

Infill Steering Committee

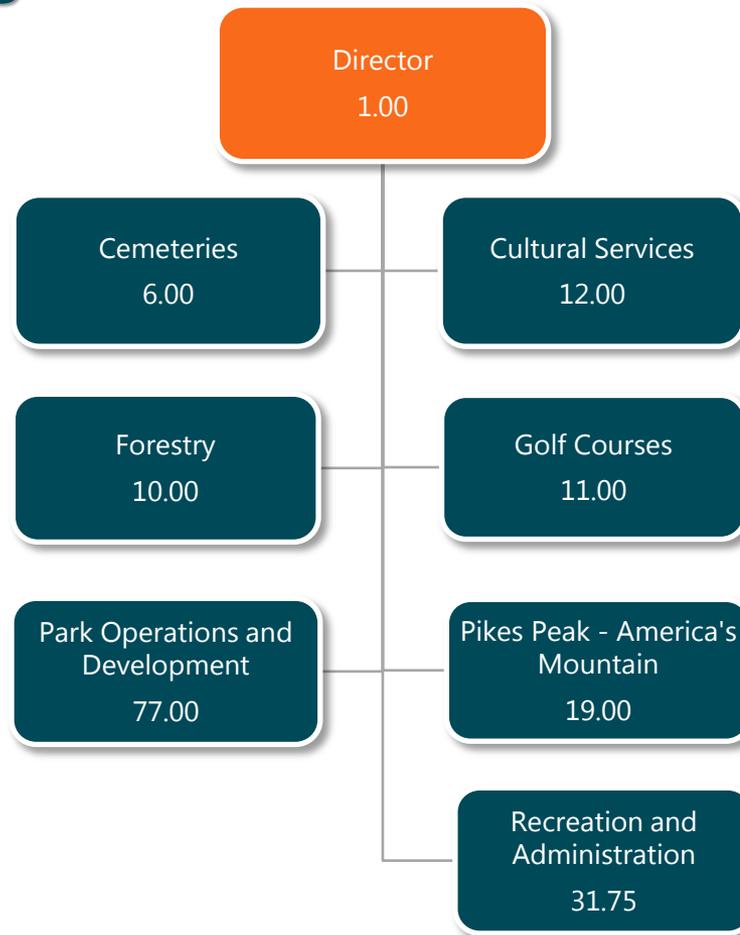
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department

Building Community • Economic Impact • Health and Wellness
Stewardship of our Natural Resources

April 21, 2015

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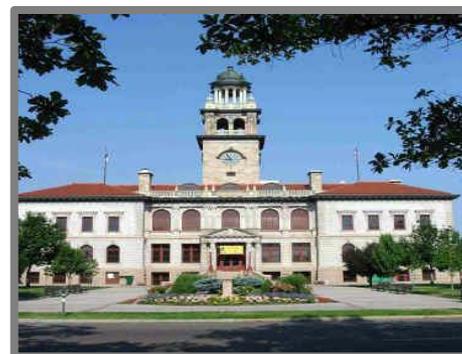
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Organizational Chart



“We believe parks, recreation and cultural services are critical to the vitality and health of our community”

Cultural Services

- **Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum** is responsible education programs and preservation of 80,000 artifacts and 4.5 million documents. The CSPM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.
- **Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site** is a living history site that interprets four eras in Pikes Peak Region History from 1775 – 1907.
- **Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center and Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center** provide natural history education programs and park safety patrol services.
- Cultural Services staff in **Garden of the Gods and Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center** provide educational programs and park safety patrol services.
- Stewardship for the City's collection of **80 pieces** of public art.
- Cultural Services facilities served **324,337 residents and visitors in 2014**.
- The Division partners with nonprofit support groups to raise **over \$400,000** annually to offset the city appropriation.



Recreation & Administration

- Offers a variety of recreational programs, human services, and community events
- Oversees our general services including **grant development** received almost \$1m in 2014, budget monitoring and preparation, oversight of **contracts** for the multitude of partner agreements and **human resources**
- **Office of Special Events** worked with 377 Special Events in 2014 (a 21% increase). Also handles park pavilion reservations and citizen contacts
- **Volunteer Program** works with nearly 4,500 volunteers who contributed 145,000 hours of service for a \$3.7M service value to our City. Coordinate with over 40 Friends and Advocacy groups through out the community



Recreation & Administration

- **Sertich Ice Center** saw over 137,000 visitors in 2014. Operates as a cost neutral facility. Voted Best of for Ice Rinks in COS 7 years running
- The **Historic City Auditorium** booked over 550 events in 2014 and strives to be a cost neutral operation.
- **Youth and Adult Sports** provides a variety of athletic programs offered through partnerships and significant volunteer efforts. Over 21,000 registered participants in 2014
- **Community Centers:** Hillside, Meadows Park, and Deerfield Hills, and West Side by contract. Provide a wide range of services that are facilitated by outstanding partners
- **Aquatic and Fitness Centers-** Programming operated by the YMCA, facilities maintenance and capital improvements by Department
- **Therapeutic Recreation Programs** provided Waterskiing, biking, dance program and social outings for over 19,000 participants. Support wounded warrior and Paralympic sport programs



Spirit of the Springs Program

- The **Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament** has donated a total of 22 full tuition scholarships for Public Safety, as well as donated more than \$65k to local organizations benefiting the City of Colorado Springs. The tournament was also named in the CSBJ's "Best Of" as the Best Golf Tournament, after only three years of existence
- The **Ticket to Success Middle School Program** to hosted five schools with 50 students, this program is designed to educate young people about Leadership and Careers in Municipal Government
- The **Spirit of the Springs Celebration Awards Program** recognizes people and organizations who have brought great pride and honor to the City of Colorado Springs a total of 118 awards have been presented, since its inception in late 2011
- **Spruce Up the Springs** monthly summer volunteer park projects



Enterprises

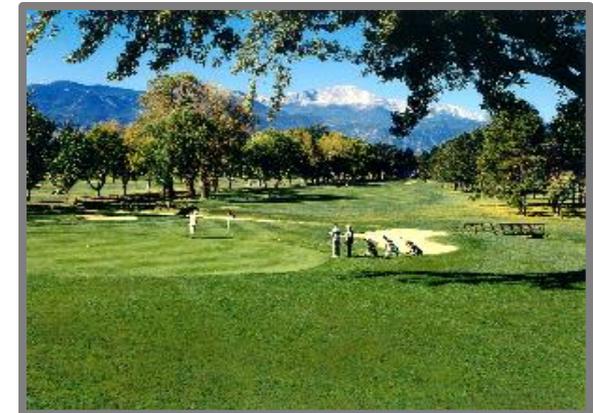
Cemetery Enterprise:

- **Evergreen Cemetery** established in 1875
- **Fairview Cemetery** Established in 1895 and annexed in 1917
- Services include sales of burial and cremation sites
- Perpetual care of both cemeteries
- New Blocks developed for sales in 2014



Golf Enterprise:

- **Patty Jewett Golf Course**, a 27-hole facility – was deeded to the City by W.K. Jewett in 1919
- **Valley Hi Golf Course**, an 18-hole facility – was purchased by the City in 1976
- PJ Voted Best of for Golf Courses in our Community



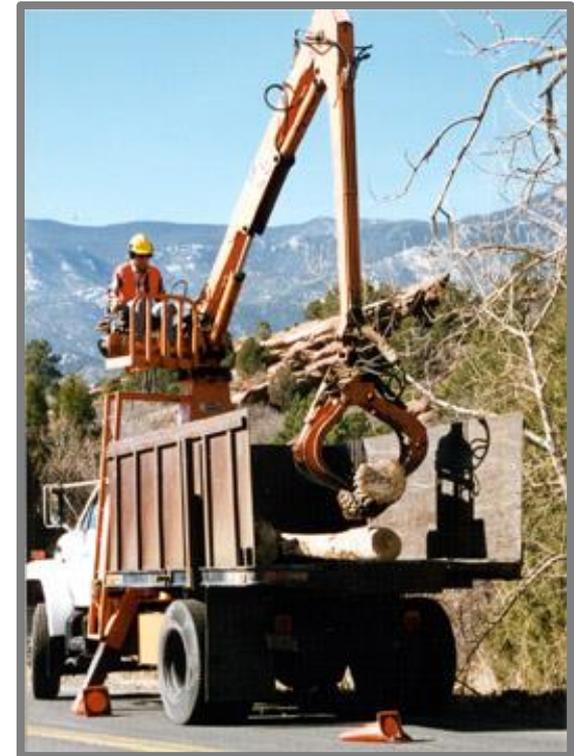
Pikes Peak – America's Mountain:

- Operates the Pikes Peak Highway, visitor facilities (Summit House, Glen Cove Inn, and Crystal Reservoir Gift Shop), and the recreation corridor (hiking, picnic grounds, and interpretive trail) under a term **Special Use Permit** issued by the U.S. Forest Service
- **Revenue** is generated from gateway tolls and concessionaire fees
- Exceeded our attendance record from back in the 1970's with **over 350,000** people visiting via the highway.
- Total attendance at the summit **exceeds 600,000** visitors between the COG Railway, Barr Trail and the Highway



Forestry, Native Rights of Way, and Medians

- Maintains **trees** on streets, medians, urban parks, and trail corridors
- **Forest management** in regional parks and open spaces- focus on the wildland urban interface
- Removes dead, dying and **dangerous** trees
- Enhances **public safety** by trimming trees from intersections, school zones, signs, and visibility obstructions
- Responds to **tree-related emergencies** from automobile accidents to weather-related issues
- **Certifies** private tree service business licenses
- Maintenance of **33 miles of native medians and 174 miles** of native rights-of-way includes limited mowing and spraying of areas.



Park Operations Maintenance

- Manages and provides maintenance services for **204 facilities** which include Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Sports Complex's, **115 miles** of multiuse trails and **17,000 acres** of Regional Parks and Open Spaces.
- Manages contracted services; **athletic fields**; repairs, monitors, and renovates irrigation and lighting systems; and plants and maintains landscaped areas
- Renovates and maintains buildings, **playground** structures, walkways, curbing, parking lots, and miles of fencing
- Removes graffiti and performs **vandalism repair**
- Maintains pools, **fountains** and splash pads
- Mitigates/controls noxious weeds, maintains urban and natural surface trails, monitors and maintains park **natural resources**
- Conducts safety inspection on parks, trails and playgrounds for **hazards** and perform repairs
- Manages **7 Special Improvement Maintenance Districts** and the Council appointed Boards
- Manages and Operates the **North and South Slope** areas

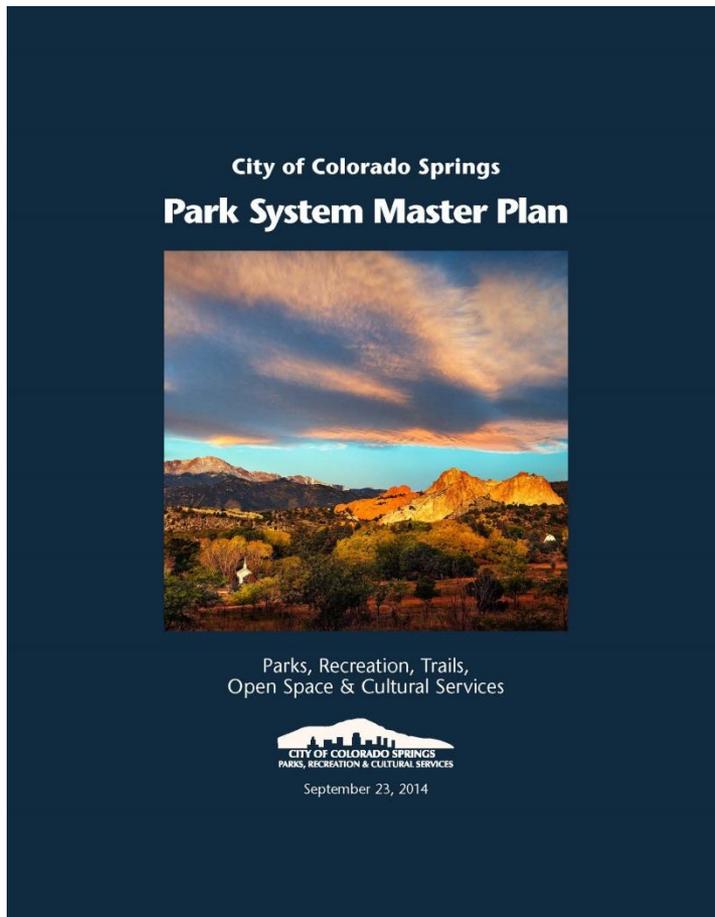


Service and Maintenance Gaps

- **Public misunderstanding of responsibilities**
- **Management of park users and abusers**
- **Sustainable landscapes/hardscapes**
- **Deferred system maintenance and back log estimated at over \$180 million**
- **Aging infrastructure**
- **Staffing levels**
- **Cost of water**

What is the value of rain?
\$45,000 is the utility cost savings the City Parks Department experiences every day rain water eliminates the need to turn on sprinklers and water the parks.

Park Operations Design & Development



- Manages land acquisition, planning, design and construction of parks, trails, and open spaces
- Oversees renovation and restoration projects
- Develops and implements Park System Master Plans
- Manages the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Program and funding requirements
- Develops and monitors conservation easements
- Develops and monitors required park property management plans
- Manages and reviews for Park Land Dedication Ordinance requirements

Service Areas in Infill Areas

C. Neighborhood Parks			
3.5 to 20 acres	Provide nearby recreation and leisure opportunities for the individual neighborhoods they are intended to serve. Should serve as a common area for neighbors of all ages to gather, socialize, and play. They should provide play structures for children age three to five, independent of school facilities.	<p>Locate adjacent to schools.</p> <p>Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate facility development.</p> <p>Typically will include a paved multi-purpose area for court games, a play field, play equipment, and shaded areas for picnics and sitting.</p>	<p>0.5 mile radius; parkland standard of 2.5 acres/1000 people</p> <p>Centrally locate within area served and accessible via a walkway or urban trail.</p>
D. Community Parks			
35-175 acres	<p>Serve as a focal point for community-wide activities and provide facilities that are less appropriate for neighborhood parks due to noise, lights, traffic, etc. Often opportunities exist to reserve large group picnic areas.</p> <p>Should maintain a balance between programmed sports facilities and other community activity areas, such as gardens, plazas, etc.</p>	<p>Sports facilities and other athletically programmed areas should be limited to a maximum of 50% of the total park area, including parking.</p> <p>Portions of the site should have gentle topography to accommodate active sports fields and open turf areas for passive recreation.</p>	<p>2.0 mile radius; park land standard of 3.0 acres/1000 people</p> <p>Good access from an arterial street.</p> <p>Direct access to regional trail system desirable.</p>



Neighborhood Parks

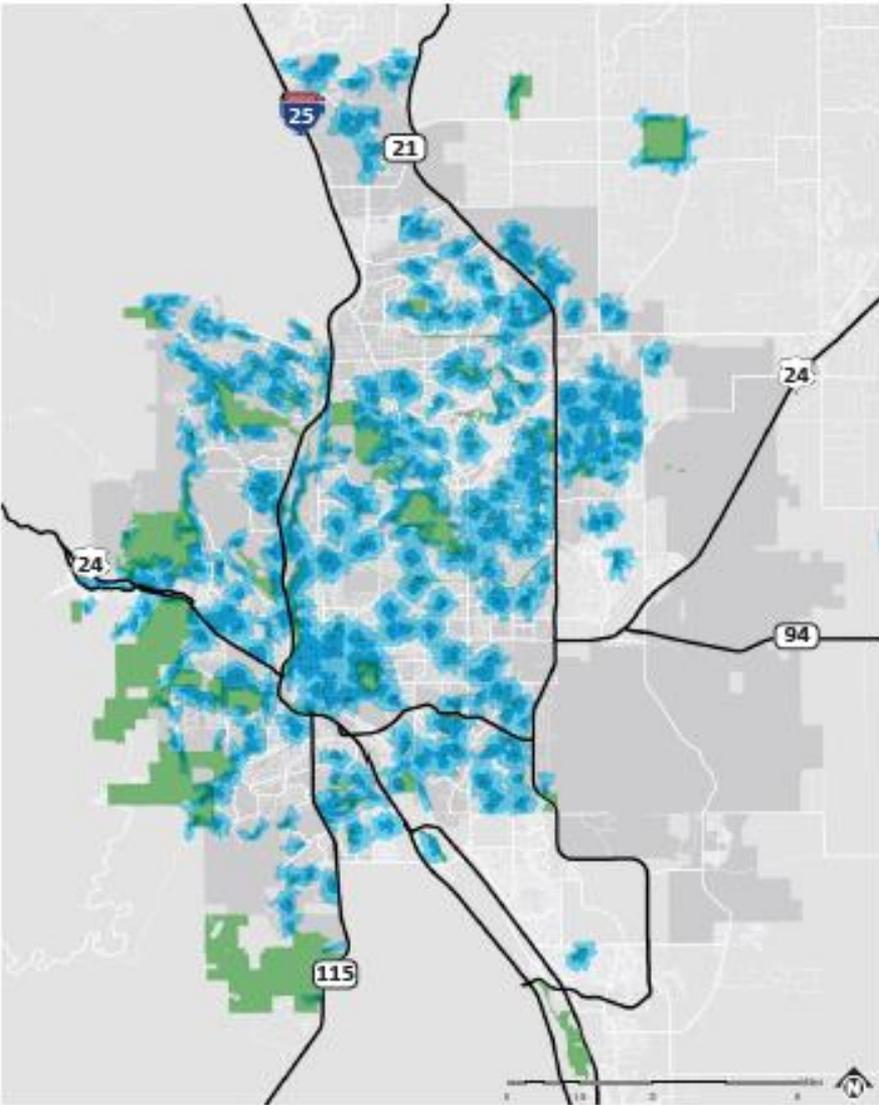
Colorado Springs has more neighborhood park acreage per resident than any other benchmark city.

Opportunities:

- Distribution of existing neighborhood parks
- Distribution of undeveloped neighborhood park sites

Challenges:

- Funding for renovation of aging neighborhood parks
- Resources for ongoing maintenance and operations
- Funding for development of future parks



Households within Walking Distance of a Park



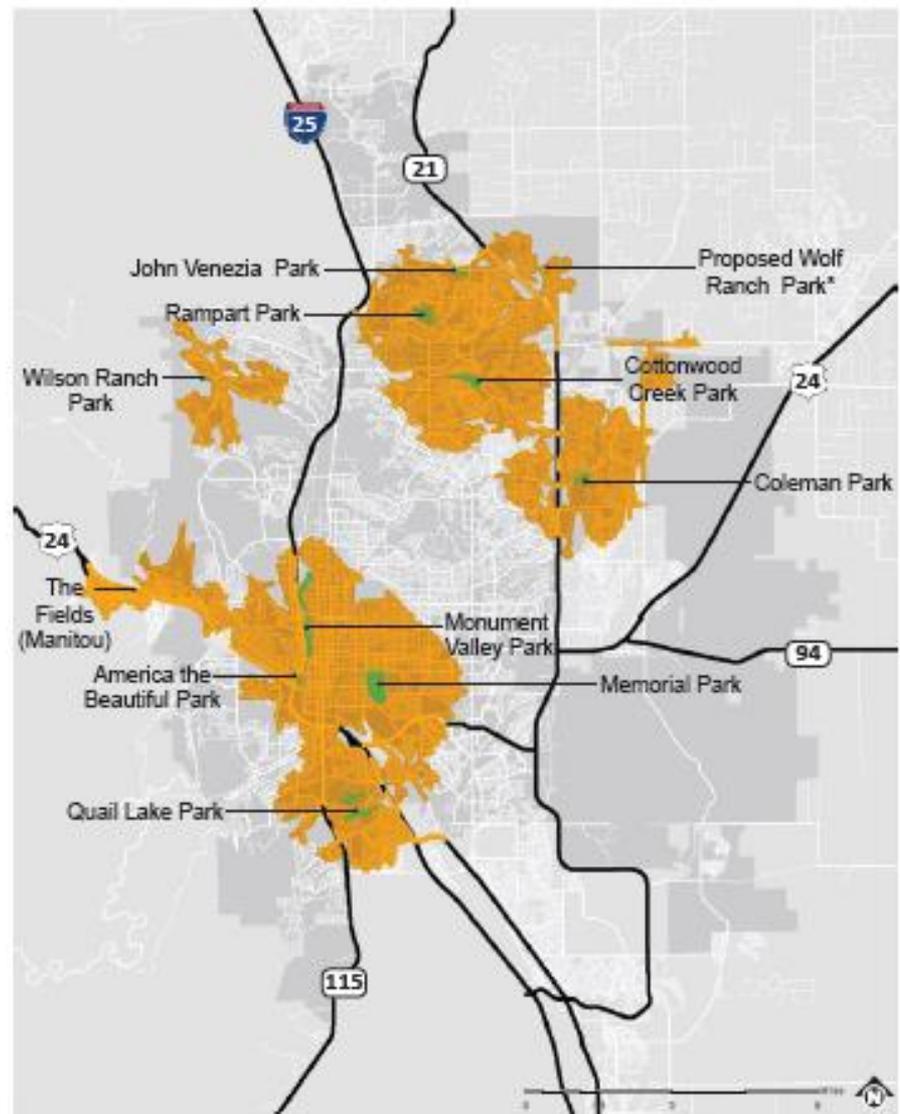
Community Parks

Opportunities:

- Current Distribution of park sites
- Existing Community Park Sites

Challenges:

- Funding for development of existing park sites
- Funding for renovation of existing parks
- Funding for ongoing maintenance and operations
- Funding for development of future parks



Percent of Households within 2 miles of a Community Park



41%

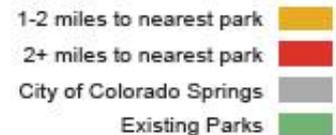
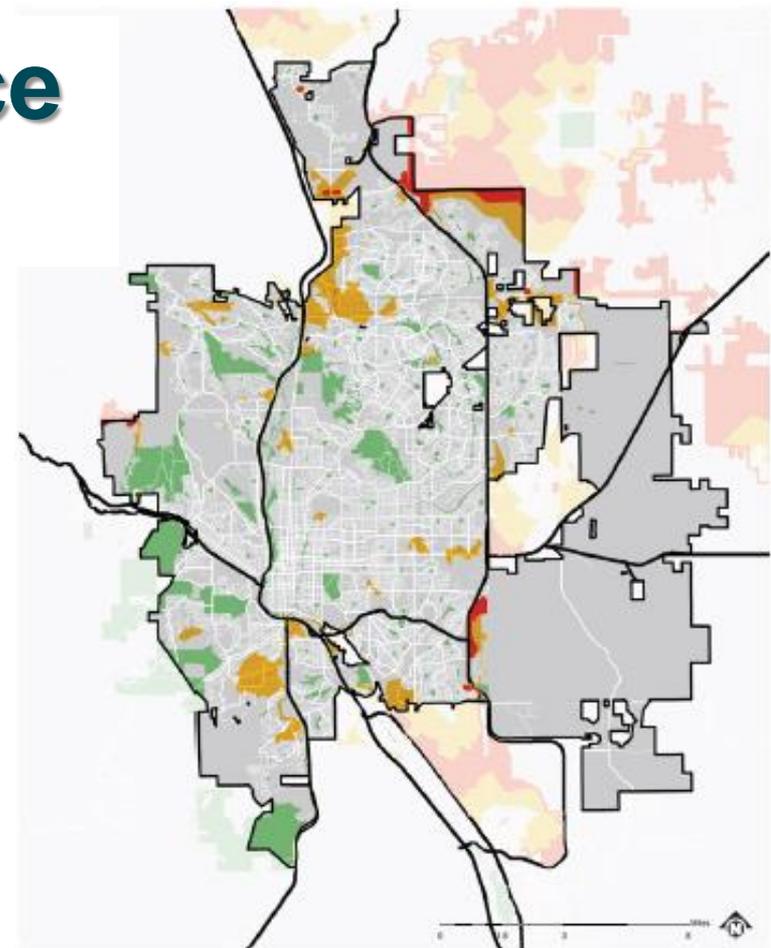
2 miles

Park and Open Space Gap Analysis

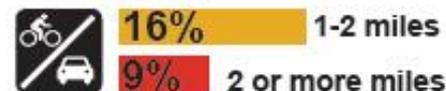
“We have **very few areas** in the city where households do not have access to a park or open space within two miles....”

“We need to **focus on connections** to neighborhood park and open space to minimize barriers....”

“We need to **pursue reinvestment** in our existing park infrastructure...”



Percent of City Households with Parks Located more than a Mile Away.

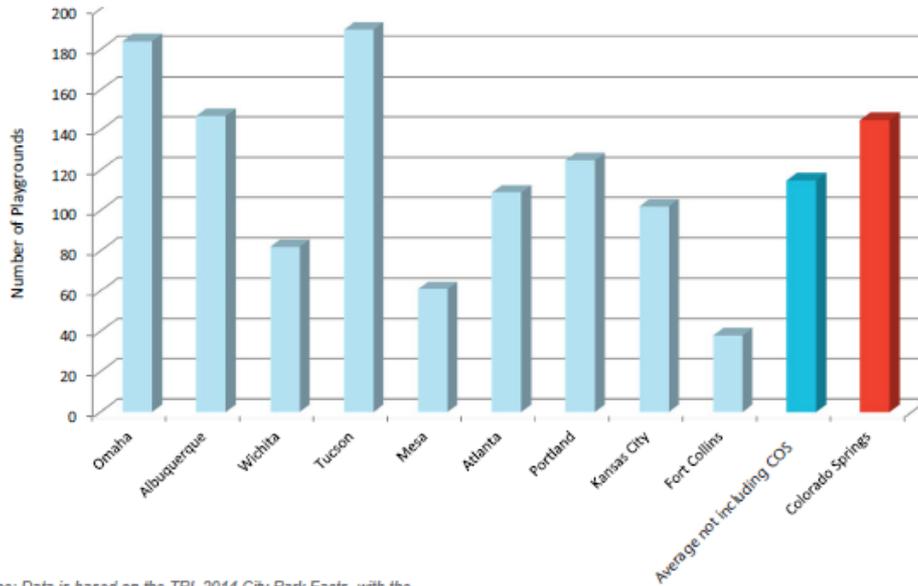


Distribution of Playgrounds and Recreational Opportunities

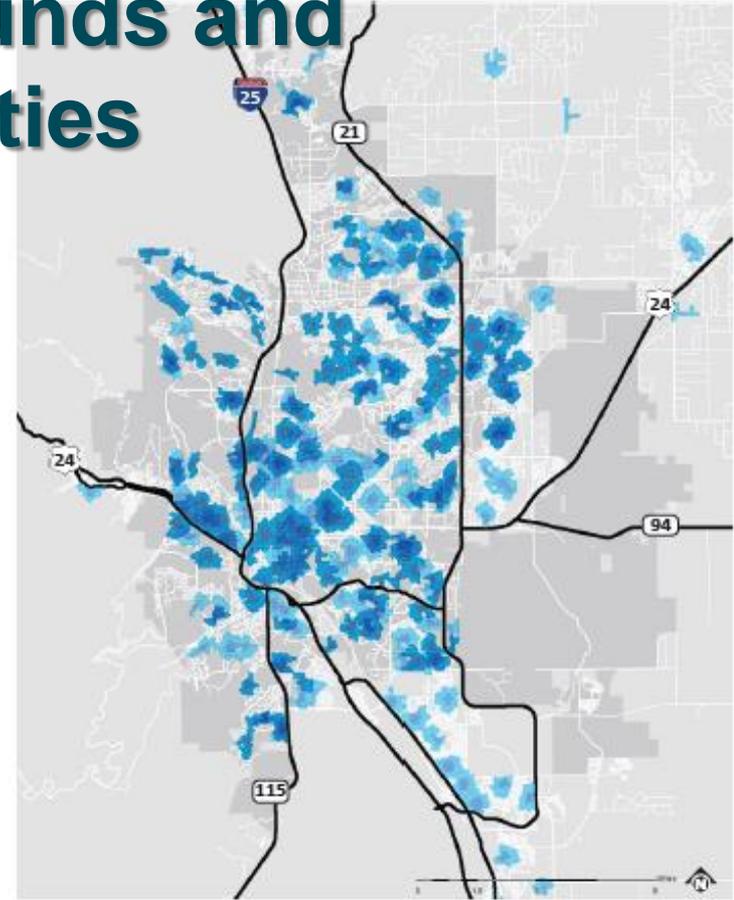
- City maintains 145 playgrounds, 25 playgrounds are in poor condition
- Park facilities are aging and near the end of their life cycle

Comparison: Number of Playgrounds in each City

Figure 24: Number of Playgrounds in each City



Source: Data is based on the TPL 2014 City Park Facts, with the exception of Fort Collins. This data is based on Fort Collins 2012 city budget.



Household Distance to the Nearest City Playground

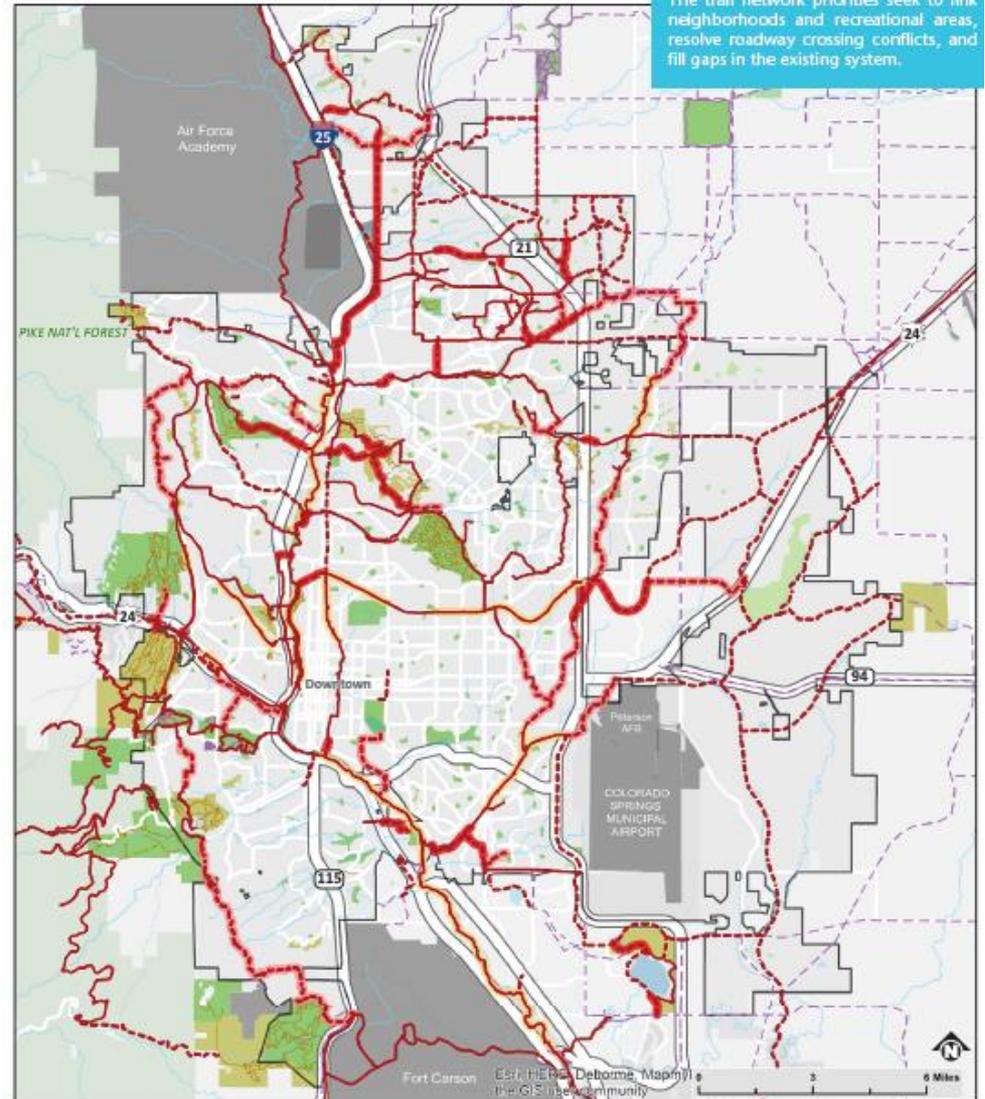


Trail System

“We need to **focus on closing gaps in the trail system** to connect neighborhood parks and open space...”

“We need to **Repair and Maintain** existing trail corridors...”

Map 24: Trail Priority Recommendations



Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Opportunities and Challenges:

- Effective tool for greenfield development
- Has generally served community well as a tool to provide park land.
- Fees in lieu of land can only be spent on new park development (not park renovation)
- Fee distribution (nexus) challenges
- Is not intended to adequately fund new park development, originally intended to acquire parkland
- Infill development puts pressure and added demands on existing park infrastructure. Parks should meet the needs of new and shifting demographics
- No/Limited operational funding when new parks are developed
- Impacts of Districts on equity of service levels

Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Items for Consideration

- Maintain land dedication requirements:
 - Exempt infill development that is currently served by existing parks
- Consider implementation of a neighborhood park development fee
 - Exempt districts that provide other mechanisms for funding park development
 - Exempt infill projects that can be served by existing, developed neighborhood parks based upon service radius
 - Base fee on the average cost per acre of neighborhood park development
- Consider implementation of a community park and sports complex development fee
 - Exempt districts that provide other mechanisms for funding park development
 - Exempt infill projects that can be served by existing developed community parks and sports complexes based upon service radius
 - Base fee on the average cost per acre of community park and sports complex development.
- Consider implementation of a park renovation fee:
 - Apply a fee to infill development that is currently served by existing parks.
 - Exempt greenfield development
 - Base fee on the life cycle cost of park renovation
- Consider expanding land dedication requirements to non-residential land uses to provide trail corridors

Questions

For more information see our new Park System Master Plan at www.coloradosprings.gov (search Park Master Plan).



Contact Information

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