, viewsheds, and riparian areas and by responsible management of the Town's open space property.

Objectives:

- 4.1. Establish Town documentation for acquiring desirable open space property in order to pursue land preservation opportunities.

Actions:

- a. Compile list of potential open space acquisitions that score highly when evaluated according to the evaluation criteria in **Appendix H**.
- b. Maintain a list of potential funding partners for open space acquisition.

- 4.2. Develop Sustainability Analysis for current town-owned open space property for:

- Increasing ecosystem functionality
- Improving wildlife habitat
- Improving stormwater management by use of natural passive systems
- Water, natural resources, and current land use data

- 4.3. Implement management plans for current open space that emphasize best practices for forest health, including forest floor/soil health, wildfire mitigation, and site-appropriate public access. (Also see *Objective 1.6.*)

Goal 5: Trails

The Nederland-area trails system provides safe, accessible, and well-maintained multi-modal, non-motorized pathways that link Nederland's commercial district, neighborhoods, schools, area parks, recreational facilities, and regional trails; encourage physical activity; and provide opportunities for alternative transportation.

Objectives:

- 5.1. Update the 2005 *Town of Nederland Trails Master Plan* to guide enhancements to the trail system.

Actions:

- a. Gather public input regarding needs for additional area trails and linkages.
- b. Encourage rebuilding plans for recreational trails and adjacent soil restoration in areas impacted by forest mitigation work.
- c. Update maps for existing trails, trail opportunities and constraints, and proposed trails.
- d. Revise trail design standards in keeping with current Town sustainability goals.

- 5.2. Find resources for effective trails maintenance and new trail construction.

Actions:

- a. Partner with groups such as the Mountain Youth Corps, Nederland Area Trails Organization (NATO), and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers to repair and maintain local trails.
- b. Seek grant funding for trails maintenance and construction.

- 5.3. Improve trail safety.

Actions:

- a. Identify needs for ground-level trail lighting (e.g., Community Center Connector Trail, Tungsten Trail) and find funding for installation and maintenance.
- b. Identify needs for safe roadway crossings (e.g., near Community Center) and seek funding for appropriate crossing solutions (that could include underpasses or overpasses).
- c. Make trails maintenance a priority.

- 5.4. Continue working with surrounding public and private land holders for increased linkages to area trails and attractions.

Actions:

- a. Participate in the management plan update process for Boulder County's open space lands in the Nederland vicinity.
- b. Collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and Boulder County to identify desirable trail linkages.

- 5.5. Develop the Tungsten Trail along Middle Boulder Creek and the western shoreline of Barker Reservoir as a riverwalk, with sensitivity towards both public needs for water access and preservation of riparian habitat.



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Chapter 2. The Planning Context

This chapter provides context for the plan by highlighting the vision and mission of the Town of Nederland, the relationship of this Plan with other related plans, and the methodology and timeline for the master planning process.

A. Purpose of this Plan

The **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Master Plan** will articulate a vision for and guide the Town of Nederland in planning for and delivering parks and recreation services for the next five to ten years. The plan provides a framework to respond to the evolving needs of the community and identifies priority areas for implementation.

B. Nederland Vision 2020

The Town of Nederland is guided by the following Vision 2020 statement. This provides an important framework for this Master Plan.



Nederland Vision 2020

In Nederland, our greatest assets are our residents – the diverse people who live, work, play and contribute to all aspects of our unique mountain community.

Nederland is a complete community guided by a shared vision reflecting community values and priorities. It is a place where our children thrive and people connect; neighbors know and care for one another; and community members are proud of their town, their deep and rich history, and a quality of life that is both deliberate and second to none.

Our community proudly maintains its small-town feel and distinct identity – a small is beautiful, less is more approach. While our town has grown, we have remained true to our origins while internalizing a model of sustainability in which a healthy society comes from a healthy economy and a healthy environment is essential for both.

Additional elements of the Nederland Vision 2020 report related to topics of this Master Plan are excerpted below.

In 2020, Nederland is a town recognized for its trails, natural areas and unwavering commitment to the environment. Open spaces are abundant and balanced with active recreation areas and opportunities. Nederland's surrounding wilderness area and other sensitive natural areas are restored, protected and preserved.

In 2020, Nederland continues to focus planning and economic development activities on efforts that address:

- *Alternative energy sources to fossil fuels for transportation*
- *Alternatives for building and the use of sustainable materials*
- *Non-motorized travel in town*
- *Clean air, clean water and water conservation in and around Nederland*
- *Connections to the outdoor environment providing active, healthy lifestyles for people of all ages*
- *Minimal/reduced light and noise pollution*
- *Focused community education programs and stewardship to reduce environmental impact fostering agricultural, economical and community sustainability*

In 2020, Nederland provides arts and culture, education and community activities that include the entire community and provide opportunities for youth.

In 2020, Nederland's economy encourages and welcomes new, non-traditional economic models, the responsible management of tourism and stewardship of the environment. The community consistently recognizes and responsibly encourages the thoughtful and meaningful relationship between recreation, culture and the economy.

(Source: Draft Envision Nederland 2020 Process Report, June 30, 2011)

C. Accomplishments from Previous Plan

As previously mentioned, this **PROST Master Plan** is an update of the 2001 *Town of Nederland and Surrounding Areas Open Space, Trails, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan*. Over the last decade, several key goals of that plan have been met, in full or in part.

- Appointment of an official advisory body to oversee implementation of the Plan and make recommendations on decisions that affect open space, trails, parks, and outdoor recreation
- Develop an outdoor skate park that serves as both an ice skating rink in the winter and a skateboard park in the summer (Note: two separate parks were created)
- Active and aggressive pursuit of potential funding sources partnerships with other government agencies and non-profit organizations
- Provide high quality and safe recreational experiences for trail users by establishing a well-marked and maintained multiple-use trail system
- Acquisitions of Mud Lake and Wingate open space areas

These accomplishments were realized through community collaboration and partnerships (notably the ice skating rink and Nathan Lazarus Skate Park) that leveraged resources from many sources, including Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO) funds, in-kind contributions from Town staff, foundation grants, and funds and in-kind contributions from non-profit partners.

While significant progress has been made since the 2001 Plan, some recommendations were not addressed and will be carried forward in this Master Plan update, including creating “a gateway park to the Town of Nederland at the west end of Barker Reservoir to East 1st Street.”

D. Relationship to Other Plans

This **PROST Master Plan** is an update of the *Town of Nederland and Surrounding Areas Open Space, Trails, Parks, and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan* (September 2001). This plan is informed by and relates to other Town plans including the *Envision Nederland 2020 Process Report* (July 2011) and the *Town of Nederland Trails Master Plan* (August 2005).

Envision 2020 goals are reflected in this plan including – trail connections and non-motorized travel in town; opens spaces balanced with active recreation areas and opportunities; alternatives for building and the use of sustainable materials; water conservation; connections to the outdoor environment providing active, healthy lifestyles for people of all ages; arts and culture, education, and community activities that include the entire community and provide opportunities for youth; and responsible management of tourism and the stewardship of the environment. (See goals of Nederland Vision 2020 in Section B earlier in this chapter for additional information.)

The *Nederland Comprehensive Plan Update* process ran concurrent to the PROST master planning process. The intention is for this **PROST Master Plan** to be adopted as a part of the *Comprehensive Plan* in 2013.

In addition, other Town documents were reviewed including financial information, annual reports, and past community surveys. References to these documents are made in relevant sections of this Plan.

E. Methodology and Timeline of Planning Process

This project has been guided by a Steering Committee made up of stakeholders and staff that met with the GreenPlay consultant team and provided input throughout the planning process. This collaborative effort fully utilizes the consultant's expertise and incorporates local knowledge and institutional history. The project consisted of the following phases and tasks.

PHASE 1: INFORMATION GATHERING

January-April 2012

Community & Stakeholder Input Process

1. Conducted public meeting and focus groups
2. Received guidance from Steering Committee

Survey

1. Conducted statistically-valid survey of Nederland-area residents
2. Provided additional open web-based survey

Inventory and Assessment of Existing Facilities and Services

1. Conducted inventory and analysis of parks and recreation facilities and services
2. Identified key issues and opportunities

Demographic and Trends Analysis

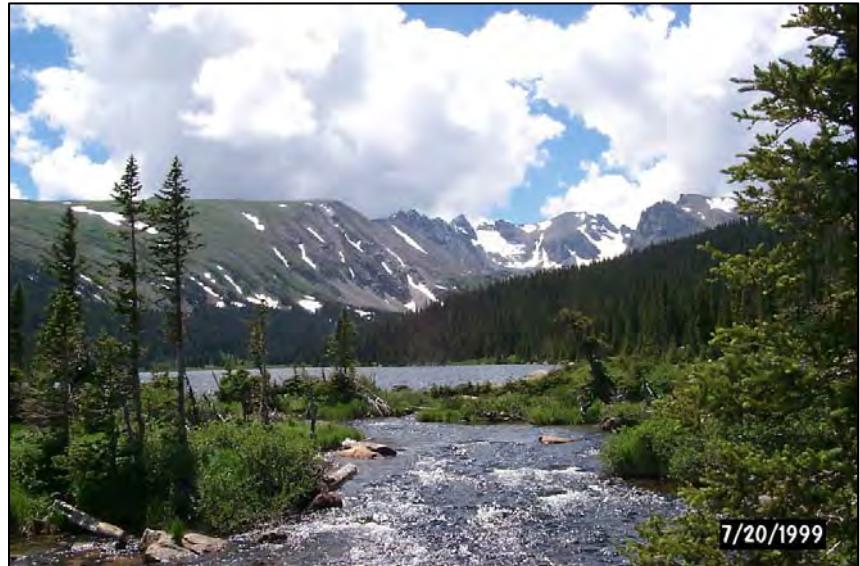
1. Analyzed Town demographics and population projections
2. Identified parks and recreation-related trends

PHASE 2: FINDINGS & VISIONING**May-June 2012**

1. Presented key findings to the Steering Committee and public
2. Validated findings
3. Identified focus areas for recommendations

PHASE 3: PLAN DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW**July 2012-January 2013**

1. Developed Draft Master Plan
2. Presented Draft Master Plan to Steering Committee; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Board; Sustainability Advisory Board; Nederland Community Center Foundation Board; Nederland Downtown Development Authority; and Planning Commission
3. Refined plan based on feedback

PLAN ADOPTION**February 2013**

Chapter 3. Our Community and Identified Needs

Understanding community demographics and needs is an important component of planning for future parks and recreation services and facilities in Nederland. This chapter of the **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan** first provides a demographic overview of Nederland. Then, it highlights results of the statistically-valid survey and the public process. Next, recreation trends impacting Nederland are summarized. The chapter concludes with a summary of key findings.

A. Community Profile and Demographics

Nederland Context

Nederland is located in southwestern Boulder County, 17 miles west of Boulder. The Town occupies the gently sloping Middle Boulder Creek basin and extends west to the base of a long, forested glacial ridge; north to Mud Lake Open Space; and south along the forested ridges above Barker Reservoir.

Native Americans hunted in the mountain and meadows in the Nederland area. It was not until the late 1800s that the Town of Nederland began as a settlement for gold, silver, and later, tungsten miners. It grew through successive mining booms and drew thousands of residents to the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Early growth was spurred primarily by the 1871 development of the famous Caribou Mill. The Town had around 3,000 residents at its peak (twice the size it is today).

In the 1920s, tourism helped Nederland rebound from the bust that followed the tungsten boom of World War I. From 1990 to 2000, the population of Nederland grew 27 percent. Today Nederland has a population of over 1,400 and serves a larger area population. The Town attracts tourists and is a popular jumping off point for outdoor recreation activities. Nederland is located along the Peak to Peak Scenic Byway that travels from Central City to Estes Park. Residents, as well as tourists, enjoy outdoor recreation – hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and horseback riding in summer and skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing in winter. The Nederland community especially values its natural features, scenic views, history, and sense of community.

Demographics

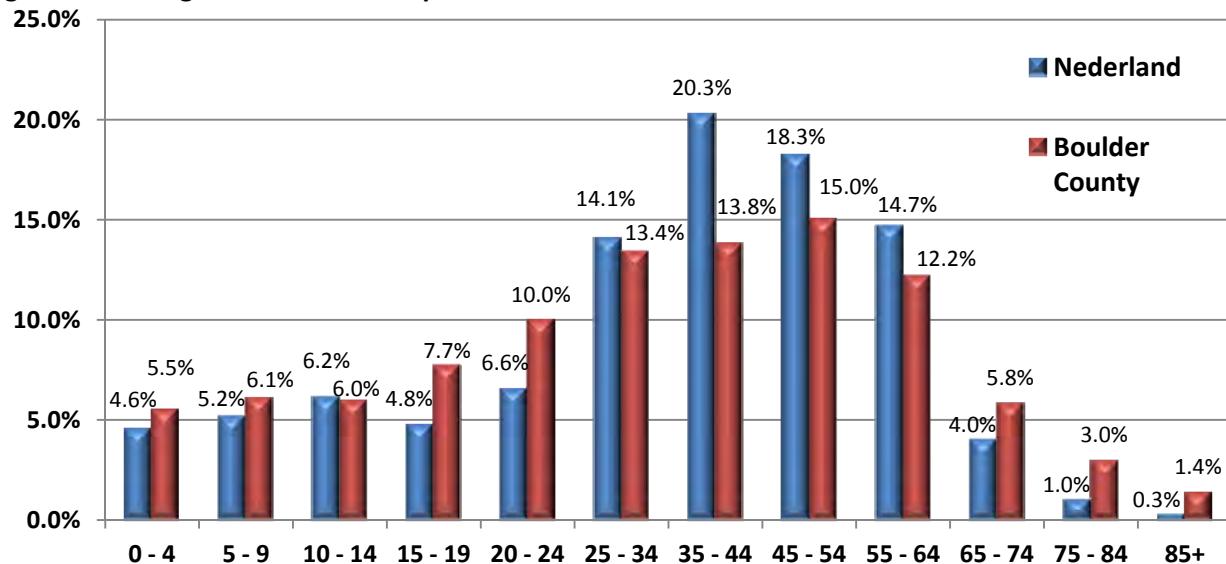
The demographic profile for the Town of Nederland was created using ESRI Business Information Solutions, Inc. This report reviews demographic data, including comparisons between the Town and Boulder County in the areas of household income and age.

In 2011, the Town of Nederland's population was 1,465. The annual rate of population growth from 2011 to 2016 is projected to be small at .86% (and increase of less than 100). It is important to note that the Town of Nederland draws participation in programs and services from a larger service area. The Town estimated the Library District population to be about 4,043 in 2012. (*Note: The Library District boundaries are used as the study area for this Master Plan.*)

Age

The age distribution of Nederland is compared to Boulder County. Nederland has slightly higher percentages of population in the 35-64 age cohorts and lower percentages of the population in the older age cohorts (65+). The median age for Nederland is 39.4, higher than the County (35.9). As the community ages, the Town will need to design and plan facilities and services with consideration to the needs and interests of older adults, including those that are more active.

Figure 1: 2011 Age Distribution Comparison



Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions 2011 Demographic Summary

The following age breakdown is used to separate the population into age sensitive user groups.

- Under 5 years: This group represents users of preschool programs and facilities. As trails and open space users, this age group is often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- 5 to 14 years: This group represents current youth program participants.
- 15 to 24 years: This group represents teen/young adult program participants moving out of the youth programs and into adult programs. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers.
- 25 to 34 years: This group represents potential adult program participants. Many in this age group are beginning long-term relationships and establishing families.
- 35 to 54 years: This group represents users of a wide range of adult programming and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters.

- 55 to 64 years: This group represents users of older adult programming exhibiting the characteristics of approaching retirement or already retired and typically enjoying grandchildren.
- 65 years plus: Nationally, this group will be increasing dramatically. Pew Research reports that by the time all Baby Boomers turn 65 in 2030, 15 percent of the nation's population will be at least that old. Recreation centers, senior centers, and senior programs can be a significant link in the health care system. This group ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Active Adults

Over half (53.3%) of the Nederland estimated 2011 population is between 35-64 years old, higher than Boulder County (41%). Planning for adult and multi-generational recreation opportunities will be important.

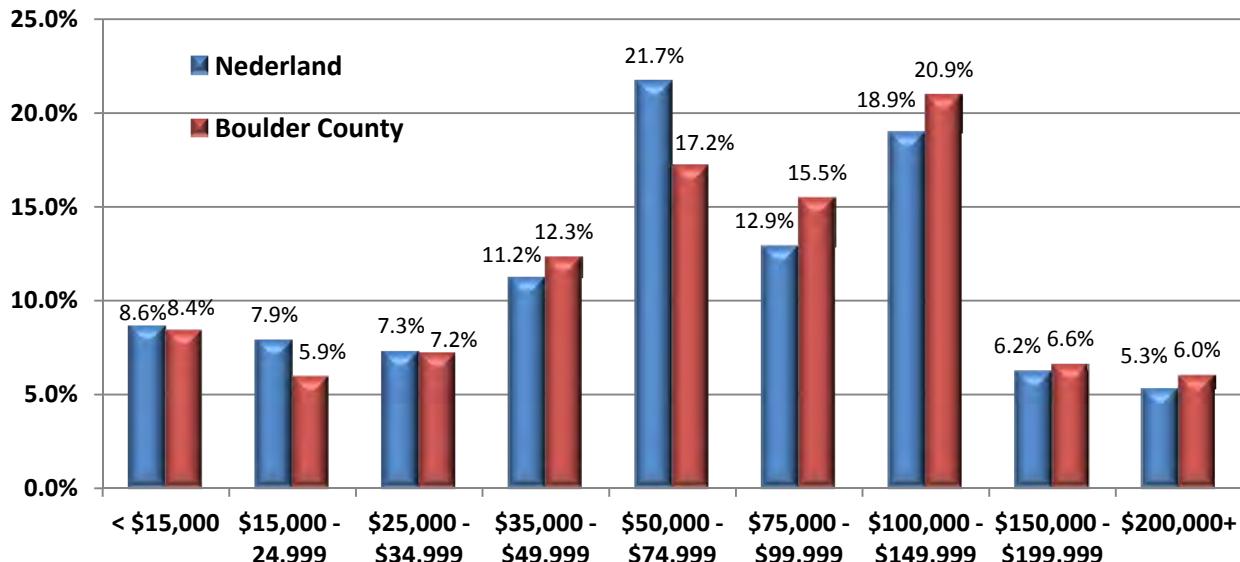
Household Income

According to ESRI Business Information Solutions, the estimated median household income for the Town of Nederland is \$65,892, lower than the County (\$73,175). A comparison of household income, as shown in **Figure 2**, illustrates that the majority of residents are in the \$50,000-\$150,000 income range.

According to ESRI, in 2010 the annual average amount spent on entertainment and recreation by household in Nederland was \$3,883. This amount does not include travel.

The 2012 Nederland Community Survey indicated that 11 percent of respondents cited “price/user fees” as a reason why they did not use Nederland programs and facilities. While ability to pay does not appear to be a top issue in Nederland, fee reduction or scholarship programs are important to enable program participation by interested residents and should be considered for future program planning. For example, some area recreational facilities allow users of recreational services to volunteer in lieu of paying user fees, including the Nederland Community Center and the Nederland Ice and Racquet Park.

Figure 2: 2010 Households by Income Comparison – Nederland, Boulder County



Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions 2010 Market Profile

Demographic Trend Analysis Summary

In summary, key demographic trends to reference for future planning efforts in Nederland are the following.

- The estimated 2011 population in Nederland is 1,465.
- The median age for Nederland is 39.4, higher than Boulder County (35.9).
- Median household income for the Town of Nederland is \$65,892; lower than the Boulder County (\$73,175).
- Population change in Nederland is projected to show a slight increase from 2011-2016 at an annual rate of .86 percent.

B. Statistically-Valid Survey Results

Methodology

The purpose of the statistically-valid survey conducted for this Master Plan was to gather public feedback on Nederland area open space, trails, and park and recreation programs and services. The survey targeted residents of Nederland, as well as households that live in the area immediately adjacent to the Town.

The survey was conducted using three methods: 1) an online invitation-only survey, 2) a paper mailback survey distributed upon request, and 3) an open-link online survey for members of the public that did not respond using the invitation survey form.

The three versions of the survey garnered 361 responses from within the Town of Nederland and the surrounding area contained within the Library District. Responses were obtained from survey invitations that were sent by postcard to 2,704 local households, followed by an “Open Link” survey that provided opportunities for interested citizens that had not responded to the Invitation Survey to participate. The invitation version of the survey got a response from 291 households, and the open link captured another 70, for a total of 361 responses.

The survey contained a series of questions designed to measure recreation behavior and perceptions by area residents. In addition, there were numerous opportunities for survey participants to respond in their own words to “open ended” questions. The survey report in **Appendix A** summarizes findings from the statistical analysis of results. In addition, open ended responses have been provided under separate cover. These comments are extensive; there are over 100 pages of input.

The data suggest that area residents are using recreation programs and facilities provided by a number of different entities. The most mentioned sources included U.S. Forest Service lands and Boulder County Open Space lands, but there were over 20 different providers identified, all offering recreational opportunities.

The survey focused on local residents and their opinions. A number of the open ended comments stressed that residents, not tourists, should receive primary attention in Town planning efforts.

Following is a summary of select survey findings. The full survey report is in **Appendix A** which includes additional analysis of program needs and opinions on parks, recreation, open space, and trails.

Selected Findings

Parks and recreational opportunities are important to area residents. Respondents to the survey from the Nederland area indicated that the availability of local parks and recreational opportunities in the Town are very important, with an average rating of over 4 on a 5-point scale where 5 means “extremely important.” Eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents rated the importance of parks and recreational opportunities a “4” or “5.”

Activities and programs that are important to be added, expanded, or improved. The list below provides a rank ordering of relative importance of the top rated categories based on a list of 21 categories.

- Biking/hiking/running
- Indoor swimming/aquatics
- Non-motorized boating
- Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals)
- Cultural/arts/dance/music/crafts
- Snow and ice activities

Facilities to be added, expanded, or improved. The survey evaluated priorities of the community, both in town and in the larger area (Library District Boundary). Results from the two groups are very similar.

Based on a list of 31 categories, the eight most identified facilities in approximate rank order included:

- Open space/conservation land
- Pedestrian/bike paths (soft surface)
- Community gardens
- Indoor swimming pool
- Community greenhouse
- The proposed gateway park at the end of Barker Reservoir
- Boating on the Reservoir
- An outdoor amphitheater

In a related question, respondents were asked to pick their top three priorities from the list. This question resulted in the following five choices being most identified by both residents of the Town and the remainder of the Library District area.

- Indoor swimming pool
- Boating on the reservoir (non-motorized)
- Open space/conservation land
- Pedestrian bike paths (soft surface)
- The proposed gateway park

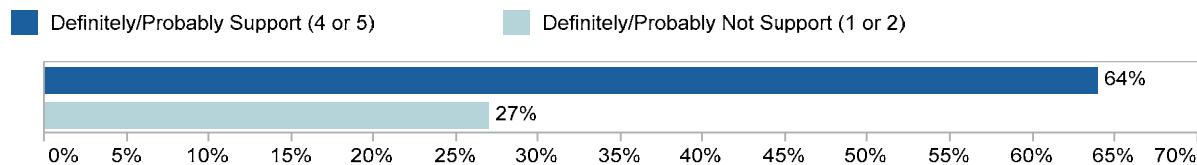
(*Note: See additional analysis on swimming/aquatic facilities in **Chapter 6** in the Nederland Community Center section.*)

Boating on the Reservoir. Slightly over 6 in 10 Nederland area respondents indicate support for a boating program on the reservoir, measured by a “4” or “5” on a 5-point scale where “5” is “definitely support.”

These results vary somewhat by whether the respondent lives in town versus outside of Nederland, with slightly higher support from those outside. Further, while there is a significant group that did not support boating among town residents (about 3 in 10), the negative sentiment is weaker in the County.

Interestingly, on this issue, there are few respondents that are neutral. Overall, less than 10 percent gave boating a “3” or “neutral” on the scale. While a majority are in favor overall, residents are generally on one side or the other of this issue.

Figure 3: Survey Results – Boating on Barker Reservoir



The Gateway Park Area. The survey probed various policy aspects of the gateway park area. There is strong support and consensus around “Improving/protecting water quality” (almost 9 in 10 “definitely” or “probably support”) and “Creating a unique gateway and identity for Nederland” (about 7 in 10). Further, there is very little support for “Discouraging people from using this location for recreational purposes” (less than 10% support this alternative). Enthusiasm for active recreation on the site is less clear, although a majority of respondents (50% plus) show support for all of the alternative policy choices.

C. Community and Stakeholder Input

In addition to the statistically-valid survey, several community and stakeholder input opportunities were provided to gain valuable feedback about the current state and the future of parks, recreation, open space, and trails in the Nederland area. The process that was undertaken included:

- Five community focus groups
 - Teens (one at TEENS, Inc. and one at the high school)
 - Active Recreation
 - Seniors
 - Business
 - Conservation, Open Space, and Trails
- Three public meetings (at various stages of the planning process)
- Two public workshops to gain input on the gateway park area site master plan

The notes from the six community focus groups and the first public meeting held are found in **Appendix B**, summarizing input from over 120 area resident and stakeholder meeting attendees.

The following is an overview of the community opinions from the face-to-face meetings held in January and February 2012.



Community Input

Focus group and public meeting participants were asked a variety of questions regarding Nederland area parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services. Themes from the responses to questions about current strengths, issues/needs/problems, and opportunities are summarized in the boxes that follow.

Strengths

- Dedicated volunteers and non-profit organizations
- Strong community ownership
- Diversity of facilities – Nederland Community Center, ice/tennis park, skate park, Chipeta Park
- Surrounding open space and trails (e.g., Mud Lake, Caribou Ranch, U.S. Forest Service)
- Community programs and special events
- Walkable, accessible recreation

Key Issues & Values

- Guiding vision provided by *Nederland Vision 2020*
- Interest in balancing active and passive recreational opportunities
- Fragmented recreational programming and communication
- Over reliance on volunteers
- Lack of capital and operational funding
- Management of visitors (e.g., parking, traffic congestion)

Opportunities for Improvements

- Trail linkages
- Barker Reservoir and Middle Boulder Creek corridor
- Community Center enhancements (e.g., expanded hours, fitness equipment, renovation of west wing)
- Interest in additional amenities like a dog park, community gardens, bike pump track, etc.
- Improvements to existing facilities (e.g., athletic field, Chipeta Park restrooms, etc.)
- Central coordination of recreation services and volunteers
- Communication
- Funding and leveraging resources

Residents expressed appreciation for the diversity of recreational opportunities – both passive and active – available in and around Nederland. They identified the following benefits of parks and recreation in the community:

- Quality of life
- Health
- Community building
- Economic development – managing the impacts of visitors to the benefit of the whole community

D. Trends

Trend Analysis Summary

The following are key behavioral trends reflective of the Town. These will be important to evaluate for future planning efforts.

- According to the 2010 National Sporting Goods Association, some of the top ten athletic activities ranked by total participation in the U.S. included: exercise walking, exercising with equipment, swimming, camping, bicycle riding, hiking, and working out at athletic clubs. All of these activities are available in Nederland, except for swimming.
- Following are some trends reported in the *Recreation Management Magazine's*, June 2011 "State of the Industry Report."
 - The most common programs offered in communities are holiday events and other special events; fitness programs; educational programs; day camps and summer camps; mind-body/balance programs such as yoga, tai chi, Pilates, and martial arts; and youth sports teams. Many of these activities are offered in Nederland by various groups, but program offerings are limited.
 - Fitness programs, educational programs, teen programs, mind body balance, and active older adults were listed at the top of the ten programs parks and recreation departments are planning to add within the next three years.
- National trends in the delivery of parks and recreation systems reflect more partnerships and contractual agreements to support specialized services. As a small town, Nederland relies heavily on volunteers and partnerships to provide parks and recreation services.
- Obesity continues to be a serious issue in the United States, growing at an epidemic rate—almost tripling since 1990. In fact, about one in three adults is currently considered obese. This statistic illustrates the importance of intercepting the epidemic in youth. Currently, 27.5 percent of people in the United States are obese. Parks and recreation services can play a significant role in promoting community public health.
- The majority of Americans agree that preserving undeveloped land for outdoor recreation is important. A large percentage of outdoor participants also believe that developing local parks and hiking and walking trails is important.

See **Appendix C** for more detailed trends information.

E. Summary

Nederland has a population of over 1,400 and serves a larger area population. The Town attracts tourists and is a popular jumping off point for outdoor recreation activities. Residents, as well as tourists, enjoy outdoor recreation – hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and horseback riding in the summer and skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing in winter – and many other activities like playing soccer and ice hockey and skateboarding.

Through the public meetings and focus groups held as part of master planning process many strengths of the parks, recreation, open space, and trails system were identified: surrounding open space and trails, diversity of facilities in Town, and dedicated volunteers and non-profit organizations. The top ranked facilities to be added, expanded, or improved according to the survey included trails, community gardens, indoor swimming pool, community greenhouse, the gateway park, boating on Barker Reservoir, and an outdoor amphitheater. There are opportunities to explore these priorities. Additional resources and partnerships would be needed to help realize improvements. However, it is unlikely that an indoor swimming pool would be feasible to build and run due to high operating costs, unless significant additional resources were to be identified. (See additional aquatics analysis in ***Chapter 6*** and recommendations to increase access to existing area aquatic facilities in ***Chapter 7***.)

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Chapter 4. Inventory Assessment

This chapter provides an overview of the Nederland area parks, recreation, open space, and trails inventory. Inventory has been analyzed using maps and other tools. This chapter concludes with a summary of key findings.

A. Inventory Overview

Parks, Recreation, and Trails

The Town of Nederland and neighboring public lands provide a host of open space amenities, trails, parks, and outdoor recreational opportunities. A tabulation of the total land area and recreational features within each of these lands is shown in **Appendix D**. Nederland's close proximity to Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, and Boulder County Open Space offers residents and visitors unique opportunities to hike, bike, fish, horseback ride, and ski in, or within a short distance of Town.

Existing Opportunities – Town of Nederland

Trails: The 2005 *Town of Nederland Trails Master Plan* identifies existing trails in the Nederland area and discusses potential opportunities for improving the system of trails. A variety of trails are located throughout the study area. These are primarily soft-surface trails, many of which are not formally maintained. Trails also exist throughout the open space lands managed by Boulder County and the U.S. Forest service, providing miles of opportunities for hiking and mountain biking. However, multi-use trails as a means of getting around, and places where children can learn to ride a bike, were mentioned during the public input process as being needed in Nederland. In particular, a trail to provide access from downtown to the high school was mentioned as a need.

One important trail within the Town of Nederland begins at the covered bridge downtown and proceeds easterly through Chipeta Park and the gateway park area, then along the north shore of Barker Reservoir to the dam, a total distance of approximately 1.8 miles. There is a desire among local residents to find a way to continue this trail towards the east and also provide a way to cross Middle Boulder Creek below the dam and continue the trail back towards downtown as a loop along the south side of Barker Reservoir. Accomplishing this would require a bridge and access to private lands. Another maintained and marked trail extends from Eldora Road to Mud Lake. This trail includes interpretive signage.

Sidewalk connections also can contribute to trail connectivity by providing safe off-road links between destinations within Nederland, especially the downtown area.

Parks: The two main parks within the Nederland town limits include Chipeta Park and Joe Smith Park. Recreation facilities at Chipeta Park include a basketball court, fishing pond for children, group picnic facilities, and a playground. Joe Smith Park is slightly smaller than Chipeta Park and lacks any formal recreation facilities.

Fishing: Barker Reservoir provides the main fishing opportunities within Town limits. Here, shoreline fishing is a popular activity during the summer. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) stocks the reservoir with different fish species including rainbow trout. Just above Barker Reservoir, there are additional fishing opportunities along portions of Middle Boulder Creek.

Recreation Programs: A variety of recreation programs are offered by non-profit organizations and private instructors in the Nederland area. Fitness and cultural activities are offered at the Nederland Community Center. See **Chapter 6** for additional information.

Outdoor/Environmental Education: At the northernmost boundary of the Town of Nederland lies Mud Lake where the Town of Nederland, Boulder County, and the Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center jointly purchased 185 acres of open space in the fall of 2000. The long-term goal is to develop a Nature Center on four acres of this property. As of 2010, the Wild Bear Center opened a small nature center in downtown Nederland. The Wild Bear provides year-round environmental education programming for all ages, including day camps, afterschool programs, outreach programs for schools, and family workshops.

Sports Fields: The Nederland Community School Program rents out the soccer and baseball fields at Nederland Elementary School. These fields are available to the public when students are not using them for after school sports activities.

The Town baseball field is located on the eastern edge of the Town just off of 1st Street. The baseball field is used for both baseball and softball during the summer and fall. It is also used for special events, such as festivals and concerts. Though heavily used, the field is in poor condition due to infertile soil and other issues.

Ice and Racquet Recreation: Since completion of the 2001 Master Plan, a citizen initiative resulted in the development of the Nederland Ice and Racquet Park on Town-owned land. The facility is maintained by the non-profit organization, RINK (Racquets and Ice for Nederland Kids). It is a dual-use facility that has three tennis courts during warmer months and a regulation-sized hockey rink in the winter. This is accomplished by volunteer workers who move one-third of the perimeter boards between two positions in the spring and fall to accommodate the outer dimensions of either the tennis courts or the ice rink. Because the facility is open to the sky, the quality of the ice during the skating season is impacted by the sun and can present a safety concern. The RINK board is implementing various approaches to improve the quality of the ice in the short term, but feels that ultimately a shade structure that can accommodate both tennis and ice usage will have to be constructed to continue to operate an outdoor ice facility in a warming climate.

During the warm months of the year, the Town's Ice and Racquet Park has three tennis courts that are available to the public. Leveraging on U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) and Colorado Tennis Association grants, the courts have also been lined to provide multiple smaller courts for USTA sanctioned 10 and under youth tennis programs that supports lessons and opportunities to play for area kids.

Skateboarding: The Nathan Lazarus Skatepark is located in the gateway park area next to the Teen Center. This amenity is highly valued by the skating community and provides an important amenity for the youth of the community.

Other Attractions: A recent attraction added to downtown Nederland is the Carousel of Happiness. This historic carousel has 56 whimsical, hand-carved animals to ride. The carousel is run by a non-profit organization and includes a gift shop and small party room and play area upstairs.

Table 1 summarizes the indoor facilities found within the study area. The Nederland Community Center provides the primary venue for indoor activities and includes community meeting space, a gymnasium, fitness facilities, an auditorium, and multi-purpose space.

Another primary venue is the Teen Center, which has a gymnasium and several multi-purpose spaces. It is a popular drop-in space and provides an important service for local youth.

The Nederland Library, built in 2010, is another important indoor space that includes an attractive and well-appointed multi-purpose room that is used for meetings and other events.

The Visitor Center provides a small indoor space that is used to orient visitors and disseminate information, and offers public restrooms within the downtown area.

Several other unique indoor spaces are provided by private providers, such as the Carousel. This facility houses a hand-built fully-operational carousel and is the venue for birthday parties and other social events. There are also two museums that are open at various times.

Table 1: Indoor Inventory in Nederland

LOCATION	Ownership	Amusement Ride	Auditorium/Theater	Small Theater	Fitness/Dance	Food- Café/Concessions	Gymnasium	Kitchen- Kitchenette	Lobby/Entryway	Multi-purpose Room	Patio/Outdoor Seating
Community Center	Nederland		1		3		1		2	2	
Visitors Center	Nederland					1			1		
Carousel	Non-Profit Organization	1		1		1				1	
Gillaspie House	Non-Profit Organization									1	
Teen Center	Non-Profit Organization						1	1		4	
Library	Library District									1	1
Mining Museum	Town (managed by Boulder County)			1		2	2	1	3	10	1
Totals:		1	1	1	3	2	2	1	3	10	1

Existing Opportunities: Nederland Service Area

Just outside the Town of Nederland, Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest and Boulder County Open Space provide an array of parks, trails, and outdoor recreational opportunities. Below is a list of opportunities for the Nederland area.

Winter Sports: The Nederland area offers numerous opportunities for winter sports such as downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing. For downhill skiing and snowboarding, Eldora Mountain Resort offers over 680 acres and 1,400 vertical feet of terrain. Eldora Mountain Resort's Nordic Center, located at the base of the downhill ski slopes and extending onto more moderate terrain just north of the resort, provides about 28 miles of cross-country ski trails.



The Town's ice rink provides ice skating, youth and adult hockey programs, curling leagues, and broomball during the winter months.

In addition, numerous cross-country ski trails can be found at the following locations.

- Jenny Creek Trail
- Hessie Trailhead
- West Magnolia Trails
- Rainbow Lakes Road
- Caribou Townsite/Caribou Park/Caribou Flats

Backcountry Huts: Two backcountry huts in the Nederland area – Guinn Mountain Hut and Tennessee Mountain Cabin – are located in Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest and are open for year round use. The Colorado Mountain Club oversees the Guinn Mountain Hut, which sleeps seven to eight people and is located about five miles from the Eldora Nordic Center Trailhead. Guinn Mountain Hut is situated at about 11,120 feet in elevation. Access to this hut requires a skilled navigator, because it is not located along a major trail.

Reservations for the Tennessee Mountain Cabin can be made with the Eldora Nordic Center. The Tennessee Mountain Cabin is about two miles from the Eldora Nordic Center and accommodates up to ten people. The cabin is situated at about 9,860 feet, and provides access to numerous cross-country skiing opportunities. The cabin is closed in the summer.

Rock Climbing: Platte Rogers Open Space has numerous opportunities for rock climbing at High Energy Crag, Frisky Cliff, Castle Rock, and Mountain Rose Crag, as well as ice climbing during the winter just west of Castle Rock.

Hiking Trails: About three miles west of Nederland is the Hessie Trailhead, which provides access to King Lake, Woodland Lake, and Jasper Lake, and the Fourth of July Trail. Trails extending from the Hessie Trailhead and the Fourth of July Trailhead provide access to Indian Peaks Wilderness – a popular destination for Front Range hikers and backpackers. About ten miles northwest of Nederland is the Rainbow Lakes Trail, which also extends into Indian Peaks Wilderness.

Additional hiking opportunities exist on the many trails in Reynolds Ranch and Mud Lake. Most of the trails in the Reynolds Ranch area are on National Forest lands along Magnolia Road, including the Front Range Trails. Additional hiking trails are in the West Magnolia and the Caribou Town site/Caribou Flats/Caribou Park area.

Campgrounds: There are three developed campgrounds in the Nederland area including: Buckingham Campground at the Fourth of July trailhead (located at the northwest terminus of County Road 111); Rainbow Lakes trailhead (located just east of Indian Peaks Wilderness along Forest Road 298); and Kelly Dahl Campground (located four miles south of Nederland on S.H. 119 between the intersection of S.H. 72 and Rollinsville).

Parks and Open Space: Open space areas managed by Boulder County Parks and Open Space are available for passive recreational use such as hiking, photography or nature studies, and if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing. Such areas include Reynolds Ranch, the Mud Lake Open Space property (managed by Boulder County, the Town of Nederland, and the Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center), and Caribou Ranch Open Space.

Horseback Riding: Horseback riding opportunities exist throughout Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest. One of the more popular areas for horseback riding is located just southwest of Nederland where numerous informal trails are located in Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest. Riders often share trails with hikers and even ORVs. Some horseback riding also occurs on trails located near Magnolia Road. Sundance Riding Stables operates during the summer.

Fishing: Shoreline fishing for rainbow and brook trout is available on Middle Boulder Creek at Rainbow Lakes, and lakes within the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Currently, the Division of Wildlife does not stock Middle Boulder Creek with trout.

Mountain Biking: Mountain biking is one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities on the Front Range, and there are numerous opportunities for mountain biking in the Nederland area. The West Magnolia trail system is the epicenter of Nederland mountain biking and the most popular, consisting of approximately 30 miles of single and double track trails. The West Magnolia trail system can be easily connected to the trails to the East, known as the “Dots” or “Boy Scout Trails” and to the North and West, known as the “505 to Caribou.” These additional trails provide yet another approximately 30 miles of single and double track trails. Around town, the Mud Lake trails, the Ridge Road trail system, and the “Sherwood Forest” trail system provide yet another 15 miles of trails. From easy fire roads to challenging downhill accents and descents, Nederland-area mountain biking has it all.

Off-Road Driving: Opportunities for four-wheel drive vehicles exist along FDR 505 and FDR 355.

Open Space

The Town of Nederland is situated close to important open space areas such as the Reynolds Ranch, Caribou Ranch, and Mud Lake Open Space, as well as extensive National Forest and federally-designated wilderness lands.

Based on current GIS information from Boulder County, it has 3,132 acres of publicly-owned open space located within the study area for this plan, which accounts for nearly seven percent of the total acres within the study area boundary. This number does not include Mud Lake, which is jointly-owned by Boulder County and the Town of Nederland.

These areas provide important wildlife habitats, buffers between development, and abundant recreational opportunities around the Town of Nederland.

Public land agencies are faced with balancing the protection of natural areas with managing public access to enjoy these areas through recreational uses like trails. Nederland will need to continue to responsibly manage its parks and open spaces through the development of management plans to ensure a logical balance between conservation and recreation. In addition, the Town should continue to collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and Boulder County Parks and Open Space on land management concerns in surrounding open space areas.

Open Space – Town of Nederland

Mud Lake Open Space: Mud Lake is part of a 195-acre open space property purchased jointly in 1999 by the Town of Nederland, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, and the Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center. During the summer of 2000, over 130 volunteers helped remove 30 tons of trash from the lake and its surrounding area. Restoration efforts at Mud Lake have been ongoing since this time.

The Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center owns a five-acre parcel at the site and uses the property for daytime, hands-on educational programs. Their long-term goal is to develop an off-grid nature center on the site.

Wingate Open Space: The Wingate Open Space area is approximately 16 acres. (The Town entered into a lease/purchase agreement in September 2000 for a portion of the property, and another portion of the open space area was gifted.) Passive trail uses are permitted here. The Nederland Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB) is developing a management plan for this site.

Open Space – Nederland Area

Caribou Ranch: Caribou Ranch is located about two miles northwest of the Town of Nederland and is the largest open space property that Boulder County Parks and Open Space oversees in the Nederland Area. Caribou Ranch encompasses about 3,589 acres (2,100 acres of which is owned outright and 1,489 acres under easement).

Platte Rogers Memorial Park: The westernmost corner of Platte Rogers Memorial Park (Platte Rogers) extends into the Nederland area one mile east of Barker Reservoir. Boulder County purchased Plat

Rogers in October 1994. Primary reasons for the acquisition of Platte Rogers were preservation of approximately three miles of Middle Boulder Creek riparian corridor; preservation of the viewshed along this segment of SH 119; preservation of the value of the property to wildlife because much of the property has been relatively inaccessible to people; and the inexpensive purchase price of less than \$1,000/acre (BCPOS 2000a).

Platte Rogers continues to be managed in accordance with adopted County goals and policies outlined in the *Boulder County Master Plan*. Additional management directives for the property outlined by Boulder County Parks and Open Space in the *Platte Rogers Memorial Park, Reynolds Ranch, and Rogers Property Management Plan* (2000) were established to:

- Protect scenic quality
- Preserve ecosystem functions
- Protect significant plant and animal communities
- Preserve the cultural, historical, geological, and archaeological integrity of the area
- Encourage and plan for naturally occurring processes
- Maintain and encourage desirable native species
- Protect wildlife habitat
- Provide passive outdoor recreational opportunities which do not adversely impact sensitive resources
- Provide opportunities for continued research, and environmental and cultural interpretation
- Provide a "good neighbor" policy to adjacent landowners

In addition, the *Platte Rogers Memorial Park, Reynolds Ranch, and Rogers Property Management Plan* envisions a major conservation area retained for the benefit of plants and animals in the area. This area covers rugged terrain and secluded natural features that make it important habitat for large mammals such as black bears and mountain lions. (It should be noted that Boulder County was in the process of updating the management plans for these properties in 2012.)

Rogers Property: The 88-acre Rogers Property was acquired in November 1997 by Boulder County to protect the scenic corridor in Boulder Canyon and to preserve ½ mile of high quality riparian habitat along Middle Boulder Creek. Management directives guiding land use management and planning are the same as those outlined for the Platte Rogers Memorial Park.

Reynolds Ranch: Boulder County began acquiring the 850-acre Reynolds Ranch in April 1995 and completed the acquisition in 1999. The property was purchased by Boulder County to preserve an important movement corridor and habitat for wildlife, to protect important wetlands, and to preserve the viewshed along Magnolia Road. In addition, Boulder County Open Space identified a high priority conservation area on the property that covers important wildlife movement corridors and is critical range for elk. Currently, the Reynolds family is leasing back approximately 370 acres of the ranch (called Reynolds Homestead) for grazing cattle and use of the residence for 20 years until 2015. Management directives guiding land use management and planning are the same as those outlined for the Platte Rogers Memorial Park.

Arapaho Ranch: The Arapaho Ranch near Nederland was preserved as a wildlife refuge through the grant of two conservation easements in 1987 and a third in 1991. The 690-acre ranch encompasses the

main portion of the valley floor between the towns of Nederland and Eldora and is home to over 200 varieties of plants and wildflowers and over 140 species of birds. Through the conservation easement, future development of the site has been restricted to a small number of sites.

Other: The single largest contributor to open space in the Nederland Area is the U.S. Forest Service. Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest lands are located throughout the Nederland area and provide a host of open space amenities. (*Note: these are two distinct National Forests within a single management district.*) In addition, Indian Peaks Wilderness, which includes about 71,391 acres, crosses much of the western portion of the Nederland area. Although the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area is one of the most heavily used wilderness areas in the United States, there are numerous opportunities to explore its many hiking trails and recreational opportunities.

B. Inventory Analysis

As part of the 2012 Master Plan update, a detailed inventory and analysis of lands and facilities in the Nederland area was conducted. The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate how facilities and parks in Nederland are provided for the community.

Background

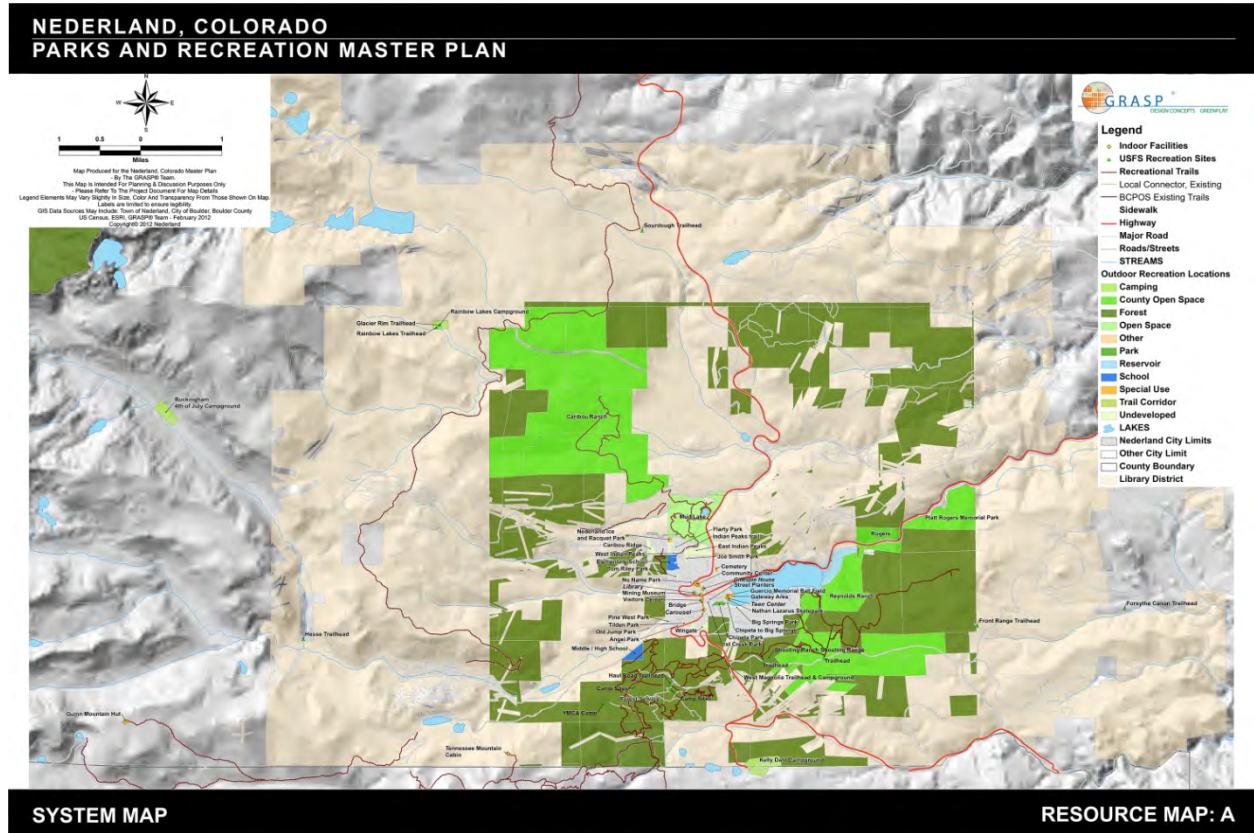
The process used for this analysis included the assembly of a detailed inventory of the public and semi-public physical assets found within a defined study boundary and available for use by the community of Nederland. The study area boundary used was the boundary of the Nederland Library District.

Creating the Assets Inventory

The inventory of assets was created to serve the Town in a number of ways. In addition to this plan, it can be used for a wide variety of planning and operations tasks, such as asset management and future strategic and master plans. The assets inventory currently includes a variety of assets from multiple providers including public parks, recreation, and trails assets managed by the Town of Nederland, Boulder County, the City of Boulder, Boulder Valley School District, nonprofit organizations, and the U.S. Forest Service. The dataset is expandable, so other types may be inventoried and added to the digital dataset at a later time, if desired.

The following maps show the study area and key locations of properties. **NOTE: The maps are shown here for the purposes of helping the reader know which map is being discussed, and are not intended to be legible at this scale.** The larger maps found in **Appendix G** should be referred to for clarity.

The first map, **Resource Map A: System Map** shows the general area of the study. The boundary used for the study area is the library district boundary, which encompasses 46,142 acres, or just over 72 square miles. General recreational activities associated with parcels are identified along with trails and other features.



The second map, **Resource Map B: System Map Enlargement** is an enlargement of a portion of Map A and shows more detail for the area closer to the Town of Nederland. See **Appendix G** for larger versions of all maps.

Assets

The current inventory of parks, recreation, and open space lands and facilities includes the following main parcels and features in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Nederland Area Inventory Parcel Summary

Type	Name/Identification	Ownership/Management
Park	Chipeta Park	Nederland
Special Use	Street Planters	Nederland
	Guinn Mountain Hut	United States Forest Service
	Tennessee Mountain Cabin	United States Forest Service
	Mining Museum	Nederland/Boulder County
	Visitors Center	Nederland
	Community Center	Nederland
	Cemetery	Nederland
	Nederland Ice and Racquet Park	Nederland
	Guercio Memorial Ball Field	Nederland
	Nathan Lazarus Skatepark	Nederland
	Covered Bridge	Nederland
Trail Corridor	Indian Peaks trail	Nederland
School	Elementary School	Boulder Valley School District
	Middle High School	Boulder Valley School District
Camping	Rainbow Lakes Campground	United States Forest Service
	Buckingham 4 th of July Campground	United States Forest Service
	Kelly Dahl Campground	United States Forest Service
Reservoir	Barker Meadow Reservoir	City of Boulder
Open Space	Caribou Ranch	Boulder County
	Platt Rogers Memorial Park	Boulder County
	Reynolds Ranch	Boulder County
	Rogers Park	Boulder County
	Mud Lake	Nederland/Boulder County
Forest	National Forest	United States Forest Service
Other	Gateway Park Area	Nederland
Undeveloped	Big Springs Park	Nederland
	Caribou Ridge	Nederland
	Joe Smith Park	Nederland
	Tom Riley Park	Nederland
	Angel Park	Nederland
	Pine West	Nederland
	Tilden Park	Nederland
	Flarty Park	Nederland
	West Indian Peaks	Nederland
	East Indian Peaks	Nederland
	No Name Park	Nederland
	Wingate	Nederland

Existing Infrastructure of Assets

In planning for the delivery of parks and recreation services, it is useful to think of parks, trails, natural areas, indoor facilities, and other public spaces as parts of an infrastructure. This infrastructure allows people to exercise, socialize, and maintain their physical, mental, and social health. The infrastructure is made up of *components* that support this purpose. Components include such amenities as playgrounds, picnic shelters, courts, fields, indoor facilities, and other elements that allow the system to meet its intended purpose. For a more detailed discussion on this see the section on the **Composite-Values Methodology (CVM)** process which is included in **Appendix E**. The level of service analysis of Nederland-area parks, recreation, open space, and trails assets is found in **Appendix F**.

In preparing the inventory of assets, the following information was collected:

- Component type and location
- Evaluation of a component's functionality for its intended purpose
- Evaluation of comfort and convenience features that affect the experience of using the component
- Evaluation of the design and ambience of the component and its surroundings
- General comments about the component
- Photos of the component in some instances

The inventory team used the following three-tier rating system to evaluate and score each component on such things as the condition of the component, its size or capacity relative to the need at that location, and its overall quality:

Below Expectations = (1)

Meets Expectations = (2)

Exceeds Expectations = (3)

The setting for a component and the conditions around it affect how well it functions, so in addition to scoring the components, the parcel or immediate surroundings of the each component was given a set of scores to rate its comfort, convenience, and ambient qualities. This includes traits such as the availability of restrooms, drinking water, shade, scenery, etc.

Table 3 shows a summary of components by provider/owner.

Table 3: Nederland Area Inventory Components Summary

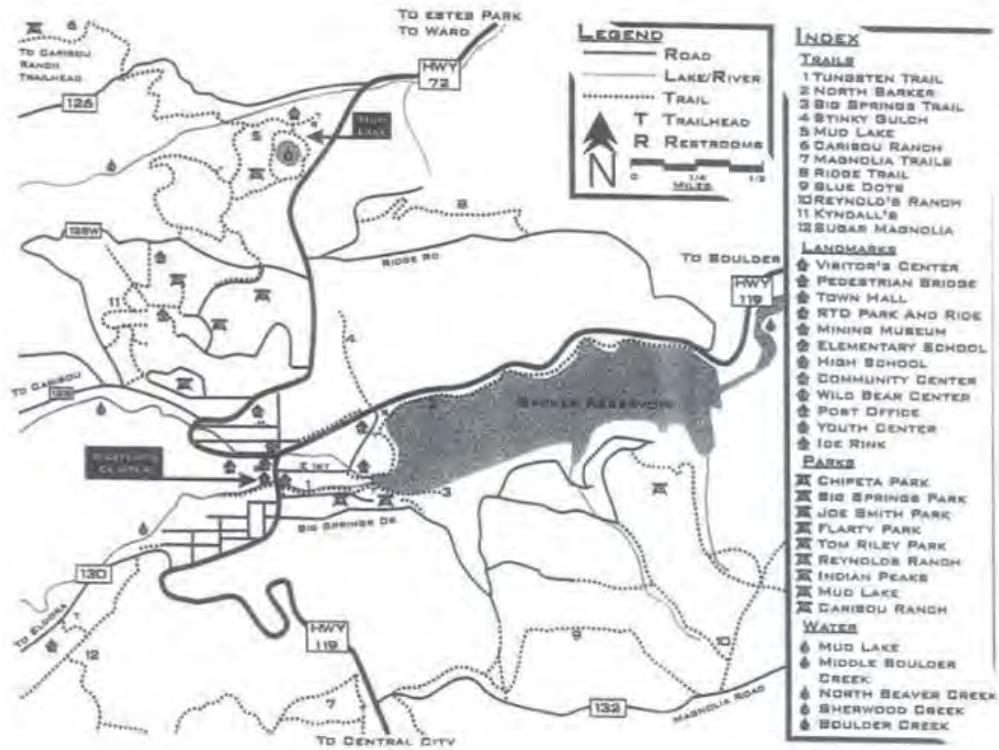
OWNER	Backstop, Practice	Ballfield	Basketball	Educational Experience	Garden, Display	Hockey, Ice	MP Field, Large	Multiuse Court	Natural Area	Open Turf	Open Water	Other-Active	Other-Passive	Passive Node	Picnic Grounds	Playground, Local	Shelter, Group	Skate Park	Tennis	Track, Competition	Trail, Multi-use	Trailhead	Water Access, Developed	Water Access, General
Nederland	1	1	3	3	1			11	1	3	1		2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1		
Boulder County/ Nederland				1					1		1									1	1	1		
Boulder County					3				4		1			1							1	1		
City of Boulder																							2	
Boulder Valley School District	1	1					3	1							2					1				
United States Forest Service									4		5	1	3	1	3	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	2	
Totals:	1	2	1	7	3	1	3	1	20	1	5	1	3	3	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	3

The Nederland-area level of service analysis based on the inventory is found in *Appendix F*.

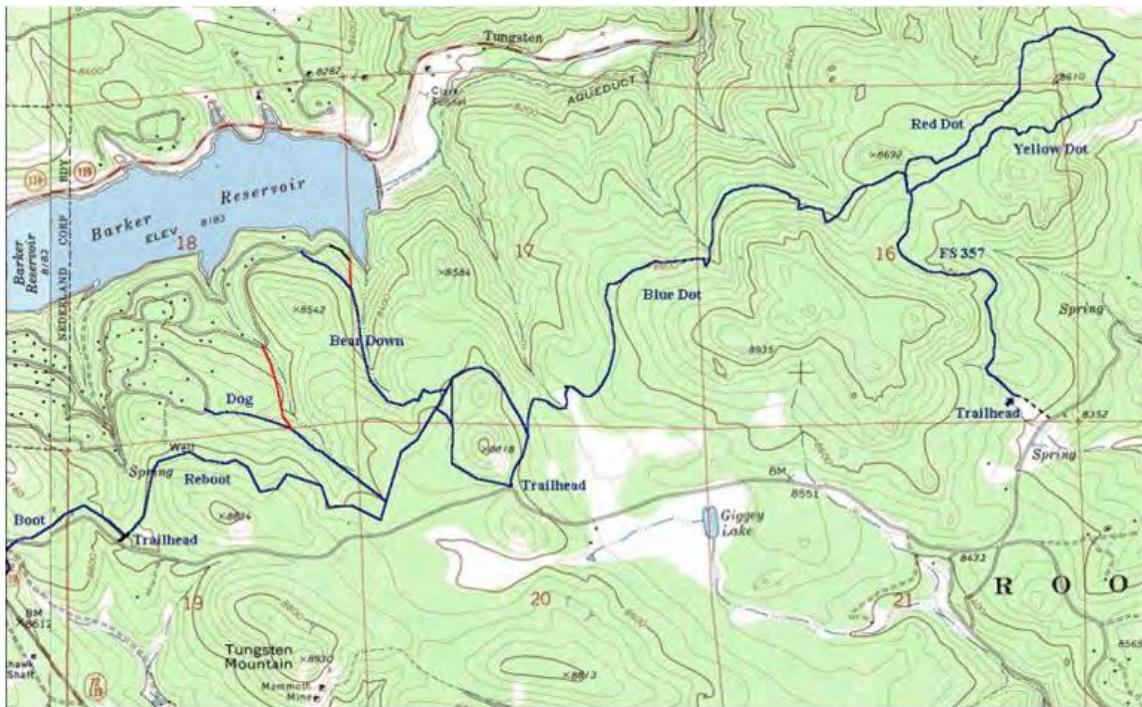
C. Trails

Trails mapping available to the public and for use in this study is incomplete and limited. Trails are located on lands owned by a variety of agencies, and there is no accurate and detailed mapping that shows all trails on all lands in the County's GIS at this time. The 2005 *Town of Nederland Trails Master Plan* provides a map of trails found at that time. The map below is one of the best available current sources of trail information in and around Nederland. While this map is useful for general purposes, it is not prepared to the standards needed for GIS –based analysis and display.

The map does give the sense that there is a network of trails to be found within the study area and that if uniformly mapped, signed, and connected, could become part of an overall network of trails that would serve the community.



Other maps exist that, if verified and brought into the GIS, could be used to generate an overall map of the trail system. Below is an example of such maps:



*Note: Map obtained from the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance.
http://bouldermountainbike.org/sites/default/files/Dots_1.JPG*

It is a recommendation of this Plan that a more thorough mapping of trails be completed and entered into the GIS for use in informing the public and planning for a better system of trails. See **Chapter 7** for recommendations.

D. Summary

The inventory and analysis of assets is intended to provide a clear picture of what currently exists in the Nederland area.

What it is not intended to provide is discrete measurements of what *does not* exist; i.e., it is not a measurement of needs. Needs are measured by other tools in the planning process, including the public survey, focus groups, and public meetings. However, it is useful to mention here some items that have surfaced from the public process and which are not found in the inventory for Nederland at this time.



Off-leash dogs are an issue in Nederland that has come up in the planning process. The inventory does not include areas specifically designated for dogs and their owners. However, dogs are allowed on leash on some of the lands included in the inventory. Management issues regarding dogs include public education regarding health and safety issues and enforcement of the Nederland leash law. There has also been interest in designating an off-leash dog area.

Boating is an activity that is also not specifically accommodated in the inventory of components. Small craft, non-motorized boating on Barker Reservoir is an issue that has been under discussion but not allowed at the time the inventory was conducted.

Swimming is an activity that has also been discussed in the public process. At this time, there are no designated facilities for swimming in the inventory. Similarly, various types of water play have been mentioned, but no specific facilities for this are found in the inventory.

Bicycling has been discussed in terms of providing safe places for children to learn to ride and improve their skills. Trails exist throughout the study area and have been discussed above, but these may not suit the needs and desires of all residents. A bike skills course has been mentioned in the public process, and at the current time there is not one in the inventory.

Walkability is a concern that has been mentioned by the public, especially for the main part of town. This includes connecting the lands and facilities in the inventory to the businesses and residences found there. Commercial areas and specific destinations such as restaurants and coffee shops might be considered part of the “recreation” infrastructure of Nederland by some people, but were not included in the inventory. However, connections to these and improving the overall walkability of the community are goals supported by this Master Plan. The community should be looked at holistically and not just as a collection of parks, trails, natural areas, and other recreational features.

Chapter 5. Gateway Park Area Planning

One of the components of the **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan** includes a study of opportunities for enhancements to the gateway park area. This chapter includes a review of existing conditions and site analysis, a summary of the public input process to site planning, and recommendations for improvements in the proposed *Nederland Gateway Park Area Master Plan*.

A. Overview

Nederland is a community blessed with an abundance of recreational opportunities. It draws recreationists from all over the world to enjoy its natural wonders. Its residents live active lifestyles and make good use of every opportunity to engage in healthy activities. The vision for the gateway park area builds on the recreational opportunities of Nederland residents and guests by capitalizing on one of Nederland's most unique features—its waterfront. Of the many small communities found throughout the region, Nederland is truly unique to have a water body such as Barker Meadow Reservoir at its front door. This site has the potential to become a landmark, a feature emblematic of all the Town of Nederland has to offer.

The mission for the *Gateway Park Area Master Plan* is to integrate immediate recreational opportunities with the downtown core of Nederland to provide a holistic experience of cultural and recreational offerings to locals and visitors, and to do so in a an environmentally conscious and sustainable manner.

The *Gateway Park Area Master Plan* envisions a recreation area well-suited to the interests, priorities, and needs of the Town of Nederland. It builds on the significance of the gateway area as the “front yard” of this unique mountain community. It acknowledges the Town’s stated commitment to a “thoughtful, meaningful relationship between recreation, culture, and economy,” is consistent with the community’s environmental consciousness and commitment to sustainability, and is intended to serve those who make Nederland their home as well as welcome visitors from near and far.

B. Existing Conditions/Site Analysis

The Nederland gateway park area refers to the eastern edge of the Town of Nederland, Colorado where the community meets the western shoreline of Barker Reservoir. This area is well-used by residents and is highly visible to those arriving or passing through town from the Front Range. It is effectively the front yard of the community, a site where a well considered plan is critical to Nederland’s cultural and economic future.

The gateway park area may be defined as the expanse from the shoreline of Barker Meadow Reservoir west to East Street, bounded on the north by Highway 119 and by Middle Boulder Creek to the south. For the purpose of this master plan, East 1st Street, Middle Boulder Creek, and Chipeta Park have been included to ensure these areas function as a singular recreation area well integrated with Nederland’s downtown core.

This area has been the topic of study and planning in the past. It received mention in the *Town of Nederland and Surrounding Areas Trails, Parks, and Open Space Master Plan* in 2001 which listed the creation of a gateway park on the site as a stated goal. A conceptual design was completed in 2002 by the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service with the aid of a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. In 2009 the site was the focus of a University of Colorado environmental design studio and was the subject of a community survey that same year coordinated by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB) intended to guide future development. Any of these materials deemed relevant were consulted in the drafting of the *Gateway Park Area Master Plan*.

Existing site amenities include shoreline access for fishing or passive recreation, picnic tables, a baseball diamond, a teen center, a skate park, and portable restrooms all found along the shore of the reservoir. Chipeta Park currently offers open turf, a kids' fishing pond, a basketball court, a pavilion with restrooms, and a newly upgraded children's playground. A trail runs along the edge of the reservoir and connects to downtown Nederland along the south side of Middle Boulder Creek.

Figure 4: Gateway Park Area Site Analysis



Opportunities

- Breathtaking mountain and lake views
- Proximity to cultural opportunities and business offerings in downtown Nederland
- Proximity to adjacent residential neighborhoods
- Creek access
- Existing events and programming on-site

Constraints

- The Town wastewater treatment facility on-site
- A propane vendor operating on-site
- Drainage through the site from adjacent areas, including effluent seeps carried down Stinky Gulch from retired mining operations
- Sensitivity of nearby residents to noise produced on-site
- A shallow shoreline slope which creates a barren and mostly unusable “moonscape” during periods of low water
- High vehicular traffic volumes and speeds along East 1st Street relative to other local streets



C. Planning Process

The planning process for the *Nederland Gateway Park Area Master Plan* has consisted of:

1. Site analysis of the gateway park area and downtown Nederland
2. A statistically-valid survey conducted as part of the planning process for the **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan** for the Nederland area
3. Steering Committee review and guidance
4. Public review and input at three public meetings
5. Opportunity for online comment from community members

Each step of the way has yielded valuable input from the gamut of stakeholders toward a master plan vision for the area that will make it centerpiece of Nederland's future. These include neighbors, business owners, recreationists, and environmentalists as well as design and planning professionals. All such input has been subject to full review by the planning team and those ideas most strongly supported by the community have been carried forward. Input from focus groups, the statistically-valid survey, and public workshops yielded programming for trails, shelters, picnic areas, an outdoor gathering space, a multi-use field, a sculpture park, a bouldering feature, a mountain bike track, a community greenhouse and garden, fishing, boating, and restrooms. All of these components can be found in the final *Nederland Gateway Park Area Master Plan* along with other concepts which have been supported throughout this process.

D. Gateway Park Area Master Plan

The *Nederland Gateway Park Area Master Plan* is structured to prioritize those concepts that have been best supported throughout the public process. Additional concepts are included as optional. The plan suggests three types of improvements:

- 1) Priority Improvements
- 2) Short Term Optional Improvements
- 3) Long Term Optional Improvements

Priority Improvements are those that gathered the most support from community respondents and are clearly suitable uses for this site. Short Term Optional Improvements received some public support during the planning process but could benefit from further study. Long term optional improvements are those that have some support but will require substantial coordination and planning efforts to be realized. All priority and optional improvements are described in the following sections.

Priority Improvements

These improvements of the Gateway Park Area Master Plan are well-supported by the community.

- Circulation is enhanced substantially. Existing trails are improved by widening and surfacing with crushed granite. New trails are added. A new pedestrian bridge (built to accommodate emergency vehicular access, if deemed feasible) is built on Town property spanning Middle Boulder Creek to improve connectivity between the park area and downtown. Streetside pedestrian circulation and stormwater management are also improved in conjunction with the Nederland Downtown Development Authority NedPeds project to enhance existing pedestrian infrastructure. Wayfinding signage strengthens the link between the gateway park area and Nederland's business core.

- Natural areas and water access abound. Bioswale filtration areas are established to protect water quality. Improvements to the North Beaver Creek drainage (east of East Street) create habitat, provide educational opportunities, and allow for safe creek access. These include riparian plantings and creek diversion to slow water flow. Access to Middle Boulder Creek is enhanced by soft surface trails, benches, and creekside boulders. Natural plantings are added to areas along the lakeshore. Boating access is introduced to Barker Reservoir with a boat inspection station, pull-in boat launch, camp host site, and informational kiosk. Existing fishing access is maintained.
- A constructed hill slope serves as a community gathering space. The “Big Hill” is built as a grassy hillock of rounded boulders evocative of a moraine landscape for young and old to engage with and enjoy. It includes a staging area and small pavilion oriented to the northeast to best mitigate noise concerns of nearby residents in the event of small concerts or public engagements. If necessary, a small bandshell is engineered for additional noise mitigation.
- The existing ballfield is converted to a multi-use field, the “Great Lawn,” which includes improvements to turf, stormwater drainage, access, and equipment. Irrigation is added.
- A core area with amenities such as seating, tables, trees, and a shelter completes the park center and serves both the Big Hill and Great Lawn.
- Other site amenities include off-street parking, picnic areas, shelters, restrooms, canopy trees, additional landscaping, and interpretive signage. Trees and landscaping create habitat, improve water quality, provide a buffer from the elements (wind, rain, sun), and create discrete spaces for users seeking seclusion. Interpretive signage provides insight into local history, geology, and ecology and is fully integrated with wayfinding signage.

Short-Term Optional Improvements

These improvements are additional options for the Gateway Park Area Master Plan which have some community support and could fit well within the plan but could benefit from further consideration.

- A sculpture park is installed on the current fishermen’s parking site as an entry space to the park area from downtown via East 1st Street and from Chipeta Park across the new pedestrian bridge. This includes permanent commissioned sculptural installations and temporary exhibit pieces as well as an interactive area with natural materials (stones, log stumps, branches, etc.) for artistic engagement and play. Some sculptural pieces are interactive as well, intended to be sprayed with water to ice over in the winter or filled with annual plantings in the summer. Additionally, a few public art pieces are interspersed along trails elsewhere in the park area.
- Traffic calming features along East 1st Street encourage pedestrian use by defining a walking route through use of barriers, materials, texture, color, signage, or other effective devices to put drivers on the alert and encourage slower speeds. Street art is painted on the roadway to mark critical intersections and further promote awareness of pedestrians in the area.
- A small mountain bike pump track is added directly west of the multi-use field along East Street.

- The baseball backstop is replaced and re-oriented to face northeast to help prevent sun glare and to allow for better organization as a multi-use field.
- Several new activities are added to Chipeta Park. A bouldering feature, slackline anchors, and horseshoe pits are added as well as seasonal activities such as volleyball and sledding. The existing basketball pad is re-purposed as a multi-use court which retains basketball but allows for additional types of play such as four-square, shuffleboard, hopscotch, volleyball, badminton, and/or other uses. A nine-hole disc golf course runs from Chipeta Park throughout the entire gateway park area with optional holes in the lake bed to be used at low water.
- Should the Big Hill gathering space concept not gain sufficient public support for future development, Alternative Optional Improvements include:
 - A community greenhouse (with a heat sink for year-round use) and seasonal community garden plots added east of the existing propane yard.
 - A dog park created in the location of the former settling pond north of the wastewater treatment facility. This location is intended to be temporary until a more suitable site can be selected. Fencing installed is built to be relocated.
 - Natural plantings added and the area re-graded as a gentle slope to the shoreline. Canopy trees are planted as appropriate.

Long Term Optional Improvements

These improvements are options for the Gateway Park Area Master Plan which have some support within the community but will require more extensive coordination and significant planning to be realized.

- Earthwork is conducted and an intermittent shore wall is constructed to extend the shore of the reservoir and preserve additional land for active and passive uses. Gaps between wall sections allow for high water to inundate specific areas in a controlled manner. Natural plantings are added in these areas to create wetlands and wildlife habitat. These lakeshore wetland areas also serve to visually enhance the shoreline, add depth, and create the sense of isolation many people seek in a natural area.

This option has not been fully vetted by the City of Boulder. As these improvements will involve City of Boulder land and will affect Barker Meadow Reservoir, coordination with Boulder utility officials is a critical first step should this option be pursued. Consultation with additional agencies will be necessary at the federal, state, and county level and will likely involve permitting and regulatory oversight. *Additional information is available from the City of Boulder Water Quality Coordinator.*



1 SOFT SURFACE TRAILS,
BENCHES, AND CREEKSIDE
ACCESS



2 BIOSWALE FILTRATION AREAS
WITH IMPROVED ACCESS



3 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
(WITH EMERGENCY
VEHICULAR ACCESS)



4 NON-MOTORIZED
BOATING ACCESS



5 PICNIC AREAS



13 IMPROVEMENTS TO
THE "GREAT LAWN"
MULTI-USE FIELD



12 RESTROOMS



11 INTERACTIVE SCULPTURE
PARK



10 STREET ART AND OTHER
TRAFFIC CALMING FEATURES



9 CANOPY TREES



8 THE "BIG HILL" MORaine



7 SMALL PAVILION OR
EVENT PAD



6 INTERMITTENT SHORE
WALL

LEGEND:

PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT (BLACK)

OPTIONAL IMPROVEMENT (YELLOW)

5 = IMAGE KEY

NOTES:

The SHORE WALL option has not been fully vetted by the City of Boulder. As these improvements will involve city of Boulder land and will affect Barker Meadow Reservoir, coordination with Boulder utility officials is a critical first step should this option be pursued. Consultation with additional agencies will be necessary at the federal, state, and county level and will likely involve permitting and regulatory oversight.

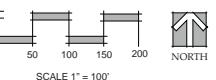
Nederland Gateway Park Area Master Plan

Nederland, CO • November 12, 2012



GREENPLAY Inc.
The Leading Edge in Parks, Recreation
And Open Space Consulting

DESIGN CONCEPTS
Landscape and Environmental Architecture



E. Additional Notes

This section provides further explanation in regard to design, installation, and operation of the gateway park area as outlined in this master plan.

A Note About Landscaping

The existing gateway park area site is a highly exposed and relatively barren place. Site landscaping is intended to create a more inviting space for both wildlife and people. Plantings will provide habitat, improve water quality, and enhance the user experience. Yet growing conditions in Nederland are difficult. The harsh climate, high-altitude, rocky soils, and high winds present certain challenges. These factors will necessitate thoughtful plant selection and considered placement for greatest success. Xeric and native plant species should be used whenever possible. Exceptions will include wetland plantings along the reservoir edge and riparian plantings along creek drainages. Non-native adapted species may be acceptable in ornamental planting beds or landscape areas. Irrigation will be necessary on a temporary basis for all new plant materials as specimens become established.

Canopy trees and turf grass will require particular attention to ensure success. As part of the planning process, Colorado State University Extension was consulted in regard to plant viability. Colorado State University Extension is a network of academics and professionals dedicated to providing credible, research-based knowledge to the public. These experts have offered assurance that canopy trees and turf grass can be viable under the gateway park area site conditions given appropriate species selection and proper care. A brief summary of this discussion follows below. It should be noted that a full planting plan will be needed to better understand all plant selections and planting locations based on microclimates, soils, water availability, and other factors.

Canopy trees are included as site amenities in the *Gateway Park Area Master Plan*. Though these trees will function as habitat and protection from the elements, they are largely intended to create spaces for people to enjoy. The “canopy” refers to the expanse of branches and leaves overhead which help create shade and seclusion beneath. As more traditional canopy tree species are unlikely to grow in such challenging site conditions, some consideration must be given to these limitations. Some locations could be well enhanced by a species with less of a canopy and more of an upright form, such as the Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) which is ubiquitous and well-established in the Nederland area.

For those locations where canopy trees are preferred a few other species of the poplar family have proven very adaptable to similar growing conditions including the Lanceleaf Cottonwood (*Populus x acuminata*), Narrowleaf Cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), and Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*). Other options include Bur Oak (*Quercus Macrocarpa*) and Thinleaf Alder (*Alnus incana*). Though these trees do not exhibit as broad a canopy as some lower elevation species, they are fast growers which should be successful once established. These species were suggested as appropriate selections by the CSU Extension due to their natural elevation range and suitability to local soils. It should be noted that water availability will be critical in establishing any species of tree on site. Irrigation will be necessary for the initial 2-5 years as the roots take hold. Transplanted specimens from a similar mountain environment will have a greater chance of success. Smaller, younger trees (less than 1 ½" caliper or 6' height) will also be easier to establish.

For newly planted trees, trunks should be wrapped to protect from sunscald and freezing in the winter, and measures should be taken to prevent damage from wildlife such as deer, elk, or moles. Clustering with denser trees and shrubs of smaller stature on the windward side should help protect canopy tree specimens and ensure viability. *Additional information is available from Colorado State University Extension forest stewardship experts.*

Efforts to sustain turf grass in the Nederland area have failed in the past. As green, grassy turf is desired in some locations in the *Gateway Park Area Master Plan* the challenges of high-altitude turf growing will need to be addressed as well. An appropriate seed mix will need to be selected, irrigation will be critical to establishing any turf on site and proper on-going maintenance will be required. Several species of fescue grass are well adapted to the poor soils and cold winters typical of the Nederland area. A turf specialist should be consulted to determine the ideal seed mix specific to the gateway site. Limitations to high elevation turf may include moderate tolerance to wear, slow recuperation, thatchy appearance, difficulty of mowing, and greater potential for dormancy. *Additional information is available from Colorado State University Extension turfgrass specialists.*

As an alternative to turfgrass, synthetic turf may be a worthwhile consideration, though not without its own limitations. Advantages of synthetic turf surfacing include reliability, durability, and lower maintenance costs. Several disadvantages exist as well, aside from substantial upfront costs. It can become very hot in the sun (+10-20 degrees relative to surroundings), should not be used for vehicular traffic (e.g. Miner's Days), is not ideal on a slope, and can be difficult to clean (e.g. chewing gum, cigarette butts, spilled drinks, etc.). Also, the artificial appearance may not suit the sensibilities of the Nederland community (e.g., green "grass" in the winter).

The primary locations for turf installation are the Great Lawn and the Big Hill. As these are adjacent and are intended to function as a unified space, any chosen turf treatment (synthetic or live turfgrass) for these areas will be the same ideally.

A Note About Irrigation

Irrigation will be needed to establish any landscape plantings added to the gateway park area site. For most trees, shrubs, and bunch grasses, irrigation can be planned on a temporary basis. Most of these plants will be well established after five years or less, at which point irrigation may be eliminated or used only to reduce stress on the plantings in drought conditions. Turfgrass will require permanent irrigation as part of a regular maintenance regime.

To reduce costs and promote sustainability efforts should be made to utilize reclaimed water for irrigation, if at all possible, from the Town of Nederland wastewater treatment plant on site. This would provide a reliable and cost effective water source for all landscape irrigation and could provide an educational component while putting an existing byproduct to use.

A Note About Special Events

The gateway park area site is currently used for several special events every year. These have a significant economic impact on the Town and are cultural assets important to the Nederland identity. Festivals, concerts, and other large scale gatherings must be recognized by any future development on-site. Though the *Gateway Park Area Master Plan* is intended to be compatible with existing special event uses, conflict may emerge as a result of planning decisions. Such conflict will require some accommodation to maintain existing on-site special event uses. The following example illustrates such accommodation:

To prevent damage to new turf installed on the Great Lawn heavy equipment use is prohibited during Miners' Days. Heavy equipment demonstrations are relocated to the expanded north parking area. This limits on-site parking availability. A parking contingency plan, such as shuttling from remote parking areas, is required.

This shuffling of resources may be necessary for other special events as well. Creative planning and anticipation of such conflicts before they emerge will be critical to ensure the success of large scale events held on-site in the future.

A Note About Parking

Parking has been carefully considered in the *Gateway Park Area Master Plan*. A significant amount of parking is planned, including an expanded lot on the north end of the site and two off-street pull in parking areas along East Street. Nonetheless the plan will likely have the effect of decreasing total parking availability on-site as some existing parking areas are intended for other purposes. Despite the occasional need for extensive vehicular accommodation during special events there should be no lack of parking on a typical day-to-day basis. Coordination may be necessary to prevent use of the Teen Center parking lot by gateway park area users, unless an arrangement allows for this alternative.

Large scale events (e.g. Frozen Dead Guy Days, Ned Fest, Miners' Days) may require additional parking options. Alternative parking scenarios for such events are currently being considered by Town of Nederland officials. Recommended options include a shuttle from remote parking areas and on-site paid parking. Such options should be viable and may be desirable as they encourage sustainable practices such as carpooling and alternative transit usage. Taken together these alternatives can be at a minimum cost neutral, as revenue generated by paying parking users can defray the cost of shuttle service. Other options may exist and should be considered. These could include partnering with RTD for special events, arranging use of private land for overflow paid parking, and encouraging visitors to park at the community center and stroll to the gateway area via downtown.

A Note About Emergency Access

Emergency access is an important consideration in a mountain community such as Nederland. The new pedestrian bridge proposed to span Middle Boulder Creek between Chipeta Park and the existing fisherman's parking area could serve this purpose. Ideally this bridge would be built to accommodate vehicular use as an added creek crossing in the event of an emergency. However, such an undertaking will involve substantial cost (approximately \$200/sq foot), challenging logistics (auto access to/from the bridge), and will require other infrastructural considerations (stability of upstream bridges in a flash flood event). Further discussion of this topic will be needed to determine planning priorities.

A Note About Maintenance

For the gateway park area to best serve its users, appropriate funding must be allocated for maintenance of all new improvements and existing facilities. For such a diverse park area there will be some locations and amenities that will require a higher level of maintenance than others. For example, the multi-use field will require a higher intensity of maintenance with greater frequency than natural areas.

However, based on the high visibility and high community importance afforded the gateway park area it seems appropriate to estimate maintenance costs based on a higher overall intensity of use. This level of service will include mowing and grooming of turf areas, annual fertilizations, weed control, pest control, aeration and top dressing, weeding of ornamental planting beds, and efforts to keep native plantings free of invasive species. Trees will be pruned annually. Site furnishings, plazas, and signage will be in excellent working and aesthetic condition. The property will have waste bins emptied regularly and restrooms cleaned at least once daily regardless of visitation rates. Snow removal for sidewalks, trails, and parking lots with any accumulation will be a priority.

The cost for this level of maintenance is approximately \$3,000/acre annually. The gateway park area site itself is estimated at approximately 15 acres. Costs for site maintenance should therefore approximate \$45,000/year.

Funding Sources

The following funding sources may or may not be applicable to the gateway park area development. This list includes many popular and proven funding sources which may be considered to help fund the gateway park area project as envisioned.

City and Local Revenue Sources:

- Earmarked Sales and Use Tax
- User Fees and Charges
- District Revenues
 - E.g. Business Improvement District
- Local Downtown Development Association
 - E.g. Nederland Downtown Development Authority
- Charitable Foundations
- Charitable Donors
- Volunteer Involvement
 - In-kind support to help reduce city expenditures on maintenance
 - Park stewardship programs
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

State Revenue Sources:

- Conservation Trust Fund
- Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
 - Includes a variety of grant options awarded to local governments for parks, outdoor recreation, and environmental education facilities
 - GOCO Local Government Park and Outdoor Recreation Grant
 - GOCO Open Space Grant

- GOCO Planning Grant
- GOCO Trails Grant
- GOCO Conservations Grant
- Colorado State Trails Grant Program
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs Grants
- Fishing Is Fun In Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Grant

Federal Revenue Sources:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund from Colorado Lottery proceeds
- North American Wetlands Conservation Small Grants Program
- Recreation Trails Program

Other:

- Colorado Health Foundation Healthy Places Initiative
- Xcel Energy Solar Rewards Program
- American Academy of Dermatology Shade Structure Program
- Kaiser Family Foundation
- Gates Family Foundation
- Daniels Fund
- Hewlett Foundation
- El Pomar Foundation

F. Summary

The Nederland gateway park area has the potential to become a truly special place – a treasure to townsfolk and a destination to those from afar. The *Nederland Gateway Park Area Master Plan* includes many concepts well-supported by the community and intended to enhance enjoyment of the Nederland area, strengthen the local culture, promote economic growth, and encourage environmental responsibility and sustainable practices.

The plan prioritizes those concepts that have been best supported throughout the public process while including additional improvements which could benefit from further discussion. This approach allows for some flexibility to accommodate the realities of funding challenges and evolving public support. All components of the *Gateway Park Area Master Plan* are considered suitable to the character, sensibility, and charm of the Town of Nederland.

It is hoped that the gateway park area will emerge as a centerpiece of Nederland's future—a place dear to neighbors and visitors alike, a place to enjoy everything this special community has to offer in the unparalleled setting of the majestic Rocky Mountains.



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Chapter 6. How We Manage – Services and Operations

This chapter first provides an overview of the Town of Nederland and how the parks, recreation, open space, and trail system is managed. It then highlights the Nederland Community Service as a hub of recreation, cultural, and social activities. Next, the service delivery approach is reviewed, with a focus on partnerships and volunteer efforts. Finally an overview of current funding for parks, recreation, open space, and trails services is provided.

A. Town of Nederland Overview

The Town of Nederland is made up of several departments: Administration, Public Works, Police/Municipal Court, and Community Center. The Town does not have a separate parks and recreation department, but has a full-time Community Center Coordinator staff person. With only one staff person, volunteers contribute to staffing the Center. There is no other dedicated staff for parks and recreation services; however, Public Works staff contribute to park maintenance, along with volunteer support. (*Note: Fire protection and library services are operated by separate districts serving larger areas and are financially supported through property taxes collected by the respective districts.*)

The Town has several Advisory Boards and Commissions that advise the Board of Trustees on different topics. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB) was formed as a result of the previous 2001 *Town of Nederland and Surrounding Areas Open Space, Trails, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan*. PROSAB's charge is to maintain, implement, and now update that Plan and functions, to a certain extent, as the Town's parks and recreation department. Representation on PROSAB includes residents of the greater Nederland Area.

B. Nederland Community Center

Overview

The Nederland Community Center was originally a school (circa 1880). It was remodeled by a WPA project in 1936-37, creating the gymnasium and the stone wall in the community room. In the 1960s, the building was expanded, and a west wing was added. In 1997, the Town of Nederland purchased the site and re-opened the building as a community center, housing the police station, library, and a variety of local non-profits.

After a snowstorm wrecked the roof in March 2003, the center was completely renovated with “green” technology. It re-opened in 2007 and soon added a fitness facility, new seats in the theatre, daylighting in the gym and community room, and an up-to-date commercial kitchen.

The west wing, a part of the former elementary school building, was left out of the 2005-2007 Community Center renovation process, mainly for cost reasons. During renovation of the main building, the west wing was shut down, and its heat and water disconnected. Since 2007, it has been used for passive storage by several non-profits and one business.

Nederland Community Center – Mission

The Nederland Community Center is a public facility dedicated to building a stronger Nederland-area community by providing opportunities for recreation, fitness, entertainment, cultural enrichment, and community gatherings and meetings.

(Source: <http://www.nederlandcommunitycenter.org>)

The Center functions as a community hub for government, non-profit organizations, fitness enthusiasts, and a wide variety of classes and special events. Classes are offered by several different organizations and instructors including dance, tai chi, and fitness classes. It is also home to several organizations that lease space. The Community Center is also available for community meetings and rentals. The Town of Nederland uses the Center for regular town government meetings.

The “Fitness Place” offers drop-in visits, 10-visit punch cards, and annual memberships (fees vary) for use of this fitness space. The Center also has several rental spaces including the community room, conference room, theatre (265-seat), studio (with wood floor), and full-size gymnasium.

The center is open Mondays through Thursdays 8 am – 8 pm, Fridays from 8 am – 5 pm, Saturday from 10 am – 7 pm, and is closed on Sundays. As mentioned earlier, since the Community Center has only one staff person, volunteers greatly contribute to its operations. There were 746 documented volunteer hours at the Community Center in 2011. These hours were put in by 32 different volunteers.

Nederland Community Center Foundation

A volunteer board of directors oversees the Nederland Community Center Foundation whose mission is: *to advise the Nederland Board of Trustees on capital projects related to the Community Center, pursue grants and other funds for Community Center improvements and programming, and increase Community Center use and visibility, all with a focus on the long-range needs of the greater Nederland community.*

The Foundation in the annual report for 2011 highlighted efforts to expand marketing of the Community Center and build awareness and financial support through new “Friends” of the Center campaign and other efforts including community events like the “Art at the Center” exhibitions (three were held in 2011). The long-term vision of the Foundation is to renovate the west wing of the Community Center for community use.

Public Input

Survey

The Nederland Community Center had the second highest frequency of use (an average of 25 times a year) by households who completed the survey, after trails in the Town/Barker Reservoir area.

The top five programs to add, expand, or improve as indicated by the greatest proportion of survey respondents included:

- Biking/hiking/running (36%)
- Indoor swimming/aquatics (32%)
- Non-motorized boating (28%)
- Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals) (26%)
- Cultural /arts/dance/music/crafts (25%)

Indoor swimming is a desire that has a very high operational cost and is not feasible in the short-term. Depending on the willingness of residents to provide tax subsidy in the future, this may become more feasible. In the meantime, Nederland area residents make use of aquatic facilities in Gilpin County and in the City of Boulder. Fifty percent (50%) of survey respondents indicated that they use recreation facilities and centers in neighboring towns, while 21 percent stated that they use private health and fitness clubs.

Focus Groups and Public Meetings

Participants in the public input meetings see the Nederland Community Center as a strong community asset. They also expressed some wishes or desires related to the Community Center.

- Longer hours (including earlier hours and opening on Sunday)
- Expanded programs including:
 - Multi-generational and family programs
 - Fitness classes – spin, karate, etc. (including more user-friendly times)
 - Cultural arts – dance, arts
 - Events of interest to teens – music, talent night, etc.
- West wing renovation
- Addition of showers
- Improved fitness equipment
- Safe crossing to center

A Note about Aquatic/Swimming Facilities

Public input has demonstrated a desire for an indoor aquatic facility. Aquatic facilities, however, are expensive to build and operate. For example, a leisure pool of approximately 12,000 to 15,000 square feet would cost between \$6-8 million to build, depending on design details. (The cost also includes support spaces such as locker rooms, lobby, control desk, etc.) The annual operating costs for this type of facility could range between \$300,000 to \$400,000 or more annually depending on staffing costs, operating hours, and cost of utilities. (For example, Gilpin County estimates \$1 million per year to maintain their pool.) While fees and charges would offset these operating costs (typically about 50-60%), significant subsidy would be required for ongoing operations (staffing, supplies, equipment, etc.). If a lap pool was desired, expected cost recovery would be even lower at 20-30%.

Alternate ways to address the demand for aquatics could include: negotiating agreements with area pools for a community discount, supporting a reestablishment of the Gilpin Connector, exploring options to promote car-pooling among pool users, and exploring a partnership with Boulder Valley School District to build a community pool at the Nederland Middle School/High School. (These recommendations are also included in **Chapter 7**.)

C. Service Delivery Approach – Partnership and Volunteers Efforts

Due to limited Town resources, community initiatives through non-profit organizations and volunteers have driven parks and recreation facility development and services in Nederland. From popular special events, to classes and events at the Nederland Community Center, to facilities operated by non-profit organizations, a diversity of activities abound.

For example, Nederland is known for several signature special events including the Frozen Dead Guy Festival (named by *New York Times* in 2010 as one of the Top 10 Best Parties of the Winter) and NedFest. Other popular annual events include the High Peaks Art Festival, 4th of July, Miner's Day, Hotrods and Classics in the High Country, Neder-Nederland Race, and Windfest.

Partnerships

Through collaboration and partnerships, a multitude of recreational and cultural opportunities are available. Following are highlights of some of the prominent partnerships in Nederland.

Adopt-a-Park Program – This relatively recent Town program allows individuals or groups to adopt a specific park, trail, or open space area. Through adoption, volunteers agree to assist with the general care and maintenance of the area as well as report to the Town any items of concern. Volunteer tasks may include: litter control, graffiti reporting, weeding/raking playgrounds, sweeping shelters, cleaning picnic tables, restocking doggie bags, and reporting vandalism. Volunteers may also perform other improvement projects as approved. Most all Town parks and trail corridors have been adopted at the time of this Plan.

Memorial Program – In September 2012, the Town Board of Trustees adopted a memorial installation/adoption policy. This policy sets consistent standards and guidelines for the acceptance of donated memorials into the Town's parks, recreation, open space, and trails system. Memorials could range from benches and interpretive signs to public art and land for public open space.

Backdoor Theater – This non-profit organization that operates out of the Nederland Community Center offers regular weekend first-run movie showings in the 260-seat auditorium. They also offer live theater events throughout the year.

Boulder Valley School District – In 2011, a short-term Memorandum of Understanding between the Nederland Elementary School and the Nederland Community Center was reached to foster a partnership related to school- and youth-oriented programs. This agreement centered on the rent-free use of the Community Center for school-related activities such as theater nights and special events as well as youth programs. Public input for this Plan indicated interest in an expanded partnership between the Town and the School District, especially for community use of school athletic fields.

Nederland Area Seniors – The Nederland Area Seniors hold events at the Community Center including lunch programs twice a week.

NEDSK8/NedRec – NEDSK8 is a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 2005 to pursue the development of a concrete skatepark in Nederland. NEDSK8 raised the needed funds and managed all aspects of the project and turned over the completed 12,340 sq. ft. Nathan Lazarus Skatepark to the Town of Nederland in November of 2008. Now doing business as NedRec, the all-volunteer organization has helped raise funds for Chipeta Park playground equipment and this master plan update, and is partnering with the Parks, Recreation, Open Space Advisory Board in pursuing a non-motorized boating program on Barker Reservoir.

Racquets and Ice for Nederland Kids (RINK) – This non-profit organization spearheaded the development of the Nederland Ice and Racquet Park on Town property funded with a GOCO grant. Utilizing usage fees and community volunteers, RINK manages the operation of the park, provides maintenance of the facility, and transitions the park between ice and tennis configurations twice a year. The organization has had a lease agreement since 2006 with the Town for its operation.

TEENS, Inc. – This non-profit organization has had a lease with the Town of Nederland since 1997 to construct and operate a Teen Center on Town-owned land near Barker Reservoir. Teens, Inc. offers youth services in a 6,800 square foot Youth and Family Center that houses the Nederland Teen Center. This facility opened in 2000. The Center has been home to the Chinook West Alternative High School since 2002.

Volunteerism

Many of these partnerships rely on volunteer efforts. Volunteerism has many positive benefits including building a sense of community through harnessing the talents and energy of residents. However, relying on volunteers for service delivery can also present challenges such as fluctuating levels of time commitment and burn-out on the part of volunteers over time.

"Volunteer fatigue is an issue. We need resources to maintain the system."

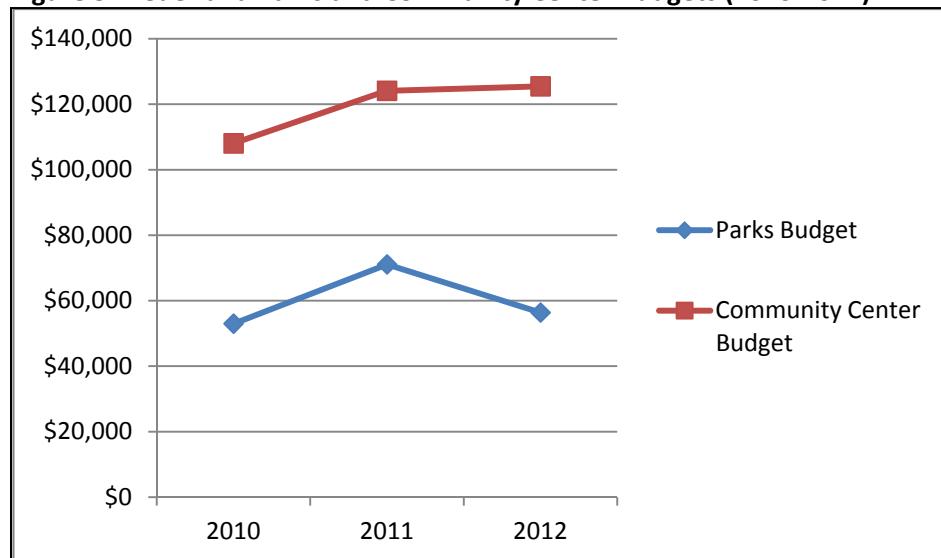
-Comment from public meeting participant, February 23, 2012

D. Funding

Operating Expenses

A parks budget allocation for maintenance is included within the Public Works budget. The Parks budget is primarily personnel (the 2011 increase was an added $\frac{1}{2}$ FTE, which was accounted for in general Public Works). The Nederland Community Center also includes a budget for operations and one staff position.

Figure 5: Nederland Parks and Community Center Budgets (2010-2012)



Note: 2010-2011 numbers are budget actuals; 2012 reflects budgeted numbers

The Community Center's non-tax revenue is primarily from the fitness center fees and rental income. The center has recovered an average of 74 percent of its expenses through generated revenues over the five years from 2008-2012.

Table 4: Nederland Community Center Expenses and Revenues (2008-2012)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Expenses	\$129,286	\$106,511	\$108,040	\$124,111	\$125,473
Revenue	\$77,127	\$88,963	\$87,162	\$91,474	\$93,098
Cost Recovery	60%	84%	81%	74%	74%

Note: 2008-2011 numbers are budget actuals; 2012 reflects budgeted numbers.

Capital Funding

The Town of Nederland has limited capital funds available for parks, recreation, open space, and trails projects. The Town is currently spending \$16,000 a year for the Wingate Open Space acquisition, which is scheduled to be paid off in October of 2020. In addition, the Town will continue payments over the next 10 years on a sales tax bond for the 2005-2007 renovation of the Nederland Community Center.

Currently, the 2013 *Draft Capital Improvement Budget* includes some site planning for the Community Center. The Town also anticipates seeking grant funding in the next several years for the gateway park area, trails improvements, and other projects.

Alternative Funding

The Town in the past has utilized a variety of private foundation and governmental grants to support many planning and capital projects, many of these through its non-profit partners. Following is a list of some of these grant sources.

- Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
- Gates Family Foundation
- Daniels Fund
- Anschutz Family Foundation
- Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
- The Denver Foundation
- El Pomar Foundation
- Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
- Tony Hawk Foundation

Financial Sustainability

The Town of Nederland serves as a regional hub for smaller mountain communities in western Boulder and Gilpin Counties, which look to the Town for basic services and entertainment. The Town has failed to meet all of its parks and recreation goals and recommendations identified in the 2001 Master Plan, primarily due to budget constraints, the large number of recommendations, limited staff, and other priorities. However, progress has been made as a result of citizen initiatives; non-profit organizations have been instrumental in the development of the ice rink/tennis court facility and a skatepark. Also, the Town has been fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers, although concern was expressed about the long-term sustainability of a service delivery model that primarily relies on volunteers and non-profit organizations to provide parks, recreation, open space, and trails services.

With no identified budgetary relief in sight and in the face of other Town budget priorities, future progress for parks and recreation will likely depend on citizen initiatives or perhaps creation of a special parks and recreation district. A special district is an attractive option, as it could allow more centralized and planned oversight of recreational projects and a reliable revenue stream.

Although an earlier attempt at creating a Nederland-area park and recreation district over 20 years ago was not successful, times have changed. During the public input process for this Plan, the need to create a dedicated and sustainable source of funding to support the parks, recreation, open space, and trails goals of the Nederland-area community was expressed by many. The first step of a renewed effort to pursue the creation of a district will be to develop a Service Plan using the outline provided by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to determine district parameters and the practicality of proceeding with an election.

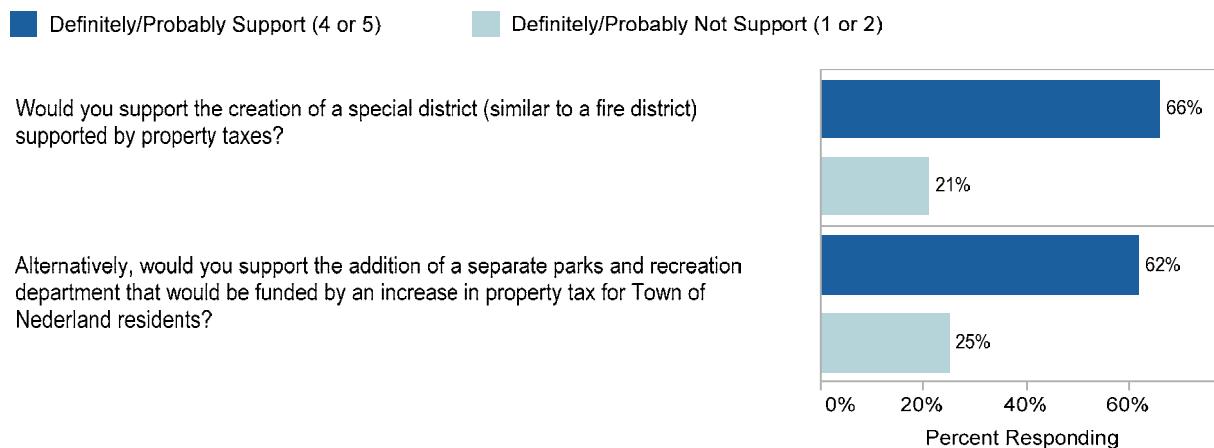
Building on priorities identified in this master planning process, this process will be critical in obtaining community support and validation for creating a special parks and recreation district.

Survey Input

Special District or Town Recreation Department? The survey conducted for the Master Plan asked respondents about two alternative approaches to paying for and managing parks and recreation services. There was majority support for both alternatives:

- **Special District Approach.** The creation of a special district (similar to a fire district) supported by property taxes received support from over 6 in 10 respondents. About 2 in 10 reported that they “definitely” or “probably” would not support the creation of a special district.
 - Comparing responses from residents in Town to those outside of Nederland, the support for a district is somewhat higher among unincorporated county residents.
- **Town Parks and Recreation Department supported by property tax of Town residents.** On the second question of financial alternatives, about 6 in 10 overall would support a parks and recreation department in the town funded by a property tax for residents.
 - Support for this approach was about equal among in-town and out-of-town respondents. It should be noted that out-of-town residents would not vote on this tax, nor would they pay it. Once again, negative sentiment was higher among Nederland residents with 3 in 10 saying they “definitely” or “probably” would not support it.

Figure 6: Survey Results – Funding Options



E. Summary

The **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan** positions the Town of Nederland to effectively and collaboratively plan for and manage the parks, recreation, open space, and trail system. The Town of Nederland, along with many dedicated volunteers and organizations with aligned missions, will continue to creatively provide quality services and manage the budget pressures to meet growing needs with limited resources. The Town will need to assess its ability to continue to maintain and grow the system with existing resources, volunteers, and partnerships. During the public input process for this Plan, many expressed a concern that this approach was not sustainable for the long-term and that additional resources are necessary to maintain and grow the parks, recreation, open space, and trail system.

Chapter 7. Recommendations and Implementation Plan

The **Nederland-Area Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) Master Plan** recommendations and implementation plan are outlined in this section. This Plan will guide Town of Nederland in planning for and managing parks and recreation services, programs, and facilities for the next 5 to 10 years. These recommendations evolved from the planning process that included extensive analysis and input from staff, community members, and Town leadership.

A. Overview

This **PROST Master Plan** provides a guiding mechanism to meet existing and future community needs. The strength of this plan stems from extensive research, community involvement, analysis of needs, and public review that forms the basis for the recommendations it contains. The Plan contains goals that:

- Focus on consistently meeting and exceeding resident expectations.
- Use innovative ideas and methods to successfully meet challenges posed by budgetary, facility, and staffing limitations.
- Provide a system that benefits residents by providing diverse recreational opportunities to all ages.
- Are guided by a stewardship approach to providing high-quality facilities, both existing and future, through judicious use of public funds.
- Foster cooperation and partnerships in providing recreational services and facilities.
- Facilitate a proactive planning process guided by community needs and executable strategies and establish a process for reviewing and updating this document regularly.

This Plan is designed to serve as a decision-making tool for the Town to help set priorities for implementation. The following implementation plan chart summarizes the plan recommendations and identifies responsibility, basis or rationale for the recommendation, and timing where appropriate. The implementation plan is subject to further study and annual review, and should be part of the budget development and work plan each year.

This Plan is intended to focus on short and medium-term priorities in the next 5 to 10 years. Long-term priorities are also identified to guide planning efforts beyond 10 years. The implementation plan is based on the following time framework for short, medium, and long-term priorities:

- Short-term: 0-5 years (2013-2017)
- Mid-Term: 5-10 years (2018-2022)
- Long-term: 10 years and beyond (2023-2032)
- Ongoing

B. Recommendations and Implementation Matrix

Goals, Objectives & Actions	Responsibility	Basis	Timing
OVERALL VISION			
GOAL 1:			
<p><i>Nederland's parks, recreational opportunities, open space, and trail system together fulfill the needs of residents of the greater Nederland area for local facilities, programs, and natural areas that support their well-being, their active lifestyles, and their needs for indoor and outdoor recreation, their cultural and educational interests, and their desire to interact with the natural environment and with each other, while supporting the sustainable environmental, social, and economic goals of the community.</i></p>			
<p>Objective 1.1. Address funding and staffing needs for Nederland parks, recreation, open space, and trails (PROST), including current inventory, maintenance schedules, and costs in order to create a more sustainable system.</p>			
<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct a feasibility study for a parks and recreation district and move forward with formation of the district if financially feasible, (and pursue alternative options, if not). 	Town of Nederland (Town); Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB)	Stakeholder and Public Input, Economic Sustainability	Short-Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Develop and implement a sustainable maintenance plan for all existing Nederland parks, recreation, open space, and trails. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify and detail all existing amenities and conditions relative to how well the amenity serves the intended purpose. ii. Identify how each amenity impacts ecosystem functionality. iii. Identify and detail actions required for improving current recreational and environmental conditions. 	Town, PROSAB	Stakeholder Input, Best Practice	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Look creatively at user fees and other potential funding mechanisms, while continuing to pursue grants from outside funding sources. 	Town, PROSAB, Nederland Community Center Foundation (NCCF)	Stakeholder Input, Best Practice, Economic Sustainability	Ongoing

Goals, Objectives & Actions	Responsibility	Basis	Timing
d. Continue to promote fee reduction or scholarship programs to ensure that residents who do not have the ability to pay full user fees have access to public programs and services.	Town, PROSAB	Stakeholder Input, Best Practice, Social Sustainability	Ongoing
e. Encourage efforts to cultivate, support, and relieve stress from the demands of the Nederland-area volunteer community.	Town, PROSAB, NCCF, Nederland Area Trails Organization (NATO), Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	Stakeholder Input	Ongoing
f. Collaborate when possible with local and regional non-profit organizations, local governments, and governmental agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reach an agreement with Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) for expanded mutual use of recreational facilities. ii. Explore feasibility of a volunteer coordinator. iii. Partner with regional volunteer groups for trail repair and maintenance. iv. Explore the expansion of the Adopt-a-Park program into other areas of parks, recreation, open space, and trails (PROST). 	Town, PROSAB, BVSD	Stakeholder Input, Best Practice, Economic Sustainability	Short to Mid-Term, Ongoing
Objective 1.2. Endeavor to follow the principles of the <i>Sustainable Sites Initiative</i> or similar sustainability guidelines in the implementation of all PROST projects to the greatest extent possible in order to promote sustainable land development and management practices.			
Actions:			
a. Prioritize projects based on sustainability analysis and community recreational needs not being met by current conditions.	Town, PROSAB, Nederland Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)	Survey Results, Sustainability Goals	Short-Term, Ongoing
b. Improvements to recreational amenities should take into consideration multi-functionality. Additional functionalities could include habitat restoration, preservation and protection of natural areas, and improved ecosystem service like storm water management.	Town, PROSAB	Sustainability Goals	Ongoing

Objective 1.3. Pay particular attention to the recreational needs of youth – the future of our society – and seniors – a rapidly expanding demographic.			
Action: a. Give youth and senior accommodations high values in evaluation criteria for project priorities.	PROSAB, NCCF	Stakeholder Input	Ongoing
Objective 1.4. Seek to make facilities ADA-compliant to increase accessibility of public facilities.			
Actions: a. Develop evaluation criteria for new facility and program proposals that incorporate assessments of these elements.	Town, PROSAB	ADA Requirements	Ongoing
b. Evaluate existing PROST facilities for the feasibility of retrofitting for ADA compliance.	Town with support from PROSAB, as applicable	ADA Requirements	Short-Term
c. Incorporate consideration of special needs groups into all facility management plans.	Town, PROSAB	ADA Requirements, Best Practice	Ongoing
Objective 1.5. Ensure that all Nederland PROST facilities are adequately maintained in order to support the environmental, social, and economic goals of the community. (Also see <i>Objective 1.1.b.</i>)			
Actions: a. Complete management plans for all Town recreational assets.	Town, PROSAB	Best Practice, Sustainability Goals	Short-Term, Ongoing (as applicable)
b. Seek funding for PROST maintenance.	Town, PROSAB, NCCF	Fiscal Management Responsibility	Short-Term, Ongoing
Objective 1.6. Recognize the vulnerability of the Nederland area and its PROST assets to wildfire and proactively plan to reduce risks.			
Actions: a. Emphasize forest health, including forest floor/soil health, and wildfire mitigation in the management plans for all Town property.	Town, PROSAB	Supports Existing Plan (<i>Community Wildfire Protection Plan - CWPP</i>)	Short-Term, Ongoing
b. Work to implement wildfire mitigation in the greater Nederland area using the <i>Nederland Community Wildfire Protection Plan</i> as a guide to promote fuel reduction activities by area land owners.	Town, Nederland Fire Protection District (NFPD), PROSAB, Saws & Slaws	Supports CWPP	Ongoing
c. Support and help coordinate wildfire mitigation efforts by Saws and Slaws, the USDA Forest Service, Boulder County, and others.	Town, PROSAB, NFPD	Supports CWPP	Ongoing

Goals, Objectives & Actions	Responsibility	Basis	Timing
d. Actively pursue funding opportunities for forest health, including forest floor/soil health, and wild fire mitigation efforts in the greater Nederland area.	Town, NFPD (with support from PROSAB and others as applicable)	Supports CWPP	Ongoing
Objective 1.7. Make PROST-related community outreach and education a priority to promote a well-informed public.			
Actions:			
a. Continue and expand efforts to develop printed resources that educate and inform the public (e.g., trails maps, forest health, noxious weeds).	Town, PROSAB	Supports Community Goals/Vision (<i>Envision 2020</i>)	Ongoing
b. Continue to improve electronic communication efforts, including PROST pages on the Town of Nederland website.	Town, PROSAB, NCCF	Supports Community Goals/Vision	Ongoing
c. Collaborate with local environmental education programs (e.g., TEENS, Inc., Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center, and BVSD).	Town, PROSAB, Other Organizations	Supports Community Goals/Vision	Ongoing
Objective 1.8. Consider parking, bicycle, and pedestrian needs for PROST assets, and encourage sustainable transportation at all PROST facilities.			
PARKS			
GOAL 2:			
<i>Nederland-area parks are well-maintained and provide a diverse and abundant variety of environmentally and financially sustainable park facilities that adequately accommodate residents' needs for indoor and outdoor recreation, social gathering places, and local and regional cultural events on a scale that is appropriate for the size and character of the town.</i>			
Objective 2.1. Implement the <i>Gateway Park Area Master Plan</i> in order to expand social and recreational opportunities and enhance environmental stewardship.			
Actions:			
a. Name the gateway park area.	Town Board of Trustees, PROSAB	Creates Community Identity	Short-Term
b. Identify existing conditions that require immediate attention for satisfying intended recreational purpose and improving ecosystem functionality.	Town, PROSAB	Best Practice, Survey Results,	Short-Term
c. Identify opportunities to protect and improve ecosystems and use sustainable strategies to improve existing recreational facilities.	Town, PROSAB, SAB	Best Practice, Supports Sustainability Goals	Short-Term

Goals, Objectives & Actions	Responsibility	Basis	Timing
d. Prioritize gateway park area improvements based on unmet recreational needs, ability to cost effectively improve ecosystem functionality, measured community priorities, availability of funding, partnership opportunities, etc.	Town, PROSAB	Survey Results, Supports Community Goals	Short-Term
e. Partner with local non-profit organizations (e.g., NedRec) to construct gateway park area improvements.	Town, Non-Profit Organizations	Leverage / Maximize Resources, Economic Sustainability	Short to Mid-Term
Objective 2.2. Improve safety and operation of Nederland Ice and Racquet Park for all users, including ice quality issues to alleviate skater safety concerns and extension of the effective ice season.			
Action: a. Support the efforts of Racquets and Ice for Nederland Kids (RINK) to identify and pursue funding for the construction of a shade structure that can accommodate both tennis and ice usage or other means including separate facilities for tennis and ice.	RINK	Stakeholder Input	Ongoing
Objective 2.3. Continue to create and implement management plans for all Town parks to enhance sustainable operations. (Also see <i>Objective 1.5.</i>)			
Objective 2.4. Standardize Town park fixtures to promote ease of maintenance and replacement and uniform appearance.			
Actions: a. Select standard designs for trail signs, interpretive signage, kiosks, benches, picnic tables, etc.	Town, PROSAB	Best Practice	Short-Term
b. Develop selection process and set of guidelines for PROST amenities that encourage use of local recycled or rapidly renewable material and result in the lowest life cycle cost to the community.	Town, PROSAB, SAB	Supports Town Sustainability Goals	Short-Term
Objective 2.5. Support efforts to provide facilities for community gardening to expand locally grown food and enhance community health.			
Actions: a. Identify suitable locations for community gardens and greenhouse.	Town, PROSAB	Public Support/Survey Results, Supports Sustainability Goals	Short-Term

Goals, Objectives & Actions	Responsibility	Basis	Timing
b. Identify opportunities to partner with a local group to provide community gardening facilities.	Town, PROSAB	Public Support/Survey Results, Supports Sustainability Goals	Short-Term
Objective 2.6. Support efforts to create sustainable recreational opportunities for dog owners and their pets.			
Actions:			
a. Explore the feasibility of a community dog park.	Town, PROSAB	Public Input	Short-Term
b. Promote responsible dog guardianship by expanding availability of dog waste bag dispensers and evaluating Nederland park areas for off-leash suitability.	Town, PROSAB	Public Input, Environmental Sustainability	Ongoing
c. Develop a compostable dog waste program.		Supports Town Sustainability Goals	
RECREATION			
GOAL 3:			
<i>Nederland-area recreational activities and programs address the expressed recreational needs and preferences of the Nederland-area community and promote healthy, active, and culturally-rich lifestyles in an environmentally sensitive manner.</i>			
Objective 3.1. Support the measured need for indoor aquatic recreation by creatively exploring ways to compensate for Nederland's lack of a pool.			
Actions:			
a. Seek to negotiate agreements with area pools for a community discount.	Town, PROSAB	Strategy to Support Public Interest In Aquatics (per Survey) , Supports Social Sustainability	Short-Term
b. Support a reestablishment of the Gilpin Connector.	Town, PROSAB	Public Interest, Supports Social Sustainability	Short to Mid-Term
c. Explore options to promote car-pooling among pool users.	Town, PROSAB	Public Interest, Supports Sustainability Goals	Short-Term
d. Explore a partnership opportunities to build a community pool.	Town, PROSAB	Public Interest, Supports Social Sustainability	Short-Term
Objective 3.2. Institute a boating program on Barker Meadow Reservoir that meets the demonstrated need for local boating and enhances local recreational opportunities.			
Actions:			
a. Negotiate with the City of Boulder to define a safe, environmentally and economically sustainable program for non-motorized boating that is acceptable to both parties.	Town, PROSAB	Survey Results, Supports Sustainability Goals	Short-Term

Goals, Objectives & Actions	Responsibility	Basis	Timing
b. Partner with NedRec for program fundraising and management.	Town, NedRec, PROSAB	Operational Sustainability Goal	Short-Term, Ongoing
Objective 3.3. Develop the Nederland Community Center site to its full potential as a community gathering place for recreational, cultural, and social enrichment, in partnership with the Nederland Community Center Foundation (NCCF) Board when appropriate.			
Actions:			
a. Complete a site plan for the Community Center property, including a plan to utilize or replace the west wing and return the outbuildings to active use.	Town, NCCF	Supports Recreation and Sustainability Goals	Short-Term
b. Collect and assess information to help identify opportunities to use sustainable strategies to guide the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the site.	Town, NCCF, SAB	Supports Sustainability Goals	Ongoing
c. Explore increasing hours of operation.	Town	Public/Stakeholder Input, Social Sustainability Goals	Short-Term
d. Seek funding for construction of energy efficient, renewable-powered locker rooms and showers.	Town, NCCF	Stakeholder Input, Sustainability Goals	Short-Term
Objective 3.4. Negotiate a mutual use agreement with Boulder Valley School District for outdoor recreational facility use to maximize and leverage public resources. (Also see <i>Objective 1.1.</i>)			
Objective 3.5. Support area non-profit organizations offering critical recreational programming to the fullest extent possible (e.g., RINK, Peak to Peak Soccer, Nederland Youth Hockey Association, Nederland Tennis Association, TEENS, Inc.). (This is included in feasibility study for a district – see <i>Objective 1.1.a.</i>)			
Actions:			
a. Explore feasibility of insurance coverage.	Town	Stakeholder Input, Economic Sustainability	Short to Mid-Term
b. Support the establishment of a common venue for local program registration.	Town, PROSAB	Stakeholder Input	Short to Mid-Term
c. Explore providing Town support for facilities where possible (e.g., utilities, equipment, and expertise).	Town, PROSAB	Stakeholder Input	Short to Mid-Term
Objective 3.6. Support community demand for additional gardening opportunities (both communal and individual) to promote the health of the community.			
Actions:			
a. Explore partnerships with local businesses to provide backyard gardening materials (e.g., composters, greenhouses) at a discount.	PROSAB, Gardening Groups	Stakeholder Input, Supports Sustainability Goals	Short-Term

Goals, Objectives & Actions	Responsibility	Basis	Timing
b. Sponsor educational gardening presentations (e.g., by the State Extension Service or by successful local gardeners).	Town, PROSAB, Partners	Stakeholder Input, Supports Sustainability Goals	Short-Term, Ongoing
c. Support creative approaches to mountain gardening (e.g., hugelkultur, vermicomposting).	Town, Gardening Groups	Stakeholder Input, Supports Sustainability Goals	Ongoing
Objective 3.7. Address the need for safe venues for recreational sport shooting. Acknowledge the negative community impacts of shooting at the old dump site off Magnolia Road, by supporting the efforts of the U.S. Forest Service to lead a multi-county task force to locate appropriately-sited venues for this activity.			
Actions:			
a. Maintain close contact with the U.S. Forest Service and Boulder County to encourage their efforts and to feed progress reports back to the community.	Town, PROSAB	Supports Safety Goals, Social Sustainability	Short-Term, Ongoing (as applicable)
b. Communicate with state and national elected officials to support this effort.	Town, PROSAB	Support Safety Goals, Social Sustainability	Short-Term, Ongoing (as applicable)
Objective 3.8. Support a mix of recreational and cultural activities and programs responsive to the interests and needs of Nederland-area residents to support healthy, active, and culturally-rich lifestyles.			
a. Enhance programs of interest to various age groups (e.g., music, talent night, etc.).	Town, PROSAB, Collaborating Organizations	Stakeholder Input/ Survey Results, Social Sustainability	Ongoing
b. Continue to support special events such as races, concerts, and festivals.	Town	Public Input/ Survey Results, Social Sustainability	Ongoing
c. Identify strategies to enhance fitness, cultural arts, multi-generational, and family programs through contract instructors, partnerships, or volunteers.	Town, Nederland Community Center	Best Practices/ Operational and Social Sustainability Goals	Ongoing
d. Promote environmental education, interpretation, and stewardship through interpretive signage and stewardship activities such as those offered through the Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center.	Town, PROSAB, Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center	Public/Stakeholder Input, Supports <i>Envision 2020</i>	Ongoing
e. Promote awareness of Nederland history through the Nederland Area Historical Society, incorporation of interpretive signage throughout Nederland, and historical walking tours.	Town, Boulder County, Nederland Area Historical Society	Staff, Stakeholder Input/Support <i>Envision 2020</i>	Ongoing

OPEN SPACE

Goal 4:

The Nederland community's desire for open space preservation is recognized by creative pursuit of land preservation opportunities that arise with a priority placed on preserving sensitive natural resources, viewsheds, and riparian areas and by responsible management of the Town's open space property.

Objective 4.1. Establish Town documentation for acquiring desirable open space property in order to pursue land preservation opportunities.

Actions:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| a. Compile list of potential open space acquisitions that score highly when evaluated according to the evaluation criteria in <i>Appendix H</i> . | Town, PROSAB | Best Practice | Short-Term |
| b. Maintain a list of potential funding partners for open space acquisition. | Town, PROSAB | Maximize Resources | Ongoing |

Objective 4.2. Develop Sustainability Analysis for current Town-owned open space property for:

- Increasing ecosystem functionality
- Improving wildlife habitat
- Improving storm water management by use of natural passive systems
- Water, natural resources, and current land use data

Objective 4.3. Implement management plans for current open space that emphasize best practices for forest health, including forest floor/soil health; wildfire mitigation; and site-appropriate public access. (Also see *Objective 1.6.*)

TRAILS

GOAL 5:

The Nederland-area trails system provides safe, accessible, and well-maintained multi-modal, non-motorized pathways that link Nederland's commercial district, neighborhoods, schools, area parks, recreational facilities, and regional trails; encourage physical activity; and provide opportunities for alternative transportation.

Objectives 5.1. Update the 2005 *Town of Nederland Trails Master Plan* to guide enhancements to the trail system.

Actions:

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---|------------|
| a. Gather public input regarding needs for additional area trails and linkages. | Town, PROSAB | Stakeholder Input/
Survey Results
Supporting Trails | Short-Term |
| b. Encourage rebuilding plans for recreational trails and adjacent soil restoration in areas impacted by forest mitigation work. | Town, U.S. Forest Service | Sustainability Goals | Short-Term |
| c. Update maps for existing trails, trail opportunities and constraints, and proposed trails. | Town, PROSAB | Stakeholder Input/
Survey Results | Short-Term |
| d. Revise trail design standards in keeping with current Town sustainability goals. | Town, PROSAB | Public Education and Sustainability Goals | Short-Term |

Goals, Objectives & Actions	Responsibility	Basis	Timing
Objective 5.2. Find resources for effective trails maintenance and new trail construction to enhance trail quality and connectivity.			
Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Partner with groups such as the Mountain Youth Corps, Nederland Area Trails Organization (NATO), and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers to repair and maintain local trails. 	Town, PROSAB, Trail Organizations	Maximize Resources Through Partnerships, Supports Sustainability Goals	Short-Term, Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Seek grant funding for trails maintenance and construction. 	Town, PROSAB, Trail Organizations	Maximize Resources, Supports Economic Sustainability	Short-Term, Ongoing
Objective 5.3. Improve trail safety to promote community walkability, health, and alternative transportation.			
Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify needs for ground-level trail lighting (e.g., Community Center Connector Trail, Tungsten Trail) and find funding for installation and maintenance. 	Town, PROSAB, Trail Organizations (as applicable)	Stakeholder/Public Support of Trails	Short-Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Identify needs for safe roadway crossings (e.g., near Community Center) and seek funding for appropriate crossing solutions. 	Town, PROSAB	Stakeholder Input/Public Support	Short-Term, Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Make trails maintenance a priority. 	Town, PROSAB	Stakeholder Input/Public Support, Supports Sustainability Goals	Ongoing
Objective 5.4. Continue working with surrounding public and private land holders for increased linkages to area trails and attractions to increase trail connectivity and usage.			
Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participate in the management plan update process for Boulder County's open space lands in the Nederland vicinity. 	Town, PROSAB	Stakeholder/Public Support of Trails	As Applicable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and Boulder County to identify desirable trail linkages. 	Town, PROSAB	Stakeholder/Public Support of Trails	Ongoing
Objective 5.5. Develop the Tungsten Trail along Middle Boulder Creek and the western shoreline of Barker Reservoir as a riverwalk, with sensitivity towards both public needs for water access and preservation of riparian habitat, in order to promote healthy lifestyles and environmental awareness and stewardship.			

C. Capital Improvement Summary

General cost estimates are included for recommended capital project in the **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan** to help guide fundraising efforts and the development of the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. Potential funding sources as well as operational and maintenance considerations are included in **Table 5**.

Recommended capital projects are identified as **high or medium priority** based on meeting some of the decision-making criteria listed below.

- Project has broad Town-wide appeal and meets an identified need or interest (e.g., survey, etc.).
- Project is compatible with current Town plans and vision (e.g., promotes social, environmental, and economic sustainability).
- Project addresses improvements to assets in poor physical condition.
- Project has identified funding or partnership resources.
- Project has a low cost and a high impact.

Estimates are provided in 2012 dollars and should be adjusted as needed in future years.

Table 5: Recommended Capital Improvements

Recommendation	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Source(s)	Operational and Maintenance	Priority
Development of Nederland Community Center Site Master Plan	Consultant design/engineering fee varies based on scope	Town of Nederland, Grants	N/A	High
Community greenhouse (with heat sink) – 5,000 SF	\$53,000-\$60,000	Donations, Grants	Partnership	Medium
<i>Gateway Park Area Master Plan</i>	Full Build Out – \$3.32 Million (See detailed cost estimate in Appendix K)	Grants, Town of Nederland	\$3,000 per acre (15 acres)	High/Medium

D. Implementation

Through the creative use of partnerships and grants, the Town of Nederland has enhanced its parks, recreation, open space, and trails system and will continue to do so in the future. A strong network of non-profit organizations and groups like the Nederland Community Center Foundation and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board provide strong support to advancing the goals of this Master Plan.

The largest future capital investments identified in this Plan will be for the gateway park area enhancements and improvements to the Nederland Community Center building, grounds, and out buildings. Sustainable funding to support quality maintenance and operations is also a future need.

Preservation of open space and trail connectivity are also high priorities. By continuing to collaborate with public land agencies, private land owners, and other organizations, the Town will continue to protect valuable open spaces and creek corridors in and around Nederland and make critical trail connections. (***Appendix J*** provides additional information about preservation tools and funding sources.)

The Town of Nederland is a community with a strong sense of identity and committed volunteers. This community pride and investment will be the driving force to the implementation of the goals of this Master Plan, guided by the aspirations set out in *Envision 2020*.

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Appendix A – Survey Report

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Nederland Area Open Space, Trails, Parks and Recreation Survey Report Nederland, Colorado



Spring 2012

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OVERVIEW OF SELECTED FINDINGS

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to gather public feedback on Nederland area open space, trails, park and recreation programs and services. This feedback and subsequent analysis was designed to provide input to the Nederland Open Space, Trails, Parks & Recreation Master Plan Project. This study is based on survey research that targeted residents of Nederland, as well as households that live in the area immediately adjacent to the Town.

The survey was conducted using three methods: 1) an online invitation-only survey, 2) a paper mailback survey distributed upon request, and 3) an open-link online survey for members of the public that did not respond using the invitation survey form.

The three versions of the survey garnered 361 responses from within the Town of Nederland, and the County area contained within the Library District. Responses were obtained from a combination of survey invitations that were sent by postcard to 2,704 local households, followed by an “Open Link” survey that provided opportunities for interested citizens that had not responded to the Invitation Survey to participate. The invitation version of the survey resulted in 291 households responding and the open link captured another 70 for a total of 361 responses.

The survey contained a series of questions designed to measure recreation behavior and perceptions by area residents. In addition, there were numerous opportunities for survey participants to respond in their own words to “open ended” questions. The attached report summarizes selected findings from the statistical analysis of results. In addition, open ended responses have been provided under separate cover. These comments are extensive; there are over 100 pages of input that have been organized by version of the survey that resulted in response, as well as whether the respondent lives in Nederland or the Library District.

The data suggest that area residents are using recreation programs and facilities provided by a number of different entities. The most mentioned sources included U.S. Forest Service lands, and Boulder County Open Space lands, but there were over 20 different providers identified, all offering recreation opportunities.

The survey focused on local residents and their opinions. A number of the open ended comments stressed that residents, not tourists, should receive primary attention in Town planning efforts.

The majority of the written discussion of the survey findings will focus on results from the Invitation Survey sample of residents. However, results from all surveys have been considered and open-ended comments from all surveys have been reported verbatim in a manner consistent with the Town of Nederland Board of Trustees Working Agreements for public input.

Selected Findings

Parks and recreation opportunities are important to area residents. Respondents to the survey from the Nederland area indicated that the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in the Town are very important, with an average rating of over 4 on a 5-point scale where 5 means “extremely important.” About 8 in 10 respondents rated the importance of parks and recreation opportunities a “4” or “5.”

Activities and programs that are important to be added, expanded or improved. The list below provides a rank ordering of relative importance of the top rated categories based on a list of 21 categories:

- Biking/hiking/running
- Indoor swimming/aquatics
- Non-motorized boating
- Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals)
- Cultural/arts/dance/music/crafts
- Snow and ice activities

Facilities to be added, expanded or improved. The survey evaluated priorities of the community, both in town and in the county area described by the Library District Boundary (Survey Question 18). Results from the two groups are very similar. Based on a list of 31 categories, the 8 most identified facilities in approximate rank order included:

- Open space/conservation land
- Pedestrian/bike paths (soft surface)
- Community gardens
- Indoor swimming pool
- Community greenhouse
- The proposed gateway park at the end of Barker Reservoir
- Boating on the Reservoir
- An outdoor amphitheater

In a related question, respondents were asked to pick their top three priorities from the list in Question 18. This question resulted in the following five choices being most identified by both residents of the town and the remainder of the Library District area. The consistency in responses is notable.

- Indoor swimming pool
- Boating on the reservoir (non-motorized)
- Open space/conservation land
- Pedestrian bike paths (soft surface)
- The proposed gateway park

Boating on the Reservoir. Slightly over six in 10 Nederland area respondents indicate some support for a boating program on the reservoir, measured by a “4” or “5” on a 5-point scale where “5” is “definitely support.”

These results vary somewhat by whether the respondent lives in town versus outside Nederland, with slightly higher support from those outside. Further, while there is a significant group that will “definitely

not support" boating among town residents (about 3 in 10), the negative sentiment is weaker in the county. Interestingly, on this issue there are few respondents that are neutral. Overall less than 10% gave boating a "3" or "neutral" on the scale. While a majority are in favor overall, residents are generally on one side or the other side of this issue.

The gateway park area. The survey probed various policy aspects of the gateway park area. There is strong support and consensus around "Improving/protecting water quality" (almost 9 in 10 definitely" or "probably support") and "Creating a unique gateway and identity for Nederland" (about seven in 10). Further, there is very little support for "Discouraging people from using this location for recreational purposes" (less than 10% support this alternative). Less clear is the support for active recreation on the site, although a majority of respondents (50% plus) support all of the alternative policy choices that were evaluated in Question 17 of the survey.

Special District or Town Recreation Department? The survey asked respondents about two alternative approaches to paying for and managing parks and recreation services. There was moderate support for both alternatives:

Special District Approach

- The creation of a special district (similar to a fire district) supported by property taxes received support from slightly over 6 in 10 respondents. About 2 in 10 reported that they "definitely" or "probably" would not support the creation of a special district.
- Comparing responses from residents in Town to those outside Nederland, the support for a district is somewhat higher among unincorporated county residents.

Town Parks and Recreation Department supported by property tax of Town residents.

- On the second question of financial alternatives, about 6 in 10 overall would support a parks and recreation department in the town funded by a property tax for residents.
- Support for this approach was about equal among in-town and out-of-town respondents. It should be noted that out-of-town residents would not vote on this tax, nor would they pay it. Once again, negative sentiment was higher among Nederland residents with 3 in 10 saying they "definitely" or "probably" would not support it, and 2 in 10 county residents answering this way.

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to gather public feedback on Nederland Area open space, trails, park and recreation programs and services. This feedback and subsequent analysis was designed to provide input to the Nederland Open Space, Trails, Parks & Recreation Master Plan Project. This study is based on survey research that targeted residents of Nederland, as well as households that live in the area immediately adjacent to the Town.

The survey was conducted using three methods: 1) an online invitation-only survey, 2) a paper mailback survey distributed upon request, and 3) an open link online survey for members of the public that did not respond using the invitation survey form.

The primary list source used for the mailing was a third party list purchased from Melissa Data Corp., a leading provider of lists. A total of 2,704 postcard invitations were mailed to all identified Nederland

postal boxes, all Rollinsville boxes, as well as to homes that were identified to fall on delivery routes within the Library Tax District (an approximate five mile radius around the Town of Nederland). A total of 291 survey responses were obtained from households in and around Nederland using a password provided on the mailed postcard; 142 of these responses were obtained from households within the Town limits. Based on current estimates (by ESRI Business Solutions, a firm that is specialized in population estimates) there are 667 in-Town households. An estimated 21% of Town households were represented in the survey responses. Additionally, 146 surveys were returned by households outside the Town in the Library District.

A copy of the postcard that provided the survey invitation is presented in the Appendix. The postcard contained a pass code that permitted one member of a household to complete the questionnaire on line. In addition, other members of the household were encouraged to call for a paper version of the survey if more than one member wanted to participate in the research. Paper surveys were submitted by 15 persons. Additionally, following broad publicity of the invitation version of the survey, the public was invited to complete the survey using the “Open Link” version. The Open Link survey generated 55 responses. In total, survey 173 respondents reported they live in the Town.

In the following sections of the report, tables generally portray the results from the Email Invitation Survey, as distinguished from responses to the Open Link and Paper (Mailback) versions of the survey. Responses to the open-link version of the questionnaire, and the paper versions, are “self-selected”; therefore, results from the open-link questionnaire are kept separate from the invitation web versions of the survey for the overall analysis. The majority of the written discussion that follows focuses primarily on results from the Email Invitation Survey. However, results from all surveys have been considered and open-ended comments from all surveys have been reported verbatim.

The underlying tabular data for the Email Invitation Survey responses were weighted by age to ensure appropriate representation of Nederland area residents. In other words, because younger residents were under represented in the total survey responses (they are slightly less likely to respond to these types of surveys), a statistical correction was made to increase the responses from the younger segment to more accurately represent the broad community. For purposes of this weighting, 2011 ESRI data for the Nederland Library District were used. The proportions of the population that are estimated to fall in each age category according to ESRI were the basis for weighting of the survey data so that the resulting analysis most accurately reflects the conclusions and opinions of the underlying population.

In general, in the following sections, results are reported for the combined responses from in Town and out of Town (Library District) households. In a number of instances where comparisons are important to interpreting results, responses from each group are also presented graphically. Full sets tabular results have been provided to the Town under separate cover.

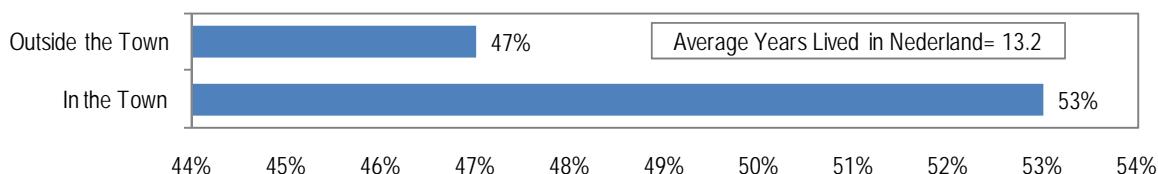
RESPONDENT PROFILE

A profile of respondents that includes both in-Town and residents outside Nederland may be summarized as follows:

Location and Length of Residence

- 47 percent of respondents live outside the town limits of Nederland
- 53 percent live in the town
- Average number of years lived in the area: 13.2 years

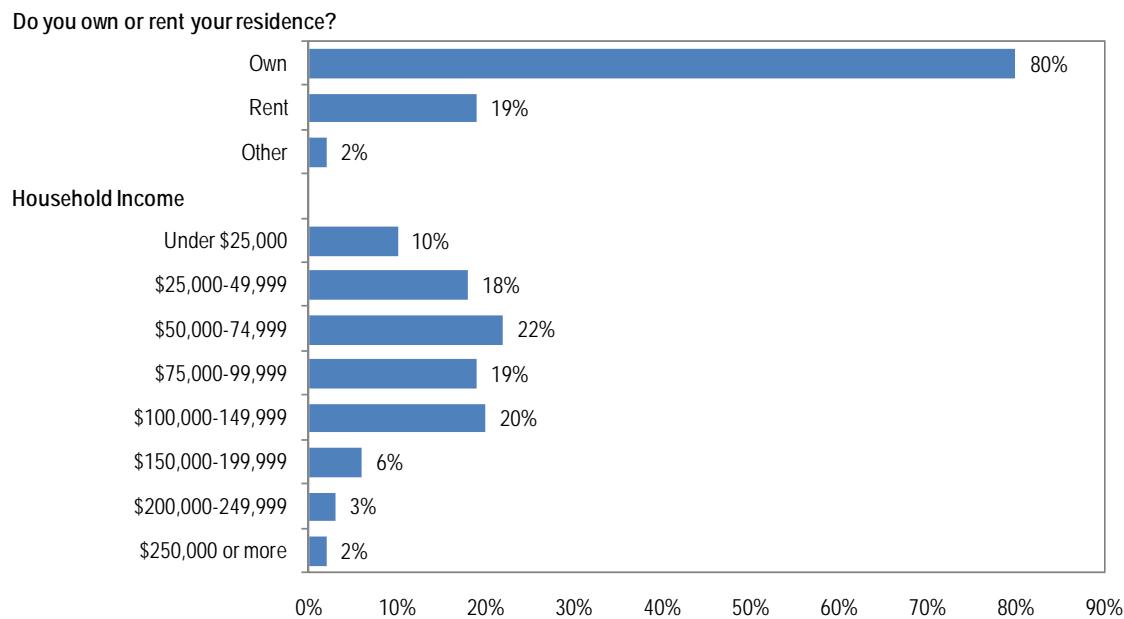
Figure 1
Average Number of Years Lived in the Area



Household Characteristics

- 31 percent of households earn annual incomes of \$100,000 or greater
- 41 percent earn between \$50,000 and \$99,999
- 28 percent earn \$49,999 or below
- 80 percent own their own residence
- 19 percent rent their residence

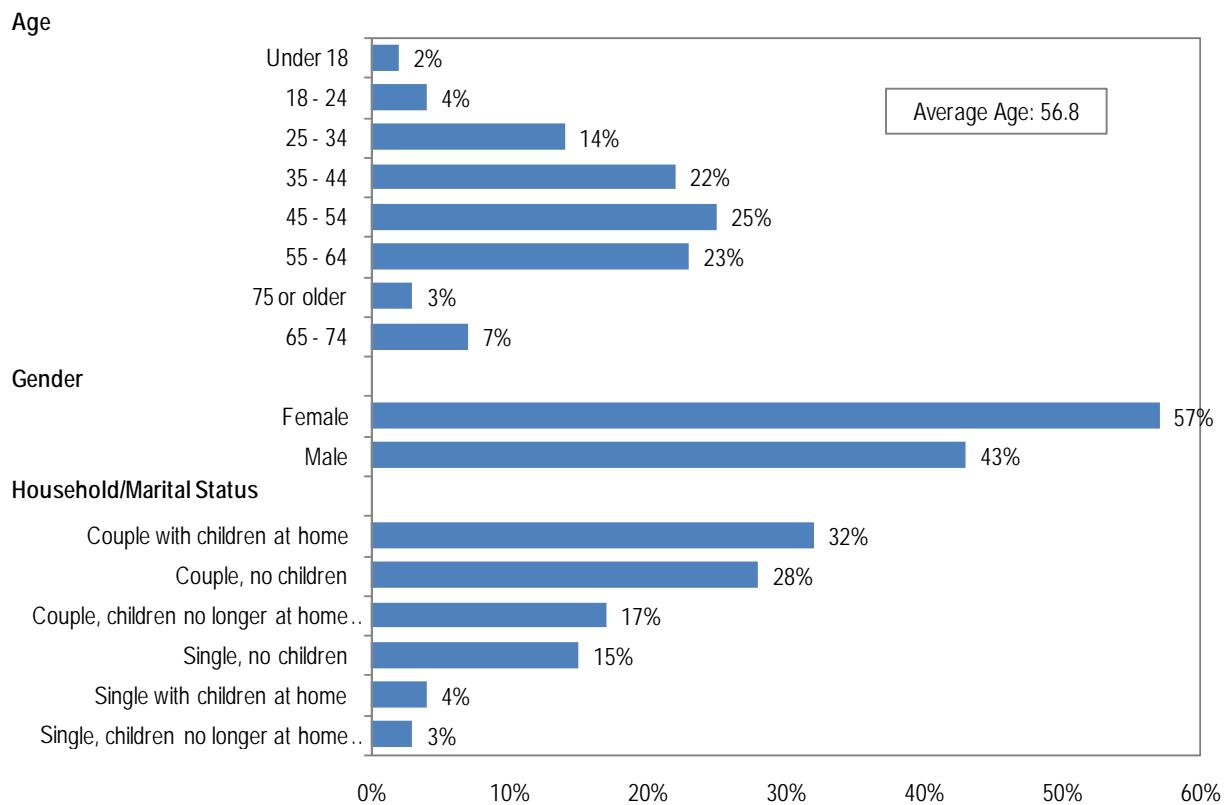
Figure 2
Household Income and Ownership of Residence



Age, Gender, and Household Status

- Average age of respondents was 56.8 years
- 57 percent of respondents were female; 43 percent were male
- 32 percent are in households with children at home
- 28 percent are singles or couples with no children at home
- 17 percent are “empty nesters”

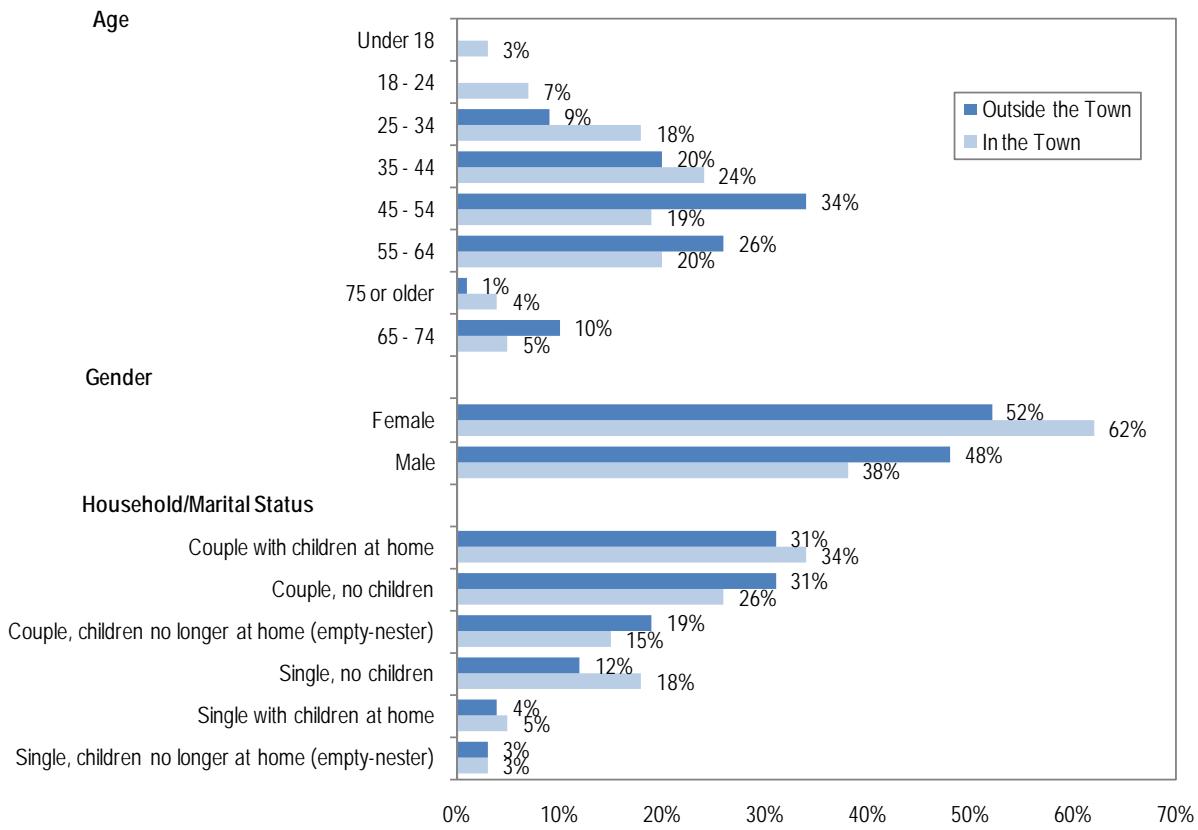
Figure 3
Age, Gender, and Household Status



As described in the Methodology Section, the survey included residents of Nederland, as well as respondents from within an approximate five mile radius of the Town. In general, the demographic profile of respondents that live in-Town and outside Nederland, are similar. The responses from the invitation survey were almost equally balanced between Town and County area respondents (53% in Town, 47% outside the town limits). This finding is important. There are strong similarities among residents of the area that are reflected in various ways including demographics, recreation participation and opinions on various priorities. This shared “community of interest” suggests that there are opportunities to plan more broadly than just for residents within the Town, whether the considerations are for parks, recreation and open space, or for other public policy issues.

The demographics of in Town and out of Town respondents are summarized by the two graphs below.

Figure 4
Demographics

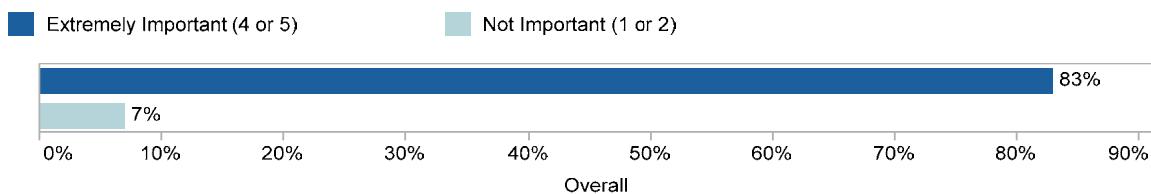


CURRENT FACILITIES, AMENITIES AND SERVICES

Parks and recreation opportunities are important to area residents

Respondents to the survey from the Nederland area indicated that the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in the Town are very important with an average rating of 4.3 on a 5 point scale where 5 means "extremely important." About 83% rated the importance of parks and recreation opportunities a "4" or "5."

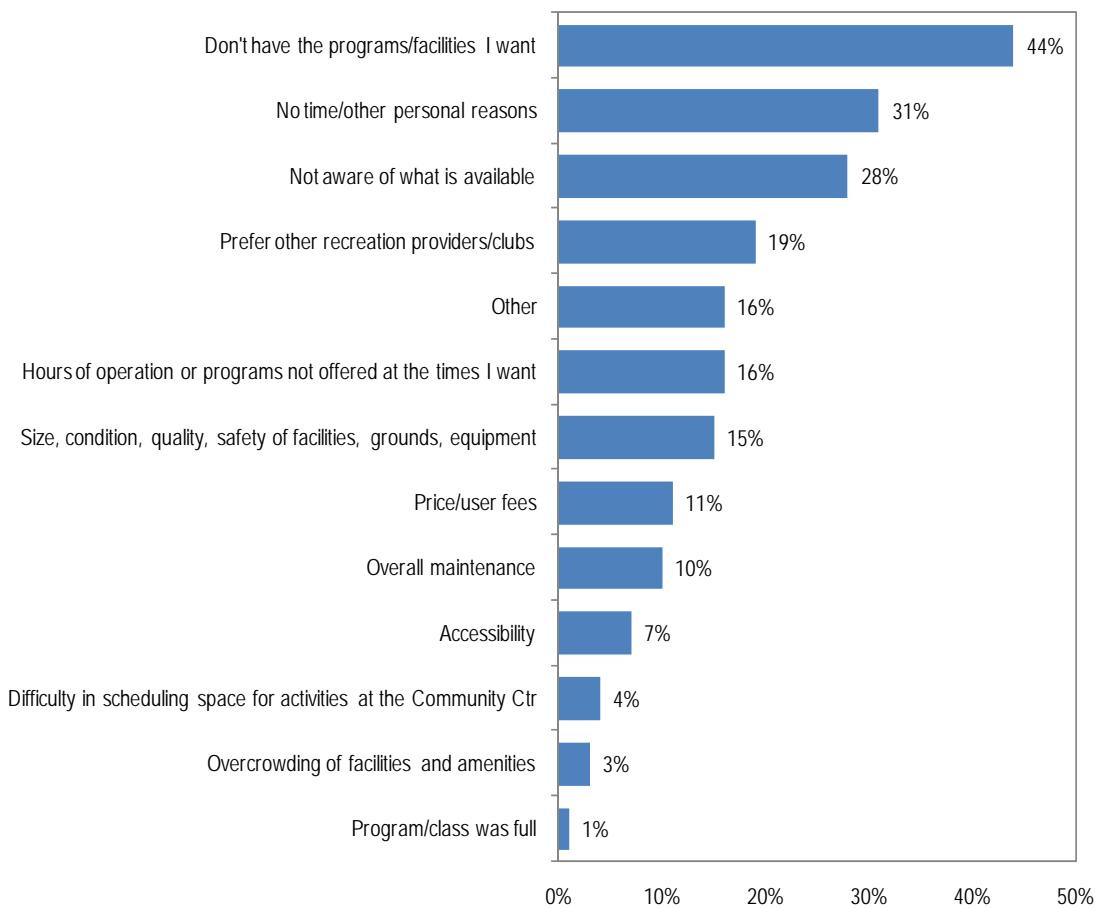
Figure 5.
How important to you and your household is the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in the Nederland area?



Why are residents not using programs and facilities?

When survey respondents were asked why they do not use Nederland programs and facilities there were a large number of different factors cited. Understanding what local residents use and want is one of the important purposes of this survey. The most mentioned was “Don’t have the programs/facilities I want” (44%). Second most identified is “No time/other personal reasons” (31%). This reason for not using facilities is commonly identified but it is not usually a focus of community parks and recreation efforts. However, the third most identified reason for not participating is “Not aware of what is available.” This represents a challenge to the community but is one that can be effectively addressed through a number of different actions. Later sections of this report discuss enhanced opportunities for communications concerning open space, parks and recreation.

Figure 6
Nederland Programs and Facilities – Reasons Do Not Use



Also frequently identified is, “Prefer other recreation providers/clubs.” This condition is described further in below; Nederland area residents are relying on a large number of different providers for recreation facilities and it should be recognized that the Town is not the only provider.

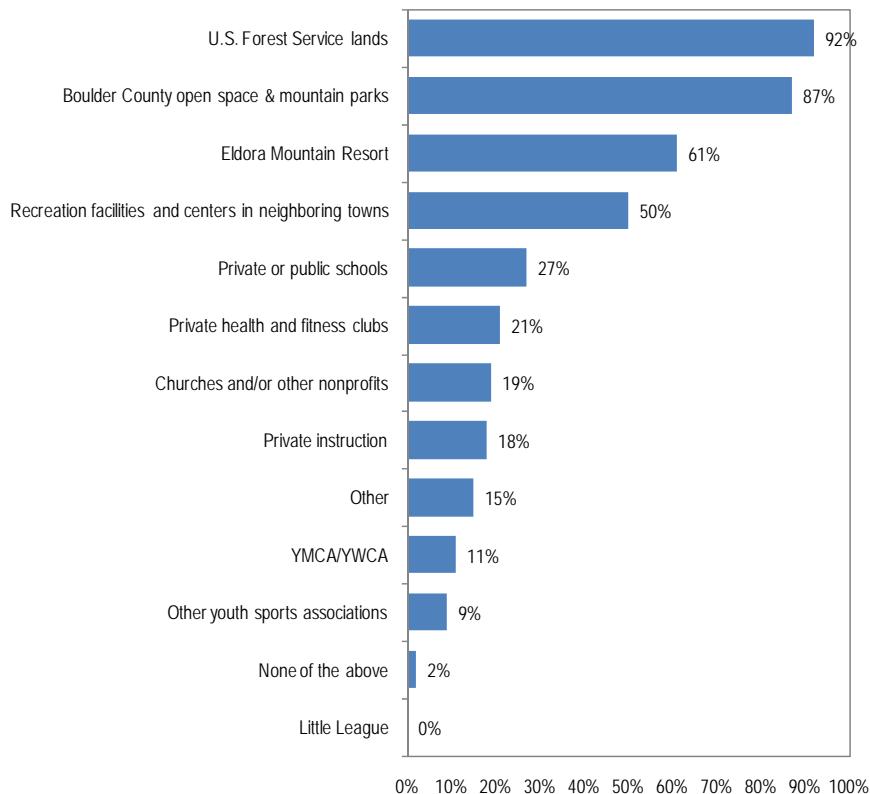
Comments

Q. Reason you do not use parks, recreation, programs or facilities? (Don't have the programs I want)
 Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned3.pdf>)

What other types of parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, and programs are used?

Survey results suggest that Nederland area residents are using parks and recreation sources that are owned and maintained by a wide variety of providers. While the U.S. Forest Service lands were most identified (92%), Boulder County Open Space and Mountain Parks was a close second at 87%. Other resources including Eldora Mountain Resort and recreation facilities in neighboring towns were mentioned by over 50% of respondents. Additionally, various public and private facilities were also mentioned by a significant number of respondents. Clearly, the data suggest that Nederland area residents are active and they are availing themselves of a wide variety of recreation lands, programs and amenities.

Figure 7
Other Parks & Recreation Providers Being Used



Comments

Q. What other parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, and programs do you use? (OTHER)

Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned4.pdf>)

Usage frequency of selected existing facilities

Households in the Nederland area used trails in Town and the Barker Reservoir area far more frequently over the past year than other existing facilities. The survey measured use by “you or any member of your household.” Use of the Nederland Community Center was also high (multiple times per month) and Chipeta Park was used at least once per month on average.

The following facilities were used most frequently over the past year by households of the Nederland area:

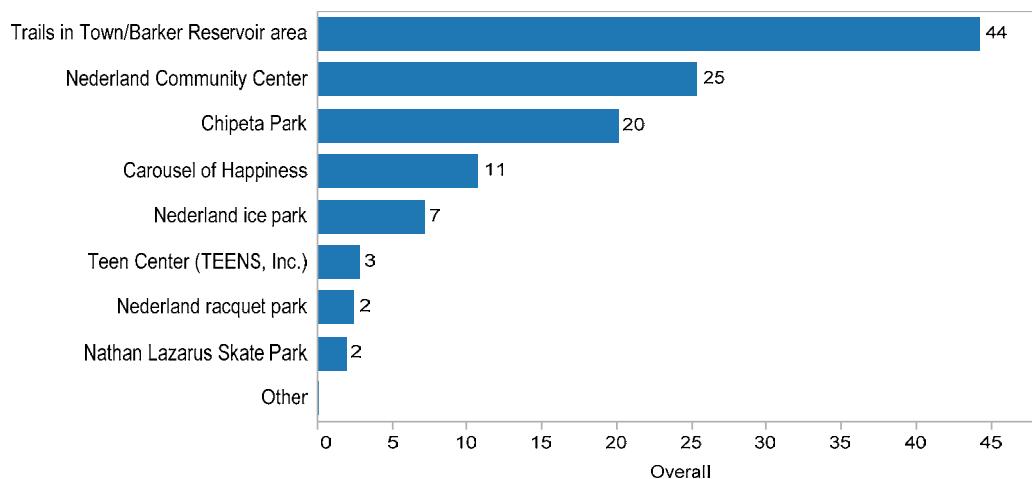
- Trails in Town/Barker Reservoir area (44 times on average over the past 12 months)
- Nederland Community Center (25 times)
- Chipeta Park (20 times)

Second tier of frequent usage:

- Carousel of Happiness (11 times)
- Nederland Ice Park (7 times)

The survey indicates that the Teen Center, Nederland Racquet Park and the Nathan Lazarus Skate Park receive relatively lower usage by the community (in town and out of Town) at large. These results are not surprising –a facility like TEENS, Inc. is designed for use by a small segment of the overall population and activities like tennis and skateboarding have relatively low participation when measured against the entire population of residents.

Figure 8
Current Facilities – Average Annual Frequency of Use

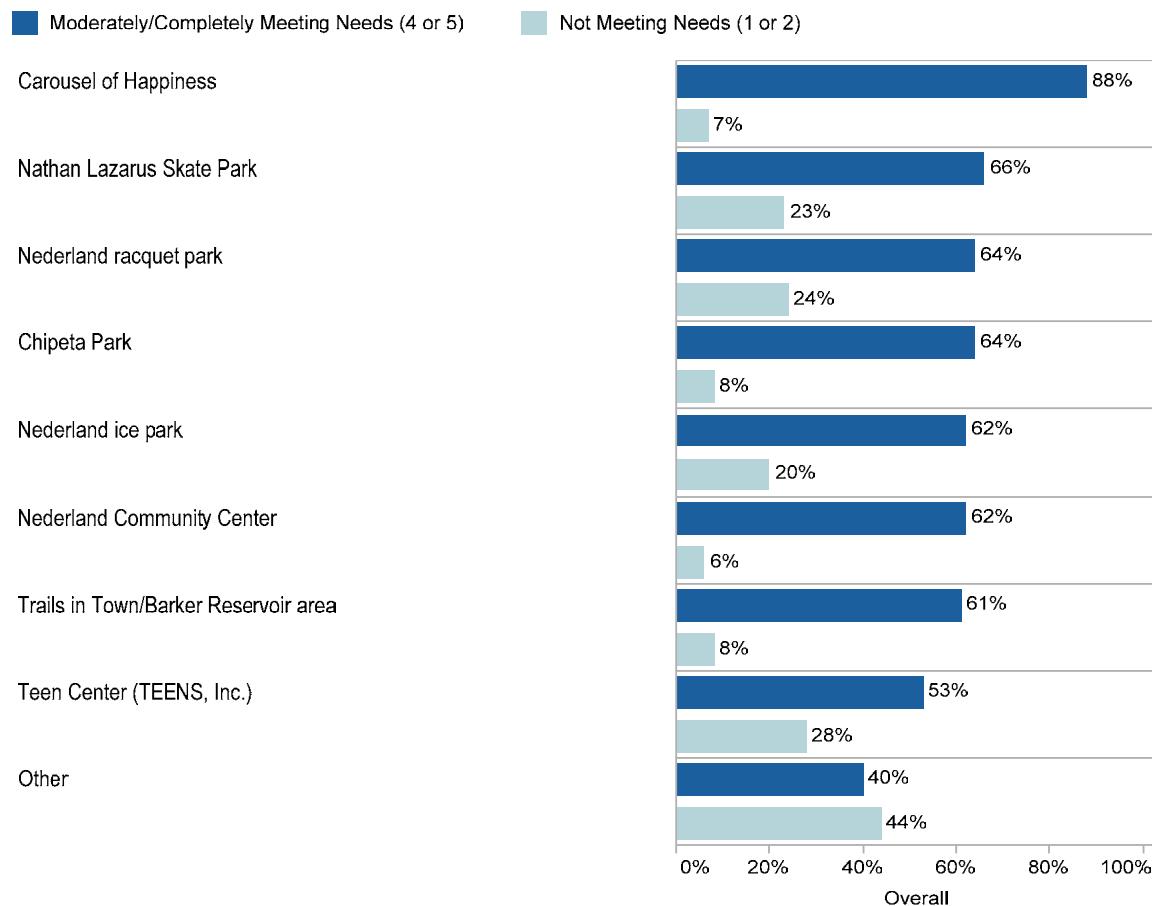


Degree to which Current Facilities are Meeting Household Needs

Respondents rated the performance of the above evaluated facilities in Town in terms of whether "household" needs are being met. In general, all of facilities received over 50% scores for "needs being met" with the Carousel of Happiness highest rated at 88%. However, by these measures there is room for improvement with about one in four respondents indicating that the Lazarus Skate Park, the Racquet Park, Ice Park and Teen Center are not meeting household needs.

The topic of the ice rink and tennis courts generated extensive comments. There were a number of specific open ended comments about that addressed the need for improvements and various aspects of joint use. The comments in support of the ice rink were more extensive and spoke to ideas for improvements, problems with joint use with tennis, maintenance, and high use of the rink facilities by youth and adults. Also, some comments specifically called out the importance of tennis. Comments regarding tennis and ice rink facilities were interspersed throughout the survey. For purposes of review, they have been compiled and can be reached by clicking [here](#). Click [View Comments](#) (or type: <http://www.rcrinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ice%20Rink%20Comments.pdf>). While the interest expressed through the extensive comments suggest that the perceived problems are clearly a major issue for some, the quantitative results (see above) suggest that these residents are in the minority. The majority of respondents, both in Town and living outside, feel that community needs are being met.

Figure 9
How are the Following Facilities Meeting the Needs of your Household



Comments

Q. Do you have any comments or suggestions for how the current facilities and services can better meet the needs of your household or the community? Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned2.pdf>)

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

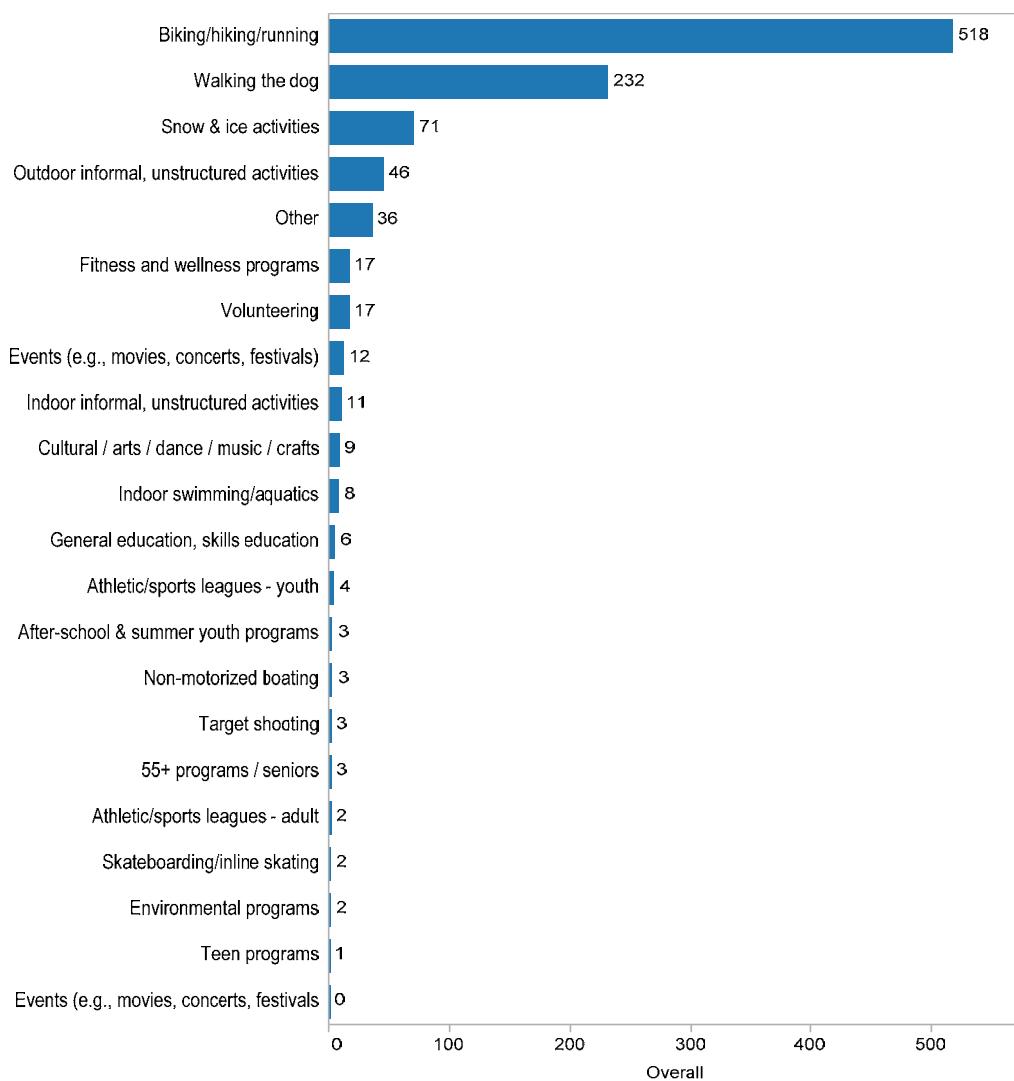
Usage Frequency

Residents of the Nederland area were asked to indicate how many times they (or someone in their household) used or participated in a general list of activities or programs in the last 12 months. Nederland households engaged in “Biking/hiking/running” and “Walking the dog” significantly more frequently than other activities and programs. The following activities and programs were used most frequently over the past year by residents of the Nederland area:

- Biking/hiking/running (an average of 518 times in the past year)
- Walking the dog (232 times)
- Snow & ice activities (71 times)
- Outdoor informal, unstructured activities (46 times)
- Other activities (36 times)
- Fitness and wellness programs (17 times)
- Volunteering (17 times)
- Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals (12 times)

The participation in the full list of activities is summarized by the graph below.

Figure 10
Program - Frequency of Use



Comments

Q. If you use outdoor sports fields/courts, please specify type. Click [View](#) (or type: <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned10.pdf>)

Degree to which Programs are Meeting Household Needs

Programs. After providing an indication of frequency of use for programs and activities, respondents were then asked to rate the same list of activities and programs according to "How well they are meeting household needs." The activities that were participated in most frequently were also rated highest in the degree to which needs are being met.

Programs with the highest degree of "needs being met" include:

- Biking/hiking/running (82%)

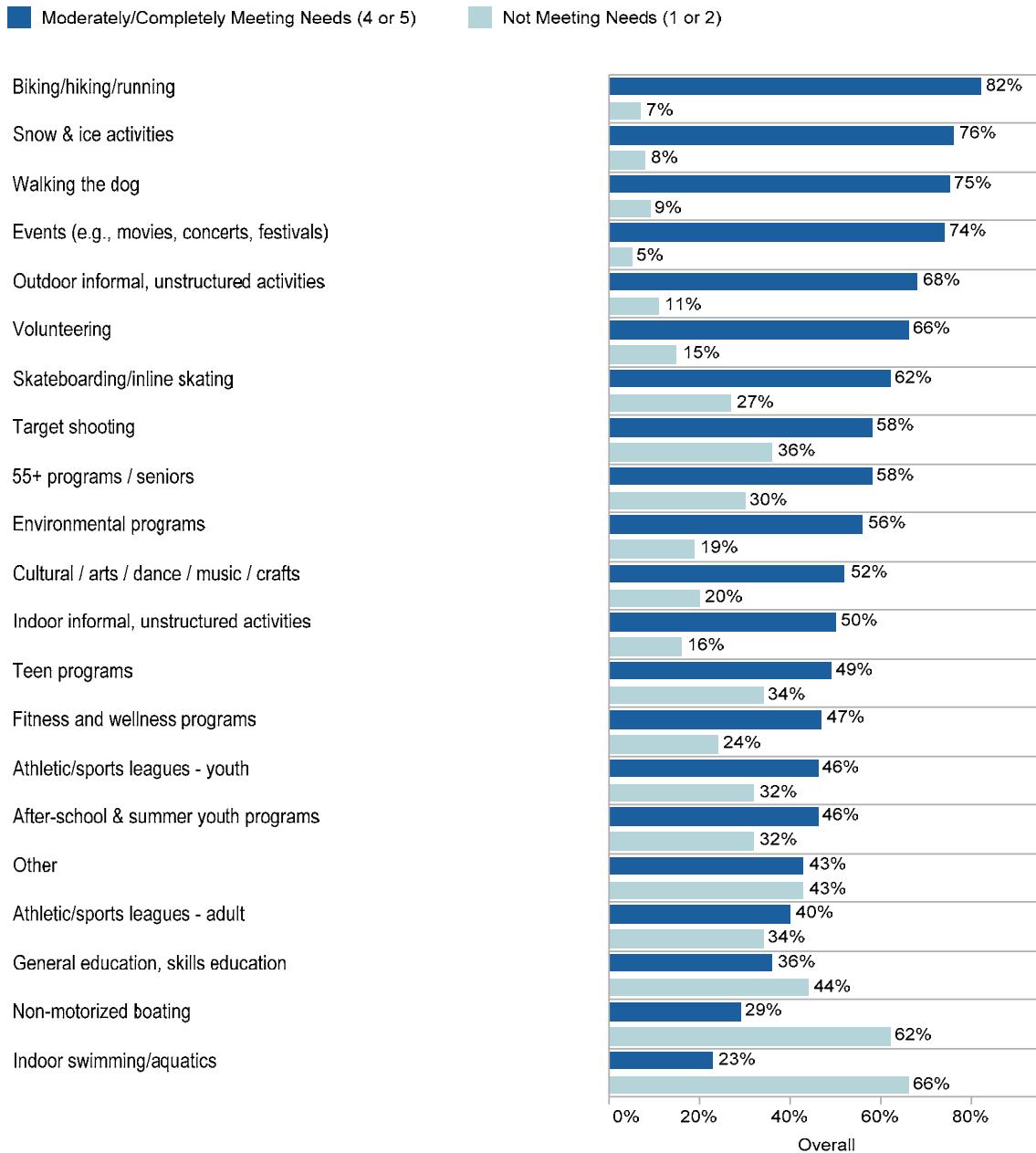
- Snow & ice activities (76%)
- Walking the dog (75%)
- Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals (74%)
- Outdoor informal, unstructured activities (68%)
- Volunteering (66%)
- Skateboarding/inline skating (62%)

For most programs and facilities, the proportion of the community that indicated their needs were being met was larger than the proportion whose needs were not being met. However there were a number of programs for which a third to two-thirds of respondents indicated their needs were not at all being met (1 or 2 on a 5 point scale). The largest proportion occurred with indoor swimming/aquatics and non-motorized boating where approximately two-thirds of respondents indicate their household needs are not being met:

- Indoor swimming/aquatics (66%)
- Non-motorized boating (62%)
- General education, skills education (44%)
- Target shooting (36%)
- Teen Programs (34%)
- Athletic/Sports League- Adult (34%)
- Athletic/Sports League- Child (32%)
- After-school & summer youth programs (32%)

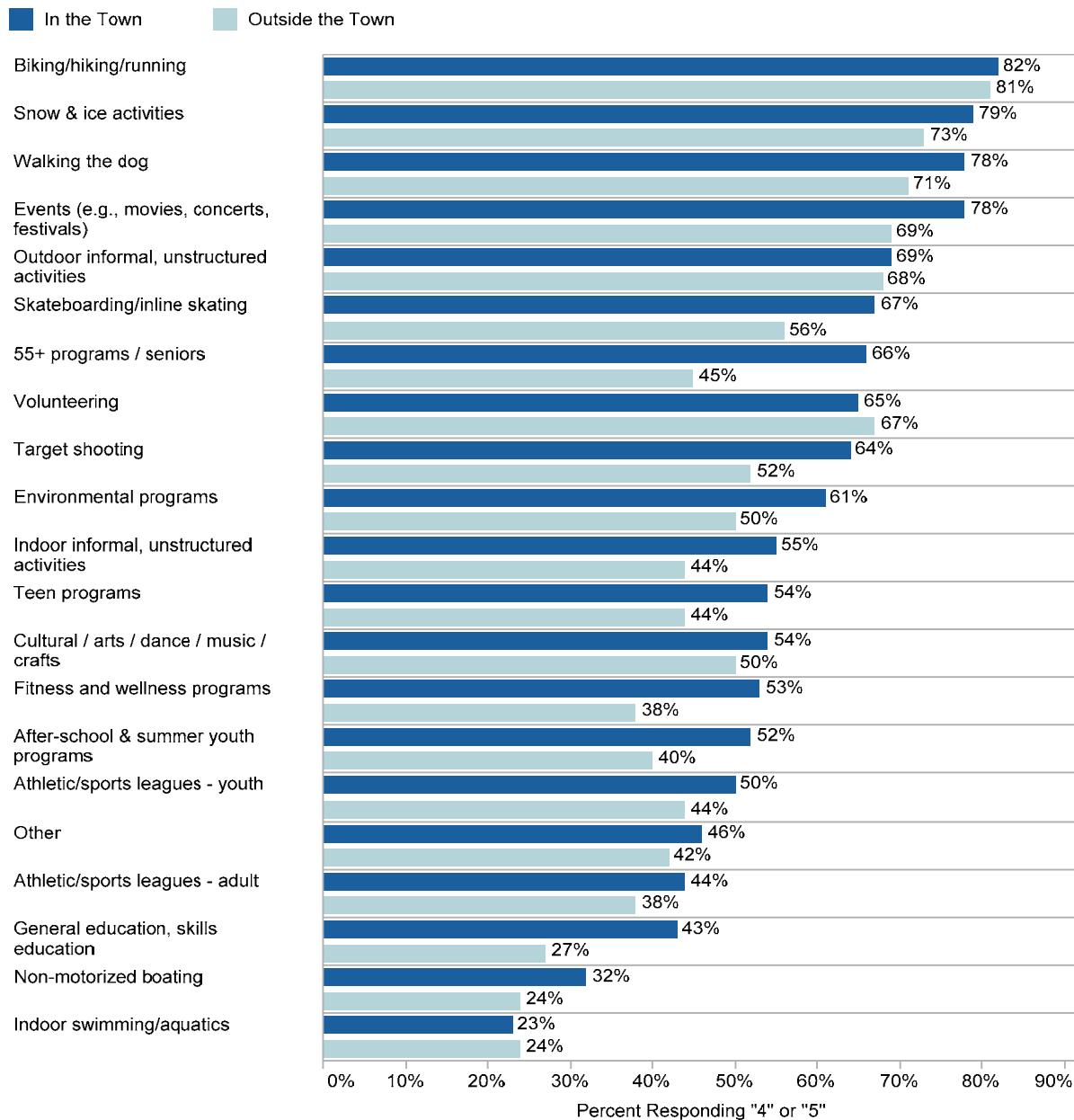
These results are summarized in the following graph with the activities that are not being fully met shown at the bottom of the graph.

Figure 11
Programs – Degree to Which Household Needs are Being Met



These results are further probed by residents that live in Town and outside Nederland. As shown, there are generally very similar responses in terms of “needs being met.” Both of these segments are especially likely to respond that their needs for indoor swimming/aquatics and non-motorized boating are not being met.

Figure 12
Programs- Degree to Which Household Needs are Being Met
Percent Responding 4 or 5 (Completely Meeting Needs)
Live In vs Outside the Town



Highest Priorities for Programs to be Added, Expanded, or Improved

From the same list of programs, respondents were asked to identify their top three priorities for additions, expansions, or improvements. These results provide one measure of priorities of residents of the area. Programs selected among the top five by the greatest proportion of respondents included:

- Biking/hiking/running (36%)
- Indoor swimming/aquatics (32%)
- Non-motorized boating (28%)
- Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals) (26%)
- Cultural /arts / dance / music / crafts (25%)

The following table highlights responses on the two separate questions. The first measures top priorities of Nederland area households and the second question evaluates the extent to which residents feel their needs are being met. There are distinct differences in results – needs for biking/hiking/running, events and snow and ice activities are generally being met. In contrast, needs for indoor swimming and non-motorized boating are largely unmet as indicated by the yellow highlights.

	Percent indicating that it is <u>among their</u> <u>Top 3 Priorities</u>	Needs Being <u>Completely Met</u> (4 or 5)
• Biking/hiking/running	36%	82%
• Indoor Swimming Aquatics	32%	23%
• Non-motorized boating	28%	29%
• Events (e.g., movies, concerts, festivals)	26%	74%
• Cultural /arts / dance / music / crafts	25%	52%
• Snow and Ice Activities	22%	76%

Activities and Facilities

The survey asked respondents about activities/facilities that would be used by households, and the importance of “adding, expanding or improving these facilities in the Nederland area in the next 5 to 10 years.” A total of 31 categories of recreational activities were identified and there was an opportunity provided for missing activities to be identified as “other.” Note that some of these activities overlap with categories that were evaluated by the “programs” list that was discussed previously. These questions provide additional ways of measuring and potentially prioritizing various improvements. Shown below is a rank ordered graph of responses broken out by in-Town and out of Town households. The first graph illustrates the most identified 15 facilities. The following graph portrays the next tier of facilities in similar ranked order. As shown, the priorities of both groups of respondents are generally similar but not identical. For example, community gardens are rated higher by in Town residents (65% versus 57%). The proposed gateway park is rated higher by out of Town residents (74% out of Town residents versus 64% in-Town residents).

Figure 13
15 Top Rated Facilities to be Added, Expanded or Improved (4 or 5)
Live in the Town vs. Outside the Town

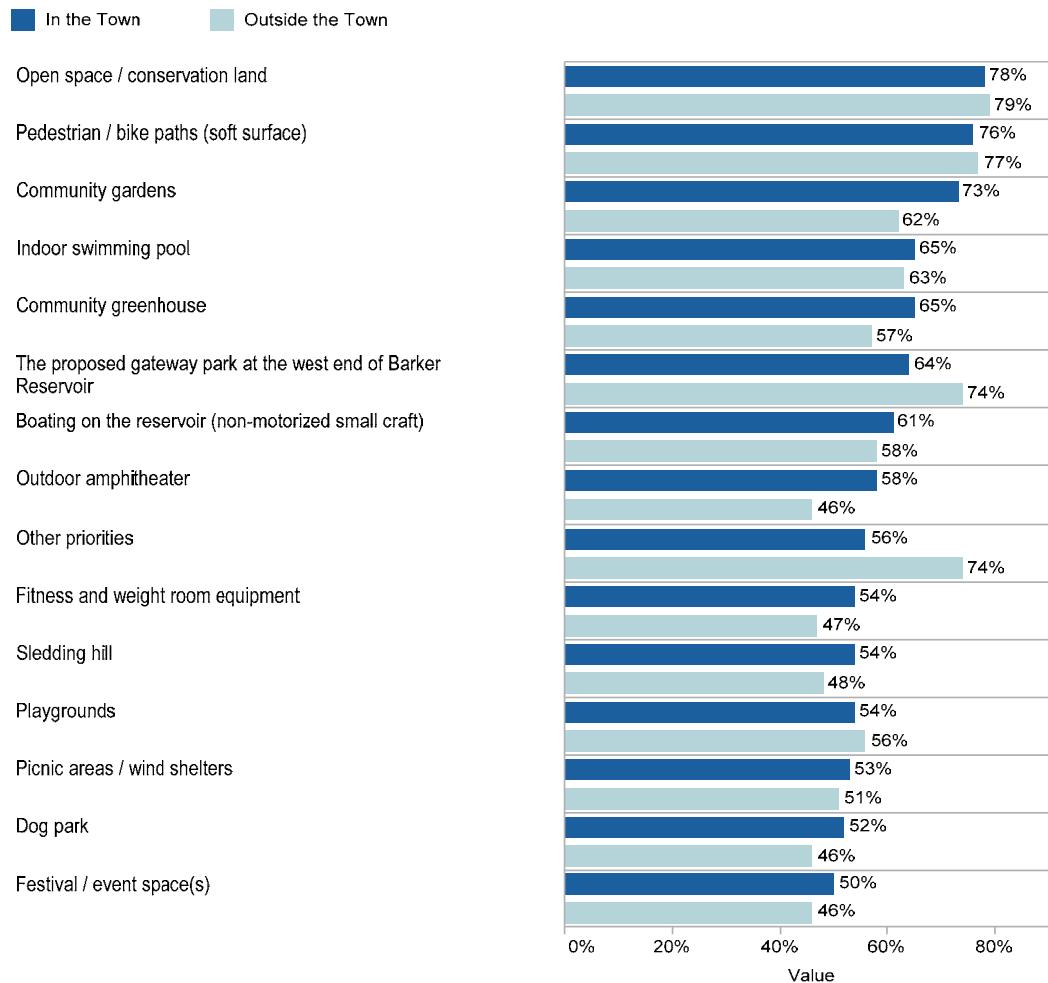
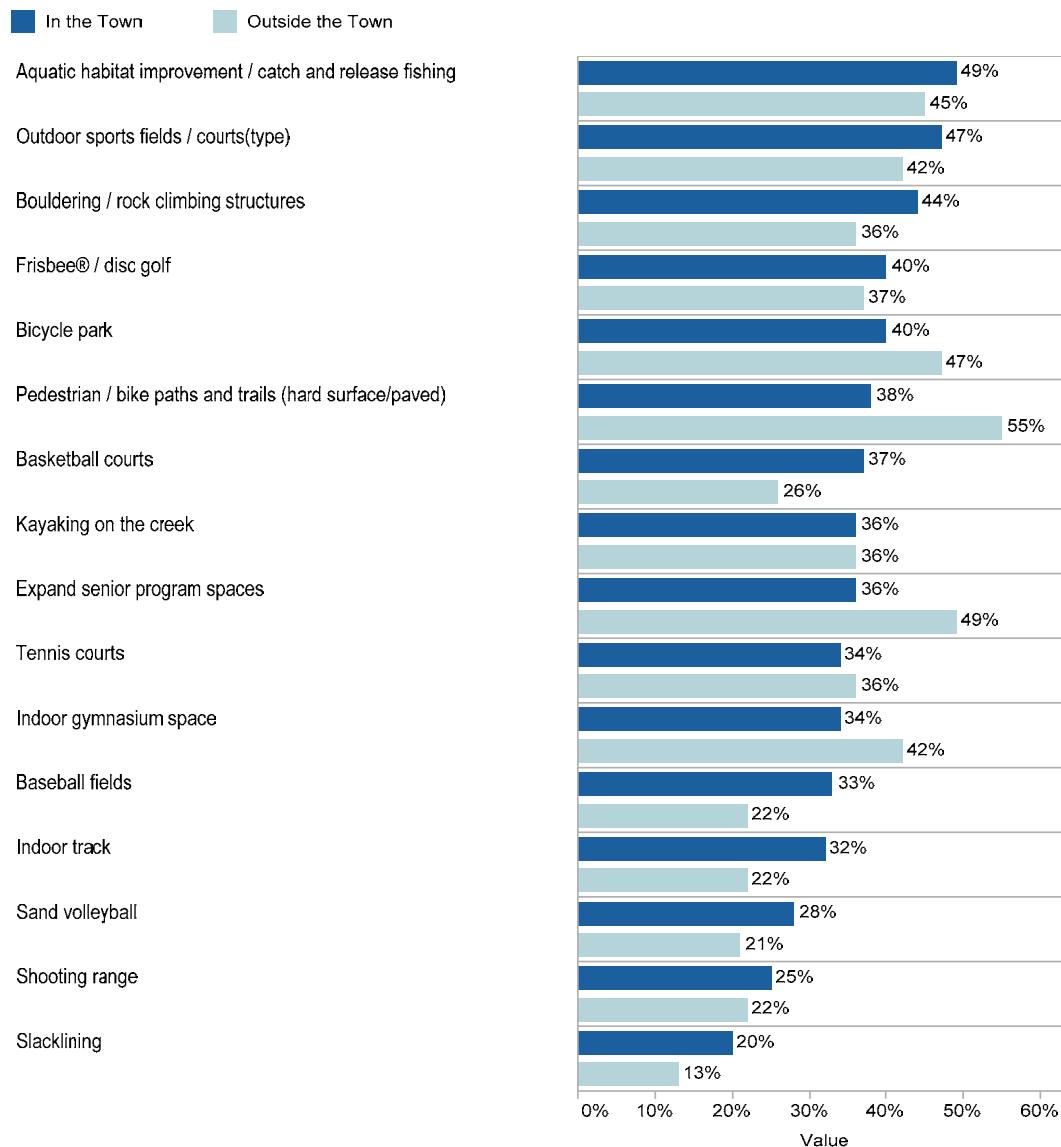


Figure 14
15 Bottom Rated Facilities to be Added, Expanded or Improved (4 or 5)
Live in the Town vs. Outside the Town



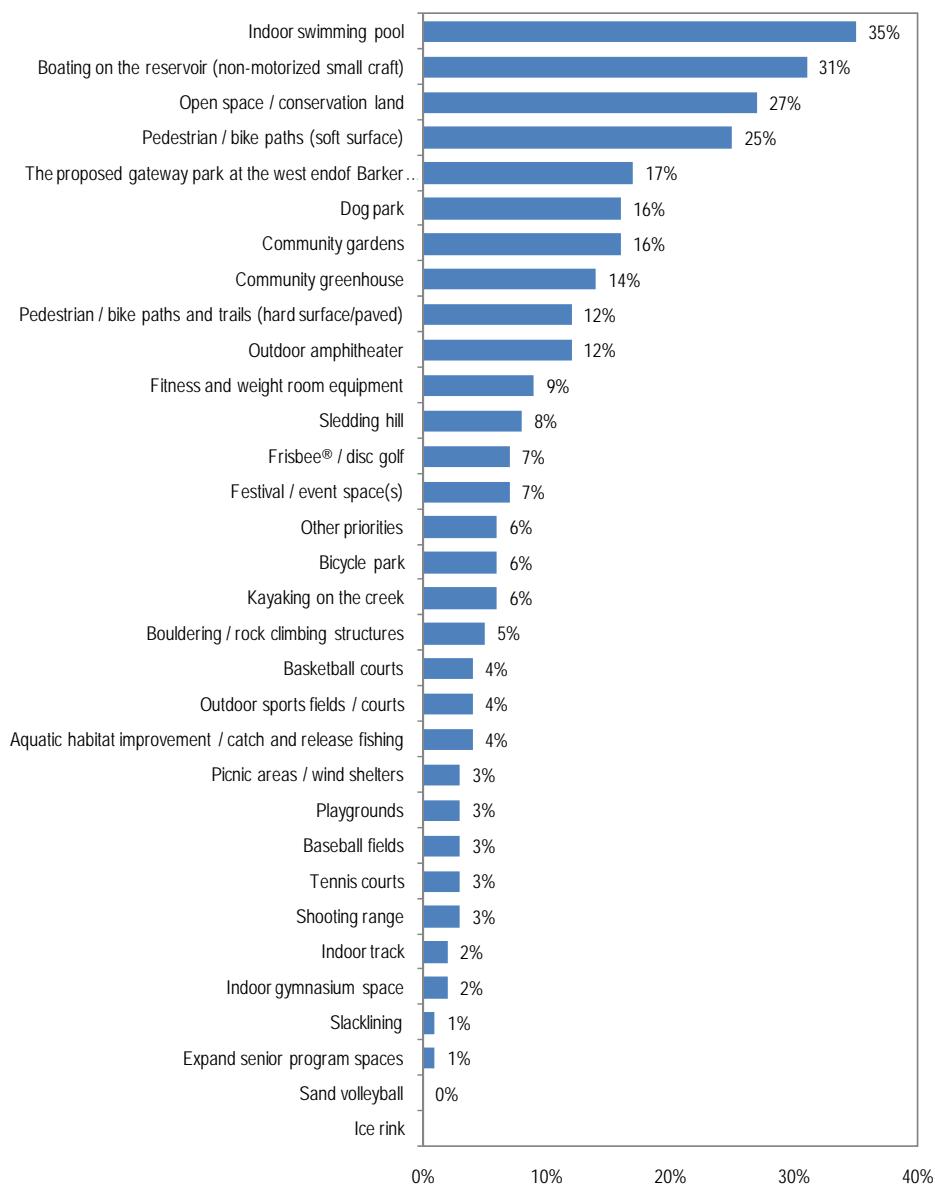
Respondents were also asked to identify their first, second and third highest priority for improvements from the list of 31 facilities and activities. As shown below, there is a distinct pattern of results with the top four categories identified by 25% or more of respondents, followed by a second tier that ranged from 17% down to 12% (6 types of facilities). The remainder of the list was identified by 9% or less of respondents.

Most identified categories included:

- Indoor swimming pool (35%)
- Boating on the reservoir (non-motorized) (31%)

- Open space/conservation land (27%)
- Pedestrian/bike paths (soft surface) (25%) (Note that hard surface paths received 12%)

Figure 15
Top Three Highest Priority Activities or Programs to be Added, Expanded, or Improved



Comments

Q. If chose other priorities to add, expand, or improve in the Nederland area, please specify. Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned11.pdf>)

Q. Which activities would you consider most important to your household to add, expand or improve in the Nederland area? Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned1.pdf>)

Q. Which three activities/programs would you consider to be the most important to your household to be added/expanded, or improved in the Nederland area? (COMMENTS) Click [View](#) (or type: <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned12.pdf>)

TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE

The survey results provide a measure of priorities of area residents with respect to trails and open space. While all aspects of open space are considered important by the community, receiving a "4" or "5" on the five point importance scale, the most identified categories included:

- Preserve wildlife habitat (90% a 4 or 5)
- Maintain existing trails (87%)
- Preserve the view corridors (85%)

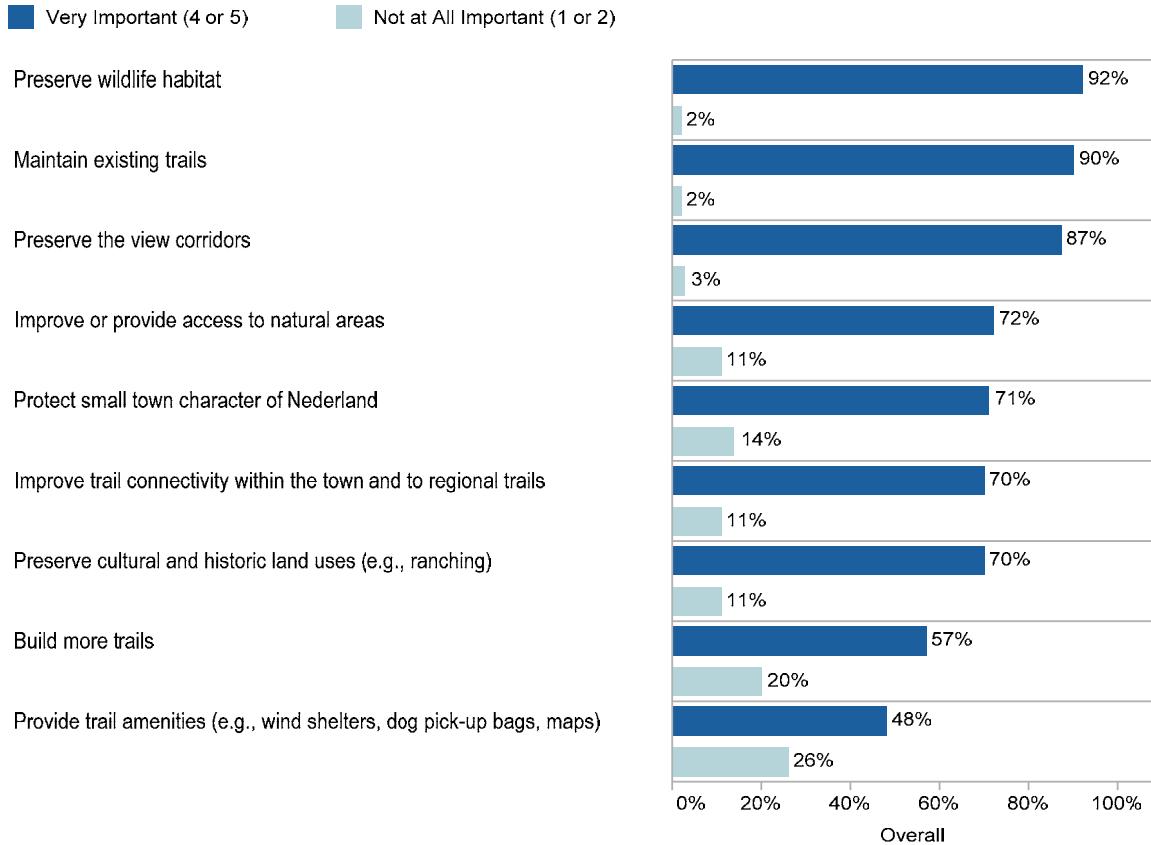
The lower rated categories, in terms of importance, included:

- Build more trails (50%)
- Provide trail amenities (44%)

These findings are consistent with many of the ratings in the survey where residents favor "maintaining" and "preserving" as a general management approach, rating these techniques higher than "building" and "creating more" (see the graph in the next section). The finding is also borne out in a number of the open-ended comments where a significant segment comment in various ways that they would like to see more done with what exists.

Figure 16

With respect to Nederland area trails and open space, how important are the following to you and members of your household?



It is notable that the responses from in Town and out of Town households are very similar in terms of open space management priorities.

The survey asked respondents to identify specific trail linkages that should be pursued. There were a large number of specific suggestions provided. These suggestions are listed in the appendix.

Comments

Q. Do you have any comments on Nederland trails and open space, including specific linkages that you would like to see pursued? Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned7.pdf>)

FUTURE FACILITIES, AMENITIES, AND SERVICES TO ADD, EXPAND, OR IMPROVE

Greatest Needs for Facilities to be Added, Expanded, or Improved

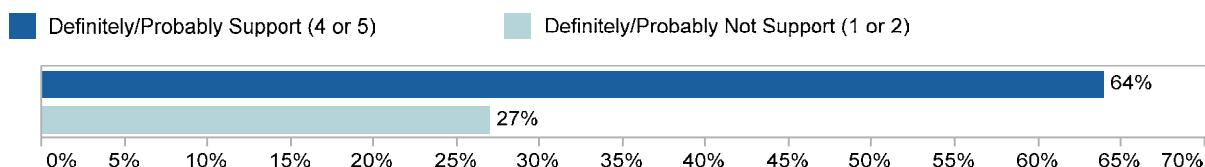
Respondents were asked questions concerning a series of potential programs or amenities and responses provide measures of community sentiment concerning some of the alternatives that may be considered for the future. These questions were asked in no particular order or priority on the survey.

Further, an effort was made to offer, in some cases, a “no action” alternative as one of the choices available to respondents.

A boating program on Barker Reservoir

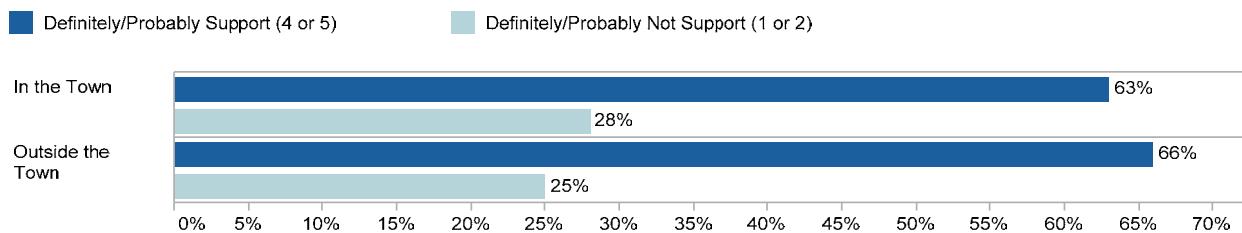
Over 60% of Nederland area respondents indicate some support for a boating program on the reservoir, a “4” or “5” on a five point scale where “5” is “definitely support.”

Figure 17
A Boating Program on Barker Reservoir



These results vary somewhat by whether the respondent lives in Town (63% support) versus outside Nederland (67%). Further, while there is a significant group that will “definitely not support” among Town residents (28%), the negative sentiment is weaker out of town with approximately 10% saying they would “definitely not support”. Interestingly, on this issue there are few respondents that are neutral (overall only 8%) gave boating a “3” or “neutral” on the scale. While a majority are in favor overall, residents are generally on one side or the other side of this issue.

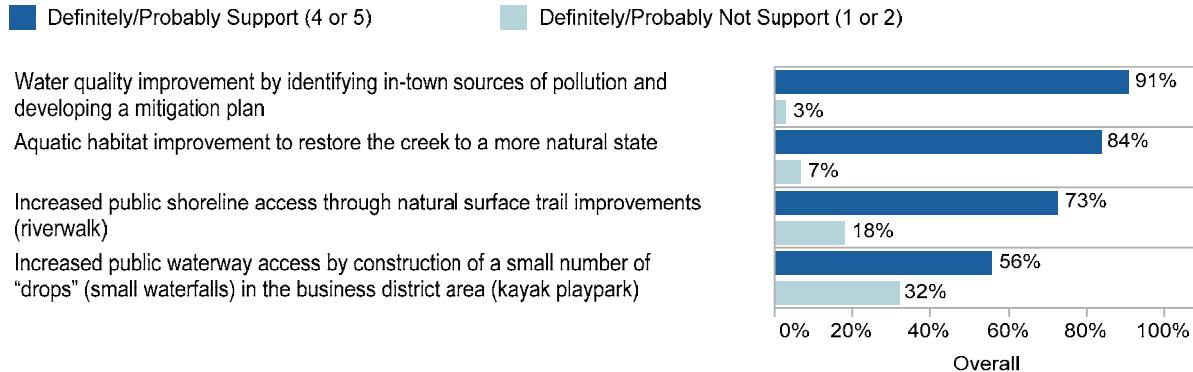
Figure 18
A Boating Program on Barker Reservoir
Live In the Town vs Outside the Town



Changes to the Middle Boulder Creek area in Nederland

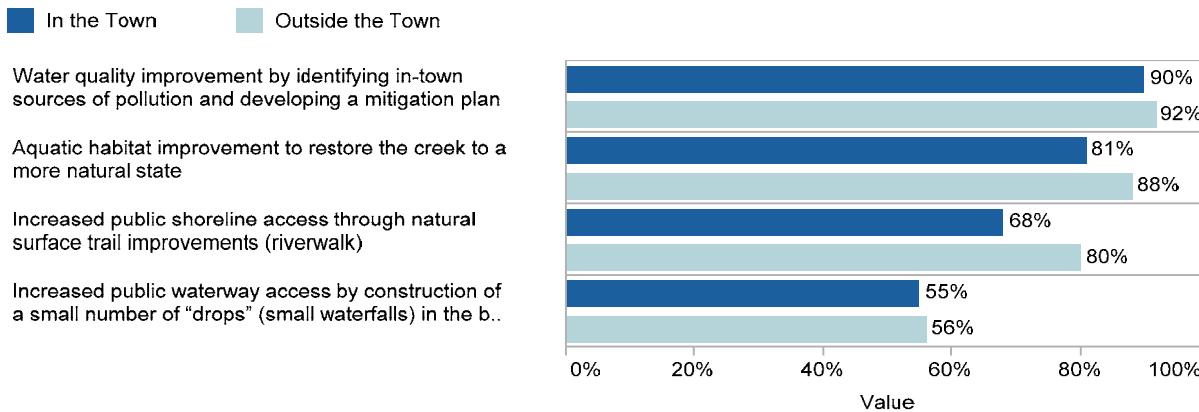
A series of questions probed interest in various changes to the creek as it passes through Town. While most respondents favor “Water quality improvement...” (91%) and “Aquatic habitat improvement to restore the creek to a more natural state” (84%) there is less consensus on “Increased shoreline access through natural surface trail improvements (riverwalk)” (73%) and “Increased public waterway access by construction of a small number of “drops” (small waterfalls) in the business district area (kayak playpark)” (56%).

Figure 19
Enhancements to Middle Boulder Creek in Town



Results were more divided when the responses from In-Town and Out of Town residents are considered. As summarized below, there is considerably more resistance to changes to the creek from Town residents compared to out of Town residents. Note that in the following graph the responses are summarized for those that would not support, a 1 or 2 rating.

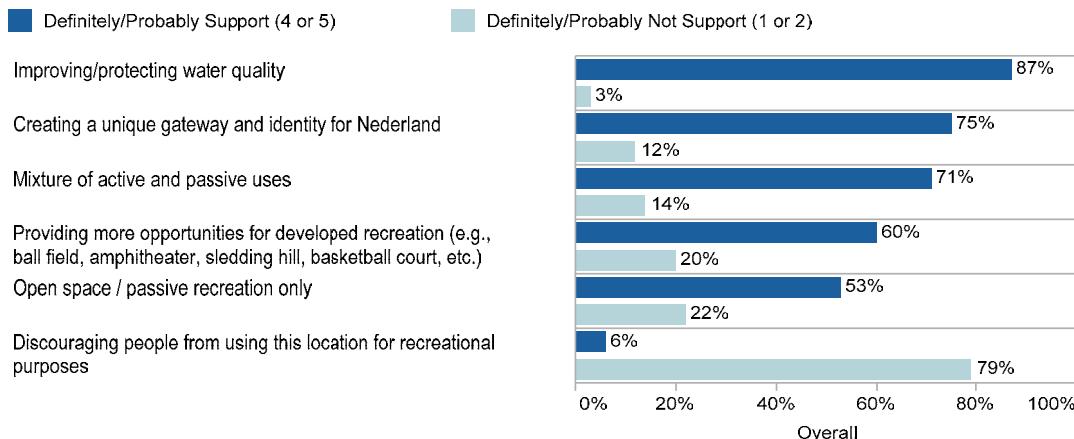
Figure 20
Enhancements to Middle Boulder Creek in Town
Percent Responding "Definitely or Probably Support" (1 or 2)
Live In the Town vs Outside the Town



The gateway park area

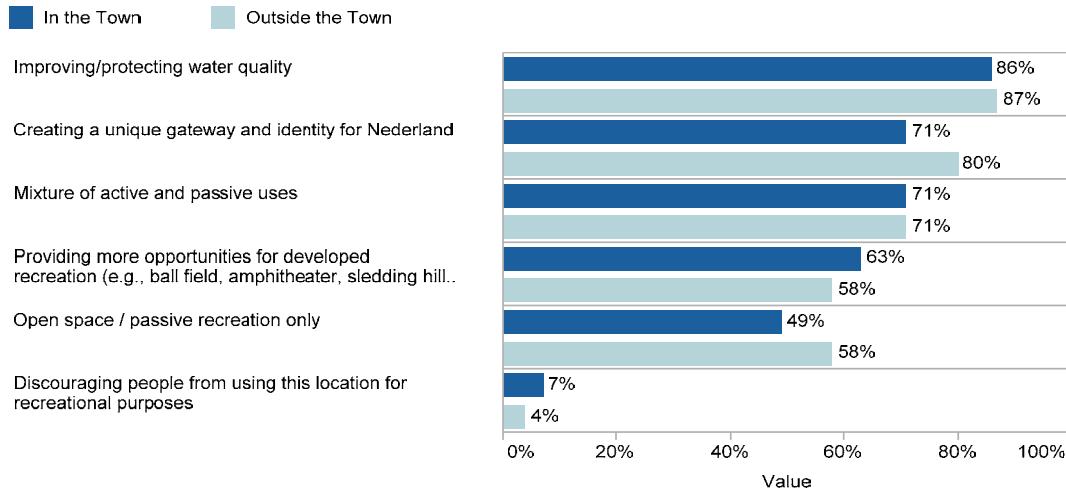
The survey probed various policy aspects of the gateway park area. There is strong support and consensus around "Improving/protecting water quality" (87% "definitely" or "probably support") and "Creating a unique gateway and identity for Nederland" (71%). Further, there is very little support for "Discouraging people from using this location for recreational purposes" (only 8% support this alternative). Less clear is the support for active recreation on the site, although a majority of respondents (50% plus) support the three alternative policy choices that were evaluated.

Figure 21
Broadly Speaking, What Would You Like to See in the Gateway Park Area?



When these choices are probed by whether respondents live in Town or outside Nederland, there are once again some differences. These differences are shown in the graph below.

Figure 22
Broadly Speaking, What Would You Like to See in the Gateway Park Area?
 Percent Responding "Definitely or Probably Support" (4 or 5)
 Live In the Town vs Outside the Town



Comments

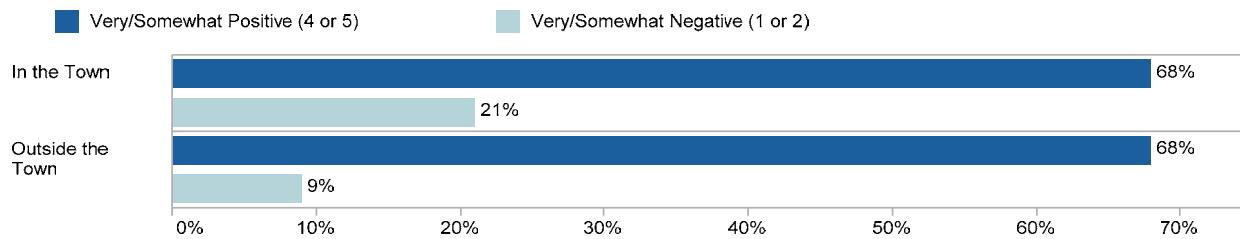
Q. Comments on what you would like to see in the gateway parks area. Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned9.pdf>)

Special Events

The survey also evaluated community support for outdoor festivals and events. As illustrated below, a majority of both in Town and Outside the Town respondents believe festivals and events contribute

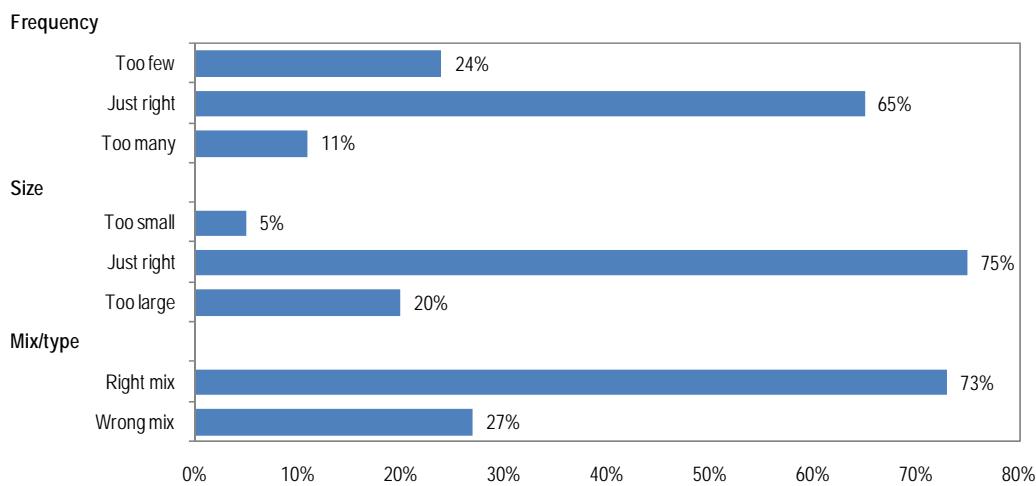
positively to the community. About 68% of both groups of residents rate events as providing “very positive” or “somewhat positive” community impact. Once again, residents within the Town are slightly more likely to give a negative rating (21% Town versus 9% of County residents rating events/festivals a “1” or “2”)

Figure 23
Special Events Community Impact
Live In the Town vs Outside the Town



Events were further probed in terms of frequency, size and mix/type. Again, most respondents are positive with 73% of the overall responses saying there is the “right mix” of events, 75% saying the size of events is “just right” (but with 20% saying “too large”). Most respondents also believe the current mix/type of events is appropriate with 74% indicating the “right mix” on the survey and 26% saying “wrong mix.” There was virtually no difference in these responses between in-Town and County residents.

Figure 24
Evaluation of Outdoor Festivals and Events



This question also provided an opportunity for respondents to comment on events. A sampling of comments is provided below with a full listing of the comments identified in the Appendix.

Comments

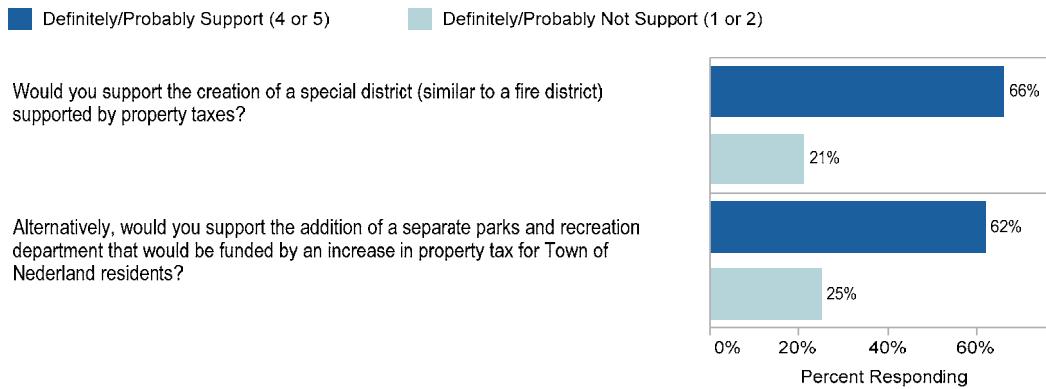
Q. Comments on outdoor festivals in the Nederland area. Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned8.pdf>)

FINANCIAL CHOICES

The survey asked respondents about two alternative approaches to paying for and managing parks and recreation services. As shown below, there was moderate support for both alternatives:

- **Special District Approach.** Respondents were first asked if they would support the creation of a special district (similar to a fire district) supported by property taxes (66% “definitely/probably support,” a “4” or “5” on the five point scale). About 20 percent reported that they “definitely” or “probably would not support” the creation of a special district.
- Comparing responses from residents in Town to those outside Nederland, the support for a district is somewhat higher among unincorporated County residents. About 70% of County residents would “definitely” or “probably support,” compared to 64% of in-Town residents. And 23% of Town residents would “definitely” or “probably not support” compared to 19% out of Town residents.
- **Town Parks and Recreation Department supported by property tax of Town residents.** On the second question of financial alternatives, about 62% overall would support a parks and recreation department in the Town supported by a property tax for residents.
- Support for this approach was about equal among in-Town and out of Town respondents, with 63% of Nederland respondents in support, compared to 62% of County residents. It should be noted that out of Town residents would not vote on this tax, nor would they pay it. Once again, negative sentiment was higher among Nederland residents with 31% saying they “definitely” or “probably would not support” and 19% of County residents answering this way.

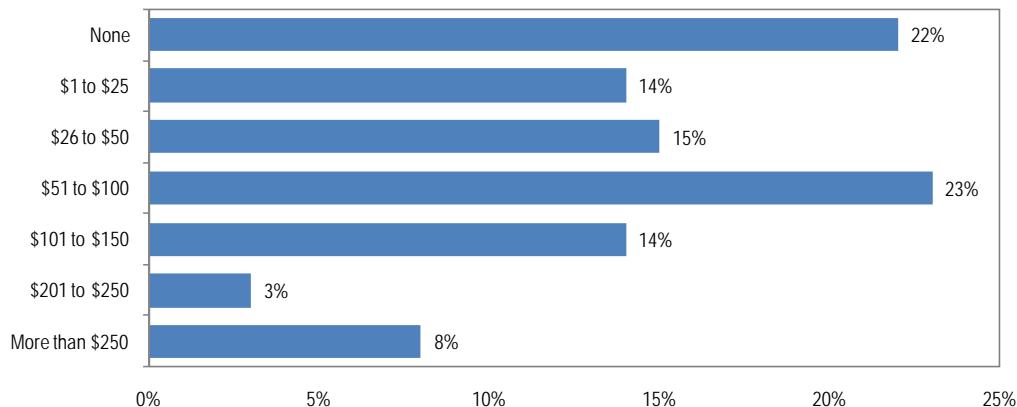
Figure 25
Program and Facility Fees



Potential Impact of Fee Increases

Respondents were asked, *“How much additional property tax would you be willing to pay annually to increase recreational opportunities in the Nederland area.”* Results indicate that about 22% of respondents overall would not be willing to pay any tax. Consistent with responses reported on the previous questions. The survey results indicate there would be support from about 37% of respondents for a property tax in the \$51 to \$150 annual property tax range. About 11% overall would said they would support a tax over \$200 annually.

Figure 26
Willingness to Pay an Annual Property Tax Levy of Approximately:



COMMUNICATION

Residents were asked how they currently receive information. Additionally, they were asked the best way to receive information. As illustrated below, newspapers and word of mouth are most used currently. However, there are strong feelings that Web sites and the Town newsletter could be used more. These two categories receive strong support as the “best way” to reach households and the results suggest that the Town might further evaluate the methods of communications that are currently being used.

How Currently Receive Information

Respondents were asked how they usually receive information on parks and recreation facilities, services and programs. There are clear differences between the various information sources.

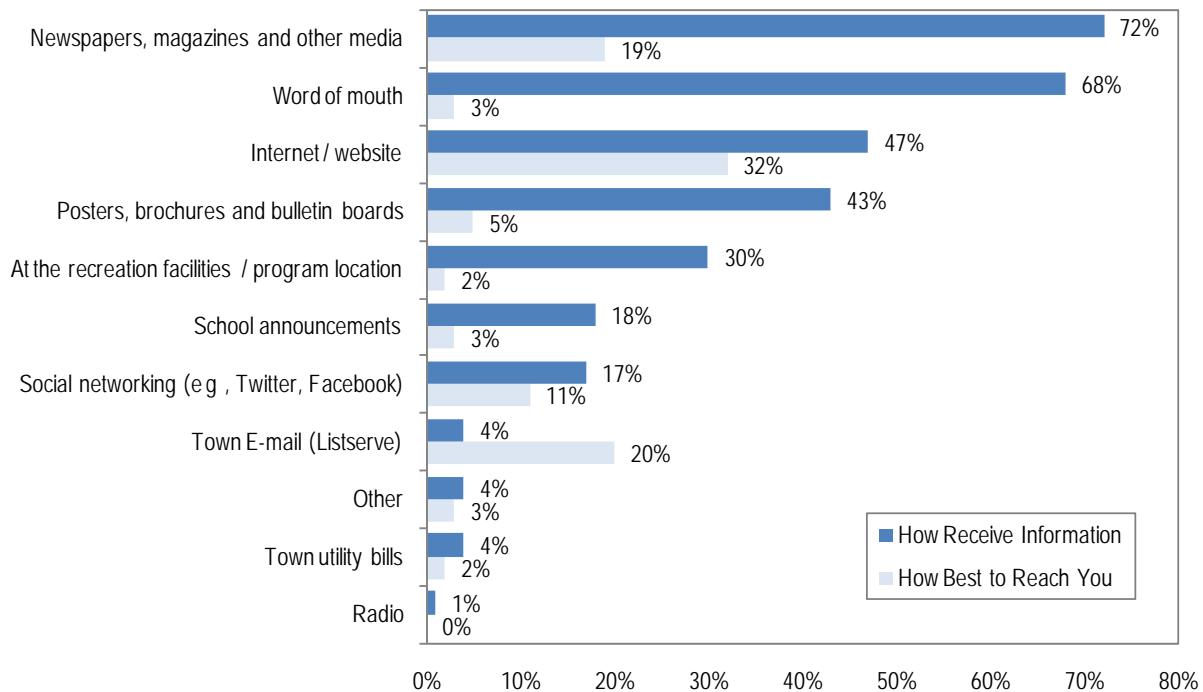
- Newspapers, magazines and other media (70%)
- Word of mouth (68%)
- Internet/website (47%)
- Posters, brochures and bulletin boards (43%)

Best Way to Reach Residents of Nederland?

Respondents were also asked how they may best be reached by Nederland Parks & Recreation. Again, there are differences that should be taken into account as Nederland reevaluates communication opportunities. While newspapers, magazines and other media are most often mentioned as a source today, on line sources (the Internet and Town E-mail) are frequently mentioned as the best way to reach households.

- Internet/website (32%)
- Town E-mail (Listserve) (20%)
- Newspapers, magazines and other media (19%)
- Social Networking (e.g., Twitter, Facebook) (11%)

Figure 27
How Currently Receive Information and How Best Reach You



Comments

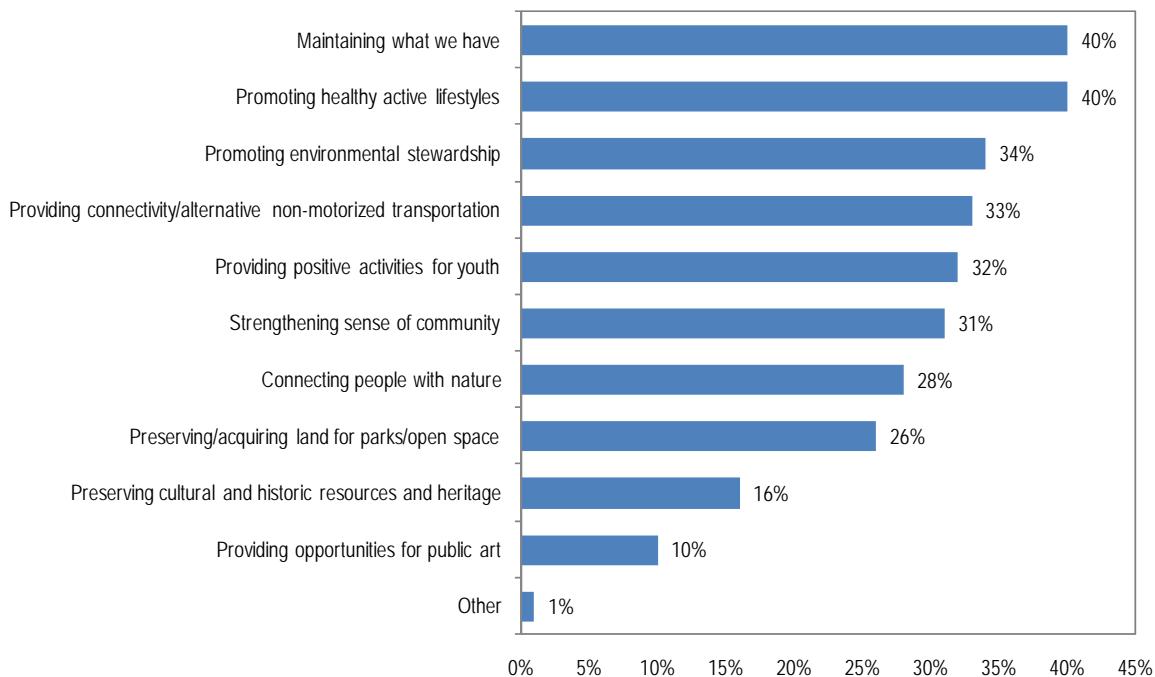
Q. How do you usually or currently receive information on Nederland owned/operated parks, recreation facilities, services, and programs? Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned5.pdf>)

Q. Recognizing there is a cost to communicating with you, how can we best reach you? (OTHER)
Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned6.pdf>)

HIGHEST PRIORITIES OF PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS – OVERALL DIRECTION.

The highest priorities of residents were also measured using a series of value statements. These priorities are summarized below.

Figure 28
Three Highest Priorities for Parks and Recreation Programs in the Nederland area



As noted previously, these priorities were also reflected in the large number of open ended comments that offer specific suggestions and comments on the many aspects of parks, trails, recreation and open space that were probed through the survey.

Comments

Q. What should be the goals and objectives of parks and recreation programs in the Nederland area?
 (OTHER) Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned13.pdf>)

SUGGESTIONS / OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

The survey provided respondents with the opportunity to list any additional comments or suggestions regarding parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails and programs in the Nederland area. The resulting comments cover a wide variety of issues important to residents as well as a number of specific areas for consideration and for potential changes or improvements. The full set of comments, found in the appendix, should be viewed in order to understand the extent of community interest and to gain additional perspective on the topics covered by the survey. Write-in survey comments have been reported verbatim in a manner consistent with the Town of Nederland Board of Trustees Working Agreements for public input.

Comments

Q. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions that you would like to offer regarding parks, recreation facilities, open space, trails, and programs in Nederland? Click [View](#) (or type <http://rrcinfo.com/nederland/comments/Ned13.pdf>)

Appendix B – Focus Group and Public Meeting Summaries

**Nederland, Colorado
Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan Project
FOCUS GROUP NOTES**

Focus Group #1: Teens

January 19, 2012 – 10 am

Teen Center

Attendees: 9 students, 10 staff/adults

1. When you have free time, what do you do for recreation?

- Skate board
- Hang out with friends
- Slide on ice
- Snow boarding
- Biking
- Mountain board

2. What parks and recreation facilities do you currently use? Why?

- Sometimes use them
- Eldora
- Other skate parks (Boulder, Denver, Lafayette)
- Mountain Trails
- Boulder Canyon for climbing

Do you or members of your household currently use the Nederland Community Center? What do you like to do at the Center?

- Movies

What other parks and recreation facilities in the area do you use?

- Gilpin Rec Center

3. When you were younger, what type of structured recreation activities were you involved in? What ones would you have liked to be involved in if they were available?

- Basketball
- Track
- Cheerleading
- Rodeo
- Hockey (involved in RINK)

4. What are the key strengths of the programs and facilities operated by the Town of Nederland?

- Skate Park
- The woods – find a chill spot – open woods
- The reservoir (looking and fishing)

5. What needs to be improved (i.e., fixed, changed, added regarding recreation facilities, etc.)?
 - Dog park (noted by adult staff)
 - Wind huts – shelters to protect from the wind across town (bus stops, parks, hanging out by the skate park)
 - Labyrinths (presented by a staff member)
 - Greenhouse
 - Bigger trampoline
 - Zip line
 - Bowling
 - Pool – recreation pool
 - Feel can get around town safely
 - South side of Reservoir is eroded – trail
 - Possibly trails to Nederland Elementary School /Mud lake/NMSHS (staff)
 - Intramural sports (presented by staff)
 - Improved field, better turf (by Reservoir)
 - Place to practice
 - Mini golf
 - Outdoor classroom /beautiful place for Tai Chi/open air gathering space (staff)
 - Shelters outside
 - Graffiti wall
 - Outdoor amphitheater (staff) possibly in Chipeta Park (student)
 - Small recording studio
6. What programs or special events would you like to participate in that are not available in Nederland currently?
 - Theater camp
 - Demos at the skate park
 - Concerts for local talent (all ages venue)
7. If you could design an ideal park at the gateway to Nederland near the reservoir, what would it have in it?
 - Alpine sled
 - Tag wall/graffiti wall
 - Sculpture park
 - Non motorized boating
 - More street skating
 - Bathrooms (staff)
 - Dock to go out and fish
 - Boat rentals / bumper boats
8. Where do you get your information about events and activities? What is the best way for the Town to communicate with you and provide you information?
 - Internet – Facebook
 - Older people in Nederland see teenagers as trouble
 - Town information boards (several around town)

FOCUS GROUP NOTES

Focus Group #2: Active Recreation

January 19, 2012 – 7:30 pm

Nederland Community Center

19 Attendees

1. What are the strengths of the open space, trails, parks, and recreation services and facilities in the Town of Nederland?

- Good facilities – ice rink, skate park, Community Center, Mud Lake, Mid-west Magnolia trail system, Caribou Ranch open space
- Dedicated volunteers
- Tennis court
- Eldora Ski Resort
- Trails connecting schools to Mud Lake
- Reservoir
- Access – trails and open space accessible from Town and other areas, open to dogs, horses
- Recreation your own way – not a lot of rules limiting use

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Great natural setting
- Free activities
- It is a hub to the open space
- Chapita Park is centrally located and has potential
- The Barker Reservoir has great potential

2. What improvement/changes would you make to the parks and recreation system?

- Community Center – swimming pool, leaky roof in MP community room
- Barker Reservoir – should be able to use, trail loop
- Lack of Town funding for acquisition, maintenance – Town needs some reliable source of funding
- Umbrella liability insurance for the non-profit groups that offer programs
- Central registration for all activities
- Publicity of programs offered by many groups
- Central point for coordinating volunteers
- Town to be more cooperative with non-profits – may need to be a budget line item; Town staff point person; there is a parks budget – minimal for trash pick-up, etc.
- District or Parks and Recreation Department for reliable funding
- Trails – more connections, more information about what exists, have a few signs out including interpretive signs, going forward there could be an education component – water issues, etc., maps
- Organized sports – basketball courts not in good shape, not a good field, would like to work out an IGA with Schools
- Ambassadors – look at employing teens to be at park sites to share information with users (stewardship, etc.)
- Identify other resources and funding sources such as Boulder County, users from Boulder; would like a bigger voice in Boulder County

- Eldora – impact fees on lift tickets to help fund area parks and recreation?

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- A river walk
- Parks & Recreation district to coordinate development and volunteer usage, insurance umbrella

3. Are there programs/services or facilities you would like to see that are not currently offered?

- Pump track adjacent to the skate park, BMX courses (dirt bikes, example Valmont Park in Boulder)
- Disc golf course
- Climbing, bouldering, rock wall, ropes
- Program – enrichment type programs such as arts and education
- Races, endurance events – Xterra event, etc.; would like more regional premier events – Eldora could be involved
- Music festivals – opportunities for Eldora to offer more summer events
- Cultural – could include this in the concept of a District that is broader than “recreation”
- Gateway park area – bandshell for concerts, events
- Swimming pool – many drive to recreation centers in Boulder and Gilpin
- Building more trails to interconnect parks, etc.
- Environmental stewardship – incorporate into system, consistent ethic , educational piece, integrate recreation within the natural world, example skating at Mud Lake instead of rink; many recreationalists are coming to Nederland, a District would help organize all the programs and facilities; coordinating and planning so things happen the way we want them to happen
- Waterway in town is controversial – can improve a trail next to and tie people to it; currently not a natural waterway; Reno, NV example of waterway that's been improved
- Examples from other communities – Estes Park has a swimming pool next to their school; Lyons charges for parking for festivals to generate revenue; Steamboat Springs – connected trails, Rotary volunteers help build trails
- People are going to still come to and through Nederland – want to manage this so it doesn't destroy natural resources, need public education
- Fixed orienteering course

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Youth programs – baseball, soccer, etc.
- Mountain biking at Eldora mountain
- Swimming pool

4. What are the key issues and values to be considered while developing this Plan?

- Balancing needs of locals and visitors – fear of Nederland getting overrun by outsiders (e.g., West Magnolia trail)
- Caring for the land, being aware of abuses of natural areas; would like to see restoration of some areas; mountain bikers often destroy
- Work with the land, be sensitive to sustainable design
- Identify projects that serve the community and are focused on greatest needs and interests – be cognizant of the wider community versus smaller interest groups

- Pursue projects that give the biggest bang for the buck – leverage resources, identify grant opportunities, etc.
- Focus on kids – create lifelong recreational enthusiasts – have a wide variety of opportunities, appreciation for the environment
- Maintain the variety of recreational opportunities versus focusing on competitive recreation
- Be environmentally sensitive while recognizing that there are human recreation needs – makes sense to concentrate recreation development within Town, outside of Town conservation is higher priority
- Envision Nederland 2020 values
- Avoid duplicating resources; soccer fields – have one at the elementary school, do we need another at the gateway park area? Explore partnership opportunities
- We are unique and are different, not like other places – Plan needs to reflect Nederland's character, want community ownership and pride – want to be known as “the Town that did it right” (quote from Vision 2020 process)
- New projects should reflect the community character
- Teach visitors stewardship ethic when they use Nederland trails, etc.
- Reservoir –a missed opportunity – waste water treatment plant, etc.; would like to transform into an attract resource for residents (but recognize that visitors will use and plan for and direct usage)

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Sustainability – minimal impact and cost, minimize dependence on volunteers (self operating parks)
- Keep it non-commercial – informal, many people oppose commercial development

5. What are some trends in Nederland that will impact parks and recreation planning?

- Obesity – assume it's an issue here like elsewhere
- Community is pretty stable – school enrollment has remained fairly consistent for many years
- Sustainability focus – part has been expressed as anti-growth and anti-tourist; also need to recognize that economic sustainability is important and tourism contributes to the sustainability of the community
- Channeling or directing tourism needs to be a focus, more congestion in town, more use on mountain biking trails; people will continue to come to Nederland
- Shouldn't let tourism scare us away from something that would benefit residents, i.e., boating at the Reservoir
- Trend in the Town – tourists are not desired, liked
- Trash around the reservoir
- Attract families – carousel, path along the creek – teach children about the environment, nature walk
- Getting kids outdoors
- Aging population – keep population active, volunteering and sharing their expertise, keep them empowered
- Sports are rapidly disappearing from schools, increased role of parks and recreation

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Many agencies to coordinate with
- People oppose commercial development

- Anti-development backlash
 - Changing weather patterns
6. How can the Town best partner or collaborate with other organizations?
- Would like to have community buy-in, need commitment
 - Need to pick our battles – schools
 - Past successes have come from non-profits; culture change with Town – greater willingness of Town staff to collaborate; idea of a District is of great interest, but don't know feasibility; other idea is a volunteer-run Parks and Recreation Department – concept positively received by non-profits in the past; clear direction to Town staff to engage non-profits and volunteers is needed
 - Need an information and resource clearinghouse of what's going on in Nederland – businesses, government, non-profits
 - Look at load on volunteer base – fixed number of volunteers
 - Draw on youth volunteerism
 - Town could help recognize or reward volunteers – points and awards and you get a token to a movie, etc.; need to attract new volunteers
 - Town access to resources – direct staff to play more active coordination role
 - Non-profits bring grant funding – can leverage resources

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance can help with trails and working with the Forest Service

7. What are top parks, recreation, and open space priorities for the Town to address in the future?
- Communication between groups, centralization
 - Funding
 - Boating on Barker – will be before the Town board in the coming weeks, idea originally initiated to meet resident's needs (not conceived of as a tourism attraction)
 - Gateway park area – opportunity to enhance the site due to the redesigning of the sewage treatment plant; do we channel visitors here?; will serve residents and visitors; people will remember Nederland because of a great lake by the park, like the carousel that is a unique feature; need to recognize needs of immediate neighbors; a better appearance – people will be more respectful of the space
 - Open space and trails
 - Creek corridor and tie into the area – walk from the lake to the carousel

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Maintain multi-use access
- Try to build consensus to minimize community divisions
- Barker Reservoir shoreline
- Creek development
- River walk
- Ice Rink/Tennis Park

FOCUS GROUP NOTES

Focus Group #3: Seniors

January 23, 2012 – 12 pm
Nederland Community Center
19 attendees

Nederland Community Center

1. What do you like best about the Nederland Community Center (e.g., facility, programs, staff, etc.)?
 - Appreciate the senior activities (e.g., holiday market, lunches)
 - International folk dances every Monday
 - Movies on the weekend
 - Food and clothing pantry
 - Library has surplus donated books (rent room in old Elementary to story – west wing is storage)
 - Renovated building – appreciate the reuse of an existing building
 - Recreation and exercise spaces/fitness center used by all ages
 - Rotating art displays
 - Multi-use room used for many different activities, flexible use of space
 - Tai Chi twice a week
 - Dawn's leadership, Center Director
 - Access to kitchen to use for community functions

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Welcoming atmosphere and attitude of the small staff
- Art programs
- Backdoor Theater
- Site for many community events

2. What Community Center improvements may be needed for the future and why?

- Would like to see showers (loss of revenue due to lack of showers); also steam and hot tub would be nice (used to have one in the shopping mall); some that live away from Town have problems with water at home
- West wing renovation – make more rooms available for senior activities, dedicated rooms (e.g., game tables, art room, etc.)

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- More use of the west wing
- Swimming
- Improved equipment at the fitness center
- More programs for adults as well as family programs

3. Are there programs/services or facilities you would like to see that are not currently offered?

- Community vegetable garden is too small (areas raised as possibilities – meadow by Post Office and area zoned commercial, west of the library 72nd and 3rd street)
- Sledding hill
- Also see comments from question #2

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Cooking, pottery, and art classes for adults and kids
- Programs that unite seniors with children
- Hire instructors (instead of all outside instructors and fees)

Overall System

4. What are the strengths of parks, recreation, open space, and trail services and facilities in Nederland?
 - Trail by the reservoir – handy to get to, parking available, well-maintained, pleasant walk
 - New trail from community center to Town
 - Important to keep some open spaces, quiet spaces
 - Raise awareness of existing trails; publicize activities to increase use and introduce people to what exists
 - Caribou Ranch Open Space (eight focus group attendees said they use) – some use County run programs; would be nice to have organized walks and activities

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Mud Lake has a good series of trails available for all; Trails overall
- A lot has been done by independent, self-funded, interest groups (Ice Rink, skatepark, carousel, etc.) – although some groups are having trouble maintaining expenses, volunteers are dwindling

5. What are the key issues and values to be considered while developing this Plan?
 - Different values in the community – progress, moving forward and the other we like it the way it is – creates some animosity; need to anticipate this ahead of time, try to moderate both a little
 - Keep community character, small unique mountain town
 - Love the historic old areas of town; don't have franchises, locally owned businesses
 - Tax support for water and sewage
 - Strong community – Thanksgiving community gathering, movies on weekends
 - Independence and sustainability
 - Town of volunteers

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Remembering nature – not making it off limits, but also not paving it over
- Expansion of current programs and space to include a growing community with many children; all this while keeping the small town charm without overdevelopment
- Sustainability
- Community volunteers and gatherings
- Parking and traffic congestion
- Funding of all projects is highly fragmented between non-profit groups; we need a recreation tax district to expand funding for projects

6. What improvement/changes would you make to the parks, recreation, open space, and trail system?
 - Make trail map more accessible
 - Non-motorized boating on the reservoir (sailing, kayaking, etc.)
 - Allowing electric golf vehicles for in town use

- Gateway park area – reservoir is an opportunity, tasteful use of the shoreline (gravel pit will be going away); is there a practical way to move the gas company?
- Pavilion at Chipeta Park – would like to see it enclosed to use year-round or some wind shelter

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Preservation of natural lands
- Move Northern Energy off the shores of the reservoir
- More trails and outdoor programs for all ages

7. What partnership opportunities exist?

- Create entrepreneurial opportunities
- Create a Parks and Recreation District like the library
- Nederland Sustainability Project (becoming a non-profit) could partner with the community gardens
- Many existing well-functioning cooperative efforts – Nederland with Boulder County (use of open spaces, IGA's) – many could be creatively expanded; Other ideas – partner with the Colorado University business school regarding economic development opportunities (e.g., kids ice cream parlor in Gilpin school)
- Use the wind to our benefit

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Boulder Historical Society
- Tax district to raise money and make this happen
- Guercio and Carline families
- Wind energy

8. Where do you get your information about events and activities? What is the best ways for the Town to communicate with you and provide you information?

- Mountain-Ear (Council updates are included)
- Senior events and newsletter (once a month)
- Town webpage
- Bulletin boards like at the library, etc.
- Word of mouth
- Phone calls

Additional comments submitted in writing:

- Email

FOCUS GROUP NOTES

Focus Group #4: Teens

January 23, 2012 – 4 pm

High School

10 attendees

1. When you have free time, what do you do for recreation?

- Concerts – go to Denver, NedFest
- Teen Centers
- Hang out at parks when it's nice – Chipeta Park
- Walk by the reservoir
- Trails
- Mountain bike
- Eldora

2. What parks and recreation facilities do you currently use? Why?

a. Do you or members of your household currently use the Nederland Community Center?
What do you like to do at the Center?

- Go to movies
- Go to gym
- Workout

b. What other parks and recreation facilities in the area do you use?

- Boulder parks and recreation
- Go to malls
- Music classes in Boulder
- Younger brother does hockey
- Mountain biking trails

3. What are the key strengths of the programs and facilities operated in the Town of Nederland?

- Community centers for movies

4. What needs to be improved (i.e., fixed, changed, added regarding recreation facilities, etc.)?

- Would like to ride horse on reservoir trail
- A place where teens can go on the weekends, dance, lounge area – open late; do go to the Teen Center, but not much going on
- Add pool (many supported this idea) – some go to Gilpin Recreation Center; leisure, lap pool
- Indoor rink
- Big slide
- Rodeo area
- Shooting range (there is one in West Magnolia)
- Archery range
- Amphitheatre
- Teen Center – club for evening activities; Concert Hall

- Sledding
 - Pump track
 - Other ideas – RTD to add a stop in the Town of Eldora
5. What programs or special events would you like to participate in that are not available in Nederland currently?
- Jam, music night
 - Open mic, talent night
 - Creek Fest
6. If you could design an ideal park at the gateway to Nederland near the reservoir, what would it have in it?
- More accessible trails, connecting Chipeta Park to reservoir, make area to the bridge safer; get nicer picnic tables
 - Make reservoir swimmer-friendly
 - Riverwalk
 - Restrooms (open Chipeta restrooms more and keep clean)
 - Boating (many supported this idea) – need education
 - Youth camps
 - Improve field – multi-use field
 - BMX course
 - Sledding
7. Where do you get your information about events and activities? What is the best way for the Town to communicate with you and provide you information?
- Email
 - Flyer
 - School
 - Facebook

OTHER – Nederland Values

- Eco-friendly
- Thrifty

FOCUS GROUP NOTES

Focus Group #5: Business

January 23, 2012 – 5:30 pm

Nederland Community Center

7 Attendees

1. What are the strengths of the open space, trails, parks, and recreation services and facilities in the Town of Nederland?

- Outdoor spaces around Nederland: skiing, hiking, trails,
- Trails accessible to town
- Access to recreation in front and in back yard
- Community Center is centrally located
- Skatepark
- Ice skating rink
- Tennis courts
- Kind of town where kids can go do something; improved from 20 years ago when kids had nothing to do
- Can walk anywhere
- Good volunteer network that has enabled so many things to be available – small town, we take care of each other; you help out; there is no one else to do it, ownership, limited resources; there has been a change regarding welcoming new people to town – not as good as it used to be

2. What improvement/changes would you make to the parks, recreation, open space, and trail system?

- Boating on Reservoir
- Community Center needs some improvements
- More formal consistent services – hard to communicate and understand what is going on where; a brochure would be great – there seems to be enough going on now to include in it
- People don't know about what is going on (boating issue; sidewalk issue). Where is a centralized place to get information
- Volunteer operations – sometimes leaves feeling that some people "own" things and they are not available to all (ice rink)
- If you are outside the schools setting without kid, it can be hard to get information
- Rugged individualism – sometimes things happen that are not coordinated within town (training for non-profits example) – not coordinated with non-profit group, the town, etc.
- Visitor center not always open – need other ways to get maps and information
- Community center not used to capacity, only one paid staff member. Current conversation in town regarding renovation and use of West Wing that we need to be aware of
- Some use of West side now for food pantry, storage, etc.
- Trail around dam – officially designate as bicycle trail with restrictions as necessary. Historical understanding is that person who funded the trail set it up for hiking and equestrian – used "illegally" by some bikes now. Should formalize bike use.

- Visitor center would not advise anyone about camping on West Magnolia – should make it a more desirable area with sanitary facilities. It attracts some undesirables now. Things are in flux now with Forest Services because of turnover in staff. Trying to get someone to come to a PROSAB meeting
- Land west of hardware store – Wolf Tongue Mine – is privately owned – seems to be some talk of solar farm. Might be brownfield grant possibility; about 10 acres owned by an individual from Boulder, understanding is that EPA study found no superfund activity issues. Could be a great asset; needs some clean up – lightly used now (not authorized)

3. Are there programs/services or facilities you would like to see that are not currently offered?

- Infrastructure issue with parking and traffic. Need more long term parking for those who come up all day and need to park and are using parking needed for short term retail. Town hall staff is using parking behind visitor center and taking up valuable spaces for visitors and local shoppers
- More people need more access to Community Center to teach their classes. Too expensive for rentals for teacher entrepreneurs
- More would use this facility if hours were longer, one staff member is a barrier to having longer hours
- There is a certain attraction to shiny and new, this center is not that, and it is not at center of town. Library became a reality, so why not recreation facility. New centralized facilities might be more used
- Softball on the softball field, not really turf, not safe. Gilpin County has a large program, we don't have one here
- Need to understand what is going on around us
- Pump track adjacent to skate park

4. What are the key issues and values to be considered while developing this Plan?

- Vision 2020 really addressed key issues and values so we can pick them up from that document

5. How important is it that Nederland have recreational facilities and programs that appeal to visitors?

- Very important as a business owner, but also makes the community more livable for residents
- Need recreational facilities to get people to come here, need a reason to get people to stop in town
- We should build for ourselves – that will attract visitors as well
- Concern also about visitors driving locals out from shopping here because of traffic issues – have to address the parking and traffic infrastructure before facilities are built/approved
- Changes in last ten years in ability to get around in traffic; it is really bad. Boulder is too convenient to entice folks to stop 20 minutes earlier in Nederland if there are traffic/parking issues

6. Should recreational facilities be located in the business district (e.g., a riverwalk and kayak play park)?

- Needs to be a connection to the business district in a way that allows short term visitors to have some connection to a broad range of services – restaurant, gift shop, hiking
- Mountains are away from the business district – they just leave to go hiking

- Challenge is difficulty in getting people to come to the business district during the week, not enough here. Locals go away on weekends. Visitors sometimes just drive through. How do we get them to stop and use the town services? Is not happening enough.
- Stuffing more in downtown is a challenge, still need to connect downtown to immediate recreational activity
- Need to add more services in town – like bike shop example – to attract people
- Monthly art walk – successful in Iowa – took a while to grow, but now is a major event. Two things keep it from happening in Nederland – no place to stay in Nederland, and people don't want to navigate the canyon at night. Maybe a daytime activity
- Local people are not big on the festivals – but festivals would be a good draw
- Needs to be managed long term. Need to decide what we are going to be as a town and then build the infrastructure to support that
- As a business owner, experience is that I do get customers from events
- Maybe what we need is recreational consistency to even out the flow
- Shuttle bus – mid day hours from ski area to town for lunch – didn't materialize
- Best times of year are July and Sept – the leaf people
- Riverwalk would be tremendous. Interactive learning opportunities, wrap up in a package, kayak play park. Least amount of property issues in the business district, that's also where the holes are, need to turn around business to face the water. Need to have a loop, needs to work for older folks, people with young children. Need a place to fulfill a short amount of time (river walk would be perfect)

7. How can the Town best partner or collaborate with other organizations?

- DDA and PROSAB are really important pieces that are gaining some momentum; need groups that can go after grants; recreation foundation – tie in with community wellness
- Naming rights in parks, pay for and name the bridge (\$5K - \$10K increments), signage to purposefully find things; bring groups together around a focal idea
- Get groups talking with PROSAB, historical society for example and see what happens

8. What are top parks, recreation, and open space priorities for the Town to address in the future?

- Trail downtown – riverwalk – to get people to stay longer. Need to have a navigable trail for those who are not so steady. Could provide a place for dog walking
- Focus on the Nederland community; visitor services are a by-product of that. Saying we are building for visitors will alienate residents
- Trail from town to a recreational area like West Magnolia – a designated trail to get them to there through a natural area – experience in and of itself. Keeps people parked in town, more likely to stay longer if they are already parked
- There is a lack of parks – pleasant places to hang out, but want to focus on downtown
- Trails – need a way to understand how to get up to Mud Lake
- Connect web sites town, NEDREC, chamber etc.
- This has to be about the people of NED. Visitors have always come and will always come
- Need some guiding light providing the infrastructure to succeed to pull off the recommendation of this plan. How can we get groups to work together? We talked about some of these types of things in 1994 and now it is 2012 – How do we get this to happen this time? Don't need more talk – need action

FOCUS GROUP NOTES

Focus Group #6: Conservation, Open Space & Trails

January 23, 2012 – 7 pm

Nederland Community Center

12 Attendees

1. What are the strengths of the open space, trails, parks and recreation services and facilities in the Town of Nederland?
 - Existing open space parks – Mud Lake, West Magnolia Road trails, Caribou Ranch, Reynolds Ranch, reservoir – serve a diverse group of people; opportunities to better connect these
 - Diversity of activities and open space lands
 - Leverage resources – City and County of Boulder, etc.
 - Accessible – people can walk from the visitor's center
 - Interest in preserving and keeping open space
 - Middle Boulder Creek corridor – lots of passive recreation
 - Diversity – active recreation such as skate park and smaller public undeveloped pocket parks/area
 - People that are using – people are fairly knowledgeable and want to protect the open space, respect for the land; don't see things being trashed; transients that camp at West Magnolia campground don't seem to have the same respect and care of the land
 - Community Center a big strength
 - Ice and Tennis Center
 - Nature Center
2. What improvement/changes would you make to the open space and trail system in Nederland?
 - More preservation of open space
 - More human powered access to open space and trail linkages – could use more corridors to Reynolds Ranch; off highway route to Eldora – especially to High School
 - Concept of a trail hub centered in downtown – would like to have a good trail map
 - Cannot change the topography – not a good way to ride to Big Springs, etc., kids don't ride much in town; bike lanes – not that safe to ride through town
 - Challenge is a safe crossing from Community Center across the highway
 - Reservoir – would like to be able to use – open up to recreation, trail around reservoir; improved areas for fishing; restoration of plants/passive areas with some improvements; non-motorized boating – cost, water quality, cold temperature, winds, safety, traffic concerns; concerns that we might lose peaceful quality; also positive economic impacts; opportunities for activities and fluctuations of the lake levels
 - Need to come up with a vision for the water and recreational opportunities; reclaim the shoreline; what we and future generations want our front yard to look like
 - Educational opportunities, like the signs along Middle Boulder Creek; important for people recreating to understand the value of the natural habitats; would like to improve habitats, wetlands and into the reservoir; alpine garden educational opportunity; interpretive environmental signage
 - Survey – find out what people don't want, have an option for "leave it alone"; don't just ask what you want
 - Need a serious look at environmental impact and how we can improve habitats

- More visitors, we are a gateway to recreational areas – many visitors don't know how to behave; could be a gateway to learn about the mountain environment; Nederland can be a example, model of people living with nature

3. How can Nederland do a better job of conserving local natural resources?

- Education – common theme in focus groups
- Concentrate activity in town
- Dog park – have a place for dogs to go to preserve open space; informal off-leash dog area in meadow next to Post Office; concerned with water quality; need better education of dog owners
- Wind and water erosion to roads and trails – do we consider paving some more roads

4. Are there programs/services or facilities you would like to see that are not currently offered?

- Nature Center at Mud Lake – more educational programs
- Shower at Community Center
- Community Center – swimming pool, more organized fitness classes – spin, karate, etc., more user-friendly times; cultural arts – dance, arts
- Fishing – improve habitat in Middle Creek for fishing; knock out weir (there to measure water) so fish could go upstream from reservoir; Division of Wildlife possible partner
- Application for the trail maps, can incorporate educational information; partnership opportunity
- Better restroom facilities at Chipeta Park (open year round) and the reservoir (Boulder has some money being held for restroom in the skate park/bridge area)
- No one central point for information about programs and services, not coordinated
- Could use a Parks and Recreation office as part of our Town government

5. What are the key issues and values to be considered while developing this Plan?

- Divide between those who want to improve by adding and those that want things to stay less developed
- Many of values came out in the visioning process – need to keep the Envision 2020 values at the forefront
- Few restrictions on trail use – open to dogs, horses, bikes, etc.
- Things for kids to do – a lot of families have moved here as a result of these activities – more activities now than in the past; want to keep kids active, happy, enjoying activities outdoors
- What's the balance – what is the impact of a couple of play holes in Middle Creek?
- How much recreation is enough; how much do we need or can we drive a few miles?
- More recreation, impact is less
- More active recreation – used to be “leave no trace” approach
- Boulder County Plan principles recognized concern of mountain communities with visitor impact from more populated area and that decisions are being made by more heavily populated areas for these open space areas
- We are possessive because we work so hard on our Town, community ownership is strong
- Balance of recreation for residents and visitors; how much do visitors really drive economic development and how many decisions are being made to attract visitors? It is not black and white, clear cut; economic sustainability is important – 10 hockey families that came to Nederland – benefit local kids and brought visitors to spend money; revitalization of the gateway park area will help

- Keep it small and informal – envision “simple” at the gateway park area (simple, small trail)
- 10,000 people come to Frozen Dead Guy Days – lack of a plan for parking, traffic management, etc. (opportunity to pay for parking)

6. How can the Town best partner or collaborate with other organizations regarding conservation, open space, and trails?

- Boulder County
- GOCO
- Division of Wildlife – fishing, Trout Unlimited
- CDOT (possible pull-off bathroom along reservoir)
- Forest Service
- County transportation for road to High School
- Vista program (brownfields/Vista/EPA state funded program) – three year program Town is pursuing
- Nederland Area Trails Organization
- International Mountain Biking
- Boulder Mountainbike Alliance
- Wild Bear Nature Center
- Education of large lot owners about conservation easements, end of life donations
- Boulder Valley School District

7. What are top conservation, open space, and trail priorities for the Town to address in the future?

- Driving vision for trails – Boulder Open Space
- Wolf Tongue Mill area preserved as open space
- Creek path enhanced
- Barker Reservoir enhanced with native plants
- Middle Creek corridor is a top priority – heart of the town
- Gateway park area (sewage treatment plant is impetus)
- Linkages of trails
- Trails to remain open – don’t want all the regulations (against bike use)

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan Update

PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

February 23, 2012

Nederland Community Center

7 p.m.

Welcome

Randy Lee, chair of the Nederland Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board (PROSAB) welcomed participants. He provided an overview of the Open Space, Trails, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Update project and invited people to provide input as we start the planning process to update the previous plan from 2001. He introduced the consultant team of Chris Dropinski, Principal and Anne Miller, Project Manager of GreenPlay as well as Rob Layton, Principal of Design Concepts, and RRC Associates. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting.

Overview of Agenda & Ground Rules

Chris Dropinski from GreenPlay provided an overview of the public meeting agenda and highlighted the meeting ground rules.

Presentation of Project Purpose & Process

Anne Miller from GreenPlay provided a brief PowerPoint presentation of the master plan project components and process. Themes from the six focus group meetings held in January were also summarized.

Questions/Answers – Discussion

After the presentation, meeting participants brought up the following discussion topics in response to the project overview.

- Environmental stewardship needs to be defined in the master plan
- Another theme that came up in the focus group meetings was to do little and maintain what we have now – we need to make sure this view is represented and it is an option for the survey
- There is a range of opinions from do nothing to lots of improvements
- Participants wanted to know when details of specific proposals would be available. (Respondents to the survey will be asked to indicate their support, or not, for conceptual proposals. Those with support may be recommended for further action in the Master Plan which would allow further vetting and public input regarding details.)
- Survey – Concern was expressed in getting the input of residents in the Nederland area, not just town residents; it was suggested that we consider getting input from the library district area; input from in town and outside of town could be analyzed together and separately

Large Group Discussion – Values and Vision

Participants were asked to provide input into the values and vision for parks, recreation, open space, and trail in Nederland.

1. What is the **value** of parks and recreation to the Nederland community?
 - Health benefits – physical and mental, active and passive recreation
 - Access – needs to be available to all – age, income; local access matters – not having to travel for youth sports, etc.

- Healthy productive outlook for kids, youth development and growth
- Recreation for “us” also opens up opportunities for “them”/out of community; development will bring people into the area and impacts need to be discussed; most of “us” were “them” at one point
- Planning – a good plan can help manage and direct visitors
- Builds community – provides opportunities to socialize with neighbors
- Quality of life – provides positive impact on families and provides recreational opportunities and things to do
- Economic – recreation can bring economic benefits to town
- Balance – passive and active recreation are important; need to capture economic benefits but manage impacts of visitors

2. What is your **vision** for future parks, recreation, trails and open space in Nederland?

- Trails connections – link to Boulder County open space and US Forest Service lands, provide pedestrian and bike access to wilderness areas; less dependence on cars; need safe access – highway is an issue; need connectivity within town for children and residents
- Trail quality – need well-built sustainable trails to avoid erosion; need to deal with trash on trails
- Information hub in downtown to provide a central plan for recreational opportunities in the area, perhaps in the visitors center or a kiosk
- Centralized coordination for recreational opportunities either through the town or a district; centralized maintenance and operations
- Funding sustainability – we need to take care of what we put in place; volunteer fatigue is an issue; need resources to maintain the system
- Education – teach children and adults about the impacts of recreation on the ecosystem; help educate users of the park system about the environment through signage, etc.
- Water quality – preserve and protect water quality of Middle Boulder Creek and reservoir
- Need balanced response to desired goals
- Maintain and improve the facilities and parks that we have; we need to move beyond the desire for more and more and improve what we have
- Sustainability – if we have recreational opportunities close to home, it saves driving to other places
- Be comprehensive – need to look at project in context of the whole system, not in pieces
- Balanced, mixed-use approach – need to look out of the box at opportunities in different parts of town, including downtown or commercial areas, 1st Street could be considered a park
- Barker Reservoir area
 - Non-motorized boating on the reservoir (like in 1999) – some expressed support, others did not want to see boating and boat docks
 - Improve area around the reservoir/ gateway park area (concern about issue of dog feces); need more oversight and management of the area
 - Beautify the area – everyone would take better care of the area; no portable toilets, etc.
 - Revegetation around the shoreline
- Continue community involvement
- Break down “us” and “them” mentality
- Community gardening – edible gardens, greenhouses, permaculture

Other comments:

- Watershed – model projects around biomimicry principles
- Someone has to pay – how will we raise funds?
- Cultural programming is also important
- Question for participants to think about: Would Nederland be a place you would want to live and raise your children?
- Use the Sustainability Resolution as a foundation for the master plan
- Some areas are not natural, such as the reservoir and the Middle Boulder Creek channel; they have been manipulated in the past

Wrap-up & Next Steps

Anne Miller thanked people for their participation and input. The project next steps include the survey which will go out in March. Another public meeting will be held in May to report back on findings including results from the survey and inventory analysis. Members of the PROSAB and the steering committee for the master plan project were recognized and thanked for their volunteer contributions.

Appendix C – Trends

Park and Recreation Influencing Trends

A challenge of parks and recreation departments is to continue to understand and respond to the changing recreation interests of those it serves. In this fast-paced society, it is important to stay on top of current trends impacting parks and recreation. The following information highlights relevant local, regional, and national parks and recreational trends from various sources that may influence the Town of Nederland for the next ten years.

Athletic Recreation National Trends

Sports Participation

The 2010 National Sporting Goods Association, (NSGA) survey on sports participation found some of the top athletic activities ranked by total participation included: exercise walking, exercising with equipment, camping, swimming, bowling, and working out at athletic clubs. Additionally, the following active recreation activities remain popular: bicycle riding, hiking, running/jogging, basketball, golf, and soccer. **Table 6** further outlines the top twenty sports ranked by total participation in 2010 and the percent change from 2009.

Table 6: Top Twenty Sports Ranked by Total Participation 2010

Sport	Total	% Change*
Exercise Walking	95.8	2.6%
Exercising with Equipment	55.3	-3.4%
Swimming	51.9	3.4%
Camping (vacation/overnight)	44.7	-12.0%
Bicycle Riding	39.8	4.3%
Bowling	39.0	-13.3%
Aerobic Exercising	38.5	16.3%
Hiking	37.7	10.9%
Workout at Club	36.3	-5.3%
Running/Jogging	35.5	10.3%
Fishing	33.8	2.8%
Weight Lifting	31.5	-8.8%
Basketball	26.9	10.1%
Billiards/Pool	24.0	14.8%
Golf	21.9	-2.0%
Yoga	20.2	28.1%
Boating, Motor/Power	20.0	-16.2%
Target Shooting (net)	19.8	0.3%
Hunting with Firearms	16.3	-13.5%
Soccer	13.5	-0.3%

*Percent Change is from 2009

Source: NSGA 2011

The Ten-year History of Sports Participation Report, published by NSGA, shows national trends in team sports and individual sports. Overall participation trends indicate a decrease in general. Team sports such as basketball, soccer, tackle football, softball, and volleyball had an increase in participation through 2008; however, by 2010 show a decline. Since the report, lacrosse has become one of the country's fastest growing team sports. Participation in high school lacrosse has almost doubled this decade. An estimated 1.2 million Americans over the age of seven have played lacrosse within the previous year. Individual sports show an increase in backpacking, swimming, boating, camping, and exercising with equipment. **Table 7** illustrates a ten-year change in participation for selected activities including both team sports and individual sports.

Table 7: Ten-Year History of Sports Participation (in millions) 2000-2010

	2010	2008	2006	2004	2002	2000
Aerobic Exercising	38.5	36.2	33.7	29.5	29.0	28.6
Backpack/Wilderness Camp	11.1	13.0	13.3	15.3	14.8	15.4
Basketball	12.5	15.2	14.6	15.9	15.6	15.6
Bicycle Riding	26.9	29.7	26.7	27.8	28.9	27.1
Billiards/Pool	39.8	44.7	35.6	40.3	39.7	43.1
Boating, Motor/Power	20.0	27.8	29.3	22.8	26.6	24.2
Bowling	39.0	49.5	44.8	43.8	42.4	43.1
Camping	44.7	49.4	48.6	55.3	55.4	49.9
Canoeing	NA	10.3	7.1	7.5	7.6	6.2
Cheerleading	NA	2.9	3.8	3.8	NA	NA
Exercise Walking	95.8	96.6	87.5	84.7	82.2	86.3
Exercising with Equipment	55.3	63.0	52.4	52.2	46.6	44.8
Fishing	33.8	42.2	40.6	41.2	44.2	49.3
Football (tackle)	9.3	10.5	11.9	8.6	7.8	7.5
Golf	21.9	25.6	24.4	24.5	27.1	26.4
Hiking	37.7	38.0	31.0	28.3	27.2	24.3
Hockey (ice)	3.3	1.9	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.9
Hunting w/Bow & Arrow	5.2	6.2	5.9	5.8	4.6	4.7
Hunting with Firearms	16.3	18.8	17.8	17.7	19.5	19.1
In-Line Roller Skating	7.4	9.3	10.5	11.7	18.8	21.8
Mountain Biking (off road)	7.2	10.2	8.5	8.0	7.8	7.1
Muzzleloading	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.6	2.9
Paintball Games	6.1	6.7	8.0	9.4	6.9	5.3
Racquetball	NA	NA	4.0	NA	NA	3.2
Running/Jogging	35.5	35.9	28.8	26.7	24.7	22.8
Scooter Riding	7.4	10.1	9.5	12.9	13.4	11.6
Skateboarding	7.7	9.8	9.7	10.3	9.7	9.1
Skiing(alpine)	7.4	6.5	6.4	6.3	7.4	7.4
Snowboarding	6.1	5.9	5.2	6.6	5.6	4.3
Soccer	13.5	15.5	14.0	13.3	13.7	12.9
Softball	10.8	12.8	12.4	12.5	13.6	14.0
Swimming	51.9	63.5	56.5	53.4	53.1	60.7
Target Shooting	19.8	20.3	17.1	19.2	18.9	14.8
Target Shooting – Airgun	5.3	5.0	5.6	5.1	4.1	3.0
Tennis	12.3	12.6	10.4	9.6	11.0	10.0
Volleyball	10.6	12.2	11.1	11.8	11.5	12.3
Water Skiing	5.2	5.6	3.6	5.3	6.9	5.9
Weight Lifting	31.5	37.5	32.9	26.2	25.1	24.8
Workout at Club	36.3	39.3	37.0	31.8	28.9	24.1
Wrestling	2.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: NSGA 2011

The 2012 Nederland Community Survey ranked biking, hiking, and running first (82%) in *Degree to Which Household Needs Are Met for Programs*, and first in *Highest Priorities for Programs to Be Added, Expanded, or Improved*.

Youth Sports

Specific offerings for children's fitness are slowly increasing in recreation facilities. Facilities are offering more youth-specific exercise equipment. Individualized youth sports training opportunities are becoming more popular as well. For youth ages 7 to 11, bowling, bicycle riding, and fishing had the highest number of participants in 2010; however, ice hockey, mountain biking, and tennis saw the highest percent of increase of the sports in 2010. It is important to note that of the six mentioned sports above, ice hockey is the only team sport. In-line skating experienced the largest percentage decrease in participation followed by scooter riding and fishing.

Aquatics National Trends

According to the NSGA, swimming ranked third in terms of participation in 2010. There is an increasing trend towards indoor leisure and therapeutic pools. Additional amenities such as "spray pads" are becoming increasingly popular as well.

Swimming is a desired recreational activity in Nederland. The Community Survey indicates swimming ranked highest in *Unmet Need* (66%), and second (32%) in *Highest Priorities for Programs to be Added, Expanded, or Improved*.

Baby Boomer/Older Adult Trends – Planning for the Demographic Shift

Baby boomers are those born between 1946 and 1964, as stated in Leisure Programming for Baby Boomers, authored by Cochran, Rothschild, and Rudick in 2009. They are a generation that consists of nearly 76 million Americans. As baby boomers enter retirement, they will be looking for opportunities in fitness, sports, outdoors, arts and cultural events, and other activities that suit their lifestyles. With their varied life experiences, values, and expectations, baby boomers are predicted to redefine the meaning of recreation and leisure programming for mature adults.

In the leisure profession, this generation's devotion to exercise and fitness is an example of their influence on society. When boomers entered elementary school, President John Kennedy initiated the President's Council on Physical Fitness; physical education and recreation became a key component of public education. As boomers matured and moved into the workplace, they took their desire for exercise and fitness with them. Now as the oldest boomers are nearing 70, park and recreation professionals are faced with new approaches to provide both passive and active programming for older adults.

Jeffrey Ziegler, a past president of the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association identified "Boomer Basics" in his article, "Recreating Retirement: How Will Baby Boomers Reshape Leisure in Their 60s?" in *Parks and Recreation Magazine*, published in 2002. Highlights are summarized below.

Boomer Basics:

Boomers are known to work hard, play hard, and spend hard. They have always been fixated with all things youthful. Boomers typically respond that they feel 10 years younger than their chronological age. Their nostalgic mindset keeps boomers returning to the sights and sounds of their 1960s youth culture. Swimming pools have become less of a social setting and much more of an extension of boomers' health and wellness program. Because boomers have, in general, a high education level they will likely continue to pursue education as adults and into retirement.

The highest ranking age cohorts in Nederland are 35-44, 45-54, and 55-64. Planning for the next ten years suggests a growing demand for programs and services for baby boomers.

Boomers will look to park and recreation professionals to give them opportunities to enjoy many life-long hobbies and sports. When programming for this age group, a customized experience to cater to their need for self-fulfillment, healthy pleasure, nostalgic youthfulness, and individual escapes will be important. Recreation trends will shift from games and activities that boomers associate with senior citizens. Ziegler suggests activities such as bingo, bridge, and shuffleboard will likely be avoided because boomers relate these activities to being old. Boomers will reinvent what being a 65-year-old means. Parks and recreation agencies need to adapt programming to these trends.

Recreation Facility National Trends

According to *Recreation Management* magazine's "2011 State of the Industry Report," national trends show an increased user-base of recreation facilities. To meet that growing need, a majority of the 2011 State of the Industry Survey respondents (60.3%) reported that they have plans to build new facilities or make additions or renovations to their existing facilities over the next three years. Nearly a quarter (24.2%) of respondents said they have plans to build new facilities, and just over a quarter (25.9%) said they plan to add to their existing facilities. Another 43.6 percent are planning renovations.

Also according to the Report, parks and recreation respondents said that the average amount planned for construction for parks fell by 12.7 percent from an average of \$3,907,000 in the 2010 survey to \$3,411,000 in 2011. There was very little change in the types of features and amenities included in facilities of survey respondents from 2010 to 2011. The features most commonly found include locker rooms (57.5% of respondents have locker rooms); classrooms and meeting rooms (57.4%); bleachers and seating (56.8%); outdoor sports courts for basketball, tennis, etc. (54.1%); and concession areas (53.9%).

The current national trend is toward "one-stop" indoor recreation facilities to serve all ages. Large, multi-purpose regional centers help increase cost recovery, promote retention, and encourage cross-use. Agencies across the U.S. are increasing revenue production and cost recovery. Multi-use facilities versus specialized space is a trend, offering programming opportunities as well as free-play opportunities. "One-stop" facilities attract young families, teens, and adults of all ages.

Amenities and specialty parks that are still considered “alternative” but increasing in popularity include the following:

- Climbing walls
- Cultural art facilities
- Green design techniques and certifications such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). A recent Building Commissioners Association survey indicated that 52 percent of the recreation industry survey respondents indicated they were willing to pay more for green design knowing that it would significantly reduce or eliminate the negative impact of buildings on the environment and occupants.
- Two of the emerging specialty parks include skate parks and adult fitness parks. The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association estimates there are about 1,000 skateboard parks in the United States.

Outdoor fitness equipment provides a new opportunity for park and recreation departments to increase the health of their communities, while offering them the opportunity to exercise outdoors. Such equipment can increase the usage of parks, trails, and other outdoor amenities while helping to fight the obesity epidemic and increase the community’s interaction with nature.

Fitness and Health National Trends

There have been many changes in fitness programs in the last ten years. What clients wanted then is not necessarily what they want today. Fitness programs that have increased in popularity in the last ten years include outdoor exercise, boot camp, personal training, post-rehabilitation, dance fitness, and sport-specific training. Declining programs include health fairs, sports clinics, aerobics, stress-management classes, and weight-management classes. (*IDEA Health and Fitness Association*)

The American College of Sports Medicine’s (ACSM’s) *Health and Fitness Journal* conducted a survey to determine trends that would help create a standard for health and fitness programming. **Table 8** shows survey results that focus on trends in the commercial, corporate, clinical, and community health and fitness industry. The Worldwide Survey indicates the following shift in fitness trends between 2011 and 2012.

Table 8: Worldwide Fitness Trends for 2011 and for 2012

2011	2012
1. Educated and experienced fitness professionals	1. Educated and experienced fitness professionals
2. Fitness programs for older adults	2. Strength training
3. Strength training	3. Fitness programs for older adults
4. Children and obesity	4. Exercise and weight loss
5. Personal training	5. Children and obesity
6. Core training	6. Personal training
7. Exercise and weight loss	7. Core training
8. Boot camp	8. Group personal training
9. Functional fitness	9. Zumba and other dance workouts
10. Physician referrals	10. Functional fitness

Source: American College of Sport Medicine

Zumba and other dance workouts and group personal training were added to the top ten fitness trends in 2012.

Health and Obesity Trends

The United Health Foundation has ranked Colorado 9th in its 2011 *State Health Rankings*, up four ranks from 2010.

The State's biggest strengths include:

- Lowest percentage of childhood obesity
- Lowest percentage of stroke among adults
- Second lowest percentage of high blood pressure among adults
- Second lowest percentage of diabetes among adults

Some of the challenges the State faces include:

- Ranked 45th in early prenatal care
- Ranked 45th in premature births
- Ranked 30th in binge drinking

In the last decade, the annual improvement in America's health has declined 69 percent compared to the 1990s (comparison is based on the annual growth rate from 1990 to 2000). Obesity continues to be a serious issue in America, growing at an epidemic rate—almost tripling since 1990. In fact, about every 1 in 3 adults is currently considered obese. This statistic illustrates the importance of intercepting the epidemic in youth. Currently, 27.5 percent of people in the United States are obese. Parks and recreation services can play a significant role in promoting community public health.

Healthy Lifestyle Trends

The health care issue is front and center. Park and recreation departments are finding they are in a position to be a catalyst in creating healthy lifestyles in communities. Steps such as assessments, policy creation, financial analysis, and management process are occurring around the country to create and validate a method for building healthy communities and gaining credibility as a public health provider.

According to a study published in the journal Environmental Science and Technology, in February of 2011, research indicates outdoor exercise is healthier than gym workouts." Researchers found that going for a run outdoors 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 were found to be lowered. This aligns with the trend of adult fitness playgrounds that are popping up all over the world. There is also a link between health and the built environment that continues to grow as a trend for local governments. Communities are increasingly incorporating active living and physical activity into daily routines.

Events and Festivals

From the early 1980s, there has been a process that can be characterized as "festivalization," which has been linked to the economic restructuring of towns and cities and the drive to develop communities as large-scale platforms for "cultural experiences." Nederland has several annual festivals that draw visitors.

Events ranked fourth highest (26%) among Priorities for Programs to be Added, Expanded, or Improved in the 2012 Community Survey. However, events ranked lower (14th) when survey respondents were asked to rank their top three priorities. Additionally 74% responded that their needs for events were being met.

General Programming Trends – National Trends

One of the most common concerns in the recreation industry is creating innovative programming to draw participants into facilities and services. Once in, participants recognize the many benefits.

According to *Recreation Management* magazine's June 2011, "State of the Industry Report," the most popular programs, offered by more than half of survey respondents, include holiday events and other special events (64.3 %); fitness programs (61.1%); educational programs (60.4%); day camps and summer camps (56.3%); mind-body/balance programs such as yoga, tai chi, Pilates and martial arts (51.4%); and youth sports teams (50.7%). Sports training was not in the top ten; however, golf instruction and tennis lessons are a fast paced trend.

The report also suggested slightly less than a third (31.9%) of respondents indicated that they are planning to add additional programs at their facilities over the next three years. The most common types of programming they are planning to add include:

- Fitness programs (26.8% of respondents planning to add programs)
- Educational programs (25%)
- Teen programming (24%)
- Mind-body/balance programs (22.5%)
- Active older adults (20.9%)
- Day camps and summer camps (20.8%)
- Environmental education (20.3%)
- Individual sports activities (18.9%)
- Holiday events and other special events (18.6%)
- Sports tournaments or races (18%)

Intergenerational programming is still in demand: while parents are finding themselves hitting the gym, they are in need of programs for children at the same time.

Marketing

Niche marketing trends have experienced change more frequently than ever before as technology affects the way the public receives information. Web 2.0 tools and now Web 3.0 tools are a trend for agencies to use as a means of marketing programs and services. Popular social marketing electronic tools include:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- You Tube
- Tagged
- LinkedIn

Mobile marketing is a trend of the future. Young adults engage in mobile data applications at much higher rates than adults in age brackets 30 and older. Usage rates of mobile applications demonstrate that millennials tend to get information more frequently using mobile devices such as smart phones. For example, 95 percent of 18-to-29-year-old cell phone owners send and receive text messages, compared to 82 percent of 30-to-49-year-olds, 57 percent of 50-to-64-year-olds, and 19 percent of 65 and older. It is also a fact that minority Americans lead the way when it comes to mobile access. Nearly two-thirds of African-Americans (64%) and Latinos (63%) are wireless internet users, and minority Americans are significantly more likely to own a cell phone than are their white counterparts (87% of African-Americans and Hispanics own a cell phone, compared with 80% of whites).

Natural Environments and Open Space

Economic and Health Benefits of Parks

There are numerous economic and health benefits of parks, including the following:

- Trails, parks, and playgrounds are among the five most important community amenities considered when selecting a home.
- Research from the University of Illinois shows that trees, parks, and green spaces have a profound impact on people's health and mental outlook. U.S. Forest Service research indicates that when the economic benefits produced by trees are assessed, total value can be two to six times the cost for tree planting and care.
- Fifty percent (50%) of Americans regard outdoor activities as their main source of exercise.

The 2012 *Nederland Area Open Space, Trails, Parks, and Recreation Survey* (referenced throughout as the 2012 Nederland Community Survey) results provide a measure of priorities of area residents with respect to trails and open space. While all aspects of open space are considered important by the community, receiving a "4" or "5" on the five point importance scale, the most identified categories included:

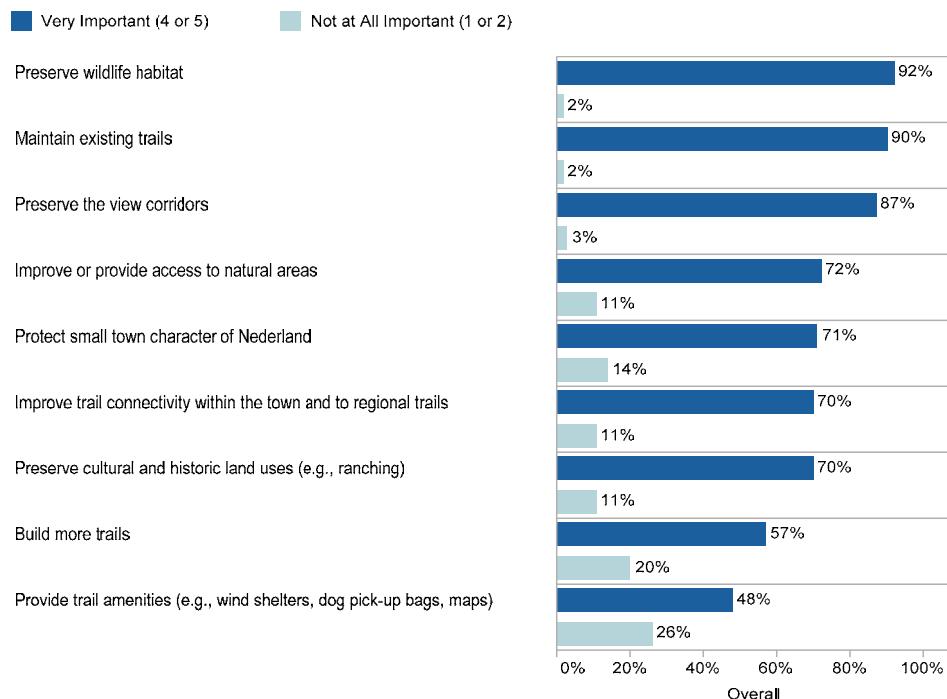
- Preserve wildlife habitat (90%)
- Maintain existing trails (87%)
- Preserve the view corridors (85%)

The lower rated categories, in terms of importance, included:

- Build more trails (50%)
- Provide trail amenities (44%)

Figure 7 illustrates importance of trails and open space to Nederland residents.

Figure 7: Importance of Nederland Trails and Open Space to Households



The Trust for Public Land published a report titled: "The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space." The report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental, and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Residential and commercial property values increase.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and act as natural air conditioners.
- Trees assist with storm water control and erosion.
- Crime and juvenile delinquency are reduced.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.
- Stable neighborhoods and strong communities are created.

Nature Programming

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) sent out a survey to member agencies in order to learn more about the programs and facilities that public park and recreation agencies provide to connect children and their families with nature. A summary of the results follow:

- Sixty-eight percent (68%) of public park and recreation agencies offer nature-based programming, and 61 percent have nature-based facilities.
- The most common programs include nature hikes, nature-oriented arts and crafts, fishing-related events, and nature-based education in cooperation with local schools.
- When asked to describe the elements that directly contribute to their most successful programs, agencies listed staff training as most important followed by program content and number of staff/staff training.
- When asked what resources would be needed most to expand programming, additional staff was most important followed by funding.
- Of the agencies that do not currently offer nature-based programming, 90 percent indicated that they want to in the future. Additional staff and funding were again the most important resources these agencies would need going forward.
- The most common facilities include: nature parks/preserves, self-guided nature trails, outdoor classrooms, and nature centers.
- When asked to describe the elements that directly contribute to their most successful facilities, agencies listed funding as most important followed by presence of wildlife and community support.

The Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center is a non-profit agency based in Nederland that provides environmental education opportunities at its current location in downtown and at Boulder County's Mud Lake Open Space.

Outdoor Recreation

Local parks and recreation departments are a common place for residents to look when getting outside for leisure activities. It is often the mission of parks and recreation departments to get more people outdoors.

The Outdoor Foundation released the “2011 Participation in Outdoor Recreation Report” which highlights that participation in outdoor recreation in 2010 remained steady for a third year in a row, matching levels seen in 2008. Notably in 2010, ethnically diverse participants made up a significantly higher percentage of participants than in previous years, up over four percentage points since 2007 to 29.5 percent of participants. Adventure sports, including triathlon, adventure racing, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, rafting and scuba diving, showed significant growth in 2010 as well, up 2.3 percent in participation as a group. Compared to 2009, youth participation in outdoor activities was flat among ages 6 to 12, but increased slightly among ages 13 to 17 and 18 to 24. Running, biking, and camping were popular among youth, ages 6 to 24, though bicycling and camping (backyard, car, and RV) continued to see participation decreases in 2010, part of a three-year trend.

Recreation and Park Administration National Trends

Municipal parks and recreation structures and delivery systems have changed, and more alternative methods of delivering services are emerging. Certain services are being contracted out and cooperative agreements with non-profit groups and other public institutions are being developed. Newer partners include the health system, social services, justice system, education, the corporate sector, and community service agencies. These partnerships reflect both a broader interpretation of the mandate of parks and recreation agencies and the increased willingness of other sectors to work together to address community issues. The relationship with health agencies is vital in promoting wellness. The traditional relationship with education and the sharing of facilities through joint-use agreements is evolving into cooperative planning and programming aimed at addressing youth inactivity levels and community needs.

Additional administrative national trends are listed below:

- Level of subsidy for programs is lessening and more “enterprise” activities are being developed, thereby allowing subsidy to be used where deemed appropriate.
- Information technology allows for better tracking and reporting.
- Pricing is often determined by peak, off-peak, and off-season rates.
- More agencies are partnering with private, public, and non-profit groups.

In Nederland, several parks and recreation facilities are provided by the Town, while most recreation services and programs are provided by private and non-profit organizations. In the absence of a funded parks and recreation department, recreation partnerships and volunteer efforts have provided the most effective management option in Nederland.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - Compliance

On September 14, 2010 the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued an amended regulation implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA 2010 Standards). On March 15, 2011 the amended Act became effective and, for the first time in history, includes recreation environment design requirements. Compliance with the regulations was to be effective March 15, 2012. This includes design and construction requirements and the development of three-year transition. By March 15, 2015 implementation of the three-year transition plan must be complete.

Trend Analysis Summary

The following are key behavioral trends reflective of the Town. These will be important to evaluate for future planning efforts.

- Some of the top ten athletic activities ranked by total participation included: exercise walking, exercising with equipment, camping, swimming, bowling, and working out at athletic clubs.
- The most common programs offered in communities are holiday events and other special events; fitness programs; educational programs; day camps and summer camps; mind-body/balance programs such as yoga, tai chi, Pilates, and martial arts; and youth sports teams.
- Fitness programs, educational programs, teen programs, mind body balance, and active adults were listed at the top of the ten programs parks and recreation departments are planning to add within the next three years.
- Trails, parks, and playgrounds are among the five most important community amenities considered when selecting a home.
- National trends in the delivery of parks and recreation systems reflects more partnerships and contractual agreements to support specialized services.
- The majority of Americans agree that preserving undeveloped land for outdoor recreation is important. A large percentage of outdoor participants also believe that developing local parks and hiking and walking trails is important.

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Appendix D – Outdoor Inventory Summary & Capacities Table

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LOCATION	Ownership	GIS Acres	Backstop, Practice	Balfeld	Basketball	Educational Experience	Garden, Display	Hockey, Ice	MP Field, Large	Multituse Court	Natural Area	Open Turf	Open Water	Other-Active	Other-Passive	Passive Node	Picnic Grounds	Playground, Local	Shelter, Group	Skate Park	Tennis	Track, Competition	Trail, Multiuse	Trailhead	Water Access, Developed	Water Access, General
Angel Park	Nederland	0.2									1															
Big Springs Park	Nederland	4.5									1	1													1	
Bridge	Nederland	0			1																					
Caribou Ridge	Nederland	9.6									1															
Cemetery	Nederland	1.3		1																						
Chipeta Park	Nederland	4.4		1	1							1	1	1			1	1	1							
Community Center	Nederland	3.5																								
East Indian Peaks	Nederland	21.3										1														
Flarty Park	Nederland	0.5										1														
Gateway Area	Nederland	5.1											1													
Guercio Memorial Ball Field	Nederland	2	1																							
Indian Peaks trail	Nederland	1			1																				1	
Joe Smith Park	Nederland	2.6									1															
Nathan Lazarus Skatepark	Nederland	0.3																							1	
Nederland Ice and Racquet Park	Nederland	2.1				1																			3	
No Name Park	Nederland	0.2									1															
Pine West	Nederland	0.3																								
Street Planters	Nederland	0			2																					
Tilden Park	Nederland	0.4										1														
Tom Riley Park	Nederland	1.5										1														
Visitors Center	Nederland	0																	1							
West Indian Peaks	Nederland	8.7										1														
Wingate	Nederland	8.2										1														
Mud Lake	Nederland/Boulder County	195.2			1						1	1											1	1	1	
Caribou Ranch	Boulder County	2026.5			1						1								1						1	
Mining Museum	Boulder County	0.5			1																					
Platt Rogers Memorial Park	Boulder County	201.7																	1							
Reynolds Ranch	Boulder County	846.7																	1							
Rogers Park	Boulder County	57			1							1														
Elementary School	Boulder Valley School District	14.9	1								1	1							2							
Middle High School	Boulder Valley School District	19	1								2													1		
Barker Meadow Reservoir	City of Boulder	272															1								2	
Buckingham 4th of July Campground	United States Forest Service	26.1										1							1							
Guinn Mountain Hut	United States Forest Service	1.5																	1							
Kelly Dahl Campground	United States Forest Service	45.8										1							1							
National Forest Service	United States Forest Service	7510.7										1													8	
Rainbow Lakes Campground	United States Forest Service	11.9										1							1							
Tennessee Mountain Cabin	United States Forest Service	0.2										1														
Totals:		11307.4	1	2	1	7	3	1	3	1	21	1	5	1	3	3	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	10	1	3

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Capacities Level of Service for Community Components

Town of Nederland

October 2012

	System Acres #	Backstop, Practice	Ballfield	Basketball	Educational Experience	Garden, Display	Hockey, Ice	MP Field, Large	Multuse Court	Natural Area	Open Turf	Open Water	Other-Active	Other-Passive	Passive Node	Picnic Grounds	Playground, Local	Shelter, Group	Skate Park	Tennis	Track, Competition	Trail, Multi-use	Trailhead	Water Access, Developed	Water Access, General	
INVENTORY																										
Nederland	78		1	1	3	3	1			11	1	3	1		2	1	1	1	1	3		1		1		
Boulder County/Nederland	195				1					1		1									1	1	1			
Boulder County	3133				3					4		1			1							1				
City of Boulder	272											1												2		
Boulder Valley School District	34	1	1					3	1								2			1						
United States Forest Service	7,596									5				3	1							8				
Totals:	11308	1	2	1	7	3	1	3	1	21	1	6	1	3	3	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	10	1	3	
CURRENT RATIO PER POPULATION																										
CURRENT POPULATION 2011*	3,074																									
Current Ratio per 1000 Population		3678.59	0.33	0.65	0.33	2.28	0.98	0.33	0.98	0.33	6.83	0.33	1.95	0.33	0.98	0.98	0.65	0.98	0.33	0.33	0.98	0.33	0.65	3.25	0.33	0.98
Population per component			3,074	1,537	3,074	439	1,025	3,074	1,025	3,074	146	3,074	512	3,074	1,025	1,025	1,537	1,025	3,074	3,074	1,025	3,074	1,537	307	3,074	1,025
Commonly Referenced " Standards"		10		5,000	5,000				20,000											2,000						
PROJECTED POPULATION - 2016*	3,221																									
Total # needed to maintain current ratio of all existing facilities at projected population		11849	1	2	1	7	3	1	3	1	22	1	6	1	3	3	2	3	1	1	3	1	2	10	1	3
Number that should be added to achieve current ratio at projected population		541	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

*2011 population estimate and 2016 population projection for the Nederland Library District area (Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions, Inc.)

Appendix E – Composite Values Methodology for Level of Service Analysis

Composite Values Methodology (CVM) for Level of Service Analysis

A. Level of Service Analysis

Analysis of the existing parks, open space, trails, and recreation systems are often conducted in order to try and determine how the systems are serving the public. A Level of Service (LOS) has been typically defined in parks and recreation master plans as the capacity of the various components and facilities that make up the system to meet the needs of the public. This is often expressed in terms of the size or quantity of a given facility per unit of population.

Brief History of Level of Service Analysis

In order to help standardize parks and recreation planning, universities, agencies and parks and recreation professionals have long been looking for ways to benchmark and provide “national standards” for how much acreage, how many ballfields, pools, playgrounds, etc., a community *should* have. As examples, in 1906 the fledgling “Playground Association of America” called for playground space equal to 30 square feet per child. In the 1970’s and early 1980’s, the first detailed published works on these topics began emerging (Gold, 1973, Lancaster, 1983). In time **capacity** ratios emerged with 10 acres of parklands per thousand population becoming the most widely accepted standard application. Other normative guides also have been cited as “traditional standards,” but have been less widely accepted. In 1983, Roger Lancaster compiled a book called, “Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines,” that was published by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA). In this publication, Mr. Lancaster centered on a recommendation “that a park system, at minimum, be composed of a core system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population (Lancaster, 1983, p. 56). The guidelines went further to make recommendations regarding an appropriate mix of park types, sizes, service areas, and acreages, and standards regarding the number of available recreational facilities per thousand population. While the book was published by NRPA and the table of standards became widely known as “the NRPA standards,” for Level of Service Analysis, **It is important to note that these standards were never formally adopted for use by NRPA.**

Since that time, various publications have updated and expanded upon possible “standards,” several of which have also been published by NRPA. Many of these publications did benchmarking and other normative research to try and determine what an “average LOS” should be. It is important to note that NRPA and the prestigious American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, as organizations, have focused in recent years on accreditation standards for agencies, which are less directed towards outputs, outcomes and performance, and more on planning, organizational structure, and management processes. The following table gives some of the more commonly and historically used “capacity standards.”

Common Historically-Referenced LOS Capacity “Standards”

Activity/ Facility	Recommended Space Requirements	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
Baseball Official	3.0 to 3.85 acre minimum	¼ to ½ mile Unlighted part of neighborhood complex; lighted fields part of community complex	1 per 5,000; lighted 1 per 30,000
Little League	1.2 acre minimum		
Basketball Youth	2,400 – 3,036 vs.	¼ to ½ mile Usually in school, recreation center or church facility; safe walking or bide access; outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings	1 per 5,000
High school	5,040 – 7,280 s.f.		
Football	Minimum 1.5 acres	15 – 30 minute travel time Usually part of sports complex in community park or adjacent to school	1 per 20,000
Soccer	1.7 to 2.1 acres	1 to 2 miles Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to larger soccer fields or neighborhood parks	1 per 10,000
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 acres	¼ to ½ mile May also be used for youth baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool & amenities; usually ½ to 2-acre site	15 – 30 minutes travel time Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive & recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m to 3m diving boards; located in community park or school site	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3% to 5% of total population at a time)
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 s.f. single court area (2 acres per complex)	¼ to ½ mile Best in groups of 2 to 4 courts; located in neighborhood community park or near school site	1 court per 2,000
Volleyball	Minimum 4,000 s.f.	½ to 1 mile Usually in school, recreation center or church facility; safe walking or bide access; outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings	1 court per 5,000
Total land Acreage		Various types of parks - mini, neighborhood, community, regional, conservation, etc.	10 acres per 1,000

Sources:

David N. Ammons, Municipal Benchmarks - Assessing Local Performance and Establishing Community Standards, 2nd Ed., 2002.

Roger A. Lancaster (Ed.), *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines* (Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1983), pp. 56-57.

James D. Mertes and James R. Hall, *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Guidelines*, (Alexandria, VA: National Recreation and Park Association, 1996), pp. 94-103.

In conducting planning work, it is important to realize that the above standards can be valuable when referenced as “norms” for capacity, but not necessarily as the target standards for which a community should strive. Each community is different and there are many varying factors which are not addressed by the standards above. For example:

- Does “developed acreage” include golf courses”? What about indoor and passive facilities?
- What are the standards for skateparks, ice arenas, public art, etc.?
- What if it’s an urban land-locked community? What if it’s a small town surrounded by open federal lands?
- What about quality and condition? What if there’s a bunch of ballfields, but they haven’t been maintained in the last ten years?
- And many other questions....

B. GRASP® Composite-Values Method (CVM) for Level of Service Analysis

In order to address these and other relevant questions, a new methodology for determining Level of Service was developed. It is called a **Composite-Values Methodology** (CVM) and has been applied in many communities across the nation since 2001, to provide a better way of measuring and portraying the service provided by parks and recreation systems. Primary research and development on this methodology was funded jointly by GreenPlay, LLC, a management consulting firm for parks, open space and related agencies, Design Concepts, a landscape architecture and planning firm, and Geowest, a spatial information management firm. While Composite-Values Methodology can be utilized by anyone, the proprietary trademarked name for the **CVM process** that these three firms use is called **GRASP® (Geo-Referenced Amenities Standards Process)**. The **GRASP®** name for the methodology for analysis is proprietary, but the CVM process is generic and the software used is common and typical for most agencies. The data and information collected is owned and can be updated and managed by the agency for ongoing usage.

For CVM analysis, capacity is only part of the LOS equation. Other factors are brought into consideration, including *quality, condition, location, comfort, convenience, and ambience*. To create GRASP® inventory and analysis, parks, trails, recreation, open space and any other relevant amenities and properties being studied are looked at as part of an overall infrastructure for a community made up of various components, such as playgrounds, multi-purpose fields, passive areas, etc. The methodology inventories characteristics that are part of the context and setting of a component. They are not characteristics of the component itself, but when they exist in proximity to a component they enhance the value of the component.

The characteristics of components include:

Quality – The service provided by anything, whether it is a playground, soccer field, or swimming pool is determined in part by its quality. A playground with a variety of features, such as climbers, slides, and swings provides a higher degree of service than one with nothing but an old teeter-totter and some “monkey-bars.”

Condition – The condition of a component within the park system also affects the amount of service it provides. A playground in disrepair with unsafe equipment does not offer the same service as one in good condition. Similarly, a soccer field with a smooth surface of well-maintained grass certainly offers a higher degree of service than one that is full of weeds, ruts, and other hazards.

Functionality – Functionality is a measure of how well something serves its intended purpose, and is a result of its quality and condition.

Location – To receive service from something, you need to be able to get to it. Therefore, service is dependent upon proximity and access. All components are geographically located using GPS coordinates and GIS software.

Comfort – The service provided by a component is increased by having amenities. For example, outdoor components are often enhanced by attributes such as shade, seating, and a restroom nearby. Comfort enhances the experience of using a component.

Convenience – Convenience encourages people to use a component, which increases the amount of service that it offers. Easy access and the availability of trash receptacles, bike rack, or nearby parking are examples of conveniences that enhance the service provided by a component.

Ambience – Simple observation will prove that people are drawn to places that “feel” good. This includes a sense of safety and security, as well as pleasant surroundings, attractive views, and a sense of place. For example, a well-designed park is preferable to poorly-designed one, and this enhances the degree of service provided by the components within it.

Capacity is still part of the LOS analysis and the quantity of each component is recorded as well. By combining and analyzing the composite values of each component, it is possible to measure the service provided by a parks and recreation system from a variety of perspectives and for any given location. Typically this begins with a decision on “**relevant components**” for the analysis, collection of an accurate inventory of those components, analysis and then the results are presented in a series of maps and tables that make up the analysis of the study area.

Data for Analysis and Making Justifiable Decisions

All of the data generated from the GRASP® evaluation is compiled into an electronic database that is then available and owned by the agency for use in a variety of ways. The database can help keep track of facilities and programs, and can be used to schedule services, maintenance, and the replacement of components. In addition to determining LOS, it can be used to project long-term capital and life-cycle costing needs. All portions of the information are in standard available software and can be produced in a variety of ways for future planning or sharing with the public.

It is important to note that CVM analysis provides not only accurate LOS and facility inventory information, but also works with and integrates with other tools to help agencies make decisions. It is relatively easy to maintain, updatable, and creates easily understood graphic depictions (analysis maps and/or “Perspectives”) of issues. Combined with a needs assessment, public and staff involvement, program and financial assessment, CVM analysis allows an agency to defensibly make recommendations on priorities for ongoing resource allocation along with capital and operational funding.

C. Inventory Data Collection Process

A detailed inventory of relevant components for the project is conducted. The inventory locates and catalogues all of the relevant components for the project, and evaluates each one as to how well it was serving its intended function within the system. The planning team first prepares a preliminary list of existing components using aerial photography and the community’s Geographic Information System (GIS). Components identified in the aerial photo are given GIS points and names according to a list of standard components.

Next, field visits are conducted by the consulting and project team staff to confirm the preliminary data and collect additional information. Additionally indoor facilities are scored and for the purposes of this study, each relevant space is considered a component and is scored based on its intended function. During the field visits and evaluations, any missing relevant components are added to the data set, and each component is evaluated as to how well it meets expectations for its intended function. During the site visits the following information is collected:

- Component type and location
- Evaluation of component functionality
- Evaluation of comfort and convenience features
- Evaluation of park design and ambience
- Site photos and general comments

After the inventory is completed, it is given to the project team for final review and approval for accuracy.

D. Standardized Process for Scoring Components

Component Scoring

The approved inventory is the basis for the creation of values used in analysis. Each component received a functionality score that is related to the quality, condition, and ability of the space to meet operational and programming needs.

For the GRASP® process, the range of scores for each component is as follows:

- **Below Expectations (BE)** – The component does not meet the expectations of its intended primary function. Factors leading to this may include size, age, accessibility, or others. Each such component is given a score of **1** in the inventory.
- **Meeting Expectations (ME)** – The component meets expectations for its intended function. Such components are given scores of **2**.

- **Exceeding Expectations (EE)** – The component exceeds expectations, due to size, configuration, or unique qualities. Such components are given scores of **3**.
- If the feature exists but is not useable because it is unsafe, obsolete, or dysfunctional, it may be listed in the feature description, and assigned a **score of zero (0)**.

If a feature is used for multiple purposes, such as a softball field that is also used for T-Ball or youth soccer games, it is scored only once under the description that best fits the use that for which the component is designed.

Neighborhood and Community Scoring

Components are evaluated from two perspectives: first, the value of the component in serving the immediate neighborhood, and second, its value to the entire community.

Neighborhood Score

Each component is evaluated from the perspective of a resident that lives nearby. High scoring components are easily accessible to pedestrians in the neighborhood, are attractive for short and frequent visits, and are unobtrusive to the surrounding neighborhood. Components that do not have a high neighborhood score may not be located within walking distance of residents, may have “nuisance features” such as sports lighting, or may draw large crowds for which parking is not provided.

Community Score

Additionally each component is evaluated from the perspective of residents in the community as a whole. High scoring components in this category may be unique components within the parks and recreation system, have a broad draw from throughout the community, have the capacity and associated facilities for community-wide events, or are located in areas that are accessible only by car.

Indoor Components

Indoor components are generally thought to be accessible to the entire community, partially because it is often not financially feasible to provide indoor facilities at a walking distance from every distance from each residence. Additionally indoor facilities often provide programs and facilities that are geared to the community as a whole, or in larger communities, are intended for a region of the community. For these reasons, unless a detailed indoor analysis is completed, indoor facilities are given only one score.

Modifiers (Comfort and Convenience Features) Scoring

Outdoor Modifiers

Besides standard components, this inventory also evaluates features that provide comfort and convenience to the users. These are things that a user might not go to the parks specifically to use, but are things that enhance the users’ experience by making it a nicer place to be and include: drinking fountains, seating, BBQ grills, dog stations, security lighting, bike parking, restrooms, shade, connections to trails, park access, parking, picnic tables, and seasonal and ornamental plantings. These features are scored as listed above with the 1-3 system. In this case it is not important to get a count of the number or size of these components; instead the score should reflect the ability of the item to serve the park.

Indoor Modifiers

For indoor facilities the comfort and convenience features change slightly to reflect the characteristics of the building. Building modifier categories include: site access, setting aesthetics, building entry function, building entry aesthetics, overall building condition, entry desk, office space, overall storage, and restrooms and/or locker rooms.

Activity and Sports Lighting

This modifier accounts for lighting that allows for component use in the evening/night hours and is applied to the quantity of the component as it affectively expands the capacity of the component. This modifier does not apply to security lighting.

Shade

Like Activity and Sports lighting, shade can be added to outdoor components to extend use beyond normal hours or seasons.

Design & Ambience Scoring

Using the same rating system that is used for components and modifiers, the quality of Design and Ambience is scored. Good design not only makes a place look nice, it makes it feel safe and pleasant, and encourages people to visit more often and stay longer

Trails and Greenways Scoring

Trails and/or greenways can be scored as independent parcels or as individual components within another parcel. The former type of trail receives its own set of scores for modifiers and design and ambiance. The trail in the latter situation takes on the modifiers and design and ambiance of the larger park in which it resides. Multi-use trails are assumed to consist of three components including one active component, one passive component, and the parcel itself. Because traveling the length of any given trail is time consuming, trail information is often collected with the aid of staff.

For the purposes of most studies, a list of trails is obtained to provide a reasonable dataset that offers some park and recreational value to the public. While no specific listing of components at each greenway or trail is generated, it is assumed that each greenway provides a value equivalent to three (3) components. Think of these as one active component (walking, running, biking, etc.), one passive component (quiet contemplation along the trail), and one experiential component (observing nature, perhaps art and interpretive signage).

These three components and the parcel are assumed to be meeting the expectations (scores 2) of the community in the same way that park components meet expectations. The other parts to the GRASP® score relate to the comfort and design of the location, and are called modifiers. The aesthetic and recreational standards for greenways are typically similar to those for parks, so modifiers at greenways are generally assigned a value of meeting expectations (score 2). Multi-use trails that typically are adjacent to major roads are assumed to have less aesthetic and recreational standards and are therefore assigned a value of below expectations (score 1). The final component in the GRASP® score is the ownership modifier. This is a percentage that is applied to the score that relates to the general public's ability to access the facility.

This translates into the following formula for calculating the GRASP® score:

Trails or Greenway Scoring

$$(\text{Component number} + \text{Parcel}) \times \text{Component score} \times (\text{Comfort} \times \text{Design}) \times \text{ownership} = \text{GRASP}^{\circledR} \text{ score or}$$
$$(3 + 1) \times 2 \times 2.2 \times 1 = 17.6$$

Multi-Use Trail Scoring

$$(\text{Component number} + \text{Parcel}) \times \text{Component score} \times (\text{Comfort} \times \text{Design}) \times \text{ownership} = \text{GRASP}^{\circledR} \text{ score or}$$
$$(3 + 1) \times 2 \times 1.1 \times 1 = 8.8$$

In the GRASP® Perspectives, that value is assigned to the location where each trail is found and buffered accordingly. This value also is included in computations for the GRASP® Indices that are calculated along with each Perspective.

Ownership Modifier

This modifier is generally weighted with a percentage that is applied to the GRASP® score after other modifiers have been applied. It accounts for access and control of components that are provided by alternative providers. For example, in most cases components that are owned and managed by schools are given a 50% weighted ownership modifier, which halves the GRASP® score to account for the limited access that the neighborhood has to school facilities (it's only open to the public outside of school hours).

E. Calculating GRASP® Functional Scores

Once the components are inventoried and scored, calculations can be made for any combination of components to derive average scores, scores per combinations of various components, scores per sub-areas, etc., depending on the key issues being studied and objectives for the project. These are very helpful for analyzing area comparisons and setting of target scores for component service and agency target standards.

For example, a total composite GRASP® score for each individual component is determined by using the following formula:

$$\text{(total component score)} \times \text{(adjusted modifier score)} \times \text{(design and ambiance score)} \times \text{(ownership modifier)} = \text{Composite GRASP}^{\circledR} \text{ Score}$$

These individual scores can be additively combined in various ways to examine service from various subsets of the agency's system.

F. GRASP® Perspectives

GRASP® scores are often used to create analysis maps to show how the study area is being served for parks and recreation benefits. These maps are called Perspectives, because each one provides a certain perspective on the way service is being provided.

The types of Perspectives used to analyze and depict the community's LOS will depend upon the key issues being studied. The inventory and analysis section of the report explains the particular types of perspectives used for this study.

G. GRASP® Project Technical Standards for GIS Data

The GRASP® Team utilizes the most up to date computer hardware and software to produce and enhance project-based GIS data. The following technical details are standard with all GRASP® Team projects.

- All GRASP® Team GIS workstations employ Microsoft® Windows® operating systems. All project files conform to PC-based architecture and extension naming standards.
- The GRASP® Team employs ESRI® ArcGIS™ 10.0 for all GIS applications. Final project GIS data is submitted to the client in Microsoft® Access™-based Geodatabase (*.mdb) Feature Class format and/or Shapefile (*.shp/*.dbf/*.shx) format. ArcMap™ Layer files (*.lyr) or Map Package files (.mpk) are submitted to ease client replication of all project map legend formats.
- All final GIS datasets (deliverables) area submitted to the client using the geographic coordinate system(s) from the original client source data. The GRASP® team will assign a coordinate system that is most appropriate for the client location if the client does not require a predetermined standard coordinate system.
- All GRASP® Perspectives and Resource Maps (deliverables) are submitted to the client in standard PDF and JPEG formats. The project PDFs are high resolution, print-ready files for scalable print operations. Most project map-based PDFs are 300dpi, 36"x54" images. The project JPEGs are lower resolution digital presentation-ready files for insertion into Microsoft® Office® productivity suite applications – MS Word®, MS Power Point®, etc. Most project map-based JPEGs are 300dpi 4"x6" images.

Project Deliverables and Future Use

All information and deliverables are transmitted “as-is” to fulfill specific tasks identified in a scope of services for a contract. While these may be useful for other purposes, no warranties or other assurances are made that the deliverables are ready for such use. The database can be modified to add, change, or delete information as needed by personnel trained in use of these standard software applications. For example, if new parks or facilities are constructed, the components of these may be added to the database to keep it current. The database may also be queried in a variety of ways to produce tables, charts, or reports for use in operations, management, and planning or other agency tasks. Such modification, updating, reformatting, or other preparation for other purposes is the sole responsibility of the client.

Similarly, the database information can be used to prepare a variety of maps and analysis perspectives using GIS software. Such use by the client is beyond the scope of a single contract, and no warranties or assurances are made that the deliverables are ready or intended for such future use. If desired, the GRASP® Team can make such modifications, and/or prepare additional or updated maps or Perspectives upon request for a negotiated fee.

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Appendix F – Nederland-Area Level of Service Analysis

GRASP® Perspectives

An analytical technique known as Composite-Values Methodology (CVM) was used to analyze levels of service (LOS) provided by assets for Nederland. The proprietary version of CVM used is known as GRASP®. A series of analyses was performed and each individual analysis is referred to as a *Perspective*.

The Perspectives show how well the community is served by any given set of components. Perspectives may be made up of maps, graphs, spreadsheets, or other representational devices. This system provides a benchmark against which the community can measure its success in providing services at present and over time.

Composite-Values Level of Service (LOS) Analysis – This is the process used to inventory and analyze the assets, including quantity, location, and various qualities of each. The process utilizes Microsoft Excel and Access, and common GIS software. The composite-values based LOS analysis process used by GreenPlay and Design Concepts is proprietary, and known as “**GRASP®**” (Geo-referenced Amenities Standards Process). It has been somewhat automated through creation of additional software code and template design for efficiency in data collection and analysis. See **Appendix C** for a detailed history and overview of Composite-Values Based Level of Service Analysis.

To produce the Perspectives, each inventoried component has been assigned a score as described earlier.

For purposes of this study the Nederland Library District boundary was used as the extent of the study area. The estimated population within this boundary is 3,074 within an area of 46,142 acres and a population of .07 per acre. This number was also used to calculate the Population per Acre, so that the population density could be used in the level of service analyses.

Perspective A & B: Level of Service Analysis for All Components

Perspectives A & B show the overall level of service value provided by each site or facility. A darker orange value indicates a higher level of service. The actual numerical score for each location is shown in the enlargement (Perspective B). To get an idea of how the scores relate to one another, notice that the scores for the two schools are each 26.4, while the score for Chipeta Park is 48. This indicates that the LOS provided to the community by Chipeta Park is 1.8 times that which is provided by each school. However, the high score for Chipeta Park can be looked at in different ways. It does not necessarily mean that the park is perfect. In fact, the high score corroborates input from the public suggesting that Chipeta Park’s many components are well-used and at times crowded.

The scoring system accounts for both developed recreation and natural areas when assessing LOS, but areas with a greater variety of components tend to score higher under this particular system. For this reason, natural areas show up on the map as providing service, but the score for these areas tends to be lower than for more developed sites. That does not mean that natural areas are assumed to be less important, just that they provide service in a different way.

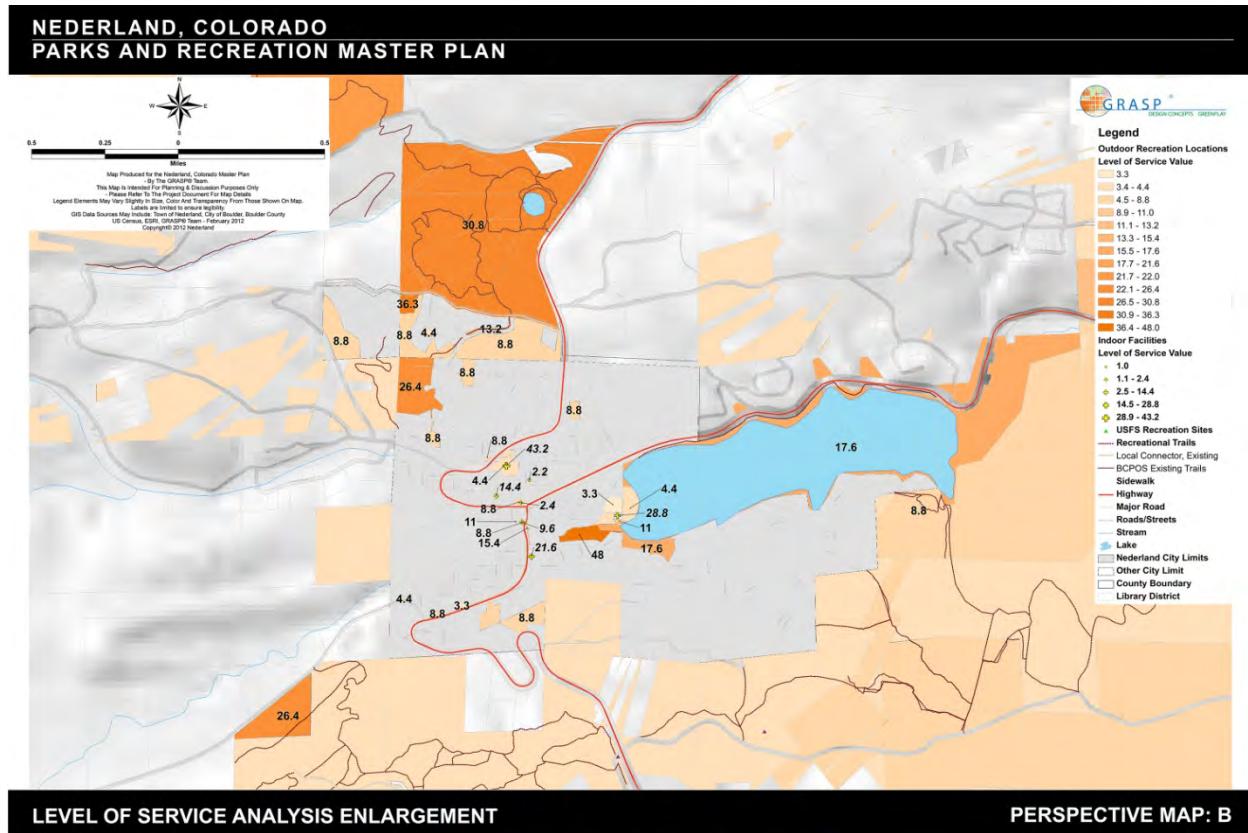


Table 9 shows statistical information derived from **Perspective A**.

Table 9: Statistics for Perspective A

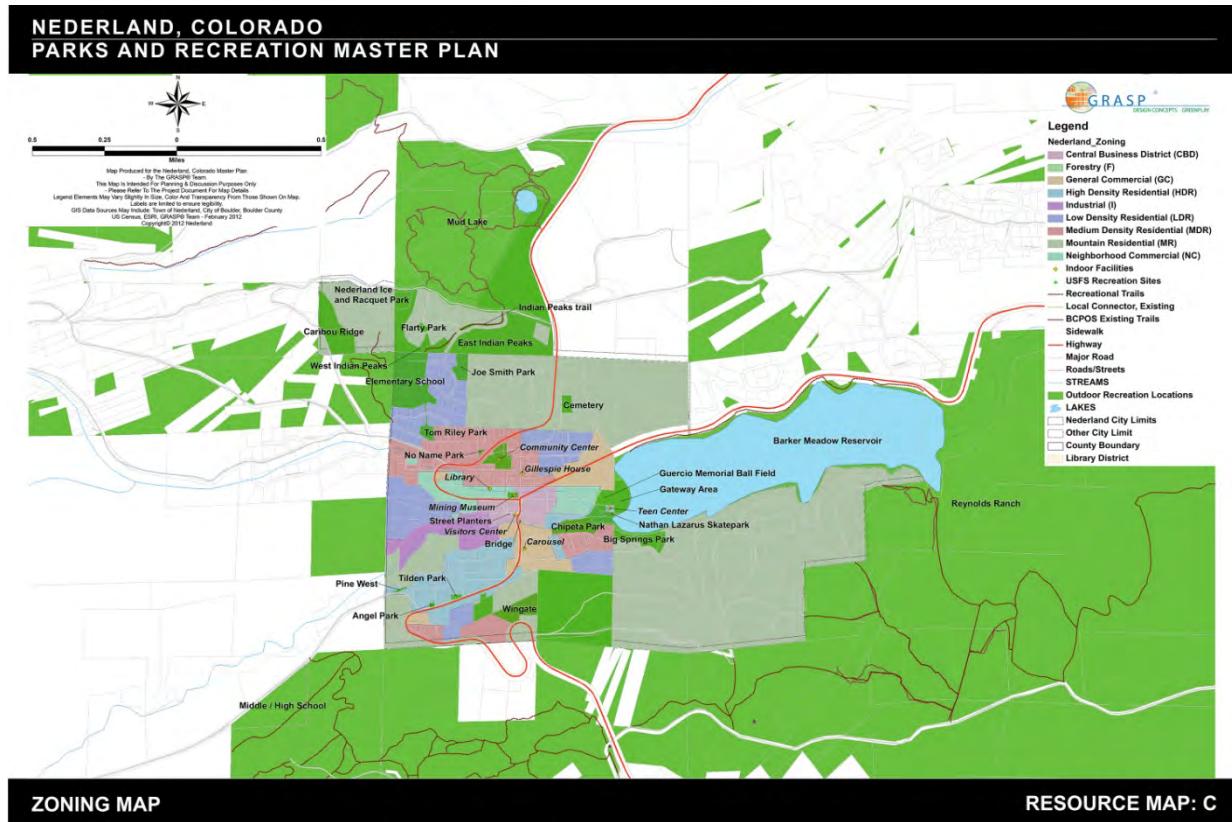
	Total Population	Total Acres	Total GRASP Score	GRASP® Index
<i>Study Area (Nederland Library District)</i>	3074	46,142	620	201.7

The **Total GRASP® Score** shown in the table indicates the sum of the scores for all components in the system after "modifiers" such as the availability of restrooms, etc. are taken into account.

The **GRASP® Index** shown in the next column is the result of a simple numerical calculation that involves dividing the total numerical value of all of the components in a given area by the population of that area, in thousands. This allows density and population to be taken into account for LOS.

Resource Map C: Zoning Map

Resource Map C is provided to allow comparisons to be made between where service is being provided and where residences and other land uses are located. When this map is compared to the previous Perspective maps one can see that current amenities are reasonably located relative to current zoning and population within the study area.



While direct comparisons to other communities or districts are sometimes difficult, one can draw some simple conclusions. The following table shows some basic comparisons to the Evergreen, Colorado Park and Recreation District. While Nederland is similar in land size to the Evergreen district it has a significant difference in population. The table indicates that compared to Evergreen, Nederland has more sites in the inventory, but fewer components. However, when the value of all components is adjusted for population in the GRASP® Index, Nederland ranks much higher than Evergreen.

STATE	CITY	YEAR	POPULATION	STUDY AREA SIZE (Acres)	# OF SITES (Parks, Facilities, etc.)	TOTAL # OF COMPONENTS	AVG. # COMPONENTS per SITE	TOTAL GRASP® VALUE (Entire System)	GRASP® INDEX	AVG. SCORE / SITE
CO	Evergreen PRD	2011	22,736	48,154	28	170	6.1	902	39.7	32.2
CO	Nederland	2012	3,074	46,142	38	142	3.7	620	201.7	16.3

Capacities

The capacities table shown in **Appendix D** is a traditional method of looking at the current system on an individual component basis. This table provides a current per-population ratio for a number of specific components for the current population. It also shows the number needed to maintain those ratios if the population grows. Based on population projections, relatively few lands or facilities are needed in the near future to maintain current ratios. The table is quantitative only and does not account for the quality of the features shown.

GRASP® Index

The following table not only looks at quantity of individual components within the Nederland system, it also captures the functional quality of those components. It provides a way to index the value of the recreational system to the population served. While Nederland is projected to have minimal population growth at 2016, this table shows the projected increase in GRASP® value that would need to be added to maintain the current level of service. It is important to note that this does not necessarily imply an addition of more components but could simply mean upgrades to components or an increase in value of the associated modifiers. In this way, the GRASP® Index is also a way to track the value of “maintaining what you have.”

To explain this, consider that if the population does not change over time and no features listed in the Capacities Table above are added or taken away, no change in LOS is recorded in the Capacities Table. If, however, the features listed in the table are allowed to deteriorate over time due to lack of maintenance and their GRASP® scores go down as a result, the GRASP® Index will go down and a decrease in LOS will be recorded.

If the population increases, as expected in Nederland, the ratio of both quantity of features and the quality of features needs to be maintained. The following table shows the combined value of quantity and quality that should be added to maintain current LOS ratios.

Low-Functioning Components

During the inventory process a few components were scored with a value of “1,” meaning they fell below expectations. One of the recreation components that scored low was the Guercio Memorial Ballfield. Recommendations for addressing improvements are found in **Chapter 7**.

Table 10: Projected Community Components

Projected Community Components GRASP® Index 2016		Current Population 2011	3,074	Projected Population 2016	3,221
	GRASP® Index (Meeting Expectation with Standard Modifiers)	Total GRASP® Community Score per component type	GRASP® score per 1000 population (GRASP® Index)	Total GRASP® score needed at projected population	Additional GRASP® score needed
Total, All Components	Current Quantity	497.5	161.84	521	23.8
Backstop, Practice	1	4.4	4.4	1.43	5
Ballfield	2	8.8	5.5	1.79	6
Basketball	1	4.4	4.8	1.56	5.0
Educational Experience	7	30.8	31.2	10.15	32.7
Garden, Display	3	13.2	11	3.58	11.5
Hockey, Ice	1	4.4	9.9	3.22	10.4
MP Field, Large	3	13.2	15.4	5.01	16.1
Multiuse Court	1	4.4	4.4	1.43	4.6
Natural Area	20	88	83.1	27.03	87.1
Open Turf	1	4.4	4.8	1.56	5.0
Open Water	5	22	22.6	7.35	23.7
Other-Active	1	4.4	4.8	1.56	5.0
Other-Passive	3	13.2	16	5.20	16.8
Passive Node	3	13.2	15.4	5.01	16.1
Picnic Grounds	2	8.8	9.2	2.99	9.6
Playground, Local	3	13.2	13.6	4.42	14.3
Shelter, Group	1	4.4	7.2	2.34	7.5
Skate Park	1	4.4	6.6	2.15	6.9
Tennis	3	13.2	19.8	6.44	20.7
Track, Competition	1	4.4	6.6	2.15	6.9
Trail, Multi-use	2	8.8	8.8	2.86	9.2
Trailhead	2	8.8	8.8	2.86	9.2
Water Access, Developed	1	4.4	4.4	1.43	4.6
Water Access, General	3	13.2	13.2	4.29	13.8

Note: 2011 and 2016 population estimates are for the Library District boundaries.

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