



City of
LOVELAND
PARKS & RECREATION



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

LEAVING LASTING LEGACIES

ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

In the year following the advent of the coronavirus pandemic, our dedicated team of employees continued their work to fully restore the Parks & Recreation services our community relies upon. While the outdoors largely remained accessible through the height of the pandemic, the recreation programs and indoor activities our residents sought still needed attention. The Parks & Recreation Department worked quickly to adapt and modify all services and programs to prioritize the health and safety of each patron. Whether it was through our recreation programs, trails and open spaces, or indoor and outdoor amenities, maintaining the mental and physical health of our community has become more important than ever.

Although 2021 brought another year of rapid change, Parks & Recreation has continued to serve as a vital connection point for all Lovelanders. Even with all the existing natural beauty in our City, the miles of trails and open spaces, lakes, fields, playgrounds and recreation amenities only further demonstrate the high quality of life offered in Loveland.

As we settle into our new normal, the Parks & Recreation team has shown their ability to anticipate and meet the evolving needs of our community. Although the future remains uncertain, I am confident that Loveland Parks & Recreation will continue to be a vital ingredient in creating a happy, healthy, connected Loveland.

Steve Adams
City Manager, City of Loveland



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure we present the 2021 Annual Report for the City of Loveland Parks & Recreation Department. Throughout 2021, the Parks & Recreation team of dedicated professionals continued to deliver high quality programs and services to our citizens, even as the impacts and constraints of the ongoing pandemic remained. Connecting people through opportunities to recreate, socialize, gather and play remained our primary focus. Our mantra became one of perseverance, determination, stability and a push towards getting back to “normal” for our residents, visitors and staff.

We accomplished many great initiatives that will enrich and expand Parks & Recreation in future times. The incredible land acquisition at Dakota Ridge, preliminary design work on Willow Bend Neighborhood Park & Natural Area – which will include Loveland’s first universally accessible playground – and numerous new recreation and regional trails completed (or in the final stages of completion) will further connect and expand our well-loved trail system. We began work on the design of the Olde Course clubhouse renovation for golf, initiated a new park sign replacement process for our beautiful parks and continued to address important ADA improvements across the department. With forward thinking in mind, we began the complex process of updating our department’s 2014 Master Plan, researched cemetery expansion options and updated our departmental performance measures. Our available resources were supplemented by the awards of major grant funding, which gave us the ability to do more.

Our team truly cares about the future and sustainability of Parks & Recreation in Loveland and will continue to strive for not only providing excellence now, but to leave lasting legacies for our residents and visitors alike for many, many years to come. I look forward to great things for all of us in 2022.

Elizabeth R. Kayl, CPM, CPRP
Director, City of Loveland Parks & Recreation

“

Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”

Warren Bennis

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LEADING LOVELAND WITH A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

A strategic roadmap to meet our community needs.

One of the most important roles that a professional parks and recreation agency can fulfill, is take every opportunity to shape the future of parks and recreation facilities and programs for their community. A city builds parks and recreation facilities so its people can build community. Investing in the right parks and facilities at the right times and in the right places ensures our City is meeting the needs of its residents now and for future generations.

Facilities such as parks, open lands, trails, recreation centers, golf courses and other leisure amenities take thoughtful and intentional evaluation, strategic vision and the necessary time to bring to successful fruition. We must identify and prioritize potential improvements in existing amenities, while evaluating the need for new facilities, all in partnership with the desires of the community.

Your Parks & Recreation Department uses both master planning and strategic planning documents that guide our efforts to acquire and develop parks and open spaces, trails and other facilities. The plans reflect the community's vision through input and engagement and lays out a roadmap to meet the parks and recreation needs of residents and visitors alike. Plans also establish guiding values, goals and priorities including connectivity, livability, community health, protection and conservation initiatives, sustainability and diversity.

The vision for our community's future begins with efforts we accomplish in the present. We are proud of our department's dedicated efforts to put in the hard work today to ensure a wonderful quality of life for Loveland tomorrow.



Loveland Parks & Recreation Management Team
Back row: Administrative Business Manager Molly Elder, Parks Manager Dan Willadsen;
Middle row: Open Lands & Trails Manager Marilyn Hilgenberg, Golf Manager Mark Esoda, Parks & Recreation Director Elizabeth R. Kayl, Recreation Manager LeAnn Williams;
Bottom row: Planning Manager Bryan Harding

THREE PILLARS OF PARKS & RECREATION



HEALTH & WELLNESS - IMPROVING HEALTH, ENHANCING LIFE

Our staff are leaders in recreation, sports and nutrition and offer fitness, sports and nutrition lifestyle classes for people of all ages and abilities. They seek to reduce obesity, physical inactivity and poor nutrition while strengthening skills that enrich body, mind and attitude.



CONSERVATION - PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

Oftentimes, parks and recreation agencies are the only voice for ensuring that open space is protected, our youth have access to nature-related areas and that services and outdoor education are available. These have quantifiable economic benefits to our community.



SOCIAL EQUITY - ACCESS AND INCLUSION FOR ALL

We strive to be a catalyst for ensuring all residents have equal access to our resources and services. We offer opportunities that transcend barriers of income through outreach activities such as our Mobile Recreation Trailer and Movies in the Park. We also provide scholarships via our partnership with the Loveland Parks & Recreation Foundation.

2021 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Boards & Commissions serve in an advisory capacity to the Parks & Recreation Department and City Council. They provide input on the primary policy topics critical to the operation of Loveland City Government. Members are appointed by City Council based on their personal and professional backgrounds relevant to the policy topic. Their structure provides an excellent opportunity for community participation in policy making at the City of Loveland.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Jess Arnold, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jeremy Peterson
Jim Haynes, <i>Chair</i>	Antoinette Toscano
Garry Kryszak	Dean Williams
Craig Mortensen	Jacki Marsh, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Taylor Nguyen	Rob Molloy, <i>Alternate Liaison</i>
Duncan Patrick	Elizabeth Kayl, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Linda Aron	Jason Morgan
Holly Biggs	Sharon Pendlebury
Teresa Boynton	Sharon Steinman
Anne Brown	Jill Taylor
Carmen Cisneros	Anthony Van Goor
Julie Demaree	Richard Zlamany
Donita Fogle	Jacki Marsh, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Dixie Huff	Kathi Wright, <i>Alternate Liaison</i>
Kathleen Kimball	LeAnn Williams, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Adam Beeco, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Barb Schultz
Gale Bernhardt	Jean Whittaker
Jim Edmiston	William Zawacki, <i>Chair</i>
Michael Hinterberg	Kathi Wright, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
David LaGreca	Rob Molloy, <i>Alternate Liaison</i>
Jodi Radke	Marilyn Hilgenberg, <i>Staff Liaison</i>
Jim Roode	

GOLF ADVISORY BOARD

Jerod Dawson	Denise Rhoades
Rex Lamoreaux	Beth Soderquist, <i>Chair</i>
Blake Nicholson, <i>Vice Chair</i>	David Spangler
Greg Oehmen	Chuck Weirauch
Peggy Pellizzari	Rob Molloy, <i>City Council Liaison</i>
Ryan Pisano, <i>Alternate</i>	Steve Olson, <i>Alternate Liaison</i>

PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION

Chad Brent	Karen Markel
Marie DeWolf	Denise Rhoades
Greg Guest, <i>Chair</i>	Scott Wilson, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Ryan Lundquist, <i>Treasurer</i>	Elizabeth Kayl, <i>Staff Liaison</i>



Open Lands & Trails team at River's Edge Natural Area

DEPARTMENT WORK GROUPS

The Parks & Recreation Department is comprised of six divisions. These work teams provide comprehensive year-round support and programming for all ages at a number of facilities throughout the City of Loveland.

ADMINISTRATION

Division managers and support staff oversee programming, operations, marketing, communications and graphic design.

PLANNING

The backbone of Parks & Recreation, Planning is responsible for laying the framework for projects within the department. Planning is comprised of landscape architects and designers.

PARKS

32 city parks with 18 park shelters available for reservation; facilities with multiple sports fields; two cemetery/burial parks

RECREATION

Chilson Recreation & Senior Center, Lake Loveland Swim Beach and Winona Outdoor Pool; programming including athletics, fitness and more

OPEN LANDS & TRAILS

30 natural areas/open spaces, 23 miles of paved recreation trail and 20 miles of unpaved trails

GOLF

Three golf courses and one mini-course

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Loveland Parks & Recreation is committed to partnerships that align with our overall mission and provide benefits to the community. We are thankful for the partnerships below that allow us to further our goal of providing quality recreation opportunities to all members of the community regardless of age or financial status.

2021 Community Partnerships:

ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Challenger Sports Camps - British Soccer
- Coast to Coast Tennis, LLC
- Colorado National Softball Association (NSA)
- Colorado Senior Softball Travel League (CSSTL)
- Colorado Senior Volleyball Association (CSVA)
- Loveland Baseball Association (LBA)
- Loveland Pickleball Club
- Loveland Tennis Association (LTA)
- Loveland Youth Athletic Association (LYAA)
- National Adult Baseball Association (NABA)
- Northern Colorado Sports Officials (NCSO)
- Skyhawks Sports Academy
- Thompson R2J School District
- Triple Crown Sports
- United Soccer Club (USC)
- United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA)

SENIOR SERVICES | PARTNERS

- AARP
- A Little Help
- Alzheimer's Association
- Chilson Senior Advisory Committee (CSAC)
- Ensign Skills Center
- Hearing Rehab Center
- House of Neighborly Services
- Kaiser Permanente
- Larimer County Health District
- Larimer County Office on Aging
- Loveland Fishing Club
- Loveland High School NHS & Student Council
- Loveland Public Library
- Loveland Reporter-Herald
- National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)
- Senior Alternatives in Transportation (SAINT)
- UCHealth Aspen Club
- Volunteers of America (VOA) Meal Program

GOLF CLUBS | LEAGUES

- LPGA/USGA Girls Golf Club of Northern Colorado at Cattail Creek
- The Olde Course at Loveland Men's and Women's Golf Associations
- Mariana Butte Men's and Women's Golf Associations

COMMUNITY GROUPS | PARTNERS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Banner Health
- Big Thompson Watershed Coalition
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS)
- Colorado Avian Research & Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI)
- Colorado Native Plant Society
- Colorado Open Lands
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado State University (CSU)
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Economic Development Department
- Estes Park Flyfishing
- Fishing's Future
- Foothills Audubon
- Front Range Community College
- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Group Publishing "Week of Hope"
- High Plains Arts Council
- High Plains Environmental Center
- I Love Loveland
- Larimer County Conservation Corps
- Larimer County Natural Resources
- Loveland Concert Band
- Loveland Downtown Partnership
- Loveland Housing Authority
- Loveland Lions Club
- Loveland Municipal Court
- Loveland Parks & Recreation Foundation
- NOCO Bike and Pedestrian Collaborative
- Rialto Theater
- Scott and Carol James
- Sweetheart City Racing
- Thompson School District Summer Meals
- UCHealth
- Visit Loveland



Big brick fun at the 2021 Honey Festival

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

This year continued to teach us the value of human connection and how to interact in a responsive, innovative manner. Whether it was keeping people motivated with virtual fitness classes or creating safe experiences within our parks, we persevered as we restructured, reorganized and reinvented new ways to bring the Loveland community together.



4,478
virtual
fitness
visits

abdc ● 127 campers
ages 5–12 ● 3,270 attendance
● 11 weeks



35
Trail Hosts
volunteered
1,402 hours



MILLIONS of
invasive weed seeds
removed from
natural areas

IN-PERSON FITNESS
participants:

5,289 senior
11,955 aqua
16,980 land



29
weekends
of athletic
tournaments

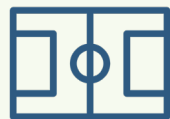


**Barnes Softball Complex
& Winona Outdoor Pool**

CONCESSIONS:



872
visitors
toured the EE cabin
at Viestenz-Smith
Mountain Park



14,759
field/court
reservations



847
park shelter
reservations



112
students
**Small Fries
Preschool**



adult sports leagues
307



cemetery
158 interments
interment rights issued: **118**

49
DAYS OF
Mobile
Recreation
Trailer
FUN

with 3,724
participants



319 stewardship
volunteers =
22 projects

2,013
swim lesson participants
at Chilson & Winona pools



139,321
rounds of
golf
played

1.74 miles

of
NEW
soft-
surface
and
paved
trails
**FOR
PUBLIC
ACCESS**



New nature play features at Oxbow Natural Area, funded by a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado

PLANNING

EXPERTS TURNING BIG IDEAS INTO REALITY

The Parks & Recreation Department's Planning Division is a small but mighty team serving both the City's residents as well as internal customers including the Parks, Open Lands & Trails, Golf and Recreation Divisions. With experts in landscape architecture, planning, public engagement and project management, the Planning team offers a full range of project delivery services and serves a variety of coordinating roles across the City.

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL PUBLIC SERVICE

Members of the Planning team provide project information to the public and ensure that department projects go through public vetting and engagement processes including production and management of events such as open houses, online engagement with social media and webpage interfaces and public meetings and/or hearings.

In addition, Parks & Recreation planners serve as in-house experts on matters regarding department-operated properties and amenities, assist with department-specific project expertise including providing information on property openings or closures, supplying design and construction updates and imparting general department information.

DEPARTMENT & CITY INITIATIVES

The Planning team often serves as the project lead for large department initiatives such as management for ADA improvement projects, master plans and planning documents and for development of standards, guidelines and protocols such as the department's first Design Standards Manual.



P&R Master Plan public outreach event at the Loveland Summer Concert Series

CAPITAL & DEPRECIATION PROJECT PLANNING

Each year, the Planning team creates an annual capital and depreciation project work plan for the department. This plan sets forth a path to project completion and takes into account available staffing, budgets, City priorities, annual grant cycles and seasonal construction windows. The plan is issued to the department at the beginning of each year, shared with other departments and regional entities who are project partners, and updated throughout the year as projects are completed or as new projects and priorities emerge.

PROJECT DESIGN, PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

Our primary focus is the design, planning and implementation of department capital and depreciation projects. In a given year, this may range from conceptual planning of a new park or open land property, to design development of a new trail corridor or golf course facility, to managing the construction of new department infrastructure. Projects range from a quick parking lot safety repair to a large multi-year, multi million-dollar investment in a new facility.

As part of the project implementation process, the Planning team is also responsible for obtaining all necessary project approvals at local, state, and in some cases federal levels, and for ensuring that all approvals are in place prior to and during the construction process, then closed out appropriately following the opening of a new facility.

GRANT WRITING & MANAGEMENT

With constrained budgets, increased demand for new and improved Parks & Recreation facilities and growing costs of construction, the Planning team actively pursues grant opportunities to fund public projects without impacting Loveland taxpayers.

In 2021, our team was a key player in authoring grant applications that saw awards of over two million dollars in funding from entities such as Great Outdoors Colorado, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the CDOT Transportation Alternatives Program. Such funds have been utilized in recent construction of projects like the new Prairie Ridge Natural Area and a new ADA accessible fishing dock at the future Willow Bend Neighborhood Park and Natural Area. These funds are also part of the project development budgets for the new Namaqua to Wilson Trail and the Centerra Trail, which are both anticipated for construction in 2022.

ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

The Planning team serves the department, the City and its residents as a “one stop shop” for public information and project design, planning, funding and construction services. With a full work plan on tap for 2022, we’re excited to bring the public a variety of new amenities and property openings throughout the year!

“
It takes as much
energy to wish
as it does to plan.”

Eleanor Roosevelt



Chilson Recreation Center entryway improvements under construction



57th Street Recreation Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Sunset Vista Natural Area in July



Construction at Prairie Ridge Natural Area



P&R Director Elizabeth Kayl, City Manager Steve Adams, Mayor Jacki Marsh and City Councilor Andrea Samson plant a tree for Arbor Day

PARKS

GET OUTDOORS, LOVELAND!

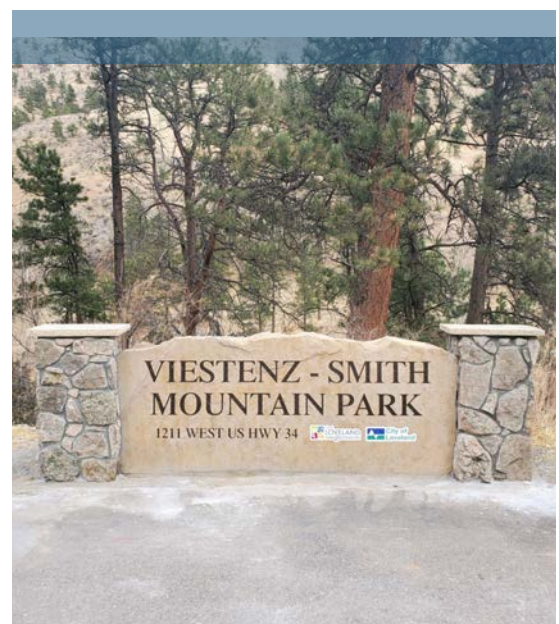
In 2021, the Parks Division continued the tradition of providing safe, high-quality park shelters, restrooms, playgrounds, hardcourt facilities, sports fields and non-programmed park space for the citizens of Loveland. Key accomplishments included hardcourt improvements, ball field improvements, pump station and irrigation system improvements and other park and cemetery improvements.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements to Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park have been ongoing since the park's reopening. Enhancements in 2021 included a new park sign at the main entrance.

Osborn Park has been home to two lighted tennis courts that doubled as pickleball courts with additional painted lines. Major improvements to this hardcourt included a post-tension concrete slab for a stable surface to last for years to come. This included a conversion from two minimally used tennis courts to six dedicated pickleball courts.

Centennial Park baseball field #5 and Bill Swift Field received major renovation work that included regrading outside areas, laser grading infields, rebuilt pitching mounds, turf renovation and new sod for high-wear areas. Fairgrounds Park fields #7–10 also received a laser grading in order to minimize rainouts and maximize playable days.



A new entrance sign at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SIGNS

Our multi-year ongoing project to update all neighborhood park signs got underway this year. The first sign was installed at Namaqua Park in the fall, followed by Dwayne Webster Veteran's Park. This endeavor should take approximately four to five years and will continue our commitment to provide a sustainable system of diverse parks throughout the community.

TAKE ROOT

Although the 2021 celebration was still altered due to the pandemic, the City has achieved its 32nd year as a Tree City USA City by the National Arbor Day Foundation. We celebrated this achievement with a ceremonial planting at the Civic Center Complex in May, along with spring and fall service group plantings at Mehaffey Park and Benson Sculpture Garden.

For many years, Poudre River Power Authority (PRPA) has made donations to the Loveland Parks & Recreation Foundation specifically for tree plantings around Loveland. In 2021, PRPA's donation of \$4,000 made plantings at Mehaffey Park and Benson Sculpture Garden possible.

COLLABORATION

Although the early days of the pandemic certainly presented many challenges for the Parks Division, it also provided an opportunity for innovation and collaboration. Manpower and supplies were in short supply for much of the year and the upkeep of closures proved taxing. The Parks team struggled to fill part-year seasonal staff positions and as a result, sought collaborative arrangements with other Parks & Recreation teams. These collaborations included utilizing regular full time staff normally assigned to the Chilson Recreation Center to fill staffing gaps in park operations and grounds maintenance for the growing season.

The Parks Division continues to collaborate with Community Partnership, Risk Management and Public Works Solid Waste Divisions to manage and minimize homeless encampments within park properties.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

The Loveland Lions Club has been a long-time volunteer partner in the operation of the Buckhorn Northern Railroad, an 18 gauge miniature train located in North Lake Park. 53 club members provided 2,153 volunteer hours for the 2021 operating season.

“
The future
starts today,
not tomorrow.”

Pope John Paul II



Namaqua Park gets a brand new sign



Honor students from Loveland HS and Loveland Classical plant trees at Benson Sculpture Garden



Volunteers from Loveland HS National Honor Society



Swimmers enjoy the new aquatic climbing wall at Winona Outdoor Pool

RECREATION

CHANGE. ADAPT. REPEAT.

The Recreation Division continued to master bringing life to Loveland throughout 2021. Although the year began with strict COVID-19 restrictions, the community was starving for more activity. As always, the Recreation team delivered.

CHILSON RECREATION & SENIOR CENTER

The Chilson Recreation & Senior Center saw nearly 300,000 people walk through the doors in 2021. After being closed for 13 months, the senior wing reopened with limited programs and activities. Virtual fitness classes continued as an option for the active generation with 4,478 virtual fitness participants. When childcare reopened in the fall, Chilson was 100% open in all areas.

While attendance fluctuated throughout the year with restrictions and mask requirements, staff persevered to serve the community with engaging fitness classes, swim lessons, preschool, day camp, athletic programs, personal training and much more.

Exciting improvements were also made to the facility. The Chilson main entrance was overhauled to allow for greater ADA compliance by removing all curbing for a seamless drop-off and pick-up loading zone. The same improvements are in progress for the Senior Center entrance which will be completed in February 2022.



The completed Chilson main entrance ADA compliance project

HAPPY CAMPERS

Daily life at Adventure Bound Day Camp (ABDC) in 2021 involved strict adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols, including temperature checks for all participants, drive thru drop-off/pick-up, 100% mask obedience by staff and kids, frequent sanitation of spaces and small cohorts of kids. That didn't prevent staff from programming a fun and engaging summer that included many exciting activities.

Field trips were allowed during the summer, but the guidelines required that cohorts did not intermix. This provided its own set of challenges, particularly with staffing. However, with much juggling, patience and teamwork, campers received a safe camp experience. As an added bonus, due to the amazing efforts by staff, there were no COVID-19 cases for the entire summer of camp!

We were thrilled to be able to bring back our Middle School Camp and Teen Trips this summer. While capacity was still limited due to transportation restrictions, all seven weeks of camp ran with four weeks at maximum capacity.

SMALL FRIES PRESCHOOL

Staff worked diligently with Larimer County and state licensing to open a safe preschool year with daily strict COVID-19 safety protocols. Although three classes were quarantined due to a child testing positive, the quick actions of staff with assistance from the health department ensured that no additional children or staff tested positive and an official outbreak was avoided.

We reintroduced our family engagement events this year including our Outdoor Fall Family Picnic, Outdoor Halloween Costume Parade and Indoor Winter Program, and also began using our outdoor patio area as an extension of our classroom.

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

It was a challenging year for the aquatics program with the operation of all three aquatics facilities during a nationwide lifeguard shortage. At least four lifeguard certification classes were held and more than 30 lifeguards were certified to aid in staffing levels.

After a full-season closure in 2020, Winona Outdoor Pool reopened this summer and had a total of 68,196 visitors. An aquatic climbing wall was installed creating a fun, new attraction for guests. The slide was closed this season, as we will unveil a new slide in 2022. Chilson received a new double tot slide in the leisure pool this year.

CARA swim team was reintroduced and well-received with 60 swimmers who attended practices each week and participated in two swim meets at Winona and Windsor pools.

Lake Loveland Swim Beach opened on weekends from late June to early August and hundreds of swimmers came to visit and dip their toes into Lake Loveland during the hot summer months.

“

Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.”

Jonathan Swift



ABDC campers on a summer field trip adventure



Small Fries students walk to the playground



New double tot slide in the leisure pool at Chilson

ADULT | YOUTH ATHLETICS

Participation in athletic programs rebounded nicely, almost reaching pre-pandemic levels with 307 adult athletic teams, 211 pickleball players and 4,882 youth participants. While continuing to follow Safe Return-to-Play guidelines, new programs were introduced and more than 2,400 games were played.

New athletic programs included a youth track and field program, advanced pickleball classes and adult pickleball and kickball leagues. In November, we hosted a Hot Spot Shootout competition for National Youth Sports Day with over 100 participants in attendance. Efforts continued to develop eSports programs through the creation of an eSports tournament series to begin in 2022.

Enhancements to existing programs included separate divisions for our adult coed soccer program allowing for better competition among teams. Half of the playoff games were played at LSP on the Championship turf field, which brought increased satisfaction from participants. Our youth soccer program extended offerings to 7th and 8th graders for continued opportunities for recreational play.

The Sparkler Jr. Softball Tournament was back in full force bringing nearly 10,000 people to Loveland throughout the week! Opening day alone invited 254 teams to Barnes Softball Complex. Several projects were completed at Barnes this fall including installation of safety fence-capping on all outfield fencing, painting/replacement of foul poles, a new PA system and a fresh coat of paint on the main Barnes building for an updated, clean appearance.



Children get active with a new track & field program



New paint for the Barnes Softball Complex building

YOUTH | TEEN ENRICHMENT

In the spring, we brought back general youth programming (dance classes, contractual programs, etc.) after over a year-long hiatus. Our instructors and contractors were eager to get back to programming. Since starting back, only four dance sessions were cancelled due to low enrollments. While some contractual classes struggled slightly to get back to normal participation levels, others were able to modify their programs in order for everyone to participate.

A new Teen Hiking Series was offered and saw success in the spring, but was cancelled in the fall due to low registrations. Teen programming will continue to be a strong focus in 2022.



Majestic views during the new Teen Hiking Series

FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market continued to support local, small farms and businesses and provided healthy choices for families with limited income with SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks programs. The market grew in vendor participation, attendance (25,887 people) and generated more revenue in 2021. The monthly Artist Market continued to be very popular with both the artists and customers and the Honey Festival was brought back for a second time.



The Honey Festival was filled with bee-licious treats

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

In 2014, Loveland City Council adopted the Parks & Recreation Department’s first Master Plan, a document aimed at providing community-supported direction for developing and enhancing department properties, facilities and amenities in the future. The 2014 Master Plan presented a framework for the growth, management and development of parks, open lands, public grounds, golf courses, recreation facilities, trails and programs, placing an emphasis on a 10-year projection for department and City growth.

In April 2021, the Parks & Recreation Department began updating its Master Plan, expanding its title to become the 2022 Parks, Recreation, Open Lands and Trails Master Plan Update to cover the full breadth of services offered by the department. The update process began with an in-depth inventory and analysis process to affirm and update the findings of the 2014 Master Plan with staff, to review changes made to the department or its facilities since the 2014 plan and to develop a framework for new information to be expanded upon in the 2022 update.

During the summer and early fall of 2021, staff and a team of department volunteers conducted a significant public engagement process comprised of in-person engagement events, online surveys and webpage updates resulting in over 500 in-person contacts and almost 1,000 completed surveys helping to identify resident needs, interests and desires for the future of their Parks & Recreation Department. This process culminated with the development of an in-depth needs and opportunities analysis including a review of equitable access to parks, open lands and trails, needs for indoor recreation space, cemetery and golf facility needs, and recreation programming needs.

With the help of a consultant team, the project is now entering its final phases. Winter and early spring 2022 will see the development of recommendations and priorities for the plan update, development of cost projections and cost modeling covering the next ten years, preparation of system wide facility mapping showing where current facility deficits exist and how proposed expanded or new facilities can close gaps in current services offerings. This phase includes opportunities for community participation aimed at affirming priorities for the department’s future.

The final phase includes the development of funding and implementation strategies and the completion of a final draft for public review, as well as City board and commission review in late spring. Final adoption of the 2022 Parks, Recreation, Open Lands and Trails Master Plan Update is anticipated by City Council in summer of 2022.



P&R Master Plan public outreach event at The Foundry in Loveland



Newly acquired Dakota Ridge Natural Area

OPEN LANDS & TRAILS

BE AN OUTSIDER

2021 was a very busy year for Loveland Open Lands & Trails with high usage, new opportunities, programming, stewardship projects and several planning initiatives. In addition to land acquisitions and additional trails, 2021 provided staff the opportunity to work with the community on the Department Master Plan, Eagle Vista Management Plan, Connect the City's Transportation Plan, the Envisioning Plan for the Big Thompson River and the Big Thompson River Master Plan, ensuring that future site developments balance conservation with new recreational opportunities.

DAKOTA RIDGE NATURAL AREA

A significant addition to Loveland's Open Lands portfolio was made on June 25, 2021 with the purchase of a 245-acre foothills natural area known as Dakota Ridge. The acquisition was a partnership between the City of Loveland, Larimer County, Colorado Open Lands, a private donation and a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Located along the City's western foothills between 29th and 43rd Streets, the property will provide a link between the existing Skyline Natural Area purchased in 2015 and the newly opened Prairie Ridge Natural Area. Future trails on the site will connect to these areas, as well as more than 40 miles of trails on surrounding public lands, neighborhoods in west Loveland and the Recreation Trail loop around the City.

With demand for additional public access to open lands skyrocketing, Dakota Ridge will provide more recreation opportunities to help alleviate crowding on existing open spaces experiencing record visitation. Nearby development

inching closer to the site is planned to include thousands of homes, and neighborhood sidewalks and trails eventually will connect Skyline and Prairie Ridge Natural Areas and provide walk-in access to residents. The purchase also conserves critical habitat for wildlife and protects scenic foothills views.

Funds for the acquisition came from an \$830,000 GOCO Resilient Communities grant, \$316,000 partnership from Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, a \$300,000 private donation, \$250,000 from the City's Parks Capital Expansion Fees and \$1.3 million from Loveland open space funds. The money from expansion fees for parks will cover a 10-acre portion of the site that will serve as a neighborhood park and an access point to future trails on the open space. Colorado Open Lands, a non-profit land trust, and Larimer County co-hold a perpetual conservation easement on the property.

STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Stewardship is a key focus area for the Open Lands & Trails Division. Several projects were completed in 2021 including:

- Trail building, repairs and fencing
- Water and electrical repairs on existing properties
- Improved signage
- Additional benches and picnic areas
- Restoration to native grasses and wetland plantings
- Cottonwood harvesting and planting
- Native seed collection
- Learning stations and development of Louis Papa Interpretive Area at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park
- ADA improvements on Recreation Trail
- Drainage and parking lot improvements
- Relocation of osprey nest to River's Edge Natural Area
- Aquatic research along the Big Thompson River
- New nature play features at Old St. Louis and Oxbow Natural Areas

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Volunteer raptor monitors were busy observing and surveying nests on open lands. Three live raptor nest cams allow the community to observe the hatching, fledging and behavior of the birds during the nesting season. We work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife throughout the year on best practices, education and outdoor opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Open Lands & Trails volunteers donated some 6,500 hours of their time to environmental education programs, trail hosting, stewardship and interpretive guided walks such as native plants, bird-watching, local geology and history. With high use of local trails, volunteer trail hosts have provided more hours of monitoring. Due to the pandemic, we continued to offer smaller scale, socially-distanced stewardship work groups.

- Stewardship volunteer hours = 3,722
- Stewardship volunteers = 319 involved in 22 projects
- Education & Outreach volunteer hours = 761
- Education & Outreach = 128 programs with 2,679 people
- Administrative & General Support volunteer hours = 619
- Trail Host volunteer hours = 1,402
- Total volunteer hours = 6,504 hours

“

The future depends on what we do in the present.”

Mahatma Gandhi



Louis Papa Interpretive Cabin Footprint at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park



Seed collection on Dakota Ridge Natural Area



Volunteers lead Environmental Education programs

NEW TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The addition of new trails has been greatly appreciated by the community, especially in 2021 when trail usage continued to be higher than ever due to the pandemic. The final missing 1/3-mile section of the Recreation Trail loop was completed at Sunset Vista Natural Area along 57th Street in June, including the addition of a 0.9-mile soft-surface trail and a picnic area at the historic site of the original farm house. Also open for public access were new paved and soft-surface trail segments at Old St. Louis Natural Area, providing additional access for the surrounding neighborhoods and other visitors.



57th Street trail connection



New picnic area at Sunset Vista historic site

PLANNING FOR FUTURE TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The division made significant strides on the design of a paved trail connection along the Barnes Ditch between Wilson and Namaqua Avenues. This section of trail is currently soft-surface, but we are moving forward with easement land negotiations and design to pave this trail segment. In addition, final design has been completed on the Centerra Trail and staff is working with City of Greeley and Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Company to secure easements for 2022 construction. This trail leg east to Boyd Lake Avenue will give users the opportunity to connect from Centerra neighborhoods to Loveland's recreation trail system!



Paved trail at Old St. Louis Natural Area

We have also been planning for future trail connections for an East Big Thompson River Trail with a planned connection to Johnstown, northwest trail connections from Prairie Ridge to Dakota Ridge natural areas and the south end of the Colorado Front Range Trail connecting Loveland and Berthoud.



Soft-surface trail at Old St. Louis Natural Area

BY THE NUMBERS

Total open land acreage = 8,793 acres
Total trail miles = 59 miles

GRANTS, PARTNERSHIPS & DONATIONS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Grants are essential to the Open Lands & Trails Division and enable us to stretch available dollars to improve and expand Loveland open land sites and trails. Currently, the following grants worth \$4.1 million were utilized on projects in 2021 or are available for open lands and trail projects in the future.

- **GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) – RESILIENCY GRANT – \$830,000**
Acquisition of Dakota Ridge Natural Area
- **MULTI-MODAL OPTIONS FUND (MMOF) – \$725,000**
Centerra Trail
- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT – \$600,000**
Namaqua Avenue Trail Connections
- **TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT – \$500,000**
Centerra Trail
- **US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SURFACE GRANT – \$500,000**
Namaqua to Wilson Avenue Trail
- **GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) – RESILIENCY GRANT – \$330,000**
Oxbow Natural Area parking, restroom, trail and site improvements
- **LARIMER COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT – \$316,000**
Towards Dakota Ridge Natural Area Acquisition
- **OPEN LANDS PRIVATE DONATION – \$300,000**
To help with Dakota Ridge Natural Area Acquisition
- **NEEF GRANT – \$2,500**
Louis Papa Interpretive Features at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park
- **LANDWISE DONATION – \$3,386**
Louis Papa Interpretive Features at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park



Photo credit: Wheeler Golfscapes

Golfers tee off on hole #14 at Mariana Butte Golf Course

GOLF

SWINGING FOR THE FUTURE

Famous French writer, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry said, “A goal without a plan is just a wish.” In 2021, golf staff took this idea to heart and spent countless hours preparing for the future success of Loveland golf courses with final designs and blueprints completed for two upcoming, major improvement projects in 2022 – a new state-of-the-art irrigation system to replace the current 31 year-old system at Cattail Creek Golf Course and the long-awaited renovation of the clubhouse at The Olde Course at Loveland. This past year, design team members planned and engineered the clubhouse project to ensure the renovation would provide golfers an improved facility that was both affordable and attractive.

A STRONG FOUNDATION

In 2021, protocols for purchasing and tracking pro shop merchandise and procedures for daily cash handling were reviewed and improved.

A new inventory numbering system was implemented that unifies merchandise across all three golf course pro shops, allowing for efficient bulk purchasing and cost savings.

Monthly total-store inventory processes demonstrated the effectiveness of procedure adjustments and guaranteed the continued proper handling of merchandise items.

Improved pro shop counter shift-change routines increased personal accountability and ensured that all revenue is handled correctly and efficiently. Responsibility for cash handling and monitoring/controlling expenses has always been, and will always be a top priority for the Golf Division.



Merchandise for sale at Mariana Butte pro shop

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

In 2021, The Architect’s Studio of Loveland was engaged to work with us to complete the final plans for the renovation of the clubhouse at The Olde Course at Loveland. With limited funds available for the renovation, staff and the design team were tasked to find the best, most cost-efficient solutions for the new facility.

Dubbed “the small but mighty clubhouse,” improved public address systems, monitors, state-of-the-art HVAC systems, security systems, food prep/storage areas and more will be added to the same square footage as the previous clubhouse. A grand, forward facing, customer friendly entrance will greet golfers. A new indoor food service area along with multiple, comfortable outdoor seating areas (one complete with lounge furniture and fireplace), will encourage golfers to stay and enjoy time after their round. Multiple TVs complete the environment.

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE

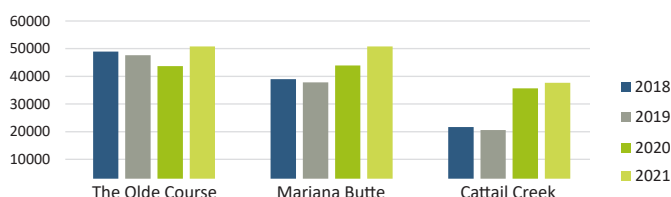
Irrigation system design plans were finalized in 2021, and a contract was issued for the installation of a new state-of-the-art irrigation system for the Cattail Creek Golf Course. An increase in the number of sprinkler heads and new computer controls will allow staff to efficiently and effectively apply irrigation water where needed. The improved irrigation will in turn, provide better, more consistent playing conditions for Cattail Creek golfers. Newly installed HDPE pipe will reduce the need for irrigation line repairs and will minimize the need to dig up the playing surface.

CHALLENGES, CHANGES AND CONSTRUCTION

Challenges are a daily expectation at the golf courses, and 2021 proved to be no different. The elk herd was back in full force at Mariana Butte and stayed longer into the golf season. Although majestic, the elk leave behind their “signature” that must be cleaned up. They also cause turf to be repaired from impromptu sparring matches. The late season drought of 2021 added to turf challenges at all three golf courses, with rental cart-use restricted to fend off permanent turf damage.

As construction begins in 2022 on the projects prepped this year, there will be changes to operations, redirected golfer traffic, temporary pro shop facility closures and golf course hole closures. Will these changes be a bit inconvenient and out of the norm? Possibly. But so worth it in the end.

ROUNDS PLAYED



“

The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

Abraham Lincoln



Architect's rendering of new clubhouse at The Olde Course at Loveland



Design for Cattail Creek's new irrigation system

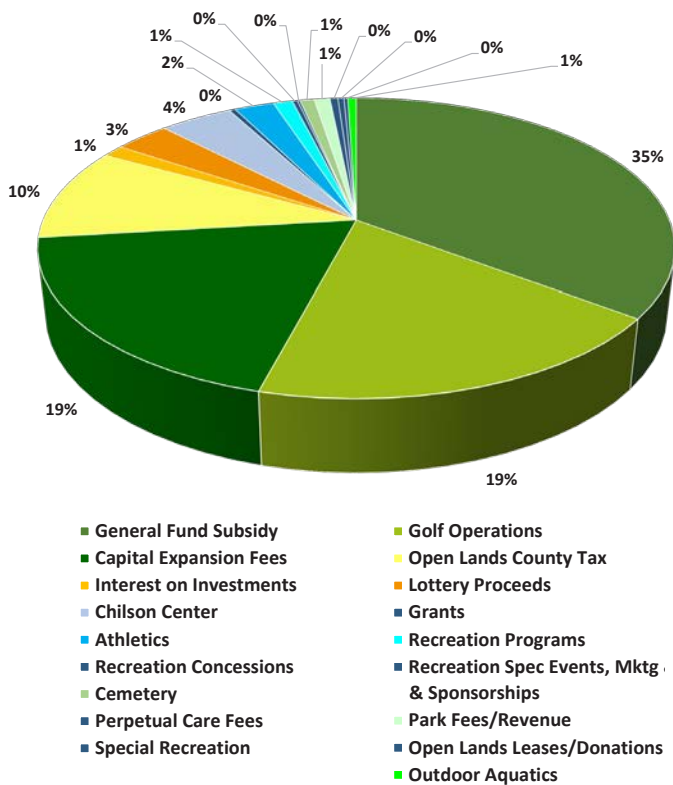


Elk lounge at Mariana Butte Golf Course

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial accountability has long been the standard for the Parks & Recreation Department. In conjunction with the City's financial policies, we worked proactively in 2021 to contain costs while increasing program offerings, participation and facility use.

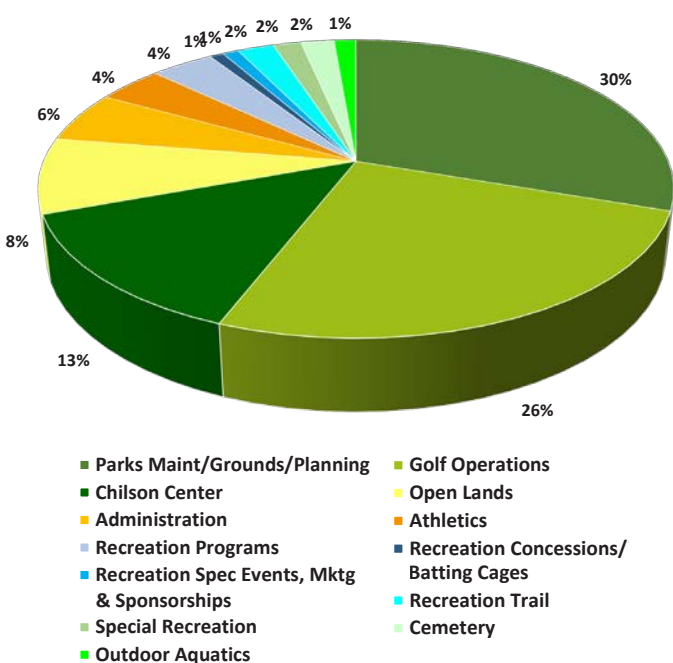
2021 Revenues



Revenue*	2021
General Fund Subsidy	\$9,934,511
Golf Operations	\$5,293,591
Capital Expansion Fees	\$5,344,540
Open Lands County Tax	\$2,807,750
Interest on Investments	\$368,978
Lottery Proceeds	\$942,026
Chilson Center	\$1,246,131
Grants	\$105,810
Athletics	\$676,575
Recreation Programs	\$328,524
Recreation Concessions	\$87,103
Recreation Spec Events, Mktg & Sponsorships	\$42,096
Cemetery	\$244,612
Park Fees/Revenue	\$268,743
Perpetual Care Fees	\$134,715
Open Lands Leases/Donations	\$103,294
Special Recreation	\$64,440
Outdoor Aquatics	\$146,027
TOTAL REVENUE	\$28,139,464

Expenditures*	2021
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	
Parks Maint/Grounds/Planning	\$4,142,785
Golf Operations	\$3,507,375
Chilson Center	\$1,845,746
Open Lands	\$1,118,556
Administration	\$757,610
Athletics	\$550,431
Recreation Programs	\$524,182
Recreation Concessions/Batting Cages	\$113,583
Recreation Spec Events, Mktg & Sponsorships	\$134,023
Recreation Trail	\$303,817
Special Recreation	\$231,053
Cemetery	\$276,969
Outdoor Aquatics	\$181,681
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$13,687,810

2021 Operating Expenditures



CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	
Equipment/Tools/Projects**	\$1,770,170
Cemetery & Parks Projects	\$678,545
Open Lands Projects	\$1,557,244
Golf Projects/Equipment	\$199,738
Trails Projects	\$1,211,670
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES	\$5,417,367
TOTAL DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	\$19,105,177

*2021 unaudited year-end figures as of 1.13.22
 ** General Fund funded

In addition to the City's General Operating Fund, the Parks & Recreation Department relied on several Special Revenue Funds to accomplish department priorities not funded by the General Fund.

Capital Expansion Fund: Fees assessed on new development to assist in providing infrastructure necessitated by growth. Fees are collected for parks, recreation, open lands and trails.

Parks Improvement Fund: Fees collected before Capital Expansion Fees were initiated in 1984. Revenues are generated from park shelter reservations. Fund is restricted to park improvements and infrastructure repairs at existing parks.

Perpetual Care Fund: This fiduciary fund provides for the future operations, maintenance and capital requirements of the Loveland Cemetery and Burial Park once all burial spaces are sold.

Open Space Tax Fund: Fund to purchase and maintain open land areas in and around Loveland. Revenues are generated from a Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax, used for acquisitions, development and operations.

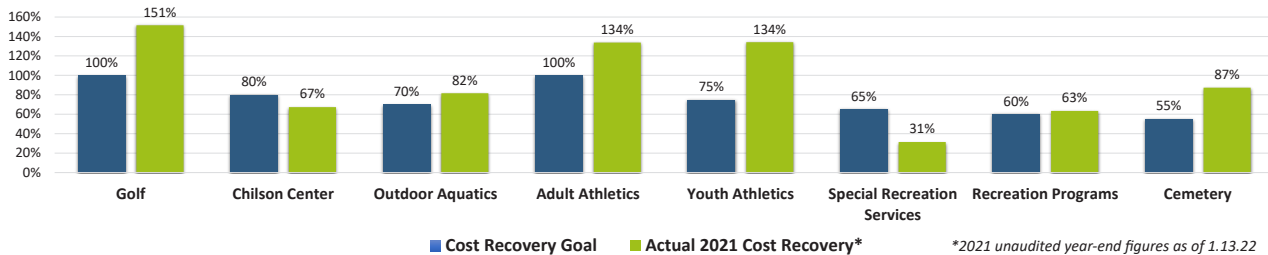
Conservation Trust Fund: Revenues derived from state Lottery games. Funds are restricted to recreation sites, facilities and projects. This is the funding source for Loveland's Recreation Trail construction and maintenance.

Golf Fund: Government enterprise fund to account for the operations, maintenance and capital improvements of golf courses and facilities owned by the City.

Fund	Balance 1.1.21	Revenues	Expenditures	Net Change	Balance 12.31.21*
Capital Expansion Funds	\$18,818,028	\$5,514,810	\$754,938	\$4,759,873	\$23,577,901
Parks Improvement Fund	\$1,045,398	\$79,762	\$155,990	(\$76,228)	\$969,170
Conservation Trust Fund	\$5,982,347	\$985,648	\$1,427,142	(\$441,494)	\$5,540,853
Open Space Tax Fund	\$11,295,872	\$2,990,828	\$2,732,629	\$258,200	\$11,554,072
Golf Enterprise Fund	\$10,294,454	\$5,349,946	\$3,704,972	\$1,644,974	\$11,939,427
Perpetual Care Fund	\$3,482,654	\$161,067	\$0	\$161,067	\$3,643,721

*2021 unaudited year-end figures as of 1.13.22. Figures include capital expenditures and investment income.

2021 Cost Recovery





CATS volunteers help maintain trails on National Trails Day in June

On the cover: Open Lands & Trails volunteer Eldon Grimm educates future generations

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